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Like its predecessor the HY41 is based on conventional and broven circuit techniques developed over recent years.
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LOAD IMPEDANCE: 4-16 ohms.
INPUT IMPEDANCE: 30 K ohms at 1 KHz .
VOLTAGE GAIN: 30 db at 1 KHz
TOTAL HARMONIC DISTORTION: less than $015 \%$ (typical 0.05\%)
at 1 KHz .
FREQUENCY RESPONSE: $5 \mathrm{~Hz}-50 \mathrm{KHz}+1 \mathrm{db}$
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Two distinctive features of the HYS are its inbuilt stabilization circuit, allowing it to be rurt off any unregulated fower supply from 16-25 Volts and a balance circuit which. when linked by a balance control to a second HY5, forms a complete stereo pre-amplifier.

Specifically and critically designed to meet exacting Hi-Fi standards, the HY5 combines extremely low noise with a high overload capability. When used in conjunction with the HY4t and PSU45 forms a completely intergrated system.

## INPUTS

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Tape Repilay (external components to suil head). $4 \mathrm{mV} .47 \mathrm{~K} \Omega$
Microphorie (fiat) $10 \mathrm{mV}, 47 \mathrm{~K} \Omega$
Ceramic Pick-up lequalized and compen-
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Auxiliary 1250 mV . $47 \mathrm{~K} \Omega$
Auxiliary $22-20 \mathrm{mV}$. $100 \mathrm{~K} \Omega$

OUTPUTS
Main Pre-amp output 500 mV . Direct tape output 120 mV .

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| Q10 | 7 | OC71 type transistors |  |
| Q11 | 2 | ACL2T／L28 Complementary palre pnp／npn |  |
| Q12 |  | Al＇116 type transistors |  |
| Q13 |  | AF＇17 type transistors |  |
| Q14 | 3 | OC171 H．F＇．type transintors |  |
| Q15 |  | $\because 529 \leq 6$ 8il．Epoxy transintors mixed colomrg |  |
| Q16 | 2 | GET880 low hoise Germanium transistors |  |
| Q |  | $n P n 2 \times 8 T .141 * 3 \times 8 T .140$ |  |
| Q18 |  | MAbT＇g $2 \times$ MAT 100 \＆ $2 \times$ MAT |  |
| Q19 |  | $\underset{121}{\text { MADTS } 2 \times \mathrm{MAT} 101 \pm 1 \times \mathrm{MAT}}$ |  |
| Q 20 |  | OC44（emmanlun transistors A．E． | － 0.55 |
| Q21 | 4 | AC127 npm Germanium transmators |  |
| Q2： | 20 | NKT transistors A．F．R．j．codelt | 5 |
| Q23 | 10 | OA20：2 Silicon dlowes sub－min | 0．55 |
| 424 | 8 | O． 8181 diodes |  |
| Q25 | 1.5 | IN414 Silicon diomer 70 PIV 75 mm |  |
| Q26 |  | OA95（Germanhum diodes subrmin ING9 |  |
| Q 27 |  | 10 A 600 ly Silicon rectithere 18425に |  |
|  |  | Silicon prwer rectitjers BYZI3 |  |
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| Q3！ |  | Silucon switch transistors 2 N 70 O, $n \mathrm{pn}$ |  |
| Q32 |  | pир вilicon transistors $2 \times 2 \mathrm{~N} 1131$. $1 \times 2 \mathrm{~N} 1132$ |  |
| Q33 |  | Silicon $n p$ e transistora 2 N 171 |  |
| Q34 |  | silicon $n p n$ transiatory $2 N 2369$, 500 MHz （code P397） |  |
| Q30 |  | sillcon pup TO－5． $2 \times 2 \mathrm{~N} 2904$ \＆ $1 \times 2 \mathrm{~N} 2905$ |  |
| Q3i |  |  |  |
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 EATHOSIDIIIITR PORTABLE RADIO\& COMMUNICATIONS ( 4 ris. 24.901 miles SHRLINK TO ONLY' $44^{\prime} \times 10$ ² $\times 44^{1 / 2}$ inches approx?
## 9 - transistors <br> AND DIODES! <br> wavebands: standabo lomgand MEDUM <br> Plus 5SHORT WhIEBMNDS <br> pous ULIRA SHORT WAMES <br> (V.H.EAM. AHSWW) <br> (51850新

MAINS/BATTERY
ELIMINATOR - 22 extra

RECEIVER WORIDWNO



Shopertunitios "thunder" ahead with an offer that's. FANTASTIC (even by our standards!). We've snapped up 500 magnificent machines. Latest sensation in the world of sound! First-class makers! Fabulous VHF, AM/FM
Radio AND Casette Tape Recorder \& Player combined \& it also runs off standard batteries or mains. (Simply plug in the $220 / 240 \mathrm{~V}$ AC line cord. Record and play back anything, anywhere! RECOMMENDED RETAIL
PRICE GENUINELY G44! WE OFFER AT ALMOST HALF PRICE! PRICE GENUINELY C44! WE OFFER AT ALMOST HALF PRICE! Wonderful features: $\begin{aligned} & \text { Prass-button Keyboard Control Panel or latest } \\ & \text { MASTER SWITCH CONTROL! }\end{aligned}$ check/recording level indicator or built-in automatic Leveller! Battery rate ONOOFF and HI-LO volume controls! $t$ Heavy duty built-in speaker! * Earphone (for personal listening or "monitoring") and extension speaker soekets! $\star$ Remote control microphone! t Built-in swivel tefescopic extension aerial (24in approx.)! Magnificently made case with carry handle. (DESIGNS VARY SLIGHTLY.) Takes standard 30,60 , 90 or 120 -minute Cassetre Tapes, obtainable everywhere. AND the amazing
built-in full circuit VHF, AM/FM Radio gives you supert clarity of tone in built-in full circuit VHF, AM/FM Radio gives you superb clarity of tone, incredible station sefection. Unique rotating Station Selector Dial-gets, locally,
city and regional stations in every part of the country, plus B. B. C. National VHF city and regional stations in every part of the country, plus B.B.C. National, VHF Picks up dozens of foreignstations. Fabulous in Your Car! You could pay ées
more for a Car Radio or Car Cassette player ALONE! $£ 22$. 40 , carr. etc., $39 p$. Complete with simple instructions, remote control microphone with on/off switeh and microphone stand. WITH WRITTEN GUARANTEE, Send quickly, after receiving goods, test 7 days, refund if not delighted. Or call. BONUS OFFER: Batteries and Cassette Tape 28p extra if roquired.

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(Our bargain prices even absorb V.A.T.) NOW a superb THE ONE STEP NS tape recorder and player-and incredible BEST! Expensive "PIANO KEYBOARD" CONTAOL PANEL (or latest MASTER SWITCH control) AND AUTOMATIC LEVEL CONTROL. No fiddling with awkward tape and reels, iust "slap-in" a cassette and off you gol (Takes 30,60 , or 90 minute stardard cassette tapes obtainable every where). Amazing performanceiensures perfect tapings and superb reproduction Remote whisper or our! Runs on standard batteries AND $220 / 240 V$ AC mains. Separate
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| 80 W | 28.10 | \& P. 18p |
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LB4 TRANSISTOR TESTER Tests PNP or NPN transistora, Audio indication. operate nt wo $1 \cdot 5$ batterjes.
complete with alinstructions
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High-precision at low eost. Rangea: D.c. $1: 2 \mathrm{~V}, 150 \mathrm{y}$ $1,000 \mathrm{~V}(10,000$ 5V, 150v, 10n

Cance Current 150
look ohms 21-85. Post 1 可,

| MODEL 1092 Teitmeter |  |
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| 6,000 O.P.V. |  |
| 0/3/15/150/300/1,1006 ¢1. |  |
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$00 \mu \mathrm{~A} / 2 \mathrm{~J}_{\mathrm{man}} \quad 20 \mathrm{~K} / 2 \mathrm{meg}$
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t.c. $\quad 12 / 60 / 120 / 600 / 60 / 300 / 600 /$ $1,200 \mathrm{~V}$ (1.c. $12 / 60 / 120 / 600 /$
$1,20 \mathrm{~S}^{2}$ a.c. $\quad 60 \mu \mathrm{~A} / 30 \mathrm{~mA} /$ $300 \mathrm{~mA} .2 \mathrm{~K} / 200 \mathrm{~K} / 2$ mieg hth. -10 to $+63 \mathrm{cls}^{2}$ 20.50. P(n)


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$100 / 250 / 500 / 1,000 \mathrm{~V}$
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ranges. 100,000 O.P.Y. tirror scale. Overload protection.
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$0 / 2 \cdot \mathrm{v} / 10 / 50 / 2 \mathrm{~J} 0 / 500 / 1,000 \mathrm{~V}$
$0 / 10 / 250 \mu \mathrm{~A} / 2 \cdot 5 / 2 \mathrm{~J} / 250 \mathrm{MA}$
10 smip. d.c.

amp, a.c. $0 / 20 \mathrm{~K} / 20$ KK/2MEli/20 MEG;

370 WTR MULTIMETER Feature: a.c. current $0 / 0 \cdot \mathrm{~J} / 2 \cdot \mathrm{~J} / 10 / \overline{2} 0 / 250 / \mathrm{J} 00 /$ $1,000 \mathrm{~V}$ il.c.
$0 / 2 \cdot 5 / 10 / 20 / 250 /, 00 / 1,000 \mathrm{~V}$ $0 / \overline{0} \mu \mathrm{~A} / 1 / 10 / 100 \mathrm{ma} / 1 / 10$ amp. I.c. o/ $100 \mathrm{~mA} / 1 / 10$ amp. a.c.
$0 /: 5 \mathrm{~K} / 50 \mathrm{~K} / 50 \mathrm{~K} /$ SMEG/ J0ME -20 + 62ilB. 215. Post 2.5 p .

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 D.c. current $100 \mathrm{wA} / 1 / 10 /$
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## All prices quoted are subject to $10 \%$

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 TE-18A Tranaigtorimed $8 i g n a l$
ges $400 \mathrm{kHz}-30 \mathrm{MHz}$. An inexpensive instrument for the handyman Wide easy to read scale 800 kHz modulation.

 $\begin{array}{lr}\text { MODEL } & \begin{array}{r}\text { PL438 } \\ 20 \mathrm{k} \\ \mathrm{KN} \\ \hline\end{array} \mathrm{d.c} \\ 8 \mathrm{k} \Omega / \mathrm{N}\end{array}$ a.c. Mirror scale. $0 \cdot 6 / 3 / 12 / 30 / 120 / 600 \mathrm{~V}$ | a.c. | $3 / 30 / 600 / 600 \mathrm{~V}$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| a.c. |  |
| coll |  |
| coll |  | 600mA. $10 / 100 \mathrm{~K}$

KAMODEN HM720B F.E.T. V.O.M.

Input inppedance 10Ma. $250 / 1,000 \mathrm{~V}$ d c. $0 / 2.5 / 10 / 50 /$ $25011,000 \mathrm{~V}$ a.c. $0 ; 25 \mathrm{~A} / 2 \mathrm{~F}$ ) $20 / 250 \mathrm{MA}$ i.c. -00 to
 Post 30 p .
TME MODEL TW-50K 46 f.c. $0 \cdot 12 \overline{0}, 0 \cdot 20,1 \cdot 2 \overline{5}, 2 \cdot 5,-10,25, \overline{0} 0$,
 $\overline{5}, 50 \mu, 1, \overline{0}, \overline{3}, 2 \overline{0}, 50,2 \overline{2} 0$,

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$0 / 0 \cdot 2 J / 1 / 4-5 / 10 / 50 / 2 \overline{0} 0 /$ $1,000 / 5,000$ स1.c. $0 / 2 \cdot 5 / 10$ $150 / 250 / 1.000 / 5000 \mathrm{~V}$ a.c. $0 / 50 \mu \mathrm{~A} / 1 / 10 / 100 / 500 \mathrm{~mA}$ $10 \mathrm{amp} . \mathrm{d.c.0/2K/200K}$

## MODEL

Input inupedance meg ohni\#. 0/0-3/1.13/6/ $30 / 120 / 600 \mathrm{~V}$ d.c, $0 / 3 / 122$ $60 / 120 / 600 \mathrm{~V}$ a.c. $0 / 190 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ 1120 mA d.c. $0 / 1 \mathrm{~K} / 300 \mathrm{~K} /$ $10 \mathrm{meg} / \mathrm{l} 00 \mathrm{meg}$ ohms. 215.97, Post 2.\%.


CI-5 PULAE OSCHLO SCOPE
For diaplay of pulsed and periollic waveforms in AMP. Band width 10 MHz , sensitivity at 100 kHz HOR. AMP 0 mm, $0.1-25$; jo0kHz. Bensitivity st 100 kHz selsitivity a gered вweep $1-3,000 \mu \mathrm{mec}$. 0-3-2J: Pre-set triggered aweep $1-3,000 \mu$ sec.
free running $20-200,000 \mathrm{~Hz}$ fil nine ranges free running $20-200,000 H z$ in mine ranges
Calibrator pips. $220 \mathrm{~mm} \times 360 \mathrm{~mm} \times$ $430 \mathrm{mb}, 115 \cdot 230 \mathrm{~V}$ a.c. operation

## 230. Carr pall



Nin tube, Y amp. Se -IV p-p/CM. Bandwldth
 mpsitivity
0.9 V . $\mathrm{p}-\mathrm{p} / \mathrm{CM}$. Input imp. 2 neg $\Omega 20 \mathrm{pF}$ imie base. 5 ranges 10 cps
00 kHz . Synchronisation Interna/tuxternal. Illuminated scale 140 min $\times 215 \mathrm{~mm} \times 330 \mathrm{~mm}$. Weight 15j1h. 220/ book. 847.50 . Carr. 50 p .

-20 to

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U4812 MULTIMETER Extremely sturdy instrument fur general electrica us
$6670 . P$. . $600 / 900 \mathrm{~V}$ d.c. and 7 EmV $0 / 0 \cdot 3 / 1 \cdot 5 / 7 \cdot 5 / 30 / 60 / 150 / 300 /$ $600 / 900 \mathrm{~V}$ s.c.
$0 / 300 \mu \mathrm{~A} / 1 \cdot \mathrm{~J} / 6 / 1 \mathrm{~J} / 60 / 1 \mathrm{~s} 0$ 600MA/1.5/6 arup. d

## $0 / 1 \cdot 5 / 15 / 60 / 150 / 600 \mathrm{MA}$

I-s/6 amp. a.c. $0 / 200 \Omega / 3 \mathrm{k} / 30 \mathrm{k} \Omega$. Accuracy Knife edge pointer, mirror scale. Complete with sturdy metal carrying cas.

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KHz . AF square wave 8 Hz to 100 K Hz . Ont
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Opration maxinum. Operation $220 / 240 \mathrm{v}$. AC . Complete


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Induat rial quality in rolust murial cayes. Battery "peration. Volume and squelch controls. Call button and pregs to talk carryiny cases.

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| 300 mW |  | 5 |
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eries, cable and teries, cable and
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 Mondel $450.13 \mathrm{in} \times 8 \mathrm{sin}$ with twin
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Matchell pair of stereo bookshelf speakers. Deluxe teak rencerell finish.
Size: 14 in $\times$ Sin $\times T i n$. Size: $14!$ in $\times$ Sin $\times 7 \mathrm{in}$.
$x$ whins. sW RMs. 16W peak. Complete
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[^2]
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4 Bands covering $550 \mathrm{KHz}-30 \mathrm{MHz}$. BFO Built-in Speaker $220 / 240 \mathrm{~V}$ a.c. Brand new with instructions. 215-75. Carr. 37 p .


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 $100-400 \mathrm{kHz}$,
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4 band cover ${ }_{30 \mathrm{MHz}} 550 \mathrm{kHz}$ tinuous and electrical bandspreau on 10, $15,20,40$ ans 80 metres. 8 valve phone jack. SSB-CW. AN L Variable BFO S meter. Sep. bandspread dial. IF frequency 4.akllz. Audio ontput, 1 SN. Variable RF and AF gain controls $110 / 250 \mathrm{~V}$ a.c. Siz $7 \mathrm{in} \times 13 \mathrm{in} \times 10 \mathrm{in}$ with instruction manual.
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Manual tuning of Medium and Long waves I?V pos. or neg. earth. Complete with oUR PRICE $86.50 \quad$ P. \& P. 50p
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Integrated preamps (output $1: 2 \mathrm{zm}$ V) to feed into any stereo anpp acerctor, 4 pole asn 1ron
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$2 \times$ Z30/8tereo $60 / \mathrm{PZJ}$
$\mathbf{2 1 5 . 0 5} . \quad \mathrm{P} . \dot{\mathrm{a}} \mathrm{P} .37 \mathrm{p}$ $2 \times$ Z30/Btereo 69/PZ6 18.00. P. \& P. 37p $2 \times 250 /$ Stereo $60 / \mathrm{PZ}$. 220-25. P. \& P. 37 p Transtormer for PZ8 88.65 extra Active Filter Un
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 TUNER AMPLIFIER$20+20$ watts rms . Magnetic, ceramic and ape inputs $\mathrm{FM} 88-108 \mathrm{MHz}$. AM 635 1605 kHz . Dual stereo apeaker outpute Headphone socket. (Rec. List Price $2117-46$ ) OUR
PRICE 6.95 P.a P AKAI AA6300 SYSTEM
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 Features unlque mechanical 2 way units and fitted adjustable level, controle. 8 ohm lm pedance $20-20,000 \mathrm{cps}$ Complete with opring 67.97. Pott 12 p


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DOLBY SYSTEM NOISE REDUCTION UNIT

mproves the performance of casactle and emi-professional recurders. Reducen tape hise y all $100 \mathrm{~Hz}, 6 \mathrm{~dB}$ at 1200 Hz and 10 dB input levels and nolge reduction on record and replay. 2 metern for Dolby level. Oft tape monitoring. Frequency response: 20 Hz to $15 \mathrm{kHz} \pm 1 \mathrm{~dB} 19 \mathrm{kHz}-35 \mathrm{~dB}$. Size $15 \mathrm{in} \times$ ginx 3 in. A.c. $200 / 250$
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Tape Head Cleaner 80 p each Free Free



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| available |  | (see note below) |  |
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## BURIED FROM VIEW

THE irresistible march of microelectronics means that more and more circuitry is disappearing from view. Circuitry that often is highly interesting in itself is being buried, not just metaphorically but literally, within the confines of black boxes. An oft-posed question is, should the user attempt to prise the secrets of the black boxes, or should he be content to accept them quite simply at their face value like any other circuit components? The latter is probably the most sensible thing to do. Yet sometimes it is essential to have a certain amount of inside information, though there are degrees of delving, of course.

Two articles in this issue illustrate different approaches to a fairly complex i.c., in order to suit (a) the builder of a detailed project and (b) the designer or experimenter.

The article decribing the General Purpose Timer gives all the information needed to build this complete instrument. The i.c. upon which the design is based is treated purely and simply as a black box. So far as the constructor is concerned it is just one of the 28 circuit components employed.

This approach is perfectly satisfactory in a constructional article where a proven design is presented for the reader to copy, right down to the final detail, circuit-wise. But should the constructor wish to modify or depart from the specified design in any way, he then obviously needs to know quite a bit more about the i.c. As indeed do all those interested in designing and experimenting for themselves.
Such requirements we have met on this occasion by a separate article which describes the technical characteristics of this i.c. and its possible applications. The device is discussed in practical terms and all relevant parameteqrs are given that need to be taken into account when designing a system around it. Even for this purpose, this "closer look" at the i.c. need not extend to a detailed examination of the actual circuitry of the chip. A functional block diagram is perfectly adequate.

Now this brings us back to that interesting and arguable point. Is there any need to peer deeper into the anatomy of an integrated circuit?

Microcircuit manufacturing processes allow quite unusual innovations in the creation of circuit elements. For example, it is quite normal for the active $p n$ junction to be employed as a maid-of-all-work, including serving in the humble role of a passive element. Not surprisingly, any normally wellrecognised classic circuit configuration becomes less obvious, maybe entirely unidentifiable, to the average eye scanning the equivalent circuit diagram of some monolithic device.

The internal circuit of an integrated device is not likely to be of any practical value to the general user. Admittedly it can be of academic interest and even offer some reward as a technical brain teaser. But we imagine most users will be content for the i.c. to remain an inscrutable black box. The external discrete circuitry which these devices invariably stimulate and within the web of which they become enmeshed, singly or severally, provides enough for designer, experimenter, or constructor to concentrate upon.-F.E.B.

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The general. plerpose timer discussed here is based on 555 i.c. timer from Signetics which is the subject of the feature commencing on page 514. The unit is constructed in an Eddystone die-cast box of external dimensions $7.39 \times 4.703 \times 2.062$ inches. There is enough space for a mains power pack or a battery to be included inside the box. Whilst construction of the prototype is described in detail, many variations are possible to suit individual needs.

## CONTROLS

The control arrangement is shown in the photograph. The eleven-position switch $S 1$ is used to select the first digit of the desired number of seconds. whilst the second digit is selected by the potentiometer VR1. The range switch, $S 2$, is arranged so that the total time selected by $S 1$ and VRI can be multiplied by $0 \cdot 1.1$ or 10 .

## SELECTION OF DELAY

If a time delay of 860 seconds is required, $S 1$ is set to " $80^{*}$. VR1 to " 6 " and S2 to " $\times 10^{\prime \prime}$. A delay of $1 \cdot 1$ seconds can be obtained by setting S1 to " 10 ". VRI to "1" and $S 2$ to "x0.1". Delays of less than 1 second can be obtained by setting S1 to " 0 " and S2 to "x0.1". The maximum delay with this unit is about 1100 seconds ( 18 minutes 20 seconds).

In general the delays are accurate to a few per cent.

## OPERATION

The timing period commences at the instant the SIART bution is released after it has been pressed. The internal relay closes at this time, but automatically opens again at the end of the desired delay. It may be found that the timing starts when the SIARI button is pressed down owing to contact bounce. This will not matter provided that the button is pushed quickly and then released.

If the Start button has been pressed and one does not wish the timing operation to continue, the resei button may be pressed. A fresh timing operation can then commence from the beginning when the start button is pushed again. The use of the reset facility prevents having to wait or alter the timing setting after commencing a fairly long timing operation and wishing to terminate it.

## THE CIRCUIT

The circuit of the timer is shown in Fig. 1. It is essentially the same as the basic circuit of Fig. I of the article commencing on page 514, but some refinements have been added.

The resistance of $R_{i}$ has been replaced by $R 1$ to R11 in series with VR1. The resistor R11 is of low value and is included to prevent a fairly high current (about 60 mA ) from flowing to pin 2 of the 555 if SI and VRI should both be set for zero resistance. The resistors around S1 are each 1 MS2 and their total value (as set by S1) is added to the setting of VRI.

## THE TIMING CAPACITORS

The timing capacitor is selected by S2a. It cannot be emphasised too strongly that the electrolytic capacitors $C 1$ and $C 2$ must be good quality components which have a low leakage current. The writer would have expected electrolytic capacitors with a working voltage of about 30 V to pass a lower leakage current when 12 V is applied to them than similar capacitors with a working voltage rating of 15 V . However, measurements of the leakage current of a number of capacitors seems to indicate that this may not be the case.

An additional range of "x100" could have been added using a $1,000 / \wedge \mathrm{F}$ electrolytic capacitor to give time delays of up to 11000 seconds (over 3 hours), but a capacitor selected for low leakage current would probably be required. A 4-way 2 -pole switch would then be required for $S 2$.

## COMPONENTS . . .

Resistors
$\left.\begin{array}{ll}\text { R1 to R10 } & 1 \mathrm{M} \Omega, 5 \% \text { (preferably } 2 \% \text { ) } \\ \text { R11 } & 4.7 \mathrm{k} \Omega, 10 \% \\ \text { R12, R13 } & 22 \mathrm{k} \Omega, 10 \%\end{array}\right\}$ All 0.5 W

Potentiometers
VR1 $1 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ linear
VR2 to VR4 10k $\Omega, 26$ turn rectilinear
(RS Components Ltd.)

## Capacitors

C1 $100 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 15$ to 30 V , electrolytic
C2 $10 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 15$ to 30 V , electrolytic
C3 $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 63 \mathrm{~V}$, polyester (WIMA or RS Components Ltd.)

## Switches

| S1 | 11 way, 1 pole rotary switch |
| :--- | :--- |
| S2 | 3 way, 2 pole rotary switch |
| S3, S4 | Single pole push-to-make switches |
| S5 | (RS Components Ltd.) |
| S5 | Single pole, single throw toggle switch |

## Semiconductors

ICI NE555V integrated circuit (SDS Components Ltd., Gunstore Rd., Hilsea Trading Estate, Portsmouth, Hants.)
DI OA47 Germanium diode
Miscellaneous
RLA MS1B 12 V micro-switch relay (Keyswitch Relays Ltd.)
8 pin dual-in-line socket (RS Components Ltd.)
Eddystone die-cast box $7.39 \times 4.703 \times 2.062$ in external dimensions
1 Lektrokit board
4 BA bolts $1 \frac{1}{4}$ to $1 \frac{1}{2}$ in long
12 4BA nuts
68 BA nuts and bolts

# TIMER By J.B. DANCE m.s. 



Capacitors of a large value have wide tolerances. In addition they pass different leakage currents. Three trimmer potentiometers (VR2 to VR4) are therefore incorporated in the circuit so that each range can be calibrated. S 2 a and S 2 b are on the same switch wafer and select the appropriate trimmer potentiometer together with the appropriate capacitor.

## CALIBRATION

Adjustment of the preset potentiometers VR2 to VR4 alters the control voltage applied to pin 5 of the 555 timer. When each potentiometer has been adjusted so that the delay is correct at one point
on each range, all of the other delay values should be approximately correct. It is best to make the final adjustments to each potentiometer at a setting near to the maximum delay for the range concerned where the timing errors are greatest. A stop watch is desirable (but by no means essential) for the accurate calibration of the $\times 0.1$ range.

The tolerance of RI to R10 in the prototype was a nominal $\pm 5$ per cent. The accuracy of the delays was found to be a few per cent, as would be


Fig. 1. Circuit diagram of the general purpose timer and the pin connections for the 555 i.c. in both DIL and TO99 case versions



Fig. 2. The front panel layout with switch wiring detached for clarity. The top and bottom views of the circuit board showing disposition of components and interwiring is shown on the left


The completed timer with board and controls mounted in position
expected. An error of 30 seconds in 1,000 seconds is therefore reasonable. Resistors of closer tolerance should be used if it is desired that the timing delays shall be as accurate as possible.

The tolerance of the capacitors Cl to C3 can be quite wide, since the potentiometers VR2 to VR4 allow a timing adjustment of over $10: 1$ on each range. For example, when the time was set to 20 seconds on the xI range, adjustment of VR3 allowed any delay between 3 and 43 seconds to be obtained with the capacitor C 2 used by the writer.

The 26 -turn trimming potentiometers enable a very accurate setting to be obtained. The cheaper "skeleton" preset potentiometers could be tried, but it would then be necessary to connect fixed resistors between each side of these potentiometers and the power supply lines to make their adjustment less critical.

In selecting the component values, the factor of 1.1 in equation 1 of the previous article was neglected so that component values with round whole numbers could be employed.

## START AND RESET

The trigger pin 2 and the reset pin 4 are normally biased to the $+\mathrm{V}_{\text {tc }}$ potential through R12 and R13 respectively. This prevents unwanted triggering of the START or RESET functions by spurious voltage peaks.

It is especially important that pin 2 should normally be at the $+V_{c c}$ potential, since the triggering action is extremely sensitive. It has been mentioned earlier that the circuit exhibits spurious triggering at the end of each delay period if R12 is omitted; the relay then fails to open at the end of the delay time.

## THE RELAY

The relay is connected so that it is normally open and is energised only during the timing delay. This minimises the current consumption of the circuit.

The relay used is a miniature micro-switch 12 V , 465s: relay, type MSIB which is available (through retailers) from Keyswitch Relays Ltd. The tolerance of the operating voltage is 20 per cent, so it will function with a coil operating voltage of 9.6 to 14.4 V . The writer has found that a relay of this type will operate with less than 7 V across the coil and the prototype circuit functions satisfactorily from a 9 V battery. However, a 12 V supply is ideal.

The MSiB is a printed circuit relay, but other versions are available including the totally enclosed plug-in version type MSIP. The MS1B can switch up to 5 A at up to 250 V in a.c. circuits; this is adequate for most purposes, since it can switch over a kilowatt at the normal mains voltage. In d.c. circuits the maximum recommended currents are 2.5 A at up to $24 \mathrm{~V}, 0.25 \mathrm{~A}$ at up to 100 V and $0 \cdot 2 \mathrm{~A}$ at up to 250 V . Higher alternating voltages can be switched, since these voltages fall to zero many times per second and any arc which is formed is then broken.

## THE DIODE

The diode in parallel with the relay coil shorts out the back e.m.f. transient voltages developed when the current ceases to flow through the coil. This prevents damage to the 555 timer.

It should be noted that either the type of diode specified or a similar gold bonded germanium diode should be used. The writer has tried a number of other types of diode in the circuit but many of these. do not suppress the transient voltage across the relay coil adequately enough to prevent this pulse from re-triggering the circuit. If, therefore, a nother type of diode is employed and the relay does not open at the end of the delay period, re-triggering is almost certainly the cause.

## CONSTRUCTION

All of the components are mounted on the lid of the die-cast box, since this provides maximum accessibility and ease of adjustment of the trimming potentiometers. The switch Sl is mounted in the position shown in Fig. 2 and the resistors R1 to R10 inclusive are mounted directly onto this switch: VRI is mounted near to S1 with R11 mounted directly between these components.

The timing capacitors Cl to C3 mount directly onto the switch S2. The push-button switches S3 and S4 automatically open when they are released. They are mounted in line with the on/ off switch S5 under the circuit board containing the other components.

## CIRCUIT BOARD

The circuit board used is a piece about $4 \times 1.7$ in sawn off a Lektrokit board with holes spaced at $0 \cdot 1$ in intervals into which metal pegs can be inserted. The board is supported by four 4BA long bolts at a little over one inch under the lid of the box clearing S3, 4 and 5.

The three trimmers VR2 to VR4 are mounted using 8 BA bolts on one edge of the board where they can be easily adjusted as in Fig. 2.

An 8 -pin dual-in-line i.c. socket mounts on the board, the solder on the pins holding it in position. R12 and R13 mount by the side of this socket. Care should be taken to ensure that the NE555V is always inserted with the correct orientation in this socket, since it is symmetrical and will fit in either way.
It is convenient to mount the relay on its side, cutting holes in the circuit board to accommodate any small projecting parts of the relay. In fact the wire connections to the relay can hold one side of this component to the board, the coil side being fixed by passing pieces of thin wire around the coil and tying the wire under the board.

The only component placed under the board is the diode in parallel with the relay coil. The wires connected to the board are made long enough to allow the board to be easily removed and turned over if it should require attention at any time.

## USES IN PHOTOGRAPHY

The circuit is suitable for use as an enlarger timer in photography. The relay contacts are used to control the power to the enlarger lamp directly. The lamp is illuminated when the START button is released and is automatically switched off after the required time. This is much more convenient than having to estimate times or to peer at a watch in a dark room.

The circuit can also be used for timing the development of plates and films. The relay contacts are used to operate a buzzer or a small bell at the end of the required time.


THE making of music automates has been an attractive challenge to inventors for many years. In both the mechanical and electronic versions a varety of ingenious ideas hate been applied. However. in general most of the systems are complex and expensive in their realisation.

The circuit to be described has none of these drawbacks.

## BLOCK DIAGRAM

A block diagram (Fig. 1) indicates the operating principles of the Autotone. Here an astable pulse generator of fixed frequency switches on and off the supply feeding a shift register of four so advancing conduction from one stage to the next in sympathy with the pulse input.

Each conducting stage in the counter is preadjusted to provide a particular bias voltage to a tone generator so that variable pitch tones are available. The sequenced tones produced are further amplified and fed to loudspeaker.


Fig. 1. Block diagram of Autotone

## COMPONENTS . . .

| Resistors |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| R1 | $47 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R 15 | $220 \Omega$ |
| R2 | $33 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R16 | $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R3 | $33 \Omega$ | R17 | $56 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R4 | $6.8 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R 28 | $56 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R5 | $33 \Omega$ | R19 | $470 \Omega$ |
| R6 | $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R20 | $120 \Omega$ |
| R7 | $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R21 | $820 \Omega$ |
| R8 | $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R22 | $330 \Omega$ |
| R9 | $220 \Omega 2$ | R23 | $33 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R10-R11 | $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega(2$ off) | R24 | $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R12 | $220 \Omega$ | R25 | $1.5 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R13-R14 | $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega(2$ off) | R26 | $220 \Omega$ |

All $\frac{1}{2}$ watt $10 \%$ carbon
Potentiometers
VR1-VR3 220ks2 vertical presets
Capacitors

| C 1 | $0.5 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ to $20 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ (see text) elect. 15 V |
| :--- | :--- |
| C 2 | $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ elect. 9 V |
| C 3 | $100 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ elect. 9 V |
| C 4 | $10 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ |
| $\mathrm{C} 5-\mathrm{C} 7$ | $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}(5$ off) |
| C 8 | 0.1 to $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ |
| C 9 | $100 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ elect. 9 V |
| C 10 | $500 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ elect. 9 V |
| C 11 | $100 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ elect. 9 V |
| C12 | $100 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ elect. 9 V |
| C13 | $200 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ elect. 9 V |
| Diodes |  |
| D1-D9 | ISJ50 (9 off) |

Transistors
TR1, TR3, TR4, TR6, TR8, TR10
2S104 (6 off)
OC200 (4 off)
AC126 (2 off)
AC128 (5 off)
AC127

## Miscellaneous

BY1-BY2 9V batteries (PP9) (2 off)
Veroboard as required, LS1, 5in $3 \Omega$ loudspeaker

## PULSE GENERATOR

The complete circuit of the Autotone for four note generation is shown in Fig. 2. This can be increased for an eight note diatonic scale or twelve note chromatic scale by adding extra stages to the ring counter.

The pulse generator is made up of transistors TRI and TR2. When voltage is first applied Cl starts to charge through the emitter of TR1. This transistor switches on TR2 and a regenerative switching action takes place until the voltage on Cl exceeds the base voltage of TRI when conduction ceases.

Cl now discharges through RI until conditions are right for the conduction cycle to start again.

The pulsating voltage at TR2 emitter switches TR3 on and off which itself is in series with one of the supply rails to the ring counter so this is also switched

## SHIFT REGISTER

When power is first applied to the shift register none of the stages normally conducts. But when C4 is switched in it starts to charge thereby giving TR5 the necessary base current drive to make the stage

GIRGUIT DIAGRAM


Fig. 2. Circuit diagram of Autotone. Only three stages of the shift register are shown but other identical stages can be added to as required
(TR4/TR5) conducting and an output voltage of about 8 V appears at the top of R10. Eor this condition to exist TR3 must also be switched on.

When TR3 is pulsed off the first stage of the register ceases to conduct. However, since C5 is charged the bias conditions are correct for TR6 to conduct and hence TR7 when TR3 next switches on. This means that the 8 V output now advances one stage to appear at the top of R13.

After the fourth shift, to maintain a cycling output, point $X$ can be connected to point $Y$.

## TONE GENERATOR AND AMPLIFIER

The outputs taken from the shift register via the presets (VRI-VR4) are used to give base bias to TR10. Both this and TR11 are wired as a high gain amplifier with C8 providing regenerative feedback for oscillation.

The frequency is partly determined by the base voltage at TR 10 which depends in turn on the resistance of the presets with the given value of C8 this frequency can only be varied within a certain range.


Fig. 3. Assembly and wiring details of Autotone Veroboards


Shift register board containing the eight stages for a diatonic scale. In this example the output potentio meters and diodes have been omitted and transferred to another board

To change this, values of capacitor from 0.1 to $0.1 « \mathrm{~F}$ can be tried.

Tones generated are fed to a four transistor power amplifier. For experimental work the amplifier can be left out and an 80 ohm loudspeaker substituted for R21. In the circuit diagram two power supplies are used to avoid interaction.

## CONSTRUCTION

The prototype unit was constructed on separate Veroboards as in Fig. 3. Of course, there is no reason why it could not be assembled on a single board, but it does make testing and servicing simpler to make the circuit elements modular.

## TESTING

To test the pulse generator connect a crystal earpiece between the base of TR3 and negative line where a ticking should be heard if all is well.

By connecting a 10 V meter (v.o.m.) across one of the output resistors R10, R13, etc., the action of the shift register can be checked by observing that the needle indicates about 8 V at regular intervals with X and Y connected.

The tone generator can be tested by connecting a crystal earpiece across transistor TRII. and switch on. A lively oscillation should be heard

## COMPOSING MELODIES

If the shift register is extended to embrace eight or twelve notes there is no need to use all the outputs as the music will become uniform and dull. The melody will be more natural when some of the outputs are left out so achieving breaks or pauses.

In order to make certain tones last longer than others, the presets of two stages may be adjusted to produce the same tone giving the effect of sustain. The speed at which the shift register advances depends upon the value of Cl . This may be altered to suit the melody being composed

If Cl is reduced to around $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ a special effect is achieved which makes the Autotone suitable as an exciting doorbell alarm.
 NOSE

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An account of the attempts to build a speaking machine from the eighteenth century to the present day.

## By A. V. Flatman ${ }_{\text {(North }}$ Staforosshirie Poyvecthic)

THE synthesis of speech is a subject that has preoccupied humanity for a long time. It has been a legendary precept and mystery since the eighteenth century. Today, again, this question conserves a mysterious aspect, because speech is concerned with human activity.

Research contributions date back almost two centuries to the "talking machines" of Kempelen and Faber, who, as pioneers, established a great understanding in the acoustic structure of speech, a science that later became known as phonetics. It was unfortunate, however, that the early synthesisers were limited to a purely mechanical and inefficient construction

The mid-twentieth century arrival of electronics proved to be the technology all researchers were waiting for. The tape recorder and oscilloscope made possible the acoustic spectrogram or "voice print" for analysis and synthesis of speech waveforms, whilst computer automation has effectively "untied" the operator"s hands.

## SPEECH ANALYSIS

Before the various techniques of synthesising speech are examined, we must first analyse its alcoustic formation.

All acoustical signals can be represented in a sonogram or acoustic spectrogram; this is simply a graph of frequency plotted to a base of time, with acoustic intensity shown as line thickness. Fig. 1 gives examples of sonograms for elementary sounds.

When a complex sound enters a resonator, the harmonics near the resonant frequency will be amplified to add a certain "colour" to the sound. This frequency zone is known as a formant. Fig. 2 shows the effects of fixed and variable resonant frequencies on several types of acoustical signal.

English spoken in Britain can be broken down into approximately forty fundamental sound units called phonemes, the acoustic formation of which may be demonstrated with the aid of the human speech apparatus shown in Fig. 3.

(a) Simple sound of increasing amplitude
(b) Simple sound of increasing frequency
(c) Vibrato
(d) Harmonic sound
(e) White noise
(f) Coloured noise
(g) Noise impulses

Fig. 1. Sound spectrogram for some elementary sounds

The human speech system comprises several resonant cavities which have the ability of superimposing variable formants upon the complex sounds issued from the vocal cords. One particular vocal sound, with suitable formants to produce certain yields of frequency, will acoustically represent the vowels.
Consonants, on the other hand, are a little more complex in formation. Some consonants are purely breathing noises, from the roof (sound " CH "), teeth (sound " S ") or in between the teeth and lips (sound " F "); whilst others may be explosive noises produced by sudden releases, from the roof (sound "K"), teeth (sound "T") or lips (sound "P").
Spoken messages may be analysed pictorially with the aid of the acoustic spectrograph. However there are two characteristics of speech which present difficulties. Firstly, speech has a continuous appearance and is rather difficult to segment into its various phonemes. Secondly, the useful or semantic information in speech is modified somewhat by a "tone of speech" reflecting the speaker's mood.

## THE KRATZENSTEIN RESONATORS

One of the earliest efforts at speech synthesis was made by Kratzenstein at the Imperial Academy of St. Petersburg in 1779 . This mechanical speaking machine comprised a set of acoustic resonators somewhat similar in size and construction to the human mouth. With a vibrating reed similar to that used in the harmonica, he mimicked the vocal chords by interrupting the airstream in each of the resonators to synthesise the five vowels with tolerable accuracy.

## THE KEMPELEN SPEAKING MACHINE

Kempelen's speaking machine, which was made in Vienna in 1791, is shown in Fig. 4. One can observe the relative simplicity of the results of Kempelen's research into the problems of speech synthesis. After some practice, the operator could manipulate this machine to synthesise a somewhat limited vocabulary. Whistles are used to give the " S " and " CH " sounds and a reed to give the " $R$ " sound, whilst the rubber mouthpiece is controlled alone to generate the vowels and in conjunction with the bellows to produce a variety of explosive consonants.


Fig. 3. Diagram of the human speech apparatus


Fig. 4. Cross sectional diagram of Kempelen's speaking machine

(a) Fixed formant on fixed spectrum
(b) Fixed formant on variable spectrum
(c) Variable formant on fixed spectrum
(d) Variable formant on variable spectrum
(e) Variable formant on continuous spectrum (noise)

Fig. 2. Some different ways of representing formants


Fig. 5. Cross sectional diagram of Faber's speaking machine


## THE MACHINE OF FABER

Faber, professor of mathematics at Vienna, finished a speaking machine in 1835 , which created a vast amount of interest and curiosity throughout Europe. Faber put into practice many of Kempelen's theoretical suggestions for improvement, which subsequently contributed to the success of the new machine. The strongest aspect of Faber's research was, however, his consideration of the operator in the use of a keyboard selection technique as shown in Fig. 5. For a century afterwards, many scientists attempted to expand upon the theory of Faber, unfortunately without much success.

## THE VODER

The first electrical analogue speaking machine was built by Dudley in 1939. The Voder (VOice DemonstratOR), shown in Fig. 6, comprises ten filters whose passbands are uniformly distributed between 300 and $3,300 \mathrm{~Hz}$. The filters are stimulated with white noise or with a signal rich in harmonics. A keyboard controls the frequency and amplitude of the stimulus as well as the filter selection. Manual operation of the machine was again rather complex, and although the phonemes were relatively accurate in reproduction, they could not be linked efficiently to synthesise continuous speech.

Nevertheless, the Voder represents a new and promising approach in speech synthesis. We will examine in sequence the four types of synthesisers which are used at present: the Vocoder; the Analogue Synthesiser: the Playback; and the Units of Verbal Response.

## ELECTRONIC SPEECH SYNTHESIS

Dudley's invention of the Voder marked the beginning of several decades of intense research on both sides of the Atlantic. The new understanding of information theory demonstrated that the telephone bandwidth ( 300 to $3,300 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ) was exceedingly large for transmitting the semantic information of

Fig. 6. Diagram showing the basic principles of the Voder


Fig. 7. Block diagram showing the principle of Dudley's Vocoder

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$1000 \mathrm{mF} 12 \mathrm{~V} 17 \mathrm{p} ; 25 \mathrm{~V} 35 \mathrm{p} ; 50 \mathrm{~V} 47 \mathrm{p} ; 100 \mathrm{~V} 70 \mathrm{p}$
2000 mP 6V 25p; $25 \mathrm{~V} 42 \mathrm{p} ; 50 \mathrm{~V} 57 \mathrm{p}$.
8500 mF 50 V 62p; $8000 \mathrm{mF} 25 \mathrm{~V} 47 \mathrm{p} ; 50 \mathrm{~V} 65 \mathrm{p}$.

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speech. The telephone allows a data transfer rate of 20,000 binary bits per second, whilst that of the semantic content of speech rarely exceeds 100 bits per second. Speech synthesis then discovered a new field of application in communication system bandwidth reduction, by suitable phoneme encoding.

## THE VOCODER

Dudley expanded upon the principle of his Voder to develop a system which greatly reduced the bandwidth of a communication channel. The Vocoder (VOice CODER) analyses incoming speech by initially splitting it into ten frequency bands by suitable filtering and then obtains the modulation "envelopes" of each band by rectifying and low-pass filtering.

Fig. 7 shows how ten separate channels are used to link the analysed or "encoded" speech to the corresponding filters in a Voder. Incoming speech pitch is sensed in a similar way and an eleventh channel is used to select the appropriate energy source in the Voder system.

The Vocoder transmission bandwidth is within 300 Hz ( 1 l channels each of 25 Hz ) and represents a great saving in this respect. Synthesis takes place in the established Voder system, which is now operated electronically to reproduce intelligible speech with tolerable continuity.

## THE ANALOGUE SYNTHESISER

The principle of this machine consists more of simulating the function of the phonetic organs, rather than synthesis via analysis. The pharynx and buccal cavities of the human speech apparatus are firstly considered as the three damped resonators shown in Fix. 8: X, Y and Z respectively. Sound is emitted from the vocal cords into the first resonator $X$, then via the narrow passages to the resonators $Y$ and $Z$, to result in the emergence of the combined sound, Un + Um.


Fig. 8. Analogue synthesis of phonemes by simulation of three formants

Fig. 9. Diagram showing the principle of the Icophone

Fig. 8 also shows the electrical analogue of the resonators $\mathrm{X}, \mathrm{Y}$ and Z , where electrical properties of resonance; damping, etc., are matched to the properties of the acoustic resonators. The circuit will then act in a similar way to the phonetic organs if stimulated by the appropriate electrical signals, Ug. - Bell Telephone Laboratories have recently developed an extremely useful aid in the study of speech synthesis. It is a simulator in which the value of each component in the electrical analogue is controlled by a computer, at the same time a cross- ${ }^{-}$ section of the corresponding phonetic organ state is displayed on a screen.

Programmes have subsequently been written to electrically simulate the phonetic organs with some degree of success. Unfortunately, the rate at which the electrical circuit will deal with successive phoneme simulation is not fast enough for continuous synthesis; however, this technique appears to be very interesting for the physiological study of phonetics.

## THE PLAYBACK

Acoustic engineers have demonstrated that all information in speech may be detected on the acoustic spectrogram. Conversely, speech may be reconstructed by careful manipulation of a suitable acoustic spectrogram, as seen in the playback synthesiser. The Icophone, whose principle is shown in Fig. 9, is the most recent synthesiser to use the playback technique.
The principle of the Icophone is quite simple. Opaque zones of the acoustic spectrogram represent zero speech content and allow transmission of a narrow beam of light to the corresponding photoelectric cells. Each cell, in turn, represents a spectrographic frequency zone and controls the continuity between each of the 44 oscillators and the blender. Intonation of the synthesised speech is controlled by the adjustment of each oscillator output level and the switching thresholds.


Accurate feeding speeds of the acoustic spectrogram result in intelligible synthesis of phonemes and prepared speech. The ultimate and most flexible system of "real time" synthesis from a library of prerecorded phonemes, however, proves to be somewhat inefficient due to the time taken in phoneme selection

To overcome the inherent drawbacks of electromechanical synthesisers, digital computers have been used to synthesise speech by the playback principle. Semantic information of the basic library of 40 phonemes is digitised in the frequency, time and amplitude domains and held in a digital store (corestore. magnetic drum or dise).

The computer is then programmed to "empty" the contents of certain parts of the store sequentially with sub-millisecond speed. to synthesise a more efficient or continuous speech. Computer synthesis techniques have produced the most accurate subjective results to date, but unfortunately the amount of computing power required is both demanding and costly.

## VERBAL RESPONSE UNITS

Certain large makers of calculating machines have commercialised some units of verbal response. These machines allow a computer to answer, in verbal form a question put by the user in coded form. using, for example, the ordinary telephone dial. This system has an immense future in some applications.

Words and phrases are prerecorded on tape and "linked" by computer programme to form a verbal output of a wide range of systems. Having a somewhat limited flexibility one would usually find this type of synthesiser performing specialised tasks of varying complexity, from the "speaking clock" to verbal instruction generator in an arcraft flight simulator

## THE FUTURE

We have progressed from the relatively inarticulate, mechanical experiments of Kempelen and Faber to the "talking computers" of today. The recent appearance of electronics and the computer have somewhat altered the design philosophy of speech synthesisers. Dexterity, a prominent operator requirement of the past, has been replaced by the modern tool of computer programming

Nevertheless there rematins much room for improvement of today's synthesisers. Imagine the potential of an efficient, flexible, compact and inexpensive "text to speech converter"! It not only has applications in business and education, but think of the way in which it could make the lives of dumb or blind people that bit more bearable.

Speech recognition, an associated field of speech synthesis, is still relatively unconquered. The automatic recognition of speech is a much more difficult task due to the fact that a machine must cope with the enormous amount of variation in human speech. whereas synthesis of different pronunciations of words is normally not required. Obvious differences occur in accent, but considerable variety in pronunciation is present even with the same speaker. Further problems arise in recognition because the speech wave cannot easily be segmented into appropriate words or phonemes.

ELEMENTS OF LINEAR MICROCIRCUITS F. D. Towers, M.B.E., M.A., B.Sc., M.I.E.R.E. Published by lliffe Books (Butterworth \& Co. Lid.) 108 pages, 6 in $\times 8 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. Price $\mathbf{E 2} .80$

AMAJOR growth area is represented by linear microcircuits. After a late start. following the digital devices that really established the microelectronics industry, the linear form of integrated circuit is now well established and the future holds promise of ever increasing varieties of circuit for all kinds of application.

Therefore, this book is welcome. It is based on a series of articles published in Wireless World and provides a compact, readable digest of the subject. Because the rate of development in this field is so rapid it cannot include the very latest developments; nevertheless it is a very useful reference book. It includes practical information in the form of lists of manufacturers. component coding methods, and advice concerning the handling and use of these devices.

A chapter is devoted to each of the major categories of device, e.g. a.f. amplifiers, operational amplifiers, r.f. \& i.f. amplifiers, and voltage regulators. The circuit configurations of many typical commercial devices are illustrated and described in considerable detail.
D.D.R.

ELECTRONICS-A COURSE BOOK FOR STUDENTS
G. H. Olsen, B.Sc., M.I.E.R.E., M.Inst.P. Published by The Butterworth Group 351 pages, 6 in $\times 8 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. Price $£ 2 \cdot 60$

WITH the continuing movement of electronics into almost every other walk of life it is becoming increasingly important for students of all disciplines to be aware of the vagaries of the art. Thus any volume which eases this understanding is to be welcomed and the present document is specifically designed with this end in mind.

In fact the book is a shortened version of the successful "Electronics: A General Introduction for the Non-Specialist" and it manages to take the reader through basics right up to the complexities of integrated circuit operation without any noticeable reference to mathematics and abstruse formulae.

Included, of course, are suitable references to matters of measurement and suitable indicators, power supplies and their construction, amplifiers and oscillators.

Wherever possible the author has illustrated his text with sufficient clarity for the competent to construct many of the items discussed. Indeed, much of the equipment discussed by way of application details is culled from component manufacturers application notes.

The author is principal lecturer in the Department of Physics and Physical Electronics at the Newcastle upon Tyne Polytechnic and he is concerned with the electronic content of C.N.A.A. degrees, organising post-graduate courses in electronics, and with consultancy in the field of electronic design.
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The GDI is the world's first semiconductor that can convert a concentration of gas or smoke into an electrical signal. The sensor decreasesits electrical resistance when it absorbs deoxidizing or combustible gases such as hydrogen, carbon monoxide, methane. propane, alcohol. North Sea gas, as well as carbon-dust containing air or full details and circuits are supplied with each detector. Detector GOI, 62 . Kit of parts for detectors including GDI and P.C. board but excluding case. Mains operated detector $\mathbf{£ 5} 20$. 12 or 24 V battery operated audible alarm $\mathbf{6 7 . 3 0}$. As above for PP9 battery, 66.40
PRINTED BOARD MARKER
Draw the planned circuit onto a copper laminate board with the P.C. Pen, allow to dry, and
relief.

## LARGE RANGE ITT/TEXAS IC's NOW IN STOCK

PRICES ARE CALCULATED ON TOTAL NUMBER ORDERED REGARDLESS OF MIX


## RINGS OF SATURN

Once again a theory has been challenged by a practical test. The original theoretical study of Saturn's rings was made by Clark-Maxwell. He gave as his opinion that these rings must be dis-continuous and made up of discrete particles.

This view was accepted by astronomers and until recently the generally recognised explanation was that the particles were ice crystals or accretions of dust. This appeared to be a satisfactory conclusion since the thickness of the rings is around 1.0 km . although the diameter reaches some $85,000 \mathrm{~km}$.

Now as a result of studies made at Goldstone. California, two researchers R. Golstein and G. Norris. have suggested that the rings consist of boulders approximately 1.0 m in diameter

They used the large Goldstone radio dish and a power of 400 kW to direct a beam to the planet 700 million miles away. The beam. using a wavelength of 12.5 centimetres, calculated boulder size from the reflected signal.

This new finding represents a considerable hazard to spacecraft and it may well be that there are scattered lumps of rocks at higher and lower latitudes. The discovery prompts the thought that perhaps the rings are after all the debris of a former satellite.

The approach of the present programmed probes will be close enough to check the conclusions that have been made and possibly even photograph the rocks.

## ASTEROID BELT

The safe journey of Pioneer 10 through the asteroid belt has caused a sigh of relief from the scientists planning the missions. The knowledge that the density of the belt and the size of the particles which differs considerably from the former conjectures will enable plans for future probes to go forward with confidence.

The size of the particles in the belt were between 100 mic memetres and 1.0 mm . Nothing larger than 1.0 mm was encountered all the way out from the earth's orbit. Even those of 1.0 mm size were rare. It seems, therefore, that the belt is composed of the 17,000 to 20.000 identified asteroids and very fine dust. During the whole period of the transit through the belt Pioneer 10 did not have one of the known asteroids in view.

## COMPUTER INTEGRITY

A short time ago the possibility of a tenth planet was raised again. Observers have been unable to locate it and computation did not supply sufficient information for a search.

A new attempt at the three body problem was tackled again recently


BY FRANK W. HYDE
and out of this exercise came the conclusion that residual errors. which are unavoidable in a computer analysis of data. will always predict a planet or body. It seems therefore that this situation rebuts computer integrity for problems such as this.

## TECHNICAL EUTHANASIA

At the press of a switch Sir Brian Flowers FRS. Chairman of the Science Research Council put an end of the life of Atlas 1. This computer, the most advanced design in the world when it was installed. had come to the end of a useful life because it was old and its transistors germanium. The availability of spares and the high cost of maintenance made the euthanasia decision imperitive.

The computer which dealt with the pilot data from weather satellites, retrieval of data from UK 3, and other space projects was designed by a team at Manchester University under Dr (now Prof.) T. Milburn. It contained a supervisory system which has only quite recently been emulated.

The work will now be taken over by a 1906 A and a $370 / 195$ which is already dealing with UK 4 and Essa 8. These two computers are, of course, much faster than Allas $l$. The main activities of Atlas have been concerned with theoretical chemistry and crystallography. There is no doubt that the decision to set up the enterprise of the Atlas Laboratory by the Research Council was a wise one and the original investment justified by results.

## ORANGE SOIL OF THE MOON

The excitement of the discovery of the orange soil on the moon. thought to be iron oxide. has now been rather dashed by the findings of the investigators. It seems that
the soil is made up of grains of glass.
It is thought that the soil has only been exposed to cosmic rays on the surface for about $X$ to 10 million years. When the material was formed, which would be about 3.700 million years ago. it was buried deeply and not exposed to cosmic rays. It was thrown up later by meteoric impact and not by volcanic action of the Shorty crater even though it is of recent formation.

The orange soil is the finest grained that has been found on the moon and consists of coloured glass in droplets and fragments. Chemically the samples from the Apollo 17 mission are the same as those from the Apollo $1 /$ mission which was several hundred miles away There is, however. a difference in that the A pollo $1 /$ samples were not so rich in zinc.

## LUNAN PROBE

In the March issue of Spacencatch mention was made of the work of D. A. Lunan regarding the possibility of a probe being situated in the orbit of the Moon. This was suggested to have originated from Epsilon Boötes a star in the constellation of that name and at a distance from the Earth of approximately 105 light years. The whole matter has caused some stir and the paper was given before a large audience in Caxton Hall in March this year.

There has been a further development in this matter and America has now taken an interest in the project. Originally a project named $O S M A R$ was initiated by Frank Drake and Carl Sagan in America. This was subsequently abandoned but a new project for which a very large Radio System is being set up is to be undertaken. This involves a system of aerials in a line 25 miles long.

A more modest project is being set up in this country based on Lunan's suggestions. It is called GOLDE (Ground Observations of Long Delayed Echoes) and is to be operated under the aegis of the British Interplanetary Society. This is a project in which the help of amateurs is required.
The principle of operation is to send a strong signal to the place where calculations show that the probe should be and time the echoes which may come back. EMI have loaned a special set of equipment to help the project, which will be in operation for a long time. From America has come an offer to par*cipate in the programme. This is from Stanford University where a large dish is available.

The British team is lead by D. A. Lunan and A. T. Lawton who would welcome amateurs who are interested to take part in this experiment.

## 勻

 TheTransistor and BeyondBy Prof. G. D. Sims, o.b.E, phid. Head of Dept. of Electronics, Southamplon Universty)

## an appreciation of the changes EVALUATION OF FUTURE PROSPECTS


#### Abstract

1973 marks the 25th anniversary of the announcement of the transistor and few in 1948 would have forecast the immeasurable impact which it was to make on the evolution of our society. Since that time "electronics" has seen the appearance of a continuous stream of new devices and "systems" for communications, data processing and control, and our pattern of living has been affected by these developments in a multitude of ways.


## FROM SMALL BEGINNINGS TO A SMALLER FUTURE!

Looking back. it was clear that once the junction transistor had been produced, the day of the thermionic valve was limited, though the uptake of the new technology by U.K. industry was relatively slow. Certainly, at that time, both the educational and practical problems associated with its use were formidable, but since, there has been a steady adaptation to solid state devices in almost all low-power applications.

The new "active devices" were no longer necessarily expensive and as the new "systems" emerged, they grew in complexity, bringing new problems associated with "statistical" device and wiring failures. A solution had to be found and once planar technology had been mastered, the ultimate emergence of the microcircuit was inevitable: this, in its turn. brought still lower cost. greater reliability and, as a bonus. yet smaller size. We were now able to buy a complete amplifier, in a single can, while even more significantly logic families and complete integrated digital sub-systems, such as counters and shift registers were also available.

## SYSTEMS

At this point. the revolution in basic electronic techniques took a new turn. for now quite massive systems could be envisaged. of which the control systems for the Apollo missions were perhaps the most challenging and spectacular.

In parallel with these developments new information storage techniques were emerging and "memory", whether in semiconductor or magnetic form. is now another readily purchaseable item.

Memory, together with faster digital techniques, now enables us to envisage future "super-systems"

ALREADY BROUGHT ABOUT AND AN
capable of working at data processing rates which were quite inconceivable in 1948. Whereas at that time a microsecond pulse was short, now nanosecond pulses are everyday things and picosecond pulses are beginning to be considered for the communication systems of the future.

These have all been direct effects of the development of the transistor and have often diverted attention from some equally important side-effects, not the least of which was the awakening of interest in the properties of "pure" materials generally.

## MATERIALS

The development of semiconductor materials, which first took us from germanium to silicon, soon turned to other materials such as gallium arsenide. This has since given us power devices at microwave frequencies and possibly, of even greater importance, useful infra-red solid state lasers. Subsequently, gallium phosphide has arrived and using much the same $p n$-junction techniques as those employed at low frequencies, we now have compact alpha numeric indicators in this material and its derivatives.

We came to realise, too, that glass could be an important material and "Ovonic" storage devices using switching properties in glass offer great potential, even though, at the moment, they remain little understood and unreliable. We had already accepted that ceramics had their uses, too, whether for substrate materials or in more esoteric combinations such as with ferroelectric glasses, whose interesting optical and piezo electric properties suggest many potential applications.

It would be no exaggeration to say that all of the major device developments which have taken place since 1948 have arisen either from the utilisation of new materials or from improvements in materials technology which enabled us to use already known materials properties more efficiently than before.

## DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

In order to exploit our devices, in the new systems, it became necessary to marshal a whole new battery of design techniques: the simplest of these were concerned with the design of logical systems, and switching theory has now become an important tool in the hands of almost all electronic engineers. Further, as systems have grown in capability, the designer has
had to find other means for carrying out the kind of routine calculations which hitherto had been his main occupations.

If a computer aided design programme could provide details of how to design a filter, or a feedback circuit, it was clearly sensible to use it rather than to waste valuable professional time on "chores".
With the bigger systems, it is seldom practicable to "bread-board" everything in the initial design stages. Thus simulation techniques, in which systems are modelled on computers, have also developed apace.

Finally, and perhaps most important. is the growing pre-occupation with systems reliability, and design for maintenance ("terotechnology"). These considerations have to be taken into account at the outset of the design process and wherever possible systematic calculations must be performed to put realistic limits on component life.

Long component life is an expensive commodity and whilst it is essential that the system is reliable enough, it is seldom that excessive reliability can be justified. Perfectionism is all very well but it costs money!

## THE YEARS TO COME

What then of the future?
At the system level we have already spoken of the "super-system" which will provide a communicating power, exceeding by orders of magnitude that are available at the moment. This, using faster digital techniques and optical fibre waveguides, will open up the almost unlimited bandwidths available at optical frequencies and will allow many new possible applications of video systems, such as information retrieval from the local data bank or library and generatly "instant-optical communication".

At the device level it is not easy at the present time to envisage a replacement for the silicon integrated circuit, though as technologies evolve. we are already seeing a noticeable movement from bi-polar techniques to MOS processes, particularly in relation to the new forms of solid state memory.

## VACUUM TUBE SURVIVORS

In the area of general electronics, the cathode ray tube and imaging tubes remain apart, as almost the sole survivors of the vacuum tube era-but for how long?

We are already seeing important developments by way of self-scanned solid state silicon arrays which may soon challenge vacuum image tubes for some applications: new ideas are continually emerging in the use of new materials for image storage: new techniques also appear for writing, both with light and electron beams, either on photochromatic materials or thin films, for data recording purposes.

At the moment, notwithstanding, the cathode ray tube as a "picture tube" appears to be secure, for as yet nothing fast enough can challenge it. The same remains broadly true of "power" tubes where as yet solid state devices have made a limited impactthough undoubtedly their time will come, too!

## THE ENGINEER AND TECHNICIAN

Implicit in our discussion above is the suggestion that the roles of the engineer and the technician in electronics have also changed. The subjects of fundamental importance to either remain much the same,
but the achievable level of complexity is now so great that many engineers must be less-concerned with circuit detail than with the properties and specification of the overall system and its organisation. The technician at the same time has a task which, although it may in some respects be simplified through the microcircuit, is in other ways more complicated, requiring a greater overall understanding of electronics as a whole.

## EDUCATION

For those in education, the scene has been changing continually and the challenge is unrelenting. Graduate courses remain at three-years and, somehow or other, competently educated engineers must be produced in that time. As always, the education has to be mainly concerned with fundamentals and with developing. within the student, the ability to continually self-update his knowledge, in his subsequent professional life in Industry. At the same time, however. he requires an awareness of the attitudes and practices of the contemporary world and the task of balancing these needs is a delicate one.

## THE VITAL AREAS

The areas above all in which more effort is needed. if the student is to cope with the changes which the future will bring, are probably the two mentioned above, viz. "Materials" and "Systems".

For the man who is going to be concerned primarily with devices, materials have assumed an importance many times greater than was appreciated 25 years ago: while for the designer of "capital goods", the systems considerations which could be overlooked when the radio set represented the ultimate challenge in complexity, are now at the forefront!

Circuit theory, of course, remains as important as ever, but, to it, we have had to add logic design and some indication of how we can check our ideas and translate them into practical terms through CAD and simulation.

Thus the education sector has had to learn and adapt rapidly, too, and it is vital that it should continue to do so. for the industry is critically dependent on an assured inflow of high quality personnel.

## PROSPECT

Despite the recession, the half-million strong electronics industry of this country has been remarkably successful and will be of key importance both nationally and to the EEC, in the years to come.
Just as the development, successively, of the telephone. radio. television. and the computer have all marked stages in a revolution which has been social as well as technical, the super-systems of the future will change our habits still more. It has been, above all, the invention of the transistor which has accounted for the continually accelerating pace of this social revolution, which began, so innocently, with the invention of the thermionic valve at the turn of the century!

This month the module containing the Sample and Hold circuitry and Noise Generator is described together with application details.

## SAMPLE AND HOLD

The Sample and Hold shown in block form in Fig. 5.1 is another programming device which is capable of producing formalised staircase waveforms (Fig. 5.2) or random staircase waveforms. In both cases the "rise" of each step in the staircase is dependent upon the amplitude of the voltage being sampled while the "tread" of each step is governed by the sampling rate set by the clock.

The clock itself consists of two separate circuit forms as shown in the theoretical circuit diagram Fig. 5.3. The first is an astable multivibrator (ICI) in which the rate of oscillation is variable between 0.25 Hz and 50 Hz . The circuit switches alternately between its positive and negative saturation levels so that, for 15 volt supply rails, the output voltage swing is of the order of 28 volts.
The second circuit form is a monostable multivibrator (IC2) which is triggered by the negative going steps of the astable squarewave thus producing a pulse train of the same frequency. This circuit also switches between its positive and negative saturation levels. In the stable condition the output is positive. The introduction of a negative trigger pulse at the input. C3. causes the output to switch to its negative saturation level and to remain there for a period determined by the components R12 and C4.

## PRECISION GATE

Clock pulses from the monostable are used to trigger an analogue gate (IC3) which has two summing inputs. One is coupled internally to a d.c. source and the other directly to an external sample socket. The gate will only recognise negative inputs.

If the trigger input to the gate is left open circuit or is grounded the gate behaves like a unity gain inverter but only for negative going signals. A positive input signal would tend to swing the output of the gate negative, a tendency which is prevented by the bounding action of diodes D6 and D7.

Under normal conditions overriding control of the state of the gate depends upon the polarity of the signal presented at the trigger input. As has been explained. the gate is closed, that is, passing inverted negative signals, when the trigger input is open circuit or grounded. The same situation exists when the polarity of the trigger signal is negative.

When the trigger signal is positive however the gate opens and its output is zero provided that the potential of the sample input is less than the potential of the trigger signal. This latter situation exists for all conditions of internal sampling where the maximum d.c. level attainable is determined by the divider R26-VR4, and for all conditions of external sampling from a single programming source.

When the d.c. and external sampling sources are combined, providing a single programming source only is used, the maximum sampling potential will never exceed 11.5 V as compared to a trigger potential of 14 V . and thus the closed period of the gate will never exceed 560 microseconds.

In circumstances where two or more programming sources are combined cither with, or without, amplification, the situation can exist where the sample potential exceeds the trigger potential. Under these conditions the closed period of the gate is solely dependent upon the period of "high" sample potential.

# PE Sound Synthesiser 5 5AMPLE-HOLD and nOISE GEIERATOR By G.D.SHAW 



## INTEGRATOR

Output from the gate is led to the programming input of an integrator/comparator (IC4/IC5) arrangement which is basically similar to the ramp generator described in last month's article. In this case, however, the time constant of the integrator is much shorter resulting in an extremely rapid integration.

This feature is necessary in order to provide the steep rise between steps if a crisp tone change is to be achieved.

Further additions to the basic ramp generator circuit include an indicator lamp switched by TR1 which serves to indicate the "on" period of the staircase, a clamping diode D1 which serves to limit the integrator output to approximately 650 millivolts in the event that the integrator tends to go into positive saturation, and an input bias control provided by R1, VR1, R2. Input bias is required to compensate for integrator capacitor leakage during the periods of hold between samples, particularly when the sampling rate is low. It also serves to allow the Sample and Hold to be used as another Ramp Generator if required. This is achieved by disabling the trigger socket (JK1) by the insertion of an opencircuit jack plug and setting the ramp rate by adjustment of the d.c. and bias controls. Very high ramp rates may be achieved by this means.

## CONSTRUCTION

The circuit board layout of the Sample and Hold is shown in Fig. 5.4. Layout is not critical although space problems may occur if relative component


Fig. 5.1. Elements of Sample and Hold in block form


Fig. 5.2. Staircase waveform produced by Sample and Hold circuit. The rise of each step is dependent on the amplitude of the sampled voltage while the tread depends on the clock rate


Fig. 5.3. Sample and Hold circuit

## SAMPLE AND HOLD BOARD

## COMPOUENTS

Resistors

| R1 | $110 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R15 | $100 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| R2 | $1 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ | R16 | $680 \Omega$ |
| R3 | $24 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R17 | $680 \Omega$ |
| R4 | $51 \Omega$ | R18 | $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R5 | $20 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R19 | $200 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R6 | $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $R 20$ | $200 \mathrm{k} \Omega 2$ |
| R7 | $3.3 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R21 | $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R8 | $82 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R22 | $200 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R9 | $1 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ | R23 | $200 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R10 | $82 \Omega$ | R24 | $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R11 | $9.1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R25 | $75 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R12 | $1.2 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ | R26 | $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R13 | $100 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R27 | $10 \Omega$ |
| R14 $1 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ | R28 | $10 \Omega$ |  |
| All $5 \% \frac{1}{2}$ watt carbon |  |  |  |

## Potentiometers

VR1 $\quad 5 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ lin. miniature moulded
VR2 1 MS 2 lin. miniature moulded
VR3-VR4 $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega \mathrm{lin}$. miniature moulded (2 off)
Transistors
TR1 2N2907
TR2 OC140

## Capacitors

| C1 | $2.2 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 35 V Tantalum |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| C 2 | $10,00 \mathrm{pF}$ | polystyrene |
| C 3 | 10 pF | polystyrene |
| C 4 | $3,300 \mathrm{pF}$ | polystyrene |
| C 5 | $4.7 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 40 V tantalum |
| C 6 | 50 pF | polystyrene |
| C 7 | 50 pF | polystyrene |
| $\mathrm{C} 8-\mathrm{C} 9$ | $470 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 25 V elect. (2 off) |

Diodes
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { D1 } & \text { ISJ50 } \\ \text { D2 } & \text { ISJ50 }\end{array}$
D3 IN914
D4-D7 ISJ50 (3 off)
Integrated Circuit
IC1-IC5 741C (5 off)

## Miscellaneous

LP1-28V sub-miniature indicator lamp SK1-SK3 2 mm miniature sockets (3 off)
JK1, JK2 3.5 mm jack socket (2 off)
0.1 in matrix Veroboards as required


Fig. 5.4. Component layout and wiring of Sample and Hold Board
sizing differs appreciably from those shown. The power supply decoupling electrolytics present the biggest hazard as far as cramping of the board is concerned and these components should not be larger than 32 mm in length by 16 mm in diameter. R.S. Components Tube type are suitable and comply with the dimensions given.

## EXPERIMENTAL CIRCUITS

The Sample and Hold provides the principal means by which the Synthesiser offers its most fascinating feature, that of "playing" by itself. Coupling the output to a v.c.o. and careful adjustment of the sample sources can provide a range of repetitive tone sequences the repeat period of which may be varied from a few seconds to several minutes.
Whether the sequence is truly repetitive or entirely random depends very largely on the choice of sample source. An article in the February issue of Hi-Fi News reviewed a recently issued record in which the "music" had been derived from computer stored data relating to changes in the Earth's magnetic field measured at a series of selected points.
In a similar manner existing data sources may be used to provide sample information. Crystal clocks. binary counters, ring counters, old non-erased computer tape and other digital data sources of various kinds, signal generators-even legitimate recorded music may be pressed into service, amplified, attenuated and blended together in various ways to serve the cause of random programming.
The discerning constructor will have noted that whatever the source of sample information the overall effect of the Sample and Hold is to turn this into a voltage which is progressively increasing, in steps. to a predetermined level at which point it returns to zero only to commence climbing once again. In practice the feature of a regular return to zero of the Sample and Hold output does not become obtrusive except at relatively slow sampling rates when the sample voltage shows very little variation between successive samples.

## NOISE GENERATOR

White noise, defined in some circles as unwanted sound, is a very useful addition to the aural facilities provided by the synthesiser. It is a known fact that a great many sounds otherwise considered to be "pure" actually contain a relatively high noise content. The edge-tone in a wind organ is a typical example.
For imitative synthesis the addition of noise in greater or lesser degree is essential if the greatest approach to realism is to be achieved. This factor applies particularly to the synthesis of naturally occurring sounds such as rainfall, surf on the beach, storms, etc., and also to certain man-made sounds such as gunfire, explosions, train whistles. steam engines and so on.
Fig. 5.5 shows the theoretical circuit of the noise generator. The circuit is really quite simple. R5-R9; C3-C4 and D1 represent the noise generation section. The noise diode D1 is a specially selected noisy Zener marketed only by Semitron Ltd., and in the circuit configuration shown provides an output of about 75 mV .
The noise bandwidth and level may be adjusted to a certain extent by varying the values of C4 and R6 respectively although it will be found, in practice, that the values shown are suitable for most purposes. C3 serves to decouple the noise diode from the inverting amplifier based around ICI.

Cost reduction can be achieved by omitting the offset adjustment preset VR3 and substituting a capacitor between the values of 0.01 and $0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ in the output of the operational amplifier as shown dotted.

## LOW-PASS FILTER

R1, VR2 and C2 serve as a simple yet severe lowpass filter in order to provide a degree of control over the colouration of the noise. With VR2 at its minimum setting the output of the noise generator is reduced to a rough triangular waveform with a frequency in the region of 6 kHz . Under these con-


Fig. 5.5. Circuit diagram of Noise Generator
ditions the loading on the output of the operational amplifier is quite heavy and R3 is therefore included to limit the output current drain. Power supply decoupling is essential if noise is to be prevented from leaking back to the power distribution busbars.

In the circuit shown the current requirements are 2.5 mA per rail and the addition of 200 ohm decoupling resistors will therefore result in a voltage drop of about 0.5 V . If noise leak-through continues to be a problem these latter resistors may be increased in value quite considerably although if values over 500 ohms are used some adjustment of the values of R8 and R9 may be necessary to maintain their junction voltage at about +20 V with respect to the negative rail.

Fig. 5.6 shows the circuit board layout of the noise generator. A piece of Veroboard or similar of $17 \times 34$ ways is suitable. Note that screened leads are used to connect this board's cutputs with its associated components on the front panel. These leads should go direct to their respective components and not be bound into the wiring harness.

## CONSTRUCTION

In general the construction of this module should follow the pattern adopted with those already described. The wiring harness for the Sample and Hold should pass out at the top of the front panel and down the length of the circuit board support plate to join the circuit board which is mounted adjacent to the McMurdo plug. The noise generator
circuit board should be mounted over the lower pair of supports adjacent to the base of the front panel Details of the front panel layout and module wiring are given in Fig. 5.7

## SETTING-UP

It is recommended that setting-up and testing be established as a continuing process during construction of this module. With the noise generator, for example, it is suggested that the noise generating section consisting of R5-R9; C3-C4 and Dl be built first and tested by making temporary connections to the power supply rails and observing the output by connecting an oscilloscope between point " $P$ " and the negative rail

The expected output of the noise amplifier can be calculated at this stage by measuring the noise output of the diode with respect to signal ground and multiplying this by the gain of the amplifier

In the prototype the total noise output was 3.5 V maximum which is more than adequate. If the performance of this stage is satisfactory construction of the amplifying section can go forward being similarly tested on completion and before mounting the finished board into the module

There is no actual "setting-up" to be done with the Sample and" Hold and the purpose of testing is merely to establish that the circuit performs within the previously described limits.



Fig. 5.7. Front panel component assembly with details of mounting and disposition of board on the module support plate. The small ringed $X$ on the board edges indicates orientation. (See board assembly figures) For direct programming from the v.c.o. module connect SK11/4 to SK8/2

## USING THE SAMPLE AND HOLD

It is best to confine initial experiments with the Sample and Hold to the formation of relatively simple staircase patterns, derived from the sampling of fixed d.c. voltages, in order to become familiarised with the effect of the adjustment of the various controls. Adjustment of the bias control, for example, can be quite critical when slow sample rates are being used and it is helpful to observe the output waveform on the oscilloscope so that drift between successive samples can be more easily balanced out.

When the Sample and Hold is programming a v.c.o. changes in "tread" voltage can be clearly discerned by ear but this becomes progressively more difficult as the sampling rate is increased. Note that it is difficult, if not impossible, to eliminate drift on the first step of a multi-step staircase due to the low charge on the integrating capacitor. This is not necessarily a disadvantage since it is possible to programme out the first step of the staircase by means of the envelope shaper which is to be described in a future article.
Progression to the sampling of varying voltages is the next logical step. Fig. 5.8 shows the effect of sampling a negative ramp having a period of about 0.1 Hz . Note how the "rise" between "treads" increases in proportion to the increase in the ramp voltage. Variation in the ramp level by means of the input amplifier can cause remarkable changes in the output rhythm. A low ramp level and rapid sampling rate gives rise to an arpeggio-like sound in which the separation between the first few "treads" is barely discernible.

A high ramp level, on the other hand, causes the output of the integrator to reach its reset point fairly rapidly but since the sampling is continuing on an ever increasing ramp level the next staircase will have fewer steps and reach its reset point even more quickly. If the second reset is still well within the ramp period the third staircase will demonstrate even fewer steps while the fourth and subsequent staircases may consist of only one step, i.e. a square wave.

Variation of the sample voltage (ramp level) and sampling rate can ring the changes over a very wide range and produce some very interesting results.

## SAMPLING A POSITIVE RAMP

Fig. 5.9 illustrates the effect of sampling a positive going ramp. In this case an initial condition of sampling fixed d.c. should be set and the ramp level adjusted so as not to exceed the d.c. sample voltage.


Fig. 5.8. Variable voltage programming. Note how the rise on consecutive steps at the output increase in proportion to the ramp level. Here d.c. level is zero


Fig. 5.9. Variable voltage programming. Here consecutive rises on the staircase output decrease with increase in ramp level. D.C. level is equal to or greater than the ramp level


The effect of these settings is shown, i.e a relatively large "rise" on the first few samples which gradually decreases as the ramp level rises. In other words a reversal of the situation illustrated in Fig. 5.8.

## FURTHER EXPERIMENTS

Further experiments may be carried out in which the sample voltage is derived from two or more sources simultaneously and a typical arrangement is shown in Fig. 5.10.

The sample sources used need not, of course. be centred within the Synthesiser itself. Almost any
device producing a varying output voltage may be used providing that the voltage amplitude concerned is compatible with the devices used in the synthesiser.
The output from a pick-up cartridge, tape recorder or radio can be amplified to a suitable level and used as sample material. Music which has wide and fairly rapid changes in dynamic range gives the best results.

Next month: Some general views on the establishment of an experimental sound studio and the construction of the Tone Control module will be described.


Sound 73 international, organised by the Association of Public Address Engineers and held again this year at the Bloomsbury Centre, London, ran from 13 to 15 . March under what can only be described as "Luxury" conditions with deep pile carpets, a warm inviting atmosphere and the sound of happy music welling up around one.

In addition to the main exhibition, the event included lectures on each day, a number of social activities. and public demonstrations of some of the available equipment.

It is as well that the environment was conducive to communications since the sheer quantity of microphones. loudspeakers, amplifiers, Discos and so on to be seen must have led many into a feeling of confusion.

To add to this, the growing availability of semiconductor equipments and the adoption of current stylings have certainly led to a degree of similarity of gear from stand to stand.

On the lecture front the subjects covered included microphones and their circuitry; limiters and compressors, their application and use; the industrial design of PA equipment; and finally the marketing of this equipment. Of course the event is basically directed to the professional sound engineer and the manufacturer but for all that there is invariably something of interest for the casual visitor at such an event.

## FROM THE PAST

An interesting contrast with the past was provided in the presence of a public address caravan once the property of Cecil Clarabut of Bedford. The van. equipped with horn speakers, a rack of amplifiers and associated microphones and 78RPM turntables, started
operating in 1927 and although the current amplifiers and other items to be seen in the van were installed in the mid 1940's the contents are no less interesting for that.

Apparently the outfit was used as recently as June of 1958 and since then it has been in store. Now it has been restored and Mr. Clarabut has donated it to the Association for Museum purposes.

Returning to a more modern theme, two points come to mind from the show. In the first place the fairly universal adoption of slider controls in tone and volume circuits. This has tended to give much of the equipment similarity of appearance which is emphasised with items like a Disco unit where the layout can be little else but symetrical if it is to work successfully.

A second point is the tendency to place wattage ratings at 100 or 200 nowadays. Apart from the obvious dangers to the listener's hearing when faced with power at this level coming from one speaker, there seems to be the question of this type of high level being fashionable rather than necessary. One or two of the loudspeaker suppliers made this point with surprise but no doubt at the same time with a degree of pleasure at increased sales.

Whilst much of the equipment was of the type one might see in any Discotheque or audio supply house. one or two items caught the eye. For example there was a portable speaker unit intended for indoor or outdoor use mainly in PA applications.

Called the Electrovoice Sonocaster portable extension speaker, the unit uses an 8 -inch transducer. can handle up to 30 watts peak and. whilst limited in frequency response to 70 Hz to 13 kHz , gives a very good showing in comparison to a $£ 400$ unit from the same source, Goulton Europe Ltd. Priced at between $£ 11$ and $£ 16$ (figure not yet finalised) this plastic-housed unit will no doubt collect its fair share of interest.

The latest news from the APAE is that John Robins. MD of SNS Communications Ltd.., has been elected President. This year's President elect is Keith Monks of Fleet and John Weed of Uxbridge is again Treasurer.

# PRTENTS REDTEW 

## MABIC WIPERS

Motorists who like the idea of triggering their windscreen wipers as if by magic should read BP 1287752 from Joseph Lucas Industries.

The Lucas circuit Fig. 1 shows a vehicle battery supplying power to an oscillator coupled to a transmitting aerial. Usually the aerial will be in the form of a wire loop built into the driver's seat belt. The receiver aerial, in the form of an electrode built into the vehicle dashboard, is connected to the gate of the field effect transistor TR1.

The circuit is physically and electrically constructed such that the coupling between aerials is insufficient to cause TRI to conduct. To operate the load (e.g. the windscreen wipers) the driver touches the receiver aerial to increase capacitive coupling between the two aerials. Transistor TRI conducts, base current reaches transistor TR2 and thereby also transistor TR3. Relay RLA then latches, due to the rectified current flow through the transistor, and "Hey Presto!" the wipers start up.

Because a self-latching relay is used it will hold the wipers workind until next time the aerial is touched. A non-latching relay could of course be used for on/off touch control.

## ULTRASONIC GUIDE STICKS FOR THE BLIND

Geoffrey Mowat in BP 1284027 provides interesting details for the construction of a walking stick for the blind with ultrasonic guide capabilities. In his patent Mowat shows a transmitter formed from an oscillator, TR7, and amplifier, TR8, see Fig. 2. These produce ultrasonic electrical oscillations which are converted into ultrasonic sound waves by transducer X2.

No details are given of this fairly routine arrangement, but it is suggested that initially oscillation trains should be transmitted 8 times per second. The transducer X2 is directional in that it transmits only over a beamed path.

For reception a transducer X1 converts received ultrasonic soundwave pulses into electrical pulses and applies them to the receiver amplifier, TR1, 2 and 3. The amplified echo pulses are


Fig. 1
then fed to an astable multivibrator (TR5, 6) which, when no reflected signal is received, is free running.

When an object is close enough to the transducers to cause the latter to receive a reflection, the multivibrator will be triggered from its original to its alternative state for a predetermined length of time, and in which state it is insensitive to any subsequent pulses. When the multivibrator reverts to its original state it will cause the transmitter to emit a train of pulses again. Simultaneously an indicator amplifier TR10 will activate a vibrator which the subject can feel.

Thus when the transducer X1 receives a reflected pulse, the multivibrator will "flip" over and control a fixed cycle of events. As
the transmitted pulse will be received back in a shorter time as the reflecting object qets closer, the repetition rate felt at the vibrator will vary with the distance of the reflecting object, i.e. the vibrator will vibrate at a frequency which increases as the object gets closer. And, of course, because the multivibrator is triggered by the first received pulse, the unit as a whole will respond only to the nearest object in its dath. Transistor TR4 attenuates direct path (non reflected) pulses.

The inventor claims that with the arrangement fitted in a walking stick, the system will allow ready distinction between objects such as a telegraph pole and a building behind it.

BP 1284027


Fig. 2


Signetics International Corporation has recently introduced a new economical integrated circuit, the 555 , which can be employed in simple timing circuits for an extremely wide range of applications and is equally suitable for use by both the professional equipment designer and the amateur enthusiast.

The 555 devices can be employed to provide accurate time delays from microseconds to hours. The time delay is almost independent of the power supply voltage. The device can also be employed as an astable oscillator for pulse-width modulation as one of a series of timers or a frequency divider.

## THE INTEGRATED CIRCUIT

The integrated circuit and its mode of operation will be described in some detail so that readers may gain an understanding of the circuit and thus be able to devise their own applications. Full constructional details of a general purpose timer appear on page 486 of this issue and show how this monolithic integrated circuit can be employed for automatically timing the exposure in photographic enlarging or as an industrial timer.

## TYPES

The 555 timer is available in two types of package. An eight lead dual-in-line encapsulation with a silicon moulded body material is used for the NE555V, and the NE555T has a circular TO-99 case with eight leads. The connections to both types are shown in Fig. 2. The electrical characteristics of the two types are identical.

The SE555T is a close tolerance version of the 555 device and is available only in the circular TO-99 package at present. The connections are as in Fig. 1. The SE device can operate over the temperature range $-55^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $+125^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, whilst the NE types can operate only over the narrower temperature range from $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $70^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The SE555T is considerably more expensive than the NE types and it generally provides a somewhat smaller drift of the time delay with the supply voltage and with temperature.

The writer feels that the dual-in-line construction of the NE555V is rather more convenient to use than the TO-5 encapsulation and it is the cheapest type of 555 .

## Timer It By J.B. DANCE m.sc.



Fig. 1. General schematic of the 555 timer chip showing external circuit connections for monostable operation

1 Ground
2 Trigger
3 Output
4 Aeset
5 Control volt age
6 Threshold
7 Discharge
$8+V$ CC


Fig. 2. Pin number connections for 8 -pin DIL and TO99 can

The NE555V has therefore been used in the applications which will be described, but the NE555T or the SE555T are equally suitable.

## MONOSTABLE OPERATION

In the monostable mode the timer is triggered by an input pulse or by the operation of a switch. This causes the output voltage to change for a pre-determined time (the delay) after which this voltage returns to its former value. The delay is determined by the product of the values of a capacitor and resistor connected externally to the integrated circuit.

The integrated circuit is shown connected as a monostable in Fig. 1 with the operational functions of the timer shown as blocks.

Initially the external capacitor, $C_{1}$, is kept in a discharged state by the transistor TR1 inside the timer. This transistor is held in a fully conducting state by the bias applied to its base by the flip-flop stage.


Fig. 3. Waveforms associated with the operation of the circuit of Fig. 1


Fig. 4. Time delays obtainable with various values of $C_{1}$ and $R_{A}$

The point $B$ is held at a potential of $V_{e c} / 3$ by the potential divider containing three resistors of equal value $R$. When a negative-going trigger pulse causes the potential of pin 2 to fall below the value $V_{\mathrm{cc}} / 3$, comparator 2 causes the flip-flop to be switched. This results in the output voltage rising and in TR1 being cut off.

This sequence of operations may generally be started by momentarily connecting pin 2 of the timer to ground instead of applying a negative-going pulse to it. However, triggering will then normally occur at the instant the connection with ground is broken and this may introduce an appreciable error if the delay period is short.

## WAVEFORMS

The voltage across $C_{1}$ now increases exponentially with a time constant $R_{\mathrm{A}} C_{1}$ as current flows to it via $R_{\mathrm{A}}$; the waveforms are shown in Fig. 3. When the voltage across $C_{1}$ becomes equal to that at point $A$ (that is, to $2 V_{\text {cc }} / 3$ ), comparator 1 of Fig. 1 resets the flip-flop. The output from the latter causes the voltage at the output (pin 3) to return rapidly to its quiescent low value. In addition, TR1 is biased so that it conducts and the capacitor $C_{1}$ is rapidly discharged.

## SUPPLY VOLTAGE

If the value of the supply voltage, $V_{c c}$, is increased, the potential of point $A$ and the rate of charge of the capacitor $C_{1}$ at any given point in the charging cycle are both increased in proportion. The time at which the two inputs to comparator 1 become equal (that is, the time at which the end of the delay occurs) is therefore almost unaffected by the value of $V_{\mathrm{ec}}$.

## RESET

Once the circuit has been triggered by a negative going pulse to pin 2 , it will remain in this state until the pre-set time has elapsed, no matter whether it is triggered again during this time or not. If, however, a negative going pulse is applied to the reset terminal, pin 4 , before the circuit has returned to its quiescent state, the capacitor $C_{1}$ will be discharged and the circuit will be reset.

The output is in its low voltage state during the time the reset pulse is applied to pin 4. Resetting can also be effected by momentarily connecting pin 4 to ground. The reset current is about $100 \mu \mathrm{~A}$.

In applications where the reset terminal will not be used, it is advisable to connect it to the positive supply line to avoid any possibility of undesired resetting.

## TIME DELAY

The time, $t$ sec, for which the output is in its high voltage state is given by the equation:

$$
t=1 \cdot 1 R_{\mathrm{A}} C_{1}
$$

Equation 1 where $R_{\mathrm{A}}$ is expressed in ohms and $C_{1}$ in farads.

Equation 1 may be deduced in the following way. When a capacitor $C_{1}$ charges from a voltage $V_{c c}$ through a resistor $R_{\text {A }}$, the voltage $V$ across the capacitor after a time $t$ is given by the equation:

$$
V=V_{\mathrm{c}}\left(1-\mathrm{e}^{\left.-t / R_{\mathrm{A}} C_{1}\right)}\right.
$$

In order to find the delay, $t$. we put $V=2 V_{c c} / 3$, since this is the voltage at which the flip-flop is reset.

$$
\begin{gathered}
2 V_{\mathrm{cc}} / 3=V_{\mathrm{cc}}\left(1-\mathrm{e}^{\left.-t / R_{\mathrm{A}} C_{1}\right)}\right. \\
\mathrm{e}^{\left.-t / R_{\mathrm{A}} C_{1}\right)=1 / 3} \\
t / R_{\mathrm{A}} C_{1}=-\log _{e}(1 / 3)=\log _{e} 3 \bumpeq 1 \cdot 1
\end{gathered}
$$

If one requires the output to remain in its high voltage state for one millisecond $\left(10^{-3} \mathrm{~s}\right)$, one may choose a reasonable value of $C_{1}$, say $0 \cdot 1 \mu \mathrm{~F}\left(=10^{-7} \mathrm{~F}\right)$, and calculate $R_{\mathrm{A}}$ using equation 1 to see if a reasonable value is obtained:

$$
R_{\mathrm{A}}=t / 1 \cdot 1 C_{1}=10^{-3} /\left(1 \cdot 1 \times 10^{-7}\right) \bumpeq 9 \cdot 1 \mathrm{k} \Omega
$$

Similarly, if $R_{\mathrm{A}}=100 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ and $C_{1}=100 \mu \mathrm{~F}, t=$ $1 \cdot 1 \times 10^{5} \times 10^{-4}=11$ seconds. The chart of Fig. 4 shows the time delays obtainable for values of $C_{1}$ from $0.001 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ to $100 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ and for values of $R_{\mathrm{A}}$ from $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega 2$ to $10 \mathrm{M} \Omega$.

It should be noted that reasonable values of $R_{\mathrm{A}}$ and $C_{1}$ must be selected. A typical current of $0.1 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ (maximum $0.25 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ ) flows through $R_{\mathrm{A}}$ to pin 6 of the 555 timer. If $R_{\mathrm{A}}$ is $20 \mathrm{M} \Omega 2$, this current alone will produce a voltage drop of up to 5 V (typically 2 V ). Thus this value of $R_{\mathrm{A}}$ is about the maximum which should be employed.

If $R_{\mathrm{A}}$ is chosen as $10 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ and $C_{1}$ as $10,000 \mu \mathrm{~F}, t$ can be calculated as about 30 hours. However, the leakage current passed by the capacitor might well be so large that a much longer delay occurs before the voltage across the capacitor reaches a value of $2 V_{\mathrm{cc}} / 3$.

Apart from the fact that capacitor leakage current can affect the calculated time values, one should remember that the values marked on many capacitors are only very approximate. This is especially true in the case of electrolytic and $\mathrm{Hi}-\mathrm{K}$ ceramic capacitors. The actual value may exceed the marked value by as much as 50 per cent.


Fig. 5. Circuit of the 555 connected for astable operation

## CONTROL VOLTAGE

In the previous discussion it has been assumed that pin 5 of the timer circuit has been left unconnected. However, the time delay may be changed over a range of about 10:1 by applying various control voltages to this pin. The impedance at pin 5 is a few thousand ohms. The time delay will still be independent of the value of $V_{c r}$ if the control voltage is derived from $V_{\text {ce }}$ by means of a potential divider so that it is proportional to $V_{\mathrm{cc}}$.

## OUTPUT

If one merely requires an output pulse at the end of the delay time, one may connect the output pin 3 to a resistor (perhaps $4 \cdot 7 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ ) which is returned to the positive supply line, as in Fig. 1. The output pulses are taken directly from pin 3 .

When the output voltage is high, it is near to that of $V_{\text {ce }}$. When it is low it is only very slightly greater than the ground potential of the negative supply line. If the output voltage is low and the current passing to pin 3 is 10 mA or less, the output voltage will normally be within 0.2 V of the ground potential. At output
currents of 100 mA , the output voltage is usually within 2 V of the potential of one of the supply lines.
An output current of up to 200 mA can be obtained in either the high or low voltage states.

The output pulses rise and fall rapidly, typical rise and fall times being $0 \cdot 1 \mu \mathrm{~s}$. The output pulses can be used to drive a high power transistor (such as the common npn type 2 N 3055 or the somewhat smaller npn types 2N3054 or RCA 40250). The high power transistor can then control a high current.

## RELAY OPERATION

If the delay time exceeds about 0.1 sec , a small relay connected between pin 3 of the 555 and one of the supply lines can be operated directly from the timer circuit. The relay coil should be designed so that it operates from a voltage approximately equal to $V_{\mathrm{cc}}$ at a current which does not exceed 200 mA .


Fig. 6. Variation of frequency with component values in the astable mode

It is necessary to connect a diode across the relay so that the back e.m.f. generated when the current ceases to flow through the inductive relay coil is shorted out by the diode. This prevents possible damage to the timer circuit by the fairly high reverse transient voltage which appears across the relay coil. The diode must be connected so that it is reverse biased when the relay conducts. A fast switching diode is ideal.

## TRIGGERING

The writer has found that the use of an inductive load (such as a relay) can cause the timing circuit to automatically re-trigger itself at the end of the delay time. This occurs so rapidly that the output voltage appears to stay quite constant and the relay remains closed. In the general purpose timer to be discussed, this problem is avoided by connecting pin 2 of the 555 through a resistor to the $+V_{\text {ce }}$ line.
The triggering action in the 555 is extremely sensitive. If one touches pin 2 with one's finger, triggering will occur. Even moving one's hand near to a wire connected to pin 2 is adequate to trigger the circuit by a capacitive effect. The trigger current required is only about $0.5 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ for a period of $0.1 \mu \mathrm{~s}$.

## T) $N^{\prime} E S S S N X T=4 . S_{v} \rightarrow 16 v$ ent SE ing $T_{0}$ ISv.

## POWER REQUIREMENTS

The integrated circuit itself requires a current of about 3 mA (maximum 6 mA ) from a 5 V supply, increasing to about 10 mA (maximum 15 mA ) from a 15 V supply. Any current passed by the load is additional to the current shown. The absolute maximum permissible power dissipation is 0.6 W , but this should not be reached if the correct voltage is applied even if the maximum permissible output current of 200 mA is passed.

The NE555V sand NE555T should be operated from a su!
de:
rating vi.u.. . curw..., ....s.... $\leq \mathrm{cd}$ 15 V as the upper limit so as to allow for suppiy voltage tolerances.

Variations of the delay time with the supply voltage are typically 0.01 per cent per volt and with temperature 0.005 per cent, per deg C.


Fig. 7. Using the 555 for pulse width modulation

## ASTABLE OPERATION

- If a 555 timer circuit is connected as in Fig. 5, it will "free run" and operate as an astable multivibrator. The trigger pin 2 is connected to pin 6 so that when $C_{1}$ discharges the resultant negative going pulse is used to trigger a new cycle automatically.

The current required to charge the capacitor $C_{1}$ flows through $R_{\text {A }}$ and $R_{13}$ in series. However, when TR1 (see Fig. 1) conducts, a current from $C_{1}$ flows through $R_{13}$ into pin 7 . Thus the charging time is proportional to $\left(R_{\mathrm{A}}+R_{13}\right) C_{1}$, but the discharging time is proportional to $R_{13} C_{1}$. The charging time cannot be made smaller than the discharging time.

## TIMING

In the astable mode of operation, the capacitor $C_{1}$ charges and discharges repeatedly between the potentials $V_{\mathrm{cc}} / 3$ and $2 V_{\mathrm{cc}} / 3$ provided that pin 5 is left unconnected. The charge and discharge times (and therefore the frequency of operation) are almost independent of the supply voltage, $V_{\text {re }}$. The output
voltage is high during the charging time.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Charging time }=t_{\mathrm{c}}=0.693\left(R_{\mathrm{A}}+R_{\mathrm{B}}\right) C_{1} \\
& \text { Discharging time }=t_{\mathrm{A}}=0.693 R_{\mathrm{B}} C_{1} \quad \begin{array}{l}
\text { Equation } 2 . \\
\text { Equation } 3 \\
\text { Total period }=t_{\mathrm{c}}+t_{\mathrm{d}}=0.693\left(R_{\mathrm{A}}+\begin{array}{l}
\left.2 R_{\mathrm{B}}\right) C_{1} \\
\text { Equation } 4 \\
\text { Frequency }=1 / t=1.44 /\left(R_{\mathrm{A}}+2 R_{\mathrm{B}}\right) C_{1} \\
\text { Equation } 5
\end{array}\right.
\end{array} . \begin{array}{l}
\text { Equan }
\end{array} \\
&
\end{aligned}
$$

The variation of frequency with component values is shown in Fig. 6.

Equation 2 can be deduced using the equation $V=$ $V_{c s}\left(1-\mathrm{e}^{-t / R C}\right)$ for a capacitor $C$ charging through a resistor $R$ from a voltage source $V_{\text {cc. }}$. One requires the time for $V$ to increase from $V_{\text {er }} / 3$ to $2 V_{\mathrm{cc}} / 3$ when charging through a resistor of value $R=R_{\mathrm{A}}+R_{\mathrm{R}}$. The discharging time is the time for $V$ to decrease from $2 V_{\mathrm{cd}} / 3$ to $V_{\mathrm{rc}} / 3$ when a resistor $R_{B}$ is connected across the capacitor.

The charging and discharging times can be altered by the application of a control voltage to pin 5. Both of these times are affected, since an alteration of the potential of point $A$ in Fig. 1 will affect the potential of point $B$.

## OTHER APPLICATIONS

The astable mode of operation can be employed when a series of operations must be repeated at preset intervals many times. For example, one application occurs when one wishes to have the windscreen wipers of a car make single sweeps with a certain delay between successive sweeps. The circuit continues to operate with this delay until the timing is adjusted or until the current is switched off. Another application using the 555 in the astable mode involves the periodic switching of lights.

If a series of regularly spaced pulses is fed into pin 2 of Fig. 7, the mark/space ratio of the output from pin 3 is dependent on the instantaneous modulating voltage applied to pin 5 . As the voltage at pin 5 increases, the time for which the output remains in its high voltage state increases until it becomes so long that alternate input pulses produce no output.

A number of the 555 timers can be connécted in the monostable mode so that the output of the first triggers the second and the output of the second triggers the third, etc.

The operation of the first timer is started by connecting pin 2 momentarily to earth or by applying a negative pulse to it. The first 555 returns to its quiescent state after 1 sec (see equation 1) and triggers the second timer. This circuit produces an output pulse perhaps 100 sec later (owing to the higher values of $R_{3}$ and $C_{3}$ ) and triggers the third 555 circuit.

The output pulses from each of the timer circuits can be used to carry out any desired operation at the preset times after the first timer is started. If desired, the output from the last circuit may be used to trigger the first circuit so that output pulses continue to be generated at set intervals indefinitely.

On page 486 a general purpose timer constructional article discusses the use of the 555 in practical circuitry suitable for use in, say, a darkroom timer.

## polnis nilisme

NOVEL BATTERY ELIMINATOR (April 1973)
To prevent the possibility of any electrical accidents the cover and base of this unit should be made up of $18 \mathrm{~s} . \mathrm{w.g}$. aluminium. Alternatively an EverReady 3 -way 13 A adaptor can be used.
For 6 V use a 6.2 V 400 mW Zener diode can be substituted such as the BZY88.

## CAMERA SHUTTER TESTER (August 1972)

In Fig. 4; page 643, there should be a break in the copper strip between the end of R1 and the link wire which is close to VR1. The presence of this
incorrect link will probably damage the integrated circuit. Fig. 3, page 642, the reference to the integrated circuit as 7410PA should in fact read 741 operational amplifier.

## GEMINI TUNER (April 1972)

The Gemini Tuner described over a year ago, in April 1972 has raised considerable interest and several hundred tuner heads have been supplied. Unfortunately these are made in Japan for an American company (thus keeping the cost down) who has now withdrawn the line because of shortage of some components and a changing product line. Both the importers and Practical Electronics have made extensive investigations to discover an alternative source or replacement prodfuct. Neither

## LOGIC TUTOR EKPERTMENTS <br> 

SOMETIMES one finds it necessary to invert logical functions-particularly when interfacing one stage of a piece of equipment to another. Logic inversion simply means that whenever we get a logical I we have to convert it to a level 0 . The simplest way of doing this is by means of a grounded emitter amplifier stage (Fig. 2.1). Using our convention of positive logic a logical 1 on the input is represented by +5 V at point A -this causes base current to flow in the transistor and hence collector current is drawn and the output at the collector $Q$ falls to approximately zero volts, or logic level 0 .

## DEMONSTRATING IT

A simple application of inversion can be demonstrated on the Logic Tutor. Normally a level I will cause the lamps to be illuminated. Let's say we want a level I to extinguish a bulb; the first thing that has to be done is convert the I level to a 0 . We have no simple transistor stages available to us on the tutor but we can simulate inversion by using one of the 2 -input NAND gates. All you have to do is short both inputs together (next month's description of the NAND gate will make the reason for this clearer).

Connect the shorted inputs to one of the toggle switch outputs and also connect this node to one of the indicator lamps: also connect the output of the NAND to another lamp (Fig. 2.2). Set the switch to I and LPI will indicate level I at the input but LP2 will be extinguished indicating 0 . Apply a 0 on the input and you will see a 1 appear at the output.
The symbol for invert is shown in Fig. 2.3 and we say that the output $Q$ is $\bar{A}$ (said NOT $A$ ). The truth table is very straightforward-whatever $A$ is, Q is the opposite.
Invert is often used in logic systems but its occurence is sometimes disguised by the fact that it is mainly used in conjunction with AND gates to give us the NOT AND or NAND function that will be explained fully in the next issue.

by M. Hughes

In Part I last month the figures given should be transposed.


Fig. 2.1. A grounded emitter stage acts as a logic inverter


Fig. 2.2. The NAND gate with logic inputs shorted demonstrates the invert function


Fig. 2.3. The symbol and truth table for the invert function

# Electronic Music Production 

## Alan Douglas

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## FAMINE AHEAD?

It seems to be a flaw in our human character, perhaps even an immutable law, that we are unable to govern our affairs smoothly and sensibly. Atter the glut comes the famine-at least in professional components. Delivery times are lengthening all the while and prices are hardening and this trend is noticeable throughout Europe and the United States. The trend is that much more irritating because it is in such contrast to even a few months ago.

The Paris Components Show, still the world's biggest and best, showed a buoyancy in April unmatched since the boom vear of 1969. And the London show which opens on May 21 will, according to pre-show gossip, be a much happier business event than the last, two years ago.

Some reports give lead times for deliveries of up to six months for capacitors, five months for potentiometers, up to four months for transistors.

Much of the trouble in Europe stems from the big upsurge in colour TV demand which has created an almost unprecedented call on components. And component manufacturers who burnt their commercial fingers bv overexpanding production facilities and then had to cut back with heavy losses are quite naturally cautious about expanding again to meet what might only be a temporary boom period.

Component distributors in Britain who belong to the Association of Franchised Distributors of Elec. tronic Components and therefore subscribe to an ethical standard in
their businesses, are almost as embarrassed by the present upsurge in business as when it was bad. The more sensitive of them are tormenting themselves on the ethics of switch selling (i.e. the supply of an equivalent component from a different manufacturer from that actually ordered) and suchlike niceties. Another of their problems is the so-called wheelerdealer who scours the world for job lots and then unloads them on a component-hungry market. The maxim is let the buyer beware and to trade only with reputable suppliers.

## UNION CARBIDE EXPANSION

The solid tantalum capacitor was a hard-to-make sophisticated com. ponent which sold almost exclusively to the exotic space and defence market where price is secondary to performance and retiability. I was somewhat surprised, therefore, to discover on a visit to the Union Carbide plant at Aycliffe, Co. Durham, that the big expansion just completed is largely the consequence of tantalums having penetrated the consumer electronics market. Here is another company that has benefited from colour TV.

They have spent $£ 250,000$ beefing up production with new machinery and processes, much of it developed at the US production base at Greenville, South Carolina. The Aycliffe plant now turns out 2.5 million capacitors a month, a threefold expansion over one year ago. Marketing manager, Andy Thomson, was in jubilant mood explaining that the big takeoff was in low-cost dipped resin types which had opened up an entirely new and still expanding market.

The Aycliffe, plant opened in 1952 with 17 employees and now has 230. Watch out for further developments. In the pipeline is a new range of monolithic ceramic capacitors which is forecast to make an important contribution to Union Carbide's European operations. Ceramic and tantalum chips will be included to meet the demands of the fast-growing hybrid market.

Jogging along in the background is a little-publicised activity-the manufacture of barium getters for TV tubes and radio valves which Aycliffe workers can turn out at the rate of 120 miflion a year, phew!

## STILL DROPPING

The huge mark-ups of some manufacturers of pocket calculators are slowly being eroded as more types come on the market,
competition increases, production problems are ironed out and the cost of expensive tooling is amortised. This is one area where prices are not hardening.

Nearly 40 models are currently on sale in London shops, most of them carrying big discounts from the "recommended" price. One British manufacturer has chopped his "recommended" price by $£ 20$, and it is generally aqreed that the simpler types will ultimately become available for a little over £20.

Shrewd buyers are holding off waiting until the market bottoms and some even shrewder people have been working on how to solve complex calculations on the simpler machines which are basically only four functions, add, subtract, multiply and divide.

Square roots, cube roots and other calculations are possible by using a number of discrete stages according to extensive correspondence in the US journal "Electronics" which has printed a number of ingenious methods of expanding calculator capability without paying for it.

## POCKET BREATH ANALYSER

The annual Physics Exhibition in London is not normally the best place to look for good commercial ideas. But one item I spotted this year has good commercial prospects if the price is right.

It is a pocket breath alcohol meter which uses a fuel cell developed at the University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology, Cardiff. Breathing into the cell develops a potential which is amplified and displayed on a voltmeter. Accuracy is claimed to be within 5 per cent and sensitivity is such that 0.005 mg of alcohol per litre of air can be detected. Size is a modest $6 \times 10 \times 2 \mathrm{~cm}$ and weight is only 60 g -a truly pocket sized instrument.

I also noted that Standard Communications Laboratories are gamely pressing on with optical waveguide communications. A liquid core fibre using tetrachlorethylene as the transmission medium is said to have sufficiently low attenuation for practical use and another solution is to use a single glass fibre waveguide instead of the conventional fibre optic bundle.

The single fibre, say STL engineers, is better from all points of view from production which can be carefully monitored during extrusion through to more robust connection to the laser source and detection unit.

## Wide Range

# PULSER 

## By M.J.Trand

ACOMPACT and lightweight source of fast pulses is frequently required for testing. Integrated circuits can meet this need and the pulse generator described here uses only TTL i.c.s as active devices with the addition of a few extra resistors and capacitors. The unit may be powered by a standard mains supply, but a battery operated version can easily be adopted without any modifications to the circuitry.

## INTEGRATED CIRCUITS

As mentioned, two 74 series i.c. chips produce the rectangular shaped pulses. Type SN7404, which is a sextuple single-input inverter, uses three of its inverters as part of the oscillator section. The second circuit block. type SN74121, is a monostable multivibrator connected to provide pulses of variable widths. These two integrated circuits can be obtained for well under fl from many electronic components distributors.

It should be mentioned at this stage that although several firms market i.c.s of the 74 series. similar
devices such as the Mullard FJH241 and FJK101 will do equally well.

## CIRCUIT

The block circuit diagram of the pulse generator is shown in Fig. 1. On switching on, the output of inverter A tends to go up to a logical 1 while the output of inverter $\mathbf{B}$ is pulled down to a logical 0 , charging the capacitor Cl . The speed of this action will be governed by the time constant $C_{1} R_{1}$ in the circuit. The output of inverter $C$ will then gradually go to a 1 and also transmit the transient to the input of inverter $A$, whose output in turn follows to a 0 , and so on, thus producing an oscillatory action. The fourth inverter $D$ in the line acts simply as a buffer stage.

The pulses are next fed to a monostable block which will vary their duration according to the value of the external time constant applied by C2 and R2.

At the last stage pulses from the monostable complementary outputs are passed on to the remaining two inverters $E$ and $F$, providing simultaneous positive and negative going pulses.


Fig. 1. Block schematic of the pulse generator with the i.c. SN7404 split for ease of illustration

WIDE RANGE PULSE GENERATOR Noz0/6


Fig. 2. Circuit diagram of the comoonents external to the integrated circuits. VR1 is, in the final model, a $2 \cdot 2 \mathrm{k}$ ! linear potentiometer with an $8 \cdot 2 \mathrm{k}$ ! resistor connected from wiper to the end proximate R1


Fig. 3. Physical wiring diagram for board and mounted components

## Components

| GENERATOR |
| :---: |
| ```Resistors RT \(68 \Omega\left(\frac{1}{4} W\right)\) Potentiometers VR1 \(2 k \Omega\) Lin VR2 20kS: Lin Cap \(=\) citors C1 \(0.001 \mu \mathrm{~F}\) C2 \(0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}\) C3 \(0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F}\) C4 \(1.0 \mu \mathrm{~F}\) C5 \(10 \mu \mathrm{~F}\) C6 \(100 \mu \mathrm{~F}\) C7 47pF C8 470pF C9 4700pF \\ Swit=hes \\ S1 Rotary, single pole, 6-way \\ S2 Rotary, single pole, 3-way \\ Integrated circuits \\ IC \({ }^{4}\) SN7404 \\ IC2 SN74121``` <br> Miscellaneous <br> Die-cast box and suitable knoos |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |



## Resiztors

R. $2270 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ ( tW )

F3 $2.2 k \Omega\left(\frac{1}{2} W\right)$

## Caparitors

C10 $500 \mu \mathrm{~F} .25 \mathrm{~V}$ elect.

## Diodes

D1-4 WO2 (Bridge)
D5 5.6V Zener
Transistors
TRi BFY50

## Transformer

T1 12V output mains transfarmer

## Miscellaneous

FS1 100 mA fuse and panel-mcunting holder
L?1 Neon indicatcr and panel-mounting holder


## CONSTRUCTION

A circuil diagram is shown in Fig. 2. and a wiring diagram in Fig. 3. In practice the two 14-pin ic. holders are soldered on a small piece of perforated p.c.b. as shown. keeping wiring lengths small. The value of poientiometer VRI should not exceed 2 kS , as this would attenuate the feedback signal and stop oscillations.

A series resistor R1 of about $80 \Omega 2$ increases the stability of the oscillator when VRI is at minimum. The value of capacitors Cl to C 6 can be chosen from $0 \cdot 101 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ to $10 \mu_{\mu} \mathrm{F}$ giving 3 frequency range from 1 Hz to above 1 MHz in six steps.
To fit in with the frequency range chosen, C7 10 C9 can have any reasonable value between 10 pF and $10,000 \mathrm{pF}$ giving pulse durations from $0 \cdot 1$ us 10 $10 \mu \mathrm{~s}$.

If longer pulse durations are needed at lower frequencies then larger values of capacitor can be added. When electrolytic capacitors are used connect the negative terminal to pin 11 of the monostable.

The switches SI and S2 are ordinary single-pole rotary type

## SETTING UP

Calibration of the pulse generator, particularly VR1 the repetition rate fine control and VR2 the pulse dulatior preset control, can easily be done with a reference source such as the time base of commercial oscilloscope. This should be sufficiently accurate to enable a fairly precise marking of the front panel

Pulses of 4 V amplitude with a rise time of 40 ns . and fall time of 20 ns into about $150 \Omega$ are obtained provided stray capacitance is kept at a minimum. If necessary pulses with smaller amplitudes can be obtained using a set of plug-in attenuators.

## POWER SUPFLY

A positive $5 V$ stabilised d.c. supply is required. The diagram of such a circuit is shown in Fig 4 The series transistor Zener diode (TR1-D5) arrangement provides sufficient stabilization against mains variations of $\pm 10$ per cent (nominal 230 V a.c.). The d.c. current requirement is about 30 mA .

If the instrument is to be battery operated it is recommended that the low power types of TTL be used (e.g. 74 L ) in conjunction with a rechargeable battery-nickel cadmium for instance.

The new EMI 1515 stereo amplifier and smaller EMI SQ1500 quadraphonic decoder shown here with two LE2 15 W loudspeakers forming a complete "add-on" package for converting an existing stereo system for SQ quadraphonic operation


The Saba 544 G stereo reel-to-reel unit illustrates the modern styling current in today's equipment

PProbably the main theme of this year's Sonex exhibition, Sonex 73. held at the Excelsior Hotel, London Airport, was quadraphonic or 4 -channel sound. Of course. much of the exhibition and the associated lectures was concerned with the more mundane things of life like the mechanics of disc reproduction, listening room acoustics, and so on.

But, as at any gathering of $\mathrm{Hi}-\mathrm{Fi}$ enthusiasts, and Sonex was certainly that, the tendency is to discuss the latest development available on the market. Currently quadraphonics falls into this category, with all the usual arguments as to benefits of different systems and methods.

Many of the exhibitors were prepared to comment on the validity of 4 -channel sound but only a few offered equipment and, of course, in the small hotel rooms used by the exhibitors it was impossible to demonstrate the effects available decently.

In fact, this is one of the problems with using a hotel for an event of the nature of Sonex 73. Unlike RECMF or IEA or, for that matter any show held in a large hall-type space, not only is it difficult for the visitor to scan the field in general for his particular interest but hotel corridors have a habit of all looking the same.
Thus there is a tendency to miss items of interest and to get "lost" or disoriented. The only solution being the heavy reliance on the hand book. And we all know how impossible it is for all the information to be present there.
Of course, the hotel environment does have advantages. As the sound-making equipment was housed in separate rooms it was possible for the exhibitor to give an almost private demonstration of his gear. The usual problem of interference from stand to stand was avoided.
Really Sonex is directed to the audiophile with the desire to purchase already-built equipment. with only a scattering of items such as Richard Allan speaker kits and Connoisseur turntable products for the more practically minded. However, it is always interesting to see how the professionals do things.

## LOUDSPEAKERS

It is an accepted fact that the loudspeaker is one of the weakest links in the chain of sound reproduction and many of the exhibits showed just how far one can go with money and good intentions to put the orchestra in the sitting room. Anything up to several hundred pounds per unit can be spent. However, there must be a rational level between TV sound standards and using the dining room as a sound box for the rest of the house.
An interesting demonstration of loudspeaker performance was given by Acos using the Martin range from America. At the low price end was the Micro Dan, a prototype baby unit which is expected to sell here for about $£ 30$ plus VAT per pair. The Mini Dan, already available here at $£ 56.28$ plus VAT per pair also gave a good performance for the price. But most impressive were a pair of Laboratory Mk. 2 units and although these sell at $£ 57.95$ each plus VAT the performance was perhaps more "musical" than anything else at the show.

Of course, these comments are governed by personal hearing to a degree but when it is remembered that the Laboratory Mk 2 units include three speakers and controls to set mid and high frequency balance, allowing "tuning" of the equipment to a room, a hearing test is in the"end, the only valid method left.

In fact it was commented by someone at the show that if you provided an audience with "flat" response speakers then most people would not appreciate the resulting sound at all.

Again on the subject of speakers, Richard Allan were displaying their well-known range of kits and assembled $\mathrm{Hi}-\mathrm{Fi}$ units. Whilst they have not added to the kit range they were demonstrating an interesting professional/monitor unit, still in the prototype stages, called the Academy. This is physically a large item and not at all of the kittable type. It is expected to appear on


The Phillips N2510 stereo cassette unit, to DIN 45500 standards, is intended for use with Chromium Dioxide tapes
the market some time in July when the price will be settled. At the moment it is envisaged that $£ 70$ to $£ 80$ will be about right.

## MADE OVERSEAS

Much of the equipment on show is made overseas. We have already mentioned American sourcing. From Norway comes the Tandberg line handled in the UK by Farnell-Tandberg Ltd. Included are a wide selection of tape and deck units, loudspeakers, separate amplifiers, tuner units and composites of various denominations. It is interesting to note the adoption by Tandberg, as almost everyone else, of a cassette deck which meets 45500 DIN requirements and includes a Dolby noise reduction system.

Japanese equipment was fairly in evidence and, as is to be expected, set a standard of appearance which some sources near home are having difficulty meeting. Again the emphasis was on 4 -channel sound with specially designed controllers for remote handling of the output of each channel and special headphones designed for quadraphonics.

Of course, the Japanese exhibits included many examples of casette units, some claiming performances equal if not superior to reel-to-reel equipments.

## SIDE SHOW

Perhaps one of the problems of an event of this type is the consistency of the exhibits. Whilst not quite an "If you've seen one you've seen them all" situation, there is certainly a tendency to feel this after a matter of hours looking at the exhibits.

Thus it was somewhat of a relief to vacate the Excelsior for a while and go to see a demonstration of quadraphonics put on by EMI at a separate hotel. Intended to launch two of their latest products for the $\mathrm{Hi}-\mathrm{Fi}$ market, the EM 1515 stereo amplifier and the SQ 1500 quadraphonic decoder, this side-show (as it were) took the cake as a demonstration of the abilities of quadraphonics to enhance the realism of reproduced sound.
In addition to announcing and displaying the amplifier and decoder, EMI showed a new small eliptical speaker unit which is expected to come on the market soon at about $£ 30$ /pair cased.

The amplifier is to sell at $£ 46.50$ including VAT and includes a claimed performance in excess of most equipments in this mid-price area. 15 watts per channel at 0.2 per cent distortion, and the ability to control power supply to ancillary equipment are some factors of interest.

The decoder is designed to give one the ability to handle the new $S Q$ 4-channel records in conjunction with four channels of amplification. The 1515 is suited to this and EMI are to offer a kit including the decoder and one amplifier to those already possessing a stereo

NEWS BRIEFS

## Advanced Motorway Communication System

A new data transmission system to control the roadside telephones on the M2 has been ordered by the Northern Ireland Ministry of Development. Designed and manufactured in Britain by AP Electronics of Chiswick. the system will be capable of replacing a 185 core cable with just two wires.

The heart of the system is a complex logic network constructed from Motorola MCMOS units. With the new system the operator will be able to dial any of the roadside telephones so that emergency situations can be handled before the less urgent breakdowns.

## Underwater Detection of Aircraft Wreckage

Trials to improve the techniques for the detection of aircraft wreckage by sonar have just been carried out in Torbay. Designed to test the limitations of sonar detection, the trials covered a four-week period and the results should help in developing more effective systems.

A unique feature of the trials is the use of magnetic tape for the recording of the raw data required later for numerical analysis. More sensitive magnetic tape allows easier measurement of signal strength and hence easier differentiation between different types of wreckage.

Apart from the underwater detection of aircraft wreckage the techniques under trial could also be useful in such areas as location of ship wrecks, tracking of oil pipes and the assessment of inshore sediment accumulation.

## Aircraft Tactical Simulator Takes Off

What is described as the world's most advanced simulator is now being "flown" by RAF crews after completion by the manufacturers, Marconi Space and Defence Systems. Built as the first of a number to be supplied to RAF Strike Command under a Ministry of Defence contract worth approximately $£ 5$ million, the simulator will reproduce for all 12 trainee crewmen, every operational facet of the world's most advanced anti-submarine aircraft, the Hawker-Siddeley Nimrod.

All operational equipment, including the radar, sonar, tactical navigation and weapon delivery systems. is fitted in a replica NImROD, to reproduce actual missions, even down to engine noise and low-level buffeting.

## PO Contracts for 120 Mbit/s Digital Line System

As a first step to developing a digital trunk network and preparing for new facilities, the Post Office has placed contracts with STC. GEC and Plessey to develop digital transmission systems enabling pulse code modulation (PCM) to be used on Britain's trunk network.

The decision to develop a digital system for the UK trunk network stems from the results of feasibility studies carried out for the Post Office by GEC and Plessey in 1970-71. These studies confirmed that it is technically possible to introduce a digital system using the standard $1.2 / 4.4 \mathrm{~mm}$ coaxial cable already in use for multichannel frequency division multiplex transmission.

Under development contracts STC, GEC and Plessey have been commissioned to design, develop, manufacture and install systems transmitting information at a rate of $120 \mathrm{Mbit} / \mathrm{s}$. Links between Guildford and Portsmouth, and Portsmouth and Southampton are to be set up. each system capable of transmitting up to 1.680 telephone conversations simultaneously.


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This is YOUR page and any idea published will be awarded payment according to its merits.

## VARIABLE STABILISER FOR POWER SUPPLIES

Tне need often arises for a stabilised power supply having an output which is continuously variable between two predetermined limits.

Considering the circuit in Fig. 1 and for the moment ignoring the inclusion of VRI and VR2, it can been seen that we have a conventional stabiliser consisting of a voltage reference source, a differential amplifier TR1 and TR2, a power output stage TR3 and TR4 and a negative feedback loop provided by R5 and R6 in conjunction with the setting of VR2.

The ideal conditions for stability are as follows. The current through R3 should be equally divided between TR1 and TR2, thus implying that the base potential of TR2 should be the same as that of TR1. namely $V_{1 . . f}$. From this we can deduce that

$$
\begin{aligned}
& V_{\mathrm{rcf}}=V_{0} \frac{R_{5}}{R_{5}+R_{6}} \\
& V_{0}=V_{\mathrm{ref}} \frac{R_{5}+R_{6}}{R_{5}}
\end{aligned}
$$

From the last equation it can be seen that there are two alternative methods of varying $V_{n}$; both are shown in Fig. 1. Firstly we can vary the ratio of $R_{\text {, }}$ to $R_{r}$ by means of VR2. This suffers from the disadvantage that as $V_{0}$ changes so does the loop gain, invariably to the detriment of circuit performance.

The second alternative is to vary the value of $V_{1+1}$ by means of VR1. However. examination of the circuit discloses yet another disadvantage. For low values of $V_{\text {ref }}$ the current through TRI is relatively low but there must be a large voltage drop across R4 thus implying a high current through TR2. The converse applies for high values of $V_{r+f}$ and it should not be difficult to see that there is only one setting of VRI that fulfills the fundamental condition for stability.

If, however, we replace R4 with another transistor stage TR5 (Fig. 2), which receives its base bias via the collector load resistor R8 of TRI (Fig. 2) then this problem is resolved. If for all settings of VR1, the voltage across R 8 is large compared with the emitter-base voltage of TR5 and the value of R8
is roughly the same as $R 4$, then the current flowing through these two resistors will be substantially the same.

This circuit has the inherent advantage that TR2 has for its load the intrinsic collector resistance of another transistor which, having an extremely high incremental resistance, increases the loop gain to a value of several hundreds.
Since, at high frequency the base emitter junction of a transistor can be regarded as an RC network there will be a frequency at which this circuit will oscillate. although the frequency of oscillation is difficult to predict, depending largely on component layout and the types of transistors used. Instability can be prevented by making the output the dominant time constant by means of a capacitor the minimum value of which in the prototype was found to be around $100^{\mu \mathrm{F}}$.

This circuit has an output which is continuously variable from 6 V to 18 V at currents up to 1 amp with the output transistor suitably mounted on an adequate heat sink.
J. Davies, London W. 14.


Fig. 1. Circuit for a conventional stabiliser


Fig. 2. Final circuit for a variable stabiliser for power supplies

|
BUILT the lamp strobe (Ingenuity Unlimited, April 1972) but found the multivibrator in my circuit was unstable and tended to lock at mains $(50 \mathrm{~Hz})$ frequency. This was overcome by decoupling the supply and adding two more diodes to the bridge rectifier allowed pulsating d.c. to reach the gating transistor and hence trigger the thyristor. See Fig. 1.

The speed control circuit was also modified and now gives a range of about $2-12 \mathrm{~Hz}$, with $10 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ timing capacitors, which gives a good strobe effect when using several low power lamps in parallel. Coloured

15W "pigmy" bulbs are very suitable for this application, giving a fair amount of light when mounted in simple reflectors.

A "one-shot" facility was added by switching out the multivibrator and arranging for a microswitch S2 to discharge a capacitor through the gate giving one bright light pulse from the lamp for every press of the micro-switch.

Transformer T2 is a $1: 1$ isolating transformer consisting of about 20 turns of $36 \mathrm{~s} . \mathrm{w} . \mathrm{g}$. enamelled copper wire wound on a ferrite core twice, preferably overlapping.
H. N. Jarman, Tunbridge Wells.


Fig. 1. Lamp strobe circuit diagram

## TIMING CIRCUIT

THE main requirements of the timing circuit in Fig. I were that it should be cheap to build and run, while retaining reasonable accuracy.

In circuits of this kind it is usual to see a field effect transistor in the place of TR1, the main objection to a bipolar transistor being the low input resistance. In this circuit a bipolar transistor has been used for economy, the input resistance being increased by R2. Although this does not offer an input resistance comparable with that of a field effect transistor, the timing is accurate enough for many applications. The value of R2 should be found by experiment, but should not lie below $2 \mathrm{M} \Omega$.

When SI is pressed TR1 will conduct, driving TR2 into saturation. This energises the relay which disconnects R1 and connects the emitter of TR2 to the power supply. Cl charges up through VR1 at a rate depending on its setting. When C1 has charged up enough, TR2 will no longer be able to hold the relay on, and the circuit will reset itself, Cl being discharged via R1.

The components specified will give a maximum timing period of a few minutes. If longer periods are required, the value of C 1 can be increased.

The maximum current consumed by the prototype is about 25 mA just after switching on, this value decreasing as the timing cycle progresses. The current consumed depends mainly on the relay chosen, one with a large coil resistance being most suitable.

The choice of power supply is left up to the constructor; the circuit can be run ecnomically from a small 9 V battery if desired.
P. Chappell,

Weston-Super-Mare


Fig. 1. Simple timing circuit

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All at 68p each
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uni-directional and is complete with plug $100-12000 \mathrm{~Hz}$ 隹 $600 \Omega$ and $50 \mathrm{k} \Omega$.

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with swivel (as supplied with the mic.
above). Fits most tubular mics. and MICROPHONE
FLOOR STAND

## MINIATURE ELECTROLYTICS

| 1-0ıF | 63 V | 7p | $150 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 25 V | 8 p |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $1.5 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 63 V | 7p | $150 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 40 V | 13p |
| $2 \cdot 2 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 63 V | 7p | $150 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | $63 V$ | 15p |
| $3 \cdot 3 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 63 V | 7p | $220 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 4 V | 7p |
| 4.7 ${ }_{\mu} \mathrm{F}$ | 63 V | 7p | $220 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 10 V | 7p |
| $6.8 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 40 V | 7p | $220 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 16 V | 8p |
| $6 \cdot 8 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 63 V | 7p | $220 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 25 V | $13 p$ |
| $10 \mathrm{\mu F}$ | 25 V | 7p | $220 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 40V | 15p |
| $10 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | $63 V$ | 7p | $220 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 63 V | 22p |
| $15 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 16 V | 7p | $330 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 4 V | 7p |
| 15, 15 | 40 V | 7p | $330 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 10 V | 8p |
| $15 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 63 V | 7p | $330 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 16 V | 13 p |
| $22 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 10V | 7p | $330 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 63 V | 16p |
| $22 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 25 V | 7 p | $470 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 6.3 V | 8p |
| $22 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 63 V | 7p | $470 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 10 V | ${ }^{13} \mathrm{P}$ |
| $33 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | $6 \cdot 3 \mathrm{~V}$ | 7 p | $470 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 25 V | 15p |
| $33 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 16 V | 7p | $470 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 40 V | 22p |
| $33 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 40 V | 7 p | $680 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 6.3 V | $13 p$ |
| $47 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 4 V | 7p | $680 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 16 V | 15p |
| $47 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 10 V | 7p | $680 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 25 V | 22p |
| $47 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 25V | 7p | $680 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 40V | 26p |
| 47aF | 40 V | 7 p | $1000 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 4 V | 13p |
| $47 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 63V | 8p | $1000 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 10 V | $15 p$ |
| $68 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | $6.3 V$ | 7p | $1000 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 16 V | 22p |
| $68 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 16 V | 7 p | $1000 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 25 V | 26p |
| $68 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 63V | 13p | $1500 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | $6.3 V$ | 15p |
| $100 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 4 V | 7p | $1500 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 10 V | 22p |
| $100 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 10V | 7p | $1500 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 16 V | 26p |
| $100 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 25 V | 7p | $2200 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | $6.3 V$ | 22p |
| $100 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 40 V | ${ }_{8 p}^{8 p}$ | $2200 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 10 V 6.3 V | 26p |
| $100 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 63 V | 15p | $3300 \mathrm{\mu F}$ | $6.3 V$ | 26p |
| $150 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 6.3 V | 7p | $4700 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 4 V | 26p |

Single for mics, audio leads, etc. $5 \frac{1}{2} p$ yd
Twin, as above, common screen 10 p yd Twin, as above, common screen lop yd Four core with common screen 23p yd. Four core, individually screened 30 p yd Coiled screened leads, 20 feet long Eli.05 each.

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D.I.N. 2 pin (speaker)
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lack, $2 \ddagger \mathrm{~mm}$ unscreened
ack, 2 fmm screened lack, $3 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~mm}$ unscreened ack, $3 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~mm}$ screened ack, tin unscreened ack, tin screened ack, stereo, unscreened ack, stereo, screened Phono, plastic top Wander red or black Banana 4 mm , red or bla

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in plain aluminium, ideal for mixers,


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with lid and screws.
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## 

 $\begin{array}{lllll}\text { Type } & \text { H. } & \text { W. } & \text { D. } & \text { Price } \\ \text { P. \& }\end{array}$ALUMINIUM BOXES

| with lids and | screw | D. | Price p, 息p. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| GB7* 5tin | 2tin | 1 tin | 42p 16p |
| GB8* 4 in | 4 in | 1 l in | 42p 16p |
| GB9* 4 in | 2tin | 1 tin | 42p 14p |
| GB10* 5 tin | 4 in | $1 \frac{1}{3}$ in | 49p 19p |
| GBil 4 in | 2tin | 2 in | 42p 14p |
| GB12 3in | 2 in | lin | 36p 15p |
| GBi3 6 in | 4 in | 2 in | 57p 20p |
| GB14 7in | 5 Sin | $2 \frac{1}{2}$ in | 69p $21 p$ |
| GBI5 8in | 6 in | 3 in | 89p 29p |
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|  | 0.1 | 0.15 |
| Sixe | Matrix | Matrix |
| $2 \mathrm{tin} \times 3$ in | 25 ${ }^{2}$ p |  |
|  | $18 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{p}$ | 28. |
| 3 in $\times 5$ in | 32p | ${ }^{35} \mathrm{p}$ |
| 17in $\times 2$ tin | 87p | 66p |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Pins, either size, pack of 36-11p |  |  |
| Edge connectors: | 36 way. $0 \cdot 1-48, y^{\text {P }}$ (16 way $0.15-25 p$ |  |
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$A P$
$A F$
$A F$
$A P$
$A F^{2}$
$A P$
$A B$
$A F$
$A D$

| C127 | 16 p | BG38 | 36p | 13260 | 29 p | OC44 | 14 p |
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10 Boards, 50p, 8p P\&P: 25 Boards, \&1, 18p P\&P.
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WITH EXTENDED
MW BAND FOR EASIER TUNING OF LUXEMBOURG, ETC. 7 stages-5 transistors and 2 diodes aupersensitive ferrite rod aerial, fine tone moving coil speaker. Attractive black and gold case. Size 5 ! in $\times$
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ROAMER SIX

6 TUNABLE


WAVEBANDS:
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## Sinclair Project 60

# Now-the Z.50 Mk. 2 

## with built-in automatic transient overload protection


#### Abstract

When originally introduced, the Sinclair $Z .50$ proved how it was possible to design and produce a popularly priced modular power amplifier having characteristics to challenge the world's costliest amplifiers. Many thousands of 2.50 s are now giving excellent service day in, day out. But we have also learned that constructors do not always use their 2.50 's ideally. That is why we have introduced modifications whereby risk of damage through mis-use. is greatly reduced and performance further enhanced. The Z.50 Mk 2 has improved thermal stability. more accurately regulated D.C. limiting to ensure more symetrical output voltage swing and clipping and still less distortion at lower power. Z.50 Mk. 2 is compatible with all other Project 60 modules, and may be incorporated to advantage in existing systems. Eleven silicon epitaxial planar transistors are now used two more than in the original 2.50 ; circuitry has been re-designed making this versatile high performance amplifier better than ever




## Z. 30 the power amplifier for quality and economy


with
free manual
£4.48

Brilliant new technical specifications

Input impedance $100 \mathrm{~K} \Omega$
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manual
$£ 5.48$
Input (for 30 w into $8 \Omega$ ) 400 mV
Signal to noise ratio, referred to full o/p at 30 v HT 80 dB or better
Distortion 0.02\% up to 20W at $8 \Omega$. See curve Frequency response 10 Hz to more than
$200 \mathrm{KHz} \pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}$
Max. supply voltage $45 v$ ( $4 \Omega$ to $8 \Omega$ speakers) ( $50 \vee 15 \Omega$ speakers only)
Min. supply voltage 9 V
Load impedance - minimum : $4 \Omega$ at 45 V HT
Load impedance - maximum : safe on open
circuit


## Typical Project 60 applications

| System | The Units to use | together with | Units cost |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Simple battery record player | Z. 30 | Crystal P.U.. 12 V battery volume control, etc. | £4.48 |
| Mains powered record player | Z.30. PZ.5 | Crystal or ceramic P.U. volume control. etc. | ¢9.45 |
| 12 W . RMS continuous sine wave stereo amp for average needs | $\begin{aligned} & 2 \times Z .30 \mathrm{~s} \text {. Stereo } \\ & 60 ; \text { PZ. } \end{aligned}$ | Crystal. ceramic or mag P.U., F.M. Tuner, etc. | £23.90 |
| 25W. RMS continuous sine wave stereo amp. using low efficiency (high performance) speakers | $\begin{aligned} & 2 \times \text { Z.30s, Stereo } \\ & 60 ; \text { PZ. } 6 \end{aligned}$ | High quality ceramic or magnetic PU. F.M. Tuner. Tape Deck. etc. | £26.90 |
| 80W. (3 ohms) RMS <br> continuous sine wave de luxe stereo amplifier. (60W RMS into 8 ohms) | $2 \times 2.50$ s. Stereo 60; PZ.8, mains transformer | As above | £34.88 |
| Indoor P.A. | Z.50, PZ.8, mains transformer | Mic., guitar, speakers. etc., controls | £19.43 |

[^5]
## Guarantee

If, within 3 months of purchasing any product direct flom Sinclatr Radionics Lid., you are dissatisfied with it, your money will be refunded at once. Many Sinclair appointed Stockists also offer this same guarantee in co-oderation with Each Proleci 60 mod
Each Prolect 60 module is tested,before leaving our tactory and Is quaranteed to work perfectly, Should any defect arise in normal use, wo will service it at once and without any of purchase. Outside this period of guarantes small charge (typically E1.00) will be mede No charge is mede for postage by susface mail. Alr Mail is cherged at cost.

[^6]
# the world's most advanced high fidelity modules 

## Stereo 60 Pre-amp/control unit



Designed specifically for use on Project 60 systems, the Stereo 60 is equally suitable for use with any high quality power amplifter. Since silicon epitaxial planar transistors are used throughout, a really high signal-to-noise ratio and excellent tracking between channels is achieved. Input selection is by means of press buttons, with accurate equalisation on all input channels. The Stereo 60 is particularly easy to mount
SPECIFICATIONS—Input sonsitivities: Radio - up to 3 mV . Mag. p.u. 3 mV : correct to R.I.A.A. curve $\pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}: 20$ to 25.000 Hz . Ceramic p.u. -up to 3 mV . Aux - up to 3 mV . Output: 250 mV . Signal to noise ratio. better than 70 dB . Channal matching: within 1 dB . Tone controls: TREBLE +12 to -12 dB at 10 KHz . BASS +12 to -12 dB at 100 Hz . Front panel : brushed aluminium with black knobs and controls Size: $66 \times 40 \times 207 \mathrm{~mm}$

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## Project 60 Stereo F.M. Tuner




The phase lock loop principle was used for receiving signals from space craft because of its vastly improved signal to noise ratio. Now. Sinclair have applied the principle to an F.M. tuner with fantastically good results Other advanced features include varicap diode tuning. printed circuit coils, an I.C. in the specially designed stero decoder and switchable squelch circuit for silent tuning between stations. In terms of high fidelity this tuner has a lower level of distortion than any other tuner we know. Stereo broadcasts are received automatically, a panel indicator lighting up as the stereo signal is tuned in. This tuner can also be used to advantage with most other high fidelity systems
SPECIFICATIONS-Number of transistors: 16 plus 20 in I.C. Tuning range: 87.5 to 108 MHz . Sensitivity: $7 \mu \vee$ for lock-in over full deviation. Squelch level: Typically $20 \mu \mathrm{~V}$. Signal to noise ratio: $>65 \mathrm{~dB}$. Audio frequency response: $10 \mathrm{~Hz}-15 \mathrm{KHz}( \pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}$ ). Total harmonic distortion: $0.15 \%$ for $30 \%$ modulation. Stereo decoder operating level : $2 \mu \mathrm{~V}$. Cross talk: 40 dB . Output voltage: $2 \times 150 \mathrm{mV}$ R.M.S. maximum Operating voltage: 25-30VDC. Indicators: Stereo on. tuning. Size: $93 \times 40 \times 207 \mathrm{~mm}$.

Built and tested. Post free.

## Super IC. 12 <br> Integrated circuit <br> high fidelity amplifier



Having introduced Integrated Circuits to hi-fi constructors with the $1 C 10$, the first time an IC had ever been made available for such purposes we have followed it with an even more efficient version, the Super IC 12 a most exciting advance over our original unit. This needs very few ex ternal resistors and capacitors to make an astonishingly good high fidelity amplifier for use with pick-up. F.M. radio or small P.A. set up, eto The free 40 page manual supplied. details many other applications which this remarkable $1 C$ make possible it is the equivalent of a 22 tran
sistor circuit contained within a 16 lead DI package. and the finned heat sink is sufficient for all requirements. The Super IC. 12 is compatible with Project 60 modules which would be used with Project 60 modules which Would be $Z .50$ and $Z .30$ amplifiers. Complete with with the 2.50 and 2.30 amplifiers. Co

## SPECIFICATIONS

Output power: 6 watts RMS continuous (12 watts peak), 6-8 $\mathbf{\Omega}$. Frequency Response: 5 Hz 0 $100 \mathrm{KHz}+1 \mathrm{~dB}$ Total Harmonic Distortion ess than $1 \%$ (Typical $0.1 \%$ ) all out ess than $1 \%$. (Typical $0.1 \%$ ). at all outpu powers and frequencies in the audio band (28V) Load Impedance: 3 to 15 ohms. Input Impedence: 250 Kohms nominal. Power Gain 90 dB (1,000.000.000 times) after feedback Supply Voltage: 6 to 28 V . Quieacent current: 8 mA at 28 V . Size: $22 \times 45 \times 28 \mathrm{~mm}$ in cluding pins and heat sink
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The new
PZ. 8 Mk. 3

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Project 605 in one pack contains one PZ.5, two Z.30's, one Stereo 60 and one Masterlink, which has input sockets and output components grouped on a single module and all necessary leads cut to length and fitted with clips to plug straight on to the modules thus eliminating all soldering
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