

## TRANSCENDENT 2000 SINGLE BOARD SYNTHESIZER

All kits also available as separate packs (e.g C.B.. component sets, hardware sets, etc) Prices in FREE CATALOGUE

LIVE PERFORMANCE SYNTHESIZER DESIGNED BY CONSULTANT TIM ORR (FORMERLY SYNTHESIZER DESIGNER FOR EMS LIMITED) AND FEATURED AS A
The TRANSCENDENT 2000 is a 3 octave instrument transposable 2 octaves up or down giving an affective 7 octave range. There is portamento, pitch bending, a VCO with shape and pitch modulation, a VCF with both low and high pass outputs and a separate dynamic sweep control, a noise generator and an ADSR envelope shaper There is also a slow oscillator, a new pitch The kit includes fully finished metalwork, fully assembled solid teak precision components to ensure tuning stability amongst its many features. The kit includes fully finished metalwork, fully assembled solid teak cabistors either $2 \%$ metal oxide or $1 / 2 \%$ muality components (all complete - right down to the last nut and bolt and last piece of wire! There is even a 13 A plug in the kit- you need buy absolutely no more parts before plugging in and making great musicl Virtually all the components are on the one professional quality fibreglass PCB printed with component locations. All the controls mount directly on the main board, all connections to the board are made with connector plugs and construction is so simple it can be built easily in a few evenings by almost anyone capable of neat soldering! When finished you will possess a synthesizer comparable in performance and quality with ready-built units selling for many times the price!


## WE'VE MOVED!

NEW FACTORY UP! PRICES DOVN!

Cabinet size $24.6^{\prime \prime} \times 15.7^{\prime \prime} \times 4.8^{\prime \prime}$ (rear) $3.4^{\prime \prime}$ (front)
INCREASED CAPACITY AT OUR BIG NEW FACTORY MEANS MANY PRICES DOWN! ALL OTHERS FROZEN!

## TRANSCENDENT DPX

## DIGITALLY CONTROLLED, TOUCH SENSITIVE, POLYPHONIC, MULTI-VOICE SYNTHESIZER ANOTHER SUPERB DESIGN BY SYNTHESIZER EXPERT TIM ORR - PUBLISHED IN ETI

The Transcendent DPX is a really versatile new 5 octave keyboard instrument. There are two audio outputs which can be used simultaneously. On the first there is a beautiful harpsichord or straightforward piano or a honky tonk piano or even a mixture of the twol Alternatively On the second output there is a wide range of different voices, still fully polyphonic. It can be a keyboard or should you prefer - strings on the top of the keyboard and brass at the lower end the keyboard is electronically split the keyboard or brass over the whole range of the combination of strings and brass sounds simultaneously. And on all voices you can switch in circuitry to make the keyboard sounds - just like an acoustic piano. The digitally controlled multiplexed system makes practical touch sensitivity with the conplox dynal her harder you press down a key the louder it There is a master volume and tone control, a separate control for the brass sounds and al so a vibrato circuit with variable depth control together with a variable delay control so that the vibrato comes in only after waiting a shont time after the note is struck for even more realistic string sounds.



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Electronics Today International is normally published on the first Friday of the month prior to the cover date.

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## 



Choosing the products to advertise each month can be quite a task at AMBIT, since we tend to introduce at least one new line per week. So it is nearly impossible to say all we would like in this space- other than to bring you as far up to date as possible with current events. The major medium for finding out about what we have to offer is our unique catalogue system, and we ask that you invest in a copy of parts $1,2 \& 3$ since many questions we are asked can be readily answered by reference to these.
Each part costs $\mathbf{6 0 p}$, or $\mathbf{£ 1 . 6 0}$ for all three current editions.
We are also launching a new and greatly elongated version of our PRICE LIST, which now includes a large number of quantity listings, and many items not previously listed. The new style price list is a quick reference short form to our general catalogues - available FOC with a large (A4) SAE please.
As a result of the soaring price of oil - and the subsequent huge increases in the cost of wax for Mr Tom Jackson's famous moustache, the Post Office have increased their charges (Feb. 4th). Accordingly, our standard cover charge has been increased to 35 p per order (CWO).

## COMPDOTA1IF

DIGITAL FREQUENCY READOUTS / SYNTHESISER SYSTEMS
Ambit has the biggest range of digital frequency readout systems for various applications in Broadcast and Communications. Prices range from $£ 18.50$ for a complete AM/FM broadcast frequency display (kit of DFM2). Most are detailed in the latest catalogue.
TUNING SYNTHESIZERS are also heavily featured, and we offer our first complete system covering MW/LW/ SW2 and FM based on Hitachi parts. The unit is retrofittable to voltage tuned radio systems - and will shortly be incorp orated in a complete tuner project. Cost for the synthesiser will be circa $\mathbf{£ 4 0}$ A versatile communications system based on the new Mullard 2 IC system is nearing completion, together with 16 station CMOS memory and optical shaft encoder system with fast tune facility. Synthesiser circa $£ 70$, memory $£ 50$.

Latest semiconductor news:
CMOS. TTL and LPSN TTI. are in stock (ask for our OSTS price leaflet). Some of the very popular types are still "difficult" but we have things like 4011s, 4017s at the time of writing.
RADIO ICs
HA12412 - - -interesting developments here, we now have the Hitachi HA11225 and the HA12412 ultra high specification members of the CA3089E family. The PLESSEY SL1600 CA3089E $\begin{array}{llllllllll}\text { CA3 } & \text { 2.11 } & \text { HA1197 } & \mathbf{1 . 6 1} & \text { SD6000 } & \mathbf{4 . 3 1} & \text { SL } 1610 & 1.84 & \text { SL1626 } & 2.80\end{array}$

 $\begin{array}{llllllllll}\text { HA11225 } & 2.47 & \text { TBA } 651 & 2.53 & \text { MC1350P } & 1.38 & \text { SL1612 } & \text { SL1613 } & 2.17 & \text { SL } 1640 \\ \text { HA12412 } & 2.1641 & 2.17\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{lllllllll}\text { HA112412 } & 2.81 & \text { TDA1090 } & 3.51 & \text { KB4412 } & 2.24 & \text { SL 1620 } & 2.50 & \text { SL6600 } \\ \text { KB4420 } & 1.95 & \text { TDA1220 } & 1.61 & \text { KB4413 } & 2.24 & \text { SL1623 } & 2.80 & \text { SL6640 }\end{array}$ |  | TBA120S | 1.15 | TDA1083 | 2.24 | KB4417 | 2.24 | SL 1623 | 2.80 | SL6640 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| TB | SL.16 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| KB4406 | 0.80 | TDA1062 | 2.24 | MC3357P | 3.16 | SL 1625 | 2.50 | MC1496 | 1.68 |

TRANSISTORS : New tower prices, wider range, large stocks. Also the world's lowest noise
audio devices (2SC2546E and 2SA OO84E) first from AMBIT of course. Power MOSFETs $\&$ audio devices (2SC2546E and 2SA1084E) first from AMBIT of course. Power MOSFETs \&
all sorts of other devices. Our 3SK51 MOSFET replaces the $408 \times X$ and 40673 families.

 $\begin{array}{lllllllll}\text { BC307.8-9 } & 0.092 & \text { 2SAB72A } & 0.207 & \text { 2SC2547E } & 0.391 & \text { 2SK55 } & 0.368 & \text { BF224 }\end{array} 0.0 .253$ \begin{tabular}{lllllllll}
BC413.5 \& 0.115 \& 2SD666A \& 0.345 \& 2SA $1085 E$ \& 0.391 \& 2SK 168 \& 0.402 \& BF 274 <br>
\hline

 

BD414.6 \& 0.126 \& $2 S B 646 A$ \& 0.345 \& $2 S K 133$ \& 6.32 \& $3 S K 51$ \& 0.62 \& BFT95 <br>
BC546-556 \& 0.138 \& $13 S D 760$ \& 0.52 \& $2 S J 48$ \& 6.32 \& $3 S K 60$ \& 0.667 \& VNG6AF <br>
\hline

 

BC546-556 \& 0.138 \& 2SD760 \& 0.52 \& 2SJ48 \& 6.32 \& $3 S K 60$ \& 0.667 \& VN66AF <br>
BC550.560 \& 0.138 \& 2SB720 \& 0.52 \& 2SK135 \& 7.29 \& BF960 \& 1.426 \& $2 N 4427$ <br>
\hline
\end{tabular} $\begin{array}{lllllllll} & \text { BC550.560 } & 0.138 & \text { 2SB720 } & 0.52 & \text { 2SK135 } & 7.29 & \text { BF960 } & 1.426 \\ \text { RN4427 } & 0.977 \\ \text { BC639-640 } & 0.265 & \text { 2SC2546E } & 0.368 & \text { 2SJ50 } & 7.29 & \text { 3SK48 } & 1.426 & \text { J176 }\end{array}$

RADIO CONTROL: A special section for all RC fans. Nêw and exciting stuff KB4445/KB4446; complete 4 channel RX/TX dig.prop IC pair RF\& control in one 4.75pr
MSL9362/MSL9363 : logic section of a four channel dig.prop link, with switch opt 3.75 pr MSL9362/MSL9363: logic section of a four channel dig.prop link, with switch opt. 3.75pr NE5044: Signetics versatile 7 channel encoder, suitable for mixing etc. $£ 2.14$ ea
NE544 Signetics famous servo driver IC $£ 207$ MC3357P as NE544 Signeties famous servo driver IC £2.07 MC3357P as used in RCME design £3.16 ea
AMBIT RCRX4. RCME FM system compatible, complete RX kit with box/conector AMBIT RCRX4. RCME FM system compatible, complete RX kit with box/connector and AMBIT design screened front end with 27 MHz ceramic filter $\mathbf{E} 16.10$ \{kit) AM pairs $£ 3.57$ (no splits. Both 3 rd OT types,

The new MK III FM tuner sitting under the Dorchester multiband $A M / F M$ tuner Revisions ro the Mark III include at centre zero
funing indicatar meter tuming indicator meter and sifent
presel preset
switching

New 944378-2, the last word in stereo decoders with the KB4437/4438.


MODULE NEWS
We are at last able to quote for quantities of our modules, following a program of standardization and revision to speed manufacture and test. The following types are the results of the standardization program
UM1181 5 varicap MOSFET input VHF band 2 tunerhtad $£ 12.00$ inc 911225 A High Performance FM IF system, with switched BW $£ 23.95 \mathrm{inc}$ 911225 B Single BW filters, single tuned detector 91072 A DC tuned and single pole switched MW LW tuner f14.43 inc 91072 B As type ' A' but with etther SW1 or SW2 band $\quad$ f 15.90 inc 92242 A Combined LW/MW tuner, with FM IF detector section $£ 29.00$ inc $92242 \mathrm{~B} \quad$ As 92242 A but with $5 \cdot 10 \mathrm{MHz}$ SW section $£ 34.00$ inc All are supplied housed in screened metal cases $97 \times 56 \times 24 \mathrm{~mm}$, with all connections along a single edge, suitable for verticle or horizontal mounting.
Previously advertized units are still available . although there may have been some price changes in the latest edition of the Price List (Date Feb 80 . A separatte leaflet covering the new range of modules is avalable from April 80 , with an A4 SAE please.

NEW LINE: ALPS switches and rotary potentiometers With a general catalogue that's over 3 inches thick, we cannot begin to offer a comprehensive list of what we can offer. but we are already stocking the keyboard switches, keyswitches, pushbutton switches etc. In particular, the
pushbutton switches really put all others in the shade (schatow?) when it comes to quality and pushbution switches really put all others in the shade (schatow?) when it comes to quality and
price. A special new shortform is being prepared (and may be ready when you read this). All the potentiometers and switches you could ever need from a single source Keypad switches cost as little as 15 p ea ( 1 off ), with a range of two part caps for easy ledgending. You must see the shortform catalogue (30p) and our new pricelist for full details of this huge range of components


AMBIT SHOP NOW OPEN
Keyboard switch
Keyboard swir
We are gradually getting our caller sales area sorted ou
with displays of the products on ofter and a browsers
Typ 6 m ops
23p each (1.24) corner to sit and study data/catalogues. Call in next time you are in the area - parking outside the door.
COMPUTER CAPABILITIES
Ambit has been keeping a low protile on the subject of the MPU and its applications. Interestingly enough. the more in the way of processing than simply playing daft game, or looking likessing an enormous calculatar. Out MPU tacility and expertise is now for hire on a tulty
 commercial basis. 280. $6800,6809,2650$ etc.



GENERAL INFORMATION Ambit stocks the following ranges of components for ex-stock volume delivery: SIGNAL COILS, CERAMIIC,
MECHANICAL and CRYSTAL FILTERS RADIO ICs MECRANICAL
for AM $/ \mathrm{FM} / \mathrm{SSB}$, TOROID CORES FOR RADIO ICs EMI FILTER CIRCUITS. INDICATING AND PANEL METERS. AUDIO ICs. RF TRANSISTORS, FETS. MOSFETS, DIODES (PIN,VARICAP.SCHOTTKY), PASSIVE DBM1s (like MO108 etc). IC SOCKETS, LEDS. TRIMMER CAPS, SWITCHES, KEYBOARD SWITCHES, TUNERHEADS, IF AMPS, AM RADIO
MODULES, etc etc

NEW LINE : DVM176 - the definitive ICM7106 LCD DVM module. $3^{1}$. digit $£ 22.37$ ea. CM161: LCD $12 / 24 \mathrm{hr}$ alarm clock/dav/date/backlight (eq. RS 308.499 ) 7 mm digits $£ 11.44$ each CM174: LCD 12 hr alarm clock/stopwatch/backlight with 30 mm height digits $\quad \mathbf{~} 14.32$ eacl)


## WATFORD ELECTRONICS

THE DIGITAL FREQUENCY METER with a Difference

$0-150 \mathrm{MHz}$ in 5 ranges. Large 8-digit display for high accuracy Period and time interval facility. Unit counter up to 99,999,999 10 MHz crystal timebase
Hold and reset buttons plus built-in PSU.
A. : ese features and more for less than half the price of an ordinary frequency meter. The JFit2COC -as al is components including the displays, switches and transformer mounted ane asere siced poard. Assembly is simplicity itself especially since interwiring has teauency -eterthat any constructor will be proud to own.


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date with the world's finest
electronic kits--with the new Heathkit catalogue. 48 product packed pages contain photographs and specifications of the widest possible range of kits. Everything from doorbells to digital clocks, multimeters to microcomputers.

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| :---: | :---: |
|  |  |

# DIGEST 

## Sony Screen Machine

0ne of the more significant product releases this month was the new Sony C7 video recorder. It has several features which mark it out as the best design yet for home usage. Although Sony themselves placed great emphasis upon the solenoid controls and IR Control System these will bring little more than a yawn to the lips of anyone with the faintest claim to technical knowledge.

Of far greater interest will be the superbly conceived set-up procedure (under MPU control) and the versatile times.

Tuning in most VCRs is both time consuming and patience destroying. The C7, once locked to the set with a panel control, will automatically search the band looking for stations and load any it finds into pre-set locations for easy user access.
(It's about time someone did something like this anyway). Curious too ils the lack of eulogy over the pilcture quality which far outstripped its competitors, being all but indistinguish-

broadcast. Some new features are provided to help use this, however, like a picture search mode which will accelerate the tape, in vision with the sound
off, to twenty times normal speed. Finding the exact spot you seek is thus facilitated. Freeze frame and slow-motion are also lurking in the circuilts.

The C7 will sell for lîttle more than present machinery and is far more refined in several important areas. Should do well.


## Universal <br> Test Socket

FI have developed a new test socket called the Textool GRID ZIP. It can be either PCB mounted or fixed to front panels using mounting screws. The makers claim an operating life of greater than 25,000 insertions, and one economy feature is the ability to mount more than one device - per socket plate, and spare plates can be supplied to increase the utility of the socket.

You can use this test socket with any standard or non-standard device if the leads fit within a $14 \times 21$ grid (on $0.1^{\prime \prime}$ lead centres). The socket consists of a top plate with guide indentations on a 0.1 " grid, a camplate to provide the Zero Insertions

Pressure clamping operation and a base plate holding the plated beryllium copper contacts. So, once the top plate has been drilled to take the device leads, contacts are placed in the desired locations in the base plate and the cam assembly is dropped onto them. The resulting 'sandwich' is held together by eight screws running through the edges. In use this means that a device is simply dropped onto the pre-drilled holes and the clamping lever is flicked down to clamp the contacts onto the device leads, so no strain is put onto the device and good electrical contact is ensured, this in turn means extended contact life. Average contact resistance is less than 0.005 ohms. In a production situation, incorrect insertions are virtually eliminated as there is only one set of socket holes.

Micro-Data Systems' 3 digit panel meter combines economy with high performance. Accuracy is $0.05 \%$ with resolution to 100 uV and the scale allows four digit resolution of quantities up to 4,000 , rather than the 2,000 to which other units are limited. A 5 volt supply is required. The naked PCB construction incorporates a red filter, enabling direct panel mounting without the need for a separate bezel. Prices are from $£ 19.95$ (one off) down to $£ 14.95$ each, if you can find a use for fifty of them.

Further details from Micro-Data Systems, Office Suite 1, Coach Mews, The Broadway, St. Ives, Huntingdon, Cambs PE17 4BN.


## Technical Queries

Ae've had an impassioned plea from our automatic telephone answering machine (our receptionist) about an item which we published some time ago in Digest. Although we have suspended our telephone answering service for ETI technical queries, we are still receiving a number
of calls every day from readers asking for technical help. Our receptionist is unable to accept these calls.

Unfortunately we are unable to answer technical questions by telephone. If you are having problems with an ETI project, please write with full details and enclosing a stamped, addressed envelope.

## CHROMATHEQUE 5000



## 5 CHANNEL LIGHTING EFFECTS SYSTEM

 COMPLETE KIT ONLYPand size $19.0^{\prime \prime} \times 3.5^{\prime \prime}$. Depth $7.3^{\prime \prime}$
This wersatile system featured as a constructional article in ELECTRONICS TODAY INTERNATIONAL has 5 frequency channels with individual level controls on each channel. Control of the lights is comprehensive to say the least. You can run the unit ás a straightforward sound-to-light or have it strobe all the lights at a speed dependent upon music level or front panel contro or use the internal digital circuitry which produces some superb random and sequencing effects. Each channel handles up to 500 W and as the kit is a single board design wiring is minima and construction very straightforward.
Kit includes fully finished metalwork, fibreglass PCB controls, wire, etc. - Complete right down to the last nut and bolt


DE LUXE EASY TO BUILD LINSLEY HOOD 75W STEREO AMPLIFIER £99.30 + VAT

This easy to build version of our world-wide acclaimed 75 W amplifier kit based upon circuir boards interconnected with gold plated contacts resulting in minimal wiring and construction features include rumble filter, variable scratch filter versatile tone controls and tap monitoring whilst dis monitoring whilst distortion is less than $0.01 \%$


T20 + 20 20W STEREO AMPLIFIER $£ 33.10$ +VAT
This kit, based upon a design published in Practical Wireless, uses a single printed circuit board and offers at very low cost, ease of construction and all the normal facilities found on quality amplifiers. A 30 -watt version of this kit $(T 30+30)$ is also available for $£ 38.40+$ VAT

Above 2 kits are supplied with fully finished metal
and CASSETTE DECK - see our free catalogue

# BLACK <br> <br> THIS MONTH'S <br> <br> THIS MONTH'S FRONT COVER FEATURE! 

 FRONT COVER FEATURE!} NOCS

The BLACK HOLE designed by Tim Orr, is a powerful new musical effects device for processing both natural and electronic instruments, offering genuine VIBRATO (pitch modulation) and a CHORUS mode which gives a spacey eel to the sound achieved by delaying the input signal and mixing it back with the original. Notches (HOLES), introduced in the frequency response, move up and down as the time delay is modulad by fore fis .ith for A. bained by an audio compander and is mains powered - wo bateries to change! Like all our kits everything is obtained by an audio compander and is mains powered - no batteries to change! Like all our kits everything is

COMPLETE KIT ONLY £49.80 + VAT (single delay line system)
De Luxe version (dual delay line system) als available for $\mathbf{£ 5 9 . 8 0}+$ VAT

## MPA 200100 WATT (rms into 8 $\Omega$ ) MIXER / AMPLIFIER

Featured as a constructional article in ETI, the MPA 200is an exceptionally low priced - but professionally finished - general purpose high power amplifier. It features adaptable input mixe which accepts a wider range of sources such as microphone: guitar.
The kit includes fully finished metalwork, fibreglass PCBs, controls, wire; etc. - complete down to the last nut and bolt.


Panel size $19.0^{\prime \prime} \times 3.5^{\prime \prime}$. Depth 7.3"
COMPLETE KIT
ONLY
$\mathbf{£ 4 9 . 9 0 ~ + ~ V A T ! ~}$

MATCHES THE CHROMATHEQUE 5000 PERFECTLY!

PRICE STABILITY: Order with confidence. Irrespective of any price changes we will honour all prices in this advertisement until July 31 st, 1980 , if this month' advertisement is mentioned with your order. Errors and VAT rate changes excluded EXPORT ORDERS: No VAT. Postage charged at actual cost plus $£ 1$ handling and documentation
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SECURICOR DELIVERY: For this optional service (U.K. mainland only) add $£ 2.50$ (VAT inclusive) per kit.
SALES COUNTE R: If you prefer to collect kit from the factory, call at Sales Counter, Open 9 a.m. 12 noon, 1-4.30 p.m. Monday-Thursday

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## POWERTRAN ELECTRONICS

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# Your Commodore PETSystem The Commodore PET is Britain's best selling microcomputer and the most popular choice in every field:* In Education for teaching Computer Science and as a teaching aid for other sulyects. 

 * In Science and Engineering for solving problems and for monitoring laboratory equipment. * In Business the PET system can be put to a wide range offunctions including Payroll, can be put to a wide range of
functions including layroll, Accounting, Statistical Analysis, Stock Control and Word Processing.

## A SELF: CONTAINED MICRO COMPUTER FROM £550.



Not least of its attractions is the price of a PET - from $£ 550$ for a self contained unit, to under $£ 2.500$ for the complete system including Floppy Disk Unit and high-speed Printer. Ask your nearest Commodore dealer below for details about Commodore hardware, soltware and training courses.

ion of Ford motor cars and integrated circuit production. The graphs clearly show that production costs are related to the accumulated experience. I would imagine this can be repeated using a host of other products, washing machines for example, which offer a similar picture.

## Making Bubbles

The accumulated expertise of chip manufacturers has been most significant in solid state memories with the rapid development of random-access and read only memories, charged-coupled devices and magnetic-bubble memories. Storage capacities of memory devices will continue to increase through 1980. However, an end is in sight to the straight-line growth curve of semiconductor memory densities. Instead of memory capacity doubling every two years this will stretch out to three and four years now that the limits of optical lithographhy are under pressure.

One of the most exciting developments which has been progressing quietly during the past few years is bubble memories. Already announcements are being made of quarter-million-bit bubble memories which could be followed by a megabit device this year and then a 4 megabit memory in the mid 1980's. Bubbles will soon begin to encroach on markets now dominated by the other technologies. With the larger storage densities and the non-volatile memory, this means data can be retrieved even after power loss. Bubble memories occupy less space than either semiconductor memories or floppy discs for the same storage capacity. Access times are in milliseconds which is comparable to other magnetic storage devices but very much slower than semicondecior memories.

At present bubble devices cannot provide portable storage which means a chip cannot be removed and filed away then later plugged into another system. With present costs and performance characteristics, magnetic bubbles seem to pose the biggest threat to storage systems between 300,000 and 3 million bits of data storage. They will threaten the lower end of the tape cassette, floppy disc and fixed-head disc markets. The fabrication and operation of bubble devices was for a long time quite a mystery to me which has prompted me to write about them. It is almost as difficult to accept as the holes theory was when learning about transistors.

Most magnetic bubble memories use a magnetic garnet crystal grown on a non-magnetic substrate. When no magnetic field is applied to the magnetic garnet film, domains in the thin film form serpentine patterns of upward (positive) and downward (negative) magnetization. It is possible to actually see the magnetic patterns using red light and polarising microscope, which greatly simplifies development work. When a magnetic field is applied by sandwiching the chip between two permanent magnets, the magnetic bias expands domains in the bias direction and shrinks those polarised in the opposite direction. At a certain field strength, the serpentine patterns shrink to small cylindrical magnetic domains or 'bubbles'. Typical bubble diameters range from 2 to 30 micrometers determined by the material and the bias.


Fig.2(a). serpentine patterns occur naturally in the crystal.
(b) the bubbles form from domains when a bias is applied, from a permanent magnet.
(c) the bubbles move around under the chevrons when a rotating field is applied.


PHOTO 2 (top): the channel following metal deposition.
PHOTO 3 (above): breakdown! The overhang has collapsed.

In memory or logic devices the bubbles can be used to represent data, since the presence of a bubble can signify a binary 1 and the absence of a bubble can signify a binary 0 . Bubbles can be generated by altering the bias field with a current pulse through a small conductive loop deposited on the chip. The current pulse produces a magnetic field opposite to that of a bias field thus producing a new bubble. Conversely, bubbles can be annihilated by applying a local field in a direction aiding the bias field. New techiques in magnetic bubble technology will eliminate the bulky field coils and permalloy layer by using a pair of conducting layers instead of magnets to move the bubbles. These and other improvements will further reduce the size, weight and manufacturing cost of bubble memories and will also speed data flow and increase bit densities.

ETI

## TRANDAA

## COMPONENTS AND SYSTEMS FROM TRANSAM COMPUTERS

## ${ }^{\bullet}$ CP/M <br> - BASIC <br> -PASCAL <br> TRITON <br> COMPUTER

TRITON IS IMPRESSIVE!
PRACTICAL COMPUTING REVIEW DEC. 79.


SYSTEM.
Designed for ease of construction and flexibility. Kits come complete and all components and software are available separately. UK designed and supported. Fully documented hardware and software and a totally flexible approach to system building. Powerful and easy to use system monitors - a range of languages available. Firmware is Eprom based and upgrading from one level to the next is easy.

- L5.2 with 1.5 k monitor 2 k basic $\mathbf{£ 2 9 4}$ L7. 2 with 2 k monitor 8 k extended basic
- 18.24 k ed/monitor 20 k res Pascal $\mathbf{6 4 1 1}$
- $192 \mathrm{CP} / \mathrm{M}$ disc based system p.o.a.
- 8k Ram Card Kit (21141) P.o.e. - 8k Eprom Cards (Excl 8×2708) £31 - Motherboard Expansion 8 slot $\mathbf{£ 5 0}$ - Trap-Res Assm/Edit etc ( $8 \times 2708$ ) $\mathbf{£ 8 0}$ - Transam BD80 81-Dir Printer $\mathbf{£ 5 9 5}$ - TVMIO Video Monitor $9^{\prime \prime} \quad £ 79$ - Eprom Prog (2708) kit $£ 29.50$ SEND FOR OUR CATALOGUE FOR FUL DETAILS OF TRITON FEATURES!


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## Simple Ten Watt Amplifier <br> \author{ A Hiley, Woking. 

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is accurate to 1 bB ; signal to noise ratio is 70 dB relative to 3.5 mV . distortion $<005 \%$ at 30 dB overload 20 kHz .
Following the stage us the flat gain/balance stage to bring tape, tuner, etc up to power amp.
Signal to noise ratio 86 dB ; slew-rate $3 V /$ US: TH.D. $20 \mathrm{~Hz}-20 \mathrm{kHz}<0089$ at Signal to noise ratio 86dB; slew -rate $3 V /$ US: T.H.D. $20 \mathrm{~Hz}-20 \mathrm{kzz}<008 \%$ at any level. FE. Y
muting. No controls are tithed. There is no provision tor tone controls CPR 1 size is $138 \times 80 \times$ 20 mm . Supply to be $\pm 15$ volts.

MC 1 - PRE-PRE-AM PLIFIER. Suitable for neariv all moving -coil cartridges. Send for details X02: X03 - ACTIVE CROSSOVERS. X02 - two way, X03 - three way Slope 24 dB /octave 1 and MC. 1. It can be used with any of our power amp supplies or our small transformer TR 6 . The

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elevated temperatures. Other improvements to the circuitry have improved the subjective qualities elevated temperatures. Other improvements to the cire
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$033 \mathrm{mf} 3.3 \mathrm{p}, .047 \mathrm{mf} 3.5 \mathrm{p}, 15, .22,33,47 \mathrm{~m}$ 4.9p. Polystyrene capacitors $\mathrm{E} 1263 \mathrm{~V}: 0$ :
1000 pt 3 p . n 2 io 10 n 4 p . Ceramic capacitor 50 V E 22 pt to 47 n 2 p . Electrolytic capacitor
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S-DECS AND T-DEGS


## Memory Test-T159 <br> JK Porter, Gravesend.

The game is basically a test of mental agility and determines how many digits the player can successfully retain in his memory, whilst having to do deductive thinking at the same time. Because you can pre-set the level of difficulty, the game is suitable for all ages, and at its upper skill level it is very difficult indeed.

A series of numbers will be shown, each being displayed for about one second. This is an example:

### 0.7849

The numbers to watch are the first three digits of the mantissa, that is, the $7,8 \& 4$. Deduce the number's highest digit, and remeber it. In this case, it is the 8 , since you ignore the last digit. If, as in 0.5884 , the highest digit occurs twice, only remember it once. Do this for all the numbers flashed at you, (determined by the number you place in Memory 0 at the beginning of the game). So, if you choose to have 6 numbers displayed, you will eventually remember 6 digits. When the program stops, multiply all these digits together. By subtracting the number now in Memory 4, you can see how far you are, and if too high, or too low. (Positive number, too high; negative number, too low).

| PROCEDURE |  |  | 14 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | 15 |
| 1. LRN. Key in program. LRN. RST. |  |  | 16 |
| 2. 2nd FIX 4. |  |  | 17 |
| 3. ISTO 4. |  |  | 18 |
| 4. Quantity of numbers you wish to be |  |  | 19 |
| shown, e.g. 6 STO 0, You will be shown |  |  | 20 |
| 6 numbers. |  |  | 21 |
| 5. Key in all-decimal number, e.g. |  |  | 22 |
| $0.675432 . \mathrm{R} / \mathrm{S}$. |  |  | 23 |
| 6. Game runs. |  |  | 24 |
| 7. When program halts, multiply together |  |  | 25 |
| the requisite digits. Subtract from this the |  |  | 26 |
| quantity held in Memory 4 to find the |  |  | 27 |
|  |  |  | 28 |
| 8. Continue from 3. |  |  | 29 |
|  |  |  | 30 |
|  |  |  | 31 |
| LOC | CODE | KEY | 32 |
|  |  |  | 33 |
|  |  |  | 34 |
| 00 | 346 | SUM 6 | 35 |
| 01 | 336 | RCL 6 | 36 |
| 02 | 35 | Yx | 37 |
| 03 | 30 | 2nd $\pi$ | 38 |
| 04 | 85 |  | 39 |
| 05 | -35 | INV Yx | 40 |
| 06 | 05 | 5 | 41 |
| 07 | 85 | $=$ | 42 |
| 08 | -49 | INV 2nd INT | 43 |
| 09 | 36 | 2nd PAUSE | 44 |
| 10 | 346 | SUM 6 | 45 |
| 11 | 610 | SBR 0 | 46 |
| 12 | 321 | STO 1 | 47 |
| 13 | 611 | SBR 1 | 48 |


| 322 | STO 2 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 611 | SBR 1 |
| 323 | STO 3 |
| 331 | RCL 1 |
| 22 | $\times \mathrm{t}$ |
| 332 | RCL 22 |
| 76 | 2nd $\mathrm{x} \geqslant \mathrm{t}$ |
| 22 | x t |
| 333 | RCL 3 |
| 76 | 2nd $\mathrm{x} \geqslant \mathrm{t}$ |
| 515 | GTO 5 |
| 337 | RCL 7 |
| 394 | 2nd PRD 4 |
| 516 | GTO 6 |
| 865 | 2nd LBL 5 |
| 394 | 2nd PRD 4 |
| 866 | 2nd LBL 6 |
| 56 | 2nd DSZ |
| 71 | RST |
| 00 | 0 |
| 81 | R/S |
| 71 | RST |
| 860 | 2nd LBL 0 |
| 55 | X |
| 01 | 1 |
| 00 | 0 |
| 85 | $=$ |
| 325 | STO 5 |
| 49 | 2nd INT |
| -61 | INV SBR |
| 861 | 2nd LBL 1 |
| 335 | RCL 5 |
| -49 | INV 2nd INT |
| 610 | SBR 0 |
| -61 | INV SBR |

## Cascade Timer

## P R G Reynoids, Benfleet.

This device will give timing periods in excess of one hour, using the minimum of external components, together with an inexpensive CMOS integrated circuit. The high input impedance of CMOS circuits is used to provide two cascaded timing networks. Network RV1-C1-R1 gives a variable time delay before sending output 1 low. This output is buffered and inverted, before initiating the timing sequence associated with the second network, R2-C2. Output 2 is again fed to the second buffer before connection to an output display via Q1. A flashing display was chosen in this case for two reasons. First, to conserve current in an already economical circuit. Second, a flashing display is more immediately noticeable. However, there is no reason why an alternative display should not be used.


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## Electronic Roulette <br> AC Dickens, Leicester.

The advantage of this design over ten number versions, is that all 37 numbers are catered for, as in a conventional game, and the electronic circuit remains cheap and simple.

Initially, when PB1 is depressed, C1 charges via R1. The voltage on IC1 pin 7 rises, causing IC1 to start generating pulses which rapidly increase in frequency. IC2 \& IC3 are decade counters, arranged so that each one of the 36 red LEDs in the matrix is illuminated in turn. The gates of 1 C 5 are arranged so that $D$, (which is green in my circuit) is illuminated after D , and followed by $D_{1}$. Hence an apparent cir-
cular motion is generated. After the 'wheel' has been spun, PB1 is released. C1 now discharges via R2 and R3, so that the 'wheel' apparently slows down and then stops at one of the 37 numbers, each of which has an equal probability of occuring. The running time, and speed of 'revolution' can easily be altered by changing the value(s) of appropriate capacitor(s) or resistor(s).

## Cassette Tape Preamp R Willis, Felsted.

Preamp circuits utilising the LM382 lownoise preamp chip have been used in ETI before. However, when using them in conjunction with a cassette player the results can be disappointing as the cassette equalisation was to $N A B$ standards.

This circuit is equalised for the Philips cassette system and will provide a high quality output of about 100 to 200 mV when driven from a stereo tape head.

The circuit will work on supply voltages from +10 V to +40 V , taking about 10 mA and is suitable for industrial, PA , do-
mestic, portable and automatic application. In operation R1-C1 and R3-C11 proyide RF immunity. R2-C4 and C15-C16 provide the 120 uS time constant. C3-C5-

C12-C14 decouple the internal feedback loop of the IC and C8 decouples the supply line. C1-C8-C10-C17 AC couple the input and output screened wires.



## Calculating Casio

TThis is a slightly butcher than usual scientific calculator/ chronograph from Casio measuring $6.6 \mathrm{mmH} \times 70 \mathrm{mmW} \times 129$ mmD. Its electronic buzzer will give hours of amusement to its proud owner as it can be used with its alarm, two countdown alarms, or hourly time signal and boy, îs it loud! Not only that, but this fine piece of technology has a calendar indicatïng year, month, date and day wilth a programmed range from March 1 st 1976 to December 31st 1999, if they don't make you obsolete by then "That's all very well", you cry, "but what does it actuallydo?" Well, 46 scientific functions include. 4 basic calculations, constants for $+|-|x| \div 1$ $x^{y} / x^{1 / y}$, parenthesis calculations up to five levels, accumulation to the memory, fraction calculations, percentage calculations, statistical calculations, obtaining standard deviation sexagesimal to
decimal conversion, trigonometric/inverse trigonometric functions, hyperbolic/inverse hyperbolic functions, common and natural logs, exponentiations (antilogarithms, exponentials, powers and roots), squares, square roots, cube roots, reciprocals, factorials, conversion of coordinate system, sign change, register exchange, Pi entry and scientific notation. (Phew)

But that's not all - capacity for entry or basic calculations is 8 -dilgit mantissa, or 8 -digit mantissa plus 2 -digit exponent up to $10^{ \pm 99}$. Fraction calculation capacilty is maximum 3-digit mantissa for each integer, numerator or denominator and at the same time maximum 6-digit mantissa for the sum of each part. All this from its one little chip: C-MOS-LSI crystal oscillator. Amazing isn't it? But not quite as amazing as the 144 -page instruction book that tells you how to make it do all these things. The normal price is $£ 27.95$, or $£ 24.95$ from Tempus.

## Third Hand

H
Jave you ever wished, whilst fiddling with your circuitry, that your hands didn't act like a bunch of sausages? Well, Telpro have produced an aid for the harrassed electronics handyman in the form of the Multi-Purpose Work Holder. One side has a series of holes for gripping objects from 1 mm in diameter (component leads, etc) to 20 mm in diameter. The reverse side is serrated to hold flat objects such as circuit boards. A spring loaded knob allows the clamp pressure to be varied.

The clamp is mounted on a universal joint allowing $360^{\circ}$ rotation and $180^{\circ}$ tilt from vertical to horizontal and can be locked in any position. The clamp is detachable from its metal stand which has sucker feet, so that an alternative stand for fitting to a bench vice can be used. This is available: as an optional extra. Metal and nylon jaws are supplied with the holder as standard.

So gone are the days of squashing things and dropping them just as you're getting the wire onto the pin. . . . blast! it slipped out of my fingers.


## Stripping News

AB Engineering has produced a Anew wire stripper and cutter based on their popular AB MK 100 and called the MK 001. It has an improved locking device and features a knurled knob

## MEMorable Big Brother

MEM are to launch two new programmable logic controllers for controlling automatic machinery. Memaster 500 can handle no less than 512 channels and can store up to 4096 logic instructions. If your system requires more than that, doubling the memory capacity is possible at relatively low cost. If your control requirements are a little more modest the smaller Memaster 80 system may be what you need.
adjustment to control stripping depth, a retaining clip to keep it closed and a curved cutting edge for clean wire cutting. The price is $£ 1.85$ and further details of this and the company's large range of tools are available from: AB Engineering Company, Timber Lane, Woburn, Beds. MK179PL.

Memaster 500 is rather unusual in that it incorporates a digital input filtering system and a timer and counter unit with direct manual adjustment. The controller fits into a standard rack mounting system. Modular design makes for easy servicing. The controlling program can be tested in slow motion and, if necessary, printed out or burned permanently into UVEPROM (ultraviolet erasable PROM).

You can get further details of this sophisticated new PLC system from MEM Electronics Division, Regency House, 101 Hagley Road, Birmingham B16 8LA.


## NEW <br> 12＋12 AMPLIFIER KIT <br> An opportunity to build vour own 12 watts per channel stereo amplitier with up－to．the－minute features．To completa you just supply screws connecting wire and solder．Features include din input sockets for ceramic cartridge，microphone．tape or tuner．Dutputs－taps speaker ceramic cartridge，microphone．tape or tuner．Dutputs－tape，speakers an headphones．By the press of a burion it transforms into a 24 watt mong headphones．By the press of a bution it transforms into a 24 watt mona disco amplifier with twin deck mixing．The ket incorporates a Muflard LP1 183 pre－amp rodule．plus ？power amplitier assembly kits．Also featured 4 slider leve！controis．rotary bass and treble controls and 6 push button switches．Siver finish fascia p onel with matching knobs Easy to assemble teak simulate cabinel and ready made metal work．For furth  TWO WAY SPEAKER KIT To suit above amp．Comprising 2. $8 "$ approx Phillips base unit，and $2,3 h^{\prime \prime}$ approx tweeters with 2 crossover capacitors f 4.95 p\＆ep f 1.65 ， crossover tapacitors $\mathbf{f 4 . 9 5}$ p $\& \mathrm{p}$ f 1.65 ． <br> Available only to first time purchasers of the $12+12$ kit．

50 WATT MONO

## DISCO AMP

f 30.60

## p\＆p $\{3.20$

Size approx $133 / \%^{\prime \prime} \times 544^{\prime \prime} \times 674$
50 watts rms． 100 watts peak output．Big features include two disc inputs both for ceramic canridges，tape input and mictophone input．Level mixing controls fitted with infegral push－pulf switches．Independent bass and treble controis and master volume．

$30+30$ WATT STEREO AMPLIFIER Viscount IV unit in teak simulate cabinet Silver finish rotary conirals and
pushburnens pushoutions with matching lascia，red mains indicator and ste ro jack socket．
Functions swith for mic magnetic and crystal pickugs，lape euner and auxilan Hear panel teatures luse holder．OiN speaker and input socket $30+30$ watts AMS $60+60$ watts peak for use with 4 to 8 ohm speakers．？$?$
Size 143 ＂$\times 3^{\prime \prime} \times 10^{\prime \prime}$ approx．
BUILTAND READY TO PLAY p\＆p $[3.30$ Hes

$\mathbf{5 7 6 . 0 0}{ }_{\substack{\text { p8p } \\ \text { f．00 }}}^{100}$
100 WATT MONO
DISCO AMP Brushed diuminium
 Fascia and sotary controls．Size approk． $14^{\sim} \times 4^{\prime \prime} \times 10^{\prime \prime}$
Five vertical slide controls，mastor yollume，tape level，mic level，deck level PLUS INTER DECK FADER ior perfect graduated change from record deck No it No． 2 or vice versa．Pre fade level control（PFLH lets YOU hear next disc tefore fading it in．VU meter monitors output level．Qulput 100 watts RMS 200 watts paak

## EMI SPEAKER BARGAIN

 surreind， $3 \psi_{2}$ Goodman rweeter diagram．Frequency response 20 Hz ${ }^{10} 20 \mathrm{KHz}_{2}$ ．Power handing 15 walts RMS 20 watts max
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ETIPRINTS are made from our original artwork ensuring a neat and accurate board. We thought ETIPRINTS were such a good idea that we have patented the system (patent numbers 1445171 and 1445172 ).

## PARTS LIST

Shown below is the listing for the last year's ETIPRINTS.

Earlier sheets are available, ring Tim Salmon for details.

```
033 LED Audio Display (2 boards) Aug 79
    (topside pattern)
    Bench Amp
    NICD Charger
034 Cable Tester
    Reaction Tester
    Speech Compressor
    Preamp Power Supply
    Rectifier & De-Thump
    Board
    Power Amp (2)
    (price £1.60)
035 Oven Leakage Detector
    Pinball Wizard
036A 3 x Display Board
    Relay Activator
    Points Controller
036B Data Distributor
    (double sided)
036C Train Speed
    Controller
    Track Cleaner &
    Electronic Pot
    (double sided)
```

036D Power Switch (double sided)

037A Encoder (double sided)
037B Decoder (top side)
037C Decoder
(bottom side)
038 A Long Period
Timer
Rain Alarm
Touch Switch
Flash Trigger
Pseudo Random
Noise Gen
038B Hum Filter
"Dice
Dice
Logic Probe
038C Function
Generator
039 Buffer
Moving Coil Preamp
Process Controller

| Nov 79 | 039A | Hum Filter Logic Probe | Dec 79 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Dec 79 | 0398 | Long Period Timer | Dec 79 |
|  |  | Rain Alarm |  |
|  |  | Touch Switch |  |
| Dec 79 |  | Flash Trigger |  |
|  |  | Pseudo Random |  |
|  |  | Noise Gen |  |
| Dec 79 |  |  |  |
|  | 039C | Function Generator | Dec 79 |
| Dec 79 | 049A | $\text { ETI } 80-\mathrm{VCO}$ | Feb 80 |
|  | 0408 | ETI 80 - PSU | Feb 80 |
|  |  | Tuning Fork | Feb 8 |
|  |  | Filter |  |
|  |  | Coin Toss |  |
| Dec 79 | 041A | ETI Audiophile | Mar 80 |
|  |  | ETI VCA |  |
|  |  | Signal Trace |  |
|  |  | ETI HC * |  |
| Dec 79 |  | Electromyogram |  |
|  | 0418 | VCM . | Mar 80 |
| $\operatorname{Jan} 80$ |  | Heater Controller |  |
|  | 042A | 300W Amp Module | Apr 80 |

HOW IT WORKS


Lay down the ETIPRINT and rub over with a soft pencil until the pattern is transferred to the board. Peel off the backing sheet carefully making sure that the resist has transferred. If you've been a bit careless there's even a 'repair kit' on the sheet to correct any breaks!

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## PCB FOIL

## PATTERNS

Shown below are the foil patterns for the months projects. The Black Hole PCB is shown overleaf. The Infra-Red remote control project will be concluded next issue - at which time details of the transmitter circuit and PCB will be given.

Companies producing boards of ETI projects should note that both the Chorus Machine and Voltage Controlled Filter PCBs are copyrighted to Powertran and Digisound respectively - and may not thus be reproduced other than by individuals for their own usage in a one-off basis.


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|  | 7 p | BC158 | 8 p | 8 | 14p | BD131 | 33p | BFY51 |  |
|  | 7 p | BC159 | 8 p | BC337 | 15p | BD132 | 33p | TIP30 |  |
| BC108 BC109 | 7 p | BC182 | 7p | 8C338 | 14p | BD135 | 38p | 2N290 |  |
| SC147 | 7 p | BC212 | 8p | BC557 | 8p | BD136 | 38p | 2N2905 |  |
| BC148 | 7 p | BC213 | 8p | 8CY70 | 12p | BD 139 | 34p | 2N2907 | 19p |
| BC149 | 7 p | ZTX214 | 8 p | 8CY71 | 12 p | BDI40 | 34p | 2N3054 |  |
| BC157 | 8 p | 8C327 | 16p | SCY72 | 12p | BFY50 | 17p | 2N3055 |  |
| 555 $\mathbf{1 9 p}$ <br> 741 $\mathbf{1 5 p}$ <br> TL082 $\mathbf{6 0 p}$ <br> CA3046 55p |  | LM3900 48p TBA810 95p MC1310P110p MC1458 40p 709 29p |  | 7805 5V Regulator TO3100p W04 1A 400V Bridge ${ }^{30 \mathrm{p}}$ Led Green or Yellow 0.2 ${ }^{10} \mathbf{1 0 p}^{\text {Led Red } 0.2^{\prime \prime}}$ |  |  |  | 1N4001 4p |  |
|  |  | [ N 4004 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | in4007 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 1N914 |  |  |  |  |  |
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BP27 Gure Chart oi hadio Electronic Semi-conductor
b-agic Symbols
3P32 Exuid Meta! \& T
BP 34 Prawna: Repair a Renovation of Colour TVs
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Rightengle mounting brackets Ideal for mounting, PCB, panels et cetera into boxes and cases.
18SWG - Mild steel - short face has slotted hole $6.5 \mathrm{~cm} \times 3.7 \mathrm{~cm}$ long face has 3.7 cm diam. hole
$0 / \mathrm{NO} 0.1726$ Height 15 cm
$\begin{array}{lll}0 / \text { NO } 1727 \text { Height } 25 \mathrm{~cm} \text {, length } 15 \mathrm{~cm} \text {, width } 10 \mathrm{~cm} & \mathbf{c 0 . 0 6} \\ \mathbf{c 0 . 0 7}\end{array}$
SWITCHES

| Devcription |  |  | No. |  | Price |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DPDT standard side |  |  | 1973 |  | ¢0.16 |
|  |  |  | 1974 |  | ¢0.17 |
| Toggle switch SPST 1/2 amp 250V ac |  |  | 1975 |  | c0.38 |
| Toggle switch DPDT 1 amp 250V ac |  |  | 1976 |  | c0.48 |
| Hotary on-oft mains switch |  |  | 1977 |  | ¢0.58 |
| Push switch - Push to make |  |  | 1978 |  | ¢0.16 |
| Push switch - Push to break |  |  | 1979 |  | ¢0.21 |
| ROCKER SWITCH |  | Colour |  | No. | Price |
| A range of rockerswitches SPST- moulded |  | RED |  | 1980 | ¢0.35 |
|  |  | 1981 | ¢0.35 |
| switches SPST - moulded |  |  |  | WHIT |  | 1982 | £0.35 |
| material available in a |  | bLUE |  | 1983 | £0.35 |
| choice of colours ideal |  | YELLO |  | 1984 | £0.35 |
| for small apparatus LUMINOUS |  |  |  | 1985 | £0.35 |
| Deecription |  |  | No. |  | Pric |
| Miniature SPST toggle 23 mp 250 V ac |  |  | 1958 |  | £0.81 |
| M:niature SPST toggle 2 amp 250 V ac Miniature DPDT toggle 2 amp 250 Vac |  |  | 1959 |  | £0.86 |
|  |  |  | 1960 |  | ¢0.81 |
| Miniature DPDT toggle centre oft 2 amp |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pust-button SPST 2 amp 250 V ac Push-button SPST 2 amp 250V ac |  |  | 1962 |  | £1.04 |
|  |  |  | 1963 |  | ¢1.09 |
| Push-bution DPDT 2 amp 250 Vac |  |  | 1964 |  | E1.34 |
| MIDGET WAFER SWITCHES |  |  |  |  |  |
| Single bank wafer type - suitable for switching at 250 V ac 100 mA or 150 V dc in non-reactive loads make-before-break contacts. These switches have a spindle 025 in dia and 30 indexing |  |  |  |  |  |
| Description |  |  | No. |  | Price |
| 1 pole | 12 way |  | 1965 |  | ¢0.55 |
| 2 pole | 6 way |  | 1966 |  | ¢0.55 |
| - 3 poie | 4 way |  | 1967 |  | ¢0.55 |
| 4 pola | 3 way |  | 1968 |  | ¢0.55 |
| MICRO SWITCHES <br> Plastic button gives simple 1 pole change over action Rating 10 amp 250 V ac |  |  | No. |  | Price |
|  |  |  |  |  | c.0.29 |

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LEDS (diffused) LEDS (ditfused)
O/no. Trpe
1501 AR 209 Size Colour $\begin{array}{ll}1501 & \text { ARL209 (TIL209) } \\ 1502 & \text { M13232 TIL2t1) } \\ 1503 & \text { ML3331 }\end{array}$ 1504 ARL3331 (OP212A) $\begin{array}{ll}1505 & \text { MIL5251 (FLL222) } \\ 1506 & \text { MLL5351 (MV5353) }\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{ll}1506 & \text { MLL5 } 351 \text { (MV5353 } \\ i 509 & \text { FLV111 }\end{array}$

SUPER 'HI-BRITE' TYPE
$\begin{array}{ll}1521 & \text { MIL32 } \\ 1522 & \text { MLL52 }\end{array}$
TVPE 3 mm
3 mm
.5 m
5 m
5
5
5

3
5 Colour
RED
GREEN
YELLO
RED
GREN
YELLO
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60.16
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { No. Type } \\ 107 & \text { FM indoor Ringon }\end{array}$
113
114
3.5 mm Jack plug to 3.5 mm Jack plug. Length 1 5 pin DiN plug to 3.5 mm Jack connected to pins 5. Length 1.5 m . Car zerial extension Screened insulated lead. 11 Fitted plug and socket
117 AC mains connecting lead for cassette recorders
118 and radios 2 metres
1185 pin DIN phono plug to stereo headphone
$1192+2$ pin DiN plugs to stereo Jack socket with
attenuarion network for stereo headphones.
 fit most car cassettes. B-track catridge and
combination units Supplied with inlined fuse power lead and instructions
123 6.6m Coited Guitar Lead Mono Jack plug to Mone Jack plug Black
1243 pin DIN plug to 3 pin DIN plug. Length 1.5 m
25
126
5 pin DiN plug to 5 pin DiN plug. Length 1.5 m
5
1275 pin DiN plug to 4 Phono Plugs.
1285 pin DIN plug to 5 pin DiN socket Length 1.5 m
1296 pin DIN plug to 5 pin DIN plug mirror image
$130 \quad 2$ pin DIN plug to 2 pin DIN inline socket
1315 pin DIN plug to 3 pin DIN plug $1 \& 4$ and $3 \& 5$.
$132 \frac{2}{} \mathbf{p i n}$ DIN plug to 2 pin DIN socket. Length 10 m
$\begin{array}{ll}132 & 2 \text { pin DIN plug to } 2 \text { pin DiN socks. } \\ 5 \text { pin DIN plug to } 2 & \text { Phono plugs. }\end{array}$
nected pins 3 \& 5 . Length 1.5
135 Connected pins 3 \& 5 . Length 23 cm
1355 pin DiN socket to 2 Phono plugs.
136 Connected pins 3 \& 5 . Length 23 cm .ed stereo hasdione extension lead
178 Black, length 6 m AC mains lead for calculators, etc
1514 ORP12 Light dependen
LED CLPS
$\begin{array}{lll}1508 / 125 \text { pack of } 5 & 125 \mathrm{clips} \\ 1508 / 2 & \text { pack of } 5 & 2 \mathrm{clips}\end{array}$
displays:
DLDO3 7 segment D.P. left ( $\dot{3}^{\prime \prime}$ height)
DL 7077 segment D.P. left ( $3^{\prime \prime \prime}$ height) RED Single Digit
RED Two-Digit Reflecto
017277 segment DP. right ( $5^{\prime \prime}$ height)
OL747 7 segment D.P. left (. $6^{\prime \prime}$ height) Common Anode
RED Single Digit Light Pipe
opto-isolators
Isotation Preakdown --Voltage 1500 - continuous twd current 100 mA
CLL 74 Single-Channel 6 pin DIP standard type - optically coupled pais with infre-rad LED Emitter and NPN Siiicon Photo Transistor
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Silicon Phota Darlington Amplifier - VCBO 30 v VECO 10 v ic 100 mA

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1730 black ONLY Fourto
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| Destription | No. | ce |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $20 \mathrm{~mm} \times 5 \mathrm{~mm}$ chassis mounting | 506 | E0.18 |
| $11 / 4 \mathrm{in} \times 1 /$ in chassis mounting | 507 | £0.14 |
| t1/in car inline rype | 508 | ¢0.18 |
| Panel mounting 20 mm | 509 | c0.23 |
| Panel mounting 11/4in | 510 | ¢0.37 | Panel mounting $1 / 4 /$ in Type No. 20 mm

 $\begin{array}{lll}\text { ANTH-SURGE 20rmm } & \\ \text { AyPa } & \text { No. } & \text { T } \\ \text { Ty } \\ 100 \mathrm{~mA} & 622 & 1 \mathrm{~A} \\ 250 \mathrm{~mA} & 623 & 2 \mathrm{~A} \\ 500 \mathrm{~mA} & 624 & 1 .\end{array}$ | Type | No. |
| :--- | ---: |
| 1A | 625 |
| 2A | 626 |
| 1.6A | 627 |
| All 8 g emech |  | $\begin{array}{ll}\text { Type } & \text { No. } \\ \text { 2.5A } & 628 \\ 315 A & 629 \\ 5 A & 630\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{ll}\text { Typer No. } \\ 250 \mathrm{~mA} & 631\end{array}$ Type

500 mA

$\begin{array}{ll}\text { Type } & \text { No. } \\ 800 \mathrm{~mA} & 634\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { Type } & \text { No. } \\ 4 A & 641 \\ 5 A & 642\end{array}$

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BA BOLTS - packs of 日A threadad ca
chesse hoad Supplied in multiples of 50 .

| Type | No. | Price | Type | No. | Prict |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 in OBA | 839 | E1.38 | $1 / \mathrm{in}$ 4 $\mathrm{BA}^{\text {a }}$ | 846 | 50.37 |
| 1/3in OBA | 840 | c0.86 | m/ain 4BA | 847 | 50.29 |
| 1 in 2 AB | 842 | ¢0.75 | 1 in 68A | 848 | ¢0.46 |
| 1/2in 2BA | 843 | ¢0. 52 | 1/2m 6BA | 849 | E0.24 |
| $1 / 3$ in 2BA | 844 | c. 0.50 | 1/in 6BA | 850 | E0.29 |
| 1 in 48A | 845 | c. 0.51 |  |  |  |
| BA NUTS - packs of cadmium piated full nuts in multiples of 50 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Type | No. | Price | Type | No. | Price |
| OBA | 855 | E0.83 | 4BA | 857 | £0.35 |
| 2BA | 856 | £0.55 | 6BA | 858 | c0.28 |
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|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Type | No. | Frice | Type | No. | Price |
| OBA | 859 | c0.16 | 4BA | 861 | ¢0.14 |
| 2BA | 860 | c0.14 | 6BA | 862 | £0.14 |
| SOLDER TAGS - Hot tinned supplied in multiples of 50 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Type | No. | Price | Type | Ho. | Price |
| OBA | 851 | $£ 0.46$ | 4BA | 853 | ¢0. 25 |
| 2BA | 852 | ¢0.32 | 6BA | 854 | £0.25 |

TRANSFORMERS

|  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Price } \\ & \text { £1.04 } \end{aligned}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $2021{ }^{\circ}$ | $6 \vee 0-6$ |  |  |  |
| 2022 | $9 \mathrm{v-0.9y} 75 \mathrm{~mA}$ |  | ${ }_{¢ 1.04}^{\text {¢ }} 1.29$ |  |
| 2023 | 12V-0 | Om. |  |  |
| miniature mains primary 240 V |  |  |  |  |
| wiht two independent secondary windings |  |  |  |  |
| Ho. | Tур |  |  | Price |
| 2024 | MT $280-0-6 \mathrm{~V} 0-6 \mathrm{~V}$ RMS |  |  | £1.84 |
| 2025 | MT150-0-12V0.1 |  |  | £1.84 |
| 1 AMP MAIN | IS Primary 240 V |  |  |  |
| No. | Secondary | Price |  |  |
| 2026 | 6V-0.6V 1 amp | £2.88 | P\&P | 45p |
| 2027 | 9V-0.gV 1 amp | £2.30 | P \& P | $45 p$ |
| 2028 | 12vo-12V 1 amp | £2.60 |  | $55 p$ |
| 2029 | 15v-0-15V 1 amp | ¢3.16 | P.\&P. | 66p |
| 2030 | 30V-0.30V 1 amp | £3.97 | P. \& P. | 86p |

STANDARD MAINS Primary 240 V
Multi-tapped socondary mains transformers available in $1 / 2 \mathrm{amp}, 1 \mathrm{amp}$


| \%o. | Reting | Price |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2031 | $1 / 2 \mathrm{amp}$ | ¢3.91 | P \& P 86p |
| 2032 | 1 amp | E5.08 | P.8P. 86p |
| 2033 | 2 amp | ¢6.27 | P.\&P. E1 |
| 2035 | $240 \mathrm{~V}$ | ¢7.30 | P\&P. £ |

## CASES AND BOXES

| No. | Length | Width | Hoight | Prics |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 155 |  | 51/2in |  | ¢1.73 |
| 156 | 11 in | 6 in | 3 in | ¢2.92 |
| 157 | Sin | 43/in | $13 / 6 \mathrm{in}$ | £1.79 |
| 158 | 9 n | 51/4in | $21 / 2 \mathrm{in}$ | ¢2.43 |

ALUMINIUM BOXES. Made from bright ali.. Folded construction each

| No. $159$ | Lergith <br> 51/4in | Width | Height | Price £0.85 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| £0.85 4in |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 161 | 4 in | 21/4in | 11/2in | ¢0.85 |
| 162 | 51/2in | 4 n | 1/2in | ¢0.97 |
| 163 | 4 in | $21 / 2 \mathrm{in}$ | 2 n | ¢0.87 |
| 164 | 3 in | 2 in | 1 in | £0. 60 |
| 165 | 7in | 5in | 21/2in | £1.43 |
| 166 | 8 in | 6 in | 3 in | £1.82 |
| 167 | 6 m | 4 in | 2 n | £1.18 |

SLOPE front aluminitum boxes with black vinyl base and sides \&
aluminium back, top \& front --strong construction easily accessable.



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NEW GASIO GALCULATORS AND WATCHES

## TSi Alarm Chronograph



With countdown alarm. Hours, minutes, seconds, alpha day and date on upper display; and day, date. month, alarm and hourly chimes. Countdown alarm (upper display). hours; net, lap, and 1 st $\& 2$ 2nd place times. Stainless steel. Glass.
Only £57.50

TS7 Alarm Chronograph


TS5 World Time / Alarm


SEIKO. The world's largest manufacturer of
high quality watches
Solid stainless steel cases ano bracelets, unless otherwise stated. Scratch resistant glass. Splash resistant. Typically 2 year + battery life. Accuracy: $\pm 15$ seconds per month or better.

## BARGAIN BASEMENT

## Cibarance offers while stocks last.

950S,32B. Chrome plated version of 950S.36B
above.
co-82 Clock, 4 alarms (one with snooze), calculator
, $£ 8.95$
URO Master Blaster Station
(RRP £24.95) Was £22.50 £16.95

Granstand Adam. 4 games, one as "Simon says £22.50 | £ 16.95 |
| :--- |

Grandstand 4-in-1, Was £22.50 £16.95


ML-81. 11 Note Melody Maker
Countd 200 year auto calendar. Two musical alarms watch measuring and hourly chimes. $1 / 10$ second stophours. Calculator with full memory, \%, square roots. 1 year battery life from two RW42 battertes. $5 / 16^{\prime \prime} \times 4^{1 / 2^{14} \times 21 / 4^{\prime \prime}}$.
 $3 / 16^{\prime \prime} \times 35 / 8^{\prime \prime}$
$\times 21 / 4^{\prime \prime}$


## AQ-2200

£19.95 ${ }_{(£ 21.95)}$ Permanent display of full
month calendar. Clóck. month calendar. Clock.
alarm, hourly chimes. Stopwatch from $1 / 10$ second to 12 hours; net, lap, Ist \& 2nd place times. Carculator with full memory, \%, $V$. year batteries. $9 / 32 \times 2 \mathrm{~s} / 6 \times 41 / 2$


MQ-12
(RRP £21.95) $£ 19.95$
Card version of AQ2200. No $V$ $3 / 16^{\prime \prime} \times 356^{\prime \prime} \times 23 / 6^{\prime \prime}$

MQ-6 £19.95. HR-10 Mini Printer £29.95. FX-81 £12.95. FX-80 £13.95. FX-330 £15.95. FX-310 £17.95. FX-510 £19.95. FX-2600 £19.95. FX-3200£21.95. FX 501P £54.95. FX-502P £74.95. FA-1 £19.95. Master Pack deal $+£ 5$.

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PRICE includes VAT, P\&P. Send your
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CASIO PW-81
6 digit clock, 24 -hour 6 digit clock, 24 -hour
alarm, hourly chimes. 8 alarm, hourly chimes. 8 digit calculator, with full
memory.
$3 /$ $16 \times 3$ 3/6x21/4
$£_{14.95_{(£ 17.95)}}$

## 830S-41 B ALARM CHRONOGRAPH

Stainless steel encased, mineral glass, water resistant, 3-YEAR BATTERY. Hours, minutes, seconds, date, am/pm; or hours, minutes, alpha day, date, am/pm. 24-hour alarm, hourly chimes. Stopwatch measures net, lap and 1 st and 2nd place from $1 / 10$ second to 12 hours. (£29.95)
£24.95

(Similar to illustration)

## F-80 Alarm Chronograph



Black resin case, mineral glass. Water resistant. 3 YEAR BATTERY. Hours, minutes, seconds, date, am/pm; or hours, minutes, alpha day, date am/pm. 24 hour alárm, hourly chimes. Stopwatch from $1 / 10$ second to 12 hours; net, lap and 1st and 2nd place. Nightlight.
£19.95 (E24.95)

95QS-36B Chronograph
Stainless steel. mineral glass. Water
resistant $5 Y E A R$ BATTERY. Hours. resistant. 5 YEAR BATTERY. Hours, minutes. seconds am/pm and day ( 12 or 24 hours). Dual time ( 12 or 24 hour). Day. date, month and year calendar. Stopwatch from $1 / 100$ sec
to 7 nours: net, lap and 1 st $\& 2 n d$ to 7 hours; net
¢22.95 $£ 19.95$


1110S-34B
Superbly finished chrome plated case, mineral glass. Water resistant. Comprehensive display. hours, minutes, seconds, am /pm, day and date. Button for nightlight
£14.95
F-8C Black resin cased
vesion $£ 19.95$
F-200 Sports. Now only $£ 12.95$
Ladies' Casio watches


All display hours, minutes, seconds, am
and month. Stopwatch/dual time facility

## Gasio's new SUPERGALG!



You always wanted a calculator that does everything except make tea -

## HERE IT IS!

CASIO FX-8100 (left) 46 scientific functions, clock, calendar, alarm, countdown alarm, interval alarm timer, hourly chimes, $1 / 100 \mathrm{sec}$ stopwatch. ONE YEAR BATTERY LIFE approx. (continuous use) LC Display; 8 digit mantissa plus 2 digit exponent. 5 level parentheses, full access memory. Trigs, logs, hyperbolics, standard deviations, co-ordinate conversions, sexagesimal to decimal conversions, fractions, percentages, cube roots, sign change, register exchange. Pi entry etc. CLOCK displays hours minutes, seconds, am/pm and day. CALENDAR pre-programmed to 1999; day, date, month and year. 24-hour ALARM, hourly chimes. Countdown ALARM TIMER, interval (repeater) alarm timer or 1/100 second STOPWATCH measuring net, lap and first and second place times to 10 hours. $6.6 \times$ $70 \times 129 \mathrm{~mm}(1 / 4 \times 2.3 / 4 \times 5.1 / 8$ inches). Leatherette wallet. RRP $£ 27.95$.

All this for ONLY £24.95!


FX-7100 (above). Card version of the FX8100. ONE YEAR BATTERY LIFE, 8 digit display and 39 scientific functions (does not have hyperbolics, fractions or calendar function). With clock, alarm, and hourly chimes Interval alarm timer or $1 / 100 \mathrm{sec}$ stopwatch. Wallet. $3 / 16 \times 21 / 8 \times 35 / 8$ inches.

## CASIO $* * * * *$ Star Buys $t+x+\star$ SEIKO



ONLY
£29.95
Stainless steel, mineral glass, water resistant. 5-YEAR BATTERY.
Hours, minutes. seconds and day. Day, date, month and year calendar pre-programmed to 2029. 12- or 24 -hour display. 24-hour alarm, hourly chimes, stopwatch from $1 / 100$ second to 7 hours. measuring net, lap and first and second place times. Backlight for night time viewing.

## CASIO C-80 CALCULATOR WATCH



Black resin, mineral glass, water resistant. FINGER-TOUCH KEYBOARD.
Hours, minutes, seconds, am/pm and day. Day, date and month auto calendar pre-programmed to 2009. Professional 24 -hour stopwatch measuring net, lap and first and second place times to $1 / 100$ second. Dual time, 24 -hour. 8 digit calculator. Backlight for nighttime viewing. $44.9 \times 35.8 \times 10.2 \mathrm{~mm}$.


Stainless steel encased, Glass, splash resistant. 2-YEAR BATTERY.
Comprehensive display of hours, minutes, seconds, day, date and month. 24-hour alarm and hourly chimes. Stopwatch from $1 / 100$ second to 20 minutes, then seconds to 20 hours. Upper display - lap times, lower display - total time. 8 mm thick -8.8 mm including front buttons.

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## FM/AM STEREO TUNER

 AMPLIFIER CHASSISOriginally designed for installation into a music centre. Supplied as two separate built and tested units which are easily wired together
Note Circuit diagram and interconnecting wiring diagrams supplied. Rotary Controls Tuning, volume, balance, treble and bass.
Push Button Controls Mono, Tape, Disc, A.F.C., FM (VHF), LW, MW, SW. Power Output 7 watts RMS per channel into 8ohms (10 watts music).
Tape Sensitivity output typically 150 mv . Input 300 mv for rated output. Disc Sensitivity 100 mv (ceramic cartridge).


Stereo Beacon Indicator LED or bulb Size Tuner - $2^{334^{\prime \prime}} \times 15^{\prime \prime} \times 71 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ approx. Power amp. $2^{\prime \prime} \times 7{ }^{1 / 2^{\prime \prime}} \times 412^{\prime \prime}$ approx.
Price $£ 22.00+£ 2.50$ Postage and Packing.
J.V.C. TURNTABLE
J.V.C. Turntable supplied complete with an Audio Technica AT 10 stereo magnelic cartridge

* 'S' shaped tone arm.
$\star$ Belt driven.
* Full size $12^{\prime \prime}$ platter.
* Precision callibrated counter balance
weight ( $0-3 \mathrm{grms}$ ).
$\star$ Anti-skate (bias) device. Nylon thread weight.
$\star$ Cut-out template supplied.
Size $-123 / 4^{\prime \prime} \times 153 / 4^{\prime \prime}$ (approx.)
Price $£ 29.90+£ 2.50$ Postage and Packing.
PIEZO ELECTRIC TWEETERS - MOTOROLA
Join the Piezo revolution. The low dynamic mass (no voice coil) of a Piezo tweeter produces an improved transient response with a lower distortion level than ordinary dynamic tweeters. As a crossover is not required these units can be added to existing speaker systems of up to 100 watts (more if 2 put in series).


Type 'A' Type 'C' Type ' $\mathbf{D}$ '

Type ' $\mathbf{A}$ ' 3 '' round with removable wire mesh. Ideal for bookshelf hi-fi speakers. Price $£ 3.80$ each.
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Post and Packing, all types, 15 p each (oir S.A.E. for Piezo leaflets).

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High quality full range $8^{\prime \prime}$ loudspeaker. 10 watts RMS. 80 HM . Rolled surround with aluminium centre dome.
Price $£ 3.50$ each +75 p Postage and Packing.


## STEREO MAGNETIC CARTRIDGE

## BARGAIN

Acos M6EX stereo magnetic cartridge with tapered bi-radial diamond styli Tracks between 1 and 2 grms. Retail price $£ 27.00$.
Special Price $\mathbf{£ 7 . 9 0}$ - Post free.
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Similar to above with additional facility of photo-cell to switch light(s) on automatically at the onset of darkness, and off during daylight.
Price $£ 4.30+30 p$ Postage and Packing
DE-SOLDERING PUMP
This de-soldering pump made to a very exacting specification is ideal for the removal of small components from printed circuit boards, etc. Comes complete with spare PTFE tip. $\mathbf{£ 5 . 3 0}$ post free.

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A neat swivelling disc ( 65 mm diam.) provides close tolerance substitution of 36 preferred values. From 50 hm to $1 \mathrm{meg} . \mathrm{ohm}$. Complete with leads and croc-clips. Price $£ \mathbf{4 . 5 0}$ - Post free.

## B.K. ELECTRONICS <br> 37 Whitehouse Meadows Eastwood, Leigh-on-Sea Essex, SS9 5TY

$\star$ S.A.E. for components list etc. $\star$ Official orders welcome. * All prices include V.A.T. \# Mail order only * All items packed (where applicable) in special energy absorbing PU foam.

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## KITS AND SPECIAL PRODUCTS FOR ELECTRONIC MUSIC

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SSM 2020 Dual Voltage Controlled Amplifier
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SSM 2040 Voltage Controlled Four Stage Filter
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Complete set of Application Notes and Specifications for the above 50 p post paid, or 30 p if added to an order for components. No VAT on data and stamps will be accepted in payment.
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400p
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400 p
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600p
Complete sets of Application Notes and Specification for the above at 50 p post paid, or 30 p if added to an order for components.
TEL LABS Q81, $1 \mathrm{k}, 1 \% 3500 \mathrm{ppm}$ temperature compensating resistor
OTHER COMPONENTS (Prices in pence)

| 741-8 | 23 | LF 351 | 38 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 723-14 | 40 | TL 081 | 38 |
| 1458-8 | 44 | MC 34002/TL 082 | 65 |
| LF 347 | 130 | CA 3080E | 63 |
| LM 348 | 90 | LM 13600 | 125 |

All other components used in our kits are available separately and these are listed in the March 1980 price list - sent with orders or on receipt of $15 p$ in stamps


KITS FOR ETI 80 MODULAR SYNTHESISER. Components as specified in the issue of ETI listed, which also contains the constructional details for the kits. Glass fibre and roller tinned PCB. I.C. sockets.
KIT 80-1 $\pm 15 \mathrm{~V}$ Power Supply (Feb. 80)
£16.70
KIT 80-2 Voltage Controlled Oscillator (Feb. 1980 )
£16.70
KIT 80-3 Voltage Controlled Low Frequency Oscillator (Feb. 1980)
KIT $80-4$ Voltage Controlled Mixer (March 9980 )

## PCBs SEPARATELY

| KIT 80-1 | £1.60 | KIT 80-4 | £2.60 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| KIT 80-2 /80-3 | £2.10 | KIT 80-6 (All types) | £1.60 |

PCB and Kit for $80-5$ (Processor) available shortly
$9 \times 3$ inch panels for modules $80-2,80-3,80-4$, and $80-6 \mathrm{~L}$ to the design shown in ETI and made from white plastic coated steel with black lettering are available at $£ 2.50$ each.

PLEASE ADD 30p P\&P TO TOTAL ORDER AND THEN ADD VAT AT CURRENT RATE

GUANTITY PRICES - SAVE - SAVE - IMMEDIATE DELIVEAY NEW STOCKS BELOW MANUFACTURERS Prices incl. VAT. SN74141 N IC 50peo
BCD Desimal Decoder-Driver 10 for 44p oan. 100 for 40 pen en, 1,000 for 35 pean . DISPLAYS by Hewlett-Packard. Seven segment
0.707 (5082-7750) 95p. Common anode half inch red display brand new in maker's cartons 6 for $\mathbf{5 5}$. 50 for $\mathbf{7 0 p}$ ea. 500 for $\mathbf{6 0 p}$ oan. TV SOUND. High quality sound through your hi.fi. Simply plug into your aerial socket, $\mathbf{E 6 . 5 0}$, as
reviewed Popular H .Fi. BURROUGHS 8 DIG display 7 segment $0.25^{\prime \prime}$ digits. Neon type with red bevel socket and date. $£ 1.95$ en. 10 tor $£ 17$
HONEWFLL PROXIMITY HONEYWELL PROXIMITY DETECTOR
gral amplifier $8 V D C ~ £ 3.50$ ea, , 0 for $£ 30$. Grailland TBA800. IC audio amplifier $95 p$
 RCA CA3099. FM IF \&1.50, 10 for $E 12$ RCA CA3090AQ.
BU 205 TEXAS, E1.
EU 205 TEXAS, E1.50 00,
£100 per 1.00085 p oa.
2N3055 80V version TOS po Nof for version TO3 power: :c: $\mathbf{£ 3 . 5 0}$. 100 for $£ 28,500$ for $E 125$.
8a, 10 tor $£ 15,100$ for $£ 120$. MC1310P-SN76115N FM s:erez $\varepsilon 1.20$ ©e, 10 for $£ 1$ en, 100 tor $85 p$ ea.
MULLARD AD161-AD 162 MULLARD AD161-AD162 Wa:cte pair 80 p, 10 pairs $£ 8,100$ pars $£ 50$.
Cantons of 600 pairs $£ 250$ EX ET .
RADIATION DETECTORS CL3:12 Fibre Dosimeters Pen type with crip win' ers ard scale O-5R. Originally over $£ 5$ OUR PRICE 95p EACH
10 for $£ 8.100$ for $£ 70$ ORP12
 $\stackrel{\text { for }}{\mathrm{T}} \mathrm{E4O}$ TUNERS by TV TUNERS by Multare YHF 38 mcs size
$3 \% \times 23 \times 1 \%$ E2.50
 E175. 500 for LP1171 combined ALA MODULES with data
 10 pairs for $£ 50,100$ ejts fer $£ 400$.
CA 3085 RCA POSITIVE VARIABLE REG. $5 v o l t 100 \mathrm{~m}$ amp varise: $\mathrm{za}-24 \vee 55 \mathrm{p}$ ea. 10 for E5. 100 for $£ 35 ; j 00=1 \times 300$.
BAULLARD LP 1157 -i, thner modules with circuit $£ 2.50$ ea 10 for $£ 20$. 100 tor $£ 175$, amp on chassis $\mathbf{3} \times 2 \times 1$ in 10 for $\mathbf{E 1 2 . 5 0 .}$. TAAB61B (14 Pin DILIC TV sound and FM amplifier detector by - EES on $p$ circuft board with other parts. Complese with data \& connections
60 p .10 for $\mathrm{f5}$. 0 for 40 p at. 500 for 35 p ea.

MOST PREVIOUS LINES IN STOCK

MARRIOTT TAPE HEADS Quarter track
Eape
Eer 10
Eei 100 $\begin{array}{llll}\text { XRPS18R/Replay } & £ 3.00 & £ 25.00 & £ 200.00\end{array}$
 $\begin{array}{llll}\text { RSP } 631 / 2 \text { track } & £ 2.25 & £ 20.00 & £ 175.00\end{array}$

 $\begin{array}{llll}12 \mathrm{~V} & 500 \mathrm{~m}: \mathrm{z} & 11 / 2 \times 1 / 2 \times 1 / 2 & £ 0.95 \\ 12 \mathrm{~V} & 2 \mathrm{amps} & 23 \times 11 / 2 \times 13 / 2 & £ 1.35 \\ & 23 / 4 \times 23 / 4 \times 21 / 2 & £ 5\end{array}$ For 10 less $10 \%$, per 100 less $20 \%$
STEREO CASSETTE TAPE HEAD. High quality replacement for most machines record/replay DYNAMIC MICROPHON. DYNAMIC MICROPHONE. Low imp Foster UHF TUNER BY GEC $\mathbf{~} 11.100$ for $£ 100$. tuning Size $5 \times 3 \times 2$ in. $£ 3 \mathrm{ma}$. 10 for $£ 25$. TWO GANG MINIATURE VARICAP TUNER 500 pt with tuning knob, size $3 \times 11 / 2 \times 11 / 2$ in ET. 25 eal. 10 for $£ 10.100$ for $£ 85$. DIL 300 m watts 55 p en, 10 for $\mathbf{~ 4 . 5 0 ,} 100$ for £35, 1,000 for 30p *at.
GENERAL. ELECTRIC $2+2$ watt IC stereo audio Chips with circuit \& data E 1.95 ad .
 1.000 for $£ 355$ (in anti static tubes of 25 ). UHF TV TUNER (preamp) with BF 180 55p esch. Built on PC beard $2 \times 2$ in (sold without data) 10 for

HELICAL 10 TURN POTS BY M.P.C. 2.5 watts $0 \mathrm{hms} / 100 / 220 / 4701 \mathrm{k} / 2.2 \mathrm{k} / 4.7 \mathrm{k}$ 47 k . All at our price $£ 1.95 \mathrm{ea}$. Marnufacturers lis? price $£ 3.80$. Quantities
Per $10 \quad \mathbf{~} 1.50 \mathrm{ea}$.
Per 100
$\mathbf{E 1 . 2 5} \mathrm{ea}$
Per 1,000 $£ 1.00$ ea
Per
WIRE WOUND MINIATURE M P.C. controls BRITISH MADEM/2/13 ALLAT EOP each
 $\begin{array}{llll}270 & 10 k & \text { Per } 100 & \text { 45p aa. } \\ 470 & 1000 & \text { Per } 1000 & 40 \mathrm{pea} .\end{array}$ RELAYS min open type. $6 / 9 \mathrm{y}$ change over 85p
P. 1075 p es. . 10065 p . P1. 100050 pea Min $9 / 12 v$ ip cover 200 ohm $£ 1.20$
TBA625 ATES voltage requlators 55 p en 5 volts $100 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{amps}$ (TOM9) per $10 £ 4.50$, per $100 \mathrm{E} £ 39$, 16 P1N low profile OIL sockets $\mathbf{1 2 p}, 10$ for $£ 1$. 100 for $\mathrm{ER}, 1,000$ for Ep ea:
THYRISTORS THYRISTORS Motorola $2 N 50610.8 \mathrm{amp} 60$
volt $19 \mathrm{p}, 10$ for 15 p ea, 100 for 13 p ea, 1.000 for 11p ea, 10,00 for 10 p es $13 \mathrm{pea}, 1.000$


## QUESTION?

1. Is your hobby home computing or electronics?
2. Do you understand the application of IC's, Transistors, Diodes, etc?
3. Have you used or applied analogue or digital techniques?
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## OUR MINI-SELECTION POINTS THE WAY!

 EXAMPLE ONE - SOLDERING IRONS| Aryx 50 | f12.08 net | Antex $\times 25$ | t |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Isotip | £25.90 net | Desolder tool SR3A | ¢7.48 net |
| Antex C | £4.83 nat | 500 gm reel solder | $\mathbf{4 6 . 6 1}$ net |

EXAMPLE TWO - PRINTED CIRCUIT MATERIALS

| PCB's $300 \times 150 \mathrm{~mm}$ | D/ 1073 | Etch Resist Pen | £1.14 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| F/Glass S/S f1. | D/S $\mathrm{E1.73}$ | Breadboard |  |
| Positive resist 75 | ¢2.13 | imboard 12E.9.23 |  |
| Positive resist 750 c | £1.67 $\mathbf{f 3 . 4 5}$ | Eurobreadboard | £6. 56 net |

## EXAMPLE THREE - SWITCHES

Chrome toggle
Std. SPDT
S5p
ppot 89p
13A time switcl; adaptors
Smiths TS 100
Smiths TS 100 E14.43 net


## EXAMPLE FOUR - CAPACITORS BY SIEMENS

Polyeater 7.5 mm PCM
$1.1 .5,2.2,3.3 .4 .7 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 10,15,22,33,42 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ 8p each, $1 \mu 12 \mathrm{p}, .15 \mu 15 \mathrm{p}, .22 \mu 18 \mathrm{p}$,
37p.

15p, $10 / 40$ 18p, $22 / 2518 p, 22 / 4018 p, 22 / 6319 p, 47 / 1018 p, 47 / 2518 p, 47 / 40$
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EXAMPLE FIVE - POTENTIOMETERS BY RADIOHM

| Single gang lin or log | 34 p | (7win types stereo matched) |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Mono stider lin or log | 935 | Slider knobs | $\begin{gathered} 10 \mathrm{peach} . \\ 10 \mathrm{p} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |
| Twin slider lin or $\log$ | 136 p |  |  |

## EXAMPLE SIX - RESISTORS


AND AS FOR SEMI CONDUCTORS ..

| 1 N 914 | ${ }^{6 p}$ | 40673 | 99p | MU481 | f1. 70 | T1P41A | 69p |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ${ }^{1} \mathrm{~N} 4007$ | 9 p | AC128 | 36p | M .491 | E1.88 | T1P41C | 74p |
| 1 N4148 | $5 p$ | AC176 | 67 p | M 32955 | 97p | T1P42A | 69 p |
| 1 N5402 | $19 p$ | AD136 | £4.25 | MJE2955 | E1.13 | T1P42C | 74 p |
| 2N1599 | £1.01 | AD149 | f1.01 | M J E3055 | £1.00 | T1P2955 | 69 p |
| 2 N2369A | $24 p$ | AD161 | 40 p | MPSA12 | $42 p$ | T1P3055 | $69 p$ |
| $2 N 3055$ | $81 p$ | AD162 | 52 p | MPSA63 | $44 p$ | T1S43 | 40p |
| 2N3702-11 | 119 | AF127 | 43p | 0447 | 14p | W02 | 35p |
| 2 N 4443 | £1.78 | AL102 | £1.84 | 0490 | 8p | $2 \mathrm{~T} \times 107.9$ | 14 p |
| 2N4444 | $\pm 2.28$ | BA379 | 29p | OA91 | 8 p | $2 \mathrm{~T} \times 300$ | $14 p$ |
| 2 N 4991 | $98 p$ | 88103 | 43p | OA202 | 16 p | $62 T \times 500$ | 16 p |
| $2 N 5457-9$ | ${ }^{45} \mathrm{p}$ | $8 \mathrm{BB104}$ | 70p | 0 O 29 | £1.23 | This list is but a fraction |  |
| $4 \mathrm{HHF40}$ | £2.25 | BB105 | 37p | OC36 | f1.18 |  |  |
| 40361 | 49p | C106D 1 | 52 p | T2800D | £1.20 |  |  |
| 40362 | 49p | E1110 | 92p | T1P31A | 52 p | of what we carry. |  |
| 40636 | £1.69 | E1210 | 97p | T1P32A | 52 p |  |  |

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## April Fool

Did you spot our deliberate mis－ takes（well，that＇s our story） last month？You may have found the contents page listing a shade inaccurate after the circuit supple－ ment．As the supplement is extra to the magazine，its pages are numbered separately．So，to find
the Touch Dimmer，for instance， take 16 （the size of the supple－ ment）from 87 and there it is on page 71.

We＇ve already had numerous letters and phone calls about the disembodied program listing which appears on the last Tech Tip page．So，you want to know what it is？Have a look at Tech Tips this month．


It had to happen．The integrated circuit is so old that it has earned its place in a museum．Doesn＇t it make you feel old？The world＇s first IC， invented by Jack Kilby of Texas Instruments in 1958，is one of three exhibits on loan from TI in Dallas for the＇Challenge of the Chip＇ exhibition at the Science Museum．The other two are the first silicon transistor and the first single chip microcomputer．


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|  |  | LUM | ous | 1985 | £0.35 |
| Deecription |  |  | No. |  | Pric |
| Miniaturs SPST toggle 2 amp 250 VacMiniaure SPST toggle 2 amp 250 V ac |  |  | 1958 |  | £0.81 |
|  |  |  | 1959 |  | c.0.86 |
| Miniature DPDT toggle 2 amp 250 V ac 1960 |  |  |  |  | ¢0.91 |
| M iniature DPDT toggle centre off 2 amp |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pust-bution SPST 2 amp 25 |  |  | 1962 |  | E1.04 |
| Push-bution SPST 2 amp 250 V ac |  |  | 1963 |  | E1.09 |
| Push-button DPDT 2 amp 250V ac 1964 |  |  |  |  | E1.34 |
| MIDGET WAFER SWITCHES |  |  |  |  |  |
| Single bank water type - suitable for switching at 250 V ac 100 mA or 150 V dc in non-reactive loads make-before-break contacts. These |  |  |  |  |  |
| switches have a spindse 0.25 in dia and 30 indexing |  |  |  |  |  |
| Description |  |  | No. |  | Price |
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| 2 pole | 6 way |  | 1966 |  | $\underline{80.55}$ |
| 3 pole | 4 way |  | 1967 |  | £0.55 |
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| 1729red /hlack or white <br> Threeway connector | $\mathbf{£ 0 . 1 2}$ inc. VAT |
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| $11 / 3$ in $\times 1 / 1 /$ in chassis $^{1}$ mounting | 507 | c0.14 |
| 11/in car inline type | 508 | c0.18 |
| Panel mourting 20 mm | 509 | ¢0.23 |
| Paneil mounting 11/4in | 510 | [0.37 |

Pane mounting $1 / 4$ in
OUICK sLow
$\begin{array}{lllllllll}\text { Type } & \text { No. } & & \text { Type } & \text { No. } & & \text { Type } & \text { No. } & \\ \text { 150mA } & 611 & \mathbf{7 p} & \text { 1A } & 615 & \mathbf{6 p} & \mathbf{3 A} & 619 & \mathbf{6 p} \\ \text { 250mA } & 612 & \mathbf{6 p} & 15 A & 616 & \mathbf{7 p} & 4 A & 620 & \mathbf{1 0 p} \\ 550 \mathrm{~mA} & \mathbf{6 1 3} & \mathbf{8 p} & 2 \mathrm{AA} & 617 & \mathbf{8 p} & \mathbf{5 A} & 621 & \mathbf{6 p} \\ \text { 800mA } & \mathbf{6 1 4} & \mathbf{8 p} & \mathbf{2 5 A} & 618 & \mathbf{7 p} & & & \end{array}$

 Type Ho.

Aul ${ }^{6}{ }^{627}$ each
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { Typo } & \text { No } \\ 2.5 A & 62 \\ 3.15 A & 629 \\ 5 \text { A } & 630\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { Type } & \text { No. } \\ 800 \mathrm{~mA} & 634\end{array}$


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| BA ©OLTS - packs of BA threaded cadmium plated screws slotted cheese head Supplied in multiples of 50 . |  |  |  |  |  |
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| Type | No. | Price | Type | No. | Prict |
| 1 in OBA | 839 | E1.38 | 1/2in 4BA | 846 | $\underline{60.37}$ |
| 1/2in OBA | 840 | c0.85 | 1/4in 48A | 847 | ¢0.29 |
| 1in.28A | 842 | ¢0.76 | 1 in 6BA | 848 | c0.46 |
| $1 / \mathrm{in}$ 2BA | 843 | $\underline{50.52}$ | 1/2in 6BA | 849 | ¢0.24 |
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| 2BA | 856 | c0.55 | 6BA | 858 | c0.28 |
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| Type | No. | Price | Type | No. | Price |
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| 2BA | 860 | c0.14 | 68A | 862 | c0.14 |
| SOLDER TAGS - Hot tinned supplied in muftiples of 50 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Type | No. | Price | туре | No. | Price |
| OBA | 851 | c0.46 | 4BA | 853 | £0. 25 |
| 2BA | 852 | ¢0.32 | 68A | 854 | ¢0.25 |

$\begin{array}{ll}\text { No. Type } \\ 107 & \text { FM indoor Ribbon Aeriat }\end{array}$
3.5 mm Jack plug to 3.5 mm Jack plug. Length 1.5 m
pin DIN plug to 3.5 mm Jack connected to pins
$3 \& 5$. Length 1.5 m
5 pan Din plug to 3.5 mm Jack connected to pins
Car aerial extension Screened insuiated lead.
Fitted plug and socket
AC mains connecting lead for cassette recorders
and radios. 2 metres
5 pin DiN phono plug to stereo headphone
Jack socket
$2+2$ pin DIN plugs to stereo Jack socket with attenuation network for stereo headphones Length 0.2 m
120 Car stereo connector. Variable geometry plug to fit most car cassertes. 8 -track cartridge and
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1243 pin DIN plug to 3 pin DIN plug. Length 1.5 m
1255 pin DiN plug to 5 pin OIN plug. Length 1.5 m
1275 pin DIN plug to 4 Phono Plugs. Length 1.5
All colour coded. Length 1.5 m
$\begin{array}{ll}128 & 5 \text { pin DIN plug to } 5 \text { pin DIN socket. Length } 1.5 \mathrm{~m} \\ 129 & 5 \text { pin DIN plug to } 5 \text { pin DIN plut }\end{array}$
5 pin DiN plug to 5 pin DIN plug mirror image.
$130 \quad 2$ pin DIN plug to 2 pin DIN intine socket
1315 pin DIN plug to 3 pin DIN plug $1 \& 4$ and $3 \& 5$
1322 pin DIN plug to 2 pin DIN socket. Length 10 m
1335 pin DIN plug to 2 Phono plugs.
Connected pins 3 \& 5 . Length 1.5 m
1345 pin DiN plug to 2 Phono sockets.
$\begin{array}{ll}135 & \begin{array}{l}5 \text { pin DIN socket to } 2 \text { Phono plugs. } \\ \text { Connected pins } 3 \text { \& } 5 \text {. Length } 23 \mathrm{~cm}\end{array} \\ 136 & \begin{array}{l}\text { Coited stereo headphone extension lead }\end{array}\end{array}$
$136 \begin{aligned} & \text { Coiled stereo headphone extension le } \\ & \text { Black. length } 6 \mathrm{~m}\end{aligned}$
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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 155 | 8 in | 51/2in | 2 in | E1.73 |
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| 157 | 6 in | 43/3in | $13 / 9$ in | E1.79 |
| 158 | 9 in | 51/4in | 21/2in | ¢2.43 |

ALUMINIUM ROXES. Made from bright ali., folded construction each


# PROJECT 80 FITTERS 

# Not one project but four. The Project $\mathbf{8 0}$ VCF can be constructed as any of the most useful configurations. Circuit design by Charles Blakey. 

In the first article of this series (February 1980) it was stated the project is suitable for both the enthusiast and the beginner in electronic music. It is reasonable to assume that the enthusiast already has some equipment and so the ETI 80 modules offer the opportunity to extend, or upgrade, their current system. Assuming that the existing equipment is compatible with modules having an exponential frequency control response then one of the problems that is encountered is the level of signals employed. Most of the ETI 80 modules can readily be adapted to accept other signal levels. For example, we could have zero referenced the input to the following filters and omitted the buffer stage, although the high input impedance for some filters may have led to problems with noise pick-up. By including an op amp input stage we have avoided the latter potential hazard and at the same time provided a standard input summer.-


$$
\text { with Vout }=\frac{\mathrm{R} 2}{\mathrm{R} 1} \mathrm{~V} \text { in }
$$

If one is therefore currently using 5 V P-P signals, instead of the 10 V P-P employed in this project, then the only change required is to double R2 so that the other components around the special ICs employed remain unchanged. In the case of some synthesisers which combine the worst of both worlds and have very low signal levels and low input impedance then both R1 and R2 can be altered to normalise the input to that of the existing synthesiser.

Likewise, most modules will have a similar buffer at the output which allows the signals to be attenuated to their original level, for example in the case of the 5 V signal then R2 has to be halved.


Another minor problem may be the frequency response characteristics, for example, a synthesiser with a 0.5 V per octave scale. All ETI 80 modules will have one or more scaling resistors which in the case of the current filter design is of the type shown below.-

where R1 and R2 are scaling resistors to give approximately 18 mV to the exponential converter for each volt applied at the keyboard control input. For the above mentioned example the only change required is doubling R2.

The final problem of compatibility is likely to be power supplies. This is most easily overcome by having separate supplies for the modules employed from this project. In most instances, however, the ETI 80 series can be run from power supplies as low as $\pm 9 \mathrm{~V}$ but this will require a number of component changes. Digisound Limited
will be pleased to advise readers of these changes.

## Filters

This month we are featuring the four filters most widely used in music synthesisers. They are four pole filters with one volt per octave control of their cut-off, or centre, frequency. Voltage control of signal regeneration is also included.

Filters are normally used in three modes. Firstly, substractive synthesis, in which partials are substracted from complex waveforms to effect changes in tone quality. Next, in timbre modulation which allows more complex waveforms to be developed by continuously altering the amplitude of the partials present during the duration of the sound. The latter may be accomplished by using a low frequency oscillator to vary the cut-off frequency of the filter. A widely employed variation of the latter technique is the use of an envelope generator, triggered by the keyboard, to control the cut-off frequency. In this way a tone can be produced, using a low pass filter, which begins with the fundamental
followed by an increasing number of partials. The third technique is resonant synthesis in which the regeneration of the signal is increased to a level which will cause the filter to oscillate on receiving a sharp impulse, eg from an envelope generator set to minimum time constants or from a square wave and so on. This technique is widely used to produce percussive sounds.

The four filter types provided are.Low Pass Filter. This will pass all frequencies up to the cut-off point and beyond this the frequencies are sharply attenuated at a rate of 24 dB /octave. By increasing the resonance control a band of frequencies around the cut-off point are emphasised and the more regeneration used the more 'electronic' the sound becomes. Low pass filtering is useful in simulating the tonal characteristics of several conventional instruments.
High Pass Filter. This passes all frequencies above the cut-off point and the roll-off below this point is again 24 dB /octave. The effect of high pass filtering is therefore to remove the fundamental and lowest partials and leave only the weak upper partials. It does not therefore find widespread use in substractive synthesis of waveforms although a sawtooth and a high pass filter will produce some bright string sounds. This filter is also of use in filtering white noise. It is not normal to include resonance control with a high pass filter because of its limited application but since its inclusion has a very small effect on the cost in the current design it has been included. Its effect is the same as with the low pass filter, namely, to emphasise a band of frequencies about the cut-off point.
Band Pass Filter. This will pass a band of frequencies at the pole frequency of the filter. It is derived from two poles of high pass followed by two stages of low pass filtering thus giving a roll-off of $12 \mathrm{~dB} / \mathrm{oc}-$ tave in either side of the centre frequency. The effect of the resonance control in this instance, however, is to emphasise the centre frequency and so effectively increase the roll-off. This filter is used in imitative synthesis but more commonly a number of band pass filters need to be employed to obtain realistic results. Similarly, a more versatile band pass filter may be created by using independent low and high pass filters so that the width of the pass band can be altered over a wide range.
Phase Shift Filter. This is an allpass filter with mixing of the original signal to create two deep notches. The effect of regeneration is to sharpen the corners of the notches and effectively increase their depth. The 'phasing' effect is well known and most of the low cost commercial 'phasers' only have two notches. A particular advantage of the design described below is its low

noise but even so we believe that six notches are a minimum for good phasing effects.

## Which Filter?

As one's experience in music synthesisers increases it will be found that good quality filters (low noise and tracking capability) are essential for both innovative and imitative synthesis and that this will usually be achieved by combining various types of filter in series or parallel. Our recommendation for beginners is to start with the low pass filter, which finds the most widespread use in music synthesis, and the state variable filter to be described in the next article since this will have low pass, high pass, band pass and notch responses.

## Filter Design

The design is based on another customised IC from Curtis Electromusic Specialties, namely the CEM 3320, to realise the most important filter types employed in music synthesis. This voltage controlled filter IC has four independent filter stages which may be interconnected to provide a wide variety of filter responses. The pole frequency of the four stages is controlled by a single exponential generator which has a minimum range of ten octaves. The IC also includes a separate transconductance amplifier whose output is connected to the first filter stage and in the present design is used to provide manual or external voltage control of regeneration.

Some music synthesists argue that the ideal filter should have complete cut-off at its pole frequency. Certainly filters with a 24 dB /octave roll-off are considerably more useful than designs with lower rolloff. (12 and 24 dB /octave slopes will be included in the state variable filter design which is featured in the next article of this series). This combination of $24+12$, or 24 +24 dB /octave filters will provide the versatility we are aiming for in this project.

Each of the filters has been designed to accept our standard 10 V P-P signal levè and to output a similar signal level. The term 'similar signal level' is used since allowance has to be made for the enhancement of the centre frequency as the amount of feedback is increased through the resonance control. For example, the band pass filter has an outpút of about $3 \mathrm{~V} \mathrm{P}-\mathrm{P}$ at lowest Q (no feedback) whereas at maximum Q this peak level will approach 11 V . The filters are controlled over a 1000:1 frequency range and their lowest frequency is typically in the range 20 to 25 Hz . The standard one volt per octave frequency response is employed and when calibrated the filters will track the oscillators accurately over the important range of the keyboard. Beyond this range the one volt per octave control falls off but this is acceptable for filters. Manual and external voltage control of frequency are provided and the manual adjustment includes both coarse and fine adjustment. One of the external frequency control inputs has an attenuating potentiometer which is required when the filter is used in conjunction with an envelope generator or external waveforms for timbre modulation. Three signal inputs are included to simplify mixing of waveforms prior to filtering. Two of these have attenuating potentiometers and the third is fixed at one third of the maximum gain of the other two inputs. The fixed input may be altered to suit individual requirements and it may be coupled to a potentiometer external to the module.

## Temp. Temper

Although the four filter stages of the CEM 3320 are fully temperature compensated the frequency control input is not. If the methods of construction outlined in the first article are followed then frequency changes due to temperature should not be a problem.

A major advantage gained by using the CEM 3320 is the low signal to noise ratio and also low distortion when compared to popular designs using discrete components.

## Construction

Since the PCB is designed to accept four filter configurations care should be excercised with component placement and both the component overlays and circuit diagrams should be examined if there is any doubt. The spacing between PCB holes for resistors and polystyrene capacitors is 12.5 mm and for the electrolytic capacitors is 2.5 mm . If your component leads are of different lengths to the above then you are putting it in the wrong place!

Note the two wire links on the PCB and take particular care, as always, on orientation of the ICs. The control input to the resonance cell (pin 9 of IC 3 ) is a low impedance input at near ground potential. The two inputs to this cell, via R6 and R7 shown in Figure 2, can be used for either manual or external voltage control. To have both facilities requires the use of the recommended jack socket method of construction, or some other switching technique which is evident from the following. Dual operation is achieved by connecting a 24 k resistor, R 7 A , to the +15 V supply line to RV3 and then taking the output from RV3 via a jack socket to R7, so that the manual control is disabled when the external control is in use. In the latter case R6 need not be installed.

A number of the input and output connections to the PCB have two holes and
this will apply to many of the ETI 80 modules. The second hole may be used for hard wiring but they are intended for future expansion of the system.

## Calibration

A simple check can be made of the frequency control input and whether RV5 and RV6 have been wired up correctly. With IC3 removed and the coarse and fine controls fully anti-clockwise measure the voltage at the junction of R14 and R15 and adjust PR1 to obtain +155 mV . Now turn RV5 (coarse control) fully clockwise and the voltage should be about -25 mV .

Turn off power and insert IC3, power up, turn RV3 (resonance control) fully anticlockwise and RV5 (coarse control) to about mid position. Measure the voltage at the output of the filter module and adjust PR2 until a zero reading is obtained. This offsets the DC voltage at the output of Pin 10 of IC3.

The last step is to calibrate the filter so that it will track the oscillators. The resonance control feedback resistor has been chosen so that the filter will oscillate when some frequency control is present, thus turning the filter into a low distortion sine wave oscillator. A calibrated VCO should be available at this time which will greatly simplify calibration of the filter. Any of the following techniques may be used in addition to treating it as an oscillator and using the methods described for the VCO.
1.Beat frequency technique. Apply about 3 V 5 to control input 1 , which will become the keyboard input, to give a frequency of
about 250 to 300 Hz when RV3 is rotated to the point where oscillation is sustained as heard through one side of the amplifier. Connect a calibrated VCO to the other side of the stereo amplifier and apply an external control voltage to the VCO until there is zero beating. Increase voltage to both VCO and VCF frequency control inputs by exactly one volt and then adjust PR1 until no beat frequency is heard.


Figure 1. the CEM 3320 pinout.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Each of the fitter stages of the CEM } 3320 \\
& \text { contains a variable gain cell followed by a } \\
& \text { high impedance buffer. The variable gain } \\
& \text { cell is a current-in, current-out, device las } \\
& \text { opposed to the traditional voltage-in, } \\
& \text { current-out type) whose output ourrent, } \\
& \text { lout, is given by } \\
& 1_{\text {out }}=\left(1_{\text {REF }}-1_{\text {in }}\right) e^{-V_{C}} C^{V_{T}} \\
& \text { Where } V_{T}=k T / q \text { and } I_{\text {ref }}=\frac{0 V 48_{c c}-1 V 3}{100 \mathrm{k}^{*}} \\
& \text { * } \pm 25 \%
\end{aligned}
$$

The input to the variable cell is a forward blased diode to ground. The input thus presents a low impedance summing node at a hominal, 650 mV above ground. The required input currents may therefore be obtained with resistors terninating at this inplut node.


Thus each stage is set up with a feedback resistor, Rf, from the buffer output to the variable gain cell inpilt and with the capacitor connectedr to the output of the variable gain cell. In the DC state, the buffer output will always adjust itself so that IREF flaws into the input. For lawest controf voltage feedthrough and maximum peak to peak, output signal, the guiescent output voltage of each buffer, VoDé should be $0.48^{\prime} \mathrm{V}$ cc $0 \vee 65$. In the presen design where $V$ ic is +15 V , the feedback resistors (R21, R24, R26 and R29) are look, then the DC output of each buffer will be a mominal 46 V 5 and IREF a nominal 60 UA . The output impedance of the variable gain cell, although high, has a finite value. This impedance- is reflected back to the input as $a n_{\mathrm{A}} A C$ resistance of nominally $1 M$ in parallel with the feedback resistor, RF, regardless of control voltage qalue:


If the first' stage of the low pass fifter is coupled to a ground-referenced direct coupled signal qutput, then the quiescent DC output will shift down $0 V 6$ and a capacitor
(C7) is used to apod this sitiation. For the first stage, the inE r requirement is net using only RE (R21). The subrequent stages should, however-be set-for amity gain and since these will have the cerrent from the feedback resistor (nominaly 60 uA ) dis well as the current developed zeross Reby the DC output of the procedeling stage f mominah: |y 66 uA / it is necessiry to sink the exeess curremt and this is done with a bias resistos Rb of $240 k$ connected to the nogative supply.

For, the simplest case, the high pass. filter, each siage is shown below


TREF is supplied only through the feedoth resistor, RF, and the voltage gain is thivity, irrespective of the value of thts nesistof. Fot best results, however, the fmpethance of the signal source to stage ene should be fow compared to RF/4.

The band pass filter is derved by conk necting twe stages of high paiss withitwa stages of low pass fittering. The alpait configuration is used to genertite a phase shift fllter by taking pari of the original
2. Lissajours figures. Same procedure as (1) but outputs from VCO and VCF are coupled to the $X$ and $Y$ inputs of an oscilloscope to generate Lissajours figures, ie a stable circle using sine waves when both amplitude and frequency are matched.
3. Maximum signal amplitude. Another approach with an oscilloscope is to apply a signal of about 250 Hz from a calibrated VCO to signal input 1 of the filter and ob-
serve the output of the filter on the oscilloscope. Apply a voltage to control input 1 of the filter until the point where the output reaches its maximum amplitude is observed. A small amount of resonance will help. Increase control voltage to both VCO and VCF by exactly one volt and adjust PR1 until maximum amplitude is restored.

If an oscilloscope is available then the VCO and VCLFO may be used as a sweep
frequency generator to examine the response characteristics of the filters. These should be connected as shown below.-



Figure 2, full circuit diagram of the phase-shift filter.

## WORKS

signal, viia R33, to the output stage. In both cases the purpose of resistors R20 to R30, when used, is evident front the above discussion.

The CEM 3320 contains a traditional transconductance typa of amplifier, it has a separate signal voltage input (pin 8) and since this has in impedance of moninally 3 k 5 the inpur is referenced to ground and so whien the signal is taken from the signal output of the IC \# coupling capacitor (C12) is required. The output anf the gain cell is cornected to stage one of the filter (pin y) and in this project the amplifier is used to provide roftage control of resonance. In controlling resonance a cirrent is applied to pin 9 using R6 or RT. This imput is of low impedance with a potential near ground and its characteristics are such that the transconductance of the cell increases-more slowly with increasing current. The latter resuits in finer resolution as the critical, point "of oscillation is reached. The amount of signal teedback is governed by R32 and its yalue has been chosen such that with 100 uA of control eurrent four standard 10 yofts via R7), oscllation will just occur, although operating canditions will, influence the actual sfarting polat. In other words, we have "choseni the value so as to avoid' sine wavès of farge amplitude whith would become clipped in the first .filter stage and
cause a strift in frequericy.
In order to minimise power dissipation the negative supply of the CEM 3320 is regulated at -3 Vg with an finternal shunt regtilator. This reduces warm up drifti, of the pole frequencies on pascering us as well as allowing virutaly any negative supply greater than $-4 V$ to be is ${ }^{2}$. The current limiting resistor, REE (R31), meis atways be included and is calculdued as fallows

$$
R_{E E}=\frac{V_{E E}-2 V 7}{.008}
$$

which for oar standard -15 V supply requires a nesistar of 1 K 5 , A positive supply of. +15 V is connected directly to pina 4 but supplifes in the range +9 to. +18 V may be used althougti this will influence both power dissipation and peak to peak output swing:

1C1 forms a conventional input summer for up to three signal inputs, two of which may. be attenuated with rutary controls (RV1 and deV2) included on the panel, R 5 determines the sigialutevet into the fiffer and based, on an input of 10 V p-p its value has been chosen such that the signal will, ndt be clipped in the fifter even when the fraximum usefat regeheration is applied. IC2b forms the output slage and the signal is amplitied by R18 to ensure that the VCF wifl have approximately unity gain at maxi-
mum resenance. R17 and PR2 allow cancellation of the $D C$ voltage al pin 10 of the CEM 3320: 1C2b also serves as a huffer stage for ICa since the buffers within the filter, are not shont circuit protected:

The frequency range of the filters is geverned initially by the capacitors C8 to C1t, which have been selected to provide a lower cut-off frequency to the range of 20 to 25 Hz . The CEM 3320 has àn exponential converter within the device which simultaneously, controls the curremt gain of each section. An mput of 18 mv/octave is required to pin 12 and an increasing positive control voltage Jowers the pole frequency of the filter. Furthermore;-for best resilts the input to pin 12 should be maintained between -25 mV and +155 mV . IC2a therefore provides an input summer for two external controf yoltages (via R10 and R11), a coarse control (RV5) for a sten octave range and a finz sentrol (RV6) over a ome octave range: If also serves, to invert the input voltage to the same sense as other modules, namely, an increasing positive voltage increases pole frequency; to sum an offset voltage through $\cdot R 12$ to give an fnitial voltage at pin 12 of approximately +155 mV: and by adjusting the gain with PRI to allow the ore yolt per actave, responise of the filter to be developed at the Whaction of R14 and R15.


BUYLINES ponent changes. low pass operation. operation.

Fig.3. (left) the filter configured for high-pass operation showing com-

Fig.4. (right) changes for Fig.5. (below right) changes for band-pass filter

fiter, inclusive of postage, packing and VAT. Please specify filter type required when ordering.

## PARTS LIST

| Components common to all filters RESISTORS, $5 \%$, 1 yW carbon film R1,2,7,16 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |



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The 21 ranges cover all likely requirements. Operation is straight-forward, just turn the 22-position selection switch to the required range.

Sensitivity $\quad 20 \mathrm{k} \Omega / \mathrm{V}$ d.c. $4 \mathrm{k} \Omega / \mathrm{Va}$ a.c.
Ranges extend from

100 mV to 600 V d.c.
15 V to $1,500 \mathrm{~V}$ a.c.
$50 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ to 600 mA d.c.

30 mA to 3 A a.c.
0 to $2 \mathrm{k} \Omega$
0 to $2 \mathrm{M} \Omega$

Movement protected by internal diode and fuse
The instrument is supplied complete with case, leads and instructions.


## Wanth

MAY 1980


Don't buya digital watch until you read this report

There are so many digital watches on the market, with varying functions, that the average person is bound to feel somewhat confused.

A new survey of the electronic watch industry has been produced to clarify this confusion and to give an unbiased and objective answer to the many questions that are constantly being raised.

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* Who makes Seiko's?
* What is the importance between brand names?
* Is solar power worth the extra money?
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The survey answers all of these questions and tells you what to look for in a quartz watch; how they work; why the prices vary so much; what the future holds.

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ETI MAY 1980


## Which is the best watch?

 different in price, durability and functions. How would you choose between them?

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For your free copy of the report. complete and return the coupon to: Metac Electronic \& Time Centres, 24-hour Despatch Centre, FREEPOST, 47A High St., Daventry, Northants.


# MICROFILE <br> Henry Budgett reveals Nascom's new goodies and the latest club news. 

Asomewhat slimmer than usual Microfile this month owing to a distinct lack of anything much to talk about, and a surfiet of Tangerine! The springtime is generally supposed to be a time of blossoming forth and judging by my letters file on Computer Clubs they are no exception.

## Clubbed To Death

Taking the pile in no particular order we have Mr Fieldhouse of 18 Seaford Road, Broadfield, Crawley in West Sussex who informs me of the recent formation of a club. This is open to anyone with an interest in personal computers and it is hoped to hold weekly meetings with a newsletter to be published at regular intervals. If you live in the area contact him at the above address or ring on Crawley 542509. Tony Rycroft of the South Yorkshire Personal Computing Group has moved on and the group secretary, Paul Sanderson of 8 Vernon Road, Totley, Sheffield S17 3QE Tel 0742-351895, is now the person to contact for details. They hold meetings on the second Wednesday of each month in Room F135 of St George's Building, Sheffield University. Another newly set up organisation is the Anglia Computer User Group which is open to anyone in East Anglia who has an interest in computers for either professional or hobby reasons. Contact can be made to Jan Rejzl at 128 Templemere, Sprowston Road, Norwich NR3 4EQ or by phone on Norwich 402311.

Surrey is the target for the next micro invasion with the Surrey Micro Processor Society run by Mike Patrick of 28 West Drive, Cheam, Surrey. They are holding about two meetings a month with an annual sub of $£ 5, £ 3$ for juniors or OAPs, and currently have around 40 members. The West Midlands Amateur Computer Club have been updated and their vital information is that they meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. The venue is Elmfield School in Love Lane, Stourbridge and they usually start around 7.30. The sub for the year is $£ 3$ or $£ 2$ if still in full-time education. For more information contact John Tracey at 100 Booth Close, Kingswinford, West Midlands or ring Brierly Hill 70097. They are well equipped with 8 PETs, 12 N1s, 5 N2s 3 TRS 80 s plus about 20 others. Anyone in mid Sussex? Well if there is - and you are interested in micros - contact Bernard Langton who is forming a micro club. Get in touch with him at 228 St Leonards Road, Horsham, Sussex RH13 6AU.

The Grampian Amateur Computer Society, well known for their spelling mistakes, have sent me an update. They meet every second Monday at the Holiday Inn, Bucksburn, Aberdeen and have over 30 members. All their news is published in a regular newsletter and they have their own Acorn. For further information contact the secretary at Orton Cottage, Burnside, Lumphanan, Kincardineshire, Grampian, Scotland. Whilst north of the border I shall mention the

Scottish Amateur Computer Society who have sent me a copy of their Newsletter andBulletin. They meet on the first Wednesday of each month at the Grosvenor Hotel, Haymarket, Edinburgh at about 7.30 pm . They publish the newsletter quarterly and for further information you should contact the secretary, Alastair Macpherson, at 6 Curriehill Castle Drive, Balerno, Edinburgh 14.

And whilst on the subject of newsletters, did you know that there was an Ohio Scientific UK User Group? Well neither did I. Tom Graves is the man to contact if you own one. C1 or 2 and Superboard are the current interests but they would like to expand to the disc systems. The address to write to is 19a West End, Street, Somerset BA16 0LQ.

## System 80 Makes Two Into One

Nascom have at last turned the single board into a complete system with the launch of System 80 . Basically all they have done is to produce a range of boards for the Nasbus and a case to put them all in. However, before you all start to think about long delivery times they do promise that all the boards are in the production state and although the launch is over the next few months they will all arrive.

The starting point is the case which accepts a " 2 " and its keyboard plus four more boards. Included is space for a power
supply and sockets for printer and cassette. The bad news is that if you own a " 1 " you won't be able to spend your $£ 85$ unless you are prepared to do quite a lot of hacking to fit a bufferboard in, Vero are rumoured to have a rack system on the stocks that may well be the answer.

Next is the good news that Nascom have finally ditched the 16K RAM plane, the one labelled 'Instant Disaster', and produced one that offers a choice of 16,32 or 48 K of dynamic with locatable boundaries and page mode so you could have four on a " 2 "! Price is $£ 225$.

At last they are also announcing some $1 / O$ in the shape of a board with three PIOs, a CTC and a UART. Price is $£ 45$ for the board and TTL, $£ 8.50$ per $\mathrm{PlO}, £ 8.25$ for a CTC and $£ 16$ for the UART. The graphics capability of the " 2 ", not bad anyway, has been expanded out of all proportion with two new boards, a programmable graphics generator at $£ 90$ and a dual standard colour board whose price is not yet decided.

For those of you who are not satisfied with lowly cassette storage discs will be here soon. The board has been designed but due to component shortages it will be the last released, probably in July. The controller card is designed to handle up to four $51 / 4^{\prime \prime}$ units and will cost $£ 127.50$. It should also be possible to use $8^{\prime \prime}$ units but no support is planned. A complete dual double-sided, doubledensity system will set you back $£ 690$,

The second major item of news to emerge from the launch is that the " 2 " will now be sold at $£ 225$ but there will be no on-board RAM (4118) other than the video and scratchpad and no free 16 K board. Some firms like Henry's are still doing the offer on their own so look out for bargains.

## Tangy Fruit

After last month's little piece on the Microtan 65, which even got the unimpressable Mr Graham converted to micromania (see Kit Survey), I have been so swamped with calls and letters that I'm going to print the address so you can all go and pester them rather than me. Tangerine Computer Systems Ltd., Forehill, Ely, Cambridgeshire. Their telephone number is 0353-3633. The expansion board, Tanex, is now available and the slight delay was caused by one of the nastiest little problems l've heard in a while. 'The prototype worked, they laid out the board using a distributors data sheet and sent it off to be made up. Result of the exercise was that the PCB didn't work. The reason? Whoever drew up the data sheet muddled up a couple of IC pins and every board had to be scrapped. So a gentle word of warning, only use manufacturers genuine data, not some free give away!

## Post Script

Two late items that arrived. The inaugural meeting of the Croydon Mini/Micro Computer Group is to be held on Tuesday 22 nd of April at 7.00 pm in the Central Reference Library, Katharine Street, Croydon. Anyone interested should contact Vernon Gifford, 111 Selhurst Road, London SE25 6LH. If you won't be able to attend but are still interested he would like to know your areas of special interest before the meeting if posible.

The second item is to explain why there is no ZX-80 follow-up as promised. Simple really, we haven't got one yet, but perhaps for next issue so don't despair.

ETI




## PCBS

$\begin{array}{lll}\text { Size in. } & 0.1 \mathrm{in}, 0.1 \text { in. } & \text { Vero } \\ 25 \times 1 & 16 p & - \\ \text { Cutter 110p. }\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{lll}25 \times 3.75 & 52 \mathrm{p} & 45 \mathrm{p} \\ 2.5 \times 5 & 60 \mathrm{p} & 55 \mathrm{p}\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llll}3.75 \times 5 & 70 p & 70 p & \text { tool } 150 \mathrm{p} \text {. }\end{array}$
$3.75 \times 17 \quad 250 p \quad 210 p$
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { SS pins/100 } \\ \text { Fibregless board: } & \text { 80p each }\end{array}$
Alfac -33 p per sheet.

## RESISTORS Carbon film resistors. High Stability. 12 series. 4.7 ohms to 10 M . Any mix: $\begin{array}{llll} & \text { each } & 100+ & 1000+ \\ 0.25 W & 1 p & 0.9 \mathrm{p} & 0.85 \mathrm{p} \\ 0.5 \mathrm{~W} & 2 \mathrm{p} & 1.5 \mathrm{p} & 1.3 \mathrm{p}\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{lll}0.5 \mathrm{~W} & 2 \mathrm{p} & 1.5 \mathrm{p} \\ \text { Special development packs consisting }\end{array}$ Special development packs consisting of 10 of each value from 4.7 ohms to $1 \mathrm{Meg}-$ ohm ( 650 res) $0.5 \mathrm{~W} £ 8.50$. 0.25 W f 5.30 . ohm ( 650 res) 0.5 W £8.50. 0.25 METAL FILM RESISTORS <br> $$
\text { very high stability, low noise rated at } 1 / / \mathrm{W}
$$ 1\%. Available from 51 ohms to 330 k in E24 series. Any mix <br> $\begin{array}{llll} & \text { each } & 100+ & 1000 \\ 0.25 W & 4 p & 3.7 p & 3.5 p\end{array}$

POTENTIOMETERS
Preset vertical or horizontal 100 ohms 1M
Rotery 5K-2M2 Log or Lin single. 30p Rotary 5K-2M2 Log or Lin double 90 p
Slide 60 mm travel $5 \mathrm{k}-500 \mathrm{k}$ Log Slide 60 mm
Suitable knobs for above with coloured
caps in red, blue, green, grey, yellow and black. Rotary controls 16p each. Slide type $12 p$ each.

## MISC. <br> Murata Ultrasonic Transducers 350p pair 64 mm 8 ohm speakers SRB 17 W soldering Reel of 22 swg solder ( 39.6 m ) Desoldering tool Minaiture 606 and 909 <br> at 100 mA transformers

 510 p each 170p each
## SWITCHES

## TOOGLE

Standard SPST 36p DPDT 50p $\begin{array}{lll}\text { Miniature } & \text { SPDT 75p } & \text { DPDT 85p } \\ \text { Subminiature } & \text { SPST 58p } & \text { DPDT 78p }\end{array}$ SLIDE
Standard
Miniature DPDT $17 p$

ROCKER (10A rating)
SPST 34p each. SPST 46p each. ROTARY
ROTARY
1P12W, 2P6W, 4P3W or 3P4W 51p each Key operated DPDT (Yale key) 395p each PUSH
Non locking - push to make $16 p$ each $\begin{array}{llr} & \text { - push to break } & \text { 22p each } \\ \text { Locking } & \text { - SPST } & \text { 75p each } \\ & \text { - DPDT } & 100 \mathrm{p} \text { each }\end{array}$ REGULATORS $\begin{aligned} & \text { LM309K } 140 p \\ & \text { LM317T 220p }\end{aligned}$ LM323K 480p LM723 40p
$\begin{array}{lll}100 \mathrm{~mA}+\mathrm{ve} \quad 1 A+v e & 1 \mathrm{~A}-\mathrm{ve} \\ 7905 & \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{llll}78 L 06 & 30 p & 7805 & 70 p \\ 78 L 12 & 30 p & 7812 & 70 p \\ 7912 & 85 p\end{array}$ 78 L 15 30p $\quad 7815$ 70p 7915 85p

| TRA |  | S |  | TIP32C <br> TIP2955 <br> TIP3055 | $\begin{aligned} & 60 p \\ & 66 p \\ & 53 p \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| AC127 | 22p | BC548 | $11 p$ | ZTX107 | 12p |
| AC128 | 22p | BCY71 | $16 p$ | 2T×108 | 12p |
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| AD161 | 40p | BD131 | 40p | ZTX500 | 15p |
| AD162 | 40p | BD132 | 40p | 2N3053 | 25p |
| BC107 | 12p | BD139 | 33p | 2N3054 | 56p |
| BC108 | 10p | BD140 | 33p | 2N3055 | 50 p |
| BC108C | 12p | BFY50 | 23p | 2N3702 | 9 p |
| BC109 | 12p | BF | 23p | 2N3794 | $9 p$ |
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| BC147 | 9 p | MPSA06 | 16p | 2N3904 | 10p |
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| BC177 | 16p | TIP29C | 60p | 2N3906 | 10p |
| BC178 | 16p | TIP30C | 48p | 2N5459 | 33p |
| BC182 | 10p | TIP31C | 50p | 2N5777 | 50p |
| BC182L BC184 | 10p 10p | DIODES |  |  |  |
| BC184L | 10 p | 1N914 | 4p | 1N4006 | 7p |
| BC212 | 10p | 1N4148 | 3p | 1 N5401 | 14p |
| BC212L | 10p | 1N4002 | 5p | BZY88se | . 8 p |
| BC214L | 10p | 1N4148 | £1.50 | 100. |  |

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High quality foil type. 63 V working, $5 \%$ tol. 22pf to 100pf
1500pi to 0.01 f . . . . . $7 p$ each TANTALUM BEAD
$0.1,0.15,0.22,0.33,0.47,0.68$ $1 \& 2.2 u F$ @ 35 V
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$0.01,0.015,0.022,0.033,0.047,0.068,0.1 .6 p$ ea. $\begin{aligned} & \text { 0.01, } 0.015,0.022,0.033,0.047,0.068,0.1 .6 p \mathrm{ea} \text {. } \\ & 0.15,0.22\end{aligned} \cdot \quad \cdot \quad . \quad \cdot \quad \cdot \quad \cdot \quad .8 \mathrm{peach}$ $\begin{aligned} & 0.15,0.22 \\ & 0.33,0.47 \\ & 0.68\end{aligned} \quad . \quad . \quad . \quad . \quad . \quad . \quad . \quad . \quad . \quad$ each 0.68
1.0 uF 22p each
CERAMIC
Plate type 50V. Available in E12 series from
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MINIATURE TRIMMERS
Miniature film type, in $1.4 \mathrm{pF}-5 \mathrm{pF}, 2 \mathrm{pF}-22 \mathrm{pF}$
$2 \mathrm{pF}-22 \mathrm{pF}, 2 \mathrm{pF}-10 \mathrm{pF}, 5.5 \mathrm{pF}-65 \mathrm{pF} .22 \mathrm{p}$ each RADIAL LEAD ELECTROLYTICS


## CONNECTORS <br> din plugs and sockets

|  | plug | chassis <br> socket | line <br> socket |
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| 2 pin | $8 p$ | $8 p$ | $12 p$ |
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| 5 pin $180^{\circ}$ | $12 p$ | $11 p$ | $17 p$ |
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| JACK PLUGS AND SOCKETS |  |  |  |


|  | unscreened | screened | socket |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | ---: |
| 2.5 mm | $10 p$ | $15 p$ | $8 p$ |
| 3.5 mm | $10 p$ | $16 p$ | $9 p$ |
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|  | 4025 | 20p | 4063 | 120p | 4508 | 330p |
|  | 4026 | 160p | 4066 | 60 p | 4510 | 80p |
|  | 4027 | 45p | 4068 | 20 p | 4511 | 90p |
| 20p | 4028 | 85p | 4069 | 20p | 4512 | 80p |
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| 90p | 4050 | 45p | 4095 | 110p | 4559 | 4200 |
| 100p | 4051 | 70p | 4098 | 120p | 4581 | 330p |
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| 16p | 74LS54 | 22p | 74LS136 | 50p | 74LS191 | 90p |
| 22p | 74 LS 73 | 35p | 74LS138 | 75p | 74 LS 192 | 90p |
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Please add 50 p carriage on orders under f 15 Official orders welcome.
 do with that $£ 1000$ gift that will always arrive in the post tomorrow, dream no longer. In a remarkable game program written for the TI59 we have a complete stockmarket where you can buy and sell, wheel and deal, bear and bull to your hearts content.

Whilst the stock exchanges of reality are curious and wonderful establishments this game is based on proper theories and a full and detailed explanation of the processes needed is given. So, if you don't own a TI59 do not despair you will be able to use the information to implement the game on virtually any programmable system.

So if you want to be among the market leaders next month invest your sixty pence in our May issue, it could be the best investment you'll ever make.

Does your car or motorcycle seem to want more money than you bargained for? The author of our Home Finance program presents a second offering which will cater for your automotive expenses.

The program runs on the family PET but is easily adaptable to any BASIC using system with the PETs facilities. Access is available to a number of accounts for details of repair and servicing costs and reminders are given about the life expectancy of wearable items such as tyres.

If you depend on your car and can't account for the money you spend, load up and discover where its all going to. Rumour has it that Panther De Ville owners with that optional PET may be buying all copies so get to the newsagents early.

## TRITON REVISITED

ETIs own computer system is over a year old now, and changes have been made since its conception that make it rather more than a single board computer.

In our continuing series of owners reports on popular machines John Hiscott takes his system through the stages of development and lays his
observations open to the public eye.

## DRIVEN TO DESPAIR?

## TERMINOLOGY

No, that's not the art of making connections, but a glossary of the "hundred most used terms" in home and hobby computing. Many of our enquiries start out with, 'I can't tell the difference between RAM and ROM' so we decided to reveal all.

As an aid to simulating conversation this pull out extra should not be missed, you might even learn the elusive art of confusion!

## HOME

Steam train and whistle (80019) Simulates the sound on steam and whiste, your hands and the
Clap Switch
ture
tune . . .................... enting by
Touch dimmer
TV sound modulator (9925)

- Simple sound effects (79077)

Electronic nuisance (80016) ( 79510 )
Ultrasonic transmitter (adio) (79511)
DJ killer (79505)
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Variable fuzz-box (9984) loniser (9823). - Oscillographics (99
your oscilloscope
clucks like a hen ${ }^{\prime}$
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could win you a fortune . . ............. $\mathbf{£ 8 . 1 5}$
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charge of cells
Proximity detector (9974)
room (electric (9950). Master station
Central alam
Slave station
Alarm unit ......................... $\mathbf{E 3 . 1 0}$ Touch tuning

FM preselect unit ( 79519 ) digital display .............................. 17. Taik funny (80052). Deliberate electronic distortion of speech and music signals using a single $\mathbf{£ 9 . 6 0}$ 2206 ........... (80027). Using coloured light for an effective display an effective display Temperature cormar (9952) including transtormar 9 (Antex XTC-CTC) | £11.65 |
| :--- |
| 18.35 | Soldering predictor (79053)



[^4] in Rom. Based on SC/MP

## MEASURING

2/3 Digital thermometer (80045) LCD display (supplied without relay)
LED display (supplied with
Relay (two pole changeover

| € 2.45 |
| :--- |

and audoltmeter 7
and audio generator
Universal digital meter (79005). Digital replace. ment for pointer instruments . . . . . . . £14.65
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14.65

1 hertz pulse
Power supply for timebase
Universal tumebase (78100). Crystal controlled time base
$1 / 4 \mathrm{GHz}$
c9 1
count up to 250 MHz
Minicounter (9927). 1 MHz 4 digit display
Audio analyser (9932). An analyser which can
point the deficiencies in a particular audio chain or environment
Sport sinewave generator (9948). Programmable sinewaves with less than $00025 \%$ THD $£ 12.95$ Simple function generator (9453). Sine, square and sawtooth outputs
Sinewave generator ( 79019 ), Allways sinewaves when you need them $\mathbf{E 8 . 9 0}$
TV scope basic version ( 9968 1/5). Produces
 TV scope advanced version ( $99691 / 3$ ). Converts
basic scope to 100 KHz bandwidth basic scope to 100 KHz bandwidth Digiscope (9926) E32.35 Digifarad (79088) eter with a wide range € 25.10
Gatedipper (79514). Checks the resonant
frequency of a circuit ...................

## MICROPROCESSOR

## $\mu P$

- 

Elektor $S C / M P \mu P$-system
$S C / M P R 1$ SC/MP Board and RAM Input/O utput Board working of the SC/MP chip demonstrate the ductor) Data is fed in by digital switchal Semicon.

CPU (Central (databus) . . . . . 27.60 heart of the system. The Unit) Card 9851. The needed to system. The board contains all the ICs included room to hold the control pro and (monitor) which is added later control program Memory extension ( 9863 ). You will be able to work with interrupt requests now and able to contains $3 / 4 \mathrm{~K}$ of RAM and a $1 / 2 \mathrm{~K}$ and the card

- Bus Board. A simple way of ...........959.95 various boards of the system of inconnecting the Extension for 3 boards ( 985 Extension for 6 boards ( 88507 )
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segment displays
8 seven
E 52.65
ELBUG. This is the monitor programme stored in 3
Eproms Eproms

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+5.01
-3 amp and 12 vol Gives an output of +5 volt than enough $12 \mathrm{volt}-0.5 \mathrm{amp}$ which is more cluding transformers) the complete system (in. Cluding transformers)
£20.95
expand card ( 9885 ) $4096 \times 8$ bits of memory to
Cassette interface (9905) This board $\varepsilon 92.55$ or resd replay programs on a simple cas you ASCII Keyboard 19965; .......... £14.95 ASCII Keyboard (9965). This simple unit based
around the AY-5 2376 encod around the AY-5-2376 encoder provides all the alphanumerics and-control functions used in the - Elek ierminal format
$£ 46.30$ reliable (9966). One of the cheapest and most domestic telems for displaying data on to a
Elekterminal Extension (79038). With the aid of the extension board the memory capacity of the
elekterminal can be expanded of 16 lines and 64 expanded to tour pages (each

# INFRA RED REMOTE CONTROL SYSTEM 

# Make things happen at a distance without lifting a finger. There is no limit to the application of our ultra versitile IR 60 control system. Part1: receiver 

Multi function hand-held remotecontrol facilities are the 'in-thing' in modern $\mathrm{Hi}-\mathrm{Fi}$ systems and music centres, but also have lots of other potential applications in domestic fields such as lighting and heating control, home security control, etc. We have never published a really sophisticated remote control system in ETI - until now.

Like all good modern remote control systems, our system uses an infra-red data link which is highly efficient, gives a good range, is not unduly directional and which, unlike ultrasonic systems, is remarkably interference-free. (Ultrasonic systems are, incidentally, now regarded as rather quaint, even though they do still occasionally appear in amateur-designed form in some of the other electronic magazines).

So what is so special about our system and what does it do? The system comprises two basic units, a hand-held 16-key transmitter and a mains-powered receiverdecoder unit. The two units together give control of three independent 64 -step analogue channels, 16 'selector' channels, two bistable channels, and one on/off relay channel or switch. The hand-held unit is powered by a PP3 battery, which gives an operating life of about six months in normal use and gives a typical control range of about 15 metres.

The control system uses state-of-theart LSI chips in the transmitter and receiver and is highly sophisticated in both technology and performance. The outputs of the receiver consist of three analogue voltages, one relay output, one 4-bit binary output and two single-bit binary outputs. How you interface these outputs to external devices is largely up to you: a few notes on the subject are given in this month's 'Designer's Notebook': we'll also be presenting some suitable interface projects and systems in future issues of ETI.

The control action of the system is very sophisticated and is best understood by refering to Tables 1 and 2, which give detailed descriptions of the transmitter switch functions and the receiver output functions


Receiver board of the IR60. Details of the transmitter will follow next month.

| SWITCH NUMBER | $\begin{aligned} & \text { PIN } \\ & \text { CODE } \end{aligned}$ | FUNCTION | RECEIVER OUTPUT ACTION |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 1 c | Standby (off) | Turns relay RLA off. |
| 2 | 2 c | ON | Turns relay RLA on. |
| 3 | 1b | MUTE | Reduces volume output level rapidly to zero. |
| 4 | 83a | VOLUME + | Increases volume output level. |
| 5 | 836 | VOLUME - | Decreases volume output level. |
| 6 | 83 c | analogue $1+$ | Increases Analogue 1 output level. |
| 7 | 83d | ANALOGUE 1 | Decreases Analogue 1 output level. |
| 8 | $84 a$ | ANALOGUE 2 + | Increases Analogue 2 output level. |
| 9 | 84b | ANALOGUE 2 - | Decreases Analogue 2 output levels. |
| 10 | 1 d | RESERVE 1 | Switches Reserve 1 (RSV1) output between high and low states on alternatc operations. |
| 11 | 2 d | RESERVE 2 O O | Switches Reserve 2 (RSV2) output between high and low states on atternate operations: Turns RLA on. |
| 12 | 2 a | PROGRAM STEP $+/ O N$ | increments binary channel-select output by one step per operation: Turns RLA on. |
| 13 | 2 b | PROGRAM STEP - $/$ ON | Decrements binary channel-select output by one step per operation: Turns RLA on. |
| 14 | 53 | CHANNEL 1 / ON | Sets binary output to 0000 (Channel 1) state: Turns RLA on. |
| 15 | 6d | CHANNEL 8 ION | Sets binary output to 1110 (Channel 8) state: Turns RLA on. |
| 16 | 8 d | CHANNEL $16 / \mathrm{ON}$ | Sets binary output to 1111 (Channel 16) state: Turns RLA on. |

[^5]| OUTPUT <br> FUNCTION | TRANSMITTER CONTROL SWITCHES | DESCRIPTION |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| STANDBY (OFF) | $\begin{aligned} & 1,2,11,12,13,14 \\ & 15,16 . \end{aligned}$ | Relay output that can be used to switch power to external circuitry. The relay can be turned on via transmitter switches $2,11,12,13,14,15$ or 16 . The relay can be turned off via STANDBY (OFF) switch 1 only. |
| VOLUME | 3,4,5 (also 1 and 2) | An analogue output that can be varied from OV to approximately 14 volts in in 64 discrete steps. SPAN time (from min to max or vice versa) is approximately 8 seconds. <br> Output level can be increased by pressing and holding transmitter switch 4 or decreased via switch 5 : when these switches are released the prevailing level is stored and maintained. The output can be rapidly reduced to zero by operating MUTE switch 3 or ST ANDBY (OFF) switch 1 ; subsequently touching switch 4 returns the 'sound' output to its previous level. <br> The analogue output voltage can be used to control voltage-controlled attenuators, amplifiers, filters, etc. |
| ANALOGUE $?$ | 6,7. | An analogue output (similat to VOLUME) that can be varied from OV to 14 volts in 64 discrete steps. Output level can be increased via transmitter switch 6 or decreased via switch 7 . |
| ANALOGUE 2 | 8,9. | An analogue output (similar to VOLUME) that can be varied from OV to 14 V in 64 discrete steps. Output level can be increased via switch 8 or decreased via switch 9 . |
| RESERVE 1 | 10. (also 1). | A bistable output that switches between low ( 0 V ) and high (14V) states on alternate operations of switch 10 . The output switches to the high state when STANDBY (OFF) switch 1 is operated. |
| RESERVE 2 | 11. (also 1). | A bistable output that switches between low and high states on alternate operations of switch 11. The output switches to the low state when STANDBY (OFF) switch 1 is operated. |
| CHANNEL- SELECT OUTPUTS | 12,13,14,15 and 16. | A 4 -bit binary output that can be put into 16 possible scates; the output can be used to select any one of 16 channels via a suitable decoder/multiplexer. <br> Channel $1(0000)$ can be selected directly via switch 14. <br> Channel $8(1110)$ can be selected directly via switch 15. <br> Channel 15 (1111) can be selected directly vid switch 16. <br> The output/channel selector can be incremented upwards one step at a time via transmitter switch 12, or downwards via switch 13. |

Table 2: transmitter control switch functions.
respectively. Note that several of the transmitter switches give multi-function operation.

## Construction : The Receiver Unit

Before committing yourself to the construction of this project, note that access to an oscilloscope may be required when initially setting up the system. If you have such access, you can proceed with reasonable confidence. Full constructional details of the complete receiver unit are given in the present article: details of the transmitter construction and setting up procedure waill be given next month.

The receiver unit is built up on three separate PCB's and the unit is uncased. This method of construction allows the receiver unit to be built into an existing Hi-Fi outfit, etc.

Start construction by building the power supply board. Note that Q4 must be mounted on a suitable heat sink. We recommend the use of a 35 volt component in the C 16 position, even though our prototype is fitted with a 25 volt device. Check that the completed unit produces an output of about 14 volts.



## HOW IT WORKS

The coded infra-red slgnal from the transmitter is detected and amplified by the receiver unit and utimately causes sume receiver output function to occur. The receiver unit comprises three main sections, the infra-red receiver preamplifier, the main receiver/decoder unit and the power supply.

The transmitted $1 R_{\text {n }}$ code signal has a basig frequency of about 30 kHz (half of the transmitter clock frequency) and is detected by RRD 1 in the recelver preamp and amplified first by Q1 and then by IC1. A problem in designing IR preamplifiers is that the circuit not only has to provide high gain for long range operation but also must not saturate when the transmitter is placed only a few inches from the receiver.

With the latter point in mind, R1-D2-D1 and C2 are used to prevent the bias point of Q1 shifting under heavy urive conditions. D2 and D3 clip the level of the final IC1 output signal, to prevent overdriving of following stages. The values of C2-C3-C4-C5 and. C 7 are chosen to make the preamplifier
reasonably frequency selective, thereby ensuring a good low-nolse flgure. The preamp unit must be mounted in a sereened case.

The output of the preamp is further amplified by Q1 on the main receiverf decoder board and then fed to the pin 15 signal input rerminal of 1 C 2 , the P -MOS LSI receiver chip, This chip is provided with a clock osclilator (L1-C8-C9-R15) which is tuned fo the transmitter clack frequency fouble the serial code "frequency). The chip checks the serial code input signal for correct number of bits, bit duration, etc, processes it and then 'dumps' the resuiting code signal into a register, from which it is then converted into a useful output action.

The IC2 outpuiss from pirs 4 to 7 form a 4 -bit binary signal that can be used to externally select any one of 16 channels. The outputs of pins 9,10 and 12 are singlebit signals that can be set high. or low via the transmitier commands: the output of
pin 12 is used to activate a relay (whish can be used for switching power to an external circuit, etc) wia Q2.

The IC provides three analogue output signals (at, pins 11,13 and 14). Each of these outputs takes the form of a 1 kHz (approx) square wave that can have its mark/space ratio (and thus its mean level) varied over a full span in 64 discrete steps via the transmitter command signals. These variable mark/space signals are cenverted to DC analogue voltages via fow-pass filters (C13-R18, C14-R19, C15-R20) and can be used to control external voltage-controlled attenuators and amplifiers (for remote gain control) and fiters (for remote tone control), etc.

The preamp and main receiver/decoder boards are each powered from a regulated 14 volt supply derived from the mains via T1-D5-D6-C16 and series-regulator network Q4-2D1-R25. The circuit is required to supply current up to onfy a couple of hundred millatimps.


Fig.3. (left) circuit diagram of the PSU for the IR60 system.

## BUYLINES

## The SAB3209 IC could present a problem

 for your local component-emporium. However, Electrovalue and Watford E⿴ectronics are stockists for this. IC. The relay and infratred detector can also be, purchased from Wátford Electronics, L 1 was abs, tained from Ambit International. Al other components are common types and should not pose any problem.Next, build the pre-amp PCB as shown on the overlay. The odd positioning of C1 on this PCB was caused by a last-minute correction to our prototype: this mod is also responsible for the two empty holes on one side of the board. When construction is complete you can fit the PCB into a screened case (dare we suggest a tobacco tin?), which must be grounded to the zero volts line. The infra-red detector (I RD1) can either be mounted external to the case or can be mounted on the inside, looking out through a suitable aperture. Take special care to connect I RD1 to the circuit in the correct polarity.


Shown here are the three PCBs which comprise the IR60 receiver system.
Top: the preamp board.
Left: a PSU suitable for driving the system. Below: the decoder board.

## Finishing Off

Finally, build up the main receiver/ decoder board, complete with relay RLA. When construction is complete, make the supply connections to the board and the pre-amp and connect the pre-amp output to the receiver/decoder input terminal using screened cable. Switch the unit on and use your 'scope to check that an approximately 60 kHz clock signal (adjustable via L1) appears on the pin 3 of IC2. You can also check that signal-input pin 15 is at 14 volts DC with half a volt or so of noise (adjustable via RV1) superimposed on it. If the two points above check out OK your receiver unit is probably functioning correctly.

## PROJECT: Remote Control System



Next month: Transmitter details,


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# HEISENBERG'S UNCERTANTY PRINCIPLE 

# It affects all aspects of electronics. It is a fundamental concept as basic as ABC to a physicist and this is the easiest way to find out more about it. A.Lipson explains. 

Most people who read a lot of science fiction (as I must confess I do) have probably heard of Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle at some time or other, but the vast majority are, if you'll pardon the pun, very uncertain as to its nature. Well, never fear; a paragraph or two hence you, too, will be able to confuse friends, relatives and the cat....

## Exactly Where?

The uncertainty principle as such was first stated by a German physicist, Werner Karl Heisenberg, in the late 1920s. He said, essentially, that it is impossible to measure both the position and momentum of particle simultaneously. Now this wasn't quite such a stupid statement as it sounds - what he actually meant by this was that, in measuring either the position or momentum of a particle, you must necessarily be affecting the other in a way which is unpredictable and, in the case of small particles such as electrons, significant. At this point the reader may feel inclined to cry out 'Ah, but I can tell exactly where something is just by looking at it and that doesn't affect its momentum, does it?'. Well, sorry to disappoint you, but you're wrong on two counts. You cannot tell exactly where something is just by looking at it - there is a slight uncertainty of the order of the wavelength of the light you are using - and even looking at a thing does affect its momentum. Light, you see, is made up of particles. In order to look at an object, it is necessary to bounce some light particles - called photons - off that object. Now these particles carry momentum, and so when they bounce off the object, they must necessarily change its momentum, as well. For normal objects, as large as the ones we're used to, this doesn't make a lot of difference, but if you start working on the atomic scale, with electrons, etc, then a photon or two can make a lot of difference. Before we say any more, let's have a look at the basic equation that Heisenberg actually used (No need to get worried - it's the only equation we'll see, and isn't all that difficult to understand).



Energy and mass are equivalent. The position of a particle, therefore, cannot be measured with absolute certainty. There must always be an uncertainty of $\Delta x$ in the measurement of $x$.


In this equation, the symbol $\Delta p$ stands for the uncertainty in the momentum of an object, $\Delta x$ stands for the uncertainty in the object's position, the symbol $h$ stands for a constant (known as 'Planck's Constant') and the symbol $\geqslant$ means 'is at least as big as'. Heisenberg said, then, that if we find the product of the uncertainties in position and momentum, then they will be at least as big as ${ }_{2 \pi}{ }^{\text {h }}$, which has a value of about $1.05 \times 10^{-34}$ joule seconds. (Exactly why it is measured in units called joule-seconds is rather irrelevant to the present discussion, so we shall leave it for some other time). Now, as you can see, this is a pretty small value approximately given by a zero followed by a decimal point and thirty three more zeros before we put a 1 down. This explains why we do not see the effects of the uncertainty principle in real life - given the uncertainty in position or momentum of an object that we have found experimentally, the uncertainty in the other can still be incredibly small. Let us take the case of the magazine you are presently holding. We will suppose, for the sake of simplicity, that, using a very good microscope you can measure its position accurate to within one wavelength of light, or about 0.00005 centimetres (which is about as accurate as you could get, using light). Then we find from the uncertainty principle that the magazine must have a momentum whose uncertainty must be at least $\frac{h}{x}$ or about $0.0000000000000000000000000002 \mathrm{~kg} \mathrm{~m} \mathrm{~s}{ }_{-1}^{2 \pi} \times \pi \times$

## Speedy Accuracy

In other words, the most accurately you can measure the velocity of this object will still give an uncertainty of approximately 0.000000000000000000000000001 metres per second. This isn't much..... no wonder we don't notice the effects of the uncertainty principle in everyday life - they are too small! It's a different matter on the atomic scale, though. Suppose we want to measure the position of an electron accurate to, say, the width of an atom. If we work this one out (in case anyone out there does want to, the width of a hydrogen atom is about $10^{-10}$ metres, and the mass of an electron is $9 \times 10^{-31} \mathrm{~kg}$ ) we find that the uncertainty is something pretty big - roughly a million metres per second. As a result, while the uncertainty principle seems to have little direct use in our lives, it is pretty important to physicists!

## Effective Measurement

In fact, once you start thinking about it, all the uncertainty principle says is that it is impossible to measure something without affecting it in some way and this is almost common sense. As we have seen, looking at something to check its position must necessarily affect its momentum. It is impossible to measure the voltage across, say, a capacitor, without removing a little of the charge, and so lowering the voltage. You cannot check the pressure in a car tyre without the gauge you use removing a little of the air, and so on.

## Impossible Position

Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle is that it is impossible to measure position or momentum of an object without affecting the other in a random and unpredictable way. In the same vein, Albert Einstein once proved from the uncertainty principle that it is impossible to measure both the energy and time involved in an interaction. This is rather less obvious than the other cases we have examined, but it is indeed so.

## How Smart Is Alec?

The uncertainty principle, then, means that we can no longer, in physics, talk of the exact position, momentum, etc of a particle; we can only talk in terms of probabilities - where a particle is likely to be, what the average velocity of a bunch of particles is likely to be under given circumstances, and so on. That is, until some smart alec comes along and proves it all wrong......

# ETI JUNE 1980 aze 

## DESIGNERS HANDBOOK

Now this is the one that even we've been waiting for. Many is the rainy Sunday that has passed with the enthusiast huddled intent over his workbench. Many too are the times he has howled loud into the storm when a project fails to operate for the want of one small piece of circuitry to link this with that or that with this, that or the other.

Information to allow him to design his own circuits quickly and simply is sadly lacking. Books take everything too seriously and at too much length. Looking anything up takes hours - by which time the rain has stopped and

Next month we present our Analogue Designers Handbook from the man of many nodes, Tim Orr. He presents the quick and easy way to amplifiers, filters, oscillators etc. etc. - and they'll be all your own work! Can you afford to miss it?

## DRUM SYNTHESISER PROJECT

No, I don't believe you've never heard one of these. Just about every single produced in the last millenium has those noises all over it. You know, those noises - the ones that sound like a cat being stepped on backwards at great speed.

If you really don't know what we're going on about you'd better read ETI next month hadn't you?

## HOUSE WIRING

So you think you know how it's done eh? Just wait until you pull the bathroom cord one day and the toast pops up: switch on the hall light only to have the TV burst into life . . . . . . . Before long the house is a mass of ripped out wiring and is echoing to the sound of slamming front doors as enraged spouses storm into the sunset. Don't do it until you've read our superb article from Ray Marston next month!

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# AUDIOPHILE 

# What have lovely Latin ladies got to do with metal? What has D-day got to do with hi-fi? Confused? You won't be after this month's episode of.. . Audiophile. Ron Harris tries to put some iron in his system with Sony's new TCK 55II 

t all started with a phone call one dark and rainswept Tuesday.
Metal' said the voice on the phone.
Wêll no=one's perfect' said I defensively.
"No no metal tapes' said the voice hurriedly.
'Plastic poodles' said I not wishing to appear dim. Why did you say that?' enquired the voice, a little hurt. "Idunno, seemed to fit somehow' said I, reddening rapidly.
"took here, if you persist upon being silly.
You started it mush. What metal anyway?........' that was the magic question and the golden key to communication. It transpites that the voice belonged to Mr. Sony (UK) wishing to discourse upion the subject of iron tapes and machines to play them on. Our telèphone operator introduced him as a, quote, geezer wot wants to iron someit art wiv yer, unquote. Articulate our switchboard.

Despite this highly inauspicious genesis the word about heads topassferricsubstancesacrossat 1/78 IPS managed to find an editosial ear and this month's Audiophile came, screaming, into the world.

## Some Sony Day

As the sidehead says the machine l'm looking at is a new model from Sony, the TCK55 II. One of a range of metal-ready decks. Sony get themselves a fair few mentions herein, simply because they have a superb PR department and make some excellent hi-fi (or is that the influence of the PR men again?). Whenever we've needed something quickly (which is always) or have cried out into the night for assistance, they have been one of first people to put out a helping hiand * so once! ! had decided it was time to take a look at reasonably priced (i.e. less than a Rolls) example of this new fangled metallic machinery it came as no surprise to find them ready and able to help at shorter than short notice.

It was also they who gave birth, in this country, to the Elcaset - a tape format much beloved of this particular editorial personage. 1 find it hard to forgive you lot out there for killing it off the way you did. Why did not hordes of you besiege hi-fi shops and hand over vast sums of money to procure an ELT? It was a magnificent medium and one that I will long defend as having been all that cassettes were supposed to have been.

Still, people see things differently I suppose. I dare say that there is one Englishman, somewhere, who remebers D-day for walks in the park, kisses in the sunshine and falling gently in love with a beautiful Latin lady over a candlelit dinner, treasuring the day for the warmth in her eyes...

## Switch In Appearance?

Metal tapes look set to provide that vital step-up in cassette performance that has been missing so far. At a price. Their transient handling and H.F. extension is far enough superior to the more normal oxide blends to be acknowledged as a new standard of performance.

It is the fact that much higher levels of signal canibe recorded at high frequencies (over 6 dB at $\$ 5 \mathrm{kHz}$ ) for the same distortion figure that gives the new formulation a much cleanter top end performance and transient behaviour. Distortion overall should also be lower.

Equalisation for the new type has been standardised at 70 us (the same curve as for $\mathrm{CrO}_{2}$ tapes) but bias has to be around 10 dB higher, due fo the iron's much higher coercivity. Erase heads too must thérefore be capable of more 'muscle' to achieve a satisfactory 'wipe-out'.

This extra electronics manifests itself, as usuat, as an extra switch on the front panel! In the case of TCK55 If considered treve an extra slide position on both the bias and equatisation selectors.

## Facilitating Uses

This machine offers a goodly number of features, for its price, and one of the nicest is called 'AUTO-PLAY'. Pressing both the Rewind and Play buftons causes the machine to rewind to the stan of the tape then begin playing automatically. No more standing by the deck counting down the seconds while your tea goes cold.

Of course if we could all remember to reset the memory to 000 every time, then that function could serve this requirement too, but do we? No chance! A simple and useful addition then, and like all the best ideas obvious once you see it!

Metering too is well thought out here. Normal VU meters monitor each channel for average readings and a centre bar of LEDS reads peak fevel. Between the two it is easy to obitain a garad setting - and to see how woefully slow VU meters are! With metal tapes you set higher than normally and peaks ap to +4 dB groduced no audible distortion or compression, thereby proving both the tape and head circuitry.



The control panel is solonoid operated and full remote control is thus possible via a handheld function selector (RM-50) which front panel. This is an extra and costs around $£ 20$, but is worth it if you're as lazy as I am.

The controls work smoothly and positively and I could not possibly fault them. Somehow though I didn't like them at all. No criticism implied they were just not to my taste.

As usual with this company's offerings the whole r operates with a smoothness and efficiency that is totally pror nal. It makes me almost wish a button would drop off or sometl anything to show some fallibility in those inscrutible Or ental designers.

## Mute Point

Another unusual feature is the 'REC. MUTE' which provides for four-second blank periods to be inserted into the recordings auto-

matically. Sony say it is useful for removing radio commercials and the like. I contend the point not at all, being totally confused by the thing.

Making recordings on the TCK55 II proved to be very easy indeed, with the LED metering quickly proving its worth in use. I tried the machine with a wide selection of tapes, from Sony's own new AHF and Metal to TDKs SA and MAR formulations. Generally speaking the best results came from their own brand and Maxell. EXCEPT when I reached the iron settings. More of that in a moment.

## Wow-What Flutter?

On test the TCK55 II came out very well indeed. Taking an extract from the results:- (overleaf)

Far left: a close-up of the metering provided on the TCK55 II and the control panel beneath it. Note the LED column which reads peak level better than meters ever could. Not a new idea, but well executed here.

Left: the bias and equalisation controls. Sony provide a useful table which gives recommended settings for a wide variety of tape types in their instruction book. The numerals on the panel refer to this table. Strangely my sample of the machine seemed over-biased for Sony's own metal tape, preferring instead TDK's formulation. There's loyalty for you!


Above: oh how unfair! The TCK 55 II stripped naked before the world. PCB construction is to a commendably high standard.

## TABLE ONE :- TEST RESULTS



I don't propose to spend weeks mulling over those figures, just the interesting ones need to be mentioned. Firstly that W/F rating I didn't believe and so I did it again. OK so now I believe it. Just. It's pretty good!!!

I am surprised by the Sony metal tape results and would listen to claims that I had some bad tapes. TDK metal performed superbly at all times.

Using TDK metal reaily showed what a difference this tape is capable of making to a sound system. With care taken in the recording stages this $£ 200$ cassette deck produced results that were all but indistinguishable from the original disc. There remains none of the tell-tale compression, dullness or lack of life that would betray an average recording.

This is not the first metal deck l've listened to, but if one includes the price in the consideration, then it is certainly the most impressive. Even a year ago this standard of sound from a cassette at $£ 200$ would have been nonsense, an ad. man's dream.

## Sound Out

I Compared the TCK55 II to an EL7 Elcaset machine and a Revox B77 reel-to-reel and on sound alone it was difficult to tell them apart. The Revox was running at $71 / 2$ ips and undoubtedly turned in the most accurate reproduction of the three. It would, however, take a good pair of ears and very high quality source material to allow it to be reliably distinguished from the far cheaper TCK55 II. Even then only on a good day with the wind in the right direction.

I would very much like to lay hands and ears on the TCK75, a machine which a little bird tells me is better yet and more versatile, albeit at higher cost. However, there can be no doubt that the TCK55 II itself is an imposing statement of the quality reproducable from the (high price) medium of metal tapes. It performs exceedingly well on the more mundane formulations too and can be highly recommended to anyone in search of a tape machine to add to his domestic sound system.

## Moaner's Return

Following my moan in the February issue about the non-availability of racks for Pioneer systems (unless you want to shell out a few hundred pounds for a complete system) I had a few interesting phone calls. It seems that Britain, for the time being, is the odd man out as far as Pioneer racks are concerned. I'm told that most European countries will supply Pioneer racks as separate items. However, if you have problems with the foreign lingo, why not go west, young man? If you should find yourself in the Republic of Ireland in the near future, make a bee-line for 41 Fitzwilliam Street in Dublin. There you'll find the emporium of Radio Import Ltd, who will be more than happy to flog you a brand new Pioneer rack on its own. Get in touch with them for latest prices, but as a guide the RollsRoyce of the range - the CB 900 - will set you back a shade over $£ 100$. Sounds expensive, but a CB 900 from Pioneer on this side of the Irish sea will be around $£ 90$ when it finally becomes available in about three months.

Ian Graham

## Let Us Say

Below an epistle from a man of taste who is undeservedly threatened by his own brother due to an unsatiable craving to play bass guitar. There are problems, however. Read on...

## 25th February 1980 Dear Audiophile,

I have an electric guitar which I intend to 'play' through my brother's Hi-fi system. However we have been told that to do so will damage the $\mathrm{Hi}-\mathrm{Fi}$.

Is this correct? If so what can I do about it? At present my brother brandishes a length of lead plumbing whenever I pick up my guitar other people only do this when I touch the strings.

While on the subject, how about a project for a guitar practice amp - with a headphone output for the sake of neighbours' sanity?

Finally, we entirely agree with your opinions about Felicity Kendal. We strongly suggest that you attempt to have published the enclosed picture. This will help convert those unbelievers who may have been unconvinced by the previous photo - A commendable effort but not as fine a likeness as she deserves.

Yours faithfully,
L Rickwood.
Nonwich

## 26th February 1980

Dear Sir,
Bass guitars and hi-fi don't mix. Sad, but true. Attempts to replay said stringed thing in this manner will probably result in one wall of your room being re-papered with a pair of speaker cones.

Good for the decor but lousy on the music. This is due to the amount of energy that the guitar will produce and the shape of the note. With no processing. i.e. recording, disc cutting etc. etc. (and no automatic level control!!!) you are more than liable to blow the bass speakers straight out of the cabinets.

As this is the point at which I suspect your kin will begin to rearrange your anatomy this is a Bad Thing. By all means use a pair of good dynamic headphones with the amplifier - this you will not damage. The headphones should survive better than your ears and are therefore safe!

I enclose a circuit for a practice amplifier we haven't got around to publishing, but which Hobby Electronics shortly will, - it might interest you more than that length of lead plumbing. Buy yourself a good 12" PA speaker to go with it.

As to a better picture of Felicity.........
ETI


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[^7]
# SERVO TESTER 

## So your radio control has lost control and you have no way of knowing whether the offending. component is receiver or servo. Fear not. All is not lost yet, ETI's Project Team provide the answer.

So your model is not functioning correctly and you're not sure of the cause of the trouble. Is it the transmitter, the receiver, or the servo? If your servo is a modern 3 -wire positive-pulse type (aren't they all?) you can rapidly eliminate it from your list by simply coupling it up to our servo tester. The tester is powered from the servo's supply battery and feeds standard fully-variable 1 mS to 2 mS 'decoder' output pulses to the servo input for test purposes. The test set also features a pulse 'trim' control and incorporates variable frame length ( 1 mS to 28 mS ) and pulse-amplitude controls, for the benefit of those enthusiasts who like to really put a servo through its paces.

The entire test set is built up on a single PCB and can be powered from all servo supplies in the 3 to 12 volts range. As you can see from the photos, we've not bothered to box the unit, since its probable utilisation rate does not justify the additional expense involved.

Not much to say here. Everything is built up on a single PCB, so construction couldn't be easier. The two ICs are CMOS versions of the 555 timer (essential for low voltage operation) and should be mounted in suitable sockets, On our prototype we've made the five output connections available via Veropins, but in practice we advise you to make the servo connections (and possibly also the servo battery connections) via a socket that is compatible with your existing $R / C$ system.



Fig. 1. Full circuit diagram for the Servo Tester.


# Britain's first comp 

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## The Sinclair ZX80.

Until now, building your own computer could easily cost around $£ 300$ - and still leave you with only a bare board for your trouble.

The Sinclair ZX80 changes all that. For just $£ 79.95$ you get cocrithing you need to build a personal computer at home... PCB, with IC sockets for all ICs; case; leads for direct connection to your own cassette recorder and black and white or colour television; everything And yet the ZX80 really is a complete, powerful, full-facility computer, matching or surpassing other personal computers on the market at several times the price. The ZX80 is programmed in BASIC, and you could use it to do quite literally anything from playing chess to running a power station.

The ZX80 is pleasantly straightforward to assemble, using a fine-tipped soldering iron. Once assembled, it immediately proves what a good job you've done. Connect it to your TV set...link it to an appropriate power source *. and you're ready to go.

## Your 2X80 kit contains...

- Printed circuit board, with IC sockets for all ICs
- Complete components set, including all ICs - all manufactured by selected worldleading suppliers.
- New rugged Sinclair keyboard, touchsensitive, wipe-clean
- Ready-moulded case.
- Leads and plugs for connection to domestic TV and cassette recorder Programs can be SAlEd and LOADed on to any portable cassette recorder
- FREE course in BASIC programming and user manual.


## Optional extras

- Mains adaptor of 600 mA at 9 V DC nominal unregulated (available separately - see coupon).
- Additional memory expansion boards allowing up to 16 K betes RAM1. Extra RAM chips also available - see coupon.

[^8]
## Two unique and valuable components of the Sinclair ZX80.

The Sinclair $\angle X 80$ is not just another personal computer. Quite apar! from its exceptionally low price, the ZX80 has two uniquely advanced components: the Sinclair BASIC interpreter; and the Sinclair teach-yourself BASIC manual.
The unique Sinclair BASIC interpreter.. offers remarkable programming advantages:

- Unique 'one-touch' key word entry: the ZX80 eliminates a great deal of tiresome typing. Key words (RUN, PRINT, IIST, etc.) have their own single-key entry.
- Unique syntax check. Only lines with correct syntax are accepted into programs. A cursor identifies errors immediately. This prevents entry of long and complicated programs with faults only discovered when you try to run them
- Excellent string-handling capability - takes up to 26 string variables of any length. All sirings can undergo all relational tests ie.g. comparison). The $/ \times 80$ also has string inputto request a line of text when necessary Strings do mot need to be dimensioned.
- Up to 26 single dimension arrays.
- ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{O}$ OR/NEXI loops nested up 26.
- Variable names of any length.
- BASIC language also handles full Boolean arithmetic, conditional expressions, etc.
- Exceptionally powerful edit facilities, allows modification of existing program lines.
- Randomise function, useful for games and scerel codes, as well as more serious applications.
- Timer under program control
- PIEK and POKLE enable entry of machine code instructions, USR causes fump to a user's machine language sub-routine.
- High-resolution graphics with

22 standard graphic symbols.

- All characters printable in reverse under prosram control.
- Lines of unlimited length.


## .... and the Sinclair teach-yourself

## BASIC manual.

If the features of the Sinclair interpreter listed alongside mean little to you-don't worry. They're all explained in the specially-written 128-page book free with every kit! The book makes learning easy, exciting and enjoyable, and represents a complete course in BASIC programming -from first principles to complex programs. (Available separately - purchase price refunded if you buy a ZX80 later.) A hardware manual is also included with every kit or*
 volume production more power per pound!
The 2X80 owes its remarkable low price to its remarkable design: the whole system is packed on to fewer, newer, more powerful and advanced LSI chips. A single SUPER ROM1, for instance, contains the BASIC interpreter, the character set, operating system, and monitor. And the 2X80's IK byte RAM is roughly equivalent to 4 K bytes in a conventional computer-typically storing 100 lines of BASIC. (Key words occupy only a single byte.

The display shows 32 characters by 24 lines.
And Benchmark tests show that the XX 80 is faster than all other personal computers.

No other personal computer offers this unique combination of high capability and low price.
The Sinclair $\mathbf{Z X 8 0}$. Kit: $£ 79.95$. Assembled: £99.95. Complete!

The ZX80 kit costs a mere $£ 79.95$. Can't wait to have a $\mathrm{ZX80}$ up and running? No problem! It's also available, ready assembled, for only $£ 99.95$.

Whether you choose the kit or the readymade, you can be sure of world-famous Sinclair technology-and years of satisfying use. (Science of Cambridge Lrd is one of the Sinclair companies owned and run by Clive Sinclair.)

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| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
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The LMM-200 is a compact handheld multimeter with $0.5 \%$ basic accuracy and 15 different ranges. It measures AC/DC voltage from 0.1 mV to $500 \mathrm{~V}, \mathrm{AC} / \mathrm{DC}$ current from $0.1 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ to 2 Amps and resistance from $0.1 \Omega$ to $2 \mathrm{M} \Omega .200$ hour battery life.

The LMM-2001 is an identical instrument but with a $0.1 \%$ basic accuracy.

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[^9] Telephone No: Basildon (0268) 727383.


F have,no
doubt, heard
of the much-quoted phirase,
first uttered by French philosopher Rene Descartes - I pay income tax, therefore I am. If you want to stop your wallet slimming faster than you feed it, one way of curtailing the financial anorexia is to buy the kit version of your favourite amplifier, electronic ignition, computer, etc. The range of kits available seems to be endless. We decided to get as many of them as possible together in one place to find out what you get for your money.

I invited about 40 companies to send me kits for our survey. All accepted my invitation, but only 20 or so came up with the goods in time. Some were awaiting delivery of components (mains transformers, displays, etc.) and were unwilling to send part kits. Others seemed reluctant to take advantage of some free publicity.

You'll notice that there are few kits in the audio or hi-fi market. In the earliest stage of preparation of the survey it was decided to exclude any kit built from modules. This automatically excluded some of the household names in high quality amplifier design. It would also have been impractical to include loudspeaker kits, each requiring a cabinet. This pruning of the available merchandise was necessary to cut down the size of the survey to something manageable.

I built as many of the kits as time permitted and made a
brief evaluation of each. A key to the points system used is shown. The ETI INDEX at the end of each kit review is

2intended only as a very rough guide. The rating was based entirely on the kit used for the survey.
The standard of kits supplied was generally very high. Six rules of construction reared their heads up out of the piles of components on and around my desk.

1. Before you unpack the components, read the instruction manual through at least once and look out for warnings about component handling. Some kits contain fragile displays and/or static sensitive CMOS ICs. If you find a note of errata, write the corrections in at the appropriate places.
2. Check that the kit is complete. Work your way down the component list and tick off each component as you check it. 3. Have a look at the PCB. Make sure there are no solder bridges between tracks.
3. Make sure you have the right tools for the job. If you try to build a microcomputer board with a hot poker or an oxyacetylene torch, you're likely to come to grief. For the fine work 1 invested in a low voltage ( 6 volts at 1 amp) iron with a fine tip and used 22 swg solder. (A temperaturecontrolled soldering station is even better). You'll also need long-nosed pliers, sidecutters, a couple of small screwdrivers (one slot and one Philips) and a pair of wire strippers. 5. When you begin construction, follow the instructions in the correct order. It's sometimes tempting to leave a particularly difficult or tedious part, of the kit and work on something a little more interesting.
4. Don't be too eager to plug in the finished kit and try it before you've checked it properly for mistakes. Look for blobs of soider bridging across PCB tracks. Check that diodes, electrolytic capacitors, transistors and ICs have all been put in the right way round. Where possible use IC sockets. It's not only extremely difficult to unsolder an IC from a board but; if you're using a double-sided board, you can irreparably damage the board.

## ACORN COMPUTERS

Company
Kit
Price
Complexity
Circuit Diagram
Contents

Acorn Computers Ltd, 4A Market Hill, Cambridge.
Acorn Microcomputer £70.20

| C | Instruction Manual | $\mathbf{2}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | Finish | $\mathbf{3}$ |
| 0 | Fault-Finding Guide | $\mathbf{0}$ |

This was the first microcomputer kit that I tackled and I learnt a lot from it - mainly from my mistakes. First of all, do check that all the components are there.
Companies do make mistakes. Acorn sent an incomplete keyboard assembly. One phone call later and the missing bits were on my desk next day - good service and worth couple of bonus points on the ETI Index.

As with the majority of these kits, component positions, but not values, are marked on the PCB, so a good, clear components list is essential. I turned from the construction part of the manual to the end to find the components list. This list should, I feel, be included within the construction section. The layout of Acorn's manual encourages the constructor to use the sections out of order - potentially disastrous. So, the second of the cardinal rules 'read

## ALTEK

## Company

Kit
Price
Complexity
Circuit Diagram
Contents
Instruction Manual
Finish
Fault-Finding Guide

$\mathbf{E}_{\mathrm{t}}^{\mathrm{t}}$ETI featured this most discriminating of metal locators in the March 1980 issue. The project was an instant success, the demand far surpassing even Altek's own expectations.

The kit includes all the necessary hardware - a case for the electronics, handle, adjustable shaft and search head. I've had a number of phone calls and letters from DIYers who want to make their own search head to save some money. Altek are reluctant to release full details of the coil assembly, understandably. They have also told me that even if full details were published, the coil assembly would be beyond the capabilities of most home constructors, requiring sophisticated test gear to set it up properly.

The kit assembly instructions assume some electronics experience, but if you do run into problems, Altek are just a phone call away. Construction doesn't pose any particular problems. The plastic case supplied is not drilled, so a bit of elbow grease is called for. Altek make things as easy as possible by marking the hole centres on the case and providing a paper drilling template. Before you start ventilating your case, notice

Altek, 1 Green Lane, Walton-On-Thames, Surrey.
Shadow VLF/TR discriminating metal locator £79.70
B
1
1
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3
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$\mathbf{W}^{\text {h }}$you unpack your 2 m Power Amplifier kit, hold the PCB up to the light and find that there are no component mounting holes, don't write a nasty letter to Catronics demanding a drilled PCB. The components are mounted on the foil side of the board. Before you pick up your soldering iron, read the instruction leaflet. Two points are worthy of note. If the power transistor is cracked, chipped or broken, run for the hills. The transistor contains beryllia, a toxic compound, so read the warning carefully. Secondly, before you begin, note that the heatsink and case should be taped together, so
that you can drill the mounting holes. Input and output holes also have to be drilled in the blank case. Thereafter construction is no problem. The component overlay is a little difficult to follow, but the inclusion of a photo of the PCB is very helpful.

Catronics, the VHF communications specialists, also supply a complete kit for the ETI VHF Airband Converter (Dec1979). ETI INDEX 7B

## CHROMASONIC ELECTRONICS

Company
Kit
Price
Complexity
Circuit Diagram
Contents

Chromasonic Electronics, 56 Fortis Green Road, Muswell Hill, London N10 3HN. 75-X 10 Watt Audio Amplifier £3.95 + VAT
A $\quad \begin{aligned} & \text { Instruction Manual } \quad 2 \\ & \text { Finish }\end{aligned}$ $\begin{array}{lll}1 & \text { Finish } & \\ 3 & \text { Fault-Finding Guide } & 0 \\ 0\end{array}$

Chromasonic sent me a sample of their $75-\mathrm{X} 10$ watt audio Camplifier. They also have a 7 watt version - the $75-\mathrm{B}$ based on the TBAIOAS IC. The heart of the 75-X is a TCA940. The first step of construction is to snip off three unwanted pins of the IC. Take a few seconds to identify the right pins. You'll feel very silly if you cut the wrong ones. Thereafter construction is very straightforward.

Neither a power supply nor a loudspeaker are included in the kit. However, circuit diagrams are provided for the amplifier itself, a suitable power supply and tone control network.

If you've never soldered a joint in your life and you want something to practice on, you could buy a piece of strip board and a handful of components, or you could buy
Chromasonic's $75-X$. ETI INDEX 6A

Catronics Ltd, Communications House, 20 Wallington Square, Wallington, Surrey SM6 8 RG. 40 W 2 m Power Amplifier £22
Price
Complexity Circuit Diagram Contents Instruction Manual

Finish
Fault-Finding Guide
Finish

3
3


Company
Kit
Price
Complexity
Circuit Diagram
Contents

Clef Products (Electronics) Ltd, 16 Mayfield Road, Bramhall, Cheshire SK7 iJU.
Electronic Rotor CPK 1200.

## £89.00

| C |
| :--- |
| 1 |
|  |

1
Instruction Manual
Finish
2
0

When I considered including electronic organs, pianos, etc in the kit survey I had nightmares about crates of woodwork and keyboard assemblies walling me in behind my desk. So, I asked Clef Products if they could simply send me a sample PCB and component packs.

They sent an electronic rotor - a device designed to electronically simulate a two speed mechanical rotor - speaker system and also provide a three-phase chorus generator to enhance organ tones and produce a string chorus effect. For your $£ 89$ you get a large bag bulging with boards and components. An 8" $\times$ 5" PCB contains the full rotor - chorus


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88 NOTE A-C $\mathbf{£ 4 5 . 0 0}$
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## DOLBY ${ }^{\text {®. }}$ ' $B^{\prime}$ NOISE REDUCTION UNIT

## Add DOLBY to your tape system!

Featuring

- switching for both encoding (low-level h.f. compression) and decoding
a switchable f.m. stereo multiplex and bias filter
- provision for decoding Dolby f.m. radio transmissions
- all inputs and outputs are adjustable
- suitable for both open-real and cassette tape machines
- check tape switch for encoded monitoring in three-head machines


## - solid mahogany cabinet <br> 240v ac mains operated

Typical performance
Noise reduction better than 9 dB weighted Clipping level: 16.5 dB above Dolby level (measured at $1 \%$ third harmonic content). Harmonic distortion 0.1\% at Dolby level typically $0.05 \%$ over most of band, rising to a maximum of $0.12 \%$.
Signal-to-noise ratio: $75 \mathrm{~dB}(20 \mathrm{~Hz}$ to 20 kHz . signal at Dolby level) at Monitor output.
Dynamic Range $>90 \mathrm{~dB}$
30 mV sensitivity

## KIT PRICE £43.90 + VAT

Dolby level cal tapes are available for open-reel use and for cassette (specify which). Price $\mathbf{£ 2 . 4 0}$ (inclusive)

- We guarantee full after-sales technical and servicing facilities - High performance Tuner Amp. Tuners and surround sound available

Prepare for B.B.C. Quadraphonic Broadcasts - Send for details of our Ambisonic H.J. decoder kit
system, using some twenty ICs. Sockets are provided for all of them - that's what I like to see. (Have you ever tried desoldering a duff chip?). The second ( $214^{\prime \prime} \times 2^{\prime \prime}$ ) board carries components for the low impedance stereo headphone driver circuit. Mains power supply components are also supplied.

The PCBs are labelled with component values, rather than numbers. Some legends are a little indistinct, so a full components listing is given as a double check. All nine controls are included as preset pots on the PCB, but you can replace
them with external pots, if necessary. Holes in the PCB allow operation of the presets if you want to keep the controls on-board.

If you already have an electronic organ, you can add on this unit for some interesting effects, or you could use it' as an experimenters' kit for use with your own signal source. A system interconnection diagram is provided, showing the unit placed between the signal source and existing power amplifiers.
ETI INDEX 9C

## COMPU-TECH SYSTEMS

Company
KIt
Price
Complexity
Circuit Diagram Contents

Compu-Tech Systems. Car Security System $£ 11.95$ + Siren ( $£ 7.75$ )
B Instruction Manual
$\begin{array}{ll}1 & \text { Finish } \\ 3 & \text { Fault-Finding Guide }\end{array}$
This design from Compu-Tech was published in ETI last month. It's an add-on unit for the ETI car alarm (also designed by Compu-Tech) published in December 1978. The original unit protected both the car itself (by monitoring all doors and disabling the ignition when set) and the car's accessories. There is an entry and exit delay before the horn is sounded, so you don't have to fit any external switch.

Construction is quite straightforward and the use of the familiar incar connectors allows the unit to be fitted easily to almost any car.

The later add-on unit allows simultaneous sounding of the horn and flashing of lights and brake lights when the alarm is activated, whilst maintaining complete isolation between these circuits when in normal use.

Both kits are constructed on compact PCBs, housed in attractive, weather resistant plastic cases. A complete kit of
parts for the original alarm unit is still available from CompuTech for $£ 14.75$ (PCBs only $-£ 1.00$ each). You can buy a complete kit of parts for the add-on system for $£ 11.95$ (siren $£ 7.75$ extra and PCBs only $£ 1.00$ each). Both kits and siren are available for $£ 29.95$ all inclusive (a saving of $£ 4.50$ ). ETI INDEX 10B

## CONTINENTAL SPECIALTIES CORPORATION <br> Company <br> Kit <br> Price <br> Complexity <br> Circuit Diagram <br> Contents <br> Instruction Manual <br> Continental Special ties Corporation, Shire Hill Industrial Estate, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 3AQ. <br> Logic Probe Kit LPK-1 <br> £11.92 + VAT <br> A <br> 3 Finish 3 <br> 3 Fault-Finding Guide 1

CSC, better known for their Proto-Board and Experimentor Systems, say you can build this full-performance logic probe kit 'in just a few hours of easy assembly'. I think even a newcomer to project building should be able to have a working probe in a lot less than a few hours with the aid of CSC's excellent, step-by-step instruction manual. The most difficult operation is persuading the PCB to fit inside the compact case - so no constructional problems here.

The 203A 'powered' Proto-Board is now also available as a kit (the 230AK) - a sturdy box with a large area of ProtoBoard on top and a 5 V at 1 A and separate internally adjustable $7-18 \mathrm{~V}$ at 0 A 5 supplies inside.

The 230AK kit came in handy when I finished my Microtan computer kit. The 5 volt, 1A outlet was the perfect. power supply. Then I used my completed logic probe kit to inspect the logic state of the computer chip pins.
ETI INDEX 11A

## DIGISOUND

Company
Kit
Price
Complexity
Circuit Diagram
Contents

Digisound Ltd, 13 The Brooklands, Wrea Green, Preston, Lancashire PR4 2NQ.
24 dB per octave low pass VCF £18.08
B Instruction Manual
3
1 Finish 3
3 Fault-Finding Guide

Digisound sent me a kit from outside the ETI 80 range (the modular synthesiser series which we began in February this year). They sent a $24 \mathrm{~dB} /$ octave low pass voltage controlled filter with voltage control of resonance. Coarse and fine pot controls give a range of $\pm 5$ octaves and $\pm 1$ octave respectively.

With the PCB and component pack you will receive two important pieces of paper. The first gives some general notes on construction with details of Digisound's technical service, should you be unable to get your kit working. The second includes a circuit diagram, component overlay, component lists and more detailed construction, testing and calibration notes. For calibration you'll need a previously calibrated VCO.

Digisound's kits seem to have a lot less paperwork with

them than other kits of comparable cost and complexity. However Digisound manage to pack a great deal of useful information into a small space and yet keep it perfectly readable and understandable.
ETI INDEX 10B

## ELECTRONIC <br> DESIGN ASSOCIATES

Company
Kit
Price
Complexity
Circuit Diagram
Contents

Electronic Design Associates, 82 Bath Street Walsall WS1 3DE.
Sparkrite X5 inductive discharge Electronic Ignition

## £16.95

A Instruction Manual
1 Finish
3 Fault-Finding Guide
3
1

T-his spark of genius arrived well packaged with separate component packs. The instructions include a 'how to solder' section and the parts list gives resistor colour codes, so you're not likely to go wrong unless you're colour blind. EDA also operate an after-sales technical advice service, just in case you do have any problems. If you're not often under the bonnet of your Rolls, don't worry, fitting instructions are included.

All in all a useful, attractive and easy to build kit. When it's finished you don't have to bolt it on somewhere. It comes complete with clips, so that you can simply push it on to your coil. Connection is then a matter of attaching a few wires to the existing circuitry and you're off. No more cold morning push starts.
ETI INDEX 11A

## GP INDUSTRIAL ELECTRONICS

## Company

Kit
Price
Complexity
Circuit Diagram
Contents
Instruction Manual
Finish
Fault-Finding Guide

GP Industrial Electronics, Skardon Works, Skardon Place, North Hill, Plymouth PL4 8HA.
Softy EPROM Programmer
£115 + PSU (£23)
C
3
1
1
3
3
1

Henry Budgett of Computing Today, anxious to put his expert computing knowledge to good use, got cracking on this one (and soon wished he hadn't). He feports that the PCB is double-sided but not plated through, so you have to make some two hundred connections before you can put the firse



The addresses of companies who did not supply-kits for the survey, but who are included in the quick index, are shown below. The addresses of companies who did supply kits are shown with the appropriate kit report.

Ambit International, 200 North Service Road, Brentwood, Essex.

Aura Sounds, 14-15 Royal Oak Centre, Brighton Road, Purley, Surrey.
Cambridge Kits, 45 Old School Lane, Milton,
Cambridge CB4 4BS
Chromatronics, River Way, Harlow, Essex.

Comp Comp Comp.,
14 Station Road,
New Barnet,
Herts EN5 1QW
Crofton Electronics Ltd., 35 Grosvenor Road, Twickenham, Middlesex.

Electro-Tech Components Ltd., 364 Edware Road, London W2

GMT Electronics,
Freepost,
Birmingham B19 1BR

To use this quick index, decide what sort of kit you want. If you want a Dolby system, for instance, look across the Dolby row until you come to a black hole. The company at the head of that column, Integrex, supplies the kit you want.
Computers of all sorts and their accessories all go by the name of computing in this index, so thumb through the magazine for the company's advertisement to find out exactly what they can supply. Clocks have been included under the heading of timers.


Interface Components Ltd.,
Oakfield Corner,
Sycamore Road,
Amersham,
Bucks. HP6 6SU

LSM Products,
PO Box 51,
Caterham,
Surrey CR3 6 UO

Maplin Electronic Supplies Ltd.,
PO Box 3,
Rayleigh,
Essex SS6 8LR

Menorcrest Electronics Ltd., 1 Hatton Court, Ipswich, Suffolk.

Nascom Microcomputers Ltd., 92 Broad Street, Chesham,
Bucks.
Newbear Components, 40 Bartholomew Street, Newbury,
Berks.
Science of Cambridge Ltd.,
6 Kings Parade,
Cambridge,
Cambs CB2 1SN

Tandy,
Bilston Road,
Wednesbury,
West Midlands WS10 7JN
Technalogics Ltd.,
8 Egerton Street,
Liverpool L8 7LY
Technomatic Ltd., 17 Burnley Road, London NW10

Transam Components Ltd., 12 Chapel Street,
London NW1


## BUILD YOUR OWN METAL DETECTOR VLF/TR VCO/TR IB/TR BFO ...

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 Manuals and parts sold separately: write or phone for price. Export welcome: write for quote.

Shedow VLF/TR. Full specification discriminator. not
just farrous / nonferrous indication It works by meessuring the conductivity of the tergot, now you can reject naus botrio caps oven aluminium toil and ring pull tabs Full ground affect
excluzion over normal or high permeability moils.

The hoad is thermally and capacitively shioldes. 4 modes: despseeking VLF plus 3 TR discriminating ranges Puah button momory tuning. Performance equals commercisl detectors costing $£ 2001$ As described in ET Incividual perte: Search had $\mathbf{E 2 1 . 3 3}$ PCB £6.80 Case £5.33 Adjustable shaft assy, £5 10. LM393 f1.12. Manual (gives more info. then ETI article - and extra function) E1. 12 Allinc. VAT $\mathrm{E}_{\text {e post (Other }}$ perts atho available separately)
8hedow TR/1E (illustrated) A true transmit receive/induction belance detector at a budget price for anyone who doosn it need discrimination Waterproot and thermally insulated search head Good sensitivity. Built-in speaker and headset jeck. Complete kit $\mathbf{£ 2 5}+$ VAT (post \& Pkg. $\mathbf{E 1 . 8 0}$.
Shedow TV/VCO. An advanced version of the TR/IB. Use as a sensitive $1 B$ machine or switch to VCO mode when the sound changes to a varying pitch, allowing assier use over mineralised ground and mode when the sound changes to a varving pitch,
enabling detection of negetive. high permeability anomalies. Kit price $£ 29+$ VAT (post £) 80 .

```
Mutching stereo hemdphones for all shadow modele E4.00 + VAT (post paid)
```

Beginnere BFO model. A very detailed assembly manual and pre-wound coils make this an ideal first
 eadphones E4.50 + VAT (post paid).
Shell Kit. Consists of the (hard to find) hardware items, for detectors of your own design. Fully adjustable shaft with handie, search head mouldinge (int. dism. 185 mm ) with hinge ascembly, special clips to mount your own control housing (any box is suitable). Completely non-metallic and undrilled. With assembly
instructions $\mathbf{E E . 2 5}+\boldsymbol{V A T}$ (post $£ 1.50$ ).

(ETI), 1 Green Lane
Walton-on-Thames Surrey

# FANTASTIC INTRODUCTION OFFER <br> Newly introduced to our Catalogue - low price, high quality MULTI RANGE TEST METERS 



Specification: Voltage

Sensitivity
Decibels DC Current

Ohmeter

Power Supply Size Weight (incl. battery)

## Model HM-102

DC: 0.25. 1, 2.5, 10
25. 100. 250. 1000

AC: $10,25.100$.
250. 1000

DC: $20.0000 \mathrm{hms} /$ Volt AC: $10,0000 \mathrm{mms} /$ Volt $-20 \mathrm{to}+20 \mathrm{db}$ $50.500 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ 5. 50.500 mA

30 Ohms centre scale
Four Ranges: 0.6 k .0 hms 0.60 k .0 hms 0.600 k .0 hms 0.6 M.Ohms Single 1.5 V cell $135 \times 91 \times 39 \mathrm{~mm}$ 280 gms.
Mirrorad scale Overload protection Carrying handle doubles as bench sland

Delivered price. £13.99 U.K. £15.99 Export £5.95 U.K. £7.95 Export Inclusive of battery. lest leads and instruction booklet
Also available: Delpak voltage regulators and power supplies, Delpak keypads and keyboards, Futaba keyboard switches, Futaba vacuum fluorescent displays, I.Cs. from OKI; Power amplifiers, filters, stereo image width control, compressor/expander, active crossovers, power supplies, plus all pots, switches, etc.

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A Biological Amplifier and Sound Synthesiser in one Instrument
Ready Assembled £35.25; Kit £27.35

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* Kit comes complete with PROFESSIONALLY FINISHED Case and Tinned, Printed and Drilled P.C.B.
$\star$ Size only $8^{\prime \prime} \times 51 / 2^{\prime \prime} \times 11 / 2^{\prime \prime}$
* Ready-built and tested version -
$£ 88.25$
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## NASCOM $1 \& 2$ COLOUR GRAPHICS BOARD

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$\star 8$ Background and 8 Foreground Colours
* Continuous shapes may be constructed using the 3072 Colour addressable cells.
* Text and Colour Graphics may be mixed anywhere on Screen.
* The complete kit, including Test programs only
> £22.50
> $£ 22.50$ inclusive
> Available from: intracept electronics lto.


## DEPT. ETI, 203 PICTON ROAD

WAVERTREE, LIVERPOOL 15
TEL: 051-733 3042


## csool통ㅇ

high performance electronic ignition,to add power, economy, reliability, sustained smooth peak performance, instant all weather starting, to your car.

Surefire has sold in its thousands in ready made form from big name accessory firms, but it is now available in quatity kit form to fit al vehicles with coil ignition up to 8 cylinders

ES200. A high performance inductive dischargeignition incorporating a power integrated circuit (special selection)' electronic variable dwell circuit (maximises spark energy at all speeds). pulse processor
(overcomes contact breaker problems) Coוl governor (nrotects coll). Long burn output. Negative earth only. Compatible with all rev counters C300. In it's ready built form (C3000) it came ton ol all systems tested by an independent national authority July '79. A high energy
capacitive discharge ignition incorporating a lugh output short circuit proof inverter, top grade Swedish output capacitor pulse processor circuit, transcient overload protection. Fast rise bidrectional output ideal for tuel injection, sports carburation, oily engines. Compatible with most rev counters. (low cost adaptors available for rare cases.
Application list enclosed with each kit. Note Velucles with Smiths
Jaeger rev. counters code RVI on dial will require adaptor type ICl)
What's in the kits. Surefire's own precision anodised aluminium extruded case. P.C. mounted security changeover switch. static toming light. Special selection Motorola semi conductors Capacitors, resistors etc. selected after 5 years experience. Glass fibre pob, solder complete down to lasi washer
Fully illustrated comprehensive instructions and full technical back up service.

Suretron Systems (UK)Ltd.
Dept. ETI5
Piccadilly Place, London Rd., Bath BA1 6PW. TeI: Bath (0225) 23194
Name
Address
-Phone order with Aciess Barglaycifit
VAT aniP \& Panc
Quantity

| ES200: Neg | $\mathbf{£ 1 3 . 9 5}$ |
| :---: | ---: |
| C300: Pos | $\mathbf{£ 1 7 . 9 5}$ |
| C300: Neg | $\mathbf{£ 1 7 . 9 5}$ |
| Tacho Adapt TCI | $\mathbf{£ 3 . 9 0}$ |

component in. The parts list is incomplete (not listing the modulator or the hardware - nuts, bolts, keys, etc). Constructional notes are almost non-existent. However, a warning is included for the constructor - 'A professional level of understanding is expected and assumed.'

This is definitely not a kit for beginners as a thorough knowledge of computer systems is required to build it into your system. At $£ 115$ it's a bit pricey, especially if you don't understand what you're doing. If you do end up with an expensive book-end, send it back to GP Industrial Electronics with a cheque for $£ 20$. They'll sort it out and charge you for any parts they think you've shuffled off to the great reject bin in the sky.


## HEATHKIT

| Company | Heathkit, Bristol Road, Gloucester GL2 6EE <br> Quartz Clock Timer GC-1415 |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Kit | Q43.63 |  |  |
| Price | B | Instruction Manual | 3 |
| Complexity | 1 | Finish | 3 |
| Circuit Diagram | 3 | Fault-Finding Guide | 1 |

Heathkit's excellent instruction manual greatly simplifies construction of this sophisticated quartz clock/timer, bringing it within the range of ability of more constructors. That makes sound economic sense. The more people who are capable of building the kit, the bigger the potential market.

Although it's not the simplest of kits, Heathkit's manual assumes nothing. It starts from the basics with notes on soldering. The kit is intended for installation in your car (a mounting bracket and adhesive pads are supplied), but, with the addition of a 12 volt DC supply, you have a 12 hour, 4 digit clock with trip-timer and stopwatch functions attractive enough to grace your mantlepiece (at home, not in the car!). If you are going to fit it in your car, full fitting instructions are given for negative earth vehicles.

I haven't a great deal to say about this kit - the sign of satisfaction and trouble-free construction, well-known, to be typical of the well-prepared and presented Heathkit products. ETI INDEX 11B

## HENRY'S RADIO

Company
Kit
Price
Complexity
Circuit Diagram
Contents
Instruction Manual
Finish
Fault-Finding Guide
Henry's Radio, Computer Kit Division, 404 Edgware Road, London W 2.
Nascom 2
£295 + VAT
C
1
2
3
3
1

If you're not already acquainted with Nascom 2 or anything
of comparable constructional complexity, opening the boxes of boards and seemingly endless bags of components can be a traumatic experience. There are an awful lot of holes in the PCB that have to have something soldered into them. Where to begin the endurànce test?

The manual offers good advice. 'Do not begin construction now. Read through all the documentation at least twice.' Construction times can range from under 10 hours to over 40, 30 hours being the average. The manual advises you not to work for more than 2 or 3 hours at a stretch - good advice. It then goes through each stage of construction with diagrams, where necessary. This isn't the sort of kit that you can start on the dining room table and clear the bits away every time dinner, tea, supper, etc come around. That's the easiest way to lose bits and destroy chips. Find a place where everything can lie undisturbed for days at a time. It also helps if you


## INTEGREX

| Company | Integrex Ltd, Portwood Industrial Estate, |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | Church Gresley, Burton On Trent, <br> Staffordshire DE11 9PT. |  |  |
| Kit | Dolby Noise Reducer |  |  |
| Price | £50.48 |  |  |
| Complexity | C | Instruction Manual | 2 |
| Circuit Diagram | 1 | Finish | 3 |
| Contents | 3 | Fault-Finding Guide | 0 |

If you bought a cassette deck without Dolby noise reduction and don't feel like trading it for a machine with Dolby, you could build the Integrex Dolby Noise Reducer as a separate unit. Integrex claim that their design is the only 'add-on' Dolby processor kit in the world.

Integrex's preface to the construction notes advises you to check that all the components have been packed and sent in good condition. It may seem obvious, but it's always worth reminding the newcomer to kit-building. The remainder of the instruction leaflet takes the form of a reprint of the magazine article describing the system. One useful feature is the inclusion of a note of the most common constructional errors - collect one bonus point as you pass go in lieu of a point for the absent troubleshooting guide.

## INTRACEPT ELECTRONICS

Company
Kit
Price
Complexity
Circuit Diagram
Contents

Intracept Electronics Ltd, 203 Picton Road, Liverpool L15 4LG.
Nascom colour graphics board £22.50
B Instruction Manual
1
1
3
f you already have a Nascom 1 or 2, this kit enables you to produce colour graphics under software control. The background can be set to one of eight colours (including black and white) by altering the contents of address 0 C 00 or by
have a high SQ (stamina quotient) or BT (boredom threshold) because there is a lot of intricate soldering to get through before you come to the interesting bit - switching on. The only serious error a careless constructor might make is in the connection of the keyboard to the processor PCB. It is possible to plug the keyboard into the wrong position. Then, at switch-on you find you no longer have a working keyboard. This was drawn to my attention by a recent phone call to Computing Today from an electronics engineer who, of course, ignored the instruction manual. Being a professional, he didn't need to read the manual. He blew up his keyboard. 'Read through all the documentation at least twice.'

Because of the non-availability of 4118 chips, Nascom 2s are currently being supplied without the 4118 s , bui with a free 16 K dynamic RAM board. When 4118 s are again available, Nascom 2 buyers will be able to get hold of them at the special price of $£ 80+V A T$ for the 8 K .


Henry's Radio are also offering a free power supply. If you get your - Nascom 2 from Nascom, without 4118s and without the 16 K RAM board you can expect to pay $£ 225$.
ETI INDEX 10C


The PCB and components come with all the necessary hardware - an aluminium chassis and an attractive mahogany sleeve. The unit matches other Integrex products in both appearance and electronically, in terms of input/output signal parameters and standardised DIN sockets. So, having built your Dolby system you can then build a matching FM tuner and stereo amplifier.
 instructions to ensure that the board is functioning properly (Nasbug and Nas-Sys versions are supplied). The colour graphics modulator may be used with Nascom 1 or 2 and the appropriate alterations to Nascom's main board in order to use the colour graphics option are given, together with a testing procedure.

Intracept also supply a colour bar generator kit primarily for the field service engineer. It's a useful diagnostic tool for troubleshooting colour telly faults. It can display the standard waveforms and colour bar pattern. From them, if you know what you're doing, you should be able to spot decoder faults (incorrect matrixing, ident, colour balance, demodulator phasing, delay line adjustment, etc.). The five patterns available (blank raster, grey scale, cross-hatch, colour bar and red raster) should enable a service engineer to accurately adjust and service colour television in the home.
ETI INDEX 8B


## JAYEN DEVELOPMENTS

Company<br>Kit<br>Price<br>Complexity<br>Circuit Diagram<br>Contents

Jayen Developments, 21 Gladeside, Bar Hill, Cambridge CB3 8DY. Jaykit DM-2DigitalMultimeter £5.45

Instruction Manual
1 Finish
3 Fault-Finding Guide
|must confess that the idea of a kit without components struck me as about as useful as a handful of rice pudding for resurfacing the M1. However, I take it all back. In fact, it's not a bad idea at all. What do you need to turn a tobacco tin project into something a shade more sophisticated?
You could start with a well-made PCB and a professionallooking front panel. Well, if you send off your pennies to Jayen, that's exactly what they send you - PCB plus front panel. You also get a shopping list for components, which you can buy for £23.75 from an address given by jayen. Jaykit's FG-1a Function Generator is also sold in this form. Nice idea.
 ETI INDEX 10B

## JEREMY LORD SYNTHESISERS

| Company | Jeremy Lord Synthesisers Ltd, 3 Charterhouse, Eltringham Street, London SW18 1TD. |
| :---: | :---: |
| Kit | Bioactivity Translator |
| Price | £27.35 |
| Complexity | B |
| Circuit Diagram | 1 |
| Contents | 3 |
| Instruction Manual | 2 |
| Finish | 3 |
| Fault-Finding Guide | 0 |

This instrument has been getting a lot of publicity recently in the national Press and on radio. It works on the principle that plants generate minute electrical potentials which the translator can amplify and use to control a synthesiser. The sound output follows the signals from the plant in pitch, rhythm and volume.

In practice, however, the device responds more to movement of the plant. I suspect this has something to do with the design of electrodes used - based loosely around a common or garden hairclip and conductive foam pads. However, the principle is sound and the system works.

What's it like to build? Construction posed no problems. The PCB fits neatly into the smart teak finish case and a self-adhesive plastic sheet gives the front panel a professional appearance. It's a self-contained unit - you don't have to plug it into your amplifier. Synthesiser, amplifier, controls, batteries and loudspeaker are all housed in a single box. ETI INDEX 9B


| Company | NIC, 61 Broad Lane, London N15. <br> Kin |
| :--- | :--- |
| Kit | Pinball Wizard |
| Price | E39.30 |
| Complexity | 1 |
| Circuit Diagram | 1 |
| Contents | 3 |
| Instruction Manual | 3 |
| Finish | 2 |
| Fault-Finding Guide | 0 |

The Pinball Wizard black and white TV game was featured exclusively in the November 1979 issue of ETI. NIC purchased 500 of the games chip used in this kit. As Pinball Wizard has been selling well, I should get in touch with NIC as soon as possible, to avoid disappointment.

The chip does most of the work, so there are few extra components on the board, simplifying construction. You can buy everything you need from NIC for $£ 39.30$, or you could invest in just the basic kit of PCB and components for $£ 28.90$. The box and controls are $£ 6.50$ extra and the mains adaptor another $£ 3.90$.


## POWERTRAN ELECTRONICS

Company<br>Kit<br>Price<br>Complexity<br>Circuit Diagram<br>Contents

Powertran Electronics, Portway Industrial Estate, Andover, Hants SP10 3NM.
Transcendent 2000
£168.50 + VAT
C Instruction Manual 3
1 Finish 3

Dowertran Electronics sent us a Transcendent 2000 single board synthesiser to have a look at. It's a 3 octave instrument transposable 2 octaves up or down giving an effective 7 octave range. Features include portamento, pitch blending, a VCO with shape and pitch modulation, a VCF with both low and high pass outputs and a separate dynamic sweep control, amongst many, many others.

It's definitely not a beginners' kit, although we can't give you a full account of any constructional difficulties, because Powertran wouldn't let us build it. However, I can tell you that the kit comes absolutely complete, right down to the mains plug. The components are separated into 16 packs, each with a separate component listing, greatly facilitating component checking. ETI INDEX 10C

The game includes pinball, basketball and breakout options, selected by push button. The star was undoubtedly breakout. Everyone here at ETI who borrowed the game became hopelessly addicted to breakout. You find that you have to have just one more game to try to get the maximum score of 864 by demolishing two walls of bricks with seven balls . . . and then just one more game . . . . and then

NICs shop is packed with goodies, from a car alarm kit to computer kits (Nascom 2 and the UK101) including the Heathkit H14 Line Printer. Why not pop round for a browse.
ETI INDEX 9B


## SURETRON SYSTEMS

Company
Kit
Price
Complexity
Circuit Diagram
Contents
Instruction Manual
Finish
Fault-Finding Guide

Suretron Systems (UK) Ltd, Piccadilly Place, London Road, Bath BA1 6PW. Surefire C3000 Electronic Ignition £17.95 A
A
1
3 1
3 2

CConstruction is straightforward - just work your way down the list of assembly instructions. Copious diagrams show how components should be mounted. One group of components must be mounted very close to the PCB as a choke is mounted above them. Be careful how you hold the board when you're trying to persuade the choke pins to locate properly in the holes. When they snap into position, I can assure you that the pointed pins go through fingertips like a hot soldering iron through butter. Although the kit is designed for negative earth vehicles, atlerations are given for positive earth vehicles. When construction is complete Suretron's panel stickers give the kit a professional finish.

Fitting your new space-age electronic ignition system involves drilling a few holes in your precious auto-not-somobile. If you follow all the instructions, but the little box still suffers rejection problems from your motor, a flick of switch returns the engine to conventional ignition operation until you can sort out the trouble.

If problems persist Suretron operate a telephone technical service or you can return the unit to them for fault diagnosis. ETI INDEX 10A

## TANGERINE COMPUTERS

| Company | Tangerine Computers, Forehill, Ely, Cambs. |
| :--- | :--- |
| Kit | Microtan 65 |
| Price | £69 + VAT |
| Complexity | C |
| Circuit Diagram | 0 |
| Contents | 3 |
| Instruction Manual | 3 |
| Finish | 3 |
| Fault-Finding Guide | 0 |



The arrival of this kit on my cluttered desk made a little bit of history at ETI. It kindled in my well-thumbed grey cells something approaching enthusiasm for computing something which I had previously thought impossible. I grasped Microtan in both hands and made for the wilds of Staines. The kit is presented in the form of a ring binder. Open the first page and there is your basic kit. Free the PCB from its cling-film and underneath it you find the components, neatly laid out on double sided tape, making component checking as easy as falling off a soldering iron. Construction shouldn't pose any problems, as it's just a matter of identifying the component and plugging it into the position marked on the PCB. I reckon if I, with no past experience of computing, or computer kits, can build this kit and have it working in an evening of not very arduous soldering, then anyone can. Mind you, before I started, I equipped myself with a fine tipped iron and very fine solder.

Once it's working you can plug in extra ICs to give lower case and graphics options. If you find hexadecimal machine code as baffling as I do, you can add an expansion unit (TANEX) and a BASIC interpreter, so that you can talk to the machine through an ASCII keyboard in something resembling English. The excellent manual, also included in the ring binder, gives a few sample programs. Within hours of getting my hands on this kit, I was blissfully blasting marauding aircraft out of the sky with my telly-bound missile.

I've quite arbitrarily given this kit a bonus of five on the ETI INDEX for getting just about everything right and providing excellent value for money. I'd recommend Microtan 65 to anyone with a modicum of soldering experience and an interest in computing.
ETI INDEX 14C

## TK ELECTRONICS

## Company

Kit
Price
Complexity
Circuit Diagram
Contents

TK Electronics, 106 Studley Grange Road, London W7 2LX.
DVM/Thermometer
£20.75 + VAT
$\begin{array}{lll}\text { B } & \text { Instruction Manual } & 2 \\ 1 & \text { Finish } & 2\end{array}$
This kit was featured as a Kit Review subject in Hobby Electronics (October 1979). HE built the digital thermometer version. When you've decided which version of the kit you want to construct you have to build a decimal point driver. Three circuits are suggested - two give a fixed DP and the third a floating point. The thermometer uses a fixed DP. No provision is made for the DP driver on the board and its components are not included with the kit, but this shouldn't cause any problems, especially if you have the typical constructors' junk box of components.


The diode sensor proved to be reliable and the thermometer appeared to be sensitive to temperature changes
ETI INDEX 8B

## WATFORD ELECTRONICS

## Company

Kit
Price
Complexity
Circuit Diagram
Contents

Watford Electronics,
33-35 Cardiff Road, Watford, Herts. DM 900 Digital Multimeter
£60 + VAT
C Instruction Manual 2
1 Finish 3
2 Fault-Finding Guide 1
hope you know your colour code for resistor
tolerances. Watford's DM 900 kit uses 1, 2 and 5 per cent resistors and there's no explanation of the coding in the instructions. The only minor irritation to mar this otherwise well presented kit was that the complement of 64 single-ended Vero pins was about thirty short. The PCB, although double-sided, does not have plated through holes. So, links between the top and under side of the board are made by Vero pins,
Construction is fairly straightforward, being a matter of finding a component on the parts list and soldering it into the correct position marked on the PCB. You'll have to drill the plastic case to take the three test sockets, although the front control panel comes ready drilled and with the meter scales marked.

You can buy the kit assembly instructions separately for $£ 1.00$ (free with kit) if you have an alternative supply of


## WILLIAM STUART SYSTEMS

Company
Kit
Price
Complexity
Circuit Diagram
Contents

William Stuart Systems, 137 Billericay Road, Herongate, Brentwood, Essex. Videograph
£ 26.95 + cabinet and controls $£ 12.95$

| B | Instruction Manual | 3 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | Finish | 3 |
| 3 | Fault-Finding Guide | 1 |

If you want to buy a Christmas present for your hi-fi system, this luxury box of tricks is a bit out of the ordinary. It actually displays sound waves in colour on any normal television set. Left and right hand channels are shown in contrasting colours. Press a button to invert one channel. Peak signals make the background cycle through eight colours.

The Videograph also has a test signal generator. You can record the clean square wave on your cassette recorder, playback the signal through Videograph and actually see the distortion introduced by your system. You can actually see the flutter, wow, low frequency and transient response of your recorder, amplifier, etc.

Construction is a matter of plugging components into two
components. However, if you are not building the DM900 from Watford's kit, don't skimp on components to save a few pence. Get the best. You can't expect to make an accurate meter if you use, for instance $10 \%$ or even $5 \%$ resistors throughout.
ETI INDEX 9C
well-marked PCBs according to the clear instruction sheets. The chassis is pre-drilled with an attractive front panel. William Stuart Systems offer a repair service if things go drastically wrong.
ETI INDEX 11B


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# LED VU METER 

## An excellent way to watch what goes on in those secretive screened leads. Can be adapted to various levels of operation.

This unit will not replace the conven tional VU or PPM meter; no LED dis play could fulfill the spec. However, with an output in 3 dB steps and a choice of a dot or bar display, it will make a useful and attractive addition to any audio system.

## 5 Into 1=10

With the log function achieved directly inside IC5, the use of four separate opamps to condition the signal may seem extravagant. However, the circuit design precludes the use of a conventional quad op amp package like the 324 and the final circuit exploits the good, all-round, economical performance of the 741 s and the extremely high input impedance of the 3140s. The display consists of ten LEDs and these can be illuminated in a dot or bar format. Selection is by a SPDT switch, or a wire link may be permanently connected. Sensitivity of the unit is high. The gain of the first amplifier stage is adjustable and a full scale reading can be obtained with an output of just a few millivolts.

To keep down cost and avoid complex circuitry, a half-wave rectifier has been used. The meter has switchable resistors giving a peak programme response with fast attack and slow decay and a volume unit reponse with slower approximately equal respnse times. The response characteristics for each mode may easily be changed by selection of a few resistors and have little interaction with each other

## Construction And Setting Up

Use of our PCB makes construction simplicity itself and results in quite a compact and attractive unit. The PCB has been designed to accommodate stackable rectangular LEDs as shown in our photos. However, any type and colour of LEDs may be used. There are only four wire links to be inserted and the remaining components may be inserted as they come to hand. It is good practice to leave the semiconductors until last and use of sockets for the ICs makes substitution for fault-finding easy. Although ICs 3 and 4 feature FET input

stages, these are well protected and no special handling precautions are required.

When completed, the unit may be set up by short-circuiting the input and, with a DC-coupled 'scope or sensitive voltmeter connected to the output (pin 6) of IC4, adjusting RV2 until the output reaches 0 V . Then apply the maximum signal you wish to indicate and with the unit set to VU adjust RV1 for a full scale reading. Now switch to PPM and adjust RV3 until a full scale reading is just obtained. The unit will cover a wide range of input levels, though for very high input signal levels you may have to attenuate the driving signal. A simple resistive divider will easily accomplish this. Do yourself a favour and have a peak at better VU today.

## BUYLINES



PARTS LIST



## HOW IT WORKS

The circuit consists of an AC ampliffer driving a half-wave rectifier whose output charges a capacitor. via a switched resistor network. The charge on the capacitor is then amplified and drives the bargraph chip either directly or via a potentiometer.

The signal is input via C1 to the non inverting input of IC1. Resistor R1 provides DC bias for $[C 1$, which is connected as a variable gain Ac-coupled amplifier. This arrangement avoids offset problems when the gain is increased which would severely limit the usefuiness of the stage.

The output of IC1 drives the half-wave rectifier built around IC2. The circuitry here follows fairly conventional lines except for the inclusion of IC3 In the feedback loop. Use of this BIFET chip with its negigible input current enables high values of resistance and a low value ( 100 n ) of storage capacitance to be used with the consequent advantage of a relatively low current drive producing a high rate of voltage change. Without IC3 in circuit and with SW1a in the 'PPM' position, C4 would charge quickly via R7 but would discharge almost as fast
through R7 and R3. In the find circuit, the charge path is via R7, but the discharge path is via R7 and R6, giving a fast attack and slow decay time. Diode D1 acts as a clamp for a positive input and prevents IC2 from going into saturation. In the 'VU' mode, C4 charges via R5 and R7 and discharges through $R 5,7,6,8$. The ratios of these resistors produce almost equal attack and decay times.

As any load on C4 would interfere with the time constant of the RC network, another BIFET op-amp is used as a noninverting amplifier with a gain of about five. Offset adjustment is provided for this stage with RV2 enabling the output to be acctrately zeroed. Owing to the greater insertion loss of the RC network in the 'VU' mode, RV3 is included so that a full scale reading can be obtained for the same overall input evel in both modes

The bargraph chip IC5 handles the dis play. The input signal from SW1b is applied to pin 5 , about 1 V 2 gives a full scale reading. The internal resistor chain gives an output in 3 dB steps; the ten LEDsapro-
viding a 30 dB range, a ratio of $32: 1$. No attempt has been made to 'tailor' the response of this chip as the LM3916 with an internally set VU response should be available in the future. It will probably be a pin for pin, plugin replacement. Current through the LEDs is set at about 10 mA by R11 and capacitors C5, 6 provide decoupling.

A power supply of plus and minus six volts is recomnended. A lower voltage mayo restrict the output swing of ICA making a full scale reading unobtainable in the 'PPM' mode. Too high a positive supply may result in destruction of IC5 through excessive dissipation. Absolute maximum dissipation for this chip is 660 mW . If you use a pesitive supply greater than 6 V then the LEDs should be returned to the positive supply via a dropper resistor or a zener diode. ICS produces either a 'dot' or 'bar' display depending on the connection of pin 9 to pin 11 or to the positive supply. Although SW2 is shown on the circuit diagram, the connection may be made permanently with a wire link

LEDS 1 TO 10


Fig.2. Component overlay. The rectangular LEDs are all mounted along the right edge of the board.


Use of stackable LEDs makes for an attractive panel layout.

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# DESIGNER'S 

# NOTEBOOK 

## Ray Marston devotes this month's 'Notebook' to an in-depth look at the Siemens IR60 system that forms the basis of the infra-red remote control system described in this issue.

TThe infra-red remote control project is based on the Siemens IR60 system that is copiously described in Siemens data books and applications notes. Now, the uninitiated amongst you might think that the ETI' design team deserves absolutely no credit for merely converting an application note into a real-life project. Those professional design engineers amongst you who are familiar with so-called 'Applications Notes' may, however, well feel otherwise. Let me explain.

## Application Notes

One of the most important lessons that the aspiring design engineer must learn is that manufacturer's data and application notes must never be regarded as sources of pure facts. In reality, they are simply propaganda sheets that are designed, within legal constraints, to help boost the sales of the manufacturer's products. They are designed to emphasise the good feratures of the product byt play down or ignore its deficiencies.

Data/application sheets vary considerably in quality from one manufacturer to another. One of the major American companies, for example, produces notes with excellent descriptive texts, but $30 \%$ of their application circuits don't (and could never) work. Japanese notes come in pidgin English interspersed with Croatian technical terms.

The upshot of all this is that when we tried to use the Siemens IR60 system we first had to spend three days decyphering the text and then spent another six days (literally) debugging the system. Still, enough of this waffle: The IR60 system is very good, so let's look at it.

## The IR60 System

IR60 is a sophisticated infra-red remote control system that is capable of handling sixty code instructions (in practice 30 of these instructions are not decoded by the system's receiver but are read out on a serial interface, from which they can be fed to auxilliary decoder circuitry). The system is designed around two 18-pin PMOS LSI packages and has exceptionally high immunity to false operation through noise, etc. The manufacturer claims system operating ranges of 30-40 metres. The receiver has three analogue outputs, one 4-bit ( 16 channel) binary output, three single-bit outputs and a serial interface for additional versatility.

The system is specifically designed to give remote control of

| $\begin{aligned} & \text { INST } \\ & \text { NO. } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { KEY } \\ & \text { CODE } \end{aligned}$ | SERIAL CODE FED CBA |  | FUNCTION | RECEIVER OUTPUT ACTION |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0 | $1 \times$ | 000 | 000 | NORMAL POSITIONION. | Volume sets to $1 / 3$, Analoguc 1 and 2 set 10 |
| 1 | $1{ }^{\text {r }}$ |  | 001 | QUICKIONE | 1/2. RLA on. Volume reduces rapidly to cero. |
| 2 | Te |  | 010 | STANDBY | Iurns RLA off. |
| 3 | $1 d$ |  | 011 | RESERVE 1 | Switches RSVI output between high and tow states on atternate operations. |
| 4 | 2 a |  | 100 | PROGRAM STEP +/ON | Increments binary channel-sclect output by one step per operation: Turns RLA on. |
| 5 | 2 b |  | 101 | PROGRAM STEP -/ON | Decrements binary channel-select output by one step per uperation: turns RLA on. |
| 6 | 2 c |  | 110 | ON | Turns RLA on. |
| 7 | 2 d |  | 11 | RESERVE $2 / O N$ | Switches RSV2 output between high and low states on alternate operations: Turns RLA on. |
| 8 | 3 | 001 | 000 | = |  |
| 9 | 36 |  | 001 | * |  |
| 10 | 3 c |  | 010 | - | Not evaluated by SAB3209 receiver, büt |
| 11 | 30 |  | 011 | - | ) read out at serial interface. |
| 12 | 4 a |  | 100 |  |  |
| 13 | 4 b |  | 101 |  |  |
| 14 | 4 c |  | 110 |  |  |
| 15 | 4 d |  | 111 |  | , |
| 16 | Sa | 010 | 000 | CHANNEL I/ON | Sets binary output to 0000: Turns RLA on. |
| 17 | 5 b |  | 001 | CHANNEL 2/ON | Scts binary oulput to 0001: Turns RLA on, |
| 18 | 5 c |  | 010 | CHANNEL 3/ON | Sets binary output 100010 : Turns RLA on. |
| 19 | 5d |  | 011 | CHANNEL 4/ON | Sets binary oulput to 0011: Turns RLA on. |
| 20 | $6{ }^{\text {a }}$ |  | 100 | CHANNEL 5/ON | Sels binary output 10 0100: Turns RLA on, |
| 21 | 6 b |  | 101 | CHANNEL 6/ON | Sets binary output 100101 : Turns RLA on, |
| 22 | 6 c |  | 110 | CHANNEL 7/ON | Sels binary oulpul to 0110: Tuens RLA on. |
| 23 | 6 d |  | 111 | CHANNEL 8/ON | Sets binary out put to 0111: Turns RLA on. |
| 24 | 7.3 | 01. | 000 | CHANNEL 9/ON | Sets binary outpul to 1000: Turns RLA on. |
| 25 | 76 |  | 001 | CHANNEL 10/ON | Sets binary oulpul to 1001: Turns RLA on. |
| 26 | 7 c |  | 010 | CHANNEL 11/ON | Seis binary oulput to 1010: Turns RLA on. |
| 27 | 7 d |  | 011 | CHANNEL 12 /ON | Sets binary output to 1011: Turns RLA on. |
| 28 | 8. |  | 100 | CHANNEL 13/ON | Secs binary output to 1100: Turns RLA on. |
| 29 | 8 b |  | 101 | CHANNEL 14/ON | Scls binary output 10 1101: Jurns RLA on. |
| 30 | 8 c |  | 110 | CHANNEL $15 / \mathrm{ON}$ | Sets binary output to 1110 : Turns RLA un, |
| 31 | 8 d |  | 117 | CHANNEL 16 / ON | Sets binary output to 1111: Turns RLA on. |

Table 1. Relationships between transmitter key codes and receiver actions on basic instructions.
modern TV sets but can in practice be used to control a whole range of domestic and industrial devices. The infra-red remote control system featured in this month's issue of ETI is based on the IR60 system, but uses only 16 of the 60 available instructions and has an effective range of only (!) 15 metres.

The essence of the action is that the SAB 3210 transmitter chip receives input 'instructions' via an 8 -row ( 1 to 8 ) by 4 -column (a to d) matrix that can be activated by key switches. Each key can thus be allocated an instruction number, which in turn is related to a key code number ( $2 \mathrm{~d}, 8 \mathrm{a}$, etc). Whenever a key is operated the IC detects the action and generates a start-bit plus 6 -bit serial code word which is transmitted to the receiver via the infra-red link, where the word may or may not be decoded may or may not cause some useful action to be performed.

The transmitter can produce 32 basic code words using 1-row/ 1 -column key combinations, plus another 32 extension words

| $\begin{aligned} & \text { INST } \\ & \text { NO. } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { KEY } \\ & \text { CODE } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { SERIAL } \\ & \text { CODE } \\ & \text { FED CBA } \end{aligned}$ |  | FUNCTION | RECEIVER OUTPUT ACTION |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 32 | 81a | 109 | 000 | " | † |
| 33 | 816 |  | 001 |  |  |
| 34 | 81 c |  | 010 |  |  |
| 35 | 81 d |  | 011 |  | Not evaluated by SAB3209 receiver, but |
| 36 | 82 d |  | 100 | * | read at serial interface. |
| 37 | 82 b |  | 101 |  |  |
| 38 | 82c |  | 110 |  |  |
| 39 | 82d |  | 111 | - - | , |
| 40 | 83a | 101 | 000 | VOLUME + | increases voiume output fevel. |
| 41 | 83b |  | 001 | VOLUME -- | Decreases volume output level. |
| 42 | 83 c |  | 010 | ANALOGUE I + | Increases analogue 1 nutpul level. |
| 43 | 83d |  | 011 | ANALOGUE 1 cm | Decreases analogue 1 output level. |
| 44 | 84a |  | 100 | ANALOGUE $2+$ | Increases analogue 2 outpul level. |
| 45 | 846 |  | 101 | ANALOGUE 2. | Decreases analogue 2 output level. |
| 46 | 84 c |  | 110 | ANALOGUE 3 + | Not evaluated by SAB3209 receiver, |
| 47 | 84d |  | 111 | ANALOGUE 3 - | but availabte on SAB4209 receiver. |
| 48 | 85a |  | 000 |  |  |
| 49 | 85b |  | 001 | - | ! |
| 50 | 85 c |  | 010 |  |  |
| 51 | 85d |  | 011 |  |  |
| 52 | 86 a |  | 100 |  |  |
| 53 | 86 b |  | 101 | - | Not evaluated by SAB3209 receiver, but |
| 54 | 86 c |  | 110 | $\because$ | read out at serial interface. |
| 55 | 86 d |  | 111 | . |  |
| 56 | 872 | 111 | 000 | * |  |
| 57 | 87 b |  | 001 | $\cdots$ |  |
| 58 | 876 |  | 010 | - |  |
| 59 | 87d |  | 011 | - |  |
| 60 | - |  | 100 |  | Not used. |
| 61 |  |  | 101 |  | Not used. |
| 62 | \% |  | 110 111 | " | END instruction. <br> Not permitted, due to ambiguity in |
| 63 | - |  | 111 | - | Not permitted, due to ambiguity in biphase code. |

Table 2. Relationships between transmitter key codes and receiver actions on Extension instructions.
when using a 2 -row/1-column key combinations in which '8' always forms one of the two rows. For the benefit of those readers who may wish to modify the ETI system, the relationships between instruction numbers, key codes, transmitter codes and receiver output functions are shown in Table 1 for the basic codes and in Table 2 for the Extension codes.

## Transmitter Connections

The method of connecting keys to the SAB 3210 for the 32 basic codes is quite straightforward, as shown in the manufacturer's basic application circuit of Fig. 1. Use of the extension instructions calls for a slightly more complex approach, with pairs of diodes connecting row- 8 and one other row to one ofthe four columns so that actuation of a key connects two rows to one column. Fig. 2 shows the manufacturer's diagram for making a 60 key matrix, using both basic and extension connections.


Fig.1. Manufacturer's application circuit, showing method of connecting keys for the $\mathbf{3 2}$ basic codes.


Fig.2. Manufacturer's diagram showing connections for a 60-key matrix using both basic and extension instructions.


Fig.3. Block diagram (left) and pin notations (right) of the SAB3210 transmitter IC.

Fig. 3 shows the pin connections and the simplified block diagram of the SAB 3210 IC, which incorporates (amongst other things) a keyboard scanner circuit. When we were developing our
prototype unit on Microdeck we found that the deck's intercapacitance between pin 16 (the ' 8 ' row) and ground caused the scanner to 'see' the ' 8 ' row as a closed switch whenever the transmitter was activated, thus causing the incorrect code to be transmitted when basic operation was required (it took us two days, to discover the cause of the incorrect operation). We overcame this bug by trying pin 16 of the IC high with a 220k resistor: for good measure, we tied pins 11 and 12 (rows 3 and 4 ) high as well.

One reason it took us so long to trace this fault was, because of the unusual nature of the Biphase serial code sent out by the transmitter. Fig. 4 is a reproduction of the manufacturer's timing/ waveform diagram. What happens here is that the transmitted signal carries 'imaginary' markers: a pulse immediately following the marker is regarded as a ' 1 '. Thus, the biphase signal shown in Fig. 4 is, reading from $F$ to $A$, equal to 100110.


Instruction 111111 with startbit 1 may not be programmed in order to avoid mixup with the already programmed instruction 000000 with startbit 0


Exact pulse train
of $a$ burst
Fig.4. Reproduction of the manufacturer's transmitter timing/waveform diagram.

## The Receiver Pre~Amplifier

The manufacturer produces a special pre-amplifier chip, the TDA 4050, for use with the IR60 system. Using this chip, they claim control ranges of up to 30-40 metres. We played with his chip for a couple of days but never managed to stop the damn thing oscillating. We then noticed the small print in the application data that said that the pre-amplifier 'should advantageously be mounted in a double-screened case', at which point we gave up and designed our own pre-amp.

One of the problems involved in IR pre-amp design is that the circuit must not only provide very high gain for long-range operation, but also must not saturate when the transmitter is placed only a few inches from the receiver. Our unit works well in both respects.

As a matter of general interest, we've reproduced the manufacturer's TDA 4050 pre-amp applications circuits in Fig. 5. The TDA 4050 IC should be available from Electrovalue.

## Receiver/Decoder Circuits

The basic IR60 system is designed for use with the highly sophisticated SAB 3209 receiver IC. This chip checks the incoming code signal for 'sense' (number of bits, bit duration, etc), processes it and then both 'dumps' the resulting code signal at the serial interface and simultaneously passes it on to a register, from which it is
then used to control the binary and analogue outputs. The processing action gives a very high immunity against noise and against signals of the wrong carrier frequency.


Fig.5. Two Siemens applications circuits showing methods of using the TDA4050 IR preamplifier IC.

Fig. 6 shows the pin designations of the SAB 3209 receiver IC, which provides three analogue, one 4-bit binary and three singlebit outputs. Siemens make a similar receiver chip, the SAB 4209, which has four analogue outputs: this chip is unlikely to be available through amateur electronics dealers, but could be of interest to those of our readers who are professional design engineers.
Pin connection

| Pin No. | Pin designations |
| :--- | :--- |
| 1 | VSS, supply voltage +12 V |
| 2 | CLCKO, clock output |
| 3 | CLCKI, clock input |
| 4 | PRGD, program control output |
| 5 | PRGC, program control output |
| 6 | PRGB, program control output |
| 7 | PRGA, program control output |
| 8 | PC, program change strobe input/output |
| 9 | RSV2, spare output |
| 10 | RSV1, spare output |
| 11 | VOLU, volume control output |
| 12 | ONOFF, standby output |
| 13 | BRIG, brightness output |
| 14 | COLO, color contrast output |
| 15 | RSIG, signal input, remote control |
| 16 | DLEN, I-bus input/output |
| 17 | VoD, supply voltage O V |
| 18 | DATA, I-bus input/output |

Fig.6. Pin designations of the SAB3209 receiver IC.
Siemens produce a number of 'special' (professional) support chips for use with the IR60 system. Fig 7, for example, shows the standard receiver application circuit, which also illustrates the use of the SAB 3211 display decoder/driver chip, which gives a visual readout of the selected binary-coded 'channel' number on a multisegment LED display.


Fig.7. Siemens SAB3209 receiver application circuit, which also shows the use of the 'special' SAB3211 chip.

Another 'special' IC is the SAB 3271 receiver chip, which specifically decodes the transmitted 6-bit serial instruction code signal into the form of six parallel outputs, which can be decoded by additional circuitry to make all 60 'instructions' available for external use.


Fig.8. Siemens circuit showing the method of decoding the 4-bit binary output to give 16 output channels.

## Interface Circuits

Interfacing the outputs of the SAB 3209 receiver to external circuitry calls for a certain amount of individual ingenuity. The signal-bit outputs can each be used to drive a relay via a transistor buffer, as already shown in the ETI remote control system elsewhere in this issue. The 4 -bit binary output can be decoded into sixteen 'selector' channels by using the Siemens circuit as shown in Fig. 8. ICs such as the CD4066 can be used as on/off signal switches, driven from the outputs of the above channel selector.

The three analogue output channels can be used to control voltage-controlled attenuators or amplifiers (for volume control) and filters (for tone control, etc) by using some of the many circuits shown in previous issues of ETI. The VCA article shown in the March '80 issue gives some useful circuits.

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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | BC486A BC5468 | .06 | ${ }_{\text {BFF414 }}$ | .085 |  | . 22 | 2 N 5447 2 S 531 |  |  |  |  |
| $\underset{\text { BCto8 }}{\substack{\text { BClior }}}$ | ${ }_{\text {BC } 547 \%}$ | . 055 | ${ }_{8}^{8 F 450}$ | .095 | TIP 42A | 29 | 2N8121 .18 |  |  |  | 28 |
| BCClOg BCH | ${ }_{\text {BC } 5488}$ | . 05 | ${ }_{\text {BF451 }}$ | . 09 | TIP2955 | ${ }_{48}$ | 2 2S536 | per 1000 . 016 | thompson/CSF miniaure typo in the | 2.2163 A | 032 |
| BC114 .08 | bcs56A | . 06 | 8F757 | . 27 | TPP3055 | 45 | ${ }^{25 C 1617}$. 62 | Ner 10002  <br> peor .032 <br> 025  | 3.9pF. 4.7pF, 22pF, 33pF, 47pF. | $4.7 / 10 \mathrm{~A}$ | 022 |
| BC117 . 07 | BC556B | . 06 | BFR40 | . 17 | tis91 | 12 | $25 \mathrm{C} 206 \mathrm{~B} \quad .43$ | per 100000  <br> per 10.000 .021 | 68 pFF . $82 \mathrm{pF}, 100 \mathrm{pF}$. 560 pF . | 4.7125 R | . 023 |
| 3C118 . 05 | BC557A | . 06 | BFW43 | . 32 | $27 \times 107$ | . 08 | $2 \mathrm{SC2073} .45$ | 104004 | 2700pF\#, . $01 \mu \mathrm{~F} \mathrm{\#}$. All $5 \%$ excepi | $4.7 / 25 \mathrm{~A}$. | 030 |
| 14 | $\mathrm{BC73}^{\text {a }}$ | 07 | BFY 7 | . 19 | $27 \times 212$ | 08 |  | per 1000 . 032 | 10\%, \#20\% | $4.7 / 35 \mathrm{R}$ | 030 |
| BC125 . 06 | ${ }_{\text {BC }} \times 32$ | . 05 | BYF50 | . 13 | $27 \times 214$ | 08 |  | iN4006 .046 | Prices: up tp 82pF E7/1000 | $4.7 / 50 \mathrm{R}$ | .034 |
| BC139 $\quad .14$ | ${ }_{8 \times \times 33}$ | . 05 | BFY51 | . 13 | 27x303 | 07 | 7404 . 08 | per 1000 . 034 | 1000p E E\%/1000 |  |  |
| BC147 $\quad .05$ | ${ }^{\text {BCY32 }}$ | . 12 | ${ }^{\text {BrF52 }}$ | . 13 | 27x319 | 07 | 7404 | por 000 . 030 | ${ }^{5600 \%}$ 270 ${ }^{\text {25 }}$ | ¢ $10 / 16 \mathrm{R}$ | .032 |
|  |  | . 11 | ${ }_{\text {cher }}^{\text {BFY56A }}$ | .188 | ${ }_{T}^{2 T \times 313}$ | . 07 | 7405 7417 | Zener diodor | 2700pF E9/1000 | $10 / 25 \mathrm{RPC}$ | . 032 |
|  | ${ }_{80}{ }_{80}$ | . 6 | ${ }_{\text {BFY }}^{\text {BF4 }}$ | . 15 | ${ }_{2} 7 \times 450$ | . 08 | 7420 . 18 | ${ }^{400 \mathrm{~mW}}$ SZY88 or | Samples on request. cio/1000 | 10125 A | .038 |
| BC159 $\quad .05$ | 80131 | . 18 | BR101 | 28 | 27x509 | . 08 | 27300 | from 2 V 7 to 36 V . | Multerd min caremics | 10150 A 10 101700 s | . 040 |
| BC 168C . 055 | B0132 | . 18 | brxas | 095 | $27 \times 503$ | 07 | 7442 . 47 |  | M30ram min coramics: E7/1000 | ${ }^{10 / 1008}$ | .042 |
| $\begin{array}{ll}\text { 8C169C } \\ \text { BC. } 72 \mathrm{C} & .055 \\ 0.05\end{array}$ | 80133 | $\begin{array}{r}18 \\ .18 \\ \hline\end{array}$ | ${ }_{\text {BRS }} \mathrm{BR46}$ | . 17 |  | ${ }^{.06}$ | 7445 7460 | ces | 330pF 2\% 100 V (E8/1000 | 22,10 R | . 021 |
|  |  | 20 20 | ${ }_{\text {BSX }}$ | . 12 | 2N1021 | ${ }_{16}$ | 7472 |  | 3300pF 10\% 100V E13/1000 | $22 / 25 \mathrm{~A}$ | . 028 |
| вС1828 . 045 | BD181 | 40 | ${ }_{\text {BSY } 56}$ | . 10 | $2{ }^{2} 1377$ | . 62 | 7474 | TN4742A 12V 10 |  | $22 / 25 \mathrm{~B}$ | . 027 |
| ВС 1838 \% 045 | 80184 | 45 | BSY82 | . 19 | 2N1711 | . 18 |  | ZPY12 12V 1.6 W W |  | $22 / 63 \mathrm{~A}$ $33 / 16 \mathrm{~A}$ | . 0270 |
| BC1841)(TO5). 045 | ${ }_{80246}$ | 30 | 8SY85 | 23 | 2N1893 | 18 | 74107 . 18 | 075 | .022uF63V E14/1000 |  | .015 |
|  |  | . 32 | 8SY95A | . 065 | ${ }_{2 N}^{2} \mathbf{N} 2369$ | . 12 | 7421  <br> 74190 .18 | IS40204 20V 1.5 W |  | 47/16 A | .028 |
| $\begin{array}{l}8 C 2128 \\ B C 2131\end{array}$ .045 <br> 045  | ¢8033 | 32 24 | BT1 BU2 205 | . 60 | 2N2646 | 12 12 | 74913 . 48 | "top hat" 045 | Lemco 047 0 F 63V E16/1000 | $47 / 25 \mathrm{~A}$ | . 032 |
| BC234L (T05). 045 | 80526 | 24 | ${ }^{\text {BU } 206}$ | . 60 | ${ }^{2 N} 2926 \mathrm{Y}$ | . 045 |  |  |  | 47/35 | . 038 |
| BC237 . 05 | B0543A | . 30 | BU407 | . 60 | 2N2926R | .045 |  | ${ }_{22 \mathrm{pF}} 125 \mathrm{~V} 5 \%$ | Min 1 \%W $5 \%$ carbon film 1R-10M | $47 / 40 \mathrm{~A}$ $47 / 63 \mathrm{~A}$ | . 048 |
| BC2378 | ${ }^{\text {BD6954 }}$ | 45 | c)7001 | . 23 | ${ }^{2} \mathbf{N} 3053$ | . 13 | 555 . 19 | c3/1000 | 10\% over 1M). all ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | $47 / 63 \mathrm{~A}$ $100 / 6.3 \mathrm{~A}$ | .020 |
|  | ${ }^{\text {B0696A }}$ | . 13 | CV7493 | . 18 | - ${ }_{\text {2N3054 }}$ | $\begin{array}{r}.36 \\ .30 \\ \hline\end{array}$ | 723 741 | 27pF 125v5\% | The following values only at $£ 3.50$, | 100/16 R | .038 |
| ${ }_{\text {BC2 } 2398}$ | ${ }_{\text {BFIB1 }}$ | 15 | MED475 | .18 .055 | ${ }_{\text {2N344 }}$ | $\begin{array}{r}\text {. } 78 \\ \hline 8\end{array}$ | 741 | E8/1000 | 1000: 18R, 2208, 1k, 4k7, 33k, 39k, | 100/63 A | . 065 |
| BC252 . 07 | 8F195 | . 055 | MJE340 | . 22 | 2N3583 | . 42 |  | 500pF 1251/ | 47k. 220k. | $220 / 10 \mathrm{~A}$ | .045 |
| 8C256A . 08 | 8F196 | . 055 | MPS2369 | -06 | ${ }^{2} \mathrm{~N} 3618$ | 60 | 400 mW Zeners | 8200pf 125V 10\% | Min preents | $220 / 16 \mathrm{~A}$ $220 / 63 \mathrm{~A}$ | ${ }^{\text {T005 }}$ |
|  | ${ }_{\text {8F }}^{8198}$ | . 0555 | MPS656384 | . 08 |  | . 048 | These valuess onty at | E15/1000 | 0. IW miniature type. open construc- | $220 / 70 \mathrm{~A}$ | . 075 |
| 8С320 | ${ }^{\text {9F2 } 241}$ | . 055 | mPSA66 | . 24 | 2 N 4400 | . 06 |  |  |  | 330/50 A | . 075 |
| BC328 $0 \times 337$ | BF2 25 <br> 日F25 | . 075 | OC44 | . 17 | 2 N 4401 | .08 |  |  | The following volues only at 03 | ${ }_{470 / 16 \mathrm{R}}$ | . 080 |
| $\begin{array}{l}8 C 337 \\ 8 \mathrm{BC} 348\end{array}$ .07 <br> 18  | - $\begin{gathered}\text { BF257 } \\ \text { Br258 }\end{gathered}$ | . 29 | OC45 OCL39 | . 26 | 2N4403 2N4410 | .08 |  | 2N5060  <br> C 1060  <br> 1 P 4 M$)$ .15 <br> 28  |  | $470 / 40 \mathrm{R}$ | . 120 |
| 8C351 $\quad .14$ | ${ }^{85534}$ | . 13 | $0 \mathrm{CPP}^{1}$ | ${ }^{63}$ | 2N5193 | 20 | bulk buyore fot. |  | Also some Piner enclosed type | ${ }^{4} 470 / 400 \mathrm{~A}$ | . 150 |
| BC413 . 05 | 8F337 | . 19 | PBC108 | 055 | 2N5195 | . 22 |  |  | 150RV. $200 \mathrm{RH}, 2 \mathrm{kV}$. | $470 / 100 \mathrm{RC}$ | . 150 |

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# THE BLACK HOLE 

## Tim Orr, the prolific producer of music machines, presents the Black Hole Chorus Machine. Choose chorus effect or vibrato and control it all by footswitch.

The black hole is a musical effects device for processing natural and synthetic sounds. It has two modes of operation, chorus and vibrato. In the chorus mode the input signal is delayed (12 mS ) by an analogue delay line. It is then mixed back with the original signal. This delay time is not long enough for a distinct second image to be heard, but it is noticeable, particularly as the time delay is slowly modulated. The sound produced by this process has a sort of 'spacey' feel to it as though the input signal was being accompanied by a faint chorus. What is, in fact, happening is that a comb filter has been produced (Fig. 1) with notches spaced at about every 90 Hz . As the delay time is modulated these notches move up and down in frequency producing a colouration of the sound similar to phasing. This, coupled with the short time delay, produces the 'spacey' colouration known as a chorus effect. A manual speed control allows the user to vary the modulation speed. A slow modulation is best suited for guitar and keyboard instruments, whereas a faster speed, which introduces a noticeable pitch modulation, works well on vocals. Another chorus mode is available to switch in a second delay line modulated in antiphase.

The vibrato mode is essentially the same as the chorus; the only things that change are the modulation waveform (triangular sweeps for the chorus sinusoidal sweeps for the vibrato) and the frequency range. As this is 2 to 13 Hz , a definite pitch modulation is produced. The controls that effect the vibrato are speed and modulation depth. The vibrato is not just pure frequency modulation, there is also amplitude modulation which produces a slightly more interesting effect.

The vibrato/chorus selection is made with a footswitch. Two LEDs indicate which effect has been selected and also the modulation speed. The input amplifier has a manual level control plus a high impedance-high level/low impedance-low level selector switch, thus enabling a wide range of input levels to be accommodated. The largest input level is 4 V 5 rms , and the smallest level for overload is 5 mV rms; a range of nearly 60 dB . An overload LED indicates the onset of distortion.


Fig.1. Block diagram of a comb filter.


Fig.2. Block diagram of the Black Hole choraliser system.

|  | LOW | HIGH |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| MAXIMUM INPUT LEVEL | 1.25 Vpp | 13 Vpp |
| MAXIMUM INPUT LEVEL <br> SENSITIVITY | 15 mVpp | 150 mVpp |
| INPUT IMPEDANCE | 10 k | 110 k |
| SIGNAL TO NOISE RATIO | 68dB | 74 dB |


| MAXIMUM OUTPUT LEVEL | 1Vpp |
| :--- | :---: |
| OUTPUT IMPEDANCE | 600 ohms |
| VIBRATO SPEED | $2-13 \mathrm{~Hz}$ |
| CHORUS SPEED | $0.3-3.3 \mathrm{~Hz}$ |



Fig.3. (top) Performance specification.

Fig.4. (above) Frequency response of preemphasis, IC11 pins 5,6, 7.

- REMOVEALL ICs

TEST FOR $\pm 15 \mathrm{~V}$ AT IC9, 10.
THE UNREGULATED RAILS WILL BE APPROXIMATELY $\pm 22 \mathrm{~V}$ REPLACE ALL ICS AND RECHECK PSU.

* IG11 PIN 1,7 AND IC12 PIN 1,7, WILL HAVE THE AUDIO INPUT SIGNAL WITHOUT AN'Y DC BIAS.
COMPRESSOR OUTPUT. IC13 PIN 10, HAS A DC BIAS OF APPROX. +7 V PLUS THE AUDIO INPUT SIGNAL

FAST VCO. IC1 PIN 6 AND IC4 PIN 6


2 VARIES FROM ABOUT
$22 u S T O$
$28 u S$, IT BEING
SWEPT BY THE MODULATION
DSCILLATOR IC7.

* delay line output

VIEW PR1 WIPER
INJECT A 1 kHz SINEWAVE. VARVITS AMPLITUDE
SO THAT IT IS 2Vpp AT THE VIEWING POINT.
ADJUST PR2 SO THAT THE WAVEFORM IS SYMMETRICALLY MEXT ADJUST PR1 SO THAT THE CIO LEVELS. REPEAT FOR DELAY LINE B, USING PR3,4, VIEWING PR3 WIPE


FOR
CENTRAL $\qquad$ LOWER LIMIT

Fig. 5 (above and above left) Alignment notes.



Fig.6. (left) Using a compander system to remove delay line noise.

You don't want to have to fumbie for a lot of controls on the rear panel, so it's plain and simple - power on/off. No chance of accidentally hitting the power switch when you're operating Black Hole by footswitch.



Fig.7. Circuit diagram, This circuit includes the footswitch controls for bypass, chorus, vibrato and chorus and vibrato rate.


Fig.9. (below) This part of the circuit, the input amplifier, includes a 10 kHz low pass filter section built around IC12.



The inside story. Here the PCB has been built and installed in the case with the power supply. Just screw on the baseplate and it's ready to go.

## HOW IT WORKS


#### Abstract

The thput amplifier $($ Fit.9) is a low nolse Op Amp dertce, the RC4558 (IC11, pims $1,2,3)$ - With sw2 elased the input impedance is 10 k and the firat stage gain is +26. din. With SWZ open circuif, thit ingut ionpodance is 110 k and the gain is +6 of ICI1, pins $5,6,7$ forms a are-emphasis saricgil that is used to whance the higiter frequencles of the input slgnal (Pig.4) A de-emphasis elrcu\}t ( $(\mathrm{C} 15$, pins $1,2,3$ ) corrects the fregtuency kespontse at the outpot and in doins sa attenuates inwanted high frequency noist generated by the delay lime and the compartor. After pre-emphasis the stgnai io fltered by a 10 kfia 4 pule fowpass filter (KC12) to eliminate aliaging effegts that cas be causent by the delay line. Acompaltder foompressor fexpander) systew fias been enuployed to improve the everafl solse porformapice (Fig.s). This ensures that tife delay fines are afways driven with a relatively tatge signal and that when there is no input signal, the output noise from the dekay lines is expanded downwards, thus rendering it inasdible. A simple overlinad defector circuit $(010)^{3}$ is used to indicate the: onset of distortion.

The dday lines are clocked by ligh frequency $V C O$ s, $1 C 1,2$ and $1 C 4,5$. The VCO is a simple triangle/square wave, relaxation oscillator rumning at about $45_{5} \mathrm{kHz}$. The current into bin 5 of the CA3080 determines the oscillation frequency and this current is modiflated by the slow oscillator


1C7. Audle signals are fod inwo the analogue delay lines $(1 \mathrm{C} 3,6)$, the delay time theing determined by the relationship.

Delay the $=512 /$ clack frequency, whon in this ease is about 12 ms . The outpuss of the twit delay lines are prefiltered by R40, Corand $R 24, \mathrm{Ct} 6$, then mixed tagether and filtered by a 10 kHz lowpass fifter, IC15, opins $5,6,7:$ The signal is then expan: Ued by the NE5TO chip after which it is mixed with the oniginal-signat, at IC15, pins $1,2,3$, havinge first passed through a 'slient' enalogue switch (Q1i) which is ON when the effect is selected and OFF when by* passed. The modulation ascillator uperates over twa frequency ranges, one selected by the chorus speed control, the other byothe witrato speed somtrot. IC7 is a low frequemcy trianglefoquanewavie relaxation usci llator. When "the chorus " mode has "been selected the modulation waveform is a sinewave, being generated by $1 C 8$, pins $1,2,3$. This signal is routed via switch Q4 to. the high frequency VCO driving adelay line A, whilst delay line B is disabled by Q3 which shunts the audio signal to ground. A simple LED cantrol, circuit $07,8,9$ indicates whether the unit is bypassed or in either the chorus or vibrato mode as well as indicating the modulation speed.

A standard twe rail power supply provides a regulated +15 V at 70 mA and -15 V a 30 mA from two valtage regulators IC9,10.

## BUYLINES

[^10]PROJECT: The Black Hole


Fig.10. Component overlay. Double check the orientatic'capacitors.
PARTS LIST

Fig.12. Wiring plan for Footswitch 1.

Fig. 14. Connections from Footswitch 2 to the PCB.

Fig.13. Input and output connections to PCB.



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# RAVEN ON 

# As the chip industry experiences problems in maintaining it's rate of growth Dave Raven explains why and casts a glance at bubble memories. 

In complete contrast to most manufactured goods integrated circuit pricing has remained on a steady, decreasing spiral. There is, however, a school of thought which sees this rapidly coming to an end.

With the ever increasing effects of inflation, which is not of course exclusive to the UK, the end of the manufacturers experience learning curve is in sight. The cost of producing linear devices is already said to be rising in the States and signals indicate that digitals will soon follow. This stems from a theory which says that every time accumulated experience doubles, costs and, therefore, prices go down by about 25 per cent. With the pressure from increasing demand for ICs, manufacturers have more than doubled accumulated experience every year, which pushed prices downwards. This theory has apparently proved valid in the industry for many years.

In effect, what is being suggested is that if, from the inception of the IC industry, 10 million devices have been sold by the end of a given year, it would have to sell 10 million devices the following year in order to lower prices by as much as 25 per cent. The following year 20 million devices must be sold to achieve another 25 per cent reduction. Clearly a point must be reached where this rate of growth could not be maintained. The suggestion is that the time has now arrived.

Accumulated shipments of Integrated Circuits reached 11.4 billion units in 1978. During 1979 the total sales of ICs was expected to reach about 5 billion units. If it is assumed that the United States IC industry ships 6.5 billion devices in 1980, it will have taken two years to double accumulated shipments. Therefore, if the theory holds true the price of ICs will have dropped by an average of 25 per cent. Inflation, however, over the two year period is going to more than off set the 25 percent price declines and could even exceed this. Technically, the digital integrated circuits have a more favourable price outlook than linear, since it is still possible to shrink more circuitry into a silicon slice. Designers are, however, experiencing increasing difficulties with the physical limitations posed by one millionth of a metre gate lengths and the effects of stray capacitance and in addition the demands being made on chip manufacturers for a host of new consumer products which appear each year.


Fig. 1. Similarities between price trends for the Model-T Ford and integrated circuits.

To illustrate some of the technical difficulties that have to be overcome in producing 1 micron lines, it is best to explain the techniques that can be used to produce these. The cheapest method is to use photolithography, which is well established for device fabrication. Using a procedure called 'float off' it is possible to define very narrow channels which are chemically etched and a metal is evaporated through the channel producing a very narrow line. The problems that can arise, however, are shown in the photographs and are not easily overcome even with the very sophisticated manufacturing techniques in use today.


PHOTO 1: an etched channel before deposition of metal to complete the gate.

The first photograph shows the etched channel before metal is deposited. Distance between the overhang is approximately two microns. The second photograph illustrates the metal deposited through the channel. Photograph three is an example of what can go wrong when the edges of the overhang break down, causing an electrical short. Each ledge is approximately 1.5 microns. This example is somewhat crude in present day technology. However, it serves to show quite clearly the mechanical effects of fabricating devices using these very tiny dimensions.

Electron beam lithography is improving the yield of integrated circuits plus increasing the chip density, thus overcoming many of the earlier problems. Once again, however, this equipment is not cheap and will further increase the already heavy capital investment required. The author of a recent article in an American device technology magazine produced comparisons between the product-


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[^4]:    - InInterface for up-systems (79101)

[^5]:    Table One: receiver output functions of the IR60.

[^6]:    Articles mentioned herein are in an advanced state of preparation, however, circumstances may dictate charges to the final contents.

[^7]:    Modmags Ltd, Sales Office (Ref: Specials) 145 Charing Cross Road,
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[^8]:    *Usc a 600 mA at 9 V DC nominal unregulated mains adaptor. Available from Sinclair if desired (sec coupon

[^9]:    Lascar Electronics Ltd., Unit 1, Thomasin Road, Basildon, Essex.

[^10]:    A complete kit of parts for the Black Hole choraliser is available from Powertran Electronios. A singto delsy machine costs 557.30 and a dual delay machine $£ 68.80$ (prices include VAT and post) See Powertran's advert elsewhere in-this issue for their full aiddress.

