

Easy to build projects for everyone

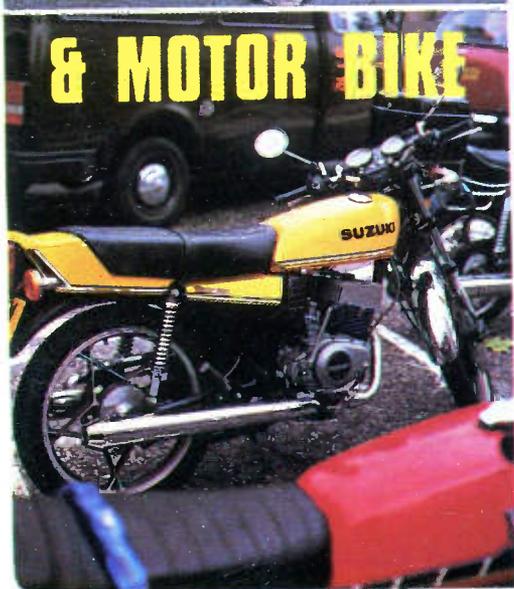
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80p

Everyday ELECTRONICS

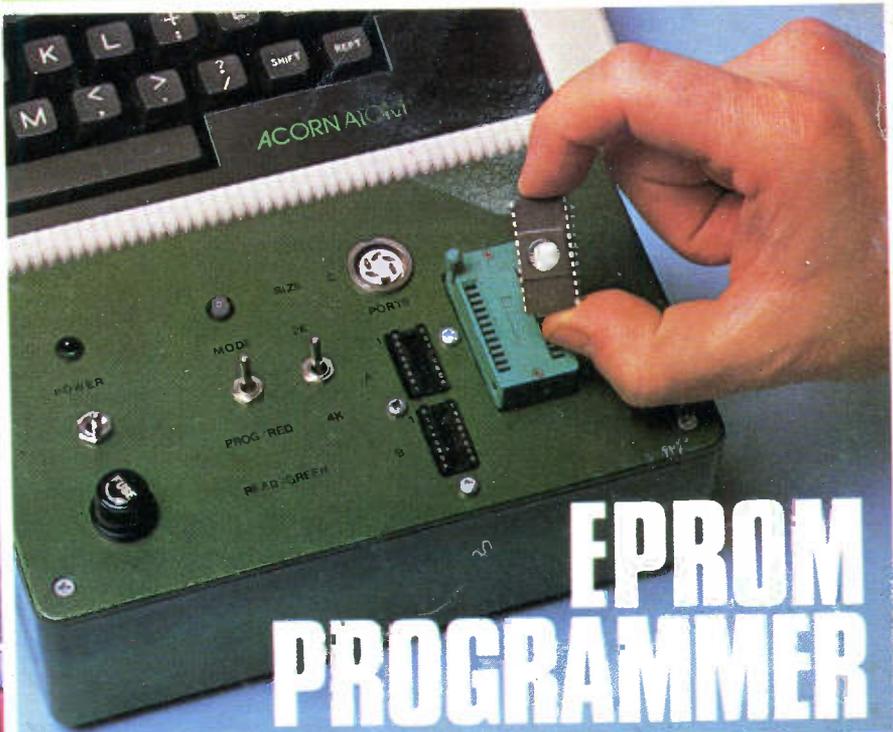
ALARMS



**FOR PUSH BIKE
& MOTOR BIKE**



BEE HIVE TEMPERATURE METER



**EPROM
PROGRAMMER**

ZX81 SPEED COMPUTING SYSTEM



INTERVAL TIMER

electronize

ELECTRONIC IGNITION KITS OR READY BUILT

IS YOUR CAR AS GOOD AS IT COULD BE ?



- ★ Is it **EASY TO START** in the cold and the damp? Total Energy Discharge will give the most powerful spark and maintain full output even with a near flat battery.
- ★ Is it **ECONOMICAL** or does it "go off" between services as the ignition performance deteriorates? Total Energy Discharge gives much more output and maintains it from service to service.
- ★ Has it **PEAK PERFORMANCE** or is it flat at high and low revs. where the ignition output is marginal? Total Energy Discharge gives a more powerful spark from idle to the engines max. (even with 3 cylinders).
- ★ Is the **PERFORMANCE SMOOTH**. The more powerful spark of Total Energy Discharge eliminates the 'near misfires' whilst an electronic filter smooths out the effects of contact bounce etc.
- ★ Do the **PLUGS and POINTS** always need changing to bring the engine back to its best. Total Energy Discharge eliminates contact arcing and erosion by removing the heavy electrical load. The timing stays "spot on" and the contact condition doesn't affect the performance either. Larger plug gaps can be used, even wet or badly fouled plugs can be fired with this system.

Most **NEW CARS** already have **ELECTRONIC IGNITION**. Update **YOUR CAR** with the most powerful system on the market - 3 1/2 times more spark power than inductive systems - 3 1/2 times the spark power of ordinary capacitive systems, 3 times the spark duration.

Total Energy Discharge also features:
EASY FITTING, STANDARD/ELECTRONIC CHANGE-OVER SWITCH, LED STATIC TIMING LIGHT, LOW RADIO INTERFERENCE, CORRECT SPARK POLARITY and DESIGNED IN RELIABILITY.

- ★ **IN KIT FORM** it provides a top performance system at less than half the price of competing ready built units. The kit includes: pre-drilled fibreglass PCB, pre-wound and varnished ferrite transformer, high quality 2uF discharge capacitor, case, easy to follow instructions, solder and everything needed to build and fit to your car. All you need is a soldering iron and a few basic tools.

FITS ALL NEGATIVE EARTH VEHICLES

6 or 12 volt, with or without ballast.

OPERATES ALL VOLTAGE IMPULSE TACHOMETERS:
(Older current impulse types need an adaptor).

STANDARD CAR KIT £15-90
Assembled and Tested £26-70

PLUS
P. & P.
£1 (U.K.)

TWIN OUTPUT KIT £24-55
For Motor Cycles and Cars with twin ignition systems
Assembled and Tested £36-45

Prices
include
VAT



ELECTRONIZE DESIGN

Dept. C · Magnus Rd · Wilnecote
Tamworth · B77 5BY
tel: 0827 281000

The basic function of a spark ignition system is often lost among claims for longer "burn times" and other marketing fantasies. It is only necessary to consider that, even in a small engine, the burning fuel releases over 5000 times the energy of the spark, to realise that the spark is only a trigger for the combustion. Once the fuel is ignited the spark is insignificant and has no effect on the rate of combustion. The essential function of the spark is to start that combustion as quickly as possible and that requires a high power spark.

The traditional capacitive discharge system has this high power spark but, due to its very short spark duration and consequential low spark energy, is incompatible with the weak air/fuel mixtures used in modern cars. Because of this most manufacturers have abandoned capacitive discharge in favour of the cheaper inductive system with its low power but very long duration spark which guarantees that sooner or later the fuel will ignite. However, a spark lasting 2000µs at 2000 rev/min. spans 24 degrees and 'later' could mean the actual fuel ignition point is retarded by this amount.

The solution is a very high power, medium duration, spark generated by the TOTAL ENERGY DISCHARGE system. This gives ignition of the weakest mixtures with the minimum of timing delay and variation for a smooth efficient engine.

- ★ **SUPER POWER DISCHARGE CIRCUIT** A brand new technique prevents energy being reflected back to the storage capacitor, giving 3 1/2 times the spark energy and 3 times the spark duration of ordinary C.D. systems, generating a spark powerful enough to cause rapid ignition of even the weakest fuel mixtures without the ignition delay associated with lower power 'long burn' inductive systems.

- ★ **HIGH EFFICIENCY INVERTER** A high power, regulated inverter provides a 370 volt energy source - powerful enough to store twice the energy of other designs and regulated to provide sufficient output even with a battery down to 4 volts.

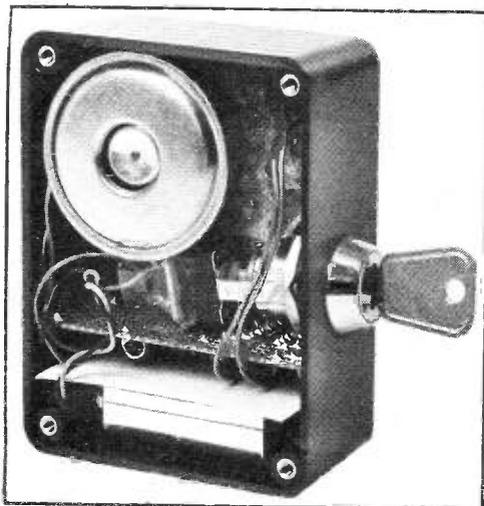
- ★ **PRECISION SPARK TIMING CIRCUIT** This circuit removes all unwanted signals caused by contact volt drop, contact shuffle, contact bounce, and external transients which, in many designs, can cause timing errors or damaging un-timed sparks. Only at the correct and precise contact opening is a spark produced. Contact wear is almost eliminated by reducing the contact breaker current to a low level - just sufficient to keep the contacts clean.

TYPICAL SPECIFICATION

	Total Energy Discharge	Ordinary Capacitive Discharge
SPARK POWER (Peak)	140W	90W
SPARK ENERGY	36mJ	10mJ
STORED ENERGY	135mJ	65mJ
SPARK DURATION	500µS	160µS
OUTPUT VOLTAGE (Load 50pF, equivalent to clean plugs)	38kV	26kV
OUTPUT VOLTAGE (Load 50pF + 500k, equivalent to dirty plugs)	26kV	17kV
VOLTAGE RISE TIME TO 20kV (Load 50pF)	25µS	30µS

TOTAL ENERGY DISCHARGE should not be confused with low power inductive systems or hybrid so called reactive systems.

PROJECTS... THEORY... NEWS...
COMMENT... POPULAR FEATURES...



COVER: Acorn Atom
courtesy Technomatic Ltd

**DON'T FORGET TO
PLACE A FIRM ORDER
FOR**



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AUDIO ELECTRONICS SALE·SALE·SALE

ALL PRICES
INCLUDE
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EXCLUSIVE OFFERS!

FREE bonus for all orders
received by 28/2/83.

MULTIMETERS



7206 20K/Volt, 19 ranges.



7081 50K/Volt range doubler



2050 50K/Volt plus Hfe Tester

FREE BONUS



Mini stereophones with every 7206/7081/2050 (State 3 1/2 mm or 1/4 inch jack plug)

FREE with SG402 below.

FREE with CS1566A below.

FREE with CS1820 below.

PLUS FREE METER! See above

TRIO 20 MHZ DUAL TRACE SCOPES

140mm Tube. 0C to 20 MHZ: 5mV sensitivity; CH2 Invert

CS1820 Delayed sweep: 0.2 usec to 0.5 sec Sweep: Modes CH1, CH2, DUAL and ADD. List Price **£539.00** inc. VAT.

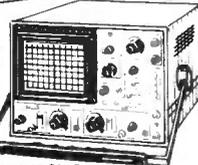
Our Price **£420** inc. VAT (UK c/p £4)

CS1566A NOR. AUTO. VIDEO: 0.5 usec Sweep: Modes CH1, CH2, ALT. CHOP and ADD. List Price **£368.00** inc. VAT.

Our Price **£299** inc. VAT (UK c/p £4)

SAVE £119

SAVE £69



(Optional probe X 10 £9.45)

SPEAKERS & TWEETERS



HIF20ESM 8 ohm 30/50 watt Bass/Midrange 8" **£5.95** (UK c/p £1.20)



HIF20ESM 4 ohm Version 8" **£4.95** (UK c/p £1.20)



HIF87BSM 4" 8 ohm 30/50 watt midrange **£4.95** (UK c/p 65p)



PH30 3" 8 ohm 15 watt tweeter **£2.20**



HT25 2 1/2" 8 ohm 15 watt tweeter **£1.95**



CN38 3 way 8 ohm 15 watt crossover **£1.25** (UK c/p Tweeters & Crossovers 65p per 1-3 items!)



SN300 40 watt version **£1.75**



HT315F 5" x 3 1/2" 8 ohm 30 watt tweeter **£3.95**

FREE Mini stereophones as above for purchases of £10.00 or more from this advertisement.

STEREOPHONES • MEGAPHONES • P.A. HORNS



331S 10 watt megaphone with siren **£41.95** **£32.95** (UK c/p £1.05)

331 without siren **£28.95** (UK c/p £1.05)



CH66 6" 10 watt 8 ohm PA Horns **£8.95** **£6.95** (UK c/p 65p)



M112 Stereophones padded earpieces: mono/stereo switch; vol. controls **£6.45** **£3.95** (UK c/p 65p)



700 Mains TV boosters back of set **£7.95** **£5.95** (UK c/p 65p)



CR8520 10 to 20 watts 5" Tapped 4 and 8 ohm 20z **£13.95** **£7.95** pair (UK c/p £1.05)



Car Speakers SP25/4 10z 4 ohm **£6.50** (UK c/p £1.05)

CR880 20z 8 ohm **£11.95** **£7.50** (UK c/p £1.05)



TMB Masthead (2 TV's) **£16.95** **£12.95** (UK c/p 85p)



SG402 100KHZ to 30 MHZ 6 band Trio AF Generator int./ext. mod. variable o/p to 100mV. AM int 400 HZ mod. List price **£71.00** inc. VAT

Our Price **£59.95** inc. VAT (UK c/p £2)

DON'T FORGET TO CLAIM YOUR FREE BONUS

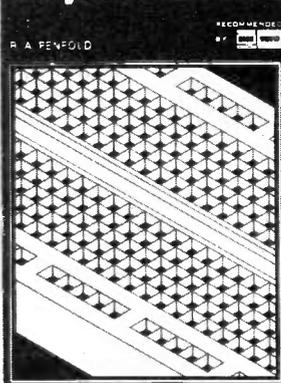
ORDER BY POST OR PHONE OR CALL IN AND SEE FOR YOURSELF WELL WORTH A VISIT! ALL OFFERS LIMITED QUANTITIES E & OE

ALL PRICES INCLUDE VAT

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ALSO AT HENRYS RADIO.
404/406 EDGWARE ROAD, LONDON W2

Order by Post with CHEQUES/ACCESS VISA or Telephone your order. Allow up to 10 days for delivery (unless advised)

30 Solderless Breadboard Projects - Book 1



BRAND NEW VEROBLOC KIT!!!
Just published by Babani, Mr. R. A. Penfold's new book, "30 SOLDERLESS BREADBOARD PROJECTS" - this book-features 30 different projects for assembly on a Verobloc, and the kit contains all parts necessary to make:

- Audio Amplifiers
- Light & Dark Activated Switches & Alarms
- Timers
- Metronome
- Oscillators & Tone Generators
- Warbling Door Buzzer
- Two-tone Train Horn
- Touch Switch
- Reaction Game
- Sound Activated Switch
- Radio Receivers
- Fuzz Unit... & lots more!!

The introduction shows all the different components and explains how to use the breadboard. The Verobloc layout is shown for every project together with the circuit diagram and an explanation of how it works. Ideal for beginners in electronics, but also suitable for more advanced students. The complete kit is contained in an attractive plastic case, which can be divided up into 15 compartments in which your components may be stored. Complete Kit, including book, Verobloc & all parts **£24.95**; Book only **£2.25**; Kit without Verobloc **£20.45**.



NOW REDUCED TO £3.95

ELECTRO-DIAL

Electrical combination lock-for maximum security-pick proof. 1 million combinations!! Dial is turned to the right to one number, left to a second number, then right again to a third number. Only when this has been completed in the correct sequence will the electrical contacts close. These can be used to operate a relay or solenoid. Overall dia. 65mm x 60mm deep. Only **£3.95**.

STABILIZED PSU PANEL

A199 A versatile stabilized power supply with both voltage (0-30V) and current (20mA-2A) fully variable. Many uses inc. bench PSU, Ni-cad charger, gen. purpose testing. Panel ready built, tested and calibrated: **£7.75**. Suitable transformer and pots, **£6.00**. Full data supplied.

HEAT SINKS

Redpoint 4W type drilled for 2 x TO3. Size 130 x 100 x 32. **£2.50**.

OPTO SCOOP!!!

7 Seg Displays from 40p!!!
0.3" CA MS133A 50p; 4 for **£1.60**
0.3" CC MS131C 50p; 4 for **£1.60**
0.6" CA Dual digit MS261 90p
0.6" CC 4 digit MS4631 **£1.75**
0.27" CA TL302 65p; 4 for **£2.00**
All supplied with pin-out data.

AA NI-CADS - 10 for £9.95

Brand new nickel cadmium batteries by GE, standard 1.2V @ 450mA/H. Professional quality with solder tags both ends. Special price, **£1.40** ea; **10 for £9.95**; Box of 80 **£65**. Ni-cad Charger: Charges up to 4 AA, C or D cells + PP3. Only **£7.95**.

LIE DETECTOR

Not a toy, this precision instrument was originally part of an "Open University" course, used to measure a change in emotional balance, or as a lie detector. Full details of how to use it are given, and a circuit diagram. Supplied complete with probes, leads and conductive jelly. Needs 2 4 1/2V batts. Overall size 155 x 100 x 100mm. Only **£9.95**-worth that for the case and meter alone!!!

COMPONENT PACKS

K503 150 wirewound resistors from 1W to 12W, with a good range of values. **£1.75**.
K505 20 assorted potentiometers, all types including single, ganged, rotary and slider. **£1.70**.
K514 100 silver mica caps from 5pF to a few thousand pF. Tolerances from 1% to 10%. **£2.00**.
K520 Switch pack-20 different rocker, slide, rotary, toggle, push, micro, etc. Only **£2.00**.
Pack of disc ceramics, assorted values and voltages - 200 for **£1.00**.
K501 Approx 300 long leaded 1/2 & 1/4W carbon resistors - wide range of values. Only **£1.00**.

STARBOARD

Gives realistic engine sounds and flashing laser blasts - accelerating engine noise when module is pointed up, decelerating noise when pointed down. Press contact to see flash and hear blast of lasers shooting. PCB tested and working complete with speaker and batt clip. (needs PP3). PCB size 130 x 60mm. Only **£2.95**

1000 RESISTORS £2.50

We've just purchased another 5 million pre-formed resistors, and can make a similar offer to that made two years ago, at the same price!!! K523-1000 mixed 1/2 to 1/4W 5% carbon film resistors, preformed for PCB mount. Enormous range of preferred values. 1000 for **£2.50**; 5000 **£10**; 20k **£36**.

IN4148 - BEST PRICE EVER

Supplied in packs of 100, by Toshiba **£2** per pack; 3 packs **£5.50**; 10 packs **£15**; 25 packs **£32**; 100 packs **£115**.

FERRIC CHLORIDE

New supplies just arrived - 250mg bags of granules, easily dissolved in 500ml of water. Only **£1.15**. Also abrasive polishing block **95p**.

SWITCH BARGAIN

Push-on, push-off "table lamp" type, rated 2A 250V ac. 10p ea, 15 for **£1**, 100 for **£5**.

GREENWELD

443D MILLBROOK ROAD, SOUTHAMPTON SO1 0HX
All prices include VAT - just add 50p post. Tel. (0703) 772501

ELECTROVALUE

• 24 HOUR NORMAL DESPATCH TIME
 • ESTABLISHED 1965
 • ALL GOODS GUARANTEED BRAND-NEW AND TO SPECIFICATION
 • APPOINTED SIEMENS DISTRIBUTORS

CAPACITORS

Polystyrene, Siemens
 5% Tolerance 160V
 5, 7, 10, 12, 15, 18, 22, 27, 33, 39pF 15p;
 47, 56, 68, 82, 100, 120, 150, 180, 220,
 270, 330, 390, 470, 560, 680, 820pF, 1n,
 1n2, 1n5, 2n, 2n7, 3n3, 3n9, 4n7,
 10p, 15p, 22p, 33p, 47p, 56p, 68p, 82p,
 Ceramic Very small 1.8, 2.2, 2.7 etc. up to
 1n 5p each, 1n5, 2n, 3n3, 4n7, 6n8, 5p,
 10n, 22n, 6p; 33n, 47, 7p; 100n, 8p
 Polyester, Siemens Layer Type 7.5mm
 lead spacing 10V
 1n, 1n5, 2n, 3n3, 4n7, 6n8, 8n2, 10n,
 12n, 15n, 18n, 22n, 33n, 47n, 7p, 56p, 68p,
 7p, 82n, 100n, 9p, 120n, 150n, 15p; 180n,
 200n, 12p; 250n, 330n, 390n, 470n,
 15p; 560n, 680n, 24p; 10mm spacing 1uF
 25p; 15mm spacing 2u 36p; 22.5mm,
 spacing 1uF 400V 50p; 3.3uF 100V 89p; in
 depth stocks.

I.C.s - DIGITAL & ANALOGUE

DIGITAL		74LS		CMOS	
74LS161	37	7413	18	74157	30
74LS163	36	7414	20	74158	48
74LS164	43	7420	15	74192	48
74LS165	60	7430	14	74193	48
74LS166	90	7440	14	74393	95
74LS173	55	7442	60		
74LS174	45	7443	60		
74LS175	40	7444	60	4000	10
74LS180	12	7445	40	4001	10
74LS181	12	7446	40	4002	12
74LS190	50	7447	40	4006	14
74LS191	50	7448	40	4007	14
74LS192	40	7449	40	4008	40
74LS193	40	7450	14	4009	24
74LS196	48	7451	14	4010	24
74LS197	60	7453	14	4012	15
74LS200	12	7454	14	4013	46
74LS221	51	7455	14	4014	46
74LS240	55	7456	14	4015	40
74LS241	55	7470	24	4011	12
74LS242	75	7472	26	4012	15
74LS243	75	7473	26	4013	20
74LS244	60	7474	23	4014	46
74LS245	85	7475	32	4015	40
74LS251	55	7476	30	4016	20
74LS253	43	7480	35	4017	35
74LS257	35	7482	65	4018	45
74LS259	84	7483	65	4019	25
74LS268	29	7483	29	4020	42
74LS273	60	7485	60	4021	40
74LS279	40	7486	20	4022	35
74LS299	250	7489	159	4023	14
74LS327	24	7489	28	4024	32
74LS328	24	7491	35	4025	14
74LS337	84	7492	25	4026	80
74LS374	68	7493	25	4027	20
74LS378	60	7494	35	4028	39
74LS393	60	7496	35	4029	45
		7498	40	4030	16
		74100	80	4041	44
		74104	40	4042	40
		74107	22	4043	40
		74108	24	4044	40
		74123	40	4046	46
		74125	34	4049	27
		74126	33	4050	23
		74127	33	4051	23
		74128	33	4052	23
		74129	33	4053	23
		74130	33	4054	23
		74131	33	4055	23
		74132	33	4056	23
		74133	33	4057	23
		74134	33	4058	23
		74135	33	4059	23
		74136	33	4060	23
		74137	33	4061	23
		74138	33	4062	23
		74139	33	4063	23
		74140	33	4064	23
		74141	33	4065	23
		74142	33	4066	23
		74143	33	4067	23
		74144	33	4068	23
		74145	33	4069	23
		74146	33	4070	14
		74147	33	4071	14
		74148	33	4072	14

All above prices are NET and shown in pence

ANALOGUE

709C5	49	709C14	44	723C14	36
709C15	49	723C15	36	741C5	57
741C6	57	741C7	57	741C8	18
741C9	18	741C10	18	741C11	18
741C12	18	741C13	18	741C14	35
741C15	35	741C16	35	741C17	35
741C18	35	741C19	35	741C20	35
741C21	35	741C22	35	741C23	35
741C24	35	741C25	35	741C26	35
741C27	35	741C28	35	741C29	35
741C30	35	741C31	35	741C32	35
741C33	35	741C34	35	741C35	35
741C36	35	741C37	35	741C38	35
741C39	35	741C40	35	741C41	35
741C42	35	741C43	35	741C44	35
741C45	35	741C46	35	741C47	35
741C48	35	741C49	35	741C50	35
741C51	35	741C52	35	741C53	35
741C54	35	741C55	35	741C56	35
741C57	35	741C58	35	741C59	35
741C60	35	741C61	35	741C62	35
741C63	35	741C64	35	741C65	35
741C66	35	741C67	35	741C68	35
741C69	35	741C70	35	741C71	35
741C72	35	741C73	35	741C74	35
741C75	35	741C76	35	741C77	35
741C78	35	741C79	35	741C80	35
741C81	35	741C82	35	741C83	35
741C84	35	741C85	35	741C86	35
741C87	35	741C88	35	741C89	35
741C90	35	741C91	35	741C92	35
741C93	35	741C94	35	741C95	35
741C96	35	741C97	35	741C98	35
741C99	35	741C100	35		

CRYSTALS

(in MHz)	4.433	128
0.032768	4.433	128
0.100000	102	5.000
1.000000	453	5.026
1.843200	320	6.000
2.000000	268	6.144
2.457600	268	6.5536
3.276800	188	8.000
3.579000	128	8.867
4.000000	102	10.000
4.194000	128	18.432

ZENER DIODES

400mW/2.7-30V	7p
1-3W/3.3-100V	15p
20W/7.5-15V	£1.98

CONNECTORS

DIN AUDIO	PARALLEL TYPE
Pin 1	1
Pin 2	2
Pin 3	3
Pin 4	4
Pin 5	5
Pin 6	6
Pin 7	7
Pin 8	8
Pin 9	9
Pin 10	10
Pin 11	11
Pin 12	12
Pin 13	13
Pin 14	14
Pin 15	15
Pin 16	16
Pin 17	17
Pin 18	18
Pin 19	19
Pin 20	20
Pin 21	21
Pin 22	22
Pin 23	23
Pin 24	24
Pin 25	25
Pin 26	26
Pin 27	27
Pin 28	28
Pin 29	29
Pin 30	30

BOXES

High quality Black ABS plastic or die-cast plain or stove grey.

L	W	D	ABS	Plain	Stove Gr
100	50	25	500P	30p	500P 123p
150	60	25	2002	117p	5002 154p
113	63	31	2003	105p	5003 143p
121	66	40	2004	115p	5004 162p
152	82	50	2005	134p	5005 216p
192	113	61	2006	226p	5006 314p

VERD RANGE plastic boxes

L	W	D	21024	51p	Cases
120	50	25	21390	83p	134 90 44 21089
180	110	55	21391	151p	224 140 64 21090
					302 170 84 21091

VEROBX CASES

to give a completely professional finish to a much valued project.

ABS, light grey top, dark grey bottom + 2 anodised panels

L	D	H	TYPE	PRICE
205	140	40	21034	£4.52
205	140	205	21035	£5.02
205	140	110	21036	£5.28
180	120	39	21037	£4.11
180	120	65	21038	£4.40
180	120	90	21039	£4.69
155	85	85	21040	£3.71
155	85	60	21041	£3.31
155	85	80	21042	£4.30
125	65	30	21047	£2.36
125	65	39	21048	£2.99
125	65	50	21049	£3.37

SEMICONDUCTORS

1N914	03	2N3819	22	AA118	14
1N914B	10	2N3820	40	AA119	13
1N916	05	3822	60N	AC126	25
1N4007	06	2N3904	15	AC127	25
1N4148	03	2N3906	15	AC128	25
1N5402	14	2N4036	46	AC151R	55
1N5407	10	2N4058-62	09	AC153K	20
2N697	23	2N4126	23	AC176	25
2N706	18	2N4126	25	AC177	155
2N930	20	2N4284	30	AC198	120
2N1132	23	2N4286	18	AC199	99
2N1302	11	21040	21	AC220	90
2N1303	68	2N4291	24	AC221	85
2N1304	62	2N4292	21	AC239	170
2N1305	62	2N4293	21	AC241	10
2N1306	90	2N5062	32	AD136	530
2N1307	67	2N5122	110	AF112	240
2N1308	147	2N5195	106	AD149	88
2N1309	99	2N5457	32	AD161	36
2N1589	100	2N5458	32	AD162	35
2N1613	25	2N6050	380	AF114	37
2N1711	25	2N6050	380	AF115	37
2N1893	32	2N6057	375	AF116	57
2N2218A	31	6F40	152	AF117	110
2N2219A	25	16F40	186	AF124 AF125 37	
2N2220A	25	40N42	225	AF126	37
2N2369A	45	4036D15		AF127	37
2N2484	45	40362	66	AF200	10
2N2646	45	40406	65	AF239	114
2N2904	25	40408	36	AF279	30
2N2904A	25	40408	100	AF128	204
2N2905A	25	40430	100	AFY16	327N
2N3053	23	40594	123	AFY180	310N
2N3054	56	40595	123	AFY18615N	
2N3055	46	40643	147	AFY42	461N
2N3405	15	40673	146	AU101	240
2N3663	15	A9303	18	AU111	(use)
3702-11	09	AA113	13	AU116	
2N3771	180	AA116	13	AU227	10.95
2N3794	21	AA117	13	BO140	25N

METERS

Large range of types in stock; also probes, leads, accessories, etc.

PANEL MOUNTING in 50, 100, 500µA; 1, 5, 10, 50, 100, 500mA; 1A either model.



MULTIMETERS

NH56A	NEW - 20KΩ/V	AC/DC/V	10
RES/Ω	in 23		
range:	130 x 88 x 37mm	F1* 20N	

BC214	09	BFR39-41	23	E1210	72
BC238C	09	BFR79-81	23	E2	

BI-PAK BARGAINS

TRIACS — PLASTIC

4 AMP — 400v — T0202 — TAG 136G.	100 OFF	100 OFF	100 OFF
1 OFF	£3.75	£17.50	£30.00
40p			
8 AMP 400v — T0220 — TAG 425			
60p	£5.75	£27.50	£50.00

SLIDER POTENTIOMETERS

ALL AT 50p PER PAK

Plastic 40mm Travel Mono

SX63 5 x 470 ohms Lin	SX67 5 x 47k Lin
SX64 5 x 1k Lin	SX68 5 x 47k Log
SX65 5 x 22k Lin	SX69 5 x 100 Lin
SX66 5 x 22k Log	SX70 5 x 1 meg Lin

SX40 250 Silicon Diodes—Switching like IN4148 DO 35 All good—uncoded	Worth double our price 45v 75mA	£1.25
SX41 250 Silicon Diodes—General Purpose like OA200/202 BAX13.16 Uncoded 30-100v 200mA DO-7		£1.25

SX44 10 5A SCR x T064 3 x 50v 3 x 100v 2 x 200v 2 x 400v Super value less than 1/2 price	£1
SX45 10 5A SCR x T066 2 x 50v 2 x 100v 4 x 200v 2 x 400v All coded Brand new a giveaway!	£1



MINIATURE TOOLS FOR HOBBYISTS



Miniature round nose side cutters—insulated handles 4 1/2 inch length. Order No Y043



Miniature long nose pliers—insulated handles 5 1/2 inch length. Order No Y044



Miniature bend nose pliers—insulated handles 5 1/2 inch length. Order No Y045



Miniature end nippers—insulated handles 4 1/2 inch length. Order No Y046

Miniature snipe nose pliers with side cutter and serrated jaws—insulated handles 5 1/2 inch length. Order No Y042

All with insulated handles

FLEXKEY DRIVER

A flexible shaft screwdriver for those awkward to get at screws. Overall length 8 1/2 inch. Order No FS-1 Flat blade 4mm FS-2 Cross point no. 1 £1.76 each.



GRIP-DRIVER

Binch long screwdriver with spring loaded grip on end to hold screws in position while reaching into those difficult places. Order No SD-1 Flat Made 4mm SD-2 Cross point no. 0. 95p each

INEXPENSIVE TOOLS OF IMMENSE VALUE
Combined wire stripper, cutter, crimper incl. 25 asset terminals for crimping. Order No WS2 Our low price £1.20 each

ALL AT 1.25 each

BA NUT DRIVER SET

Set of 5 BA spanner shafts plus universal handle in roll-up wallet. Sizes 0BA 2-4-6-8BA Order no: T192

£2.75 set

NEON SCREWDRIVER

7 1/2 inch blade order no: NS1 £0.85p each
5 1/2 inch blade order no: NS2 £0.50p each

Guarantee

Satisfaction or your money back has always been BI-PAK'S GUARANTEE and it still is. All these Sale items are in stock, in quantity and we will despatch the same day as your order is received

IC SOCKETS

The lowest price ever.

The more you buy the cheaper they come!

Pin	10 off	50 off	100 off
8 pin	85p	£3.50	£6.00
14 pin	90p	£3.75	£6.50
16 pin	95p	£4.00	£7.00



VOLTAGE REGULATORS T0220

	Positive +	Negative +
7805 — 50p	7905 — 55p	
7812 — 50p	7912 — 55p	
7815 — 50p	7915 — 55p	
824 — 50p	7924 — 55p	

EXPERIMENTER BOXES — ALUMINIUM — PLASTIC ALUMINIUM BOXES

Made with Bright Aluminium tinned construction with deep lid and screws

SIZE	L	W	H	Order No	Price
5 1/4	2 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	159	83p
4	2 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	161	83p
4	2 1/2	2	1 1/2	163	83p
3	2	1	1 1/2	164	87p
8	6	3	1 1/2	166	£1.68
6	4	2	1 1/2	167	£1.12

All measurements for boxes are shown in inches. L = Length W = Width H = Height

Plastic Boxes

Coloured Black Close fitting Flanged Lid, fixing screws into brass bushes

SIZE	L	W	H	Order No	Price
4	2	1	1 1/2	141	£1.00
4 1/4	2 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	143	£1.30
6	3	2	1 1/2	144	£1.80

Plastic as above but with aluminium top panel 4 2 1/4 1 1 1/2 146 £1.40
Plastic sloping front 5 1/2 4 1/4 2 1/4 slope to 1 1/2 148 £2.14

BI-PAK'S OPTO 83 SPECIAL

A selection of Large & Small size LED's in Red Green, Yellow and Clear, plus shaped devices of different types 7 Segment displays, photo transistors, emitters and detectors. Types like MEL11, FPT100 etc. Plus Cadmium Cell ORP12 and germ. photo transistor OCP71. TOTAL OF 25 pieces.

O/N/O SX57A	Valued	Normal Retail	£12 00
	Our Price		£5.00

SEMICONDUCTORS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

100 A Collection of Transistors, Diodes, Rectifiers, Bridges, SCR's Triacs, IC's both Logic and Linear plus Opto's all of which are current everyday usable devices

Guaranteed Value over £10 at Normal Retail Price

£4.00 Data etc. in every pak Order No: SX56

MW398 NI-CAD CHARGER

Universal Ni-Cad battery charger. All plastic case with lift up lid. Charge/Test switch, LED indicators at each of the five charging points

Charges —	Power —
PP3 (9V)	220-240V AC
U12 (1.5V penlite)	Dims —
U11 (1.5V C)	210 x 100 x 50mm
U2 (1.5V D)	£6.95



POWER SUPPLY OUR PRICE £3.25

Power supply fits directly into 13 amp socket Fused for safety Polarity reversing socket Voltage switch Lead with multi plug Input — 240V AC 50HZ Output — 3 4 5 6 7 5 9 & 12V DC Rating — 300ma MW88

1 Amp SILICON RECTIFIERS

Glass Type similar IN4000 SERIES IN4001-IN4004 50 — 500v — uncoded... you select for VLTS All perfect devices — NO dud's Min 50v 50 for £1.00 — worth double ORDER NO SX76

Silicon General Purpose NPN Transistors TO-18 Case Lock lid leads — coded CV7644 Similar to BC147 — BC107 — Z189 ALL NEW! VCE 70v IC500mA	Min Hfe 50 100 off 500 off 1000 off	PRICE £2.00 £3.80 £17.50 £30.00
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Silicon General Purpose PNP Transistors TO-5 Case Lock lid leads coded CV9507 similar 2N2905A to BFx30 VCE 60 IC 600mA Min Hfe 50 ALL NEW!	50 off 100 off 500 off 1000 off	PRICE £2.50 £4.00 £19.00 £35.00
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SILICON NPN'L' Type Transistors

TO-92 Plastic centre collector Like BC182L — 183L — 184L VCE 45 VCEO 30 IC200mA Hfe 100-400

ALL perfect devices — uncoded ORDER AS SX183L	50 off 100 off 500 off 1000 off	£1.50 £2.50 £10.00 £17.00
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PNP SILICON TRANSISTORS:

Similar ZTX500 — ZTX214 — E-Line VCE 40 VCEO 35 IC 300mA Hfe 50-400	Brand New — Uncoded — Perfect Devices	50 off 100 off 500 off 1000 off	£2.00 £3.50 £15.00 £25.00
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DIGITAL VOLT METER MODULE

3 x 7 segment displays Basic Circuit 0-2V± instructions provided to extend voltage & current ranges Operating voltage 9/12v Typ Power Consumption 50mA O/N/O: SX99 Once only price £9.95

ELECTRONIC SIREN 12v DC

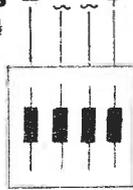
Red plastic case with adjustable firing bracket! Emits high pitched wailing note of varying pitch 100 cycles per minute Dims 80mm (dia) 60mm (depth) Power 12 v DC Our Price: £5.50

SILICON BRIDGE RECTIFIERS

Comprising 4 x 1 1/2 amp rectifiers mounted on PCB.

VRM — 150 vts	IFM — 1.5 Amps
Size: 1 inch square	
10 off £1.00	
50 off £4.50	
100 off £7.50	

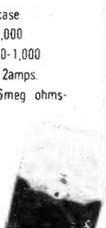
Order No. As: 4R1 BRect.



MULTITESTERS

30,000 ops Including test leads and case AC volts — 0-25-10-25-100-250-500-1,000 DC volts — 0-0.25-1-2.5-10-25-100-250-1,000 DC current — 0-50ua 0-5ma-50ma 0-12amps Resistance — 0-6K ohms 70K ohms-6meg ohms-60meg ohms Decibels — 20db to plus 56db Short test — Internal buzzer Dims — 160 x 110 x 50mm

O/No. 1315. OUR PRICE ONLY £24.75



1,000 ops Including test leads & Battery AC volts — 0-15-150-500-1,000 DC volts — 0-15-150-500-1,000 DC currents — 0-1ma-150ma Resistance — 0-25 K ohms 100 K ohms Dims — 90 x 61 x 30mm

O/No. 1322. OUR PRICE £6.50 ONLY

8 Bit MICROPROCESSOR

National INS8080AN 40 Pin DIL N Channel Silicon GATE MOS TECHNOLOGY As used in National NB080 Micro Computer Family Instruction Cycle Time 2 us Supplied with functional Block Diagram BRAND NEW — NOT seconds or reclaims 100% perfect ORDER NO SX8080 Normal Sell price £4.50 each Our BI-PAK Special Price £2.00 SO HURRY — LIMITED STOCKS

40 Pin IC Socket to fit SX8080 Offer price ORDER NO 1609 30p

REGULATED VARIABLE POWER SUPPLY

Stabilised POWER SUPPLY Variable from 2-30 vts and 0-2 Amps. Kit includes — 1 — VPS30 Module, 1 — 25 vlt 2 amp transformer, 1 — 0-50v 2" Panel Meter, 1 — 0-2 amp 2" Panel Meter, 1 — 470 ohm wirewound potentiometer, 1 — 4K7 ohm wirewound potentiometer, Wiring Diagram included. Order No. VPS30 KIT £20

MINIATURE FM TRANSMITTER

Freq: 95-106MHz. Range: 1/2 mile Size: 45 x 20mm. Add: 9v batt. NOT licenced in U.K. Ideal for: 007-MIS-FBI-CIA-KGB etc. ONLY £5.50

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Use your credit card Ring us on Ware 3182 NDW and get your order even faster. Goods normally sent 2nd Class Mail. Remember you must add VAT at 15% to your order. Total Postage add 50p per Total order.

BI-PAK BARGAINS



5T21 SCREWDRIVER SET
6 precision screwdrivers in hinged plastic case. Sizes - 0.8, 1.4, 2.2, 2.9 and 3.8mm. **£1.75**

5T31 NUT DRIVER SET
5 precision nut drivers in hinged plastic case. With turning rod. **£1.75**

5T41 TOOL SET
5 precision instruments in hinged plastic case. Crosspoint (Phillips) screwdrivers - H, O and H. 1 Hex key wrenches - 1.5, 2 and 2.5mm. **£1.75**

5T51 WRENCH SET
5 precision wrenches in hinged plastic case. Sizes - 4, 4.5, 5, 5.5 and 6mm. **£1.75**

BUY ALL FOUR SETS 5T21, 5T31 and get **HEX KEY SET FREE**
HEX KEY SET ON RING
Sizes 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 4, 5, 5.5 and 6mm
Made of hardened steel
HX/1 **£1.25**



"IRRESISTABLE RESISTOR BARGAINS"

Pak No.	Qty.	Description	Price
SX10	400	Mixed All Type Resistors	£1
SX11	400	Pre-formed 1/4 watt Carbon Resistors	£1
SX12	200	1/4 watt Carbon Resistors	£1
SX13	200	1/4 watt Carbon Resistors	£1
SX14	150	1/4 watt Resistors 22 ohm 2m2 Mixed	£1
SX15	100	1 and 2 watt Resistors 22 ohm 2m2 Mixed	£1

Paks SX12-15 contain a range of Carbon Film Resistors of assorted values from 22 ohms to 2.2 meg. Save pounds on these resistor paks and have a full range to cover your projects.
*Quantities approximate. count by weight

"GUARANTEED TO SAVE YOU MONEY"

SX27A	60	Assorted Polystyrene Bead Capacitors Type 9500 Series PPD	£1.00
SX28A	50	Assorted Silver Mica Caps 5.6pF-150pF	£1.00
SX29A	50	Assorted Silver Mica Caps 180pF-4700pF	£1.00
SX30A	50	High Voltage Disc Ceramics 750V min up to 8kV. Assorted useful values	£1.00
SX31A	50	Wirewound 9 watt (arg) Resistors. Assorted values 1 ohm-12k	£1.00

AUTO SCREWDRIVER/DRILL
Automatic spiral ratchet. Complete with 2 screwdriver blades, 5 & 6.5mm. 1 screwdriver cross point No. 1 & three drills - 2, 2.8 and 3.65mm - A MUST FOR ALL HOBBY BUILDERS & CONSTRUCTORS. Order No. ASO/1 **£3.50** each

"CAPABLE CAPACITOR PAKS"

Pak No.	Qty.	Description	Price
SX16	250	Capacitors Mixed Types	£1
SX17	200	Ceramic Capacitors Miniature Mixed	£1
SX18	100	Mixed Ceramics 1p1, 5.6p1	£1
SX19	100	Mixed Ceramics 680p, 0.5m1	£1
SX20	100	Assorted Polyester/Polystyrene Capacitors	£1
SX21	60	Mixed C280 type capacitors metal foil	£1
SX22	100	Electrolytics, all sorts	£1
SX23	50	Quality Electrolytics 50-1000ml	£1
SX24	20	Tantalum Beads, mixed	£1

*Quantities approximate. count by weight

BARGAINS

SX91	20 x Large 2" RED LED	£1
SX42	20 small 125 Red LEDs	£1
SX43	10 Rectangular Green LEDs 2	£1
SX46	30 Assorted Zener Diodes 250mw 2 watt mixed voltages, all coded. New	£1
SX47	4 Black Instrument Knobs-winged with pointer 1/4" Standard screw. Fit size 29 x 20mm	50p
SX49	20 Assorted Slider Knobs Black/Chrome. etc	£1
SX80	12 Neons and Filament Lamps. Low voltage and mains - various types and colours - some panel mounting	£1

BRAND NEW LCD DISPLAY MULTITESTER.

RE 188m
LCD 10 MEGOHM INPUT IMPEDANCE
*3 1/2 digit * 16 ranges plus hFE test facility for PNP and NPN transistors * Auto zero auto polarity * Single-handed pushbutton operation * Over range indication * 12 5mm (1/2 inch) large LCD readout * Diode check * Fast circuit protection * Test leads battery and instructions included
Max indication 1999 or -1999
Polarity indication Negative only
Positive readings appear without + sign
Input impedance 10 Megohms
Zero adjust Automatic
Sampling time 250 milliseconds
Temperature range -5°C to 50°C
Power Supply 1 x PP3 or equivalent 9V battery
Consumption 200mW
Size 155 x 88 x 31mm
RANGES
DC Voltage 0-200mv
0-2-20-200-1000V Acc 0.8%
AC Voltage 0-200-1000V
Acc 1.2% DC Current 0-200uA
0-2-20-200mA 0-10 A Acc 1.2%
Resistance 0-2-20-200k ohms
0-2 Megohms Acc 1%
BI-PAK VERY LOWEST POSSIBLE PRICE
£35.00 each



SIREN ALARM MODULE

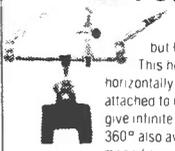
American Police type siren powered from any 12 volt supply into 4 or 8 ohm speaker. Ideal for car burglar alarm, freezer breakdown and other security purposes. 5 watt, 12v max.



£3.85
Order No. BP124.

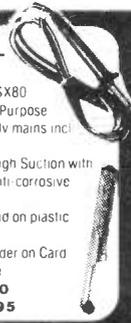
The Third and Fourth Hand...

... you always need but have never got until now
This helpful unit with Rod mounted horizontally on Heavy Base. Crocodile clips attached to rod ends. Six ball & socket joints give infinite variation and positions through 360° also available attached to Rod a 2 1/2 diam magnifier giving 2.5 x magnification. Helping hand unit available with or without magnifier. Our Price with magnifier as illustrated ORDER NO. T402 **£5.50**
Without magnifier ORDER NO. T400 **£4.75**



BI-PAK SOLDER-DESOLDER KIT

Kit comprises ORDER NO. SX80
1 High Quality 40 watt General Purpose Lightweight Soldering Iron 240v mains incl 3/16" (4.7mm) bit
1 Quality Desoldering pump High suction with automatic ejection. Knurled anti-corrosive casing and teflon nozzle
1.5 metres of De-soldering braid on plastic dispenser
2 yds (1.83m) Resin Cored Solder on Card
1 Heat Shunt tool Tweezer Type
Total Retail Value over **£12.00**
OUR SPECIAL KIT PRICE **£8.95**



BI-PAK PCB ETCHANT AND DRILL KIT

Complete PCB Kit comprises
1 Expo Mini Drill 10 000RPM 12v DC incl 3 collets & 1 x 1mm Twist bit
1 Sheet PCB Transfers 210mm x 150mm
1 Etch Resist Pen
1 1/2 lb pack FERRIC CHLORIDE crystals
3 sheets copper clad board
2 sheets Fibreglass copper clad board
Full instructions for making your own PCB boards
Retail Value over **£15.00**
OUR BI-PAK SPECIAL KIT PRICE **£9.75**
ORDER NO. SX81



PROGRAMMABLE UNIUNCTION TRANSISTOR

PUT case T0106 plastic MEU22 Similar to 2N6027/6028 PNP Silicon
Price 1-9 10-49 50-99 100- Normal Retail Price £0.35 each
Each 20p 18p 15p 13p

SX33A	6 small (min) (SDST/SPDT Toggle Switches 240v 5amp	£1.00
SX35A	Rocker Switches 250V 2A	£1.00
SX32A	*2 Assorted Jack & Phono plugs sockets and adaptors. 2.5m 3.5mm and standard sizes	£1.00
SX71	50 "C108" Fallouts. Manufacture's out of spec on volts or gain you test.	£1.00
SX72	A mixed bundle of Copper clad Board Fibre glass and paper Single and double sided. A fantastic bargain	£1.00

5 watt (RMS) Audio Amp

High Quality audio amplifier Module. Ideal for use in record players, tape recorders, stereo amps and cassette players, etc. Full data and back up diagrams with each module.
Specification
• Max Power Supply 30v • Power Output 5 watts RMS • Load impedance 8-16 ohms • Frequency response 50Hz to 25KHz -3db • Sensitivity 70mv for full output • Input impedance 50k ohms • Size 85 x 64 x 30mm • Total Harmonic distortion less than 5%
BI-PAK'S give away price
£2.25
You could not Build one for this price



TECASBOTY

The Electronic Components and Semiconductor Bargain of the Year. A host of Electronic components including potentiometers - rotary and slider, presets - horizontal and vertical Resistors of mixed values 22ohms to 2M2 - 1/8 to 2 Watt. A comprehensive range of capacitors including electrolytic and polyester types plus disc ceramics etcetera
Audio plugs and sockets of various types plus switches fuses heatsinks wire, nuts bolts gromets, cable clips and ties, knobs and P.C. Board. Then add to that 100 Semiconductors to include transistors, diodes, SCR's opto's, all of which are current everyday usable devices. In all a Fantastic Parcel. No rubbish all identifiable and valued in current catalogues at well over £25.00. Our Fight Against Inflation
— Beat the Budget
— Down with Depression
Price —
JUST £6.50.



MORE BARGAINS!

SX38	100 Silicon NPN Transistors—all perfect. Coded mixed types with data and eqvt sheet. No rejects. Retail value	£3.00
SX39	100 Silicon PNP Transistors—all perfect. Coded mixed types with data and eqvt. sheet. No rejects. Fantastic value	£3.00
2N3055	The best known Power Transistors in the World - 2N3055 NPN 115w. Our BI-PAK Special Offer Price 10 off 50 off 100 off £3.50 £16.00 £30.00	
BD312	COMPLIMENTARY PNP POWER TRANSISTORS TO 2N3055. Equivalent M12955 - BD312 - T03. SPECIAL PRICE £0.70 each 10 off £6.50	



SX51	60 metres PVC covered Hook-up wire single and stranded. Mixed colours	£1
SX58	25 Assorted TTL Gates 7400 Series 7401-7460	£1
SX59	10 Assorted flip Flops and MSI TTL	£1
SX60	20 Assorted Slider Potentiometers	£1
SX62	40 Assorted Pre-Sets Hor/Vert etc	£1
SX79	10 Reed Switches - glass type 3 Micro Switches - with lever	£1

BI-PAK

Send your orders to Dept. EE2 BI-PAK PO BOX 6 WARE HERTS. SHOP AT 3 BALDOCK ST. WARE HERTS
TERMS: CASH WITH ORDER. SAME DAY DISPATCH. ACCESS. BARCLAYCARD ALSO ACCEPTED. TEL (0208) 51827. GIRD 388 7006
ADD 15% VAT AND 75p PER ORDER POSTAGE AND PACKING



Use your credit card. Ring us on Ware 3182 NOW and get your order even faster. Goods normally sent 2nd Class Mail.
Remember you must add VAT at 15% to your order. Total Postage add 75p per Total order.

T.V. SOUND TUNER BUILT AND TESTED

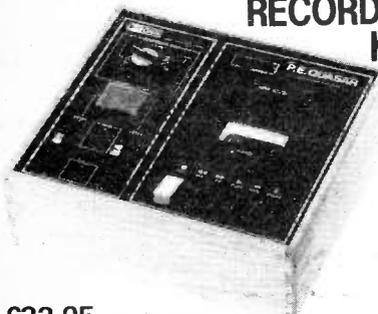


£22.95 + £2.00 p&p.

E.T.I. kit version of above without chassis, case and hardware. **£12.95** plus **£1.50** p&p.

In the cut-throat world of consumer electronics, one of the questions designers apparently ponder over is "Will anyone notice if we save money by chopping this out?" In the domestic TV set, one of the first casualties seems to be the sound quality. Small speakers and no tone controls are common and all this is really quite sad, as the TV companies do their best to transmit the highest quality sound. Given this background a compact and independent TV tuner that connects direct to your Hi-Fi is a must for quality reproduction. The unit is mains operated. This TV SOUND TUNER offers full UHF coverage with 5 pre-selected tuning controls. It can also be used in conjunction with your video recorder. Dimensions: 11 1/4" x 8 1/2" x 3 1/4".

PRACTICAL ELECTRONICS STEREO CASSETTE RECORDER KIT



£32.95 + £2.75 p&p.

• NOISE REDUCTION SYSTEM • AUTO STOP • TAPE COUNTER • SWITCHABLE E.Q. • INDEPENDENT LEVEL CONTROLS • TWIN V.U. METER • WOW & FLUTTER 0.1% • RECORD/PLAYBACK I.C. WITH ELECTRONIC SWITCHING • FULLY VARIABLE RECORDING BIAS FOR ACCURATE MATCHING OF ALL TAPES. Kit includes tape transport mechanism, ready punched and back printed quality circuit board and all electronic parts, i.e. semiconductors, resistors capacitors, hardware top cover, printed scale and mains transformer. You only supply solder and hook-up wire. Featured in April issue P.E. Reprint 50p. Free with kit. Self assembly simulated wood cabinet - £4.50 + £1.50 p&p.

SPECIAL OFFER!
£31.00 plus £2.75 p&p
Complete with case.

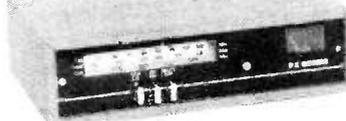
PERSONAL LS AMP KIT

Amplifier for your personal stereo cassette player as featured in January issue of Everyday Electronics. Turn your personal stereo into a mains powered home unit.



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Max. output power (RMS): 125W.
Operating voltage (DC): 50 - 80 max.
Loads: 4 - 16 ohms.
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Everyday ELECTRONICS

VOL. 12 NO. 2 FEBRUARY 1983

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THE COMPUTER AS ALLY

WITHOUT doubt, 1982 was the year of the home computer. The only other innovative electronic consumer product in a similar price bracket likely to have equalled it in popularity was the video-recorder; but the latter is more rightly considered as an extension of home entertainment, and not an inter-active device opening up an entirely new field like a computer.

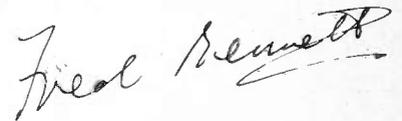
The sales of home computers must have gladdened the hearts of manufacturers and retailers alike, providing (as they did) welcomed bright spots in an otherwise dull scene. It speaks volumes for the fascination of computers that in a time of recession thousands of customers have emerged to buy a piece of equipment they can have initially little understanding about and are prepared to venture upon a journey into the unknown, seeking—what? For many new computer owners, the destination will be simply “games”. Just how many will persevere with the writing of programs for personal needs and thereby justify the considerable financial outlay is a matter for conjecture.

Be that as it may, what is now happening on a grand scale is the development of computer consciousness and “hands on” experience amongst a broad selection of the general public. For the younger generation in particular, all this can be extremely valuable since many of the jobs likely to be on offer in the future will require familiarity with computers and computing.

While there is bustle in the computer field, the home construction scene appears to be a trifle stagnant. One cannot be too sure and claim that the one is a consequence of the other. But even if so, it is likely to be but a transitory fall-off; in the longer term some of the interest now developing in computers will percolate into electronic technology itself, and produce new recruits for the hobby of circuit construction. Curiosity in the technology behind the keyboard could encourage a wish for practical involvement with electronics in general.

Support for this view was to be found at the Electronic Hobbies Fair last November (see review in this issue). It seemed that a very considerable proportion of visitors were interested in electronics, but *indirectly*. That is to say they were interested in (or attracted by) the ends, rather than the means—computers, of course, providing the chief and most striking example. But during their tour of the Fair awareness of the scope and possibilities of electronic construction must have been created in the minds of many non-technical visitors. Proof that converts were made is found in the large sales of educational kits reported by exhibitors. Similarly, much interest was shown in the *Introducing Electronics* series as featured on the EE stand. The solderless technique employed was favourably commented on and seems likely to win quite a few new recruits to our hobby.

The coming of the home computer and the new field of interest it creates should in no way detract followers of electronics from the practical business of designing and building circuits. In fact, the computer can become a valuable aid and ally to the electronics experimenter, by testing ideas and solving problems—as well as to the practically inclined at large, by controlling small machines such as the wood-turning lathe demonstrated on the EE stand.



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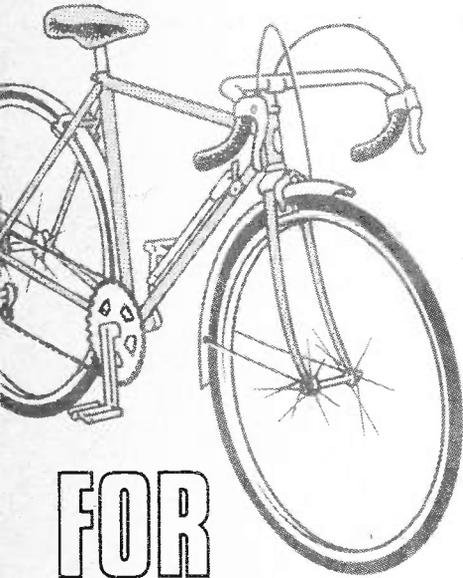
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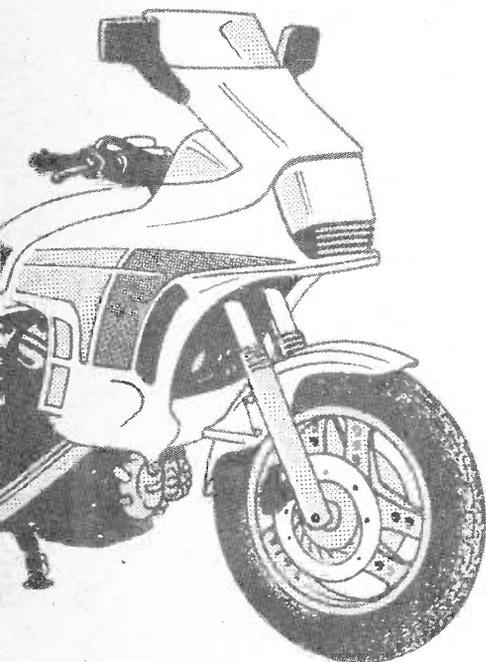
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ALARMS



FOR PUSH BIKE OR MOTOR BIKE

BY J. DUFFY



TODAY, when enough money has been saved to buy and insure a bike the last thing on the owner's mind is theft. Unfortunately, it is all too common but this project should set the minds of some readers at rest.

Two bike alarms are described—one for a motorbike and the other for a pushbike. They both use the same circuit employing a mercury tilt-switch, which triggers the horn and lights of the motorbike version, or an integral alarm unit on the pushbike version.

The motorbike unit also has an external trigger facility from a microswitch for further protection.

A pulsed output is more effective than a steady output and, apart from being easier to locate, reduces battery consumption.

CIRCUIT DESCRIPTION

The circuit diagram of the two versions of the Bike Alarm is shown in Fig. 1. The system has three basic sections: the trigger; low frequency oscillator; and the alarm output.

The first section consists of a monostable multivibrator which is triggered by the mercury switch, S2 (and in the case of the motorbike version, microswitch S3 will also trigger it). The time constant of this monostable circuit is governed by R3 and C2 and it functions as follows:

The monostable consists of two CMOS 2-input NOR gates and in the quiescent state, the output of IC1a (pin 3) is at logic 1 as both inputs (pins 1 and 2) are at logic 0. As a result, the output of IC1b (pin 4) is held low as both its inputs (pins 5 and 6) are high (this gate is acting as an inverter).

Upon receipt of a positive pulse to pin 1 from the mercury switch, the output of IC1a will go low causing the output of IC1b to go high. The low on pin 1 provides a charge path for C2 via R3 and when this capacitor has charged to a sufficiently high voltage, the input of IC1b reads this as a logic 1 and the output (pin 4) of this inverter is therefore returned to a logic 0.

With the values given, the period of this monostable is in the region of one minute.

OSCILLATOR

When the output of the monostable is high, it enables a low frequency oscillator consisting of NOR gates IC1c and IC1d. The output of this section is a square-wave of approximately one hertz. This frequency is controlled by R4 and C3.

When the output of the monostable is low, the oscillator cannot function since the time constant capacitor C3, will not charge up as current flows through D1 to the low (effective earth) on pin 4 of IC1b.

ALARM OUTPUT

On the motorbike version, the alarm output is in the form of a relay, activated by a high pulse from the oscillator and

driven by TR1. D3 protects the transistor from the back e.m.f. from the coil.

The contacts of this relay are used to control the horn and headlight from the host motorbike. Note that the positive supply to the light and horn is taken to the relay before the Alarm unit on/off switch.

COMPONENTS

MOTORBIKE

Resistors

- R1,2 100k Ω (2 off)
- R3,4 10M Ω (2 off)
- R5 10k Ω
- All $\frac{1}{2}$ W carbon $\pm 5\%$

Capacitors

- C1 100 μ F 16V elect. axial lead
- C2 15 μ F 16V elect. axial lead
- C3 0.1 μ F polyester

Semiconductors

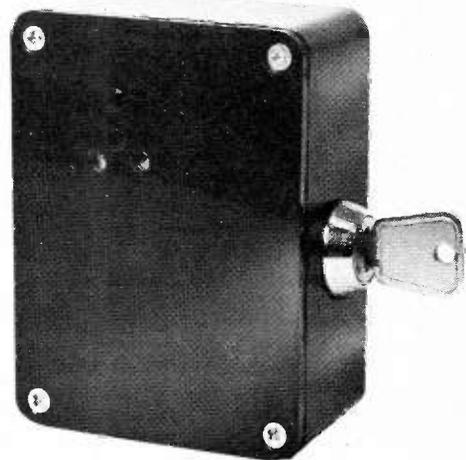
- D1 1N4148
- D2,3 1N4001 (2 off)
- TR1 BC107 npn silicon
- IC1 4001UB CMOS quad 2-input NOR gate

Miscellaneous

- S1 s.p.s.t. key-switch
- S2 mercury tilt-switch
- S3 microswitch
- RLA miniature relay, 12V, 130 Ω coil with 30A rated contacts
- 0.1 inch matrix stripboard 11 strips by 28 holes; plastic case; 100 x 76 x 41mm (ABS case type MB2); M2 mounting screws 13mm long; 14-pin d.i.l. i.c. holder; terminal block 6-way; 7/0.2mm connecting wire; 24/0.2mm wire.

Approx. cost **£12**
Guidance only

Completed alarm for a pushbike with the key-operated switch mounted on the side.



The pushbike version of the alarm has its own integral buzzer (WD1), and this is driven, again on a high pulse from the oscillator, by Darlington pair, TR1 and TR2. This is shown on the additional section of the circuit diagram, Fig. 1.

This unit has its own supply, a 9V PP3 type battery.

COMPONENTS

PUSHBIKE

Resistors

R1,2 100k Ω (2 off)
R3,4 10M Ω (2 off)
R5 10k Ω
All $\frac{1}{2}$ W-carbon $\pm 5\%$

See
**Shop
Talk**
page 85

Capacitors

C1 100 μ F 16V elect. axial lead
C2 15 μ F 16V elect. axial lead
C3 0.1 μ F polyester

Semiconductors

D1 1N4148
D2 1N4001
TR1 BC441 *n*pn silicon
TR2 BC107 *n*pn silicdn
IC1 4001UB CMOS quad 2-input NOR gate

Miscellaneous

S1 s.p.s.t. key-switch
S2 mercury tilt-switch
WD1 9V buzzer
B1 9V PP3 battery
0.1 inch matrix stripboard, 11 strips by 28 holes; battery clip; plastic case, 100 x 76 x 41mm (ABS case type MB2); M2 mounting screws 13mm long; 14-pin d.i.l. i.c. holder; 7/0.2mm connecting wire.

Approx. cost
Guidance only **£10**

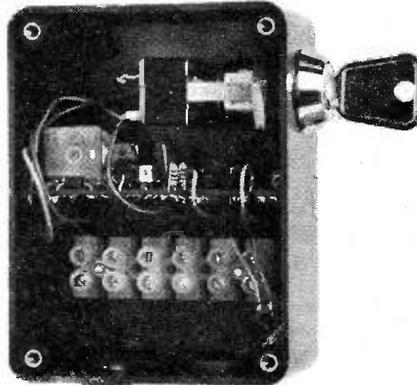


CIRCUIT BOARD

A plastic case measuring about 100 x 75 x 41mm is used for both the motorbike and pushbike projects. Although any plastic or metal boxes around this size should be acceptable.

The component panel for both versions is a 0.1 inch matrix stripboard having 28 holes by 11 strips, and these are shown in Figs. 2 and 3. Construction of the board follows the normal pattern with the breaks in the copper strips being made first. Next, solder in all the links and the i.c. socket, after which the components

The motorbike alarm with lid removed to show positioning of the terminal block, circuit board and key-switch. The mercury "trip" switch is mounted in the bottom right corner.



may be soldered into place and Veropins fitted where connections to off-board components are to be made. Take care with the CMOS i.c. since it may be destroyed by static.

In both units the board fits easily into the slots in the plastic case. In the motorbike version the holes for the key-switch, grommet, and the mounting holes for the terminal block should be made first. In the pushbike version only sound holes for WD1 and a key-switch hole are required. Care must be taken not to let the metal case of the buzzer touch any connections or switch terminals.

MERCURY SWITCH

The mercury switch, S1, should be soldered to the component board on leads approximately 100mm long and temporarily attached to the side of the box with a small piece of Plasticine or Blu-Tak.

This is necessary, as the final position of this switch can only be determined after the Alarm unit has been mounted on

Layout of components inside the case of the pushbike alarm. The siren is temporarily held in position by Blu-Tak. The leads to the mercury switch can be seen top right.

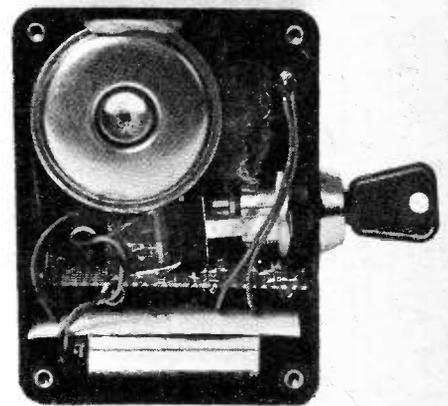
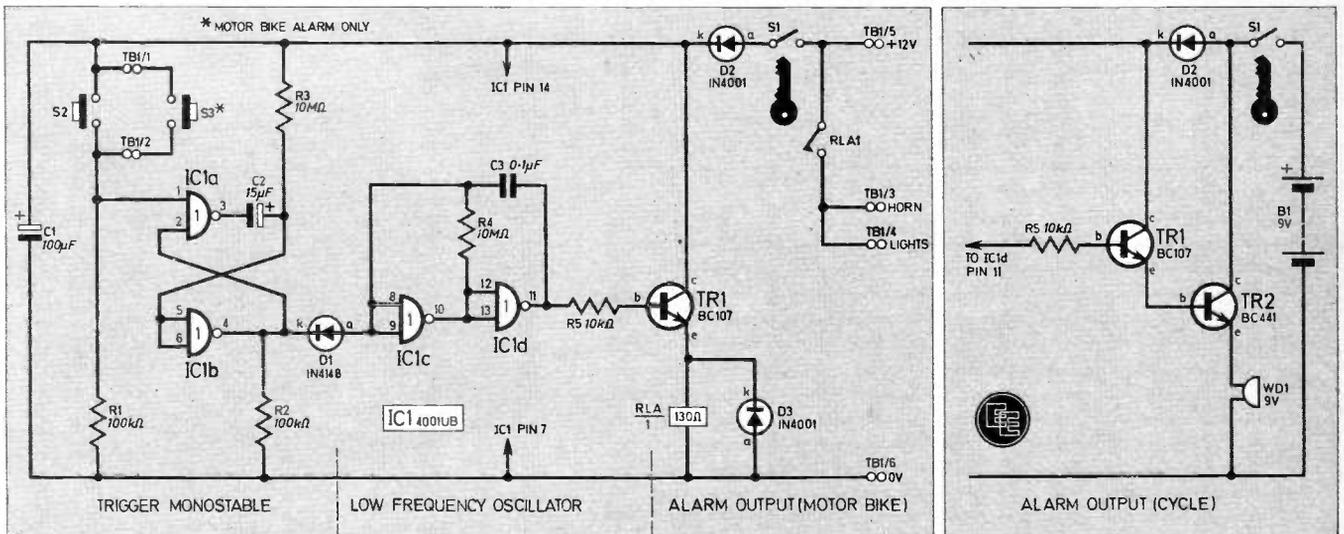


Fig. 1. Circuit diagram of the two versions of the Bike Alarm. The siren circuit for the pushbike is shown on the right.



ALARMS

FOR PUSH BIKE OR MOTOR BIKE

BY J. DUFFY

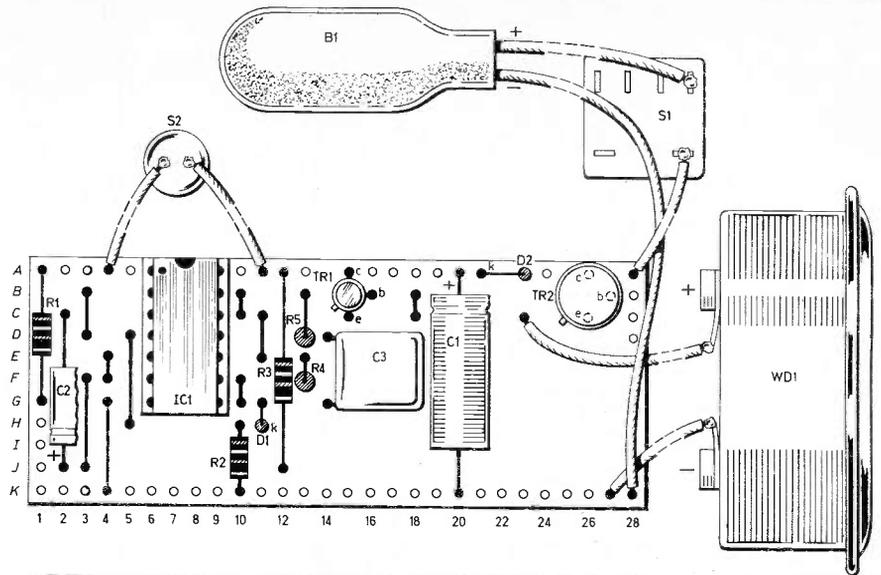


Fig. 2 (Right). Component layout, underside, showing component breaks in the copper strips and interwiring details for the Pushbike Alarm.

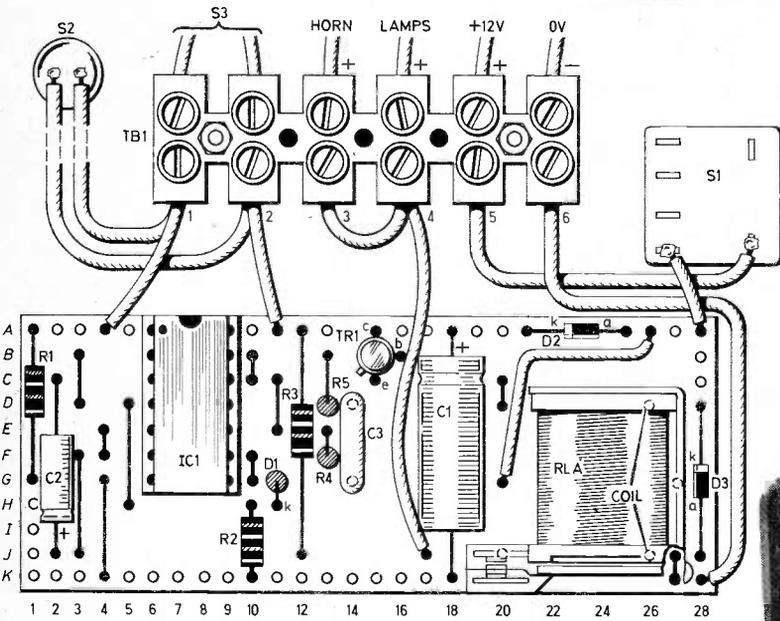
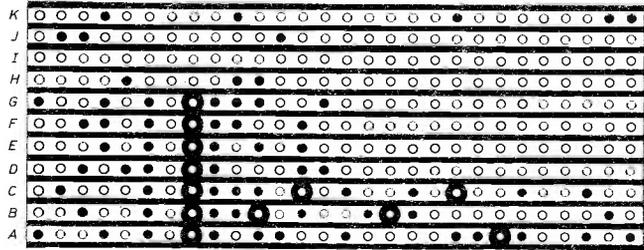
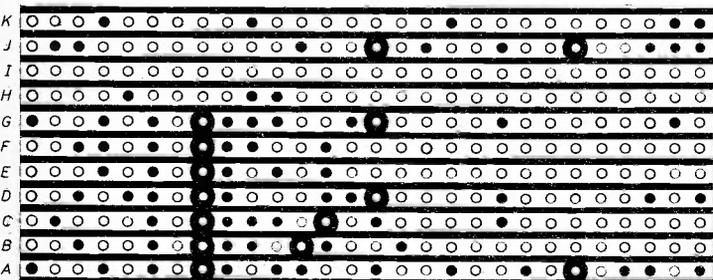
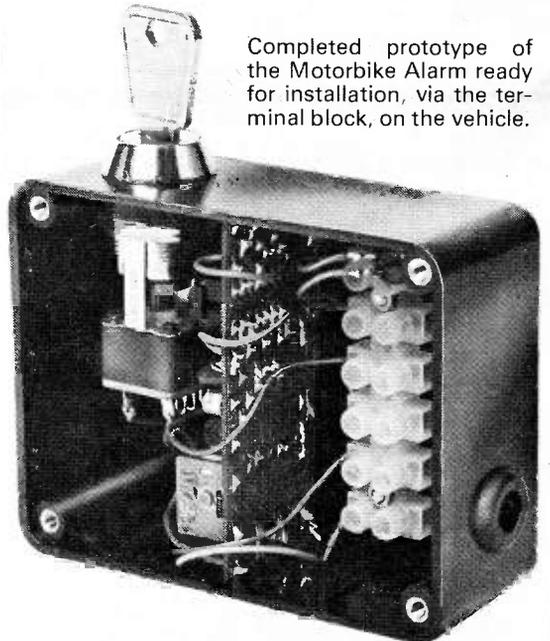
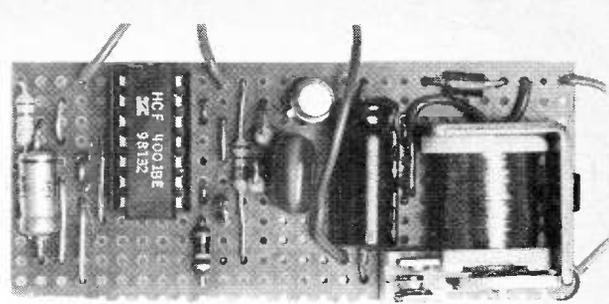
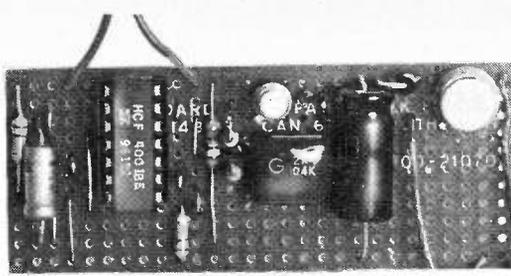


Fig. 3 (Left). Circuit board for the Motorbike Alarm showing component layout and wiring to the terminal block for connecting to the bike. The relay is directly wired to the circuit board by connecting pins. These are shown dotted.



Completed prototype of the Motorbike Alarm ready for installation, via the terminal block, on the vehicle.





Finished circuit board for the Pushbike Alarm. The leads to the mercury switch, shown left, should be approximately 100mm long.

The completed Motorbike Alarm circuit board.

the bike frame. A certain amount of experimentation will be required in order to achieve the optimum switch position to trigger the alarm when the bike is moved by an unauthorised rider.

The final location of the mercury switch is largely dependant on two factors, whether the alarm is to be triggered by a side-to-side movement or a forward and backward motion. Bearing in mind that a bicycle (or motorbike) is often left in an inclined position, for example against a wall or on a kick-stand, the former consideration can be utilised so that the alarm triggers when the bike is returned to the upright position.

Mercury switches of this type activate at around 10 degrees from the horizontal (that is, at this angle the mercury blob will roll to the end of the device and short out the contacts) so it will need to be mounted at something like this angle inside the case.

This type of triggering does mean that the bike will always have to be inclined to the same side.

MOUNTING

When locating the Alarm unit on the bike, it is important to keep it as discrete as possible; a box that looks like an alarm could be removed and rendered inoperational by the prospective thief.

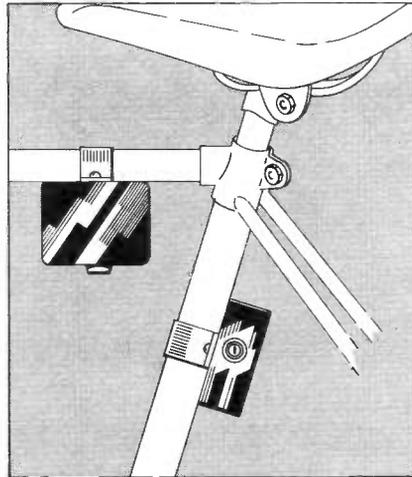


Fig. 4. Two suggested mounting positions for the completed Pushbike unit. Final arrangement will be governed by placement of the mercury switch.

For this reason, the lock of the key-switch should not be visible but it must be accessible. The ideal orientation of the key-switch is downward facing.

The finished Alarm unit should be securely fixed to a frame member with a fixing bracket obtained from the local

bicycle shop. A suitable position is on the down tube just below the saddle or under the cross-bar as shown in Fig. 4.

For additional reliability, the Alarm unit can be water-proofed. The simplest way to do this is with a plastic bag or "Clingfilm" wrapped around the case. Another alternative would be to use a more expensive enclosure with a sealing gasket or to use a commercially available sealing compound.

MICROSWITCH

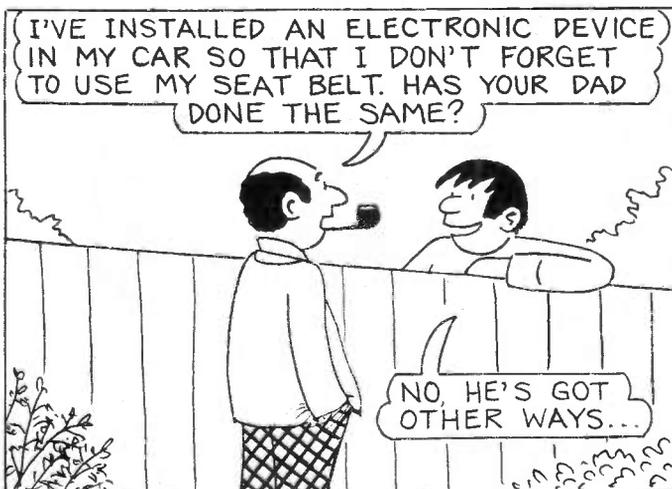
The motorbike version of the Alarm has the option of an additional microswitch to trigger the circuit and this is connected in parallel with the mercury switch (via TB1 terminals 1 and 2).

The normally open contacts are used and the switch is placed where it will be activated when the motorbike is moved. One position could be under the seat so that when someone sits on it, the lever of the microswitch is depressed.

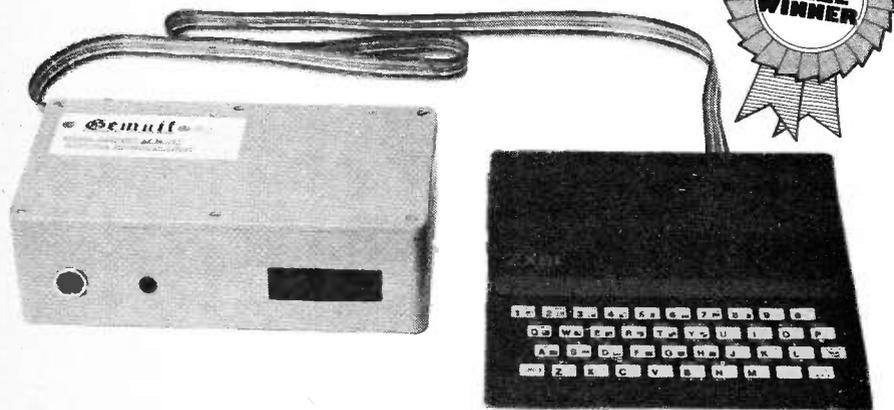
The additional wiring required for this version, that is the wires to the headlight and horn and to the 12V supply, must be carried out with a stranded wire of sufficient current rating. A 24/0.2mm wire is suitable and should be fitted with the correct type of connector to mate with the terminals on the electrical system of the bike. □

JACK PLUG & FAMILY...

BY DOUG BAKER



ZX81 SPEED COMPUTING SYSTEM



BY D. WILKES & A. WILLIAMS

ONE PIECE of laboratory apparatus still frequently used in experiments concerning the general equations of motion is the "ticker-tape timer". This electro-mechanical device consists of a mains solenoid inducing a pointer in its magnetic field to oscillate at 50Hz. A strip of paper passes between the oscillating pointer and a disc of carbon paper to produce a series of dots, the distance between each consecutive dot representing the distance the paper strip has travelled in 1/50th of a second.

In this way, a plot of distance against time can be recorded for an object rolling down an inclined surface, when that object is secured to the length of paper tape and is pulling it through the ticker-tape timer as it falls.

INACCURATE

This method of timing motion does, however, have inherent inaccuracies. Firstly, the oscillating pointer does not always make positive contact with the ticker-tape. Secondly, and perhaps more

importantly, two dots in rapid succession caused by slackness in the tape could be interpreted as a single mark. Finally, the tape itself could cause some resistance to the free motion of the object pulling it.

These three factors, combined with the cumbersome operation and wasteful use of paper necessitated the design of an electronic method of timing the motion. Without changing the basic experiment, that is, a trolley (the "object") rolling down an inclined surface, the ZX81 Speed Computer System was designed.

The trolley is linked to the main unit via a pulsed ultrasonic transmitter thus eliminating the errors associated with the ticker-tape method. The ultrasonic receiver amplifies the pulses and feeds them to a Sinclair ZX81 microcomputer to be processed and the results displayed on a 4-digit 7-segment display on the main unit.

The system has been code named G.E.M.N.I.F. for General Equations of Motion Notational Information Finder.

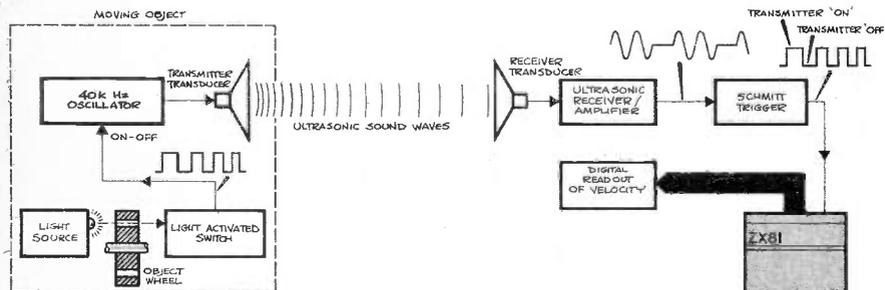


Fig. 1. Block diagram of the SEDAC runner-up design for the ZX81 Speed Computing System (G.E.M.N.I.F.). Note that the moving object represents the trolley.

BASIC THEORY

The trolley provides the information with which the ZX81 will perform the calculations to determine velocity and acceleration.

The basic formulae of motion are as follows:

$$\text{velocity} = \frac{\text{distance travelled}}{\text{time taken}}$$

$$\text{acceleration} = \frac{\text{change in velocity}}{\text{time taken}}$$

So, to calculate the velocity, the computer needs to know the distance travelled (this will be constant) and the time taken to travel that distance. In order to do this, the trolley will send 30 ultrasonic pulses and the computer measures the time taken for them to arrive. As previously stated, the distance the trolley moves to generate 30 pulses is always constant.

For the acceleration calculation, as the trolley starts from standstill, that is 0m/s, the change in velocity will equal the total velocity and since this has already been calculated by the computer it can now calculate the maximum acceleration.

However, computers can be programmed to do much cleverer things so in this circuit, on obtaining the set number of pulses, it can time each individual pulse and provide acceleration figures for any point during the trolleys voyage, thus enabling a pupil to plot a graph from selected notational information; which is neatly displayed on the digital display.

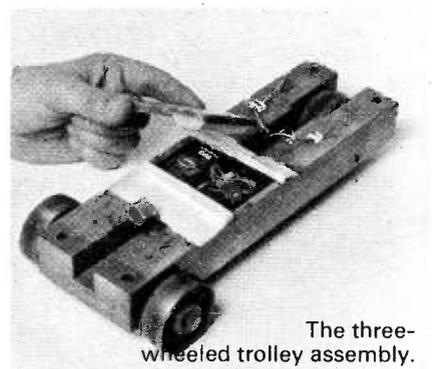
THE TROLLEY

As already mentioned, the microcomputer relies on a set number of pulses which are linked directly to the distance the trolley moves.

The trolley produces pulses whose rate of production is proportional to the speed of the trolley, that is, the faster the trolley moves, the more pulses are produced per second. It achieves these linked pulses by utilising its back wheel. First, however, the basic circuit of the pulse producer and ultrasonic transmitter will be explained. See Fig. 2.

Ultrasonics are a range of frequencies just beyond the limit of human hearing, normally about 30 to 50kHz. This circuit transmits 40kHz pulses to the receiver.

The 555-timer IC1, is connected in an astable mode, oscillating at approxi-



The three-wheeled trolley assembly.

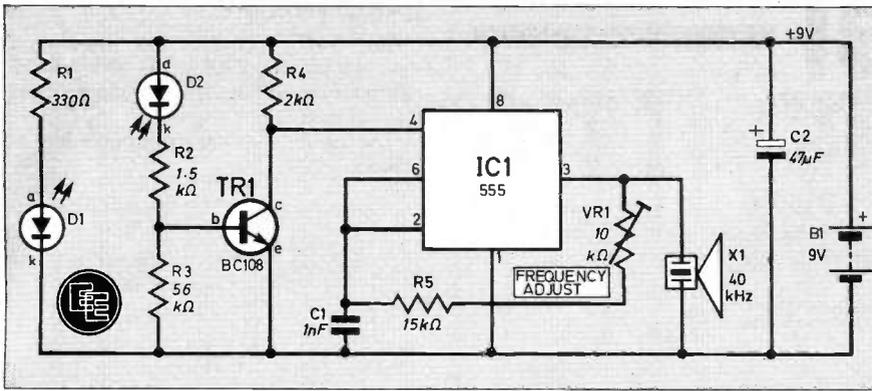
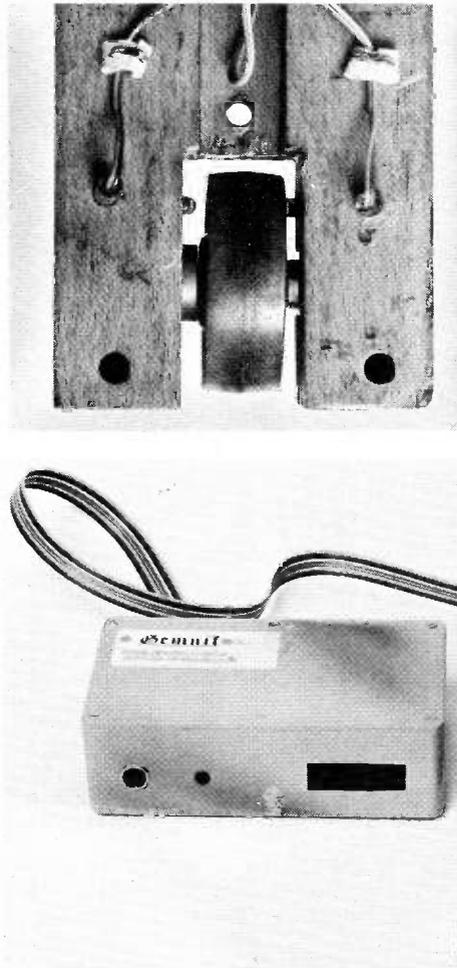


Fig. 2 (Above). Circuit diagram of the trolley mounted ultrasonic transmitter. D1, D2, TR1 and associated components form an infra-red light activated switch to enable IC1.

Photograph (left) shows a close up of the rear wheel of the trolley. The infra-red emitter and receiver D1 and D2 can be seen set into the wooden body of the trolley either side of wheel.

(Below). The main unit and trolley showing the mounting of the ultrasonic transducer X1 and X2. Note how SK1 is soldered to a length of 14-way ribbon cable.



mately 40kHz. An infra-red l.e.d. and an infra-red photodiode (D1 and D2) are positioned either side of the back wheel. The wheel itself has a hole bored through it. D2 is designed so that when infra-red light reaches it, it switches on allowing current to flow through it. In this circuit the light comes from D1.

As both D1 and D2 are on either side of an opaque material (in this case the rear wheel), the only time D2 conducts is when the hole in the rear wheel aligns itself between them. When this takes place, TR1 switches on generating a negative pulse. It is only a pulse since the light is cut off by the wheel's rotation.

This negative pulse gates the 555 off,

stopping momentarily the 40kHz transmission. Thus, as the wheel rotates the hole aligns and dis-aligns, the 555 astable switches on and off. An ultrasonic transducer X1 is used to transmit the pulses.

The ultrasonic transducer is mounted, forward facing, on the front of the trolley as shown in the photographs. A compartment can be made for the electronics in the wooden body of the trolley.

When mounting D1 and D2, the single rear wheel of the trolley is drilled and the hole elongated (so as to produce a longer pulse) and the infra-red devices are mounted in the trolley body so as to align with the hole.

COMPONENTS

Resistors

R1,13-19	330Ω (8 off)
R2	1.5kΩ
R3	56kΩ
R4	2kΩ
R5,10	15kΩ (2 off)
R6	4.7kΩ
R7	1MΩ
R8,9	560Ω (2 off)
R11	10kΩ
R12	470Ω
All	¼W carbon ±5%

Capacitors

C1	1nF polystyrene
C2	47µF 16V tantalum
C3,7	22pF ceramic (2 off)
C4,6,8	10nF polyester (3 off)
C5	10pF ceramic
C9	0.1µF polyester

Semiconductors

D1	Infra-red emitter
D2	Infra-red receiver
D3-5	BAX13 silicon (3 off)
TR1-3	BC108 silicon <i>npn</i> (3 off)
IC1	555 timer
IC2	TAA960 triple amplifier
IC3	74LS132 TTL low power Schottky quad 2-input NAND Schmitt gate
IC4	74LS04 TTL low power Schottky hex inverter/buffer
IC5	74LS08 TTL low power Schottky quad 2-input AND gate
IC6	74LS10 TTL low power Schottky triple 3-input NAND gate
IC7,8	74LS373 TTL low power Schottky octal latch (2 off)
LED1	4-digit, 7-segment common cathode display (R.S. 587-507)
X1	40kHz ultrasonic transmitter transducer
X2	40kHz ultrasonic receiver transducer

Miscellaneous

VR1	10kΩ miniature preset
VR2	1MΩ miniature preset
VR3	100kΩ miniature preset
B1	9V PP3 battery
SK1	23 + 23-way double sided 0.1in. pitch edge connector (to suit finger set on ZX81)

COMPONENTS
approximate
cost **£20** excluding hardware

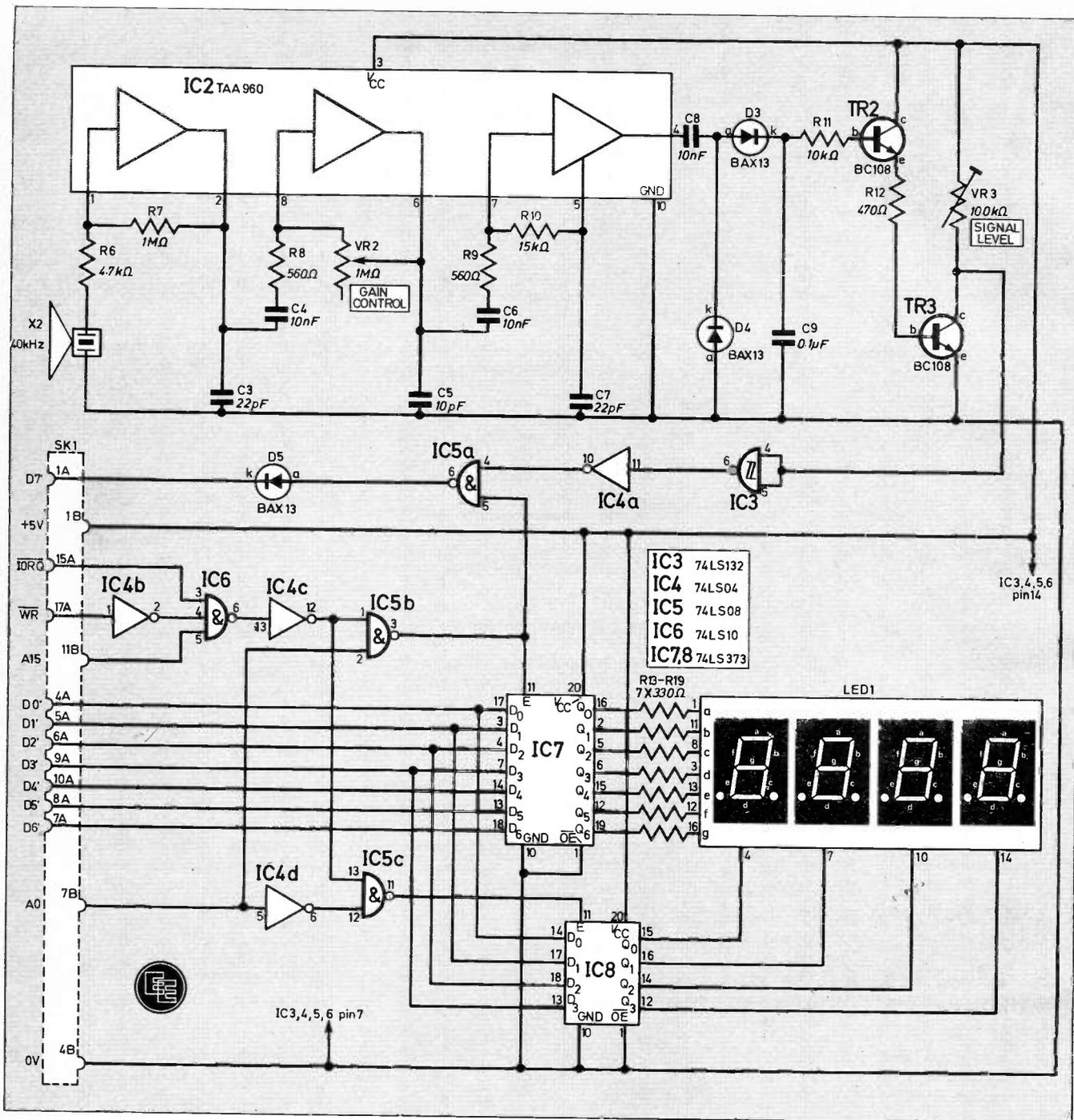


Fig. 3. Circuit diagram of the receiver, computer interface and display sections of the ZX81 Speed Computing System.

THE RECEIVER

The complete circuit diagram of the receiver unit and the ZX81 interface is shown in Fig. 3. The Ultrasonic pulses from the trolley-mounted transmitter are received by a second transducer, X2, and this is coupled to the first stage of IC2, a triple amplifier. This i.c., the TAA960, is specially designed for use with high impedance receivers.

The input impedance is high to ensure that the transducer has peak response at its anti-resonant frequency.

The combined three stages and sup-

porting circuit gives the amplifier a gain of about 100dB, and the receiver is efficient up to a range of 8 metres.

The power supply for this circuit and for the interface circuitry is taken from the ZX81 finger set at the back of the computer. The +5V and 0V come from pins 1B and 4B, respectively.

The output from the receiver amplifier is fed to TR2 and TR3 and the resulting pulses are fed to a Schmitt trigger NAND gate, IC3. This gate produces a clean 5V pulse to be fed to the ZX81 to be processed. Fig. 1 (block diagram) shows the resulting waveform.

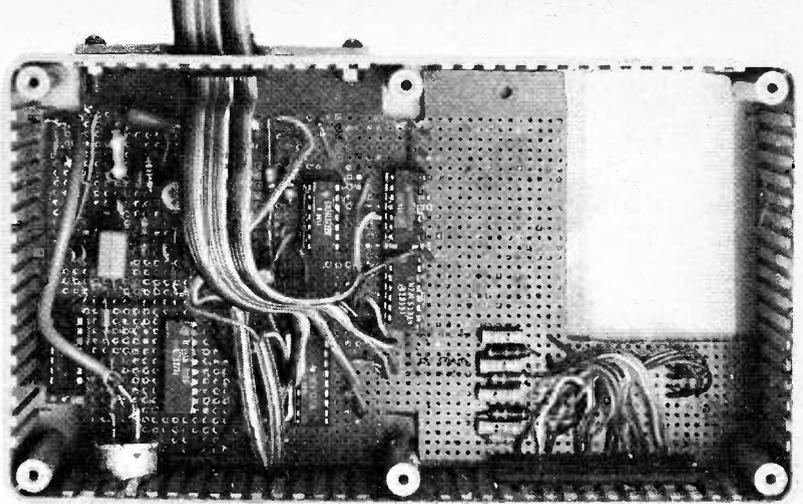
COMPUTER INTERFACE

The G.E.M.N.I.F. unit is connected to the ZX81 computer via the 23 + 23-way finger set on the printed circuit board at the back of the computer.

A program, written in machine code, instructs the computer to read the data being inputted from the ultrasonic receiver and calculate the trolley velocity. The computer will only accept a set number of pulses (in this case, 30) as the number of pulses corresponds to the distance travelled and this must be constant in order to perform the calculations.



Main unit plus Sinclair ZX81 computer.



View inside prototype showing circuit board and ribbon cable connections.

When the 30 pulses have been received, the counting procedure stops and the display routine commences operation.

Six values of velocity of the trolley are taken at intervals of multiples of five pulses. So, for example, after five pulses the first velocity is calculated, again after 10 pulses, after 15 pulses and so on up to 30 pulses.

Once received, the stored values are used to provide the outputs to the display. They are both on screen (if a TV is being used) and on the integral 4-digit display on the main unit (LED1).

DISPLAY

Initially the display reads four flashing "eights". Whilst the trolley is actually rolling down the track and the computer is receiving data, the display will automatically blank. When all 30 pulses have been received, the display will read "VEL1", whereupon it will go on to display

the velocity calculated from the first five pulses. It will proceed to display the next five values under the headings of "VEL2", "VEL3" and so on up to "VEL6".

It continues in a loop displaying these values of velocity until the unit is reset. It will then show flashing "eights" until the trolley starts sending pulses once again.

The gates IC4, IC5 and IC6 and the octal latches IC7 and IC8 are used to decode and display the information received from the ZX81 on the multiplexed display.

PROGRAM

As previously stated, the computer program for use on the ZX81 in conjunction with the G.E.M.N.I.F. Speed Computing System is written in machine code but unfortunately space does not permit the reproduction of it here.

However, interested parties can contact the editorial offices of EVERYDAY

ELECTRONICS and arrangements can be made to supply a transcript or tape copy of the program along with more detailed instructions.

CONSTRUCTION

No detailed constructional information is given for the building of the Speed Computing System as it was felt that, armed with the circuit diagram and background information, it should not prove too difficult to complete.

The original prototype was assembled in a plastic case 190 x 110 x 60mm housing a single stripboard circuit panel. The transducer was mounted in one side and the 23 + 23-way edge connector was soldered to a length of 14-way ribbon cable.

The trolley was converted from a standard three-wheel trolley of the type found in the physics laboratory and runs on any flat track of minimum length two metres. □

BOOK REVIEWS

TELEVISION AND RADIO 1983

Editor Eric Croston
Price £3.50 limp
Size 190 x 230mm. 224 pages
Publisher Independent Broadcasting Authority
ISBN 0 900485 43 3

WITH our television viewing habits about to be changed beyond recognition with the advent of the fourth channel, breakfast viewing, satellite broadcasting and cable TV, this annually produced volume makes interesting reading.

1982 saw the birth of the first new national television service for 20 years—Channel 4—and 1983 will be the year of TV-am, an additional three hours of programmes to wake-up to. This handbook discusses both these new services as well as the established ITV companies and sets out to illustrate the function of a nation-wide broadcasting network.

Many pages are dedicated to the programmes themselves, with sections on sport, drama, science, the arts and of course, news coverage, to name but a few. With over 400 illustrations,

many in full colour, the scope and quality of Independent Television can be seen.

Not to be forgotten is the constantly expanding independent local radio coverage, currently at 47 stations and new contracts are being granted all the time. Other chapters in this compulsive coffee-table book include advertising, finance, Oracle (text) and working in broadcasting.

G.P.H.

PRACTICAL ELECTRONICS

FEBRUARY 1983

PROJECTS

12V to 240V Inverter
 Twilight Warning
 Radio Booster
 Ultimum Computer
 Interface Part 4

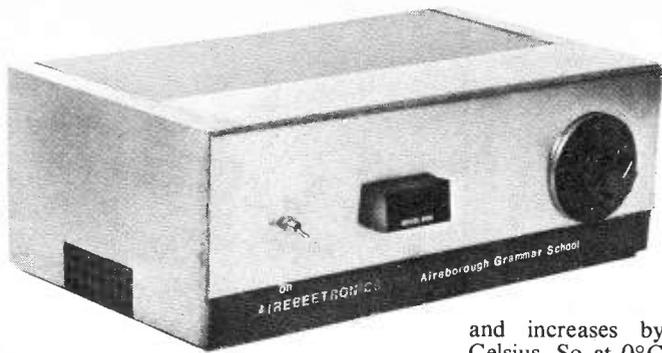
FEATURES

Into The Real World—
 interfacing micros
 Programmable Unijunction
 Transistors—a few PUTs
 are a useful investment

PLUS

Micro-File—Pull-out data on
 the 6502 Microprocessor

ON SALE NOW



Completed prototype of the Beehive Temperature Meter. The frame selector switch is on the right and the remote sensor input socket can be seen on the side of the case.

REFERENCE VOLTAGE

Resistor R1 and IC1, a programmable Zener diode, provide the reference voltage for the main circuitry. VR1 is set (programmed) to provide a stabilised voltage across IC1. R2 and R3 are padding resistors for VR1 to give finer sensitivity to VR1 wiper variation.

The potential divide effect of R4 and R5 across IC1 produces a value of 2.73 volts at their junction. This feeds the negative input of ME1, a 3-digit, 999mV full-scale digital voltmeter. The significance of 2.73 volts will become apparent later.

SENSOR CIRCUIT

The other side of ME1, the +ve input, is fed by the outputs (one at a time) from each temperature sensor circuit. Each sensor is wired as seen in Fig. 2. The output at X varies linearly with temperature,

and increases by 10mV per degree Celsius. So at 0°C, the output would be 2.73V. Each output needs to be trimmed in using its associated preset, VR2 to VR11. All X's are commoned at the negative end of R6, but only one sensor is "on" at one time; which one is on, is determined by the setting of S1, which connects the sensor V- terminal to 0V.

The sensors should be set up after the monitoring unit and remote sensors are in

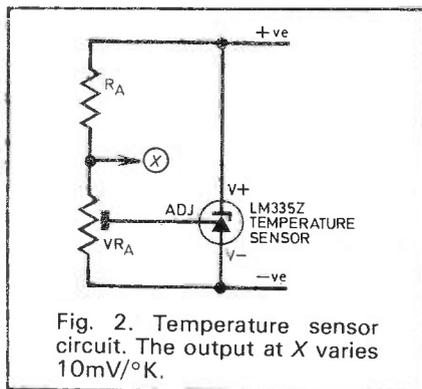
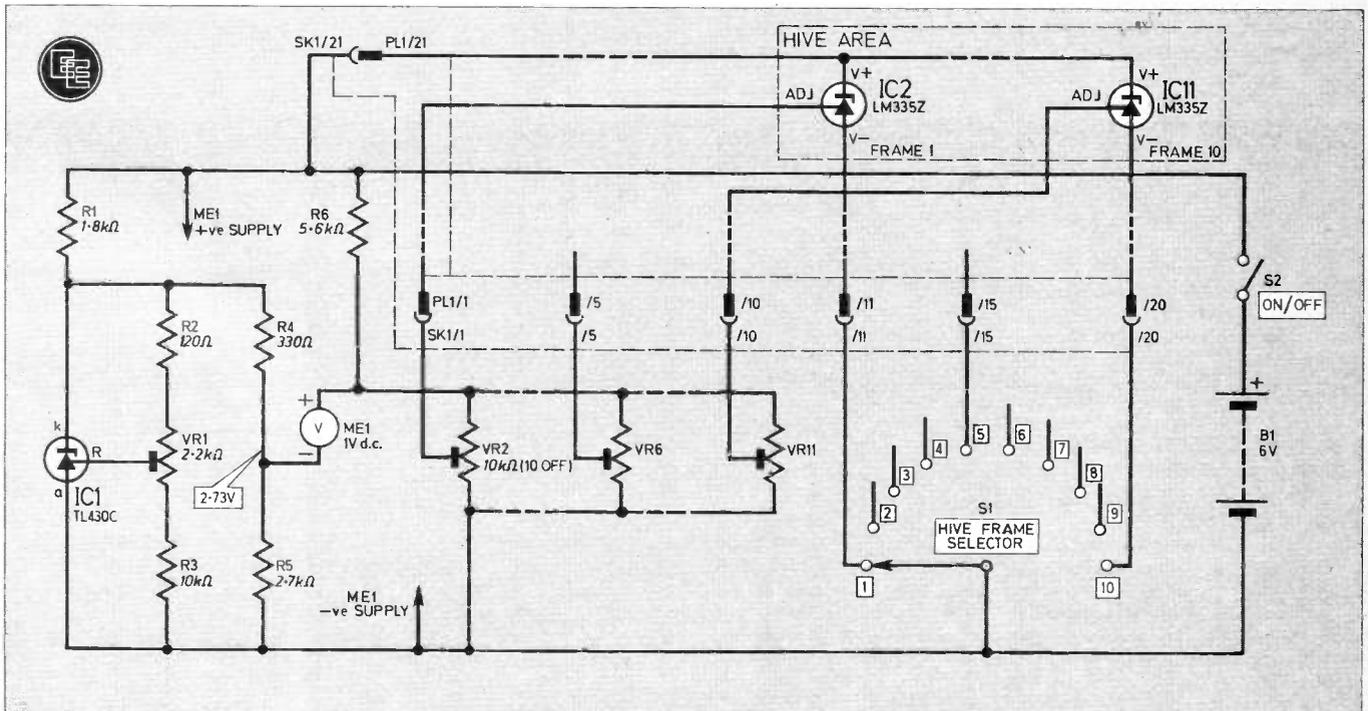


Fig. 2. Temperature sensor circuit. The output at X varies 10mV/°K.

Fig. 1. Complete circuit diagram for the Beehive Temperature Meter. The circuit is drawn to include ten temperature sensors, but this number may be reduced or increased as required.



COMPONENTS

Resistors

R1	1.8kΩ
R2	120Ω
R3	10kΩ
R4	330Ω
R5	2.7kΩ
R6	5.6kΩ
All ¼W carbon ±5%	

See
**Shop
Talk**
page 85

Potentiometers

VR1	2.2kΩ miniature horizontal preset
VR2-11	10kΩ miniature horizontal presets (10 off)

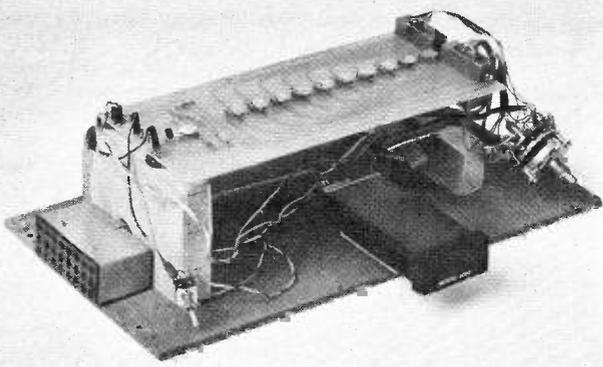
Semiconductors

IC1	TL430C programmable Zener diode
IC2-11	LM335Z precision temperature sensor (10 off)

Miscellaneous

ME1	1V d.c. digital (Digitron model 8000)
SK1	21-way socket
PL1	21-way plug
S1	1-pole 10-way rotary miniature on-off toggle
B1	6V, 4 x 1.5V (HP11)
Pointer knob for S1; 21-way cable; battery holder for 4 x HP11 cells.	

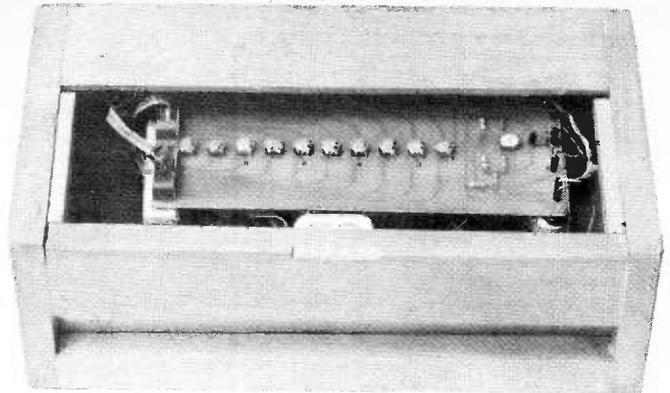
Guidance only
Approx. cost **£15** excluding connectors and meter



The "baseboard" removed from the case to show positioning of the main components. Four HP11 batteries are located in a holder which is sited across the rear of the baseboard.

their final positions. The sensor temperatures should be given time to stabilise. Place a thermometer beside a sensor when it is being calibrated, and adjust its preset until the readout on ME1 equals the thermometer reading. Repeat for all other sensors. Leave for a while and repeat the operation.

To read the temperature of each sensor, set S1 to the appropriate position. In the prototype, the reading was given directly in degrees Celsius, where the position of the decimal point could be selected on the rear of the specified meter.



Access to the temperature "trimming" potentiometers is gained via a removable lid in the top of the case. The reference voltage "programming" preset VR1 can be seen on the far right.

Any digital voltmeter could be used here which is capable of displaying up to 1V in 10mV steps. Sockets could be fitted in place of ME1 to allow any suitable meter to be plugged in when required.

USES

By monitoring the temperature in the hive, it is expected to be able to determine cluster movement (if any) during cold winter conditions. In such environments bees must cluster to keep alive. Disturbances, such as those from a nearby busy woodpecker could easily upset the bees

and cause them to disperse and so lose the heat generated by clustering.

Regular monitoring of the hive temperature in various positions within the hive would alert the keeper who could then take early measures to remove the disturbance and pacify the bees.

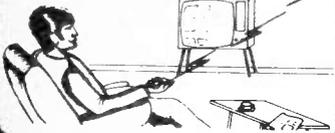
An interesting plan now being considered by the team who produced this unit is to connect it directly to a personal computer. With suitably developed software there are many possibilities including a display of the hive spatial density. □

For a detailed booklet on remote control — send us 30p and S.A.E. (6" x 9") today.

HOME LIGHTING KITS

These kits contain all necessary components and full instructions & are designed to replace a standard wall switch and control up to 300w. of lighting

- TDR300K Remote Control Dimmer £14.30
- MK6 Transmitter for above £4.20
- TD300K Touchdimmer £7.00
- TDE/K Extension kit for 2-way switching for TD300K £2.00
- LD300K Rotary Controlled Dimmer £3.50



DVM/ULTRA SENSITIVE THERMOMETER KIT

This new design is based on the ICL7126 (a lower power version of the ICL7106 chip) and a 3 1/2 digit liquid crystal display. This kit will form the basis of a digital multimeter (only a few additional resistors and switches are required—details supplied), or a sensitive digital thermometer (-50°C to +150°C) reading to 0.1°C. The basic kit has a sensitivity of 200mV for a full scale reading, automatic polarity indication and an ultra low power requirement—giving a 2 year typical battery life from a standard 9V PP3 when used 8 hours a day, 7 days a week



Price £15.50

3-NOTE DOOR CHIME

Based on the SAB0600 IC the kit is supplied with all components, including loudspeaker, printed circuit board, a pre-drilled box (95 x 71 x 35mm) and full instructions. Requires only a PP3 9V battery and push-switch to complete. AN IDEAL PROJECT FOR BEGINNERS. Order as XK102 £5.00

XK113 MW RADIO KIT

Based on ZN414 IC, kit includes PCB, wound aerial and crystal earpiece and all components to make a sensitive miniature radio. Size: 5.5 x 2.7 x 2cms. Requires PP3 9V battery. IDEAL FOR BEGINNERS. £5.00

COMPONENT PACKS

- PACK 1 650 Resistors 47 ohm to 10 Mohm — 10 per value £4.00
- PACK 2 40 x 16V Electrolytic Capacitors 10µF to 1000µF — 5 per value £3.25
- PACK 3 60 Polyester Capacitors 0.01 to 1µF/250V — 5 per value £5.55
- PACK 4 45 Sub-miniature Presets 100 ohm to 1 Mohm — 5 per value £2.90
- PACK 5 30 Low Profile IC Sockets 8, 14 and 16 — pin — 10 of each £2.40
- PACK 6 25 Red LEDs (5mm dia.) £1.25

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MK1 TEMPERATURE CONTROLLER/THERMOSTAT Uses LM3911 IC to sense temperature (80°C max.) and triac to switch heater. 1KW £4.00

MK2 Solid State Relay Ideal for switching motors, lights, heaters, etc. from logic. Opto-isolated with zero voltage switching. Supplied without triac £2.60

MK3 BAR/DOT DISPLAY Displays an analogue voltage on a linear 10 element LED display as a bar or single dot. Ideal for thermometers, level indicators, etc. May be stacked to obtain 20 to 100 element displays. Requires 5-20V supply. £4.50

MK4 PROPORTIONAL TEMPERATURE CONTROLLER Based on the SL441 zero voltage switch, this kit may be wired to form a "burst fire" power controller, enabling the temperature of an enclosure to be maintained to within 0.5°C. Max. load 3KW £5.55

MK5 MAINS TIMER Based on the ZN1034E Timer IC this kit will switch a mains load on (or off) for a preset time from 20 mins. to 35 hrs. Longer or shorter periods may be realised by minor component changes. Max. load 1KW. £4.50

LCD 3 1/2 DIGIT MULTIMETER

16 ranges including DC voltage (200 mv-1000 v) and AC voltage, DC current (200 mA-10 A) and resistance (0.2 M) + NPN & PNP transistor gain and diode check. Input impedance 10M. Size 155x88x31 mm. Requires PP3 9v battery. Test leads included **ONLY £29.00**

ELECTRONIC LOCK KIT XK101

This KIT contains a purpose designed lock IC, 10-way keyboard, PCBs and all components to construct a Digital Lock, requiring a 4-key sequence to open and providing over 5000 different combinations. The open sequence may be easily changed by means of a pre-wired plug. Size: 7 x 6 x 3 cms. Supply: 5V to 15V d.c. at 40uA. Output: 750mA max. Hundreds of uses for doors and garages, car anti-theft device, electronic equipment, etc. Will drive most relays direct. Full instructions supplied. **ONLY £10.50**

Electric lock mechanisms for use with latch locks and above kit **£13.50**

DISCO LIGHTING KITS

DL 1000K This value-for-money kit features a bi-directional sequence, speed of sequence and frequency of direction change, being variable by means of potentiometers and incorporates a master/dimming control. **£14.60**

DL2100K A lower cost version of the above, featuring unidirectional channel sequence with speed variable by means of a pre-set pot. Outputs switched only at mains zero crossing points to reduce radio interference to a minimum. **Only £8.00**

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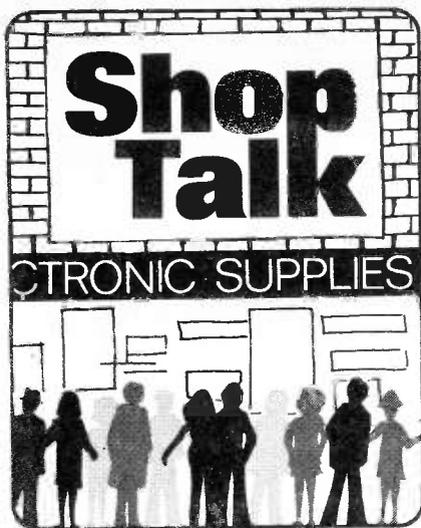
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EE



By Dave Barrington

Sounds of ZON

All the latest reports indicate that probably the most popular gift this festive season will have been one of the ZX81 or Spectrum home computers. It is equally likely that thousands of people spent most of their holiday period mastering the wonders of their new acquisitions.

Having been hooked on their possible capabilities, owners will, by now, have soon spot-lighted any limitations and are eagerly seeking the add-on units available to expand their system. These will include printers and increased memory or RAM packs.

Although it does not expand the system, a wide range of sound effects can be added with the ZON X-81 Sound Box from Bi-Pak Semiconductors.



The unit is based on a three-channel-plus-noise sound chip and is so designed that the pitches and volumes of the three channels and overall attack/decay envelope can be controlled by simple BASIC instructions to the computer.

This means that piano, organ, bells, helicopters, lasers, explosions, space invaders, and so on, can be simulated and easily added to existing programs.

The circuit board is housed in a black plastics case with loudspeaker and manual volume control (in addition to programmed volume) and simply plugs in between the rear ZX81 "finger" set and its RAM pack and/or printer. The power supply for the unit is taken from the internal power supplies of the computer, via the computers bus outlet or finger set.

For use with the ZX Spectrum a special adaptor is required. This is available for the sum of £5.50 plus VAT.

Included with the ZON X-81 are operating details which take the user through its operation step-by-step and also contain a number of example programs of useful sound effects.

The ZON X-81 Sound Unit costs £25.95 including postage and VAT. For more details, readers should contact: Bi-Pak Semiconductors, Dept. EE, P.O. Box 6, Ware, Herts.

Drilling Machine

With the increase in designs built on printed circuit boards (p.c.b.), many readers must have tried their hand at making their own p.c.b.s and encountered particular problems. From the letters received, the most common and annoying of these would appear to be the accurate and time-consuming task of drilling the component holes in the board.

This can now easily be accomplished with the latest addition to the Toolrange stocks. It is the ORYX Model B10 drilling machine designed for small-scale production work on p.c.b.s.

A feature of the drill is a built-in mains power supply which provides a low voltage source to an illumination "torch" for the work surface. The power supply also feeds the 24V motor, which direct drives a quill spindle at a speed of 14,500 r.p.m.

An adjustable magnifier enables accurate location of the workpiece to drill point and there are adjustable depth stops for hand feeding. The maximum chuck-to-table distance is 1½ in (32mm).

Drills of up to ⅜ in shank diameter can be held in the interchangeable collet chucks. Three collets are supplied as standard, allowing drills from 0.6mm to 2mm shank to be used.

More details and price can be obtained from Toolrange Ltd., Dept EE, Upton Road, Reading RG3 4JA.

CONSTRUCTIONAL PROJECTS

Alarms for Push-Bike and Motor Bike

When ordering the 4001 i.c. for the *Alarms for Push-Bike and Motor Bike* project, be sure to ask for the "unbuffered outputs" type. This will have the suffix UBE or UB after the type number. This device should be stocked by most advertisers but in case of difficulty it is listed by Maplin.

The mercury switch used in our models are available from Magenta Electronics. This switch is also available from Tandy shops (order code 275-025).

Note that mercury is a toxic substance, therefore be careful not to break the glass encapsulation when installing in the case.

The 9V buzzer used in the prototype was purchased from Tandy and is listed as D.C. Buzzer 273-052. Other suitable mechanical sirens are stocked by Electrovalue, Magenta, TK Electronics and J. Bull.

The 12V 30A miniature relay is available from Maplin and listed as YX99H (12V 30A

Relay). This relay is listed for use in automotive applications.

The type of case used is not critical, but should be made weather-proof from the elements. An old cycle lamp could be adapted and the bulb reflector area used to house the siren; the glass being replaced by some gauze.

Interval Timer

The 4-digit common cathode multiplex display, Type DL340M, used in the *Interval Timer* is available from TK Electronics.

They also supply a 9-digit Bowmar display that could be used in this project for the sum of 55p plus VAT. However, the pinning for this device is different and will have to be "hard-wired" to the board.

ZX81 Speed Computer System

The ultrasonic transducers for the *ZX81 Speed Computer System* are available from Electrovalue, Magenta, Maplin and Rapid Electronics. When ordering ask for transmitter and receiver transducers with pin terminations.

The 4-digit 7-segment common cathode display is a RS Components device, stock code 587-507. The diodes D3 to D5, Type BAX13, are stocked by Cricklewood Electronics.

The 23+23-way ZX81 edge connector is available from Maplin.

Beehive Temperature Meter

The "programmable" Zener diode called for in the *Beehive Temperature Meter* is likely to cause purchasing problems. This is a three-terminal type with excellent temperature stability. Two external resistors set the Zener voltage to any desired value in the range 3 to 30V.

The only source we have been able to locate for the TL430C is Maplin Electronic Supplies: Order code YY77J. However, RS Components stock an equivalent to this device which is listed as a programmable Zener diode and should be ordered as RS 283-227.

Once again, we would point out that RS Components will only supply to *bona fide* traders and readers should order this item through their component supplier.

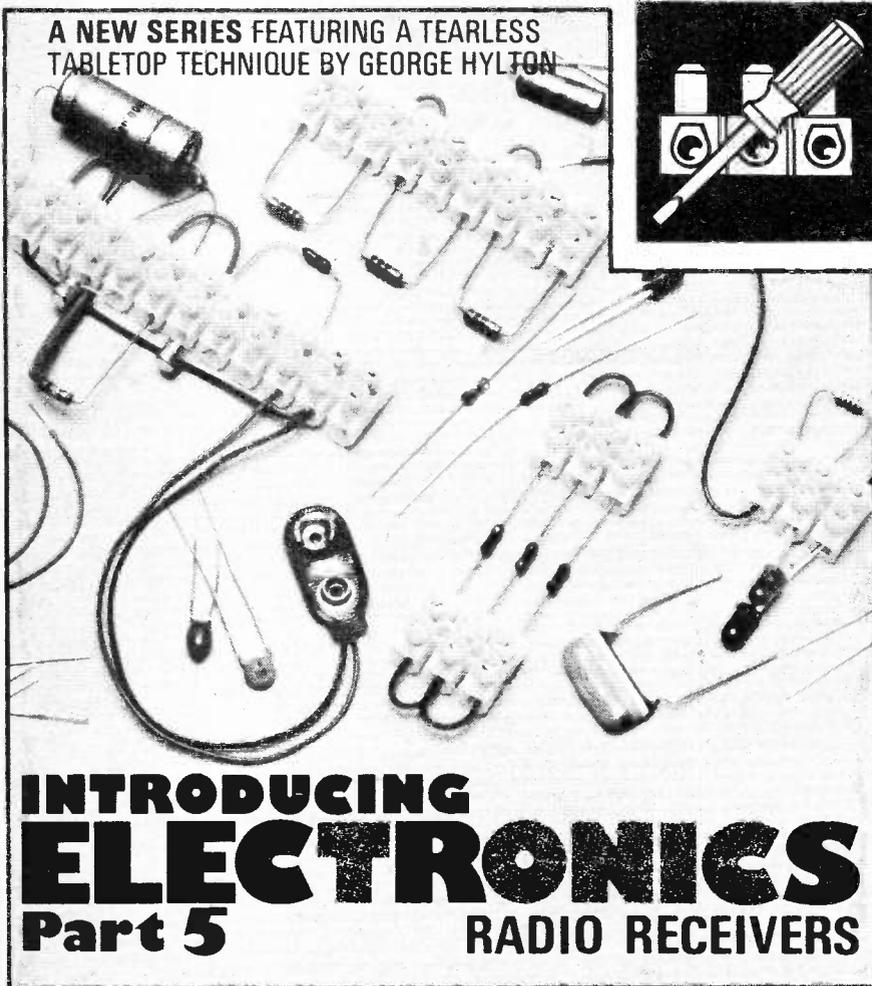
The temperature sensor Type LM335Z is available from Europa, Maplin and Rapid Electronics.

A 12-way rotary switch with an adjustable end-stop will need to be used to make up the single-pole 10-way switch S1. Alternatively, a single-pole 12-way switch can be used with two tags of the switch left unconnected or joined to the tenth position.

EPROM Programmer for the Acorn Atom

It is not essential to use a zero insertion force (z.i.f.) socket for the *EPROM Programmer for the Acorn Atom* "Program" socket. This socket plugs into the low profile socket mounted on the circuit board and protrudes through the top of the case. The Vero 24-pin Miniwrap i.c. socket, type 200-2133B, has been found to have a low insertion and withdrawal force and could be used as a cheaper replacement for "expensive" z.i.f. sockets.

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TABLETOP TECHNIQUE BY GEORGE HYLTON



INTRODUCING ELECTRONICS Part 5 RADIO RECEIVERS

LAST month we built amplifiers and oscillators. This time we'll extend our experiments from audio to radio frequencies and make a rather crude but reasonably effective a.m. receiver.

DISTORTION

To make it work we'll turn to good account something which is usually regarded as an unmitigated nuisance: distortion. Distortion, in amplifiers, means a departure from perfection. In a perfect amplifier the output would be an exact reproduction, in enlarged form, of the input.

Let's take a closer look at what this means. The "signals" which most amplifiers have to deal with are mixtures. They contain many different frequencies (in a hi fi music signal, from about 20Hz to 20kHz). They contain mixtures of intensities (from pianissimo to fortissimo). There are all sorts of time relationships between components of the mixture and these may be important for stereo reproduction, for example. All these characteristics would be preserved in an ideal amplifier.

No real-life amplifier is perfect. It may not amplify all frequencies equally well. It may not preserve the original time

("phase") relationships between components of the mixture. Above all, it may not reproduce the intensities faithfully.

In electronic terms this means that the shapes of the signal waveforms may be distorted. For hi fi, this *amplitude distortion* is by far the most serious kind.

OVERLOAD

When we turned amplifiers into oscillators by feeding back the output to the input positively we saw how oscillations

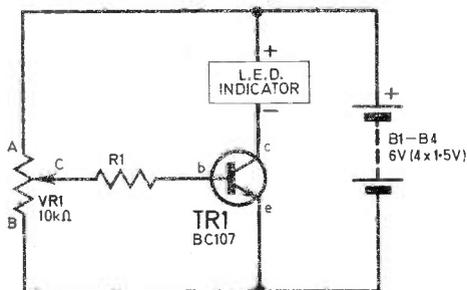


Fig. 5.1. A low value for R1 allows the transistor to be driven into overload.

can build up rapidly, starting with only the tiny amount of "noise" present in all circuits. This is amplified, fed back, amplified again, and so on, getting bigger and bigger.

Why doesn't this process of magnification go on for ever, eventually producing infinitely large voltages and currents? Because a point is soon reached where the transistors just can't handle larger signals. They overload. They can't deliver the output demanded of them.

If you repeat (in thought, at least) an earlier experiment (Fig. 5.1) you'll see why. Suppose we give R1 a lowish value, say $1k\Omega$. Then with VR1 slider at the positive end, several milliamps of current flow into TR1 base. TR1 will try to pass several hundred milliamps of collector current. It can't, because at a mere 20mA or so all the battery voltage is used up in the Indicator, leaving nothing for the transistor. So as you turn up VR1 the lamp reaches full brightness and gets no brighter as VR1 is turned up further. TR1 is no longer following the input signal (the base current).

LOW DISTORTION AMPS

In low-distortion amplifiers the transistors are given enough steady (d.c.) bias to turn them part-way on. The a.c. signals are added to the bias and as they swing positive or negative the transistors are turned on further or the reverse. Provided they don't get too large the output current and voltage can follow the input as required.

Figure 5.2 shows how the collector current and voltage of a transistor with a resistance load ($1k\Omega$) vary as the d.c. base-to-emitter voltage is varied. With no input there is no collector current, hence no voltage drop across R1 so the collector voltage is the same as the battery voltage. As the collector current approaches 6mA nearly all the battery voltage is dropped by R1 and the collector voltage falls to zero, nearly. It can go no further, whatever you do to the base.

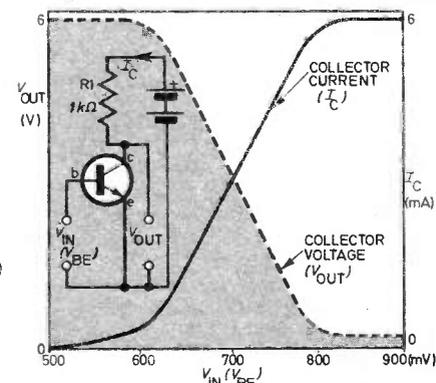


Fig. 5.2. How collector current and voltage change as the base voltage changes.

For minimum distortion the transistor is biased to say 700mV and a.c. signals added to the d.c. bias. So long as they are not too large the collector current never gets increased to its maximum (here 6mA) or reduced to zero and distortion is minimised (as shown in Fig. 5.3).

DETECTION

In amplitude-modulated radio there is a high-frequency "carrier wave" whose strength (amplitude) is made to vary in sympathy with the audio (programme) signals (Fig. 5.4 a and b). (For clarity, far fewer cycles of carrier are shown than with real radio signals.)

To recover the audio from the modulated carrier, two steps are taken. First all the negative half-cycles of the carrier are suppressed (c). This leaves a train of pulses whose amplitudes are in step with the original audio. They form a sequence of *samples* of the audio.

To re-form the audio the gaps between samples must be filled in. This is done with the help of a capacitor which is charged by the pulses and retains charge when a pulse has ended.

There's a snag. A perfect capacitor will charge to the biggest pulse amplitude and stay like that, ignoring any smaller ones which follow. Goodbye, audio. To avoid this a resistance is connected across the capacitor, to allow it to discharge slowly. This gives it enough "memory" to bridge the very short time gaps between sample pulses while allowing the slow audio changes to be followed.

TRANSISTOR DETECTOR

To use a transistor as a detector it is biased to a point such as X in Fig. 5.3. Negative carrier half-cycles then reduce the collector current towards zero but positive ones increase it according to their size. The collector current is a train of sample pulses like Fig. 5.4c.

In our receiver (Fig. 5.5a) TR1 is the detector. Its collector current is low (about 20µA). Gap-filling is done by C3. This is normally charged to about 1.3V in this circuit. If this voltage changes it can restore itself slowly by charging more via R1 or discharging via TR1 collector and TR2 base.

The incoming signal appears across L1. TR2 amplifies the programme audio.

CONSTRUCTION

The terminal-block connections (Fig. 5.5b) are similar to last month's amplifiers. You need resistors of 33kΩ and 220kΩ and polystyrene capacitors of 39pF, 390pF and 1nF (1000pF). The other components you should have from before, except L1, which you make. For this you need a rather long piece of insulated hook-up wire (4 metres) but it can be re-used later if need be.

Another new component is a ferrite aerial rod. Get a blank (unwound) rod 100mm long (or longer). (If you have two shorter rods tape them end to end.)

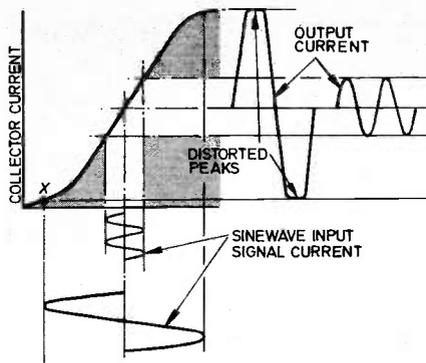


Fig. 5.3. Biasing the transistor to a partly-on state enables small a.c. signals to be amplified with low distortion, but large ones get "clipped".

The coil L1 is wound on a hollow cardboard or plastic tube wide enough for the ferrite rod to slide easily inside. I used an empty *Smarties* tube. Most ferrite aerial rods are 6mm or 9mm diameter, which is a lot less than my tube but that doesn't matter.

To wind L1, fix one end of your wire to your tube, leaving about 100mm free for connecting. Wind, spacing the turns to cover about 100mm. My coil has 42 turns but anything between 30 and 60 will do. Tape the loose end to the tube, again leaving enough spare for connecting to your terminal block.

If the rod goes right inside the tube tape a handle to it: I used the barrel of an old ball pen. Wood can also be used, but not metal.

OPERATING

Turn VR1 spindle fully clockwise. This puts the full 10kΩ in circuit and TR1 oscillates. Moving the ferrite rod slowly into the coil should produce a sequence of whistles. Each whistle results from the

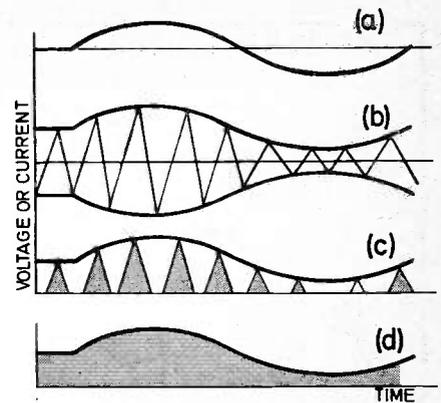


Fig. 5.4. Amplitude modulation of a radio transmission. (a) Audio (programme) signal; (b) Amplitude-modulated carrier frequency waveform; (c) First step in recovering the audio: the negative half-cycles of the a.m. waveform are suppressed; (d) Second step: The gaps are filled in, leaving the original audio plus d.c.

oscillation interacting with an incoming carrier frequency. This produces a *beat tone* whose frequency is the difference between the carrier frequency and the local oscillation.

Tune in a strong beat then turn down VR1 until oscillation just stops. Slight retuning should then give you the station.

TUNING RANGE

My coil tunes from 1.2MHz to 2.5MHz, which embraces the high frequency end of the medium-wave band of 0.52MHz to 1.65MHz (550kHz to 1650kHz) where (in Britain) many of the local radio stations are to be found. After dark more distant ones can be heard.

You may be able to pick up a few more with the aid of a metre of wire connected as a vertical aerial (dotted in Fig. 5.5). Have fun!

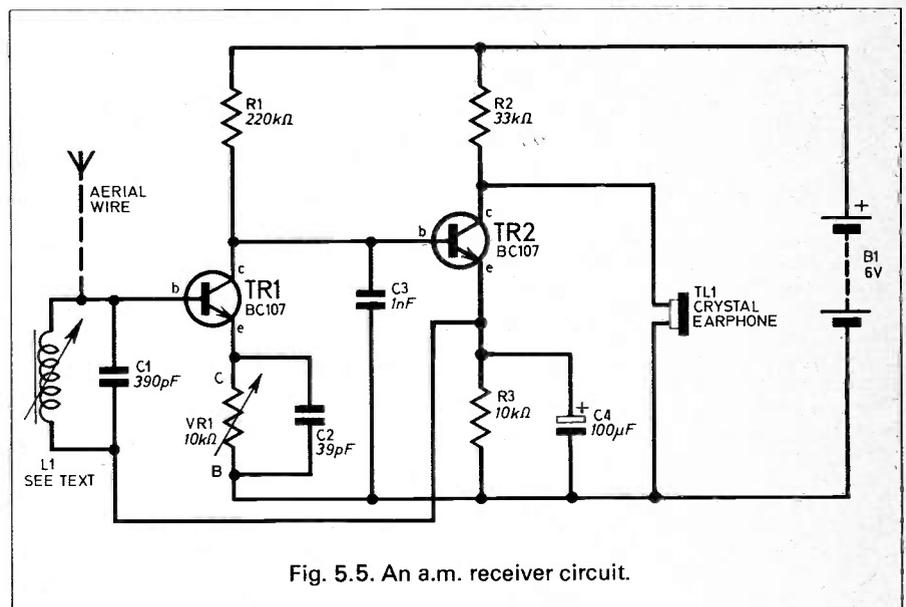
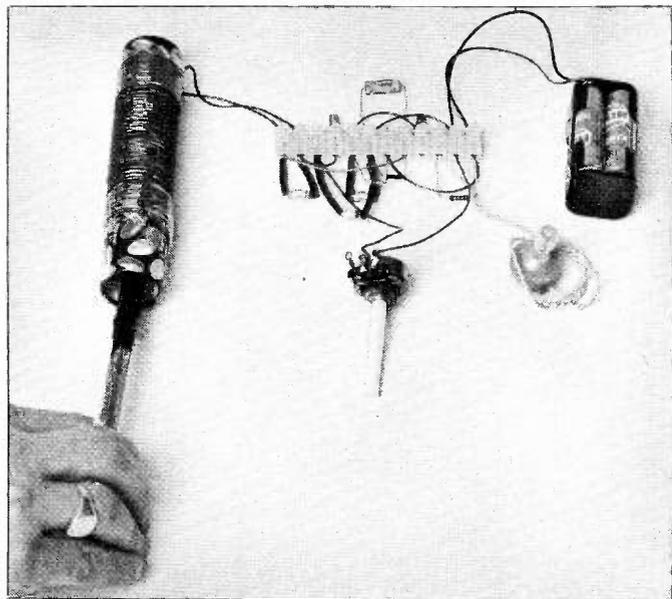
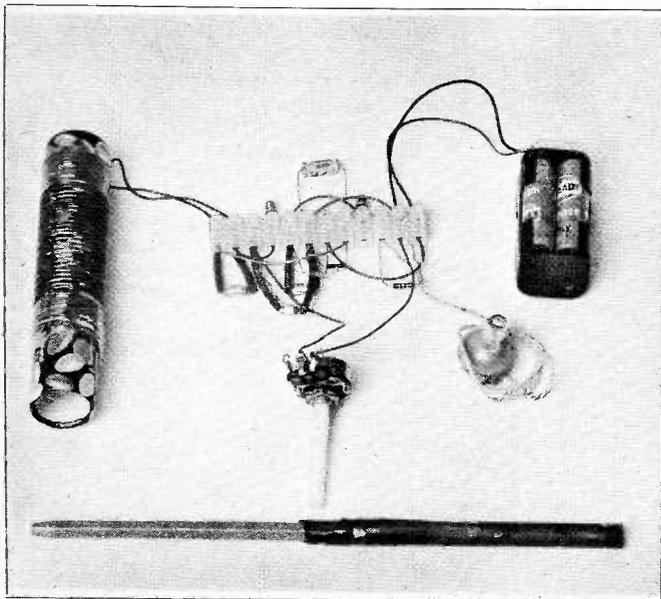


Fig. 5.5. An a.m. receiver circuit.



The a.m. receiver wired up on the screw terminal block with the ferrite rod taped to a plastic pen case. Moving the rod in and out of the coil which is wound on an empty "Smartie" tube, tunes the receiver.

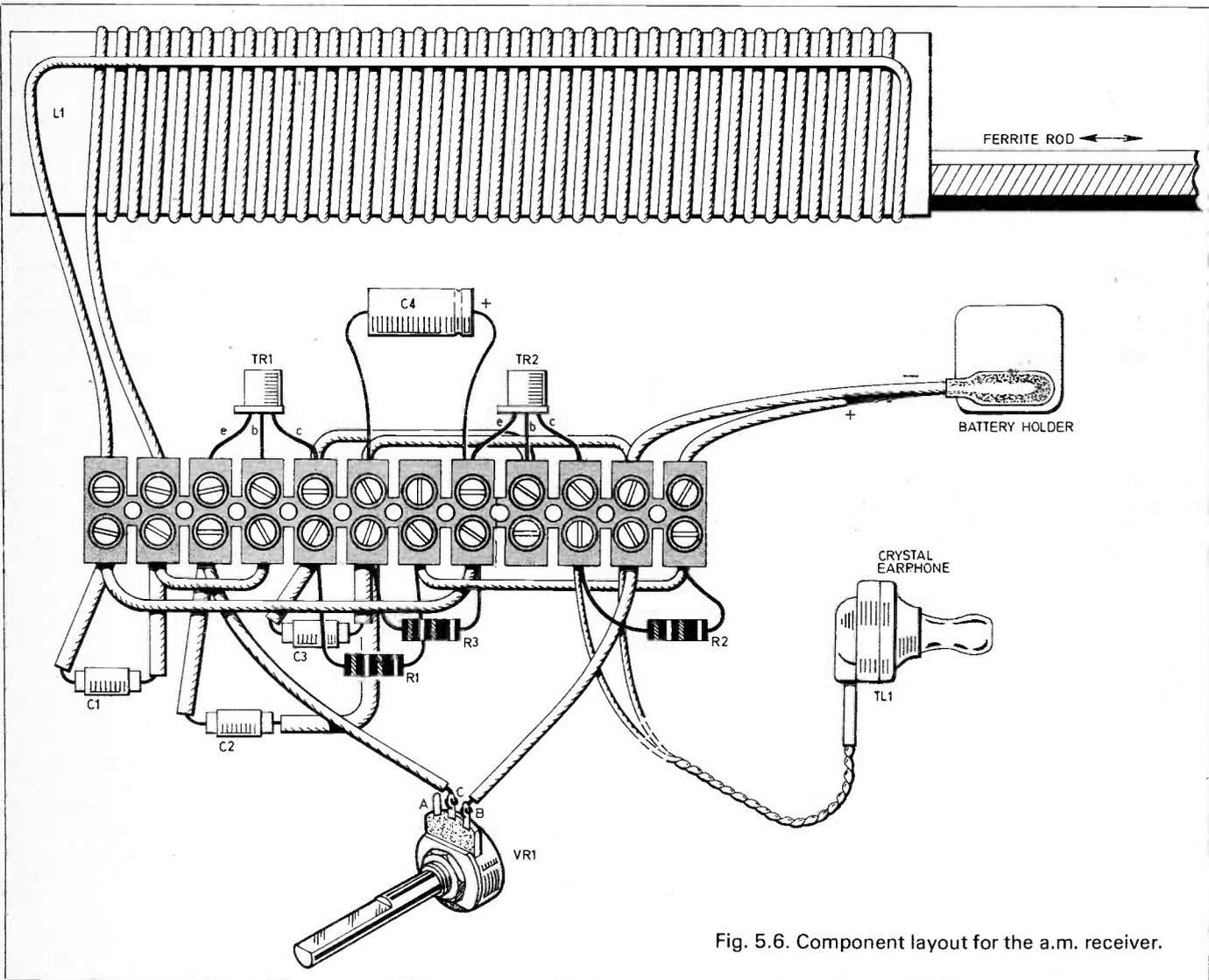


Fig. 5.6. Component layout for the a.m. receiver.

TUNED CIRCUIT

L1 and C1 form a *tuned circuit*. Earlier we saw how inductors and capacitors can store energy as fields and charges. We learned that when combined with resistors these energy-storage devices can give time delays. Here, however, an inductor and capacitor are connected to one another. This has a striking effect on the time behaviour.

If C1 is charged, it discharges through L1, and a magnetic field is set up. When C1 is empty the field collapses, inducing a voltage which drives current from L1 into C1 (in the opposite direction from before). This to-and-fro oscillation of current goes on, gradually dying away because part of the energy is lost in the resistance of L1 each time current flows.

This *damped* (dying) oscillation occurs at one special frequency, the *natural frequency* of the tuned circuit. If the circuit is energised from outside, by a signal whose frequency matches the natural frequency the oscillation keeps on getting little pushes which keep it going. Just as somebody on a swing can go higher and higher by moving in step with the natural motion of the swing so small input signals can produce large voltages and currents in the tuned circuit.

As the signal frequency is removed from the natural frequency the effect diminishes. Only signals close to the natural frequency get built up. Hence a tuned circuit is frequency-selective. In our receiver we enhance the selectivity (and the sensitivity) by positive feedback (also called "reaction" or "regeneration").

SIDEBANDS

When a carrier frequency is modulated by an audio frequency extra frequencies on each side (above and below) the carrier frequency are created. These "side frequencies" are known collectively as *sidebands* and in an amplitude-modulated (a.m.) transmission they extend to each side of the carrier by the same amount as the audio frequency.

To transmit the full audio band, calls for some 20kHz of space on each side of the a.m. carrier. Tough, as the stations are spaced only 9kHz apart in the medium-wave band. Their sidebands overlap.

The only thing to do about it is to keep adjacent-frequency stations apart geographically and remove the higher audio frequencies before transmitting, to restrict the sideways spread to, say, 10kHz, which still gives reasonable music quality.

The carrier frequency itself contains no programme information. It is needed merely to "decode" the sidebands. Moreover, the sidebands duplicate the programme. Each one contains all the audio "information."

The carrier and one sideband can be removed before transmission leaving only a single-sideband. This halves the bandwidth of the transmission and avoids the "waste" of carrier frequency energy. The price is that special and at present expensive techniques are needed to get back the audio at the receiver. Ordinary detection doesn't work.

At very high frequencies (v.h.f.)

transmitters have a short range so if spaced well apart don't interfere with one another. It is then feasible to use a bandwidth-hungry but high quality form of transmission based on *frequency modulation*. The carrier has a constant amplitude but its frequency is made to vary in sympathy with the intensity of the audio signal. Again, ordinary detectors won't work but the solution is less expensive than for single-sideband (s.s.b.) modulation.

INVISIBLE COMPONENTS

There is a mystery about your receiver. Since it can be made to oscillate, positive feedback must be occurring. But how? Why should varying VR1 cause signals to be fed back from output to input?

Only TR1 is involved. The feedback is at radio frequencies. It is not from collector to base but from emitter to base. How? Through an invisible connection, formed by the internal impedance of the transistor between emitter and base.

Voltages across VR1 and C2 are fed back through this impedance to the tuned circuit. They get increased by a sort of transformer step-up property of the tuned circuit, which is just as well since the voltage at the emitter is less than the voltage at the base. This sustains the oscillation.

If the inductance of L1 is too large oscillation may only be obtained at the high-frequency end of the tuning range. The remedy is to reduce the number of turns or to reduce C1 (to, say, 150pF).

To be continued

COUNTER INTELLIGENCE

By PAUL YOUNG

The Future . . .

This is the time of year when Old Moore Young attempts to see the future. The delightful thing about forecasting the future is that you can go as far ahead as you wish.

I can imagine that no-one goes to work and we all sit at home and tap out instructions on our computer, with all the manual work being carried out by robots. A start has even been made in the manufacture of cars.

Would the home constructor be able to tap out his requirements on his computer, and would we ever reach the stage where it could all be beamed down and land immediately on his bench, a la "Star Trek"? Then again with the progress of Psychokinetics he would not even have to press the buttons, only to think of the items he required. In time his arms and legs would atrophy, and he would move around in a programmed wheelchair, finally becoming a blob of jelly.

There are a few simple souls that worry about the computer taking us over completely, but just imagine the scientist programming his computer to carry out some original thinking, like discovering penicillin or cracking the D.N.A. code, the double helix, or the composer commanding it to compose a fugue that will excell all J. S. Bach's famous 48.

I will conclude by quoting a few words by Christopher Booker in a recent edition of the *Daily Mail*, talking about a friend. "Until a few years ago he was a brilliant computer expert. Financially, and in terms of job prospects he had the world of electronics at his feet. But he has thrown it all up to spend his time as a builder, as a potter—and looking after his children—for no other reason that he eventually found the glittering world of electronics utterly dead and boring."

Now I don't subscribe to his view and neither, I am sure, do our readers but I do agree with the Irishman who said, "All predictions are unreliable, particularly those dealing with the future," but in case I have depressed our reader's, I decided I would cheer them up by looking backwards instead of forward.

. . . The Past

Looking for a "spark" from the past with an electronics connection that might interest readers is very difficult. But suddenly I have an inspiration, Russian Ambassador I. M. Maisky.

He is particularly appropriate if only for the following reason. Ask any British schoolboy who invented radio and the answer will come back, "Marconi". Ask a Russian schoolboy the same question and he will answer with equal speed, "Popoff".

Now although the Russians may claim to have invented the aeroplane, the internal combustion engine and the telephone, their claim to the invention of radio has considerable substance. Alexander Stepanovich Popoff was transmitting radio messages up to 30 miles in 1898, and it was used by the Russian navy for communications between ships, and ship to shore. The Marchese Guglielmo Marconi established radio communication between France and England in 1899 and in 1901 succeeded in spanning the Atlantic.

In 1936 my father worked for a short time as a humble clerk in the Russian Trading Mission at Bush House, London. Perhaps the O.G.P.U. had a file on him, and noted that he had a son who was a radio technician at Philips. Now their ambassador in London his Excellency Ivan Mikhailovich Maisky had a Philips radio at the embassy and was getting bad interference on his reception from electrical apparatus in the vicinity. I was asked to provide a cure.

So one afternoon in the autumn of 1936 saw me clambering on the embassy roof in Kensington Palace Gardens armed with a long coil of screened cable. Fortunately I was able to greatly improve reception by cutting out the noise and I was asked to demonstrate this to his Excellency who thanked me warmly for my trouble.

SHORT INTERVAL TIMER



BY A. P. DONLEAVY

THIS INSTRUMENT has been designed to measure time intervals of up to one second with a resolution of 0.0001 seconds, and with an accuracy of better than one per cent.

The stop/start can be activated by mechanical, electronic, or photo-electronic means, enabling the instrument to measure pulse widths, the time between two pulses of either polarity (the period), passage times of moving objects, and so on. The display is a 4-digit calculator type i.e.d. display.

CIRCUIT DESCRIPTION

A block diagram of the system is shown in Fig. 1. The incoming pulses are gated to produce the required polarity. Where the interval between two pulses is to be measured, the pulses are fed through a flip-flop. The resulting waveform is shown.

The rising edge of this pulse triggers a reset pulse which zeros the counter. The falling edge of the pulse (the end of the period to be timed) sends a pulse to the latch which then transfers the information in the counter to the display.

The clock oscillator, nominally at 9,999Hz, continuously feeds timing pulses to the counter. Thus the display at the end of the period shows the number of clock pulses counted during the timing pulse. For a 4-digit display, this will be a direct reading of the time in microseconds. The decimal point is to be before the most significant digit.

The reset and latch pulses are of microseconds duration, and therefore do not encroach significantly into the period to be timed.

POLARITY

Fig. 2 gives the circuit diagram. IC1 is a CMOS quad 2-input Schmitt trigger NAND gate. The input is fed in via IC1d and any effect of switch bounce or input signal jitter will be minimised by the switching characteristics of this type of

gate. S1 is set for the appropriate signal polarity, this switch brings in an additional Schmitt gate, IC1c, for the NEGATIVE input pulse position.

The signal is then fed either through IC2 or direct to IC3 depending on the position of S2. IC2 is a dual D-type flip-flop, only one of which is used in this circuit. This flip-flop changes output state every time a rising edge signal is applied to pin 3. So if the time interval between two successive pulses is to be measured, the first pulse will switch the output to high, and the second pulse will switch it to low again, thereby activating the RESET and LATCH pulses in sequence.

RESET

The circuitry associated with S2a (C1 and R2) is designed to put the flip-flop into the right state when initially switched into this mode, by applying a momentary positive pulse to the RESET input pin 4.

The leading edge of the timing pulse is coupled via C3 and R3 to pin 12 of IC4 to produce a momentary RESET pulse. The trailing edge is fed to pins 11 and 5 of IC3, a CMOS dual monostable multivibrator, to produce the LATCH pulse from one of the monostables.

The other monostable has an i.e.d. connected to the output which illuminates when a new reading is made. The i.e.d. remains alight for a period determined by the values of R4 and C4, which for the

given values is a few tenths of a second.

IC1a and IC1b form the clock oscillator to provide the timing pulses. The frequency is set by VR1 and should be 9,999Hz.

The counting, latch and display drive functions are all done by IC4, a 74C925. IC5 contains five individual transistors, four of which are used as current sources for the digits of the display. The display is a dual-in-line (d.i.l.) 4-digit common cathode display for a calculator. The decimal points are not used, since extra circuitry would be required to drive them.

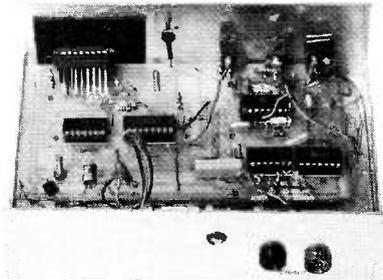
Finally, a stabilised power supply of 5V is obtained using a voltage regulator, IC6. This is necessary to stabilise the frequency of the oscillator and for IC4, which requires a +5V supply. The instrument is driven using a 9V PP3 battery. It can also be driven using a 9V mains adaptor via a suitable socket. The power supply circuit diagram is shown in Fig. 3.

COMPONENTS

IC5 may be replaced by an LM3086, a pin-for-pin equivalent of the CA3046. VR1 should be a multiturn preset potentiometer.

The display used on the prototype is a DL-340M common cathode calculator display. This is a d.i.l. display with four digits, all of which were used in this project. Other displays may be used, the best being d.i.l. for easy mounting. The p.c.b. layout may need to be modified to accommodate different pin configurations. Individual common cathode displays may also be used.

With the exception of C2, the values of the resistors and capacitors used are not at all critical, and the other values may be used. R7 to R13 affect the brightness of the display. Increasing the value will decrease the brightness by reducing the current, but will increase the battery life.



Rear view with top cover removed.

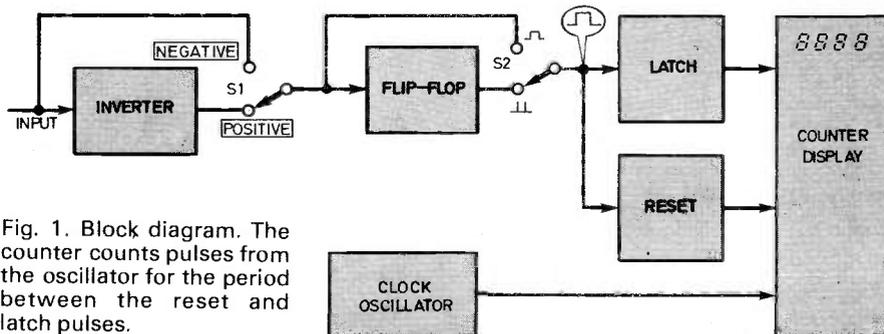


Fig. 1. Block diagram. The counter counts pulses from the oscillator for the period between the reset and latch pulses.

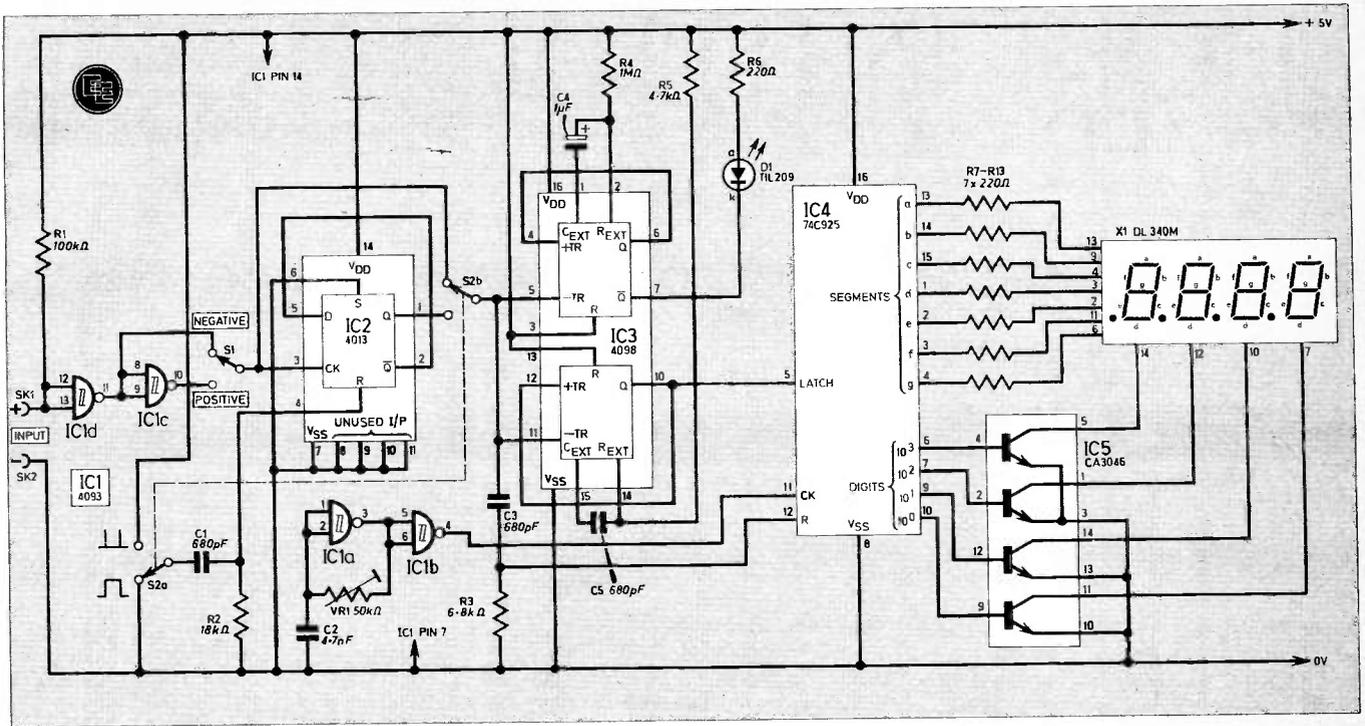
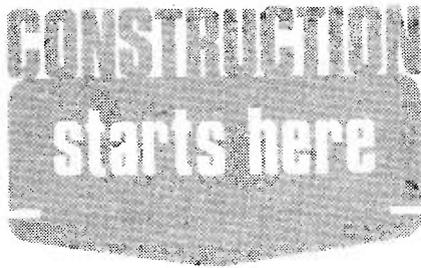


Fig. 2. Main circuit diagram of the Short Interval Timer.



CIRCUIT BOARD

The unit is built on a single sided p.c.b. 138 × 75mm, the layout of which is shown in Fig. 4. Holders are used for the i.c.s as this prevents any soldering damage and facilitates any necessary debugging.

The display is mounted using a special 14-pin d.i.l. holder with both sets of pins bent at 90 degrees to allow the socket to sit at right angles to the board. As previously mentioned, if a different display is used, the p.c.b. connections may need to be altered. This should not be beyond the capabilities of the constructor.

If a multi-digit display is used, for example, from a calculator, this can be mounted behind the front panel of the instrument case and hard wired to the p.c.b. This type of display can have anything up to ten digits of which only four will be used.

CASE

The unit is housed in an aluminium instrument case, 45 × 105 × 150mm, with a vinyl covered lid, a type readily available. The p.c.b. is mounted using

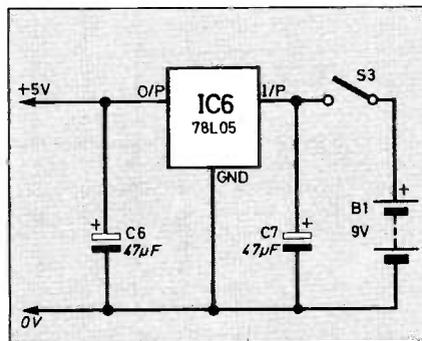


Fig. 3. Power supply circuit diagram. Optional external power socket not shown.

three spacers approximately 13mm long. Holes for the three switches and i.e.d. are drilled on the front panel, and a window for the display approximately 13 × 34mm must also be cut. Ensure that the position of this window is such that the display appears to be central.

The input terminals are two 4mm banana sockets located at the rear of the instrument. If the instrument is also to be powered using a 9V calculator adaptor, a hole for a 2.5mm jack socket will also be required.

The battery is secured to the box by a double-sided adhesive tab. D1 is mounted with the standard black bezel clip.

A red filter is glued to the inside of the front panel to increase the display contrast. The switches are labelled using "Letraset" or similar dry print transfers and secured with a clear varnish to make them more durable.

If a mains adaptor jack socket is used, ensure that the terminals are wired so that

the battery is disconnected when the jack plug is in place and that the polarity is correct.

A diagram showing all interwiring is given in Fig. 4.

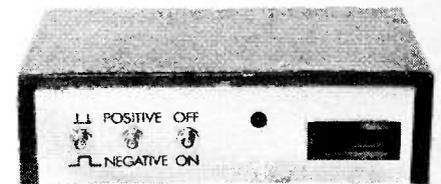
CALIBRATION

If a calibrated frequency source is available, with an 0-10Hz range, then this can be used for calibrating the instrument. With S2 set to measure the time between two pulses, the period is measured. This period is the reciprocal of the input frequency.

So, for example, a known 2Hz signal is applied to the input and VR1 is adjusted until the display reads 5000 (0.5 seconds).

In the absence of a calibrated source, it is possible to use the 50Hz mains frequency. Using the unrectified secondary output of a low voltage mains transformer in the range 5 to 12V fed into the input via a 10 kilohm resistor, adjust VR1 until the display reads 0200 (0.02 seconds).

When using this latter method, the instrument is taking 50 readings per second, and the last digit may appear to change rapidly.



Front view clearly showing the labelling of the three switches.

SHORT INTERVAL TIMER

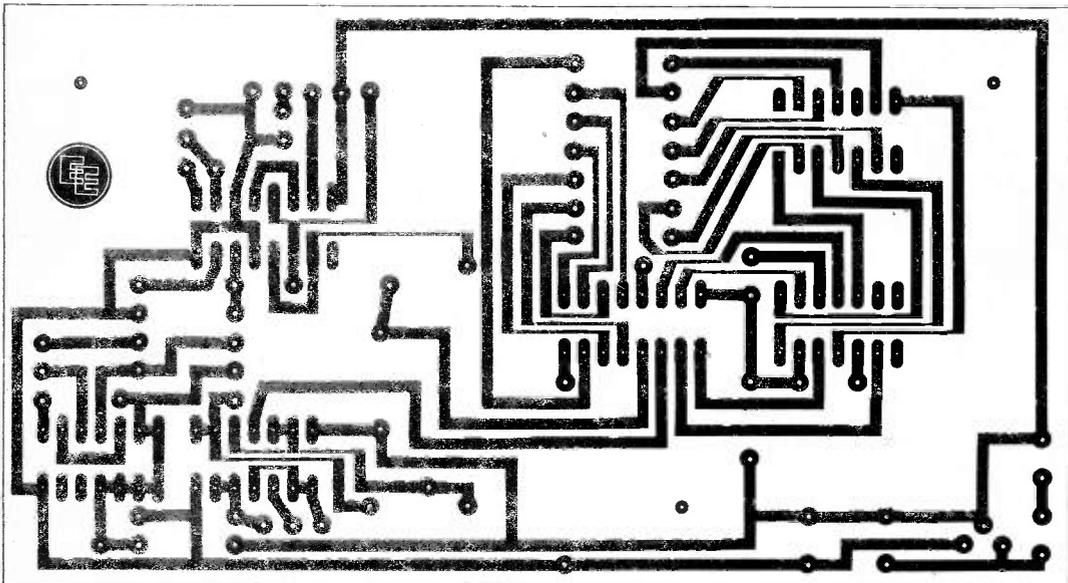
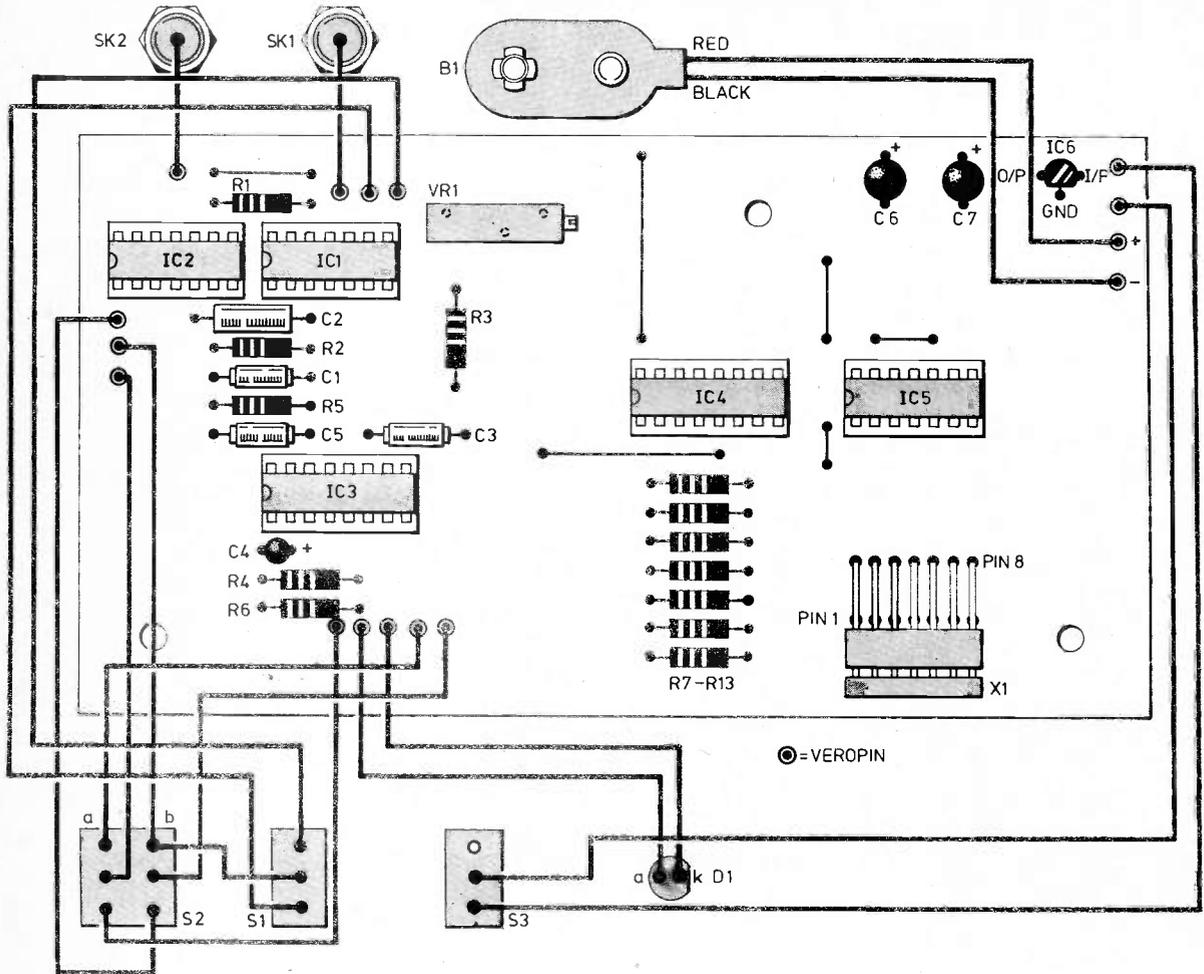


Fig. 4. Full size printed circuit board artwork and component layout. Topside also shows interwiring details. Note that switches are shown as if the front panel had been folded flat.

COMPONENTS

Resistors

R1	100k Ω
R2	18k Ω
R3	6.8k Ω
R4	1M Ω
R5	4.7k Ω
R6-13	220 Ω (8 off)
All	$\frac{1}{4}$ W carbon $\pm 5\%$

See
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Capacitors

C1,3,5	680pF polystyrene (3 off)
C2	4.7nF polyester
C4	1 μ F 6.3V tantalum
C6,7	47 μ F 10V tantalum or electrolytic (2 off)

Semiconductors

D1	TIL209 red l.e.d.
IC1	4093B CMOS quad 2-input Schmitt triggered NAND gate
IC2	4013B CMOS dual D-type flip-flop
IC3	4098B CMOS dual monostable
IC4	74C925 CMOS 4-decade counter/driver with multiplexed 7-segment outputs
IC5	CA3046 or LM3085 silicon npn transistor array
IC6	78L05 +5V, 100mA regulator
X1	DL-340M 4-digit common cathode multiplexed display in d.i.l. package (see text)

Miscellaneous

S1,3	s.p.d.t. miniature toggle (2 off)
S2	d.p.d.t. miniature toggle
VR1	50k Ω multiturn preset
SK1	4mm banana socket red
SK2	4mm banana socket black
B1	9V PP3 battery
Aluminium instrument case, 150 x 105 x 45mm; single sided p.c.b. 140 x 76mm; red display filter approx. 50 x 30mm; battery clip; 16-pin d.i.l. holder (2 off); 14-pin d.i.l. holder (3 off); vertical mounting 14-pin d.i.l. holder (for X1); 7/0.2mm wire; rubber feet (4 off); mounting hardware.	

Approx. cost
Guidance only **£18**

CIRCUIT OPTIONS

The constructor may wish to extend the time range, for example, 0 to 10 seconds. This can be achieved by either changing VR1 or C2. The oscillator frequency is inversely proportional to the resistance and capacitance, so to have a maximum period of 9.999 seconds, C1 would have to be 0.047 microfarads or VR1 would have to be 500 kilohms.

Should more than one range be required, the appropriate number of preset potentiometers will need to be added, and another switch to select the range.

TROUBLE SHOOTING

The following should be of use to identify any problems which may occur when the instrument is first switched on.

The four digits should light, or possibly a random number appear, when first switched on. Any missing digit or segment will be either a wiring error or a fault in IC4 or IC5.

A momentary short of the input terminals should cause D1 to flash (S1 in NEGATIVE position, S2 in PULSE WIDTH position). The new display reading should coincide with this flash. If this does not occur and the oscillator is known to be working, the function of IC4 may be checked by putting pin 5 (LATCH input) of IC4 to V_{DD} .

However it will be necessary to disconnect pins 10 and 12 of IC3. Do this by putting IC4 in another d.i.l. holder and bend pin 5 of this holder out so that it protrudes from the side, and plug into the board socket.

When the new protruding pin 5 is connected to V_{DD} the display will count continuously. If it does not, and assuming the RESET pin 12 of IC4 is at 0V, the i.c. may be considered faulty.

If the timer gives completely wrong readings, then it is likely that there is a wiring error to one or both of S1 and S2.

USING THE TIMER

The polarity of the pulse to be measured must be known before the measurement is taken.

The switches can now be set to the appropriate mode. These are as follows:

To measure the duration (pulse width) of a positive pulse, S1 is in the POSITIVE position (up) and S2 must be down, pointing to the pulse symbol.

To measure the duration (pulse width) of a negative pulse, S1 is switched to the NEGATIVE position (down). S2 is unchanged.

To measure the interval between two positive pulses (the period), S1 is set to the POSITIVE position (up) and S2 is switched to the up position, pointing to the symbol representing two pulses.

To measure the interval between two negative pulses (the period), S1 is simply switched to the NEGATIVE position (down) and S2 is unchanged.

SOURCE IMPEDANCE

If a measurement is being taken from a circuit or piece of equipment with an output impedance of greater than 33 kilohms, then R1 will have to be substituted with a higher value, for example one megohm.

The Short Interval Timer has been designed for pulses of 5V peak and signals of greater amplitude require an additional resistor in series with the input. A 10 kilohm resistor is sufficient, and the reason that it is required is that the input protection diodes on IC1d will start to conduct at voltages greater than the positive supply rail.

PHOTOCELL

If a phototransistor is to be used to trigger the timer, for example a TIL81, then all that is required is to connect the collector to the positive input terminal (SK1) and the emitter to the negative input terminal (SK2). R1 acts as the load resistor for this device and may need adjustment to suit the transistor used.

If the time interval to be measured is the interruption of incident light falling on the phototransistor then the Timer must be set up for the measurement of a positive pulse width.

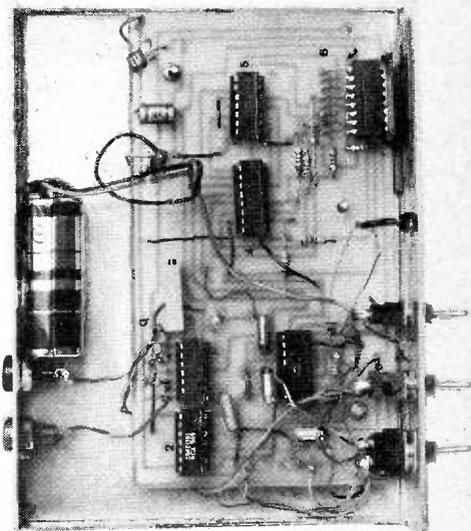
To measure the time interval of light actually falling on the phototransistor, the Timer is set to measure a negative pulse width.

A microswitch can also be used to trigger the timer. In this case the Timer would be measuring the interval of a mechanically moving object which activates the switch. Using the normally open contacts, put in the NEGATIVE position; and for the normally closed contacts, in the POSITIVE position.

APPLICATIONS

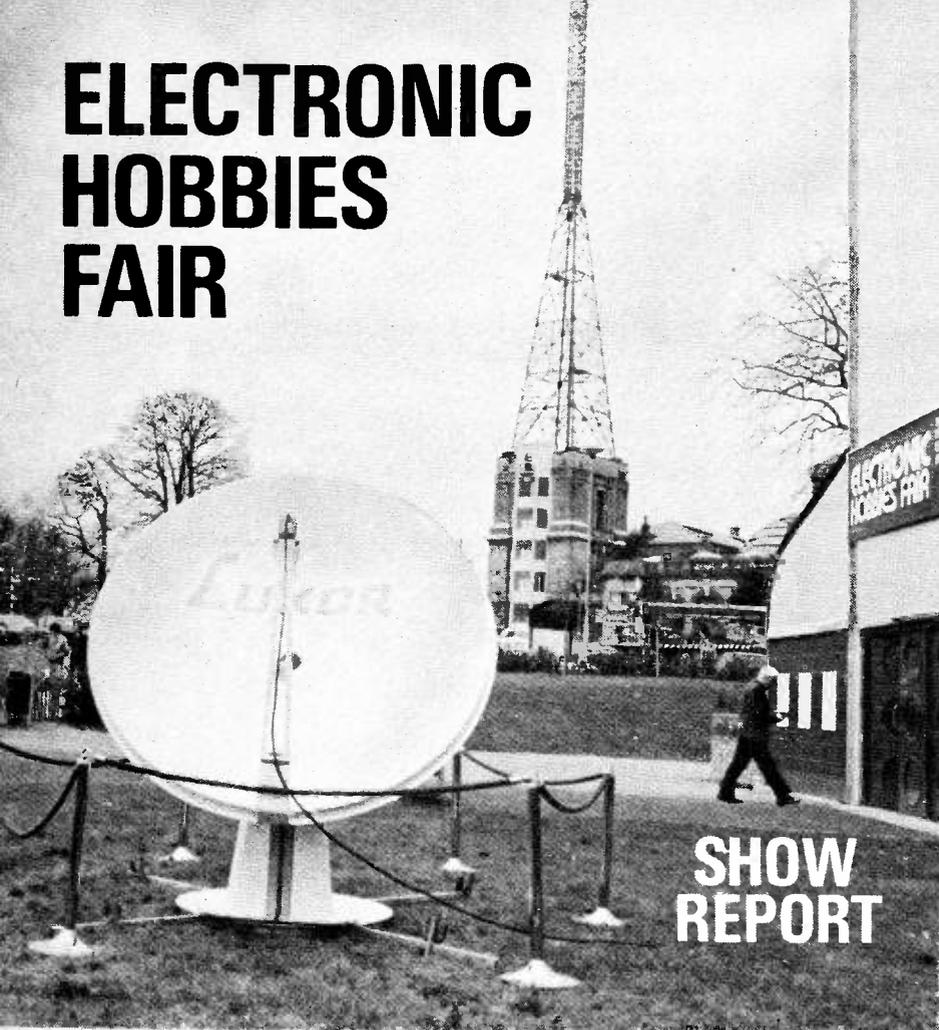
An example is to use a phototransistor to measure the shutter speed of a non-automatic camera. With a light in front of the lens and the phototransistor behind the lens, the shutter speed can be checked for accuracy. The waveform seen by the input would correspond to measuring a negative pulse width.

The Timer can also be used to measure the r.p.m. of a rotating object. For example, a white strip painted or stuck on the rotating object will reflect light to the photocell (held in close proximity) with every revolution, and thus giving a continuously up-dated display of the time between each revolution, which for a constant speed can be converted to r.p.m. by dividing 60 by the time displayed. \square



The finished prototype p.c.b. assembly mounted in the case. This layout differs slightly from that given in Fig. 4.

ELECTRONIC HOBBIES FAIR



FROM the opening of the doors on Thursday, 18th November, the Alexandra Pavilion in North London became a bustling scene with visitors of all ages circulating among the stands which offered a wide range of products from components of all descriptions to complete units and instruments representative of all branches of electronic technology.

SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS

The crowds swelled appreciably on the Saturday and Sunday when the family presence was particularly noticeable. Non-technical members of visiting families soon discovered plenty to amuse and interest themselves amongst the special attractions. Handel's Water Music, Bach's Toccata and Fugue and Jeremiah Clarke's Trumpet Voluntary issued forth at regular intervals from the mighty four manual electronic organ built

by a member of the Electronic Organ Constructors' Society. There was no dearth of volunteer players hence the nearly continual flow of music from this example of the king of instruments.

Ham radio and holography may seem poles apart but they occupied adjoining stands as if to demonstrate how wide and divergent are the activities to be found within the sphere of electronics. Holographic Developments demonstrated 3D holograms and offered for sale products related to this the very latest field for the hobbyist to explore.

Radio is as old as electronics, and the Radio Society of Great Britain carried the banner for this most popular hobby, aided and abetted by two other satellite organisations, the British Amateur Radio Teleprinter Group and the North London Raynet Association. The latter participated actively in guiding fellow hams to the Fair via VHF and UHF links.

ELECTRONIC MILESTONES

Approaching the entrance to the Alexandra Pavilion visitors passed between two metallic objects each highly significant in technology terms. On the left, rising from the East Tower of the old Alexandra Palace, is the mast that radiated the world's first TV service. On the right, on the ground just before the entrance to the Pavilion, stands a 2-metre diameter dish aerial designed to receive Russian national TV programmes from a satellite hovering over the USSR.

Forty-four years of electronic history neatly symbolised by two aerials standing less than 100 yards apart in the grounds of Alexandra Palace, North London.

Nearby the Army had a display of its own very special kind of radio equipment and this was demonstrated by young members of the Royal Signals from the Army Apprentice College. Exhibits included an operational radio station, teleprinter and a "rolling road" on which visitors were invited to ride a bicycle and try their luck at beating the speed record.

Just across the way in a railed off arena, radio was being put to another use by Model Land. Model cars, buggies, helicopters and planes were put through their paces and demonstrated their manoeuvrability at high speed when under the control of a skilful operator.

On the first day Leonard Bliss of Model Land, reported a near disaster when his radio-controlled helicopter went out of control and "crash landed", by providence, on his stand. Damage to the stand was minimal and fortunately they had a standby helicopter to hand.

ROBOTS

Not far away stood a family of life size robots belonging to Advanced Robotics. Now and again the father of the quartet felt the urge to take a wander around the neighbouring area of the Pavilion, and in one instance even ventured outside to greet visitors to the show. During the course of these perambulations he chatted up visitors much to their amazement.

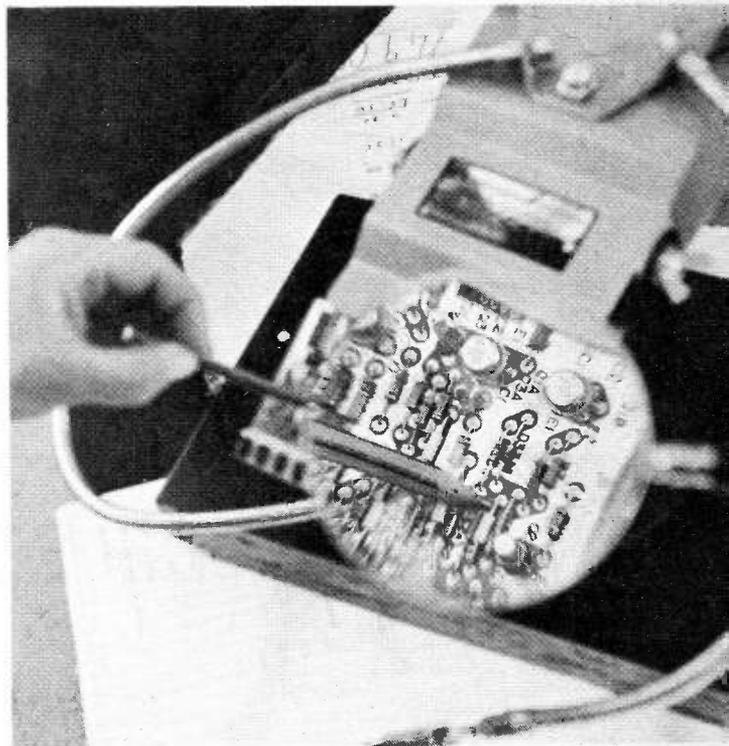
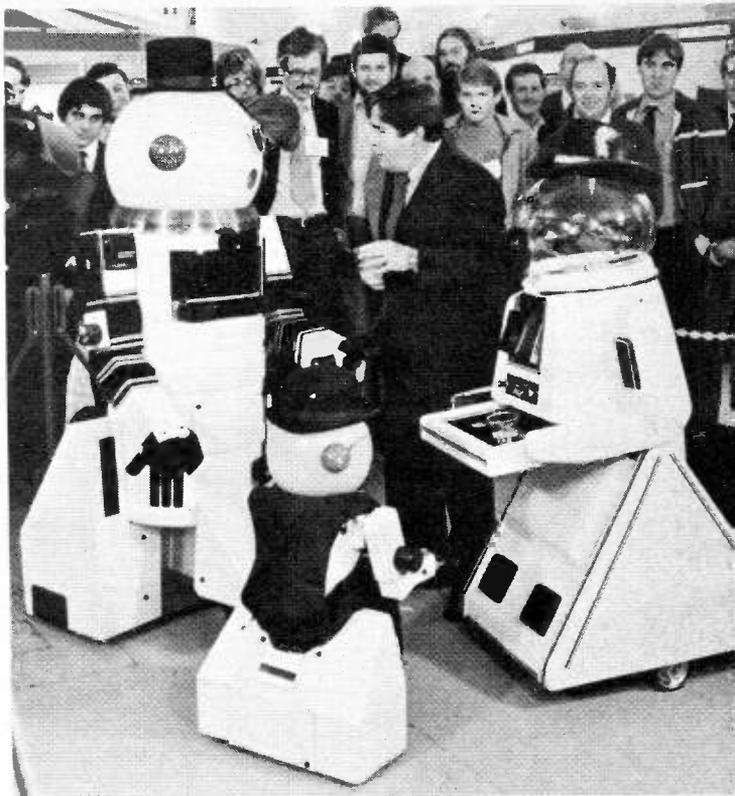
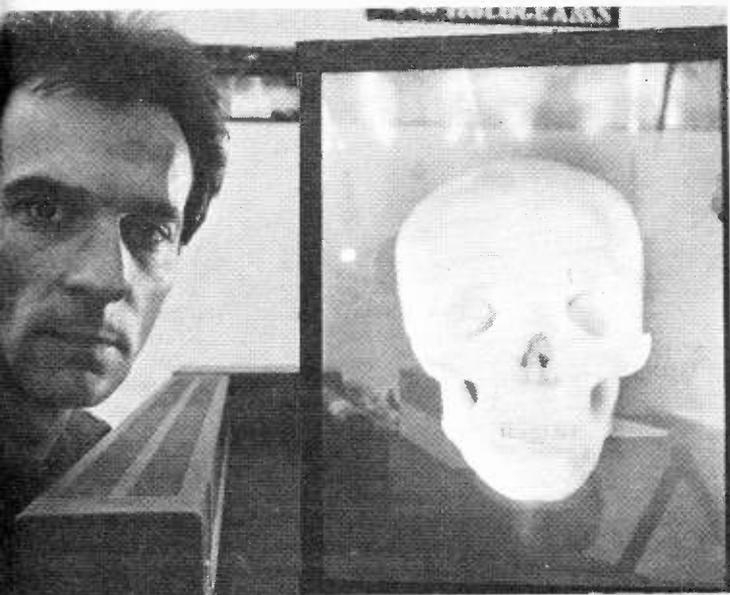
These robots were featured in the ITV programme, "The Six O'clock Show" on the Friday evening. The activities of the outside broadcast unit supplied an added attraction to visitors who stayed on to watch this live telecast from the Fair.

Over on "the other channel" the BBC's important role in education was illustrated by displays of the BBC Computer, electronic teaching modules and other items featured in BBC sound and TV programmes. The stand was crowded most of the time with visitors glued to the demonstration video film monitors.

BBC representative Robin Gwyn said the numbers of visitors and the interesting enquiries concerning the BBC's activities in education was, in his experience, unprecedented. Many parents wanted guidance about computers, often because they felt the need to keep up with their children. Others involved in teacher/parent associations wanted advice regarding suitable computers for schools.

This general view of a thronged aisle indicates the popular appeal of the Fair.





(Top left). Skulduggery by Holographic Developments. Holographer Ken Harris is pictured beside a dramatically realistic 3-D hologram.

(Top right). The family of robots being interviewed during the ITV telecast from the Fair.

(Left). An Army P.E. instructor advises a visitor before she attempts to break the speed record! This racing cycle was linked to a microprocessor to record the rider's speed.

(Above). All is perfectly clear through this magnifier, one of the attachments available for the Absolgen Minibench.



Bargains galore! Brisk business in the market place area.

(Left). The Roadrunner wiring system being demonstrated.

COMPUTERS

Talking of computers, the visitor could scarcely step in any direction without soon encountering the screen of a VDU alive with readout from one of the well-known personal computers.

There was no shortage of eager fingers to manipulate the keyboards, whether a game or a more professional problem was being tackled. It was not uncommon to see a youngster clutching his own hand written program eagerly awaiting the chance to try it out.

Maplin had a particularly impressive array of computers, including Atari, Vic and Dragon modules, and these attracted crowds. Roger Allen of Maplin reported a brisk trade in computers, software and publications.

Amongst other exhibitors featuring personal computers were Electrovalue, Chromasonic Electronics, Midwich, Kansas City Systems, SEDAC and Army Apprentice College, with some selling software and computer accessories.

COMPONENTS AND KITS

The constructor and practising designer or engineer alike had much to feast their eyes on. The whole gamut of electronic components was on display, as well as tools and instruments, materials and cases. If it was a new soldering iron you were after then a visit to the Light Soldering Developments stand was the place to call.

Bargain packs were offered by many components firms.

Calling in on the Bi Pak stand, Bill Baines informed us that apart from component packs, cases and their new ZON X-81 Sound Unit were in big demand.

The ZON X-81 is a sound effects box that plugs directly into the back of the ZX81 home computer. This allows the user to produce such sounds as: helicopters, lasers, explosions, space invaders, and so on.

Electronic kits provide a convenient alternative for the constructor in a hurry as well as for the less experienced to assemble. Some fine collections of kits were on display covering electronic gadgets such as musical doorbells to hi fi

equipment. Vellerman, for example, offered a good selection of kits and furthermore had a working model of each on display so that the intending purchaser could see and try for himself the operation of a completed assembly.

Electronic ignition is still extremely popular judging by the sales reported by Peter Biddle of Sparkrite. Apart from an ignition system, they also market a comprehensive anti-theft device.

CATALOGUES

Apart from cash sales, most retailers disposed of considerable numbers of their catalogues. Taken away by visitors, these will be consulted time and time again in the coming months and many an order will be placed by this means. Indeed, some firms have already reported a large amount of business subsequent to the Fair that must be directly attributed to the selling power of the catalogue.

Maplin inform us they sold a few thousand copies of their mammoth opus. Another household name, Vero Electronics, gave away several thousand copies of their catalogue. Mrs Mary Pearce, who was in charge of their stand, told us they have high hopes of extending the uses of their well-known products as a result.

Talking of follow-ups, Global Specialities were delighted with the large proportion of professional enquiries and business buyers amongst visitors to the Fair. Managing director Tina Knight told us they are confident that large amounts of business will materialise from the nature of the enquiries at their stand.

Global's breadboard system, for one, attracted the attention of the professional and looks like being introduced into more than one industrial R&D department as a result. Global also report lively business in their educational kits. Dads were much in evidence buying these kits for their sons (a likely story!).

Global seized the opportunity (and challenge) offered by their commanding site at the front of the house: a warm introduction to the Fair was induced by the carefully arranged and festively decorated stand.

MARKET PLACE

One corner of the Pavilion was reserved for "small holders" of the electronic retail trade. Trestle tables laden with component goodies of all shapes and forms, and enticing bargain bags of capacitors and the like, attracted crowds.

Everyone likes a rummage, it seems! Except perhaps certain component retailers who felt that business on their stands had suffered as a consequence of the market trading area. The more typical view, however, was that the market area added a desirable touch to the whole scene, and since no-one can obtain *all* his requirements from these less orthodox trading pitches, the retailer with a wide selection of first class components will always be sought out.

WE THREE

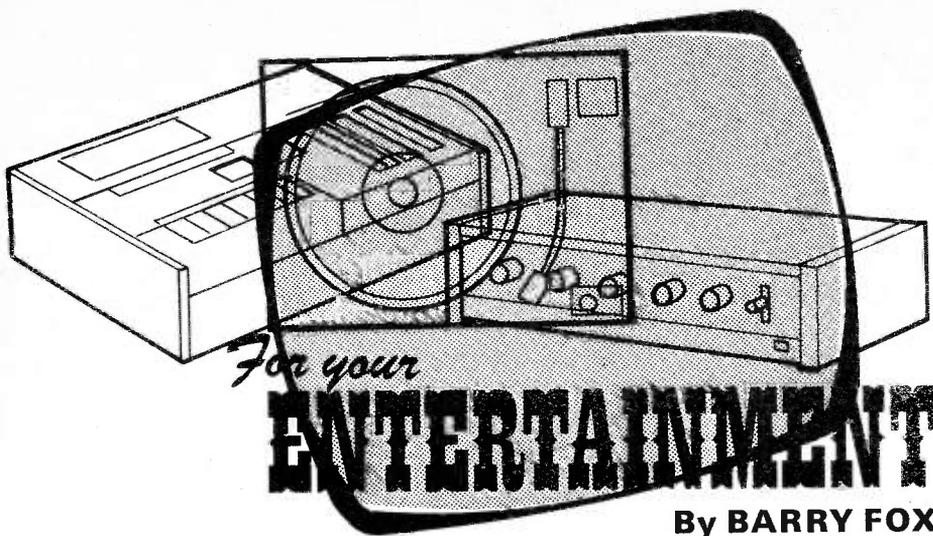
The centre piece in the Pavilion was a large circular stand shared by the three sponsoring magazines, PE, PW and EE. The EE stand featured the *Introducing Electronics* series for the beginner using solderless techniques, and this attracted considerable attention.

Another focal point was a small lathe under the control of the BBC Computer. Here visitors could see a length of plain wooden dowel being machined to a complex shape—the pattern being displayed on the VDU.

The five-digit combination lock provided a source of frustration to countless visitors as they strived to "crack the safe". However, we must congratulate Miss R. Mitchell of Gidea Park, Essex on showing her brother, and others on how it is done.

A new collection of test instruments for the hobbyist, musical effects units, computer add-ons and a variety of miscellaneous pieces of equipment were also on show.

Winning projects were demonstrated on the SEDAC stand by students from the successful schools in last year's competition. Considerable interest was aroused in this national competition for secondary schools sponsored by Mullard Ltd and Everyday Electronics, and requests for entry forms for the 1983 contest were frequent. □



Mysteries Of Hi Fi

A fascinating gadget is being demonstrated by Sony at hi fi shows and trade exhibitions around Europe.

A transparent plastic case stands on a tape-recorder. Inside the case an ordinary audio cassette hangs suspended by a couple of thin black threads.

There's no visible drive for the suspended cassette, no playback heads and no electronic circuitry. But as you operate the controls of the tape-recorder underneath, the floating cassette runs, re-winds, fast winds and produces music through an unseen amplifier and loudspeaker. It's all very eerie.

In fact the demonstration is intended to show off the extraordinary small size of the tape drive mechanism used in a Walkman portable stereo. The two black threads suspending the cassette are electric wires which feed power to a Walkman drive motor attached to the underside of the suspended cassette. You can just see it if you peer underneath and up at the right angle.

The controls of the recorder underneath operate not only the main recorder drive, but also (via the threads) the unseen motor underneath the suspended cassette. So, as the main recorder re-winds, so does the suspended cassette, and so on.

The sound you hear is actually coming from the recorder, not the suspended cassette. So in some respects the demonstration is a phoney. But it's an interesting talking point, and it does prove the point that tape drive mechanisms are now incredibly small.

Jargon Generator

A few years ago I wrote about a computer jargon generator. Now there's a hi fi jargon generator. It's published, but so far only for the benefit of the trade, by Celestion Loudspeakers.

Like all jargon generators it's simple to use. There are three columns of technical terms, each with a number. At random you take one phrase from each column and drop it casually into a sentence.

Celestion reckon that any one of the 9000 permutations of hi fi expertise offered by their generator is enough to silence a hi fi salesman, confuse a friend, or serve as a basis for an impressive letter to a hi fi magazine. Here are a few examples:

"I am having trouble with my (1) transient (2) mosfet (3) bucket brigade". If that doesn't work you could try. "I've now got doubts about (12) digitally processed (16) comb filtered (7) linear interpolation.

Shopping In Tokyo

Digital Audio

I spent a few hours shopping in Tokyo recently, which is always an interesting experience.

Digital audio Compact Discs and players went on sale in early October. It's too early yet to say whether any are actually being bought. The price is low compared to that expected in Britain when Compact Discs go on sale in March 1983.

In Japan the price of a player is under £400 and discs around £7 each. It's likely that players will cost between £500 and £600 in Britain and the discs £10 each.

This is why many people feel that Compact Discs will take longer to take off here than the trade originally expected. It will be too expensive for all but the most dedicated hi fi enthusiast.

Video Disc

The Philips LaserVision video disc system has been on sale in Japan since October 1982. But it is backed over there only by Pioneer and it's very hard for any one company to do anything alone in Japan.

As a result LaserVision hasn't been selling well. This is also one reason why the rival VHD system, developed by JVC and backed by twelve Japanese companies, hasn't yet been launched.

Although many hi fi and video shops in Japan still have Pioneer LaserVision players on working demonstration, they don't seem to attract much interest. Neither, incidentally, did the Compact

Hot Shot

Pooled information will often solve problems you hadn't yet recognised.

Recently a chance remark by a studio engineer raised an interesting question. The studio had built a digital timer and clock from a package of chips. One day one of the junior engineers was idly playing with an anti-static pistol that's kept in the studio to clear the static from gramophone records after they have been wiped clean. He was "playing guns" with the pistol, pointing it close to the clock and squeezing the trigger. Soon afterwards the studio found that the clock wasn't working. All the chips had blown.

No-one will ever know for sure whether it was the ion stream from the pistol that blew the chips or whether there was some quite unrelated fault, like, for instance, a power supply failure. Since then I've tried gunning an old calculator with an anti-static pistol and it's done no damage. But there's a lingering doubt.

Have any readers ever encountered blown chips after using an anti-static pistol near them? If so, let's hear about it and pool information.

It's obviously important because more and more gramophone turntables now incorporate integrated circuits and microprocessors, and many people use anti-static pistols to clear the charge from a disc while it is sitting on a turntable.

Disc demonstrations I saw. But this is probably because many customers in department stores and record shops where Compact Disc is being demonstrated, didn't really recognise the significance of what they were seeing and hearing.

Solar Power

The most interesting gadget I saw was a solar power pack, costing around £25. It's a panel of solar cells, with rechargeable Nickel Cadmium batteries, and in sunshine it delivers enough power to drive a portable radio or cassette player.

One shop was demonstrating it with one of the new portable Sony flat screen televisions. These cost a little over £100 and use a flat, squashed cathode ray tube similar to the type originally proposed by Sinclair of Britain. The rechargeable Ni-Cads keep the set running while the sun goes behind a cloud.

In-Car TV

Probably the daftest new development in Japan, is the craze for in-car television. I saw several electronics shops showing in-car TV systems. One even had a mock-up of a car with a hi-fi stereo and TV installed alongside the driver's seat.

I've always thought that pocket-portable TV's were a pointless extravagance. After, all who wants to watch TV while they are walking down a road. But the idea of anyone watching TV while they drive is really ridiculous.

RADIO WORLD

By Pat Hawker, G3VA

Exit The Pirates?

In *Radio World*—November 1982, in discussing the complex legal maze surrounding so much of our use of modern electronics technology, I observed that the Wireless Telegraphy Acts had fallen into disarray although new legislation was threatened.

Over recent years "pirate" (unlicensed) use of radio transmitters has multiplied many times over. Although there have been a number of successful prosecutions brought by the authorities, these have been rendered very difficult by what amounts to the need to catch offenders "microphone-handed" so to speak.

The 1967 Act, for example, made it illegal to import certain types of 27MHz CB equipment, but there proved to be glaring loopholes in the legislation and there was nothing to prevent the open sale and advertising of equipment that would have been illegal to import in working order or manufacture. Then again the fines imposed on "pirates" have often made it hardly worth the bother of bringing prosecutions.

Piracy

Apart from the continued sale and use of amplitude-modulated CB equipment, and equipment capable of operating outside the 40 UK 27MHz CB channels, there are many other forms of "piracy" including illegal operation that causes interference to broadcast services or other licensed users of radio frequencies.

These include the many "broadcast" stations on both medium-wave and v.h.f./f.m. that can be heard most weekends and evenings in many cities. In London some have been active for many years despite occasional prosecutions and seizure of equipment, often using tapes which are produced openly.

There are also a number of so-called "international Cbers" using modern h.f. s.s.b. transceivers on frequencies between 6600–6700kHz. Then again there are the pirate or "bootlegger" stations who operate inside the amateur bands using the call signs of licensed radio amateurs. (I have had the experience of listening to someone calling CQ de G3VA in execrable morse!)

There are the Cbers who have been infesting the 28 to 29.7MHz amateur band using equipment designed originally for both amateur and CB use, or else modified for this band. There are also a number of misguided individuals who for some five years or so have taken a delight in interfering with and abusing the use of amateur 144MHz "repeaters".

All such pirates may soon be confronted with altogether tougher opposition.

Telecommunications Bill

In November 1982, terms of a new "Telecommunications Bill" were published. This is an extremely long and complex Parliamentary Bill aimed primarily at preparing the way for the "privatisation" of British Telecommunications, abolishing many of its monopoly powers and setting up a Director General of Telecommunications to license firms wishing to provide telecommunications services. But one part of this Bill—Part V, which runs to 150 pages—is concerned with amendments to the Wireless Telegraphy Acts 1949 to 1967 "and to make further provision for facilitating enforcement of these Acts".

While, of course, the Act may be modified during its passage through Parliament, the Bill as published promises to be very tough indeed on pirates and those causing interference to other services. In particular it proposes that the restrictions on specified apparatus should be extended to cover not only use and importation but also:

Manufacture (whether or not for sale). Manufacture is defined as including "construction by any method and the assembly of component parts".

Selling or offering for sale, letting on hire or offering to let on hire, or indicating (whether by display of the apparatus or by any form of advertisement) one's willingness to sell or let on hire.

Having in one's custody or control.

This is thus far more wide ranging than Section 7 of the existing 1967 Act and creates entirely new offences.

It is clearly aimed not only at stopping the sale of equipment which it would be illegal to use—but also at making "possession" of such equipment a breach of the law. It will also be possible to specify equipment by the use to which it is put, rather than the frequencies on which it can operate.

There are clauses relating to seizure and disposal of equipment; arrest without warrant; a clause making it an offence to obstruct intentionally the seizure of equipment.

There is little doubt that if Part V of the Telecommunications Bill becomes law in a few months time it will immensely strengthen the power of the authorities to clamp down on radio pirates and the use of unauthorised frequencies. This is long overdue, although in giving the State so much more power it does, or should, impose on the authorities an equal obligation that the licensing process should be reasonable and fair.

It also strengthens the case for amateur radio "novice" licences and legal low-cost "community" radio broadcasting.

Simple Radio—Costly TV

The advent of video cassette machines combined with rental of tapes (whether "pirated" or genuine) has tended to make viewers forget the very high cost of producing high-quality TV programmes. With VCR it may appear to cost only one or two pounds an hour to have your own programme.

In the talk about 30-channel cable TV networks, and, whether these should be based on co-axial cable or optical fibres, most of the debate has been concerned with the cost of the network. Less attention has been given to the cost of worth while programmes and how much greater these would be than, for example, the making of radio programmes for local stations or national networks.

Production costs for cinema films can amount to millions of pounds for each hour of material; network television drama is costing £100,000 to £200,000 per hour or even more, while production costs of some TV commercials can reach £100,000 for 30-seconds, not including the cost of air-time. By comparison programme budgets for radio are usually modest in the extreme.

One reason is that radio programmes are produced much faster with far smaller production teams and far less hassle.

Recently I had personal experience of this while taking part in various TV and radio programmes. In each case what was required was a brief one-or-two minute session of off-the-cuff replies to questions.

The prime-time TV current affairs programme took up two mornings, including one morning with the full film production crew of eight people. The network radio spot, on the other hand, required a ten-minute visit to my office from a presenter/researcher with his own portable recorder. The local radio recording was a matter of an interview conducted over a noisy telephone line.

With the arrival of the integrated TV camera/recorders such as the RCA "Hawkeye" and the Sony "Betacam" it would in theory be possible to produce TV news and current affairs almost as simply as with radio's portable audio recorder. But there are many reasons why, even with such equipment, production costs are likely to remain far, far higher for TV than radio.

This is one reason why truly local TV is never likely to be possible to full broadcast-quality standards—even a tightly-budgeted TV national programme channel represents £100-million-plus per year in programme costs.

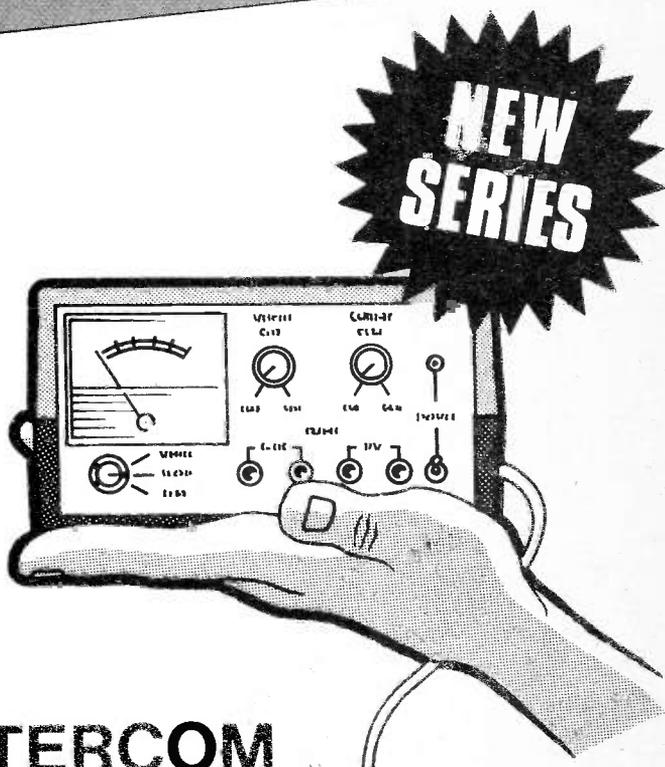
MARCH ISSUE

FREE WIRE BENDING GAUGE
AN INDISPENSIBLE TOOL FOR ANYONE WHO BUILDS ELECTRONIC CIRCUITS

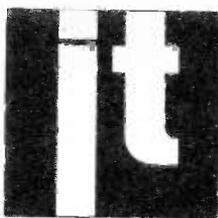
INTRODUCING TEST GEAR 83

An easy and economical way to equip your workshop. Start "collecting" these useful instruments. Full details will be published over the next six months. The first unit appears in the March issue and is a *LABORATORY POWER SUPPLY*. This provides dual outputs to cater for most needs of the hobbyist and experimenter.

- 1) Variable Supply: 0-20V constant current overload protection within range 0-1.2A
- 2) Fixed Supply: 5V 1A specifically designed for powering TTL circuitry.



ALSO
MULTI-CHANNEL INTERCOM
CAR THERMOMETER
EXPANDED KEYBOARD FOR THE ZX81
PLUS
ALL THE REGULAR FEATURES



PART FOUR

BY T.E. IVALL C.Eng., M.I.E.R.E.

ONE method of sending a number of different signals through a single common medium without mixing them up was described in last month's article on carriers. **Frequency division multiplex (f.d.m.)** makes use of the time of occurrence of electrical events (Part 1), as manifested in the different periods of the various oscillation frequencies.

Another technique for achieving the same result—putting byways on to highways, so to speak—uses time intervals more directly. Called **time division multiplex (t.d.m.)**, it is now taking over from f.d.m. in trunk telecommunications and becoming increasingly important in local data transmission.

The whole purpose of multiplexing is to keep line and cable installations fully loaded with information so that they are utilised economically. In this way we save space, materials and money. But first a small digression on the subject of timing.

IMPORTANCE OF TIMING

In your bank account the presence or absence of a mere "0" at a particular position on paper can make a lot of difference to the size of your balance or your overdraft. All digitally represented information is sensitive in this way. When such information is electrically transmitted from place to place, what then becomes significant is the occurrence or non-occurrence of an electrical symbol (for example, voltage or current value) at a particular *time*. Small variations in the value of the electrical quantity itself make no difference at all to the situation: what matters is whether the symbol is there or not there.

So in the digital electronics of IT systems the timing of electrical events is all-important. Indeed it is only through the relative timing of the electrical events that digital signals carry any meaning at all. Some of these relationships are internal to a given item of information. For example, in transmitting sequentially the group of binary digits 1101, the whole

meaning of the group could depend on whether you start with the least significant digit or with the most significant digit.

The timing of the electrical events can also be in relation to some outside time reference such as an electronic clock.

The electronic clock is, in fact, a prominent feature of many digital IT systems. Often in the form of a crystal controlled pulse generator, it measures out the precise intervals of time in which the electrical values representing digits are permitted to occur. It's rather like an orchestral conductor—or more prosaically a metronome—defining the beat of a piece of music and hence the duration of its bars. Into the intervals so defined the performers insert notes and rests (the information) to produce sounds with a formal rhythmical structure and therefore a meaning as music.

Multiplexer for data communications made by Racal-Milgo. This is a statistical multiplexer (see text) which takes data from up to 32 sources and issues the interleaved information sequentially on a single line at speeds up to 19,200 binary digits per second.



TIME SLOTS

A t.d.m. transmission system, as sketched in Fig. 4.1, makes use of these "time slots". It assigns the common path successively to the different signals by allocating different time slots to pieces of these signals. You have a simple mechanical analogy right in front of you. Spread out the fingers of your two hands. The left-hand fingers represent time slots available for signal L (imagine a line across the base of the fingers as the time scale) and similarly the right-hand fingers represent time slots for signal R.

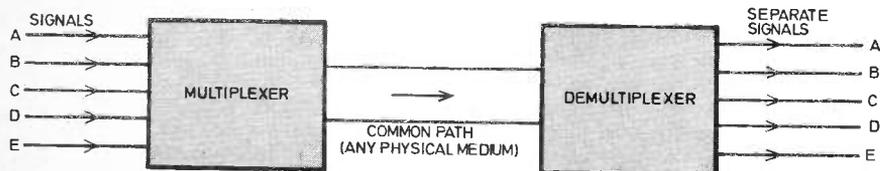


Fig. 4.1. Outline of a multiplex transmission system, for sending a group of separate signals (A to E) along a common path without mixing them up. In time division multiplex, portions of the separate signals are taken in turn, interleaved and transmitted in a continuous sequence along the common path.

Place your two hands together so that the fingers of one hand are positioned between the fingers of the other. The finger time slots are now interleaved and so provide the timing conditions for multiplexing signals L and R.

INTERLEAVING

A rather more advanced analogy will show the interleaving of more than just two signals. Imagine the heads of several garden rakes laid on a table with the prongs pointing upwards. Line them up one behind the other so that the sets of prongs are staggered with respect to each other, as shown in Fig. 4.2(a). If you now view all the prongs from the side at table level they will appear interleaved as shown in (b).

What emerges clearly from (b) is that the time slots available for each individual signal are spaced some distance apart on

the analogue of the time scale. How, then, can they be used to convey the information in the signal?

If we want to send an analogue signal like a speech waveform, it can be sampled at intervals corresponding to the occurrence of the time slots for that signal (see discussion on pulse code modulation in Part 2). But the t.d.m. system must be designed so that for each signal the intervals between time slots, and hence the sampling rate, will convey all the information we require (see relevant footnote in Part 2).

If, however, the signal consists of discrete binary digits, as in data transmission, this digital data can be generated at a rate that fits into the time slots available in the t.d.m. system (for example, eight digits per slot).

Figure 4.2 is only a rough analogy. In using the rake prongs to represent the time slots it suggests, wrongly, that there are gaps between the t.d.m. time slots. In reality the time slots follow directly after each other. In Fig. 4.2 you could convey this continuity by imagining the gaps to

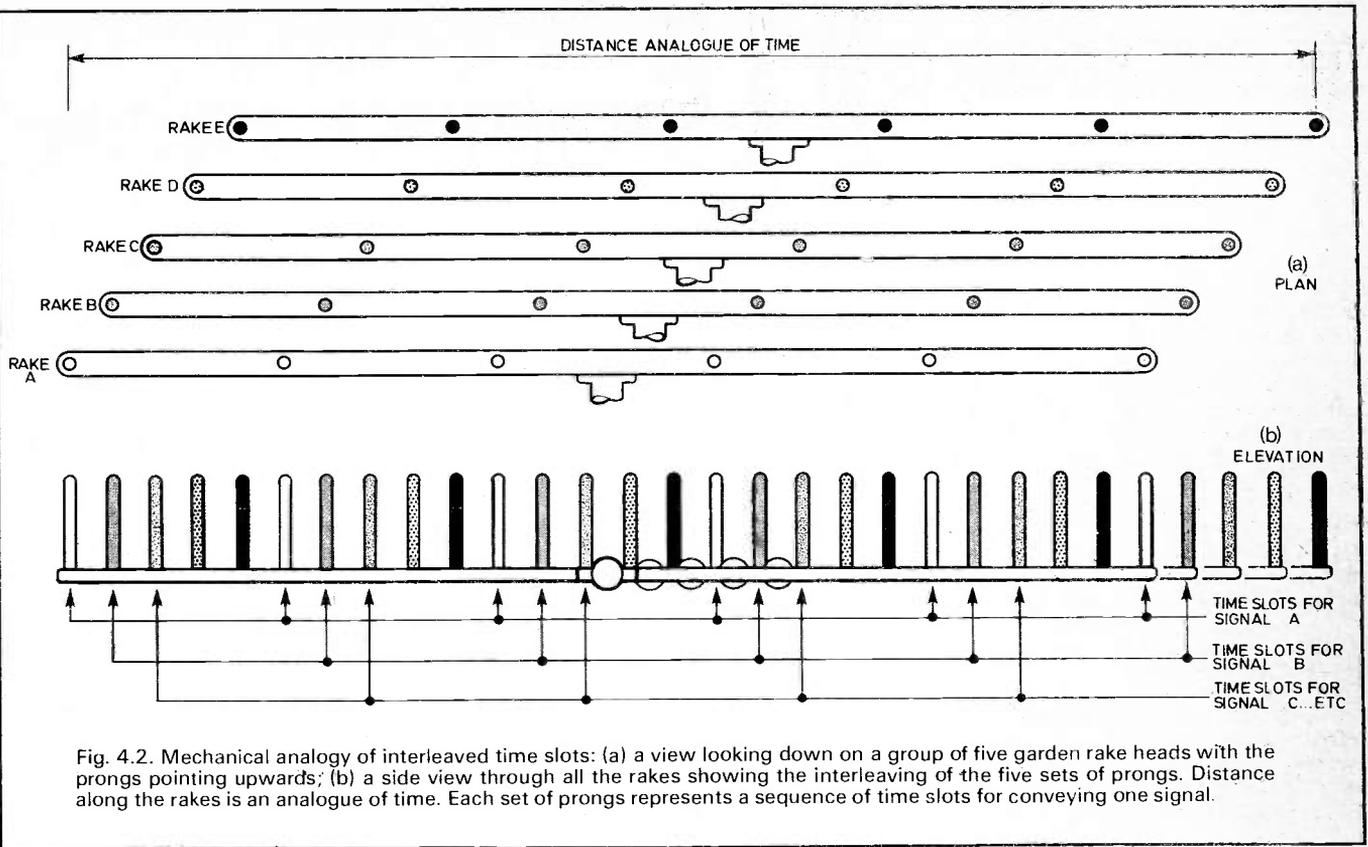


Fig. 4.2. Mechanical analogy of interleaved time slots: (a) a view looking down on a group of five garden rake heads with the prongs pointing upwards; (b) a side view through all the rakes showing the interleaving of the five sets of prongs. Distance along the rakes is an analogue of time. Each set of prongs represents a sequence of time slots for conveying one signal.

be completely closed up by fatter prongs—or more rakes. The actual electrical conditions on the common path of a t.d.m. transmission system are something like Fig. 4.3—though the voltage steps will not be so sharp, for reasons to be explained later in the series.

ELECTRONIC HARDWARE

But how are the time slots shown in Fig. 4.3 actually established in the electronic hardware? It is simply a matter of switching the common path in Fig. 4.1—whether twin-wire circuit, coaxial cable or optical fibre—to carry a piece of each signal in turn. The highway scans the byways, accepting their offerings one by one.

The principle can be illustrated by the analogy of a railway with a single-track section which takes trains coming from the “up” and “down” pairs of lines. This is operated by points, shown as selector switches in Fig. 4.4. Imagine, however, that the arrangement is not being used normally for trains going in opposite directions (trains *P* and *X*) but for trains going in the same direction (trains *P* and *Q*).

For the time that the points are switched to line 1 as shown, train *P*, representing an encoded signal sample, can travel from one end of line 1 to the other. This is one time slot. When train *P* has completed the single track part of its journey, both sets of points are switched over to line 2. For the time they are in this position, train *Q*—representing a piece of

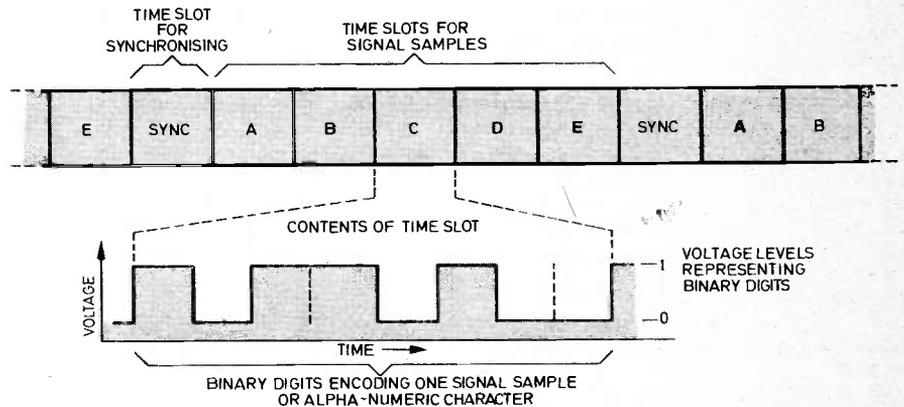


Fig. 4.3. Successive time slots for portions of the five signals A to E in Fig. 4.1, with one extra slot per group to carry synchronising information. Each signal's time slot contains a group of binary digits formed from two voltage levels. These groups are binary coded samples of analogue signals (for example voice) or codes for alpha-numeric characters (for example data transmission).

another signal—can travel along the common track in a similar way. This is another time slot.

And this imaginary railway could of course be extended to allow the common single track to take trains from further lines, as indicated by the chain lines in the diagram. The right-hand set of points acts like the de-multiplexer in Fig. 4.1.

So the time slots are defined by the actions of the points at each end of the single-track section. In the real t.d.m. system the time slots are similarly defined by electronic switches at both ends of the common highway in Fig. 4.1. But to

make sure that all the pieces of signals go to their right destinations (for example, that train *P* goes back on to line 1 and is not switched to line 2) the two electronic switches must work in exact synchronism.

SYNCHRONISING

In Fig. 4.4 the two sets of points could be automatically operated together, at regular intervals, by a common electrical equipment controlled by a clock, as shown at the bottom of the diagram. The t.d.m. system in fact uses its electronic

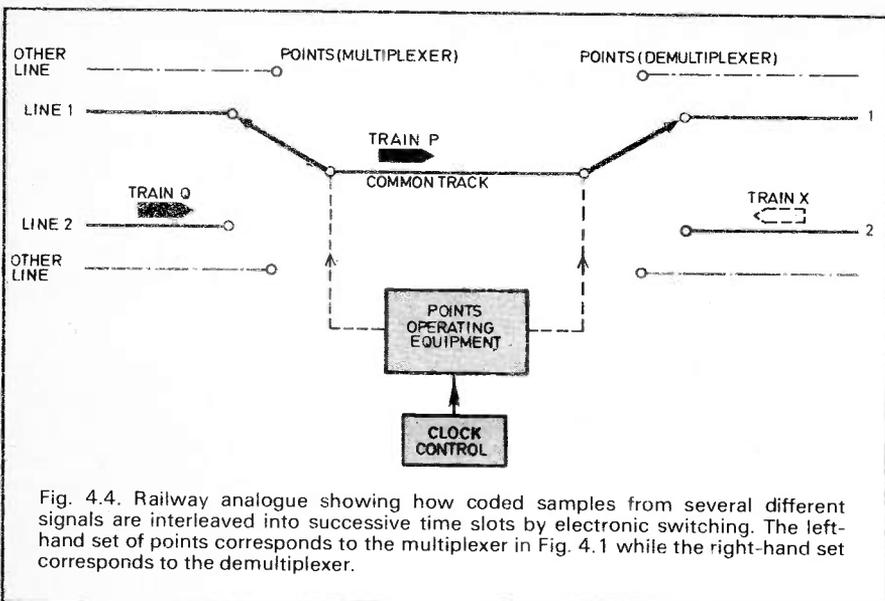


Fig. 4.4. Railway analogue showing how coded samples from several different signals are interleaved into successive time slots by electronic switching. The left-hand set of points corresponds to the multiplexer in Fig. 4.1 while the right-hand set corresponds to the demultiplexer.

clock to synchronise the switches. This process takes the form of synchronising pulses sent along the common path by time division multiplexing just as if they were portions of actual signals, as shown in Fig. 4.3.

In telecommunications this t.d.m. principle is employed throughout the world for pulse code modulation trunk transmission systems (see Part 2). More locally it is being used to allow a number of terminals to work into a remote computer via a single telephone line. A "statistical multiplexer" is one that takes advantage of any inactivity in signals to fill up the otherwise empty time slots with information from other, active signals, thereby increasing the number of signals that can be multiplexed for a given rate of transmission along the common path.

BUSES AND INTERFACES

To transmit information between electronic units we must make sure that what comes from the output of one unit is effective as an input for another unit. It is not only a matter of getting the wires, plugs and sockets right but ensuring that

the electrical representation of the information on these conductors is compatible with the functioning of the units connected. If communication is to be achieved the "talker" must first make himself heard to the "listener". Then he must use a language that the listener can understand.

If a single manufacturer designed and produced all the units concerned he could make sure of these requirements himself. But because IT equipment is introduced by different firms at different times in the development of the technology there is a real problem to deal with. For example, we might need to connect together a computer, modems (Part 3), a multiplexer and several terminals of different kinds—all of which could come from different makers.

STANDARD INTERFACE AND BUS

A sensible way of dealing with this problem is to have a standardised method of connection and information transmission that will cover all eventualities. This is the reason for the emergence of the

standard interface, as it is called, for connecting separate units, and the standard bus*, for connecting internally the different parts of a single equipment.

Typically, the interface is used for connecting terminals to a computer, while the bus is used inside a computer to transfer information between its central processor, its memory and its input and output devices. (The distinction between them is not rigid, however. One widely used connecting system, for example, is called the General Purpose Interface Bus.)

But because technology develops as an historical process influenced by commercial pressures, there is no single standardised interface and no single standardised bus. Instead we have a number of "standard" interfaces and buses, most of them originated by manufacturers or their trade associations. Nevertheless a few of them have been accepted world-wide and ratified by international bodies—which helps to avoid the utter confusion that would otherwise occur.

Although buses and interfaces can be very complicated in their electrical and mechanical detail they are simple in principle. They all depend on the three aspects of an electrical quantity—magnitude, position and time of occurrence—that are used throughout IT to represent and convey information (see Part 1). The position of the electrical quantity is, of course, the particular conductor on which it occurs; the magnitude is, typically, a voltage or current; and the time of occurrence is when that voltage or current acts as an electrical symbol.

In this article we are mainly concerned with digital information. For analogue signals it certainly helps to standardise your system of connection between units, but the magnitude and time aspects of the electrical quantity are not so critical. One need only specify ranges of, say, amplitude and frequency to transmit information successfully between units.

SERIAL AND PARALLEL SYSTEMS

So in digital systems, magnitude, position and time are manipulated by engineers to produce different kinds of "standard" buses and interfaces. For practical and economic reasons two main groups have emerged: serial and parallel. In serial systems the different magnitudes of the electrical quantity are sent one after the other. In parallel systems the different magnitudes are sent simultaneously.

As an analogy, consider the process of reading this magazine. The individual words (or perhaps small groups of words) forming a sentence enter the eye and brain serially. When one looks at a diagram, however, the component parts of its two-dimensional pattern are perceived simultaneously—in "parallel".



Videotex systems (formerly called Viewdata in the UK) send digitally-encoded information along telephone lines using the serial method shown in Fig. 4.5(a). This videotex business terminal made by Pye TMC can be used with the public Prestel service or in private information retrieval systems. (In Prestel, digital information is sent from the computer data base to the terminal at a rate of 1200 binary digits per second; from terminal to data base at 75 binary digits per second.)

* The term "bus" is of course an abbreviated form of the Latin *omnibus*, meaning "for all" (cf. "busbar" in electrical engineering).

For serial transmission only one electrical circuit is needed to connect electronic units—the type of simple information path discussed in Part 3. For parallel transmission there have to be several such circuits between the units. Fig. 4.5 is a comparison between these serial and parallel methods of representing and conveying an item of information—here a number, or other character, encoded as the binary digits 1011.

In the serial case (a) the electrical magnitudes representing these four digits can only be sent one after the other through the single circuit connecting Units A and B. In the parallel case (b), however, all four electrical magnitudes representing the digits can be sent simultaneously on the four circuits (which share a common return conductor) between Units C and D.

So if each of the successive electrical symbols for the digits has a duration of 1 microsecond, the serial system (a) will take 4 microseconds to send the whole character while the parallel system (b) will take only 1 microsecond to send it.

This illustrates the general point that serial systems are slower in transmitting information than parallel systems. But in practice the single circuits of serial systems are extremely useful as interfaces because our existing telephone networks, both public and private, usually end up in simple pairs of wires running to individual instruments in homes, offices and factories. These single pairs are used in IT, for example, to connect terminals to distant computers or to connect facsimile machines to each other.

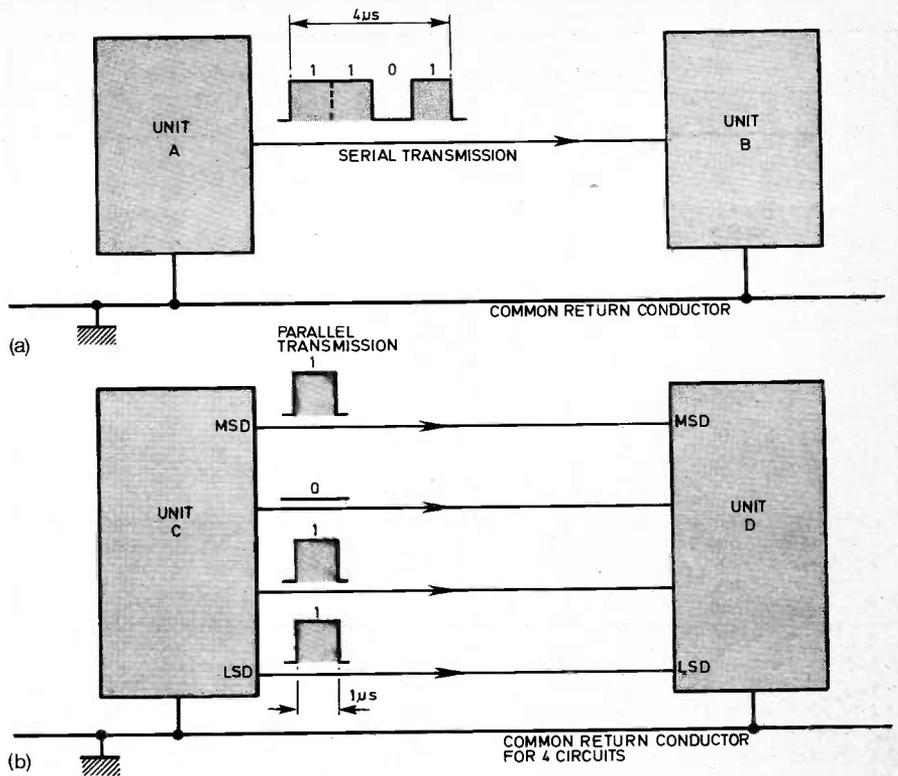


Fig. 4.5. Two ways of transmitting the group of binary digits 1011 between units: (a) serial transmission on a single circuit, the electrical values representing digits following one after the other; (b) parallel transmission, with the four electrical values sent simultaneously on four separate circuits. Assuming equal durations of digit signals, (b) is much faster than (a). Note in (a) that the least significant digit (l.s.d.) is sent first and the most significant digit (m.s.d.) last.

SHORT DISTANCES

Where the distances between units are short and the cost of installing many parallel circuits is not very high, the system in (b) can be utilised, to take advantage of the high speed of information transmission it allows. In practice this means connections within a machine (for example, a computer) or within a room (example, test instruments working automatically together). The multiple conductors required are sometimes on printed circuit boards, sometimes in flat flexible cables.

Associated with these interfaces and buses one finds electronic devices which allow serial information to be converted to parallel information and vice-versa. An integrated circuit commonly used for this purpose is the "universal asynchronous receiver-transmitter (u.a.r.t.)".

Figure 4.5(b) could be an elementary bus. Practical buses in IT are, however, extremely complicated devices. One commonly used in microcomputers, for example, has 100 conductors altogether. Some of its circuits carry encoded characters (data), some convey encoded information on the storage locations of characters (addresses) and others carry control signals.

A bus provides a means for several different units to be connected to a common

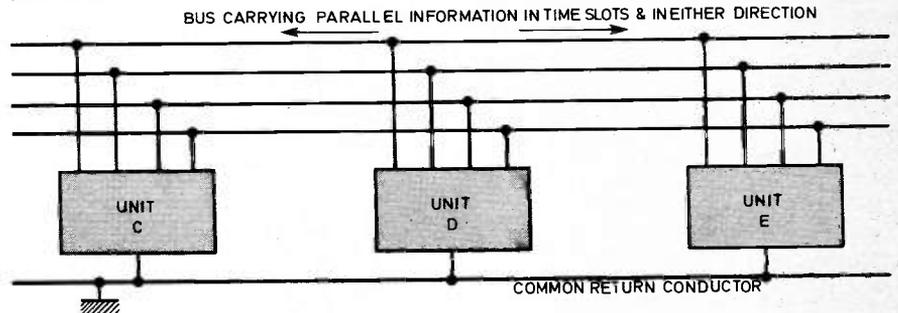


Fig. 4.6. Parallel connections between Units C and D in Fig. 4.5(b) are here extended to a further electronic unit, Unit E. The connections become a bus, or common highway, which, by suitable time-sharing arrangements, can carry parallel information in either direction between any of the units. More units could be connected to the bus on the same principle.

highway, as shown in Fig. 4.6, allowing two-way transfers of parallel information (in Fig. 4.5(b) form) between the various units. But electrically only one transfer can take place at a time, so there have to be careful arrangements for time sharing using clock-defined "time slots" as described earlier.

MICROPROCESSORS

Within a microprocessor, for example, where parallel information is continually being transferred between storage registers, a bus is electronically switched, in each time slot, to connect the output of one register to the input of another register. Buses are essential to IT systems using microprocessors, partly because these devices are designed to work with parallel information and partly because

the small physical size of integrated circuits limits the number of pins that can be put on them and so makes the time sharing of a common set of conductors absolutely necessary.

Even a standard interface based on the serial principle in Fig. 4.5(a) can be quite complicated in practice, as conductors for sending characters are not sufficient in themselves. Other circuits, carrying monitoring and control signals, are needed to ensure that the units at each end—say teleprinters—are in proper electrical contact and operating in synchronism (compare with time division multiplex). As an example, the V.24 international standard serial interface (known also as RS232C in the USA) provides 25 conductors to cope with all the functions that may be required.

To be continued

Everyday News

HEADACHE CURE

A unique new instrument from Canada promises to assist sufferers from tension headaches and is now being marketed in the UK.

Working on biofeedback principles, the Antache instrument has been developed for research, clinical and home use. It consists of a pair of headphones and electronic circuitry to which is attached an elasticised headband and electrodes.

In operation, the Antache continuously monitors and averages the wearer's electromyogram (EMG) and converts it into a pleasantly modulated tone. Using the pitch of this tone as a guide, it is claimed that the user soon learns how to relax the muscles in the scalp, face and neck which, when they become too tense, bring on the symptoms of tension headaches.

Providing the headache condition has first been diagnosed by a medical doctor and provided, too, that the doctor has approved the use of the device for the patient concerned, the Antache is quite safe for use in the home.

The major advantage of using biofeedback principles for the treatment of headaches is that, unlike drugs, there are no side effects and the user is not restricted in his activities immediately following treatment.

For more details of the Antache, readers should contact: Beam Components Ltd., Dept. EE, 108 High Street, Strood, Rochester, Kent ME2 4TR.



Video games Shock

Video games help kids co-ordinate manual and visual skills. No doubt. But games manufacturers in the USA are reeling after a shock attack by opponents who claim on psychiatric grounds that as most kids prefer violent rather than educational games, they breed acceptance of violence as the norm.

OVERTAKEN

Cars, until now the largest in money terms of Japanese imports into the UK, have been overtaken by video-cassette recorders. But discussions between the UK Department of Industry and Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry may result in establishment of manufacturing plants in the UK, possibly as joint ventures with UK companies, in the hope of stemming the import flood.

LASER-FI

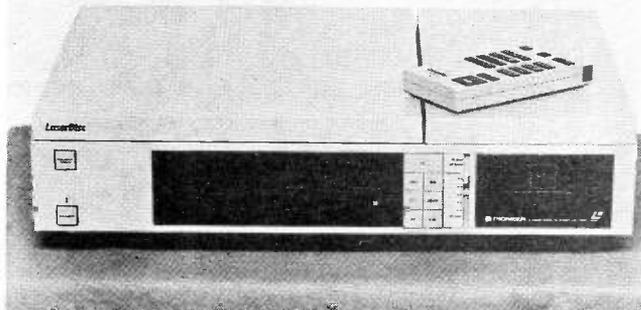
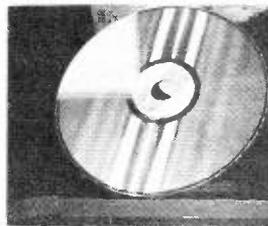
Playing your favourite pop or classical disc takes on a new meaning with the announcement from Pioneer of the introduction of the Laser-Disc LD1100 player.

Launched just in time for Christmas, the new player uses a laser beam to read a special disc and reproduce both hi fi stereo sound and "action" video pictures. It is claimed that the sound reproduction is on par with, or better than, f.m. radio and that picture quality is equal to "off-air" broadcasts.

Over 54,000 individual video frames are contained on each side of the acrylic encased disc and a random access facility enables the user to locate and "freeze" any individual frame. Slow motion operation is also possible.

Unlike the audio stylus the optical laser system makes no physical contact with the disc so there is no deterioration in sound or visual quality, no matter how many times the disc is played.

Additional user benefits claimed for the player include a CX noise reduction system and the facility to link with teletext and interface with computers.



Cash Mountains

Leading British electronics manufacturers continue to beat the recession with growing order books and even money in the bank. Biggest cash mountain is at GEC with more than £1 billion. In comparison Plessey's liquidity is more like a molehill at £180 million following a 30 per cent rise in profits.

Cash in hand means takeover possibilities such as Plessey's recent acquisition of Stromberg Carlson in the USA.

Solar Flight

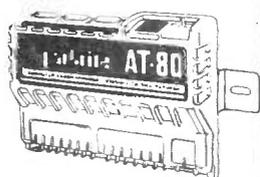
Lockheed Missiles and Space is reported to have developed an aircraft powered entirely by solar cells.

With a wing span of up to 300ft with the upper surface covered with solar cells it is claimed to fly non-stop for months at an altitude of 70,000ft. Payload is only 100lb, sufficient for a spy-in-the-sky camera and associated radio telemetry and control equipment.

Step-by-step fully illustrated instructions and fitting instructions are included together with circuit descriptions. Highest quality components are used throughout.

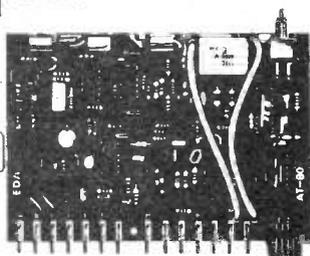
Sparkrite

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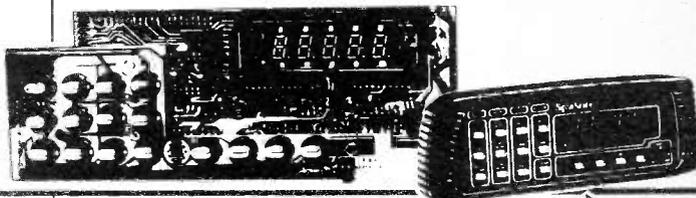
AT-80 Electronic Car Security System

- Arms doors, boot, bonnet and has security loop to protect fog/spot lamps, radio/tape, CB equipment
- Programmable personal code entry system
- Armed and disarmed from outside vehicle using a special magnetic key fob against a windscreen sensor pad adhered to the inside of the screen
- Fits all 12v neg earth vehicles
- Over 250 components to assemble



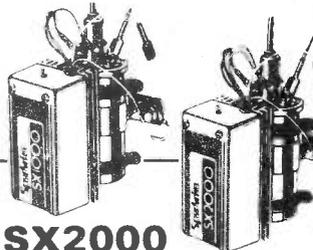
VOYAGER Car Drive Computer

- A most sophisticated accessory
 - Utilises a single chip mask programmed microprocessor incorporating a unique programme designed by EDA Sparkrite Ltd
 - Affords 12 functions centred on Fuel, Speed, Distance and Time
 - Visual and Audible alarms warning of Excess Speed, Frost/Ice, Lights-left-on
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 - Unique speed and fuel transducers giving a programmed accuracy of + or - 1%
 - Large LOG & TRIP memories, 2,000 miles, 180 gallons, 100 hours
 - Full Imperial and Metric calibrations
 - Over 300 components to assemble
- A real challenge for the electronics enthusiast!



SX1000 Electronic Ignition

- Inductive Discharge
- Extended coil energy storage circuit
- Contact breaker driven
- Three position changeover switch
- Over 65 components to assemble
- Patented clip-to-coil fitting
- Fits all 12v neg. earth vehicles



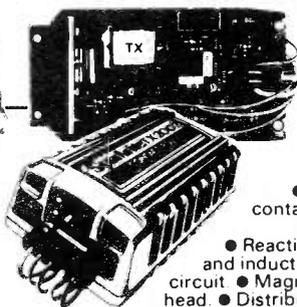
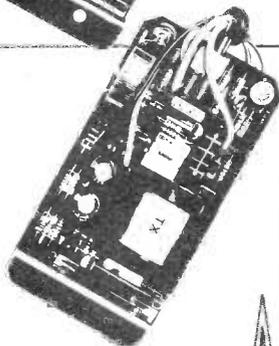
TX1002 Electronic Ignition

- Contactless or contact triggered
- Extended coil energy storage circuit
- Inductive Discharge
- Three position changeover switch
- Distributor triggerhead adaptors included
- Die cast weatherproof case
- Clip-to-coil or remote mounting facility
- Fits majority of 4 & 6 cyl. 12V. neg. earth vehicles
- Over 145 components to assemble.



SX2000 Electronic Ignition

- The brandleading system on the market today
- Unique Reactive Discharge
- Combined Inductive and Capacitive Discharge
- Contact breaker driven
- Three position changeover switch
- Over 130 components to assemble
- Patented clip-to-coil fitting
- Fits all 12v neg. earth vehicles



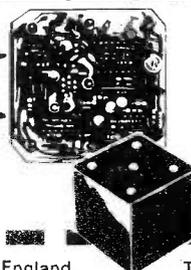
TX2002 Electronic Ignition

- The ultimate system
- Switchable contactless
- Three position switch with Auxiliary back-up inductive circuit
- Reactive Discharge. Combined capacitive and inductive
- Extended coil energy storage circuit
- Magnetic contactless distributor triggerhead
- Distributor triggerhead adaptors included
- Can also be triggered by existing contact breakers
- Die cast waterproof case with clip-to-coil fitting
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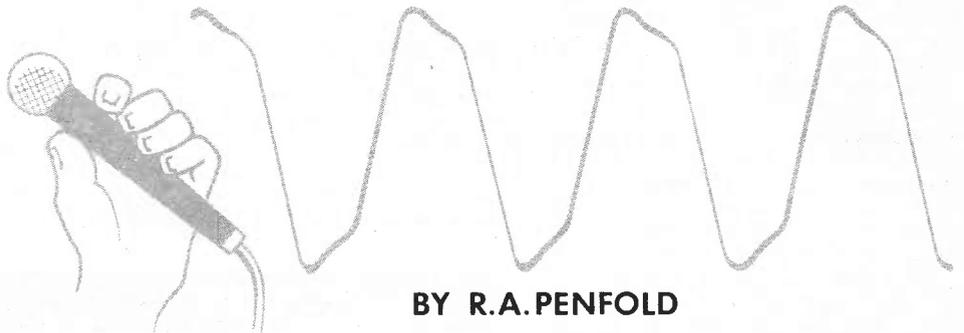
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Speech Processor



BY R.A. PENFOLD

**BOOSTS AVERAGE LEVEL OF SOUND WITHOUT INCREASING PEAK LEVEL
SUITABLE FOR CONNECTION BETWEEN MICROPHONE AND AMPLIFIER**

A SPEECH processor is a device which is used to process a speech signal in such a way that the strength of the signal is effectively boosted without any increase in the peak level of the signal.

Units of this type rely on the fact that a speech signal has a rather high peak level when compared to the average level, and the increase in "talk power" can be obtained by boosting the signal but clipping the peaks so that there is no increase in the peak level. Thus the peak level remains unchanged, but the average signal level is greatly boosted, and the volume of the signal is effectively boosted by a substantial amount.

Speech processors are mainly used in communications equipment; sometimes as an integral part of a transceiver, and sometimes as an add-on unit which connects between the microphone and the transceiver. Speech processors can also be used to good effect in other types of equipment, such as a public address system.

The unit described here is a reasonably simple but effective device which is battery powered, and is simply connected between the microphone and the transceiver or other equipment. It is intended for use with a high impedance dynamic microphone or an electret type, having a built-in step-up transformer, and this should present no problems since most communications and PA microphones are the high impedance dynamic type.

PROCESSOR SYSTEMS

There is more than one way of obtaining the limiting of signal peaks, and one method is to use a form of automatic gain control circuit. Here the processor adjusts the level of gain so that it is automatically reduced during periods of high dynamic level and increased during periods of low dynamic level.

This obviously gives the required narrowing of the difference between the peak and average signal amplitudes, but the circuit must be designed to respond very rapidly to changes in signal level if it is to be of real benefit. This can easily result in the signal waveform being seriously distorted with a lot of distortion being evident on the output signal.

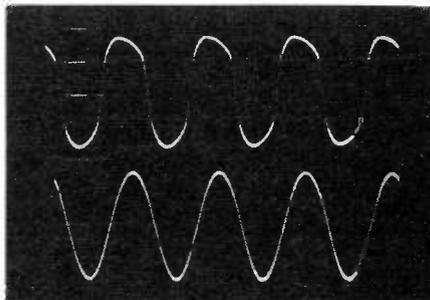
Slower response times give reduced distortion, but also give a reduction in effectiveness. Of course, a certain amount of distortion is quite acceptable in this application, but more than several per cent distortion would impair the intelligibility of the processed signal and obviously reduce the benefit of the unit.

DISTORTION REDUCTION

A very simple method of speech processing is to use a clipping circuit which prevents the output signal voltage from exceeding a certain level. The circuit is adjusted so that most of the signal is below the clipping level and is unaffected by the unit, but so that the high signal peaks are held down and kept well below their normal level.

This system has the advantage of simplicity plus instant attack and decay

Upper Trace: Soft-limited sine wave.
Lower Trace: 800Hz sine wave input signal.



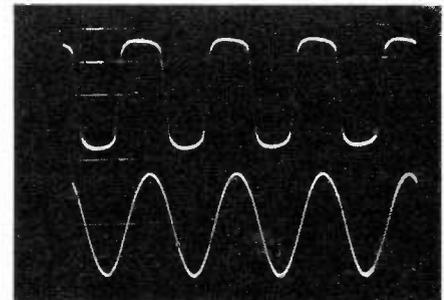
times, but in this basic form it produces quite high levels of distortion. The distortion products produced consist mainly of harmonics, and harmonics are simply multiples of the frequencies in the clipped signals.

In order to obtain really good results from a clipping circuit it is necessary to include additional circuitry to minimise the distortion generated. The most sophisticated method of achieving this is to use an r.f. clipping circuit, and with this system the input signal is first processed to raise all the input frequencies by a substantial amount so that they are increased into the radio frequency (r.f.) range.

For example, the input frequencies could be raised by 100kHz, and then they would be at frequencies from just over 100kHz to about 120kHz. After clipping, harmonics would still be generated, but these would be at frequencies of about 200 to 240kHz, 300 to 360kHz, 400 to 480kHz, and so on. These are well clear of the input frequency range, and can be filtered from the output to leave a distortion-free signal which is then processed to restore the original audio frequencies.

The severe drawback of this system is

Upper Trace: Hard-limited sine wave.
Lower Trace: 800Hz sine wave input.



the cost and complexity, unless it is an internal part of an s.s.b. transmitter. For use with other types of equipment an add-on processor of this type could cost more than the main item of equipment!

SIMPLIFIED DESIGN

What is needed is a simpler method of obtaining a similar effect, and a system of this type is used in the processor described here. Fig. 1 shows the arrangement used in this processor in block diagram form.

The microphone signal is first amplified and then fed to a further stage of amplification by way of a variable gain control. This amplification is needed because the output of a microphone is at a fairly low amplitude, and it is not easy to produce a clipping circuit which operates at such low signal levels.

The signal is therefore boosted to a level where clipping can be achieved more readily. The gain control enables the unit to be adjusted to give the desired degree of clipping.

The next stage is a high pass filter, and this removes the lower frequencies in the signal. Frequencies below about 300 hertz contribute nothing to intelligibility, and can even impede it. These frequencies would be most troublesome if not removed as they would produce numerous harmonics right through the middle and upper audio range when the clipping was applied, and the removal of these frequencies substantially reduces the distortion level at the output.

SOFT CLIPPING

Distortion can be further reduced by using a soft clipping circuit rather than a normal hard clipping type, and so a soft limiter is used here.

The difference between the two is that a hard limiter permits no significant increase in the output level once the clipping level has been reached, no matter how large the input signal is made, whereas a soft limiter permits a slight increase in the output amplitude as the input is increased above the clipping threshold.

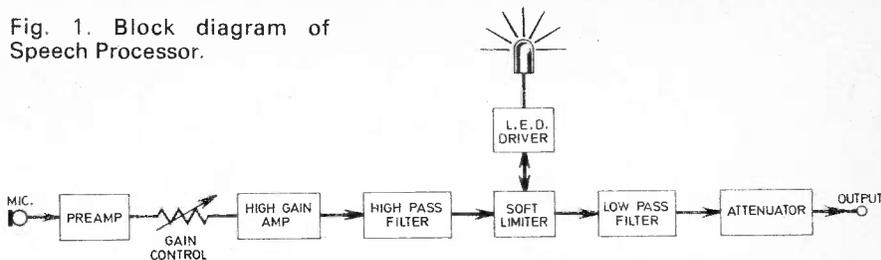
The use of soft limiting gives only a very marginal reduction in efficiency, and the fundamental signal is significantly stronger and the harmonics significantly weaker when compared to results using a hard limiter.

A l.e.d. indicator is switched on while the limiter is driven beyond the clipping threshold, and this makes it much easier to adjust the gain control correctly.

Most of the harmonics on the output signal will be at frequencies of about 3kHz and above, and frequencies in this range aid the intelligibility of a speech signal very little. A low-pass filter at the output of the unit is therefore used to severely attenuate signals at these frequencies, thereby greatly reducing the level of distortion on the output.

The final section of the unit is simply an attenuator which reduces the output level to one that is comparable to the

Fig. 1. Block diagram of Speech Processor.



input signal level. This enables the processor to be connected between the microphone and the main equipment without introducing any compatibility problems.

This system does not completely eliminate distortion from the output since some input frequencies (those at about

300Hz to about 1.5kHz) will be fed to the limiter and will produce at least one distortion product that will not be removed by the low-pass filtering at the output. However, the distortion is kept down to acceptable levels provided an excessive amount of clipping is not employed, and the unit certainly seems to make a very

COMPONENTS

Resistors

R1	47k Ω	R12	560 Ω
R2	15k Ω	R13	180k Ω
R3	15k Ω	R14	1k Ω
R4	270k Ω	R15	100k Ω
R5	2.7M Ω	R16	100k Ω
R6	6.8k Ω	R17	3.9k Ω
R7	22k Ω	R18	3.9k Ω
R8	220k Ω	R19	3.9k Ω
R9	220k Ω	R20	3.9k Ω
R10	4.7k Ω	R21	4.7k Ω
R11	4.7k Ω	R22	470k Ω

All $\frac{1}{2}$ watt carbon $\pm 5\%$

Potentiometers

VR1	22k Ω log. carbon potentiometer
VR2	47k Ω 0.1 watt horizontal preset

Capacitors

C1	100nF polyester (C280)
C2	47nF polyester (C280)
C3	330pF ceramic plate
C4	1 μ F 16V elect.
C5	0.47 μ F 10V elect. radial leads
C6	220nF polyester (C280)
C7	10nF polyester (C280)
C8	10nF polyester (C280)
C9	0.47 μ F 10V elect. radial leads
C10	47pF ceramic plate
C11	100nF polyester (C280)
C12	22nF polyester (C280)
C13	3.3nF ceramic plate
C14	10nF polyester (C280)
C15	2.2nF polystyrene
C16	120pF ceramic plate
C17	22nF polyester (C280)

Semiconductors

IC1	LF351 j.f.e.t. op. amp.
IC2	CA3130T MOS f.e.t. op. amp.
TR1	BC109C npn silicon
TR2	BC179 pnp silicon
TR3	BC109C npn silicon
D1,2,3	1N4001 (3 off)
D4	TIL209 3mm red l.e.d.

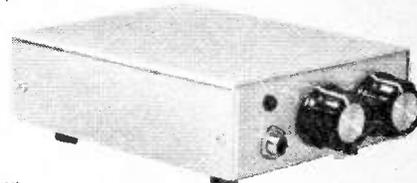
Miscellaneous

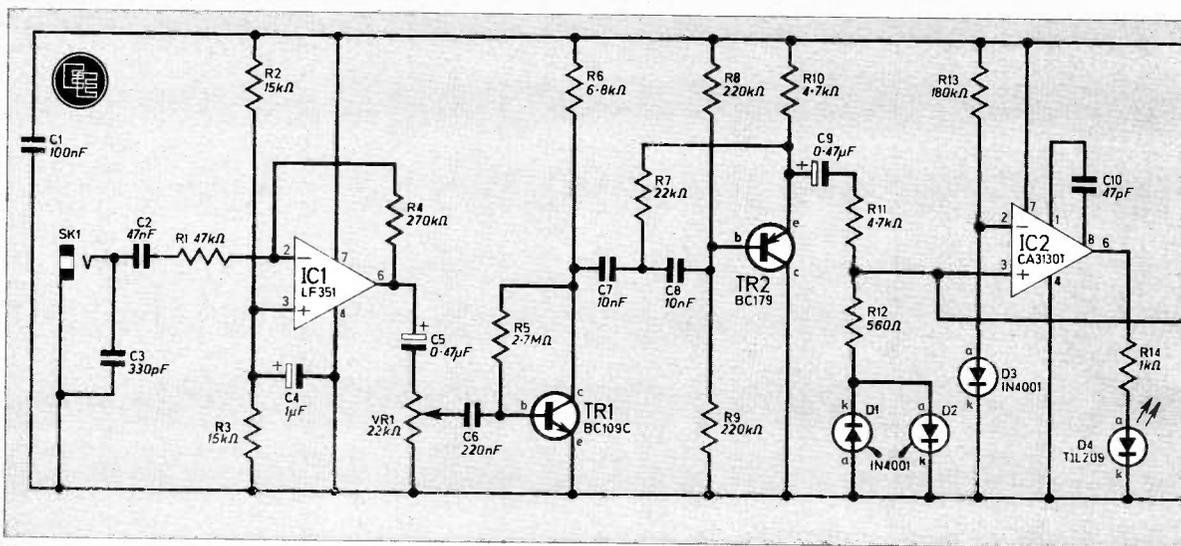
S1	Rotary on/off type
SK1,2	Standard jack sockets (2 off)
B1	9V PP3 battery

Aluminium case type AB10, 133 x 102 x 38mm; 0.1 inch matrix stripboard, 24 strips x 12 holes; two control knobs; panel holder for D4; battery connector; two 6BA fixings; two 6mm spacings; p.v.c. insulated connecting wire.

See
**Shop
Talk**
page 85

COMPONENTS
approximate
cost **£10**





worthwhile improvement when used with communications equipment under adverse operating conditions.

Of course, if conditions are such that proper contact is easily achieved with no interference and good signal strengths, there is little room for improvement and a speech processor can be of little help. It is only when conditions are poor that the effect of a speech processor will become apparent.

THE CIRCUIT

Fig. 2 shows the complete circuit diagram of the Speech Processor.

IC1 is an operational amplifier used in the inverting mode and this acts as the microphone pre-amplifier. This stage has its voltage gain set at a modest level of about six times by R1 and R4, and R1 also sets the input impedance at a suitable level of about 47kΩ.

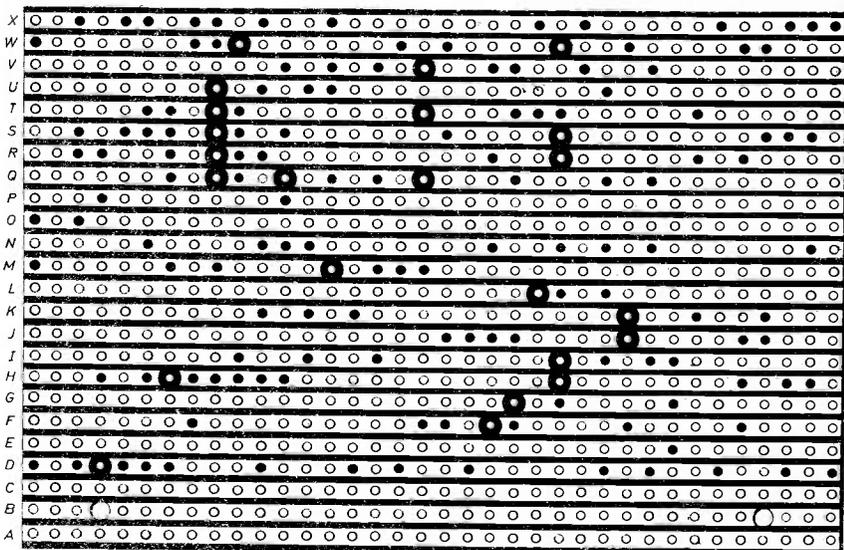
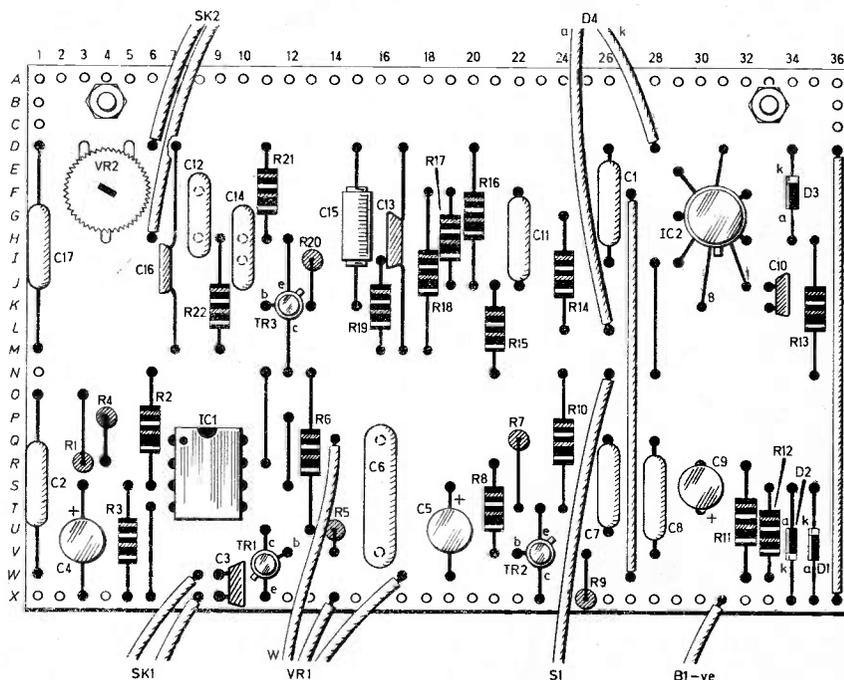
C3 is an r.f. filter capacitor and helps to prevent problems with r.f. breakthrough and consequent instability if the unit is used in a strong r.f. field.

IC1 is a low noise device having a j.f.e.t. input stage and this gives the unit a good signal-to-noise ratio.

VR1 is used to control the degree of clipping and the output from its wiper is fed to a high gain common emitter amplifier which uses TR1 in the standard configuration. The gain of IC1 together with the gain provided by TR1 enables the microphone signal to be readily boosted to a level of several volts peak-to-peak, and this is sufficient to drive the clipping circuit.

SIGNAL CONTROL

The high-pass filter is an active type which uses the Sallen and Key configuration and has a nominal attenuation rate of 12dB per octave below the 300Hz cut off frequency. There is unity gain through this stage at frequencies of 300Hz and above.



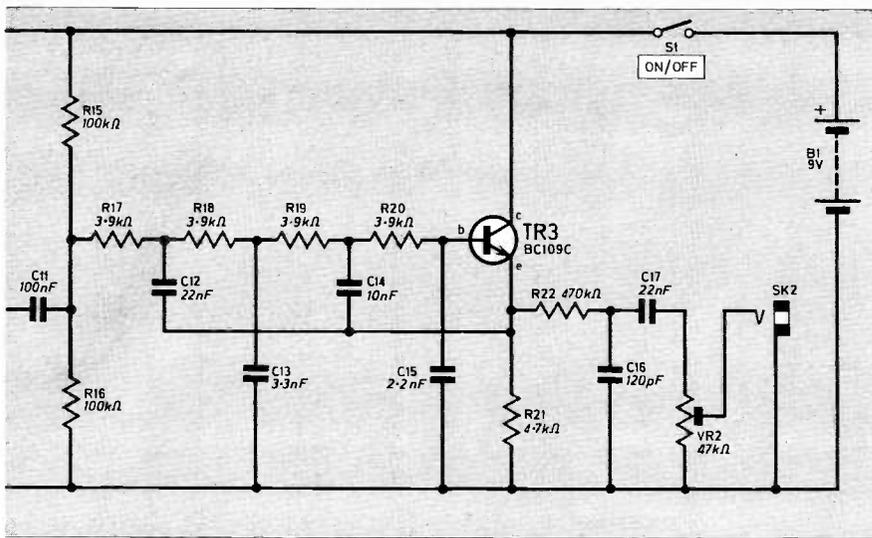


Fig. 2. Complete circuit diagram of Speech Processor.

D1 and D2 are used as the basis of the clipping circuit, D1 processing negative half-cycles and D2 processing positive ones. If the input signal level is less than about ± 0.5 volts neither D1 or D2 will conduct and the signal can pass straight through R11 to the next stage of the unit.

If the signal level should exceed about 0.5 volts, either D1 or D2 (depending on the polarity of the signal) will be biased past its forward threshold voltage and will conduct heavily. This produces a voltage drop through R11 which tends to hold the signal voltage at little more than 0.5 volts even if the input level should be much more than this.

R12 introduces the softening of the clipping action since a current flowing through D1 or D2 must also flow through R12 as well, producing a small voltage across R12, which is proportional to the current flow. Thus the output signal at the junction of R11 and R12 can go slightly above the clipping threshold and the soft clipping is obtained.

CLIPPING INDICATOR

IC2 is used as the l.e.d. driver, and in this application IC2 is a comparator rather than an operational amplifier. R13 and D3 form a simple voltage regulator circuit which biases the inverting input to about ± 0.5 volts. The non-inverting input will normally be at a lower potential than this so that the output will be at zero volts and l.e.d. indicator D4 will be switched off.

During positive signal peaks if the clipping level is exceeded, the non-inverting input will be taken above 0.5 volts so that the output of IC2 switches to virtually the full positive supply voltage and D4 is pulsed on to indicate that clipping is occurring.

The output filter is another Sallen and Key active filter, but this time a four section circuit has been used so that a nominal attenuation rate of 24dB per octave is achieved. It is of course a low-pass filter that is used here, and the cut off frequency is about 3kHz. Further low-pass filtering is provided by R22 and C16.

C17 is the output d.c. blocking capacitor and VR2 is the pre-set output attenuator.

As the circuit has a current consumption of only about 4.5mA a small (PP3 size) 9-volt battery will give many hours of use before needing replacement.

CASE

An aluminium box having approximate outside dimensions of 133 x 102 x 38mm makes a suitable housing for the processor, and this is about the smallest case that will comfortably accommodate all the components. SK1, D4, VR1 and S1 are fitted on the front panel, and SK2 is mounted on the rear panel. SK1 and SK2 are both standard ($\frac{1}{4}$ inch jack sockets).

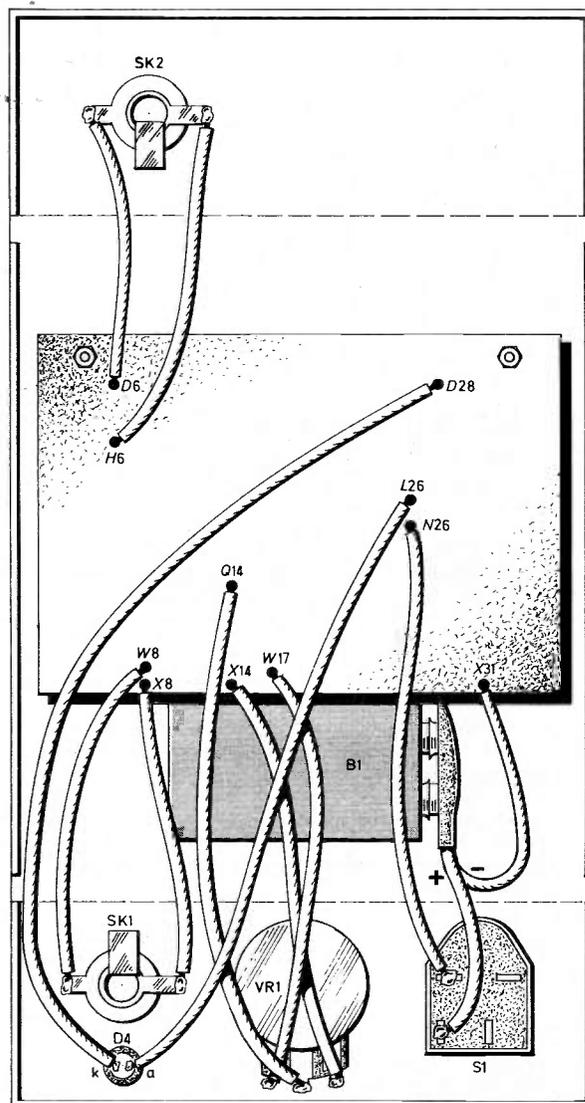
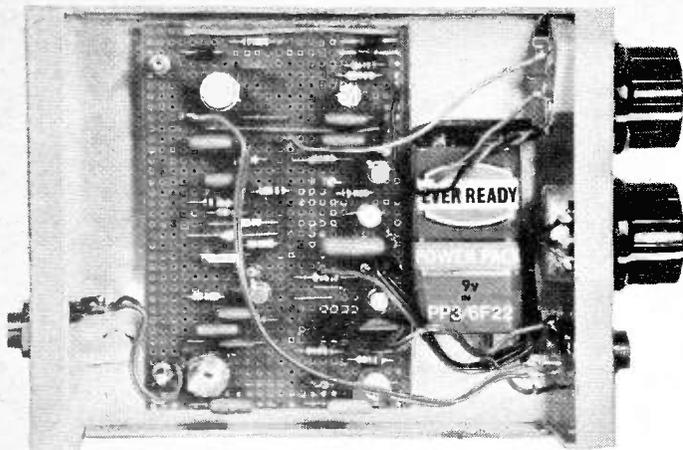


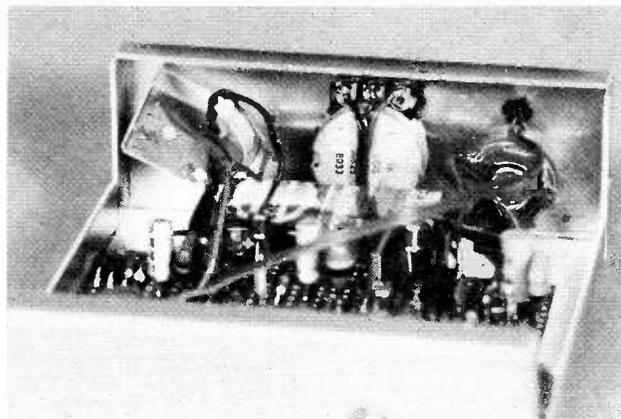
Fig. 3(a). Topside of stripboard showing component layout.

Fig. 3(b). Underside of stripboard showing breaks in copper strips.

Fig. 4. Exploded view of unit showing interwiring for off-board components.



Plan view showing component layout inside case.



Rear view showing front panel component wiring.

CIRCUIT BOARD

The component panel is a 0.1 inch matrix stripboard having 24 strips by 36 holes, and this can conveniently be a standard 37 holes by 24 strips board with one row of holes trimmed off or just ignored. Drill the two 3.3mm diameter mounting holes (which accept M3 or 6BA fixings) and make the numerous breaks in the copper strips before fitting the components on to the board. There are also six link wires to be soldered in place on the board. Use pins at the points where connections are to be made to the off-board components. Fig. 3 gives full details of the component board.

The completed component panel is mounted on the base panel of the case leaving sufficient space for the battery between the board and the components on the front panel. Use 6mm spacers over

the mounting screws to keep the connections on the underside of the board well separated from the metal case. The remaining wiring is then completed using ordinary p.v.c. insulated connecting wire, and finally the battery clip is wired in place. All this wiring is illustrated in Fig. 4.

ADJUSTMENT

Only one internal adjustment is necessary before the unit is ready for use, and that is to set VR2 to give an output level which is comparable to the output of the microphone used with the unit.

If suitable measuring equipment to assist with this is not available, then it is really a matter of connecting the processor to the main unit using a suitable lead, plugging the microphone into the processor, and then adjusting VR2 by trial and error to a setting which

gives results similar to those obtained without using the processor. While doing this VR1 should have a setting that is just high enough to cause clipping, which will be indicated by D4 just flashing briefly on signal peaks.

In normal use VR1 would be advanced somewhat further than this so that D4 lights up quite brightly whenever an input signal is present. It is probably best to monitor the output signal using an amplifier and headphones, or using a tape-recorder perhaps, when initially experimenting with various settings of VR1. This soon shows the benefit in apparent volume increase as VR1 is taken above the clipping threshold, and how excessive clipping simply gives increased distortion and no further increase in volume. Best results are obtained with VR1 advanced, just far enough to give a well clipped signal. □

BOOK REVIEWS

PRACTICAL ELECTRONICS FOR RAILWAY MODELLERS

Author Roger Amos
Price £7.95
Size 240 x 156mm. 160 pages. Hardback
Publisher Patrick Stephens Ltd
ISBN 0-85059-555-X

ANYONE who has watched the operation of a modern model railway will realise that there is ample scope for using electronics in the control system. But as this excellent book shows, the railway modeller can make good use of electronic circuitry in many other ways. There is for example a chapter on Sound Effects, with circuits for simulating a steam whistle, the "chuffing" of steam engines, and so on.

The reader is assumed to be familiar with switches and volts but not with electronic devices. These are briefly explained as

they are introduced in specific projects. A section of Practical Information near the end of the book gives more general information.

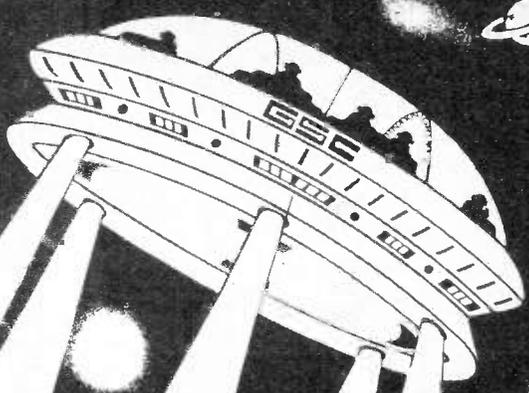
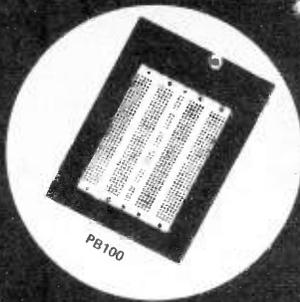
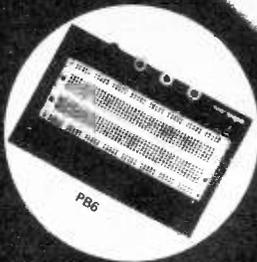
Topics covered include controllers, train detection systems, automatic signalling and points controls, and lighting systems, including high-frequency supplies. The only conspicuous lack is of detailed constructional information. G.S.

BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO BASIC PROGRAMMING

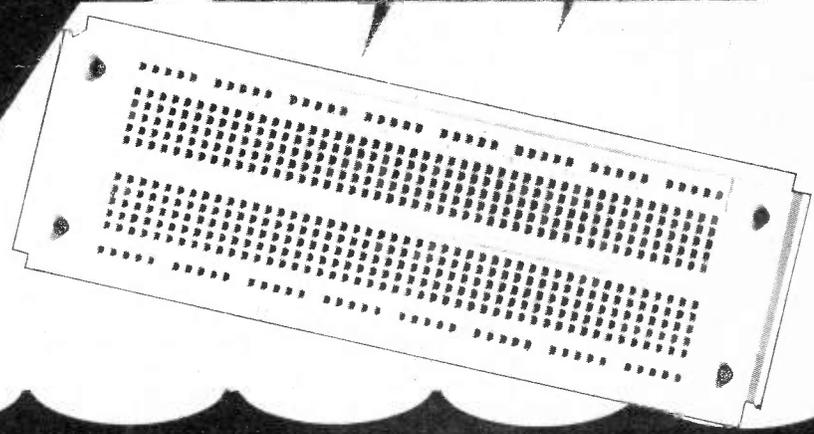
Author A. P. Stephenson
Price £3.95
Size 186 x 120mm. 192 pages
Publisher Newnes Technical Books
ISBN 0 408 01184 X

THIS paperback is an introduction to newcomers to computer programming. It is aimed at teaching the use of BASIC computer language as used on microcomputers, rather than large mainframe computers. It should therefore be of use to the newcomer who wants to take up computing as a hobby and to do more than just slavishly copy other people's programs.

The explanations are clear and no previous experience of programming or knowledge of BASIC is required. G.S.



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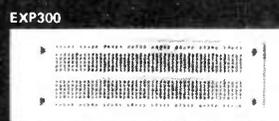
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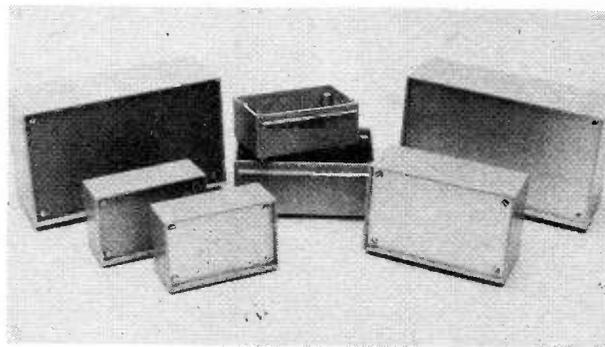
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— EPROM — PROGRAMMER FOR THE ACORN ATOM



BY D. C. GRINDROD

THE device to be described here will provide a simple, fast and relatively inexpensive method of programming and reading 2K and 4K byte single supply rail (+5V) EPROMS (Erasable and Programmable Read Only Memory) using the Acorn Atom computer.

It is able to program the following EPROMS (1) TMS2516, 2716 and other manufacturers' pin compatible types; (2) TMS2532 and other manufacturers' pin compatible types. It is not suitable for use with Intel 2732 type EPROMS or other manufacturers' compatible types.

Although specifically designed for use with the Acorn Atom (for which it was developed to overcome loading of frequently used long programs from cassette), it could also be used with other computers with modifications to connecting cables and suitably developed software.

The software controls all pulses and addressing, leaving the user to select only MODE (READ/PROG) and SIZE (2K/4K).

To be able to address up to 4096 bytes (4K) address lines A0 to A11 are required. A0 to A7 are provided by port A (£B801) of the VIA and A8 to A11 by the four lowest bits of port C (£B002) of the 8255. This break is not as awkward as would first be thought, as it occurs on a 255 byte boundary. The maximum number held in a single-byte is 255, hence a carry procedure would be needed anyway.

Figure 1 and Table 1 show the pinning, programming and reading requirements of the two types of EPROMS catered for by this programmer from which we can see that they differ in the following respects:

- (1) \overline{CE}/PGM is a different pin
- (2) 2532 has an extra address line
- (3) The pulse required for programming is -ve going for the 2532 and +ve going for the 2716

The first two differences are overcome by a d.p.d.t. switch, S1, while the third is dealt with by the software.

PROGRAMS

The original idea was to use EPROMS as a semi-permanent storage medium for long programs that were used often and hence reduce the time needed for loading from cassette.

Since each byte programmed needs a 50ms pulse the programming time is not greatly affected by the language used, thus, it was decided to use a Basic program to control programming of the EPROM.

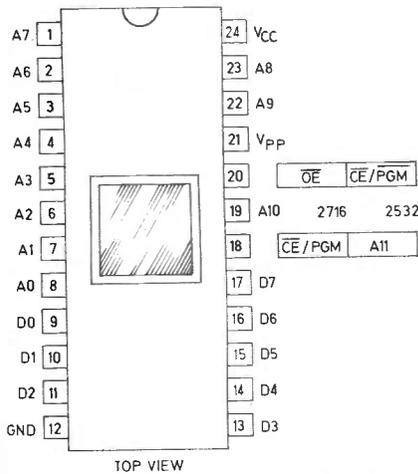
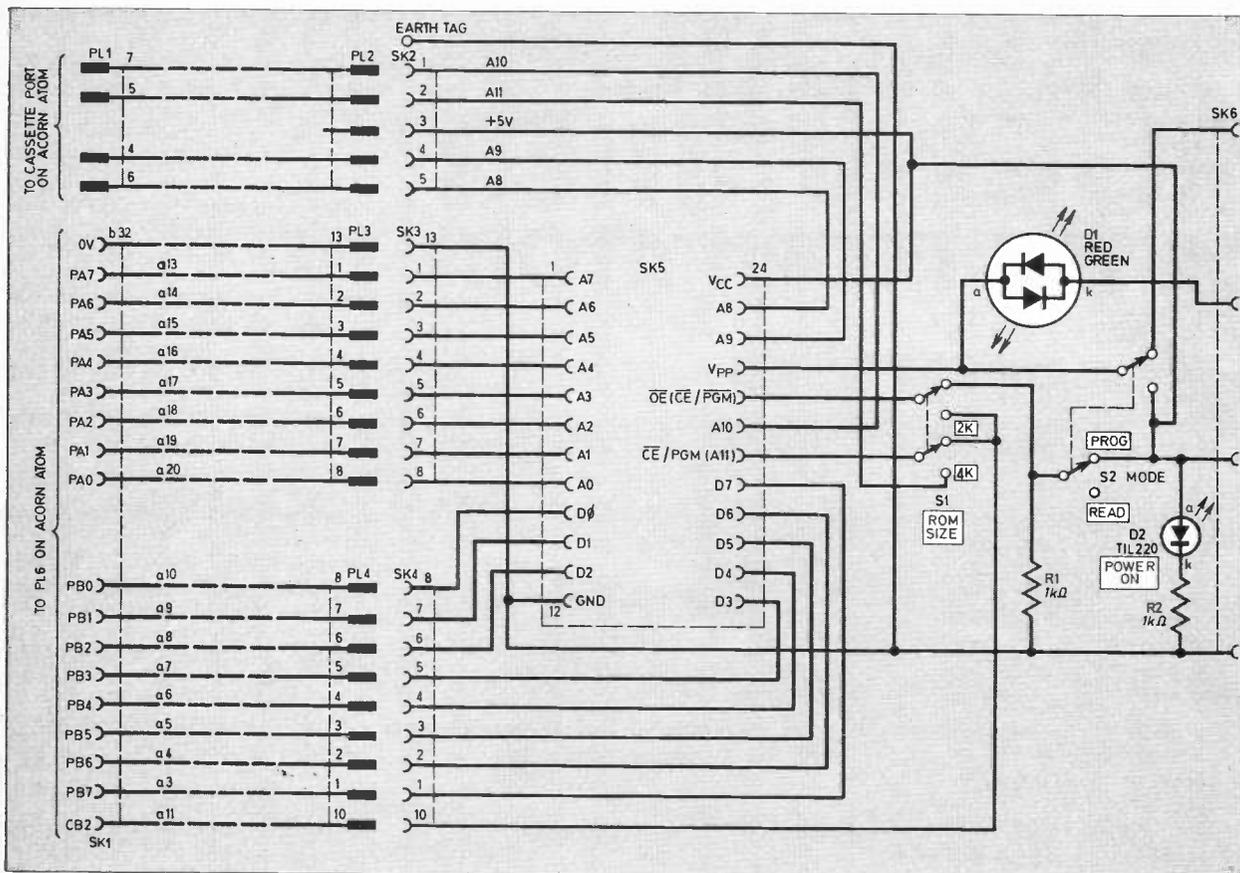


Fig. 1. Pin-out diagram for the 2716 and 2532 EPROMS. Note the different functions for pins 18 and 20 for the two types.

Table 1: Mode selection for the 2716 and 2532 Eeproms

TYPE	Pin	2716 (2K)				2532 (4K)				
		\overline{CE}/PGM (18)	\overline{OE} (20)	V_{PP} (21)	V_{CC} (24)	Outputs (9-11, 13-17)	\overline{CE}/PGM (20)	V_{PP} (21)	V_{CC} (24)	Outputs (9-11, 13-17)
Read		V_{IL}	V_{IL}	+5	+5	D_{OUT}	V_{IL}	+5V	+5	D_{OUT}
Standby		V_{IH}	Don't Care	+5	+5	High Z	V_{IH}	+5V	+5	High Z
Program		Pulsed V_{IL} to V_{IH}	V_{IH}	+25	+5	D_{IN}	Pulsed V_{IH} to V_{IL}	+25V	+5	D_{IN}
Program Venty		V_{IL}	V_{IL}	+25	+5	D_{OUT}	—	—	—	—
Program Inhibit		V_{IL}	V_{IH}	+25	+5	High Z	V_{IH}	+25V	+5	High Z

V_{IL} logic low, V_{IH} logic high



When reading the EPROM however, the time taken is determined by the language, therefore a fully re-locatable machine code program was developed which is small enough (79 bytes) to fit above the floating point variables at £2890. EPROM/RAM start and EPROM end addresses are stored in the two lowest bytes of the integer variables A, B and C, respectively.

CIRCUIT DESCRIPTION

The complete circuit diagram for the EPROM Programmer is shown in Fig. 2. Nearly all the circuitry is for the generation from the mains supply of the +5 and +25 volt supply lines. We shall discuss this section first.

A.c. mains voltage enters the unit and reaches T1 primary winding via the on-off switch S3 and fuse FS1. T1 is a step-down transformer having two independent secondaries, each developing 20V a.c. across their windings.

The diode bridge D3-D6 provides full-wave rectification of the upper secondary voltage. The resulting pulsed d.c. is smoothed by C3 to reach the input of IC1. The latter is a monolithic voltage regulator i.c. which normally provides a stabilised 15V output. However, in this circuit the output voltage is stepped-up to 25V by the action of VR2 in series with the common connection.

COMPONENTS

Resistors

R1	1kΩ
R2	390Ω
R3	4.7kΩ
All ¼W carbon ±5%	

Capacitors

C1,4	0.047µF 35V tantalum (2 off)
C2,5	0.022µF 35V tantalum (2 off)
C3,6	100µF 35V elect. (2 off)

Semiconductors

D1	bi-coloured (red/green) l.e.d.
D2	TIL220 red l.e.d.
D3-6	VM18 1A 50V bridge rectifier d.i.l. (2 off)
D7-10	7815 15V 1A voltage regulator (TO-220)
IC1	7805 5V 1A voltage regulator (TO-220)
IC2	7805 5V 1A voltage regulator (TO-220)

Miscellaneous

S1,2,3	d.p.d.t. miniature toggle (3 off)
SK1	64-way (a+b) in-line indirect connector
SK2	5-way 270° DIN

SK3,4	16-pin d.i.l. (2 off)
SK5	24-pin d.i.l. + 24-pin zero insertion force socket
SK6	4-way inter-p.c.b. connector
PL1	7-way DIN
PL2	5-way 270° DIN
PL3,4	16-pin d.i.l. header (2 off)
PL6	4-way inter-p.c.b. connector
VR1	5kΩ multivolt preset
VR2	1kΩ miniature horizontal skeleton preset
FS1	1A 20mm with panel mounting fuseholder
T1	mains primary/0-20V, 0-20V 6VA secondaries p.c.b. mounting—see text

Stripboard, 0.1 inch matrix; 17 strips x 51 holes, 25 strips x 25 holes; 6BA mounting hardware for circuit boards; Speedbloc cable or other; case, plastic, size 190 x 110 x 60mm (Tandy 270-224); 2-core mains cable; clips and bushes for l.e.d.s.; self-adhesive rubber feet for case (4 off); sleeving.

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SQUARE one FOR BEGINNERS

THE trouble with earphones, headphones and allied devices is that it is only too easy to take them for granted. You make your miniature personal radio, say, and then you think: Ah, yes; it'll need an earphone. The chances are that you try some old earphone salvaged from a defunct radio and plug it in, hoping for the best.

IMPEDANCE

Quite often, it doesn't work, or at least doesn't work well. The most frequent explanation is that its impedance is too low or too high to suit the circuit to which you attach it. Most of the little plastic earphones which come with pocket radios have low impedance, often 8 ohms. This

A common arrangement was to have two earpieces each of whose impedances was 1000 or 2000 ohms. These could be connected in series to give 2000 or 4000 ohms or in parallel for 500 or 1000 ohms. They were extremely sensitive; they had to be to give any volume from a crystal set whose only power was what the aerial picked up. They were—usually poor quality sound reproducers with a huge resonance at about 1kHz.

Today's two-earpiece headphones are usually very different. A typical pair of low-cost "stereo phones" contains in its rather large and comfortably padded earpieces a couple of small loudspeakers. These are usually of 8 ohms impedance and they are connected as shown in Fig. 1a. The connections are often brought out to a jack plug with three contact segments.

For stereo listening (b) the "live" sides of the two audio channels are connected to points 1 and 3; point 2 is the common or earthy connection.

For non-stereo use you have the option of using the two in series (c) to give an impedance of 16 ohms or in parallel (d) for 4 ohms. It is possible to obtain stereo phones of other impedances. Sound engineers may use 600-ohm phones for instance. But 2×8 ohms is by far the commonest impedance. Actually this too

The low-impedance earphones contain a little coil of fine wire, a magnet, and some sort of diaphragm which is moved either by the magnetic field or by movement of the coil in the field.

The crystal types contain a thin piece of special material (an insulator) metalised on both sides to form a capacitor. The material bends under the influence of an audio voltage, to produce the sound. Being a capacitor, a crystal earphone does not pass d.c. Its resistance is infinite. But it offers an impedance to a.c. which falls as the frequency rises. This tends to make it accentuate treble notes.

In circuits like Fig. 2, where the audio is developed across a fairly high resistance (here $10k\Omega$) a crystal earphone is the natural choice. Since it passes no d.c. it may also be connected as shown dotted, no coupling capacitor being needed.

TRANSFORMER MATCHING

There are times when it is necessary to match a low impedance earphone to a high impedance audio source. This is a job for a transformer (Fig. 3).

Transformers need to be specified with care since many factors affect their performance. But when correctly designed

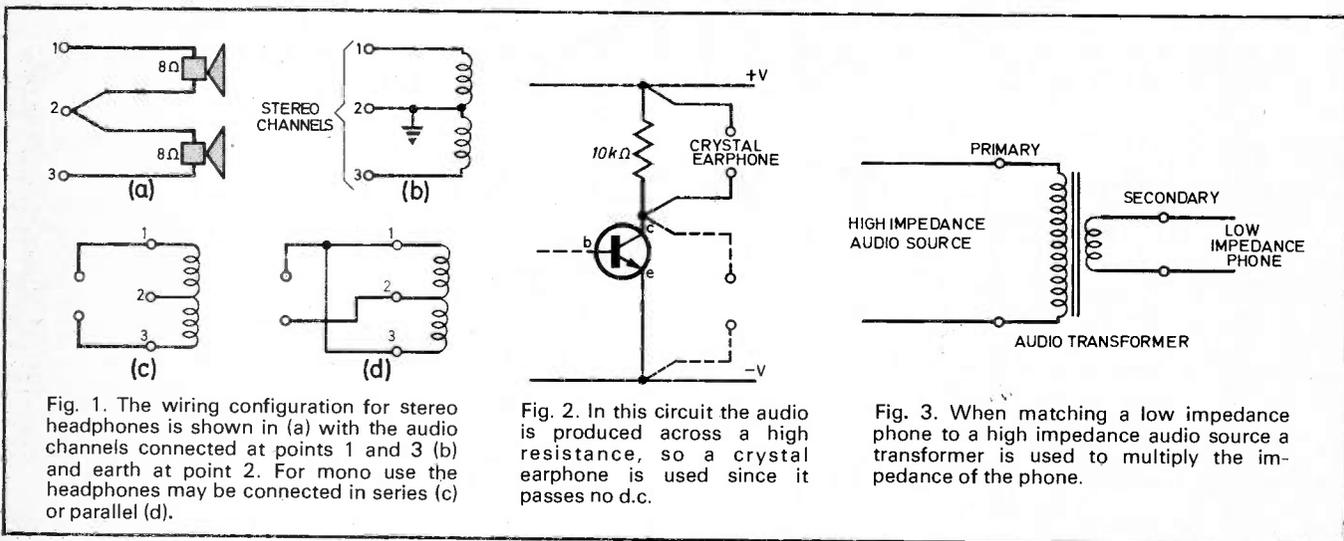


Fig. 1. The wiring configuration for stereo headphones is shown in (a) with the audio channels connected at points 1 and 3 (b) and earth at point 2. For mono use the headphones may be connected in series (c) or parallel (d).

Fig. 2. In this circuit the audio is produced across a high resistance, so a crystal earphone is used since it passes no d.c.

Fig. 3. When matching a low impedance phone to a high impedance audio source a transformer is used to multiply the impedance of the phone.

is fine if they are connected so as to replace an 8-ohm loudspeaker. But many home-built radios are designed to work into earphones of very much higher impedance.

In the old days of radio, the crystal set era, people listened on headphones whose two earphones were magnetic devices with an impedance of as much as 4000 ohms. In fact that was the d.c. resistance; the impedance to audio frequencies was very much higher.

is really the d.c. resistance but the a.c. impedance at most audio frequencies is about the same.

CRYSTAL EARPHONES

For really high impedance nowadays you must use crystal earphones. The single type looks just like one of the low-impedance magnetic earphones, and beginners sometimes come to grief by mistaking one for the other. But inside they are totally different.

and used they multiply the impedance of the earphone by the square of the ratio of turns on the primary to turns on the secondary. Thus a turns ratio of 10 multiplies 8 ohms to 800 ohms.

The current is multiplied by the same number which is why the use of a matching transformer can produce a big increase in volume, though only when conditions allow this. A transformer can't make energy, it can only enable you to make the best use of the available energy.

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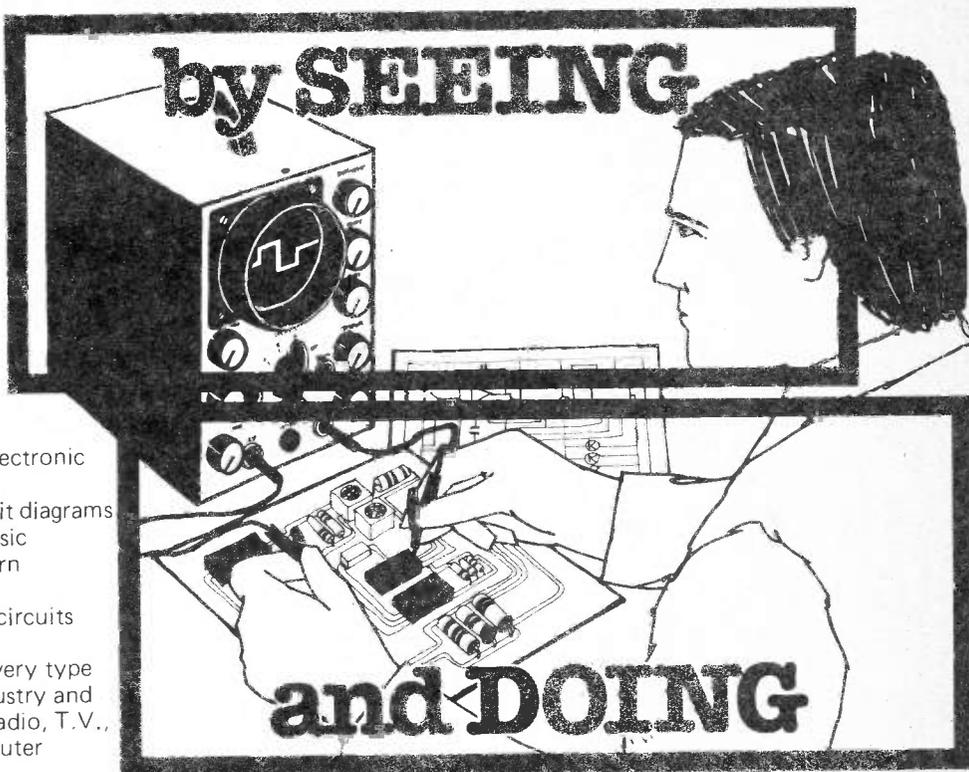
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CIRCUIT EXCHANGE

This is the spot where readers pass on to fellow enthusiasts useful and interesting circuits they have themselves devised.

Payment is made for all circuits published in this feature.

Contributions should be accompanied by a letter stating that the circuit idea offered is wholly or in significant part the original work of the sender and that it has not been offered for publication elsewhere.

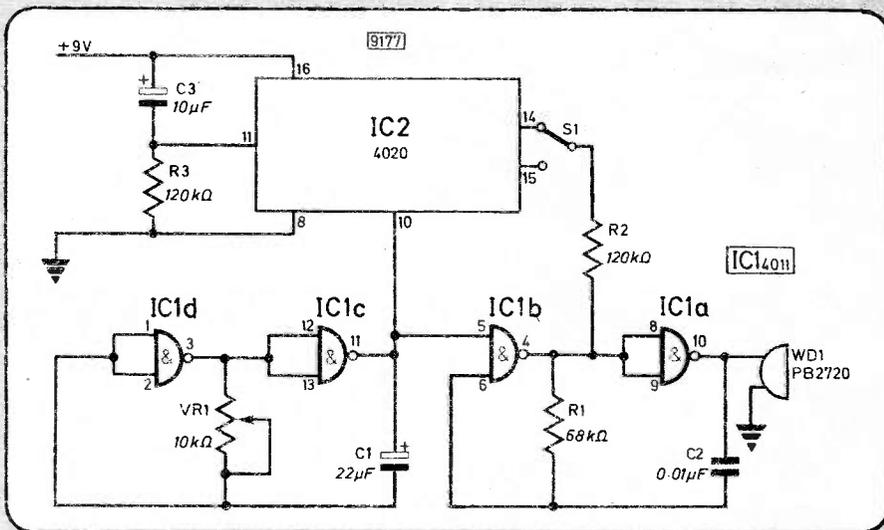
JOGGER'S PACEMAKER

This circuit produces a pulsing tone that can be used to help joggers keep a constant pace and, by increasing the pulse rate, improve their running.

By counting the number of steps the jogger takes it is also possible to calculate the approximate distance that has been run. This is achieved by changing the frequency of the pulsing tone every 500 or 1000 steps.

IC1a and IC1b form an oscillator that generates a tone of about 1000Hz. A second oscillator is formed by IC1c and IC1d and this controls the running pace by switching the first oscillator on and off. The pulse rate is set by potentiometer VR1.

To count the steps, the pulses from the slower oscillator are fed into a 14-stage binary counter IC2. When approximately 500 (exactly 512) pulses have been counted by IC2, pin 14 goes high and changes the frequency of the tone produced by IC1a-IC1b. After a further 512 pulses pin 14 goes low again and the tone changes back to the first frequency. If the



tone is to change every 1024 steps switch S1 should be set to pin 15 of IC2.

To calculate the distance you have run simply multiply the number of steps with

the length of your steps. For example: $1500 \times 1 \text{ metre} = 1.5 \text{ km}$.

Joachim Ramkull,
Lund, Sweden.

DISCO TRAFFIC LIGHTS

During the past few years many sound-to-light units have become

available. A variation on the normal light sequencer is presented here, which provides a traffic light sequence. The operation of the circuit is as follows:

An audio input of greater than 200mV is amplified, and high frequency components of the signal are reduced by the inclusion of a low-pass filter. The signal then enters IC2a, a Schmitt trigger, which is included to reduce spurious pulses entering IC3. IC3 is a 4-bit binary counter, though this application utilises only two of its four outputs.

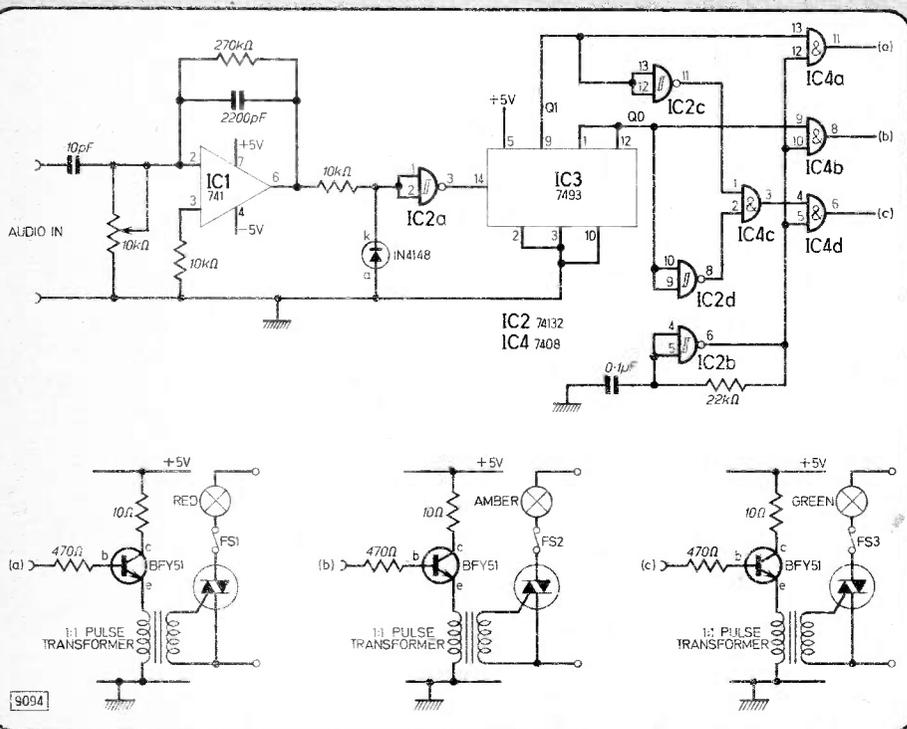
IC2b causes high level signals entering IC4a, IC4b and IC4d to be modulated at around 1kHz. This is required for the operation of the transformers. The triacs should be chosen to suit the power rating of the bulbs.

The sequence is as shown below:

Q0	Q1	Output
0	0	Green
1	0	Amber
0	1	Red
1	1	Red and Amber

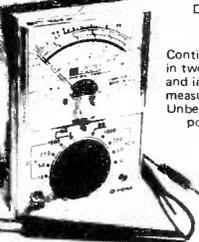
Since this cycle repeats, the standard traffic light sequence (Red, Red and Amber, Green, Amber and back to Red) is followed.

A. Marshall,
Old Basford,
Nottingham.



CIRCUIT EXCHANGE

MINI-MULTI TESTER Deluxe pocket size precision moving coil instrument, Jewelled bearings - 2000 o.p.v. mirrored scale. 11 instant range measures: DC volts 10, 50, 250, 1000. AC volts 10, 50, 250, 1000. DC amps 0 - 100 mA.



Continuity and resistance 0 - 1 meg ohms in two ranges. Complete with test probes and instruction book showing how to measure capacity and inductance as well. Unbelievable value at only **£6.75 + 60p** post and insurance.

FREE Amps range kit to enable you to read DC current from 0 - 10 amps, directly on the 0 - 10 scale. It's free if you purchase quickly, but if you already own a Mini-Tester and would like one, send **£2.50**.

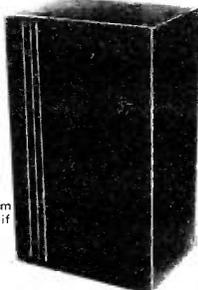
SUPER HI-FI SPEAKER CABINETS

Made for an expensive Hi-Fi outfit - will suit any decor. Resonance free. Cut-outs for 6 1/2" woofer and 2 1/2" tweeter. The front material is Dacron. The completed unit is most pleasing. Supplied in pairs, price **£6.90** per pair (this is probably less than the original cost of one cabinet) carriage **£3.00** the pair.

GOODMANS SPEAKERS

6 1/2" 8 ohm 25 watt **£4.50**. 2 1/2" 8 ohm tweeter. **£2.50**. No extra for postage if ordered with cabinets. Xover **£1.50**.

DITTO but for 8" speaker and 4" tweeter. **£7.50 + £3.50**.



VENNER TIME SWITCH

Mains operated with 20 amp switch, on and one off per 24 hrs. repeats daily automatically correcting for the lengthening or shortening day. An expensive time switch but you can have it for only **£2.95**. These are without case, but we can supply a plastic base **£1.75** or metal case **£2.95**. Also available is adaptor kit to convert this into a normal 24 hr. time switch but with the added advantage of up to 12 on/off's per 24 hrs. This makes an ideal controller for the immersion heater. Price of adaptor kit is **£2.30**.

THERMOSTAT ASSORTMENT

11 different thermostats. 7 bi-metal types and 3 liquid types. There are the current stats which will open the switch to protect devices against overload, short circuits, etc., or when fitted say in front of the element of a blow heater, the heat would trip the stat if the blow fuses, appliance stats, one for high temperatures, others adjustable over a range of temperatures which could include 0 - 100°C. There is also a thermostatic pod which can be immersed, an oven stat, a calibrated boiler stat, finally an ice stat which, fitted to our waterproof heater element, up in the loft could protect your pipes from freezing. Separately, these thermostats could cost around **£15.00** - however, you can have the parcel for **£2.50**.

50 THINGS YOU CAN MAKE

or do and still have hundreds of parts for future jobs. **LEARN** the practical way with our 10 kilo parcel of useful parts. Minimum 1,000 items includes panel meters, timers, thermal trips, relays, switches, motors, drills, taps and dies, tools, thermostats, coils, condensers, resistors, etc. etc. Parcel with data on 50 projects.

YOURS FOR ONLY £11.50 plus £3.00 post.

EXTRACTOR FAN

Mains operated - ex-computer
5" Woods extractor 4" x 4" Muffin 115v **£5.75**, Post **£1.25**. **£4.50**, Post **75p**.
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SEAT BELT REMINDER

Buzzer sounds when you switch on ignition - stops when you handle seat belt - Complete kit **£3.00**.

200 OHM EARPIECE

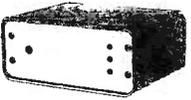
If you are a user of earphones then you really must try these, they do give far superior results to the usual 4 ohm model, this is due to very superior construction. Price **65p** each.

RECHARGEABLE NICAD BATTERY

By Deac, their reference number 150 DK. Made up as a battery of 4 cells with a nominal total voltage of 4.88. Two types: type one has pp3 battery clip at each end, price **£1.75**. Type two without the snap connectors price **£1.50**. All new and unused.

PROJECT CASE

All metal construction. Tubular body. Size approx 7 x 3 x 5" long with removable ends, blue hammer paint finish. **£1.75** each + 60p for postage.



MINI MONO AMP on p.c.b., size 4" x 2" approx. Fitted volume control and a hole for a tone control should you require it. The amplifier has three transistors and we estimate the output to be 3W rms. More technical data will be included with the amplifier. Brand new, perfect condition, offered at the very low price of **£1.15** each, or 10 for **£10.00**.



THIS MONTH'S NEW KITS:

MULTI-CHANNEL or ROBOT CONTROLLER

This is two kits. The 8 channel transmitter kit and the 8 channel receiver kit. Each kit comes with diagrams and notes, but no circuit boards, the component layout being left to you. The data shows how to drive, reverse and steer two or more motors. With spare channels to perform other functions. Price **£9.50** for both kits.

'BIG EAR'

As in December Hobby Electronics. Designed originally for listening to wildlife this could also be used to listen through walls or from long distances. Complete kit including the case at **£9.50**.

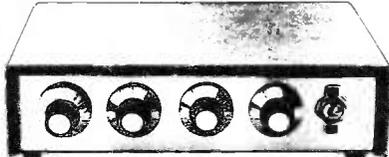
I.T.V. 4 PRE-AMP

Experiencing difficulties in getting a good picture on the new ITV Channel 4? An aerial pre-amp will be the answer. Uses 2 special transistors and has its own internal power supply. All you have to do is fit this into the TV down lead and plug into the mains. Complete kit including the case at **£9.50**.

THE HE MICROLOG

This is a bigish project but you build a complete computer! Full constructional details appear in December Hobby Electronics. We will supply the complete kit less the rather expensive case for **£18.50**. We feel sure you can make a case yourself just as efficiently and save most of the cost.

3 CHANNEL SOUND TO LIGHT KIT



Complete kit of parts for a three channel sound to light unit controlling over 2000 watts of lighting. Use this at home if you wish but it is plenty rugged enough for disco work. The unit is housed in an attractive two tone metal case and has controls for each channel, and a master on/off. The audio input and output are by 1/4" sockets and three panel mounting fuse holders provide thyristor protection. A four-pin plug and socket facilitate ease of connecting lamps. Special price is **£14.95** in kit form or **£25.00** assembled and tested.

TANGENTIAL BLOW HEATER

2.5 Kw quiet, efficient instant heating from 230/240 volt mains. Kit consists of blower as illustrated, 2.5 Kw element, control switch and data all for **£4.95**, post **£1.50**.



CAR STARTER AND CHARGER KIT

In an emergency you can start car off mains or bring your battery up to full charge in a couple of hours. The kit comprises: 250 watt mains transformer, 40 amp bridge rectifier, start/charge switch and full instructions. You can assemble this in the evening, box it up or leave it on the shelf in the garage, whichever suits you best. Price **£12.50 + £3.00** post.

TRANSMITTER SURVEILLANCE

Tiny, easily hidden but which will enable conversation to be picked up with FM radio. Can be made in a matchbox - all electronic parts and circuit. **£2.30** (not licenceable in the U.K.)

RADIO MIKE

Ideal for discos and garden parties, allows complete freedom of movement. Play through FM radio or tuner amp. **£6.90** comp. kit. (not licenceable in the U.K.)

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Made up and working, complete with scale and pointer needs only headphones, ideal for use with our surveillance transmitter or radio mike. **£5.85**. or kit of parts **£3.95**.

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With 1 amp DC output, for use on the bench, students, inventors, service engineers, etc. Automatic short circuit and overload protection. In case with a volt meter on the front panel. Complete kit **£13.80**

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This kit enables you to make a switch that will trigger when a steady beam of infra red or ordinary light is broken. Main components - relay, photo transistor, resistors and caps, etc. Circuit diagram but no case. Price **£2.30**

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Refresh your home, office, shop, work room, etc. with a negative ION generator. Makes you feel better and work harder - complete mains operated kit, case included **£11.95** plus **£2.00** post.

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Easy to fault find - start at the aerial and work towards the speaker - when signal stops you have found the fault. Complete kit **£4.95**.

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1 pole 12 way 2 pole 6 way 3 pole 4 way
4 pole 3 way 6 pole 2 way 4 pole 3 way
Two wafer type, 59p each, as follows:
2 pole 12 way 4 pole 5 way 4 pole 6 way
6 pole 2 way 8 pole 3 way 12 pole 2 way
3 wafer types 99p each,
9 pole 4 way 6 pole 5 way 6 pole 6 way
12p 3 way 18p 2 way

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With it you can quickly test diodes, rectifiers, transistors, capacitors, check wiring and p.c. boards for open circuits, find the anode and cathode of a diode or rectifier and whether a transistor is PNP or NPN, which are the base collector and emitter connections. Condensers, if bad give a continuous signal but if good, give intermittent signals of varying length depending on their value. The test current is very low (2uA) and the voltage only 1.4v, so it is also possible to check MOS devices, as well as sensitive transistors with out fear of damaging them. The unit is supplied complete with internal battery, which should last many months. Price **£3.45p**.



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For models, maccanos, drills, remote control planes, boats, etc. **£2.95**.

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Sinclair ZX Spectrum

**16K or 48K RAM...
full-size moving-
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graphics...**

**From only
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First, there was the world-beating Sinclair ZX80. The first personal computer for under £100.

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Now there's the ZX Spectrum! With up to 48K of RAM. A full-size moving-key keyboard. Vivid colour and sound. High-resolution graphics. And a low price that's unrivalled.

Professional power— personal computer price!

The ZX Spectrum incorporates all the proven features of the ZX81. But its new 16K BASIC ROM dramatically increases your computing power.

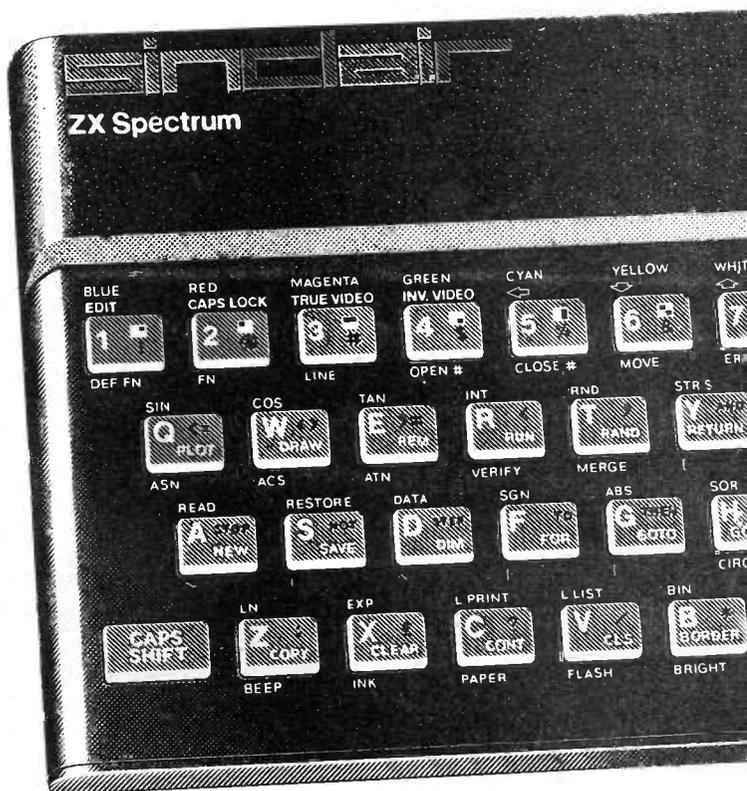
You have access to a range of 8 colours for foreground, background and border, together with a sound generator and high-resolution graphics.

You have the facility to support separate data files.

You have a choice of storage capacities (governed by the amount of RAM). 16K of RAM (which you can uprate later to 48K of RAM) or a massive 48K of RAM.

Yet the price of the Spectrum 16K is an amazing £125! Even the popular 48K version costs only £175!

You may decide to begin with the 16K version. If so, you can still return it later for an upgrade. The cost? Around £60.



Ready to use today, easy to expand tomorrow

Your ZX Spectrum comes with a mains adaptor and all the necessary leads to connect to most cassette recorders and TVs (colour or black and white).

Employing Sinclair BASIC (now used in over 500,000 computers worldwide) the ZX Spectrum comes complete with two manuals which together represent a detailed course in BASIC programming. Whether you're a beginner or a competent programmer, you'll find them both of immense help. Depending on your computer experience, you'll quickly be moving into the colourful world of ZX Spectrum professional-level computing.

There's no need to stop there. The ZX Printer—available now—is fully compatible with the ZX Spectrum. And later this year there will be Microdrives for massive amounts of extra on-line storage, plus an RS232 / network interface board.



Key features of the Sinclair ZX Spectrum

- Full colour—8 colours each for foreground, background and border, plus flashing and brightness-intensity control.
- Sound—BEEP command with variable pitch and duration.
- Massive RAM—16K or 48K.
- Full-size moving-key keyboard—all keys at normal typewriter pitch, with repeat facility on each key.
- High-resolution—256 dots horizontally x 192 vertically, each individually addressable for true high-resolution graphics.
- ASCII character set—with upper- and lower-case characters.
- Teletext-compatible—user software can generate 40 characters per line or other settings.
- High speed LOAD & SAVE—16K in 100 seconds via cassette, with VERIFY & MERGE for programs and separate data files.
- Sinclair 16K extended BASIC—incorporating unique 'one-touch' keyword entry, syntax check, and report codes.

ELECTRONICS IS A FINE HOBBY

VELLEMAN-KIT



The Velleman Kit Range

Kit No.	Description	Price
K607	2.2 Watt Mini amplifier	5.00
K610	Mono VU using L.E.D.'s	8.18
K611	7 Watt Amplifier	5.14
K612	1000 Watt Dimmer	5.59
K613	1000 Watt Dimmer (Suppressed version)	12.64
K615	High Precision Stopwatch	43.13
K1682	Microprocessor Universal Timer	48.37
K1716	20 Watt Mono amplifier	10.32
K1771	FM Oscillator	5.45
K1798	Stereo VU using L.E.D.'s	15.53
K1803	Universal Mono Pre-amplifier	3.62
K1804	60 Watt Power Amplifier	15.15
K1823	Power supply 1 amp	6.99
K1861	Power supply for Stereo 60 Watt amplifier	12.94
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K2545	50 Hz Crystal Timebase	11.39
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K2549	Infra-Red Detection System (Transmitter)	10.63
K2550	Infra-Red Detection System (Receiver)	12.42
K2551	Central Alarm Unit	18.70
K2553	FM Stereo Decoder	11.49
K2554	High Quality FM Tuner	22.67
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K2556	CB Power Supply 3.5 amp 12V	26.22
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K2558	FM Stereo Receiver (19" rack-mounting)	120.23
K2559	2 Channel Infra-Red Remote Control Light Dimmer (Transmitter)	17.23
K2560	2 Channel Infra-Red Remote Control Light Dimmer (Receiver)	38.64
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K2567	20 cm. Display (Common Anode)	21.05
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prices all include VAT

WHILE STOCKS LAST

Miniature soldering iron
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only £4.00 with every Velleman kit order.
FREE with orders of £25.

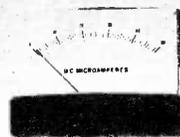
Velleman kits can be purchased from:

Baxol Tele Exports Ltd., Ballinaclesh, Co. Wicklow, Rep. of Ireland
Bradley Marshall Ltd., 325 Edgware Road, London W2
S & R Brewster Ltd., 86-88 Union Street, Plymouth, Devon
Marshals Electronics, 85 West Regent Street, Glasgow
or send cheque/postal order/debit Barclaycard to:



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PRACTICAL **WOOD** **WORKING** EXHIBITION

**Wembley
Conference
Centre**

**February 10-13,
1983**

February 10-12, 10am-7pm

February 13 (Sunday) 10am-6pm.

For anyone with an interest in wood the Wembley Conference Centre between February 10 and 13 must be the place to be. More exhibitors than ever before will be showing a vast range of woodworking materials, tools and accessories. Whatever your degree of skill or ambition in the craft, you will find plenty to absorb you for hours. You'll be able to see the tools and machinery in use; study and compare all the different materials and accessories available; meet the manufacturers and the experts who specialise in producing the tools of your craft; see craftsmen at work; and displays from colleges and schools.

Woodcraft MarketPlace is an area exclusively set aside for displaying all kinds of craft-made items produced by just some of the followers of the woodworking craft. So why not treat yourself to a gift – they're all for sale – which goes to show how profitable this hobby can be.

Concessionary rail fares are available including admission (on full price tickets only) to the exhibition. The special fares permit travel to any of the main line termini in London. Further details are available from principal stations or direct from: Travel Centre, King's Cross Station, London N1. Tel: 01-837 4200 Extn. 4277

Train, tube and bus services to Wembley Conference Centre are as follows:-

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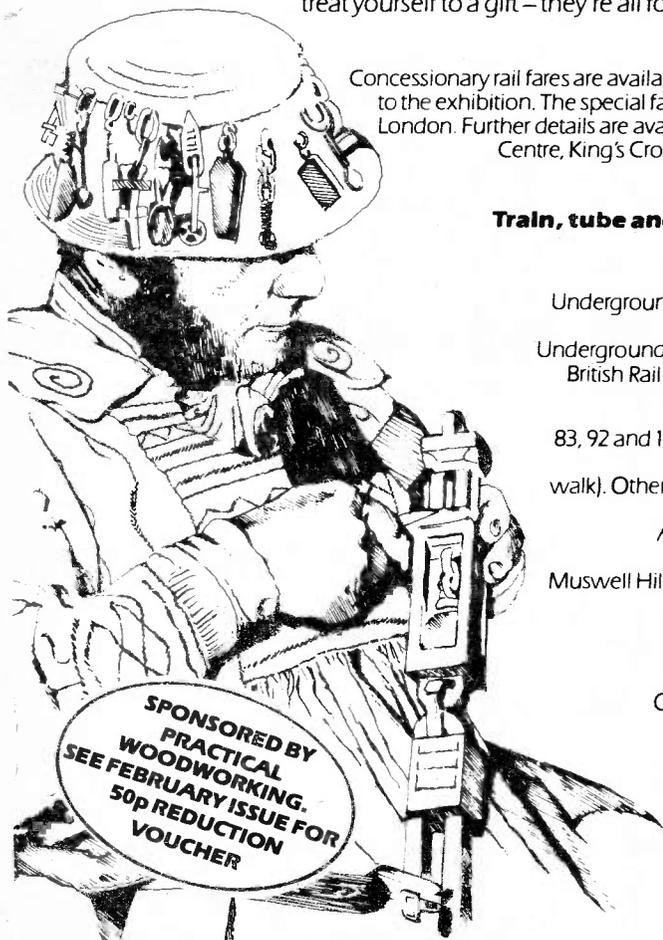
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Underground to Wembley Central by Bakerloo (Watford) Line.
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Buses

83, 92 and 182 direct to Wembley Arena (formerly the Empire Pool). The 18 bus, alight at Triangle (five mins walk). Other useful buses are the 297 (alight at Wembley Park Station) and 245 (alight at Bridge Road).
Also 734 Green Line Service – East/West link from Addlestone to Hertford via Ealing, Brent Cross, Muswell Hill, Enfield etc. passes Wembley Park and Complex stations.

Admission prices: Adults **£2.00**
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+5V	1.5A	T03	190p
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+12V	0.5A	TO220	35p
+12V	1.5A	T03	140p
-12V	1A	TO220	190p
+12V	1.5A	T03	190p
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7421	34p	74132	59p
7422	17p	74141	73p
7423	23p	74145	35p
7425	23p	74150	45p
7426	23p	74151	32p
7427	15p	74153	49p
7428	15p	74154	40p
7430	12p	74155	40p
7432	14p	74157	40p
7433	19p	74159	65p
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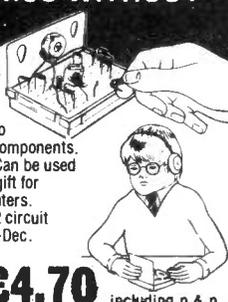
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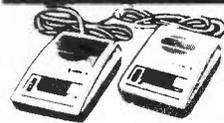


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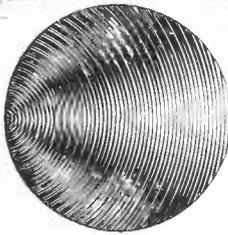
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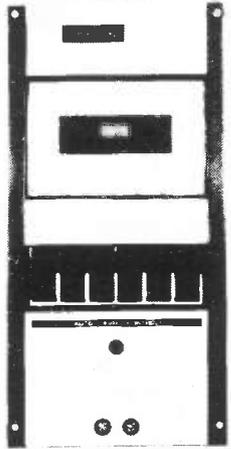
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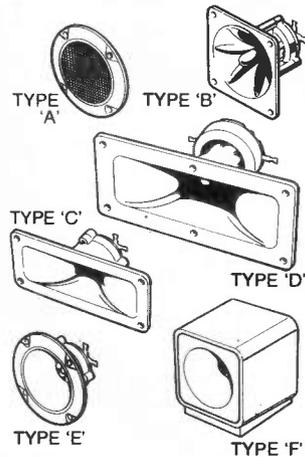
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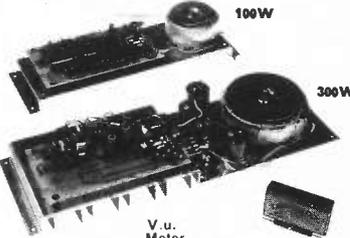
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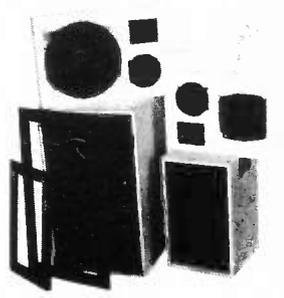
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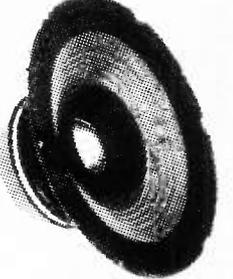
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