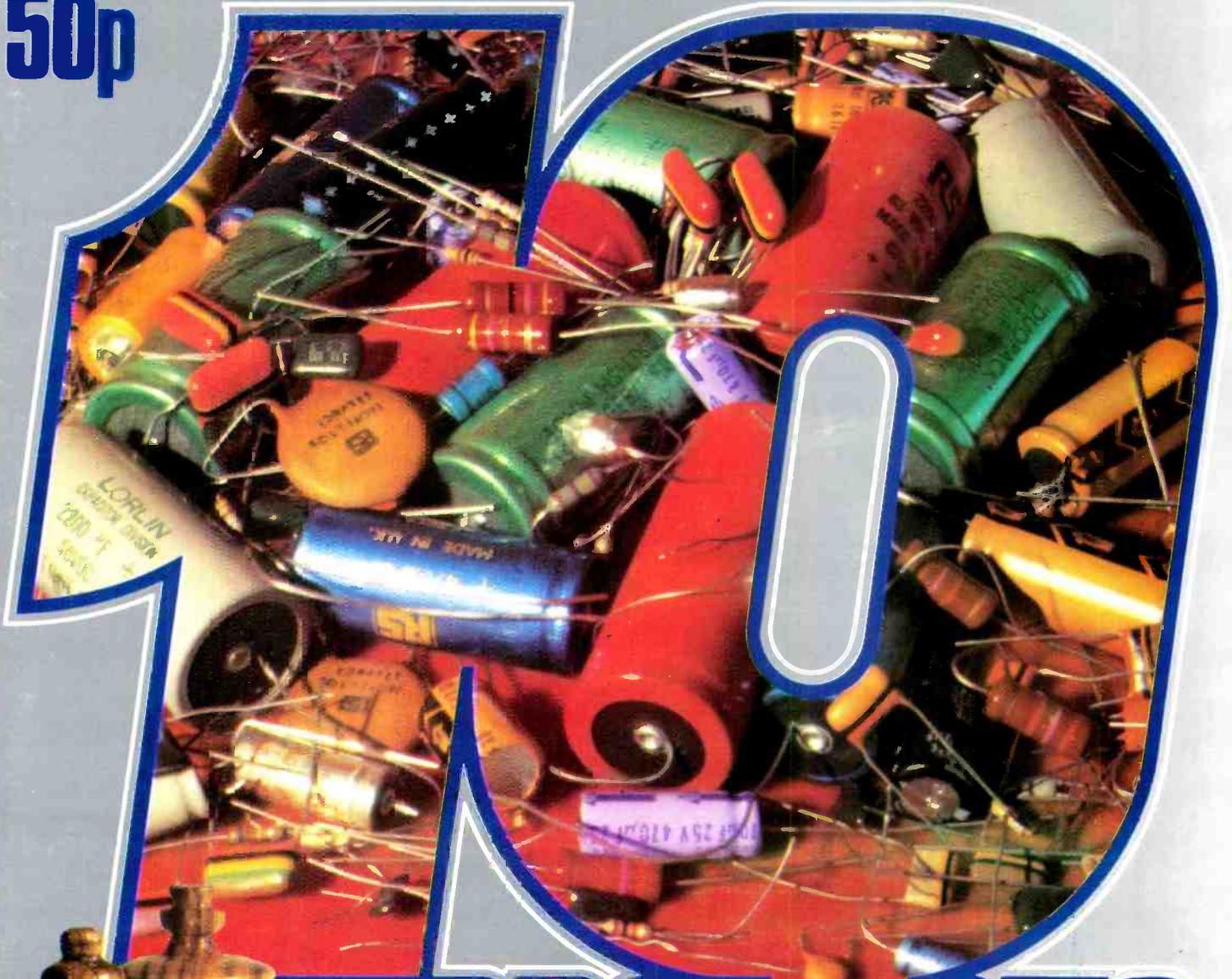


electronics today

DECEMBER 1979

INTERNATIONAL

50p

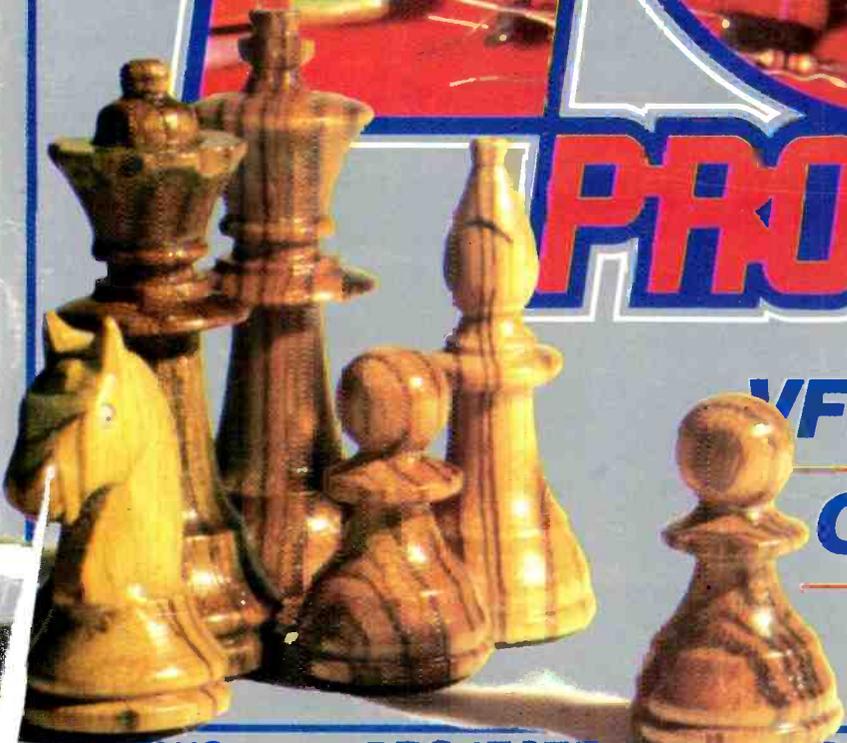


PROJECTS

VFET Applications

Chess Machines

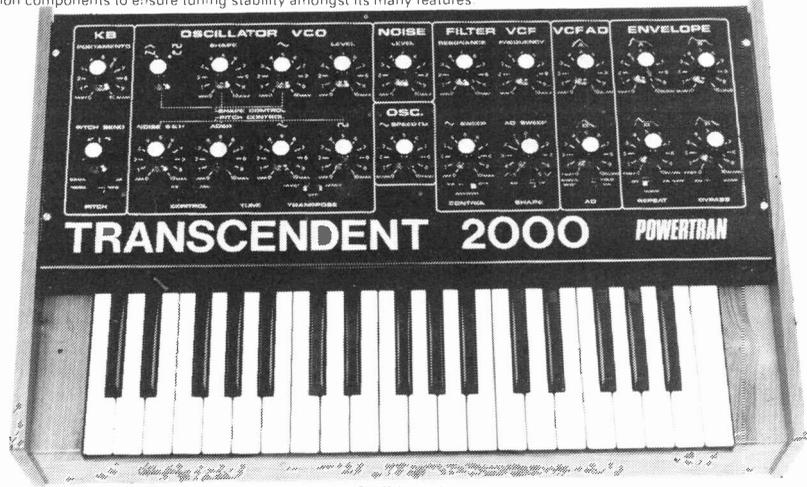
Coral MC 81



TRANSCENDENT 2000 SINGLE BOARD SYNTHESIZER

LIVE PERFORMANCE SYNTHESIZER DESIGNED BY CONSULTANT TIM ORR (FORMERLY SYNTHESIZER DESIGNER FOR EMS LIMITED) AND FEATURED AS A CONSTRUCTIONAL ARTICLE IN ELECTRONICS TODAY INTERNATIONAL.

The TRANSCENDENT 2000 is a 3 octave instrument transposable 2 octaves up or down giving an affective 7 octave range. There is portamento, pitch bending, a VCO with shape and pitch modulation, a VCF with both low and high pass outputs and a separate dynamic sweep control, a noise generator and an ADSR envelope shaper. There is also a slow oscillator, a new pitch detector, ADSR repeat, sample and hold and special circuitry with precision components to ensure tuning stability amongst its many features. The kit includes fully finished metalwork, fully assembled solid teak cabinet, filter sweep pedal, professional quality components (all resistors either 2% metal oxide or 1/2% metal trim!) and it really is complete — right down to the last nut and bolt and last piece of wire! There is even a 13A plug in the kit — you need buy absolutely no more parts before plugging in and making great music! Virtually all the components are on the one professional quality fibreglass PCB printed with component locations. All the controls mount directly on the main board, all connections to the board are made with connector plugs and construction is so simple it can be built easily in a few evenings by almost anyone capable of neat soldering! When finished you will possess a synthesizer comparable in performance and quality with ready-built units selling for between £500 and £700!



**COMPLETE KIT
ONLY
£172.00 + VAT!**

Comprehensive handbook supplied with all complete kits! This fully describes construction and tells you how to set up your synthesizer with nothing more elaborate than a multi-meter and a pair of ears!

Cabinet size 24.6" x 15.7" x 4.8" (rear) 3.4" (front)

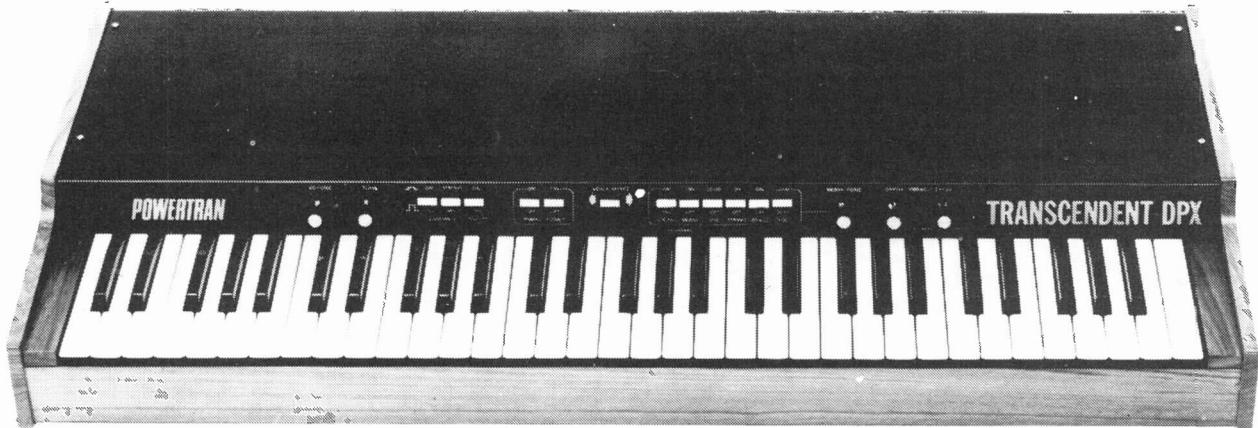
AS FEATURED IN AUGUST-NOVEMBER '79
Another superb design by synthesizer expert Tim Orr!

NEW!

TRANSCENDENT DPX

DIGITALLY CONTROLLED, TOUCH SENSITIVE, POLYPHONIC, MULTI-VOICE SYNTHESIZER

The Transcendent DPX is a really versatile new 5 octave keyboard instrument. There are two audio outputs which can be used simultaneously. On the first there is a beautiful harpsichord or reed sound — fully polyphonic i.e. you can play chords with as many notes as you like. On the second output there is a wide range of different voices, still fully polyphonic. It can be a straightforward piano or a honky tonk piano or even a mixture of the two! Alternatively you can play strings over the whole range of the keyboard or brass over the whole range of the keyboard or should you prefer — strings on the top of the keyboard and brass at the lower end (the keyboard is electronically split after the first two octaves) or vice versa or even a combination of strings and brass sounds simultaneously. And on all voices you can switch in circuitry to make the keyboard touch sensitive! The harder you press down a key the louder it sounds — just like an acoustic piano. The digitally controlled multiplexed system makes practical touch sensitivity with the complex dynamics law necessary for a high degree of realism. There is a master volume and tone control, a separate control for the brass sounds and also a vibrato circuit with variable depth control together with a variable delay control so that the vibrato comes in only after waiting a short time after the note is struck for even more realistic string sounds.



Cabinet size 36.3" x 15.0" x 5.0" (rear) 3.3" (front)

COMPLETE KIT ONLY £365.00 + VAT!

To add interest to the sounds and make them more natural there is a chorus/ensemble unit which is a complex phasing system using CCD (charge coupled device) analogue delay lines. The overall effect of this is similar to that of several acoustic instruments playing the same piece of music. The ensemble circuitry can be switched in with either strong or mild effects.

As the system is based on digital circuitry digital data can be easily taken to and from a computer (for storing and playing back accompaniments with or without pitch or key change, computer composing etc.) and an interface socket (25 way D type) is provided for this purpose.

Although the DPX is an advanced design using a very large amount of circuitry, much of it very sophisticated, the kit is mechanically extremely simple with excellent access to all the circuit boards which interconnect with multiway connectors, just four of which are removed to separate the keyboard circuitry and the panel circuitry from the main circuitry in the cabinet.

The kit includes fully finished metalwork, solid teak cabinet, professional quality components (all resistors 2% metal oxide), nuts, bolts, etc., even a 13A plug — you need buy absolutely no more parts before plugging in and making great music! When finished you will possess an instrument comparable in performance and quality with ready-built units selling for over £1,200!

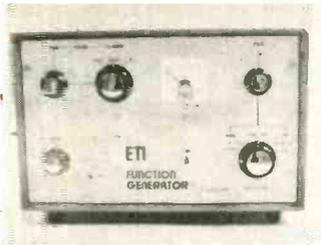
POWERTRAN

**ORDERING INFORMATION
AND MORE KITS ON PAGE 8**

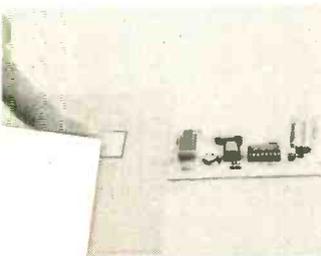
All kits also available as separate packs (e.g. PCB, component sets, hardware sets, etc.)
Prices in FREE CATALOGUE



Square sines and triangles p.20



Electronic playmates p.61



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electronics today

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EDITORIAL AND ADVERTISEMENT OFFICE
145 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 8DEE. Telephone 01 437 1002/3/4/5

Ron Harris, B.Sc.	Editor
Ian Graham B.Sc.	Editorial Assistant
Diego M. Rincon	Art Director
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Paul Edwards, Tony Strakas	Technical Illustrators
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Sandie Neville	Ad. Production
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Halvor Moorshead	Editorial Director

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BP227	Beginners Guide to Building Electronic Projects	£1.25

NEWNES BOOKS

216	Transistors 3rd Ed	£1.00
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237	Printed Circuit Assembly	£1.80
238	Transistor Pocket Book	£3.90
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241	Semiconductor Handbook Part 2	£4.28
242	Electronics Pocket Book	£3.90
244	Beginners Guide to Integrated Circuits	£2.75
209	BI-PAK TTE Data Book	50p
	BI-PAK CMOS Data Book	50p

SWITCHES

Description	No.	Price
DPDT miniature slide	1973	£0.16
DPDT standard slide	1974	£0.17
Toggle switch SPST 1 1/2 amp 250V ac	1975	£0.38
Toggle switch DPDT 1 amp 250V ac	1976	£0.48
Rotary on-off mains switch	1977	£0.58
Push switch — Push to make	1978	£0.16
Push switch — Push to break	1979	£0.21

ROCKER SWITCH	Colour	No.	Price
A range of rocker switches SPST — moulded in high insulation material available in a choice of colours ideal for small apparatus	RED	1980	£0.35
	BLACK	1981	£0.35
	WHITE	1982	£0.35
	BLUE	1983	£0.35
	YELLOW	1984	£0.35
	LUMINOUS	1985	£0.35

Description	No.	Price
Miniature SPST toggle 2 amp 250V ac	1958	£0.81
Miniature SPST toggle 2 amp 250V ac	1959	£0.86
Miniature DPDT toggle 2 amp 250V ac	1960	£0.91
Miniature DPDT toggle centre off 2 amp 250V ac	1961	£1.07
Push-button SPST 2 amp 250V ac	1962	£1.04
Push-button SPST 2 amp 250V ac	1963	£1.09
Push-button DPDT 2 amp 250V ac	1964	£1.34

MIDGET WAFER SWITCHES	No.	Price
Single bank wafers type — suitable for switching at 250V ac 100mA or 150V dc in non-reactive loads make-before-break contacts. These switches have a spindle 0.25 in dia and 30 indexing.	1970	£0.55
2 pole	1966	£0.55
3 pole	1967	£0.55
4 pole	1968	£0.55

MICRO SWITCHES	No.	Price
Plastic button gives simple 1 pole change over action Rating 10 amp 250V ac	1970	£0.29

OPTOELECTRONICS

NEW INCREASED RANGE — ALL 1ST QUALITY

O/no.	Type	Size	Colour	Price
1501	ARL209 (TIL209)	3mm (125)	RED	£0.12
1502	MIL3232 (TIL211)	3mm (125)	GREEN	£0.22
1503	MIL3331 (OP212A)	3mm (125)	YELLOW	£0.22
1504	ARL4850 (FLV117)	5mm (2)	RED	£0.12
1505	MIL5251 (TIL222)	5mm (2)	GREEN	£0.22
1506	MIL5351 (MV5353)	5mm (2)	YELLOW	£0.22
1509	FLV111	5mm (2)	CLEAR (Ill. Red)	£0.13

SUPER 'HI-BRITE' TYPE

No.	Type	Size	Price
1521	MIL32	3mm (125)	£0.12
1522	MIL52	5mm (2)	£0.12
1514	ORP 12 Light dependent resistor		£0.63
1520	ORP71 Photo transistor		£0.40

LED CLIPS

No.	Type	Price
1508/125	pack of 5 125 clips	£0.17
1508/2	pack of 5 2 clips	£0.21

DISPLAYS:

No.	Type	Price
DL703	7 segment D.P. left (30" height)	£0.85
RED Single Digit		o/n. 1523
DL707	7 segment D.P. left (30" height)	£0.85
RED Single Digit		o/n. 1512
DL527	7 segment D.P. left (50" height)	£0.92
RED Two-Digit Reflector		o/n. 1524
DL727	7 segment D.P. right (510" height)	£2.08
RED Two-Digit Light Pipe		o/n. 1512
DL747	7 segment D.P. left (630" height)	£2.07
RED Single Digit Light Pipe		o/n. 1511

OPTO-ISOLATORS

Isolation Breakdown — Voltage 1500 — continuous fwd current 100mA

No.	Type	Price
CL74	Single-Channel 6 pin DIP standard type — optically coupled pair with infra-red LED Emitter and NPN Silicon Photo Transistor	£0.61
CLD74	Multi-Channel 8 pin DIP Two Isolated Channels	£1.22
CLQ74	Multi-Channel 16 pin DIP Four Isolated Channels	£2.69

MEL 11 (TIL81) NPN LIGHT DETECTOR
 Silicon Photo Darlington Amplifier VCB0 30v VECO 10v Ic 100mA Ptot:300mW IL Min 0.5 Typ.2mA ID 100mA nA o/n. 1496 £0.29

NUTS AND BOLTS

BA BOLTS — packs of BA threaded cadmium plated screws slotted cheese head. Supplied in multiples of 50.

Type	No.	Price
1/16 OBA	839	£1.38
1/16 OBA	840	£0.86
1/16 2BA	842	£0.75
1/16 2BA	843	£0.52
1/16 2BA	844	£0.60
1/16 4BA	845	£0.51
1/8 4BA	846	£0.37
1/8 4BA	847	£0.29
1/8 6BA	848	£0.46
1/8 6BA	849	£0.24
1/8 6BA	850	£0.29

BA NUTS — packs of cadmium plated full nuts in multiples of 50.

Type	No.	Price
OBA	855	£0.83
OBA	856	£0.55
4BA	857	£0.35
6BA	858	£0.28

BA WASHERS — flat cadmium plated plain stamped washers supplied in multiples of 50.

Type	No.	Price
OBA	859	£0.16
OBA	860	£0.14
4BA	861	£0.14
6BA	862	£0.14

SOLDER TAGS — Hot tinned supplied in multiples of 50.

Type	No.	Price
OBA	851	£0.46
OBA	852	£0.32
4BA	853	£0.25
6BA	854	£0.25

AUDIO LEADS

No.	Type	Price
107	FM indoor Ribbon Aerial	£0.69
113	3.5mm Jack plug to 3.5mm Jack plug. Length 1.5m	£0.88
114	5 pin DIN plug to 3.5mm Jack connected to pins 3 & 5. Length 1.5m	£0.98
115	5 pin DIN plug to 3.5mm Jack connected to pins 1 & 4. Length 1.5m	£0.98
116	Car aerial extension Screened insulated lead. Fitted plug and socket	£1.44
117	AC mains connecting lead for cassette recorders and radios. 2 metres	£0.78
118	5 pin DIN phono plug to stereo headphone Jack socket	£1.21
119	2+2 pin DIN plugs to stereo Jack socket with attenuation network for stereo headphones.	£1.04
120	Car stereo connector. Variable geometry plug to fit most car cassettes, 8-track cartridge and combination units. Supplied with inlined fuse power lead and instructions	£0.59
123	6.6m Coiled Guitar Lead Mono Jack plug to Mono Jack plug Black	£1.72
124	3 pin DIN plug to 3 pin DIN plug Length 1.5m	£0.85
125	5 pin DIN plug to 5 pin DIN plug Length 1.5m	£0.85
126	5 pin DIN plug to Tinned open end Length 1.5m	£0.85
127	5 pin DIN plug to 4 Phono Plugs	£1.49
128	All colour coded Length 1.5m	£0.92
129	5 pin DIN plug to 5 pin DIN socket Length 1.5m	£1.21
130	2 pin DIN plug to 2 pin DIN inline socket Length 1.5m	£0.78
131	5 pin DIN plug to 3 pin DIN plug 1 & 4 and 3 & 5 Length 1.5m	£0.95
132	2 pin DIN plug to 2 pin DIN socket Length 10m	£1.13
133	5 pin DIN plug to 2 Phono plugs Connected pins 3 & 5. Length 1.5m	£0.86

AUDIO LEADS

134	5 pin DIN plug to 2 Phono sockets Connected pins 3 & 5. Length 23cm	£0.78
135	5 pin DIN socket to 2 Phono plugs Connected pins 3 & 5. Length 23cm	£0.78
136	Coiled stereo headphone extension lead Black. length 6m	£2.01
178	AC mains lead for calculators, etc	£0.52

TRANSFORMERS

MINIATURE MAINS Primary 240V

No.	Secondary	Price
2021	6V-0-6V 100mA	£1.04
2022	9V-0-9V 100mA	£1.04
2023	12V-0-12V 100mA	£1.29

MINIATURE MAINS Primary 240V
 with two independent secondary windings

No.	Type	Price
2024	MT280-0-6V 0-6V RMS	£1.84
2025	MT150-0-12V 0-12V RMS	£1.84

1 AMP MAINS Primary 240V

No.	Secondary	Price	P & P
2026	6V-0-6V 1 amp	£2.88	45p
2027	9V-0-9V 1 amp	£2.30	45p
2028	12V-0-12V 1 amp	£2.99	55p
2029	15V-0-15V 1 amp	£3.16	66p
2030	30V-0-30V 1 amp	£3.97	86p

STANDARD MAINS Primary 240V
 Multi-tapped secondary mains transformers available in 1/2 amp, 1 amp and 2 amp current rating. Secondary taps are 0.19-25-33-40-50V. Voltages available by use of taps.

No.	Rating	Price	P & P
7, 8, 10, 14, 15, 17, 19, 25, 31, 33, 40, 25-0-25V			
2031	1/2 amp	£3.91	86p
2032	1 amp	£5.06	86p
2033	2 amp	£6.27	£1

2035 240V Primary 0-55V @ 2A Secondary £7.30 P & P £1

SPECIAL OFFER

2042 240V Primary 0.20V @ 2A Secondary. By removing 5 turns for each volt from the secondary winding any voltage up to 20V @ 2A is easily obtainable. Ideal for the experimenter.
 £1.50 P & P 86p

CASES AND BOXES

INSTRUMENT CASES. In two sections, vinyl covered top and sides, aluminium bottom, front and back.

No.	Length	Width	Height	Price
155	8in	5 1/2in	2in	£1.73
156	1 1/2in	6in	3in	£2.92
157	6in	4 1/2in	1 1/2in	£1.79
158	9in	5 1/2in	2 1/2in	£2.43

ALUMINIUM BOXES. Made from bright aluminium. Folded construction each box complete with half-inch deep lid and screws

No.	Length	Width	Height	Price
159	5 1/2in	2 1/4in	1 1/2in	£0.85
160	4in	4in	1 1/2in	£0.85
161	4in	2 1/4in	1 1/2in	£0.85
162	5 1/4in	4in	1 1/2in	£0.97
163	4in	2 1/2in	2in	£0.87
164	3in	2in	1in	£0.60
165	7in	5in	2 1/2in	£1.43
166	8in	6in	3in	£1.82
167	6in	4in	2in	£1.18

SLOPE front aluminium boxes with black vinyl base and sides & aluminium back, top & front — strong construction easily accessible

No.	Length	Width	Height	Price
168	2 1/2in	5 1/2in	3 1/2in	£5.45
168	1 1/2in	7 1/4in	4in	£8.31

VERO plastic case box. These boxes consist of top and bottom sections which include fixing points for horizontal mounting PC boards/circuit boards. The two sections are held together by four screws which enter through the base and are concealed by plastic feet.

No.	Length	Width	Height	Price
170	140mm	40mm	205mm	£4.35
171	140mm	75mm	205mm	£4.85
172	140mm	110mm	205mm	£6.30

FUSE HOLDERS AND FUSES

Description	No.	Price
20mm X 5mm chassis mounting	506	£0.18
1 1/4in X 1/2in chassis mounting	507	£0.18
1 1/4in car inline type	508	£0.18
Panel mounting 20mm	509	£0.23
Panel mounting 1 1/4in	510	£0.37

QUICK BLOW 20mm

Type	No.	Type	No.	Type	No.
150mA	611	7p	1A	615	6p
250mA	612	6p	1.5A	616	7p
550mA	613	6p	2A	617	6p
800mA	614	8p	2.5A	618	7p

ANTI-SURGE 20mm

Type	No.	Type	No.	Type	No.
100mA	622	1A	625	2.5A	628
250mA	623	2A	626	3.15A	629
500mA	624	1.6A	627	5A	630

QUICK-BLOW 1 1/4in

Type	No.	Type	No.	Type	No.
250mA	631	500mA	632	800mA	634

All 8p each

Type	No.	Type	No.	Type	No.
1A	635	2.5A	638	4A	641
2A	637	3A	639	5A	642

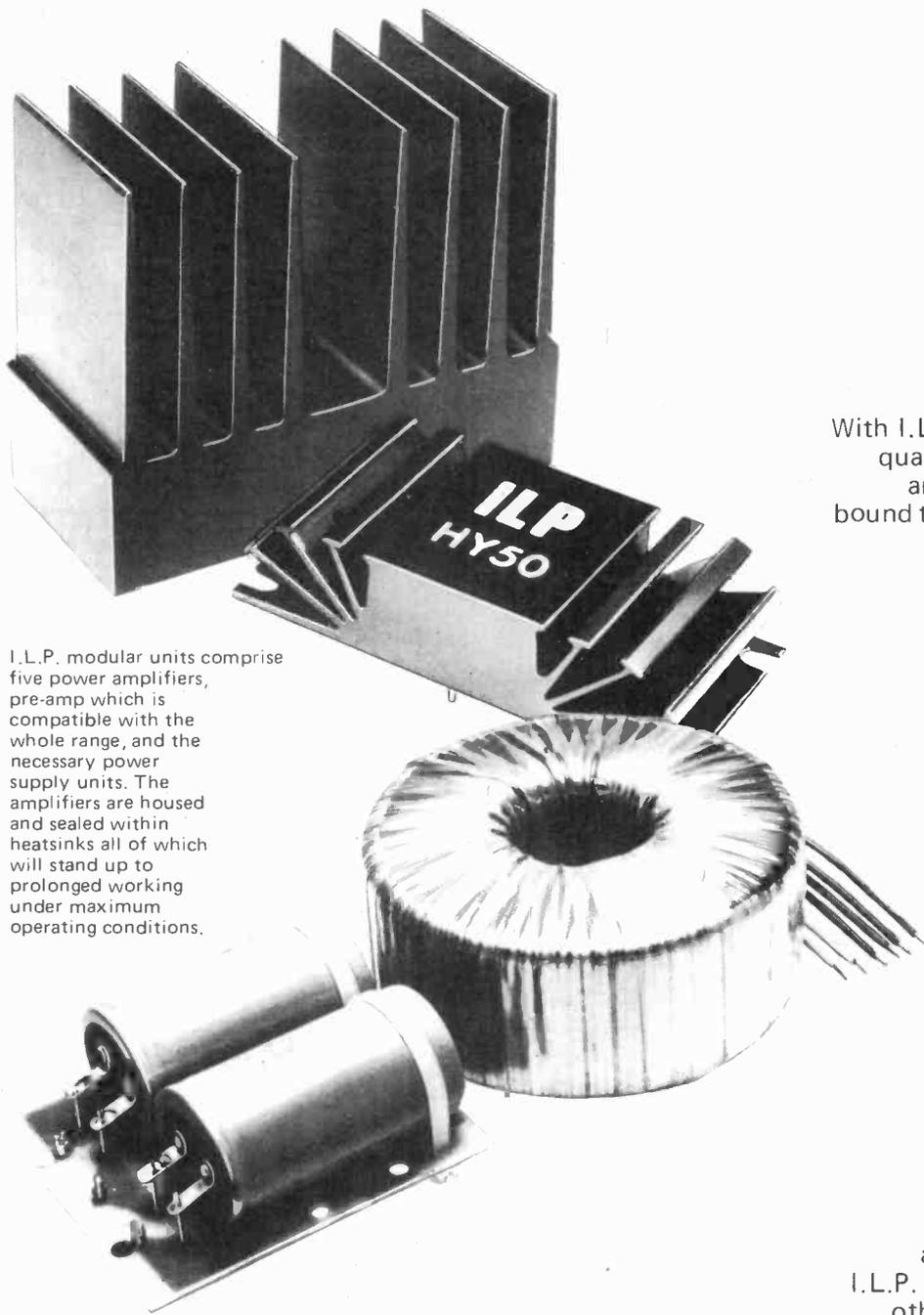
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I.L.P. modular units comprise five power amplifiers, pre-amp which is compatible with the whole range, and the necessary power supply units. The amplifiers are housed and sealed within heatsinks all of which will stand up to prolonged working under maximum operating conditions.

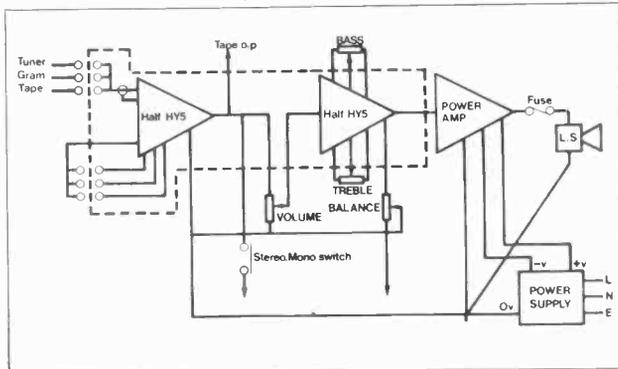
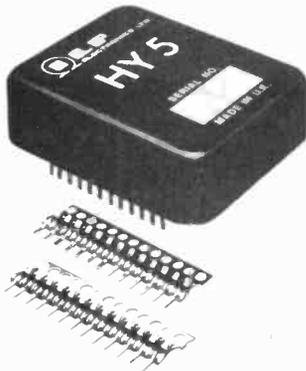
With I.L.P. performance standards and quality already so well established, any advances in I.L.P. design are bound to be of outstanding importance – and this is exactly what we have achieved in our new generation of modular units. I.L.P. professional design principles remain – the completely adequate heatsinks, protected sealed circuitry, rugged construction and excellent performance. These have stood the test of time far longer than normally expected from ordinary commercial modules. So we have concentrated on improvements whereby our products will meet even more stringent demands such, for example, as those revealed by vastly improved pick-ups, tuners, loudspeakers, etc., all of which can prove merciless to an indifferent amplifier system. I.L.P. modules are for laboratory and other specialised applications too.

**PRODUCTS OF THE WORLD'S FOREMOST SPECIALISTS
IN ELECTRONIC MODULAR DESIGN**

and staying there

PERFORMANCE MODULAR UNITS

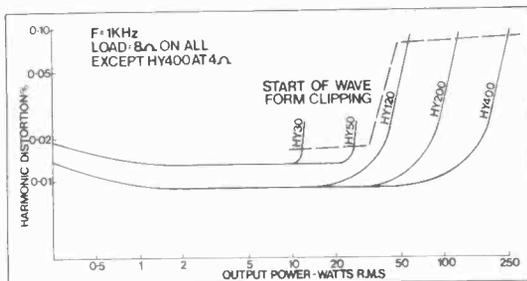
HY5 PRE-AMPLIFIER



The HY5 pre-amp is compatible with all I.L.P. amplifiers and P.S.U.'s. It is contained within a single pack 50 x 40 x 15 mm. and provides multi-function equalisation for Magnetic/Ceramic/Tuner/Mic and Aux (Tape) inputs, all with high overload margins. Active tone control circuits; 500 mV out. Distortion at 1KHz—0.01%. Special strips are provided for connecting external pots and switching systems as required. Two HY5's connect easily in stereo. With easy to follow instructions.

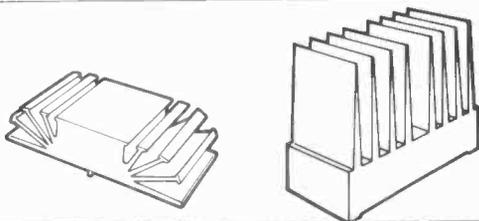
£4.64 + 74p VAT

THE POWER AMPLIFIERS

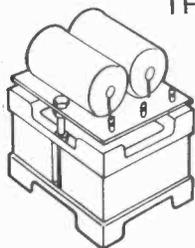


Model	Output Power R.M.S.	Distortion Typical at 1KHz	Minimum Signal/Noise Ratio	Power Supply Voltage	Size in mm	Weight in gms	Price + V.A.T.
HY30	15 W into 8 Ω	0.02%	80dB	-20 -0 +20	105x50x25	155	£6.34 + 95p
HY50	30 W into 8 Ω	0.02%	90dB	-25 -0 +25	105x50x25	155	£7.24 + £1.09
HY120	60 W into 8 Ω	0.01%	100dB	-35 -0 +35	114x50x85	575	£15.20 + £2.28
HY200	120 W into 8 Ω	0.01%	100dB	-45 -0 +45	114x50x85	575	£18.44 + £2.77
HY400	240 W into 4 Ω	0.01%	100dB	-45 -0 +45	114x100x85	1.15Kg	£27.68 + £4.15

Load impedance — all models 4 - 16 Ω
 Input sensitivity — all models 500 mV
 Input impedance—all models 100 KΩ
 Frequency response — all models 10Hz - 45KHz - 3dB



THE POWER SUPPLY UNITS



I.L.P. Power Supply Units are designed specifically for use with our power amplifiers and are in two basic forms — one with circuit panel mounted on conventionally styled transformer the other with toroidal transformer half weight and height of conventional laminated types.

PSU 30	± 15V at 10ma to drive up to five HY5 pre-amps	£4.50 + 68p VAT
PSU 36	for 1 or 2 HY30's	£8.10 + £1.22 VAT
PSU 50	for 1 or 2 HY50's	£8.10 + £1.22 VAT
PSU 70	with toroidal transformer for 1 or 2 HY120's	£13.61 + £2.04 VAT
PSU 90	with toroidal transformer for 1 HY200	£13.61 + £2.04 VAT
PSU180	with toroidal transformer for 1 HY400 or 2 x HY200 Ma	£23.02 + £3.45 VAT

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Signature

CHROMATHEQUE 5000

POWERTRAN

5 CHANNEL LIGHTING EFFECTS SYSTEM

COMPLETE KIT

ONLY

£49.50 + VAT!



Panel size 19.0" x 3.5". Depth 7.3"

This versatile system featured as a constructional article in *ELECTRONICS TODAY INTERNATIONAL* has 5 frequency channels with individual level controls on each channel. Control of the lights is comprehensive to say the least. You can run the unit as a straightforward sound-to-light or have it strobe all the lights at a speed dependent upon music level or front panel control or use the internal digital circuitry which produces some superb random and sequencing effects. Each channel handles up to 500W and as the kit is a single board design wiring is minimal and construction very straightforward.

Kit includes fully finished metalwork, fibreglass PCB controls, wire, etc. — Complete right down to the last nut and bolt!

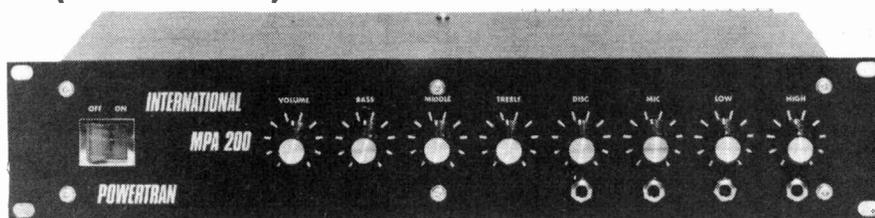
MPA 200 100 WATT (rms into 8Ω) MIXER / AMPLIFIER

COMPLETE KIT

ONLY

£49.90 + VAT!

**MATCHES THE
CHROMATHEQUE 5000
PERFECTLY!**



Panel size 19.0" x 3.5". Depth 7.3"

Featured as a constructional article in *ETI*, the MPA 200 is an exceptionally low priced — but professionally finished — general purpose high power amplifier. It features adaptable input mixer which accepts a wider range of sources such as microphone, guitar, etc. There are wide range tone controls and a master volume control. Mechanically the MPA 2000 is simplicity itself with minimal wiring needed making construction very straightforward. The kit includes fully finished metalwork, fibreglass PCBs, controls, wire, etc. — complete down to the last nut and bolt.



DE LUXE EASY TO BUILD LINSLEY HOOD 75W STEREO AMPLIFIER £99.30 + VAT

This easy to build version of our world-wide acclaimed 75W amplifier kit based upon circuit boards interconnected with gold plated contacts resulting in minimal wiring and construction delightfully straightforward. The design was published in *H-Fi News and Record Review* and features include rumble filter, variable scratch filter, versatile tone controls and tape monitoring whilst distortion is less than 0.01%.



WIRELESS WORLD FM TUNER £70.20 + VAT

A pre-aligned front-end module makes this Wireless World published design very simple to construct and adjust without special instruments. Features include an excellent a.m. rejection push-button station selection as well as infinitely variable tuning and a phase locked loop stereo decoder, incorporating active filters for "birdy" suppression.



LINSLEY-HOOD CASSETTE DECK £79.60 + VAT

This design, published in *Wireless World*, although straightforward and relatively low cost provides a very high standard of performance. There are separate record and replay amplifiers and switchable equalisation together with a choice of bias levels are also provided. The mechanism is the Goldring-Lenco CRV with electronic speed control.

T20+20 20W STEREO AMPLIFIER £33.10 + VAT

This kit, based upon a design published in *Practical Wireless*, uses a single printed circuit board and offers at very low cost, ease of construction and all the normal facilities found on quality amplifiers. A 30 watt version of this kit (T30+30) is also available for **£38.40 + VAT**.



MATCHING TUNERS — SEE OUR FREE CATALOGUE!

COMPLETE KITS: Our complete kits really are complete. All of the projects shown on this page are supplied with fully finished metalwork, ready assembled high quality teak veneer cabinet (last 4 kits on this page), or professional quality rack mounting cabinet (first 2 kits on this page), cables, nuts, bolts, etc., and full instructions — in fact everything!

All of the kits shown on this page are available as separate packs for those customers who wish to spread their purchase or perhaps make their own cabinets or metalwork. Prices are given in our FREE CATALOGUE.

PRICE STABILITY: Order with confidence. Irrespective of any price changes we will honour all prices in this advertisement until January 31st, 1980, if this month's advertisement is mentioned with your order. Errors and VAT rate changes excluded.

EXPORT ORDERS: No VAT. Postage charged at actual cost plus 50p handling and documentation.

U.K. ORDERS: Subject to 15% surcharge for VAT. No charge is made for carriage, or at current rate if changed.

SECURICOR DELIVERY: For this optional service (U.K. mainland only) add £2.50 (VAT inclusive) per kit.

SALES COUNTER: If you prefer to collect kit from the factory call at Sales Counter. Open 9 a.m. - 4.30 p.m. Monday-Thursday.

OUR CATALOGUE IS FREE! WRITE OR PHONE NOW!

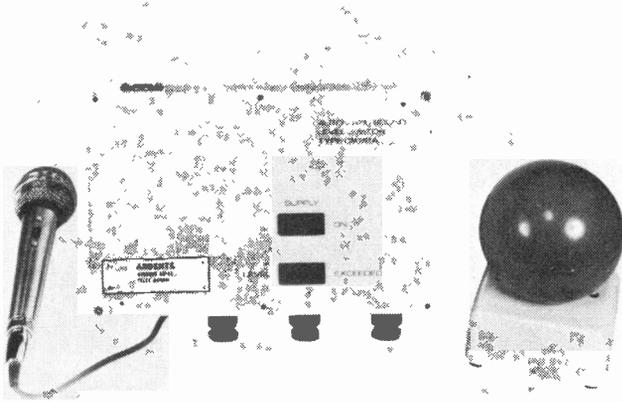
POWERTRAN ELECTRONICS

PORTWAY INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
ANDOVER, HANTS SP10 3NM

ANDOVER
(STD 0264) 64455



DIGEST



Silence Is Golden

It's also ball-shaped. (I'm not going to be rude, honest). The Golden Ball is a new, automatic sound level controller for discos and dance halls. Made by Ardent of Windsor, well-known for their work in noise control, this unit is designed to help club owners avoid complaints, keep neighbours happy and reduce health risks to audiences.

A sensitive directional mike detects harmful noise levels, a golden, ball-shaped light switches on when the sound is too loud and a control box shuts off amplifier power if the warning is ignored.

The mechanically accepted

figure at which sound becomes a danger to health is 90dB, so the system automatically cuts out noise in excess of this figure. Below that, users can set their own particular comfortable maximum noise level.

So what happens when the maximum is exceeded? Well, the ball lights up to warn everyone that the limit has been reached. Five seconds then elapses in which the sound level can be reduced voluntarily. If this isn't done, there's an embarrassing five seconds of silence until the system resets itself.

Full details of the Golden Ball are available from the Anti-Noise Pollution Division, Ardent Ltd, Thames Avenue, Windsor, Berkshire.

Air-Porters

If you've had to lug cases miles around an airport, from terminal to bus station or car park, you're well aware of the need for transport within an airport complex. Gatwick are going in for a luxury system — unmanned vehicles.

However, these won't be the sort of unmanned buses that sit stationary by the kerbside defying all timetables and raising the blood pressure. Built by Westinghouse (couldn't a British firm do it?) the system will comprise two fully automatic buses, each operating on its own track connecting the main terminal to the new satellite building.

Each bus will carry 80 passengers, mainly standing, although some seats will be provided for the elderly, infirm or panic-stricken. Doors will open and shut automatically and pre-recorded message will advise passengers to mind the doors and hold tight. No passenger should have to wait more than 90 seconds for a lift.

Although it's an American system, 45% of the work will be done by UK industry. Work has already begun on the new satellite project, which is due for completion in 1982.

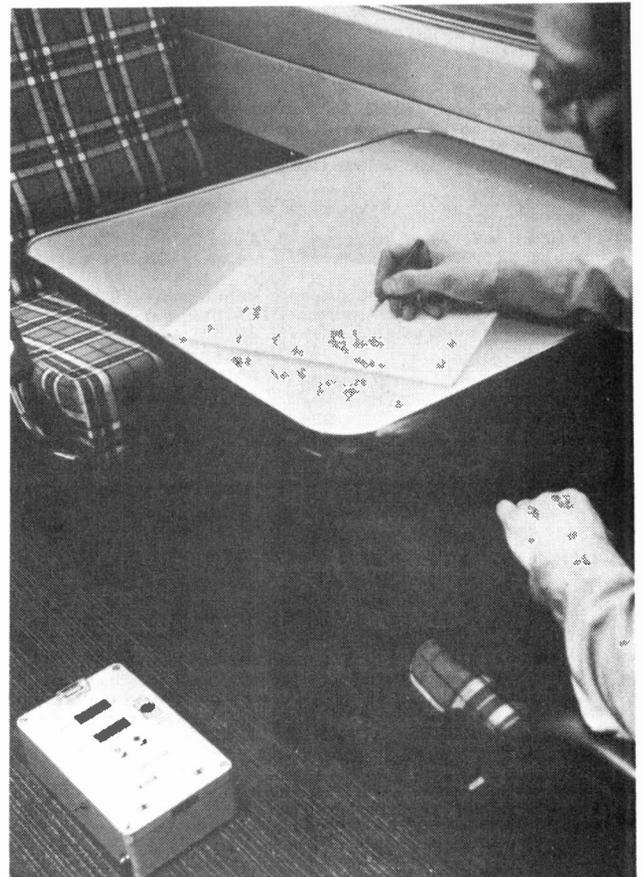
Sitting Comfy?

How do you rate the ride comfort of your daily commuter train? Perhaps the number of coffee spills per mile or the number of times you're woken from pleasant slumbers.

Well, the ride comfort on the new Advanced Passenger Train should be improved, thanks to the Jacobmeter. This interesting little instrument (named after the BR engineer who developed the concept) measures vertical and horizontal accelerations separately and displays calculated root mean square values according to criteria in ride comfort curves derived from the ISO and motion sickness data. The integration period can be set to either 10 or 60 seconds.

The Jacobmeter is currently being used in commissioning trials on the prototype Advanced Passenger Train. It may later be used as a tool for general use throughout British Rail. So, fellow commuters, it looks like chuff-chuff comfort may be a bit better by the time we take out a mortgage on our next season ticket.

The Jacobmeter is made to a BR design by Kemo Ltd, 9-12 Goodwood Parade, Elmers End, Beckenham, Kent BR3 3QZ.



Romane Electronics

LOW POWER SCHOTTKY TTL EX STOCK

We are holding substantial stocks of the Devices listed below. All orders, large and small, will be dealt with in strict rotation. Please add 15% V.A.T. to all orders plus 30p for P&P. Export orders no VAT but postage at cost air/surface. Prompt delivery on all orders.

Device	Price	74LS38	39p	74LS132	70p	74LS197	120p
74LS00	13p	74LS40	23p	74LS136	45p	74LS221	110p
74LS01	14p	74LS47	80p	74LS138	75p	74LS244	250p
74LS02	13p	74LS48	130p	74LS139	80p	74LS245	260p
74LS03	14p	74LS49	130p	74LS151	65p	74LS247	150p
74LS04	15p	74LS73	40p	74LS153	65p	74LS248	150p
74LS05	25p	74LS74	40p	74LS155	96p	74LS249	90p
74LS08	30p	74LS75	38p	74LS156	96p	74LS251	100p
74LS09	30p	74LS76	38p	74LS157	65p	74LS273	200p
74LS10	16p	74LS78	43p	74LS158	83p	74LS279	85p
74LS11	23p	74LS83	120p	74LS160	118p	74LS283	92p
74LS12	25p	74LS85	120p	74LS161	100p	74LS290	92p
74LS13	36p	74LS86	40p	74LS162	130p	74LS293	100p
74LS14	75p	74LS90	50p	74LS163	130p	74LS298	100p
74LS15	25p	74LS93	90p	74LS164	100p	74LS352	170p
74LS20	17p	74LS95	110p	74LS173	90p	74LS353	170p
74LS21	24p	74LS107	40p	74LS174	90p	74LS365	95p
74LS22	25p	74LS109	50p	74LS175	92p	74LS366	95p
74LS26	35p	74LS112	50p	74LS190	120p	74LS367	95p
74LS27	25p	74LS113	50p	74LS191	120p	74LS368	95p
74LS28	40p	74LS114	50p	74LS192	120p	74LS374	160p
74LS30	19p	74LS123	80p	74LS193	110p	74LS386	50p
74LS32	27p	74LS125	40p	74LS195	110p	74LS670	200p
74LS37	32p	74LS126	40p	74LS196	100p		

LOW PROFILE DIL SOCKETS BY TEXAS

8 Pin	13p	18 Pin	25p	24 Pin	33p
14 Pin	14p	20 Pin	27p	28 Pin	43p
16 Pin	16p	22 Pin	28p	40 Pin	53p

I.C. TEST CLIPS 10% Discount for 25+ clips, 15% Discount for 100+

8 Pin	£4.50	14 Pin	£2.73	16 Pin	£2.88	18 Pin	£6.06
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36 Pin	£12.09	40 Pin	£12.73				

SUPERSTRIP BREADBOARDS 840 solderless plug-in tie points. Accommodates up to nine 14 Pin DIPs. Price £10.07 with 10% Discount for 10+ superstrips and 15% Discount for 25+

POWERACE PROTOTYPING LABS Two Superstrip Breadboards plus power supplies

POWERACE 101 5-15VDC supply @ 600mA plus 0-15V meter. Price £68.55.

POWERACE 102 +5VDC supply @ 1A plus 3 logic indicators and pulse detector, 2 logic switches, 4 data switches, clock generator and one-shot. Price £92.75.

POWERACE 103 +5VDC supply @ 750mA plus +15VDC @ 250mA and -15VDC @ 250mA. Also meter (15-0-15V). 2 logic indicators, 2 logic switches and 2 data switches. Price £99.80.

VERO PRODUCTS

Vero Wiring Pen	276p	VEROBOARD PCBs	
2xSpare Spools	95p	2.5"x5"	62p
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		3.75"x5"	69p
		3.75"x17"	240p

MEMORIES

2114 500p
TMS 2516 2K EPROM. Single 5V Supply £27.00

76477 Sound generator drip 210p

LIGHT EMITTING DIODES

	0.122"	Price	0.2"	Price
RED	TIL209	13p	RED TIL220	15p
YELLOW	TIL212	22p	YELLOW TIL224-1	20p
GREEN	TIL232	20p	GREEN TIL243-1	20p

All orders, large and small, will be dealt with IN STRICT ROTATION. Please add 15% V.A.T. to all orders plus 30p for P&P (£1 P&P for Poweraces). Export orders no V.A.T. but postage at cost air/surface. Prompt delivery on all orders.

A full range of Breadboards, I.C. test clips, ribbon cable assemblies available (mostly ex-stock). Please send large S.A.E. for catalogue and price lists.

ROMANE ELECTRONICS

64 Newlyn Drive, Sale, Cheshire. M33 3LE
Tel. 061-962 2606



SOS (Save Our Servos)

Radio-control fans — remember that sinking feeling in your stomach as you watched your R/C model fall out of the sky, unable to do anything about it. Bet it was a shock, especially if your model was a yacht.

Chromatronics have just announced the introduction of an electronic fail-safe for radio modellers to minimise the danger of a model going out of control in the event of interference or loss of signal. Interference from what? Who said Citizen's Band (or is it Banned)?

The system will cope with co-channel interference from another R/C transmitter or CB (I promise I won't mention it again), total or partial transmitter or receiver failure and the model moving out of range. If your model tips the scales at 5kg or more, a fail-safe device is obligatory under CAA regulations.

Unlike earlier simple devices, the PP1M-4CH works by two level threshold detection on all four receiver outputs. So, all primary control functions can be protected from severe

glitches from whatever source. The unit is used to set up to four control servos in preset safe positions during a catastrophe. So, if the world should end, your Sopwith or Starfighter will still be zooming around the blue yonder until it runs out of four star, thanks to Chromatronics.

The unit works with any three wire positive pulse servo and has individual preset controls for each servo and variable fault detection thresholds. Cut-in time is only 0.1 seconds. The PP1M-4CH is connected between the receiver and servos and works with either AM or FM systems on the 27MHz UHF band or any other operational frequencies. It is small (62x42x23mm) and light-weight, packed in a robust plastic capsule. It comes with four input leads and four output leads already fitted, but you have to fit the appropriate plugs and sockets for your equipment.

For only £14.95 (including VAT), this electronic fail-safe device sounds like remarkably good value, considering the cost of replacing a crashed model. The PP1M-4CH is available from Chromatronics, Coachworks House, River Way, Harlow, Essex.

New Neosid

Neosid, a name well known in professional and consumer electronics, has recently established a new outlet for the amateur constructor and small user.

The new Small Order Catalogue covers a broad cross section of the company's products — ferrite beads, screw cores, rods, E, I and U cores and coil assemblies, plastic formers and trimming tools.

Send a stamped, addressed envelope for the Small Orders Catalogue to Neosid Small Orders, PO Box 86, Welwyn Garden City, Herts AL7 1AS.

WATFORD ELECTRONICS

ILP MODULES 15-240 WATTS

We are now stockists for these world famous fully guaranteed (2 years guarantee on all modules) Pre amps, Amplifiers & Power Supplies.

HY5 Preamp. 500mV RMS **£4.75;** **HY1200** Power Amp. 60W RMS/8Ω **£15.40;**
HY30 Amplifier. 15W RMS/8Ω **£4.95;** **HY200** Power Amp. 120W RMS/8Ω **£18.50;**
HY50 Amplifier. 25W RMS/8Ω **£7.25;** **HY400** Power Amp. 240W RMS/4Ω **£27.50.**



POWER SUPPLIES

PSU36 — Drives 2 x HY30s	£6.38
PSU50 — Drives 2 x HY50s	£8.18
PSU70 — Drives 2 x H120s	£13.70
PSU90 one HY200	£13.70
PSU180 2 x HY200 or one HY400	£22.99

OHIO SUPERBOARD II
Only **£188.00**

Yes, we are now selling this popular single board microcomputer at the giveaway price of £188.00. Due to the recent devaluation of US Dollar against £ Sterling, we have been able to purchase Superboards at lower price. Naturally, we wish to pass this price advantage on to our customers. Buy now to avoid disappointment should Mrs. Thatcher & Co. decide to devalue the Pound. Superboard II is supplied fully assembled and tested to British TV specification. Also included at no extra cost 4 manuals and a Cassette with programmes. Requires +5V at 3A and a Video Monitor or TV with RF Converter to be up and running. (Data sheet supplied. We can also supply the RF Converter and Power Supply in Kit form or ready-built).

8K Microsoft BASIC in ROM. 4K Static RAM — on BOARD expandable to 8K. Full 53 Key Keyboard with Upper/Lower Case & User programmability and a lot more. See it for yourself. Continuous demonstration on at our retail shop.

Specially designed attractive fibreglass case (VDU Unit can be mounted on it) **£26.00**
 Power Supply Kit with RF Modulator **£21.75**
 Extra 4K of RAM **£38.50**

SWITCHES

TOGGLE: 2A, 250V	
SPST	28p
DPST	34p
DPDT	38p
4 pole on/off	54p

SUB-MIN TOGGLE

SP changeover	58p
SPST on/off	54p
SPST biased	55p
DPDT 6 ways	70p
DPDT centre off	70p
DPDT Biased	115p

SLIDE 250V:

1A DPDT	14p
1A DPDT c/over	15p
1/2A DPDT	13p
4 pole 2-way	24p

PUSH BUTTON

Spring loaded	
SPST on/off	60p
SPDT c/over	65p
DPDT 6 Tag	85p

MINIATURE

Non Locking	
Push to Make	15p
Push Break	25p

ROTARY: Make your own multiway Switch Adjustable Stop Shafting Assembly. Accommodating up to 8 Waters

Mains Switch DPST to fit	34p
Break Before Make Waters: 1 pole/12 way	2p/6 way, 3p/4 way, 4p/3 way
6p/2 way	47p
Spacer and Screen	5p

ROTARY: (Adjustable Stop)

1 pole/2 to 12 way	2p/2 to 6 way, 3 pole/2 to 4 way, 4 pole/2 to 3 way
41p	

ROTARY: Mains 250V AC: 4 Amp **45p**

CRYSTALS

100KHz	385
455KHz	383
1MHz	323
1.008MHz	395
1.28MHz	392
1.6MHz	323
1.8MHz	323
1.8432MHz	362
2.4576MHz	362
3.2768MHz	323
3.57954M	195
4.032MHz	323
4.433619M	135
5.0MHz	355
5.185M	323
6.5536M	200
7.680M	323
8.86723M	323
9.375M	323
10.0MHz	323
10.7MHz	323
12MHz	322
14.3181MHz	300
18MHz	323
18.432M	323
20.0MHz	323
27.648M	323
48.0MHz	323
100.00MHz	323

TRANSFORMERS (Mains Prim. 220-240V)

6-0.6V, 9-0.9V, 12-0.12V, 100mA	95p
8VA, 6V, 5A, 6V, 5A, 9V, 4A, 9V, 4A, 12V, 3A	195p
12V, 3A, 15V, 2.5A, 15V, 2.5A	
12A, 4, 5V-1.3A, 4, 5V-1.3A, 6V-1.2A, 6V-1.2A	
12V, 5A, 12V, 5A, 15V, 4A, 15V, 4A, 20V, 3A	
20V, 3A	220p (20p p&p)
24VA, 6V-1.5A, 6V-1.5A, 9V-1.3A, 9V-1.3A	
12V-1.2A, 12V-1A, 15V-8A, 15V-8A, 20V-6A	
20V, 6A	290p (45p p&p)
50VA, 6V-4A, 6V-4A, 9V-2.5A, 9V-2.5A, 12V-2A	
12V-2A, 15V-1.5A, 15V-1.5A, 20V-1.2A, 20V-1.2A	
25V-1A, 25V-1A, 30V, 8A, 30V, 8A	
100VA, 28V-0.28V, 2A	350p (60p p&p)
100VA, 12V-4A, 12V-4A, 15V-3A, 15V-3A	650p (60p p&p)
20V-2.5A, 20V-2.5A, 30V-1.5A, 30V-1.5A	
40V-1.25A, 40V-1.25A, 50V-1A, 50V-1A	650p (60p p&p) (N.B. p&p charge to be added above our normal postal charge.)

ALUM. BOXES*

3x2x1"	54
2 1/4 x 5 1/4 x 1 1/2"	72
4x4 1/2 x 1 1/2"	72
4x2 1/4 x 1 1/2"	70
4x5 1/4 x 1 1/2"	88
4x2 1/2 x 2"	72
5x4 1/2 x 2"	98
6x4 1/2 x 2"	98
7x5 1/2 x 2 1/2"	145
8x6 1/2 x 3"	185
10x7 3/4 x 3"	210
10x4 1/2 x 3"	175
12x5 1/2 x 3"	215
12x8 3/4 x 3"	265

PANEL METERS*

FSD	60x46x
	35mm
	0-50µA
	0-100µA
	0-500µA
	0-1mA
	0-5mA
	0-10mA
	0-50mA
	0-100mA
	0-500mA
	0-1A
	0-2A
	0-25V
	0-50V AC
	0-300V AC
	15"
	15"
	475p each

VOLTAGE REGULATORS

1A TO3	ve	ve	220p
5V	7805	145p	7905
12V	7812	145p	7912
15V	7815	145p	7915
18V	7818	145p	7918
24V	7824	65p	7924
100mA TO92 Plastic Casing			
5V	7805	65p	7905
12V	7812	65p	7912
15V	7815	65p	7915
18V	7818	65p	7918
24V	7824	65p	7924
100mA TO92 Plastic Casing			
5V	7805	30p	7905
6V	7812	30p	7912
8V	7818	30p	7918
12V	7812	30p	7912
15V	7815	30p	7915
LM300H	170p	LM327	270p
LM305H	140p	LM723	38p
LM309K	135p	TAA550	50p
LM317K	350p	TBA625B	95p
LM323K	550p	TDA1412	150p
LM325N	240p	78H05 +5 to +5A	595p
LM326N	240p	78HG +5 to +24	650p

OPTO ELECTRONICS

LEDs with Clips		
TIL209 Red	13	
TIL211 Grn	17	
TIL212 Yel	18	
TIL220 2" Red	14	
2" Green, Yellow	18	
7 Segment Displays		
Square LEDs, Red	TIL307	675
Grn, Yel	48 TIL312 3" CC	105
TIL32 Infra Red	58 TIL313 3" CC	105
LS400	255 TIL321 5" CC	115
OCF71	120 TIL322 5" CC	115
ORP12	63 DL704 3" CC	99
ORP61	85 DL707 3" CC	99
2N5777	45 DL747 6" CC	180
	FND357 Red	120
	3" Green CA	180
	6" Green CA	225
ISOLATORS		
IL74	48	3" Green CA
TIL111/2	85	6" Green CA
TIL114	95	LCD 3 1/2 Digit
TIL117	110	LCD 4 Digit

ETI Projects:

Parts available for: Click Eliminator, Ambush, Guitar Effect Unit, Audio Display, DM900, Audio-ophile Amp, 60W Amplifier System, Train Controller, Send SAE plus 5p for list.

293	128	4006	68	4045	145	4097	372	4515	259	4549	375
295	185	4007	14	4046	66	4098	99	4516	52	4553	398
298	168	4008	55	4047	87	4099	145	4517	382	4554	150
324	240	4009	30	4048	58	4180	78	4518	58	4555	46
325	290	4010	27	4049	25	4181	78	4519	55	4556	84
326	294	4011	18	4050	33	4182	78	4520	55	4557	365
327	286	4012	14	4051	45	4163	78	4521	228	4558	105
347	148	4013	35	4052	45	4174	82	4522	149	4559	375
348	186	4014	55	4053	45	4175	78	4526	65	4560	210
352	228	4015	63	4054	110	4194	90	4527	152	4561	65
353	228	4016	25	4055	99	4408	670	4528	55	4562	375
365	65	4017	60	4056	110	4409	670	4529	145	4566	155
366	65	4018	60	4057	1650	4410	670	4530	85	4569	280
367	65	4019	32	4059	480	4411	795	4531	135	4572	26
368	66	4020	70	4060	90	4412F	1250	4532	67	4580	595
373	180	4021	52	4061	1200	4412V	1050	4534	575	4581	297
374	180	4022	50	4062	995	4415F	520	4536	365	4582	130
375	160	4023	14	4063	110	4415V	390	4538	142	4593	75
377	212	4024	40	4066	30	4419	280	4539	105	4584	63
378	184	4025	14	4067	280	4422	426	4541	135	4585	105
379	215	4026	100	4068	14	4433	780	4543	155		
384	86	4027	35	4069	14	4435	540				
390	230	4028	50	4070	14	4440	1275				
393	230	4029	54	4071	14	4450	260				
395	218	4030	50	4072	14	4451	220				
396	215	4031	150	4073	14	4452					
398	276	4032	80	4075	14	4490F	310				
399	230	4033	95	4076	57	4490V	240				
445	150	4034	1.99	4077	14	4501	16				
447	144	4035	80	4078	14	4502	57				
490	180	4036	£3.25	4081	14	4503	42				
668	182	4037	100	4082	14	4506	46				
669	182	4038	108	4085	52	4507	35				
670	248	4039	320	4086	52	4508	1.95				
		4040	51	4089	110	4510	55				
		4041	60	4093	35	4511	80				
		4042	50	4094	95	4512	70				
		4043	46	4095	48	4513	205				
		4044	46	4096	105	4514	140				

UHF Modulator **£2.50**
Wide Bandwidth Modulator for Computers **£4.70**

SPECIAL OFFER
 741 17p 2114 439p
 555 20p 2708 675p

Core Blimey

Walmore Electronics have introduced a new range of transformer cores for switched mode power supplies. The range includes toroidal cores and three sizes of E core.

The cores are made from iron powder, the advantage over ferrite being that high saturation flux density is maintained to unit operating temperatures. Because of this, inductors can also often be reduced in size. The use of a distributed gap enables a reduction to be made in the external flux leakage. Other core materials need large lumped air gaps to maintain incremental inductance at high DC bias levels.

Also from Walmore are three new ranges of power Darlington transistors in TO-92 miniature plastic packages. The devices are Unitrode types U2TA506/508/510 and feature a current gain of 500 at a collector current of 3A and a saturation voltage of only 1V5 at 3V. They are planar NPN devices, each consisting of a two transistor circuit on a single monolithic clip which also includes an integral bias resistor and protective diode. Each type is specified according to its maximum collector-emitter voltage - 60V for the 506, 80V for the 508 and 120V for the 510. These new Darlington transistors are ideally suited to pulse power applications in power supplies, printers, solid state relays, etc.

The new ranges of cores and power Darlington transistors are available from Walmore Electronics, 11-15 Betterton Street, Drury Lane, London WC2H 9BS.

Oops OOPS Microwave Oven Leakage Detector

This has proved to be a very popular project. We've had a lot of inquiries about the diode used. If you're having trouble finding one, you can get it from Brian J. Reed, 161 St. John's Hill, Battersea, London SW11 1TQ. Mr Reed's catalogue is 75p + a large stamped (27p) addressed envelope. If you just want one diode, send 30p + a 10p s.a.e.

Motor Speed Controller

Let's see if we can get it right this time. The unmarked resistor above Q2 on the overlay on page 49 should be marked R11. Now, if we take the overlay labelling on page 49 as correct, let's alter the circuit diagram to agree with it. The first column shows the published resistor labelling and the second column shows the corrected version.

- R10 R11
- R11 R13
- R13 R14
- R14 R15

Also, a resistor has been omitted from the circuit diagram. R10, a 2M2 resistor, should be shown between pin 2 of IC4 and the OV line ie in parallel with C5. These changes in resistor labelling also apply to the parts list.

Typical Reader Competition

We're interested to know what our readers think of us. We don't usually hear what readers think of themselves, though. This is what Mr. O'Donohoe figures a typical ETI reader looks like. Wat - no suspenders and stockings? You've shattered my illusions, Mr. O'Donohoe. But you've started something. Let's see what the rest of you think (or hope) the typical ETI reader looks like. If we get any photos that are printable, there could be a few free T shirts in the post.



Tecknowedgey for sale.

The Mark III FM Tuner

DIY Hi-Fi will never seem the same again. Ambit's Mark III tuner system is electrically and visually superior to all others. Some options available, but the illustrated version with reference series modules: £149.00 + £22.35 VAT With Hyperfi Series Modules £185.00 + £27.75 VAT



Features of the system:

- * Precision construction & design of all parts
- * Time/frequency display
- * State of the art performance with facilities for updates, using modular plug in systems.
- * Deviation level calibrator for recording
- * All usual tuner features

ALL TUNER KITS £3 carriage

Digital Dorchester All Band Broadcast Tuner: LW/MW/SW/SW/SW/FM stereo

A multiband superhet tuner, constructed using a single IC for RF/IF processing - but with all features you would expect of designs of far greater complexity. The FM section uses a three section (air gang) tuned FET tunerhead, with ceramic IF filters and interstation mute; AM employs a double balanced mixer input stage, with mechanical IF filters - plus a BFO and MOSFET product detector for CW/SSB reception. Styled in a matching unit to the Mark III FM only tuner, employing the same degree of care in mechanical design to enable easy construction. MW/LW reception via a ferrite rod antenna.

Electronics only (PCB and all components thereon) £33.00 + £4.95 VAT
 Complete with digital frequency readout/clock/timer hardware £99.00 + £14.85 VAT
 Complete with MA1023 clock/timer module with dial scale £66.00 + £9.90 VAT
 Hardware packages are available separately if you wish to house your own designs in a professional case structure. Please deduct the cost of electronics from complete prices.

LW/MW/FM LCD Digital Frequency Display - July PW feature

Update your old radio, or build this into a new design. Or use it as a servicing aid - this low power unit with LCD display reads direct frequency in kHz/MHz, or with usual AM/FM IF offsets for received frequency. Low power LCD means no RF! - 15-20mA at 9v even with the divide by 100 prescaler. FM resolution is 100kHz, AM 1kHz. Sensitivities better than 10mV. Complete kit £19.50 + £2.93 VAT, built and tested module £27.00 + £4.05 VAT



Ambit stocks and distributes a wide range of frequency counter LSI for all types of DFM, part two of the catalogue contains details of the MS523/4/5/6 range, and the versatile MSL2318 divide by ten or hundred prescaler IC. The DFM1 combined counter for AM, FM SW and direct/clock/stopwatch/timers - details available, but SAE please!

PW SANDBANKS PI METAL LOCATOR

Maintaining our professional approach to home constructor kits, we offer the pulse induction 'Sandbanks'. Now with injection molded casing for greatly improved environmental sealing. £37.00+£5.55vat

VHF MONITOR RX WITH PLESSEY IC

4/9 channel version of the PW design but using standard (fund9) crystals, and TOYO 8 pole crystal filter with matching transformers. Coil sets from our standard range to cover bands from 40 to 200MHz. Complete module kit £31.25 + £4.68vat

MICROMARKET OSTS overflow:

6800P	650p	8212	230p	12102	170p
6820P	600p	8216	195p	2112	340p
6850P	275p	8224	350p	2513	754p
6810	400p	8228	478p	4027	578p
6852	365p	8251	625p	2114	1000p
8080	630p	8255	540p	+15% VAT	

RADIO and AUDIO MODULES: Consistently the most advanced

FOR FM
 EF5801-3-4 series: 6 stage varicap tuning, all with oscillator output
 5801 Dual gate MOSFET RF stages, bipolar mixer £17.45 + 2.61VAT
 5803 Dual gate RF/mixer stages, amplified LO out £19.75 + 2.96VAT
 5804 'Hyperfi' series, with internal PIN diode agc, and ultra wide range tuning system £24.95 + 3.74VAT
 EF5402 4 stage varicap tuner with TDA1062 and LO output. Uses FET/IC input. PIN agc £10.75 + 1.61VAT

FOR 30-200MHz

The EF series are available on special order to cover bands (usually approx 20% of the centre frequency) in the range described. Details in our price list.

FOR FM IFs at 10.7MHz

7030 single 6 pole linear phase filter IF with HA1137E10.95 + 1.64VAT
 7130 two 6 pole linear phase filter IF with CA3189E16.25 + 2.44VAT
 7230 Hyperfi IF, switched bandwidth, AGC IF preamp, linear phase ceramic filters with diode switched narrow filter £24.95 + 3.74VAT

DECODERS for MPX (STEREO)

Various types, guaranteed the world's biggest and best ranges

LARSHOLTZ FM TUNERSSETS

7252 MOSFET front end combined with CA3089 IF £26.50 + 3.97VAT
 7252 JFET front end, combined with IF and decoder £26.50 + 3.97VAT
 FM/AM tuning synthesiser, see details elsewhere in this advertisement

COMPONENTS FOR RADIO/COMMUNICATIONS/AUDIO/TV etc.

As usual, Ambit brings you the latest and best, a small selection of which is shown in this advertisement. The Ambit catalogues contain information on most of the devices mentioned here - and an order for the new part three will ensure you stay up with latest developments. Data photocopying service described in pricelist info.

RADIO ICs for FM		SL1600 series		Audio preamps	
CA3089E	1.94 29	SL1610	1.60 24	LM381N	1.81 27
CA3189E	2.45 37	SL1611	1.60 24	LM382N	1.65 25
HA1137W	2.20 33	SL1612	1.60 24	KB4438	2.53 38
HA11225	2.20 33	SL1613	1.89 28	KB4438	2.22 33
SN76660N	0.75 11	SL1620	2.17 33	TDA1028	3.50 53
		SL1621	2.17 33	TDA1029	3.50 53
		SL1623	2.44 37	TDA1074	3.75 56
		TD1A1083	1.95 29	Audio power	
		TD1A1220	1.40 21	TA820M	0.75 11
		SL1625	2.17 33	TA820M	1.09 16
		SL1626	2.44 37	ULN2283	1.00 15
		SL1630	1.62 24	TDA2002	1.95 29
		SL1640	1.89 28	HA1370	2.99 45
		SL1641	1.89 28	TDA2020	2.99 45
		SL6840	2.75 41	FETs, MOSFETs, bipolars,	
		SL6890	3.20 48	and various others: see PL	
		MC3357	3.12 47		
		MC1496	1.25 19		
		NE544	1.70 25		

OSTS: Remember all OSTs stocks are obtained from BS9000 approved sources - your assurance that all devices are very best first quality commercial types. Some LPSN TTL is presently in great demand, so please check by phone before ordering.

TTL: Standard AND LP Schottky

VOLTAGE REGS:		M.S.C. Counter/timer, scalar devices:	
7400	13 20	74142	265
7401	13 20	74143	312
7402	14 20	74144	312
7403	14 20	74145	65 37
7404	14 24	74147	175
7405	18 26	74148	109 191
7406	38	74150	99
7409	17 24	74151	64 84
7410	15 24	74152	64 84
7411	20 24	74154	96
7412	17	74155	54 110
7413	30	74156	80 110
7414	51	74157	67 85
7415	24	74158	60
7416	30	74159	210
7417	30	74160	82 130
7420	16 24	74161	78
7421	29 24	74162	130
7423	27	74163	92 78
7425	27	74164	104 130
7426	27	74165	105
7427	27 29	74167	20
7428	35 32	74169	200
7430	17 24	74170	230 200
7432	25 24	74172	625
7437	40 24	74174	87 120
7438	33 24	74175	87 110
7440	17 24	74176	75
7441	74	74177	78
7442	70 99	74181	165 350
7443	115	74183	210
7444	112	74184	135
7448	94	74185	134
7449	94	74188	275
7447	82 89	74190	90
7448	56 99	74192	105 180
7449	99	74193	105 180
7451	17 24	74194	105
7453	17 24	74196	99 110
7454	17 24	74197	110
7455	35 24	74198	150
7460	17	74199	160
7463	124	74247	90
7470	28	74253	105

IMPORTANT: ALL PRICES SHOWN EXCLUDE VAT - WHICH MUST BE ADDED AT 15% OVERALL. PLEASE NOTE THE REDUCED CMOS/LP TTL RANGES DUE TO CURRENT SUPPLY SHORTAGE.

MORE FROM THE GENERAL AMBIT CATALOGUE RANGES:

CD4000		TOP GRADE LEDs by AEG: PRICES ARE EXC. VAT (add 15%)	
4000 17	4522 149	SIZE	Red Green Yellow Orange
4001 17	4528 102	5mm 14p	16p 15p 20p
4002 17	4529 141	3mm 13p	15p 18p 19p
4006 109	4532 125	2 1/2" 17p	20p 20p 24p
4007 18	4538 150	100 mix in 10s	10s 25%
4008 80	4539 110		
4009 58	4543 174		
4010 58	4549 399		
4012 17	4554 153		
4013 55	4558 117		
4014 95	4560 218		
4016 52	4562 159		
4017 80	4568 281		
4018 80	4569 303		
4019 60	4572 25		
4020 93	4584 63		
4021 82	4585 100		
4022 90			
4023 17			
4024 76			
4025 17			
4026 180			
4027 60			
4028 72			
4029 100			
4030 58			
4035 120			
4040 83			
4042 85			
4043 60			
4044 80			
4046 130			
4048 60			
4049 55			
4050 55			
4051 65			
4052 65			
4053 65			
4055 135			
4059 563			
4060 115			
4063 109			
4066 53			
4068 25			
4069 25			
4070 20			
4071 20			
4072 20			
4073 20			
4075 90			

Current news: A PCB for the Mullard DC tone and volume control system is now available £3 + 0.45 VAT. HMOS PA modules for 60-100W - kit £14 + £2.10VAT, heatsink £4.10+£0.61. FM radio control system crystals £3.75 pair inc VAT (Sept on). MK50366N: static drive clock/timer IC £3.78 + 0.57 VAT. 12½kHz channel spacing 8 pole 10.7MHz XTAL filter by TOYO type H4402 £15.50 + £2.32VAT. A further updated pricelist is now available, and we would like to remind you that enquiries can only be answered if accompanied either by an official business letterhead, or an SAE. STOP PRESS: TOKO's new split-apart triple AM tuning diodes are in stock £2.45 + 3p VAT, (KV1215). S BL1 diode DBM 1-500MHz - £4.25+0.64p.

Terms: CWO please. Account facilities for commercial customers OA. Posting 25p per order. Minimum credit invoice for account customers £100. Please follow instructions on VAT, which is usually shown as a separate amount. Overseas customers welcome - please allow for postage etc according to desired shipping method. Access facilities for credit purchases. Catalogues: Ambit. Part 1 45p. Part 2 50p. 90p pair. TOKO Euro shortform 20p. Micrometals toroid cores 40p. All inc PP etc. Full data service described in pricelist supplements. Hours/phone: We are open from 9am - 7pm for phone calls. Callers from 10am to 7pm. Administrative enquiries 9am to 4.30pm please (not Saturdays). Saturday service 10am to 6pm.

CMOS SALE

Compare our make, quality and prices. All items subject to prior sale.

	Make	Price
CD4015BE	RCA	57p
CD4027BE	RCA	36p
CD4028BE	RCA	57p
CD4053BE	RCA	60p
CD4098BE	RCA	75p

TRANSISTOR SALE

2N 3819	TEXAS	17p
2N 3820	TEXAS	27p

DISPLAY LEDs AT LOWEST PRICES

DL 704 / DL 707	90p
FND 500 / FND 510	75p

NOW THE CHIPS ARE DOWN

Due to bulk purchase, we are able to offer unbeatable prices on INTERSIL chips. Compare our prices and see how much you save.

	1-24	25+	100+
ICL7106CPL	6.50	6.25	5.95
ICL7107CPL	6.25	5.95	5.75
ICL8038CCPD			
	3.00	2.75	2.15
ICM7216AIJ	18.75	17.75	14.75
ICM7216BIP	16.75	14.75	12.25

LINEAR ICs

LM324N Quad Op Amp	40p
NE555N-8 Timer	18p
LM556N-14 Dual Timer	50p
LM723CN Voltage Regulator	33p
LM747CN-14 Dual Op Amp	40p

VOLTAGE REGS

SG780 5CP / SG781 2CP	55p
SG7905CP / SG791 2CP	70p

POWER CONVERTER FC-5

Now you can operate 120 Volts. American equipment from 240 Volts! Only **£9.95** complete with British type plug.

LED BAR GRAPH AND ANALOG METER DRIVER.

New from National LM3914. Drives 10 LED directly for making bar graphs, audio power meters, analog meters, LED Oscilloscopes, etc. Units can be stacked for more LEDs. A super versatile and truly remarkable IC. Just out!
Special price: Only **£1.99** inc. 12 page spec. sheet.

FAIRCHILD RED LED LAMPS

*FLV5057 Medium Size Clear Case RED EMITTING. These are not retested off spec. units as sold by some of our competitors. These are factory prime, first quality, new units.

VERY LIMITED STOCK!!
8p EACH 100 077
6p EACH 1,000 077
5p EACH 2,000 077

Texas Instruments Low Profile Sockets



Contacts	Price
8 PIN	.08
14 PIN	.12
16 PIN	.14
18 PIN	.18
20 PIN	.20
22 PIN	.22
24 PIN	.24
28 PIN	.28
40 PIN	.40

"THE COLOSSUS"

FAIRCHILD SUPER JUMBO LED READOUT

A full 80 inch character. The biggest readout we have ever sold / Super efficient.

YOUR CHOICE
FND 847 Common Anode
£2 each

FND 850 Common Cathode
£1.50 each. 100 off

THE MOST VERSATILE LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY

	1.24	25+	100+
LCD106	6.45	5.50	5.25

.5" Field effect LCD display featuring 3½ digits, colon, plus/minus sign, 3 decimal points and "LO BAT" indicator. Ideal for DMMs, DPMs, digital thermometers, AM/FM radio readouts. Just look at the features. Ultra low power consumption, high contrast ratio-wide viewing angle-rapid response-proven sealing techniques-superior MTBF-reflective aluminium foil. Over 300,000 already sold! Compare our price at below distributors!

MICROPROCESSOR MADNESS

Compare our prices before you buy elsewhere.

CPUs	MEMORIES
8080A 4.95	2102 1.00
6800 7.00	2114 low power 4.75
Z-80 8.50	300 NS 4.75
Z-80A 10.50	5101 4.95

EPROMS	UARTS
1702A 4.00	AY-5-1013A 3.50
2708 7.00	AY-3-1015 4.00
2516 24.50	

CHARACTER GENERATOR

RO-3-2513	5.50
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ELECTRONIC YAP BOX—3 DISCREET SOUNDS

- Laser Gun
- Siren
- Ray Gun

Plus many others.
Use on car PA system, bicycle horn, or protection against would-be attackers. Invent your own sound effects, make believe you are the police or firemen. Must for DJs, pop groups and recording studios. Only **£9.95** inc.

We apologise to our customers for the delay in completing orders during July / August as a result of our move. We are now back to normal.

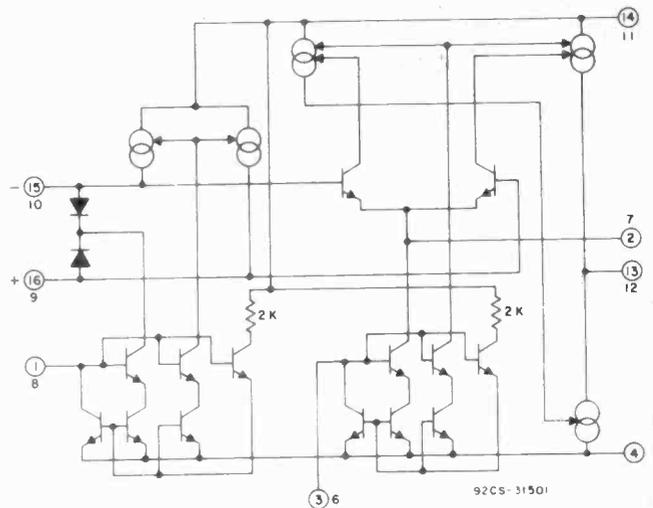
Ordering information: For orders under £50 add 50p p.&p. Add 15% VAT to total. All items are subject to prior sale and therefore subject to availability. Prices are subject to change without notice.

All orders to:



NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS

Please note new address:
4 Meeting Street
Appledore, Nr. Bideford
North Devon EX39 1RY
Telex 8953084 MacIn G
All enquiries to our London office.
01-278 7369



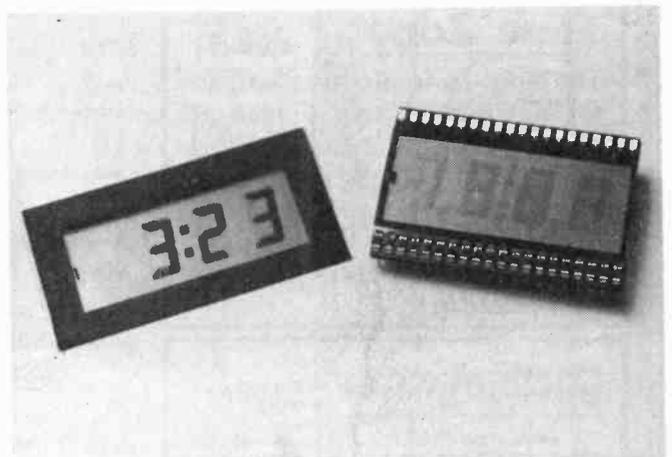
Happy Families

The latest offspring of RCA Solid State is a new family of dual variable operation amplifiers. The CA3280G Series combines two operational transconductance amplifiers in a single package.

The two amps are independent, differential input types and the output is a current proportional to the differential input voltage and the transconductance, which is programmable via a separate input terminal.

All characteristics of the two amplifiers are matched to within 5%. Peak output current can be as high as 650 uA at a bias current of 500 uA and operating bandwidth is 9MHz at a bias current of 1mA.

Applications include voltage-controlled amplifiers, voltage controlled filters, voltage controlled oscillators, function generators, etc. The devices are supplied in 16 lead DIL plastic packages and are available with operating temperature ranges of -55 to +125°C (CA3280 AG) and 0 to +70°C (CA3280) from RCA Solid State — Europe, Sunbury on Thames, Middlesex TW16 7HW.



Display Giants

New from Fairchild are a range of large area liquid crystal displays, suitable for clock and digital panel meter purposes.

There are two versions — 3½ digit (FLB 3513) and 4 digit (FLB 4013), both featuring 0.5 inch digits. The inclusion of a colon allows the displays to be

used in timekeeping applications. Decimal point and polarity signs are included for digital panel meter use.

Power requirements? — 5V typical with a maximum drive current requirement, at 3V with all segments on, of 5uA.

You can find out more about these LCDs from Fairchild Camera & Instrument (UK) Ltd, 230 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BU.

Quartz Melody Multi-Alarm Chrono For 1980 Try this 34 Function

for only £26.95

Count-down Timer



Can be used for a host of applications from boiling an egg to warning you your parking meter is expired. The timer is presettable to 23 hours 59 mins. 00 secs. in 1 min. steps and counts down in 1 sec. steps. It operates quite independently of the other counters and the watch can be in any other mode whilst it is being used. At the preset time the musical tone will sound for 1 minute.

Alarm



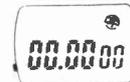
The alarm can be set at 1 minute intervals to any time within the 24 hour period. A clear firm musical tone sounds for 1 minute at the appointed time. An automatic roll-over to the normal time is a feature after the alarm has been read. A clear indicator displays whether the alarm is set or not.

Time Zone



The time zone enables you to tell the time in two places at once. It can be useful on holiday or business trips. Just programme the second time zone and it will be permanently recorded for your easy reference.

Chronograph

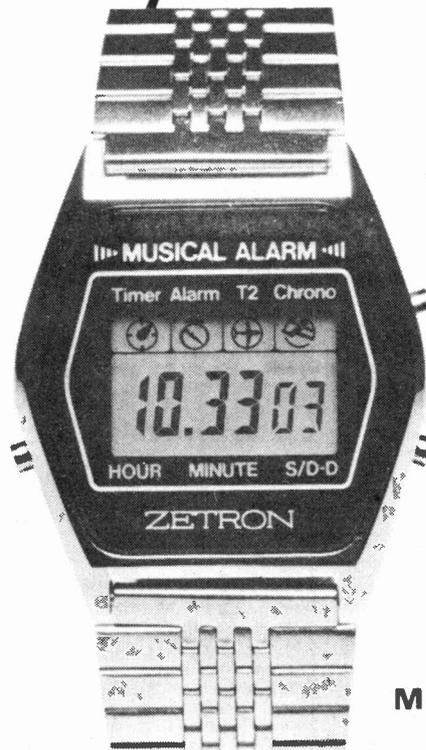


This watch incorporates a sophisticated and very accurate stop/start counter which has many applications in sporting events and timing for recordings etc.

Mode 1: Is the normal stop-watch mode. Stop-Start-Zero.

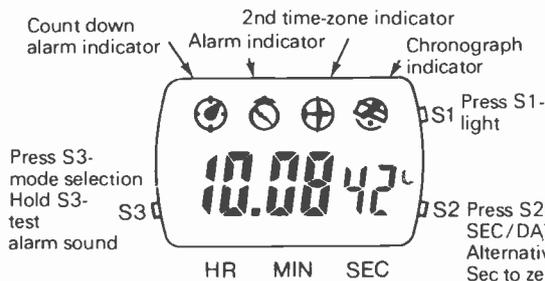
Mode 2: The lap timer enables first and second past the post times to be recorded. The display is frozen but the counter continues to count.

Mode 3: Longer timing intervals, such as journey times, can be recorded whilst the watch is reading its normal time, or the count-down is being used. The counter counts to 1 hour in 1/100 sec. steps in all its modes.



MODEL M30

Display Format (NORMAL TIME DISPLAY)



5 independent working modes

- i) Normal watch
- ii) Count down alarm
- iii) Alarm
- iv) Dual time zone
- v) 1/100 sec. chronograph

Display indicators (not all shown)

A very impressive new watch at a superbly low price from Metac. This super slim watch is only 7mm thick (that's thinner than most mechanical tick-tocks), but its micro-processor heart packs 34 different features.

In addition to those listed on the left the watch can display the day of the week in French or German or English (just select the one that suits you).--

It has fast and slow setting rates for the counter and the alarm as well as the normal time setting.

There are 7 display indicators, 6 digits and a back light for night viewing. The 5 working modes are independent of each other, and the watch can be operated in all 5 modes at once.

FOR ORDERING INFORMATION PLEASE SEE OVER

Metac

**ELECTRONICS
& TIME CENTRES**

North & Midlands
67 High Street, DAVENTRY
Northamptonshire
Telephone: 03272 76545

South of England
327 Edgware Road
LONDON W.2
Telephone: (01) 723 4753

**QUARTZ LCD
5 Function**

Hours, mins, secs, month, date, auto calendar, back light, fully adjustable bracelet to fit all wrists.

£6.65

Guaranteed same day despatch.
Very slim, only 6mm thick.



M1

**SOLAR QUARTZ LCD
5 Function**

Genuine solar panel with battery back-up
Hours, mins, secs
Day/date
Fully adjustable bracelet
Back-light
Only 8mm thick

£8.65

Guaranteed same day dispatch.



M2

**QUARTZ LCD
11 Function** SLIM CHRONO

6 digit, 11 functions.
Hours, mins, secs., day, date, day of week.
1/100th, 1/10th, secs.; 10X secs., mins.
Split and lap modes.
Back-light, auto calendar. Only 8mm thick.
Stainless steel bracelet and back.
Adjustable bracelet.
Metac Price

£10.65 Thousands sold!

Guaranteed same day dispatch



M3

**QUARTZ LCD
ALARM 7 Function**

Alarm
Hours, mins., secs.
Month, date, day.
6 digits. 3 flags plus continuous display of day and date or seconds.
Back-light.
Only 9mm thick
£12.65

Guaranteed same day dispatch



M4

**MULTI ALARM
6 Digits
10 Functions**

- ★ Hours mins, secs
- ★ Month, date, day
- ★ Basic alarm
- ★ Memory date alarm
- ★ Timer alarm with dual time and 5 country zone
- ★ Back light
- ★ 8mm thick

£18.65



M5

**FRONT-BUTTON ALARM
Chrono Dual Time**

6 digits, 5 flags, 22 functions
Constant display of hours and mins. plus optional seconds or date display.
AM / PM indication.
Month, date.
Continuous display of day.
Stop-watch to 12 hours 59.9 secs. in 1/10 second steps
Split and lap timing modes.
Dual time zones.
Only 8mm thick
Back-light.

£22.65

Guaranteed same day dispatch.



M6

**SOLAR QUARTZ LCD
Chronograph with Alarm
Dual Time Zone Facility**

6 digits, 5 flags, 22 functions.
Solar panel with battery back-up.
6 basic functions stop-watch to 12 hours 59.9 secs. in 1/10 sec. steps.
Split and lap timing modes.
Dual time zones
Alarm.
9mm thick
Back-light.
Fully adjustable bracelet.

£27.95



M7

**ALARM CHRONO
with 9 World
Time Zones**

- ★ 6 digits, 5 flags
- ★ 6 basic functions
- ★ 8 further time zones
- ★ Count-down alarm.
- ★ Stop-watch to 12 hours 59.9 secs. in 1/10 sec. steps
- ★ Split and lap timing modes
- ★ Alarm
- ★ 9mm thick
- ★ Back-light
- ★ Fully adjustable bracelet

£29.65



M8

**SOLAR QUARTZ LCD
Chronograph**

Powered from solar panel with battery back-up
6 digit, 11 functions
Hours, mins., secs., day, date, day of week
1/100th, 1/10th secs.
10X secs., mins.
Split and lap modes
Back light Auto calendar Only 8mm thick
Stainless steel bracelet and back
Adjustable bracelet
Metac Price

£13.65

Guaranteed same day dispatch



M9

**LADIES DAY WATCH
QUARTZ LCD**

Ladies Day Watch only 25 x 20mm and 6mm thick.
Hours, minutes, seconds, day, date, backlight and auto calendar.
Elegant metal bracelet in silver or gold fully adjustable to suit very slim wrists.
State colour preference.

£9.95

Guaranteed same day despatch



M15

**LADIES FASHION WATCH
QUARTZ LCD**

Lady's Fashion Watch. Elegant bracelet in bronze / gold finish or silver colour. Hours, minutes, seconds, day, date, backlight and auto calendar.
Adjustable for the slimmest of wrists.

State colour preference.

£14.95

Guaranteed same day despatch



M17

**LADIES COCKTAIL WATCH
QUARTZ LCD**

Lady's Cocktail Watch
Highly functional watch which also suits those special occasions. Beautifully designed with a very thin bracelet which retains strength as well as elegance. Hours, mins, secs., day, date, backlight and auto calendar.
Bracelet fully adjustable to suit slim wrists.
State gold or silver finish.

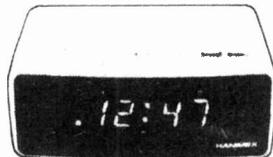
£19.95

Guaranteed same day despatch



M18

**HANIMEX
Electronic
LED Alarm Clock**



Features and Specification
Hour/minute display. Large LED display with p.m. and alarm on indicator. 24 Hours alarm with on/off control. Display flashing for power/loss indication. Repeatable 9 minute snooze. Display in 12/24 hour modes control. Size: 5 15" x 3 93" x 2 36" (131mm x 111mm x 60mm)
Weight: 1 43 lbs (10 65 kg)

£10.20 Thousands sold!

Mains operated

Guaranteed same day despatch

M13

**EXECUTIVE
ALARM WATCH**

6 functions plus alarm: Conference signal, 5 minute snooze alarm. Conference signal sounds 4 secs. before main alarm to give advance warning and option to cancel. Snooze sounds 5 mins. after main alarm and is always preceded by the conference signal.

£14.95

M60



**MACY QUARTZ
ANALOGUE**

Automatic calendar day and date, infinite bracelet. This man's watch has elegance as well as the robust appearance provided by a watch with traditional features. Accuracy is provided by a quartz crystal powered by a long life miniature battery.

£24.95

M21



Metac price break-through for an Alarm Chronograph with Dual Time
Only **£16.95**



OUTSTANDING FEATURES

- ★ **DUAL TIME.** Local time always visible and you can set and recall any other time zone (such as GMT). Also has a light for night viewing
- ★ **CALENDAR FUNCTIONS** include the date and day in each time zone.
- ★ **CHRONOGRAPH/STOPWATCH** displays up to 12 hours, 59 minutes and 59.9 seconds.
On command, stopwatch display freezes to show intermediate (split/lap) time while stopwatch continues to run. Can also switch to and from timekeeping and stopwatch modes without affecting either's operation.
- ★ **ALARM** can be set to any time within a 24-hour period. At the designated time, a pleasant, but effective buzzer sounds to remind or awaken you!

Guaranteed same day despatch **M16**

HOW TO ORDER

Payment can be made by sending cheque, postal order, Barclay, Access or American Express card numbers. Write your name, address and order details clearly, enclose 40 pence per single item for post and packing or the amount stated in the advert. All products carry 1 year written guarantee and full money-back 10 day reassurance. Battery fitting and electronic calibration service is available to customers at any Metac shop. All prices include VAT currently at 15%.

Metac Wholesale:

Trade enquiries — send for a complete list of prices for all the goods advertised plus many more not shown, also minimum order details.

Telephone orders. Credit card customers can telephone orders direct to Daventry (03272) 76545 or Edgware Road 01-723 4753 24 hours a day.

Service Enquiries: 03272-77659

CALLERS WELCOME. Shops open 9.30am-6.00pm.



Metac

**ELECTRONICS
& TIME CENTRES**

North & Midlands
67 High Street, DAVENTRY
Northamptonshire
Telephone: 03272 76545

South of England
327 Edgware Road
LONDON W.2
Telephone: (01) 723 4753

SEIKO MEMORY BANK

Calendar watch M354
Hours, mins., secs.
Month, day, date in
12 or 24 hour format
all indicated continuously.
Monthly calendar display
month, year and all dates
or any selected month over
80 year period.
Memory bank function.
Any desired dates up to 11
can be stored in advance.
2 year battery life.
Water resistant.



Metac Price **£79.50** **M11**

SEIKO ALARM CHRONOGRAPH

With WEEKLY Alarm.
Hours, mins, Secs.
month, date, day,
am/pm.
Weekly alarm — can
be set for every day at
designated time, e.g.
6.30am on Mon.,
Wed. and Friday.
Alarm set time
displayed above time
of day.
Full stopwatch
functions, laptime,
split, etc.



Price **£89.95** **M10**

SEIKO MELODY ALARM CHRONOGRAPH

Chiming Alarm, plus
chrono. Hours, mins,
secs, date, day,
24-hour alarm, 12
hour chronograph,
1/10th secs, laptime,
back light, stainless
steel, mineral glass.

Metac Price **£92.95** **M19**

SEIKO CALCULATOR WATCH

Full specification
calculator with
memory, plus multi
function watch.
Hours, mins, secs,
day, date, backlight.
Automatic calendar.
Long-life battery.



Price **£96.20** **M27**

CASIO CHRONO 95QS-3LB

Stainless steel case,
water resistant to 66
feet. Hours, mins, secs,
am/pm, year, month,
date, day. Auto-calendar
pre-programmed until
year 2029. 12/24 hour
stopwatch function.
Range 7 hours, 1/100
sec. (Mode). Net
time/lap-time/1st-2nd
place times. Dual time
function. Accuracy
15secs. per month.
Battery life approx. 4
years.



Price **£22.95** **M22**

CASIO LADIES 86CL-23B-1

Elegant slim line stainless
steel bracelet, fully
adjustable. Hours, mins,
10 sec. symbol second by
flash, am/pm. Month,
date, day. Auto-calendar
pre-programmed for 28th
day in Feb. Accuracy per
month 15 secs., battery life
approx. 15 months.



Price **£29.95** **M23**

CASIO F-200 SPORTS CHRONO

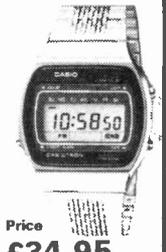
Attractive man's watch
in black resin with
mineral glass. Hours,
mins, secs, am/pm.
Month, date,
alpha-numeric day.
Auto-calendar set 28th
Feb. Stopwatch
working range 1 hour
units 1/100 sec.
Mode. Net time/lap
time/1st-2nd place
times. Accuracy
approx. 15 secs. per
month. Battery 12
months.



Price **£14.95** **M24**

CASIO ALARM CHRONO 81CS-36B

Hours, mins, secs,
day, and also day,
month and year
perpetual automatic
calendar. 100th sec.
chronograph to 7
hours. Net time/lap
time/1st and 2nd
place times. User
optional 12/24 hr.
display. 24 Alarm.
User optional, hourly
chime. Backlight,
mineral glass, stainless
steel. Water resistant
to 100ft. Battery life
approx. 4 years.



Price **£34.95** **M25**

BELTIME CHRONOGRAPH

9 Functions
Hours, mins, secs,
day, date, month,
interchange feature,
automatic calendar,
backlight, net time/lap
time. Stainless steel
bracelet. Battery life 1
year.



Price **£14.95** **M34**

BELTIME MULTI ALARM

29 Functions
Hours, mins, secs,
date, day, Alarm,
chronograph, light
Watch 8 functions,
Alarm 4 functions,
chronograph 17
functions. Stainless
steel bracelet.



Price **£29.95** **M35**

CASIO F-8C

3 Year Battery Life

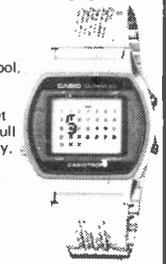
Hours, mins, secs,
am/pm, date, day.
Auto calendar set
28th Feb. Stopwatch
function. Accuracy 15
secs. per month.
Battery life approx. 3
years.



Price **£9.95** **M36**

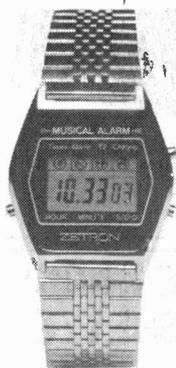
CASIO CALENDAR 200

47CS-23B-1Black
Stainless steel. Hours,
mins, 10 second symbol,
second (by flash),
am/pm. Month, day,
date. Auto calendar set
from 1901 to 2009. Full
month calendar display,
dual time function.
Accuracy 10 secs. per
month. Battery life
approx. 15 months



Price **£59.95** **M37**

MELODY MULTI-ALARM CHRONOGRAPH



Hours, mins, secs, day date, countdown
alarm, dual time zone, 1/100th sec
stopwatch Lap/split time. 1st and 2nd
place times. Melody test function

Price **£26.95** **M30**

DUAL TIME-ALARM CHRONOGRAPH



Incorporating module of world-famous
Japanese watch manufacture. Hours,
mins, secs, day of week, month, day and
date, 24 hour alarm, 12 hour chrono-
graph, 1/10th secs, lap time, backlight,
stainless steel case and bracelet, mineral
glass, battery hatch, long life battery

Price **£35.00** **M12**

PICOQUARTZ MICROPROCESSOR ALARM CHRONOGRAPH



Multi-language — day of the week can be
set to English, French, German, Italian or
Spanish. Chime — every full hour com-
bined with a response signal, beeping at
every pressing of the functions. Can be
switched off 12-24 hour format, back-
light, Chrono — 1 full-scale chrono with
lap, counting hours, up to 24 hours
Minutes, secs, 1/100th secs Two Alarm
systems. Two time zones.

Price **£37.95** **M32**

SEIKO CHRONOGRAPH



Hours, mins, secs and day of the week.
Month, date and day of the week. Stop-
watch display Hours, mins, secs up to 12
hours (minutes, secs, 1/100 secs up to
20 minutes) Lap timing, continuous time
measurement of two competitors. Stain-
less steel, mineral glass

Price **£56.00** **M33**

Metac

ELECTRONICS
& TIME CENTRES

North & Midlands
67 High Street, DAVENTRY
Northamptonshire
Telephone: 03272 76545

South of England
327 Edgware Road
LONDON W.2
Telephone: (01) 723 4753

DIGITAL CLOCK RADIO



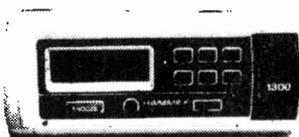
Mains. AM/FM/LW radio. Green digital display. Snooze alarm. Auto switch off. Clock dimmer. External FM Aerial.

£19.95

plus £1.30 Post & Packing

M40

Portable LCD Clock Radio

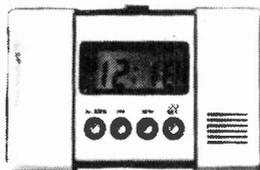


- ★ Back-light.
- ★ Batteries supplied free.
- ★ Quartz crystal controlled.

£17.95

M41

DIGITAL CLOCK LCD Travel



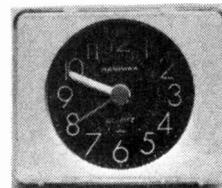
Hours, mins. 24 hour time and Alarm. Snooze timer. Large 12.5mm display. Night light. Size: 120mm x 74mm x 19mm.

Weight: 120 grams.

£17.65

M42

QUARTZ ANALOGUE CLOCK TRAVEL

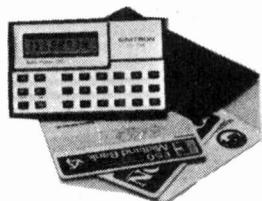


Mini Quartz Alarm clock. Complete with travel pouch. Features loud alarm and operates from 1½ volt battery.

£9.95

M43

LCD Calculator



Credit Card size
Memory % ect plus auto power off.

£7.95

M44

Digital Clock / Alarm / Calculator / Stopwatch

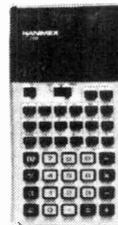


Calculator with % and memory. Continuous clock with hours, mins., secs., day, month, day of week, Alarm, Stopwatch, split-time. 1 year battery. Leatherette wallet.

£17.95

M45

LCD CALCULATOR SCIENTIFIC



8-digit mantissa. 2-digit exponent electronic calculator on one single chip.

Functions-SIN, COS, TAN, SIN-1, COS-1, Tan-1, SINH, COSH, TANH, e^x, 10^x, Ln, Log, Y^x, 1/x.

Statistical functions

£16.95

M46

LCD CALCULATOR CASIO MELODY 80

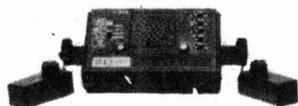


Full calculator spec 3 independent musical alarms time, stop-watch, count-down timer

£23.95

M47

TV GAMES



Black & White or Colour. 4 game, 2 ball speed, 2 ball angles, 2 battery sizes. Tennis, Hockey, Football, Handball, Practice.

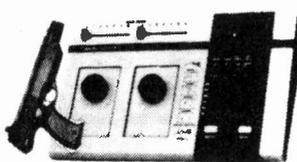
£11.95 Colour

£8.95 B/W

plus 54p Post & Packing

M48

TV GAME WITH GUN



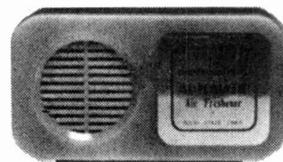
Colour. 6 games. Moving target, Football, Target, Tennis, Squash, Practice. Battery or main.

£17.95

plus £1.25 Post & Packing.

M49

AIR FRESHENER Electronic



Timer can be set to emit nice-smells when required or running permanently to remove really bad smells. Battery operated.

Price £4.95

M50

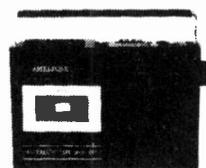
DIGITAL CLOCK

LED Display.
Features Hours/ mins.
Display Alarm with snooze.
Mains operated excellent value for money. Compact size only 6 in x 2½ in x 3 in.

£6.95

M51

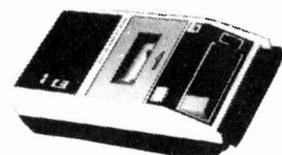
RADIO / CASSETTE 3-Band / LW-MW-FM



Auto stop. DC6V, AC Power 220V. Built-in condenser microphone. High power output.

M52

RADIO / CASSETTE 1-Band / MW



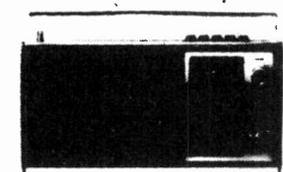
Condenser microphone. Battery or AC. Pushbutton key operation. Auto level control. Retractable handle. Eject equipment.

£17.95

plus £2.00 Post & Packing

M53

MAINS / BATTERY Portable Radio



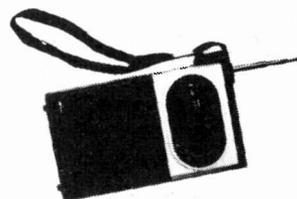
4 Bands, LW/MW/SW/FM. Teak finish case.

£19.95

plus 85p Post & Packing

M54

AIRCRAFT RADIO



AM/FM.
Receives Police / Aircraft frequencies. Battery operation. Retractable aerial.

£9.95

M55

RADIO CONTROLLED CAR

Formula One Racer.
4 function, forward, reverse, steering left to right. No wires, remote control.

£19.95

M56

MODEL CAR RADIO

Scale model car incorporating single band radio. Excellent quality sound with clever design of controls incorporated in the car components.

£5.95

M57

ELECTRIC CAR AERIAL

Sonix automatic motor antenna. 5 sections. One meter in length. Excellent value at

£10.95

M58

CAR RADIO/ CASSETTE

2 band car radio/stereo cassette player. Long and Medium waveband coverage. Rotary controls for on-off/volume, tone, balance and tuning. Push-button control for cassette eject and fast forward wind. Output 2 x 3 Watts (music) 12 volts.

£34.95

M59

Metac

ELECTRONICS
& TIME CENTRES

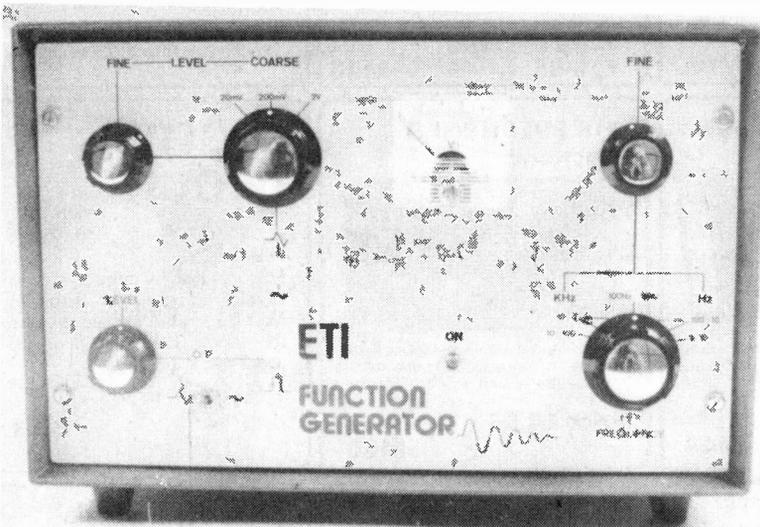
North & Midlands
67 High Street, DAVENTRY
Northamptonshire
Telephone: 03272 76545

South of England
327 Edgware Road
LONDON W.2
Telephone: (01) 723 4753

FUNCTION GENERATOR

A wide range (1 Hz - 100 kHz) sine/triangle and square wave generator with built-in analogue frequency meter.

A really nice piece of test gear from ETI.



The main characteristic of a function generator is that it produces a basic fixed-amplitude waveform other than a sine wave, from which a fixed-amplitude sine wave is then synthesised. The main advantage of this technique is that the resulting output waveforms of the generator are immune to amplitude 'bounce' when they are swept through their frequency ranges, thus enabling amplifier or filter gain/frequency tests, etc. to be carried out very rapidly. The only disadvantage of the technique is that the resulting sine wave has an inherently higher degree of distortion than is obtainable from good 'Wien bridge' and similar 'tuned' oscillator circuits.

The ETI function generator produces three output waveforms (sine, triangle and square) and covers the frequency range 1 Hz to 100 kHz in five decade ranges. The sine wave output typically produces a THD (total

harmonic distortion) value of only 0.5%, has a maximum amplitude of 2 volts rms, and is ideal for general purpose testing. The triangle output has a typical linearity of 1%, a maximum peak-to-peak amplitude of 5V6 and is ideal for cross-over distortion testing of class-AB amplifiers, etc. The square wave output is positive-going, has a maximum peak amplitude of 8 volts, has typical rise and fall times of less than 200 nS and is ideal for testing digital circuits. All output waveforms of the generator are DC coupled, with the sine and triangle waveforms swinging symmetrically about the zero volts line.

Our function generator incorporates a number of additional, very attractive features. It has a built-in analogue frequency meter, for ease of calibration. It has two output terminals, each with its own attenuator network. A sine or triangle waveform is available from one output and a

PARTS LIST

RESISTORS All 1/4W, 5%

R1,2,14	10k
R3,17	1k0
R4,5,10	2k2
R6,7,9	22k
R8	470R
R11,18	100R
R12,13,15,	47R
I6	
R19	11R

POTENTIOMETERS

RV1,2	47k cermet multiturn (3/4")
RV3	22k cermet multiturn (3/4")
RV4	470R cermet multiturn (3/4")
RV5	4k7 cermet multiturn (3/4")
RV6	100k lin dual gang
RV7-10	10k
RV11	100k cermet multiturn (3/4")
RV12,13	1k0 lin

CAPACITORS

C1,2	100u 25V electrolytic
C3,9	150p polystyrene
C4,13	10n polyester
C5,10,14,11	100n polyester
C6,15	1u0 polycarbonate
C7,8	10u 25V electrolytic
C12	1n0 polystyrene

SEMICONDUCTORS

IC1	XR2206CP
C2	NE555
Q1,3	BC182L
Q2,4	BC212L
D1-3	1N4148
ZD1	BZY885V6

MISCELLANEOUS

SW1	DPDT (PCB type) toggle.
SW2	4 pole 5 way wafer switch assembly and 2 PCB wafers (2 pole 6 way)
SW3	DPDT toggle
SW4	1 pole 3 way rotary switch

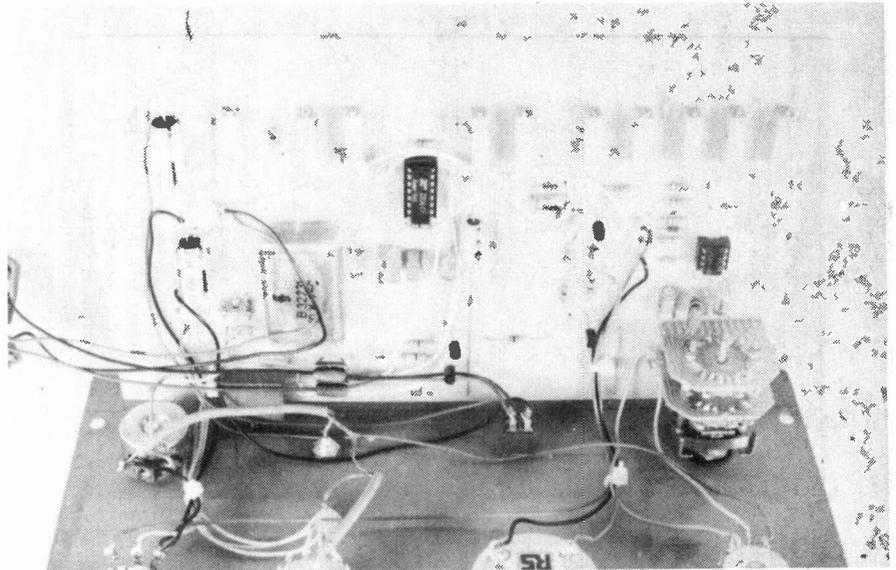
2 BNC connectors, 2 PP7 batteries, case to suit, PCB.

square wave is available from the other. The square wave output is available at all times, is synchronous with the sine/triangle waveform and can thus be used to provide synchronisation signals to an oscilloscope timebase during sine wave testing, etc. The unit is battery powered, for maximum user convenience.

A fine unusual feature is that the frequency ranges are alternately contra-connected, so that to increase frequency you turn the 'fine' control clockwise on one range, anticlockwise on the next range and clockwise on the next range, etc. This facility enables the frequency to be swept through several decades very rapidly when testing the frequency response of amplifiers and filters, etc. As we said in the introduction, this is a really nice piece of test gear.

Construction

Most of the circuit is built up on a single large PCB. Various points should be noted before starting construction. First, note that 4-pole 5-way range switch SW1 is mounted directly on the PCB and in fact is a 6-way PCB type (see Buylines) with one of the 'ways' unused. The next point to note is that the C6 (1u0) and C7 (10u) main timing capacitors are non-electrolytic types. We obtained ours from Electrovalue.



SPECIFICATION

Frequency range

Output waveforms:

Sine: distortion (typical)

Triangle: linearity (typical)

Square: rise/fall times (typical)

Waveform stability (typical)

Maximum output levels (with 9-0-9 V supply).

Supply

Total current consumption

1 Hz to 100 kHz in 5 decade ranges.

0.5% at 1 kHz.

1% at 1 kHz.

less than 200 nS.

.002% per °C.

.01%/V supply sensitivity.

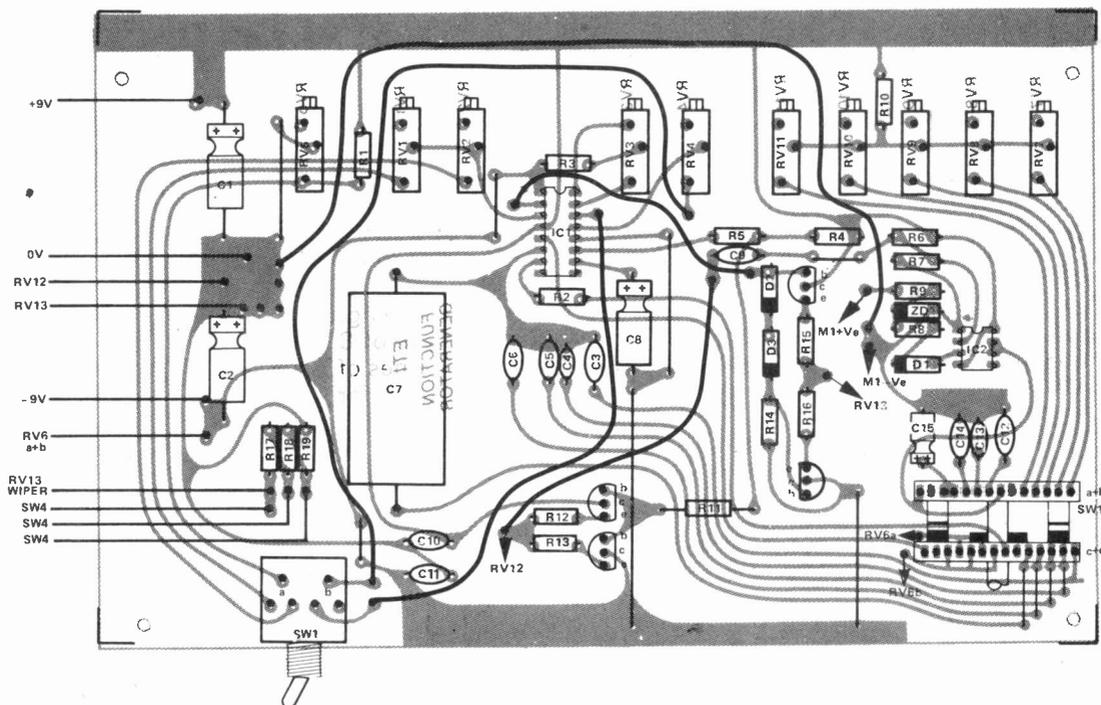
Sine = 2 V rms.

Triangle = 5V6 pk-pk.

Square = 8 V peak.

Two 9 V batteries.

30 mA typical.



At this stage access to a distortion meter is desirable, so that RV3 and RV4 can be trimmed for minimum distortion. With care, a thd figure of 0.5% can be obtained. In the absence of a distortion meter, the simple twin-T 1 kHz filter of Fig. 2 can be used in conjunction with the oscilloscope or with a millivoltmeter to set the generator for minimum distortion at 1 kHz. The procedure is to apply the sine wave output of the generator to the input of the filter at about 1 volt rms at approximately 1 kHz and take the output of the filter to the input of the 'scope or millivoltmeter. Next, adjust the generator frequency and R4 of the filter to give minimum output indication and, finally, adjust RV3 and RV4 of the generator to reduce the output indication of the filter to the minimum possible value. At final balance, the output of the filter corresponds to approximately 0.1% thd per mV rms of indicated reading, ie if the indicator shows a reading of 5 mV rms, the thd of the generator approximates 0.5%. Now retrim OFFSET control RV5. The sine wave calibration procedure is then complete.

- (3). Set the unit to TRIANGLE mode. Monitor the waveform on the 'scope and adjust RV2 for a pk-pk amplitude of 5V6.
- (4). Check that the unit is functional on all ranges, in all waveform modes.
- (5). Switch the unit to its top frequency range, set the output frequency to 100 kHz and adjust RV7 for full scale deflection. If necessary, slightly reduce the value of C3 so that 100 kHz can be obtained.
- (6). Repeat the frequency calibration procedure on all ranges, using the

appropriate pre-set (RV8 to RV11), noting that a very 'Jerky' reading will be obtained on the lowest (1 Hz to 10 Hz) range. The calibration procedure is then complete, and the unit is ready for use.

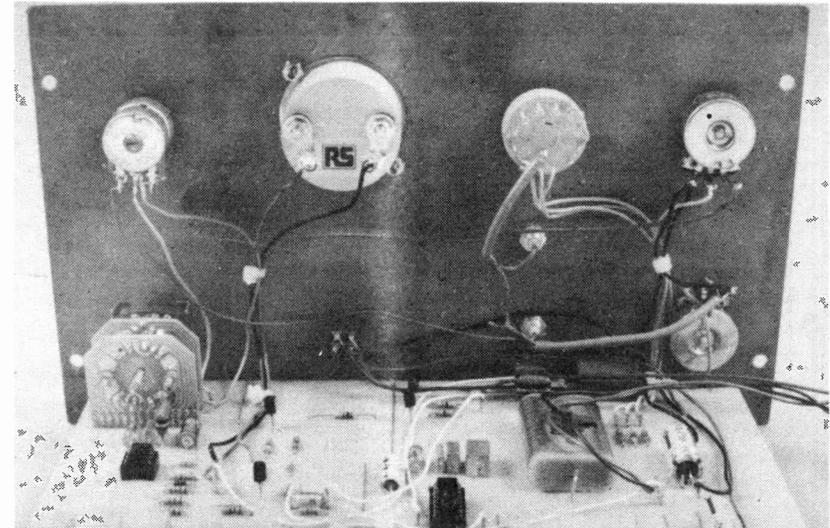
A final point to note is that we used 10-turn cermet for all pre-sets on our prototype unit. A slight touch of luxury, this. You can get away with ordinary presets, if you prefer, but in this case you'll have to make slight modifications to the PCB.

Actual construction on the PCB is fairly straightforward, but take extra care to observe the polarities of all electrolytics and all semiconductor devices. When construction is complete, fit the board into a suitable case and complete the interwiring to the remaining switches, pots and to the moving coil meter. The unit is then ready for testing and calibration.

CALIBRATION

Calibration of the unit is fairly tricky and requires access to an oscilloscope and some kind of frequency reference (you can use the 'scope timebase as a reference if it is known to be reasonably accurate). The calibration procedure is as follows:

- (1). Set the unit to the SINE mode. Set the attenuator controls for maximum output. Set the frequency controls for approximately 1 kHz on the 1-10 kHz range. Set all pre-set pots at mid value. Switch the unit on, and use a 'scope to check that some kind of waveform is available (the waveform may be pretty awful at this stage). Check that the frequency is variable via RV6.
- (2). Reset RV6 for a 1 kHz output and adjust RV1 for a pk-pk amplitude of about 5V6. Adjust RV4 for a 'passable' sine wave, and then readjust RV1 for 5V6. Now alternately adjust RV4 for MINIMUM DISTOR-



Rear view of the front panel controls.

HOW IT WORKS

There is not an enormous amount we can say here, since most of the work of the circuit is carried out inside IC1, which is a special function generator chip that produces a square wave output from pin 11 and a sine or triangle wave from pin 2. The purity of the sine wave can be trimmed via RV3 and RV4 and the maximum amplitude can be pre-set via RV1. The maximum triangle amplitude can be pre-set via RV2 and both waveforms can be offset via RV5. The sine/triangle waveforms are made available to the outside world via buffer amplifier Q3-Q4 and the associated attenuator network. The square wave is made available, in positive-going form only, via the Q1-Q2 buffer and RV12.

The operating frequency of the generator is variable via timing capacitors C3 to C7 and via resistor network R2-RV6. The frequency is monitored on a simple analogue frequency meter that is designed around 555 timer IC2, which is triggered via the square wave output of the Q1-Q2 buffer amplifier.

The entire circuit is powered from two 9 volt batteries, and the circuit consumes a typical total current of about 30 mA.

TION and RV3 for best SYMMETRY, occasionally readjusting RV1 for 5V6 pk-pk until a good sine wave is produced. Adjust RV5 for zero offset (so that the output waveform swings symmetrically about the zero volts level) and retrim RV3 and RV4 for a good sine wave.

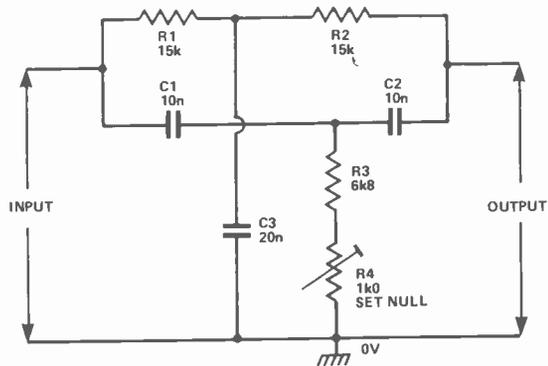


Fig. 2 This simple twin-T filter can be used to set the generator for minimum distortion.

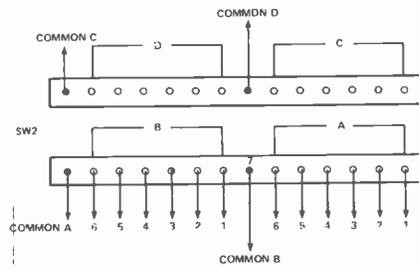
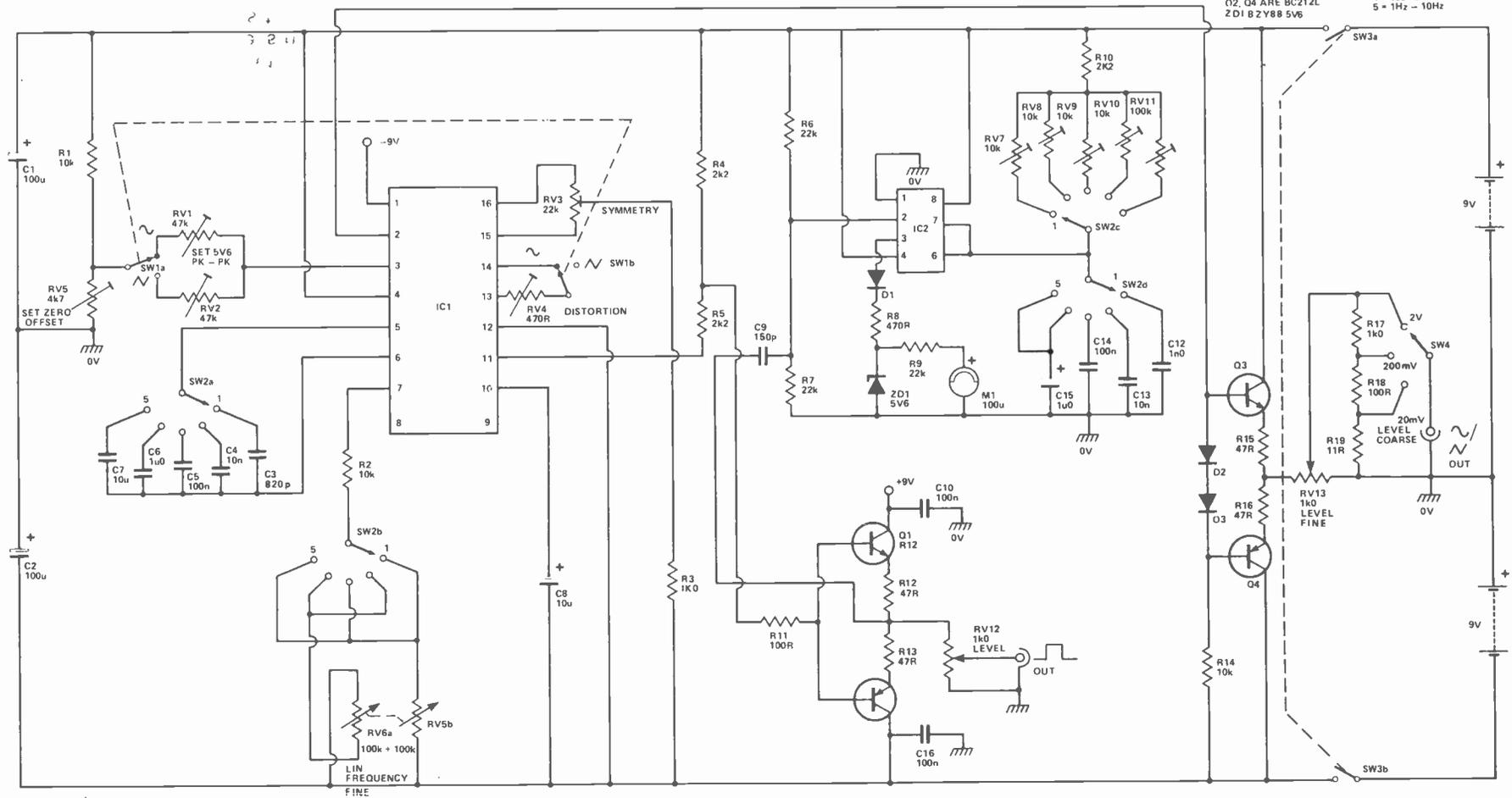


Fig 3 Range switch wafer pin-out.

BUYLINES

The 10u (C7) capacitor can be purchased from Electrovalue Ltd. All other components used in the function generator should be readily available from major mail order companies that advertise in this issue.



- NOTES:
 IC1 IS XR2206CP
 IC2 IS NE555
 D1-D3 ARE 1N4148
 Q1, Q3 ARE BC182L
 Q2, Q4 ARE BC212L
 ZD1 B ZY88 5V6
- SW2 POSITIONS:
 1 = 10kHz - 100kHz
 2 = 10kHz - 1kHz
 3 = 100Hz - 1kHz
 4 = 100Hz - 10Hz
 5 = 1Hz - 10Hz

Fig. 4 Circuit diagram.

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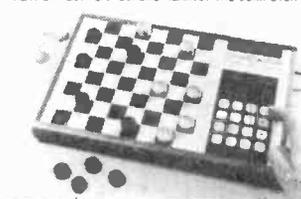
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VFET APPLICATIONS

Is the VMOS power FET a really important device, or a mere flash-in-the-pan? In the next few pages

Project Editor Ray Marston appraises the device.

IMAGINE a power transistor that has virtually infinite input impedance, 'beta', and power gain which has a bandwidth extending from DC to 600 MHz and which can switch 1 A on or off in a mere four nanoseconds. Imagine also that this device is immune to secondary breakdown and has a negative temperature coefficient that minimises thermal runaway problems and enables devices to be directly paralleled for increased power handling capability.

The above 'miracle' device already exists, and is readily available at fairly low cost. It is known as a VMOS Power FET. VMOS Power FETs were first introduced by Siliconix in 1976. At that time they were hailed as "the most revolutionary semiconductor in decades — likely to eliminate bipolars within five years". Now, three years on, VMOS still hasn't made a great impact on the industrial or consumer market.

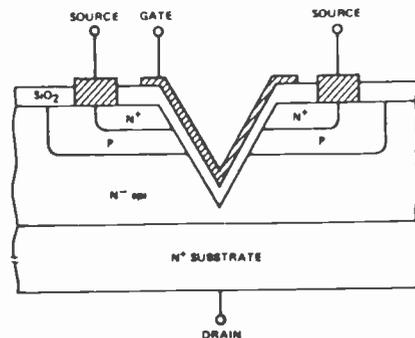


Fig 2. Cross Section of a VMOS power FET.

with maximum continuous drain current ratings ranging from a modest 500 mA up to a hefty 12A5, and with maximum drain-to-source voltage ratings ranging from 35 to 90V. All the products in their present VMOS range are n-channel enhancement-mode devices, in which the source-to-drain path is normally closed but can be opened by applying a positive gate voltage. The gate has a near-infinite input impedance.

A major defect of the existing VMOS technology is that it is not readily compatible with the production of p-channel devices. This factor greatly reduces the devices' attractions in audio power amplifier applications, where class-AB output stages are currently in vogue.

A more detailed account of VMOS construction and operation theory is given in the July '78 edition of ETI.

What Is It?

The term 'VMOS power FET' stands for 'Vertical structured Metal-Oxide Silicon power Field-Effect Transistor'. Conventional MOSFETs use the form of construction shown in Figure 1, in which current flows *horizontally* from source to drain through the channel, which is induced on the top surface of the silicon substrate. This form of structure results in low current densities, poor heat dissipation capabilities, very limited power handling capacity and relatively large chip capacitance.

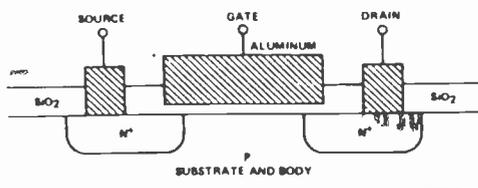


Fig 1. Cross Section of a conventional FET.

VMOS power FETs, on the other hand, use the form of structure shown in Figure 2, in which current flows *vertically* from source to drain. This structure results in high current densities, low saturation resistance, excellent heat dissipation and power handling capabilities, low chip capacitance and excellent wide band performance.

VMOS power FET technology has been pioneered by Siliconix, who currently produce a variety of such devices

Characteristics

Figure 3 shows typical output and saturation characteristics of the type VN67AF VMOS power FET. Note the following points:

1 The device passes negligible drain current until the gate voltage reaches a threshold value of approximately 1 volt. The drain current then increases non-linearly as the gate is varied up to approximately 4 volts, at which point the drain current has a value of about 400 mA. The device, in fact, has square law transfer characteristics below 400mA.

2 The device has a highly linear transfer characteristic above 400mA (4V on the gate) and thus offers great potential as a low-distortion class-A power amplifier.

3 The drain current is controlled almost entirely by the gate voltage and is almost independent of the drain voltage so long as the device is not saturated. A point not shown in the diagram is that, for a given value of gate voltage, the

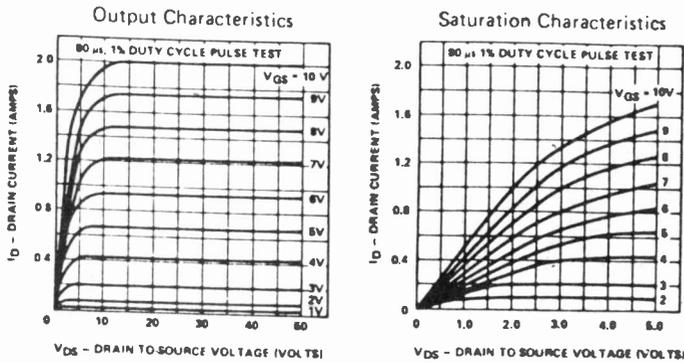


Fig 3. Output and saturation characteristics of the VN67AF VMOS power FET.

drain current has a negative temperature coefficient of about 0.7% per °C so that the drain current decreases as temperature rises. This characteristic gives a fair degree of protection against thermal runaway.

4 When the device is saturated (switched fully on) the drain-to-source path acts as an almost pure resistance with a value controlled by the gate voltage. The resistance value is typically 2R0 when 10 volts are on the gate, and 10R when 2 volts are on the gate. The off resistance of the device is in the order of megohms. These characteristics make the device highly suitable for use as a low-distortion high-speed analogue power switch.

Figure 4 shows the circuit symbol and the case outline of the VN67AF, which incorporates a 15V input-protection

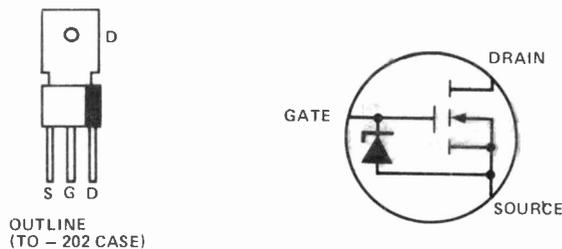


Fig 4. Symbol and outline of the VN67AF.

Zener and Fig. 5 summarises the static and dynamic characteristics of the device. Points to note here are that the input (gate-to-source) signal must not be allowed to exceed the 15V Zenering of the device and that the device has a typical dynamic input capacitance of only 50 p: this capacitance dictates the dynamic input impedance of the device. The static input impedance is of the order of a million megohms.

Digital Circuits

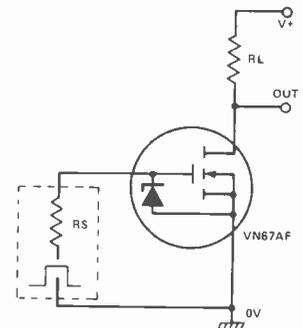
VMOS is delightfully easy to use in digital switching and amplifier applications. Figure 6 shows the basic connections. The load is wired between the drain and the positive supply rail and the digital input signal is fed directly to the gate. Switch-off occurs when the input goes below the gate threshold value (typically 1V2). The drain on current is determined by the peak amplitude of the gate signal, as shown in Figure 3, unless saturation occurs. In most digital applications the on current should be chosen to ensure saturation.

↑ STATIC ↓	Maximum Drain-Source Voltage	60V
	Maximum Drain-Gate Voltage	60V
	Maximum Continuous Drain Current	2.0 A
	Maximum Pulsed Drain Current	3.0 A
	Maximum Continuous Forward Gate Current	2 mA
	Maximum Pulsed Forward Gate Current	100 mA
	Maximum Continuous Reverse Gate Current	100 mA
	Maximum Forward Gate-Source (Zener) Voltage	15V
	Maximum Reverse Gate-Source Voltage	-0.3V
	Maximum Dissipation at 25°C Case Temperature	15W
	Temperature Operating and Storage Range	-40 to +150°C
	Gate Threshold Voltage	0.8V min, 1.2V typical
	Zero Gate Voltage Drain Current	10μA Max at 25°C
	ON-state Drain Current at $V_{GS}=10V$	1.0A min, 2.0A typical
	Forward Transconductance	250 millimhos typical
↑ DYNAMIC ↓	Input Capacitance	50pF typical
	Reverse Transfer Capacitance	10pF typical
	Common-Source Output Capacitance	50pF typical
	Typical switching times, 25 volt supply 23R load, 0-10V gate drive from a 50R source	Turn-ON Delay 2 nS Rise Time 2 nS Turn-OFF Delay 2 nS Fall Time 2 nS

Fig 5. Summary of the static and dynamic characteristics of the VN67AF.

The static input impedance of VMOS is virtually infinite, so zero drive power is required to maintain the VN67AF in the on or off state. Drive power is, however, required to switch the device from one state to the other. This power is absorbed in charging or discharging the 50p input capacitance of the VN67AF.

Fig 6. Basic VMOS digital switch or amplifier.



The rise and fall times of the output of the circuit are determined by the source impedance of the input signal, the input capacitance and forward transconductance of the VMOS device and the value of R_L . If R_L is large compared to R_S the VN67AF gives rise and fall times of roughly 0.11 nS per ohm of R_S resistance. Thus, a 100R source impedance gives an 11 nS rise or fall time.

If R_L is not large compared to R_S these times may be considerably changed. A point to note when driving the VN67AF is that its input Zener forward and reverse ratings must never be exceeded. Also, because of the very high frequency response of VMOS, the device is prone to unwanted oscillations if circuitry is improperly designed. Gate leads should be kept short, or be protected with a ferrite bead or small resistor in series with the gate.

VMOS can be interfaced directly with the output of CMOS, as shown in Figure 7. Rise and fall times of about 60 nS can be expected, due to the limited output currents available from a single CMOS gate. Rise and fall times can be reduced by driving the VMOS from a number of CMOS gates in parallel, as shown in Figure 8, or by using a special high-current driver.

VMOS can be interfaced with TTL (either standard or LS type) by using a pull-up resistor on the TTL output, as shown in Figure 9. The 5 volt TTL output of this circuit is

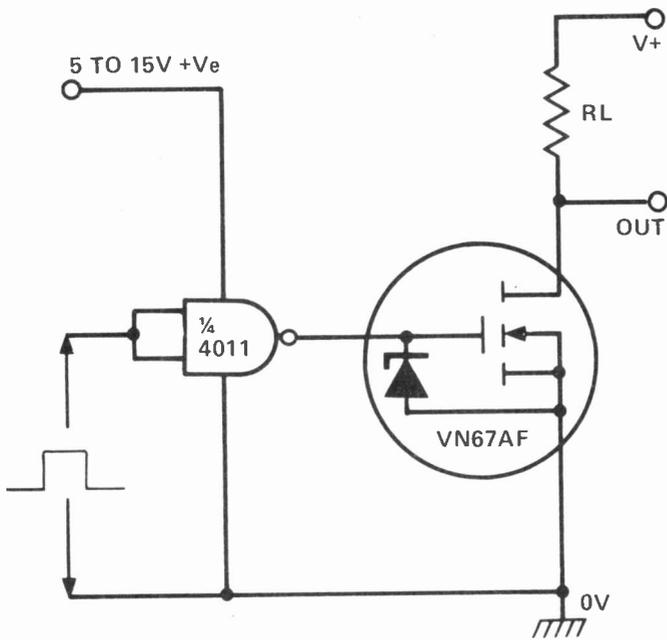


Fig 7. Method of interfacing VMOS with CMOS!

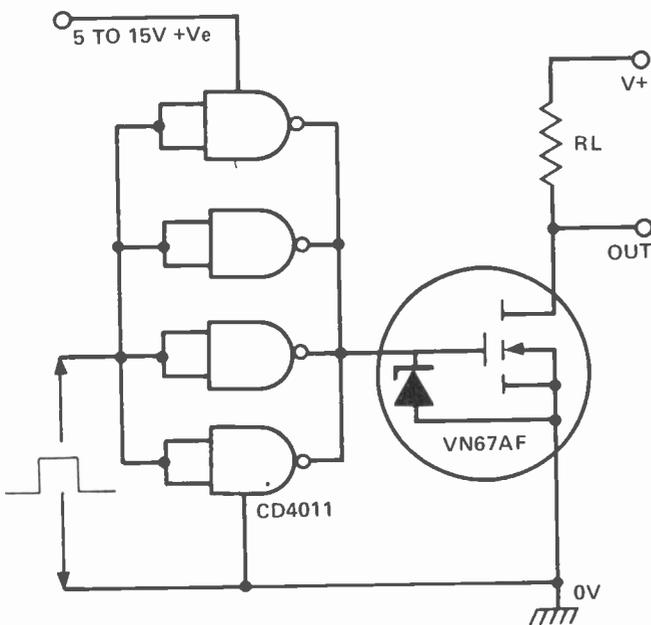


Fig 8. VMOS switching times can be reduced by driving with a number of gates in parallel. Typical $R_T = 25 \text{ nS}$.

sufficient to drive 600 mA through a single VN67AF. Higher currents can be obtained either by wiring a level shifter between the TTL output and the VN67AF input, or by wiring a number of VN67AFs in parallel as shown in Figure 10.

Analogue Circuits

VMOS power FETs can be used with relative ease in either the common source or common drain (voltage follower) modes. The voltage gain in the common source mode is equal to the product of R_L and the device's g_m or forward transconductance. In the case of the VN67AF, the device gives a voltage gain of 0.25 per ohm of R_L value, i.e., a gain of 4.0 with 16R load, or a gain of 25 with a 100R load. The voltage gain in the common drain mode is slightly less than unity.

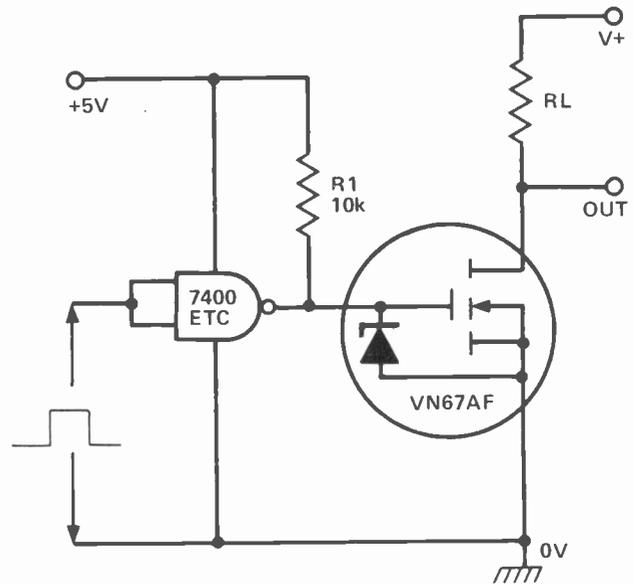


Fig 9. VMOS can be driven from the output of TTL if a pull-up resistor (R_1) is used.

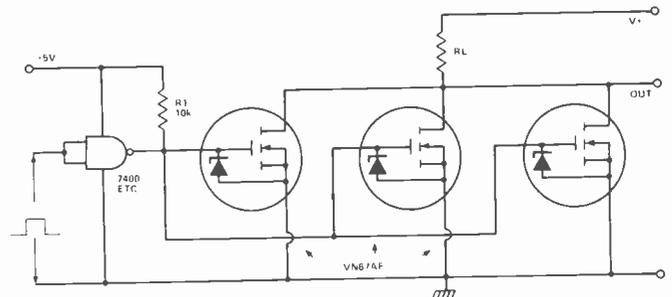


Fig 10. Boosting the output of Fig 9 by driving three VN67AF in parallel.

Fig. 11 shows three alternative basic ways of biasing the VMOS power FET for common source operation. In most practical applications, the device will be biased into the linear mode, with the drain at a quiescent value of approximately $V_{\text{supply}}/2$, so that maximal signal swings can be accommodated between the cut-off and saturation clipping levels.

In Fig 11a the gate is biased at a supposedly fixed level by potential divider R_1 - R_2 . The input impedance of the circuit is (at low frequencies) equal to the parallel values of R_1 and R_2 . Defects of this simple biasing arrangement are that the voltage biasing level varies with the supply voltage, and the drain current biasing level depends on the characteristics of the individual VN67AF that is used in the circuit. An advantage of the circuit is that the quiescent drain voltage can be biased below that of the gate.

The alternative circuits of Figs. 11b and 11c can be used in cases where the quiescent drain voltage is greater than that of the gate. In Fig 11b, potential divider R_1 - R_2 is fed from the drain of the VN67AF, and DC negative feedback makes the quiescent drain current substantially independent of variations in supply voltage and device characteristics. AC negative feedback also occurs, and reduces the effective input impedance to a value approximating the parallel values of R_1 and R_2 divided by the voltage gain ($g_m \times R_L$) of the circuit.

Figure 11c is a simple modification of the Fig 11b circuit, and results in increased input impedance. R_3 is wired

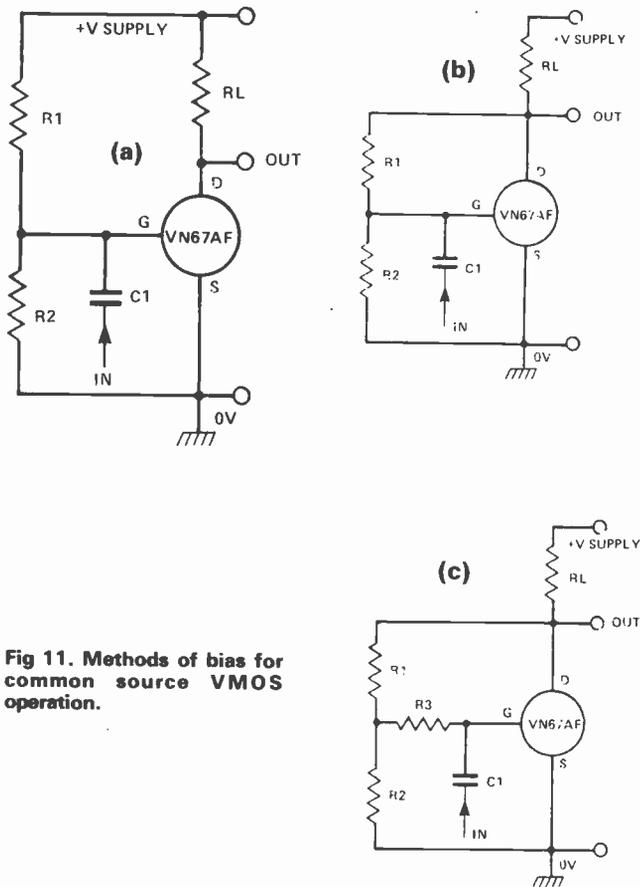


Fig 11. Methods of bias for common source VMOS operation.

between the gate of the VN67AF and the junction of R1-R2. R3 does not effect the biasing of the circuit, but if its value is large relative to that of R1 and R2 it raises the input impedance to a value approximating that of R3. If the source impedance of the input signal is low relative to R3, the AC negative feedback effects of the circuit are virtually eliminated and the input impedance is further increased. If, in the Fig 11c circuit, the drain is likely to swing below the desired gate bias level under active conditions, a capacitor can be wired across R2 to preserve stable biasing conditions.

Fig. 2 shows methods of biasing VMOS power FETs for common drain operation. In Fig. 12a the circuit is biased by a simple potential divider (R1-R2), and the source takes up a value a few volts below that of the gate. Because of the inherently high level of negative feedback of this configuration, the resulting bias (quiescent) source/drain current of the circuit is substantially independent of the characteristics of the individual VN67AF that is used. The input impedance of this circuit is equal to the parallel values of R1 and R2.

Figures 12b and 12c show how the input impedance of the basic Fig 12a circuit can be increased. In Fig 12b, R3 is given a value that is large relative to R1 and R2, thereby raising the input impedance to a value approximating that of R3 without effecting the biasing of the circuit. In Fig 12c the value of R3, and thus the input impedance, is effectively increased by a factor of $1/(1 - A_v)$ via bootstrap capacitor C2. Thus, if R3 is 10M and A_v is 0.95, the input impedance is raised to 20M. If R3 is 1MO and A_v is 0.99, the input impedance is raised to 100M. C2 must have the

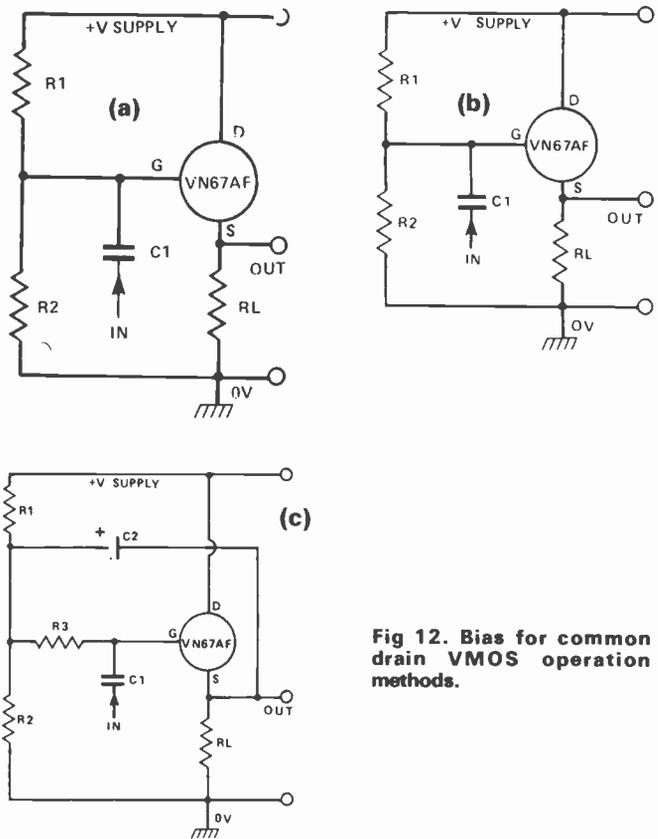


Fig 12. Bias for common drain VMOS operation methods.

impedance that is low relative to R1 and R2 over the required bandwidth of the amplifier.

Practical Circuits

The best way to get to know VMOS power FETs is to experiment with them in a few practical circuits. With this in mind, Figs. 13 and 22 show a few simple designs that you can play with. All of these circuits are based on the VN67AF, which typically costs less than a pound in one-off quantities.

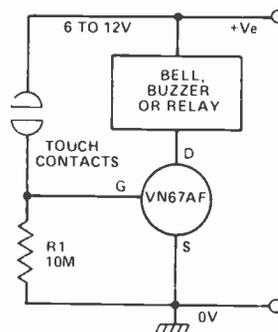


Fig 13. Touch switch.

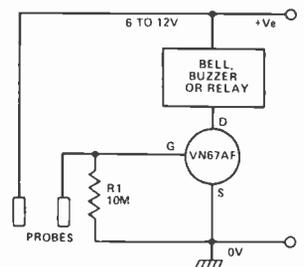


Fig 14. Water switch.

Figs. 13 and 14 couldn't be simpler. When the contacts/probes are open, zero volts are on the gate of the VN67AF and the device passes zero current. When a resistance (zero to tens of megohms) is placed across the contact/probes (by contrast with skin resistance, water, etc), a substantial gate voltage is developed by potential divider action and the VN67AF passes a high drain current.

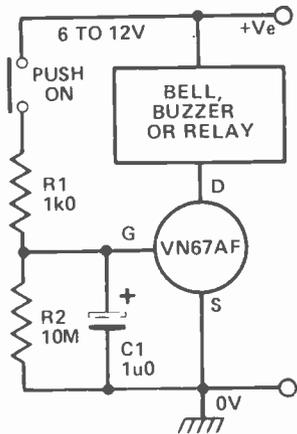


Fig 15. Delay turn off switch.

In the Fig. 15 circuit, C1 charges rapidly via R1 when S1 is closed and discharges slowly via R2 when S1 is open. Thus, the load activates as soon as S1 is closed, but does not deactivate until some tens of seconds after S1 is released.

Figs. 16 to 18 are lamp control circuits. In Fig. 16 the drain current and lamp brightness is controlled via RV1. In

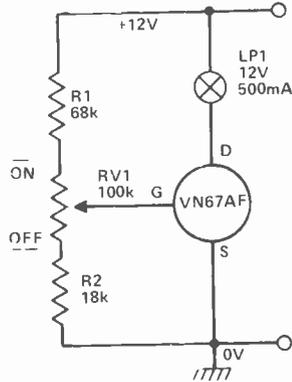


Fig 16. DC lamp dimmer.

Fig 17. Soft-start analogue lamp switch.

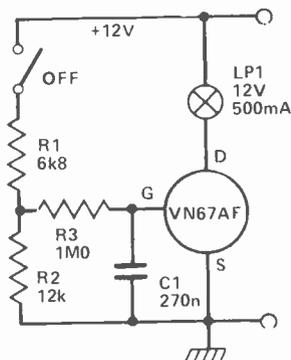


Fig. 17 the lamp turns on slowly when the switch is closed as C1 charges up via R3, and turns off slowly when the switch is opened as C1 discharges via R3.

The Fig. 18 circuit is a highly efficient 'digital' lamp dimmer. The two 4011 gates are connected as an astable

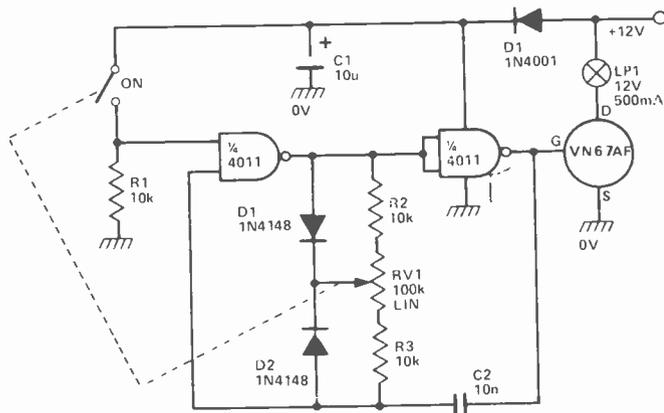


Fig 18. Digital DC lamp dimmer.

multivibrator that has a mark/space ratio that is variable from 10:1 to 1:10 via RV1, and has its output fed to the gate of the VN67AF, thereby enabling the 'mean' lamp

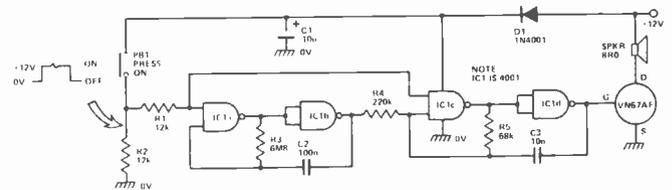


Fig 19. Warble-tone alarm (2 tone output).

brightness to be varied from virtually full-off to full-on.

Fig. 19 is an inexpensive but very impressive alarm-cell generator circuit that produces a police-like 'dee-dah' sound. The alarm can be turned on by closing PB1 or by feeding a 'high' voltage to the R1-R2 junction. The circuit is used with an 8R0 speaker, and generates roughly 6 watts of output power.

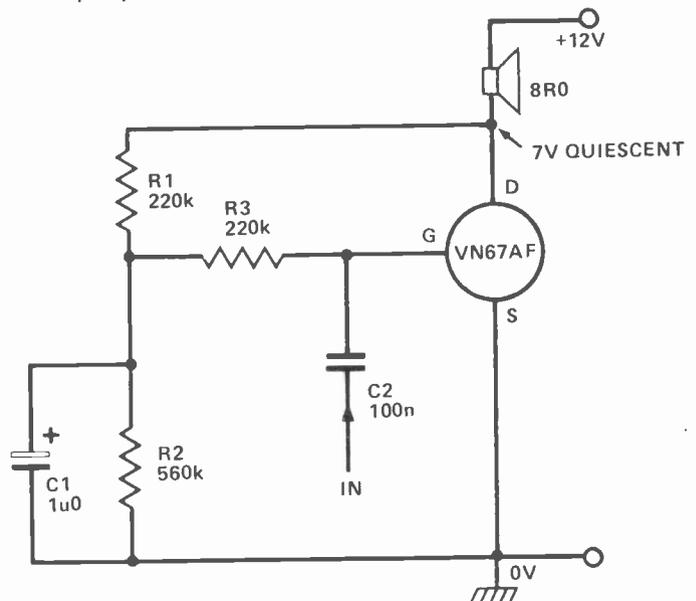


Fig 20. Super simple class-A amplifier.

The Fig. 20 class-A power amplifier gives an incredibly impressive performance, but is very inefficient. The VN67AF must be mounted on a decent heat sink. Since the amplifier is used in the class-A mode, it produces a valve sound output. Because of the excellent linearity of the VN67AF, the apparent distortion of the amplifier is remarkably low. When used with 8R0 resistive load, the amplifier has a bandwidth that extends up to 10 MHz.

The Appraisal

VMOS is undoubtedly a remarkable technology with many great advantages over conventional bipolar technology. Latest reports indicate that at least five major semiconductor companies other than Siliconix are now actively researching into or actually manufacturing VMOS power FETs, so that technology is clearly not just a 'flash in the pan'. Each of these companies is apparently developing its own particular version of the technology and preliminary reports indicate that the Siliconix technology is still way ahead of the competition in most areas (switching speeds, device linearity, high voltage rating, etc.).

Siliconix are expected to announce a 400 volt 8 amp device, which can switch 8 amps in less than 100 nanoseconds, within the next few months. They already have a 65 volt 8 amp 100 watt device on the stocks that can give a 10 dB gain at 175 MHz. ▶

FEATURE: VFET Applications

The simple circuit of Fig. 21 makes an excellent radio control or CW transmitter output stage. The L1-C2 and L2-C3 values must be chosen to suit the required operating frequency.

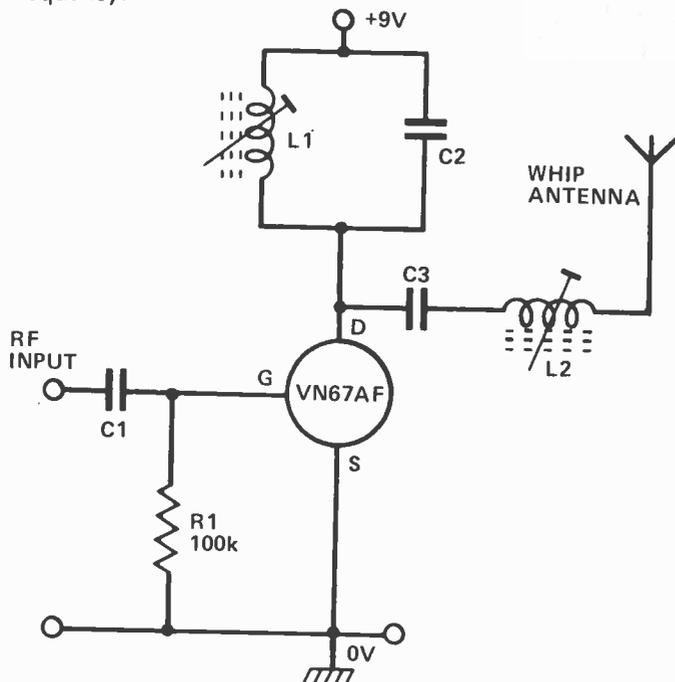


Fig 21. 60mW R/C or CW transmitter L1-C2 is tank circuit, C3-L2 is the antenna circuit.

Finally, Fig. 22 shows the basic circuit of a 20-watt class-D audio power amplifier using a pair of VN67AF's. We hope to publish a practical version of this circuit in ETI in the near future, so keep your eyes open.

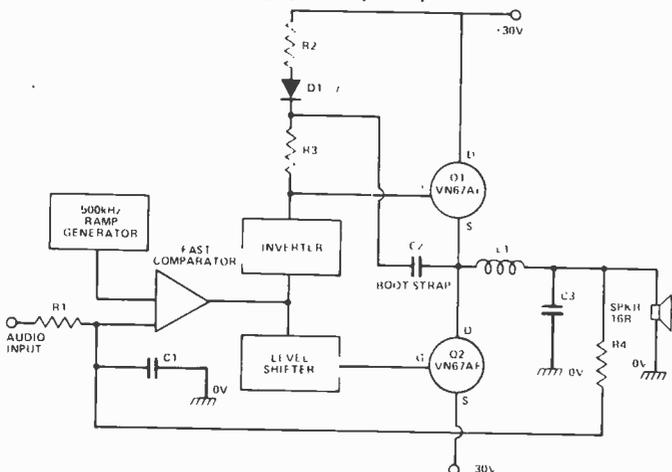


Fig 22. Basic circuit of a 20W class-D switched-mode audio power amplifier. An ideal application for VMOS.

The only criticism that we've been able to make against the Siliconix VMOS power FET technology concerns the present total lack of p-channel devices. Our spies tell us, however, that Siliconix are already working on that problem, and will have it beaten within a year. If that is so, we reckon that the 1976 prediction that "VMOS may eliminate bipolars within five years" could still come true.

In the meantime, we at ETI are already 'sold' on VMOS, and plan to use a good deal of it in the coming year. We reckon that once you've started using it, you'll like it as much as we do.

ETI

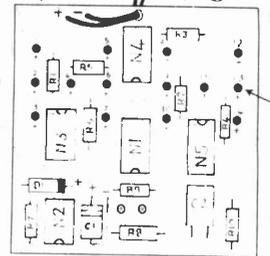
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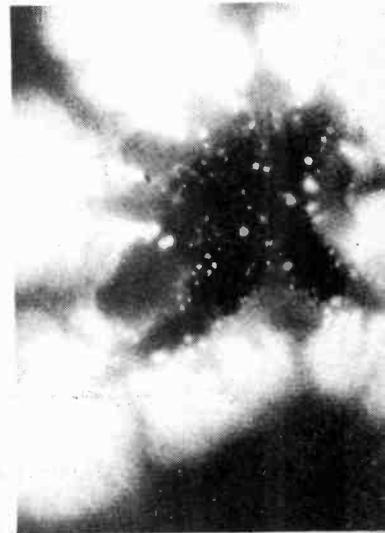
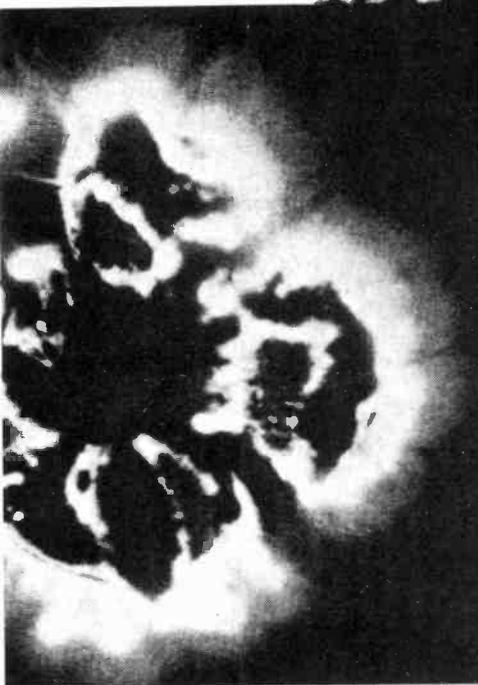
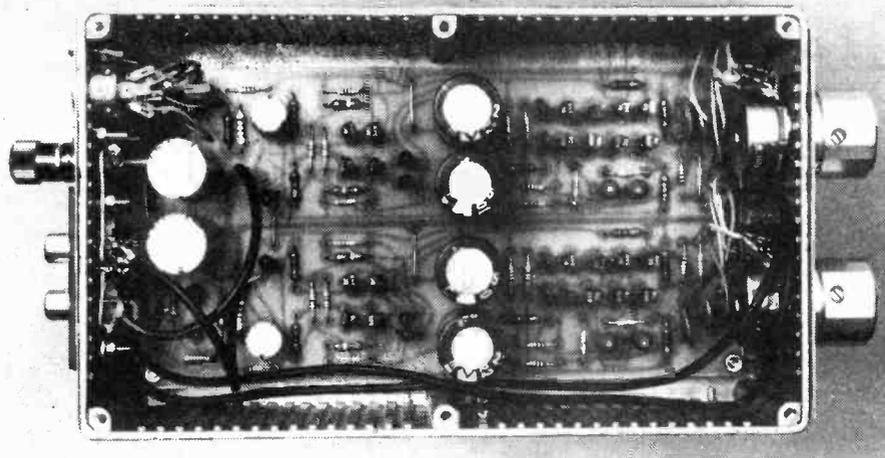
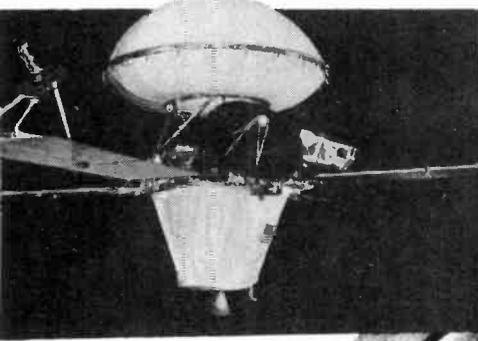
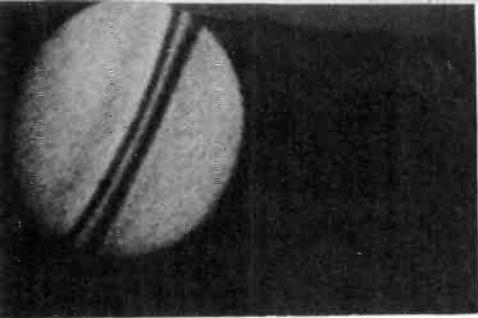
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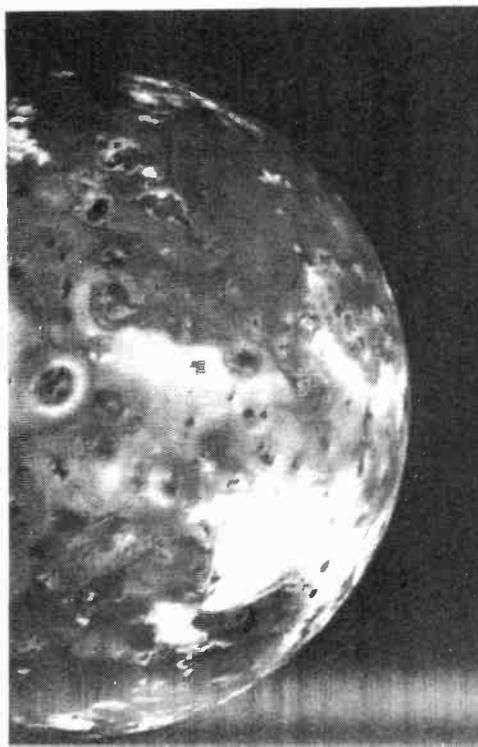
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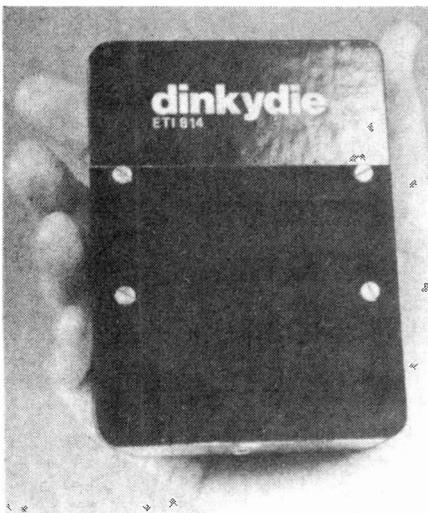
January issue on sale December 7th

Containing constructional details of five projects including a superb DIGITAL FREQUENCY METER and a very hi-fi MOVING COIL PREAMP. Amongst the usual array of brilliant features you will find KIRLIAN PHOTOGRAPHY full explained and DEEP SPACE PROBES beautifully detailed. Miss a single page and you will weep long into the cold winter nights.



DIE

Liven up your Ludo with the ETI Dinkydie. Throw away that Block of wood with dots on and bring your board games into the twentieth century.



Fed up with shaking rattling and rolling that boring set of wooden dice? Need something to brighten up that game of which the kids have grown tired?

We've spent some time designing this little project — an example of just how difficult it can sometimes be to get something 'just right': As few components as possible, all the desirable features, no obscure parts and nice low price for the constructor.

Operation couldn't be simpler: To 'throw' the dice, touch two fingers across one set of screw heads seen either side of the front panel in the picture here. Your 'throw' then appears in a dice pattern on the LEDs behind the perspex.

To throw again, touch the pair of screw heads once more.

If you leave the dice 'un-thrown' for a few seconds, the display fades and the circuit switches itself off, drawing only a miniscule current in its quiescent

state.

Mount all the components on the board, placing the LEDs last. These should be spaced off the board by about 3 mm so to ensure that they are the highest components. If the bolts are level no spacers are needed as they can be tightened just enough to hold the LEDs hard against the perspex. If you wish, a piece of block cardboard may be cut to cover the other components to obscure the board.

Once the board is assembled the battery clip and battery may be connected and the device tested. Once bolted in the nuts on the underside of the board should be quickly soldered to the pads to ensure good contact. To complete the assembly the bottom of the case can be screwed in, and the battery jammed in place with a small piece of foam rubber or styrofoam. (Use the bit the CMOS IC's came in perhaps). Finally, if you fear for the coffee table top, four adhesive rubber feet on the bottom would be a good idea?

ETI

BUYLINES

All the components used in the Dinkydie should be readily available from your favourite mail order supplier.

PARTS LIST

Resistors all ¼W, 5%

R1	2M7
R2,7	10k
R3	100k
R4	56k
R5	4k7
R6	270k
R9-R11	270R
R12	330R

Capacitors

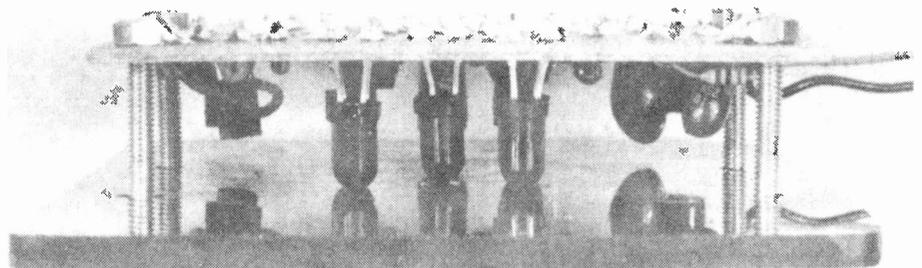
C1,C2	33u 10V tantalum
C3	10n polyester

Semiconductors

D1	1N914
LED1-LED7	Red LEDs, TIL220R
Q1,Q2	BC558
Q3-Q6	BC548
IC1	4011B
IC2	4029B

Miscellaneous

Case 9V battery clip, glue, four 6BA nuts and 20 mm bolts. PCB.



An LED sandwich — make sure the LED's are the highest components on the PCB.

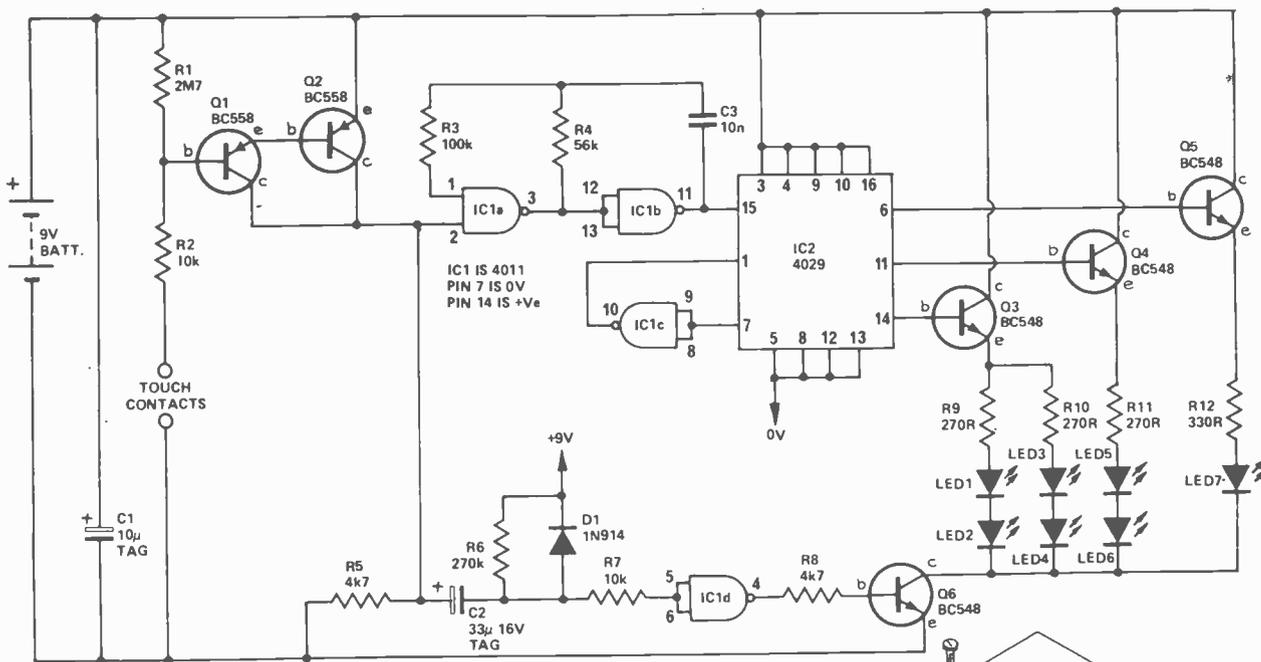


Fig.1. Circuit diagram.

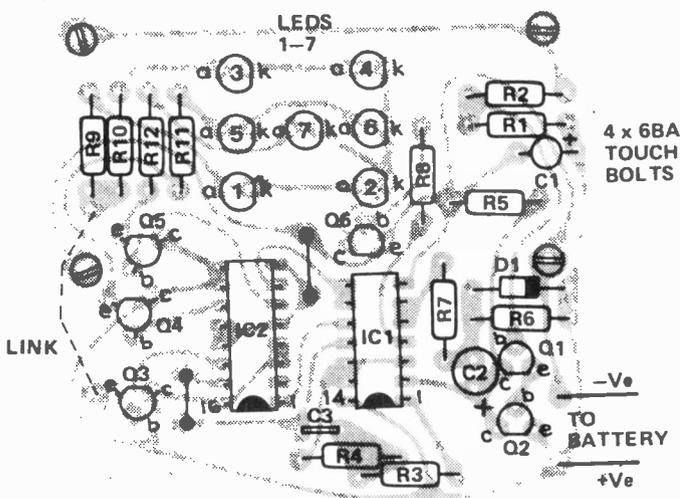


Fig.2. Component overlay.

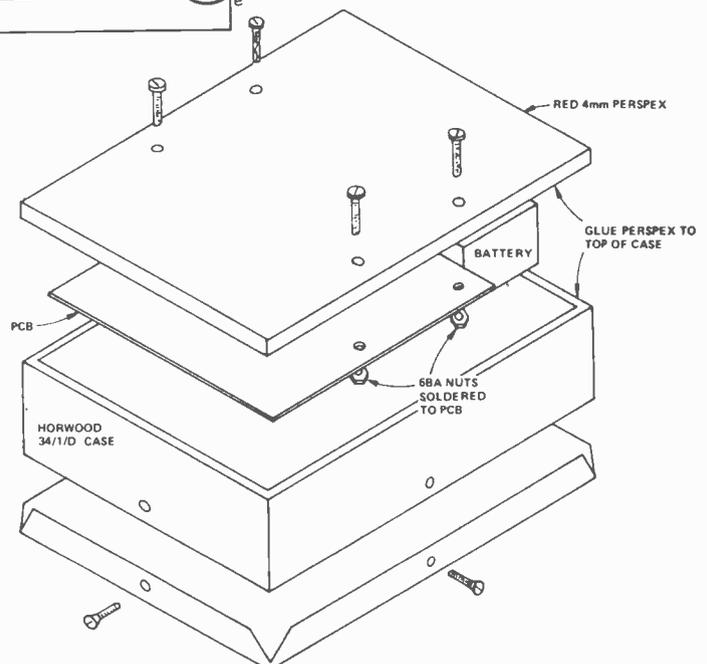


Fig.3. Details of the hardware.

HOW IT WORKS

This device simulates a single dice 'die' electronically by illuminating LEDs in a die face pattern after you have held your fingers on two sensor contacts for a period to 'throw' the dice. The device operates by counting pulses from a free running astable multivibrator, hence the number finally displayed is defined by the duration of the touch.

As the quiescent current is well below 1µA, no power switch is used.

Initially, Q1 and Q2 are biased off. The astable multivibration, formed by IC1a and b, is disabled and the display driver Q6 is also off. When the sensor

contacts are touched, a small leakage current flows into the base of Q1/Q2 which form a Darlington pair, and the collectors go high.

This has two effects. Firstly, the astable multivibrator made up of two NAND gates (IC1a and b) is enabled and clocks the counter, IC2, at about 1 kHz. Secondly, C2 is discharged via D1, in preparation for initiating the display delay period. The duration of the touch defines the number which results, but the clock is sufficiently fast to prevent any form of cheating.

When the touch contacts are released the clock stops and the inputs

of IC1d are pulled low. The gate is connected as an inverter, and the output thus sources current to Q7 which enables the display by pulling the LED cathodes low. The contents of counter IC2 are thus displayed in die-face format by the LEDs. When C2 recharges to above the threshold of IC1d via Q5 the display fades. Quiescent current is well below 1µA, so no power switch is required. The "all ones" state (i.e. 1111) is detected by the carry output and causes 1001 to be loaded by the parallel load input, IC1c does the required logic inversion for the parallel load function.

DIODES/ZENERS				
QTY.	Part No.	Volts	Current	Price
	1N914	100v	10mA	.05
	1N4005	600v	1A	.08
	1N4007	1000v	1A	.15
	1N4148	75v	10mA	.05
	1N4733	5.1v	1 W Zener	.25
	1N4749	24v	1W	.25
	1N753A	6.2v	500 mW Zener	.25
	1N758A	10v	"	.25
	1N759A	12v	"	.25
	1N5243	13v	"	.25
	1N5244B	14v	"	.25
	1N5245B	15v	"	.25
	1N5349	12v	3W	.25

SOCKETS/BRIDGES				
QTY.	Part No.	Pin	Material	Price
	8-pin	pcb	.16 ww	.35
	14-pin	pcb	.20 ww	.40
	16-pin	pcb	.25 ww	.45
	18-pin	pcb	.30 ww	.95
	20-pin	pcb	.35 ww	1.05
	22-pin	pcb	.40 ww	1.15
	24-pin	pcb	.45 ww	1.25
	28-pin	pcb	.50 ww	1.35
	40-pin	pcb	.55 ww	1.45
	Molex pins	.01	To-3 Sockets	.35
	2 Amp Bridge	100-prv		.95
	25 Amp Bridge	200-prv		1.50

TRANSISTORS, LEADS, etc.				
QTY.	Part No.	Material	Price	Notes
	2N2222M	(2N2222 Plastic)	.10	.15
	2N2222A			.19
	2N2907A	PNP		.19
	2N3906	PNP (Plastic)		.19
	2N3904	NPN (Plastic)		.19
	2N3054	NPN		.55
	2N3055	NPN 15A 60v		.60
	T1P125	PNP Darlington		1.95
	LED Green	Red, Clear, Yellow		.19
	D.L.747	7 seg 5/8" High com-anode		1.95
	MAN72	7 seg com-anode (Red)		1.25
	MAN3610	7 seg com-anode (Orange)		1.25
	MAN82A	7 seg com-anode (Yellow)		1.25
	MAN74	7 seg com-cathode (Red)		1.50
	FND359	7 seg com-cathode (Red)		1.25

9000 SERIES					
QTY.	Part No.	Price	QTY.	Part No.	
	9301	.85		9322	.65
	9309	.50		9601	.30
				9602	.45

C MOS					
QTY.	Part No.	Price	QTY.	Part No.	
	4000	.15		4017	.75
	4001	.20		4018	.75
	4002	.25		4019	.35
	4004	3.95		4020	.85
	4006	.95		4021	.75
	4007	.25		4022	.75
	4008	.75		4023	.25
	4009	.35		4024	.75
	4010	.35		4025	.25
	4011	.30		4026	1.95
	4012	.25		4027	.35
	4013	.40		4028	.75
	4014	.75		4029	1.15
	4015	.75		4030	.30
	4016	.35		4033	1.50
				4034	2.45
				4035	.75
				4037	1.80
				4040	.75
				4041	.69
				4042	.65
				4043	.50
				4044	.65
				4046	1.25
				4047	2.50
				4048	1.25
				4049	.65
				4050	.45
				4052	.75
				4053	.95
				4066	.75
				4069/74C04	.45
				4071	.25
				4081	.30
				4082	.30
				4507	.95
				4511	.95
				4512	1.50
				4515	2.95
				4519	.85
				4522	1.10
				4526	.95
				4528	1.10
				4529	.95
				MC14409	14.50
				MC14419	4.85
				74C151	2.50

MICRO's, RAMS, CPU's, E-PROMS		
QTY.	Part No.	
	8T13	2.50
	8T23	2.50
	8T24	3.00
	8T97	1.75
	74S188	3.00
	1488	1.25
	1489	1.25
	1702A	4.50
	AM 9050	4.00
	ICM 7207	6.95
	ICM 7208	13.95
	MPS 6520	10.00
	MM 5314	4.00
	MM 5316	4.50
	MM 5387	3.50
	MM 5389	2.95
	TR 1602B	3.95
	UPD 414	4.95
	Z 80 A	22.50
	Z 80	17.50
	Z 80 P10	10.50
	2102	1.45
	2102L	1.75
	2107B-4	4.95
	2114	9.50
	2513	6.25
	2708	11.50
	2716 D.S.	34.00
	2716 (5v)	69.00
	2758 (5v)	26.95
	3242	10.50
	4116	11.50
	6800	13.95
	6850	7.95
	8080	7.50
	8085	22.50
	8212	2.75
	8214	4.95
	8216	3.50
	8224	4.25
	8228	6.00
	8251	7.50
	8253	18.50
	8255	8.50
	TMS 4044	9.95

- T T L -								
QTY.	Part No.	Price	QTY.	Part No.	Price	QTY.	Part No.	
	7400	.20		7492	.45		74H20	.25
	7401	.20		7493	.35		74LS76	.70
	7402	.20		7494	.75		74LS86	.95
	7403	.20		7495	.60		74H30	.30
	7404	.20		7496	.80		74H40	.35
	7405	.35		74100	1.15		74H50	.30
	7406	.25		74107	.35		74H51	.30
	7407	.55		74121	.35		74H52	.20
	7408	.20		74122	.55		74H53	.25
	7409	.25		74123	.55		74H55	.25
	7410	.20		74125	.45		74H72	.35
	7411	.25		74126	.45		74H74	.35
	7412	.25		74132	.75		74H101	.95
	7413	.45		74141	.90		74H103	.55
	7414	.75		74150	.85		74H106	1.15
	7416	.25		74151	.95		74L00	.30
	7417	.40		74153	.95		74L02	.30
	7420	.25		74154	1.15		74L03	.35
	7426	.25		74156	.70		74L04	.40
	7427	.25		74157	.65		74L10	.30
	7430	.20		74161/9316	.75		74L20	.45
	7432	.30		74163	.85		74L30	.55
	7437	.20		74164	.75		74L47	1.95
	7438	.30		74165	1.10		74L51	.65
	7440	.20		74166	1.75		74L55	.85
	7441	1.15		74175	.90		74L72	.65
	7442	.55		74176	.95		74L73	.70
	7443	.45		74177	1.10		74L74	.75
	7444	.45		74180	.95		74L75	1.05
	7445	.75		74181	2.25		74L85	2.00
	7446	.70		74182	.75		74L93	.75
	7447	.70		74190	1.25		74L123	1.95
	7448	.50		74191	1.25		74LS00	.40
	7450	.25		74192	.75		74LS01	.40
	7451	.25		74193	.85		74LS02	.45
	7453	.20		74194	.95		74LS03	.45
	7454	.25		74195	.95		74LS04	.45
	7460	.40		74196	.95		74LS05	.45
	7470	.45		74197	.95		74LS08	.45
	7472	.40		74198	1.45		74LS09	.45
	7473	.25		74221	1.50		74LS10	.45
	7474	.30		74298	1.50		74LS11	.45
	7475	.35		74367	1.35		74LS20	.45
	7476	.40		75491	.65		74LS21	.45
	7480	.75		75492	.65		74LS22	.45
	7481	.85		74H00	.20		74LS32	.50
	7482	.95		74H01	.30		74LS37	.45
	7483	.95		74H04	.30		74LS38	.65
	7485	.75		74H05	.25		74LS40	.70
	7486	.55		74H08	.35		74LS42	.95
	7489	1.05		74H10	.35		74LS51	.75
	7490	.55		74H11	.25		74LS74	.95
	7491	.70		74H15	.45		74LS75	1.20

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	8038	3.95	LM320T5	1.65
	LM201	.75	LM320T12	1.65
	LM301	.45	LM320T15	1.65
	LM308	.65	LM323K	5.95
	LM309H	.85	LM324	1.25
	LM309 (340K-5)	1.50	LM339	.75
	LM310	.85	7805 (340T5)	1.15
	LM311 (8-14 Pin)	.75	LM340T12	.95
	LM318	1.50	LM340T15	.95
	LM320H6	.79	LM340T18	.95
	LM320H15	.79	LM340T24	.95
	LM320H24	.79	LM340K12	1.25
	7905 (LM320K5)	1.65	LM340K15	1.25
	LM320K12	1.65	LM340K18	1.25
	LM320K15	1.65	LM340K24	1.25
			LM373	3.95
			LM377	3.95
			78L05	.75
			78L12	.75
			78L15	.75
			78M05	.75
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			LM709 (8-14 Pin)	.45
			LM711	.45
			LM723	.40
			LM725	2.50
			LM739	1.50
			LM741 (8-14)	.45
			LM747	1.10
			LM1307	1.75
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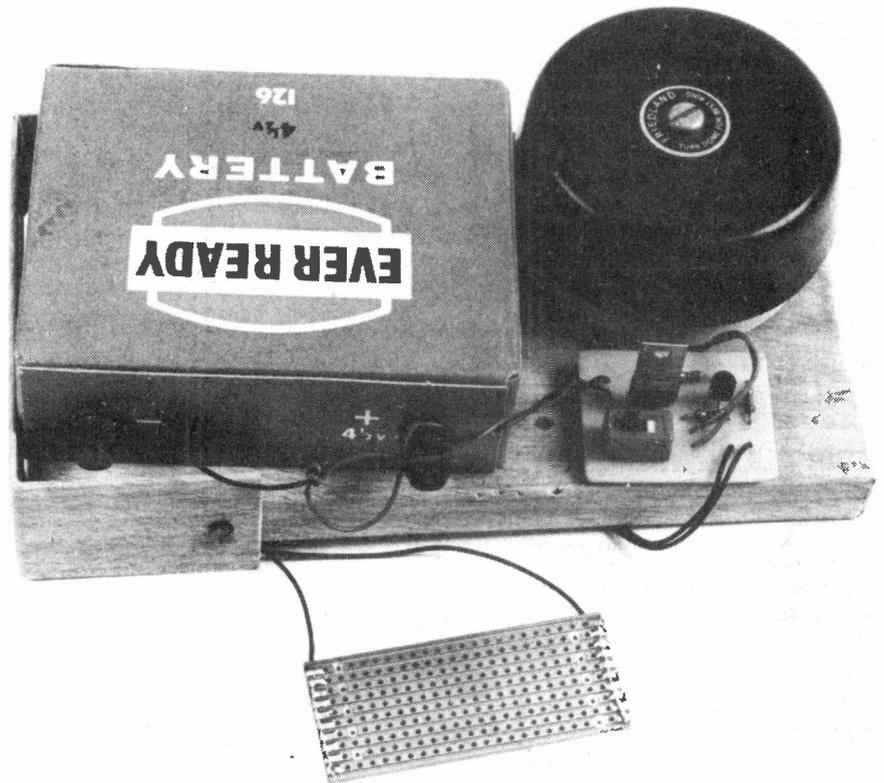
RAIN ALARM

Don't get wet feet, don your wellies and come and see the Rain in Spain fall
Mainly on the ETI Rain Alarm. - By George, we've got it!

Have you ever been tied up with other jobs, such as polishing the furniture, doing the washing up, etc while your washing is out drying on the line? Then, just as you are finishing your present chore you look out of the window and see that the heavens have opened on your nearly dry washing. Well, this happens virtually every Monday (being washing day) to the ETI Project Team and we were just about getting fed up with it

. . . .so we had a conference!

It became apparent, after we had looked in the piggybank and found we didn't have enough for a second-hand tumble dryer, that we should do something constructive (for a change). We decided that even we couldn't design a machine to stop it raining on Mondays (though officially we won't admit it) so the alternative was the ETI Rain Alarm, which, at the vaguest hint of rain, will ring out loud and clear so that the pots and pans can be dropped while we run outside and fetch in the washing from the line. ▶



HOW IT WORKS

The heart of the rain alarm lies around the thyristor SCR 1 which switches the bell or buzzer on. Normally, in D.C. mode a thyristor is switched on by a small gate current. It will not switch off however, until the voltage applied across the whole device reduces to near zero, at which point it will remain off until the voltage at the gate increases enough to switch it on again.

When used with a make and break device such as a bell or buzzer the applied voltage momentarily decreases to zero at whatever frequency the bell or buzzer is operating at. This will in turn, switch off the SCR. This gives us a non-latching D.C. switch, operated by applying a small D.C. voltage to its gate.

Q1 provides switching action in that as the resistance across the probes decreases from infinity to a comparatively low value (ie. as rain falls on them) then the voltage across R3 increases from near zero to above the threshold voltage necessary to switch SCR1 on.

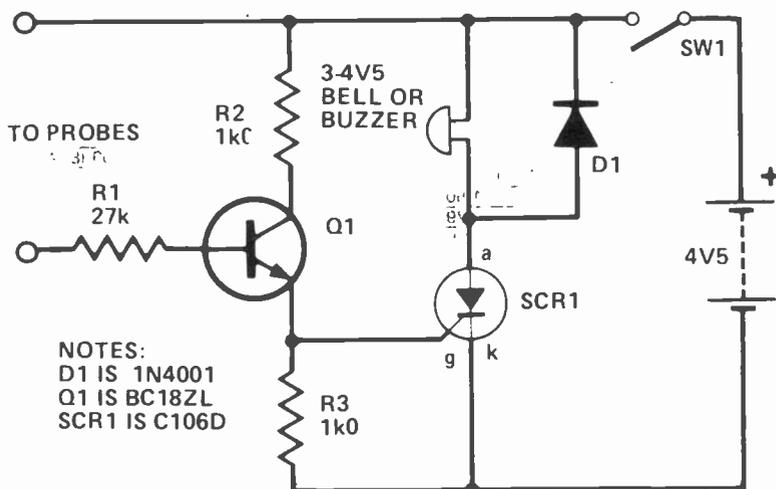
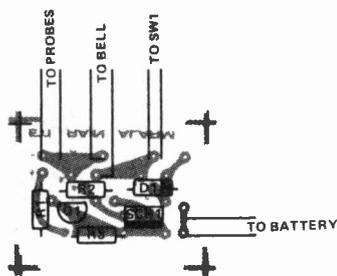


Fig. 1. Circuit diagram.

PARTS LIST

BUYLINES



RESISTORS All ¼W, 5%
R1 27k
R2,3 1k0

SEMICONDUCTORS
Q1 BC182L
D1 1N4001
SCR1 C106D

MISCELLANEOUS
SW1 SPST switch
3-4½V Bell or buzzer 4½ volt battery.

Small piece of stripboard.

All parts should be easily obtainable from your local stockists. However, any of the mail order firms advertising in ETI should be able to help, if you are stuck.

rectly. Use a printed circuit mounting switch for SW1 if you can obtain one — it makes a neater job, but if not, any SPST switch will do.

The probes in our prototype were constructed from a small piece of commercially available stripboard, the two leads soldered to alternate copperstrips, providing an interleaving of the copper. Any small drop of water landing on the copper side of the stripboard will automatically bridge at least two of the strips, therefore operating the alarm.

And, now that you have finished the ETI Rain Alarm, you can go — in the words of the immortal and legendary Gene Kelly (Ray's hero) — Ringing in the Rain. **ETI**

Fig. 2. Component overlay.

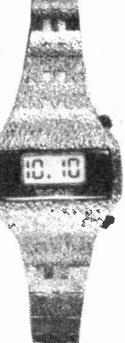
Of course detecting rain to keep your washing dry needn't be its only function. Anywhere a device to detect the presence of water is required, then the Rain Alarm will do it. It takes only minimal current when in standby mode so can quite happily be left on for long periods without significantly battery wastage.

Construction

As the whole rain alarm only contains

seven components, including the on/off switch, it fits very neatly onto a small PCB only about 1 inch by 1½ inches (or 25 mm by 40 mm if you have already been metricated by the vet). In fact, the 4½ volt bell battery is by far the biggest item in the project.

The construction of the circuit on our PC layout will present no difficulties — just take care that the semiconductors are inserted cor-

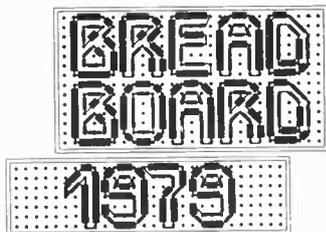
 <p>MEN'S FIVE FUNCTION QUARTZ LCD Hours, mins., secs., month., date, auto. calendar. Quality metal bracelet. £6.95</p>	 <p>LADY'S 7-FUNCTION ALARM Ladies' 7-function Alarm. Min., sec., hr. Day, date, month, backlight. £14.95</p>	 <p>LADY'S 5-FUNCTION WATCH Gold/silver colour finish. £12.95</p>	 <p>LADY'S 5-FUNCTION WATCH Hours, mins., sec., day, month, date, backlight. £9.95</p>
 <p>MEN'S DUAL TIME ALARM CHRONO £35.00</p> <p>OUTSTANDING FEATURES: DUAL TIME: Local time always visible and you can set and recall any other time zone (such as GMT). Also has a light for night viewing. CALENDAR FUNCTIONS include the date and day in each time zone. CHRONOGRAPH / STOPWATCH displays up to 12 hours, 59 minutes, 59.9 seconds.</p> <p>On command stopwatch display freezes to show intermediate (split/lap) time while stopwatch continues to run. Can also switch to and from timekeeping and stopwatch modes without affecting either's operation. ALARM can be set to any time within a 24-hour period. At the designated time, a pleasant, but effective buzzer sounds to remind or awaken you!</p>	 <p>MEN'S 7-FUNCTION ALARM WATCH Alarm. Hours, mins., secs. Month, date, day, 6 digits, 3 flags, plus continuous display of day and date or seconds. Back-light. £11.95</p>	 <p>MEN'S ALARM CHRONO Hr., min., sec., day, date, 1/10 chronograph, lap time, alarm, 6 digits plus day, 12/24 hour option. Month date/date month option. £18.95</p>	 <p>MEN'S 11-FUNCTION ALARM 6 digit, 11 functions. Hours, mins., secs., day, date, day of week, 1/100th, 1/10th, secs., 10X secs., mins. Split and lap modes. Backlight, auto calendar. Only 8mm thick. Stainless steel bracelet and back. Adjustable bracelet. £10.95</p>

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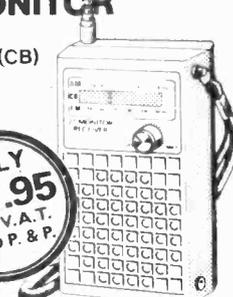
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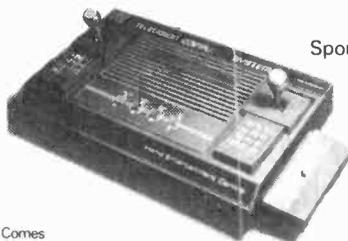


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AUDIOPHILE

Having spent a month coiled up with a lump of Coral (well each to his own) Ron Harris presents a review of the new MC81 pick up.

It has been a month of musical evenings. The television has remained off, the soldering iron cold, the wargames unplayed and the books unopened. Meanwhile the power amp glows red in the night and my neighbours have taken to wearing ear defenders and shaking their fists at my approach.

Ah, the fools, they know not the delights they scorn. . . .

You see. I have been playing a lot of records this month, all due to this MC81 device I mentioned when last you read Audiophile. They should put a warning on the side of the box — "This cartridge can seriously damage your social life."

At first glance it is a most unimpressive blob of black plastic, but that in itself brought to mind something someone once told me about not covering judges with books — or something like that anyway.

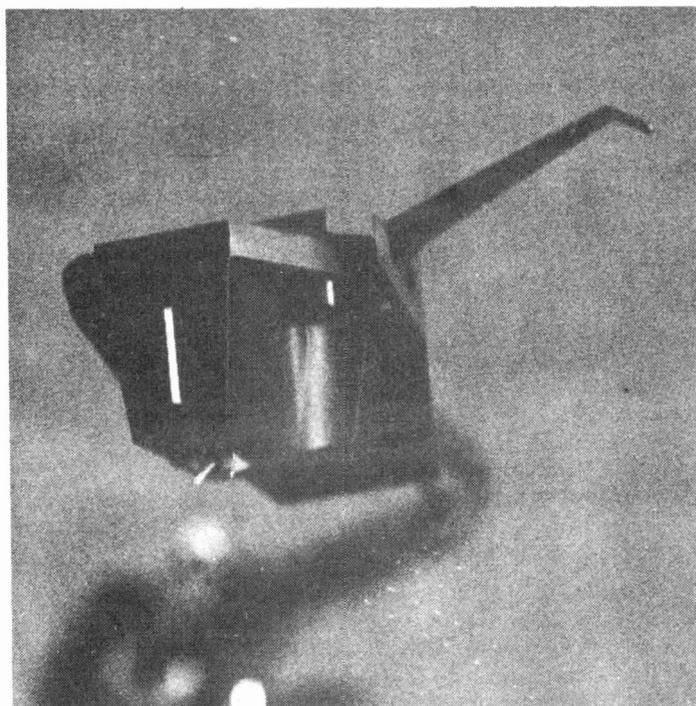
Book Covers

Being of the moving coil strain, the Coral MC81 needs a head amp, or pre-pre-amp as some people with stutters persist in calling them, to increase the voltage level to around 3mV in order that a normal RIAA input can process the signal.

The unit designed to work with the MC81 in this manner is the H300, which possesses a few unusual points itself. There *are* head amps on the market which will work with the majority of cartridges, but none are totally satisfactory with all. The best of these is possibly the Sony HA55, (which is mains powered). The H300 has a variable input impedance facility which suggests that it too is aimed this way and it will be interesting to see if it gains acceptance on the end of cantilevers other than the MC81. I confess I did not audition it any other way myself, but I will get around to that. . . .

Back to the cartridge. It weighs a puny 5g, but is surprisingly large for this weight as you can see from the photos. Set up in the SME III the Coral tracked most material happily at 1.8g, and took everything (just!) at 2.0g. The damping option on the SME should be exercised, although the fluid may need thinning for best results.

One good point about the cartridge body itself is that the top is sensibly large and flat — allowing for a large contact area with the headshell and thus good mechanical coupling between the two. At least it *would* do if the SME headshell was long enough!



Coiled Up

Initially I had the MC81 operating through a HA55, while the H300 was getting over its birth pains and into this cruel world. In this configuration the cartridge worked well, but I was less than happy with the lowest bass registers. The mid-range, however, came as a revelation. It was crystal clear and sharp and 'opened out' relative to the other cartridges I was comparing with it (Coral's own 777EX and the Entré 1). Treble quality was all I'd hoped for, being both accurate and extended without either emphasising surface noise or wielding that steel edge with which some moving coils cut through the music. I was impressed!

I was further beguiled once I had the MC81 and H300 operating together, a combination which went a long way to taking the ground from under my objections to the bass. It was never that the unit lacked bass at all, but that I had a feeling that the level was down upon what I would have expected. ▶

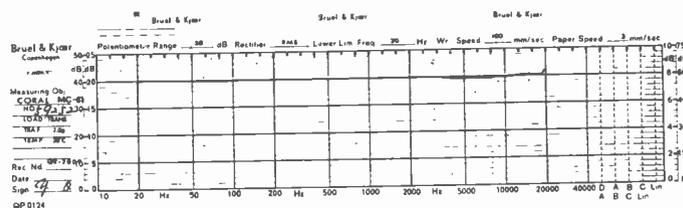


Fig. 1. Frequency response of the MC81. If you can't see it that's because it's so straight it's hidden behind the graph paper. What happened to all those nice dips and peaks reviewers could have such fun commenting on?

Bass *quality* was immaculate. Each instrument, bass guitar, drum, double bass or whatever was clearly and precisely identified and distinguishable. If you think that's easy, try it with your own cartridge — now — can you absolutely distinguish the different notes from a bass guitar for instance? Is the bass drum in full possession of it's transients?

As regards this aspect the Coral has the *best* bass I've heard and I'm not prepared to trade that quality back in for a bit more quantity of a less than equal pedigree.

Timely Decision

Running through an evening of the best recorded LPs I had soon convinced me that any initial unease I had experienced was groundless. Direct comparison between the V15 IV, the Entré an FR1 and the MC 91 led to others being employed in ever shorter bursts and, before the day was through, left alone.

In each comparison there were differences. The FR1 had a 'sweeter' mid-range but *not* the incredible detail. The Shure had for more bass signal present but *not* the attack and the Entré just didn't measure up at all — with either or any head amp.

In fact it was probably the V15 IV's slight bass emphasis that had led me up the garden path in the first place.

Talking Of Heads

Consider the H300 for a moment. The input of this device has variable gain and variable capacitance facility. Loading can be switched from 5000p to 20000p in steps of 5n. Gain can be switched up from 23-30dB.

Both these are controlled by DIL switch banks on the front of the PCB, but can only be accessed by removing the front panel entirely. That same panel contains the power switch and 'charge' light.

The H300 takes its electrons from a Ni-Cad source, and when switched off the batteries go on trickle charge. It takes (say Videotone) twelve hours to deplete the storage — I didn't fancy staying awake long enough to get an accurate figure — and forty eight hours to replace the power once used up. The charge light (LED) comes on when the box is switched off, a changeover relay diverts the input from a separate mains adaptor to the charger. This same relay operates as a switch-on delay system to prevent a 'thump' which is potentially dangerous to amp, ears and cones.

Unfortunately this relay doesn't seem to work on switch off and I got a loud 'whoop' if I did things in the wrong order! It could all lead to a flat cell and no music tonight, Josephine.

All in all, even weighing the advantages of reduced hum and lower source resistance (hence less RF interference etc), I think I prefer a plain mains supply with the extra costs that infers.

Still the H300 system works, and works well. The head amp sounds very fine indeed, and on audition proved indistinguishable from the Sony HA55 at a fraction of that unit's cost.

Full marks for circuit design and final performance Videotone but the grumble on supply you'll have to live with — it's an odd solution albeit one that works.

System Round-Up

Taken together the MC81/H300 system is an impressive and exciting new pickup system. The cartridge is well-nigh excellent and does not entail a second mortgage on the



Above: the H300 sat sitting between the MC81 in SME, dressing and an ACI it fed. Small is it not?

mortgage to afford it, like some Oriental Offerings I could name (It costs about £90 in the shops).

The H300 sounds very healthy indeed; but has that quirky PSU arrangement. This should give no trouble but does not make life as "thought-free" as it could. (Cost circa £60).

I would heartily recommend anyone interested in a new cartridge to head for an MC81 with open ear, and try and get a good listen.

If Felicity Kendal was interested, I'm sure I could find SOMEONE willing to extend the hospitality of his hi-fi for an evening or two (thousand!).

A Gold Ring To It?

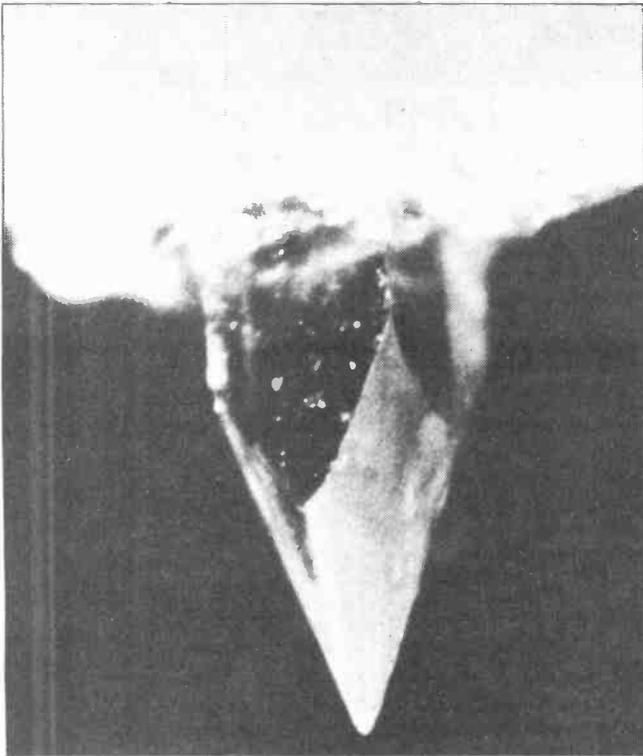
The point on the right has a point to it. A very strange shaped point—but a point nonetheless, a Van den Hul point in fact. After many months of trial and tribulation Goldring have fitted said sharp bit to a cantilever for their new G900IGC pick-up cartridge.

To all things under heaven there is a season, eh?

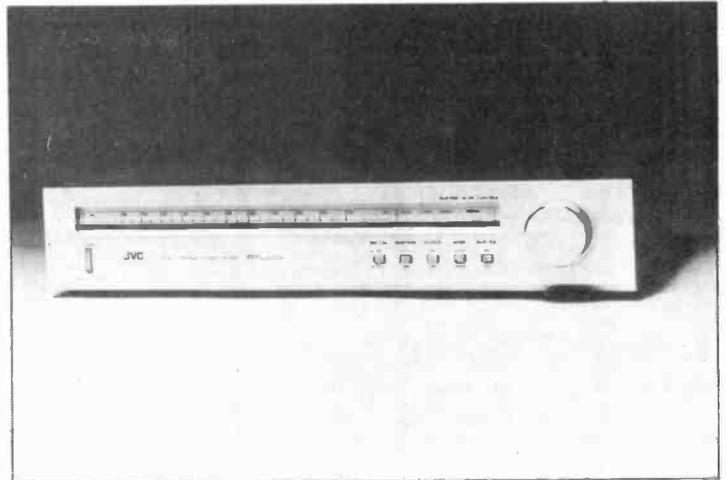
Welcome to the pickup season. After the Coral cometh the IGC and lo, music was bountiful upon the ears of Man and he heard that it was good.

The new G900 is claimed to exhibit greatly reduced distortion when compared to either a conventional elliptical point or the Shibata variation upon the theme. This is claimed to be due to the straight line of contact between stylus and groove and the smaller minor radius of the Van den Hul design.

The finish and presentation of the cartridge is superb, but up to now I haven't had a chance to listen to my sample at all. So once again its next month folks . . .



Above: the point of Goldring's new G900IGC is easily seen.



Tuning In JVC

Interesting looking new tuner from JVC, the TX5, features their award winning Phase Tracking Loop detector stage. Naturally PTL is claimed to improve everything from AM objection to sliced bread — and judging by the details I've seen could be Wonderloaf are in for a hard time.

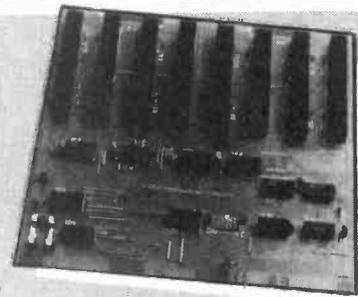
The TX5 also has two patented ideas incorporated — a 'quieting slope' control which acts as a sort of signal sensitive noise reducer, and a new tuning system. The price is around £250.

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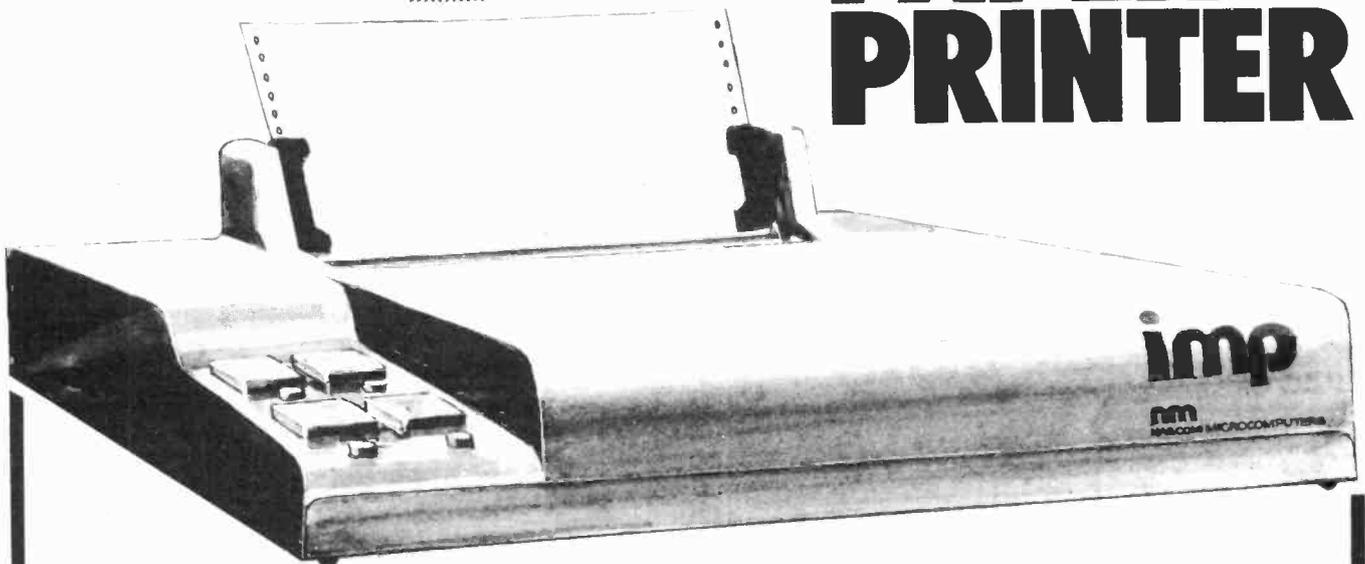
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74160	90p	4013	50p
74161	100p	4015	80p
74162	100p	4016	45p
74163	100p	4017	80p
74164	115p	4018	80p
74165	120p	4019	50p
74166	140p	4020	100p
74167	200p	4022	95p
74170	200p	4023	25p
74173	120p	4024	55p
74174	90p	4025	20p
74175	90p	4026	150p
74176	85p	4027	50p
74177	80p	4028	85p
74178	160p	4029	100p
74179	140p	4030	60p
74180	95p	4032	100p
74181	180p	4033	150p
74182	90p	4040	100p
74184	140p	4043	95p
74185	140p	4046	120p
74188	320p	4047	100p
74190	100p	4048	60p
74191	100p	4049	45p
74192	100p	4050	50p
74193	100p	4054	130p
74194	100p	4055	130p
74195	100p	4056	135p
74196	100p	4060	115p
74197	80p	4066	60p
74198	150p	4068	22p
74199	150p	4069	20p
74293	125p	4070	30p
74LS00	15p	4071	20p
74LS11	285p	4072	20p
		4075	25p
		4077	40p
		4081	20p
		4082	20p
		4093	80p
		4501	20p
		4507	55p
		4510	100p
		4511	150p
		4516	120p
		4518	100p
		4520	100p
		4528	100p
		4583	80p

LINEAR	
CA3039	70p
CA3046	70p
CA3060	225p
CA3065	200p
CA3076	250p
CA3080	75p
CA3084	250p
CA3085	80p
CA3086	50p
CA3088	185p
CA3089	225p
CA3090AQ	400p
CA3123E	200p
CA3130	100p
CA3140	70p
CA3161E	150p
CA3162E	450p
CA3189E	250p
FX209	760p
LD130	460p
LF356	90p
LF357	90p
LM211H	240p
LM300T05	170p
LM301AN	30p
LM301T05	45p
LM304	190p
LM307N	60p
LM308T05	100p
LM308DIL	100p
LM309K	140p
LM310T05	150p
LM311T05	150p
LM317K	350p
LM324	70p
LM339	70p

LM348N	90p
LM380	80p
LM381N	150p
LM382	120p
LM391	170p
LM555	25p
LM565	125p
LM709C	40p
LM710T05	65p
LM710DIL	65p
LM723T05	40p
LM723DIL	40p
LM733	120p
LM739	150p
LM741	20p
LM747	70p
LM748	40p
LM1303N	95p
LM1458	60p
LM3900	60p
LM3909N	70p
MC1310P	150p
MC1312P	160p
MC1314P	190p
MC1315P	230p
MK 50398	650p
MM5314	380p
MM5316	470p
NE529K	150p
NE555	25p
NE556	70p
NE562B	420p
NE566	160p
NE567	170p
SAD1024	1400p
SAS560	155p
SAS570	150p

SAS660	270p
SAS670	250p
SL917B	650p
SN76666N	100p
SN76003N	170p
SN76013N	150p
SN76013ND	130p
SN76023N	150p
SN76023ND	130p
SN76033N	180p
SN76131N	115p
SN76227N	150p
SN76228N	160p
SN76666N	85p
TAA300	250p
TAA350	250p
TAA550	35p
TAA570	250p
TAA661B	150p
TAA700	340p
TAD790	340p
TAD100	150p
TAD110	130p
TBA120A	60p
TBA120S	70p
TBA120T	90p
TBA480Q	380p
TBA520Q	190p
TBA530Q	190p
TBA540	220p
TBA550Q	250p
TBA560C	240p
TBA641A12	250p
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TBA720Q	240p
TBA750Q	200p
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TBA810	100p
TBA820	80p
TBA920Q	290p
TCA270S	250p
TCA270Q	250p
TCA760	300p
TCA4500A	300p
TDA1004	300p
TDA1008	320p
TDA1022	600p
TDA1024	125p
TDA1034	250p
TDA2002	320p
TDA2020	320p
TLO81	50p
TLO82	100p
TLO83	110p
TLO84	130p
UAA170	200p
XR320	250p
XR2003	150p
XR2206	400p
XR2207	400p
XR2208	590p
XR2216	675p
XR2264	440p
XR2265	440p
XR2567	250p
XR4136	150p
XR4151	350p
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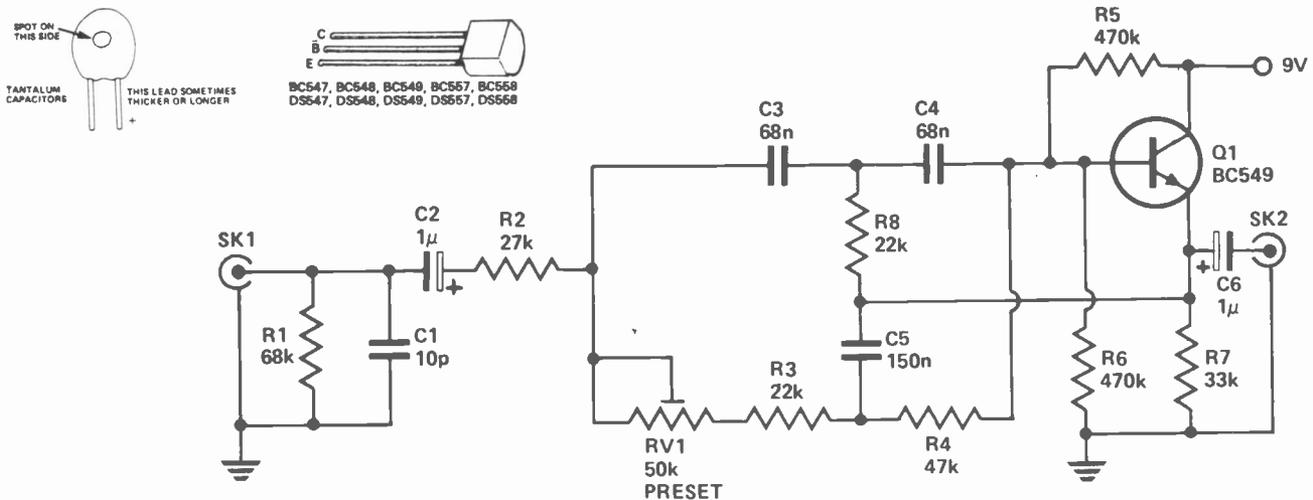
This project aims at overcoming some of the problems of mains induced hum by using a notch filter at the hum frequency of 50 Hz. At this frequency any signal present will be attenuated. At frequencies either side of the notch the response should return to the unattenuated input level.

The 'Q', or Quality Factor, of a tuned circuit — which the RC network in this circuit forms, determines the bandwidth, or narrowness, of the amplitude response of the circuit (see the diagram). As this circuit forms a notch filter, the Q of the circuit determines the narrowness of the notch.

With a high-Q notch the frequency response of the circuit will dip suddenly around the notch frequency. Frequencies a little either side of the notch centre frequency will be little affected. If the Q is low, frequencies some way either side of the notch frequency will be attenuated. The actual attenuation at the notch frequency is greater with a high-Q circuit than with a low-Q circuit.

High-Q circuits have the disadvantage that slight changes in component values, due to temperature changes etc, will affect the centre frequency. Tuning of the circuit to frequency is also quite critical. Lower-Q circuits do not suffer





NOTE
ONLY ONE CHANNEL HAS BEEN SHOWN FOR CLARITY. THE COMPONENT NUMBERING OF THE OTHER CHANNEL BEGINS at 101 i.e. R101 R102 etc.

Fig.1. Circuit diagram of one channel of the hum filter.

so much from this disadvantage.

The design Q chosen for this project was a compromise between the constraints of critical tuning and drift effect and good attenuation at the notch with little effect on nearby frequencies. Peak attenuation at the notch centre frequency of 50 Hz is around 80 dB while attenuation of only 3 dB is obtained at 40 Hz and 58 Hz. There is some audible effect on the bass response of a system, but this is minimal.

Construction

Mount the resistors and capacitors on the board first. Be sure the orientation of the tantalum capacitors is correct. These are polarized and can only be installed one way round. Next, install the preset pot. Finally, solder the transistor in place.

The circuit is run from a single nine volt battery. The current consumption of the prototype was 200 uA so the battery life should be good for several months. If it is found that battery life is not long enough a power switch could be fitted.

The filter can be used almost anywhere in the amplification chain since its overload margin is very high (typically 8 V p-p). It should obviously be placed after the point where the hum is being picked up. If the hum is in the turntable and the magnetic phono input of the amplifier since the input impedance is 47 k shunted by 10 pF, which should suit most magnetic cartridges.

Once the filter is in place, the presets are adjusted so that the hum is brought to a minimum by adjusting each channel independently.

HOW IT WORKS

The circuit consists of a "Twin-T" notch filter formed by capacitors C3, C4 and C5 and resistors R3, R4, R8 and preset PR1.

The operation of the Twin-T requires that $C_3 = C_4 = C_5$

$$\text{and } R_3 + PR1 = R_4 = 2R_8$$

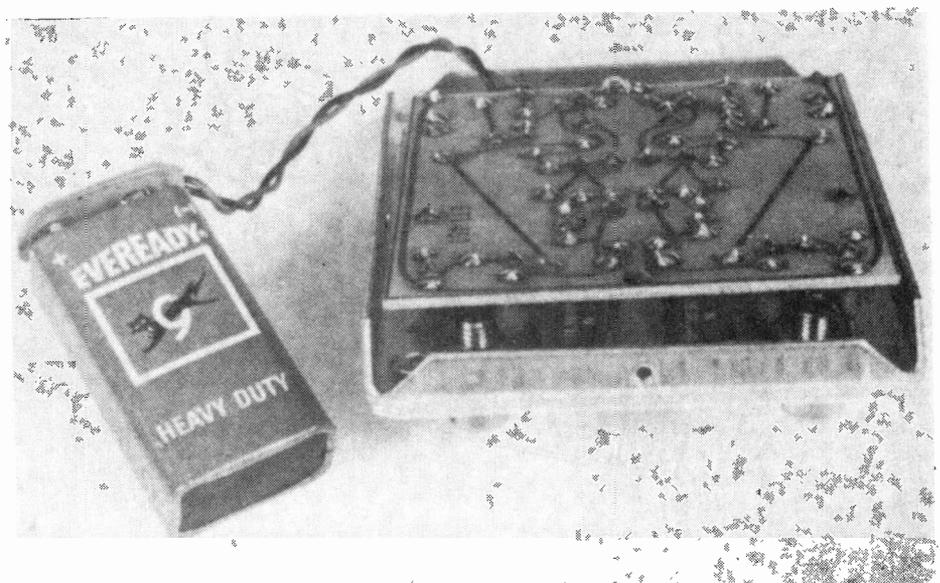
These conditions must be met with reasonable accuracy if a good, deep notch is to be obtained. The preset corrects to a certain extent for errors due to component

mis-match and assumes that the notch can be adjusted to the exact frequency of the hum to be rejected.

The frequency of the notch is then given by

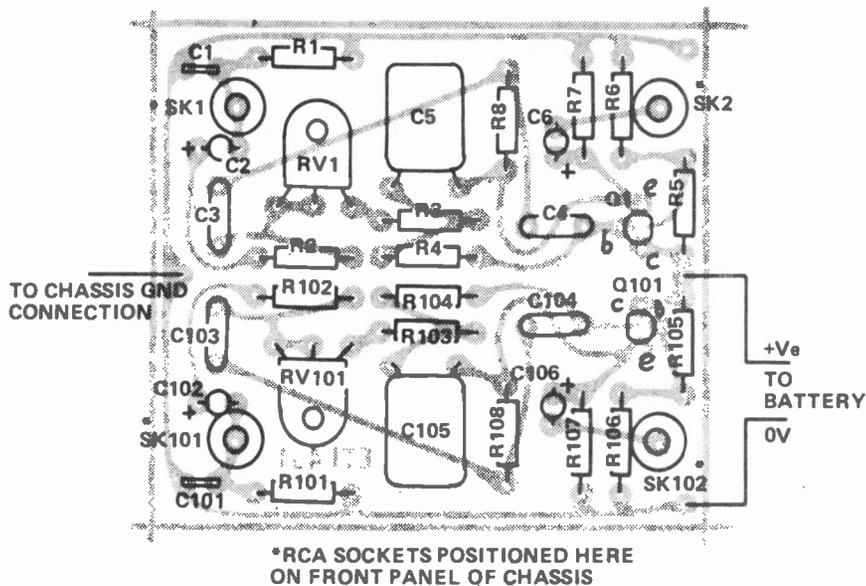
$$f = \frac{1}{2 \pi R_4 C_4}$$

The transistor is operating as an emitter follower, giving zero voltage gain, but providing feedback into the notch to increase the Q to acceptable limits.



► The finished PCB fitted to the front panel, with the battery on flying leads.

Fig.2. Component overlay.



PARTS LIST

Resistors all 1/4W, 5%

R1,R101	68k
R2,R102	27k
R3,R103,8,	
108	22k
R4,R104	47k
R5,R6,R105,	
R106	470k
R7,R107	33k

Capacitors

C1,C101	10pf ceramic
C2,C102,6,	
106	1u tantalum
C3,C4,C103,	
C104	68n polyester
C5,C105	150n polyester

Potentiometers

RV1,RV101	50k min preset
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Semiconductors

Q1,Q101	BC549, BC109
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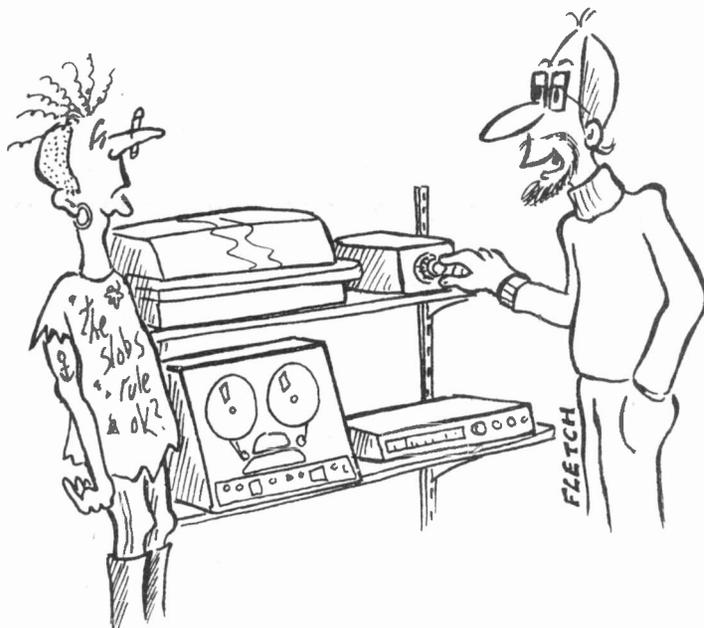
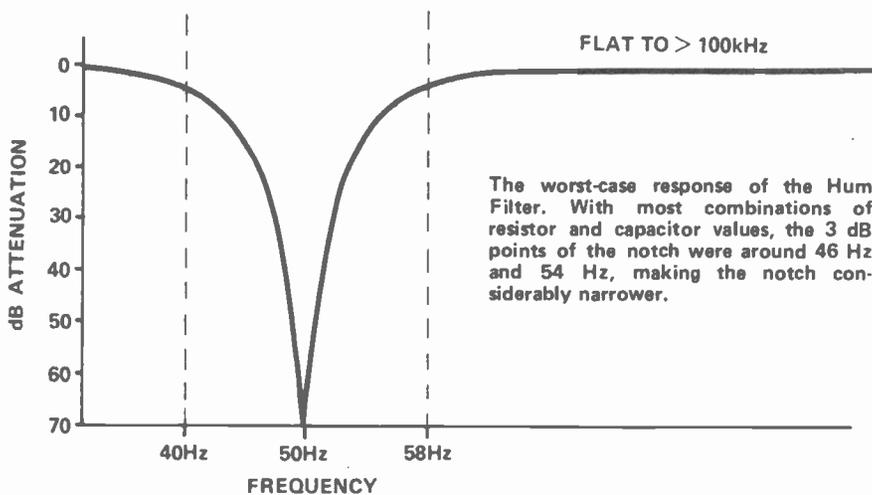
Miscellaneous

ETI 451 PCB, box to suit, 4 panel mounting.

Components for 100 Hz operation

R4,R104	22k
R8,R108	10k

Replace R3 with wire link.



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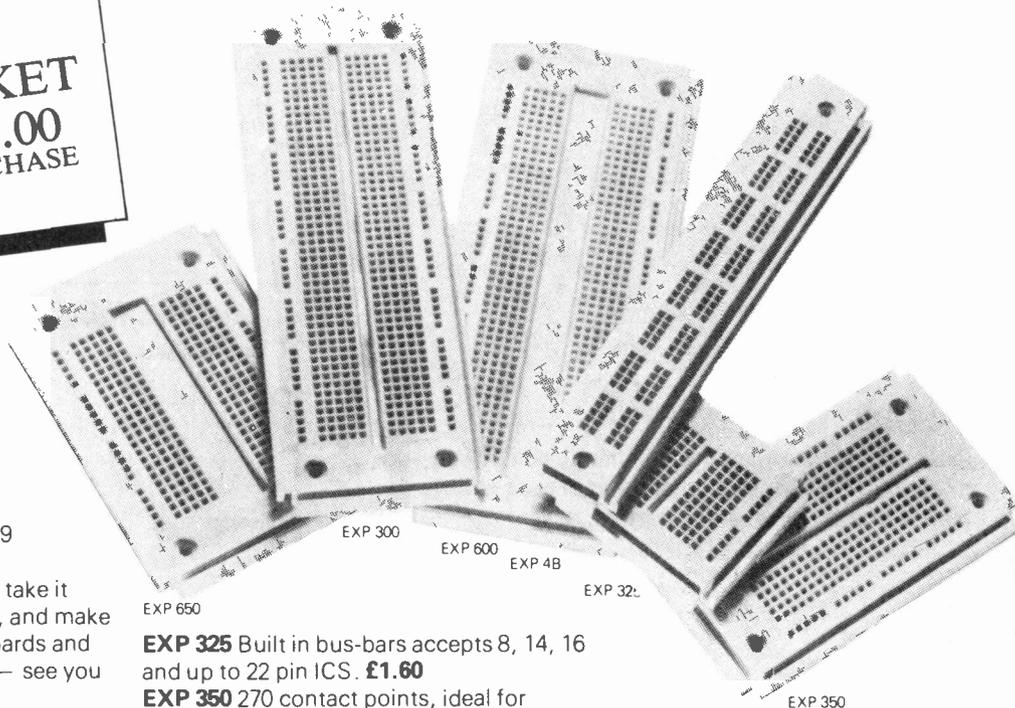
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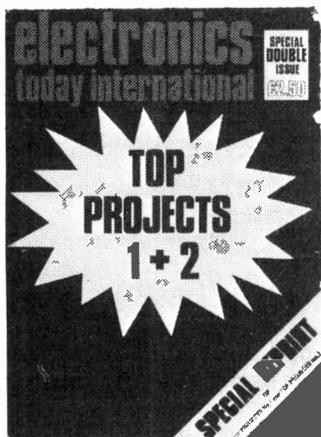
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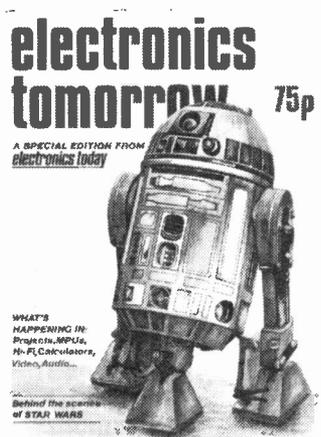
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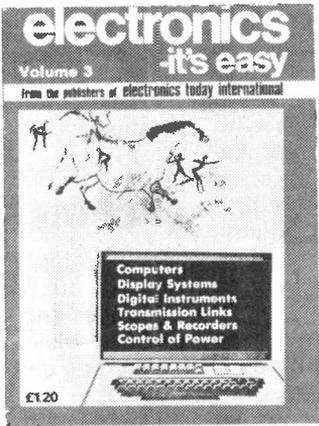
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RAVEN ON...

This month Dave Raven, of Metac Electronics, has a bash at crystal gazing into the future of computers and delves into chip reliability.

Predicting the future in electronics is a regular feature of TV and the press with "Tomorrows World" and newspaper features on technology. People not involved in science probably have difficulty believing the forecasts since they are quite often so far outside what we already understand.

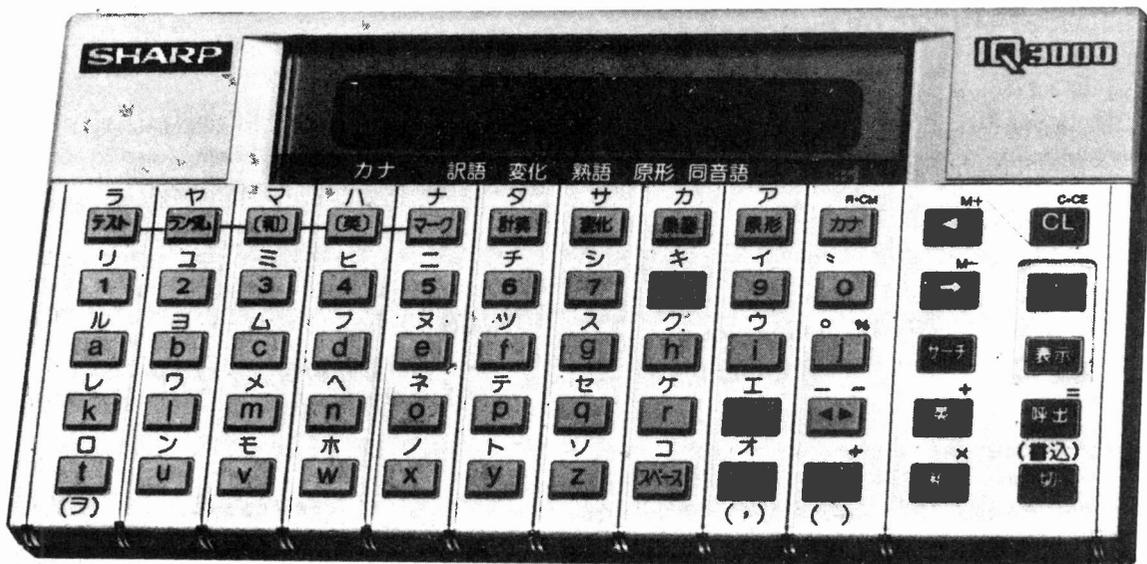
Home computers and Robotics are two areas which receive quite a lot of attention since they are predicted to be areas which will have major effects on the ways in which we work and live. At a recent symposium held in France by a computer manufacturer, experts assembled to discuss the future. It was predicted that there will be at least four major computer revolutions during the 1980s. The component processors revolution forecast for 1979/80 begins with the basic building blocks for computers and communication systems, large scale integration and very large scale integration of devices, hardware, intelligent machine products, people appliances, digital automation products, communications ICs and intelligent data communication satellite systems. All this resulting in components becoming the end product.

Phase two will begin 1981/83 with the Component Computer revolution. This will provide intelligent data management systems and communications subsystem components with the machine/computers becoming just components. Carrying on in 1983/85 we should have the component memory age. This kicks off with the basic building block for information systems, distributed memory, a system component revolutionising com-

munications, information appliances, a data base computer and knowledge based systems. This results in memory becoming components and offices becoming portable machines. Phase four brings the component systems revolution forecast for 1985/88. The component systems will further revolutionise our institutions leading to the end of the main frame computer and allow factories to become machines. The era will be the "system on a wafer technology", communications will substitute for travel and buildings and an information society will emerge. Computers become components and factories become machines. Computer evolution is increasing tenfold every decade and chip technology at 100x/decade while innovation is going at 1000x/decade.

Robots for Robots

People amplifier appliances, the knowledge based system and robots. In the 1990s we can expect intelligent robots, androids and world linked robots. Also, would you believe worker/slave robots for robots. If you find a credibility gap emerging between yourself and the prophets of the future it may be of interest to read this extract from The Times of January 28th 1926 — "Members of the Royal Institution and other visitors to a laboratory in an upper room in Frith Street, Soho, on Tuesday, saw a demonstration of apparatus invented by Mr J. L. Baird. For the purpose of the demonstration the head of a ventriloquist's doll was



manipulated as the image to be transmitted through the human face was also reproduced, first on a receiver in the same room as the transmitter and then on a portable receiver in another room. The visitors were shown recognisable reception of the movement of the dummy head and a person speaking. The image transmitted was faint and often blurred, but substantiated a claim that through the 'televisor' as Mr Baird has named his apparatus, it is possible to transmit and reproduce instantly the details of movement and such things as the play of expression on the face."

The Cathode Ray tube was of course still only a suggestion made back in 1907 by Cambell Swinton in England and Boris Rosing in Russia. So far, though, this suggestion had produced no satisfactory system of television.

Global Games

Electronic home entertainment equipment is largely imported into the UK from Japan and Hong Kong. Some items are made in Taiwan and South Korea. However, these two countries have stronger links with America. Several European firms have set up manufacturing in special export zones in India which have very attractive tax benefits. Both Philips and Rank Radio are in India, also many other companies have goods manufactured in the Far East with their own brand name on. Hong Kong is particularly strong in exporting to England due mainly to our colonial ties. Goods from Hong Kong have been much maligned over the years for low quality probably due to the cheap plastic toy image they are best known for. Early electronic products were of varying quality but since this new technology was not completely debugged it was not only Hong Kong that had problems (reference UK made TV games, calculators and electronic watches).

The high failure rate of electronic goods at the onset of production is nearly always caused by the chip. The low yields of TV game, calculator and watch chips is well documented but as usual the problems are eventually solved and the yield dramatically improves. Now with calculators, TV games and many watch chips the producer just cranks the handle and out they come by the bucketful.

Nipon Word Box

Having referred to the possibility of an electronic dictionary last month it is not surprising that one has now appeared, such is the speed of development in electronics. Made in Japan this time by Sharp it will be going on sale next month.

It features 48 kilobytes of read-only meory together with logic and display control circuits. The liquid crystal display is in dot-matrix and this enables it to run for about 1,000 hours on three silver-oxide batteries.

The dictionary is for Japanese-English, English-Japanese and is intended primarily for Japanese people learning English. It has a central processing unit, two display-control chips and four 12-kilobyte ROMs encoded with a total of 2,500 English words, 300 English compounds and 5,000 Japanese words. Conjugations of English verbs are provided and the dictionary form can be called up from another tense at the push of a button. One further novel feature is a test key for checking the spelling of an English word with a reply of "good" or "wrong". It can also process incorrect or incomplete information. If a user tries to translate "speake" the display will respond with "speak?"

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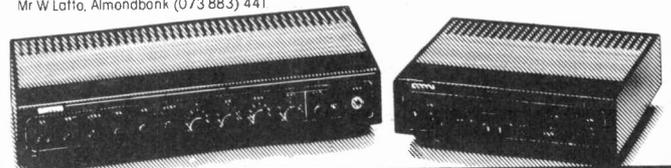
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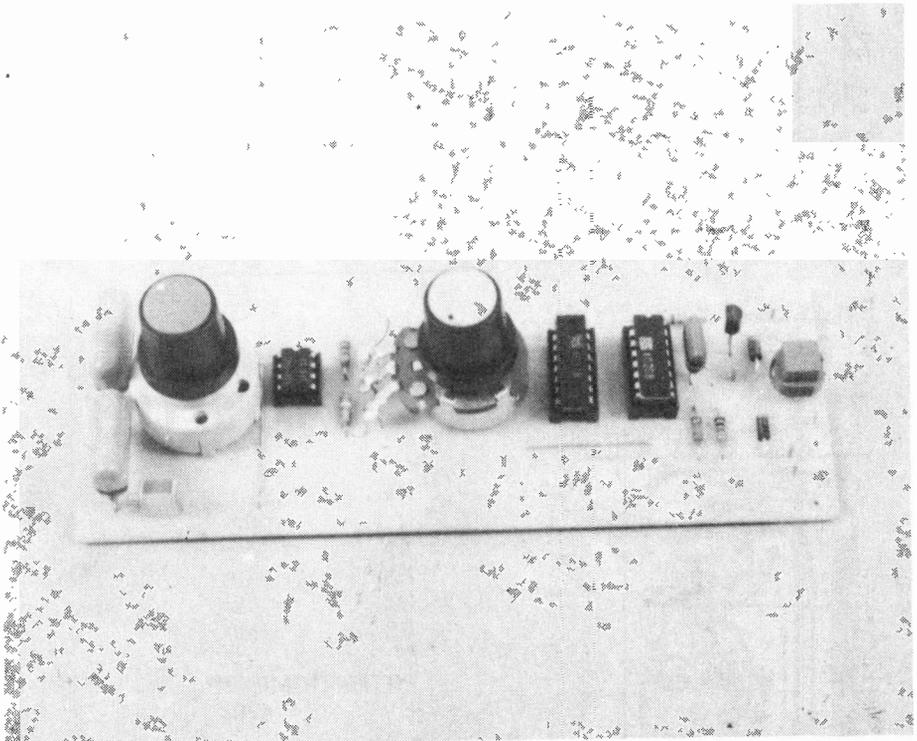
Electronic timer units have numerous home, hobby and engineering applications. They can be designed to have either analogue or digital "Time set" indicators or scales, on which the required timing period is initially set. Their relay-contact outputs can be used to control lamps, heaters, battery chargers, photographic enlargers etc.

Analogue-scale timer circuits have the advantage of low cost. Most previously published circuits of this type, however, have had very restricted maximum timing ranges (fifteen minutes or less) and have suffered from very poor long-term accuracy (20%, or worse), due to the use of electrolytic timing capacitors and high-value timing resistors. Digital-scale timer circuits, on the other hand, have the advantage of high accuracy, but the disadvantage of relatively high cost.

Our new wide-range timer gives you the best of both worlds. It is an analogue-scale device that uses digital frequency division techniques to give a very wide timing range (1 minute to 20 hours), but uses a basic clock generator with non-electrolytic timing capacitors and consequently has a high degree of intrinsic long-term accuracy (better than 1%). The timer is inexpensive, having a typical component cost (excluding the relay) of three or four pounds. The unit consumes zero current when it is in the 'standby' mode and thus does not need a separate on / off switch.

CONSTRUCTION

All of the components of this unit (including the switches and the pot but excluding the relay) are assembled on a single PCB and construction should present few problems. The three ICs should be mounted in suitable holders. The two switches are



PCB-mounting types (see components list). Note that we have made up the 1/2 value of C2 by wiring two capacitors in parallel.

Take special care to relate the circuit diagram to the PCB overlay when connecting the relay and the power supply to the unit. The PCB is provided with five external connection points (one is rather sneakily hidden to the left of push-button PB1 on the overlay). Two of these connections go to the relay coil, one goes to supply zero, one goes to one of the relay contacts, and the remaining connection goes to the other relay contact and also to the supply positive. If the relay fails to latch on when you first give the unit a functional check, suspect an incorrect connection to the relay.

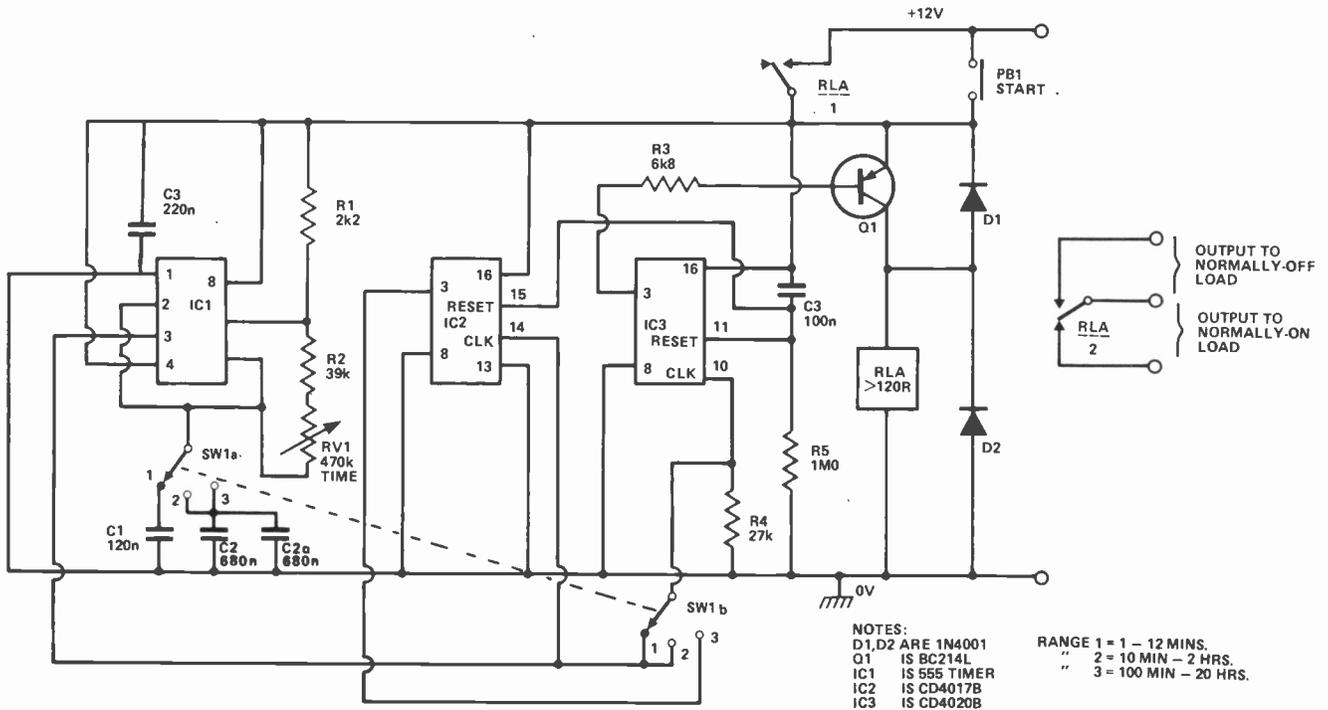
When construction is complete,

check that the unit is fully functional by momentarily closing PB1 and checking that the relay locks on for the timing period. You can then, if you wish, mount the unit in a suitable box and calibrate the RV1 scale against a clock on the two lowest timing ranges. The calibration of the top (100min-20 hours) timing range will be a factor of precisely ten above the middle (10 min - 2 hours; timing range.

BUYLINES

There should be no problems in obtaining any of the components used in the timer.

All ICs are common types available from most components shops.



NOTES:
 D1,D2 ARE 1N4001
 Q1 IS BC214L
 IC1 IS 555 TIMER
 IC2 IS CD4017B
 IC3 IS CD4020B

RANGE 1 = 1 - 12 MINS.
 " 2 = 10 MIN - 2 HRS.
 " 3 = 100 MIN - 20 HRS.

Fig. 1. Circuit diagram.

PARTS LIST

RESISTORS All 1/4W, 5%

R1 2k2
 R2 39k
 R3 6k8
 R4 27k
 R5 1M0

POTENTIOMETER

RV1 470k

CAPACITORS

C1 120n polycarbonate
 C2,a 680n polyester

SEMICONDUCTORS

IC1 NE555
 IC2 CD4017B
 IC3 CD4020B
 Q1 BC214L
 D1,2 1N4001

MISCELLANEOUS

PB1 momentary push button
 SW1 2 pole 3 way rotary switch

Relay to suit.
 Foil pattern.

NOTE: The value of C3, shown on the circuit diagram and component overlay, is 220n.

HOW IT WORKS

In this circuit IC1 is a 555 timer, connected in the astable mode, and is used as a clock generator for the IC2 and IC3 frequency divider circuitry. IC2 is a 4017 decade divider. IC3 is a 4020 14-stage binary counter and in this particular application effectively divides the clock frequency by a factor of 8192.

Power is applied to the circuit by momentarily closing PB1, at which moment the two counters are set to zero via C3 and the relay is driven on via Q1. As the relay turns on its contacts change over and maintain the power supply connections to the unit when PB1 is subsequently released. The IC1 astable starts to generate clock pulses as soon as power is applied.

On range 1 (1-12 mins) the astable period is determined by C1 and R2-RV1. The clock signal is divided down by IC3, which changes state on the arrival of the 8192nd pulse and turns the relay off and breaks the supply connections to the circuit. A similar action takes place on range 2 (10 mins - 2 hours), except that the clock frequency is determined by C2 and R2-RV1.

On range 3 (100 mins to 20 hours) the clock frequency is again determined by C2 and R2-RV1, but in this case the frequency is divided by both IC2 and IC3, so that the relay turns off and breaks the supply connections on the arrival of the 81920th clock pulse.

The spare (RLA/2) set of RLA change-over contacts can be used to control external circuitry.

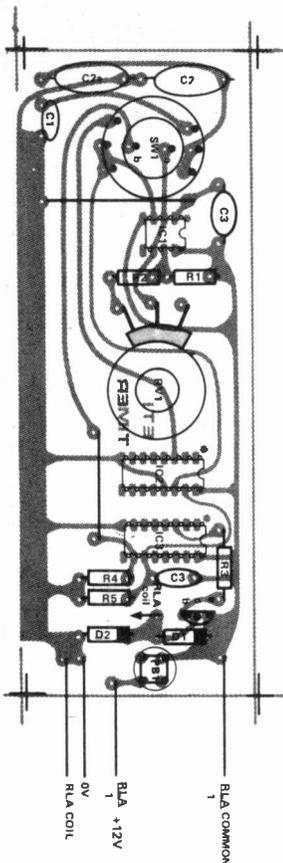


Fig. 2. Component overlay.



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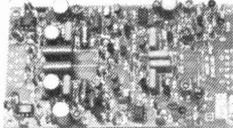
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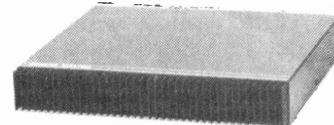
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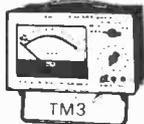
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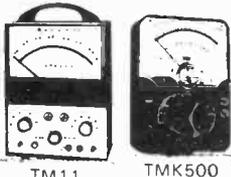
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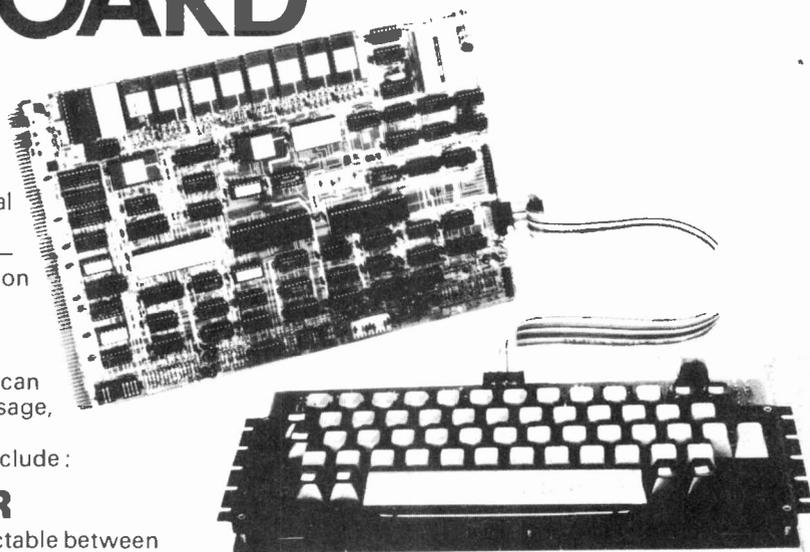
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CHESS MACHINES SURVEY

With the Christmas of the chess computer rapidly approaching, Ian Graham has been mating his way through the electronic playmates.

Well, not much mating actually. I did manage to mate with a couple of the computerised companions on their lowest level.

As my chess isn't up to comparing the programs these machines use, I decided to play them off against one another. On their lowest level, the games were evenly matched. There were lots of stalemates. The Voice Chess Challenger managed to win all but one of its games. So, once, and once only, I heard the Voice Chess Challenger announce 'I lose'.

Perhaps more differences would have shown up at higher levels of play. However (and it's a big however), if all the games were playing at a ten minute

response time and if one assumes 25 moves each for black and white in each game, the E.T.I. chess computer league would have taken over three weeks of button-pushing, 24 hours a day, to play. No thank you.

Whether you're looking for a portable or desk top game, one complete with board or complete without one, or even a game that talks to you, there's one in our survey.

At the end of the survey you'll find a table bringing together the chess games, their suppliers, prices and their most important features. Prices are changing so often that, if you're thinking of buying a system, give a few of the suppliers a ring to confirm the latest prices.

BORIS

Boris is probably the most infuriating of the computer opponents. **It comments on your game.** After considering your next move at length and finally plucking up enough courage to actually move the piece, you sit back with a smug grin on your face. Then the machine responds with 'RUBBISH', flashing on its display. It's enough to shake anyone's confidence in his game.

One welcome feature on both Boris and the Boris Diplomat is an easy way of checking where the pieces are on the board. There's nothing worse than manoeuvring into position to take the computer's Queen to find that it wasn't where you thought it was anyway. All the playmates will allow you to check the state of the board. Usually they assign a numerical value to each piece. The display shows the position of each square and the value of the piece on it. The two Boris's go one better. They display the square location and a stylised outline of the piece on it. The outlines are difficult to decipher at first, but soon become familiar.

A card board (a cardboard what? — No, a chess board made from card) is supplied with Boris, but I think it's totally unnecessary. If you can afford the £165 or so for Boris you're likely to have enough pennies left over for a decent board, if you haven't got one already.

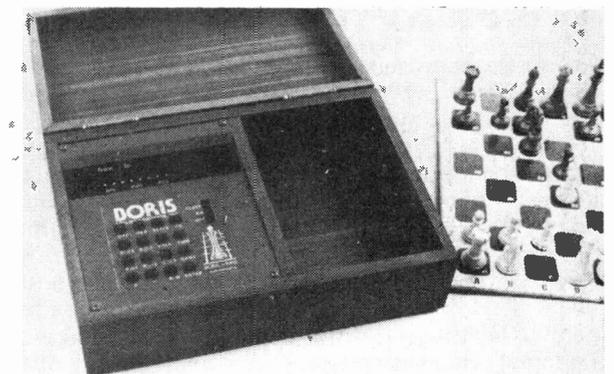
Unlike the other games, which have a series of levels of play to choose from, Boris has a built-in 100 hour timer. The longer a response time you set on the timer, the longer Boris has to think about his/it's next move and the higher the level at which it plays.

Boris can be set to play either white or black. If you don't

like the situation you've played yourself into, you can change sides and make Boris take over your pieces.

You don't have to start every game from the beginning. Any problem or advanced stage of play can be set up on the board and entered rank by rank into Boris's memory. If Boris's response to one of your moves is rather disturbing, you can go back to where you were and try a different move.

As you can see, Boris comes in an attractive walnut case, with a compartment for the pieces and mains adaptor. ▶

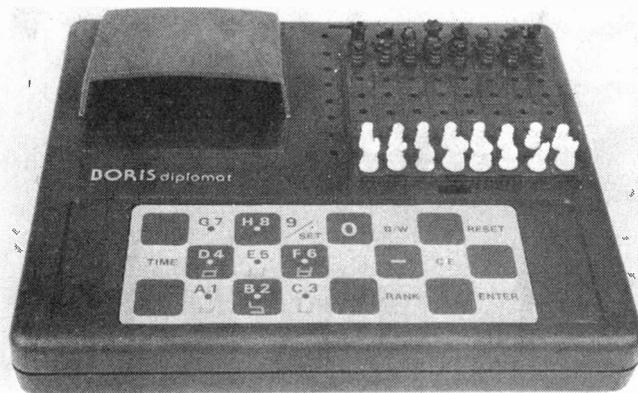


BORIS DIPLOMAT

My first impressions of the Boris Diplomat were less than favourable. I found that the flickering LED display was set at an awkward viewing angle. The keyboard, although large and clearly laid out, was unsatisfactory in use. It was absolutely rigid and, in the absence of sound effects, I had to glance at the display after each key pressing to ensure that the move had, in fact, been successfully entered. The chess board itself is even smaller than the keyboard and the pieces almost microscopic.

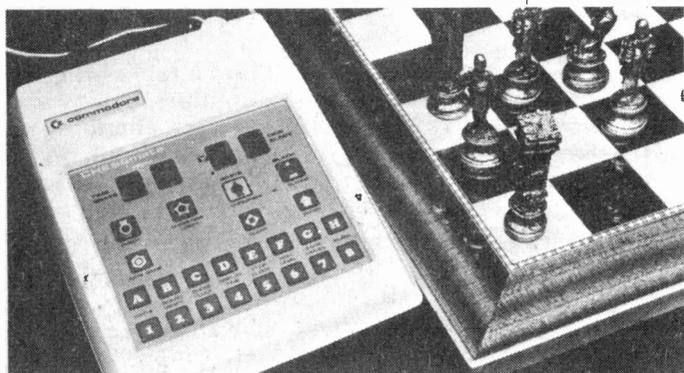
Having got all that off my chest, let me now say that I think Boris Diplomat is the perfect travelling chess computer. It's completely self-contained. You could quite happily sit on the BA shuttle to Glasgow or the 8.20 from Staines to Waterloo (the sardine special) with Boris Diplomat on your knee flashing it's gems at you.

The Diplomat shares the features of its big brother Boris. It doesn't have a series of levels. Instead it has an internal timer which can be set to give a response time of up to 100



hours. The longer you give the Diplomat to think, the higher the level of its play.

COMMODORE CHESSMATE



Commodore's Chessmate is another newcomer to the market. This computerised mate didn't stir any great feelings either for or against it, on the whole. Although it employs the same control method as Chess Champion (separate keys/touch pads for the letter and number of each square location) I didn't find it at all awkward to use. On pressing each touch pad, a trill of tones signals

successful pressing. Another trill accompanies the appearance of Chessmate's response on the display.

My only criticism is that there is no on/off switch for the sound effects. They *do* become a little irritating after a couple of games. The control panel is well laid out and more colourful than most.

There are eight levels of play and internal black and white 60 minute timers. Unlike all the other systems, which automatically reset to level one at the beginning of each new game, Chessmate resets to level 4 — its average level.

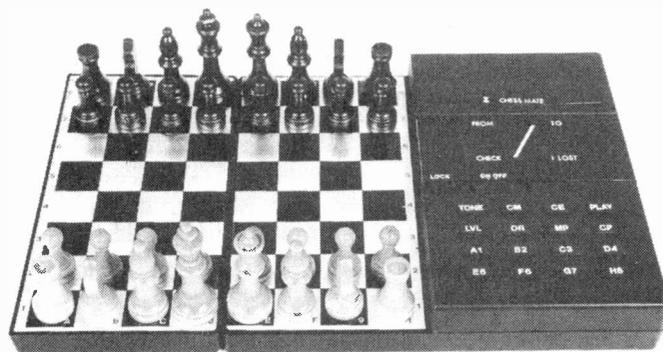
Chessmate copes quite happily with castling and en passant but it trusts you to observe the correct rules of castling. It will also check where the pieces are on the board, assigning a numerical value to each piece for identification. An illegal move is answered by a pair of flashing question marks on the display.

The computer companion's memory stores 32 familiar chess openings — from the Bishop's game to the Nimzo-Indian defence. It chooses one of these at random and tries to follow it for 16 moves, after which it has to think for itself.

CHESS MATE

Not to be confused with Commodore's Chessmate, this Chess Mate isn't on the market yet. It's a battery (rechargeable)/mains game complete with fold out board. It will play at ten levels with average response times of from eight seconds to a day and a half. As with all the other games in our survey you can set up any problem on the board, so you don't have to start every game at the beginning.

The prototype I saw had one minor disadvantage. The board folds away very neatly to make a compact portable game. No, that's not the disadvantage. Unlike the Boris Diplomat which is self-contained with its set of on-board pieces, this game has no provision for carrying pieces. So, you have to carry around a little bag of pieces separately. However, there may be enough space in the folding board



to accommodate them when the game finally appears on the market.

CHESS CHAMPION



You have to supply your own board when you play against the Champion. The good news is that the Champ's price has come down recently. ('Wonder if it's anything to do with the competition from the new Commodore Chessmate?) It has six levels of play — from an instant

response beginners level to the marathon 2-day computing time level (for correspondence chess).

As chess computers go, the Champion is a simple animal. It will only play black. Special moves need special treatment. The execution of the en passant move is a little puzzling. To take the Champion's black pawn en passant, you enter your white pawn's diagonal move. Now, you have to remove the black pawn from the board as seen by C.C., so you have to enter what appears to be an illegal sideways move to erase the C.C.'s pawn from it's memory. Castling? The Champ castles at the first opportunity.

You may have noticed that Chess Champion has more keys than most of it's brethren. Whereas one key usually serves for both the letter and number of a square's location eg C3, Chess Champion has a separate key for each. In my humble opinion, as a fully paid up member of the button-pusher's union, the Champ would be a much more attractive proposition if it incorporated dual-function buttons or touch pads, perhaps with a button-press sound effect.

CHESS CHALLENGERS

This latest addition to the Chess Challenger range is a bit special. It talks to you. It not only repeats every move, it tells you which piece it's moving and, if it's taking something, which piece it's taking. If you're stuck for a move, the Voice C.C. will even whisper a few suggestions in your shell-like. If you're a bit slow off the mark, the machine will remind you that you really ought to get a move on. It's no slow-coach itself, with response times of about half those of its predecessors.

There are nine levels of play plus an H level. If you select H, the chatty Challenger goes on thinking about it's next move until you tell it to stop. Checking the position of pieces on the board is simplicity itself. Each time you press the PV key, the computer-generated voice tells you which piece is on each square and whose piece it is. Positions are also shown on the display. Like Chess Challenger 10, the Voice C.C. comes with magnetic pieces. However, the usual Challenger touch keypad for a pushbutton pad with a click action.

For all the Micro-men (and women) in Readerland, the Voice Challenger uses 96K of ROM for program and operational stages, 32K bits of ROM for voice generation and 8K bits of RAM for scratch pad and intermediate storage. The heart of the clever bits is a Z80-A, 8-bit CPU. The unit is preprogrammed with 48 standard opening moves which it will select either randomly or under your command.

This is by far the most expensive chess computer on sale now, but it *does* have the most powerful program yet to appear on the market. If you're a serious club player, and a wealthy one at that, the Voice Chess Challenger is the most competent opponent (non-human, that is) you can face today.

I hoped this Challenger would make full use of it's voice and show a little character by blowing a raspberry when it won, but it just said 'check and mate', like a well programmed American dalek.



Chess Challenger 10 is a ten level opponent in an attractive package with an integral board and magnetic pieces. The calculator-style touch pad has a positive click action *and* sound effects. The manufacturers — Fidelity Electronics of Miami — have included a sound off switch. Whilst sound effects are useful to indicate successful key pressing, they can get rather monotonous and irritating after a while. The challenger 10 has one big advantage over its star successor, the voice box — it's around £80 cheaper — but its chess program is not as powerful or as fast.

Chess Challenger 7 was the first of the Challenger series to retail at under £100 and the last to appear before the Challenger acquired the power of speech.

It incorporates all the features of its predecessors plus a few extras. It will play against you (naturally), but it will also play against itself (if you're into spectator chess). You can change sides in mid-game and see how the Challenger gets out of the mess you got into. Not surprisingly, it looks very like its predecessor, the Challenger 10. ▶

ATARI CHESS CARTRIDGE

If you're buying a programmable TV games centre, or if Santa Claus is bringing you one, you've probably got your eyes on the Atari Video Computer Systems. It's an expensive way of playing chess — over £200, including £45 just for the chess cartridge.

I thought it would be unfair to test the chess cartridge only. To give the system a fair and complete trial I decided to try out all the games cartridges I could get my hands on. There were air-sea battles, space wars, golf, basketball, breakout and many more cartridges. About a month later I thought I was sufficiently familiar with the system to try the chess cartridge. My eyes resumed their by now customary square shape as the board appeared on the screen.

My first criticism is that the board could be much larger. It sits in the middle of the screen with a large unused border round it. The pieces are controlled by a joystick with a push button. When the cursor is moved onto a piece, the piece is 'picked up' by pushing the button, then moved with the joystick and finally 'released' by pushing the button again. This sort of control method always seems at first to be a bit of a long-winded business, but soon becomes second nature. You have to decide for yourself whether it will interfere with your game.

There are eight levels of play. I assumed that level one was the simplest and level eight the most difficult. Silly me.

Level eight is the simplest followed by levels one to seven.

The Atari Videocomputer system and chess cartridge are available from Videotime Products, who can supply the full range of games cartridges. The cartridges are mostly £14.95 each. The exceptions are chess at £45 and backgammon at £34.50.



	SUPPLIERS AND PRICES					GAME FEATURES				
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VOICE CHESS CHALLENGER	229.95	245.00	249.95	249.95	.	M	10	YES	PB	YES/S
CHESS CHAMPION	.	54.50	54.95	.	.	M	6	NO	PB	NO
COMMODORE CHESSMATE	59.95	.	59.95	.	.	M	8	NO	TP	YES
CHESS MATE	95.00	M/B	10	YES	PB	YES/S
ATARI CHESS CARTRIDGE	45.00	.	.	.	45.00	M	8	YES	JB	YES

Power: M — mains
B — battery
Levels: T — internal timer
Sound: YES/S — sound effect may be switched off.
Controls: PB — push buttons
TP — touch pads
JP — joystick and push-button

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102 Bellegrove Road
Welling
Kent DA16 3QD
Tel: 01-303 9145

CGL — Computer Games Ltd
Spectrum House
48 Cambridge Road
Barking
Essex
Tel: 01-591 5654

V — Videotime Products
56 Queens Road
Basingstoke
Hants RG12 1REA
Tel: (0256) 56417
(0256) 26620

K — Kramer & Co
9 October Place
Holders Hill Road
London NW4 1EJ
Tel: 01-203 2473
(mail order only)

The list of suppliers is by no means exhaustive. Many of the High Street hi-fi stores will have a chess machine or two in the window. Prices vary a lot, so it's worth shopping around, especially with Christmas coming up and some prices coming down. STOP PRESS — Latest prices from Mountaine: Commodore Chessmate — £58.00, Boris — £155.25, Boris Diplomat — £90.00, Challenger 10 — £155.25, Challenger 7 — £88.00, Voice Challenger — £230.00.

ETI

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Volts	Milli-amps	Ref. No.	Price £	P&P
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9-0-9	100	131	1.95	.60
0.9, 0.9	330 330	235	1.80	.60
0.8-9, 0.8-9	500 500	207	2.40	.65
0.8-9, 0.8-9	1A 1A	208	3.50	.65
0-15, 0-15	200 200	236	1.80	.60
0-20, 0-20	300 300	214	2.40	.80
20-12-0-12-20	700(DC)	221	3.15	.80
0-15-20, 0-15-20	1A 1A	206	4.25	.95
0-15-27, 0-15-27	500 500	203	3.70	.80
0-15-27, 0-15-27	1A 1A	204	5.75	.95

50 VOLT (Pri: 220-240V) Sec: 0-19-25-33-40-50V				
Amps	Ref. No.	Price £	P&P	
0.5	102	3.25	.80	
1.0	103	4.25	.95	
2.0	104	6.95	1.10	
3.0	105	8.25	1.10	
4.0	106	10.50	1.20	
6.0	107	14.75	1.40	
8.0	118	19.85	1.60	
10.0	119	23.75	2.10	

12 AND/OR 24 VOLT Pri: 220-240 Volts				
Amps	Ref. No.	Price £	P&P	
0.5	025	1.11	1.95	.65
1.0	05	213	2.40	.80
2	1	71	2.90	.80
4	2	18	3.70	.80
6	3	70	5.25	.85
8	4	108	7.10	1.10
10	5	72	7.90	1.10
12	6	116	8.50	1.10
16	8	17	10.50	1.20
20	10	115	13.50	1.40
30	15	187	16.50	1.40
60	30	226	33.00	1.70

60 VOLT (Pri: 220-240V) Sec: 0-24-30-40-48-60				
Amps	Ref. No.	Price £	P&P	
0.5	124	3.50	.80	
1.0	126	5.25	.95	
2.0	127	7.20	1.10	
3.0	125	10.75	1.20	
4.0	123	12.00	1.40	
5.0	40	13.80	1.50	
6.0	120	17.25	1.50	

AUTO TRANSFORMERS Input/Output Tapped 0-115-210-240V				
VA (Watts)	Ref. No.	Price £	P&P	
20	113	2.30	.80	
75	64	3.75	.80	
150	4	5.25	.95	

Input/Output Tapped 0-115-210-220-240V				
VA (Watts)	Ref. No.	Price £	P&P	
300	53	8.85	1.10	
500	67	10.50	1.40	
1000	84	18.25	1.50	

Also 1500/2000/3000VA MAINS ISOLATING (Centre Tapped & Screened) Pri: 120/240V Sec: 120/240V				
VA (Watts)	Ref. No.	Price £	P&P	
60	149	6.25	.95	
100	150	7.25	1.20	
200	151	10.75	1.20	
250	152	12.95	1.40	
350	153	15.95	1.50	
1000	156	36.75	3.10	

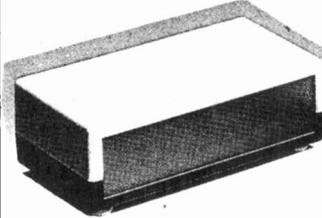
30 VOLT (Pri: 220-240V) Sec: 0-12-15-20-24-30V				
Amps	Ref. No.	Price £	P&P	
0.5	112	2.50	.80	
1.0	79	3.25	.80	
2.0	3	5.25	.95	
3.0	20	5.95	1.10	
4.0	21	6.25	1.10	
5.0	51	9.25	1.10	
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10.0	89	16.25	1.40	

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1A 400V RECTIFIERS

Plastic, like 1N4004, type 388F these diodes have performed leads for horizontal mntg (15mm FC). Supersave price - 100 for £2.30; 500/£10; 1000/£18.

1000 RESISTORS £2.50!!

New stock just arrived - Carbon Film 2% & 5%. 1/4 & 1/2w, all brand new, but have pre-formed leads, ideal for PC mntg. Enormous range of popular mixed values for just £2.50/1000; £11/5000; £50/25,000.

POWER DARLINGTON PAIR

Plastic power (TOP66 case) transistors type BD695A/BD696A. Just look at the spec!! 70W BA 45V - Hfe 750 @ 4A!! Special low price - £1.20 per pair.

TMS4030 RAM

4096 bit dynamic RAM with 300ns access time; 470ns cycle time; single low capacitance high level clock 1/p; fully TTL compatible; low power dissipation. Supplied with data £2.75.

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Z402 Miniature type, 3-9V, only 22-15x16mm. Very neat 65p.
Z450 Miniature 6V DC motor, high quality type 32mm dia x 25mm high, with 12mm spindle. Only £1.
Z451 12V high torque motor 30mm dia x 40mm high, with 10mm spindle, 65p.
Z452 6V DC motor with gearbox giving final shaft speed 700 rpm. Spindle is threaded OBA. Ex-equip £1.
Z453 As above but 300 rpm and un-threaded spindle £1.
A372 Audible Warning device - solid state circuit drives high efficiency transducer to give high output. Voltage reqd 4-18V. Can also be driven direct from TTL or CMOS. Module size 45x21x12mm. Comprehensive data supplied £1.50.

VU METERS

Voo2 Twin type. 2 metres 40x40mm and driver board, supplied with circuit and connection data, £3.50.
Voo3 New type, just in. Twin type moulded in one piece, 80x40mm (no driver board but suitable circuit supplied) £2.50.

LINEAR IC BARGAIN

We have just received a large consignment of popular linear IC's that have failed the manufacturer's stringent tests. However, on checking through a few hundred we have found that quite a large proportion tested in a simple oscillator circuit are functional, so are offering them in packs as follows:

Type	Package	% Good	Qty	Price
702	14DIL	65	25	£1.20
709	8DIL	75	20	£1.20
709	14DIL	50	30	£1.20
710	T099	30	40	£1.20
710	14DIL	30	40	£1.20
720	14DIL	80	20	£1.20
741	T099	40	25	£1.20
748	T099	70	15	£1.20

Connection data is supplied. One of each pack. £8.50.

VEROCASE SALE!!

Four popular sizes of Verocase at drastically reduced prices - these were part of their standard range (75-1411 etc) but are in GREEN and have been discontinued by Vero. We have purchased their entire stock and offer them as below:

Type No	Size	Price
21050	205x140x75mm	£2.70
21051	180x120x65mm	£2.20
21052	154x85x60mm	£1.70
21053	125x65x40mm	£1.40

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Low profile by TI at lowest ever prices!

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20 pin	.155	.125	.10
22 pin	.19	.15	.12
24 pin	.21	.17	.14
28 pin	.24	.19	.15
40 pin	.26	.21	.16
	.32	.26	.21

BULK BARGAINS

All new full spec devices. Prices per 100 inc VAT (orders not accepted for less than 100 of one type at these low prices!!)

AD161/2PR	£48	8F255	£8
BC107	£7	8F394	£4
BC108	£6	8F450	£7
BC109	£7	8F451	£5
BC114	£6	8FY17	£12
BC117	£5	8FY50	£14
BC125	£5	8FY51	£14
BC147	£5	8FY52	£14
BC148	£5	8SY95A	£10
BC149	£5	8U205	£65
BC159	£5	8U206	£65
BC172C	£5	2N1132	£12
BC182B	£4.50	2N2369	£12
1k	£35	2N2894	£12
10k	£310	2N2926Y	£5
BC183B	£5	2N2926R	£5
BC184L	£5	2N3053	£13
BC212	£5	2N3054	£34
BC213L	£5	2N3055	£34
BC237	£5	2N3442	£100
BC238B	£5	2N3583	£45
BC252	£7	2N3618	£78
BC308B	£6	2N3702	£75
BC230	£7	2N3708	to £75
BC238	£8	2N4401	£5
BC337	£8	2N4403	£6
BC348	£5	2N5401	£19
BC351	£14		
BC557A	£5		
BCX33	£5	1N4001	£3.50
BD131	£19	1k	£28
BD132	£20	1N4004	£4.50
BD181	£50	1k	£39
BD184	£60	1N4006	£5.50
BD246	£25	1k	£46
BD525	£25	1N4148	£2.30
BD526	£25	1k	£17
BD173	£13		
BF181	£17		
BF195	£5	741 8dil	£13.50
BF197	£5	555	£21.75
BF198	£5	723 14dil	£32
BF241	£5	723 T099	£30

Resistors - 1/4W 5% carbon film, these values only: 220R, 470R, 1k, 3k9, 4k7, 33k, 47k, 220k, 18R. All at £4 per 1,000 (min qty of one value) or £35 per 10,000 any mix.

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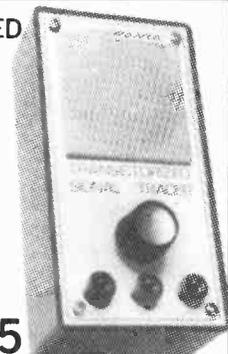
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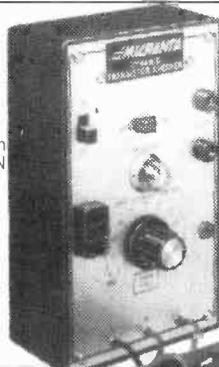
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Shows current gain and electrode open and short circuit. Tests low, medium or high power PNP or NPN types. Go/no-Go test from 5-50mA on power types. 22-024.

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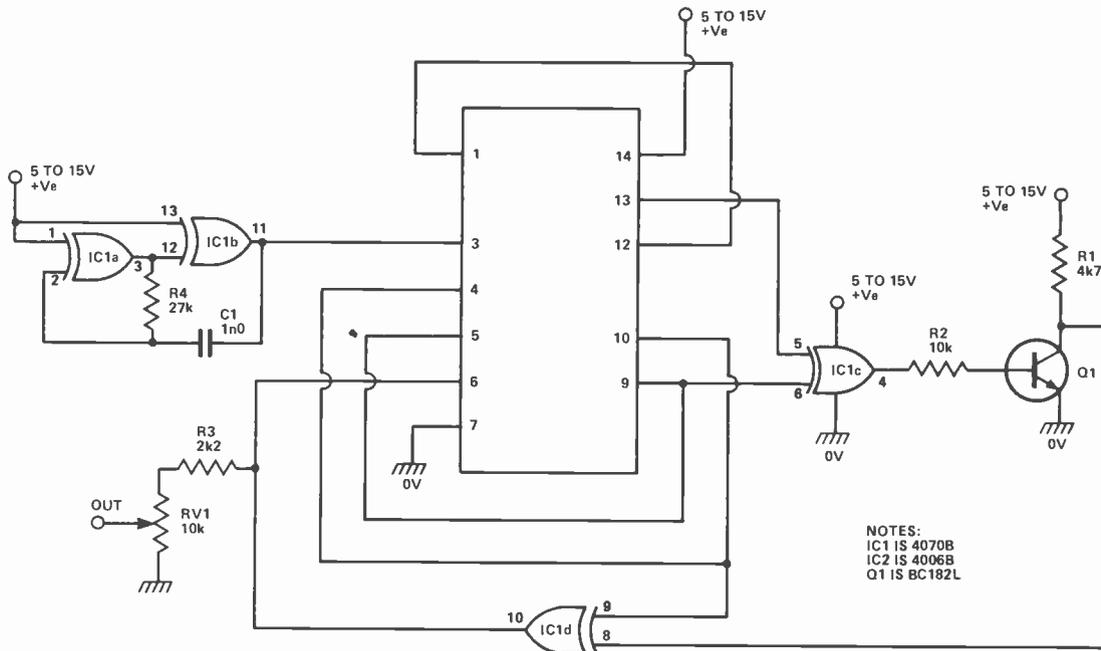


Fig. 2. Practical circuit of the noise generator.

Construction

The circuit uses only two IC's, one transistor, and half a dozen passive components, so construction is simplicity itself. As the ICs are CMOS devices, they should be handled with due care, and preferably should be mounted on the PCB via suitable

sockets or via Soldercon pins. When construction is complete, check the performance by connecting a crystal earpiece or microphone across the output terminals, and switch on. If all is well, the unit will produce a hissing noise like escaping steam.

ETI

BUYLINES

No problems here. All components are standard parts, available from most mail-order suppliers advertising in this issue.

HOW IT WORKS

The theoretical circuit of the generator is shown in Figure 1, and a more practical representation is shown in Fig 2. IC2 is an 18-stage (5 + 4 + 5 + 4) static shift register, in which the logic (0 or 1) information on the Data terminal is fed forward one step on the arrival of each new pulse from the IC1a-IC1b 30 kHz clock generator. IC1c and IC1d are Exclusive-OR gates, and are used in conjunction with inverter-connected Q1 to feed various outputs of IC2 back to the Data terminal in such a way that the data feeds through the register in an APPARENTLY random or jumbled fashion.

In reality, a complex sequence of 0's and 1's flows through the register, repeating once every few seconds and producing an apparently random jumble of fundamental frequencies. Since these fundamental frequencies are produced digitally, however, they each produce a vast number of harmonics which, when subsequently (externally) filtered, produce a signal that appears to vary randomly in both frequency and amplitude, and thus to have all the basic characteristics of white noise.

PARTS LIST

RESISTORS All 1/4W, 5%

R1	4k7
R2	10k
R3	2k2
R4	27k

POTENTIOMETER

RV1	10k
-----	-----

CAPACITOR

C1	1n0 polystyrene
----	-----------------

SEMICONDUCTORS

IC1	4070B
IC2	4006B
Q1	BC182L

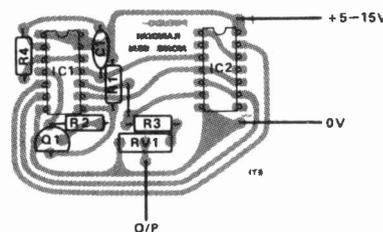


Fig. 3. Component overlay.

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TORIN BLOWER

220/240V AC. Aperture 10x4 1/2cm overall size 16x14cm. Price £3.75 P&P 75p (incl. VAT £5.18). Other types available. SAE for details. N.M.S.



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USA made 24V DC 0.8 amp blower that operates well on 12V 0.4 amp DC producing 30 cu ft min at normal air pressure. Maximum housing dia 110mm, depth inc motor 75mm, nozzle length 19mm, dia 22mm. Ideal for cooling mobile equipment, car, caravan, etc. £4.50 P&P 75p (£6.04 inc. VAT & P). N.M.S.

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1000 VOLTS 1000 megohms £55.00 Post 80p (£64.17 inc. VAT & P)

SAE for leaflet

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0-4V/6V/24V/32V at 12 amp £18.50 P&P £1.90 (£23.46 inc. VAT & P)

0.6V/12V at 20 amp £14.70 P&P £1.50 (inc. VAT £18.63)

0-12V/20 amp or 0-24V at 10 amp £12.00 P&P £1.50 (£15.53 inc. VAT & P)

0.6V/12V at 10 amp £8.25 P&P £1.25 (inc. VAT £10.93)

0.6V/12V/17V/18V/20V at 20 amp £19.00 P&P £1.50 (£23.58 inc. VAT & P)

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New ceramic construction, vitreous enamel embedded winding, heavy duty brush assembly, continuously rated.

25 WATT 10, 25, 100, 150, 250, 500, 1k, 1.5k ohm £2.40 Post 20p (£2.99 inc. VAT & P). 50 WATT 250 ohm £2.90 Post 25p (£3.62 inc. VAT & P). 100 WATT 1.5/10/25/50/100/250/300/500/1k/1.5k/2.5k/5k ohm £5.90 Post 35p (£7.19 inc. VAT & P).

Black Silver Skirted Knob calibrated in Nos. 1-9. 1 1/2 in. dia brass bush. Ideal for above Rheostats. 28p ea.

SPECIAL OFFER

BERCO type L RHEOSTAT

85 ohm 300 watt 1.86 amp £7.50 P&P 50p (Total £9.20 inc. VAT). N.M.S.

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3 phase AC motor. 220/250V or 380/440V. 1.425 rpm 1/2 hp cont. Direct coupled to William Alday Alcosa carbon vane blower/vacuum pump. 0.9 dm 8 hg. Price £22.00 P&P £2.00 (£27.60 inc. VAT & P). N.M.S.

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HY-LIGHT STROBE KIT Mk. IV

★ Latest type Xenon white light tube. Solid state timing and triggering circuit 230/240V AC operation. Speed adjustable 1-20 fps.

★ Designed for large stores, halls, etc. Light output greater than many

★ (so called 4 Joule) strobes. Price £19.00 post £1.00 (£23.00 inc. VAT & P). Specially designed case and reflector for Hy-Light £8.80 Post

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FLUORESCENT TUBES

★ 4ft 40 watt £8.70 (callers only £10 inc. VAT). 2ft 20 watt £6.20.

★ Post 75p (£7.99 inc. VAT & P). (For use in stan-bip fittings). Mini

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★ (£2.99 inc. VAT & P).

★ Complete ballast unit for either 6", 9" or 12" tube 230V AC

★ £3.50 plus P&P 45p (£4.54 inc. VAT & P). Also available for 12V

★ DC op. £3.90 plus P&P 45p (£4.54 inc. VAT & P).

★ 400 watt lamp and ballast complete £31.50. Post £3 (£39.68

★ inc. VAT & P). 400 watt UV lamp only £11.25. Post £1.20

★ (£14.32 inc. VAT & P).

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★ Four channels, each capable of

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Range of Xenon tubes available from

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★ from stock. Phone or write in your en-

★ quires.

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★ & P).

★ T.E.C. open type 3 c/o. 10 amp £1.10 (£1.50 inc. VAT & P).

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★ 12V 2 c/o 7 amp octal base. £1.25 (£1.67 inc. VAT & P). Sealed 12V 3

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★ Other types available — phone for details. N.M.S.

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★ AC Amp. Type 62T2: 0-1A, 0-5A, 0-20A. AC Volt.

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115 lb. ins., 110 volt, 50Hz, 2.8 amp, single phase, split capacitor motor. Immense power. Continuously rated. Totally enclosed. Fan cooled. In-line gearbox. Length 250mm. Dia. 135mm. Spindle Dia. 15.5mm. Length 115mm, ex-equipment tested £12.00 Post £1.50 (£15.53 inc. VAT & P). Suitable transformer 230/240 volt £8.00 Post 75p (£10.06 inc. VAT & P) R&T



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Both types similar to above drawing. Price either type £4.75 + 75p P&P (£6.33 inc. VAT & P&P)

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FRACMO MOTOR

56rpm 50lbs inch 240V AC reversible, 0.7 amp, sharp length 35mm, dia. 16mm, weight 6 kilos.

600 grams. Price £15.00 P&P £1.50 (£18.98).

N.M.S.



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PARVALUX 230/250V AC MOTOR

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★ Inch Price £15.00 P&P £1.50 (£18.98 inc. VAT).

★ N.M.S.

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★ General Electric 230V AC, 1,600 r.p.m. 0.25 amp. Complete with anti-vibration mounting bracket and capacitor. O/A. size 110mm x 90mm. Spindle 5/16 dia. 20mm long. Ex-equipment tested £3.00. Post 50p (£4.03 inc. VAT & P).

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★ (£2.53 incl. P & VAT). 4 for £5.00 post paid (£5.75 incl. VAT). N.M.S.

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★ Precision built miniature motor, 6/12V DC operation. Incredibly

★ powerful for size.

★ Approx speed at 6V 60 rpm 40 ma

★ Approx speed at 9V 80 rpm 50 ma

★ Approx speed at 12V 120 rpm 60 ma

★ Size 27mm dia, 38mm length, weight 55 gram. Drive spindle 5 mm x 2



MICROFILE

Henry Budgett's comments last month spurred some of you to take up pen and phone. This month micro-man brings news from the North and gives the Beeb a plug.

My little plea for help over the problems involved in modem style connection of home computers has borne some fruit. A very helpful gentleman, who just happens to work for the PO, wrote in with a few comments. Apparently the Post Office regard acoustic modems as attachments in much the same way as answering machines and there are a considerable number of specifications to be met. Such items are the maximum sound level of -13 dBm and the maximum sound pressure at the transmitter of 0.5 Newtons per square metre. Type approval for these kinds of devices should be obtained and I gather that ad-lib experimentation may be frowned on, so take care!

It should also be noted that hard wiring of a computer to the PO lines is definitely *not* on. I didn't suggest it last month, but just in case it has crossed your mind . . . forget it.

One other comment that was thrown in from another PO person was that there is a rather critical frequency around 2200 Hz. A tone of this frequency will cause the exchange to close down your call, slightly embarrassing. You have a bandwidth of 300 to 3500 Hz to play with so steer clear of this area. Full technical details of the specifications are contained in Technical Guide No 11, which should be obtainable from the telephone section of the Post Office.

And finally on this subject, I understand that Greenbanks cassette interface for their SCMP system has provision for an op-amp to be connected for direct tape head drive. It should prove possible to use this to drive a loudspeaker for our purposes. The board is currently being re-designed so contact them soon for details. Many thanks to Mike for his helpful comments on the Post Office's position.

Standard Letters

A vast epistle squeezed its way into my mailbag this week after my diatribe on standards last month. One problem . . . there was a lot in it about misspelling and general missuse of Her Britannic Majesty's English but not a sausage (courtesy of *That's Life*) on computer jargon. Have you no shame, or perhaps you were all stunned into silence? Please will someone say something, hopefully polite, as the article was supposed to inspire general comment.

Plea For Clubs

Not a single word from anyone this month. Are you all too busy to write to Microfile with your news? Many thanks to

those who have filled in the little form and sent it back. If any club hasn't had one please let us know as we are trying to produce a second Club Directory for CT and we go to press in four weeks. After all, if the Beeb think it's good enough to use what have you got to lose, poetic stuff.

BBC Speaks Out

A superb pair of programmes were broadcast this month on Radio 4. Called "Machines with Mouths" and "Machines with Ears" they dealt with speech synthesis and recognition systems and techniques which are currently being used. Having worked in this area for a number of years I found them to be excellently produced and most enjoyable. A definite pat on the back for the Science Department. What was even more impressive was that it was done on radio. One would expect this kind of subject to be tackled on a programme such as *Horizon*. It was also amusing to hear many voices from the past (such as my old boss) expounding their views on the subject. A repeat soon one hopes, how about it?

News From The North

Microdigital have released the first of a series of Nasbus based general purpose interface boards. This one has sixteen relays and is addressable to any two consecutive ports on the Nascom. Power requirements are a modest 250 mA on both the +12 and +5 volt rails and the unit is supplied as a kit complete with sockets for all IC's along with a manual and sample software. Price is around the £50 mark.

The ACFA single board computer that we had a slight mix-up over a month or so back is currently being re-engineered for the new 6809 CPU and some more I/O. The problems caused by the NTSC (Nasty Television System for Computers) have now been overcome and a demo model will shortly be going round the shows. Look out for it, it may suit your needs.

The Liverpool software gazette has just been launched priced at 50p per issue or £6 per year for twelve copies. It is packed with software and reviews, including a look at Pascal on the Apple. One of the most interesting items is the complete listing of the M5 language, which has now gone public, for the Nascom. For more details on the language see our review in CT May. The magazine is not intended for the beginner as it assumes a reasonable knowledge of computers. Details on all these products can be obtained from Microdigital at 25 Brunswick Street, Liverpool 2.

ETI

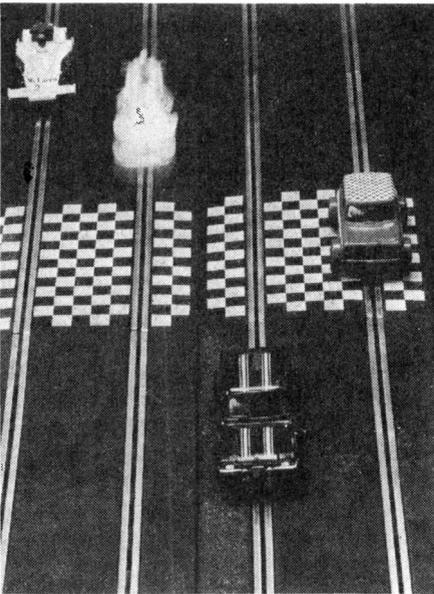
**Next
Month**

Hobby Electronics

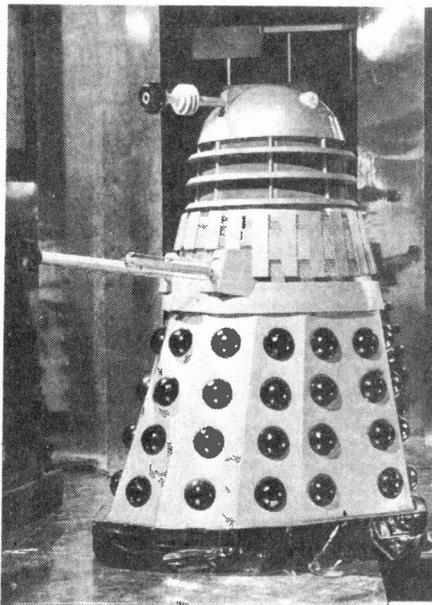
Have we got an issue for you next month? Yes of course we have, just cast your tired eyes over this little lot. (Tired eyes can be avoided by refraining from reading lesser electronic magazines)

SCALEXTRIC SPECIAL

Yes folks, HE's done it again. Just in time for Christmas. The HE workshop staff have been really getting their noses to the grindstones and have tirelessly, without any regard for personal health, been playing with their Scalextric set. Whilst they were doing so one of them had a bright idea, 'how about doing some projects on this lads?' He was quickly silenced and play recommenced. A little while later, after this momentous statement sunk in, they thought about it and actually all agreed, it was a good idea. So now we proudly present the last word in electronic Lap Counters, Precision Hand Controllers and other amazing things to grace your layout. Miss it at your peril.



RING MODULATOR



Where do we get them from? Now you can really sound like a Dalek. This neat little unit, designed for use on stage, at home, or just for good old fashioned fun will faithfully reproduce the dulcet tones of those amiable creatures from the planet Skaro. If you don't want to be a Dalek then it will create an interesting range of other effects too. Maybe we'll hang one on HEBOT. You never know . . .

UNIUNCTION TRANSISTOR

Our brainy chief designer Ray Marston takes time off from his train controller to look at those oft maligned, collectorless transistors that are known to all and sundry as Unijunctions. So pay attention because we might be coming round your house to ask you questions about them.

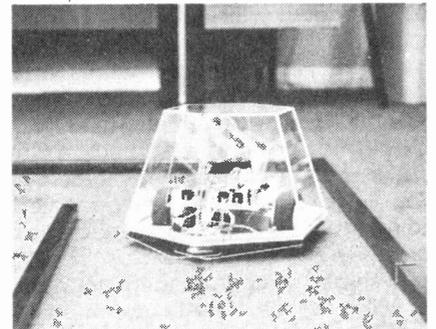
TV-THE CONTINUING STORY

This month Rick Maybury looks at the other end of the TV system, the box that sits in the corner of your living room. Find out just what happens when the on off switch is twiddled, the educated electron strikes again.

PROJECT FAULT FINDING

Gasp . . . your project didn't work, if it wasn't our fault (is it ever?) then it must be your fault. Keith Brindley, who has had to deal with one or two faulty projects in his time discusses the heart wrenching subject of dead projects.

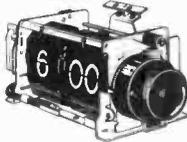
HEBOT GROWS UP



We are expecting HEBOT to start a craze, (seriously) the combination of a really well designed, sturdy chassis at a very reasonable price, coupled with our unique electronic circuitry, brings the world of advanced robotics to within everyone's grasp. This month after completing the basic drive circuitry we go on to explore tactile senses, optical stimuli and self survival instincts. HEBOT is the first serious attempt in this country to bring the world of Robotics into the seventies, others have tried and failed, we know we are going to succeed. Frighten the cat, amaze the neighbours but above all DO NOT MISS IT.

The December issue will be on sale November 9th

The items mentioned here are those planned but circumstances may affect the actual contents



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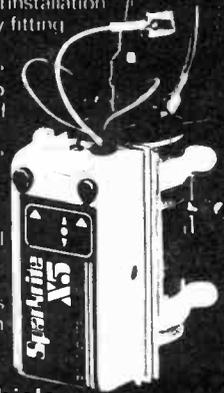
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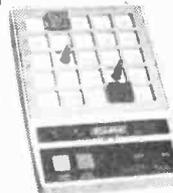
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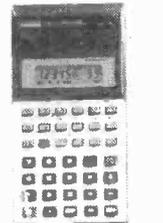
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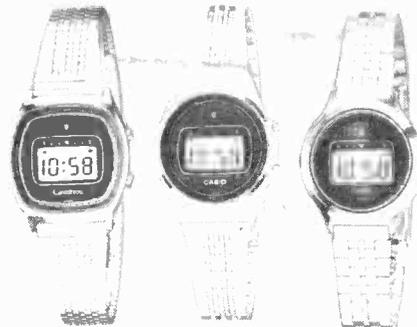
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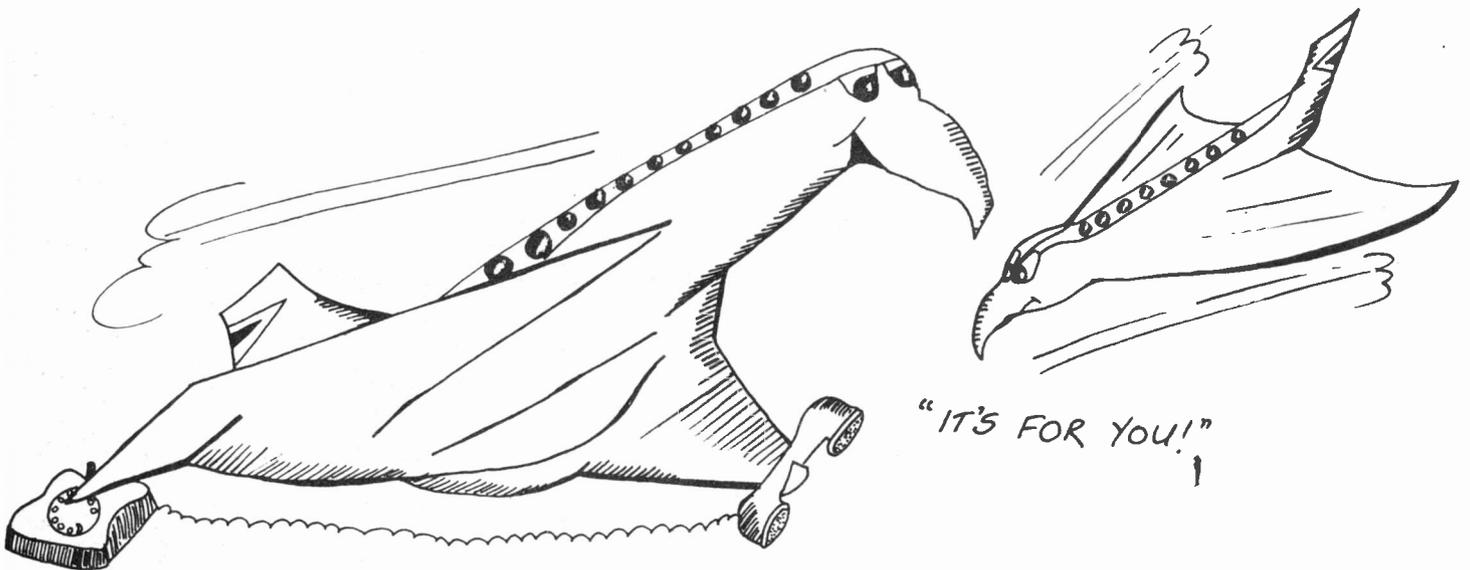
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Domestic aircraft communications, both private and commercial, generally involve a pilot talking from his plane to a traffic controller at an airfield as well as talking to other pilots. Signals from aircraft can be heard over quite long distances as they are flying quite high and thus the horizon, from the aircraft, can be up to several hundred miles away.

There are 360 channels allocated in the aircraft band, each assigned a specific use or for use in a particular area. Amplitude modulated (AM) transmission is used which simplifies the requirements for a receiver to listen on this band.

The Converter

Why a converter — why not a complete receiver? Firstly, a shortwave listener will already have a receiver. A converter to 'change down' the aircraft band frequencies to a suitable band between

3 MHz and 30 MHz is a simple, and inexpensive, solution. For those wishing to monitor some portion of the aircraft band the output of the converter could be connected to an ordinary multi-band transistor portable to provide quite adequate results. Alternatively, a fixed frequency IF (intermediate frequency) strip with detector and audio stages could be constructed.

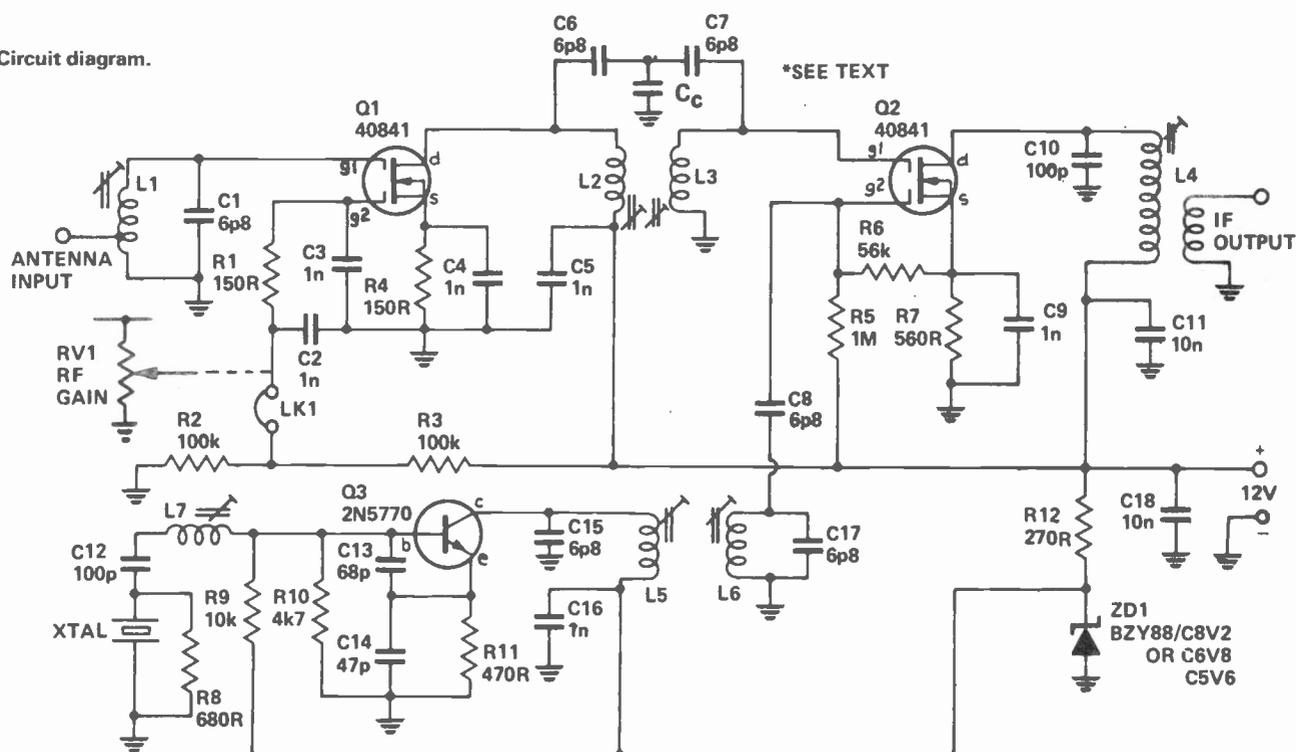
The converter is crystal locked — that is, a quartz crystal oscillator is mixed with the signals from the antenna, the signals then appearing at a lower frequency at the converter output. The frequency of the crystal used will determine the frequency band of the converter output.

For a number of reasons, we chose the output (or IF) frequency to be around 10 MHz. Inexpensive crystals are available for the aircraft band to give an IF output from the converter of 10.7 MHz — a standard IF frequency. The

same crystals can be employed if you wish to use a tunable shortwave receiver following the converter. There is a minor inconvenience though — the tunable receiver's dial has no simple relationship to the input frequency. The advantage is that inexpensive crystals cost around half that of a crystal made to order to provide a direct frequency relationship.

As the converter has quite a deal of gain, resulting in very good sensitivity, an RF Gain control has been provided. Very strong signals on a channel near to the one being monitored may cause interference. Judicious use of the RF gain control will reduce or remove the interference while enabling you to still hear the desired signal. Then again, a very strong signal on the channel you are monitoring may overload your receiver, resulting in very distorted reception. Reducing the RF gain will remove the problem.

Fig.1 Circuit diagram.



Construction

The printed circuit board has been specially designed for this application and no other construction technique should be employed unless you are very experienced in circuit construction at these frequencies.

It is best to commence construction by mounting the coil formers. They may be glued on the board over the pilot holes or the board drilled to the appropriate diameter for the base of the formers and then gluing the formers in place. Use the shield cans to locate and/or hold the formers on the board. It is wise to insert the slugs in the formers *after* gluing to avoid accidentally gluing them to the formers. The best type of glue to use is one of the 'instant' bond glues such as "Superglue". Many glues available will not bond to substrate materials — particularly fibreglass material.

The next step is to wind the coils. They may be wound *in situ* if you wish, alternatively they may be wound on a suitable diameter former (such as a 5 mm or 3/16" drill shank) and then slipped over the formers on the board.

Take careful note of winding direction and the start and finish connections. Refer to the component overlay when soldering the coil leads in place. Do not mount the shield cans until all the minor components have been soldered in place.

When mounting the minor components take particular care with orientation of the transistors, FETs and the

HOW IT WORKS

The circuit is quite straightforward, comprising an RF stage (Q1), a mixer (Q2) and an overtone crystal oscillator-multiplier (Q3). Dual-gate MOSFETs are used in the RF and mixer stages as they have good gain, low noise figure and good freedom from crossmodulation and overload problems.

Signals from the antenna are first amplified by Q1 and passed to gate-1 of the mixer Q2. The oscillator, Q3, is set to a precise frequency by the crystal. The injection frequency to gate-2 of the mixer is derived from the collector of Q3, being two or three times the crystal frequency. The signal frequency are mixed in Q2, their *difference* is selected by the tuned circuit in the drain — this is the desired output frequency.

A low-Q tuned circuit, L1-C1, is used between the antenna input and gate-1 of Q1. The antenna input impedance is *mismatched* to the impedance of the gate to optimise noise figure. The drain of Q1 is coupled to gate-1 of the mixer, Q2, via a double-tuned, bandpass coupling circuit consisting of L2, C6, Cc, C7 and L3. A combination of inductive coupling and

common-capacity coupling is used to achieve a wide bandwidth.

Gate-2 of Q1 requires a bias of +6V for full stage gain. A link between gate-2 decoupling (R1,C2,C3) and the junction of R2-R3 allows for the connection of a gain control potentiometer.

The mixer has above 1V5 of bias applied to gate-2. The conversion frequency is injected at this gate and a small amount of forward bias improves the mixer conversion gain. The output, or IF, is coupled via L4 which is resonant at 10 MHz with C10. This is a low-Q tuned circuit for the broad bandwidth necessary if the tunable IF receiver is used.

The crystal oscillator stage, Q3, is designed to cope with either third or fifth overtone crystals and may double or triple the crystal frequency in the collector. Tuned circuit L5-C15 selects the appropriate harmonic. Energy is coupled from L5 to L6 which is resonated to the required frequency with C17. These two tuned circuits filter the injection frequency. This prevents any spurious mixing occurring in Q2.

Coil L7 is used to 'trim' the crystal.

zener diode. All components should be mounted right down on the board to minimise lead length. Stakes or pins should be used for the connections to the antenna input, IF output and dc connections.

There is provision on the pc board to mount a crystal socket for a 'style-D' crystal. These have a 12 mm pin spacing and stand about 20 mm high. Alternatively, if the smaller size crystals are used, having a pin spacing of 5 mm or pigtail connections, then they may be soldered in place under the board. Take

care when doing this. Do it quickly and use the minimum amount of heat to avoid damaging the crystal.

If desired, the crystal may be mounted separate from the board. Keep lead length between the crystal and the board connections as short as practicable in this case.

The shield cans for the coil assemblies should be mounted last. It may be a wise idea to check that the converter is working before soldering the shield pins to the pc board.

The completed converter may be ►

PARTS LIST

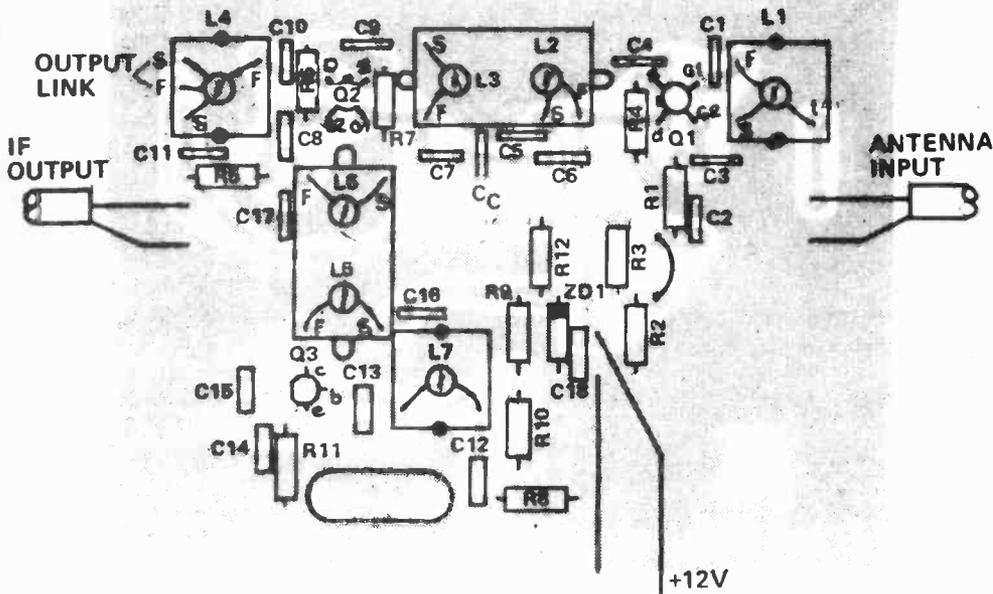


Fig. 2 Component overlay.

Resistors all 1/4W, 5% *

R1,4	150R
R2,3	100k
R5	1M
R6	56k
R7	560R
R8	680R
R9	10k
R10	4k7
R11	470R
R12	270R

Potentiometer
RV1 100k

Capacitors

Cc	22p ceramic
C1,15,17	6p8 ceramic
C2-C5	1n ceramic
C6-C8	6p8 ceramic
C10,12	100p ceramic
C11,18	10n ceramic
C13	68p ceramic
C14	47p ceramic
C16	1n ceramic
C18	10n ceramic

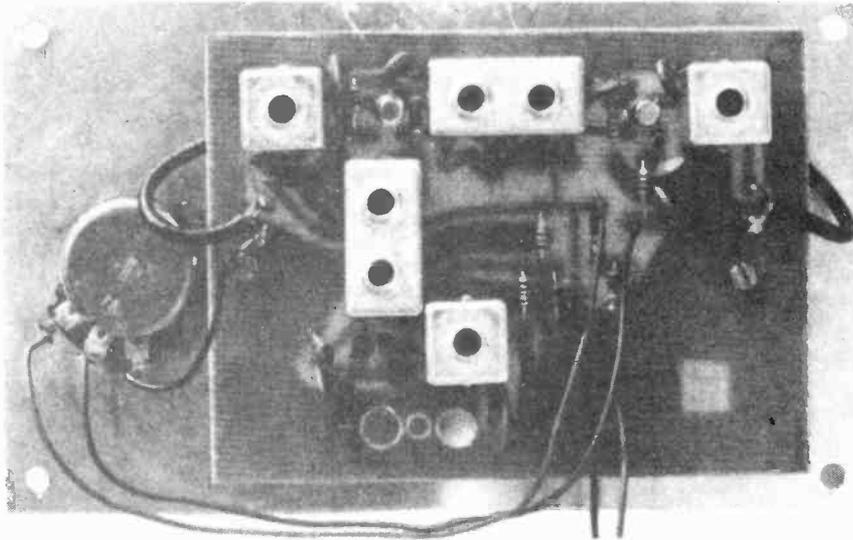
Semiconductors

Q1,2	MFE131, 40673, 40841
Q3	2N3563, 2N3564, 2N5770
ZD1	BZY88/C8V2 or /C6V8 or /C5V6 or /C5V1

Miscellaneous

- 7 x 722/1 Neosid coil formers
- 3 x 7100 Neosid screening cans
- 2 x 7300 Neosid screening cans
- 7 x Neosid ferrite slugs, 4 x 5 x 10/F29 coil wire
- crystal - see text
- box (see text), 2 coax sockets,
- 2 x 20 mm, 6 BA spacers, nuts, bolts, etc.

*Resistor values may be plus or minus one standard value either side of those quoted without ill effect. Capacitor values should not be altered.



The PCB fitted to its front panel, showing connections to the gain control, RV1.

mounted, we used a small box measuring 159 x 96 x 50 mm overall. They are available from a number of component suppliers. The board was mounted on the aluminium panel using two spacers. Antenna and IF output sockets, along with the RF gain pot, were also mounted on the panel and power leads taken through a hole in the side of the box. Small lengths of coax cable were used to connect the input and output sockets to the board connection.

Control

The particular method of alignment will depend on how you will be using the converter. To commence the alignment you will need to have on hand the appropriate aligning tool. You will need a plastic screwdriver-tip alignment tool

to suit the Neosid ferrite cores. They are readily available from many suppliers.

You will need a power supply delivering between 12 and 15 volts; the converter will draw between 30 and 50 milliamps. A receiver with a S-meter is a decided advantage when aligning the converter. You will need a signal generator, with AM modulation, covering the range of 118-126 MHz.

If you are using a tunable receiver for the IF, then the following procedure should be followed:

Connect the converter to the receiver. Use a short length of coax cable. If the converter is working you will notice an increase in the noise level on a sensitive receiver when power is applied. You can check that the crystal oscillator is working by removing the crystal tem-

porarily - a decrease in the noise from the receiver will be noticed.

1. Set the receiver frequency to the middle of the tuning range of the converter's output. The converter RF gain should be at maximum all through the alignment procedure.
2. Tune the slug in L4 to obtain a peak in the receiver noise level.
3. Set all the other coil slugs flush with the tops of the coil formers.
4. Using the signal generator, with a fairly high output level, peak L4 again for best signal strength.
5. Set the generator to a frequency near 119 MHz and tune the receiver until you pick up the signal. Now adjust the slugs in L2 and L6 for best signal strength. Decrease the output of the signal generator so that these

adjustments are made on a fairly weak signal.

6. Set the generator to a frequency near 125 MHz, or the highest frequency in which you are interested, and tune the receiver until you pick up the signal. Adjust the slugs in L1 and L5 for best signal strength. Keep the generator output at a low level for best results.

7. Now set the generator to a frequency half way between these two frequencies. Tune the receiver to pick up the signal and adjust the slug in L3 for best signal. Check the adjustment of L4.

8. Return to 119 MHz and peak the slug in L2 again.

9. Repeat the procedure, 'touching up' each slug.

If the converter is to be used on one channel, or a couple of channels less than 1 MHz apart, then all the coils need only be adjusted for best signal strength on one channel.

Overall sensitivity of the converter-receiver system is very good, signals as low as 0.2 uV being clearly audible. The gain control range is about 20 dB.

CHOOSING A CRYSTAL

The frequency injected at gate 2 of the mixer FET, Q2, may be above or below the signal frequency by an amount equal to the IF frequency. For a turnable receiver used as an IF, the injection frequency should be lower than the lowest signal frequency by 10 MHz. Thus, as you tune the receiver upwards in frequency from 10 MHz, you will tune signals above the lowest aircraft band frequency (118 MHz). In this way there will be a simple relationship between the signal frequency and the receiver's dial. If 10 MHz equals 118 MHz, 10.5 MHz will equal 118.5 MHz, and so on. For this situation the injection frequency will be $118 - 10 = 108$ MHz. As the crystal oscillator output (collector of Q3) is twice the crystal frequency, the crystal frequency should be half of 108 MHz = 54 MHz.

If you use a tunable receiver than a fifth overtone crystal at 54.000 MHz should be ordered. Tolerance and adjustment range also have to be specified. A value of 20 parts per million (ppm) for tolerance and adjustment range is satisfactory. Firms such as Bright Star Crystals or Hy-Q should be able to supply a crystal to order.

Alternatively, a crystal at one-third the injection frequency may be used. Taking the 108 MHz injection frequency, as just illustrated a 36 MHz crystal may be used.

To determine the crystal frequency required for any case, use the following formula:

$$\text{Crystal} = \frac{\text{lowest signal frequency} - \text{IF}}{2 \text{ or } 3}$$

Inexpensive crystals intended for use in 'scanning' receivers are available from Dick Smith's. These provide an injection frequency above a particular aircraft channel frequency for the standard IF frequency of 10.7 MHz. For example, for the 125.8 MHz channel, the injection frequency is 136.5 MHz. These crystals have the channel frequency marked on them, not the crystal frequency.

SETTING THE CRYSTAL FREQUENCY

If you require accurate frequency readout then the crystal frequency will need 'trimming'. Coil L7 is provided for this purpose. For best results a digital frequency meter capable of measuring to 150 MHz is necessary.

Lightly couple the DFM to L5 or L6 via a small value capacitor and see if you get a sensible reading. You may need to connect it directly across gate-2 of the mixer, Q2.

Adjust L7 until you obtain the correct injection frequency according to the crystal chosen.

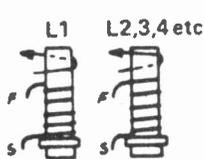
BUYLINES

Components for this project are available from Catronics Ltd, Communications House, 20 Wallington Square, Wallington, Surrey SM6 8RG.

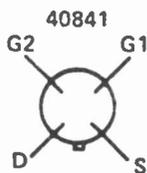
Coil Data

Wind L2, L3, L4, L5, L6 and L7 *clockwise* up the former. L1 is wound *anti-clockwise* up the former. The start of each coil is the 'cold' or 'earthy' end. All slugs are F29 type ferrite.

- L1 5 turns, 22 B & S tinned copper wire spaced over 10 mm, tap at 2 turns from cold end.
- L2, L3 6½ turns, 22 B & S enamelled wire, spaced over 8 mm.
- L4 25 turns closewound with enamelled wire, any gauge between 25 and 30 B & S, 5 turn link at top of former.
- L5, L6 5½ turns, 22 B & S enamelled wire, closewound.
- L7 *10 turns, 22 B & S enamelled wire, closewound, for crystals in the range 30 MHz to 50 MHz.
*6 turns for crystals in the range 50 to 70 MHz.



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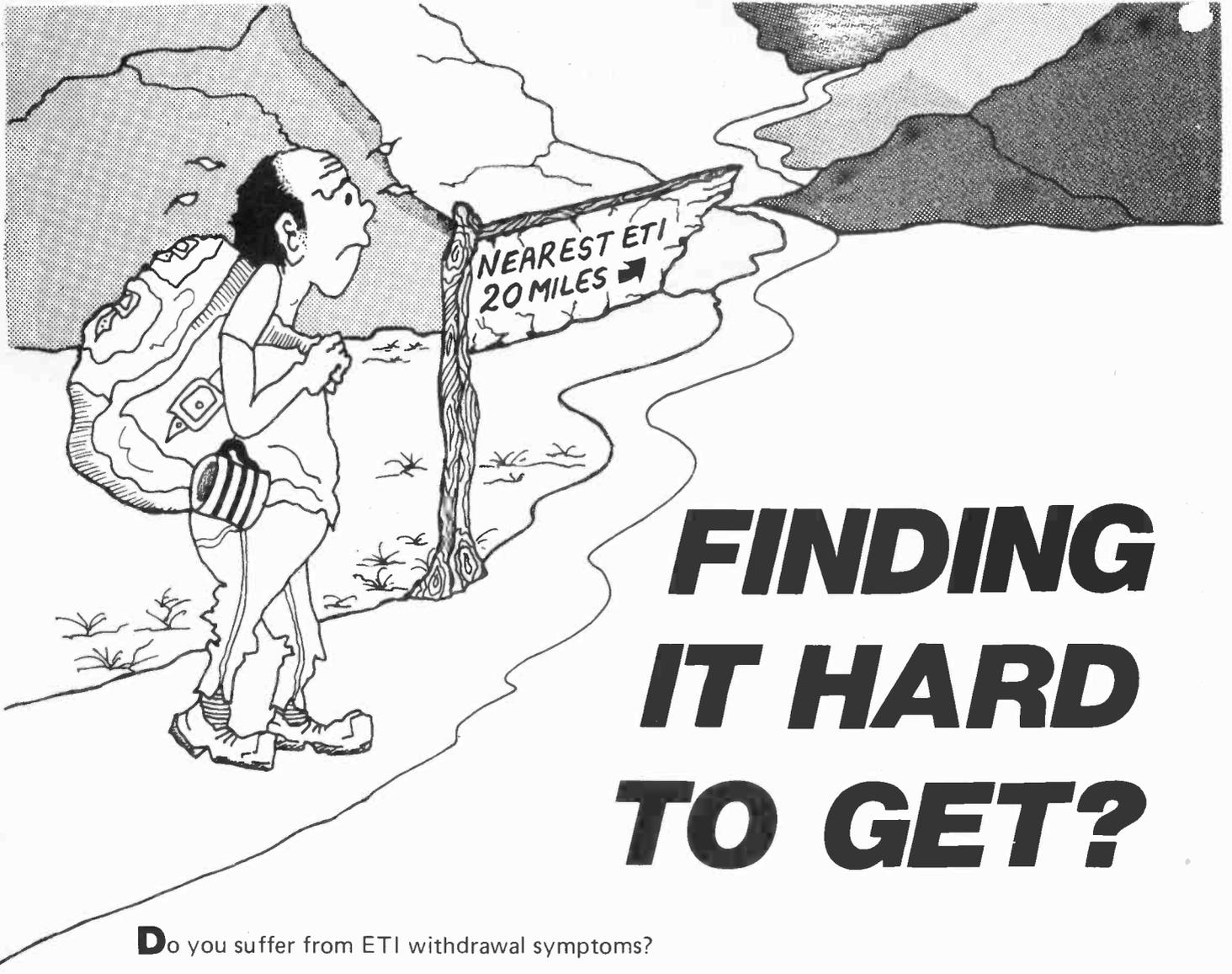
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DESIGNER'S NOTEBOOK

Project Editor Ray Marston passes around a few design problems with LEDs and chews a CMOS 555!

The path of the electronics design engineer is fraught with nasty booby traps in the form of seemingly simple little circuits which fail, in practice, to work in the anticipated manner. Take, for instance, one of the problems that faced the ETI projects team when the 'AMBUSH' game was being designed last year (see the April '79 issue).

Ambushed by LEDs

This particular booby trap centred on the LED 'attack' display that was used in the 'ambush' game. In essence, the display comprised four unequal-length lines of LEDs. All LEDs were driven from the outputs of a single 4017, but the lines were selected one at a time by a multiplexer, so that only one LED was on at any given moment. A greatly simplified diagram of the original (defective) version of this display is shown in Fig. 1. Although this diagram shows only three columns of LEDs, with a maximum of three LEDs in any one column, it does illustrate the basic 'trap' perfectly well.

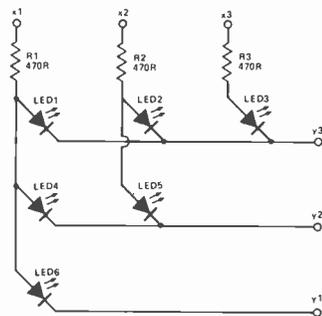


Fig. 1. A simplified view of the original Ambush LED lines.

In this diagram, the 'x' lines are driven by the outputs of the 4017, so that one line is high (at +12V) at any given moment and the other two lines are at zero volts. The 'y' lines are driven by a multiplexer or multi-way single-pole switch, which pulls one line to zero but leaves the other two lines open-circuit at any given moment of time.

Figure 2 shows the results that were (rather naively) expected from the circuit under two specific operating conditions and compares them with the results that were actually obtained. In Fig. 2a, +12V was fed to the x1 line

x1	x2	x3
+12V	0V	0V
y1	y2	y3
0V	0/c	0/c

x1	x2	x3
0V	0V	+12V
y1	y2	y3
0V	0/c	0/c

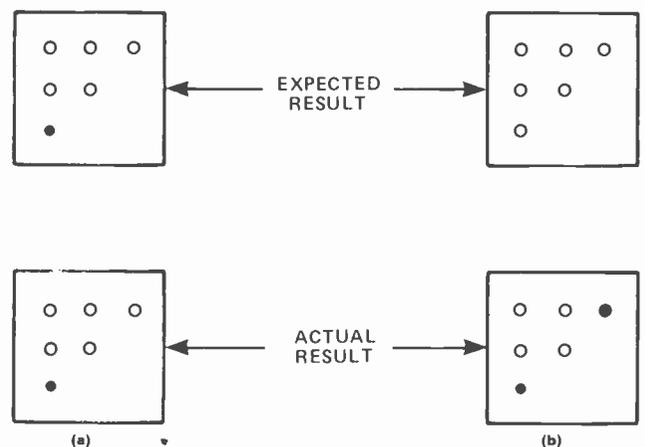


Fig. 2. Given the operating conditions, shown (top), these are the results which were expected (middle) and actually obtained (bottom).

and the y1 line was coupled to zero volts. As expected, LED 6 illuminated.

In Fig. 2b, +12V was fed to the x3 line and the y1 line was coupled to zero volts. It was expected that no LEDs would illuminate. In practice, LEDs 3 and 6 illuminated. Equally confusing results were found to occur in certain other combinations of switching position.

If you read last month's 'Notebook,' which dealt with LED pitfalls, you'll have already figured out the cause of the 'ambush' problem(!) If not, Fig. 3. illustrates the cause of the trouble quite well. The problem arises because of the low reverse breakdown voltages (5V in this case) of the LEDs. In this particular instance, forward current was flowing through LEDs 3 and 6 via reverse-biased LED 1, which had gone into the Zener mode.

The solution to this particular design problem is shown in Fig. 4. Here, ordinary diodes are used in place of all absent LEDs in the matrix, so that a ready conducting path exists in all switching positions, and no LEDs therefore become reverse biased. When this circuit is applied to the

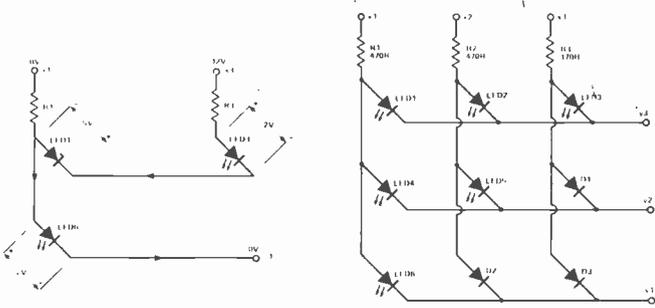


Fig. 3 (left) Low reverse breakdown voltages cause the problem here. Fig. 4 (right). Replacing absent LEDs with ordinary diodes is the solution here.

Fig. 2b situation, D3 conducts and all LEDs remain off.

As we pointed out last month, LEDs can be tricky little brutes.

We ran into a rather intriguing little problem when building the hand-held remote-control unit for 'The Beast' that is featured in this month's issue of ETI. The problem was that the unit's up/down counter was giving erratic operation. We knew that the fault was one of construction, rather than design, so laboriously went through all the normal troubleshooting procedures and finally isolated the fault (by intuition, rather than anything else) to the area of the 4093B dual-oscillator circuit shown in Fig. 5.

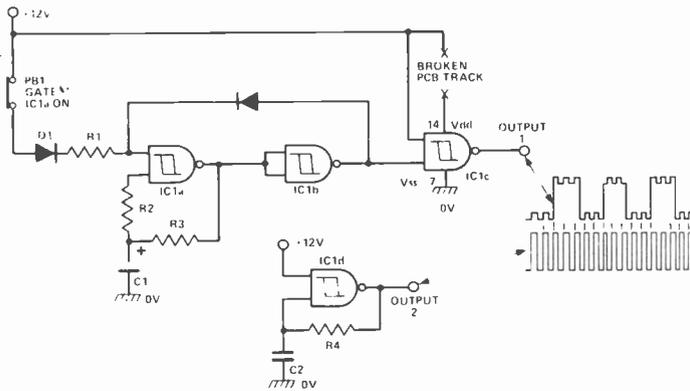


Fig. 5. A broken track caused problems in this 4093B dual oscillator, but proved difficult to find.

As you can see from the circuit, the fault was actually caused by a broken track connection to the IC's positive supply terminal. In practice, however, this simple fault was the devil's own job to find, for the following reasons:

First, the PCB was double-sided, which made it difficult to trace some of the tracks on visual inspection. Next, normal test-meter checks showed that a near-enough 12V supply did in fact appear on positive supply terminal 14 of the IC. Finally, oscilloscope inspection of the output terminals of the IC showed that the two oscillator waveforms of the circuit (see Fig. 5.) were indeed present, further strengthening the belief that the positive supply connection was OK. Suspicion was caused, however, by the fact that the waveform from output 1, which should have been a clean square wave, showed signs of being amplitude modulated by waveform 2. The fault was eventually located visually.

Figure 7 illustrates how the circuit managed to work and produce a 'supply voltage' on its pin-14 V_{DD} terminal, in spite of the broken supply rail track connection. The diagram shows the internal gate protection network that is fitted to each one of the input terminals of the 4093B. On gates IC1c and IC1d one of these inputs is taken directly to the positive supply rail, enabling supply current to flow to the V_{DD} terminal via RA and D1, and thus power the oscillator circuits!

So how's that for an unusual 'beasty' story?

CMOS 555 -- 7555

If you've ever played with the ubiquitous 555 timer chip (and who hasn't?), you'll know that it has a few inherently unpleasant characteristics, as well as a whole stack of good ones. It does not, for example, like supply voltages that are significantly below 5V, and it typically draws a hefty 10mA of quiescent current when operating from a 15V supply. Worst of all, it draws a massive 400mA 'spike' of current from the supplies as it transitions from one state to another, and this spike tends to play havoc with any digital circuitry that is powered from the same supply lines.

Fig. 6. (Below). A rationalised comparative summary of the bipolar and CMOS 5555.

PARAMETER	TEST CONDITION	BIPOLAR 555	CMOS 555	UNITS
SUPPLY VOLTAGE RANGE		4.5 to 16	2.0 to 18	V
OPERATING TEMP. RANGE		0 to +70	-20 to +70	$^{\circ}$ C
SUPPLY CURRENT, TYP.	$V_{CC} = 15V, R_L = \infty$	10	0.1	mA
OUTPUT CURRENT, MAX		200	100	mA
POWER DISSIPATION, MAX		600	200	mW
TRANSITION 'SPIKE' CURRENT, TYPICAL	$V_{CC} = 15V$	400	10	mA
TIMING ERROR, MONOSTABLE	$R = 2k\Omega$ to 100k	1	2	%
INITIAL ACCURACY, TYP.	$C = 100n$			
THERMAL DRIFT, TYP	$V_{CC} = 15V$	50	50	ppm/ $^{\circ}$ C
DRIFT WITH V_{CC} , TYP		0.1	1.0	%/V
THRESHOLD CURRENT		100	.01	nA
TRIGGER CURRENT		0.5	10^{-5}	μ A
RESET CURRENT		0.1	2×10^{-8}	mA
OUTPUT RISE TIME, TYP	$R_L = 10M, C_L = 7pF$	100	40	nS
OUTPUT FALL TIME, TYP	$R_L = 10M, C_L = 7pF$	100	40	nS
PROPAGATION DELAY OF TRIGGER PULSE, TYP	V_{trig} MINIMUM LEVEL = 0V, TEMP = 25 $^{\circ}$ C	100	310	nS
MINIMUM PULSE WIDTH REQUIRED FOR TRIGGERING	V_{trig} MIN LEVEL = 0V, $V_{CC} = 15V$, TEMP = 25 $^{\circ}$ C	20	90	nS

You'll be pleased, therefore, to hear that Intersil have recently introduced a CMOS version of the 555 timer, known as the ICM 7555, which does not suffer from the basic defects of the bipolar version. Specifically, it can operate over the supply voltage range 2V₀ to 18V, typically draws only 100uA quiescent from a 15V supply, and draws a trivial 10mA 'spike' of current when transitioning. Additionally, the required threshold, reset, and trigger currents of the CMOS device are several orders of magnitude down on the bipolar version, enabling timing resistors (for example) to be given values of hundreds of megohms.

Twice As Nice?

On the debit side, this new CMOS chip costs twice as much as the bipolar version, has worse initial-timing-accuracy and drift-with-voltage characteristics, has poorer output current drive and power dissipation capability, and

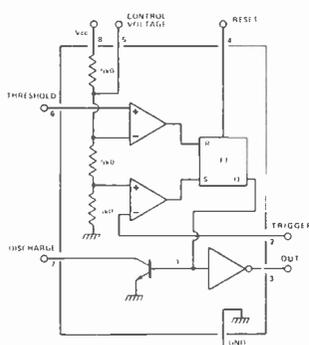
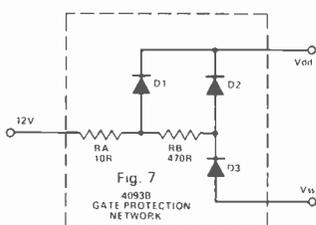


Fig. 7 (left) the internal gate protection network of the 4093B. Fig. 8 (right) The internal circuitry of the familiar bipolar 5555.

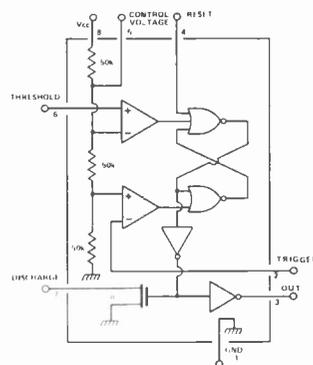


Fig. 9. The internal circuitry of the CMOS 555.

has worse propagation delay and pulse-triggering characteristics. A 'rationalised' comparative summary of the characteristics of the two devices is shown in Figure 6.

Figures 8 and 9 show the simplified internal circuits of the two devices. Note particularly the great differences in the relative values of the voltage divider chains that are used in the different versions of the IC.

The CMOS and bipolar versions of the IC are housed in identical packages. The CMOS chip can be used as a plug-in replacement in existing 555 bipolar circuits. The reverse is not necessarily the case, since the CMOS version can use timing and other resistance values that are several orders of magnitude greater than is possible with the bipolar version.

If you want to play with the ICM 7555, you can buy it from Watford Electronics, whose advert appears elsewhere in this issue.

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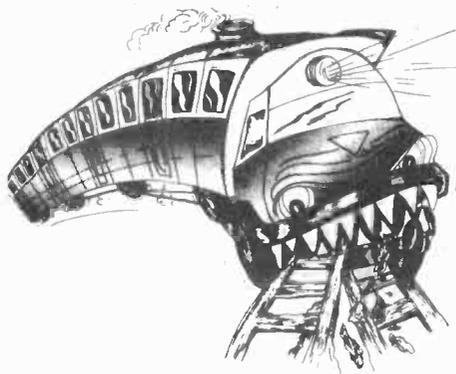
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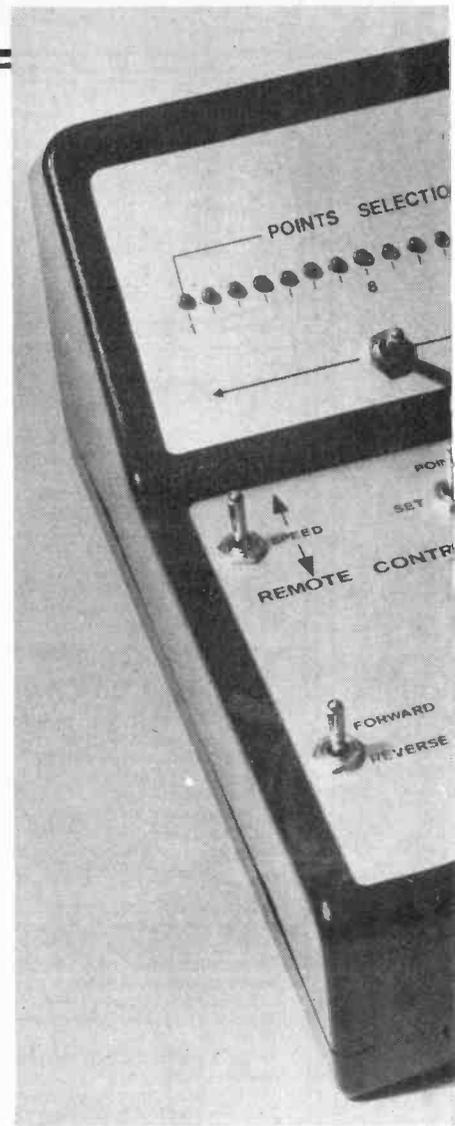
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Encoder/Transmitter

The major part of the encoder (Fig 2) circuit is wired up on a double-sided PCB, with the LED Readout circuitry implemented on an additional single-sided board. The display board is identical (apart from component numbering) to that used in the Train and Points-Controller units, and construction should present no problems.

The most important point to notice on the double-sided PCB is that wire-wrap IC sockets are used in the construction, to enable solder connections to be made to tracks on either or both sides of the PCB where necessary. All pin-throughs and other components that pass through tracks on both sides of the PCB should, naturally, be soldered to both tracks. Bearing these points in mind, construction should present few problems if the overlay is followed with due care.

When construction of the two boards is complete, you can temporarily interconnect the two circuits and

give them a functional check, in conjunction with the 'How It Works' section. The 16-LED display should be fully variable via Points Selector switch SW4. If you have a 'scope, you can check that the output waveform conforms to Fig 1 by triggering the 'scope via pin 9 of IC5.

When the boards have been given a functional check, fit the into a suitable box and couple them up to their controls and indicator LEDs. If you are

using a 2-wire control system, you will have to fit a couple of 6 volt cells into the controller to provide a 12V supply. In the 3-wire system, the 12V supply is derived from the decoder/data distributor unit via the third wire. You can, if you wish, fit the controller with an ON/OFF switch wired in series with the positive supply line.

On our prototype unit we used a 2-pole 4-way DIL switch in the SW1 'System Select' position, the switch is

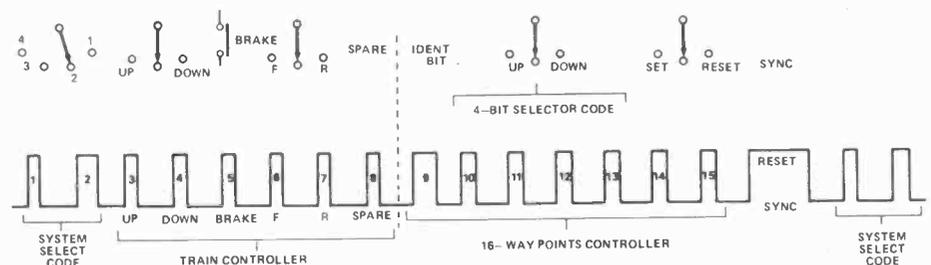
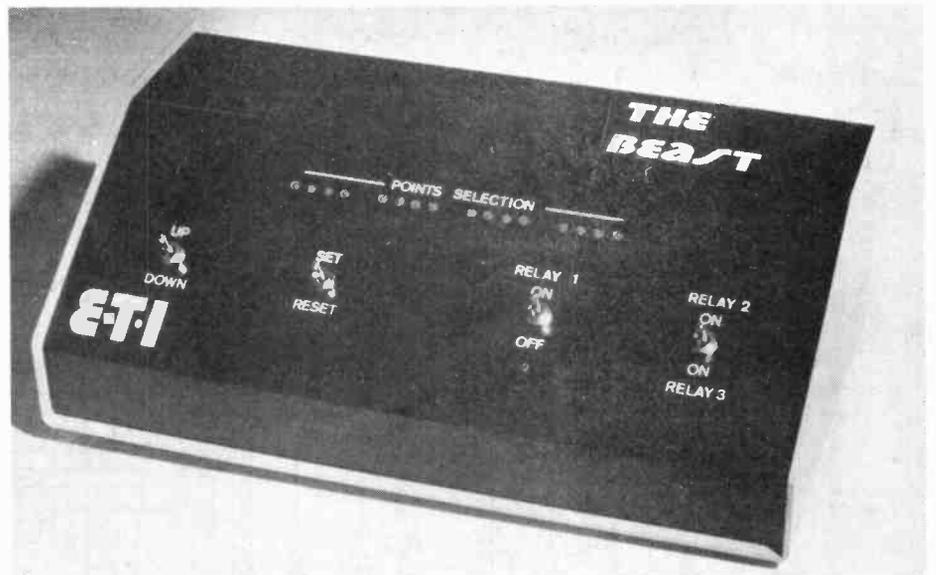


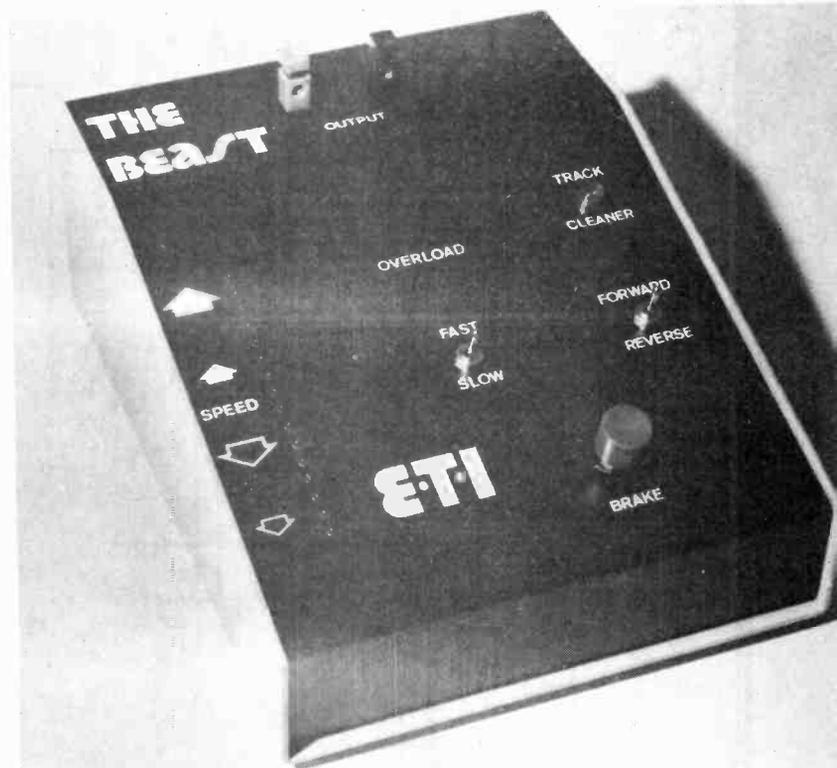
Fig. 1. The 15-bit 'simultaneous' code used by the remote control system.



The points controller (above) can control up to sixteen sets of points or relays. It can activate several times per second. The set of points chosen is shown on the row of LEDs on the front panel. Think about your own particular points control needs before you start to build this unit. The data distribution unit is shown on page 91.

epoxied to the front panel. Our controller unit connects to the decoder/data-distributor unit via approximately 3.5 metres of 3-core coiled cable and a 3-pin DIN plug and socket.

The main power supply unit (below) has electronic overload on its output and can power up to four sets of track systems simultaneously.



The train controller (above) gives exceptionally fine speed control, from crawl to supersonic (well nearly). There's also a built-in track cleaner to keep things running smoothly.

REMOTE CONTROL ENCODER

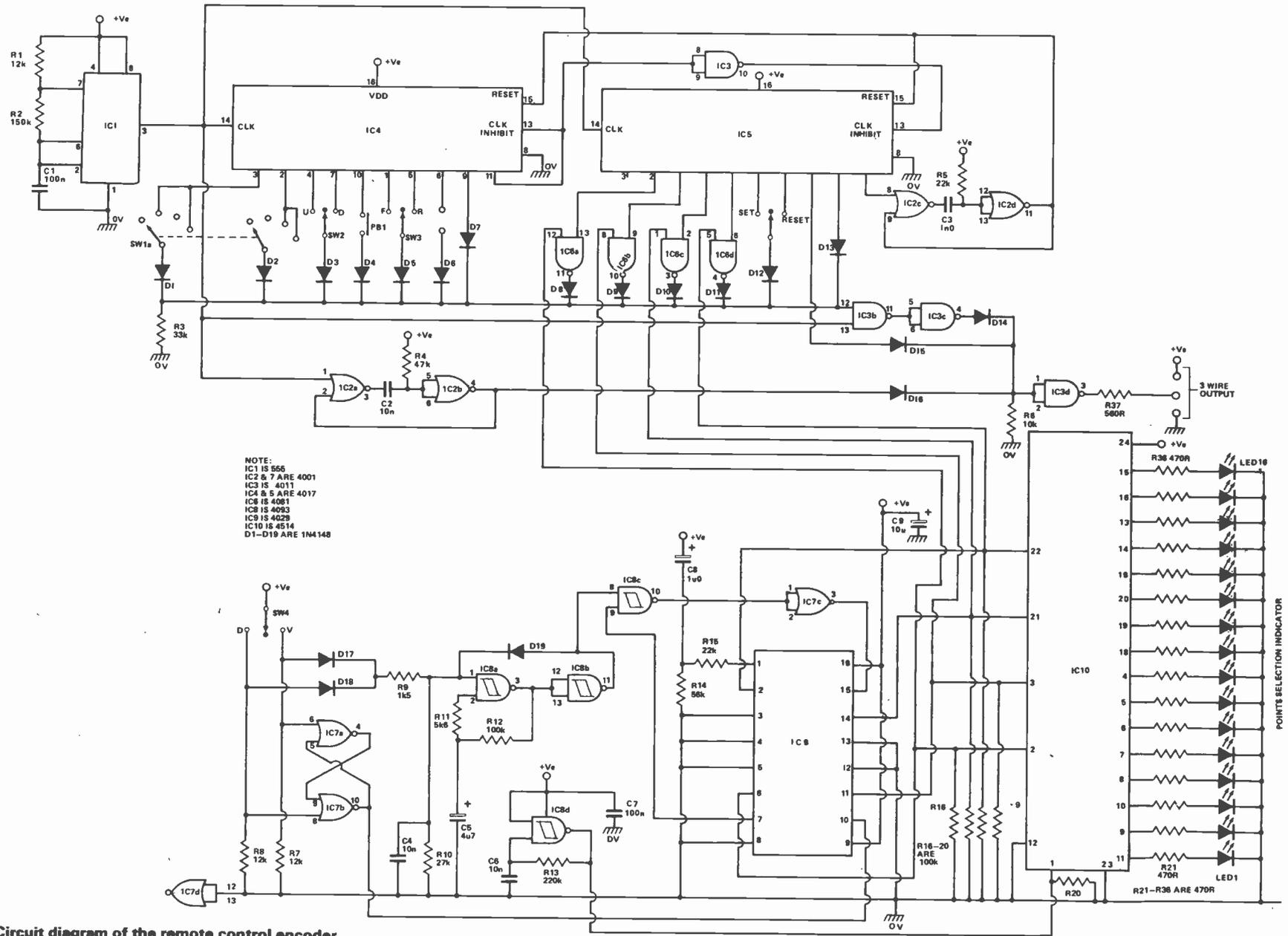


Fig. 2. Circuit diagram of the remote control encoder.

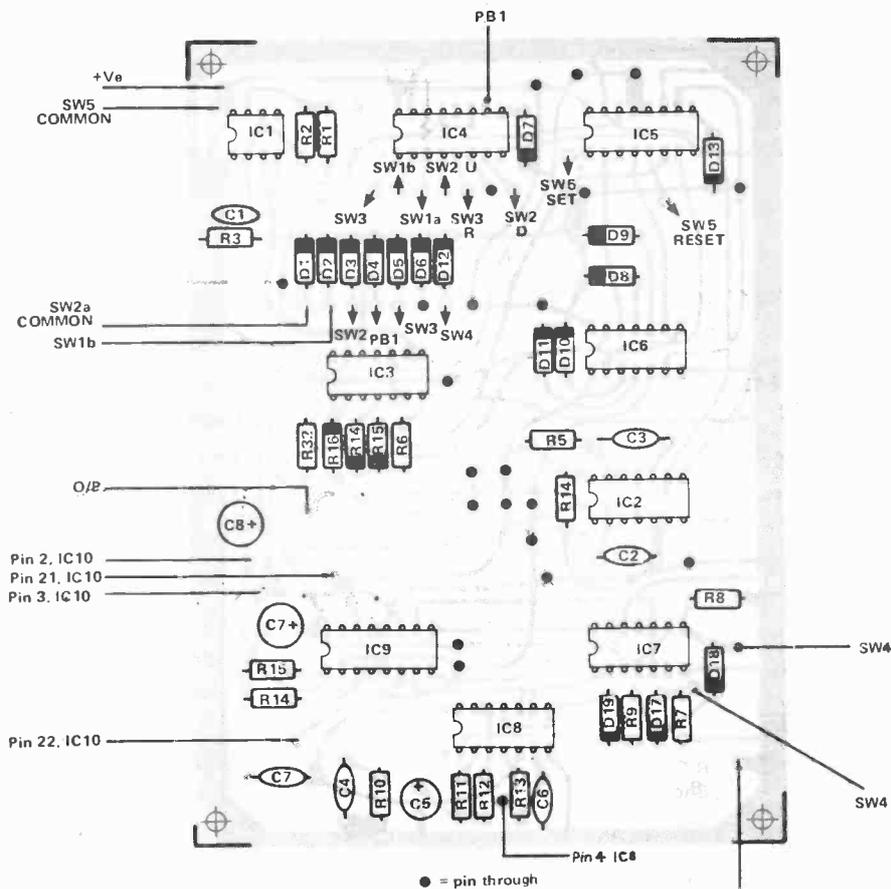
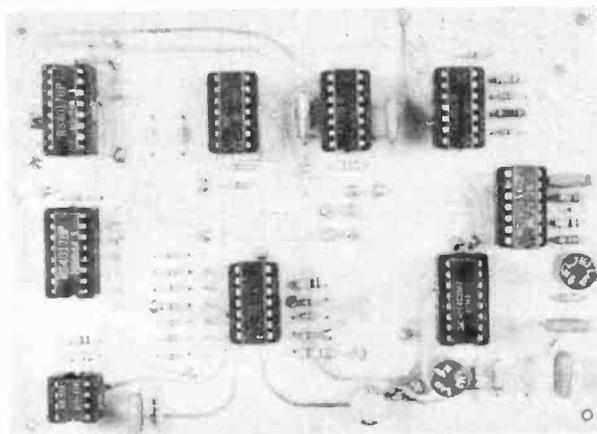


Fig. 3 (above). Component overlay of the remote control encoder. The completed PCB is shown below.



HOW IT WORKS

The circuit of the remote-control encoder is shown in Figure 8. Here, IC4 and IC5, together with IC2c and IC2d and IC3a, are wired together as a 17-stage 'decade' counter with 17 decoded outputs, and are clocked at a 500 Hz rate via IC1. IC2a and IC2b form a monostable multivibrator that produces a narrow pulse on the arrival of each clock pulse, and its outputs are ORed with the outputs of the counter via D14-D15-D16 and R6, to form a serial chain of negative-going output pulses from R32.

Bits 10 to 13 of the code (derived via IC6) originate as the 4-bit outputs of up/down counter IC9, which functions in the same way as the 'Points Select' counter of the F 6 'Power-Switch Selector' circuit. The 4-bit output of IC9 is decoded and fed to a 16-LED display on the hand-held transmitter/encoder unit, to give the operator a visual indication of the number of the point that has been selected.

The optional remote-control system uses a serial 15-bit 'simultaneous' code, as shown in Figure 7. The code comprises the fifteen bits, each separated by 2 mS,

plus a 3 mS reset or synchronisation pulse, all transmitted within a 34 mS frame. A narrow code bit represents a '0' or OFF logic state, and a wide code bit represents '1' or ON logic state.

The first two bits of the code are used to select the desired (one of four) track system. Bits 3 to 8 are used to control the train on that track. The remaining seven bits are used to select and activate the (up to 16) points on that track system.

When the remote control system was being developed, we considered the possibility of using an ultra-sonic, infrared, or radio 'link' between the transmitter/encoder and the receiver/decoder, but rejected all three systems on sound technical and/or ergonomic grounds. We finally settled on the use of a 2- or 3-wire flexible link, that can be simply plugged into any one of a number of jack sockets scattered around the layout at (typically) 4 metre intervals. The two control systems are identical, except that the 2-wire transmitter/encoder uses its own 12 volt battery supply, while the 3-wire unit derives its 12 volt supply from the receiver/decoder unit.

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R11	5k6
R12,16-20	100k
R13	220k
R14	56k
R21-36	470R
R37	560R

CAPACITORS

C1,7	100n polyester
C2,4,6	10n polyester

C3	1n0 polyester
C5	4u7 15V electrolytic
C8	1u0 15V electrolytic
C9	10u 15V electrolytic

SEMICONDUCTORS

IC1	555
IC2,7	4001
IC3	4011
IC4,5	4017
IC6	4081
IC8	4093
IC9	4029
IC10	4514
D1-19	1N4148
LED1-16	TIL 209

MISCELLANEOUS

SW1	double pole 4 way rotary switch
SW2-4	single pole changeover switch

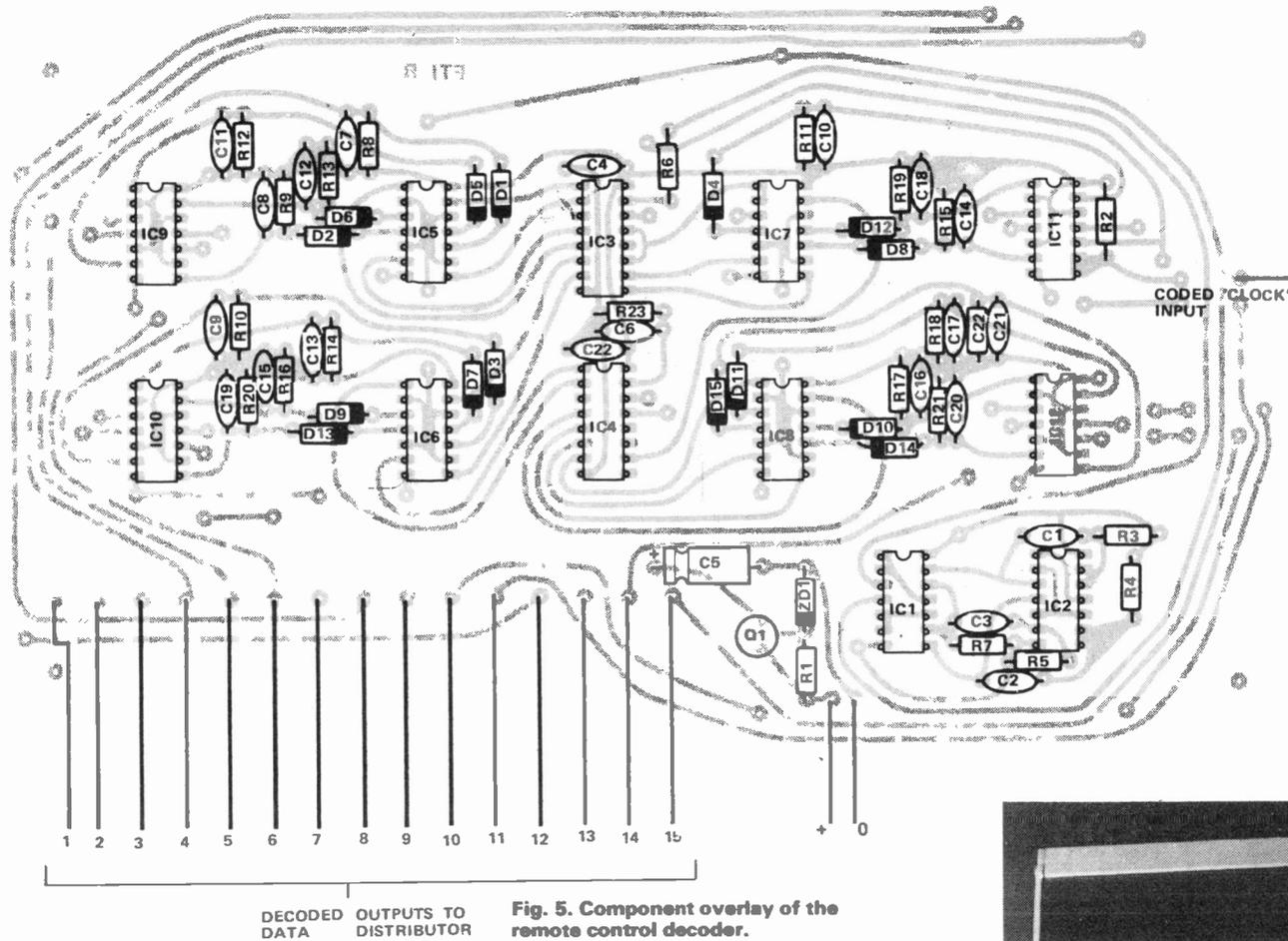


Fig. 5. Component overlay of the remote control decoder.

Remote Control Decoder

The complete decoder (Fig. 4) circuit is built on one double-sided PCB. This board uses conventional IC holders, and construction should present few problems if the overlay is followed with care.

When construction is complete, connect the board to an 18 volt power supply, connect the input signal from the encoder/transmitter, and give the circuit a full functional check in conjunction with the 'How It Works' sec-

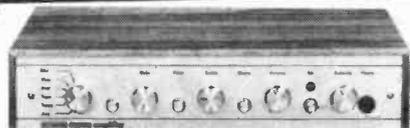
tion. Should the circuit fail to work correctly, suspect (1) a wiring error, (2) a component failure, or (3) and out-of-tolerance component in one of the two monostables built around IC2.

The Beast is then complete and ready to use. If you want to get maximum value from the remote control facility, you can fit a three-wire 'ring' circuit around your complete model railway layout, with 3-pin DIN sockets wired into the ring at roughly 4 metre intervals, so that you can operate the remote controller from any position around the layout!

PARTS LIST

Resistors all ¼W 5%	
R1	1k0
R2,7	100k
R3	180k
R4	68k
R5	27k
R6	2k7
R8-22	1M0
R23	56k
CAPACITORS	
C1,2	10n polyester
C3	1n0 polyester
C4,6,7-22	100n polyester
C5	10u 15V electrolytic
SEMICONDUCTORS	
IC1,5,6,7,8	4011B
IC2	4001
IC3,4	4017B
IC9,10,11,12	4093B
D1-15	1N4148
ZD1	12V, 400mW zener





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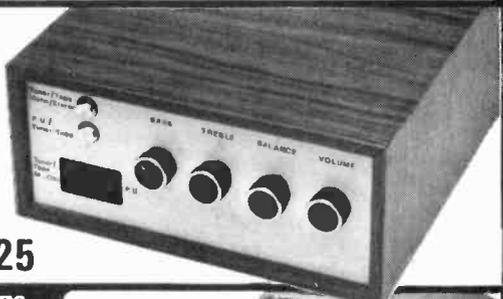
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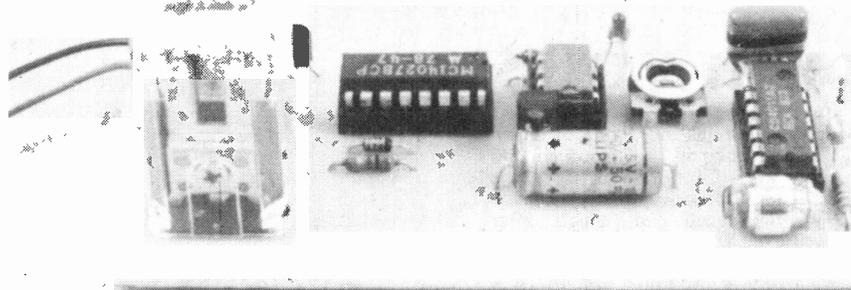
Most touch switch circuits published in recent years use a pair of metal contacts as sensors. When human skin resistance bridges these contacts, a readily-detectable indication of the touch action is given. A major problem with this type of circuit is that, since it is simply a resistance-sensing system, it can easily be disabled by any conductive medium, such as dirt or moisture, that bridges the contacts.

The ETI touch switch does not suffer from this problem. It is activated via the capacitive loading that occurs when a person touches or is 'coupled' to a single sensor contact. This contact can take any one of a large variety of forms. It can be a piece of metal the size of a pin head, or a piece of wire with a length variable from a fraction of a centimetre to several metres, or a large plain or highly decorated metal plate or printed circuit board. In the latter two cases, the plate or board can even be covered in an insulating material, such as plastic or varnish, since it is not necessary to actually touch the metal of the sensor to cause circuit operation, but merely to be capacitively coupled to it.

Our touch switch has a relay output and gives bistable operation. If you 'touch' the sensor contact once, the relay turns on and latches into that state until the next time you touch the sensor, at which point the relay turns off. You can use the relay contacts to control house lights, etc, in which case you get alternate touch-ON, touch-OFF, touch-ON, etc, operation.

Construction And Use

All electronic components are mounted on a single PCB, leaving only the battery and relay output con-



nections and a single lead to the touch pad to be soldered, so you should have no trouble in construction. Use IC sockets and double check that all semiconductors are inserted correctly before initial switch on. When construction is complete, connect a suitable touch pad (a length of wire, or a metal plate, etc) in place, connect up the relay and apply power to the circuit.

Initial setting up of the circuit is quite simple, but is necessary whenever a different touch pad is connected to the unit. Turn the present pot fully anti-clockwise and then, with the touch pad untouched, adjust the pot clockwise until LED 1 just comes on and the relay is heard to operate. Note the setting of the pot. Now touch the sensor pad firmly, and turn the pot slowly anti-clockwise until the LED just goes out. Note the new setting of the pot. Release the touch pad and adjust the pot to half way between the two settings. You should now find that the LED and relay activate whenever you touch the sensor and that the LED turns off again (but the relay does

not) when the sensor is released. This setting up procedure gives an optimum sensitivity/stability performance.

Scope For Proximity

There is plenty of scope for experimenting with this circuit. If a touch pad with a large surface area (a metal plate or an area of foil) is used and the circuit is set for maximum sensitivity, it will act as a proximity switch. The proximity range can be maximised by taking the negative supply line of the circuit to earth via the mains ground line.

You'll notice from the circuit diagram that only one half of dual J-K flip-flop IC3 is used. Consequently, if you want to make two touch switches and are capable of doing a little of your own design work, you can make the second switch by simply duplicating the C2, rectifier, and IC2 circuitry, using the spare half of IC3, and feeding the new C2 from the output of the existing IC1 oscillator circuit.

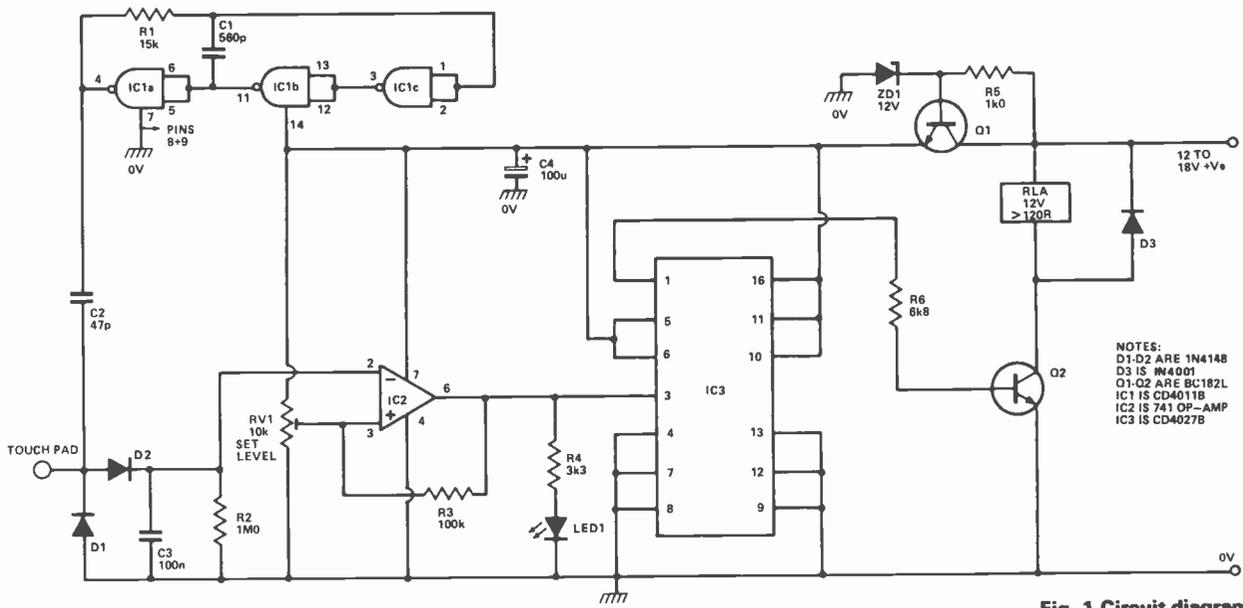


Fig. 1 Circuit diagram.

HOW IT WORKS

IC1 forms an astable multivibrator clocking at a frequency in the region of 100 kHz. Capacitor C1 forms a capacitive voltage divider effect with stray capacitance of the touch pad, which, after rectification via D1 and 2, charges capacitor C2. This voltage varies according to the capacitance of the touch pad, which in turn varies as it is touched. The voltage across C2 is, therefore, dependent on whether the touch pad is touched or not.

IC2 forms a comparator, using only a small amount of positive feedback, which compares the voltage across C2 with that from the wiper of level preset RV1. As the voltages cross, upon touching the pad, the output of IC2 goes high and LED 1 lights. Preset RV1 can be adjusted to suit any form of touch pad.

The output of IC2 is fed to the clock input of IC3, a dual JK type flip-flop. This device output changes state ie on/off or off/on, with every pulse input and consequently turns the relay on and off via transistor switch Q2.

Transistor Q1 forms a series pass regulator with R5 and ZD1 to maintain a stable voltage for the main part of the circuit, so that the delicate balance is not upset with variations in applied voltage.

BUYLINES

There should be no problems in obtaining any components for this project.

PARTS LIST

RESISTORS All 1/4W, 5%

R1	15k
R2	1M0
R3	100k
R4	3k3
R5	1k0
R6	1k0

POTENTIOMETER

RV1	10k min horiz preset
-----	----------------------

CAPACITORS

C1	560p polystyrene
C2	47p polystyrene
C3	100n polyester
C4	100u 16V electrolytic

SEMICONDUCTORS

IC1	4011
IC2	741
IC3	4027
Q1,2	BC182L
D1,2	1N4148
D3	1N4001
ZD1	12 volt 400mW
LED 1	TIL 220 or similar

MISCELLANEOUS

12V relay 120R coil or greater

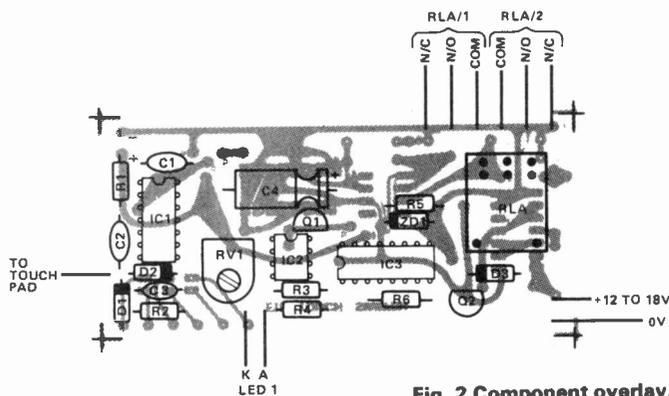


Fig. 2 Component overlay.

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		MM5303	5.29	7485	—	1.04	—	74195	90	—	—
		MM5307	9.08	7486	—	1.18	—	74196	—	79	—
				7489	—	1.50	—	74197	85	—	—
				7490	—	28	—	74198	—	99	—
				7492	—	33	—	74221	95	1.05	—
				7493	—	28	—	74247	—	1.35	—
				7495	72	40	—	74251	—	81	—
				7496	—	48	—	74253	1.20	—	—
				74107	—	22	—	74273	—	1.27	—
				74121	—	23	—	74279	55	—	—
				74122	—	33	—	74283	65	1.13	—
				74126	35	—	—	74293	80	—	—
				74141	—	46	—	74348	1.31	—	—
				74145	—	46	—	74365	50	57	—
				74150	—	58	—	74366	50	57	—
				74151	51	—	—	74367	—	57	—
				74153	—	43	—	74368	50	57	—
				74154	—	68	—	74390	—	98	—
				74155	75	46	—	74668	1.68	—	—
				74156	—	43	—				
				74157	—	40	—				
				74160	98	57	—				
				74161	—	56	—				
				74162	—	57	—				
				74163	69	49	—				
				74164	—	60	—				
				74165	—	56	—				
				74166	1.69	—	—				
				74170	1.31	—	—				
				74174	—	58	—				
				74175	—	58	—				
				74180	—	43	—				
				74181	—	1.44	—				
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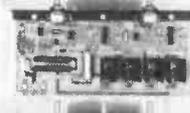


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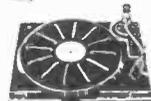
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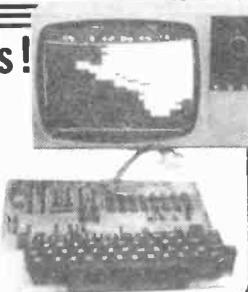
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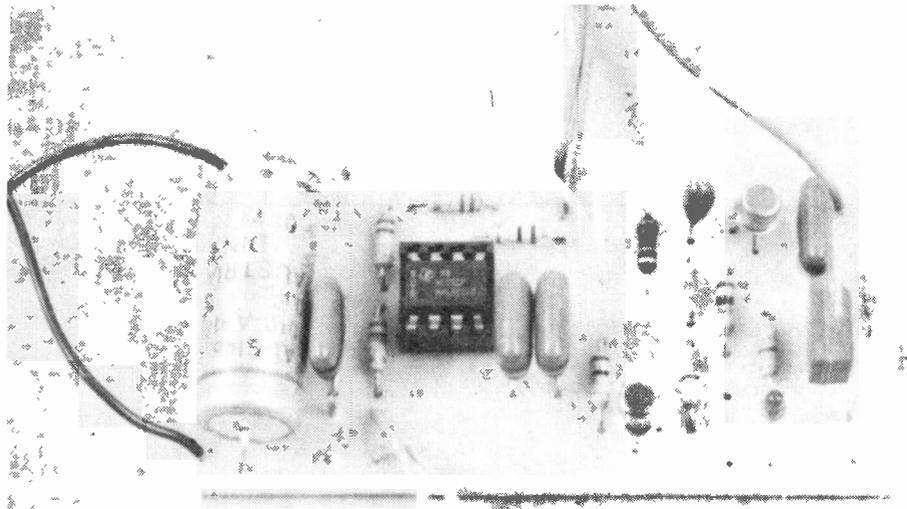
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SCR1. Check polarity with a voltmeter but carefully as there may be several hundred volts present.

In use, the unit is switched on and adjusted until it triggers reliably from the chosen sensor. Set up your

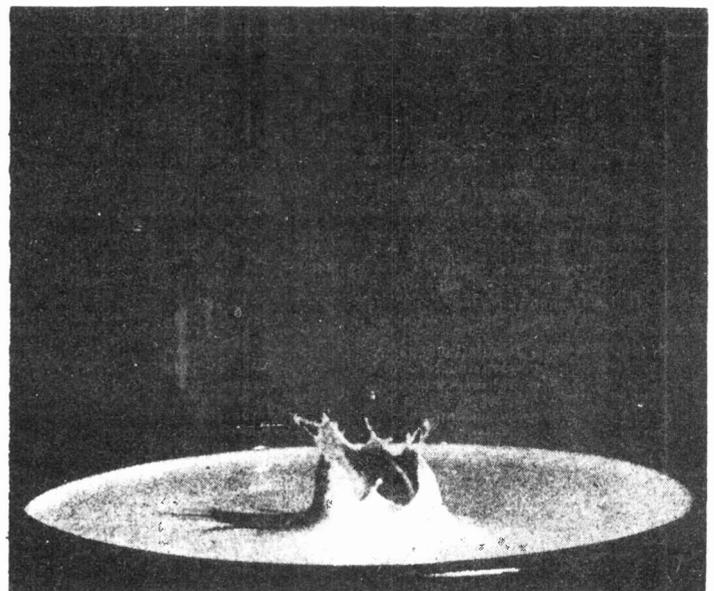
camera according to the guide table supplied with the flash. Remember that the apertures given relate to the flash-to-subject distance. Place your camera for the best picture (open the shutter) and enjoy instant exposure!

Construction

The unit is assembled on one PCB with flying leads connecting the controls. Power is supplied by a PP3 battery or any nine volt DC source.

There are no links to make on the board and none of the components are sensitive to static electricity or otherwise delicate making this an attractive project for assembly by a beginner or student.

A socket is recommended for IC1. These chips do not often fail but it can be infuriating to have to desolder one of you suspect it. In any case, a socket removes any chance of damage from excessive heat. The only point to watch is the orientation of the semiconductors. Use the ones specified; they're cheap and readily available. Make sure you connect the flash gun the right way round across



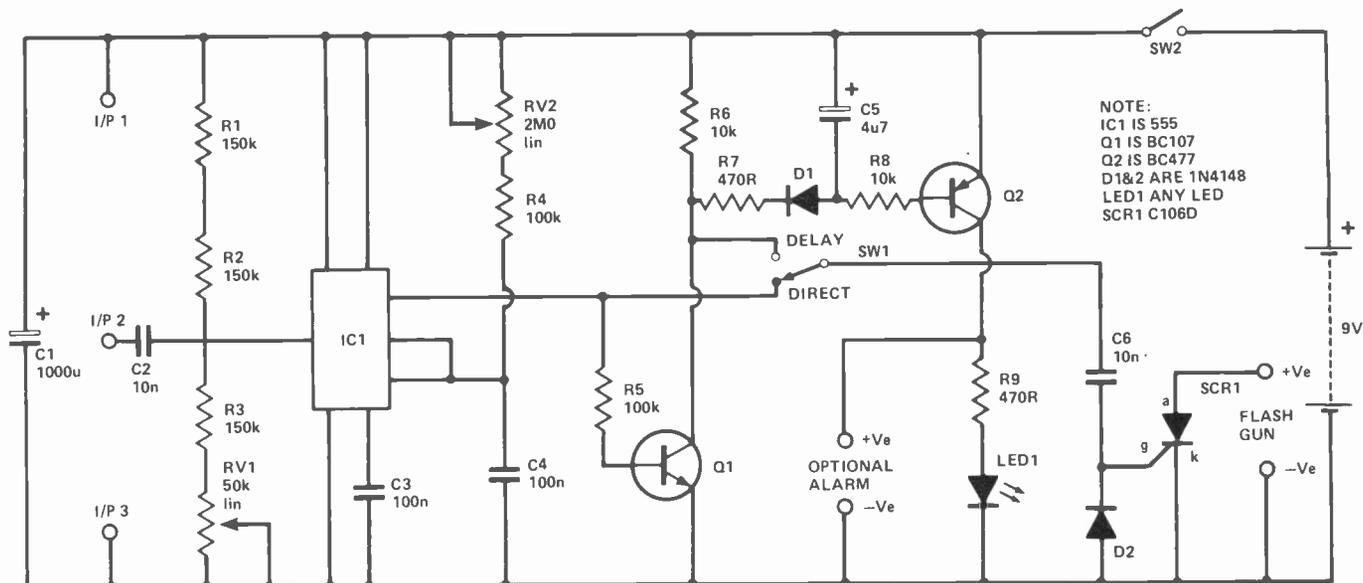


Fig. 1. Circuit diagram for the Flash Trigger project.

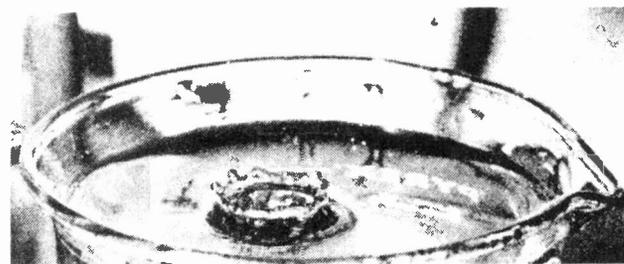
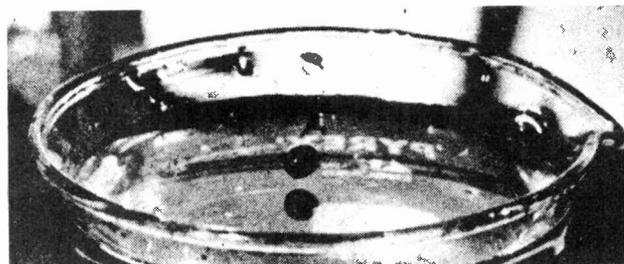
HOW IT WORKS

IC1 is a 555 timer connected in the monostable mode. The timing period is determined by RV2, R4, C4 and is adjustable between 11mS and 231mS with the values shown. The trigger input of the chip is held just above its firing potential of one third supply voltage by adjustment of RV1 which acts as a sensitivity control. A negative-going signal is coupled to the input by capacitor C2. Note that the values of R1,2,3,RV1 provide a medium input impedance and screened cable may be required when the sensor must be separated from the unit.

When IC1 is 'fired', its output (pin 3) goes high for the monostable period. With SW1 switched to 'direct', this positive going pulse will fire the SCR and discharge the flash enabling the unit to be used as a slave flash. There will be a finite delay owing to rise time of phototransistor response, propagation delay within IC1 and rise time of its output. However, this will be measurable in microseconds and should be negligible.

When used in the 'delay' mode, the output pulse is inverted by Q1 causing the flash to fire on the trailing edge of the monostable pulse. To avoid repeated use of the flash when setting up the unit, indicator LED 1 is provided. Each negative excursion of Q1 collector causes C5 to charge via R7, D1 effectively stretching the monostable pulse and providing a clearly visible flash. An optional alarm; for example a solid-state-buzzer, can be connected into the circuit providing audible indication of triggering. C1 provides overall decoupling. Supply current is about 10mA.

Below: what to do with it once you've built it. Taken with an ETI Flash Trigger.



PARTS LIST

RESISTORS All 1/4W, 5%

R1,2,3	150k
R4,5	100k
R6,8	10k
R7,9	470R

POTENTIOMETERS

RV1	50k lin
RV2	2M lin

CAPACITORS

C1	1000u electrolytic
C2,6	10n polyester
C3,4	100n polyester
C5	4u7 tantalum

SEMICONDUCTORS

IC1	555
Q1	BC107
Q2	BC477
SCR1	C106D
D1,2	1N4148
LED 1	any LED

MISCELLANEOUS

SW1 SPDT SW2 SPST PCB
flash-gun-connector, photo-
transistor, crystal mic. 9V battery

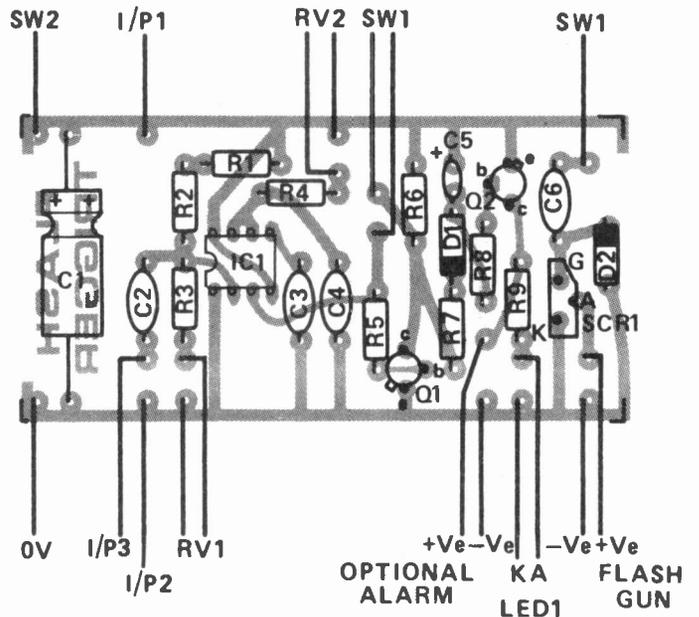


Fig. 3. Component overlay.

C106D



TIL78



BUYLINES

The electronic components will be available from major component suppliers. A suitable flash gun connector should be obtainable from photographic equipment dealers.

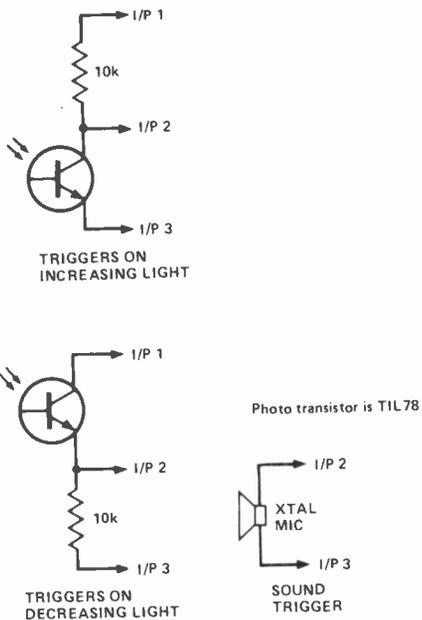
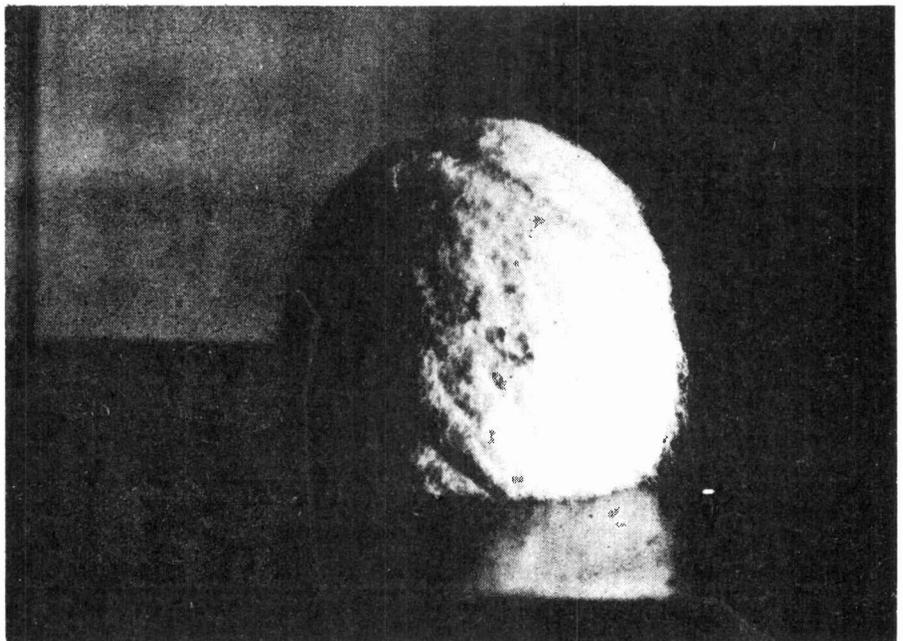


Fig. 2. Wiring details for different triggers.



Just a little bit more...

NASCOM-2

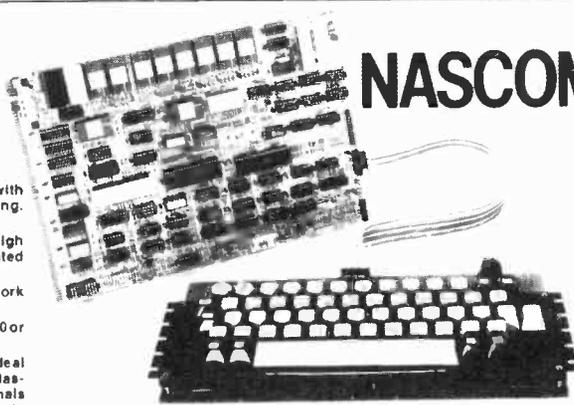
Compare its features:

- Z-80A 4MHZ. CPU: The most powerful 8-bit processor on the market.
- 8K Basic: resident on board, MICROSOFT Basic, the industry standard, with extensions for on-screen editing, graphics, machine code interfacing. Optimised for speed (see benchmarks below).
- Full 57 Key Licon solid state keyboard: switch mechanisms are contactless, high reliability professional units for long trouble free life. Keyboard is mounted separately to avoid straining main P.C.B.
- Total of 20K on-board memory: 2K monitor (Nas-Sys 1), 1K Video RAM, 1K Work space RAM, 8K Microsoft Basic, 8K user RAM.
- Kansas City cassette interface: for reliable storage of programs and data at 300 or 1200 baud, with full checksum error detection.
- Nas-sys monitor: A powerful 2K machine code monitor provides an ideal environment for learning about and developing machine code programs. Nas-sys uses a blinking non destructive cursor, with 22 commands. ASCII terminals are fully supported via the serial interface; users can add their own I/O drivers via the system I/O vector table to support other devices.

Nas-sys commands are:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| A—Hex arithmetic | N—return to normal |
| B—set breakpoint | O—Output to P.I.O. |
| C—Copy | Q—Query input port |
| E—Execute | R—Read tape |
| G—Generate | S—Single step |
| H—Operate as half duplex terminal. | T—Tabulate memory |
| I—Intelligent copy | U—activate user I/O drivers |
| J—Execute at FFA | V—Verify tape |
| K—set keyboard options | W—Write tape |
| L—load from tape | X—set external device |
| M—Memory modify | Z—execute at FFD |

- On board P.I.O. — An uncommitted P.I.O. (MK 3881) giving 16 programmable I/O lines with handshake.
- On board RS-232-C Will interface directly into any standard teletype — allowing use of BASIC or Nas-sys from the teletype.
- Full on-screen editing: a complete screen editor with cursor movement (UP, DOWN, LEFT, RIGHT), insert and delete, backspace etc.
- Screen display of 16 lines x 48 characters: Stable, clear display to British television standards. Full 128 ASCII character set; option for further 128 graphics characters.
- Fully buffered NASBUS compatible: Well defined bus structure with a range of expansion cards; including (shortly) a floppy disc system with CP/m — the industry standard operating system.



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BM 4	7.2	11.6	13.9	20.4
BM 5	8.9	12.6	15.0	21.7
BM 6	18.6	19.3	22.3	32.5
BM 7	28.2	27.6	31.6	50.9
BM 8		5.2	6.2	12.3



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In its most basic form this should provide an indication of the logic level at any point in a circuit without overloading the section being tested. Other desirable features are the ability to follow high frequency pulse trains (preferably over 1 MHz) and to detect isolated, narrow pulses less than 1 μ S in width. Finally, the instrument should be compatible with both TTL and CMOS ICs and be able to operate from a wide range of supply voltages (say five to 15 volts).

Commercial logic probes that satisfy all these requirements are available, but they invariably cost over £30. The probe design described here offers comparable performance for less than £4, combined with an excuse to enjoy a good cigar — a cigar tube is used for the case!

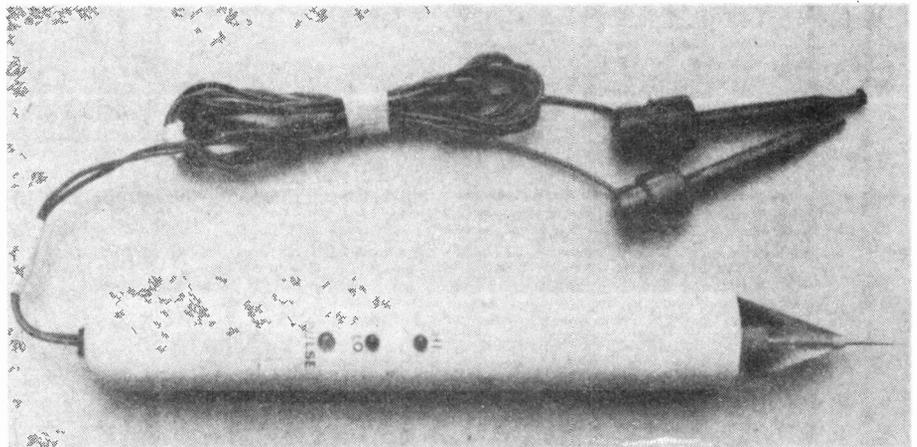
Indication is by means of three LEDs. Two red LEDs indicate either a HIGH or a LOW condition on the point under test, a green LED is used to indicate that a pulse train is occurring.

The circuit uses a single CMOS IC and a handful of resistors and capacitors. The components are mounted on a small board and housed in a tubular case such as an aluminium cigar tube or a length of plastic conduit. The power is supplied from the actual circuit under test and the performance characteristics of the prototype are described in the specification listed here.

Construction

A printed circuit board is recommended for this project to provide consistent performance characteristics.

Before attempting to mount the components on the printed circuit



The logic probe in a cigar tube, showing the Hi, Lo and Pulse indication LEDs.

board check to see that it fits easily into the case. The board must be a loose enough fit to allow it to be moved up and down within the case over a range of at least 5 mm. (Refer to the diagram).

Mount the wire links, the resistors and the capacitors on the board, keeping all components as close to the board as possible. Note that C3 is mounted on the underside of the board. Next, install the three LEDs. The height of the LEDs above the board must be such that the assembly will slide into the case with the board pushed down against the bottom of the case (see diagram). For a 20 mm diameter case this height should be about 12 mm. If the LEDs are not high enough, then it will not be possible to push the assembled board up into a position where the LEDs project through the holes in the case.

Next, add the power leads (without clips or E-Z hooks at this stage) and the 10 cm wire to the probe tip. Last of all solder IC1 into position, observing all

the usual precautions — shorted pins, heat sink, earthed soldering iron, pins 8 and 16 soldered first.

Drill the 3 mm holes for the LEDs at 10 mm intervals, starting 75 mm from the front of the case. The hole for the supply leads is drilled in the back of the case and fitted with a small rubber grommet (or plastic LED housing) to prevent the case rubbing through the insulation on the leads.

Before mounting the assembled board in the case check the circuit for dry joints, solder bridges, incorrectly mounted components, etc. Then test the device as follows. Connect to a five volt supply and observe the three LEDs. None should light with the probe tip isolated. If the LOW LED (LED 2) comes on or flashes, then R2 is too small and must be replaced by a slightly larger resistor (say 820k). Touching the probe tip with the fingers may cause LED 2 to light, but this should go off when the tip is isolated. Touching the probe tip to either supply rail should

HOW IT WORKS

Three of the six inverter/buffers in IC1 are used in the high/low detection circuit. IC1c is connected to the probe tip via R9. When the input goes HIGH (logic 1), IC1c output goes low and illuminates LED 2 through R5. Similarly when the input goes LOW (logic 0), the series pair IC1e and 1 illuminate LED 1 through R4. The resistor network R1, R2 and R3 ensure that the outputs of both IC1c and IC1f remain high when the input is 'floating'. C1 is connected across R2 as a 'speed-up capacitor' to maintain a sharp pulse shape into IC1e and so improve the ability to follow high frequency pulse trains (over 1MHz).

The two inverters IC1a and b form a monostable circuit that stretches short pulses (less than 500 nsec) out to 15 msec (0.7RC) using C3 and R8. The input of the monostable comes from the output of IC1c and is isolated from the DC level of this output by C2. The combination of R7 and D1 normally holds IC1b through C2, the output goes high, forcing IC1a to go low and illuminate LED 3. Diode D1 ensures that the input to IC1b is kept low (0V7 above zero) so long as the output of IC1a remains low. This prevents subsequent pulses from re-triggering IC1b until the monostable itself discharges via discharge of C3 to earth through R8, and allows IC1a output to go high, switching off LED 3.

Capacitors C4 and C5 (optional) confer immunity to spikes or pulses in the supply lines, which are taken from the circuit being tested.

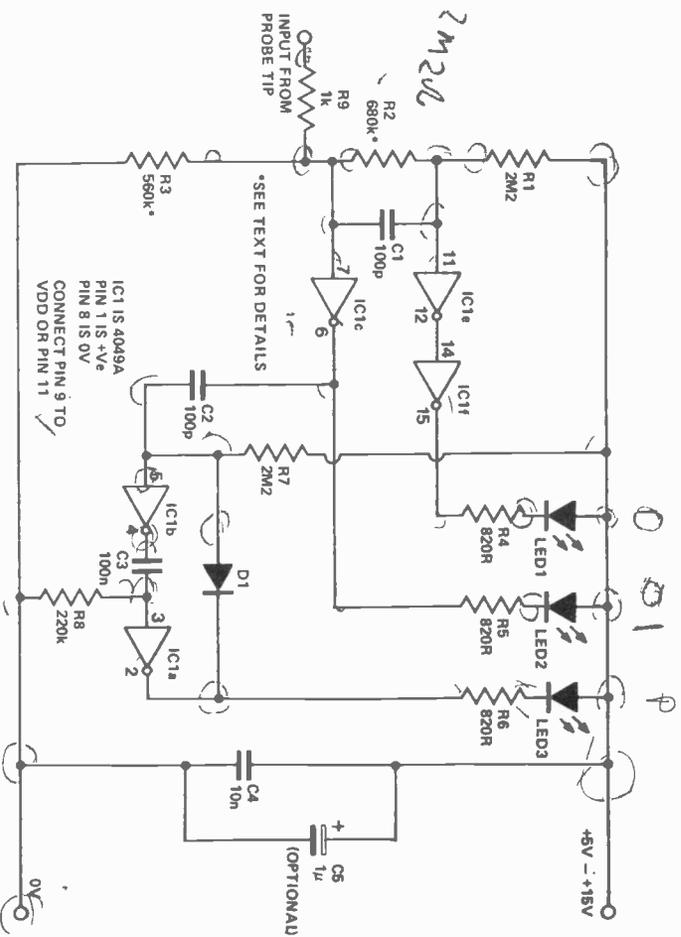
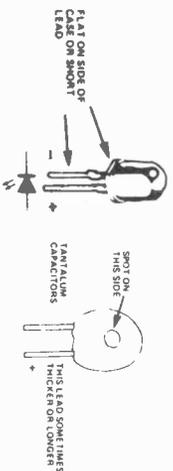


Fig. 1. Circuit diagram. Note the polarity of LEDs 1, 2 and 3.



NOTE
C5 IF USED IS MOUNTED
ACROSS C4 (OBSERVE
POLARITY)
CONNECT RESPECTIVE
LETTERS TOGETHER
A TO A B TO B etc.

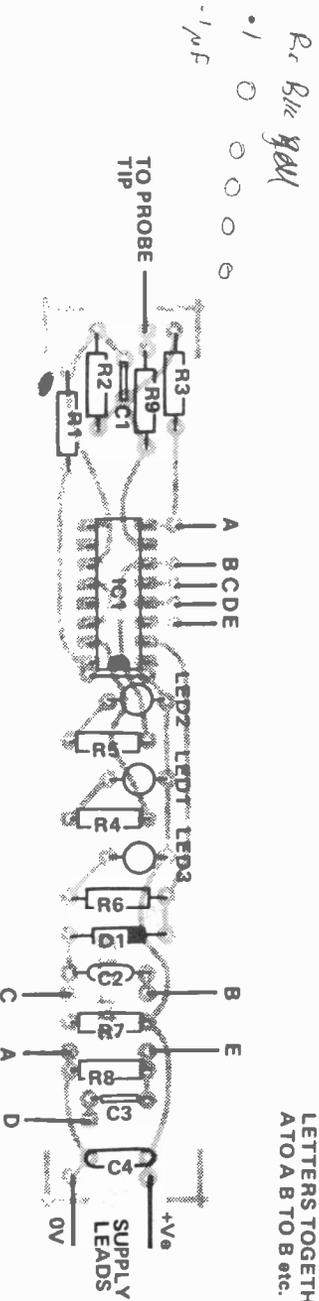


Fig. 2. Component overlay.

PARTS LIST

Resistors all 1/4W, 5%

R1,7	2M2
R2	680k*
R3	560k*
R4,5,6	820R
R8	220k
R9	1k

Capacitors

C1,2	100p Ceramic
C3	100n Polyester
C4	10n Polyester
C5	1u (Optional)

Semiconductors	
IC1	4049A

LED 1,2	3mm red
LED 3	3mm green
D1	1N4148 (or equivalent)

Miscellaneous

PCB: red and black leads with alligator clips or E-Z hooks; cigar, case (or equivalent) — minimum dimensions 20mm ID, 140mm long; probe tip housing.

* Resistors R2 and R3 may have to be altered slightly (in the range 470k to 820k) to suit the transfer characteristics of IC1 — see text.

BUYLINES

Once again, components should be readily available from most suppliers. Make sure the components you buy will fit into the container you choose. If you're not a cigar smoker, plastic piping from your local hardware store will do just as well.



The long thin PCB should look like this when it's finished.

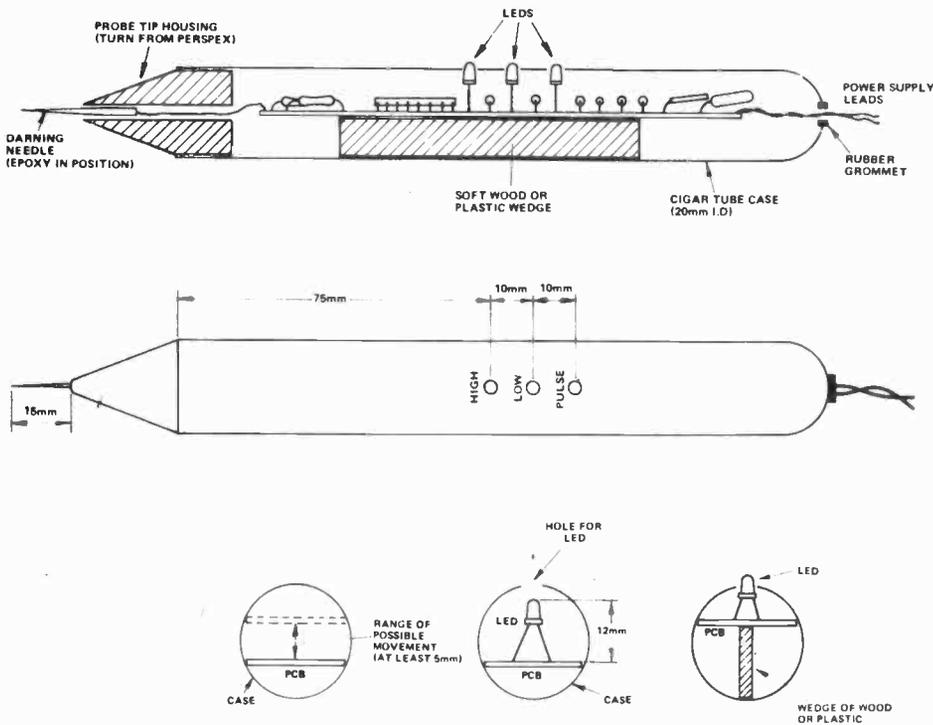


Fig.3. The PCB slides into the cigar tube and rests on a piece of wood or plastic.

light the appropriate LED, with the PULSE LED flashing when the tip first touches the positive rail. If the LOW LED does not light when the probe is connected to 0V, then R2 is too large. Change R2 to 560k and repeat the sequence above.

Now try a 15 volt supply. Again, all LEDs should be extinguished when the probe tip is isolated. The HIGH LED (LED 1) may glow very faintly. If this glow is too strong, reduce the value of R3 to say 470k. However, if R3 has to be altered it will be necessary to recheck the circuit at 5V to see that the low voltage performance is still satisfactory. At 15 volts repeat the process of touching the probe tip to the two supply rails. The results should be the same as in the case of the 5 volt supply, but the LEDs will be considerably brighter. **ETI**



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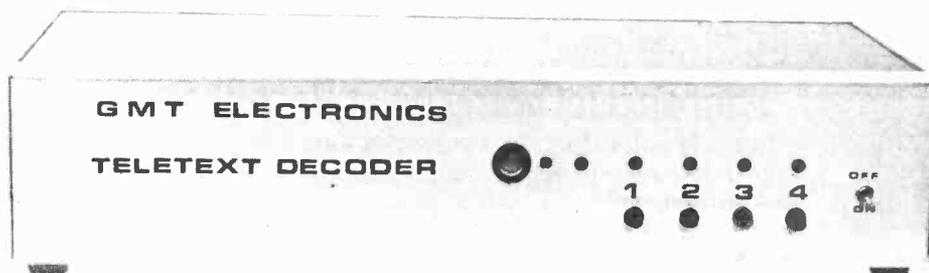
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OA202	9p
1N916	5p
1N4148	5p
1N4001	4p
1N4002	4p
1N4003	5p
1N4004	6p
1N4005	6p
1N4006	8p
1N4007	8p
1N5400	13p
1N5401	14p
1N5402	15p
1N5404	16p

DIL SOCKETS	
8 pin	11p
14 pin	13p
16 pin	14p
18 pin	18p
22 pin	22p
24 pin	24p
28 pin	28p
40 pin	40p

LINEAR CIRCUITS	
709	40p
710-14	33p
747-14	48p
748-8	44p
CA3018	70p
CA3028A	85p

CA3046	70p
CA3054	90p
CA3080	75p
CA3130	90p
CA3140	45p
LF351N	65p
LF356N	75p
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LM308N	60p
2N5777	55p
LM318N	200p
LM324N	74p
LM339N	60p
LM348N	90p
LM377N	175p
LM380N	75p
LM381N	140p
LM382N	130p
LM1310N	150p
LM3900N	55p
LM3909N	70p
MC1496P	85p
NE531	105p
NE555	25p
NE556	60p
TBA641A	140p
TBA641B	200p
TBA800	75p
TBA810S	110p
ZN414	100p
ZN1034	200p

4030	48p
4035	107p
4041	78p
4042	58p
4043	83p
4044	90p
4047	90p
4048	55p
4049	30p
4050	30p
4066	38p
4069	15p
4070	15p
4071	15p
4072	15p
4073	15p
4081	15p
4082	15p
4086	66p
4510	73p
4511	99p
4516	95p
4518	72p
4520	69p
4528	99p

TTL	
7400	11p
7401	11p
7402	11p
7403	11p
7404	13p
7405	13p
7406	15p
7407	20p
7408	13p
7409	13p
7410	13p
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7441	48p
7442	48p
7443	48p
7444	48p

7445	60p
7446	65p
7447	53p
7448	62p
7450	10p
7451	12p
7453	12p
7454	10p
7460	12p
7470	17p
7472	21p
7473	24p
7474	24p
7475	30p
7476	26p
7480	25p
7485	66p
7486	22p
7490	32p
7491	28p
7492	17p
7493	32p
7494	30p
7495	30p
7496	42p
7497	200p
74100	60p
74105	43p
74107	20p
74109	25p
74110	40p
74118	88p
74121	26p
74122	22p
74123	40p
74125	34p
74126	34p
74132	48p
74141	45p
74142	200p
74145	55p
74150	69p
74151	48p
74153	52p
74154	89p
74155	54p
74156	50p
74157	52p
74160	62p
74161	50p
74162	66p
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74166	85p
74173	70p
74174	50p
74175	60p
74176	64p

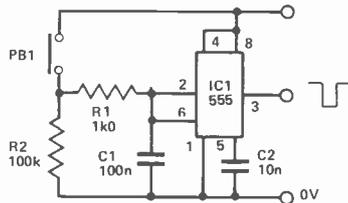
74177	53p
74180	50p
74181	99p
74182	30p
74190	75p
74191	70p
74192	50p
74193	64p
74194	68p
74195	85p
74196	80p
74197	40p
74198	107p
74199	80p
TRANSISTORS	
AC126/7	20p
AC128	20p
AC128/176	
Mt. pr.	40p
AC176	20p
AC187/8	21p
AD149	80p
AD161/2	40p
AF116	35p
AF117	35p
AF124	34p
AF139	35p
AF239	45p
BC107	10p
BC108/9	10p
BC147	8p
BC148	10p
BC149	9p
BC157	10p
BC158/9	10p
BC167	13p
BC169C	13p
BC173	6p
BC177/8	16p
BC179B	18p
BC182/3	10p
BC184	10p
BC209	11p
BC212/3	11p
BC214	14p
BC214L	14p
BC261B	14p
BC461	34p
BC477	23p
BC478/9	23p
BC547/B	12p
BC549	13p
BC557/8	13p
BC559	15p
BCY70	16p
BCY71	19p
BCY72	18p
BD115	40p

BD131/2	38p
BD135/6	35p
BD137/8	35p
BD139	35p
BD140	35p
BF180	24p
BF181	8p
BF184	21p
BF185	25p
BF194/5	10p
BF196/7	10p
BF244B	35p
BF259	25p
BF339	32p
BF379	32p
BF384	25p
BF387	22p
BF388	27p
BF50/1	22p
BF52	18p
BRV39	45p
BSX20	22p
BU205	140p
MJ2908	200p
MJ2955	110p
MJE340	70p
MJE2955	104p
MJE3055	85p
MPF102	40p
MPF103	40p
MPF104	40p
MPF105	40p
MPF106	46p
MPSA06	26p
MPSA56	26p
MPSU06	61p
OC35	86p
TIP29	35p
TIP29B	40p
TIP30	35p
TIP30B	40p
TIP31	35p
TIP32	35p
TIP33	40p
TIP33C	60p
TIP34A	65p
TIP35C	200p
TIP36A	220p
TIP41A	60p
TIP42A	60p
TIP2955	70p
TIP3055	55p
ZTX107	13p
ZTX108	13p
ZTX109	13p
ZTX300	16p
ZTX301	18p
ZTX302	20p

ZTX303	24p
ZTX304	27p
ZTX311	19p
ZTX341	22p
ZTX500	16p
ZTX501	16p
ZTX502	21p
ZTX503	17p
ZTX504	28p
2N696	33p
2N697	13p
2N698	30p
2N706	14p
2N914	34p
2N918	32p
2N1131	20p
2N1302	38p
2N1303	60p
2N1304	55p
2N1613	25p
2N2222A	21p
2N2369	17p
2N2484	30p
2N2646	50p
2N2904	23p
2N2905	23p
2N2906	17p



TECH TIPS



555 Micro Input Reset

P. Davidson

When dealing with a microprocessor system, there are several features which place requirements on the duration of their input leg reset. These

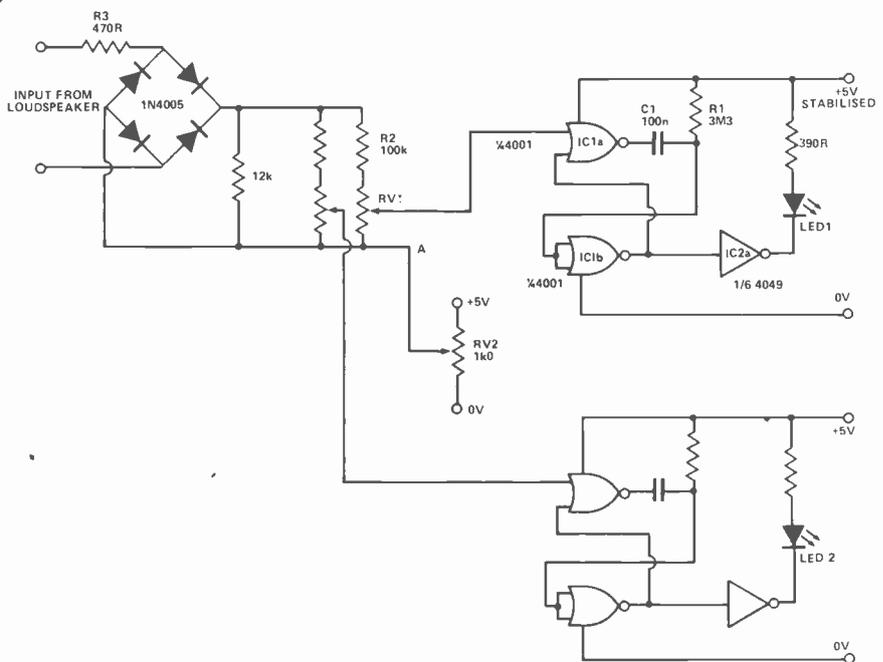
signals are usually negative (in the author's experience) and so, with the use of a 555, these requirements can be filled reliably (as opposed to the normal flip-flop debounce circuit). The circuit saves on logic used to invert the normal 555 monostable action.

LED Audio Power Indicators

M. P. Downes

The circuit diagram shows the input circuitry from the loudspeaker terminals. For simplicity only two of the monostable and LED driver circuits are shown. Six of these circuits can be constructed using three 4001s and one 4049 CMOS ICs. The circuit is based on the fact that CMOS has an input threshold of approximately half the supply voltage (actually 0.45 — 0.55 supply volts). IC1a and IC1b are dual input NOR gates connected in a monostable configuration with timing components R1 and C1. When the input to IC1a exceeds the threshold voltage, the monostable's output goes high for a period determined by R1 and C1 (with values shown approximately 200 mS). This output is inverted and buffered to drive a LED for this period. The input to trigger the monostable comes from the speaker terminals where it is full wave rectified and appears across RV1. R3 is a safety resistor in case of bridge failure. IN4005 diodes have the desired voltage and frequency characteristics for the bridge. R2 is to limit the current flowing into IC1a's internal protection diodes under large signal conditions and the value of RV1 depends on the desired input triggering voltage.

The lowest input voltage that can trigger the monostable is limited by the voltage drop across the bridge (0V8) and the threshold voltage of IC1a (approximately 2V5). The



threshold limit is largely overcome by using RV2 to bias point A to just below the threshold voltage. In practice, the circuit operates on an input frequency of from less than 5 Hz to more than 50 kHz sinewave and at an input voltage of from approximately 1V4 RMS (0.25 W into 8R) to more than 90 V RMS (1 kW into 8R). A single positive or negative 4 μS wide pulse will also operate the circuit.

The +5 V supply must be stabilised to ensure stable threshold levels and the usual decoupling of ICs and supply is advisable. If two units are

required for stereo use, two completely separate +5 V power supplies are essential to prevent partial shorting out of the input bridge, due to a possible common loudspeaker terminal in the amplifier. Greater input sensitivity can be achieved by using OA91 diodes in the input bridge, but with slight loss in high frequency response and a lower maximum input voltage. If there is a variation in the threshold voltage of individual ICs then the lower threshold ICs should be used in the most sensitive positions of the circuit, i.e. 0.25W.

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TBA 120A T.V. i.c. amplifier Siemens 55p, 10 for £5, 100 for £50, 1,000 for £350.

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BURROUGHS 9 DIGIT Panaplex calculator display 7 segment 0.25" digits. Neon type with red bezel socket and data. £1.95 ea. 10 for £17. 100 for £140.

HONEYWELL PROXIMITY DETECTOR integral amplifier 8v D.C. £3.50 ea. 10 for £30.

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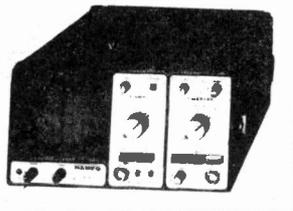
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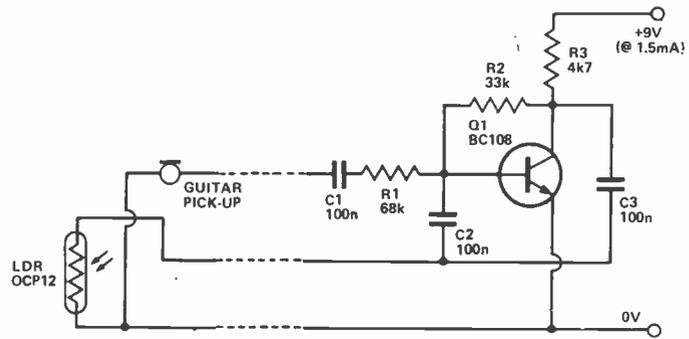
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Autowah Without Tears

S. N. Goodwin

The main disadvantage of a simple wah-wah circuit is that it requires a manual trigger for the effect, usually provided by a foot-pedal, which needs solid (and often expensive) mechanical construction and also prevents the guitarist from moving freely about the stage. After a couple of hand-made pedal systems collapsed in use, the standard wah-wah circuit was modified as follows: A light dependent resistor was mounted on the soundboard of the guitar about 2 cms from the highest string, pointing out about 1 cm from the front of the instrument. The shadow of the player's hand moving across the guitar triggers the effect — the more light



shining on the LDR, the higher the frequency-range boosted by the circuit.

It is tolerant of quite a wide range of light levels and if the range is found to be incorrect this can be rectified in two ways. Lenses or filters can be put across the LDR, or resistors can be connected in series/parallel with it.

Fluorescent lights could give problems with mains hum, but, under normal incandescent lighting, none were experienced. The wire to the LDR should ideally be screened, but over short distances this is not vital. Avoid bending its leads close to the body, as they can be snapped off very easily.

A Simple Sequencer

P. Hill

A simple sequencer can be constructed using shift registers.

A logic 1 is shifted down the shift registers (IC4, 5) outputs, otherwise at logic 0, at each clock pulse. This places a voltage across the variable

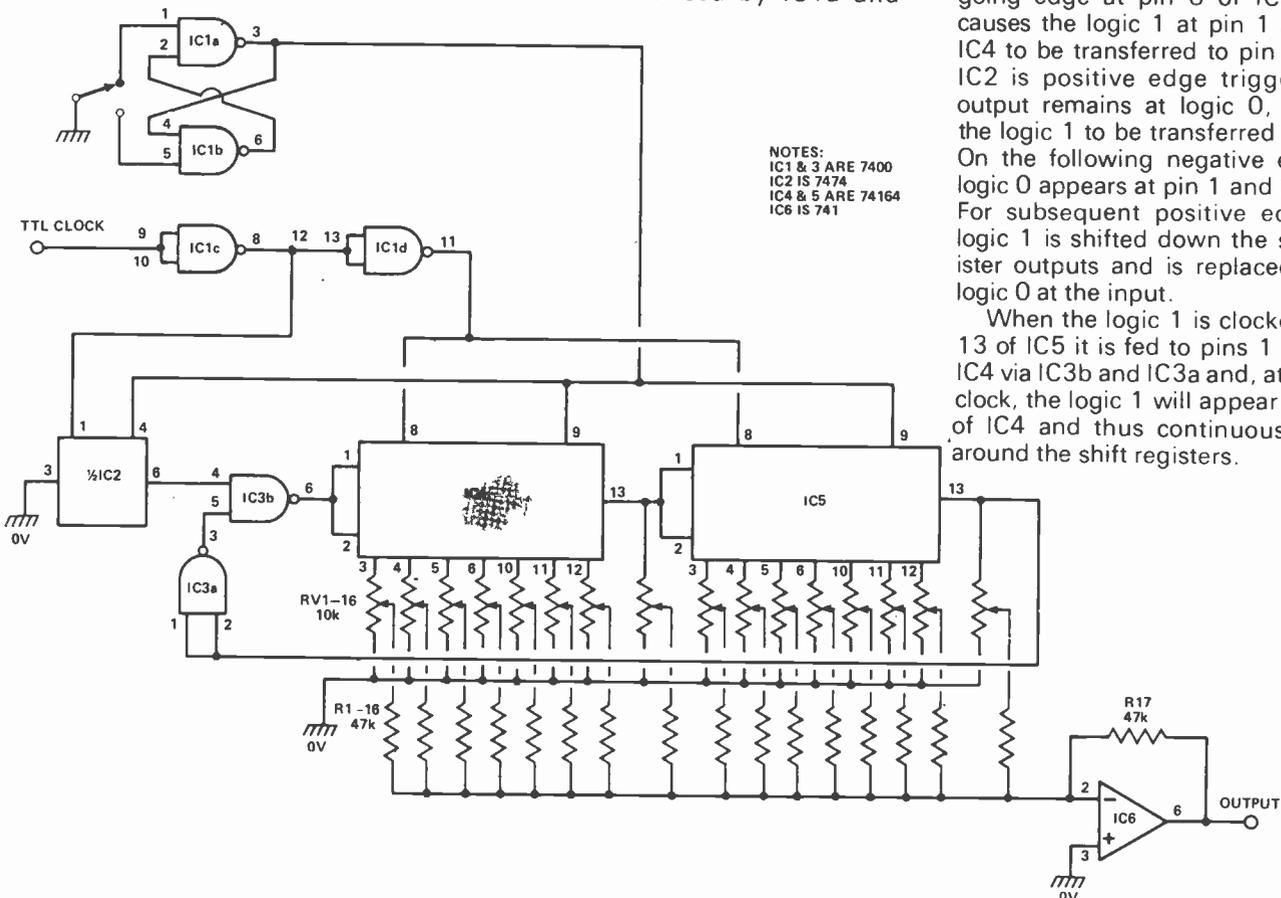
resistors RV1 — 16 in turn. A preset DC voltage is thus available at the output, after being buffered by R1 - 16 and IC6 for each clock pulse. A sequence of control voltages can be set up and used to drive a voltage controlled oscillator.

The sequencer is reset by S1. The switch is debounced by IC1a and

IC1b. Resetting zeros all shift register outputs and results in a logic 1 appearing at the input of IC4.

When a clock is applied a positive going edge at pin 8 of IC4 and 5 corresponds to a negative-going edge at pin 1 of IC2, due to inverters IC1c and IC1d. The first positive going edge at pin 8 of IC4 and 5 causes the logic 1 at pin 1 and 2 of IC4 to be transferred to pin 3. Since IC2 is positive edge triggered it's output remains at logic 0, allowing the logic 1 to be transferred to pin 3. On the following negative edge the logic 0 appears at pin 1 and 2 of IC4. For subsequent positive edges the logic 1 is shifted down the shift register outputs and is replaced by the logic 0 at the input.

When the logic 1 is clocked to pin 13 of IC5 it is fed to pins 1 and 2 of IC4 via IC3b and IC3a and, at the next clock, the logic 1 will appear on pin 3 of IC4 and thus continuously cycle around the shift registers.



NOTES:
IC1 & 3 ARE 7400
IC2 IS 7474
IC4 & 5 ARE 74164
IC6 IS 741

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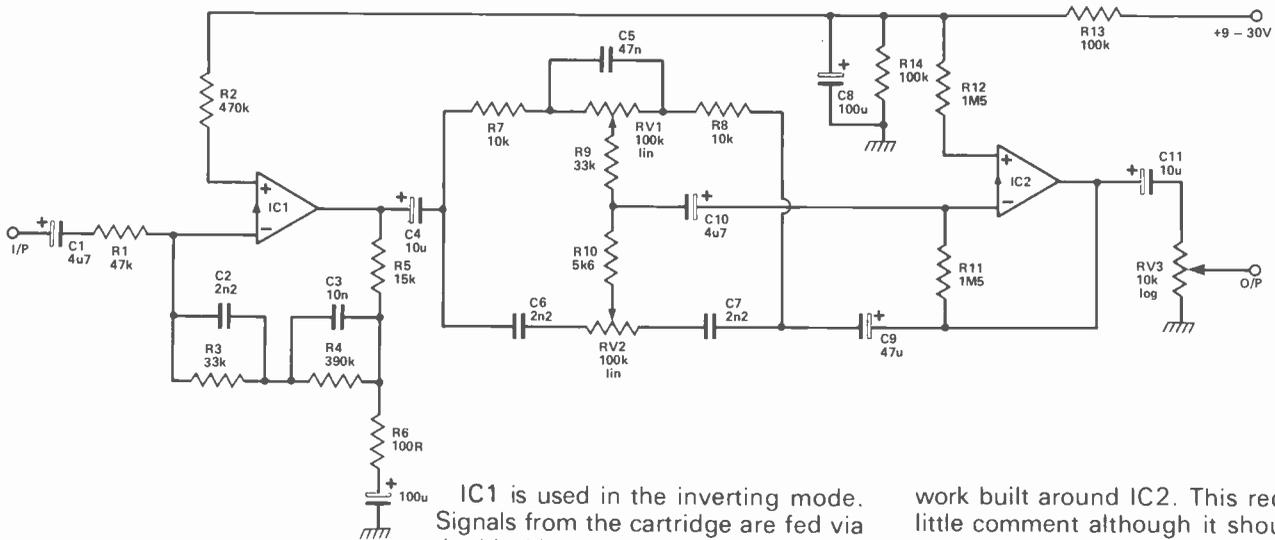
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One Chip Preamplifier

J. P. Macaulay

The circuit shown utilises the four Norton op amps contained within an LM3900 to produce a high quality stereo preamp, catering for magnetic cartridges.

IC1 is used in the inverting mode. Signals from the cartridge are fed via the blocking capacitor and R1 to the inverting input. R1 defines the input impedance and provides the right damping for the cartridge.

R5 and R6 define the midband gain of the stage whilst the network R3, R4, C2 and C3 provide the required RIAA equalisation. From here the equalised signal is fed to a standard Baxendall tone control net-

work built around IC2. This required little comment although it should be noted that individual volume controls are employed four each channel. This not only reduces crosstalk between channels but also works out cheaper in that only two single gang potentiometers are used.

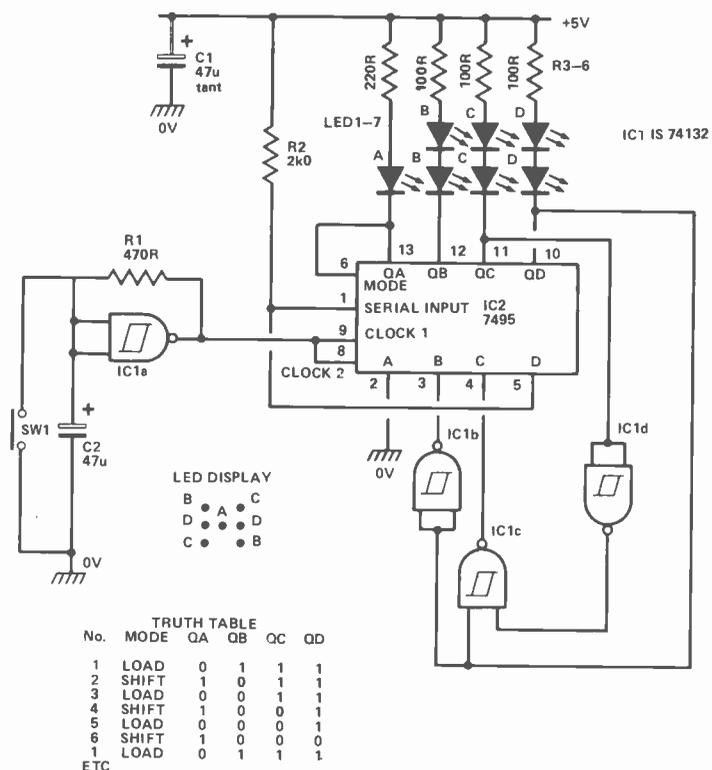
Performance is good with overall distortion below 0.1% and a S/N ratio of -67db unweighted, ref 500 mV out.

2 Chip Electronic Dice

P. Adams

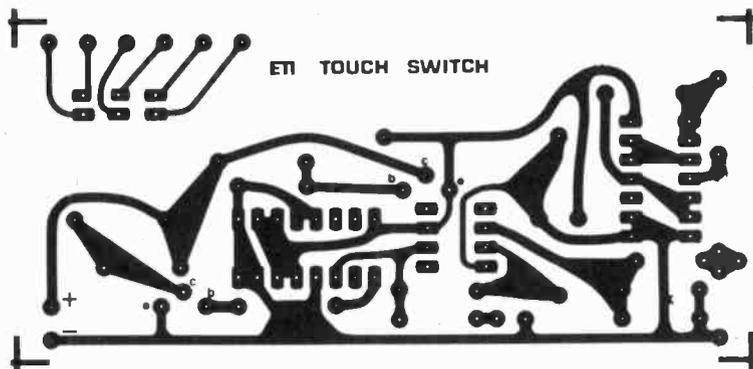
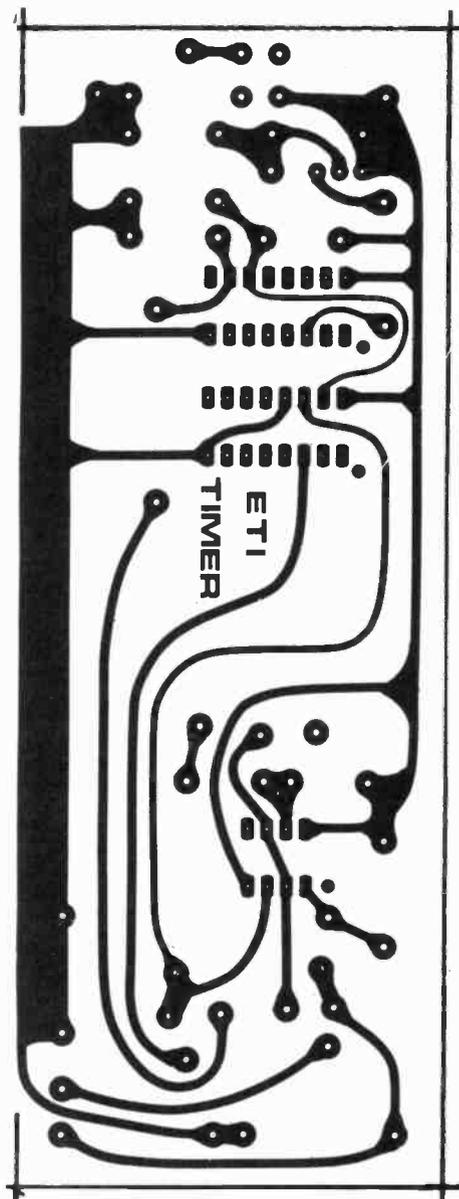
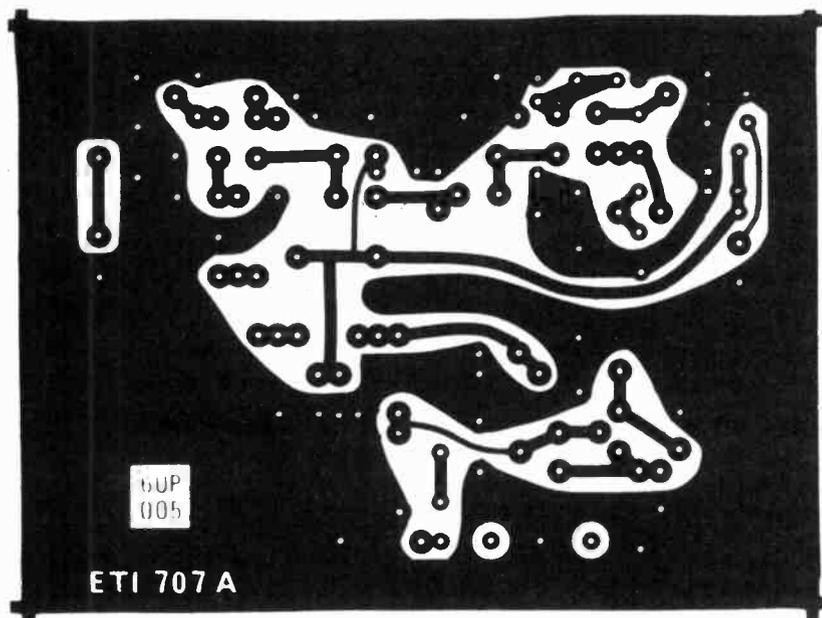
This electronic dice produces a true dice display using only two IC's — a 74132 and a 7495. The 7495 is a 4-bit parallel-access shift register. It can either operate as a shift-register or be parallel (broadside) loaded at inputs A-D. Control over these two functions is by a mode control input. When the mode is high data is loaded into Qa — Qd from inputs A - D on the next negative-going clock edge. When the mode is low data is shifted on Qa — Qd on the next negative-going clock edge.

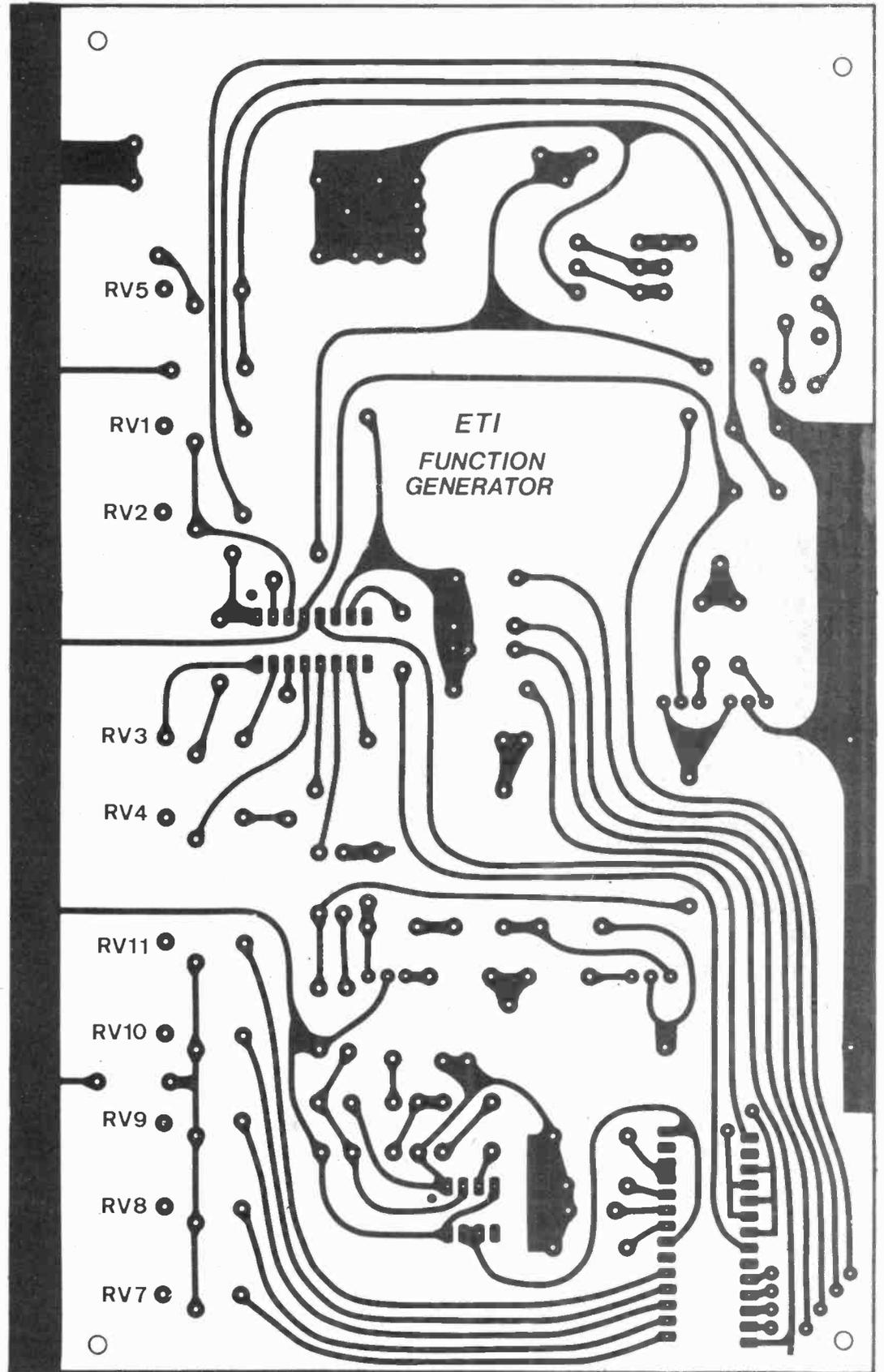
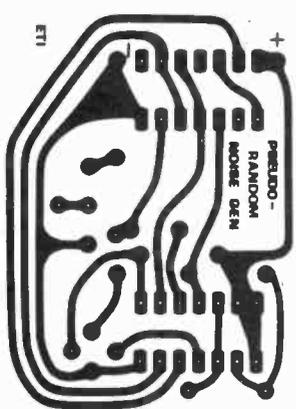
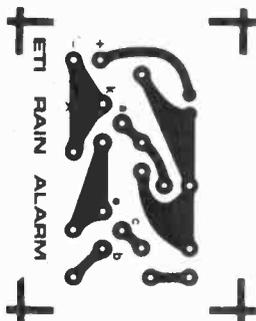
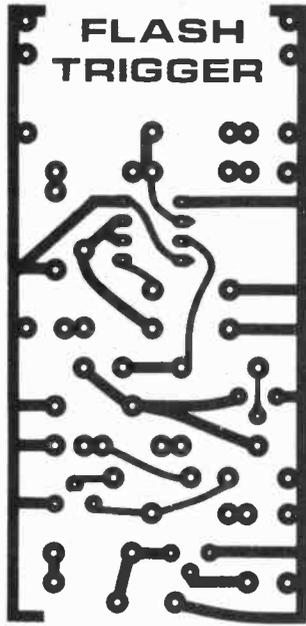
By connecting the mode control to Qa so that the register alternates between load and shift and making the input word a function of the existing output word, with some simple logic, the register can be made to execute a count that will drive LEDs in a dice display. Note LEDs are lit when outputs are low. IC1a is connected as a conventional Schmitt oscillator providing clock pulses to the register. SW1 stops the oscillator and halts the count. On switch-on the register may start on an invalid count, but in a couple of clock cycles it will produce a valid count and then remain in that sequence.



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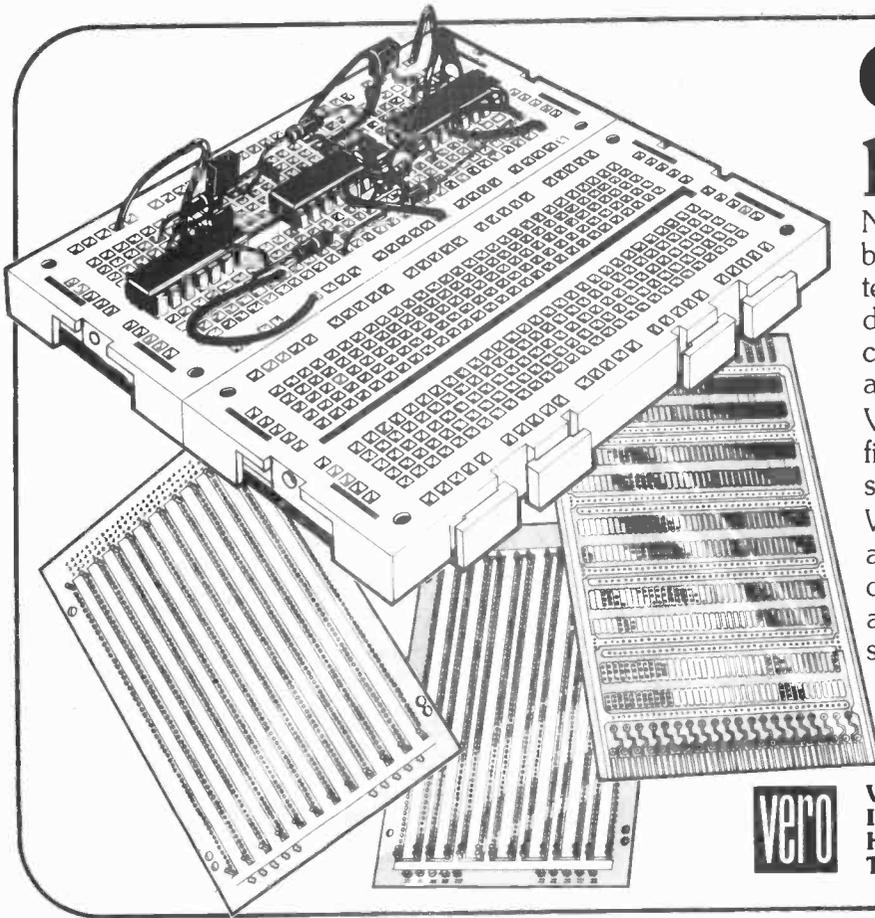
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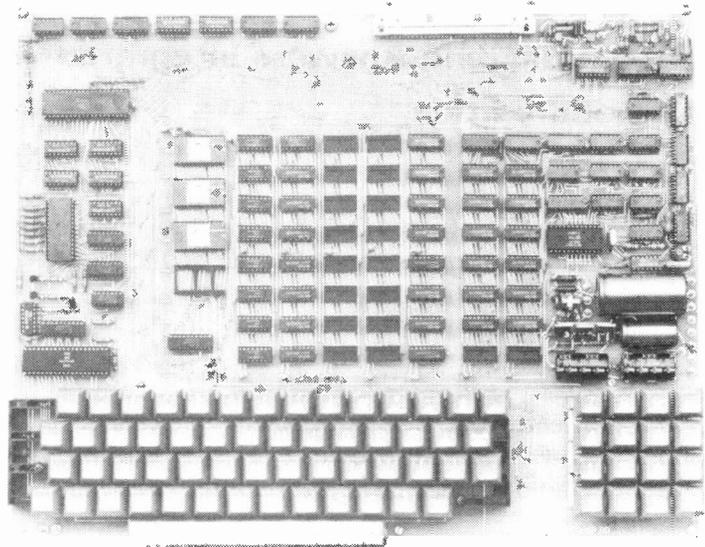
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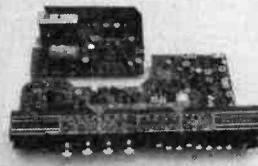
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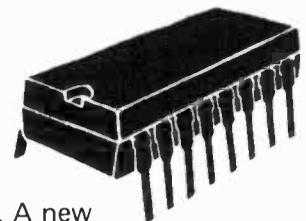
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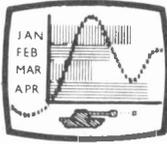
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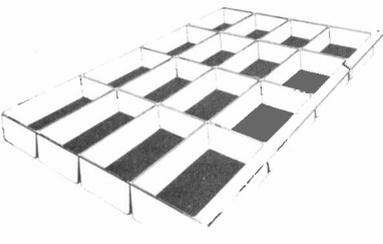


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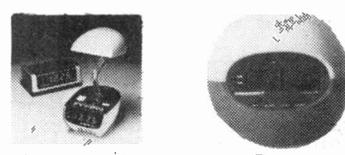
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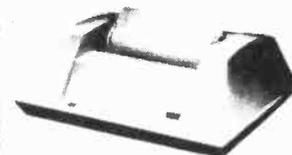


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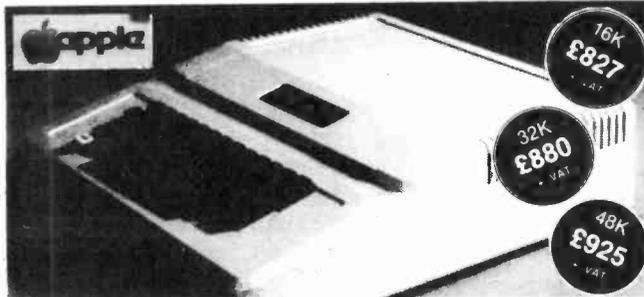
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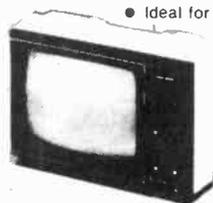
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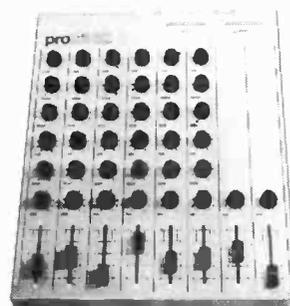
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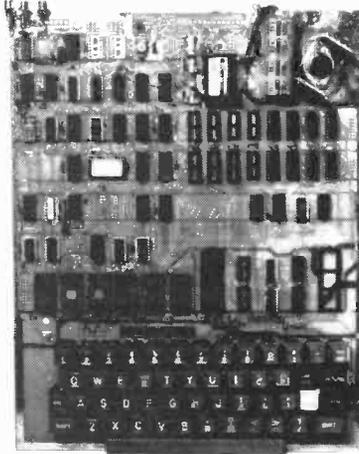
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OPERATORS
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VARIABLES
A B C Z and two letter variables
The above can all be subscripted when used in an array. String variables use above names plus \$ e.g. A\$

FUNCTIONS
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LOG(X) PEEK(I) POS(I) RND(X)
SPC(I) SQR(X) TAB(I) TAN(X)
FRE(X) INT(X) SGN(X) SIN(X) USR(I)
STRING FUNCTIONS
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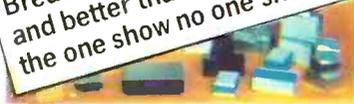


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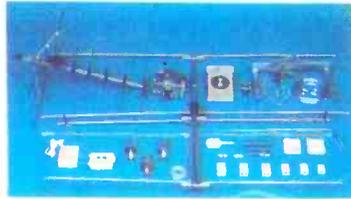
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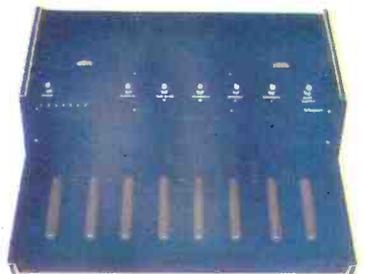


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