

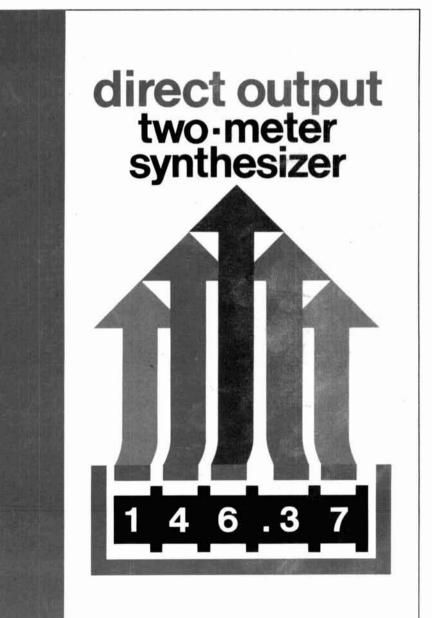


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•	and	much	more		•	
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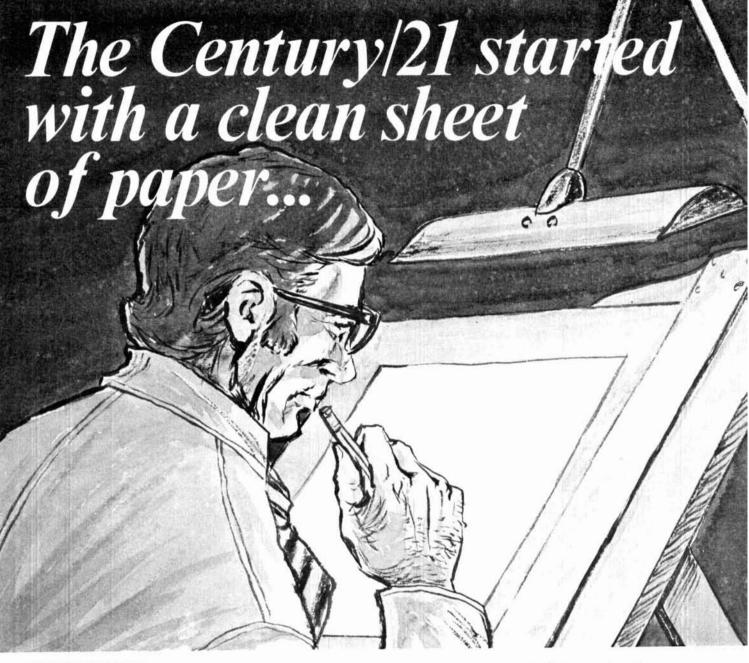


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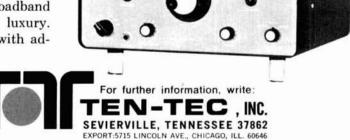
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As more and more amateurs switch to factory-made gear, and as industry uses more ICs and disposable plug-in modules, the life of the dyed-in-the-wool ham homebrewer gets tougher and tougher. If you've recently tried any of the construction articles in the amateur magazines, you are already well acquainted with the hassle involved in obtaining a few needed components.

At one time you could drop in at your local corner radio store with a list of parts and the man behind the counter would fill your order. But that was when the vacuum tubes, resistors, and capacitors in your ham gear were the same as those in the family radio. It's not the same anymore — now the transistors and ICs in the radios and television sets are designed specifically for that purpose and have operating characteristics that are of little use elsewhere. There are exceptions, but they are few and far between.

Another problem that faces the serious home builder is the tremendous variety of transistors and ICs available from different manufacturers. Although some types of devices are made by more than one company, in most cases the semiconductor manufacturers crank out devices that are completely different from those of their competitors. And to add insult to injury, the same device may carry a dozen different part numbers: a 2N number, a replacement number, plus special numbers for units sold in large quantities to equipment manufacturers.

There is only one way to combat this lunacy: arm yourself with a good semiconductor crossreference guide and a wide selection of electronic parts catalogs. Tops on the list of replacement guides is Howard Sams' *Transistor Substitution Handbook* available from *Ham Radio's* Communications Bookstore. This handy little paper back, which is updated every year, covers practically every transistor ever made, from 2N34 to 2N6500, with recommended substitutes. It also covers devices from Japan and Europe, as well as replacement types manufactured by Delco, General Electric, International Rectifier, Motorola, RCA, Semitronics, Sylvania, and Workman. Most of these manufacturers also publish replacement guides, available for the asking from their authorized distributors.

If you live in a large metropolitan area, chances are that there is an industrial electronics supply house that can fill your parts needs. Many of these firms don't advertise because they are not particularly interested in small quantity sales, but if you show up at their office, they will sell you the parts. If you want to find them, pick up your telephone directory and check the *Yellow Pages*: look under "Electronic Equipment and Supplies."

If you live out in the sticks, the problem is more difficult, unless you can get into the city. If you can't, you must purchase your components through the mail. Allied Electronics is the best bet in this case and you can get a catalog from any Radio Shack store. Be sure to get their industrial catalog though — the more common entertainment catalog is devoted primarily to CB and hi-fi and lists few electronic parts for amateur communications equipment.

Jim Fisk, W1HR editor-in-chief



That's all, Folks! All you need for All Mode Mobile, that is.

All Mode Mobile is now yours in a superior ICOM radio that is a generation ahead of all others. The new, fully synthesized **IC-245/SSB** puts you into FM, SSB and CW operation with a very compact dash-mounted transceiver like none you've ever seen.

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IMMINENT COMMUNICATOR LICENSE action is being rumored by several industry sources. Departing Chairman Dick Wiley's support of the Communicator concept and his reported desire to see it realized before he steps down is one very strong agrument; its probable impact on the Personal Radio Division's budget, which will be reviewed shortly along with next year's proposed budget, is another.

along with next year's proposed budget, is another. <u>It Appears Very Likely</u> that the Communicator license will see some sort of official review within the next few weeks or so. What will come out of that review is another question.

EXISTING AMATEUR TRANSMITTERS WERE "GRANDFATHERED" June 2nd by an FCC modification to the first Report and Order on Docket 20777 that had become effective April 15. Under the modification all Amateur transmitters and transceivers (but not amplifiers) manufactured before April 15 are permanently exempted from the Report and Order's harmonic and spurious specifications. All Amateur equipment made after April 15 must meet the new specs, of course, but existing new equipment made before that date can be marketed until January 1, 1978. Individual Amateurs, however, are still responsible for meeting the 40-dB harmonic and spurious specifications of the FCC's first Report and Order on Docket 20777 in the operation of their own stations, even though the equipment itself has been grandfathered. The FCC's June 2nd relaxation applied only to the sale of non-complying equipment, and users are still expected to use it in such a way (with appropriate filters or an antenna tuner) that their stations meet the tighter requirement. Officially, the relaxation became effective July 18th.

UNRETURNED NOVICE EXAMS are still a big problem with the FCC in Gettysburg despite the dropping of multiple-exam mailings. Volunteer examiners have a major responsibility to see that a Novice exam, whether or not the applicant actually takes it, is returned to Gettysburg on time. Failure to do so can jeopardize the volunteer examiner's own license, and continuation of the present "unacceptable" number of unreturned exams could trigger drastic changes in Novice licensing!

GETTYSBURG RECEIVED A REPRIEVE when a radical personnel cut scheduled for June 10th didn't come off. Best news of all is that the previous "temporary" positions the people leaving had held are to be made permanent, and those people who have been filling the slots so well, will be staying in their jobs and working into permanent status. The Reprieve Doesn't solve all of Gettysburg's problems, however. The Amateur work-

The Reprieve Doesn't solve all of Gettysburg's problems, however. The Amateur workload continues to increase, and an estimated 10-20 additional people are going to be needed if the facility is to keep working smoothly.

"GUILTY ON TWO COUNTS" was the verdict the jury handed down June 6th in the trial of FCC Special Licensing Chief Richard Ziegler (July Presstop). One of the original four counts of bribery for the issuance of special Amateur callsigns was dropped and the jury failed to reach a decision on the second during the two-day trial.

18-YEAR-OLD GENERAL CLASS, or higher, Amateur license holders were permitted to administer Novice exams, effective June 13th. The amendment to Section 97.28(b) of the rules came about as a result of a Petition for Rule Making filed by WB4EKC.

<u>A NEWLY-UPDATED EDITION</u> of the FCC's Amateur Radio Rules, including all Part 97 changes through March 7, is now available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington D.C. 20402. It's stock number 004-000-00338-1 and postpaid price is \$1.30.

EXTENSIVE ELECTRONIC CONTROLS used in 1977 autos are causing RFI problems — a recent Illinois Bell notice warned that the "cruise control" in 1977 Cadillacs (and presumedly other GM cars) is sensitive to strong RF fields, which could cause sudden speed up or slow down. Some electronic skid control braking systems have locked up from RFI, and complete engine failure in fuel-injected engines has been reported by two-meter users.

<u>A BOOKLET PROMOTING CANADIAN</u> Amateur Radio has been published by the Radio Society of Ontario, Inc. The very attractive publication is available free to Canadian clubs or groups wishing to use it — an SASE to RSO, Box 334, Station U, Toronto, Ontario M8Z 5P7 will bring a sample and ordering information.

COMPUTER VOICE GENERATOR shown at the Dayton Hamvention is being used on 6 meters by WB4IVG in Dalton, Georgia. K1ZZ was "its" first contact.

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Amateur Electronic Supply 4828 West Fond Du Lac Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53216 'Pending



direct output two-meter synthesizer

New techniques permit the construction of a synthesized vhf transmitter which does not require frequency multiplication

This article will describe a unique, to amateur radio, method of building a two-meter synthesizer. Rather than function as a replacement for a crystal, direct synthesis generates the desired frequency without multiplication. Using ECL, TTL, and CMOS integrated circuits, the completed transmitter will produce 800 individual frequencies spaced every 5 kHz between 144 and 147.995 MHz. In addition, a local oscillator output, 10.7 MHz above the transmitter, can be used for receiver injection. With a phase-locked loop (PLL) ultimately controlling the vco (voltage-controlled-oscillator), the frequency accuracy is determined by a single crystal.

Contrary to some synthesizer designs, the receive and transmit frequencies in this unit are totally independent. This eliminates problems when odd frequency splits are encountered. Also, the two frequencies are available as BCD data for further processing or for a convenient readout rather than the thumbwheel switches. Again, another step into the realm of microprocessor-controlled equipment! The total cost for this 15-milliwatt exciter and local oscillator is approximately 100 dollars.

frequency generation

The two-meter fm frequencies are all multiples of 5 kilohertz; therefore, with an accurately generated 5-kHz reference frequency, each channel can be produced through multiplication by using the proper integer (fig. 1). However, there are inherent problems in this scheme, primarily because no easily programmed frequency multipliers are available. On the other hand, programmable dividers do exist. By inserting the correct number of dividers (counters) into a feedback loop as shown in fig. 2, we have effectively created a frequency multiplier; this is the beginning of our PLL. Unfortunately, this method has several problems. For the output to be exactly on frequency, the difference detector must be driven to zero. Therefore, the detector must not have any offset; in addition, the error amplifier should have infinite gain. To overcome these problems, a PLL uses the phase of the vco as the controlling factor rather than its frequency. The phase detector will be discussed in more detail later.

There are two special problems in PLL frequency synthesis. Extreme care must be taken in the design to prevent the radiation of excessive sidebands and spurious outputs. The reference sidebands are caused by the vco being modulated at the sampling rate of the phase detector. The more difficult (to control) spurious outputs are caused by close physical proximity to the digital logic. Also, the spurs can cause birdies in a companion receiver. Proper mechanical design, however, has reduced the levels to - 55 dB and - 90 dB, respectively.

programmable divider and prescaler

Unfortunately, since we are working with a closed loop system, any problems in one area are reflected in other portions of the circuit. Consider the final output signal; there should be a minimum of buzz or hum associated with the signal. Also, the transient response (time to settle after a channel change) should be small. These problems can be reduced by

By Jerry Pulice, WB2CPA, 143 Gibson Avenue, Staten Island, New York 10308

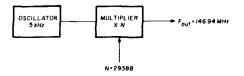


fig. 1. Block diagram of a basic frequency synthesizer that uses integer multipliers to generate the output frequency.

using a high performance loop to control the vco. As an example consider the PLL shown in **fig. 3**. With the vco prescaled by a factor of 20, the output frequency is determined by

$$F_{OUT} = 20(N)(0.005 MHz)$$
 (1)

Therefore, the minimum channel spacing will be 100 kHz instead of 5 kHz. To regain the original channel spacing, it would be necessary to divide the reference by a factor of 20. With a low reference frequency (250 Hz), the vco must have exceptional stability

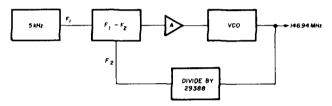


fig. 2. This system eliminates the multipliers and uses more commonly available dividers to generate the required integer.

since it can only be corrected 250 times per second. From these facts it can be seen that for best loop performance the digital logic should operate at the highest possible frequency.

TTL logic cannot operate directly at 144 MHz, and prescaling by at least 10 is required for any two-meter synthesizer. Conventional designs call for a programmable divider that can be preset to some number other than zero to modify the count length. Regardless of the counters toggle speed, this method will limit the upper frequency to approximately 15 MHz because not enough time elapses during one clock cycle to guarantee presetting the counters. It would appear that these problems would require the reference frequency to be lowered regardless of the loop considerations. However, return to **eq. 1**, which is one step beyond the basic form

$$F_{OUT} = (N)(M)(0.005 MHz)$$
 (2)

where N =integer number M =prescale factor Rearranging **eq. 2** yields

$$N = \frac{F_{OUT}}{(M)(0.005 \text{ MHz})}$$
(3)

Where N is now the number of divisions required by the prescaler and reference frequency. With a pre-

scaler that divides by 20, N would be 1440 divisions at 144 MHz.

Now, consider a prescaler that can divide by not only M, but M + 1. To maintain the same output frequency, **eq. 2** must be rewritten to account for Mand M + 1:

$$F_{OUT} = [M(N-A) + (M+1)(A)] (0.005 \text{ MHz})$$
 (4)

where N = total number of divisions (integer number)

M = prescale factor

A = number of divisions at M + 1

or 144 MHz = [20(1440 - 0) + 21(0)] (0.005 MHz)

Reducing eq. 4 to real components shows that a relatively slow counter (divider) can be used to control a fast two-mode (modulus) prescaler. In other words, the slow counter tells the prescaler to divide by twenty 1440 times and by 21 zero times. This technique is called pulse swallowing.

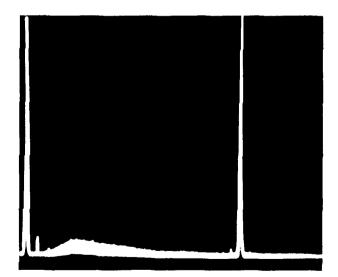
If one division though is by 21 instead of 20, eq. 4 produces

$$[20(1440 - 1) + 21(1)] (0.005 \text{ MHz}) = 144.005 \text{ MHz}$$

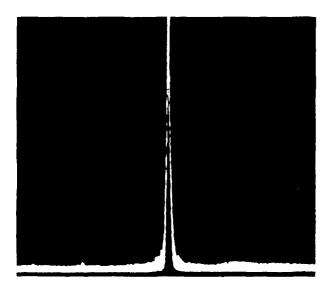
Therefore, for each division by 21, the vco frequency is raised 5 kHz. This relationship will continue each time the integer number is changed, producing channels that are separated by 5 kHz. The use of pulseswallowing techniques overcomes the problems of vco and reference frequency, permitting the design of a vhf synthesizer with a channel spacing equal to the reference frequency.

divider details

As shown in fig. 4, the programmable divider is



As shown on this spectrum analyzer photograph, the output is very clean from 0 to 200 MHz. The signal frequency is 146 MHz. The low-frequency noise is being generated by the rf amplifier on the rf board.



Spectrum analyzer presentation of the final output. The signal is centered at 146 MHz. The left and right edges represent 143.5 and 148.5 MHz, respectively. The base line is approximately 80 dB down from the full output.

split into a two modulus prescaler and a low-speed main counter. In conjunction with the 7474 flip-flop, the prescaler will divide by either 20 or 21, depending upon the level on the 95H90s SWALLOW ENABLE line. If this line is held high, one output will occur for each 21 input pulses. If the line is low, the output will be 1 pulse for each 20 input pulses. This output from the prescaler section then drives three synchronousbinary 4-bit counters arranged as a 12-bit binary divider. In transmit the counters are reset by U15 at 1479₂ and in receive at 1586₂ by U14. The initial input frequency is converted by the 7483s into data that presets the binary counters between 0 and 39. Assuming a transmit condition, the 1479₂ count is shortened by the amount of preset, 0 to 39. The output of the counter will then occur at 1479₂ to 1440₂ representing 147.9XX to 144.0XX (eq. 2). It's now possible to generate any multiple of 100 kHz between the two frequency extremes.

Bit 1024₂ (pin 12 U13) goes high once per count cycle and is used as the 5-kHz output to feed the phase detector. This pulse is much wider than the 5-kHz pulse at pin 9 of the binary counters and will

provide a more reliable trigger for the CD4046 phase detector.

Unfortunately, the 100-kHz multiples have not fulfilled the requirement of 5-kHz channel spacing. Between 100-kHz increments there are nineteen desired channels spaced every 5 kHz. As determined by eq. 4. each time the prescaler divides by M+1 the vco frequency will increase by 5 kHz. Using 144.035 MHz as an example, the prescaler would have to divide by M + 1 seven times and by M, 1433 times. To generate the required number of M + 1 divisions, 10 and 5 kHz data, a rate multiplier is used. This device, comprised of a series of gates and counters, will produce a specific number of pulses on command. Controlled by frequency data (144.035 MHz) from thumbwheel switches, the rate multiplier will, each time it's enabled, generate seven pulses. The 1024₂ bit from the binary counters is used to enable the multiplier. After 64 clock pulses EN OUT goes low, stopping the multiplier at 10882. The rate pulses from U4 are temporarily held in a D-type flip-flop, U2. When released, these pulses are synced with the next clock pulse and also stretched into a full clock period for the SWALLOW ENABLE line. U2 is only enabled between counts 1024₂ and 1088₂, the same as the rate multiplier. The RS flip-flop (U3) controls U2. A timing diagram is shown in fig. 5. The use of hardwired BCD data from the thumbwheel switches prevents the rate multiplier from generating more than 19 pulses for the prescaler.

voltage controlled oscillator

One of the main criteria for vco design is that it be stable by itself. This synthesizer uses the Motorola MC1648 ECL logic oscillator (**fig. 6**). Of its many features, most important is its use of an external LC network as the frequency determining element. This type oscillator has less phase jitter than the RC switching oscillators (NE566 or MC4024).

The tank circuit consists of a Motorola MV109/209 varactor diode and a tuned line made from 3 inches (7.6mm) of miniature Teflon coax (RG-17U). This combination is extremely effective in combating the microphonics that plague other configurations. You

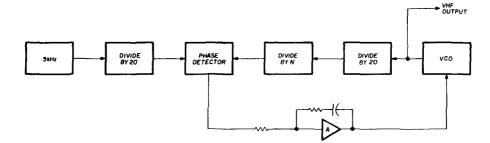


fig. 3. Block diagram of the basic phase locked loop system. With a vco that runs greater than about 50 MHz, a prescaler is required for the loop.

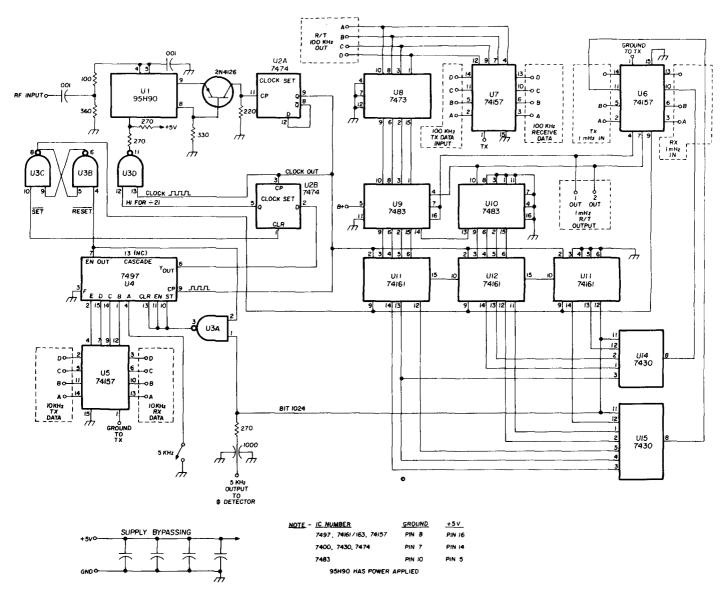


fig. 4. Schematic diagram of the digital board. The prescaler section contains the 95H90 and the dual-D flip-flop. Pin 2, SWALLOW ENABLE, controls whether the prescaler is in the divide by 20 or 21 mode. The 0.001 μ F capacitor connected to pin 5 of U1 should be mounted close to the IC. The V_{CC} line requires bypassing with several values of capacitors to eliminate any switching transients from appearing on the line. Low-power Schottky ICs have been tested, and are recommended for replacement of the 74161/163, 7483, 74157, 7430, and 7474. When transmitting, the line marked TX should be grounded.

can substitute any combination which will tune from 144 to 159 MHz with a tuning voltage of not less than 2.5 volts nor more than 10.5 volts.

The MC1648 drives three rf amplifiers in parallel. Each stage is untuned and delivers at least 20 milliwatts into a 50-ohm load. Even though hand-wound transmission line transformers are used, the lack of tuning makes the boards less prone to parasitics. One output drives the digital logic, another is used for the receiver local oscillator, and the last drives the transmitter. In this case, the "transmitter" is nothing more than additional power amplifiers.

A CMOS CD4046 is used as a frequency/phase

detector. During a channel change, it departs from true phase lock and forces the vco to slew back to the correct frequency. When this point has been reached, the CD4046's output becomes a series of pulses with a duty cycle that is proportional to the phase difference. As soon as the phase difference also reaches zero, the output from the CD4046 enters a third state that effectively disconnects it from the loop amplifier. When correction is needed, the detector switches into the appropriate state.

The advantages of the CD4046 over a simple phase detector are many. Among these are the faster response to large channel changes and also lower

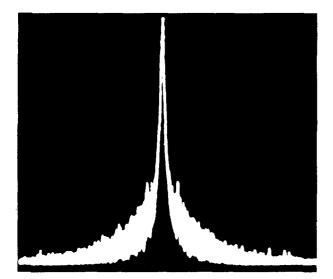
reference frequency sidebands in the rf output. A simple digital phase detector has a square-wave output with a 50 per cent duty cycle when locked. This represents no dc output so no further frequency change is required. However, there is a large ac output at the reference frequency which can be difficult to remove. In the design presented here, a locked condition is signalled by an open circuit from the detector which considerably simplifies the loop amplifier design. In practice the phase detector cannot operate at a zero phase difference and it has been set to produce an output pulse of approximately 5 per cent duty cycle.

The CD4046 drives a loop amplifier consisting of a MC1458V dual-operational amplifier. Despite what some articles on PLL would lead you to believe, more than just a lowpass filter is needed for optimum results. The first op amp could be classed as an integrator, but it also provides three time constants which insure stability of the loop. The second op amp is a simple 12 dB/octave lowpass filter which reduces the 5-kHz ripple on the tuning voltage. The simpler approach of using a lowpass filter versus a notch filter is justified since the performance improvement is very small.

The 5-kHz reference frequency is generated by the CMOS CD4060. This IC contains a 14-stage binary divider and three inverters for use as a crystal oscillator. The only other parts required are a parallel-resonant crystal and a few resistors and capacitors. The trimmer adjusts the crystal exactly to frequency and sets the final output accuracy.

audio

To produce direct fm, the audio is summed with



This spectrum analyzer photograph shows the output within 50 kHz of the center frequency. The 5-kHz sidebands can be seen to be 54 dB down from full output.

the tuning voltage after the op amps. The following requirements should be adhered to:

1. Audio compression and/or limiting should be used to hold constant deviation level.

2. Employ rapid rolloff past **3500** Hz to keep the radiated bandwidth narrow.

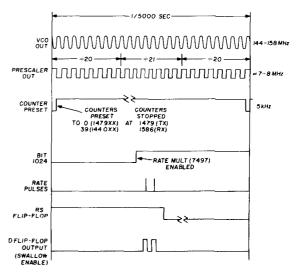


fig. 5. Programmable divider timing diagram. This diagram represents a frequency of 14X.X10 MHz.

3. Use standard 75 μ sec pre-emphasis (**fig. 7**). This is direct fm and the audio will sound muffled if preemphasis is not included. The pre-emphasis should be applied after the clipping and filtering. There should be 1 volt p-p available after preconditioning the audio. As a warning, the vco has a sensitivity of 5 MHz/volt. Therefore, it only takes 1 mV of noise in the system to make this synthesizer useless in a narrowband fm system. Ground noise, loops, and proximity to other systems can also cause problems. The vco assembly *must* be housed in a completely sealed metal box. Diecast aluminum boxes are the best. Attempts at ultimate miniaturization will only produce 5 kHz whine, and possibly 60 Hz hum on the signal.

circuit board checkout

Digital card. The initial testing of the digital board can be done at a frequency that will allow the pulses to be seen without relying on a high performance oscilloscope. An approximately 0.8 V p-p, 10-MHz signal should be injected into pin 1 of the 95H90. With power applied, the prescaler will run warm and total current drain will be about 600 mA for standard TTL. The complementary output pins, eight and nine, of the 95H90 should show an ECL level square-wave (3.3V to 4.1 V). The waveform will alternate be-

tween one tenth and one eleventh of the input frequency, which will cause blurring of the oscilloscope display. With the rest of the prescaler section working properly, the binary counters (U11-U13) will have a clock input on pin 2 that alternates between 1/20 and 1/21 of the input signal. If multiples of 100 kHz are selected, the input to the binary counters will be 1/20 of the input frequency; otherwise blurring will occur.

When it has been confirmed that the prescaler is functioning properly, the divide by M+1 function can be disabled by applying 5 volts to pin 3 of the 95H90. If gates U14 and U15 are operating correctly, a narrow negative-going pulse will appear on pin 9 of

the binary counters. This pulse is used to load the binary counters after each cycle has been completed, 1479_2 for transmit and 1586_2 for receive. The ratio of the pulses at pins 2 and 9 of U11-U13 will correspond to the channel selected, 1440 to 1479. If the transmit line is high, 107 will be added to the ratios. This process can be extended to the entire programmable counter. With the 95H90 input as B and the pulses at pin 9 of the counters A, the ratios will be:

144.00 MHz Transmit	B/A - 28800
144.005 MHz Transmit	B/A - 28801
146.940 MHz Transmit	B/A - 29388
146.940 MHz Receive	B/A - 31528
147.995 MHz Receive	B/A - 31739

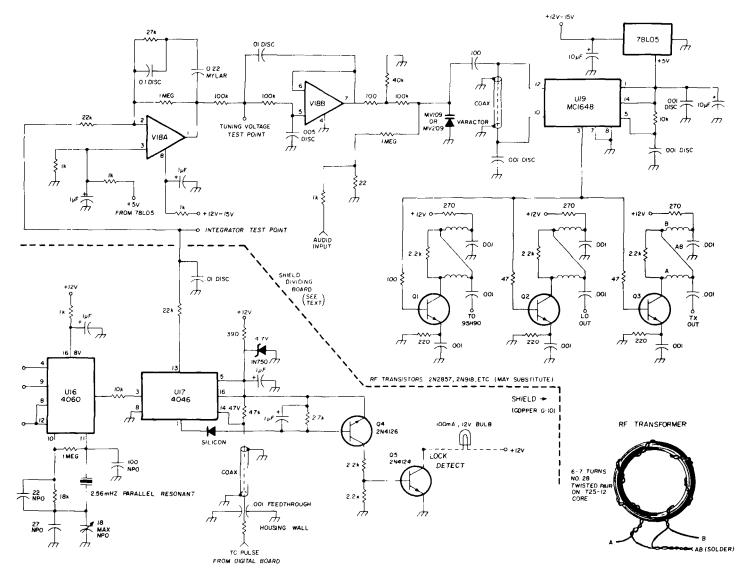


fig. 6. Schematic diagram of the rf circuitry for the synthesizer. All resistors are % watt; the electrolytics are dipped radial lead tantalume. The coax line can be replaced with 3 turns of number 22 AWG (0.6mm) wire. It should initially be wound to be %-inch (0.6mm) in diameter. The final configuration will be dictated by the required tuning voltage vs tuning range. The rf transformers are 6 to 7 turns of number 28 AWG (0.3mm) twisted pair wound on a T25-12 core. The 2.2k resistors across the transformers are soldered on the back of the printed circuit board.

Rf Board. With power applied to the board from a 12-15 volt supply, the current drawn should be 60-75 mA. Check for the desired voltages on U16-U19 as shown on **fig. 6**. Testing of the vco and associated amplifiers will start at the vco and work back to the crystal oscillator. I recommend the Motorola MV109/209 varactor diode because of its wide Δ C range. This allows the vco to tune from 144 to 159 MHz with an input voltage of 2.5 to 10.5 volts. For test purposes only, the voltage can be supplied by a small adjustable supply connected to the test point just prior to the second op amp. Since the op amp has unity gain, correct operation of the vco can be determined from this point.

The integrator, first half of the MC1458, can be tested by grounding its inverting input. The vco should swing to at least 159 MHz when the junction of the two 22k resistors (integrator test point) is grounded. Conversely, it should move to below 144 MHz when 5 volts is applied to the same point.

At pin 4 of U16 there should be a 40-kHz square wave that can be used to set the crystal on frequency. By using the 125th harmonic of the 40-kHz signal, the crystal can be zero beated against the 5-MHz WWV frequency standard. The phase detector requires a 5-kHz input that is TTL compatible.

To test the phase detector, connect an NE555, or similar, oscillator to the 5-kHz pulse input on the rf board. With a pulse frequency less than 5 kHz, the vco should be driven to its lower frequency limit. If the pulse frequency is decreased below 5 kHz, the vco should swing to its upper limit. At this point the boards can be connected together forming an almost complete synthesizer.

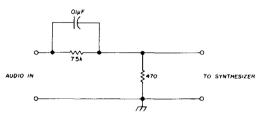


fig. 7. Schematic diagram of a standard 75 μsec pre-emphasis network.

Switches. Due to the method of generating the correct presets for the binary counters and inputs to the rate multiplier, two forms of input data were used, BCD and BCD. The information for the 10-kHz frequencies is in the normal BCD form, while that for the 100 kHz and MHz is BCD. Using the basic premise that an open on a line is equivalent to a digital 1 (high) the appropriate switches can be selected. It should be remembered that a BCD switch, not a BCD switch, produces four open circuits for a BCD zero. Regardless of the switch type you select, to use the switch in its true form connect

the common terminal to ground and pull the four outputs to 5 volts through 4 to 10-kilohm resistors. To complement the switch, connect the common lead to 5 volts and pull each output to ground through 270-ohm resistors. **Table 1** shows the correct BCD input information. To add 5 kHz to the output frequency, the 5-kHz line should be taken high (1).

The complete synthesizer can now be tested. The appropriate inputs and outputs on the two boards can be connected with lengths of either miniature coax or twisted-pair cable. A small 12-volt lamp can

nthesiz	er truth table)		
ΒA	100 kHz	DCBA	10 kHz	DCBA
00	0.0	1 1 1 1	0.0	0000
01	0.1	1110	0.1	0001
10	0.2	1101	0.2	0010
11	0.3	1100	0.3	0011
	0.4	1011	0.4	0100
	0.5	1010	0.5	0101
	0.6	1001	0.6	0110
	0.7	1000	0.7	0111
	0.8	0111	0.8	1000
	0.9	0110	0.9	1001
	B A 0 0 0 1 1 0	B A 100 kHz 0 0 0.0 0 1 0.1 1 0 0.2 1 1 0.3 0.4 0.5 0.6 0.7 0.8 0.8	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	B A 100 kHz D C B A 10 kHz 0 0 0.0 1 1 1 1 0.0 0 1 0.1 1 1 1 0 0.1 1 0 0.2 1 1 0 1 0.2 1 1 0.3 1 1 0 0 0.3 0.4 1 0 1 1 0.4 0.5 1 0 1 0 0.5 0.6 1 0 0 1 0.6 0.7 1 0 0 0 0.7 0.8 0 1 1 1 0.8

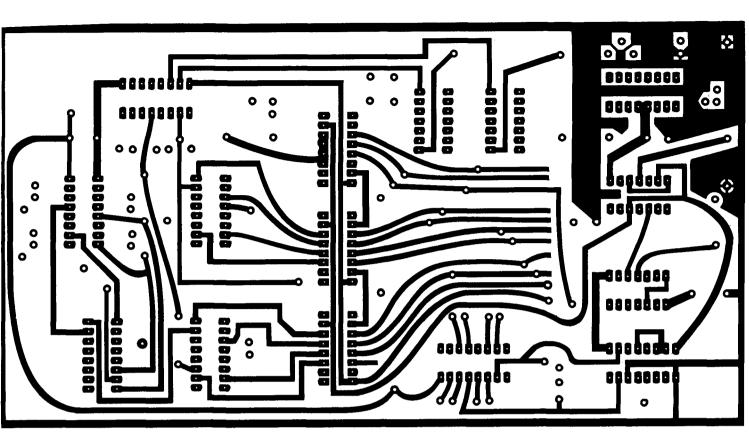
be attached to the LOCK DETECT terminals. Since this is only a test, the output will not be very clean and the signal should not be put on the air. Connect one rf output to a frequency counter and terminate the third in 50 ohms. When power is applied to both boards the lamp should flash once and the synthesizer *should* be on the correct frequency. If the synthesizer does not lock at all, the lamp will remain lit.

troubleshooting

If there are problems, a return to the circuit board checkout phase might be appropriate. Remember that this is a feedback system and trouble in one section can cause apparent difficulty in another. A good way to troubleshoot the unit is to clamp the tuning voltage at some fixed value from an external power supply. If the vco will not tune within the desired range, lock cannot be achieved.

A more subtle problem is a locked synthesizer but with the output on the wrong frequency. The cause of this problem will be found on the digital board, assuming the initial 5-kHz signal is correct. Make sure that the components are soldered on each side of the printed-circuit board. Unless plated-through holes are used, it may be difficult to solder sockets on both sides of the board. One solution is to use Molex pins, another is to mount the sockets over spacers. If the synthesizer is still off frequency, observe the pattern of the errors.

1. No channel spacing less than 100 kHz. This means that the divide by 21 function of the prescaler is not being enabled. Start at pin 2 of the 95H90 and work back to pin 6 of the rate multiplier (U4).



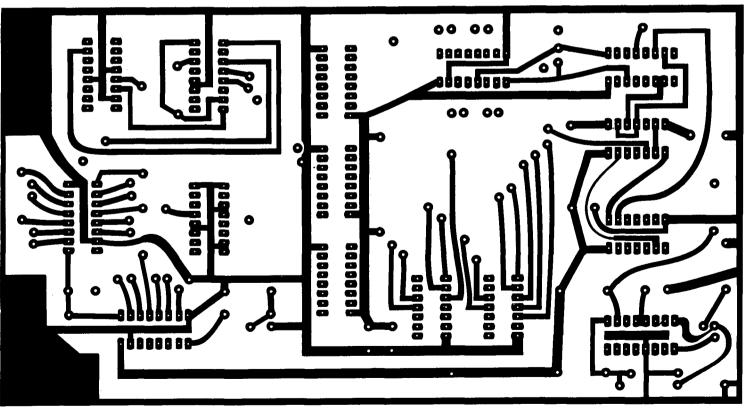


fig. 8. Circuit-board layout for the digital board. The top diagram shows the foil pattern for the top of the board, while the other side of the board is shown at the bottom.

2. Constantly high frequencies. The divide by 21 feature is being enabled too long.

3. Constant error in hundreds of kHz could mean that a 7483 full adder is faulty. They convert the $\overline{\text{BCD}}$ data into a binary code.

4. An output that is correct only on alternating binary increments means that a bit has been dropped between the 7483s and the preset inputs of the counters. For example, 144.000 to 144.200 is correct, 144.200 to 144.400 is wrong, and 144.400 to 144.600 is correct, etc.

5. If one of the 7430s (U14 or U15) is bad, either *all* the transmit or *all* the receive channels will be off.

Substitution is the best method of checking the ICs. You can save enormous amounts of time by mounting them in sockets, except the MC1648 and 95H90. If you don't have adequate test equipment, use a signal generator at a lower frequency to test the digital board.

synthesizer related problems

With the techniques used to generate this type of synthesized equipment, there can be many problems that are system oriented. Some areas may require a look at the overall performance before the basic problem can be solved.

1. Sidebands at the TTL clock rate are caused by insufficient isolation between the circuit boards. If these sidebands are radiated by your transmitter, they are illegal; they will appear at the output frequency divided by 20, 144.00 \pm 7.2 MHz, \pm 14.4 MHz \pm 21.6 MHz, etc. The general cure for this type of problem is to put the rf board into a sealed metal box (leads that enter the box should go through 0.001 μ F feedthrough capacitors).

2. This synthesizer delivers 10 kHz p-p deviation with less than 0.2 volt input so it will be prone to overmodulation. The deviation can be set quite easily if you make use of the synthesized local-oscillator output. With this output connected to a receiver, modulate the synthesizer until the audio level is the same as a local repeater. It doesn't matter to the discriminator whether its's the actual incoming signal that is being modulated or the local oscillator. For normal operation though, use a relay contact to short out the audio line during receive periods. Otherwise, audio feedback will occur.

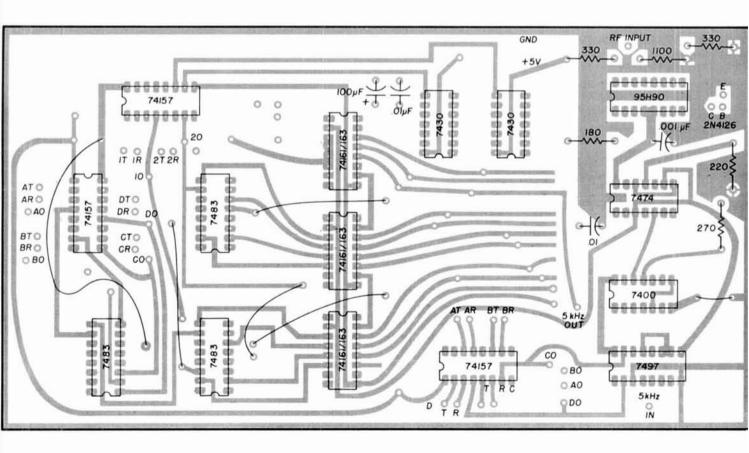


fig. 9. Component placement for the digital board.

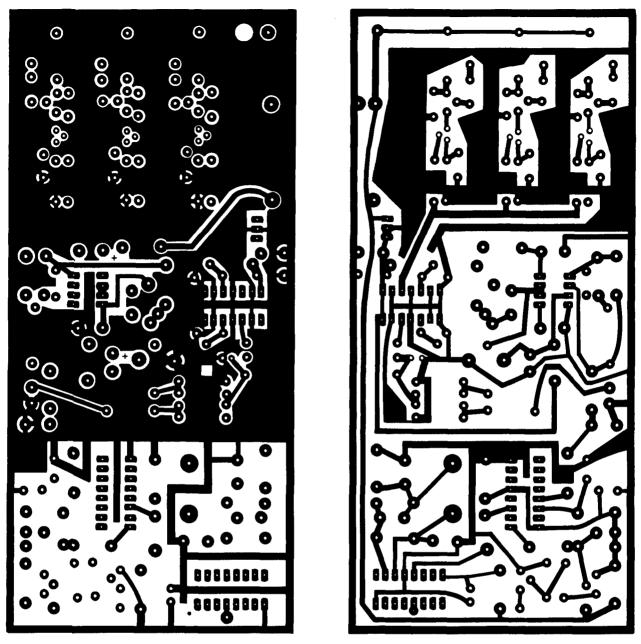


fig. 10. Circuit-board layout for the rf board. The top of the board is shown at the left and the bottom at the right.

3. Sidebands at 5 kHz cause annoying whine in your receiver and will be transmitted as well. Any sidebands experienced are caused by the physical placement of the rf board. Also, the shield between the portions of the board must be in place. This can be made from a piece of double-sided printed-circuit board. The output of the digital board must enter the enclosure through the resistor and capacitor combinatigns shown on the schematic diagram (**fig. 4**).

4. Receiver birdies are possible if the programmable divider is not shielded. Microphonics are not a problem and the enclosure does not have to be some type of sealed box. To avoid the problem of many feed-through capacitors for the digital switches, I suggest

that you mount the switches inside this box.

If you follow the previous suggestions, a clean transmitter should be no problem. I use four amplifier stages to directly increase the output to 40 watts. The LOCK DETECT output should be used to prevent keying the transmitter if the synthesizer is running wild.

receiver interfacing

To be entirely free of birdies, on-channel spurious radiations must be on the order of 100 dB below the local-oscillator level. Achieving this requires constant attention to smalll details such as shielding, removal of ground loops, and maintaining isolation. Certain receiver designs can give you perhaps 20 dB margin against such birdies (this assumes the birdies are

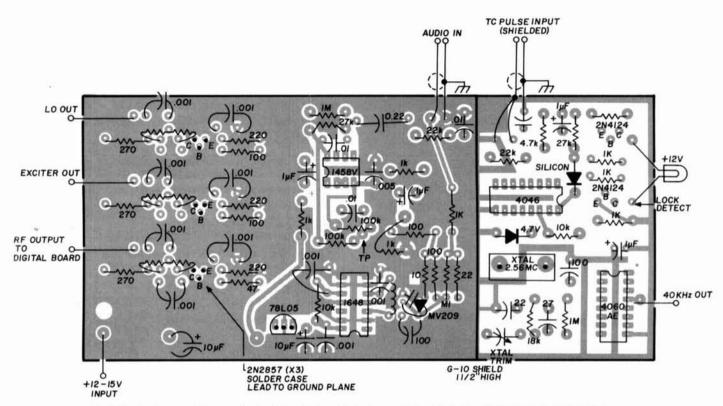


fig. 11. Parts placement diagram for the rf board. The resistor across the toroids is mounted on the rear of the board.

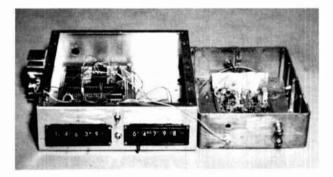
produced by the local oscillator and not radiated into the frontend).

A product or balanced mixer has the ability to reject certain forms of noise near the local-oscillator frequency. If you are contemplating the design of a companion receiver, think twice before going with the now standard dual-gate MOSFET mixer. A better choice might be a JFET mixer using a device such as the high I_{dss} U310. A single-balanced mixer with this transistor will have a wider dynamic range as well as significant local-oscillator noise rejection. These items are important when operating in urban areas, or when trying to achieve 0.2 μ V sensitivity on all channels.

No matter what first mixer configurations you select, two old design rules still apply.

1. Set your mixer so that conversion gain does not increase if you raise the local-oscillator power. If it does, the local-oscillator port is not saturated and the receiver will be overly sensitive to birdies and noise from the synthesizer.

2. The input ports of the first mixer should see only the minimum necessary bandwidth. If you don't filter the i-f output, you'll have no selectivity, obviously. Image and intermod problems will occur if the rf input isn't filtered. This includes both sides of the rf amplifier. If the local oscillator isn't filtered, you will have a severely degraded mixer noise figure. This applies more to single-ended mixers. Such a mixer acts as a high-gain amplifier to i-f frequency signals injected into either input. The solution is a highpass filter or, preferrably, a tuned circuit with a moderate loaded Q in the injection line. The tuned circuit



Photograph of the completed synthesizer. The rf circuitry is housed in the cast aluminum box on the right. The digital portion of the synthesizer is on the left.

serves the dual purpose of voltage transformation as well which can be useful in gate-driven fet mixers.

The previous comments should enable you to build a transceiver equal in all respects, except one, to a crystal-controlled unit. The final problem area is ultimate receiver selectivity. The noise sidebands of

the MC1648 do not fall off quite as fast as those of a well designed discrete vco. The difference is slight and transmitter performance is uneffected. Residual audio fm measures less than 100 cps in this design. However, adjacent channel rejection in the receiver will be degraded. In normal operation, crystalcontrolled equipment would be able to maintain DX communications within 10 kHz of a repeater channel. This design will require a spacing of about 15 kHz from the active channel. The difference is not noticeable unless your receiver has a good quality i-f filter and the shielding necessary to make full use of it. Also, you'd have to check closely to notice the difference. It is worth mentioning that Heathkit chose the same vco for their down-converting multiple-crystal synthesizer: they were able to attain a 30-kHz selectivity of 60 dB minimum.

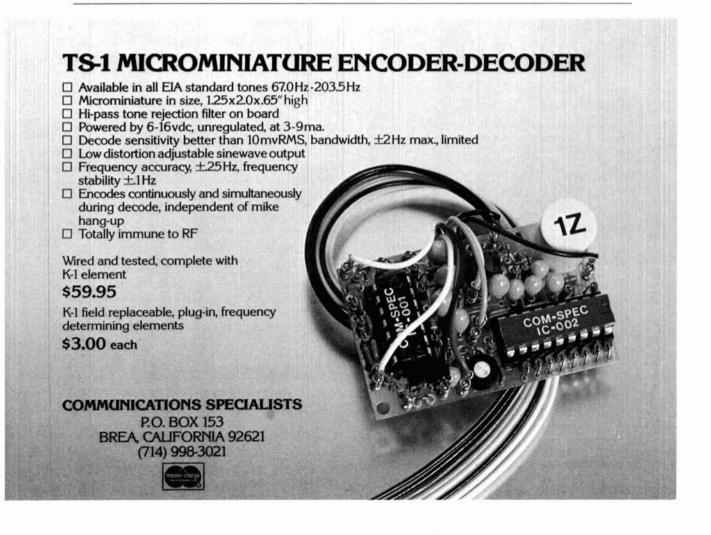
convenience options

Because the synthesizer has the BCD frequency data available at all times, some other type of display can be connected. It would be much easier to see a seven-segment display in the dark than the thumbwheel switches. In fact, you do not need switches at all. The channel information could be generated by a circuit that would scan a frequency range until a signal is detected. The combinations are almost endless. Remember though, both BCD and BCD data is required.

conclusions

I hope that this article has removed some of the air of black magic that seems to have been associated with frequency synthesizers in the past. Unlike other articles, this one was concerned with how to get the radio to work, what you can expect to go wrong with it, and what you can do about it. Most of the literature on synthesizers has been an endless tirade about Laplace transforms and loop stability. These are important, but a critically damped response and the associated theoretical model by themselves only make a good BSEE senior term paper. This unit has been on the air for a year at WB2CPA, and successful duplication should not pose a problem to a reasonably competent amateur.

ham radio



how to design Yagi antennas

Discussion of a new Yagi design method, developed at the National Bureau of Standards, which allows you to design Yagis for your own operating requirements with optimized, reproducible gain characteristics Have you ever wondered how to design a really good Yagi for your own requirements rather than just guessing, or using an existing design? If so, this article should be just what you are looking for. By using the information presented here you can design your own optimum Yagi for any frequency, from hf through uhf, with booms up to 4.2 wavelengths long.

Up until now, there has been little design information for Yagi antennas in the amateur literature. Kmosko and Johnson¹ designed a 13-element Yagi at 144 MHz but gave information only on that specific model. Greenblum² provided ranges of design values but was not specific as to exact sizes. The tables from Greenblum's article have appeared in recent ARRL VHF Handbooks and Antenna Handbooks, and several amateurs have reported good correlation using the mean values specified. Recent articles in the professional journals (such as the *IEEE Professional Group on Antennas and Propagation*, and others) have published computer-aided designs, but specific *cook-book* information is not available.

Now, for the first time, a straightforward approach to Yagi designs of various sizes and gains is available.³ It is the result of an exhaustive study by the National Bureau of Standards in the early 1950s to explore all the major antenna types (Yagis, corner reflectors, rhombics, etc.) suitable for use on vhf

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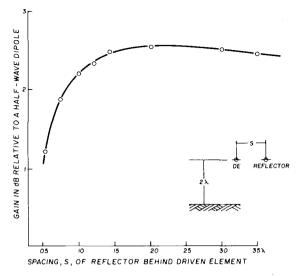


fig. 1. Gain in dB of a driven element and reflector for different spacings between elements.

ionospheric scatter. The NBS report tabulates all the design information necessary to construct six different boomlength Yagis (this portion of the project took nine man years to complete). The only known amateur use of these data are the W0EYE 432-MHz Yagi⁴ and several unpublished Yagi designs by W0PW (ex W0EYE) and W1JR.

This NBS report shows the interrelationship between director and reflector diameters, lengths, and spacings, as well as the effects of a metal supporting boom. Optimum designs and gains for various boomlengths from 0.4 to 4.2 wavelengths are shown along with nomographs for designing a Yagi for your own operating requirements. Those readers who are interested in all the specifics will find the NBS publication invaluable. This article will highlight the results and present all the information necessary to design such Yagis; several working design examples will also be discussed.

reflectors

During the NBS investigation into optimum Yagi design, various reflector lengths and spacings were tried on a two-element Yagi. As can be seen from **fig. 1**, maximum gain is 2.6 dBd, peaking broadly at 0.2 λ behind the driven element. Hence, all the Yagi designs presented here are optimized using this reflector spacing.

The NBS engineers tried various other reflector configurations in order to realize any possible increase in gain. The trigonal configuration shown in **fig. 2** yielded the maximum increase, 0.75 dB over a single reflector, when tested on a Yagi 4.2 λ long. It should be applicable to the other designs and may be desirable if high front-to-back ratios are desired.

The heart of any Yagi design is the director. Extensive tests have shown that the diameter, length, and spacings are all interrelated. Also, it should be pointed out that these parameters become increasingly critical as the number of directors (and hence the boomlength) increase.

NBS tested various director lengths using spacings of 0.01 to 0.40 λ on booms to 10 λ long. Plots of these combinations show that there are optimum spacings for maximum gain. As the boomlength is increased, the optimum director spacing also increases. In addition, the gain of the antenna can be further increased if the length of each director is carefully chosen. It is noted that the diameter of the element affects its length, thicker directors being shorter than thinner ones. A comparison of maximum gain versus boomlength for uniform and optimized length directors is shown in **fig. 3**. Those readers desiring further information are referred to *NBS Technical Note 688.*³

A set of optimum director and reflector lengths normalized to 0.0085\lambda diameter elements is

table 1. Optimized lengths of parasitic elements for Yagi antennas of six different lengths (reflector spaced 0.2 λ behind driven element, element diameter 0.0085 λ).

	Length of Yagi in Wavelengths					
	0.4	0.8	1.20	2.2	3.2	4.2
Length of	0.482	0.482	0.482	0. 482	0.482	0.475
Reflector, 						
1st	0.442	0.428	0.428	0.432	0.428	0.424
2nd		0.424	0.420	0.415	0.420	0.424
3rd		0.428	0.420	0.407	0.407	0.420
4th			0.428	0.398	0.398	0.407
5th				0.390	0.394	0.403
6th				0.390	0.390	0.398
7th				0.390	0.386	0.394
8th				0.390	0.386	0.390
9th				0.398	0.386	0.390
10th				0.407	0.386	0.390
11th					0.386	0.390
12th					0.386	0.390
13th					0.386	0.390
14th					0.386	
15th					0.386	
Spacing be-						
tween direc-	0.20	0.20	0.25	0.20	0.20	0.308
tors, in λ						
Gain relative to	,					
half-wave di-	7.1	9.2	10. 2	12.25	13.4	14.2
pole, dB						
Design curve		(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	
(see fig. 4)	(A)	(C)	(C)	(B)	(C)	(D)

presented in **table 1**. These data, with respective gains noted, yield optimum performance for the six boomlengths which are shown. If a different element diameter is desired (isn't that always the case?), the elements can be scaled by using the nomograph in **fig. 4**. Element diameters from 0.001 to 0.04λ can be easily scaled as will be discussed later.

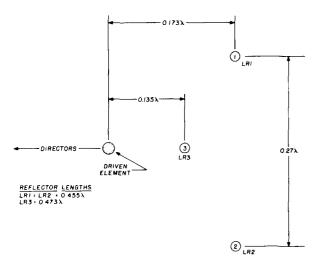


fig. 2. Trigonal reflector arrangement (three reflector elements), when used with 4.2 λ Yagi, provides 0.75 dB increase in gain (lengths not corrected for boom thickness).

The element data presented in the NBS report is based on an *air* boom which, in the original tests, was simulated by a triangular plexiglass structure. After optimization was completed, various booms and materials were tested to check the effects of the test boom. All measurements verified that the designs tested on plexiglass were optimum in an air dielectric. However, attempts to repeat these results using wooden booms were dismal. According to Peter Viezbickie, the author of the NBS report, changes in moisture and directivity due to the wooden booms made repeatability almost impossible despite various coatings applied to the wood.

Metal-boom Yagis were entirely repeatable if the elements were lengthened to compensate for the boom structure. At first glance, it may seem that a constant factor could apply. However, tests conducted by NBS showed that small diameter booms (with respect to wavelength) had less effect on element lengths than larger booms. These data are plotted on **fig. 5** for boom diameters up to 0.04λ . Tests also showed that, for correction purposes, the effect of square and round booms were identical.

feed systems

Detailed feed systems are not discussed in the report. On most tests, a folded dipole using a 4:1 half-wavelength coaxial balun was followed by a stub tuner. However, any of the usual feed systems can be used.⁵ Reference 6 describes how to test these matching systems.

patterns

Finally, the NBS report shows radiation patterns for the *E* and *H* planes. For the sake of brevity, only the patterns for the 1.2λ and 4.2λ Yagis are presented in this article (see **figs. 6** and **7**). You will note the symmetrical pattern, the low side lobes, and the high front-to-back ratio, all characteristics of a welldesigned Yagi antenna.

Tests made by W6FZJ and W0EYE on a 15element, 4.2 λ Yagi for 432 MHz, designed with the method described in this article, showed that the antenna had about 1% vswr and 1-dB gain bandwidth, slewed to the low-frequency side of the center design frequency; performance above the center frequency fell off quite rapidly. It is estimated that the gain and vswr bandwidth for the 1.2 λ Yagi is about 2%. It should be pointed out that the bandwidth of a Yagi is quite often limited by the matching and feed system, not by the basic Yagi design. In this respect most amateur beams use narrowband feed systems compared with Yagis designed for use in commercial service.

designing a yagi antenna

We will now proceed to design a 1.2 λ Yagi for 50.1 MHz, a 2.2 λ Yagi for 205 MHz, and a 4.2 λ Yagi for

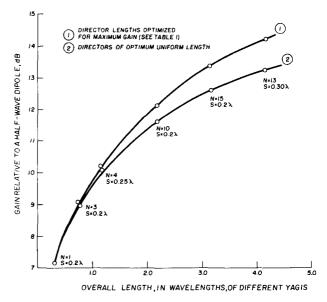
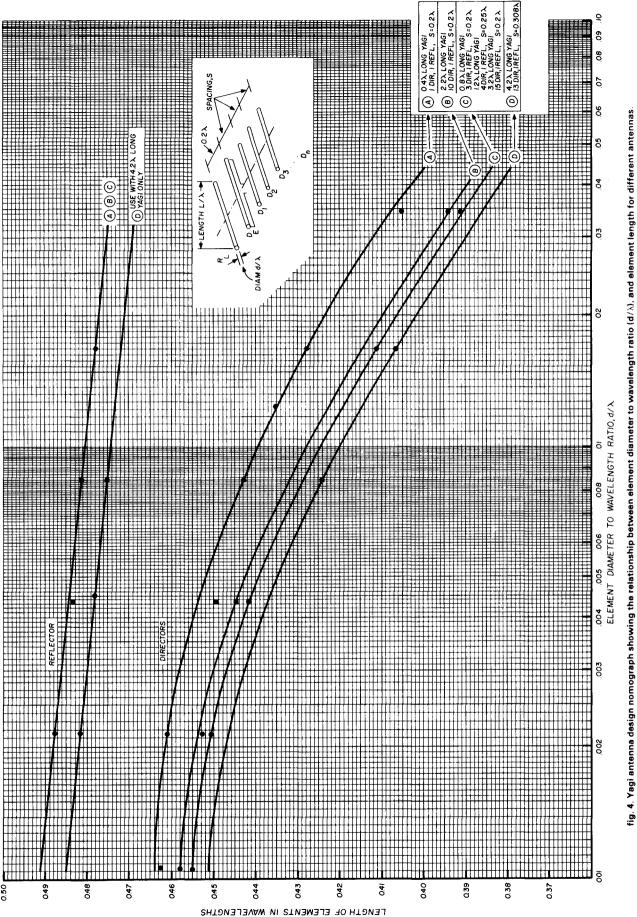


fig. 3. Gain comparison of different length Yagis, showing the relationship between directors optimized in length to yield maximum gain, and directors of optimum uniform length. N is the number of directors; S is the spacing between directors (reflector spaced 0.2 λ on all antennas).

432 MHz to demonstrate how the NBS design material can be used. I actually built and tested each of these designs to verify the validity of the design data. In all cases the performance of the finished antennas matched the results reported by NBS.

The first step in any design is to choose the desired gain, compare it with the designs in **table 1**, and see if the stated boomlength is within the desired range. Next, the element diameter should be chosen to fall within the specified ranges $(0.001 \text{ to } 0.04\lambda)$ on the design nomograph, **fig. 4**. Finally, the boom or supporting structure should be chosen.



Detailed procedure for using this chart is presented in the text.

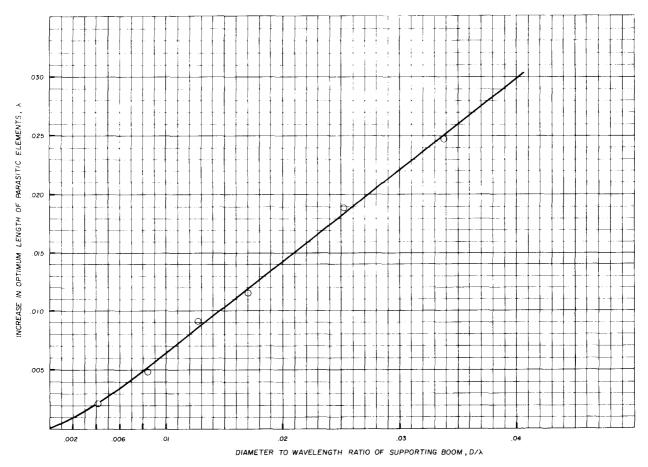


fig. 5. Graph showing the effect of a supporting metal boom on the length of the parasitic elements.

Example 1. It is desired to build a 6-meter Yagi with 10.2 dBd gain, using 0.5 inch (13mm) diameter elements mounted on insulating blocks above a 1.5 inch (38mm) diameter boom. This is the 1.2λ design in table 1.

The formula for wavelength is

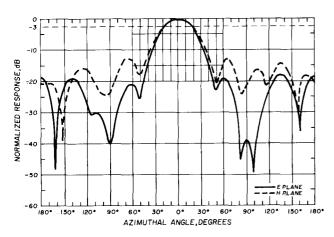


fig. 6. Radiation patterns of a 6-element, 1.2λ long Yagi, built with the dimensions shown in table 1. Beamwidth of the *E* plane is 40 degrees; *H* plane beamwidth is 42 degrees.

$$L = \frac{11803}{F} \quad (inches) \tag{1}$$

$$L = \frac{29980}{F} (cm) \tag{2}$$

where L =length

F = frequency in MHz

Frequency Wavelength	50.1 MHz 235.6 inches (5.98 meters)
Element diameter	
(d/λ)	0.0021λ
Reflector spacing	47 inches or 120 cm (0.2λ)
Director spacings	59 inches or 150 cm (0.25λ)
Boom diameter	not important, dis- cussed later
Overall length	283 inches (approximately 24 feet) or 7.2 meters (1.2λ)

1. Plot the lengths of the parasitic elements for the 1.2λ design from **table 1** on the design nomograph

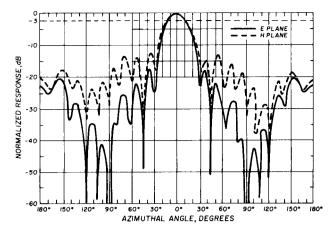


fig. 7. Radiation patterns of a 15-element, 4.2 λ long Yagi. Beamwidth of the *E* plane is 26 degrees; *H* plane beamwidth is 29 degrees.

(see fig. 8) for parasitic elements with a diameter, $d/\lambda = 0.0085\lambda$.

2. However, our element diameters are 0.0021λ so the element lengths must be adjusted. Draw a vertical line from 0.0021λ on the horizontal axis on the nomograph. This intersects the compensated lengths for the reflector and directors 1 and 4:

$$L_{R'} = 0.488\lambda$$

 $L_{D1'} = L_{D4'} = 0.451\lambda$

3. Using a pair of dividers (or a compass), measure the distance between director 1 (D1) and director 2 (D2) determined in **step 1**. Transpose this distance from the point established in **step 2** to the left along the 1.2 λ Yagi curve to 0.0021 λ to determine the compensated length for directors 2 and 3:

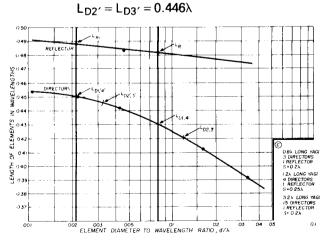


fig. 8. Use of the Yagi design curves (fig. 4) to determine the element lengths for a 6-element, 50.1-MHz Yagi on a boom 1.2λ long (see example 1 in text).

When I built this antenna I decided to use large element insulating blocks which I purchased from Swan Antennas (now KLM). Therefore, it wasn't necessary to put the elements through the boom. Since the wavelength is long with respect to the chosen boom diameter, I didn't feel that any boom correction was necessary. This was verified by subsequent tests. When the boom diameter represents a substantial portion of the operating wavelength, however, a correction for the boom diameter is required; this will be discussed in *example 3*.

The reflector and director lengths for the 50.1-MHz Yagi are as follows:

Reflector	$0.488\lambda = 115$ inches (2.92m)
Director 1	$0.451\lambda = 106.25$ inches (2.70m)
Director 2	$0.446\lambda = 105.06$ inches (2.67m)
Director 3	$0.446\lambda = 105.06$ inches (2.67m)
Director 4	$0.451\lambda = 106.25$ inches (2.70m)

The approximate length of the driven element can be calculated from

$$L = \frac{5500}{F} \text{ (inches)} \tag{3}$$

$$L = \frac{13970}{F} \quad (cm) \tag{4}$$

where L = length

F = frequency in MHz

Therefore, at 50.1 MHz, the length of the driven element is 109.75 inches or 2.79 meters. For simplicity I decided to use a gamma match and to attach the driven element to the boom with a U bolt. During the matching adjustments the driven element was short-

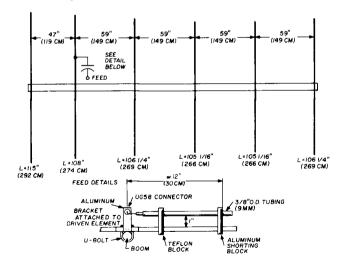


fig. 9. Layout of a 6-element Yagi for 50.1 MHz on a 1.2 λ boom. All elements are ½ inch (13mm) OD aluminum tubing, mounted on insulating blocks attached to a 1½ inch (38mm) OD aluminum boom. The gamma capacitor is approximately 12 inches (30cm) of RG-8/U coaxial cable with the outer jacket and shield removed, then inserted in a 3/8-inch (10mm) diameter tube.

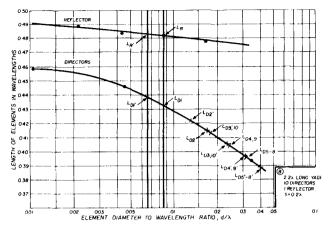


fig. 10. Use of the Yagi design curves (fig. 4) to determine the parasitic element lengths for a 12-element 205.25-MHz Yagi on a boom 2.2λ long (example 2).

ened to 108 inches (2.74m) for optimum vswr (the length of the driven element is not critical for maximum gain, as will be discussed later).

The completed 6-meter Yagi is shown in **fig. 9**. On-the-air receiving tests at W1JR have shown the 3 dB beamwidth to be between 40-45 degrees, while all sidelobes were at least 15 dB down; the front-toback ratio was 18 dB. This agrees closely with the published NBS data.

Example 2. During the summer of 1973, when I was W6FZJ, transpacific tests to Hawaii were conducted on 220 and 432 MHz. Television video carriers seemed like a good propagation indicator so I designed a converter for Channel 12 on Mt. Haleakela on Maui. Since I had no good designs for a moderate gain Yagi

with low sidelobes (to discriminate against Channel 12 TV stations in California), I chose the NBS 2.2λ Yagi design using 3/8 inch (1cm) diameter elements.

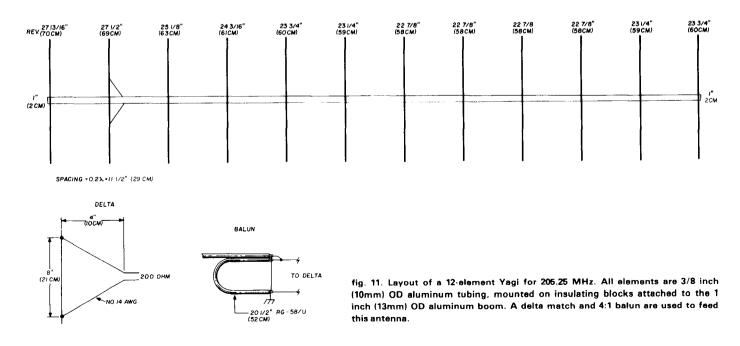
Frequency	205.25 MHz
Wavelength	57.5 inches (1.46 meters)
Element diameter	
(d/λ)	0.0065λ
Reflector spacings	11.5 inches or 29.2 cm
	(0.2)
Director spacings	11.5 inches or 29.2cm
	(0.2λ)
Boom diameter	not important, discussed
	later
Overall length	126.5 inches or 3.21
	meters (2.2λ)

1. Plot the director element lengths for the 2.2 λ Yagi design from **table 1** on the design nomograph (see fig. 10) for $d/\lambda = 0.0085$.

$$\begin{array}{l} L_{R} = 0.482 \lambda \\ L_{D1} = 0.432 \lambda \\ L_{D2} = 0.415 \lambda \\ L_{D3} = L_{D10} = 0.407 \lambda \\ L_{D4} = L_{D9} = 0.398 \lambda \\ L_{D5} \ through \ L_{D8} = 0.390 \lambda \end{array}$$

2. Since the chosen element diameters are 0.0065λ , draw a vertical line from 0.0065λ on the horizontal on the nomograph. This intersects the compensated length for the reflector and the first detector:

3. Using a pair of dividers, measure the distance be-



tween director 1 (D1) and director 2 (D2) determined in **step 2**. Transpose this distance from the point established in **step 2** to the left along the 2.2 λ curve to determine the compensated length of director 2 ($L_{D'} = 0.421\lambda$). Now span the distance between directors 1 and 3 (D1 and D3) with the dividers, and move this dimension along the curve, making sure to reference D1' (at the 0.0065 line). Follow this same procedure until all directors have been scaled. The remaining director lengths are as follows:

 $\begin{array}{l} L_{D3'} = L_{D10'} = 0.414 \lambda \\ L_{D4'} = L_{D9'} = 0.405 \lambda \\ L_{D5'} \mbox{ through } L_{D8'} = 0.398 \lambda \end{array}$

As in the case of the 6-meter Yagi, I decided to use element insulators which I purchased from KLM Electronics. Since the elements are mounted well above the boom, an element correction factor was not applied. The reflector and director lengths for the 205.25 MHz Yagi are as follows:

Reflector	$0.483 = 27 \cdot 13/16$ inches (70.6cm)
Director 1	0.4375λ = 25-1/8 inches (63.9cm)
Director 2	$0.421\lambda = 24-3/16$ inches (61.5 cm)
Directors 3 and 10	$0.414\lambda = 23-3/4$ inches (60.5cm)
Directors 4 and 9	$0.405\lambda = 23-1/4$ inches (59.2cm)
Directors 5 - 8	$0.398\lambda = 22-7/8$ inches (58.1cm)

You will note that these lengths have been slightly rounded off. The NBS report states that tolerances of 0.003λ should be maintained (0.173 inch or 4.4mm at 205.25 MHz). Furthermore, tests made by WØEYE

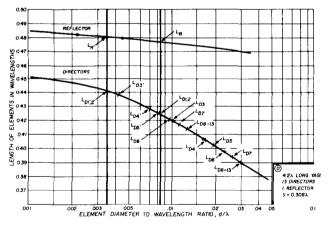


fig. 12. Use of the Yagi design curves (fig. 4) to determine the parasitic element lengths for a 15-element Yagi for 432 MHz; boom is 4.2 λ long (example 3).

and W6FZJ in 1973 clearly showed that the gain and radiation pattern of a Yagi antenna degrades quite rapidly on the high side of the design frequency, but much more slowly on the low side. Therefore, if you must round off to a standard dimension, it is better to

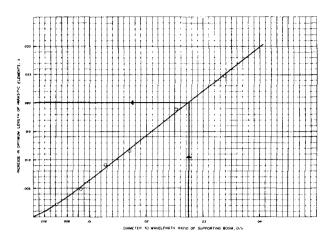


fig. 13. Supporting boom correction factor for the 15-element 432-MHz Yagi. Boom diameter is 0.0275 λ (3/4 inch or 1.9cm at 432 MHz); length of each parasitic element must be increased to 0.2 λ .

cut the director elements slightly shorter – not longer. Reflector length, on the other hand, should be rounded off on the long side. The element lengths for the Channel 12 Yagi were shortened to the nearest 1/16 inch, or only about 0.001λ .

For simplicity I decided to use a delta matching system and a 4:1 balun on this antenna. The driven element length was calculated using **eq. 3**. During final tests using the procedures outlined in reference 6 the driven element was extended slightly to obtain a 1:1 vswr. The length of the driven element is not a critical factor as long as the driven element is always shorter than the reflector.

The final design for the 205.25-MHz Yagi is shown in **fig. 11**. The desired discrimination to other Channel 12 television stations was achieved. This antenna is now in use at W1JR for indicating tropo, meteor shower, and aurora openings.

Example 3. The transpacific tropo tests mentioned in the previous example required an easily transportable antenna for the 432-MHz system to be installed at KH6BZF's station in Hawaii. I decided to use four 4.2 λ Yagis similar to the WØEYE type⁴ and stack them accordingly. The humidity and salt air are high in Hawaii so the elements were mounted through the boom using knurled 3/32-inch (2.4mm) diameter brass rods; this is similar to the method used on the W6FZJ extended, expanded collinear array described in *QST*.⁷

For the sake of brevity, **steps 1, 2**, and **3** will not be repeated here. However, the marked up nomograph for the 4.2λ 432-MHz Yagi is shown in **fig. 13**;

Since I decided to mount the elements through a metal boom, the elements must be lengthened to

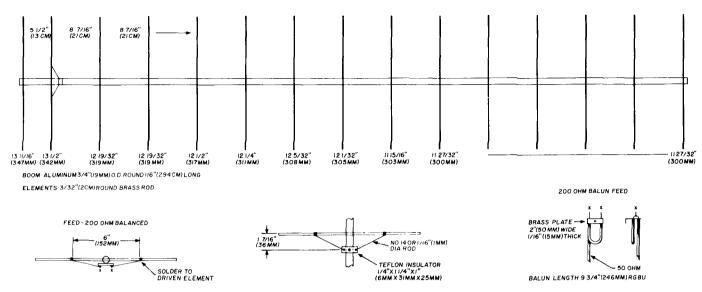


fig. 14. Layout of the 15-element 432-MHz Yagi on a 4.2\lambda boom. All elements are 3/32 inch (2.4mm) OD brass rod; elements are knurled and tapped into under-size holes in the 3/4 inch (1.9mm) aluminum boom. Element spacing of all directors is 8-7/16 inches (21.4cm); reflector is 5½ inches (14cm) behind the driven element. Details of the delta matching system and 4:1 balun are also shown.

compensate for the shortening effect of the boom.

Frequency	432 MHz
Wavelength	27.32 inches (69.40 cm)
Element diameter (d/ λ)	0.00343λ
Reflector spacing	5-1/2 inches or 13.9cm
	(0.2λ)
Director spacing	8-7/16 inches or 21.4 cm
	(0. 308 λ)
Boom diameter	3/4 inch or 1.9cm
	(0.0 275 入)
Overall length	115 inches or 2.915
	meters (4.2 λ)
$L_{R'} = 0.480\lambda$	
$L_{D1'} = L_{D2'} = 0.441\lambda$	
$L_{D3'} = 0.438\lambda$	
$L_{D4'} = 0.428\lambda$	
$L_{D5'} = 0.425\lambda$	
$L_{D6'} = 0.421\lambda$	
$L_{D7'} = 0.417\lambda$	
L _{D8} , throug	h L _{D13′} = 0.414λ

To determine the corrected element length, first convert the boom diameter (3/4 inch or 1.9cm in this case) to wavelength (d/λ) or approximately 0.0275 λ . Draw a vertical line from 0.0275 λ on the boom correction nomograph (see **fig. 13**) to the DATA line. Move to left-hand axis and read the correction factor; 0.02 λ for this antenna. Add this length correction factor to all elements as shown below.

Note that all the director lengths have been rounded off to the *short* side, as in **example 2**. The driven element length was calculated with **eq. 3**, but a better match was obtained when it was extended to 13½ inches (34.3cm); a delta match with a 4:1 balun was used. The final design for the 432-MHz Yagi is shown in fig. 14.

This antenna stacks well at 1.6λ in the *H* plane, and 1.8λ in *E* plane. As tested at NBS, this quad Yagi array yielded 19.6 dBd. A one-way 432-MHz contact was attained between KH6BZF and W6FZJ in July, 1973 (don't ask me why it wasn't two-way because I'll cry loudly). During October, 1973, using only 200

Reflector	0.480 + 0.02 = 0.500	13-11/16 inches	(34 .7cm)
Directors 1 and 2	0.441 + 0.02 = 0.461	12-19/32 inches	(32.0cm)
Director 3	0.438 + 0.02 = 0.458	12-1/2 inches	
			(31.8cm)
Director 4	0.428 + 0.02 = 0.448	12-1/4 inches	(31.1cm)
Director 5	0.425 + 0.v2 = 0.445	12-5/32 inches	
			(30.9cm)
Director 6	0.421 + 0.02 = 0.441	12-1/32 inches	(30.6cm)
Director 7	0.417 + 0.02 = 0.437	11-15/16 inches	
			(30.3cm)
Directors 8 - 13	0.414 + 0.02 = 0.434	11-27/32 inches	(30.1cm)

watts and this array, EME signals from KH6BZF were copied and identified at W6FZJ. KH6BZF now uses this setup on Oscar 7, Mode B.

This article has presented a new and relatively precise way to consistently design and build Yagi antennas with optimum, reproducible gain characteristics — selecting a boomlength to suit your own requirements. Three design examples have shown Yagi antennas with demonstrated performance. If construction tolerances are held to 0.003λ maximum $(0.001\lambda$ preferred), you should be able to design your own Yagis with the same excellent results. As pointed out earlier, director elements should be slightly shortened, while reflectors should be lengthened when rounding off the calculated dimensions.

Before actually starting to build a given design, double check your mathematics and scaling; it will pay off a 100-fold in time saved (and frustration). In those cases where the numbers in **table 1** do not agree exactly for the first director, reference at 0.0085 (d/λ) on the chart. The feed methods are not critical, and attention to the details outlined in references 5 and 6 should fill any voids in this article. In closing, I would especially like to thank Don Hilliard, WØPW (ex WØEYE), who first introduced me to this information, and to Peter Viezbickie who, after much prodding by Don and myself, finally published this wealth of information. Now you, too, can be an expert in designing your own Yagi antennas.

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ham radio



the future of the amateur satellite service

During Phase III of the amateur satellite program AMSAT will place advanced communications satellites in high-altitude orbits which will allow long-range communications for up to 15 hours per day. This article discusses the capabilities of those satellites, and the financial support required from the amateur community

Amateur radio stands on the threshold of the most exciting and comprehensive change in its history, a change more revolutionary than that from spark to CW, or a-m to ssb, or the advent of vhf-fm repeaters. The Phase III Amateur Satellite Program, about which you'll be reading a great deal in the coming months, sounds more like science fiction than fact. However, in the past few years the *facts* have become increasingly clear: amateurs are already in command of the technology needed to produce a cost-effective satellite system — a *system*, not just a single satellite, capable of greatly enhancing the reliability of long-distance communications while simultaneously reducing the cost of the average amateur radio station. One day, probably in late 1979, the first amateur Phase III satellite will be launched, and a new era in amateur communications will begin. It's possible that within ten years from today the majority of longdistance communications (over 50 miles or 80 km) by amateurs interested in DX, contests, traffic handling, and casual rag chewing will be by satellite. As a result, crowding of the high-frequency bands may be significantly reduced, even with a rapidly increasing amateur population.

Using satellite relays for global radio communications was first proposed by Arthur C. Clarke in the British journal *Wireless World* in 1945. Approximately 20 years later (March 9, 1965) the first active communications satellite, OSCAR 3, was launched. It may be hard to believe, but radio amateurs were communicating through OSCAR 3 months before the first commercial communications satellite, *Early Bird* (Intelsat I), was placed into orbit. Yet today, 12 years later, while satellites are carrying approximately twothirds of all commercial transoceanic communications,¹ amateurs are still relying almost entirely on erratic high-frequency circuits for distant contacts.

Long-distance propagation on the high-frequency bands depends on signals being reflected by the ionosphere. A much more reliable communications system results when a satellite is substituted for the somewhat erratic ionosphere, and vhf or uhf bands are used for the radio links. You don't need to know much about the workings of the ionosphere to use the high-frequency bands; surprisingly, you don't need to know much about satellites to enjoy the advantages of this new mode of communications.

The satellite subsystem of primary interest to radio amateurs is the transponder, the electronic package which receives signals from stations on the ground and then retransmits them, on a different frequency with great amplification, back to earth. Although transponders are somewhat similar to 2-meter fm repeaters, there are significant differences: the linear transponders used on AMSAT satellites work equally well with ssb and CW signals, and they can simultaneously handle a large number of users.

To appreciate the communications capabilities which high-altitude spacecraft will provide we can

By Martin Davidoff, Ph.D., K2UBC, 13803 Manor Glen Road, Baldwin, Maryland 21013 compare communications links involving Phase III (high-altitude) satellites, Phase II (low-altitude) satellites such as OSCAR 6 and OSCAR 7 which are currently in orbit, and the 20-meter band. The comparison will consider a number of characteristics of specific interest to radio amateurs using these systems.

- 1. Daily access time. How many hours each day does the user have access to the satellite?
- Maximum communications range. What is the maximum terrestial distance over which two stations can communicate?
- Communications performance. How strong and intelligible are received signals? Can openings over specific paths be predicted reliably?
- 4. Communications capacity. How many stations can use the satellite at the same time?
- Frequencies. What frequency bands will Phase III satellites use?
- 6. Tracking techniques and operating schedules. Will the paper work involved in tracking and checking operating schedules be complicated and laborious?
- 7. Ground-station equipment. How much transmitter power and how large an antenna will be needed? Will commercial or surplus equipment be available for a moderate cost ground station?
- 8. Antenna aiming. Will the direction in which the antenna is pointed have to be continually adjusted while operating?
- 9. Miscellaneous. How will factors such as satellite lifetime, signal time delay, lack of skip zone, Doppler shift, and crowding affect users?
- 10. Financing the Phase III program. Can amateurs afford the Phase III program?

daily access time

The average amount of time that a satellite will be

This article focuses on the potential impact of the amateur satellite program on amateur radio over the next ten years. The author, Dr. Martin Davidoff, K2UBC, is an assistant professor of mathematics at a community college in Maryland where he directs a National Science Foundation project involving satellites and college level science instruction. In conjunction with the NSF project, he recently authored a textbook featuring the AMSAT-OSCAR series of satellites, *Using Satellites in the Classroom: A Guide for Science Educators.* K2UBC obtained his doctorate in Physics from Syracuse University in 1974 and has held an amateur license since 1956. Editor.

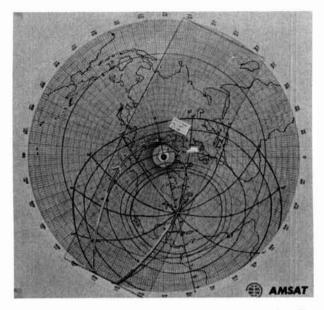


fig. 1. Photograph of *Satellable* style tracking nomograph for elliptical orbit of the type used by the Phase III-A spacecraft.

within range of a specific ground station each day (daily access time) is determined solely by the ground station's latitude. The first Phase III satellite will be injected into an orbit that initially places it within range of ground stations at mid-northern latitudes (this includes most of the United States) for about 15 hours each day, and within range of ground stations at mid-southern latitudes for about 5 hours each day. The first Phase III satellite will therefore provide northern hemisphere amateurs with as much access time as ten optimally spaced OSCAR 7 satellites! Can you recall the last time that 20 meters was open 15 hours per day on a regular basis?

As the years pass, ground stations will find that their average daily access time will change. By 1985 the first Phase III satellite will only be within range of northern hemisphere stations about 5 hours each day while southern hemisphere stations will have about 15 hours of access time each day. But don't despair, AMSAT is capable of producing two additional Phase III spacecraft before 1985. If these spacecraft are inserted into orbits similar to that of the first Phase III spacecraft, ground stations anywhere on earth will have access to at least one Phase III satellite for about 20 hours each day.

maximum communications range

Phase II satellites provide a maximum communications range of about 5000 miles (8000km). While this is adequate for Worked All States and DXCC, it's not very satisfactory by high-frequency standards. Phase III satellites will enable amateurs to communicate over a much greater distance — up to about 11200 miles or 18000 km — leaving only a very small region at the opposite side of the earth out of range. The 20-meter band will continue to reward its followers with somewhat unpredictable openings to all parts of the globe.

If you've had the opportunity of listening to ssb stations using the 432/146-MHz transponder on OSCAR 7, you know that satellites are capable of providing *telephone quality* links. The 20-meter band can provide similar performance, albeit in a some-

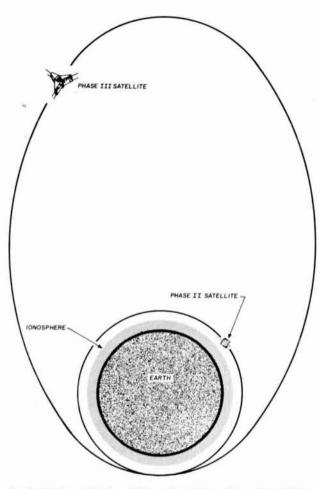


fig. 2. Relative altitudes of Phase II satellites, Phase III satellites, and the ionosphere — shown approximately to scale. Drawing does not take inclination of orbits into account.

what erratic manner. As an example, assume it's August, 1977, and you're interested in the Denver-Frankfurt path during January, 1978. The best prediction high frequency propagation experts can offer is that 20 meters will probably be open over the path of interest sometime between 1600 and 1800 UTC on about 15 days during January. If the first Phase III satellite was in orbit at this time, you could predict with better than 99% certainty, that the Denver-Frankfurt circuit would be open for several hours every day in January during time slots specified almost to the minute.

The advantages of a Phase III satellite for prearranged point-to-point schedules are even more impressive when you consider a three-way contact between, for example, New York, London and Tokyo. Satellites will make such contacts possible daily with clocklike regularity. What are the odds of being able to accomplish this on 20-meters?

The received signal strengths observed by stations communicating through a high-altitude satellite will be largely independent of the distance between the stations. This results from the fact that the earthsatellite-earth distance and path loss are, for all practical purposes, constant regardless of how far apart the two ground stations might be. Since distance doesn't count, a station across town and one nearly halfway around the globe will produce similar signals if they are using similar equipment. In fact, listening to your own signal being returned from the transponder will indicate quite accurately how you sound to any station within range of the satellite.

communications capacity

The first Phase III satellite will provide a band of frequencies, nominally 150 kHz wide, capable of handling hundreds of simultaneous conversations. All users will be sharing the 50-watt satellite transmitter. Therefore, ssb and CW will be the preferred modes because they efficiently use the available satellite power. The satellite transponders will also be able to handle slow-scan TV, RTTY, and fm. But these modes should only be used in emergencies, or for special experiments coordinated with AMSAT, because they use a disproportionate amount of satellite transmitter power and, in the case of fm, excessive bandwidth.

A recent cost-effectiveness study suggests that crowding will not become a serious problem with the first Phase III spacecraft until 30,000 users are equipped to transmit on the uplink frequency.² To prevent crowding problems AMSAT plans an ongoing Phase III construction program which is designed to keep pace with a rapidly increasing user population. Placing an additional satellite in orbit every 24 months appears to be a realistic goal.

frequencies

The first Phase III satellite will include two transponders. Therefore, even if one transponder fails, the satellite will still be available for communication on a full-time basis. If possible, the two transponders on the first Phase III spacecraft will use reciprocal frequency combinations: one transponder will receive on 435 MHz and transmit on 146 MHz, the other will receive on 146 MHz and transmit on 435 MHz. Users will be able to compare the performance of both transponders and express their preferences for scheduling and for future satellites.

The amateur satellite program will continue to rely heavily on the 146-MHz and 435-MHz bands

throughout the 1980s. In the mid or late 1980s Phase III satellites are likely to include links at even higher frequencies such as the 920 MHz (32cm) and 2.3 GHz (13cm) bands; specific plans must await the outcome of the 1979 World Administrative Radio Conference.

Low-altitude (Phase II) satellites may continue to use 10 meter downlinks, a band which is not suitable for Phase III. Readers interested in the factors involved in selecting frequencies for amateur satellite systems are referred to the excellent paper by Ray Soifer, W2RS.³

tracking techniques and operating schedules

You may be pleasantly surprised to learn that you won't need to know anything about tracking to use a Phase III satellite. After the first Phase III spacecraft is in orbit, you'll be able to turn on your receiver (with an omni-directional antenna connected) and check to see whether or not the band is open (satellite within range) by simply tuning for signals. About 65% of the time stations in mid-northern latitudes (most of the United States) will find that they're in luck - signals will be present. If a second Phase III spacecraft is launched into a similar orbit, the probability of finding the band open will be about 90%. When the band is open, you'll switch to a beam antenna and home in on the satellite by peaking your S-meter on a beacon signal. The same antenna setting will work for all stations received via the satellite. Peaking the antenna every 15 minutes should be more than sufficient.

While the casual user can get away without any knowledge of tracking, some tracking skill (like a little insight into 20-meter propagation) will pay big dividends by enabling you to predict specific openings, to rare countries.

Many radio amateurs think that satellite tracking is very difficult and requires a strong mathematical aptitude. This just isn't true. Tracking is a simple, mechanical skill that takes only a few minutes to learn, and the only math needed is basic arithmetic. The ability to predict 20-meter propagation stands in sharp contrast; it's an impressive skill which requires a great deal of knowledge and experience.

Most tracking methods use some sort of nomograph which usually consists of a map and transparent overlay. Until recently everyone had to build their own tracking nomograph from scratch a straightforward but tedious job which is no longer necessary since excellent commercial tracking aids are now available.⁴ With minor modifications the basic tracking techniques and nomographs used with OSCAR 6 and 7 will also work for the radically different orbits which early Phase III spacecraft will introduce. In fact, these same nomographs were actually used to evaluate the communications capabilities provided by the various orbits considered for Phase III. Construction details for Phase III tracking nomographs will be published in the near future.

In the past, OSCAR 6 and 7 users have sometimes complained about the bookkeeping involved in determining which OSCAR 6 orbits are available for general use and which OSCAR 7 transponder is scheduled to operate. The latest W6PAJ orbit calendar⁵ eliminates most of the bookkeeping drudgery by clearly listing the times and operating status for every OSCAR 6 and OSCAR 7 orbit during 1977. AMSAT will have a great deal of flexibility in scheduling future Phase III satellites because they will be controlled by onboard microcomputers that can be programmed by suitably equipped ground stations. User convenience will be the primary consideration when satellite schedules are chosen so bookkeeping requirements should be minimal. Tracking nomographs and orbit calendars will be made available for Phase III satellites soon after they're in orbit.

ground station equipment

Receiving. Ground stations working with Phase III satellites will need a good ssb/CW receiver capable of tuning a few hundred kHz around 146 MHz and/or 435 MHz.

Transmitting. A CW or ssb transmitter with about 50 watts output at 146 or 435 MHz will be required for the uplink.

Antennas. Ground station communication via the Phase III satellite will usually require moderate gain (10-15 dBi) beam antennas for receiving and transmitting. A typical antenna array may consist of two or more Yagis mounted on a common mast using a single set of azimuth and elevation rotators. The entire structure can be smaller and lighter than the average three-element beam used on 20 meters.

The selected antenna site should place the antenna clear of surrounding objects and relatively close to the operating position since feedline losses are an important consideration at 146 and 435 MHz. As a result, a chimney mount will often be as effective as a large tower. Neighbors (and zoning committees) will probably be unable to distinguish between a roof-mounted Yagi array for satellite work and a large television antenna!

Although beam antennas will usually be required for reliable communications, simple omnidirectional antennas will also be useful at times. For example, an omnidirectional receiving antenna can be used during the entire orbit to determine whether the satellite is within range. In addition, omnidirectional transmitting and receiving antennas will sometimes be convenient for communication when the satellite altitude is relatively low (less than 15% of each orbit). **General**. The satellite ground station that you put together will no doubt depend on the size of your pocketbook, the equipment you already own, the amount of time you have to devote to the project, and the transponder frequency.

Here are some options that you may want to consider. If you presently own a good high-frequency receiver, a top-line vhf or uhf converter will provide you with a state-of-the-art receiving setup. For transmitting, the 10-watt multimode or ssb/CW transceivers currently available for 2 meters and 70 cm look like a good choice. A linear amplifier with 6-10 dB of gain will keep the transmitting antenna requirements within modest limits.

Numerous pieces of commercial equipment suitable for satellite work (converters, transmitters, antennas) are currently available off the shelf; I'm not speculating as to what the future may offer. If you have some time and a little technical knowhow, you'll be able to put together a relatively inexpensive station using a surplus fm strip as a CW transmitter and homebrew helix antennas. In any event, if you're currently thinking of investing in a vhf or uhf fm transceiver or amplifier, consider paying a little extra to obtain a rig with ssb/CW capabilities and purchasing an amplifier that can be run in the linear mode for ssb.

Let's look at the equipment procurement problem from a different perspective by putting ourselves in the shoes of a newcomer to amateur radio five years from now (1982). If the newcomer intends to stick with the hobby for quite a few years and wants to set up a first-class station for local and DX work with new, off-the-shelf equipment what are the options?

Option A

Synthesized 2-meter fm transceiver

Separate transmitter and receiver for high-frequency bands

Kilowatt high-frequency amplifier

50-foot (80m) tower and triband Yagi

Option B

10-watt multimode 2-meter transceiver
10-watt multimode 70-cm transceiver
50-watt, 2-meter and 70-cm linear amplifiers
Modest roof-mounted antenna array

While each of these options will provide roughly equivalent capabilities, **Option B**, which depends on satellites for long-distance work, costs approximately half as much as **Option A**. Since prices for vhf and uhf ssb/CW gear are likely to decrease when a big new market opens up, the financial advantage of **Option B** is likely to increase. The first Phase III satellite will be a moving target. The question that concerns radio amateurs is: How difficult will it be to track this satellite with a moderate gain beam? In other words, how frequently will the ground station operator be required to adjust the azimuth and elevation controls? The answer depends on a number of factors including: satellite orbit characteristics, location of the ground station with respect to the satellite, and the beamwidth of the antenna.

An analysis of the problem, taking these factors into account, shows that a ground station using a moderate gain beam will, on the average, need to adjust azimuth and elevation controls about once every 15 minutes during most of the orbit. However, there will be times while the satellite is near the low point on its orbit (perigee) when almost continual adjustment of beam elevation and azimuth will be required. Since signals will be very strong near perigee, ground stations will find it convenient to switch from beams to simple fixed omnidirectional antennas during this relatively short period of time.

Let's compare the dynamic antenna aiming requirements for Phase III, as just outlined, to requirements for Phase II satellites and the 20-meter band. Radio amateurs who have been using low or moderate gain beams to access OSCAR 6 and OSCAR 7 will find that they'll be able to pay far less attention to azimuth and elevation controls when they communicate via a Phase III satellite. Operators familiar with 20 meters will probably also be pleased to observe how a single antenna setting will work for all stations using the satellite; there's no need to repeatedly adjust the antenna for each weak DX signal.

AMSAT hopes that some future Phase III satellites may be placed in geostationary (or nearly geostationary) orbits.⁶ A satellite in a geostationary orbit will appear to remain fixed directly above a spot on the earth's equator; a satellite in a nearly geostationary orbit will appear to drift slowly in longitude while remaining directly above the equator. Ground stations using these satellites will only need to adjust azimuth and elevation controls when switching from one satellite to another or when turning on the ground station after it's been off for a day or longer.

miscellaneous

Lifetime. Satellite lifetime concerns radio amateurs for several reasons. First, lifetime affects the yearly cost of the satellite. This subject will be covered in detail in the next section. Second, lifetime affects the long-term reliability of a satellite communications system. If a system depends on a single satellite, satellite failure shuts down the system. Potential users of a system based on a single satellite are naturally hesitant about investing time, energy, and money in a ground station that might suddenly have no function. Although the long lifetimes of OSCAR 6 and OSCAR 7 have alleviated this concern to some extent, the real solution is to produce a multiple satellite system so that the failure of a single satellite causes users only minor inconvenience. The term Phase III connotes just such a system. For this reason amateurs building ground stations for Phase III need not worry about their station suddenly becoming useless.

Let's look briefly at some of the plans for implementing the Phase III system. Experience with Phase II has shown that it's reasonable to expect operational lifetimes of five years for Phase III satellites. During the five year period following the launch of the first Phase III satellite, additional spacecraft will be placed into orbit; a new satellite every two years is a realistic goal for the 1977-1985 time frame. By 1984 the system should average three or more Phase III spacecraft in orbit and operating at any given time.

In the past amateurs thought that a satellite's useful life ended when it ceased to function. In the future AMSAT might decide to retire an old operating spacecraft from service in order to replace it with a new, more powerful model before total failure occurs

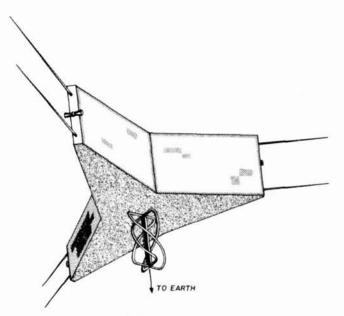
Time delay. Time delays from 10 to 300 milliseconds on the earth-satellite-earth path will make continuous monitoring of your own downlink distracting — to say the least. This is just one illustration of the many subtle differences between terrestial and satellite communications systems which amateurs will encounter in the future.

Each time amateurs have introduced new communications systems (ssb in the 1950s, for example, or fm repeaters in the 1960s), they've had to develop new operating procedures. Satellite systems will also require such innovations. One way to compensate for the time delays encountered while using highaltitude satellites might be to set the hang time on the vox or CW break-in system to 300 milliseconds and pause periodically for a second or two to enable the other party to break in.

No skip zone. Satellite communication systems do not exhibit skip zones. Consequently, it's easy to tell if a frequency is being used and a lot of unintentional interference can be avoided. In addition, round-table and net operation will be greatly facilitated since all users will hear each other. No problems to cure here — just a big bonus for satellite operators.

Doppler shift. Anyone who has listened to signals from a low-altitude satellite such as OSCAR 6 or 7 has

probably noticed the pronounced downward shift in frequency that signals exhibit during nearby passes. A similar downward shift in frequency can be observed when a train passes with its whistle blowing. In both cases the frequency shift (called Doppler shift) is observed even though the source frequency is constant. The magnitude of the Doppler shift which amateurs encounter during satellite com-



Sketch of AMSAT-Phase III-A spacecraft.

munications depends on the relative velocity between satellite and ground station and the frequency being used — higher relative velocities and higher frequencies produce greater shifts.

Single-sideband communication is especially sensitive to Doppler shift since frequency changes of a few hundred cycles can make an ssb signal unintelligible. The largest Doppler shift that amateur radio operators have so far encountered during two-way communications occurs when OSCAR 7 passes directly overhead with the 432/146 MHz transponder in use. Under these conditions the Doppler shift is annoying, but ssb stations are able to compensate by frequent receiver tuning.

The first Phase III satellite will be moving slowly (relative to the surface of the earth) most of the time. During this portion of the orbit, Doppler shift will be smaller than observed with Phase II spacecraft which use the same transponder frequency combinations. However, there will be a small segment of each orbit, amounting to less than 10% of the period, when Doppler shift may be annoying, although ssb communications should still be possible.

Later Phase III satellites may be placed in geostationary orbits. Since these satellites will appear to remain fixed in space (no relative motion between satellite and ground station), no Doppler shift will be observed. In sum, Doppler shift will be of minor concern only with early Phase III satellites and of no concern with geostationary Phase III satellites.

Crowding. It has been estimated that the first Phase III satellite can accommodate 30,000 users equipped to transmit on the uplink bands. The estimate is based on ssb stations using 100 kHz and CW stations using 50 kHz of the transponder. If crowding becomes a problem before the follow-on Phase III spacecraft is launched, users have several options. Many may shift from ssb to CW to accommodate more stations in a given bandwidth. However, the opposite strategy, switching from CW to ssb, may actually be more effective in reducing crowding problems because a station can pass a given amount of information in a much shorter time period with ssb than with CW, while using less total spacecraft energy. This strategy would work only if amateurs limit themselves to essential information - a guestionable objective.

Crowding effects can also be minimized by increasing the amount of roundtable and net operation. Phase III satellites are especially suitable for such use since there will not be any skip zone, and Doppler shift will be minimal. In any event, it should be evident that a number of viable options exist in response to any crowding problems that may temporarily occur. I have no doubt that amateurs who were raised on the 40- and 80-meter Novice bands will be able to devise satisfactory solutions.

financing

Phase III will become a reality only if the international amateur community is willing and able to financially support the program. While large donations from individuals, corporations, and foundations are needed to produce the first Phase III spacecraft, a long-term Phase III program depends on small donations from a very wide base of support in the amateur community.

An educated guess places the procurement cost for a commercially built Phase III satellite in excess of five million dollars. An early AMSAT estimate pegs the cost of the first Phase III satellite at two-hundred thousand dollars, a considerably smaller but still imposing figure. A much more meaningful number is the cost per year of service. Experience has shown that it's reasonable to expect an operational lifetime of five years for a Phase III spacecraft, so the cost per year of service for the first Phase III satellite is expected to be less than \$45,000.

Let's look at this figure more closely. When the number of amateur radio operators equipped for the

uplink reaches 15,000 (half the estimated spacecraft capacity), the yearly cost per user will be less than three dollars! This means that when AMSAT membership reaches 50% of user capacity, the current \$10 AMSAT membership fee* should be able to support an expanding program of satellite construction and provide for membership services, educational programs, and the *AMSAT Newsletter*. However, AMSAT satellites will always be free access and available to anyone licensed to operate on the uplink frequencies. Readers interested in cost breakdowns for the first Phase III satellite should read the current series in *QST* by Jan King, spacecraft project manager.

general comments

Phase III satellites have been compared to Phase II satellites and 20 meters throughout this article. The points of comparison were chosen to illustrate Phase III satellite capabilities in familiar terms. As a result many of the unique and desirable characteristics of Phase II satellites and 20 meters have been ignored. I will now briefly discuss some of these features.

The 20-meter band will certainly remain a favorite of amateurs for a number of reasons. It's probabilistic nature is actually a very appealing characteristic — a skilled, knowledgeable, patient operator with a simple low-power 20-meter station will eventually be rewarded with exciting openings to the entire world. In addition, RTTY and sstv buffs can use 20 meters for hour after hour without ever worrying about using an unfair amount of satellite power.

Low-altitude satellites can be used by very simple ground stations. Contacts through Phase II satellites have been made with as little as 100 milliwatts, and numerous amateurs have had contacts using less than 1 watt of transmitter power; it is therefore possible to communicate through low-altitude satellites using small hand-held portable units. Low-altitude satellites can also be used in a broadcast mode, for example, to carry a single bulletin to the entire United States via 2-meter fm. Because of these features AM-SAT will launch another Phase II satellite in late 1977 and continue the Phase II program through the 1980s. If you haven't already done so, try your hand at using the low-altitude satellites currently in orbit; they can provide a great deal of fun and excitement.

I think it's clear that Phase III will add a new dimension to amateur radio by augmenting the existing long-distance communication modes, not by replacing them.

^{*}Regular AMSAT membership is \$10 per year; life membership is \$100. Write to AMSAT, Post Office Box 27, Washington, DC, 20044.

With the uncertain outcome of amateur frequency allocations at the World Administrative Radio Conference in 1979, and the rapidly increasing amateur population in the United States and abroad, the question is no longer "Can we afford to go ahead with the Phase III project?" The question is, "Can we afford not to go ahead with the Phase III project?"

The European Space Agency has selected the first AMSAT Phase III satellite for a late 1979 launch. The selection was a significant honor for the AMSAT team, but satellite construction can proceed on schedule only if AMSAT can obtain adequate funds. The money needed can be raised if amateurs are willing to demonstrate their commitment to the Phase III satellite program by joining AMSAT now, before the first Phase III satellite is launched.

Individuals who would like to make a more substantial contribution are encouraged to do so by donating money — contributions are tax deductible under section 170 of the IRS codes and/or donating time — volunteers are needed for a myriad of Phase III related activities (and you don't have to live in the greater Washington, D.C. area to participate).

Ten years from today amateurs will probably look back at the years 1977-1981, bracketing the launch of the first Phase III satellite, as one of the most exciting periods in the histoory of amateur radio. Take part in making history and enjoy it as it happens; *invest yourself in the future of amateur radio*.

acknowledgements

Much of the information presented in this article was derived from conversations with Jan King and Perry Klein of AMSAT. Their comments on prepublication drafts of this article were extremely useful. I am also grateful to Linda Davidoff. Her editorial assistance considerably improved the clarity of the manuscript.

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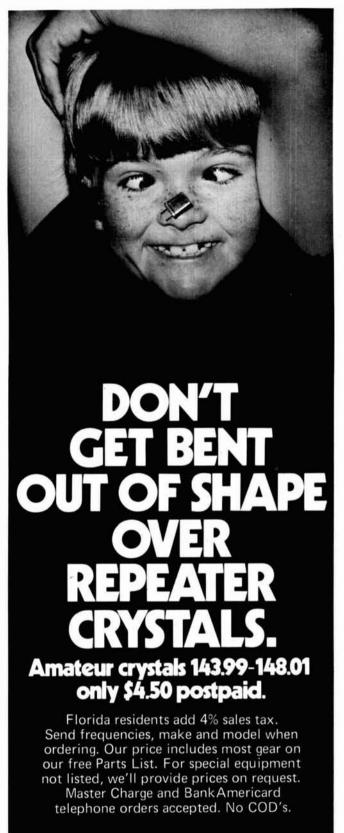
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homebrew Touch-Tone encoder

Details for building a simple encoder designed around the 555 timer IC

For those who like to make their own *Touch-Tonet* encoders, a cursory review of the amateur radio literature shows several reliable circuits. Several are built around the Western Electric Model 35 pad.¹⁻⁴ Another encoder used a pair of 565 IC voltage-controlled oscillators,⁴ while others have used the recently developed MC14410 cmos encoder.^{5,6} However, to my knowledge, no encoder has been built or described using the type 555 IC timer.

This article is the result of the challenge to design and build a simple *Touch-Tone* encoder with automatic PTT control using the 555 timer.

design

For a 12-button pad, *Touch-Tone* information is encoded in pairs using two of seven possible frequency tones. As shown in **table 1**, these seven

†*Touch-Tone* is the registered trademark of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company.

tones are divided into a "low" group (rows) of 697, 770, 852, and 941 Hz; and the "high" group (columns) of 1209, 1336, and 1477 Hz.

To generate the required *Touch-Tone* codes, two 555 timers are required, each connected as an astable multivibrator with an output frequency given by

$$f(Hz) = \frac{1}{0.693(R_A + 2R_B)C}$$

 R_A is the resistance between the timer discharge output and $+ V_{cc}$, and R_B is the resistance between the threshold input and discharge output. As shown in **fig. 1**, R_A is replaced by a resistive divider string for both the low- and high-tone oscillators.

table 1. Frequencies used in the Touch-Tone signaling system.

	high-tone group		
low-tone group	1209 Hz	1336 Hz	1477 Hz
697 Hz	1	2	3
770 Hz	4	5	6
852 Hz	7	8	9
941 Hz	•	0	#

For the low tone oscillator, U1, letting $R_A = R1 = 4.3k$ ohms, C = 0.047 μ F, and f = 941 Hz, solving for R_B yields 14,164 ohms. To generate the next lower tone (852 Hz), R_A is now equal to R1 + R2, so that R2 = 3.3k ohms. For the 770-Hz tone, R_A now equals R1 + R2 + R3, giving R3 = 3.9k ohms. In a like manner, R4 = 4.3k ohms.

The high-tone oscillator U2, is designed in a similar manner. Starting with the 1477-Hz tone, letting R5 = R_A = 3.9k ohms and C = 0.047 μ F, R6 = 2.2k ohms and R7 = 2.4k ohms.

For both oscillators the outputs are taken from the

By Howard M. Berlin, W3HB, 2 Colony Boulevard, Apartment 123, Wilmington, Delaware 19802

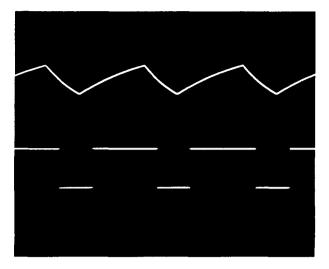


fig. 2. Type 555 timer output waveforms. When connected as an astable multivibrator upper trace is obtained from pins 2 and 6; lower trace from pin 3.

timer discharge junction and trigger pins (pins 2 and 6), which produce a pseudo-triangular waveform between 1/3 and 2/3 V_{cc} (fig. 2). A 741C op-amp, U3, adds the output of both oscillators, shown in fig. 3, and is coupled to a 10-k ohm pot, which is an output-level control.

The automatic PTT control consists of another 555 timer, U4, connected as a 1-second one-shot and relay K1.

components

For good thermal stability the 0.047- μ F capacitors should be either tantalum or mylar, and resistors

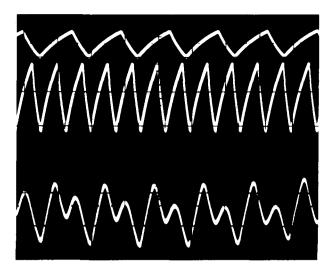


fig. 3. Addition to the low-tone oscillator (top trace) and the hightone oscillator (center trace) to give a two-tone output signal when the digit 2 is pressed.

R1-R9 should be 1%. Several manufacturers currently advertise a 4X3 pad similar to the Chomerics type ER-21623. R10 and R11 are 10-turn pots. If desired, a type 556 dual timer can replace U1 and U2. **Fig. 4** compares the pin connections to of the 555 and 556 timers.

adjustment

Start by pressing the * key and adjust R10 so that the low-group oscillator reads 941 Hz at pin 3 of U1. Consequently, frequencies of 852, 770, and 697 Hz should be obtained to within 2% when the numbers 7, 4, and 1 are respectively pressed. For the high tone

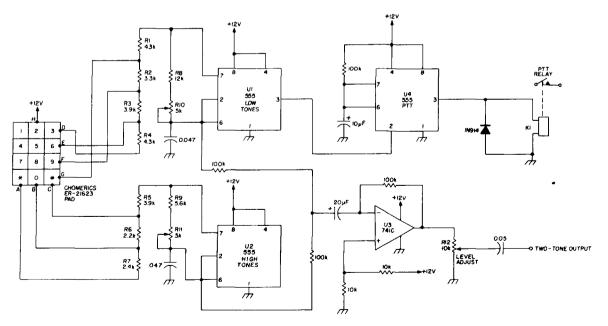


fig. 1. Touch-Tone encoder schematic using the type 556 IC timer with high and low tones. Automatic PTT control is also included.

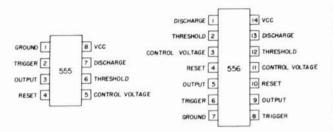


fig. 4. Pin-connection comparison for the type 555 and 556 timers.

group, press the # key and adjust R11 so that the oscillator reads 1477 Hz at pin 3 of U2. Consequently, frequencies of 1336 and 1209 Hz should be obtained to within 2% when the **0** and ***** keys are pressed.

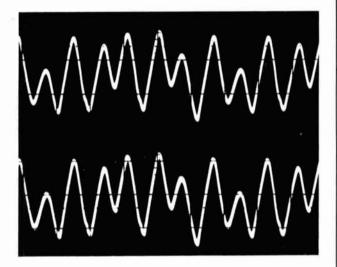


fig. 5. Comparison of two-tone output obtained from the 555 timer encoder (upper trace) with Western Electric Model 35 pad (lower trace) for the digit 1.

A comparison of the digit **1** generated by a Model 35 pad and the 555 encoder is shown in **fig. 5**.

For proper operation output-level control R12 should be set against a deviation meter; otherwise on-the-air testing will be required to set the output level.

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1. William P. Lambing, W0LPO, "Mobile Operation with the Touch-Tone Pad," *ham radio*, August, 1972, page 58.

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3. Larry McDavid, W6FUB, "Universal Tone Encoder for vhf fm," ham radio, July, 1975, page 16.

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frequency-marker standard using CMOS logic megohms. It should be close to 10 temperature extremes are experienced.

Low power consumption and fast switching speeds through the hf bands are featured in this circuit

A few frequency-marker standards have appeared in the amateur literature, but most use linear ICs or TTL logic. The frequency standard described here uses CMOS CD4000-series logic elements, which result in reduced power consumption but switch fast enough to allow sufficient switching speed and harmonic energy throughout the hf bands for good response.

circuit description

The divider arrangement is shown in **fig. 1**, in which a 400-kHz crystal-reference frequency is used. A 1-MHz reference would be better; however, the 400-kHz frequency was chosen because of available parts.

The oscillator is somewhat different than others using logic elements,¹ such as that using TTL ICs.² Resistor R1 keeps the input of the first NOR gate, U1A, stable; otherwise the oscillator refuses to oscillate at the crystal frequency. Resistor R2 is not critical and can be any value between 1 and 20 megohms. It should be close to 10 megohms if temperature extremes are experienced.¹ Resistor R3 provides load isolation between Y1 and the NORgate output. RC network C2, R3, R2, C1 forms a feedback arrangement similar to that recommended by reference 1, wherein C2 can be adjusted to vary crystal frequency to zero-beat with WWV or CHU. Capacitor C1 is used for crystal loading and centering of the crystal-frequency range.

Buffer NOR gate U1B isolates the crystal oscillator from the following divider chain, U2-U6. U2A-U3B are a divide-by-4 circuit in which the logic elements are JK flip-flops connected as D flip-flops (D flipflops could be used here).

Calibration markers were desired at 200, 100, 50, 25, 10 and 5 kHz. This means that some additional dividing was necessary along with the following flipflops to allow the desired symmetrical waveshape, since any feed back-type counter-divider produces an unsymmetrical waveform output. Therefore, U4 was chosen as a divide-by-N counter IC, and the latch arrangement of U5 was used to reset the selected divide-by-5 logic.

The 100-kHz output was first divided by 5, which was then divided by 2 to provide the symmetrical 10-kHz output; this output was then divided by 2 to provide 5-kHz. A switch, S1, and a final buffer, U1C, were used between selected output and the output coupling point. (A small 100-pF capacitor can be used for output coupling.)

construction

The photo shows component layout. I used perf board with straight pin-to-pin wiring. If you wish to use a PC board, one could be easily designed. Nothing is critical about parts layout; however, short leads should be used in the oscillator circuit to preclude problems with stray capacitance.

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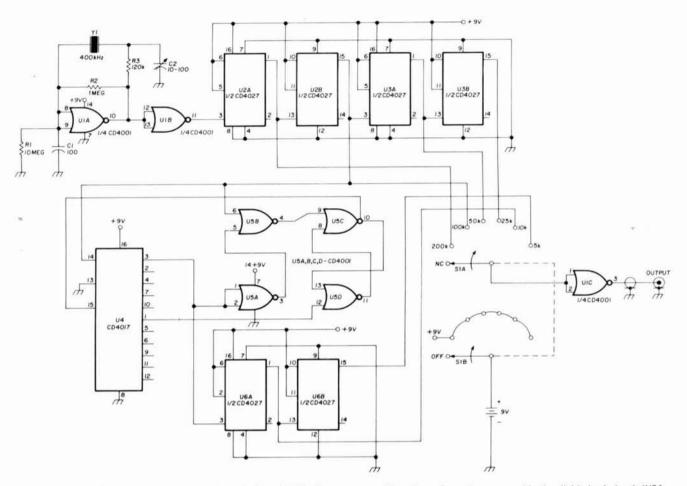
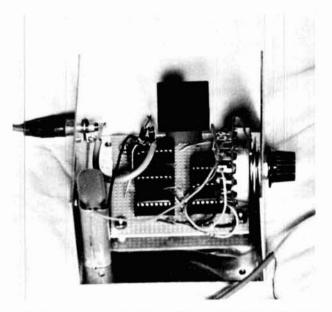


fig. 1. The CMOS IC frequency-standard schematic. Type JK flip-flops connected in a D configuration are used in the divide-by-4 circuit (U2A-U3B). Type D flip-flops could be used here.



Component arrangement of the CMOS frequency standard. Layout is not critical; straight pin-to-pin wiring is used. Oscillator requires short leads for minimum frequency variation due to stray capacitance. This CMOS crystal -frequency marker standard is a big improvement over the standard once used and consumes only 2.8 milliamperes at 9 volts, or 25.2 milliwatts. A 9-volt transistor radio battery power source was used and will probably last close to its shelf life. The frequency standard works fine through 10 meters. However, no equipment was available to check it through uhf, so I don't know whether sufficient energy will be present at these frequencies. The switching speed appears to be adeguate, however.

Incidentally, a DT-cut crystal should be used for minimum temperature effects and frequency drift problems, since this type cut has much less frequency variation due to nearby heat sources.

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1. The Solid-State Databook, Series SSD203B, RCA Communications, Inc., pages 352-353.

2. Gerald Hall, K1PLP, "A TTL Crystal Oscillator," *QST*, February, 1974, page 34.

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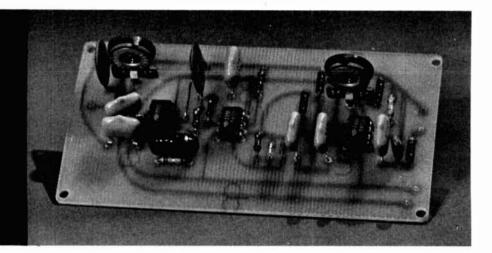


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audio-frequency speech processor

Design and construction of a logarithmic limiting type speech processor featuring µA741 ICs

An easy way to improve ssb-transmitter performance is to use a well-designed speech processor between microphone and transmitter. Such a processor, if properly adjusted, will make a noticeable improvement in your transmitter speech readability. Contrary to current rumors, poor audio quality and increased bandwidth are not inherent in a good design.

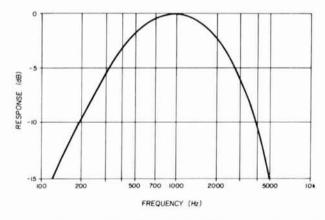
Audio-signal conditioning requires no transmitter modifications with the exception of a cooling fan to protect components because of the increase in average power input to the final amplifier. Such a fan may be mounted externally if needed.

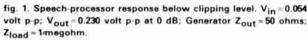
The speech processor described here is of the

logarithmic type¹ and is easy to adjust and use. When used with my SB-401, this speech processor resulted in a signal-strength increase at the receiving end of at least two S-units. I've yet to get a report of poor audio quality or splatter, even from operators using monitor scopes. As a result, I use the processor at all times.

response

Much has appeared in the amateur literature regarding the ideal response of speech processors. For example, reference 2 states that, "The only way to accurately evaluate the actual improvement of-





By Frank C. Getz, K3PDW, 685 Farnum Road, Media, Pennsylvania 19063

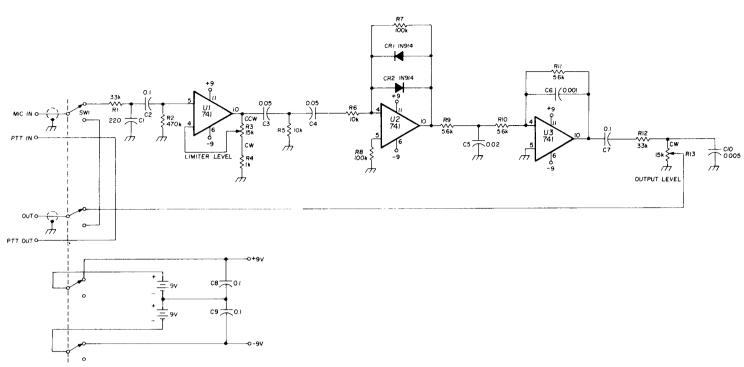


fig. 3. Speech-processor schematic. Numbering for 14-pin DIPs is shown.

U1,U2,U3 μA	741 operational amplifier (use mini-dip for PC board)
SW1 4 p	dt rotary switch
C1 220	0 pF, 50 WVdc disc ceramic
C2,C7,C8,C9 0.1	μf, 50 WVdc mylar
C3,C4 0.0	95 μf, 50 WVdc , 5% mylar
C5 0.0	02 µf, 50 WVdc, 5% mylar
C6 0.0	01 µf, 50 WVdc, 5% mylar
C10 0.0	105 µf, 50 WVdc mylar
CR1,CR2 1N	914 diodes
R3,R4 15	k or 10k linear pot, composition type
All other	
resistors 1/4	4 watt, 5%
SW1 4 p	ole, 2 position

fered by a speech processor is to measure the Intelligibility Threshold Improvement (ITI)." After much experimentation, I found the frequency response of **fig. 1** to be a good compromise between maximum readibility and good audio quality. The audio band width is sufficiently limited without impairing voice quality.

circuit description

Fig. 2 shows the block diagram for the processor. The schematic is shown in **fig. 3**. R1C1 forms an rf filter to prevent rf on the microphone cable from getting into the processor. C2R2 gives some highpass filtering action. R2 provides bias to the noninverting input of U1, and combined with the input impedance of U1, will provide sufficient load to a crystal or ce ramic microphone to attenuate low-frequency components and reduce harmonic distortion produced by very-low-frequency energy entering the microphone.

U1 is an adjustable gain-preamplifier, which overcomes losses in the highpass filter (C3, C4, and R5) and sets the input level to U2, the limiting amplifier. U2 limits because the nonlinear resistance characteristics of CR1 and CR2 supply increasingly heavier negative feedback as U2 output amplitude increases, which provides a logarithmic response. Limiting is soft and is similar to that of a compressor followed by a hard limiter. R8 eliminates any dc offset in U2 output due to input bias current. R9, R10, R11, and C5, C6, and U3 form a lowpass active filter, which attenuates frequencies above 2.8 kHz that may be generated in the clipping process. R13 provides output level adjustment, so that the transmitter drive-

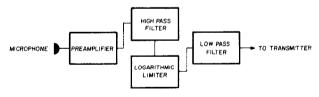


fig. 2. Block diagram of the logarithmic speech processor.

level control doesn't have to be changed when the processor is switched in or out.

construction

Wiring and component values with the possible exception of the resistors and capacitors that comprise the high- and lowpass filters are not particularly critical. The usual precautions applicable to audio circuitry should be observed.

The original version was wired on a small PC board intended for breadboarding DIP integrated circuits. It was then mounted along with two standard alkaline transistor radio batteries, in a $3 \times 4 \times 5$ -inch (77x102x 128mm) aluminum box with plenty of room to spare.

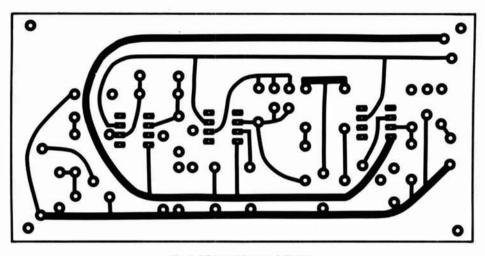


fig. 4. PC board layout, foil side.

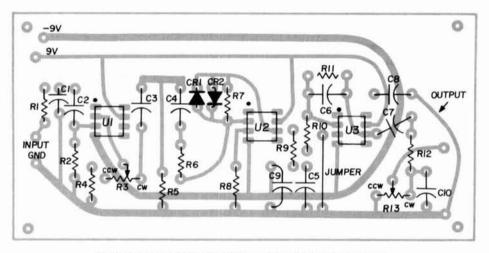


fig. 5. Component side of the PC board showing parts placement.

A PC board layout is shown in **figs**. **4** and **5**.* I used IC sockets in my original unit, but these are not absolutely necessary.

The alkaline batteries should be good for about a year of normal operation, but an ac power supply could be substituted if precautions are taken to minimize ac hum, which would be particularly trouble-some if introduced at this level.

I mounted two double-pin audio connectors of the same type used for the transmitter microphone connector on the rear of my processor. These are the input and output connectors and permit easy insertion and removal of the processor. The cable between processor and transmitter is of the same type as used on the microphone and is terminated at each end with a connector identical to that used on the microphone. (Don't forget to carry any PTT lines directly through the unit.)

*A printed-circuit board is available from the author for \$4.95 and a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Although holders are available for 9-volt batteries, I found that the heavy flat plastic wire ties used by electricians to bundle conductors make a very secure mounting. Make sure to use the type with a mounting hole molded in one end. Standard battery clips were used for the electrical connections.

operation

Operation is simple. Once the settings of R3 and R13 have been established, the on-off switch is the only control used. I used screwdriver-adjust pots in my unit.

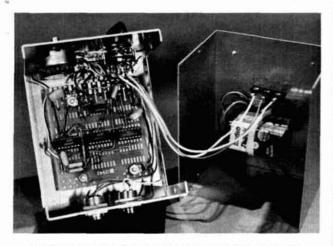
The transmitter should be tuned in the normal fashion with the processor switched out. The transmitter microphone gain control should be set at the proper level, using a monitor scope or the transmitter's ALC indicator according to the instruction manual. Turn limiting control R3 about one-half turn clockwise, switch in the processor, and adjust output control R13 for the same ALC indication or peak-monitor-scope deflection that was obtained

without the processor. On-the-air reports can then be used to determine the optimum setting of R3.

After adjusting R3, always recheck the setting of R13. Use discretion in adjusting R3. Extreme limiting should be avoided if the best combination of signal strength and audio quality is to be attained.

A too-high setting of R3 will also cause normal background noise to become objectionable as the audio gain for low-level signals is increased. Consequently, the processor can be used most effectively in a quiet, echo-free environment.

The use of this speech processor will increase the average power input to the final amplifier and cause some increase in final-amplifier -tube dissipation. To



Breakaway section showing wiring and underchassis layout.

extend tube life, I added a small cooling fan. The fan I used is of the axial type. It is rectangular, about 5 inches (128mm) on a side and about 11/2 inches (38.25mm) thick, with mounting holes in each corner. I fastened four small rubber feet at the mounting holes and placed the fan on top of the perforated lid of the transmitter, directly above the final tubes, so that the fan draws air from inside the cabinet. I decreased the air flow and noise level of the fan, both of which were excessive, by installing a resistor of about 375 ohms in series with the fan motor, which resulted in a quiet cooling system.

Performance over a 12-month period has been excellent. The increased range and number of solid ssb contacts have more than justified the modest investment in time and material for the speech processor.

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2. Gene Nurkka, VK9GN, "Integrated-Circuit Single-Sideband Speech Processor," ham radio, December, 1971, page 31.

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low-cost microwave spectrum analyzer

How to put together a microwave spectrum analyzer from surplus odds and ends the completed unit covers dc to 2 GHz

My ongoing efforts to develop low-cost modules for the 1296-MHz band have often required the use of a spectrum analyzer for monitoring (and minimizing) harmonic and spurious frequency components. Numerous excursions through the local surplus test equipment emporiums revealed that an acceptable instrument could cost several thousand dollars - well beyond the budget of the most dedicated experimenter. While searching for the unbeatable surplus buy which never materialized, I noticed the ready availability and comparatively low cost of a wide variety of S-band (2-4 GHz) test instruments and components. It occurred to me that a microwave spectrum analyzer could be put together from these available parts at a considerable savings. This article documents the design, construction, operation, and performance limitations of the resulting microwave spectrum analyzer. While I doubt that any reader will want to duplicate my design in its entirety, I hope this article will provide guidance and encouragement to anyone attempting a similar project.

performance requirements

The operation of any spectrum analyzer can be characterized in terms of its frequency coverage, dispersion, dynamic range, sensitivity, and resolution. To display frequency components well into the microwave region, I designed my spectrum analyzer to cover dc to at least 2 GHz. The same design strategy could be easily applied to other frequency bands. In fact, the upper frequency limit of this analyzer was later extended to 2.5 GHz, as discussed later.

Dispersion describes the ability of a spectrum analyzer to display a broad slice of the frequency spectrum in a single sweep. Many of the low-cost analyzers on the surplus market display only a few MHz at a time. Such narrow-dispersion spectrum analyzers are useful as panadaptors, which display all signals within several hundred kHz of a specified operating frequency, but when tuning a microwave local-oscillator chain, monitoring mixer image response, or measuring transmitter harmonic content, it is often desirable to display a band several hundred (or even thousand) MHz wide. The spectrum analyzer shown here can display the spectrum from dc to 2 GHz in a single sweep. Since it's often desirable to narrow this sweep for a closer look at a particular signal, variable dispersion capabilities are included in the design.

Sensitivity and dynamic range define the minimum and maximum signal amplitudes which an analyzer can display without distortion. In accordance with good engineering practice, I try to suppress all transmitted spurious products by 50 dB or more. To accurately measure this performance, the spectrum analyzer requires at least 50 dB of dynamic range. As

By H. Paul Shuch, WA6UAM, Microcomm, 14908 Sandy Lane, San Jose, California 95124

for maximum input level, I often want to display a + 10 dBm (10 mW) signal (this is the local-oscillator injection level required of many balanced mixers). Thus, 50 dB dynamic range with a + 10 dBm maximum input level yields an ultimate sensitivity requirewith this design, I can resolve frequency components to within about 2 MHz.

As most amateurs know, a general-coverage communications receiver can be used as a rudimentary high-frequency spectrum analyzer. With an input

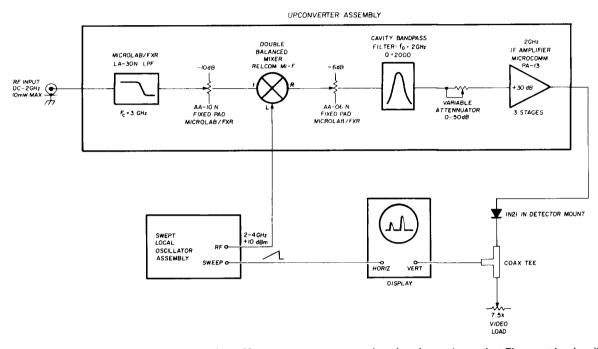


fig. 1. Block diagram of the microwave spectrum analyzer. Most components were purchased on the surplus market. The swept local oscillator, the key to the analyzer, is a surplus 2-4 GHz backward-wave oscillator. The display is an ordinary oscilloscope with dc coupling and provisions for external sweep.

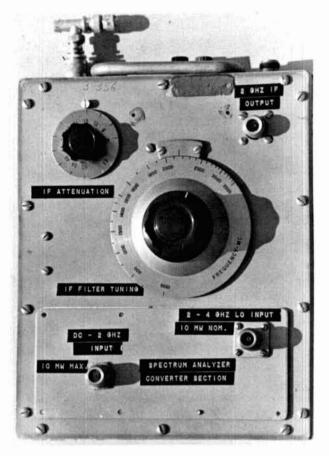
ment of -40 dBm, or 0.1 μ W. Greater sensitivity (a lower minimum discernible signal) could have been obtained, but only at the expense of dynamic range.

The objective of any spectrum analyzer is to display the various components of a complex waveform in the frequency domain. The closer the frequencies of any two components, the more difficult it is to separate them on the spectral display. Resolution relates to the minimum frequency separation between two signals of equal amplitude which will still permit the operator to discern two separate frequency components on the display.

Resolution can be approximated as twice the i-f bandwidth of the analyzer system. Generally, the objectives of wide dispersion and narrow resolution are mutually exclusive. When measuring transmitter audio intermodulation products with a two-tone test, for example, a resolution of a few hundred Hz is required, and dispersion is likely to be several tens of kHz. When viewing harmonics of a 100-MHz oscillator, on the other hand, 2-GHz dispersion may be required, but a resolution of several tens of MHz is acceptable.

Resolution is primarily a function of i-f bandwidth, which for my analyzer is fixed at 1 MHz. Therefore, signal applied to the antenna terminals, the receiver is manually tuned through its frequency range (dispersion). Frequency components are detected and displayed (perhaps with the receiver's S-meter). Resolution is a function of the i-f bandwidth, which is probably a few kHz. Sensitivity is a function of the receiver's noise floor, and dynamic range is limited by the receiver's agc and overload characteristics. Obviously, wide dispersion measurements require considerable operator intervention, in the form of tuning. Gain variations of the receiver from band to band will limit the accuracy of its amplitude indication. Additionally, any nonlinearity in the receiver's agc circuit may prevent accurate amplitude measurement across the receiver's entire dynamic range. Also, the receiver's image and spurious rejection may be insufficient to eliminate false indications.

Ideally, a workable spectrum analyzer should be a superheterodyne receiver in which these shortcomings are minimized. Frequency tuning should be both automatic and rapid. Instead of an S-meter, amplitude is displayed on an oscilloscope. If the scope's horizontal deflection is slaved to the receiver's tuning mechanism, the result is a display in the frequency domain. Dynamic range must be max-



Front panel of the microwave spectrum analyzer showing the operating controls. The variable i-f attenuator (upper left), although calibrated in 6 dB steps, permits amplitude comparison of signals displayed on the oscilloscope. The i-f bandpass filter (center) sets the frequency coverage of the analyzer, as discussed in the text.

imized, and spurious/image responses eliminated, to the greatest possible extent.

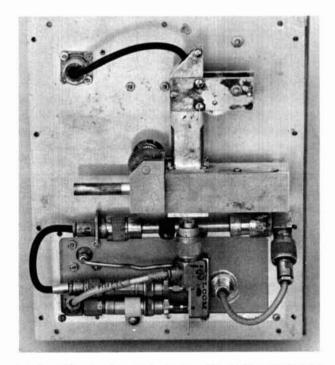
Many of the objectives discussed previously are met in the design shown in **fig. 1**, a wide dynamic range microwave receiver with an electronically tuned local oscillator and ample image rejection. It includes a 2-GHz i-f amplifier with variable gain and fixed bandwidth, and a sensitive detector for driving an oscilloscope. Unlike conventional receivers, this design up-converts the incoming signal to an i-f in the microwave region. Although this approach complicates i-f design, it permits wide dispersion tuning. It also improves separation of the rf and image signals so a simple lowpass filter can be used to eliminate image responses.

The microwave spectrum analyzer is divided into three separate sub-systems: the local oscillator, unity-gain upconverter, and display sections.

local oscillator

Central to the design of this spectrum analyzer was the availability, on the surplus market, of a leveled, swept signal source covering 2 to 4 GHz. I used an Alfred 622BK sweep oscillator, but any similar generator should work satisfactorily. These sweep generators consist of a voltage-controlled oscillator, typically a backward wave oscillator or BWO (a microwave oscillator built around a device similar to a traveling wave tube), power supplies, a sawtooth generator for developing a constantly varying vco control voltage, and leveling circuitry to maintain constant output across the band. *Start* and *stop* frequency adjustments permit the oscillator to sweep all, or any portion of, the 2 to 4 GHz band. Leveled output power is typically 10 to 30 milliwatts.

Many companies are currently retiring their BWO sweep generators in favor of wideband, solid-state units, so quite a few BWO generators have recently appeared on the surplus market at prices ranging from \$200 to \$400 or so. Since this is the most costly component of the microwave spectrum analyzer, make sure the unit you buy is in good operating condition. Reputable electronics surplus dealers will often let you power up an instrument and make a few measurements prior to purchase. A practical test requires the use of a microwave power meter (bolometer bridge or equivalent) to observe output power in the leveled CW mode as the generator is manually tuned across the band. Although a few dB variation is acceptable, dead spots or severe power drop-off at the high end of the band indicates a failing BWO. A good, used BWO should provide years of reliable life in intermittent amateur service.



Interior of the spectrum analyzer converter section showing the double-balanced mixer and attenuation pads, input filter, i-f filter, and variable i-f attenuator.

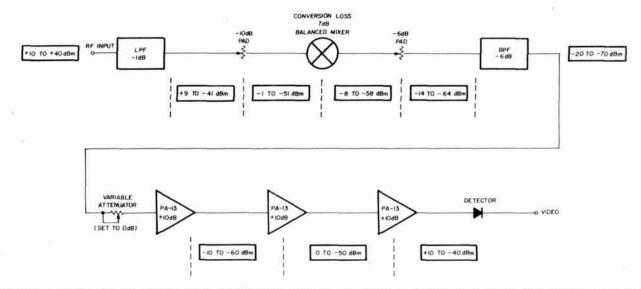


fig. 2. Power levels in the upconverter used with the microwave spectrum analyzer (with the variable attenuator set at 0 dB, which results in unity conversion gain).

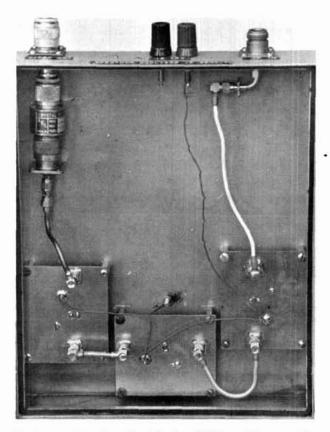
As can be seen in the block diagram, fig. 1, the spectrum analyzer converter assembly consists of an input lowpass filter, an S-band double-balanced mixer, some attenuator pads, a high-Q i-f filter, a variable i-f attenuator, and sufficient i-f amplification to bring maximum conversion gain to unity. The i-f detector and its video load, though installed in the converter assembly, are discussed later with the display.

The characteristics of the balanced mixer, more than any other component, establish the linearity and dynamic range of the analyzer. I used a Relcom M1F mixer which I found on the surplus market for \$35 (the mixer retails for about \$200). The rated frequency response of this mixer is dc-2 GHz at the i-f port, and 2-4 GHz at the rf and LO ports. Note that the incoming signal is applied to the *i-f port*; the *rf port* drives the i-f system. Thus, all ports are operated withinn their specified frequency ranges.

With the 10 mW of local-oscillator injection applied to the mixer from the sweep generator, the mixer's conversion efficiency is compressed by 1 dB at an input signal level of 1 mW. Since I wanted to analyze a 10 mW signal on the spectrum analyzer without exceeding 1 dB compression, it was necessary to place a 10 dB attenuation pad ahead of the mixer's input (i-f port). This pad also assures proper impedance termination for the mixer, as does the 6 dB attenuator at the output (rf port). Fixed attenuators for dc to 2 GHz are available to the surplus bargain hunter for as little as \$5.00, or may be purchased new for \$15 to \$20.

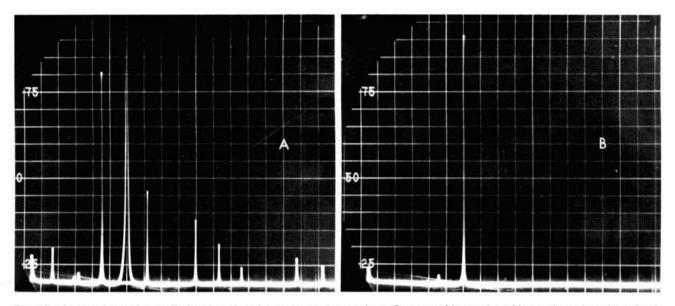
With 2 GHz i-f, and a swept LO covering 2 to 4 GHz, the mixer will respond to signals in the dc-2 GHz region, as well as in the 4-6 GHz image band. Any components in the image band will cause con-

siderable confusion on the display. Thus an input lowpass filter was installed in the system to block all signals above 3 GHz from entering the mixer. I used a Microlab/FXR LA-30N filter which I salvaged from another piece of equipment. Although the filter originally cost \$40, similar devices are available through surplus outlets for \$5 to \$10.



Spectrum analyzer i-f section. The three 2-GHz amplifiers are at the bottom. Diode detector is at upper left.

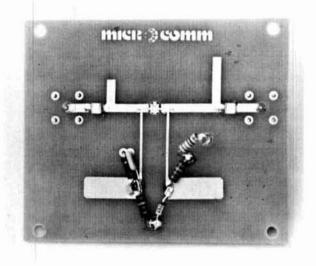
The i-f bandwidth of this analyzer is established by a high-Q tunable coaxial or cavity filter which is tuned to 2 GHz. I used the filter from a surplus TS-406 noise generator, but any cavity with a Q of 1000 or greater should be acceptable. It's also possible to use filter to vary i-f gain . The attenuator I used was also salvaged from the TS-406 noise generator, but any continuously variable or step attenuator rated to 2 GHz is acceptable — 10 dB steps will allow coarse system gain control; if 1 dB resolution is included,



Example of spectral impurity, as displayed on the microwave spectrum analyzer. Presence of harmonic, subharmonic, and spurious signals shown in *A* is the result of an overdriven uhf amplifier. The same amplifier, with drive reduced to the rated level, is shown at *B*; the one spurious component is down by more than 20 dB. Display is from dc to 2 GHz.

a *transmission-mode* cavity wavemeter as an i-f filter. These widely available devices have a loaded Q of several thousand, and exhibit only a few dB of insertion loss at resonance. Note that an absorption-type wavemeter is *not acceptable* because the filter must pass maximum signal to the i-f amplifiers at resonance.

A 50 dB variable attenuator was installed after the



Microstripline side of the 2-GHz amplifier (Microcomm PA-13). Three of these units provide 30 dB gain at 2 GHz.

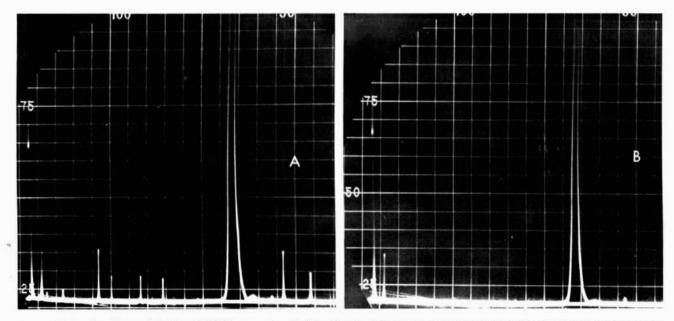
the attenuator can also be used for accurate signal level comparison. This is accomplished by viewing one signal component, setting a convenient reference level on the display, varying the attenuator for a like indication on the other signal component, and noting the change in attenuator settings.

Considerable i-f gain is required to achieve the desired sensitivity. I cascaded three stages of the Microcomm PA-13 buffer amplifier.* These microstripline amplifier modules offer 10 dB of gain per stage across the 2.0-2.3 GHz band, and are biased for 30 mW output at 1 dB gain compression. Since i-f noise figure is not a limiting factor so far as system sensitivity is concerned, any available wide dynamic range amplifier for 2 GHz may be used.

display

The local-oscillator signal for the spectrum analyzer is swept by a sawtooth waveform; therefore, displaying a signal in the frequency domain is simply a matter of detecting the output signal from the i-f amplifiers, applying the recovered video to the vertical deflection amplifier of an oscilloscope, and applying the sawtooth output voltage from the sweep generator to the oscilloscope's horizontal axis. Since a relatively slow sweep rate is used, the

*Available for \$64.95 per stage (plus postage and handling) from Microcomm, 14908 Sandy Lane, San Jose, California 95124.



Output of a local-oscillator chain for a 1296-MHz converter. At A the i-f gain of the spectrum analyzer has been increased to show the spurious signals, which are 30 dB below the desired signal. The display at B shows the output of the same local oscillator after it has passed through a 3-pole bandpass filter. Although the filter has attenuated the desired signal by 1 dB, all spurious signals are down more than 50 dB.

frequency response of the oscilloscope is unimportant. Virtually any scope with dc coupling and provisions for external sweep may be used.

The dynamic range of the detector which follows the i-f amplifiers is of major concern. Fig. 2 shows the nominal gain or loss of each element of the analyzer upconverter, as well as maximum and minimum signal levels present at each stage with zero i-f attenuation (maximum sensitivity). Since the upconverter is operated at unity gain, the power available to the detector will vary from + 10 to - 40 dBm. Thus the diode's tangential sensitivity must be considerably below - 40 dBm, and the diode's saturation point above + 10 dBm, for a usable display. Although I know of no diode whose transfer characteristics are uniform over so wide a range, the 1N21 family of point-contact diodes are acceptable within certain limitations (discussed later).

Diode dynamic range is enhanced by the optimum terminating impedance, which may vary between 1000 ohms and 10 kilohms or so. The input impedance of an oscilloscope's vertical deflection amplifier is typically 1 megohm; thus, to assure proper termination for the diode, a loading resistor is required, as shown in **fig. 1**. Since terminating the diode's video port degrades the amplitude of the recovered video, increased oscilloscope vertical sensitivity is required. On my analyzer, a 7.5k ohm video load, in conjunction with a vertical sensitivity of 10 mV/cm, provides an acceptable display.

Note that the vertical display of the spectrum analyzer is approximately linear, not logarithmic. Therefore, it is possible to view only about 25 dB of amplitude range at once, and only with extremely limited amplitude resolution. However, by using the i-f attenuator to establish reference levels as described previously, the entire 50 dB of usable

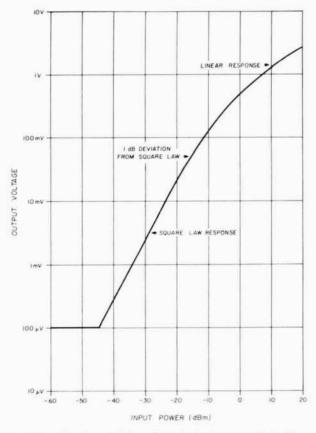


fig. 3. Transfer characteristics of a typical microwave diode detector using a point-contact diode.

dynamic range can be put to use. Future plans include capability for a logarithmic display, as outlined toward the end of this article.

I built the entire upconverter module in the case of a surplus noise generator (the filter and attenuator of which formed key i-f elements in my system). As can be seen in the photographs, the i-f amplifiers are mounted on standoffs inside the main chassis, and connected with UT-141 semi-rigid coaxial cable. If converter image response, and transmitter intermodulation products.

improving sensitivity

One of my primary design objectives was the ability of the analyzer to handle relatively large (+10 dBm) input signals without overloading. The input pad shown in **fig. 1**, although it prevents mixer overload at these signal levels, obviously limits the

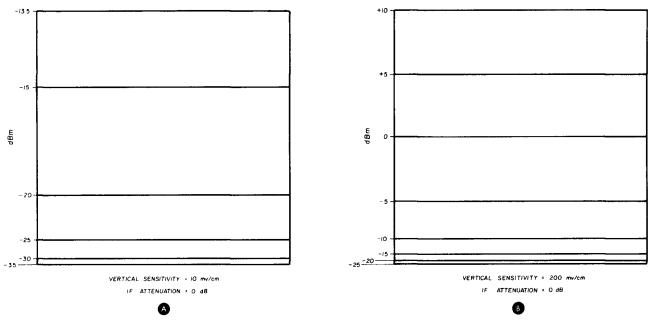


fig. 4. Approximate vertical scale calibration of the analyzer display (no video processing). Note the excellent linearity at high power levels, and the compressed display when the detector diode is operated in the square-law region.

flexible coax is used, I recommend RG-142B/U. This ¼-inch (6.5mm) cable is double-shielded, silver plated, has a Teflon dielectric, and accepts clamp-type SMA plugs of the low-cost E. F. Johnson JCM series.

If desired, the i-f amplifiers may be mounted in Pomona 3601 die-cast aluminum boxes. These boxes present a neat appearance and afford somewhat better shielding than the standoff approach I used.

The various components of the upconverter assembly sport a variety of connectors; betweenseries adapters are required to interface types N, SMA, and TNC receptacles.

operation and applications

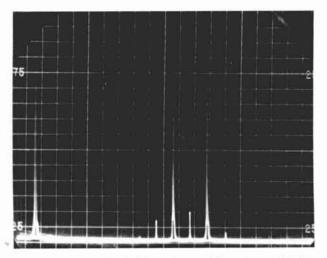
A recent article discussed a variety of spectrum analyzer applications of interest to amateurs.¹ For additional information, Hewlett-Packard has published two application notes which discuss both the procedures and the theory of spectrum analysis.^{2,3}

The accompanying photographs show the displays obtained with this analyzer when measuring LO harmonic content, balanced mixer carrier rejection,

ultimate sensitivity of the system. Additional i-f amplification would enhance the ability of the analyzer to display very small signals — but then the detector diode would saturate at high input signals.

Where both increased sensitivity and large-signal handling capability are required, it's necessary to replace the 10 dB input pad with an appropriate step attenuator (and possibly adding additional i-f stages). One candidate for the input attenuator is the Kay 520 which offers 10 dB steps to 70 dB and is flat to 2 GHz. This unit is priced under \$100, but like everything else in my spectrum analyzer, units are often available through surplus sources at considerable savings.

Note that no variation in input attenuation or i-f gain can increase the dynamic range of this analyzer beyond 50 dB or so. Therefore, it is essential that the operator select input attenuation which is appropriate for the anticipated signal level. In short, input attenuation should be such that the signal applied to the mixer does not exceed 1 mW, and that to the detector remains below 30 mW. A simple operating check involves increasing the input at-



As a transmitting mixer's i-f port is overdriven, intermodulation products at $LO \pm 2i$ -f become more pronounced, and the amplitude of signals at $LO \pm 3i$ -f begins to increase. This display also shows the second harmonic of the i-f injection signal (at the left).

tenuation by 10 dB while decreasing i-f attenuation by the same amount. An increase in the apparent amplitude of the displayed signal indicates that the mixer was being over-driven.

expanding frequency coverage

Recently I became involved in designing amplifier, mixer and LO modules for 2304 MHz, and wanted to extend the upper frequency limit of this spectrum analyzer. This could be accomplished by varying either the swept LO frequency or the i-f frequency, or both. Since the LO frequency range is limited by the coverage of the available sweep generator, I chose to change the i-f frequency.

With a 2 to 4 GHz swept LO, frequency coverage from 500 MHz to 2.5 GHz could be obtained by modifying the analyzer's i-f to 1.5 GHz. However, this exceeds the rated frequency range of the mixer's rf and i-f ports. Fortunately, the frequency response of the i-f port of the mixer I used exceeded the specified 2 GHz. At 2.5 GHz input, vswr is degraded somewhat, but the use of the 10 dB input pad effectively masks this mismatch. As for the frequency response of the mixer's rf port (used to develop i-f output), reducing the i-f frequency to 1.5 GHz degrades conversion efficiency by several dB. The i-f is fixed, however, so this degradation applies equally to all input signals, and no system linearity is sacrificed.

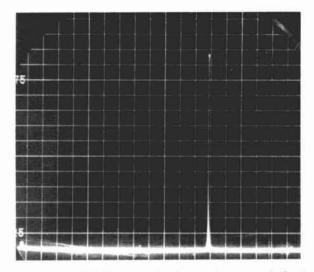
I originally planned to switch in a separate i-f system for high band (0.5-2.5 GHz) coverage, but I discovered that the PA-13 i-f amplifiers were sufficiently broadband that they have usable gain at 1.5 GHz. Since the cavity filter used to establish i-f bandwidth is tunable, setting the spectrum analyzer up for high-band coverage is simply a matter of retuning the i-f filter to 1.5 GHz. In this mode, overall analyzer sensitivity is degraded by about 10 dB, but it is still adequate for many applications.

With a 1.5 GHz i-f, the input signal range extends from 500 MHz to 2.5 GHz, and the image band from 3.5 to 5.5 GHz; therefore, the existing 3-GHz lowpass filter provides ample image rejection without degrading input frequency coverage.

detector limitations

In normal operation (fig. 2) the diode detector sees a power level from – 40 to + 10 dBm. Fig. 3 shows the transfer characteristics of a typical microwave detector diode over this range. It can be seen that the diode is being driven from its squarelaw region into its linear region. Thus, at high signal levels, 10 dB of signal change results in approximately a 10 dB change in recovered video amplitude; at lower power levels a 10 dB input signal variation may change video amplitude by up to 20 dB. Obviously, the linearity of the display is marginal, at best, and usable dynamic range is restricted to about 25 dB unless the operator varies i-f gain, or vertical sensitivity or both.

Hewlett-Packard introduced a series of oscilloscope overlays for interpreting non-linear



Properly driven 1296-MHz transmit mixer, at the output of a 3-pole bandpass filter. The image, i-f, and LO signals are all 40 dB down; intermodulation products are more than 50 dB down. The small pip at the left side of the trace is the bandedge marker and represents zero frequency; it is produced when the LO sweeps through the i-f filter.

(more properly, non-logarithmic) swept displays.⁴ A similar set of overlays, which I have derived for my spectrum analyzer, is shown in **fig. 4**. Although this calibration data is valid only for my analyzer, a similar vertical axis can be derived for any spectrum display. All you have to do is apply an input signal of known amplitude through an accurate step attenuator. By varying the attenuation and noting the

displayed amplitude, calibration lines can be greasepenciled directly on to the face of the CRT.

The utility of this spectrum analyzer would be greatly enhanced if it were possible to display simultaneously all signals between -40 and +10 dBm. If you want to view the entire 50 dB dynamic range without adjusting reference levels with the i-f attenuator or varying vertical sensitivity, it will be necessary to apply the output of the detector into a compression video amplifier.

There are several integrated circuits available which provide logarithmic video amplification; with a logarithmic amplifier a display such as that shown in **fig. 5** can be obtained. Note that below about -10dBm, the display approaches a uniform 5 dB per centimeter deflection. However, the transition from square-law to linear detection results in severe scale compression at higher power levels.

An ideal spectrum analyzer display should have vertical response similar to that shown in **fig. 6**. Although I have not yet been able to achieve this performance, it should be possible by developing a logarithmic video amplifier which makes its transition to linear response above a selected input level.

An approach used successfully by Pacific Measurements in their logarithmic power meters involves an operational amplifier in which the feedback resistance is a nonlinear element (a semiconductor junction). As the junction potential of this feedback path is exceeded, the gain curve of the op amp changes. The result is an amplifier which makes its

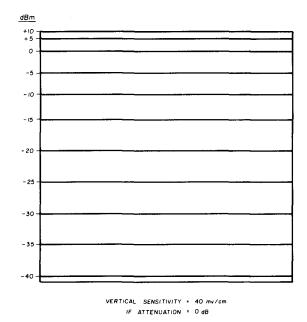


fig. 5. Typical vertical scale calibration of a spectrum analyzer with a logarithmic video amplifier. In this case display linearity is good at lower input signal levels, but compresses rapidly as the detector diode enters the linear region.

transition from logarithmic to linear response at selected power level. Perhaps some reader will be able to contribute a similar circuit for appropriately shaping the video output of the spectrum analyzer's diode detector. What is needed is a display whose

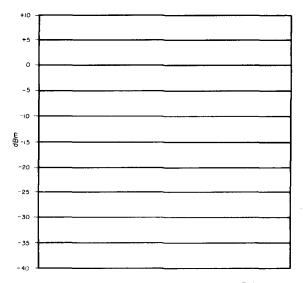


fig. 6. Ideal vertical response for a spectrum analyzer. This response requires a video amplifier with a logarithmic compression curve below an input of 200 mV, and linear response above 400 mV.

amplitude is graduated at 5 dB per centimeter, over the entire dynamic range of the system. This modification would significantly enhance both measurement accuracy and ease of operation.

acknowledgements

Thanks are in order to Nick Marshall, W6OLO, for first encouraging me to try to build my own spectrum analyzer, and to Richard Chatelain, WB6JPY, who took the photographs. I must also acknowledge the eager support of my wife, WA6PLF. She reasoned that, if I built my own analyzer rather than spending funds I didn't have to buy one I couldn't afford, we would make good use of the money we saved. Although I'm not sure I understand the economics, I'm enjoying both the homebrew spectrum analyzer and our new car.

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1. Courtney Hall, WA5SNZ, "Understanding Spectrum Analyzers," *ham radio*, June, 1974, page 50.

2. Spectrum Analysis, Application Note 63, Hewlett-Packard, 1501 Page Mill Road, Palo Alto, California, May, 1965.

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4. *Swept Frequency Techniques,* Application Note 65, Hewlett-Packard, Palo Alto, California, August, 1965.

ham radio



There are a number of good 2 meter FM transceivers on the market. You may already own one. But, even if you do, we suggest that you put your radio to this test. And, if you're thinking of buying one, this test should be a helpful guide.

Is it PLL synthesized? Does it have 100 channels (88 pre-programmed)? Does it have 12 extra diode programmable channels?

Does it have single knob channel selection? Does it have a LED digital frequency display? Dos it have a powered tone pad connection? Does the receiver have helical resonators?

NO	YES

If your answer is NO to any of these, the TR-7500 is the radio that you should own. And, in addition to these important features, you get proven Kenwood quality, value and service.



Grounding Polarity: Negative ground Antenna Impedance: 50 Ohms Current drain: Less than 0.5A in receive with no input signal Less than 3A in transmit (HI) Less than 1.5A in transmit (LOW) (at 13.8V DC) Dimensions: 172 mm (6-3/4") wide 250 mm (9-7/8") deep 75 mm (2-15/16") high Weight: Approximately 2.2 kg (4.8 lbs.) TRANSMIT SECTION RF Output Power: High: 10 Watts Low: 1 Watt (approximately) Modulation: Variable reactance frequency shift Frequency Deviation: ±5 KHz Spurious Radiation: Better than -60dB

Tone Pad Input Impedance: 600 Ohms Microphone: Dynamic microphone with PTT switch, 500 Ohms **RECEIVE SECTION** Receive System: Double conversion superheterodyne Intermediate Frequency: 1st IF: 10.7 MHz 2nd IF: 455 kHz Sensitivity: Better than 0.4 uV for 20dB quieting Better than 1 uV for 30dB S/N Squelch Sensitivity: Better than 0.25 uV Selectivity: 12kHz at -6dB down 40 kHz at -70dB down Image Rejection: Better than -70dB Spurious Interference: Better than -60dB Audio Output: More than 1.5 watts across 8 Ohms load 10% distortion Intermodulation: Better than 66dB



The NEW TS-520S combines all of the fine, field-proven characteristics of the original TS-520 together with many of the ideas, comments, and suggestions for improvement from amateurs worldwide. Kenwood's ultimate objectives... to make quality equipment available at reasonable prices.

FULL COVERAGE TRANSCEIVER

The new TS-520S provides full coverage on all amateur bands from 1.8 to 29.7 MHz. Kenwood gives you 160 meter capability, WWV on 15.000 MHz, and an auxiliary band position for maximum flexibility. And with the addition of the TV-502 and TV-506 transverters, your TS-520S can cover 160 meters to 2 meters on SSB and CW.

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The new Kenwood DG-5 provides easy, accurate readout of your operating frequency while transmitting and receiving.

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The new TS-520S incorporates a 3SK-35 dual gate MOSFET for outstanding cross modulation and spurious response characteristics. The 3SK35 has a low noise figure (3.5 dB typ.) and high gain (18 dB typ.) for excellent sensitivity.

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A new audio compression amplifier gives you extra punch in the pile ups and when the going gets rough.

VERNIER TUNING FOR FINAL PLATE CONTROL

A new vernier tuning mechanism allows

easy and accurate adjustment of the plate control during tune-up.

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The new TS-520S is completely solid state except for the driver (12BY7A) and the final tubes. Rather than substitute TV sweep tubes as final amplifier tubes in a state of the art amateur transceiver, Kenwood has employed two husky S-2001A (equivalent to 6146B) tubes. These rugged, time-proven tubes are known for their long life and superb linearity.

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An effective noise blanking circuit developed by Kenwood that virtually eliminates ignition noise is built-in to the TS-520S.

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The new TS-520S has a built-in 20 dB attentuator that can be activated by a push button switch conveniently located on the front panel.

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The VFO-520 remote VFO has been designed to match the styling of the TS-520S and provide maximum operating flexibility on the band selected on your TS-520S.

AC POWER SUPPLY

KENWOOD'

AND DG-5 DIGITAL FREQUENCY DISPLAY

A NEW STANDAR

ECONOMY TRANSCEIVE

The TS-520S is completely self-contained with a rugged AC power supply built-in. The addition of the DS-1A DC-DC converter (option) allows for mobile operation of the TS-520S.

EASY CONNECTION PHONE PATCH

The TS-520S has 2 convenient RCA phono jacks on the rear panel for PHONE PATCH IN and PHONE PATCH OUT.

CW-520 -- CW FILTER (OPTION)

The CW-520 500 Hz filter can be easily installed and will provide improved operation on CW.

AMPLIFIED TYPE AGC CIRCUIT

The AGC circuit has 3 positions (OFF, FAST, SLOW) to enable the TS-520S to be operated in the optimum condition at all times whether operating CW or SSB.

The TS-520S retains all of the features of the original TS-520 that made it tops in its class: RIT control • 8-pole crystal filter • Built-in 25 KHz calibrator • Front panel carrier level control • Semi-breakin CW with sidetone • VOX/PTT/MOX • TUNE position for low power tune up • Built-in speaker • Built-in Cooling Fan • Provisions for 4 fixed frequency channels • Heater switch.



Specifications

Amateur Bands: 160-10 meters plus WWV (receive only) Modes: USB, LSB, CW Antenna Impedance: 50-75 Ohms Frequency Stability: Within ± 1 kHz during one hour after one minute of warm-up, and within 100 Hz during any 30 minute period thereafter Tubes & Semiconductors: Tubes 3 (S2001A x 2, 12BY7A) FETs Diodes. 101 Power Requirements: 120/220 V AC, 50/60 Hz, 13.8 V DC (with optional DS-1A) Power Consumption: Transmit: 280 Watts Receive: 26 Watts (with heater off) Dimension: 333(131/a) W x 153 (6-0) H x 335(13-(13-3/16) D mm(inch)

Weight: 16.0 kg(35.2 lbs) TRANSMITTER

RF Input Power: SSB: 200 Watts

'PEP CW: 160 Watts DC Carrier Suppression: Better than -40 dB

Sideband Suppression: Better than -50 dB

Spurious Radiation: Better than -40 dB

Microphone Impedance: 50k Ohms AF Response: 400 to 2,600 Hz RECEIVER Sensitivity: 0.25 uV for 10 dB

(S+N)/N Selectivity: SSB:2.4 kHz/-6 dB, 4.4 kHz/-60 dB

4.4 kHz/-60 dB Selectivity: CW: 0.5 kHz/-6 dB, 1.5 kHz/-60 dB (with optional

CW-520 filter) Image Ratio: Better than 50 dB

IF Rejection: Better than 50 dB

AF Output Power: 1.0 Watt (8 Ohm load, with less than 10% distortion)

AF Output Impedance: 4 to 16 Ohms

DG-5

SPECIFICATIONS Measuring Range: 100 Hz to 40 MHz

Input Impedance: 5 k Ohms Gate Time: 0.1 Sec.

Input Sensitivity: 100 Hz to 40 MHz . . . 200 mV rms or over, 10

kHz to 10 MHz . . 50 mV or over Measuring Accuracy: Internal time base accuracy ± 0.1 count

Time Base: 10 MHz Operating Temperature: -10° to

50° C/14° 122° F Power Requirement: Supplied

from TS-520S or 12 to 16 VDC (nominal 13.8 VDC)

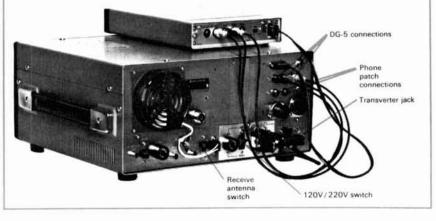
Dimensions: 167(6-9/16) W x 43(1-11/16) H x 268(10-9/16) D mm(inch)

Weight: 1.3 kg(2.9 lbs)



The luxury of digital readout is available on the TS-520S by connecting the new DG-5 readout (option). More than just the average readout circuit, this counter mixes the carrier, VFO, and heterodyne frequencies to give you your exact frequency. This handsomely-styled accessory can be set almost any-place in your shack for easy to read operation . . . or set it on the dashboard during mobile operation for safety and convenience. Six bold digits display your operating frequency while you transmit and receive. Complete with DH (display hold) switch for frequency memory and 2 position intensity selector. The DG-5 can also be used as a normal frequency counter up to 40 MHz at the touch of a switch. (Input cable provided.)

NOTE: TS-520 owners can use the DG-5 with a DK-520 adapter kit.







We told you that the TS-820 would be the best. In little more than a year our promise has become a fact. Now, in response to hundreds of requests from amateurs, Kenwood offers the TS-820S*... the same superb transceiver, but with the digital readout factory installed. The worldwide demand for the TS 820 far exceeded our initial production plans. However, production capacity has been substantially increased and our objective is to make the TS-820S more readily available to you. As an owner of this beautiful rig, you will have at your fingertips the combination of controls and features that even under the toughest operating conditions make the TS-820S the Pacesetter that it is.



Following are a few of the TS-820S' many exciting features

SPEECH PROCESSOR • An RF circuit provides quick time constant compression using a true RF compressor as opposed to an AF clipper. Amount of compression is adjustable to the desired level by a convenient front panel control.



PLL . The TS-820S employs the latest phase lock loop circuitry The single conversion receiver section performance offers superb protection against unwanted cross-modulation And now. PLL allows the frequency to remain the same when switching sidebands (USB, LSB, CW) and eliminates having to recalibrate each time

DIGITAL READOUT • The digital counter display is employed as an integral part of the VFO readout system. Counter mixes the carrier, VFO, and first heterodyne frequencies to give exact frequency. Figures the frequency down to 10 Hz and digital display reads out to

100 Hz. Both receive and transmit frequencies are displayed in easy to read, Kenwood Blue digits

pecifications

FREQUENCY RANGE: 1.8-29.7 MHz (160 - 10 meters) MODES: USB, LSB, CW, FSK INPUT POWER: 200W PEP on SSB 160 W DC on CW 100 W DC on FSK ANTENNA IMPEDANCE: 50-75 ohms.

unbalanced CARRIER SUPPRESSION: Better than -40 dB

SIDEBAND SUPPRESSION: Better than -50 dB SPURIOUS RADIATION: Greater than -60 dB (Harmonics more than -40 dB) RECEIVER SENSITIVITY: Better than 0.25uV

RECEIVER SELECTIVITY SSB 2.4 kHz (-6 dB) 4.4 kHz (-60 dB) CW* 0.5 kHz (-6 dB) 1.8 kHz (-60 dB)

"(with optional CW filter installed) IMAGE RATIO: 160-15 meters: Better than 60 dB 10 meters: Better than 50 dB

b) dB 10 meters' better than 50 dB IF REJECTION Better than 80 dB POWER REQUIREMENTS: 120/220 VAC, 50/60 Hz, 13.8 VDC (with optional DS-1A DC-DC converter) POWER CONSUMPTION Transmit: 280 Watts Receive: 26 Watts (heaters off) DMENSIONE: 12.10° W = 5° H

DIMENSIONS: 13-178" W × 6" H × 13-3/16" D WEIGHT: 35.2 ibs (16 kg)

VFO-820

Function switch provides any combination of transmit/receive/transceive with the TS-820S. Both are equipped with VFO indicators showing which VFO is in use.

SP-520

Although the TS-820S has a built-in speaker, the addition of the SP-520 provides improved tonal quality. A perfect match in both design and performance. TV-502

IF SHIFT • The IF SHIFT control

varies the IF passband without

changing the receive frequency

820S a pacesetter

Enables the operator to eliminate

unwanted signals by moving them out of the passband of the receiver This feature alone makes the TS-

The TV-502 transverter puts you on 2meters the easy way. Operates in the 144.0-145.7 MHz frequency range with a 145.0-146.0 MHz option. Completely compatible with the TS-820S, the TS-520S and most any HF transceiver.

TV-506

Similar to the TV-502 except that it opens up the 6-meter band (50.0-54.0 MHz) to your HF rig. *The TS-820 and DG-1 are still available separately.

serial converter for 8-level teleprinters

This converter translates Baudot to ASCII and ASCII to Baudot using readily available ICs — recommended for the experienced amateur only

At the outset I'd like to stress that this is a project for the experienced amateur with the technical know-how to connect the converter described to appropriate points in his demodulator or fsk circuit.

The heart of the converter is the universal asynchronous receiver/transmitter (UAR/T), a 40-pin IC that contains both an independent, 8-bit asynchronous, digital-data receiver, and an 8-bit asynchronous, digital-data transmitter. The UAR/T has been described earlier in *ham radio*.^{1,2}

Parts layout and wiring of the converter is quite a task in itself. Sockets are mandatory for the ICs as some are MOS devices, which are sensitive to ungrounded soldering irons. Fairly heavy bus wire is necessary for ground (common) and +5-volt leads. Also, liberal use of 0.01- μ F ceramic disc capacitors (not shown in the schematic) is required to bypass +5, and -12 volt circuits.

All NAND gates used as inverters can be replaced by hex inverters to reduce component count. Type 74121s can be replaced by 74123s except where both A inputs are used.

Those readers interested only in receiving RTTY with an 8-level machine can save much time and money by deleting the connections (except for grounds and clock inputs) to the much more complex ASCII-to-Baudot section, which is shown below the dashed lines of both UAR/Ts in **fig. 1**.

The cost for the complete converter should be well below \$100; possibly around \$50. The 8223 proms can be replaced with 82S23s, which are currently on the market for about \$3 each. The UAR/T ICs can be replaced with the GI AY-5-1013A, which is less expensive, about \$6.50. The 3351 fifo devices can be obtained for about \$14 through W6KS, as mentioned in the *RTTY Journal*. The other chips are standard devices and are available for about 50 cents or so.

Baudot-to-ASCII/ASCII-to-Baudot converters have been described in other publications but were not directly compatible with RTTY, which is a serial system, and didn't take advantage of the UAR/Ts.

circuit description

The converter schematic is shown in **fig. 1**. The serial 5-bit Baudot signal at TTL level enters U1 at pin 20 and appears in parallel form at pins 8 through 12. ICs U2, U3 sense whether letters or figures have been sent and set R/S flip-flop U4 to enable either U5 or U6, which translate the 5-bit Baudot code to 7-bit ASCII code; this translation appears at U6 pins 1 through 7. (The no. 8 bit is a parity bit, which is used with computers, and is unnecessary for amateur RTTY. I have modified my model 35ASR so that the no. 8 bit is always a zero.)

Output from U6 is applied to UAR/T U7 and appears in serial form at pin 25, which is connected through driver Q1 to a 4N33 opto-isolator, U8. Another 4N33, U9, is connected in series with U8, whose output with that of U8 is inserted into the loop of a model 33 or 35 ASR. This circuit keeps modifications of the ASCII machine to a minimum.

The signal originating from either the keyboard or tape reader of the ASCI machine is connected to the input of the second 4N33, U9, and its output serially feeds into U7-20. This data appears in parallel form at U7 pins 12 through 19.

Because there are no *LTRS* or *FIGS* in the ASCII code, these characters must be generated. For this reason the 6th and 7th ASCII bit, which appear at pins 7 and 6 respectively to U7, are sensed by 7474 flip-flop U10. In combination with 7474 flip-flop U11, U10 will disable the 8223 proms U12, U13 temporarily.

By Eric Kirchner, VE3CTP, Ontario Science Center, Don Mills, Ontario, Canada

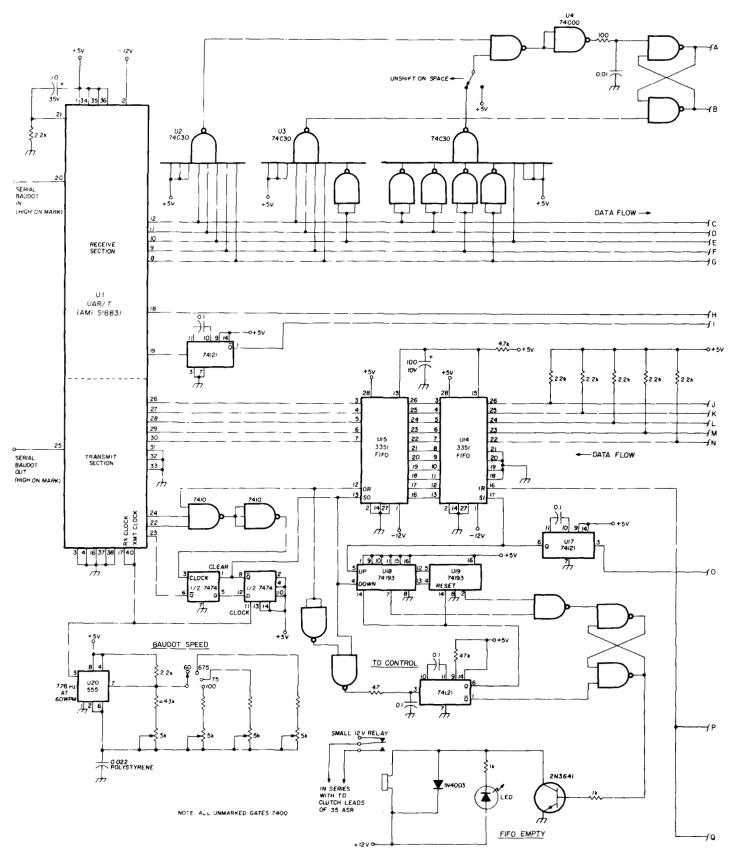
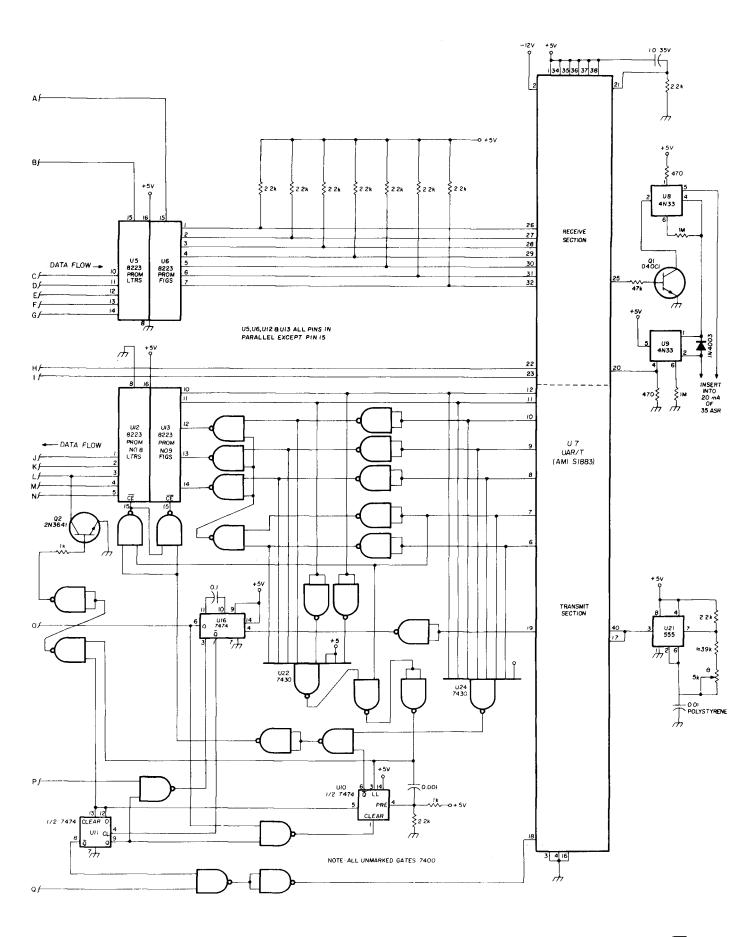


fig. 1. Schematic of the serial Baudot-to-ASCII-to-Baudot converter for model 33 and 35 ASR machines.



Word	A 43210	Symbol	B01234567
0	00000	Blank	00000000
1	10000	т	00101010
2	01000	CR	10110000
3	11000	0	11110010
4	00100	Space	00000100
5	10100	н	00010010
6	01100	N	01110010
7	11100	м	10110010
8	00010	LF	01010000
9	10010	L	00110010
10	01010	R	01001010
11	11010	G	11100010
12	00110	I.	10010010
13	10110	Р	00001010
14	01110	С	11000010
15	1 1 1 1 0	V	01101010
16	00001	E	10100010
17	10001	Z	01011010
18	01001	D	00100010
19	11001	В	0100010
20	00101	S	11001010
21	10101	Y	10011010
22	01101	F	01100010
23	11101	х	00011010
24	00011	А	1000010
25	10011	W	11101010
26	01011	J	01010010
27	11011	FIGS	00011000
28	00111	U	10101010
29	10111	Q	10001010
30	01111	ĸ	11010010
31	1 1 1 1 1	LTRS(delete)	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0

If a LTRS character must be inserted into the text, transistor Q2, a 2N3641, will be nonconducting so that all bits on the left-hand side of proms U12, U13 will be high, signifying the LTRS code. If a *FIGS* character must be inserted into text, Q2 will conduct, making the center bit a zero, which signifies the *FIGS* code.

The ASCII bits are applied to the address lines of 8223 proms U12, U13. Here the ASCII code is translated into the corresponding Baudot code; this data is fed into the two 3351 fifos, U14 and U15. A "data available" pulse at U7-19, delayed by the two 74121 one-shots (U16, U17), appears at the "shiftin" pin of U14 (pin 17). The Baudot characters are thus loaded into the fifo memory.

The fifo memories are necessary because the information from the ASCII machine is fed in at 100 wpm, while the Baudot output from UAR/T U1 is at 60 wpm. When typing, the ASCII speed will exceed 60 wpm only occasionally. However, when the ASCII tape reader runs, the memory will eventually become fully loaded. Because the two fifos can store only 80 characters, the tape reader control circuit, consisting of up-down counter U18, U19, will interrupt current to the tape-reader clutch, holding it until the fifo memory is again empty.

The parallel data at fifo U15 output is applied to UAR/T U1 and appears in serial form at TTL level at

table 2. Program for 8223 prom, Baudot-to-ASCII figures (U6).

table Z. P	rogram for 8223 prom, E	audot-to-ASC	li tigures (U6).
Word	A 43210	Symbol	B01234567
0	00000	Blank	00000000
1	10000	5	10101100
2	01000	CR	10110000
3	11000	9	10011100
4	00100	Space	00000100
5	10100	#	11000100
6	01100	,	00110100
7	11100		01110100
8	00010	ŁF	01010000
9	10010)	10010100
10	01010	4	00101100
11	11010	8 .	01100100
12	00110	8	00011100
13	10110	Ø	00001100
14	01110	:	01011100
15	11110	;	11011100
16	00001	3	11001100
17	10001	··	01000100
18	01001	\$	00100100
19	11001	?	11111100
20	00101	Bell	1 1 1 0 0 0 0 0
21	10101	6	01101100
22	01101	!	10000100
23	11101	/	11110100
24	00011	-	10110100
25	10011	2	01001100
26	01011	1	11100100
27	11011	FIGS	00011000
28	00111	7	11101100
29	10111	1	10001100
30	01111	(00010100
31	11111	LTRS	11111110

U1-25. This signal can be used to key an afsk generator, as described below.

The 555 clocks, U20, U21, will be stable if highgrade components are used. Crystal stability is nice but unncecessary. Precise resistance values have not been given as they may differ from case-to-case, but they can be easily determined with a frequency counter.

Because the equivalent Baudot character for the ASCII space signal is contained in the ASCII-to-Baudot *FIGS* prom, a space signal between words is always preceded and followed by a *LTRS* and *FIGS* signal. This is undesirable because two extra characters will be sent, which are unnecessary. This problem can be resolved by TTL IC U22 which steers U10 (fig. 1).

Note that when using the converter with an fsk demoodulator it may be necessary to insert a level changer, inverter, or both between the demodulator and U1-20. The data must enter this point at TTL level. The *Baudot speed* switch (**fig. 1**) allows you to copy signals at speeds other than the amateur speed of 60 wpm.

Pin numbers for the gates in **fig. 1** (type 7400s) have not been given as a new layout will be made for the final version. Except for the proms, the ICs in the Baudot to ASCII section are CMOS devices. These happened to be available, so they were used. The cir-

-	•		
Word	A 4 3 2 1 0	Symbol	B 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
0	00000	Null	00000000
1	00001	Α	11000000
2	00010	В	10011000
3	0 0 0 1 1	С	01110000
4	00100	D	10010000
5	00101	E	10000000
6	00110	F	10110000
7	00111	G	01011000
8	01000	н	00101000
9	01001	I I	01100000
10	01010	J	11010000
11	01011	к	11110000
12	01100	L	01001000
13	01100	м	00111000
14	01110	N	00110000
15	01111	0	00011000
16	10000	Р	01101000
17	10001	Q	11101000
18	10010	R	01010000
19	10011	S	1010000
20	10100	т	00001000
21	10101	U	11100000
22	10110	V	01111000
23	10111	w	11001000
24	11000	x	10111000
25	11001	Y	10101000
26	11010	Z	10001000
27	11011	Null	00000000
28	11100	Null	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
29	11101	CR	00010000
30	11110	LF	0100000
31	11111	Null	00000000

cuit should work just as well with TTL devices. Fig. 2 shows socket connections for the devices.

The circuit in **fig. 3** makes programming a cinch as the burn-out time is automatically determined by the 74121 one-shot, U1. The time is fixed at 150 milliseconds. Programming must be done carefully, while you're wide awake, or mistakes are bound to occur! The +15 and +5-volt leads must be connected to a regulated power supply that provides at least 1 ampere. Proceed as follows:

1. With the power supply shut off, insert the.8223 to be programmed into its socket.

2. Set S2B to BURN.

3. Set address switches S3-S7 and output switch S8 according to the program pattern for the first bit.

4. Switch on the power supply and depress S1.

5. Set S3-S7 and S8 to the next bit and depress S1. Continue this procedure, bit-by-bit, until the entire pattern is programmed into the chip. You can test the programming by setting S2 to *TEST*. Go through the entire pattern again, using switches S3-S7 and S8. The LED will illuminate for a 1 and remain dark for a zero. If the test yields the desired pattern your 8223 is ready for use.

Four 8223s are necessary for the Baudot-to-ASCII conversion and vice versa. For more information on

table 4. Program for 8223 prom, ASCII-to-Baudot letters (U12). Word A43210 Symbol B01234567 Space ., # \$ Null

æ

)

Null

Null

,

Ø

:

Null

Nuli

Null

1 TRS

0000000%

the makeup of the programming pattern, see reference 3. An article describing a memory for automatic CW identificaton using an 8223 prom can be found in reference 4.

In tables 1-4 you'll find one program for each of the four proms used in the code converter. The A column determines the prom address line switch positions, while the B column determines the switch positions of the prom outputs.

example

To program the letter Y into the prom that translates Baudot to ASCII letters (**table 1**), proceed as follows:

1. Set switches S2A-B to *TEST* and set the promoutput line-selector switch, S8, to *B0*.

2. Look up the letter Y on the program (table 1).

3. Set the address line switches, S3-S7 (fig. 3) according to the information in the table: A4 = high; A3 = low; A2 = high; A1 = low; and A0 = high – i.e., 10101. (Low is ground and high is +5 volts.)

4. Set switches 2A-B to BURN.

. Set the prom output line switch to *B0* (a 1 in this case), then depress switches S1A-B.

. Advance the output line selector switch to *B3*, picking up another **1**.

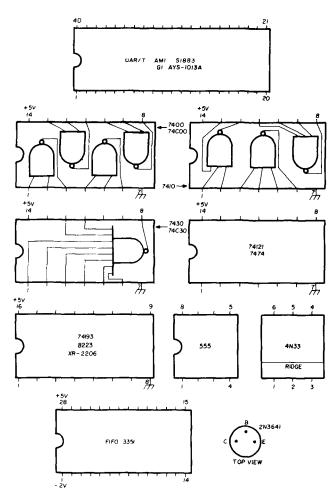


fig. 2. Socket connections (top view) for the devices used in the converter.

7. Press switches S1A-B again.

8. Repeat the procedure at *B4* and *B6*, picking up a 1 in each case.

9. Set switches S2A-B to *TEST*. With S8 in *B0*, *B3*, *B4*, and *B6* positions, the LED should light, indicating a 1; in positions *B1*, *B2*, *B5*, and *B7* it should remain dark, indicating a low, or zero. Should one of the prom fuses refuse to open at the first attempt at testing, try burning it repeatedly.

Start the programming from the top of the table and work down,. When you have one prom fully programmed, go through the check procedure with switches S2A-B in the *TEST* position to verify that the fuses have opened according to the program in use. If the prom checks out okay, mark it for identification.

Type 82S23 proms are presently offered on the surplus market at a reasonable price. These can also be used, but to program these devices the 390-ohm $\frac{1}{2}$ -watt resistor at the top contact of S2A (fig. 3) must be changed to 4.7 ohms $\frac{1}{2}$ -watt, and the +15-volt supply must be increased to 16 volts.

In reference 5, I pointed out the importance of phase-continuous frequency shift to prevent transients, which can cause interference on adjacent channels. I described a rather commplex circuit of an afsk generator that featured phase continuity of the sine-wave output when keyed.

In the meantime integrated circuits have appeared on the market especially designed for waveform generation. One of these, the EXAR XR-2206 CP, is particularly interesting for RTTY. Pin 9 of this IC can be directly connected to pin 25 of U1, fig. 1, of the Baudot-to-ASCII/ASCII-to-Baudot converter. The output at pin 2 of the XR-2206 can then be used to modulate an ssb transmitter or transceiver with a phase-continuous afsk signal.

The afsk circuit (fig. 4) is extremely simple. The sine-wave frequency is determined by the value of C1 and the total resistance connected to either pin 7 or 8 of the XR-2206. When pin 9 is high pin 7 is active; when pin 9 is low pin 8 is active.

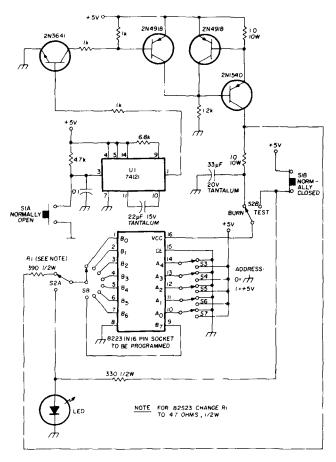


fig. 3. Circuit for programming the 8223 proms.

For excellent frequency stability, C1 should be a polystyrene (Phillips 295 AA/C 8K2) or a Mylar capacitor. The frequency-determining resistors should be carbon film; or better yet, metal film types.

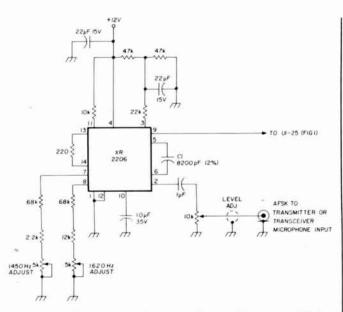


fig. 4. AFSK generator. Phase-continuous frequency shift is featured to prevent out-of-band transients. Sine-wave frequency is determined by C1 and the total resistance connected to either pin 7 or 8 of the XR2206.

The afsk-generator audio frequencies of 1620 and 1450 Hz were chosen to put the second harmonic outside the passband of modern ssb equipment and to eliminate the need for special carrier-frequency crystals in such equipment.

The overall converter system can be tested by feeding data from a Baudot keyboard or tape reader to U1-20 (**fig. 1**). As the output and input of U7 are a closed loop through the two 4N33 optoisolators, U8 and U9, the data is fed back to U1, and its output at pin 25 can be used to operate the printer magnets of the Baudot machine through a suitable driver. In this case, the Baudot data is converted to ASCII, then back to Baudot. The only character not translated from ASCII to Baudot is the bell signal. With additional gates this could be accomplished, but I felt that the additional complexity was unjustified.

acknowledgement

I'd like to thank my friend, Paul Hudson, VE3CWA, for suggestions in preparing this article.

references

1. J. A. Titus, "The UAR/T and How it Works," ham radio, February, 1976, page 58.

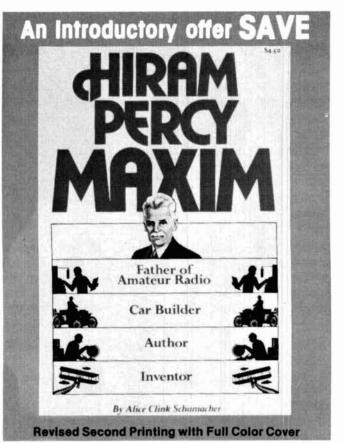
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4. L. Nurse, W6LLO, "CW Memory for RTTY Identification," ham radio, January, 1974, page 6.

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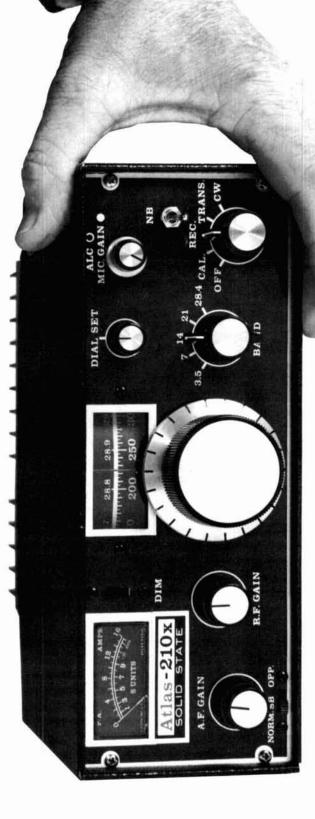
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admittance, impedance and circuit analysis

A circuit with impedances seems very complicated to those lacking experience in circuit analysis. Throw in names like *admittance*, *conductance*, or *susceptance*, and circuit analysis seems to take on a certain mystique beyond the average amateur. Many texts present such a bewildering array of symbols and mathematical operators that analysis seems hopeless unless you have a computer. Wrong – all you need is paper, pencil, and a pocket calculator.

Impedance, admittance, and complex numbers are really simple expressions with a few extra rules. Once you know them and how to set up an analysis "model," the rest is just careful number manipulation. Presented here are the basics, how to handle them, and simple circuit modeling for the majority of transmitter and receiver circuits.

If the names and expressions are unfamiliar, just read and study slowly. They will become familiar with a little practice.

the rectangular form

The two forms of expressing impedance or admittance are *rectangular* and *polar*. **Fig. 1** shows the rectangular form with the expressions and circuit symbols in columns for impedance, *Z*, and admittance, *Y*.

Any L C R (inductance, capacitance, and resistance) combination can be shown as either an impedance or an admittance because each is the inverse of the other. Common use has a series combination given as impedance, a parallel combination as admittance. Opposite expressions are shown later.

If you are unfamiliar with complex number notation, pay attention to the *j* symbol. The *j*, also called the *j*-operator, denotes everything to the right of it as *imaginary*. This is in the mathematical sense since $j = \sqrt{-1}$, an imaginary number. A complex number has a real part (the resistance, *R*, or conductance, *G*) and an *imaginary* part (the reactance, *X*, or susceptance, *B*). Ordinary math rules apply only to the real part or the imaginary part. Rules for handling both at the same time are given later.

Values of impedance, resistance, and reactance are given in familiar ohms values. Values of admittance, conductance, and susceptance are given in *mhos*. Some time ago the inverse spelling was applied because admittance is the inverse of impedance. If R = 10 ohms, then G = -0.1 mho.

reactance and susceptance

Both are frequency sensitive; that is, their ohm and mho values vary with frequency. This is shown by

$$X_L = \omega L \qquad B_L = -1/\omega L X_C = -1/\omega C \qquad B_C = \omega C$$

with L in henries, C in farads, and

$$\omega = 2\pi f$$

where f is in hertz (radian frequency). The subscript refers to inductance or capacitance. Total reactance or susceptance is expressed without a subscript as

$$X = \omega L - (1/\omega C)$$
$$B = \omega C - (1/\omega L)$$

Note especially that signs are shown; this *must* be followed in reactance and susceptance calculation. Remember the resonance condition where inductive and capacitive reactance (or susceptance) cancels.

Imaginary parts can be stated in opposite terms:

$$X = -1/(B_C + B_L) = -1/B$$

$$B = -1/(X_C + X_L) = -1/X$$

Note the signs. Reactance and susceptance are related by *negative* inversions while resistance and conductance are related by *positive* inversions. Real and imaginary parts are handled separately and the part relationships are different but admittance is still the inverse of impedance and vice-versa. Y and Z are complex numbers of different rules while R, X, G and B are simple numbers with ordinary rules.*

Most modern hand-held calculators have a piconstant key and at least one memory register. Storing the radian frequency $(2\pi f)$ in memory allows rapid calculation of X or B values. For rf circuits, entering scaled values of megahertz, microhenries,

*A good algebra text will show the proof and following rules for those readers desiring more information.

By Leonard H. Anderson, 10048 Lanark Street, Sun Valley, California 91352 or microfarads saves using the exponent key or inputing lots of zeros.

With complex numbers (a+jb) and (c+jd), the rules are:

$$(a + jb) + (c + jd) = (a + c) + j(b + d)$$

 $(a + jb) - (c + jd) = (a - c) + j(b - d)$

Notice the expression statements on each side. On the left there are two complex numbers indicated by the parenthesis. The right side shows that each part of the complex answer has at least two terms. The *j*-operator designates the entire b, d term group as imaginary.

The addition rule is useful for expressing a combination LCR circuit as one impedance if all components are in series. Suppose the inductor has winding resistance. The total resistance is the sum of R and winding resistance. The inductive reactance adds to capacitive reactance and each could be in the two impedances or combined in one of them. Any number of combinations, including parallels, can be added to give one real part and one imaginary part. Remember to keep the parts separate, observe signs, use admittance for parallel combinations, and impedance for series combinations.

table 1. Keyboard steps, HP-35 calculator impedance/admittance conversion.

		Stac	k Regi	sters		
I	Keyboard	t x	y	z	t	Display, (remarks)
	Input R	R				
1	STO	R				(hold R in memory)
	Input X	х				
2	ENTER	х	х			
3	ENTER	х	х	х		(fill stack with X)
4	х	X ²	х			
5	RCL	R	X ²	х		
6	RCL	R	R	X ²	х	
7	х	R ²	X ²	х		
8	+	Mag ²	х			
9	\sqrt{x}	Mag	х			Z Magnitude
10	1/x	1/M	х			Y Magnitude
11	xy	x	1/M			
12	RCL	R	х	1/M		
13	÷	X/R	1/M			
14	arc					
15	tan	pha	1/M			Z phase angle
16	CHS	– pha	1/M			Y phase angle
17	STO					(hold angle in memory)
18	R١	1/M				
19	ENTER	1/M	1/M			
20	ENTER	1/M	1/M	1/M		(fill stack with Y
						magnitude)
21	RCL	– pha	1/M	1/M	1/M	
22	COS	Cos	1/M	1/M	1/M	
23	×	G	1/M	1/M		conductance
24	x - y	1/M	G	1/M		
25	RCL	– pha	1/M	G	1/M	
26	sin	Sin	1/M	G	1/M	
27	×	B	G	1/M		susceptance
28	1/x	1/B	G			
29	CHS	Хp	G			parallel reactance
30	x⊶y	G	Хр			
31	1/x	Rp	Хр			parallel resistance

The sign in front of the *j*-operator can take the sign of the imaginary part. This is strictly a sign and *does* not mean the parts of one complex number add or subtract. The subtraction rule will be useful in impedance matching to be discussed later.

why admittance?

There are as many parallel combinations of com-

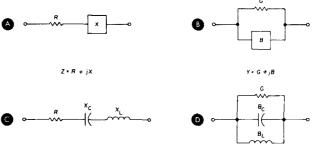


fig. 1. Rectangular form of impedance and admittance.

ponents as there are those in series. Any circuit to be analyzed should be separated into *branches* of component combinations in series or parallel. Each branch is then expressed as an admittance or impedance having only two connections or *nodes*. The easiest form of expressing a parallel combination is admittance since all real parts and all imaginary parts add.

In fact, you have probably been using admittance without realizing it. The familiar parallel resistance formula

$$R_{total} = \frac{R_1 R_2}{R_1 + R_2}$$

was derived from the basic expression

$$R_{total} = \frac{1}{(1/R_1) + (1/R_2) + \cdots + (1/R_n)}$$

Invert the basic expression and you will find the sum of conductances (1/R) equals total conductance.

multiplying and dividing complex numbers

These will be used in solving the circuit or converting admittance to impedance and vice-versa. The rules are:

$$(a+jb) \times (c+jd) = (ac-bd) + j(ad+bc)$$

$$\frac{(a+jb)}{(c+jd)} = \left[\frac{(ac+bd)}{(c^2+d^2)} \right] + j \left[\frac{(bc-ad)}{(c^2+d^2)} \right]$$

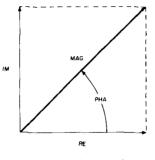
$$(inversion)1/(a+jb) = \left[a/(a^2+b^2) \right] - j[b/(a^2+b^2)]$$

These rules are hard to work with, even with a calculator. There is an easier way by using the *polar* form equivalents shown in **fig. 2**. The angle symbol is as important as the *j*-operator: All terms to the

right of the angle symbol are, appropriately, *angles*; terms to the left are *magnitudes*.

$$(A \perp \phi) \times (B \perp \theta) = (A \times B) \perp (\phi + \theta)$$
$$\frac{(A \perp \phi)}{(B \perp \theta)} = \frac{A}{B} \perp (\phi - \theta)$$
$$(inversion) \qquad \frac{1}{A \perp \phi} = \frac{1}{A} \perp - \phi$$

Magnitudes operate algebraically just like the polar expression, but angles add or subtract. Again, the



VECTOR RELATIONSHIP

fig. 2. Comparison of the rectangular and polar form.

parts are different from the whole. A calculator with trig functions is preferred; one with built-in polar/rectangular conversion is even better.

polar form

Y and *Z* can be expressed equally well this way. This has the advantage of showing magnitude and phase angle as shown by the little vector diagram of **fig. 2**. Voltage and current in a complex circuit will also be complex quantities. The ac or rf voltage you measure in a circuit is the magnitude. Phase angle is also measurable although the instruments cost more. Some rf bridges read directly in polar form.

Both forms are needed in circuit analysis. Rectangular form can be used in calculating circuit branch values while the polar form is used for voltage response and as an intermediate step in conversion. Input impedance or admittance can be expressed in either form. The angle is a signed number but the magnitude is always a *positive* number.

form conversion by calculator

All of the expressions and forms necessary for circuit analysis have now been presented. Before going into the analysis setup it is useful to observe conversion of impedance to admittance with the aid of rectangular/polar form changes. The program steps in **table 1** apply to the older HP-35 model or any other *RPN/Stack* machine that does not have polar/ rectangular conversion functions.

This form conversion is basic to the ladder network solution to be presented later. Calculators with built-

in functions can use part of this step sequence, either manually or automatically with a programmable version.

Steps 4 through 15 change rectangular impedance to polar impedance. Step 10 finds the polar admittance magnitude; its location in the sequence is arbitrary and could be placed after step 18. Step 16 finds the polar admittance angle.

Steps 17 to **20** set up the registers for polar to rectangular conversion — the remaining steps perform it. The magnitude inversion and angle sign change has already done conversion of impedance to admittance. Polar/rectangular identities are the same for impedance and admittance.

Steps 28 to **31** are used only to show how parallel resistance and reactance are derived from the main program. There are simpler ways to derive the parallel equivalents from series components. You are invited to try out the simpler way from the formulas given. If you succeed, you have already begun programming.

Steps 1 to **27** will convert admittance to impedance without changing any steps. To prove this to yourself, just change the terms and expressions in the register and remarks columns.

As an example, Z = 4 + j3 ohms converts to Y = 0.16 - j0.12 mhos. The parallel reactance equivalent is 8.33 ohms, resistance equivalent is 6.25 ohms.

the analysis model

The term *model* simply means the branches connected at nodes. A reduction to this structure is done to simplify overall calculations calculation time and effort. The basic pi structure in **fig. 3** can be used with almost every circuit and is expandable to a ladder structure.

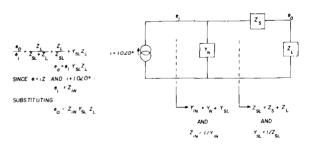


fig. 3. Basic model structure of the familiar pi network.

The model is allowed only one signal source, a current of 1.0 ampere with no phase angle. Any source admittance must be included as part of Y_n . A unity current source allows each output voltage, e_o , to be relative and the solution to be dependent solely on impedances and admittances in the model. This is the simplest method and applies well to calculator solution.

It may seem that a relative e_a solution is unrealistic

but this is only partly true. Networks such as filters are almost always described in relative terms. As an example, an i-f amplifier can be modeled as several individual blocks with individual block model response summed for overall response. The actual e_o can be found by multiplying relative e_o by the actual input current.

Most of us think of an amplifier stage as output vs input. For the model the transistor or tube must be split into the input impedance and the output admittance with a current source that is dependent on input signal. Most data sheets on transistors and tubes are oriented to this form.

Most of us also think of an amplifier output in terms of voltage. Since voltage is easiest to measure, it is easy to neglect current. All transistor collectors and pentode tube plates are really current sources with an output admittance (h_{oe} for common emitter, $1/r_p$ for pentodes). Measured output voltage is the product of the current source and the *total* load impedance, including output admittance of the device. The scarcity of ac current measuring instruments has misled a lot of us in understanding actual circuit operation.

The basic pi model can be thought of as the coupling circuit between two amplifiers. The output admittance of the first becomes part of Y_n , and the input impedance of the second becomes part of Z_L . The current flowing into the second state input can be found relative to unity (the model input current) because the output voltage is known.

You can use Ohm's law with complex quantities. The difference from dc is that current and voltage have *both* magnitude and phase angle. The rectangular form also applies, but the polar form is more convenient since an ac voltmeter measures magnitude. An oscilloscope will display voltage phase angle but that is dependent on the scope sweep triggering point; a dual-trace scope shows *relative* voltage phase.

Note the progression of Z and Y looking towards the load in **fig. 3**. This is important to the model extension following.

extending the model for ladder networks

A *ladder* configuration is a shunt-series-shunt sequence – a five-branch model is shown in **fig. 4**. Again, the current source is unity and e_o is relative and solved directly from impedances and admittances. This model is well suited to filter analysis.

Output voltage solution is self-explanatory but note the progression of Y_{12} to Z_{45} .* Y_{12} is the inverted sum of Z_d and Z_L ; Z_{23} is the inverted sum of Y_c and Y_{12} , and so on. Each Y or Z is the total, looking towards the load, of the model Y and Z at each node. Z_{45} is the *total* input impedance; the network input admittance is found by subtracting source admittance from $Y_{45}(1/Z_{45})$.

So far, circuit analysis seems complicated and a lot of work. Here is where the calculator comes in handy and it is useful to recall the form-conversion calculator steps in **table 1**. Let's assume that all shunt branches have been precalculated for admittance and all series branches in impedance.

Enter Y_L and begin the conversion. Pause when you reach the magnitude and angle of Z_L and write down the polar values. By **step 27** the rectangular

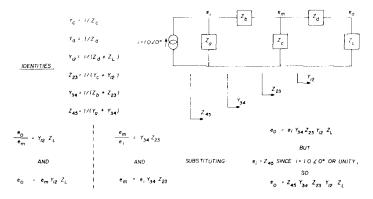


fig. 4. Five-branch ladder network, showing derivation of circuit quantities. A hand-held calculator is very useful in solving problems of this type.

form of Z_L is reached and the real and imaginary parts of Z_d are added. Go back to the beginning and start the conversion for Y_{12} ; the calculator's stack already has the entry so it is just a matter of storing the real part in memory and the imaginary part in the stack. Pause at the polar form of Y_{12} and write down the values. At the end of the second run add the precalculated Y_c parts to parts of Y_{12} and return to the beginning. Continue the repetition, writing down each numbered-subscript polar value, until the input branch has been reached.

Solution of e_o is made by multiplying all tabulated magnitudes and adding all tabulated angles. This is the same as the last e_o expression in **fig. 4** and polar multiplication rules are used. Network input impedance can be found by subtracting source admittance using rectangular form rules and converting.

Six-digit accuracy of precalculation and tabulation is more than sufficient for most purposes; angle tabulation can be rounded to three fractions using degrees, four with radians. If a mistake is made in stepping through the sequence, just begin in mid-

^{*}Amateurs who are not familiar with networks are often confused by the numeric subscripts which are used. The designator Y_{12} , for example, refers to the admittance looking into sections 1 and 2 of the network; likewise, Z_{45} refers to the impedance looking into sections 4 and 5 of the network (see **fig. 4**). In filters, capacitors and inductors are often designated in the same manner — in terms of their relative positions within the filter network.

sequence by clearing registers and entering the last tabulated polar value; just make certain that magnitude and angle are positioned correctly.

The repetitive sequence or iteration is well suited to a programmable calculator. If it has a larger memory, the partial products of e_o can be accumulated automatically.

modifying a model with branches that jump adjacent nodes

Fig. 5 shows this condition and defeats the ladder configuration. **Fig. 5** also shows how a model subsection can be transformed by the *delta-to-tee* method, yielding a result that fits the ladder. Transformation must be done with precalculated values.

A delta sub-section that is pure resistance requires transformation only once. Any other condition requires a transform at every solution frequency. The resulting tee values become the new precalculated values for solution iteration.

Similar transformations can be made for tee-todelta and lattice networks. Most engineering handbooks contain the transform equations, usually given as impedances, but the equations work just as well with admittances. It is worthwhile to study the circuit to be modified and arrange the branches for the least amount of transformation.

Pi networks are good examples and published design data can be used as a starting point. Unfortunately, most designs assume only a resistive load while an actual load such as an antenna will vary considerably. The object of impedance matching is to make the real part of the matched load equal to the source, and reduce the imaginary part to zero.

Let's take the case of matching an antenna over a few frequencies with a pi network. The basic design data is available and the components can be modeled as in **fig. 3**. The approximate antenna impedance data is known either by measurement or from handbook data. Will the network components do the job?

A way to find out is to solve only for Z_{in} , omitting source admittance and susceptance of the firstbranch network componentt (usually a variable capacitor). The rectangular form of Z_{in} is a bit better for solution.

Tabulate the results at each frequency and antenna impedance expected and examine the imaginary part sign. If the sign does *not* change, the input component can be reactive and the value can be calculated by the *opposite-sign* reactance. The imaginary part must go to zero when the component is included in the model. Value range variation can also be seen; make certain that this can be realized in practice.

An imaginary-part sign change means that another component value must change. The most common

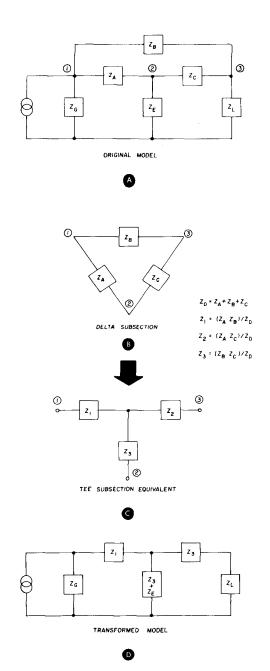


fig. 5. Model transformation. Here the delta subsection (consisting of Z_A, Z_B, and Z_C) is transformed into an equivalent tee section. The tee section is then added to Z_G, Z_L, and Z_O to yield the transformed model.

pi network uses a variable capacitor at each end with a fixed series inductor. If this is the circuit, try varying the other capacitor, solving again and inspecting the signs.

The real part of Z_{in} should be reasonably close to the required resistive value for best power transfer. The difference depends on the type of source. A 20 to 30 per cent variation is probably good enough in most cases. If this part is not close, another component value must be changed. After a few changes you will be able to tell which way to change and you can zero in on the correct set of values. The best efficiency occurs with source impedance equal to matched load impedance.

Other networks can be designed from the efficiency rule and reducing reactance to zero. Some careful study and algebra will result in a matching formula. Impedance or admittance — as a quantity — obeys algebraic rules. The only difference is that real and imaginary parts must be handled by the rules given.

circuits with more than one load

Suppose you have a circuit model like **fig. 4** and there are two Z_d and two Z_L branches in separate paths. Solve Y_{12} for the second path and record it. Solve the first path as before except the second path's Y₁₂ is also added to Y_c plus Y₁₂ of the first path. Z₂₃ is the total impedance of both paths.

The second path e_0 is found from Z₄₅, Y₃₄, Z₂₃ recorded in solving the first path and Y₁₂ and Z_L of the second path. This can be extended to longer paths with different lengths provided that the common-node impedance value is the total impedance of all paths.

bilaterality

All illustrations have shown the source at left, load at right. This conforms to conventional left-to-right flow but doesn't mean the schematic must be interpreted this way. Many schematics are drawn differently, so take care in forming the model — properly locate the source and load.

Q equivalents

Every coil and capacitor is lossy. To properly analyze a filter this loss must be modeled as resistance or conductance in the proper branches. General values are X/Q for impedance and a series resistance, B/Q for admittance and a parallel conductance. Add losses in LC branches.

Some simplification is possible. Q is fairly constant over an octave of frequency. A fixed R or G value can be used for resonant circuits and filters. The fixed value would be obtained at the center frequency or cutoff frequency for highpass and lowpass filters.

other analysis methods

Most circuit theory texts have them. The inexperienced should be cautious since the math is high level, usually involved with matrices or transfer functions. A matrix is best solved on a computer. The other methods are more versatile, but not more accurate. The ladder form given here will fit a manual or programmable pocket calculator better. It will not solve all circuits, but most of them. Programs for the HP-25 will be given in a future article.

ham radio



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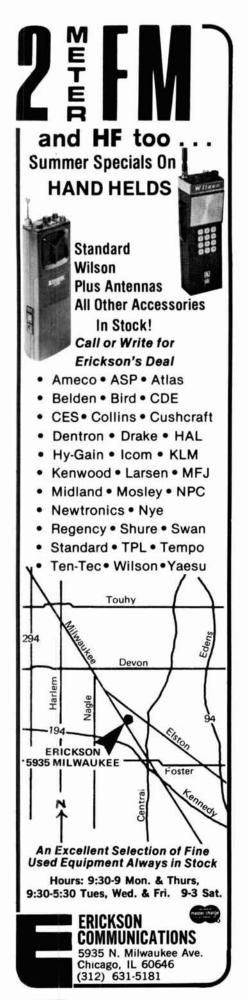
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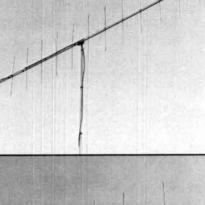
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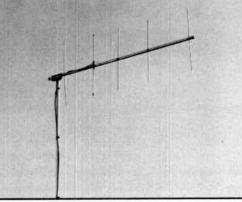
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205

75"

73"

39 5/8"

80 mph

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9.1 dBd*

20 dB

4 MHz

52 ohms

82" min.

60° vertical

2:1

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1¼-1%" O.D.

.740 ft² max.

250/500 PEP

45° horizontal

208

148 3/4"

401/4"

75 1/8"

80 mph

4.1 lbs

20 dB

2 MHz

52 ohms

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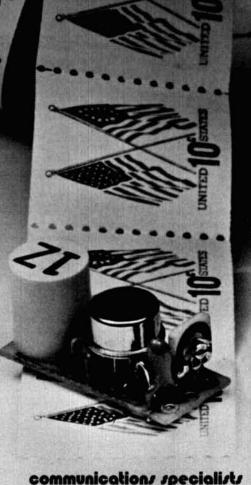
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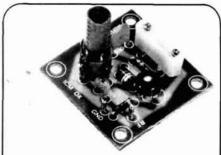
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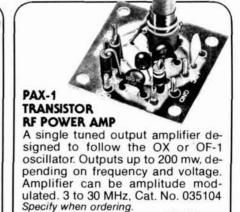
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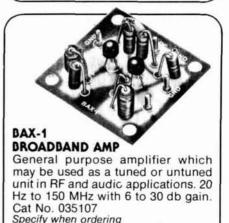
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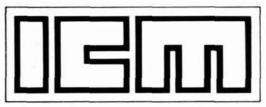
A small signal amplifier to drive the MXX-1 Mixer. Single tuned input and link output. 3 to 20 MHz, Lo Kit, Cat. No. 035102. 20 to 170 MHz, Hi Kit, Cat. No. 035103. Specify when ordering. \$4.50 ea.



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.02% Calibration Tolerance EXPERIMENTER CRYSTALS (HC 6/U Holder) Cat. No. Specifications 031080 3 to 20 MHz - for use in OX OSC Lo \$4.95 ea. Specify when ordering 031081 20 to 60 MHz - For use in OX OSC Hi \$4.95 ea. Specify when ordering 031300 3 to 20 MHz - For use in OF-1L OSC \$4.25 ea. Specify when ordering 031310 20 to 60 MHz - For use in OF-1H OSC \$4.25 ea. Specify when ordering.

Shipping and postage (inside U.S., Canada and Mexico only) will be prepaid by International. Prices quoted for U.S., Canada and Mexico orders only. Orders for shipment to other countries will be quoted on request. Address orders to: M/S Dept., P.O. Box 32497, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73132.

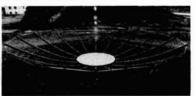


International Crystal Mfg. Co., Inc. 10 North Lee Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102

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parabolic dish reflector kit



Moonbouncers, radio astronomers, TV DXers, and others who have needed a parabolic dish antenna at a reasonable price will like the *Paraframe* — a rigid, accurate, parabolic antenna framework kit which one person can easily assemble with ordinary hand tools. The *Paraframe* design permits the reflector to be fine-focused for peak performance, yet the weight is low, while strength is high.

Prestressed *Paraframes* are made of wood, and the ribs are furnished with two coats of premium-quality latex exterior sealer-primer, followed by two coats of premium quality latex exterior paint in a neutral gray. Other colors are available upon request.

The Paraframe's price is such that you can build a parabolic reflector for less than one-third the cost of a similar antenna of equivalent aperture. For example, the SD12 is a 12foot (3.66-meter) design with a focal length/diameter (f/d) ratio of 0.5. Sixteen prestressed ribs provide sufficient rigidity for useful work at 2300 MHz in a 40-mph (65-kmh) wind. The ribs will accept 7/16 inch (11mm) staples for attaching the aluminum window-screen reflector material. Model SD16 has a sixteen foot (4.88 meter) diameter and 20 ribs: model SD20 has a twenty-foot (6.1 meter) diameter and 24 ribs.

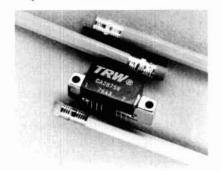
A complete selection of expanded

and perforated aluminum covering material, together with low-loss coaxial cable suitable for uhf purposes, is available from the *Paraframe* kit supplier.

The model SD12 is priced at \$690 (shipping weight is 140 pounds or 64 kg); model SD16 is \$1120 (shipping weight is 230 pounds or 104 kg); and model SD20 is priced at \$1680 (shipping weight 400 pounds or 181 kg). Shipping cost will be approximately \$25 per cwt (45kg), maximum, anywhere in the continental United States. Terms are 50% of the purchase price with the order, the balance COD. Illinois residents are asked to include 5% sales tax.

For a complete description and illustrated brochure, write to James K. Vines, 611 Farmview Road, Park Forest South, Illinois 60466, or call (312) 534-0889 after 7 PM CDT.

rf hybrid amplifiers



TRW RF Semiconductors has introduced an rf-hybrid gain block which will meet or exceed the most demanding requirements of i-f amplification in advanced microwave radio relay system applications.

The amplifier, designated CA2875/2875R, has a noise figure of

typically 4 dB and a third-order intercept of +42 dBm. Requiring a 15 to 24 volt power supply, the CA2875 is suitable for positive power supply polarity while the CA2875R will accommodate a negative supply polarity.

Other parameters of the hybrid amplifier include a return loss of greater than 30 dB at both the input and output ports, phase linearity from 30 to 110 MHz and wide dynamic range. These i-f gain/blocks have a center frequency of 70 MHz as well as a nominal gain of 17.5 dB and an operating temperature range of -40° C to $+100^{\circ}$ C.

In quantities of 100 pieces, the CA2875/2875R is priced at \$31.50. For more information contact Warren Gould at (213) 679-4561 or TRW RF Semiconductors, 14520 Aviation Boulevard, Lawndale, California.

equipment directory

Have you ever searched through a pile of magazines, a loose-leaf collection of product releases, or a collection of dog-eared catalogs looking for a particular antenna, the specs on a new transceiver, or the nearest distributor-dealer for a certain brand of amateur equipment, only to give up in frustration?

Well, you don't have to repeat that futile exercise this year. The new 1977 Amateur Radio Equipment Directory, published by Kengore Corporation, got it all together just for you. Here is a comprehensive catalog of amateur equipment, complete with the names and addresses of manufacturers and distributors, together with product photographs, specifications, and prices, conveniently and attractively bound between soft covers for your reference library.

Not every last item made by every manufacturer is listed, nor do the prices reflect recent price increases, but the catalog lists telephone numbers where you can get the latest, correct information. In spite of these minor (and expected) shortcomings, you'll have to look a long time before finding anything nearly as useful or informative. For your copy, send \$2.95 to Kengore Corporation, 9 James Avenue, Kendall Park, New Jersey 08824.

70-watt two-meter amplifier



A new 70-watt, four-mode, twometer amplifier has been introduced by VHF Engineering. This new amplifier, the Blue Line BLC 10/70, is designed to be used with the popular 10-watt fm transceivers and multimode transceivers in the 5-15 watt class; it will deliver 70 watts output in both the class C or linear mode. An additional model, the Blue Line BLC 2/70, offers the same features as the BLC 10/70 but will operate with transceivers or transmitters in the 1 or 2 watt class.

The VHF Engineering Blue Line series of amplifiers have been designed for reliability and long life and feature unique broadband, stripline designs which require no tuning or adjustment during their lifetime. Automatic sensing and relay switching are provided to automatically switch the amplifier into the circuit when drive is applied in the class C (fm) or linear (ssb) modes. The amplifiers offer high efficiency and introduce a receive insertion loss of less than 1 dB. They are designed for



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the word's out

your ears tell you there's a difference with Kūlrod®

Just listen on VHF or UHF. Before long you'll discover that the guy with the full quieting signal, the readable signal, the one that gets through best usually says: "... and I'm using a Larsen Külrod Antenna."

This is the antenna designed, built and ruggedly tested in the commercial two-way field. It's the fastest growing make in this toughest of proving grounds. Now available for all Amateur frequencies in 5 different easy-on permanent mounts and all popular temporary types.

Make your antenna a Larsen Kūlrod and you'll have that signal difference too. Also good looks, rugged dependability and lowest SWR for additional pluses.

FREE: Complete details on all Külrod Amateur Antennas. We'll send this catalog along with names of nearest stocking dealers so you can get the full quieting "difference" signal.

* Kulrod is a registered trademark of Larsen Electronics



11611 N.E. 50th Ave. • P.O. Box 1686 • Vancouver, WA 98663 • Phone: 206/573-2722 In Canada write to: Canadian Larsen Electronics, Ltd. 1340 Clark Drive • Vancouver, B.C. V5L 3K9 • Phone: 604/254-4936 12-14 Vdc operation in base station or mobile service.

The BLC 10/70 sells for \$139.95 and the BLC 2/70 sells for \$159.95. These new four-mode amplifiers are available from dealers nationwide or from VHF Engineering, 320 Water Street, Binghamton, New York 13902, as wired and tested units.

new antennas from cubic corporation



A series of new amateur radio antennas, including four beam, two mobile, and one trap vertical model, are available now from Swan Electronics, a subsidiary of Cubic Corporation. The fixed antennas include the TB-4HA, a triband beam for \$259.95, featuring four working elements on 10, 15, and 20 meters; the 24-foot boom permits optimum spacing for maximum forward gain and front-to-back ratio.

Also available are the TB-3HA, a triband beam for \$199.95 which features three working elements on 10, 15, and 20 meters with a 16-foot boom; and the TB-2A, a triband beam for \$129.95 which features two working elements on 10, 15, and 20 meters. The MB-40H, a new heavyduty two-element, 40-meter beam is priced at \$199.95, and features two working elements on a 15.75-foot steel boom. All Swan beam antennas are rated for 2000 watts PEP and are designed for a vswr of 1.5:1 or better at resonance.

The deluxe mobile models include a five-band mobile 45 antenna which features all band manual switching for 10, 15, 20, 40 and 75 meters, a *High-Q* tapped coil, eight positive stop manual positions with gold-plated contacts, featuring a base section, mobile coil and 6-foot whip top section. It is power rated at 2000 watts PEP; cost is \$119.95.

The new Swan 742 tri-band antenna, priced at \$109.95, which, once adjusted to desired operating frequency for 20, 40, and 75 meters, requires no further adjustment. It is power rated at 500 watts PEP.

The Golden Swan Trap Vertical antenna, Model 1040V, an omnidirectional, low radiation angle unit designed for 52 ohm coaxial feedline is priced at \$122.95. Power rated at 2000 watts PEP, it measures 21 feet high and covers 20, 15, 20, and 40 meters. A 75-meter add-on kit is available for \$39.95.

Accessories include a *Kwik-on* connector for easy installation and removal of the mobile antenna for \$7.95; an MMBX mobile impedance in-line, low loss match box, \$23.95; and WM 3000 in-line peak reading wattmeter for \$79.95.

For further information about products and prices, contact Swan Electronics, 305 Airport Road, Oceanside, California 92054.

10-500 kHz vlf converter



Palomar Engineers has introduced a new vlf converter which converts signals in the 10-500 kHz vlf band to the amateur 80-meter band so they can be heard on an ordinary shortwave receiver. The converter provides reception of the 1750-meter band at 160-190 kHz where transmitters of one-watt power can be operated without FCC license. It also covers the navigation radio-beacon





band, standard frequency broadcasts, ship-to-shore communications, long-range navy transmitters, and the European low-frequency broadcast band.

The Palomar converter is simple to use and has no tuning adjustments. Tuning of vlf signals is done by the associated receiver which picks up 10-kHz signals at 3510 kHz, 100-kHz signals at 3600 kHz, and 500-kHz signals at 4000 kHz. The converter features crystal control for accurate frequency conversion, a low noise rf amplifier for high sensitivity, and a multi-pole filter to reject broadcast and shortwave interference. Price is \$55.00 postpaid in the United States and Canada. For more information write to Palomar Engineers, Post Office Box 455, Escondido, California 92025.

co-resident 8080 editor/assembler

Tychon has announced its coresident editor/assembler (TEA) for 8080 systems. Requiring only 5k of memory (R/W or PROM) it is completely I/O independent and relies upon its own I/O software or the I/O routines already available in a user's system. The Tychon Editor/ Assembler accepts both octal and hexadecimal values throughout the program and the program listings may be in either octal or hexadecimal form. The switch between octal and hex is made at any time using keyboard commands. The TEA package is the only editor/assembler available which allows the user to easily change the numbering system used. The editor/assembler is relocatable using a special relocator within the program which will place TEA anywhere in the 8080's memory space. The program is available in 1702A or 2708 PROMs and on paper tape. Listings are also available. Prices start at \$35 for a paper tape version plus the User's Manual. For further information contact Tychon, Inc., Blacksburg, Virginia 24060.

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test for resonant resistance with an omega-t antenna noise bridge



The Omega-t Noise Bridge is an inexpensive and flexible testing device that can effectively measure antenna resonant frequency and impedance. This unique piece of test equipment does the work of more expensive devices by using an existing receiver for a bridge detector. There is no longer a need for power loss because of impedance mismatch. Get more details or order now!

Model TE7-01 for 1-100 MHz Range \$29.95 Model TE7-02 for 1-300 MHz Range \$39.95



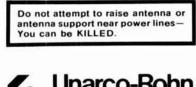
Sold at Amateur Radio Dealers or Direct from Electrospace Systems, Inc

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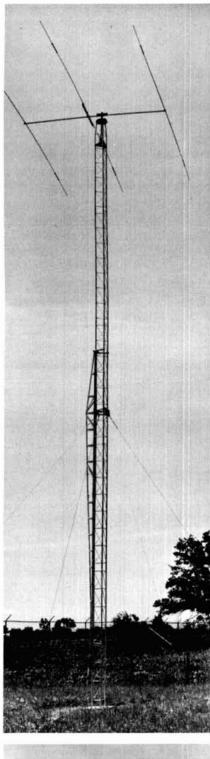
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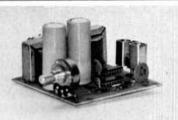






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OR AM RADIO PORTABLE

This little guy thinks that the new Universal Porta Pak is really the way to go for a portable power course he can't express himself in words, so you will just have to take my word for it. David is another of our more recent and great new products. He is probably one of our better efforts. David is just 13 weeks old and pre-occupied with the more important things like eating and sleeping so, my interpretation of his thoughts may not b altogether correct.

The Universal Porta Pak is designed to fit anything from a 5 watt CB to a 25 watt commercial 2 way radio. The Universal Porta Pak comes in two versions, one is a 4.5 AMP HR unit that will recharge in 13 to 16 hours, and the other is a 9 AMP HR unit that recharges in 28 to 30 hours.

The Universal Porta-Pak comes complete with a heli-arc welded aluminum case, a gel cell battery and a plug in charger. The Porta-Pak case is finished in a black wrinkle and baked to insure durability. Our new Universal Porta-Pak can be attached in several ways, depending upon the type of service to which it will be put. For intermittant or temporary portable service, elastic bands are provided. For more permanent duty as a portable, pop rivets or a slide mount may be used.

Our very popular custom models are still available for those of you who have the following radios: Regency BTH BTL, HR2, HR6, Microcom, Aquaphone, MT25 or MT15, Genave Business Amateur and Marine, ICOM 230, 22, 225, 30A, Midland 13 500 and 13 509, Heathkit HW202 and HW2036, and Standard SR C806, SR C826MA

Porta Pak started out as a very versatile accessory for the amateur, but, now the word is out and as a result 85% of our sales are now to the business radio services. Among enthusiastic users of the Porta Pak are the CAP ambulance services, fire departments, Red Cross disaster teams, towing services and private surveilance organizations The Porta Pak and VHF Marine radio have provided small craft with reliable communications where it was im practical a short time ago.

Be sure to state the make and model of your transceiver when ordering, and a custom model will be provided if one is made for it. The regular mobile mount holes are used to attach the custom models. No modification of your radio is necessary.

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W 15", H 6", D 18"

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- Drake 4-Line equipment is designed for you to use — without fear of obsolescence — year after year after year.

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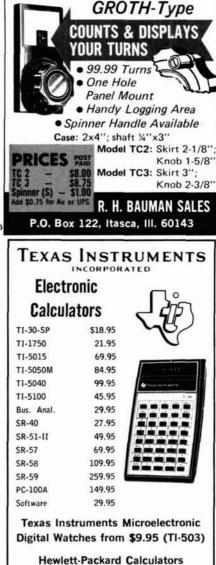
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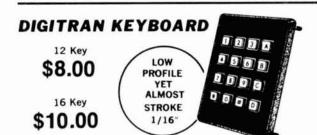
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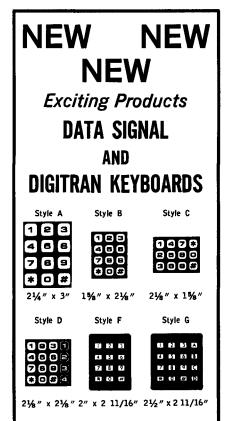
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A.G.L. is a comparatively new company with an old fashion bilosophy about giving our customers the best service we m deliver at the most competitive brick-

Everyone at A.G.L. is a ligensed has operator with a strong nd, and although A.G.L. is new: we've probaband talked with most of you at hamfouts for the past many s. We would rather not discuss how many).

e think we have accumulated one of the most complete in s of electronics in the anuthwest. We've combined that with skills and backgrounds and created a business that we you will like doing business with

By the way, if you like to "horse trade" on equipment, you are more than welcome, in fact, we encourage it,

Stop in and see for yourself, you are going to like A.C.L.

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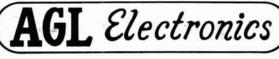






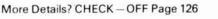




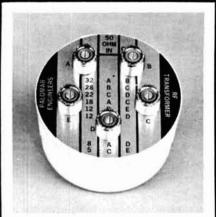


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RF TRANSFORMER



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- For all verticals and mobile whip antennas.
- Smaller size and higher efficiency. Only 3½" diameter for full 5-Kw PEP capability.

Here is the answer to the matching problem for vertical antennas and mobile whips. A broadband transformer that matches your 50 ohm transmitter to 32, 28, 22, 18, 12, 8, or 5 ohms. Plenty of taps to match any vertical or whip.

And with no tuning or other adjustment. The RF Transformer is completely broadband 1-30 MHz (1-10 MHz on three lowest taps). So when you change frequency within a band you need only retune the antenna to resonance; not fiddle with a matching network.

Also, more power goes to your antenna. The RF Transformer is more efficient than a matching network or tuner—less than 0.1 db loss.

As always, when you buy Palomar Engineers you get the best: large ferrite toroid core, teflon insulated wire, sealed epoxy-encapsulated weatherproof construction, stainless steel mounting hardware, full 2000 watt CW (5-Kw PEP) capability.

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Improve your station. Simplify your tuneup. Get better results with the new Palomar Engineers RF Transformer.

Order direct. \$42.50 postpaid U.S. and Canada. California residents add sales tax.



flea market

MEMPHIS IS BEAUTIFUL IN OCTOBER! The Memphis ARRL-sponsored Hamfest, bigger and better than the 4,500 who attended last year, will be held at State Technical Institute, Interstate 40 at Macon Road, on Saturday and Sunday October 1 and 2. Demonstrations, displays, MARS meetings, flea market, ladies flea market, too! Hospitality room, informal dinners, XYL entertainment, many outstanding prizes. Dealers and Distributors welcome. Contact Harry Simpson W4SCF, PO Box 27015, Memphis, TN 38127 for further information.

BETTER THAN EVER — 1977 EDITION Golden Spread Hamfest and Flea Market-Holiday Inn West Amarillo, Texas Aug. 12, 13 & 14. Six big tech sessions. Commercial exhibits. Family recreation. Two Hospitality Hours. Big pre-registration prize and super Grand Prize, others. \$3.00 advance, \$4.00 at door. For Info. pre-registration packet, P.O. Box 10221, Amarillo, Texas 79106.

THE LaPORTE COUNTY Summer Electronic Swapfest will be on Sunday, August 28th at the County Fairgrounds in LaPorte, Indiana, 50 miles Southeast of Chicago. Paved Midway and Indoor booths available at no charge. Good food and cold drink available. Talk-in on 37-97, 01-61, or 52 simplex. Tickets \$2.00 at the gate. Information from P.O. Box 30, LaPorte, IN 46350.

MELBOURNE, FLORIDA, SEPTEMBER 10-11. The 12th Annual Melbourne Hamfest will be held Saturday and Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day in the airconditioned Melbourne Civic Auditorium located on Hibiscus Boulevard, Donation is \$2.50 per person. Full program includes forums, meetings, auction, swap tables, commercial exhibits, awards, prizes, etc. Contact K4HPT, 2749 Herford Road, Melbourne, FL 32935 for swap table reservations. FCC exams on Saturday, donation not needed for exams. Form 610 must be filed with FCC, Room 919, 51 S.W. First Avenue, Miami, FL 33130, not later than August 31, 1977. Hamfest talk-in on 25/85 and 52/52. Sponsored by Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society. For more info write P.O. Box 1004, Melbourne, FL 32901.

MONTREAL HAMFEST '77. August 6 & 7, 9 AM to 6 PM. St. Lambert Arena.

BARC International Field Day, Burlington, VT. August 13-14 at the Old Lantern (same location as last year). Starts at 7AM Saturday and closes 5PM Sunday. This year's hamfest is dedicated to the memory of K1URQ. Camping at site, flea market both days, early bird registration \$3.00 (\$3.50 at door). Talk-in on 01-61. Write Burlington Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 312, Burlington, VT 05401 for information and advance tickets.

FLORIDA: The BOLD CITY HAMFEST sponsored by the Jacksonville Bange Association will be held at the Jacksonville Beach Auditorium AUGUST 6-7... Vacation at our Hamfest — 'FLORIDA'S FRIENDLIEST'... Visit our special 'SOLAR' and 'QRPp' forums. Send request for information and tables to HAMFEST COOR-DINATOR, Jacksonville Range Association, P.O. BOX 10623, Jacksonville FL 32207... For Motel reservations call RAMADA INN toll free 1-800-228-2828.

MICROCOMPUTER INTERFACING Workshop, September 15, 16, 17, 1977. A three-day workshop based on the popular 8080 microprocessor. Over 20 operating 8080 computers are available for participant use. This session will be held at the VPI & SU Extension Center in Reston, VA (Dulles Airport). For more information contact Dr. Norris Bell, V.P.I. and S.U., Blacksburg, Virginia 24061, (703) 951-6328.

DIGITAL ELECTRONICS for Automation Workshop, September 13, 14, 1977. A two-day workshop based on the small scale and medium scale TTL integraded circuits. Many hours of laboratory time with indepth lectures. This session will be held at the VPI & SU Extension Center in Reston, Va. (Dulles Airport). For more information contact Dr. Norris Bell, V.P.I. and S.U., Blacksburg, Virginia 24061, (703) 951-6328.

HAMFESTERS 43rd Annual Picnic and Hamfest. Sunday August 14, 1977, Santa Fe Park, 91st and Wolf Road, Willow Springs, Illinois, Southwest of Chicago. Exhibits for OM's and XYL's, Famous Swappers Row. Tickets at gate \$2.00, advance \$1.50. For advance tickets send check or money order to Bob Hayes W9KXW, 18931 Cedar Ave., Country Club Hills, III. 60477.

SARA HAMFEST Desoto, Illinois, August 22, 1977. Prizes, food, auction, no charge for flea merchants write: Nick Koeningstein, 2009 Gray Dr., Carbondale, III. 62901.

SOUTH DAKOTA, Signal Hill A.R.C. of the Northern Black Hills area Ham Flear Market 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM August 20, 1977 at the South Sturgis Church of Christ, Sturgis, South Dakota. Talk-in on 52/52. For further information contact: Dennis Painter WB@FYG, Box 759, Sturgis, South Dakota 57785. Phone 605-347-3087.

ROTOR PROTECTION WITH AUTOBRAK DELAY



Have you had rotator damage? Removed the rotator? Been off the air? Waited for parts? No more! AUTOBRĀK is a complete conversion kit, including punched and finished cabinet for all HAM-M series 1, 2, and 3, rotator control units. AUTOBRĀK reduces the inherent problem of damaged rotator components due to instant brake engagement. AUTOBRĀK allows the antenna array to come to a coasting stop before brake engagement, thereby reducing stress on rotator components.

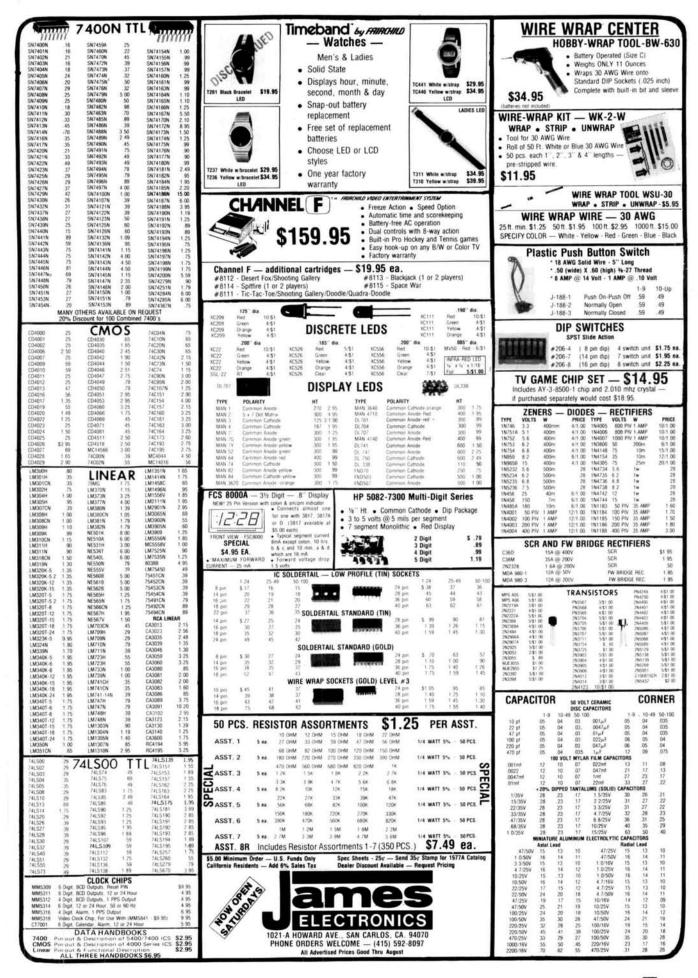
Other features include Zener regulated meter circuitry, adjustable brake delay, and handsome up-to-date styling compatible to most Ham gear. Cabinet measures 6" X 7½" X 7½" and is finished in two-tone gray.

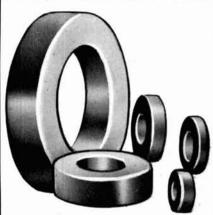
Price \$39.95 Shipping and handling \$1.75 in U.S. Illinois residents add 5% sales tax.

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CORE SIZE	MIX 2 .5-30 MHz u = 10	MIX 6 10-90 MHz u=8.5	MIX 12 60-200 MHz u = 4	SIZE OD (in.)	PRICE USA S
T-200	120			2.00	3.25
T-106	135			1.06	1.50
T-80	55	45		.80	.80
T-68	57	47	21	.68	.65
T-50	51	40	18	.50	.55
T-25	34	27	12	.25	.40

RF FERRITE TOROIDS:

CORE SIZE	MIX Q 1 u=125 .1-70 MHz	MIX 02 u = 40 10-150 MHz	SIZE OD (in.)	PRICE USA \$
F-240	1300	400	2.40	6.00
F-125	900	300	1.25	3.00
F-87	600	190	.87	2.05
F-50	500	190	.50	1.25
F-37	400	140	.37	1.25
F-23	190	60	.23	1.10

Chart shows uH per 100 turns. FERRITE BEADS: 4 x





TO ORDER: Specify both core size and mix for toroids. Packing and shipping 50 cents per order USA and Canada. Californians add 6% sales tax.

Fast service. Free brochure and winding chart on request.



TOROID CORES flea market

NEW ORLEANS HAMFEST/COMPUTERFEST at the Hilton Inn in Kenner, LA. September 24 & 25. Information upon request by contacting the New Orleans Hamfest/Computerfest; PO Box 10111, Jefferson, LA 70181.

ALL SAINTS AMATEUR RADIO GROUP invites you to Hamfest '77 in Saint Andrews-By-The-Sea at the Algonquin Hotel, September 2, 3, & 4. St. Andrews, New Brunswick is a very popular resort area on the border between Maine and New Brunswick with many attractions for the whole family. We have been fortunate to obtain the famous Algonquin Hotel for our Hamfest head-guarters. Full info from Barb Sheppard, secretary, RR 325-8, Rothesay NB Canada EOG 2WO.

WARREN, OHIO, HAMFEST - August 21, 1977. Moved again! Trumbull K.S.U. Branch Campus on Route 45 at Warren Outerbelt. Best site in our 20 years. Bigger flea market; all close-in parking; parks & lakes nearby. Displays; talk-in; \$2 door prize registration. Arrowsigns lead from I-80; I-90; Ohio 5; 11; 45. Details? QSL: Hamfest, Box 809, Warren, Ohio 44483.

LAFAYETTE, INDIANA HAMFEST, Sunday, August 21, 1977 at Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds located at 18th St. & Teal Rd., (Indiana Highway) in Lafayette. 55 miles northwest of Indianapolis off I65. Send check or money order with SASE to WA98ZDI, Bill Bayley, 1021 Beck La., Lafayette, IN 47905 for tickets by mail.

"GREATER LOUISVILLE HAMFEST is Sunday Sept. 25, 1977 at Kentucky State Fairgrounds with exits off either 1-65 or I-264. Indoor exhibitors area and Flea Market air conditioned. Also an outdoor flea market. Ladies Bingo, Meetings and Forums, refreshments available. Admis-sion is \$2.00 adults, 12 and under free. Flea market venders pay admission price plus \$2.00 per space indoor or \$1.00 per space outdoor. For more info or motel/camp-ing contact Denny Schnurr, K4GOU 2415 Concord Dr., Louisville, Ky. 40217 (502-634-0619).

35TH ANNUAL FINDLAY HAMFEST, Riverside Park, Findlay, Ohio September 11. Advance tickets are \$1.50 and \$1.00 at the gate. For tickets and additional informa-tion send S.A.S.E. to Clark Foltz, W8UN, 122 W. Hobart, Findlay, Ohio 45840

THE OLD PUEBLO RADIO CLUB (W7GV) of Tucson, Arizona will conduct a world-wide contest over Labor Day weekend 1977. Permission has been granted for the club to operate from the South Rim of the Grand Canyon on September 2, 3, and 4, 1977. The 80, 40, 20, and 15-meter bands — SSB and CW — will be used. For additional information, contact Ian W. Thomson, W7BQN, P.O. Box 6497, Tucson, AZ 85733.

HAMFEST Zero-Beaters ARC Sunday, August 7, 1977, Washington, MO City Park — 10 AM. Write Box 24, Dut-zow, MO 63342. Flea Market, Army Mars Meeting, Prizes, Bingo, Cake Walk, Candy Scramble, fun for whole family.

L'ANSE CREUSE ARC Swap and Shop, Sunday September 18, 1977, 9 am to 3 pm, at the L'Anse Creuse High School, Mt. Clemens, Michigan. Tickets \$1.00 in advance, \$1.50 at the door, Talk in 146.52, 146.94, Tickets and information from Harold Price, WB8QFR, 32111 Harper St., Clair Shores, Mich. 48082.

SANGAMON VALLEY Radio Club Second Annual Hamfest on Sunday, September 25th, at the Sangamon County Fairgrounds, New Berlin, Illinois, 16 miles west of Springfield. Indoor display area and covered pavilion. Exhibits, food and ladies activities. Overnite camping! Tickets: \$1 advance, \$1.50 at gate. First Prize — Wilson HT. Talk-in: 146.28/.88 and .52 MHz. Information: WB9-QWR, Carole Churchill, 622 Magnolia, Rochester, IL. 62626.

CINCINNATI HAMFEST: 41st Annual - Sunday September 18, 1977 at the improved Stricker's Grove on State Route 128, one mile west of Ross (Venice) Ohio. Flea Market, Contests, Model Aircraft Flying, Food and Beverages all day. Advance Ticket Sales \$7.50 — Tickets at the Gate \$8.00 — covers everything. For further information: Lillian Abbott K8CKI, 1424 Main Street, Cincinnati Ohio 45210.

THE GRAND RAPIDS Amateur Radio Club will hold its annual Swap-N-Shop Saturday, September 17 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hudsonville Fairgrounds in Hudsonville, Michigan, 12 miles southwest of Grand Rapids on M-21. Talk-in on 146.52 and 16/.76. \$2 donation at the gate with plenty of refreshments and free tables available

MT. BEACON Amateur Radio Club 4th Annual Hamfest Saturday, August 6th, 9 AM to 5 PM at Stewart Field, Newburgh, N. Y., inside Hanger. Flea Market & Auction. Talk-in on 37/97 and 16/76. Rain or shine. Plenty of free parking. Admission, \$1; Tailgating, \$1; under 12 free.

Armchair Copy



Barlow XCR-30

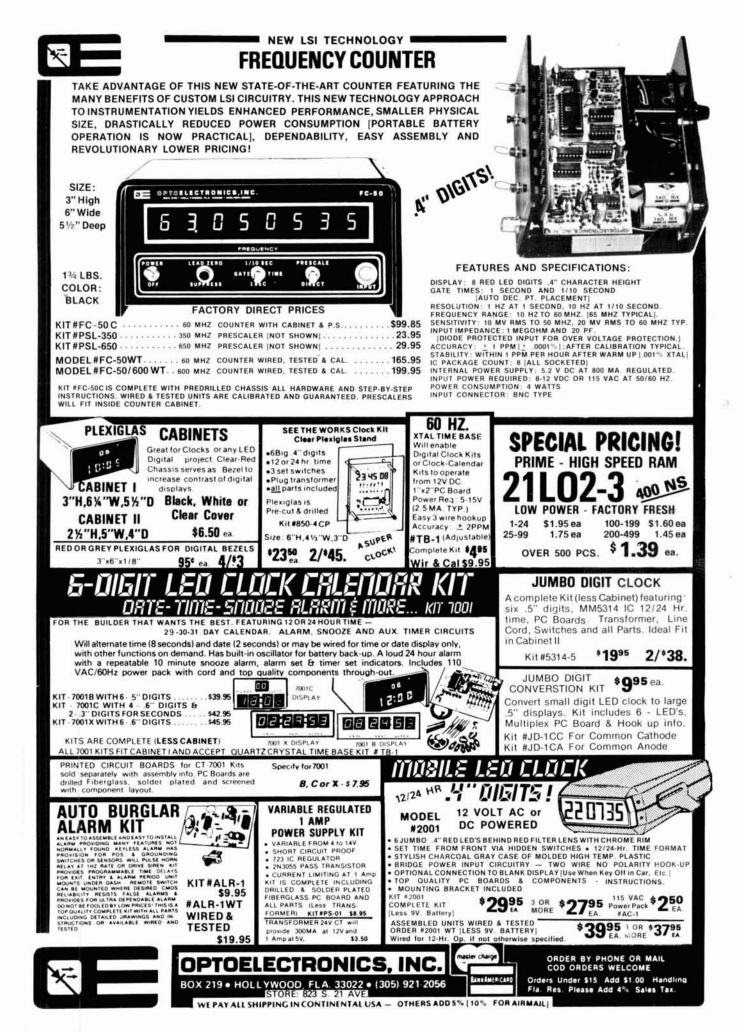
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The HAL ST-5000 sets the pace for an economical demodulator/kever for radio-teletype (RTTY). All the features you need for reception and transmission of HF and VHF RTTY are here.

The demodulator features a hard-limiting front end, active filter discriminator, and active detector circuitry for wide dynamic range. Autostart and motor control circuitry make for easy VHF and HF autostart operation.

Convenient front panel switches are provided for 850 and 170 Hz shift, normal or reverse sense, autostart on/off, print - line or local, and power on/off. 425 Hz press transmissions may also be copied with the ST-5000. High voltage 60 ma. loop output as well as low level RS-232 compatible output are provided by the demodulator.

The audio keyer section of the ST-5000 generates stable, phase-coherent audio tones. Transmission is a simple matter of applying these tones to your HF SSB or VHF FM transmitter.

The ST-5000 is housed in an attractive blue and beige cabinet and is backed by the HAL Communications one year warranty.

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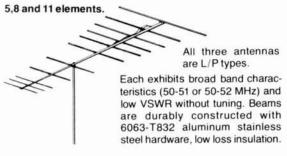
HF Excellent mechanical designs feature multiple driven elements and **VHF** optimized spacing for wide band operation wide band operation with low VSWR, clean patterns, maximum power gains.

144 MHz.

8 models: 4,7,8,9,11,12,14,16 element yagis. Also 12 and 16 element circularly polarized types.

A broad-band antenna to meet every need; each with contest winning gain and flat VSWR across the entire amateur band. For serious moon bounce (EME) and tropho work, "stack" em, using available KLM baluns and couplers. Built tough . . . with weather resistant 6063-T832 aluminum . . . stainless steel hardware.

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Installation at K6KBE using all KLM components including

COMPACT POWER!

6 meter beam, 144 and 432 MHz arrays, KR-400 and KR-500 rotators.

70 CM 4 models: One of the most versatile series available.

16 el. (optimized for 432MHz) 27el.(420-450MHz) both 12' booms. Also 6 element, rear mountable (420-470MHz) and 14 el. for center or end mounting, horizontal or vertical polarization (420-470MHz)

Included are rear mount types that can be arranged for either horizontal or vertical polarization. A 16 element long boom type (optimized for 432MHz, ±2 MHz), really

pours out the power! Four or eight are often stacked for EME or DX using efficient KLM couplers.

ANTENNA COUPLERS/POWER DIVIDERS

Several broad band models are available for stacking VHF or UHF beams. These replace two, quarter wave matching cables, barrels and "T" needed to interconnect two or four antennas. Phasing and match to 50 ohm line is automatic. Will handle 2KW p.e.p. with ease.

STACKING FRAMES.

"H" frames suitable for antenna stacking are available on special order. See top photograph for a typical installation.

ELEVATION ROTATOR **KR-500**



Provides 180° boom rotation Heavy duty (used on array il-lustrated). Rotation, 180°/1 min. Motor disc brake holds to 1750 inch/pounds. Holds booms 1.25 to 1.625"D, masts to 1.5-2.5"D. Weather resist-ant. Attractive direction indicator. 115VAC





tri-banders, used in array shown. Motor disc brake holds to 1750 inch-pounds. Has limit switches. Rotation, 360°/1 min. Accommodates masts. Direction 115VAC. 50/60 Hz. indicator



Medium duty, supports 400 lbs. Ideal for long boomers, HF 1 5-2 5"D



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The Marriage Between Power Amplifiers and Receiving Preamplifiers is Finally Consummated! Lunar Offers an SCS **2M10-80L** Power Amp and an "Anglelinear" **144W** Preamp in a Single, Functionally-Designed Package that Combines Two Superior Products Into One!



Features:

- ★ Ten watts input eighty watts output
- ★ Harmonic reduction exceeds -60 dB to meet FCC R&O 20777 Specifications
- ★ Variable T-R Delay for CW/SSB
- * Functionally-Designed Extrusion Includes Mounting Lip
- * Preamplifier Selectable Independently of Power Amplifier
- * Automatic T-R Switching of Amp & Preamp
- ★ Preamp gain: Nominally 11 dB Noise Figure: Nominally 2.5 dB (Including Relay Losses)
- * Remote Control Head Available Separately

Introductory Price: Lunar Model 2M10-80P \$189.95

Please add \$3.00 shipping and handling

Also From Lunar:

Available Now: Complete Line of Separate Preamplifiers 50-450 MHz Coming Soon: Complete Line of 50-450 MHz Amp/Preamp

Combinations

Proamps Through 2.5 GHz Transverter Systems 50 MHz-2.5 GHz

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Super 2-meter operating capability is yours with this ultimate design. Operates all modes: SSB (upper

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This brand new mobile transceiver (TR-7400A) with the astonishing

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The TS-820 is the rig that is the talk of the Ham Bands. Too many built-in features to list here. What a rig and only \$830.00 ppd. in U.S.A. Many accessories are also available to increase your operating pleasure and station versatility.



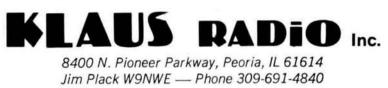
TS-700A 2M TRANSCEIVER

Guess which transceiver has made the Kenwood name near and dear to Amateur operators, probably more than any other piece of equipment? That's right, the TS-520. Reliability is the name of this rig in capital letters. 80 thru 10 meters with many, many builtin features for only \$629.00 ppd. in U.S.A.



TR-7400A 2M MOBILE TRANSCEIVER

Send SASE NOW for detailed info on these systems as well as on many other fine lines. Or, better still, visit our store Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. thru 5:00 p.m. The Amateurs at Klaus Radio are here to assist you in the selection of the optimum unit to fullfill your needs.





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BLC 2/70	144 MHz	CW-FM-SSB/AM	2W	70W	159.95
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BLC 30/150	144 MHz	CW-FM-SSB/AM	30W	150W	239.95
BLD 2/60	220 MHz	CW-FM-SSB/AM	2W	60W	159.95
BLD 10/60	220 MHz	CW-FM-SSB/AM	1 OW	60W	139.95
BLD 10/120	220 MHz	CW-FM-SSB/AM	10W	120W	259.95
BLE 10/40	420 MHz	CW-FM-SSB/AM	10W	40W	139.95
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- Over-voltage protection crowbar. Electrostatic shield for added transient surge protection.
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- A simple jumper will reconfigure the input for 220 volt AC, 50/60 cycles. Temperature range operating: 0° to +55° C.
- Black anodized aluminum finish.

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PS-15C LOW COST



Recommended for: BLE 30/80 BLC 10/70 BLD 2/60 BLD 10/60 BLE 10/80 BLC 2/70 Voltage Output: adjustable between 10-15V Load Regulation: 2% from no load to 20 a Current Output: 25 amps intermittent (50% duty cycle) Ripple: 50 mV at 20 amps

Weight: 22-1/2 pounds Size: 12-1/4" x 6-3/4" x 7-1/2"

PS-25M Kit \$149.95 PS-25M Wired & tested . \$169.95





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august 1977 113



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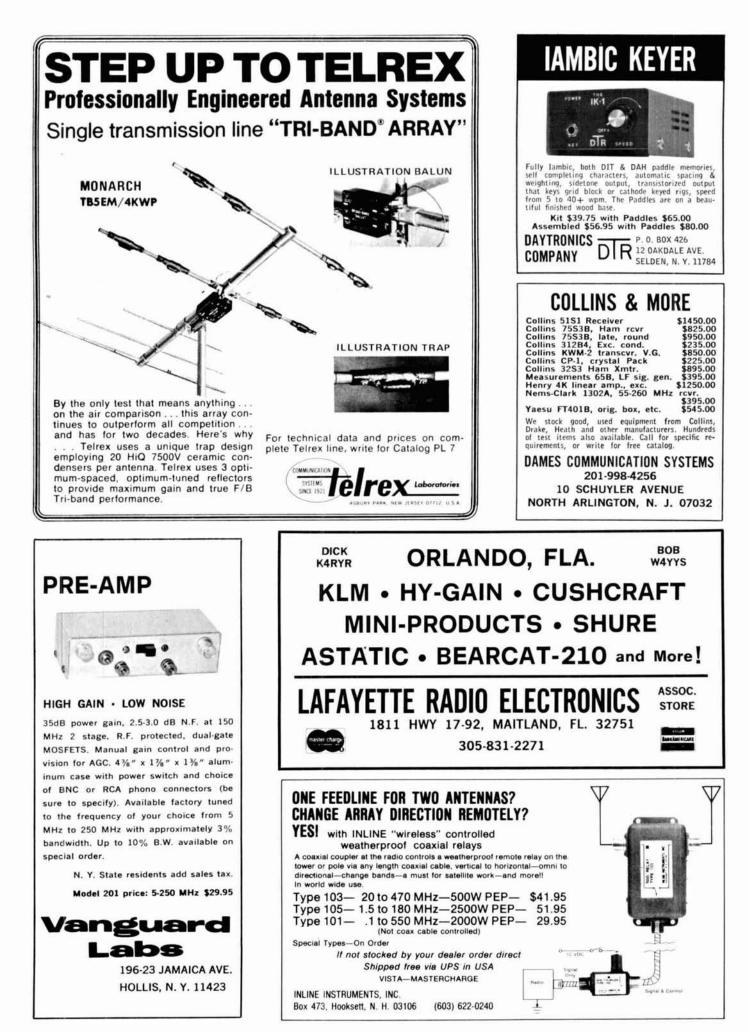
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Output Voltage: Adjustable, 11-15 VDC Output Current: 30 amps (50% duty cycle) Regulation: Better than 2 percent Output Ripple: 50MV pk-pk maximum Temperature Range: 0⁰-60⁰ C operating Overvoltage Protection: Built in OVP crowbar

Overcurrent Protection: Foldback current limiting at 30 amps Short Circuit Current: 2 amps maximum

Input Voltage: 105-120 or 208-230 at 50-60Hz Size: 13-1/4" L x 7-1/8" W x 6-5/8" H



SPECIALS FROM



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Johanson and Johnson Trimmer Capacitors 1 to 14 pf. \$1.95 1 to 20 pf. \$1.95	Ferrite Beads 12 for .99 or	for 9.99	F-93X 6.5v to 40v at 750 F-92A 6.5v to 40v at 1 an N-51X Isolation 115vac at Model D-2 6.5v at 3.3 amps BE-12433-001 30v at 15 ma BGH-9 6.3vct at 10 amps.	ma. 3.53 np 4.59
FET' 2N3070 1.50 2N5460	'S .90 MFE3002	3.35	F-107Z 12V 4A or 24 \ P6377 12v @ 4a or 24 \ P6378 12v @ 8a or 24v P8176 80 vct @ 1.2a	V@2A 7.80 @2a 6.31 @4a 10. 3 1
2N3436 2.25 2N5465 2N3458 1.30 2N5565 2N3458 1.60 3N126 2N3822 1.60 3N126 2N3822 1.50 MFE2000 2N4551 2.85 MFE2001 2N4416 1.05 MFE2008 2N4416 1.75 MFE2009	1.35 MPF102 5.45 MPF121 3.00 MPF4391 .90 U1282 1.00 MMF5 4.20 40673 4.80 40674	.45 1.50 .80 2.50 5.00 1.39 1.49	New Motorola Carbon Micro- phone Model P-7255A. This unit is a "noise cancelling" palm	6.28 DIODES 1N270 Germanium Diodes \$7.95/c
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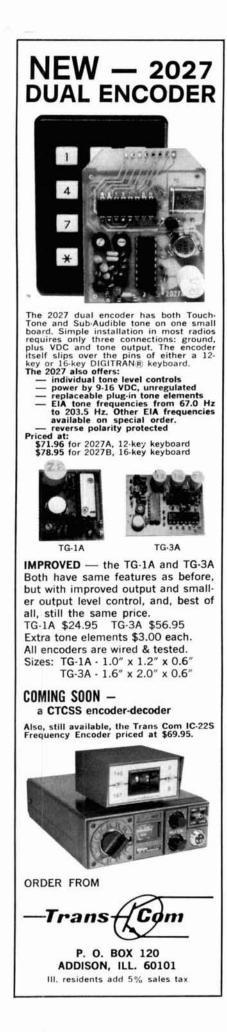
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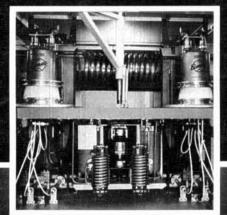
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