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PS 6 D.I.N. 6 Pin
$\begin{array}{lll}\text { PS } & 7 & \text { D.I.N. } 7 \text { Pin } \\ \text { P8 } & 8 & \text { Jack } 2.5 \mathrm{~mm} \text { Screened }\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{lll}\text { PS } & 8 & \text { Jack } 2.5 \mathrm{~mm} \\ \text { PS Sereened } \\ 9 & \text { Jack } 3.5 \mathrm{~mm} \text { Plastic }\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{ll}\text { PS } 9 & \text { Jack } 3 \cdot 5 \mathrm{~mm} \text { Plastic } \\ \text { PS } 10 & \text { Jack } 3 \cdot 5 \mathrm{~mm} \text { Bereened }\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{ll}\text { PS } 10 & \text { Jack } 3.5 \text { mm Bere } \\ \text { PS } 11 & \text { Jack 1- Plastic }\end{array}$
PS 12 Jack I'screened PS 13 Jack Stereo Screened PS 14 Phono
PS 15 Car Aeria
PS 16 Co-Axial

## INLINE SOCKETS

PS 21 D.I.N. 2 Pin (Speaker) P8 22 D.I.N. 3 Pin
PS 23 D.I.N. $5 \operatorname{Pin} 180^{\circ}$ PS 24 D.I.N. 5 Pin $240^{\circ}$
PS 25 Jack 2.5 mm Plastic
PS 26 Jack 3.5 mm Plastic
Pg 27 Jack fo $^{\prime}$ Plastic
PS 28 Jack 1" Screened
PS 29 Jack Stereo Plastic
PS 30 Jack Stereo Screened
P's 31 Phono Screened
PS 32 Car Aerial
PS 33 Co-Axial

## SOCKETS

PS 35 D.I.N. 2 Pin (8 peaker)
PS 36 D.I.N. 3 Pin
PS 37 D.I.N. 5 Pin $180^{\circ}$
PS 38 D.I.N. 5 Pin $240^{\circ}$
PG 39 Jack 2 -5mn 8 witched
Pg 40 Jack 3.5 mm Switched Pg 41 Jack $t^{-S w i t c h e d ~}$
PS 42 Jack Stereo Switched
PS 43 Phono single
PS 44 Phono Double
PS 46 Co-Axial Surface
PS 47 Co-Axial Flush

## LEADS

LB 1 Speaker Lead 2 pin D.I.N. plug to


## CABLES

CP 1 Single Lapped Screen
CP 2 Twin Common Screen
Cl 3 Stereo Screetied
CP 4 Four Core Common \&creen
Four Core Common Sereen
Four Core Individually Scre
Four Core Individually Screened 0.30 Mierophone Fully Braided Cable 0-10 Three Core Mains Cable Twin Oval Mains Cable
CP 9 Apeaker Cable
CP 10 Low Loss Co-Azial

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VC 3 Tandern Less Switch
VC 41 K Lín Less Switch

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The E12 Range of Carbon Film Resistors,
A watt available in PAKs of 50 pleces,
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 AMPLIFIER MODULES|  | The AL10, AL20 and AL30 units are similar in their appearance and in their general specification. However, careful selection of the plastic power devices has resulted in a range of output powers from 3 to 10 watte R.M.B. <br> The verastility of their design makes them Ideal for uae in record players, tape recorders, stereo amplifiers and cassette and cartridge tape players in the car and at home. |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Parameter | Conditiona | Porformance |
| HARMONIC DISTORTION | Po $=3$ WATTS $\mathrm{t}=1 \mathrm{l} \mathbf{K H z}$ | 0.25\% |
| LOAD IMPEDANCE | - | 8-16n |
| INPUT IMPEDANCE | $1=1 \mathrm{KHz}$ | $100 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| FREQUENCY REAPONSE -3dB | Po $=2$ WATts | $50 \mathrm{Hz-25KHz}$ |
| SENSITIVITY for Rated o/p | $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{s}}=25 \mathrm{~V} . \mathrm{R1}=8 \mathrm{Q} \quad \mathrm{f}=1 \mathrm{KHz}$ | 75 mV . RM8 |
| DIMENSIONE | - | $3^{*} \times 2{ }^{\text {a }}$ |

The above table relates to the AL10, AL20 and AL30
modules. The following table outlines the differences
in their working conditions.

| Parameter | Allo | Al20 | ALSO |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Maximum Supply Voltage | 25 | 30 | 30 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { Power out for } 2 \% \text { T.H.D. } \\ & (\mathbf{R L}=80 \mathbf{I}=1 \mathrm{KHz}) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 3 \text { watts } \\ & \text { RMS Min. } \end{aligned}$ | 5) watta RMS Min. | $\begin{aligned} & 10 \text { watts } \\ & \text { RM8 Min. } \end{aligned}$ |

## AUDIO AMPLIFIER MODULES <br> AL 20.5 watts 5 watts <br> AL 30. 10 watta

## POWER SUPPLIES

P8 12. (Use with AL10, AL20, AL30) $85 p$
SPM 80. (Une wlth AL60) SPM 80. (Use with AL60) FRONT PANELS FP 12 with Knobs

| PRE.AMPLIFIERS |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| PA 12. | (Usewith AL10, AL20 and AL30) | 14.35 |
| PA 100. | (Use with AL80) | 218.15 |

TRANSFORMERS
T461 (Use with ALI0) $21 \cdot 60$ P \& P 15p T538 (Ure with AL20, AL30) $42 \cdot 30 \mathrm{P}$ \& P BMT80 (Use with AL60) $29.75 \quad 15 \mathrm{p}$

## PA12 PRE-AMPLIFIER SPECIFICATION

The PAI2 pre-amplifer has been designed to match into mo buaget stereo aystem. It AL 10, al 20 and AL 30 audio power amplifers and it
can be supplied from thelr associated power aupplies. There are two stereo inputa, one has been designed for use with *Ceramic cartridges while the auxiliary input will oult most tMagnetic cartridges. Full details are given in the specification table. The four controls are, from left to right: Volume and on/oft switch, balance, bass and treble Size $162 \mathrm{~mm} \times 84 \mathrm{~mm} \times 35 \mathrm{~mm}$.

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## The STEREO 20

The "Stereo 20" amplifier is mounted, ready wired and tenter on a one-piece chassia meseuring $20 \mathrm{~cm} \times 14 \mathrm{~cm} \times 5.5 \mathrm{~cm}$. This compact unit comes complete with on/off awitch Transf control, balance, bass and treble controls Attractiner, Power supply and Power amps. ing control knobs. The "Stereo 20 " has been designed to fit into most turntable plinth without interferlng with the mechanism or, alternatively, into a separate cablaet, 300 mv power 20 w peak. Input 1 (Cer.) Input 2 (Auz) 4 mV into 0 K Hermiz distortion. Baas control +12 dB at 60 Hz typlcally $0.25 \%$ at 1 watt. Treble con $\pm 14 \mathrm{~dB}$ at 14 k Hz .

## TC20 TEAK VENEERED CAEINET

For Stereo 20 (front board undrilled) Slze $101^{\prime \prime} \times 88^{\prime \prime} \times 3^{\prime \prime}, 83.95$ plus 30 p postage SHPRO STEREO HEAOPHONES
4-16 ohms impedance. Frequency response 20 to $20,000 \mathrm{~Hz}$. Stereo/mono switch and volume controte, E4-95

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- Supply voltage $\mathbf{1 5 - 5 0}$ volts
- Thermal Feedback - Latest Design Improvements - Load - 3, 4, 8 or 16 ohms
- Signal to noise ratio 80dB
- Overall size $63 \mathrm{~mm} \times 105 \mathrm{~mm}$ $\times 13 \mathrm{~mm}$

Especially designed to a strict specification. Only the finest components have been used and the latest solid state circuitry incorporated in this powerful little amplifier which should satisfy the most critical A.F. enthusiast.


## STABILISED POWER MODULE SPM80

SPM80 is especially designed to power 2 of the AL60 Amplifiers, up to 15 watt (r.m.s.) per channel simul taneously. This module embodies the lateat component and circuit techniques incorporating complete short circuit protection. With the addition of the Maina Transformer BMT80, the unlt will provide outpute of up to $1 \cdot 5$ amps at 35 volts. Size: $63 \mathrm{~mm} \times 105 \mathrm{~mm} \times 30 \mathrm{~mm}$.
These units enable you to bulld Audio Bystems of the highest quaility at a hitherto unobtainable price. Also ideal for many other applications including:-Disco Systems, Public Address, Intercom Units, etc. Handbook available 100 PRICE E3-25
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## STEREO PRE-AMPLIFIER TYPE PA100

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Three switched atereo inputs, and rumble and scratch filters are features of the PA100, which also has a 8 TEREO/MONO switch, volume, balance and continuoualy varlable base and treble controls.

spercification
Frequency Response
Harmonic Distortion
Inputs: 1. Tape Head
2. Kadio, Tuner

All input voltages are for an output of 250 mV . Tape and P.U. inputs equalised to RIAA curve within $\pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}$ from 20 Hz to 20 KHz . Bass Control
Filtera : Rumble (High Pass)
Scratch (Low Pass)
Signal/Nolse Ratio
Input overload
8upply
Dlmensions
$20 \mathrm{~Hz}-20 \mathrm{KHz} \pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}$
better than $0.1 \%$
3.25 mV into $50 \mathrm{~K} \Omega$

75 mV into 50 K
$\pm 15 \mathrm{~dB}$ at 20 Hz
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$292 \mathrm{~mm} \times 82 \mathrm{~mm} \times 35 \mathrm{~mm}$
ONLY £13.15
MK 60 AUDIO KIT
Comprising: $2 \times$ AL60, $1 \times$ SPM80, $1 \times$ BTM80, $1 \times$ PA 100, 1 frout panel, 1 kit of parts to include on-ofi switch, neon indicator, stereo headphone sockets plus instruction booklets. Complete Price: $\mathbf{2 8 8} \cdot 75$ plus 30p postage

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Comprising: Teak veneered cabinet size $163^{\prime \prime \prime} \times 111^{\prime \prime} \times 33^{\prime \prime}$, other parts iaclude aluminium chasais, heataink and front panel bracket, plus back panel and appropriate socketa, ete Eit price: 29.95 plus 30 p postare.


## 

 AERial spec.: 5 section Extended Length 100 cm Length under Fender 40 cm Supplied complete with

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connected to the output of a sonnd source from 1 to 100 watts produces a psychedelic light
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$\begin{array}{lll}\text { Bec } & 3.0 \cdot 3 & 100 \mathrm{~mA} \\ \text { Sec } & 6.0 .6 & 100 \mathrm{~mA}\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{lcc}\text { Bec } & 3.0 .0 .6 & 100 \mathrm{~mA} \\ \text { Sec } & 6 \cdot 0.6 & 100 \mathrm{~mA} \\ \text { Sec } & 9 \cdot 0 \cdot 9 & 100 \mathrm{~mA} \\ \text { Sec } & 12 \cdot 0 \cdot 12 & 100 \mathrm{~mA} \\ \text { Sec } & 20 \cdot 0.20 & 100 \mathrm{~mA}\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{lll}\text { Sec } & 20 \cdot 0.20 \quad 100 \mathrm{~mA} \\ 81.28 & 10 \mathrm{p} \text { P. } & \mathrm{P} \text {. }\end{array}$
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Output impedance 8-15 ohms. Stereo headphone socket with automatic speaker cutout. Provision for auxiliary inputs - radio, tape, etc., and outputs for taping dises. Overall Dimensions. Speakers approx. $15 \frac{1}{2}^{\prime \prime} \times 8^{\prime \prime} \times 4^{\prime \prime}$. Complete deck and cover in closed position approx. $15 \frac{1^{\prime \prime}}{} \times 12^{\prime \prime} \times 6^{\prime \prime}$.

Specially selected pair of stereo headphones with individual level controls and padded earpieces to give optimum performance, $\mathbf{£ 3 . 8 5}$. BUILD YOUR OWN*
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40 Watt Amplifier. Viscount III-R102 now 20 watts per channel.
System I includes
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Specification
20 watts per channelinto 8 ohms. Total distortion@10W@ $1 \mathrm{kHz} 0.1 \%$.P.U. 1 (for ceramic cartridges) 150 mV into $3 \mathrm{Meg} . P . U .2$ (for magnetic cartridges) $4 \mathrm{mV} @ 1 \mathrm{kHz}$ into 47 K . equalised within $=1 \mathrm{~dB}$ R.I.A.A. Radio 150 mV into 220 K . (Sensitivities given at full power). Tape out facilities: lieadphone socket, power out 250 mW per channel. Tone controls and fifter characteristics. Bass: +12 dB to -17 dB a 60 Hz . Bass filter: 6 dB per octave cut. Treble control: treble +12 dB to $-12 \mathrm{~dB} @ 15 \mathrm{kHz}$. Treble filter: 12 dB per octave. Signal to noise ratio: (all controls at max.) -58 dB . Crosstalk better than 35 dB on all inputs. Overload characteristics better than 28 dB on all inputs. Size approx. $133^{3 \prime \prime} \times 9^{\prime \prime} \times 3 \frac{3^{\prime \prime}}{4}$
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Viscount III R102
amplifier $\quad \mathbf{f 2 4 . 2 0}+\mathbf{f 1 p} \boldsymbol{f} p$

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Garrard SP 25 with
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de luxe plinth
and hinged cover
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amplifier
$\mathbf{f} 24.20+\mathbf{f 1} \mathrm{p}$ ¢ p
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5000 mF BV $25 \mathrm{p} ; 12 \mathrm{~V} 42 \mathrm{p}$; 25 V 75p; 35 V 85p; 50 V 95 p. CERAMIC 1 pF to $0.01 \mathrm{mF}, 4 \mathrm{p}$. Silver Mica 2 to 6000 p , 4 p . PAPER $350 \mathrm{~V}-0.17 \mathrm{p} ; 0.518 \mathrm{p} ; 1 \mathrm{mF} 15 \mathrm{p} ; 8 \mathrm{mF} 150 \mathrm{~V} 15 \mathrm{p}$ $500 \mathrm{~V}-0.001$ to $0.054 \mathrm{p} ; 0.1$ 10p; $0.252 \mathrm{p} ; 0.4725 \mathrm{p}$ TWIN GANG. " 0.0 " $208 \mathrm{pF}+176 \mathrm{pF}$, 1.10 p . Slow motion drive $365 \mathrm{pF}+365 \mathrm{pF}$ with $25 \mathrm{pF}+25 \mathrm{pF}, 60 \mathrm{p}$; Twin 500 pF 75p. Twin 410pF 50p. Twin 120pF 50p
GHORT WAVE SHGLE. 25pF, 45p; 50pF, 55p.

## SHORT WAVE SINGLE GANG. Precinion Silver Plated

 Gengeble Tuning Condensers. 100 pF .50 p еасh
NEON PANEL INDICATORS 250V AC/DC. Amber 30p. RESISTORS, $1 \mathrm{~W} . \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~W} .1 \mathrm{~W}, 20 \% \mathrm{1p}$; 2W, 5 p . 10 n to 10 M HIGH STABILITY. $\frac{1}{2}$ W $2 \% 10$ ohms to 8 meg., 10 p . WIt 5\%-WOUND REESISTORS 5 watt, 10 watt. 15 wat 10 ohms to 100 K 10 p each.
TAPE OSCILLATOR COIL Valve type $85 p$
FERRITE ROD $8 \times \operatorname{lin} 20 \mathrm{p} ; 6 \times$ in $20 \mathrm{p} ; 3 \times \operatorname{lin} 10 \mathrm{p}$.

\section*{MAINS TRANSFORMERS | ALL Post |
| :---: |
| 250 pach |}

$250-0-25080 \mathrm{~mA} .6 \cdot 3 \mathrm{~V} 2 \mathrm{amp}$
$250-0-25080 \mathrm{~mA}$. $8 \cdot 3 \mathrm{VV} 3.5 \mathrm{~A} 6.3 \mathrm{~V} 1 \mathrm{~A}$ or 5 V 2A $350-0-35080 \mathrm{~mA} 6.3 V 8.5 A, 6.3 V$ IA or $5 V$ 2A $300-0-300 \mathrm{~V} 120 \mathrm{~mA}, 6.8 \mathrm{~V} 4 \mathrm{~A}$ C.T.; 6.3 V 2 A . MINIATURE $200 \mathrm{~V} 20 \mathrm{~mA}, 6-3 V 1 \mathrm{~A} 24 \times 2 \frac{1}{2} \times 2 \mathrm{in}$ MIDGET $220 \mathrm{~V} 45 \mathrm{~mA}, 6.3 \mathrm{~V} 2 \mathrm{~A} 21 \times 21 \times 2 \mathrm{in}$
HEATER TRAN8. $6.3 V$ amp $85 \mathrm{p}, 3 \mathrm{amp}$ GENERAL PURPOSE LOW VOLTAGE Teppe. 81.80 p at 2 amp. $3,4,5,6,8,9,10,12,15,18,24$ and 30 V thent $1 \mathrm{smp}, 6,8,10,12,16,18,20,24,30,36,40,48,6024 \cdot 00$ ${ }_{2}$ smp, $6,8,10,12,16,18,20,24,30,36,40,48,6026-00$
 or $5-0-5 V 5$ amp. $1150 ; 6-0-6 \mathrm{~V} 500 \mathrm{~mA} 80 \mathrm{p} ; 8 \mathrm{~V} 1 \mathrm{smp}$ $95 \mathrm{p} ; 12 \mathrm{~V} 300 \mathrm{~mA} 75 \mathrm{p} ; 12 \mathrm{~V} 500 \mathrm{~mA} 85 \mathrm{p} ; 12 \mathrm{~V} 760 \mathrm{~mA} 95 \mathrm{p}$. AUTO TRANSFORMERS. 115 V to 230 V or 230 V to 115 V 150 W 24.00; 500W $27.50 ; 750 \mathrm{~W} 215 ; 100 \mathrm{~W} 218$. for 6 or 12 V , if $\operatorname{smp} \mathrm{Em} 2.00 ; 2 \mathrm{smp} \mathrm{m} 2.50 ; 4 \mathrm{amp} 24-00$
 $11 \mathrm{amp} 22 ; 4 \mathrm{smp} 84 ; 5 \mathrm{smp}$. $84 \cdot 50$.
11 amp $22 ; 4$ amp $84 ; 5 \mathrm{amp}$. $84 \cdot 50$.
FULL WAVE BRIDGE CKIRAGER RECTIFIERS: 6 or 12 V outpute. 11 amp 40 p ; 2 amp 55 p ; $4 \mathrm{amp} \mathrm{85p}$
MAINS ISOLATING TRANSFORMER Primary $0-110-240 V$. Secondary $0-240 V$ a amps 780 watts. Inaulated terminals. Varnish impregnated. Fully
 Can be used as 800 whtt auto transformera 240-110V.

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Long spindles. Midget Size BRITISE AERIALITE 5 K. ohms to 2 Meg. LOG or $\mid$ AERAEIAL-AIR SPACED LIN. L/S 20p. D.P. 35p. Edge 5K. S.P.Trangistor 25p Wire Wound controle $1 \frac{1}{4}$ in dism. 3 Watts. 10 ohms to 100 K Britigh Made with long spindles fin dia. 85p each.
DUAL CONCENTRIC POT 500 K LOG AND 500 K
DUAL CONCENTRIC YOT \$00K LOG AND 500K LIN D.P switch. Inner spindle 34 in ; onter spindle $2 \nmid i n 75 p$.
E.M.I. $13 \frac{1}{2} \times 8$ in. SPEAKER SALE!
Wit twin weebriti $£ 4.50$ watt. 8tate 3 or 8 or

Past 2 With Hared tweeter cone and ceramic
 Bastres, $43-60 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$.
Flux 10,000 gauas.
n. Poat 25

Stato 8 or 8 or 15 ohm. Poat 25 p
$13 \times 8$ in Bass unit 20 wattrubber cone surround 15 ohm e5-60
LOUDSPEAKER FRONT GRILLES
Teakwood strips monnted on cloth backing, easily glued on to bafile to modernise cabinets.
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8 ohm. 10W. Large ceramic magnot 8pecisl Rubber cone urround. Frequency response Columns $\mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$. Ideal P.A. uitable Hi-Fi Enclosure Syatems, etc antable Cabinet $12 \times 8 \times 8 \mathrm{ft} 8 \mathrm{uitable}$ Twater 22
 radiation pattern to the higher frequencies and a smooth extendion of total response $3!\times$ zin deep. Rating $10 \mathrm{~W}, 3$ ohm. Crossover $21.25 \leq 1.90$ Post 20p.

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 8 in . WOOFER 8 ohm 12 watt. Deep cone.Heavy ceramic magnet. Bass retonance 35 cps . Frequency ollponse 30-8,000 cp deat bass unit for $£ 3 \cdot 75$
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3 ohm, $21 \mathrm{in} ; 2$ in; $31 \mathrm{in} ; 5 \mathrm{in}$,
ohm, 2tin; 2tin; 5 in $\times 3 i n ; 3 i n ; 4 i n ; 5 i n$.
5 ohm, 31 in; 5 in $16 \times 4 \operatorname{lin} ; 5 \times \sin ; 7 \times 4 \mathrm{in} ; 8 \times 6 \mathrm{in}$.
$5 \mathrm{ohm}, 24 \mathrm{in} ; 5 \times 3 \mathrm{in}$; 5in.
$35 \mathrm{obm}, 3 \mathrm{in}$; 5 in
$80 \mathrm{ohm}, 21 \mathrm{in} ; 2 t i n .120 \mathrm{ohm} 8 \mathrm{in}$.
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LOUDSPEAKERS P.M. 3 OHMS. $7 \times 4 \mathrm{in} 21$-25: 6 in 81.50 ; $\times 5 \mathrm{in} 21.60 ; 8 \mathrm{in} 41.75 ; 10 \times 6 \mathrm{in} 21.90$; 10 in 82.50 RICHARD ALEAN TWIN CONE LOUDGPEAKER8. 8 in iameter 4W 82.50, 10 in diameter SW 82.95 ; Post 25p. 3 or 8 or 15 ohm models.
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2 stage triode pentode falve. 3 watto output. Volume on/or and tone controls. Printed circuit $\leq 4.50$ Poa Complate with speaker.

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21.90 )
Compriaing a fine example of a Woofer $104 \times 61$ in with a makive Ceramic Fagnet, 4402 Gaum 18,000 lines. Alnminium Cone centre to improve middle and top reaponse. Also the E.M.I. Tweter stin equare has a specis. ightweight paper cone and magnet fitu 10,000 lines. Crossover condenser and oll instructions applied.
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Uselul Reaponser 85 to $18,000 \mathrm{cpa}$ $45 \mathrm{cps}, 000 \mathrm{cp}$ UITARLE ENCLOSURE $80 \times 18 \times 9 \mathrm{in}$.
IODERS DESIGN. TEAK $W 00 \mathrm{D}$ FLIISH.

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This famous undt now availsble, 10 watts, 8 ohm. Price $\mathbb{E 2 . 9 5}{ }_{25 \mathrm{p}}^{\text {Pont }}$

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For $8 \times 5 \mathrm{in}$. $\quad$ (pesker
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spindle itin $x$ 7/88in, size $8 \frac{1}{2 i n} x$ 3 in . As illustrated. 240V s.c. mains.
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basa. Fitted with s special bass. Fitted with s specitl copper drive snd concentric range reprodaction with remarkable effeiency in the upper register.
Bata Resonance
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A full range reproducer for high power, Flectric Guitarı, public address, malti-lpesker syitems, electric organs, Idesl for Hi-Fi and Discotheques.
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$\begin{array}{ll}\text { 2N1302 } & 0 \\ \text { 2N1303 } & 0 \\ \text { 2N130 }\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { 2N1304 } & 0 \\ \text { 2N1305 } & 0\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { 2N1306 } & 0 \\ \text { 2N1307 } & 0\end{array}$
2N1308
2N1309

2N1671A
2N 1671 B
2N 9671 C
2 N 9671 C
2N $\uparrow 111$
2N1907
2N2102
2N2147
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2N2904
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2N2905
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2N2906
2N2906A

2N2924
2N2925
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { Green } \\ \text { Yellow } & 0.11\end{array}$


| ED 135 |
| :---: |
| BD136 | | 0.13 | BD 136 |
| :--- | :--- |
| 0.11 | BD 137 | | 12 | BD 137 |
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| SN7406 | 0.45 | SN7423 | 0.37 | SN7446 | 2.00 | SN7474 | 0.48 | SN7492 | 0.75 | SN74141 | 1.00 | SN74165 | 2.01 | SN74197 | 1.58 |
| SN7407 | 0.45 | SN7425 | 0.37 | SN7447 | 1.30 | SN7475 | 0.59 | SN7493 | 0.65 | SN74145 | 1.44 | SN74167 | $4 \cdot 10$ | SN74198 | 3. 16 |
| SN7408 | 0. | SN7427 | 0.45 | SN7448 | 1.50 | SN7476 | 0.45 | SN7494 | 0.85 | SN74150 | 1.4 | SN7417 | 1. | SN74100 | 2.88 |



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| 70914 pin OIL 38p <br> 71014 pin DIL 39p |  |  |  |  | 75p | BCY70 |  | 14p |  | 30 | 60 p |
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|  |  |  | 2N30532N3055 |  | 18p | BFY50 |  | 25p |  | 45 | 20p |
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## THE TRIUMPHS OF RADIO ASTRONOMY

THE charting of unimaginable depths of space has been assiduously carried out by radio astronomers in a number of countries since this science was formally established some 30 years ago. In Britain we can be especially proud of the achievements of our own radio astronomers, in particular those at Mullard Radio Astronomy Observatory, Cambridge, who have reached out to the furthermost parts of the Universe. And now has come international recognition and reward. Two scientists chiefly responsible for the significant discoveries at Cambridge have been awarded the 1974 Nobel Prize for Physics (see page 38).
The triumphs of radio astronomy are scintillating examples of pure science working hand in hand with technology in the quest for knowledge of the very Universe itself. Undoubtedly this young science does deserve more general recognition.

Lacking any dramatic dynamic action and readily assimilatable evidence like, for example, that which accompanies each Space Shot, radio astronomy has remained a distant and little understood or appreciated science so far as the general public is concerned. Radio telescopes in the popular mind are parabolical structures that can be rotated and aimed at any desired part of the sky, as exemplified by the very familiar Jodrell Bank telescope. In reality, radio telescopes can take diverse forms, and as often as not consist of static arrays of aerials bearing no resemblance to the general conception of a "telescope"..

The emissions received from the far-off radio sources are recorded and provide data for computers and mathematicians to digest. It is only after the scientists have performed their analysis that the results can be presented in more tangible form that will be meaningful to the non-expert. This is of course in contrast to optical astronomy. Armed with even a modest telescope, anyone can make observations from his back garden. The results obtained will differ, essentially, only in degree of magnitude of resolution and distance covered with those of the professional optical astronomers.

With radio astronomy, as we have indicated, the observer has to be an expert interpreter, while the apparatus employed will comprise complex aerial arrays and highly sensitive receiving equipment-often unique and specially developed by members of a radio astronomy observatory staff for particular kinds of observations. Thus at both levels, science and technology, radio astronomy is almost exclusively the domain of the professionals. And in addition, so far as the larger observatories are concerned, generous financial backing is essential, from government or industrial bodies.

This does not mean that the amateur is precluded from undertaking any investigations in radio emissions from extraterrestrial bodies. But it does mean that from practical considerations he is restricted to observations of the Solar System, our own Galaxy, and the more powerful sources of nearby galaxies. Here he will be following in the footsteps of the professionals, whose early work included extensive examination of these regions and, we should note, they themselves were following the pioneer investigations made by an American amateur named Grote Reber. It is indeed all too easy to assume that no significant discoveries are likely to reward amateur efforts today. But does one really know for sure?
F.E.B.

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F. E. BENNETT

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MOBile light displays a ee all the rage nosadats w th mu ti-eclcured disple ys drizer oy amplifiers a commor feature of partias and dances. The flexisility of elect-onics hes ot yet been entloited fulls in this area but this uticle. describ.rg a plastic pipz dowr which licht can be made to seem to flow. shews the potential available to constructors witi imasination.

The light pipe consists $0^{-}$a plastic tube 24 ft long. containing 144 miniatore light talbs whish are flashad in a sequence wh.ch make barcs of light appear to move dow the tube.

The bults are colrected in four se-ies chains of 36 bulbs. and at ayy tre twa adjacent bulx ase or and wo are off. Th is pattern is rejeated 36 times dowr the lube ind to give the efifec of motier, the rear bulb of a pur is urned ofi and the $t, j b$ in frort is turned o7. T lis sequence s spowr in Fig. 1.

## SEQUENCING LOGIC

The generatior of the sequefce switchirg $\bar{z}$-performed by five TTL ic.s. In Tact a variable pulse generator clocks two flip-fops whish count up to four. oroviding ine four posibie states. The two-bit binary is decoded inte ons-of-four by icur Mand gates in al 7400 .

Hes des decoding, these metes aiso invert the outputs. This is corbeniart bealuse he neat operation requ res OR gatirg to turn on contral chapaels for two $=$ onsecutive staces. This can be cone with AAND gates as these effectively becunce wor gates in nagative layic. thich st the csult of the coe-of-iour outputs being inverted.


Fig. 1. The first ten tulbs in the Light Pace shewig the four switching sates, 0 being the off conditionand 1 the on concition. The diaganal patterr indieates the apparent direction of light motion

## THE CIRCUIT

The c rclit diagrim of oig. 2 indizifer the basic simplicit, of the light pipe Matins pewer drives he logic via a powe- supply ci-cuit and a valtable pulse generato-, whilst the strings of bulbs in the lethe pe are switched by thyristors CSRI, 2, 3 and 4 -nder control of the logis output from IC5.

## INTERFEREMCE SUPPIESSION

IC4 gates through the formation ta 185 orly when the supp y 0 the lamps. which it can be seen is pulsating d.c., is low. This is to reduce itterference which could be c: used if a la rge curren: was swizhad on very quichly by a thyristor.

As the jipe can oedraped round lourspzikers and amplifiers which of badly screened car pick up in objectionable clickirg. it is good pretiax nC 0 generate interference in the first placz ra har thin try to eliminite it later.
 system showing the four columns of bulbs in dashed line. Note that the live side of the mains supply is connected to the logic $0 V$ line through D4 and thus care is required in ensuring insulation of the circuitry from the case and controls

Check the board carefully for shorts between adjacent strips and for strips not cut in the right place. Note that there are not always seven cuts underneath i.c.s as sometimes it is necessary to join the opposite pins.

The thyristors used in the prototype had their anodes connected to their heat sinks. The wires to the output socket were soldered to the heat sinks rather than to the anode wire on the Veroboard, as this was more convenient.
The five-way connector used for the output should be as non-standard as possible for safety. A five-pin DIN would work but is almost bound to be connected to audio equipment at some time.

## THE PIPE

The bulbs used in the prototype pipe were 8 V , 150 mA , 11 mm diameter, Vitality type no. G537. A supplier for these is mentioned in the components list. They are a tight squeeze in the pipe, but once installed, the pipe may be bent round fairly sharp corners without danger of them breaking.

If a smaller bore pipe is being used, there is an electrically similar type, the $676 \mathrm{~W} / \mathrm{E}$, which is wire ended and much smaller. They are, however,


Fig. 3. Component layout and Veroboard cuts and interconnections for the Light Pipe showing connections to unmounted components
more expensive, and come in packs of 200. These are available from the same supplier.

As the lamps are somewhat inaccessible in the pipe it is important that there are as few failures as possible. The lamps are considerably underrun to increase their life. This also reduces light output and hence temperature. The pipe should be mildly warm after a few minutes running, but there is no danger of the plastic melting.

## CONSTRUCTION OF THE PIPE

First, solder the bulbs into four chains of 36 bulbs. There should be 8 in between each bulb for an overall length of eight yards. The connecting wire should be as thin as possible and multistranded. Some sort of jig to hold the bulbs while soldering is of great help in speeding up the operation.

The chains should be tested on the mains at this stage to find any, blown or broken bulbs, or dry joints.


Fig. 4. Sketch showing the method of tying the light bulbs to draw them through the pipe. Note that particularly with the wire-ended bulbs the taping of the various conductors between each bulb is important in protecting the bulbs during installation


The four chains should be laid out so that there is 2 in between each bulb, and taped together at intervals with a fifth common wire. The pipe is prepared for insertion by blowing takum powder down it.

This reduces friction which otherwise might impose too great a strain on the bulbs during insertion.
To thread the lights, a piece of string must first be put through the pipe, using a piece of iron or steel and a magnet to pull it through. The string is used to pull the light chain back through. The bulbs should be pulled through with great care in order to avoid damaging them where the lead-out wires emerge from the envelope if the 676 type is used.

It is easier to fix the string at the far end of the pipe, and pull the pipe over the lamps, with liberal addition of talcum powder if it is difficult to pull.

The common wire should be joined at one end to the four other wires and held at the end by tying a piece of wire round the joint and tying this to a piece of plastic which is glued over the end of the pipe.

The wire leading to the pipe is two yards of fivecore (four-core + screen audio will do), with a suitable plug, of which any metal parts should be well
insulated from the pins. The joint between it and the pipe is hidden by wide insulating tape wrapped round the pipe. The far end is similarly covered to improve appearance.

## FAULT FINDING

In the event of a lamp failure, it is easier to cut into the tube and replace the lamp in situ rather than pull out all the lamps and deal with it externally.
The bulbs which have gone out should be marked on the outside of the tube with a felt pen. Then by pushing a pin through the tube it is possible to make contact with one side of the bulb and the continuity between it and the common line can be tested. If the first test is done in the centre, further tests can be made to subdivide the faulty section until the blown bulb is found.

Whilst cutting the tube might seem drastic it is certainly simple and providing a sharp knife or scalpel is used to give a clean cut it is not difficult to re-glue the cut faces using one of several fast

## COMPONENTS . . .

| Resistors |  |
| :---: | :--- |
| R1 | $100 \Omega \Omega$ |
| R2 | $470 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R3 | $4.7 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R4 | $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R5 | $1.2 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R6 | $3.3 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R7 | $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R8 | $1.2 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |

Potentiometer
VR1 $220 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ linear with double pole mains switch
Capacitors
C1 $\quad 640 \mu \mathrm{~F} 10 \mathrm{~V}$ electrolytic C2, C3 $4 \mu \mathrm{~F} 10 \mathrm{~V}$ electrolytic (2 off)

Transistors
TR1-4 BC108 (4 off)
Diodes
D1-4 1N4005 (4 off)
D5-8 1N4001 (4 off)
D9 5.6 V Zener
Integrated Circuits
IC1 SN7473
IC2-5 SN7400 (4 off)
Thyristors
CSR1 to 4 CRS1/40 (1A, 400V)
Miscellaneous
144 type 6537 8V 0.15A bulbs (Vitality) (Townsend-Coates Ltd., Coleman Road, Leicester, LE5 4LP. Valiant Electrical Wholesale, 20 Lettuce St., Fulham, London. Farnell Electronic Components) 8 yards green polythene tube (o.d. 2.3 cm , i.d. 1.6 cm ) (Transatlantic Plastics, Surbiton) Aluminium box type AB13 Veroboard 24 strips $\times 36$ holes Transformer Eagle MT280 6V, 280 mA
Suitable 5 -pin socket and plug assembly. 1A fuse and fuseholder


Fig. 5. Interwiring diagram


0NE requirement for greenhouse owners whether amateur or professional is a system for keeping leaf surfaces moist. This is achieved by spraying the leaves, at intervals, with a fine water mist. The timing of the intervals depends on the rate of evaporation att any one time. This article describes the principle. theory. and construction of a device that will atutomatically control this process.
The system uses a sensor which consists of two electrodes placed approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ in apart and cast in and Araldite block. The surface of this block is machined flat so that when it is sprayed with water the two electrodes eventually become bridged with a blob of water. If no further spray is directed at the surface. evaporation soon starts to reduce the amount of water bridging the electrodes, until finally the bridge is broken. The time taken for this to happen depends on the rate of evaporation. On a hot summer day the time will be short, whereas on a damp cloudy day the time will be longer.

## PRACTICAL CIRCUIT

The making and breaking of the sensor circuit can be used to operate the electronic circuit of Fig. 1. At first sight this might seem rather complex for such a simple operation, but as will be seen later the system allows for quite a degree of control, coupled with sound operation and reliability.

The object of the circuit is to actuate a standard mains operated solenoid water valve to feed water to a mist propagator when required, and to do this with no moving parts except the solenoid valve, i.e. relays, thus eliminating any trouble from corroded contacts which can easily happen in the greenhouse environment.

Electrode making and breaking is sensed by TR1 and here one of the prime requirements is to keep the current that flows through the sensor, when covered with water, as low as possible to reduce the effect of electrolysis which would soon fur-up the two electrodes.

With no water bridging the electrodes TR1 base is open-circuit therefore the collector is almost at supply potential. As soon as the electrodes are bridged the base goes high turning TR1 on, the collector then going to 0 volts.

At this stage it could be argued that no further circuitry is required other than a relay or thyristor to switch the mains. This would be fine if water behaved to our liking, but in fact this is not so. Once the sensor has been exposed to the attnosphere for some time the surface becomes slightly greasy. This causes the water droplets to have greater surface tension which means in practice that the sensor must be fully covered with water before the spray is stopped or intermittent operation of the circuit will take place, settling down once the surface has accumulated enough water.

## TIMER

However, to overcome this problem and to give more choice of control a timer has been added. This takes the form of the now well-known 555 i.c. (IC2) discussed in depth in June 1973 Practical Electronics.

The 555 is used in the monostable mode and thus the trigger pulse must be shorter than the timing period. Differentiation of the input signal is achieved by R4 and C3. In order to provide a sharp pulse edge a Schmitt trigger is required and this also provides jitter-free operation.

The Schmitt used is a monolithic integrated, 14 pin package, type SN 7413 (IC1). The package contains two identical triggers. Each circuit functions as a four input NAND gate. All four inputs are held high by internal resistors and in this condition the output is held at logic 0 . Any one input going to $\operatorname{logic} 0$ sends the output to logic 1 level, i.e. 5 V .

If any constructor wishes to omit the timer circuit and chance any intermittent switch-off, he can do so by leaving out the timer package and associated components.



Fig. 1. Circuit diagram of the complete plant moisture control system. Note that the earth line is connected to the case of the control valve if possible and to any metal case parts if these are used

## CIRCUIT DESCRIPTION

As can be seen, the power supply is not special. The 5 volt rail is Zener stabilised whilst the mains transformer T 1 is an R.S. Components Ltd., sub. $\mathrm{min} .3-0-3 \mathrm{~V}$ device rated at 200 mA . The total circuit consumption is 45 mA . Even so the transformer gets quite warm but long tests have been given to the prototype with no ill effect.

As stated earlier, when the sensor X1 is bridged with a blob of water the collector of TR1 is at 0 V . This state is fed to that trigger input whose output under these conditions is high. The requirement is to have a high output on C3, because the timer is started by a falling voltage.

When the blob of water has evaporated sufficiently to break the contact between the electrodes of the sensor, the base of TRI becomes open circuit and the collector goes high. Thus the output of the Schmitt goes low and starts the timer, the output of which goes high, to approximately 5 V . This is applied through a resistor to the gate of CSRI thus turning it on.

The time the output of the timer remains in this state is determined by the setting of S1 which selects the series resistors R9 to R18.

The electrodes can be bridged again with the spraying water with no further effect on the timer. Once the time sequence is ended the circuit is set for the next sequence when evaporation dictates.
A brief look at the circuit diagram will reveal a direct connection through diode D2 and resistor R8 from the output of the second Schmitt to the gate of CSR1.
This has two functions, the first being if the operator wishes the sensor to control the "off" time as well as the "on", and accept the possibility of an unstable switch-off, he can do so by turning the time

## COMPONENTS . . .

| Resistors |  |  |  |
| :---: | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| R1 | $56 \Omega$ | R6 | $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R2 | $6.8 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R7 | $180 \Omega$ See text |
| R3 | $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R8 | $180 \Omega$ See text |
| R4 | $2 \cdot 2 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R9 to R18 | See text |
| R5 | $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |  |  |
| All $\frac{1}{2}$ watt carbon |  |  |  |

## Capacitors

C1 $220 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ elect. 40 V printed circuit type
C2 $\quad 0.22 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ disc
C3 $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ non-elect 63 V Wima
C4 $\quad 0.2 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ disc
C5 $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ disc
C6 $100 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ electrolytic 63 V Wima
Semiconductors

| TR1 | 2N 2926 |
| :--- | :--- |
| CSR1 | $2 N 6073$ |
| IC1 | SN 7413 |
| IC2 | NE 555 V |
| D1 | $4.7 \mathrm{~V}, 1.3 \mathrm{~W}$ Zener BZX61 series or |
|  | IS2000A, IS7000A series (Doram) |
| D2 and D3 | 1S44 (2 off) |
| D4 to D7 | Rec 70 (800mA 400V) Doram (4 off) |

## Miscellaneous

T1 3 V type 200 mA . Doram
SK2/PL2 Jack and socket min.
Case Sarel Ref. No. 308 from Hawnt and Co. Ltd., Pritchett Street, Birmingham B6 4EN.
Mains cable 3 core P.V.C. Circuit board. Rubber flex connector (Woolworths). Neon indicator 250 V miniature. Knob and dial skirt ' C ' $\frac{3}{4} \mathrm{in}$. Doram. Midget rotary switch 1 pole 12 , way. Miniature toggle ON/OFF switch. Mains fuse and socket. Materials for sensor. Solenoid valvesee text.


Fig. 2. A completed sensor (above) showing the dimensions in mm and simplicity of construction

Fig. 3. Manufacture of the sensor is also simple using this jig made up from a bit of scrap wood (left)
carbons and even roll off the surface if the design is not correct.

## SENSOR CONSTRUCTION

The sensor is best cast in a piece of plastic pipe with a lin inside diameter. This has two advantages, the first being ease of casting and the second and more important being that the plastic edge surrounding the sensor surface tends to prevent the blob of water from rolling off.

The two carbon rods can be obtained from any used-up U2 type battery, the metal cap ends being used to solder the wire connections.

Cut the two carbon rods at 1 in long from the metal cap end. Drill two holes $\frac{5}{16}$ in dia, at $\frac{s}{8}$ in centres, $\frac{1}{4}$ in into a piece of scrap softwood. Drill a third hole to one side, as indicated in Fig. 3 to accommodate a No. 6 plastic knitting needle.

Push the two carbon rods into the holes as far as possible. Acquire a $4 \frac{3}{4}$ in length of No. 6 knitting needle (sharp end if possible) and insert the blunt end into the third hole as far as it will go. Next place a $1 \frac{1}{4}$ in length of lin inside dia. plastic tube over the carbon rods and needle. All is now ready to attach the wires. Any twin cable with a plastic outer sheath is suitable. Solder one wire each onto the metal caps of the carbon rods. Ensure that the cable sheath is below the edge of the tube so that it will be well covered with Araldite.

When all is ready mix the Araldite resin as directed and heat until it runs quite freely, then pour it into the plastic tube ensuring that air bubbles are not trapped. Rotate the tube a little and position correctly round the carbons. Leave to set over night. One packet of Araldite is sufficient.


Fig. 4. Component layout on the prototype printed circuit board

Once the Araldite has hardened the timber can be split from around the ends of the carbon rods. Saw the carbons and needle flush across the surface of the sensor and then sandpaper the surface flat, finally finishing with a very fine sandpaper. Wipe the surface with methylated spirits. The sensor is now ready for use.

## CIRCUIT CONSTRUCTION

In the prototype all components were mounted on one printed circuit board, including the mains transformer as shown in Fig. 4 and using the circuit layout of Fig. 5. If any constructor wishes to alter this arrangement there is no problem, the layout is not critical other than the necessity to adequately separate adjacent conductors carrying 230 V a.c.

It might be noted here that the whole circuit is connected to the mains neutral line and care should be taken when handling the circuit board when switched on as full mains potential is on the board. Preferably the board should not be handled at all when power is connected.

The board is housed in a Sarel box measuring $4 \frac{1}{4}$ $\times 2 \frac{3}{4} \times 2 \mathrm{in}$. The Sarel boxes are made from a tough plastic and are waterproof which makes them safe when containing mains in possibly damp conditions.

The three core mains lead enters the box through a tight fitting grommet and may either be wired direct into a fused distribution box or connected to the mains via a fused standard square pin 13A plug. It is suggested that this cable be black.

The cable to the load, in this case a water valve, again leaves the box through a tight fitting grommet and is terminated with a three pin rubber flex connection to which the water valve may be connected. It is suggested that this cable be white to eliminate any possible confusion.

The sensor X 1 is plugged into the box using a normal jack plug PLi and socket SK1. To enable the circuit to be tested or as a convenient way of
operating the water valve manually, the jack socket is wired such that when the jack is withdrawn the base of TRI is left open circuit, thereby turning on CSR1 for as long as the jack remains out of the socket.

C2 should be mounted as closely as possible to the Schmitt input. This is best achieved by soldering it directly onto the package pins.

## SETTING UP

First ensure that the circuit has the correct d.c. voltage, 5 V , and if not change the value of R1 accordingly. For most practical purposes a maximum time value of 100 seconds in 10 second steps

Fig. 5. Printed circuit master as used in the prototype Leaf

is quite adequate. But if longer or shorter time intervals are required it is only necessary to change the value of C6, and or the values of R9 to R18 on the rotary switch Sl .

Si is a midget rotary 12 way switch set to give 11 positions and assembled with knob and dial skirt " C " in order to give indications from 0 to 10.

With C6 at $100 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ and a maximum time of 100 seconds required, the total value of R9 to R18 is approximately 500 k !. This will vary according to tolerance spread of different condensers.

In order to test and set-up the circuit, connect a 60 W mains bulb in the load position SKI, pins 1 and 2. This gives clear indication of the operation of the circuit. Then stand the sensor up and cover the sensing surface with a small piece of very wet blotting paper. Turn the rotary switch to the 0 position, plug in the sensor. apply the mains and switch on.

If all is working correctly the bulb should light up as soon as the wet blotting paper is removed and remain lit as long as the paper is off the sensor. Replace the blotting paper and the light should extinguish about I second later.

If when the bulb is lit. it appears to flicker and not to be at full brilliance it is because CSR1 is not switched fully on. This could happen because of variations in sensitivity of individual devices and can be rectified by reducing the value of R 7 and R 8 .

## TIMING RESISTORS

If all is well up to this stage it now only remains to fit the individual timing resistors around SI. Solder into the first position a $47 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ resistor and select 1 on the dial (remember all these numbers on the dial are $\times 10$ ). Then with a suitable time piece handy, remove and replace the blotting paper and note the length of time the bulb stays illuminated. With preferred resistor values it may be difficult to time precisely, but times within 10 per cent can be achieved. If for instance, the $47 \mathrm{k} \Omega 2$ gives 11 seconds instead of the required 10 seconds, then in the next position solder a $33 \mathrm{k}!?$; this should then bring the 20 second timing to about 18 or 19 seconds. It is possible by carrying on in this manner to stay quite close to the required timing. More accuracy can be gained, if required, by making use of resistor tolerance spread.

The repeatable timings of the circuit are very good and this is what matters most. It does not matter much that a time of 62 seconds is given when 60 is wanted as long as it repeats.

## INSTALLATION

Securely mount the control box and connect the circuit to the mains through a fuse box or a 13 A square pin fused plug fitted with a 3 A (or thereabouts) fuse. Connect up a suitable mains operated water valve for the spray system.

CSR1 is rated at 4 A and this load should not be exceeded or damage will occur. There is little advantage in fitting a fuse because in general CSR1 will blow before a fuse. If it is required to switch greater loads it will be necessary to select a different CSRI.


Stick the sensor spike into the soil at a convenient spot amongst the plants to be sprayed, but not covered by them. Wipe the top of the sensor with some methylated spirits to remove any grease. Select position 0 and switch on noting the length of time required for the sensor surface to become covered and the system to switch off.

It is unlikely that subsequent operations will take as long as the first because the subsequent operations will not be starting from a dry surface, but an idea of the time required can be gained. The unit can now either be left on " 0 " and control its own switch off time as stated earlier, or set to a time interval as suggested by the initial timing. Experience will soon enable a useful setting to be found.

## MAINTENANCE

The only maintenance required is an occasional wipe of the sensor with meths.

If at any time it is required to test the unit it is only necessary to remove the sensor jack and replace it again and the system will operate for as long as the selected time interval set.

## SOLENOID VALVE

The choice of valve used depends on the water pipe system in use, water pressure and availability. The author used one from C. W. Wheelhouse \& Sons, 9-13 Bell Road, Hounslow, Middx. which had $\frac{1}{2}$ in B.S.P. fittings.

The EVJD10 and the EVD15 are $\frac{1}{2}$ in B.S.P. male and female fitting valves from Danfoss (London) Ltd., 6 Wadsworth Road, Perivale, Greenford, Middx. Both cover most water pressures which will be met and are available from stockists at around £12.

A d.c. operated valve could be accommodated by using a transformer to supply the correct voltage and a suitable rectifier.

## MERCURY AGAIN

The second visit to Mercury by Mariner 10 confirmed the previous assessment generally. The second fly-by was $50,000 \mathrm{~km}$. More than 500 high resolution pictures have been received, all of excellent quality. This pass was entirely on the sunlit side of the planet and covered some areas that had been checked on the first pass in March last year There were no startling new discoveries.

The hemisphere observed showed that the planet has only one large impact basin. This area known as the Colaris Basin was on the terminator at the first pass. The floor of the crater would seem to be about the size of the Mare lmbrium of the Moon.

Many craters seem to have a central peak which suggests that the terrain was extremely soft at the time of impacts. There are also many craters within craters. A number of rayed craters exist and there is one large area near the south pole with the rays extending out through other craters. The south pole is inside a large crater.

There seem to be two distinct types of configuration of craters, those which are concentric and those which are in long chains. The concentric craters seem to be of the order of 200 km in diameter

Another feature is the large number of random scarps hundreds of kilometres long and of heights of the order of one to three kilometres. The stresses shown are compressional and the result of the compression produces these scarps. They appear to be random in direction and do not follow any particular pattern. The scarps appear to be antipodal to the Colaris Basin and a similar situation is indicated on the Moon in relation to Mare Imbrium.

It would appear that the condition in which Mercury is now found fits in very well with the current theories of early development of the Solar system. This means that there was a huge infall of large bodies on the emerging planets followed by a period of high internal heating with volcanic activity. This takes care of the changing' surface features leaving the primordal conditions hardly discernible.

## OPTICAL NAVIGATION IN SPACE

Another important experiment carried out by Mariner 10 was to test the optical techniques for navigation. These techniques are vital to the missions to outer planets. The need to be able to dodge the satellites of Jupiter, Saturn and


By FRANK W. HYDE

Uranus is imperative because of the sparse data as to the exact ephemerides of these bodies.

Previous navigation of deep space missions have relied on Earth-based radio measurements. Mariner 10 carried out a real-time experiment as it approached Mercury. Over a hundred pictures were taken to show the angular between Mercury and the nearby (optically) stars. The experiment was successful and this means that spacecraft on long distant missions will be able to continuously monitor the space ahead and therefore automatically adjust course.

Provided Mariner 10 can limit its fuel for modifying its course and not suffer another distraction because fast particles interfere with the sensor which is locked on Canopus, it should be possible for the spacecraft to make another pass of Mercury in 1975.

## MORE FROM SKYLAB

Adding to the preliminary reports that have appeared about the effect of weightlessness and the general ability of the astronauts to be in a condition to carry out their tasks, some particular findings are now available. These were released at a symposium arranged by the American Astronautical Society.

Altogether there were 171 days of free orbital flight during the Skylab mission and not only has it been demonstrated that man can adapt indefinitely to the weightless environment, it has also shown that provided there has been adequate exercising during the mission the return to normal gravity presents no
problem. The state of the individual readily adapts to the return to Earth with no resultant effects. This settles the problems that were thought to exist for long missions into space.

Many ways of overcoming the weightless condition have been investigated and these are no longer required. All that is needed for an astronaut is a programme of physical exercises for 90 minutes each day during the flight.

## ASTRONAUT PERFORMANCE

In each of the Skylab missions there was a progressive improvement in astronaut performance. This was due mainly to the increased exercise taken. The first crew were so occupied with the various technical problems that arose; little time was available for an intense study of the exercise aspect. Even when the extra vehicular activities continued to six hours at a stretch there were no "clinical" events to record.

No signs of heart deterioration appeared but there was the usual loss of red cell mass, this reduced as the exercising was extended and the flights were longer. Thus the first mission crew lost 14 per cent, the second crew $12 \cdot 3$ per cent but the third crew loss was down to 6.8 per cent. As on the Apollo missions there was a wide variation between individuals.

Post recovery was better in the case of the last mission of 84 days. The astronauts on the last mission lost least weight. Most of them gained in height, this averaged about an inch. There was a shifting of the body fluids. Some of the crew experienced slight malaise for the first two or three days. However, all got their "space legs" in a day or so and thereafter were immune.

The calorific requirements proved to be the same or thereabouts as their normal routine on Earth.

Testing the ability of these men as observers of the Earth from space, an analysis made of the observations and the ability to carry out the tasks allotted showed that in 850 observations and some 2,000 hand held camera shots, during the 84 days' mission covering 83 widely varied categories, led to these conclusions. The ability to recognise objects and patterns, to integrate these observations from a wide range of aspects and lighting angles, to reason, to make selected observations and describe them brings a new dimension into play. This ability transcended anything that could be programmed or made automatic.

## NOBEL PRIZE FOR CAMBRTOEE RADIO ASTRODOWEESS By Frank Hyde

The announcement that the Nobel Prize for Physics had been awarded to Professor Sir Martin Ryle FRS, now the Astronomer Royal, and Professor Anthony Hewish FRS, is a fitting reward for the work of these two quiet and unassuming men from the Mullard Radio Astronomy Observatory. It is a far cry from the angle iron and wire structures, which began a series of programmes more than two decades ago, to the 5 km radio telescope now in operation at Lord's Bridge near Cambridge.

The official citation for the award ends with these words "for their pioneering research in radioastrophysics: Ryle for his observations and inventions, in particular the aperture-synthesis technique and Hewish for his decisive role in the discovery of pulsars".

Ryle, together with Hewish and Graham-Smith, were the original team. Hewish has stayed on but GrahamSmith moved to a Professorial Chair at Manchester and on the 1st January 1975 takes up the position of Director of the Royal Greenwich Observatory.

## INTERFEROMETRY

The techniques of interferometry formed the basis of the work at Cambridge. The first telescopes were simple interferometers but very soon the phase switched interferometer came into being; the details of this were published about 1950 by Ryle and Vonberg.

From the early beginning the resolution obtained by these methods was better than the single aerial systems. The interferometer developed into a number of variations and gave rise to the more advanced technique of aperture synthesis for which Cambridge is famous. Digitation of observations led to a number of advances.

The first aperture synthesis aerials consisted of one long corner reflector and one movable one about forty feet long. In those days it was quite a sight to see the small reflector being carried to its new position by the observers and technician. This was followed by a more sophisticated cylindriçal parabola driven in attitude by synchronous motors and the smaller complementary aerial fitted to a bogey on a railway system. Here the long aerial was set up east and west and the smaller one could travel on the rails north and south.

## APERTURE SYNTHESIS

The technique of aperture synthesis can be described simply as two apertures moving relative to each other in such a way that they sweep out a narrow ring of large diameter. The apertures are the aerials and the rotation of the earth varies their orientation such that seen from the sky, one aerial appears to trace out an ellipse relative to the other. The interference patterns which are made by superimposing the signals of the two aerials are then synthesised. From this a chart of the structure of a source can be deduced.

The next major step was the One Mile Telescope which came into operation at the end of 1964. This was the first complete aperture synthesis purpose-built telescope. The sensitivity was extremely high. It was able to detect faint objects near the edge of the observable universe.

At that time the cosmologica! debate was in full flow. The first results from the new telescope showed quite clearly that the count of the sources at great distances (and therefore very old) was less than the number required by the "steady state" theory, but consistently supported the "big bang" theory. For most of the theorists this fact, together with discovery of the microwave background. which appeared universal, marked the end of support for the "steady state" protagonists.

## MAPPING RADIO GALAXIES AND QUASARS

Leading on from the far-distant-source discoveries, the next successful objective was the mapping of the radio galaxies and quasars. The properties of the galaxies were of particular interest because they are enormous wasters of energy and among the largest objects known.

The detailed mapping of the galaxies and quasars enabled some conclusions to be drawn as to their birth, evolution and final demise. In this area Ryle not only made the initial discoveries but also showed that the exploding galaxies threw out on each side large clouds. These clouds appear to interact with the inter-galactic medium. These great radio clouds seem to continue to receive energy from the optically observable nucleus of the original galaxy or quasar for millions of years.

In 1964 at the International Astronomical Union meeting in Hamburg, Anthony Hewish released the details of his method of finding quasars by their scintillation. A quasar is to the radio telescope a small object of high intensity. The interplanetary medium gives ,changes of density with the same effects as the atmosphere on light coming toward the Earth. The small apparent diameter of a quasar is comparable with the variations. In consequence a quasar is revealed by the amount of scintillation that takes place.

The preliminary work on this problem was undertaken with three stations, Cambridge, Thetford, and Clacton, roughly in an equilateral triangle. The particular quasar studied was 3C 48. This showed nearly 50 per cent scintillation: The pilot experiment was successful and the triangle was extended between Cambridge, Jodrell Bank, and Malvern.

## DISCOVERY OF PULSARS

It was during the testing of the 18,000 square metre aerial at Cambridge that Jocelyn Bell first noticed the regular pulses. Later observations showed that the regularity and accuracy of the pulses was more reliable than any clock available. The team went to great lengths to establish what these pulses really were and what mechanism was involved. It became clear that what had been discovered were the playthings of the theoretical astronomers, the neutron stars. This discovery was extremely exciting, opening up as it did new possibilities in gravitational physics, the behaviour of very dense matter, and the effect on radiation physics.

## SUPER-SYNTHESIS

The reward for enterprise had already been given by the Science Research Council in approving the setting up of the 5 km aerial with its eight parabolas on the site of the old railway axed by Beeching. This system of aerials went one step further than aperture synthesis. It reached the stage of super-synthesis.

The principal task was to be the examination at the new high level of resolution, of quasars and radio galaxies. This was an opportunity to resolve some of the problems. In some of the observations there were more than two radio clouds associated with the explosions that took place. There were also bridge-like links between the areas of activity. The radio emission may come from the highly charged particles moving at speeds near that of light and trapped in a tangled magnetic field. They may well be accelerated by the gravitational collapse of groups of stars near the centres of visible galaxies.

All these problems and many others should respond to the high resolution of the 5 km telescope. Since 1972 the telescope has already shown that its inception was more than justified.

## THE MAKING OF HISTORY

The history of radio astronomy as made at the Mullard Radio Astronomy Observatory at Cambridge includes many activities which need a whole volume for description, but the story will go down in history of the time when two men, mainly responsible for that history, were honoured while still making it.

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| $\begin{aligned} & 8 \text { in } x \\ & 10 \mathrm{~W} \end{aligned}$ | $\sin , \mathrm{Du}$ | one 8 ohm ， | 2.45 | $51 \mathrm{n}, 8 \mathrm{chm}, \mathrm{C} / \mathrm{Mag}$. $24 \mathrm{in}, 8 \mathrm{ohm}$ or 64 ohm | 0.85 0.50 |
| ELAC | n 80 omm | ual cone | $2 \cdot 25$ | P．\＆P | 0.15 |
| TWEETER AND CROSSOVER |  |  |  | Dome Tweeter $8 \mathrm{ohm}, 30 \mathrm{~W}$ Crossovers CN23（ 3 ohm ），CN28 （ 8 ohm ），CN216（ 16 ohm ） | $5 \cdot 40$ |
| EMI $3 \geq 1 \mathrm{~m}, 3$ or 8 ohm C／Mag． |  |  | 1，20 |  |  |
| Cone Twecter 8 or 15 ohm， 10 W |  |  | 2.40 |  | 1.20 |
| Cone Tweeter 8 ohm，3W |  |  | 1.45 | P．P | 0.15 |
| Horn T | eeter 8 | n，20W | 8.40 |  |  |
| KIT FORM CABITETS，TEAK |  |  |  | 13 in $\times 8$ in cutout 18in $\times 11$ in $\times$ gin with 13 in $\times$ 8 in cutout for EMI 350 P．\＆P．each | 8.60 |
| VFHEBR． $12 \mathrm{in} \times 12 \mathrm{in} \times 6 \mathrm{in}$ wit Bin $\times 5$ in or $6 \frac{1}{4}$ in and 3 in cutout <br> 17 in $\times 10$ in $\times \sin$ with 8 in or |  |  | h 8 in |  |  |
|  |  |  | 2.45 |  | $\begin{aligned} & 4.25 \\ & 0.45 \end{aligned}$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| M108OPHOKES |  |  |  | TW209 CONDENBER MIKE 600 ohm ， uni－dir | 5.75 |
| CM70 Planet stick metal， switch cryatal |  |  |  |  | 0.85 |
| DM160 Dynamic omni－dir，ball metal |  |  |  | 8.85 | Crasette stick Mike with R． Control on／ofl switch（2－5 |  |
| $\begin{gathered} \text { UD130 } \\ \text { ball } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0 \mathrm{~K} / 800 \\ & \text { etal } \end{aligned}$ | $\mathrm{m}, \text { uni-dir, }$ | 5.95 | $P . \& P$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1.45 \\ & 0.20 \end{aligned}$ |
| SOLDERLIG IRONS ANTEX CN240 15W SKI Kit（15 watt iron． 2 |  |  | $1 \cdot 90$ |  | 8.80 |
|  |  |  | X25 25 W （low leakage） | $1 \cdot 90$ |  |
|  |  |  | P． 1 | 0.10 |  |
| CARTRDGES AND 8TYLII |  |  |  | gONOTONE 9TAHC or 9TAHC／G |  |
| ACOS GP91／2SC or 3SC Atereo comp． |  |  |  | ${ }_{3509}$ diam．${ }^{\text {a }}$（ereo ceramic diam． | 1.801.90 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| QP93／1 or $95 / 1$ Stereo crystalGP94／1 or $96 / 1$ Stereo ceramic |  |  |  | 1.35 | GOLDRING G850 | 2.95 |
|  |  |  | c 1.75 | G800E | 3.95 |
| GP101 Crytal comp． |  |  | 0.80 |  | $0 \cdot 10$ |
| GP104 Stereo ceramic |  |  | $1 \cdot 65$ | D．Diamond stylii for above | 1．25 |
| BSR X ${ }^{\text {SM }}$ orjX H Crystal comp． |  |  | 1.70 | G800／G850 | 1.95 |
|  |  |  | 1.90 | 6800E P．\＆ | 3.950.05 |
|  |  |  | 2.60 |  |  |
| BATTERY ELTMEATORS 240 V input $6,7,5$ or 9300 mA 12V d．c．input（please speclfy |  |  | 2.85 | output） 6,75 or 9 d．c．output |  |
|  |  |  | at 300 mA | 2.800.15 |  |
|  |  |  | P．\＆P |  |  |
| TAPES <br> 5 in <br>  <br> 7 in | Stad． | LP |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { DP } \\ & 1.95 p \\ & 1.45 p \\ & 1.80 \mathrm{p} \end{aligned}$ | PLASTIC LIBRARY CASES |  |
|  | 50 p | 85p |  |  |  |  |
|  | 65p | 80 p |  |  |  |  |
|  | 85p | 1－10p | P．d P．1－39p each． 4 or more lo |  |  |
| LOW NOISE CAS8ETTES |  |  | 11－80 | Cassetie Head Cleaner Casserle Cases | 0.35 |
|  | 1－5 | 6－10 |  |  | $0 \cdot 10$ |
| C60 | 35p | 38p | 80p | P．\＆P．I－5 each | 0.03 |
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| C120 | 55 p | 52 p | 50p | 11－20 post free |  |
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| Tape Editing Kit，Re1． 23 Recording Tape Splicer，Re1． 20 |  |  | 1.35 | gINCLAIR CambridgeScientific | $\begin{aligned} & \varepsilon 19 \cdot 00 \\ & \varepsilon 29.00 \end{aligned}$ |
|  |  |  | 1．15 |  |  |
| Cassette Tape，Editing，Ref． 24 |  |  | 1.30 | WHARPEDALE SPEAEER |  |
| Cassette galvage Kit，Ref． 29 |  |  | 0.45 | BARGAINS |  |
| 12＇s Cassette Case．Het． 34 |  |  | 1.50 | $\begin{array}{lll}\text { Linton } 2 \mathrm{Kit} \text {（pr．）} & 18.00 \\ \text { Glendale 3 Kit（pr．）} & 33.50 \\ \text { l－j0 }\end{array}$ |  |
| Stylus Balance．Ref．32A |  |  | 1.20 | Dovedale 3 Kit （pr．）$\quad 52.001 .30$ |  |
| Splrit Level，Ref．to |  |  | 0.50 | Denton es Speaker（pr．）$\quad 30.002 .00$ |  |
| Hi－Fi Stereo Test Cassette |  |  | 2.10 | $\begin{array}{lll} \text { Linton } 2 \text { Speaker (pr.) } & 38.50 & 2.00 \\ \text { Dovedale } 3 \text { Speaker (each) } & 42.00 & 2.00 \end{array}$ |  |
| Groove－Kleen Record Cleaner |  |  | 1.80 | Glendale 3 Speaker（pr．） $57.00 \quad 3.00$ |  |
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So you've never heard of surface acoustic waves. Well you soon will. Progress has been astonishing in the last five years. Devices have moved from starry eyed physicists' dreams to commercial evaluation in electronic systems-a real case of fantasy to fact.

Imagine you are standing on your favourite holiday beach looking out to sea; a yacht rocks peacefully at the end of the breakwater whilst the waves are gently lapping the sand at your feet. You are witnessing the analogy of surface acoustic waves (S.A.W.).

Transfer the sea waves to the surface of a piece of flat polished crystal and you have S.A.W. Thin metal films deposited on the crystal surface enable the transfer between electrical and S.A.W. energy to be effected. By manipulating these waves on the crystal surface, oscillators, amplifiers, signal processors and delay lines have been constructed.

## HISTORICAL VIEWPOINT

Lord Rayleigh is accredited with the identification of the surface acoustic wave. In 1885 he described waves travelling along the earth's surface after an earthquake, and subsequently a great deal of information has been gathered by seismologists.

It was not until the early sixties that the propagation of high frequency sound waves through a solid crystal was demonstrated. The development of a means of conversion between electrical energy and S.A.W. energy, the Interdigital Transducer (I.D.T.) in the mid and late sixties, meant that the breakthrough had come. S.A.W. exploitation was here.

## THE NATURE OF S.A.W.

Surface Acoustic Waves are only one in a family of wave motions identified in crystalline materials. The property of all these waves is that of transferring acoustic energy from one part of the crystal structure to another.

In crystalline materials the particles are arranged in an orderly lattice type of structure, each particle being held in place by an elastic force generated between itself and its neighbours (imagine a lattice of billiard balls coupled by pieces of rubber band).

The longitudinal wave travels through an elastic material by alternately expanding and compressing the crystal lattice. This is definitely a bulk wave not found on the surface of the crystal.

The second type, the shear wave, vibrates the lattice at right angles to the direction in which the wave is travelling. The layers of the lattice slide up and down past each other. Again a bulk wave not found on the crystal surface.

The third type is the S.A.W. (Fig. 1a). It is a combination of the longitudinal and shear waves and is only associated with the surface of a crystal. To tie up the analogy with the waves on the surface of the sea, mentioned earlier, it is interesting to note that the motion of a particle travelling in a S.A.W. is also retrograde elliptical (Fig. 1b).

To digress for a moment; bulk waves occur in the familiar, so called, crystal oscillators which are widely used for highly stable frequency sources in, amongst other things, communications equipment.

It is easy to appreciate early fears that the frictional forces generated by this mechanical vibration of the crystal lattice would absorb the acoustic wave energy excessively when the frequency of oscillation got too high. Fortunately crystals of quartz and lithium niobate have been found to transmit frequencies from 30 MHz to 10 GHz acceptably.


Fig. 1(a). Surface Acoustic Waves distort the crystal lattice as the wave moves along. A particle near the surface exhibits retrograde elliptical motion (b) directly analagous to waves in water

## THE SPEED OF S.A.W.

We now come to one of the outstanding properties of S.A.W.--the velocity with:which the waves travel along the crystal is around $10^{5}$ times slower than the velocity of electromagnetic waves, i.e. the velocity of light. In other words an electronic signal that would occupy a cable one mile long could be contained on the surface of a piece of crystal only half an inch long. This means that the time taken for the signal to travel one mile in the cable would be the same as the time taken for it to travel just half an inch on the crystal.

It is now possible to glimpse how a delay line of incredible compactness might be constructed. But first a means of transferring the electrical signal to the surface of the crystal (into a S.A.W.) is needed. Ideally the process should be reversible so that the electrical signal can be recovered after it has been delayed. A transducer is required. Fig. 2 shows a delay line with input and output transducers.

## THE TRANSDUCER

The transducing action for converting electrical energy to S.A.W. energy occurs in two parts. The first stage is a conversion of the incoming electrical signal to an electrical field which varies in strength and polarity as the incoming signal.

The second stage takes advantage of the property of piezo-electric materials to mechanically vibrate in sympathy with an applied electric field.

As mentioned above, suitable crystals for the transmission of S.A.W. are quartz and lithium niobate, both of which are also piezo-electric. Thus, all that is necessary to excite a S.A.W. is to apply a suitable temporally varying electric field to the piezo-electric crystal substrate which will also transmit the S.A.W. This is done using an Interdigital Transducer (I.D.T.).

## THE INTERDIGITAL TRANSDUCER

Imagine the fingers of your left hand interleaved with your right and you have the form of an I.D.T. This shape is laid down on the crystal substrate as a thin aluminium film.

The incoming electrical signal is applied with each hand (in analogy only of course!) acting as the terminals. The electric field will be generated between the finger of each hand since there will be a time dependent potential between them due to the electric signal (Fig. 3).

The spacing between each of the fingers is equal to half the wavelength of the S.A.W. and the width of the fingers is typically a quarter wavelength. The wavelength is determined from a precise knowledge of the velocity of the S.A.W. on that particular crystal substrate and the frequency of the incoming electrical signal.

The aperture of the transducer (see Fig. 3) determines the impedance seen by the incoming electrical signal and where possible is made to match the line impedance, e.g. 50 ohms. This typically means an aperture of 20 to 100 wavelengths.

The transducer described generates a bi-directional S.A.W. The bandwidth of this I.D.T. is inversely proportional to the number of finger pairs in the transducer (see Fig. 3). The inverse of this same process of S.A.W. generation is used to detect S.A.W., i.e. to generate an electrical signal from an incoming S.A.W.


Fig. 2. A delay line consists of a crystal substrate with transducers separated by a distance depending on the delay required


Fig. 3. An interdigital transducer is used to induce the S.A.W. into the crystal. At the instance depicted the polarity of the signal and the lines of force between two points of a finger pair are as shown. An alternating electric signal produces an alternating field.


Fig. 4(a). Detailed structure of a delay line showing I.D.T.s and wax which absorbs waves so preventing unwanted reflections from the ends of the crystal. (b) shows the delay line in cross section.

## DELAY LINES

Delay lines are perhaps the most fundamental S.A.W. devices. Their function is simply to provide a delay between the receipt of a signal and its onward transmission. leaving its form unchanged.

They comprise of an I.D.T. at either end of a crystal substrate. The length of the crystal determines the delay (see Fig. 4).

Since the I.D.T. is bi-directional, half the S.A.W. energy is radiated in the wrong direction and if not stopped would reflect back from the edge of the crystal thus causing an interfering signal. Thinking of the sea shore analogy, mentioned above, imagine the waves hitting the wall of a cliff or promenade and being reflected back out to sea.

Black wax is used to absorb these unwanted S.A.W. It is painted on the crystal surface and the effect can be likened to the sand of the sea shore which tends to dissipate the waves' energy.

Omni-directional transducers can be constructed but these have only two thirds the bandwidth of the bi-directional transducer. The delay possible with lithium niobate, for instance, is 2.88 microseconds per centimetre.

## FABRICATION

The method of construction is common to most forms of S.A.W. device. Having selected the crystal required, cut and polished it, the I.D.T. thin metal films are deposited using conventional integrated circuit techniques.

Electrical connection to the I.D.T. is made via extremely fine gold wires bonded to the metal film. These wires are typically one to two thousandths of an inch in diameter.

The formation of the I.D.T. requires only one vacuum deposition stage and, once the master mask defining the areas to be covered with metal is made, mass production of devices is possible.

Obviously the cost of such a procedure is minimal and complete standardisation is assured. This compatibility with micro-electronic techniques and promise of inherently economic production are major reasons for the present flurry of keen commercial interest.

## VARIABLE DELAYS

A variable delay line is clearly now possible using a multiplicity of output l.D.T.'s to give varying delays; electronic switching being used to select the delay required.

It can easily be appreciated that just as a wave on the sea is damped a little by a ship riding on top of it, so an I.D.T. riding on a S.A.W. will reflect some of the incident acoustic energy, i.e. attenuate the ongoing wave. This can give rise to unwanted signals as they bounce between adjacent I.D.T's. Special techniques have been developed to overcome these problems.

The variable delay line mentioned will give only discrete delays and for a linearly variable delay two crystal substrates are used. From Fig. 5 it will be seen that if the lower substrate is held stationary while the upper one is moved mechanically, a continuously variable delay is possible.

An alternative to using longer and longer crystal substrates to obtain larger delays, and incidentally the larger the crystal the more difficult it is to obtain, is to use the helical delay line (Fig. 6).

This is so called because the delay path is a helix, the signal travelling round and round a specially prepared crystal many times. As can be seen from the diagram, transducers are placed along the S.A.W. path giving many temporally spaced outputs. These outputs can be up to several milliseconds after the original input pulse.


Fig. 5. A linearly variable delay line can be created by having a moveable substrate in contact with a fixed substrate


Fig. 6. For very long delays a specialiy prepared crystal substrate can be used to give a helical multiple-tap delay line


Fig. 7. A tapped delay line can be used in a radar system to give marker pips on a display screen

## RADAR SYSTEMS

Applications for these types of delay lines include radar systems. Here the devices would provide range calibration and in featureless terrains simulate a background, i.e. clutter generation. Fig. 7 shows the simplified block diagram of such a radar range calibration system.

A pulse generated by the r.f. pulse generator is transmitted via the radar dish to the atmosphere. If an object such as a plane is encountered a reflection of that pulse is returned to the dish some time later.

The sensitive receiver amplifier then generates a pulse on the plan position indicator (p.p.i.) the distance of which, from the centre of the screen, indicates the distance of the plane from the radar dish. The r.f. generator also passes a pulse simultaneous with the transmitted pulse, to the S.A.W. delay line. The delay line then gives delayed outputs which correspond, when displayed on the p.p.i., to specific distances from the radar dish. Thus range calibration of the radar system is achieved.

## FILTERS

The bandwidth of the I.D.T. can be closely controlled as mentioned earlier by varying the number of fingers.
Since the bandwidth is inversely proportional to the number of finger pairs, a filter, which allows only a limited range of frequencies through either side of its designed centre frequency, can be easily constructed.

The centre frequency is determined by the spacing between each finger, which is made equal to half the wavelength of the desired centre frequency. The resulting filter is of the bandpass type.
Filters with these characteristics are essential in every TV and radio, in the i.f. section for instance. The markets are obviously just right for a simple mass-produced device which requires no tuning up after fabrication. Enormous efforts have been turned in this direction and the complex requirements for a TV receiver are close to being obtained.

## SIGNAL RECOGNITION

Suppose that we require a system whereby a plane flying around an airport control tower is able to tell the controller automatically that it wants to land. Let the plane have a transmitter which gives out a signal on a particular frequency.
The signal could be coded so that it is unique to that aircraft. A digital code would be suitable, i.e. a series of 1 s and 0 s . let these be modulated on the carrier as a bi-phase coding. This means that the carrier unchanged represents a 1 and a phase change of $180^{\circ}$ of the carrier is a 0 . If the code were four bits long, e.g. 1001 and two cycles of carrier are allotted to each bit, then the coded signal would be as shown in Fig. 8.

How can this signal of known form be recognised immediately it occurs notwithstanding the presence of much interference? Naturally S.A.W. come to our aid in the form of a tapped delay line or correlator.
The signal is first converted into a S.A.W. by the input I.D.T. As the signal feeds in it is compressed in length until it all lies along the substrate.

For simplicity the output I.D.T.s are made up of single finger pairs called taps. These taps will give a maximum output when a 1 or 0 bit of the S.A.W. appears beneath them, depending to which sum line the fingers are connected (Fig. 8). Thus if the taps are arranged 1001, as in the diagram, a S.A.W. of exactly that form at the correct frequency will cause them all to give a maximum output, simultaneously, when it appears beneath them.


Fig. 8(a). A S.A.W. correlator may be used for detecting a particular sequence by arranging the taps to coincide with the desired signal. A typical output is shown in (b)

(a)

(b)
(G.E.C. Hirst Research Centre)
Fig. 9(a). Photograph of an actual S.A.W. correlator which is capable of recognising a particular 127 bit sequence. The output transducer is inclined to minimise distortion due to its length. Photograph (b) shows the large peak produced when the sequence is recognised

The sum lines add these tap outputs to give a large pulse which indicates the signal has been recognised. Since the S.A.W. signal travels along the substrate under the taps it will cause small spurious signal's before and after it is in the correct position to cause a large pulse; these are shown in Fig. 8b.

The photographs show a more ambitious example of a tapped delay line (Fig. 9a). It has 127 taps each


Fig. 10. By varying the spacing between taps as shown a "chirp" signal can be recognised


Fig. 11. The structure of an amplifier using S.A.W. principles


Fig. 12. A S.A.W. oscillator is produced by combining a bandpass filter with an external amplifier, the frequency of oscillation being determined by the spacing between taps on the S.A.W. crystal
of six finger pairs. Fig. 9b shows the output obtained from the large centre transducer, when the coded sequence is fed into the device. The detection pulse is easily recognised.

## CHIRP DETECTION

If instead of bi-phase modulation a pulse of signal is used which is rising in frequency with duration, see Fig. IO. This could be detected by appropriately spacing the taps on a transducer as shown. The chirp system is common in radar systems.

## AMPLIFIERS

The need for S.A.W. amplifiers is apparent in, say, a long delay line where attenuation of the wave by the crystal becomes the limiting factor in the achievable delay time.

The amplifier to be described makes use of the electric field generated by the S.A.W., travelling along a piezo-electric material, by causing it to interact with electrons travelling through this electric field.

Since the electric field is localised to the surface of the crystal, a conducting medium for the electrons has to be placed very near the surface, yet not touching. since this would distort the waves. Fig. II shows such an amplifier arrangement; a semiconductor film is used to conduct the electrons.

If the electrons are moving faster than the S.A.W. energy passes to the wave. Gains of up to $10^{-}$times are being achieved at present. These require voltages of several kilovolts across the semi-conductor film.

It is interesting to note that if the electrons in the semi-conductor film are travelling slower than the S.A.W., energy is removed from the S.A.W. and the electrons benefit. This property is useful in absorbing unwanted signals.

## OSCILLATORS

The oscillator structure (Fig. 12) combines the filter layout mentioned earlier with an external amplifier. This amplifier returns the signal taken from the filter output I.D.T. to the input I.D.T. with an excess of gain. The frequency of oscillation is determined by the output I.D.T. and the spacing of the two transducers (D).

The number of finger pairs in the output I.D.T. determines the bandwidth whilst the spacing of the fingers sets the centre frequency. This bandpass filter then selects one of the many possible frequencies of oscillation, which are determined by the distance between the input and output I.D.T.s.
The range of frequencies presently possible is 20 MHz to 1 GHz . Oscillators above 300 M Hz will be small enough to fit inside transistor type TO-8 cans complete with their i.c. amplifiers.

Applications for these small, cheaply produced oscillators include TV tuners, low noise microwave sources and strain gauges.

## SUMMING UP

It is seldom that one technique can achieve so much in such a short time. It is easy to see that this could be an area scheduled for intense activity and immense growth.

The combination of minimal power requirements (or none at all), microminiature construction, cheap mass production combined with a powerful signal processing capability must ensure the future of this branch of technology.


THis amplifier has been designed on a value for money basis to give the highest standard of performance compatible with a small case and a components budget of about $£ 30$. The result is a circuit with an output of over $20+20$ watts into 8 ohm loads at less than $0 \cdot 12$ per cent distortion, in a case measuring only $14 \mathrm{in} \times 6$ in $\times 2 \mathrm{in}$.

This has been made possible by the use of a toroidal mains transformer, by the small size of the latest electrolytic capacitors and by the use of the case of the amplifier as a heatsink.

## PRE-AMPLIFIER

The circuit of the pre-amplifier is shown in Fig. 1.1. Here TR1 and TR2 form a complementary feedback pair. This arrangement has excellent bias stability due to the d.c. feedback through R12. Both transistors are low noise types and TR1 is run at a bias current of only $150 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ to minimise noise.

The equalisation components are connected in the feedback loop. R14, R15, C9 and C10 provide equalisation for magnetic pickups to within $\pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}$ of the R.I.A.A. curve, between 20 Hz and 20 kHz , whilst R13 and C8 give a flat frequency response for the tuner and auxiliary inputs. No special equalisation has been provided for ceramic pickups as these seem to be falling out of favour nowadays, but ceramic pickups can be used with the magnetic equalisation by connecting passive matching networks of the type shown in Fig. 1.3 inside the record player plinth.

The frequency response of the disc, tuner, and auxiliary inputs is shown graphically in Fig. 1.2.

Emitter follower TR3 provides a high input impedance for the tape input and also enables a tape A/B facility to be provided. This is of particular value with tape recorders having separate recording and playback circuits as it enables one to make a direct<omparison between the signal source and the
recording. For example, if one wishes to make a recording of a radio programme the input selector is set to "Tuner" and the signal passes through the input stages and out to the recorder. The signal is recorded on tape and the tape playback signal appears at the emitter of TR3. By operating S2 one can then make a direct comparison between the input and the output of the tape recorder.

The tone control circuit is of the Baxendall type and uses an integrated circuit operational amplifier. The very high gain and large output voltage swing of this i.c. are advantageous in obtaining very low distortion and a good dynamic range, whilst the signal level in this stage is sufficiently high to make the noise negligible.

The characteristics of the bass and treble controls are shown in Fig. 1.4. With the tone controls flat the circuit has an overall gain of 2 and gives an output of 200 mV .

The scratch filter is a second order type and gives an initial slope of 12 dB per octave from its 3 dB point at 5 kHz . The response of the filter and its effect on the treble control is shown in Fig. 1.5.

## MAIN AMPLIFIER

The main amplifier has a number of interesting features.

A long tail pair has been used at the input which increases the loop gain and reduces distortion, but more important it provides an accurate ground reference for the output. The d.c. potential on the output terminal will normally be less than 50 mV and this will ensure that any d.c. current through the loudspeaker is of negligible proportions. However, if an output transformer, or a loudspeaker containing a matching transformer (such as the Quad electrostatic) is used the d.c. resistance is then very

[^4]
## Continuous Output Power

| Load | Both channels <br> driven | One channel <br> driven |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 4 ohms | $31+31$ watts r.m.s. | 44 watts r.m.s. <br> 8 ohms |
| $23+23$ watts r.m.s. | 30 watts r.m.s. |  |
| 15 ohms | $17+17$ watts r.m.s. | 19 watts r.m.s. |

Measured at 1 kHz

## Toneburst Output Power

| Load | Both channels <br> driven | One channel <br> driven |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 4 ohms | $52+52$ watts r.m.s. | 57 watts r.m.s. |
| 8 ohms, | $36+36$ watts r.m.s. | 42 watts r.m.s. <br> 15 ohms <br> $21+21$ watts r.m.s. |
| 22 watts r.m.s. |  |  |

Measured with a 1 kHz tone burst of 8 cycles on and 512 cycles off.

## Distortion

15 ohm load-Less than 0.1 per cent at any power level up to 15 watts between 100 Hz and 10 kHz . Less than 0.02 per cent below I watt output.
8 ohm load-Less than 0.12 per cent at any power level up to 20 watts between 100 Hz and 10 kHz . Less than 0.02 per cent below I watt output.
4 ohm load-Less than 0.5 per cent at any power level up to 30 watts between 100 Hz and 10 kHz . Less than 0.05 per cent below I watt output.

## Frequency Response

Tuner and Aux. inputs $\left\{\begin{array}{l}-1 \mathrm{~dB} \text { at } 28 \mathrm{~Hz} \text { and } 15 \mathrm{kHz} \\ -3 \mathrm{~dB} \text { at } 17 \mathrm{~Hz} \text { and } 30 \mathrm{kHz}\end{array}\right.$
Tape input $\left\{\begin{array}{l}-1 \mathrm{~dB} \text { at } 25 \mathrm{~Hz} \text { and } 30 \mathrm{kHz} \\ -3 \mathrm{~dB} \text { at } 14 \mathrm{~Hz} \text { and } 60 \mathrm{kHz}\end{array}\right.$
Disc input-Within IdB of the RIAA curve between 20 Hz and 20 kHz

## Tone Control

Bass $\pm 12 \mathrm{~dB}$ at $100 \mathrm{~Hz}, \pm 18 \mathrm{~dB}$ at 30 Hz
Treble $\pm 12 \mathrm{~dB}$ at $10 \mathrm{kHz}, \pm 16 \mathrm{~dB}$ at 20 kHz

## Scratch Filter

-3 dB at 5 kHz . Slope 12 dB per octave

## Inputs

Disc -3.5 mV at $47 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ RIAA equalised
Tuner- 100 mV at $100 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ Flat response
Aux. -100 mV at $100 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ Flat response
Tape -100 mV at $100 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ Flat' response
Tape Output
100 mV at $4.7 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ Tape $A / B$ facility

## Signal to Noise Ratios

Unweighted figures measured with a bandwidth of 20 kHz .
Weighted figures follow CCIR C curve. Volume control at max.

Tuner, Aux. Unweighted -68 dB ,
Weighted -72dB
Disc. Unweighted -62 dB ,
Weighted -76 dB
Tape Unweighted -76 dB ,
Weighted -82 dB
(Figures are relative to an output of 20 watts into 8 ohms)
MAIN AMPLIFIER ONLY $\int$ Unweighted-96dB
(volume control at min.) $\{$ Weighted $-100 \mathrm{~dB}$

## Balance Control

Full rotation cuts off either channel

## Dynamic Range

Disc input at $1 \mathrm{kHz}=32 \mathrm{~dB}$ (i.e. input of 150 mV )

## Interchannel Crosstalk

$-50 \mathrm{~dB}$

## Stability

Unconditionally stable. Will drive electrostatic loudspeakers

## Output Impedance

Less than 0.1 ohms

## Dimensions

$14 \times 6 \times 2 \mathrm{in}$.
much lower than the speaker impedance and it is advisable to connect a resistor of about 0.5 ohms in series with the output of the amplifier.

This will reduce the output power by a few per cent but will minimise the d.c. current. In practice the resistance of the speaker leads will often be sufficient to provide the 0.5 ohm required.

The d.c. coupled output ensures that the speaker damping is maintained right down to d.c. giving a clean solid bass response. Normally, when a
speaker coupling capacitor is used, the reactance of this capacitor starts to become appreciable at low frequencies just when the most damping is required. The d.c. coupled output is made possible by the use of balanced positive and negative supply rails, and these also assist in obtainin clean symmetrical limiting under all load conditions.

The constant current source TR8 helps in obtaining low crossover distortion by providing a rapid transition of drive current between the two output


TO L/H CHANNEL

## COMPONENTS . . .

Resistors

| R1, R101 | $400 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R25, R125 | $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| R2, R102 | 4.7ks | R26, R126 | $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R3, R103 | $100 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R27, R127 | 39 k ) |
| R4, R104 | $4.7 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R28, R128 | $4.7 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R5, R105 | $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega 2$ | R29, R129 | $4.7 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R6, R106 | $47 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R30, R130 | $22 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R7, R107 | 470S2 | R31, R131 | $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R8, R108 | $100 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R32, R132 | $2.2 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R9, R109 | $47 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R33* | $470 \Omega 1$ W |
| R10, R110 | $1.5 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R34* | $470 \Omega 1 \mathrm{~W}$ |
| R11, R111 | 4.7 kS | R35, R135 | $100 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R12, R112 | 470ks | R36, R136 | $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R13, R113 | 10ks) | R37, R137 | $22 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R14, R114 | 10ks | R38, R138 | $4.7 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R15, R115 | 470ks | R39, R139 | $3.3 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R16, R116 | 220ks) | R40, R140 | $1 \cdot 2 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R17* 150S |  | R41, R141 | $100 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R18* $150 \Omega 2$ |  | R42, R142 | $4.7 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R19, R119 | $4 \cdot 7 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R43, R143 | 100@ |
| R20, R120 | 100ks? | R44, R144 | $1.5 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R21, R121 | $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R45, R145 | $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R22, R122 | 10kS | R46, R146 | $0.33 \Omega 2.5 \mathrm{~W}$ |
| R23, R123 | 220ks | R47, R147 | $0.33 \Omega 2.5 \mathrm{~W}$ |
| R24, R124 | $2.2 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R48, R148 | $10 \Omega 1 \mathrm{~W}$ |

All $\frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~W} 5 \%$ carbon film unless otherwise rated
Note: R17*, R18*, R33* and R34* are common to both channels; similarly for all other components asterisked

## Potentiometers

VR1, VR101 $100 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ twin gang linear law (RS)
VR2, VR102 $100 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ twin gang linear law (RS)
VR3. VR103 $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ twin gang log law (RS)
VR4*
$25 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ single gang linear law (RS)
VR5, VR105 $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ skeleton preset (RS)

Capacitors

| C1, C101 | $1 \mu \mathrm{~F} 35 \mathrm{~V}$ tantalum |
| :---: | :---: |
| C2, C102 | $33 \mu \mathrm{~F} 16 \mathrm{~V}$ elect. |
| C3* | $150 \mu \mathrm{~F} 16 \mathrm{~V}$ elect. |
| C4* | $150 \mu \mathrm{~F} 16 \mathrm{~V}$ elect. |
| C5, C105 | $10 \mu \mathrm{~F} 25 \mathrm{~V}$ tantalum |
| C6, C106 | $33 \mu \mathrm{~F} 16 \mathrm{~V}$ elect. |
| C7, C107 | 22pF 160 V polystyrene |
| C8, C108 | 470 pF 160 V polystyrene |
| C9, C109 | $6,800 \mathrm{pF} 400 \mathrm{~V}$ polyester |
| C10, C110 | -022 $\mu \mathrm{F} 160 \mathrm{~V}$ polyester |
| C11, C111 | $10 \mu \mathrm{~F} 25 \mathrm{~V}$ tantalum |
| C12, C112 | $1 \mu \mathrm{~F} 35 \mathrm{~V}$ tantalum |
| C13, C113 | $10 \mu \mathrm{~F} 25 \mathrm{~V}$ tantalum |
| C14, C114 | $10 \mu \mathrm{~F} 25 \mathrm{~V}$ tantalum |
| C15, C115 | -022 2 F 160 V polyester |
| C16, C116 | 1,500 pF 160 V polystyrene |
| C17, C117 | 1,500pF 160V polystyrene |
| C18, C118 | 22 pF 160 V polystyrene |
| C19, C119 | $4,700 \mathrm{pF} 400 \mathrm{~V}$ polyester |
| C20, C120 | $4,700 \mathrm{pF} 400 \mathrm{~V}$ polyester |
| C21, C121 | $10 \mu \mathrm{~F} 25 \mathrm{~V}$ tantalum |
| C22* | $0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F} 30 \mathrm{~V}$ disc |
| C23* | $0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F} 30 \mathrm{~V}$ disc |
| C24* | $470 \mu \mathrm{~F} 25 \mathrm{~V}$ elect. |
| C25* | $470 \mu \mathrm{~F} 25 \mathrm{~V}$ elect. |
| C26, C126 | $1 \mu \mathrm{~F} 35 \mathrm{~V}$ tantalum |
| C27, C127 | $10 \mu \mathrm{~F} 25 \mathrm{~V}$ elect. |
| C28, C128 | 22pF 160 V polystyrene |
| C29, C129 | 33 pF 160 V polystyrene |
| C30, C130 | $\cdot 1 \mu \mathrm{~F} 250 \mathrm{~V}$ polyester |
| C31, C131 | $22 \mu \mathrm{~F} 63 \mathrm{~V}$ elect. |
| C32, C132 | $22 \mu \mathrm{~F} 63 \mathrm{~V}$ elect. |
| C33. C133 | - $1 \mu \mathrm{~F} 250 \mathrm{~V}$ polyester |
| C34** | $3,400+3,400 \mu \mathrm{~F} 40 \mathrm{~V}$ elect. |
| C35* | $3,400+3,400 \mu \mathrm{~F} 40 \mathrm{~V}$ elect. |
| C36* | $\cdot 01 \mu \mathrm{~F} 750 \mathrm{~V}$ disc |



## Semiconductors

Recommended type
TR1, TR101 ZTX239 Ferranti TR2, TR102 ZTX213 Ferranti

TR3, TR103 ZTX239 Ferranti TR4, TR104 ZTX213 Ferranti
TR5, TR105 ZTX213 Ferranti
TR6, TR106 BFS61 Ferranti TR7, TR107 ZTX108 Ferianti

TR8, TR108 BFS98 Ferranti TR9, TR109 BD699 Motorola TR110, TR110 BD700 Motorola D1*, D2* KS150B Ferranti D3, D103 KS120B Ferranti D4, D104 ZS170 Ferranti

D5, D105 ZS170 Ferranti
D6*, D7*, D8*, D9* ZS271 Ferranti

IC1, IC101 UA748CV Signetics

Switches
S1A, S1B, S101A, S101B 4-pole 3-way rotary (Lorlin)
S2, S102 2-pole changeover pushbutton (RS)
S3* 2-pole changeover pushbutton (RS)
S4, S104 2-pole changeover pushbutton (RS)
S5 D.p.s.t. rotary mains switch (RS)

## Miscellaneous

T1 Gardners mains transformer type SL8, 20.5-0 20.5 volts

LP1 Neon panel lamp with internal resistor
Case-H.M. Electronics type GB3
Stereo jack socket, 4-DIN 5 way sockets, four 4 mm sockets, five control knobs, three pushbutton switch buttons (RS), two Eagle 20 mm fuseholders, 1 A fuse, 2A fuse, four Lektrokit spring clips type LK2791 ( $1 \cdot 5 \mathrm{in}$ ), five way tagstrip. screws, spacers, grommets, aluminium angle, connecting wire.
A glass fibre printed circuit board printed with component locations, and a kit of semiconductor devices for this project are available from Davian Electronics, PO Box 38, Oldham, Lancs.
transistors. Bias transistor TR7 operates in the "amplified diode" mode and is thermally coupled to the output transistors by being clamped to the heatsink. This gives a great improvement in bias stability as any increase in heatsink temperature is compensated for by a reduction in bias.

## OUTPUT TRANSISTORS

The output transistors TR9, TRIO on the circuit diagram are shown as single transistors for simplicity. but they are in fact monolithic Darlington pairs with a minimum current gain of 750 at 3 amps. These transistors have proven themselves to be electrically very robust and we have found that a 2 amp fuse in the positive rail'is adequate to protect them against short circuits on the output.

Note that the fuse should be connected in the positive rail and not the negative rail. When the positive supply is removed the whole main amplifier is turned off because the bias is removed from the constant current source TR8, and also from the input stage TR4 and TR5. This in turn turns off TR6.


Fig. 1.2. Frequency response of disc, tuner and aux inputs


Fig. 1.4. Frequency response of the tone controls


Fig. 1.5. Frequency response of the scratch filter


Fig. 1.3 (a). Circuit giving approximate matching for most types of ceramic pick-up ; (b) circuit for matching the Decca Deram ceramic pick-up; (c) circuit for matching the Sonotone 9TAHC ceramic pick-up

## POWER SUPPLIES

When one is designing a small, low cost amplifier the first refinement that one has to do without is the use of a stabilised power supply. This introduces a number of problems; but there are compensating advantages.

The problems arise because of the lack of stabilisation. To get 20 watts output into an 8 ohm speaker we need a power supply which will deliver 45 volts on load. But when the amplifier is not giving any output and there is only a light load on the power supply, its voltage can easily rise to 60 V . If we allow for mains voltage variations, then under the worst conditions the supply voltage could reach nearly 70 V . With a stabilised power supply output transistors rated at 50 V would have been satisfactory, but with our unregulated supply we need output transistors which will stand at least 70 V . Not only this but all the electrolytic capacitors need to be conservatively rated as well.

The unregulated power supply does however have one very great advantage. A musical signal has a low average power level with occasional peaks of high power. For a short period (until the power supply voltage drops).an amplifier with an unregulated supply can deliver a power output very much greater than its continuous rating. This amplifier will deliver 23 watts per channel continuously into 8 ohms, but on a musical signal it is almost as good as a 35 watt amplifier.

Lastly it might be as well to clear up exactly what we mean by continuous power. With 15 ohm loads the power dissipation is sufficiently low for the amplifier to be run at full sinewave power continuously. With 8 ohm loads it will also safely run continuously provided that it is placed in a well ventilated position where air can circulate freely around it, but the back of the amplifier tends to become rather hot after about 30 minutes of full sinewave power. With 4 ohm loads the amplifier should not be run at full sinewave power for more than about 10 minutes at a time, or the temperature of the output transistors may become excessive.

One does not normally listen to sinewaves of course and with a normal music or speech input the amplifier can be run continuously at full volume without any reservations.

## DISTORTION

At full output the distortion introduced by the other components in the hi-fi system will be much greater than that of any reasonable amplifier. Moving coil loudspeakers can generate up to 10 per cent distortion and even electrostatic types can give 0.5 per cent. A good modern f.m. tuner can generate $0: 5$ per cent., a tape recorder about 2 per cent, and a gramophone pickup can reach as much as 20 per cent on the inner grooves. Compared to these figures the performance of all but the most mediocre amplifiers is adequate at full output.

There lies the snag. All the signal sources may have considerable distortion at full output, but the distortion falls rapidly at lower levels. This is not necessarily the case with an amplifier. If crossover distortion is present the distortion may be only 0.1 per cent at full output but may easily rise to 1 per cent or more at low levels. Crossover distortion is particularly unpleasant because it generates high order harmonics, which are discordant and easily perceived.

For crossover distortion to be negligible it should be less than 0.1 per cent at all power levels. Low order harmonic distortion is less objectionable and up to 0.5 per cent can be tolerated. So we can say that our amplifier should have a distortion specification of no worse than 0.5 per cent at full output, and below 0.1 per cent at all power levels below 1 watt.

The use of a constant current source in this amplifier has helped us to achieve a very low level of crossover distortion-typically about 0.01 per cent at 1 watt-and with 8 or 15 ohm loads the harmonic distortion is below about $0 \cdot 1$ per cent at all power levels up to full output. With 4 ohm loads the performance does not reach quite the same standard, but it is still below 0.1 per cent at 1 watt and 0.5 per cent at full output.

## FREQUENCY RESPONSE

Many constructors are firmly convinced that a very extended frequency response is a good thing. This is a complete fallacy because-

1. Human hearing extends from about 20 Hz to 20 kHz at the best. There is some evidence that transients containing harmonic components above 20 kHz can be distinguished but there is certainly nothing to be gained by extending the response past $40-50 \mathrm{kHz}$.
2. There are very few loudspeakers with any useful response below 30 Hz or above 20 kHz .
3. There are no radio signals with any audio above 15 kHz .
4. There are no records or cassettes with any audio above 20 kHz .

In fact the only audio signal available which might have anything above 20 kHz would be a very high quality tape recording of a live performance.

A very extended frequency response can be a very bad thing. If the low frequency response is very extended then low frequency noise from turntable rumble, warped or off centre records, or tape recordings can get through the system and cause the


Fig. 1.6. Distortion against output power for 15 ohms measured at 1 and 10 kHz


Fig. 1.7. Distortion against output power for 8 ohms measured at 1 and 10 kHz


Fig. 1.8. Distortion against output power for 4 ohms measured at 1 and 10 kHz
speaker cone to flutter violently. If the h.f. response is very extended then h.f. noise and multiplex sideband components can intermodulate with each other and with h.f. audio signals to produce audible distortion and noise. So what is the ideal response? Probably something like 20 Hz to 50 kHz $\pm 3 \mathrm{~dB}$.
This amplifier has been designed so that the frequency response falls rapidly below 10 Hz , and so


FIg. 1.9. Output waveform of the amplifler when slightly overdriven with a 1 kHz sinewave showing the clean symmetrical IImiting wlth freedom from latch-up

Flg. 1.10 (a). 1 kHz square wave response with $8 \Omega$ resistlve load; (b) 10 kHz square wave response with $8 \Omega$ resistive load; (c) 10 kHz square wave response with load of $8 \Omega$ and $0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$; (d) 10 kHz square wave response with a load of $8 \Omega$ and $2 \mu \mathrm{~F}$



Fig. 1.11. Headphone attenuator circuit if required. Note that resistors have been omitted from Components List


Fig. 1.12. Connections for quadraphonic decoder.
DIN socket connections are as follows:-

1. Left channel front input from decoder
2. Earth
3. Left channel output to decoder
4. Right channel front input from decoder
5. Right channel output to decoder
a separate rumble filter is not necessary. The h.f. response of the tape input extends to 50 kHz but the radio input has been restricted to 30 kHz to attenuate multiplex and carrier components. With the scratch filter switched in all the inputs are 3 dB down at 5 kHz .

## TRANSIENT RESPONSE

For good reproduction it is essential that the amplifier should have a good transient response with as little ringing as possible, even when fed into a highly reactive load such as an electrostatic loudspeaker.

In this amplifier a particular effort has been made to achieve a good transient response and Fig. 1.10 shows the performance of the amplifier under various load conditions. Note that with a $2 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ capacitive load the ringing is of very low amplitude and soon dies away. If a 0.5 ohm resistor is connected in series with a $2 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ load (as we recommended for the Quad speaker), then even this small amount of ringing is completely eradicated.

## QUADRAPHONICS

No special provision has been made for quadraphonics in the prototype, mainly because of lack of space, but it is a simple matter for the enthusiast to adapt the circuit for use with a quadraphonic decoder.

All that is necessary is to break the connection between the preamplifier and the main amplifier and replace it with a switch and a DIN input socket, as shown in Fig. 1.12. The two front channels can then be fed back into the Orion main amplifiers whilst the back channels are fed to another amplifier. An additional pair of Orion main amplifiers would be ideal for this purpose.

Next month: Constructional details and setting up.

RE-READING one of the earliest publications on electronic music recently I came across the following statement made by Herbert Eimert, founder of the Cologne Radio Electronic Music Studio:
"That-electronic music cannot be performed on Instruments is due to the fact that the number of individual sound elements is so great that any attempt to find means of instrumental realisation is doomed to failure."
One's immediate reaction is to wonder whether he would have ventured to say this now, in the age of the synthesiser, when many pop groups have some kind of synthesiser.
Perhaps even twenty-odd years ago, when Eimert's article was written, there was little excuse for such a statement; the electronic and electrophonic instrumental field was by then quite sophisticated. A little relatively recent history may be pulled in here to support, or maybe excuse, his apparently negative remark.

## The Years Between

In the years between the two world wars Arnold Schoenberg, Austrian composer, systematised the 12 notes of the traditional chromatic scale to produce music which did not rely on key (i.e. the predominance of one note over any other) but used all the available pitches equally. Amongst his pupils was Anton Webern who went a stage further than his master; rather than treating the 12 notes in a fairly conventional linear manner he perfected a style of writing which laid weight on each. individual note as and when it occurred in the musical flow.
The dynamic levels, pitch and timbre were carefully controlled in his sparsely written aphoristic instrumental and vocal compositions.

## Lionised Webern

After the war a group of young German musicians picked up the almost submerged threads of these revolutionary concepts and made Webern their idol. Reinforced by similar pre-organised, or serial, ideas put forward in works by the French composer Olivier Messiaen, these young intellectuals went on to produce a new music in which all the parameters available to music were fully exploited, almost mathematically. The musical results were often impossible to perform by human beings, yet the European scene rapidly became thick with "avant-garde" concerts, many of dubious integrity.

That any worthwhile music has survived this.period is a minor miracle, given the arrogance of the exponents and the loud raspberries

of the musical press.
It was during this babel of activity that the tape recorder came into general use, and with it the very latest in sensational sound, electronic music. Anything essentially of an acoustic nature was taboo. Needless to say electronic compositions were meticulously edited and fixed for all time on magnetic tape.

## Colouristic Effect

Meanwhile in France there was another little sonic revolution taking place. Whilst those who whored after strange gods studied the latest serial techniques in Germany, others stayed behind to practice the art of colouristic effect for which the French have always been renowned.

Pierre Schaeffer founded a studio in Paris dedicated to the study of the physics and psycho-physics of acoustic phenomena and to the production, on discs initially, of musical compositions which took raw, natural sounds as their starting point. Plain aural effect was the ambition; Schaeffer and his colleague Pierre Henry had little time for the intricate number games which the Germans were playing. The search for "musique concrete" [natural or non-abstract music] ended with the arrival of the tape recorder and the simplicity of editing magnetic tape.

## Partisan Factions

So electronic music began lite in two partisan factions: the Germaninfluenced found the French "musique concrete" positively naive and artless, whilst the French considered the Germans inhumanly mathematical
and equally artless. Both came together, however, in considering their respective tape compositions to be one-off, once-and-for-all performances.

## Live electronics

So Eimert was right. Given the complexity of a totally serial composition with its rapidly changing rhythmic, pitch, spatial, dynamic and timbre elements, only a taped sequence could do justice to a particular concept. No amount of juggling around with electronic organs and peripheral sound effect units would reproduce on the concert platform what could be realised on tape.

The same applies to Schaeffer's collages, where natural sounds, recorded wherever they existed, were processed electronically, the result defying any musical instrumentssave perhaps the Melotron, which is nothing more than a filing cabinet of tape recordings with a piano keyboard attached. Eimert lacks credence in his underlying assumption that Electronic Music is a style rather than a medium of expression.

## Today's Electronic Music

In today's Electronic Music the factions have largely disappeared; Stockhausen has cast off the straitjacket of total serialisation and in his taped works uses the human voice, gramophone records, short-wave radios and acoustic instruments. Schaeffer and his colleagues rely quite heavily on purely electronic sound producers.

Along with this fusion of two differing approaches to taped material came the feeling that performers ought to take some share in the interpretation of this kind of music; hence "Live electronics".

## Pop Sounds

By far the largest purveyors of live electronics are the pop groups. (Only a pedant would argue that their music is not strictly electronic.) Electronic instruments work admirably here since most of the music performed is geared to the traditional pattern of twelve notes to the octave and is old fashioned enough to use fairly common juxtapositions of these notes. Above all, pop-music is primarily melodic music and this means that a given instrumental line is unlikely to require rapid changes of timbre.

To some extent "serious" live electronic groups have taken a lead from the pop world; the music they perform is no more complex to realise than an equivalent piece of acoustic instrumental music. Should they require complex arrangements of sound these still have to be prerecorded on tape.


# THE NEXT DE CA D E 

Final selection of readers' predictions

## ARMCHAIR VIEWING

BELIEVE that in the next decade we could well see many changes in our everyday life due to electronics. Instead of travelling to conferences, businessmen might stay at home and "attend" the conference via video and audio links to a central conference control, through which they would be able to see and hear their colleagues. They would also be able to "look up" relevant information through the conference control and have it displayed on their screens for as long as they wish.
We could watch any television (if it could rightly be called this) programme whenever we pleased.

The printing world can throw away its presses, for we will be able to dial for, say, the front page of today's newspaper and have it displayed on our "newscreens." Yes! even our beloved Practical Electronics will come to us like this. (Don't worry Ed., you will still be needed.)
No-one will have to think as much, for we will all have our own computer calculators, and musical instruments will be replaced by synthesisers, so that the Pablo Casals' of tomorrow will play upon streamlined keyboards instead of peculiarly shaped pieces of wood
All this sounds rather unlikely? Well, you wait and see.
S. J. Baxendale.

## COMMON PLACE

N the next ten years no progression is forseeable in the direction of component miniaturisation, owing to the impossibility of decreasing pin and encapsulation size. It is likely that more will be fitted into a single module-Mr. Shaw's synthesiser on a chip, for example.

Specialisation of these circuits is almost inevitable, specifications going further and further towards the extreme, with fantastic power handling and even more fantastic frequency ranges, now only the dream of hi-fi enthusiasts. Technology cannot be underrated in sorting out the problems which may make these two characteristics (now) incompatible.

For the home constructor, today's high-powered technology may be tomorrow's workbench experiment. A home made integrated circuit kit for example; which is not such a far fetched idea if one looks at the basic simplicity
of overlaying the semiconducting layers, assuming there will be enough semiconducting material left by tomorrow!

Soon one may be able to leaf through a catalogue of "surplus" equipment, which at present is described as a technological breakthrough. Basic techniques could soon be outmoded, soldering and the printed circuit board might soon be replaced by the plug-in module.

In conclusion, it could be said that in the next decade, though there may not be the advances of the like of the integrated circuit in the last ten years, technology will push its usage to the limits. Also, present technology will be commonplace to the constructor in not so many years.
N. J. Eastaugh

## MAN AND HIS ELECTRONIGS

THE philosophy of electronics in the next decade is summed up by "digital is best, and smaller is better".
Compromised by cost, and using the results of researches into the nature of human perception, manufacturers will set lower standards of sound and image reproduction.
Enthusiasts will reconstruct the electronic achievements of the 1920's with antique components or replicas made by new cottage industries.
A wide range of games-machines designs will be published for the constructor. At best, they will be war games, or a form of Monopoly in which the players are relieved of the arithmetic of accounting and cannot break the rules.

The power of present-day minicomputers will be available in a single i.c. costing $£ 20$, or less.

The military applications of microelectronics will shock and horrify us, but the constructor will find light relief from the problems of the day by assembling the parts of a micro-computerised mouse for his cat to play with.

There will be great interest in the generation of special effects. Today's Wind and Rain generator will be supplemented by tomorrow's Thunder and Lightning, the degree of authenticity rising according to ingenuity and the size of purse.

Electronic musical inseruments will have substantial computer power, and the constructor will spend more time in programming than constructing his
creations, having purchased programmes from the lists in the advertisement pages of his favourite journal, P.E.
Seated at the console of his electronic organ, engaged in extempore musical invention, such will be the interaction between man and his electronics that the player may well exclaim from the profundity of philosophical doubt, "Just who is playing this machine?" The folly of the decade will be an attachment for colour TV receivers to permit the display of electronically simulated goldfish.
D. Letts

## HIGHER QUALITY

TH
HE next decade will not unveil any major electronic breakthroughs but instead, in a time of financial instability, manufacturers will concentrate on improving the quality of goods already available, the risks being too great for a large scale venture into something radically new. Maximum profit being essential, the fear of failure in a component would be too daunting.
Transistors and integrated circuits will continue to be the main "workbench" of electronics, both on an amateur and professional scale. The valve will still command itself a place but will always run a poor second to the modern semiconductor, as 1 feel it does now.

With everybody striving to attract the prospective customer to their particular line of components there will inevitably be many new i.c.s on the market, having better power handling capacities and such-like in an effort to better their predecessors, but none of them will be fundamentally different.

A shortage of raw materials, evident at the present time, will mean price rises and delivery delays (nothing new!) This could also result in the amalgamation of many small component retailers who would otherwise be forced into liquidation by the bigger concerns cornering all the custom

The overall trend will be to encapsulate the components in plastic containers which constantly seem to diminish in size.

Finally, the high degree of competitiveness between manufacturers will result in a higher quality of components-which can only be to the good of the constructor in the end.
M. S. Johnson

## ELEGTRONIC LABEL.

THE present trend of improvement in electronic technology is likely to provide some new and perhaps exciting uses of the circuits as we know them. It may be taken for granted that they will reduce in size, become more reliable and presentable, and who can say how long they would last.
The reading of domestic meters by remote computer, preparation of account, and even automatic payment of the bill by pre-arrangement, is but one aspect.
It is likely that television receivers will be used in the dual role of entertainment or access to information, such as availability of goods or prices. The telephone line perhaps, would be switchable to a number of facilities, with a "back up" visual display.

One possible change is in the use of pocket, or desk calculators. It is quite feasible to envisage these being used as mini computers without major circuit change. For instance, with a microfilm attachment, and "access code" operation using the same styled keypad, the film could be rotated by the command word, and illuminated on a slightly enlarged screen.
Finally, how about the "Electronic Label", a microcircuit, so small that it could be incorporated into almost any article at the manufacturing stage, and with its own identity calling signal, quiet, unless called by a master beacon. Nasty though, if you want to go into a pub for a quick one and the wife is looking for you!
A. J. Williams

## DIGITAL TRACKS

THE next decade will be dominated by political change, which will include higher taxation for the individual, and wage rates so high that the cost of maintenance and repair will often exceed the value of the article to be repaired.
The first item will make it unlikely that the colour television boom will be repeated with video cassette recording or the Ceefax/Oracle system. However, this may well give rise to a new system of video recording towards the end of the period using digital methods with about 150 narrow tracks instead of the helical scan system with its mechanical complexity.

Such a change would be less likely if a large number of helical scan recorders were already in use.
The lack of money in the hands of individuals will be compensated by more in the hands of government, who will spend more on electronics.
One possibility taken at random could be a distress calling system for old and disabled people. The caller presses a button that activates a device to send a high frequency signal into the local mains electricity network. This signal is modulated by a series of pulses representing a number allocated to the caller.

A warden who has a receiver on the same local mains ring is alerted that the caller is in trouble.

A second is the introduction of automated speed traps, made necessary by increasingly restrictive speed limits due to overcrowding and fuel shortages. These would photograph offenders' cars showing the speed on a print-out. An official would collect the photographs every so often. To avoid the possibility of malfunction causing injustices, offenders would be prosecuted if caught more than once in a set period of time.

The second item, wages, will lead to novel methods of improving reliability of electronic goods. Touch-operated integrated circuit sub-systems will replace potentiometers and switches, and possibly i.c. optical modulators and demodulators coupled with optical fibres will replace plugs and sockets for connecting audio discrete units.
J. de. Rivaz

## INTEGRATED I.C.'s

TEN YEARS is not a long time, but I believe that man will advance more in the next ten years than in the last ten. After long consideration I came to the conclusion man's advancement was of a logarithmic nature and not a linear one. Our greatest advancement will be in the field of i.c.s and their interconnection.
Soon we will see the inductor being incorporated in i.c.s and midway through the decade we will see the key to a new kind of electronics. No more will i.c.s be coupled by wires, coupling will be similar to the lecher lines used in u.h.f. tuners. Simply placing the i.c.s one on top of another, rather like the child's building bricks only in a miniature form. From this giant leap electronics will virtually know no bounds. The solid state power pack recharging itself from air, light, heat, or vibration, for example.

Air and light may be used, as in plants. to create chemical changes. These we can change into electrical energy. Heat given off due to power loss will be channelled back to the power pack to help recharge power cells. Vibration as used in self winding watches, used to generate power.

These advancements will lead to vast developments, such as the pocket computer, rather similar to the pocket calculator we have today, only thousands of times better and incorporating an audio output.

Programme cartridges will also be solid state, as in microfilm one small block containing many hundreds of hours of information.
Such an instrument would place the home constructor almost on a par with the professional.

Roll on 1984.
A. Tannock.

## DIODES AND ALL

EXPERIENCE shows that the development of technology follows something akin to a log. law curve. In semiconductor technology there has been a veritable explosion of new ideas and techniques. If interpolation of this curve is attempted then the results can be somewhat surprising.

Today's computers using holographic or ferrite memory stores are far too cumbersome, slow and expensive. Development of heavy metal organo compounds already well under way should bring about the production of high temperature (in excess of $100^{\circ} \mathrm{K}$ ) superconducting memory stores:-possibly a very primitive forbear of Asimov's positronic brain!

For constructors, I.s.i. circuits are already available, the question remains how large (or small) can they get and for what purpose. Pocket calculators already have chips containing thousands of active elements, and I rather think that today's constructor in ten years will be in much the same boat as those are now who lament the passing of the valve, we shall be lamenting the passing of the discrete transistor.

Looking back, most developments seem to stem from the humble diode, the latest being the ubiquitous I.e.d. so the logical development of this would be the "light emitting transistor"-alter the base bias and "hey presto"'; modulated light output.
E. J. Marchant.

## SIMPLIFIGATION

THE following decade, for myself and fellow constructors, should bring simplification in the form of reduced wiring and soldering for more complicated circuits with increasing use of i.e.s.

With spiralling cost of most products, the hope of continued amateur construction may lie in continued progress in i.c. technology to reduce manufacturing costs.

For the home constructor whose use of i.c.s was exclusively bipolar (TTL), he may find himself making adjustments in the not too distant future towards a different form (CMOS). In this increasing energy-conscious world, the life of the bipolar form of logic could be drawing to an end, with less power consuming logic forms such as CMOS becoming more and more popular.

Amateurs and professionals over the coming years will be made more power conscious and a tendency towards battery supplies in contrast to more expensive a.c./d.c. Transformation will be encouraged as a practical şep for the home constructor.

Manufacturers will be responsible for this trend, as they become more aware of producing the form of logic which will be more financially secure for the future.
S. Naismlth

# Now-two fascinating ways to enjoy saving money! NEW! Sinclair Scientific kit 

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 now in kit formThe Sinclair Scientific is an altogether remarkable calculator.
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Of course, we'll happily supply the Scientific or the Cambridge already built, if you prefer - they're still exceptional value. Use the order form.

Components for Scientific Kit (illustrated)

1. Coil
2. LSI chip
3. Interface chips
4. Case mouldings, with buttons, windows and light-up display in position
5. Printed circuit board
6. Keyboard panel
7. Electronic components pack (diodes, resistors, capacitors, etc)
8. Battery assembly and on/off switch
9. Soft carrying wallet
10. Comprehensive instructions for use

Assembly time is about 3 hours.


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#  

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Components for Cambridge Kit

1. Coil
2. LSI chip
3. Interface chip
4. Thick film resistor pack
5. Case mouldings, with buttons, window and light-up display in position
6. Printed circuit board
7. Keyboard panel
8. Electronic components pack (diodes, resistors, capacitors, transistor)
9. Battery clips and on/off switch
10. Soft wallet

Assembly time is about 3 hours.

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Price in kit form $£ 14.95$ inc. VAT. Price built $£ 21.55$ inc. VAT.


[^5]

THis month the remainder of the electronic circuitry in the synthesiser is described which includes keyboard controller, ring modulator, NOISE (iENERATOR and POWER AMPLIFIERS.

## THE KEYBOARD CONTROLLER

The keybuard controller as illustrated in Fig. 3.1 is a relatively simple means of providing a range of voltages which. when applied to the input of a vco, caluse it to oscillate over a range of pitches normally associated with a chromatic scale or, allernatively, over a range of pitches quite outside what might be termed normal musical acceptance.

IC1 and IC2 are inverting operational amplifiers whose outputs are linked by a chain of resistors the junctions between which are connected to the keyboard contacts. R5 and VRI form a divider between the positive rail and ground such that the swing of the potentiometer covers a range of about 4.7 volts.

The wiper of VRI is linked to both i.c.'s so that the output of these devices will track, in unison, the setting of VRI. R1 and VR2 form a second divider between the negative rail and ground with the wiper linked to ICI only. Thus VR2 is able to provide an offset to ICI which is variable over 4.5 volts.

The purpose of the voltage difference between the swings of the two potentiometers, is so that, under normal conditions, the key contact voltages can never go positive and thus drive the vco's into saturation.

## SPAN AND TUNE CONTROLS

The keyboard controller can be matched to a wide range of keyboard sizes and vco control voltages.

If, for example, a two octave keyboard is to be used and the required control voltage for the vco's is 600 mV per octave, then VR2 (the "Span" control) will require to be offset by $1 \cdot 2 \mathrm{~V}$ with respect to the inverted value of VRI's setting. Once this has been used and the required control voltage for the vco's are able to reproduce a chromatic octave by making
a series of consecutive key contacts, then VR1 may be adjusted over a wide range without affecting the "tune" of the vco's.

In simple terms the "position" of the two-octave keyboard may be varied over the audio frequency range and the "white" notes may be made to play in any required key signature. This latter feature will commend itself to those "play-it-by-ear" musicians who may sometimes find difficulty in translating a well known melody in the key of C into its correct signature.

For more serious applications, however, the ability to swing the keyboard "position" enables the Minisonic to play in tune with a number of conventional acoustic instruments which may, themselves, not be precisely "spot-on" as far as tuning is concerned.

## KEYBOARD RESISTOR CHAIN

No setting-up is required for the KEyboard conTROLLER other than to check that the outputs of both ICI and IC2 respond correctly to the settings of VRI and VR2. Fig. 3.1 gives a table of resistor values which may be used for the divider system on keyboards of various sizes.

It will be noted that the overall value of resistance in each case is approximately the same in order that the loading on the i.c.'s will vary by a minimum amount regardless of the size of keyboard employed.

## THE "HOLD" OR ANALOGUE MEMORY

Although covered by the general heading of KEYbOARD CONTROLLER the HOLD circuit is a quite separate entity which fulfils an important function in the scheme of the synthesiser.

Last month it was indicated that the envelope SHAPER could give a decay characteristic lasting up to 16 seconds. In other words, from the instant the key contact is broken, the audio signal will continue -at a diminishing level-for the prescribed period. It is obvious therefore that, for the best effect to be achieved, the vco frequency must remain constant for the period over which the decay is taking place.

With the key contact broken so too is the vco programming voltage disconnected unless there is some means by which the vco can continue to be programmed regardless of key contact condition. The hold circuit provides the means whereby the VCO can continue to oscillate at the frequency prescribed by the last programmed voltage either until the envelope shaper completes its cycle or until another voltage is programmed in.

## HOLD CIRCUIT

The circuit of the hold facility is shown in Fig. 3.2a. IC3 is an operational amplifier in which the output signal is divided by means of VR4, R8 and R9 to provide balanced levels of positive and negative feedback.

When the balancing is carefully done the circuit is theoretically capable of presenting an infinite impedance to incoming signals. In practice, however, it is more usual to calculate the input impedance on the basis of the parallel value of the feedback resistors times the open loop gain of the amplifier. Thus the input impedance is of the order of 2,500 megohms.

The hold capacitor (C2) is, ideally, a low leakage type. A charge applied to C2 is reflected at the output of IC3 with any drift at the output due to a combination of capacitor leakage and minor thermal effects within the i.c.

## KEYBOARD CONTROLLER AND HOLD

Resistors

| R1 | $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| R2-R4 | $47 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | (3 off) |
| R5 | $9 \cdot 1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |  |
| R6, R7 | $47 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $(2$ off) |
| R8, R9 | $20 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | (2 off) |
| R10 | $47 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |  |
| R11 et seq | See text |  |

## Potentiometers

$$
\begin{array}{lll}
\text { VR1, VR2 } & 10 \mathrm{k} \Omega & \text { linear carbon (2 off) } \\
\text { VR3 } & 10 \mathrm{k} \Omega \text { sub-miniature } & \\
\text { skeleton preset } & \\
\text { VR4 } & 10 \mathrm{k} \Omega & \text { horizontal } \\
& &
\end{array}
$$

## Capacitors

C1 1,000pF
C2 $1 \mu \mathrm{~F} \quad 63 \mathrm{~V}$ polycarbonate
Integrated Circuits
IC1-IC3 Type 741 8-pin d.i.l. (3 off)

## Miscellaneous

SK1 2 mm socket

## KEYBOARD CONTROLLER



Fig. 3.1. Circuit of the KEYBOARD CONTROLLER (excluding the HOLD circuit). The table (below) shows values of resistors (R11 et seq) and numbers required for various length keyboards. This applies to both printed circuit and conventional keyboards

KBD DIVIDER RESISTORS

| Size | Resistor | Number off |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| 1 octave | $150 \Omega$ | 13 |
| 2 octave | $82 \Omega$ | 25 |
| 3 octave | 51 or $56 \Omega$ | 37 |
| 4 octave | 39 or $43 \Omega$ | 49 |
| 5 octave | 33 or $36 \Omega$ | 61 |



Fig. 3.2(a). The circuit of the HOLD section of the KEYBOARD CONTROLLER. (b) It is important that this circuit should be adopted when nulling the HOLD offset. Temporary links are shown dashed. The feedback resistor should be $10 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ or more

It is possible to balance the circuit such that the output drift is better than $1 \mathrm{mV} / \mathrm{sec}$ but to do so requires considerable patience and care, particularly when nulling the offset. The circuit for this latter procedure is shown in Fig. 3.2b. The component assembly should be as shown on the circuit board layout but the wiper of VR4, instead of being linked direct to the output of IC 3 , is temporarily connected to the 0 V rail.

A second temporary feature is the inclusion of a high value feedback resistor (ideally 10MS or more) as shown hatched in Fig. 3.2b.

Adjust VR4 so that its wiper is close to the centre of travel and, with power on, adjust VR3 until the output of IC3 is precisely zero volts. The temporary links and feedback resistor may now be removed and the circuit completed as shown in Fig. 3.2a.
Minimising the drift in the hold circuit is best done by ear, i.e. using the Minisonic vco's rather than an oscilloscope as part of the test equipment. Details of this procedure will be included as part of the final setting up.


Fig. 3.3(a). Wiring of the edge connector strip as used on the prototype. Resistors are wired in from the conductor side of the board. Excess wire on the other side of the p.c.b. should be trimmed off and filed flush so that the board may be glued to the front panel

## THE KEYBOARD

The Minisonic offers the possibility of being operated with a number of keyboard options, the cheapest being the edge-connector type. Other options will be discussed next month.
A printed circuit keyboard was adopted in order that the instrument could be both compact and fully self-contained. In the prototype a three-octave keyboard was made up using a standard edge-connector strip as shown in Fig. 3.3a but satisfactory operation could only be achieved after much practice due to the narrow conductors involved. Mounting of the divider resistors should be generally as shown in the diagram.

## COMPONENTS . . .



## STYLUS

In the first prototype the stylus employed two contacts and was illustrated on the front cover of the November issue. The double contact, however, greatly added to the difficulties of playing the instrument and thus modifications were carried out so that a single contact stylus could be employed.

Perhaps the simplest stylus involves the adaptation of a ball-point pen (see Fig. 3.3b). If this method is chosen it is important that all traces of ink are removed from the ball end using an organic solvent before any attempt is made to solder in the wire


Fig. 3.3(b). A suggested construction method for the stylus using an old ball-point pen

Note that organic solvents should be treated with caution since most of them give off a vapour which can be harmful if inhaled continuously. The assembly when completed should be potted within the lower half of the pen by means of Araldite or Silicon Rubber Compound.

Those constructors having access to a lathe could make up a stylus from a piece of tin brass rod. If this method is used it is important that the extreme tip of the stylus should be rounded off and well polished to ensure a good contact.

## ULTRASONIC TRIGGER SYSTEM

(The circuitry in this section is the subject of a Patent Application)
The changeover from a double-contact to a singlecontact stylus presented a difficult problem simply because the signals required to set the hold circuit and to trigger the envelope shapers are essentially incompatible. Direct coupling between the inputs of these two circuits was therefore not possible since, once the hold capacitor was charged, the d.c. level would remain on the stylus lead and the envelope SHAPER in the "on" condition, until the charge on the hold capacitor had leaked away.

This would occur quite rapidly in the circumstances thereby giving rise to an undesired portamento effect. Similarly it was not possible to decouple the envelope Shaper from the stylus lead since so doing would restrict the "attack" phase to one rate only-and that very fast. The solution proved to be the application of a principle which is believed to be unique in electronic musical instruments.

## HF OSCILLATOR

A high frequency oscillator is coupled directly into the KBD CONTROLLER in such a way as to distribute the signal evenly across the divider. The stylus lead which now goes direct to the hold capacitor is also connected through a decoupling capacitor to an a.c. detector circuit which, through an integral switch, is used to trigger the ENVELOPE SHAPER.

Four components only go to make up the hF oscillator which is shown in Fig. 3.4.
VRI controls the frequency of operation by.prescribing the proportion of positive feedback and thereby varying the peak to peak value of the output signal. With the component values given the frequency range is from 2 kHz at 18 V peak-to-peak, to 250 kHz at 80 mV peak-to-peak. Output waveforms are also shown in Fig. 3.4.

## OSCILLATOR FREQUENCY

The optimum setting of the hF oscillator is 40 kHz at 6 V p-p as measured at point "AA." The attenuating effect of C1, R10 and VR1 in the KbD controller will combine to reduce the signal to 500 mV p-p measured on the keyboard contacts.

It should be noted however that the setting of VRI in the controller will affect the level of the h.f. signal-the lower the setting of VR1 the lower will be the level of the signal on the contacts. This is not really a problem since the detector sensitivity is around 50 mV and also, for most applications, it will be found that VR1 will require to be at a relatively high setting.

## HF DETECTOR

The circuit of the detector is shown in Fig. 3.5. IC2 is a high gain follower decoupled from the stylus lead by means of C2. C1 provides additional decoupling for the stylus lead thereby ensuring that hum signals which may be included in the lead do not cause triggering of the envelope shapers. C4 and C5 provide frequency compensation for IC2 which is a 709 operational amplifier to give the advantage of the higher gain bandwidth offered by this device.

The output of IC2 provides drive to TR1 the collector of which is coupled through R6 to the bases of TRI and TR2 on both envelope shapers. (Note that this latter coupling is via the DIN socket and JKI on both envelope shapers.) C6 blocks any d.c. appearing at the output of IC2 while R5 sets a current limit.

Under quiescent conditions the output of IC2 is nominally zero volts and TR1 is off. An a.c. signal of sufficient level on the sty̆lus lead will cause IC2 to follow and each positive excursion of IC2 output will switch TR1 on causing the collector to go to about -8.5 volts. The envelope shapers thus start to attack and C7 receives a negative charge.

## H.F. OSCILLATOR AND DETECTOR



Fig. 3.4. Circuit of the HF OSCILLATOR. Components in the dotted box are on KBD CONTROLLER circuit and are mounted on main board. Typical waveforms at different settings of the VR1 are also shown

Fig. 3.5. Circuit of the HF DETECTOR. Resistor R7 is for isolation and was $20 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ in the prototype. The DIN socket is for external keyboard attachment and wiring options will be described next month. C1 is mounted on the DIN socket

## COMPONENTS . . .

HF OSCILLATOR

| Resistors |
| :--- |
| R1 $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| VR1 $100 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |


| subminiature |
| :---: |
| preset |

Capacitor
C1 1000pF
Integrated Circuit
IC1 Type 7418 -pin d.i.l.

## HF DETECTOR

| Resistors |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| R1 $200 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ R5 $3.9 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |  | $\Omega$ R5 | 3.9k $\Omega$ |  |  |
|  | $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R6 | $22 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |  |  |
| R3 -1.8k $\Omega$ R 7 20k $\Omega$ (see text) | $1.8 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $\Omega$ R7 | 20k $\Omega$ | (see text) |  |
| R4 $1.2 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| Capacitors |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ (3 off) | C6 | $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ |  |
| C 4 |  | 68 pF | C7 | $0 \cdot 1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ |  |
| C5 |  | 10pF |  | $470 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 16 V elect. |
| Semiconductors |  |  |  |  |  |
| D1 1 N914 |  |  |  |  |  |
| IC2 Type 7098 -pin d.i.l. |  |  |  |  |  |



Fig. 3.6. Dimensions of the keyboard cover which was made from 3 mm card

The time constant of C7 is such that it will lose only a small proportion of its charge during the negative half cycle of the h.f. signal. The result is that an effectively constant negative signal is presented to the envelope shapers during the period that the stylus and/or key contacts are made.

## ISOLATION RESISTOR

In addition to the components making up the detector Fig. 3.5 also shows a resistor, R7, in series with the stylus lead and hold circuit. The purpose of this resistor is to provide a degree of isolation for C2 in the hold circuit so that its relatively large capacity will not over-attenuate the signal on the stylus.

R7 ( $20 \mathrm{k} \Omega 2$ in the prototype) also provides a delay in the d.c. charging rate of C2 with the result that there is a 20 ms portamento effect. This effect is not really too noticeable unless consecutive KBD voltages are programmed from opposite ends of the KBD but it could perhaps be a source of irritation for the constructor wishing to use the Minisonic for serious musical purposes.

In these circumstances R7 could be replaced by an inductance which would provide the degree of a.c. isolation required whilst presenting only a nominal resistance to d.c. A suitable choke could be made up from a small ferrite ring toroidally wound with about 20 to 30 turns of $34 \mathrm{~s} . w . g$. enamelled copper wire.
Some experimenting will possibly be required to get just the right value and it would be best to start with the greater number of turns and reduce these as necessary to get the best balance between a.c. isolation and d.c. resistance.

## PORTAMENTO

As a modification to the prototype circuits some constructors may wish to incorporate a variable portamento control. In view of the lack of space on the front panel the best way to do this is to mount a miniature edgewise volume control-such as is used on some transistor radios-inside the upper edge of the printed circuit keyboard cover.

The cover is shown in Fig. 3.6. The wire from the stylus socket on the side of the KBD cover would then be routed to one end of the potentiometer while the slider would go via R7, or inductor as mentioned above, to pin I on the DIN socket.

## RING MODULATOR

The Minisonic ring modulator is an improved version of the circuit which originally appeared in the P.E. Sound Synthesiser (August 1973). The essential features of the circuit have been retained however and the circuit is shown in Fig. 3.7.

The ring modulator produces a unique output waveform which comprises, at the same instant, the sum and difference between any two applied input frequencies. This function is carried out in a purpose-built integrated circuit, the SG 3402 N . With one of the input frequencies fixed, variation in the other will ring the changes in the output frequencies as shown in Table 3.1.

Referring to Fig. 3.7, R1 and R2 form an input attenuator on the so-called carrier input (pin 7) such that, when driven from a vco, the input signal level at Cl will be about 40 mV .

Similarly R3 and R4 attenuate the modulator or control input so that, when driven by a vco, the input at C2 is about 200 mV . This procedure results in an output signal of about 1.5 volts at pin 4 and the same signal in antiphase at pin 11. The antiphase signals are amplified differentially by IC2 to give a peak output signal of three volts which is then attenuated by R9 and R10 to a level compatible with the remainder of the Minisonic circuits.

## SETTING UP THE RING MODULATOR

Setting up the ring modulator is very simple. With the circuit completed link the modulator input to the 0 V rail and connect the output to a suitable power amplifier. Apply a signal of about 1 kHz to the carrier input (normally connected direct to vcol) and adjust VR1 until the output signal reduces to the lowest possible level. This should, with a correctly wired circuit, be 50 dB or more below the peak signal level. At this point the ring modulator is correctly balanced with minimum carrier breakthrough.

## NOISE GENERATOR

The noise generator is built round the highly successful ZIJ noise diode manufactured by Semitron Ltd., and is shown in Fig. 3.8. Output from the Z1J

Table 3.1 : OUTPUTS FROM THE RING MODULATOR

| Frequency |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Carrier | 700 | 600 | 500 | 400 | 300 | 200 | 100 |
| Modulator | 400 | 400 | 400 | 400 | 400 | 400 | 400 |
| Sum | 1100 | 1000 | 900 | 800 | 700 | 600 | 500 |
| Difference | 300 | 200 | 100 | 0 | 100 | 200 | 300 |

## RING MODULATOR



Fig. 3.7. Complete circuit of the RING MODULATOR
is amplified by the high gain follower IC1 and led, through decoupling capacitor C 5 , to the volume control VR1.

The noise generator is the only circuit in the Minisonic which does not operate completely successfully down to a battery voltage of $\pm 7.5$ volts.

## COMPONENTS . . .

```
RING MODULATOR
Resistors
    R1 1.8k\Omega
    R2-R4 200\Omega (3 off)
    R5-R8 47k\Omega (4 off)
    R9 1ks
    R10 470\Omega
Potentiometers
    VR1 100k\Omega subminiature horizontal skeleton
        preset
    VR2 10k\Omega log carbon
Capacitors
    C1-C4 10\muF 6.3V tantalum (4 off)
    C5 10\muF 16V tantalum
Integrated Circuits
    IC1 SG3402N
    IC2 Type 741 8-pin d.i.l.
```


## Miscellaneous

```
SK1, SK2 2 mm sockets (2 off)
```

In the prototype the noise generator ceased to work when the battery voltage had reduced to $\pm 7.8 \mathrm{~V}$. This situation may be corrected to a certain extent by shorting out R2 and R3 and/or by reducing the value of R 1 to, say, $82 \mathrm{k} \Omega$. No setting up is required for this circuit.

## NOISE GENERATOR

## COMPONENTS . . .

## NOISE GENERATOR

Resistors

| R1 | $91 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R5 | $200 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| R2, R3 | $22 \Omega$ (2 off) | R6 | $56 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R4 | $470 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R7 | $1.2 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |

Potentiometer
VR1 $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ linear carbon
Capacitors
C1 $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$
C2 $100 \mu \mathrm{~F} 25 \mathrm{~V}$ elect.
C3 $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$
C4 $100 \mu \mathrm{~F} 25 \mathrm{~V}$ elect.
C5 $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$
Integrated Circuit and Diode
IC1 Type 7418 -pin d.i.l.
D1 Z1J noise diode (Semitron)

## Miscellaneous

SK1 2mm Socket


Fig. 3.8. Circuit of the NOISE GENERATOR


Fig. 3.9. Circuit of the CONTROL ENVELOPE INVERTER. This is fed with the output of ES/VCA1 via VR4 (see last month)

## COMPONENTS . .

| R1, R2 | 47k $\Omega$ (2 off) |
| :--- | :--- |
| IC1 | Type 7418 -pin d.i.I. |
| SK1, SK2 | 2 mm sockets (2 off) |

## POWER AMPLIFIER



Fig. 3.10. Complete circuit diagram of one of the POWER AMPLIFIERS with integral two-input mixers. Note that the mixer stages are mounted on the main circuit board


Fig. 3.11. The Veroboard panel which carries the NOISE GENERATOR, HF OSCILLATOR AND DETECTOR, CONTROL ENVELOPE INVERTER, AND POWER AMPLIFIERS

COMPONENTS . . .

POWER AMPLIFIERS AND MIXERS (2 off)

Resistors
R1-R3 $47 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ ( 3 off)
R4 $1.5 \mathrm{k} \Omega$

R5 $910 \Omega$
R6 $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$
R7 $4.7 \mathrm{k} \Omega$
R8 $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$

Potentiometer
VR1 $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega \log$ carbon

Capacitors
C1 $4.7 \mu \mathrm{~F} \quad 35 \mathrm{~V}$ tantalum
C2 $0.005 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ ceramic
C3 3300 pF
C4 $220 \mu \mathrm{~F} 40 \mathrm{~V}$ elect.
(or $470 \mu \mathrm{~F} 16 \mathrm{~V}$ )
Integrated Circuits
IC1 Type 7418 -pin di.il.
IC2 MFC4000B

## Miscellaneous

LS1 3in 15 speaker
SK1 2mm socket
JK1 3.5 mm jack socket


Fig. 3.12. The layout on the main Veroboard panel, the majority of which was shown last month

## CONTROL ENVELOPE INVERTER

Shown in Fig. 3.9, the CONTROL ENVElope INVERTER represents a modification to the prototype instrument and has been included, principally, so that the VCF may be programmed automatically from envelope shaper 1. The inverter itself is a simple unity-gain inverting amplifier which requires no setting up procedure.

## POWER AMPLIFIERS

The complete circuit of the power amplifiers, which includes a two-input inverting mixer, is shown in Fig. 3.10. As with all the virtual earth circuits in the Minisonic the mixer has the minimum number of inputs and almost any number of additional inputs may be applied by following the basic details given in Part 1 of the series.

The slider of the volume control (VR1) at the mixer output is wired directly to a jack socket from which may be taken a signal suitable for driving an external power amplifier, tape recorder, external mixer, etc.

## CIRCUIT BOARD LAYOUT

The control envelope inverter, hF oscillator and detector, noise generator, and power ampliFIER stages are carried on a separate circuit board which is illustrated in Fig. 3.11.

The Keyboard controller, ring modulator and POWER AMPLIFIER/MIXER stages are all included on the main circuit board part of which was illustrated last month. The remainder of the board is shown in Fig. 3.12.

Next month: Final wiring-up and adjustments. Keyboard options, as well as circuit additions for more ambitious constructors will be discussed.

Stop Press: The author has developed a printed circuit board to carry all the Minisonic electronics. More details next month.

## NEXT <br> MONTH...

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## emacticat <br> ELECTRONICS

fEBRUARY ISSUE ON SALE JANUARY 10, 1975


A selection of readers' suggested circuits. It should be emphasised that these designs have not been proven by us. They will at any rate stimulate further thought. Any idea published will be awarded payment according to its merits. Why not submit YOUR IDEA?
negative going transition at the collector of TR2 is communicated via the bootstrap connection of C2 to the base of TR1. This results in TR1 being cut off and C3 now acts as an effective collector potential for TR2. Therefore C3 discharges through R3 until the emitter potential of TR1 is again negative with respect to the base. Thus TRI conducts and thereby completes the cycle and the whole sequence will start again.

If the time constants $\mathrm{R} 1-\mathrm{C} 1$ and R2 C2 are sufficiently large, the frequency of oscillation is predominantly determined by C3/R3 and C3/R4. Current consumption from a 9 V battery is only 0.7 mA since the circuit only consumes current during one half period of the cycle.

## A SERIAL CONNECTION mULTIVIBRATOR

ASIMPLE square wave generator with equally fast rise and fall times is always useful. The conventional astable multivibrator has the disadvantage that although one edge of the output waveform is fast, the other edge is comparatively slow. This is due to the fact that the collector of the off transistor has to recover to the potential of the supply in a time determined by the capacitor associated with the collector and the value of the collector load. Improving the output waveform by the use of extra diodes or perhaps an extra transistor are solutions but a novel approach is a serial connection.
Consider the circuit shown and let TR1 be fully conducting and TR2 cut off with C3 fully discharged. It will be evident that C3 has a charging path via R4 and

## Fig. 1


so this capacitor charges exponentially allowing the emitter of TR2 to approach ground.
When the charging current has decreased sufficiently so that the base potential of TR2 is again more positive than its emitter, then this transistor promptly conducts. This

Unlike its more conventional counterpart the serial connection is always self starting. The output amplitude with the circuit shown is 5.5 V peak-to-peak.
M. Harding,

Cheadle, Cheshire.

## SOUND/LIGHT MODULATOR

A VERY simple sound/light A modulator is shown in Fig. 1 which may be of use to experimenters. Input signals can be taken from the output (loudspeaker) of an audio amplifier since in most pop or disco environments the small amount of distortion introduced using this method will hardly be noticed.

Sensitivity is controlled by VRI whilst the transformer provides isolation and the drive for triac

MAC 11-6. This is possible as the triac drive pulses need not be shaped.


Fig. 1

To provide frequency sensitivity and/or other channels, capacity can be inserted in the triac gate circuit. Using $100 \mathrm{~V} 1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ capacitors. bass response can be selected by inserting the capacitor in parallel with the secondary of the transformer. For the treble the capacitor is in series with the gate and for the mid ranges two capacitors are used, one in each of the foregoing positions.
In this way three circuits can be built up to control three separate lamps if desired.
P. Vleck

Cheltenham.

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Eagle MHT 10 horn tweeter
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Eagle FR65
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Elac 6 in 6RM220 dicone
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Fane Pop 60w 15 in
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Fane Crescendo 12A 100W 12in
Fane Crescendo 128 bass
Fane Crescendo 15 in 100W
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Fane 701 twin ribbon
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Fane 920 horn
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Kof DN12
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## EASIER SERVICING

Colour television is easily the most complicated box of tricks in the home. Healthy competition has kept prices low, despite inflation. And that same competition, in effect the struggle for market share, is still spurring manufacturers to give the buying public more and more value for money.

It follows that the more complex a machine is the more it costs to service. And TV sets, by their very nature, have a fine in-built monitor, the screen itself, which instantly shows up defects or deterioration in performance. The broadcast authorities are even kind enough to transmit test patterns designed to highlight imperfections.

Every manufacturer has nightmares over servicing. Apart from losing goodwill, every time a set goes wrong during guarantee another chunk of profit goes down the drain. So in their own interests, manufacturers do genuinely try to make sets that are reliable and there has been a strong move over the past few years to build sets in modules to allow servicing by module replacement.

Now Grundig in Germany has gone one step further by building in a rapid diagnosis system in every set. Grundig had switched to a nearly fully modular system some three years ago in which 75 per cent of the circuitry is split among a dozen plug-in modules, each with a defined function. If any one module failed it was fairly obvious to the service engineer and he just plugged in a replacement. Now the diagnostic adaptor enables an instant check of the non-modular circuits.

Key check-points of the circuits are all brought to a single 13-way
socket into which the service engineer plugs his monitor. The monitor has 13 led's and if any one of these fails to light up there is an indication of a specific fault. It costs very little extra on each set to provide the facility and the saving in engineer's time can be enormous. And, of course, with soaring labour costs, time saved is very important, not to mention customer satisfaction. The plug-in diagnostic aid costs the dealer under £10. Quite a bargain. And the customer benefits, too. Other set makers are expected to follow the trend.

## EXPORTS

If you've ever thought that export promotion is not given enough priority in Britain, reflect for a moment on the current trading quarter which ends on December 31, 1974. The British Overseas Trade Board is giving support to 1,360 British companies at 76 overseas trade fairs in 27 countries. In addition there are 54 outward trade missions representing 730 companies and involving 45 countries. These group activities are in addition to hundreds of "private" promotions by individual companies.

One of next year's big trade drives is to be centred on Western Canada and seminars are already being held in Britain which will brief exporters on trade opportunities in advance of parties of exporters visiting the two big growth areas of Alberta and British Columbia. In the direct field of electronics, one of our biagest 1974 efforts was at Munich's Electronica Exhibition at which 57 British companies took part in a joint venture.

## PACEMAKER BOOM

It was only a few years ago that we were all marvelling at the way microelectronics had made possible the heart pacemaker which has done so much to extend human life. With improved techniques in implant surgery and technical advances in pacemakers this single branch of medical electronics has now blossomed into an industry in its own right with world sales this year expected to top $£ 25$ million and reach over $£ 200$ million by 1980.

The technical problem which has been engaging pacemaker researchers is how long they can be kept working without recourse to further surgery to replace the battery. One approach was to use nuclear power to give infinite life.

Another was a rechargeable unit that could be recharged by induction through an external unit. But both these solutions are losing favour, mainly expense in the nuclear field and susceptibility to outside interference with rechargeable units, apart from the occasional inconvenience to the user.
It seems now that long-life batteries will do the job quite well. Reasons are that in the early days pacemakers were more powerful than they needed to be, the new active devices using technologies such as CMOS take far less current, and battery technology itself has improved.

With current drain reduced to less than 20 micro-amps a threeyear life can be obtained from mercury-oxide-zinc units and possible developments in sodiumbromine and lithium cells could give a battery life of seven years or more. This figure ties in well with the life-expectancy of pacemaker users who statistically have an average age at implant of 67 years and can expect another 5-7 years of life.

## HUMBLE HARDWARE

Racks, panels, instrument cases hardly ever hit the headlines. Yet they are still big business in electronics clocking-up European sales of over $£ 30$ million a year and double that if you add in PCB edge connectors and other interconnection devices. So don't despise the metalwork in electronics. It might not make so much profit as glamour products but the commercial risk is much lower. Provided, of course, that you can get your materials. One prominent manufacturer, lamenting recently on production hold-ups, commented that "screws have seemingly ceased to exist, and costs have gone up alarmingly'. And steel, plastics and paint have also been hard to get.

## TAKE OFF

Great sighs of relief that the European Multi Role Combat Aircraft has received the go-ahead for its final development phase. This is the project that is exercising the best brains in electronics. It's costing the earth, of course, but how else do you keep ahead in technology?

At a more mundane level it's good to see Plessey has started delivering ILS systems for Chinese airfields in a contract worth £850,000. And British aerospace companies as a whole are doing well with exports worth more than £2 million every working day with our best customer still being the United States followed by France and Germany.


Items mentioned in this feature are usually available from electronic equipment and component retailers advertising in this magazine. However, where a full address is given, enquiries and orders should then be made direct to the firm concerned. All quoted prices are those at the time of going to press.

## MOUNTING PILLARS

A useful new product for the constructor has just been released by West Hyde Developments Ltd. Called Ilex pillars, they are designed to insulate circuit boards from cases or chassis and at the same time support them either vertically or horizontally one on top of another.

Made from moulded nylon, they have a rigid girder-shaped supporting section with a spring loop fastener at the top and tension feet together with a push-in clip at the base.

Suitable holes are drilled in the chassis and boards and the pillars are simply pressed into place and any subsequent boards mounted on the top of the pillars, see photograph. The sizes of the pillars vary from $\frac{1}{1}$ to $1 \frac{1}{2}$ in and cost approximately $3 p$ each for a minimum order of 10 (for $\frac{1}{2}$ in size).

Full particulars and sizes together with price list can be obtained from West Hyde Developments Ltd., Ryefield Crescent, Northwood Hills, Middlesex, HA6 INN.

## ON TAPE

Two new cassette tapes have been announced recently by EMI Ltd and 3M United Kingdom Ltd.

The new X1000 ferric oxide cassette from EMI is claimed to give as good reproduction as chrome dioxide cassettes. A C60 cassette is expected to retail at $99 p$ (excluding VAT).

The main technical improvements claimed for the X 1000 are: an increase of $3-4 \mathrm{~dB}$ in the $8-15 \mathrm{kHz}$ frequency range, compared to low noise tapes. A wider dynamic range due to the tape's increased magnetic remanence, resulting in less tape hiss. Improved high frequency response ensures a low level of intermodulation distortion.

When used with good quality audio equipment the tape is claimed to give excellent performance down to 25 Hz and up to 15 kHz .

Undoubtedly the new Scotch Classic tapes from 3M's, with a C90 cassette at $£ 2 \cdot 16$, is aimed at the "serious" end of the market.

This new double coated or dual layer tape indicates the trend
towards the use of a product compatible with existing tape and equipment rather than the current trend of using metallic dioxide tape. It is claimed that the new tape combines the high frequency abilities of chromium dioxide with the bias characteristics and low frequency response of the low-noise ferric oxide tape.

Both the above tapes are available from all good audio shops and large stores.

## LITERATURE

A comprehensive 724-page data book covering Motorola's range of linear i.c.s is available from Semicomps Ltd. The book contains not only full data but, in many cases, valuable application information on over 300 devices.

The range includes op. amps, drivers and line receivers, $d / a$ and a/d converters, comparators, voltage regulators, timing and power control units, consumer TV, audio and radio circuits, r.f. amplifiers and automotive circuits.

For easy reference the data sheets are arranged in alpha numeric sequence without regard to product category.

The book costs $£ 1.26$ and is obtainable from Semicomps Ltd., Northfield Industrial Estate, Beresford Avenue, Wembley, Middlesex, HAO 1SD.

## NEWS BRIEFS

Readers who are building the "P.E. CCTV Camera" may be interested to know that Crofton Electronics are now able to offer a complete kit of parts for this project. They can also supply lenses,
coils, tubes and printed circuit boards separately.

For full details readers should write to Crofton Electronics at 124 Colne Road, Twickenham, TW2 6QS.

We understand that Re An Products Ltd are able to supply all the control knobs (19 with skirts and one without) for the P.E. Minisonic synthesiser. These knobs have a translucent numbered skirt and are available with coloured caps.

It has been suggested that by using a colour code system for the knobs the front panel layout of the Minisonic can be identified in colour groups (i.e. envelope shapers, voltage controlled oscillators and amplifiers, etc.), which can make the instrument easier to use.

A price list for the knobs, type R62, is obtainable from Re An Products Ltd, Burnham Road, Dartford, Kent, DA1 5BN.

What is believed to be a unique service for the private constructor, has been announced by SCS Components.

Now, branded guaranteed components are being offered at very competitive "one-off" prices, in fact the same as applying to industrial users. Included in this offer is a very large range of integrated circuits and transistors.

A complete price list (free) is obtainable from SCS Components, Northfield Industrial Estate, Beresford Avenue, Wembley, Middlesex.

To help beat rising costs Amtron U.K. Ltd. are now able to supply direct to the customer many of their more expensive electronic kits.

A full list of the construction kits available is obtainable from Amtron U.K. Ltd., 4 Castle Street, Hastings, Sussex TN34 3DY.


3M's Classic cassette tape

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## NEW PROJECTS

We will be supplying kits for the PE Joanna Electric Piano, the PW Electronic Organ, and PW Ascot Cassette Recorder.
All the above, and many other items are in our new 1975 catalogue available FREE NOW! A large S.A.E. (7p in stamps) would be appreciated.
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The following include High Compliance Bass Units and Cone Middle/Treble Units
KIT 91H: 2 way and crossover ( $1 \times 6 \frac{1}{2}$ " plus $1 \times 3 \frac{1}{\prime \prime}$ ) ( $8-18$ litre box) 10 watts $60-20,000 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$. $£ 7 \cdot 35$ each. KIT 94H: 3 way and crossover ( $1 \times 11 \times 6 \frac{1^{\prime \prime}}{}$ plus $1 \times 3 \frac{1}{2}$ " plus $1 \times 2^{\prime \prime}$ ) $(25-40$ litre box) 25 watts $45-20,000 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$. £13. 25.

The following include Neoprene Edge Bass Units and Dome Middle/Treble Units. Outer connecting lead and all internal wiring with mechanical push-on connectors.
KIT 10-2: 2 way and crossover ( $1 \times 6 \frac{1}{2}$ " plus $1^{\prime \prime}$ dome) ( $8-12$ litre box) 20 watts $45-20,000 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$. £15•35.
KIT 18: 2 way and crossover ( $1 \times 8^{\prime \prime}$ plus $1 \frac{1}{1}$ " dome) ( $15-20$ litre box) 30 watts $35-20,000 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$. $£ 16 \cdot 30$.
KIT 30: 2 way and crossover ( $1 \times 10^{\prime \prime}$ plus $1 \frac{1}{2}$ " dome) ( $25-35$ litre box) 35 watt $30-20,000 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$. £16.95:
KIT 35: 3 speakers and crossover ( $2 \times 8^{\prime \prime}$ plus $1 \frac{1}{2}$ " dome) $(30-40$ litre box) 60 watts $30-20,000 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$. £23. 30 .
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# the book <br>  <br>  

## ROBOTICS

## By John F. Young Published by Butterworths 300 pages, $8 \frac{1}{2}$ in $\times 5 \frac{1}{2}$ in. Price $£ 6.00$

THERE is nothing mythical about this book. It is concerned with hard facts of engineering. Robots have a very real existence, and in various forms perform many useful tasks in industry and elsewhere. Tasks which range from the mundane and repetitive to those of a highly specialised and skilled nature.

All this is clearly brought out in Robotics. The author, who has had a long experience in this field, describes notable developments in robot design which have been or are currently being undertaken in various advanced countries. Some of the devices mentioned will be familiar, like the Lunakhod, the Robotug, and the mobile robot used by the army to explode bombs left in cars. But there are many other significant developments in robotics which this book now brings to the attention of a wider audience.

Underlying all this activity are unmistakable signs of the eventual appearance of the General Purpose Robot for domestic use. The idea of an automated housewife is not just wishful thinking; it is the target of many designers in a number of countries. Indeed, according to the author, the Japanese are already well advanced with plans for a G/P Robot suitable for mass production with the inevitable economic advantages this will bring.

This book does not cover the "brain" of the robot, but concentrates upon the engineering of the "body". Hydraulic, pneumatic, and electrical techniques for actuation of the "limbs" are discussed. Electronics comes into its own with the imitation of the human senses, and all the commonplace sensoring devices are considered. Character and voice recognition pose greater problems; some indication of recent work by the author and his associates at Aston University in devising circuitry to solve some of the difficult problems in this frontier area of electronics is given.

Extensive lists of references accompany each chapter. Valuable as sources for the specialist researcher, these items provide additional evidence of the determined efforts that have already been made in this field of Robotics, and indicate how the robot has already become usefully employed in so many and varied everyday activities.
F.E.B.

## ELECTRONICS - AN ELEMENTARY INTRODUC. TION FOR BEGINNERS (SI UNITS)

## By L. W. Owers <br> Published by Publication Mailing Services 120 pages. Price $£ 1 \cdot 45$

N LINE with the current tendency, this book is perfect bound between linen covers to keep costs to a reasonable level. It is nonetheless a valuable introduction to electronics for any beginner. particularly those meeting this type of subject for the first time.

Diagrams are used extensively with the addition of formulae where necessary and these latter are spelt out in S1 units to conform to international practice.

The reader is led by the hand through complexities of fundamental particles, atoms, energy in its various forms, static and current electricity and the basic raw materials of electronics from theory to simple example.

Finally. the theory is exemplified by discussions of the valve and semiconductor and their use in radio and television and other areas.
R.D.R.

NEWS BRIEFS

## G. D. SHAW LECTURES AT AUDIO FAIR

T he tremendous interest in synthesisers was reflected by the massive attendance at the two lectures at this year's Audio Fair by G. D. Shaw, the author of P.E. Minisonic articles currently appearing in Practical Electronics
Entitled "Sound Synthesis for the Amateur", the lectures described synthesisers ranging from the simplest, in the form of the Minisonic, to the synthesiser of the future in the form of a digitally organised instrument having full polyphony (the ability to play more than one note simultaneously), and a memory facility.

The part of the lecture dealing with the Minisonic was illustrated with some impressive tape recordings made, using the Minisonic, by Malcolm Pointon. Most people were amazed at the range of effects that could be produced by such a simple instrument.

In the realm of digital synthesisers, Mr Shaw hopes to be the first to produce a design suitable for the amateur, a formidable task when one appreciates the complexity of such a system. The instrument is to be designed in such a way as to allow expansion from a basic unit simply by plugging in printed circuit boards as and when they are needed (or can be afforded).

This was not the only area where P.E. scored a "sound" success. On our stand the "P.E. Joanna" piano, exhibited for the first time, created enormous interest amongst the public. This unique instrument, ideal for the modern home, features piano, harpsichord and honky tonk facilities with true touch sensitive operation.

The P.E. Joanna is a future project and full details will be published in the next few months.

## LINK(S) UP

AN almost unbelievable 5 watts of transmitted power was used, in conjunction with a satellite, to beam a transmission over a distance of more than 50,000 miles recently in America.

In an experiment involving a simple antenna made from a golfer's umbrella, an engineer from the General Electric Company of USA used a low power "walkietalkie" radio to prove that even with such rudimentary equipment the only important requirement for longrange communication is the presence of a satellite overhead.

To be fair, the antenna was specially made up from the golfer's umbrella but nonetheless a morse message was beamed from the NASA headquarters to a geostationary satellite $A T S-3$ and then to $G E$ (USA)'s Radio-Optical Observatory near Schenectady, New York.

The demonstration shows all too clearly just how easy it would be for almost world-wide coverage to be provided for some form of search-and-rescue system based on a simple man-carried emergency transmitter. It is also envisaged that the system could carry phone signals, not just morse.

## PRICE CUT

N this period of constantly rising prices it is heartening to know that at least some items are becoming cheaper. Motorola have recently announced their second price reduction in the CMOS device area.

This second reduction, worth an average of 25 per cent, applies to standard MCI4000 and the in-house MC14500 devices. When applied to MSI the new pricing will give an individual gate function cost at around just a few pence and when this is coupled to the saving in power supply requirements and package count the total effect is a distinct improvement when using CMOS.

## Requdart A SEEECTON FROM OUR POSTBAG

## Gus Detectors

Sir-As the comment appearing on page 794, September 1974 issue, may raise doubts as to the life of the TGS sensors, we trust the following brief outline of the operating principles of the sensor will indicate why we claim that their life is comparable to that of other semiconductor devices, rather than the catalytic type of gas detector.

Molecules of flammable or deoxidizing gases are absorbed on the surface of the Taguchi sensors, resulting in electron transfer between absorbate and the solid sensor surface. In the case of hydrocarbon gases the reaction is related to the ionization potential of the gas absorbed on the surface of the pellet. The lower the ionization potential, the more readily is the gas detected. Hence isobutane (ionization potential 10.79 eV ) is detected more easily than methane (ionization potential 13.04 eV ).

The change in conductivity of the sensor is not caused by heat resulting from the combustion of a gas at its surface. The lack of combustion and relatively low operating temperature, $250^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, eliminates deterioration of the inert 82 per cent Palladium +18 per cent Iridium filaments encapsulated in the bead.

The Taguchi gas detectors have been in continuous use in Japan for six years, and the only noticeable change in performance has been an increase in sensitivity with time, up to a maximum of 30 per cent when a levelling-off occurs.

Damage can occur to the sensor if it is exposed for long periods to high concentrations of gases containing sulphur or lead, and such gases will in any case inhibit the performance of most gas detectors.

There are of course, many applications where the catalytic type sensor is superior to the Taguchi especially in the areas of selectivity and long term repeatability, but where a pre-set low level long-life sensor is required, the Taguchi have found good acceptance. More than two million have been put in service to date.

From the design point of view, it is essential that a current limiting resistor be included in series with the sensor, or else the sensor may
be destroyed by excessive current at switch-on. For example. if a low voltage 6 V to 24 V circuit is used then the minimum value of load resistor is $2 \mathrm{k} \Omega$. A variable resistor alone should not be used in this position as it is possible for the unit to be switched on with the variable resistor set to the low end of its range.
D. Lahiff,

Manager, Figaro Engineering.
Shannon, Ireland.

## Gus Sense (or)

Sir-In the circuit of the "Boat/ Caravan Gas Detector" (October 1974) the fact that the l.e.d. is alight proves that the heater side of the gas detector is connected and conducting. A dangerous situation could arise if the alarm circuitry, or more likely the wire connecting it to the detector, were to become opencircuited. This problem could arise from corrosion of the B7G socket or the gas detector pins (and boat bilges are known to be very damp places).

The simple modification shown in the enclosed diagrams will enable the detector to be fully tested each time it is turned on. The resistor R16 corresponds to a concentration of approximately 0.2 per cent of Butane or Propane in air, well below the inflammability range of 1.8 to 9 per cent.
R. A. Wood, Wolverhampton.

## Growing Upwards !

Sir-With reference to Mr. Crilly's letter (Rcadout, September), I feel that $I$ in turn must draw attention to two points.

Firstly, the magnetic properties of a material are determined by the spin configurations of the constituent atoms or ions. The vast majority of elements and compounds are said to be paramagnetic-this means that unbalanced spins among the electrons leave a nett magnetic moment on the atom. In the presence of a magnetic field, at low temperatures so that thermal vibrations do not upset things, a degree of alignment can occur.

In the case of iron and certain other materials, ferromagnetism is observed. This means that over small regions of the crystal the magnetic moments (which are due to the same mechanism as above) are aligned by an internal crystal field. These regions are called "domains". and may themselves be aligned by an external field. Thus, ferromagnetism is a bulk property of iron. and it is inaccurate to speak of ironcontaining molecules as being more "magnetic" than magnesium containing ones without considering the nett spins for the molecules concerned.

Secondly, Mr. Crilly states that strong magnetic forces radiate from the centre of the earth. This is not strictly true; the earth's field is not a monopole but approximates to a dipole. As a result of this there are regions of the earth's surface at the geomagnetic equator, where the field is parallel to the surface-in fact it is vertical only at the geomagnetic poles.

The suggested mechanism of tropisms would, therefore, not work in general, producing horizontal roots at the geomagnetic equator, and roots inclined to the vertical in most regions. I should also point out that plants transplanted from the Northern hemisphere to the Southern would develop into roots growing upwards at an angle to maintain their accustomed orientation with respect to the field.
C. R. Francis, Sheffield.


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 A Unsis Unmarked

## Untested Paks

B1 $50 \begin{aligned} & \text { Germanium Transistors } \\ & \text { PNP, AF and RF } \\ & \text { 50p }\end{aligned}$

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| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| B83 | 200 | Transistors, manufacturers' | 50p |

B84 $100 \begin{aligned} & \text { Silicon Diodes DO-7 glass } \\ & \text { equiv. to OA200, OA202 }\end{aligned} \quad$ 50p
B86 $100 \begin{aligned} & \text { Sil. Diodes sub. } \min ^{2} \\ & \text { IN914 and IN9i6 types }\end{aligned} \quad 50 \mathrm{p}$
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { H20 } & \left.20 \begin{array}{c}\text { BY126/7 Type Silicon Recti- } \\ \text { fiers }\end{array}\right] \text { amp. plastic. Mixed }\end{array}$

| H34 | 15 | $\begin{array}{l}\text { Power Transistors, PNP: } \\ \text { Germ. NPN Silicon TO-3 }\end{array}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
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H67 $10 \begin{aligned} & 3819 \mathrm{~N} \text { Channel FET's plastic } 50 \mathrm{p} \\ & \text { case rype. }\end{aligned}$

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## Parapsychic phenomena

Sir-Sometimes 1 read your articles about "ESP" in PRACTICAL ELECTronics with great interest. I'm working in parapsychic phenomena as a "hobby" and I have some results, which may interest you and your readers.

During the spring and summer I discovered that a magnetic field stimulates germination and even growth of seeds and plants. I made experiments with lobelia, bindweed, pea, lentil and various other plants. In all cases germination increases about 20-30 per cent, germination time was shortened by approximately 30 per cent and plants were 50 per cent higher than in control tests. In addition, it is interesting that the same effect was caused by hand movement, so called "magnetisation", known 200 years ago and used by Mesmer for healing with "animal magnetism"

It is my opinion that these effects are caused by water polarisation in both casces. The same effect is obtainable by using "magnetised" water, activated by passing through a strong magnetic field.

These two phenomena will be discussed and published in two parapsychological magazines.
V. Patrovsky,

Czechoslovakia.

## A Boolean Breakiası

Sir-l was recently having breakfast in an hotel and reading a book on Boolean Algebra. I had reached a point where the author stated that $A+(A \cdot B)=A$, when I realised that the waitress was looking over my shoulder. She asked whether I would like egg, or egg and bacon. My natural glatony lead me to order egg and bacon. I continued reading and learnt that the expression above was read as "A or A and $B$ equals $A^{\prime \prime}$, and that if either $A$ or $\mathbf{B}$ is present it is given a value of 1 and if absent its value, reasonably enough, is 0 . The author proved the statement by a truth table.

At this moment the waitress placed in front of me a plate on which there was an egg but no bacon. Of course, I pointed out with maximum natural charm that I had ordered egg and bacon. I was surprised. even dismayed, when she said that what she had served was the same as egg and bacon, the book had just proved it by a truth table-egg, or egg and bacon equals egg.

Later, when the management presented me with the bill for bed and breakfast, 1 pointed out that the bill for bed, or bed and breakfast, should be the same. In the tariff, breakfast was a separate item, and although I had just eaten it, like the
bacon I could prove by Boolean Algebra that it did not exist. One could not be charged, even in these times of rampant inflation, for something that did not exist whether one ate it or not. The cost of breakfast should therefore be deleted.

The Manager appeared to have an entirely mistaken grasp of Boolean Algebra, and the adviser he called in had not even heard of it. Possibly Boolean Algebra does not form part of a constable's training.
Perhaps some of your more erudite readers can point out where the fallacy lies.

R. Parfitt.<br>Croydon.

## Make an offer

Sir-Before my husband's death in May 1974 he had started to buy various parts for the "Electronic Piano", described in your Magazine some time ago. He already bought two manual contact assemblies, two C-C keyboards, digital master oscillator and other parts. Is it possible for you to help me to dispose of these items?

Mrs. E. Szwimer.

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| MM5311/14 6 DIGIT CLOCK with 28 pin socket \& data $\$ 7.50$ | LM3 82) amp \&2 |  | MPUl3lput 49p | 2N3563/642N3566/6716p | BENCH POWER SUPPLY 3-12V 55. <br> DIN PLUGS all 13p ea. Sockets 9p |
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| Stereo casset Te michanism. | MC1350 55p | 7490 Counter 63p | 2ENERS 9p | C107D1 SCR |  |
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# Forward with Project 80 into 



Everything you want in one pack to build the world's most
advanced modular hi-fi WITHOUT SOLDERING

1 Stereo 80 Control Unit
For mag. and ceramic cartridges, radio and tape.
2 Project 80 power amplifiers
Two Z.40s to give 8/8 watts R.M.S.
output per channel.
3 Power supply unit One PZ.5.
4 Connecting wires
All wires plus nuts, bolts, screws etc.
5 Project 805 Masterlink
For input and output connections.
6 Mains switch block and instructions manual (not illustrated).


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# This is Project 80 made even easier to build 


#### Abstract

You have seen how the marvellously compact Project 80 modules (only $2^{\prime \prime}$ high $\times \frac{3}{4}^{n}$ deep) are so adaptable and easy to install. Now, with Project 805, this wonderful system is made easier still to put together. In this, you have not only all the Project 80 modules in one pack for building an $8 / 8$ watt R.M.S. hi-fi amplifier - there is also a loom of colour coded wires cut to lengthand tagged forclippingon so that you don't even have to solder ! Input and output connections go via the 805 Masterlink panel. With the explicit stage-by-stage large 32 page instructions manual included, it becomes easy for anyone, no matter how inexperienced to install an ultra-modern assembly so advanced in appearance and design that it sets, brand new concepts in domestic hi-fi- and of course you can convert to quadraphony just whenever you wish by adding 805SQ. Only Sinclair know-how and manufacturing facilities could hope to bring yousuch quality and versatility


TAGGED WIRES CUT TO LENGTH•NO SOLDERING

# Project 805 

## the complete ready-to•build hi-fi STEREO AMPLIFIER

Project 805 comprises a Stereo 80 Pre-amp/Control Unit with input for both magnetic and ceramic cartridges, radio, tape; separate bass and treble cut/ lift, and volume controls $2 \times Z .40$ power amplifiers, PZ. 5 power unit, 805 Masterlink, wire loom, instructions manual, etc. down to nuts, bolts and washers. For technical specifications, see third page of this advertisement
£39.95
+£3.20 VAT (R.R.P.)

# true quadraphonics... NOW! 



# The most effective and economical way to enjoy this spectacular breakthrough in hi-filistening 

1. Project 80SO decoder with controls.
2. Two $Z .40$ power amplifiers.
3. PZ.5 power pack
4. Project 800 Masterlink unit.

5 Wire loom, with clip-ontags - NO SOLDERING!
6. (Not illustrated) Instructions manual, nuts bolts, washers, etc.


## Add a fourth dimension to your stereo sound

It's so simple to convert to quadraphonics when you already have Project 80 , or are about - Frequency response $\pm 3 \mathrm{db} 15 \mathrm{~Hz}-25 \mathrm{kHz}$ 10 start with Project 805 . Project 805 SQ is a complete add-on system at the heart of which is the Project 80SQ decoder. It uses the CBS.SQ matrix principle, by now the widest used method of containing four sound channels within the groove of the record. Project 805SQ includes two power amplifiers, power supply unit, connecting wire loom, 8050 Masterlink, switch block and instructions manual. The 80SQ decoder (also obtainable separately) has independent tone and volume slider controls on the two rear channels for matching true four channel sound to domestic environment. Project 805SQ is money saving too since you do not have to scrap existing Project 80 equipment to enjoy the newest and most exciting form of home listening in the entire history of sound, and your Project 80 quad-- Rated output 100 mV raphonic assembly is compatible with stereo and mono records.

- $\mathrm{S} / \mathrm{N}$ ratio 58 dB
- Distortion 0.1\%
- Power requirements 22-35 volts
- Phase shift network $90^{\circ} \pm 10,100 \mathrm{~Hz}-10 \mathrm{kHz}$
- Adaptable to discrete (CD4) use


Project805SQ


The output from any good stereo cartridge feeds into Stereo 80 and passes via the tape outlet to the 80SQ decoder. Here the signal is separated into its constituent 4 channels, those for the front being accepted by the Stereo 80 , those for the rear going from the decoder to the two additional power amplifiers and speakers.

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Guarantee If, within 3 months of purchasing any product direct from us, production of rece dissatisfied with it. your money will be refunded on guarantee Should any defect arise in normal use within 2 years, we will service it without charge. For damage arising from mis-use a nominal charge will be made.

Project 80 quadraphonic modules may be purchased separately if required. The Project 80SQ decoder may be used with any other amplifier having tape and monitoring facilities. Z40 or Z60 power amps can be used as required.

# The Project 80 programme to date 

KEEP THIS PAGE FOR HANDY REFERENCE USE THE PRIORITY ORDER FORM IN GASES OF DIFFICULTY

Stereo 80 pre-amp/control unit

$260 \times 50 \times 20 \mathrm{~mm}$ ( $10 \frac{1}{2} \times 2 \times \frac{3}{3}$ ins.) separate slider controls on each channel for treble. bass and volume. INPUTS - Mag. P.U 3 mV (RIAA corrected) Ceramic -300 mV , Radio 100 mV , Tape 30 mV S $/ \mathrm{N}$ ratio 60 dB . Frequency range -20 Hz to $15 \mathrm{KHz} \pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}$ OUTPUTS -25 V rms max ( 30 V supply) and tape plus $A B$ monitoring. PRESS BUTTONS for P.U. Radio and Tape Operating power -20 to 35 V . Black case with white indications
£13.95
Project 80 F.M. tuner


Size $85 \times 50 \times 20 \mathrm{~mm}$ ( $3 \frac{1}{2} \times 2 \times \frac{3}{4}$ ins.). Tunes 87.5 to 108 MHz , DE TECTOR - I.C balanced coincidence (I.C equivalent to 26 transistors) Distortion $-0.2 \%$ at 1 KHz for $30 \%$ modulation. SENSITIVITY - 5 microvolts for 30 dB quieting. Output - 300 mV for $30 \%$ modulation. Aerial imp. - $75 \Omega$ or $240-300 \Omega$. Dual Varicap tuning. 4 pole ceramic filter. Switchable A.F.C. Operating power 23-30 volts

$$
\text { f13. } 55 \underset{\text { VAT (R.R. } 12}{ }
$$

## Project 80 stereo decoder

Size $47 \times 50 \times 20 \mathrm{~mm}$ For adding to Project 80 FM tuner. With one I. C equal to 19 transistors, and LED indicator which glows on tuning in stereo signal.

Project 80 active filter unit (A.F.U.)


Size $108 \times 50 \times 20 \mathrm{~mm}$. Useful where there is need to eliminate unwanted high frequencies (scratch, whistle, etc) or low (rumble). Voltage gain 'minus $0 \cdot 2 \mathrm{~dB}$. Frequency response (filter at zero) 36 Hz to 22 KHz . H.F cut (scratch) variable from 22 KHz to 5.5 KHz 12 dB /octave slope. L.F cut (rumble) -28 dB at 28 Hz , slope 9 dB /octave
$€ 7.45^{\text {VAT }}$

## Project 80 power amplifiers

Intended for use in Project 80 installations, these modules readily adapt to an even wider range of applications. Both incorporate built-in protection against short circuiting and risk of damage from mis-use is greatly reduced
2.40

Size $55 \times 80 \times 20 \mathrm{~mm}$
9 transistors
Input sensitivity $\mathbf{- 1 0 0 m V}$
Output - 12 watts RMS continuous into $8 \Omega$ ( 35 v )
Frequency response $-10 \mathrm{~Hz}-100 \mathrm{KHz} \pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}$
S/Nratio-64dB
Distortion - $0.1 \%$ at 10 watts into $8 \Omega$ at 1 KHz
Power requirements -12 to 35 volts

2.60

Size $-55 \times 98 \times 20 \mathrm{~mm}$
12 transistors
Input sensitivity $-100-250 \mathrm{mV}$
Output - 25 watts RMS
continuous into $8 \Omega(50 \mathrm{~V}$ ).
Distortion- $0.02 \%$ at $10 \mathrm{~W} / 8 \Omega / 1 \mathrm{KHz}$
Frequency response -10 Hz to more than $200 \mathrm{KHz} \pm 3 \mathrm{~dB}$ S/Nratio-better than 70 dB
Built-in protection against transient overload and short circuiting Load impedance - $4 \Omega$ min; max. safe on open circuit


Power-supply units
PZ. 5 Unstabilized. 30 volts. Suitable for $Z .40$ assemblies, etc.

PZ. 6 Stabilized. Output voltage adjustable between 20 and 50 volts approx. Protecting fuse.
$£ 8.95_{\text {Vatif }}^{\text {tig. }}$
PZ. 8 Stabilized. Output adjustable from 20 to 60 V . approx. Reentrant current limiting makes damage from overload or even shorting. impossible. Without mains transformer.
£ $8.455_{\text {VАТ (R.А.Р.) }}^{68 \text { P. }}$


Project 805 (previous pages) $£ 39.95_{\text {VAT }(R . R . \text {. P. }}^{+ \text {f3.20 }}$
Project 805SQ quadraphonic add-on kit $£ 44.95+{ }^{\text {E5 } 3.50}$

Project 80SQ quadraphonic decoder


Size $260 \times 50 \times 20 \mathrm{~mm}$, matching Stereo 80 in style. Connects with tape socket on stereo 80 or similar facility on any stereo amplifier. Frequency response 15 Hz to $25 \mathrm{KHz} \pm 3 \mathrm{~dB}$. Distortion $0.1 \%$. $\mathrm{S} / \mathrm{N}$ ratio 58 dB , Rated Output -100 mV . Separatẹ bass and treble slider controls on each channel, also volume. Phase shift network $90^{\circ} \pm 10,100 \mathrm{~Hz}$ to 10 KHz . Operating power-22-35V
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An original and uniquely designed speaker of outstanding efficiency. Balanced sealed sound chamber and special driver assembly. Loads up to 14 W./R.M.S. 8 ohms imp. Size 248 mm square $\times 120 \mathrm{~mm}$ deep. Pedestal base. All-over black front, teak surround.


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## P.E. CCTV CAMERA <br> Details in List

## VOICE OPERATED FADER

for automatically reducing music volume durn 'talk-over'- Darticularly useful for Disco work, or for home-movie shows.
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An exceptionally high quality Stereo Amplifier system, specifications for which are shown in detall in our list. together with semiconductor requirements.
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Set of resistors, capacitors and presets $\quad \mathbf{5 5} \cdot 96$ Stereo printed
Sets of resistors. capacitors, potentiometers
and switehes-
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Send
Ste 57
Superior Tolerance Set
Stereo PCB (as Pubilshed)
Regulated Power Supply:
Set of resistors, capacitors and preset
Printed circuit board
16.04
52.20

## HI-FI TAPE LINK

Designed for use with reasonable quality tape decks this high performance pre-amp includes record, playback and metering circuits.
Stereo component set (excl. panel meter)
Mono component set (excl. parel meter)
Power supply component set
Stereo main PCB
Stereo sub-assembly PCB

## TAPE-NOISE LIMITER

Very effective circuit for reducing the hiss found in mos tape recordings.
Component set (incl. PCB)
Regulated power supply (including printed circuit
Rogurd)
PROJECT O4
Multi-system Quadraphonic Decoder
Decoder component set

## SEMICONDUCTOR TESTER

Essential test equipment for the enterprising home constructor.
Set of resistors, capacitors, semiconductors, potentiometers, makaswitches and sub-assembly (fuller details in list) $\quad$ E6.06
PCB

## PHASING UNIT

A simple but effective manually controiled unit for introducing the "phasing'" sound into live or recorded music.
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C2. 20
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The well-acclaimed and highly versatile Synthesiser published in P.E. Feb. 1973 10 Feb. 1974.

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Programmable for 64.000 rhythm patterns from 8 effects circuits (high and low bongos, bass and gnare drums ang and short brushes, blocks and cymbal). and with variable time signatures.

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Component set (excl. switehes)
Double-sided PCB for above
517.25
52.30

Mixer, Pre-amp and Effecta Cliculto
Component set
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Monltor Amplifier
Component set and PCB
Power Supply
Component set and PCB


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55.83
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A high-quallty unit having microphone and line input pre-amps, and providing full control over reverberation level.
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A moderately powered amplifier of more than average performance.
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Output Power: 25W RMS into $8 \mathrm{k} \Omega$. Load Impedence. $4-16 \mathrm{k} \Omega$. Input Soneltivity 00 b ( 0.775 V AMS). Input Impedance: 47 ñ. Distortion: Less than $0.1 \%$ at 25 W typically $0.05 \%$. Signal/Noles. Ratlo: Better than 75 ab . Frequeney Response: $10 \mathrm{~Hz}-50 \mathrm{kHz} \pm 3 \mathrm{ab}$. Supply Voltage: $\pm 25 \mathrm{~V}$. Size: $105 \times 50 \times 25 \mathrm{~mm}$


The PSU50 cen be used for sither mono or atereo systoms

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Output voltage: $\pm \mathbf{2 5 V}$. Inpul voltege: $210-240 \mathrm{~V}$. Size: L. 70

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$2.5 \mathrm{k}, ~ 6 \mathrm{k}, 10 \mathrm{k}, 25 \mathrm{k}$. b0k. $100 \mathrm{k}, 250 \mathrm{k}$,

## RESISTORS

Carbon Fijm $\frac{\Sigma}{} 5 \% 1 \Omega$ to $1 \mathrm{M} ; 10 \% 12 \mathrm{M}$ to 10 M E12 Carbon Pilm if s\% 110 to 910 k Eln \& E2t Carbon Film iw o\% in Metal Ozide iw $2 \%$ ins to 1M Wleqound $2 f$ W $10 \% 0$ ?20hms to 0 470hms Wirewound 21 W $8 \%$ lohm to 270 obm
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| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 10 P |  |  | Four Pole DT 3 A 240 V a.c. $\mathrm{TD}_{\mathrm{D}}$ . 81.37

Toggle 250V1.5A
witb $\mathrm{ON} / \mathrm{OF}$
piate 25 p .
piate 25p.

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