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VOL. 5 No. 5 DECEMBER 1963 Price 2/-

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INFORMATION BOOKLET NO.6

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Amateur Tape Recording & Hi-Fi

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ON THE COVER

An attractive girl wearing a whimsical expression. She's wor-ried about Christmas gifts. Are you? If so turn to Sound Scene on page 38—it offers a variety of ideas.

December, 1963

Vol. 5, No. 5

Gives the amateur the professional touch . . .

December, 1963

THOUGHT FOR STMAS ... by the Editor

the midst of the season's plenitude, we will spare a thought for the significance of Christmas. When the spending spree is over, and we are stretched to the point of discomfort by our intake of Christmas pud, most of us are content to bathe in the pleasant glow of the family get-together.

Sons, daughters and close relations are with us-and, for two days during the year, most of us like it that way !

Editorially we are not going to exhort you to rise from the armchair and record what the young people of the family are saying. But we are going to suggest, that you tape enthusiasts, especially those of you with emerging teenage sons and daughters, do start thinking how you can embrace these young people in your tape club activities.

Tape recording as a hobby is very much the latter half of the twentieth century. As such, it becomes a young person's hobby. The youngsters are with-it. They recognise the tape machine as a part of their age. They quickly see its potential for entertainment and communication with their own age group.

Why not encourage that son of yours-that daughter-that boy of your pal's who lives five doors up the road—to join you when you next have that tape session? The gadgets on the machine and what they do will interest him ! And he may surprise you with how much he knows about how many ohms making five.

As for the daughters, once they can record their favourite pop stars, dad will emerge from squaresville and become a go-go-go man! Then, who knows, those two days in the year when the family gets together and likes it that way, may stretch into two or three evenings a week ! What is more, tape clubs and tape recording circles may find a surge of

interest stirring the dust of flagging enthusiasm.

Or is that kind of Christmas too dragsville for words?

Looking back over the last twelve issues gives us a slight glow of satisfaction. Not enough for us to feel smug or contented, but sufficient for us to feel a sense of achievement and progress. We have pioneered the pullout booklet. We have introduced do-it-yourself constructions kits at special prices. We have offered a fine series of sound effects discs.

These extras have been well received by you, our readers. Also we have managed to retain your interest with bright, yet informative features. All this is good and indicates our determination to keep ATR enter-

prising and lively. Next year we intend to continue and develop these extras. And you may rely on us when we tell you that this is no idle editorial forecast.

Meantime, help us to improve ATR by doing two things. Send us your constructive criticism. Let us have your suggestions for booklets, sound effects discs, and do-it-yourself premium offer kits.

Meanwhile, from the perimeters of our pudding-stretched tummies, we will say happy Christmas ! And thank you for your loyal support during the last year.

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Make your own electronic music

By F. C. JUDD, A.Inst.E.

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING have become almost indispensable factors in the world of today, so it is hardly surprising to find that technical methods are being applied to the creation of new sounds and music. The tape recorder and magnetic tape are very prominent here; in fact, without them, sound recording itself would be set back at least twenty-five years.

Many of the technical methods employed by composers and studios for what is now popularly called 'electronic music ' are, of course, fairly well known, but from time to time new experiments are carried out, such as the recent application of a computer and sound transducer programmed to compose and create music. It could produce synthetic voices, as well ! Even 'pop' record groups and recording studios are employing electronics and tape to create new musical sounds and unusual, though not always elegant, effects called 'gimmicks'. New techniques, however, usually call

New techniques, however, usually call for special equipment. But quite a number can be employed using a modern tape recorder plus a few simple electronic circuits that any keen technical enthusiast may construct for himself. For instance, a **ring modulator** can be made quite easily from readily available components, but let me turn first to a simple technique with tape which may well interest those with a flair for music.

THE TAPE RECORDER —A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT

The use of tape loops is well known, and a loop of sounds will be repeated



FIG. 1. SIMPLE LOOP OF FOUR DIFFERENT SOUNDS, FOR A CONTINUOUS RHYTHM AT A SPEED OF $7\frac{1}{2}$ 1.P.S.

FAST TEMPO MEDIUM TEMPO SLOW TEMPO

FIG. 2. USE THESE AS A GUIDE TO CUTTING PIECES OF TAPE FOR LOOP RHYTHMS AT $7\frac{1}{2}$ I.P.S.

over and over again, so long as the tape recorder is left running. This same technique can also be used to provide a perfect rhythm against which to play a musical instrument, and with timing as accurate as a metronome.

Here is a simple exercise to show what can be done:— Record four different sounds on a short piece of tape and cut out about 3 inches of each. Join these together with splicing tape to form a loop and replay the loop at $7\frac{1}{2}$ i.p.s. (see Fig. 1)

Exercise 2: Record various transient sounds, such as sounds of small drums or cymbals — in fact, any percussion sound — at $3\frac{1}{2}$ i.p.s. Cut about 3 inches of each set, join into a loop and replay at $7\frac{1}{2}$ i.p.s. You will find that you have now produced a complex rhythm with a fundamental 4/4 or common 4 in a bar beat.

The chart of Fig. 2 shows the length of tape required for slow, medium and fast tempo, but remember, these are suitable only for $7\frac{1}{2}$ i.p.s. To achieve similar

results at $3\frac{1}{4}$ i.p.s., the measurements given would have to be halved, which would make the loops too small for practical use.

THE TAPE RECORDER PLAYS BASS

Aside from the rhythms made up of percussive noises, one can also produce bass accompaniments in 4/4 time. Exercise: Record piano or signal generator tones of the notes C, E and G, two octaves below middle C, that is, C=130.812 c/s, E=82.406 c/s. and G= 97.9 c/s. (see Table 2 of Information Booklet). Now form up a four-note loop as shown in Fig. 3 and replay at $7\frac{1}{3}$ i.p.s.

Once you have tried these simple exercises, the making and use of the loops should be fairly obvious. For instance, a given number of bars from different loops can be re-recorded and joined end to end to make up a 32-bar sequence of constant rhythm. With a stereo recorder this technique can be extended to both tracks. Record percussive sounds on one track at $3\frac{1}{2}$ i.p.s. Record bass notes on the other at $7\frac{1}{2}$ i.p.s. Cut the strips of tape as shown in **Fig. 3** and join into loops. You will now have a complex percussion rhythm against a steady 4/4bass part.

For further information on rhythm loop techniques, I would like to recommend Ken Peters' new book called 'Modern Tape Recording and Hi-Fi' (see Information Book No. 6), for in this he deals with the making of rhythm loops by both tape cutting and spot erasure methods).



Amateur Tape Recording & Hi-Fi

BACK VIEW OF CONTROL EQUIPMENT





EXPERIMENTAL EQUIPMENT

The photograph of Fig. 4 shows a simple rack arrangement which contains various items of equipment I use for special effects recordings. The rack is constructed from wide, planed boards, and the different items of equipment are housed in metal boxes of uniform size. Amongst this equipment is a multi-way passive mixing panel, which is extremely useful for mixing and patching high level outputs from other mixers, tape recorders and preamplifiers (but not microphones). The circuit of Fig. 5 shows the two different circuits in use, both of which are assembled on a metal panel

December, 1963

notes into the microphone from another musical instrument.

The ring modulation will produce two new tones for each one you play. These extra tones will be at the sum and difference frequencies of those fed into the modulator. If, for example, one of the loopnotes were C-natural at 261.625 c/s. and the note played D-natural at 146.832 c/s. the new notes (added to the originals) would be 261.625 plus 146,832=408.457 c/s. This lies between G-natural and G-sharp! The other note would be 261.625 minus 146.832=114,793 c/s, which lies between A-natural and A-sharp! The result is a chord of unusual musical guality. (See table 2 ATR Information Booklet, this month.)

THE TONE GENERATOR

We recently published a circuit for an audio tone generator (ATR September issue) which can be used to great advantage for electronic music, etc., for it will provide single tones of known frequency or frequency glide effects and so on. With the aid of a ring modulator it can also be used to provide tremolo effects to other tones fed into the modulator or chord effects as outlined in the previous paragraphs. Example: Connect the output from the generator to one terminal and set the dial to the lowest frequency i.e., 15 c/s. The tones or signals to be modulated are now fed into the other terminal. If the signals are recorded at $7\frac{1}{2}$ i.p.s. and relayed at 31 i.p.s. the resultant will be a signal with a vibratto of $7\frac{1}{2}$ c/s. The variations of tones and effects that can be produced with a tone generator and ring modulator are almost unlimited for these are the two items of equipment most used in electronic music studios.

SQUARE WAVE TONES

The square wave produces a tone which contains a very large number of harmonics and therefore sounds extremely rich when played through a loudspeaker. For this reason the square wave oscillator, or multi-vibrator as it is called, is often used for electronic organs. The circuit shown in **Fig. 7** can be keyed as shown across the output. When the key is opened the tone is present at the end of the 1M.ohm resistor.

This arrangement allows several of these oscillators to be connected to a common amplifier and keyed individually as would be an electronic organ. The components C, R and VR determine the operating frequency which is roughly set by R and C and tuned to pitch by VR. For the mid-range octave (around middle C) the capacitor C would be 0.01mFd, R approximately 100K.ohms and VR 50K.ohms variable. I am at present using 50 K.ohms variable.

The circuit of Fig. 8 shows an electronic attack and decay control which is not difficult to construct; but remember, it is also a fairly high gain amplifier and needs to be treated as such.

continued over page

about 8 ins. high and the same width as

Another item of equipment in the rack

is a ring modulator, and although we have published the circuit for this before,

it is shown again in Fig. 6, this time with

provision for input controls and external

connections. The ring modulator can be

used in a variety of ways to produce new musical sounds. For example, feed

the output of a tape recorder and carry a four-bass-note loop into one terminal of

the modulator. Connect a pre-amplified

microphone (the output from a valve mixer or pre-amplifier) and play single

THE RING MODULATOR

the rack.

It should therefore be screened, and the input voltage must be adjusted so as not to overload it. The attack time is controlled by VR2 and C5, the values of which may be modified as required. The decay time is controlled by VR1 and C5, although in practice it is better to leave C5 at a suitable value and modify VR1 and R5 for the required delay. A few tests with different values of components will soon provide the desired results. On no account alter or leave out R6 or the grid capacitor, C1. The bottom end of the cathode resistor of the valve is at positive potential with respect to earth or common negative.

Electronic tremolo or vibratto is quite easy to produce with the circuit of Fig. 9.

The vibratto circuit incorporates a pre-amplifier into which external signals are fed, and, since this is a fairly high gain amplifier, it can easily be overloaded by strong signals. The tremolo control amplitude should be carefully adjusted to avoid harmonic thump, which is inherent if too much tremolo signal is used. The first valve is a low frequency phase shift oscillator, which generates a pure sine wave of around 6 to 10 c/s. The so varies the gain of this valve of the suppressor grid of V2, and so varies the gain of this valve at the tremolo frequency. NOTE: The values of the components in the circuits of Figs. 7, 8 and 9 are nominal values and may require modifica-



FIG. 5. PASSIVE MIXING NETWORK FOR 4 HIGH LEVEL OUTPUTS FROM TAPE RECORD-ERS, MIXERS AND AMPLIFIERS, ETC.



tion for correct operation. Readers without experience of adjusting circuits of this nature are advised not to attempt building them. We cannot supply pictorial diagrams or advise on components or operation, but we do assure technical readers, however, that each of the circuits will function if it is correctly assembled, wired and adjusted.



FIG. 7. SQUARE WAVE TONE OSCILLATOR



FIG. 8. ATTACK AND DECAY CONTROL



Amateur Tape Recording & Hi-Fi

Russ Allen on his Record Review

The BIG BAND is **Coming Back** Way back, in what is oft referred to wist-

fully, as the "good old days", large orchestras abounded and turned out "jazz" arrangements that allowed soloists to

stand up and blow eight bars of improvisation, or maybe more if he was lucky or the leader. So important was size, that the John Kirby Sextet were billed as "the biggest little band" etc. However, the post-war slump brought about curtailed budgets for promoters and bandleaders had to either cut down their groups or go. Many went, never to return, others have struggled on with inferior musicians, doing the one nighter circuits. A scramble. Now, so the musical press tells us, the big band is to return.

We shall see.

ONE man who has continued the battle is Stan Kenton. He is visiting Britain about the time you read this. On Capitol T 1844 it says, "From the creative world of Stan Kenton comes ... "Adventures in Time". A challenging exploration of unusual time signatures . . here are massive orchestral sounds and richly inventive solos in a new Johnny Richard's Concerto for the Kenton Orchestra, inspired by age-old legends of time and space and the Gods of the Universe." Mr. Kenton and twenty-two musicians participate. Hi-Fi-ly interesting equipment testing, big, bold, brassy . . . BRAVO ! * *

Another BIG band . . . "Bill's Bag — Billy May". Capitol T 1888. Rec. Jan., Feb., Mar. '63. Studding his big studio group with top jazz men Mr. May has chosen twelve of what he calls. "Jazz standards of to-morrow that are happening to-day" and arranged and conducted them to produce a masterly sound. Most enjoyable to hear some of my favourite small band themes "blown-up". Superbly recorded.

Miles Davis who has indulged in numerous big group experiments in the past, is back to rhythm section and one other horn, on "Seven Steps to Heaven" CBS BPG 62170. George Coleman's tenor is the other horn and if memory serves me right he was on some of the early Parker sides. Miles is in a ruminative mood and the music is far from jolly but good, very, very good. Leagues ahead !

Realm are continuing to issue more of their fabulous Classics of Modern Jazz. "The Charlie Parker Memorial" of which Volume 5 has just appeared is a must. Ardent historians who buy the lot will be well rewarded.

Realm give us not just a re-issue, they give us a selection of other takes from

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the same session, with the goofs, squeaks, noises off and even Bird's laughter. Some of the jazz on the goofed tracks better than on the issued version. is Miles Davis is on this as are John Lewis, and Max Roach.

Another legend is, "The Legend of Sleepy John Estes" Esq., 32-195. Rec. March and June '62.

Estes first recorded about 1929 and has been a favourite of folk and blues fans since before. Rumour sets his age at over ninety but he himself claims a modest fifty-eight. Recording is very good and the harmonica, bass and sometimes piano, backing is very fine. Estes's guitar has the ring of authenticity and his voice has great charm.

A living folky legend.

Quite another type of album is "Anita O'Day and the Three Sounds". Verve VLP. 9040. Miss O'Day when she visited these shores in, (was it ?) '62 impressed me with her superb musicianship, her ability to bend and twist words and music and never miss a beat. Her voice has that husky throb that fits so well the idiom. Here, backed by the Three Sounds. she is in a much less rumbustious mood than usual, while the trio are better than I've ever heard them.

A pleasant, but not madly exciting album.

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"Brasamba !" Fontana 688 131 ZL. Featuring Bud Shank, alto and flute, Carl Fischer, piano, Joe Pass, guitar.

Frankly I had my fill of Bossa Nova in the first flush of its arrival, and apart from a couple of Charlie Byrd's, have thumbed down all the rest till now. I dig Shank and rave over Fischer. Team these with Pass's great guitar, plus Larry Bunker's vibes and some superb drumming from the team, makes it a mostest set. Brava Brasamba !

All fans of **Miles Davis** take a step forward. This latest LP is one of his best !



The Hi-Fi disc that tells a story the story of the legend of Sleepy John Estes. Enthralling !





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LEARN WHILE YOU SLEEP!

A look at the revolutionary 'sleep-learning' idea from America !

LEARNING WHILE YOU SLEEP

THE latest pseudo-scientific craze to originate from America seems almost too good to be true: you learn permanently, simply and without any difficulty, all the things there are never enough time for in one's daily life — while you are in bed asleep !

By means of a tape-recorder on the bedside table and a small speaker under the pillow, foreign languages, plays and poetry, speeches, the Morse code and technical data of every kind is fed permanently into the subconscious by continually-repeated messages during the hours spent asleep. By quietly repeating words, facts and figures into the neversleeping brain, it is claimed, anyone of normal intelligence can learn anything in the minimum of time. Studies that take years, a lifetime even, may be mastered in a few days or weeks — at a very low

It's the idea that's the rage in America. And right now 'Sleep-learning' is being acclaimed in Britain. For a review of this 'sleep-learning' machine turn to page 38. three weeks, while secret agents of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) were imbued with the accents, habits, customs, slang, etc., of the countries they were to enter to do espionage work, entirely by this method.

More recently, famous Chilean singer Ramon Vinay, booked to sing "Carmen" at La Scala, Milan, sleep-learnt the Italian version in a week, and sang it in perfect Italian, his thick Spanish accent entirely gone. The noted aircraft designer Alexander de Serversky claims to have lost his native Russian accent and mastered "pure English" in this way, and it has been reported that singers Rudy Vallee and Bing Crosby and actress Gloria Swanson have used it to learn lines and lyrics in a very short time. In America, we are told, professional singers and actors are turning increasingly to the "still small voice" beneath their pillows to memorize their parts, especially in

by David Gunston

selective sounds (the baby coughing, for example). In this way the subconscious mind is thus receptive to new knowledge, indeed to almost any ideas of persuasion. The system apparently has a therapeutic value too, inducing people to stop smoking, drinking or drug addiction, or ironing out psychological difficulties of many kinds.

SLEEP-LEARNING EQUIPMENT

On the bedside table stands the compact little tape recorder, previously loaded up with specially-prepared LP tapes of the subject under study, graded according to level and usually recorded to give perhaps fifty or more repeats. Alternatively, a small multi-speed gramophone may be used, playing LP discs of similar content. There is also a built-in electric timeswitch, so that the "lessons" may run for fixed periods, if not all night. With the tape-recorder, the student can make



financial cost and none at all in health and mental vigour.

This "revolutionary new concept of learning", as its sponsors call it, has apparently been known to science as a definite possibility for some time, but until recently has been taboo to the innocent layman, who was held by the experts to be " not yet ready for so new and so startling an approach to learning."

Many sleep-learning experiments were conducted under top secret conditions in World War II, and it is said that numbers of U.S. service officers were taught foreign languages thus in only two or

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musicals, while TV actors, with only a week between shows, are finding it indispensable.

THE RECEPTIVE MIND

How exactly does one sleep-learn? There is really nothing mystical or magical about the system, which is based on the firmly-established fact that during sleep, the human brain is never entirely switched off. The conscious mind closes down, but the subconscious remains active, conjuring up dreams, maybe, juggling with (and often solving) harassing daytime problems, keeping alert perhaps for small his own tapes, recording anything he may want to learn or memorize: speeches, sermons, equations, facts, improvements to his vocabulary, lines, poetry, anything in fact.

From this apparatus a short flex runs to the flat underpillow speaker so designed that it won't be uncomfortable to lay the head on, and will produce only sufficient volume for the subject to hear, yet clearly enough through the inevitable muffling of the pillow.

Then, once he is soundly asleep, the

continued over page

Learn While You Sleep—continued

insidious pre-recorded voice begins its series of whispered messages. Usually these repeat the main facts or themes with timed regularity, so that the subconscious has no excuse for not thoroughly absorbing them. On waking, the normally refreshed subject finds to his natural astonishment that lists of French verbs, lines of poetry, sales figures and chemical formulae formerly unknown are clearly implanted in the memory. With a few weeks of unbroken "treatment", it is claimed, such difficult subjects as Mandarin Chinese or differential calculus become child's play to all but the few morons who will never learn anything, anyway !

According to the "Wall Street Journal", upwards of 100,000 people are currently sleep-learning in the U.S.A. Mushroom manufacturers of special discs and tapes are springing up, and the tape recording side of the subject is being closely allied to the general recording, Hi-Fi and sound reproduction industry.

Besides languages of all kinds, people are greatly increasing their vocabularies, putting right speech defects, memorizing sales patter and the like. Others are listening subconsciously (?) to gramophone records designed to cure claustrophobia, shyness and similar personal problems.

INSTANT LEARNING?

One firm's catalogue, as well as listing academic discs, offers records with such alluring titles as "Magnetic Personality", "Financial Success", "Affirm That You Can Speak ! Sing ! Sell ! " "How To Be a Potent Male", "Creative Inspiration and Peace of Mind", as well as courses designed to cure children of such defects as stuttering, nail-biting and other bad habits. There are even what are called "Scientific Prayers" on tape for the sleeping devout !

All these subjects, it is averred by the increasingly successful commercial sponsors, might as well be crammed into our long-suffering brains so that the time we spend asleep is not wasted. After all, they say, we have to sleep, so why not use the time to amass more knowledge, more information, more skills ? Although quite striking public proofs of sleep-learning efficiency have already been given, notably on TV, medical science generally is sceptical of both the possibility of sleep-learning and its harmlessness. A number of psychiatrists do however, welcome it for its therapeutic value, not least in ridding children of ingrained bad habits. The educational world, seeing its whole structure threatened, is naturally aghast.

Doubtless it will not be long before the craze catches on in other parts of the world and it seems sufficiently serious to demand the closest enquiry, though only by trial and experience can its long-term effects be judged.

Meanwhile one's natural fears of a seemingly unnatural, certainly insidious and easily abused method of getting at people's minds are tempered by the thought that with increasing leisure, man's greatest need will be just more knowledge, information and skills.

SOUND EFFECTS DISC No. 7 NOW-HAVE YOUR OWN GHOSTS AND SPOOKY NOISES !

All you have to do to obtain this wonderfully recorded E.P. disc is to send a 5/- postal order or cheque, made payable to Amateur Tape Recording, together with an unaffixed 6d. stamp (for postage) and the coupon on Page 46 to: A.T.R. (Dept. D.7), 174 MAYBANK ROAD, SOUTH WOODFORD, E.18.

X DON'T FORGET TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS!





Mark 5, Series 2

Spotlight on quality...

The Mark 5 Series 2 tape recorder is a high quality machine capable of making outstanding recordings.

It is tastefully finished in medium grey with chromed fittings, and designed not only for use as a complete portable recorder but for incorporation into a Hi-Fi installation. (Deck, amplifier and power unit are available as separate items). A low level compensated output socket is provided for driving an external Hi-Fi amplifier.

Specification:

4 speeds $1\frac{1}{6}$, $3\frac{3}{4}$, $7\frac{1}{2}$ and 15 ips ● frequency correction at all 4 speeds ● 3 independent motors ● exceptionally low wow and flutter content ● double-gapped ferrite erase head to minimise erase noise ● narrow-gapped record/playback head to give extended frequency response ● pause control ● superimpose control ● recording level indicator (meter extra) ● takes $8\frac{1}{4}$ in. dia. reels ● fast rewind (1200 ft. in 45 seconds) ● digital rev. counter.



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GD 531

SONY TC. 500 TO THE SERIOUS AMATEUR COME THE LATEST, THE FINEST TECHNICAL ADVANCEMENTS IN STEREOPHONIC TAPE RECORDING AND PLAYBACK. THE SOUND IS SONY, THE VERSATILITY IS SONY, THE QUALITY IS SONY. THIS IS FOR THE CONNOISSEUR – THE SONY TC. 500

GREAT

106 GNS with 2 Sony F87 Cardoid Dynamic microphones and all accessories.



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EXTRACTS FROM SPECIFICATION:

Full stereo facilities with independent recording and playback amplifiers, providing professional mixing facilities. Manual cueing, digital tape counter, instant stop, automatic tape lifter. Instantaneous selection of $7\frac{1}{2}/3\frac{3}{4}$ ips. Response — 30-18000 cps at $7\frac{1}{2}$ ips. Harmonic distortion — less than 2% at 3 db below rated output. Detachable speakers for stereo separation.

DUN

TELLUX LIMITED High Fidelity Division GALLOWS CORNER, ROMFORD, ESSEX. Ingrebourne 43971



A workroom that became a centre of world tape exchanges

Another in our series of Recording Dens

Regularly twenty-three tapes from all over the world find their way into a $7'6'' \times 6'6''$ workroom at 10 Cranbourne Road, Dudley Wood, Cradley Heath, Staffs. This is Studio 10 (right), the recording den of **Barry Scrivin**, and houses three recorders (Ferrograph 5 AN, Philips 2-track single speed and a Philips 2-track portable), a Leak Point-One-Plus pre-amp, and TL 12 Plus amp. Barry also has an H.M.V. AM/FM radio tuner, and for playback uses Wharfedale and Stentorian speakers. The Reslo ribbon mic. Barry uses is suspended above the table at which he prepares all his work. Outside the studio he likes location recording, besides running the competitions for the Halesowen and District Tape and Hi-Fi Club and recording sound tracks for his 8 mm. and 35 mm. cine films.

In very different style is the recording "den" of Mr. C. V. H. Garnett, who lives in the 350-year-old Grange, at Speen, Newbury, **Berks.** Mr. Garnett shares the dining-room (16' \times 17') and the lounge (16' \times 22') with his family, and through the 27" wall between the rooms has fitted a one-inch diameter fibre tube through which leads may be passed as and when required. The main equipment consists of a Ferrograph with second U.T. head in third position for monitoring, also fitted with relays and an extra small panel at the back for auto-recording. With the help and advice of Ferrograph, who supplied all the components and parts, Mr. Garnett constructed the matching play-back unit, with mono and stereo head, matching pre-amplifier,

erase, fade and attenuation facilities, as well as the matching pre-amplifier, amplifier unit comprising VHF/TV Another home-construct sound tuner, pre-amplifier and matched of Gorden Melville of 33 pair of 7-watt power amplifiers. An auxiliary unit houses a Walgain pre-amplifier; remote control facilities for "studio on the air" red light, and removable plug-in strip-light for tape decks. Everything is arranged, as shown below, on a collapsible trolley to form a mobile console, alongside innumerable other equipment.

Another home-constructed unit is that of Gordon Melville, of 33 Nuttings Road, Cambridge. Everything, barring the two tape decks and turntable (Collaro Studio, Truvox Mk. III and Garrard TA Mk. II respectively), has been built by Gordon himself and installed into a home-made, veneered, chip-board cabinet. The cabinet also houses a Mullard Type C amplifier and record and playback amplifiers of Melville construction ! The VHF



tuner was made up from a kit, and the mixer/control unit consists of stereo preamp with tone controls, tape outputs and mixer. The two main amplifiers are built to the Mullard 5-10 designs, and the whole can be used for mono or stereo reproduction. Also a keen tapespondent, Gordon finds that having his den in the living-room gives a natural family background to his correspondence tapes.



December, 1963

Left : The unit built by Mr. Garnett at Speen Grange.

Right: The livingroom den made by Gordon Melville.



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MONEY TO BURN ? . .

then you won't want to know about us. Go somewhere else, where they charge you high H.P. rates, charge for delivery, charge for servicing, have little stock and even less knowledge and experience of Tape Recorders. And the best of luck !

On the other hand, if you want to save money (or are even downright mean and stingy), HOWARD is for you. Free H.P. \star Free Delivery anywhere \star Free servicing \star Special Cash Terms \star Special H.P. Insurance \star 500 machines in stock, 80 different models on show \star 10 years experience as the biggest Tape Recorder Specialists in the Country \star In short — our terms are the best you can get anywhere.

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ELECTRONICS WITHOUT TEARS

THE circuit combination of resistance and capacity is used to a very considerable degree in electronics, particularly in amplifiers, where these two elements will be found in most tone control and frequency response correction networks. I should mention that **inductance**, too, is employed for the same reason, and that when used with resistance can be made to produce a 'time constant' in the same way as resistance and capacity. except that in this case we consider the 'current' flowing in the circuit and not the voltage.



FIG. 1.—Typical recording amplifier response for a recording speed of $7\frac{1}{2}$ i.p.s.

Frequency response correction

Amplifiers used for tape recording and playback require a considerable amount of frequency response correction to offset the peculiar response of the tape head. During recording, the **higher frequencies** have to be emphasised, and during replay the **lower frequencies** must be emphasised. This is usually done in a rather ingenious way and not quite as one might suppose. For example, we do not provide more amplification at the higher frequencies during recording, but instead reduce the amplification at the lower frequencies.

The graph of Fig. 1 shows a typical recording amplifier response, and it would appear from this that the gain of the amplifier is actually greater at the peak around 10,000 c/s. This is true, of course, but the gain is only greater at the higher frequencies with reference to the gain at 1,000 c/s. This can be illustrated by taking an oblong box filled to the top with wet sand, as in Fig. 2A. The box represents the amplifier, and the level of the sand the gain. The full box is therefore an amplifier operating at full gain over the whoie frequency range.

Now supposing we start at the left-hand side of the box (low frequency end) and remove some of the sand, leaving the remainder banked up as shown in Fig. 2B. The box is still full at the right-hand side (high frequency end), which still represents full gain, but which is greater by a certain amount only with reference to that at the other end. Had we tried to emphasise the amount of sand at the right-hand, or high frequency side, by increasing the amount of sand, the box would have overflowed as in Fig. 2C. So it is with a recording amplifier. We cannot provide more gain than the amplifier already has, so in order to emphasise the higher frequencies we actually reduce the gain at the lower frequencies.

by A. Lester Rands



R/C Networks

A simple, but not very practical, way to reduce the gain below about 1,000 c/s. would be to use very small coupling capacitors between the amplifier stages, and rely on the time constants formed by these and the appropriate anode and grid resistors to reduce the bass response accordingly. A much more satisfactory method is to employ a number of resistors and capacitors in what is called a **'twin-T network'** and use this in negative feedback between the input and output circuits of an amplifier, as in **Fig. 3**. Here the higher frequencies are prevented from being returned to the grid circuit of the amplifier and are therefore not attenuated by negative feedback.

At the lower frequencies, the reverse effect occurs, for they are not 'trapped' by the network, and since they arrive at the grid of VI out of phase, will tend to cancel those already present at the input. Hence the valve will amplify to only a small extent at the lower frequencies but will continue to operate at full gain at the higher frequencies.

During playback we must emphasise the lower frequencies to make up for the losses in the playback head, and in this case the playback amplifier usually operates at full gain at around 40 c/s. By means of a suitable R/C network in negative feedback, as shown in Fig. 4, the gain at around 1,000 c/s. and above is reduced to a more or less common level. The graph of Fig. 5 shows the effect of such an arrangement, which can be designed to provide the required increase in gain at the rate of 6 dB per octave from around 1,000 c/s. downwards. The '6 dB per octave' simply means that if

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Electronics Without Tears -continued from page 31



FIG. 3.— A twin-T network in negative feedback (recording amplifier frequency response correction). The network comprises R1, R2, R3, C1, C2 and C3.

 $0~dB\!=\!1,\!000~c/s.$ the gain at 500 c/s. will be +6~dB, at 250 c/s. +12~dB, and so on.

In practice, various adjustments are made to this rule, as shown by the B.S. 1568: 1960 curve of Fig. 5 for a replay speed of $7\frac{1}{2}$ i.p.s. I should also mention that the modern fine-gap record/playback head invariably requires still further adjustment of the B.S. 1568: 1960 standard but, by and large, the response of the replay amplifier will be modified so as to produce a gradual decrease in gain between about 40 c/s. and



FIG. 4.— R/C network in negative feedback (replay amplifier response correction). The network comprises R1 and C1.



1,000 c/s. or, if you like, a gradual increase between 1,000 c/s. and 40 c/s.

The frequency response correction for tape speeds of 15 i.p.s., $3\frac{1}{4}$ i.p.s., and $1\frac{1}{8}$ i.p.s., for both recording and replay, follow the same general pattern as outlined in this article. The only differences are the rate at which the pre-emphasis is carried out and the frequencies at which the peak of the pre-emphasis occurs; depending also on the kind of recording, record/ playback, or playback head being used.

FIG. 5.— Frequency response correction for a replay speed of 7¹/₂ i.p.s.





Amateur Tape Recording & Hi-Fi

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CLUB NEWS



ABOVE LEFT: Judges (left to right) John Ratcliffe, Daphne Oram and John Borwick listen attentively to entries in the ATR Recording Contest.

ABOVE RIGHT: Daphne Oram and John Borwick discuss with ATR Editor Fred Judd the merits of one of the stereo recordings.

CLUB RECORDING CONTEST

After gathering together a distinguished panel of judges, we were a little disappointed with entries for the **ATR** club recording competition. Perhaps it was the very eminence of the judges that over-awed the smaller and perhaps less well-equipped clubs into uncomfortable silence. However, judges John Borwick, Daphne Oram, John Ratcliffe and **ATR** Editor Fred Judd gave only constructive criticism and a very fair appraisal.

The main difficulty seemed to be lack of inspiration and consequent lack of life in the recordings. Notable exceptions in this respect were Thornton Heath with their Section 1 winner 'Missed Opportunities' and I.V.A.S. with their stereo entry 'Tribute'.

Full results are as follows :

- Section 1 (Fi-Cord Trophy)-Thornton Heath.
- Section 2 (Philips Trophy)-Plymouth.
- Sections 3 and 4-No awards at present.
- Section 5 (Simon Trophy)-North London.
- Section 6 (Lustraphone Trophy)-International Voice and Sound.

It would be impossible to comment fully on all the entries, but I feel all the winners deserve a mention. Thornton

Heath taped an amusing saga of what might have been—the employee dream-ing of what the boss will say when he asks for a rise, followed by the harsh reality of what he in fact does say, (no!), and the young admirer imagining that the loveliest girl in town will be only to eager to go out with him, followed by the rule awakening that she isn't a bit interested. A well thought out, well scripted piece of work. Plymouth, and the co-operative youngsters of a nearby school, managed after a number of at-tempts to get a very tuneful recorder performance and had obviously put much thought into the work, especially with regard to tone. North London had two very pleasant entries of folk songs, and although slightly out of focus at one point, the recording overall more than cancelled out the one dodgy spot. Finally I.V.A.S. chose a unique and moving drum solo for their stereo winner 'Tribute' and the impression of the movement and solemnity came over very well.

It is hoped to stage a further contest in which clubs, and possibly individuals, could compete for the remaining trophies in the fairly near future. Announcements concerning the presentation of awards will be made in next month's issue.

NEW CLUBS THRIVE

AS THE TAPE RECORDING MOVEMENT GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

SINCE the last ATR Club News, no fewer than ten new clubs have joined the ranks of ATR groups. The past month has also brought dozens of enquiries from all over the country — Kent, Yorkshire, Surrey, Lincolnshire, and Staffordshire, to name but a few on how to start a new club or join an existing one.

Next month sees the end of the year for the League competition, which means that new clubs now have a chance to start the new recording year on an equal footing with the old stagers. And even the old stagers are being rejuvinated by an influx of new members.

Seven Newcomers

One of these old stagers, Leicester Tape Recording Club, enrolled seven new members during one of their local Audio Shows recently. Besides giving their services at these shows, the club has helped the local W.I. in its search for May Day folk songs, assisted a local charity collecting for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, and recorded the presentation of a trained guide dog by Angela Bracewell (of Beat the Clock fame) to Lord Lanesborough. Leicester have also found time to squeeze in two live recording sessions, a demonstration, and a session acting as hosts to the Association of Midland Tape Recording Clubs. Future activities? Plans are under way for the production of a tape on the City of Leicester, past, present and future.

Livening Up

Catford Tape Recording Club have been very active in recent weeks, and the interesting programmes have stepped up attendance on club nights. An explanation to members in general of the step

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Amateur Tape Recording & Hi-Fi

by step making of the old folks' tape programme stimulated interest in the production which is played in an old folks' home once every eight weeks. Music for loudspeakers and demonstrations and experiments in electronic music took up two more club nights, while yet another was occupied by tapesponding with an imaginary character to show up the pleasures and pitfalls of this hobby. A live recording session of jazz and pop music, and the acquiring of a taped message from Australia for one of the older members in the Old Folk's home filled up the rest of the club's time. A tapesponding contest has been arranged and other plans are afoot for more lively evenings.

Contest Winners

As the club recording contest results on this page show, North London had a grand time recording the Folklanders for the competition-and benefited to the tune of the Simon Trophy as a result. We are however disappointed to hear from them that the group is breaking up as they made very enjoyable listening. The North London club's well presented newsletter proved a mine of information about the club's recent activities, which included a contest for an advert for an imaginary tape recorder, lectures on hi-fi and the uses of tape, a sound hunt, and a meeting with Mr. Timothy Eckersley, Assistant Head of Central Programme Operations (Recording) for the BBC. The Enfield Mic-a one-hour taped programme is still thriving and has now reached its first anniversary.

New Look

After months of being housed in a most impressive building complete with every-Tape Recording Club have now acquired new club rooms with central heating, armchairs and all amenities, all for the

cost of nothing ! With a great deal of

professional equipment, the most com-fortable of clubrooms, keen members

who are allowed to bring along wives and girl friends, and the resultant boost

in morale, the club is confident of a new

year of flourishing activity. The new pro-

gramme will include at least four open

nights a year when about half a dozen

other clubs will be invited to join in for

a bumper taping evening. However there

2. CATFORD

3. N. LONDON

is no change of address as the new premises are still at the Town Hall, Bethnal Green, with meetings every Wednesday at 7.30 p.m.

More New Look

Another club moving to new premises is the Brixton Tape Recording Club, who move about now to the Jeffries Library, Stockwell. Before the move however, they have managed to enjoy an all night barbecue on the Sussex Downs, but the traitors had nary a tape recorder in sight. Shame on you ! However mics were to the fore in a club discussion on mic performance, and two live wires in the club recorded the famous voices in the Whispering Gallery of St. Paul's Cathedral with astounding results. Although the lads stood as far as they could from the signal source (the voice of the guide), playback would lead one to believe that the mic had been held under the speaker's nose. I must admit I'm most intrigued, and will have to get around to trying it myself one day.

New Look No. 3

You wouldn't believe it, but there is yet another club giving themselves a new look. This time it's the North Manchester Soundtrackers, who since they moved to their new H.Q. in Hollinwood have been busy soundproofing a studio, organising a workroom and control room and redecorating the club social room. Although thus occupied, members have still found time to obtain some interesting recordings including the Oldham Carnival and the Jazz Festival at Belle Vue, Manchester. The society's sound journal 'Concord' appears regularly everv month, and winner of the latest of the regular contests was the club Chairman, J. B. Cartmell with his interview of the owner of a haunted house. Two of the

TOP TEN CLUBS FOR DECEMBER 1. LEICESTER 6. BRIXTON

RUGBY 7. 8. WHITSTABLE 9. LOUGHTON 4. BETHNAL GREEN 10. I.T.A.C. 5. N. MANCHESTER

> members, B. Peet and Secretary Lomas have also been featured on ITV in connection with the A.A.s Emergency

Service in Manchester. Ladies to the Fore

The recent Ladies Night organised by Rugby Amateur Tape Recording Club was such a success that the club is actually considering holding another in the near future, and furthermore recommend that all the women be given a chance in the clubs. How about it girls ! A visit to the Slimbridge Wildfowl Trust, with members of the Association of Midland Tape Recording Clubs for some live recording and a talk by a past vice-president of the club about his life in the West Indies kept the male members out of mischief.

Publicity

Whitstable & District Tape Recording Club managed to get some useful pub-licity, but alas no new members, when they took a stand at the local Hobbies and Handicrafts Exhibition. With almost a whole room to itself, the club put up an impressive display of equipment with continuously running tapes in the background, demonstrations and facilities for the sending of message tapes to friends overseas.

Taping Beer !

Loughton Tape Recording Club had a very interesting—and enjoyable! even-ing when they visited Philips Record Factory at Walthamstow, followed by a visit to Ind Coope's brewery at Romford! The club made recordings of the various brewing processes, and of course sampled the finished product. Needless to say the club firmly maintains that the visit helped to foster good relations between club and consumer-consumer being the operative word !

Happy Birthday

Congratulations to International Tape and Cine on its first birthday. After that comparatively short time the club is Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa and the U.S.A., as well as all parts of the U.K. The club has a good library of films, sound effects and technical books, and new secretary Roger Pirie (83 Warren's Hall Road, Dudley, Worcs.) is fairly humming with ideas for the new years.

Helping Youngsters

Although Thornton Heath are still unable to admit 14-year-old R. J. Ward (see 'The Things You Say,' November), they are going out of their way to encourage him in forming the Norbury Manor School Sound Club, and it is hoped to arrange lectures and demonstrations for the young enthusiasts.

Merry Christmas

Finally a last word from me to you. Christmas is usually a pretty busy time for clubs, with extra duties in the form of Christmas programmes for homes and hospitals, recordings of carols and choirs, tapes of families and friends, as well as all the usual seasonal hustle and bustle. Whatever you're doing, enjoy yourselves and have a very happy Christmas.

December, 1963



Can't blame a man for trying. Who doesn't want more Philips Tape for his tape recorder? Wonderfully sensitive, long-lasting, packed in coloured-coded boxes for easy identification, Philips Tape makes every recorder sound better than ever. It's a great gift! What's more, the $3'', 5'', 5\frac{3}{4}''$ and 7'' reels are each ready-packed in colourful Christmas wrappers. Just add your greeting and send the tape on its way to a warm welcome. Give Philips Tape to everyone you know with a tape recorder: buy it now and reduce your Christmas shopping problem.



PHILIPS TAPE makes a wonderful gift -it's ready packed in colourful Christmas wrappers

December 25th! Another wonderful product from PHILIPS - the friend of the family PHILIPS ELECTRICAL LIMITED · ELECTRO ACOUSTICS DIVISION · CENTURY HOUSE · SHAFTESBURY AVENUE · LONDON W.C.2 (PTA4336)

* Note to Tape Recorder Owners

> If you don't want to leave recorded messages about, just put this page in a conspicuous place and wait for that happy December 25th!



A PROFESSIONAL MICROPHONE AT A POPULAR PRICE

The STC 4118 microphone is a light-weight, tubular, omni-directional, moving coil microphone offering high performance at a very moderate price. It is eminently suitable for use with loudspeaker amplifying equipment and for recording speech and music. The microphone is designed for amateur and professional use. The 4118 can be fitted to desk or table stands, held in the hand, or worn as a neck microphone, either with a neck halter or a clothing clip. A length of thin, flexible PVC insulated, screened cable is provided. Abbreviated Technical Data—Frequency range: 100c/s to 15kc/s. Impedance: 200 ohms (50,000 ohms to order). Sensitivity: -65dB ref. 1 volt/dyne/cm² (50,000 ohms type). -80dB ref. 1 volt/dyne/cm² (200 ohms type). Polar response: Omni-directional. STC are suppliers of studio microphones to the BBC, ITA contractors and overseas broadcasting administrations. At a cost of £4.19.6d. (plus 3/6d. p. & p.) this microphone is available only from: Standard Telephones and Cables Limited, Electro-Mechanical Division, West Road, Harlow, Essex. Telephone Harlow 21341. Telex 81184

world-wide telecommunications and electronics

STC

63/14J

As Christmas rapidly approaches here are some useful accessories and ideas for gifts for your friends . . . or even for yourself! SOUND

The Sleep-o-Matic

The equipment of this sleep-learning machine comprises a neat little battery operated tape recorder for twin track record playback at a nominal, but not linear, speed of $3\frac{1}{4}$ i.p.s. Some adjustment of the speed is provided for by a built-in control. Accessories with the recorder include a microphone and a monitoring or listening earphone so that one can record speeches, scripts, instructions, etc., that are difficult to memorize by normal reading. There is also an 'under pillow' loudspeaker for intimate listening; and last, but not least, a time switch which is a complete clock and enables the user to switch the recorder on and off at pre-determined times.

In addition to these accessories the makers can also supply a transistorized radio tuner for an extra 45s., from which direct recordings can be made.

The Sleep-o-Matic is a fully operational machine for normal recording and replay with monitoring or 'playthrough' (with the radio tuner for example) but, as I said, the speed is 'non linear'. This means that only the special recordings supplied by the manufacturers or recordings made on the Sleep-o-Matic can be used. I should add that a loudspeaker is incorporated for normal replay purposes and can automatically be cut off when the pillow speaker or earphone is used.

The complete Sleep-o-Matic equipment including time switch mechanism, special introductory tape, etc., sells at £20 and is manufactured and distributed by Educational Recordings Limited, 21 Bishops Close, Walthamstow, London, E.17, to where all further enquiries should be directed.



Tape Accessory Kit

A new tape head cleaning and tape splicer outfit by Metrosound Limited, which contains a specially impregnated tape for cleaning heads and guides, a bottle of 'Klenzatape' fluid for re-treating the cleaning tape, cleaning brush, and a Metrosound tape splicer. Price 27s. 6d. each from Metrosound Ltd., 19a Buckingham Road, London, N.1.

The Grundig Book No. 9

SCENE

The Grundig Book, first introduced at the Grundig Festival in 1958, has now gone into its ninth edition. Written by Frederick Purves and published by Focal Press, the Grundig Book gives full information on all Grundig tape recorders from the 500L introduced in 1952 to the newest addition to the Grundig range, the portable mains/battery TK.6. In addition it contains a wealth of information on the many useful applications and technique of tape recording. The book is obtainable from the Book Centre Limited, North Circular Road, Neasden, N.W.10., usual sources and Grundig Approved Dealers throughout the country. The price is 13s. 6d.



New Mike

Standard Telephones & Cables Ltd., have just introduced a new high quality microphone aimed at the popular market in sound reproduction; for 'pop' groups and tape recording enthusiasts of limited means who nevertheless want to improve the performance of their equipment.

The new microphone, the STC 4118, is a high grade moving coil unit retailing at £4 19s. 6d. and weighing only $2\frac{1}{2}$ ounces.

There are two versions: one of 200 ohms and the other of 50,000 ohms impedance. The frequency response is 100 c/s. \pm 4dB.

Further details from : STC Electro - mechanical Division, Temple Fields, Harlow, Essex.

The Brenell Mixer Unit

This unit has been developed to meet the growing demand for an inexpensive and easy method of mixing the signals from microphones, radios and pickups.

Three input sockets are provided for the signals to be mixed and each input has its associated volume control.

The output socket is the take-off point for the mixed signal and this should be connected via screened plugs and co-axial cable to the microphone socket of the tape recorder.

socket of the tape recorder. Best results will be achieved with high impedance input signals. Some form of monitoring — such as by headphones — will enable the various signals' strength to be accurately ascertained. Manufactured by the Brenell Engineering Company Limited, 1a Doughty

Manufactured by the Brenell Engineering Company Limited, 1a Doughty Street, London, W.C.1., it costs £2 18s. 0d.



STELLA ST.471 TAPE RECORDER

Stella recently introduced a new version of their battery portable tape recorder. It is styled similarly to its successful predecessor but has a number of innovations for the extra one guinea now to sell at 26 guineas. A playback tone control has been added and higher output power provided. A new record/playback head design has been incorporated, improving the frequency response.

The twin track recording system at a speed of $1\frac{7}{8}$ i.p.s. gives a possible 64 minutes' playing time with the lid on, using 300ft. on D.P. tape and more than 3 hours' playing time with a 4" reel of D.P. tape. The mains supply unit for the machine can be plugged into a socket at the side of the machine; it is not necessary to remove the batteries.

Further details — Stella Radio & T.V. Limited, Astra House, 121/3 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, W.C.2.

RECORDS

Outstanding offer of 'Crown' tapes from U.S.A. at a most attractive price. The tapes are strongly recommended and attractively boxed, with illustrated full colour boxes. Price 55s. each.

ST.102: The Era of Glenn Miller. With members of the Miller Orchestra. Anvil Chorus, Kalamazoo, Song of the Vulga Boatman, Sunrise Ser-

enade, Londonderry Air, Chattanooga Choo Choo, Under the Double Eagle, Serenade in Blue, Little Brown Jug, Moonlight Cocktails.

ST.115. Exotic Percussion. Milt Raskin. Koko Head, Lanikai, Maika, Telani, Leahi Moon Festival, Kapu, Lehua, Iolana, Mileka.

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