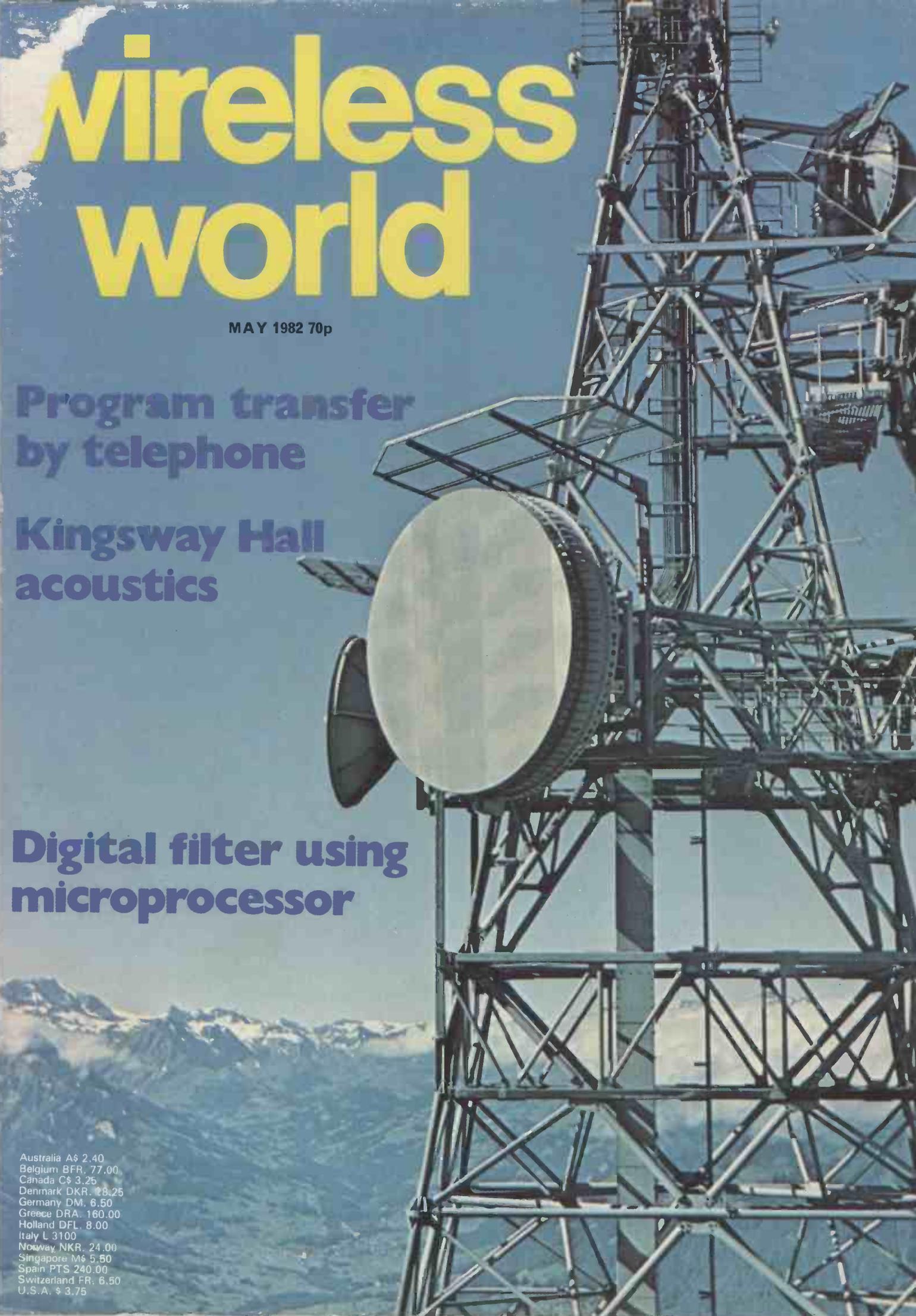


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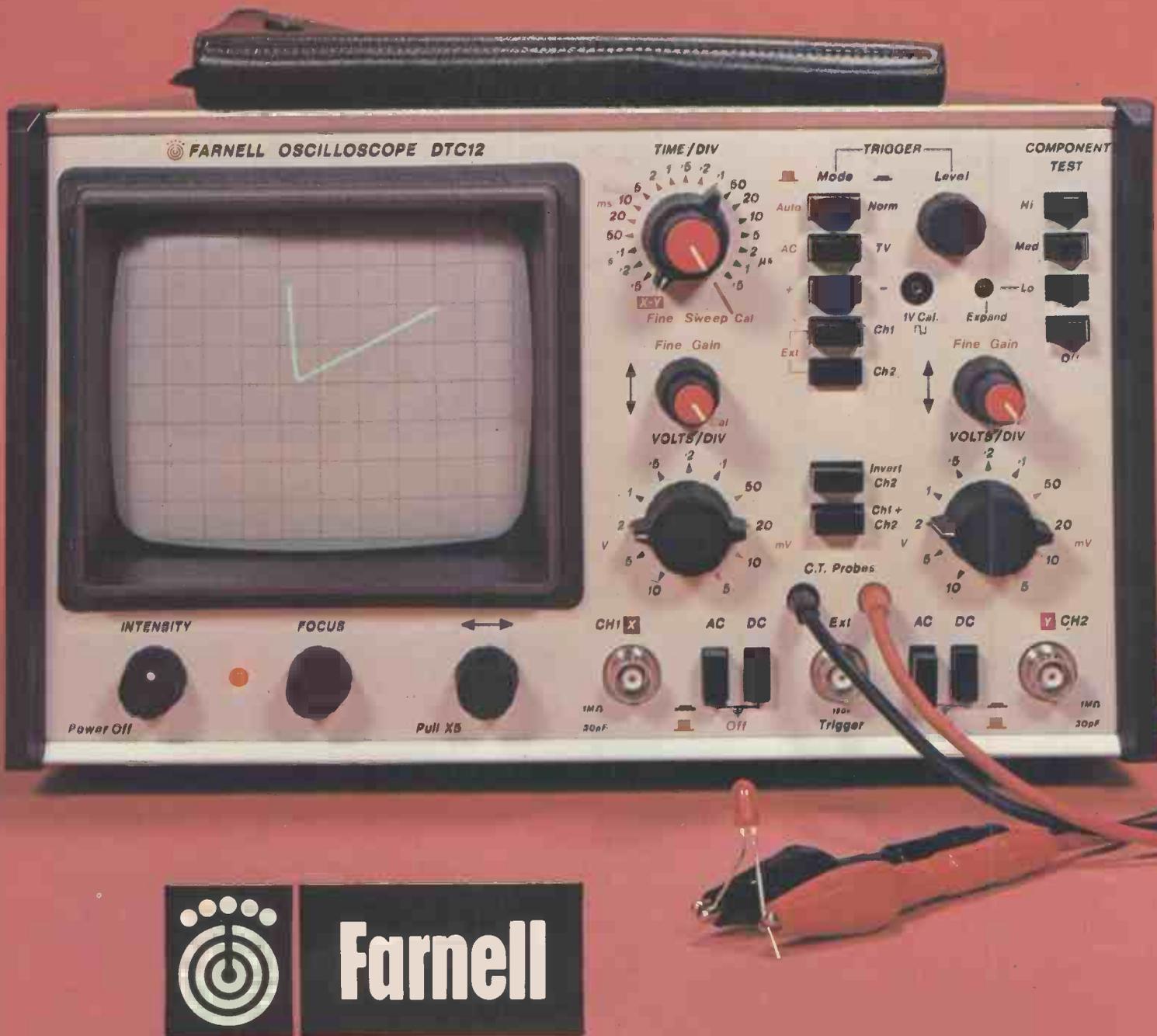
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USA mailing agents: Expeditors of the Printed Word Ltd, 527 Madison Avenue, Suite 1217, New York, NY 10022. 2nd-class postage paid at New York.

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RADIO

AUDIO

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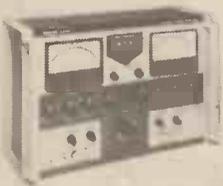
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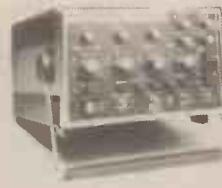
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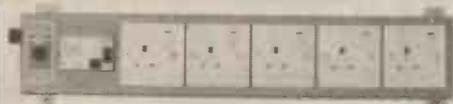


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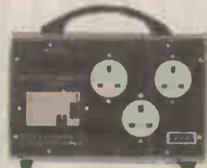
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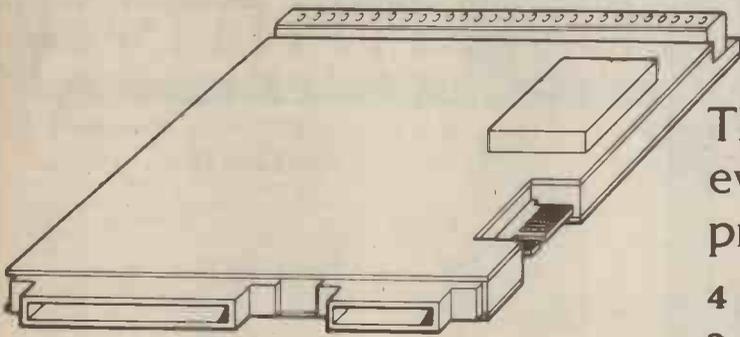
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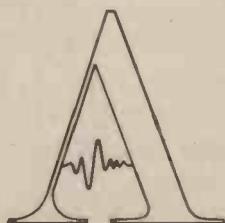
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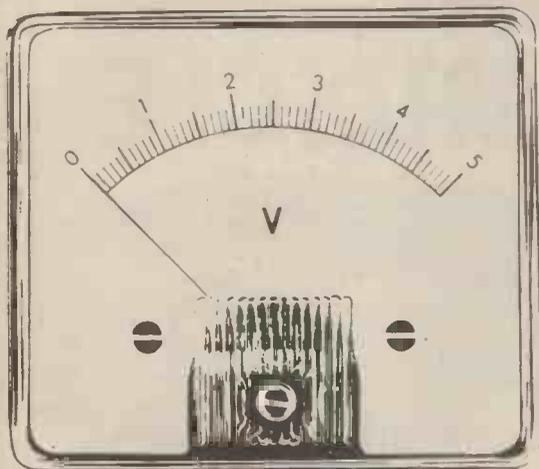
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Output: 2.0 m.c.d. at 12 mA
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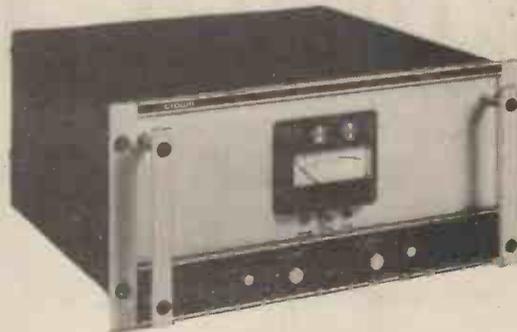
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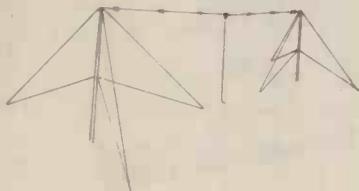
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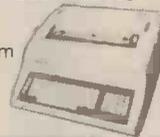


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Sinclair ZX81 Personal Computer the heart of a system that grows with you.

1980 saw a genuine breakthrough – the Sinclair ZX80, world's first complete personal computer for under £100. Not surprisingly, over 50,000 were sold.

In March 1981, the Sinclair lead increased dramatically. For just £69.95 the Sinclair ZX81 offers even more advanced facilities at an even lower price. Initially, even we were surprised by the demand – over 50,000 in the first 3 months!

Today, the Sinclair ZX81 is the heart of a computer system. You can add 16-times more memory with the ZX RAM pack. The ZX Printer offers an unbeatable combination of performance and price. And the ZX Software library is growing every day.

Lower price: higher capability

With the ZX81, it's still very simple to teach yourself computing, but the ZX81 packs even greater working capability than the ZX80.

It uses the same micro-processor, but incorporates a new, more powerful 8K BASIC ROM – the 'trained intelligence' of the computer. This chip works in decimals, handles logs and trig, allows you to plot graphs, and builds up animated displays.

And the ZX81 incorporates other operation refinements – the facility to load and save named programs on cassette, for example, and to drive the new ZX Printer.



New BASIC manual

Every ZX81 comes with a comprehensive, specially-written manual – a complete course in BASIC programming, from first principles to complex programs.

Kit: £49.⁹⁵

Higher specification, lower price – how's it done?

Quite simply, by design. The ZX80 reduced the chips in a working computer from 40 or so, to 21. The ZX81 reduces the 21 to 4!

The secret lies in a totally new master chip. Designed by Sinclair and custom-built in Britain, this unique chip replaces 18 chips from the ZX80!

New, improved specification

- Z80A micro-processor – new faster version of the famous Z80 chip, widely recognised as the best ever made.
- Unique 'one-touch' key word entry: the ZX81 eliminates a great deal of tiresome typing. Key words (RUN, LIST, PRINT, etc.) have their own single-key entry.
- Unique syntax-check and report codes identify programming errors immediately.
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- Graph-drawing and animated-display facilities.
- Multi-dimensional string and numerical arrays.
- Up to 26 FOR/NEXT loops.
- Randomise function – useful for games as well as serious applications.
- Cassette LOAD and SAVE with named programs.
- 1K-byte RAM expandable to 16K bytes with Sinclair RAM pack.
- Able to drive the new Sinclair printer.
- Advanced 4-chip design: micro-processor, ROM, RAM, plus master chip – unique, custom-built chip replacing 18 ZX80 chips.



Built: £69.⁹⁵

Kit or built – it's up to you!

You'll be surprised how easy the ZX81 kit is to build: just four chips to assemble (plus, of course the other discrete components) – a few hours' work with a fine-tipped soldering iron. And you may already have a suitable mains adaptor – 600 mA at 9 V DC nominal unregulated (supplied with built version).

Kit and built versions come complete with all leads to connect to your TV (colour or black and white) and cassette recorder.



ter-



Available now- the ZX Printer for only £49.⁹⁵

Designed exclusively for use with the ZX81 (and ZX80 with 8K BASIC ROM), the printer offers full alpha- numerics and highly sophisticated graphics.

A special feature is COPY, which prints out exactly what is on the whole TV screen without the need for further instructions.

At last you can have a hard copy of your program listings - particularly

useful when writing or editing programs.

And of course you can print out your results for permanent records or sending to a friend.

Printing speed is 50 characters per second, with 32 characters per line and 9 lines per vertical inch.

The ZX Printer connects to the rear of your computer - using a stackable connector so you can plug in a RAM pack as well. A roll of paper (65 ft long x 4 in wide) is supplied, along with full instructions.

16K-byte RAM pack for massive add-on memory.

Designed as a complete module to fit your Sinclair ZX80 or ZX81, the RAM pack simply plugs into the existing expansion port at the rear of the computer to multiply your data/program storage by 16!

Use it for long and complex programs or as a personal database. Yet it costs as little as half the price of competitive additional memory.

With the RAM pack, you can also run some of the more sophisticated ZX Software - the Business & Household management systems for example.

How to order your ZX81

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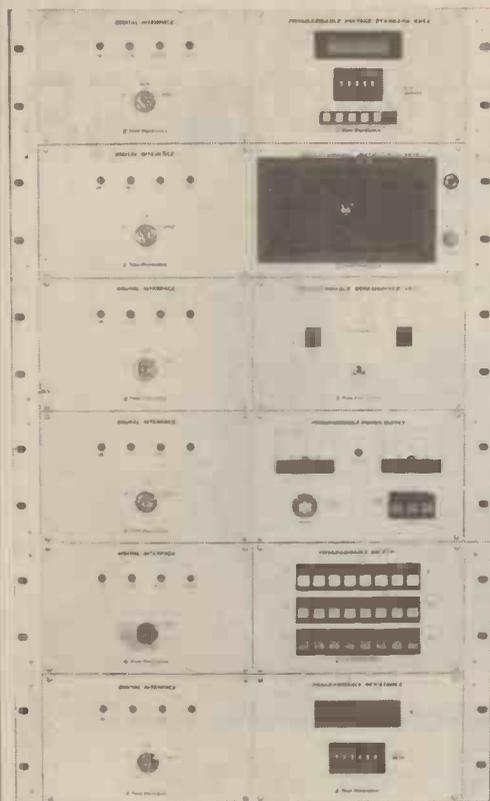
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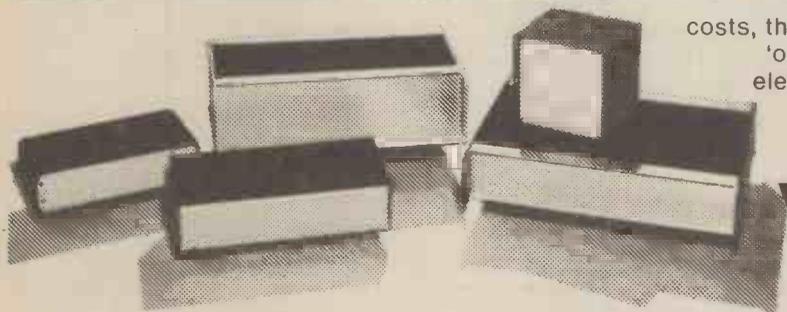
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Memotech's New Memory System for the ZX81

It grows as you progress



Memopak 16K Memory Extension

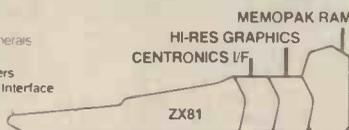
- £39.95 incl.VAT

It is a fact that the ZX81 has revolutionised home computing and coupled with the new Memopak 16K it gives you a massive 16K of Directly Addressable RAM, which is neither switched nor paged. With the addition of the Memopak 16K your ZX81's enlarged memory capacity will enable it to execute longer and more sophisticated programs, and to hold an extended database.

The 16K and 64K Memopaks come in attractive, custom-designed and engineered cases which fit snugly on to the back of the ZX81, giving firm, wobble-free connections. See below for ordering information.

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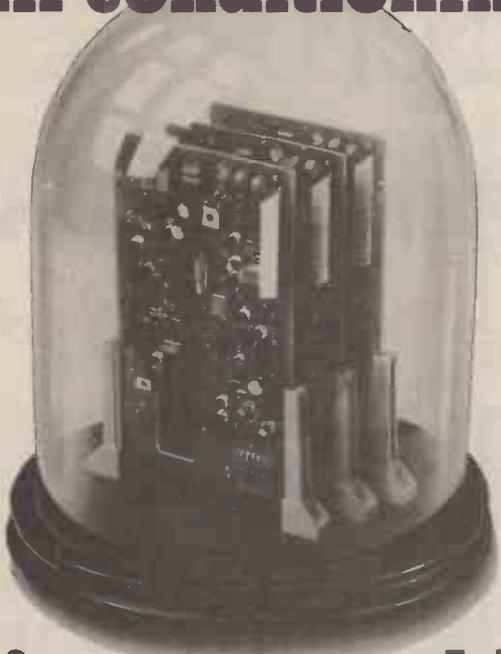
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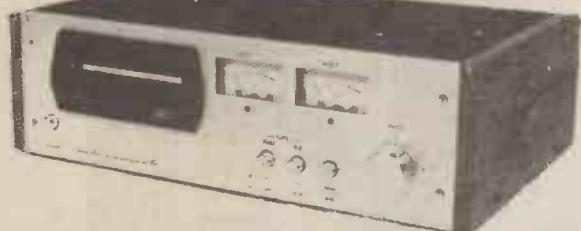
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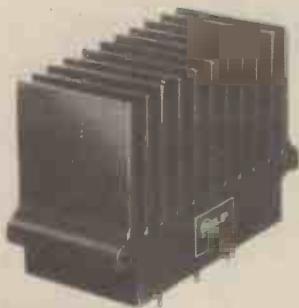
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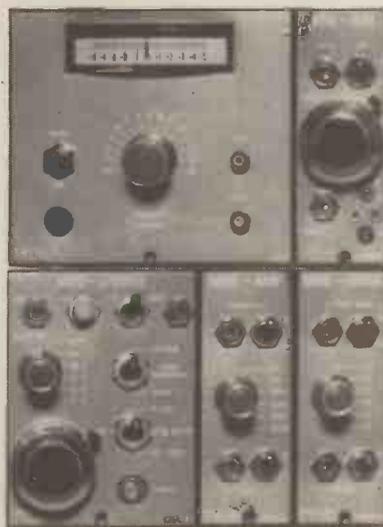
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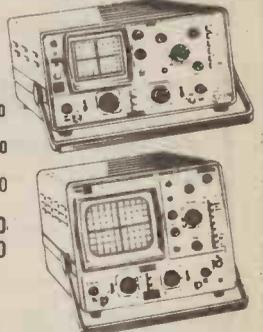
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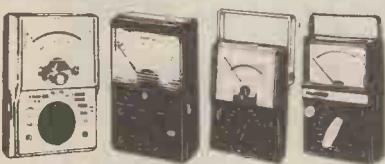
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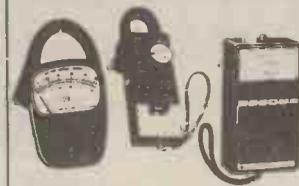
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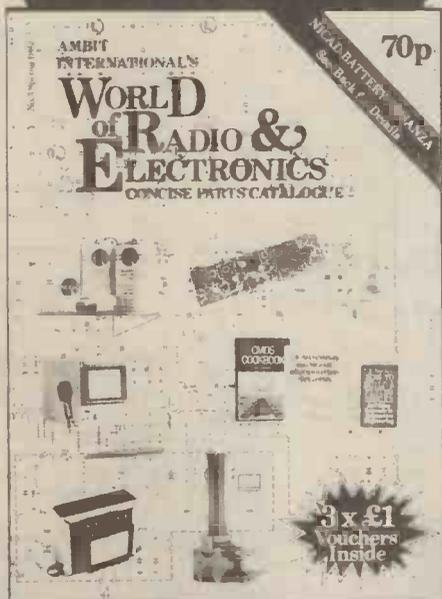
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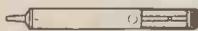
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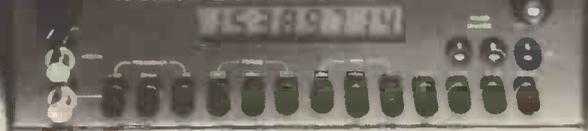
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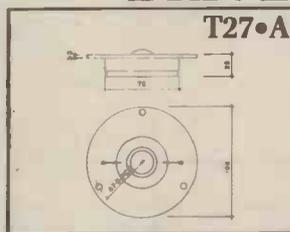
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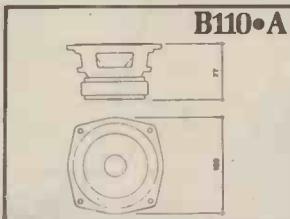
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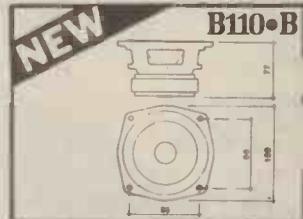
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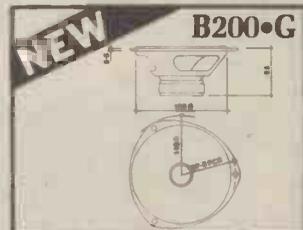
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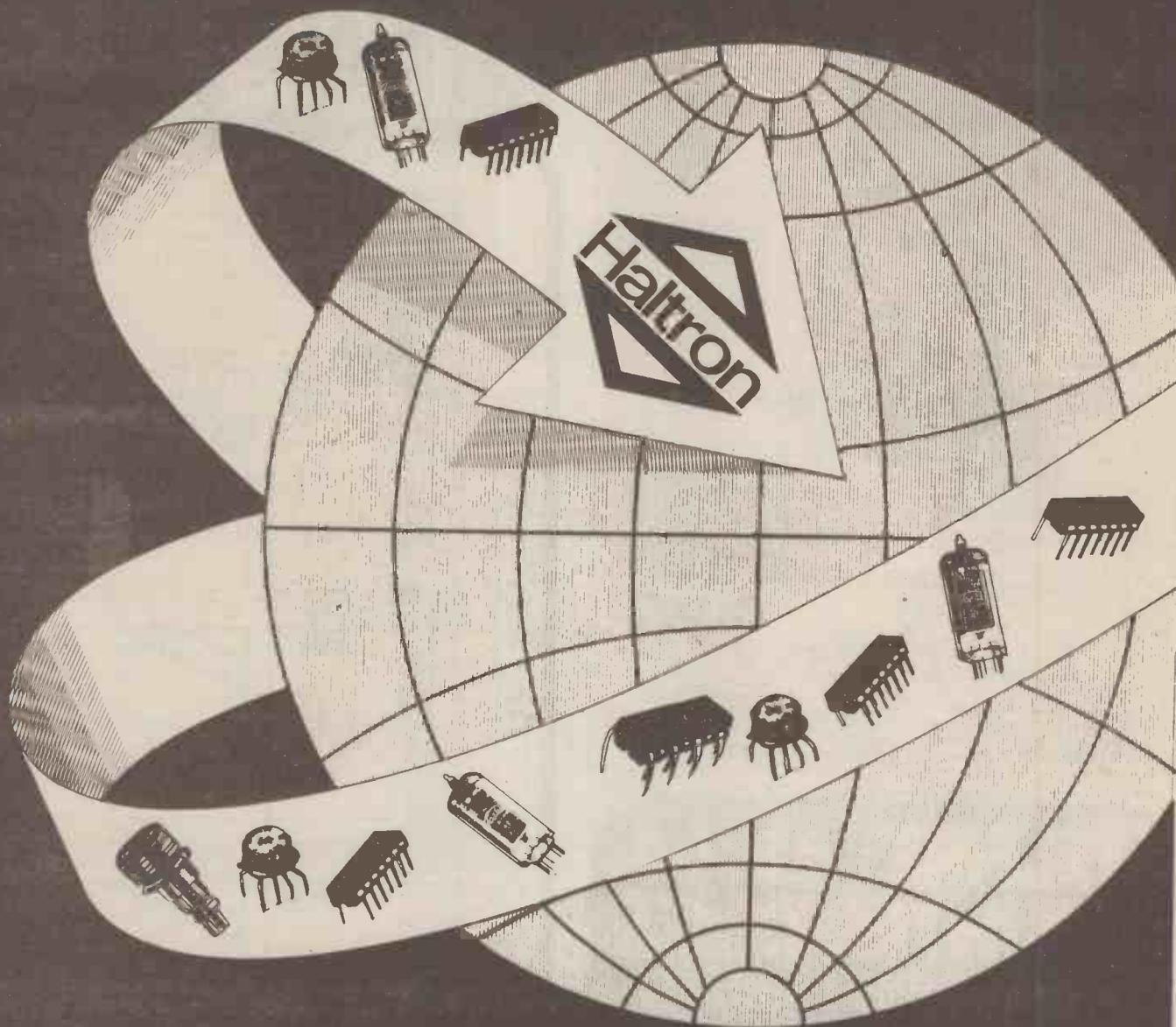
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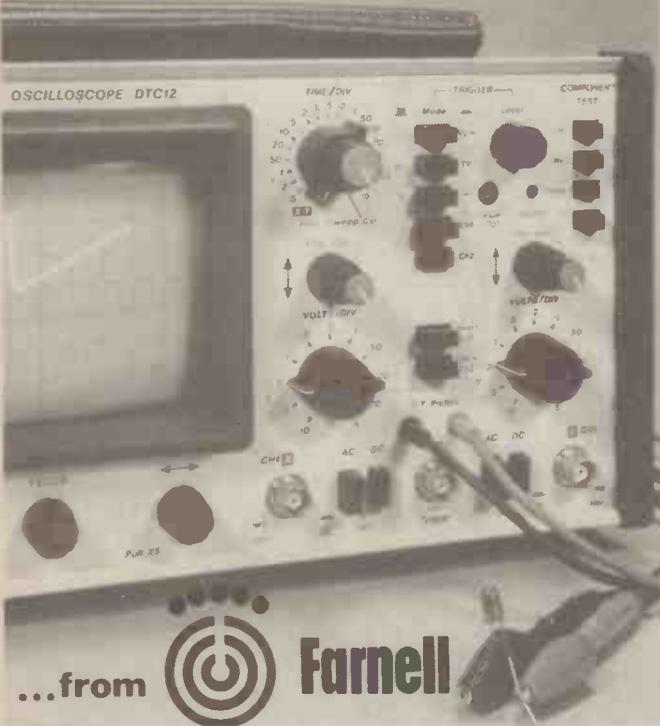
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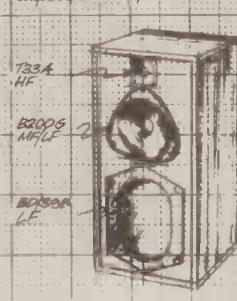
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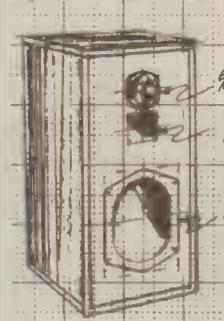
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Arms and the man

A great many words have been written in the last year or two on the amorality and expediency of engineering. On the one hand, some engineers have come to believe that the responsibility for rendering the bellicose ambitions of political leaders capable of realisation lies squarely with the designers and makers of lethal hardware – engineers themselves. If it were not for the complaisance of engineers, they say, the means to wage war in the modern manner would not exist.

Those who do not embrace this belief (or who choose to disregard its implications) point out that if “defence systems” – a weasel expression, referring to all military equipment, including that which by no stretch of the imagination can be seen in a posture of defence – were not available, then one “side” would subdue the other and impose its own ideology on the defeated. The solution to this problem, the holders of this view assert, is for each camp to arm itself to the teeth at an ever-increasing rate, threaten to irradiate the planet if provoked, but only to do so if the other side does it first. The unspeakable, impenetrable folly of such an attitude is almost too obvious to warrant argument: its holders would scarcely deny that that this method of preserving life and liberty is hardly compatible with the pursuit of happiness.

It is perfectly true, as apologists for the arms race often point out, that some of the effects of the insane compulsion to accumulate weapons are not at all as unsavoury as their *raison d'être*. “Spin-off” has provided most of the advances in, for example, electronics in the last few decades. Innovation and development are accelerating at such a rate that it is barely possible to see five years into the future, assuming there is one. But to what effect? After the expenditure of so much effort over so many years, with neither East or West yet persuaded that that an unstable equilibrium is a poor way to avoid catastrophic failure, are we being asked to believe that the possession of home computers, video games and digital wristwatches makes the whole thing worth while?

Some of the greatest scientists and engineers in the world, in both East and West, have laboured their entire working

lives to produce hellish machinery, the whole point of which is that it shall never be used. Hospitals, schools, universities are closed or run down so that more weapons can be bought or made and the only benefits in our own field that we have to show for all this misdirection of effort and resources are a few gadgets. Admittedly, communications have improved immeasurably in response to the stimulus of military requirement, but a good deal of the improvement is taken up by the provision of entertainment.

It is a specious argument, which takes no account of the time scale involved: even in the absence of military urgency, the “improvements” and engineering advances would most probably occur in their own good time, and who is to say that that sooner is better than later when the pace of progress outstrips our understanding of it?

Much that has been written on this theme has not dwelt on the inconveniently large question of waste. Materials, the efforts of gifted men and women, irreplaceable earth resources, time and the wealth of nations are all squandered to produce equipment which, if employed in the manner for which it was designed, would have failed in its purpose. And this while millions of people in all continents are deprived of the simplest staples of life. The contrast between profligacy in the highly developed and privation in the primitive is too stark for us to contemplate the continuation of useless armed posturing into the indefinite future: for that is the outlook – either a sudden and complete end to humanity or an interminable attitude of menace between East and West. *Scientific American* has pointed out that there are now more than three TNT – equivalent tons of nuclear explosive for every single person on earth.

It has been said before on this page, and it will bear repeating, that engineers in all the developed countries have made the confrontation possible. It is therefore engineers who are in the best position to bring it to an end, by simply refusing to work on armaments. Call it rebellion or simply common sense, but since politicians the world over seem bent on killing us all, it is the only way to avoid collective suicide.

ORCHESTRAL SOUND, HALLS AND TIMBRE or—'why does it sound so beautiful?'

This article examines aspects of the appreciation of orchestral sound, with particular reference to the transfer characteristics of the outer ear and its influence on timbre in various directions and on our sense of orientation. New subjective criteria are proposed. The Kingsway Hall is used as a model in the discussion

by Denis Vaughan*



For several decades the most sought-after venue for recording orchestral music in England has been the Kingsway Hall in London: legend has it that Sir Thomas Beecham was the first to identify this hall as particularly suited for the purpose. Are there some identifiable reasons for its superior warmth and clarity? Could they be applied elsewhere.

My interest in acoustics was stimulated by a request from the Australian Broadcasting Commission. The quest to find a common denominator for warm, rich string tone in a hall and in a recording has led me to study many halls, and to analyse musical qualities and our hearing capacities. These analyses have brought several surprises. First of all come our hearing capacities.

Timbre

Our localization of sound is based on three main complementary systems: only two of

Horseshoe balcony in the Kingsway Hall is only 17m wide, giving early reflections back at the orchestra.

these have been used so far in stereo recording techniques. The first is based on the exact timing of impulses to each ear. A difference of 0.63 milliseconds we interpret as a change of angle of 90° in the direction of the earlier impulse. So we can, miraculously, recognise a timing difference as small as 0.007ms, the time necessary to move the sound source one degree to the side. The second is based on loudness and intensity: a softer sound will seem farther away. We apply this in localization: just a small change in volume on one channel will shift a stereo picture to the left or right and a general rise in level brings an instrument nearer to us. But the third system, timbre, has yet to be explored.

We hear a different timbre from every angle. Move a small clock around close to your ear, and you will notice that you can always tell where it is, and that the sound

is never identical. If the clock is near your ear but always equidistant from it, this test excludes the possibility of the impulse or intensity methods contributing to the effect: we recognize each and every direction partly by its own particular timbre. If you change the timbre, the apparent direction changes. The filtering effect of our external ear, illustrated by Fig. 1 and Fig. 2, causes us to hear a very odd balance in sound reaching us face-on. The left-hand column of Fig. 3 shows that, with 400Hz as 0dB, there is a strong peak at 3kHz of 12dB and a deep trough at 10kHz of -10.5dB. So we hear certain upper-high frequencies (except 14 and 15kHz) frontally very much weaker than those at 3kHz.

timbre n. Characteristic quality of sound produced by a particular voice or instrument, depending on the number and character of the overtones.

*Musical Director, State Opera of South Australia

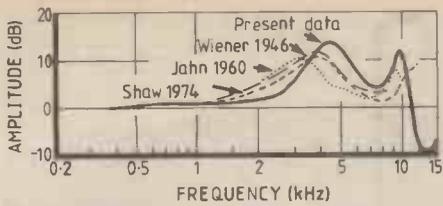


Fig. 1. Filtering effect of the ear canal, showing peaks near 5 and 10kHz, common to all that we hear. All frequencies above 11kHz are much weaker.

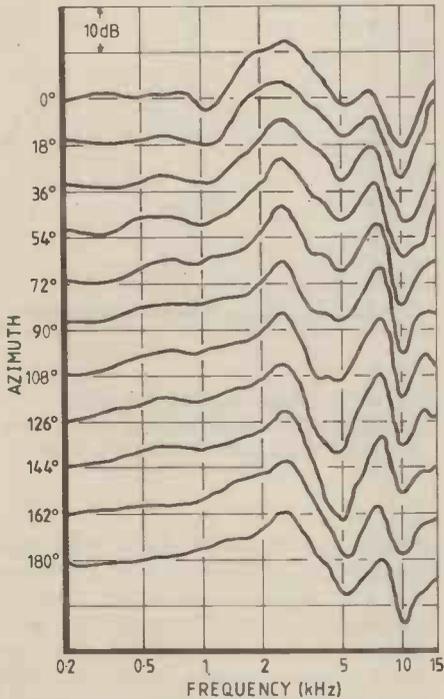


Fig. 2. Filtering effect of the outer ear on sounds arriving in the horizontal plane. 0° corresponds to a point straight in front.

Horizontally to the side at 90° the balance is more even. The upper frequencies become as much as 15dB stronger than the frontal spectrum and the various peaks at lower pitches are smoother, thus reducing the range between the extremes to only 15dB as opposed to the 22.5dB range of the frontal spectrum. But the sensitivity which we have at 90° for 12 and 13kHz starts to disappear already at 54° and 144°. Figures 4 and 5 summarize the table of Fig. 1 graphically.

You may have noticed another aural characteristic. We tend to identify bass notes as coming from below our ears; also, the higher we sit in a hall, the warmer it sounds. I believe that we react similarly to loudspeaker placing. Surprisingly, above our heads we can hear a strong peak at 8 and 9kHz, as shown by Fig. 6. In fact we can only hear 8kHz as coming from that direction, no matter where the sound source. But further up the spectrum, above 10.5kHz, we hear very little from over our heads. Therefore in a low room or a hall, where the predominant early reflections come from the ceiling, we can perceive very little refinement, delicacy or texture in the sound. Figure 7 is the graphical representation of Fig. 6.

Musical qualities

It is no easy task to prepare a preferential list of musical qualities in sound. Celibidache and other conductors, and several recording engineers and producers have approved the following list, which should only be regarded as tentative, and wide open to improvements:

- richness – powerful multiple reflections;
- density – many reflections across the hall within one second from a single impulse;
- warmth – a strong bass-heavy frequency response curve, with a plateau in the tenor octave (125-250Hz) tapering off smoothly towards the top;
- clarity – medium high frequencies arriving from all directions shortly after the original sound;
- intimacy – an adequate supply of frequencies between 11 and 15kHz arriving early at the ear between 54° and 144° horizontally, and below 60° vertically;
- weight – low frequencies arriving shortly after the original sound;
- singing tone – a growth in the reverberation reaching a peak about 100 milliseconds after the original sound, then dying away smoothly over about 1.8 secs.

One reason why richness – and not a long reverberation – tops the list is because a variety of reflections coming from many angles close upon each other gives our ears a full frequency coverage. With our aural limitations of timbre in any one direction, the deficiencies can be made good only by receiving sound from all sides. In Avery Fisher Hall in New York, you can hear that in some upper/front balcony seats, where richness is present, any lack of the other qualities is much less noticeable.

Impulses

Another reason for our appreciation of richness is our astonishing capacity for quickly perceiving separate impulses in

sound. Tests have shown that all listeners prefer to hear orchestral sound impulses which do not arrive simultaneously in both ears – hence the preference for stereo over mono. This scattering of the impulses is called ‘binaural dissimilarity’. In a concert hall, it is the extent of the initial time-delay gap between the original sound and the first reflection – often about 40ms in a medium-sized hall – which gives much of the character to the acoustic. (Intimacy has been associated with this gap, but my list suggests other requisites.) Our ears appreciate these reflections most when they arrive close to horizontally from the side. My timbre lists show that the timbre of a hall is influenced for us first by the angle at which we hear the strongest first reflection, and then by the shape and materials of the hall, or room, and the reverberant spaces beneath it.

When we receive a lot of early reflections, one shortly after another, these impulses come in an arpeggiated form – in slow motion rather like the thrumming of a chord on a harp. This sequence of impulses we perceived as being much richer than an instantaneous reflection. A digital delay unit demonstrates this quickly, by making two or three string instruments sound like a rich chorus. Halls are preferred where the sequence of impulses, whether first or later reflections, dies away evenly. It is called a ‘smooth decay curve’.

Home simulation

These two keys to richness, namely timbre and impulses, are demonstrable in the home with a system which I hope will be developed in the phonographic industry, as soon as the field of the external ear is completely measured. The system would need at least ten loudspeakers: one large one on the floor to represent the orchestra, and the smaller ones set around the room above and below the ear level, with the apposite timbre applied to each speaker

FRONTAL SPECTRUM	FREQUENCY	ANGLE												OPPOSITE FIELD Sound coming from left to right ear		
		0°	18°	36°	54°	72°	90°	108°	126°	144°	162°	180°	Low Angle	Peak Angle		
-0.5dB	200Hz	0dB	1.5	2.5	2	1	2	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	-3	-108	+2	-36
+0.5	500	0	1	2.5	4	4	5.5	4.5	4	3.5	2	-0.5	-2.5	-140/60	0	-90
+1	700	0	1	2.5	3.5	4.5	5	5	4.5	3.5	1	-0.5	-4	-140/45	-2	-90
-2	1kHz	0	2.5	4	4.5	6.5	7.5	7	6.5	5.5	5	4	-6	-30	+5	-90
+10	2	0	2	2	1.5	1.5	0.5	0	-1.5	-2	-2	-3.5	-12	-110/-75	-7	-90
+12	3	0	1	2	3	2	-1	-2	-2.5	-2.5	-3	-3.5	-15	-110	-8	-90
+5	4	0	3	4	3.5	1.5	-2	-5.5	-8.5	-8	-6.5	-5.5	-15	-120/-75	-9	-90
-1.5	5	0	3.5	4	5	4.5	3.5	0.5	-5.5	-9	-8	-7	-13.5	-120/-75	-12	-90
-0.5	6	0	4	6.5	7	7.5	7	5.5	2.5	-3	-4.5	-5	-13	-110/-60	-12	-85
+1.5	7	0	4.5	8.5	10	11	10	8.5	6.5	2.5	-1	-2.5	-13	-110/-50	-10	-90
-2	8	0	4.5	8	11	14	15	14.5	12	7.5	3.5	2.5	-10	-120/-75	-5	-90
-8	9	0	3.5	5.5	7	8.5	11.5	11	8	4.5	1	-0.5	-7.5	-130/-50	-5	-90
-10.5	10	0	3	5.5	7	7	6.5	7	7.5	4.5	2.5	-2.5	-6	-135/90/50	-3	-110/-75
-10	11	0	3	3.5	6	7.5	7	7.5	7	6.5	2	-2				
-7	12	0	5	1.5	3.5	7	8.5	8	6.5	3.5	1.5	-2.5	-7.5	-130/-90	-3	-75
-2	13	0	4	0	1.5	5	5.5	6	5	1	0	-4.5				
+2	14	0	6.5	2	2	2.5	2	1.5	-0.5	-2.5	-4	-7	-11	-120/-50	-3	-75
+3.5	15	0	5.5	2.5	3	1.5	0.5	-1	-2	-3.5	-5	-7.5				

Fig. 3. Lateral differences in timbre for one ear, compared to sound reaching us from straight ahead at eye level (from Mehrgardt and Mellert).

according to its direction (to help to lock the stereo image) and with increasing time-delays on each speaker, equivalent to those we hear in a fine hall like Kingsway. A six-track tape or cassette could probably supply sufficient source material. All initial tests I have made in this direction improve the timbre and richness far beyond the one-plane, identical-timing and timbre of the quadrophonic system. Without dropping hints, we might call the new system 'decahphonic'. It develops the Bose system of reflections from all sides, which works best for me in rooms with little or no damping. Both point to the increased physical satisfaction when our orientation filtering system is being fully utilized in the appreciation of musical sound. The main problem lies in fixing the delicate balance between focused image and general immersion in the sound.

I have always found a stereo image to improve greatly when the frontal speakers stand at least three feet in front of a wall, as the timing of the frontal wall reflection seems to give full depth to the image. Thus, under ideal circumstances, an orchestra seems to be the same distance behind the speakers as the orchestra was behind the microphones in the studio — hence the need for simple microphone techniques. To obtain this effect in a room, I have often needed to set the speakers parallel and not angled towards me. In general, and sometimes despite manufacturers' advice, the adage of the RCA engineer Albert Pulley seems to work well in practice — that is, to set the speakers at a quarter of the width in from the sides and a quarter of the length of the room from the end. (Domestic bliss can be reserved with this obstructive placing if

the speakers are disguised as occasional tables.)

Long reverberation

Until such a time as a 'decahphonic' system is common currency, it is fairly obvious why very reverberant halls will be favoured for recording. Present systems use mainly microphones which pick up frontally frequencies that we can never hear there (with our 3kHz peak, 10kHz trough, and general cut-off in the ear canal above 11kHz). Also the loudspeakers are usually placed at angles where we cannot perceive several other frequencies very well, showing a 20dB range between the 3kHz and 11kHz readings. The simplest way of covering up these two aural mismatches is to add reverberation to diffuse and thus beautify the sound.

This has the unfortunate effect of robbing the interpreter of a number of breathtaking dramatic effects, because he can never achieve a quick silence, until the common 2.5s of reverberation has died away. That would never have done for Verdi, Toscanini or Callas.

Instead we should seek out a true and satisfying way to give us global (360°) reflections in the reproduction, and thus a natural, full-frequency spectrum, concentrating on our most sensitive area, between 40° and 140° laterally. Even most headphones are unnatural (save those with multi-speakers) in that they eliminate the whole of our own aural frequency filter system. The great advances in 'Kopfbezogene stereophonie' (binaural recording) fall back at this point.

Architectural prerequisites

The quest for the physical conditions necessary to produce warm, rich string tone in a concert hall was sparked off by the decision of my home town, Melbourne, Australia, to spend 33.5 million dollars (A) to build a 35 metre square, virtually all-concrete hall for that purpose. Of the many indications given to me, two of the most revealing were from Villem Jordan and Derek Sugden. Jordan could not obtain 'lateral efficiency' in a hall wider than 27 metres, and observed that all the famous halls had smaller widths. Sugden stated:

"A hall must have 'presence' so that you not only preserve clarity in a reverberant field but the music will have 'weight'. A powerful sound in the first 100 milliseconds is necessary. This can be achieved preferably with a width of about 18 metres, and if this is not possible then deep balconies must be used, or the technique of putting the audience in terraces and providing large surfaces for lateral reflections. There must be rapidly following early reflections to really achieve intimacy or presence."

A third useful piece of wisdom came from Decca's former chief engineer, Kenneth Wilkinson:

"I have recorded in many halls throughout Europe and America and have found that halls built of mainly brick, wood and soft plaster, which are usually older halls, always produce a good,

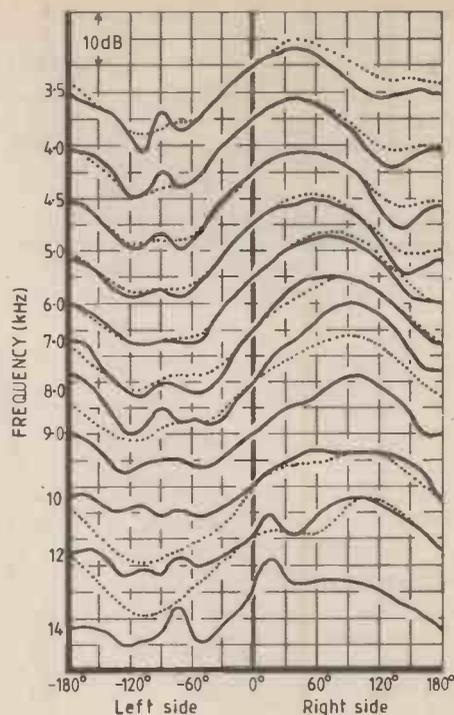


Fig. 5. Continuation of Fig. 4 in range 3.5kHz to 14kHz. Small peak at -90° on left side persists up to 9kHz, then moves to -75°.

natural, warm sound. Halls built with concrete and hard plaster seem to produce a thin, hard sound and always a lack of warmth and bass. Consequently, when looking for halls to record in, I always avoid modern concrete structures." This statement has been endorsed by most of the other large record companies.

First reflections

In all the famous orchestral halls, the first lateral reflections come from the side balcony faces. Their timing is exactly controlled by the width (1 foot ≈ 1s). So a central seat in the Leipzig Gewandhaus, with only 12.5m between the balcony faces, had an initial time delay gap of around 41ms. Vienna Musikvereinsaal with 15m had 49ms, Boston Symphony Hall (17/19.3m) 56/63ms, and the Amsterdam Concertgebouw (19.3m) 63ms. Those figures give a very good idea of the relative clarity and definition, intimacy and density of sound in each of the above halls. As upper-high frequencies fall off audibly through atmospheric absorption after about 15 metres, Leipzig and Vienna must have the best quality.

Looking at the Kingsway Hall, it is easy to see where it satisfies the main requirements. Its full width is at the upper limit, 27 metres, with inner walls set on pillars at 19 metres width. But the width between the horseshoe balcony faces, with a very useful curved reflecting surface beneath them, is only 17 metres at its widest point. The balcony surrounds the orchestra at a height of 3.5 metres. To be honest, I think that such a horseshoe would bring any large symphony orchestra good acoustical luck. It gives all the players reflections back early enough, and at the right angle, to allow them to obtain

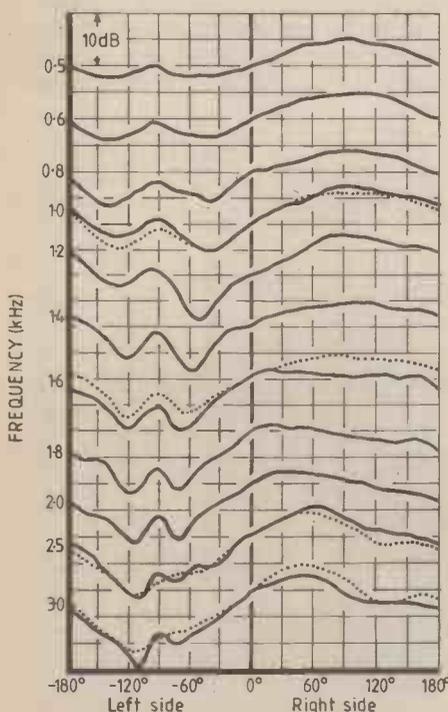


Fig. 4. Graphical summary of lateral differences in sound pressure for the right ear. Negative angles refer to sound coming from the left side of the head. Range is from 500Hz to 3kHz.

good ensemble. The unbroken surface allows early bass reflections to come back to the microphones (not too strong, mind you) because the long bass waves are reflected intact, and from a shape consonant to their own. It might be worth copying this reflecting shape in Abbey Road, Maida Vale, Henry Wood, Walthamstow, Brent and Watford, to name but a few London recording halls. The shape is reminiscent of those marvellous small Italian theatres.

In recent years, the Kingsway lease has been shared by EMI and Decca, also subletting it to RCA and other companies. Virtually all the seats have been removed downstairs and many upstairs covered with cloth. At the moment its reverberation time with an orchestra present is about 2.5 seconds.

Hall background noise

Poor Wagner cannot have guessed that in 'Tristan and Isolde', by giving his shepherd on the rocks a woodwind solo which lasted more than four minutes, he was condemning one of his greatest interpreters - Furtwangler - to recording a duet for English Horn and Piccadilly Line Train. Unfortunately, collaboration between EMI and London Underground is not yet such that the engineer's 'red light area' can extend to such nether regions. The rumble of the tube trains would not be so noticeable, were Kingsway not such a good hall. Moreover the cavernous storerooms and airducts beneath the main floor, which undoubtedly contributes to the warmth of the sound there, develop the tube rumble with equal generosity - a sound which is cruelly revealed by digital recording techniques. The hall is very much alive at all frequencies, even when no-one is in it. The presence of 80 musicians is something which you not only feel there, but which gives the indispensable and audible human element to the music, with myriad small high-frequency extra-musical sounds. The ease of tone and spaciousness achieved in Beecham's 'Scheherzade' and Furtwangler's 'Tristan' have to my ears yet to be bettered on disc. Both recordings managed to reproduce the 'hush' which was present during the sessions, and which is an integral part of the greatness of the musical interpretations. A bald silence behind the music is the antithesis of this spell-binding, breathless hush, and unfortunately I fear that Dolby techniques so far, in their valiant battle to eliminate tape hiss and mechanical noise, have also eliminated some of this integral part of the music. Digital recording is proving to be one of the better ways, which do not reduce the human element in a performance, and the comment of the acoustic on this human element.

'Singing' decay curve

It would be fascinating to know just why the string sound at the beginning of the third movement of the Beecham 'Scheherzade' is so natural. To write this article, I went down on my hands and

FRONTAL SPECTRUM	FREQUENCY	0°	9°	27°	45°	63°	85° (Overhead)	99°	117°	135°	153°	171°	180° (behind)
-0.5dB	200Hz	0	-0.5	-0.5	1.5	1.5	-1.5	-1	0	1	-1	0	0
+0.5	500	0	0.5	2	1.5	-0.5	-1.5	-0.5	0	1	1.5	0	-0.5
+1	700	0	0	-1	-4	-4.5	-5	-3	-2.5	-2	1	0	-0.5
-2	1kHz	0	0.5	1	1.5	2	0.5	0	0.5	1.5	3.5	4	4
+10	2	0	-2	-4	-5	-5.5	-6.5	-7	-5.5	-4.5	-4	-4.5	-3.5
+12	3	0	-0.5	-2	-3	-4	-4.5	-5.5	-6	-5.5	-5	-3.5	-3.5
+5	4	0	-0.5	-1	-2	-2.5	-4	-5.5	-6.5	-7	-7	-6	-5.5
-1.5	5	0	-0.5	-1	-0.5	-2	-4.5	-5.5	-6.5	-7	-7	-7	-7
-0.5	6	0	1	3	2.5	2	-0.5	-2	-2.5	-3.5	-4	-4.5	-5
+1.5	7	0	1.5	5	7	6.5	4	2	2.5	2	0.5	-2	-2.5
-2	8	0	2	8	12	12.5	12	10	9	10	7	4	2.5
-8	9	0	1.5	7	10	12.5	13.5	12	11.5	11	7	1.5	-0.5
-10.5	10	0	1	5	5.5	8	8.5	7.5	7	3.5	0.5	-1.5	-2.5
-10	11	0	0.5	1	-1	2	4.5	0.5	-1	-1.5	-4.5	-2	-2
-7	12	0	0.5	2	-1	-2.5	0	-3	-5.5	-2.5	-3	-2.5	-2.5
-2	13	0	1	2	-3.5	-7.5	-4	-7.5	-10	-6	-8	-7	-4.5
+2	14	0	0.5	1	-3	-7	-2	-8	-10	-8	-7.5	-7	-7
+3.5	15	0	0	0	-3.5	-8	-0.5	-8.5	-11.5	-8	-7	-7.5	-7.5

Positive quantities Outlined area = stronger sensitivity at 7 to 10kHz

Fig. 6. Vertical differences in timbre (equal for both ears) compared to sound reaching us from straight ahead at eye level. From Mehrgardt and Mellert.

knees, and with the generous help of the Kingsway caretaker, measured the various distances, counter-checking them against the few remaining plans of the hall. So please do not expect total accuracy.

All the great halls have a certain 'singing' tone, characterized by a crescendo in the decay curve. Just as we can all sing better in the bathroom, because the acoustic supports us, so the 'singing' curve gives a lift to the performers, and allows the music to take wing, without need for forcing. (I think that adding a short peak of this nature to a dry recording would give more musical results than the general confusion caused by the usual long reverberation.) No one has the formula for its production in a hall. Guildford thinks that it needs a large area of parallel surfaces above the highest seat, as in Vienna, Boston, Amsterdam, etc. Joan Sutherland (and I) think that it needs also a set of hard surfaces around the hall at the level of the performers. Schultz that it needs a filigree of smaller surfaces for the very first reflections. It is probably a combination of all three.

For the Beecham sessions, with the orchestra facing the organ, the microphones were about 2 metres in front of the stage. For an instrument just under the microphone this gives the following sequence of delays in the reflections from various parts of the hall after the original sounds:

Stage front, 14ms; upper stage front, 30ms; side balconies, 48ms; back balcony, 54ms (first frontal reflection); ceiling, 57ms (larger); diagonal walls beside organ, 73ms; side walls down stairs, 81ms (larger); arches between side pillars and inner walls, 93ms (et seq.); ceiling curves, 100ms (larger); backwall downstairs, 105ms (larger); curves organ ceiling, 111ms; side wall upstairs, 133ms (larger); back wall upstairs, 147ms (larger).

Some of these figures should be higher, where the reflection can only come back to

the microphone with the help of a secondary surface, such as side wall upstairs/lower ceiling. As the microphone is not very sensitive on top (and fickle memory suggests that the stereo microphones were hung upside down for 'Scheherzade'), this means that the effectively larger reflections start about 18ms after the original sound. Boston's singing tone is based on a growth up to a peak in the decay curve, the peak reaching from 100 to 150ms. Amsterdam puts it even later. By Sugden's standards of 'presence' and 'weight' Kingsway has quite a lot of powerful reflections to offer within the first 105ms, because the larger reflections continue to return up to 14ms, the substantial and lengthy support of the musicians is assured, before the riotous ping-pong of the subsequent reverberation

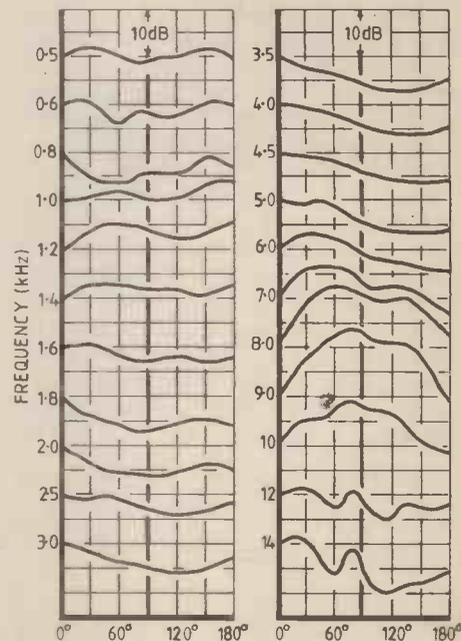


Fig. 7. Vertical differences in sound pressure perceived equally by both ears. 90° is overhead, 180° behind.

in every direction sets in. All later reflections are naturally weaker.

Curves

Robert Lloyd, the bass, has observed that wherever there are a lot of curved surfaces, the acoustic tends to be very good. When the curves are concave, they may match the shape in which the sound waves first reach them, and thus reflect them well. When the curves are convex, they distribute the sound waves evenly over wide areas. Kingsway is rich in both types of curve. Nearly all the stage-end surfaces are curved one way or the other, with many interim small reflections, such as curves over doors, etc. I hope sincerely that this article may stimulate others to copy them, above all because of the full-frequency-range efficiency of the initial long horseshoe curve of the balcony face and its undercurve. For a full symphony orchestra it comes at an ideal moment to break up the sound, and is as worthy of respect as the exact measurements of the orchestral shell in the Boston Symphony Hall. If you wish to copy a Stradivarius, all details are relevant!

Reversal

It would be interesting to know whether sharp-eared listeners with refined equipment can detect the differences in recordings made in Kingsway the other way round, with the orchestra's back to the organ. Many recent opera recordings use this setup, which puts the singers in a better relationship to the orchestra, and allows them to move as though on a stage. It also allows the full depth of the voices to develop, in the essential 8-10 metre distance to the main orchestral microphones.

But this way round, the reflection pattern for the orchestra is changed. The low front of the stage and the small upper stage must substitute for the 3.5m high curve of the long back balcony face. The frontal, early deep-bass reflection at microphone height at 54ms has been replaced by a very early one at about 8-10ms. The difference ought to be noticeable to keen listeners as this new reflection is behind the microphones.

Awareness

Perhaps the foregoing analyses of several aspects of hearing will help listeners

towards a greater appreciation of colour and texture in sound. The measurements of timbre are far from complete, and more details are due to be published next year, covering the whole of the upper right hemisphere of our field of hearing.

When stereophony was introduced, analyses of aural localization mentioned the three systems available to our body – giving the greatest importance to the timing of impulses, much less to intensity, and virtually dismissing timbre differences as inessential. It remains to be seen whether in fact timbre is not the Cinderella of the trio, ready to blossom into the most beautiful attribute when it is identified, recognized and espoused for its true worth. □

Further reading

Analyses of musical qualities and hearing: *J. Sound and Vibration*, 1980, vol. 69 pp 110-138. *Musical Times*, Jan./Feb./Mar. 1981. *Studio Sound*, J y 1981, pp 62-66.

Timbre lists; *Musical Times*, Jan./Feb./Mar. 1981.

Langmuir thin-film trough for molecular electronics

Collaboration between scientific instrument makers Joyce Loebel and a number of research establishments, especially Durham University, RSRE Malvern and ICI, has resulted in what is believed to be the world's first commercial ultra-thin film "growing" equipment. The films in question are monomolecular layers of a class of materials floated on a liquid surface, usually water transferable to a solid surface by passing it through the liquid. The material originally used by the pioneer of this technique – Irving Langmuir of General Electric back in 1917 – was the soap-like fatty acid salt sodium stearate, but other materials and their deposition on solid surfaces were subsequently investigated by Langmuir and Blodgett, one result being the development of glass anti-reflection coatings. Chief property of the materials used is a rod-like molecule, one end of which is attracted to water and the other end repelled so they stand end-on (assuming the material is correctly compressed). But the trough is aimed at possible new applications of L-B films that arise largely out of microelectronics technology. Such layers, one molecule thick, are becoming important in what is called molecular electronics – the "science of



clever chemistry and electronics". Applications include insulating layers as thin as 10^{-9} metre in gallium arsenide devices and as a resist in electron-beam lithography. Organic layers may have application for gas detection, while biological molecules such as antibodies and enzymes may make field-effect devices feasible for *in vivo* monitoring. In integrated optics they offer a route to the precise building of multilayer films to one tenth of an Angstrom unit, perhaps with the molecular addition of metallic atoms to tailor response to radiation.

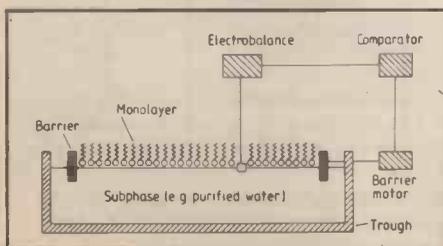
"Molecular Lego", as it has been dubbed, also has potential application to energy conversion devices, photosynthesis, magneto-optics, three-dimensional memory devices, and to display devices, where high electric fields may allow a high-speed alternative to current technology.

Molecules are compressed in the Lang-

muir trough with a constant-perimeter variable-area boundary which encloses the monolayer and prevents film contamination. A sensitive microbalance with sensor in the liquid surface monitors differential surface tension, and links through a control system to the barrier drive. A motor-driven micrometer screw automatically drives a substrate in and out of the liquid. Constant surface pressure is provided by a differential feedback system to maintain film integrity. A pre-determined number of monolayers can be programmed by a control unit using a range of dipping speeds, and a two-pen recorder charts surface pressure and area during deposition.

The trough is made by Joyce-Loebel, a subsidiary of Vickers Instruments, of Team Valley, Gateshead.

Enter WW 500 on reply card for further details.



NETWORKING SMALL COMPUTERS

Simply transferring a program or data from one computer to another by telephone is not too great a problem, but if a number of remote computers are to work together regularly in a network, relatively complex software is required to organize received information efficiently. This article describes such software designed for Pet microcomputers and outlines networking generally.

As personal computers become more popular, the need for simple methods of exchanging programs and data between them increases. Eventually, it may be possible to exchange this information through some form of readily accessible global communications network, but at present, we have to make the best possible use of the facilities available. Some of the more important information dissemination techniques currently being explored are:

- teletext broadcasts
- viewdata systems, such as Prestel
- and distributed computer networks.

Each of these approaches has its advantages and disadvantages. In the UK, experiments have been carried out using Ceefax and Oracle as a means of distributing software¹ but these methods can only be used to access information from a central point. With Prestel, two-way information exchange is possible, but there are two categories of 'user' - the ordinary customer, who can only receive and examine pages of stored material, and information providers. The major drawback of this method is that not all users can be information providers†. The Council for Education Technology is currently investigating this type of information dissemination in conjunction with a number of schools and colleges².

A truly distributed computing network^{3,4} is the third approach to program and data distribution. Such a system has the advantage of allowing totally unrestricted bi-directional data exchange between any two parties. In this article I describe using the public switched network (p.s.n.) as a means of distributing programs and data between owners of personal computers.

Source program transmission

The distributed computing system's architecture significantly influences the type of data it can accommodate. Broadly speaking, these systems fall into one of two categories - one in which intermediate data storage is available, and one in which data transfer is direct.

In Fig. 1(a), the microcomputer owner at site X is able to dial the telephone

by Philip G. Barker*

number of the owner at site Y and then transmit information to him/her. In the context of data exchange, transmission takes place as if the two microcomputers were linked together directly⁵. No intermediate data storage is available so error detection and correction procedures have to be incorporated in the software used for receiving the data. Messages passing over the communication network are susceptible to corruption by noise or crosstalk and as a result, if the receiver fails to respond to the transmitter, data transfer is inhibited.

In Fig. 1(b), the microcomputer owner at point X can store material in a mainframe at site V or W for later retrieval. Provided that the computers at points Y and Z can meet all the necessary

access control requirements, they too can gain access to the data. With this kind of network, information can be shared easily and distribution to other geographical locations is simplified.

Details of using a microcomputer as an interactive terminal, in conjunction with the public switched telephone network^{6,7}, and of using a microcomputer as an intelligent terminal⁸ have been presented. In reference 8, algorithms for information-file transfer between a mainframe and microcomputer are discussed in detail. These files may contain machine-code programs, high-level (source-language) programs or data. Using the software described, communicating programs between one microcomputer and another (via a mainframe) is reasonably straightforward but a decision has to be made regarding whether the programs are

(a) Direct transfer



(b) Transfer via intermediate mainframe

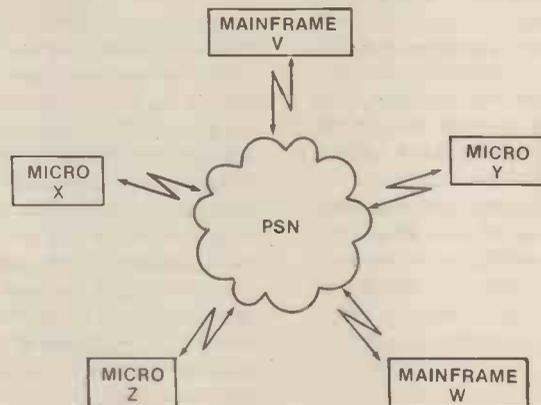


Fig. 1. In (a), the public switched network is used to link two computers together directly. Messages passing over the network are susceptible to corruption by noise or crosstalk - if the receiver fails to respond to the transmitter, data transfer is inhibited. Data from any of the three microcomputers shown in (b) may be stored in a mainframe computer and retrieved later. Using this type of network, certain codes can be imposed to restrict access of information from the mainframes to those microcomputer owners with knowledge of the code.

† British Telecom say that potentially all users can be information providers so presumably Dr Barker refers to cost limitations. - Ed.

* Dr Barker is a Principal Lecturer at the Department of Computer Science, Teesside Polytechnic.

to be transmitted in machine-code or source-language form.

- Factors influencing the ease with which programs may be communicated are
- the level of language used
 - the availability of internationally accepted language standards and the ability of programmers to keep within limitations imposed by these standards
 - compatibility of the computers used.

These factors alone are probably sufficient to justify transmitting program files in source language form rather than as machine-code memory images. In this context we have been examining the problems associated with transmitting both Pascal and Basic programs over the p.s.n. between microcomputers and mainframes. Some interesting results have been obtained - a few of which are described here.

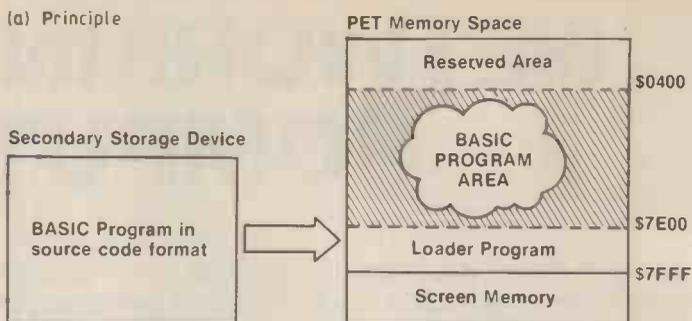
Files transmitted between the two computers consist of a contiguous set of characters. Certain special characters interspersed in the sequence, for example end-of-line \$0D*, impose a simple record structure on these files. That the files may not be physically stored in this way in either the source or destination computer is of little consequence as far as this article is concerned.

Loading Basic from secondary storage

Once a Basic program has been transmitted from a remote computer and stored locally on a secondary storage medium such as a tape or disc drive, it is a simple matter to load the program into memory for subsequent execution. How the program is loaded will depend on the type of microcomputer used. To illustrate the purpose of this article, specific descriptions pertaining to the 3000 series Commodore PET microcomputer are included.

The function of a loading program is to recognize Basic statements contained in a secondary storage file, convert them to the appropriate format, and store them at the correct location in the memory space available. Functional requirements of such a program for the PET are summarized in Fig. 2(a), where it can be seen that the storage area for Basic programs starts at \$0400 and ends at \$7FFF where 32K of memory is available. Obviously, the loading program at the top end of the memory will slightly reduce the amount of space available for other programs.

One of the loading program's main tasks is to convert the incoming source code to a code which can be stored in the computer's memory, the two forms of which are represented in Fig. 2(b). When the source code is stored, each statement consists of a two-byte pointer, a two-byte encoding of the statement number, a sequence of bytes representing the original source line and a byte containing the 'end-of-line' marker. Further details on how Basic



(b) Comparison of internal and external forms of Basic

SOURCE CODE

```
10 PRINT"HELLO"
20 X = 3 + 2
30 Y = 3 * 2
40 = PRINT X,Y
50 PRINT"GOODBYE"
```

INTERNAL FORMAT

```
0400 00 0E 04 0A 00 99 22 48
0408 45 4C 4C 4F 22 00 18 04
0410 14 00 58 B2 33 AA 32 00
0418 22 04 1E 00 59 B2 33 AC
0420 32 00 2C 04 28 00 99 20
0428 58 2C 59 00 38 04 32 00
0430 99 22 47 4F 4F 44 42 59
0438 45 22 00 00 00 AA AA AA
```

(c) Memory map for a typical loading program

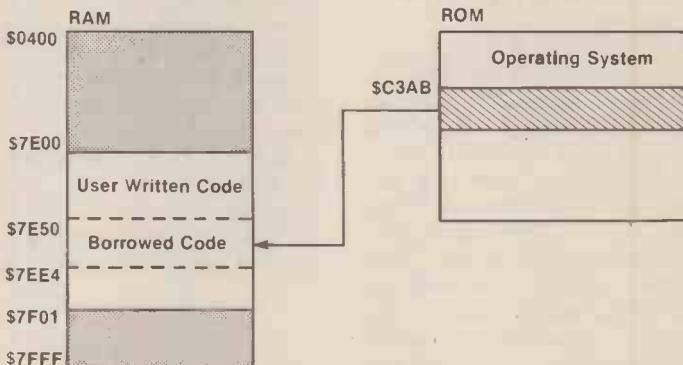


Fig. 2. The function of a source-language loading program. These diagrams, although specifically relating to the PET, are typical of most microcomputers. Underlined sections in (b) indicate the positions in memory of the Basic statement numbers.

programs are stored in memory can usually be found in the computer's manuals⁹.

Once a statement has been converted, it has to be placed in the correct memory location. Both conversion and insertion are usually carried out by routines built into the computer's operating system, which in the case of the PET are locations \$C34B to \$C43F, and there is no reason why these routines may not be used in the programs concerned. But for most readers, copying the relevant r.o.m. information into r.a.m. will be more practical than altering the system's r.o.m. A simple assembly language program will serve this purpose. The loading program's basic structure is as follows;

- Step 0: borrow code from the operating system
- Step 1: initialize Basic (usually using NEW)
- Step 2: read input file (get next source character)

- Step 3: if 'end-of-line', go to step 6
- Step 4: if 'end-of-file', go to step 8
- Step 5: store source character in Basic buffer then go to step 2
- Step 6: prepare for operating-system entry routines
- Step 7: convert source statement held in buffer, enter into Basic memory area, then go to step 2
- Step 8: pass control back to Basic command mode with a 'READY' message.

As was suggested earlier, step 7 will probably be carried out by a 'borrowed code', and the remaining steps will be implemented by the operator, see Fig. 2(c). An assembly-language program for the above algorithm - for Basic source files on cassette - is shown in Fig. 3, and a complementary flow diagram is shown in Fig. 4. When invoked, the initialization code copies \$94 bytes, starting from \$C34B, in the slot reserved for it through manipulation of the assembler location counter. When this is completed, the loading operation starts. The program uses a subroutine called TPREAD to transfer a block of data from cassette into the relevant buffer area. In turn, this routine makes use of the operating utility code commencing at \$F855. Characters are then

*The 'dollar sign' indicates that the number immediately following it is in hexadecimal form. This is not the standard method of indicating hexadecimal numbers, but is familiar to most users of the microcomputer concerned. - Ed.

Fig. 3. Basic source-code loading program written in assembly language for cassette-based systems.

```

0001 0000 ; TAPE LOADER PROGRAM
0002 0000 ; *****
0003 0000 ;
0004 0000 ;
0005 0000 TAPERD=$F855
0006 0000 DEVICE=$D4
0007 0000 BASBUF=$0200
0008 0000 BUFFER=$027A
0009 0000 NEWSYS=$C55D
0010 0000 CHRGET=$0070
0011 0000 OSCODE=$C3AB
0012 0000 BASIC=$C3B9
0013 0000 **=$7E00
0014 7E00 START LDY #0
0015 7E02 LDA OSCODE,Y
0016 7E05 STA INSERT,Y
0017 7E08 C8 INY
0018 7E09 CC FE 7E CPY NUM
0019 7E0C D0 F4 BNE COPY
0020 7E0E 20 5D C5 JSR NEWSYS
0021 7E11 20 F0 7E JSR TPREAD
0022 7E14 20 F0 7E JSR TPREAD
0023 7E17 A2 00 LDX #0
0024 7E19 A0 01 LDY #1
0025 7E1B B9 7A 02 LDA BUFFER,Y
0026 7E1E C9 0D CMP #0D
0027 7E20
0028 7E20 F0 18 BEQ STEP6
0029 7E22 C9 00 CMP #00
0030 7E24 D0 03 BNE STEP5
0031 7E26 4C EC 7E JMP STEP8
0032 7E29 9D 00 02 STA BASBUF,X
0033 7E2C E8 INX
0034 7E2D C8 INY
0035 7E2E C0 C0 CPY #0
0036 7E30 F0 03 BEQ GBLOCK
0037 7E32 4C 1B 7E JMP STEP2
0038 7E35 20 F0 7E JSR TPREAD
0039 7E38 A0 01 LDY #1
0040 7E3A 4C 1B 7E JMP STEP2
0041 7E3D A9 00 LDA #00
0042 7E3F 9D 00 02 STA BASBUF,X
0043 7E42 A2 FF LDX #FF
0044 7E44 86 77 STX $77
0045 7E46 A2 01 LDX #01
0046 7E48 86 78 STX $78
0047 7E4A 8C 00 7F STY YIND
0048 7E4D 20 70 00 JSR CHRGET
0049 7E50 INSERT=*
0050 7E50 **=$94
0051 7E54
0052 7E54

```

Fig. 5. This assembly language program, a modified version of the program shown in Fig. 3, is for loading source-code programs in a disc-based system.

```

0053 7EE4
0054 7EE4 AC 00 7F LDY YIND
0055 7EE7 A2 00 LDX #0
0056 7EE9 4C 2D 7E JMP LY
0057 7EEC EA STEP8
0058 7EEE 4C 89 C3 JMP BASIC
0059 7EF0
0060 7EF0
0061 7EF0
0062 7EF0 A0 01 TPREAD LDY #1
0063 7EF2 84 D4 STY DEVICE
0064 7EF4 8E FF 7E STX XIND
0065 7EF7 20 55 F8 JSR TAPERD
0066 7EFA AE FF 7E LDX XIND
0067 7EFD 60 RTS
0068 7EFE
0069 7EFE
0070 7EFE 94 NUM .BYTE $94
0071 7EFE 00 XIND .BYTE 0
0072 7EFF 00 YIND .BYTE 0
0073 7F00 00 .END
0074 7F01

```

```

;PROCESS NEXT STATEMENT
;RESTORE Y-REGISTER
;INITIALISE X-REGISTER
;GO BACK TO MAIN LOOP
;END OF FILE
;RETURN TO BASIC
;ROUTINE TO READ A TAPE BLOCK
;LOAD INPUT DEV
;PASS TO OPSYS
;SAVE X-REGISTER
;READ A TAPE BLOCK
;RESTORE X-REGISTER
;RETURN TO CALLER
;DATA STORAGE AREAS
;NUMBER OF BYTES TO COPY
;PLACE FOR X-REGISTER
;PLACE FOR Y-REGISTER
;DISK SUPPORT ROUTINES FOR LOADER PROGRAM
;*****
;RESERVED LOCATIONS
LONAM=$DA
HINAM=$DB
LD=$D2
PA=$D4
SA=$D3
FILEN=$D1
ST=$96
BUFFER=$027A
;SYSTEM SUBROUTINE ADDRESSES
;PRINT A STRING
;READY
;INPUT FROM KEYBOARD
;OPEN FILE
;SET INPUT DEVICE
;INPUT SOURCE BYTE
;CLOSE FILE
;CLOSE I/O CHANNELS
;ADDRESS OF FILE NAME-LOW
;ADDRESS OF FILE NAME-HIGH
;LOGICAL DEVICE NUMBER
;PRIMARY ADDRESS
;SECONDARY ADDRESS
;LENGTH OF FILE NAME
;STATUS CODE
;TAPE BUFFER

```

continued

```

0028 0000
0029 0000
0030 0000
0031 0000
0032 7000
0033 7000
0034 7000
0035 7000
0036 7002
0037 7004
0038 7006
0039 7008
0040 700A
0041 700C
0042 700E
0043 7011
0044 7013
0045 7015
0046 7017
0047 7019
0048 701B
0049 701D
0050 7020
0051 7022
0052 7024
0053 7027
0054 702A
0055 702C
0056 702E
0057 7030
0058 7032
0059 7034
0060 7036
0061 7038
0062 7038
0063 703B
0064 703D
0065 703E
0066 7041
0067 7043
0068 7046
0069 7048
0070 7048
0071 704E
0072 7050
0073 7052
0074 7054
0075 7056
0076 7059
0077 705B
0078 705E
0079 7060
0080 7063
0081 7066
0082 7069
0083 706B

A9 01
85 01
A9 00
85 0A
A9 02
85 0B
A9 49
8D 00
A9 0F
85 02
A9 08
A9 04
A9 0F
85 03
20 24
A9 71
A0 70
20 1C
20 6F
85 02
A9 08
85 04
85 03
20 24
A9 71
A0 70
20 1C
20 6F
85 02
A9 08
85 04
85 03
A2 00
8D 00
F0 04
E8 04
38 70
86 01
20 24
20 7F
20 8C
C9 30
F0 17
A9 7F
A0 70
20 1C
A9 02
A9 0F
20 AE
20 AE
20 CC
4C 88
A9 91
A0 70

;DEFINED SUBROUTINES
;*****
;
; *-$7000
;
;DISK OPEN ROUTINE
;
DKOPEN LDA #S01
STA FILEN
LDA #S00
STA LONAM
LDA #S02
STA HINAM
LDA #'I
STA $0200
LDA #S0F
STA LD
LDA #S08
STA PA
LDA #S0F
STA SA
JSR FOPEN
LDA #<PROMPT
LDY #>PROMPT
JSR PRINT
JSR INPUT
LDA #S02
STA LD
LDA #S08
STA PA
LDA #S02
STA SA
LDA #S00

LOOP1 LDA $0200,X
BEQ NEXT
INX
JMP LOOP1
NEXT STA FILEN
JSR FOPEN
LDX #S0F
JSR CHKIN
JSR INBYTE
CMP #S30
BEQ OPENOK
LDA #<MESS1
LDY #>MESS1
JSR PRINT
LDA #S02
LDA #S0F
JSR FCLOSE
JSR CLRCRN
JMP READY
LDA #<MESS2
LDY #>MESS2

OPENOK LDA #<MESS2
LDY #>MESS2

JSR PRINT
RTS
.PROMPT .BYTE $0D,$0A,'FILE NAME? ', $0
.MESS1 .BYTE $0D,$0A,'FILE OPEN ERROR', $0
.MESS2 .BYTE $0D,$0A,'FILE OPENED OK', $0
;DISK READ ROUTINE
; - EMULATES A FAST CASSETTE
;
DKREAD STA ACCUM
STX YREG
STY XREG
LOX #S2
STX 174
;IN LOCATION 174
;SELECT LOGICAL CHANNEL 2
;SET INPUT DEVICE
;LOAD POINTER
;HAS EOF BEEN PREVIOUSLY DETECTED?
;YES - GO CLOSE FILES
;GET A BYTE FROM DISK FILE
;END OF FILE?
;YES - GO CLOSE THEM BOTH
;NO - SO SAVE CHARACTER IN BUFFER
;INCREMENT POINTER
;BUFFER FULL YET?
;YES - GO BACK TO CALLER
;NO - SO GET ANOTHER BYTE
;PASS EOL OVER TO BASIC BUFFER
;
;BUFFER FULL?
;NO - SO OK, ALL IS WELL
;YES - SO NO ROOM FOR EOF MARKER
;REMEMBER EOF HAS COME
;LOAD EOF MARKER
;PASS IT OVER TO BUFFER
;LOAD LOGICAL FILE 2
;GO CLOSE FILE 2
;SET DEFAULT I/O DEVICES
;LOAD LOGICAL FILE 15
;GO CLOSE FILE 15 - COMMAND CHANNEL
;
;RESTORE X-REGISTER
;RESTORE Y-REGISTER
;RESTORE ACCUMULATOR
;GO BACK TO CALLER
;PLACE FOR EOF STATUS
;
;SAVE AREA FOR REGISTERS
.END

```

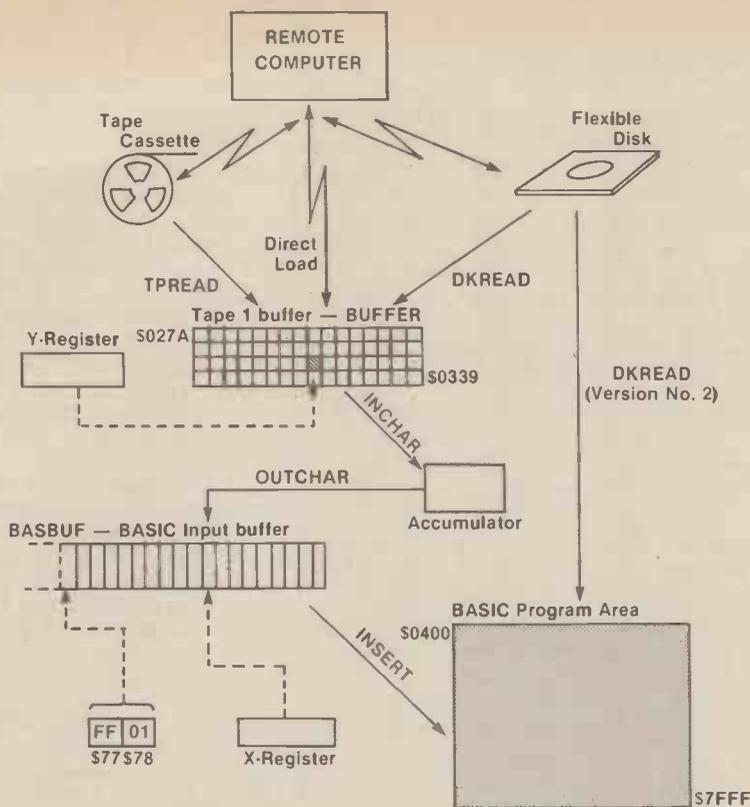


Fig. 4. Data flow diagram for the source code loading program shown in Fig. 3.

copied one at a time from the tape buffer, \$027A, across to the Basic input buffer, \$0200 - \$0250, using the Y and X registers respectively as pointers in the indexed load and store operations. Each time an end-of-the-line character, \$0D, is encountered in the input data-stream (INCHAR) an end-of-statement marker, \$00, is sent to the output stream (OUTCHAR) for placement in the Basic buffer. Subsequently, at step 6, the pointers at \$77 and \$78 are set to point to the memory area containing the new statement. A subroutine call to the operating system utility CHRGET is then made. This is essentially a line-fetch routine that sets up the next Basic statement for processing. More details on how the routine operates are given elsewhere^{10,11,12}. Once the CHRGET routine has been primed, the code for converting/inserting the new line into the BASIC program area can commence. Further source statements are then processed one at a time until an end-of-file code, \$00 for tape files, detected on INCHAR terminates the loading process and passes control back to Basic direct-command mode with the prompt "READY".

A major disadvantage of the loader shown in Fig. 3 is its lack of identity checking. Inherent in the program is the assumption that the tape will be positioned at the point from which loading is to commence; the first block (program identity) is then skipped over. If necessary, it would be a simple matter to replace the first reference to TPREAD (line 21) by a call to a subroutine that allows the operator to interact. This

subroutine could be used to ask the operator for the name of the file to be loaded and then automatically position the tape ready for loading. A routine of this type is essential in a loading program designed for handling source programs from discs.

To enable the loading program shown in Fig. 3 to handle disc files, two additional subroutines are needed: one to open the disk file, DKOPEN, and another to read and close it, DKREAD. Implementations of each of these are presented in Fig. 5. DKOPEN fulfills the requirements outlined above, that is, it prompts the operator for the name of the file to be loaded, checks its validity and then returns an appropriate message. The DKREAD routine emulates the action of the tape cassette thereby minimizing the number of changes necessary to the code listed in Fig. 3. Indeed, only three changes are required; the reference to TPREAD in line 21 must be changed to DKOPEN and that to TPREAD (line 65) must be altered to DKREAD. Finally, the device number in line 62 must be changed from 1 to 8.

As a means of checking that tape cassette emulation was a reasonable approach to use, a second version of the disc loading program was written using a different approach. This involved reading the whole of the disc file into memory, storing it, and then processing it as an internal file. Other than the slight modifications needed for the revised input method, no major changes to the logic of the program shown in Fig. 3 were required and no detectable difference in performance between the two disk-loading programs was observed. Furthermore, as can be seen from the fol-

lowing table their load size differed by only five bytes.

	Main code	DKOPEN	DKREAD	Total store
Tape loader	257	—	—	257
Disc loader 1	257	152	95	504
Disc loader 2	242	152	115	509

The loading programs can be located in e.p.r.o.m. or in any part of the memory space available for program loading. When siting these programs, two important factors must be considered;

- that the programs do not over-write themselves while running (this is usually caused by locating them too near the low end of memory), and,
- that they do not interfere with any of the operating system support software that may be partly in r.a.m. (for example, DOS support uses r.a.m. above \$7EAB in 3040 disc-based 32 PET systems).

Each of these restraints can be avoided by using an appropriately structured e.p.r.o.m. However, if the loading programs are to be stored in r.a.m. their security and effectiveness depends on finding a suitable memory space into which they may be loaded and run. Unfortunately, disc loader 2 is too large to fit into the tape cassette buffer areas, \$027A through \$03F9, but its main body and the smaller of the two input routines (DKREAD) easily slot into this area; DKREAD could now reside at the high end of r.a.m. above about \$7E10, the exact location depending what other software is present in this area. Because the version of the loading program for handling tape-based source files is too large to be stored in cassette buffer 2, as with the DKOPEN routine, it would also need to be positioned somewhere above memory address \$7E10. Similar arguments apply in the case of disk loader 1. Whatever parts of high r.a.m. are used, the limit of Basic memory would need to be lowered by suitably adjusting the pointers held in zero page locations \$34 and \$35.

Each of the software systems described above successfully loads Basic programs from tape/disc files into memory ready for execution. These files will usually have been created by program transfer from another remote computer through the public switched network or a private communication system. Alternatively, they may have been prepared by an editing system or as a result of LISTing to either tape or disc. Because these files are in conventional ASCII form rather than in internal machine-code form they are more easily exchanged between different types of personal computer.

Comparing load times

Given that there are now several ways of loading Basic programs into memory some consideration of loading times would be appropriate. There are two important comparisons to make:

- the relative speed of loading source programs compared with memory image programs, and
- the relative speed of tape loads compared with those from disc.

To carry out the above comparisons a simple program generator was constructed. This consisted of a series of Basic statements which when executed produced (as output) another Basic program. This could be written as an ASCII file to tape and/or disk. Furthermore, once processed by either of the loaders described above, this program could also be saved in the conventional manner using a SAVE command. The program consisted of 1000 statements whose average length was about 22 characters. Its load size was 19K bytes. Measures of the time required to load this program under different conditions are

- time to load source program from tape, 1037 s
- time to load source program from disk, 260 s
- tape load time for SAVED program, 357 s
- disk load time for SAVED program, 10s.

There are two observations immediately apparent. Firstly, loading source programs is much slower than loading memory images; secondly, loading from disc is very much faster than loading from tape. These relationships could have been predicted intuitively and so the only value of the above figures lies in the quantitative comparisons they permit. From the values shown it can be seen that disc loading is about 35 times faster than tape loading where memory images are concerned but

only about four times faster in the case of source-code loading. In the latter case, it took only 11 seconds to read the source program into memory from disc. This would suggest that about 96% of the program loading time is devoted to converting source statements into a form suitable for storage, and storing them. Similarly, in the case of tape loading, it takes about six seconds to read a block from tape into memory. The test program contained 131 blocks, i.e., 192×131 characters, and so its input/output time would be about 786 seconds. This means that only 24% of the program loading time is spent on conversion operations. It is interesting to note that the time spent converting and inserting programs in memory is the same for both programs - 249s for the disc loading program and 251s for the tape version. This means that the modifications converting the tape loading program into its disc equivalent do not influence the program's performance characteristics. These results illustrate the advantages of memory-image loading over source-code loading, but most readers will probably prefer to sacrifice some efficiency to make their programs more compatible with computers of a different type. □

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Teledon videotex in UK

The first private viewdata system based on Teledon technology has been introduced by Poulter Computervision, a new company in the Poulter advertising and marketing group. Developed by the Canadian Department of Communications, Teledon is an easy-to-use system to enable text and high-quality animated images to be transmitted to tv sets. It was chosen for audiovisual communication by Poulter largely because of its impressive graphic capability.

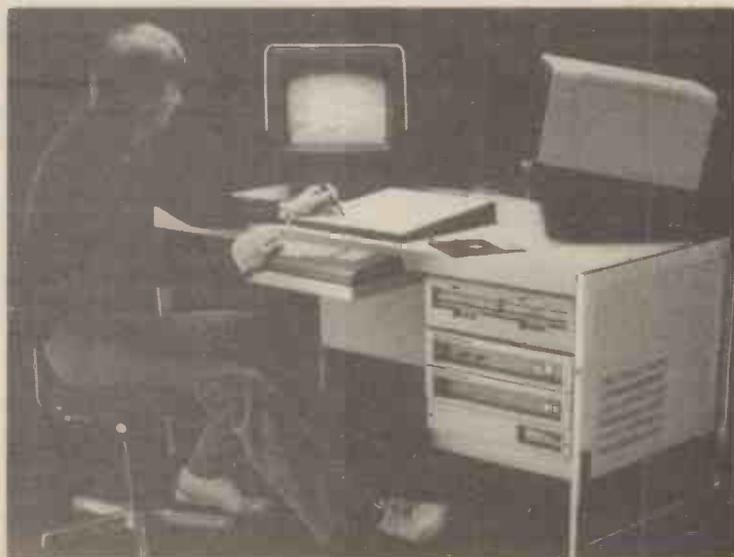
The company have moved fast since they discovered it late last year. In fact Graham Poulter told WW he didn't even know of it until 14 weeks prior, when Peter Ashley (now a director) told him of it after seeing it on an Australian NEB trip. They now have sole UK rights to Teledon, negotiated with the CDC licensee Norpak.

Two equipments are available, the simplest being a decoder with 64K of usable r.a.m. (there is further memory for screen mapping and holding software) controlled by a 6809 microprocessor and fed from a cassette player. Up to 200 frames or "slides" can be displayed in any order, each one appearing either instantly or progressively. With a modem attached, 10 pages of information can be recorded in 60 seconds - ten times faster than other viewdata systems of the alpha-mosaic kind. The other terminal is an information provider's graphic creation unit with digitizing tablet, colour monitors, two floppy disc drives and PDP11/03 computer. With

about ten minutes' learning time, it is claimed, images can be created by retrieving an image from a library to edit, by sketching or tracing drawings on the tablet, or by using high-level commands defined as geometric elements. Animations of any length are possible and the combinations of colours with grey shades are unlimited. A page of text takes about 5 minutes to assemble while a chart might take 10 to 15 minutes.

Secret of Teledon is the picture description instruction coding that describes image content by co-ordinates - two for

lines and rectangles, three for arcs, more for polygons, hence the name alpha-geometric. Images can also be described by scanning point-to-point, and they are reconstructed to whatever resolution the receiving equipment allows. Among claims made for it are future equipment compatibility as well as future information compatibility, easy conversion to alpha-mosaic or d.r.c.s. and it is said to handle more CCITT videotex-attributes than any other scheme. Teledon is in regular use in Canada, on trial in the USA, and European rights have been bought by Siemens. □



DIGITAL TELEVISION STANDARDS

Towards a worldwide compatibility for broadcasting studio equipment at recent meetings of the CCIR in Geneva, decisions were taken which will have an important bearing on the introduction of digital systems into television studios throughout the world.

Discussions on digital video coding have been going on for many years; in Europe they have taken place mainly in the EBU. In fact, the CCIR was largely responding to a submission from the EBU reached after extensive consultations among its members and with industry, other broadcasting unions and the American SMPTE.

It had long been accepted that to obtain the maximum benefit from digital technology one should handle the three components of the video signal (e.g. luminance and colour-difference signals) separately throughout the digital studio rather than combined into the composite PAL, SECAM or NTSC composite form as in most of the analogue studio operations of today. The use of component coding will also ensure commonality of equipment design throughout the 625-line world and to a valuable degree with the 525-line world — assuming agreement on the basic parameters defining the video signal.

There may be a case for establishing in due course a compatible family of coding standards to suit different quality requirements, e.g. of ENG at one extreme

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and high-definition television at the other. But the most urgent requirement was to specify the standard that will be used within all of the main studio equipment and at the inputs to the recording and transmission equipment used for international programme exchange.

It was agreed at Geneva that the main studio standard would use sampling rates of 13.5 MHz for luminance and 6.75 MHz for each of the two colour-difference signals. This corresponds to 864 and 432 samples per line respectively in 625-line countries and 858 and 429 samples per line respectively in 525-line countries.

8-bit linear p.c.m. coding will be used and it was agreed by most delegations that the coding ranges should be set as indicated in Fig. 1.

There is a good chance that these figures will have been formally written into the Recommendation by the time of

The author is chairman of EBU Specialist Group VI-VID in which much of the discussion on standardization has taken place.

the Plenary Assembly next year, together with a statement to the effect that in both 625- and 525-line areas the circuits which process only the active part of the television line should accommodate 720 luminance and 360 colour difference samples per line.

At a sampling frequency of 13.5 MHz, 720 samples occupy somewhat more than either of the nominal active line periods. The intention is that the latter will be defined by a blanking operation to be carried out when the signal eventually emerges into the analogue composite world. Meanwhile, an appropriate positioning of the 720 samples (Fig. 2 shows the EBU proposal for 625-line signals and digital and nominal analogue timing for reference) will ensure that the system will accept the whole of an analogue active line at its input regardless of the actual timing within permitted tolerances.

The adoption of this specification will ensure maximum compatibility of equipment throughout the world and will lay the foundation upon which further specifications, covering studio interfaces, digital video tape formats, and the multiplex structure to be used on international digital links, can be built. □

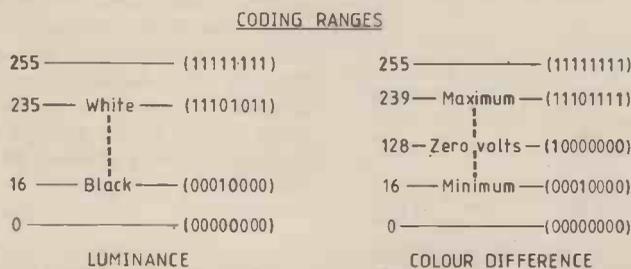


Fig. 1. Coding ranges for the 8-bit linear p.c.m. system

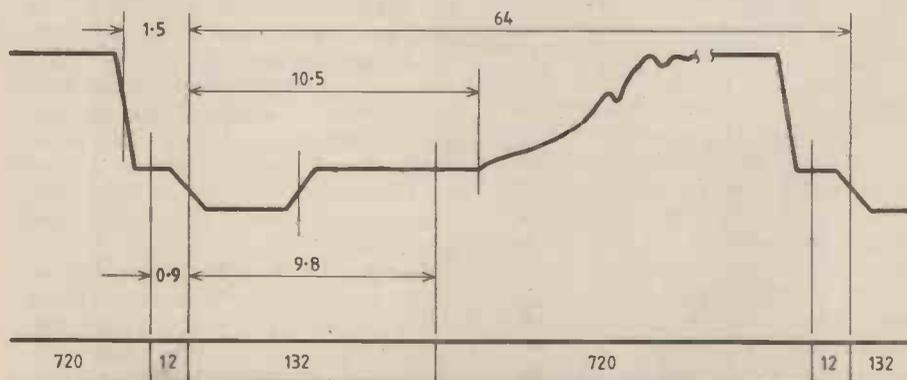


Fig. 2. The EBU proposal for 625-line signal and nominal analogue timing for reference with 864 luminance samples for each line.

Corrections

Remote control for a hi-fi system. Unmarked components in Steve Kirby's article in the March issue, page 54, are p-n-p transistor in Fig. 1 and 3.9kΩ for its base-emitter resistor. Transmitter diodes are high-power types — RS Components 308-512 or equivalent. Labels "standby" and "normalise" should be transposed on the keyboard. Notes on setting up the link, a simplified tone control summing circuit, and p.r.o.m. listing will be published next month. In the mean time they can be obtained by sending a stamped, addressed envelope to Steve Kirby at the Department of Electronics, University of York, Heslington, York YO1 5DD.

Heating-fuel saver. The introductory paragraph states that the outdoor temperature sensor is not essential but in fact, the scheme would not work without it. The non-essential part is the meter to indicate the reading of the sensor. If this is not required, the milliammeter and IC_{2b} can be omitted. In the first paragraph of the main text a d-to-a converter has been misprinted as a 'data-a converter'.

Digital, multi-track tape recorder. Contrary to the impression by the April part of this article, it was not the final section. A further part on the playback facility will be published in the next issue.

BBC micro. See News of the month.

COMMUNICATIONS

Tracking vehicles

Disclosure of hitherto secret Home Office guidelines on the police use of "bugging" and other electronic equipment has drawn attention to a form of surveillance that has largely passed unnoticed: the "tracking" of suspect vehicles by the attachment of a miniature transmitter which can then be located using sophisticated fixed or mobile Doppler-type v.h.f. and u.h.f. direction-finding equipment that overcomes many of the usual problems of accurate d/f in built-up areas. Equipment of this type is made in several countries, and indeed two years ago Rohde & Schwarz specifically described their PA002 and PA005 systems as suitable for "specialized applications in the field of personal protection or even in trailing 'prepared' vehicles". From fixed bases such equipment can locate an urban transmission to within about 100 metres. At least one American firm makes mobile equipment that would have little difficulty in following a vehicle at a discreet distance.

Direction-finding, the first application of a radio navigational aid early this century is once again in vogue. Marine v.h.f. d/f systems in the English Channel supplied by Racal have proved their use in sea rescues. American portable (man-pack) d/f equipment is currently being promoted for military detection and tracking of armoured vehicles.

Broadcast relays

For several years, some of the European external broadcasting services have been using satellite circuits to carry programmes to their overseas relays. But most of these have made use of Intelsat earth stations built primarily for telecommunications services.

However, Marconi Communication Systems have recently announced a £500,000-plus order from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for a 10-metre, receive-only, Standard B earth station to be located on Masirah Island, off the east coast of Oman, to be completed this year. This station is expressly to receive the BBC Overseas Service programmes for retransmission on the high-power FCO transmitters forming the Middle East Relay Station, including two 750 kW m.f. transmitters.

The users of extremely high-power h.f. over-the-horizon radar and broadcasting stations may have noticed with some concern a report of recent joint-work of the Max-Planck-Institut für Aeronomie and the University of Leicester (*Nature*, 25 February 1982). This shows that the ionosphere has non-linear characteristics such that above a certain optimum power, signals received at remote sites decrease with

additional power. The optimum power is usually not much more than about 6.5 MW e.r.p. — a power less than that currently used by some broadcast and radar stations.

Mobile radio and s.s.b.

The outlook for the use of v.h.f. single-sideband with 5 kHz channelling in the private-mobile radio or in the Radiophone services cannot be regarded as bright — and seems to depend on whether the fast-acting, companding-type a.g.c. system being developed by Dr McGeehan at Bath University proves suitable for incorporating into s.s.b. mobile phones.

The intensive work in the UK over the past few years on the Wolfson project for mobile s.s.b. has failed to produce the clear-cut results needed to convince users. Completely independent user-trials by British Telecom Research and by the Home Office, and related trials by manufacturers, all seem to have shown that on frequencies of the order of 160 MHz, s.s.b. equipment (without companding) does not provide fully equivalent performance to that of 12.5 kHz channelling f.m. systems and is significantly degraded in comparison with 25 kHz channelling f.m. The British Telecom results suggest that s.s.b. also requires a much higher co-channel interference protection ratio (about 20 dB) which would mean that there could be much less re-use of channels, substantially reducing the theoretical spectrum-saving advantages of s.s.b. The earlier Home Office trials highlighted the problem of Doppler frequency shift and the need for an extremely good a.g.c. system if speech quality is to be maintained above 200 MHz with vehicles travelling at more than 30 km/h.

The BT trials (*Electronics Letters*, October 29, 1981) used s.s.b. equipment specially designed to assess the suitability of the mode as a replacement for f.m. in the Radiophone service, with tests carried out under carefully controlled conditions. Speech of a well defined level was transmitted simultaneously over three radio links (12.5, 25 kHz f.m. and s.s.b.) and recorded in a moving vehicle. The recordings were later carefully assessed in an acoustic room with simulated vehicle noise, under conditions of fading, interference and signal level. The conclusion was that s.s.b. subjectively degraded the performance compared with 12.5 kHz f.m. by as much as a change from 25 to 12.5 kHz f.m. With co-channel interference, "mean scores" were: s.s.b. 1.8, 12.5 kHz f.m. 2.1, and 25 kHz f.m. 2.4.

Unless the Bath University work on a.g.c. reverses the situation, early widespread adoption of s.s.b. seems unlikely.

Marine communications

The official opening of the Marecs-A maritime satellite communications system on March 1 provided a notable technical hiccup. The planned inaugural call by Kenneth Baker, Minister for Information Technology, had to be called off at the last moment due to the aftermath of "intense solar activity".

While we all know how easy it is for press and public demonstrations to go adrift, this incident must have been particularly galling for those promoting a sophisticated system that seeks to highlight and then supersede the radio propagation vagaries of traditional marine radio!

Shipping companies have seldom proved eager to introduce new communications or navigational systems unless the costs can be off-set by lower marine insurance rates — so that 24-hour reliability must be counted a vital consideration.

There can be little doubt that marine satellite systems offer many advantages for deep-sea vessels, and will eventually supersede long-distance h.f., just as marine v.h.f. has gradually won through for short-range operations. But I wonder if I am alone in recalling the high communications efficiency of the old pre-war passenger ships using "long waves" above 2000 metres?

When static was not too bad, the highly professional radio officers and coast stations could handle traffic in a manner seldom heard on the other marine frequencies. Today, with few large passenger-carrying ships, marine traffic tends to be lighter and largely confined to the running of the ships or personal messages of the crew. As with all radio communications "progress" seems to be a matter of ever-higher frequencies — though marine radars have long paved the way to microwaves.

Topics in the air

M. Hansen and J. P. Loughlin of the American Naval Ocean Systems Center, San Diego have described (*IEEE Trans.*, Vol. AP, No 6, November 1981) a four-element adaptive aerial array that automatically minimizes multipath reception. Typically, at frequencies between 3.4 and 9.3 MHz over a 234 km over-ocean path, unwanted modes were reduced by more than 15 dB.

George J. Flynn of Washington University, St Louis, Missouri has forecast that if the rate of increase of objects in orbit continues to increase, the first collision between satellites can be expected in the next 10-15 years. He warns: "A reversal of this trend is required to prevent a serious

hazard to orbiting satellites in the twenty-first century". Although the number of objects in near-Earth orbit decreased between 1978-1980, they have since increased rapidly to an all-time high of 4,740 objects, in October 1981. 137 new objects were associated with the US Landsat 3 satellite, launched in 1978, and 118 with Cosmos 1275, launched in June 1981.

AMATEUR RADIO

Licence snafu

Following meetings between the R.S.G.B. and the Home Office, the Home Office confirmed officially that the new amateur-radio licence schedule, as published in *The London Gazette* on February 12, contained errors and a revised schedule would be published with a minimum of delay. The Home Office also issued a statement that they had had "no intention of changing the basis of amateur radio operation in the U.K."

In other words, the sensation caused by the February 12 schedule was ascribed to yet another "snafu" on the part of the licensing authorities — although to the credit of the officials concerned they reacted promptly and fairly when the consequences of the error-prone schedule were brought to their notice by the R.S.G.B. and by many horrified amateurs!

Perhaps a light-hearted side of the incident was that, by omitting a key line, the *Gazette* unwittingly deleted all regulatory differences between Class A and Class B licences. Any Class B amateur could have legally operated on h.f. etc., until an amending notice was hastily published on February 26. The Home Office has accepted that the introduction of new power restrictions and mode restrictions on 3.5 MHz and 432 MHz, etc.; were errors and may revert to traditional power regulations above 1 GHz at least while the question of "equivalent isotropic radiated power" is reconsidered further.

The world scene

No firm announcement about the release, on a non-interference basis, of the 18 and 24 MHz bands had been made at the times these notes were written. All three new bands, 10.1, 18 and 24 MHz, were released to amateurs in South Africa on January 18.

American c.b. licences are reported to have fallen from 16 million to about 10 million during the past two years. There

are just over 400,000 amateur licences in the USA. A recent survey indicates that only about one-in-eight instances of radio-frequency interference (r.f.i.) problems from all types of transmitters (but basically due to inadequate electromagnetic compatibility in consumer electronic appliances etc) are reported officially to FCC — a ratio that is believed to be roughly comparable with similar interference problems in the UK.

A 16-year-old instructor for the December 1981 Radio Amateur's Examination — John Morris, GU6BG1, of the Guernsey Amateur Radio Society — coached six candidates. Five passed both sections while the sixth passed one section. One who passed, Tim Hodgkinson, will have to wait for his licence until his 14th birthday next June, when he is likely to become (at least for a time) the UK's youngest licensed amateur.

Here and there

Fifty-years ago, during 1932, the international Madrid conference resulted in the first clear recognition of amateur radio by defining in the international radio regulations what amateurs could and could not do. The Madrid conference was one of the last of the international conferences in which no major changes were made to the frequencies allocated to radio amateurs — although it was already clear that pressure on their frequencies from rival users was more intense in Europe than in North America and only with difficulty was the "1.7 MHz" band retained in Europe. At that time the major ITU conferences were held every four years.

Detailed observations on and conclusions about the remarkable 5000-mile 145 MHz Euro-Asia to Africa paths by transequatorial ionospheric reflection during Solar Cycle 21 have been reported by Ray Cracknell, Z22JV in Zimbabwe, Fred Anderson, ZS6PW in Pretoria, and Costas Fimerelis, SV1DH in Athens (*QST*, December 1981). They show that high-density, ionized zones exist 10 to 15 degrees north and south of the magnetic dip equator capable at times of providing circuits between stations up to 5000 miles apart at frequencies up to 432 MHz. They believe that amateurs in suitable locations "have a unique opportunity to engage in pioneer research".

Amateur satellites

Ivan James, G51J has described, in *Oscar News* No 36, a novel form of 145 MHz crossed-delta loop aerial suitable for uplinks to amateur satellites in low orbits. The aerial is based on the principles of the

broadband, apex-fed, polygonal loop as described by T. Sukiji and Tou (*IEEE Trans* AP-28, No 4, July 1980). The system provides some horizontal gain, requires no impedance transformer and can readily be made from soft 8mm diameter copper tubing. It has been tested on Oscar 9.

The six Russian amateur satellites, RS3 to RS8, launched last December have all been transmitting telemetry data but RS3 and RS4 are not expected to be fully activated until later in the year. The satellites are in a nearly circular orbit about 1700 km above Earth (periods of about 118.5 to about 119.8 minutes). As with other satellites in relatively low orbits it is proving difficult to provide accurate predictions for more than a few days at a time. The Russian transponders have uplink frequencies in the band 145.86 to 146 MHz and down links 29.36 to 29.5 MHz.

In brief

The 10.1 MHz band has still not been released to American amateurs and there is opposition from other users . . . A "diamond jubilee hamfest" to mark the setting up of the original "Lincoln & District Amateur Wireless & Scientific Society" in February 1921 is being organized by Lincoln Short Wave Club (G5FZ, G6COL) at the Lincolnshire Showground, 4-5 miles north of Lincoln on the A15, on Sunday May 9. The Club is aiming at a 5000 attendance, with trade and "bring and buy" stands plus family attractions . . . Derby Dale & District Amateur Radio Society has its 2nd mobile rally at Shelley High School, June 20 . . . The Worcester Club has its annual radio rally on July 11 at the High School, Ombersley Road, Droitwich . . . The RSGB has forecast 80 trade stands at the 1982 National Amateur Radio Exhibition at the New Alexandra Pavilion, Alexandra Park, north London from April 15-17 . . . Mobile rallies at Harrogate and Barry (May 23), Hull and Plymouth (May 30), Elvaston Castle, MHS Mercury (June 13) . . . With the legalization of c.b. radio it would seem that some of the former users of 27 MHz have moved elsewhere. Recent reports indicate that an illegal group of so-called "International Breakers" have been active on about 6.6 MHz, a frequency that was a "pirate-haunt" several years ago . . . The Marconi Group recently noted the 60th anniversary of the 2MT Writtle broadcasts in 1922 paying tribute to the efforts of the amateurs, grouped in wireless clubs, recognizing that it was their petitioning of the Post Master General that helped set off regular broadcasting in the UK.

PAT HAWKER, G3VA

MICRO CONTROLLED LIGHTING SYSTEM

Hardware for the input side of the lighting system – the control desk.
Modular construction is suggested to allow for variations in total system size

John D. H. White and
Nigel M. Allinson

The input portion of the lighting system – the control desk – transforms the positions of the numerous faders into data in the processor memory. To maintain processing speed and hence the interactive nature of the system input and output operations are designed so that no processor WAIT states are required. This is readily achievable in the output to the dimmers by ensuring that the access time to each dimmer is less than 410 ns (the maximum data bus access time permitted by the processor) and the use of a mapped-memory input technique was chosen. However, the analogue-to-digital conversion of the fader positions is inherently slow, and so some method of increasing their apparent conversion speed is required. Three possible methods can be considered.

- Allocate a slow a-d converter to each fader which continuously tracks the analogue level of the fader and then the processor addresses each converter in turn to obtain data. The large number of faders in a lighting desk means that this would probably be a very expensive solution.

- Use an a-d converter which is fast enough to perform a conversion in the maximum access time of 410 ns. The practical conversion time must be much shorter than this to allow for the multiplex-

ing of the faders and the sampling of the analogue levels. The cost of high-speed converters and multiplexers means this solution is also expensive.

- Rather than set the conversion speed by the processor requirements, set the speed by the desk operator's requirements. For instance, the maximum useable "response time" of the system should be about 20 ms. Hence use a converter which is fast enough to perform all the conversions required in this maximum response time. The faders can then be scanned by an analogue multiplexer, converted to digital code and stored in a block of memory locations. The processor is then able to access this block of memory. The major difficulty with this method is the unambiguous access to a block of memory by both the processor and the converter.

The final method was chosen for use in the control desk because of its lower cost. The fader units in this prototype system were designed on a modular basis. Each multiplexer connects one of 16 faders to a

common analogue bus and the faders addressed via a 4-to-16 line decoder by a 4-bit digital address bus. One a-d converter was allocated to each of these 16 fader modules; however, the converter and sample-and-hold circuit used have a total conversion time of 26 μ s at a 500 kHz clock frequency so one converter can access over 600 faders within a response time of 20 ms.

The input circuits can be split into three parts – an analogue multiplexer which connects the faders to the a-d converter, the converter itself and associated sample-and-hold and timing circuits, and the shared memory with access control logic.

Analogue multiplexer module

The fader connected to the common analogue bus is determined by a four-bit code, and address decoding is performed by a 4-to-16 line demultiplexer (74154), Fig. 11. Analogue switch control inputs are buffered by level-shifting inverters. Fader potentiometers are connected to a bipolar reference bus derived from the a-d converter internal reference voltage, Fig. 12.

As the lighting system scales the channel presets by a master preset control, as mentioned in the first article, this requires the multiplication of stored data. For any reasonable interaction time between fader position and light output, software multiplication by the processor is out of the question. As described in the final article, fader levels are stored in log form; multiplication and division become simple addition and subtraction, and an anti-log look-up table r.o.m. is used to provide the correct code for each output dimmer. Unusually, log-law potentiometers are used for the faders.

The potentiometers can be considered as a voltage source with an internal impedance which varies with slider position. The highest internal impedance is (track resistance)/4, that is 25 k Ω in this case. As the output capacitance of each c.m.o.s. switch is about 5 pF, the worst-case switching time constant for 16 switches on a common analogue bus is 2 μ s. With a sample time for the a-d conversion of 6 μ s, this gives a significant sampling error. The solution is to introduce a capacitor C_s to the input side of each switch. The percentage error in the final output voltage is $100\% \times C_o / (C_s + C_o)$ so for $C_o = 100$ nF the error is only 0.08%. The switching time constant is now about 25 ns; τ is

The authors are at Keele University.

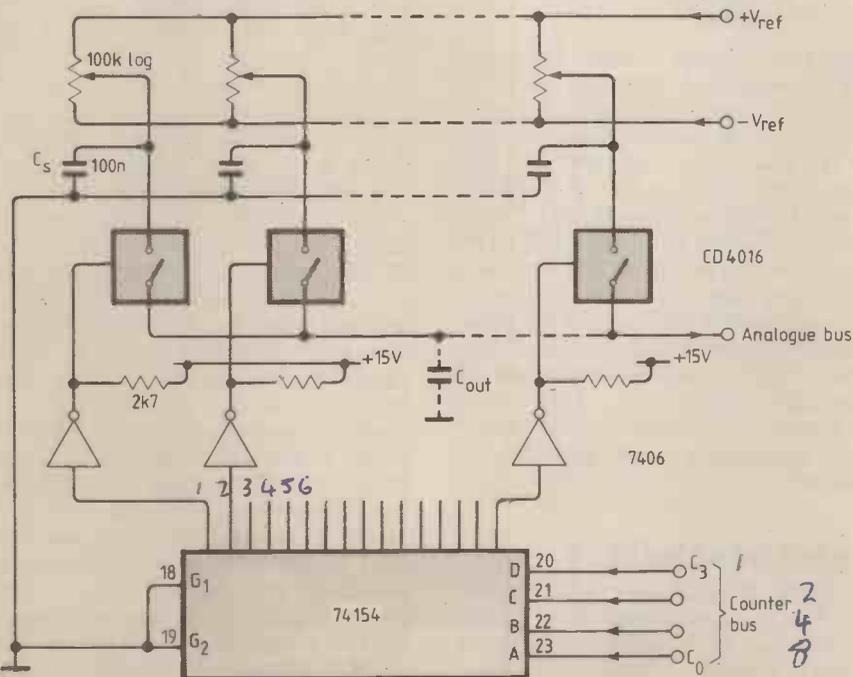


Fig. 11. Address decoding is performed by a 4-bit code.

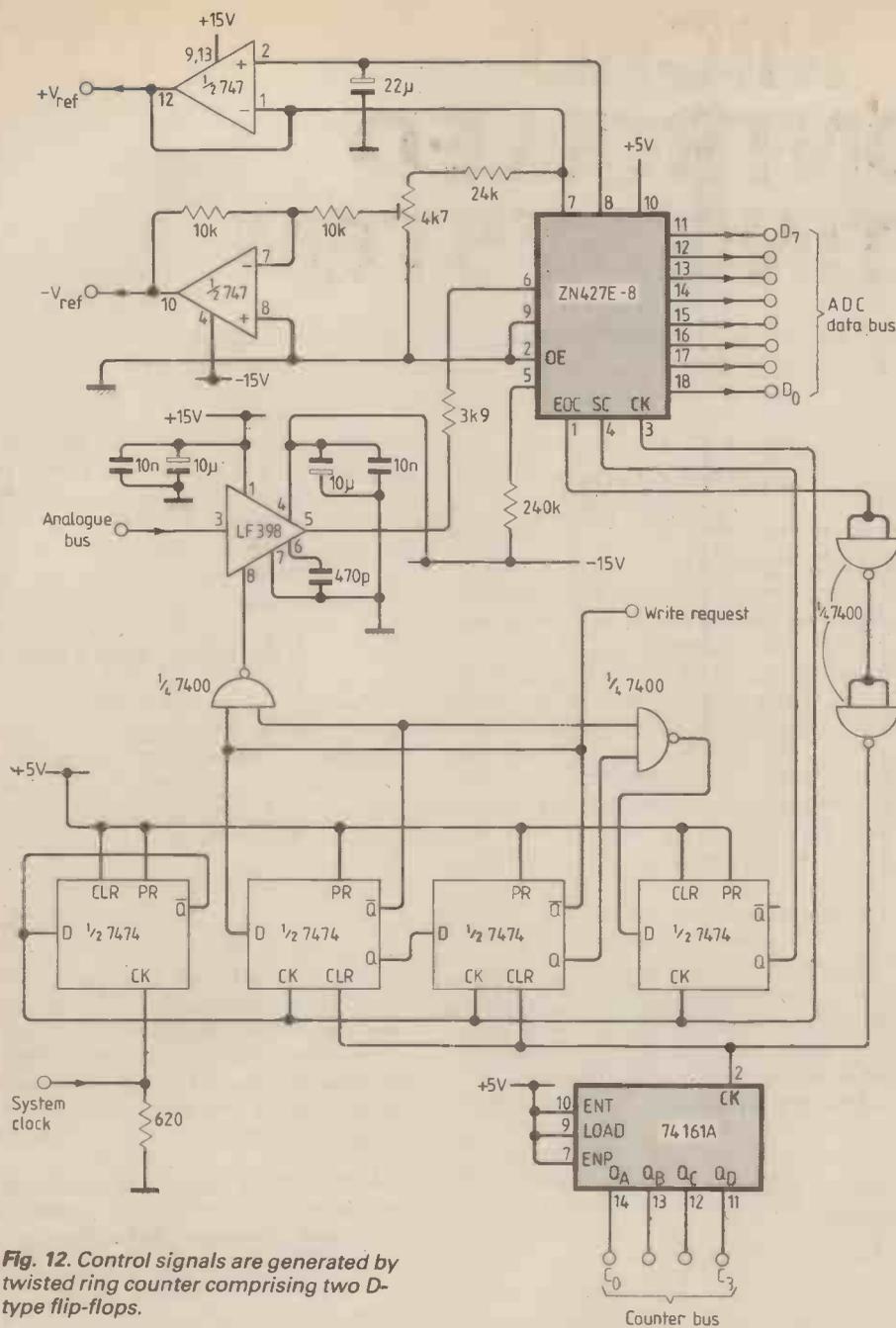


Fig. 12. Control signals are generated by twisted ring counter comprising two D-type flip-flops.

switch on-resistance $\times C_o$. However, there is now a significant time constant associated with the potentiometer resistance and C_s , but the worse-case value is 2.5 ms which does not effect operation of the control desk.

AD conversion and timing module

The ZN427E 8-bit converter of Fig. 12 is clocked at 500 kHz, derived from the terminated processor system's 1 MHz clock (generated from the 3 MHz microprocessor clock in the Quarndon development system). The various control signals and associated sample-and-hold, are generated by a 2-bit twisted ring counter, comprised of two D-type flip-flops (7474). This type of counter was chosen for its simplicity and that all states can be detected by two-input NAND gates. The first state of the sequence enables the sample-and-hold circuit, the second state is used as a write request for the memory access logic, and the final state is used to clock a third D-type flip-flop. The output

of this flip-flop is used as the start conversion pulse of the a-d converter. The end of conversion signal (EOC) goes low, and is used to hold the counter in its reset state. The positive-going edge of EOC clocks a 4-bit counter (74161A) used to address the shared block of memory and the analogue multiplexer. The data outputs are always

enabled, by holding OE (pin 2) low. The LF398 sample-and-hold circuit has more than adequate specifications for 8-bit accuracy at 6 μ s sample time.

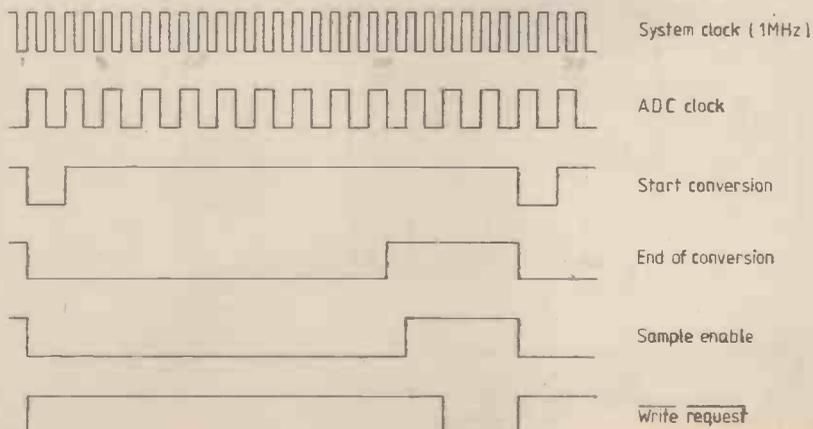
The 2.55 V a-d converter reference voltage is used to bias the fader potentiometers. To reduce processing time, fader codes (positions) are first checked to determine if they are zero (i.e. channel not in use); only if they are non-zero will further processing be performed. Contact and end-resistance in the potentiometers gives a small d.c. offset, even when the channel is not being used. Hence a bipolar voltage reference is supplied to the faders to give a small "deadband", for which the output code is zero. These references are obtained by buffering and inverting the converter reference voltage by a 747 dual op-amp.

Shared memory and access control

The memory can be accessed by either the microprocessor or the a-d converter, and hence the data and address buses must be multiplexed between the microprocessor and converter. It differs from conventional direct memory access techniques in that the converter and processor have separate buses and operate independently, Fig. 13.

The shared memory consists of two AM27S07 (16-word \times 4-bit Schottky r.a.m.), and as these devices have separate data inputs and outputs and the a-d converter only writes to this memory while the processor-only reads from it, no data bus multiplexing is required. Data outputs are tri-state which allows direct connection to the processor data bus. Address bus multiplexing is performed by two 74125 tri-state buffers; the appropriate one is enabled for read or write operations. For large systems standard 250 ns memory chips may be used instead of the AM27S07's, but they will require additional data bus multiplexing.

The eight high-order bits of the processor address bus are compared with a bit pattern set by eight wire links to determine the page location in the memory map of the input data addresses, Fig. 14. This is achieved in the same manner as the output addressing decoding described in Part 1. When the processor needs to read from the shared memory, a read request signal is generated before the system enable signal E goes low, achieved by AND-ing the address decoder output, M/I/O and W/R signals. The output is latched by the 8085



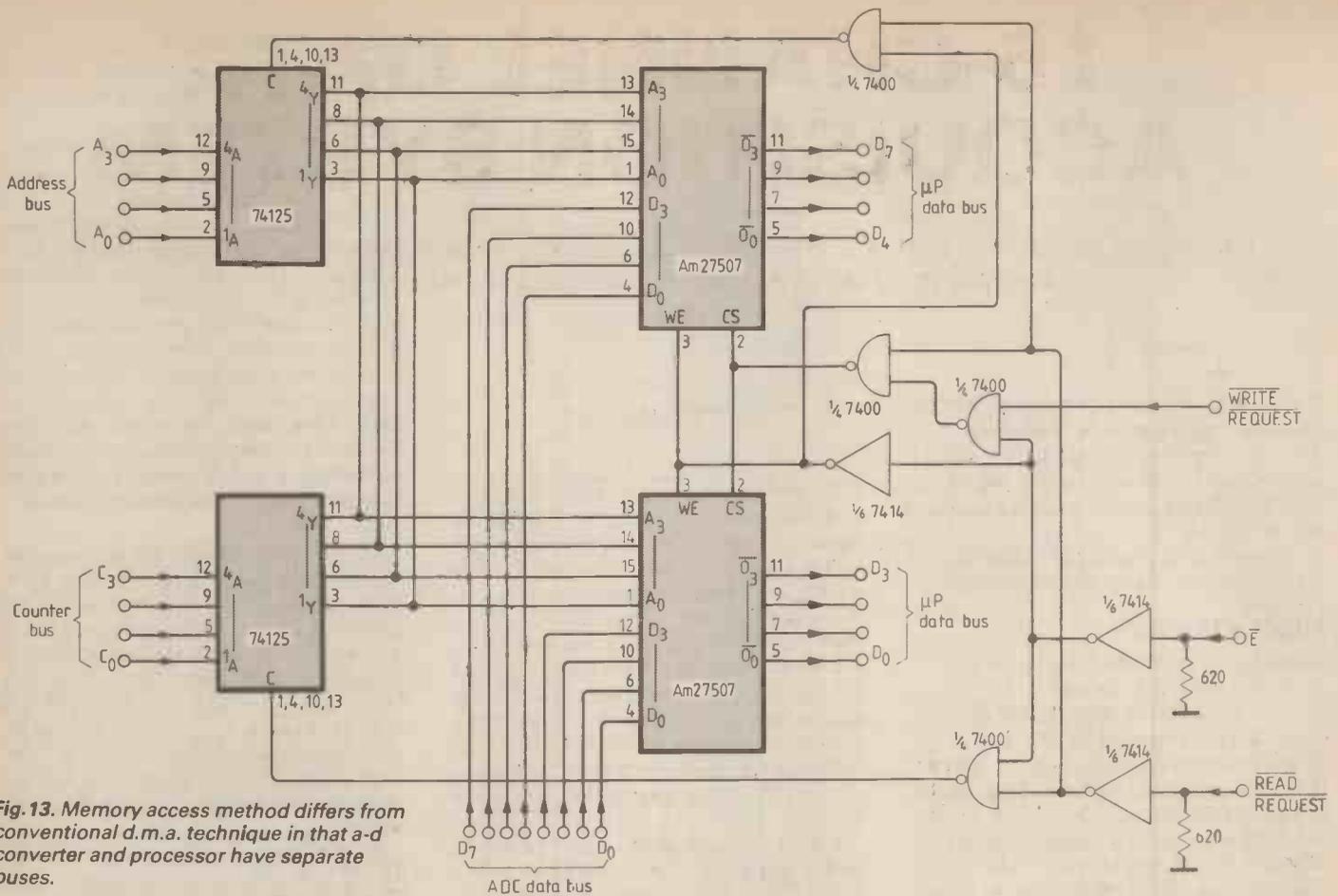


Fig. 13. Memory access method differs from conventional d.m.a. technique in that a-d converter and processor have separate buses.

address latch enable signal \overline{ALE} to ensure that the read request signal is low before \overline{E} goes low. Timing diagram: Fig. 15. The read request signal enables the appropriate address buffer and sets the memory to read mode.

The absence of a read request signal sets the memory to write mode and enables the a-d converter address buffer. A write request signal from the converter timing control enables the memory and data is clocked into the memory by the system

enable, \overline{E} . The duration of the write request is long enough to ensure that any data is always stored in the memory. Since the processor controls access to the memory at all times, no conflict of simultaneous access requests occur.

Continued

The authors ask us to point out that \overline{E}_1 and \overline{E}_2 in Fig. 9 should be inverted, for which the two spare 7400 gates may be used.

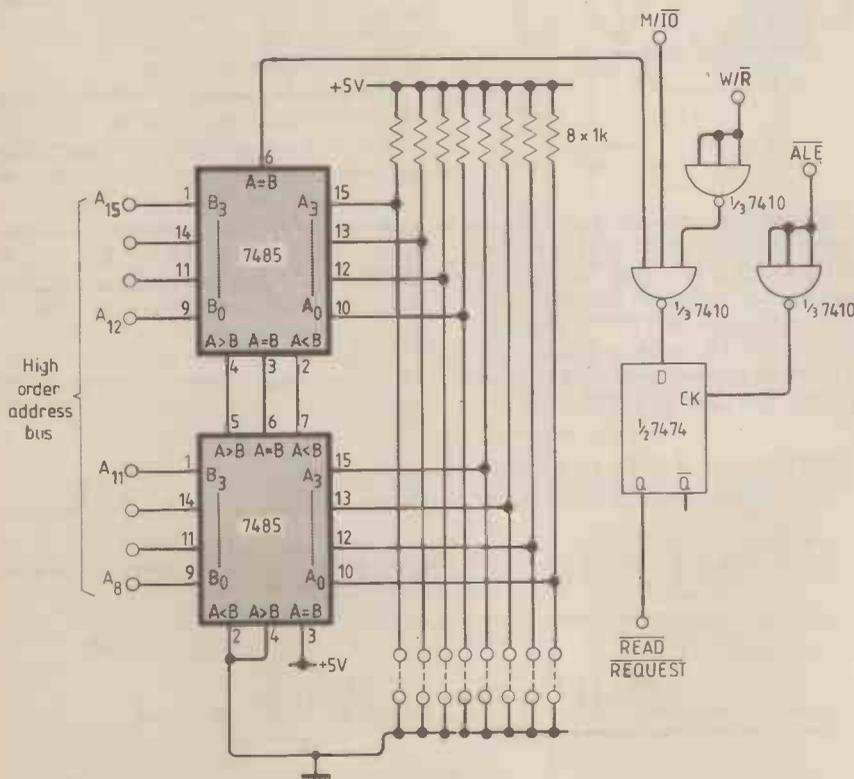


Fig. 14. Eight high-order bits of address bus are compared with bit pattern set by eight wire links to determine page location in memory map.

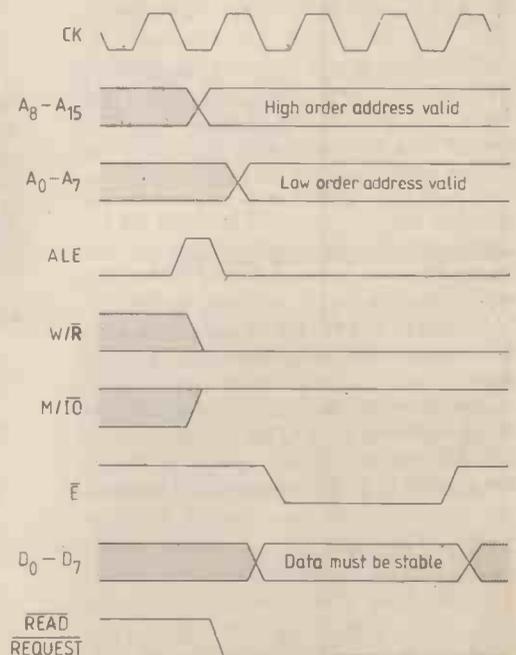


Fig. 15. READ REQUEST enables the appropriate address buffer and sets memory to read mode.

16-CHANNEL DATA ACQUISITION SYSTEM

The article concludes with a continuation of the circuit description, its operation and a sample program for scanning through sixteen channels.

Figure 8 is the timing diagram for the listening sequence. On power-up, the Reset line is brought low for approximately 150 ms via R_3 and C_2 to reset the address latch IC_7 and the address-enable flip-flop IC_5 .

To select a channel and start an a-to-d conversion, the Basic statement below is executed:

```
PRINT # DN, "*"n
```

where DN is the device number (0-30)

* is the ASCII character "*"

n is the ASCII equivalent of the required channel "0" to "F".

When the system receives a device number (DN) corresponding to that selected on the address switches ($S_5 - S_1$ in Fig. 7), the 96LS488 will initiate a timing sequence, as shown in Fig. 8 (not to scale). The r.o.m. (IC_6) decodes ASCII information to binary data, its contents being outlined in Table 1. Four outputs of the r.o.m. give the binary data obtained by converting ASCII "0" - "F" to binary 0000 - 1111 and additional outputs are used to detect a "*" character and a carriage return (CR) - data outputs 06 and 05 are used for this purpose.

When the first "*" character is sent (2 in Fig. 8) the * line goes low (3) and the RXST and RXRDY are pulsed (4) and (5) in accordance with Fig. 5. As the data is removed (6), * detect goes high and sets the address enable FF - Q^* goes high (8). The next data byte is presented (9), representing one of 16 address channels, and as RXST goes high (10), CLK goes high (11) and latches the address latch (12). RXST and CLK then go low (13) and (14), and data is removed (15).

A Carriage Return is now presented at the data bus (16) and the CR detect (or GO signal) goes low (17), and starts conversion in the AD7555 (to be discussed later). This signal also resets the address enable F-F (18), while RXST pulses (19) and (20), CRD is removed (21) and GO is returned high.

The result of all this activity is that one of 16 channels is enabled in the AD7506 (16 channel multiplexer) and a conversion cycle of the appropriate channel is started.

Talking sequence (conversion cycle)

The AD7555 is a $4\frac{1}{2}/5\frac{1}{2}$ -digit a-to-d conversion subsystem. A free-running clock (DMC) strobes out the b.c.d. data from the AD7555 in a 4-bit-wide bus. In

by Pat Hickey*

this application, the DMC signal is controlled by the 96LS488 handshake signals to transmit the information to the GPIB. Each b.c.d. data byte is signalled by a digit line which goes low when that byte is being outputted, D0 going low for the most significant digit (sign and first digit), D1 for the next significant digit, etc., and D5 for the least-significant digit. In this application, D5 going low is used to send a carriage return code on the IEEE-488 bus. Although this loses one digit of resolution, it considerably eases the interface circuitry.

Figure 9 highlights the conversion timing sequence. Upon receipt of a GO signal (2) (from the listening sequence in Fig. 8) HOLD goes high (3) which instructs the AD7555 to start conversion: the free-running DMC clock is also

enabled (4). Upon comparator crossing at the end of phase 0, (the beginning of the quad-slope a-to-d conversion procedure) SCC goes low (5), enabling the 1.024MHz clock to pin 12.

At the end of the conversion, SCC returns high (6) and on the next DMC rising edge (7), DAV goes high and remains high for two DMC pulses (9); during this period, the internal buffers are updated with the latest data. After this, DAV returns low (10) and brings HOLD Low (11). This is known as the master reset and disables the free-flowing DMC clock. From this point control of DMC is taken over by the TXST handshake during read-back.

At this stage, the data presented by the AD7555 is the most significant digit; TXRDY is high, indicating that data is ready; and SRQ has been brought low (12) telling the controller that a conversion has been completed and the new data is ready.

Fig. 8. Timing diagram for the listening sequence.

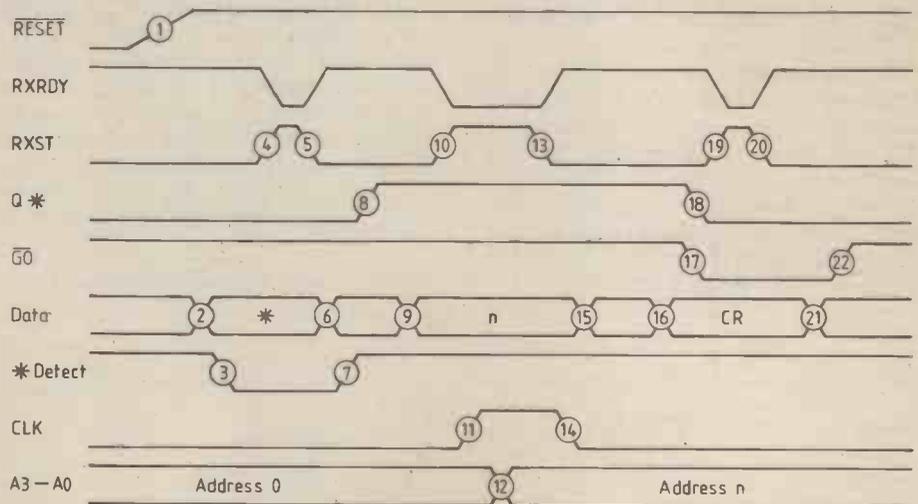
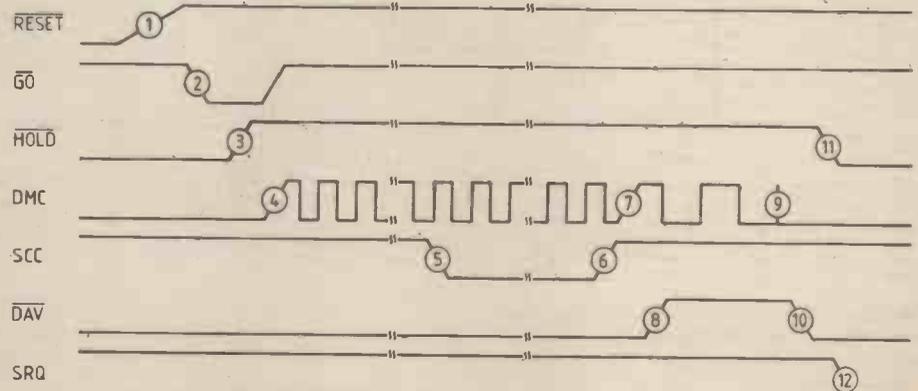


Fig. 9. Conversion cycle timing sequence.



* Analog Devices, Limerick, Ireland

PARTS LIST

Integrated circuits

1, 2	MC3441	4
3	96LS488	6-20
4	74C08	21
5, 10	74C74	23
6	6331	24
7	74C175	25
8	74C04	26, 29, 30
9	AD7555	27
11, 23, 24	74C157	28
12	74C30	
13	74C02	
14	AD7506	
15	74C901	
16	7493	
17	LM399	
18	AD517	
19, 21	AD301	
20	AD542	
22	74C10	
25	74C14	

Diodes

1-4	led	4
5	1N914	1
6	4.7V	1
1, 2, 5, 22	470 (5%)	4
3	39k (5%)	1

4	150 (5%)	1
6-20	10k (5%)	15
21	1k (5%)	1
23	10M (1%)	1
24	5.1k (1%)	1
25	6.8k (1%)	1
26, 29, 30	10k (1%)	3
27	1M (1%)	1
28	20k (1%)	1

Potentiometers

Rp1	500 multiturn	1
Rp2	200 multiturn	1

Capacitors

1, 4, 6, 11	0.01μ	4
2	0.47μ	1
3	150p	1
5	10μ	1
7	0.2μ	1
	(polystyrene)	
8, 10	33p	2
9	0.1μ	1

Miscellaneous

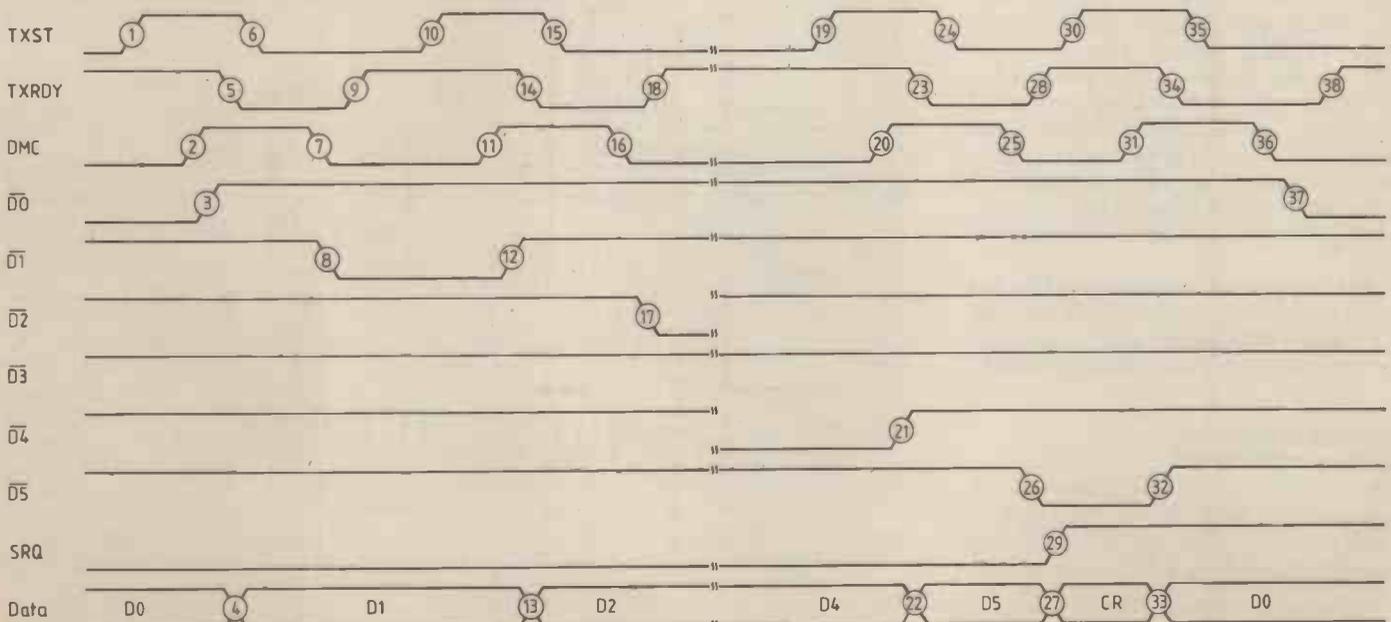
X ₁	4.096MHz	1
S ₁ -S ₅ ,		
S ₆ -S ₉	d.i.l. switch	2

Readback cycle

Data is transferred to the controller via the input instruction INPUT # DN, R\$, where DN is the device number, and R\$ is an ASCII string. When this statement is executed, the 96LS488 checks that TXRDY is high (indicating that the first character is ready). It takes the byte and brings TXST in Fig. 10 high (1) to show that it has received the data. This clocks DMC high (2), which brings D0 back high and loads the next data byte (4), and brings TXRDY low (5), acknowledging that the last byte has been received. TXST goes low (6), completing the sequence. This clocks DMC low (7) which brings D1 low (8). TXRDY goes high (9) indicating that the second data byte is ready.

The sequence is repeated for D1, D2, D3 and D4 (10)-(23). TXRDY goes low (23), acknowledging that D4 has been received, and TXST goes low (24) to complete the handshake. This clocks DMC low (25) and brings D5 low (26). The output from the AD7555 is D5 at this stage (the last and unused digit of the 5½ digits). However, a carriage return is transmitted to the controller instead, indicating the end of the string, via the data selector (IC₁₁). As D5 goes low, a carriage return (ASCII 13) is presented to the 96LS988 (27) and TXRDY goes high (28), indicating that it has a byte (CR) to send. D5 going low also resets the SRQ.

Fig. 10. Timing of the readback sequence.



flag (29). The CR is loaded during the rising edge of TXST (30) and the usual handshake follows.

The data string received by the controller is a 5 character string encoding a 4½ digit word. The first character is an encoded version of the sign and most significant digit as outlined in the table.

The program shows a simple method of converting the input string R\$ to a number R. A positive or negative over-range (caused by a voltage greater than ±1.999 volts) is transmitted as "0<<<<" and "2<<<<" respectively.

```

INPUT # 27, R$
IF R$ = "0<<<<" THEN PRINT
"+VE OVERRANGE":END
IF R$ = "2<<<<" THEN PRINT
"-VE OVERRANGE":END
X$ = LEFT $(R$, 1)
IF X$ = "0" THEN X$ = "+1."
IF X$ = "2" THEN X$ = "-1."
IF X$ = "<" THEN X$ = "+0."
IF X$ = "7" THEN X$ = "-0".
R$ = X$ + RIGHT $(R$, 4)
R = VAL (R$)
PRINT "READING = ";R; "VOLTS"
END.

```

Service request and status byte

Bit 6 of the status byte, shown in Fig. 11, contains the service request bit (needed in the case of a serial poll), high when a service is requested. The rest of the status byte contains information as to why a service was requested. (In this case there is only one reason, an end of conversion caused by Bit 4 high.) The four l.s.bs contain the address of the last selected channel. The status byte is read during a serial poll and handshaking is performed by STRDY and STST similar to Fig. 5.

System performance

As discussed, the a-to-d converter is operated as a 5½-digit system, but only 4½ digits are used. The a-to-d conversion time varies from 1.3 seconds for full-scale negative input, to 1.7 seconds for full-scale

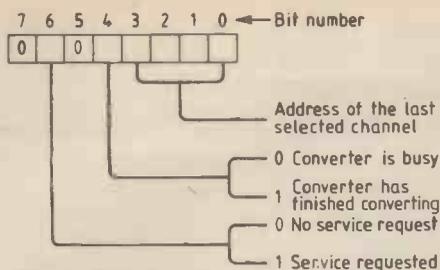


Fig. 11. Service request and data byte.

positive input. The conversion time can be reduced by a factor of ten by operating the a-to-d converter in the $4\frac{1}{2}$ digit mode. Some minor changes in circuit values and pin-straps are necessary.

- Change R₂₇ to 360kΩ and C₇ to 0.22μF.
- Disconnect wire from pin 22 of IC₉ to pin 1 (IC₁₁) and pins 2, 5, (IC₂₄).
- Connect wire from pin 23 (IC₉) to pin 1 (IC₁₁) and pins 2, 5, (IC₂₄).
- Disconnect pin 8 (IC₉) from +5V and connect to GND.

In the $4\frac{1}{2}$ digit a-to-d conversion mode only $3\frac{1}{2}$ digits of information are transmitted on the bus.

The a-to-d converter handles input signals in the range ± 1.9999 volts. Resolution is 100μV and accuracy of the prototype wire-wrap system was $\pm 200\mu V$. The converter exhibits no flicker or offset. Accuracy would be improved by using a printed-circuit board and by paying more attention to leakage paths through i.c. sockets, etc: it is also recommended that

```

10 REM***PROGRAM FOR SCANNING THROUGH 16 CHANNELS.***
20 REM***USING COMMODORE PET***
30 REM***PAT HICKEY***
40 REM***19 OCT 1981***
50 REM
100 REM***MAINLINE PROGRAM***
110 OPEN#16,16
120 PRINT"Q"
130 FORN=0TO15
140 C=X:IFC>9THENC=C+7
150 C$=" "+CHR$(C+48)
160 PRINT#16,C$
170 GOSUB1000
180 GOSUB2000
190 PRINT"CHANNEL";CH;" :- ";R$;" VOLTS"
200 NEXTX
210 PRINT:PRINT
220 GOTD130
1000 REM***LOOP FOR SERVICE REQUEST***
1010 I=PEEK(59426)
1020 I=PEEK(59427)
1030 L=I AND 128
1040 IFL<>128THENI020
1050 REM***READ STATUS BYTE***
1060 AD=103:REM**AD=SERIAL POLL ENABLE(SPE)

```

Sign and most significant digit	Output of AD7555	Input to controller	ASCII equivalent
+1	0000	00110000	0
-1	0010	00110010	2
+0	1100	00111100	<
-0	0111	00110111	7

the operational amplifiers and reference (IC₁₇-IC₂₁) be kept as close to the AD7555 as possible, and as far as possible from the digital circuitry. The AD7555 data sheet gives information on appropriate p.c.b. layout. Calibration procedure:

- Adjust RP1 until pin 1 (IC₉) is at +4.096V.

- Adjust RP2 until pin 2 (IC₂₀) is at +2.0480V.

Correction. Four errors occurred in Fig. 7 of the April part of the article: diode D₄ should go to +5V, instead of ground; IC₁₁ is a 74C157; IC₂ on pin 42 of IC₃ should be C₃. It is not clear on the drawing that R₁₅-R₂₀ go to +5V. □

Two programs, for Commodore Pet and Fluke 1720A, to scan 16 channels.

```

10 REM***PROGRAM FOR SCANNING THROUGH 16 CHANNELS***
20 REM***USING FLUKE 1720A CONTROLLER***
30 REM***PAT HICKEY***
40 REM***19 OCT 1981***
50 REM
100 TERM CHR$(13) !TERMINATION CHARACTER IS CR
110 FORX=0% TO 15% !SCAN 16 CHANNELS
120 C=X%
130 IFC>9%THENC=X%+7% !CHANNEL NUMBER IN HEX
140 C$=" "+CHR$(C%+48) !"0" TO "F"
150 PRINT#16,C$ !SELECT CHANNEL
160 WAIT FOR SRQ
170 INPUT#16,R$ !READ REPLY
180 REM***PROCESS REPLY***
190 X$=LEFT$(R$,12)
200 Y$=RIGHT$(R$,4)
210 R$="OVERRANGE"
220 IFY$="<<<<"THENR$ !OVERRANGE
230 IFX$="0"THENX$="+1."
240 IFX$="2"THENX$="-1."
250 IFX$="C"THENX$="+0."
260 IFX$="7"THENX$="-0."
270 R$=X$+Y$+" VOLTS"
280 CHZ=SPL(16%) AND 15% !DEVICE 16 STATUS BYTE
290 PRINT"CHANNEL";CHZ;" :- ";R$
300 NEXTX%
310 PRINT
320 GOTD110
READY.
1070 GOSUB1200
1080 GET#16,S$:REM**S$=STATUS BYTE
1090 AD=102:REM**AD=SERIAL POLL DISABLE(SPD)
1100 GOSUB1200
1110 CH=ASC(S$)AND15
1120 RETURN
1200 REM***SEND ADDRESS/COMMAND TO GPIB BUS***
1210 POKES9456,0:REM**ATH LOW
1220 POKES9426,AD:REM**SEND COMMAND
1230 POKES9427,52:REM**DAV LOW
1240 POKES9427,60:REM**DAV HIGH
1250 POKES9456,4:REM**ATN HIGH
1260 RETURN
2000 REM***READ DATA FROM BUS***
2010 INPUT#16,R$
2020 X$=LEFT$(R$,1)
2030 Y$=RIGHT$(R$,4)
2040 IFX$="0"THENX$="+1."
2050 IFX$="2"THENX$="-1."
2060 IFX$="C"THENX$="+0."
2070 IFX$="7"THENX$="-0."
2080 R$=X$+Y$
2090 IFY$="<<<<"THENR$="OVERRANGE"
2100 RETURN
READY.

```

BOOKS

Elements of Microprogramming, by D. K. Banerji and J. Raymond. 434 pages, hardback. Prentice-Hall, £18.70.

The advantages of microprogramming over hard-wired control logic systems are described from a historical viewpoint prior to a thorough treatment of the theory, practice and application. A microinstruction is at a lower level than a machine-code instruction; an Add, for example, requires four microinstructions. Microprogrammed control possesses the advantages of flexibility and economy and the possibility of changing the instruction set or architecture of a computer by altering the microprogram.

Digital Control Using Microprocessors, by P. Katz. 293 pages, hardback. Prentice-Hall, £16.95.

Differences in emphasis between digital processing of signals and the digital control of processes are stressed in this book, which is at a suitable level for final-year degree students and engineers who are already familiar with analogue control. Sample 8085 programs are included.

Computers and the Radio Amateur, by P. Anderson. 208 pages, hardback. Prentice-Hall, £14.20.

A thorough and well presented introduction to computers in amateur radio. Presents a very readable explanation of Basic and assembly-level programming, and goes on to describe interfacing to amateur equipment and to detail electronic keying and Morse reading.

World's Radio Broadcasting Stations, by C. J. Both. 214 pages, paperback. Newnes Technical Books, £5.50.

European f.m. radio and television transmitters are included in this comprehensive listing of stations. The book, first published in Holland, presents the relevant information to enable a listener to identify or locate stations in the long, medium and short wavebands, giving frequency and wavelength, power, co-ordinates of the transmitters and their place names. In the case of television and f.m. radio, there are columns to indicate channel number, aerial polarization and whether the station transmits in stereo. A number of appendices list the addresses of broadcasting stations and DX clubs and there is a five-language glossary, a frequency/wavelength conversion table and a table giving the characteristics of tv transmitters.

CIRCUIT IDEAS

Waveform synthesizer

Here, an X/Y matrix is used to plot a given waveform. The waveform to be synthesized is divided into a number of time domains and the voltage at the end of each domain is set on a diode-chain potentiometer. If the length of the time domain is less than half the period of the maximum frequency present in the waveform and the number of discrete levels is large, accurate reproduction of the original can be achieved. This circuit lends itself to computer control and expansion.

By varying the 555-clock frequency, the output waveform frequency may be adjusted proportionally. A 7493 counter converts the clock signal into 4-bit binary which in turn drives a 4-to-16-line decoder, which in turn drives 16 output transistors through t.t.l. buffers. Each transistor output is fed to a common point through a resistor. For certain waveforms, an integrating capacitor may be connected across the output to filter out steps and switching pulses.

P. D. Somerville
Crawley
Sussex

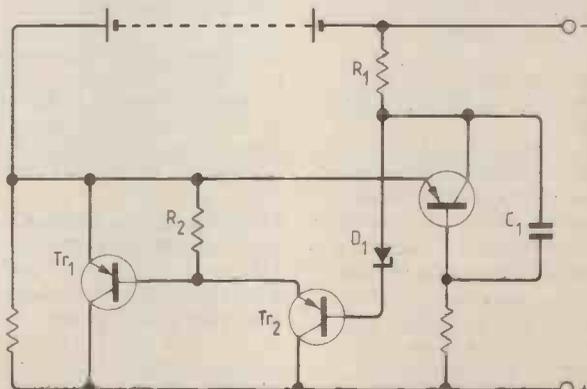
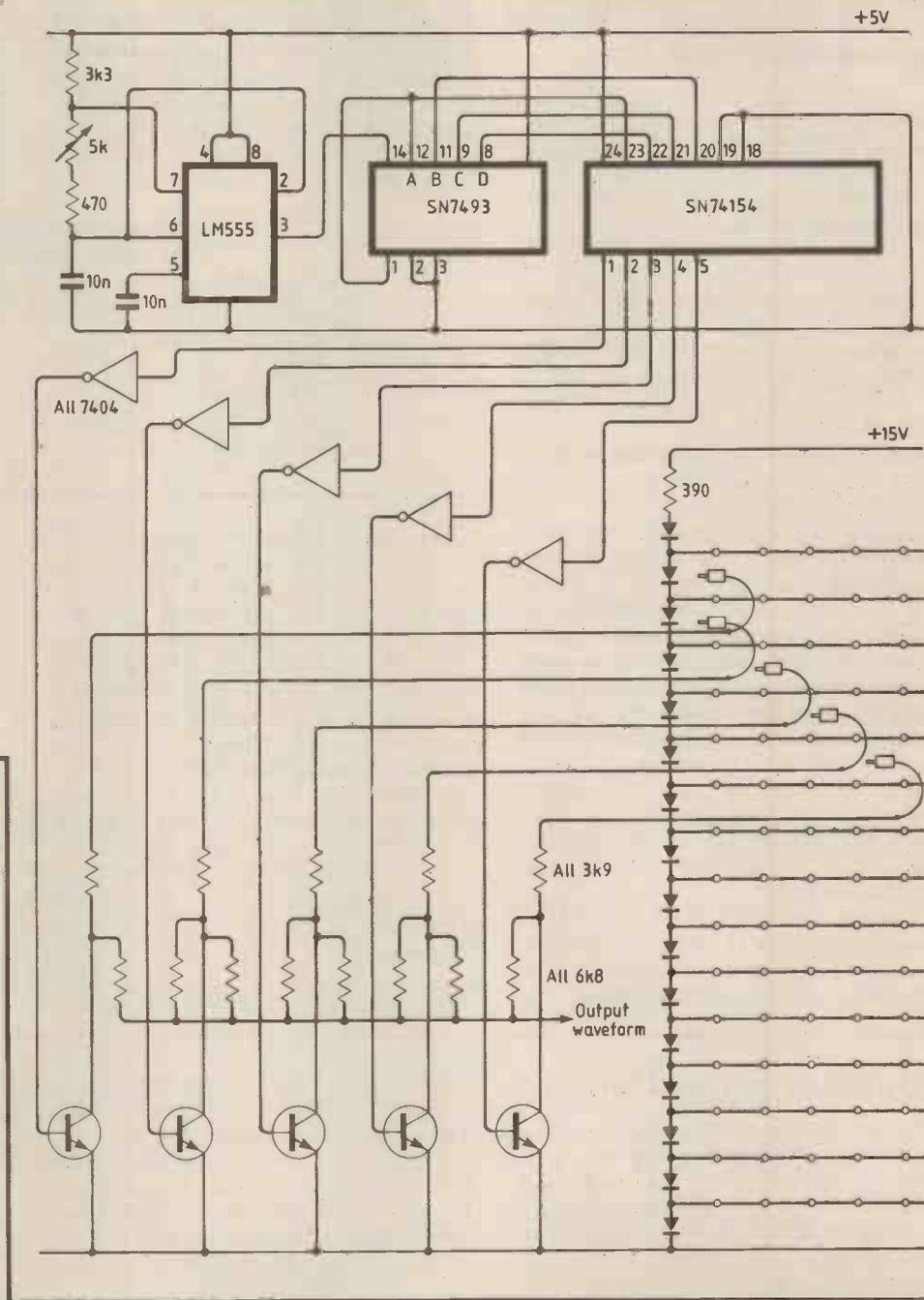
NiCd battery protection

Essentially a fold-back current limiter with a low-voltage detection capability, this circuit draws less than 300 μ A and drops less than 0.35V on full transmit load.

The low loss on load, important in many battery applications, is due to the use of germanium as the control element. Only one control transistor is shown in the simplified diagram although two in parallel are used. The germanium control transistor Tr_1 is held on by a silicon transistor, Tr_2 , whose base current flows through zener D_1 and R_1 . With a 12V battery D_1 is 9.1V. In the event of an overload or short circuit the p.d. across Tr_1 rises and on reaching 0.6V is detected by silicon transistor Tr_3 with emitter-base connected across the emitter-collector of the germanium control transistor. Tr_3 turns on, raising the junction of D_1 and R_1 to battery voltage. This action turns off $Tr_{1,2}$ and they remain off while any load is connected.

A similar action occurs if the voltage on or off load falls below 1V/cell, i.e. below 10V. In this case the battery voltage fails to support a current through Tr_2 (requiring 0.6V) and D_1 (requiring 9.1V) and Tr_1 starts to turn off, initiating the same fold-back action. C_1 is included to damp the fold-back loop. A low-value resistor R_2 is used to control thermal run-away of Tr_1 .

J. B. H. Stead
Salisbury
Zimbabwe



DIGITAL FILTER DESIGN

In the next few years digital filters will be increasingly used in place of their analogue counterparts, not only on account of their accuracy and versatility but also their rapidly declining cost. Authors Cheetham and Hughes introduce the basic theory in this article, give design techniques for a useful class of filters in the next, and describe their implementation by special-purpose microprocessor in a third article.

by B. M. G. Cheetham
and P. Hughes*

The conversion of an analogue signal into digital form requires a process of sampling at successive points in time separated by equal intervals, say T . Each sample is then converted to a binary number proportional to the sampled voltage. The sampling process requires that the analogue signal be bandlimited to below the Nyquist frequency $1/2f_s$, where $f_s \approx 1/T$. This may be achieved to an acceptable accuracy by low-pass filtering the analogue signal before sampling. Failure to do this will result in frequency components above the Nyquist frequency being folded back into the range below $1/2f_s$, causing a form of distortion known as aliasing.

Further distortion is introduced by the process of representing each sample by a finite wordlength or number of bits; the true voltage must be truncated or rounded to one of the discrete levels which correspond to a permissible binary number. The noise introduced by this quantization error may be reduced to acceptable levels by a judicious choice of wordlength and sampling rate.

The discrete-time signal produced by sampling an analogue signal is defined to be an infinite sequence of numbers each corresponding to a sampling point at time $t=nT$ for $-\infty < n < \infty$. Such a sequence is always referred to by its value at $t=nT$. Thus the sequence $\{x(n)\}$ is defined as

$$\{ \dots, x(-2), x(-1), x(0), x(1), x(2), \dots \}$$

with element $x(n)$ occurring at $t=nT$. By this definition, $\{x(n-k)\}$ denotes the sequence whose value at $t=nT$, is $x(n-k)$. Hence $k>0$, $\{x(n-k)\}$ is a delayed version of $\{x(k)\}$ where each element is shifted k places to the right and is thus delayed by k sampling intervals. It is often assumed, and arranged in practice, that elements of a discrete-time signal are zero for $n<0$, but this would not always be the case. A discrete-time signal becomes a digital signal when its elements are represented by fixed-wordlength binary numbers. Not all signals encountered in the study of digital filters originate as analogue signals. Many digital signals, such as the discrete time impulse $\{\delta(n)\}$ illustrated, are readily generated in digital form but would be unlikely to occur in that precise form as sampled analogue signals. Further, a perfectly rectangular digital square wave is not necessarily the sampled version of a bandlimited analogue square wave.

Conversion from a digital to an analogue signal involves reconstituting the sampled

The importance of digital filters as devices for processing digitized signals is rapidly increasing now with the introduction of special-purpose microprocessors and integrated circuits specifically designed for signal processing. Using the numerical processing power of such circuits, digital filters are able to perform operations corresponding to those of analogue filters. For example, the Intel 2920 analogue signal processor with its analogue/digital converters acts as a one-chip replacement for an analogue filter.

In addition to their uses in emulating the frequency responses of established forms of analogue filters, digital filters have a wide range of other applications which take advantage of the much greater power and flexibility of numerical processing as compared with analogue methods, and the filter may not easily be described as having a particular type of frequency response. Digital filter inputs need not originate from analogue sources, and numerically generated signals are encountered in many applications. In developing the basic theory of digital filters, therefore, it is best to consider them as general devices for processing sequences of numerical data rather than as digital realisations of analogue filters. But before doing this, this article briefly considers the sampling process often used to produce digital signals and introduces notation for representing such signals.

voltage levels as electrical pulses at the sampling instants, and low-pass filtering to remove frequencies at and above the Nyquist limit. In practice, the sampling rate employed for analogue to digital conversion is normally considerably greater than twice the highest frequency of interest to ensure that the analogue low-pass filters required may be relatively simple and inexpensive.

A digital signal may be subjected to numerical operations such as addition, subtraction and multiplication by passing the sequence of numbers (referred to as samples) through some form of digital

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processing system. Such a system could be a program implemented on a main-frame scientific research computer normally used to process blocks of stored digital signal samples for analysis some time later. Alternatively, the system may be a piece of special-purpose hardware consisting of some digital integrated circuits and/or a microprocessor. With such a dedicated hardware system the processing may be carried out in real time so that an output signal is generated as an uninterrupted stream of samples with at most a small fixed delay between each input sample and its corresponding output sample. In this case the digital system, with associated analogue to digital converters, may act as a direct replacement for an analogue system such as a filter or a modulator.

Digital processing systems can be designed to carry out a very wide range of operations on digital signals. A digital filter is a processing system which generates the output sequence $\{y(n)\}$ from an input sequence $\{x(n)\}$

$$y(n) = \sum_{i=0}^M a_i x(n-i) - \sum_{j=1}^N b_j y(n-j) \quad (1)$$

at time nT for $-\infty < n < \infty$. This is a difference equation of order M or N , whichever is the larger. When $N>0$ the filter is said to be recursive as previous output samples are used in the calculation of the present output sample. Coefficients a_0, a_1, \dots, a_M and b_1, b_2, \dots, b_N are fixed (time invariant) multiplication constants which characterize the effect of the filter. The design of a useful digital filter requires the selection of these constants using design techniques corresponding to those adopted for calculating component values in analogue filters, and an example for a class of digital filters is given in a subsequent article. As a simple example, consider the digital filter defined by the first-order difference equation

$$y(n) = x(n) + by(n-1) \quad (2)$$

where b is a constant. This filter is shown in diagrammatic form in Fig. 1, illustrating

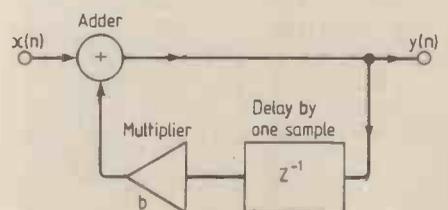


Fig. 1. First-order digital filter applies numerical operations to the sampled input signal $x(n)$ to produce an output $y(n)$.

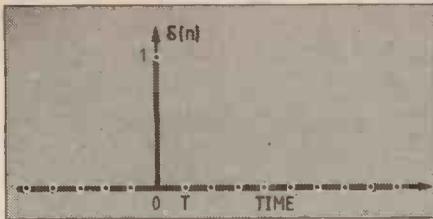


Fig. 2. The discrete-time impulse $\delta(n)$ is defined only at sampling points $t=nT$, $\delta(n) = \begin{cases} 0, & t=nT, n \neq 0 \\ 1, & t=0 \end{cases}$

ing the three basic operations required for any digital filter: addition, multiplication by constants and delay. Make the input sequence $\{x(n)\}$ equal to the discrete-time impulse sequence $\{\delta(n)\}$ of Fig. 2, with

$$\delta(n) = \begin{cases} 1, & n=0 \\ 0, & n \neq 0 \end{cases}$$

The output from this simple filter may be calculated by hand. Assuming $y(-1)$ to be zero, then

$$y(0) = x(0) + by(-1) = 1$$

Following on from this

$$\begin{aligned} y(1) &= x(1) + by(0) = b \\ y(2) &= x(2) + by(1) = b^2, \text{ and so on.} \end{aligned}$$

Hence the output will be the real exponential sequence:

$$\{y(n)\} = \{\dots, 0, b, b^2, \dots, b^n, \dots\} \quad (3)$$

illustrated below in Fig. 3 for $b=0.7$. If $|b| > 1$, the sequence $\{y(n)\}$ would increase without limit and the digital filter would then be said to be unstable. A stable filter is one which produces a bounded output sequence, i.e. a sequence whose elements do not increase without limit as n increases or decreases (looking backwards in time) for any bounded input sequence. As the input signal in the example above is the discrete-time impulse $\{\delta(n)\}$ the output obtained is termed the impulse response of the filter. If the input had been $\{\delta(n-k)\}$, a delayed version of the discrete-time impulse, the output would have been $\{y(n-k)\}$ a similarly delayed version of $\{y(n)\}$.

Assuming the impulse response of a general filter, as given by equation 1, to be the sequence $\{h(n)\}$, consider its response to an arbitrary input sequence $\{x(n)\}$. Such a sequence may be expressed as the weighted sum of delayed unit impulses

$$\{x(n)\} = \left\{ \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} x(k) \cdot \delta(n-k) \right\} \quad (4)$$

If only bounded input and output sequences are allowed, it may be shown that the digital filter defined by equation 1 is linear in the sense that if input sequences $\{x_1(n)\}$ and $\{x_2(n)\}$ produce outputs $\{y_1(n)\}$ and $\{y_2(n)\}$ respectively, the response to $\{\lambda x_1(n) + \mu x_2(n)\}$ will be $\{\lambda y_1(n) + \mu y_2(n)\}$ for any values of λ and μ . By extending this property to the infinite sum of scaled impulses as given by (4) one deduces that the response to $\{x(n)\}$ is

$$\{y(n)\} = \left\{ \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} x(k) \cdot h(n-k) \right\}$$

The right hand side is the convolution of $\{x(n)\}$ with $\{h(n)\}$, often denoted by $\{x(n)\} * \{h(n)\}$. By a simple change of variable it may be shown that an entirely equivalent expression is

$$\begin{aligned} \{y(n)\} &= \{h(n)\} \star \{x(n)\} \\ &= \left\{ \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} h(k)x(n-k) \right\} \end{aligned}$$

The impulse response of a filter therefore provides a complete characterization of its behaviour, allowing the response to any input sequence to be deduced from these two equations.

Alternative characterization

An alternative method of characterizing a digital filter is to specify its effect on sinusoidal input signals over a range of frequencies. A fundamental property of fixed linear systems in that their steady-state response to a sinusoidal input is a sinusoidal output of identical frequency but modified amplitude and phase. Define a sinusoidal sequence of radian frequency ω to be the sampled version of a sinusoidal function of time, with frequency $F = \omega/2\pi T$; for example $\{A \cos(\omega n)\}$. The response of a filter with impulse response $\{h(n)\}$ to this sequence as input may be readily calculated by first considering the theoretical response to the complex-valued exponential sequence $\{e^{j\omega n}\}$, where $j = \sqrt{-1}$. The response is an output sequence:

$$\begin{aligned} \{y(n)\} &= \left\{ \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} h(k)e^{j\omega(n-k)} \right\} \\ &= \{e^{j\omega n} \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} h(k)e^{-j\omega k}\} \\ &= \{e^{j\omega n} H(e^{j\omega})\} \end{aligned}$$

where $H(e^{j\omega}) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} h(k)e^{-j\omega k} \quad (5)$

The function $H(e^{j\omega})$ is defined as the frequency response of the digital filter and is a complex number for any value of ω (subject to the convergence of the series in equation 5; by the definition of stability

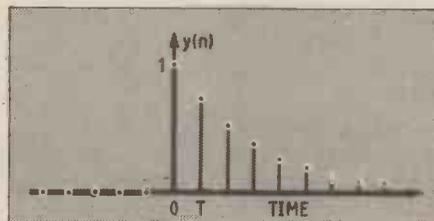


Fig. 3. Output sequence obtained by feeding $\delta(n)$ in Fig. 2 into the digital filter shown in Fig. 1 with $b=0.7$ is the real exponential sequence $y(n) = 0.7^n$ for $n > 0$.

given earlier, convergence is assured for a stable filter).

The response to $\{A \cos(\omega n)\}$ is a sequence $\{y(n)\}$ with

$$y(n) = \frac{1}{2}A(H(e^{j\omega})e^{j\omega n} + H(e^{-j\omega})e^{-j\omega n})$$

Denoting by $\phi(\omega)$ the argument of $H(e^{j\omega})$ and noting that since all values of $h(k)$ in equation 3 are real, $|H(e^{j\omega})| = |H(e^{-j\omega})|$ and the argument of $H(e^{-j\omega}) = -\phi(\omega)$:

$$y(n) = \frac{1}{2}A |H(e^{j\omega})| \times$$

$$(e^{j(\omega n + \phi(\omega))} + e^{-j(\omega n + \phi(\omega))})$$

$$= A |H(e^{j\omega})| \cos(\omega n + \phi(\omega))$$

Hence the modulus and argument of the complex-valued frequency response $H(e^{j\omega})$ give the gain and phase shift of the filter output relative to a sinusoidal input of radian frequency ω . Bearing in mind that

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} e^{j\omega(n-k)} d\omega = \begin{cases} 2\pi & \text{if } n=k \\ 0 & \text{if } n \neq k \end{cases}$$

it may be deduced from equation 3 that

$$h(n) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} H(e^{j\omega}) e^{j\omega n} d\omega \quad \text{for } -\infty < n < \infty \quad (6)$$

The transformation from the sequence $\{h(n)\}$ to the complex function $H(e^{j\omega})$ of ω defined by equation 5 is a Fourier transform; the reverse process given by equation 6 is an inverse Fourier transform.

As an illustration of frequency response, consider again the simple digital filter defined by equation 2. By equations 3 & 5

$$H(e^{j\omega}) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} b^k e^{-j\omega k}$$

which may be summed for $|b| < 1$ as a geometric series, giving

$$H(e^{j\omega}) = (1 - be^{-j\omega})^{-1} \quad (7)$$

Evaluating this expression for $b=0.7$ gives

$$|H(e^{j\omega})| = (1.49 - 1.4 \cos \omega)^{-1/2}$$

$$\text{and } \phi(\omega) = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{0.7 \sin \omega}{0.7 \cos \omega - 1} \right)$$

Frequency response graphs of gain, $|H(e^{j\omega})|$, and phase $\phi(\omega)$ over radian frequencies 0 to π , corresponding to analogue frequencies from zero to the Nyquist, are shown in Fig. 4(a) and (b).

z-transforms

Analysis and design of digital filters is greatly simplified by the use of the z-transform which is analogous to the Laplace transform for analogue filters.

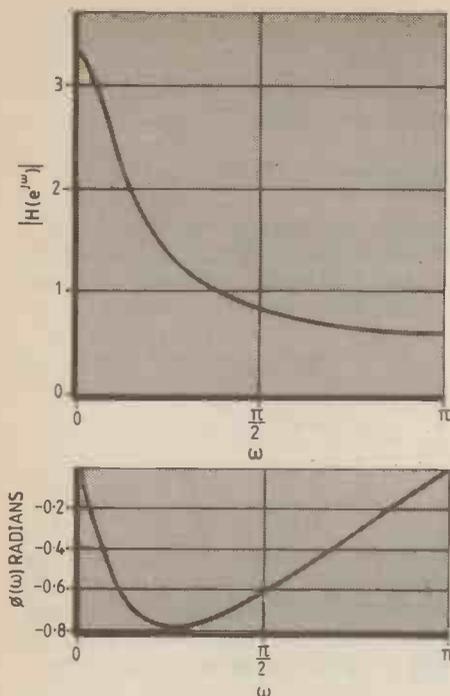


Fig. 4. Frequency response of a digital filter (in this case Fig. 1 with $b=0.7$) characterizes its response to sampled sinusoidal inputs of the form $A\cos\omega n$. Amplitude response at top, phase response bottom.

The z-transform of the sequence $\{x(n)\}$ is defined as the infinite sum

$$X(z) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} x(n)z^{-n}$$

for a complex variable z . Notice the similarity between this expression and equation 3; setting $z=e^{j\omega}$ gives $X(z)$ as the Fourier transform of $\{x(n)\}$. The z-transform of the impulse response $\{h(n)\}$ is $H(z)$ and hence the setting of $z=e^{j\omega}$ in this case gives the frequency response already defined as $H(e^{j\omega})$. The equation above may therefore be thought of as a generalization of the Fourier transform. Also, the z-transform of the delayed sequence $\{x(n-1)\}$ is $z^{-1}X(z)$ as each coefficient of z^{-n} is shifted along by one place. In general the z-transform of $\{x(n-k)\}$ is $z^{-k}X(z)$. Also notice that the z-transform of the impulse $\{\delta(n)\}$ is $\Delta(z)=1$.

Applying the z-transform to the output of a digital filter as defined by equation 1 gives

$$Y(z) = \sum_{i=0}^M a_i z^{-i} X(z) - \sum_{j=1}^N b_j z^{-j} Y(z)$$

which may be rearranged and expressed in the form

$$Y(z) = \left[\left(\sum_{i=0}^M a_i z^{-i} \right) / \left(1 + \sum_{j=1}^N b_j z^{-j} \right) \right] X(z)$$

The expression in square brackets above is equal to $H(z)$ as if the input sequence

$\{x(n)\} = \{\delta(n)\}$ then $Y(z)$ becomes equal to the z-transform of the impulse response. Hence $H(z)$ may be expressed directly in terms of the multiplier coefficients, and the frequency response may be obtained directly from this expression by setting $z=e^{j\omega}$. This may be verified for the simple filter defined by equation 2 where $H(z) = 1/(1-bz^{-1})$ and hence an expression for $H(e^{j\omega})$ identical to equation 7.

The transfer function of a filter, $H(z)$, has now been expressed as the ratio of two polynomial expressions in z^{-1} , the roots of which are the poles and zeros of $H(z)$. Hence

$$H(z) = a_0 \prod_{i=1}^M (1 - z_i z^{-1}) / \prod_{j=1}^N (1 - p_j z^{-1}) \quad (8)$$

assuming $a_0 \neq 0$, where the poles are p_j and the zeros by z_i . Expanding by partial fractions (assuming there are no repeated roots other than at $z=0$),

$$H(z) = \sum_{i=0}^{M-N} B_i z^{-1} + \sum_{j=1}^N A_j / (1 - p_j z^{-1})$$

which expresses $H(z)$ as the weighted sum of sequences whose z-transforms are z^{-1} and $1/(1-p_j z^{-1})$. Clearly z^{-1} corresponds to a delayed impulse $\{\delta(n-i)\}$. By referring back to the example of a first-order filter whose transfer function is $1/(1-bz^{-1})$ it may be deduced that $1/(1-p_j z^{-1})$ is the z-transform of an exponential sequence of the form

$$\{\dots, 0, \dots, 0, 1, p_j, p_j^2, \dots, p_j^i, \dots\} \quad (9)$$

The roots of a polynomial may of course be complex numbers and therefore the sequences above may be complex. As complex roots occur in conjugate pairs, the sequence obtained for $\{h(n)\}$ is always real. A non-recursive filter, i.e. one with $N=0$, will have an impulse response with $h(n)=B_n$ for $0 \leq n \leq M$ and zero otherwise. Such an impulse response is termed finite as only a finite number of elements are

non-zero. The impulse response of a recursive filter ($N>0$) will include at least one sequence of the form in equation 9 and can therefore be of infinite duration. For such a filter to be stable, the above sequence 9 corresponding to each of its N poles p_j must be a decaying exponential. Hence a stable filter must have $|p_j| < 1$ for all its poles.

Considerable insight into the behaviour of digital filters may be gained by plotting. Argand diagrams showing the positions of poles and zeros as values z . Such a diagram is shown in Fig. 5 for the transfer function $H(z) = 1/(1-0.7z^{-1})$ which has a pole at $z=0.7$, and a zero at $z=0$. The points for which $z=e^{j\omega}$ on this plane correspond to the unit circle with centre $z=0$ and radius 1. The frequency response $H(e^{j\omega})$ is obtained by an evaluation of $H(z)$ for values of z on this unit circle, where ω is the angle subtended from the real axis to the point corresponding to $z=e^{j\omega}$. Frequencies zero and the Nyquist appear at opposite sides of the unit circle on the real axis.

A stable filter will have all its poles inside the unit circle ($|p_j| < 1$). From equation 8 the value of $|H(e^{j\omega})|$ at any point on the unit circle is equal to a_0 multiplied by the product of the distances from that point to each of the zeros, divided by the product of distances to the poles. The phase of $H(z)$ may also be readily calculated. Consequently zeros close to the unit circle correspond to frequencies for which $|H(e^{j\omega})|$ is close to zero. Poles close to the unit circle produce large values of $|H(e^{j\omega})|$, the closer the pole, the larger the modulus. Such poles can also affect $\phi(\omega)$ resulting in severe phase non-linearity.

The design of digital filters with specified frequency responses is often carried out by locating zeros and poles at appropriate points on the z-plane. Design techniques exist for both recursive and non-recursive filters: refer for details to any of the standard references, some of which are listed below. Non-recursive filters have certain advantages of guaranteed stability and easily specifiable phase characteristics, but tend to involve a large number of arithmetical operations which could make them more difficult to implement. Recursive filters are perhaps still more commonly used, and therefore the next article will introduce a design procedure for this class of filters.

continued

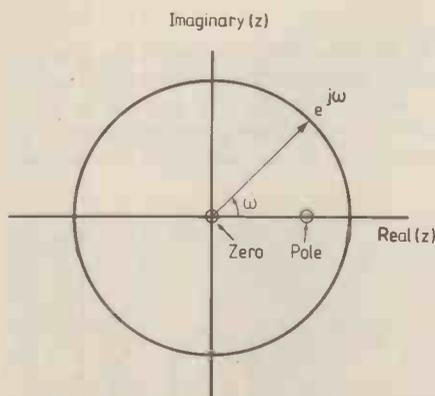


Fig. 5. Argand diagram shows pole and zero positions for $H(z)$ obtained from Fig. 1 which determines the frequency response $H(e^{j\omega})$.

Further reading

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- Theory and Application of Digital Signal Processing, by L. R. Rabiner and B. Gold, Prentice-Hall, 1975.
- Digital and Kalman Filtering, by S. M. Bosic, Edward Arnold, London, 1979.
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- Digital Signal Processing Theory, Design and Implementation, by A. Peled and B. Liu, Wiley, 1976.



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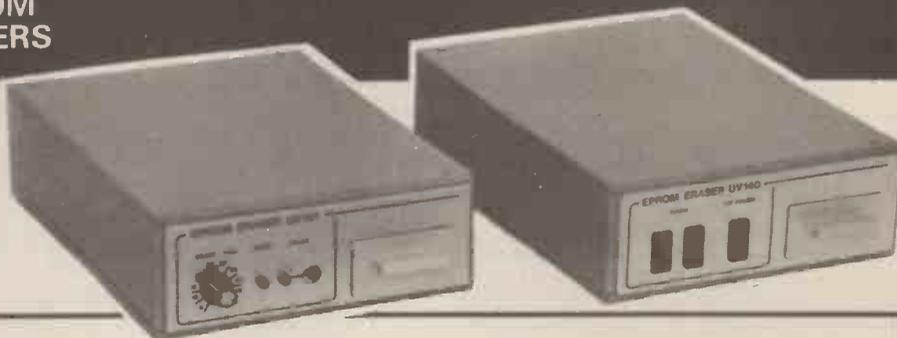
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LETTERS

A CHARTER FOR ISOLATION

I wish to quote from your editorial "A Charter for Isolation" in the December issue:

"It leaves us, says Hartley, with a 'conception of the engineer as no more than a high-grade technician, a functionary not fully professional...'"

This conforms to a view held in this country in a previous age - 1920-50. But it surprises me that you did not correlate the holding of this view with the photo on page 37 of that issue, where "engineers practice climbing on these short poles". By our definitions, if British engineers still spend time climbing poles then we would have to say they are technicians.

The engineering profession down-graded itself for too long by accepting such jobs, even in training; besides who can afford such at present starting salaries of US \$22,000 or thereabouts?

J. D. Ryder,
formerly Dean of Engineering,
Michigan State University.

THE DEATH OF ELECTRIC CURRENT

Ivor Catt's letter in the February issue only serves to illustrate the deficiencies in his knowledge of mathematics and conventional EM theory and the confusion of his own theory.

Can he not see that $E/H = \sqrt{\mu/\epsilon}$ is wrong and $H = B/\mu$ is right for mathematical reasons? There is indeed a small chance that the latter does not describe correctly the true physics of magnetism but at least it is dimensionally sound.

His difficulty with step waveforms on transmission lines becomes clearer. Of course the conduction and displacement currents are both present in the line together, but only as the wave advances. The displacement current dD/dT is associated with the wave front only (D is constant elsewhere). If the wave reaches a (correct) resistive termination dD/dT ceases, the step is terminated and the resistor begins to absorb the energy in the wave. It is precisely because the displacement current flows across the transmission line that the wave is called a transverse EM wave and the displacement current is distinct from the conduction current. The energy associated with the displacement current is stored and can be recovered later (cf. radar pulse generators). It can be seen from Mr Catt's own illustration (Fig. 3, p.68 March, 1979) that the E vector (dB/dT) and the displacement current vector (dD/dT) are at right angles, therefore $E \times H$ is purely reactive. This is analogous with reactive power (VA_r), where current and voltage are 90° out of phase. The H vector associated with the conduction current is also at 90° to the E field and again no energy is dissipated; the power flow is in the direction of the conduction current. In a third case, the transmission line is resistive and there is a component of the E field along the line in a direction opposite to the current flow. Here some of the power is dissipated.

Mr Catt is further confused with regard to electric charge. The existence of electric charge is not a theory; it is a fact like the sun and coal in South Wales. Since one of the manifestations of electric charge is electric potential, any theory of electric waves that dispenses with electric charge must be rubbish. It is the objective of

EM theory to explain the various manifestations of electric charge.

Mr Catt's mathematics is wrong; he does not understand the application of vectors to TEM waves and he does not distinguish fact from theory.

I'm sorry if he believes his version of Maxwell is correct; it isn't. If he was right in his belief some changes would indeed be needed and radios would not work.

Dermod O'Reilly,
Antwerp,
Belgium.

RECHARGING DRY CELLS

With reference to the letter from Mr D. F. Caudrey (Letter, August 1981) I should like to offer my findings on the subject, and also beg more information from the author.

I have been using the same four SP2 cells for about 11 weeks, five days a week, approximately 1 hour per day. At first I would recharge them (using the circuit and method due to Mr Caudrey) for an hour or two, twice a week but now I need to re-charge every day for about 2-3 hours to get an hour's use from the cells. Although I am convinced that the method is feasible in practice, I do not seem to have had the same success as Mr Caudrey, and so I would like to hear from Mr Caudrey his recommendations about charging, i.e. when and for how long.

S. P. Narey,
Idle,
Bradford.

MILLIMETRE-WAVE LENS AERIALS

I have read Dr K. L. Smith's article on millimetre wave lens aerials with interest (and some nostalgia as I was in the lens business in the early 1950s) and congratulate him on an excellent reintroduction to an almost forgotten topic.

Has it occurred to Dr Smith that his method of fabrication would be equally applicable to another of Winston Koch's inventions, the serpentine lens? This form of lens can be assembled from a set of plates which have been crimped into sinusoids. Propagation is in the TEM mode and the quasi-refraction index is simply the ratio between the widths of crimped and uncrimped sheets. Dr Smith has only to stack a set of crimped sheets and machine a profile to produce a set of path-length lenses.

The serpentine lens has two advantages over the H_{01} wave-guide lens. It is unaffected by the spacing between plates, so tolerances are easier, and by arranging for the surfaces of the sinusoidal sheets to be normal to the phase surface of the lens where they meet this surface, the lens-medium will be matched to free-space, avoiding the alternating $N/4$ and $N/2$ transformers which degrade the side-lobe performance of a waveguide lens in which the refractive index has been pushed too far from unity.

The path-length lens may have disadvantages as well, but since to the best of my knowledge one has never been produced for operational use, perhaps Dr Smith will identify them by investigating the first thirteen models?

S. S. D. Jones
Malvern
Worcestershire

The author replies:

I was pleased to hear that Mr Jones enjoyed the article on mm-wave lens aerials. He has raised a very interesting point regarding the development of the serpentine plate lens aerial, which he is right in ascribing to Winston Koch. I agree on the added advantages of the corrugated conductor planes, but I did not consider employing them in the lens I made. Mr Jones raises a very interesting possibility, as I also agree with him that there would not be any fundamental problem in turning out such modified lenses by the same method I originated.

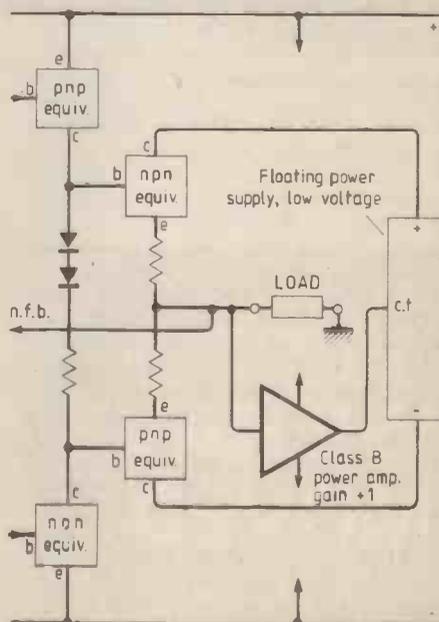
It would be most interesting to see an attempt made practically on such a design. We should thank Mr Jones for the suggestion.

LINEAR POWER AMPLIFIER

Operation of the output transistors at an approximately constant low voltage, as recommended by D. Rawson-Harris (Letter, Jan. 1982, p.40), can be used to give a class-A amplifier which retains to a considerable extent the efficiency of a class-B amplifier.

The low-voltage transistors are operated in class A from a low-voltage supply, perhaps +2, 0, -2 as suggested by Mr Rawson-Harris, and this supply is carried up and down by a slave class-B amplifier of gain +1. The class-B amplifier may produce noticeable crossover distortion; but as the effect of the distortion (or error) is only a small modulation of the almost constant c-e voltage of the class-A transistors its effect on the performance of the complete amplifier may be expected to be very small. An outline of the system is shown in the diagram.

As a piece of engineering the system cannot be rated very highly: Peter Walker's Quad amplifiers are much simpler, and their distortion is so low that they sound like a piece of wire. But the economics of producing an amplifier may be different for the amateur constructor and experimenter, and this alternative class-AB system may therefore be of interest. It has been used in some expensive Japanese amplifiers, but may be new to many *Wireless World* readers.



LETTERS

Mr Rawson-Harris calls his triples current amplifiers. Certainly their current gain is high; but it is poorly defined, having at least the current-gain spread of their first transistors, and they have high inlet resistance. I feel that a current amplifier should approximate to a short circuit and present a low resistance. To me the triples are enhanced transistors giving a voltage gain of many hundreds as a common-emitter amplifier, or enhanced emitter followers giving a voltage gain $\rightarrow 1$ very closely.

E. F. Good
Neasham
Darlington
Co. Durham

CLANDESTINE RADIO

Pat Hawker's review in the January and February, 1982 issues ably covers an area of interest to technical people which is noticeably omitted in the many books dealing with Resistance and Intelligence activity in World War II. Inevitably, in a collation from many sources, errors appear and among many statements of fact one finds items which are the opinions or deductions of a particular source. Some corrections which I am qualified to make, will, I hope, contribute to a valuable summary.

SOE began to design and make radio equipment before mid-1942, particularly the Type A Mk1 and the B Mk1 in 1941. The "early French Resistance suitcase set" illustrated in p.82 of the February issue was indeed the Type A MkII, which I designed in late 1941, just after the completion of the B MkI. This set was produced by Marconi, first at Writtle then at Hackbridge in quantity believed well over 1000. Many were allocated to Russia as well as to France and other areas of Occupied Europe, but details of distribution and usage are not available so far. The modular form of the A MkII, like that of the later B MkII, was to assist in assembly onto various housings, transport and concealment, as well as service by substitution.

Operational demand for a one-piece unit of the smallest size led to the re-engineering of the A MkII into the A MkIII, by Marconi production engineers. The main difference in the design was in the replacement of the TT11 Tx valve by the 7C5, which had then become available. Volume production from about the end of 1942 onwards totalled, I believe, over 4000.

The "A" series was designed for short to medium-range communication particularly to UK from France, Belgium, Holland, Denmark and Norway. While the "B" series was intended for medium to long range in Balkan, Middle East and African countries as well as from Southern France. A "C" series was considered but not developed, but a B MkIII was produced especially for the Far East and long-range jungle patrols. The transmitter was c.w. and a.m./r.t., and like the receiver, was hermetically sealed, positively buoyant, and entirely powered by a pedal-generator. The station was in two man-packs. The tendency of technical people to contract titles led to the general use of "A2", "B II" etc., but the term "B2 minor" is a misleading post-war usage.

SOE development was not centred on Gorbambury at St. Albans, which was only one of many large country houses used, but at the Frythe in Welwyn. Production of the B MkII was entirely by the ISRB (ie. SOE) factory at Stonebridge Park, employing mainly Services personnel: RAF, Royal Signals, REME, ATS

and FANY. About 7000 sets were made, with output reaching 400 per month in 1944.

I will not contest the relative merits of SIS/SOE/Polish sets since I am as biased to one as Pat Hawker is to another, following our respective wartime employment and loyalties, but would beg to differ, since the operational requirements differed. The SOE sets were essentially para-military, with far wider application than to agent use in Northern France, and for a greater variety of operators. Too little has been said of the Polish sets and the Polish contribution, for which I have the greatest admiration. The OSS started development of suitcase sets from about mid-1942, learned rapidly, from British and their own experience, and made their contribution world-wide. Naturally, each historian tends to present the story as seen through the records and reports of his countrymen, and frequently dates are omitted, so that the order in which facts are presented implies their precedence. Reading G3VA's account of air-to-ground links (February, p.83) he quotes first MI-6 use of "early American f.m. equipment on 30MHz" then "SOE developed the 450 MHz S-Phone" and gives one date - August 1944. I have no information of the use of the American R/T sets before 1944, about the time of the "Joan-Eleanor" project, but the S-phone was working in 1941, and my colleague, Charles Bovill tested the first airborne equipment on a flight in Wellington No. L7772 on October 6th 1941. The air-set was a prototype superhet tuning through 60-70cm. It was used in Operation "Claude" on October 28th in a Whitley Mk.V. The S-Phone ground-set was developed by Capt. Bert Lane and the airset by Major Hobday, both of Royal Signals. The airset was destroyed in a crash later in 1941, but replaced by a super-regenerative air-set ten days later, by a rapid development by F/Lt Bovill. This remained standard operational equipment by 138 and 161 Squadrons until the production of the Homing Aircraft-superhet in 1943. In January 1944, a USAF Liberator was fitted with Homing S-phone gear, and in summer of that year F/Lt Bovill equipped and flew with thirty C47 aircraft of the American 60th Group Troop Carrier Sqdns, at Brindisi. These aircraft used S-phone continuously in operations until the end of the war, mainly over Albania, Yugoslavia and N. Italy. This is only a small part of the S-phone story, appropriate now in context with Pat Hawker's article.

John I. Brown, G3EUR,
S. Ockendon,
(late Major R. Signals).

THE NEW ELECTRONICS

I am afraid that my own experiences with interviewees is closely similar to that described by Mr Jaques in the January 1982 issue. I could hear an echo of my own comments and experiences as I read it through.

I like to finish an interview with a few simple technical questions, not to cause the interviewee any difficulty but to ensure that his understanding of the fundamentals of the subject is adequate. In the situation, slick, polished textbook answers are not expected but the right approach to achieving a satisfactory answer is expected. At this stage of the interview the interviewees are likely to be reasonably relaxed, and frequently have done a good job on selling

themselves, so that the situation for both parties looks good.

My opening question starts with a battery feeding a capacitor through a resistor and switch in series. Assuming the capacitor is discharged at time zero, tell me how the capacitor voltage varies with time? All too frequently we do not get on to the second part (adding a series inductor) or the third part (replacing the battery with a sine-wave generator). Perhaps the interview situation is too upsetting, I try to provide not too serious help and guidance. Nevertheless one hopeful believed that the linear network with a sinusoidal input produced squarewaves.

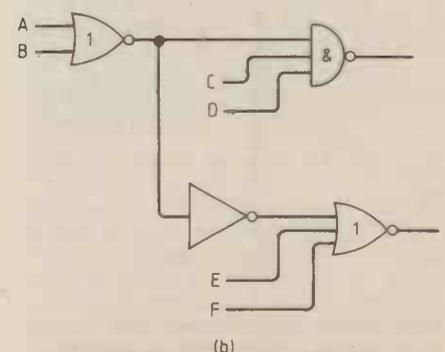
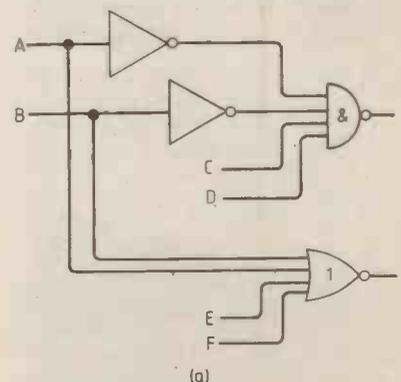
It is very difficult explaining to the MD that, in spite of the excellent paper qualifications of those already interviewed, further interviewing will be necessary.

N. A. Haran,
St. Albans,
Herts.

INTENTIONAL LOGIC SYMBOLS

In reply to Christopher Hudson (Letters, February 1982) the question as to whether a NAND gate is performing the function of positive NAND or negative NOR is to me as daft as asking whether a bucket is half full or half empty. The answer is both, not merely because the truth table says so but because, as an experienced logic designer I can, and do think of it as either with complete dexterity, although more frequently I think of a gate in terms of its truth table. If then I, as the designer of a circuit, cannot identify an intention, how can there be one?

Logic 1 and 0 are two states of complete equality: one is not merely the absence of the other. Some inputs, a 'clear' on a flip-flop for example, may be responsive to one state rather than the other, but this is a function of the input not of the signal feeding it. Mr Hudson does not





m, n may be 00, 01, 10 or 11
 if all inputs = m , output = n
 if any inputs $\neq m$, output = \bar{n}

define what he means by the assertive state, I can only assume that he means the state which asserts itself, but that gets me no further. Even in the case of flip-flop 'clear' inputs, one could have an active-high and an active-low flip-flop connected to the same signal. How can the signal itself be thought of as having an assertive state? Mr Hudson illustrates the point himself in the mess he gets into over his Fig. 2. Essentially a 1 or 0 on the select are equally assertive and I maintain that, far from being unusual, it represents the general case.

In a practical design what may start out in the draft design as Fig. 1(a) may finish up as Fig. 1(b). The question is, is the two-input NOR performing the function of low-assertive NAND or high-assertive NOR? If Fig. 1(a) represents the intention then it is performing both. Should we draw it twice? Well why not, we are already being asked to show the outputs on flip-flops twice, use twice as many logic symbols as before, accept that identical devices may have different symbols, that a connection may be shown broken with a naming ceremony in between and even to accept that an inherently symmetrical device like a two gate latch should be drawn so as to make it look asymmetric, (see Cassera, November 1980) all in the name of simplification.

The AND and OR names are a useful aid to memory as to the truth table of the gates so described. The predominance in practical logic of NANDS and NORs spoils the essential simplicity of the concept to the point where the names may be more of a hindrance. Intentional logic symbols are an attempt to restore the original simplicity. Mr Hudson's letter is in my opinion ample proof that they have failed miserably to do so.

My proposed logic symbols exploit the fact that if one is forced to live with negative and positive logic, one does not need to also live with both AND and OR because we can redefine the OR as a negative AND. As we now have only one type of function that function does not need a name, it is only necessary to define whether it is positive or negative logic, inverting or non-inverting. This is most easily achieved by putting the simplified AND truth within the symbol, thus nothing need be committed to memory: it speaks for itself.

By way of a field test I introduced my 10 year old son to my logic symbols. Within half an hour he could derive the waveforms out of any gate combination I gave him. (Previous knowledge of logic nil). With intentional logic it is necessary to define eight types of gate, with truth-table logic symbols, Fig. 2 gives a full definition. Simplicity is the name of the game.

J. E. Kennaugh,
 Callington,
 Cornwall.

I disagree with your correspondent, C. Hudson, over his proposal for intentional logic diagrams.

Whilst these may at first seem attractive from an academic viewpoint, in practice such circuitry can cause a good deal of confusion, particularly where multiple gate packages are in use. Consider for instance, a 7400 NAND gate split up in a circuit such that part is used as NAND, part is used as low-active OR, and the remainder as inverters. Under Mr Hudson's instructions, this results in three different drawings for the same device. A service technician trying to relate the drawing to a particular chip pack would have difficulty, without a great deal of cross-referencing. In addition, an increasing number of complex devices have inputs in which clock high and low could be equally considered to be active, since important but differing instructions are conveyed by each polarity. How would such an input be drawn?

Even if the traditional method of drawing diagrams is for some reason to be deplored, I consider that it should be retained on the basis that it is at least an established standard. To change symbols every time someone has a new idea is a recipe for annoying confusion.

To sum up, I would say that I consider Mr Hudson's proposals a change for the sake of change - rather like using Hertz for the perfectly acceptable c/s, and changing the spelling of enquiry to inquiry.

L. Hayward
 Wareham
 Dorset

TWINS PARADOX OF RELATIVITY

I refer to L. J. Higgins' letter (April 1981) in which I am accused of addressing myself to a "fundamental flaw" and also of imagining a "miraculous coincidence".

The first is easily disposed of, since the accusation is quite false and originates in Mr Higgins' failure to pay close attention to the text being discussed, in particular W.W. Oct. 1980 p.56., the first column of which cites Einstein's own activities and his words to which the second paragraph of my letter (January 1981) alluded. Thus Mr Higgins accuses Einstein, not me, of contriving a fundamental flaw.

I come now to the matter of coincidence and all that ensues.

The equation $FL/2v = mv$ shows how momentum is achieved. Unfortunately Newton did not know that material particles are held separate by interatomic forces and that, in consequence, all force acts at a distance, but today any competent radio engineer knows that the l.h.s. of the above equation represents the cumulative Doppler modification to an impressed force acting from a distance and having its origin fixed to some arbitrarily stationary datum, motion and energy being of course related to that datum.

So we have two methods of obtaining the KE equation, the classical which is based upon an analogue with friction and this present one which depends upon Doppler. Being a physical description, the latter represents the application of negative feedback to ancient hypothesis, serving to convert that hypothesis into the form of unassailable physical description and allowing direct comparison with modern experimental results. This is an addition to the scientific method.

Even though the two methods of obtaining the KE equation differ so widely, each not mentioning what the other contains, they yield

the same result which in its turn accords with experiment. The fact that the original derivation of the KE equation is in accord with experiment and also with the physical description is pure coincidence, nothing more.

I come next to the experimental facts which lead to the falsification of both the concept of variable time and the light postulate, thereby putting an end to the twins controversy.

When referring to J. C. Maxwell (Letters, February 1982), P. G. M. Dawe tells us that the mass increase hypothesis has been verified by experiment. He also inverts history by putting $E = MC^2$ before mass increase. In a linear particle accelerator the origin of the motive force is at rest relative to the machine and since the force acts at a distance its effect must be subject to first-order Doppler. This is a physical fact, which is never mentioned. If the force travelled at infinite velocity then the experiment would yield the Newtonian energy equation as its result.

However, in reality the force is known to move at the lesser velocity C and hence the declining effectiveness of the force with relative velocity is modified by a second-order term - coincidentally identical to the Lorentz transform.

Electron beam and linear particle accelerator experiments prove quite conclusively that mass is velocity-invariant. If, as Mr Dawe would have us believe, mass increase can be derived from $E = MC^2$ then either the mathematic or the derivation or the equation itself is wrong. The falsehood is proven by experiment.

Let us now contemplate the consequences of these things.

Mass increase is justified by the consideration of the elastic collision of two projectiles. Within this scenario the conclusion that mass is velocity-variant rests solely upon the stationary observer 'knowing that the clock of the moving participant of the experiment runs slower'.

If, as has earlier been shown, mass is velocity invariant then time is, inevitably, velocity-invariant as well.

In its turn the derivation showing time to be velocity variant rests entirely upon the assumption that the light postulate is true.

Because time is in fact velocity invariant there is no alternative but to accept that the light postulate is false.

The fact that an experimental result can appear to confirm the end product of a flight of pure fancy is indeed a miraculous coincidence. Should anyone question the fact that $E = MC^2$ is disproven, other than in the limited sense of mathematic equivalence, I would point out that the matter has never been tested directly due to insurmountable technical problems¹.

I suggest that Prof. H. Dingle's misgivings about atomic experiments were entirely justified because it has been shown that matter has never, on this planet, been converted into energy. We are left with the distinct risk that interconversion might one day accidentally occur and there exists neither mathematic nor experience to predict the outcome.

A valid alternative has been provided to replace S.R.T. and it is to be hoped that the scientists will emerge from behind their wall of icy silence and discuss the matter in terms which do not involve the double standards that have been observed by I. Catt (Letters, February 1982).

Alex Jones,
 Swanage,
 Dorset.

Reference

J. Chappell. S.S.T. Vol. 2., No. 3, p.316-317.

LETTERS

AMATEUR LICENCES IN GERMANY

Just in case nobody else objects, may I correct V. A. Sancto's statement in your February issue.

Licence Class	Morse requirement	Amateur bands
B	60 letters p.m.	All amateur bands, most modes including telephony except 1815-1832 and the new 10, 18, 24 MHz bands which are telephony (A1A) only
A	30 letters p.m.	3520-3700 telephony 3600-3700 also telephony 21090-21150 telephony 28.0-29.7 MHz also telephony
C	none	v.h.f./u.h.f. only

H. Borsutzky,
Cologne,
W. Germany.

POWER TRANSISTOR FAILURE

I have some pulse-width-modulated switching output power amplifiers which deliver up to 18A at $\pm 170V$ into a d.c. motor and inductor of about 5 mH. The amplifiers have been unreliable over a long period, apparently random power-transistor failures occurring even after several hundred hours of operation.

The output stage uses parallel pairs of 2N6547 transistors (others have been tried), switching the load alternately between the supplies. Unmodulated switching rate is about 4 kHz, rise and fall times are typically 5 μ s, and the collectors are clamped at the total supply, i.e. 340V. During part of the cycle the collector-base junction is forward biased. There is active turn-off of the transistors.

Any light on the possible causes of failure will be appreciated.

I. E. Shepherd
Hydraulics Research Station
Wallingford
Oxfordshire

ORIGINS OF THE HIGH-POWER TRANSMITTER

It is now 90 years since Nicola Tesla delighted the eyes of engineers in Europe with demonstrations of high-frequency discharges in gases. To obtain a voltage sufficiently high, he used what we now recognise as a loose-coupled transformer with tuned primary and self-resonant secondary, to step up the more modest levels obtainable from a high-frequency alternator and

power transformer. To the more critical eye of today his circuit with its two spark gaps may seem a trifle over-complicated; but he also used a simpler arrangement with only one spark gap, powered from a low-frequency generator. Readers familiar with the circuits of early wireless transmitters, for example, that of Poldhu designed by Fleming ca 1900, would undoubtedly recognise some antecedent features. It may not be generally appreciated that Tesla himself suggested such an alternative application for his discharges: "I think that it may find practical applications in telegraphy. With such a brush it would be possible to send dispatches across the Atlantic (sic) . . ." It is clear from the contextual wording that Tesla was thinking more in terms of an ion or plasma beam than of any "etheric force"; and his later patent², though it includes what is recognisably an antenna, confirms this. He was probably aware of the telegraph based on atmospheric conduction proposed by Loomis and Ward³ in the previous decade, which would certainly have benefited from a transmitter of phenomenal power. Though Tesla here seems to have had his head in the clouds, the practicality of his transformer engineering shows that his feet were certainly well grounded.

Hard on his heels we find another American (though Tesla was in fact Yugoslav), the engineer Elihu Thomson, describing⁴ a similar circuit capable of providing the high potentials needed for testing electrical apparatus. This circuit appears to correspond to the simpler one of Tesla, and actually uses an air-blast at the spark-gap as suggested in Tesla's paper. As neither of these two engineers acknowledges the work of the other, we are left in some doubt as to which of them invented what. Unless earlier contenders appear, it is not unreasonable to allow them both to share the honours. Again, there is no mention of etheric telegraphy in Thomson's paper, nor in his subsequent patent⁵. And this indifference to the communication potentialities of his apparatus is the more surprising in that he had himself (it is alleged by Snyder⁶) practical experience of "Maxwell Electro-Magnetic Waves", and also had published⁷ a joint account of his work with Edwin Houston on "The Alleged Etheric Force" demonstrated by Edison's experiments.

Wireless, therefore, waited for others to demonstrate viable communication, Lodge with his "syntonized" tuning and the entrepreneurial Marconi with an aerial. And only then, as wireless took off, did companies in search of higher spark power embody features of Tesla and Thomson circuits in almost every transmitter of consequence. With the subsequent demise of spark telegraphy, these features eventually vanished from wireless transmitters, though the blown spark-gap surfaced again in radar modulators in World War II^{8,9} and later still in photographic flash-gear¹⁰. Where then can we look today for the Tesla-Thomson "coil". Open up a "tickler" vacuum tester and you will find one; start up a xenon arc lamp and you will be using another. "Tesla Lives" is my centennial toast!

Desmond Thackeray
Music Department
University of Surrey

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HORN LOUDSPEAKER DESIGN

Bernard Jones' thoughtful letter (January, 1982) prompted me to re-examine my 1974 articles on horn loudspeaker design^{*}, and in particular Fig. 13. The intention of this figure was to illustrate how a treble horn could be given a degree of directivity in the horizontal plane by modifying the standard circular cross section to be rectangular, with aspect ratio 2.5:1, but still ensuring that the area profile from throat to mouth followed a true exponential law (it could have been a tractrix law, but there are good reasons for avoiding tractrices at high audio frequencies).

I have re-checked my design calculations, and must agree with Mr Jones that on strictly mathematical grounds, neither vertical nor horizontal profile should fall inside the circular horn profile (in fact, the two sides of the rectangle should respectively be 1.12 and 2.8 times the radius of the circular horn). I began this particular design of horn with a circular throat to suit a circular loudspeaker, and my imperfect attempt at "fairing" from circular to rectangular cross-section has resulted in this anomaly. In practice, I can see that my artwork with damp plaster-of-Paris probably made the profile even more approximate at this point, but horns and ears are remarkably tolerant, and I doubt whether any colorations thus produced are audible, or if audible are at all obtrusive.

I can confirm Mr Jones' suspicions that treble horns give disappointing results unless mounted on baffles (hemisphere loading) to minimise diffraction effects. The sound quality from small piezo-electric tweeters (those fitted with integral plastic horns a few inches across) is very dependent on the mounting topography within a radius of up to 12 inches from the mouth.

Jack Dinsdale
Carlton
Bedfordshire

*March, May and June, 1974. Reprinted in *High Fidelity Designs*, volume 2.

CARTRIDGE ALIGNMENT

Good grief, Mr Frost (Letters, January), how will *Wireless World* ever graduate to promulgating the concept of pickup arm rigidity as an over-riding design concern if you want to introduce further, unnecessary bearings? It's not quite so specious an idea as the infamous thread-suspended pickup arm, but . . . As a final touch, perhaps the APT design team should develop it.
Keith Howard
Teddington
Middlesex

DIGITAL OPTICAL RECEIVERS

Dr Garrett concludes his review of receivers for optical fibre communication with the theory of digital reception and gives practical achievements with p-i-n diode/f.e.t. receivers

In a receiver for a binary digital system, the aim is to process the signal in such a way as to be able to distinguish between two hypotheses, which we label zero and one, with the minimum possible error. In this way we seek the best estimate of the original message from the attenuated, distorted and noisy signal in the receiver. Commonly the signal is detected, amplified and filtered and then presented to a decision gate which is opened for a short interval at the centre of each bit period by a pulse from a clock circuit. This interval is called the decision time. Assume that, for a received zero bit, the receiver output voltage $v(0)$ at the decision time has a mean value m_0 and variance s_0 , while for a received one, the mean is m_1 and the variance s_1 , Fig. 9. Because the quantum noise is signal-dependent, s_0 and s_1 are different, in contrast to microwave transmission systems. Assume also for simplicity that $v(0)$ has a Gaussian distribution, although the multiplied quantum noise has in fact a compound Poisson distribution. The error probability is then

$$P_e = \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{erfc} \left(\frac{Q}{\sqrt{2}} \right)$$

where $m_1 - m_0 = Q(s_1 + s_0)$. (1)



Graduating from Trinity College, Cambridge in 1965, Ian Garrett completed a PhD on radiation damage in metals in 1969. He joined the Post Office Research Department, now British Telecom Research Laboratories, as a Research Fellow working on the theory of chemical transport reactions. In 1971 he became group leader responsible for the preparation of compound semiconducting films and crystals. Since 1976 he has lead a section responsible for optical transmitters and receivers and integrated optical devices.

by Ian Garrett

This says what difference there must be in optical power between the zero and one bits in terms of the noise (variances) and Q , which is related to the signal-to-noise ratio (in fact, $4Q^2$). The equation gives the value of Q needed for a given acceptable error rate. For example, $Q=6.00$ for $P_e=10^{-9}$; small changes in Q produce large changes in error rate. For design error rates of this magnitude, errors arise from the far tails of the noise distribution — six standard deviations away from the mean. That is why accurate models of noise statistics are important in optical systems. In fact the Gaussian approximation used here is successful at predicting error rate as a function of mean signal power, but is poor at giving the correct signal threshold level and the optimum avalanche gain, for this reason.

The theory of optical receivers enables calculation of m_0 and m_1 , s_0 and s_1 , in terms of the received optical waveform and the component values of the receiver. One can then predict the sensitivity of the receiver and model how it is affected by changes in receiver or system parameters. Details theoretical analyses are listed in the bibliography, and is only the very simplest case is considered here. If the received optical power $p(t)$ is p during a one-pulse and zero during a zero-pulse, the pulse energy for a one-pulse b_1 is pT and for a zero-pulse b_0 is zero. The photocurrent (i_p) is then $\eta q M p / h\nu$ during a one-pulse and zero during a zero pulse. This current is filtered by the receiver front-end.

A typical circuit is shown in Fig. 9 with the equivalent circuit for noise analysis. The photocurrent is then amplified and passed through an equalizing and band-limiting filter $H(f)$ resulting in an output voltage $\langle v_{out} \rangle$, which corresponds to m_1 or m_0 .

The noise sources which contribute to s_0 and s_1 are the amplifier thermal noise, the multiplied quantum noise and excess avalanche noise, and the shot noise on the photodiode dark current. The mean-square noise voltage at the receiver output may be expressed as:

$$\langle v_n^2 \rangle = (h\nu)^2 [M^2 T I_2 (\langle i_p^2 \rangle + I_d) / q + Z / M^2] \quad (2)$$

in which T is the bit-time, M is the current gain of the photodiode, I_2 is a dimensionless bandwidth integral of order unity, I_d is the dark current, and Z is a dimensionless parameter characterizing the amplifier noise. In fact, Z is the r.m.s. amplifier noise voltage normalized with respect to

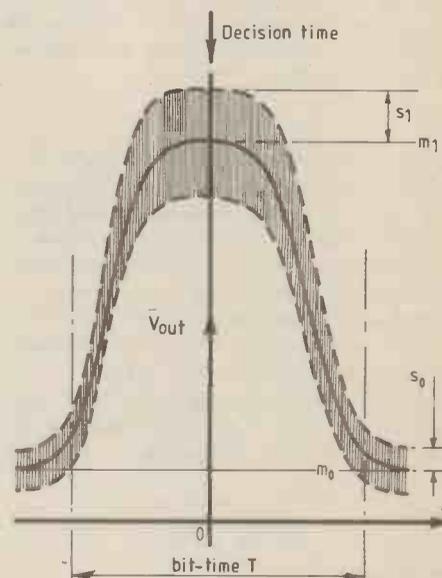


Fig. 9. In the unfiltered output pulse from an optical receiver, the shaded region indicates the variance (mean-square noise voltage), shown to depend on signal level. Mean levels m_1 and m_0 correspond to zero and one bits (spaces and marks). Pulse is slightly dispersed so that some energy is outside the bit-time T .

the receiver's response to one photoelectron. Typical values are 10^5 at a few Mbits/s to 10^7 at a few hundred Mbits/s. This equation also assumes that m_1 has been normalized to be equal to b_1 , the optical energy for a one pulse.

Shortly before this article went to press, British Telecom Research Laboratories at Martlesham Heath announced the transmission in the laboratory of an optical signal capable of carrying nearly 2000 simultaneous telephone calls over 102 km of optical fibre, without the need for intermediate repeaters. Operating at 160Mbaud, this is the longest single-span fibre system yet demonstrated. Many of the critical components were made in British Telecom's laboratories at Martlesham, including the very low-loss fibre and the receiver, which is the most sensitive in the world at wavelengths between 1.3 and 1.6 μm . A InGaAs/InP p-i-n diode, of the sort described in this article, with a Plessey GAT4 m.e.s.f.e.t. were used for the critical first-stage amplifier.

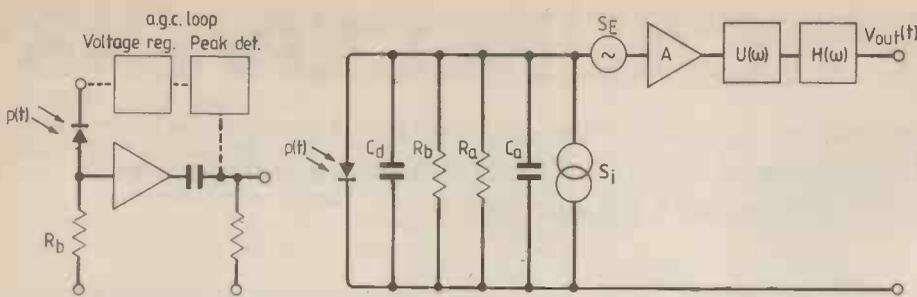


Fig. 10. In this typical circuit for an optical receiver the broken-line connections and the peak detector and voltage regulator are only necessary if an avalanche photodiode is used to control the gain. Noise model of the receiver shows principle noise sources and equalizing filters (see text).

More detailed treatments listed in the bibliography take into account the shape of the received pulses, pulse spreading into neighbouring bit-times because of dispersion, and other system impairments, and give detailed expressions for Z in terms of the receiver components. Here consider a simple case first and then look at some of the results of the detailed theories.

Consider a p-i-n photodiode which has unity gain only. The quantum noise is insignificant, so from equation 2:

$$s_1 = s_0 = \frac{h\nu}{\eta} \sqrt{Z}$$

so from equation 1:

$$m_1 = b_1 = 2Q \frac{h\nu}{\eta V} \sqrt{Z}$$

With typical component values, Z might be 10^6 . So with $Q=6$, we need 12,000 photogenerated electrons per one-pulse, in agreement with the earlier rough calculation. Using discrete components, a unity-gain photodiode provides a receiver sensitivity typically 10 to 15 dB worse than an avalanche diode. However, by hybrid integrating the p-i-n diode with the first amplifier stage using a gallium arsenide m.e.s.f.e.t., the input capacitance of the receiver can be reduced so that Z falls to

10,000 or less. The receiver noise parameter Z is proportional to C^2/g_m , at high data rates where C is the total input capacitance (photodiode, gate-source and stray capacitance) and g_m is the transconductance. In state-of-the-art receivers, C is around 0.5pF and g_m is 20 ms. Such receivers have a sensitivity of -44.2dBm at 160Mbaud and -40.1dBm at 294Mbaud, at 1.3 μ m wavelength, and similar sensitivity at 1.55 μ m, better than that of a.p.d. receivers. The p-i-n/f.e.t. hybrid approach also offers the advantages of low-voltage operation, no need for feedback to control the avalanche gain, simpler device technology and probably greater reliability. Typical photodiodes, for use in p-i-n/f.e.t. receivers are shown in the first part of this article. The receiver uses a high impedance (integration) front-end amplifier for the best performance, although a trans-impedance amplifier could be used with a slight penalty. The integrating characteristic (time constant typically 1000 times the bit period) has to be equalized, which can be done simply by differentiating with a capacitor-resistor arrangement. Fig. 11



Fig. 11. Hybrid p-i-n f.e.t. integrated optical receiver for high data rates, say 30Mbits/s upwards in a standard 14-pin d-i-l package is the most sensitive so far for the range 1 to 1.6 μ m. Input fibre tail, visible at the top left, enters package and passes through glass block supporting the photodiode vertically so that it can be illuminated through the substrate. The thick-film circuit comprises a GaAs m.e.s.f.e.t. input stage with bipolar shunt feedback and emitter-follower stages.

shows a typical receiver module.

Look now at how the sensitivity is reduced by the reverse bias leakage of the photodiode. Fig. 12 shows some theoretical results for the mean number of photoelectrons required per bit time n and optimum avalanche gain M as a function of the number N_d of dark current electrons per bit-time. Parameter x is the excess noise exponent of the a.p.d. and Fig. 12 is calculated assuming $Z=10^6$, typical of a receiver using discrete components at a few hundred Mbaud, and with zero optical power on zero-pulses and no pulse spreading.

It can be seen that when the dark current is negligible, we need about 300 to 1500 photons per bit-time, depending on the noise properties of the photodiode. When the dark current is large, the number of photons per bit-time which is needed is roughly proportional to the square root of the number of dark current electrons. The noise properties of the diode become far less important. This is hardly surprising as the dominant noise is then the shot noise on the dark current, and both are subject to the excess noise of the photodiode. The optimum gain decreases markedly once the dark current becomes a significant noise source.

Clearly it is important to minimize N_d and to a lesser extent to reduce x . Note that a leakage current of 160 nA gives N_d of 1000 at 1Gbaud, which is large enough to affect the optimum gain and the receiver sensitivity. At lower data rates the effect would be greater still.

Fig. 13 shows how n and M vary with extinction ratio ϵ and pulse spreading (extinction ratio is the mean power on zero-pulse divided by the mean power on one-pulse; if it is not zero the optical power on the zero level contributes to the noise

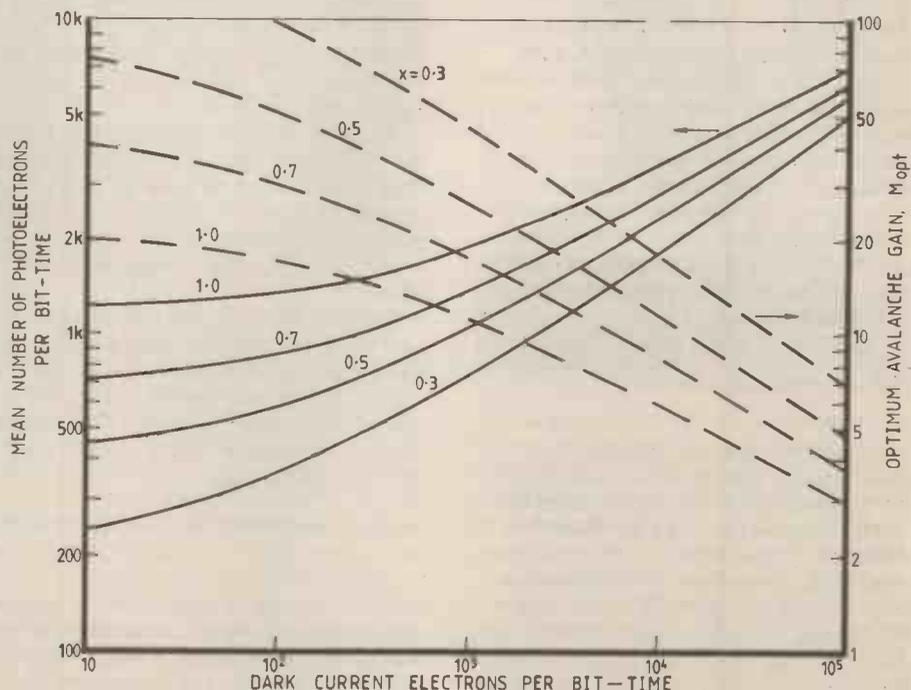


Fig. 12. Receiver sensitivity and optimum avalanche gain as functions of the number of dark current electron per bit-time (see text)

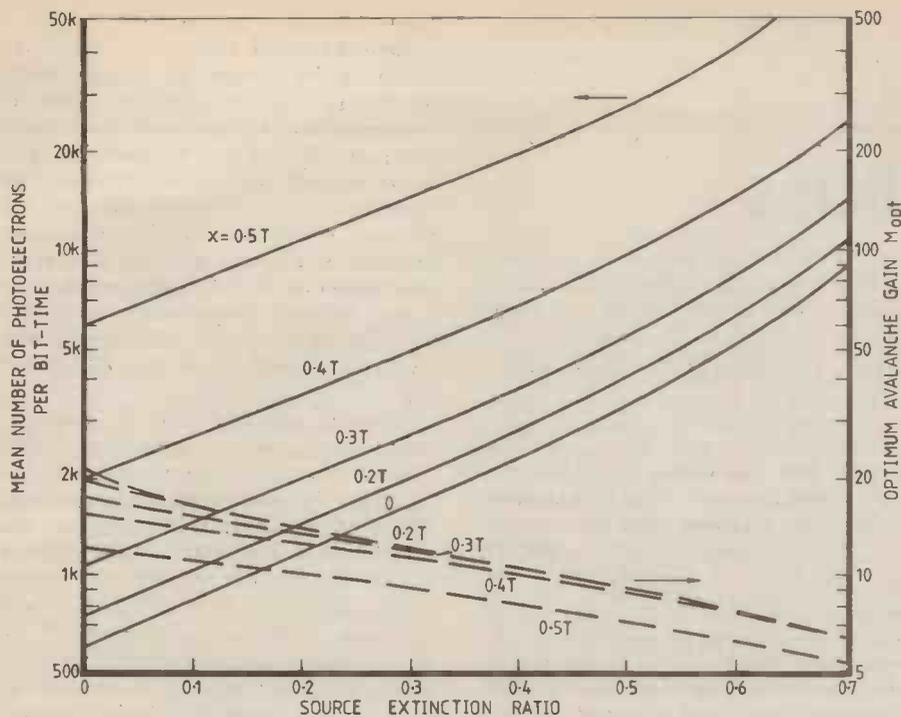


Fig. 13. Receiver sensitivity and optimum avalanche gain as functions of the source extinction ratio, assuming a value of unity for the excess noise factor exponent x . Parameter α is the r.m.s. width of the impulse response of the fibre normalized to the bit-time T , and assumed to be Gaussian for convenience in calculation, ie it is a measure of the bandwidth of the fibre.

α). The pulse spreading is represented by α , the normalized r.m.s. width of the fibre impulse response, assumed to be gaussian. The pulse originally launched into the fibre is taken to be rectangular and to occupy half the bit-time, and the dark current is assumed to be zero. Notice that the receiver sensitivity is strongly affected by pulse spreading and by non-zero extinction, and the optimum gain is reduced by zero-level noise and by fibre dispersion, the effect being greatest when x is small.

This type of calculation, which assumes gaussian noise statistics, tends to over-estimate the optimum gain although relative magnitudes are predicted more accurately. Obviously, combinations of appreciable pulse spreading, non-zero extinction and considerable dark current ($N_d=100000$) reduces the receiver sensitivity very much, and also reduce the optimum avalanche gain to near unity.

Future developments

There are some obvious approaches to improving the sensitivity of present optical receivers. The p-i-n f.e.t., currently the most suitable for the important wavelength range 1 to 1.6 μm , can be improved by reducing c^2/g_m ; that is by developing small-area photodiodes (30 μm diameter), very short f.e.t. gates (0.3 μm), and by increasing the transconductance. The mixed compound InGaAs may be a better f.e.t. material than GaAs in the future because of its high carrier mobility, particularly if it can be cooled, and it would also permit monolithic integration of the f.e.t.,

the photodiode, and eventually other receiver components. Between 5 and 8 dB could be gained here. Avalanche photodiodes could offer some improvement, at least over present day p-i-n f.e.t.s, if a low-noise material could be found. Recent work on (CdHg)Te looks promising, although it is at a very early stage of development yet.

A third possibility is to amplify the optical signal before detection, using a Fabry-Perot or a travelling-wave amplifier. These devices would be similar in structure to injection lasers; their biggest problems are noise due to spontaneous emission which can be reduced only with a very narrow-band optical filter, and gain saturation in the case of the Fabry-Perot amplifier. An optical amplifier is an almost essential component for optical integration of any useful complexity, so there is considerable incentive to overcome these problems.

Finally, one may consider coherent optical transmission systems with heterodyne detection. The outstanding problems here are: divising an optical source and local oscillator with sufficiently narrow line-width; tracking the local oscillator; obtaining spatial coherence of the signal and local oscillator when they are mixed on the photodiode; and controlling the polarization of the receiver optical signal. The payoff for overcoming this daunting list of problems is not only increased receiver sensitivity (10 to 15 dB possibly), but the familiar advantages of using the frequency and phase information on the carrier which is present optical communication systems is lost. □

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In brief . . .

Technician engineers change their image. The term 'technician engineer' was coined to cater for the non-chartered electrical and electronics engineer. But the IEEETE feel the name has become confused with the general description 'technician' and that this may be a stumbling block to the understanding of the role played by their corporate members. So they will call themselves the Institution of Electrical and Electronics Incorporated Engineers, as a reflection of a professional body incorporated other than by charter, and which requires a specific level of achievement and qualification for its membership. Corporate members are now entitled to call themselves Incorporated Engineers (Electrical and Electronics) and to use the letters FIElecIE or MIElecIE.

Cables and politics

A broadband cable system connected to all houses in urban areas and covering about half the population is the recommendation of the Government's IT Advisory Panel. Although all the services to be provided are not specified, it is suggested that the system should include tv channels, f.m. radio channels, and the panel also recommends that the system should have a two-way link which would allow any information service to be interactive, to include such facilities as links with a bank account or electronic shopping. There could also be monitoring of premises against burglary or fire and the emergency services could be summoned automatically if needed.

The scheme involves an entirely new network as the existing telephone network does not offer sufficient bandwidth. It could link in with those British Telecom networks which are of suffi-

cient bandwidth and thus be provided with packet switching. Each home would be fed through a cable, probably coaxial, with channel selection provided at the distribution point which would have the full bandwidth service and would be able to serve up to 100 houses.

In arguing for urgency, the panel say that existing cable distribution networks are ceasing to have much value when the country is well provided with broadcasting transmitters. The panel believes that cable would be the best way of distributing the direct broadcasts from satellites; the PAL system comes out of patent restrictions at the end of 1983 and could lead to a flooding in the large-screen tv market of cheap sets from the Far East, leading to the downfall of our domestic tv manufacturing industry. If a decision were taken for an early launch of the cable system, the telecommunications industries

involved would get a boost and a world lead with the possibility of high exports.

One of the pre-requisites for such a system is that current restrictions should be withdrawn and that potential information providers or broadcasters be allowed to transmit whatever they like, within the bounds of decency or sedition. There should be a self-regulating body similar to those in advertising and in newspapers.

But as the panel believes that the system should be self-financing, requiring no public funds at all, it sees a further need for urgency. The system should be at an advanced stage of planning before the next General Election before a possible change of Government could lead to a change in policy, so that potential investors, especially programme providers, can be assured of a return on their investment.

Satellite tv gets go-ahead

On the fourth of March, the Home Secretary, William Whitelaw, announced in the House of Commons that the country should make an early start with direct broadcasting by satellite (DBS), with the aim of having a service in operation by 1986. Because of the importance of making this early start, the Government had concluded that the best course would be to start with two channels initially, though this could be increased later to the maximum of five channels permitted by international allocation. The services would be transmitted at powers sufficient for individual reception and for community reception with cable distribution.

The system is to be financed privately, and there were indications that there were interested participants in the aerospace and electronics industries who were ready to pay a part.

As far as the programmes were concerned it had been decided to award both DBS channels to the BBC as they had already formulated proposals for the programming of such channels. One channel would be a subscription service including a substantial element of feature films and major sporting, cultural and other events not presently available for transmission through the usual channels. The other would be a service which would draw on the best tv programmes from around the world, and would probably be financed by a supplementary licence fee.

The Home Secretary said that although the IBA and commercial television companies had also shown some interest in providing DBS services, "their plans were less well advanced. Additionally, more time would be needed to devise the right framework, which would be likely to involve legislation".

But the IBA say that their proposals for satellite broadcasting are as well prepared as any from the BBC. Following the Government study document on DBS last year, the IBA has argued for the use of satellites to improve picture quality and for the need to have uniform standards throughout Europe, because of the overlap of satellite footprints. IBA engineers have developed the multiplexed analogue component technique for satellite broadcasting which overcomes the problems of incompatibility between the different colour systems in

Europe, providing a single 625-line system with clearer pictures than are presently available on television receivers, and with multi-channel sound. Only one design for an adaptor unit would be required throughout Europe. They also argued that they had more commercial experience which would be useful for organising a subscription service.

Following immediately on the Home Secretary's announcement, British Aerospace, Marconi and British Telecom made a joint announcement that they would take equal shares in a new company, United Satellites, to provide Britain's first national broadcasting and telecommunications satellite system. The three companies had already investigated potential markets, and the technical and operational means needed both in the long and short term. The system would probably have the capacity for two tv channels and three or four communications channels. There could be sufficient bandwidth to transmit high-definition tv and digital sound channels and the possibility of transmitting a Prestel-type service this way could also be possible. Discussions with broadcasting and telecommunications organisations will define the facilities to be provided. The satellites will be leased to the users.

The satellite, to be known as Halley 1, as the 1986 launch will coincide with the appearance of Halley's Comet, is likely to be of a similar type to the European Communications Satellite (ECS) and it is planned to have two satellites in orbit, with the second as a standby and a third on the ground ready for launching.

United Satellites hope to sell their satellites around the world and believe there is a potential market for up to 100 of them.

● The IBA is participating in the experimental European service, organized within the EBU. The five-week tv experiment, to start at the end of this month, includes four sound channels, each with a different language and the IBA's teletext system for sub-titling. The closed-circuit service is to be transmitted using a mobile dish antenna via the ESA orbital test satellite.

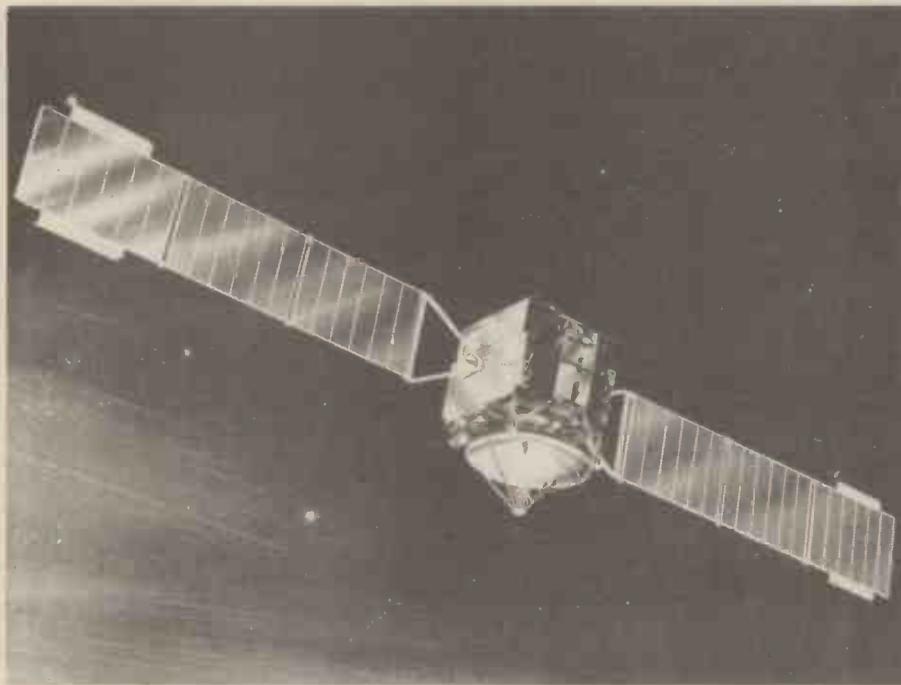
A Pan-European service is due to be launched in 1986 and the IBA has suggested that the all-British satellite should carry that service.

Maritime satellite gets sunstroke

What was to have been a blaze of publicity when the Minister for Information Technology, Mr Kenneth Baker, was to have made the first shore-to-ship telephone call by way of the new Marecs-A maritime satellite, turned into a bit of a damp squib when it was announced that the satellite had certain anomalies which needed to be sorted out before it became fully operational.

The anomalies had been caused by an over-active sun which had produced an unusually high number of sunspots. Sunspots emit high-energy particles which when they encounter a satellite can electrostatically charge the outer thermal blanket of the spacecraft. As different surfaces are charged at different levels, this can give rise to arcing and if any electromagnetic disturbance penetrates the screening this can cause spurious pulses in the electronics. The first occasion on which this happened in Marecs-A, it caused the orientation system to think that it had lost contact with the earth. It automatically went into a 'search' mode when it rotated slowly to find the earth again. This manoeuvre took eight hours before contact was re-established and this caused a whole series of checks to be carried out to assure the ground controllers and users that all was well. It was not possible to complete these checks before the official inauguration of the service. Since then, there have been further small 'glitches' caused by sunspot activity.

A major event during the initialisation of the satellite was the failure of two modules in the battery discharge regulator. Standby modules were switched in, but there is no further replacements for these components. A spokesman from British Aerospace told us that although it was worrying to lose the redundancy factor so early into the mission they were confident that this would have no effect on the planned life of the satellite of seven years and more. They were investigating the cause of the failure, and of the anomalous behaviour of the vehicle in order to build additional safeguards into Marecs-B



Marecs — A maritime communications satellite suffering from anomalies caused by an overactive sun.

which is to occupy a geosynchronous orbit over the Pacific Ocean.

The two Marecs spacecraft in conjunction with an Intelsat V over the Indian Ocean offer a ship-to-shore telecommunications system which covers all the oceans. Marecs-A is the first European Space Agency's communications satellite to enter commercial service. It is also the first to be dedicated to merchant shipping, and the first to be leased by ESA to an international organisation, Inmarsat.

Marecs offers some 40 telephone circuits, four times the capacity of the Marisat satellite it

replaces. It is also 11 degrees further west than Marisat and so can cover the western part of the Gulf of Mexico and some of the eastern Pacific. In addition to telephone contact the satellite can be used to receive and transmit telex, facsimile and digital data links. There is also a special emergency signal link.

In order for the satellite to operate efficiently, as much attention needs to be made to the coastal receiving stations as to the on-board system. Europe's first maritime communications station has been inaugurated at Eik, south-west Norway. Eik is the fifth in the global satellite system of earth stations and another 14 are planned including one at Goonhilly, Cornwall which will be commissioned by mid 1982.

3-D spectacle

The first British broadcast of 3-D tv takes place on May 4th at 19.00h over the transmitters of TVS, the Southern region ITV company. This follows the four 3-D tv programmes transmitted over Norddeutscher Rundfunk in West Germany, the first of which was on February 28th. TVS is negotiating rights to some of the German material, and also producing some original British material. The British programme, one of the weekly series *The Real World*, deals with three-dimensional images in general, and the 3-D inserts are being used for illustrative purposes.

The system being used for these transmissions is the old and imperfect method of 'anaglyph stereo': that is, separation of the two images is achieved by colour coding, and the viewer has to wear red-and-green spectacles. This is clearly not a system with any prospect of future acceptance as a practical method for broadcast stereo. It is however at the present time the *only* method by which stereo images can be broadcast, pending future technical developments. Consent has accordingly been given by the IBA to TVS transmission as a one-off experiment.

IBA consent was required because the anaglyph system is non-compatible: 3-D can only be seen by viewers with colour receivers. Viewers with black-and-white sets will merely see a pair of overlapping images, whether or not they look through the spectacles. And viewers who don't have the anaglyph specs will also see merely a pair of flat images.

Colour scenes cannot be transmitted, since the colour-coding is already being used for 3-D separation. The left-eye image is put out on the red channel and the red tube phosphors, and the right-eye view in green plus blue.

In fact, if a colour scene is coded in this way, a certain sensation of the colours of the scene is retained even through the red/green glasses, as the brain attempts to add together the differing information received from each eye. But ambiguity and some discomfort is caused by any brightly-coloured objects; for instance a red dress will appear bright to the left eye but dark to the right eye. Without spectacles however the scene appears relatively normal in colour values. Experiments are now being made in the transfer of colour scenes, but none are expected to be included in the first British transmission.

The research behind the German programmes has been carried out in the Eindhoven

laboratories of Philips Ltd. Anaglyph image separation on tv is at best imperfect, since the green phosphors on tv tubes have quite a high red content. This means that 'crosstalk' is introduced: the left eye sees some of the green image, which should be confined to the right eye. In addition, colour coding within the PAL transmission system is itself imperfect, and allows some spread of colour information to the wrong guns. Philips have developed a method of coding the master video tapes, which at present remains secret, to eliminate this overlap and ensure the best possible separation of the two images that can be obtained within the PAL system.

The greatest problem remains the provision of the red/green anaglyph spectacles. TVS has obtained half a million of these cardboard lorgnettes, and are distributing one in every copy of *TV Times* in the Southern region. Even so, it seems there will be at best one viewing device to each set, so the programme is being scripted to allow time for it to be passed from hand to hand. The programme cannot of course be networked outside the Southern region, because of the lack of sufficient spectacles. Lucky viewers outside the region who are able to pick up TVS programmes will have to make their own arrangements to get hold of a pair of anaglyph specs.

Viewers who have seen the German programmes agree that in spite of the limitations, the results are remarkably successful; the crosstalk or double-imaging only becomes worrying when the normal, rather restricted, depth range for any scene is exceeded. And the 3-D scenes, particularly in the 'live' studio sequences, are certainly good enough to serve as a glimpse into the future. The people in the studio scenes, even in black-and-white, look much more like rounded human beings than the usual 'flat' tv images.

Mercury and British Telecom

The consortium of Cable and Wireless, British Petroleum and Barclays Merchant Bank have been given a licence to operate a private telecommunications system in the UK. The system, to be known as Mercury, will have access to the public switched network when 'appropriate terms' have been established. It will also provide an earth station for business telecommunications via satellite. The licence has been granted for a period of up to 25 years with provisions for review. Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Industry said that "the British Telecommunications Act 1981 and the licence have been structured in a way to enable the Government to ensure that both British Telecom and the licensee co-exist and compete to generate new services and job opportunities and to enhance customer choice within the UK while increasing the national share of the world telecommunications market".

It seems that the competition has already started with BT cutting its charges on some of the main trunk lines joining the main business and industrial centres. The principal reason for instituting Mercury was the high cost of trunk calls.

All this may be thrown into the melting pot if the telecommunications network is to be bound in with the proposed tv cable system. Iain Carson reports in *The Observer* that the Government

is to introduce a new Telecommunications Bill towards the end of the year. The Bill will propose the selling of about half the shares of BT to the public and to establish a new telecommunications authority to oversee the provision of cable tv, telephone, data and electronic mail links. The so-called Busby Bonds, announced by the Chancellor in the Budget with which it was planned to inject public investment into BT, are now likely to be replaced by the much wider de-nationalisation. BT say the report is "pure speculation".

Bildschirmtext

At the heart of Prestel is the GEC 4080 computer which uses its own language, Babbage. With a five-year lead over any rivals, GEC must have felt that they had a very good chance in the world's markets and particularly in Europe. Their confidence received a severe blow, however, when the West German Bundespost placed an order worth several millions with IBM. What was even more galling was that IBM have not demonstrated any system in public.

The GEC equipment has undergone a field trial in Germany, and the Bundespost has selected a Prestel-compatible system, as recommended by the CEPT, but the selection of an IBM system means that IBM will have to write all the software by the contract deadline in 1983.



Auditoria designers are often "very surprised" with the results they obtain, said Hugh Creighton, acoustical consultant to London's latest concert hall in answer to our question about reverberation time turning out lower than planned. "Hall acoustics is not a complete science" he reminded us, "but design guided by science". For although r.t. had been calculated from the hall's volume and absorptions to be 1.8 seconds, it turned out to measure only 1.4. But the simple expedient of adding hardboard to the backs of the (fixed) seats increased the figure to 1.6 seconds, or 1.9 with an audience. And that seems to satisfy the LSO, according to a spokesman, for whom it was designed. A height restriction meant that the concrete roof beams protrude into the auditorium, their disruptive effect being reduced by the suspension of some 1,000 diffusing spheres (some also acting as lighting fittings) open at both ends to prevent undue absorption. And while siting the hall close to the foundations of the Barbican complex may reduce the vibration due to the nearby underground railway, it didn't obviate the need to re-lay the tracks and mount them on rubber.

Sweden in space by 1984

Sweden's Space Corporation is likely to be given the krona it requested for this year's space research programme, more than double the 1979/80 figure. About half of this will be contributed to the European Space Agency where Sweden collaborates actively in the programmes of research. But its national programme includes its own space research where the largest project is the Viking satellite, to be launched by Ariane in 1984 for North Pole magnetosphere studies, as well as the industrial Tele-X project. Due for launch in 1986 from Guyane Space Centre, South America, Tele-X is an experimental telecommunication satellite that will have pre-operational direct broadcast application. And it will provide high-speed digital communication for inter-office links, a teletype service to mobile stations in vehicles, and propagation measurements in the 20-30GHz band for high-speed digital data communication, as well as wideband services.

Monitoring oil spillages is the chief application of the Corporation's other main programme - in remote sensing. Marine surveillance from aircraft determines oil thickness and volume, a microwave radiometer while a laser fluorosensor classifies oil type, this information being transmitted to oil combat vessels. Remote sensors also monitor ocean ice distribution and thickness, atmospheric pollution and map vege-

tation, deserts and lake water to study seasonal changes.

● The Corporation manages the Esrange station which receives, processes, stores and distributes images from ESA satellites in the Earthnet scheme, and regularly collects data from Landsat. The station conducts ionospheric soundings to give investigate electron density profile (see WW February issue, page 37).

Where is Chernobilsky?

The position of the Russian electronics engineer Boris Chernobilsky who, as we reported in October 1981, page 70, was being harassed by the KGB, is giving his wife Elena great cause for alarm. After his harassment and arrest on a relatively trivial charge (hitting a policeman) Chernobilsky was sentenced to one year's imprisonment in a corrective labour camp, much against the wishes of the court, who came under a great deal of public pressure to relax the intended five-year sentence. The court sentence was that Chernobilsky be taken to the labour camp immediately, but instead was held in prison for two months, whereupon he disappeared. According to our informant, he started his journey to the camp many weeks ago, but neither his destination nor present whereabouts are known, in spite of a telegram from his wife to L. Brezhnev, and other Soviet leaders, to which she has had no reply. His wife and friends fear that the KGB are victimizing Chernobilsky because he was awarded a 'light' sentence, and that his health will be damaged by the extremely severe conditions on the journey and in the labour camp.

BBC micro

The gremlins got into the BBC micro program listings at the Paisley Microelectronics Educational Development Centre, John Gordon tells us. Routine (f) on page 82, March issue, should be

```

500 PROCTAXCALC(450,100)
600 PRINT tax_to_pay
700 END
1000 DEF PROCTAXCALC(total_pay,tax_allowance)
1010 LOCAL pay_left,pay_this_rate,rate
1020 tax_to_pay=0:pay_left=total_pay-tax_allowance:rate=0.1
1030 REPEAT
1040 IF pay_left>100 THEN
    pay_this_rate=100
ELSE pay_this_rate=pay_left
1050 tax_to_pay=tax_to_pay+rate*pay_this_rate
1060 rate=rate+0.1
1070 pay_left=pay_left-pay_this_rate
1080 UNTIL pay_left<0.1
1090 ENDPROC
    
```

It is useful to use lower-case characters for data-names he points out: this gets round the problem of BASIC keywords appearing at the beginning of a dataname.

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EPROM PROGRAMMER

Most commercially available e.p.r.o.m. programmers are expensive as they include software and other facilities to enable them to be used on their own. The cost of a programmer can be significantly reduced if it is designed for use with an existing microprocessor system as shown in this second of two articles. The design presented is for 2708, 2716 and 2532 e.p.r.o.ms, but with small modifications other devices may be programmed.

by H. S. Lynes

On entering the program one is given the system options and prompted to reply either Y (yes) or N. Next the addresses are requested in hexadecimal numbering, starting from 0000. If the e.p.r.o.m. already has data in the first 256 locations the starting address must be given as 0100, even though it is intended to reside at, say, DCBO. Options and addresses are displayed on the monitor screen. When sufficient information has been given the program repeats the e.p.r.o.m. type and prompts you to press G (go). At this point the scratchpad has been loaded with data relevant to the e.p.r.o.m. selected and whether it is in read or write mode, as defined by the options on entering the program. (A changeover d.i.l. switch is needed to select the 2708 rails; for convenience this was fitted to the plug-in card carrying the socket together with a jack for the program voltage.)

Scratchpad data is loaded by the index register as though it represented addresses; this seems to be the quickest method of loading for the 6800. Data stored in the scratchpad is given in the panel and explained as follows. The device code in ASCII enables it to be displayed on the monitor screen and serves as a check that the scratchpad has been loaded correctly. Number 04 signals the end of the ASCII data. The term "pin profiles" is one I've coined to define the logic levels on a port which are independently varied within a program. The existing address port is insufficient to drive the e.p.r.o.m., which needs 12 lines, so some are borrowed from the control port. By OR-ing the pin-profile with the other data the port will support the two functions. For example, during a read operation the address part of the port will be changing and the levels on the control will be static, during write the control part will change from pulse-off→pulse-on→pulse-off during each changed address. The loops will normally =1, except when the 2708 is being programmed which requires 200 loops. It is not permissible to apply N pulses to one location and move on. The number of loops may be varied in the range 100 to 1000, depending on the pulse width; N = 200 was chosen for convenience in generating the timing. Locations E,F contain a number which is used with the index register and decremented to zero. The time at the pulse output (port) should be measured with a universal counter or an accurate 'scope since it depends on the software route taken by the programmer, as well as the system clock frequency. Random

access memory addresses determine the area of the system memory that will be written to or read from. The e.p.r.o.m. start/finish enables part-used ones to be added to. This is not to be done with 2708s as already explained. The control word is either 80 (port B is output, so write e.p.r.o.m.) or 82 (port B is input, so read e.p.r.o.m.) which shows the ease of using the 8255 in mode 0. (Other numbers in the control register will cause all kinds of trouble).

The shorthand CAD and CAP were useful since they are frequently referred to in the software. The "loops left" is loaded with the value of the loops at location A and decremented on starting at the first e.p.r.o.m. address, i.e. when CAP is set to the address at 14,15. In the case of a 2708, this will now represent a value greater than 1, so the same addresses must be programmed again until 1E reaches zero. For reading an e.p.r.o.m. whether dumping the contents into r.a.m. or checking a program cycle, the loop facility is not needed as the program will exit when either CAD or CAP reach the respective addresses in 12,13 or 16,17. Thus the programmer should ensure that whichever is the smaller number of locations will cause the program to exit. The last three loca-

tions are loops-left, as explained, and the error address, to be explained later.

Port control. Since the software controls the 8255 it is essential to check that all is well before proceeding. The sequence is as follows. Select the e.p.r.o.m. type, the mode (read/write), as well as the addresses for both e.p.r.o.m. and system r.a.m. The program responds by displaying the type in four decimal figures followed by the prompt to press G. There are two chances to get this right: it's frustrating to enter the data again just because you accidentally touch the space-bar. Before the program starts the control port is checked for either 80 or 82, since other numbers will cause chaos. At this point the scratchpad has been checked twice; once visually by the user and once in software to fairly tight margins (2/256). Any error should be resolved by starting again. After a program sequence the 8255 is put into the read mode and the data is compared with the r.a.m. area specified. Any error will store the error address at the scratchpad 1F,20 locations. A message is written on the screen to invite inspection - the system 'errors' each time at the last address (which proves it's working) since to program one e.p.r.o.m. location, say 01F2, requires the user to enter e.p.r.o.m. start = 01F2 and, logically, e.p.r.o.m. finish 01F3.

Reading an e.p.r.o.m. This is the easiest part. Select the appropriate pin supplies

Scratchpad data defined. Location of the scratchpad is at the option of the programmer.

0, 1, 2, 3	Device code in ASCII	32 37 30 38 for 2708
4, 5	EOT code and blank	04 00
6	'read'	} pin profiles e.g. as in Table 1
7	'program'	
8	'pulse-on'	
9	-	
A	Loops = 1 except for 2708 = hex equivalent of 200	}
B	- (normally blank, except during verify)	
C	} Maximum bytes, could be used to check 'space available'	}
D		
E	} delay = pulse time	}
F		
10, 11	r.a.m. start address	} Entered by user; 'start' must be lower number than the 'finish' number
12, 13	r.a.m. finish	
14, 15	e.p.r.o.m. start	
16, 17	e.p.r.o.m. finish	
18	8255 control word	
19	-	
1A, 1B	Current address data (CAD)	
1C, 1D	Current address p.r.o.m. (CAP)	
1E	Loops left	
1F, 20	Error address - in hex (could be converted to ASCII if screen display required)	

using the small d.i.l. switch next to the socket, and enter the necessary information to fill the scratchpad. After pressing G set-up the 8255 ports by sending 82 (hex) to the control register at X503. The starting address of the e.p.r.o.m. is placed in the address ports A and C. The control pin-profile is OR-ed with the address in port C and the data read by the c.p.u. from the address of port B. This is stored in the area of r.a.m. pointed to by CAD using the indexed mode of addressing. CAD and CAP are checked to make sure they are not outside limits and only then will they be incremented until the e.p.r.o.m. data is placed in system r.a.m.

The time taken is quite short, but it is not possible to run a program from an e.p.r.o.m. in the programmer without some considerable delay and a dedicated program to do it. In my system a facility exists to move some of the system r.a.m., having set up the new start address on d.i.l. switches. Thus by moving a toggle switch the r.a.m. can be made to behave as though it was a programmed e.p.r.o.m., residing at the same address as the e.p.r.o.m will in the finished system. This may be write-protected if desired. Ensure that only one device is enabled when shifting.

Programming. This is more difficult, since the e.p.r.o.m needs to be given a program pulse for a defined time. An external voltage is required, about 27V to allow for losses, and on my system a circuit measures this voltage and turns on an l.e.d. if it is correct. Thus the light indicates that the e.p.r.o.m can be programmed. The use of a built-in program voltage is left to you; if the ports are likely to be used for general use I think it is safer to bring it in separately. Pin selection d.i.l. switch, address entry, etc is as explained for reading. After pressing G the e.p.r.o.m is placed in the write condition using the pin-profile described. A program pulse is applied by OR-ing CAP with the pulse-on pin-profile and placing it at the port. This is timed using the delay routine, after which the address is OR-ed with the write pulse-off pin-profile and stored at the port. Thus the port is in the write mode all the time, some of which is in the pulse-on mode; the e.p.r.o.m. address is only changed when the port is in plain write mode.

The choice of software timing for the pulse or the use of a monostable is left to you. If you choose monostable timing the clock frequency is not important; but a monostable is another i.c. to wire and

could be susceptible to interference. Software timing has its critics too, but when other e.p.r.o.ms as well as 2708s are to be catered for it is justified in my view. Programming does take time — typically one minute for every 1024×8 bits. Thus for a 4K e.p.r.o.m the processor is tied-up for at least four minutes. If any interference occurs during this time it could cause trouble, so there may be some advantage to be gained by switching off any well-known generators of interference. In the home this can include anything with a thermostatic control inductive load.

Software development. Some of the development, done in hex machine code, was made easier by using the sub-routines available in the monitor, such as the "print ASCII string" sub-routine, and the "input characters from keyboard" sub-routine for setting-up the scratchpad data. If you wish to develop your own programs for any c.p.u. type, I recommend that you include a facility for additional features you may wish to try. For example, my program asks if the user wants to "read?" and if the response isn't 59 (ASCII for Y) it goes to "write?"; after which it exits. There would be some advantage in writing "extra facilities; enter facility number"; you then enter different routines, to be developed later, without rewriting the remainder of the software. What you do is to reserve two memory locations at the end of the program (in the final e.p.r.o.m. for the moment a 2716) and set the index register to the address of the first, less two. Thus if the number entered is 1 the index register will be incremented by 1×2 , so by going to this location a new starting address may be inserted. By leaving say six memory locations all FF they may be programmed later. Arrange the address routines as a subroutine so they may be used in later developments.

In frequent users may find some advantage in making use of a 37-way D — connector and a small plug-in p.c.b. with the socket on it. This is only plugged in when an e.p.r.o.m. is to be programmed or read. The diagrams show the wiring for the d.i.l. switches connected to pins 18-21, Fig. 6 It is essential that such switches are suitable for the low-power duty that is required. Protect the wiring on this p.c.b. from handling; an unetched piece of copper laminate is ideal for the purpose as it may be connected to 0V.

Erasing e.p.r.o.ms. It is essential that e.p.r.o.ms are correctly erased before programming is started. This means exposing them to "hard" ultra-violet light for a period of between 5 and 20 minutes, depending upon the strength and closeness of a suitable source. So-called u.v. tubes with fluorescent coatings inside glass will not be satisfactory; this rules out disco black-light tubes and soft tubes used to generate artwork. The correct tubes are usually small, low-wattage with a quartz tube that permits the transmission of the mercury-vapour radiation of 254nm wavelength. Although satisfactory erasers are available commercially, you may be tempted to make your own using a replacement tube.

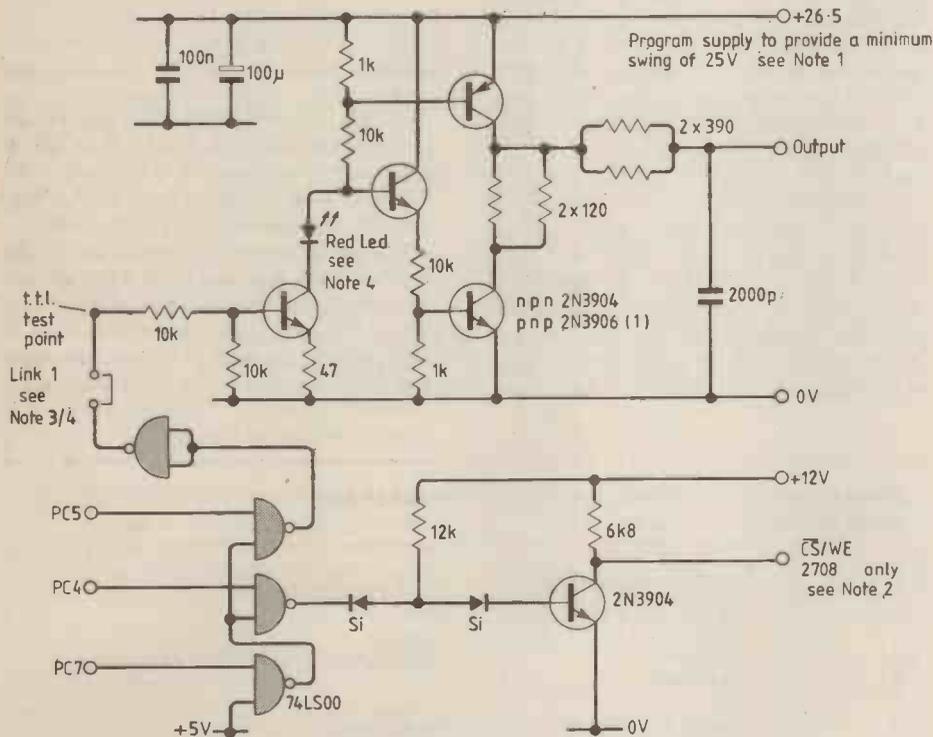
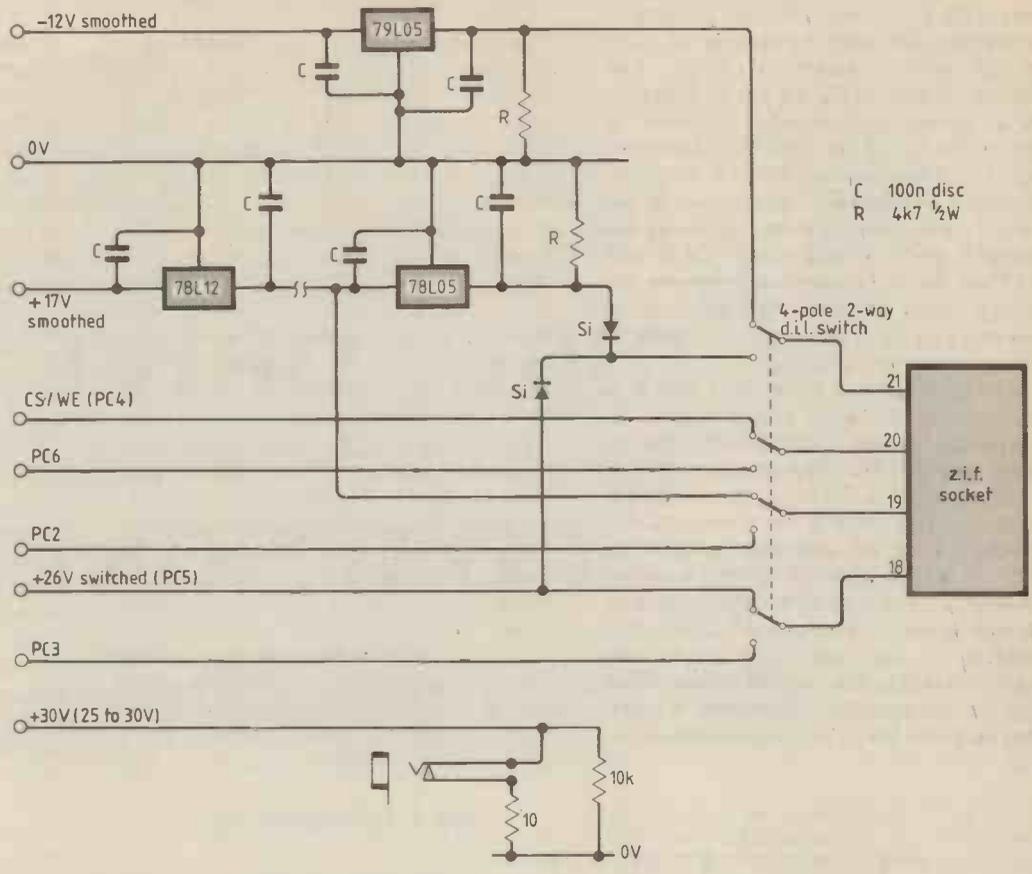


Fig. 6. In this transistor interface and reset logic PC7 is used to detect the high impedance state after reset occurs. This prevents unwelcome voltage appearing on the e.p.r.o.m. socket. Normal operation with PC7 = output, logic 0 is $V_p = 26V$ with PC5 = logic 1. Notes:

1. Pulse output is critical and should be checked against manufacturer's data. Measurements must be from e.p.r.o.m. socket. For C_o 1800pF, T_r 1μs T_f 1.2μs. C_o 2800pF, T_r 1.5μs T_f 2μs measured on 50MHz 'scope TTL input waveform 1:3 ratio, 1 cycle 25μs.

2. The CS/WE pin needs to be taken low at the finish of programming before the address is changed. Since PC4 is only used with 2708 this can be done at the end of any programming sequence, as a forerunner to the verify routine.
3. Test point is a convenient place to drive the interface, with link 1 open.
4. LED is on when V_p is high. If no 'scope is available V_p should be set to 26V using a 20kΩ/V multimeter. Test point = 3.5V with link 1 open.

Fig. 7. In the prototype programming board the 78L05, which should have been shown here with a diode in its ground lead, was mounted on the programming board together with a z.i.f. socket, d.i.l. switch and programming pulse jack socket. The diode in the regulator's ground lead raises its output to 5.7V. Current limiting at 50mA is used on the '30V' supply, which should never be less than 26V and without overshoot. The line at the junction of the two diodes is at either 5 or 25.25V, depending on the device to be programmed.



Take care in the design of a close-fitting lid or drawer to prevent the incidence of u.v. burns to eyes or skin. It is a *sine qua non* to include an interlock which breaks the tube-current in the event of the lid (or drawer) being opened during the erase period. The addition of a timer is a useful refinement as the tube has limited life. Clean the i.c.'s window before erasure - afterward it may be covered to guard against possible loss of data when it has been programmed. And keep the e.p.r.o.ms in conductive foam whenever

possible to prevent electrostatic charge causing degradation or destruction.

Whilst this programmer satisfies the initial design requirements there is no reason why other e.p.r.o.m. types should not be catered for. Probably the easiest method of altering the pin requirements is to bring those pins which are likely to need changes to a separate header which may be used as a patch-board, in the same way that the d.i.l. switch was necessary in Fig. 6.

The 26V transistor interface, Fig. 7, is tolerant of the value of output capacitance

although I recommend that the output waveform is checked. The l.e.d. is illuminated when the output is at high potential, which should be typically 26V to ensure that the minimum swing of 25V is met.

Reset logic prevents unwelcome voltage appearing on the e.p.r.o.m. when an output port is arranged so that logic 0 = 0V. If this is inverted then the problem may be resolved and the port PC-7 becomes spare and could be used to perform some other function. Personally I like to have ports at logic 0 meaning no output. □

EVENTS

April 23-25

The Computer Fair, at Earls Court, (sponsored by Practical Computing and Your Computer). Details from Exhibition Manager, IPC Exhibitions Ltd, Surrey House, 1 Throwley Way, Sutton, Surrey.

April 25

Audiojumble: sale of audio equipment at the Gandhi Hall, YMCA, 41 Fitzroy Square, London W1. Organised by Ed Lord, 67 Liverpool Road, London N1.

April 26

Amateur radio satellites; IEE lecture for younger members. IEE, Savoy Place, London WC2P 0BL.

April 27

Recent developments in the measurement of weak magnetic fields and associated applications: IEE colloquium.

April 29

Software engineering IEE lecture.

April 29

UOSAT - a low cost spacecraft for professional and amateur scientists: IEE lecture.

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April 29-30

Spectral analysis and its use in underwater acoustics: Institute of Acoustics/IEE conference. Imperial College, London SW7. Details from: Dr T. S. Durrani, Department of Electronic Science and Telecommunications, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow G1 1XW.

April 30

Up-to-date applications of dataview systems: IEE colloquium.

May 3-6

Video '82: Trade fair and Congress: International Congress Centre, Berlin. Organised by AMK Berlin, Postfach 19 17 40, Messedamm 22, D-1000 Berlin 19.

May 4

Human factors in word processing: IEE colloquium.

May 5-7

Videotext Systems '82: Conference and Exhibition. Cunard International Hotel, London. Organised by IPC Exhibitions Ltd, Surrey House, Throwley Way, Sutton, Surrey.

May 6

Digital tv effects: IEE Younger Member's lecture. Ship Hotel, Duke Street, Reading, Berks.

May 11-13

Micro City '82: Information technology exhibition. Bristol Exhibition Complex. Details from Tomorrows World Exhibitions Ltd, 9 Park Place, Bristol BS8 1JP.

May 12

Microprocessor projects for the plastics industry: Seminar at the National Computing Centre, Manchester. Organised by the British Plastics Federation, 5 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PH.

May 12

Electrostatics and optical effects: IOP Meeting: Institute of Physics, 47 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QX.

May 12

Time delay systems control: IEE colloquium.

May 12

Effects of obstacles and dielectric structures in the near-field on antenna performance: IEE colloquium.

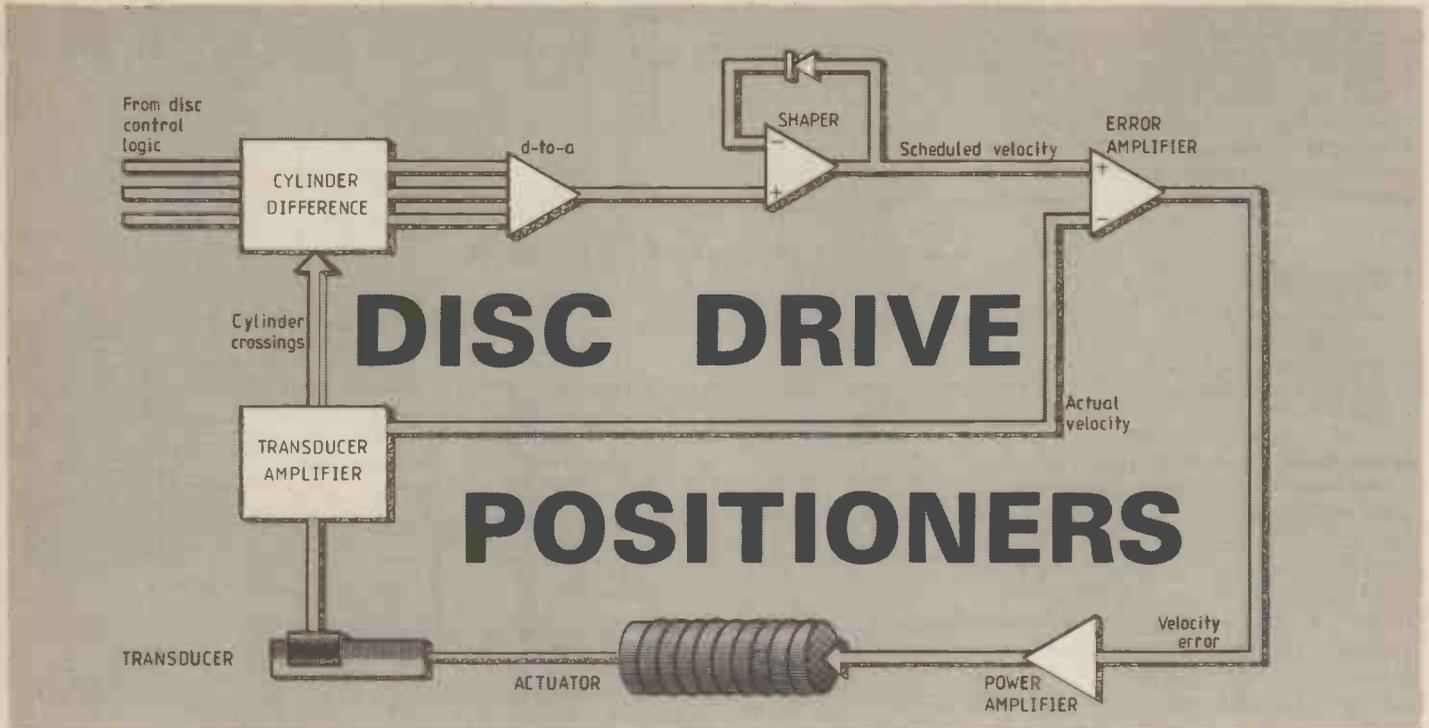
May 12

Teletex and its protocols: IEE lecture.

May 13

Development environments for microprocessor systems: IEE colloquium.

Within 80ms a mass of ¼kg can be moved a distance of four inches and stopped to within a quarter micron of a specified point – this article shows how.



DISC DRIVE POSITIONERS

In any positioning system the most crucial components are the prime mover and the transducer used to describe the position and velocity of the element under control. Here, the main features of disc-drive positioners, including feedback loops and control circuits, are described.

With the exception of fixed head and Winchester type disc drives, the read/write heads are mounted on a rigid platform called the carriage. This carriage has one degree of freedom radial to the drive spindle and is restricted by guideways, usually in the form of rails or bars; in most cases, the carriage runs on ball bearings, one or more of which is spring loaded to take up play and ensure that the bearings roll instead of skidding. Not all carriages run on ball bearings – some run directly on the guideway – but the way in which four types of those that do are constructed is shown in Fig. 1. Rotary positioners, such as those used in Winchester disc drives, will be described in a subsequent article.

In multi-platter drives, the heads are usually mounted side-by-side between the platters to reduce the overall height of the pack and minimize the weight of the carriage. The part of the carriage to which the heads are attached is often called the T-block because more often than not it is T-shaped. For convenience, the two sides of the T-block are designated A and B, and each side will have upward and downward facing heads. So in this case there are four read/write head labels; A-up, A-down, B-up and B-down. A and B heads designed for opposite directions are similar in appearance but if they are mistakenly interchanged, slipper aerodynamics will be

by J. R. Watkinson*

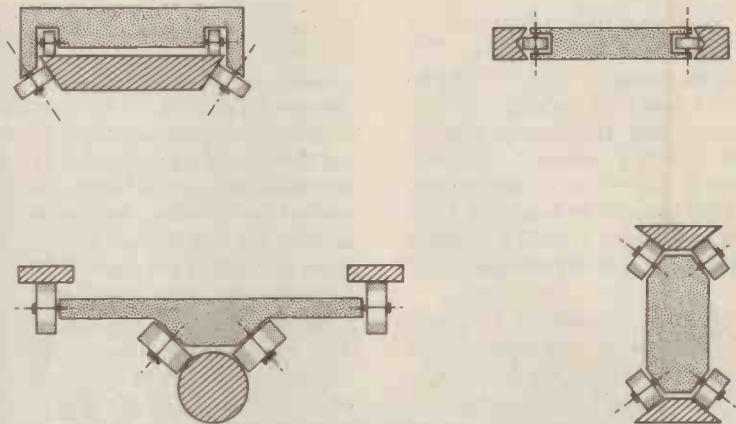


Fig. 1. Four methods used for mounting disc-drive positioner carriages. Common purpose of these is to allow only one degree of freedom, ideally along radius of the disc.

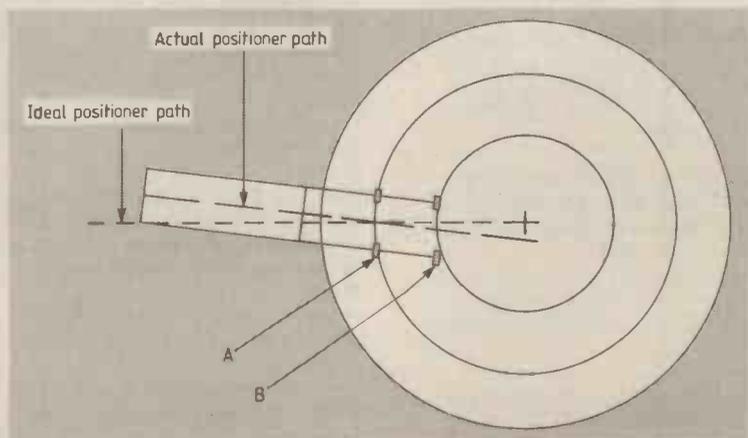


Fig. 2. Mounting read/write heads side-by-side in multi-platter drives reduces height of the disc pack and hence weight moved by the positioner, but alignment between carriage centre line and disc radius becomes more critical. Here, the heads are aligned at track A and the error caused by carriage/track-radius misalignment becomes apparent at B.

*B.Sc., M.Sc., Digital Equipment Co.

affected, so the head type is usually clearly marked. Slots in the T-block allow radial adjustment of the heads.

As the heads are in two rows, it is vital that the centre line along which the carriage travels is precisely on the disc radius. Figure 2 shows why. Alignment fixtures provided with the drives allow the heads to be accurately aligned and, equally important, keep the head adjustment standard between drives using interchangeable discs.

Motive power

There are three main methods of driving the carriage

- hydraulically
- by moving coil.
- or by electric motor.

Hydraulics. The first moving-head disc drives stored data at very low density by modern standards, so if large amounts of data had to be stored, large discs had to be used. Some of these discs measured several feet in diameter. The carriage was equally large, and the only practical way of moving it was by hydraulics. Much research into hydraulic systems for applications such as power-operated gun turrets on military aircraft had already been carried out so the design of a system for driving the carriage of a disc drive was simplified.

Figure 3(a) shows the essentials of a hydraulically powered positioner, in which the pump may be driven either by the spindle motor or by a separate motor. The accumulator is required for rapid seeks, when the peak-flow requirement is greater than the pump can deliver; the analogy with a power-supply capacitor is clear. Fluid pressure is regulated by a bypass valve, the fluid equivalent of a zener diode and a series of solenoid-operated valves with calibrated orifices are used to move

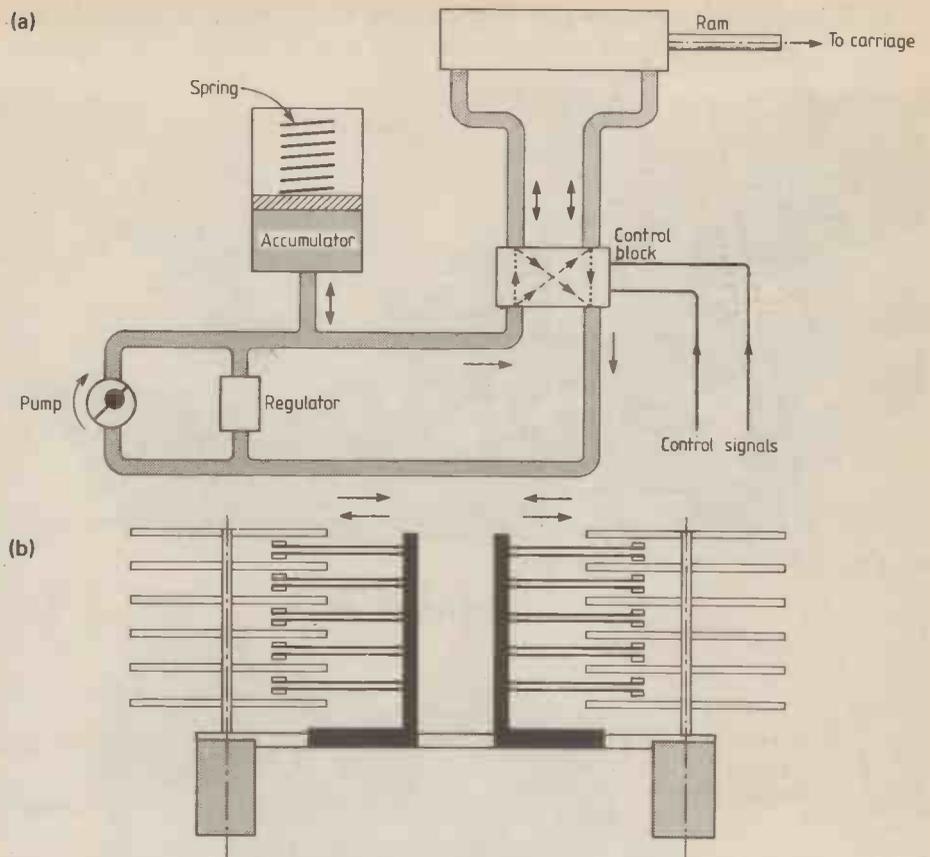


Fig. 3. Essential elements of a hydraulic positioner are shown at (a), in which the pressure from the fluid pump is regulated by a bypass valve and control signals from the drive logic operate solenoid valves in the control block. Accumulator permits high peak-flow rates without large pressure fluctuations. In (b), two opposed positioners are used to cancel out reactions caused by fast carriage acceleration.

the carriage at different speeds. Some drives with hydraulic positioners would move from their position in the computer room, because of the reaction from fast carriage acceleration, and had to be moved back into place from time to time. Behemoth drives had two parallel spindles with

opposed positioners between them to cancel out this effect, Fig. 3(b).

Moving coil. As head and medium design improved the storage density increased, allowing the platters to be made smaller. This made the carriage smaller and lighter so less power was required to move it. At the same time, advances in semiconductor technology brought down the price of power transistors. It thus became feasible to use a moving coil to drive the carriage, with the further weight reduction of the carriage that the principle allows being used to reduce access time.

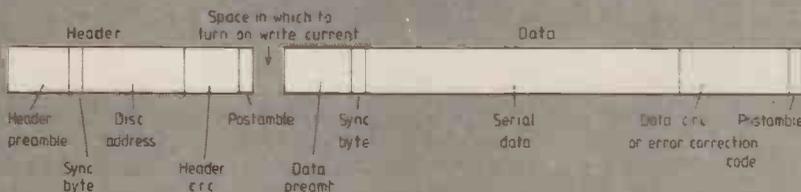
A typical coil has a diameter of three inches and works in the radial flux from a permanent magnet weighing about 50 pounds. Smaller drives use a copper wire coil on a glass fibre former, but larger units may use self-supporting coils wound from rectangular-section aluminium strip. Aluminium has a higher strength-to-weight ratio than copper, and this consideration outweighs the disadvantage of higher resistance. The coil frequently requires forced air cooling in large units. The assembly is usually described as an e.m.a. (electromagnetic actuator), Fig. 4.

Electric motor drive. There are two main types—one is as shown in Fig. 5. In the first, the motor drives a leadscrew which moves the carriage as it turns. In some cases a stepping motor is used, where the stable positions of the rotor correspond to the positions of disc cylinders.

Disc format

The access mechanism of a disc drive works from three dimensions: cylinder, track or head, and sector. A malfunction in any of these could bring the heads to the wrong data block. In the interests of data integrity, each block of data is preceded by a header which contains the disc address of the block. Before a data transfer can take place, the disc address according to the access mechanism is compared with the disc address in the header. If the two are the same, the data transfer proceeds, if not, the transfer is aborted and a mispositioning condition exists, usually referred to as a header mismatch error. The headers

are usually written once when the disc is first used, by a process known as formatting, and are then subsequently only read. Because of this, the header and the associated data require individual preambles when used with an encoding technique requiring phase-locked recovery, as the header and the data have not necessarily been written at the same time, or for that matter, on the same disc drive. Some drives, however, treat the header and the data as an entity, such that the header is rewritten every time a block is written. The diagram shows a fairly common disc-block format and lists the functions of each element.



Representative disc-data block. Header cyclic-redundancy check (c.r.c.) and data-error correction words will be discussed later. The postamble is included to prevent data corruption when the write current is switched off.

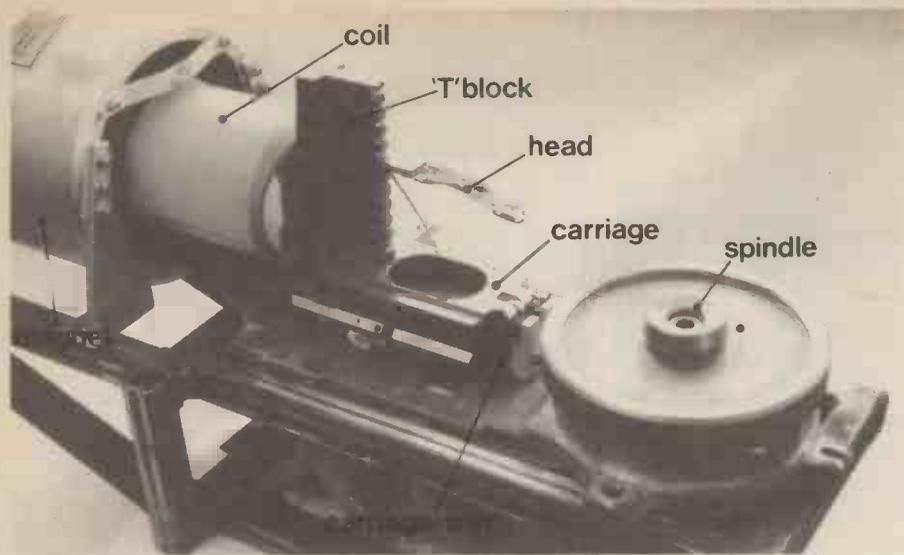


Fig. 4. Essentials of a disc-drive positioner.

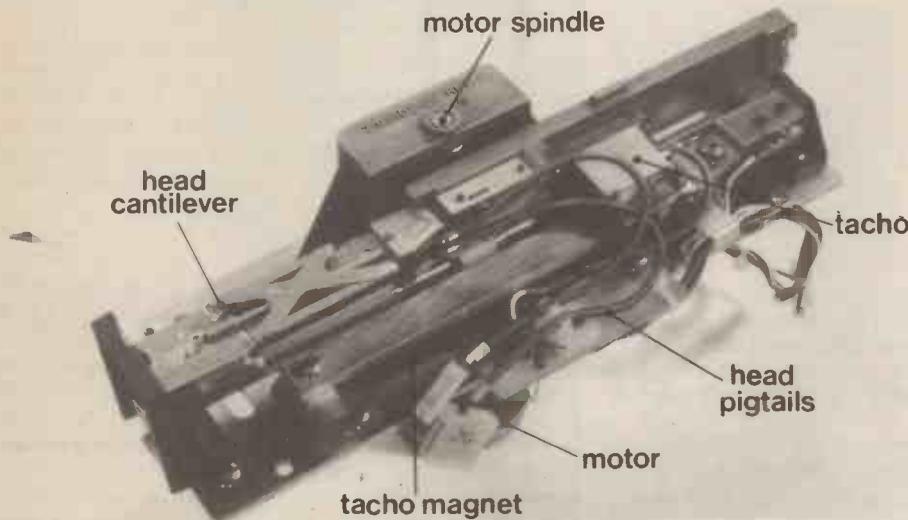


Fig. 5. One type of motor-driven positioner. This assembly illustrates how a positioner using steel wires to drive the carriage looks.



Fig. 6. Mechanical detenting. Detent pawl is split and has two sets of teeth at 180° to each other. At (a), the carriage is detented to an odd numbered cylinder and the upper pawl teeth are engaged. The lower pawl, represented by the broken line, rests against the tops of the rack teeth. In (b), the carriage is detented at an even cylinder and the lower pawl is engaged. Tooth pitch on the rack is twice the cylinder spacing.

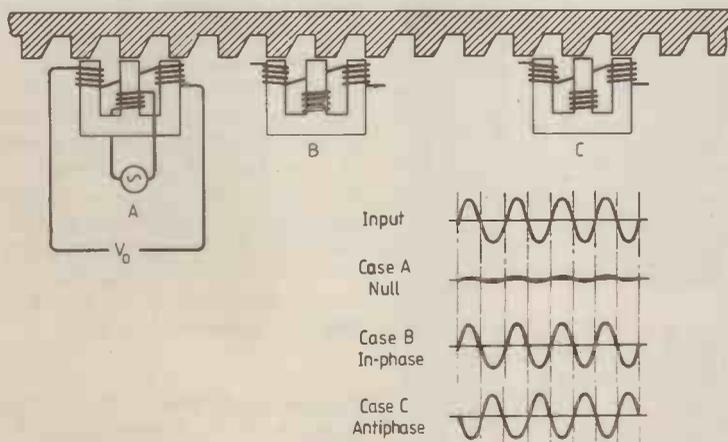


Fig. 7. Carrier-wave cylinder transducer. Oscillator feeds the transducer primary coil and the two secondaries are connected in opposite phase. Output signal phase, determined by the relative reluctance of the magnetic circuit's two limbs, is a function of the rack position. Three examples are given with associated waveforms.

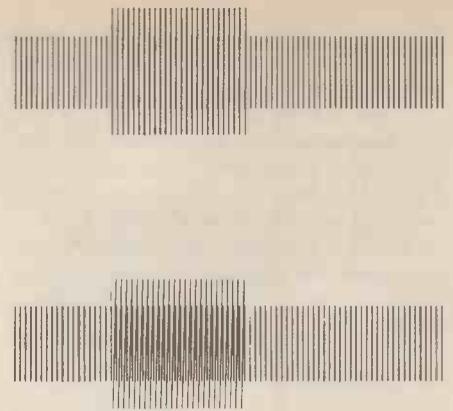


Fig. 8. Parallel bar and Moiré type gratings used to modulate a light beam produce triangle and sine-wave outputs respectively. These gratings are used to detect position and velocity.

The motor in the second type drives a drum which imparts linear motion to the carriage through flexible steel wires. These two types are normally used only in small drives.

Detenting

When the carriage is held at rest with the heads correctly aligned above the disk tracks, it is said to be detented. Early drives used mechanical detenting where pawls on a detent actuator move to engage a rack on the carriage. Figure 6 shows a two-phase detent mechanism, where the spacing between cylinders is one half the rack pitch. Mechanical detenting can be found on both hydraulic and moving coil positioners, and the pawl will be operated by a ram in the former case, or by a solenoid in the latter. The teeth on the rack are asymmetrical so that after the detent has engaged, some forward drive can be applied to take up any backlash without fear of the pawl jumping out of engagement. The detent actuator is a fine piece of precision engineering, and as such is expensive. Recent drives take advantage of the falling cost of electronic circuitry and employ electronic detenting, where the carriage is held by a feedback loop using a position transducer. Should for any reason the positioner find itself off track, the position transducer generates an error voltage which will drive the carriage until the error is cancelled. When operating in this way the carriage servo system is said to be in detent mode, track following mode, fine mode or linear mode, depending on the specific documentation consulted. During a seek, the servo system changes to velocity mode, also known as coarse mode. These are the two major operating modes of the servo.

Transducers

The purpose of a transducer will be one or more of the following

- to count the number of cylinders crossed during a seek,
- to generate a signal proportional to carriage velocity,
- or to generate a position error proportional to the distance from the centre of the desired track.

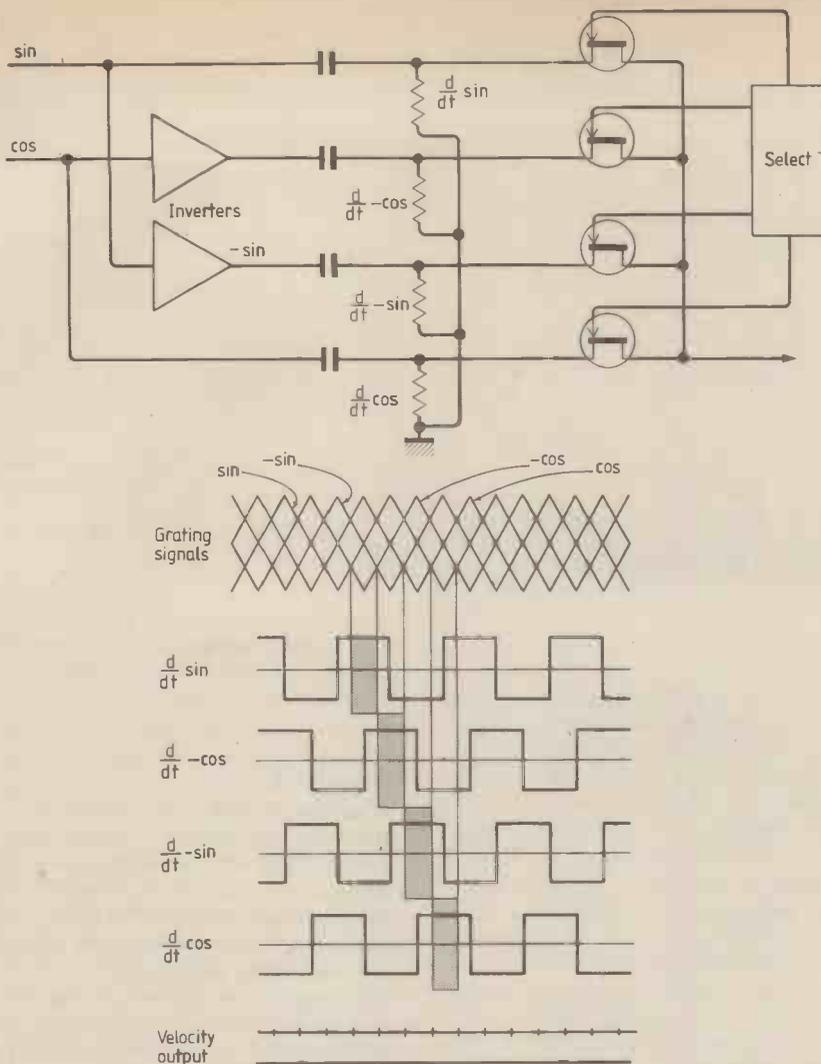


Fig. 9. Optical velocity transducer. Four quadrature signals are produced from the two-phase transducer. Each of these is differentiated, and the four derivatives are selected one at a time by analogue switches. This process results in a continuous analogue-output voltage proportional to the slope of the transducer waveform, which is itself proportional to carriage velocity. In some drives one of the transducer signals may also be used to count cylinder crossings during a seek and to provide a position error for detenting.

Sometimes the same transducer will be used to provide all three signals. For this reason, transducers are best classified by principle of operation, rather than by function.

Magnetic transducers. There are three distinct types

- moving coil
- moving magnet
- carrier wave.

The first two types simply give an output proportional to the rate of change of flux. The only difference is whether the coil or the flux moves. Moving-magnet types often have the coil concentric with the actuator, which provides good noise shielding. Moving-coil types sometimes have a bucking coil connected in phase opposition in order to cancel out induced noise. These two types of transducer can only generate a velocity signal, but have the advantage that no precision alignment is necessary; a working clearance is all that is required.

The third type is illustrated in Fig. 7. The flux path of the transducer is completed by a rack on the carriage, often the

same one as is used by the detent actuator. As the rack moves, the reluctance of the two limbs will rise and fall, and as the secondary coils are wound in opposition to each other, the output will be alternately in and out of phase with the input. A phase-

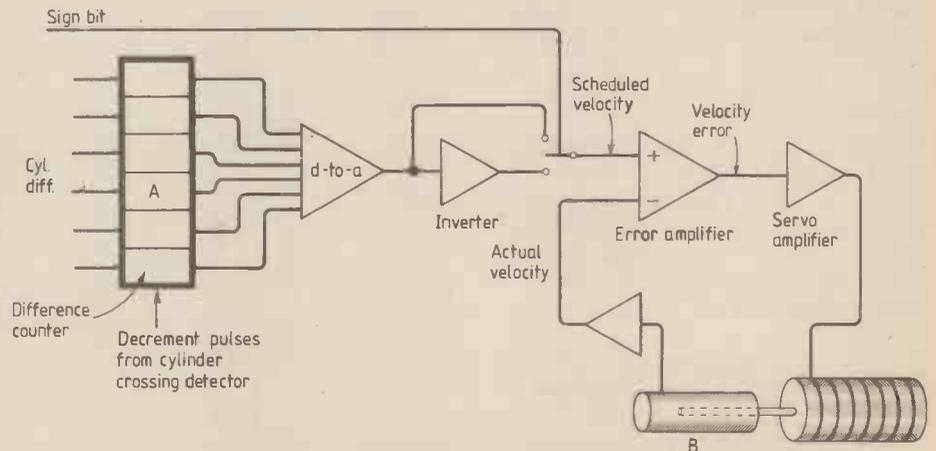


Fig. 10. Carriage velocity control by cylinder difference. Cylinder-difference value is loaded into the difference counter, A. A d-to-a converter generates an analogue voltage, called the scheduled velocity, from the cylinder difference. This is compared with the actual velocity from transducer B to generate a velocity error signal which drives the servo amplifier.

sensitive rectifier gives a binary output which can be used to count cylinder crossings during a seek. As no accurate position error or velocity information can be extracted, this type of transducer is restricted to use in mechanical detent drives, in conjunction with a magnetic-velocity transducer. Adjustment of carrier-wave transducers is critical, as the signal becomes rapidly attenuated if the distance from the rack is too great, but the rack teeth if the clearance is too small.

Optical transducers. These devices consist of gratings, one fixed and one movable. The relative positions of the two will control the amount of light from an l.e.d. or bulb which can pass through to one or more photo-transistors.

Referring to Fig. 8, it can be seen that this class of transducer falls into two categories

- Moiré-fringe
- parallel-grating.

In a Moiré-fringe transducer the bars on the moving grating are not parallel with the bars on the fixed grating. Relative movement causes a fringe pattern which travels at a right angle to the direction of motion. This results in sinusoidal modulation of the light beam.

In the second type, all the bars are parallel so the sensor's output is a triangle wave. In both types of optical transducer, the spacing between the two gratings is critical.

Whether the waveform used for counting cylinder crossings is sinusoidal or triangular is not important, so the choice between the two transducers is governed by whether a position error or a velocity signal is required. The slope of a sine wave is steeper in the zero region than an equivalent triangle wave so it is more useful for detecting position error. Conversely the constant slope of a triangle wave is easily differentiated to produce a velocity signal. Because the differential of a triangle wave changes sign twice per cycle, a two-phase optical system is often used to give a continuous velocity-output signal. The stationary grating has two sets of bars with a 90° phase relationship and the resultant

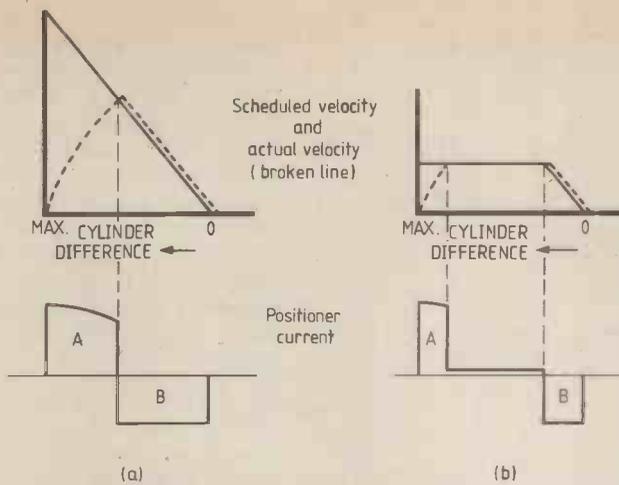


Fig. 11. In example (a), dissipation in the positioner is continuous, causing a heating problem. The effect of limiting the scheduled velocity above a certain cylinder difference is shown in (b), where heavy current only flows during acceleration and deceleration. In between, only enough current to overcome friction is required. Back to e.m.f. causes the curver acceleration slope.

waveforms are referred to as sin and cos, even if they are triangle waves. The two waveforms and their complements, known as $-\sin$ and $-\cos$, are differentiated and the four differentials selected in turn at times when there is no sign change. This process of commutation is achieved by f.e.t. analogue switches controlled by comparators looking for points where the input waveforms cross. The result is a clean output signal proportional to velocity.

Where one transducer has to generate all three of the required parameters, Moiré type gratings are preferable because of their better position-error detecting performance. A certain amount of ripple on the velocity output derived from a sinusoid has to be accepted.

Optical transducers often contain additional light paths to aid carriage-travel limit detection. The resulting signals may be used during the head-loading sequence to position the heads at cylinder zero, as the sine or triangle outputs are cyclic and do not give an absolute cylinder address. Mechanical detent drives pose the problem of finding an absolute reference to the cyclic output from the rack transducer. One solution is to drive the carriage forward slowly until it contacts the forward stop, and then to preset the cylinder count to two or three cylinders more than the maximum.

Seeking

A seek is a process where the positioner moves from one cylinder to another. The speed with which a seek can be completed is a major factor in determining the access time of the drive. The main parameter controlling the carriage during a seek is the cylinder difference:

$$\text{cylinder difference} = \text{desired address} - \text{current address.}$$

The cylinder difference is a signed binary number representing the number of cylinders to be crossed to reach the target cylinder, direction being indicated by the sign. The cylinder difference is loaded into

a counter which is decremented each time a cylinder is crossed. The counter drives a d.-to-a. converter which generates an analogue voltage proportional to the cylinder difference. As shown in Fig. 10 this voltage, known as the scheduled velocity, is compared with the output of the carriage-velocity transducer. Hence any difference between the two results in a velocity-error voltage, which is then used to reposition the carriage hence cancelling the error. As the carriage approaches the target cylinder, the cylinder difference becomes smaller with the result that the run-in to the target is critically damped (velocity \propto distance) to eliminate overshoot.

Figure 11(a) shows graphs of scheduled velocity, actual velocity and actuator current with respect to cylinder difference during a seek. In the first half of the seek the actual velocity is less than the scheduled velocity causing a large velocity error. This saturates the servo amplifier, providing maximum current to the actuator which in turn accelerates the carriage to reduce the error. In the second half of the graph, the scheduled velocity falls below the actual velocity generating a negative

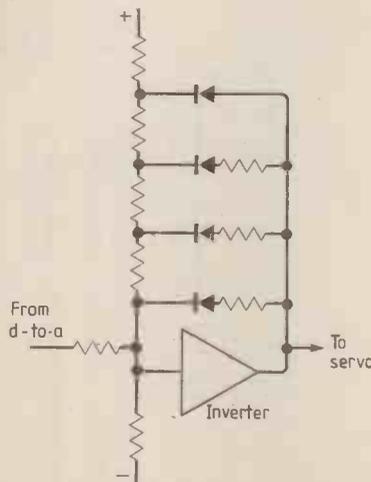


Fig. 12. Voltage-dependent feedback around the operational amplifier permits a piecewise linear approximation to a curved velocity profile. This speeds up short seeks without causing dissipation problems on long seeks.

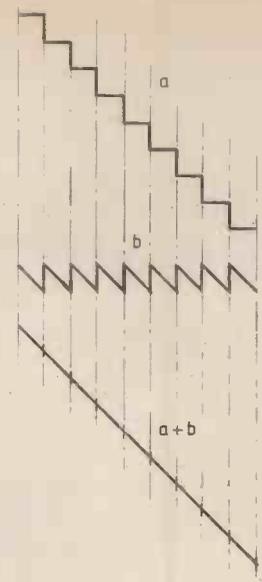
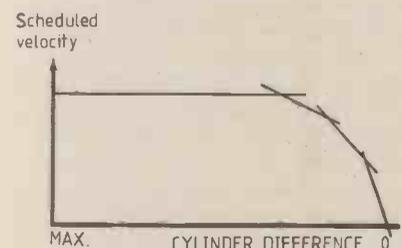


Fig. 13. Staircase from a d.-to-a. smoothed by adding a sawtooth waveform.

velocity error, and the servo amplifier is now driving a reverse current through the actuator to decelerate the carriage in accordance with the scheduler. The scheduler deceleration slope can never be steeper than the saturated acceleration slope. Areas A and B on the current graph will be almost equal, as the kinetic energy put into the carriage has to be taken out. Any difference will be due to friction and other losses. The current through the coil is continuous which would result in a heating problem, so to counter this the d.-to-a. converter is made non-linear so that above a certain cylinder difference no increase in the scheduled velocity occurs. This results in the graph of Fig. 11(b). The actual-velocity graph is called a velocity profile, and consists of three regions: acceleration, where the system is saturated, a constant-velocity plateau, where only enough current is required to overcome friction, and the scheduled run-in to the desired cylinder. Dissipation is only significant in the first and last regions. The effect of carriage velocity on dissipation is as follows.



Carriage acceleration, a , is \propto actuator current, I , and

$$a = \frac{2s}{t^2}$$

where t is the seek time. Dissipation is I^2R , which is proportional to a^2R

$$a^2R = \left(\frac{2s}{t^2}\right)^2 R = \frac{4s^2}{t^4} R$$

Average carriage velocity $v \propto 1/t$, therefore, dissipation $\propto v^4$.

As a result, it is necessary to limit the maximum velocity of the positioner very accurately or severe overheating of the coil or amplifier may result.

A consequence of the critically damped run-in to the target cylinder is that short seeks are slow. Sometimes further non-linearity is introduced into the velocity scheduler to speed up short seeks. The velocity profile becomes a piecewise linear approximation to a curve by using non-linear feedback. Figure 12 shows the effect of using a shaper or profile generator, as this device is known.

Servo amplifiers

In small disk drives the amplifier is usually linear in all modes of operation, resembling nothing more than an audio output stage. As the scheduled velocity signal comes from a d.-to-a. converter, the deceleration ramp is depicted by a staircase waveform. When the staircase is compared with the actual velocity signal, the resulting velocity-error signal contains an a.c.

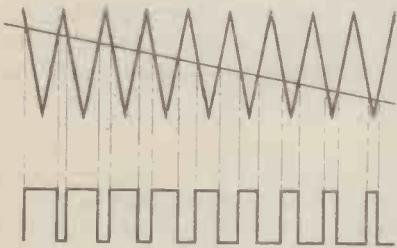
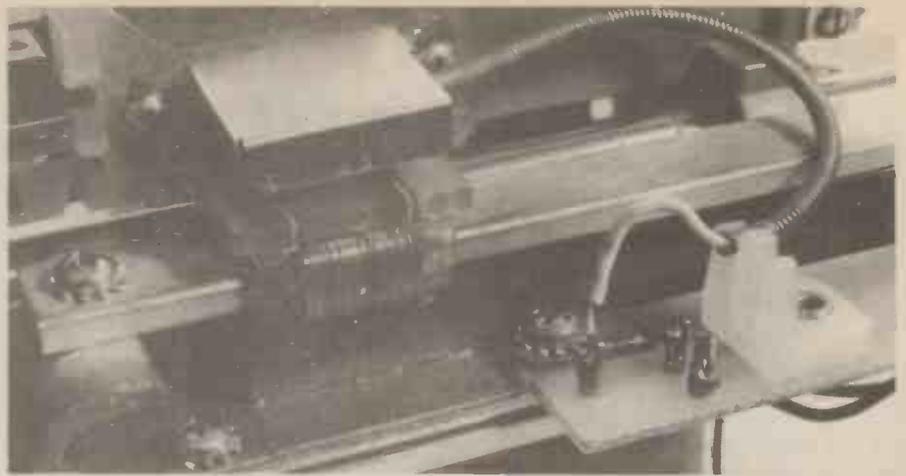


Fig. 14. Comparison of velocity error with a sawtooth waveform results in a pulse-width modulated output which can be used to reduce dissipation in the servo amplifier.



In this photograph of a moving-coil transducer, the magnet under the coil can be seen clearly.

component due to the steps. This increases e.m.a. dissipation and can cause an audible output from the coil — a problem that is sometimes solved by adding a saw-tooth waveform, at the same rate as the steps, to the shaper output. This approach is shown in Fig. 13.

Larger units employ pulse-width modulation to reduce dissipation in the servo amplifier. The duty cycle is established typically by comparing the velocity error with a sawtooth waveform. A simplified example of this process is shown in Fig. 14. Appreciable electromagnetic radiation is caused by p.w.m. servo systems, but this is generally of no consequence as no data transfer takes place during a seek. In track following mode, p.w.m. servos re-

vert to a linear amplifier configuration, which is why the term linear mode is often used to describe the detented state of the positioner.

The input of the servo amplifier normally has a number of analogue switches which select the appropriate signals according to the mode of the servo. As the output of the position transducer is a triangle or sine function, the sense of the position feedback loop has to be inverted on odd numbered cylinders, to allow detenting on the negative slope. In some cases a different velocity transducer is used when the heads are being retracted from the pack. Figure 15 shows a typical servo-amplifier input-selection circuit.

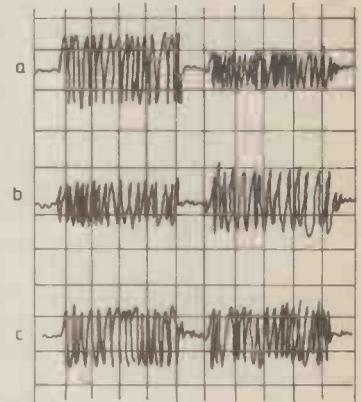
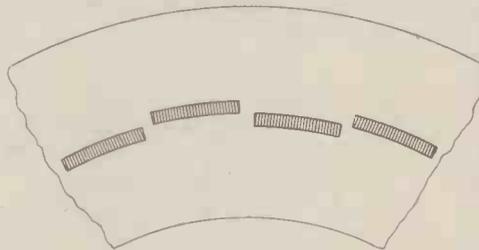
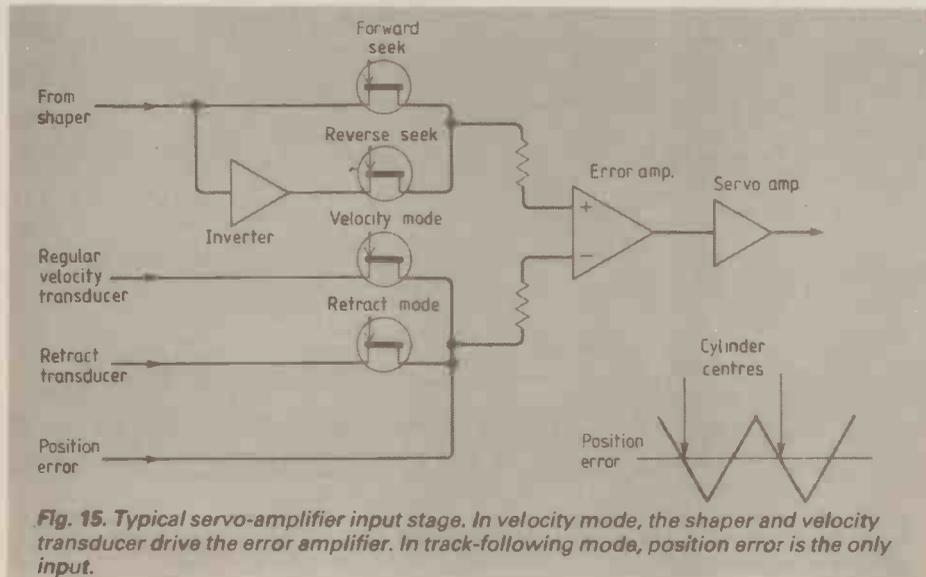


Fig. 16. Alignment disc has flux patterns displaced alternately about the centre line of the reference track. In the resulting oscillograph at (a), the head is too close to the spindle, at (b) too far from the spindle, and at (c), in the correct position.



Head alignment

On drives where interchangeable discs are used, the distance between the read/write heads and the spindle axis is critical. So to set the heads, an alignment disc (sometimes called a 'custom engineer') containing prerecorded flux patterns at a reference cylinder is used. Figure 16 shows a typical alignment-disc pattern and resulting oscilloscope waveforms for correct and incorrect head alignments.

Disc rotation, cooling, filtration, power supplies and safety will be discussed in the next chapter.

DESIGNING WITH MICROPROCESSORS

Linking a microprocessor with a printer directly is wasteful: much time can be saved by sending data to a buffer for reading at a slower rate. Professor Zissos concludes his series with two articles on programmable i/o chips, this first on basic concepts, and the second on design procedure and implementation.

by D. Zissos
and Jane Pleus

It is not always necessary or indeed desirable for two devices to communicate directly, particularly if one device is much faster than the other. For example, a microprocessor transmitting data directly to a slow character printer will be idling while a character is being printed. In this situation much time can be saved by the fast device transmitting each item of data to a port (in practice a data buffer) and allowing the printer to read the data from the port in its own time — see Fig 1. Such a scheme would release the microprocessor from the unproductive task of waiting and allow it to look after other tasks while the printer is printing.

Input/output ports are normally implemented with programmable chips, that is chips whose operations can be specified within limits by the user. Designing such systems involves two steps. First, the i/o chip is programmed. And second, the interface between the i/o chip and the peripheral unit is designed. Although the second stage presents no difficulty, programming the chip in practice is not always a trivial task, because of lack of a systematic method. This often prevents one from taking full advantage of the main property of such chips — that their terminal characteristics can be specified to some extent by the designer.

Clearly the source must not send data to the port until it can accept it. For this purpose the port sends a signal (h1) to the source indicating its status, namely whether it is empty or full. Signal h1 must also be sent to the acceptor to prevent it from reading old data that it has already read, as shown in Fig. 2 (h1 = 0 indicates that the port is empty, and h1 = 1 that the port is full). Reference to Fig. 2 shows that status signal h1 must be turned on by the source when it sends data to the port, and turned off by the acceptor when it reads the data; variables h2 and h3 denote these "handshake" signals.

In practice signal h1 is generated by a flip-flop, the status flip-flop. A JK flip-flop implementation is shown in Fig. 3. By pulling its J terminal high and the K terminal low, a pulse on its clock terminal sets it (h1 = 1) and pulsing its clear terminal resets it. That is, a pulse on line h2 sets the flip-flop and a pulse on line h3 resets it. The function of the AND gate is to terminate the clear signal (CLR) immediately after the flip-flop is reset, CLR = h1.h3 = 0 when h1 = 0. In practice, the port is a buffer which requires a strobe pulse with

every new item of data before it accepts it: the pulse on handshake line h2 can be used directly for this.

In summary the step-by-step operation of the handshake system in Fig. 2 is as follows. The source monitors status line h1

to determine whether the port is full or empty. If empty, it outputs the next item of data and pulses line h2, which strobes the data into the port and sets the status flip-flop (h1 = 1) by pulsing its clock terminal. This constitutes the write operation; the read operation is initiated by the acceptor when line h1 is high. When the data is read it resets the status flip-flop by pulsing its clear terminal.

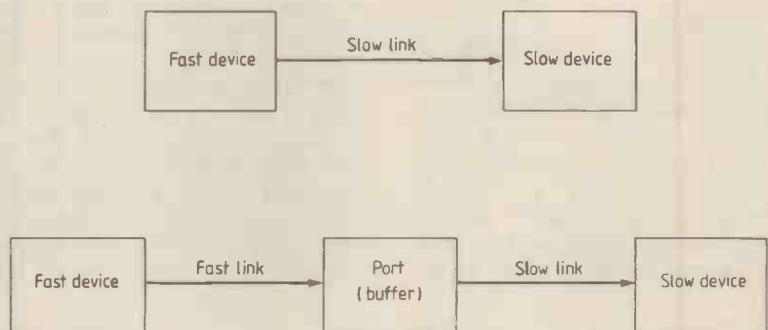


Fig. 1. Fast device feeding a slow device needs buffer stage to avoid microprocessor wasting time.

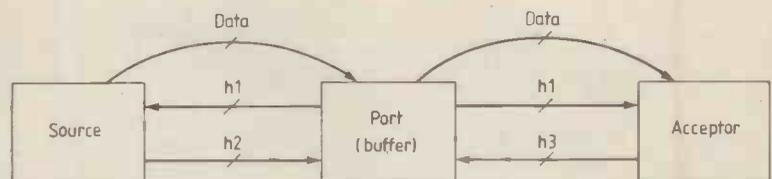


Fig. 2. Handshake signals are exchanged before data is transferred from source to buffer and buffer to acceptor. Source monitors status lines 1 to see if port empty: Line h2 then strobes data into port. Read operation is intended by the acceptor when h1 is high.

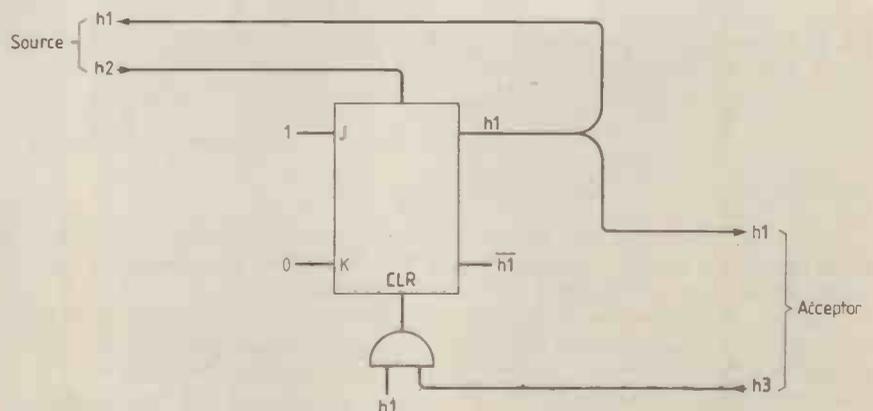


Fig. 3. Status flip-flop generates signal h1. With J high and K low, pulse on line h2 sets circuit and on h3 resets it.

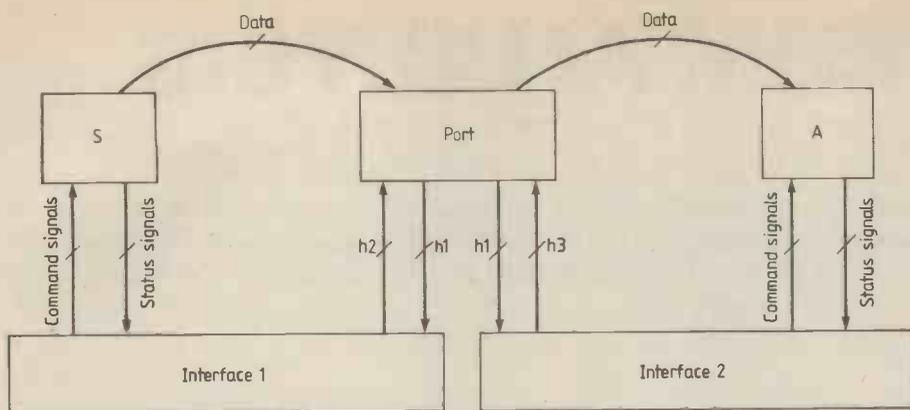


Fig. 4. A handshake system requires two interfaces, one to coordinate source/buffer activity and the other acceptor/buffer activity.

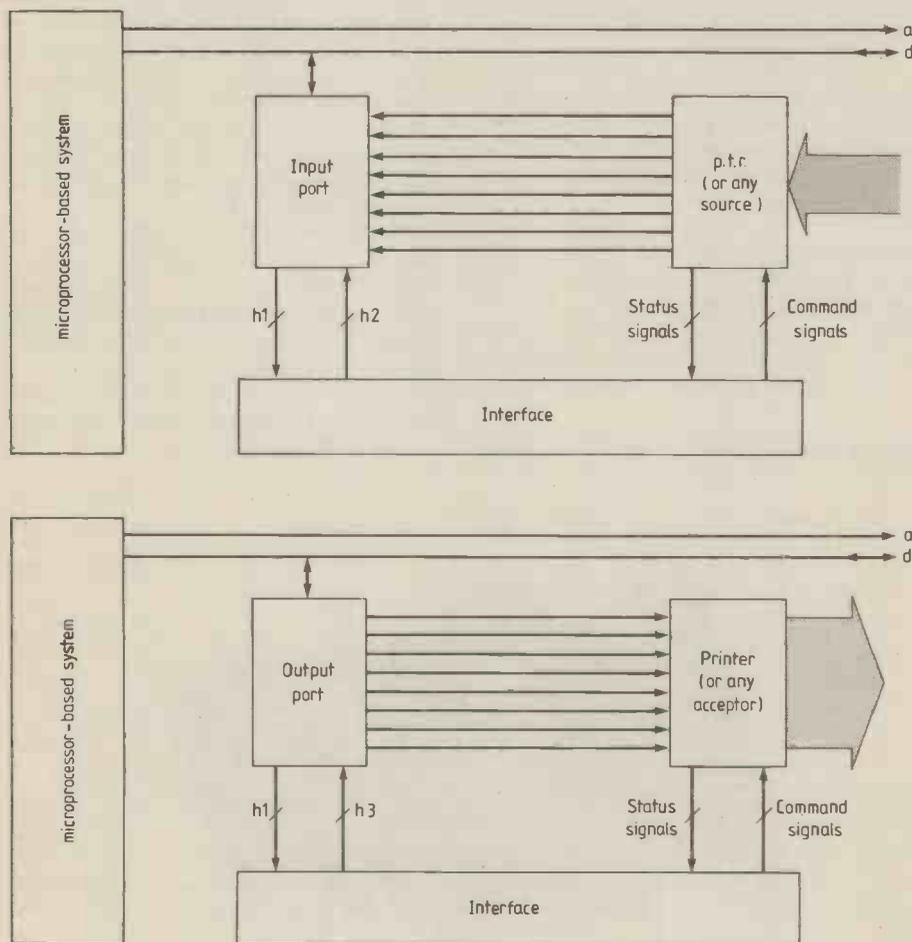


Fig. 5. Microprocessor-based system with input port and source (paper tape reader), top, output port and acceptor (printer), bottom.

To implement a handshake system requires two interfaces, one to coordinate the activity of the source with the activity of the buffer, and the second to coordinate the activity of the acceptor with that of the buffer, Fig. 4.

Because most commercially-available microprocessor systems are normally provided with ports which are already interfaced to them, one need only consider

interfacing peripheral devices to the ports. Therefore microprocessor-based systems with io ports can be represented by the two block diagrams in Fig. 5. A paper tape reader and printer act as source and acceptor because their action is easy to visualize — they can clearly be replaced by any other device, equipment or process.

Next article — Design steps and implementation.

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

80-100-watt audio amplifier

John Linsley Hood's new amplifier is described in a three-part article, beginning with an explanation of design problems in relation to the characteristics of mosfets. The design will be closely followed by a new, modular preamplifier, the pair forming possibly the best amplifying equipment yet described in these pages.

Microprocessor-controlled radio-code clock. Using the 60kHz standard-frequency time-code transmission from Rugby, this clock provides date and time information automatically, in that the display is continually corrected by the transmission. Particular attention to receiver design has greatly reduced the effects of interference, and a 6502 microprocessor is used to perform the decoding function.

Heretics guide to modern physics is a controversial review of current doctrine, set at the level of the sixth-form student or educated layman. Enormous gaps exist in our understanding of Nature and many of our fundamental theories are not very credible, says W. A. S. Murray, who in nine articles investigates electromagnetic theory, photons, duality, quantization, matter waves and haziness, and reviews the state of physics today.

Control technology and safety. Presenting information on large systems — oil rigs, nuclear power stations, aircraft — to control engineers is not a simple matter of laying out alarms and indicators on a large panel. The psychology of crisis control, the requirement for new types of equipment for data marshalling and methods of training personnel are examined by R. E. Young.

Radio in tunnels by leaky feeder. D. J. R. Martin, a specialist in underground radio communication, reviews developments in the use of leaky, or radiating, cables.

ON SALE MAY 16

CEPSTRUM ANALYSIS

This final part of the review gives uses in speech analysis and machine diagnostics, as well as calculation with an FFT analyser using the digital form. Part 2 gave application to signals containing echoes (March), while part 1 derived the cepstrum as the spectrum of a logarithmic spectrum.

The applications of the cepstrum to speech analysis are mainly connected with its ability to separate source and transmission path effects, provided they have different frequency contents. This is usually the case with speech where the source spectrum is very flat, containing a large number of harmonics of the voice pitch, but is modified by the resonance characteristics of the vocal tract, the so-called formants, which determine which vowel is being uttered. Fig. 13 shows spectra and cepstra for the vowels "oh" [o] and "ee" [i] and illustrates how the differences mainly lie in the low frequency part of the cepstrum, which is dominated by the formant characteristic. Non-voiced sounds, such as many consonants and whispered speech, do not give peaks in the cepstrum corresponding to the voice pitch, and one of the earliest applications of the cepstrum was to separate voiced and non-voiced sounds and to measure voice pitch.¹⁰

It is also possible by editing in the cepstrum to remove one effect completely, for example the voice, and thus simplify the tracking of the formants. Fig. 14 from ref. 11 shows a typical situation, a three-dimensional representation of the section "ea" from the word "Montreal". The picture is confused but by short-pass filtering each of the spectra to remove the voice components, as shown in Figs 15 and 16, only the formants are left and the picture becomes much clearer.

The cepstrum can be used for efficient vocoding and transmission of speech.¹² Most of the intelligence is contained in the low frequency part of the cepstrum so only this is transmitted, along with information as to whether the speech is voiced and if so the voice pitch. At the receiver end the speech is reconstituted using the low frequency information to generate a filter char-

by R. B. Randall and J. Hee

acteristic or impulse response for a source which would either be a variable frequency pulse generator for the voiced sections or a noise generator for the unvoiced sections. Despite the synthetic voice the speech was reported as sounding natural.

It can also be useful to include it along with spectral and other information in pattern recognition algorithms for speaker identification. Inclusion of the cepstral information improved the ability of the technique to exclude impostors.¹³

Machine diagnostics

The applications of the cepstrum to machine diagnosis are mainly based on its ability to detect periodicity in the spectrum, e.g. families of harmonics and uniformly spaced sidebands, while being in-

sensitive to the transmission path of the signal from an internal source to an external measurement point.

The cepstrum technique has been proposed to aid detection of missing blades in turbines. Such blade anomalies give rise to a large number of harmonics of the shaft rotational speed in measurements¹⁴ made both internally and externally on the casing in the vicinity of the affected blade row. Even though the harmonic pattern can be seen by eye, the whole family of harmonics is reduced in the cepstrum basically to one component which is much easier to monitor.

Similar reasoning is applicable to gearbox diagnosis; tooth anomalies have a very similar influence on gearbox vibration signals, as do blading anomalies on turbine signals.¹⁵ A very detailed discussion is given in reference 15 of the application of cepstrum analysis to gearbox diagnosis and so here the discussion is limited to a couple of typical examples.

Fig. 14. Scan spectrum of "ea" in "Montreal"

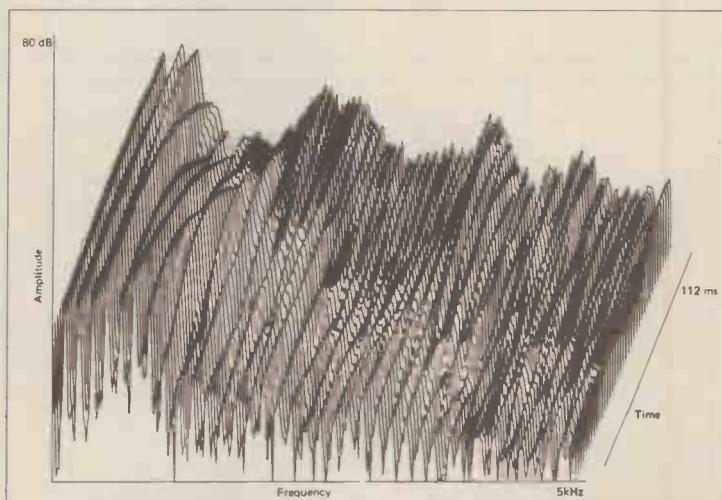
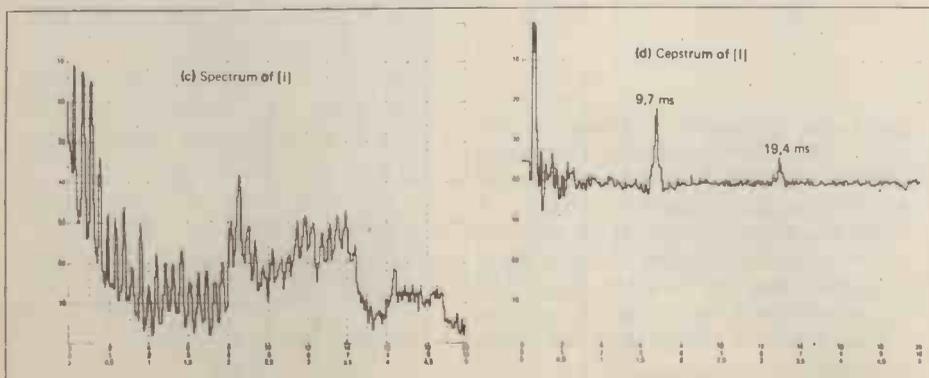


Fig. 13. Spectra and cepstra for "ee" [i] vowel



In gearbox vibrations deviations from exact uniformity of each toothmesh show up partly as harmonics of the shaft speed and also as sidebands around the toothmeshing harmonics caused by modulation of the toothmesh signal by the lower rotational frequencies. The sideband spacing thus contains valuable information as to the source of the modulation and can be extracted using the cepstrum. The cepstrum has the two advantages of being able to detect periodicity not immediately apparent to the eye, and of being able to measure it very accurately because it gives the average sideband spacing over the whole spectrum.

The first advantage is illustrated in Fig.

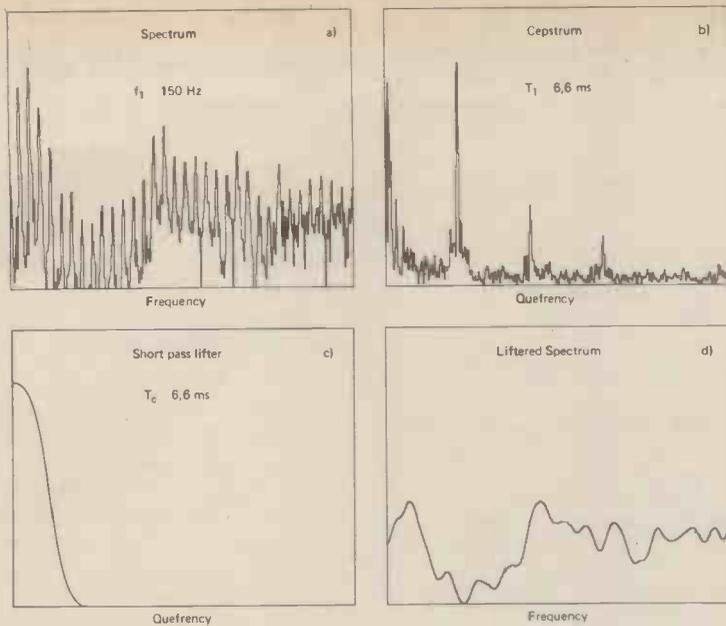


Fig. 15. Cepstrum liftering
a) log power spectrum of vowel
b) magnitude of cepstrum

c) short pass lifter characteristic
d) short pass liftered log power spectrum

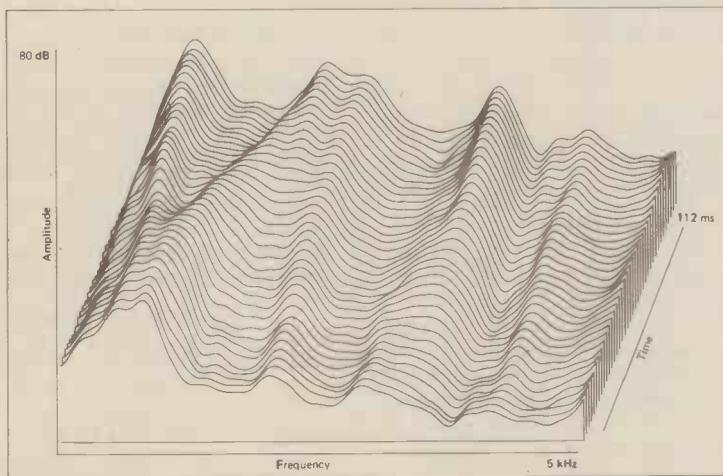


Fig. 16. Short-pass liftered scan spectrum of "ea" in "Montreal"

17 and was made using an FFT analyser type 2033 in conjunction with an HP9825 desk-top calculator. A 2000-line spectrum includes the first three harmonics of the toothmeshing frequency of a single reduction gearbox (a). It purposely excludes the low harmonics of the shaft speeds since these may have other causes than the toothmeshing. The spectrum was obtained by performing five 400-line zoom analyses on the same data and storing the intermediate results in the calculator memory. The 2000-line spectrum was then read digitally back into the 10K input memory of the analyser and frequency analysed once more using the scan average procedure with 75% overlapping Hanning windows to obtain the cepstrum. Fig. 17 (b) represents the average of five such cepstra. Even though it is difficult to see any periodic structure in the spectrum, it is apparent from the cepstrum that there are two families of sidebands with spacings of 85 Hz and 50 Hz respectively, the rotational speeds of the two gears. All significant components in the cepstrum stem from one or other of these two shaft speeds.

The other advantage is illustrated in

Fig. 18 which shows spectra and ceptra for two truck gearboxes, in good and bad condition respectively, running on a test stand. The good gearbox shows no marked spectrum periodicity, but the spectrum of the bad one contains a large number of sidebands with a spacing of approximately 10 Hz. The cepstrum gives this spacing very accurately as 10.4 Hz and thus excludes the possibility that it was the second harmonic of the output shaft speed 5.4 Hz.

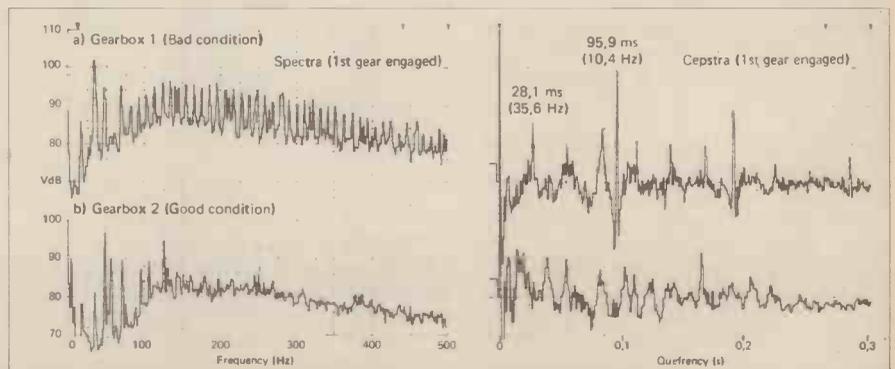


Fig. 18. Spectra and ceptra from truck gearboxes in good and bad condition

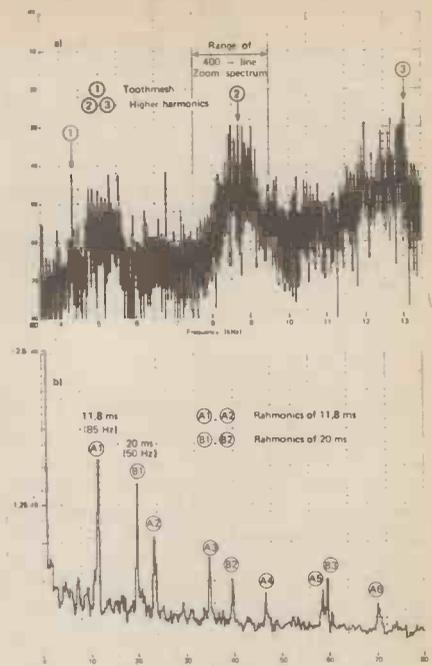


Fig. 17. Example of a cepstrum analysis on a gearbox vibration signal
(a) 2000-line logarithmic power spectrum
(b) Average cepstrum calculated from

It was traced to the rotational speed of second gear, even though this was idling because first gear was engaged. □

References

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Appendix A

Calculation using FFT analyser and calculator.

Even though the analyser basically performs a forward transformation of 1024 real data points, the results can be modified in the calculator so as to obtain the inverse transform of up to 1024 real or complex values thus giving the possibility of calculating both power cepstra and complex cepstra. The actual algorithms used are more generally applicable and so are detailed in Appendix B.

The digital version of eqn 3 for the power cepstrum is

$$C_p(n) = F^{-1}\{\log F_{xx}(k)\}$$

where n stands for $n \Delta t$ (Δt is the sampling interval) and thus indicates the time. n runs from 0 to 1023. Likewise k represents the frequency $k \Delta f$ (Δf is the line spacing in the frequency spectrum) and in principle also runs from 0 to 1023 even though only the values from 0 to 512 are calculated. Because of the implicit periodicity of all functions calculated by the FFT process the values of k from 512 to 1024 also represent the negative frequency components (from -512 to 0) and can usually be derived from the positive frequency values.¹⁶ As $F_{xx}(k)$ is a real even function, the inverse transformation can be replaced by a forward transformation (Appendix B1). In general only the one-sided power spectrum is given, and the simpler calculation method of Appendix B2 will be advantageous. With this method, only the one-sided spectrum is transformed, and the real part of the transform gives the desired cepstrum. Another advantage of this method is that the envelope cepstrum (amplitude cepstrum of the one-sided spectrum) of Fig. 4 may be obtained at the same time. In fact the analyser itself automatically calculates this and displays it as the instantaneous spectrum, which can be viewed on a linear amplitude scale. The envelope cepstrum is

$$C_c(n) = |\mathcal{F}^{-1}\{\log G(k)\}|$$

where $G(k)$ is the one-sided power spectrum. The formula for the complex cepstrum is

$$C_c(n) = \mathcal{F}^{-1}\{\log_e A_x(k) + j\phi_x(k)\}.$$

Because the logarithmic spectrum is a conjugate even function, the calculation method of Appendix B3 may be used. Note that the phase function $\phi_x(k)$ must be unwrapped to a continuous function of frequency in place of the principal values modulo 2π which are calculated from the real and imaginary parts of the complex spectrum. Moreover the log amplitude must be scaled in nepers (natural log of the amplitude ratio) to correspond to the radians of the phase spectrum.

The analysers in general are a.c. coupled, so the zero frequency value in the power spectrum is not calculated. It is therefore necessary to insert a value before calculating the cepstrum. In practice best results are obtained by setting the zero frequency component equal to the value of the neighbouring line.

As the FFT algorithm used in the Analysers types 2033 and 2031 is optimized for signals with no d.c. component, it is advantageous to subtract the mean log spectrum value before calculating the cepstrum. This optimizes the signal noise conditions in the cepstrum, and is particularly valuable when editing and transformation in both directions is to be performed.

In calculation of the complex cepstrum it is advisable before attempting to unwrap the phase spectrum to remove any simple delay, which gives a linear slope to the phase spectrum. This should be done to the maximum extent possible in the time signal before transformation, and then in the phase spectrum itself by varying the linear component until the number of "jumps" over 2π is minimized.

Appendix B

Calculation of inverse Fourier transform

The forward and inverse discrete Fourier transforms, as calculated by the FFT analysers, are defined as

$$X(k) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} x(n) \exp(-j2\pi kn/N)$$

$$\text{and } x(n) = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} X(k) \exp(j2\pi kn/N)$$

where $X(k)$ the discrete complex spectrum $x(n)$ the sampled time function and N number of samples in the time record.

The Fourier transform implemented in the analysers types 2033 and 2031 is designed to be used forward transformation of real-valued time signals, but by using some of the properties of the Fourier transform, as listed in the tables, it can also be used for forward and inverse transformation of any complex signals. The inverse transformation of the three types of signals: real-valued, real and even, and conjugate even are described in the following. The

Algorithm	Conditions
$\mathcal{F}^{-1}\{X(k)\} = (N \mathcal{F}\{X^*(k)\})^*$	any $X(k)$
$\mathcal{F}^{-1}\{X(k)\} = N \mathcal{F}\{X^*(k)\}$	$x(n)$ real
$\mathcal{F}^{-1}\{X(k)\} = N \mathcal{F}\{X(k)\}$	$x(n)$ real, even
$\mathcal{F}^{-1}\{X(k)\} = (N \mathcal{F}\{X(k)\})^*$	$X(k)$ real

Time signal	Spectrum
real and even	real and even
real and odd	imag and odd
imag and even	imag and even
imag and odd	real and odd
real	conjugate even
conjugate even	real

results are sketched where the vertical lines indicate the result of the FFT calculation and the solid lines the desired result. Note that zero is shown in the centre of the diagram: During many of the operations, zero frequency or time will be located at the start of the record, but because of the periodicity of all functions the negative frequencies or times will be located in the second half of the record.

B1. Real-valued spectrum

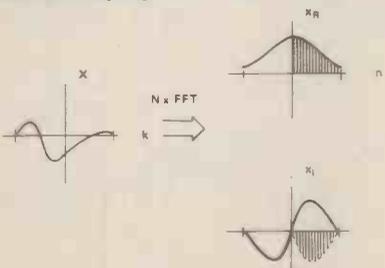
From the table it follows that

$$\mathcal{F}^{-1}\{X(k)\} = N[\mathcal{F}\{X(k)\}]^*$$

The calculation procedure for positive time is then

- forward transform
- form complex conjugate
- multiply by N .

The result for both positive and negative time is seen in Fig. B1. For the special case of even spectra it is possible to omit the second step, but in that case the next procedure will normally be preferable anyway.



B2. Real and even spectrum

From the original symmetrical spectrum a new one-sided spectrum is formed which has the original spectrum as its even part and is zero for negative frequencies. The real part of the inverse transform of such a spectrum is identical with the inverse transform of the original spectrum. As normally only the positive frequency

components of the original spectrum are given in any case, this saves forming the symmetrical spectrum for negative frequencies. It follows that

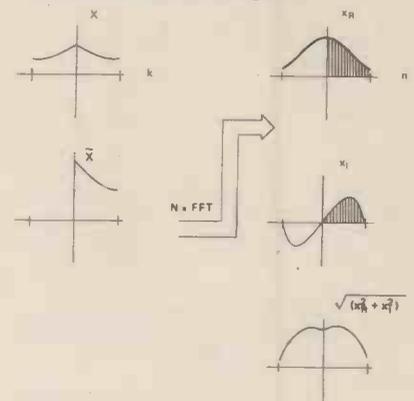
$$\mathcal{F}^{-1}\{X(k)\} = NR_c[\mathcal{F}\{\tilde{X}(k)\}]$$

$$\text{where } \tilde{X}(k) = \begin{cases} 2X(k), & 0 < k < 512 \\ X(k), & k = 0, k = 512 \\ 0, & -512 < k < 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\tilde{X}_c(k) = X(k).$$

The calculation procedure, Fig. B2, is thus

- form $\tilde{X}(k)$
- forward transform
- extract and scale the real part.



B3. Conjugate even spectrum

Any complex spectrum can be inverse-transformed by transforming the real and imaginary components separately by the procedure B1. However, this requires two Fourier transformations as well as some extra storage capacity for the intermediate results. In the situation where the spectrum is conjugate even, i.e. corresponding to a real time signal, the following procedure can be used. This requires only one transformation and a minimum of storage space.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}^{-1}\{X(k)\} &= \mathcal{F}^{-1}\{X_R(k) + jX_I(k)\} \\ &= N[\mathcal{F}\{X_R(k)\} - j\mathcal{F}\{X_I(k)\}] \\ &= N[\xi_R(n) + j\xi_I(n)] \end{aligned}$$

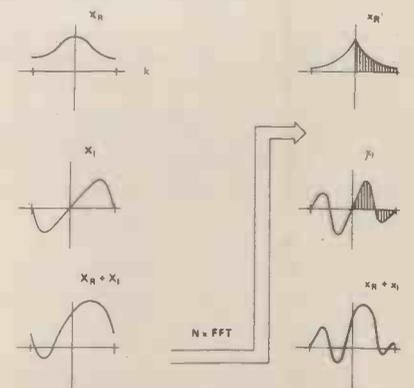
$$\text{Also } \mathcal{F}\{X_R(k) + X_I(k)\} = \xi_R(n) + j\xi_I(n)$$

$$\text{where } \xi_R(n) = \mathcal{F}\{X_R(k)\}$$

$$\text{and } j\xi_I(n) = \mathcal{F}\{X_I(k)\}$$

The calculation procedure, illustrated in Fig. B3, is as follows.

Add the real and imaginary parts for positive and negative frequencies. In practice this means adding the imaginary parts to the real parts (of the positive frequency spectrum) for the first half of the record and subtracting the same imaginary parts from the real parts for the second half in reverse order.



Forward transform. Add the real and imaginary parts for positive and negative time. The negative time section will be located in the second half of the record and can be removed to its correct position before the first half. Zero time will then be in the centre of the record.

NEW PRODUCTS

SPECTRUM/ NETWORK ANALYSER

Frequencies in the range 50Hz to 1.8GHz are covered by Takeda Riken's combined spectrum/network analyser, with which a dynamic range of 100dB may be displayed. The TR4172 has a built-in tracking generator, a four-channel memory, eight tunable markers and is GPIB compatible. Facilities for measuring phase and group delay, with a simultaneous display of amplitude, are included. This instrument is for use in both production and research and development applications. Chase Electronics Ltd, Church Lane, Teddington, Middx TW11 8PA.

WW301

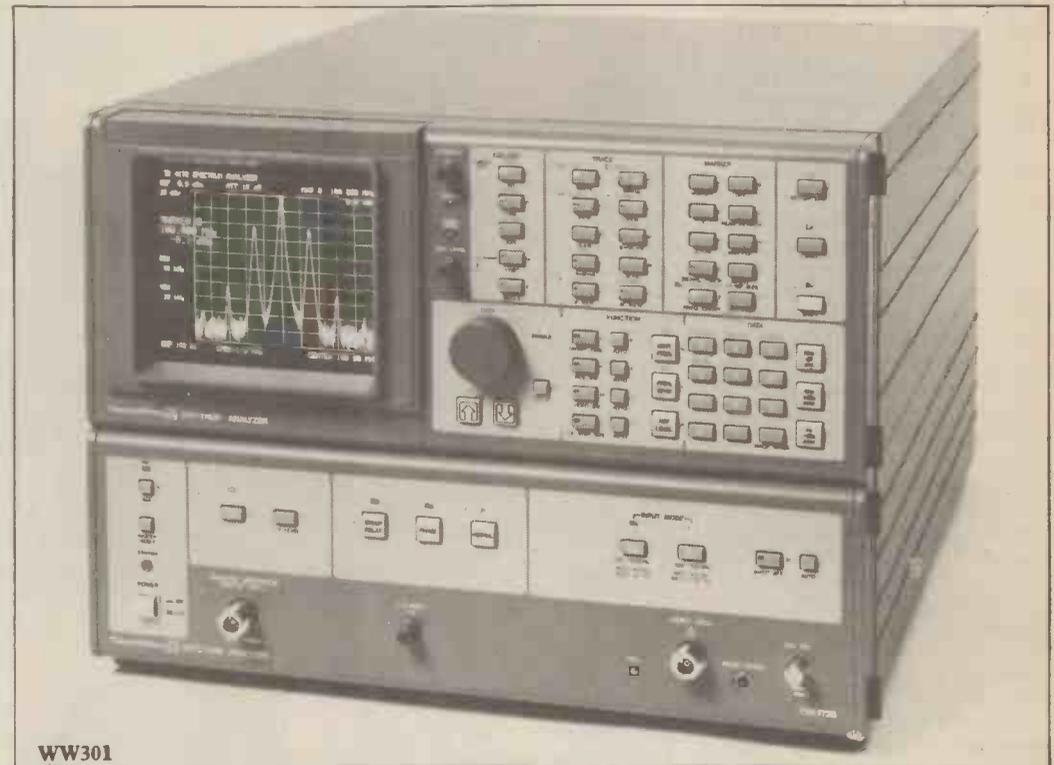
BLUE L.E.D.

This is a 490nm gallium nitride l.e.d. intended primarily as a colour reference source in chromatography applications. Light output, in a viewing angle of 4°, is typically 2mcd at 10mA, which is also the maximum forward-current rating. Forward voltage varies between around 4.5V at 0.5mA and 7.5V at 10mA. The ESL50B2 is housed in a standard l.e.d. package. Anglia Components Ltd, Burdett Road, Wisbech, Cambs PE13 2PS.

WW302

WAVEFORM MONITOR

The V-098, designed for broadcast and professional video applications, is a waveform monitor that can be set to give a flat response, an IRE (Institute of Radio Engineers) response, or display waveforms subjected to a 4.43MHz bandpass



WW301

filter. In addition, two line and field sweeps can be selected and various other adjustments made. This monitor is from Hitachi Instruments, a new division of Hitachi Denshi, and can be obtained for mounting in a 19in rack or as a portable unit running off batteries. Hitachi Denshi (UK) Ltd, 13-14 Garrick Industrial Estate, Garrick Road, Hendon, London NW9

WW303

PORTABLE VIDEO RECORDER

According to Sulkin (UK) Ltd who import the Technicolor 212E, it is "the world's smallest, lightest and



WW303

simplest" video cassette recorder. It uses 6.3mm tape cassettes not much larger than a standard audio cassette, for either 30 or 45 minutes of play, and weighs around 3.2kg with rechargeable batteries. Made by Funai and designed by Futec of Osaka, the mechanism is similar to the one used in the Grundig VP100 recorder and mentioned in last December's issue (New Products, page 87). But Grundig now say they will not market their recorder in the UK because of supply shortage. The 212E two-head recorder uses an Hitachi-made colour camera, though almost any other can be used via a simple adapter, with an electronic viewfinder, zoom lens, and close-up x6 "macro" setting. A u.h.f. television tuner will be available shortly. Sulkin (UK) Ltd, 73 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9DD.

WW304

TEACH YOURSELF

An introduction to digital electronics suitable for beginners is given by a kit from Cambridge Learning covering such subjects as boolean algebra, gating, flip-flops, shift registers, ripple counters and half adders. Problems, with solutions, and an appendix covering basic principles are included in the manual. At £19.90, the kit comprises logic i.cs, a 'solderless' breadboard, l.e.ds, a handful of other components and, of course the manual - all in a pocket-sized wallet (for 14cm-wide pockets). A power supply or 4.5V battery is required. Supplementary kits delving further into digital electronics are proposed. Cambridge Learning Ltd, Rivermill Lodge, St Ives, Huntingdon, Cambs PE17 4EP.

WW305



WW304

NEW PRODUCTS

UNINTERRUPTIBLE P.S.U.

No-load to full-load voltage and frequency fluctuations of this uninterruptible power supply and regulator's output are $\pm 1\%$ and $\pm 0.1\%$ respectively. Maintenance-free batteries, normally under charge, drive the 240V/50Hz output during momentary or total mains failure and large mains fluctuations from 0 to 270V and from 40 to 70Hz have little effect on the output. The switch from mains to battery back-up is not apparent at the output. Surge currents up to five times the nominal rating are provided for starting inductive motors, etc. These units can supply from 250VA to 2kVA, handle 100% overloads for 30 minutes and include comprehensive overload protection. T.h.d. is 2%. Compec Systems Ltd, Welton, Brough, N. Humberside HU15 1PT.

WW306



WW306

12-BIT D-TO-A

Linearity error of this 12-bit microprocessor compatible digital-to-analogue converter is 0.01%. The HS9338 has its input registers organized as three independent 4-bit elements each with its own register-loading enable input. Output voltage is programmable in ranges



from 0 to 5V to $\pm 10V$ and an internal reference is available; output-settling time is quoted as 5 μ s. A 24-pin d.i.l. package is used and the device operates on 5V and $\pm 15V$ supplies. Hybrid Systems UK, 12a Park Street, Camberly, Surrey.

WW307

FLUX-DENSITY METER

A small meter for checking magnetic fields up to 19.99 kilogauss ($1G=10^{-4}T$) in three ranges is manufactured by Redcliffe. Readings - down to 0.1G on the most sensitive range - are given on a 3 1/2-digit l.c.d. and the meter has a peak measurement function for checking and locating maximum flux areas in pulse-magnetised coils. Two probes are available, one for transverse fields and the other for axial fields, and a battery charger is supplied. Reference magnets are also available. Redcliffe Magtronics Ltd, 24 Emery Road, Brislington, Bristol BS4 5PQ.

WW308

ACRYLIC FILTERS

Expansions in Chequers' range of acrylic filters for light-emitting devices have been made. Red, green and grey filters are available in four shades, amber and blue filters in two. There are also yellow and purple filters. In addition, designers can obtain a sample wallet containing four shades of colours of filter. Each sample has a section treated with Glarecheq - a coating for reducing glare and reflection. Chequers (UK) Ltd, 1-4 Christina Street, London EC2A 4PA.

WW309



CALIBRATABLE STROBOSCOPE

This type of instrument is used in every field of engineering and has medical applications, yet we see surprisingly few new designs. Firnor Misilon has introduced a stroboscope which it claims has, "features usually associated with units costing twice as much." Retailing at £198 excluding v.a.t., the WM10

has three ranges covering rates from 0 (off?) to 16000 flashes per minute. When used without external triggering, the flash rate can be set to within 1% at certain points on the continuously-variable scale using a mains-frequency dependent calibration method; a t.t.l. compatible output is provided. Maximum light output of the unit is 10W and mains inputs from 110V to 240V a.c. can be used. Firnor Misilon, Unit 49, The Maltings, Stanstead Abbots, Herts.

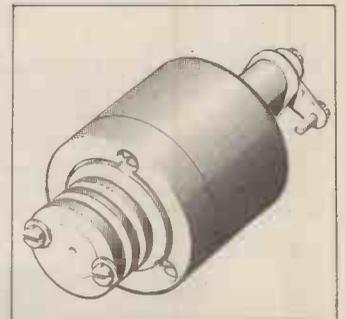
WW310



WW308

ATOM SOURCE FOR VACUUM DEPOSITION

Researchers at UMIST's chemistry department developed a fast-atom bombardment (f.a.b.) source for mass spectrometry now available from Ion Tech Ltd. The saddle-field gas gun provides an intense neutral beam of fast atoms and does not require the use of a charge exchange cell to neutralize the gas ions produced with an electrostatic saddle field oscillator. The cold cathode ion gun also has application in thin-film vacuum deposition and



in substrate cleaning. Much better adhesion between a surface and, say, copper is obtained if it is first bombarded with the atom gun, the makers say. Known as the FAB-GG, the gun is available from Ion Tech Ltd, 2 Park Street, Teddington, Middx TW11 0LT.

WW311

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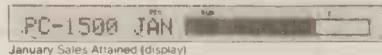


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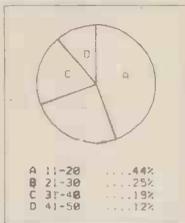
BUSINESS APPLICATIONS



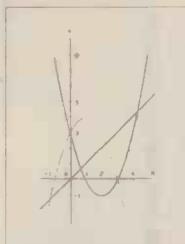
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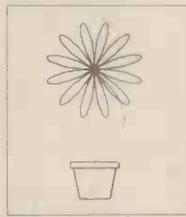
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WW5

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AA320 0.20	AS216 1.27	BC173 0.13	BD132 0.55	BF258 0.31	GJ107 1.73	OC206 2.88	OC207 2.88	ZTX505 0.24	2N1893 0.37	2N3820 0.45
AA332 0.48	AS217 1.15	BC177 0.32	BD137 0.46	BF336 0.46	GN10378A 0.52	OC222 2.88	OC223 2.88	IN914 0.06	2N2147 4.60	2N3823 1.69
AAZ13 0.17	AS220 2.64	BC178 0.16	BD138 0.55	BF338 0.41	MJE340 0.69	OC23 4.60	OC24 3.45	IN916 0.10	2N2218 4.31	2N3866 0.15
AAZ15 0.17	AS221 2.88	BC179 0.32	BD139 0.55	BFS21 4.60	MJE371 0.82	OC25 1.15	OC26 1.73	IN4001 0.07	2N2219 0.37	2N3904 0.20
AAZ17 0.17	AU113 2.88	BC182 0.13	BD140 0.58	BFS28 2.58	MJE521 0.54	OC28 2.30	OC29 2.30	IN4002 0.07	2N2220 0.23	2N3905 0.20
AC107 0.63	AU101 3.45	BC183 0.13	BD144 2.30	BFS61 0.23	MJE295 1.50	OC29 2.30	OC30 2.30	IN4003 0.07	2N2221 0.23	2N4058 0.23
AC125 0.29	AU101 2.88	BC184 0.13	BD181 1.38	BFS98 0.12	MJE305 1.27	OC35 1.73	OC36 1.73	IN4004 0.08	2N2222 0.23	2N4059 0.23
AC126 0.29	BA145 0.15	BC212 0.13	BD237 0.62	BFW10 1.23	MFP103 0.40	OC36 1.73	OC37 1.73	IN4005 0.10	2N2223 4.89	2N4060 0.18
AC127 0.29	BA148 0.17	BC213 0.13	BD238 0.62	BFX84 0.35	MFP103 0.40	OC41 1.04	OC42 1.04	IN4006 0.13	2N2368 0.29	2N4061 0.18
AC128 0.29	BA154 0.12	BC214 0.13	BDX10 1.05	BFX85 0.35	MFP104 0.40	OC43 1.73	OC44 0.98	IN4007 0.08	2N2369A 0.29	2N4062 0.18
AC141 0.32	BA155 0.13	BC237 0.13	BDX32 2.30	BFX87 0.35	MPE105 0.40	OC45 1.73	OC46 1.73	IN4448 0.05	2N2484 0.29	2N4126 0.18
AC141K 0.32	BA156 0.12	BC238 0.13	BDY20 1.73	BFX88 0.35	MPSA06 0.30	OC44 0.98	OC45 0.75	IN4400 0.15	2N2646 0.58	2N4286 0.17
AC142 0.32	BAW62 0.06	BC301 0.38	BDY60 3.16	BFX89 0.35	MPSU01 0.62	OC45 0.75	OC46 1.04	IN5401 0.05	2N2905 0.37	2N4288 0.21
AC142K 0.40	BAW63 0.07	BC303 0.39	BF115 0.46	BFX90 0.35	MPSU01 0.62	OC47 0.63	OC48 0.63	IN5401 0.05	2N2906 0.24	2N4289 0.21
AC176 0.35	BAX16 0.07	BC307 0.13	BF152 0.18	BFX91 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC72 1.15	OC73 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2907 0.24	2N4547 0.37
AC187 0.32	BC107 0.18	BC308 0.13	BF153 0.18	BFX92 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC73 1.15	OC74 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2924 0.30	2N4548 0.37
AC188 0.32	BC108 0.18	BC327 0.14	BF154 0.18	BFX93 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC74 1.15	OC75 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2925 0.25	2N4549 0.37
AC189 0.32	BC109 0.18	BC328 0.14	BF155 0.18	BFX94 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC75 1.15	OC76 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2926 0.25	2N4550 0.37
AC198 1.32	BC113 0.17	BC337 0.14	BF159 0.20	BFX95 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC76 1.15	OC77 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2927 0.25	2N4551 0.37
AC199 1.32	BC114 0.17	BC338 0.14	BF160 0.20	BFX96 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC77 1.15	OC78 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2928 0.25	2N4552 0.37
AC200 1.32	BC115 0.22	BCY30 1.44	BF173 0.35	BFX97 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC78 1.15	OC79 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2929 0.25	2N4553 0.37
AC201 1.32	BC116 0.22	BCY31 1.73	BF177 0.40	BFX98 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC79 1.15	OC80 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2930 0.25	2N4554 0.37
AC202 1.32	BC117 0.26	BCY32 1.73	BF178 0.40	BFX99 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC80 1.15	OC81 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2931 0.25	2N4555 0.37
AC203 1.32	BC118 0.21	BCY33 1.73	BF179 0.40	BFX00 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC81 1.15	OC82 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2932 0.25	2N4556 0.37
AC204 1.32	BC119 0.21	BCY34 1.73	BF180 0.32	BFX01 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC82 1.15	OC83 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2933 0.25	2N4557 0.37
AC205 1.32	BC120 0.21	BCY35 3.91	BF181 0.32	BFX02 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC83 1.15	OC84 0.92	IN5401 0.05	2N2934 0.25	2N4558 0.37
AC206 0.40	BC121 0.21	BCY36 3.91	BF182 0.35	BFX03 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC84 0.92	OC85 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2935 0.25	2N4559 0.37
AC207 0.40	BC122 0.21	BCY37 3.91	BF183 0.35	BFX04 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC85 1.15	OC86 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2936 0.25	2N4560 0.37
AC208 0.40	BC123 0.21	BCY38 3.91	BF184 0.32	BFX05 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC86 1.15	OC87 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2937 0.25	2N4561 0.37
AC209 0.40	BC124 0.21	BCY39 3.91	BF185 0.35	BFX06 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC87 1.15	OC88 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2938 0.25	2N4562 0.37
AC210 0.40	BC125 0.21	BCY40 3.91	BF186 0.35	BFX07 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC88 1.15	OC89 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2939 0.25	2N4563 0.37
AC211 0.40	BC126 0.21	BCY41 3.91	BF187 0.35	BFX08 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC89 1.15	OC90 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2940 0.25	2N4564 0.37
AC212 0.40	BC127 0.21	BCY42 3.91	BF188 0.35	BFX09 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC90 1.15	OC91 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2941 0.25	2N4565 0.37
AC213 0.40	BC128 0.21	BCY43 3.91	BF189 0.35	BFX10 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC91 1.15	OC92 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2942 0.25	2N4566 0.37
AC214 0.40	BC129 0.21	BCY44 3.91	BF190 0.35	BFX11 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC92 1.15	OC93 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2943 0.25	2N4567 0.37
AC215 0.40	BC130 0.21	BCY45 3.91	BF191 0.35	BFX12 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC93 1.15	OC94 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2944 0.25	2N4568 0.37
AC216 0.40	BC131 0.21	BCY46 3.91	BF192 0.35	BFX13 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC94 1.15	OC95 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2945 0.25	2N4569 0.37
AC217 0.40	BC132 0.21	BCY47 3.91	BF193 0.35	BFX14 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC95 1.15	OC96 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2946 0.25	2N4570 0.37
AC218 0.40	BC133 0.21	BCY48 3.91	BF194 0.35	BFX15 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC96 1.15	OC97 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2947 0.25	2N4571 0.37
AC219 0.40	BC134 0.21	BCY49 3.91	BF195 0.15	BFX16 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC97 1.15	OC98 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2948 0.25	2N4572 0.37
AC220 0.40	BC135 0.21	BCY50 3.91	BF196 0.15	BFX17 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC98 1.15	OC99 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2949 0.25	2N4573 0.37
AC221 0.40	BC136 0.22	BCY51 3.91	BF197 0.15	BFX18 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC99 1.15	OC100 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2950 0.25	2N4574 0.37
AC222 0.40	BC137 0.22	BCY52 3.91	BF198 0.15	BFX19 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC100 1.15	OC101 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2951 0.25	2N4575 0.37
AC223 0.40	BC138 0.22	BCY53 3.91	BF199 0.15	BFX20 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC101 1.15	OC102 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2952 0.25	2N4576 0.37
AC224 0.40	BC139 0.22	BCY54 3.91	BF200 0.46	BFX21 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC102 1.15	OC103 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2953 0.25	2N4577 0.37
AC225 0.40	BC140 0.22	BCY55 3.91	BF201 0.46	BFX22 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC103 1.15	OC104 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2954 0.25	2N4578 0.37
AC226 0.40	BC141 0.22	BCY56 3.91	BF202 0.46	BFX23 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC104 1.15	OC105 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2955 0.25	2N4579 0.37
AC227 0.40	BC142 0.22	BCY57 3.91	BF203 0.46	BFX24 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC105 1.15	OC106 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2956 0.25	2N4580 0.37
AC228 0.40	BC143 0.22	BCY58 3.91	BF204 0.46	BFX25 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC106 1.15	OC107 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2957 0.25	2N4581 0.37
AC229 0.40	BC144 0.22	BCY59 3.91	BF205 0.46	BFX26 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC107 1.15	OC108 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2958 0.25	2N4582 0.37
AC230 0.40	BC145 0.22	BCY60 3.91	BF206 0.46	BFX27 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC108 1.15	OC109 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2959 0.25	2N4583 0.37
AC231 0.40	BC146 0.22	BCY61 3.91	BF207 0.46	BFX28 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC109 1.15	OC110 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2960 0.25	2N4584 0.37
AC232 0.40	BC147 0.22	BCY62 3.91	BF208 0.46	BFX29 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC110 1.15	OC111 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2961 0.25	2N4585 0.37
AC233 0.40	BC148 0.22	BCY63 3.91	BF209 0.46	BFX30 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC111 1.15	OC112 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2962 0.25	2N4586 0.37
AC234 0.40	BC149 0.22	BCY64 3.91	BF210 0.46	BFX31 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC112 1.15	OC113 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2963 0.25	2N4587 0.37
AC235 0.40	BC150 0.22	BCY65 3.91	BF211 0.46	BFX32 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC113 1.15	OC114 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2964 0.25	2N4588 0.37
AC236 0.40	BC151 0.22	BCY66 3.91	BF212 0.46	BFX33 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC114 1.15	OC115 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2965 0.25	2N4589 0.37
AC237 0.40	BC152 0.22	BCY67 3.91	BF213 0.46	BFX34 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC115 1.15	OC116 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2966 0.25	2N4590 0.37
AC238 0.40	BC153 0.22	BCY68 3.91	BF214 0.46	BFX35 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC116 1.15	OC117 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2967 0.25	2N4591 0.37
AC239 0.40	BC154 0.22	BCY69 3.91	BF215 0.46	BFX36 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC117 1.15	OC118 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2968 0.25	2N4592 0.37
AC240 0.40	BC155 0.22	BCY70 3.91	BF216 0.46	BFX37 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC118 1.15	OC119 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2969 0.25	2N4593 0.37
AC241 0.40	BC156 0.22	BCY71 3.91	BF217 0.46	BFX38 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC119 1.15	OC120 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2970 0.25	2N4594 0.37
AC242 0.40	BC157 0.22	BCY72 3.91	BF218 0.46	BFX39 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC120 1.15	OC121 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2971 0.25	2N4595 0.37
AC243 0.40	BC158 0.22	BCY73 3.91	BF219 0.46	BFX40 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC121 1.15	OC122 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2972 0.25	2N4596 0.37
AC244 0.40	BC159 0.22	BCY74 3.91	BF220 0.46	BFX41 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC122 1.15	OC123 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2973 0.25	2N4597 0.37
AC245 0.40	BC160 0.22	BCY75 3.91	BF221 0.46	BFX42 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC123 1.15	OC124 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2974 0.25	2N4598 0.37
AC246 0.40	BC161 0.22	BCY76 3.91	BF222 0.46	BFX43 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC124 1.15	OC125 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2975 0.25	2N4599 0.37
AC247 0.40	BC162 0.22	BCY77 3.91	BF223 0.46	BFX44 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC125 1.15	OC126 1.15	IN5401 0.05	2N2976 0.25	2N4600 0.37
AC248 0.40	BC163 0.22	BCY78 3.91	BF224 0.46	BFX45 0.35	MPSU06 0.75	OC126 1.15	OC127 1.15	IN54		

VIDEOTEX '82 SYSTEMS

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Universal single plug-in board

**Combined
TELETEXT
AND
PRESTEL**



The Lion Viewdata plug-in board is an inexpensive Teletext, Prestel and Viewdata single board designed for use in televisions and microcomputers. A programmable interface serial and parallel accepts remote controls, keyboards and microcomputer interfaces. The board is directly exchangeable with our Teletext only board (Mullard set), and other teletext boards are simply exchangeable.

An add-on adaptor with full remote control is available with all the features of the board giving, both Teletext and Prestel for £250 and this can connect to any set. Other adaptors using the plug-in board are available for Nordmende, Grundig, Ferguson, Lion and certain other sets at £199. These sets then can be made full editing by provision of our keyboard or with some types of microcomputer. Powerful features include:

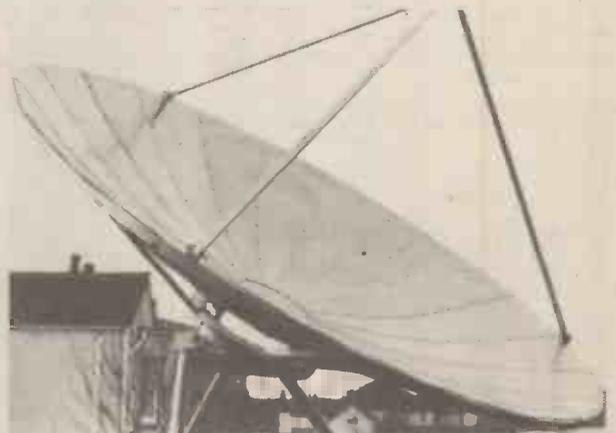
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17 x 12 7/8 x 3 1/2 in.	£6	17 1/4 x 13 3/4 x 4 1/8 in.	£6

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Manual or automatic play. Precision ultra slim arm. Cueing device. Bargain price With stereo ceramic cartridge £24 Post £2



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ANGLE ALL 6x3 1/2 x 3 1/4 in. 18 swg. 30p.

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300 ohm TWIN RIBBON FEEDER 10p yd.

U.H.F. COAXIAL CABLE SUPER LOW LOSS, 25p yd.

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POTENTIOMETERS Carbon Track

5kΩ to 2MΩ. LOG or LIN. L/S 50p. DP 90p. Stereo L/S £1.10. DP £1.30. Edge Pot 5K. SP 45p.

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Deluxe pocket size precision moving coil instrument. Impedance + Capacity - 2000 o.p.v. Battery included. 11 instant ranges measure: DC volts 10, 50, 250, 1000. AC volts 10, 50, 250, 1000. DC amps 0-100mA. Continuity and resistance to 1 meg ohms in two ranges.

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NEW PANEL METERS £4.50

50μa 100μa, 500μa, 1ma, 5ma, 50ma, 100ma, 500ma, 1 amp, 2 amp 25 volt, 50 volt, VU Meter. 2 1/4 x 2 1/4 in. Post 65p



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Kit of parts to build a 3 channel sound to light unit. 1,000 watts per channel. Suitable for home or disco. Easy to build. Full instructions supplied. Post 95p £15

Cabinet £4.50 extra. Operates from 200W to 100W. 200 Watt Rear Reflecting White Light Bulbs. Ideal for Disco Lights, Edison Screw. 6 for £4, or 12 for £7.50. Post 65p. Suitable panel mounting holders 85p.

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This kit is suitable for record players, guitars, tape playback, electronic instruments or small PA systems. Two versions available: Mono, £14; Stereo, £20. Specification 10W per channel; size 9 1/2 x 3 x 2 in. SAE details. Full instructions supplied. 240V AC. Post £1.

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250-0-250V 70mA, 6.5V, 2A	£4.50 £2
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350-0-350V 250mA, 6.3V 8A CT	£12.00 £2
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AUTO 115V to 240V 150W £9. 250W £10. 400W £11. 500W £12. £2

GENERAL PURPOSE LOW VOLTAGE

2 amp, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 15, 18, 25 and 30V Tapped outputs available	£6.00 £2
1 amp, 6, 8, 10, 12, 16, 18, 20, 24, 30, 36, 40, 48, 60	£8.00 £2
2 amp, 6, 8, 10, 12, 16, 18, 20, 24, 30, 36, 40, 48, 60	£10.50 £2
3 amp, 6, 8, 10, 12, 16, 18, 20, 24, 30, 36, 40, 48, 60	£12.50 £2
5 amp, 6, 8, 10, 12, 16, 18, 20, 24, 30, 36, 40, 48, 60	£16.00 £2
5-8-10-16V, 1/2 amp. £2.50 80p	12-0-12V, 2 amps £3.50 £1
6V, 1/2 amp. £2.00 £1	15-0-15V, 2 amps £3.75 £1
6-0-6V, 1/2 amp. £3.50 £1	20V 1 amp £3.00 £1
9V, 250ma. £1.50 80p	20-0-20V 1 amp £3.50 £1
9V, 3 amp. £3.50 £1	20-40-60V 1 amp £4.00 £2
9-0-9V, 50ma. £1.50 80p	25-0-25V 2 amps £4.50 £1
10-0-10V, 2 amps. £3.00 £1	28V 1 amp Twice £5.00 £2
10-30-40V, 2 amps. £3.50 £1	30V 1 1/2 amp £3.50 £1
12V, 100ma. £1.50 80p	30V 5 amp and £4.50 £2
12V, 750 ma. £2.00 80p	17-0-17 2a £4.00 £1
12V, 2 amp. £3.50 £1	35V 2 amps £4.00 £1

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CHARGER TRANS £4.00+£2 6-12 volt 2a £1.10+80p

6-12 volt 4a £6.50+£2 6-12 volt 4a £2.00+80p

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TEAK VENEERED CABINET 11 x 8 1/2 x 7 in, 15 watts

50 to 14,000 cps. 4 ohm or 8 ohm.

OPUS TWO 15x10 1/2 x 7 3/4 in 25 watt 2-way system £39 pair. Post £3.

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1 mf, 2 mf, 4 mf, 8 mf, 10 mf, 16 mf, 25 mf, 30 mf, 50 mf, 100p	10p
mf, 250 mf. All 15 volts. 22 mf/6V/10v; 25 mf/6V/10v; 47 mf/10v; 50 mf/6v; 68 mf/6v/10v/16v/25v; 100 mf/10v; 150 mf/6v/10v; 200 mf/10v/16v; 220 mf/4v/10v/16v; 330 mf/4v/10v; 500 mf/6v; 680 mf/6v/10v/16v; 1000 mf/2.5v/4v/10v; 1500 mf/6v/10v/16v; 2200 mf/6v/10v; 3300 mf/6v; 4700 mf/4v. 500mf 12V 15p; 25V 20p; 50V 30p. 1200mf 76V 86p. 1000mf 12V 20p; 25V 35p; 50V 50p; 100V 70p. 2000mf 6V 25p; 25V 42p; 40V 60p; 1200mf 76V 80p. 2200mf 63V 90p. 2500mf 50V 70p; 3000mf 50V 65p; 4500mf 64V £2. 4700mf 63V £1.20. 2700mf/76V £1.	

HIGH VOLTAGE ELECTROLYTICS

8/450V 45p	8+8/450V	75p	32+32+16/350V	90p
2/500V 45p	8+18/450V	75p	100+100/275V	65p
16/350V 45p	8+8/500V	£1	150+200/275V	70p
32/500V 75p	32+32/350V	50p	220/450V	95p
32/350V 50p	32+32/500V	£1.80	32+32+32/325V	75p
50/450V 95p	50+50/300V	50p	50+50+50/350V	95p

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.001, .002, .003, .005, .01, .02, .03, .05 mfd. 400V 5p
1MF 200V 5p, 400V 10p, 600V 15p, 1000V 25p.
.22MF 350V 12p, 600V 20p, 1000V 30p, 1750V 50p.
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GEARED 365+365+25+25pF £1.

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high power full range quality loudspeakers produced to give exceptional reproduction. Ideal for Hi-Fi, music P.A. or discotheques. These loudspeakers are recommended where high power handling is required with quality results. The high flux ceramic magnet ensures clear response.



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DELUXE MK II	12	8	15	HI-FI	£14	£2
SUPERB	12	8-16	30	HI-FI	£24	£2
AUDITORIUM	12	8-16	45	HI-FI	£22	£2
AUDITORIUM	15	8-16	60	HI-FI	£34	£2
GROUP 45	12	4-8-16	45	PA	£14	£2
GROUP 75	12	4-8-16	75	PA	£18	£2
GROUP 100	12	8-16	100	Guitar	£24	£2
DISCO 100	12	8-16	100	Disco	£24	£2
GROUP 100	15	8-16	100	Guitar	£32	£2
DISCO 100	15	8-16	100	Disco	£32	£2



BAKER 150 WATT MIXER/POWER AMPLIFIER £89 Post £2

SLAVE VERSION £75

For Organs, Discotheque, Vocal, Public Address. Three loudspeaker outlets for 4, 8 or 16 ohms. Four high gain inputs, each 20 mv, 50K ohm. Individual volume controls "Four channel" mixing. 150 watts into 8 ohms R.M.S. Music Power. Distortion less than 1%. Slave output 500 M.V. 25k ohm. Frequency Response 25 Hz - 20kHz ± 3dB. Integral Hi-Fi preamp separate Bass & Treble. Compact - 16" x 8" x 5 1/2". Lightweight - 14lb; Master volume control. Made in England, 12 months' guarantee. 200/250v A.C. mains or 120v to order. All transistor and solid state devices. 100 Volt Line £15 extra.

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BAKER £69 Post £2 50 WATT AMPLIFIER

Ideal for PA systems, Discos and Groups. Two inputs, Mixer, Volume, Controls, Master Bass, Treble Gain.



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MAKE	MODEL	SIZE	WATTS	OHMS	PRICE	POST
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GOOMANS	TWEETER	3 1/2 in	25	8	£4.00	£1
AUDAX	TWEETER	4in	30	8	£6.50	£1
SEAS	MID-RANGE	4in	50	8	£7.50	£1
SEAS	MID-RANGE	5in	80	8	£12.00	£1
SEAS	MID-RANGE	4 1/2 in	100	8	£	

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Quality British-made Portable Instruments

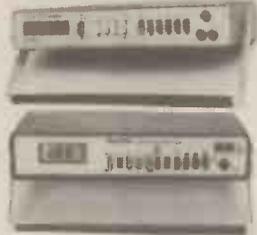
MULTIMETERS:

DM450 £119

DC 10 μ V-1200V AC 100 μ V to 750V
DC 0.1nA-10A AC 1nA-10A
0.01 Ω -20M Ω 4 1/2 digit LED

TM351 £99

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DC 100nA-10A AC 100nA-10A
0.1 Ω -20M Ω 3 1/2 digit LCD



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Freq. Range: 0.2Hz-2MHz

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SC110 £139

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Making Performance Affordable

HANDHELD DMMs

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AC/DC 100 μ V-1000V
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AC/DC 0.1 μ A-2A
Ohm 0.1 Ω -20M Ω



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8000B 10Hz-1000MHz (0.1Hz Resolution) £155 | -

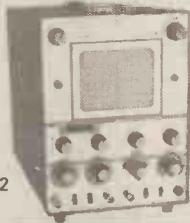
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- ★ Portable/Lightweight

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DT 415 15MHz £185
DT 420 20MHz £198
XI-REF-X10 probe £11.50

p&p £2



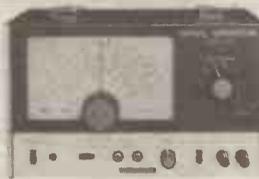
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A compact solid state RF Signal Generator, most suited for checking the IF circuits and tuners in AM, FM and TV sets.

Frequency range up to 100MHz (300MHz on Harmonics).
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A highly efficient impedance bridge for measuring resistance, capacitance and inductance. The D factor of a capacitor and the Q sector of a coil can also be measured.

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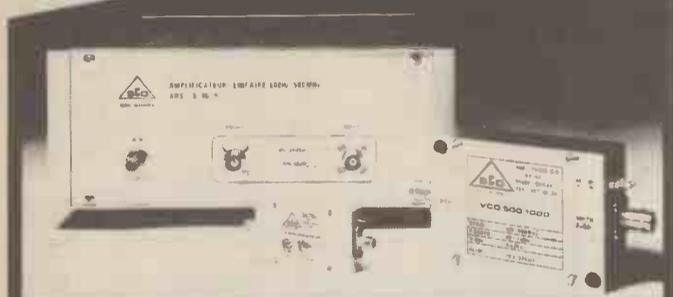
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AZ31 2.00	ECB99 0.70	EL99 0.70	M502A 135.00	QV500A 1.20	TY8-6000V 315.00	ZX1061 1.20	6AUG 0.55	6H5GT 1.50	12BH7 0.95	801A 2.00
B2A 6.00	ECB99 0.70	EL99 0.70	M502A 135.00	QV500A 1.20	TY8-6000V 315.00	ZX1061 1.20	6AUG 0.55	6H5GT 1.50	12BH7A 0.95	803 15.00
B36 1.85	EBL1 1.95	EL99 0.70	M502A 135.00	QV500A 1.20	TY8-6000V 315.00	ZX1061 1.20	6AUG 0.55	6H5GT 1.50	12BL6 0.70	807 1.50
B65 1.85	EBL21 2.00	EL99 0.70	M502A 135.00	QV500A 1.20	TY8-6000V 315.00	ZX1061 1.20	6AUG 0.55	6H5GT 1.50	12B7A 0.95	808 3.00
B349 0.75	EBL71 4.00	EL99 0.70	M502A 135.00	QV500A 1.20	TY8-6000V 315.00	ZX1061 1.20	6AUG 0.55	6H5GT 1.50	12B7A 0.95	811A 9.00
B719 0.60	EC52 1.25	EL99 0.70	M502A 135.00	QV500A 1.20	TY8-6000V 315.00	ZX1061 1.20	6AUG 0.55	6H5GT 1.50	12B7A 0.95	811A 9.00
B729 1.20	EC80 4.25	EL99 0.70	M502A 135.00	QV500A 1.20	TY8-6000V 315.00	ZX1061 1.20	6AUG 0.55	6H5GT 1.50	12B7A 0.95	811A 9.00
BL63 1.20	EC81 4.50	EL99 0.70	M502A 135.00	QV500A 1.20	TY8-6000V 315.00	ZX1061 1.20	6AUG 0.55	6H5GT 1.50	12B7A 0.95	811A 9.00
BT58 43.50	EC86 1.00	EL99 0.70	M502A 135.00	QV500A 1.20	TY8-6000V 315.00	ZX1061 1.20	6AUG 0.55	6H5GT 1.50	12B7A 0.95	811A 9.00
BT17A 1.00	EC86 1.00	EL99 0.70	M502A 135.00	QV500A 1.20	TY8-6000V 315.00	ZX1061 1.20	6AUG 0.55	6H5GT 1.50	12B7A 0.95	811A 9.00
BT19 32.50	EC90 0.80	EL99 0.70	M502A 135.00	QV500A 1.20	TY8-6000V 315.00	ZX1061 1.20	6AUG 0.55	6H5GT 1.50	12B7A 0.95	811A 9.00
BT79 12.50	EC91 7.00	EL99 0.70	M502A 135.00	QV500A 1.20	TY8-6000V 315.00	ZX1061 1.20	6AUG 0.55	6H5GT 1.50	12B7A 0.95	811A 9.00
CIK 14.00	EC93 0.80	EL99 0.70	M502A 135.00	QV500A 1.20	TY8-6000V 315.00	ZX1061 1.20	6AUG 0.55	6H5GT 1.50	12B7A 0.95	811A 9.00
CSJA 16.00	EC95 7.00	EL99 0.70	M502A 135.00	QV500A 1.20	TY8-6000V 315.00	ZX1061 1.20	6AUG 0.55	6H5GT 1.50	12B7A 0.95	811A 9.00
CI43 18.50	EC810 6.00	EL99 0.70	M502A 135.00	QV500A 1.20	TY8-6000V 315.00	ZX1061 1.20	6AUG 0.55	6H5GT 1.50	12B7A 0.95	811A 9.00
CI60 18.50	EC82 1.50	EL99 0.70	M502A 135.00	QV500A 1.20	TY8-6000V 315.00	ZX1061 1.20	6AUG 0.55	6H5GT 1.50	12B7A 0.95	811A 9.00
CI108 30.50	EC93 4.00	EL99 0.70	M502A 135.00	QV500A 1.20	TY8-6000V 315.00	ZX1061 1.20	6AUG 0.55	6H5GT 1.50	12B7A 0.95	811A 9.00
CI111 15.50	EC94 4.00	EL99 0.70	M502A 135.00	QV500A 1.20	TY8-6000V 315.00	ZX1061 1.20	6AUG 0.55	6H5GT 1.50	12B7A 0.95	811A 9.00
CI112 52.15	EC94 4.00	EL99 0.70	M502A 135.00	QV500A 1.20	TY8-6000V 315.00	ZX1061 1.20	6AUG 0.55	6H5GT 1.50	12B7A 0.95	811A 9.00
CI134 15.50	EC94 2.30	EL99 0.70	M502A 135.00	QV500A 1.20	TY8-6000V 315.00	ZX1061 1.20	6AUG 0.55	6H5GT 1.50	12B7A 0.95	811A 9.00
CLB31 2.00	EC98 1.50	EL99 0.70	M502A 135.00	QV500A 1.20	TY8-6000V 315.00	ZX1061 1.20	6AUG 0.55	6H5GT 1.50	12B7A 0.95	811A 9.00
CL30 1.05	EC98 1.50	EL99 0.70	M502A 135.00	QV500A 1.20	TY8-6000V 315.00	ZX1061 1.20	6AUG 0.55	6H5GT 1.50	12B7A 0.95	811A 9.00
CMG25 9.00	EC98 Mullard 1.10	EL99 0.70	M502A 135.00	QV500A 1.20	TY8-6000V 315.00	ZX1061 1.20	6AUG 0.55	6H5GT 1.50	12B7A 0.95	811A 9.00
CMG29 10.85	EC98 Mullard 1.10	EL99 0.70	M502A 135.00	QV500A 1.20	TY8-6000V 315.00	ZX1061 1.20	6AUG 0.55	6H5GT 1.50	12B7A 0.95	811A 9.00
CV25 10.00	EC98 Mullard 1.10	EL99 0.70	M502A 135.00	QV500A 1.20	TY8-6000V 315.00	ZX1061 1.20	6AUG 0.55	6H5GT 1.50	12B7A 0.95	811A 9.00
CV25 10.00	EC98 Mullard 1.10	EL99 0.70	M502A 135.00	QV500A 1.20	TY8-6000V 315.00	ZX1061 1.20	6AUG 0.55	6H5GT 1.50	12B7A 0.95	811A 9.00
D3a 35.00	EC98 Mullard 1.10	EL99 0.70	M502A 135.00	QV500A 1.20	TY8-6000V 315.00	ZX1061 1.20	6AUG 0.55	6H5GT 1.50	12B7A 0.95	811A 9.00
D63 0.60	EC98 Mullard 1.10	EL99 0.70	M502A 135.00	QV500A 1.20	TY8-6000V 315.00	ZX1061 1.20	6AUG 0.55	6H5GT 1.50	12B7A 0.95	811A 9.00
DA107 6.00	EC98 Mullard 1.10	EL99 0.70	M502A 135.00	QV500A 1.20	TY8-6000V 315.00	ZX1061 1.20	6AUG 0.55	6H5GT 1.50	12B7A 0.95	811A 9.00
DA32 1.20	EC98 Mullard 1.10	EL99 0.70	M502A 135.00	QV500A 1.20	TY8-6000V 315.00	ZX1061 1.20	6AUG 0.55	6H5GT 1.50	12B7A 0.95	811A 9.00
DA96 0.45	EC98 Mullard 1.10	EL99 0.70	M502A 135.00	QV500A 1.20	TY8-6000V 315.00	ZX1061 1.20	6AUG 0.55	6H5GT 1.50	12B7A 0.95	811A 9.00
DA96 0.45	EC98 Mullard 1.10	EL99 0.70	M502A 135.00	QV500A 1.20	TY8-6000V 315.00	ZX1061 1.20	6AUG 0.55	6H5GT 1.50	12B7A 0.95	811A 9.00
DC70 1.75	EC98 Mullard 1.10	EL99 0.70	M502A 135.00	QV500A 1.20	TY8-6000V 315.00	ZX1061 1.20	6AUG 0.55	6H5GT 1.50	12B7A 0.95	811A 9.00
DC90 1.20	EC98 Mullard 1.10	EL99 0.70	M502A 135.00	QV500A 1.20	TY8-6000V 315.00	ZX1061 1.20	6AUG 0.55	6H5GT 1.50	12B7A 0.95	811A 9.00
DCX4-1000 35.00	EC98 Mullard 1.10	EL99 0.70	M502A 135.00	QV500A 1.20	TY8-6000V 315.00	ZX1061 1.20	6AUG 0.55	6H5GT 1.50	12B7A 0.95	811A 9.00
DD620 1.20	EC98 Mullard 1.10	EL99 0.70	M502A 135.00	QV500A 1.20	TY8-6000V 315.00	ZX1061 1.20	6AUG 0.55	6H5GT 1.50	12B7A 0.95	811A 9.00
DD73 1.00	EC98 Mullard 1.10	EL99 0.70	M502A 135.00	QV500A 1.20	TY8-6000V 315.00	ZX1061 1.20	6AUG 0.55	6H5GT 1.50	12B7A 0.95	811A 9.00
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DE110 6.00	EC98 Mullard 1.10	EL99 0.70	M502A 135.00	QV500A 1.20	TY8-6000V 315.00	ZX1061 1.20	6AUG 0.55	6H5GT 1.50	12B7A 0.95	811A 9.00
DE122 28.00	EC98 Mullard 1.10	EL99 0.70	M502A 135.00	QV500A 1.2						

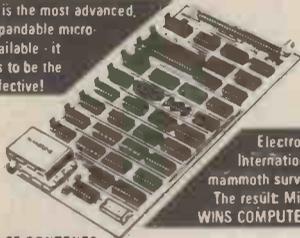
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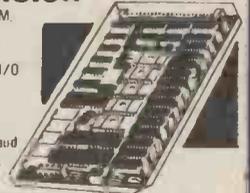
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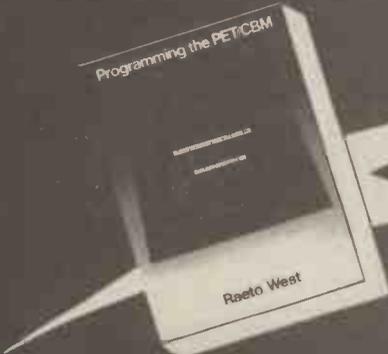
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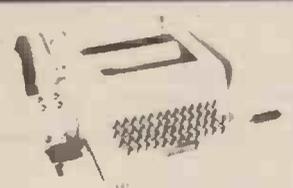
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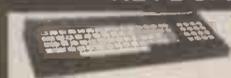
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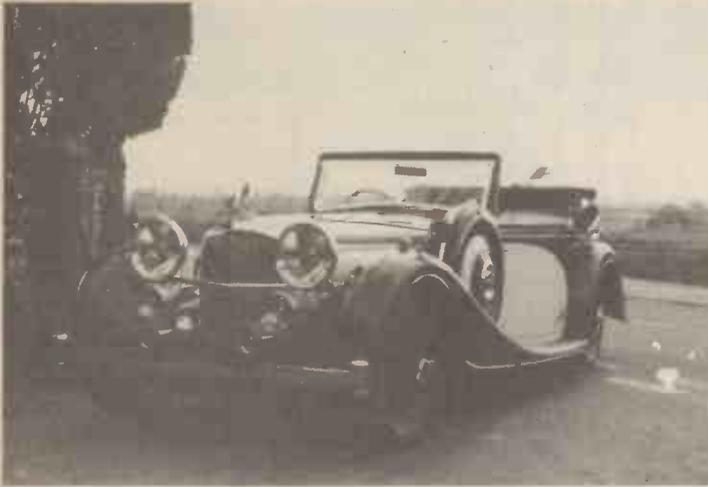
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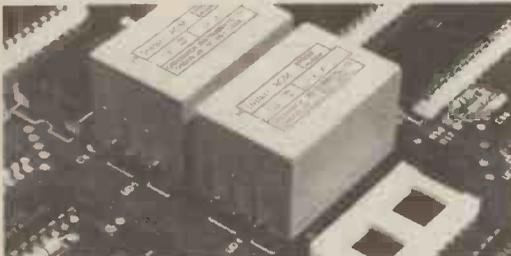


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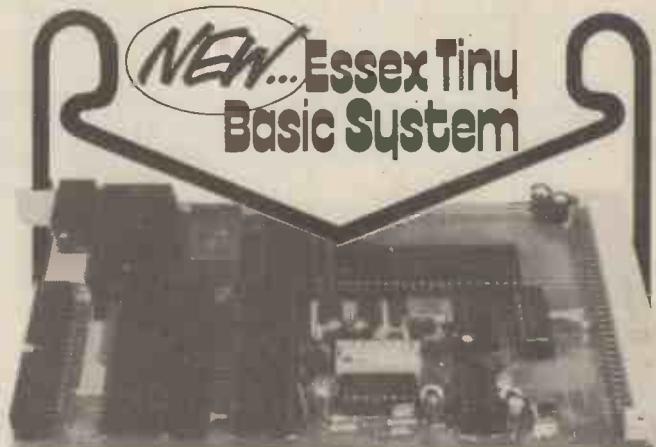
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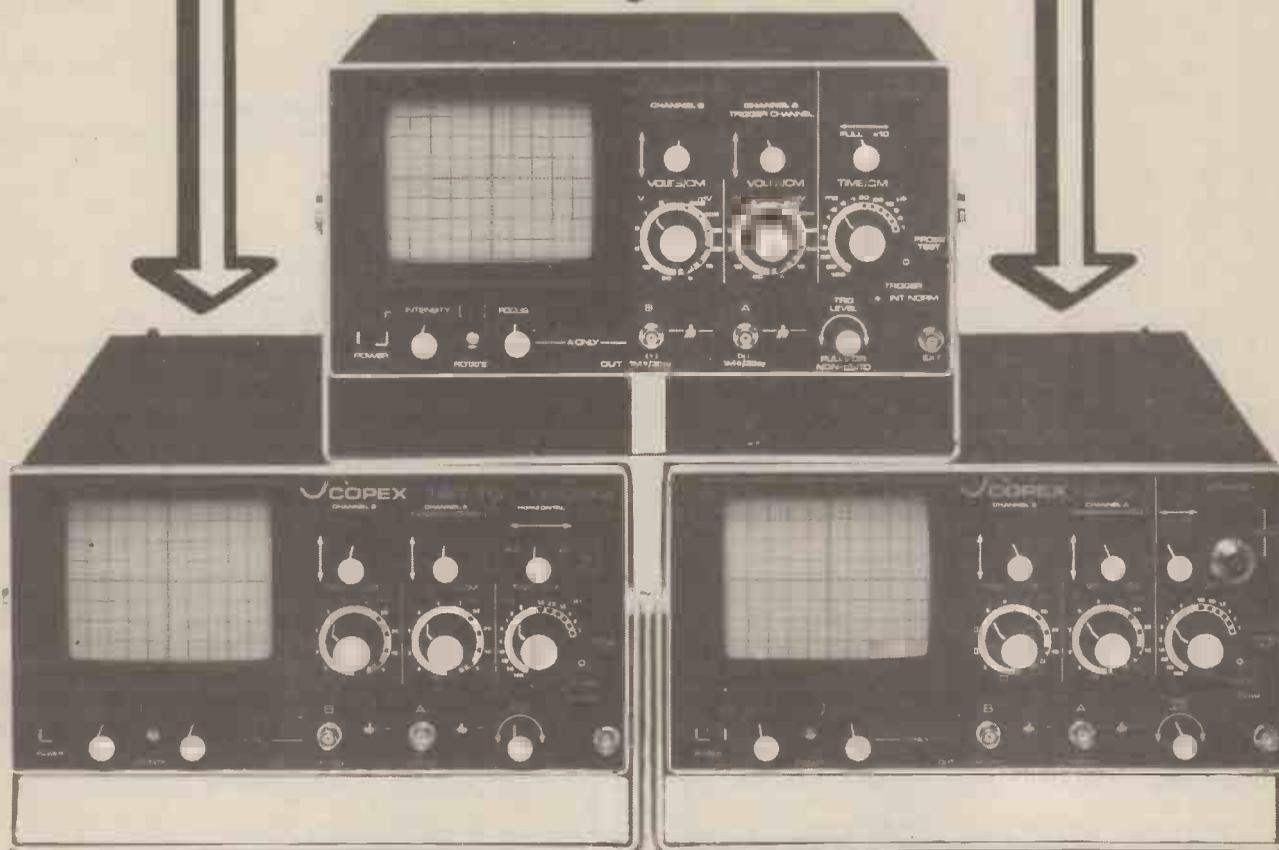
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MENTA

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7409	15p	74503	14p	4015	60p	AY5-4007D	520p	ML200	800p
7410	15p	74504	15p	4016	30p	CA128A	120p	MG17160	600p
7411	20p	74505	15p	4017	45p	CA3019	80p	NE531	150p
7412	20p	74508	16p	4018	60p	CA3046	70p	NE555	20p
7413	22p	74509	15p	4019	32p	CA3048	225p	NE564	50p
7414	35p	74510	15p	4020	60p	CA3059	300p	NE565	130p
7415	25p	74511	15p	4021	65p	CA3080E	72p	NE566	155p
7416	27p	74512	15p	4022	70p	CA3086	48p	NE567	140p
7417	27p	74514	40p	4023	20p	CA3089	225p	NE570	425p
7421	30p	74520	15p	4024	40p	CA3090AQ	375p	NE571	425p
7422	20p	74521	15p	4025	20p	CA3130E	90p	NE583A	800p
7423	22p	74522	16p	4026	130p	CA3140	100p	NE585	500p
7425	28p	74527	16p	4027	32p	CA3160E	100p	PL02A	500p
7426	25p	74530	10p	4028	60p	CA3161E	190p	RC4136	70p
7427	25p	74532	16p	4029	75p	CA3182	450p	RC4151	200p
7428	30p	74538	16p	4030	40p	CA3189E	300p	S5668	280p
7430	15p	74542	36p	4031	170p	CA3240	120p	SAD1024A	850p
7432	25p	74547	40p	4034	160p	CA3280G	200p	FF96364	800p
7433	27p	74548	75p	4035	80p	DA1408B	200p	SL490	350p
7434	27p	74549	75p	4036	295p	HA1365	300p	SN76477	500p
7436	30p	74555	30p	4039	25p	HA1388	270p	SN76488	500p
7440	17p	74573	25p	4040	55p	ICL7106	850p	SP8515	750p
7441	70p	74574	16p	4041	70p	ICL8038	300p	TA7120	160p
7442	36p	74575	24p	4042	55p	ICM7555	80p	TA7204	200p
7443	90p	74576	20p	4043	27p	ICM7555	80p	TA7205	160p
7445	60p	74578	45p	4044	70p	LC7130	350p	TA7205	160p
7446A	93p	74585	50p	4046	70p	LF347	160p	TA7222	160p
7447A	45p	74586	20p	4047	75p	LF351	48p	TA7271	275p
7448	45p	74590	28p	4048	55p	LF353	100p	TBA651	200p
7450	17p	74592	40p	4049	27p	LF356P	95p	TBA800	90p
7451	17p	74593	30p	4050	27p	LF357	120p	TBA810	90p
7453	17p	74594	30p	4051	60p	LM10C	425p	TBA820	90p
7454	17p	74596	100p	4052	80p	LM301A	27p	TBA950	300p
7460	17p	745107	45p	4053	60p	LM310	120p	TC4220	350p
7470	36p	745109	30p	4054	130p	LM318	200p	TC4940	200p
7472	30p	745112	34p	4055	125p	LM319	225p	TD10104A	300p
7473	30p	745113	30p	4056	120p	LM324	45p	TD10104	320p
7474	20p	745114	30p	4059	500p	LM335Z	140p	TD10110	225p
7475	30p	745122	42p	4060	90p	LM339	75p	TD10122	550p
7476	30p	745123	50p	4063	100p	LM348	75p	TD10224	120p
7480	60p	745124	120p	4066	35p	LM358P	75p	TD10348	250p
7481	100p	745125	30p	4067	40p	LM377	175p	TD1170	300p
7482	70p	745126	30p	4068	18p	LM380	180p	TD4202V	325p
7483A	45p	745127	30p	4069	18p	LM381AN	180p	TD4202V	325p
7484	100p	745133	30p	4070	18p	LM382	120p	TL071/81	45p
7485	90p	745136	30p	4071	18p	LM386	95p	TL072/82	75p
7486	20p	745138	34p	4072	18p	LM387	120p	TL074	130p
7489	210p	745139	38p	4073	20p	LM389	95p	TL084	110p
7490A	25p	745145	70p	4075	60p	LM392	100p	TL094	200p
7491	60p	745147	160p	4076	60p	LM394	350p	TL170	50p
7492A	30p	745148	90p	4081	16p	LM709	36p	TL430C	70p
7493A	30p	745151	40p	4082	20p	LM710	50p	UAA170	170p
7494	50p	745153	80p	4086	72p	LM711	70p	UA2240	300p
7495A	50p	745154	80p	4089	150p	LM733	100p	UDN6118	320p
7496	45p	745155	80p	4093	150p	LM734	100p	UDN618	320p
7497	12p	745156	40p	4094	150p	LM747	70p	ULN2003	100p
74100	85p	745157	35p	4095	95p	LM748	35p	UPC675	400p
74107	22p	745158	36p	4096	95p	LM2917	200p	UPC692H	200p
74109	40p	745160	40p	4097	340p	LM3202	140p	UPC1156H	300p
74116	90p	745161	40p	4098	90p	LM3900	55p	XR2206	300p
74118	75p	745162	40p	4099	120p	LM392	95p	ZN414	140p
74119	80p	745163	40p	4085	90p	LM3931	130p	ZN419C	225p
74120	70p	745164	48p	4097	120p	LM3914	210p	ZN423E	130p
74121	25p	745165	100p	4098	120p	LM3915	225p	ZN424E	150p
74122	45p	745166	90p	4102	180p	LM3916	225p	ZN425E	350p
74123	48p	745170	120p	4103	180p	LM13600	125p	ZN427E	650p
74125	40p	745173	50p	4104	36p	LM3920	300p	ZN1034E	400p
74126	40p	745174	45p	4109	100p	MS1516L	500p	ZN1040E	700p
74128	40p	745175	50p	4163	100p				
74132	40p	745181	140p	40173	120p				
74136	32p	745190	50p	40174	90p				
74141	65p	745191	50p	40175	100p				
74142	200p	745192	50p	40176	160p				
74145	70p	745193	48p	40257	160p				
74147	100p	745194	40p	4502	70p				
74148	75p	745195	48p	4503	50p				
74150	80p	745196	60p	4507	40p				
74151A	45p	745197	65p	4508	200p				
74153	45p	745198	60p	4510	60p				
74154	59p	745240	70p	4511	50p				
74155	50p	745241	70p	4512	65p				
74156	50p	745242	80p	4514	150p				
74157	50p	745243	80p	4515	150p				
74159	100p	745244	65p	4516	75p				
74160	80p	745245	60p	4518	45p				
74161	60p	745251	40p	4520	70p				
74162	60p	745253	40p	4521	150p				
74163	60p	745257	45p	4526	75p				
74164	50p	745258	45p	4527	90p				
74165	55p	745259	40p	4528	75p				
74166	50p	745260	100p	4532	90p				
74170	140p	745266	25p	4534	500p				
74172	30p	745273	75p	4536	300p				
74173	65p	745279	45p	4538	120p				
74174	60p	745283	45p	4539	110p				
74175	60p	745295	60p	4543	100p				
74176	50p	745298	160p	4553	290p				
74177	70p	745323	25p	4555	50p				
74178	100p	745324	15p	4556	60p				
74180	50p	745348	15p	4560	180p				
74181	160p	745352	100p	4568	300p				
74182	90p	745353	100p	4569	180p				
74184A	90p	745363	160p	4572	30p				
74185	120p	745364	160p	4583	90p				
74186	500p	745365	32p	4584	45p				
74188	325p	745367	32p	4585	100p				
74190	50p	745370	60p	14495	400p				
74191	50p	745373	70p						
74192	50p	745374	70p						
74193	50p	745375	50p						
74194	70p	745377	90p						
74195	80p	745378	70p						
74196	70p	745390	50p						
74197	60p	745393	50p						
74198	100p	745395	50p						
74199	100p	745399	20p						
74201	60p	745540	135p						
74202	60p	745541	135p						
74203	60p	745542	135p						
74204	60p	745543	135p						
74205	60p	745544	135p						
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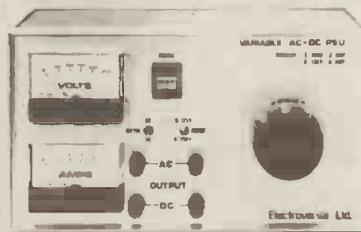
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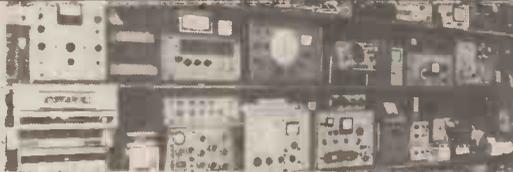
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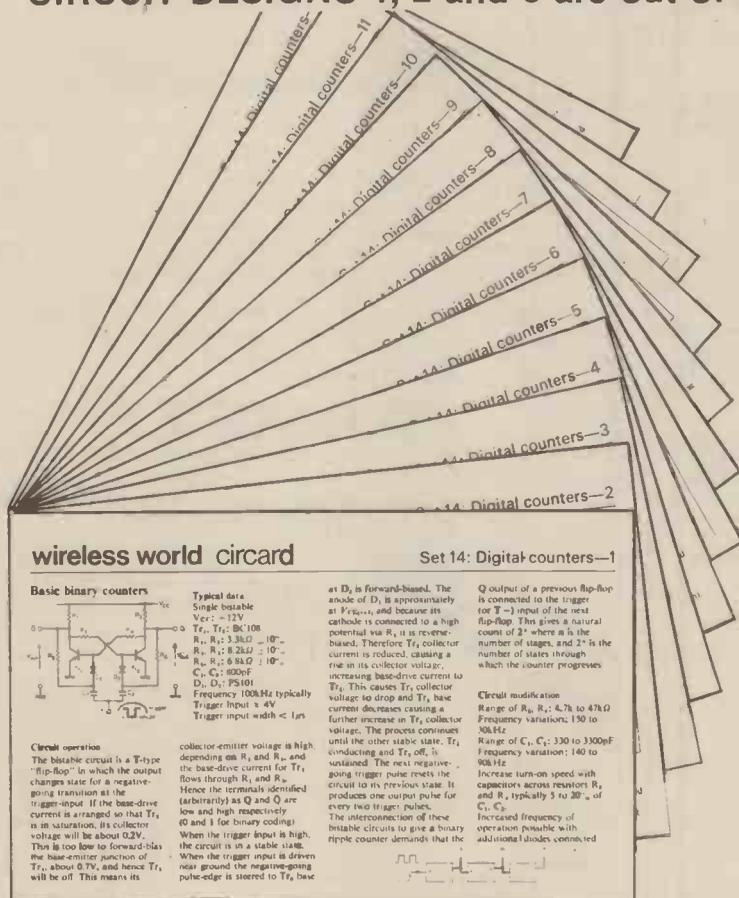
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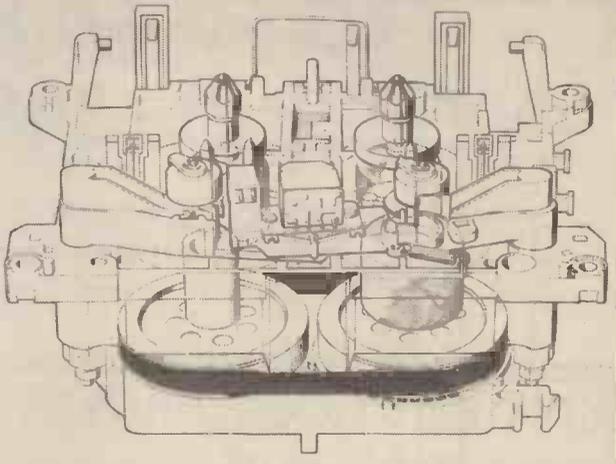
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WW - 063 FOR FURTHER DETAILS

Appointments

Advertisements accepted up 12 noon Tuesday, May 4, for June issue, subject to space being available.

DISPLAYED APPOINTMENTS VACANT: £13.50 per single col. centimetre (min. 3cm).
LINE advertisements (run on): £2.50 per line, minimum 5 lines. (Prepayable.)
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PHONE: IAN FAUX, 01-661 3033 (DIRECT LINE)

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Engineers & Scientists

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Communications R & D...
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At HM Government Communications Centre, we're applying the very latest ideas on electronics and other technologies to the problems of sophisticated communications systems, designed to enable and protect the flow of essential information.

The work is of the highest technical challenge, offering full and worthwhile careers to men and women of high ability, on projects covering the following areas of interest: —

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ACOUSTICS **SIGNAL ANALYSIS**
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Applicants, under 30 years of age, should have a good honours degree or equivalent qualification in a relevant subject, but candidates about to graduate may also apply.

Appointments are as Higher Scientific Officer (£6,530-£8,589) or Scientific Officer (£5,176-£6,964) according to qualifications and experience. Promotion prospects.

For an application form, please write to the Recruitment Officer (Dept. WW 5), HM Government Communications Centre, Hanslope Park, Milton Keynes, MK19 7BH.

(1589)

ELECTRONIC ENGINEER RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

We are a medium-sized company employing approximately 200 in the Cambridge Electronic Industries group of companies, specialising in producing television distribution equipment and associated electronic products. An enthusiastic Electronic Engineer is sought to join our existing development team. He/she will work in a modern, well-equipped laboratory and will be responsible for seeing projects through from initial conception to final production. We envisage that the successful candidate will be 23-35 years of age, with a degree in electronics and at least two years' experience in a research and development environment.

Applicants should have detailed experience, or a keen interest, in one or more of the following areas:

- ★ Digital and analogue circuit design from D.C. to 1GHz.
- ★ Television signal processing.
- ★ Cable distribution of television signals.
- ★ R.F. communications.

The company offers good working conditions, a 37-hour week, 25 days' annual holiday and a contributory pension scheme. Assistance with relocation will be considered where appropriate.

Please send full C. V. to:
Mr C. G. Houghton
Personnel Manager
Labgear Limited
Abbey Walk, Cambridge

(1581)

Senior Electronics Engineer

A Senior Electronics Engineer is required to join a small but expanding team working on a variety of projects in the fields of Robotics, Image Processing, Real time data collection and telemetry.

The successful applicant will be qualified to degree level and will have relevant experience in analogue and digital design techniques.

A thorough knowledge of at least one current microprocessor is required, and a high level of enthusiasm and self motivation is essential.

The company is situated in a pleasant part of Avon, a few minutes drive from Junction 21 of the M5.

Working conditions are excellent and salary is negotiable according to qualifications and experience.

Contact G.S. Chewins, Senior Personnel Officer,
(Recruitment)
BAJ Vickers Limited, Banwell, Avon, BS24 8PD.



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1586



SENIOR MAINTENANCE ENGINEERS

Commencing salary from £12,877 p.a. (under review)

Independent Television News Ltd. has vacancies for Senior Engineers in the following Maintenance Sections at ITN House, London W1.

VTR & Telecine Maintenance

(Ref 000009)

Responsible for the maintenance of VTR and telecine equipment, including ACR25B, VPR2B, VR1200C, BVU200/800, standard U-Matics and Rank Cintel Mk IIIs and associated editing and control systems.

ENG/OB Maintenance

(Ref 000010)

Responsible for the maintenance of all the ENG and OB transportable equipment including BVP330 cameras, BVU50 and 110 recorders, VPR2 and VPR20 C-format machines, TBCs and editing systems.

Radio Links Maintenance

(Ref 000011)

Responsible for the maintenance of our radio link equipment and extensive radio telephone network. Equipment includes frequency agile 2.5GHz video links and numerous UHF and VHF FM R/T systems, both static and mobile.

Sound Maintenance

(Ref 000012)

Responsible for the maintenance of a varied range of audio equipment, including sound mixing desks and associated studio sound equipment, film and video sound dubbing suites and a wide variety of audio recorders including rack machines.

Central Maintenance

(Ref 000013)

Responsible for the maintenance of not only all our studio equipment, including Marconi Mk 9 cameras, CD480 mixers, Quantel DPE5001, Aston Character generators and the usual ancillaries but also such equipments as DICE and ACE digital converters, Oracle and graphics computer systems.

The above vacancies offer a challenge to experienced engineers wishing to join an extremely active company expanding to meet its Channel 4 commitments.

Applicants should have qualifications to HNC level or equivalent and be experienced in maintaining the relevant broadcast TV equipment.

It would be of considerable advantage to have some practical experience of computer or microprocessor systems.

Good prospects exist in all the above posts for promotion, with experience, to Supervisory Engineer.

Generous pension scheme, free life assurance.

Applications should be made in writing giving qualifications and experience to:

**THE MANAGER, ENGINEERING MAINTENANCE
INDEPENDENT TELEVISION NEWS LTD
ITN HOUSE
48 WELLS STREET
LONDON W1P 4DE**

(1591)

Appointments

TRAINEE RADIO OFFICERS

First-class, secure career opportunities.

A number of vacancies will be available in 1982/83 for suitable qualified candidates to be appointed as Trainee Radio Officers.

If your trade or training involves Radio Operating, you qualify to be considered for a Radio Officer post with the Composite Signals Organisation.

Candidates must have had at least 2 years' radio operating experience or hold a PMG, MPT or MRGC certificate, or expect to obtain this shortly.

On successful completion of between 36 and 42 weeks specialist training, promotion will occur to the Radio Officer grade.

Registered disabled people may be considered.

SALARY & PROSPECTS

TRAINEE RADIO OFFICER: £4159 at 19 to £4897 at 25 and over. On promotion to RADIO OFFICER: £5698 at 19 to £6884 at 25 and over. Then by 4 annual increments to £10,034 inclusive of shift working and Saturday and Sunday elements. Salaries reviewed annually.

For full details please contact our Recruitment Officer on Cheltenham (0242) 21491 Ext. 2269 or write to her at:

Recruitment Officer, Government Communications Headquarters, Oakley, Priors Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL52 5AJ

(1531)

GCHQ

Television International

Television International is a large television facilities company serving the broadcast industry. It supplies both staff and equipment in the fields of Video Tape, Telecine, Television Studios and Television Outside Broadcasts.

It is at present expanding these facilities and has vacancies for substantive engineers in the following departments:

VIDEO TAPE OPERATIONS

Engineers are required with a wide knowledge of broadcast video tape work and who are capable of undertaking simple editing and front-line machine maintenance.

TELECINE OPERATIONS

Engineers here should be experienced in the operation and front-line maintenance of Cintel Mk III Telecine machines and have a thorough knowledge of auxiliary units such as TOPSY and Digiscan.

VISION CONTROL AND MAINTENANCE

Engineers are required with experience of the maintenance and alignment of electronic equipment. They must be prepared to operate as a Vision Control Engineer in both studio and outside broadcast locations.

Salaries and conditions for the above will be in accordance with the ACTT grade plus local supplements. The Company benefits from an attractive contributory Group Pension Scheme, which includes free Life Assurance. Training will be provided to keep staff abreast of current developments within the industry.

Written applications, together with CV should be sent to: Mr. Alan Edwards, Director of Operations, Television International Operations Ltd., 9-11 Windmill Street, London W1P 1HF. Tel: 01-637 2477.



A member of the RANK PHICOM VIDEO GROUP (1576)

Electronics Technician

An experienced Electronics Technician is required to work within the Microprocessor Section of Computer Science, as a broad-based support and service engineer.

The Section is responsible for providing micro-based equipment throughout the research organisation in laboratory environments.

Candidates should be qualified to Ordinary/Higher TEC level in Electronics, or possess C&G full certificates for Electronics Technicians and should be capable of working on their own initiative.

Previous professional knowledge of microprocessor-based equipment is essential. Candidates must be able to read and interpret modern digital circuit diagrams for both fault finding and the layout of prototype printed circuit boards and be able to generate such documentation.

As much of the work of the Section is involved with computer peripherals a knowledge of interface standards and techniques would be useful. Candidates must hold a current driving licence.

A competitive salary will be paid commensurate with qualifications and experience and will include London Allowance and quarterly and annual bonuses. There is a non-contributory pension scheme and flexible working hours are in operation. Consideration will also be given to relocation expenses in appropriate cases.

Please write or telephone for an application form to: Miss E. M. Butler, Glaxo Group Research Limited, Greenford Road, Greenford, Middlesex UB6 0HE. Tel: 01-422 3434, ext. 2707. Please quote reference number ZH/424.

Glaxo Group Research Ltd.

(1580)

Electronics Design Engineers

Take your career a step in the right direction

Having introduced an extended new product range, many of which are microprocessor based, Marconi Instruments has once again confirmed itself as Europe's leading manufacturer of test equipment and measurement systems. Our products are selling throughout the world to all leading users in the Telecommunications and Aerospace industries and we are naturally developing further innovative designs. That is why we are now looking for more Design Engineers with experience in any of the following areas:

RF, Microwave, Analogue, Digital, Software, ATE, Microprocessor Applications.

Whatever your level of experience we would like to hear from you. We offer excellent salaries plus a wide range of large company benefits including relocation expenses where appropriate.

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(1234)



Dolby Laboratories Inc.

Quality Control Engineer

c. £9000

We manufacture a wide range of professional audio noise reduction systems which are used throughout the world in the broadcasting, recording and film industries. The quality and reliability of our products is of prime importance

An engineer is required who will be responsible to the QA Manager for all aspects of quality control in our manufacturing and test areas and for the development of the quality control function.

The successful applicant will probably be a graduate with experience of quality control in the electronics industry. A background in audio engineering would be an advantage.

The attractive salary is supplemented by competitive benefits including a non-contributory pension scheme and relocation assistance if needed.

For more information and an application form contact:

Kevin Cross
Dolby Laboratories Inc.
346 Clapham Road
London SW9 9AP
Tel: 01-720 1111

(1585)

Rediffusion Consumer Manufacturing Limited Group Leader Test Equipment

Rediffusion Consumer Manufacturing produce a range of advanced colour television receivers at modern factories situated near Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham, and Billingham, Cleveland. Highly effective product testing is an essential part of manufacturing policy and we wish to appoint an experienced engineer of proven ability, to be responsible to the Engineering Manager for all aspects of a sophisticated range of test console and signal generation equipment.

The successful candidate will control a team of engineers and technicians responsible for the effective and efficient operation of this equipment in a mass production environment. Both analogue and digital techniques are involved with the main test consoles based on the Motorola 6800 microprocessor. Although some test equipment is designed and constructed locally the main design team is based in Surrey and close liaison with this team is necessary in order to keep abreast of new developments and influence the design of new equipment in the light of production experience.

The appointment is based at the Engineering Laboratory of the Bishop Auckland factory, which is within easy reach of attractive countryside and has excellent road, rail and air connections. A wide range of good quality housing at low cost is available and assistance with relocation will be given as appropriate.

An attractive salary will be offered with 23 days' holiday per year and after a qualifying period, free life assurance and the benefit of a big company pension scheme.

Applicants should be qualified to HNC or equivalent level and previous microprocessor experience would be an advantage, although training will be provided if necessary.

If you are interested in this challenging position and would like more details, please write or telephone in complete confidence to:

Mr D. Abbott
Engineering Product Manager
Rediffusion Consumer Manufacturing Ltd.
Fullers Way South
Chessington
Surrey KT9 1HJ
Telephone: 01-397 5411



REDIFFUSION

(1671)

Appointments

ELECTRONIC TECHNICIANS AND ENGINEERS

Marconi Communication Systems Limited are involved in the installation, commissioning, of communication equipment, worldwide. If you have formal qualifications in an electronic engineering discipline or H.M. Forces equivalent, with at least seven years experience in installation testing, commissioning and maintaining electronic equipments and hold a current U.K. driving licence, you could be one of the people we are looking for to fill one of the following vacancies:-

Maintenance

Middle East - Fixed Term

Successful applicants would have a minimum of three years experience working on Tropospheric Scatter, Radio Relay, Line of Sight or Line Communication Systems and be offered a two year contract with an attractive salary and excellent allowances.

Installation and Commissioning

Worldwide - Permanent

Successful applicants would have a minimum of three years practical experience working on Satellite Earth Stations. Salaries will be based on previous experience and qualifications. Excellent allowances.

Send a full C.V. or telephone for application form to Mandy Amos, Marconi Communication Systems Limited, New Street, Chelmsford, Essex. Telephone: Chelmsford (0245) 353221 Ext. 592.

Marconi
Communication Systems



TEST ENGINEERS

microprocessor controlled business systems, optical fibre and microwave transmission systems

Major advances in the telecommunications field have yielded exceptional growth and created additional opportunities for engineers in this expanding technology. As a test engineer you will be locating and rectifying faults, to component level, on a range of digital equipments. So you will need qualifications to at least third year City and Guilds in industrial electronics or telecommunications. Salaries will be in the range £5.6-8k according to experience, with overtime and shift work available. We can arrange accommodation and offer a generous relocation package, where appropriate.

To: Mr Z.K. Flizak, GEC Telecommunications Ltd.,
PO Box 53, COVENTRY CV3 1HJ.

Name _____

Address _____

Age _____

Qualifications _____

Present Employer _____

Experience _____

W W (1593)

GEC
Telecommunications

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY Lecturer II in Radio Communications Engineering

Required for September 1982 to teach radio communications engineering, electronics and mathematics on TEC Certificate and Higher Certificate courses.

Candidates should have a degree or equivalent qualifications and preferably corporate membership of IEE or IERE. Industrial experience in the radio communications engineering industry is essential, and teaching experience would be an advantage.

Lecturer I in Electronics Practice

Required from January 1983 to teach electronics practice and servicing on CCLI 224 and TEC Certificate/Diploma courses in Electronics.

Applicants should hold Electronics Certificate 222/224 Part III and preferably HNC or HTC in Electronic Engineering. Industrial experience with an electronics servicing department is essential and teaching experience would be an advantage.

Temporary Lecturer I in Electronics

Required for one year from September 1982 to teach Electronics and Mathematics to TEC Certificate/Diploma Courses in Electronics and Telecommunications.

Candidates should have industrial experience in the electronics/telecommunications industry and preferably should have a degree or equivalent qualifications and teaching experience.

Salary scales: L I £5,034-£8,658, L II £6,462-£10,431, starting points depending on qualifications and experience.

Further details and forms from Head of Department of Engineering, CCAT, Cambridge CB1 2AJ (Tel. Cambridge (0223) 63271 ext. 132) to whom forms should be returned by 30th April. (1596)

THE ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL AND THE ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

MEDICAL PHYSICS TECHNICIAN II (ELECTRONICS)

Salary on scale: £7600-£9248
inclusive

An experienced engineer is required by the Medical Electronics Department to assist with the development and maintenance of electronic circuits and systems.

The successful applicant will be seconded to the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, Hunter Street, WC1, until about the end of 1982 before moving to the interdepartmental workshop at Hampstead, London NW3.

Considerable experience in the design of electronic circuits and systems using state-of-the-art techniques is essential.

Applicants should preferably hold a Higher National Certificate in appropriate subjects or an equivalent, or higher, qualification.

Application form and job description available from the Personnel Department, Royal Free Hospital, Pond Street, Hampstead, London NW3 2QG. Tel: 01-794 0500 ext. 4286. Please quote ref. 0770.

Camden & Islington Area Health Authority (T) (1572)

Electronic Engineers for Q.A. Department Wembley Middlesex.

Racal BCC are members of the highly successful Racal Electronics Group and are world leaders in the design and manufacture of tactical radio-communications equipment.

We require two experienced electronic engineers to fill positions at Intermediate grade within the Quality Assurance department. Preference will be given to engineers who are familiar with the requirements of Def—Stan 05-21 and who have experience in a number of Q.A. functions including defect analysis, quality costs, and the

monitoring and control of Company systems.

Applicants aged 26-50 must be educated to HNC/HTC level or above in electronics. A working knowledge of communications equipment would be a distinct advantage.

We offer excellent conditions of service including a good basic salary and Group Productivity Scheme, 27 days annual holiday, a contributory pension scheme and a free life assurance.



Please apply in writing stating qualifications, experience and current salary to the:
Personnel Officer, RACAL-BCC,
South Way, Exhibition Grounds,
Wembley, Middlesex.

Racal-BCC

World leaders in electronics

RACAL

(1573)

Radio Operator Technicians for British Antarctic Survey

The British Antarctic Survey requires Radio Operator Technicians to man single handed wireless stations at their permanent Antarctic bases. The appointments will cover two consecutive Antarctic winters which involves an absence from the United Kingdom of about 32 months.

Applicants must be able to maintain SSB transmitting and receiving equipment as well as aerial arrays. Communication between the Antarctic Stations and the United Kingdom is by radio teleprinter through a cable and wireless station. Teleprinter, morse and voice communication is also maintained between foreign Antarctic stations, ships and aircraft.

Qualifications: MRGC or better and a capability of sending and receiving morse at a minimum of 20 wpm.

Experience in maintaining communication equipment is essential. A knowledge of teleprinters and touch typing an advantage. Applications from amateur and armed service trained personnel will be considered provided that the necessary expertise can be demonstrated.

Applicants to work overseas should be single, aged between 22-35, physically fit and male.

Salary: From £5,410 per annum plus a pay addition and gratuity. Clothing, messing and canteen are provided free on the station and free messing aboard ship. Free accommodation whilst overseas. Low income tax.

Application forms may be obtained from: The Establishment Officer, British Antarctic Survey, High Cross, Madingly Road, Cambridge CB3 0ET.

Please quote Ref: BAS 57.

Closing date: 27 April, 1982

Natural Environment Research Council

(1595)

HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM HEALTH AUTHORITY

CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL

MEDICAL PHYSICS TECHNICIAN GRADE 1

Salary scale: £8968-£10319 per annum inclusive

An Electronics Technician with considerable experience of maintenance of electronic and biomedical equipment is required to supervise the day-to-day work of nine technicians engaged in the repair, calibration and safety checking of a wide range of medical and laboratory equipment.

Applicants should have previous experience of personnel supervision and an extensive knowledge of the electrical safety aspects of medical equipment.

Opportunities will exist for the development of electronic instrumentation and a knowledge of microprocessors would be desirable. The successful candidate will be expected to participate in the activities of the medical electronics section of the department of medical physics.

Ideally, the successful candidate will have an HNC or HND in electronic engineering.

For an application form and job description, please contact Mrs J. Cordery, District Personnel Department, Charing Cross Hospital, Fulham Palace Road, London W6. Telephone 01-748 2040 ext. 2992.

(1609)

Technical Training Officer

Marconi Avionics are one of the world's leading companies in the research, development, design and manufacture of advanced avionics systems.

We are now seeking a Training Officer to take responsibility for identifying the changing skill needs throughout our Borehamwood location through close and continuing liaison with development, test and production management, followed by the planning and development of suitable practical courses. This will be particularly important in the areas of test equipment application and wiring and soldering skills.

Applicants should have a good training background, supported by an HNC and practical experience of electronic circuit construction, testing, and fault diagnosis of analogue/digital equipment. On a personal level, tact, diplomacy, and an ability to communicate effectively at all levels are essentials.

This is an excellent opportunity for a man or woman to make a meaningful contribution to the training needs of a world leader. Salary will be competitive and accompanied by first class benefits.

For further information, please write or telephone: Tony Elliott, Marconi Avionics Limited, Elstree Way, Borehamwood, Herts, WD6 1RX. Tel: 01-953 2030.

(1569)

**MARCONI
AVIONICS**

A GEC-Marconi Electronics Company

Leeds Western
Health Authority

THE GENERAL
INFIRMARY AT LEEDS

**SENIOR
ELECTRONICS
TECHNICIAN
(Grade MPT III)**

Applications are invited from persons experienced in electronic maintenance, preferably with imaging and counting equipment, to work in our well-equipped Nuclear Medicine Department. Knowledge of computer systems particularly 8080A microprocessors would be an additional (or alternative) recommendation. The work is interesting, responsible and includes design and development of specialised electronic units. A less experienced person may be considered on the MPT IV Grade.

Minimum qualifications are HNC in electronics or equivalent and NHS experience is desirable.

Salary Scale (Whitley conditions apply).

MPT III - £5536 - £7155
MPT IV - £4668 - £6137

For further information including Job Description contact: The Sector Personnel Officer, The General Infirmary at Leeds, Great George Street, LEEDS LS1 3EX. Telephone (0532) 32799 Ext 355.

Closing Date: 14th May 1982.

(1588)

Kingdom of Lesotho

Transmitter Engineer

Up to £11,500 p.a. plus benefits

A challenging post in this beautiful and mountainous kingdom in southern Africa.

Applicants must possess an engineering degree and have at least five years experience in transmitter engineering and maintenance.

Duties will include operation and maintenance of two 100kw shortwave transmitters, identifying operational needs, and staff supervision and training.

Appointment will be on contract for two years.

Salary includes a substantial tax-free allowance paid under Britain's overseas aid programme.

Benefits include:

- ★ Free passages
- ★ Generous paid leave
- ★ Children's holiday visit passages and education allowances
- ★ Subsidised housing
- ★ Appointment grant and interest-free car loan

For full details and application form write quoting YC/202/WW or telephone 01-222 7730 Ext 3639.

Crown Agents



The Crown Agents for Oversea Governments
& Administrations, Recruitment Division,
4 Millbank, London SW1P 3JD.

(1575)

ELECTRONIC DEVELOPMENT ENGINEER

We are seeking to expand our development team by recruiting a young Graduate with two to three years' experience of designing analogue and digital circuitry.

Our range of products includes Modulation Meters, SSB Transmitter Drive Units and Spectrum Analysers. Experience in any of these fields would be an advantage but is not strictly essential.

We are offering an excellent working environment plus a really attractive salary to the successful applicant.

Please contact H. M. Evans - M.D. by letter or phone.

SAYROSA ELECTRONICS LTD.
Anstey Mill Lane, Alton Hants GU34 2QQ
Tel: (0420) 84500

(1604)

U.S.A.

British-run company near New York seeks Electronic Engineer (B.Sc. or equivalent) for design of medical and industrial instruments. Could probably represent us later in UK. Starting salary \$15,000 (£8,000). Please send résumé of training and experience to Bailey Instruments Inc., Saddle Brook, NJ 07662.

1578

SALES REPRESENTATIVE PUBLIC ADDRESS AND AUDIO EQUIPMENT

We are the newly-formed marketing arm of a manufacturing company, now established for over 50 years.

We are looking for someone with, preferably, an electro-mechanical background and previous selling experience.

We are offering a salary commensurate with age and experience, as well as commission, four weeks' paid holiday and a company car.

Apply, in first instance, to:

The Managing Director
D.S.N. MARKETING LTD.
West Morland Road, London NW9 9RJ
Tel: 01-204 7246

(1605)

Leading Loudspeaker Company in West Germany is seeking for a

SOLE DISTRIBUTOR for U.K.

Our range of products covers loudspeakers and accessories for Hi-Fi, Musician and Car Stereo.

The applicant should have good connections to the electronic shops and manufacturers of cabinets, to whom our products should be offered with priority.

We are seeking a serious experienced Sales Representative with proven record of success.

Please apply in writing enclosing career details to:



VISATON-LAUTSPRECHER

Peter Schukat
Pfalzstr. 5-7
P.O. Box 1652
5657 Haan 1
West Germany



SALES ENGINEERS

For 1. West Midlands 2. South East 3. West of England

Required by Townsend-Coates, a leading franchised distributor of electronic components.

The successful applicants will have component knowledge, be already selling to industry or have sales flair.

We offer competitive salaries plus bonus, company car, non-contributory pension and private health schemes.

Please sent C.V. to:
Managing Director
Townsend-Coates Ltd.
Lunsford Road
Leicester LE5 0HH

(1594)

TV-am

ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

TV-AM, the breakfast television contractor, requires staff to perform engineering and operational duties at all grades, both within the Breakfast Television Centre and on outside broadcast including ENG type operations. Previous experience in television broadcasting would be an advantage.

Applications in writing with curriculum vitae to:

**THE PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATOR,
BREAKFAST TELEVISION CENTRE,
HAWLEY CRESCENT, LONDON NW1 8EF.**

(1590)

Appointments

GARDLINE SURVEYS ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS

Due to continued expansion, we need personnel to operate and maintain the following types of equipment aboard our survey vessels:

**DFS III/V QUANTUM DAS 1A SHALLOW DIGITAL SEISMIC
SIDE SCAN, MAGNETOMETER, SB PROFILER
BOOMER/SPARKER
ANALOGUE EQUIPMENT**

Good salary, sea-going allowances, leave arrangements and company pension scheme benefits. Promotion prospects excellent.

This is an opportunity to join a dynamic, fast-growing company involved in all aspects of shallow marine geophysical surveys.

Please write, quoting WW106, to:

**THE MANAGING DIRECTOR
GARDLINE SURVEYS
ADMIRALTY ROAD, GREAT YARMOUTH
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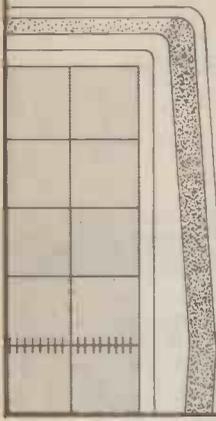
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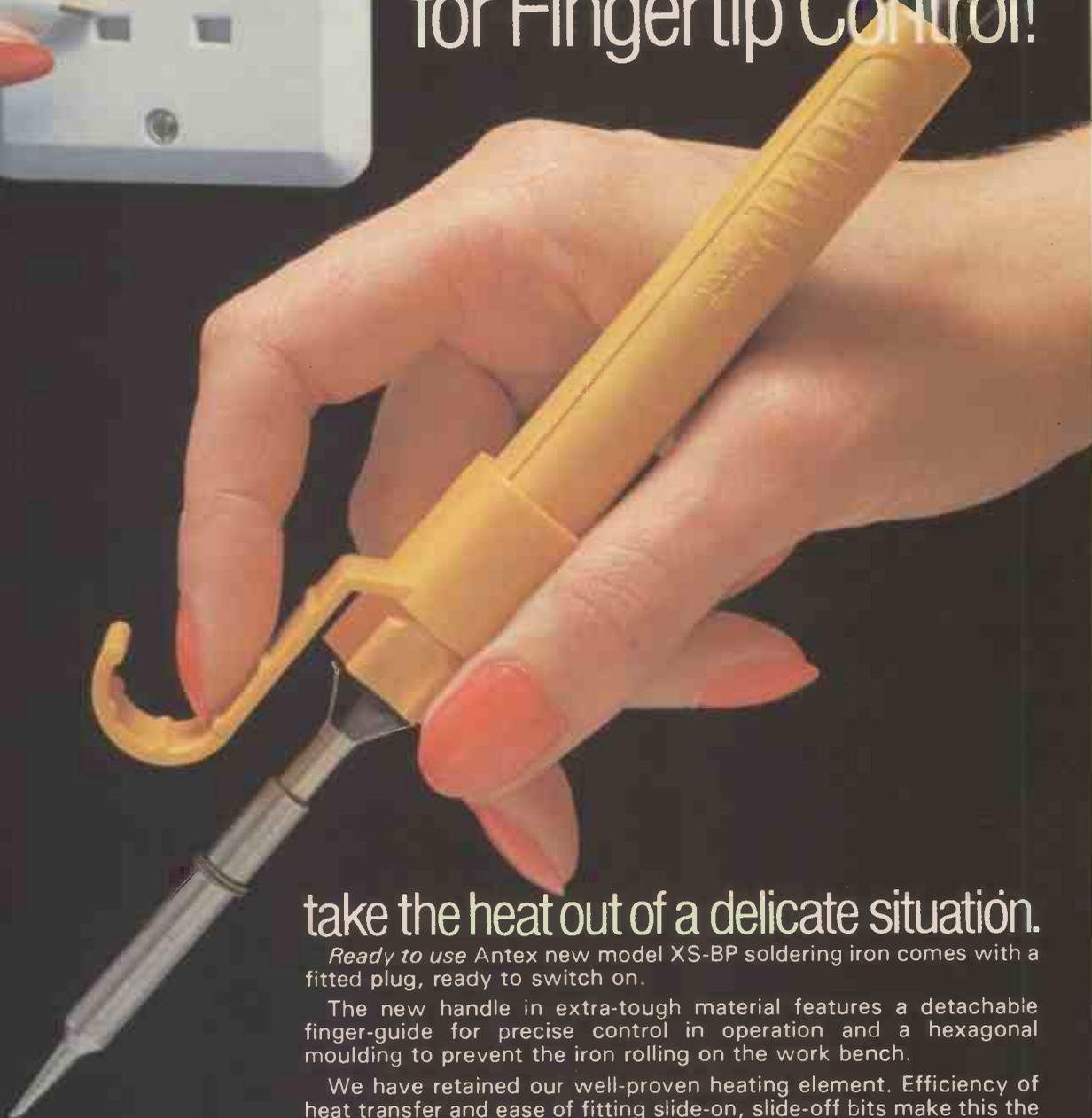
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