

# TRANSCENDENT 2000 SINGLE BOARD SYNTHESIZER

All kits also available as separate packs (e.g P.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 CONSTRUCTIONAL ARTICLE IN ELECTRONICS TODAY INTERNATIONAL.

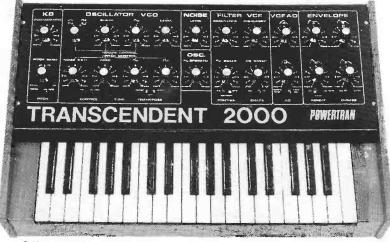
The TRANSCENDENT 2000 is a 3 octave instrument transposable 2 octaves up or down giving an affective 7 octave range. There is portamento, pitch bending, a VCO with shape and pitch modulation, a VCF with both low and high pass outputs and a separate dynamic sweep control, a noise generator and an ADSR envelope shaper. There is also a slow oscillator, a new pitch The kit includes fully finished metallwork, fully assembled solid teak cabinet, filter sweep pedal, professional quality components (all resistors either 2% metal oxide or ½% metal triml) and it really is

The kit includes fully finished metalwork, fully assembled solid teak cabinet, filter sweep pedal, professional quality components (all resistors either 2% metal oxide or ½% metal priml) and it really is complete — right down to the last nut and bolt and last piece of wire! There is even a 13A plug in the kit—you need buy absolutely no more parts before plugging in and making great music! 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!

#### COMPLETE KIT ONLY £168.50 + VAT!

Comprehensive handbook supplied with all complete kits! This fully describes construction and tells you-how to set up your synthesizer with nothing more elaborate than a multi-meter and a pair of ears!





Cabinet size 24.6" x 15.7" x 4.8" (rear) 3.4" (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 reed sound — fully polyphonic, i.e. you can play chords with as many notes as you like. On the second output there is a wide range of different voices, still fully polyphonic. It can be a straightforward piano or a honky tonk piano or even a mixture of the two! Alternatively you can play strings over the whole range of the keyboard or brass over the whole range of the keyboard or should you prefer — strings on the top of the keyboard and brass at the lower end (the keyboard is electronically split after the first two octaves) or vice versa or even a combination of strings and brass sounds similatineously. And on all voices you can switch in circuitry to make the keyboard touch sensitive! The harder you press down a key the louder it sounds — just like an acoustic piano. The digitally controlled multiplexed system makes practical touch sensitivity with the complex dynamics law necessary for a high degree of realism. There is a master volume and tone control, a separate control for the brass sounds and also a vibrato circuit with variable depth control together with a variable delay control so that the vibrato comes in only after waiting a short time after the note is struck for even more realistic string sounds.



Cabinet size 36.3" × 15.0" × 5.0" (rear) 3.3" (front)

COMPLETE KIT ONLY £299.00 + VAT!

To add interest to the sounds and make them more natural there is a chorus /ensemble unit which is a complex phasing system using CCD (charge coupled device) analogue delay lines. The overall effect of this is similar to that of several acoustic instruments playing the same piece of music. The ensemble circuitry can be switched in with either strong or mild effects.

As the system is based on digital circuitry digital data can be easily taken to and from a computer (for storing and playing back accompaniments with or without pitch or key change, computer composing etc., etc.)

Although the DPX is an advanced design using a very large amount of circuitry, much of it very sophisticated, the kit is mechanically extremely simple with excellent access to all the circuit boards which interconnect with multiway connectors, just four of which are removed to separate the keyboard circuitry and the panel circuitry from the main circuitry in the cabinet.

The kit includes fully finished metalwork, solid teak cabinet, professional quality components (all resistors 2% metal oxide), nuts, bolts, etc., even a 13A plug — you need buy absolutely no more parts before plugging in and making great music! When finished you will possess an instrument comparable in performance and quality with ready-built units selling for over £1,200!

**POWERTRAN** 

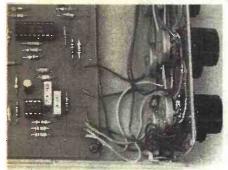
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# If you want to get started in microcomputers - 1

**ETI MAY 1980** 

Microtan 65 is the most advanced, most powerful, most expandable, microcomputer available ~ It also happens to be the most

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FEATURES

6502 microprocessor.
Superb IK monitor -

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IK RAM for user program,

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Available as a kit, or assembled and tested.

The TANGERINE MICROTAN 65 is a 6502 based microcomputer. The MICROTAN 65 includes a 6502 microprocessor, a superb 1K monitor TANBUG, 1K RAM, and a V.D.U. section which produces an alphanumeric display on an unmodified domestic T.V. receiver of 16 rows by 32 characters. There are two optional I.C. packs, one provides the MICROTAN 65 with lower case alphanumerics (making a total of 128 displayable characters) and the other providing chunky graphics (64x64 pixels).

CONNECTS TO AN UN-MODIFIED DOMESTIC T.V. RECEIVER

is supplied fully socketed. cassette interface; data bus buffering and memory mapping. Even in minimam configuration TANEX BASIC; 32 parallel I/O lines; two TTL serial I/O ports; a third serial I/O port with RS232 and memory mapping. Fully expanded TANEX is powerful, offering 7K RAM, 6K ROM, 8K Microsoft Expansion is via TANEX. In its minimum configuration TANEX offers 1K RAM, cassette interface, 20mA loop. Full modem control and 16 programmable baud rates; four 16 bit counter timers. 16 parallel I/O lines, a TTL serial I/O port, two 16 bit counter timers, data bus buffering

For comprehensive information, price list and details of all MICROTAN products, send coupon & 12p stamp without delay.

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COMPUTER SYSTEMS LIMITED

## RADIO ACT



The new MK III FM tuner sitting under the Dorchester multiband AM/FM tuner

Revisions to the Mark III include a centre zero tuning indicator meter and silent switching



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 60p, or £1.60 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 35p per order (CWO).

#### 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 £40 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: TTL 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.

AROID ICs - -interesting developments here, we now have the Hitachi HA11225 and the HA12412 ultra high specification members of the CA3089E family. The PLESSEY SL1600 range now includes the SL6600 high performance PLL NBERM IF and detector.

CA3089 E	2.11	HA1197	1.61	SD6000	4.31	SL1610	1.84	SL1626	2.80	
CA3189E	2.53	CA3123E	1.61	TDA4420	2.59	SL1611	1.84	SL1630	1.86	
HA1137W		TDA1072	3.09	MC1330P	1.38	SL1612	1.84	SL1640	2.17	
HA11225	2.47	TBA651	2.53	MC1350P	1.38	SL1613	2.17	SL 1641	2.17	
HA12412		TDA1090	3.51	ĶB4412	2.24	SL 1620	2.50	SL6600	4.31	
KB4420	1.95	TDA1220	1.61	KB4413	2.24	SL1623	2.80	SL6640	3.16	
TBA120S		TDA1083	2.24	KB4417	2.53	SL1624	3.77	SL6690	3.68	
KB4406	0.80	TDA1062	2.24	MC3357P	3.16	SL1625	2.50	MC1496	1.44	

TRANSISTORS: New lower prices, wider range, large stocks. Also the world's lowest noise audio devices (2SC2546E and 2SA1084E) first from AMBIT of course. Power MOSFETs &

all sorts of	other devices. Our	3SK51 MOSFET rep	laces the 408XX	and 40673 families.
BC237-8-9	0.092 2SC1775	0.207 2SA1084E	0.368 BF256 (	0.437 BFY90 1.03
BC307-8-9	0.092 2SA872A	0.207 2SC2547E	0.391 2SK55 (	0.368 BF224 0.253
BC413-5	0.115 2SD666A	0.345 2SA1085E	0.391 2SK 168 (	0.402 BF274 0.207
BD414-6	0.126 2SB646A	0.345 2SK 133	6.32 -3SK51 (	0.62 BFT95 1.138
BC546-556		0.52 2SJ48	6.32 3SK60 (	0.667 VN66AF 1.092
BC550-560	0.138 2SB720	0.52 2SK135	7.29 BF960 1	1.426 2N4427 0.977
BC639-640	0.265 2SC2546E	0.368 2SJ50	7.29 3SK48 1	1.426 J176 0.747

RADIO CONTROL: A special section for all RC fans. New and exciting stuff: RB4446/KB4446: complete 4 channel RX/TX dig.prop IC pair RF&control in one 4.75pr MSL9382/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 £2.07 MC3357P as used in RCME design £3.16 ea AMBIT RCRX4 - RCME FM system compatible, complete RX kit with box/connector and AMBIT design screened front end with 27MHz ceramic filter £16.10 (kit) XTALS: FM pairs £3.74 (no splis) TX is fund. ½ op frequency, RX 3rd OT -455kHz AM pairs £3.57 (no splits. Both 3rd OT types, again RX IF at 455kHz

#### 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 tunerhead	f 12.00 inc
911225 A	High Performance FM IF system, with switched BW	£23.95 inc
911225 B	Single BW filters, single tuned detector	£14.95 inc
91072 A	DC tuned and single pole switched MW LW tuner	£14.43 inc
91072 B	As type 'A' but with either SW1 or SW2 band	£15.90 inc
92242 A	Combined LW/MW tuner, with FM IF detector section	£29.00 inc
92242 B	As 92242A but with 5-10MHz SW section	£34.00 inc

All are supplied housed in screened metal cases 97x56x24mm, 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 separate leaflet covering the new range of modules is available from April 80, with an AA 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 (schadow?) 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 15p 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

We are gradually getting our caller sales area sorted out, with displays of the products on offer and a browsers corner to sit and study data/catalogues. Call in next time you are in the area - parking outside the door.

#### COMPUTER CAPABILITIES

COMPUTER CAPABILITIES

Ambit has been keeping a low profile on the subject of the MPU and its applications. Interestingly enough, the first project we offer with MPU content does rather more in the way of processing than simply playing a daft game, or looking like an enormous calculator. Our MPU facility and expertise is now for hire on a fully commercial basis. Z80, 6800, 6809, 2650 etc.

Keyboard switch SCK41505 typ 6m ops 23p each (1-24)



NEW LINE DC/DC+AC converters for fluorescent displays, TOKO CPS series 12v IN, -20 and 3v AC out at 65mA. Thick film design £2.34 ea Oty. prices OA



#### GENERAL INFORMATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Ambit stocks the following ranges of components for existock volume delivery: SIGNAL COILS, CERAMIC, MECHANICAL and CRYSTAL FILTERS, RADIO ICS for AM/FM/SSB, TOROID CORES FOR RADIO and EMI FILTER CIRCUITS, INDICATING AND PANEL METERS, AUDIO ICS, RF TRANSISTORS, FETS, MOSFETS, DIODES (PIN, VARICAP, SCHOTTKY), PASSIVE DBMS (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. 31, digit £22.37 ea.

CM161: LCD 12/24hr alarm clock/day/date/backlight (eq.RS308-499) 7mm digits £11.44 each CM174: LCD 12hr alarm clock/stopwatch/backlight with 30mm height digits £14.32 each

CATALOGUES 60p ea. all three for £1.60 PRICES SHOWN HERE INCLUDE VAT POST/PACKAGE CHARGE NOW 35p

INTERNATIONAL

CWO PLEASE: Commercial MA terms on application Goods are offered subject to availability, prices subject to change so please phone and check if in doubt.

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#### THE DIGITAL FREQUENCY METER with a Difference



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res and more for less than half the price of an ordinary frequency meter. The At these features and more for less than half the price of an ordinary frequency meter. The FMX2COC has all its components including the displays, switches and transformer mounted in one double stoed PC board. Assembly is simplicity itself especially since interwiring has seen eliminated. This is a high quality design and will make a truly professional digital requency meter that any constructor will be proud to own. Price, Only £64.50 Kit (P&P 65p), Probes: Optional extre £8.75

FL ASCI Coded 56 Key KEYBOARD Type 756 Ony £23.95+ (incl. data)	SWITCHES Push-button SRL DPDT Latching 125 SRM DPDT Momentary 125	SWITCHES   TOGGLE: 2A, 250V   SPST   34p   DPST   34p   DPDT   34p   34p   4 pole pn/off   54p   SPST pn
4×4" Keypad 16 Keys. Reed switches Extremely reliable. Only 450p.	DIL SWITCHES 4-way SPST 110 6-way SPST 120 8-way SPST 145	SPST biased SSp DPDT 6 tags 70p DPDT centre off 79p DPDT Blased 118p DPDT 6 Tag 85p MINI. Non Locking Push to Mini. Non Locking Push
ASTEC RF Modulators 250 Special Widebandwidth for Computers 470 Sound Modulator 250	RELAYS RL6 SPCO 178 RL6B DPCO 218	Break Before Make Waters. 1 pole/12 way. 2p/6 way. 3p/4 way. 4p/3 way. 6p/2 way. 56p Spacer and Screen 6p ROTARY: (Adjustable Stop) 1 pole/2 to 12 way. 2p/2 to 6 way. 3 pole/2 to 4 way. 4 pole/2 to 3 way. 43p ROTARY: Mains 250 va C. 4 Amp. 52p

455KHz 3 1 MHz 3 1 .28MHz 3 1 .8MHz 3 1 .6MHz 3 1 .6MHz 3 2 .4576MHz 3 2 .4576MHz 3 3 .2768M 3 4 .000MHz 4 4 .000MHz 4 4 .000MHz 5 5 .00MHz 3 6 .5536M 3 6 .5536M 3	23 6.0 83 8V 23 12 95 12 95 12 20 23 20 62 24 62 20 95 50 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 1	TRANSFORMERS (Mains Prim. 6-0-BY, 9-0-9V, 12-0-12V 100ma 3Va: 0-BV 0-BV (PCB mouning) 8Va: 6V-5A 6V-5A; 9V-4A 9V 12V-3A: 15V-25A 15V-25A 12V-4A 15V-25A 12V-4A 12V-4A; 13A-6V-12V-5A 12V-1A 12V-1A; 15V-8A 15V-20V-3A 6V-1A; 15V-6A 15V-1A; 15V-1A 12V-1A; 15V-1A; 15V-8A 15V-12V-1A; 12V-1A; 15V-1A; 15V-15A; 21-2A; 25V-1A; 25V-1A; 30V-8A 33 30VA; 6V-4A 6V-4A; 9V-2-5A; 30V-1A; 25V-1A; 25			
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12V3A; 15V25A 15V25A 215p
12V: 4,5V-1.3A 4.5V-1.3A; 6V-1.2A 6V-1.2A;
12V5A 12V5A; 15V4A 15V4A; 20V3A
20V3A 235p (20p p&p)
24VA: 6V-1.5A 6C-1.5A; 9V-1.3A 9V-1.3A;
12V-1A 12V-1A, 15V-8A 15V-8A; 20V-6A
20V6A 320p (45p p&p).
50VA: 6V-4A 6V-4A; 9V-2.5A 9V-2.5A; 12V-2A
12V-2A: 15V-1.5A 15V-1.5A: 20V-1.2A 20V-
1.2A; 25V-1A 25V-1A; 30V8A 30V- BA
365p (50p p&p).
100VA: 12V-4A 12V-4A; 15V-3A 15V-3A;
20V-2.5A 20V-2.5A; 30V-1.5A 30V-1.5A;
40V-1.25A 40V-1.25A; 50V-1A 50V-1A 695p
(60p p&p). (N.B. p&p charge to be added above our normal postal charge.)

ı	AOF	IAGE	REGI	ILA IUNS	
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	LM30 LM30 LM30	05H 14 09K 13	70p 10p 35p 50p	LM327 LM723 TAA550 TBA625B	270p 38p 50p 95p

LS299 420 LS670 270 4036 365 4078 LS300 175 LS673 750 4037 115 4081	8 2 9
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4019 40 4050 4440	79
4020 99 1	102
4021 109 4001 4005 44125	152
1000 4022 95 4000 005 441014	152
10000 4023 40 4000 400 44150	85
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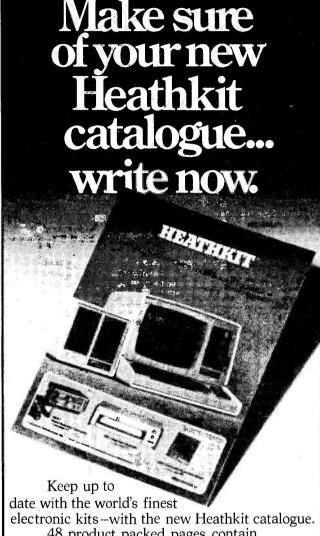
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5x4x2"	98
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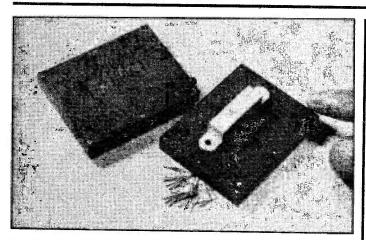
#### **Sony Screen Machine**

One 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 off, to twenty times normal did something speed. Finding the exact spot you like this anyway). seek is thus facilitated. Freeze Curious too is the lack of eulogy able from frame and slow-motion are also broadcast. Some new lurking in the circuits. over the picture quafeatures are provided to help The C7 will sell for little more lity which far outuse this, however, like a picture search mode which will accelerate than present machinery and is far more refined in several important stripped its competitors. being all but indistinguishthe tape, in vision with the sound areas. Should do well.



#### Universal Test Socket

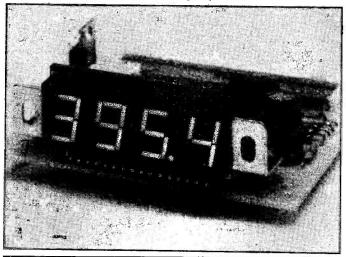
FI have developed a new test socket called the Textool GRID ZIP, It can be either PCB mounted or fixed to front panels using mounting screws. The makers claim an operating life of greater than 25,000 insertions, and one economy feature is the ability to mount more than one device per socket plate, and 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 x 21 grid (on 0.1" 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 détails from Micro-Data Systems, Office Suite 1, Coach Mews, The Broadway, St. Ives, Huntingdon, Cambs PE17 4BN.



#### **Technical Queries**

We'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**



Panel size 19.0" × 3.5", Depth 7.3"

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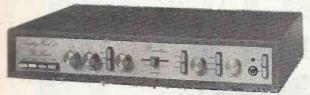
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This versatile system featured as a constructional article in ELECTRONICS TODAY INTERNATIONAL has 5 frequency channels with individual level controls on each channel. Control of the lights is comprehensive to say the least. You can run the unit as a straightforward sound-to-light or have it strobe all the lights at a speed dependent upon music level or front panel control or use the internal digital circuitry which produces some superb random and sequencing effects. Each channel handles up to 500W and as the kit is a single board design wiring is minimal 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 75W amplifier kit based upon circuit boards interconnected with gold plated contacts resulting in minimal wiring and construction delightfully straightforward. The design was published in Hi-Fi News and Record Review and features include rumble filter, variable scratch filter, versatile tone controls and tape monitoring whilst distortion is less than 0.01%

All kits also available as separate packs (eg PCB, component sets, hardware sets etc). Prices in our FREE CATALOGUE.



#### 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 (T30+30) is also available for £38.40 + VAT

Above 2 kits are supplied with fully finished metalwork, ready assembled high quality teak veneer cabinet, cable, nuts, bolts, etc and full instructions — in fact everything! Matching TUNERS and CASSETTE DECK — see our free catalogue!

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' feel 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 modulated by the chorus sweep generator. An optional double chorus mode allows exciting antiphrase effects to be added. The device is floor standing with foot switch controls, LED effect selection indicators, has variable sensitivity input, has high signal /noise ratio obtained by an audio compander and is mains powered — no batteries to change! Like all our kits everything is provided including a highly superior, rugged steel, beautifully finished enclosure.

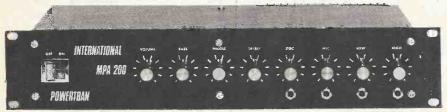
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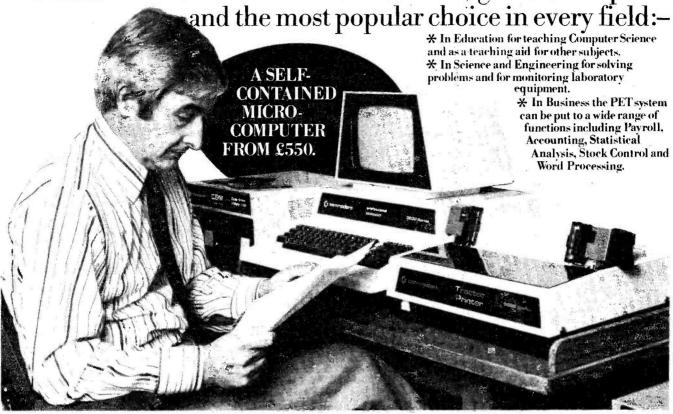
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**ETI MAY 1980** 

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 semicond@ctor 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.

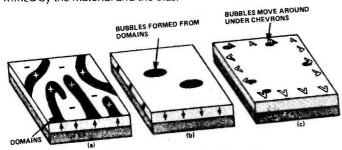
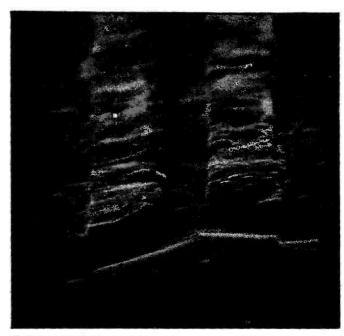


Fig.2(a). serpentine patterns occur naturally in the crystal. (b) the bubbles form from domains when a bias is applied, from a permanent magnet.

(c) the bubbles move around under the chevrons when a rotating field is applied.



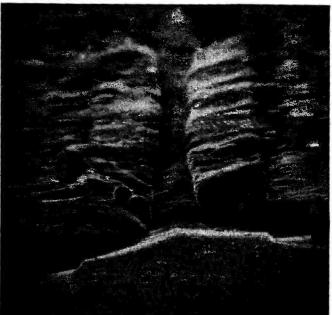
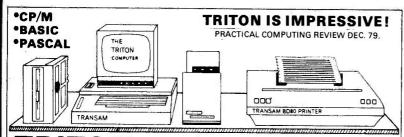


PHOTO 2 (top): the channel following metal deposition.
PHOTO 3 (above): breakdown! The overhang has collapsed.

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.

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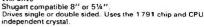
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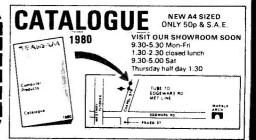
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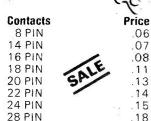


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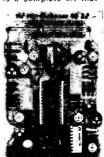
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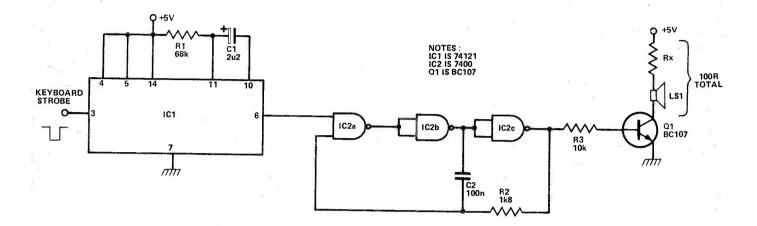
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# TECH TIPS



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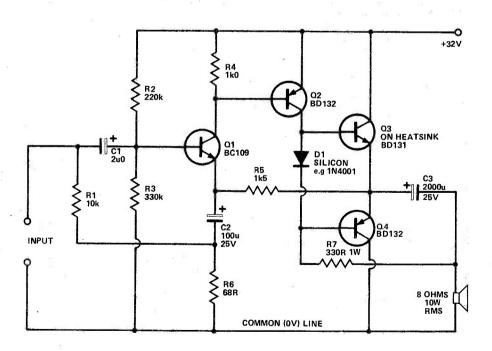
When typing data into a computer it can become a nuisance if the operator has to keep looking up at the VDU screen merely to check if the character typed has been accepted. This often occurs when the keyboard lacks a positive feel.

This circuit provides a positive indication of keyboard operation. It consists of a monostable multivibrator with a duration

of approximately 100 mS and a TTL oscillator running at 2 kHz feeding a loudspeaker. In operation the strobe signal from the keyboard triggers the monostable which in turn switches the oscillator on, producing a tone from the loudspeaker.

## Simple Ten Watt Amplifier A Hiley, Woking.

This is an extremely simple and inexpensive general purpose amplifier. The design is conventional, the only point of interest being that the output transistors are underbiased: This means that there is no possibility of thermal runaway - it should, however, introduce large amounts of distortion, but, in fact, due to the high level of negative feedback employed, the distortion is reasonably low. Frequency response is extremely good.



Tech-Tips is an ideas forum and is not aimed at the beginner. We regret we cannot answer queries on these items.

ETI is prepared to consider circuits or ideas submitted by readers for this page. All items used will be paid for. Drawings should be as clear as possible and the text should preferably be typed. Circuits must not be subject to copyright. Items for consideration should be sent to ETI TECH—TIPS, Electronics Today International, 145 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H OEE.

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72314 dii 33p. NE555 B dii 24p. 741 B dii 18p.
bc183. bc213. bc547. bc548 5.5p. bc182.
bc184. bc212. bc214. bc548 5.5p. bc182.
bc184. bc212. bc214. bc548 5.5p. bip31c.
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bcy72 4.5p. fuses 20mm x 5mm carridge. 15.
25. 5. 1. 2. 3. Samp quickblow 1p. antisurge
3.6p. resistors 5% ¼W E12 10R to 10M 1p.
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250V. 0.15. .068. .1m1 1.5p. .01mf 3p. .022
0.3mf 3.3p. 0.47mf 3.5p. 15. .22. 33. .47mf
4.9p. Polystyrene capacitors E12 63V 10 to
1000pl 3p. 1n2 to 10h 4p. Ceramic capacitors
50V 5. 6 22pf to 47n 2p. Electrolytic capacitors
50V 5. 1. Eurt 5p. .25V 5. 10mf 5p. .16V 22.
33mf 5p. 47, 68mf 3.5p. 100mf 6p. 33
470mf 9p. 1000mf 11p. 2eners 400mw E24
470mf 9p. 1000mf 11p. 2eners 400mw E24
470mf 9p. 1000mf 11p. 2eners 400mw E24
470 to 33V 7p. Presst bots subminiature 0 "w.
467 0 x 7q. 100 to 4M7 7p. Potentiomersts" x 440 colors 100 to 4M7 7p. Potentiomersts" x 440 colors 200 to 37p. 100 to 38V 7p. Presentiomersts" x 440 colors 200 to 37p. 100 to 38V 7p. Presentiomersts x 440 colors 200 to 37p. 100 to 38V 7p. Presentiomersts x 440 colors 200 to 37p. 100 to 38V 7p. Presentiomersts x 440 colors 200 to 37p. 100 to 38V 7p. Presentiomersts x 440 colors 200 to 37p. 100 to 38V 7p. Presentiomersts x 440 colors 200 to 37p. 100 to 38V 7p. 100 to

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TOOMS and to types wit pressions commended
4MV 61.49, 6V 61.49, 2; 61.49, 40.40.40
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31.30 yet yet 1.20, 9 61.92, 182V but
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#### Memory Test~T159 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

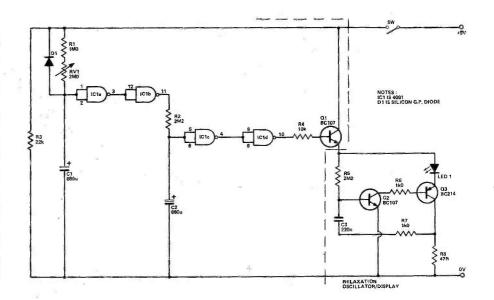
The numbers to watch are the first three digits of the mantissa, that is, the 7, 8 & 4. Deduce the number's highest digit, and remeber it. In this case, it is the 8, since you ignore the last digit. If, as in 0.5884, the highest digit occurs twice, only remember it once. Do this for all the numbers flashed 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).

PROCED	URE		14	32 2	STO 2
*			15	61 1	SBR 1
	(ey in program	i. LRN. RST.	16	32 3	STO 3
2. 2nd FI			17	33 1	RCL 1
3.1 <b>S</b> TO			18	22	x t
		you wish to be	19	33 2	RCL 22
		You will be shown	20	76	2nd $x \ge t$
6 num			21	22	x t
5. Key in	all-decimal nu	umber, e.g.	22	33 3	RCL 3
	132. R/S.		23	76	$2nd x \ge t$
6. Game	runs.		24	51 5	GTO 5
7. When	program halts	s, multiply together	25	33 7	RCL 7
the rea	uisite digits. S	ubtract from this the	25 26	39 4	
		nory 4 to find the	26 27		2nd PRD 4
result.		,		51 6	GTO 6
	ue from 3.		28	86 5	2nd LBL 5
			29	39 4	2nd PRD 4
			30	86 6	2nd LBL 6
			31	56	2nd DSZ
LOC	CODE	KEY	32	71	RST
	<b>.</b>		33	00	0
			34	81	R/S
00	34 6	SUM 6	35	71	RST
01	33 6	RCL 6	36	860	2nd LBL 0
02	35	Yx	37	55	X
03	30	2nd $\pi$	38	01	1
04	85	=	39	00	0
05	-35	INV Yx	40	85	=
06	05	5	41	32 5	STO 5
07	85	=	42	49	2nd INT
08	-49	INV 2nd INT	43	-61	INV SBR
09	36	2nd PAUSE	44	86 1	2nd LBL 1
10	34 6	SUM 6	45	33 5	RCL 5
11	61 0	SBR 0	46	-49	INV 2nd INT
12	32 1	STO 1	47	61 0	SBR 0
13	61 1	SBR 1	48	61	INV SBR
1 -	011	JUK I		0.	551

#### **Cascade Timer**

PRG Reynolds, Benfleet.

his 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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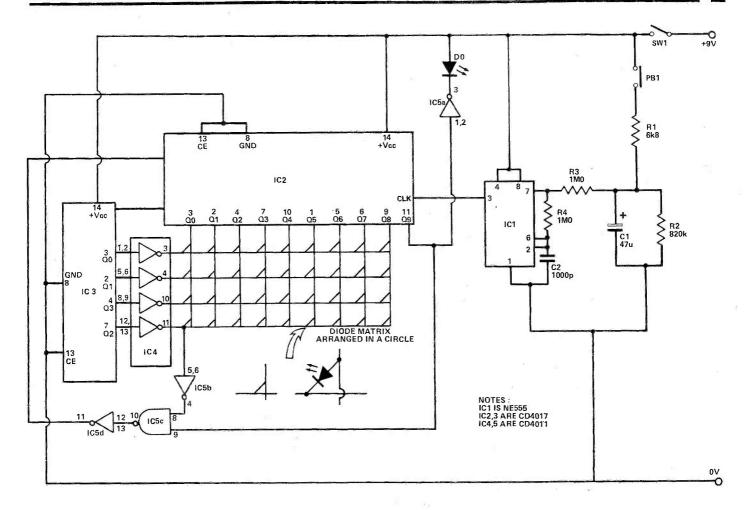
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#### UXBRIDGE 55399

components,f<sub>w</sub>





#### Electronic Roulette 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 IC5 are arranged so that D  $_{\rm in}$  (which is green in my circuit) is illuminated after D  $_{\rm in}$ , and followed by D  $_{\rm in}$ . 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.

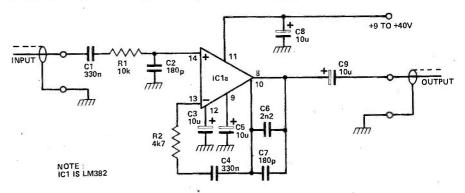
Preamp circuits utilising the LM382 lownoise preamp chip have been used in ETI before. However, when using them in conjunction with a cassette player the results can be disappointing as the cassette equalisation was to NAB standards.

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 provide 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**

This is a slightly butcher than usual scientific calculator/ chronograph from Casio measuring 6.6 mmH x 70 mmW x 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, is it loud! Not only that, but this fine piece of technology has a calendar indicating year, month, date and day with a programmed range from March 1st 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  $\pm 1/(x)$   $\pm 1/(x)$   $\times y$  / $x^{1/y}$ , 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).

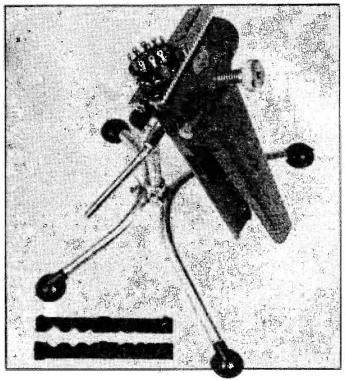
But that's not all - capacity for entry or basic calculations is 8-digit mantissa, or 8-digit mantissa plus 2-digit exponent up to  $10^{\pm 9}$  9. Fraction calculation capacity is maximum 3-digit mantissa for each integer, numerator or denominator and at the same time maximum 6-digit mantissa for the 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 Tem-

#### Third Hand

Flave 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° rotation and 180° 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 new 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

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. MK17 9PL.

#### 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.

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 81 A

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506 approx 1578 A 578 A controls and master vo



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034	Cable Tester	Nov 79	037A	Encoder (double sided)	Dec 79	039B	Long Period Timer Rain Alarm Touch Switch	Dec 79
	Reaction Tester Speech Compressor Preamp Power Supply		037B	Decoder (top side)	Dec 79		Flash Trigger Pseudo Random Noise Gen	^
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	(price £1.60)		038A	Long Period Timer Rain Alarm	Dec 79	049A	ETI 80 — VCO and VCLFO	Feb 80
035	Oven Leakage Detector Pinball Wizard	Nov 79		Touch Switch Flash Trigger	280	040B	ETI 80 — PSU Tuning Fork Filter	Feb 80
036A	3 x Display Board Relay Activator Points Controller	Nov 79	2.	Pseudo Random Noise Gen	,		Coin Toss	
036В	Data Distributor (double sided)	Nov 79	038B	Hum Filter Dice Logic Probe	Dec 79		ETI Audiophile ETI VCA Signal Trace ETI HC	Mar 80
036C	Train Speed Controller	Nov 79	038C	Function Generator	Dec 79		Electromyogram	
	Track Cleaner & Electronic Pot	4	039	Buffer	Jan 80	041B	VCM	Mar 80
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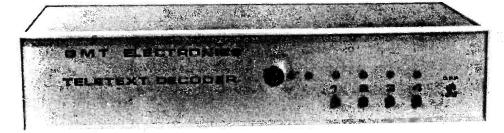
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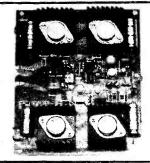
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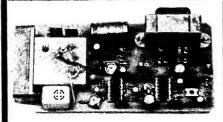
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to leave its detection field safety, and a trigger delay (0 to 45 seconds), so you can catch the thief red handed without a prior warning having been given.
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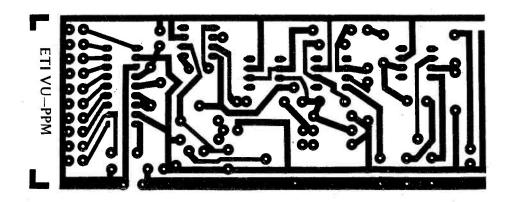
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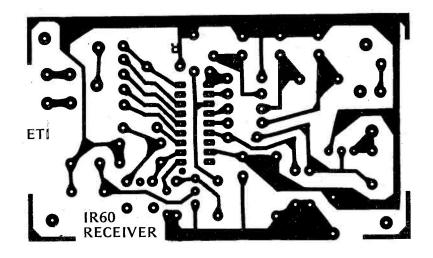
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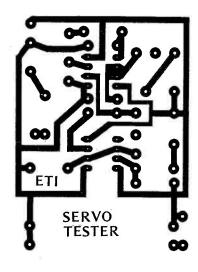
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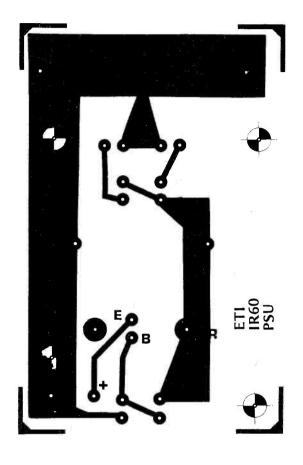
Shown below are the foil patterns for the months projects. The Black Hole PCB is shown overleaf. The Infra-Red remote control project will be concluded next issue — at which time details of the transmitter circuit and PCB will be given.

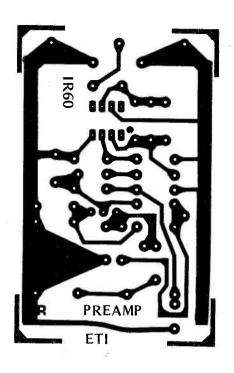
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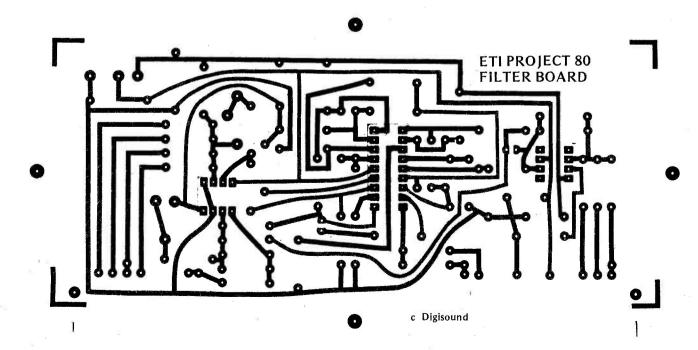


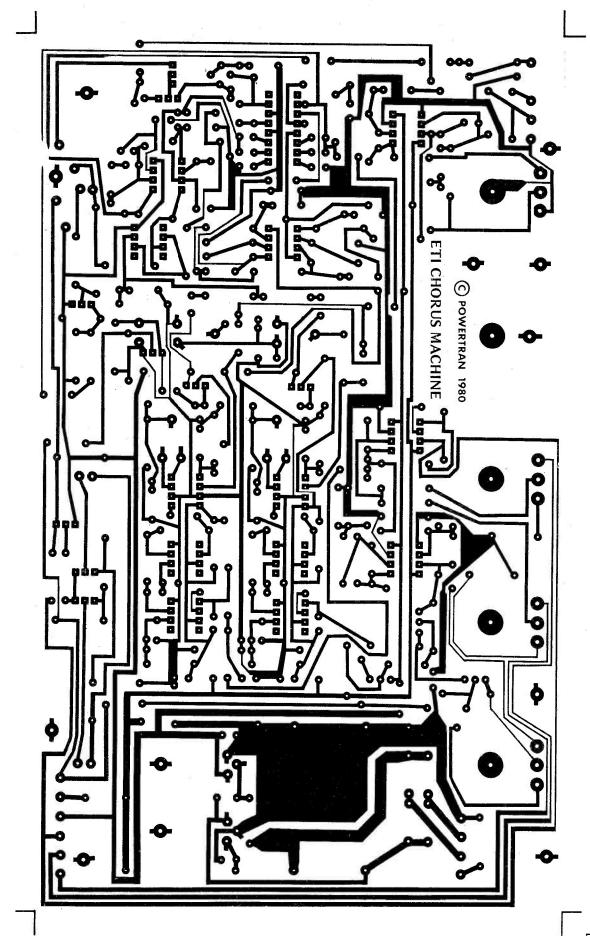












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#### COMPUTER BOARDS

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For many people the wide choice of micro-processors now available presents a difficult choice. To understand any particular microprocessor in depth a development system is almost essential, however in the past to understand more than one several separate development systems have had to be purchased.

more than one several separate development systems have had to be purchased. The reason that separate systems, one for each processor, have been necessary is due to the fact that individual microprocessors have their own, including features in one case to access memory a separate read strobe and write strobe is required, in another a 'read' write' line is used in combination with a combined strobe called 'valid memory address and phi-2'. With some processors, the same address bus can be used for both memory and input/output ports', under the control of a 'memory request' or an input/output request control line.

Naturally, if a development system takes advantage of any of the particular unique features of any particular microprocessor, this makes it more difficult to graft some other unrelated microprocessor onto the same bus at a later date. A Universal Micro System provides a basic bus structure on which any one micro-processor can be connected. The system uses a CPU (Central Processor, Linit) and which is separate from the rest of the system, and this allows the same memory and interfaces to be retained when a different MPU is used. The base system bus conseits of data and address buss together with read and, when strobus. By locating the data input (Keyboard) and output (VDU) in the memory space the such chips as the 8080 / 280 (amily, which committy used input / output ports, can now be used without any fundamental charge to the bus (and as a bonus, users of these MPU's husben committed by the line over purposes).

bis (and as a bonus, users of these MPU's have all the ports entirely free for their own purposes). The range of p.c.b. is includes boards to implement a memory-mapped VDU, cassettle interface, keyboard interface, PROM programmer, and a number of RAM and ROM cards. All the cards are of international Size 114 x 203 mm (4½" x 8") except for the larger power PSUA power supply card. This latter card is sized so that it can be boiled to the side of a standard 4" chassis module which is then compatible with the other cards. The cards have a standard 43 way edge connector, with one position used for polarisation. We do not propose to detend the (relatively) small number of bus connexions (42), against such sisandards as the "S100" 100-position bus. The S100 bus, as it originated in America, is bigger and better. It is same way, a Ford "Granade is bigger and to be some cards of the same way a Ford "Granade is bigger and better. It is some bus to the same way a Ford "Granade is bigger and better. It is some bus to the same bus to t

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basis on which you wan build your own personal design, perhaps as an atternative to the use of 'Veroboard' or etching your own pob's. 
Further sections give an outline of each card in turn. Although we have in mind all sorts of exotic future developments (e.g., high resolution graphics, floopy disc controllers, dynamic high-density RAM cards, programmable VOU formats colour displays. Light pens, sound generators arc.) we prefer to keep quet about them until they actually exist. All of the cards described actually exist, and at the time of writing (September 1979) most are in stock. (We plan its othey are all in stock, bur people will insists on buying them, without caring what havoc they wreak in our stock control!))

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Push switch — Push to make		1978		€0.10
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Push switch — Push to break		19/9		20.2
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switches SPST — moulded	BLACK		1981	€0.3
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choice of colours ideal	YELLON		1984	£0.3
	LUMIN		1985	£0.3
for small apparatus	LOMIN	UUS	1900	EU.3
Description		No.		Price
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Miniature SPST toggle 2 amp 25		1959		€0.8
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0/no.	Туре	Size	Colour	Price
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1505	MIL5251 (TIL222)	5mm (.2)	GREEN	€0.16
1506	MIL5351 (MV5353)	5mm ( 2)	YELLOW	£0.16
1509	FLV111	5mm ( 2)	CLEAR	£0.12
			(ill. Red)	20
SUPER	'HI-BRITE' TYPE			
1521	MIL32	3mm ( 125)	RED	£0.11
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1514	ORP12 Light depender	nt resistor		£0.70
1520	OCP71 Photo transisto	r		€0.40
LED CL	1P8			
1508/1	25 pack of 5 125 clip	s		£0.17
1508/2	pack of 5 2 clins			ED 21

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RED Single Digit
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	Wo.	Type	Price
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		3 & 5. Length 1.5m	50.98
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550mA	613	бр	2A	617	6р	5A	621	6р.	
800mA	614	8p	2.5A	618	7p				
ANTI-S	URGE	20mm	•						
Type	- 1	No.	Type	No	١.	Typ		No.	
100mA		322	1A	62		2.5	Α	628	
250mA	6	323	2A	62	6	3.1	5A	629	
500mA		524	1.6A	62	7	5A		630	
			Al	1 8p ea	ch				
QUICK-	BLOV	V 1 1/4i	n						
Type		¥o.	Type	No		Tyl		No.	
250mA	6	331	500m/	63	2	806	)mA	634	
			Al	i Spea	ich				
Type		No.	Type	No		Typ		No.	
1A	. (	335	2.5A	63		4A		641	
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BA WAS	HERS - f	at cadmium	plated plain st	amped wash	ers supplie
in multiple					
Туре	No.	Price	Type	No.	Price
OBA	859	€0.16	4BA	861	£0.14
2BA	860	£0.14	6BA	862	£0.14
SOLDER	TAGS -	dot tinned su	pplied in multi	ples of 50	
Туре	No.	Price	Type	No.	Price
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2RA	852	60 32	GRA	854	CO 28

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7420 17p 74LS08 22p 4040 100p 74LS10 20p 4041 80p 74LS11 40p 4042 80p	AY1-5050 140p NE561B 425p AY3-1270 840p NE562B 425p AY5-1224A 240p NE565 130p AY5-1315 600p NE566 155p	BC184 11p BU109 225p TIP147 160p BU205 200p TIP2955 78p	2N4401/3 <b>27p</b> OA202 <b>10p</b> 728000 <b>130p</b> 2N4401/3 <b>27p</b> 1N914 <b>4p</b> 2N4427 <b>90p</b> 1N916 <b>7p</b>
7425 30p /4LS14 72p 4046 110p 7427 34p 74LS20 20p 4047 100p	AY5-1317A 775p NE567 175p CA3019 80p NE571 425p CA3046 70p RC4151 400p	BC237 15p BU406 145p TIS43 34p E300 50p TIS93 30p E308 50p ZTX108 12p E301 E302 E303 50p ZTX108 12p E303 E305 E305 E305 E305 E305 E305 E305	2N4871 <b>60</b> p 1N4148 <b>4</b> p 2N5087 <b>27</b> p 1N4001/2 <b>5</b> p 2N5089 <b>27</b> p 1N4003/4 <b>6</b> p <b>THYRISTORS</b> 2N5172 <b>27</b> p 1N4005 <b>6</b> p 1A 50V <b>40</b> p
7428 366 74LS21 40p 4048 55p 74LS21 30p 74LS20 30p 74LS30 20p 4050 40p 74LS30 20p 4050 40p 74LS30 20p 4050 80p 74LS30 20p 4051 80p	CA3048 225p SAD1024A 1250p CA30806 72p SFF96364 1100p CA3086 48p SN76003N 175p CA3089E 225p SN76013N 140p	BC461 36p MJ2501 225p ZTX500 15p BC477 /8 30p MJ2955 90p ZTX502 18p BC516 /7 50p MJ3001 225p ZTX504 30p	2N5179 90p 1N4006/7 7p 1A 400V 65p 2N5191 83p 1N5401/3 14p 3A 400V 90p 2N5194 90p 1N5404/7 19p 8A 600V 140p
7437 <b>35</b> p 74L542 70p 4053 <b>80</b> p 7448 <b>35</b> p 74L551 <b>24</b> p 4054 <b>150</b> p 74L551 <b>24</b> p 4054 <b>150</b> p	CA3090AQ 375p SN76013ND 120p CA3130E 90p SN76023N 140p CA3140E 50p SN76023ND 120p CA3160E 100p SN76477 200p	BC547B 16p MJE2955 100p 2N696 35p BC549C 18p MJE3055 70p 2N697 25p MPE102 45p 2N698 45p	2N5296 55p 2N5401 50p 2N5457 /8 40p 2N5457 /8 40p 2N5457 /8 40p 2N5457 /8 40p
7442A 60p 74LS73 50p 4056 135p 600p 74LS73 36p 4059 600p 74LS74 36p 4059 600p 115p	CA3161E 140p SP8515 750p CA3162E 450p TAA621 275p CA3189E 400p TBA641B11 225p	BC559C 18p MPF103/4 40p 2N708A 20p BCY70 18p MPF105/6 40p 2N918 45p BCY71/2 22p MPS6531 50p 2N930 18p	2N5459   40p   Tags regs. all 22p   BT106   110p   2N5460   60p   For TO5   12p   MCR101   36p   2N5875   250p   BRIDGE   2N3525   120p
7445 100p 74LS76 45p 4063 150p 7445A 93p 74LS85 100p 4067 450p 74LS85 100p 4068 27p	FX209 750p TBA800 90p ICL7106 850p TBA810 100p ICL8038 340p T8A820 90p	BD135/6 <b>54p</b> MPSA06 <b>30p</b> 2N1613 <b>25p</b> BD135/6 <b>54p</b> MPSA12 <b>50p</b> 2N1711 <b>25p</b> BD140 <b>60p</b> MPSA13 <b>50p</b> 2N2102 <b>70p</b>	2N6027 48p RECTIFIERS 2N4444 140p 2N6041 180p 1A 50V 19p 2N5060 34p 2N6044 180p 1A 100V 20p 2N5064 40p
7450 17p 74LS90 40p 4070 30p 7451 17p 74LS92 70p 4070 30p 74LS93 17p 74LS93 60p 4071 25p 74LS93 60p 4071 25p 74LS93 60p 4071 25p 74LS93 60p 4071 25p 74LS93 60p 4073 25p	LF356P 95p TCA940 175p LM10C 425p TDA1004 300p LM301A 30p TDA1008 320p LM311 120p TDA1010 225p	BD189 60p MPSA42 50p 2N2160 360p BD189 96p MPSA42 50p 2N2219A 30p BD233 75p MPSA43 50p 2N2222A 30p BD233 85p MPSA56 32p 2N2369A 16p BD235 85p MPSA56 32p 2N2369A 16p	2N6107 65p 1A 400V 25p 2N6247 190p 1A 600V 30p 2N6254 130p 2A 50V 30p 2N6290 65p 2A 100V 35p
7460 17p 74IS107 45p 4073 25p 74IS109 30p 4075 25p 74IS109 30p 4076 107p 74IS112 100p 4076 107p	LM318 <b>200</b> p TDA1022 <b>600</b> p LM319 <b>225</b> p TDA1024 <b>120</b> p LM324 <b>50</b> p TDA1034B <b>250</b> p	BD241 <b>70p</b> MPSU06 <b>63p</b> 2N2646 <b>45p</b> BD242 <b>70p</b> MPSU07 <b>90p</b> 2N2904/5 <b>25p</b>	2N6292 65p 2A 400V 45p 2SC1172 180p 3A 200V 60p SPEAKERS Size 3N128 120p 3A 600V 72p Size 3N140 100p 4A 100V 95p 2½" 64R 70p
7474 30p 74LS114 45p 4082 25p 74LS122 80p 4086 72p 74LS123 70p 4089 138p	LM348 95p TDA2002V 325p LM377 175p TDA2020 320p LM380 75p TL071 50p	BF200 32n MPSU65 78p 2N2907A 30n BF244B 35p OC28 130p 2N2926 9p BF256B 70p OC35 130p 2N3053 30p	3N141 110p 4A 400V 100p 2½" 8R 70p 3N201 110p 6A 50V 80p 2" 8R 80p 3N204 100p 6A 100V 100p 1½" 8R 80p
7480 50p 74LS125 60p 4094 250p 7481 100p 74LS125 60p 4095 95p 74LS126 60p 4095 95p 74LS126 60p 4096 95p	LM381AN 160p 71.072 95p LM709 36p TL074 150p LM710 50p TL081 45p LM725 350p TL082 95p	BF257/8 32p 31P29A 400 2N3054 65p 1P29C 55p 2N3055 48p	40290 250p 6A 400V 120p 72 6N 40360 40p 6A 400V 120p 72 6N 400V PROFILE DIL SOCKETS BY TEXAS
7484 100p 74LS133 30p 4097, 340p 7485 110p 74LS136 55p 4098 120p 74LS138 75p 4099 200p 74LS138 75p 40100 220p	LM733 100p TL084 130p UA741 18p TL170 50p LM747 70p UAA170 200p LM748 35p UDN6118 320p	21078 500p AY-5-1013P 400p 2111-2 225p IM5402 500p 2112-2 300p TMS6011NC 400p 2114 525p	8 pin 10p 18 pin 22p 24 pin 30p 14 pin 11p 20 pin 25p 28 pin 38p 16 pin 12p 22 pin 28p 40 pin 48p
7490A 30p 74LS145 120p 40101 132p 74LS147 220p 40102 180p 74LS148 120p 40103 180p	LM2917 <b>250p</b> UDN6184 <b>320p</b> UN3900 <b>70p</b> ULN2003 <b>100p</b> UN3909 <b>70p</b> XR2206 <b>350p</b> UM3911 <b>130p</b> XR2207 <b>400p</b>	2114-2L 600p CHARACTER 4027 375p GENERATORS 4044 900p 3257ADC 990p	WIRE WRAP SOCKETS BY TEXAS 8 pin 30p 18 pin 70p 24 pin 90p
7494 84p 74LS153 60p 40105 99p 7495A 70p 74LS154 200p 40106 90p 7496 65p 74LS155 90p 40107 60p	LM3914 250p XR2211 600p LM4136 120p XR2216 675p MC1458 48p ZN240 400p MC1458 48p ZN414 90p	5101 510p RO-3-2513 U.C. 600p 6810 350p RO-3-2513 L.C. 650p 74S201 325p RO-3-2513 L.C. 650p	14 pin 40p 20 pin 75p 28 pin 110p 16 pin 55p 22 pin 80p 40 pin 140p SUBMINIATURE ANTEX SOLDERING
74100 130p 74LS157 80p! 40109 100p 74104 65p 74LS158 90p 40110 300p 74105 65p 74LS160 130p 40114 250p	MC1495L 350p ZN419C 22.5 p MC1496 100p ZN424E 135p MC3340P 120p ZN425E 400p	ROM/PROMs 71301 700p KEYBOARD 745188 225p ENCODER	SWITCHES         IRONS           Toggle         C-15W         400p           SPST         60p         CX.17W         415p           SPDT         65p         CCN-15W         415p
74107 34p 74LS161 100p 4411 1100p 74109 55p 74LS162 140p 4502 120p 74LS163 100p 4503 70p 74LS163 120p 4503 70p 74LS164 120p 4507 55p 74LS164 120p 4507 55p	MC3360P 120p ZN 1034E 200p MK5039B 750p 95H90 800p MM57160 620p	74S287 350p AY-5-2376 900p 74S387 350p TRANSFORMERS (prim 220/240V)	DPDT 70p DPDT (centre off) 85p Push to make 15p C/CX/CCN 46p
74116 200p 74LS165 160p 4508 290p 74LS165 180p 4510 90p 74LS16 180p 4510 90p 74LS173 110p 4511 150p 180p 180p 180p 180p 180p 180p 180p 18	VOLTAGE REGULATORS Fixed Plantic TO-220  1A + ve	74\$571 <b>650p</b> 80-9 100mA <b>88p</b> 82\$137 <b>750p</b> 9-0-9 12-0-12 100mA <b>95p</b> 12-0-12 100mA 95p 12-0-12 100mA 9	Department   Color   Color
74121 <b>28</b> p 74IS175 <b>110</b> p 4514 <b>265</b> p 74122 <b>48</b> p 74IS181 <b>320</b> p 4515 <b>300</b> p 74123 <b>48</b> p 74IS190 <b>100</b> p 4516 <b>110</b> p	12V 7812 80p 7912 70p 15V 7815 60p 7915 70p 18V 7818 60p 7918 70p	93448 900p 0-25V (5VA) 250p 93448 900p 12V 2A 350p	WAFER ADCOLA IRONS 1P/12W 45p K1000 550p 3P/4W 45p K2000 550p
74126 <b>60</b> p 74LS192 <b>100</b> p 4520 <b>100</b> p 74128 <b>75</b> p 74LS193 <b>100</b> p 4521 <b>250</b> p 74LS193 <b>100</b> p 4526 <b>106</b> p	24V 7824 <b>60p</b> 7924 <b>70p</b> 100mA TO-92 5V 78L05 <b>30p</b> 79L05 <b>70p</b>	2650A 2000p 20-24-30 1A 340p 6502 1000p 15-0-15 1A 265p 8800 900p (Please add 50p p&p charge	45p VEROBOARDS DIP Breadboard 4.15 × 6.15 300p
74135 50p 74LS197 120p 4527 130p 74137 50p 74LS21 140p 4532 200p 74LS21 140p 4532 200p 74LS21 140p 4532 200p 74LS240 175p 4538 120p	12V 78L12 30p 79L12 70p 15V 79L15 30p 79L15 70p 0THER REGULATORS 78HGKC 600p LM309K 135p 78H05KC 600p	6802 1250p 6809 2500p 8080A 550p 8085A 1400p RESISTORS High	100KHz 300p 1MHz 370p 1.008MHz 370p 3.2768MHz 350p 3.2768MHz 350p 3.2768MHz 350p 3.2768MHz 350p
74142 200p 74LS241 175p 4543 180p 74LS242 170p 4553 450p 74LS242 170p 4556 72p	LM317T 200p 78MGT2C 135p LM323K 550p 78P05 900p LM723 37p 79BiGKC 700p	1NS8060	3.579545MHz 200p V-Q Boards for ICs (115p (No track cutting)) 8.867237MHz 400p CONNECTOR PLUGS
74150 100p 74LS245 250p 4569 250p 74LS247 140p 4572 40p 74LS248 140p 4583 90p	OPTO-ELECTRONICS           2N5777         45p         ORP60         90p           OCP71         130p         ORP61         90p	EPROMS   1702A   500p   one value   2516   2100p   2708   800p   one value	10.7MHz 350p 18MHz 300p 26.690MHz 210p 27.145MHz 210p 31 way Plug 110p 31 way Socket 110p 5-100 Busboard 1200p
74156 90p 74LS253 140p 14411 1100p	ORP12 90p TIL78 70p OPTO-ISOLATORS ILD74 130p TIL111 90p MC726 100p TIL112 90p	2716   2100p	EDGEBOARD CONNECTORS 0.156" PITCH 2 x 10 way 85p 2 x 22 way 135p
74159 190p 74L5259 160p 14433 1100p 74L5259 160p 14433 1100p 74L5266 100p 14500 700p	MCS2400 190p TIL116 90p LEDS 0.125" 0.2"	6532 1100p 5K-1M Log or Lin 6320 500p Single 30p 6821 500p Single with Switch 60p	2 x 15 way 100p 2 x 25 way 160p 2 x 18 way 120p
74163 100p 74LS279 90p CD22100 350p 74LS298 248p CD22101 700p 74LS324 200p CD22102 700p	TIL209 Red 13p TIL222 Gr 18p TIL211 Gr 20p TIL228 Red 22p TIL212 Ye 25p MV5491 TS 120p	8850 500p SLIDER POTS 60mm Track 8205 320p LIN 5K, 10K, 50K, 100K 8212 225p 60p	74C925
74167 200p 74LS365 100p ICs 74170 240p 74LS367 100p DM8123 175p 74172 450p 74LS368 100p DS8835 250p	TiL216 Red 18p Cips 3p DISPLAYS 3015F 200p NSB5881 570p DL704 140p TiL311 600p	8216 225p LOG 10K 60p 8224 400p 8228 525p 8251 700p SDECIAL OFF	ZN1040E 700p 10231 350p
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74177 90p /4L5393 160p /5150 175p 74178 160p /4L5485 140p 75150 175p 74178 160p 741568 100p 75154 175p	FND500 120p 9638 200p FND507 120p 9370 200p	Z80P10	£4.50 7905 £6/10 £6.75 7912 £6/10 £21.00 2114L 450ns complete)
74182 90p 74LS670 400p •75322 300p 74184A 150p 4000 SERIES 75324 375p	MAN3640 175p UDN6118 320p MAN4640 200p UDN6184 320p	RD (R) SOLDERLESS BREAD 16 KEY KEYPAD	£40/8 P&P + VAT Extra £28/8  £4.00 COMPUTER KITS
74186 500p 4001 25p 75363 400p 74188 325p 4002 20p 75365 350p 74190 90p 4006 95p 75451 72p	* EXP650 3.6" x 2.4" £3.60 on sturdy bat (Up to 1 x 40 pin IC) PB6 6:	14 DIL ICs £9.20 LOGIC PROBE	£18.00 ELF II MICROCOMPUTER KIT £79.95
74192 90p 4008 80p 8126 250p 74193 90p 4009 40p 8128 300p 74194 90p 4010 50p 8195 200p 8195 200p	EXP300 6" x ).1"	14 DIL ICs         £11.80         MULTIMETERS           14 DIL ICs         £22.95         SUPERTESTER 6BOR           14 DIL ICs         £34.45         MICROTEST 80R           14 DIL ICs         £45.95         TMK500	ELF II WIRED AND TESTED £99.95
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#### TSi Alarm Chronograph



With countdown alarm, Hours, minutes, seconds, alpha day and date minutes, seconds, alpha day and date on upper display; and day, date, month, alarm and hourly chimes. Countdown alarm (upper display). Stopwatch from 1/100 sec to 12 hours; net, lap, and 1st & 2nd place times. Stainless steel. Glass.

Only £57.50

#### TS7 Alarm Chronograph

100M Water Resistant. Suitable for swimming, water skiing etc. Hours, minutes, seconds, day, date and month. Programmable weekly alarm, Interval alarm timer up to 16 hours. Hourly chimes. Stopwatch, 1/100 second to 20 minutes, then seconds to 12 hours. Upper display — lap times. Lower display — Total time.





#### TS5 World Time / Alarm



Two Alarms, local and world time (dual tones). Hourly chimes. Nor-mally displays hours, minutes, seconds, day; or optionally hours, minutes, day, date, month. World time mode displays an atlas with each of the 19 time zones highlighted when selected. Date and summer time functions

#### Stainless £79.95 Gold PI £99.95

#### H127 Analogue / Digital

Independent analogue display Independent analoque display. Digital hours, minutes, seconds, day; and day, date, month, 1/100 second stopwartch to 20 minutes, then seconds to 12 hours; net lap and 1st & 2nd place. Single counter to 9,999 or dual counter to 99.

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ML-81. 11 Note Melody Maker

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ML-71 (24.95)

MELODY

(ML-81) (RRP £24.95)

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£22.95 but 1 alarm,

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AQ-2200 £19.95(£21.95)

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(Similar to illustration)



#### F-80 Alarm Chronograph



Black resin case, mineral glass. Water resistant. 3 YEAR BATTERY. Hours, resistant. 3 TEAN DALLERY. HOURS, minutes, seconds, date, am/pm; or hours, minutes, alpha day, date am/pm. 24 hour alarm, hourly chimes. Stopwatch from 1/10 second to 12 hours; net, lap and 1st and 2nd lates. Nightlight and 2nd place. Nightlight.

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#### 95QS-36B Chronograph

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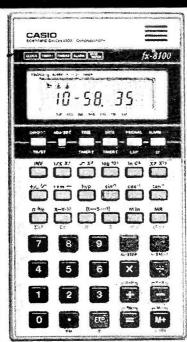
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J.V.C. Turntable supplied complete with an Audio Technica AT10 stereo magnetic cartridge.

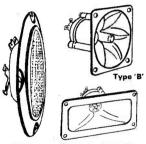
- shaped tone arm. ★ Belt driven.
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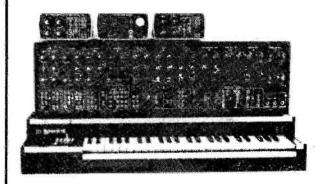
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CATALOGUE 10

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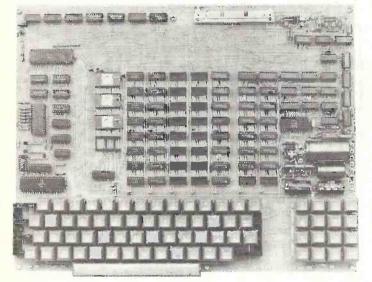
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LEDEX ROTARY SOLENOIDS. 115V DC. No switch assembly.

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EY127 10p. BF181 20p; BD239 49p; BD241 40p; MA343AT
49; BD228 50p; BD233 & BD234 Comp Pair 25W — 80p per
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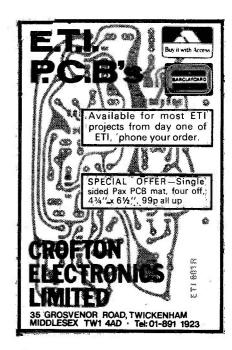
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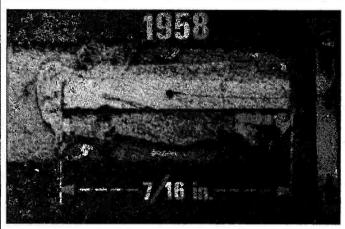
# **NEWS:Digest**

# **April Fool**

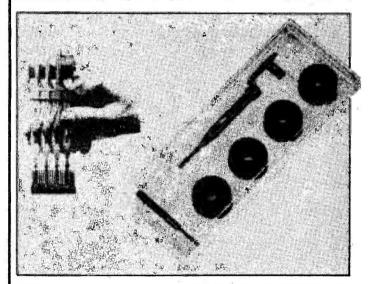
Did you spot our deliberate mis-takes (well, that's our story) last month? You may have found the contents page listing a shade inaccurate after the circuit supplement. As the supplement is extra to the magazine, its pages are numbered separately. So, to find

the Touch Dimmer, for instance, take 16 (the size of the supplement) 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.



# Wrap Up

his low cost wire wrapping kit This low cost wire wrapping caught our eye. We reckoned it was inexpensive enough for any hobbyist or small scale producer to consider buying.

It wraps 30 AWG wire onto standard 0.0025in square posts without stripping or slitting the insulation. It can 'daisy chain' continuously through several several points or can be used in the point-to-point mode; it also has a built-in wire cut-off device for terminating the final connection of each chain.

The JWK-6 kit contains the 'Just Wrap' wrapping tool, the JUW-1 unwrapping tool and four 50ft wire refill cartridges, one each of red, white, blue and yellow insulation for colour coding. All packaged in a sturdy clear plastic box. The 'Just Wrap' kit is available at £18.65 excluding VAT and delivery from: OK Machine & Tool (UK) Ltd, Dutton Lane, Eastleigh, Hants SO5 4AA.

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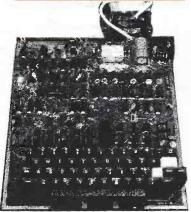
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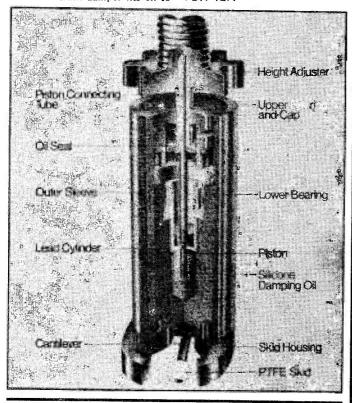
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ASY78 60.35 BCY70 60.17 BF199 £0.16   CC204 £1.04   20290 £0.18   40594 £1.04   ASY73 £0.35 BCY70 £0.17   BF199 £0.16   CC205 £1.32   20290 £0.18   40594 £1.04   AU110 £1.61   BCY71 £0.17   BF200 £0.35   TIC44 £0.33   20290 7 €0.23   AU110 £1.61   BCY72 £0.17   BF202 £1.04   TIC45 £0.40   20290 £0.35   E1.04   E1.05   E1.05	400 initial 400 £1.29 6 emp
BC109 & 60.09 BD131	100
BC118 60.16 BD139/ BC119 60.29 140mp60.92 BF458 60.43 TIP3056 E0.53 2N3402 E0.24 BC120 60.46 BD155 60.92 BF458 60.43 TIP3056 E0.52 2N3403 60.24 BC120 60.46 BD155 60.92 BF459 60.44 TIS90 60.21 2N3404 60.33 BC125 60.20 BD175 60.69 BF596 60.32 UT46 60.23 2N3404 60.38 BC126 60.25 BD176 60.69 BFR39 60.28 ZTX107 60.12 2N3414 60.18 BC132 60.21 BD177 60.78 BFR40 60.29 ZTX108 60.12 2N3415 60.18	100v RMS



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185WG — Mild steel — short face has slotted hole 6.5cm x 3.7cm long face has 3.7cm diam, hole

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Description		No.		Price
DPDT miniature slide		1973		£0.16
DPDT standard slide		1974		€0.17
Toggle switch SPST 11/2 amp	250V ac	1975		€0.38
Toggle switch DPDT 1 amp 25		1976		€0.48
Rotary on-off 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 rocker	RED		1980	£0.35
switches SPST - moulded	BLACK		1981	£0.35
in high insulation	WHITE		1982	€0.35
material available in a	BLUE		1983	£0.35
choice of colours ideal	YELLO	N	1984	£0.35
for small apparatus	LUMIN		1985	£0.35
Description		No.		Price
Miniature SPST toggle 2 amp	250V ac	1958		€0.81
Miniature SPST toggle 2 amp		1959		£0.86
Miniature DPDT toggle 2 amp		1960		€0.91
Miniature DPDT toggle centre				
250V ac		1961		£1,07
Push-button SPST 2 amp 250	)V ac	1962		£1.04
Push-button SPST 2 amp 250		1963		£1.09
Push-button DPDT 2 amp 250		1964		£1.34
MIDGET WAFER SWITCH	Ee			

MIDGET WAFER SWITCHES
Single bank wafer type — suitable for switching at 250V ac 100mA or
150V dc: in non-reactive loads make-before-break contacts. These
switches have a spindle 0.25 in dia and 30 indexing...

Description	en .	No.	Price
1 pole	12 way	1965	£0.55
2 pole	6 way	1966	£0.55
3 pole	4 way	1967	£0.55
4 pole	3 way	1968	£0.55
MICRO S	WITCHES	No.	Price
	on gives simple 1 pole cha Rating 10 amp 250V ac	nge 1970	£0.29

### **OPTUELECTRONICS**

O/no.	Type	Size	Colour	Price
1501	ARL209 (TIL209)	3mm (.125)	RED	£0.10
1502	MIL3232 (TIL211)	.3mm (.125)	GREEN	£0.16
1503	MIL3331 (OP 212A)	3mm (.125)	YELLOW	€0.16
1504	ARL4850 (FLV117)	5mm (.2)	RED	€0.10
1505	MIL5251 (TIL222)	.5mm (.2)	GREEN	£0.16
1506	MIL5351 (MV5353)	5mm (.2)	YELLOW	£0.16
1509	FLV111	5mm ( 2)	(ill. Red)	€0.12
SUPER	'HI-BRITE' TYPE			
	MIL32	.3mm (-125)	RED	€0.11
1522	MIL52	.5mm (-2)	RED	£0.11
1514	ORP12 Light depender	nt resistor		£0.70
1520	OCP71 Photo transisto	r		£0.40
LED CL				
1508/1	125 pack of 5 125 clip	s		£0.17
1508/2	2 pack of 5 2 clips			€0.21
DISPLA				
	7 segment D.P. left (.3"	height)		on Anode
	igle Digit		o/no. 1523	
	7 segment D.P. left (.3"	height)		on Anode
	ngle Digit		o/no_1510	
	7 segment D.P. left (.5"	height)		on Anode
	o-Digit Reflector		o/no. 1524	
	7 segment D.P. right ( 5	" height)		on Anode
	o-Digit Light Pipe		o/no. 1512	
	7 segment D.P. left (.6"	height)		on Anode
RED Sir	igle Digit Light Pipe		o/no. 1511	£1.73
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OPTO-ISOLATORS
Isolation Breakdown — Voltage 1500 — continuous fwid current 100mA
CIL74 Single-Channel 6 pin DIP standard type — optically coupled pair
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CILD74 Multi-Channel 8 pin DIP Two Isolated Channels
O/no. 1498 £1.22
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o/no. 1499 £2.69

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Silicon Photo Darlington Amplitler — VCBO 30v VECO 10v ic 100mA
Ptot:300mW IL Min 0.5 Typ.2mA ID 100mA nA o/no.1496 £0.29

#### **AUDIO LEADS**

No.	Type	Price
107	FM indoor Ribbon Aerial	£0.69
113	3.5mm Jack plug to 3.5mm Jack plug. Length 1.5m	£0.86
114	5 pin DIN plug to 3.5mm Jack connected to pins 3 & 5. Length 1.5m	£0.98
115	5 pin DIN plug to 3.5mm Jack connected to pins 1 & 4. Length 1.5m	£0.98
116	Car aerial extension Screened insulated lead. Fitted plug and socket	£1.44
117	AC mains connecting lead for cassette recorders and radios. 2 metres	€0.78
118	5 pin DIN phono plug to stereo headphone	£1,21
119	2+2 pin DIN plugs to stereo Jack socket with	
	attenuation network for stereo headphones.	
	Length 0.2m	£1.04
120	Car stereo connector. Variable geometry plug to fit most car cassettes. 8-track cartridge and combination units. Supplied with inlined fuse	
	power lead and instructions	60.03
123	6.6m Coiled Guitar Lead Mono Jack plug to Mono	20.00
123	Jack plug Black	€1.72
124	3 pin DIN plug to 3 pin DIN plug. Length 1.5m	€0.85
125	5 pin DIN plug to 5 pin DIN plug. Length 1.5m	£0.85
126	5 pin DIN plug to Tinned open end. Length 1.5m	£0.85
120	5 pin DIN plug to 4 Phono Plugs.	20.05
-127		£1.49
400	All colour coded. Length 1.5m	£0.92
128 129	5 pin DIN plug to 5 pin DIN socket. Length 1,5m 5 pin DIN plug to 5 pin DIN plug mirror image.	
	Length 1.5m	£1.21
130	2 pin DIN plug to 2 pin DIN inline socket	
	Length 5m	£0.78
131	5 pin DIN plug to 3 pin DIN plug 1 & 4 and 3 & 5	
	Length 1.5m	£0.95
132	2 pin DIN plug to 2 pin DIN socket. Length 10m	£1.13
133	5 pin DIN plug to 2 Phono plugs. Connected pins 3 & 5. Length 1.5m	€0.86
134	5 pin DIN plug to 2 Phono sockets.	
	Connected pins 3 & 5, Length 23cm	£0.78
135	5 pin DIN socket to 2 Phono plugs.	
	Connected pins 3 & 5. Length 23cm	£0.78
136	Coiled stereo headphone extension lead.	
	Black, length 6m	£2.01
178	AC mains lead for calculators, etc	£0.52
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Entirely new range of connectors for Discrete wire. Uniquely designed Wirepost is soldered to the P.C. Board. A pre-stripped wire is inserted into the connector and easily locked by pressing the housing down. The wire is alternatively removed by lifting the housing. Tin alloy plated contacts ensure good as gold performance.

Housing consists of Thermo plastic polyster.

1728 Single connector in red/black or white 1729 Threeway connector black ONLY 1730 Fourway connector black ONLY £0.23 inc. VAT

# **FUSE HOLDERS AND FUSES**

		-45							
Descript	tion			No			Price		
20mm ×	5mm chassis	mounting	i	50	6 .		£0.18		
11/4in×1/	in chassis mi	ounting		50	7		£0.14		
11/4 in car	inline type	_		50	8		£0.18		
Panel mo	ounting 20mm	n		50	9		£0.23		
Panel mo	ounting 11/4 in			51	0		£0.37		
QUICK	BLOW 20mm								
Туре	No.	Type	No.		Type	No.			
150mA	611 7p	1A	615	6p	3A	619	6p		
250mA	612 <b>6</b> p	1.5A	616	7p	4A	620	10p		
550mA	613 <b>6p</b>	2A	617	6p	5A	621	6p		
800mA	614 <b>8p</b>	2 5A	618	7p			•		
ANTI-S	URGE 20mm								
Type	No.	Type	No		Typ	e	No.		
100mA	622	1 A	62	5	2.5	A	628		
250mA	623	2A	62	6	3.1	5A	629		
500mA	624	1.6A	62	7	5A		630		
			li Spes	ch					
QUICK-	BLOW 1 1/4 is								
Type	No.	Type	No		Typ		No.		
250mA	631	500m			800	)mA	634		
	All 8p each								
Type	No.	Type	No		Typ	•	No.		
1A	635	2.5A	63		44		641		
2A	637	3A	63		5A		642		
17-27-11	All 6p each								

#### **NUTS AND BOLTS**

		of BA thre	raded cadmium	n plated scr	ews slotted
Type	No.	Price	Туре	No.	Price
1in OBA	839	€1.38	⅓in 4BA	846	£0.37
1/2 in OBA	840	£0.86	1/4 in 4BA	847	£0.29
1in.2BA	842	£0.75	1 in 6BA	848	€0.46
1/2 in 2BA	843	£0.52	1/2 in 6BA	849	£0.24
14in 2BA	844	€0.60	14 in 6BA	850	€0.29
1in 4BA	845	£0.51			
<b>BA NUTS</b>	- packs o	f cadmium	plated full nuts	in multiples	of 50.
Type	No.	Price	Type	No.	Price
OBA	855	€0.83	4BA	857	£0.35
2BA	856	€0.55	6BA	858	£0.28
BA WASI		at cadmium	plated plain sta	amped wash	ers supplied
Type	No.	Price	Type	No.	Price
OBA	859	€0.16	4BA	861	£0.14
2BA	860	£0.14	6BA	862	£0.14
SOLDER	TAGS - F	ot tinned su	pplied in multi	ples of 50	
Type	No.	Price	Type	No.	Price
OBA	851	£0.46	4BA	853	£0.25
204	050		CDA	054	

#### TRANSFORMERS

MINIATU	IRE MAINS Primary 240V	4.0
No.	Secondary	Price
2021	6V-0-6V 100mA	€1.04
2022	9v-0-9v 75mA	£1.04
2023	12V-0-12V 100mA	£1.29
MINIATU	IRE MAINS Primary 240V	
	ndependent secondary windings	
No.	Туре	Price
2024	MT280-0-6V 0-6V RMS	£1.84
2025	MT150-0-12V 0-12V RMS	£1.84
	LAINE Dies 240V	

STANDARD MAINS Primary 240V Multi-tapped secondary mains transformers available in ½ amp. 1 amp and 2 amp current rating. Secondary taps are 0-19-25-33-40-50V. Voltages available by use of taps, 7, 8, 10, 14, 15, 17, 19, 25, 31, 33, 40, 25-0-25V.

-25V.
Reting
1/2 amp
1 amp
2 amp No. 2031 2032 2033 240V Primary0-55V @ 2A Secondary 2035

SPECIAL OFFER
2042 240V Primary 0-20V @ 2A Secondary. By removing 5 turns for each volt from the secondary winding any voltage up to 20V @ 2A is easily obtainable. Ideal for the experimenter.
£1.50 P.&P.86p

#### **CASES AND BOXES**

INSTRUMENT CASES. In two sections, vinyl covered top and sides,

E. C.	. Dottom, mem er			
No.	Length	Width	Height	Price
155	8in	51/2in	2in	£1.73
156	11in	6in	3in	£2.92
157	6in	43/4in	13/4in	£1.79
158	9in	51/4in	2 ½in	£2.43

**ALUMINIUM BOXES.** Made from bright all., folded construction each box complete with half-inch-deep lid and screws.

No.	Length	Width	Height	Price
159	51/4 in	21/4in	1 1/2 in	£0.85
160	4in	4in	11/2cO	
£0.85				
161	4in	21/4in	11/2 in	£0.85
162	51/4in	4in	1 ½ in	£0.97
163	4in	21/2 in	2in	£0.87
164	3in	2in	1in	£0.60
165	7in	5in	21/2 in	£1.43
166	8in	6in	3in	£1.82
167	6in	4in	2in	£1.18

**SLOPE** front aluminium boxes with black vinyl base and sides & aluminium back, top & front — strong construction easily accessable. 2½in 5½in 2¼in 12in 3½in 8in **£5.45** 1½in 7½in 4in 16in 4½in 11in **£8.31** 

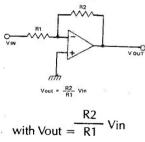
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# PROJECT 80 FILTERS

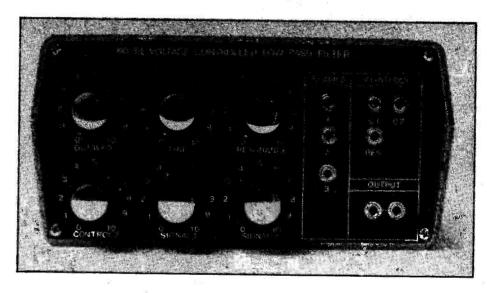
Not one project but four. The Project 80 VCF can be constructed as any of the most useful configurations. Circuit design by Charles Blakey.

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.-

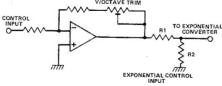


If one is therefore currently using 5V P-P signals, instead of the 10V P-P employed in this project, then the only change required is to double R2 so that the other components around the special ICs employed remain unchanged. In the case of some synthesisers which combine the worst of both worlds and 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 5V signal then R2 has to be halved.



Another minor problem may be the frequency response characteristics, for example, a synthesiser with a 0.5V 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  $\pm 9$  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.

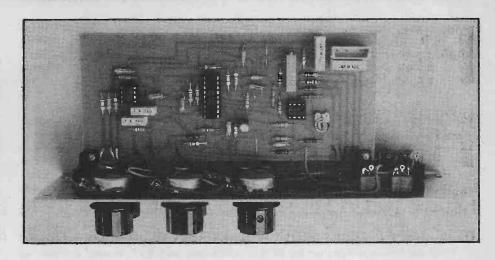
The four filter types provided are.-

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 dB/octave 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 roll-off. (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 10V P-P signal level 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 output of about 3V P-P at lowest Q (no feedback) whereas at maximum Q this peak level will approach 11V. 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 24k resistor, R7A, to the +15V 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 anti-clockwise 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 3V5 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.

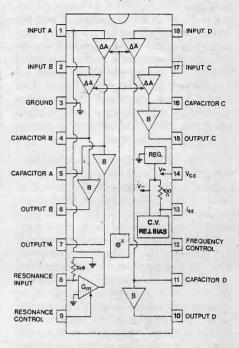


Figure 1. the CEM 3320 pinout.

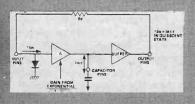
# HOW IT

Each of the filter stages of the CEM 3320 contains a variable gain cell followed by a high impedance buffer. The variable gain cell is a current-in, current-out device (as opposed to the traditional voltage-in, current-out type) whose output current, lout, is given by

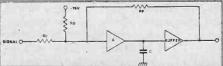
$$I_{out} = (I_{REF} - I_{in}) e^{-V} C^{/V} T$$
  
where  $V_T = kT/q$  and  $I_{ref} = \frac{0.048 cc - 1.03}{100 k^*}$ 

\*±25%

The input to the variable cell is a forward biased diode to ground. The input thus presents a low impedance summing node at a nominal 650 mV above ground. The required input currents may therefore be obtained with resistors terminating at this input node.

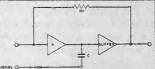


Thus each stage is set up with a feedback resistor, RF, from the buffer output to the variable gain cell input and with the capacitor connected to the output of the variable gain cell. In the DC state, the buffer output will always adjust itself so that IREF flows into the input. For lowest control voltage feedthrough and maximum peak to peak output signal, the quiescent output voltage of each buffer, VODE, should be 0.48 Vcc. — 0V63. In the present design where Vec is +15 V, the feedback resistors (R21, R24, R26 and R29) are 100k, then the DC output of each buffer will be a nominal +6V5 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 an AC resistance of nominally 1M in parallel with the feedback resistor, RF, regardless of control voltage value:



If the first stage of the low pass filter is coupled to a ground-referenced direct coupled signal output, then the quiescent DC output will shift down OV6 and a capacitor (C7) is used to avoid this situation. For the first stage, the iggs requirement is met using only RF (R21). The subsequent stages should, however, be set for unity gain and since these will have the current from the feedback resistor (nominally 60 uA) as well as the current developed across RC by the DC output of the preceeding stage (nominally 66 uA) it is necessary to sink the excess current and this is done with a bias resist or, Rb, of 240 k connected to the negative supply

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



IREF is supplied only through the feedback resistor, RF, and the voltage gain is unity, irrespective of the value of this resistor. For best results, however, the impedance of the signal source to stage one should be low compared to RF/4.

compared to RF/4.

The band pass filter is derived by connecting two stages of high pass with two stages of low pass filtering. The allpass configuration is used to generate a phase shift filter by taking part of the original

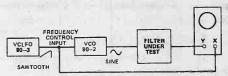
2. Lissajours figures. Same procedure as (1) but outputs from VCO and VCF are coupled to the X and Y inputs of an oscilloscope to generate Lissajours figures, ie a stable circle using sine waves when both amplitude and frequency are matched.

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.-



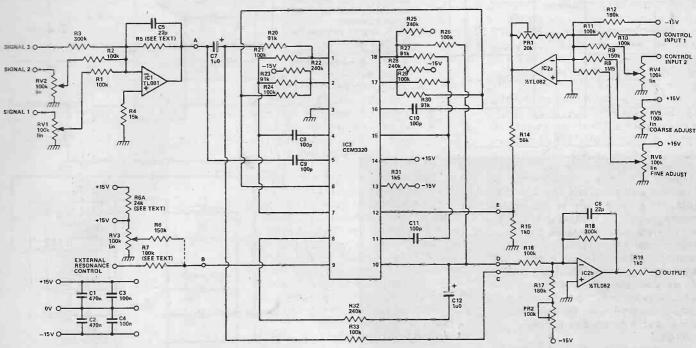


Figure 2. full circuit diagram of the phase-shift filter.

### WORKS

signal, via R33, to the output stage. In both cases the purpose of resistors R20 to R30, when used, is evident from the above dis-

The CEM 3320 contains a traditional transconductance type of amplifier, it has a separate signal voltage input (pin 8) and since this has an impedance of moninally 3k6 the input is referenced to ground and so when the signal is taken from the signal output of the IC a coupling capacitor (C12) is required. The output of the gain cell is connected, to stage one of the filter (pin 1) and in this project the amplifier is used to provide voltage control of resonance. In controlling resonance a current, is applied to pin 9 using R6 or R7. This input is of law 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 results in finer resolution as the critical point of oscillation is reached. The amount of signal feedback is governed by R32 and its value has been chosen such that with 100 uA of control current (our standard 10 volts via R7), oscillation will just occur, although operating conditions will influence the actual starting point. In other words, we have chosen the value so as to avoid sine waves of large amplitude which would become clipped in the first filter stage and

cause a shift in frequency

In order to minimise power dissipation the negative supply of the CEM 3320 is regulated at -1V9 with an internal shout regulator. This reduces warm up drift of the pole frequencies on powering up as well as allowing virtually any negative supply greater than -4 V to be used. The current limiting resistor, REE (R31), must always be included and is calculated as follows:

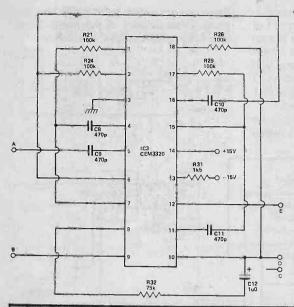
$$R_{EE} = \frac{V_{EE} - 2V7}{.008}$$

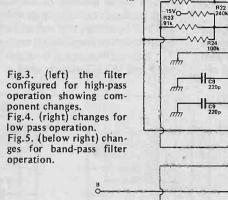
which for our standard -15 V supply requires a resistor of 1k5. A positive supply of +15 V is connected directly to pin 44 but supplies in the range +9 fb +18 V may be used although this will influence both power dissipation and peak to peak output swing.

1C1 forms a conventional input summer for up to three signal inputs, two of which may be attenuated with rotary controls (RV1 and RV2) included on the panel. R5 determines the signal-level into the filter and based on an input of 10 V p-p its value has been chosen such that the signal will not be clipped in the filter even when the maximum useful regeneration is applied. IC2b forms the output stage and the signal is amplified by RTS to ensure that the VCF will have approximately unity gain at maximum

mum resonance. R17 and PR2 allow cancellation of the OC voltage at pin 10 of the CEM 3320, IC2b also serves as a buffer stage for IC3 since the buffers within the filter are not short circuit protected:

The frequency range of the filters is governed initially by the capacitors C8 to C11, which have been selected to provide a lower cut-off frequency in the range of 20 to 25 Hz. The CEM 3320 has an exponential converter within the device which simultanéously, controls the current gain of each section. An input of 18 mV/octave is required to pin 12 and an increasing positive control voltage lowers the pole frequency of the filter. Furthermore, for best results the input to pin 12 should be maintained between -25 mV and +155 mV. IC2a therefore provides an input summer for two external control voltages (via R10 and R11), a coarse control (RV5) for a den octave range and a fine control (RV6) over a one 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 R12 to give an initial voltage at pin 12 of approximately +155 mV; and by adjusting the gain with PR1 to allow the one yolt per octave response of the filter to be developed at the junction of R14 and R15.





N 100k

C8 220p

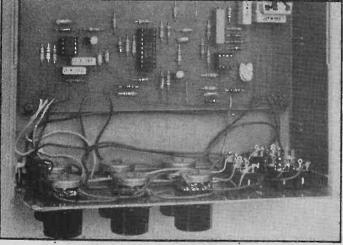
C9 2200

IC3 CEM'3320

C11 220p

C12 1u0

**⊸**ö



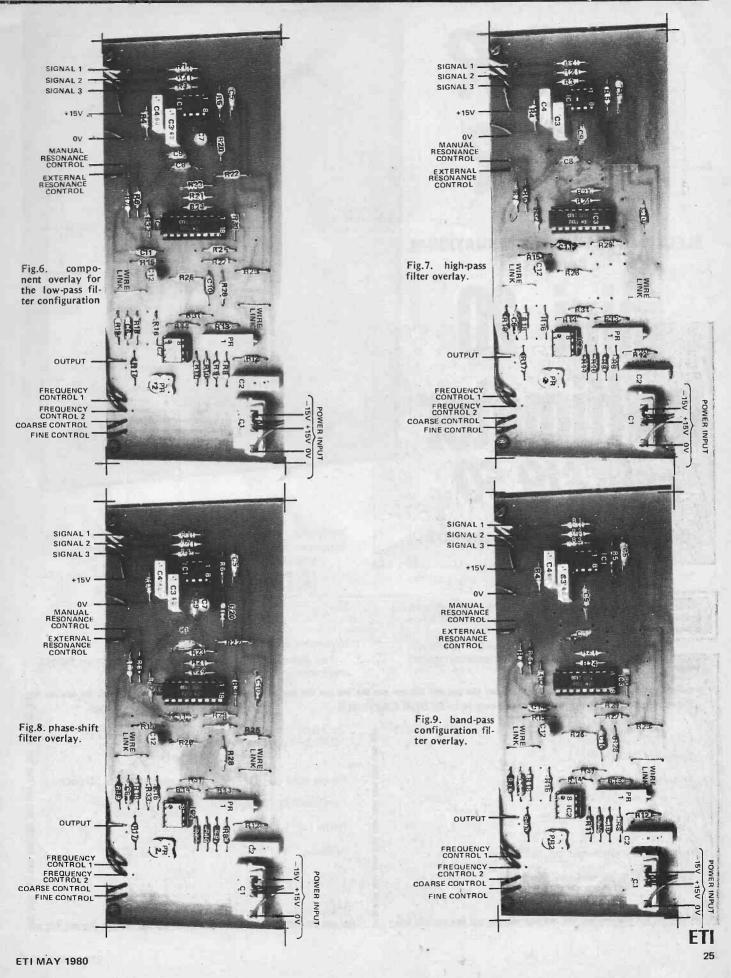
BUYLINES

R24 100k nin C8 100p IC3 CEM3320 100p R31 1k5 -15V C11 100p/mm R32 75k C12

The PCB and all components shown in the appropriate circuit diagram are available from Digisound Limmited for £13.20 per

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

Components common to all filters	CAPACIT	ORS	R32	75k
RESISTORS, 5%, ¼W carbon film	C1,2	470n polyester	CAPACITO	RS
R1,2,7,16	C3,4	100n polyester	C8,9,10,11	470p polystyrene
21,24,26,29 100k	C5,6	22p polystyrene		NAL COMPONENTS FOR BANK
R3,18 300k	C12	1u0 PCB electrolytic	PASS FILT	ER. 80-68
R4 15k		NDUCTORS		RS WW, 5% carbon film
R6,9 150k	IC1	TL 081, or equivalent	R5	33k
R8 1M5	iC2	TL 082, or equivalent	R25,28	240k
R17 180k	IC3	CEM 3320	R27,30	91k
R19 1k0 R31 1k5		NAL COMPONENTS FOR LOW	R32	75k
R31 1k5	PASS FIL	TER. 80-6L	CAPACITO	
R6A 24k		RS 14W, 5% carbon film		100p polystyrene
RESISTORS, 1%, ¼W metal film,	R5	36k		
100ppm T.C.	R20,23,2		ADDITION	AL COMPONENTS FOR
R10,11 100k	30	91k	PRASE SH	IFT FILTER. 80-6P
	R22,25,2		RESISTOR	S 1/4W, 5% carbon film
R12 180k R13 91k	R32	51k	R5	12k
R14 56k	CAPACIT		R20,23,27,	
R15 1k0	C8,9,10,1		30	91k
POTENTIOMETERS	C7	1u0 PCB electrolytic	R22,25,28,	
RV1,2,3,4,		NAL COMPONENTS FOR HIGH	32	240k
5,6 100k	PASS FIL	TER. 80-6H	R33	100k
PR1 20k multiturn cermet		RS ¼W, 5% carbon film	CAPACITO	
PR2 100k carbon	R5	24k	C8,9,10,11 C7	100p polystyrene 1u0 PCB electrolytic



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MICROFILE

Henry Budgett reveals Nascom's new goodies and the latest club news.

somewhat 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 I 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 \$17 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 Reizlat 128Templemere, 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 80s 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 and Bulletin. 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 48K 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 I/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 PIO, £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 5¼" units and will cost £127.50. It should also be possible to use 8" units but no support is planned. A complete dual double-sided, double-density 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 16K board. Some firms like Henry's are still doing the offer on their own so look out for bargains.

# **Tangy Fruit**

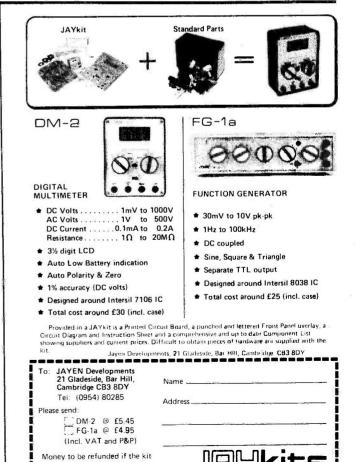
After last month's little piece on the Microtan 65, which even got the unimpressable Mr Graham converted to micromania (see Kit Survey), I have been so swamped with calls and letters that I'm going to print the address so you can all go and pester them rather than me. Tangerine Computer Systems Ltd., 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 I'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 22nd 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.

	LOW	POWER SCHO	TTKY TTL —	EX STOCK	
evice	Price	Device	Price	Device	Price
4LS00	13p	74LS76	38p	74LS164	100p
01	13p	85	80p	174	65p
02	12p	86	* 36p	175	65p
03	13p	90	40p	190	100p
04	14p	93	70p	191	100p
05	25p	95	85p	192	100p
08	30p	107	40p	193	100p
09	20p	109	50p	196	100p
10	16p	112	50p	197	100p
11	23p	113	50p	221 244	100p
12	25p	114	50p	247	220p
13	30p	123	80p	248	100p
14	40p	125	30p	249	100p 90p
20 21	17p 21p	126 132	30p	251	90p
26	30p	136	50p 45p	273	165p
27	15p	138	75p	279	50p
28	30p	139	80p	283	100p
30	15p	151	45p	290	90p
32	17p	153	65p	293	100p
37	20p	155	90p	298	93p
38	30p	156	90p	352	110p
40	17p	157	70p	353	110p
47	52p	158	70p	366	50p
49	52p	160	100p	367 368	60p
73	40p	161	100p	374	55p
74	33p	162	100p	386	180p 36p
75	32p	163	130p		30h
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14 Pin	9p		13p	28 Pin	19p
16 Pin			15p	40 Pin	30p
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		ol wire) 248p	2.5"×5"		65р
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		95p	2.5"×17"		
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	1	725p			
		TER		h avii	
Please add 35	p for P&P plus			orders no VAT but	postage at
				orders to be made	
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is returned within 10 days.

#### OPTO 0.125in. 0.2in TIL220 TIL221 TIL209 10p TIL211 TIL213 Yellow TIL223 Clips DISPLAYS DL704 DL707 FND500 0.3 in CC 0.3 in CA 0.5 in CC 130c 130p 100p

# SKTS

Low profile

Dy lex	35	laser.	- 1		
8 pin	10p	18 pin	16p	24 pin	22
14 pin	12p	20 pin	18p	28 pin	26
16 pin	13p	22 pin	20p	40 pin	38
3 lead 1	T018 a	r TO5 skt	1. 12	2p each.	
Soldero	an pin	s: 10	0 for 6	50p.	

# PCBS

	V	HODUAN	U
Size in.	0.1in.	0.15in.	Vero
25 x 1	16p	_	Cutter 110p.
2.5 x 3.75	52p	45p	
2.5 x 5	60p	<b>5</b> 5p	Pin insertion
3.75 x 5	70p	70p	tool 150p.
3.75 x 17	250p	210p	
SS pins/100	45p	45p	
Fibreglass bo		80p each.	
Alfac - 33p	per sh	eet.	
_	_		

RESISTORS Carbon film resist-ors. High Stability, low noise 5%. E12 series. 4.7 ohms to 10M. Any mix: each 100+ 100+ 0.9p 1.5p 0.85p

Special development packs consisting of 10 of each value from 4.7 ohms to 1 Megohm (650 res) 0.5W £8.50. 0.25W £5.30.

#### METAL FILM RESISTORS

very high stability, low noise rated at ¼V 1%. Available from 51 ohms to 330k in

E24 series. Any mix: each 0.25W 4p 3.7p 3.5p

POTENTIOMETERS Preset vertical or horizontal 100 ohms

Rotary 5K-2M2 Log or Lin single Rotary 5K-2M2 Log or Lin double Slide 60mm travel 5k-500k Log

or Lin, single . . . . . . . . 60 Suitable knobs for above with coloured caps in red, blue, green, grey, yellow and black. Rotary controls 16p each. Slide type 12p each.

# MISC.

Murata Ultrasonic Transducers	350p pair
64mm 8 ohm speakers	100p each
64mm 64 ohmspeakers	100p each
SRB 17W soldering iron	430p each
Reel of 22swg solder (39.6m)	320p each
Desoldering tool	510p each
Precision screwdriver set	170p each
Titan Electric drill	1095p each
Minaiture 606 and 909	
at 100mA transformers	110p each

# SWITCHES

TOGGLE		
Standard	SPST 36p	DPDT 50p
Miniature	SPDT 75p	DPDT 85p
Subminiatu	re SPST 58p	DPDT 78p
SLIDE		
Standard .	,	DPDT 17p
Miniature		DPDT 16p
SPST 34p		Γ 46p <b>e</b> ach.
ROTARY 1P12W, 2P6	W, 4P3W or 3P4V d DPDT (Yale ke	V 51p each
PUSH	DEDITERE	y i 33 Sp each
	- push to make	16p each
11011100	- push to break	22p each
Locking	SPST	75p each
	- DPDT	100p each

# **REGULATORS**

	LIV	1/23	TOP
100mA + ve	1A + ve	1A -	ve
78L05 30p	7805 70p	7905	
78L12 30p	7812 70p	7912	85¢
78L15 30p	7815 70p	7915	850

LM309K 140p LM317T 220p LM323K 480p

TRAN	SIST	ORS		TIP32C TIP2955	60p
				T1P3055	53p
AC127	22p	BC548	11p	ZTX107	12p
AC128	22p	BCY71	16p	ZTX108	12
AC176	22p	BCY72	15p	ZTX300	14p
AD161	40p	BD131	40p	ZTX500	15p
AD162	40p	BD132	40p	2N3053	25p
BC107	12p	BD139	33p	2N3054	56r
BC107	10p	BD140	33p	2N3055	50p
BC108C	12p	BFY50	23p	2N3702	9p
BC108C	12p	BFY51	23p	2N3 794	9p
	12p	BFY52	23p	2N3706	9p
BC109C	9p	MJ2955	100p	2N3819	20p
BC147		MPSA06	16p	2N3904	10p
BC148	9p	MPSA56	16p	2N3905	10p
BC177	16p	TIP29C	60p	2N3906	10p
BC178	16p	TIP30C	48p	2N5459	33p
BC182	10p	TIP31C	50p	2N5777	50p
BC182L	10p	DIODES			
BC184	10p			4414000	-
BC184L	10p	1N914	4p	1N4006	7p
BC212	10p	1N4148	3р	1N5401	14p
BC212L	10p	1N4002	5p	BZY88sei	r. 8p
BC214L	10p	1N4148	£1.50 p	er 100.	

# CAPACITORS

CATAO	PO	LYS	STY	'RE	NE			
High quality foil type.	63	VV	vor	kin	g, 5	% 1	ol.	
22pf to 100pf							7p e	ach
1500pf to 0.01uF .			×		100		9p €	ach
TANTALUM BEAD								
0.1, 0.15, 0.22, 0.33, 0	.47	, 0.	68					
1 & 2.2uF @ 35V .						. '	10p e	ach
4.7, 6.8, 10uF @ 25V				8	de		18p e	ach
22 @ 16V, 47 @ 6V, 10	00 (	و ع '3	V		16	. :	22p e	ach
MYLAR								
0.001, 0.01, 0.022, 0.0	33	0.0	)47		996		4p 6	ach
0.068, 0.1							5p 6	ach
POLYESTER								

Mullard C280 series 0.01, 0.015, 0.022, 0.033, 0.047, 0.068, 0.1. 6p ea. 0.15, 0.22 . . . . . . . 8p each 

CERAMIC
Plate type 50V Available in E12 series from 22pF to 1000pF and E6 series from 1500pF to 0.047uF ... 2p e

MINIATURE TRIMMERS

Miniature film type, in 1.4pF — 5pF, 2pF — 22pF, 2pF — 22pF, 2pF — 10pF, 5.5pF — 65pF. 22p each

RAD	IALLE	AD E	LECTH	OLYI	ICS	
63V	0.47	1.0	2.2	4.7	10	6p each
-			22	33	47	8p each
	100					16p each
			220			20p each
25V	10	22	33	4.7		6p each
	100					8p each
		220				12p each

# PACKS

1000

Specially developed packs intended for development

work.
1/4W CF resistor, 10 each value E12 series
4.7 ohm to 1 Megohm (650 total) . 530p each
1/2W CF resistor, 10 each value E12 series
4.7 ohm to 1 Megohm (650 total) . 850p each
1/4W MF 1% resistor, 10 each value E24
series 51 ohms to 33oK (930) 2950p each
Preset potentiometers 5 each value
from 100 ohms to 1 Megohm (65) . 390p each
Polyester capacitors 5 each value
0.01 to 2.2uF (70) 690p eacl
Ceramic plate capacitors 10 each value
22pF to 0.01uF (310) 575p each

# CONNECTORS

#### DIN PLUGS AND SOCKETS

	plug	chassis	line
		socket	socket
2 pin	8p	8p	12p
3 pin	12p	10p	12p
5 pin 180°	12p	11p	17p
5 pin 240°	14p	11p	22p
1404 01110		WETC	

#### JACK PLUGS AND SOCKETS

	unscreened	screened	socket
2.5mm	10p	15p	8p
3.5mm	10p	16p	9p
Standard	16p	30p	19p
Stereo	23p	39p	22p
1mm PLUG	S AND SOCKE	TS	

Suitable for low voltage circuits, Red & Black. Plugs: 7p each. Sockets: 8p each. 4mm PLUGS AND SOCKETS

Available in blue, black, green, brown, red, white and yellow. Plugs: 12p each. Sockets: 13p each.

# VENSON

# Electronic Components

		4023	20p	4054	120p	4502	I ZUP
-	.0	4024	50p	4060	120p	4507	<b>60</b> p
CMO	2	4025	20p	4063	120p	4508	33 <b>0</b> p
		4026	160p	4066	60p	4510	80p
_		4027	45p	4068	20p	4511	90p
4000	20p	4028	85p	4069	20p	4512	80p
4001	20p	4029	85p	4070	20p	4516	80p
4002	20p	4031	220p	4071	20p	4518	80p
4006	90p	4033	150p	4072	20p	4520	80p
4007	20p	4036	350p	4073	20p	4527	90p
4008	95p	4039	300p	4075	20p	4528	9 <b>0</b> p
4011	30p	4040	110p	4076	90p	4529	150p
4012	20p	4041	85p	4077	20p	4531	150p
4013	35p	4042	80p	4078	20p	4532	130p
4014	80p	4043	95p	4081	20p	4538	160p
4015	80p	4046	110p	4082	20p	4543	110p
4016	30p	4048	60p	4086	75p	4566	170p
4017	65p	4049	45p	4093	60p	4558	120p
4018	90p	4050	45p	4095	110p	4559	420p
4020	100p	4051	70p	4098	120p	4581	330p
4022	100p	4053	80p	4501	20p	4585	110p
	_						

LST	TL	74LS47 74LS48	80p	74LS126 74LS132		74LS175 74LS190	90p
			90p				
74TS00	16p	74LS54	22p	74LS136		74LS191	90p
74LS01	22p	74 LS73	35p	74LS138		74 LS 192	90p
74LS02	16p	74LS74	35p	74LS139	75p	74LS193	90p
74LS03	22p	74LS75	40p	74LS151	60p	74LS195	9 <b>0</b> p
74LS04	16p	74LS76	40p	74LS155	65p	74L\$196	90p
74 LS08	22p	74LS78	45p	74LS156	80p	74LS197	85p
74LS10	22p	74LS83	68p	74LS157	70p	74LS221	100p
74LS13	38p	74LS85	85p	74LS158		74LS251	70p
74 LS 14	65p	74LS86	40p	74LS160	75p	74LS266	35p
74 LS20	22p	74LS90	40p	74L\$161	68p	74L\$290	80p
74LS21	22p	74LS93	55p	74LS162	80p	74LS365	55p
74LS27	28p	74LS95	65p	74LS163	80p	74LS366	55p
74LS30	22p	74LS107	45p	74 LS164	80p	74LS367	55p
74LS32	30p	74LS114	40p	74LS165	80p	74LS368	55p
74LS37	40p	74LS123	80p	74LS173	135p	74LS386	50p
74 LS42	60p	74LS125	45p	74LS174	95p	74LS670	200p

	_						-
TTI		7442	40p	7493	30p	74157	40p
		7445	50p	7496	38p	74164	55p
7400	12p	7447	50p	74121	29p	74165	55p
7402	12p	7448	45p	74123	40p	74174	55p
7404	14p	7473	23p	74125	38p	74177	50p
7408	16p	7474	23p	74126	36p	74190	50p
7410	14p	7475	26p	74132	46p	74191	50p
7413	24p	7476	25p	74141	48p	74192	50p
74 14	39p	7485	55p	74145	48p	74193	50p
7420	14p	7486	18p	74148	90p	74194	50p
7427	22p	7490	30p	74150	55p	74196	50p
7432	18p	7492	30p	74154	68p	74197	50p

LM3909

**TBA800** 

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74 14	39p	7485	5
7420	14p	7486	1
7427	22p	7490	3
7432	18p	7492	3
	EAR	LM10	4
	CALL	LM301A	
	2.10	LM308	
709	40p	LM318	
741	18p	LM324	
747	E0n	1 14220	

LINE	ALL	LM301A	30p	LM3914	280p	TBA810S	110p
	2.1	LM308	70p	LM3915	280p	TDA1008	350p
709	40p	LM318	85p	LM3911	120p	TDA1022	630p
741	18p	LM324	52p	LM13600	160p	TDA1024	12 <b>0</b> p
747	50p	LM339	55p	MC1496	80p	TDA2020	360p
748	35p	LM348	100p	LM1458	40p	TL071	75p
7106	850p	LM377	170p	LM1830	180p	TL072	135p
AY-1-0212	660p	LM378	230p	MC3340P	135p	TL074	200p
CA3046	70p	LM3795	410p	MC3360P	135p	TL081	45p
CA3080	75p	LM380	80p	MM57160	650p	TL082	85p
CA3130	90p	LM381	140p	NE531	110p	TL084	125p
CA3140	50p	LM382	120p	NE555	23p	TL170	60p
FX209	820p	LM383	200p	NE556	60p	XR2206	390p
ICM7555	100p	LM386	90p	NE 566	120p	XR2207	450p
ICM7556	POA	LM387	120p	NE567	120p	ZN414	80p
LF347	135p	LM389	100p	NE570	420p	ZN419	POA
LF351	45p	LM391	170p	NE571	460p	ZN424	150p
LF353	85p	LM1310	140p	NE5537	POA	ZN425E	420p
LF355	92p	LM2917	280p	RC4136	100p	ZN460	360p
LF356	95p	LM2924	160p	SAD1024	1310p	ZN1034	23 <b>0</b> p
LF357	92p	LM3900	60p	SN76477	230p		

						- American	
		2112 22 <b>0</b> p		CPU's		SUPPORT	
MIC	:(0)	2114LP	420p	6800	650p	6810	350p
MILE		4116	620p	8080A	610p	6821	600p
		2708	680p	Z80	1090p	6850	550p
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Relay (two pole changeover) £2.45
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Extension for 6 boards (80024)

Extension for 6 boar

10 control keys. Output is displayed on 8 s segment displays £52.65
ELBUG. This is the monitor programme stored in 3 Eproms
Power supply (9066). Gives an output of +5 vol
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cluding transformers).
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expand the system.

expand the system Cassette interface (9905). This board enables you to record and replay programs on a simple case

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	UAA180 LED meter to give stereo audio display  Luminant (9949 1+2+3). A novel LED audio level  Parametric r.
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<b>7</b> • 1	Assistant Assistant Ideally Suited
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•	
	design that fits into the mike (9866). Compact
	o mile mike

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The PCB construction keeps the amount of wiring to a minimum. The organ is built in modular form with the possibility of adding extensions at a later date. One rhythm unit is already available.

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C13.60
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Front panels for format per module

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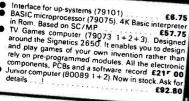
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# INFRA RED REMOTE CONTROL SYSTEM

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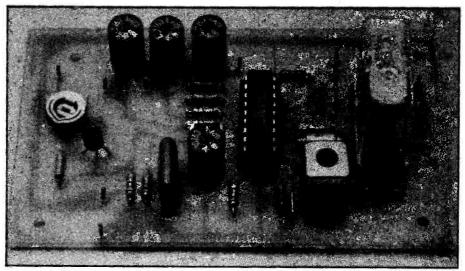
ulti function hand-held remotecontrol facilities are the 'in-thing' in modern Hi-Fi systems and music centres, but also have lots of other potential applications in domestic fields such as lighting and heating control, home security control, etc. We have never published a **really** sophisticated remote 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 receiver-decoder 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	PIN CODE	FUNCTION	RECEIVER OUTPUT ACTION
1	1c	STANDBY (OFF)	Turns relay RLA off.
2	2c	ON	Turns relay RLA on.
3	1ь	MUTE	Reduces volume output level rapidly to zero.
4	83a	VOLUME +	Increases volume output level.
5	83b	VOLUME -	Decreases volume output level.
6	83c	ANALOGUE 1 +	Increases Analogue 1 output level.
7	<b>8</b> 3d	ANALOGUE 1	Decreases Analogue 1 output level.
8	84a	ANALOGUE 2 +	Increases Analogue 2 output level.
9	84b	ANALOGUE 2	Decreases Analogue 2 output levels.
10	1d	RESERVE 1	Switches Reserve 1 (RSV1) output between high and low states on alternate operations.
11	2d	RESERVE 2 / ON	Switches Reserve 2 (RSV2) output between high and low states on alternate operations: Turns RLA on.
12	2a	PROGRAM STEP + / ON	Increments binary channel-select output by one step per operation: Turns RLA on.
13 4	2b	PROGRAM STEP - / ON	Decrements binary channel-select output by one step per operation: Turns RLA on.
14	5a	CHANNEL 1 / ON	Sets binary output to 0000 (Channel 1) state: Turns RLA on.
15	6d	CHANNEL 8 / ON	Sets binary output to 1110 (Channel 8) state: Turns RLA on.
16	8d	CHANNEL 16 / ON	Sets binary output to 1111 (Channel 16) state: Turns RLA on.

Table One: receiver output functions of the IR60.



OUTPUT FUNCTION	TRANSMITTER CONTROL SWITCHES	DESCRIPTION
STANDBY (OFF)	1,2,11,12,13,14, 15.16.	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 T 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.  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 STANDBY (OFF) switch 1; subsequently touching switch 4 returns the 'sound' output to its previous level.  The analogue output voltage can be used to control voltage-controlled attenuators, amplifiers, filters, etc.
ANALOGUE 1	6,7.	An analogue output (similar to VOLUME) that can be varied from 0V 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 0V to 14V 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 (0V) and high (14V) states or 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 states; the output car be used to select any one of 16 channels via a suitable decoder/multiplexer.  Channel 1 (10000) can be selected directly via switch 14.  Channel 16 (1111) can be selected directly via switch 15.  Channel 16 (1111) can be selected directly via switch 16.  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 C16 position, even though our prototype is fitted with a 25 volt device. Check that the completed unit produces an output of about 14 volts.

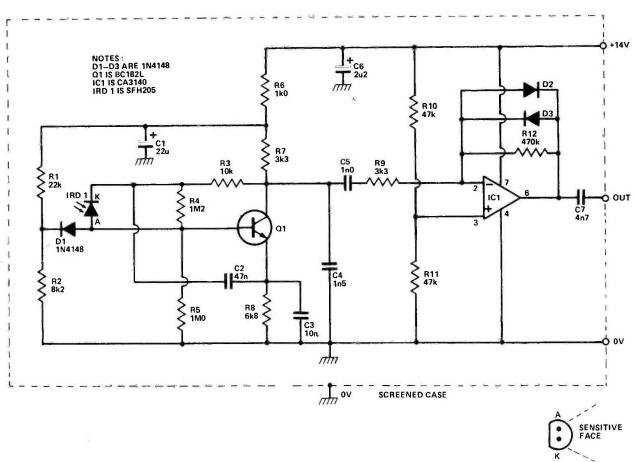
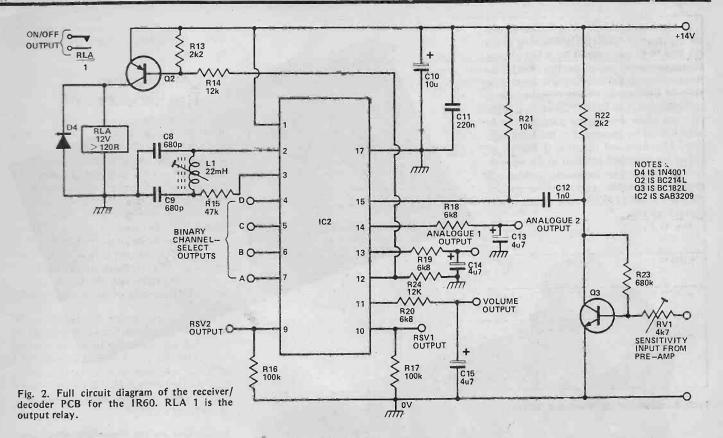


Fig. 1. Full circuit diagram for the receiver-preamp PCB of the control system. Note the orientation of the SFH 205 shown right as it is a little unusual.

SFH205 CONNECTIONS



HOW IT WORKS

The coded infra-red signal from the transmitter is detected and amplified by the receiver unit and ultimately causes some 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 IR code signal has a basic frequency of about 30 kHz (half of the transmitter clock frequency) and is detected by IRD1 in the receiver 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 drive 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 C7 are chosen to make the preamplifier

reasonably frequency selective, thereby ensuring a good low-noise figure. The pre amp unit must be mounted in a screened

The output of the preamp is further amplified by Q1 on the main receiver/decoder board and then fed to the pin 15 signal input terminal of IC2, the P-MOS LSI receiver chip. This chip is provided with a clock oscillator (L1-C8-C9-R15) which is tuned to the transiter clock frequency. (dauble, the serial code frequency.) frequency (double 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 resulting code signal into a register, from which it is then converted into a useful output action.

The IC2 outputs from pins 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 single-bit signals that can be set high or low via the transmitter commands: the output of

pin 12 is used to activate a relay (which

can be used for switching power to an external circuit, etc) via 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 converted to DC analogue voltages via low-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 filters (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 04-ZD1-R25. The circuit is required to supply current up to only a couple of fundred milliamps.

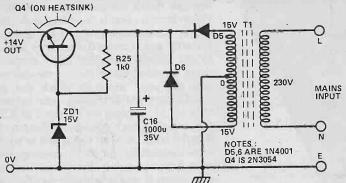
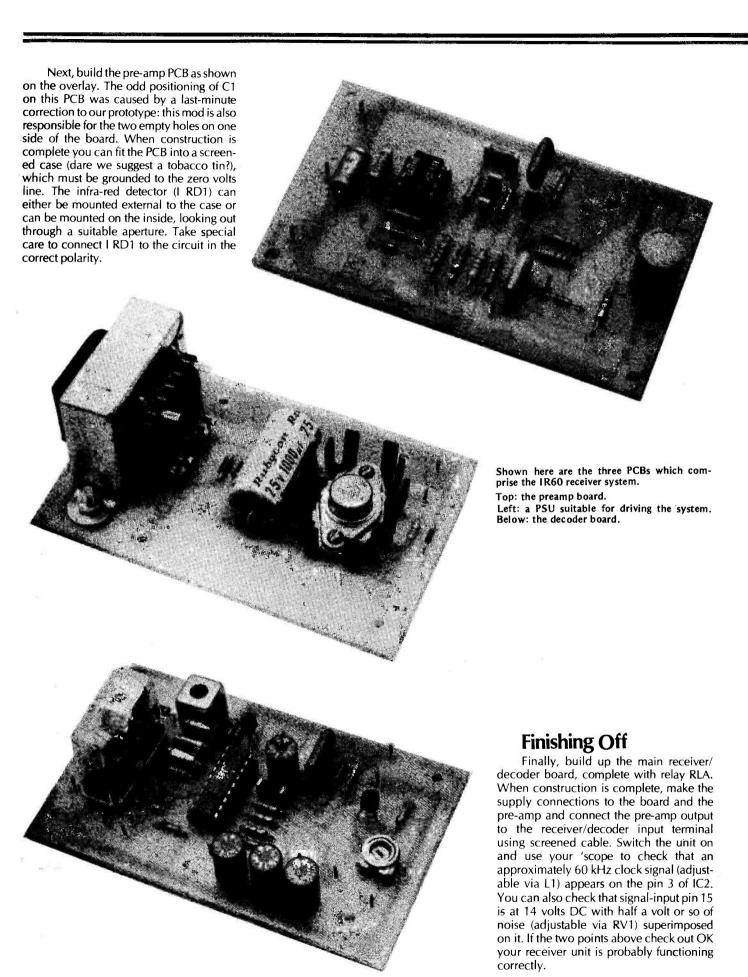
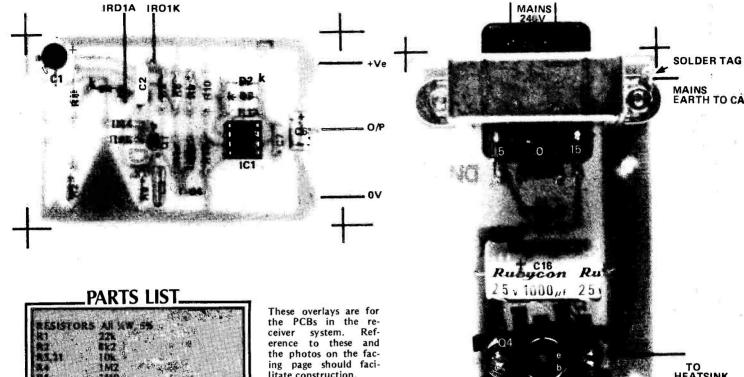


Fig. 3. (left) circuit diagram of the PSU for the IR60 system.

# BUYLINES

The SAB3209 IC could present a problem for your local component emporium. How ever, Electrovalue and Watford Electronics are stockists for this IC. The relay and infra-red detector can also be purchased from Watford Electronics, L1 was obtained from Ambit International. All other components are common types and should not pose any problem.

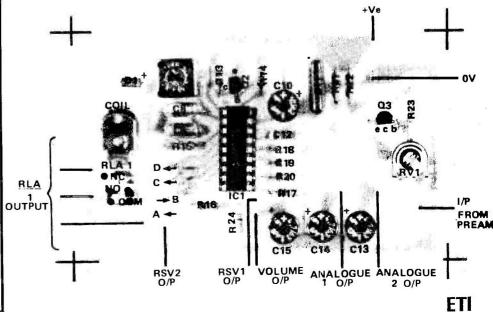




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These overlays are for the PCBs in the receiver system. Reference to these and the photos on the facing page should facilitate construction.

Next month: Transmitter details,



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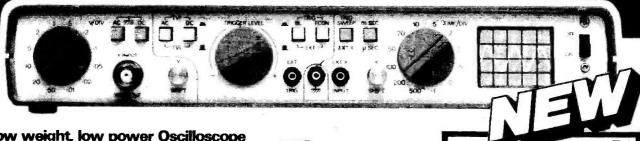
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# HEISENBERG'S UNCERTAINTY PRINCIPLE

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.

ost 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).



$$\triangle p \times \triangle x \ge h / 2\pi$$

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 ≥ 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 , 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 \_\_or about whose uncertainty must be at least 

## **Speedy Accuracy**

### **Effective Measurement**

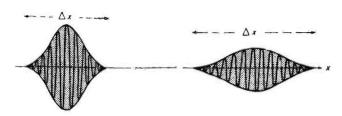
In fact, once you start thinking about it, all the uncertainty principle says is that it is impossible to measure something without affecting it in some way and this is almost common sense. As we have seen, looking at something to check its position must necessarily affect its momentum. It is impossible 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.....



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



# ETIJUNE 1980 WHAT TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN OUR NEXT ISSUE! ON SALE MAY 2ND.

# **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!

## FM LINE DISTRIBUTION

Have hi-fi in any room in the house without extra wires. Superb sound that follows you around. Uses the mains to (safely) distribute an audio signal anywherethe wires are connected to. The answer to a million prayers!

# TAPE RECORDER RESPONSE OPTIMISATION SYSTEM

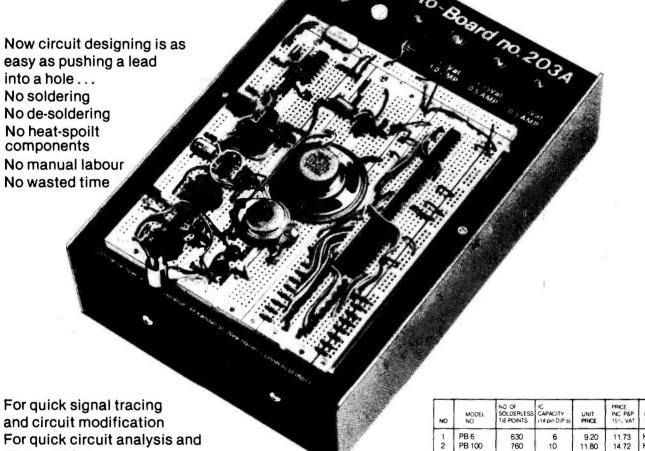
It's one hell of a title for an extremely straightforward little device that will allow you to optimise bias conditions on any tape recorder. Works with a minimum of fuss and doesn't cost more than the Empire State Building to construct.

# ANTI-MATTER

Better forget the Star Trek reaction pods. Throw away the tickets to another Universe. Instead read our explanation of the real truth (?) behind around and for anti-matter.

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

# The Proto-Board



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45.95

55 15

74.70

10 12 24

32 24

940 1240

2250

3060

2250

PB 101

PR 102

PB 103

PB 104

PB 203

# **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 55 II

t all started with a phone call one dark and rainswept Tuesday.

"Metal' said the voice on the phone.

Well 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.

'You started it mush. What metal anyway?......' that was the magic question and the golden key to communication. It transpires that the voice belonged to Mr. Sony (UK) wishing to discourse upon the subject of iron tapes and machines to play them on. Our telephone 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 topassferric substances across at 1/78 IPS managed to find an editorial ear and this month's Audiophile came, screaming, into the world.

## Some Sony Day

As the sidehead says the machine I'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 hand - so once I 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. I 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 EL7? 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 can be recorded at high frequencies (over 6 dB at 15 kHz) for the same distortion figure that gives the new formulation a much cleaner 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 CrO<sub>2</sub> tapes) but bias has to be around 10 dB higher, due to the iron's much higher coercivity. Etase heads too must therefore be capable of more 'muscle' to achieve a satisfactory 'wipe-out'.

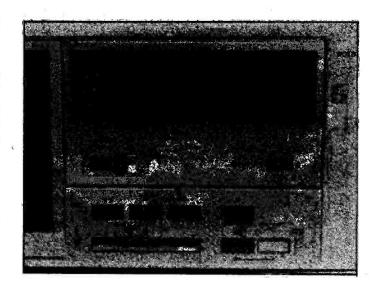
This extra electronics manifests itself, as usual, as an extra switch on the front panel! In the case of TCK55 II considered here an extra slide position on both the bias and equalisation selectors.

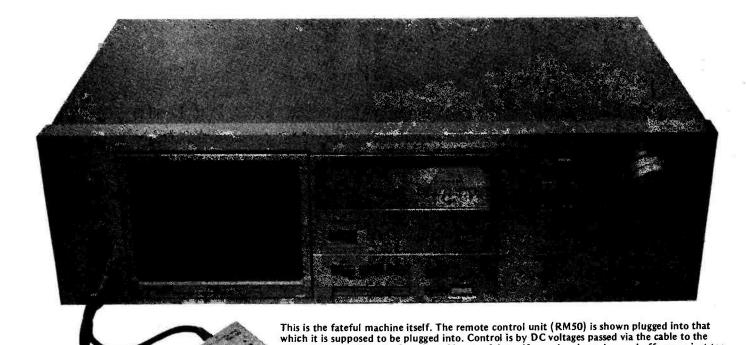
# **Facilitating Uses**

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 buttons causes the machine to rewind to the start 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 VV maters monitor each channel for average readings and a centre bar of LEDs reads peak level. Between the two it is easy to obtain a good setting - and to see how woefully slow VV meters are! With metal tapes you set higher than normally and peaks up to +4 dB produced no audible distortion or compression, thereby proving both the tape and head circuitry.





inhabit the Albert Hall.

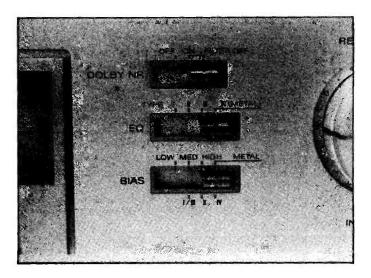
The control panel is solonoid operated and full remote control is thus possible via a handheld function selector (RM-50) which front panel. This is an extra and costs around £20, but is worth it if you're as lazy as I am.

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 noperates with a smoothness and efficiency that is totally prounal. It makes me almost wish a button would drop off or sometly anything to show some fallibility in those inscrutible Or antal 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.

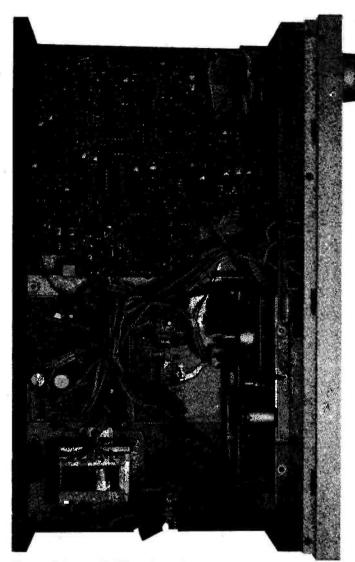
### Wow-What Flutter?

solenoids controlling the functions. Very useful too if your legs have dropped off, or are just too idle to get up to push the buttons. The cable is more than long enough—unless you happen to

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

Input sensitivity (line)

input scrisitivity (inic)	30 III V	
Wow and Flutter (DIN)	$\pm 0.08\%$	
Frequency response:-		
TDK SA tape	30 - 16 kHz ±2 dB	
SONY AHF tape	33 - 15 kHz ±3 dB	
SONY METAL tape	40 - 15 kHz ±4 dB	see text
TDK METAL tape	26 - 18 kHz ±2 dB	see text
MAXELL UDXL 1 tape	30 - 16 kHz ±3 dB	
MAXELL XDXL 2 tape	30 - 16 kHz ±2 dB	
Spooling time (C60)	1 min. 4 sec.	
Distortion (333 Hz):-		
METAL tape at Dolby level	0.9%	
SONY AHF at Dolby level	1.6%	
Dynamic Range (TDK METAL)	+67 dB	
S/N ratio, Dolby on, TDK METAL	L, (10 kHz) -64 dB	

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 really 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 I'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 7½ 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 Rolls-Royce 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 Hi-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.

# **NEWS: Audiophile**

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. Norwich

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

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



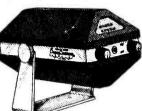
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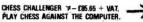
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The entire test set is built up on a single PCB and can be powered from all servo supplies in the 3 to 12 volts range. As you can see from the photos, we've not bothered to box the unit, since its probable utilisation rate does not justify the additional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

put 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.



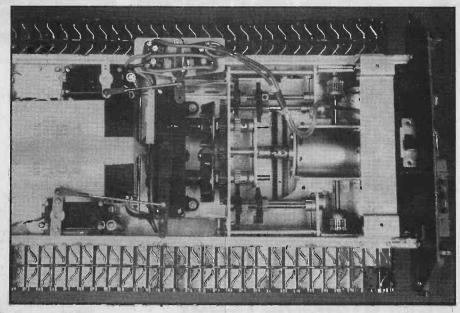
A model aircraft such as this can be not only expensive but fatal to lose! You're gonna need both our Fail-Safe (last issue) and this tester to make sure nothing goes wrong at the wrong time!

# HOW IT WORKS.

tional radio control system a variable width it ms to 2 ms) butter a passed to each servo via the transmitter - receiver - decoder line, roughly once every 20 ms (the frame time). The pulse width of each channel is notible at the transmitter (via a joy-stok, as; and determines the position of the servo may, for example, but full left, at 1.5 ms 'neutral' and at 2 ms full right.

Gut serve test set works by internally generation a conventional positive control pulse at a postoal frame rate and feeding the solve directly to the serve input. The unit is become from the serve's own battery supply via the O1-C1 decoupler network. Of the operation is quite simple. IC1 is ited as a free running assable multivibrater and acts as the "frame" generator. The trame length is variable from 13 mS to 26 mS via RV1 and is used to trigger pulse-generating monostable IC2 via C3. The output pulses of IC2 are fed to the serve input via amplitude control RV2. The output pulses widths are variable over the hominal range 1 mS to 2 mS via RV3 but can be frimmed over a limited range in RV4.

ICI and IC2 are CMOS versions of the 133 umer and give stable operation at supply potentials down to about 3 volts.



Above: the Servo layout on the ETI Leopard Tank used for our R/C project last year. Servo failure here could result in total destruction of a very expensive model — and whoever happened to be in the way when those metal tracks cease to obey commands!

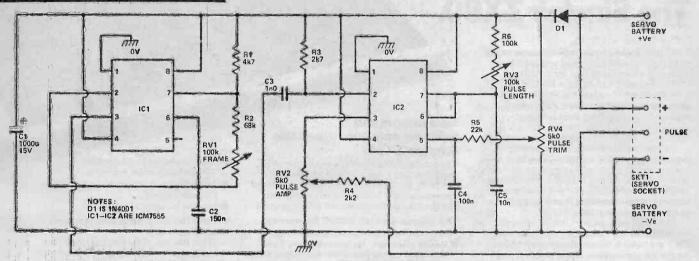


Fig.1. Full circuit diagram for the Servo Tester.

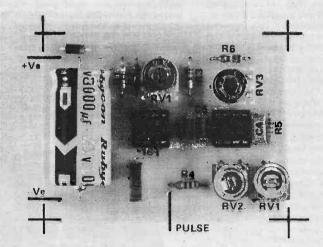


Fig.2. (left) the component overlay for the unit.

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R1	4k7
R2	68k
R3	2k7
R4	2k2
R5	22k
R6	100k
POTENTION	METERS
RV1.3	100k min horlz preset
RV2,4	4k7 or 5k0 min horiz preset
CAPACITO C1 C2 C3 C4 C5	RS 1000u 25V electrolytic 150n polycarbonate 1n0 polycarbonate 100n polycarbonate 10n polycarbonate
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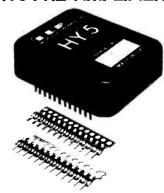
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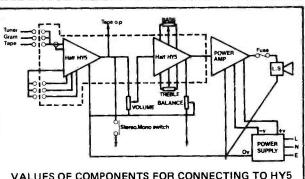
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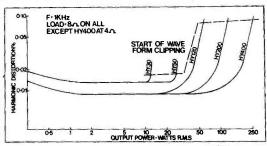
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### THE POWER AMPLIFIERS





Model	Output Power R.M.S.	Dis- tortion Typical at 1KHz	Minimum Signal/ Noise Ratio	Power Supply Voltage	Size in mm	Weight in gms	Price + V.A.T.	
HY30 15 W 0.02% 80dB		-20 -0- +20	105×50×25	155	<b>£6.34</b> + 95p			
HY50	30 W into 8 Ω	0.02%	90dB	-25 -0 +25	105×50×25	155	<b>£7.24</b> + £1.09	
HY120	60 W into 8 Ω	0.01%	100dB	-35 -0- +35	114×50×85	575	£15.20 + £2.28	
HY200	120 W into 8 Ω	20 W 0.01% 100dB		-45 -0- +45	114×50×85	575	£18.44 + £2.77	
HY400			-45 -0- +45	114×100×85	<b>1</b> ,15Kg	£27.68 + £4.15		

Load impedance — all models 4 - 16 \(\Omega\).
Input sensitivity — all models 500 mV
Input impedance — all models 100K \(\Omega\).
Frequency response — all models 10Hz - 45KHz - 3dB

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**PSU 50** 

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PSU 70 with toroidal transformer for 1 or 2 HY120's £13.61 + £2.04 VAT

PSU 90 with toroidal transformer for 1 HY200 £13.61 + £2.04 VAT

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# SURVEY

have,no doubt.heard

of the much-quoted phrase,

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 intended 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.

4. 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 I 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.

6. 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 solder 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 Acorn Computers Ltd, 4A Market Hill, Cambridge. Kit

Acorn Microcomputer

£70.20

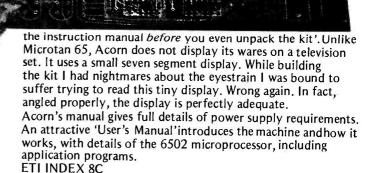
Price Complexity Instruction Manual Circuit Diagram Finish Fault-Finding Guide Contents

his was the first microcomputer kit that I tackled and I This was the first inferocomputer for the class. First of all, 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 a 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 Altek, 1 Green Lane, Walton-On-Thames, Surrey Kit Shadow VLF/TR discriminating metal locator Price Complexity Circuit Diagram Contents Instruction Manual Fault-Finding Guide

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.

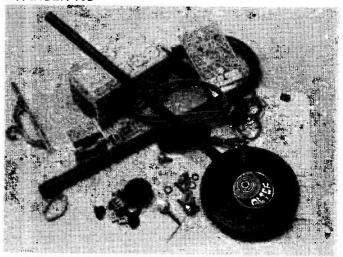
The kit includes all the necessary hardware - a case for the electronics, handle, adjustable shaft and search head. I've had a number of phone calls and letters from DIYers who want to make their own search head to save some money. Altek are reluctant to release full details of the coil assembly, understandably. 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

that the PCB mounting bosses are closer together at one end of the case than the other, so the case has a front and a back.

Before you rush out and dig up your back garden, remember that use of a metal locator requires a licence. Altek's kit includes an application form. You can buy the shadow VLF/TR Quad Mode Discriminator (to give it its full title) manual from Altek for £1. If you're starting out in metal locating and find the VLF/TR kit a little on the pricey side or you'd like to cut your teeth on something a little less complex. there are metal locators in Altek's range to suit just about everyone's needs and pocket.

ETI INDEX 10B





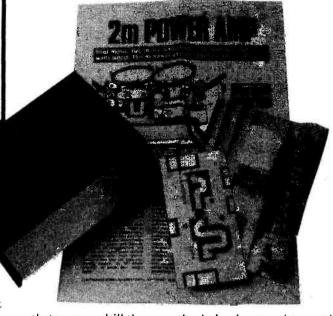
# **CATRONICS**

Company
Catronics Ltd, Communications
House, 20 Wallington Square,
Wallington, Surrey SM6 8 RG.
Kit 40 W 2 m Power Amplifier
Price £22

Complexity B
Circuit Diagram 1
Contents 3
Instruction Manual 2

Finish
Fault-Finding Guide

When 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 (Dec 1979). ETI INDEX 7B

## CHROMASONIC ELECTRONICS

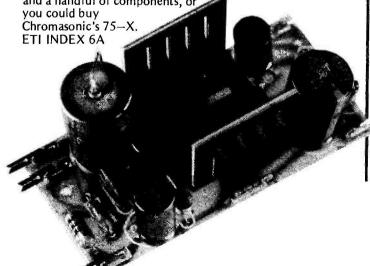
Company
Chromasonic Electronics, 56 Fortis Green
Road, Muswell Hill, London N10 3 HN.

Kit
75—X 10 Watt Audio Amplifier
Price
£3.95 + VAT
Complexity
A Instruction Manual 2
Circuit Diagram
1 Finish
Contents
3 Fault-Finding Guide
0

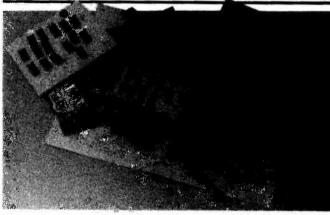
Chromasonic sent me a sample of their 75—X 10 watt audio amplifier. They also have a 7 watt version — the 75—B—based on the TBA10AS IC. The heart of the 75—X is a TCA940. The first step of construction is to snip off three unwanted pins of the IC. Take a few seconds to identify the right pins. You'll 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



## CLEF PRODUCTS



Company

Clef Products (Electronics) Ltd, 16 Mayfield Road, Bramhall, Cheshire SK7 1JU. Electronic Rotor CPK 1200.

Price Complexity Circuit Diagram Contents £89.00 C Instruction Manual 2' 1 Finish 3 3 Fault-Finding Guide 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" x 5" PCB contains the full rotor — chorus



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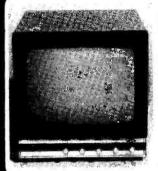
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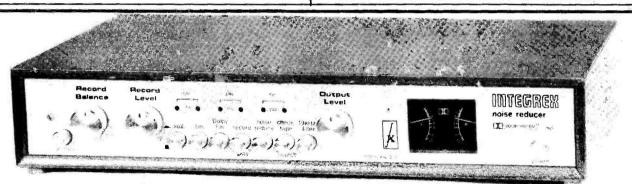
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system, using some twenty ICs. Sockets are provided for all of them — that's what I like to see. (Have you ever tried desoldering a duff chip?). The second (21/4" x 2") board carries components for the low impedance stereo headphone driver circuit. 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) Instruction Manual Finish

Fault-Finding Guide

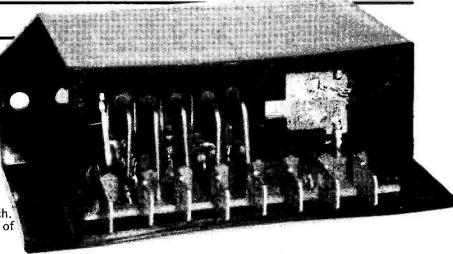
This design from Compu-Tech was published in ETI last month. It's an add-on unit for the ETI car alarm (also designed by Compu-Tech) published in December 1978. The original unit protected both the car itself (by monitoring all doors and disabling the ignition when set) and the car's accessories. There 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 Compu-Tech 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

Company

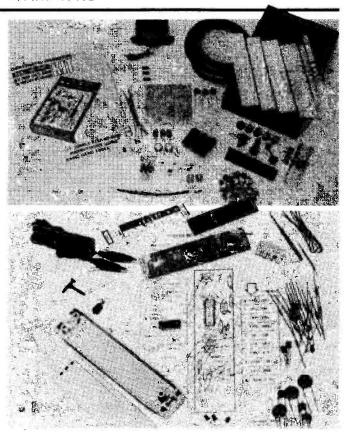
Kit Price Complexity Circuit Diagram Contents Instruction Manual Continental Specialties Corporation, Shire Hill Industrial Estate, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 3AQ. Logic Probe Kit LPK-1 £11.92 + VAT

Finish Fault-Finding Guide

SC, 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 Proto-Board on top and a 5 V at 1 A and separate internally adjustable 7-18 V at 0A5 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
Digisound Ltd, 13 The Brooklands, Wrea Green, Preston, Lancashire PR4 2NQ.

Kit 24 dB per octave low pass VCF
Price £18.08
Complexity
Circuit Diagram 1 Finish 3
Contents 3 Fault-Finding Guide 0

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 dB/octave low pass voltage controlled filter with voltage control of resonance. Coarse and fine pot controls give a range of ±5 octaves and ±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 DESIGN ASSOCIATES

Company

Electronic Design Associates, 82 Bath Street, Walsall WS1 3DE.

Kit Sparkrite X5 inductive discharge Electronic Ignition

Price £16.95

Complexity A Instruction Manual 3

Circuit Diagram 1 Finish 3

Contents 3 Fault-Finding Guide 1

This 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**

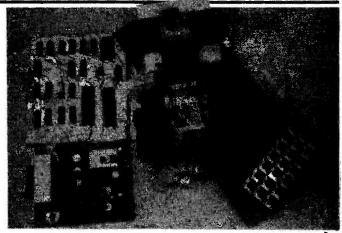
Company

GP Industrial Electronics, Skardon Works,
Skardon Place, North Hill, Plymouth
PL4 8HA.

Kit Softy EPROM Programmer
Price £115 + PSU (£23)

Complexity C
Circuit Diagram 1
Contents 3
Instruction Manual Finish 3
Fault-Finding Guide 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 reports that the PCB is double-sided but not plated through, so you have to make some two hundred connections before you can put the first



# KIT FINDER

						_	_											
	Acorn Computers	Altek Instruments	Ambit International	Aura Sounds	Cambridge Kits	Catronics	Chromasonic	Chromatronics	Clef Products	Comp Comp Comp	Compu-Tech Systems	၁ၭ၁	Crofton Electronics	Digisound	Electronic Design Associates	Electro-Tech Components	GJD Electronics	
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AMPLIFIERS																		
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DOLBY																		
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ELECTRONIC IGNITION									1									
GAMES			6															
LIGHT SHOW																		zerone.
METAL LOCATORS																		5.411
RADIO CONTROL				8						11 14 16 11								
SYNTHESISERS																		
TELETEXT																		
TEST GEAR																		
TIMERS																		
TUNERS																		
TV CAMERA				SANCERS				S										

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.

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	GMT Electronics	GP Industrial Electronics	Heathkit	Henry's Radio	Integrex	Interface Components	Intracept Electronics	Jayen Developments	Jeremy Lord Synthesisers	LSM Products	Maplin Electronics	Menorcrest	Nascom	New Bear Computing	NIC	Powertran Electronics	Science Of Cambridge	Suretron Systems	Tandy	Tangerine Computers	Technalogics	Technomatic	TK Electronics	Transam	Watford Electronics	William Stuart Systems
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Interface Components Ltd., Oakfield Corner, Sycamore Road, Amersham, Bucks. HP6 6SU

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

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.

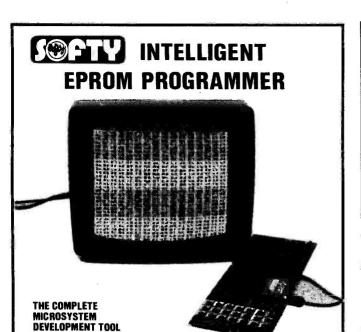
Newbear Components, 40 Bartholomew Street, Newbury, Berks.

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



SOFTY is a small computer which is designed to be a complete and useful tool in its own right. SOFTY may be used in three main ways: As a 2k block of intelligent memory forming part of the memory map of a system under development. As an intelligent EPROM programmer for 2708S/2716S. As a control computer in its own right.

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Pre-aligned search heads - test equipment not required. Literature available in return for SAE. Manuals and parts sold separately: write or phone for price. Export welcome: write for



exclusion over normal or multiple meability soil.

The head is thermally and cepecitively shielded.

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w TR/15 (illustrated). A true transmit receive / induction belance detector at a budget price for budget it need discrimination. Waterproof and thermally insulated search head. Good vity, Built-in speaker and heades jack. Complete kit £25 + VAT (post & Pkg. £1.8e.

ow TV/VCO. An advanced version of the TR/IB. Use as a sensitive 1B machine or switch to VCO when the sound changes to a varying pitch, allowing easier use over mineralised ground and ng detection of negative, high permeability anomalies. Kit price £29 + VAT (post £1.80.

Matching stereo headphones for all Shadow models £4.90 + VAT (post paid).

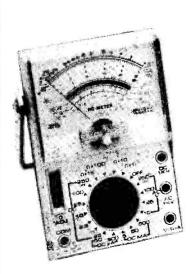
Beginners BFO model. A very detailed assembly manual and pre-wound coils make this an ideal first project. Simple high efficiency circuit. Full size (not a toy) but weighs only 300gms (10.5ozs) with batteryl FREE STETHOSCOPE HEADSET with every order. ALT3 kit: £12 + VAT (post £1.80). Padded high Z headphones £4.50 + VAT (post paid).

Shell Kit. Consists of the (hard to find) hardware items, for detectors of your own design. Fully adjustable shaft with handle, search head mouldings (int. diam. 185mm) with hinge assembly, special clips to mount your own control housing (any box its suitable). Completely non-metallic and undrilled. With assembly instructions £6.25 + VAT (post £1.50).

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

Order by post or phone (24 hours). Access & Visa Cards quote number. Callers by appointment only please. Phone (083 22) 44110 anytime!

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Sensitivity **Decibels OC Current** 

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0.60 k.0hms 0.600 k.0hms 0-6 M.Ohms Single 1.5V cell 135 x 91 x 39mm 280 gms.

Mirrored scale Overload protection Carrying handle doubles as bench stand

Two ranges: 0-10 k.0hms 0-1 M.Ohms

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Single 1.5V cell 90 x 60 x 29mm 92 gms.

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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.

**MAGNUM AUDIO LTD.** 

Dept. ETI 5, Hazelbury Crescent Luton LU1 1DF. Tel: (0582) 28887 Send large S.A.E. for details

# **BIO ACTIVITY TRANSLATOR**



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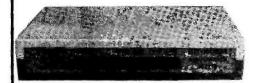
A Biological Amplifier and Sound Synthesiser in one Instrument.

Ready Assembled £35.25; Kit £27.35 All prices include P & P and VAT Please allow 21 days for delivery

### JEREMY LORD SYNTHESISERS LTD.

(Dept EM)
3 Charterhouse, Eltringham Street, London, SW18 1TD

# TRULY PORTABLE COLOUR **BAR GENERATOR**



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Kit comes complete with PROFESSIONALLY FINISHED Case and

Tinned, Printed and Drilled P.C.B. Size only 8" x 51/2" x 11/2"

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### NASCOM 1 & 2 COLOUR GRAPHICS BOARD

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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 inclusive Available from:

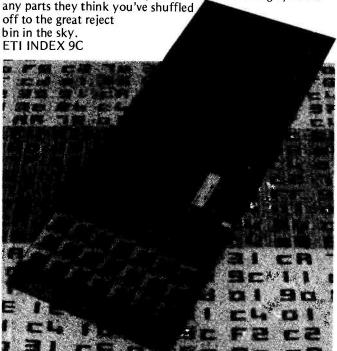
INTRACEPT ELECTRONICS LTD.

**DEPT. ETI, 203 PICTON ROAD** WAVERTREE, LIVERPOOL 15 TEL: 051-733 3042



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





# **HEATHKIT**

Company	Heatl	nkit, Bristol Road, Gloucest	er GL2 6EE
Kit		tz Clock Timer GC-1415	
Price	£43.6	53	
Complexity	В	Instruction Manual	3
Circuit Diagram	1	Finish	3
Contents	3	Fault-Finding Guide	ī

eathkit'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

Fault-Finding Guide

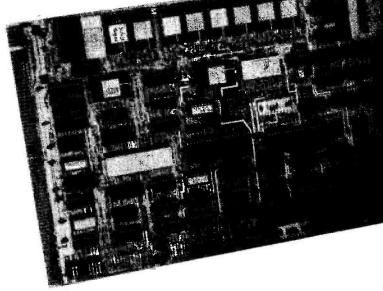
Company Henry's Radio, Computer Kit Division, 404 Edgware Road, London W2.

Kit Nascom 2
Price £295 + VAT

Complexity C
Circuit Diagram 1
Contents 2
Instruction Manual 3
Finish 3

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 endurance 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**

Kit

Integrex Ltd, Portwood Industrial Estate, Company Church Gresley, Burton On Trent,

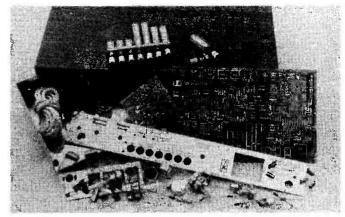
Staffordshire DE11 9PT. **Dolby Noise Reducer** 

£50.48

Price Complexity Instruction Manual 2 Circuit Diagram Finish Fault-Finding Guide Contents

f 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.



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.

# INTRACEPT ELECTRONICS

Intracept Electronics Ltd, 203 Picton Road, Company Liverpool L15 4LG. Nascom colour graphics board Kit Price £22.50 Complexity Instruction Manual

Circuit Diagram Finish Contents Fault-Finding Guide

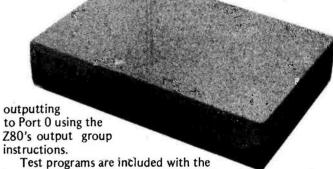
f you already have a Nascom 1 or 2, this kit enables you to produce colour graphics under software control. The background can be set to one of eight colours (including black and white) by altering the contents of address 0C00 or by

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 4118s, but with a free 16K dynamic RAM board. When 4118s are again available, Nascom 2 buyers will be able to get hold of them at the special price of £80 + VAT for the 8K.

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

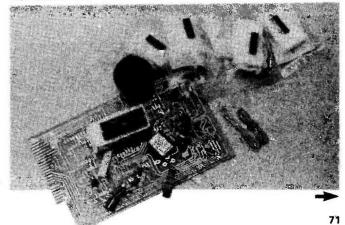


instructions to ensure that the board is functioning properly (Nasbug and Nas-Sys versions are supplied). The colour graphics modulator may be used with Nascom 1 or 2 and the appropriate alterations to Nascom's main board in order to use the colour graphics option are given, together with a testing procedure.

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** 

ETI INDEX 10C



AYEN DEVELOPMENTS

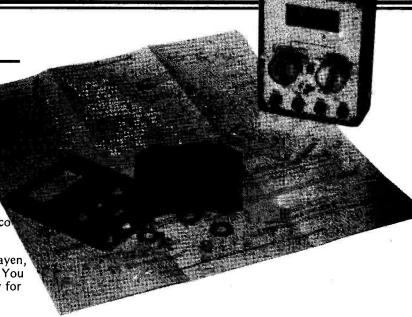
Company Jayen Developments, 21 Gladeside, Bar Hill, Cambridge CB3 8DY

Jaykit DM-2DigitalMultimeter Kit Price

Complexity В

Instruction Manual Circuit Diagram Finish Contents 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** 



# EREMY LORD SYNTHESISERS

Company Jeremy Lord Synthesisers Ltd, 3 Charterhouse, Eltringham Street, London SW18 1TD. Kit Bioactivity Translator

Price £27.35 Complexity Circuit Diagram Contents Instruction Manual **Finish** 

rhythm and volume.

Fault-Finding Guide 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,

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** 





### NIC

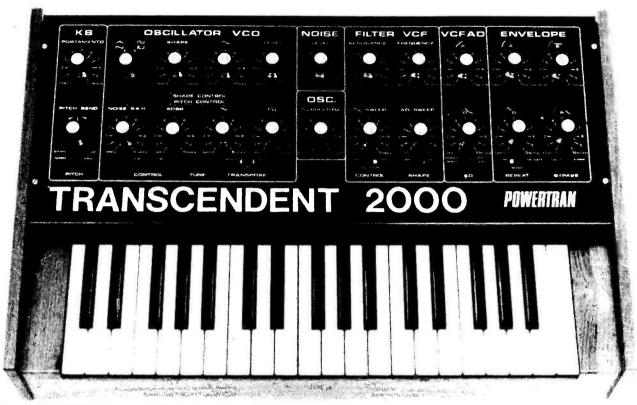
Company NIC, 61 Broad Lane, London N15. Kit Pinball Wizard Price £39.30 Complexity Circuit Diagram Contents

Instruction Manual

Fault-Finding Guide

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

Kit Price Complexity Circuit Diagram Contents Powertran Electronics, Portway Industrial Estate, Andover, Hants SP10 3NM. Transcendent 2000 £168.50 + VAT

C Instruction Manual 3 1 Finish 3 3 Fault-Finding Guide 0

Powertran 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 Suretron Systems (UK) Ltd, Piccadilly Place,
London Road, Bath BA1 6PW.

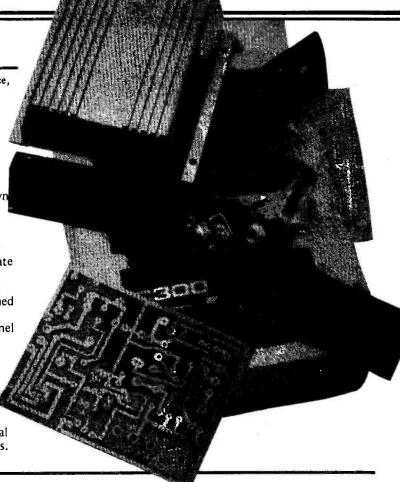
Kit Surefire C3000 Electronic Ignition
Price £17.95

Complexity
Circuit Diagram
1
Contents
Instruction Manual
Finish
Fault-Finding Guide

Construction 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.

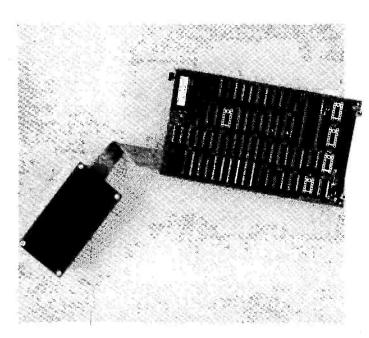
Fitting your new space-age electronic ignition system involves drilling a few holes in your precious auto-not-so-mobile. If you follow all the instructions, but the little box still suffers rejection problems from your motor, a flick of a switch returns the engine to conventional ignition operation until 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 5
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

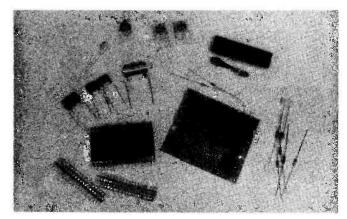
TK Electronics, 106 Studley Grange Road, London W7 2LX. Company

DVM/Thermometer

Kit Price £20.75 + VAT

Complexity Instruction Manual Circuit Diagram Finish Contents Fault-Finding Guide

'his 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

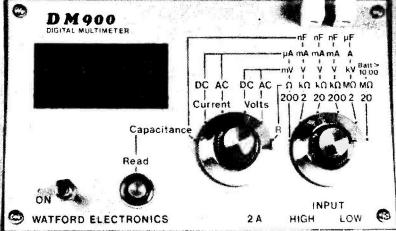
Company Watford Electronics, 33-35 Cardiff Road, Watford, Herts. Kit DM 900 Digital Multimeter Price £60 + VAT

Complexity Instruction Manual 23 Circuit Diagram Finish Contents Fault-Finding Guide

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



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

## WILLIAM STUART SYSTEMS

Company William Stuart Systems, 137 Billericay Road, Herongate, Brentwood, Essex. Kit Videograph £26.95 + cabinet and controls £12.95 Price Complexity Instruction Manual

f 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.

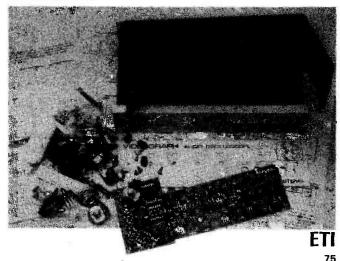
Fault-Finding Guide

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

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** 



Circuit Diagram Contents

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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 conventional VU or PPM meter; no LED display 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.

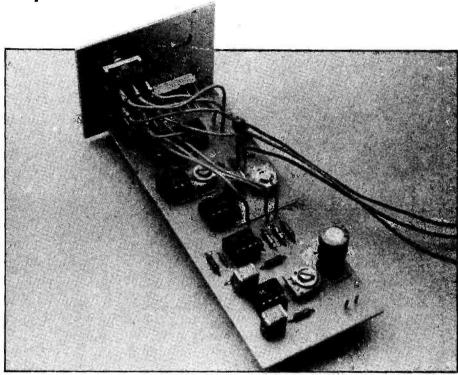
#### 5 Into 1 = 10

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 741s 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 response 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.

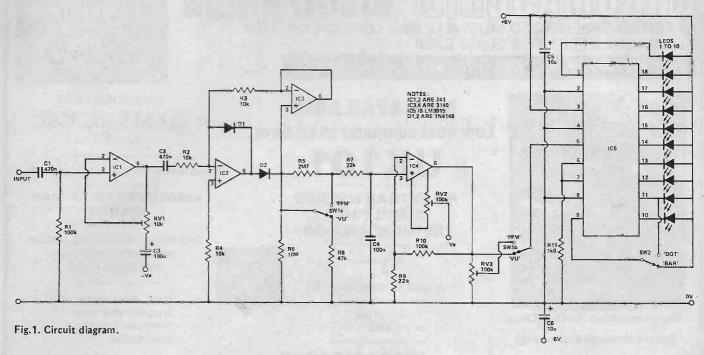
When completed, the unit may be set up by short-circuiting the input and, with a DC-coupled 'scope or sensitive voltmeter connected to the output (pin 6) of IC4, adjusting RV2 until the output reaches 0 V. Then apply the maximum signal you wish to indicate and with the unit set to VU adjust RV1 for a 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**

The 3915 is available from Technomatic Seackable rectangular LEDs are available from Watford Electronics. The other companions should be readily obtainable.

## PARTS LIST

K-E-CO'		***
2.74	tot	3
86		
20		
<b>R11</b>		
POTENTIO	METERS	(5) - 3 (- 3)
CONTROL PROBLEMS OF STREET	100k min norte. 100k min norte.	
CAPACITO	85	
C1,2	470n polycasko 190u electrolyti	
C4 C5.6	100a polyemba 10a mendani	•
	Fig. 1	28
SEMICOND ICLA	781	
IC3.4 IC5	S140 LM3915	
D1,2 LEDs	1N4148 any LED	
	<b>计划出版</b>	
MISCELLA PCB, DPD1	NEOUS switch, SPDT s	vitch, compo
tors, etc.	and the second	



#### **HOW IT WORKS**

The circuit consists of an AC amplifier 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.

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 IC1, 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 usefulness 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 (100n) 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 SWIa in the IPPM' position, C4 would charge quickly via R7 but would discharge almost as fast

through R7 and R3. In the final 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 R5, 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 non-inverting amplifier with a gain of about five. Offset adjustment is provided for this stage with RV2; enabling the output to be accurately 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 level in both modes.

The bargraph chip IC5 handles the display. The input signal from SW1b is applied to pin 5, about 1V2 gives a full scale reading. The internal resistor chain gives an output in 3 dB steps; the ten LEDsopro-

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, plug-in 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 recommended. A lower voltage may of restrict the output swing of IC4 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 positive supply greater than 6 V then the LEDs should be returned to the positive supply via a dropper resistor or a zener diode. IC5 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.

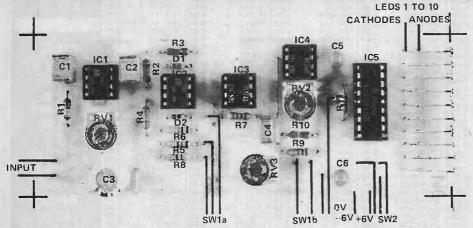
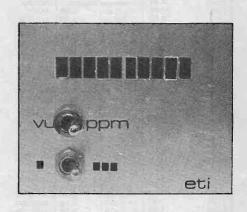


Fig.2. Component overlay. The rectangular LEDs are all mounted along the right edge of the board.



Use of stackable LEDs makes for an attractive panel layout.

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4050 (350ns)	2.35	8224	2.77	CA3080	0.67	LM3065N	1.50	SN76660N	0.75	74LS03	0.19	74LS13	6 0.36	74LS293	0.9
4060 (300ns)	2.39	8228	4.13	CA3080E	0.67	LM3900N	0.50	SN76666N	0.75	74LS04	0.20	74LS13	8 0.65	74LS295	1.30
4116	5.76	8251	5.00	CA3081	1.30	LM3905N	1.00	TAA263	2.20	74LS05	0.22	74LS13		74LS298	1.10
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4035 (1000ns)				CA3140E	0.36	MC1315P	5.50	TBA560Q	3.75	74LS15	0.18	74LS15			0.47
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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.

he 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 P-MOS 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

NO.	CODE	SERIAL CODE FED CBA	FUNCTION	RECEIVER OUTPUT ACTION
0	la	000 000	NORMAL POSITION/ON.	Volume sets to 1/3, Analogue 1 and 2 set to
1	Гb	001	QUICKTONE	1/2. RLA on. Volume reduces rapidly to zero.
2	Te	010	STANDBY	Turns RLA off.
3	1 d.	011	RESERVE 1	Switches RSV1 output between high and low states on alternate operations.
4	2a	100	PROGRAM STEP +/ON	Increments binary channel-select output by one step per operation: Turns RLA on,
5	2b	101	PROGRAM STEP -/QN	Decrements binary channel-select output by one step per operation: turns RLA on.
6	2c	110	ON	Turns RLA on.
7	2d	าน	RESERVE 2 /40N	Switches RSV2 output between high and low states on alternate operations:
	á			Turns RLA on.
8	3a	001 000	pl pl	
9	3b	001	N N	
10	Эс	010		Not evaluated by SAB3209 receiver, but
11	3d	017		read out at serial interface.
12	4a	100		(
13	4b	101		
14	4c	110	1	
15	4d	111	514441151 4 4 504	2
16	5a	010 000	CHANNEL 1/ON	Sets binary output to 0000: Turns RLA on.
17	5b	001	CHANNEL 2/ON	Sets binary output to 0001: Turns RLA on,
18 19	- Sc -Sd	010	CHANNEL 3/ON	Sets binary output to 0010: Turns RLA on.
		011	CHANNEL 4/ON	Sets binary output to 0011: Turns RLA on.
20 21	6a 6b	100	CHANNEL 5/ON	Sets binary output to 0100: Turns RLA on.
22			CHANNEL 6/ON	Sets binary output to 0101: Turns RLA on,
23	6c 6d	110	CHANNEL 7/ON	Sets binary output to 0110: Turns RLA on.
23		111	CHANNEL 8/ON	Sets binary output to 0111: Turns RLA on.
24 25	7.a 76	011 000	CHANNEL 9/ON	Sets binary output to 1000: Turns RLA on.
		001	CHANNEL 10 / ON	Sets binary output to 1001: Turns RLA on.
26	7c	010	CHANNEL 11 / ON	Sets binary output to 1010: Turns RLA on.
27	7d	011	CHANNEL 12 / ON	Sets binary output to 1011: Turns RLA on.
28	8a	100	CHANNEL 13 / ON	Sets binary output to 1100: Turns RLA on.
29	86	101	CHANNEL 14 / ON	Sets binary output to 1101: Turns RLA on,
30	8c	110	CHANNEL 15 / ON	Sets binary output to 1110: Turns RLA on,
31	8d	111	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 (2d, 8a, 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

NO.	CODE	SERIAL CODE FED CBA	FUNCTION	RECEIVER OUTPUT ACTION
32	81a	100 000		1
33	81b	001		
34	81c	010	43	
35	81d	011	7	Not evaluated by SAB3209 receiver, but
36	82a	100	-	read at serial interface.
37	82b	101		
38	82c	110	i	
39	82d	111		1
40	83a	101 000	VOLUME +	increases volume output level.
41	83b	001	VOLUME	Decreases volume output level.
42	83c	010	ANALOGUE 1 +	Increases analogue 1 output level.
43	83d	011	ANALOGUE 1	Decreases analogue 1 output level.
44	84a	100	ANALOGUE 2 +	Increases analogue 2 output level.
45	84b	101	ANALOGUE 2	Decreases analogue 2 output level.
46	84c	110	ANALOGUE 3 +	Not evaluated by SAB3209 receiver,
47	84d	111	ANALOGUE 3	but available on SAB4209 receiver.
48	85a	110 000		3
49	85b	001		
50	85c	010		1
51	85d	011		1
52	86a	100		
53	86b	101	<u>_</u>	Not evaluated by SAB3209 receiver, but
54	86c	110	-	read out at serial interface.
55	86d	111	-	
56	87a	111 000	in.	1 1
57	87b	001	÷k	
58	87c	010	-	
59	87d	011	*	i
60	**	100	98.	Not used.
61		101		Not used.
62	5.00	110	_	END instruction.
63	P =	111	1948	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.

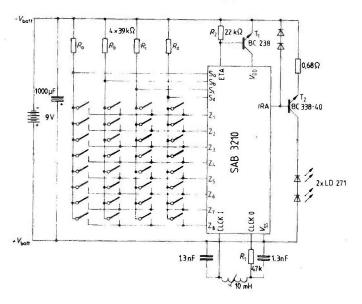


Fig.1. Manufacturer's application circuit, showing method of connecting keys for the 32 basic codes.

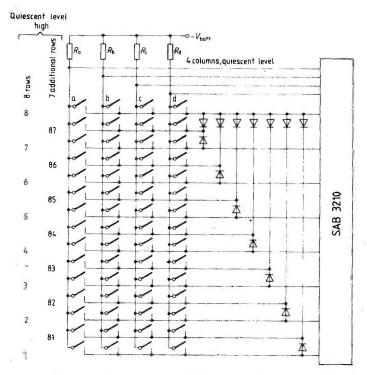


Fig.2. Manufacturer's diagram showing connections for a 60-key matrix using both basic and extension instructions.

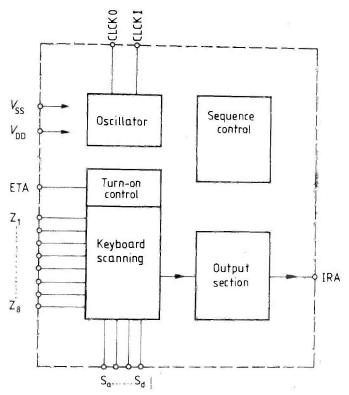
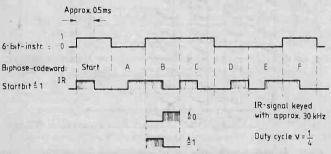


Fig.3. Block diagram (left) and pin notations (right) of the SAB3210 transmitter IC.

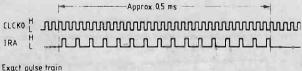
Fig. 3 shows the pin connections and the simplified block diagram of the SAB 3210 IC, which incorporates (amongst other things) a keyboard scanner circuit. When we were developing our

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 100 110.



Instruction 111 111 with startbit 1 may not be programmed in order to avoid mixup with the already programmed instruction 000 000 with startbit 0



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.

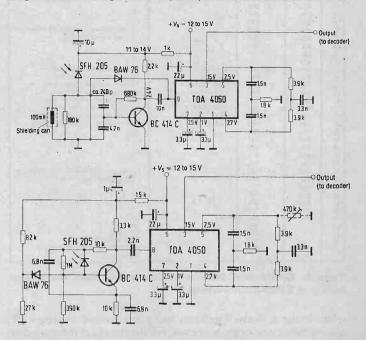


Fig.5. Two Siemens applications circuits showing methods of using the TDA4050 IR preamplifier IC.

Fig. 6 shows the pin designations of the SAB 3209 receiver IC, which provides three analogue, one 4-bit binary and three single-bit 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	V <sub>ss</sub> , 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	V <sub>DD</sub> , supply voltage 0 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 multi-segment LED display.

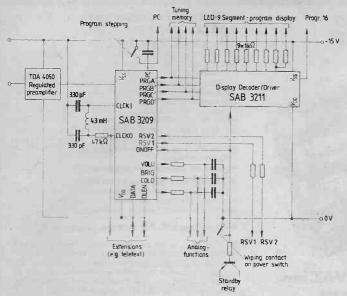


Fig. 7. Siemens SAB3209 receiver application circuit, which also shows the use of the 'special' SAB3211 chip.

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.

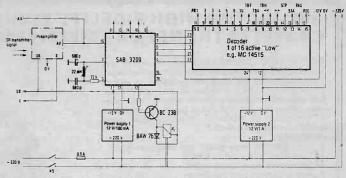


Fig.8. Siemens circuit showing the method of decoding the 4-bit binary output to give 16 output channels.

## **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.



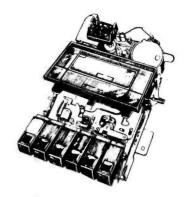
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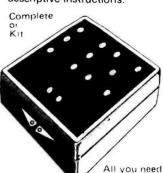
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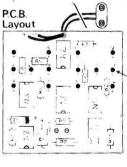


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	tion. All values from	100R to 1M.	33
	vertical or horizontal mr	to. All at .D42	33
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7k, 220k.	,,	220/10 A	.045
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.1W miniature type,	ODER CORSTILL	220/70 A	.075
on. All values from	1008 to 1M	330/50 A	.075
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70RV, 470RH, 500R	H 1kH 1kKD	470/16 K	.080
kV, 2k2H, 2k5H, 4k7	H. IRH, IROM,	470/40 R	.120
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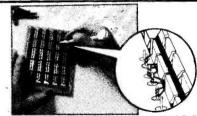
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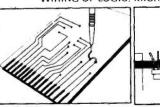
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# THE BLACK HOLE

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.

he 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

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 4V5 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.



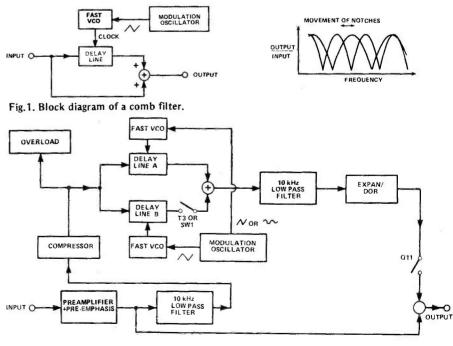


Fig. 2. Block diagram of the Black Hole choraliser system.

	LOW	HIGH	
MAXIMUM INPUT LEVEL	1.25Vpp	13Vpp	
MAXIMUM INPUT LEVEL SENSITIVITY	15mVpp	150mVpp	
INPUT IMPEDANCE	10k	110k	
SIGNAL TO NOISE RATIO	68dB	74dB	

MAXIMUM OUTPUT LEVEL	1Vpp
OUTPUT IMPEDANCE	600ohms
VIBRATO SPEED	2 – 13 Hz
CHORUS SPEED	0.3 - 3.3 Hz

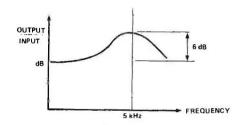
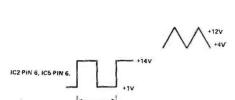


Fig.3. (top) Performance specification.

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

- REMOVE ALL ICS TEST FOR 150V AT IC9,10. THE UNREGULATED RAILS WILL BE APPROXIMATELY ±22V REPLACE ALL IGS AND RECHECK PSU.
- IC11 PIN 1,7 AND IC12 PIN 1,7, WILL HAVE THE AUDIO INPUT SIGNAL WITHOUT ANY DC BIAS.
- COMPRESSOR OUTPUT, IC13 PIN 10, HAS A DC BIAS OF APPROX. +7V PLUS THE AUDIO INPUT SIGNAL.
- FAST VCO. IC1 PIN 6 AND IC4 PIN 6



<sup>2</sup> VARIES FROM ABOUT 22uS TO 28uS, IT BEING SWEPT BY THE MODULATION DSCILLATOR IC7.

DELAY LINE OUTPUT

VIEW PR1 WIPER

INJECT A 1 kHz SINEWAVE. VARY ITS AMPLITUDE SO THAT IT IS ZVDP AT THE VIEWING POINT. ADJUST PRESO THAT THE WAVEFORM IS SYMMETRICALLY BIASED BETWEEN THE TWO CLIPPING LEVELS. NEXT ADJUST PRESO THAT THE CLOCK SIGNAL IS NULLED. REPEAT FOR DELAY LINE B, USING PR3.4, VIEWING PR3 WIPER.

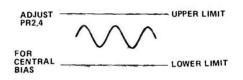
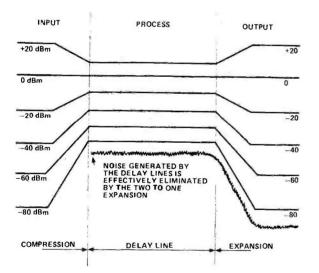
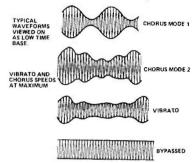


Fig. 5. (above and above left) Alignment notes.





- \* POST FILTER, IC15 PIN 7, RECOVERED AUDIO SIGNAL WITH NO DC BIAS.
- EXPANDER, IC13 PIN 7. RECOVERED AUDIO SIGNAL WITH +5V DC BIAS.
- OUTPUT SIGNAL. IC15 PIN 1. INJECT A 500 Hz SINEWAVE INTO THE UNIT. A MODULATED OUTPUT SIGNAL WILL BE SEEN.



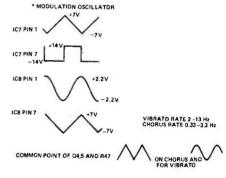
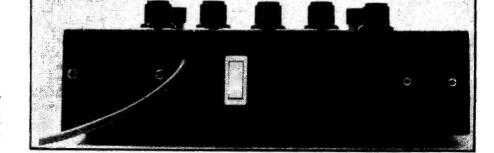


Fig.6. (left) Using a compander system to remove delay line noise.



You don't want to have to fumble 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.

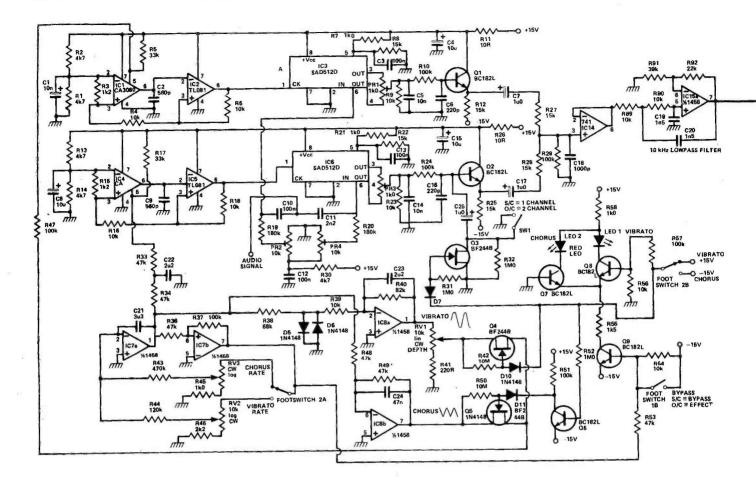
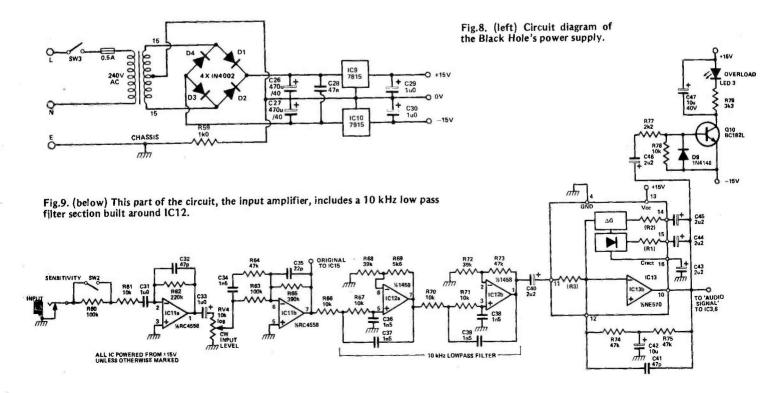
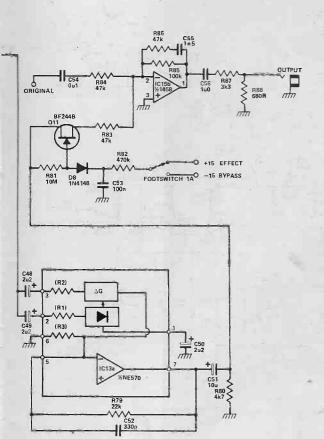
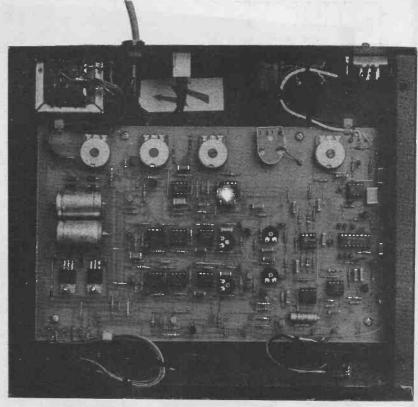


Fig.7. Circuit diagram. This circuit includes the footswitch controls for bypass, chorus, vibrato and chorus and vibrato rate.







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

## HOW IT WORKS

The input amplifier (Fig.9) is a low noise Op Amp device, the RC4558 (IC11, pins 1,2,3). With SW2 closed the input impedance is 10 k and the first stage gain is +26 d8. With SW2 open circuit, the input impedance is 110 k and the gain is +6 d8. IC11, pins 5,6,7 forms a pre-emphasis circuit that is used to enhance the higher frequencies of the input signal (Fig.4). A de-emphasis circuit (IC15, pins 1,2,3) cerrects the frequency response at the output and in doing so attenuates unwanted high frequency noise generated by the delay line and the compander. After pre-emphasis the signal is filtered by a 10 kHz 4 pole lowpass filter (K12) to eliminate aliasing effects that can be caused by the delay line, A campander, frompressor (expander) system has been employed to improve the overall noise performance (Fig.5). This ensures that the delay lines are always driven with a relatively large signal, the output noise from the delay lines is expanded downwards thus rendering it inaudible. A simple overload detector circuit (Q10) "is used to indicate the onset of distortion.

The delay lines are clocked by high frequency VCOs, ICI, 2 and IC4, 5. The VCO is a simple triangle/square wave relaxation oscillator running at about 45, kHz. The current into hin 5 of the CA3080 determines the oscillation frequency and this current is modulated by the slow oscillator

IC7. Audio signals are fed into the analogue delay lines (IC3,6), the delay time being determined by the relationship.

Belay time = 512/clock frequency, which in this case is about 12 m5. The outputs of the two delay lines are prefiltered by R19.C6-and R24,C16; then mixed together and filtered by a 10 kHz lowpass filter, IC15, pins 5.6,7. The signal is then expanded by the NE570 thip after which it is mixed with the original signal at IC15, pins 1,2,3, having first passed through a 'slent' analogue switch (Q11) which is ON when the effect is selected and OFF when bypassed. The modulation oscillator operates over two frequency ranges, one selected by the chorus speed control, the other by the vibrate speed control. IC7 is a low frequency triangle/squarewave relaxation oscillator. When the chorus mode has been selected the modulation waveform is a sinewave, being generated by IC8, pins 1,2,3. This signal is routed via switch Q4 to the high frequency VCO driving delay line A, whilst delay line B is disabled by Q3 which shunts the audio signal to ground. A simple LED control circuit Q7,8,9 Indicates whether the unit is bypassed or in either the chorus or vibrato mode as well as indicating the modulation speed.

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

#### **BUYLINES**.

A complete kit of parts for the Black Hole choraliser is available from Powertran Electronics. A single delay machine costs £57,30 and a dual delay machine £68.80 (prices include VAT and post). See Powertran's advert elsewhere in this issue for their full address.

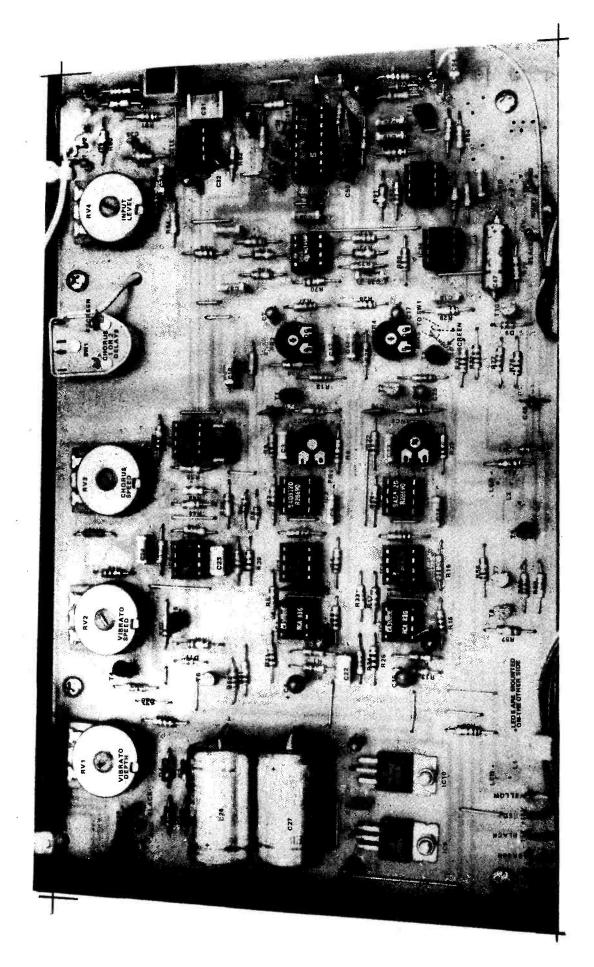
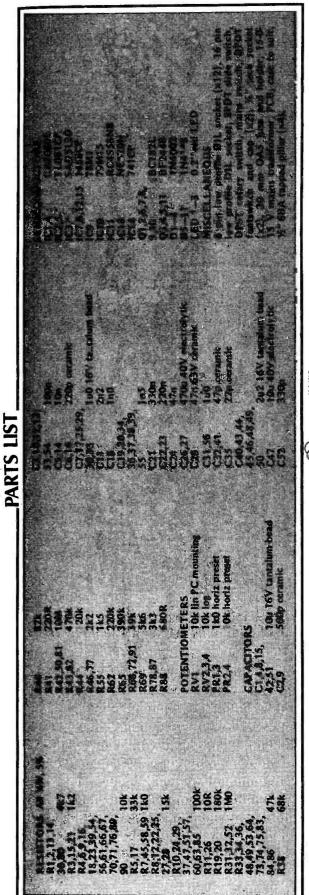
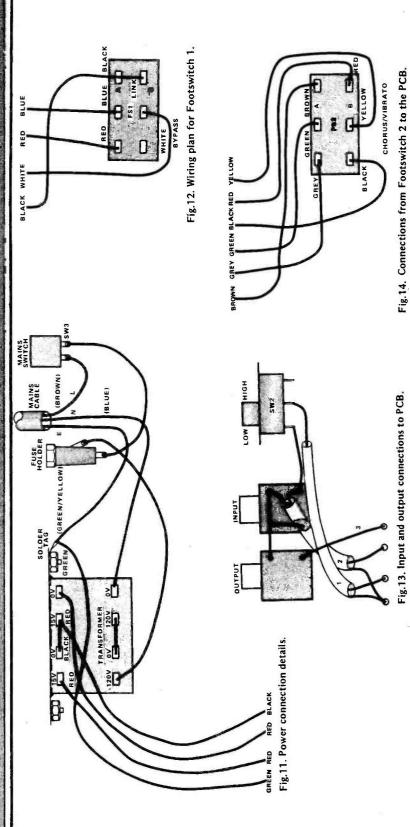
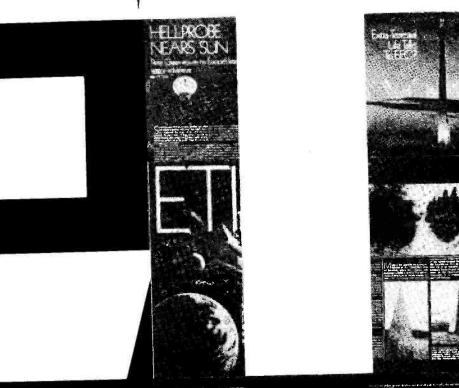


Fig.10. Component overlay. Double check the orientation of ICs, diodes and electrolytic capacitors.







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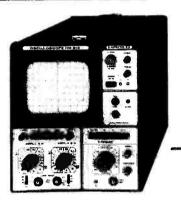
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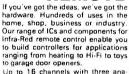
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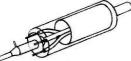
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# RAVEN ON

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

n 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.

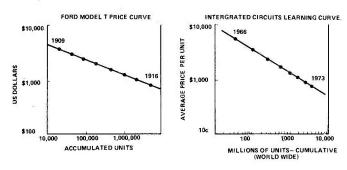


Fig.1. Similarities between price trends for the Model-T Ford and integrated circuits.

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-