up-to-date electronics for lab and leisure

Elektor 10

ACG
automatic call-sign generator

Digital watch
a single-chip with day and date

Morse decoder
converts morse into running script

Master oscillator (2)
two designs for use in organs

February 1976 40p
### Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Selector</td>
<td>206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automatic call-sign generator</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every radio amateur knows that his (or her) call sign must be transmitted at least once per ten minutes during a QSO. This requirement can easily be fulfilled by using an automatic call generator which transmits the call every ten minutes in morse.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morse decoder – R. ter Mijtelen</td>
<td>218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The equipment described in this article converts morse coded information into normal alphanumeric characters (letters and numerals), thus considerably simplifying the reception of morse messages</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coming soon / irritated? / announcement to our subscribers</td>
<td>224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech processor</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morse typewriter – R. ter Mijtelen</td>
<td>226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The use of morse is avoided like the plague by most radio amateurs. Once the R.A.E. has been passed the morse key is often relegated to the junk box. This is a pity as morse telegraphy has advantages over telephony, in terms of bandwidth and for long-distance working. To encourage those with an aversion to 'key-bashing' the morse typewriter was developed, which makes CW operation child's play.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The missing link</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital wrist watch</td>
<td>231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whereas a couple of years ago a digital watch was available only as a two chip design costing around £40 for the two ICs, it is now possible to obtain a single IC that will perform all timekeeping functions, and will display date as well as time, for around £10. Two watches are in fact described in this article. A low-cost, relatively easy to construct version, and a more miniature version for the advanced constructor.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driving lessons</td>
<td>238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A title that needs some further explanation. When logic circuits are driven from 50 Hz mains pulses, unsatisfactory behaviour can be expected since the exact pulse shape requirements for proper functioning of the gates cannot, usually, be met by pulses derived straight from the sinusoidal mains. This article discusses those requirements and establishes a few basic principles in connection with digital logic driving pulses.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital master oscillator (2)</td>
<td>241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Following last month's discussion of methods of producing the top octave of an electronic organ (or other keyboard instrument) using a single master oscillator, two practical designs for such an oscillator are presented this month.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simple fm test generator</td>
<td>254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market</td>
<td>255</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
According to the condition of authorization and the legal rules and regulations, a radio amateur must transmit his call letters at least three times at the beginning and end of each transmission. During the transmissions, the call letters must be included at least once per ten minutes in the text. The manner in which this should be done is not further specified. This offers the possibility of using an automatic call generator, since there is no objection to transmitting the call sign in morse. It will, however, be clear that the transmitted signal must meet a number of requirements.

**Design considerations**

Besides the fact that the call sign must be repeated several times, the conditions of authorization also mention the permissible transmission types and the maximum permissible bandwidth. For ordinary telegraphy with an unmodulated carrier (A1) a maximum bandwidth of 0.2 kHz is specified. The bandwidth actually used depends on the way in which the carrier is switched. Since the carrier would normally be switched with a morse key, it is sufficient in this design to use a relay which replaces the key. The same relay can be applied for F1-modulation (frequency shift keying). It remains to be seen, however, whether it is possible to combine A1 for the call sign with one of the A3 modulations (S.S.B.) for the speech and, similarly, whether F1 morse can be combined with F3 (FM or PM) speech. At the transmitter either of these combinations will involve little difficulty. For the receiver, however, only a combination of A1 morse and A3A or A3J speech might give reasonable results, because then the BFO in the receiver is switched on.

From the above considerations it follows that A1 and F1 modulation, although normally considered 'ideal' for morse, really do not qualify for automatic transmission of the call sign in the

---

Every radio amateur knows that his (or her) call sign must be transmitted at least once per ten minutes during a QSO. This requirement can easily be fulfilled by using an automatic call generator which transmits the call every ten minutes in morse.

The call generator described here can be operated automatically and manually, so that if required a QSO can be started and ended with the call in morse.
course of an A3 or F3 speech transmission. Consequently, the relay output would seem redundant. It can, however, be of excellent service in tone-modulated telegraphy. The contacts of the relay can then be used for switching over from microphone amplifier to tone generator.

The tone generator can be of a simple design; for instance a square-wave generator followed by a selective filter. The filter is necessary to limit the bandwidth. To obtain the purest possible signal, an active filter is used in this design, so that an almost sinusoidal signal is obtained. Furthermore the circuit is designed to give 'soft' on and off switching of the signals, so that the bandwidth of the signal remains well within the limit of 2.2 kHz (A2) or 3 kHz (F2). For SSB the bandwidth is of course no problem at all in this case. Another point for consideration is the character capacity and the programming method. The maximum number of call letters is six. This applies to practically every country. Since each letter contains a maximum of four dots and/or dashes — only the digit that usually forms part of the call is longer — a memory capacity of 24 positions should be more than sufficient. If the circuit is also to be used in mobile transmitters, it must be possible to extend the memory capacity to accommodate the /A or /M suffix. A memory capacity of 32 positions will be sufficient in practically all cases — the theoretical limit to the length of the call sign is 34 positions. Considering that not all letters consist of four dots and/or dashes, this memory capacity will often be too great. The theoretical minimum is 10 positions, e.g. ET3TEE. This is, however, no objection since the circuit can be so designed that the memory can be expanded or reduced as required.

The overcapacity of the memory can, of course, also be used for adding a start (-----) and stop signal (-----); this will improve the legibility of the very short CW message.

When determining the memory capacity it was assumed that the spaces between the dots and dashes need to be programmed separately; after each dot or dash a space equal to one dot will automatically follow. Furthermore it is assumed that no separate place in the memory is needed for programming a letter space (length three dots). This letter space will, however, have to be programmed in some way.

The programming of dots and dashes can be achieved in a simple way: the apparatus transmits a dot unless a dash is programmed. Since the call generator must always produce the same sequence, a ROM (read only memory) is the obvious choice. Considering that programming is quite simple, this ROM can be a diode matrix. It can be scanned by means of a shift register.

For generating the dots and dashes the choice fell on two adjustable mono-
stable multivibrators, with a 1:3 ratio of the timing capacitors so that they produce pulses in the same time ratio. Monostable multivibrators are used because they offer the possibility of designing a kind of programmed oscillator which steps through the sequence at the correct rate despite the absence of a clock generator.

The final design consideration concerns the choice of ICs. Two IC families qualify. It would seem attractive to make use of TTL ICs because of their low price. However, they do involve quite a number of drawbacks. The switching threshold is rather low (about 1 V), so that the sensitivity to interference is correspondingly high. Furthermore, the sensitivity to strong HF fields is also quite high. Another disadvantage in this particular application is the relatively high switching speed of TTL ICs, as this can easily give rise to spurious signals at very high frequencies.

These drawbacks apply to a far lesser extent for the Cos-Mos family. The switching threshold is no less than 45% of the supply voltage. At a sufficiently high supply voltage the interference sensitivity can be one tenth of that for TTL ICs. Furthermore, the highest operating frequency is lower, so that the switching speed is correspondingly less. Another great advantage of the Cos-Mos ICs is their low current consumption. Of the two IC families mentioned, the Cos-Mos family is undoubtedly the best choice for this design.

The circuit

The heart of the circuit consists of two monostable multivibrators, which determine the length of dot and dash respectively. Both multivibrators are on one chip: the CD 4098 or the (MC 1) 4528 (see figure 1). Both types have the same pinning and show hardly any differences in specification. The prefixes CD and MC1 indicate the manufacturer, other prefixes also occur.

The pulse time of the multivibrators can be calculated fairly accurately with the formula $T_x = R_x \cdot C_x$, where $R_x$ and $C_x$ are the external time-determining elements. It is desirable to approach the dot/dash ratio of 1:3 as closely as possible. The high input impedance of the Cos-Mos IC means that a high resistance value can be used for the time-determining element. This has the advantage that the capacitors can be kept relatively small, so that no electrolytic capacitors (with their high tolerances, typically ±10 and ±60%) need be used. The deviation from the dot/dash ratio depends mainly on the external components: since the two monostable multivibrators are mounted on one chip, the differences between them will be negligible.

Even if the pulse times — and hence the transmitting speed — are variable, the ratio of 1:3 in pulse times must be maintained. This means that the ratio of the timing capacitors must always be 1:3, whilst the potentiometers which

set the pulse widths must be coupled; a stereo potmeter is the obvious choice. Since components with exactly the nominal value occur only in fairy tales, the ordinary commercial types will have to do. As regards the capacitors this means a tolerance of 5% and for the potentiometers a mistracking of less than 6 dB. In practice it is found that the ratio 1:3 can be reasonably well approached with these components, so they are obviously better than the specifications would lead one to expect! If necessary, the ratio of 1:3 can be very accurately approached by slightly altering one of the capacitor values (trimming).

The multivibrators are followed by simple selection logic (N8 ... N15, see figure 2a). Depending on the programming this logic will pass on a dot or a dash. Feedback via N7 ... N5 ensures retriggering of the multivibrators at the end of each dot/dash or space. Simultaneously FF1 receives a clock pulse from N16, so that this flipflop changes
Starting and stopping is controlled by the SR flipflop consisting of N1 and N2. The sequence can be started either automatically (by the timer) or manually. For manual operation S1 applies one (or several!) negative edge(s) to the input of N1. The output of N1 then becomes logic '1' and the output of N2 becomes logic '0'. The same happens when the timer (IC3) produces its very short negative pulse. The positive part of the five to ten-minute period of the timer (this is the charge time of C2 to the triggering point) is determined by the sum of P1, R1 and R2. The formula for this delay time is: \[ t = 0.693 \times (P1 + R1 + R2)C2 \].

The length of the negative starting pulse is determined by the discharge time of C2 via R2 to the second triggering point. The time for this part of the period is given by the formula: \[ t = 0.693R2 \cdot C2 \]. Considering the value of R2 the discharge time of C2 will be about 1/8 second. This is sufficiently short to ensure a reliable cycling of the programme.

As long as the SR-flipflop is in the 'stop' position, MMV1 and MMV2 are blocked by a logic '0'-level on the reset inputs. As soon as N1 becomes logic '1', the MMVs can be triggered with a negative edge at their 'TR' inputs. To avoid triggering problems the '0'-level from N2 is converted into a short negative pulse by N3 and N4. N5 inverts this signal so that the negative trailing edge will trigger the MMVs. The outputs Q1 and Q2 of the MMVs now change to logic '1'. The selection logic determines what happens next. Since both programme lines (B and C) are still '0' (all shift registers reset), N13 and N14 are still blocked. Furthermore FF1 is reset, so the Q output of this flipflop is also '0'. Consequently the oscillator (N7 + N18) and N10 are blocked. Thus the only signal that can be transmitted is a short space: the duration is determined by MMV2, and FF1 is reset. Because the output of N11 becomes logic '0', a '1'-level will appear across R9. This level changes back to '0' as soon as the period time of MMV2 has elapsed. The negative edge then occurring triggers the pulse shaper consisting of N7 and N6. The negative-going edge of this pulse triggers FF1 via N16 and the positive-going edge retriggered the MMVs via N5. The short delay between the end of the first MMV period and the start of the second has very little effect on the ratio of 1:3. The positive-going edge of the Q output of FF1, coinciding with the end of the MMV period, triggers the shift registers via line 'A'. The shift registers are 4015s (see figure 3).
mation which is shifted to the A1-output on the positive-going edge of the first clock pulse. The positive-going edge then occurring at the A1-output of the shift register sets FF2 so that the information at the data input of IC8 goes from logic '1' to logic '0'.

As a result of the Q-output of FF1 becoming logic '1' the oscillator (N17/N18) is able to start. Furthermore the blocking of N10 and N13 is removed and N11 and N14 are blocked instead, so that now the programme line (C) determines what signal will be transmitted. Since the first signal to be transmitted in this example is a dash, the programme line becomes logic '1' via the diode from output A1 of IC8. N13 is now open and N10 remains blocked. A logic '1'-level occurs across R9, as before, but the duration is now that of a dash. At the end of this dash the cycle described above is repeated. The MMVs are retriggered again and the state of the output of FF1 changes. The oscillator is blocked and a space is transmitted. Depending on the programming on the space programme line (B), the length of the space is equal to a dot or dash. In this example a short space is programmed.

The switching cycle is repeated until the last memory position necessary for the total sequence is reached. This memory position (in the example it is output 31 of the shift register - i.e. pin 11 of IC11) is connected to the reset line (E). As soon as this shift register output becomes logic '0' again, the SR flip-flop N1/N2 will be reset. The circuit then waits for the next start pulse, after which the sequence is repeated.

As appears from photo 1, the call letters PA Ø HKD given in this example are neatly reproduced by the prototype. The signal displayed on the photograph was taken from the Q-output of FF1. The audio output gives an entirely different picture (photo 2). The square-wave signal generated by the oscillator is first fed to a voltage divider which reduces the signal amplitude to a level acceptable for the 741 (IC13). C9, R15 and R16 form a highpass filter. The opamp is used as an active filter which converts the square-wave signal into a quite acceptable sinewave. At the same time it 'softens' the switching of the signal. A low harmonic distortion of the sine and a 'soft' switch on and off of the signal are necessary to attain a narrow bandwidth. The results obtained with the given circuit are shown in photo 2. This clearly shows the gradual attack and decay characteristics of the signals. The dark lines in the center of the picture are due to residual distortion of the sine wave: remnants of the original square wave are seen as a kind of cross-over distortion. This distortion is a useful aid during initial trimming of the oscillator: when the oscillator is set to the correct frequency (with P3) the output amplitude is at its maximum and the crossover is located at the zero crossing of the sine-wave.

In the prototype the oscillator fre-
The equipment described in this article converts morse coded information into normal alphanumeric characters (letters and numerals), thus considerably simplifying the reception of morse messages.

The decoding equipment receives the message to be decoded in the form of an audio frequency morse signal at the output of an existing communications receiver. Each incoming character is stored until it is complete and then decoded and displayed on a twelve-segment alphanumeric display. A number of displays could be arranged in a line so that complete words could be displayed as running script. The displays used in the prototype were home-made, but those who do not wish to construct their own displays could use a commercially-made display such as the Litronix Data Lit 16.

The equipment comprises four sections. A signal processing section, which amplifies the audio output of the receiver, rectifies it and shapes the pulses into TTL compatible logic levels; a shift register into which the processed signal is fed to assemble it into parallel form; a memory, and a decoder.

The signal processing section (figure 1) operates as follows: the incoming audio signal is amplified by T1 and T2 and rectified by D1 and D2. C1 removes the A.C. component of the signal, leaving a series of D.C. pulses with some superimposed a.f. The pulse train is amplified and limited by T3 and T4, and finally a Schmitt trigger S1 produces a TTL compatible output. The result, at the output of S1, is thus a TTL pulse train, the lengths of the pulses being equal to the duration of the tone bursts that made up the dots and dashes of the morse audio signal.

The Shift Register

Since the morse characters are transmitted serially (i.e. the dots and dashes that make up a character are transmitted one after the other) it is necessary to assemble each character in parallel form before it can be decoded. This is the function of the shift register of figure 2. The morse pulse train from output A of the signal processor is fed into the input of a serial in-parallel out shift register and is clocked through the register to appear in parallel form at the outputs. The maximum number of bits that the shift register must store is determined by the longest morse character, which is numeral '0', consisting of five dashes. Starting with a dot as a basis (1 dot occupies 1 bit in the shift register) then a dash, which has a duration of three dots will occupy 3 bits in the shift register, and the spaces between dots and dashes, being of one dot duration, will occupy 1 bit. Thus the longest character, zero, consisting of five dashes with four spaces between, requires a total of 19 bits. This is thus the required capacity of the shift register.

The shift is made up of three cascaded 74164 8-bit shift registers, though not all the available bits are used.

The circuit of figure 2 operates as follows:

As soon as a morse character is received then input A will go high on the first dot or dash of the character. Via N5 this sets the set/reset flip-flops N1/N2 and N6/N7. The output of N6 takes the clear inputs of the shift registers high so that they can accept new data. The output of N1 takes the reset inputs of the 7490 low so that it can then count clock pulses from the clock pulse generator S2. The 7490 is connected as a divide-by-5 counter, so the pulses the pulses that appear at the output of N4 to drive the clock input of the shift register are one-fifth of the clock frequency.

The character is then assembled in the shift register as a sequence of logic '1's and '0's. A sequence of three '1's corresponding to a dash, a single '1' corresponding to a dot and a '0' corresponding to a space between dots and dashes. During the space when input A goes low the reset inputs of IC2 will go low and IC2 will count...
The output of N10 will go low again, disabling the clock inputs of the 7475's so that the data is stored in the memory. Finally, on the 13th clock pulse the output of N9 will go low, resetting flip-flop N6/N7. This clears the shift register, in preparation for the next character. The Morse character stored in the memory is now decoded and displayed.

The Decoder

The latches in the 7475 have both Q and Q outputs, so both the data and its complement are stored. This is very useful as both the data bits and their complements are used in the decoder. The decoder is split into three sections. The outputs of the memory are first decoded into 'groups' (Figure 3a,b). The groups are then decoded into one of 36 outputs for each character (Figure 3c, d) and finally the 36 outputs are decoded into a 12 segment format to drive the display.

Table 1 shows how each Morse character appears at the outputs of the memory (complements not shown) with a cross representing a logic '1'. A group of three crosses, of course, represents a dash, a single cross a dot, and no cross, a space.

It can be seen that there are groups of crosses common to several characters, where dots or dashes coincide in differ-

Figure 1. Signal processing stage of the decoder. The output, point A is connected to point A of figure 2.

Figure 2. Circuit of the shift register and memory.

clock pulses from S2. However, while dots and dashes are still appearing at input A IC2 will be reset every time input A goes high. At the end of the Morse character, however, there will be a space of three dots duration before the start of the next character, and this space is recognised as an indication that the character is complete and may be stored in the memory and decoded. When input A goes low at the end of a character IC2 can then count clock pulses unhindered.

If no further data has appeared at input A by the time IC2 counts the 10th clock pulse then the output of N3 will go low, resetting flip-flop N1/N2 and thus IC1. With its reset inputs held high by N1 IC1 can no longer count, so no further pulses reach the clock input of the shift register. At this stage therefore, the Morse character is held in the shift register, with a 2-bit space ('0's') on outputs A and B of the left-hand 74164 due to the 10 clock pulses counted after the completion of the character.

On the 11th clock pulse the output of N8 will go low. The output of N10 will thus go high and the data present on the register outputs will be entered in the memory, which consists of 5 7475 4-bit latches. On the 12th clock pulse the
Figure 3. The decoder circuitry. The AND-gates in figures 3a and 3b are the group decoding. The group decoder outputs are further decoded in figures 3c and 3d to give 36 outputs, one for each letter of the alphabet and each numeral.

ent characters. These groups are identified by numbers corresponding to the outputs of figure 3a/b. For instance, numerals 1,2,3 and 0 all contain group 13. There are in all 38 groups. The 27 basic groups shown in table I are decoded by the circuit of figure 3a; a further 11 combinations are decoded according to figure 3b. The relevant groups for each character are then combined by the circuit of figure 3c,d which gives 36 unique outputs, one for each character.

Note that in figures 3c and 3d the circled outputs are the decoded alphanumeric outputs. Uncircled outputs are the group outputs (all outputs of figures 3a and 3b). Where an input is marked with an uncircled letter this corresponds to a direct connection to the appropriate output of the memory. An uncircled number means a connection to the output of the appropriate group decoder. It can be seen that some of the group decoder stages require only inputs from the memory, others require inputs from the outputs of other group decoder stages, and still others require a combination of both. The same is true of the alphanumeric decoders. Decoder E
Running Script

As mentioned earlier it is possible to arrange several displays in a line to form running script that travels to the left along the line of displays. The circuitry to do this is given in figure 7 and operates as follows. While a morse character is being received output B of figure 1 is
high, which means that the reset inputs of the 7490 in figure 7 are also high and the counter is in the reset state. On completion of the character output B goes low, and the 7490 can now count clock pulses provided by S3. On the first clock pulse output 1 of the 7442 will go low. The output of the inverter connected to it will go high, so that the data on the outputs of the three 7475's labelled M3 will be transferred to the outputs of latches M4. Thus, momentarily the latches will have the same data on their outputs. On the second clock pulse output 2 of the 7442 goes low, so the data from M2 is transferred to M3 and so on. Finally the data on the decoder outputs a to I is transferred to the outputs of M1. On the ninth clock pulse output 9 of the 7442 goes low, inhibiting the clock pulse generator until the counter is again reset by input B on receipt of a new character. The effect is that each time a new character is received the display shifts one place to the left.

Although only five sets of latches and displays are shown the system can be extended to a maximum of 8 displays by connecting extra latches and displays with the clock inputs of the latches driven from the unused outputs (5 to 8) of the 7442.

**Editorial Comment**

Although this system is ingenious it is felt that in practice great difficulty would be experienced in matching the clock rate of the equipment to the signalling speed, especially when receiving manually sent signals. The system could, however, be used successfully with the 'morse typewriter' by the same author, since a signalling speed could then be agreed upon and adhered to quite easily. Such a system would have advantages over more conventional RTTY since the output of the typewriter could be received and taken down by hand, which is not possible with the output of a conventional teleprinter.

---

**coming soon**

**Front-end for TV sound**
this will convert the existing design (Elektor 2, p.236) into an independent receiver for tv (and fm) sound.

**Automatic rhythm generators**
add-on units for the minidrum that will give several rhythms at the flick of a switch.

**TV tennis extensions**
additions to the basic game (Elektor 7, p.1111) giving new games, noises and scoring.

**Audio preamplifier**
a low-cost, high performance preamplifier and control amplifier with 'remote control' capability.

**SSB receiver**
a sensitive (0.5 µV for 12 dB S/N) receiver for single sideband transmissions.

**DNL**
dynamic noise limiter.

---

**irritated?**

Are you irritated by this digital issue?
In our introduction to Elektor (Elektor 1, p.5) we warned you that this might happen!
In this particular issue, admittedly, our hand was slightly forced: the 'morse-designs' belong together, and part 2 of the digital master oscillator follows part 1 in the previous issue. This does not leave much room for anything else.
However, we do try to maintain a reasonable balance between the various types of circuits (simple or complex, digital or analogue). This means that those who are overjoyed with this issue may well be irritated next month, when we try to do without '0's and '1's.
On the continent, where our readers have grown accustomed to a certain amount of unpredictability, we often hear the phrase 'Wir lassen uns gerne überraschen!' - which can be roughly translated as 'Go on, surprise us!'
We intend to.

---

**announcement to our subscribers**

Dear Subscriber,

Your subscription for Elektor volume 1 ran out with number 9.
In order to adjust our administration for 1976 you will have received a renewal card by the end of December.
The renewal-subscription rate for 1976 (February-December) is £ 5.80 to UK addresses and to all countries by surface mail.
To all countries by air mail the subscription rate is £ 10.40.
All prices are inclusive p&p.
Please note that number 15/16 (July-August) is a double issue ‘Summer Circuits’, price 80p.
If you wish to renew your subscription, you are kindly requested to sign this renewal card and to send it to your bank, which will take care of settlement.
If you write a cheque please send it together with the lower half of the renewal card to our administration.
Overseas subscribers who wish to convert their subscription from air mail to surface mail, or vice versa, are requested to pay the corresponding rate and at the same time to notify our administration.
Thank you for your co-operation.
To obtain the maximum efficiency when modulating a transmitter the modulation depth must be kept as high as possible for as much of the time as possible. This means that the modulating signal amplitude must be kept reasonably constant. Since speech most definitely does not have a constant amplitude some form of processing is called for.

The most commonly used methods of speech processing are clipping (cutting off the signal peaks) and dynamic compression (reduction of the dynamic range of the signal to achieve a reasonably constant signal level without distorting the waveform). The disadvantage of clipping is that it operates only on the amplitude peaks. It cannot boost a low level signal so that a low modulation depth may still occur. On the other hand, if the signal level is increased so that even low level signals give a reasonable modulation depth, then the peaks will be very severely clipped, resulting in distortion and loss of intelligibility.

Dynamic compression effectively boosts low level signals and cuts high level signals, thus achieving a fairly constant mean signal level. Unfortunately, due to the relatively slow response time of dynamic compressors, transient peaks may not be effectively suppressed, and overmodulation may occur.

The circuit described here overcomes these difficulties by combining both dynamic compression and clipping. The signal is first compressed to achieve a reasonably constant mean signal level, and is then clipped to remove any peaks. T1 and T2 form the microphone amplifier. The gain of this stage depends on the impedance of the microphone used, so that a high impedance, high output crystal microphone will produce the same sort of output levels as a low impedance, low output dynamic microphone. This avoids large variations in the level of the signal fed to T3 when using different types of microphone.

R5, C5, D1 and D2 form a voltage controlled attenuator. A control voltage is fed back from the emitter of T4 to vary the forward bias voltage on D1. If the base voltage of T4 exceeds the voltage at the anode of D3 by about 0.5 V then the signal fed to the base of T3 is attenuated by R5, C5 and D1. R23 may be switched in or out to vary the compressor time constant. The compressed signal is taken from T3 via C8 and C10. Any peaks are clipped by D6 and D7. The degree of clipping depends on the ratio R8 : R9.

A low-pass filter is provided comprising T5, R17 - R20 and C11 - C14. The values given are suitable for operation in the 80 m band, where from 3 kHz upwards there should be a roll-off of at least 14 dB/octave. For working in other bands where the filter is not required points A and B may be joined and the passive filter components omitted. If a different turnover frequency for the filter is required then the capacitance values C11 - C14 should be multiplied by the factor \( \frac{3}{f} \) where \( f \) is the required turnover frequency in kHz.

Thus, for a frequency of 6 kHz, the capacitance values would need to be halved.

As a final constructional point it must be stressed that diodes D1 to D7 should be of reputable manufacture. Many of the 'unmarked untested' diodes on the market have a forward voltage drop of up to 1 V, and the circuit will not operate satisfactorily with these. When using the specified IN4148, the voltage at the anode of D3 should be about 1.5 V to 1.7 V.
A morse signal, of course, consists of dots and dashes. The duration of dots, dashes, and the spaces between them bear fixed time relationships to one another. Starting with the dot as a basis, a dash has a duration of three dots. The space between dots and dashes has a duration of one dot, that between complete letters three dots, and the space between words has a duration equal to six dots. On this basis it is easy to work out a time scale for the duration of each letter of the alphabet, in morse. This is shown in table 1. One cross represents a dot, and a row of three crosses, a dash. The longest duration letters are J, Q and Y, which have a duration of 13 dots, including spaces. For simplicity, punctuation marks and numerals have been omitted from the basic design, but they may easily be added if required.

The basis of the morse typewriter is a timebase generator that can produce 15 sequential outputs (plus rest position) corresponding to the 15 positions in table 1. The timebase is used to drive an encoder to produce an output which is the morse code for the particular key depressed. The encoder is effectively a read only memory (ROM) in which are stored the bits of all the worse characters. The ROM is addressed by the output of the keyboard and the output of the timebase generator to read out the required morse character.

The circuit of the timebase generator is given in figure 1. It consists basically of a variable frequency clock pulse generator based on a TTL Schmitt trigger, which drives a 7493 4-bit binary counter. The binary outputs of the 7493 are decoded into one of 16 outputs by a 74154 decoder. When no key is depressed the reset input to the timebase
is high (this function will be explained in the discussion of keyboard operation). When a key is depressed the reset input goes low and the 7493 counts clock pulses. On completion of the morse character the counter is reset. Where in the counter this occurs depends upon the length of the character. This is denoted by the letter R in table 1. For instance, the shortest character, E, requires only a single dot, so the counter is reset on the second clock pulse, whereas the longest characters, J, Q and Y, have a duration of 13 dots, so the counter is reset on the 14th clock pulse.

In order to produce letter spaces and word spaces it is necessary to inhibit the keyboard for a duration of three dots or six dots respectively after the completion of a character. This is the function of the lower part of the circuit of figure 1. While the reset input is low and the 7493 is counting, the output of N1 is high, inhibiting further operation of the keyboard. The clear inputs of FF1 to FF3 are held low, so these flip-flops are reset.

On completion of the character the reset input goes high. After this a letter

Figure 1. Circuit of the timebase generator with space key. LED D1 indicates when the typewriter is ready for the next letter.

Figure 2. Circuit of the group encoder, which produces groups of dots and dashes at various positions in the counter cycle. By combination of the appropriate groups using NOR-gates all the letters may subsequently be formed.

The use of morse is avoided like the plague by most radio amateurs. Once the R.A.E. has been passed the morse key is often relegated to the junk box. This is a pity as morse telegraphy has advantages over telephony, in terms of bandwidth and for long-distance working. To encourage those with an aversion to ‘key-bashing’ the morse typewriter was developed, which makes CW operation child’s play.
space is produced automatically. The Q output of FF4 is normally high and the Q output low. This means that N2 is blocked, so clock pulses cannot reach the clock input of FF1. However, clock pulses can pass through N6 and N7 to the clock input of FF2. Thus, on the next clock pulse after completion of the character IC1 is reset. On the second clock pulse the output of FF2 goes high. The Q output of FF2 is connected to the clock input of FF3 direct, and to the clock input of FF1 via N3 and N4, since one input of N3 is held high by the Q output of FF4, and one input of N4 is held high by the output of N2. On the third clock pulse, therefore, the Q output of FF2 goes low, and the Q outputs of FF1 and FF3 go high. All the inputs of N1 are now high, so the output is low and the keyboard is active once more. There is thus a space of three dots duration after completion of the character.

To obtain a word space it is necessary to depress the space key. This initiates a space of six dots duration in the following manner. Depressing the space key resets FF4. The Q output thus holds the inputs of N2 and N5 high, and the Q output holds the inputs of N3 and N6 low. Clock pulses are thus routed to the clock input of FF1 via N2 and N4, and the Q output of FF1 is muted to the clock input of FF2 via N5 and N7. FF1 to FF3 now function as a three-bit counter, and on the sixth clock pulse after completion of a character the Q outputs of FF1 and FF3 are both high, so the output of N1 goes low, activating the keyboard. It also clocks FF4 into the set condition (Q output high) where it will remain until the space key is next depressed. LED DI indicates that the typewriter is ready for entry of the next character.

Of course the letter and word spaces only have any effect if the operator is typing very fast when they inhibit sending of the next character until the appropriate pause has elapsed. For proper operation the space key must be depressed before the preceding character has finished, and the next letter key must be depressed before the termination of the letter or word space.

Of course, if one is a very slow typist then the pauses will be longer than those determined by the space circuitry anyway.

Encoding

The necessary encoding of the characters into morse can be considerably simplified by forming groups of dots and dashes that are common to several letters. These can easily be derived from Table 1. For example, the letters B, C, D, G, K, M, N, O, Q, T, X, Y, and Z all begin with a dash, and the three longest letters J, Q and Y all terminate with a dash. Of course it is only possible to form common groups for several letters where these groups coincide in time, i.e. where they are directly above one another in Table 1.

It is a relatively simple matter to design
Figure 3. The 26 NOR-gates in which are combined the groups that make up each letter of the alphabet. The complete dot dash sequence for a letter is available at the appropriate NOR-gate output.

Figure 4. The circuit of the keyboard, which performs two functions. Depressing a key activates the counter cycle and also routes the appropriate letter output to control the transmitter relay and the audio oscillator. LED D2 provides a visual indication of the letter output.

Figure 5. Keyboard layout based on a standard typewriter format.

Table 1. Showing the duration of each morse character along the time axis. Each step corresponds to a duration of one 'dot'. Dashes have a duration equal to three dots, and spaces are equal to one dot.
an encoder to produce these groups. The groups may then be combined in various patterns to form the different letters.

The circuit of the group encoder is shown in figure 2, and its operation is fairly simple. The inputs 1 to 13 (AA) are connected to the outputs 1 to 13 (AA) of the 74154 in figure 1. Remembering that the 74154 has normally high outputs i.e. when an output is active it goes low, the circuit operates as follows: initially inputs 1-13 are all high, so the outputs 1 to 15 (BB) are all low. However, when the 7493 counts clock pulses each of the inputs AA will go low in turn. Looking now at N1 in figure 2, it is apparent that on the first clock pulse input 1 goes low, so output 1 goes high for the duration of one clock pulse. Output 1 therefore corresponds to a dot, and may be used in any letter starting with a dot.

Looking at N2 we see that the inputs of N2 are connected to inputs 1, 2 and 3. On the first, second and third clock pulses inputs 1, 2 and 3 respectively will go low, so output 2 will remain high for three clock pulses. This output may be used in any letter that starts with a dash.

It is easy to see how the inputs are combined in the NAND-gates N1 to N15 to produce dots and dashes at various points in the count sequence. All that now remains to be done is to take out the relevant groups of dots and dashes and combine them to form letters. This is accomplished using NOR-gates (figure 3). Thus for a letter A, for example, outputs 1 and 4 from figure 2 are combined in N1 (figure 3) to give ‘dot-dash’. Since N1 to N26 are NOR-gates, the outputs are, of course, inverted after passing through them.

The keyboard

Since NOR-gates N1 to N26 are all permanently connected to the outputs of the group encoder, each time a letter key is depressed every one of these gates will give an output as the counter cycles, irrespective of which letter key is depressed. The keyboard thus performs two functions. It activates the counter cycle and also selects the required letter from the relevant NOR-gate and routes it to the output of the typewriter to control the transmitter and also a small a.f. oscillator which provides an audible signal. The keyboard circuitry consists of 26 set-reset flip-flops (figure 4). It operates as follows. When the keyboard is active (not inhibited) output DD from figure 1 is low. Depressing key A (or any other key) will set the corresponding set-reset flip-flop. In the case of letter A this means that the output of N1 goes low, taking the reset input of figure 1 low and starting the counter cycle. It also takes the input of N3 low, allowing the signal from the output of N1 (figure 3) to be routed through N3 and the diode OR-gate connected to its output. Via N4 the signal controls a relay to switch the transmitter, and also switches on and off the oscillator built around S2, to provide an audible signal.

LED D2 provides a visual indication of the morse signal. Since letter A has a duration of five clock pulses the counter and the keyboard flip-flop must be reset on the sixth clock pulse. This is accomplished very simply by taking the sixth output of the 74154 (AA) and feeding it into point AA in figure 4. Since different letters have different lengths the counter and keyboard must be reset at different points in the cycle. Letter B for example, occupies 9 clock pulses, so the counter is reset on the tenth pulse. The necessary reset inputs can all be found from table 1. While a letter is being transmitted output DD of figure 1 is, of course, high, so depressing a key will have no further effect. An interesting feature of the keyboard is that it is possible to transmit a continuous chain of letters by holding down a key, since immediately DD goes low on completion of a letter + letter space the flip-flop will again be set if the key is still held down. This also makes possible quick typing of repeated letters in words.

For the most efficient operation of the typewriter the frequency of the clock pulse generator (and hence the speed of sending) should be matched to one's typing ability, since, if the characters are sent too fast there will be long pauses while one finds the next letter, and if they are sent too slowly one will be attempting to type faster than the machine can send. The operator should, of course, also take account of the ability of the person on the receiving end, at any rate if he is taking down the message by hand!

Keyboard layout

A layout for the keyboard is given in figure 5. This is based on a standard typewriter keyboard, but has no numerals or punctuation marks, though these may be added by extending the keyboard and the circuitry of figures 2 and 3. Suitable keyboard switches and complete keyboards are manufactured by firms such as C.P. Clare, Alma Components and Cherry, or it is often possible to obtain surplus, ex-computer keyboards relatively cheaply.

Feedback PLL for FM

(Elektron 9, p. 110). An extra decoupling capacitor (C47) has been included on the p.c.b. board and component layout, but it was not included in the circuit diagrams or parts list. The value is 100 n, and it can be included in the circuit diagram in parallel with C7 (figure 7).

Capacity relay

In the component layout for this circuit (Elektron 9, p. 138), the connections to diode D1 are reversed. The cathode should be connected to the junction C2/R3/R7/R2/T1 (drain); the anode is connected to ground. The circuit diagram is correct.

Apologies!

Owing to some problems with the computer which handles our subscriber administration, the printing of a large number of the address labels for Elektor 8 (December 1975) was held up for several weeks. We offer sincere apologies to those subscribers who were affected by this.
With the introduction of new devices and the consequent competition the price of components for digital watches has fallen rapidly in recent months. Whereas a couple of years ago a digital watch was available only as a two-chip design costing around £40 for the two IC's, it is now possible to obtain a single IC that will perform all time-keeping functions, and will display date as well as time, for around £10. It is possible to construct a complete watch module (excluding case and strap) for under £25. Two watches are in fact described in this article. A low-cost, relatively easy to construct version, and a more miniature version for the advanced constructor.
It must be stressed at the outset that construction of a watch is a difficult project, which should not be attempted by the beginner as it involves the use of extremely miniature components and requires skillful soldering.

After considering the various watch IC's available the choice fell on the Intersil ICM72-series. There are four IC's in this series, all of which are pin compatible, and which differ only in the type of display. They are:

- ICM 7200, which displays hours, minutes, seconds, day and date with a 12-hour format.
- ICM 7202, which displays hours, minutes, seconds and date with a 12-hour format.
- ICM 7203, as 7200 but with 24-hour format.
- ICM 7204, as 7202 but with 24-hour format.

These IC's are capable of driving LED-displays directly without the use of buffer transistors, and require little in the way of external components as will be seen later. Due to the high current consumption of LED displays the display is not illuminated continuously but must be activated when the time is to be read to avoid depleting the batteries too quickly. This may be thought to be a disadvantage, but in fact the system has considerable advantages over the more common liquid-crystal displays:

- can be seen in the dark.
- display is multiplexed therefore only 12 connections are needed to the display as opposed to 29 for an equivalent liquid-crystal display, thus making for simpler board layout.
- LED displays can be soldered directly into the circuit, whereas liquid-crystal displays require special (expensive) connectors.

A block diagram of the ICM72-series of IC's is given in figure 1. The oscillator frequency is determined by a 32.768 kHz crystal. The active components of the oscillator are contained on the chip and the only external component required apart from the crystal is a trimmer capacitor to fine tune the oscillator frequency.

The oscillator frequency is divided down to 1 Hz by a sixteen-stage binary divider. Some of the divider stage outputs are used to generate the multiplex drive waveforms for the display. The 1 Hz output is then used to drive seconds, minutes, hours, day (where applicable) and date counters. The outputs of these counters are multiplexed, decoded and fed to the display drivers. The control section implements time setting and display activate functions. There is also a light sensor input which may be used to adjust the display brightness to suit ambient lighting, but for reasons of simplicity it is not used in this design.

**Basic version of the watch**

It was felt that the basic version of the watch should be the cheapest and simplest to build, though not necessarily the most compact version. How-
the display is only seven-segment, so alphanumerics cannot be displayed. This limits the choice of IC's to the ICM 7202 and ICM 7204, which display the date but not the day.

special watch displays have a colon between the hours and minutes digits. This has separate anode and cathode connections (i.e. it is not connected to the digits in any way) and the watch circuitry is designed so that the colon is off for A.M. and on for P.M. during timesetting. The DL34M does not have a colon; it does have a decimal point, but this is part of the normal multiplexed display. As this does not have an independent cathode connection it is not possible to use it to display A.M. and P.M.

**Time setting and display demand**

These functions are performed by the set control and master control inputs, and the exact procedures will be detailed later. Suffice it to say that these inputs are normally held at VSS by R1 and R2, and to activate these inputs it is necessary to take them to VDD (ground). In true Elektor tradition, this is accomplished by TAP's. T1 and T2 are normally turned off, but grounding the base of either of these transistors to the case by touching it will turn the transistor on. So that the set control is not activated accidentally it is suggested that it should be recessed in the side of the case where it can only be reached with a probe. The master control can be a raised button.

**Construction**

The printed circuit board and component layout of the watch are given in figure 3. Details of the IC pin configuration, package style, and dimensions of the battery clips are given in figure 4. Before construction commences it is essential to open out the battery holes to the correct diameter, and to file notches to accept the clips.

It is essential to ensure that the negative battery clip is recessed sufficiently far that the case (positive) of the battery cannot make contact with it, or the battery will be shorted out. This does not apply to the positive battery clip as this is in contact with the case of the battery anyway.

The bridge between the two batteries is held in position with a 12 B.A. nut and bolt. The nut is mounted on the display side of the board and is secured with a spot of epoxy adhesive. The top edge of the board between the batteries should be filed flat so that the flange on the bridge can overhang the edge of the board, thus preventing it from turning. It is essential that this bridge does not touch the case of the watch.

An earth clip is soldered to the edge of the board to ensure that battery positive (VDD) is in contact with the watch case, so that the TAP's will operate reliably.

All components except the IC can now be mounted on the board. The crystal should be mounted on a foam pad to provide shock resistance. As the IC is mounted on the back of the board it is essential to ensure that the component leads project the minimum distance through the board, to keep the module depth as small as possible.

The IC is the final component to be mounted.

It is mounted upside down i.e. with the side bearing the type number facing the board. A thin piece of card should be glued to the back of the board to insulate the IC. The IC can then be held in place with a piece of modeller's clay while the first wires are soldered into place, remembering to ensure correct orientation of the IC, i.e. pin 1 facing to the right of the board. Relatively thick wire should be used so that there is no tendency for the wires to sag and short out on the back of the board. When the IC is soldered into position the module is ready for testing.

**Light sensor input**

As mentioned earlier the light sensor option is not used for reasons of simplicity. It is, however, possible to select two brightness levels for the display. Connecting pin 15 to VDD gives a maximum brightness display, while connection to VSS gives a less bright display, thus increasing battery life. These options are shown dotted on the board layout.

**Assembly into case**

As stated earlier the module will fit into a case 30 mm diameter by 8 mm deep. However, if a screwback case is used the dimensions must be slightly larger as otherwise the screwed rim of the back might make contact with the board. Before assembling the watch into the case the touch contacts must be fixed into place. For this two holes are required in the side of the case, one of which can be the existing winder hole. The master control contact can be made from a small brass tack or screw. The shank of this should be insulated with sleeving and the whole assembly fixed in the hole with epoxy adhesive. The shank can then be cut off so that about 1 mm projects outside the case. To avoid accidental activation the set control should be recessed. This can be accomplished by using a similar brass tack, but the shank must be cut short before insertion in the sleeving so that it does not project, and may only be reached with a (metallic) probe.

The edge of the board must have notches filed in it to clear the heads of the tacks. The touch contact wires can now be soldered to the heads of the tacks and the board may then be fitted into the case. If a three-piece case is used this procedure is much simpler. Since the watch should never require servicing the module can be secured into the case with a few spots of epoxy adhesive around the edge of the board.

To enhance the display contrast, a filter made from red celluloid may be inserted behind the watch glass.
Most of the above remarks also apply to the construction of the more sophisticated version of the watch, which is described next.

Construction - Day/Date watch
The more sophisticated version of the watch (figure 6) employs a special watch display, the Litronix DL5175 (see figure 8 for details). Because of this the module is thinner and the overall dimensions are smaller. This display has an alphanumerics capability in the two left-hand positions, and may thus be used with the ICM 7200 or 7203, which have a day as well as date display (see figure 9). Of course, if day display is not required this version of the watch may be used with the ICM 7202 or 7204, with a consequent saving of some £5 on the IC cost.

Assembly should proceed as follows: the board must first be filed to fit the case and the battery holes must be opened up as for the other version of the watch. The first (and most difficult) component to mount is the display. The technique used is known as reflow soldering. The display pads on the board are first lightly tinned, ensuring that the thickness of solder is reasonably even on
all the pads. Next the solder bumps on the back of the display are cleaned by rubbing them lightly over a piece of very fine emery paper. The display may now be placed in position on the board and held there with a piece of modelling clay at either end. The pads along the top edge of the display may now be heated up with a soldering iron, melting the solder and thus making the joint. A magnifying glass is a useful aid during this procedure. If any joints appear not to have been made a small additional quantity of solder may be run onto the pad, taking extreme care not to form bridges between tracks. The joints along the top edge of the display having been made, the modelling clay may be removed and the procedure repeated for the end pads.

Before proceeding further it is essential to test the display to ensure that all the joints are good. Using a 9 V battery in series with a 2k resistor (or a 4.5 volt battery in series with a 1 k resistor) proceed as follows: connect the negative terminal of the battery to the 'cathode 1' display pad. Connect a test prod (in series with the resistor) to the positive terminal and touch each of the segment anode pads in turn, when the appropriate segment should light up on the left-hand digit. Test also the colon anode. If none of the segments lights then the cathode 1 connection is faulty. If some fail to light then the anode connections are faulty. If the colon does not light then either the colon anode or cathode connection may be at fault. Remake any faulty joints by running solder onto the pad whilst heating with the iron.

With the positive prod connected to anode 'a' the cathode connections may now be tested by touching the negative prod to each cathode connection in turn, when the 'a' segment of the appropriate digit should light.

Having tested the display R1, R2, T1, T2, IC1 and the trimmer may be mounted on the reverse side of the board, and the battery clips may be fitted and secured with 12B.A. nuts and bolts. Note that if the MTT 02 trimmer is used the leads should be bent downwards so that the square adjustment hole faces out from the board. The last component to be mounted is the crystal. This is mounted on the same side of the board as the display, and should be laid on a thin layer of silicone rubber, which will perform three functions:

1. securing the crystal to the board,
2. providing a resilient, shock-resistant mounting,
3. insulating the crystal can from the copper tracks.

Leadout wires should then be soldered to the bases of T1 and T2, after which the watch module is ready for testing.

**Use and adjustment**

**Activation of the Master and Set controls** is accomplished by grounding the base of T1 or T2 to Vdd. When the watch is in normal use Vdd is connected to case, and hence to the wearer's body, so touching the appropriate contact with a finger will activate the required function.

The master control operates as follows:
1. 'Time': touch once and time is displayed, hours on the left, colon in the middle and minutes on the right. The colon is always on in this mode. The display stays on for 1.25 to 1.5 seconds after the control is released.
2. 'Date': touching the master control twice (or once if already in the 'time' mode) displays day on the left (not applicable to ICM 7202 and 7204) and date on the right. The colon is off in this mode. The display stays on for 1.25 to 1.5 seconds after releasing the control.
3. 'Seconds': touching the master control 3 times (or once if already in the 'date' mode) displays seconds on the right. The colon is off in this mode and the display stays on for 50 to 60 seconds after releasing the control.

The set control operates as follows:
1. 'Date Set': Touch control once. Display is blanked on left, shows date on right. Each activation of the master control advances the date by one. Colon is off.
2. 'Hours Set': Touch control twice. Display is blanked on right, shows hours on left. The colon is off for AM, on for PM. Each activation of the master control advances the hours by one. When advancing from 11 PM to 12 AM the day and date will not change.
3. 'Day Set': Display is blanked on right, shows day on left. Each activation of the master control advances the day by one. The colon is off.
4. 'Minutes Set': Display is blanked on the left, shows minutes on the right. Each activation of the master control advances the minutes by one. The colon is off.
5. 'Seconds Set': Display is blanked on the left, shows seconds on right. The colon is off. When the master control is activated the seconds reset to 00 and hold until one second after releasing master control. The minutes will not advance in this mode.

In all set modes the display will automatically turn off 50 to 60 seconds after the last activation of either the set control or the master control. This means that there is no risk of depleting the batteries, and the watch automatically returns to its normally timekeeping mode even if all the setting operations have not been carried out. Alternatively the user can cycle through all the set modes, and on the sixth activation of the set control the display will extinguish and the watch is in the normal timekeeping mode.

When setting the watch after battery replacement the manufacturers advise the following sequence:
1. touch set control once, advance to correct date.
2. touch set control once, advance to correct hour.

Colon is off for AM, on for PM.
3. Touch set control once, advance to correct day.
4. Touch set control once, advance to the next minute.
5. Touch set control once, activate master control and hold until time signal is heard for next minute, then release master control.
6. Touch set control once.

**Timekeeping adjustment**

This is carried out using the trimmer capacitor. A trimming tool is required and this may be made by filing a small piece of brass rod to a square end cross-section of 0.76 mm, to fit the adjustment hole in the trimmer. The rod should then be mounted in an insulated handle, so that hand capacitance does not affect the frequency. If a frequency counter is available, the test point (pin 22) may be used with the test circuit of figure 10. The output at this point should be adjusted to a frequency of 1 Hz.

If a frequency counter is not available, the trimmer should initially be set to maximum capacitance. This occurs when the semicircular vane of the trimmer (visible between the two plates) is in the half of the trimmer opposite the brass contact finger that makes connection to the vane. The watch will now run slow, and turning the trimmer in either direction will make it run faster. This adjustment can be carried out over a period of time, always remembering which direction the trimmer was last turned, and what the result was. It should be possible to obtain a final accuracy of a few seconds a month.
driving lessons

A title that needs some further explanation. When transistor-transistor or CMOS logic circuits are driven from 50 Hz mains pulses, unsatisfactory behaviour can be expected since the exact pulse shape requirements for proper functioning of the gates cannot, usually, be met by pulses derived straight from the sinusoidal mains.

This article discusses those requirements and, taking standard TTL devices as an example, establishes a few basic principles in connection with digital logic driving pulses.

Input and Output Pulse Shapes Definitions

The typical pulse shape in figure 1 shows the rise time $t_r$ (defined as the time the driving pulse requires to rise from 10% to 90% of its maximum level). Likewise, the fall time $t_f$ is defined as the time in which the signal drops from 90% to 10% of its maximum level.

Close adherence to $t_r$ and $t_f$ specifications is important when gates without switching hysteresis are driven; slow risetime pulses can cause spurious oscillations when the incoming pulse level coincides with the gate threshold level.

A further important characteristic shown in the figure is the pulse width $t_w$, defined as the duration of the pulse between the two points of 50% maximum pulse level. For satisfactory performance of the logic device, $t_w$ must not be less than a specified value as shorter pulses will result in erratic output signals or complete loss of signal.

TTL Gate Input Specifications

Figure 2 shows the specified $t_r$, $t_f$, and $t_w$ values as they apply to standard TTL gates. Logic "0" level is specified to be not more than 0.8 V, which level is defined as the 0% level. Logic "1" level is specified to be not less than 2 V, defined as the 100% level.

The input $t_r$ and $t_f$ values apply between these two limits and are, therefore, measured between the 10% and 90% levels, that is to say, 0.92 V and 1.88 V respectively.

With these TTL gates the $t_w$ duration is measured at the 50% signal level according to the above definition. In practice this switching level is situated at 1.5 V.

Input Signal Requirements

These TTL requirements are closely specified. The safe maximum positive input signal level is 5.5 V. The safe negative level is -1.5 V. Rise and fall times must be less...
Oolong lessons

which, for \( t = t_1 \), gives

\[
V_{t1} = \sin \omega t_1 \times \varphi \quad (3)
\]

It is assumed that a 5 V rms mains transformer is used to power the TTL equipment, this being about the lowest voltage possible for obtaining a sufficiently stabilised 5 V DC supply. \( \varphi \) will then be 7.07 volts. Equation (3) can now be evaluated as follows:

\[
0.92 V = \sin(2 \pi \times 50 \times t_1) \times 7.07 V
\]

which gives

\[
t_1 = 0.42 \text{ millisecond} \quad (5)
\]

Point \( t_3 \) is found by evaluation of

\[
V_{t3} = \sin \omega t_3 \times \varphi
\]

\[
1.88 V = \sin(2 \pi \times 50 \times t_3) \times 7.07 V
\]

from which follows

\[
t_3 = 0.86 \text{ millisecond} \quad (7)
\]

which, for \( t = t_1 \), gives

\[
V_{t1} = \sin \omega t_1 \times \varphi \quad (3)
\]

It is assumed that a 5 V rms mains transformer is used to power the TTL equipment, this being about the lowest voltage possible for obtaining a sufficiently stabilised 5 V DC supply. \( \varphi \) will then be 7.07 volts. Equation (3) can now be evaluated as follows:

\[
0.92 V = \sin(2 \pi \times 50 \times t_1) \times 7.07 V
\]

which gives

\[
t_1 = 0.42 \text{ millisecond} \quad (5)
\]

Point \( t_3 \) is found by evaluation of

\[
V_{t3} = \sin \omega t_3 \times \varphi
\]

\[
1.88 V = \sin(2 \pi \times 50 \times t_3) \times 7.07 V
\]

from which follows

\[
t_3 = 0.86 \text{ millisecond} \quad (7)
\]

Numerical Examples

These examples illustrate the practical problems to be dealt with in the design of mains driven TTL equipment.

In figure 3, zener diode D clips the drive signal to prevent it from surpassing the safe positive level. When forward biased the diode limits the negative signal to -0.7 V.

In this example we will now consider if such a diode-resistor network will perform satisfactorily.

Figure 4 shows the rectified sinusoidal voltage. In this graph, \( t_1 \) and \( t_2 \) must be found between the 10% and 90% points of the potential difference between the logic "0" and "1" levels, i.e. 0.92 and 1.88 V respectively.

Figure 4 shows that

\[
t_1 = t_2 = t_3 - t_1 \quad (1)
\]

Points \( t_1 \) and \( t_3 \) are evaluated by the equation

\[
V_t = \sin \omega t \times \varphi \quad (2)
\]

Equations (5) and (7) give the rise and fall times

\[
t_1 = t_2 = (0.86 - 0.42) \text{ millisecond} = 0.44 \text{ millisecond}.
\]

This numerical example proves that the signal across the zener diode of figure 3 shows rise and fall times greatly exceeding those specified for driving TTL circuitry and is, therefore, quite unsuitable.

The edge slope at the switching points can be evaluated by differential calculus. We will thus consider if the specification of 0.5 microsec/V can be held.

The turn-on threshold level of 1.5 V (see figure 2) is reached at the point

\[
V_{t2} = \sin \omega t_2 \times \varphi
\]

1.5 V = \sin(2 \pi \times 50 \times t_2) \times 7.07 V

from which follows

\[
t_2 = 0.68 \text{ millisecond} \quad (9)
\]
The edge slope at this point is found by differentiation of

\[ v = \sin(1.1 \times t) \]

\[ \frac{dv}{dt} = 1.1 \times \cos(1.1 \times t) \times \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \]

\[ = 2 \pi \times 50 \times \cos(2 \pi \times 50 \times 0.68 \times 10^{-3}) \times 7.07 \]

\[ = 2221.09 \text{ V/s} \quad (10) \]

Inversion of equation (10) gives the edge slope 0.45 millisecond/V (11)

This edge slope is insufficient for driving TTL equipment.

The rise and fall times and the edge slopes depend on the AC supply voltage. Increasing this voltage might improve results somewhat, but to cope with the TTL requirements the voltage would have to be excessive. And, although cosmos gates can function on slower driving pulses, the use of AC derived drive there will prove impracticable too.

The one requirement that is fully met by AC derived drive is the pulse width of 29 nanosec. This means that the circuit of figure 3 could be used if a way were found in which the leading and trailing edges could be steepped. This can be performed by amplification of the sine signal, which multiplies the slope by the amplifier gain.

In that case, one of the requirements is a transistor amplifier stage fast enough to switch from logic "0" to "1" in 1 microsec. Since this stage is driven by a sinusoidal signal, its output will show a sinusoidal portion too and it must be investigated whether the edge slope at the switching point is steep enough.

Design criteria for this stage are: low transistor and gate capacitances and high gain.

It has been found that a less complicated and, at the same time, more economical solution of the problem is the use of a Schmitt trigger, which adds more precision to all switching functions.

Figure 5 shows how a Schmitt trigger can be driven by rectified AC via a potential divider.

Figure 6 shows how this has been realised with TTL integrated circuits. The monostable in question is the 74121, which possesses an additional Schmitt trigger input pin (5). P1 preset sets the monostable to just below 20 millisecond; this is best carried out by first setting P1 to its maximum value, then slowly reducing it until a 50 Hz square wave appears at the Q output.
A digital master oscillator based on the principle of frequency synthesis by the addition of partial frequencies is complex and fairly expensive, as a glance at the board layout of figure 14 will show. However, the method does have the advantage of good accuracy which will also be the single IC version, which we will describe while describing the block diagram reproduced in figure 1.

**The Oscillators**

The master oscillator circuit uses three sections of the circuit, the block diagrams of which are shown in figure 14. Each section drives an additional oscillator. Since all the notes are produced, this master oscillator circuit is very stable. ICs are common in organs because of their stability. However, the stability of such oscillators is not as good as that of RC oscillators.

The circuit can be fabricated monostably, which means that each output of the other monostables is a good frequency source. The time constant of the monostables is determined by the Q output of the monostables and the frequency of the master oscillator is determined by C1, R1, R2, R3, and P1. Since the circuit is symmetrical, the wave form of the clock generator can be adjusted over a wide range.
Table 1. The frequencies of the notes in the octave expressed as binary numbers compared to the lowest note \( (C^5 = 1.00000000001) \).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C#</td>
<td>1.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.0101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D#</td>
<td>1.01011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>1.010111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>1.0101111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F#</td>
<td>1.01011111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>1.01111111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G#</td>
<td>1.011111111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>1.10111111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A#</td>
<td>1.101111111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>1.1011111111</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Octave Tremolo

The so-called 'octave tremolo' effect mentioned last month can be achieved very simply in the case of a digital master oscillator. 'Tremolo' in this case is a misnomer, as a true tremolo involves amplitude modulation, but the term is in common use. The effect is obtained by switching a flip-flop in and out of circuit between the clock generator and the dividers, so that the pitch of the whole organ jumps up and down by an octave. Figure 5 shows a simple method of switching the octave tremolo flip-flop. If point A is at logic '1' then T1 is turned on and the input signal B bypasses the flip-flop via T1 and D1 to appear at C. If A is at logic '0' T1 is turned off and T2 is turned on. The frequency of input B is divided by 2 in the flip-flop and the signal is taken from the Q output to C via T2.

The control signal for the octave tremolo may be derived from a simple multivibrator based on a TTL Schmitt trigger, as shown in figure 4. P4 allows the tremolo rate to be adjusted from about 3 to 6 Hz.

Frequency Synthesis

As discussed in last month's article, the twelve notes in the octave are obtained by the addition of partial frequencies. Thus, for example, if a 1 kHz pulse train were mixed with a 500 Hz pulse train then the resulting frequency would be 1.5 kHz, subject to the proviso that none of the pulses coincide, as they would then be indistinguishable from one another.

The partial frequencies are obtained by dividing down from the clock frequency in a series of flip-flops (block A in figure 1). Each frequency in the octave can then be expressed in terms of its partial frequencies as a binary number (table 1) so that where a '1' appears in table 1 a contribution is required from the corresponding partial frequency. To synthesise a particular frequency it is necessary to OR together all the relevant partial frequencies.

To ensure that no pulses coincide the symmetrical output waveforms of the flip-flops in block A must be modified into shorter pulses. This is achieved by ANDing the lower frequency outputs with the complements of the higher frequencies, as shown in figure 6. This is the function performed by block B in figure 1.

A cheap method of achieving the multiple-input OR function required to add the pulse trains is the use of open-collector inverters, with a 'wired-OR' function performed at their outputs (figure 7).

As explained in last month's article the frequency synthesis takes place at the actual partial frequencies of the notes in the top octave of the instrument. Once the correct frequency ratios have been obtained by synthesis each note thus obtained must be divided down through several flip-flops to remove the inevitable jitter which arises during synthesis. The outputs of the anti-jitter stages are the actual notes of the top octave. This is the function performed by block D in figure 1.

The complete circuit of the master oscillator is given in figures 8a and 8b. In the top left-hand corner is the clock generator, next to it the vibrato oscillator, and below that the octave tremolo oscillator. The flip-flops used for octave tremolo and generation of the partial frequencies are actually contained in three 7493 4-bit binary counters. The outputs of the 7493's are inverted to obtain the complements, then fed into the AND-gating, at the outputs of which appear the modified duty-cycle pulse trains ready for ORing together.

The 11 partial frequency bus lines on the right of figure 8a are connected to the corresponding points on the left of figure 8b. The required partial frequencies for each note are picked off these and fed into the inverters in the middle of the diagram. The wired-OR outputs are then fed into the AND-gating, consisting of two cascaded 7493's for each note, at the outputs of which appear 11 of the notes of the top octave. As explained last month, note C does not require synthesis but is simply divided down from the clock frequency and appears at the output of the 2^7 partial frequency divider.

MOS version

The advantage offered by the above system is extremely good accuracy of the...
Figure 8a and b. The complete circuit of the TTL master oscillator.

Figure 9. Block diagram of the General Instruments AY-1-0212 IC used in the MOS version of the master oscillator.

Figure 10. The odd-numbered division ratios in the IC produce asymmetric output waveforms.
intervals in the octave, but the cost is relatively high. The General Instruments AY-1-0212 uses the principle of direct frequency division, which was also discussed last month. With this method each note is individually divided down from the clock frequency, using a counter of the appropriate length. As explained last month, to achieve good accuracy large division ratios must be employed, typically between 500 and 1000. However, in the AY-1-0212 the largest division ratio is only 451, and the smallest 239. This means that the maximum relative error is 0.07%, which occurs with D, E and A sharp. Against this one must weigh the simplicity and relatively low cost of a circuit using the AY-1-0212.

The block diagram of the AY-1-0212 is shown in figure 9, but further discussion of the mode of operation of the dividers cannot be made, as the manufacturer's literature gives no internal circuit of the IC. Table 2 shows the output frequencies obtained with the IC, compared to the correct frequencies, and also the error, both absolute and percentage. Since odd division ratios are used for some of the notes in the AY-1-0212 not all the output waveforms are symmetrical. For example, as shown in figure 10 the output frequencies of the AY-1-0212 compared to the correct frequencies, and the absolute and percentage error.

Figure 11. Complete circuit of the MOS master oscillator. This uses the same clock generator and vibrato oscillator as the TTL version, but the octave tremolo flip-flop and switching are different as there are no TTL dividers with spare flip-flops that could be used for this purpose.

Figure 12. 5 V 2 A power supply for the TTL master oscillator with extensive interference suppression.

Figure 13. Power supply for the MOS master oscillator. Three voltages are required. -5 V for the clock generator, vibrato oscillator and octave tremolo is derived using a modified version of the TTL power supply, and the -12 and -27 V supplies for the AY-1-0212 are obtained using simple, single transistor stabilisers.
put of the divide-by-402 stage is symmetrical, as the output waveform is high for 201 clock pulses and low for 201. In the case of the divide-by-319 stage, however, the output is high for 160 clock pulses and low for 159. This will, of course, only affect the top octave as the lower octaves of the instrument will be obtained by dividing down using flip-flops, when the asymmetry will disappear.

The AY-10212 is available in a 16-pin dual-in-line package in two versions, plastic and ceramic. All inputs of the IC are protected against overvoltage and static charges by zener diodes. The impedance of the outputs is 3k5.

The complete circuit of an oscillator using the AY-1-0212 is given in figure 11. The ancillary circuits are identical to those of the synthesiser version, with the exception of the octave tremolo flip-flop and switching, there being no spare flip-flop available since 7493 input dividers are not used. Instead the flip-flop and switching are built around a 7401 IC. Since the voltage levels within the AY-1-0212 are all negative, for simplicity of power supply design the TTL sections of the circuit are operated from a ±0, -5 V supply rather than a ±5, ±0 V supply. This also means that the TTL logic levels (which swing between about -0.6 and -4.5 V) can be translated into the 0 to -10 V swing required to drive the AY-1-0212 using a single BC177B transistor.

Like the synthesiser version the clock generator of the AY-1-0212 version has 'effects' inputs, as described earlier.

**Construction and power supplies**

A 5 V 2 A power supply for the TTL master oscillator is given in figure 12. Because of the relatively poor noise immunity of TTL extensive suppression is employed on the unregulated side of the circuit (C1 – C4, R1, R2).

The power supply for the AY-1-0212 version of the circuit is derived from the TTL power supply as shown in figure 13. To provide the -5 V supply for the TTL sections of the circuit (oscillators, octave tremolo flip-flop etc) the same circuit is used but with different polarity transistors (TUP instead of TUN etc.). A stable -5 V supply is required to ensure the frequency stability of the oscillators which operate from this supply, but in this case the current drawn is only about 100 mA, as against the 2 A of the TTL version. The -12 and -27 V supplies required by the AY-1-0212 do not need to be so well regulated, and are simply supplied from T6 and T7, with D5 and D6 providing the reference voltages.

A p.c. board layout for the TTL master oscillator is given in figure 14, and that for the MOS version in figure 15. The clock generators must be screened in each case to avoid r.f. radiation. In the case of the TTL circuit the area around the top left-hand corner of the board may be screened with pieces of copper laminate board, or indeed the whole printed circuit may be mounted in a metal box. The p.c. board for the MOS
Parts list for figures 8 and 14

Resistors:
R1, R2, R3, R13, R16 to R27 = 2 kΩ
R3, R5, R14, R28, R29, R30 = 1 kΩ
R4, R12 = 4 kΩ
R6, R10 = 470 Ω
R7 = 33 kΩ
R8, R9 = 10 kΩ
R11 = 15 kΩ
R15, R31 = 330 Ω
P1 = 1 kΩ, multturn preset
P2 = 4 kΩ, lin.
P3 = 4 kΩ, lin.
P4 = 470 Ω, lin.

Capacitors:
C1, C2 = 100 pF
C3 to C6 = 10 μF, 16 V
C7, C8, C9 = 4.7 μF, 16 V
C10 = 470 μF, 4 V
C11 = 220 μF, 16 V
C12 to C28 = 100 nF

IC's:
IC1 = 74123
IC2 ... IC4, IC25 ... IC46 = 7493
IC5, IC6 = 7404
IC7 ... IC11 = 7408
IC12 = 7413
IC13 ... IC24 = 7405

Semiconductors:
T1, T2, T3 = TUN
T4 = TUP
D1, D2 = DUS

Figure 14. P.c. board layout for the TTL master oscillator.
Parts list for figures 11 and 15

Resistors:
R1,R2,R13 = 2kΩ
R3,R5,R14,R20 = 1 kΩ
R6,R10 = 470 Ω
R7 = 33 kΩ
R8,R9 = 10 kΩ
R11 = 15 kΩ
R12,R23 = 4k7
R15,R22 = 330 Ω
R16,R17,R21 = 10 kΩ
R18,R19 = 680 Ω
P1 = 1 k, multturn preset
P2 = 4k7, zm.
P3 = 4k7, zm.
P4 = 470 Ω, zm.

Capacitors:
C1,C2 = 100 p
C3 to C6 = 10 μ, 16 V
C7,C8,C9 = 4μ7, 16 V
C10 = 470 μ, 4 V
C11,C12 = 47 p
C13 = 33 p
C14 = 220 μ, 16 V

Semiconductors:
T1,T2 = TUN
T3 = TUP
D1 = DUS

ICs:
IC1 = 74123
IC2 = 7413
IC3 = 7401
IC4 = AY-1-0212

Parts list for figures 12 and 16

Resistors:
R1,R2 = 3kΩ
R3 = 6kΩ
R4 = 470 Ω
R5 = 100 Ω
R6 = 180 Ω
R7 = 1 k
R8,R9,R10 = 1.5 Ω
P1 = 1 k, preset

Capacitors:
C1,C2 = 100 n
C3,C4 = 1 n
C5 = 2200 μ, 16 V
C6 = 220 μ, 4 V
C7 = 10 μ, 16 V
C8 = 470 μ, 6.3 V

Semiconductors:
B1 = B20 C2000 bridge rectifier
D1 = omitted
D2,D3 = DUS
D4 = zener 4.7 V, 400 mW
T1 = TUP
T2,T3,T5 = TUN
T4 = BD 240 or equ.

Miscellaneous:
F1 = fuse 2 A slo blo
Tr1 = 8 V, 2 A transformer
Figure 15. P.c. board and component layout for the MOS master oscillator (EPS no. 4011 B-2).

Figure 16. P.c. board and component layout for the TTL oscillator power supply.
Parts list for figures 13 and 17

Resistors:
- R3 = 6kΩ
- R4, R14 = 470 Ω
- R5 = 100 Ω
- R6 = 180 Ω
- R7, R13 = 1 kΩ
- R8 = 4.7 Ω
- R11 = 100 Ω, 1 W
- R12 = 22 Ω
- (R15 omitted)

Capacitors:
- C6 = 220 μF, 4 V
- C7 = 10 μF, 16 V
- C8 = 470 μF, 6.3 V

Semiconductors:
- B1 = 540 C250 bridge rectifier (40 V 250 mA)
- D2, D3 = DUS
- D4 = zener 4.7 V, 400 mW
- D5 = zener 12 V, 400 mW
- D6 = zener 15 V, 400 mW
- T1 = TUN
- T2, T3, T5 = TUP
- T4 = BC 140
- T5, T6 = BC 160
Figure 17. Showing how a modified TTL power supply board is interconnected with an ancillary board to provide the three voltages required for the MOS master oscillator (EPS no.s 4046 and 4011-1-13).

Figure 18. Pinning of the MK50242. This is identical to the pinning of the AY-1-0212, with the exception of pin 9: NC for the former, -27.5 V for the latter.

Figure 19. Modifications to the power supply circuit for use with the MK50242. D6 and T7 are omitted (bridged), D5 is a 15 V type and the transformer secondary voltage can be reduced to 15 V.

version, being smaller, is easily mounted in a small metal box for screening.

A printed circuit board and layout for the 5 V power supply for the TTL oscillator is given in figure 16. As T4 dissipates several watts it must be mounted external to the board on an adequate heatsink. The power supply for the MOS version uses the board of figure 16 (with different polarity transistors) plus an ancillary board to derive the negative supplies for the AY-1-0212. In this case the load current is only about 100 mA, so T4 is a T05 device mounted on the board in a cooling clip (as are T5 and T6). The suppression components required to protect the TTL dividers against noise on the supply lines are omitted from this version, as are the bridge rectifier and smoothing capacitor, which are mounted on the ancillary board.

Alternative MOS IC

An alternative IC for the AY-1-0212 is the MK50242 (Mostek). This IC is pin compatible with the AY-1-0212, see figure 18, so it can be mounted on the same printed circuit board. It has the advantage that only one (negative) supply voltage is required: -12 V. The -27.5 V supply is not necessary for this IC.

This results in a minor simplification of the power supply circuit (figures 13 and 17): zenerdiode D6 and T7 are omitted, as shown in figure 19. Two wire links are needed on the board, one in place of D6 and one to bridge the original collector and emitter connections of T7.

The nominal supply voltage for the MK50242 is -15 V, so that it is advisable to use a 15 V zener for D5. The originally specified 12 V type could also be used, however: this is within the permissible supply voltage range of the IC.
The need occasionally arises for an FM test generator for the repair or alignment of VHF FM tuners or receivers. However, unless the constructor is something of an H.F. fanatic the cost of a sophisticated commercial generator is not justified in view of its limited applications.

The simple generators described in this article will enable a wide range of tests to be carried out on both the front end and the i.f. strip, at relatively little cost. In both the circuits described the r.f. oscillator is an astable multivibrator with a 10.7 MHz ceramic filter in the coupling to determine the frequency of oscillation. Frequency modulation is carried out with a varicap diode, and due to the high harmonic content of the output a useful signal is available in the VHF band as well as at the 10.7 MHz fundamental.

The two circuits have different properties. The generator of figure 1 has good frequency stability and oscillates at the exact frequency of the filter. The oscillator comprises T1 and T2 with T3 as an output buffer. Frequency modulation is accomplished by feeding the modulating signal to the BB109 varicap diode, which varies its capacitance and hence the frequency of the h.f. oscillator. The frequency deviation of this generator is small, typically 1.3 kHz at 10.7 MHz, and 13 kHz at the 10th harmonic (107 MHz). A good i.f. strip should be capable of noise-free handling of an FM signal even with this small deviation, so this is a useful test.

The circuit of figure 2 uses a different method of modulation which permits a much larger deviation of some 75 kHz at the 10th harmonic. This is the normal maximum deviation used in FM broadcast transmitters. An astable multivibrator T1/T2 provides the modulating signal, or external modulation may be used.

A side effect of this method of modulation is that the centre frequency of the h.f. oscillator is about 40 kHz lower than the resonant frequency of the ceramic filter. Thus, when testing an i.f. strip with a centre frequency of exactly 10.7 MHz (for example, one fitted with ceramic filters type SFE 10.7 red spot) then the generator must be fitted with a filter colour coded for a higher frequency. Suitable types would be SFE 10.7 orange (10.73 MHz), SFE 10.7 white (10.76 MHz) or the CFS equivalents from the Toko range.

A printed circuit layout for the second circuit is given in figure 3.
Motorola CMOS 2-of-8 Tone Encoder

Motorola have just introduced the MC14410 2-of-8 tone encoder, a member of their CMOS digital subsystem family. This tone encoder is designed to accept inputs from a 16 button keypad which is connected in a 4 x 4 matrix. It has two outputs which give digitally synthesized high and low band sinewaves as specified for telephone tone dialling systems. Applications of the MC14410 also include radio and mobile telephones, process control, point-of-sale terminals, and credit card verification terminals.

The master clocking is provided by an on chip oscillator which is connected in a 4 x 4 matrix. This controls two separate sine wave generators, the output stages of which have NPN bipolar structures on the same substrate allowing a low output impedance of 80 ohms. The output frequencies are for low band: 697, 770, 852, 941 Hz, and for high band: 1209, 1336, 1477, 1633 Hz, all with an accuracy of ±0.2% (not including crystal tolerance). Harmonic distortion is typically less than 30 dB below the fundamental frequency. When a key is depressed, the actual combination depending on the key chosen. Multiple key lockout is incorporated in the design to eliminate the need for mechanical lockout in the keypad.

The MC14410 has fast oscillator turn on and turn off times - typically 8 ms to turn on after application of 5 Vdc supply. Noise immunity is typically 45% of supply voltage which can lie within the range 4.4 to 6.0 Vdc.

Motorola Ltd.,

Two-timing watch

The exact time in any two zones can be kept simultaneously by a new 6-function CMOS watch circuit which is now available in quantity from National Semiconductor Corp. for hybrid assembly into LED (light-emitting diode) wrist watches. Known as the model 'MMS880', this new watch circuit provides all the control signals that are needed by a four-digit LED watch. The circuit provides hours, minutes, seconds, and month/with-date under control of a single push-button.

A second push-button controls the display of seconds, minutes, and hours in a different time zone. This feature permits travelers to keep track of the time in the home zone while maintaining local time. Businessmen will find this feature useful when communicating long-distance. Resetting the second time zone does not affect the time kept for the first zone. This insures a accurate calibration at all times. Also available is a second version of the watch circuit the MMS860, which is designed to present calendar information in the European format of date-and-month. (The American format provides date-and-month.) Both models may be connected to display time in either a 12-hour or 24-hour format. The 12-hour version provides an a.m. indication, which is useful in setting the calander.

Outputs interface directly with currently available standard bipolar segment-driver and digit-driver circuits.

The circuits operate from any d.c. source that supplies a voltage between 2.4 and 4.0 volts. Circuit chips are furnished in a form suitable for hybrid assembly in modules.

National Semiconductor Corp.
0808 Farstenfeldbruck.

16-pin and 22-pin 4K RAMS

AMI Microsystems have introduced two 4K random access memories featuring small chip size, single transistor cell design and N-channel processing.

The AMI S4021 series of 4096-word by one-bit arrays, is available in four different performance capabilities to meet a variety of applications: for example, the maximum data access time for the S4021-4 is 200 ns which compares with 400 ns for the 'basic' S4021. The S4021-4 also features a minimum cycle time of 300 ns and minimum read/modify/write cycle time of 510 ns. The circuit includes a unique sense amplifier, which consumes minimal power while maintaining a high noise immunity. Typical current consumption is 30 mA. The S4021 series is initially available in production quantities in the 22-pin ceramic DIP, and is pin-compatible with the Texas TMS 4060 and Intel 2107B.

In the AMI S4096, a 16 pin 4K RAM, the same memory cell structure and process is employed as in the S4021 series. Maximum data access time ranges from 250 ns to 400 ns, while the minimum read/write and read/modify/write cycle times are 375 ns and 520 ns respectively. It is pin-compatible with the Mostek MK4096, and is currently available in development quantities.

AMI Microsystems Ltd.,
108A Commercial Road, Swindon, Wilts.
Low-cost illuminated push-button switches
Roxburgh Electronics Ltd. announce a new range of illuminated push-buttons. The 4000 series are rated at 5 A/250 V a.c. or d.c., and feature either momentary or alternate action in changeover versions of up to three poles. They have been designed for panel-mounted applications, and require a panel aperture of 16.2 mm diameter. A choice of seven opaque, or six translucent coloured lens types is available, and these may be square, rectangular or circular according to application requirements. The lens can be illuminated by either a filament or a neon lamp, and the lens can be captioned either by surface engraving or by applying a transfer to the inside surface.

Battery-operated AC generator
Jermyn now offer their well known versions in an all silicon transistor version giving increased reliability with a one year guarantee. When the mains electricity supply fails, due to strikes/power cuts/or failures this unit can be used as an emergency supply for:
- Central heating (remember even Gas and Oil have electric pumps and thermostats)
- Tropical fish tanks (disastrous to fish if the temperature drops)
- Professional equipment (dentist's drill, telex machines etc.)
- Ordinary lighting (filament lamps)

When the mains fail, the unit automatically switches the load, running it for up to 3 hours from an ordinary car battery. When the supply is restored, automatically the load is switched back to the normal mains and the unit then acts as a battery charger, keeping the battery topped up until the next mains failure, even if it is months later!

New 'jewelled' LED
Norbain Electronics Ltd. announce a new LED indicator. This low-current bright green or red LED uses a flattened 'jewelled' lens to provide distinct signals in high-ambient light levels with a 90° included view angle. The Lc. compatible LED's are with a 90° included view angle. This low-current bright green or red LED uses a flattened 'jewelled' lens to provide distinct signals in high-ambient light levels with a 90° included view angle. The Lc. compatible LED's are available in two packages: the 2500 °dim, at 10 mA) which directly illuminates the lens and the 1676 cw produce specialised arrays of Schottky bipolar 1 of 8 decoder which has been designed primarily as an adjunct to their range of microprocessors, but which is also useful in conventional logic circuits. The new Lc., type 8205, contains a three-input, eight-output, gating network which causes one output to go low for each of the eight, three-bit, binary input codes that can be fed to the input. An on-chip three-input gate inhibits the decoded output unless the three enable inputs are in the required logic condition (two low, one high). This feature allows 8205s to be connected, without additional logic, to form decoders up to 1 of 24 in 8 line increments without sacrificing speed. The addition of a simple inverter or two enables decoders up to 1 of 64 to be constructed. Obviously, the low propagation delay (typically 20 ns) enables 8205s to be cascaded to produce decoding networks of virtually any size. The prime application for the 8205 is in microprocessing systems employing Intel and other microprocessors. For example, three 8205s can be connected to the four lower order address lines of an 8080 microprocessor (as shown in figure A) to generate active low enable signals for 24 input/output channels from the word that appears on the 8080's address bus. As a memory address decoder, three 8205s can be connected to high-order microprocessor address lines (A10 to A14) and the 24 8205 outputs can each be used to enable a 1K block of read only or random access memory. With this arrangement (shown in figure B) low-order address lines (A0 to A9) are connected to all the memory chips in the memory array to select the required location. Thus, the three 8205s provide enable signals for a memory of 24K. The technique can, of course, be expanded.

A single 8205 can be connected to an 8008 cpu (figure C) to decode the three status outputs (S0 to S2) and, at the same time, gate these signals with phase two of the clock and the 'sync' output. As a result, the single device, in addition to providing status information, produces strobe pulses that can be connected directly to 8212s for latching address information; also generating timing signals to control the system data bus, memory timing, interrupt control and automatically inhibiting strobes during 'reset'. The 8205 is housed in either a plastic or ceramic 18-pin dual-in-line packages. Significant figures from the data sheet include:
- A propagation delay of 18 nsec
- Maximum, 0.25 mA input load, 10 mA output sink and low reflection due to the on-chip low-voltage input diode clamps.
Exceptional frequency response in multichannel analogue recorder

The new Gould Brush 2400 direct-writing chart recorder offers channel widths of 100 mm and 50 mm, and uses a servo-controlled pen motor to give exceptional frequency response: 30 Hz at 100 mm, 50 Hz at 50 mm and up to 100 Hz at lower amplitudes. The recorder is available in 12 configurations to meet a variety of requirements; it can be used in 2-channel, 3-channel or 4-channel form (two 100 mm channels; one 100 mm and two 50 mm channels; or four 50 mm channels), and with or without interchangeable plug-in preamplifiers. Portable or rack-mounted versions are available. A plug-in control board (with programmable timer) and plug-in drive amplifiers are standard. The recorder is electrically compatible with all Gould Brush preamplifiers and signal conditioners. The pen motor incorporates a non-contact servo feedback system known as Motable, which gives a high stiffness (100 g/mm) and a linearity of 99.6% over the entire channel width. Rise time is less than 8 ms for 100 mm amplitude and 5 ms for 50 mm amplitude. Overshoot is less than 1% on square waves and transients, and electronic limiters in the drive amplifier prevent pen damage from off-scale inputs. Trace presentation is true rectilinear.

Precision Digital Microwave Attenuator

Walmore Electronics Ltd., the recently-appointed UK agents for Anaren Microwave Inc., announce the availability of a precision digital attenuator (model No 61060). The unit uses an absorptive PIN diode attenuator which is controlled by the output of an 11-bit digital-to-analogue converter, the inputs of which are TTL compatible. This control voltage is passed through a linearising network and a temperature correction network before being applied to the PIN diode.

The model 61060 attenuator is specifically designed for applications requiring remote control, low phase shift, high speed and excellent setting repeatability under either static or dynamic conditions. It will provide precision RF signal level control in computer-controlled test setups, radar and communications systems.

The attenuation ranges from 0 to 64 dB above the specified loss, which is a maximum of 5 dB. Resolution is commensurate with the 11 bit control input. Attenuation linearity is within ±0.5 dB over the attenuation range and the temperature range of −20 to +65°C. The frequency response is flat within ±0.3 dB over the frequency range of 8.5 to 9.6 GHz for all settings of the attenuator. Maximum operational RF power is 100 mW (1 W for survival) and power supply requirements are ±15 Vdc at ±3% regulation and 100 mA maximum. The impedance of the attenuator is 50 ohms and the phase shift with attenuation lies within ±0°.

The attenuator is supplied in a rugged, lightweight box 5.15" x 4.00" x 1.38" and stripline integrated circuitry is used to ensure high reliability at low cost.

Walmore Electronics Ltd., 11-15 Betterton St., London WC2H 9BS.

Low-cost plug-in power supply units

Coutant Electronics' new SU Series are genuinely low-cost plug-in pcb-mounted power supply units that have been developed for systems and instruments designers who need economical and compact regulated power sources for such components as digital IC's, operational amplifiers, MOS registers, D/A and A/D converters and semiconductors, or for less sensitive applications requiring remote control, direct access to the transformer terminal panel, depending on user preference.

Single output models are available for 5 to 6 V at 1.5 A, 12 to 15 V at 0.5 A and 24 to 30 V at 0.25 A. A dual output model, which can be connected in an independent or tracking mode, provides two outputs, each variable between 5 and 15 volts.

A significant and invaluable feature of the SU Series is the ‘over-power’ protection that they enjoy thanks to the incorporation of a unique ‘thermal foldback’ current limiting (TFCL) circuit. This circuit is contained in a precision current sensor which ensures that the power dissipation of the series element is contained within defined limits; if these limits are exceeded, the available output is automatically reduced, and none level is provided.

By using TFCL protection, the SU Series may therefore be used in a more versatile manner than similar units that just provide overcurrent protection. For example the SU/5, which is normally a 5-V unit providing 1.5 A, may be transient loaded up to 4 A with no significant loss of regulation; furthermore, a continuous operation at 2 A is available at all but extremes of mains voltage and ambient temperatures less than 50°C.

All units in the SU Series operate from 100 to 264 V 45-65 Hz supplies, have line and load regulations of 0.05%, exhibit a ripple and noise level of less than 1 mV peak to peak, and feature self-resetting overcurrent and thermal protection. Their operating temperature range is 0 to 55°C (70°C with derating), but higher temperature versions are available to special order; temperature coefficient is better than 0.01% per °C.

Coutant Electronics Ltd., 3 Trafford Road, Reading RG1 8JR.

Microminiature push-button switches

Roxburgh Electronics Ltd have extended the range of C & K switches they distribute throughout the U.K., with the addition of two series of subminiature and microminiature push-button switches.

In the case of the subminiature series, of which two normally-open and two normally-closed versions are available, the contacts are rated from 0.5 A at 250 Vac. to 1 A at 120 Vac. or 28 Vdc.

Three different types of microminiature switch are available, two with normally-open contacts, and one, normally-closed. Their contacts are rated from 0.125 A at 250 Vac. to 0.5 A at 120 Vac. or 28 Vdc.

Both the subminiature and microminiature switches contain silver contacts and terminals as standard, and can be supplied with circular-section push-button caps in six standard colours.

Roxburgh Electronics Ltd., 22 Winchelsea Road, Rye, Sussex.
NEW STORAGE TUBE - 100 TIMES FASTER

A new high-writing speed oscilloscope storage tube - 100 times faster than its predecessors, has been produced by English Electric Valve Co. Ltd. This is the E725 with an average writing speed of 100 centimetres per microsecond at a gun voltage of 2 kV when operated with zero background brightness. With low background brightness this speed can be multiplied by a factor of two or three. The E725 is a 3-mesh charge-transfer tube capable of a storage time in the half-tone storage mode of over five minutes without display time sharing.

Excellent storage performance is achieved in oscilloscopes of 25 MHz bandwidth and charge transfer is obtained with negligible loss of definition.

EEV Chelmsford, Essex. CM1 2QU

MCS-80/C, An Advanced Microprocessor Kit

A new set of matched microprocessor components, known as the MCS-80 C incorporating all the latest peripheral drive devices, the new interrupt control unit and the newly introduced C8080A cpu, is now available from Intel. This is the highest-performance, most comprehensive component kit ever offered by Intel. It consists of the following components: one C8080A cpu (TTL compatible, 2 µsec, vectored interrupt) one 8224 system clock and driver, one 8226 system controller and bus driver, one 8708 1024 x 8-bit erasable PROM, two 8111-2 256 x 4-bit static RAMs, one 8255 multi-port programmable I/O unit, one 8251 USART (universal synchronous/asynchronous receiver/transmitter) for programmable serial communications interface, one 8212 8-bit latching I/O port, one 8214 priority interrupt control unit, one 8205 high-speed one-of-eight decoder, and two 8216 non-inverting, bi-directional bus drivers. The MCS-80/C, which provides engineers with an opportunity of evaluating the C8080A and the new support integrated circuits, may be assembled in a number of different ways to form powerful microprocessing systems. It may be expanded by adding more memory or extra peripheral devices.

INTEL Corporation (UK) Ltd., Broadfield House, 4 Between Towns Road, Cowley, Oxford OX4 3NB.

10:1 CAPACITANCE RATIO TUNING VARACTORS

The MSI MV1404 tuning diode features a relatively high capacitance of 120 picofarads at 2 volts bias and more significant is its capacitance change of at least 10:1 from the 2 volt bias value to its 10 volt bias value. It is packaged in glass DO-7 to meet environmental specifications of MIL-S-19500 for reliability in use in mobile communications, particularly AM. With Q velum greater than 200 at 2 volts bias measured at 1 MHz, the MV1404 is useful for phase locked loop and general frequency control applications at the lower RF frequencies.

MSI Electronics Inc., 34-32 57th Street, Woodside, N.Y. 11377.

New digital storage oscilloscope

The new OS4000 oscilloscope from Gould Advance represents a breakthrough in terms of price/performance specification. For the first time, a complete digital storage oscilloscope system is available at a cost that is comparable with that of a conventional storage-tube oscilloscope.

The OS4000 combines the facilities and performance of a conventional 10 MHz oscilloscope with a digital storage system capable of storing signals up to 450 Hz (-3 dB). Digital storage has several advantages over tube storage, including the ability to examine what happens immediately before a trigger signal is received, the simultaneous viewing of stored and real-time displays, absence of deterioration of the stored display over a period of time, flicker-free low-frequency performance, and the elimination of the expensive storage tube. The instrument's functions and controls are grouped in such a way that it can be operated in the same way as a conventional oscilloscope, with a minimum number of additional controls for the storage functions.

The OS4000 is ideally suited for viewing transient waveforms - for example, in medical, dynamic testing, vibration or pulse-testing applications. It is also suited to low-frequency measurements, where the incorporation of a 'refresh' mode allows flicker to be eliminated.

(The longest sweep time is 200 s). In addition, normal 10 MHz real-time viewing is possible, and comparisons between stored and real-time waveforms are easily made. The OS4000 measures 178 x 312 x 417 mm, and weighs 11 kg. The price of the instrument is £975 (plus V.A.T.).

Gould Advance Limited, Instruments Division, Roeback Road, Hainault, Essex.
Unlike filament indicator lamps, Motorola Light Emitting Diodes don’t die. They come in three colours—red, yellow and green—and in viewing angles to suit all applications. We’re so confident of your determination to be up-to-date, that we’ve invested heavily to give you the LEDs you want, when you want them. Use indicator lamps that are worthy of your equipment. Use Motorola LEDs as sentries to watch over it.

To find out more about the design possibilities of these high-reliability products, just send for the new Motorola Opto Electronics brochure, which gives you information about our light detectors and couplers too. You’ll find it profitable reading.