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- 7 kV PDA 6"

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## ON THE COVER

Cordless telephores are more than just a convenience; they can also save you money. Rather than have multiple-extension phones, you can use just one cordless phone and answer the telephone from anywhere inside the house-or from up to 1000 feet away. For an in-depth look at what's available, including prices and features, turn to page 39


BUILD THIS FREQUENCY MULTIPLIER and increase the low-frequency range and accuracy of your frequency counter. Complete construction details start on page 43.


HOW TRANSISTOR AMPLIFIERS WORK, and how to design them, are covered in this month's installment of our back-to-school series. For the full details, turn to page 67.

Radio-Electronics, (ISSN 0033-7862) Published monthly by Gernsback Publications. Inc., 200 Park Avenue South. New York. NY 10003. Second-Class Postage Paid at New York, N.Y. and additional mailing offices. One-year subscription rate: U.S.A. and U.S. possessions. \$13.00. Canada, $\$ 16.00$. Other countries. $\$ 20.50$ (cash orders only. payable in U.S.A. currency.) Single copies $\$ 1.25$. 1982 by Gernsback Publications. Inc. All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A.
Subscription Service: Mall all subscription orders. changes. Correspondence and Postmaster Notices of undelivered copies (Form 3579) to Radio-Electronics Subscription Service. Box 2520 , Boulder. CO 80322.

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# VIDEO ELECTRONICS 

## DAVID LACHENBRUCH

 CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

## MORE SEMI-COMPOS

Input and output jacks are featured on some models of almost all 1983 TV lines to accommodate various video-program sources and external audio systems. Like RCA, Magnavox didn't strictly go the video-component route in its 1983 models, but instead provided what it calls "user-friendly" video and audio systems-featuring complete color sets with 10 audio and video input and output jacks, as well as three switched 75 -ohm RF inputs.

Console furniture has traditionally been a strong point with Magnavox, and for 1983 it will offer nine high-end audio, video, and storage modules in matching furniture cabinets. The modules can be assembled in 17 different combinations for use with VCR's, videodisc players, and so forth. The systems have a choice of three different screen sizes-an extremely compact 40 -inch rear-projection (see photo) and 25 - or 19 -inch direct-view sets. There's also a choice of two audio systems, two sets of loudspeakers, and two equipment cabinets, all in the same console-rack styling. The TV's all have comb-filter circuits and random-access remote tuning systems; and the 25 - and 40 -inch models have stereo amplifiers.

LIVE-ACTION VIDEO GAMES

North American Philips is working on interfacing a home computer with the Laservision videodisc system to produce on-screen games with actual "live"-type video instead of computer-generated graphics. It's not known when the product actually will be introduced, but it may use the upcoming Odyssey 3 (which probably will more closely resemble a computer than a video game) and Magnavox's new-model videodisc player, which has a computer input jack.

VCR/CAMERA COMBOS

Sony has quietly been developing a single-unit combination camera and VCR which weighs only about five pounds, including battery, and records on a full-size standard Beta cassette. At press time, reports in Tokyo indicated it could be introduced some time in 1983. Sony conceded that such a product had been developed but was mum on details. It's understood that the miniaturization was made possible by using a smaller head drum which nonetheless is compatible with standard recording at the Beta II speed.

Sony's proposed camera and recorder is the size and shape of a slightly elongated cigar box and is only about 5\% larger than JVC's VHS-C recorder without camera. JVC's unit, which weighs slightly more than the Sony combination, records for 20 minutes on a small cassette which can be played back on the VHS-C recorder itself, or on any standard VHS recorder by inserting it in an adaptor. The Sony mini is understood to record for three hours, but is a record-only unit, whereas the VHS-C recorder also will play back.

JVC has developed a miniaturized camera weighing $23 / 4$ pounds, using a new $1 / 2$-inch Saticon pickup tube as a companion to its VHS-C recorder. It can be combined with the recorder into a single unit without cable connections by use of a special shoulder-frame accessory, giving the combination camera-recorder a total weight of less than eight pounds. Sony's one-piece unit is said to be aimed at an under $\$ 1,000$ price on the Japanese market.


Now you can more up to Fluke.

We've got great news for people who've been holding out for a high quality, high performance DMM at a moderate price: Fuke's new ninefunction model D 804 is now available at select electronics supply stores.

With a suggested U.S. price of only $\$ 249$ and features you wont find in any other handheld DMM, the D 8M4 is an exceptional value. Here's why.

Logic level and continuity testing: A real timesaver for troubleshooting passive circuits in pob's. cables, relay panels and the like. The D 804 has a switch-selectable audible tone and visual symbols to indicate continuity or logic levels.

Direct temperature readings in ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ : Used with any K-type
thermocouple, the D8I4 delivers fullycompensated readings in ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ from $-20^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $+1265^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. for checking heating and refrigeration systems.

Peak hold feature captures transients: A short-term memory in the D 804 captures and holds the peak reading of a motor starting current.

And more: $0.1 \%$ jasic dc accuracy, conductance, 26 measurement ranges. battery, safety-designed test leads and a one year parts and labor warranty. A full line of accessories is also available to extend the measurement capabilities of your DMM.

Ask your dealer about the powerful, versatile D804 and the rest of Fluke's new Series D line of low-cost digital multimeters.


> From the world leader in DMM's. Now werve designed one for you.



## WHAT'S NEWS

## National radio paging

 is now on the wayA preliminary agreement to form National Satellite Paging Inc.-a new company that will offer the first comprehensive satelliteinterconnect paging system across the country-has been announced jointly by National Public Radio (NPR) and Mobile Communications Corp. of America (MCCA).

Users of the system will phone paging calls to the local paging services. which will transmit them by line telephone to NSP's control center in Washington. DC. They will then be uplinked to the Western Union satellite, Westar IV. on which NPR leases space. From the satellite, the calis will be transmitted through NPRs more than 200 downlinks to participating ground stations nationwide

The stations will transmit all calls designed for their areas by telephone to the appropriate local paging company, which will then put them on the air in the usual manner. Users of the national service will pay a minimum additional fee above the current monthly rates for local paging

National Public Radio is a nonprofit corporation based in Washington, DC. It supplies programs through more than 200 downlinks to 267 public radio stations in 48 states, the District of Columbia. and Puerto Rico. NPR expects to use revenues from the new service
to help alleviate the current budget crisis in public radio.

## Amorphous solar cells reach 10\% efficiency

Amorphous silicon cells that operate at 10 percent efficiency are reported by the RCA Laboratories at Princeton. NJ. That. according to RCA executives, marks an important step toward large-scale solar power production at costs comparable to those of oil-fired electric generating plants.

While the efficiency of amorphous silicon is still lower than the 17 percent or so of the crystalline type now used widely for solar celis. its cost is much lower. Scientists believe that at 10 percent efficiency, mass production becomes feasible

RCA received a basic patent on its invention of amorphous silicon devices in 1977.

## Progress reported in graphics standards

Digital Equipment Corp, Intel Corp and Textronix report that 12 companies are joining their move to adopt two proposed new graphics standards. Those would cover methods for creating and transmitting computer-graphics images. Lack of standards for those activities at lower interface levels results in inefficiency, especiaily in graphics software development and portability

NATIONWIDE SATELLITE PAGING SYSTEM


THE NATIONAL SATELLITE PAGING SYSTEM, showing how paging calls can be routed to recipients all over the nation


EFFICIENCY OF AMORPHOUS SILICON SOLAR CELLS is measured by Anthony W. Catalano, of the RCA Labs technical staff. The new higher-efficiency cells may open the way to large-scale production of solar power at costs competitive with the present oil-fired generating plants.

The new companies are Digita Research. Graphics Software Systems. Hazeltine Corp, ICL, ISSCO Graphics. Manneman Tally Corp, Microsoft. AEL Microtel Ltd, Norpak, Westinghouse, Xerox Corp and Precision Visuals.

The two proposed standards are the North American Presentation Level Protocol Syntax (NAPLPS) and Virtual Device Interface (VDI). NAPLPS is used in transmitting graphics information. VDI will result in improved software portability among computer systems and graphic devices

Both of the new standards are being considered for adoption by the American National Standards Institute

## Computer translation

 offered in EuropeA new service to provide twoway translation between English and three other languages is being offered by the ITT Europe Engineering Support Center in Harlow. England By coupling the new service with its present translation facilities. ITT can offer a
faster and more reliable serviceespecially for lengthy technical documentation-than conventional manual translation between English and French. German. and Spanish.

The service uses six software programs. one for each language pair. Original text can be input from a keyboard. or from a disk. tape. or optical character readers, or via telex or data links.

The translated texts are produced at five to ten times the speed of manual translation, and with the help of ITT's own data bank as an integral part of the service, the computer-assisted system assures high accuracy, idiomatic usage, and orderly syntax. Final editing is done on-line by expert technical translators, native speakers of the language into which they translate. The customer receives the finished translation in hard copy, tape, or disk, or over data links worldwide.

The new service that is now being offered commercially was originally developed for use by ITT companies.

# Tek's most successful scope series ever: At \$1100-\$1400, it's easy to see why! 



In 30 years of Tektronix oscilloscope leadership, no other scopes have recorded the immediate popular appeal of the Tek 2200 Series. The Tek 2213 and 2215 are unapproached for the performance and reliability they offer at a surprisingly affordable price.

There's no compromise with Tektronix quality: The low cost is the result of a new design concept that cut mechanical parts by $65 \%$. Cut cabling by $90 \%$. Virtually eliminated board electrical connectors. And obviated the usual cooling fan.

Yet performance is written all over the front panels. There's the bandwidth for digital and analog circuits. The sensitivity for low signal measurements. The sweep speeds for fast logic families. And delayed sweep for fast, accurate timing measurements.

The cost: \$1100 for the 2213*. $\$ 1400$ for the dual time base 2215. You can order, or obtain more information, through the Tektronix National Marketing Center, where technical personnel can answer your questions and expedite delivery. Your direct order includes
probes, operating manuals, 15day return policy and full Tektronix warranty.

For a demonstration stop by your local Tektronix Sales Office.

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[^1]
# EDITORIAL 

## Behind closed doors

Do you ever wonder what's going on behind the closed doors of the research labs? As you know, the major consumer-electronics manufacturers (primarily located in, but not limited to, Japan) are pouring lots and lots of money into research and development with the hope of developing products that you will want to buy. Although very few people actually know what's going on behind those closed doors, we have seen some of the recent developments that have come out of the labs.

From ITT comes a set of 6 IC's for implementing a digital color TV—all signal processing will be performed digitally. Many TV manufacturers are currently evaluating those IC's for use in their own sets or developing their own digital IC's. To the consumer, the new digital TV sets will offer little immediate advantage; they'll reduce the manufacturers' cost both in terms of parts and assembling. For the future, that breakthrough could lead to new features such as automatic ghost cancellation, noise reduction for the video signal, TV receivers capable of receiving PAL, SECAM, and NTSC signals with the flip of a switch, and more. (Next month, we will present a feature article on digital TV as part of a special section on video entertainment.)
While the digital IC's are receiving lots of attention, Mitsubishi has succeeded in developing two IC's that make up a complete color TV chassis, minus the tuner, power-driver transistors and, of course, the CRT. The performance of those IC's is remarkable! For example, the video bandwidth is no less than 7 MHz .
TV isn't the only place where things are happening. Sony has put a complete AM/FM radio receiver on just one IC. The only external components are a few capacitors, coils and a speaker. The IC even includes a power amplifier. To demonstrate the new IC, Sony produced a prototype self-contained wristwatch/radio. Although impressive, Seiko's recent development of a wristwatch/TV is even more impressive. That device uses an LCD display, but unfortunately the majority of the electronics is housed separately and strapped around the user's waist.
Turning to a different area, Nippon Electric has developed a software technique that will permit online handwritten character recognition for personal computers. Using that new system with a digitizing tablet, a personal computer will be able to "read" handwritten (script as well as printed) words with a $99.5 \%$ recognition accuracy. Can you imagine writing a letter on that system while a word-processing program is loaded in the computer? Just by pressing a button you could have the spelling checked, the text justified, and then have it printed out.
Those are just a few of the many developments that have recently come out of the research labs. They will all have a major impact on future electronics products. Many more will be forthcoming. As the new ones are announced, you can be sure that Radio-Electronics will be there and we will report the details. And you can also be sure that we will cover the major developments in all other areas of electronics and not limit our coverage to just a few specific ones.


ART KLEIMAN EDITOR

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15 MHz , Dual Trace $1 \mathrm{mV} / \mathrm{Div}$ to $2 \mathrm{~V} / \mathrm{Div}$ 11 Ranges, Auto Fix Triggering

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# For ${ }^{59995}$ you can have a full powered personal computer. 

Most people know by now that the ZX81 from Sinclair Research is the lowest priced personal computer in the world.

But serious programmers are looking for more than a low price. They're looking for true computer power. And that's where the ZX81 surprises a lot of people.

Just look at the keyboard and you'll get some idea of the ZX81's power. It has more than 60 BASIC commands, 20 graphic symbols, and complete mathematical functions. And there's even more power that you can't see.

## A breakthrough in personal

 computers. The ZX81 offers features found only on computers costing two or three times as much.Just look at what you get:

- Continuous display, including moving graphics
- Multi-dimensional string and numerical arrays
- Mathematical and scientific functions accurate to 8 decimal places
- Unique one-touch entry of key words like PRINT, RUN and LIST
- Automatic syntax error detection and easy editing
- Randomize function useful for both games and serious applications
- Built-in interface for ZX Printer
- 1 K of memory expandable to 16 K
- A comprehensive programming guide and operating manual

The ZX81 is also very convenient to use. It hooks up to any television set to produce a clear 32 -column by 24 -line display. And you can use a regular cas1 sette recorder to store and recall programs by name. What you get. When you order your ZX81, you get everything you need to start programming.
It comes with connectors for your TV and cassette recorder, an AC adaptor, and a free programming guide and operating manual that completely documents the capabilities of the ZX81.
Options and add-ons. Like any full-powered computer, the ZX81 can be expanded and upgraded.

Its 1 K memory can be expanded to over 16 K just by plugging the Sinclair Memory Module onto the back of the unit. The cost is only $\$ 49.95$.

Sinclair has also published pre-recorded programs on cassettes for your ZX81. We're con- Free guide to programming information please stantly coming out with new programs, so we'll send you our latest software catalog when you order your computer.

How did we do it? The question most often asked about the ZX81 is, "How can so much computer

## power cost so little money?" <br> 16K Memory Module The answer is that Sinclair

 Research simply took a different approach. Our only goal was to make programming power as affordable as possible. So we developed a radical new design that cuts costs dramatically without cutting computer power. For example, our unique Master Chip replaces as many as 18 chips used in other personal computers.The success of the ZX81 speaks for itself. It is now the fastest-selling personal computer in the world. And we stand behind our product. If anything goes wrong in the first 90 days, we'll repair or replace your unit free of
charge. Even after that, you can take advantage of our national service-bymail facilities for a minimum fee.
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You have 10 days to try out the ZX81. If it isn't all we say it is, just send it back and we'll refund your money.
Why wait any longer? With the Sinclair ZX81, you can finally afford to have the computer power you've always wanted.
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Snclair technology is also available in Timex/Sinclair computers under a license from Sinclair Research Ltd


# SATELLITE/TELETEXT NEWS 

GARY ARLEN<br>CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING

The latest batch of video program services aboard U.S. satellites includes a number of innovative approaches. For example, The Entertainment Channel (Satcom IV, Transponder 8 ) is concentrating on original and British-produced programming, including exclusive Broadway plays and musicals. And the Channel is also offering "Limited Editions," a series of shows that were once broadcast on commercial TV, but just for two or three episodes, only to be cancelled and forgotten.
Cable Health Network (Satcom III-R, Transponder 17), which started this past June, offers round-the-clock programming featuring ideas and advice about health, packaged into more than 20 specific series. It will carry "how-to" programs about fitness, nutrition, diet, and lifestyles, plus reports on what's new in health care.

An interesting pair of services shares Westar IV Transponder 10D: From 7 to 11 p.m., the Eternal Word Television Network carries its lineup of religious and inspirational messages. Then from 11 p.m. to 2 a.m., on the same transponder, the new "Eros" takes over (Thursday through Saturday nights only) with a roster of adult movies; Eros plans to expand to a nightly six-hour feed in September.
$A B C$ is cooking up a plan that would deliver movies and other special programming for a fee to home videocassette recorders via the nationwide broadcast network in early morning hours. ABC's "Home View Network," due to start up early next year, was tested during the past few months on TV stations which ABC owns in major markets. The plan calls for new movies, cultural programs, and other shows to be transmitted between approximately 2 A.M. and 6 A.M. when the network is now dormant. Homes equipped with a videocassette recorder and a special decoder box designed by Sony could pick up the programming, and viewers could then playback the overnight shows at their convenience. The service, including use of the decoder, will cost about $\$ 20$ per month; homes that don't yet have a VCR can lease a Sony recorder for another $\$ 30$ monthly. ABC assures that any VCR, whether it's made by Sony or another manufacturer, will work on the Home View Network.
$A B C$ has other plans for interactive national programming. It recently set up a joint venture with Cox Communications, one of the nation's largest cable TV companies, to develop programming and two-way services, presumably for use on Cox's new two-way cable systems.

Oak Satellite Corp. will begin broadcasting scrambled pay TV programming via satellite by mid-1983 to U.S. subscribers, using Telesat Canada's Anik-C satellite. The plan calls for Oak to lease four $14 / 12-\mathrm{GHz}$ transponders on Anik C , which will be launched later this year. The bird will provide spot beam coverage of two channels for each of two areas: one reaching 14 eastern states from Ohio to Maine to Virginia, the other blanketing the Pacific Northwest
Programming will be transmitted in a scrambled mode from a central uplink, and then retransmitted to homes equipped with receiving antennas and Oak's Orion satellite signal unscramblers. The program package will include movies, sports, variety shows, musicals, and other entertainment specials plus news, cultural events, and special-interest shows. The systems will also permit addressable pay-per-view events to be transmitted.

## AROUND THE SATELLITE CIRCUIT

Field Electronic Publishing, which plans to launch a national teletext service using the vertical interval of superstation WTBS-TV, now has expanded its plans. Field has joined forces with Honeywell Computers and Centel to create Keycom Electronic Publishing, which will offer teletext and videotex services to cable TV and other customers in the Chicago area, starting later this year

European telecommunications experts are stepping up their efforts to develop satellites using $30 / 20-\mathrm{GHz}$. France and Germany are already involved in plans for the Ka-band spectrum for satellites expected to be launched in the 1990's, primarily for wideband data transmission. England and Italy have similar plans. Some $30 / 20-\mathrm{GHz}$ birds are on the drawing boards for trial launches in 1986-87. U.S. satellite companies are also looking at possible future uses of $30 / 20-\mathrm{GHz}$ band, but recent analyses indicate that U.S. researchers are spending barely one-tenth of the $\$ 540$ million budget in Europe.

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## LETTERS

## Address your comments to: Letters, Radio-Electronics, 200 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10003

## ON NIKOLA TESLA

Being yet another admirer of Nikola Tesla, I take your editor's comment in the June 1982 issue of Radio-Electronics as an open invitation to provide factual information missing in Mr. Vince Marasco's letter.

A native of Yugoslavia, Nikola Tesla (18561943) came to the United States of America in 1884, where his many inventions. covered by more than 700 patents, came to fruition in such diverse fields as electrical-energy processing, thermodynamics, telegraphy, radio, radio astronomy, aviation, physics, optics mathematics. and chemistry. Here only a few will be highlighted, which are indeed in every. day use at home or at work

Tesla invented the modern system of polyphase AC currents. Today, that system is still unsurpassed in its efficient and economic generation, transmission, and usage of virtually all available electrical power, and is the
single most important factor is the widespread use of electrical energy as we know it now. To make the transmitted polyphase currents perform mechanical work, he invented a revolutionary polyphase AC motor, which is by far superior to the conventional DC commutator motor. The mechanical commutators. and the brushes that wear out and require continuous maintenance, are eliminated. The rotating action is obtained through his polyphase stator windings, which generate a rotating magnetic field, inducing currents in shorted turn rotor windings, hence producing torque and rotation

In the days of the wars of currents. with Tesla being the proponent of his new AC polyphase power system and AC motor, and Edison backing DC power generation and transmission, and DC motors, the "Tesia motor". as it was known, was blamed by his opponents for "100 evils." Later, after it became the workhorse of industry, with today's
estimates putting $90 \%$ of all industrial power in factories being created by using his motor; its name was changed to the mundane $A C$ induction squirrel cage motor. It is also relatively little known that the Westinghouse Electric Company was born and built just on that small subset of Tesla's patents and inventions. That company had followed Edison and the DC approach. at first; later, it turned to follow Tesla's AC direction.

It is ironic that readers of RadioElectronics magazine may be unfamiliar with another major contribution of Tesla'sthe present-day radio. In 1893, in a lecture on high-frequency, high-voltage phenomena (given at St. Louis). Tesla demonstrated the first system for radio transmission, complete with 5 KVA transmitter and a receiver with electronic tube detection. Tesla's patents and priority over Marconi in wireless transmission were finally and belatedly established in the early 1960's by the United States Supreme


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Court. Tesia even went one step further in experimenting not only with transmission of signals, but of high power as well. His highfrequency, high-power experiments at Colorado Springs in 1893 still fascinate presentday scientists.

Despite all of that, and other pioneering work, Tesla obtained very little recognition in the USA with (ironically) the Edison Medal being his highest honor. Nevertheless, the International Electrotechnical Commission in Munich, on July 7, 1956 ( 100 years after Tesla's birth), bestowed upon him one of the highest forms of recognition that a scientist can achieve. A unit of magnetic induction in the international system of units bears the name tesla, joining such historical electrical units as the farad, volt, ampere, and ohm.

Let me quote one of his contemporaries, Mr. Behrend, who spoke these words when asking Tesla to accept the Edison medal: "Were we to seize and eliminate from our industrial world the results of Mr. Tesla's work, the wheels of industry would cease to turn, our electric cars and trains would stop. our towns would be dark, our mills would be dead and idle... His name marks an epoch in the advance of electrical science. From that work has sprung a revolution."

For those of your readers who want to learn more about the accomplishments of Tesla, I recommend two books: the classical work, Prodigal Genius-The Life of Nikola TeslaInventor Extraordinary, by John O'Neill, and the recent work, Tesla-Man Out Of Time, by Margaret Cheney. (See page 158, RadioElectronics, October 1982.)
SLOBODAN CUK, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering, California Institute of Technology

## POCKET CALIBRATOR

The Pocket Calibrator described by Mr. Gary McClellan in the June RadioElectronics ("Pocket Calibrator for Volts and Ohms") holds some traps for the unwary.

First, the DC sources are "relatively" high resistance. For example, the one-volt source has an equivalent internal resistance of 1111 ohms. Thus, when calibrating a 20,000 ohms-per-volt meter (analog) on the threevolt scale, the output voltage will drop two percent; at 10,000 ohms-per-volt four percent, and at 1000 ohms-per-volt, it will drop 25 percent. A few percent accuracy, indeed!

Second, he implies a dependence of measurement accuracy of $A C$ voltages on frequency-not so. The heating ability of an AC wave (that which we are usually trying to measure) is a function of periodicity, amplitude (usually specified as peak or peak-topeak) and a shape factor (specifically, the root-mean-square of the voltage taken over a period): it depends upon frequency only to the extent of bandpass considerations of the measuring device. Thus crystal frequency stability in his calibrator is wholly unnecessary. The same result could have been obtained much more economically by using, say, a micropower equivalent of the 555 timer circuit in the free-running mode.

It is perhaps of no moment that the vertical scan rate of color TV is not 60 Hz but 59.94 Hz . McClellen can't get 60 Hz out of his circuit, anyway, without pushing (or pulling) the Xtal.

Let me say, however, that RadioElectronics is the only electronics magazine contimied on page 2?

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to which I subscribe. and I enjoy it. I'm pleased to say that I rarely find deficiencies in the material such as the ones mentioned above.
L.D. SMITHEY

Pacific Palisades, CA 90272
Reader Smithey makes some interesting points. and ones that are easily cleared up. But. first. I think it would help if I pointed out just what the intended use of the Pocket Calibrator is. It is intended for use in the field (e.g. transmitter site) to spot-check electronic instruments. The project is designed $t$ ) be
built at low cost by people who may not have access to laboratory instrumentation. As a result. the Pocket Calibrator will not provide absolute long-term accuracy. nor was it intended to. That job is reserved for standards located in a temperature:-controlled laboratory. By way of contrast. our low-cost Pocket Calibrator's nearest laboratory equivalent is the Date/-Intersil DVC-5000. That low-cost instrument provides DC voltage calibration traceable to NBS. and sells for only $\$ 595.00$ ! There's about a tenfold difference in price: Keep that in mind.

Regarding Smithey's remarks about "relatively" high DC resistance, he is referring to the output resistance on the 10 -volt, 1 -volt. and 0.1 -volt ranges. The 10 -volt range is no problem. due to the low impedance of the LM-723 regulator. The other ranges can

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## B \& K Precision Model 3030 Sweep/Function Generator <br> 

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DESIGNED FOR LSE IN BOTII ANALOG AND digital electronics, the B\&K Precision (B\&K Precision. Dynascan Corp. . 6460 W. Cortland Strect. Chicago. IL 60635)
model 3030 sweep/function generator is a versatile signal source. The unit can be an important tool for the service technician or electronics hobbyist


The unit. as the name implies. combines a function generator and a sweep generator in a single unit. The VCF (Vol tage Controlled $F$ requency) circuit is described as the "heart" of the function generator. It can produce precision sine. square, or triangle waveforms covering the range from .001 Hz to 5 MHz . That section of the generator also provides a continuously variable DC offset that allous the output to be injected into circuits at the correct bias level. Selection of sine. square. or triangle waveform output is done using three pushbutions on the front panel. Each is marked with the symbol for the waveform it selects.

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conamued on page 30

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Introducing inceedible tuning accuracy at an incredibly affordable price: The Command Series RF-3100 31-band AM/FM/SW receiver.' No other shortwave receiver brings ir PLL quartz syr thesized tuning and all-band digital readout tor as low a price. $\uparrow$ The tuner tracks and "locks" onto your signal, and the 5 -digit display shows exactly what frequency you're on

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## EQUIPMENT REPORTS

contimed from page 26
range is + decades ( $10.000: 1$ ) allowing testing through the audio range and beyond with one sweep. Using that feature. the frequency response, from 1 Hz to 5 MHz . of any active or passive device can casily be determined. Pushbutton switches select linear or log operation. In addition. pushbuttons are also used to start and stop the sweep. Two dual rotary switches and an eight-position range switch. all on the front panel. are used to select the start and stop frequencies.

In the triggered mode of operation. the
unit's output can be gated either by a front-panel pushbutton or by an external control signal. The starting phase of gated sine and triangle waveforms is adjustable over the range of -90 - to +90 -degrees. with the output always consisting of full cycles. Depending upon the trigger. the output will be cither bursts or single cycles.

Using variable symmetry of the output waveforms. the generator is able to produce rectangular waves or pulses. ramp or sawtooth waveforms, and sine waves of variable duty cycle. In addition, a front-panel-mounted BNC connector allows the user to control the frequency of operation from an external source. That feature

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where necessary to make a point more clear to the user. A large-sized schematic diagram is supplied separately and is broken up into several smaller schematics by function: those are generator loop and lockout. signal shaping and output circuitry. frequency multipliers. and power supplies and VCF control. The schematic also contains the parts list. Which identifies the parts and provides the $B$ \& K part number for each item. A list that describes the function of all the $1 C^{\prime}$ 's is also provided

There is a list of authorized semice centers provided that indicates where both in and out of warranty service is availatle: the unit comes with a one year limiled warranty

The generator measures $5 \times 12.5 \times$ 11 inches and weighs 10 pounds. Power requirements are $100 / 120 / 220 / 2+0$ voltsAC. $50 / 60 \mathrm{~Hz}, 30$ watts. An interesting hail-type handle that firmly locks into several positions is provided for carrying the unit. as well as for clevating it when it is used on the bench

It you have been considering, but putting off the purchase of a sweep/function generator, why not investigate the features to be found on the B\&K-Precision model 3030 sweep/function generator? It may be exactly the unit you have been looking for. The model 3030 sweep/ function generator carries a suggested list price ol $\$ 6+5.00$

## Bytewriter Daisy Wheel Printer



CIRCLE 102 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD


COMbining tile latest rechnolog y in electronic typewriters with that of the microcomputer. the Byewriter daisywheel printer from Bytewriter ( 125 Northvicw Rd. . Ithaca. N. Y. 1-850) is a rock-hottom priced printer capable of
producing "letter quality" hard copy.
The unit. which is priced at $\$ 795$ plus $\$ 35$ for the comnecting cable. functions as both a daisy-wheel printer at 8 to 12 characters-per-second. and as an electronic self-correcting typewriter. As we ll show, the flexibility of that arrangement far exceeds the convenience of the typical printer and/or terminal used with personal computers.

Many modern typewriters now use daisy-wheel printer mechanisms. Early typewriters used individual typebars that moved upuards to strike a ribbon, primting a character. The more modern Sclectric-style mechanisms use a round typing element about the size of a golf ball. The ball is covered with raised characters. When a typewriter key is struck the ball is positioned so the appropriate character faces the ribbon: that is done almost instantly. When the ball is positioned properly, the ball strikes a ribbon, printing the character. The mechanism works well. but it s so complex that someone once claimed that "The Selectric is a triumph of marketing over engincering

The daisy wheel, which was developed originally for computer-controlled printing, is a circular device with the characters located on flexible "petals"-the whole arrangement some what resembles a daisy flower. and hence the name. When a key is struck, that information is

sent to a microprocessor that is part of the daisy-wheel mechanism. The microprocessor determines which character was selected and positions the daisy wheel properly. A hammer then strikes the appropriate petal. which in turn strikes a ribbon causing a character to be printed.

The daisy wheel's mechanical mechanism is rudimentary compared to that of the typebar and Selectric printers; most of the work is done by the microprocessor. which controls character selection. spacing. and even multiple keyboards.

Because a daisy-wheel typewriter is electronic. it is casily adapted for use as a computer printer. That is precisely what's done in the Bytensiler. That printer is based on the Olivetti Praxis 30 selfcorrecting portable electronic typewriter. That unit types at 10 . 12-. or $15-$ characters-per-inch (switch selectable) and is supplied with a 10 pitch daisy type primesheel. a linecord, and a carrying case. Printwheels are available in many difierent type styles.

In addition to the usual electronictypewriter functions. the unit also feat tures a "two-level" heyboard. The first levet is a standard typewriter. the second level provides many of the special symbols used in languages other than English, Those include. for example, the accent marks of French. the inverted question marh and the tilde-accented " $n$ " and ' $\mathrm{N}^{\prime}$ of Spanish. Those special symbols
are substituted for some of the less-oten used typewriter symbols and chatracters such is $+,=, 1 / 2,1 / 4$, ete. The levels are switch selectable and the user can switeh from one to the other at will.

As the printwhed is already microprocessor controlled. all that's needed to make the Praxis 30 function as a compuwr printer is an appropriate interface. What Bytewriter has done is to install a Centronics-compatable parallel interface directly into the typewriter, creating a daisy-wheel combination lypewriter/ printer. The interface is installed inside the typewriter. and the only obvious sign that it's there is a small connector added to the right side of the mathine for the computer's connecting cable. Also inside the typewriter is a DIP switch package consisting of four SPST switches. Three of those switches are used to set the correct spacing for 10 . 12- or 15 -character-per-inch printwheels, the fourth can be used to defeat the automatic Imefeed after the carriage return. if desired. That fourth switch thus allows the printer to be used either with computers that output a lineteed after a carriage return, or those that output only a carriage return. requiring the printer to provide the lineleed.

The interface also provides a self-test mode. If you send a control-t from the computer (use an LPRINT from BASIC, or its equivalent) the device :vill print a small display of its underline and tab
capabilities. as well as the copyright notice. Alternately, the self-test can be generated by jumper-wiring a connector plug. hut since the plug is difficult to ohtain from many local electronics-parts stores. and since wiring that tiny connector isn't all that easy. one wonders why the jumper instructions are included at all.

The nice part about the unit is that its use as a computer printer does not interfere with its use as a typewtiter. and vice versa. That allows for great flexibility in word processing. For example, assume you are printing a form letter, hut cach person and their address is listed only on a printout. not stored in the computer where it can be atuomatically merged by a mailing-list program. There`s no need to first enter the names and addresses in the computer before printing the letters. You simply position the paper, lype the names and addresses manually, and then key the computer. which types the body of the letter:

Here's another example: Assume you have written a report on your word processor. and have just printed it out. Reading it over, you discover you ve misspelled a word. With this unit there's no need to correct the computer-stored version and reprimt the entire document. Instead. simply position the printhead over the incorrect characters and remove them continued on page 82

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#### Abstract

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## GORDOM MCCOMB

IF ALEKANDER GRaHAM BELL SAW THL rodern versions of his inivention，the elephere，he mosi lite $;$ would ro：rec－ ognize hem．Net because they would k ok has much different from his original 1376 model．but bexal se the new breed of relep rores can 13 so muc i mure．One particularly exci ine a ac uscful tel aphone irnowat on is the w re ese or ersless pione．

Whet＇s so spec al about alcordhess tcle－ pzone？It means a：mure tangle J wires． expeasife extension wiring．or missed calls 4 ith a corclass phons．you can be： u）to $\mathcal{X}(0)$ feet frixa your ptone，and still b：atle $\mathbf{0}$ answeri．W ih many nexiels． you car cven orignase a call fron any－ where vithin the uni s range．You can see a errdless princ toth indeors and at－yu can be working in the shop． washirt the car．or ower at tie neighbor＇s wuse．and still utthevery call

Ccrd ess phores nave indeed bacome a apputar houschold twel－so much in facr． hat the ee are like tll dozens of madek aww onahe market Witis so many models s ch onse from，there＇s bround to be some－ thing fer everyone．bat finding a periect ratch terween yoir zoeds and an ivail－ zale un $t$ can be 1.2 easy task．Se we＇ve ut logseher this survey of the ma oreord－ less phenes now on the nareet，in－luding what they can＇t do．what they car 30 an． 1
row to make them work eve a better．

## The basics

A typical ccrdless phone consis－s of twou primary parts－a basz unit（or trans－ Fonder）wed a handset（er remote）．The tase unit plugs inte a 117 －valt AC line end uses ycur honce wirng as a cirrier current antunna to transait a 1.7 MHz FM sigual to the he ndset：the base uies a eparate telescopic－antenara to receive the incoming $49-\mathrm{MHz}$ signal from the hanc－ set．

Often，the base also includes a batery－ recharging circuit for the handset＇s rickle－cadmium batterics．To rectaras me batreries，the randset is usmally placed into a cratle on tac base wher the de vice is not othersvise in use

The base connec scasity to your pione fine using a stancard RJllow modular jack．All units ：un ess sreci：lly orcered （atherwise）use pulsz dialing．even thougn the handsat invaria ly is equioped with a Touch－Tene－type pushbutten keyoid． The reason hehind that is simple：A 1 phone lines，whather they be cesigned fer motary puse or Toach－Tcane．will accept pulse dialing．Hawever，tae reverse is not true；few pulse－onl\％lines can use Tancl－ Tone．（There is in excepti．on to that rt le－ come specialized phone is stems es－ precially those used within a arge builc－
ins．mas oaly te atte to accepr Tcu h－ Tene dialing．When in doute．consult ycur pione ocrapany）A few cordless prones are als：capable of sither pilic or to te ciang．
Several mose s allow a lser at the base to＂cat＂he menote hamdset，or vice versa．To use that feature，a call sw．rch is pressec．，whict ransits a loud＂bsep＂ to the handset．Of sourse，the haucset mast be turnci on to roceive any sienal． al hough its te excopic antenna need nct be exteaded sirce is is used for trans－ mitting only；an inxernal loxpstick an－ te matizused tor recextion．

A tiew of the pheres also include an intercon capatio ity，allowng directeom－ maricetion，betweets a ph one conrected to the base．and the remote．In add tion． quite a few oft ee systems can be use 1 as a ＂imited＂ntercon by s mpls lifti ig the receiver of he telephore zonnec－ed ro the bese and dialirg a siagle digit．Thet car－ cels the cial one and allows zor－ muricerions bet vecr the base unit as d the remate．Must ohole syistems incorvorate a ime－rut teat ne，however，limitiny hat type of intercorr ope－ztion to only $\$$ inir． ure or wi．

The handse as conpoused of a specker and nouth piece，as in a regula－tele－ phone．but ofrea nel des otrer features such dia I uucness caxrol or swith an
on/off/standby switch. etc. More complicated models include other features such as an "intercom call" and "security". The sccurity leature is used to prevent unauthorized use of your phone line. Manufacturers routinely offer their phones in a variety of operating frequencies. but it is possible that an individual near you could use another cordless phone or other type of communications equipment. and "tap" into your line. If your cordless phone does not have a security feature. it is recommended that you disconnect the unit from your phone line whenever you will be away from home for any length of time.

As mentioned carlier, a pushbutton keypad is provided for dialing on those units that offer dial-out capability. Quite often, the \# or * key is used for an automatic redial function: pressing the appropriate key will cause the phone to redial that last number called-handy whenever the line is busy

Nearly all of the cordless phones on the market use standard duplex transmission. allowing either party to speak at any time: a few less expensite models operate in the simplex mode. like a walkie-talkie or CB radio. and only one person can talk at a time. Also. with very few exceptions. today's cordless phones use FM. That allows the unit to operate with much less static and interference, although a completely static-free cordless phone. at this time at least. does not exist.

Because the base transponder usually uses the AC wiring in your home to transmit its signal. the structure of your house. as well as how it's wired. can have a
significant effect on your reception. If your AC lines are enclosed in metal conduit. you'll have quite a bit of trouble getting a worthwhile signal to the handset. Aluminum-backed insulation in walls and attics will also impede the signal somewhat, as will concrete and brick structures. Many phone manufacturers recommend using a 25 foot AC extension-cord on the base if you have trouble with reception caused by those factors. Lay out the extension cord along a wall or, better yet, along two walls that are at right angles to each other.

Locating the base as high up as possible will help improve reception. According to many manufacturers, the higher the base unit. the better the reception. Avoid placing the base unit in basements or other parts of your house that are below ground level.

Obviously. since cordless phones use RF signals for communication, some interference problems may result when two or more units are used in close proximity to one another. Several manufacturers offer as many as five different channel selections to help avoid that problem. The frequency set is not user adjustable. however, and. at least so far avoiding such interference is mostly a hit and miss affair. If. when you bring the unit home. you notice your neighbor's cordless phone is also operating at or near your frequency, the only recourse you have is to bring the unit back to the store and try another one. As cordless phones become more popular. the seriousness of that problem will increase rapidly. Already, some manufacturers are petitioning the


[^3]FCC to open more frequencies for cordless-phone use.

It's difficult to request specific frequency sets from the manufacturer. and even more difficult to order the base unit and handset separately. There may be an occasion when you may wish to have more than one base unit or handset on any one line. Keep in mind. however, that you cannot operate more than one handset with the base station at any one time. As the majority of models use FM, the handset with the stronger signal would simply capture the base station. effectively cutting out the other remote completely.

What does the phone company have to say about cordless phones? After all, by using a cordless. you are bypassing the need for installing and wiring extension phones, which is one of their primary sources of income. Simply stated, the telephone company cannot do a thing.

Over the past few years. Congress and the FCC have passed new laws and regulations governing the use of privately made equipment on common-carrier local and long distance phone-lines. Since 1977. it has been legal to oun and connect your own commercially manufactured and FCC-approved phone or phone accessory. As of this writing, the FCC has ruled that all phone companies must "unbundle" their rates, that is. they must itemize your phone bill into service. rental. wiring, and other important catagories. Thus, you may be able to reduce your monthly charge for phone rental by as much as $50 \%$ by using your own phonecordless or not-meaning a yearly satings of about $\$ 25$ to $\$ 100$.

The phone company does require (legally) that you notify them whenever you place a new phone or phone accessory onto their line. All you need to do is call up the customer service oflice (or other number so designated in your phone book). tell them you have installed a cordless phone per the instructions packed with the unit, and read of the make. model. FCC registration number, and Ringer equivalent number. All of that information should be stamped on the base unit, or clearly marked on the box or instruction booklet.
Keep in mind that no additional charge or fee is required when you own a cordless phone, and, since there is little or no extrat wiring involved, you save yourself a service call and any monthly extensionwiring fee as well.

## What's available

The following is a rundown of all the major cordless-phone manufacturers. and their models that are currently on the market. Remember that models come and go. so consult with your local dealer to see what's currently available. The price given for each model is the manufacturer's list price: the price you pay may vary from dealer to dealer

TABLE 1-CORDLESS-PHONE FEATURES


## Cobra-Dynascan

Cobra. well known for its citizens' band radios, has come out with four cordless-phone models. The least expensive is their CPI5S, an answer-only phone. That model has neither security nor intercom features.

The other models, the CPloOS. $C P 200 S$, and CP210S are all essentially identical. They all feature auto-redial circuitry, are capable of receiving as well as making calls from the handset, and use pulse dialing. All of them have claimed maximum ranges of up to 600 feet, although the manufacturer stresses that reception in enclosed areas. such as a warehouse. is usually limited to about 300 feet.

The only difference between the CP100S and the CP200S is cosmeticthe CPIOOS has a two-way-radio-styled handset. The CP2lOS has all the features of those two models. but also includes an intercom feature. That feature allows the user to disconnect the base unit phone from the line and use the handset and base unit as a wireless intercom system

## Electra-Bearcat

Electra has six "Freedom Phone" models to choose from, perhaps the most extensive line on the market. Available are units that range all the way from the pocket-sized $F F-3500$ to the fully multiplexed, multi-featured model $F F-4000$.

Electra's most basic model is its $F F$ 200 , an answer only unit. The estimated reception range of that phone is about 300 feet. It includes several features that are found in all of this company's units. Those are a call button mounted on the base unit, a volume switch, and a security feature that automatically engages when the handset is placed in the base's recharging cradle

Up the ladder we find two nearly identical models, the FF-550 and the $F F$ 1550); both use Princess-Phone-type styling. The biggest difference is that the $F F-1550$ comes with a separate handset recharger in addition to the charger built into the base. Both models have a range of up to 600 feet and feature auto-redial circuitry. The $F F-1.550$ also includes a fully automatic two-way intercom that allows you to carry on a conversation between the handset and base without using the phone lines. Similar to those models is the FF-3050, which uses "military'" styling and does not have an intercom.

The $F F-3500$ is a refreshingly different cordless phone - both the base and the handset have been down-sized considerably. The handset has a few extra goodies built into it as well, including a threeposition volume switch, a pulsing light for dialing confïrmation, and pushbutton dialing with tone confirmation. The FF 3500 is claimed to have a maximum range of about 600 fect.
Electra's best is their new $F F-4(0)(0)$, a

TABLE 2-
CORDLESS PHONE MANUFACTURERS
Cobra Communications
A Division of Dynascan Corp. 6460 W. Cortland
Chicago, IL 60635
Electra Co.
300 E. County Line Road Cumberland, IN 46229

Fracom/Rovafone International
2130 W. Clybourn St.
Milwaukee, WI 53233
Midland International Corp. 1690 N. Topping Kansas City, MO 64120

Mura Corporation
177 Cantiague Rock Rd
Westbury, NY 11590
Pathcom Inc. (Pace)
24105 S. Frampton Ave. Harbor City, CA 90710

Radio Shack
One Tandy Center
Ft. Worth, Tx 76102
Universal Security Instruments, Inc.
10324 S. Dolfield Rd.
Owings Mills, MD 21117
Webcor Electronics
28 S. Terminal Drive
Plainview, NY 11803
fully multiplexed $49-\mathrm{MHz} / 49-\mathrm{MHz}$ unit that has a claimed range of 60() feet. In addition. that model boasts a three-phone-number-capacity autonatic redial system and a three-position switch for 10 pulse-per-second (normal), 20 pulse-persecond, or Touch-Tone dialing. A coded security system helps ensure that only your handset will be able to access your base.

## Fracom/Rovaphone

This company's Rovette features Trim-Line-like styling and allows you to either store the base unit and handset on any flat surface like most other cordless models. or hang it up on a wall

The unit uses pulse dialing and has an estimated maximum range of 300 feet. In addition, the unit includes auto-redial circuitry and pager-call buttons on both the base unit and remote. An intercom switch allows a phone connected to the base to communicate freely with the remote. bypassing the phone lines

A unique feature of that cordless is that its base has no visible reception antenna. Instead, the antenna is encased in the coiled cord that attaches the base unit to the modular phone jack on the wall

The company also offers the Rovette 2 . which is similar to the Rovette but offers a 600 -foot range.

## Midland

Midland offers three cordless-phone models. All feature pushbutton pulse dialing, auto-redialing, a call button to page handset users. and slim styling. In addition. all are answer/originate models.

The model $80-200$ has a range of up to 60 feet. The model $80-250$ has a range of up to 600 feet. The top-of-the-line model $80-300$ also has the 600 -foot range of the $80-250$ but adds intercom capability and a security feature: it can also store up to nine pre-programmed numbers for automatic dialing.

## Mura

Mura Corporation has trimmed down its cordless-phone line and offers two moderately priced full-duplex versionsthe MP60O/601 and the MP5/0/511. Previously. Mura had been offering several AM simplex-type units. but those have recently been discontinued.

The MP5 /0/5// has a maximum effective range of about 150 feet. It offers auto-redial and pulse dialing, but has no intercom or security feature. The MP6001 $60 /$ has a maximum range of 600 feet. auto-redial, and a security feature. Unlike most other cordless units. that one does not have a recharging unit built into the base. Instead. a coiled-cord battery charger plugs into the handset; that recharger will recharge the handset even when it is in use. The base unit can then be hidden away in a closet, behind a bookself, or even in an attic.

## Pathcom (Pace)

Patheom offers two of the more advanced lines of cordless phones currently on the market. Their 7800 series consists of three models. The base model Pacer 7800 offers pulse dialing, paging from base to handset. automatic redial, and a security feature. The Pacer 7800 T adds true Touch-Tone dialing. Their Pacer $7800 I$ ) offers pulse dialing, but features a nine-phone-number memory for automatic dialing

Unlike most other manufacturers, Pathcom allows you to order base units and handsets separately, allowing you to have more than one remote for each base. or vice versa. (Remember, you cannot operate more than one handset with a base at a time.)

Pathcom's top-of-the-line model, the Pacer 9800. has everything the Pacer 7800 has. as well as a personal wireless intercom. call forwarding (where available from the phone company), and has switch-selectable pulse or Touch-Tone operation. The wireless intercom feature allows one user to screen calls at the base, call the other user with the handset, and speak to him or her over the intercom system before passing the incoming call to the handset. Also. while most cordless phones have a provision that allows the cominued on page l0t

# FREQUENCY MULTIPLIER FOR YOUR COUNTER 

## Here＇s an easy way to add low－frequency accuracy－and speed－ to your counter．No modifications are required．

## GARY McCLELLAN

FOR YEARS TIIERE HAVE BEEN PlLENTY OF devices like prescalers available to extend the high－frequency range of the average counter．But for those of us who mork with audio frequencies，the selection of add－on＇s hasn＇t been so great and that can cause a problem when you try to measure some－ thing like a $20-\mathrm{Hz}$ signal accurately．

Most of the time the counter reads＂ 20 ，＂ but it frequently jumps to＂ 19 ＂or＂ 21 ．＂ That＇s a total of $10 \%$ error $(5 \%$ above and $5 \%$ below）．and not very good if you＇re trying to get a precise reading．The usual solution is either to use a counter that has a

$20-\mathrm{Hz}$ signal within just six seconds－and that includes the two－second update time of the typica！inexpensive counter．Further－ more，the circuit responds to small changes faster than my expensive counter，and the speed increases as the frequency being measured does．If you hate to stand around and wait for the display on an expensive counter to be updated，you＇re bound to like this device．

Many expensive counters have period－ measurement capabilities，which means fast，accurate，display of time，but some calculation is needed to convert that figure to frequency．The frequency multiplier gives a direct readout of frequency without time－consuming calculations．（To be fair， though，if the signal frequency is not stable－if it jitters a bit－the figure derived from the period measurement will be more accurate．）

It＇s tough to estimate project costs these days，but you should be able to build the frequency multiplier for under \＄15；quite possibly for under $\$ 10$ if you have a well－ stocked junk box．Costs are kept down by using common，low－cost IC＇s and parts． There＇s one board to＂stuff．＂with four IC＇s on it，and little else．The board is in－ stalled in a cabinet along with a few more parts，and that is about all there is to it．The prototype was built in one afternoon，and there is no reason why you can＇t build the frequency multiplier about as quickly．

## How it works

The frequency multiplier is basically a PLL（Phase Locked Loop）circuit，and is similar to the Programma 1 synthesized pulse－generator featured in the October 1980 issue of Radio－Electronics．Many of the same IC＇s are used，and the circuit de－ sign is similar，but the thumbwheel switches are replaced by a single switch for $\times 10$ or $\times 100$ output．Also，the input signal re－ places the $100-\mathrm{Hz}$ reference used in the Pro－ gramma 1．Refer to Fig． 1 as we look at how the frequency multiplier works．

Low－frequency signals appearing at the input pass through the GAIN potentiometer， R101，which permits the frequency multi－
plier to handle a very wide range of signal levels. Then, the attenuated signal drives IC1. which shapes it into a square wave. That signal drives phase detector IC2.

Another part of the same IC also serves as a VCO (Voltage Controlled Oscillator). It accepts a DC voltage from the phase detector and generates a square-wave signal. The VCO can generate signals ranging from under 100 Hz to over 400 kHz without any switching. From the VCO, the signal-path branches out.

One branch takes the signal to IC3, a nand gate. That gate acts as a switch. and allows signals to pass to the frequency counter only when the PLL is locked onto a good signal. That suppresses the stray readings you would normally get without an input signal, or with signals the device can thandle. The output from the VCO also drives two divide-by-ten counters, both of which


FIG. 1-MULTIPLICATION FACTOR is determined by number of divide-by-ten counters used.
are contained in IC4. The outputs from the dividers are selected by S101, the multiplier switch. The output selected drives the phase detector, which generates the DC control-voltage for the VCO. Thus, a simple PLL circuit, that can generate frequencies ten times or a hundred times the input frequency, is formed.
Let's look at some of the finer points of the circuitry. Refer to the schematic diagram in Fig. 2 for details. The shaper amp consists of a fast CMOS CA3130 op-amp. ICl. Its high-frequency response is reduced by C3 so the circuit won't oscillate. yet will have flat gain over its $10-\mathrm{Hz}$ to $40-\mathrm{kHz}$ input range. The inputs of the op-amp are biased to half the supply voltage by R1 and R3, eliminating the need for a split (positive and negative voltages) power supply.
Resistors R4 and R5 set the hysteresis or "trip" point for the circuit. which is about 350 mV . The output signal is a nine-volt square wave that drives the phase-detector portion of IC2. The phase detector compares the signal with that from the multiplier switch, and outputs a DC voltage at pin I3 of the IC. That drives a network known as a loop filter. which smooths out the pulses from the phase detector. giving a clean DCsignal.

The VCO input is at pin 9 of IC2, and the timing capacitor that sets the frequency range is C 5 . The VCO output appears at pin 4, and drives both IC3 and IC4. Resistor R9 and capacitor C 7 form another filter to "debounce" the signal from pin 1 of IC2 (which indicates that the PLL is locked onto the signal) so that it can enable IC3-a's Nand gate whenever a good signal is present at pin 4 of IC2. Resistor R 10 is included so that the charge on C7 won't blow IC3 when the
power is turned off. The output of IC3 is reduced by R11/R12 to about 900 mV peak-to-peak, which is a comfortable level for most counters. The remaining circuitry consists of a standard CMOS dual divide-by-ten counter, IC4

## Components

Because most people will want to raid their junk boxes for parts for the multiplier, let's discuss substitutions. Since most of the component values aren't critical, some substitutions can be made. The exceptions to that are resistors R1 and R3. which bias the op-amp. If you have to substitute for them, you must make sure that the values of both substitutes are identical. Another area you should watch is the loop filter. Try to use the values indicated for C6, R7, and R8 if you can. (If you have trouble finding a 1.8 K resistor for R 8 , you can either combine two resistors in series or parallel to get the correct value. or use a 1.5 K or 2 K one.)

Also, be sure to use a tantalum-type capacitor for C6. If you use an electrolytic, with its higher leakage, the performance of the multiplier will suffer. Finally, C5 must be 220 pF --it sets the VCO range, which is critical.

Aside from observing those precautions, you are free to make reasonable substitutions from your junk box. Remember to test the parts before installing them; that can save troubleshooting later

## Construction

A PC board will make construction a lot easier and will help to insure that the device will work the first time it is tried. You can also use perforated construction-board, but be careful with the parts layout-you are


FIG. 2-A LOGIC-HIGH OUTPUT from pin 1 of IC2 indicates that the PLL is locked and allows IC3, a NAND gate to pass the pulse string from IC2's pin 4.
working with high-gain analog circuitry and noisy digital-circuitry. The PC-board layout shown in Fig. 3 is ideal for the circuit, and you may want to copy it even if you use point-to-point wiring.

Start construction by installing the boardmounted components. Refer to. Figs. 4 and 5 as you proceed. Position the board as shown in Fig. 4 and leave the board in that position until you are finished with it.

Install an 8-pin IC socket at the IC1 location. Be sure to orient any pin-1 identification (notch or dot) on that socket so that it points up. Then install a 16 -pin socket with its pin-I identification pointing down at $I C 2$, and another, pointing right, at IC 4 . Finally, install a 14 -pin socket at IC3 so it faces to the right

With the four IC sockets in place. next come the resistors. Start at the ICl socket. Install a 1 -megohm resistor at R 2 , and then a IK resistor next to it at R4. Move down and install a 100 K resistor at R 3 . After that, install two 100 K resistors at RI and R5. at the "tail" end of IC 1

The second batch of resistors is located around IC2. Install a 10 K unit at R6 first,

## PARTS LIST

## All resistors $1 / 4$-watt, 5\%

R1, R3, R5, R7, R9, R10-100,000 ohms
R2-1 megohm
R4- 1000 ohms
R6-10,000 ohms
R8-1800 ohms
R11-22,000 ohms
R12-2700 ohms
R101-1 megohm, potentiometer, linear taper with SPST switch (S102)

## Capacitors

$\mathrm{C} 1, \mathrm{C} 2-10 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 16$ volts, electrolytic or tantalum
C3-47 pF, ceramic disc
C4, C7-0.1 $\mu \mathrm{F}, 16$ volts, ceramic disc
C5-220 pF, ceramic disc
C6- $15 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 16$ volts, tantalum
C101-0.1 $\mu \mathrm{F}, 100$ volts, Mylar

## Semiconductors

IC1-CA3130AE CMOS op-amp
IC2-CD4046 CMOS PLL
IC3-CD4011 CMOS quad 2-input nand gate
IC4-MC14518 or CD4518 CMOS dual synchronous $\div 10$ counter
J101-female BNC connector, chassismount
J102-RCA phono jack, chassis mount
PL101-male BNC connector
S101-SPDT toggle switch
S102-SPST switch (part of R101)
B1-9-volt transistor battery
Miscellaneous: PC board, cabinet (LMB type CR-332 or similar), $11 / 2$-inch spacers, 9 -volt battery snap, battery clip, IC sockets, wire, solder, etc.
The following is available from Technico Services, PO Box 20 HC , Orangehurst, Fullerton, CA 92633: Etched and drilled PC board (MULT), $\$ 6.00$. Kit of all parts excluding PC board (MULT-P) is available for $\$ 35.00$ from: ABC Electronics, 2033 La Habra Blvd., La Habra, CA 90631. CA residents please add $6 \%$ sales tax; foreign orders please add $\$ 1.00$ for shipping.


FIG. 3-FULL-SIZE foil pattern for frequency multiplier can be used for making your own PC board.


FIG. 4-MAKE CERTAIN that IC's and polarized capacitors are oriented properly. Failure to do so can cause sensitive parts to be destroyed.
then a 100 K resistor between it and IC 2 at R7. Move up and install a 1.8 K resistor at R8. Then, on the other side of IC2, install two 100 K units at R9 and R10. At the right edge of the board install a 2.7 K resistor at R12. and a 22 K one at R11. Stop at that point and check your work. Correct ariy mistakes you may find before going farther.

Next come the capacitors. Start near IC1 as you did with the resistors and install a $10-\mu \mathrm{F}$ electrolytic or tantalum capacitor at C2. Note that the positive side faces R2. Install a $47-\mathrm{pF}$ ceramic disc at C3. Install a $10-\mu \mathrm{F}$ electrolytic or tantalum at CI , making sure that the positive side points toward IC4. On the other side of IC2 install a $15-\mu \mathrm{F}$ tantalum capacitor at C6 with its "plus" sign pointing toward the 1.8 K resistor. R 8 . Then below it install a $220-\mathrm{pF}$ disc at C 5 . Finish up by installing $0.1-\mu \mathrm{F}$ ceramic discs at C7 and C+. Be sure to check your work after all the capacitors are installed.
Irstall a wire jumper near pin I of IC2 and then cut five pieces of hookup wire. each about three inches long. Strip both ends of the wires. and solder one to each of the live pads marked with asterisks in Fig. 6. The remaining connections to the board will be made when it is installed in the box.

Connect S 101 as shown in Fig. 6 and then finish up the hoard by installing the IC's. Install the CA3130 at ICI a CD4046 at IC2. a CD40II at IC3. and a MCI 4518 (or CD4518) at IC4. Double check to be sure the IC's are installed correctly: if they're in backwards. they 11 probably be damaged when power is applied to the board. Set the
board aside temporarily
The enclosure comes next. Figure 5 shows how the casc-mounted components can be laid out. One thing we did that needs comment concerns the input jacks. In our laboratory, all the connectors are of the BNC type, so that`s what was used for J 101 . For some applications, though. an RCAtype jack is preferable. so JIO2, connected in parallel with Jl0I. is of that sort. Use whatever best suits your needs.

You can install the PC board in the box using long (about $1 / 2 / 2$ inches) threaded spacers behind S101 and R101. If you can't locate the spacers, use " $L$ " brackets to fasten the board to the top of the box. Don't mount the board in place, yct, though: there's still a bit of wiring left to be done. Refer again to Fig. 5 for details.

Start by mounting and wiring the Gain pot ( R 101 ). Attach one end of a $0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ Mylar capacitor ( C 101 ) to the wiper of the potentiometer. As indicated in Fig. 6, the ground lug of the pot should be connected both to the ground wire coming from the board and to the case. The "hot" end of the control should be connected to the center connectors of J101 and J102. The other end of $\mathrm{ClO1}$ should be connected to the hoard as shown in Fig. 6.

Connect the left-hand (as seen in Fig. 6) battery wire ( - ) to the switch mounted on the pot ( S 102 ), and wire a transistor-battery snap between that switch and the other bat-tery-pad on the board. Mount SIOI on the case and install the board. Finish up by attaching PL101 to one end of a three-foot length of thin coaxial cable (like RG-174/ AU ) and the other end of the cable to the points indicated in the parts-placement diagram on the foil side of the board. Tacksolder the shield of the cable to the ground plane of the board. Position ClOl so it doesn't short against anything.

Check over your work for shorts and other potential problem-causers. and correct anything that's amiss. Install a 9 -volt battery and you're ready to go

## Applications

Using the frequency multiplier is easy.


FIG. 5- $11 / 2$-INCH threaded spacers are used to attach PC board to top of case.


FIG. 6-CONNECTIDNS TO CASE-MOUNTED parts. . Shield of coax used for output is tack-soldered to ground foil on bottom of board.

Simply connect the audio signal to be measured to J101 or J102 and connect PL101 to your counter. Set the multiplier switch to $\times 10$ and advance the GAIN control until the counter gives a stable reading. Note that advancing the control beyond that point will have little or no effect. If you need befter resolution, and the frequency you re
measuring is $4-\mathrm{kHz}$ or lower. switch the MULTIPLIER to $\times 100$.

Here are a few tips that you may find helpful. When you look at the display on your counter, remember to mentally shift the decimal point one place to the left when you're using the $\times 10$ range. and two places to the left when you're using the $\times 100$ range.

A reading of " $200^{\prime \prime}$ on the $\times 10$ range will represent " 20.0 " and a reading of " 2000 ") on the 2100 range will represent " 20.00 ." That will soon become automatic.

The frequency multiplier does have some limitations. For example, the VCO range of the unit is 100 Hz to 400 kHz . That means that with the multiplier switch set to the $\times 10$ position. the input frequency must be between 10 Hz and 40 kHz , since $40 \mathrm{kHz} \times$ 10 is 400 kHz -the upper limit of the VCO. Similarly, on the $\times 100$ range you are restricted to a range of 10 Hz to 4 kHz . If you are not within those limits, there will be no reading on the counter
Because the current drain (500-750 $\mu \mathrm{A}$ ) on the battery is so light, you may wonder how you'll know when to change it. Replace it when the upper frequency-limit starts to drop, and you can no longer get outputs in the $300-\mathrm{kHz}$ to $400-\mathrm{kHz}$ range. The maximum range will drop with the battery voltage. Another clue that it's time for battery replacement is the multiplier's suddenly refusing to multiply. That's a sure sign that it's time to change the battery.

Finally, for those of you who would like (or need) more gain. it can be increased simply by making the value of R4 (IK) smaller. Nothing else need be changed. R-E


> Your Picture Phone should now be nearly complete.
> Here's how to finish it, calibrate it, set it up, and use it.

## JOSEF BERNARD <br> TECHNICAL EDITOR

Part 4before you can put your Picture Phone into service, you'tl need to buy and install a telephone coupler. This month we'll look at those. and show you how to align and use your Picture Phone. But first, let's finish up the construction.

When running lines for the AC vol ${ }^{-1}$ tages. twist wires carrying similar voltages together: that will help reduce 60 Hz hum in the system. Also try to keep the wires as close to the chassis as possible, again to reduce hum.

Next. install the telephone adaptor board, again using standoffs. You can now proceed with the chassis wiring. shown in Fig. 16. It's a good idea to color-code your wires-red for +5 volts, blue for +12 volts. orange for control signals, etc. That will make wire-routing easier and also help you in troubleshooting. should that be required.

Aside from keeping things neat. perhaps the most difficult part of the chassis wiring is the mode switch. S1. Make sure that all the diodes on the switch are oriented correctly, and be liberal with the "spaghetti" to prevent shorts. Thinning the braid of the shielded cables before
twisting and tinning it may make it easier for it to fit through the switch lugs.

Note that the use of the DB25-S connector (see Fig. 17) is optional, but it's a good idea to install it in case you decide to use it later. Also. R710 (10K) is intended for use with tape recorders having a LINE or aux input. If your recorder has only a mic input, use a much higher value-at least several hundred kilohms.

Your last step should be to mount the edge connector for the PC board. again using standofts. It should be at a level where the board can plug into it without touching the components below it. You will also have to provide a frame and bracket to support the sides and rear of the board. Figure 15 (see last month's issue) shows you how that can be done (note the nylon standoffs into which the board snaps).

Before plugging the PC board into the edge connector, turn the unit on and check to make sure that the right voltages appear at the right pins. If everything checks out, turn the power off. allow a couple of seconds for the capacitors to discharge (you can tell by watching the front-panel LED's), and then carefully
insert the board into its connector
Again, turn the power on and, this time, check for the proper voltages at the IC. sockets. An ordinary straight pin makes an ideal probe for the purpose-it will slip right into the socket hole you re checking. If everything looks OK. turn the power off and insert the IC's into their sockets.

Certain pins on IC23, IC31. and IC47 have to he disabled for timing purposes. That is done as shown in Fig. 18, by bending the unused pins up until they stick out at right angles to the others and cannot fit into the sockets.

## An inexpensive coupler

Telephone couplers, sometimes known wiring protectors, are required to prevent the possibility of damage to telephone-company equipment by devices (such as the Picture Phone you built) that have not been approved by, and registered with. the FCC. Unfortunately. homebrew equipment-even if built from a kit-carnot. at least, not easily-obtain FCC approval. and an approved coupler must be used.

There are a number of couplers that



FIG. 16-WIRING DIAGRAM for chassis-mounted components and for connections to edge connector. Be especially careful in wiring diodes to S1-d.


FIG. 17-REAR PANEL of Picture Phone. Circuit-breaker reset is located above line cord at left.
will do the job for us available from various manufacturers; the one we'll use as an example is the Elgin Electronics model EWPI3OA Voice Coupler. which costs about $\$ 85$ (sec the Parts List for ordering information).

Figure 19 shows the terminals on the $E W P / 30 A$ board, and the connections that have to be made to the Picture Phone indicated by asterisks in $c$.
signals and to translate the ring signal and on-hook/off-hook voltages into relay closures that will supply the appropriate voltages to the telephone equipment on your side of it. (You can do almost anything on vour side of the coupler; that's why it's used-to protect the equipment on the telephone-company side from damage.)

The coupler requires two operating voltages and, if the telephone is going to, be permanently connected to the Picture Phone. those voltages must alvays be available. Only a few hundred milliamps are required. and a suitable supply is shown in Fig. 20. It provides -24 -volts DC to operate the coupler's relays, and 117 -volts AC at 30 Hz (derived by placing diode D80) in the $A C$ line) to ring the telephone's bell.

The coupler comes with a cord and modular plug, which is inserted in the wall jack that your phone would normally connect to (refer back to Fig. 19.) The telephone itself is connected to the modular jack on the rear of the Picture Phone and the user-side (your side) of the coupler to the " $T$ " and " $R$ "'output terminals on the Picture Phone's telephone adapter board.

While the power supply for the coupler can be mounted inside the Picture Phone (and the 117 -volts AC taken from its line cord before the power switch), the coupler should be mounted as close as possible to the wall jack it will be plugged into.

Be sure to notify your telephone company of the following:

1. The particular line to which you will be making your connection.
2. The type of jack used (type RJ11W in the case of modular wall jacks).
3. The FCC registration number of the coupler.
4. The ringer-equivalence number of the coupler.

## Checkout and adjustment

Now that you know how to connect the Picture Phone to the phone line in a perfectly legal fashion. it's time to make sure that it works properly and to calibrate it. (If you run into problems. skip to the section on troubleshooting.) Perform the


FIG. 18-SECTIONS OF IC23, IC31, and IC47 are disabled by bending IC pins up (b). Pins to be bent are


FIG. 19-CONNECTIONS TO AND FROM THE EWP130A coupler. Details of the power supply will be found in Fig. 21.
fully clockwise (Fig. 21 shows the front panel controls). With the frame grab switch in the manual position push the frame grab button to load a trame of white into memory. Adjust the white trimmer potentiometer. R 104, until you get a reading of 2300 Hz on your counter
Finally, with TP2 still grounded, turn the CONTRAST control fully clockwise, and the brightness control fully coumterclockwise. Adjust the black trimmer R106, until your counter reads 1500 Hz , the frequency used in slow scan to represent black. That completes the frequency adjustments for slow-scan output and you can remove the lead from TP2.

The next step is to adjust the brightness and contrast levels for slow-scan reception. That will be done by referring to the four-level (black, two shades of gray, and white) gray scale generated by the Picture Phone.

First. set the mone switch to the GRay sCale position and snatch a gray scale using the frame grab button. Do not be

## ORDERING INFORMATION

The following are available from Robot Research Inc., 7591 Convoy Court, San Diego, CA 92111, (714) 279-9430: Assembled \& tested Model 535 Picture Phone, FCC registered for direct connection to telephone line (KIT-1) ( 14 lbs .), \$1195.00; assembled and tested No. 400929C main PC board (KIT-2) (4 Ibs.), 5495.00; assembled and tested Picture Phone chassis, including telephone adaptor board, but less main board, (KIT-3) (12 Ibs.), \$695.00; kit of No. 400929C main PC board with all main-board parts (KIT-4) ( 5 lbs .), S295.00; kii including chassis and chassis parts, and telephone adaptor board and parts, but less main board, (KIT-5) (12 lbs.), \$445.00; telephone adaptor board kit including board and parts (KIT-6) (3 lbs.), S79.50; etched, drilled, and platedthrough main board (KIT-7) (3 lbs.), $\$ 59.00$; etched, drilled, and platedthrough telephone adaptor board (KIT-8) (2 lbs.), S19.95; T1 (KIT-9) (4 Ibs.), S29.50; T601 (KIT-10) (2 lbs.), $\$ 24.50$; DT1 (KIT-11) ( 1 lb. ), $\$ 8.50$; kit of $321 \%$ resistors for main board (KIT-12) (1 lb.), $\$ 12.00$; individual 1\% resistor (KIT-13) (1 lb.), S0.35; Model 535 Picture Phone enclosure kit with mounting rails for main board and back plate for controls (KIT-14) ( 6 lbs .), 599.50; kit of front panel parts only (KIT15) (2 lbs.), 559.50 ; assembled \& tested RF modulator, less power supply and enclosure (KIT-16) (1 lb.), S29.00; RF-modulator kit, less power supply and enclosure (KIT17) ( 1 lb .), $\$ 19.50$. For information on other parts, write to Robot Research.

CA residents please add $6 \%$ sales tax. All prices F.O.B. San Diego-check with UPS for shipping charges; please add $\$ 0.50$ per $\$ 100.00$ of value above first $\$ 100.00$ for insurance. MC and Visa accepted.

For information on where to obtain the coupler described in the text write to: Elgin Electronics, 802 Walnut Street, Waterford, PA 16441. The price of the EWP130A coupler is $\$ 87.00$, ppd.


FIG. 20-POWER SUPPLY for use with the EWP130A telephone coupler. It can easily be built on perforated construction board and mounted inside the Picture Phone enclosure.
calibration without connecting the device to the phone line-if you leave it connected while you are working on it, anyone who tries to call you will get a busy signal. Instead, temporarily use a small piece of wire to jumper the contacts on the PICILRE switch so you are constantly in the viofe mode.

To pertorm the alignment you'll need a frequency counter, cassette recorder, and a video monitor or a TV set with an RF modulator (which you're going to need anyway when you put the Picture Phone to use). A TV camera, which. of course. you'll eventually require, is not needed for most of the alignment procedure.

The first step is to set the proper frequencies for slow scan sync. White level, and black level. Connect a frequency counter to the TO TAPE jack and then temporarily connect TP2 (see Fig. 2 in the August issue) to +5 volts. Adjust the SYNC trimmer, R 107 until vou get a reading of 1200 Hz , the slow-scan sync frequency

Next, ground TP2 and turn the frontpancl contrast control fully counterclockwise and the brightness control
alarmed if, with no TV camera connected, you see a crazy jumble of lines on the sereen in the gray scate or cimera mode. That is normal, and is due to the fact that the Picture Phone is receiving no fast-scan sync signal. The gray scale can be viewed by putting the mode switch into the reansirt or hold position. You may notice some slight glitehes where one gray shade meets the next. That. too is normal, and will not be obvious when you are viewing slow-scan pictures.

With a gray scale being displayed from memory (mode switch in the hold position) adjust the contrast control of the monitor or receiver until the white bar at the right just begins to "bloom"--blend with the next shade of gray. Then adjust the monitor or TV set's brightness control until the black bar on the left matches the blanked area of the screen. Do not reduce the brightness below the point where the raster lines just disappear from the screen. Your display device should now be correctly adjusted for slow-scan vicwing.

Now you can adjust the Picture Phone


FIG. 21-PICTURE PHONE'S front-panel controls. The FRAME GRAB button is below and to the left of the five-position mode switch.

First. check for all the things you would normally look for it something you built didn't work. Check your solder joints-both on the PC boards and the chassis wiring- and make sure that all the wires run to and from the points they're supposed to. Also make sure that all the IC's and other polarized components are installed properly and that all the IC's are in the sockets they're supposed to be in. Don't forget to check for IC pins that may have gotten bent under when you were inserting them into their sockets.

You can tell whether your unit is outputting slow scan by grabbing a frame. setting the MODE switch to TRANSMIT. and connecting an earphone to the To TAPE

## PICTURE PHONE DIRECTORY

Should you build-or purchase-your own Picture Phone, Radio-Electronics would like to know about it. We hope to publish a directory of Picture Phone users so, if you're interested in talking to (and seeing) others, be sure to include your telephone number.
for slow-scan reception. Connect a shielded audio cable from the To Tapt jack of the Picture Phone to the line or mike input of the cassette recorder and, with a gray scale being displayed in the TRANSMIT mode, record about five. minutes worth. You may have to adjust the sine trimmer, R204, to get an acceptable recording level.

Connect a second shielded cable between the output or earphone jack of the recorder and the fron TAPE jack on the Picture Phone. Rewind the tape you just made and set the Picture Phone's mode switch ro the rective position. Play back the gray-scale tape and adjust trimmers R138 (BLACK) and Rl4l (white) until the recorded gray scale matches a frame-grabbed one (viewed in the transmit position)

If you are not able to make the recorded center two gray shades match the ones viewed directly trom the Picture Phone, R138 is probably not set correctly Change its setting slightly, and then try to match the two gray scales using $\mathrm{R} 1+1$. In the end, you should be able to make four distinctly different brightness levels.

The last two adjustments require a TV camera. A digitized, real-time image can be viewed with the MODE control in the camlera position. Focus on a round object-a dinner plate or fisbee. perhaps-and grab a trame of it. Use the SNATCH WIDTH trimmer. R56, to adjust the width of the picture stored in memory (viewed in the TRANSMIT or hoLD position of the mODE switch) until it is the same as that of the one obtained directly from the camera.

Finally, record several minutes worth


FIG. 22-CONNECTIONS TO AND FROM the Picture Phone. Be sure to use shielded cable to keep signals clean.

## O00000PS

In the schematic of the main board of the Picture Phone (Fig. 2. August 1982), capacitor C208 appeared twice. The C208 with a value of $.001 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ (near R139) should be omitted, as should its ground. In the Parts List (page 50. September 1982), resistor R81 is used-its value is 1000 ohms. Resistors R82-R84 are not used.
of your test picture and then play it back with the mode control in the receive position. Adjust the wIITH trimmer. R143, until the picture just fills the square display area. It should have the same height and width as the picture viewed in the camera mode

Remove the jumper from the PICTURL switch and you've completed the Picture Phone calibration, and are ready to put your unit to use.

## Troubleshooting

The preceding assumed that your Picture Phone operated properly the first time you turned it on. It is quite possible-due to the complexity of the device-that it did not and the following may help you to set things right.
jack. You should hear a sort of burbling sound that's very difficult to deseribe in writing but which you'll soon become familiar with. If you hear a steady tone. something's wrong; start checking back from the slow-scan audio-output stage.

If everything you've built looks all right, but you're still not getting results, it's time to get an oscilloscope and start signal tracing. It's not enough to verify that all the clocking and control signals are present-they must also be at the proper logic-levels. In the unit I built, I found that an off-value resistor had caused the biasing of one of the 1458 op-amps to be off. and the logic-level signals it was passing were shifted to the extent that the following TTL IC's could not recognize them. Use a logic probe, if necessary, to verify that you are getting true logic-highs and logic-lows.

While IC's are normally the last things you should blame for your problems, brand-new ones do tend to have an "infant mortality" rate of about one percent and, in a device with as many IC's as the Picture Phone has, there is a chance that one of them is bad. So, if a signal goes into an IC but doesn't come out. try conimued on page 112

ized emporiums sold, at bargain prices, the most-needed components-resistors. capacitors, tubes. inductors, transformers, sockets, gears, dials, cabinets, test equipment, and chassis, ad infinitum. Today very few cities have more than a few walk-in electronics distributors' outlets, other than franchised ones. In fact, probably the only "classic" radio row that is still thriving today is Tokyo's gigantic Akihibara electronics district, which may be described as an updated. solid-state version of New York's Corthand Street radio row of $1940^{\circ}$ s and 1950 's vintage.

There is little hope for the revival of the radio row. For the most part. local purchase means the lone over-the-counter electronics distributor. Such distributors specialize in selling electronics parts. mostly to radio and TV repairmen. Some also sell CB. audio, and computer equipment. but are rarely equipped to provide a wide selection of project components at popular prices. The main advantage of such distributors and franchised outlets is, simply, availability: If you're more interested in price than fast delivery, you'll probably want to save money by ordering parts by mail. But if you nced a part fast, all you have to do is to make a trip to the store to obtain it.

To locate a convenient local source of supply. consult the Yellow Pages of your local telephone directory. Check under "Electronics Equipment and Supplies" That listing may be followed by the notation "Wholesale and Manufacturers" or "Retail". Also look under "Television and Radio Supplies and Parts". Note that many hard-to-come-by parts can be located by going to the company distributor in your area-particularly for semiconductors. Motorola and RCA have outlets in many cities, and it may be possible to obtain the particular item needed from the local distributor, or he can order it for you if out of stock. Again, check the Yellow Pages for addresses and phone numbers.
 low-cost parts.

Several larger radio distributors (especially those also doing a substantial mail-order business) issue periodic catalogs, usually free. Many of these run to several hundred pages, and can be thought of as encyclopedias of highly useful information
2. Surplus/salvage. Using surplus and salvaged components can be a money-saver and convenience for the electronics hobbyist. There's little doubt that the least expensive source of needed parts is old electronics equipment that can be salvaged.

Surplus isn't quite what it used to be. however. In the distant past. sources of surplus equipment were many. Those included war-surplus emporiums, mailorder military salvage firms. local radio and television dealers, and electronics schools. Government property disposal and surplus-sales programs have been good sources of classic salvage, equipment that can be stripped of useful components and/or converted into useful electronics equipment.

Much of the classic market has dried up: What is available is not terribly useful for contemporary construction projects. World War II and 1950's-vintage equipment is no longer in good supply, and most of that type of equipment isn't appropriate, anyway
Still, there are opportunities to obtain such components and equipment. Just check the Market Center section in the last 30 pages of this magazine.

There is something of a renaissance of surplus today, but the times and technologies have changed. Although using classic surplus can take the edge off the high cost of building projects, the action today lies in industrial surplus. There is a great deal of commercial, civilian-type surplus advertised in the electronics magazines alongside more conventional, brand-name components. Original sources are many, but include excess pro-

# TABLE 2-SELECTED LISTING OF MAIL ORDER ELECTRONIC PARTS DEALERS <br> Advertisers in Radio-Electronics Magazine are listed in bold type 

Active Electronics Sales Corp. PO Box 1035
Framingham, MA 01701
617-366-0500
ADVA Electronics
Box 4181
Woodside, CA 94062
Advanced Computer Products
PO Box 17329
Irvine, CA 92713
714-558-8813
Alaska Microwave Labs
4335 E. 5th Street
Anchorage, AK 99504
All Electronics
PO Box 20406
905 S. Vermont
Los Angeles, CA 90006
213-380-8000
Aldelco
27890 Milburn Avenue
Baldwin, NY 11510
516-378-4555
Altex Electronics
618 W. Sunset
San Antonio, TX 78216
512-828-0503
Arizona Electronic-Surplus
6835 N. 16th St.
Phoenix, AZ 85016
602-266-9758
Babylon Electronics
*+ 211 Myrtle Ave.
Sacramento, CA 95841
916-334-2161
B\&F Enterprises
119 Foster Street
Peabody, MA 01960
Barry Electronics Corp.*
512 Broadway
New York, NY 10012
212-WA5-7000
B.G. Micro

PO Box 280298
Dallas, TX 75228
214-271-5546
Bullet Electronics
PO Box 401244
Garland, TX 75040
214-278-3553
Chaney Electronics, Inc.
PO Box 27038
Denver, CO 80227
303-781-5750
Components Express
1380 E. Edinger
Santa Ana, CA 92705
714-558-3972
Concord Computer Products
1971 So. State College
Anaheim, CA 92806
714-937-0637

Dealin Electronics
735 Loma Verde
Palo, Alto, CA 94303
413-493-5930
Diamondback Electronics 2083 12th St
Sarasota, FL 33577
813-953-2829
Digi-Key Corp.
Highway 32 South
Thief River Falls, MN 56701
218-681-6674
Dokay Computer Products 3250 Keller St., No. 9 Santa Clara, CA 95050 408-988-0697

Edlie Electronics, Inc. 2700-DP Hempstead Turnpike Levittown, NY 11756 516-735-3330

## EICO

108 New South Road
Hicksville, NY 11801
Electronic Distributors, Inc.
4900 Elston Avenue
Chicago, IL 60630
312-283-4800
Electronic Mart
90 E. Water Street
Chillicothe, OH 45601
614-773-1313
Electronic Surplus, Inc.
1224 Prospect Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44115
216-621-1052
ETCO Electronics
North Country
Shopping Center
Plattsburgh, NY 12901
518-561-8700
Etronix
14803 N.E. 40th
Redmond, WA 98052
206-881-0857
Fair Radio Sales Co., Inc.*
1016 E. Eureka
Box 1105
Lima, OH 45802
419-227-6573

Fordham
855 Conklin Street
Farmingdale, NY 11735
516-752-0050

Formula International, Inc.
12603 Crenshaw Blvd.
Hawthorne, CA 90250
213-973-1921

## Gladstone Electronics

901 Fuhrmann Blvd.
Buffalo, NY 14203
716-849-0735

Gemeni Electronics
473 W. State Rd.
Altemonte Sp., FL 32701
305-819-9292
Godbout Electronics
Box 2355
Oakland Airport, CA 94614
415-562-0636

## Hal-Tronix

PO Box 1101
Southgate, MI 48195
313-285-1782
Heath Co.
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
616-982-3200
Hitech Electronics
4425 W. Sepulveda Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90505
213-371-2160
Integrated Circuits, Unlimited 7889 Clairmont Mesa Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92111
International Electronics
435 First Street
Solvang, CA 93463
Jameco Electronics
1355 Shoreway Road
Belmont, CA 94002
415-592-8097
JDR Microdevices, Inc.
1224 Bascom Avenue Campbell, CA 95008
408-995-5430
JAVANCO
150 Second Avenue
South Nashville, TN 37201
615-224-4444
H.J. Knapp of Florida, Inc.

4750 96th Street
St. Petersburg, FL 33708
813-392-0406
MCM Electronic Parts
858 Congress Park Drive
Centerville, OH 45459
614-434-0031

McGee Radio
1901 McGee Street
Kansas City, MO 64108
816-842-5092

Meshna, Inc.
PO Box 62
E. Lynn, MA 01904

617-595-2275

MHZ Electronics
2111 W. Camelback
Phoenix, AZ 85015

## Mikos

PO Box 955
EI Granda, CA 94018
415-728-9121

M-M Electronic Sales
2300 1st Avenue
Seattle, WA 98121
Mouser Electronics
11433 Woodside Ave.
Santee, CA 92071
714-449-2229
New-Tone Electronics
PO Box 1738
Bloomfield, NJ 07003
201-748-5089
Olson Electronics
2850 Gilchrist Road
Akron, OH 44305
216-798-1000
Omnitron
768 Amsterdam Ave.
New York, NY 10025
212-865-5580
Ora Electronics
18215 Parthenia St.
Northridge, CA 91325
213-201-5848
Page Digital
1858 Evergreen
Duarte, CA 91010
213-357-5005
Poly Paks, Inc.
PO Box 942
S. Lynnfield, MA 01940

617-245-3828
PPG Electronics
791 Red Rock Rd.
St. George, UT 84770
801-628-3627
Priority One
9161 Deering Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91311
Quest Electronics
PO Box 4430 C
Santa Clara, CA 95054
408-988-1640
R.F. Gain, Ltd

100 Merrick Road
Rockville, Centre, NY 11570
Radio Shack
One Tandy Center
Ft. Worth, TX 76102
(Consult your local
directory for the
store nearest you)
Ramsey Electronics, Inc.
2575 Baird Road
Penfield, NY 14526
716-586-3950
SCR Electronics
5303 Lincoln Ave.
Cypress, CA 90630
714-527-2554
Table 2 contimues on
the following page

## TABLE 2 (continued)

Semiconductors Surplus
2822 N. 32nd Street, Unit 1
Phoenix, AZ 85008
602-956-9423
Simple Simon Electronic Kits 3871 S. Valley View, Suite 12 Las Vegas, NV 89103 702-322-5273

Slep Electronics Co.*
Highway 441
PO Box 100
Otto, NC 28763
Solid State Sales
PO Box 74
Somerville, MA 02143
617-547-4005

| Sparton Electronics | Surplus Electronics <br> 6094 Jericho Tpk. |
| :--- | :--- |
| 7294 N.W. 54th Street |  |

cashier's check, or charge-card number to speed delivery.
8. Observe minimum-order requirements to prevent being embarrassed later.
9. Ask that very small parts be sent first class mail, larger ones by UPS.
10. Keep a copy of your order, charge-account slips, and cancelled checks.
11. Tell the firm what you will take in the way of substitutions and if you will accept credit slips for items that are out-of-stock.
12. Consolidate small orders for savings in the cost of the parts themselves as well as postage and handling charges.
13. Be specific on how urgent the order is. Say something like. "Ship cwerything in stock within 10 days and cancel balance of order, " or "Ship partial immediately and ship balance when available."

Mail-order houses generally offer good service, but there are built-in delays in the "system" that often mean that receipt of your parts may be several weeks away. The pointers above should help you get your order in the least possible time. however.

The biggest mail order complaints focus on substitutions and back-orders. Notwithstanding what may be advertised in a direct-mail flyer or catalog (which may have been composed many months ago). suppliers frequently don't have all of the advertised components in stock. That is especially true of solid-state components such as transistors, diodes, and IC's, and closeout, one-of-a-kind or especially bargain-priced components. \% Specific "kill" instructions should make your time sensitivity and amenability to backordering elear to the order filler. But what do you do about the problem of substitutions?

The best advice is to state clearly what vou will accept in the way of substitutions--not very casy in the case of most transistors and IC's, that may not be
readily substitutable. It's probably better to state on your order that you won't accept any substitutes, rather than to say that you will-unless youre willing to go to the trouble of specifying the acceptable substitutions for every single part on your order.

At the risk of confusing the order-filler with your range of substitutes, it may be wise to list one or two equivalents you will accept should a critical part requested be out of stock. Most dealers will comply with your request if your instructions aren't too complicated. Obviously, for unique items, or for pieces of equipment. you would not normally want to consider substitutes at all. or would require that you be contacted before authorizing the firm to ship a substitute of its choice.

To minimize the impact of minimumorder levels, stock-outs, and substitutions, consider judicious buying in advance of needs with respect to widelyused components and investigate the possibility of combining parts orders with those of friends or associates.

Table 2 lists representative mail-order electronics suppliers, including those firms which specialize in surplus.
4. Flea markets and auctions. Taking a somewhat less-conventional approach to parts acquisition, the fleamarket circuit probably represents a very inexpensive source of electronics parts and supplies. Since one can rarely predict in advance what is likely to be encountered at a flea market, this source is generally best suited to junk-box building-for accumulating an inventory of parts for future projects.

Many amateur radio clubs and computer groups sponsor hamfests and conventions that include well-developed fleamarkets. Regular distributors and directmail firms sell their wares at these functions. so that the hobbyist is presented with a selection of both new and surplus components, assemblies and equipment from which to choose. Some of the larger
events include the Davton Hamvention, Birminghamfest, Atlanta HamFestival, Ak-Sar-Ben auction (Omaha, NE). SAROC (NV), and Hamfest Chattanooga (TN). Dozens of lesser-known events occur regularly around the country, most being held in the good-weather scason from April through October. Many amateur and some computer publications list them.

Auctions, usually conducted in conjunction with flea-markets and frequently as part of ametcur radio and computer club meetings, also represent another source of parts. Usually, however, the focus is on surplus assemblies rather than individual components; whatever components are included are usually grouped together and sold in lots. Those factors make auctions somewhat less attractive for small-scale buying for construction projects.

Another point: Flea markets and auctions also provide good outlets for your own junk box. which may ultimately become too bloated and may need some weeding out to make room for tuture purchases.
5. Other sources of supply. Sometimes, items required for a particular construction project will not be electronics components at all. One should always be alert for non-electronics sources of supply. particularly in the local area; there are a number of unique or unusual items that can be purchased locally for use in electronics construction projects.

Some of these possible sources are: hardware stores (for aluminum stock): office-supply houses (boxes and enclosures): electric supply houses (wire and switches): discount stores (CB parts. batteries. and hardware); and plastics dealers (panels). A little ingenuity and creativity will surely turn up many more non-conventional parts sources

## Component identification and testing

For the most part, components purchased from local sources and from mailorder firms are labeled and packaged so that there is a minimum of difficulty in proper identification. Transistors usually have the identification stenciled-on, or they are mounted on cards: IC's are labeled: resistors and capacitors imprinted with a standardized color-code; transformer leads colored, and diodes coded. Notable exceptions include some grab-bag and bulk offerings, which may present such problems in identification that purchase is not advisable unless one is highly knowledgeable of the particular components involved and has the capability to measure a wide range of component values.

Identifying the values of unknown parts can be a risky proposition. It may be possible to do so with the help of specialized data tables and color-code keys appearing in reference texts, as well as

TABLE 3-SCHEMATIC SYMBOLS

calculating aids and test equipment. For example, the ARRL Handhook has a seetion on coding and values for a number of components, such as composition resistors and various types of capacitors. including mica. molded paper. and tubutar ceramies; tubular encapsulated RF chokes; pilot lamps. and wire Also listed are mechanical construction data. including numbered drill sizes and standard metal gauges
Identifying the values of totally unknown or unmarked components is difficult, but can be made possible using such devices as a multimeter and grid-dip oscillator or noise bridge. Aids such as the ARRL LCF Calculator are helpful in the identification of unknown coils and capacitors

Table 3 shows the various schematic symbols used to identify electronics components in this magazine. Table + lists the major resistor and capacitor color-coding schemes. Table 5 shows some of the prefixes often used in electronics and what they mean.

It doesn't take a lifetime involvement in electronics to develop a sizeable junk box. However. bear in mind that when assembling parts for a project, many components may be defective, including those sold by reputable mail-order firms.

Using salvaged and bargain-priced components is a convenience and money sater, but reasonable precautions should be taken to insure that only good parts make it to your work bench. Completed projects can't work right with bad IC's and shorted transistors, leaky capacitors, ofl-value resistors, and other defective components. Worse a single faulty component can cause the failure of good parts. as well as generate many hours of workbench time spent in troubleshooting. The proverb. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," definitely applies when you are working with electronics components.
While it's impractical to test all components $100 \%$, it's wise to at least spotcheck new components before they find their way into your parts bin and completed projects. and to closely scrutinize used parts before they go into stock. Though the junk box is a wonderful storehouse of goodies. components are of little value unless they are in good shape.

Clearly. parts which show signs of burning or charring should be discarded, and old, dust-encrusted components should not be stocked or used in construction projects. It's atso wise to weed out defective parts with your multimeter. Check resistors for gross discrepancies in
measured resistance; capacitors for shorts and excessive leakage; and transformers. coils. and chokes for open windings. Many transistors and diodes can be checked using an inexpensive transistor checker, and tubes-if you're still using them-can have performance checked on a tube checker. Not much can be done with IC's, however. short of plugging them into a given circuit-though IC testers are available

Occasionally, you'll fïnd duds in even newly purchased components. Most distributors and mail order houses will make good on them, in response to a polite request for replacement. With bargainpriced IC's and transistors, however, where the risk of bad components runs fairly high, it's a good precautionary measure to order two of each semiconductor if the price is right. If both are good, fine-and you can keep the second unit as a spare or use it in a subsequent project.

Let's take a look at some of the ways in which many common components can be defective, and describe methods of checking them for proper performance.

1. Resistors. For most construction purposes, resistors are useful if they measure within $\pm 20 \%$ of color-coded value. However, used ones should be checked for value before being placed in a

TABLE 4-COLOR CODES

RESISTOR VALUES CAN BE DETERMINED FROM the color bands on them. the first two BANDS INDICATE THE FIRST TWO DIGITS OF THE VALUE. THE THIRD BAND INDICATES THE NUM ber of zeroes that follow. the fourth BAND, SEPARATED FRDM THE OTHERS, INDI. CATES THE TOLERANCE.

SDME PRECISION RESISTORS MAY HAVE THE VALUE PRINTEO ON THEM. IF THE LETTER "R" APPEARS, AS IN "2R7," IT REPRESENTS A DECIMAL POINT (THE VALUE WOULD BE 2.7 DHMS).


THE POLARITY OF TANTALUM AND ELECTRO LYTIC CAPACITORS IS USUALLY CLEARLY INDICATEO BY " + " AND/OR "-" SIGNS. THE POSITIVE END OF AXIAL-LEAD ELECTROLYTICS IS FREQUENTLY CRIMPED SLIGHTLY.
the values dF most capacitors are clear LY MARKED. SOME MONOLOTHIC CAPACITORS USE A THREE-DOT COLOR CDOE-THE COLORS REPRESENT THE SAME VALUES AS THOSE USED ON RESISTORS, AND ARE READ IN THE SAME WAY. THE VALUE IS GIVEN IN PICOFARADS: MULTIPLYING BY $1,000,000$ WILL GIVE THE VALUE IN MICROFARADS.

MANY CERAMIC DISC CAPACITORS USE MORE CRYPTIC CODING. FREDUENTLY THE VALUE WILL BE INDICATED BY A THREE-DIGIT NUMBER SUCH AS "102." THE FIRST TWO DIGITS REPRESENT THE FIRST TWO DIGITS OF THE VALUE; THE THIRD IS THE MULTIPLIER. THE RESULT WILL BE IN PICOFARADS-MULTIPLY BY $1,000,000$ TO OBTAIN THE VALUE IN MICROFARADS. IF A CAPACITDR IS MARKEO " 1 K ," ITS VALUE IS 1000 PICOFARADS (. $001 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ ).

LETTERS ON OISC CAPACITORS INDICATE TDL ERANCES AS FOLLOWS: "NPO" OR " 2 ": $+80 \%,-20 \%$ (THIS IS THE MOST CDMMON TOLERANCE.)
".J":

cireuit．
Ordinary carbon－composition resistors change value over time，and they often suffer the effects of too much heat being applied in soldering．Precision resistors， such as $5 \%$ types，may eventually become $10 \%$ or $20 \%$ types．after long periods in damp storage．Cracked resistors should be discarded．since they tend to open up or become unstable when they heat up in normal operation

Wirewound resistors are more stable than composition resistors，but they may suffer from cracking of the hard ceramic shell or breaking of the internal resistance wire．Usually when a wirewound type is detective．it＇s open and is easily checked． Wirewound slide resistors often develop shorts between turns，which reduces re－ sistance．or develop an open circuit at the point where the tap connects．

Older deposited－film carbon resistors often suffer from aging，while newer metal－film types are considerably more stable．Still．those types can be ruined by a scratch on the outside of the shell which interferes with the spiral grooving that is cut into the resistance coating．and which determines the unit＇s resistance

2．Potentiometers．The resistance clement of pots should be cheched using the ohms function of a multimeter by placing the leads across the outer ter－ minals of the pot to insure that it＇s not open，and that it is of the proper resist－ ance．Following that check．the leads can be connected between an outer and the adjustable－arm terminals to make certain that the movable contact isn＇t open or intermittent．The pot shaft should be ro－ tated slowly while watching the meter． The meter should change its reading smoothly；if the needle jumps crratically． the pot is noisy or，in some cases．may

## TABLE 5－ MULTIPLIER PREFIXES

The table below lists the multiples and submultiples of fundamental electronic units，such as the henry，watt，farad， ampere，etc．The following prefixes，con－ version multipliers and abbreviations will be particularly useful：

| Prefix | Abbreviation | Multiplier |
| :--- | :---: | :--- |
| tera | T | $10^{12}$ |
| giga | G | $10^{9}$ |
| mega | M | $10^{6}$ |
| kilo | k | $10^{3}$ |
| hecto | h | $10^{2}$ |
| deci | d | $10^{-1}$ |
| centi | c | $10^{-2}$ |
| milli | m | $10^{-3}$ |
| micro | $\mu$ | $10^{-6}$ |
| nano | n | $10^{-9}$ |
| pico |  |  |
| （＂micro－ |  |  |
| micro＂） | p | $10^{-12}$ |

The above table will be used most when working with capacitor and inductor／coil values．


A TRANSISTOR TESTER，such as the one from Heathkit shown here，shouid be used to check all surplus and salvaged transistors before use．
have an open circuit over part of its rota－ tion．At the same time you can casily determine the taper of the pot．While con－ tact sprays may restore a unit，it＇s preter－ able to discard the unit and use another one．The on／off switch that is part of many control assemblies should also be checked for proper functioning．

3．Capacitors．Most capacitors that fail do so because they have shorted in－ termally．Capacitors that have ex－ perienced voltages at or near their break－ down voltages，and a lot of heat，are parti－ cularty vulnerable to shorting，and should be checked carefully
Paper．Mylar．ceramic．and similar types of $.001 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ or greater can be checked using the highest ohms range on a multi－ meter．Connect the prohes across the leads of the capacitor in either direction． Since such capacitors are not polarized，it doesn＇t make any difference which way the leads are connected．If the eapateitor is nomal．the meter needle should suddenly deflect toward zero the moment the leads touch the capacitor．than rapidly drop back toward the high－resistance end of the scale as the capacitor charges．A shorted capacitor is indicated by the meter pointer remaining at the low－resistance end of the scale．while an open capacitor will not deflect toward zero．

The capacitor may also be checked for leakage by noting the value of resistance on the meter after about five seconds of charging．The leakage resistance should be 10 megohms or greater if the capacitor is usable．That check may be all that can be done for capacitors of less than ． 001 $\mu \mathrm{F}$ ．as the meter＂dips＂are very small with low－value capacitors．Since those capacitors rarely change much in value becanse of storage conditions．the leak－ age test should suffice

Caution is paramount when evaluating
used aluminum electrolytics．They have a limited shelf life．and once they dry out． they can＇t be used．A defective electro－ lytic can easily destroy itself by drawing excessive current．heating up，and ul－ timately shorting out．
To check on an electrolytic＇s condi－ tion，apply DC voltage gradually，observ－ ing correct polarity，and beginning with a voltage equal to about $10 \%$ of the capaci－ tor＇s rated voltage－working up to the full rated voltage while monitoring leak－ age current．A 1000 －ohm resistor can be used to limit charging current and to pro－ vide a safe means of monitoring the leak－ age current without risking damage to the power supply or multimeter，should the capacitor short out under test．The leak－ age current can be found by first measur－ ing the voltage drop across the resistor． then using Ohm＇s law to determine the leakage current in milliamperes．While allowable leakage current is a function of the capacitance and working voltage． 5 mA represents a good working figure． Capacitors with substantially greater leakage should be discarded．Caution： Be sure to discharge the capacitor be－ fore handling it．

Electrolytics of the＂dry＂tantalum type don t usually suffer from aging pro－ blems．though high－capacitance．high－ voltage tantalums are expensive and rare． Salvaged units may be checked in a sim－ ilar manner to the method described above

4．Diodes．Usually．a quick check us－ ing the ohms scale on a multimeter is enough to determine the usability of sili－ con and germanium diodes．The diode should be checked in both the forward and reverse directions：in the forward direc－ tion the $\mathrm{R} \times 1$ or $\mathrm{R} \times 10$ scale should be used．The negative terminal of the multi－ meter is connected to the cathode．and the


IF YOU ARE SALVAGING a lot of components, an extractor, such as the TO-5 transistor extractor from Ungar can come in handy. It removes the device without harming either it or the PC board.
positive terminal is connected to the anode. The reading in the forward direction should lie between 50 and 500 ohms. Reversing the meter leads should result in a reverse resistance greater than 1 megohm.
5. Transistors and IC's. Transistors can take long-time storage in the junk box without deterioration. but each salvaged transistor should be checked, as a minimum. for leaks or shorts before it is wired into equipment. If available, a transistor ehecker should be used for more comprehensive checking.

Check with caution. since careless checks with a multimeter can destroy a transistor. Usually it's safe to make careful measurements on a transistor with a meter whose voltage between probe leads is less than 4 volts. The $\mathrm{R} \times 1$ and $\mathrm{R} \times 100$ ranges should be sate to use.

For example. it is readily possible to check for a defective power transistor using only a multimeter. Emitter-tocollector resistance should be high with the probes applied in either direction. On the other hand. when the probes are placed on either the base-to-emitter or base-to-collector circuits, a low resistance would be obtained one way and a high resistance the other. Actual resistance values obtained aren't critical. since the spread between the high and low measurements is so great that you'll have no trouble spotting the difference. If readings differ from those described, there is probably something wrong with the transistor and it should be discarded. It's also possible to identify and sort ummarked bipolar PNP and NPN transistors, though we won't go into the details here

Far better is a transistor tester. It is not terribly expensive. and allows more sophisticated measurements to be made with reduced risk of damage to the semiconductor.

Look for a unit that will evaluate conventional (bipolar) transistors. diodes.

FET's. SCR's. triacs and UJT's. It should test them in-circuit with color-coded leads supplied. or out-of-circuit with built-in sockets. The unit displays gain (DC beta). transconductance ( $\mathrm{G}^{\mathrm{m}}$ ). and leakage current. Shorted and open units can also be identified.

There is no simple way to test IC's. In-circuit substitution is often required. However, logic probes are available that can be used to detect and indicate high and low logic levels in TTL or CMOS circuitry.
6. Power transformers and filter chokes. Iron-core transformers and chokes are susceptible to insulation deterioration from humidity. The windings should be checked for continuity and coil-to-core shorts, using the ohms function on a multimeter. Insulation resistance, coil to frame, should be in excess of 50 megohms. A lower reading suggests that the insulation has deteriorated to the point where life expectancy of the unit may be shortened.

A power transtormer should be checked under application of rated voltage and current. Rated input is applied to the primary winding and secondary voltages are read using the $A C$ voltmeter function of the multimeter. The secondaries should be "loaded down" with a suitable resistance that causes the rated current to flow through the winding; this resistance can be calculated using Ohm's law. The transformer shouldn't be overloaded. even in testing-overheating as a result of overloading is the primary cause of insulation failure
7. Vacuum tubes. Used or unknowncondition vacuum tubes should be checked before use. Using a standard vacuumtube manual to determine pin connections. the tube can be checked for filament continuity using the ohms function of a multimeter. That will tell nothing about actual in-circuit performance, so a tube tester should be used to assess per-
formance short of actual substitution in a working circuit. If you don't have a tube tester, the free testers still found in some drugstores. supermarkets, and franchised electronics outlets can be used for casual cheching of emission and for shorted elements. Most ordinary tube testers will not test special-purpose or transmitting tube types. however.
8. Other components. Many used, surplus, and junk-box-type components can be judged from their physical condition. but many cannot. For example, switches can usually be checked using the ohmmeter function of a multimeter if the switching scheme is known or can be determined from inspection; intermittent, broken, or shorted contacts can often be determined from a combination of visual and electrical inspection. Meters can be checked for calibration by comparison with another known good meter, or a well-calibrated multimeter. Acceptability of the meter depends, however, not just on calibration but also on a reliable (non-sticking) display-often a problem with meters that have been abused or stored improperly. Note that it's usually worth the try to attempt to fix a malfunctioning meter, if extensive disassembling and reassembling can be avoided. Otherwise, it will usually cost more than the price of a new meter to have factory experts recondition or repair the defective unit.

Check RF coils and chokes for open circuits using a multimeter's ohms func tion. Those devices are wound with fine wire that may become broken in storage or shipment, and in the process of unsoldering those components, the ends of the winding often are unsoldered from the terminals.

Note that the DC resistance of RF chokes is frequently given in catalogs: II the measured resistance is less than $80 \%$ of the rated resistance. there may be shorted turns. which will result in degraded pertormance

We have shown in this article that it is possible to buy the components you need when you need them, at prices you're likely to be able to afford. Although the problems involved are great in this day of double-digit inflation, they're by no means insurmountable.

We ve indicated that those challenges can be met with an organized approach to parts buying, a working knowledge of parts selection and substitution criteria, a good feel for parts sources. and a familiarity with component identification and testing procedures

We've only scratched the surtace. But this article should give you an introduction to the considerations involved when lining up parts for that next construction project.

Buying elcctronics parts? ... Why. it you follow the hints we ve given you in this article, it's almost fun!

R-E

Part 2THE HEART-RATE MONITOK WE DESCRIBED IN the September 1982 issue of RadioElectronics is intended to give an audible and visible readout of your heart rate. In that previous part we described the theory behind the device, now its time to show you how to build your own.

## Construction

The circuitry of the Heart-A-Matic is broken up to fit on six circuit boards that has been indicated in the schematic in Fig. 3). Although wire-wrap techiques can be used, you're better off using the foil patterns in Figs. 4 through 10 to produce a set of PC boards (a set of boards is also available from the supplier indicated in the Parts List). That is particularly true of board 1 , which is double-sided, has a high component density. and has a lot of interconnections. Also. unless you re the sort of person who does crossword puzzles in ink. the use of IC sockets is a must. Troubleshooting the boards is virtually impossible unless the IC's can be removed-and, more often than not, unsoldering an IC will ruin it. even if it was good to begin with. Note that if you are making your own boards, the dimensions provided for boards 1,2, and 3, are solely for reproducing the foil patterns. Once those boards are etched and drilled. they should be cut to fit the case (more on that later)

Assembly of the boards is straightforward. Refer to Figs. 11 through 16 for parts-placement diagrams. Be sure to observe the orientation of polarized components. such as electrolytic capacitors (and, of course, transistors, diodes, and IC's). Be especially careful in handling the CMOS IC's-they re sensitive to static electricity and can be "zapped." easily. If you made your own board I (the double-sided one) without plated-through holes, install all the feedthroughs-small pieces of wire such as resistor leads that connect one side of the board with the other-before doing anything else

There are a few things that you should pay particular attention to. Diode D2 is tack-soldered to the component side of board 1, but holes should be drilled for its legs, anyway: it's not good practice to rely on the solder for strength. When the crystal is inserted in board 1 , sufficient leg length should be left so it can be bent over at a 90 -degree angle to lie parallel to the board, making its overall height the same as that of the IC's. The same goes for IC 11, the voltage regulator on board 2. The speaker is mounted directly on board 2, and enough space has been left on the board to accommodate various-size speakers. Widen the hole just enough to allow the magnet of the speaker to fit snugly. Note also that there are two pins each for ground and +6 -volts on the board's 12 -pin edge connector.

Resistor R48 and switch S1 are a single unit and are soldered directly to board 4 (see Fig. 17). That is done because the mounting hardware is used to secure the board to the case. The foil pattern for board 4 (Fig. 8) shows where the cutouts for the edge connectors are located as well as the holes for the bolts to hold them. It may be necessary to file down the ears of the edge connectors to make them fit properly in the space provided. Put $1 / x$-inch spacers between the ears and the board to make sure that the connectors don't stick too far out on the rear side of the board. The spacers can be small pieces of plastic. When the edge connectors are attached, use insulated hook-up wire between the cyelets on the back of the connectors and the appropriate pads on the board.

## Checkout and troubleshooting

Connect the boards together as shown in Fig. 18 and turn on the power. Verify that the regulator is putting out about 6 volts to the circuit. When power is first applied, some number will appear in the display. What that number will be depends--as mentioned earlier-on the "temperament" of the particular 4508 used for IC 15. Press your finger lightly on IC24 on board

Heart Ratte Monitor

> Keep track of your heart rate-and your health. This month we'll show you how to build your owni Heari-a-Matic.

## ROBERT GROSSBLATT



NOVEMBER 1982
6. The Heart-a-Matic should start beeping in time with your pulse. After the ninth beat it will start displaying your heart rate. If the device fails to operate, there are several checks you can make.

It goes without saying that you should look for cold-solder joints, had or unsoldered connections. broken traces. and other mechanical problems. Assuming
that nothing is wrong there, each in dividual section of the unit cam be checked separately.

The input section can be checked by connecting an LED from the output of IC 2 through a 1 K resistor to ground. If you have a logic probe. so much the better. Shine a small light on the top of IC24 on the sensor board. As you blink it on
and off you should see corresponding pulses at the IC. If you don 't, do the same thing and monitor the output of ICI. If the problem isn't there. connect a jumper from the regulated supply-voltage through a 10 K resistor to the positive side of C2. Every time you touch C2 with the jumper you should see a corresponding pulse at the output of IC2. If you do. then the problem is with the sensor board. If you don't. chech the ouiput of ICl again. That method should help you to find a defective IC and. if your IC's are in sockets. you should be able to replace it casily.

Board I is the most complex part of the Heart-aMatic but. fortunately. it's also the casiest to chech. Remove the board from its edge connector and solder a piece of hook-up wire to pin 3 of any one of 4040 s. Replace the board in the edge connector and remove ICl on board 2. Insert the other end of the wire into pin 6 of ICl's socket and turn the monitor on. If the digital circuits of the Heart-a-Matic are opcrating properly. you will get a display of 120 that will be updated every halfsecond. If that doesint happen, make the same som of checks you would for any digital cireuit: Is the clock clocking? Is IC2I advancing with each incoming pulse? Is IC 23 putting out 60 Hz ? And so on. Most of the problems on the board witl be found to be due to "mechanical error." Bad IC's should be way down near the botom of your list of suspects.
After building three Heart-a-Maties, the only problems I ever encountered were mechanical ones. In any event, none of the three worked the first time I applied power. and the problem always turned out to be in the construction of the boards, not the design or the condition of the components. As far as troubleshooting the hoards goes. all that can be said is that careful work alway pays off...and that you'll always lind the source of the problem in the last place you look.

## Bottom case

The Heart-it-Mattic's case is made entirely of $1 / r$-inch acrylic plastic. which can be
cut and shaped using ordinary woodworking tools Solvent-type cement (available where you buy the plastic) is used throughout to hold it together. When you're assembling the case. be sure to keep sour lingers off the areas of the plastic where you apply the cement. The cement softens the plastic and nothing ruins the appearance of a project more than a fingerprint etched into the case. There are more elegant. if not quite so personal. ways of signing your work

Figure 14 shous an exploded view of the bottom case of the Heart-a-Matic. The casiest way to assemble it is to cut the base to the exact size indicated in Table 1. The sides and front can be cut larger and then attached to it. When the cement has dried they can be sanded down to lit exactly. The top of the case is one of the last parts to be attached. and it will be discussed shortly. Make sure that the slots for the circuit boards line up correctly with the edge connectors on board + and that the hoards can slide casily in and out of the case.

The dimensions given for the base assume that slots will be routed in the sides als shown. If you decide to use card guides instead. you will have to make the base. rear door. and other pieces larger than indicated.

There are two doors in the unit: they should be installed last (their installation will be described below). One door is at the rear to allow access to the boards and the other is in fromt to close the storage compartment for the sensor assembly and the shielded cable that connects it to board 4 . The pieces should fit snugly enough so that friction will hold the doors closed. Cut them slightly larger than needed and then carefully sand them to the correct tio.

The circuit-board assembly is held in the case by the nut on R 48 and a nut-and-bolt assembly that goes in a hole drilled


FIG. 6-FOIL PATTERN for board 2 of the Heart-a-Matic. Note that enough space has been left to accommodate a speaker (see text).


FIG. 7-MOST OF BOARD 3 is taken up by battery holders. The foil pattern for that board is shown here.


5 INCHES

FIG. 8-FOIL PATTERN for board 4 is shown here. The three rectangles should be cut out to accommodate the edge connectors.
made between the main case and the one that contains the display

The six leads from the top of board $4 g 0$ to the display and are routed along the underside of the case top and insented through the holes. The holes themselves are drilled in a pattern to accommodate the six solder tails of a piece of edge connector. The details for that are shown in Fig. 19. The wires should be soldered to the tails of the edge connector and then the edge comnector should be glued to the case top using epoxy. The six edgeconnector pins that protrude into the case can then be bent over flat. Once that is done. the top can be glued to the rest of the case with the solvent cement

The doors can now be fit into place and the hinges installed. The hinges are small wire brads that are pushed into holes drilled in the doors and cose as shown in Fig. 19. Don t force the brads in too far because it is easy to crack the plastic. Once they are in securely. grind the ends down so they are tlush with the case. If

$\longleftrightarrow$ 2-1/4 INCHES $\longrightarrow \mid$

FIG. 9-AS WITH ALL OF the foil patterns in this article, this one for board 5 is shown full size.

$|-3 / 4| N C H \rightarrow 1$
FIG. 10-THE TINY foil pattern shown here is for board 6 , the small sensor board.
through the top rear of the sensor storage compartment and board 4 . Its exact location will depend on how the boards fit in the case. Remember that a second hole has to be drilled in the case as well, to let the shiclded cable get to the pads on the back of board 4

The last piece of advice for this part of the case concerns the rubber feet. Small pieces of plastic should be glued to the


ASTERISKS (*) INDICATE PLATED-THRDUGH HOLES
OR JUMPERS SOLDERED ON BOTH SIDES OF BOARDS
FIG. 11-PARTS PLACEMENT DIAGRAM for the main board (board 1). To prevent problems iater on, the use of IC sockets is recommended.
bottom of the case and the feet should be screwed into them. If you try to screw the feet directly into the case. the tips of the screws may protrude far enough into it to prevent board 3 from fitting properly

The trickiest part of the case is the assembly of the connector for the bottom of the display section. The top of the case has two sets of hotes drilled in it. One is located over the speaker located on hoard 2 to allow the beeps to be heard. The other is a set of six holes drilled in the center of the top for the connections that have to be
they are too loose in the holes. secure them with a small drop of epoxy, making sure you don't inadvertantly glue the doors shut in the process. When you're finished. you can put the assembly aside and let the epoxy harden.

## Display case

We've given you a choice of two types of display case-plain or fancy. The plain case is a simple box. assembled more or less in the same way as the bottom case. The fancy version. shown in Fig. 20. is


FIG. 12-WHEN MOUNTING IC11 on board 2, be sure to leave the leads long enough so that they can be bent to allow the device to lie flat.


FIG. 13-THE BATTERY HOLDERS are mounted to the pads indicated by asterisks in this partsplacement diagram for board 3 .


FIG. 14-IF NECESSARY, file down the "ears" of $J 1-J 3$ to allow them to fit in the space provided on board 4.


FIG. 15-PARTS-PLACEMENT DIAGRAM for board 5 is shown here.


FIG. 16-BE SURE that IC24 is aligned as shown when mounting it on board 6 , the sensor board.
the one that will be described here. With the exception of forming the plastic for the heart-shaped case. construction details for both types are essentially the same. If you build the plain case. be sure it is large enough to hold the display board comfortably: dimensions for the heart shaped case are given in Table 2.

Like the bottom part of the case, the display case is made of acrylic plastic. A short piece of $3 / 8$-inch dianleter chromeplated copper tubing is used to connect the two cases. Figure 21 is a template for the front of the heart. which is made from a piece of $1 / 4$-inch opaque red plastic. A rectangular piece of $1 / 4$-inch transparent red plastic is used as a lens; it is cut as indicated and glued in the display cutout. Be careful to get none of the solvent cement on the surface of the lens. The lens should stich out in front about $1 / 8$-inch so small strips of black plastic can be glued to the edges to form a bezel. The lettering is standard dry-transfer type; 1 have found that it is much easier to apply betore the lens is glued to the case. After the lettering is applied, spray the case with clear lacquer to protect the type.

The side of the heart-shaped display case is made from a single piece of black acrylic plastic. Being very careful and wearing protective gloves, heat the strip and bend it to fit around the heart. The plastic gets very hot, so protective gloves are a must. The easiest way to heat


FIG. 17-RESISTOR R48 and switch S1, a single unit, are soldered directly to board 4. That unit's mounting hardware is used to secure the board to the case.

## PARTS LIST

All resistors $1 / 4$-watt, $5 \%$ unless otherwise noted
$\mathrm{R} \dagger-270$ ohms
R2, R4, R11, R13, R39, R41, R43, R4510,000 ohms
R3, R46-470,000 ohms
R5, R6, R35-1 megohm
R7, R31, R33-390 ohms
R8, R9-30,000 ohms
R10, R14, R38, R40, R42, R44-100,000 ohms
R12-12 ohms
R15, R24-R26, R29, R36- 1000 ohms
R16-R22, R27-160 ohms
R16-R22, R27-160 ohms
R23-15 ohms
R28, R32-22,000 ohms
R30-4700 ohms
R34-27 ohms
R37-10 megohms
R47-500,000 ohms, multiturn potentiometer, PC-mount
R48-300 ohms, potentiometer, panelmount with switch (commonly used in TV receivers)

## Capacitors

C1, C3, C4, C6, C14, C28-0.47 $\mu \mathrm{F}, 35$ volts, tantalum
C2- $10 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 35$ volts, electrolytic
C5-0.1 $\mu \mathrm{F}$, ceramic disc
C7, C9, C11-C13, C18, C19, C22-C24, C26, C27-0.01 $\mu \mathrm{F}$, ceramic disc
C8, C17-4.7 $\mu \mathrm{F}, 35$ volts, electrolytic
C10-3.3 $\mu \mathrm{F}, 35$ volts, tantalum
C15-68 pF. ceramic disc
C16- $005 \mu \mathrm{~F}$, ceramic disc
C20-47 pF, ceramic disc
C21-8 pF, ceramic disc
C25-2200 $\mu \mathrm{F}, 16$ volts, electrolytic

## Semiconductors

IC1-741 op-amp
IC2-555 timer
IC3-4093 quad 2-input nand Schmitt trigger
IC4-4020 14-stage binary ripple counter

IC5-4012 dual 4-input nand gate
IC6-4553 3-digit binary counter
IC7-4543 BCD-to-7-segment latch/
decoder/driver
IC8-556 dual timer
IC9, IC10-4089 binary rate multiplier
IC11-7805 5-volt regulator
IC12-IC15-4508 dual 3-state 4-bit latch
IC16-IC19-4040 12-stage binary ripple counter
IC20-4001 quad 2-input NOR gate
IC21-4017 decade counter
IC22-4049 hex inverter
IC23-5369 60-Hz timebase
IC24-FPA104 infra-red emitter/sensor array
Q1-2N3391
Q2-2N3904
Q3-2N2222
Q4-Q6-2N3906
SCR1-ECG 5400
LED1-LED3-FND500 0.5 -inch com-mon-cathode 7 -segment display
D1, D2-1N914 or 1N4148
D3-1N4001
XTAL1-3.579545 MHz color-burst reference crystal
SPKR - 8 ohms, 2 -inch diameter
S1-SPST switch (part of R48)
J1-12-contact edge
connector
J2, J36-contact edge
connector
J4-subminiature N.C., chassis-mount
B1-B8-1.5-volt "AA" cell
Miscellaneous: PC boards, two "AA" side-by-side battery holders. Velcro strip, plastic for cases, wire, shielded cable, solder, etc.

The following are available from HalTronix, P.O. Box 1101, Southgate, MI 48195: Set of six etched and drilled PC boards, $\$ 39.95$; Eoard 1 (double-sided), $\$ 19.95$. Add $\$ 2.00$ for shipping \& handling; MI residents add 4\% tax.
the plastic is over an open candle flame. Move the plastic rapidly through the flame to make sure it is heated uniformly. If the plastic starts to burn, remove it from the flame immediately and blow it out. Whenever working over an open flame, take sensible precautions such as wearing the correct gloves and protective glasses. There's no point to building a heart-rate monitor if an accident happens to you and there's nothing left to monitor. In all seriousness. however, as with any project you should be very careful.
l've made several heart-shaped display cases and have found its much simpler to create the bend a small portion at a time. Plastic is an excellent insulator so while a part of the strip is hot enough to bend, the rest remains cool enough to hold its shape and be handled safely. Following the procedure below will help assure you of good results.

Start in the middle of the strip and make the first bend in the top middle of the case. Don't force the plastic to bend, because it will snap; when it's hot enough it will bend easily. Bend the plastic around the case and then dunk the whole thing in cold water. That will cool it rapidly and set the bend. Keep holding it until the shape has set or the strip will deform and you il have to do the whole thing over again. Now make the bend around one side of the case all the way to the bottom. When that's done, cut off the excess plastic so the end is flush with the bottom of the case. Then form the other side of the case in a similar fashion.

Referring to Fig. 21, glue the front of the case to the side with solvent cement. Apply the cement only to the rear of the piece to avoid marring the front. Glue in the inner support-piece for the chrome pipe. Drill a $3 / 8$-inch hole through the bottom of the case assembly and continue it through the inner support-piece. Put the chrone pipe in and keep the end of it flush with the top of the inner support-piece. When that's done, drill a small hole through the back of the inner supportpiece and the chrome pipe. Push in a wire brad that has been covered with epoxy and set the assembly aside so the epoxy has time to harden.

Make sure that board 5, the display board, fits in the display case correctly. Glue two pieces of plastic as shown in Fig. 21 to the back of the case at either side of the board. Hold the black acrylicplastic rear of the display case in place and drill two holes through it into those pieces of plastic. The holes are for the serews that secure the rear cover. A piece of sponge foom is glued to the inside of the rear cover to hold the display board firmly in place. The pattern for the rear cover should be traced. using the sides of the case as a pattern. once the red heart is attached. LEDI-LED3 should fit in the cutout behind the lens.

Drill a $3 / 8$-inch hole in the center of a


FIG. 18-WHEN ALL OF THE BOARDS are completed, they are connected together as shown here


FIG. 19 -EXPLODED VIEW of the Heart-a-Matic's bottom case. The dimensions for that case are given in Table 1.
$3 / 4$-inch-syuare piece of black plastic and slide it onto the bottom of the chrome pipe. That is the top of the assembly that conmects the display case to the base Route the wires from board 5 through the pipe and solder them to a small piece of double-sided circuit board with three "fingers" on calch side as shown in Fig. 20. Cut the wires from board 5 about six inches longer than necessary for a tight fit: they will be pulled up inside the display case when the assembly is finished and will allow the board to be removed from the case without your having to unsolder anything. Make sure you solder the wires in the same order you dial on the matching piece of edge connector mounted on the top of the bottom case. Use an ohmmeter to verify that the wires go to the proper places. Assemble the rest of the display base. making sure that the ears on the circuit board fit snugly in the slots you have cut in the side pieces. The plastic parts can be assembled with solvent cement but the slots will have to be filled with epoxy. When the whole assembly has set. sand it down smooth for best appearance.

The dimensions of the plug retaining walls on the top of the case should the

## TABLE 1

Bottom Case Dimensions (Fig. 19)
A: $43 / 4 \times 23 / 4 \mathrm{in}$.
B: $51 / 8 \times 43 / 4 \mathrm{in}$.
C. $1 \times 25 / 8$ in.

D: $41 / 8 \times 23 / 4 \mathrm{in}$.
E: $2^{3 / 4} \times 11 / 4 \mathrm{in}$
$F: 25 / 8 \times 41 / 4 \mathrm{in}$.
G: $53 / 8 \times 47 / 8 \mathrm{in}$
H: $43 / 4 \times 23 / 4 \mathrm{in}$.
I: $1 \times 1 \mathrm{in}$.
$\mathrm{J}: 3 / 8 \times 1 \mathrm{in}$.
$K: 3 / 8 \times 1 \frac{1 / 4}{}$ in.
L: 1-in diameter
M: 6-connect double-sided .156 in. center edge connector
measured with the display case plugged into its connector. It is important that they be high enough to provide support. Once they are cut and glaed into place, youre almost finished. All that's left is the small case for the sensor board

## Sensor case

The sensor board is housed in the case as shown in Fig. 22. Dimensions are given in Table 3. Use about two feet of shielded cable to connect the sensor board to hoard 3. To assemble the sensor, attach a strip of Velero to the bottom of the casc with epoxy. The strip should be long enough to wrap around your linger and attach to the bottom of the case. Use one part of the Velero material (it comes in two parts) for the strip and attach a small piece of the other part to the strip on the bottom of the case. Cut a piece of conductive foam to fit inside the case and slit it so the sensor. IC24. can poke through. Sol-


FIG. 20-EXPLODED VIEW of the heart-shaped display case and its connector. The dimensions are given in Table 2.


TABLE 2
Display Case Dimensions (Fig. 20)
A: $3 / 4 \times 1 / 8 \mathrm{in}$.
B: $21 / 8 \times 1 / 8 \mathrm{in}$.
C: $17 / 8 \times 3 / 4 \mathrm{in}$.
D: See Fig. 20
*E: $13 / 6 \times 121 / 4 \mathrm{in}$.
*F: $1 / 2 \times 3 / 8 \mathrm{in}$.
*G: $11 / 8 \times 3 / 4 \mathrm{in}$.
*H: $2 \times 2$ in. foam
${ }^{*}$ *:
K: $3 / 4 \times 1 \mathrm{in}$.
${ }^{*} \mathrm{~L}: 3 / 4 \times 3 / 4 \mathrm{in}$.
${ }^{*} \mathrm{M}: 3 / 4 \times 3 / 4 \mathrm{in}$.
${ }^{*} N: 3 / 4 \times 1 / 2$ in.
*: See text
table 3
Sensor Case Dimensions (Fig. 22)
A: $1 / 2 \times 1 \mathrm{in}$.
B: $1 / 2 \times 1 / 2 \mathrm{in}$.
C: $1 \times 3 / 4 \mathrm{in}$.
FIG. 21-USE THIS TEMPLATE for the front of the heart-shaped display case.


FIG. 22-THE DIMENSIONS for the small sensor case shown here are given in Table 3. Be sure to drill a hole for the connecting cable.

## OOOOOOPS

Several errors appeared in Part 1 of the Heart-a-Matic construction article in the September 1982 issue. The correct value for capacitor C 25 is $2200 \mu \mathrm{~F}$, 16 volts-not $2200 \mu \mathrm{~F}$. Jack J4 should be wired so that the battery is out of the circuit when a plug carrying external power is inserted. The sentence on page 48 that reads in part...'"a rate multiplier will not...output a number of pulses inat is always an average..." is wrone-it will. Finally, the correct price for the set of six PC boards is $\$ 39.95$.
der a small piece of hook-up wire to the ground plane on the board and poke the other end of it into the foam. That will help prevent the ever-present $60-\mathrm{Hz}$ field from the power lines around you from causing problems with the input section.

## Calibration and use

The Heart-a-Matic nceds no calibration other than setting the low-batterywarning trip-point by adjusting R47 on board 3. Connect a variable powersupply to the unit at J1 (EXTERNAL powER) on the side of the case and set it to eight volts. Slowly adjust R47 until the decimal points in the display light and stay lit. Turn off the unit and set the power supply to deliver twelve volts. Turn the Heart-a-Matic back on and slowly reduce the input voltage. The decimal points should light at eight volts. If they do, the calibration process is complete and your project is ready for use.

The Heart-a-Matic is simple to use. Attach the sensor to your finger and secure it snugly with the Velcro strip. There should be light pressure against your finger. If it's too tight, the blood supply will be restricted and sensor will have nothing to detect; if it's too loose, the sensor will be affected by ambient light. A good way to make sure the sensor is operating is to place it against the pulse-point in your wrist. The change in blood volume there is much greater than in your finger and the Heart-a-Matic can easily pick it up without too much concern about pressure. Keep in mind the fact that different fingers have different capillary configurations and that often a reading can be gotten from one finger and not a another. The sensor and input circuitry are very sensitive, though, and there shouldn't be any problem in using a finger to detect the pulse. I've gotten reliable readings from my cat's paws!

Although the Heart-a-Matic is extremely accurate, it is by no means a substitute for a doctor's checkup. There is all the difference in the world between data and diagnosis. While the Heart-aMatic can tell you what your heart rate is, only your doctor can tell you what it means.

R-E

in the previous part of this sieries, we looked at different hias circuits and analyzed the DC behavior of a one-stage transistor amplifier. But merely biasing a transistor at the quiescent operating point does not produce a functional circuit. The transistor must also be capable of amplifying an AC signal.
When an AC signal is applied to a transistor amplifier stage. many of the transistor parameters. such as gain ( $\beta$ ), change from the nominal $D C$ value. Also. for the circuit to be functional. several components inust be added to the hasic DC circuit. For example, a load resistor must be included so that the output signal can be obtained: and capacitors must be added so that the AC signal does not upset the DC bias voltages. This month, we will analyze the behavior of a one-stage transistor amplifier when an AC signal is applied to it. We will also look at a complete step-by-step design example.

## AC bipolar transistor analysis

Last time. we discussed several bias circuits for establishing the collector-to-
emituer voltage ( $V_{C E}$ ) at the quiescent operating point (no-input signal condition). For our analysis of AC operation. we Il use the simplest bias circuit that we described last time, as shown in Fig. I. The circuit shown in Fig. I also includes a sinusoidal voltage source a load resistor. and two capacitors.

The sinusoidal AC voltage source is $V_{\text {in }}$ and since no voltage source is perfect. its internal impedance is not equal to zero. Here, the internal impedance of the generator is shown as $\mathrm{R}_{\text {wen }}$.

The signal from the generator is connected to the base of the transistor through capacitor Cl . That capacitor prevents the bias current provided by $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{B}}$ from flowing into the generator and to ground through $\mathrm{R}_{\text {gen }}$ and thus upsetting the quiescent operating point. At the same time, the value of the capacitor is large enough to allow the AC signal from the generator to pass through it to the transistor.

The AC signal that appears at the base of the transistor is amplified by the transistor. The resulting amplified signal appears across $R_{C}$ and is applied to the
load resistor through capacitor C2. Capacitor C2 prevents the DC voltage at the collector of the transistor from appearing across load resistor $R_{1}$ while passing the amplified AC signal present at that point in the circuit. Capacitor C2 prevents the DC collector voltage from being affected by the presence of $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{L}}$ in the circuit.

The voltage across $R_{C}$ is $I_{C} \times R_{C}$. where $I_{C}$ is the $D C$ collector current. Because of that the collector voltage is:

$$
V_{C}=V_{C C}-I_{C} \times R_{C}
$$

If capacitor C2 were not present. $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{L}}$ would complete a DC current path from $V_{C C}$ through $R_{C}$ to ground. The additional current. $I_{L}$. would add to $I_{C}$ to determine the total DC current flowing through $R_{C}$. The voltage across $R_{C}$ would be $\left(I_{C}+I_{L}\right) R_{C}$. The voltage at the collector $\left(\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{C}}\right)$ would drop to $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{CC}}-\left(\mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{C}}+\right.$ $I_{1}, R_{\text {( }}$

But what is $R_{1}$ doing in the circuit? It represents the AC load on the output of the transistor. If this were an audio power amplifier. $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{L}}$ could represent the im-

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pedance of a loudspeaker. If this collector circuit were connected to the input of a second transistor to get additional gain. $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{L}}$ would be the input impedance of that second transistor circuit.

The circuit around the transistor affects the operation of the transistor just as the various transistor parameters affect the overall circuit performance.

We discussed alpha and beta and described how DC current at the input of a transistor is amplified and appears at the output. The output current is beta times the input current. A similar amplification takes place due to the AC current gain, or $A C$ beta. of the transistor. Although the Greek letter $\beta$ is usually used to indicate that parameter. some specification sheets use the hybrid parameter. $h_{\text {le }}$. They both have the same meanings.

The AC beta and DC beta can be derived from the common-emitter curves of the transistor. A typical set of curves is drawn in Fig. 2. Let us assume that a load


FIG. 2-TYPICAL CHARACTERISTIC CURVES of a bipolar transistor.
line was plotted and that the quiescent operating point. Q, was chosen as shown. At the quiescent operating point. the idling base current is $\mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{B},}$, the idling collector current is $\mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{C} 3}$. and the collector-toemitter voltage is $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{CFO}}$. Since the DC beta ( $\beta_{\mathrm{IC}}$ ) is simply the ratio of collector current to base current at any one point on the curves. $\beta_{\mathrm{DC}}$ is equal to $\mathrm{t}_{\mathrm{C} 3} / /_{\mathrm{B} 3}$.

The AC beta, $\beta_{\mathrm{AC}}$. is the ratio of a change in collector current to a change in base current at a specific collector-emitter voltage. $V_{\text {ceo }}$. We can use that concept oo determine the value of $\beta_{\mathrm{Ac}}$ from the curves. It is equal to:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\beta_{A C}=\frac{I_{C 4}-I_{C 2}}{I_{B 4}-I_{B 2}} \frac{\Delta I_{C}}{\Delta I_{B}} \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

Hereafter. as is commonly done throughout our industry. we will refer to the $A C$ beta simply as beta and apply the symbol $\beta$ to it. For the DC beta. we will retain the symbol $\beta_{D C}$.

It is difficult to determine the AC alpha of the transistor from the curves because


FIG. 3-DIFFERENT CIRCUIT CONFIGURATIONS for the bipolar transistor. The common-collector circuit is shown in $a$. The common-base circuit is shown in $b$.
the section of the curves that we are interested in are almost perfectly horizontal and, as a result, alpha is very close to 1 . However, $\alpha_{\text {ac }}$ (or $\alpha$ ) can be determined from the AC beta using the same equation used for determining $\beta_{\mathrm{DC}}$.

$$
\begin{equation*}
\alpha=\frac{\beta}{1+\beta} \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

Another important parameter when analyzing the $A C$ performance of a transistor is the emitter resistance. When we were analyzing the $D C$ performance of a transistor. $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{E}}$ was an actual resistor connected to the emitter of the transistor and it was the only resistance of significance in the emitter circuit. But when an AC signal passes through the transistor, there is also an internal AC resistance that is in the emitter of the transistor itself. That resistance. $r_{e}$. can be determined from the following equation:

$$
\begin{equation*}
r_{e}=\frac{26}{I_{C}} \tag{3}
\end{equation*}
$$

In equation 3. $I_{C}$ is expressed in milliampers and $r_{c}$ in ohms. When analyzing the $A C$ performance of a common-emitter transistor amplifier. the resistance in the emitter circuit is $\mathrm{r}_{\mathrm{e}}+\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{E}}$. When that is reflected as a resistance into the base circuit, the sum is multiplied by the $A C$ beta.

The collector resistance, $r_{c}$ and $r_{d}$, were discussed in the article on bias circuits that appeared in the September issue. The methods for determining those resistances were covered there and those methods remain the same.
As a final parameter to be noted here. we will consider the base resistance. $r_{h}$. That is usually an insignificant factor when doing a design. The AC resistance $r_{h}$ is considered as being in series with the base. It is usually between 500 and 1000 ohms-values that can be ignored in most designs.

## AC bipolar-transistor amplifiers

Using the parameters detailed above, we can now define several AC characteristics of the circuit shown in Fig. I.

The input impedance seen looking into
the base circuit itself, is:

$$
\begin{equation*}
R_{i n}=r_{\mathrm{b}}+\beta\left(R_{\mathrm{E}}+r_{e}\right) \tag{4}
\end{equation*}
$$

The generator sees that resistance in parallel with $R_{B}$ because the upper terminal of $R_{B}$ is connected to $+V_{C C}$ and that terminal is at AC ground through the power supply. (The $+V_{\text {CC }}$ terminal is $+V_{C C}$ volts above DC ground. But an ideal voltage source has zero impedance. Because of that, the $+V_{C C}$ point is treated as being at signal or AC ground.)

The output impedance seen looking back into the collector circuit is:

$$
\begin{equation*}
R_{\text {out }}=\frac{r_{d}\left[\left(R_{\text {gen }}+r_{b}\right)+\beta\left(r_{e}+R_{E}\right)\right]}{R_{\text {gen }}+r_{\mathrm{b}}+r_{e}+R_{E}} \tag{5}
\end{equation*}
$$

Note that the impedance of the generator and the base resistance are reflected from the input of the transistor to the output. Both factors therefore appear in equation 5 . The load resistance. $R_{L}$, sees $R_{\text {oui }}$ in parallel with $R_{C}$. The current gain ( $A_{i}$ ) and voltage gain $\left(\mathrm{A}_{\mathrm{v}}\right)$ for the circuit shown in Fig. I are:

$$
\begin{gather*}
A_{i}=\beta  \tag{6}\\
A_{v}=\frac{R_{C} \| R_{C}}{R_{E}+r_{e}} \tag{7}
\end{gather*}
$$

where $R_{I} \| R_{C}$ is the resistance of $R_{C}$ and $R_{I}$ comnected in parallel. The power gain. $G$. is the product of $A_{i}$ and $A_{v}$.
In the common-collector circuit shown in Fig. 3-a, the input impedance of the transistor is calculated using equation 4 . but $\mathrm{R}_{\mathbf{E}}$ is usually much larger here than when specified for the common-emitter arrangement. The generator still sees $R_{B}$ in parallel with $R_{i n}$. As for the output resistance $R_{\text {oul }}$ (the resistance seen when looking back into the transistor), it is the sum of $r_{c}$ and the total resistance in the base circuit divided by beta. The resistance in the base circuit is the sum of $r_{b}$ and the parallel combination of $\mathrm{r}_{\mathrm{gen}}$ and $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{B}}$.

The voltage gain of the commoncollector circuit itself is approximately equal to 1 . The combination of a relatively low input impedance. a high output impedance (as already stated. $\mathrm{R}_{\Gamma}$ is usuat-
ly specified to be a high resistance) and a voltage gain approximately equal to 1 , makes the common collector circuit ideal in buffer amplifier applications. The current and power gains are approximately equal to beta.

The common-base circuit is shown in Fig. 3-b. The input impedance scen by the generator is the parallel combination of $R_{E}$ and $R_{i 11}$, where:

$$
\begin{equation*}
R_{\mathrm{th}}=r_{\mathrm{e}}+\frac{r_{\mathrm{b}}+R_{\mathrm{B}}}{\beta} \tag{8}
\end{equation*}
$$

The output resistance seen by the load resistance is the parallel combination of $R_{C}$ and $R_{\text {out }}$, where:

$$
\begin{equation*}
R_{\text {out }}=\frac{r_{c}\left[\beta\left(r_{e}+r_{g e n}\right)+\left(r_{b}+R_{B}\right)\right]}{\beta\left(r_{e}+r_{\text {gen }}+r_{b}+R_{B}\right)} \tag{9}
\end{equation*}
$$

The current gain of the circuit is equal to $\alpha$ or slightly less than I. Both the voltage gain and the power gain are equal to:

$$
\begin{equation*}
A_{v}=G=\frac{R_{\llcorner } \| R_{C}}{r_{e}} \tag{10}
\end{equation*}
$$

To find the voltage and power gain of the overall circuit, simply add $r_{\mathrm{g}_{\mathrm{cn}}}$ to $\mathrm{r}_{\mathrm{e}}$ in the denominator in equation 10 .

## A step-by-step design

The equations given in this article can be used to design actual circuits. As an example, let us again consider the circuit shown in Fig. 1. You would start the design of the circuit by knowing the power-supply voltage as well as the beta of the transistor. For this example, let us assume that $V_{C C}=9$ volts and that $\beta=$ 300. Next, determine the load resistance, $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{L}}$, that the circuit will be connected to. Let's assume you must feed a $10,000 \mathrm{ohm}$ load. The collector resistor, $R_{C}$. should be between $10 \%$ and $25 \%$ of $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{L}}$ so that the AC load line will not differ by much from the DC load line. (We will discuss that factor in more detail in a future article on power amplifiers). A good compromise is to make $R_{C}$ equal to 2700 ohms. The resistance in the collector circuit is 10,000 ohms in parallel with 2700 ohms, or 2100 ohms. If the circuit is to provide a voltage gain of 10 . then the ratio of the resistance in the collector circuit to the resistance in the emitter circuit should be 10. Using that information, the emitter resistance should be $2100 / 10=210$ ohms. But what portion of the 210 ohms does the $r_{e}$ in the transistor provide and what portion of the 210 ohms does emitter resistor $R_{E}$ provide? To determine that, we must know the collector (or emitter) current

If the power-supply is 9 volts, ideally we want one-half of that or +.5 volts at the collector. If that were the quiescent collector soltage, the signal could swing, at least ideally, from 0 to 9 volts around the 4.5 -volt quiescent setting. To achieve that. 4.5 volts must be across the 2700 -


FIG. 4-COMMON-SOURCE AMPLIFIER circuit is shown here.
ohm collector resistor ( $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{C}}$ ). The collector current, $\mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{C}}$, is then equal to $4.5 / 2700=$ 1.67 mA . Plugging that information into equation 3, we find that $r_{e}$ is equal to $26 / 1.67=15.6$ ohms. Since the total maximum resistance in the emitter circuit is 210 olms, $R_{E}$ can be as high as $210-$ 15.6 ohms or 194.4 ohms, Use a standard 180 -ohm resistor for $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{E}}$.

To get a collector current of 1.67 mA . the base current, $I_{B}$, must be 1.67 mA divided by the beta of the transistor. Therefore. $I_{B}=1.67 / 300=5.6 \mu \mathrm{~A}$. Base current is provided by the 9 -volt supply and flows through $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{b}}$, through the base-emitter junction, and then through $R_{E}$. Hence the base current, $I_{B}$. is equal to $9 /\left(R_{13}+R_{E}\right)=5.6 \mu \mathrm{~A}$. The base-toemitter voltage. $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{BE}}$, is ignored because it is negligible compared to 9 volts. Going through the algebra to determine $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{R}}$, we find it is about 1.5 megohns.

Taking that one step further, assume the impedance of the generator. $r_{\text {gen }}$. is 10,000 ohms. That 10,000 ohms form is a voltage divider with the input impedance of the transistor. Using equation 4 and ignoring $r_{h}$, the input impedance is the parallel combination of $\beta\left(R_{E}+r_{c}\right)$ and $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{B}}$. Solving for the input impedance: $300(180+15.6)$ in parallel with $1.5 \times$ $10^{6}=56.470$ ohms. Due to the voltage divider formed by the generator and the input impedance of the transistor, the voltage that appears at the base of the tramsistor is equal to:

$$
\left(\frac{56,470}{56,470+10,000}\right) V_{\text {in }}=0.85 \mathrm{~V}_{\mathrm{in}}
$$

Since the transistor receives only $.85 \mathrm{~V}_{\text {in }}$. the overall voltage gain of the circuit is the voltage gain of the transistor multiplied by 0.85 . The voltage gain of the transistor is calculated using equation 7 : $\mathrm{A}_{\mathrm{V}}=2100 / 195.6=10.74$. The voltage gain for the overall circuit is $10.74 \times .85$, or 9.1 . That is slightly below our desired gain of 10 . To increase the gain, $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{E}}$ must be reduced.

Similar procedures can be used to design common-collector and commonbase circuits.

## FET amplifiers

Few differences exist between the design procedures for a bipolar transistor amplifier and the design procedures for amplifiers using JFET's and MOSFET's. (The MOSFET is also commonly called an IGFET.) Thus. many of the parameters and design procedures that we've discussed so far can be applied to JFET and MOSFET amplifiers. The primary diference involves the polarity of the bias roltage that is applied to the gate of those devices. (The gate is the equivalent of the base terminal of a bipolar transistor.) In the equations used for determining gain and impedance, there are no distinctions between the FET devices and the bipolar transistor.

The three basic circuit configurations


FIG. 5-COMMON-DRAIN FET AMPLIFIER circuit is shown here.


FIG. 6-COMMON-GATE FET AMPLIFIER circuit is mainly used in high-frequency applications,
for the IFET are shown in Figs 4 through 6. Although the contigurations are shown using JFET's. the MOSFET can be substituted instead of the JFET's in those circuits. The common-gate circuit drawn in Fig. 6 is seldom used in audio applications. It is primarily used in highfrequency applications.

Voltage gain as well as the input and output impedances. are the primary concerns of the designer. Because of the high input-impedance of both the JFET and MOSFET devices, the input current is just ahout zero. Thus, the current gain and the power gain of the device approaches infinity. There are of course. limits to those gains. Here the only gain to be considered is voltage gain. $\mathrm{A}_{\mathrm{r}}$. It is related to the transconductance of the FET. $g_{m}$. (We will use the term FET to refer to both JFET and MOSFET devices.)

As you may recall, transconductance is
the ratio of a change in drain current to a change in gate voltage. The voltage gain of an FET device in the common-source arrangement is the transconductance multiplied by the AC load impedance connected to the drain of the FET. In Fig. 4, that load impedance is the parallel combination of $R_{1}$ and $R_{D}$. Thus, the equation for calculating the gain of the circuit is:

$$
\begin{equation*}
A_{v}=\frac{g_{m}\left(R_{D} \| R_{L}\right)}{1+g_{m} R_{s}} \tag{11}
\end{equation*}
$$

That equation, and the fact that the input and output impedance are $R_{G}$ and $R_{D}$ respectively, was noted in the article that appeared in the September 1982 issue. But a complication still exists.

Because of the high input-impedance, capacitance between terminals of the FET become significant. That factor is relatively unimportant when analyzing bipolar transistor circuits because the internal resistance of the bipolar transistor is low. The low internal resistance effectively shorted those capacitances and they had little effect, especially at low operating frequencies. But that is not so with FET's.

As far as the JFET is concerned. capacitances exist between the gate and source, $\mathrm{C}_{2 s}$; and between the gate and drain, $\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{gd}}$ (sometimes called $\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{rss}}$ ). When added together, the two capacitances are equal to $\mathrm{C}_{\text {iss. }}$. That is the input capacitance of a common-source circuit when the output of the transistor is shorted. If the output has a normal load rather than being shorted, the input capacitance is essentially $C_{\text {iss }}+g_{m} R_{D} C_{y d t}$. Because of that capacitance. the gain of the circuit decreases as the operating frequency increases. The frequency at which the gain is down 3 dB (or . 707 ) from its maximum gain is called $f_{\mathrm{o}}$. That frequency can be calculated using the following equation:

$$
\begin{equation*}
f_{0}=\frac{1}{2 \pi R_{D}\left(C_{d s}+C_{g d}\right)} \tag{12}
\end{equation*}
$$

It should be noted that the maximum gain is assumed at about $f_{\mathrm{o}} / 4$, while it is about $1 / 2.24$ of its maximum gain at $2 f_{0}, 1 / 4$ at $4 f_{\mathrm{o}}, 1 / 8$ at $8 f_{\mathrm{o}}, 1 / 16$ at $16 f_{\mathrm{o}}$, and so on.
Note capacitor $\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{ds}}$ in equation 12. That is the drain-to-source capacitance. It is negligible in JFET designs, but $\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{ds}}$ affects the high-frequency gain significantly in an MOSFET circuit. That is because the drain-to-source resistance $\left(\mathrm{r}_{\mathrm{ds}}\right)$ of the JFET is much lower than the MOSFET. In the JFET, that drain-tosource resistance shunts $\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{ds}}$ sufficiently to make it negligible.

You can use equation 12 to calculate the frequency where the gain is down 3 dB from its maximum when the output resistance of the voltage source is insignificant compared to the input resistance of the amplifier. That is frequent-
ly true. If, however, the resistance ( $\mathrm{r}_{\mathrm{yen}}$ ) is comparable in size to the input impedance of the amplifier, $f_{\mathrm{o}}$ becomes:

$$
\begin{equation*}
f_{\mathrm{o}}=\frac{1}{2 \pi r_{\text {gen }}\left(C_{\text {iss }}+g_{m} R_{D} C_{g d}\right)} \tag{13}
\end{equation*}
$$

The general design procedure is to first determine the gain at low frequencies and then calculate $f_{\mathrm{o}}$ by using equation 12 or 13. As an example, let's consider the circuit shown in Fig. 4 where $R_{D}=$ 12,000 ohms. $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{I}}=10,000$ ohms, $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{S}}=$ 470 ohms, $R_{G}=470,000$ ohms, and $r_{\text {gen }}$ $=470,000$ ohms. Let's also assume that the FET has the following parameters: $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{p}}$ $=3$ volts, $\mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{DSS}}=2 \mathrm{~mA} . \mathrm{r}_{\mathrm{ds}}=5,000$ ohms, $\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{gs}}=7.5 \mathrm{pF}$ and $\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{g} \mathrm{l}}=2 \mathrm{pF}$. Determine the various characteristics of the circuit.

First, we must calculate $g_{m}$ at the quiescent operating point. To calculate $\mathrm{g}_{\mathrm{m}}$, we must know the drain current. It is:

$$
I_{D}=I_{D S S}\left(1-\frac{\left|V_{G S}\right|}{\left|V_{p}\right|}\right)=2 \times 10^{-3}\left(1-\frac{\left|V_{G S}\right|}{3}\right)^{2}
$$

We do not know $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{GS}}$, but can determine it from the following equation

$$
V_{G S}=I_{D} R_{S}=470 I_{D}
$$

Substituting $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{G}}$ into the equation for $\mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{D}}$ and solving for $\mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{D}}$. We find it equal to 1.27 mA . Consequently. $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{GS}}=+70 \mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{D}}=$ 0.597 volt .

Using that information. we can find $g_{\mathrm{mi}}$ :

$$
g_{m}=\frac{2 l_{0 S S}}{V_{f}}\left(1-\frac{\left|V_{G S}\right|}{\left|V_{D}\right|}\right)=\frac{2\left(2=10^{-3}\right)}{3}\left(1-\frac{0.597}{3}\right)=1068 \times 10^{-8}
$$

Now, we can use equation 11 to determine the AC voltage gain. which calculates out to be 3.88 . If a large-value capacitor were across $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{S}}$, the shorted resistor would be considered as being at 0 ohms in equation 11. The equation would then be $g_{m}\left(R_{D} \| R_{1}\right)=5.82$. With the capacitor in the source circuit, the gain has been increased by $(5.82-3.88) \mathrm{I} 00 /$ $3.88=50 \%$.

The input impedance seen by the generator is $R_{C}$ and that is 470,000 ohms. Since the generator and $R_{G}$ are both 470,000 ohms, half of the generator's voltage appears at the input of the transistor. Because of that, the gain of the overall circuit including the generator, is just one-half of the gain of the transistor circuit with only its load and biasing components.

Because the generator's impedance is significant, the gain is down 3 dB of the maximum at 9783 Hz . That is determined by substituting $4.7 \times 10^{5}$ for $r_{g e n}$, $9 \times 10^{-12}$ for $\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{iss}}, 10.68 \times 10^{-4}$ for $\mathrm{g}_{\mathrm{m}}$, $1.2 \times 10^{4}$ for $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{D}}$, and $2 \times 10^{-12}$ for $\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{gd}}$ in equation 13 .

Load resistance $R_{1}$ sees an output impedance equal to $R_{D}$ or 12,000 ohms, in parallel with the drain-to-source re-
sistance $r_{d s}$, which is specified as 5000 ohms. That is true only if $R_{S}$ is shunted by a large capacitor. Otherwise, the resistance increases to $R_{10}$ in parallel with $R_{\text {out }}$. With $R_{s}=470$ ohms, as stated previously, output impedance $R_{\text {out }}$ is equal to:

$$
r_{d s}+\left(1+g_{m} r_{d s}\right) R_{s}=7480 \text { ohms }
$$

As for the common-drain circuit. the input impedance is cqual to the resistor at the gate input. while the output inpedance scen by the load is essentially $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{S}}$ shunted by $1 / g_{m}$. The gain is approximately equal to 1 .

The common-gate circuit has a voltage gain equal to:

$$
\begin{equation*}
A_{v}=\frac{g_{m} R_{D}}{1+g_{m} R_{S}} \tag{14}
\end{equation*}
$$

The circuit has a low input impedance that is equal to $\mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{s}}+1 / \mathrm{g}_{\mathrm{m}}$. The output impedance as seen by the load is approximately ecual to $R_{D}$. Because of its low input impedance, the significance of the capacitances at the input of the circuit are minimal. Hence, the circuit is used primarily in high frequency applications.

## Noise

The amplifiers described so far are used to amplify low-level signals. Because of that, the relationship between the amount of noise present in the amplifier and the level of the input signal is significant. To determine the noise contribution of the circuit, we must first determine the lowest significant frequency reproduced by the amplifier $\left(f_{\mathrm{L}}\right)$ and the highest significant frequency reproduced by the amplifier $\left(f_{6}\right)$. Then. a signal with a frequency equal to $\sqrt{f_{\mathrm{H}} f_{\mathrm{I}}}$ is fed to the circuit and its maximum undistorted output voltage is noted. The signal is removed and the remaining output voltage is noise. The ratio of signal voltage to noise voltage, expressed in dB . is:
$d B=20 \log _{10} \frac{V_{\text {so }}}{V_{\text {no }}}=10 \log _{10} \frac{P_{\text {so }}}{P_{\text {no }}}$
Two noise specifications are frequently used in data sheets. Those are the noise factor, F , and the noise figure, NF . They are related by the equation $N F=\log _{10} \mathrm{~F}$. $F$ is defined by the equation:

$$
\begin{equation*}
F=\frac{P_{\mathrm{si}} / P_{\mathrm{ni}}}{P_{\mathrm{so}} / P_{\mathrm{no}}} \tag{16}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $P_{s i}$ is the input power, $P_{n i}$ is the noise at the input generated by the circuit feeding the amplifier. $\mathrm{P}_{\text {so }}$ is power at the output and $P_{n o}$ is noise at the output. Low noise-figures and noise factors are most desirable for a transistor used at the input of an audio amplifier.

Curves are available to help you design low-noise circuits. It is a long and tedious task to apply those curves and they usual-
continued on page 82

# ALL ABOUT 

ROBERT F．SCOTT SEMICONDUCTOR EDITOR

# BUBBLE MEMORY DEVICES 

Bubble memories feature the read／write abilities of RAM＇s，the non－volatility of ROM＇s，and the mass－storage capabilities of a tape or disk－storage system．This month we＇ll look at the architecture of those devices and how they work．

Part 2in last honti＇s issue．he intronuced bubble memory devices and saw that bub－ bles are microscopic magnetic domains in a molecular－thin film of synthetic garnet．These bubbles are only a few micrometers （ $\mu \mathrm{m} \cdot \mathrm{s}$ ）in diameter and can be moved about in the film by establishing and controlling a magnetic field across the tilm． The presence of a bubble at a given location corresponds to a binary＂ 1 ＂ ＂and the absence of a bubble corresponds to a binary ＂0＂．

In that discussion．We covered the basic theory and develop－ ment of the magnetic bubble；showing how it is generated． annihilated．and replicated or transferted from one track to another．We lelt you with a brief word on the serial loop the simplest of several bubble memory architectural sehemes that have been developed
The serial－loop track is a long serpentine arrangement ats shown in Fig．9．Bubbles produced by pulsing the generator travel in series around the loop．A bubble reaching the replicator splits in two．One goes to the detector and generates a current pulse that is read as a binary bit．The other bubble either remains in storage，continuing to circulate around the loop，or is erased
by the annihilator and is replaced by new data from the gener－ ator．All gates used to generate．replicate，detect and erase data are called function gates．

The serial loop is seldom used because of the long access time associated with this scheme．The bubbles must circle around the loop before they can be read．For example，the Fujitsu 64 K －bit serial－loop type FMB3IDB device has a $370-\mathrm{ms}$ access time while the $6+\mathrm{K}$－bit FBM32A using a major／minor－loop scheme （that we will discuss shortly）requires an access time of only 4.3 ms ．

A second disadrantage of the serial－loop system is that pro－ duction yield is much lower than with other schemes that have been developed．A single delect in any part of a serial loop is cause for rejecting the chip．The other architectural systems that have been developed have greater tolerances for defects in the manufacturing process

In our earlier story．we showed how bubbles are stretched before being read out by the detector．In an actual bubble memory device．two sets of detector elements are used in a differential detector that eliminates the effect of the rotaing magnetic field．


FIG. 9-LOOP ORGANIZATION of a serial-loop memory. Access time is long because bubbles must circulate in series around the loop before they can be read.

## Major/minor loop architecture

The major/minor loop system is arranged in a serial-parallelserial structure-serial input. parallel-loop storage. and scrial output. A continuous major loop shift rcgister feeds into and out of the device while the large number of minor loops serve mainly for storate.

The minor loops are perpendicular and closely adjacent to the major loop. Thus, data generated and placed on the major loop can be loaded simultanconsly and in parallel into the top positions of the minor loops for storage. Similarly. the minor loops can be rotated so the desired data blocks can be shifted back to the major loop to be read out.

A typical bubble memory device using a major/minor loop architecture (Motorola's MBM2256. for example) has 282 minor loops. each consisting of 1024 hit positions. Such a device has a potential of 288.768 bits. It will be operated with onl) 256 active minor loops in the memory. The 26 extra loops are designed into the chip structure to allow for possible manufacturing defects in several loops. In this way, a chip with several defective minor loops can still be used. This greatly increases production yield over that of the seriat-loop design. With 256 active loops. we have a 256 K memory with a capacity of 262.144 bits

The locations of defective minor loops are stored in a PROM that is a part of the control circuitry. Data cannot he stored in or read out of a defective loop.
There are three different implementations of the major/minoi loop architecture. These implementations are referred to as transfer sate, block replicator transfer. and block replicator swap systems.

The transfer-gate system of major/minor loop organization (sec Fig. 10) consists of a major loop to write and read the information and transfer data bits to and from the minor storage loops upon demand. The minor loops are connected to transfier gates at alternate bit positions along the major loop. Information being fed in is loaded on the major loop in alternate bit positions.

Before data can be entered into a particular location, the old information in the minor loops at the desired address is conveyed to their respective loop cxits and then transferred or dumped simultaneously into the inajor loop in what is called a transferout operation. The information bits are circulated in succession
to the annihilator where they are erased to make room for incoming data from the eenerator. The data hits entered on the major loop are shifted around until the lirst data bit is at the entrance to the first minor loop. the second data bit is at the entrance to the second minor loop and soon. Finally. the transter gate is pulsed and the new data is dumped inte the minor loops in a transfer-in operation. The control circuitry assures that the new data is inserted in the "slot" vacated by the old infomation.

Information to be retrieved is circulated in the minor loop until they are in the correct exit position and then they are translerred simultancously to the major loop when the tansfer gate is pulsed. The data is duplicated hy the replicator. One string of data bits is rad by the detector: the other string is returned through the transfer gate to the proper address in the minot loops
The transter-gate system of major/minor loop architecture provides a fast. reliable system. But-access time is not last enough for many applications. This is because of the alternatebit spacing between minor loops. This design also calls for a rather large chip. These disadsantages are eliminated in the block-replicator transfer system shown in Fig. 11 and the hloch-


FIG. 10-MAJOR/MINOR loop system using a transfer gate between the major loop and the minor-loop storage bank.
replicator swap system shown in Fig. 12.

## The block replicator

In the block-replicator architecture the major loop is divided into two urite lines at one end of the minor loops and two output lines at the other end of the minor-loop bank. The output end of cach loop goes to its own replicate/ransfer gate fecting into a major-read line. The minor loops are divided into two banks: one storing odd data bits and the other handling even bits. There is a sepatrate generator and input (write major line) for cach loop bank. The gencrators are in series. so identical data is written on both major write lines.

## Block replicator transfer system

When new information reaches the entrance to the transfer gates (see Fig. 11) for the proper minor loops. a current pulse is fed through the transfer-gate terminalls and the data is loaded into the minor-loop banks for storage. Odel-number bits are loaded
into one bank and even bits into the other. The odd bank has an extra bubble position, so identical data bits are offset one bubble position from those in the even bank. Therefore every other bubble enters a loop odd bits in one bank and even bits in the other

Before new information can be entered for storage. old information at the desired address in the minor loops is circulated to the loop exits and transferred simulancously onto the major read lines when the transfer gate is pulsed. The bubbles are then consesed to the detectors where they are read and then destroyed. Ausiliary control eircuitry times the rotation of the loops and the transter and replicate gates so the new information properls replaces the old.

To reat out information. the control circuitey rotates the minor loops so the bite making up a specific data block ate at the replicate gates. When the Br/T terminals in Fig. 11 are pulsed. the replicated copies are fed along the major read lines to the detectors. The original data bits are kept in storage in the minor loop bank.

The division of the minor loops into odd and even data banks makes the bloch replicate system twice as fast as the a transfergate loop system.

## Block replicator swap system

Compare Figs. II and 12 and you 11 see the close resemblence between the block replicator and swap replicator systems. The differences can be seen along the bottoms of the diagram. In Fig. 12. each minor loop is connected to the write entrance through a swapexit. A bank of swap gates replace the transfer gates in Fig. 11.

In the swap system. old information is transferred to the suap/writecoits at the same time that new information is aligned along swap/iwrite entrances to the minor loops. Thus. old data bits and corresponding new data bits face each other across the swap gates. At the proper time. the swap gate is energized and the old and new information swap places.

New data is entered on the minor loops while the old data is swept along the write major lines to be erased by an annihilator


BR/T: BLOCK REPLICATOR AND TRANSFER GATE
G: GENERATOR
O: DETECTOR
A: ANNIHILATOR

FIG. 11- BLOCK REPLICATOR transfer system is twice as fast as the transfer-gate organization.


FIG. 12-BLOCK REPLICATOR swap system eliminates the need for old data to be erased before new data can be entered.

Unlike the block replicator transfer system. the swap arrangement climinates the need to erase old information before writing new.

## Peripheral circuits

A number of auxiliary circuit devices are needed to operate a bubble memory storage device. Some of these are called direct peripheral eircuits because they connect directly to the bubble memory device. Figure 13 is a block diagram of a magnetic bubble memory system using Motorola`s MBM2256 device. The direct peripheral devices are coil drivers. a function driver. and a sense amplifier. The coil drivers feed the $X$ and $Y$ coils with a triangle waveform. The triangle waveform that drives the $X$ coil is $90^{\circ}$ out-of-phase with the triangle waveform that drives the $Y$ coil so as to produce a rotating magnetic ficld. The function driver supplies pulse currents to the function gates. The sense amplifier boosts the detected bubble information signals to a TTL level.

Indirect peripheral devices or circuits are those that control the direct peripheral circuits and provide the necessary interface hetween the bubble memory system and a microprocessor. The $X$ and $Y$ electromagnetic coils require comparatisely high drive currents. The coil predriver is an interface device between the controller and the power transistors used in the coil drivers. The controller provides the timing and control for the coil-driver and function-driver circuits along with timing signals needed.

The MBM2256 is a low-cost, non-volatile solid-state memory device in a 16 -pin DIP package approximately $1.1 \times 1.15$ inches. It is complete with the in-plane magnet coils to develop the rotating magnetic fied and a permanent magnet structure to supply a fixed magnetic bias. A magnetic shield protects the device and data from the effects of external magnetic fields.

The memory module has a nominal capacity of 250 K bits arranged as 256 storage loops: each with 1024 storage locations. One additional storage (map) loop stores the locations of defective loops and address reference locations. The architecture uses the block replicator swap system. This device can be started and stopped at will and does not lose data when power is either lost or disconnected. The general specifications of the device are listed in Table 1.


FIG. 13- BLOCK DIAGRAM of Motorola's bubble-memory system. The MBM device uses the block replicator swap system.


FIG. 14- AN MBM DEVELOPMENT BOARD can be less than 3 -inches square and needs just 13 connections for complete interfacing.

## The MBM2256, how it works

The device's storage loops have an input track with a swap gate on one side and an output track with a replicate gate on the other. The input trach is driven by a generator and the output track leads into an area where the bubbles are stretched so they provide a reliable output signal that can be handled by ordinary electronic circuitry.

To enter data into the MBM2256 magnetic bubble memory. the gencrators must be fed sequential current pulses according to the data heing entered. The swap gate is pulsed as soon as the data block is circulated around the input track and is aligned with the tansfer-in gates of the storage loops. The swap gates exchange the new data block with the old in one step.

A read action occurs when the desired data bloch has heen transferred to the transfer-out/replicate gate and the replicate gate is pulsed. The replicated copy of the original data is read by the detectors while the original data is returned to storage

## How bubble memories are implemented

Although a magnetic bubble memory (MBM) device has the pertomance characteristics of ROM $s$. RAMs. PROM s and floppy disks. it is not a replacement for any of these devices. Its primary purpose is as a support for the memory devices. (For a comparison ol the performance characteristics of the MBM with other magnetic and solid-state memories. see Table I in Part 1 of this article in the Octoher 198? insue. )


FIG. 15-INTEL'S PLUG-A-BUBBLE basic system consists of a 128 kilobyte system in a cassette that requires no more space than $51 / 4$-inch floppy.

The MBM's ability to store vast amounts of data in at very small space gives it a tremendous advantage in reducing equipment size. It requires less space than either tape or floppy disk: even when several MBM sare paralleled into a 1 - or 2-megabvic system. As a rule, the bubble memory manufacturer has a line of support devices designed togo with his system. The uner can use a compact development board or plug the components into his PC board with comparatively little effort.

A developenent board using the MBM system outlined in the block diagram in Fig. 13 can be less than 3 inches square and needs only 13 connector pads for data. address and $1 / O$ control siguals to and from the microprocessor. Such a board is shown in Fig. 14. (Note that the board in the photo is from National Semiconductor. That company has recently discontinued their work on bubble memories and have dropped those deviec, and their support devices. from its line. Also note. however. that the Motorola device we ve been discussing thus far is identical to the National NBM225( shown here.)

Intel Magnetics has a bubble memory prototype board featuring up to Sil kilobytes of non-volatile storage that measures $6.75 \times 12$-inches. The system is desiened around the company's 71101.048 .576 -bit ( 128.000 byte) device. Four 7110 s are used in parallel: driven by a single 7220 controller and allied support devices

Perhaps the most exemplary innovation in bubble memory implementation is Intel's Plug-A-Bubble system featuring it removable bubble cassette designed to provide a compact. permanent memory storage system for critical data applications and use in harsh environments. The Plug-A-Bubhle cassette is shown in Fig. 15
The system consists of a 7110128 K -byte device with support circuitry in a cassette that measures 0.81 inch high. 6.1 inches long and 3.6 inches wide. It fits into the same space as required by a 5.25 -inch tloppy disk. The cassette features 48 mas arerage access time and 12.5 kilobytes-per-second data transfer rate Ambient operating temperature range is $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $55^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Nonoperating storage temperature range is $-40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $+100^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.

Packaging the complete MBM system in a cassette has three important advantages: First of all, it insures high data integrity because transients in the controller-to-bubble communications are minimized: secondly. the logic is built into the cassette so it can be removed while the system is powered-up. and finall. the self-contained plug-in system makes it possible for the microprocessor to atcommodate future developments featuring greater data densit!

# BUUTMD TCHIS <br> <br> GUITAR <br> <br> GUITAR AND BASS TUNER 




#### Abstract

Build this＂electronic pitch－pipe＂and you＇ll be able to tune your guitar or bass without disturbing your audience or other performers．．．and without having them disturb you．


JAMES I．JARNAGIN

ONE OF THE GREATEST PROBI FMS RN－ countered by guitar and bass players－ especially when performing before an audience－is tuning up．Most musicians in bands or combos use a piano or organ as a pitch reference．If there is no key－ board player．its members usually just tune up against one－another and hope they wind up in close to the right key．

This tuner has a pitch reference for each string of a standard six－string guitar E（high）．B．G．D．A．and E（low）．The unit accepts regular stereo headphones． and the pitch－reference signal is heard in one channel．The instrument being tuned is also plogged into the device．and its amplitied output drives the other channel．

Volume controls are provided tor both the instrument and the piteh reference． and ean be adjusted to override the noise in any room．While the hedphones isolate the audience from the tuning－up process． There＂s also a STEREO／AONO switch． When in the stereo position，the device operates ats described above．However．in the $\quad 110$ No position．the pitch relerence and instrument signals are mixed and heard in both channels

Because of the low frequencies in－ volued．an electric bass is more difticult for most musicians to tune than is a stan－ dard guitar．Many times the bassist pref－ ers to tune to a chord．rather than a single－ note pitch reterence．The tuner provides him with major－triad chords for cach hass string：E．A．D，and G．The E（low）．A． D．and $G$ guitar－pitches can be used for single－note references．

## Circuit description

The heart of the circuit，whose schema－ lic shown in Fig．1，is IC2．a 50240 top－ octave generator．That device uses a sing－ le imput－frepuency to generate all twelse notes of the musical seale．The input sig－ nal is provided by ICI．a 4001 quad 2 － input Nor gate．Tho sections of that 1 C are used to form an oscillator that runs at approximately 2 MHz ．The frequency can be adjusted by trimmer potentiometer R2．

Dual D tlip－flops，IC3－IC7，are used as frequency dividers．They divide down the upper－octave frepuencies from IC2 thus gencrating the lower－frequency notes re－ quired for the pitch references．

The chords for the bass pitch references are composed of three notes each．Those notes are taken from various outputs of IC2－IC7 through isolation di－ odes D1－D12．

All signals are routed to the ToNs switch．S3．The wiper arm ol that switch is connected through $R 7$ to the input of audio power－amplifier IC8．an LM386． The resistor acts as a volume control for the pitch reference．Another LM386． IC9．serves as an amplifier for the instru－ ment being tuned．With RIO acting as its volume control．The outputs of IC8 and $\mathrm{IC}^{9}$ are coupled．through C 5 and Cl ？ respectively．to the headphone jack．Jl． Switch S2 stereo／aono is uscd to mix the reference and instrument signals att IC9 for mono operation．Power is sup－ plied by cight＂ AA ＂cells connected in series．

## Construction

A single－sided PC board（sce Fig．2） was used in the author＇s prototype．The layout，however．is not eritical and other methods of construction．such as wire－ wrap．can be used．Sockets should be used for the IC＇s to eliminate the hazards sometimes encountered when working with CMOS．
The component layout is shown in Fig． 3．Be careful not to use too much heat when soldering the components，and observe the polarities of the electrolytic capacitors and diodes．After all other components have been installed．insert the IC＇s in their sockets．being sure that they are oriented correctly．
The amplifiers should be shielded from the frequency dividers to prevent ex－ trancous signals from getting into the atl－ dio section．The shield can be made from one－inch－wide tin．as shown in Fig． 4 ．
A drilling guide for the metal case is shown in Fig．5．Note that all holes are $3 / 8$－inch in diameter except for the $1 / 4$－inch hole for the STEREO／MONO suitch．S2，on the rear panel．The other hole on the rear pancl is for the pitch－reference output jack．J3．Rotary switch S3 is mounted in the center hole on the front pancl．All labelling is done using rub－on dry－ transfer letters．which should be pro－ tected by a thin coat of lacquer．The com－ pleted unit is shown in Fig． 6.

## Adjustment and operation

Use R2 to calibrate the device．using a recently－tuned piano or a tuning fork as a


FIG. 1-HIGH-FREQUENCY OUTPUTS of IC2, a top-octave frequency generator, are
 divided down to frequencies used for instrument tuning by IC3-IC7.

FIG. 2-WHILE TUNER CAN BE HAND-WIRED. a printed-circuit board (left) will make for neater construction.


FIG. 3-DO NOT FORGET to install the 11 jumper wires on the component side of the board


FIG. 4-MOUNTING LOCATIONS for off-the-board parts. Note shield, made of one-inch-wide tin, that keeps noise out of amplifier circuits.


FIG. 5-DRILLING TEMPLATES for front of enclosure (a) and rear (b). All holes are $3 / 8$-inch in diameter except for the $1 / 4$-inch one for $S 2$.
reference. Any of the single notes selected by S 3 cim be used for calibration. and all the other pitch-reference notes will fall into place. No further adjustment is necessary

To use the tuner. plug a set of stereo headphones into JI. Next. insert the plug from the guitar or hass into I2. Place $S 2$ in
the sterio position, and adjust volume controls R7 and R11 so the volume of the instrument is about the same as that of the pitch reference. You should be able to hear the beat signal produced by the difference in frequencies between the two. Tune the string until the beat note just disappears.


FIG. 6-AMPLIFIER SHIELD is clearly visible in photo of completed unit. Also note battery pack and vertical mounting of some diodes and resistors.

## PARTS LIST

All resistors $1 / 4$-watt, $5 \%$, unless otherwise specified
R1-5100 ohms
R2-10,000 ohms, trimmer potentiometer
R3, R4, R9, R13- 10 ohms
R5, R12-15,000 ohms
R6-3.3 megohms
R7, R10-100,000 ohms, 1/2-watt, panelmount potentiometer, audio taper (S1 is part of R10)
R8, R11-10,000 ohms
Capacitors
C1-100 pF, 50 volts, ceramic disc
C2, C9-100 $-10 \mathrm{~F}, 35$ volts, electrolytic
C3, C10-. $22 \mu \mathrm{~F}$, ceramic disc
$\mathrm{C} 4, \mathrm{C} 8, \mathrm{C} 11, \mathrm{C} 15-.005 \mu \mathrm{~F}$, ceramic disc
C5, C12- $-470 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 35$ volts, electrolytic
C6, C13-. $047 \mu \mathrm{~F}$, ceramic disc
C7, C14-470 pF, ceramic disc
Semiconductors
IC1-4001 quad 2-input NOR Gate
IC2-50240 top-octave generator
IC3-IC7-4013 dual D flip-flop
IC8, IC9-LM386 low-voltage amplifier
D1-12-1N914 or 1N4148
S1-SPST switch (part of R10)
S2-SPST miniature toggle switch
S3-single pole, 12-position, rotary switch (Radio Shack 275-1385 or equivalent)
J1-3-conductor N.C. $1 / 4$-inch stereo phonejack
J2, J3-2-conductor N.O. 1/4-inch phone jack
SPKR-8-ohms, 2-inch diameter
BATT-8 "AA" cells in series
Miscellaneous: PC board (optional), IC sockets, battery holder, sheet tin, enclosure, knobs, wire, etc.

If the beat is difficult to hear, try listening for it with S 2 in the mono position. If that is done, both signals-pitch reference and insirument-will be heard from cach carpiece

Old strings on an instrument may also cause the beat signal to be difficult to hear. In that case, simply tune until the two tones sound close or-better stillget at new set of strings.

The beat signal is much more difficult 10 hear with a bass guitar; however, that instrument can be tuned very accurately using the chords selectable by S.3. R-E

## EOUIPMENT REPORTS

contimued from page 33
using the typewriter's self-correcting fe:iture. The correct characters are then typed in and you're all set. For authors. and many other users, the simultancous typewriter/printer modes are an asset.

There are some things to watch out for. however. For one thing, the printwheels that are presently available are of the standard correspondence-type usually supplied with typew riters, they don 't contain the $<$ and $>$ symbols often used in computer programs, nor a few of the other
special ASCII characters. To yet around those limitations (when necessary) the unit provides a space for characters it can't print: you can write them in later "by hand.' While it's not much of a job to write in a few special characters in manuscripts. it can be very inconvenient when you need to do that in a long program listing (you might not get them all in the correct spaces). Characters for which there is no ASCII code are printed using other characters. For instance, the $1 / 2$ and $1 / 4$ are printed by using the ASCII [and] symbols. Note that if the level 2 keyboard is selected (foreign). those ASCII characters will print the Spanish " $n$ " and " $N$ " with tilde. All ASCII control
characters, with the exception of BS. IIT 1.F. CR. DC2, and DC4, are ignered. The DC + control character is a control-1. which causes the test message to print.

The second thing to be aware of is that though the print quality is strictly first class, the basic Praxis 30 is a portable typewriter-it's not intended for commercial-type service. Don't expect to turn it on at nine in the morning, and have it print continuously until 4 that afternoon. day after day: I doubt it can withstand that type of service.

Except for the limitations we mentioned, the Bytewriter proved to be an excellent performer, especially for wordprocessing applications.

R-E


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| contimued from page 74 |

ly give you no better results than you will get by applying a few rules of thumb. First choose a transistor where F or NF is low. From there on, rules differ for the different types of transistors

When designing a bipolar transistor circuit, use the smallest practical resistor at the input to the base that is consistent with the functioning of the circuit. As a second rule. keep the idling collector voltage and current at a minimum

As for FET's. choose a low-noise device with a high $g_{m}$. Next, bias the device as close to the $I_{\text {DSS }}$ curve as possible to make $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{GS}}$ as close to 0 volt as practical. Finally, do not necessarily use a small input resistor. There is one resistance at the input that will put the noise at a minimum. That value should be determined experimentally through the use of a substitution resistance box across the input circuit.

## Increasing gain

We found the gain of a one-stage amplifier to be pretty low. To get more gain, we must connect the output of one transistor to the input of a second transistor. Now the gain of two or more devices determine the overall gain of the circuit. In the next article, we will cover the design procedures for accomplishing that goal.

R-E

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Each scope in our 5000 Series is crafted so that it can be used for production，field service， consumer electronics servicing，or even personal use．The 5060 is a 60 MHz scope with 3 chan－ nels，eight traces，delayed sweep，delay line and alternate sweep，and priced at $\$ 1100$ ．Models 5040 and 5041 are 40 MHz ，dual channel scopes，featuring peak－to－peak automatic trigger－ ing，automatic focus control and a delay line．If you＇re interested in a 20 MHz scope，we have our 5020 and 5021 models with features similar to our 40 MHz scopes．Both the 5041 and 5021 also have delayed sweep．Prices at $\$ 920$ for the $5041, \$ 795$ for the $5040, \$ 690$ for the 5021 and $\$ 595$ for the 5020 ．So，whatever model suits you best，you can＇t get a better scope for the money．

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# SERVICE CLINIC 

## More about capacitors <br> JACK DARR, SERVICE EDITOR

NOT LONG AGO WE DISCUSSFD 1H.IER capacitors-the troubles they can calluse. how to identify those problems, and so on. This month. let's take a look at some of the other types.

## Bypass capacitors

In all, there are four classes of capacitors used in radio and TV circuits: filter. bypass. coupling, and tuning. Bypass capacitors do just what their name implies-they bypass unuanted signals straight to ground or common, to make the bypassed point a perfect ground for RF or any other AC signal. They can cause some casy-to-fix problems and some tough ones. The easy ones are when they re shorted. An umnistakable clue is the complete loss of the normal DCvoltage at the bypassed point. while the supply voltages are OK. A shorted bypass capacitor may also be responsible for dropping resistors heating up, so watch out for that symptom. too.

When bypass capacitors open up. we see something completely different. The former ground point now becomes hot. and all kinds of odd things can happen Just as with filter capacitors. the most obvious symptom is ticedback: we find signals where there should be none and those get into the pouer-supply circuits and into other stages. That can cause odd oscillations. beats in the picture. color problems, squeals in the sound, distortion, and other difficulties. We ll show
you some horrible examples
An open bypass capacitor in the wrong place can reduce the gain of an $\mathrm{RF} / \mathrm{IF}$ amplitier stage. How? Look at Fig. 1-a. It shows an IF (or RF) stage with a tuned transformer. The signal voltage is developed between the top of the primary winding and ground. Let's say that the value of resistor $R$ is 1000 ohms, and the impedance of the primary the same. We'll supply a one-volt signal to the primary. (Notice how I always use casy ligures?) In normal operation, all of the signal voltage is developed across the primary, for the bottom end of the winding is ground for the signal.

If the bypass capacitor opens, though-as shown in Fig. 1-b-its lower end is no longer at ground potential and the total impedance is now 2000 ohms. We'll get only $0 . \overline{\mathrm{h}}$-volt of signal across each half of the primary circuit. and the gain of the stage will have been halved. With obvious results.

Fortunately. there's an instrument that will catch open bypass-capacitors in a hurry. You knew what I was going to say, didn't you? Yes-an oscilloscope. For a fast and accurate test of any bypass capacitor, just touch the probe to the bypassed point. With the scope's vertical gain turned as high as possible. You must see no signals at all: if you see anything. the b) pass isn't working. In tube cireuits. you can bridge a new capacitor across the circuit while the power's on. In solid-


FIG. 1

## Padio－ <br> Eertronics

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Radio－Electronics is indexed in Applied Science \＆Technology Index and Readers Guide to Periodical Literature．

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## A common－sense approach to temperature measurement．

With Keithley＇s 132，you can make accurate temperature measurements without a separate thermometer or converter．This type K thermocouple based instrument gives you a wide range from $-20^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $1370^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\left(0^{\circ} \mathrm{F}\right.$ to $2000^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ on Fahrenheit model），all with $1^{\circ}$ resolution．The 132 also features a standard TC connector with cold junction compensation，and a full line of probes to match any application．
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## KEITHLEY

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on my capacitance bridge just for fun. It looked perfect-uthe right value, no leakage. etc. When I put it back in, though. the problem came back. Then I noticed that the ground lead of that capacitor went all the waty around the tube socket to a ground point on the other side. where other ground leads were tied. Hmm. I shunted the ground end of the capacitor to the chassis right at the body of capacitor with a test prod and the symptoms disappeared. I then soldered the ground end of the capacitor to the nearest ground lug I could find. and there were no more problems. The original ground lead was long enough to have enough inductance at the sery high frequencies involved at that

## stage to cause feedback!

## Coupling capacitors

Let's take a quick look at coupling capacitors. They're the casiest to check. The signal going in should tee the same as the one coming out. If it isn't. the capacitor is open. That's atl there is to it.

If the a coupling capacitor is leaky. the DC voltages in both input and output circuits will be upset and you will probably get distortion and low gain in audio stages. Little low-voltage electrolytics are very common in transistor circuitry: those cause a lot of the problems by opening up.

My guess is that a very conmon prob-

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lem with dry electrolytics is an intermittent ground lead on the outside foil of the capacitor. When you find one that is definitely open. don't bother to take it out and check it! The heat of unsoldering the original will probably cure it but the relief will only be temporary. Don't mess around-replace the capacitor

Here's one more common bypasscapacitor problem. If the emitter bypasscapacitor in common-emitter audio stages opens up. you'll have a horrendous fecdback fromemitter to base. severe distortion. and loss of gain. A clue to this is the presence of the same amount of signal on both the emitter and base: there should be mo signal on the emitter.

I haven't covered all the things that defective capacitors can do to you. but I hope I ve given sou a few new ideas on the subject. Now. armed with your new knowledge. go out and get 'em! R-E

## SERVICE OUESTIONS

## HARD TO FIND VDR

This 10-year-old Panasonic CT-61P has an open VDR (Voltage Dependent Resistor) across the primary of the verticaloutput transformer. I can't get the part from Panasonic. Can you help me?-R.M., Honolulu, HI

That VDR is used as a clamp across the primary to keep the coltage from going too high. It doesn't seem to make much difference in the operation of the set. Something like an Oneida WR-808. rated at 1.0 mA at 550 volts. might do. You could also try putting an ordinary onemegohm resistor across the primaryl've done that in a few cases

## HORIZONTAL DRIFT

If any of your readers have problems with horizontal drift in Zenith $12 \mathrm{~KB}+\mathrm{X}$ (blach-and-white) chassis. try this: Increase the value of C402 (part No. 227389 - 05 , from $2.2 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ to $+.7 \mu \mathrm{~F}$. and increase C509 (part No. 22-7613-14) from $.001 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ to $.0015 \mu \mathrm{~F}$. I hope this will help someone.
Thanks to J.C. of Texas Citv. TX for this. I'll bet it ll come in handy to someone soon.

## BRIGHTNESS PROBLEM

This Tatung color portable came in one day with high brightness. retrate lines and weak color. (Fortunately it was listed as Sams 1752-2. which surprised me.) The video amps. etc. checked out OK but 1 found the +522 -volts boost up to 630 volts. I checked R90R. which should have been 180 K : it read ahout 816 K so 1 replaced it and the problem cleared up.

There's a small discrepancy in the

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## Solid State News

Blinking LED's
Available in four colors. a new series of blinking LED's from AEG-Telefunken have such applications as an indicator with "blink" and "ofl", modes. as panel indicators. and in audio and receiving equipment and alarm systems. The CQZ2I red. V621P amber, V622P green. and V623P yellow. feature an oscillator IC mounted in the same package with the LED. Thus they can replace a standard LED with its cxternal oscillator circuit.

Typical blinking rate is 3 Hz . The LED's operate from a single 5 -volt source.-Telefunken Corp., Route 22 Orr Drive, Somerville. NJ (08876. R-E

Transistor data manual and catalog
Plastic Poner Transistors is a 47 -page compilation of data covering the Panasonic line of plastic-encapsulated silicon power-transistors for power amplifier and higit-speed switching applications. Types include Darlington, epitixial-base mesa. and triple-diffused planar technologies. The TIP TO-220-package de vices are designed primarily for such low-power applications as power amplifiers and switching power-supplies where highspeed switching is needed.

The TIP series of NPN and PNP devices are available with $I_{c}$ s ranging from 1 to 10 amps . Veco's from 40 to 400 volts. and $P_{C}$ (collector power(dissipation) ratings from 30 to 80 watts. The higher-power devices are in TOP-3 housings and feature $P_{C}$ ratings from 60 to 100 watts. The TO-220 packages are directly interchangeable with TO-66 packages and the TOP- 3 packs are plug-in replacements for TO- 3 cases.Panasonic Co., One Panasonic Way. Sectacus. NJ. 07094

## Liquid crystal display data

LCD Technical Manual (Manual SI$1(0)$ is an excellent source of basic technical information on liquid crystil display (LCD) devices. One section covers theory. principles. and structure: another describes conditions and techniques for static and multiplex driving.-Seiko Instruments U.S.A., Inc., 2990 W. Lomita Blvd. Torrence. CA 90505

## Transducer information

Pressure Transducer Applications Guides is a 40 -page booklet written to acquaint engincers. and clectronics and industrial maintenance technicians with typical applications of the high-output semiconductor strain-gage pressure transducers made by Data Instruments Inc. The "General Information" section includes sample-and-hold and digital seroing circuits. ratiometric and fivedoutput interface circuits. and a typical setup for making differential pressure measurements. The "Applications" sec-
fion includes illustrated solutions to pressure and level-measurement problems in such fields as process control. automotive diagnostics. internal combustion engines. geophysics. hydraulies. oceanography, and medical science. A study of the problems presented and the ir solutions could possibly provide the answer to a problem that you have in pressure measurement or process control.Data Instruments Inc., \& Hartuell Place. Lexington. 11A 02173

## Semiconductor catalog

Micronare Semicondactors is a 40 page listing of all pertinent electrical. performance and physical specilications on the lines of semiconductor products from Nippon Electric Co. Most of the devices listed are engineered for UHF and microwave performance. Transistors are covered on 25 pages of tables including small-signal/low-noise. medium power. Class-A porver bipolar and GaAs FET's. and Class-C V'HF/UHF derices. Diodes include PIN. Gumn. IMPATT, and Schotky types with specifications running well into the GHz range. Also included are as silicon avalanche. laser. and silicon PIN diodes. and LED's. California Eastern Laboratories, Inc., 3005 Democracy Way. Santa Clara, CA 95050

R-E

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> Gives excellent reception, 50 KHz to 30 MHz .

schematic you might be interested in. It tells you to adjust the Sub Brightness DC level to +.83 volt: 1 think it's supposed to be -.83 volt.-A.S.. San Dicgo. CA

Thanks for letting us know. More and more of those sets are turning up.

## HORIZONTAL INSTABILITY

I had very poor horizontal lock in a 12-inch Hitachi black-and-white set. You suggested trying adding external DCbias. but it didn't help-the VCO still shifted the horizontal. I replaced the IC and the picture locked in tightly

Thanks for the information. I don't see how you do it without heing able to con-
front the sets eyeball-to-eyeball.T.E.D.

Thank you for the leedhack:

## AN OLD "FRIEND"

I've got an Admiral 20YP4PRS that had a vertical line brighter than the picture down the middle of the screen. l'd had it for years and just recently found a hint to the effect that adjusting the horizontaldrive control would help. I tried it, and it did-without affecting anything else.W.H., Rochester, NY

That is one of the things we all did automatically back in the old days. The bright line is called a "drive line" and is due to a small bit of non-linearity in the


# On your mark! Get set! GO! to 58 CHANNEL CABLE TV <br> \section*{58 CHANNEL SYSTEMS} <br> an expensive part to repair. The Jer 

Cable TV companies in the U.S.A. are now rushing to expand their channel capability to 58 channels. This new system (called a 400 megahertz system by those in the trade) is presently operational in many areas. This system is required to enable your cable company to carry more channels on their cable. Channels like Showtime. Cinemax. Home Box Office, The Sports Network. etc. The Jerrold 400 converter is in use in many of these systems.

## OLDER CABLE SYSTEMS

Many systems in use by Cable TV companies have simply been outgrown. Maximum capability was limited to as few as 12 channels (2 13). Cable TV companies had no space to put these new entertainment channels. and so, had no choice but to expand their systems. The new channels were placed on frequencies (channels) that could not be received by most TV sets. If you are on a cable system that exceeds 12 channels, the Jerrold 400 will enable you to receive these hidden channels. Using a Jerrold 400 ensures that the number of cable channels offered by your local cable company will not outstrip your tv set's ability to receive these extra channels for years to come

## CONVERTER USE

## BY CABLE COMPANIES

Cable companies which utilize these "hidden" channels have been providing converters to their customers who have been subscribing to their extra channel services. In many cases. converters purchased by cable customers are just as effective in pulling in those extra channels provided by your cable company. In other cases, the cable company due to technical considerations. will "scramble" the transmissions on these extra channels The Jerrold 400 is not a descrambler but will properly receive any of those "hidden" channels that are not being scrambied. Some of these channels may include weather information, locally originated closed circuit programs, sports, etc. Some cable companies put their "premium programming" on these "hidden" channels without scrambling. The Jerrold 400 would provide perfect reception on these channels.

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# HOBBYCORNER 

## A new puzzle, and other goodies

EARL "DOC" SAVAGE, K4SDS, HOBBY EDITOR

A WIILE AGO I INVITED YOU TO SEND IN puzzles that I could publish to amuse (and confound) readers of this department. Here's one from John Cirillo of Fort Worth. TX. It concerns something that he has been wondering abous for several years.
It seems that John once lised in an apartment that shared a single porch light with two others. Each of the three apartments had a switch that could turn that one light either on or off regardless of which switch had been used to turn it on or off before

John says that he never had the opportunty to actually trace the wiring to see how the circuit was designed, but he does have some information. The suitches were single pole. double throw. The power was straight 117 -volt single-phase AC The bulb was standard-no double filament or anything like that.

He deesn't know whether there were any concealed relays or other components in the circuit. He considers the use of relays unlikely, however because the apartments were built/wired in the carly 1930's

There you have it. Can you design a circuit that gives completely independent control of a single bulh by each of three SPDT suitches? If you cannot come up with such a circuit. What is the best circuit (smallest number of additional com-

## AN INVITATION

To better meet your needs, "Hobby Corner" will undergo a change in direction. It will be changed to a question-and-answer form in the near future. You are invited to send us questions about general electronics and its applications. We'll do what we can to come up with an answer or, at least, suggest where you might find one.

If you need a basic circuit for some purpose, or want to know how or why one works. let us know. We'll print those of greatest interest here in "Hobby Corner." Please keep in mind that we cannot become a circuitdesign service for esoteric applications; circuits must be as general and as simple as possible. Please address your correspondence to:

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FIG. 1

National IC should be used for dependable operation (and because it is less easily "hlown').

Various signaling (omput) devices can be connected to points + and 5 . Your choice will depend upon the use to which you wish to put the timer: Fig. 2 shows connections to a speaker. LED. relay. and piczo transducer

The "input" side can consist of a wide varicty of circuits. Three examples of them are shown in Fig. 3. An SPST switch is used in Fig. 3-a to gate the timer on and off manually

The addition of the components shown in Fig. 3-b will produce a timer for such things as cooking eggs or limiting tele-


FIG. 2


FIG. 3
ponents) that you can devise to do the job?
Send me your solution(s) to John's puzzle. Knowing how it was done will let him sleep better.

## Versatile Schmitt triggers

You never cease to amaze me with the circuits you design. Here is one well Worth passing along It comes from Frank Pearsohn in Vancouser. BC. Canada

Frank's basic timing circuit is shown in Fig. 1. It uses the four Schmitt gates in a +093 or a $7+\mathrm{Cl}+$. He cautions that a
phone calls. It is acticated simply by turning the timer over so the mercury sivitch will close. In Fig. 3-c. a cadmiumsulphide photoresistor is used to make a light/dark detector

The types of circuits and devices that can be added to each end of the basic circuit are limited only by your imagination. As a result, there are innumerable uses to which it can be put. Consider these few turn lights on at sunset: sound an alarm when someone opens the refrigeracontimued on puge 94

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# NEW IDEAS 

## Voltage freezer

HAVE IOU EVER WANTEI TO MEASURE the voltage in a tight spot, only to find that before you could read the meter the test prohe had slipped and you had to start all over? Having to hold the probe in place and read the meter at the same time is not only incomsenient. but if you slip. you can cause damage

The circuit described here can solve that problem simply and easily. It reads and stores the volage, thus freezing the meter reading even after the probes are removed.
ly due to the very low loading of the op-amp's high-impedance input. The meter is reset very simply: Just short the probes together: that discharges the capacitor.

Any type of construction can be uscd for the circuit. since nothing is critical. The only thing you should hear in mind is to use a tantalum capacitor for Cl . since it will hold a charge much longer than a relatively leaky aluminum electrolytic. Since no input protection is provided. keep the DC-toltage input below the


FIG. 1

The major component of the circuit. shown in Fig. 1, is an 8 -pin $7+1 \mathrm{C}$ opamp. The op-amp is configured as a unity-gain voltage follower, with Cl at the input to store the voltage

The circuit operates as follows: When a voltage is applied across C1, the capacitor charges to that value. When the voltage source is removed, the value is still stored in the capacitor, and can be read on the meter. While the capacitor does discharge, the process takes place very slow-
supply voltage. A DPST switch turns the device on and off, and B1 and B2 are nine-volt transistor batteries. Finally. note that pins 1 and 5 of the $7+1 \mathrm{op}$-amp are for olifset null: such as. those pins are not required for proper circuit operation and can be ignored.

For better performance. use an LFI3741 or a TLO81 op-amp in place of the $7+1$-those are JFET devices and offer a much higher input impedance than the 741.-Leomard Lee

R-E

$T$
"I hate microelectronics repair work. OK. I'm removing the chassis."

## NEW IDEAS

This column is devoted to new ideas, circuits, device applications, construction techniques, helpful hints, etc

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tor to get a forbidden snack: time darkfoom processes. and signal the opening of any type of door or cover.

Do a bit of exporimenting and let us know what uses you find for this circuit.

## "Littlest oscillator" addenda

There were a number of late arrivals in the oscillator contest. Even so. each one was appreciated. There were two. however. that I think you will want to know about.


FIG. 4
The first is from Dale Nassar in Amite. CA. He uses a flasher LED in series with a speaker (Fig. 4) to produce a tone. That tone leaves something to be desired. but it

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does work. So. Dale came up with a parts count of one small part-except for the apeater of course

After suggesting some conventional circuits. Joncpla D Airo of N. Massapequa. NY told of a "no-parts" oscillator. I can't even figure out how to drat a schematic of his non-circuit but Fig. 5 and the following account should give you the idea.
One speaker contact is grounded. A stiff wire in attached to the speaker trame with the end hent in such a mamer that it just contacts the voice-coil lead on the speaker cone. A voltage is applied to that wire.

You have a 50-50 chance of success the first time vou wire the "oscillator." If vou are luck y. the speaker cone will jump forward and hreak the contact. ObviousIv, with no voltage applied, the cone will then fall bach and mathe contact with the wire once again. which will cause it to jump back out. As that happens over and over. a sound will be produced. Adjusting the wire a bit willeven allow the sound to be changed somewhat.

If you are not lucky, the cone will jump bachward the first time voltage is applicd. In that case. contact will not be broken and no vibration-and consequently no sound-will be produced. To corred a "wrone-way" cone, all you have to do is reverse the coltage polarity or reverse the speaker connections.


That is a neat no-parts circuit if the speaher and the voltage are compatible. Fig 5 shows that you may need to use a series resistor if the voltage is 100 great for the speaker in order to prevent overexcursion of the cone (or to lower the volume of the sound). With a five-volt supply start out with a 100 -ohm resistor just to play it sate

Now that's an "oscillator." Joc! Thanks to you, and to everyone who sent in an idea. for sharing your circuits. R-E

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V－509．A 50 MHz ，dual－trace，mini－portable scope with optional battery pack，sensitive to $1 \mathrm{mV} / \mathrm{div}$ at 10 MHz ．It features delayed sweep and a $6^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{CRT}$ ，and weighs 11 lbs． $\mathbf{\$ 1 , 6 5 0}$ ．
V－1050F．A 100 MHz ，quad－trace scope，sensitive to $0.5 \mathrm{mV} / \mathrm{div}$ at 5 MHz ．It features delayed sweep and a $6^{\prime \prime}$ CRT．\＄1，980．

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# COMPUTER CORNER 

A portable, all-in-one computer

LES SPINDLE*

OF ALL THE PRODUCT DEVELOPMENTS that have shaken up the computer industry in its eventful history, nothing has precipitated as many shock waves as last year's introduction of the Osborne / portable computer (from Osborne Computer Corp., 26500 Corporate Ave., Hayward, CA 94545).

It isn't really the compact size of the machine (shown in Fig. 1) that's so astounding-although that is remarkable. It isn't any particular technological innovation. either-the machine features no great breakthrough in that area. What made the industry sit up and take notice (after an initial round of skepticism) was what is offered for the price. Not only does the $\$ 1795$ computer come with 64 K of memory, two disk drives, and a video monitor but software as well is included!

The brainchild of entrepreneur Adam Osborne quickly caught the attention of an entire industry by offering a product highly competitive with those of the leaders in the field-companies like Apple. IBM. Commodore, and Radio Shack-at a mere fraction of the price you'd expect to pay for such a system. Add to that the added bonus of portability-a great boon to the active businessman-and an overnight phenomenon was born. Over 100.000 Osborne units are expected to have been sold by the end of 1982 , with revenues in excess of $\$ 100$ million. Needless to say, competitors are beginning to rush into the ballpark-with such items as the Attache by Otrona (Boulder, CO), the KayPro II by Non-Linear Systems (Solano Beach, CA) and the Courier by Courier Computer (Anaheim, CA).

## How he did it

The questions that the consumer must ask before purchasing such a system are obvious. How does Osborne manage to cut costs so dramatically? Is the product really on a par with an Apple or $T R S-80$ ? Do the advantages of portability result in tradeoffs in performance quality?

Taking the first question, the key to a lot of the price reduction is in the use of standard software, rather than the proprictary programs so often supplied by the major manufacturers. Osborne, long known in the industry for his outspoken-and sometimes vitriolic-opinions, left his writing and publishing endeavors to

[^4]

FIG. 1
develop the Osborne / system because he saw an cnormous gap in the market just waiting to be filled.

The entire small-computer industry was originally founded on the premise of using standard components in order to keep prices down. Only in that manner could the "personal" computer become a reality. Osborne noticed the trend going the opposite way-manfacturers were designing unique operating systems and hardware. moving backward into the trap they supposedly were trying to escape. Soltware and hardware interfacing were becoming nearly impossible, and each company was becoming an island unto itself. Isolating a corner of the market might result in immediate benefits to a company, but the long-range potential for that strategy was doubtful

For the consumer, it meant that he was locked into the system he owned and the software that was directly compatible with that equipment. That created severe limitations on the applications to which he could put his computer, and to the peripheral interchanges he could make among other systems that he-or someone else-might own. Osborne's system (which he calls "a stinging indictment of the microcomputer industry'’) brought standardization back-and enabled him
to produce his computers much less expensively.

By working out special negotiations with software manufacturers whereby they provided their popular product lines in exchange for a share of his profits, Osborne was able to offer sophisicated sottware with a full range of standard business applications. Separate purchase of the software alone would almost equal the $\$ 1795$ price tag of the complete Osborne system.

As a further cost-cutting measure, the use of strictly standard components for the hardware end eliminated warehousing and inventory costs-not to mention the labor and materials that would have been required to manulacture special parts. The result of all that was a system equal in quality to those produced by the leaders in the field-but at a greatly reduced production-cost. In a ploy similar to Japanese manufacturing strategies, Osborne was able to give his major competitors a genuine run for their money

## A look at the system

Aside from the attractiveness of its low price. how does the machine rate in performance for serious business applications? Is it cost elfective?
continued on page 103

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## COMMUNICATIONS CORNER

## RTTY and the computer <br> HERB FRIEDMAN, COMMUNICATIONS EDITOR

THE SAME COMPUTER/MICROPROCESSOR revolution now starting to affect just about every aspect of cveryday life has made enormous inroads into the field of communications. lt's given us new technologies such as cellular mobile radio. and often breathes new life into old ones.

Generally speaking. after the initial gripes about how . . . . modern technology takes all the fun out of a hobby." it turns out that microprocessors actually make things more enjoyable by getting rid of the routine drudgery. Amateur RTTY (radioteletype) is a good case in point.

Many years ago. when every city had its "Radio Row" with mountains of surplus equipment. I got hooked on RTTY when someone gave me an old S-level Baudot (pronounced "baw-dough" ${ }^{\text {- }}$ ) code teletypew riter (TTY). With surplus parts I built the TU (transmission unit), a device that converted the received audiotones to electrical impusles for my TTY's printer. and also worked the other way by converting the electrical impulses from the TTY keyboard to audio tones for transmission

It was a lot of fun to build and experiment with. but I really hated RTTY operation beeause the Baudot system made RTTY a nightmare unless signals were 40 dB over $S 9$

Another problem with Baudot was the lact that it was a 5-level (or 5-bit. if you translate it into computer terms) code. Such a code can generate only 32 possible combinations. yet there are 26 characters
in the alphabet-plus ten digits (0 to 9) and punctuation marks. Obviously. a 5bit code could not transmit all the required characters. So the Baudot code included 1.ETTERS and FIGURES codes which selected one of two character sets. If a LETTERS code was received every character that followed represented a letter. If a FlGURES code was received every character that followed represented a numeral or punctuation mark. That meant that tiroughout a transmission the operator constantly had to shift back and forth between character sets. The casy way out was simply to spell all numerals whene er possible.

But there was the problem of interference from QRM and QRN. If it struck when a LETTERS or FIGURES code was transmitted. it was more than likely that the receiving station's equipment wouldn't shift to the new character set. More often than not I was asking for repeats. or trving to decode a jumble of gobbledygook. Eventually. I packed away the RTTY gear and left the field to others.

## Enter ASCII

But one day- a couple of years agothe FCC decided to join the 20th century and authorized ASCII for amateur RTTY. ASCII-the American Standard Code for Information / nterchange: to pronounce. rhyme with "pass key" -is an 8-level (or 8-bit) code. It uses seven levels or hits for characters and one for


FIG. 1
parity. parity being an error-check that lets us know that a received signal has a reasonable chance of being what was actually sent. The 7 -bit signal provides for 128 characters. which include upper and lower case alphabets. numerals. punctuation. and 32 non-printing control codes such as those for carraige return. bell. formleed. tabs. ctc. ASCII even provides special codes that cin shift in and out of character sets other than English.

Best of all. since each ASCII code represents a specitic character or punctuation mark. losing a character or two doesn't destroy everything that follows because therc's no character-set shift.

As with Baudot equipment. in addition to the transmitter. receiver and TTY. all that's needed tor ASCII-type RTTY is the TU.

ASCli made RTTY fun again. at least for me, but it took a long time. The model 33 surplus TTY I was using could print 110 wpm (Words Per Minute) at top speed. and since I am a rotten typist who must go bach for many corrections (which isn't easy on a TTY). and can't really think while reading copy and trying to compose a reply at the same time the initial excitement was dissipating rather rapidly.

## Enter the computer

Then someone suggested I try using my Heath H-89 computer with the RTTY Communications Processor Software offered by Heath: it makes the H 89 computer function like an intelligent TTY The installation wound up contigured as shown in Figure $1:$ the only difference between it and a "standard" RTIY system is that my Heath computer replaces the usual mechanical TTY'

The program is so jam-packed with features that there's room here only for the highlights. Among them is a dual or triple split-screen that I can format any way I like to display the incoming and/or outgoing transmissions. I can save incoming outgoing. or hoth on disk. or send them to a printer (which is my old model 33 TTY converted for RS-232 operation with the adaptor described in the Fall 1982 issue of Special Projects). At the touch of a single kev the program starts transmission with a "diddle." CW continued on page / / 2

Super Scanner－the Ideal Base Antenna for Sophisticated Emergency Operations
For isolating and pinpointing the origin of emergency or commercial CB com－ munications，there＇s nothing to com－ pare with The Antenna Specialists， MSII9 Super Scanner．This unique antenna is both a superb omnidirec－ tional antenna with tremendous 5.75 dB gain and，with the twist of a knob ，a high performance beam exhibiting 8.75 dB gain－like increasing sour power seven times．It lets you search with the omni mode，then zero in for maximum range and clarity with the beam mode－ all done instantancously and electroni－ cally．The Super Scanner weighs just 17 pounds，is quite simple to assemble and is complete except for standard 50 ohm coax cable．


## A／S Tri－Band Antenna Helps Get the Most Out of Your Scanner

Many scanner operators，especially those who have a serious purpose for their equipment，have discovered that the built－in whip antenna furnished with the radio simply cannot provide the range necessary to cover all the land mobile stations in their area that might be vitally important to their network．This is especially true in sub－ urban and rural areas，or where porta－ ble radios are widely used．The Antenna Specialists Co．offers a wide selection of special antennas for monitor use， both base and mobile．Although some professionals and hobbyists prefer to install separate antennas for VHF and UHF coverage，most find the MONR 31 triband model entirely satisfactory and
 high－perf rmance antennas for professional CB communications

A formula race car and A／S＇s new Model M－710 Formula－1 are more alike than youd guess．The engineering strategy is identical：coninually refine a proven basic design，within a set of strict operating parameters such as electromagnetic propagation and transmitter power，with one objective： MAXIMUM POSSIB＿E PERFORMANCE

That＇s Formula－ 1 ，the direct descendant of A／S＇s original classic base－ loaded low－band mobile police antennas，and the culmination of over 25 years of continuous design development．Born for performance，built to last．Formula－1 is today＇s new state－of－the－art in mobile CB antennas．
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very easy to hande and install．This unit is a high pertormance professional grade antenna that covers not only low band，high band and UHF but the＂I＂ band as well．through 512 MHz ．Both the whip and $65^{\prime \prime}$ radials are finest stainless steel construction．and the slim，durable phasing coil is weather－ proof．It comes complete with SO－239 receptacle（coas cable not furnished）．

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GMRS applications．The ASP－705 Super Base Commander ${ }^{8}$ is a high per－ formance UHF coltinear fiber glass unit exhibiting a minimum of 10 dB gain（RS329）and accomodating 250 Watts RF power（500）Watts with optional pigtail）．Bandwith is 20 MHz （ $450-470 \mathrm{MH}$ ）．The antenna is wind rated at 128 MPH with a safety factor of 1.65 ．For mobile applications series ASPR660 is recommended for high performance，low profile configuration and lots of mounting options including roof，trunk lip，magnetic and cowl． Two precisely phased 5／8 wavelength collinear radiators provide 5 dB gain at the horizon

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## NEW PRODUCTS

continued from page 98
price of $\$ 9.95$ ．The deluxe model 71200 in－ cludes a $\dagger \mathrm{oz}$ ．bottle of cleaning solution， spare felt cartridges and tweezers，and a


CIRCLE 144 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD
storage case．Its suggested retail price is \＄16．95．－ALLSOP，Inc．，PO Box 23，Bel－ lingham，WA 98227.

EMERGENCY RADIO Midland model 77－ 810，known as the＂Ready Rescue，＂is a two－way 40 －channel radio with 4 －watt output power，and a relical antenna that can be attached directly to the unit cr mounted on a magnetic base for car rooftops

Other features include a push－to－talk bar for one－hand operation；on／off volume； squelch control，and an 8 －foot cord for the cigarette lighter power adaptor．


CIRCLE 145 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD
The Midland model 77－810＂Ready Res－ cue＂emergency radio has a suggested retail price of $\$ 99.95$ ．There is also a lightweight battery pack，compatible only with the ＂Ready Rescue＂，to provice an alternate power source to the dashboard cigarette
fighter；that has a suggested retail price of \＄20．00．－Midland International Corp．， 1690 N．Topping，Kansas City，MO 64120

STEREO CASSETTE DECK，model AD． 3800 has a 3 －head logic control，at the heart of which is the microprocessor－controlled


CIRCLE 146 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD
Digital Automatic Tape Adaptation（DATA） logic system．DATA automatically checks playback output，adjusts bias level，sensitiv－ ity，and equalization to extend frequency re－ sponse，obtain optimum noise－reduction per－ formance，and enhance high－range reproduction－within 16 seconds．It can re－ tain the same setting，if desired，for up to 24 hours．

Additional features include a multi－ operational digital electronic display for stan－ dard or real－time tape－position indication， memory function，IC logic controls with cue review operation，switchable MPX filter，auto repeat，timer－standby facility，and three－color 16 LED per－channel peak－level display with peak－hold mechanism． $\mathrm{S} / \mathrm{N}$ ratio is 75 dB with Dolby $C$ on．and frequency response mea－ sures $20-20.000 \mathrm{~Hz}$ on metal and ferrichrome tapes．

The model AD－3800 has a suggested retail price of \＄595．00．－AIWA America， 35 Ox－ ford Drive．Moonachie，NJ 07074

DESOLDERING AID，the WIGAPRY model WP286，is a combination lead wiggler and miniature prybar．There is a small hole in the tapered end which enables the tool to be


## CIRCLE 147 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

placed directly over a desoldered component lead．With a little gentle wiggling，the lead is free．The other end is shaped like a prybar for leverage，with a small axial slot for lead straightening．The WIGAPRY model WP286 is priced at \＄2．95．－Edsyn，Inc．， 15958 Arminta Street，Van Nuys．CA 91406.
commintred on page 107

## COMPUTER CORNER

continued from page 96
One limitation is its lack of graphics capabilities. which are black-and-white only, and provide relatively low-level resolution. There is no provision for sound. The tiny five-inch sereen may prove dilficult for some people with less-than-perfect eyesight. (A separate 12inch montor is a a ailable as an extra-cost option. but that cuts dow $n$ on the portability of the computer. which incidentally. weighs just 23 pounds.)

The computer screen displays 52 characters by 24 lines. Horizontal scrolling is provided for lines that exceed 52 characters. That should be adecpuate for most word-processing applications.

Disk storage may present limitations for more demanding applications. There is space for only two $5 \frac{1}{4}$-ineh disk drives. However. a recently introduced upgrade kit priced at $\$ 185$ will allow them to be upgraded to double density

The standard system includes 64 K of RAM. a Z80 microprocessor and the two single-sided. single-density $51 / 4$-inch disk drives capable of storing of 100 K eachall in a carrying case with a handle. A hard-disk system can be added using the built-in IEEE- 488 bus. Also available are an RS-232C serial port for a printer and a modem slot. A separate battery pack good
for five hours of operation can also be added.

## Software

The software supplied with the system is what really makes the Osborne / uselul as a business tool. The CP/M 2.2 operating system gives the user access to an enormous software library. While the MBASIC 5 and CBASIC2 languages make custom programming easy. The SuperCate program allows you to prepare financial forecasts and budgets. while the WordStar word processor. together with the MailMerge mailing-list option. provide further potential.

The Altache system hy Otrona offers many similar capabilities although there is a wider range of features. including sound capability and greater diskcapacity. The price is nearly double that of the Osborne l. at S3995

The Courier. with a larger (nine-inch) display. detachable Selectric-type keyboard. $6+\mathrm{K}$ of memory. and options for a third disk-drive. also sells for $\$ 3995$

Competitive in price to the Osborne system is the Karpro II. Which sells for S1795. It includes a mine-inch display. several business-softuare packages. the $\mathrm{CP} / \mathrm{M}$ operating system and a Z 80 CPU .

As the competition heats up in the coming months. more and more offerings in the portable category are almost certain to be introduced.


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## CORDLESS TELEPHONES

continued firom page +2
base to call the handset the Pacer 9800 allows the handset to call the base as well. A Pacer 9800D, which adds a nine phone-number memory is also a a ailable All Pacer phones have a maximum range of 1000 feet

## Radio Shack

Radio Shack currently offers three different cordless phone models: the $E T$ 300. their top-of-the-line extended range answer/originate model; the ET-310, an answer-only model that is similar to the ET-300, and the ET-350, a short range answer/originate unit.

Radio Shack claims that their mode ET-300 has a 500 -foot operating range The handset is equipped with a telescopic antenna (an interesting feature of that antenna is that it is connected to an internal switch that will allow the remote to turn on only when the antenna is fully extended), a volume switch, and a pushbutton keypad. That model also has an autoredial feature-but, as with all other Radio Shack cordless phones, no security feature. The model $E T-310$ is similar to the $E T-300$, but it is an answer-only model . Also, the claimed range for this unit is slightly larger-up to 600 feet
The model $E T-350$ is an answer originate unit with a range of 50 feet. As this unit is intended primarily for indoor use, giving the user more freedom than a cord telephone, the keypad here is base mounted. Like the ET-300, this model features auto-redial and pulse dialing

## Universal

Universal Security Instruments offers two cordless phones, the Tote and Talk (also known as the $T E L-3000$ ), and the Talkabout. The Talkabout is an answer/ originate model and has a range of about 100 feet. The handset has a spring-loaded switch that automatically switches the phone from "talk" to "standby" mode whenever the handset is placed face down on a flat surface. The pushbutton keypad in that model is housed in the base rather than the handset

The TEL-3000 has a handset-mounted keypad and a claimed maximum range of 700 feet. Both Universal models have a built in recharger in the base unit and feature auto-redial

## Webcor

Webcor has four models in its "Zip"' cordless-phone line. Their answer-only model, the 525. has a claimed range of 500 teet. The model 777 is a low range ( 100 foot) answer/originate unit that features FM duplex-operation and autoredial. Climbing up the ladder we find the model 555 , with a range of 400 feet. continued on page 100


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The successful service technician has to have several qualifications. Those include a basic knowledge of electronics, of how to use electronic test equipment, and of how television sets function. It is assumed that persons using this book have a good foundation in basic electronics theory
The book is divided into four major sections. The first section describes how television information is transmitted; the second section relates to how that information is processed in a receiver; the third section is devoted to the use of test equipment, and the final section explains how each block, or section, of a set functions. The material is developed using IC technology, and the methods of diagnosis and repair are based on that type of system. The book is illustrated with photos, diagrams, and charts
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the Complete guide to car audio, by Martin Clifford. Howard W. Sams \& Co., Inc., 4300 W. 62nd Street, Indianapolis, IN 46268. 232 pages including glossary and index; $51 / 4 \times 81 / 2$ inches; softcover; $\$ 9.95$.

While cars have been equipped with radios for many years, the trouble has always been that the automobile was never designed for audio. There are vibration problems, space problems, temperature problems, and electrical interference-as well as environmental noises and other considerations. However, most of those difficulties have been overcome and modern car-audio systems are capable of delivering high-quality sound
Here is a complete guide to car audio. The reader will learn about the various components available and how to plan a system that meets his or her desires. You will learn how to read and interpret specs, compare various units, and become familiar with the special language of auto sound. There is also information on installation, noise suppression, and protection from theft. R-E CIRCLE 112 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD


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## CORDLESS TELEPHONES

continued from page 104
Featurewise. it's identical to the 777 That model features the popular walkie talkic-type styling.

Webeor's top-of-the-line model 575 has a claimed range of 700 feet. Like their other answer/originate models, it too has auto-redial. In addition. it has a security switch that prevents someone else in your area from using your base, or your phone line. The phone not only features a call button on both the handset and base unit. but comes with true intercom capability. allowing communications between the base and handset, even when the base is disconnected from the phone line. All Webcor phones use pulse dialing.

## Finding the right phone

Today. cordless phones are available with a wide range of features, and at a wide range of prices. To help you find the right one for you. we've provided a summary of the models we've discussed in this article in Table 1; Table 2 gives the names and addresses of the manufacturers. When picking a unit, be sure that you don't overlook such things as styling. simplicity of operation. and durability The best way to find which model is right for you is to see and try as many of them as you can.

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and a six-stage subdivision of the measuring range between 19.99 ohms and 1.999 megohms, always guarantees an accurate
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ANSWERING SYSTEM, the DuoFone TAD150 , is a computer-controlled phoneanswering system, complete with remote control. The microprocessor-controlled answerer features dual-cassette operation with dual outgoing messages. Its front-panel fluorescent display shows the message number, plus the date and time that each mes-


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sage was received. Voice-actuated circuitry records callers for up to five minutes, without gaps, and a cue feature permits easy location of messages for convenient playback.

There is full-function digital remote control. permitting command of most of the system functions from any phone; a four-digit "security code" assures complete privacy for remote-control operation.
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The Duofone TAD-150 is priced at \$299.95.-Tandy Corporation/Radio Shack, 1800 One Tandy Center, Fort Worth, TX 76102

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The brochure is available free from Multi-

Mode, Advertising Department, Crown International, Inc., 1718 W. Mishawaka Road, Elkhart, IN 46517.
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lead resistors, and trimmed potentiometers are provided. Resistance, tolerance, power, TCR, and dimension specifications can readily be matched with particular applications from easy-to-read tables.

The Short Form Catalog SF400C is free upon request from Vishay Resistive Systems Group of Vishay Intertechnology, Inc., 63 Lincoln Highway, Malvern, PA 19355.


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RADIO SYSTEMS CATALOG, is 16 pages, illustrated, and contains descriptions of over 20 build-it-yourself kits. Several different audio panels are included, as well as 2- and 4-station aircraft intercoms, marker beacon receivers, a 6-channel communications transcriver, and unicom stations. Headsets, radio antennas, and several of the kits may also be purchased fully assembled.

The catalog is free upon request, and can be obtained by writing to Radio Systems Technology, Inc., Airport Industrial Park, Grass Valley, CA 95945.

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COMMUNICATIONS CORNER
continued from page 100
identification. time and date. Another key then transmits the calls and a personal identification from a preloaded buffer. A third key sends the message I composed on the screen-with all the errors corrected electronically (I can also transmit in real time, errors and all), and a fourth one sends the ending transmission, terminating with the usual NNNN.
If I want to dress up the basic communications system, an external file can be called up from a disk or tape for transmission. I can preload up to three programmed messages, initiate a local WRU (Who Are You) at the touch of a single key, single-key control a CQ string and . . well, just about any of the drudgery can be eliminated by the computer. Essentially, the computer takes care of a lot of what we used to do when we had to prepare messages on punched tape, only now we don't have all of those little specks of yellow paper from the punch holes all over the floor.
My only complaint with computerized RTTY is that the soltware seems to have some sort of automatic slow transmission when the buffer is almost empty. There's an explanation for it in the documentation but it doesn't quite make sense to me. In any event, although it sometimes gets somewhat irritating to watch the letters crawl onto the screen, that's a relatively small price to pay for having the fun put back in RTTY. R-E

| PICTURE PHONE |
| :---: |
| contimued from page 50 |

replacing that IC. You may solve your problem as casily as that.

If you find that you have vertical "barber pole" stripes breaking up the picture that is stored in memory, check IC66. the $32+5$ memory driver; one of its sections may be bad. And, finally. if you find that a picture stored in memory starts to develop "freckles"--dark or bright pixels appearing one by one until the overall quality of the picture starts to deteriorate, try substituting standard $7+157$ s in place of the "LS" versions for IC's 5, 21, 37. and 53 .

That covers only a few of the many things that may kecp your Picture Phone from working the lirst time you apply power. but. if you persevere, you'll locate the problem area(s) and wind up with a lirst-class device

## Setup

Figure 22 shows how the Picture Phone is to be connected to its associated equipment. Remember that the video output of the unit is intended for use with a monitor;
if you use a TV receiver you'll need an RF modulator-those are readily available from most computer stores. or by mail from a number of advertisers in RadioElectronics.

The most imporant factor in transmitting a good picture is good lighting; avoid hot spots and deep shadows. Try not to use a very light or very dark background-such a background may confuse the TV camera`s ALC (Automatic Light Control).

You can put the mode switch in the CAMERA position to compose your picture. watching it on the monitor. The front panel brightness and contrast controls will help give you the bestbalanced image. To see what you will be transmitting, grab a frame from the camera and switch to the TRANSMIT or yold mode (you can grab a frame while in TRANSMIT).

## Use

To use the Picture Phone, first place the phone call as you normally would to the other party. The Picture Phone can be on or off at this time, although you'll probably want it on so you can set up your pictures while you're talking. The until will come up in the voice mode when you apply power.

When you're ready to transmit slowscan. grab a frame and inform the party at the other end of the line that you're ready to send video. Then turn the mode switch to transmit and push the picture button. That will disconnect the telephone handset from the line and connect in its place the output of the Picture Phone (you don't want your speech mixing with the slow-scan audio).

Every cight seconds you'll see the picture on your video display blink. That indicates that a frame has been completed. If you're in the manuar mode, the same frame will be repeated; if you're in the automatic mode a new frame will be grabbed. The best time to switch back to voice mode is immediately after the finish of a frame. It's good practice to send more than one frame of each picture. Two are good; three may be better under some conditions.

When it's time for you to be on the receiving end, the other party will. of course. inform you that he or she is about to transmit video. Set the mode switch to receive and press the picture button. The slow-scan image will start forming from top to bottom. and will be complete in eight seconds. If you want to study a picture at leisure, use the hold position. If you do that. any further incoming video will be ignored. and you will be able to watch the same frame for as long as you like.

It may take a little practice to get the hang of using the Picture Phone. but, once you do, your personal and business telephone conversations will become tremendously richer.

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| 5082－7676 | Green | Dverilow $\pm$ 1RHD | 99 | 4／52．49 |
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| 5082.7751 | Red | CA－RHD | 99 | 4／\＄2． |
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SPECIFICATIONS:

## Range: $\quad 20 \mathrm{H}_{\mathbf{z}}$ to 600 MHz

Sensitivity: Less than 10 MY to 150 MHz
Less than 50 MV to 500 MHz
Resolution: 0.1 Hz ( 10 MHz range) $1.0 \mathrm{~Hz}(60 \mathrm{MHz}$ range) 10.0 Hz ( 600 MHz range)

Display: $\quad 9$ digits $0.4^{\prime \prime}$ LED
Time base: $\quad$ Standard $10.000 \mathrm{mHz}, 1.0 \mathrm{ppm} 20-40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ Standard $10.000 \mathrm{mHz} \quad 1.0 \mathrm{ppm} 20-40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.
Optional Micro- power oven-0.1 ppm $20-40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ $8-15$ VAC @ 250 ma

## 7 DIGITS 525 MHz \$99 $\frac{95}{\mathrm{w}}$

## SPECIEICATIONS:

Range: $\quad 20 \mathrm{~Hz}$ to 525 MHz
Sensitivity: Less than 50 MV to 150 MHz Less than 150 MV to 500 MHz
Resolution: $\quad 1.0 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ( 5 MHz range) 10.0 Hz ( 50 MHz range) 100.0 Hz ( 500 MHz range)

Display: $\quad 7$ digits $0.4^{\prime \prime}$ LED
Time base: $\quad 1.0 \mathrm{ppm}$ TCXO $20-40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$
Power. $12 \mathrm{VAC} @ 250$ ma

The CT-70 breaks the price barrier on lab quality frequency counters. Deluxe features such as three frequency ranges - each with pre amplification, dual selectable gate times, and gate activity indication make measurements a snap. The wide frequency range enables you to accurately measure signals from audio thru UHF with 1.0 ppm accuracy - that's $.0001 \%$ ! The CT-70 is the answer to all your measurement needs. in the field lab or ham shack


## PRICES:

CT-70 wired 1 year warranty CT-70 Kit 90 day pars war

AC-1 AC adapter

## 

## 7

DIGITS 500
MHz
$\$ 79 \frac{95}{}$

## WIRED

PRICES:
MINI-100 wired, 1 year warranty
AC-Z Ac adapter for MINI-
100
BP-Z Nicad pack and AC adapter/charger

Here's a handy, general purpose counter that provides most counter functions at an unbelievable price. The MINI- 100 doesn't have the full frequency range or input impedance qualities found in higher price units, but for basic RF signal measurements, it can't be beat Accurate measurements can be made from 1 MHz all the way up to 500 MHz with excellent sensitivity throughout the range, and the two gate times let you select the resolution desired. Add the nicad pack option and the MINI- 100 makes an ideal addition to your tool box for "in-the-field" frequency checks and repairs.

## SPECIFICATIONS:

| SPECIFICATIONS: |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Range: | 1 MHz to 500 MHz |
| Sensitivity: | Less than 25 MV |
| Resolution | 100 Hz (slow gate) |
|  | 1.0 KHz (fast gate) |
| Display: | 7 digits $0.4^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{LED}$ |
| Time base: | $2.0 \mathrm{ppm} \mathrm{20-40}^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ |
| Power. | $5 \mathrm{VDC} @ 200 \mathrm{ma}$ |

## 8 DIGITS 600 MHz \$159 $\frac{95}{\mathrm{w}}$

SPECIFICATIONS:


Resolution:
10.0 Hz ( 600 MHz range)

Display: $\quad 8$ digits $0.4^{\prime \prime}$ LED
Time base: $\quad 2.0 \mathrm{ppm} 20-40^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$
Power. $\quad 110 \mathrm{VAC}$ or 12 VDC

The CT-50 is a versatile lab bench counter that will measure up to 600 MHz with 8 digit precision. And, one of its best features is the Receive Frequency Adapter, which turns the CT-50 into a digital readout for any receiver. The adapter is easily programmed for any receiver and a simple connection to the receiver's VFO is all that is required for use. Adding the receiver adapter in no way limits the operation of the CT-50, the adapter can be conveniently switched on or off. The CT-50, a counter that can work double-duty?

PRICES:
CT-50 wired 1 yearwarranty \$159.95 CT-50 Kit, 90 day parts warranty
19.95 $\begin{array}{lr}\text { RA-1, receiver adapter kit } & 14.95\end{array}$ RA-1 wired and pre-programmed (send copy of receiver schematic)
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## DIGITAL MULTIMETER \$99 $\frac{95}{\text { WIRED }^{\prime}}$



## PRICES:

DM- 700 wired 1 year warranty $\$ 99.95$ DM- 700 Kit, 90 day parts warranty
$\mathrm{AC}-1, \mathrm{AC}$ adaptor $\quad 3.95$
BP-3, Nicad pack +AC
adapter/charger
adapter/charger
MP-1, Probe kit
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The DM-700 offers professional quality performance at a hobbyist price. Features include; 26 different ranges and 5 functions, all arranged in a convenient, easy to use format. Measurements are displayed on a large $31 / 2$ digit, $1 / 2$ inch LED readout with automatic decimal placement, automatic polarity, overrange indication and overload protection up to 1250 volts on all ranges, making it virtually goof-proof? The DM-700 looks great, a handsome, jet black, rugged ABS case with convenient retractable tilt bail makes it an ideal addition to any shop.

## SPECIFICATIONS;

$\overline{\mathrm{DC} / \mathrm{AC}}$ volts: 100 uV to : $\mathrm{KV}, 5$ ranges
DC/AC
current $\quad 0.1$ uA to 2.0 Amps. 5 ranges Resistance. $\quad 0.1$ ohms to 20 Megohms, 6 ranges Input
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| LM301H | . 79 | LM348 | . 99 | NE561 | 19.95 | LM1496 | :85 | CA 3039 | 1.29 | CA 3083 | 1.55 |
| LM307 | . 45 | LM350K | 4.95 | NE564 | 2.95 | LM1558H | 3.10 | CA 3046 | 1.25 | CA 3086 | . 80 |
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| LM309H | 1.95 | LM359 | 1.79 | LM567 | . 89 | LM1830 | 3.50 | CA 3080 | 1.10 | CA 3140 | 1.15 |
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| $16384 \times 1$ | (150ns) |
| $16384 \times 1$ | (120ns) |
| $16384 \times 1$ | (150ns) (5v) |
| $2048 \times 8$ | (300ns) (5v) |
| $65536 \times 1$ | (200ns) (5v) |
| $65536 \times 1$ | (150ns) (5v) |


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| 1691 | 18.95 |
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EPROMS

| 1702 | $256 \times 8$ | (1us) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2708 | $1024 \times 8$ | (450ns) |
| 2758 | $1024 \times 8$ | (450ns) (5v) |
| 2716 | $2048 \times 8$ | (450ns) (5v) |
| 2716-1 | $2048 \times 8$ | (350ns) (5v) |
| TMS2716 | $2048 \times 8$ | (450ns) |
| TMS2532 | $4096 \times 8$ | (450ns) (5v) |
| 2732 | $4096 \times 8$ | (450ns) (5v) |
| 2732-250 | $4096 \times 8$ | (250ns) (5v) |
| 2732-200 | $4096 \times 8$ | (200ns) (5v) |
| 2764 | $8192 \times 8$ | (450ns) (5v) |
| 2764-250 | $8192 \times 8$ | (250ns) (5v) |
| 2764-200 | $8192 \times 8$ | (200ns) (5v) |
| TMS2564 | $8192 \times 8$ | (450ns) (5v) |
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| ${ }^{280 . c 54}$ | 3.95 | ins-8060 | -17.95 |
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