

EVERYDAY

FEBRUARY 1995

WITH

PRACTICAL

ELECTRONICS

INCORPORATING ELECTRONICS MONTHLY

FULLY S.O.R. £2.15

PROJECTS

12V 35W PA AMPLIFIER

Versatile, discrete, MOSFET design

THE ULTIMATE SCREEN SAVER

Save money and protect your computer monitor

FOOT-OPERATED DRILL CONTROLLER

Keep control of your p.c.b. drill

FEATURES

**TRANSFORMERLESS
POWER SUPPLIES**

How capacitive supplies work

CIRCUIT SURGERY

Our surgeon dissects your problems



THE No. 1 INDEPENDENT MAGAZINE for ELECTRONICS, TECHNOLOGY and COMPUTER PROJECTS

LOW COST LASER NIGHT SIGHT just £79!!!

Cheaper version of our £245 Cyclops model. Works ok in low light levels or in complete darkness with the built in Laser. Ref 95/79

PC CONTROLLED 4 CHANNEL TIMER

Control (on/off times etc) up to 4 items (8A 240v each) with this kit. Complete with Software, relays, PCB etc. £25.99 Ref 95/26

LOW COST RADAR DETECTOR

Built and tested pocket radar detector. Ideal for picking up speed traps etc. Why pay £70 or more? Ours is just £24.99 ref 95/25.

COMPLETE PC 300 WATT UPS SYSTEM

Top of the range UPS system providing protection for your computer system and valuable software against mains power fluctuations and cuts. New and boxed, UK made. Provides up to 5 mins running time in the event of complete power failure to allow you to run your system down correctly. SALE PRICE just £119.00.

SHOP WOBBLERS!

Small assemblies designed to take D size batteries and 'wobble' signs, cardboard models about in shop windows! £3.99 Ref SEP4P2.

RADIO PAGERS

Brand new, UK made pocket pagers clearance price is just £4.99 each 100x40x15mm packed with bits! Ref SEP5.

BULL TENS UNIT

Fully built and tested TENS (Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation) unit, complete with electrodes and full instructions. TENS is used for the relief of pain etc in up to 70% of sufferers. Drug free pain relief, safe and easy to use, can be used in conjunction with analgesics etc. £49 Ref TEN/1

STEREO MICROSCOPE

155X195MM, up to 800mm high, so items up to 10" will fit under lens. Rack and pinion focusing, 6 interchangeable rotating object lenses. Interchangeable eye pieces, +scaled eyepiece for accurate measuring etc. Powerful low voltage illumination system with green filter and variable intensity, 100mm black/white + ground glass stage plate. 70mm swivel mirror, adjustable eyepieces (both focus and width). Magnification range 4.6-100.8, field of view 3.2-4mm. Price is £299 for complete setup. Ref 95/300.

3D 35MM CAMERA SYSTEM

Complete kit to convert a standard 35mm camera into a 3D version!, enable you to take 3D colour slides with your own camera! Kit contains a prism assembly for the front of your existing lens, a sample 3D slide, a 3D slide viewer and 2 different lens mounts 49mm and 52mm, (other sizes available from photo shops at about £3 ea) all you need is standard slide film. Price for the complete kit is £299 ref 95/30

COMPUTER RS232 TERMINALS. (LIBERTY)

Excellent quality modern units, (like wyse 50.s) 2xRS232, 20 function keys, 50 thro to 38,400 baud, menu driven port, screen, cursor, and keyboard setup menus (18 menus) £29 Ref NOV4

OMRON TEMPERATURE CONTROLLERS (E5C2).

Brand new controllers, adjustable from -50 deg C to +1,200 deg C using graduated dial, 2% accuracy, thermocouple input, long life relay output. 3A 240v o/p contacts. Perfect for exactly controlling a temperature. Normal trade £50+, ours £15. Ref E5C2.

ELECTRIC MOTOR BONANZA! 110x60mm.

Brand new precision, cap start (or spin to start), virtually silent and features a moving outer case that acts as a flywheel. Because of their unusual design we think that 2 of these in a tube with some homemade fan blades could form the basis for a wind tunnel etc. Clearance price is just £4.99 FOR A PAIR!! (note-these will have to be wired in series for 240v operation Ref NOV1).

MOTOR NO 2 BARGAIN 110x90mm.

Similar to the above motor but more suitable for mounting vertically (ie turntable etc). Again you will have to wire 2 in series for 240v use. Bargain price is just £4.99 FOR A PAIR!! Ref NOV3.

OMRON ELECTRONIC INTERVAL TIMERS.

Miniature adjustable timers, 4 pole c/o output 3A 240v, HY1230S, 12vDC adjustable from 0-30 secs. £9.99
HY1210M, 12vDC adjustable from 0-10 mins. £9.99
HY1260M, 12vDC adjustable from 0-60 mins. £9.99
HY2460M, 24vAC adjustable from 0-60 mins. £5.99
HY241S, 24vAC adjustable from 0-1 secs. £5.99
HY2460S, 24vAC adjustable from 0-60 secs. £5.99
HY243H, 24vAC adjustable from 0-3 hours. £8.99
HY2401S, 240v adjustable from 0-1 secs. £9.99
HY2405S, 240v adjustable from 0-5 secs. £9.99
HY24060M, 240v adjustable from 0-60 mins. £12.99

PC PAL VGA TO TV CONVERTER Converts a colour TV into a basic VGA screen. Complete with built in psu, lead and s/ware. £49.95. Ideal for laptops or a cheap upgrade.

EMERGENCY LIGHTING UNIT Complete unit with 2 double bulb floodlights, built in charger and auto switch. Fully cased. 6v BAH lead acid req'd. (secondhand) £4.99 Ref MAG4P1.

GUIDED MISSILE WIRE. 4,200 metre reel of ultra thin 4 core insulated cable, 28lbs breaking strain, less than 1mm thick! Ideal alarms, intercoms, fishing, dolls house's etc. £14.99 Ref MAG15P5

300v PANEL METER 70X60X50MM, AC, 90 degree scale. Good quality meter. £5.99 Ref MAG 6P14. Ideal for monitoring mains etc.

ASTEC SWITCHED MODE PSU BM41012 Gives +5 @ 3.75A, +12@1.5A, -12@4A, 230V/110, cased, BM41012. £5.99 Ref AUG6P3

TORRIDIAL TX 30-0-30 480VA, Perfect for Mosfet amplifiers etc. 120mm dia 55mm thick. £18.99 Ref APR19

AUTO SUNCHARGER 155x300mm solar panel with diode and 3 metre lead fitted with a cigar plug. 12v 2watt. £9.99 ea Ref AUG10P3.

FLOPPY DISCS DSDO Top quality 5.25" discs, these have been written to once and are unused. Pack of 20 is £4 Ref AUG4P1.

ECLATRON FLASH TUBE As used in police car flashing lights etc, full spec supplied. 60-100 flashes a min. £9.99 Ref APR10P5.

24v AC 96WATT Cased power supply. New £13.99 Ref APR14

MILITARY SPEC GEIGER COUNTERS Unused and straight from Her Majesty's forces. £50 Ref MAG 50P3.

STETHOSCOPE Fully functioning stethoscope, ideal for listening to hearts, pipes, motors etc. £6 Ref MAR6P6

OUTDOOR SOLAR PATH LIGHT Captures sunlight during the day and automatically switches on a built in lamp at dusk. Complete with sealed lead acid battery etc. £19.99 Ref MAR20P1.

ALARM VERSION Of above unit comes with built in alarm and pir

NEW BULL ELECTRONICS STORE IN WOLVERHAMPTON

55A WORCESTER ST TEL 0902 22039

to deter intruders. Good value at just £24.99 Ref MAR25P4

CLOCKMAKER KIT Hours of fun making your own clock, complete instructions and everything you need. £7.99 Ref MAR8P2.

CARETAKER VOLUMETRIC Alarm, will cover the whole of the ground floor against forced entry. Includes mains power supply and integral battery backup. Powerful internal sander will take external bell if req'd. Retail £150+, ours? £49.99 Ref MAR50P1.

TELEPHONE CABLE White 6 core 100m reel complete with a pack of 100 clips. Ideal 'phone extras etc. £7.99 Ref MAR8P3.

MICRODRIVE STRIPPER Small cased tape drives ideal for stripping, lots of useful goodies including a smart case, and lots of components. £2 each Ref JUN2P3.

SOLAR POWER LAB SPECIAL You get TWO 6"x6" 6v 130mA solar cells, 4 LED's, wire, buzzer, switch plus 1 relay or motor. Superb value kit just £5.99 Ref: MAG6P8

SOLID STATE RELAYS Will switch 25A mains. Input 3.5-26v DC 57x43x21mm with terminal screws £3.99 Ref MAG4P10

300DPI A4 DTP MONITOR Brand new but shop soiled so hence bargain price! TTL/ECL inputs, 15" landscape, 1200x1664 pixel complete with circuit diag to help you interface with your projects. JUST £14.99. REF JUN15P2.

BUGGING TAPE RECORDER Small voice activated recorder, uses micro cassette complete with headphones. £28.99 Ref MAR29P1.

ULTRAMINI BUG MIC 6mmx3.5mm made by AKG, 5-12v electret condenser. Cost £12 ea, Ours? four for £9.99 Ref MAG10P2.

RGB/CO/EGA/ATL COLOUR MONITORS 12" in good condition. Back analysed metal case. £79 each Ref JUN79

ANSWER PHONES Returns with 2 faults, we give you the bits for 1 fault, you have to find the other yourself. BT Response 200's £18 ea Ref MAG18P1. PSU £5 Ref MAG5P12.

SWITCHED MODE PSU ex equip, 60w +5v @5A, -5v @5A, +12v @2A, -12v @5A 120/220v cased 245x88x55mm IEC input socket £6.99 Ref MAG7P1

PLUG IN PSU 9V 200mA DC £2.99 each Ref MAG3P9

PLUG IN ACORN PSU 19v AC 14w. £2.99 Ref MAG3P10

POWER SUPPLY fully cased with mains and o/p leads 17v DC 900mA output. Bargain price £5.99 Ref MAG6P9

ACORN ARCHIMEDES PSU +5v @ 4.4A, on/off sw uncased, selectable mains input, 145x100x45mm £7 Ref MAG7P2

GEIGER COUNTER KIT Low cost professional twin tube, complete with PCB and components. Now only £19 Ref AUG19

9v DC POWER SUPPLY Standard plug in type 150mA 9v DC with lead and DC power plug. price for two is £2.99 Ref AUG3P4

AA NICAD PACK encapsulated pack of 8 AA nicad batteries (tagged) ex equip, 55x32x32mm. £3 a pack. Ref MAG3P11

13.8V 1.9A psu cased with leads. Just £9.99 Ref MAG10P3

PPC MODEM CARDS These are high spec plug in cards made for the Amstrad laptop computers. 2400 baud dial up unit complete with leads. Clearance price is £5 Ref: MAG5P1

INFRA RED REMOTE CONTROLLERS Originally made for hi spec satellite equipment but perfect for all sorts of remote control projects. Our clearance price is just £2 Ref: MAG2

TOWERS INTERNATIONAL TRANSISTOR GUIDE. A very useful book for finding equivalent transistors, leadouts, specs etc. £20 Ref: MAG20P1

SINCLAIR C5 MOTORS We have a few left without gearboxes. Spec is 12v DC 3.300rpm £30

200 WATT INVERTER Converts 10-15v DC into either 110v or 240v AC. Fully cased 115x36x156mm, complete with heavy duty power lead, cigar plug, AC outlet socket, Auto overload shutdown, auto short circuit shut down, auto input over voltage shutdown, auto input under voltage shut down (with audible alarm), auto temp control, unit shuts down if overheated and sounds audible alarm. Fused reversed polarity protected, output frequency within 2%, voltage within 10%. A extremely well built unit at an excellent price. Just £64.99 Ref AUG6S.

UNIVERSAL SPEED CONTROLLER KIT Designed by us for the C5 motor but ok for any 12v motor up to 30A. Complete with PCB etc. A heat sink may be required. £17.00 Ref: MAG17

MAINS CABLE Precut black 2 core 2 metre lengths ideal for repairs, projects etc. 50 metres for £1.99 Ref AUG2P7.

COMPUTER COMMUNICATIONS PACK Kit contains 100m of 6 core cable, 100 cable clips, 2 line drivers with RS232 interfaces and all connectors etc. Ideal low cost method of communicating between PCs over a long distance. Complete kit £8.99

MINI CYCLOPS PIR 52x62x40mm runs on PP3 battery complete with shrill sander. Cheap protection at only £5.99 Ref MAR6P4

ELECTRIC MOTOR KIT Comprehensive educational kit includes all you need to build an electric motor. £9.99 Ref MAR10P4

VIDEO SENDER UNIT. Transmits both audio and video signals from either a video camera, video recorder, TV or Computer etc to any standard TV set in a 100' range! (tune TV to a spare channel) 12v DC op. Price is £15 Ref: MAG15 12v psu is £5 extra Ref: MAG5P2

***FM CORDLESS MICROPHONE** Small hand held unit with a 500' range! 2 transmit power levels. Reqs PP3 9v battery. Tuneable to any FM receiver. Price is £15 Ref: MAG15P1

LOW COST WALKIE TALKIES Pair of battery operated units with a range of about 200'. Ideal for garden use or as an educational toy. Price is £8 a pair Ref: MAG 8P1 2 x PP3 req'd

*SOME OF OUR PRODUCTS MAY BE UNLICENSEABLE IN THE UK.

*MINIATURE RADIO TRANSCEIVERS

A pair of walkie talkies with a range of up to 2km in open country. Units measure 22x52x155mm. Including cases and earpieces. 2xPP3 req'd. £30.00 pr. REF: MAG30

COMPOSITE VIDEO KIT. Converts composite video into separate H sync, V sync, and video. 12v DC. £8.00 Ref: MAG8P2.

LQ3500 PRINTER ASSEMBLIES Made by Amstrad they are entire mechanical printer assemblies including printhead, stepper motors etc etc in fact everything bar the case and electronics, a good stripper! £5 Ref: MAG5P3 or 2 for £8 Ref: MAG8P3

LED PACK of 100 standard red 5mm leds £5 Ref MAG5P4

UNIVERSAL PC POWER SUPPLY complete with flyleads, switch, fan etc. Two types available 150w at £15 Ref: MAG15P2 (23x23x23mm) and 200w at £20 Ref: MAG20P3 (23x23x23mm)

***FM TRANSMITTER** housed in a standard working 13A adapter!! the bug runs directly off the mains so lasts forever! why pay £700? or price is £26 Ref: MAG26 Transmits to any FM radio.

***FM BUG KIT** New design with PCB embedded coil for extra stability Works to any FM radio. 9v battery req'd. £5 Ref: MAG5P5

***FM BUG BUILT AND TESTED** superior design kit. Supplied to detective agencies. 9v battery req'd. £14 Ref: MAG14

TALKING COINBOX STRIPPER originally made to retail at £79 each, these units are designed to convert an ordinary phone into a payphone. The units have the locks missing and sometimes broken hinges. However they can be adapted for their original use or used for something else?? Price is just £3 Ref: MAG3P1

TOP QUALITY SPEAKERS Made for Hi Fi televisions these are 10 watt 4R Jap made 4" round with large shielded magnets. Good quality £2 each Ref: MAG2P4 or 4 for £6 Ref: MAG6P2

TWEETERS 2" diameter good quality tweeter 140R (ok with the above speaker) 2 for £2 Ref: MAG2P5 or 4 for £3 Ref: MAG3P4

AT KEYBOARDS Made by Apricot these quality keyboards need just a small mod to run on any AT, they work perfectly but you will have to put up with 1 or 2 foreign keycaps! Price £6 Ref: MAG6P3

HEADPHONES Ex Virgin Atlantic. 8 pairs for £2 Ref: MAG2P8

SNOOPERS EAR? Original made to clip over the earpiece of telephone to amplify the sound-it also works quite well on the cable running along the wall! Price is £5 Ref: MAG5P7

DOS PACKS Microsoft version 3.3 or higher complete with all manuals or price just £5 Ref: MAG5P8 Worth it just for the very comprehensive manual! 5.25" only

DOS PACK Microsoft version 5 Original software but no manuals hence only £5.99 3.5" only.

PIR DETECTOR Made by famous UK alarm manufacturer these are hi spec, long range internal units. 12v operation. Sight marks on case and unboxed (although brand new) £8 Ref: MAG8P5

WINDUP SOLAR POWERED RADIO AM/FM radio complete with hand charger and solar panel! £17.99 Ref: 14P200RA

MOBILE CAR PHONE £5.99 Well almost! complete in car phone excluding the box of electronics normally hidden under seat. Can be made to illuminate with 12v also has built in light sensor so display only illuminates when dark. Totally convincing! Ref: MAG6P6

ALARM BEACONS Zenon strobe made to mount on an external bell box but could be used for caravans etc. 12v operation. Just connect up and it flashes regularly! £5 Ref: MAG5P11

FIRE ALARM CONTROL PANEL High quality metal cased alarm panel 350x165x80mm With key. Comes with electronics but no information, sale price 7.99 Ref: MAG8P6

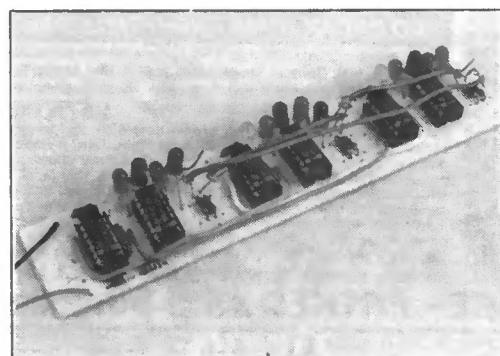
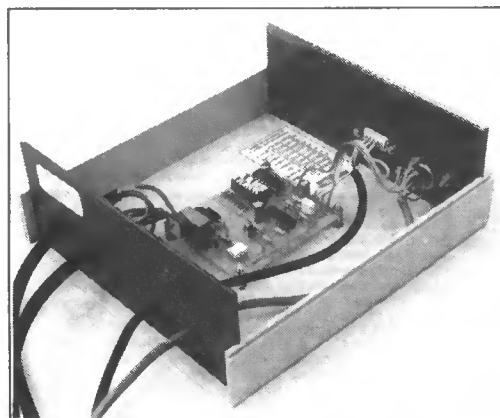
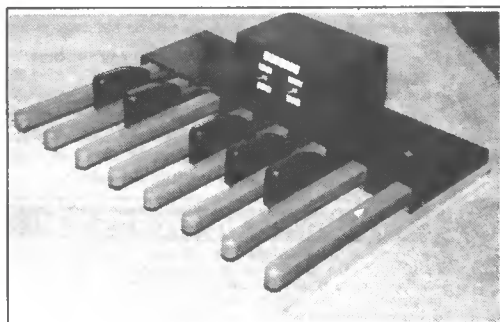
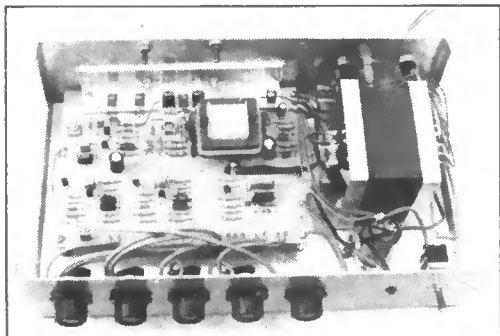
6"X12" AMORPHOUS SOLAR PANEL 12v 155x310mm 130mA. Bargain price just £5.99 ea Ref: MAG6P12

FIBRE OPTIC CABLE BUMPER PACK 10 metres for £4.99 ref MAG5P13 ideal for experimenters! 30m for £12.99 ref MAG13P1

HEATSINKS (finned) TO220, designed to mount vertically on a pcb 50x40x25mm you can have a pack of 4 for £1 ref JUN1P11.

INFRARED LASER NIGHT SCOPES

Image intensifier complete with hand grip attachment with built in adjustable laser lamp for zero light conditions. Supplied with Pentax 42mm camera mount and normal eyepiece. 1.6kg, uses 1xPP3, 3xAA's (all supplied £245+Vat)



Projects

- 12V 35W PA AMPLIFIER** by John Ellis **98**
A versatile, take it anywhere, amplifier that can also double-up as a 12V to 240V inverter
- FOOT-OPERATED DRILL CONTROLLER** by Edward Barrow **110**
Keep a foot on the speed of your p.c.b. drill
- THE ULTIMATE SCREEN SAVER** by Paul Stenning **118**
Automatically shuts down the PC monitor after a predetermined time
- MIDI PEDAL BOARD** by Tony Geering BSc **132**
A touch sensitive, one octave pedal for use with any musical device having a standard MIDI input
- MODEL RAILWAY SIGNALS** by Graham Long **148**
Bring true "Railtrack" signalling sequences to your model layout

Series

- CIRCUIT SURGERY** by Alan Winstanley **122**
Power supplies, heatsinks and a NiCad discharger
- INTERFACE** by Robert Penfold **129**
The page for computer enthusiasts – Printer port interfacing
- ELECTRONICS FROM THE GROUND UP – 5** **140**
by Mike Tooley B.A.
First steps in understanding electronics, with optional computer aided design software. Operational Amplifiers
- AMATEUR RADIO** by Tony Smith G4FAI **164**
No Change on Morse; RA Annual Report; CB Under Stress; Little Leo; Stellar Success; Universal Licence; GB25M to continue

Features

- EDITORIAL** **97**
- INNOVATIONS** **106**
Everyday news from the world of electronics
- NEW TECHNOLOGY UPDATE** by Ian Poole **108**
Multilayer CD gives ten-fold increase in memory storage
- TRANSFORMERLESS POWER SUPPLIES** by Andy Flind **114**
How capacitive power supplies work
- OHM SWEET OHM** by Max Fidling **116**
The amazing adventures of Max and his devoted companion Piddles
- SHOPTALK** with David Barrington **136**
Component buying for EPE projects
- FOX REPORT** by Barry Fox **138**
Cloning Macs; Dark Horse Games; Plug and Play Standard
- ELECTRONICS VIDEOS** **139**
Our range of educational videos to complement your studies
- QUICKROUTE 3.0 REVIEW** by Robert Penfold **154**
Robert examines the latest p.c.b. design software package from POWERware
- BACK ISSUES** Did you miss these? **158**
- DIRECT BOOK SERVICE** **159**
A wide range of technical books available by mail order
- ELECTRONICS SOFTWARE** **162**
Educational software – Electronics Principles II, Electronics PC Toolbox 2.0, GCSE Electronics, and GCSE Mathematics
- PRINTED CIRCUIT BOARD SERVICE** **163**
PCBs for EPE projects
- ADVERTISERS INDEX** **168**

© Wimborne Publishing Ltd 1995. Copyright in all drawings, photographs and articles published in **EVERYDAY with PRACTICAL ELECTRONICS** is fully protected, and reproduction or imitations in whole or in part are expressly forbidden.

Our March '95 Issue will be published on Friday, 3 February 1995. See page 87 for details.

Readers Service • Editorial and Advertisement Departments **97**

Surplus always
wanted for cash!

THE ORIGINAL SURPLUS WONDERLAND!

THIS MONTH'S SELECTION FROM OUR VAST EVER CHANGING STOCKS

Surplus always
wanted for cash!

LOW COST PC's - ALL EXPANDABLE - ALL PC COMPATIBLE

SPECIAL OFFER

SPECIAL BUY

AT 286

40Mb HD + 3Mb Ram

LIMITED QUANTITY only of these 12MHz HI GRADE 286 systems Made in the USA to an industrial specification, the system was designed for *total reliability*. The compact case houses the motherboard, PSU and EGA video card with single 5 1/4" 1.2 Mb floppy disk drive & integral 40Mb hard disk drive to the front. Real time clock with battery backup is provided as standard. Supplied in good used condition complete with enhanced keyboard, 640k + 2Mb RAM, DOS 4.01 and 90 DAY Full Guarantee. Ready to Run!
Order as HIGRADE 286

ONLY £149.00 (E)
CALL FOR QTY DISCOUNTS

Optional Fitted extras: VGA graphics card	£29.00
1.4Mb 3 1/2" floppy disk drive (instead of 1.2 Mb)	£32.95
NE2000 Ethernet (thick, thin or twisted) network card	£49.00

PC SCOOP COMPLETE COLOUR SYSTEM ONLY £99.00

A massive bulk purchase enables us to bring you a **COMPLETE** ready to run colour PC system at an unheard of price! The Display Electronics PC99 system comprises of fully compatible and expandable XT PC with 256k of RAM, 5 1/4" 360k floppy disk drive, 12" CGA colour monitor, standard 84 key keyboard, MS DOS and all connecting cables - **just plug in and go**!! Ideal students, schools or anybody wishing to learn the world of PC's on an ultra low budget. Don't miss this opportunity. Fully guaranteed for 90 Days.

Optional Fitted extras: 640k RAM	£29.00
2nd floppy drive, specify 5 1/4" 360k or 3 1/2" 720k	£29.95
Above prices for PC99 offer ONLY.	

VIDEO MONITOR SPECIALS

Superb quality 14" FOREFRONT MTS-9600 SVGA Multisync - Multisync monitor 0.28" dot pitch with resolution of 1024 x 768. The multi mode input allows direct connection to a host of computers including IBM PC's in CGA, EGA, VGA & SVGA modes. BBC, COMMODORE (including Amiga 1200), ARCHIMEDES etc. The H version will also function with the ATARI in all modes inc HI RES monochrome. Complete with text switching for WP use (possible minor screen burns) Syncs down to 15 kHz. Supplied in EXCELLENT little used condition with full 90 day guarantee.

Order as MTS-9600 / H for ATARI	£149.00 (E)
All modes as above Order as MTS-9600 / S	£129.00 (E)
ELECTROHOME EGM-1215BU 12" VGA multisync monitor with resolution of 1024 x 480. Multi input selection; Spin CGA/EGA; 15 pin VGA or 5 BNC connectors. 0.31 pitch. Compatible with PCs, Amiga, Atari and others. In good used condition (possible minor screen burns) 90 day guarantee.	£99.00 (E)

KME 10" high definition colour monitors. Night light 0.28" dot pitch for superb clarity and modern styling. Operates from any 15.625 khz sync RGB video source, with RGB analog and composite sync such as Atari, Commodore Amiga, Acorn Archimedes & BBC. Measures only 13.5" x 12" x 11". Only £125 (E) Good used condition. 90 day guarantee.
KME 10" as above for PC EGA standard £145.00 (E)

NEC CGA 12" colour IBM-PC compatible. High quality ex-equipment fully tested with a 90 day guarantee. In an attractive two tone ribbed grey plastic case measuring 15" L x 13" W x 12" H. The front cosmetic bezel has been removed for contractual reasons.

Only £49.00 (E)

20" 22" and 26" AV SPECIALS

Superbly made UK manufacture. PIL all solid state colour monitors, complete with composite video & optional sound inputs. Attractive teak style case. Perfect for Schools, Shops, Disco, Clubs, etc. In EXCELLENT little used condition with full 90 day guarantee.

20"....£135 22"....£155 26"....£185 (F)

12" Mono. Philips BM7542 05G for CCTV NEW £69.95 (C)

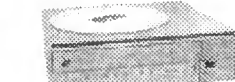
DC POWER SUPPLIES

10,000 Power Supplies Ex Stock
Call for info / list

Power One SPL200-5200P 200 watt (250 w peak). Semi open frame giving +5v 35a, -5v 1.5a, +12v 4a (8a peak), -12v 1.5a, +24v 4a (6a peak). All outputs fully regulated with over voltage protection on the +5v output. AC input selectable for 110/240 vac. Dims 13" x 5" x 2.5". Fully guaranteed RFE.	£85.00 (B)
Power One SPL130. 130 watts. Selectable for 12v (4A) or 24V (2A). 5v @ 20A, & 12v @ 1.5A. Switch mode New.	£59.95 (B)
Astec AC-8151 40 watts. Switch mode. +5v @ 2.5a, +12v @ 2a, -12v @ 0.1a, 6-1/4" x 4" x 1.34" RFE tested	£22.95 (B)
Lambda LYS-PV-12 200 watt switch mode. +12V DC @ 29a semi enclosed. 10" x 5" x 5". RFE and fully tested.	£59.95 (C)
Conver AC130. 130 watt hi-grade VDE spec. Switch mode. +5v @ 15a, +5v @ 1a, +12v @ 6a, 27 x 12.5 x 6.5cms. New.	£49.95 (C)
Boshart 13090. Switch mode. Ideal for drives & system. +5v @ 6a, +12v @ 2.5a, -12v @ 0.5a, -5v @ 0.5a.	£59.95 (B)
Farnell G6/40A. Switch mode. 5v @ 40a. Encased	£95.00 (C)

SPECIAL INTEREST

INTEL SBC 486/133SE Multibus 486 system. 8Mb Ram	£1975
Zeta 3220-05 A0 4 pen HPGL RS232 fast drum plotter	£1950
3M VDA - Video Distribution Amps. 1 in 32 out	£375
Trio 0-18 vdc bench PSU. 30 amps. New	£470
Fujitsu M3041 600 LPM band printer	£1950
VG Electronics 1035 TELETEXT Decoding Margin Meter	£3750
Andrews LARGE 3.1 m Satellite Dish & mount (For Voyager)	£950
RED TOP IR Heat seeking missile (not armed !!)	POA
Tektronix 1L30 Spectrum analyser plug in	£330
Thurlby LA 1608 logic analyser	£375
GEC 1.5kw 115v 60hz power source	£850
Brush 2Kw 400 Hz 3 phase frequency converter	POA
Anton Pillar 75 Kw 400 Hz 3 phase frequency converter	POA
Newton Derby 70 Kw 400 Hz 3 phase frequency converter	£750
Nikon PL-2 Projection lens meter/scope	£1995
Sekonic SD 150H 18 channel digital hybrid chart recorder	£1850
HP 7580A A1 8 pen HPGL high speed drum plotter	£350
Kenwood DA-3501 CD tester, laser pickup simulator	£125
Computer MCA1613APC 16mm auto iris lenses 'C' mount	£585
Seaward PAT 2000 dual voltage computerised PAT tester	



One of the most amazing surplus deals that we ever been able to offer you! The Philips VP410 LaserVision player, in as new condition, unit features full computer control, Plays standard 12" LaserVision disks with **stunning visual and audio quality** in two channel stereo or mono. When controlled by a computer, it may also be used as a versatile high quality storage / retrieval medium. It will play back either LaserVision CAV (active play) or CLV (Long Play) discs (which covers most types of commercially available video discs). Some of the many features of this incredible machine are:

RS-232 INTERFACE	RGB COMPOSITE VIDEO OUTPUT
BNC/SCART INTERFACE	PAL / RGB DECODER
IR-WIRED REMOTE CONTROL	FAST RANDOM ACCESS

SPECIAL PURCHASE Only £399.00 (F)

19" RACK CABINETS

Superb quality 6 foot 40U
Virtually New, Ultra Smart
Less than Half Price!

Top quality 19" rack cabinets made in UK by Optima Enclosures Ltd. Units feature designer, smoked acrylic lockable front door, full height lockable half louvered back door and removable side panels. Fully adjustable internal fixing struts, ready punched for any configuration of equipment mounting plus ready mounted integral 12 way 13 amp socket switched mains distribution strip make these racks some of the most versatile we have ever sold. Racks may be stacked side by side and therefore require only two side panels to stand singly or in bays.

Overall dimensions are: 77-1/2" H x 32-1/2" D x 22" W.	Order as:
Rack 1 Complete with removable side panels.	£335.00 (G)
Rack 2 Rack, Less side panels	£225.00 (G)

Over 1000 racks in all sizes 19" 22" & 24"
3 to 44 U. Available from stock !!
Call with your requirements.

TOUCH SCREEN SYSTEM

The ultimate in 'Touch Screen Technology' made by the experts - MicroTouch - but sold at a price below cost !! System consists of a flat translucent glass laminated panel measuring 29.5 x 23.5 cm connected to a PCB with on board sophisticated electronics. From the board comes a standard serial RS232 or TTL output. The output continuously gives simple serial data containing positional X & Y co-ordinates as to where a finger is touching the panel - as the finger moves, the data instantly changes. The X & Y information is given at an incredible matrix resolution of 1024 x 1024 positions over the screen size !! So, no position, however small fails detection. A host of available translation software enables direct connection to a PC for a myriad of applications including: control panels, pointing devices, POS systems, controllers for the disabled or computer untrained etc (a driver is indeed available !!) The applications for this amazing product are only limited by your imagination!! Supplied as a complete system including Controller, Power Supply and Data at an incredible price of only:

RFE. Full Software Support Available - Fully Guaranteed £145.00 (B)

LOW COST RAM UPGRADES

INTEL 'ABOVE' Memory Expansion Board. Full length PC-XT and PC-AT compatible card with 2 Mbytes of memory on board. Card is fully selectable for Expanded or Extended (286 processor and above) memory. Full data and driver disk supplied. In good used condition fully tested and guaranteed.

Windows compatible. Order as: ABOVE CARD	£59.95 (A1)
Half length 8 bit memory upgrade cards for PC AT XT expands memory either 256k or 512k in 64k steps. May also be used to fill in RAM above 640k DOS limit. Complete with data.	
Order as: XT RAM UPG. 256k	£32.95 (A1)
512k	£38.95 (A1)

1 MB x 9 SIMM 9 chip 120ns	only	£19.50 (A)
1 MB x 9 SIMM 3 chip 80 ns	only	£23.50 (A)
1 MB x 9 SIMM 9 chip 80 ns	only	£22.50 (A)

NO BREAK UNINTERRUPTIBLE PSU'S

Brand new and boxed 230 volts 1 Kva uninterruptible power supply from system from Densel. Model MUD 1085-AHBB. Complete with sealed lead acid batteries in matching case. Approx time from interrupt is 15 minutes. Complete with full manual.

£575.00 (G)

EMERSON ACCUCARD UPS, brand new 8 Bit half length PC compatible card for all IBM XT/AT compatibles. Card provides DC power to all internal system components in the event of power supply failure. The Accusaver software provided uses only 6k of base RAM and automatically copies all system, expanded and video memory to the hard disk in the event of loss of power. When power is returned the machine is returned to the **exact status when the power failed** !! The unit features full self diagnostics on boot and is supplied brand new, with full, easy lifting instructions and manual.

Normally £189.00 NOW! £69.00 or 2 for £120 (B)

FLOPPY DISK DRIVES 3.5" - 8"

5.25" from £22.95 - 3.5" from £24.95

Massive purchases of standard 5.25" and 3.5" drives enables us to present prime product at industry beating low prices! All units (unless stated) are **BRAND NEW** or removed from often brand new equipment and are fully tested, aligned and shipped to you with a 90 day guarantee and operate from standard voltages and are of standard size. All are IBM-PC compatible (if 3.5" supported on your PC).

3.5" Panasonic JU363/4 720K or equivalent	£24.95 (B)
3.5" Mitsubishi MF355C-L 1.4 Meg. Laptops only *	£36.95 (B)
3.5" Mitsubishi MF355C-D 1.4 Meg. Non laptop	£29.95 (B)
5.25" Teac FD-55GFR 1.2 Meg	£29.95 (B)
5.25" BRAND NEW Mitsubishi MF501B 360K	£22.95 (B)
* Data cable included in price.	
Shugart 800/801 8" SS refurbished & tested	£195.00 (E)
Shugart 851 8" double sided refurbished & tested	£250.00 (E)
Mitsubishi M2894-63 8" double sided NEW	£275.00 (E)
Mitsubishi M2896-63-02U 8" DS slimline NEW	£285.00 (E)
Dual 8" drives with 2 mbyte capacity housed in a smart case with built in power supply. Ideal as exterior drives!	£499.00 (F)

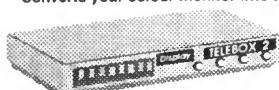
HARD DISK DRIVES

End of line purchase scoop! Brand new NEC D2246 8" 85 Mbyte of hard disk storage! Full industry standard SMD interface. Ultra hi speed data transfer and access time, replaces Fujitsu equivalent model. Complete with manual. Only

3.5" FUJII FK-309-26 20mb MFM I/F RFE	£59.95 (C)
3.5" CONNER CP3024 20 mb IDE I/F (or equiv) RFE	£69.95 (C)
3.5" CONNER CP3044 40mb IDE I/F (or equiv) RFE	£89.00 (C)
3.5" RODIME R03057S 45mb SCSI I/F (Mac & Acorn)	£99.00 (C)
5.25" MINISCRIIBE 3425 20mb MFM I/F (or equiv.) RFE	£49.95 (C)
5.25" SEAGATE ST-238R 30 mb RLL I/F Refurb	£69.95 (C)
5.25" CDC 94205-51 40mb HB MFM I/F RFE tested	£69.95 (C)
8" FUJITSU M2232K 160Mb SMD I/F RFE tested	£195.00 (E)
Hard disc controllers for MFM, IDE, SCSI, RLL etc. from £16.95	

THE AMAZING TELEBOX

Converts your colour monitor into a QUALITY COLOUR TV!!



TV SOUND
& VIDEO
TUNER!

The TELEBOX consists of an attractive fully cased mains powered unit, containing all electronics ready to plug into a host of video monitors made by makers such as MICROVITEC, ATARI, SANYO, SONY, COMMODORE, PHILIPS, TATUNG, AMSTRAD etc. The composite video output will also plug directly into most video recorders, allowing reception of TV channels not normally receivable on most television receivers (TELEBOX MB). Push button controls on the front panel allow reception of 8 fully tuneable 'off air' UHF colour television channels. TELEBOX MB covers virtually all television frequencies VHF and UHF including the HYPERBAND as used by most cable TV operators. A composite video output is located on the rear panel for direct connection to most makes of monitor or desktop video systems. For complete compatibility - even for monitors without sound - an integral 4 watt audio amplifier and low level Hi Fi audio output are provided as standard.

TELEBOX ST for composite video input type monitors	£34.95
TELEBOX STL as ST but with integral speaker	£37.50
TELEBOX MB Multiband VHF-UHF-Cable-Hyperband tuner	£69.95
For overseas PAL versions state 5.5 or 6mhz sound specification.	
*For cable / hyperband reception Telebox MB should be connected to cable type service. Shipping code on all Teleboxes is (B)	

FANS & BLOWERS

MITSUBISHI MMF-D6D12DL 60 x 25 mm 12v DC	£4.95 10 / £42
MITSUBISHI MMF-09B12DH 92 x 25 mm 12v DC	£5.95 10 / £53
PANCAKE 12-3.5 92 x 18 mm 12v DC	£7.95 10 / £69
EX-EQUIP 120 x 38mm AC fans - tested specify 110 or 240 v	£6.95
EX-EQUIP 80 x 38mm AC fans - tested specify 110 or 240 v	£5.95
VERO rack mount 1U x 19" fan tray specify 110 or 240v	£45.95 (B)
IMHOF B26 1900 rack mnt 3U x 19" Blower 110/240v NEW	£79.95
Shipping on all fans (A). Blowers (B). 50,000 Fans Ex Stock CALL	

IC's - TRANSISTORS - DIODES

OBSOLETE - SHORT SUPPLY - BULK

5,000,000 items EX STOCK

For MAJOR SAVINGS - SAE or CALL FOR LATEST LIST

Issue 13 of Display News now available - send large SAE - PACKED with bargains!

DISPLAY
-ELECTRONICS-

LONDON SHOP
Open Mon - Sat 9:00 - 5:30
215 Whitehorse Lane
South Norwood
On 64A Bus Route
N. Thornton Heath &
Selhurst Park SR Rail Stations

ALL MAIL & OFFICES
Open Mon-Fri 9.00-5:30
Dept EE. 32 Biggin Way
Upper Norwood
LONDON SE19 3XF

DISTEL © The Original
FREE On line Database
Info on 1000's of items
V21, V22, V22 BIS
0181 679 1888

ALL ENQUIRIES
0181 679 4414
FAX 0181 679 1927

All prices for UK Mainland. UK customers add 17.5% VAT to TOTAL order amount. Minimum order £10. Bona Fide account orders accepted from Government, Schools, Universities and Local Authorities - minimum account order £50. Cheques over £100 are subject to 10 working days clearance. Carriage charges (A)=£3.00, (A1)=£4.00, (B)=£5.50, (C)=£8.50, (D)=£12.00, (E)=£15.00, (F)=£18.00, (G)=CALL. Allow approx 6 days for shipping - faster CALL. Scotland surcharge CALL. All goods supplied to our Standard Conditions of Sale and unless stated guaranteed for 90 days. All guarantees on a return to base basis. All rights reserved to change prices / specifications without prior notice. Orders subject to stock. Discounts for volume. Top CASH prices paid for surplus goods. All trademarks etc acknowledged. © Display Electronics 1995. E & O.E. 1/11

FREE

PROBABLY THE MOST USEFUL P.C.B. EVER PRODUCED!

YOU CAN BUILD ANY ONE OF
SIX DIFFERENT PROJECTS
ON OUR FREE P.C.B. THEY ARE:

WORTH

£3



Timer

Provides an automatic switch-off between about one and six minutes after switch-on. Other times possible by altering the CR timing network. Uses a very low current op.amp to provide micro-power operation once the relay has been switched off.

Continuity Tester

Uses an op.amp as a comparator so that it will only respond to resistances of a few ohms or less. The audible indication of continuity is provided by a ready-made buzzer. Maximum voltage across probes is a safe 6V, and the current is limited to less than 500 microamps.

Modulated Light Telephone

This is a modern version of the old torch bulb telephone idea. Uses an ultra-bright l.e.d. at the transmitter to give good range despite the relatively low current consumption. The audio quality is a lot

better than the treble-free output from a torch bulb design. Can achieve a range of up to about 100 metres using a couple of cheap lenses. (This project requires two of the FREE P.C.B.s).

Sound Activated Switch

A simple and straightforward design using an op.amp as a high gain audio amplifier driving a rectifier/smoothing circuit and a common emitter relay driver. Reasonably sensitive using most low impedance dynamic microphones.

Audio Amplifier

A class-B audio amplifier which is capable of providing a few hundred milliwatts r.m.s. into an 8 ohm loudspeaker. Uses negative feedback and the high slew rate of an op.amp to combat cross-over distortion (there is no bias current through the output stage).

Automatic Light Switch

Basic design using a relay to switch something on or off when the light intensity falls below a preset threshold level.

Three of these projects will be published next month, when our issue will have the FREE P.C.B. attached to the front cover. The other three designs will be presented in the following issue.

**DON'T MISS THIS VALUABLE
ISSUE - PLACE AN ORDER
WITH YOUR NEWSAGENT
NOW!**

**EVERYDAY
WITH PRACTICAL
ELECTRONICS**

MARCH '95 ISSUE ON SALE FRIDAY, 3rd FEBRUARY

EXTENSION

SURVEILLANCE PROFESSIONAL QUALITY KITS

No. 1 for Kits

Whether your requirement for surveillance equipment is amateur, professional or you are just fascinated by this unique area of electronics SUMA DESIGNS has a kit to fit the bill. We have been designing electronic surveillance equipment for over 12 years and you can be sure that all our kits are very well tried, tested and proven and come complete with full instructions, circuit diagrams, assembly details and all high quality components including fibreglass PCB. Unless otherwise stated all transmitters are tuneable and can be received on an ordinary VHF FM radio.

Genuine SUMA kits available only direct from Suma Designs. Beware inferior imitations!

UTX Ultra-miniature Room Transmitter

Smallest room transmitter kit in the world! Incredible 10mm x 20mm including mic. 3-12V operation. 500m range.....£16.45

MTX Micro-miniature Room Transmitter

Best-selling micro-miniature Room Transmitter
Just 17mm x 17mm including mic. 3-12V operation. 1000m range.....£13.45

STX High-performance Room Transmitter

Hi performance transmitter with a buffered output stage for greater stability and range.
Measures 22mm x 22mm including mic. 6-12V operation. 1500m range.....£15.45

VT500 High-power Room Transmitter

Powerful 250mW output providing excellent range and performance. Size 20mm x 40mm. 9-12V operation. 3000m range.....£16.45

VXT Voice Activated Transmitter

Triggers only when sounds are detected. Very low standby current. Variable sensitivity and delay with LED indicator. Size 20mm x 67mm. 9V operation. 1000m range.....£19.45

HVX400 Mains Powered Room Transmitter

Connects directly to 240V AC supply for long-term monitoring. Size 30mm x 35mm. 500m range.....£19.45

SCRX Subcarrier Scrambled Room Transmitter

Scrambled output from this transmitter cannot be monitored without the SCDM decoder connected to the receiver. Size 20mm x 67mm. 9V operation. 1000m range.....£22.95

SCILX Subcarrier Telephone Transmitter

Connects to telephone line anywhere, requires no batteries. Output scrambled so requires SCDM connected to receiver. Size 32mm x 37mm. 1000m range.....£23.95

SCDM Subcarrier Decoder Unit for SCRX

Connects to receiver earphone socket and provides decoded audio output to headphones. Size 32mm x 70mm. 9-12V operation.....£22.95

ATR2 Micro Size Telephone Recording Interface

Connects between telephone line (anywhere) and cassette recorder. Switches tape automatically as phone is used. All conversations recorded. Size 16mm x 32mm. Powered from line.....£13.45

UTLX Ultra-miniature Telephone Transmitter

Smallest telephone transmitter kit available. Incredible size of 10mm x 20mm!
Connects to line (anywhere) and switches on and off with phone use.
All conversation transmitted. Powered from line. 500m range.....£15.95

TLX700 Micro-miniature Telephone Transmitter

Best-selling telephone transmitter. Being 20mm x 20mm it is easier to assemble than UTLX. Connects to line (anywhere) and switches on and off with phone use. All conversations transmitted. Powered from line. 1000m range.....£13.45

STLX High-performance Telephone Transmitter

High performance transmitter with buffered output stage providing excellent stability and performance. Connects to line (anywhere) and switches on and off with phone use. All conversations transmitted. Powered from line. Size 22mm x 22mm. 1500m range.....£16.45

TX900 Signalling/Tracking Transmitter

Transmits a continuous stream of audio pulses with variable tone and rate. Ideal for signalling or tracking purposes. High power output giving range up to 3000m. Size 25mm x 63mm. 9V operation.....£22.95

CD400 Pocket Bug Detector/Locator

LED and piezo bleeper pulse slowly, rate of pulse and pitch of tone increase as you approach signal. Gain control allows pinpointing of source. Size 45mm x 54mm. 9V operation.....£30.95

CD600 Professional Bug Detector/Locator

Multicolour readout of signal strength with variable rate bleeper and variable sensitivity used to detect and locate hidden transmitters. Switch to AUDIO CONFORM mode to distinguish between localised bug transmission and normal legitimate signals such as pagers, cellular, taxis etc. Size 70mm x 100mm. 9V operation.....£50.95

QTX180 Crystal Controlled Room Transmitter

Narrow band FM transmitter for the ultimate in privacy. Operates on 180 MHz and requires the use of a scanner receiver or our QRX180 kit (see catalogue). Size 20mm x 67mm. 9V operation. 1000m range.....£40.95

QLX180 Crystal Controlled Telephone Transmitter

As per QTX180 but connects to telephone line to monitor both sides of conversations. 20mm x 67mm. 9V operation. 1000m range.....£40.95

QSX180 Line Powered Crystal Controlled Phone Transmitter

As per QLX180 but draws power requirements from line. No batteries required. Size 32mm x 37mm. Range 500m.....£35.95

QRX180 Crystal Controlled FM Receiver

For monitoring any of the 'Q' range transmitters. High sensitivity unit. All RF section supplied as a pre-built and aligned module ready to connect on board so no difficulty setting up. Output to headphones. 60mm x 75mm. 9V operation.....£60.95

A build-up service is available on all our kits if required.

UK customers please send cheques, POs or registered cash. Please add £1.50 per order for P&P. Goods despatched ASAP allowing for cheque clearance. Overseas customers send sterling bank draft and add £5.00 per order for shipment. Credit card orders welcomed on 0827 714476.

OUR LATEST CATALOGUE CONTAINING MANY MORE NEW SURVEILLANCE KITS NOW AVAILABLE. SEND TWO FIRST CLASS STAMPS OR OVERSEAS SEND TWO IRCS.

★★★ Specials ★★★

DLTX/DLRX Radio Control Switch

Remote control anything around your home or garden, outside lights, alarms, paging system etc. System consists of a small VHF transmitter with digital encoder and receiver unit with decoder and relay output, momentary or alternate, 8-way di1 switches on both boards set your own unique security code. TX size 45mm x 45mm. RX size 35mm x 90mm. Both 9V operation. Range up to 200m.

Complete System (2 kits).....£50.95
Individual Transmitter DLTX.....£19.95
Individual Receiver DLRX.....£37.95

MBX-1 Hi-Fi Micro Broadcaster

Not technically a surveillance device but a great idea! Connects to the headphone output of your Hi-Fi, tape or CD and transmits Hi-Fi quality to a nearby radio. Listen to your favourite music anywhere around the house, garden, in the bath or in the garage and you don't have to put up with the DJ's choice and boring waffle. Size 27mm x 60mm. 9V operation. 250m range.....£20.95

**SUMA
DESIGNS**

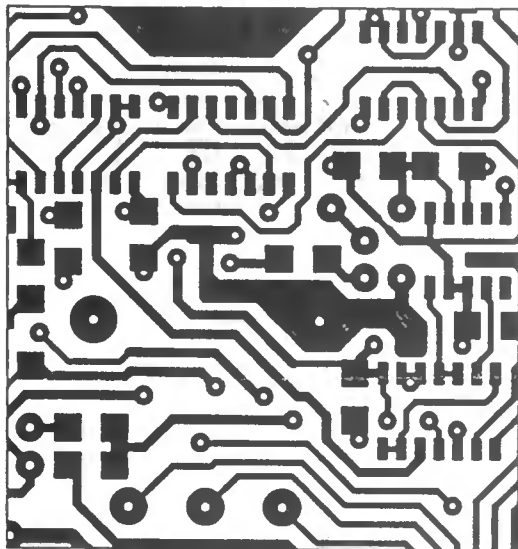
**DEPT. EE
THE WORKSHOPS, 95 MAIN ROAD,
BAXTERLEY. NEAR ATHERSTONE,
WARWICKSHIRE CV9 2LE
VISITORS STRICTLY BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**



**Tel/Fax:
0827 714476**

EASY-PC, Schematic and PCB CAD

Over 18,000 Installations
in 80 Countries World-wide!

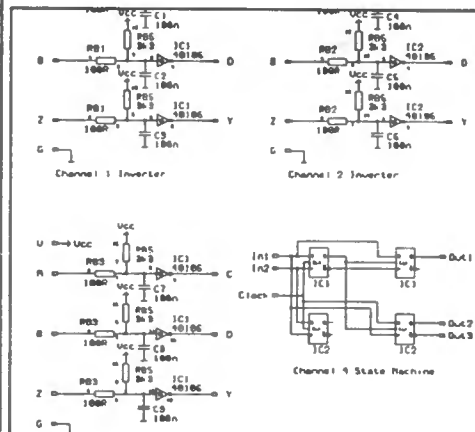


- Runs on:- PC/XT/AT/ 286/ 386/ 486 with Hercules, CGA, EGA or VGA display and many DOS emulations.
- Design:- Single sided, Double sided and Multi-layer (8) boards.
- Provides full Surface Mount support.
- Standard output includes Dot Matrix / Laser / Ink-jet Printer, Pen Plotter, Photo-plotter and N.C. Drill.
- Tech Support - free.
- Superbly easy to use.

Still
Only
£98.00!

Plus P&P+VAT

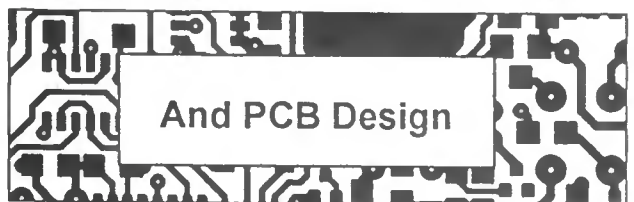
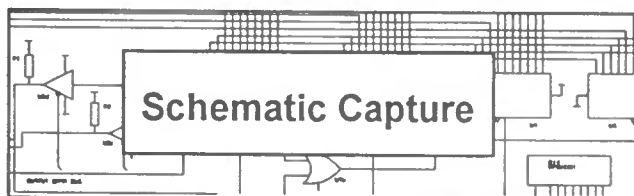
BRITISH
DESIGN
AWARD
1989



Options:-500 piece Surface Mount Symbol Library £48,
1000 piece Symbol Library £38, Gerber Import facility £98.

Electronic Designs Right First Time?

Integrated Electronics CAD



Prices from UK£195 / US\$375

Affordable Electronics CAD

EASY-PC: Entry level PCB and Schematic CAD.	\$195.00	£98.00
EASY-PC Professional: Schematic Capture and PCB CAD. Links directly to ANALYSER III and PULSAR.	\$375.00	£195.00
EASY-PC Pro' XM: Extended Memory Version - Greatly increased capacity	\$475.00	£245.00
PULSAR: Digital Circuit Simulator ~ 1500 gate capacity.	\$195.00	£98.00
PULSAR Professional: Digital Circuit Simulator ~ 50,000 gate capacity.	\$375.00	£195.00
ANALYSER III: Linear Analogue Circuit Simulator ~ 130 node capability	\$195.00	£98.00
ANALYSER III Professional: Linear Analogue Circuit Simulator ~ 750 node capability.	\$375.00	£195.00
Z-MATCH for Windows: NEW Windows based Smith-Chart program for RF Engineers.	\$475.00	£245.00
FILTECH: Active and Passive Filter Design program	\$275.00	£145.00
We operate a no penalty upgrade policy. You can upgrade at any time to the professional version of a program just for the difference in price.		US\$ prices include Post and Packing. UK£ prices exclude P&P and VAT

For full information, please write, phone or fax:-

Number One Systems

UK/EEC: Ref. EVD, HARDING WAY, ST. IVES, CAMBS., ENGLAND, PE17 4WR.

Telephone UK: 0480 461778 (7 lines) Fax: 0480 494042 International +44 480 461778

USA: Ref. EVD, 1795 Granger Avenue, Los Altos, CA 94024

Telephone/Fax: (415) 968 9306

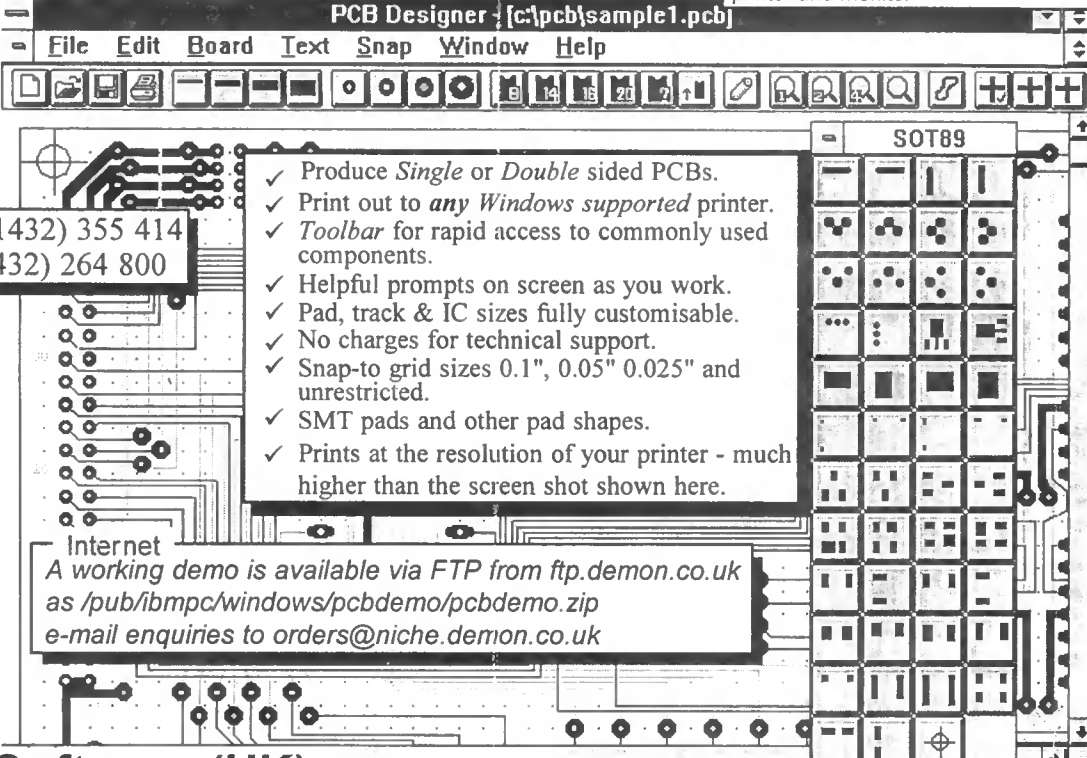
- TECHNICAL SUPPORT FREE FOR LIFE
- PROGRAMS NOT COPY PROTECTED.
- SPECIAL PRICES FOR EDUCATION.

MASTERCARD, VISA Welcome.

PCB Designer

For Windows 3.1

Runs on any PC running Windows 3.1 in standard or enhanced mode with 2MB RAM
Will work with any Windows supported printer and monitor



PCB Designer - [c:\pcb\sample1.pcb]

File Edit Board Text Snap Window Help

Phone (01432) 355 414
FAX (01432) 264 800

- ✓ Produce *Single* or *Double* sided PCBs.
- ✓ Print out to *any* Windows supported printer.
- ✓ *Toolbar* for rapid access to commonly used components.
- ✓ Helpful prompts on screen as you work.
- ✓ Pad, track & IC sizes fully customisable.
- ✓ No charges for technical support.
- ✓ Snap-to grid sizes 0.1", 0.05" 0.025" and unrestricted.
- ✓ SMT pads and other pad shapes.
- ✓ Prints at the resolution of your printer - much higher than the screen shot shown here.

Internet
A working demo is available via FTP from <ftp.demon.co.uk> as </pub/ibmpc/windows/pcbdemo/pcbdemo.zip>
e-mail enquiries to orders@niche.demon.co.uk

SOT89

X: 1.000 Y: 0.000

Niche Software (UK)

22 Tavistock Drive, Belmont, Hereford, HR2 7XN.

Please Note: Since PCB designer is so easy to use, and to keep costs down, PCB Designer has an On-Line manual, in Windows Help format. A FREE tutorial is also supplied.

THE ONLY COMPANY ON FIRST NAME TERMS WITH THE NOISE POLLUTION AGENCY!

RTVC

PA 400 AMPLIFIER £129.99

- INPUT 0.75V-1.2V ● INPUT IMPEDANCE 47Kohms
- OUTPUT POWER 2 × 200 WATT MAX (4ohms)
- RMS OUTPUT POWER 2 × 125W RMS/MAX
- FREQUENCY RESPONSE 14Hz-26kHz (3db)
- S/N RATIO 10db ● SEPARATION 70db
- DIMS 482mm/308mm/132mm 3U ● WEIGHT 8.4kg

STANDARD FEATURES: BOTH AMPS HAVE INDEPENDENT LEFT/RIGHT VOLUME CONTROLS, VU METERS, AND ARE FAN COOLED.

BRITISH MADE

PA 700 BEEFY 700 WATT AMPLIFIER ONLY £204.95

- ★ ● INPUT 0.75V-1.2V VIA 1/4" (6.35mm) JACK SOCKETS
- ★ ● CHANNEL SEPARATION 85db
- ★ ● SIGNAL TO NOISE RATIO 100db
- ★ ● FREQUENCY RESPONSE 20Hz-30kHz
- ★ ● OUTPUT MAX 2 × 350W (4 ohms) VIA 3-PIN XLR FM
- ★ ● OUTPUT RMS 2 × 230W
- ★ ● SIZE 438mm (W) × 87mm (H) × 268mm (D) 2U ● WEIGHT 7.65kg (8.25kg boxed)

UTILISES 8 TO3 MOSFETS WITH DUAL TOROID TRANSFORMER P.S.U.

AUTHORISED DEALERS IN:- EMINENCE & RCF SPEAKERS, VESTAX, KAM, GEMINI & HW MIXERS, STANTON, ORTOFON, & SHURE CARTRIDGES.

RTVC

376 EDGWARE ROAD LONDON W2 1EB Tel: 071-723 8432/071-723 3462 Fax 071-723 3467
2 mins. from Edgware Road Tube Station.



CRAZY
PRICE!

GREAT PRICES ON BLANK AUDIO & VIDEO TAPES

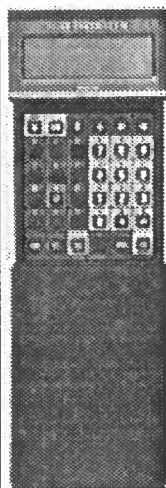
Audio

(a) Type I				(b) Type II				(c) Type IV			
Ferric	1	10	100	Chrome	1	10	100	Metal	1	10	100
TDK D90	£1.00	8.00	70.00	CDing II 90	£1.20	10.00	90.00	MA90	£2.50	23.00	210.00
Sony FX1-90	£1.00	8.00	70.00	SA90	£1.80	15.00	135.00				
Scotch BXC-90	£1.00	8.00	70.00								

Video

Standard VHS Tapes				VHS-C Camcorder Tapes				Video 8 Camcorder Tapes			
	1	10	100		1	10			1	10	
Scotch EG+ 180	£3.00	27.00	240.00	Scotch EC30	£3.00	27.00		Scotch P5-60	£4.00	36.00	
Scotch EG+ 240	£4.00	36.00	320.00	Scotch EC45	£4.00	36.00		Scotch P5-90	£4.50	39.00	
JVC SX 180	£2.20	18.00	155.00								
JVC SX 240	£3.00	27.00	240.00								

PSION ORGANIZER II



Z5996 Model XP. Small powerful battery operated hand held computer with a high contrast 16x2 LCD. Not sure if these are standard models, as (a) they were cheap and (b) they are marked Alpha POS 200. There are two 'device' slots on the back for memory modules - and when switched on, all you get is an 'insert pack' message. Needless to say we don't have any packs! So, a great bargain - or is it? The list price is 107.60. Our Price

£30

JUST ARRIVED IN LAST FEW WEEKS

- ✎ Panel Meters from £3
- ✎ Large Parcel Of New & Boxed Valves
- ✎ Airline Video System
- ✎ CD Headphones For £3.95
- ✎ Parcel Of Panels & Rack Mounting Units From Audix/Tandy
- ✎ Solid Tant Caps
- ✎ Heatsinks, Transformers Etc, Etc.

Latest Surplus Lists *Free* - ring, write or fax for your copy. 1995 Catalogue - 196 pages crammed full of great products at low, low prices - just £2

NEW VIDEO CAMERA

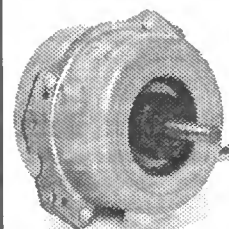
ZS9268 There has to be a catch - and there is! Although these are brand new Canon H850A 8mm Hi-8 stereo camcorders, they've had the tape mechanism removed. So you're left with a plastic case containing the video lens with 8x zoom, monitor tube and electronics, but nothing to record on to. No reason why it couldn't be hooked up to a mains machine, though (There's a 1V composite video output). Offered at the sparkling price of



ONLY £149

MAINS MOTOR

Z9275 An excellent opportunity to purchase a high quality 45 watt multispeed mains (250V ac) motor at well below normal price. Measuring 87mm long x 98mm dia, it has a 10mm spindle with flat 44mm long. There are four taps giving the following speeds: 1300, 1030, 900 or 650RPM, offering a maximum torque of 1.4kg/cm. A 1.5µF 500V running capacitor is supplied. Weight 2.1kg.



£12.95

Phone Nos: **SALES 01703 236363**; Technical 325999; Accounts 231003; Fax (All depts) 236307; FaxOnDemand 236315*

*To obtain latest lists, info etc, just dial 01703 236315 from any fax machine and follow instructions.

All prices in this advert include VAT. P&P £3 per order (£9.50 next day). Min Credit Card £12; Official Orders welcome from Education - min invoice charge £15. Payment accepted by cheque, PO, cash, book tokens, Access, Visa, Connect. Our stores (over 10,000 sq ft) have enormous stocks. We are open from 8-5.30 Mon-Sat. Come and see us!

GREENWELD
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS



27D Park Road Southampton SO15 3UQ

FREE SUBSCRIPTION TO 'THE GREENWELD GUARDIAN' (worth £6) When you buy this Multimeter!

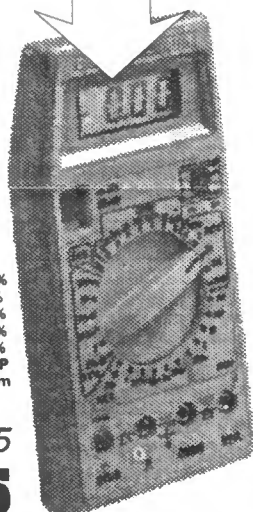
DIGITAL MULTIMETER

- ▶ Input Impedance 10MΩ
- ▶ 3½ digit 15mm LCD display
- ▶ 32 ranges including 20A ac/dc
- ▶ Transistor and diode test
- ▶ Continuity test with buzzer and LED
- ▶ Rugged yellow case
- ▶ Test leads with shrouded 4mm plugs
- ▶ Carrying case
- ▶ Fuse Protection
- ▶ Automatic polarity and zero

Battery and instruction manual included

AC volts: 0-200m-2-20-200-750V_{ac}±0.8%
DC volts: 0-200m-2-20-200-1000V_{dc}±0.5%
AC current: 0-20µ-200µ-2m-20m-200m-2A-20A_{ac}±1.0%
DC current: 0-20µ-200µ-2m-20m-200m-2A-20A_{dc}±0.5%
Resistance: 0-200-2k-20k-200k-2M-20MΩ±0.5%
Transistor h_{FE}: 0-1000 NPN/PNP
Diode: 176x88x36mm

Code No: M3801



SPECIAL PRICE! Usually £36.95
£29.95

£1 BARGAIN PACKS - List 1

1,000 items appear in our Bargain Packs List - request one of these when you next order.

- 1 x 12V Stepper Motor. 7.5 degree. Order Ref: 910.
- 1 x 10 pack Screwdrivers. Order Ref: 909.
- 2 x 5 amp Pull Cord Ceiling Switches. Brown. Order Ref: 921.
- 5 x reels Insulation Tape. Order Ref: 911.
- 4 x 14mm Bull-races. Order Ref: 912.
- 2 x Cord Grip Switch Lamp Holders. Order Ref: 913.
- 1 x DC Voltage Reducer. 12V-6V. Order Ref: 916.
- 1 x 10 amp 40V Bridge Rectifier. Order Ref: 889.
- Lightweight Stereo Headphones. Moving coil so superior sound. Order Ref: 896.
- 2 x 25W Crossovers. For 4ohm loudspeakers. Order Ref: 22.
- 2 x NiCad Constant Current Chargers. Easily adaptable to charge almost any NiCad battery. Order Ref: 30.
- 18V-0-18V 10VA mains transformer. Order Ref: 813.
- 2 x White Plastic Boxes. With lids, approx. 3" cube. Lid has square hole through the centre so these are ideal for light operated switch. Order Ref: 132.
- 2 x Reed Relay Kits. You get 8 reed switches and 2 coil sets. Order Ref: 148.
- 12V-0-12V 6VA mains transformer, p.c.b. mounting. Order Ref: 938.
- 1 x Big Pull Solenoid. Mains operated. Has 1/2" pull. Order Ref: 871.
- 1 x Big Push Solenoid. Mains operated. Has 1/2" push. Order Ref: 872.
- 1 x Mini Mono Amp. 3W into 4 ohm speaker or 1W into 8 ohm. Order Ref: 495.
- 1 x Mini Stereo 1W Amp. Order Ref: 870.
- 15V DC 150mA p.s.u., nicely cased. Order Ref: 942.
- 1 x In-Flight Stereo Unit is a stereo amp. Has two most useful mini moving coil speakers. Made for BOAC passengers. Order Ref: 29.
- 1 x 0-1mA Panel Meter. Full vision fact 70mm square. Scaled 0-100. Order Ref: 756.
- 2 x Lithium Batteries. 2.5V penlight size. Order Ref: 874.
- 2 x 3m Telephone Leads. With BT flat plug. Ideal for 'phone extensions, fax, etc. Order Ref: 552.
- 1 x 12V Solenoid. Has good 1/2" pull or could push if modified. Order Ref: 232.
- 4 x In-Flex Switches. With neon on/off lights, saves leaving things switched on. Order Ref: 7.
- 2 x 6V 1A Mains Transformers. Upright mounting with fixing clamps. Order Ref: 9.
- 5 x 13A Rocker Switch. Three tags so on/off, or changeover with centre off. Order Ref: 42.
- Mini Cassette Motor. 9V. Order Ref: 944.
- 1 x Suck or Blow-Operated Pressure Switch. Or it can be operated by any low pressure variation such as water level in tanks. Order Ref: 67.
- 1 x 6V 750mA Power Supply. Nicely cased with mains input and 6V output lead. Order Ref: 103A.
- 2 x Stripper Boards. Each contains a 400V 2A bridge rectifier and 14 other diodes and rectifiers as well as dozens of condensers, etc. Order Ref: 120.
- 12 Very Fine Drills. For PCB boards etc. Normal cost about 80p each. Order Ref: 128.
- 5 x Motors for Model Aeroplanes. Spin to start so needs no switch. Order Ref: 134.
- 6 x Microphone Inserts. Magnetic 400 ohm, also act as speakers. Order Ref: 139.
- 6 x Neon Indicators. In panel mounting holders with lens. Order Ref: 180.
- 1 x In-Flex Solderstat. Keeps your soldering iron etc always at the ready. Order Ref: 196.
- 1 x Mains Solenoid. Very Powerful as 1/2" pull, or could push if modified. Order Ref: 199.
- 1 x Electric Clock. Mains operated. Put this in a box and you need never be late. Order Ref: 211.
- 4 x 12V Alarms. Makes a noise about as loud as a car horn. All brand new. Order Ref: 221.
- 2 x (6" x 4") Speakers. 16 ohm 5 watts, so can be joined in parallel to make a high wattage column. Order Ref: 243.
- 1 x Panostat. Controls output of boiling ring from simmer up to boil. Order Ref: 252.
- 2 x Oblong Push Switches. For bell or chimes, these can switch mains up to 5A so could be foot switch if fitted in pattrass. Order Ref: 263.
- 50 x Mixed Silicon Diodes. Order Ref: 293.
- 1 x 6 Digit Mains Operated Counter. Standard size but counts in even numbers. Order Ref: 28.
- 2 x 6V Operated Reed Relays. One normally on, other normally closed. Order Ref: 48.
- 1 x Cabinet Lock. With two keys. Order Ref: 55.
- 6 1/2 8Ω 5 Watt Speaker. Order Ref: 824.
- 1 x Shaded Pole Mains Motor. 3/4" stack, so quite powerful. Order Ref: 85.
- 2 x 5 Aluminium Fan Blades. Could be fitted to the above motor. Order Ref: 86.
- 1 x Case, 3 1/2 x 2 1/4 x 1 1/4 with 13A socket pins. Order Ref: 845.
- 2 x Cases. 2 1/2 x 2 1/4 x 1 1/4 with 13A pins. Order Ref: 565.
- 4 x Luminous Rocker Switches. 10A mains. Order Ref: 793.
- 4 x Different Standard V3 Micro Switches. Order Ref: 340.
- 4 x Different Sub Min Micro Switches. Order Ref: 313.

MISCELLANEOUS BARGAINS

Almost all of the bargains offered last month are still available. If in doubt, give us a ring (see below).

- 0V-20V DC PANEL METER. This is a nice size 65mm sq. It is ideal if you are making a voltage variable instrument or battery charger. Price £3, Order Ref: 3P188.
- FLASHING BEACON. Ideal for putting on a van, a tractor or any vehicle that should always be seen. Uses a XENON tube and has an amber coloured dome. Separate fixing base is included so unit can be put away if desirable. Price £7.50, Order Ref: 7.5P13.
- 12V 2A TRANSFORMER. £2, Order Ref: 2P337.
- ANOTHER 12V-0V-12V TRANSFORMER is a 50VA and is suitable for dropping through the chassis or as it is fitted with 4 pillars it can be mounted above the chassis. Also should you want a 12V 4A transformer, then this one should be quite suitable, you use just one half of the secondary. Price £3.50, Order Ref: 3.5P7.
- HIGH RESOLUTION MONITOR. 9" by Philips, in metal frame for easy mounting. Brand new, offered at less than price of tube alone, only £15, Order Ref: 15P1.
- 15W 8" 8 OHM SPEAKER & 3" TWEETER. Amstrad, made for their high quality music centre, £4 per pair, Order Ref: 4P57.
- INSULATION TESTER WITH MULTIMETER. Internally generates voltages which enables you to read insulation directly in megohms. The multimeter has four ranges, AC/DC volts, 3 ranges milliamps, 3 ranges resistance and 5 amp range. These instruments are ex-British Telecom but in very good condition, tested and guaranteed OK, probably cost at least £50, yours for only £7.50 with leads, carrying case £2 extra, Order Ref: 7.5P4.
- WE HAVE SOME of the above testers but slightly faulty, not working on all ranges, should be repairable, we supply diagram, £3, Order Ref: 3P176.
- 250W LIGHT DIMMER. Will fit in place of normal wall switch, only £2.50 each, Order Ref: 2.5P9. Note these are red, blue, green or yellow but will take emulsion to suit the colour of your room. Please state colour required.
- TOUCH DIMMERS. 40W-250W, no knob to turn, just finger on front plate will give more or less light, or off. Silver plated on white background, right size to replace normal switch, £5, Order Ref: 5P230.
- LCD 3 1/2 DIGIT PANEL METER. This is a multi-range voltmeter/ammeter using the A-D converter chip 7106 to provide five ranges each of volts and amps. Supplied with full data sheet. Special snip price of £12, Order Ref: 12P19.
- MULTI TESTER. 19 range, ex-British Telecom, reconditioned. These measure AC and DC volts, DC milliamps and have three resistance ranges made to BT specification and 20,000 ohm movement. Complete with test prods, £8.50, Order Ref: 8.5P3. Carrying case with handle £2 extra.
- 1/2rd HORSE POWER 12V MOTOR (Sinclair C5) £29.50, Order Ref: 29.5P1.
- SPEED CONTROLLER Suitable for the C5 or other DC 12V motor. Complete kit £18, Order Ref: 18P8, already made £29.50, Order Ref: 29.5P2.
- CLOCK MODULE. 2" LCD display, requires 1.5V battery, goes back to zero when switched off so ideal for timing operations, £2, Order Ref: 2P307.
- MINI BLOW HEATER, 1kW, ideal under desk, etc. Needs only a simple mounting frame, £5, Order Ref: 5P23.
- MEDICINE CUPBOARD ALARM. Or it could be used to warn when any cupboard door is opened. The light shining on the unit makes the bell ring. Complete built and neatly cased, requires only a battery, £3, Order Ref: 3P155.
- DON'T LET IT OVERFLOW! Be it bath, sink, cellar, sump or any other thing that could flood. This device will tell you when the water has risen to the preset level. Adjustable over quite a useful range. Neatly cased for wall mounting, ready to work when battery fitted, £3, Order Ref: 3P156.

POWER SUPPLIES - SWITCH MODE (All 230V a.c. mains operated)

- Astec Ref. B51052 with outputs +12V 0.5A, -12V 0.1A; +5V 3A; +10V 0.05A; +5V 0.02A, unboxed on p.c.b., size 180 x 130mm, £5, Order Ref: 5P188.
- Astec Ref. BM41004 with outputs +5V 3 1/2A; +12V 1.3A; -12V 0.2A. £5, Order Ref: 5P199.
- Astec No. 12530, +12V 1A; -12V 0.1A; +5V 3A; uncased on p.c.b., size 160 x 100mm. £3, Order Ref: 3P141.
- Astec No. BM41001 110W 38V 2.5A 25-1V 3A part metal cased with instrument type main input socket and on/off d.p. rocker switch, size 354 x 118 x 84mm. £8.50, Order Ref: 8.5P2.
- Astec Model No. BM135-3302 +12V 4A; +5V 16A; -12V 0.5A totally encased in plated steel with mains input plug, mains output socket and double-pole on/off switch size 400 x 130 x 65mm. £9.50 Order Ref: 9.5P4.

POWER SUPPLIES - LINEAR (All cased unless stated)

- 4.5V d.c. 150mA. £1, Order Ref: 104.
- 5V d.c. 2 1/2A PSU with filtering and volt regulation, uncased. £4, Order Ref: 4P63.
- 6V d.c. 700mA OUTPUT, £1, Order Ref: 103.
- 6V d.c. 200mA output in 13A case, £2, Order Ref: 2P112.
- 6-12V d.c. for models with switch to vary voltage and reverse polarity, £2, Order Ref: 2P3.
- 9V d.c. 150mA, £1, Order Ref: 762.
- 9V 2-1A by Sinclair, £3, Order Ref: 3P151.
- 9V d.c. 100mA, £1, Order Ref: 733.
- 12V d.c. 200mA output in 13A case, £2, Order Ref: 2P114.
- 12V 500mA on 13A base, £2.50, Order Ref: 2.5P4.
- 12V d.c. 1A filtered and regulated on p.c.b. with relays and piezo sounder, uncased, £3, Order Ref: 3P80.
- Amstrad 13-5V d.c. at 1-8A or 12V d.c. at 2A, £6, Order Ref: 6P23.
- 24V d.c. with 200mA twice for stereo amplifiers, £2, Order Ref: 2P4.
- 9-5V 60mA a.c. made for BT, £1.50, Order Ref: 1.5P7.
- 15V 320mA a.c. on 13A base, £2, Order Ref: 2P281.
- A.C. out 9-8V (a 60mA and 15.3V (a 150mA, £1, Order Ref: 751.
- BT power supply unit 206AS, charges 12V battery and cuts out should voltage fall below pre-set. £16, Order Ref: 16P6.
- Sinclair Microvision PSU, £5, Order Ref: 5P148.

LASERS AND LASER BITS

- 2mW Laser, Helium Neon by Philips, full spec. £30, Order Ref: 30P1.
- Power supply for this in kit form with case is £15, Order Ref: 15P16, or in larger case to house tube as well, £18, Order Ref: 18P2.
- The larger unit, made up, tested and ready to use, complete with laser tube, £69, Order Ref: 69P1.

SOLAR CELLS AND PROJECTS

- 100mA solar cell, £1, Order Ref: 631.
- 400mA solar cell, £2, Order Ref: 2P119.
- 700mA solar cell, £3, Order Ref: 3P42.
- 1A solar cell, £3.50, Order Ref: 3.5P2.
- 3V 200mA solar cell, £2, Order Ref: 2P324.
- 15V 200mA solar cell, £15, Order Ref: 15P47.
- Solar Education Kit with parts to make solar fan, £8, Order Ref: 8P42.
- Solar kits - make vintage gramophone, £7.50, Order Ref: 7.5P3.
- Make Helicopter, £7.50, Order Ref: 7.5P17.
- Make Monophone, £7.50, Order Ref: 7.5P18.

The above prices include VAT but please add £3 towards our packing and carriage if your order is under £25. Send cheque or postal orders or phone and quote credit card number.

M & B ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES LTD

Pilgrim Works (Dept. E.E.)
Stairbridge Lane, Bolney,
Sussex RH17 5PA

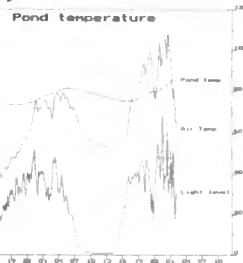
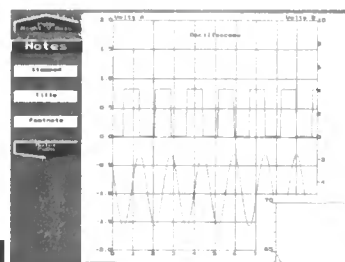
Telephone: 0444 881965

(Also Fax but phone first)
Callers to 12 Boundary Road,
Hove, Sussex.

Pico Releases PC Potential

Pico's Virtual Instrumentation enable you to use your computer as a variety of useful test and measurement instruments or as an advanced data logger.

PicoScope
'Virtual instrument' software.



PicoLog
Advanced data logging software.

Hardware and software are supplied together as a package - no more worries about incompatibility or complex set-up procedures. Unlike traditional 'plug in' data acquisition cards, they simply plug into the PC's parallel or serial port, making them ideal for use with portable PC's.

Call for your Guide on 'Virtual Instrumentation'.

NEW SLA-16 Logic Analyser

Pocket sized 16 channel Logic Analyser



- Connects to PC serial port.
- High Speed - up to 50MHz sampling.
- Internal and external clock modes.
- 8K Trace Buffer.

SLA-16
with software, power supply and cables £ 219

NEW ADC-100 Virtual Instrument

Dual Channel 12 bit resolution



- Digital Storage Scope
- Spectrum Analyser
- Frequency Meter
- Chart Recorder
- Data Logger
- Voltmeter

The ADC-100 offers both a high sampling rate (100kHz) and a high resolution. It is ideal as a general purpose test instrument either in the lab or in the field. Flexible input ranges ($\pm 200\text{mV}$ to $\pm 20\text{V}$) allows the unit to connect directly to a wide variety of signals.

ADC-100 with PicoScope £199
with PicoScope & PicoLog £209

ADC-10

1 Channel 8 bit

- Lowest cost
- Up to 22kHz sampling
- 0 -5V input range

The ADC-10 gives your computer a single channel of analog input. Simply plug into the parallel port and your ready to go.

ADC-10 with PicoScope £49
PicoScope & PicoLog £59

Carriage UK free, Overseas £9
Oscilloscope Probes (x1, x10) £10
Existing ADC 10/11/12/100 users can add PicoLog for £25

ADC-11

11 Channel 10 bit

- Digital output
- Up to 18kHz sampling
- 0 -2.5V input range

The ADC-11 provides 11 channels of analog input in a case slightly larger than a matchbox. It is ideal for portable data logging using a "notebook" computer.

ADC-11 with PicoScope £85
PicoScope & PicoLog £95



ADC-12

1 Channel 12 bit

- High resolution
- Up to 17kHz sampling
- 0 -5V input range

The ADC-12 is similar to the ADC-10 but offers an improved 12 bit (1 part in 4096) resolution compared to the ADC-10's 8 bit (1 part in 256).

ADC-12 with PicoScope £85
PicoScope & PicoLog £95

ADC-10 Simply plug into the parallel port and your ready to go.

ADC-16

8 Channel 16 bit+sign

- Highest resolution
- 2Hz sampling - 16bit
- $\pm 2.5\text{V}$ input range

The ADC-16 has the highest resolution of the range, it is capable of detecting signal changes as small as $40\text{ }\mu\text{V}$. Pairs of input channels can be used differentially to reject noise. Connects to serial port.

ADC-16 with PicoLog £115

PICO TECHNOLOGY



Pico Technology Ltd. Broadway House, 149-151 St Neots Rd, Hardwick, Cambridge. CB3 7QJ

Tel: 01954 - 211716

Fax: 01954 - 211880



Phone or FAX for sales, ordering information, data sheets, technical support. All prices exclusive of VAT



SHOP OPEN 9-5 MON-FRI. CLOSED SAT --- OFFICIAL ORDERS WELCOME

EPE MICROCONTROLLER P.I. TREASURE HUNTER

The latest MAGENTA DESIGN - highly stable & sensitive - with μ C control of all timing functions and advanced pulse separation techniques.

- New circuit design 1994

- High stability drift cancelling
- Easy to build & use

- No ground effect, works in seawater



- Detects gold, silver, ferrous & non-ferrous metals

- Efficient quartz controlled microcontroller pulse generation.
- Full kit with headphones & all hardware

KIT 847.....£63.95

DIGITAL LCD THERMOSTAT

A versatile thermostat using a thermistor probe and having an I.C.D. display. MIN/MAX memories, -10 to 110 degrees celsius, or can be set to read in Fahrenheit. Individually settable upper and lower switching temperatures allow close control, or alternatively allow a wide 'dead band' to be set which can result in substantial energy savings when used with domestic hot water systems. Ideal for greenhouse ventilation, or heating control, aquaria, home brewing, etc. Mains powered, 10A SPCO relay output. Punched and printed case.

KIT 841.....£29.95

PORTABLE ULTRASONIC PEST SCARER

A powerful 23kHz ultrasound generator in a compact hand-held case. MOSFET output drives a special sealed transducer with intense pulses via a special tuned transformer. Sweeping frequency output is designed to give maximum output without any special setting up.

KIT 842.....£22.56

DIGITAL CAPACITANCE METER

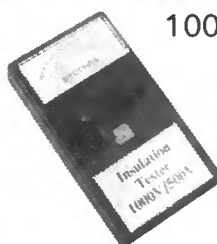
A really professional looking project. Kit is supplied with a punched and printed front panel, case, p.c.b. and all components. Quartz controlled accuracy of 1%. Large clear 5 digit display and high speed operation. Ideal for beginners - as the μ F, nF and pF ranges give clear unambiguous read out of marked and unmarked capacitors from a few pF up to thousands of μ F.

KIT 493.....£39.95

ACOUSTIC PROBE

A very popular project which picks up vibrations by means of a contact probe and passes them on to a pair of headphones or an amplifier. Sounds from engines, watches, and speech travelling through walls can be amplified and heard clearly. Useful for mechanics, instrument engineers, and nose-parkers!

KIT 740.....£19.98



1000V & 500V INSULATION TESTER

Superb new design. Regulated output, efficient circuit. Dual-scale meter, compact case. Reads up to 200 Megohms.

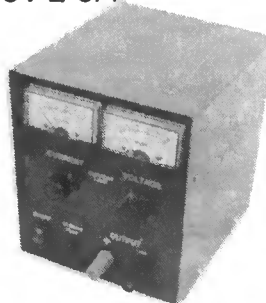
Kit includes wound coil, cut-out case, meter scale, PCB & ALL components.

KIT 848.....£32.95

MOSFET MkII VARIABLE BENCH POWER SUPPLY 0-25V 2.5A

Based on our MkI design and preserving all the features, but now with switching pre-regulator for much higher efficiency. Panel meters indicate Volts and Amps. Fully variable down to zero. Toroidal mains transformer. Kit includes punched and printed case and all parts. As featured in April 1994 EPE. An essential piece of equipment.

KIT 845.....£64.95



ULTRASONIC PEST SCARER

Keep pets/pests away from newly sown areas, fruit, vegetable and flower beds, children's play areas, patios etc. This project produces intense pulses of ultrasound which deter visiting animals.

- KIT INCLUDES ALL COMPONENTS, PCB & CASE

- EFFICIENT 100V TRANSDUCER OUTPUT
- COMPLETELY INAUDIBLE TO HUMANS

- UP TO 4 METRES RANGE
- LOW CURRENT DRAIN

KIT Ref. 812.....£14.81

'COMSTEP' P.C. COMPUTER STEPPING MOTOR INTERFACE

An exciting project supplied with two 200 step motors, interface board, and easy to use P.C. software.

Allows independent control of both motors - speed, direction, number of steps, and half/full step mode. Connects to computer parallel port. Requires 12V 1A D.C. supply and printer lead.

KIT 846 (with 2 motors)£62.99 (Printer lead £5.00)

IONISER

A highly efficient mains powered Negative Ion Generator that clears the air by neutralising excess positive ions. Many claimed health benefits due to the ioniser removing dust and pollen from the air and clearing smoke particles. Costs virtually nothing to run and is completely safe in operation. Uses five point emitters.

KIT 707.....£17.75

BAT DETECTOR

An excellent circuit which reduces ultrasound frequencies between 20 and 100 kHz to the normal (human) audible range. Operating rather like a radio receiver the circuit allows the listener to tune-in to the ultrasonic frequencies of interest. Listening to Bats is fascinating, and it is possible to identify various different types using this project. Other uses have been found in industry for vibration monitoring etc.

KIT 814.....£21.44

SPACEWRITER

An innovative and exciting project. Wave the wand through the air and your message appears. Programmable to hold any message up to 16 digits long. Comes pre-loaded with "MERRY XMAS". Kit includes PCB, all components & tube + instructions for message loading.

KIT 849.....£16.99

12V EPROM ERASER

A safe low cost eraser for up to 4 EPROMs at a time in less than 20 minutes. Operates from a 12V supply (400mA). Used extensively for mobile work - updating equipment in the field etc. Also in educational situations where mains supplies are not allowed. Safety interlock prevents contact with UV.

KIT 790.....£28.51

MOSFET 25V 2.5A POWER SUPPLY

High performance design has made this one of our classic kits. Two panel meters indicate Volts and Amps. Variable from 0-25 Volts and current limit control from 0-2.5A. Rugged power MOSFET output stage. Toroidal mains transformer.

KIT 769.....£56.82

INSULATION TESTER

A reliable and neat electronic tester which checks insulation resistance of wiring and appliances etc., at 500 Volts. The unit is battery powered, simple and safe to operate. Leakage resistance of up to 100 Megohms can be read easily. A very popular college project.

KIT 444.....£22.37

DIGITAL COMBINATION LOCK

Digital lock with 12 key keypad. Entering a four digit code operates a 250V 16A relay. A special anti-tamper circuit permits the relay board to be mounted remotely. Ideal car immobiliser, operates from 12V. Drilled case, brushed aluminium keypad.

KIT 840.....£19.86

E.E. TREASURE HUNTER P.I. METAL DETECTOR MKI

Magenta's highly developed & acclaimed design. Quartz crystal controlled circuit MOSFET coil drive. D.C. coupled amplification. Full kit includes PCB, handle, case & search coil.

- KIT INC. HEADPHONES
- EFFICIENT CMOS DESIGN
- POWERFUL COIL DRIVE

- DETECTS FERROUS AND NON-FERROUS METAL - GOLD, SILVER, COPPER ETC.
- 190mm SEARCH COIL
- NO 'GROUND EFFECT'

KIT 815.....£45.95

HAMEG HM303 30 MHz DUALTRACE OSCILLOSCOPE & COMPONENT CHECKER

Western Europe's best selling oscilloscope - now improved. It now features 30MHz bandwidth, triggering to 100MHz and 2mV/div sensitivity.

Sharp bright display on 8 x 10cm screen with internal graticule. Special component tester built in - allows capacitors, resistors, transistors, diode, and many other components to be checked at a glance.

As with its predecessor, the QUALITY OF THIS INSTRUMENT IS OUTSTANDING. It is supported with a two year warranty covering parts and labour. If you are buying an oscilloscope, this is the one. It costs a fraction more than some others, but it is far far superior. Supplied with test probes, mains lead, and manual.

£392.00 + £68.60 VAT Includes FREE Next-day delivery (Cheques must be cleared)

EDUCATIONAL BOOKS & PACKS

ADVENTURES WITH ELECTRONICS

The classic book by Tom Duncan used throughout schools. Very well illustrated, ideal first book for age 10 on. No soldering. Uses an S.DEC breadboard.
Book & Components £28.95, Book only £7.25

FUN WITH ELECTRONICS

An Osborne book, wonderfully illustrated in colour. Component pack allows 6 projects to be built and kept. Soldering is necessary. Age 12 on, or younger with adult help. **Book & Components £20.88, Book only £2.95**

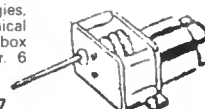
30 SOLDERLESS BREADBOARD PROJECTS

A more advanced book to follow the others. No soldering. Circuits cover a wide range of interests.
Book & Components £30.69, Book only £2.95

DC MOTOR/GEARBOXES

Ideal for robots, buggies, and many other mechanical projects. Min. plastic gearbox with 1.5-4.5V DC motor. 6 ratios can be set up.

Small type MGS....£4.77



STEPPING MOTORS

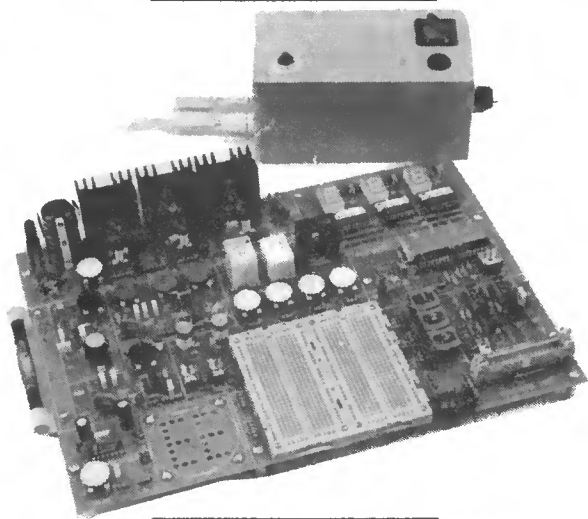
For computer control via standard 4 pole unipolar drivers.

MD38 - miniature 48 steps per rev.....£9.15

MD35 1/4 - standard 48 steps per rev.....£12.99

MAGENTA

Teach-In '93



MINI LAB KITS

ALL COMPONENTS TO ASSEMBLE
THE EPE MINI LAB.

Follow this exciting educational series as
featured in EPE through 1993.

Full set of reprints£3.95

Components are supplied in packs to keep
ordering simple.

A full MINI LAB consists of ML1, ML3, ML5,
ML6. These are available at a special
combined price of.....£119.95
or less the p.c.b.

ML2, ML3, ML5, ML6 at.....£109.95

The transformer unit ML4 is also needed....£22.55

KIT ML1 MINI-LAB P.C.B. + all components
inclusive of breadboard for
Part 1 (Nov. '92).....£52.45

KIT ML2 All Components for Part 1 less
p.c.b.....£41.95

KIT ML3 Power Supply components.....£20.95

KIT ML4 Transformer unit.....£22.55

KIT ML5 L.E.D. Voltmeter, signal
generator, audio amplifier and
555 timer.....£35.65

KIT ML6 Logic probe, display, radio
tuner.....£18.85

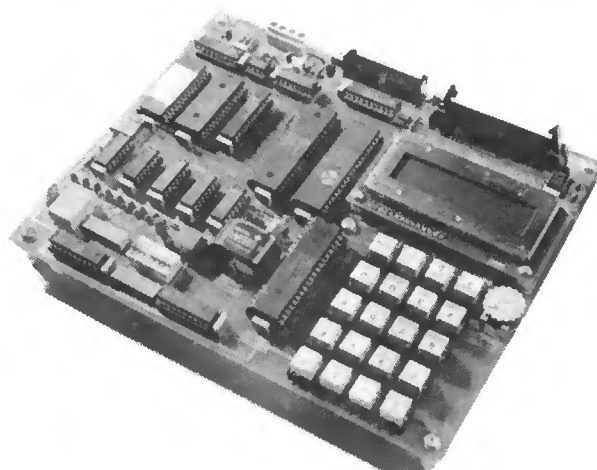
(Note: batteries not included)

All prices include V.A.T. Add £3.00 p&p.

Tel: 0283 565435 Fax: 0283 546932

MAGENTA

Teach-In '93



MICRO LAB KITS

ALL COMPONENTS TO ASSEMBLE
THE EPE MICRO LAB.

A 6502 Microprocessor trainer with many
features. Accompanied by an excellent set
of tutorial articles and a manual.

Repair/fault-finding help assured when you
buy your kit from us.

Full MICRO LAB kit including PC Board,
EPROM, PAL, & Manual.

MIC 1£155.95

(Also available less PCB etc. if required).

Full set of reprints.....£3.95

BUILT & TESTED

Full MICRO LAB AS MIC1 (above)
MIC1B.....£189.95

Professionally assembled, inspected,
cleaned and tested. Full back-up service,
spares, etc available.

All prices include V.A.T. Add £3.00 p&p.

Tel: 0283 565435 Fax: 0283 546932



ESR ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS

Station Road, Cullercoats,
Tyne & Wear NE30 4PQ

TEL 091 251 4363

Fax. 091 252 2296

74LS-Series		4000 Series		TRANSISTORS				LINEAR ICs				EPROMS & RAMS		SOLDERING IRONS		RF CONNECTORS	
74LS00	£0.22	4000	£0.17	2N1613	£0.31	BC186	£0.33	BD534	£0.47	CA311E	£0.28	2716	£4.46	Antex Soldering Irons		BNC Solder Plug 50R	£0.93
74LS01	£0.14	4001	£0.20	2N1711	£0.26	BC204C	£0.72	BD535	£0.50	CA324	£0.35	2716	£4.84	M 12 Watt	£8.18	BNC Solder Plug 75R	£0.96
74LS02	£0.29	4002	£0.17	2N1893	£0.29	BC206B	£0.72	BD536	£0.65	CA555	£0.25	27128-20	£3.69	C 15Watt	£8.18	BNC Crimp Plug 50R	£0.68
74LS03	£0.14	4006	£0.40	2N218A	£0.28	BC207C	£0.72	BD546	£0.52	CA741CE	£0.28	27128-20	£3.69	G 18Watt	£8.41	BNC Crimp Plug 75R	£0.68
74LS04	£0.14	4007	£0.18	2N219A	£0.25	BC208	£0.72	BD548	£0.52	CA747CE	£0.39	2764-25	£3.00	CS 17Watt	£8.31	BNC Solder Skt	£1.08
74LS05	£0.14	4008	£0.31	2N2222A	£0.18	BC209A	£0.72	BD560	£0.53	CA3046	£0.37	27128-20	£3.15	XS 25Watt	£8.41	BNC Chassis Skt	£0.80
74LS06	£0.23	4009	£0.19	2N2646	£0.86	BC212	£0.08	BD707	£0.42	CA3080	£0.72	2716-10	£1.53	S4 Stand	£2.97	PL259 5.2mm	£0.62
74LS09	£0.14	4010	£0.23	2N2904A	£0.25	BC212L	£0.08	BD807	£0.80	CA3130	£0.98	27256-20	£4.29	35Watt Gas Iron	£11.58	PL259 11mm	£0.68
74LS10	£0.14	4011	£0.26	2N2905A	£0.23	BC212BL	£0.08	BDX32	£1.78	CA3130E	£0.98	27256-20	£4.21	'Gascat' Gas Iron	£15.26	RND UHF socket	£0.68
74LS107	£0.23	4012	£0.16	2N2907	£0.20	BC213	£0.08	BDX33C	£0.49	CA3140	£0.56	2707010	£8.96	Desolder Pump	£3.00	SQR UHF socket	£0.45
74LS109	£0.21	4013	£0.24	2N2926	£0.16	BC213CL	£0.08	BDX34C	£0.50	CA3240	£1.22	2707010	£8.96	Low Cost 15 Watt Iron	£3.93	PL259 5.2mm	£0.62
74LS11	£0.17	4014	£0.30	2N3053	£0.27	BC214	£0.08	BDX53C	£0.47	ICL7621	£1.70	2707010	£8.96	Desolder Pump	£3.00	SQR UHF socket	£0.45
74LS112	£0.24	4015	£0.31	2N3054	£0.90	BC214L	£0.08	BDX54C	£0.50	ICM7555	£0.43	6264-10	£3.06	Antistatic Pump	£4.25	F Plug RG58	£0.30
74LS113	£0.24	4016	£0.18	2N3055	£0.62	BC237B	£0.09	BF180	£0.31	ICM7556	£0.96	62256-10	£5.35	22SWG 0.5kg Solder	£7.40	F Plug RG6	£0.27
74LS114	£0.21	4017	£0.35	2N3440	£0.50	BC238C	£0.09	BF182	£0.31	LM301A	£0.25	4164-15	£1.78	18SWG 0.5kg Solder	£6.60	N Plug RG8	£1.60
74LS115	£0.21	4018	£0.27	2N3702	£0.09	BC239C	£0.10	BF185	£0.31	LM348N	£0.31	41256-10	£2.80	1mm 3 yds Solder	£0.62	N Socket RG8	£1.40
74LS116	£0.21	4019	£0.48	2N3703	£0.10	BC251	£0.13	BF194	£0.19	LF351N	£0.43	511000-8	£5.61	Desolder Braid	£0.87	BNC Crimp Pliers	£1.44
74LS117	£0.21	4020	£0.31	2N3704	£0.10	BC252	£0.13	BF195	£0.19	LF353	£0.42	514256-8	£5.61	Desolder Braid	£0.87	BNC Crimp Pliers	£1.44
74LS118	£0.21	4021	£0.31	2N3705	£0.10	BC261B	£0.24	BF244	£0.36	LM358N	£0.27						
74LS119	£0.21	4022	£0.32	2N3706	£0.10	BC262B	£0.24	BF257	£0.33	LM377	£2.57						
74LS120	£0.21	4023	£0.16	2N3771	£1.44	BC267B	£0.30	BF259	£0.33	LM380N	£1.12						
74LS121	£0.21	4024	£0.21	2N3772	£1.51	BC307	£0.10	BF337	£0.36	LM381	£2.70						
74LS122	£0.36	4025	£0.15	2N3773	£1.79	BC308	£0.10	BF355	£0.38	LM386	£0.48						
74LS123	£0.36	4026	£0.78	2N3819	£0.39	BC327	£0.10	BF423	£0.13	LM387	£1.60						
74LS124	£0.36	4027	£0.18	2N3820	£0.66	BC328	£0.10	BF451	£0.19	LM392N	£0.79						
74LS125	£0.36	4028	£0.22	2N3904	£0.10	BC337	£0.10	BF459	£0.29	LM393N	£0.28						
74LS126	£0.36	4029	£0.40	2N3905	£0.10	BC338	£0.10	BF468	£0.36	LM748CN	£0.31						
74LS127	£0.36	4030	£0.17	2N3906	£0.10	BC414C	£0.13	BF479	£0.29	LM1458	£0.26						
74LS128	£0.36	4031	£0.70	2N4036	£0.31	BC441	£0.40	BF484	£0.31	LM3900	£0.72						
74LS129	£0.36	4032	£0.36	2N4036	£0.31	BC441	£0.40	BF484	£0.31	LM3900	£0.72						
74LS130	£0.36	4033	£0.56	2N4036	£0.31	BC441	£0.40	BF484	£0.31	LM3900	£0.72						
74LS131	£0.36	4034	£0.56	2N4036	£0.31	BC441	£0.40	BF484	£0.31	LM3900	£0.72						
74LS132	£0.36	4035	£0.56	2N4036	£0.31	BC441	£0.40	BF484	£0.31	LM3900	£0.72						
74LS133	£0.36	4036	£0.56	2N4036	£0.31	BC441	£0.40	BF484	£0.31	LM3900	£0.72						
74LS134	£0.36	4037	£0.56	2N4036	£0.31	BC441	£0.40	BF484	£0.31	LM3900	£0.72						
74LS135	£0.36	4038	£0.56	2N4036	£0.31	BC441	£0.40	BF484	£0.31	LM3900	£0.72						
74LS136	£0.36	4039	£0.56	2N4036	£0.31	BC441	£0.40	BF484	£0.31	LM3900	£0.72						
74LS137	£0.36	4040	£0.56	2N4036	£0.31	BC441	£0.40	BF484	£0.31	LM3900	£0.72						
74LS138	£0.36	4041	£0.56	2N4036	£0.31	BC441	£0.40	BF484	£0.31	LM3900	£0.72						
74LS139	£0.36	4042	£0.56	2N4036	£0.31	BC441	£0.40	BF484	£0.31	LM3900	£0.72						
74LS140	£0.36	4043	£0.56	2N4036	£0.31	BC441	£0.40	BF484	£0.31	LM3900	£0.72						
74LS141	£0.36	4044	£0.56	2N4036	£0.31	BC441	£0.40	BF484	£0.31	LM3900	£0.72						
74LS142	£0.36	4045	£0.56	2N4036	£0.31	BC441	£0.40	BF484	£0.31	LM3900	£0.72						
74LS143	£0.36	4046	£0.56	2N4036	£0.31	BC441	£0.40	BF484	£0.31	LM3900	£0.72						
74LS144	£0.36	4047	£0.56	2N4036	£0.31	BC441	£0.40	BF484	£0.31	LM3900	£0.72						
74LS145	£0.36	4048	£0.56	2N4036	£0.31	BC441	£0.40	BF484	£0.31	LM3900	£0.72						
74LS146	£0.36	4049	£0.56	2N4036	£0.31	BC441	£0.40	BF484	£0.31	LM3900	£0.72						
74LS147	£0.36	4050	£0.56	2N4036	£0.31	BC441	£0.40	BF484	£0.31	LM3900	£0.72						
74LS148	£0.36	4051	£0.56	2N4036	£0.31	BC441	£0.40	BF484	£0.31	LM3900	£0.72						
74LS149	£0.36	4052	£0.56	2N4036	£0.31	BC441	£0.40	BF484	£0.31	LM3900	£0.72						
74LS150	£0.36	4053	£0.56	2N4036	£0.31	BC441	£0.40	BF484	£0.31	LM3900	£0.72						
74LS151	£0.36	4054	£0.56	2N4036	£0.31	BC441	£0.40	BF484	£0.31	LM3900	£0.72						
74LS152	£0.36	4055	£0.56	2N4036	£0.31	BC441	£0.40	BF484	£0.31	LM3900	£0.72						
74LS153	£0.36	4056	£0.56	2N4036	£0.31	BC441	£0.40	BF484	£0.31	LM3900	£0.72						
74LS154	£0.36	4057	£0.56	2N4036	£0.31	BC441	£0.40	BF484	£0.31	LM3900	£0.72						
74LS155	£0.36	4058	£0.56	2N4036	£0.31	BC441	£0.40	BF484	£0.31	LM3900	£0.72						
74LS156	£0.36	4059	£0.56	2N4036	£0.31	BC441	£0.40	BF484	£0.31	LM3900	£0.72						
74LS157	£0.36	4060	£0.56	2N4036	£0.31	BC441	£0.40	BF484	£0.31	LM3900	£0.72						
74LS158	£0.36	4061	£0.56	2N4036	£0.31	BC441	£0.40	BF484	£0.31	LM3900	£0.72						
74LS159	£0.36	4062	£0.56	2N4036	£0.31	BC441	£0.40	BF484	£0.31	LM3900	£0.72						
74LS160	£0.36	4063	£0.56	2N4036	£0.31	BC441	£0.40	BF484	£0.31	LM3900	£0.72						
74LS161	£0.36	4064	£0.56	2N4036	£0.31	BC441	£0.40	BF484	£0.31	LM3900	£0.72						
74LS162	£0.36	4065	£0.56	2N4036	£0.31	BC441	£0.40	BF484	£0.31	LM3900	£0.72						
74LS163	£0.36	4066	£0.56	2N4036	£0												

EVERYDAY WITH PRACTICAL ELECTRONICS

INCORPORATING ELECTRONICS MONTHLY

VOL. 24 No. 2

FEBRUARY '95

Editorial Offices:
EVERYDAY with PRACTICAL ELECTRONICS EDITORIAL
ALLEN HOUSE, EAST BOROUGH, WIMBORNE
DORSET BH21 1PF
Phone: Wimborne (01202) 881749
Fax: (01202) 841692. DX: Wimborne 45314
Due to the cost we cannot reply to orders or queries by Fax.

See notes on **Readers' Enquiries** below – we regret lengthy technical enquiries cannot be answered over the telephone.

Advertisement Offices:
EVERYDAY with PRACTICAL ELECTRONICS
ADVERTISEMENTS
HOLLAND WOOD HOUSE, CHURCH LANE
GREAT HOLLAND, ESSEX CO13 0JS
Phone/Fax: (01255) 850596

SIXTEEN MILLION POUND MAPLIN

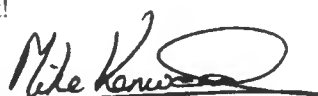
I wonder if the two men who started selling transistors by mail order in their spare time ever dreamed that the company they were launching would be worth around £16 million just 22 years later? They started with a two inch single column advertisement in *Practical Electronics* in 1972 – sold to them by our present advertisement manager Peter Mew.

The company is Maplin which last year had a turnover of around £30 million, has 33 shops and made £1.5 million profit. Maplin's shares have been transferred to Cannon Street Investments Plc, soon to be renamed Saltire. Maplin required extra funding to continue development of the company at a good pace and by linking with a Stock Market listed company this has become available. The main players in the C.S.I. Group are Altai – a company whose name many readers will know – they sell electronic equipment to wholesalers and retailers in Europe; Network – who manufacture TVs and other home appliances in Eastern Europe and Dunnet – who are a computer distributor in Holland.

We understand that it's no change at Maplin except that they can now go full steam ahead with new developments and expansions which include opening five or more new shops a year, expanding their present range of products and accelerating expansion of their professional distribution arm M.P.S. Roger Allen, MD, tells us that their present "pamphlet" (the 864-page Maplin catalogue) is just not big enough to cover the proposed product range and there are some areas that Maplin do not yet cover at all. Roger has been negotiating long and hard to achieve the link up with C.S.I. where Maplin will not be swamped as part of a massive conglomerate, but will have the resources required to accelerate their ongoing development.

Maplin's small management team will continue to run things and it looks like good news for everyone involved with the company, including the customer. I wonder how big next year's catalogue will be?

As an interesting aside Roger tells us he remembers offering 2N3055 transistors for 49p each in their early advertising. They believed by selling this popular power transistor at the lowest price everyone would buy from them – in fact it took them six months to sell the first one. They must, however, have done a few things right in the last 22 years. They still sell 2N3055s and probably more than two a year – but the price has gone up to £1.15; so that's how they made their profit!



SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual Subscriptions for delivery direct to any address in the UK: £24. Overseas: £30 (£47.50 airmail). Cheques or bank drafts (in £ sterling only) payable to *Everyday with Practical Electronics* and sent to EPE Subscriptions Dept., Allen House, East

Borough, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 1PF. Tel: 01202 881749. Subscriptions start with the next available issue. We accept Access (MasterCard) or Visa.

BINDERS

Binders to hold one volume (12 issues) are now available from the above address. These are finished in blue p.v.c., printed with the magazine logo in gold on the spine. Price £5.95 plus £3.50 post and packing (for overseas readers the postage is £6.00 to everywhere except Australia and Papua New Guinea which cost £10.50). *Normally sent within seven days but please allow 28 days for delivery – more for overseas orders.*

Payment in £ sterling only please. Visa and Access (MasterCard) accepted, minimum credit card order £5. Send or phone your card number and card expiry date with your name, address etc.



Editor: MIKE KENWARD

Secretary: PAM BROWN

Deputy Editor: DAVID BARRINGTON

Technical Editor: JOHN BECKER

Business Manager: DAVID J. LEAVER

Subscriptions: MARILYN GOLDBERG

Editorial: Wimborne (01202) 881749

Advertisement Manager:
PETER J. MEW, Frinton (01255) 850596

Advertisement Copy Controller:
DEREK NEW, Wimborne (01202) 882299

READERS' ENQUIRIES

We are unable to offer any advice on the use, purchase, repair or modification of commercial equipment or the incorporation or modification of designs published in the magazine. We regret that we cannot provide data or answer queries on articles or projects that are more than five years old. Letters requiring a personal reply *must* be accompanied by a **stamped self-addressed envelope or a self-addressed envelope and international reply coupons. Due to the cost we cannot reply to queries by Fax.**

All reasonable precautions are taken to ensure that the advice and data given to readers is reliable. We cannot, however, guarantee it and we cannot accept legal responsibility for it.

COMPONENT SUPPLIES

We do not supply electronic components or kits for building the projects featured, these can be supplied by advertisers.

We advise readers to check that all parts are still available before commencing any project in a back-dated issue.

We regret that **we cannot provide data or answer queries on projects that are more than five years old.**

ADVERTISEMENTS

Although the proprietors and staff of EVERYDAY with PRACTICAL ELECTRONICS take reasonable precautions to protect the interests of readers by ensuring as far as practicable that advertisements are *bona fide*, the magazine and its Publishers cannot give any undertakings in respect of statements or claims made by advertisers, whether these advertisements are printed as part of the magazine, or in inserts.

The Publishers regret that under no circumstances will the magazine accept liability for non-receipt of goods ordered, or for late delivery, or for faults in manufacture. Legal remedies are available in respect of some of these circumstances, and readers who have complaints should first address them to the advertiser.

TRANSMITTERS/BUGS/TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT

We advise readers that certain items of radio transmitting and telephone equipment which may be advertised in our pages cannot be legally used in the UK. Readers should check the law before buying any transmitting or telephone equipment as a fine, confiscation of equipment and/or imprisonment can result from illegal use or ownership. The laws vary from country to country; overseas readers should check local laws.

12V, 35W PUBLIC ADDRESS AMPLIFIER

JOHN ELLIS

A versatile discrete design using MOSFETs. Can provide 100V line and 8 Ω outputs and may be used as a 12V to 240V inverter.

THIS audio power amplifier has been designed to operate from 12V and provide up to 35W power r.m.s.. It is a public address amplifier with 100V line output for loudspeaker distribution systems. An output transformer provides one low impedance winding for direct connection to a loudspeaker and two 100V secondaries for the line output. These are normally operated in parallel but if connected in series, the unit can provide 240V to double as a converter. Constructors can wind secondaries for different configura-

tions if required. We suggest that you do not attempt to build this amplifier unless you are reasonably experienced in project construction.

INPUTS

Four inputs are provided with separate volume controls. Two inputs are amplified for signals from microphones or guitar pick-ups, while the other two are high level inputs suitable for radio or cassette signals. A mixer stage combines all four signals and provides a master volume control.

No input is provided for RIAA disc signals. This is because it is envisaged that the most likely use would be from cassettes or CD players and microphones. (Note that public playing of any recorded, published music will need licensing).

No tone controls are provided. Normally a P.A. amplifier is operated at or near full volume which leaves no headroom for boosting any particular frequency or band over another. If tone controls can't be used, there is no point having them.

The output stage uses power MOSFETs in a class-B configuration. The original design used bipolars but was re-designed – and modernised – when it was found that typical 8A rated types such as the 40251, or its standard equivalent, 2N6371, were uncommon, if not extinct, while MOSFETs with current ratings in the 15A to 30A range are now more common and possibly cheaper.

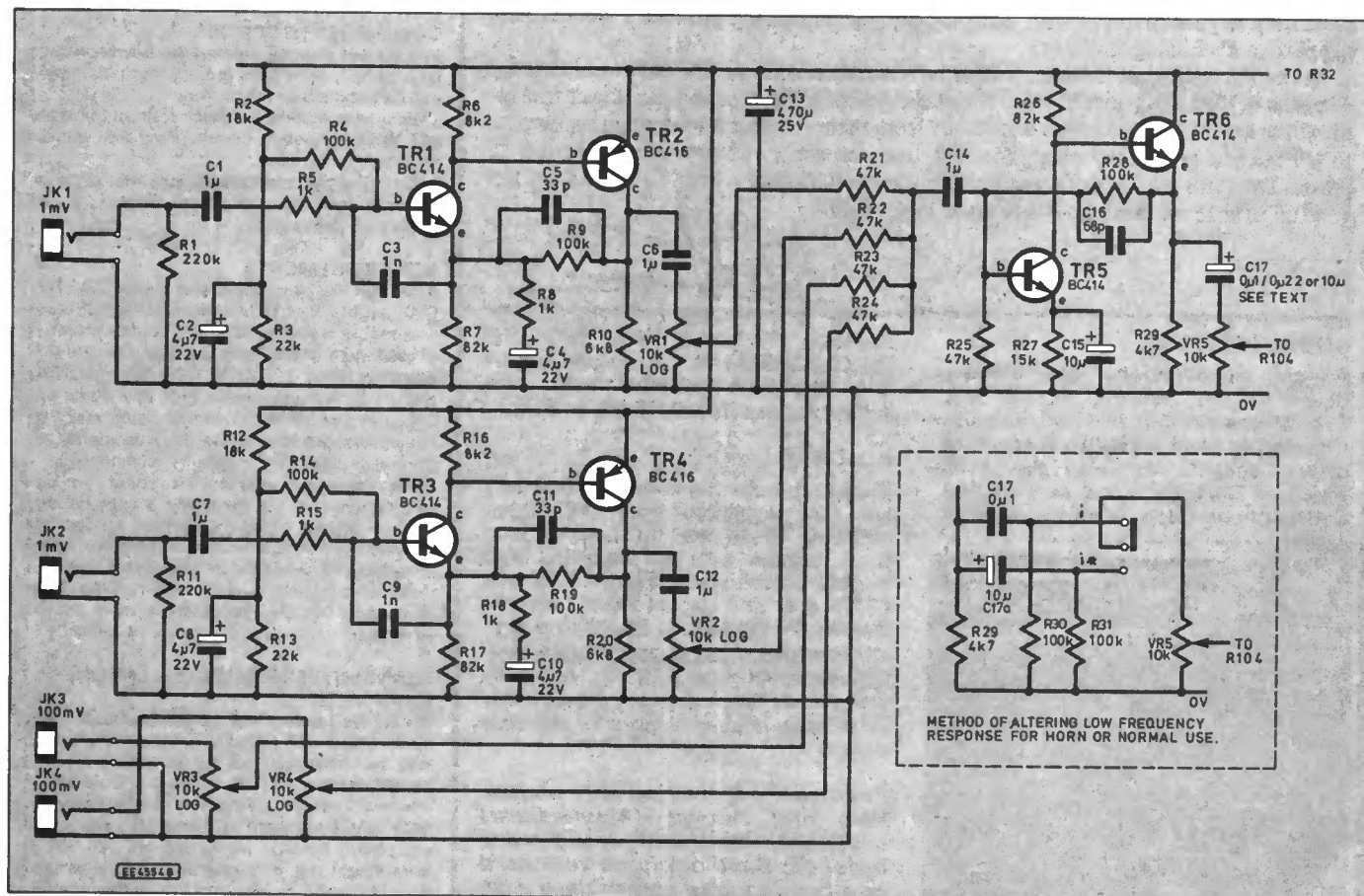


Fig. 1. Pre-amplifier and mixer stages of the 12V, 35W Public Address Amplifier.

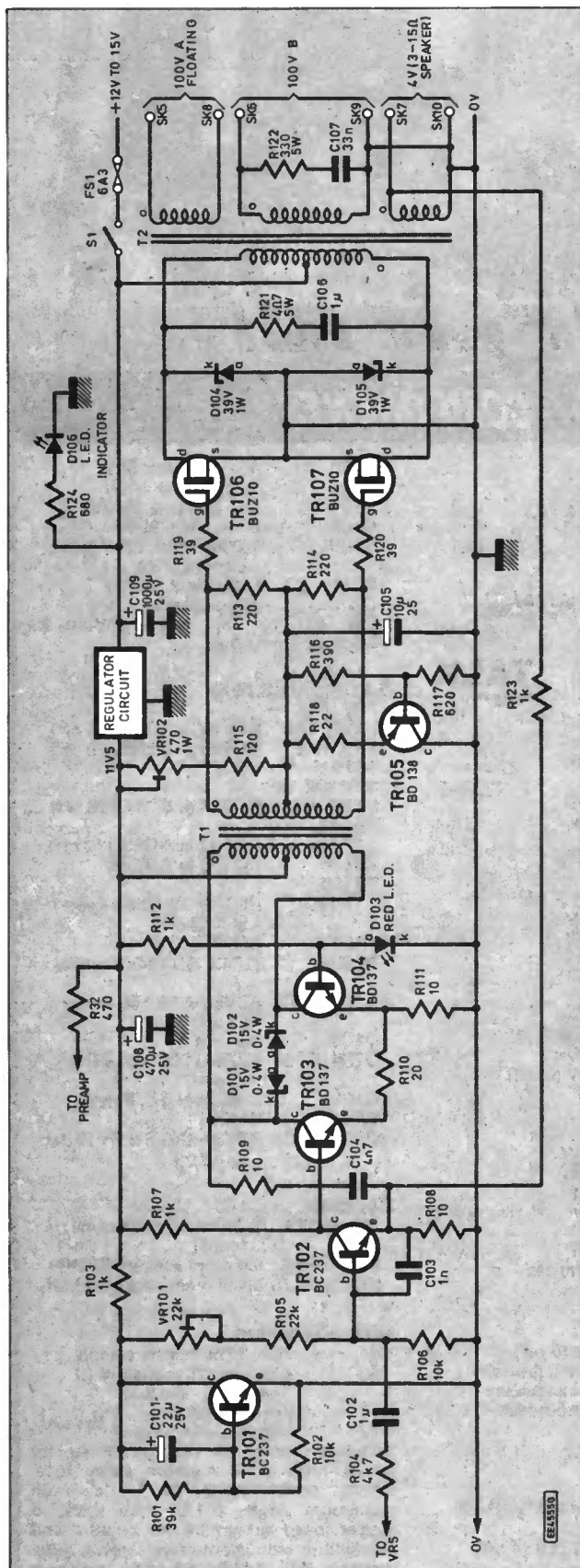
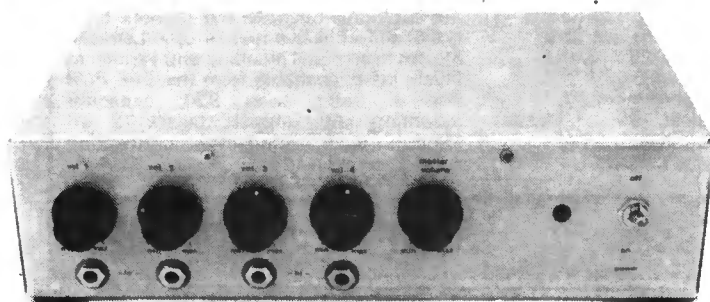


Fig. 2. Power amplifier circuit and regulator circuit (right).

PERFORMANCE

The amplifier signal-to-noise ratio and distortion figures are not the ultimate in hifi standards, but are respectable. Typically the distortion may be 0.5 per cent, but may worsen near clipping; the signal-to-noise figure is around 60 to 70dB and the frequency response 70Hz to 15kHz.

The low frequency limit can be modified as described later, but the 15kHz limit is unlikely to be improved without laminations thinner than the 0.35mm type used in the output transformer. Given that there is always a balance in transformers between low and high frequency response, this PA amplifier provides acceptable performance for PA work where horn speakers may well limit quality.

For a transformer output, public address, amplifier, discrete designs can perform adequately, are inexpensive and usually more serviceable than designs using i.c.'s.

INPUT STAGE

The pre-amp circuit is shown in Fig. 1. Transistor TR1 is biased at mid-rail by resistors R2, R3 and R4. An *n-p-n* configuration offers simplicity with functionality. TR1 is operated at

60μA and TR2 at 600μA for low noise. BC414 and BC416 low noise types are used. Input filter R5 and C3 stop r.f. pickup, while the 33pF capacitor C5 stabilises the design at high frequencies and limits the bandwidth to 50kHz. Volume control VR1 is used to set the level of the output signal. The gain of this stage, set by feedback resistor R9 and the ratio resistor R8, is 100. The input signal should be about 1mV. The second channel low level amplifier is identical.

The mixer stage uses a low current input transistor TR5 operated at 100μA with its output buffered by TR6 at 1mA. The bias is set by a classical potential divider with feedback through R28 and stabilised by R25 and R27. Capacitor C15 limits the frequency response to 25kHz for all inputs. This dual *n-p-n* pair offer low noise and distortion with virtual earth input to enable the signals to be mixed without interference from each other. The output from this stage is taken via capacitor C17 and the Master Volume Control VR5 to the main amplifier. A similar circuit was first described by H. Walker in *Wireless World*, May 1971.

Capacitor C17 should be chosen for the application intended. It is smaller than normally used to limit the low frequency response in the

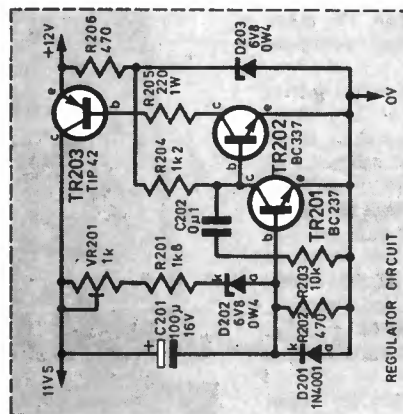
output stage to prevent transformer saturation. For normal response to 70Hz C17 should be 220nF. If horn speakers are to be used, C17 should instead be 100nF. Note that this value allows for the power amplifier input impedance to load the volume control at full output.

If the amplifier is to be used as a 50Hz inverter, or if low frequency response is limited at the signal source, C17 should be 10μF. Two values of C17 can be selected with a slide switch, in this case 100nF and 10μF are recommended, or for critical applications a three-way selector switch could be used for 68nF (200Hz to 250Hz for horns), 220nF for 70Hz and 10μF for 50Hz inverter or wider bandwidth.

The preamplifiers are all operated from an 11.5V stabilised rail and a simple RC (R32, C13) filter to decouple ripple from the output stage.

OUTPUT STAGE

The output stage is shown in Fig. 2. The need for an output transformer is dictated by the 100V line requirement and operation from 12V d.c. Once this is established, it is fairly easy to decide on using a driver transformer too. Early transistor amplifiers used this approach but MOSFETs simplify the design.



The better driver configurations in "transformer" amplifiers minimised d.c. bias current in the driver transformer so that no air gap was necessary. This design uses a class-A push-pull driver stage, similar to one by R.C. Bowes first published in *Wireless World* in July 1961, which feeds a matched pair of MOSFETs to provide a relatively simple but powerful design. The BUZ10 MOSFETs are rated at 20A up to 50°C but must be derated to 15A above that tempera-

ture. The transconductance is 8A/V and threshold voltage 4V maximum. The maximum dissipation is 75W and operating voltage 50V.

Though it would seem that only 1V drive is needed to switch 8A, at low drain voltages the transistors enter their linear region when the gate drive needs to be increased to compensate. This is probably the biggest distortion mechanism near peak output and requires a larger gate drive to be available. Possibly, the low threshold voltage MOSFETS (e.g. BUK553-60B) could be driven with capacitor coupling, but transformer coupling allows a higher drive voltage swing for the standard types of MOSFET.

The input stage comprises an input transistor TR102 feeding a long-tail pair TR103 and TR104. The tail current is set by R111, and the base bias voltage of TR104, to 100mA. The bias voltage is obtained from the forward voltage of a red l.e.d. (D103) which is typically 1.6V and thermally compensates the base voltage drift in TR104. The current of 50mA in TR103 is set by the bias on TR102. This is adjusted from the bias regulator adjuster VR101, which is in turn stabilised by TR101.

The current in TR104 will automatically adjust to keep the tail current constant. The currents in TR103 and TR104 should be set equal, and around 50mA. TR103 and TR104 feed the driver transformer T1, which is a centre-tapped to centre-tapped 1:1 (or 1 + 1:1 + 1) ratio design.

The tap on the secondary is connected to a bias chain described below. Each output terminal is connected to a 220 ohm resistor (R113 and R114), to provide a low impedance load which improves the speed of the output stage, reduces the effect of winding capacitance on frequency response and, most importantly, defines the gain of the driver stage to improve stability. Small 39 ohm resistors are connected in series with the MOSFET gates to suppress high frequency oscillation.

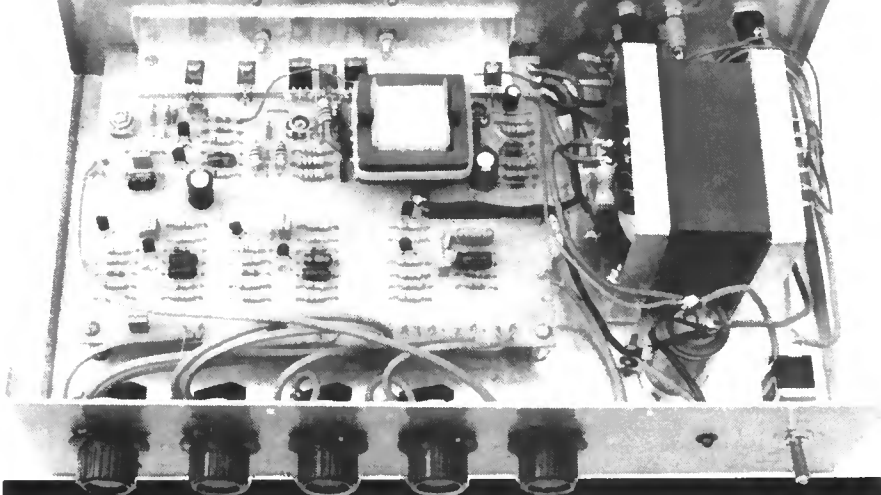
One bias chain is provided for both MOSFETs as, supposedly, they are able to be paralleled even without separate source resistors. But MOSFETs can show threshold voltage variations from 2V to 4V, so it is important therefore that matched MOSFETs are used to ensure that their quiescent currents are equal.

In practice, as was often the case for bipolars, two devices purchased at the same time will usually be from the same batch and be sufficiently close. In the author's design the quiescent currents, were 110mA and 140mA. This is about the limit of tolerable mis-match and lower distortion figures may be possible with a better match.

QUIESCENT CURRENT

The quiescent current is higher than would be used in a bipolar design because MOSFETs become quite non-linear near threshold (or cut-off). Even so, the overall quiescent current is a respectably low 0.4A.

The quiescent current must be stabilised against battery and temperature variation. MOSFETs exhibit two opposing thermal drifts. At gate voltages just above the threshold, giving low drain currents, the drift in threshold voltage downwards increases the drain current with increasing temperature. At high bias levels the mobility in the MOS channels dominates which reduces the drain current



COMPONENTS

Resistor

R1, R11	220k (2 off)
R2, R12	18k (2 off)
R3, R13	22k (2 off)
R4, R9,	
R14, R19,	
R28, R30,	
R31	100k (7 off)
R5, R8, R15,	
R18, R103,	
R107	1k (6 off)
R6, R16	8k2 (2 off)
R7, R17,	
R26	82k (3 off)
R10, R20	6k8 (2 off)
R21 to R25	47k (5 off)
R27	15k
R29, R104	4k7 (2 off)
R32	470 0.5W
R101	39k
R102, R106	10k (2 off)
R105	22k
R108, R109	10 (2 off)
R110	20 0.25W
R111	10 0.25W
R112	1k 0.5W
R113, R114	220 (2 off)
R115	120 0.5W
R116	390 0.25W
R117	620 0.25W
R118	22 0.25W
R119, R120	39 0.25W (2 off)
R121	4k7 5W
R122	330 5W
R123	1k 0.5W
R201	1k8 0.25W
R202	470 0.25W
R203	10k 0.25W
R204	1k2 0.5W
R205	220 1W
R206	470 0.5W

All 0.125W metal film unless otherwise stated.

Potentiometers

VR1 to VR5	10k log. (5 off)
VR101	22k cermet preset
VR102	470 cermet preset
VR201	1k cermet preset

Capacitors

C1, C6, C7,	
C12, C14,	
C102	1µ polyester 63V (6 off)
C2, C4, C8,	
C10	4µ7 elect. 22V (4 off)
C3, C9,	
C103	1n ceramic 63V (3 off)
C5, C11	33p ceramic 63V (2 off)
C13	470µ radial elect. 25V
C15, C105	10µ elect. 25V (2 off)
C16	68p ceramic 63V
C17	100n polyester 63V
C17a	10µ elect. 25V
C17b	220n polyester 63V
C101	22µ elect. 25V

see text

C104	4n7 polyester 63V
C106	1µ polyester 100V
C107	33n polyester 630V
C108	470µ elect. 25V
C109	1,000µ elect. 25V, ripple current > 3A
C201	100µ elect. 16V
C202	100n ceramic 63V

The 4µ7 to 22µ elects should be 12.5mm x 5mm types

Semiconductors

TR1, TR3,	
TR5, TR6	BC414 or BC549 (4 off)
TR2, TR4	BC416 or BC559 (2 off)
TR101,	
TR102,	
TR210	BC237 or BC547 (3 off)
TR103,	
TR104	BD137 or BD135 (2 off)
TR105	BD138 or BD136
TR106,	
TR107	BUZ10, matched - see text (2 off)
TR202	BC337
TR203	TIP42, BD224 or similar

D101, D102	BZY88-C15 15V Zener (2 off)
D103	red l.e.d.
D104, D105	BZX61-C39 39V Zener (2 off)
D106	indicator l.e.d. 5mm
D201	IN4001
D202, D203	BZY88-C6V8 6.8V Zener (2 off)

Sockets

JK1 to JK4	0.25 inch jack sockets (4 off)
SK5 to SK7	red 4mm sockets (3 off)
SK8 to SK10	black 4mm sockets (3 off)

Miscellaneous

S1	10A, 125V toggle switch
S2	slide switch, miniature (if required - see text)
T1	driver transformer
T2	output transformer

Control knobs (5 off); grommet for power lead; 6.3A medium delay fuse; 20mm panel fuseholder; one inch aluminium angle, 0.125 inch thick, 6 inches long; aluminium for chassis and heatsink or equivalent case; screws, nuts, washers (M3, M3.5 and M4); transistor insulating kits (TO220, 3 off); (TO126 2 off; additional bushes); self-tappers, 8 off no. 6; self-adhesive feet (4 off); Letraset, etc. for front panel labelling and varnish to finish; p.c.b. available from the EPE PCB Service, order code 930; capacitor mounting clip; support pillars (2 off 19mm); p.c.b. connector; connecting wire, screened lead etc.

Approx cost
guidance only

£65 excluding case

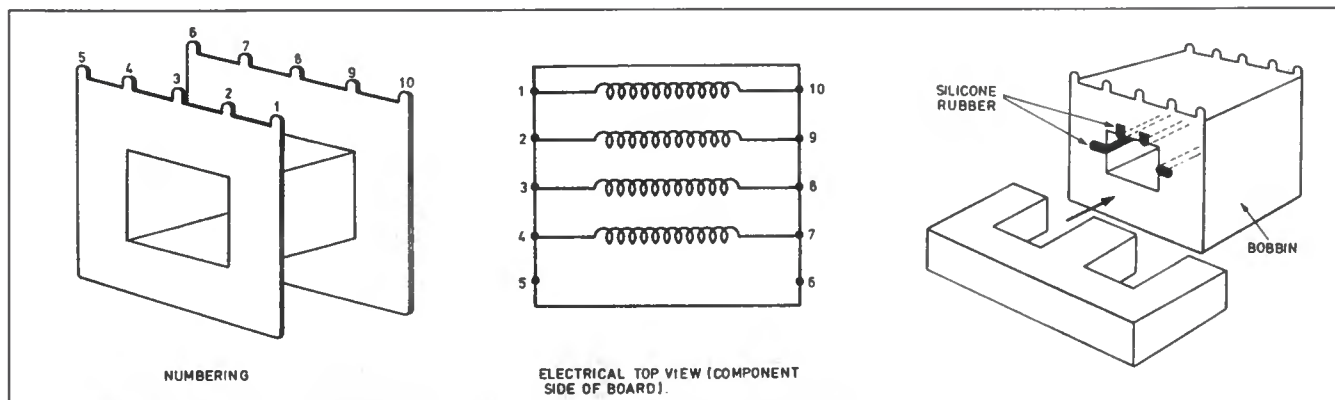


Fig. 3. Driver transformer winding and assembly.

with temperature. This prevents thermal runaway, but the zero-drift balance point corresponds to quite a high current (about 1A in the BUZ10).

The quiescent current is therefore stabilised against thermal drift by TR105. This is a conventional bias regulator which happens to match the thermal drift in a MOSFET at least approximately. The bias does depend a little on the setting of VR102. Fine tuning can be achieved by adjusting R116, R117 and R118, but is probably not necessary. TR105 is a *pnp* instead of the usual *nnp* so that it does not require isolation from the heatsink, thus reducing thermal inertia.

The supply voltage to the bias network is also regulated because a car battery voltage can range from 12V to 12.5V when used alone (even when newly charged) to typically 14V when being charged (as "on the road"). To stabilise the bias (and pre-amp) voltage, a three transistor circuit (TR201 to TR203) is used with a *pnp* power transistor such as a TIP42 for TR203 in the so-called low dropout configuration. The stabiliser potentiometer VR201 is adjusted to give 11.5V output.

FREQUENCY RESPONSE

The frequency response of the amplifier is primarily limited by the output and driver transformers as mentioned. In the driver transformer, there is significant inter-winding capacitance while in the output transformer the metal laminations are not really up to providing more than the 15kHz achieved. To squeeze 20kHz through a transformer either use ferrite material or laminations of 0.05mm!

The overall gain is set by resistor R123 and input resistor R108 at 100, which is higher than would be used for a hifi amp. Consequently the distortion is not as low, but sensitivity is more important in PA equipment. The feedback is stabilised against oscillation by R109 and C104. The overall sensitivity is about 100mV for 6V r.m.s. into the primary windings rather than 60mV due to the input filter R106 and C103.

TRANSFORMERS

Both driver and output transformers made specially for this design are available – see *Shoptalk*. However it is possible for experienced constructors to make their own.

Starting with the transformer equation:

$$N/E = 1/(4.44 fAB)$$

Where N/E is the turns per volt, f the (lowest) operating frequency, A the section of the core (in sq. m) and B the maximum

flux density allowable (in Teslas), a couple of sample designs resulted in a choice of an E42/15 ferrite core or a metal core pattern 18 for the driver. These are 42 and 42.8mm wide. The ferrite core is 42mm high while the waste-free iron laminations give a shorter height of 35.7mm. Bobbins for these fit a 0.1 inch grid with pin spacings of 0.2 inches in rows of five at 1.4 inches and 0.9 inches apart respectively. The board is able to take either.

The ferrite core has a low saturation flux density of 0.35T and a low relative permeability (μ) of about 1200 to 1500. It therefore needs a high number of turns to achieve the inductance. This is 140 t.p.v. which gives an inductance of 1.1H, and frequency response of 35Hz. The iron core option was not used in the prototype despite having been used in a bipolar predecessor. The number of turns on each of the four coils is 600 for the ferrite core. The wire gauge, determined from the total number of turns and bobbin winding window, is 36s.w.g.

Since the turns ratio is 1:1 on four windings, the exact number of turns is not too critical if four insulated wires are wound together (quadafil) until the bobbin is almost full. Leave room for two layers of masking tape. The resistance of the windings should be 30 ohms per coil.

CONNECTIONS

When soldering the coils it is important to wire the starts and ends of the coils to the bobbin pins expected by the circuit board. Since the coils are all equal and wound side by side which coil is which is immaterial: but the end of one must be wired to the pin corresponding to its start. The circuit board layout assumes that the coil "starts" are taken to pins 1, 2, 3 and 4 and ends to 10, 9, 8 and 7 on the Siemens (ferrite) bobbin.

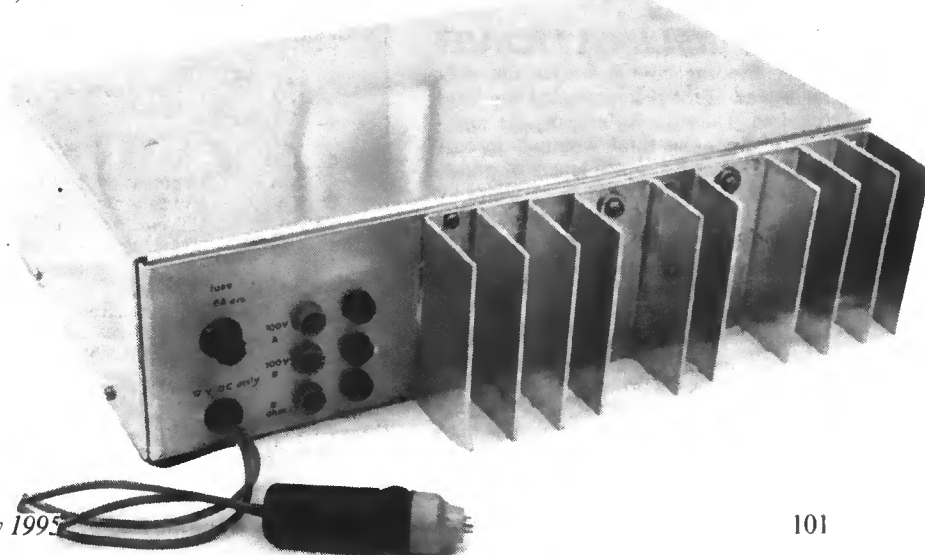
If you can get four different colours of insulation this helps. Solderable enamel is best, but appears to be supplied only in red or green, so you may have to use a meter to check!

The 36s.w.g. wire can conduct 50mA very comfortably at a current density of about 2A/sq.mm. Commercially, wire is used up to 4A/sq.mm in low power transformers. The ferrite core type E42/15 (Siemens part no. B66325-G0000-X127) and bobbin (B66242-J1000-D001) can be obtained from Electrovalue – see *Shoptalk*. Note that a single window bobbin is needed for audio transformers. Two E-core halves are needed for one transformer.

Before assembling the cores, short strips of silicone rubber should be inserted into the core to prevent slop after assembly due to the bobbin being marginally larger than the core as shown in Fig. 3. Use a tie-wrap (0.25 by 8-inch or larger) to keep the core halves together. Pull the tie-wrap tight and snip off the surplus.

OUTPUT TRANSFORMER

The starting point for the output transformer is again the transformer equation but with a core pattern 29 considered. This core is used commercially in a 1 inch stack for 50W mains transformers. It proved not to be possible to obtain 35W from it in class B with two primaries at 50Hz, in an amplifier if the magnetic flux density was kept well away from saturation. In a mains transformer the magnetic flux gets very near saturation to minimise the number of turns required. The solution is to increase the stack height from one inch to 1.5 inches. The turns ratio reduces to 4:6 (actually 5 turns per volt was used) needing 30 turns. Now the two primary coils fit in three layers leaving room for the three secondaries.



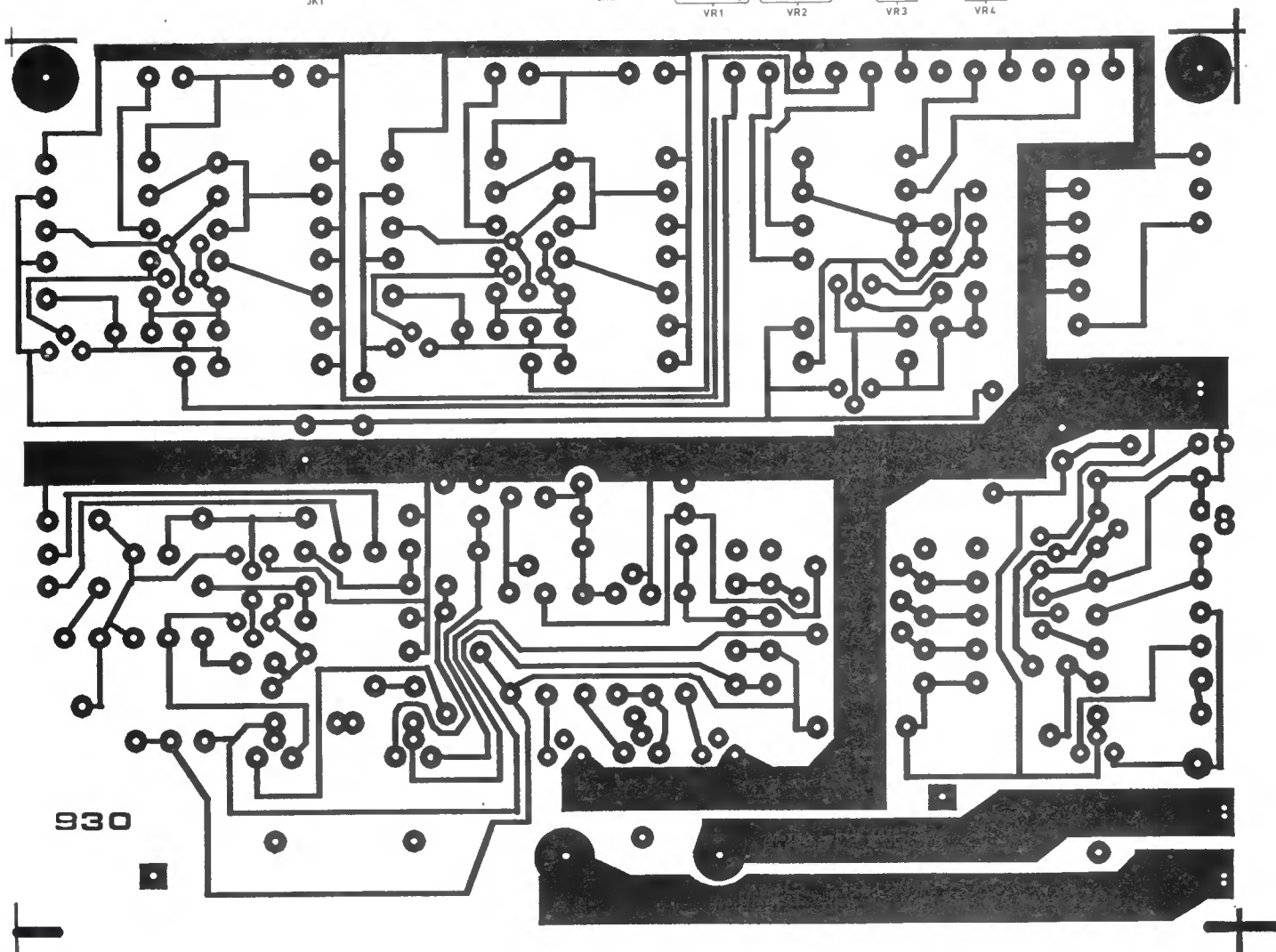
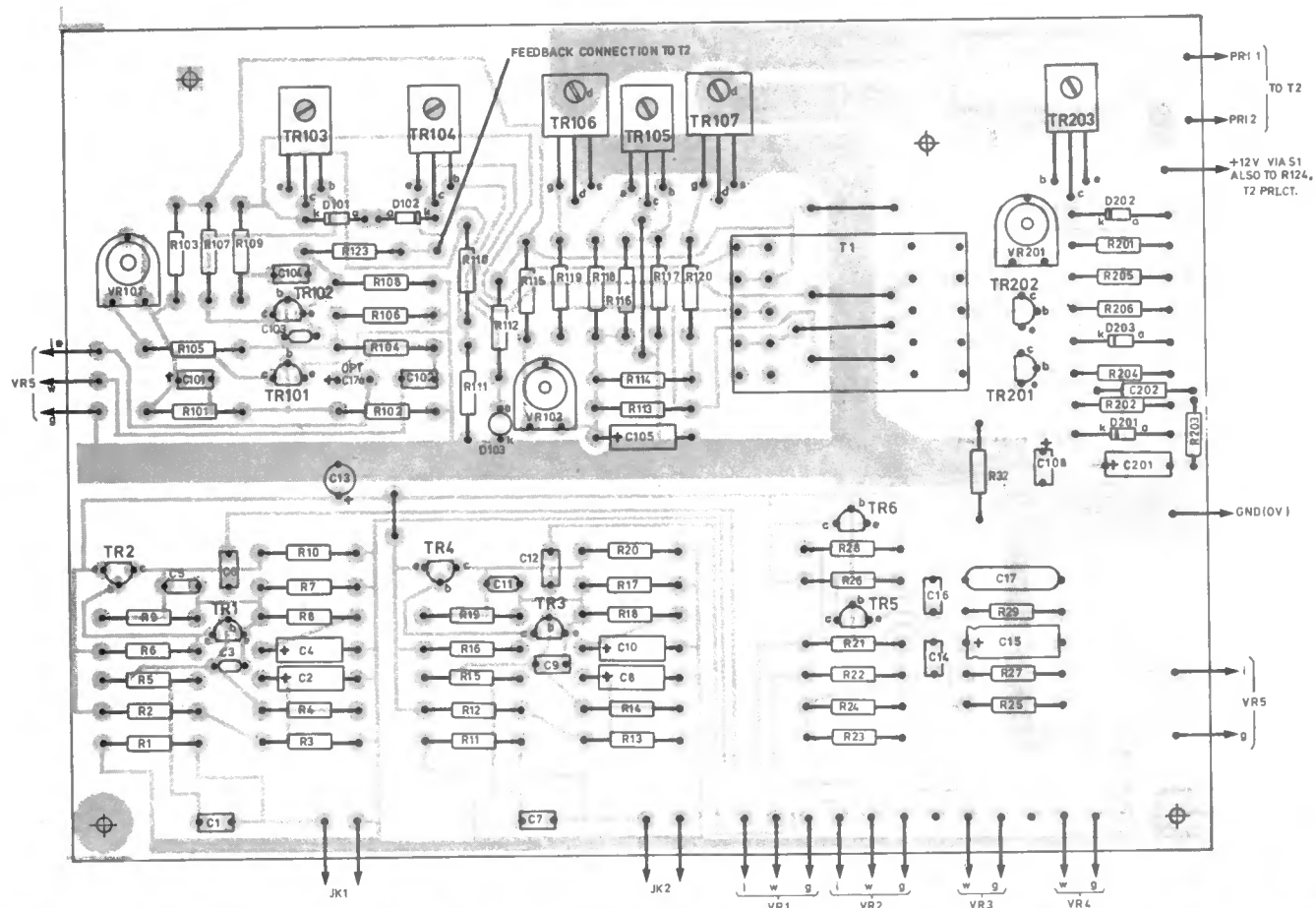


Fig. 5. P.C.B. layout and construction for the P.A. Amplifier. The copper foil master is shown full size.

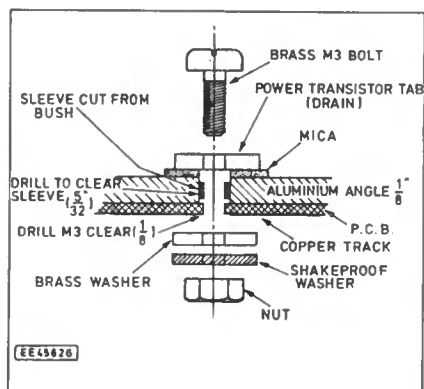


Fig. 6. Power transistor mounting for the "hot bolt" connection.

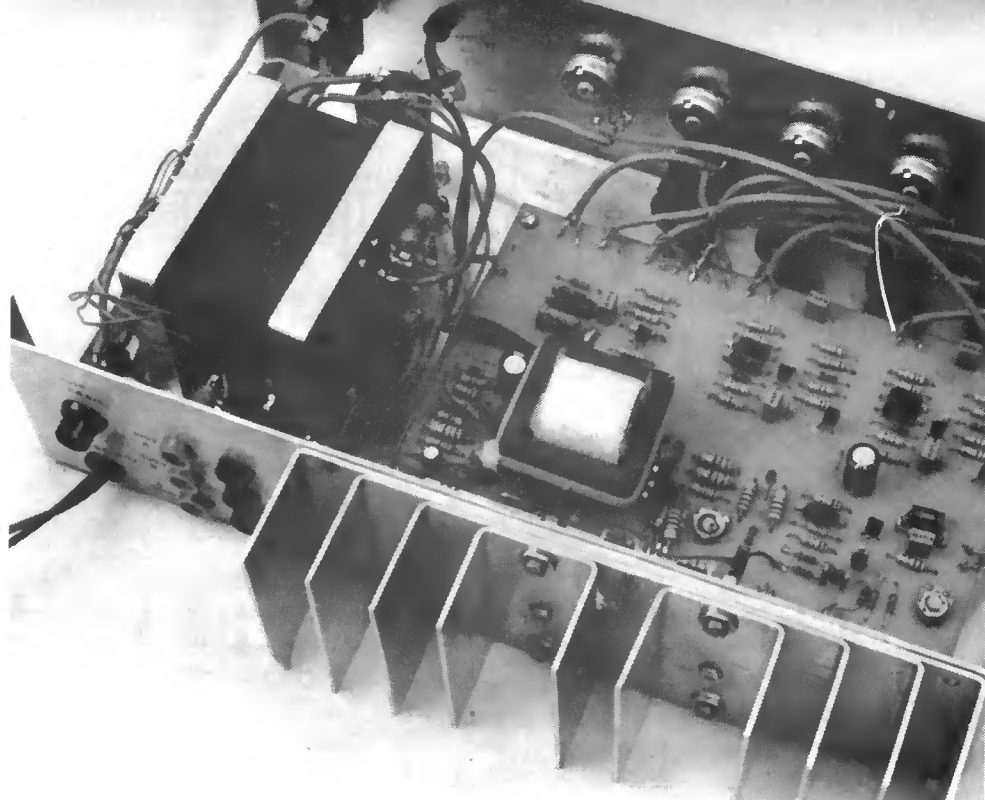
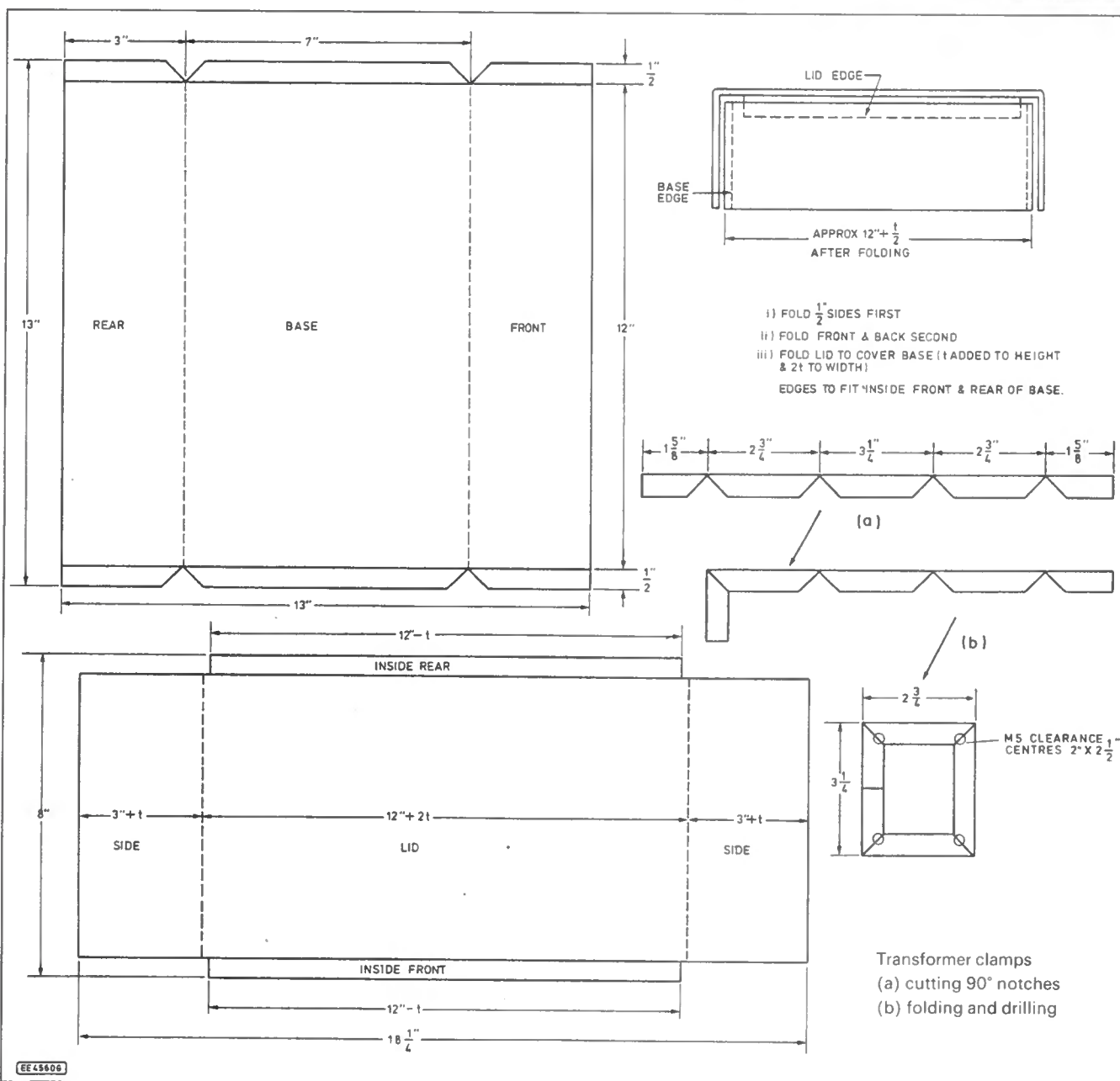


Fig. 7. (below) Construction of the aluminium case and the output transformer mounting clamps (two per output transformer).



QUANTUM EFFECT ELECTRONICS

Keeping electrons tightly confined could achieve faster and more compact chips – *by Hazel Cavendish*

RESearchers at the Toshiba Research Centre, working in collaboration with the Cavendish Laboratory at Cambridge University, have developed the world's first process for fabricating practical quantum effect integrated circuits.

This development could open the door to room temperature quantum effect circuits which, in turn, could result in logic circuits many hundreds of times faster, more compact memories, and new opto-electronic devices.

Molecular Beam Epitaxy

Although enormous advances have been made in the last 50 years, the optical systems used to define i.c. structures are reaching the limits of resolution, as set by the wavelength of light.

However, two new technologies have emerged from the Cavendish Laboratory which hold the promise of improving the integration process to near the atomic level. The use of Molecular Beam and Vapour Phase Epitaxy allows the building of i.c. structures in an entirely different way. Instead of modifying a layer of silicon or gallium arsenide by implanting or diffusing impurities, it is now possible to grow semiconductor materials by single atomic layers. Simultaneously, impurities can be introduced to modify material characteristics in the process and to form sandwich structures.

Apart from permitting manufacturers to make devices which are smaller, the process can be used to examine new concepts of operation that come into effect at near-atomic dimensions.

Many of the new concepts involve quantum phenomena and are based around exploitation of the wave-like properties of the electron. Remarkably, the new fabrication technology allows the composition of the semiconductor to be manipulated over lengths comparable with, or less than, the electron wavelength. Quantum interaction is achieved by trapping electrons in a "potential well" within the semiconductor lattice, comparable to that found in MOS devices.

As the strength of the quantum phenomena increases with greater confinement, one of the team's research aims has been



MBE (Molecular Beam Epitaxy) equipment in laboratory.

to confine trapped electrons within regions only a few atoms across. The Toshiba-Cavendish achievement has been to develop a process for the fabrication of the various structures that is both easier and more precise.

The most exciting prospect is that of i.c.s. many thousands of times more densely packed than currently possible. Typically, a one square centimetre chip might contain 10^{12} gates or memory cells – at least three orders of magnitude more than current memory chips.

Super-fast logic circuits will be able to operate on quantum switching principles, promising speeds up to 1000 gigahertz, 500 times faster than today's i.c.s. Super-capacity logic and memory circuits will work by switching only a few electrons between high and low energy states.

The new technology allows a sandwich of semiconductor materials to be built up on a suitable substrate. The thickness of each layer can be controlled to within one atom, while its electrical properties can be customised by varying the mix of impurities incorporated during growth. A succession of layers can be laid down in one continuous process.

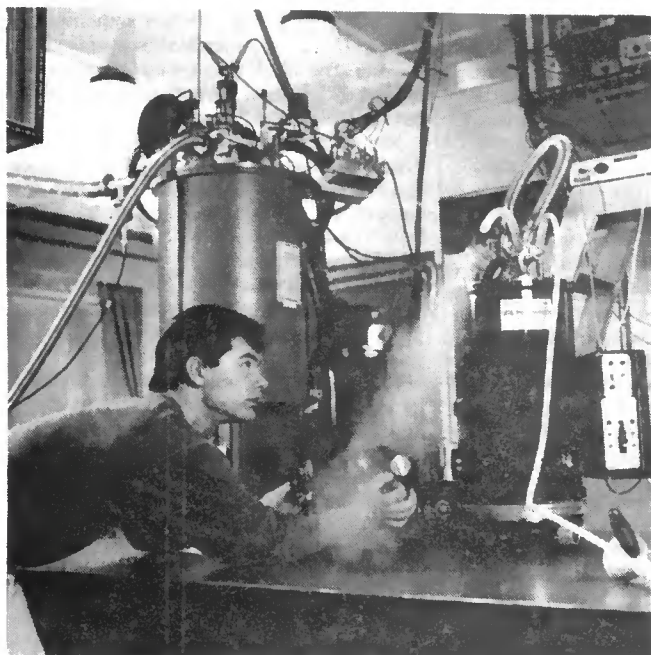
Electron beam lithography is currently used to define the highest resolution in i.c. manufacture, but the process is slow and has practical resolution limits. The research team has overcome this problem by developing a process using optical lithography to define non-critical dimensions, while the critical ones are defined by using the new epitaxial process.

BT'S INTERACTIVE TV TRIALS

British Telecom has announced that it is to start consumer trials of BT Interactive TV, which includes video on demand, in the middle of 1995 with 2500 households in Colchester and Ipswich. This follows the success of its technical trials, held in Kesgrave, near Ipswich.

The world-leading new service promises to create a revolution in the home. It brings together the telephone and the television to enable customers to choose a range of services from a menu on an ordinary TV set. The material is then transmitted from a central database over the telephone network to the TV, while not affecting the normal telephone line.

During the trial period, BT aims to offer shopping on demand, a range of educational programming for homes and schools, movies and TV programming (video on demand), a home banking service, a magazine service and a community link providing local information. Additional services will be introduced during the course of the trials.



Toshiba-Cavendish optical laboratory.

GIANT SRAM

What is claimed to be the world's largest dual-port SRAM (static random access memory) has been introduced by Integrated Device Technology. IDT's new IDT7007 has access times as fast as 25ns and is a 256K device which provides the highest possible density of true dual-port SRAM in the smallest possible area of board space. Configured as 32K x 8 bits, the SRAM provides four times the memory of IDT's closest competitor at a fraction of the cost.

Because of its extremely small size, the IDT7007 significantly simplifies system design, it also increases bandwidth and is ideal for use in high density situations. It is available in a 14mm square, 80-pin TQFP package as well as PLCC and PGA.

For further information contact Integrated Device Technology, Prime House, Barnett Wood Lane, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT22 7DG. Tel: 0372 363734.



Giant SRAMs IDT7007.

B.A.E.C. CHANGEOVER

We are always pleased to support the work of the British Amateur Electronics Club and to read its quarterly Newsletter. The latest issue, number 114 for December 1994, has just been received. We extend our welcome to its new editor Alf Denison, and send our best wishes to Herbert Howard who has retired from the post after several stalwart years.

In the latest 24-page Newsletter are more circuit ideas which will appeal to electronics hobbyists. Among them are circuits for current to voltage converters, relay control, more on computer interfacing, and "More Ways of Skinning a Cat". Moggies need not fear though: the article is about zero crossing detectors, not electronic taxidermy!

The regular Magart section of the Newsletter comments favourably on several projects recently published in *EPE*, notably the *Universal Digital Code Lock*, the *Experimental Electronic Pipe Descaler*, and the *Advanced Tens Unit*. We are pleased to learn that the latter has provided pain relief for still more people; it is probably one of our most popular projects ever.

We were, though, surprised to read that the "Electronics from the Ground Up ... series has come into some criticism because of its use of Computer Aided Design in teaching electronics." We are totally unaware of any such criticism and believe that, judging by the very large sales of the full software package, we are publishing a series of articles which had long been hoped for. Perhaps, Alf, you could kindly tell us what criticism you are aware of?

Readers who would like more information about the B.A.E.C. should write to J.F. Davies, Secretary, B.A.E.C. 70 Ash Road, Cuddington, Northwich, Cheshire, CW8 2PB, mentioning *EPE*.

PAT VIDEO

The introduction of the Electricity at Work Regulations has highlighted the potential dangers of electricity in the workplace, and the duty of the employer to minimise the risks to all employees.

Clear and simple guidance on how to establish such a maintenance program has become available as a new video from AVO International. The video is called "PAT Video II - Fundamentals of Risk Assessment, Visual Inspection and Test" and lasts for about 30 minutes.

For more information contact Avo International, Archcliffe Road, Dover, Kent, CT17 9EN. Tel: 0304 202620.

ESSEX MEETING

The 10th South Essex Amateur Radio Society will be holding its Radio Rally on 5 February 1995, at The Paddocks, Long Road, Canvey Island, Essex. (The Paddocks is situated at the end of the A130.) Doors open 10.30 a.m.

Features include amateur radio, computer and electronic component exhibitors (bring and buy!), R.S.G.B Morse testing on demand (two passport photos required), and home-made refreshments. There is free parking with space outside the main door for disabled visitors. Admission £1.00.

For further details ring Roger on 01268 693786 or Ken on 01268 755350.

ANOTHER NEW PIC

Regular readers will be aware that we have recently been featuring microcontrollers in some of our projects, including *Timeout*, *Universal Digital Code Lock*, *Spacewriter* and the *EPE Fruit Machine*. Many readers will thus be interested to know about the introduction by Arizona Microchip Technology of their new one-time programmable 8-bit microcontroller, the PIC16C61.

This chip has a 200ns instruction cycle, 1024 x 14-bit program memory and 36 bytes of data RAM, making it ideal for use in a wide range of applications. A low power "sleep" mode for battery operation reduces standby current to less than 1µA. In addition, a wide operating voltage range of 2.5V to 6.0V and a very small "footprint" (18-pin SOIC package) make it suitable for use in many portable applications.

The PIC16C61 is supported by the PICMASTER-16G Universal Develop-

ABOUT TIME TOO!

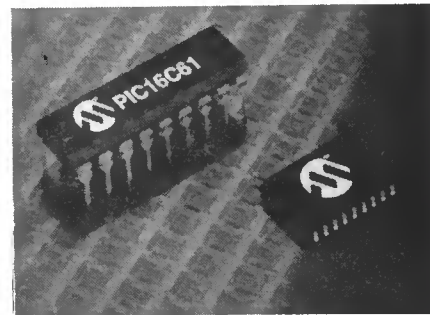
On February 1 1995, the long-awaited mains-plug legislation comes into effect. This will bring the UK into line with the rest of Europe by making manufacturers and importers fit approved standard plugs to all "white" and "brown" electrical goods. It is a direct result of a successful consumer and media (including *EPE*) safety campaign to reduce the number of accidents caused through badly wired plugs.

Many readers, of course, will now have found that items of electrical equipment are already usually being supplied with moulded-on mains plugs. (A sales manager from a large electrical retailer commented to us that his staff were never allowed to fit plugs on behalf of customers, even if they were obviously incapable of doing it for themselves; a most undesirable situation.)

During the period of 1st Feb. '95 to 1st Feb. '96, retailers have to clear their stocks of appliances without fitted plugs. After that time, with certain exceptions, there should not be a single domestic appliance with bare mains wires in any UK store.

One company which has recognised that complying with the new law also implies a responsibility to making sure that its customers are equally well informed is Remploy Manufacturing Services. Remploy provides contract manufacturing and assembly skills for companies in the electronic, electrical, automotive and mechanical sectors. In their autumn issue of *Contract Manufacturing*, their customer Newsletter, Remploy looks at the implications of the long-awaited plug fitting legislation deadline.

For further information contact Remploy Ltd., Remploy Manufacturing Services, 33 Wales Farm Road, Acton, London W3 6XX. Tel: 0181 992 3007.



Two versions of the PIC16C61.

ment System, a fully integrated programming development and emulation environment, and is available in 4MHz plastic DIP and SOIC versions.

For more information contact Arizona Microchip Technology Ltd., Unit 6, The Courtyard, Meadowbank, Furlong Road, Bourne End, Bucks, SL8 5AJ. Tel: 01628 851077.

AUDIOPHILES TAKE NOTE!

Graham Nalty, whom many readers will associate with the company Audiokits, has introduced a quarterly newsletter aimed specially at electronics constructors and hifi enthusiasts.

The newsletter, entitled "AP Performance Audio - The Journal of High Performance Audio Construction", will contain the latest news about high performance audio components, new products, cable features, price updates and "bargain bin", latest upgrading techniques for improving your own equipment, new amplifiers, pre-amps and other hifi projects to build, and readers' own feedback.

Copies of the newsletter will be supplied FREE to customers who purchase components from Audiokits valued at over £100 during the previous year. Other readers can subscribe to five issues up to the end of 1995 for only £5.

For further information, contact AP Electronics, Derwent Business Centre, Clarke Street, Derby, DE1 2BU. Tel: 01332-674929.

New Technology Update

Ian Poole takes a look at a new research development project, using existing CD technology, that is expected to give a ten-fold increase in data storage.

THE ADVENT of new and exciting developments associated with the computer industry has increased the demand for convenient forms of storing vast amounts of data. The new idea for the information super-highway along with the increasing size of software applications indicates that within a few years conventional forms of storage will be unable to cope with the demands placed upon them.

At the moment CDs are providing a way of storing large amounts of data in a compact and convenient way. They are finding many uses, particularly in the computer games market.

However, in a few years time it is expected that even these will not be able to provide sufficient storage. With software packages giving more facilities, and containing far more visual and audio effects, the amounts of storage which are needed are poised to increase by orders of magnitude. Another important factor is that any improvements to storage systems must be cost effective and reliable.

Multilayer CD

Now a new development has built on the current CD technology to give a ten-fold increase in data storage for very little increase in cost. This has been achieved by researchers at IBM's Almaden Research Centre at San Jose in California by using a multi-layered CD.

Today's CDs used for audio and data storage consist of a single surface. This has a reflective coating onto which the data is stored as small non-reflective areas. A laser is focused onto the track as the disc rotates

and the reflected light is detected to give the data which is encoded onto the disc surface.

Many methods of increasing the data density of CDs have been investigated. To achieve this it is either necessary to increase the density of the data, or the area available for storage.

Most solutions have focused on ways of increasing the actual data density on the surface of the disc. This is not particularly easy because it requires much greater levels of accuracy, both in the recording stages and in the system for reading the data. This results in a significant increase in cost of the CD itself and in the drive for reading the data.

It is also estimated that improvements along these lines will only double the storage capacity of these systems. This is not expected to be sufficient to cater for the needs into the foreseeable future and make the system viable for development and marketing.

Many of the other solutions which sought to increase the storage area were not convenient because they had to use a totally new standard for the discs. This was not favoured because the CD format is already well established.

New Approach

Researchers at IBM have adopted a new approach. They have developed a unique design for CDs using several layers of data within the disc. By using this method, the data density on *each* surface is not increased over the current CDs. This means that standards of quality and reliability are not sacrificed in any way, whilst still maintaining a low cost solution. It also has the advantage of retaining many of the specifications of the existing CD format.

The new disc is largely based on existing technology, but updated to give the additional layers. It consists of individual layers or discs made of plastic which are then bonded together with spacers. In this way a very compact CD stack is formed – See Fig. 1.

Light from the laser in the disc drive is able to penetrate all of the layers. To achieve this all the discs are made of transparent material, and lack the reflective aluminium coating used for standard CDs.

In view of the absence of this coating, modifications have been made to the optical system to compensate for the different levels of reflected light.

However, the performance of the new system with these changes is equally as good as the original, and very high signal-to-noise ratios have been achieved.

To read or write to a particular layer, the laser beam is accurately focused to the correct distance. This is achieved relatively easily, and it has been found that spurious reflections from the other layers can be reduced to levels where no significant crosstalk is achieved.

Whilst it is possible to produce systems which can read and write, read only systems require only relatively small changes to those designs which already exist. This should make them cheap and easy to manufacture.

Drives with write capabilities are more difficult as they require much greater levels of complexity. Despite the problems which exist it has been possible to demonstrate a four layer write-once, multiple-read disc system.

Read only discs up to six layers have been successfully tested, and it is expected that ultimately the number of layers may rise to ten or more. The number is ultimately limited by the power of the laser and the transparency of the material.

Freedom of Choice

The design of the new systems is being undertaken so that the new drives will be able to accept both new and conventional discs. Although it has not reached the stage of manufacture yet, there is widespread interest from industry.

This is hardly surprising because it offers major improvements by employing relatively minor changes to an existing technology. This means that any companies manufacturing current disc systems will be able to start making the new ones with quite small amounts of investment.

It is expected that there will be a large number of uses for the new discs. Obviously computer software publishers will have fewer restrictions on memory. This will give much more freedom when writing new programmes. Games writers will be able to add far more visual and audio effects.

Other uses for the new discs include video recordings because the new discs could conceivably hold a complete film. Alternatively they could be used for storing optical libraries or vast amounts of music.

IBM are looking into more improvements to the system. Further into the future ideas of having a single disc capable of storing 25 Gbytes or more may soon be a reality. As these discs are small and easy to change in the drive, vast amounts of data can be stored and accessed exceedingly easily.

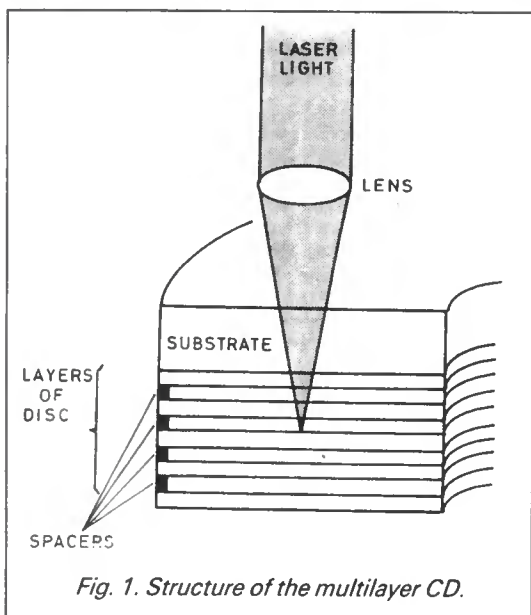


Fig. 1. Structure of the multilayer CD.

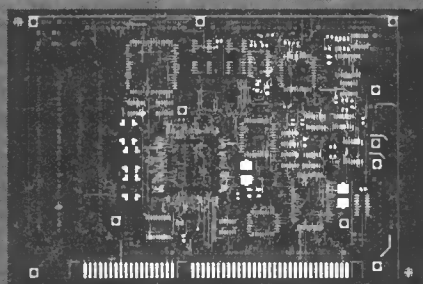
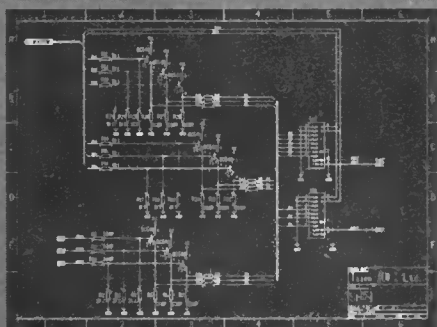
Is your PCB design package not quite as "professional" as you thought? Substantial trade-in discounts still available.

Board Capture

Schematic Capture Design Tool

- Direct netlist link to BoardMaker2
- Forward annotation with part values
- Full undo/redo facility (50 operations)
- Single-sheet, multi-paged and hierarchical designs
- Smooth scrolling
- Intelligent wires (automatic junctions)
- Dynamic connectivity information
- Automatic on-line annotation
- Integrated on-the-fly library editor
- Context sensitive editing
- Extensive component-based power control
- Back annotation from BoardMaker2

£395



BoardMaker

BoardMaker1 - Entry level

- PCB and schematic drafting
- Easy and intuitive to use
- Surface mount and metric support
- 90, 45 and curved track corners
- Ground plane fill
- Copper highlight and clearance checking

£95

BoardMaker2 - Advanced level

- All the features of BoardMaker1
- Full netlist support- BoardCapture, OrCad, Schema, Tango, CadStar
- Full Design Rule Checking both mechanical and electrical
- Top down modification from the schematic
- Component renumber with back annotation
- Report generator- Database ASCII, BOM
- Thermal power plane support with full DRC

£395

BoardRouter

Gridless re-entrant autorouter

- Simultaneous multi-layer routing
- SMD and analogue support
- Full interrupt, resume, pan and zoom while routing

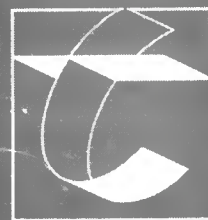
£200

Output drivers - Included as standard

- Printers - 9 & 24 pin Dot matrix, HPLaserjet and PostScript
- Penplotters - HP, Graphtec & Houston
- Photoplotters - All Gerber 3X00 and 4X00
- Excellon NC Drill and Annotated drill drawings (BM2)



For further information contact
Tsien (UK) Limited
Aylesby House
Wenny Road, Chatteris
Cambridge, PE16 6UT
Tel 01354 695959
Fax 01354 695957
E-mail Sales@tsien.demon.co.uk



tsien

All trademarks acknowledged

FOOT-OPERATED DRILL CONTROLLER

EDWARD BARROW

Don't foot the bill - foot the drill!



THIS PROJECT was designed as an aid to precision drilling work by hand. For example, when drilling p.c.b.s using a 12V hand-held drill, the author has often experienced problems with the drill bit skating across the surface of the board. This causes off-centre holes, damages the surface of the board and its tracks, and can cause drill bits to break.

The effect is partly due to the high speeds at which such p.c.b. drills operate, typically 15,000 r.p.m. The jerks caused by the large acceleration when the drill starts are not easily tamed when hand-holding the drill. This project offers some relief from the problem.

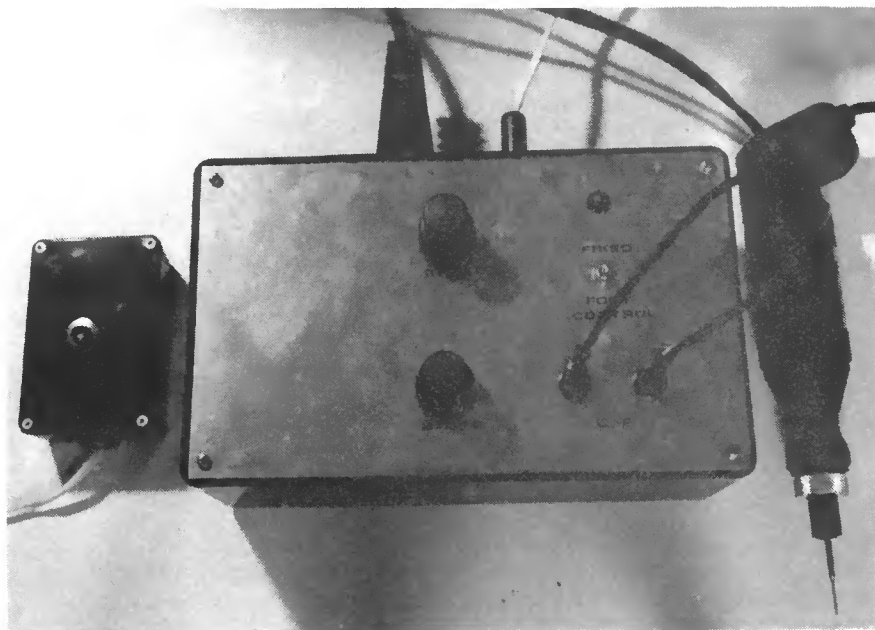
Firstly, it uses a footswitch to start and stop the drill, thus freeing one hand to help stabilise the drill, or to hold the item being drilled. Secondly, when the footswitch is pressed, the drill speed is gradually allowed to build up to a presettable maximum speed.

Naturally, since there is a direct relationship between drill speed and the voltage applied, in order to provide a smooth start-up, the applied voltage should follow an envelope similar to the one shown in Fig. 1.

Thus, when the footswitch is pressed, the output voltage should rise slowly from zero, past the "Z" point at which the drill just starts to turn, and upwards to the preset maximum speed. When the footswitch is released, the control voltages should rapidly fall to zero.

HOW IT WORKS

Functionally, the circuit of the drill speed controller can be split into two main



blocks, the envelope generator and the power output regulator.

The circuit diagram for the envelope shaper is shown in Fig. 2. This circuit has three variable control points, two of which are fed from the voltage reference circuit around Zener diode D1, resistor R1 and capacitor C2. Although the reference voltage is regulated, its actual value is somewhat arbitrary as it only needs to be somewhat less than the supply voltage which feeds the op.amps and bilateral switch i.c.s.

The purpose of the reference voltage is to preset the range of control voltage output to the drill motor. Potentiometer VR1 and preset VR3 form a voltage divider chain across the Zener-controlled reference point. Since VR1 and VR3 have nominally the same values, the control voltage range adjustable by VR1 is between the maximum as set by Zener diode D1, and half that level. Preset VR3 is used to set the "Z" point threshold voltage at which the drill will just start to rotate.

The controlling voltage envelope shape is created by the rate at which capacitor C3 is charged and discharged. Normally, when the footswitch is unpressed, the base of transistor TR1 is unbiased and consequently its collector at the junction with resistor R4 is at +12V. This voltage causes

the analogue switch IC2c to be turned on via its control pin 6, internally connecting its pins 8 and 9. As a result, capacitor C3 is held discharged at 0V.

FOOT DOWN

When footswitch S1 is pressed, transistor TR1 is turned on by the current applied to its base via resistor R3, and its collector voltage falls to 0V, so turning off analogue switch IC2c. Simultaneously, +12V is applied to IC2a pin 13 and IC2b pin 12, so turning on both of these analogue switches. With both switches on, capacitor C3 is allowed to charge via both switched routes.

Of immediate interest is the charging route via IC2b. The voltage present at the wiper of preset VR3 is routed to pin 3 of the buffer op.amp IC1a. Via diode D2, the output voltage from IC1a pin 1 charges capacitor C3 to the same level. Referring back to Fig. 1, this level is the required "Z" point voltage at which the drill will just start to rotate. Diode D2 prevents IC2a from sinking the charging current supplied via potentiometer VR2.

There now follows a slow increase in the rate at which capacitor C3 is charged via the IC2a route. This rate is determined by the resistance value to which potentiometer VR2 has been set. The maximum voltage

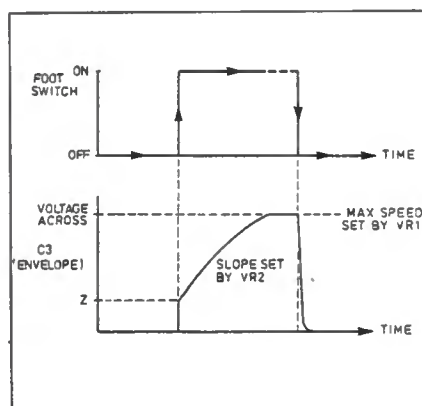


Fig. 1. Drill control voltage envelope.

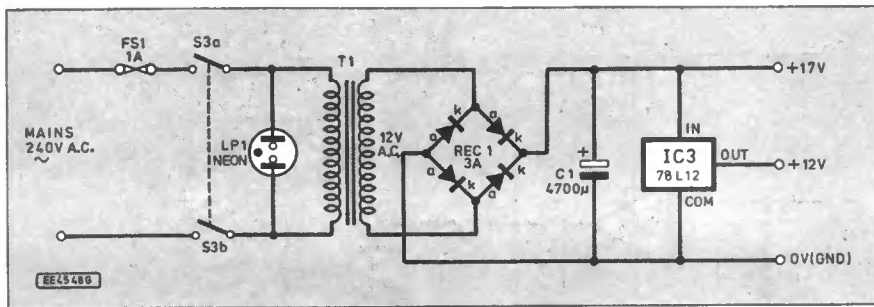


Fig. 4. Power supply circuit diagram for the Drill Controller.

substituted to suit the drill used. Ideally, the transformer should be chosen to give the circuit at least 4V to 5V d.c. "headroom" above the desired output voltage.

COMPONENTS

Resistors

R1	820
R2, R4,	
R8	10k (3 off)
R3	100k
R5, R7	1k (2 off)
R6	0.22 1W
R9	47
R10	1M

All 0.25W 5% carbon film except where stated

Potentiometers

VR1	4k7 rotary carbon, log.
VR2	1M rotary carbon, log.
VR3,	
VR4	4k7 min. horiz. preset (2 off)

Capacitors

C1	4700µ axial elect. 25V
C2	2µ2 tantalum bead 25V
C3	1µ tantalum bead 25V
C4, C6	47µ axial elect. 25V (2 off)
C5	100p polystyrene
C7, C8	100n polyester (2 off)

Semiconductors

D1	9V1 Zener diode
D2	1N4148 signal diode
TR1 to	
TR3	BC109 (or similar) npn transistor (3 off)
TR4	MJE3055 (or similar) npn power transistor
IC1	CA3240 dual MOSFET op.amp
IC2	4066 quad bilateral switch
IC3	78L12 12V 100mA regulator
REC1	50V 3A bridge rectifier

Miscellaneous

S1	s.p. push to make footswitch
S2	s.p.d.t. min. toggle switch
S3	d.p.d.t. mains toggle switch
SK1	3.5mm mono jack socket (and plug)
SK2,	
SK3	4mm socket (and plug) (2 off);
T1	12V a.c. mains transformer 25VA (see text)

Printed circuit board available from the EPE PCB Service, code 928; plastic box with aluminium top panel, approximately 161mm x 96mm x 59mm; heatsink for TR4 (see text); 14-pin d.i.l. socket; 8-pin d.i.l. socket; knob (2 off); mains neon; 20mm panel mounting fuseholder; 20mm 1A fuse; mounting clip for capacitor C1; connecting wire; solder, etc.

Approx cost guidance only

£34

CONSTRUCTION

The printed circuit board layout and full size copper foil master track pattern are shown in Fig. 5. The p.c.b. is available from the EPE PCB Service, code 928.

Assembly of the components onto the p.c.b. is very straightforward and can be carried out in any order as convenient. Ensure that all semiconductors and electrolytic capacitors are correctly orientated. It is preferable to use i.c. sockets for IC1 and IC2. Both i.c.s are CMOS devices and the usual anti-static handling precautions should be observed.

For convenience, on the prototype, the large electrolytic capacitor C1 is mounted off-board. Connection to the footswitch is via a 3.5mm mono jack socket and plug. For the drill coupling, 4mm connectors are used. Other types of connector may be used to suit personal needs.

TESTING

Warning: when working on the unit, beware that mains voltages are present and that they can be lethal. Always taken extreme care! If in any doubt about any aspect of the mains connections, consult a qualified electrician.

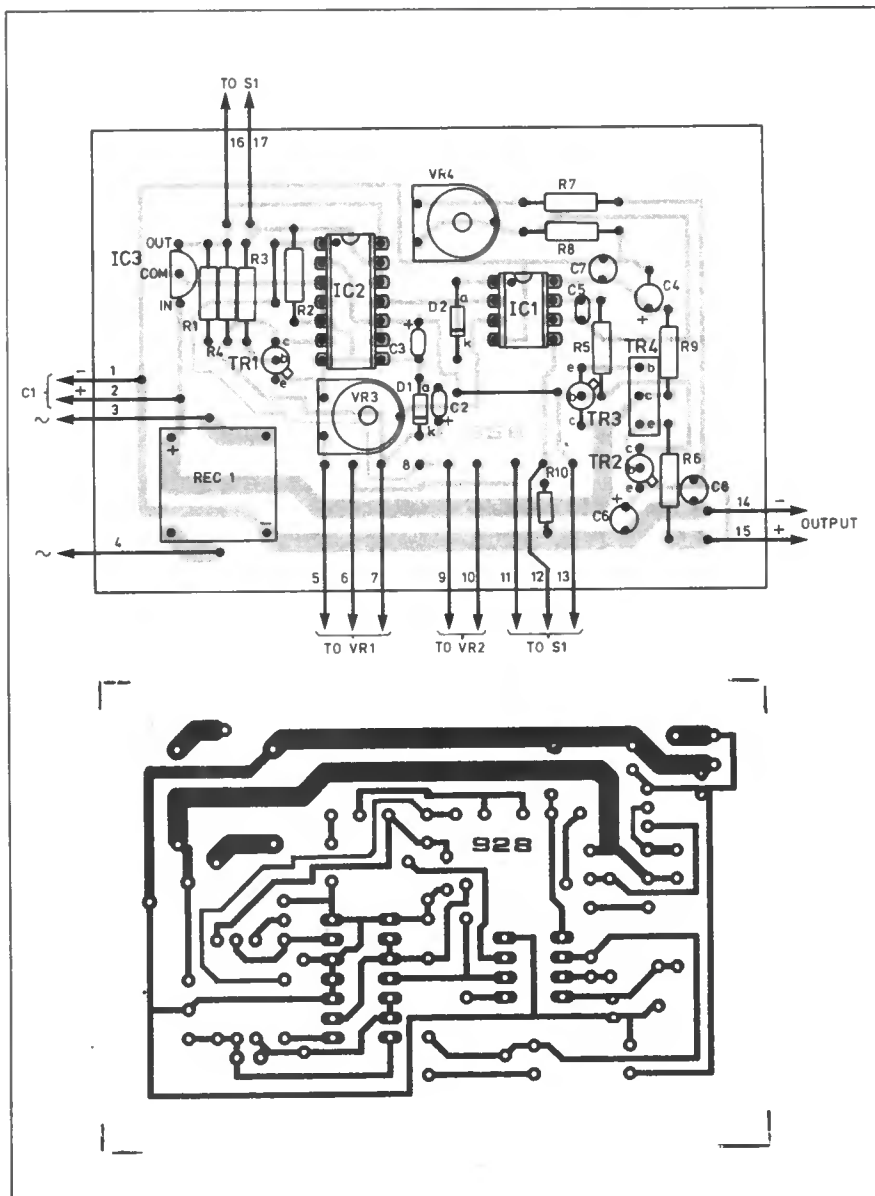


Fig. 5. Printed circuit board component layout and full size copper foil master track pattern for the Foot-Operated Drill Controller.

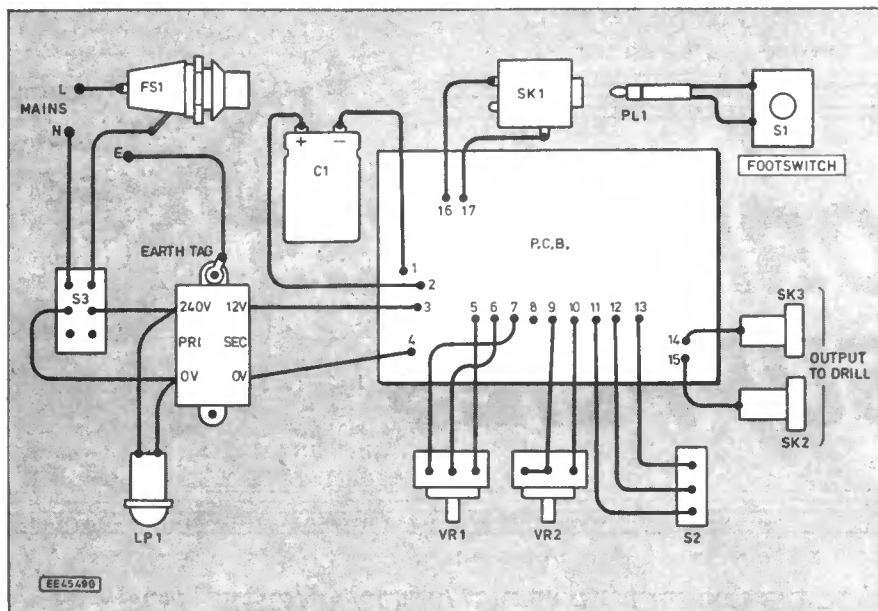
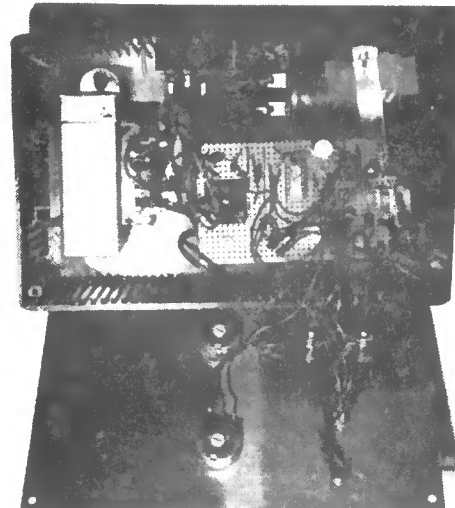


Fig. 6. Interwiring of the off-board components.

Before connecting the unit to the drill, press the footswitch and check with a meter that the bilateral switches within IC2 are all performing as they should. If your test meter has a high input impedance, check that capacitor C3 is charging correctly. Also check that when varying both potentiometers VR1 and VR2

the desired results are obtained. Finally check that the output voltage also corresponds accordingly.

To correctly adjust preset VR4, first turn VR1 to its maximum setting, and set switch S2 to "constant". Next, while monitoring the output voltage, adjust VR4 so that the desired voltage is present at the output to



Prototype Foot Operated Drill Controller showing relative positions of components built on strip-board within the case.

the drill. It may be preferable to put a load resistor of about 100 ohms across the output when doing this.

To correctly set preset VR3, connect the drill and set switch S2 to "envelope". Adjust VR3 so that the drill starts as soon as the footswitch is pressed (or to whatever setting you feel comfortable with). Assuming all is well, the drill controller is now ready for use. □

LÔÖKING FOR...

**ICs ★
TRANSISTORS ★ SEMIs?**
especially those hard to find?
Why not give us a buzz?

WE STOCK A MASSIVE RANGE

We specialise in devices with the following prefix
(to name but a few):

2N 2SA 2SB 2SC 2SD 2SJ 2SK AN BA BC BD BDT BF
BFR BFY BFX BU BUK BUT BUV BUW BUZ CA DTA
HA IRF LA LB LC LF LM M MC MJ MJE MM MPS
MPSA MPSU NE RC SAA SAB SDA SI SL SN STA
STK STR TA TBA TC TDA TIP TEA TL UAA ULN UPC
XR ZN ZTX... plus daily arrival of new numbers.

ALSO

RESISTORS ★ CAPACITORS ★ CHOKES ★ CABLES
LEADS ★ CONNECTORS ★ VIDEO HEADS ★ DRIVE BELTS
SWITCHES ★ TTL ★ CMOS ★ OP AMPS ★ VOLTAGE REGS
SPECIAL FUNCTION ★ TRANSFORMERS ETC ETC ETC

WE SPECIALISE IN PHONE & FAX MAIL ORDERS
BY CREDIT CARD



Callers & Mail orders welcome



CRICKLEWOOD ELECTRONICS

40 CRICKLEWOOD BROADWAY, LONDON NW2 3ET
TEL: 081 452 0161 & 081 450 0995 FAX: 081 208 1441

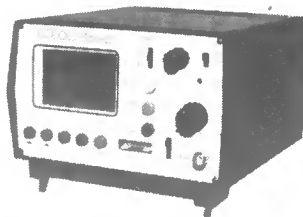
!!! CATALOGUE DUE OUT AUTUMN 1994 !!!

A SAMPLING OSCILLOSCOPE AND LOGIC ANALYSER

IN AN AFFORDABLE PORTABLE PACKAGE

- 10 Mega samples per second single channel DSO
- 1MHz analogue bandwidth
- 0.2V-50V input range
- Various Triggering options
- 10 Mega samples per second 8-channel logic analyser
- 5V TTL/4.5-15V CMOS logic level inputs
- Crisp, clear LCD screen
- Zoom and Scroll facilities (selected range only)
- Battery or mains adapter powered
- 12 Months Warranty (Built version only)
- "Get you working" service (kits only)

The Miniscope



MINISCOPE KIT £139

MINISCOPE BUILT £179

MAINS PSU £6 P&P £6

PLEASE ADD VAT AT 17.5%

Write or phone for a **FREE** Information Pack to

AUDON AUDON ELECTRONICS

36 Attenborough Lane, Chilwell, Nottingham NG9 5JW
☎ 0602 259737

TRANSFORMERLESS POWER SUPPLIES

ANDY FLIND

Following recent projects using "transformerless" mains power supplies, several queries have been received asking for further explanation of the operation of this type of supply - here it is.

MOST projects operating from the household mains electricity supply require a means of reducing the 240 volt a.c. to a small d.c. voltage to power the electronics. The usual method employed is a transformer with a rectifier or diode arrangement but in some cases it can be advantageous to use a capacitor instead.

Many small transformers generate heat, and often they also emit noise in the form of "hum", which even at very low levels can be irritating. Capacitors suffer neither of these problems, and in addition are usually smaller, lighter and cheaper.

The use of capacitors as mains voltage droppers is not as inherently safe as that of transformers however, so experimenters wishing to use this method **MUST** be well acquainted with the potential hazards.

This article aims to provide comprehensive information about the operation of this type of circuit, so that constructors will fully understand its operation and those experienced enough to avoid the dangers may use it in their own circuits.

BACK TO BASICS

A wide variety of capacitor power supply arrangements is possible, but for a thorough understanding of the principles it is best to

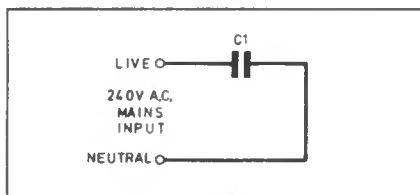


Fig. 1a. If a capacitor, correctly rated for continuous mains operation, is placed across the mains supply an a.c. current will flow.

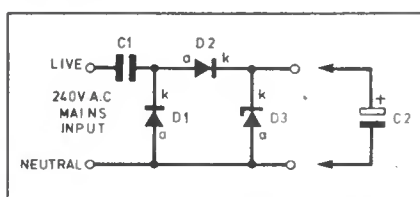


Fig. 1b. Adding diodes to produce a d.c. output voltage.

begin with the basics and proceed in easy stages. If a capacitor of suitable voltage rating is placed across the mains as shown in Fig. 1a, an a.c. current will flow through it. Because the opposition to the current flow is capacitive, this current leads the voltage by ninety degrees. For part of each half cycle, energy flows into the capacitor, then for the next part it returns to the supply.

HAZARDOUS

By now the inherent hazards of this type of supply should be apparent. To begin with, the circuit is *directly* connected to mains Neutral, and to "Live" via a capacitor. It must always, therefore, be treated as "Live" and suitable safety precautions **MUST** be observed whilst

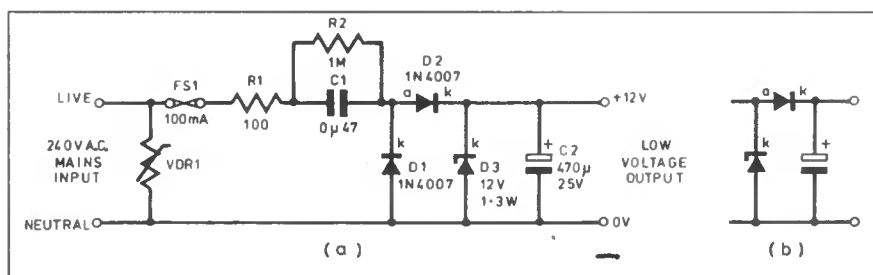


Fig. 2a. Complete circuit diagram for a basic positive low voltage power supply. An alternative output arrangement, saving one diode, is shown in (b).

This is sometimes called "wattless" current because although energy flows back and forth, none is actually used. Because of this, no heat is generated. Due to its design, your electricity meter should not register its flow either.

As a matter of interest, a transformer should perform in a similar way when not connected to a load, save that in this case the opposition is inductive so the current should lag the voltage by ninety degrees. The snag is that the resistance of the primary winding also opposes current flow, resulting in the generation of heat.

In Fig. 1b, three diodes have been added to the circuit. If we take "Neutral" as the reference, during each *positive* half-cycle the capacitor current flows through diode D2 and the Zener diode D3, resulting in the appearance of the "Zener voltage" across this diode.

During *negative* half-cycles current returns to the capacitor through diode D1. If a large enough electrolytic capacitor C2 is connected across Zener diode D3, it will maintain the Zener voltage during the negative half-cycle, thus creating a basic power supply.

working on it. The use of test equipment, particularly Earthed items such as oscilloscopes, can be difficult because of this.

Also, the possible consequences of component failure must be considered. A short-circuit capacitor C1 would allow uninterrupted flow of full mains power, with predictable results. An open-circuit Zener diode D3 would allow C1, D1 and D2 to act as a "voltage doubler" circuit, attempting to produce twice the mains peak voltage (about 700V) across capacitor C2.

The current from C1 must be regarded as "constant", as any interruption in its path will result in the immediate appearance of a high voltage. Bearing these hazards in mind, the design and use of a practical circuit can now be considered.

POWER SUPPLY CIRCUIT

A complete power supply circuit diagram is shown in Fig. 2a. Capacitors C1 and C2, with diodes D1, D2 and Zener diode D3 operate as before to provide a positive output of about 12V with respect to the neutral.

Capacitor C1 **MUST** be rated for *continuous* operation when placed across the 240V mains. There are two basic types of capacitor with this rating, known as "class X" and "class Y". The "Y" type is specified for use where failure might lead to danger of shock, so is obviously preferable for this application.

In view of the problems that might follow diode failure, D1 and D2 should be from the robust 1N4000 series. Prices for these are so similar that the author generally uses the 1N4007 which has a 1000 volt reverse voltage rating. Zeners, fortunately, generally seem to fail "short-circuit", but again the use of 1.3W types in preference to the smaller 500mW variety is to be preferred. Capacitor C2 is non-critical, as any electrolytic of adequate voltage rating will suffice.

EXTRAS

Some extra components are included to improve safety. The first is the 250V a.c. transient suppressor VDR1. This clips the brief high-voltage spikes which often occur on the mains supply, providing protection for the capacitor. It is also useful if the circuit being supplied includes a triac, as these also dislike sudden high-voltage pulses.

A fuse is advisable. A small plug-top fuse would do, but a 100mA fuse in a p.c.b. or panel-mounted holder is better.

Resistor R1 is always included in circuits of this type, the value varying between 47 and 120 ohms. The 100-ohm shown is a good compromise.

The purpose of this resistor is to limit the instantaneous current if the circuit is connected to the mains at an instant where the cycle happens to be at a high voltage point. However, it sometimes serves as an unofficial fuse too, burning out quickly enough to prevent damage to the rest of the circuit if C1 fails!

Resistor R2 provides a discharge path across C1 when the circuit is disconnected. If it were omitted, and the circuit disconnected at a high-voltage instant of the mains cycle, a high-voltage charge might remain stored in C1 for some time. This could lead to unexpected shocks, possibly from the mains plug if one is used. R2 eliminates this.

Again, values used vary, but for a 0.47 μ F capacitor one megohm (1M) is adequate. Two factors must be taken into account when choosing this resistor. The first is that it represents a resistive path and so dissipates heat. For 1M this is only about a twentieth of a watt however, so is not a problem.

Secondly, it will have the full mains voltage across it, so it **MUST** be suitably rated for this. It can either be of a type with adequate voltage rating, or two lower-rated types of, say 470k, can be used in series.

The circuit diagram Fig. 2b shows a method sometimes used to eliminate one of the diodes, using the Zener to perform the function of diode D1 as well as regulation. If this is used, the "forward" drop of the diode feeding capacitor C2 should be taken into account.

OUTPUT CURRENT

The available output current can be calculated by taking the mains voltage, dividing it by the capacitor's reactance, then dividing the result by two as only positive half-cycles end up as usable output, and then derating by about 20 per cent to compensate for miscellaneous other losses.

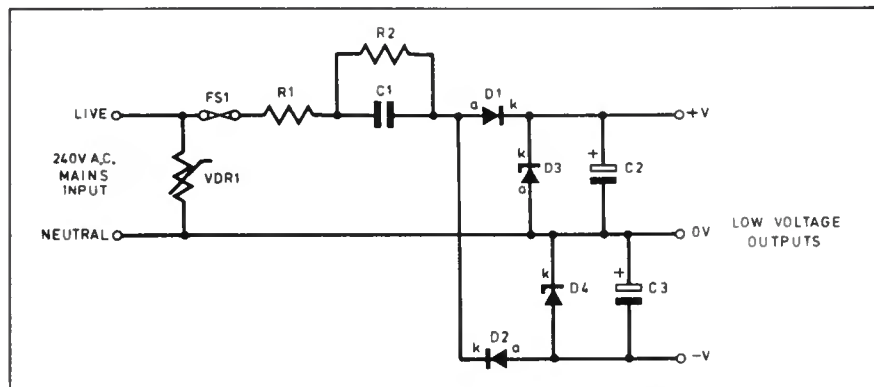


Fig. 4. Circuit diagram for a Dual-Output Transformerless Power Supply.

Most of the figures involved are constants, so an easier method is to multiply the capacitor value in μ F by 30 for a result in mA. Thus a 0.47 μ F capacitor circuit as shown can supply about 14mA, enough perhaps for some CMOS, a low-power op.amp. and for triggering a triac.

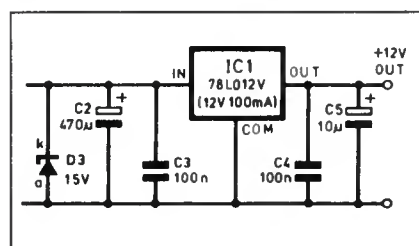


Fig. 3a. Using a 15V Zener and adding a 12V voltage regulator to provide a stable 12V output.

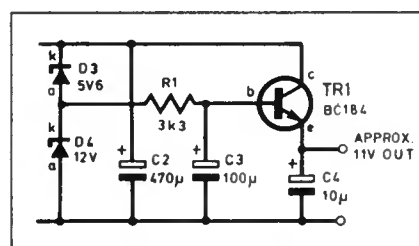


Fig. 3b. Ripple suppression circuit using a transistor. Zener diodes D3 and D4 replace D3.

Because the circuit is essentially a half-wave arrangement, the output contains ripple. Where this is a problem various ways exist to reduce it, the most obvious being an increase in the value of capacitor C2. With 470 μ F the circuit of Fig. 2a exhibits about 300mV peak-to-peak ripple at maximum output.

Another way to remove ripple is to start with a higher voltage and regulate down

with one of the popular "78LO" series three-terminal voltage regulator i.c.s. For instance, with Zener diode D3 as 15V, a 78LO12 would provide a stable 12V output, as shown in Fig. 3a.

A minor snag is that these regulators use power themselves, and with so little available to start with this might be a problem. A micro-power regulator could be used. Alternatively, if the output voltage is not too critical, the circuit shown in Fig. 3b was tried and proved very effective at ripple suppression.

DUAL SUPPLIES

The circuit of Fig. 2a provides a *positive* d.c. output. If the three diodes and C2 are reversed, it will supply a *negative* output instead. This has sometimes been used in designs because experience has shown that the type of triac, the C206M, often employed with this circuit turns on more reliably when operated with negative gate current. The polarity reversal does make the circuit action harder to follow though.

From reversed polarity, it is a short progression to a dual-rail circuit. Fig. 4 shows how this is done, with just one extra Zener and an electrolytic capacitor. The two output voltages don't even have to be the same, a +5V and -12V version, for example, could be built by simply using suitable Zeners.

FULL-WAVE

All the circuits so far have been half-wave examples. Although not recommended, it is possible to produce a full-wave single-output version, as shown in Fig. 5. The two Zeners are of equal value. Theoretically this should manage twice the output of the half-wave version, and a smaller capacitor could be used for C2.

To aid explanation of the circuit action, it has been redrawn in simplified form in Fig. 6a and Fig. 6b, showing the effective circuits during *positive* and *negative* half-

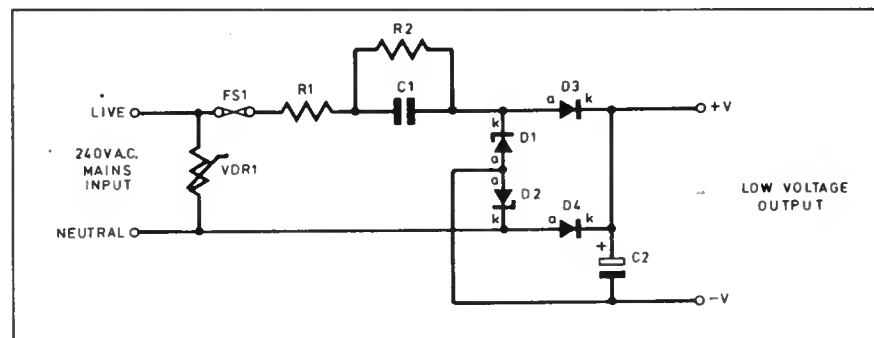


Fig. 5. Circuit diagram for a full-wave version of the "Capacitor" power supply.

cycles respectively. The current paths in each case are shown by the shaded arrows. It can be seen that D1 and D2 act as both Zeners and ordinary forward-biased diodes.

If the voltage of point "X" is taken during a positive half-cycle it can be seen that it is about 0.6V positive of neutral, due to forward biasing of D2. During the negative half-cycle, it is negative of neutral by about the supply voltage.

Likewise the point "Y" will also be jumping up and down, so there is no stable point which can be taken as a test reference for external equipment. For this reason, coupled with the difficulty of explaining the action, it has never been used by the author.

CONCLUSION

This type of supply is best suited to simple, low-current circuits which are already in contact with the mains at some point, such as those using triacs. The fact that they are unsafe to touch is not then an additional problem. Electronic precision thermostats and lighting effect controllers immediately spring to mind,

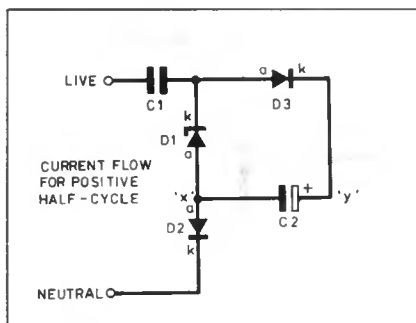


Fig. 6a. Current flow for the positive half-cycle in a "Full-wave" version.

although other applications will no doubt occur to many experimenters. Safe interfacing to the outside world can be achieved with opto-isolators, so is not a major problem.

RELIABILITY

With regard to reliability, the author has two of these supplies in thermostats which have been running continuously for several years without trouble. A third, in a version

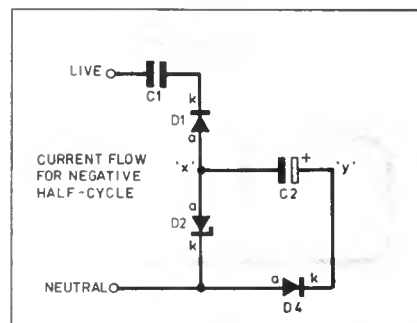


Fig. 6b. Full-wave version current flow during the negative half-cycle.

of the Visual Doorbell project (March '94), has been operating almost as long.

On one occasion one used in a thermostat by a colleague kept blowing the resistor used for R1 (it wasn't fused!). The problem disappeared when capacitor C1 was replaced, so it was suspected that the original capacitor was shorting occasionally, blowing the resistor, then "self-healing" before the cause could be pinpointed. □

Ohm Sweet Ohm

Max Fidling

The Terminator

IT'S amazing how the word gets around that you're the "one who tinkers with electrical stuff". I've had a plethora of past-it bits of electrical equipment come my way, owners thinking "innocently" that I can make them as good as new with one wave of the soldering iron (the equipment I mean, not the owners).

The trouble is, one half of the time I don't have the time, if you see what I mean, and the other half I wish I hadn't bothered, because invariably they want it done for next to nothing – and they also want a lifetime guarantee thrown in! Back they come, weeks or even months later, holding the wretched toaster/electric fire/car radio or whatever, which I had magically transformed from a sorry state back into a fully fledged bit of kit, only this time it's got a different fault – and fingers are pointing in a roundabout sort of way at the workmanship of the earlier attempts of yours truly! What a life, I mutter to myself, as I spend more hours pinning down the latest fault on something which should have been recycled into a can-opener long ago.

Like grappling with plumbing or car maintenance, it's handy to have a certain bit of electronics know-how, though you need a good Degree in Micro-Surgery and Arc Welding (Hons.) to just remove the back panel from most of the modern gear you buy these days. However, repairing stuff is my attempt as a consumer to beat the system and score points over the High Street stores.

Take our old ITT-KB colour television for example. In a polished wooden cabinet with a sliding "tambour" door, as ITT called it, this gogglebox was a feat of woodworking which would have made old Thomas Chippendale's (wooden?) chest swell with, er, well, something or other. Apprehension, probably. This masterpiece of multimedia entertainment needed approximately a week's written notice of when

its services would next be required, such was the time its throbbing valves took to warm up and gladden our hearts.

One great novelty of its era was the telly's touch-sensitive channel selector switches which were actually years ahead of their time. By poking the requisite little panel with a finger, two touch pads were bridged in resistance-pad fashion and if the trusty old ITT was feeling in the mood, a change of channel would result, accompanied by a red indicator lamp sputtering into life. (ITT spared every expense.)

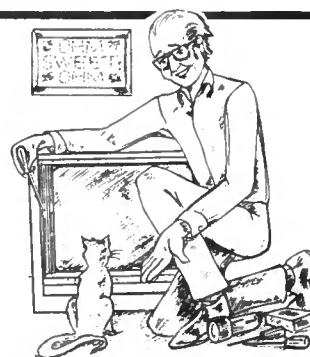
Don't push me

As if not satisfied with the finest contributions which British broadcasting could muster, Piddles, the family cat, took great delight in nosing the channel selector when it took its fancy, or maybe it found the moving pattern of red lights more captivating than the offering of the tube. (Piddles always did have good taste.)

Things took a turn for the worse one particular day though, when the devil's lantern resolutely failed to respond to the satin silver "ON" button. The blank, murky green screen refused to burst into life. With "Coronation Street" due on the box any minute, the pressure was suddenly on to enable the Boss of the household to have her weekly dose of soap. Life would be unbearable otherwise! Worse – no grub for a week!

This wasn't the time to thumb through the Yellow Pages to book a repairman – desperate action was needed! This was a job for the multi-purpose screwdriver kit which I'd bought from a mail order catalogue some weeks earlier, and I had been itching for an excuse to use it ever since. This was my moment, an opportunity to demonstrate my electronics prowess and expertise, and I seized it with relish!

Having unplugged the set, quick as a flash, I unscrewed the rear cover of the TV, while Piddles and the Boss looked on anxiously. Poking around in the back of a colour television without some knowledge is definitely not recommended if you want to enjoy life, so I was wary of the extra



high tension voltages lurking around unseen on those old capacitors. Nerves of steel, that's me, I thought, as I stroked my chin, pretending I knew exactly where the fault would lay.

I peered gingerly amongst the glistening silvery-topped valves into the works, assisted by my Ever Ready plastic torch which I had bought from Woolworth's specially for such catastrophes. Gritting my teeth, I fought my way through those dusty wiring looms and wonderful web-covered valves, in search of anything blindingly obvious which could have caused the downfall of the terminated television, whilst trying not to touch anything remotely HT at the same time. Ruined resistors? Damaged diodes? Nothing would escape my scrutiny, I decided, confident that I could beat the repairman on this one.

Aha! There it was... a small 20mm cartridge fuse, resplendent in its paxolin fuseholder, blackened and looking decidedly culprit-like, I reckoned. Wielding my multimeter impressively, a deft resistance check confirmed that the fiendish fuse had indeed caused the premature interruption of our evening's entertainment. Probably just old age, I thought, and rummaging through my biscuit tin of sundry bits, I happened to have one of the same rating (for once) so a quick replacement was made and the back cover was re-fitted with a twirl of my new screwdriver.

Piddles was looking up at the channel selectors, tail swishing expectantly, waiting for his incandescent cue to start switching over. A quick press on the "ON" switch, and the valves throbbed into life once more, and my life was saved. A hero in the making, that's me, I mused.

HART

HART AUDIO KITS – YOUR VALUE FOR MONEY ROUTE TO ULTIMATE HI-FI

HART KITS give you the opportunity to build the very best engineered hi-fi equipment there is, designed by the leaders in their field, using the best components that are available.

Every HART KIT is not just a new equipment acquisition but a valuable investment in knowledge, giving you guided hands-on experience of modern electronic techniques.

In short HART is your 'friend in the trade' giving you, as a knowledgeable constructor, access to better equipment at lower prices than the man in the street.

You can buy the reprints and construction manual for any kit to see how easy it is to build your own equipment the HART way. The FULL cost can be credited against your subsequent kit purchase.

Our list will give you fuller details of all our Audio Kits, components and special offers.

AUDIO DESIGN 80 WATT POWER AMPLIFIER.



This fantastic John Linsley Hood designed amplifier is the flagship of our range, and the ideal powerhouse for your ultimate hi-fi system. This kit is your way to get £K performance for a few tenths of the cost! Featured on the front cover of 'Electronics Today International' this complete stereo power amplifier offers World Class performance allied to the famous HART quality and ease of construction. John Linsley Hood's comments on seeing a complete unit were enthusiastic: "The external view is that of a thoroughly professional piece of audio gear, neat elegant and functional. This impression is greatly reinforced by the internal appearance, which is redolent of quality, both in components and in layout." Options include a stereo LED power meter and a versatile passive front end giving switched inputs using ALPS precision, low-noise volume and balance controls. A new relay switched front end option also gives a tape input and output facility so that for use with tuners, tape and CD players, or indeed any other 'flat' inputs the power amplifier may be used on its own, without the need for any external signal handling stages. 'Slave' and 'monobloc' versions without the passive input stage and power meter are also available. All versions fit within our standard 420 x 260 x 75mm case to match our 400 Series Tuner range. ALL six power supply rails are fully stabilised, and the complete power supply, using a toroidal transformer, is contained within a heavy gauge aluminium chassis/heatsink fitted with IEC mains input and output sockets. All the circuitry is on professional grade printed circuit boards with roller tinned finish and green solder resist on the component ident side, the power amplifiers feature an advanced double sided layout for maximum performance. All wiring in this kit is pre-terminated, ready for instant use!

K1100 Standard Amplifier Kit complete with IEC mains lead and Hart Super Audiograde Silver Solder. Total cost of all parts is over £500.

Our Special Discount Kit Price.....**Only £395.21**

K1100SA Super Audiophile Version with internal wiring and capacitor upgrade.....**£449.01**

K1100M Monobloc Amplifier Kit.....**£261.20**

A large range of other options is available including factory assembly and test. Full details are in our free lists.

MAINS LEADS AND ACCESSORIES

We keep a large range of IEC cordsets and distribution sockets for your HI-FI setup. Send for our lists for full details.

HART AUDIO CABLES

The HART range of cables has been chosen to satisfy the most fastidious audiophile taste. We can offer these at extremely competitive prices because we buy large quantities for our export customers all over the World. All are priced per metre. We will cut to any length you require.

780-911 Super Low-Noise Signal Cable. Single core double screened Audiophile signal cable. Features Linear crystal oxygen free high purity copper construction with foamed polyethylene insulation. Screening is by a close lapped screen with conductive thermoplastic sheathing. Overall covered with blue soft matt finish PVC. Dia. 6mm. Core to screen Capacitance 110pf/m. Per Metre.....**£8.98**

780-803 Speaker Cable. 322 strands 0.1mm oxygen free copper. Flat Twin. Recommended up to 40W/5mtrs. Tested & approved by John Linsley Hood. Mtr.....**£8.42**

780-804 Giant Speaker Cable. 511/0.1. Up to 80W/10mtrs.....**£15.90**

RLH11 Reprints of latest articles.....**£1.80**

K1100CM HART Construction Manual.....**£5.50**

★★★★★★

SPECIAL OFFER

PRECISION Triple Purpose TEST CASSETTE TC1D.

Are you sure your tape recorder is set up to give its best? Our latest triple purpose test cassette checks the three most important tape parameters without test equipment. Ideal when fitting new heads.

A professional quality, digitally mastered test tape at a price anyone can afford.

Test Cassette TC1D..... Our price only **£10.99**

★★★★★★

DISK-COUNT Classical CD's.

Many New Titles This Month

Top quality, Full Digital (DDD) Compact Disks of the great classical favourites. Like everyone else we didn't like the idea of paying silly prices for CD's. After a long search we have now located a source of top quality classical recordings at prices that make you suspect the quality – until you try them! Send for our list of titles.

HART PCB SOLDERING PRACTICE KIT

Your chance to learn or try your soldering skills on a real Hart printed circuit board! This kit comes with a range of modern components, a typical Hart quality PCB, a roll of the correct grade of solder and your full learning guide. It enables the enthusiast who is uncertain of his, or indeed her, ability to put together and solder a printed circuit to try their hand first at minimum cost.

The instructions explain the right technique and guide even an absolute beginner through the seemingly daunting, but in fact very simple, art of making a good soldered joint.

The Hart Printed Circuit Board Soldering Practice Kit represents excellent value for money at only **£4.99**.

TECHNICAL BOOKSHELF

The Following are a Small Selection of the Books we Offer. Full Details are in our Free List.

"THE ART OF LINEAR ELECTRONICS", John Linsley Hood.

Just Out! Hot Off the Press, the definitive electronics and audio book by the renowned John Linsley Hood. This 300+ page book will give you an unparalleled insight into the workings of all types of audio circuits. Learn how to read circuit diagrams and understand amplifiers and how they are designed to give the best sound. The virtues and vices of passive and active components are examined and there are separate sections covering power supplies and the sources of noise and hum. As one would expect from this writer the history and derivation of audio amplifier circuitry have an entire chapter, as does test and measurement equipment.

Copiously illustrated this book is incredible value for the amount of information it contains on the much neglected field of linear, as opposed to digital, electronics. Indeed it must be destined to become the standard reference for all who work, or are interested in, this field.

SPECIAL OFFER. With each book purchased you may request a FREE extended index, written by the Author, exclusively from HART.

0-7806-0868-4.....**£16.95**

Don't forget most of our kits have reprints of articles by John Linsley Hood that you can purchase separately.

"TOWERS' INTERNATIONAL TRANSISTOR SELECTOR"

This will give you the specification, pin connections, case outline, manufacturer, equivalents and substitutes for over 27,000 European, American and Japanese transistors. Latest update 4 offers over 2,000 new entries plus surface mount cross index. 1990 432 Pages. 247 x 173.

0-572-01062-1.....**£19.95**

"DIGITAL AUDIO AND COMPACT DISC TECHNOLOGY"

2nd Edition. Baert, Theunissen and Vergult. (SONY Europe).

A thoroughly well written book covering the whole field of recording media starting with the Phonograph right through to modern professional PCM digital recording systems with particular and extensive coverage on the compact disc. All aspects of the recording and reproduction processes are explained with separate chapters on such things as compact disc encoding and the use of cross interleave Reed-Solomon error correction code (CIRC). This book is of course essential reading for engineers and students involved in the field but its very low prices makes it ideal for the enthusiast of recorded music who wants to know more about the hidden processes going on in his CD player.

1992/94 248 Pages. 247 x 190.

0-7506-0614-2.....**£17.95**

INTRODUCING DIGITAL AUDIO CD, DAT AND SAMPLING

2nd Edition. Ian R. Sinclair.

For enthusiasts, technicians and students. Covers CD and DAT, Philips DCC and Sony Mini Disc, the digital techniques involved are explained non-mathematically.

Digital audio involves methods and circuits that are totally alien to the technician or keen amateur who has previously worked with audio circuits. This book is intended to bridge the gap of understanding for the technician and enthusiast. The principles and methods are explained, but the mathematical background and theory are avoided other than to state the end product. This second edition has been updated to include sections on oversampling methods and bitstream techniques. The opportunity has also been taken to add a glossary of technical terms.

1992 168 Pages. 217 x 138. 64 line drawings.

ISBN 1870775 22 8.....**£7.95**

"THE ART OF SOLDERING", R. Brewster.

Absolutely essential reading for anyone who ever picks up a soldering iron. Written from knowledge gained in a lifetime in the field, this is the first book ever solely devoted to this essential and neglected skill for all electronic enthusiasts. Covers everything from the correct choice of soldering iron and solder to the correct procedures to follow with many illustrations and practical exercises.

0-85935-324-3.....**£3.95**

"HOW TO USE OSCILLOSCOPES & OTHER TEST EQUIPMENT"

R.A. Penfold, 112 pages. 178 x 111. Publ. 1989.

BP267.....**£3.50**

Postage on Single Books is £1.50 except for The Art of Linear Electronics, Digital Audio and Compact Disc Technology and The Towers International Transistor Selector which are £3.50. Two, or more, books are only £4.50, any size, any quantity.

Send or 'phone for your copy of our FREE List of these and many other Kits & Components. Enquiries from Overseas customers are equally welcome, but PLEASE send 2 IRCs if you want a list sent surface post, or 5 for Airmail.

Ordering is easy. Just write or telephone your requirements to sample the friendly and efficient HART service. Payment by cheque, cash or credit card. A telephoned order with your credit card number will get your order on its way to you THAT DAY.

Please add part cost of carriage and insurance as follows:—INLAND Orders up to £20 - £1.50,

Orders over £20 - £3.50. Express Courier, next working day £10.

OVERSEAS - Please see the ordering information with our lists.



QUALITY
AUDIO KITS

24 hr. SALES LINE
(0691) 652894

ALL PRICES
INCLUDE
UK/EC VAT

HART

HART ELECTRONIC KITS LTD
6 PENYLAN MILL
OSWESTRY, SHROPSHIRE
SY10 9AF

THE ULTIMATE SCREEN SAVER!

PAUL STENNING

Give your PC screen a "tea break" and save yourself some money.

MOST laptop computers have sophisticated power management facilities, which shut down the screen and hard disk after a period of inactivity to save battery life. Until recently these facilities have not been available on desktop computers.

Some "Green" PCs are now becoming available, with the aim of reducing power consumption when they are not actually being used. However, if your existing PC is OK, spending over a thousand pounds on a new one just to save a few pounds worth of electricity does not make economic sense!

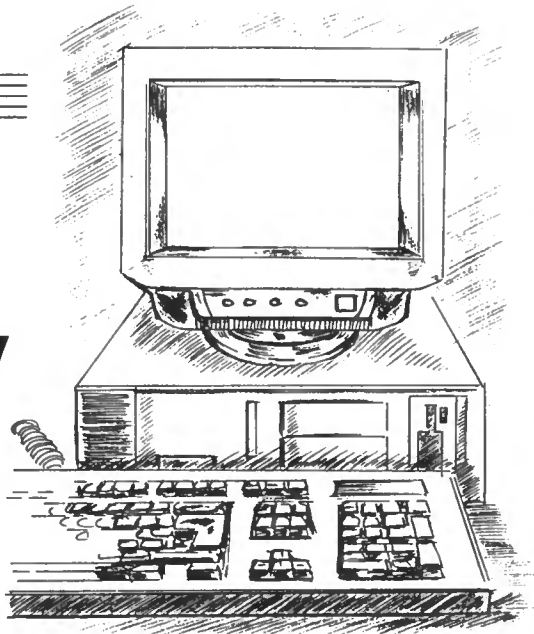
Software screen savers are available, mostly running under Microsoft Windows, but all these do is prevent a static image burning into the phosphor of the c.r.t. (cathode ray tube). Indeed some of these are sold more on their amusement value than their original purpose!

SCREEN SAVER

The unit described here takes the screen saver idea to its logical conclusion. If the Keyboard and Mouse are not used for a preset period, the Monitor is switched off. As soon as you touch the keyboard or mouse, the monitor is switched back on again.

This not only prevents phosphor burn, but also saves electricity. In addition it will reduce the emission of electromagnetic radiation and positive ions, if these things concern you. Also, it costs no more than a screen saver software package.

If you leave your computer on all the time but only use it for a few hours each day, this unit could save you over £70 per year in electricity costs alone! (Calculation based on six hours use for five days each week, 125VA monitor and electricity costing 8p per unit = £71.76 saving over 52 weeks.)



The time period before switching off can be anything from 15 seconds to over one hour, selectable by internal d.i.p. switches. The unit is powered by the 5V supply to the keyboard, consuming just 20mA. Because of this, it will also power down the monitor when the PC is switched off – even if the two units have separate mains feeds.

The monitor is controlled by an opto-isolated triac, which being solid-state should have a longer working life than a relay. The maximum current is 3A continuous – if your monitor consumes this much there is something wrong with it!

The design as shown is intended for a serial mouse, connected to a COM port on the PC. It is probably possible to use it with a bus mouse, if a suitable signal can be found on the connection to the PC and the appropriate connectors can be obtained. Alternatively you can just use the keyboard.

TAKE CARE

SECTIONS OF THIS CIRCUIT OPERATE AT POTENTIALLY LETHAL MAINS VOLTAGES. DO NOT BUILD IT IF YOU ARE IN ANY DOUBT ABOUT YOUR ABILITY TO DO SO SAFELY. You should seek the advice of a qualified person.

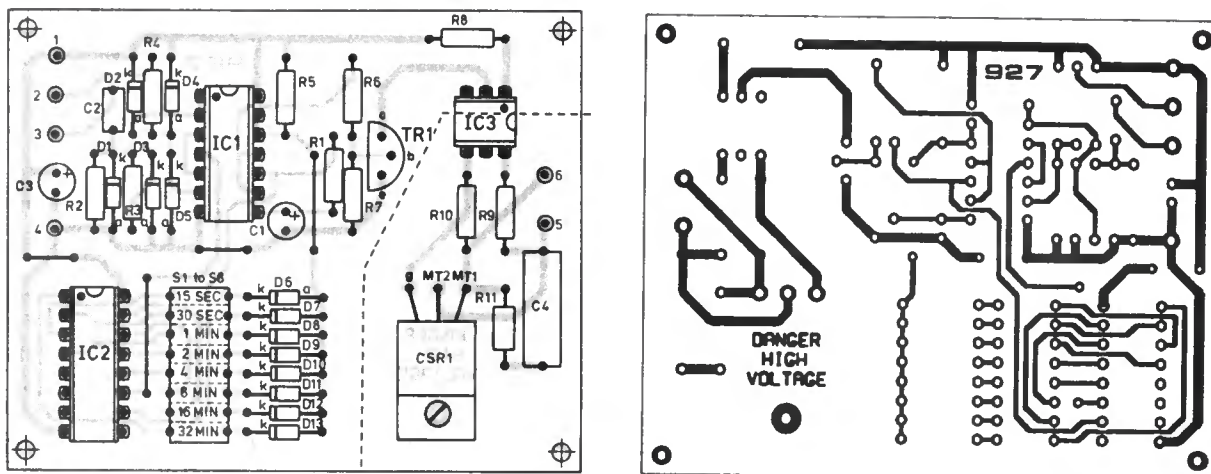
Although this unit removes power from the monitor, it does not provide isolation from the mains. All mains connections must be regarded as live and dangerous, even if this Screen Saver has operated.

CIRCUIT DESCRIPTION

The complete circuit for the Ultimate Screen Saver is shown in Fig. 1. Capacitor C1, resistor R1 and the 2-input NAND Schmitt trigger IC1c form a simple oscillator, running at (ideally) 1.07Hz. The frequency is not precise, but it is more than adequate for our purposes.

This oscillator arrangement will only work with logic CMOS gates having Schmitt trigger inputs. The oscillator can be stopped by taking pin 9 of IC1c low.





EE45520

Fig. 2. Printed circuit board component layout and full size copper foil master. The completed board, together with a time setting panel stuck to the base of the case, is shown below.

Solder terminal pins may be used for the off-board connections. Do not forget the four link wires. The triac should be secured to the p.c.b. with an M3 screw and nut.

Take extra care when assembling the high voltage section – that to the right of the dotted line. This dotted line indicates the safety isolation barrier – a band or gap at least 5mm wide between the high voltage and low voltage sections.

Do not fit IC3 at this stage. Instead, fit a spare i.e.d. temporarily between pins one and two positions on the p.c.b., with the anode (a) to pin one. The i.e.d. will be removed and IC3 fitted once the low voltage sections have been tested.

CASE

The prototype was constructed in a plastic case, however this is not really suitable. A metal case should be used, which **MUST** be properly Earthed for safety.

The lid must be secured by screws, so that it cannot be removed without the use of a tool. A suitable label should be fixed to the lid, warning of the high voltages inside.

The p.c.b. should be held in place with M3 screws and spacers. Ensure that the triac mounting screw clears the case by at least 5mm. Suitable cutouts should be made in one end of the case for the Keyboard (normally 5-pin DIN) and Mouse (9-pin D) connectors.

Four holes are needed in the other end, to accommodate the cables. These should be fitted with grommets or cable clamps, and the cables adequately secured against being pulled out. An additional hole in the base is required for securing an Earth solder tag. The final interwiring between the p.c.b. and all off-board components is shown in Fig. 3.

TESTING

Before making any connections to your PC, switch it off at the mains. If this is not done there is a small possibility of causing damage – it's not worth the risk!

Set d.i.l. switch S1 (top) on, and the rest off. Leave the case cover off for now – since the unit will not be connected to the mains.

Unplug the keyboard and mouse from your PC, and connect them to the sockets on this unit. Connect the leads on this unit to the appropriate sockets on the back of the PC. Do not change the monitor connections at this stage.

Switch the PC back on, and watch the screen carefully as the PC goes through its power-on self test, and boot up. If any error messages appear or the mouse driver

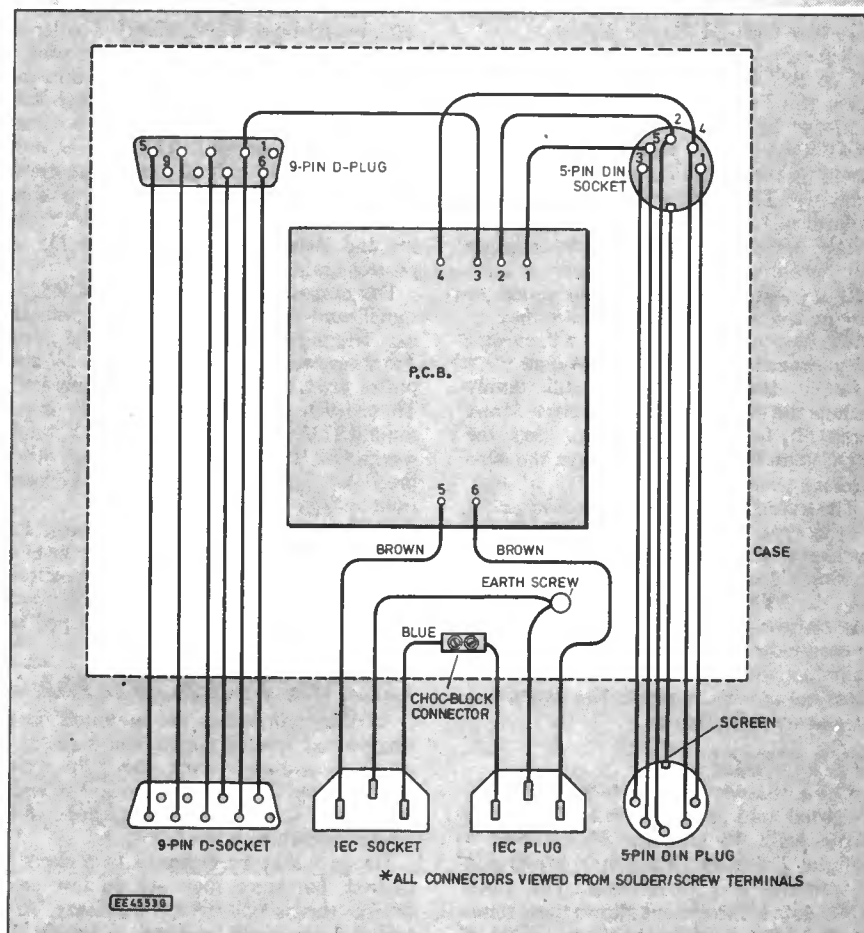
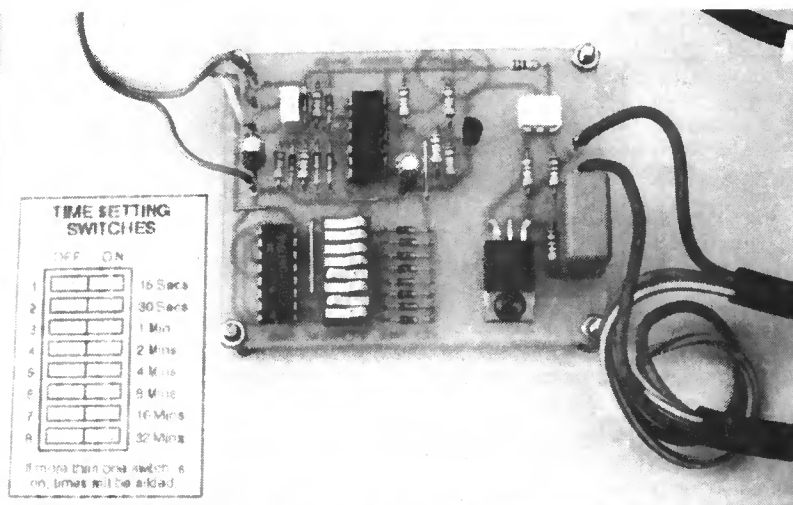
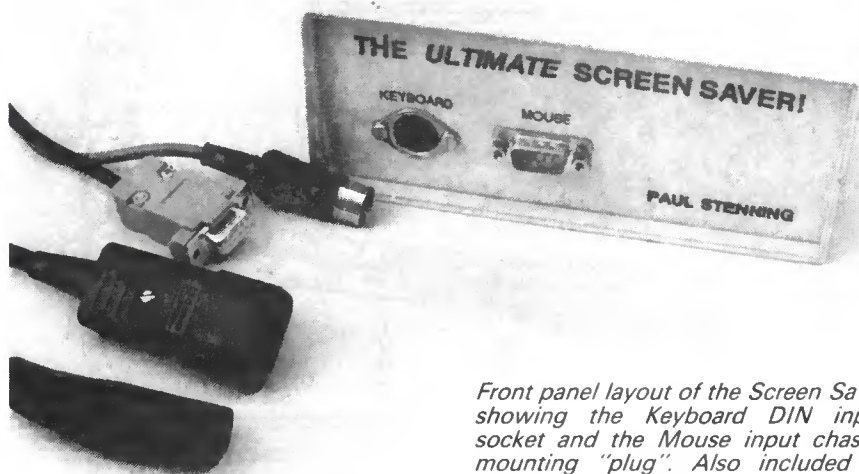


Fig. 3. Interwiring from and between all off-board components.



Front panel layout of the Screen Saver showing the Keyboard DIN input socket and the Mouse input chassis mounting "plug". Also included in the picture are the other various input/output connectors.

fails to load, switch off immediately and carefully recheck your wiring.

If the "temporary" l.e.d. in the Screen Saver unit did not light when the PC was switched on, it should have come on at some point during the booting up process. If you don't touch the keyboard or mouse for about 15 seconds the l.e.d. should go off.

Operate the keyboard and the l.e.d. should immediately come on again, and extinguish after you have stopped typing for 15 seconds. The same situation should occur with mouse movement. Again, in the event of any problems, check your wiring carefully.

Switch S1 off and S2 on. The delay should now be about 30 seconds. You may wish to check some of the longer delays, if you have the patience!

Now switch the PC off. Remove the temporary "test" l.e.d. from the Screen Saver board, and fit the opto-triac IC3. Set the d.i.l. switches to give a delay of one minute, and fit the cover securely.

Disconnect the power lead from the back of your monitor, and connect it via this unit. Switch the PC on, the monitor should also be on by the end of the boot-up. As previously, if you don't operate the keyboard or mouse for about one minute, the monitor should turn off.

SWITCH-OFF DELAY

Once you are happy that the unit works satisfactorily, set the d.i.p. switches S1 to S8 to a suitable delay and tuck the unit tidily behind the PC (do not obstruct any ventilation holes or the fan). Always switch off at the mains before removing the cover to operate the d.i.p. switches.

It is suggested that a delay of about 20 or 30 minutes would be reasonable in most cases. Times of less than about five minutes are probably not practical, and indeed this sort of repeated switching may cause undue stress to the monitor.

If you have a software screen saver you could set this to come in two or three minutes before the Ultimate Screen Saver to act as an early warning.

MODIFICATIONS

The following suggestions are offered for experimentation by experienced constructors only, and have NOT been tested.

As it stands, the Screen Saver may be of limited use to PC game players, since it does not detect joystick activity. However, it should be a relatively simple matter to

replace the mouse 9-pin D-connectors with 15-pin types to suit the joystick.

Solder pin 3 on the p.c.b. would need to be connected to the main "Fire" button connection (probably pin 2 or pin 4). This should work regardless of the fire signal polarity, because of the capacitor coupling (C2) and pull down resistor (R2).

There is no easy method of monitoring the Keyboard, Mouse and Joystick together with the design as it stands. It may be possible to devise an arrangement using diode logic on one of the existing inputs, depending on the polarity of the fire signal from the joystick.

If you have a bus mouse, you will need to replace the 9-pin D-connectors with types to suit your mouse. You will then need to pick off the connection for the left button or one of the direction signals to connect to solder terminal pin 2 on the p.c.b.

If your keyboard or mouse uses 6-pin miniature DIN (PS2 type) connectors, you will need to obtain these and fit them in

place of the types suggested. For the keyboard you will need to connect through all lines except pin 2. Pin 4 is +5V, pin 3 is 0V and pin 1 is Data – these need to connect to the p.c.b.

It has not been possible to establish the PS2 mouse connections, although it is quite possible they are similar to the keyboard since the same type of plug is used. You will need some very thin 6-core cable for these!

ACCESS TIME

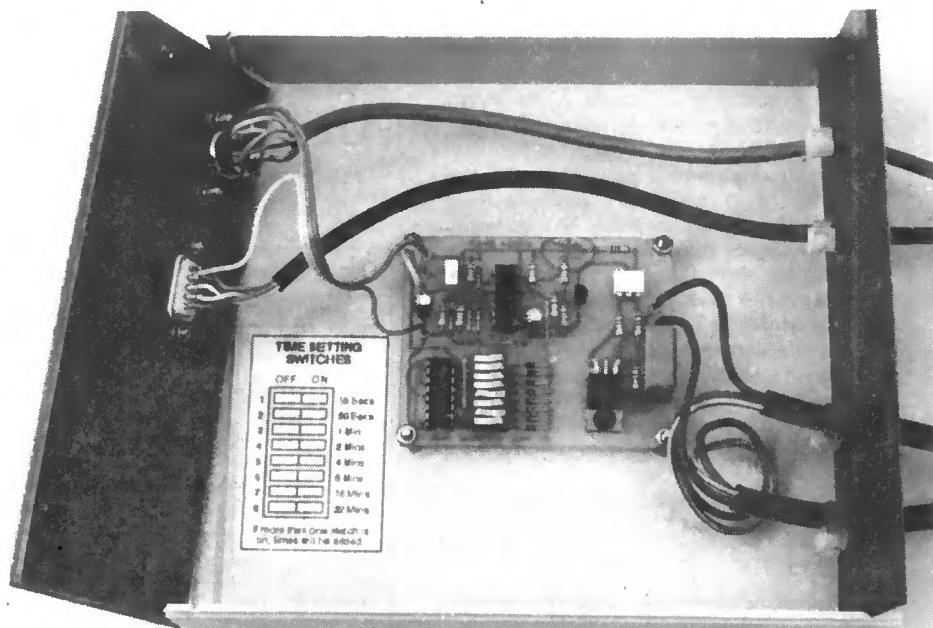
If you wish to access the d.i.p. switches S1 to S8, without dismantling the unit, the connections can be extended so that the switch protrudes through a cutout in the case. The easiest arrangement would be to mount the switch on the underside of the p.c.b., so that it is accessible through a hole in the base of the case.

The switch body must fit through the hole so that there is no possibility of anything entering the case through the cutout. You may need to use one or two i.c. sockets, possibly wirewrap types, to extend the switch to fit your cutout.

An l.e.d. can be connected in series with resistor R8 if required, to show the state of the unit. R8 should be reduced to about 150 ohms in this case. This l.e.d. will light when the monitor is on.

You may want a light to indicate that the monitor is off. The easiest way to achieve this is to connect a neon indicator across the triac output pins (5 and 6 on p.c.b.). Sufficient current will be able to pass through the monitor to illuminate this neon, providing the switch on the monitor itself is on.

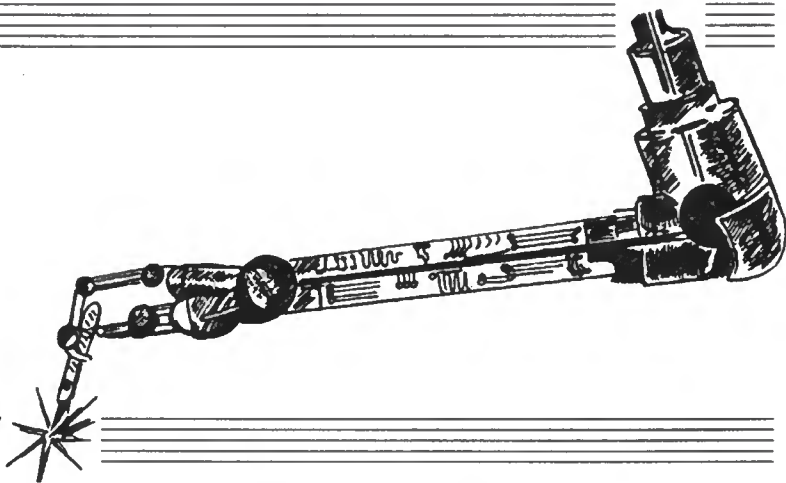
The timing period is set by resistor R1 and capacitor C1. Increasing either of these will increase the delay. If R1 is increased to 220 kilohms the delays achieved will be about twice those stated previously – giving a range of 30 seconds to over two hours. A value of 390 kilohms should give about one minute to four hours – although leakage currents may affect this. □



Layout of components inside the completed prototype model. For added safety, the plastic case should be replaced by a METAL case which should be Earthed by a bolt and solder tag – see Fig. 3.

CIRCUIT SURGERY

ALAN WINSTANLEY



Our monthly column which answers readers' queries and offers useful hints and tips this month investigates regulated power supply design in depth, including a look at heatsinks. Also, a suggestion for a simple camcorder battery discharger, with other possible uses.

Power Supplies

REGULATED power supplies are quite simple and satisfying to construct. Using just one three terminal regulator device, it's possible to assemble a bench power supply which offers a neat and tidy solution to all those power problems – and you can benefit from full overload protection to help nurture your newly-crafted circuits! But they have limitations, especially if you want high current and flexibility across a range of output values.

Mr David Jones of Llanelli starts this month's round-up with the following query:

I'm interested in building a 0V to 30V 5A Variable Power Supply. I know that I can use additional transistors to boost the current requirements of ordinary three-terminal fixed voltage regulators. Can I use this type of circuit for variable regulators? Or could I use several regulators in parallel to reduce the power dissipation at low output voltage/high current situations? I have plenty of high current pnp transistors and plenty of LM338s. Any advice would be welcomed.

Mr. Jones drew the suggested circuit diagram shown in Fig. 1, to illustrate the general idea. It uses a fixed 5V 1A regulator type 7805 or similar. The external bipolar transistor TR1 is called a "pass" transistor and in this example is a power pnp type capable of high dissipation (150W) and high collector currents

(15A), though it has low gain (say 10 to 50). It behaves as a current amplifier allowing the power supply to provide higher output currents.

The voltage drop across the resistor R1 forward biases the base whilst the transistor's collector is clamped at 5V, and its emitter is at the supply input voltage. The transistor itself is not protected against shorts or temperature overloads, but generally it's hoped that its high power ratings can cope with any abuse.

The transistor dissipates $(V_{in} - 5V) \times I$ watts. By paralleling several pass transistors, the power dissipation can be spread across several devices, see Fig. 2. Note that low value series resistors are inserted as shown, since each bipolar transistor is likely to have a different gain resulting in uneven distribution of the total current – some transistors work harder than others.

The resistors R each produce a small error voltage when the transistors conduct, which means that the transistors

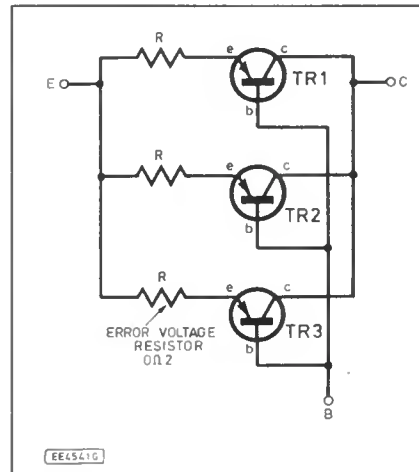


Fig. 2. Two parallel pass transistors with series error voltage resistors.

share the total power dissipation more evenly and one doesn't try to shunt the others. By the same token, it is possible to use regulators in parallel (again with

Table 1: Adjustable Voltage Regulators

Device Name	Output Current	Output Voltage	Package Type
LM317LZ	100mA	+1.2 – 37V	TO-92
μA723	150mA	+2 – 37V	14 pin d.i.l.
LM317MP	500mA	+1.2 – 37V	TO-202
LM78G	1A	+5 – 30V	TO-202/4 pin
LM317T	1.5A	+1.2 – 37V	TO-3
L200CV	2mA	+2.8 – 36V	TO-202/5 pin
LM350T	3A	+1.2 – 33V	TO-202
LM350K	3A	+1.2 – 33V	TO-3
LM338T	5A	+1.2 – 32V	TO-202
LM338K	5A	+1.2 – 32V	TO-3
LM396K	10A	+1.2 – 15V	TO-3

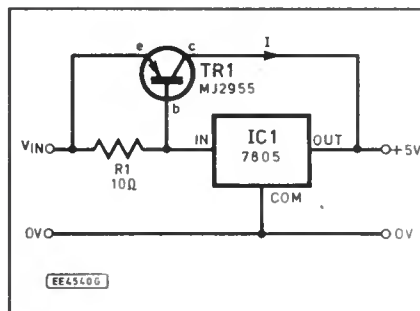


Fig. 1. Fixed +5V regulator with external pass transistor.

series resistors) to increase the available current and spread the load.

A simple but neat way of constructing a higher current power supply might be to use a variable three terminal regulator such as the LM338. Mr. Jones mentioned. This dispenses with the need to configure separate discrete transistors and greatly simplifies design and construction, although there are still some pitfalls to be avoided. Table 1 lists a variety of popular regulators: the LM338 seems to fit the bill for a 5A supply, and its Data Sheet claims a guaranteed 5A output current, with 7A peak output (surge) possible.

Indestructible?

The LM338 seems to have the sort of built-in protection which we now take for granted, including short circuit protection and thermal overload limiting. However, this does not render it indestructible, and there are still a few ways to damage a three terminal regulator in use, especially in the context of a bench power supply. Here's my short list.

1. *Exceed the input/output voltage differential* – the maximum voltage permitted across the device. A figure of 40V to 50V is fairly typical. Surpass this value of input voltage and then short the output to 0V at your peril. Watch the regulator's input voltage carefully.
2. *Reverse the polarity of the regulator.* Several subtle ways of doing this include assorted output capacitors (possibly in the load itself) retaining their charges and causing the regulator's output pin to exceed the voltage at its input, should the input voltage dip for any reason. Inductive loads are also troublesome – back e.m.f. is not appreciated and it's sometimes worth adding a protective diode.
3. *Punish the regulator by forever cycling its temperature between extremes* (thermal stress). Decent heatsinking is the best way for reliability, otherwise it may not survive for ever under such stressful conditions. I know the feeling!

Regulators are very simple to use "on paper", they only require a fixed resistor and a potentiometer to provide a complete variable power supply. The formula for the output voltage is derived from that of a potential divider, since

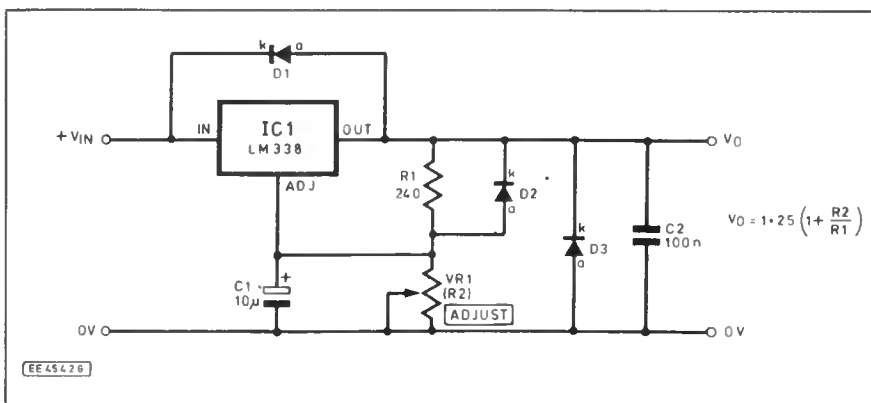


Fig. 3. Variable voltage 5A three terminal regulator with protection diode.

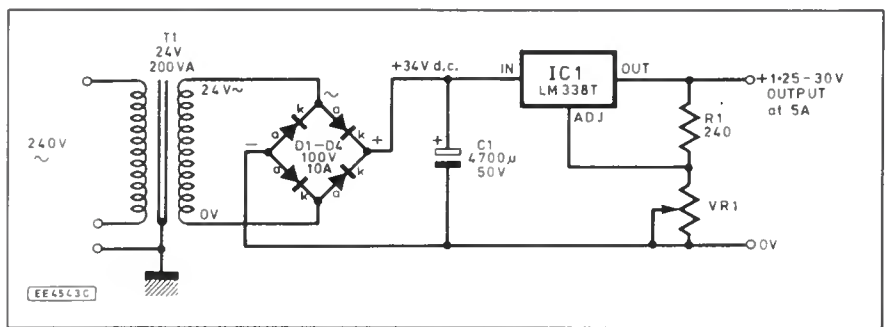


Fig. 4. 30V 5A power supply which will thermally shut down due to excess power dissipation in IC1.

these chips use a 1.25V reference voltage between the adjustment and output pins.

In Fig. 3, a basic configuration is shown which is good for both the LM317 and LM338, and the output voltage V_o is:

$$V_o = 1.25 \times \left(1 + \frac{R_2}{R_1} \right)$$

It's worth including those protection diodes D1 and D2 to shunt out capacitors C2 and C1 respectively when either the input or output is shorted to ground. Diode D3 is included to protect against back e.m.f. in the load, when applicable. However, referring back to Mr. Jones' request, developing this circuit into a 30V 5A Variable P.S.U. presents several problems which renders this approach impractical, see Fig. 4.

To be realistic, we are restricted by the availability and cost of components so performance may need to be traded off against price and practicalities. The design looks straightforward on paper but in fact proves to be less feasible after taking extreme operating conditions into account. Here's why.

Starting with the transformer, catalogues quote transformer secondary a.c. current values as r.m.s. figures assuming a simple resistive load. The average currents are higher in this application because we are placing a large smoothing capacitor after the rectifiers.

In the case of a full-wave bridge rectifier arrangement, it is necessary to derate the transformer by "grossing up" its VA rating by a factor of roughly 0.6, if you want the transformer to handle peak demands safely. A full 5A output implies a transformer secondary current of 8A ($5 \div 0.6$). Hence if you want to design con-

servatively for the worst case, the transformer specification is a mighty 200VA ($24V \text{ a.c.} \times 8A$).

A 24V a.c. secondary winding would be sufficient to develop a 34V d.c. rail ($24V \times \sqrt{2}$) across the smoothing capacitor, ignoring the transformer's regulation and any voltage drop amongst the rectifiers. It may be several volts higher at lower currents. One may well decide to compromise the finished design by reducing the transformer's VA rating on grounds of cost and size, but this reduces the maximum output current which can safely be drawn from the design. Myself, I would like to live a few more years yet!

The bridge rectifier is a conservative 100V 10A device or higher. The switch-on surge current through the bridge is determined by the size of the smoothing capacitor plus its effective series resistance (ESR), together with the resistance of the transformer windings. The 4,700µF (or more) electrolytic smoothing capacitor should be rated at 50V minimum.

Too Hot to Handle

The main problem surrounds the regulator itself (literally). It's necessary to ensure that it is adequately heatsinked to cope with worst case conditions or the device will simply shut down.

In practice it's more difficult to ensure that the regulator performs reasonably right across the range, because of thermal problems at maximum power dissipation. Since the heatsink arrangement has a direct impact on the performance of the power supply, let's examine the implications of the heatsinking more closely.

The LM338T device arrives in the plastic TO220 package (that's the "T" in LM338T). The first step is to calculate the maximum power in watts which the i.c. is likely to be asked to dissipate. This equates to *maximum* input voltage, *minimum* output voltage (assume a short circuit to 0V for our bench power supply) with *maximum* current throughput. It equals $(V_{in} - V_o) \times I_{out}$ or $(34V - 0V) \times 5A$ – an unhealthy 170 watts peak! This really confirms that this initial simple solution is pretty impractical, for general bench use at least, if you examine the following heatsink calculations.

Determine the ambient temperature around the i.c.; this could be say 40°C or more though it depends on construction. The Data Sheet for the LM338T specifies a maximum "junction" temperature of 125°C, so the maximum temperature rise

allowed in the total heatsink system (from chip to ambient) is therefore 85°C over and above ambient.

The **thermal resistance** of a heatsink is measured in units of Degrees Celsius/Watt, and is a measure of the heat rise generated per watt of power. A better heatsink has a lower thermal resistance so it doesn't rise in temperature as much, per watt dissipated.

The maximum permissible thermal resistance we may allow to get in the way between the regulator's junction and ambient surroundings, is 85 degrees/170 watts = 0.5°C/W. The problem is, the Data Sheet tells us that the thermal resistance from the junction to the package (θ_{jc}) is 4°C/Watt alone! The LM338K (TO3 can) version is an improvement – its thermal resistance is 1°C/W, but it isn't possible to sink away the temperature sufficiently to prevent the junction from reaching its maximum temperature, and the regulator will thermally shut down at maximum output.

Not so Good

In fact, even using the largest and most expensive heatsinks available (say 0.4°C/W or better), this design cannot pass a full 5A output at anything other than 30V output, when the voltage across the i.c. is at lowest value. The lower the output voltage, the more the regulator dissipates and very quickly it will thermally limit and cripple the performance.

It was calculated that for a 5V load (e.g. a logic circuit), it will only pass about 650mA before the maximum junction temperature is reached (= 19 watts over 4.4°C/W total thermal resistance at 40°C ambient). So it's really back to the drawing board!

We could possibly use several regulators in parallel to distribute the power dissipation and improve the efficiency of the heatsinking. Using several LM338s means that you can forget about 5A total current limiting, so the rest of the circuit isn't protected against current excesses.

It may be better to utilise LM317T regulators in parallel (say four off) but heatsinking becomes awkward and they will still dissipate some 40 watts each, worst case. The final alternatives are to use a pass transistor as explained earlier, or discard the three-terminal design and use discrete circuitry for voltage regulation and selectable current limiting.

If readers are looking for a power supply to construct for general use, you could check out our own *MOSFET Variable Bench Power Supply* project designed by Mark Stuart which is ideal for the more serious hobbyist. It offers 0V to 25V at up to 2.5A variable, which in my view will meet the needs perfectly of most constructors. See the April 1994 issue or contact regular advertiser Magenta Electronics on 01283 565435 – they offer a complete kit for this excellent design.

Protected MOSFETS

Mr. P. J. Newton of Liverpool has also been experimenting with power supplies, this time trying to develop a 0V to 24V 0A to 10A monster! Having experienced various setbacks he kindly

sent me data and drew my attention to the availability of MOSFET transistors which are *temperature and overload protected*. These "TOPFETs" are manufactured by Philips mainly for the automotive markets but could have other applications – use in linear mode as a fully protected external pass transistor perhaps.

For example, the Philips BUK100-50GS TOPFET is a 15A 40W device, whilst the BUK106-50S is good for no less than 50 amps at 125 Watts! I have only seen these devices listed by Farnell (Sales ☎ 0113 263 6311) and RS/Electromail (☎ 01536 204555), who show a selection of these BUK protected f.e.t.s in their catalogues.

A worthwhile Data Book is Philips' Power MOS Transistors (Farnell 171-454). Another alternative to investigate would be the "PROFET" range of protected MOSFETs such as the BTS410E or BTS412B, manufactured by Siemens and listed by Farnell. I have a feeling that these devices will catch on.

Mr E.J. Bibby of Warrington is a regular correspondent to *Circuit Surgery* – he suggested placing three rectifiers in series with a voltage regulator input in order to "lose" up to 2V voltage drop. Each rectifier has a 0.7V forward voltage drop, which could help to avoid exceeding the regulators input-output differential voltage; it also marginally reduces the power dissipation of the regulator, possibly reducing heatsink requirements in lower power applications. Use 1N5401s for a rating up to 3A.

Ni-Cad Discharger

The charging of nickel-cadmium (NiCad) cells involves the use of a constant current and is a popular subject for our project pages, but how about a NiCad *Discharger*? Why would you want to deliberately flatten a rechargeable battery? In the past, emphasis seems to have been placed just on the convenience of being able to re-cycle NiCads say 500 to 1,000 times. One problem is that they suffer from a "memory effect" which means that they gradually lose their capacity (literally) to hold their charge if they are not used regularly.

It's said that giving them a heavy *discharge* once in a while improves their effectiveness and lessens the memory effect. For example, a certain rechargeable electric razor includes advice from the manufacturer which recommends completely discharging the NiCad batteries every six months, but not leaving them in the discharged state for long periods or they might under-perform thereafter.

NiCad Dischargers are now being included with some battery chargers to help maintain their condition. If you own a camcorder, then you will want to preserve those expensive battery packs ready for your next blockbuster home movie. **Mr. R. Crawford** of Ashford, Kent asks if it's possible to help with a simple discharger.

I'm studying for a Degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering. I wondered if you could help me with a simple way to discharge camcorder batteries. I know there are dischargers available on

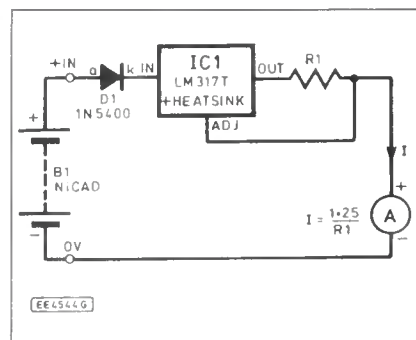


Fig. 5. Suggested Ni-Cad Discharger.

the market but I would like to have a go at one myself.

One idea for a NiCad Discharger circuit is shown in Fig. 5, it uses an LM317T regulator i.c. set as a constant current load. In effect, it has no load and its output is shorted to 0V. The i.c. limits the current at a level determined by resistor R1: the current is $(1.25V/R1)$ amps.

By selecting different values for R1, the discharge rate could be adjusted. Possibly select values for 250mA, 500mA or 1A. The resistor dissipates $1.56/R1$ watts.

The current rating for an LM317T is 1.5A peak and it will need approximately 10°C/W heatsinking or better. Built into the LM317T is thermal overload and current limit protection which should ensure that your battery pack is never short circuited.

The input to the regulator IC1 is actually the NiCad battery pack itself. These could be 6V or 9.6V types. Diode D1 prevents reverse connection. The regulator requires a minimum input of roughly +2.5V (the "dropout voltage") to conduct, so the device will automatically stop discharging the NiCad when it has fallen below 3V or so, including the diode drop.

The optional ammeter could be your multimeter, set to a suitable current range. The biggest problem is probably mechanical, in that you have to make a reliable connection to the battery pack contacts. You may have to improvise with brass strip or tinfoil. The same circuit could also be used to test d.c. power supplies, acting as a dummy load.

How's Your Ingenuity

Finally this month, don't forget we're still sifting through your circuit ideas for the next *Ingenuity Unlimited* feature. If you have any circuit suggestions for possible inclusion in this feature, drop us a line at the editorial address. Show all circuit values and diagrams clearly and include a brief circuit description.

We will pay between £10 to £50 for items, depending on their merit. So if you have an idea, why not try sending it in? It could earn you some real cash!

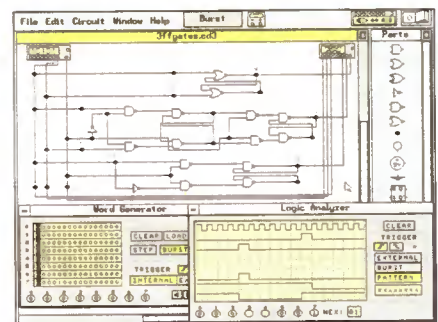
Write to me care of editorial address: Alan Winstanley, Wimborne Publishing Ltd., Allen House, East Borough, Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 1PF.

Next time: I'll be checking out heat-sinks in general, plus an adaptable design for an Automatic Porchlight Controller to shed some light on your night-time callers.

**"Electronics Workbench
is the best simulator to
design and verify circuits."**

*Gordon MacDonald
Production Engineer Technician*

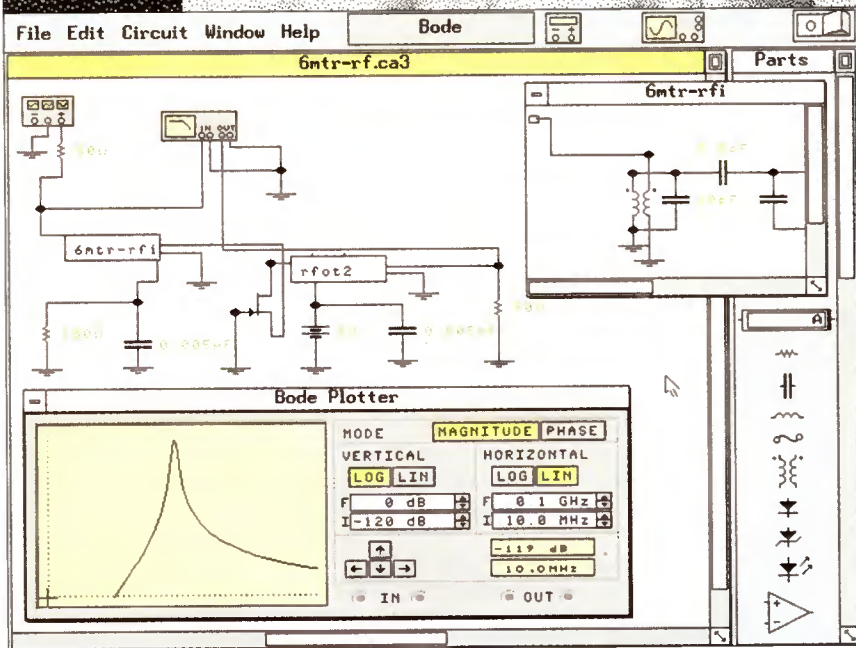
Electronics Workbench is a highly productive bench where you design and verify circuits in a fraction of the time. Connections are always perfect. Wires route themselves. And the simulated components and test instruments work just like the real thing.



Digital Module: Analyzing a logic circuit.

It's faster than building with actual components because you change connections and component values instantly. And since the simulated components are free, you don't need to replace burnt-out parts or keep an extensive inventory. The result: You save precious time and money. Guaranteed!

The standard for simplicity and power for over six years, Electronics Workbench is the most popular tool of its kind. It has gained worldwide acclaim as the ideal complement to any test bench. **Fact: Over 90% of our customers recommend it to their friends and colleagues.**



Analog Module: Tuning an RF front end.

Electronics Workbench®

The electronics lab in a computer™

Call: 44 0203 233216

Robinson Marshall (Europe) PLC

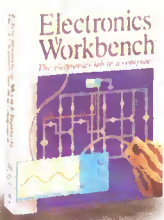
Nadella Building, Progress Close, Leofric Business Park, Coventry, Warwickshire CV3 2TF
FAX: (44) 0203 233210

*30-day money-back guarantee.

Shipping charges - UK £4.99. All prices are plus V.A.T.

All trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

**With the purchase of Electronics Workbench. Offer valid until October 15, 1994.



Just £199*
For DOS, Windows or Mac Version.



**WHETHER ELECTRONICS IS YOUR HOBBY
OR YOUR LIVELIHOOD . . .
YOU NEED THE MODERN ELECTRONICS MANUAL
and the ELECTRONICS SERVICE MANUAL**

THE MODERN ELECTRONICS MANUAL

The essential reference work

- Easy-to-use format
- Clear and simple layout
- Comprehensive subject range
- Regular Supplements
- News of developments
- Sturdy ring-binder
- Projects to build
- Detailed assembly instructions
- Ready-to-transfer PCBs
- Full components checklists
- Extensive data tables
- Detailed supply information
- Professionally written

**ORDER NOW
and get a
FREE SUPPLEMENT
plus our
30 DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE**

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ELECTRONICS!

The revised edition of the Modern Electronics Base Manual contains practical, easy-to-follow information on the following subjects:

BASIC PRINCIPLES: Symbols, components and their characteristics, active and passive component circuits, power supplies, acoustics and electroacoustics, the workshop, principles of metrology, measuring instruments, digital electronics, analogue electronics, physics for electronics.

CIRCUITS TO BUILD: There's nothing to beat the satisfaction of creating your own project. From basic principles to circuit-building, the Modern Electronics Manual and its Supplements describe clearly, with appropriate diagrams, how to assemble radios, loudspeakers, amplifiers, car projects, computer interfaces, measuring instruments, workshop equipment, security systems, etc.

REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE: Basic circuit operation for radio, television, audio/hi-fi, telephones, computers.

ESSENTIAL DATA: Extensive tables on diodes, transistors, thyristors and triacs, digital and linear i.c.s, microprocessors.

EXTENSIVE GLOSSARY: Should you come across a technical word, phrase or abbreviation you're not familiar with, simply turn to the glossary included in the Manual and you'll find a comprehensive definition in plain English.

The Manual also covers **Safety, Specialist Vocabulary with Abbreviations** and **Suppliers**. The most comprehensive reference work ever produced at a price you can afford, the revised edition of **THE MODERN ELECTRONICS MANUAL** provides you with all the essential information you need.

THE MODERN ELECTRONICS MANUAL

Revised Edition of Basic Work: Now contains over 1,000 pages of information.

Regular Supplements: Approximately 160-page Supplements of additional information which are forwarded to you immediately on publication. These are billed separately and can be discontinued at any time.

Presentation: Durable looseleaf system in large A4 format (297mm × 210mm)

Price of the Basic Work: £39.95 + £5.50 p&p (to include a recent Supplement free).

GUARANTEE

Our 30 day money back guarantee gives you **complete peace of mind**. If you are not entirely happy with either Manual, for whatever reason, simply return it to us in good condition within 30 days and we will make a **full refund of your payment** – no small print and no questions asked.
(Overseas buyers do have to pay the overseas postage charge).

Wimborne Publishing Ltd., Allen House, East Borough, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 1PF. Tel: 01202 881749. Fax: 01202 841692

ELECTRONICS SERVICE MANUAL

NEW

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET STARTED IN REPAIRING AND SERVICING ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT:

SAFETY: Be knowledgeable about Safety Regulations, Electrical Safety and First Aid.

UNDERPINNING KNOWLEDGE: Specific sections enable you to Understand Electrical and Electronic Principles, Active and Passive Components, Circuit Diagrams, Circuit Measurements, Radio, Logic Gates, Computers, Microprocessors, Valves and Manufacturers' Data, etc.

PRACTICAL SKILLS: Learn how to Identify Electronic Components, Avoid Static Hazards, Assemble a Toolkit, Set Up a Workshop, Carry Out Soldering and Wiring, Remove and Replace Components.

TEST EQUIPMENT: How to Choose and Use Test Equipment, and Get the Most out of your Multimeter and Oscilloscope, etc.

SERVICING TECHNIQUES: The regular Supplements will include vital guidelines on how to Service Audio Amplifiers, Radio Receivers, TV Receivers, Cassette Recorders, Video Recorders, Personal Computers, etc.

TECHNICAL NOTES: Commencing with the IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT, this section and the regular Supplements will deal with a very wide range of specific types of equipment.

REFERENCE DATA: Detailing vital parameters for Diodes, Small-Signal Transistors, Power Transistors, Thyristors, Triacs and Field Effect Transistors. Supplements will include Operational Amplifiers, Logic Circuits, Optoelectronic Devices, etc

The essential work for servicing and repairing.

- Easy-to-use format
- Clear and simple layout
- Regular Supplements
- Sturdy ring binder
- Vital safety precautions
- Troubleshooting techniques
- Fundamental principles
- Active and passive components
- Choosing and using test equipment
- Professionally written
- Servicing techniques
- Reference data

ELECTRONICS SERVICE MANUAL

TOTALLY NEW Basic Work: Contains around 900 pages of information. Edited by Mike Tooley BA.

Regular Supplements: Approximately 160-page Supplements of additional information which are forwarded to you immediately on publication. These are billed separately and can be discontinued at any time – the first Supplement is scheduled for publication in April '95.

Presentation: Durable looseleaf system in large A4 format (297mm x 210mm).

Price of the Basic Work: £39.95 + £5.50 p&p.

ORDER BOTH MANUALS TOGETHER AND SAVE OVER £15!

A mass of well-organised and clearly explained information is brought to you by expert editorial teams whose combined experience ensure the widest coverage

Regular Supplements to these unique publications, each around 160 pages, keep you abreast of the latest technology

REGULAR SUPPLEMENTS

Unlike a book or encyclopedia, these Manuals are living works – continuously extended with new material. Supplements are sent to you approximately every two to three months. Each Supplement contains around 160 pages – all for only £23.50 +

£2.50 p&p. You can of course return any Supplement (within ten days) which you feel is superfluous to your needs.

RESPONDING TO YOUR NEEDS

We are able to provide you with the most important and popular, up to date, features

in our Supplements. Our unique system is based on readers requests for new information. Through this service you are able to let us know exactly what information you require in your Manuals. You can also contact the editors directly in writing if you have a specific technical request or query relating to the Manuals.

PLEASE send me

☐ THE MODERN ELECTRONICS MANUAL plus a FREE SUPPLEMENT

☐ ELECTRONICS SERVICE MANUAL – Available mid January

I enclose payment of £45.45 (for one manual) or £75.45 for both manuals (saving over £15 by ordering both together). I shall also receive the appropriate Supplements several times a year. These are billed separately and can be discontinued at any time. Should I decide not to keep the Manual/s I will return it/them to you within 30 days for a full refund.

FULL NAME
(PLEASE PRINT)

ADDRESS.....

..... POSTCODE

SIGNATURE.....

☐ I enclose cheque/PO payable to Wimborne Publishing Ltd.

☐ Please charge my Visa/Mastercard (Access)

Card No. Card Exp. Date

ORDER FORM

Simply complete and return the order form with your payment to the following address:

Wimborne Publishing Ltd, Allen House,
East Borough, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 1PF

We offer a 30 day MONEY BACK GUARANTEE
– if you are not happy with the Manual simply return it to us in good condition within 30 days for a full refund.

Overseas buyers do have to pay the overseas postage – see below.

OVERSEAS ORDERS: All overseas orders must be prepaid and are supplied under a money-back guarantee of satisfaction. If you are not entirely happy with the Manual return it within a month for a refund of the purchase price (you do have to pay the overseas postage). **SEND £39.95 (or £64.45 for both manuals) PLUS THE POSTAGE SHOWN BELOW for EACH Manual:**

EUROPE (E.E.C. Countries)	AIR MAIL ONLY £11
EUROPE (non E.E.C.)	AIR MAIL ONLY £20
U.S.A. & CANADA	SURFACE MAIL £20, AIR MAIL £26
FAR EAST & AUSTRALIA	SURFACE MAIL £25, AIR MAIL £32
REST OF WORLD	SURFACE MAIL £31, AIR MAIL £33
	SURFACE MAIL £25, AIR MAIL £44

Note surface mail can take over 10 weeks to some parts of the world. Each manual weighs around 4kg when packed.

All payments must be made in £'s Sterling payable to Wimborne Publishing Ltd. We accept Mastercard (Access) and Visa credit cards.

ELECTROMAIL

Bursting with new ideas
The 94/95 Electromail Catalogue
Now available

OVER
53,000
PRODUCTS



Part 1

More ...

Semiconductors, Surface Mount Technology, fuses, batteries, potentiometers, capacitors

Part 2

More ...

Fire & security, wiring accessories, lights, plugs, fittings, Datacom products

Part 3

More ...

Hand tools, power tools, screwdrivers, wire cutters, drills, taps, workshop and machine tools

To Order: Phone: **01536 204555** OR Fax: **01536 405555** quoting your Access/Visa card number and expiry date. OR Write: Send written orders, accompanied by cheque, postal order or include your Access/Visa card number and expiry date, ensuring that your order is signed. Cheques and postal orders must be crossed and made payable to ELECTROMAIL.

DO NOT SEND CASH OR CREDIT CARD.

Electromail (Dept EPE) PO Box 33, Corby, Northants. NN17 9EL.
- RS, RS and Electromail are registered trademarks of RS Components Ltd.

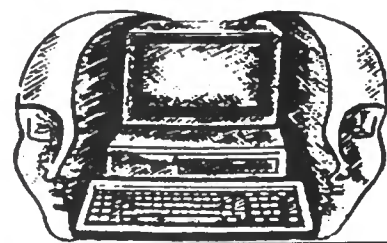
Order by phone - pay by Access or Visa - it couldn't be easier

PHONE: 01536 204555 FAX: 01536 405555

3 volumes that add up to the UK's biggest technical superstore, at the end of your 'phone.

INTERFACE

Robert Penfold



JUDGING from the readers' letters I have received, there is currently a lot of interest in using the Parallel Ports of PCs as a cheap and easy means of interfacing to user add-ons. This is understandable, since many PCs are supplied with two printer ports as standard, but in most cases only one of these is required for use with a printer.

Even if only one printer port is fitted, an expansion card costing a few pounds is all that is needed in order to add a second parallel port. Interfacing via a printer port is much easier than making up your own expansion cards, and is much cheaper than using ready-made parallel interface adaptor cards.

Using a printer port as a general purpose input/output port is a subject that has been covered in a previous article, although not in any great depth. In this article we will recapitulate to some extent before delving into the ins and outs of PC printer ports in more detail.

Out and Out

It is clear from some of the letters I have received that many PC users are under the impression that the printer port can be used as an eight-bit input or output port, in rather the same way as the user port of a BBC computer. In other words, each data line can be set to operate as an input or an output.

Unfortunately, this is definitely not the case. Inspecting the circuit diagrams of some PC printer cards reveals that the data outputs are provided by devices that can only provide outputs. Using the data outputs to directly act as inputs is simply not possible.

Probably this misconception has arisen because some commercial add-on units that connect to a printer port claim to use high speed bidirectional parallel data transfer. However, the normal way of achieving this seems to be by using the eight data outputs as an eight-bit output port, with some of the handshake lines being used to provide a form of eight-bit input port.

However, there are insufficient input lines to provide a straightforward eight-bit input port. Some simple circuitry and one of the handshake outputs are needed in order to give a form of eight-bit input.

A PC printer port occupies three consecutive addresses in the input/output map. The base addresses are normally &H378 for LPT1, and &H278 for LPT2. We will only consider LPT1 here, but LPT2 is used in exactly the same way. When using LPT2 it is just a matter of using addresses &H278 to &H27A instead of &H378 to &H37A.

Writing data to the eight data outputs is perfectly straightforward, and it is just a matter of writing the values to the base address (&H378). The usefulness of a printer port for general interfacing is greatly enhanced by the unusually large number of

handshake lines. These comprise four outputs and five inputs. Strictly speaking these are not all true handshake lines, and some have functions such as indicating error conditions and whether or not an auto linefeed is required.

As some of these input/output lines have minor functions it is not possible to guarantee that they will all be present on every PC printer port, but they seem to be present and correct on all modern PC parallel ports. With older printer port cards it might be as well to check the instruction booklet to determine whether or not a full set of handshake lines are included.

At address &H379 there are five input lines, and these are at bits 3 to 7. Bits 0 to 2 are unused. Fig. 1 shows the ins and outs of the PC printer port. A look at Table 1 will show the normal function of each input, and its pin number on the printer port's 25-way D-connector.

Table 1: Pin function for the Printer Port's D-connector

Bit	Function	Pin No.
3	Error	15
4	Select in	13
5	Paper empty	12
6	Acknowledge	10
7	Busy	11

Taking a Nibble

Although there are only five inputs available, it is still possible to input eight-bit bytes of data. Obviously all eight-bits cannot be input simultaneously. Instead, the data must be read as two four-bit nibbles, with an output of the port being used to select the desired nibble.

The obvious way of handling things is to use bits 4 to 7 of the input port, and to read the least significant nibble first. The value returned is then divided by 16 to compensate for the fact that bits 0 to 3 are being read on input lines 4 to 7.

Next the output line is toggled so that bits 4 to 7 can be read. The value returned from these is then added to the value read from the least significant nibble, and this gives the full value from the eight input lines.

In practice there is a minor problem with this method in that there is an inverter added ahead of the Busy input at pin 11 (bit 7 of the port). This problem could be overcome by adding another inverter ahead of this input, or by using some additional software routines to effectively re-invert this line. It is probably easier to use the error line (bit 3 of the port) instead.

The same basic method of reading the port as two four-bit nibbles is used, but the mathematics is slightly different. The value returned from the least significant nibble is divided by eight instead of 16 in order to produce the correct value. The figure returned from the most significant nibble is multiplied by two before being added to the corrected value from the least significant nibble.

Whichever method is used, it is clearly somewhat slower than simply reading an eight-bit input port. Two read operations are required, plus write operations to the output line, followed by some simple mathematics.

Even using an up-market PC, reading megabytes per second is probably out of the question. On the other hand, using machine code routines it would presumably be possible to read many thousands of bytes per

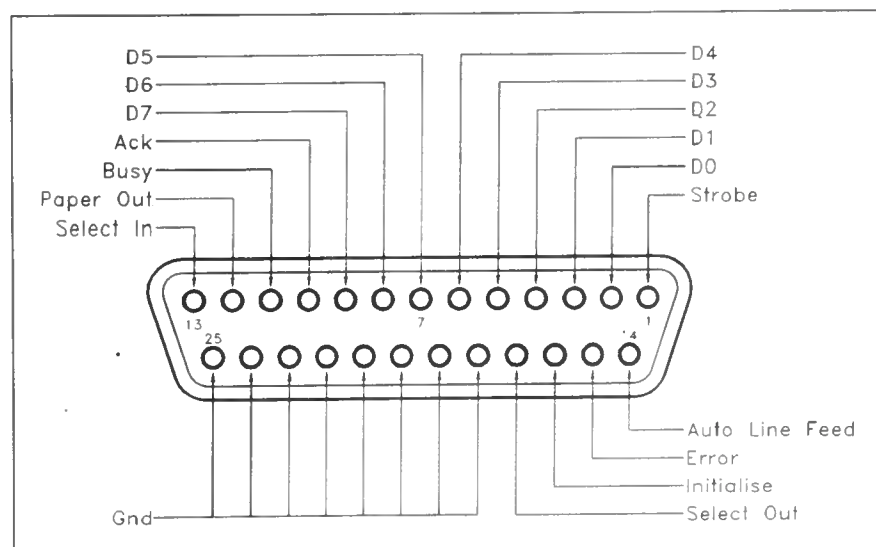


Fig. 1. Connection details for the PC printer ports. There are 12 outputs and five inputs.

second. Even using an interpreted BASIC on an average PC it should be possible to read a few hundred bytes per second, which is more than adequate for many applications.

The four handshake outputs are at bits 0 to 3 of address &H37A, and are detailed as follows:

Bit	Function	Pin No.
0	Strobe	1
1	Auto linefeed	14
2	Initialise	16
3	Select out	17

Apart from the initialise output at pin 16 of the port, these outputs are inverted. This is not of great importance, since these lines would normally be used individually, and not collectively as a nibble output.

Unfortunately, these lines cannot be used in a similar manner to the handshake inputs, with bytes being output in two halves. This is not possible because there is no fifth output to control a four-to-eight line converter.

The printer port is still quite versatile though, and with only a small amount of additional circuitry it can provide an eight-bit output port, and an eight-bit input port. This still leaves three outputs and one input for handshake purposes, or for use as general purpose input/output lines.

Two-Into-One Will Go

The circuit diagram for an eight-bit input port, which uses a PC printer port and the techniques outlined previously, is shown in Fig. 2. This is based on a 74LS244 which is generally described as being an eight-bit tristate buffer.

However, it is in fact two independent four-bit tristate buffers. The most significant nibble is fed to one set of buffers, and the least significant nibble is fed to the other.

Pairs of outputs are used to drive the inputs at bits 3 to 6 of the printer port.

The two sets of buffers are controlled using the initialise output, but the control input of one set is driven via an inverter (IC2). This gives the required anti-phase operation with the least significant nibble being fed through to the printer port when the initialise input is low, and the most significant nibble being fed through to the port when the initialise output is high.

It is possible to dispense with the inverter if two of the printer port's output lines are used to control the tristate buffers. If you are not using one of the other handshake outputs for other purposes, I suppose that this would be the most sensible way of handling things.

This simple GW BASIC routine can be used to read the input port and print the returned value on the screen:

```

10 OUT &H37A,0
20 X = INP(&H379) AND 120
30 X = X/8
40 OUT &H37A,4
50 Y = INP(&H379) AND 120
60 Y = Y*2
70 Z = X + Y
80 PRINT Z

```

First the initialise output is set low so that the least significant nibble can be read. The

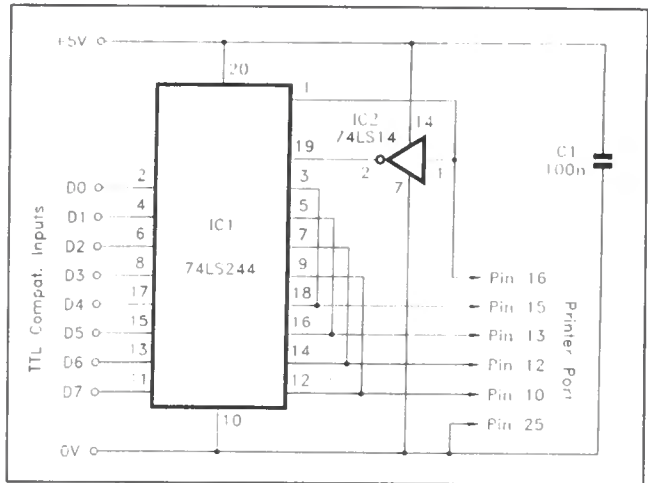


Fig. 2. An 8-bit output port using a PC printer port.

returned value is ANDed with a masking number of 120 to mask bits 1, 2, 3, and 7 of the printer port. The value returned from bits 3 to 6 is placed in variable "X", which is then divided by eight to give the correct value.

Next the initialise output is set high, and the same basic procedure is used to read the most significant nibble and place it into variable "Y". In this case the returned value is multiplied by two in order to obtain the correct value. Variables "X" and "Y" are then simply added together to give the final answer which is printed on the screen by the final line of the program.

If you have a spare printer port on your PC, this method must represent the simplest and least expensive method of obtaining eight-bit input and output ports, complete with some handshake lines. It should be possible to interface a wide range of user add-ons to this port, which is a topic we shall pursue in future articles.

EVERYDAY WITH PRACTICAL ELECTRONICS

SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM

Annual subscription rates (1994/5): UK £24.00.
Overseas £30 (surface mail) £47.50 (airmail)

To: Everyday with Practical Electronics,
Allen House, East Borough, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 1PF.
Tel: 01202 881749. Fax: 01202 841692

I enclose payment of £ (cheque/PO in £ sterling only),
payable to Everyday with Practical Electronics
Access or Visa No.



Please supply name and address of card-holder if different from the subscription address shown above. Subscriptions can only start with the next available issue. For back numbers see the Editorial page.

Signature.....

Card Ex. Date

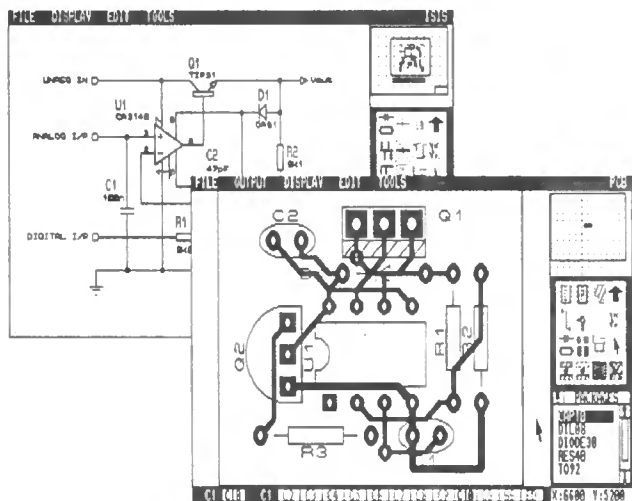
Name.....

Address.....

Post code..... 2/95

POWERFUL SCHEMATIC CAPTURE, PCB DESIGN AND AUTOROUTING ALL FOR JUST £395...

PROPAK AR for DOS provides all the features you need to create complex PCB designs quickly and easily. Draw the circuit diagram using the powerful facilities of ISIS DESIGNER+ and then netlist into ARES AUTOROUTE for placement, autorouting and tidy up. Advanced real time design rule checks guarantee that the final PCB will correspond exactly with the schematic thus saving you from costly layout errors and time consuming debugging.



- Attractive, easy to use graphical interface.
- Object oriented schematic editor with automatic wire routing, dot placement and mouse driven place/edit/move/delete.
- Netlist generation for most popular CAD software.
- Bill of Materials and Electrical Rules Check reports.
- Two schemes for hierarchical design.
- Automatic component annotation and packaging.
- Comprehensive device libraries and package libraries including both through hole and SMT parts.
- User definable snap grids (imperial and metric) and Real Time Snap to deal with tricky SMT spacings.
- Manual route editing features include Auto Track Necking, Topological editing and Curved tracks.
- Autorouting for single, double and multi-layer boards.
- Non autorouting PROPAK is available for just £250 if you do not need or want the router.
- Full connectivity and design rule checking.
- Power plane generator with thermal relief necking.
- Graphics support to 800x600 Super VGA.
- Output to dot matrix and laser printers, HP and Houston plotters, Postscript devices, Gerber and Excellon NC machines plus DXF and other DTP file formats.

CADPAK

Two Programs for the Price of One

ISIS SUPERSKETCH

A superb schematic drawing program for DOS offering Wire Autorouting, Auto Dot Placement, full component libraries, export to DTP and much more.

**Only
£79**

Exceptionally easy and quick to use. For example, you can place a wire with just two mouse clicks - the wire autorouter does the rest.

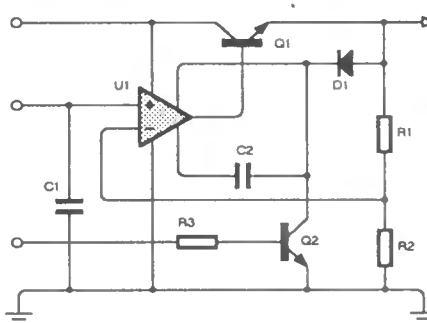
PCB II

High performance yet easy to use manual PCB layout package. Many advanced features including curved tracks, auto track necking, DXF export, Gerber and NC file generation, Gerber viewing and more.

Alan Chadwick writing in ETI (January 94) concluded...
"At £79 I thought this was an excellent buy."

ISIS ILLUSTRATOR

Schematic Drawing for Windows

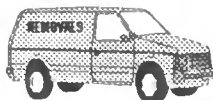


**From
£99**

Running under Windows 3.1, ISIS ILLUSTRATOR lets you create presentation quality schematic drawings like you see in the magazines. Furthermore, when the drawing is done, transferring it to another document is just a matter of pasting it through the Clipboard.

Now used by a number of prominent technical authors to illustrate their latest books and magazine articles.

Labcenter
Electronics



WE HAVE MOVED - NOTE NEW ADDRESS

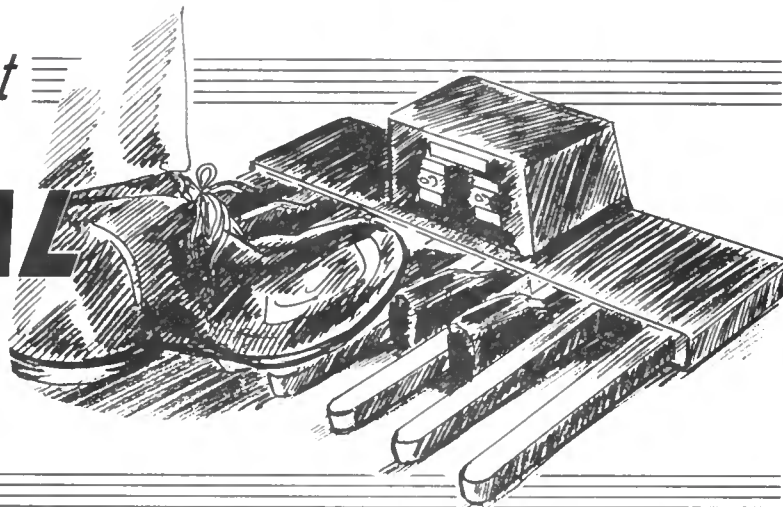
Call us today on 0756 753440 or fax 0756 752857 for a demo pack - state DOS or Windows. Multi-copy and educational discounts available.

Prices exclude p&p (£5 for U.K.) and VAT. All manufacturers' trademarks acknowledged.

53-55 Main St, Grassington, North Yorks. BD23 5AA.

MIDI PEDAL BOARD

TONY GEERING



Take centre stage and make great sounds with this MIDI output pedal – Let your feet do the “talking”.

★ Fully Polyphonic ★ Touch Sensitive ★ One Octave Range ★
★ Standard MIDI Interface Output ★ Switchable MIDI Channel ★

AFTER many fruitless hours searching for an inexpensive add-on pedal board for use with the popular keyboards and synthesisers it was decided a “build-your-own” approach was the only answer. The result is a project that will, it is hoped, appeal to two groups of electronics constructors: those who play the organ and wish to convert a synthesiser into one; and keyboard players who wish to experiment with foot control.

This article describes the construction of a one octave pedal board for use with any musical device having a standard MIDI input. For example it can turn a keyboard or synthesiser into a home organ. Also, the pedal unit has been used successfully with a Clavinola, which has some organ sounds.

MIDI PEDAL

The MIDI Pedal Board comprises two sections. One is the mechanical pedal sub-assembly which is available complete. It has 13 individual pedals, one per semitone.

The other section is the electronic circuit with MIDI output. The circuit is built around the keyboard scanner i.c. type E510. This i.c. is fully Polyphonic, Touch Sensitive and has a selectable MIDI output channel – Channel 1 or Channel 2.

The E510 will scan up to 128 notes by use of a fan-out arrangement of scanning i.c.s 74HC138, but has been reduced to 13 notes here. (See Fig. 2)

The circuit operates at five volts, so a stabilised power supply is included. (See Fig. 3). This allows a general purpose 9V to 12V unregulated power supply to be used.

The unit draws only a small current when in use (20mA), so one of the popular battery-eliminator type power supplies giving +9V to +12V output is adequate. Alternatively, the unit could be powered from a small +9V battery inside the box.

CIRCUIT DESCRIPTION

The full circuit diagram for the MIDI Pedal Board is shown in Fig. 2. The E510 keyboard scanner IC1 can scan up to 128 keys by means of the 7-bit address bus A0 to A6 (pins 7 to 1), with a resolution of 256µS. Details of the pinout information for the E510 are given in Fig. 1.

A large address decoder would be required to decode all 128 addresses. The arrangement of IC2, IC3 and IC4 decodes 13 adjacent addresses for scanning the 13 pedal contacts of the one octave pedal

sub-assembly. A two stage decoder i.c. type 74HC138, using 3-bit binary to 1-out-of-8 decoder function, is used for IC2, IC3 and IC4.

ADDRESS DECODER

The four most significant bits (MSBs) of the address from IC1 (A3-A6) are fed to the data inputs of IC2, pins 1 to 4. See Fig. 1. There are three data leads, plus Enable ($\bar{E}1$) lead which acts as a fourth data lead.

The output of IC2 is an active-Low signal on one of the eight output leads, pins 7, 9 to 15. These signals are used to select each of the secondary decoder i.c.s in turn (IC3 and IC4). The three least significant bits (LSBs) of the address from IC1 (A0 to A2) are fed directly to the secondary decoders IC3 and IC4.

Links L1 and L2 transfer the Enable signal to IC3 and IC4, see Note Range Table 1. This allows selection of the musical range of the single octave.

IC3 and IC4 decode the three LSBs of the address to allow scanning of eight pedal contacts per i.c. IC3 can therefore scan the first eight contacts of the pedal unit, corresponding to the first eight semitones C to G. IC4 scans the next eight semitones, but only five are required to complete the octave, namely G# to C.

KEYBOARD OUTPUT

Every time a key is pressed or released, the velocity is calculated by the E510 keyboard scanner (IC1) using a 7-bit reverse counting timer. At the same time every press and release is tested for validity. The key is only recognised if it goes from pin 10 to pin 11 or vice-versa, and thus key bounce is eliminated.

An internal FIFO register (First-In-First Out type of storage device) allows fully polyphonic playing and thus several keys can be pressed simultaneously. The MIDI data output on pin 9 transmits data according to the MIDI specification; key number, key velocity, key ON or OFF, channel number.

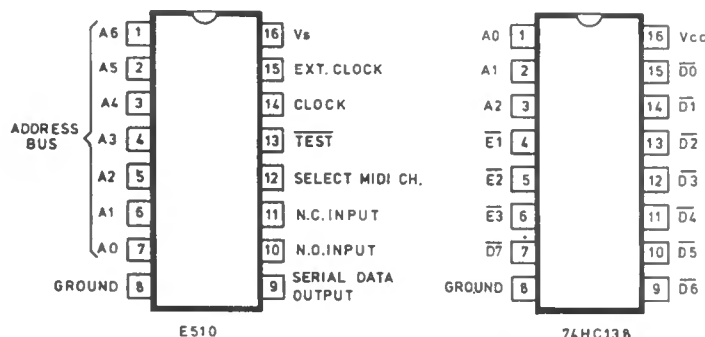
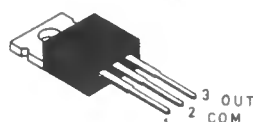
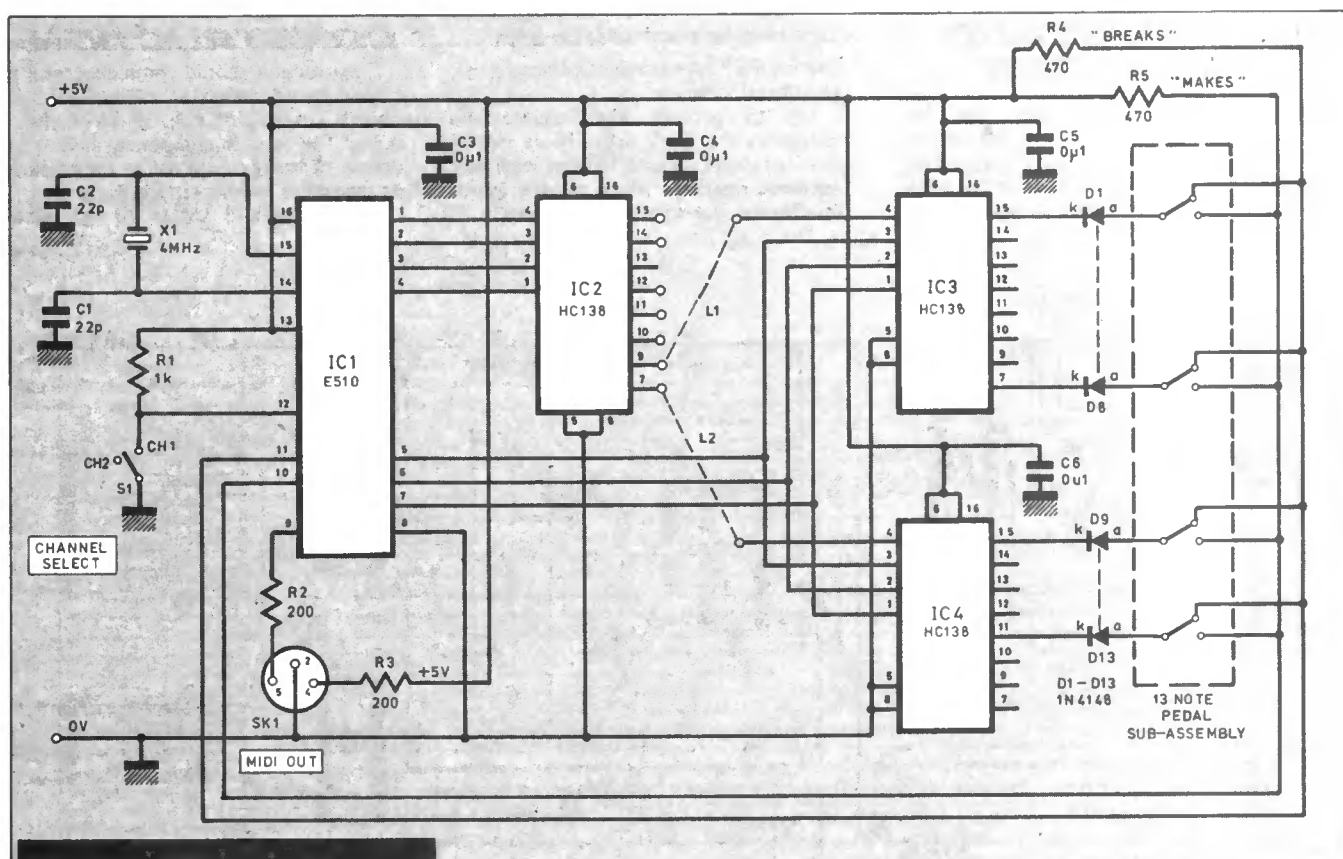


Fig. 1. Pinout details for the E510 keyboard scanner, 74HC138 decoder and the 7805 voltage regulator.





COMPONENTS

Resistors

R1 1k
R2, R3 200 (2 off)
R4, R5, 470 (3 off)
R6 22
R7 22
All 0.6W 1% metal film

See
**SHOP
TALK**
Page

Capacitors

C1, C2 22p ceramic (2 off)
C3 to C6, 0.01 min. disc ceramic (5 off)
C7 220µ radial elect. 16V
C8 16µ bead tantalum, 16V

Semiconductors

D1 to D13 1N4148 signal diode (13 off)
D14 3mm or 5mm red l.e.d.
D15 1N4001 rec. diode
IC1 E510 MIDI keyboard scanner
IC2 to IC4 74HC138 3-bit binary to 1-in-8 decoder (3 off)
IC5 7805 +5V 1A voltage regulator

Miscellaneous

X1 4MHz crystal
S1, S2 s.p.s.t. min. toggle switch (2 off)
SK1 5-pin 180 degree DIN socket
SK2 d.c. power socket, 2.1mm
Plastic case, size 176mm x 120mm x 84mm approx; 0.1in. stripboard, 39 strips x 62 holes; pedal sub-assembly, with changeover contacts - see text; 16-pin d.i.l. socket (4 off); coloured multistrand connecting wire; aluminium or wood for legs and pedal cover, cut to fit.

Approx cost
guidance only

£50

excluding pedal board

Fig. 2. Full circuit diagram, except voltage stabiliser, for the MIDI Pedal Board. MIDI: Musical Instrument Digital Interface.

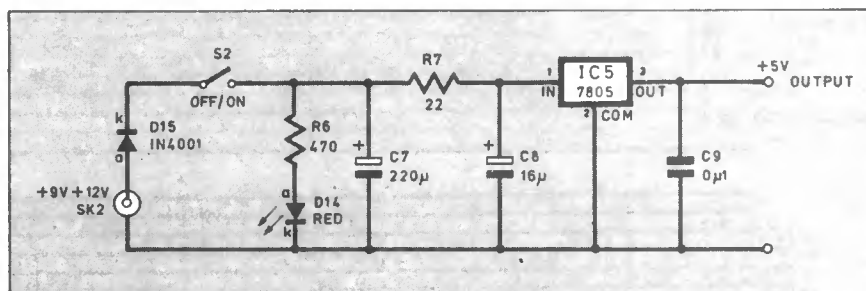
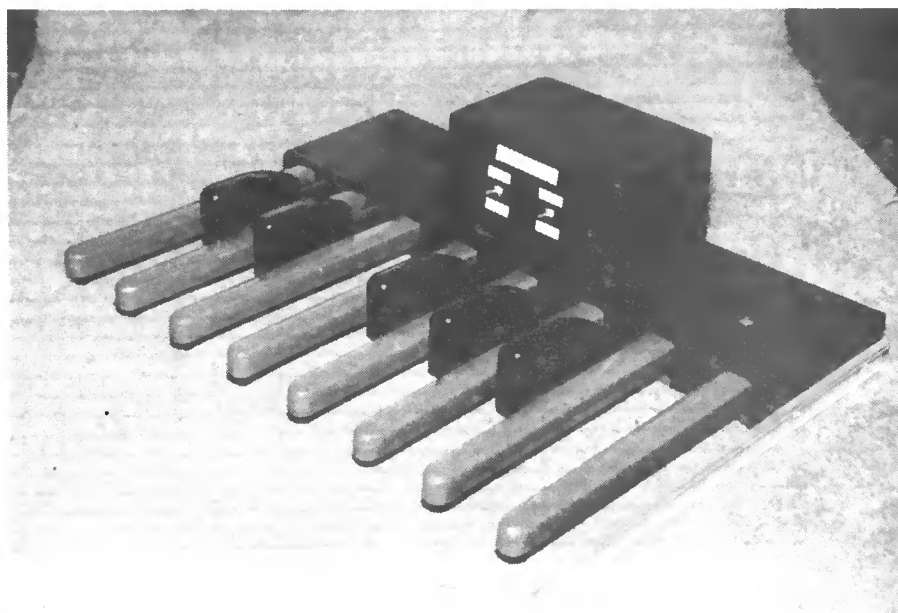


Fig. 3. Circuit diagram for the power supply voltage stabiliser. The unit drains only a small current, about 20mA, so a 9V to 12V battery eliminator or a 9V battery can be used as the power source.



The completed Pedal Board with the "Scanning" unit mounted on top of the made-up pedal housing.

ELECTROSTATIC PRECAUTIONS

All semiconductor devices can be degraded or even destroyed by the action of electrostatic discharge (ZAP!) from the human body. Much has already been written on this subject, so only brief details

of recommended precautions are given:

Use full ESP kit – conductive bench mat, wrist band, cord, or

Try to prevent high electrostatic charge in the work area. Work on an Earthed metal surface. Do not wear any synthetic materials which cause a build-up of static like rayon and polyester.

CONSTRUCTION

Construction should commence with the circuit board which is a piece of 0.1in. matrix stripboard, size 39 strips by 62 holes. The topside component layout and details of breaks required in the trackside copper strips is shown in Fig 4.

First place and solder all the passive

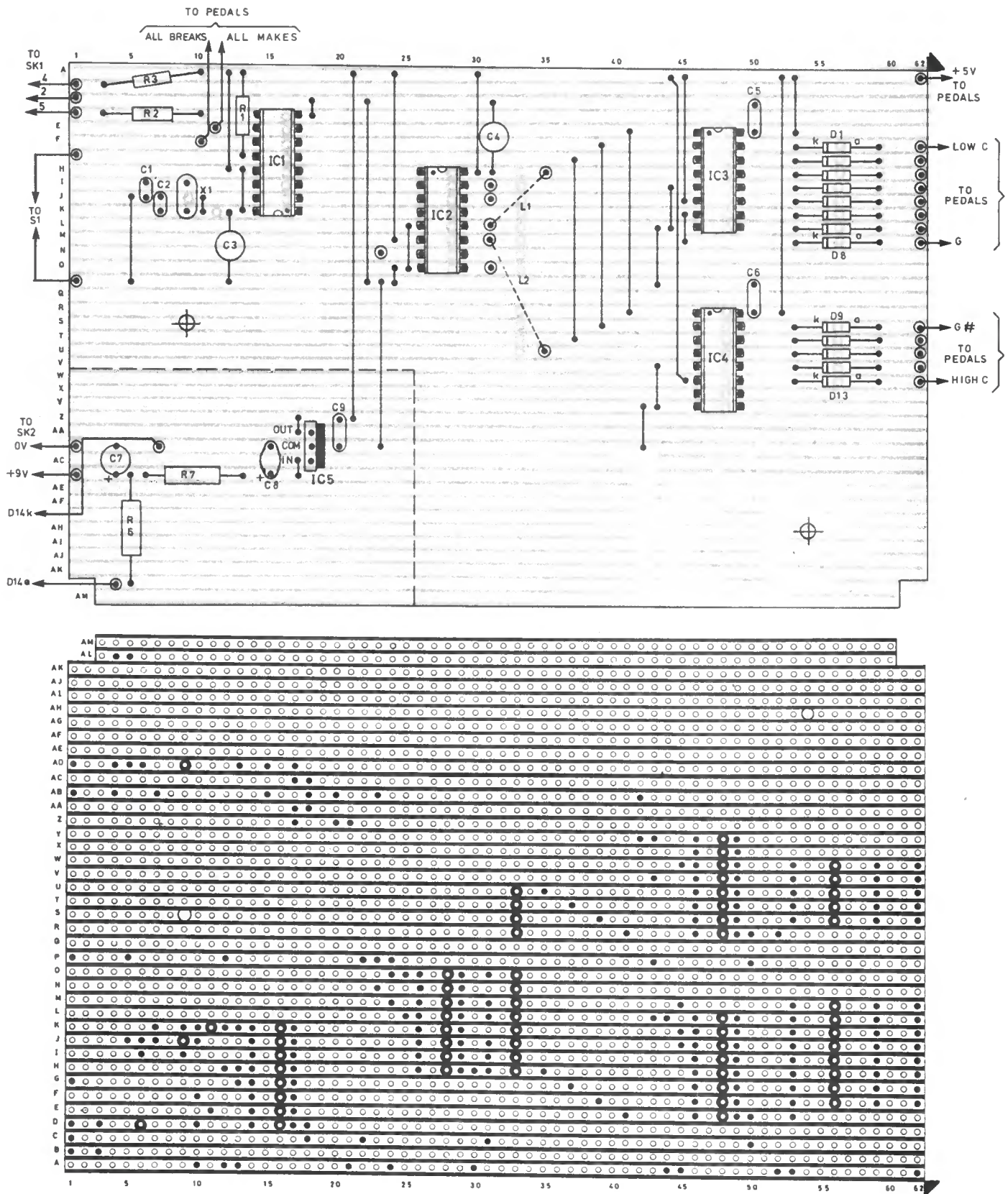
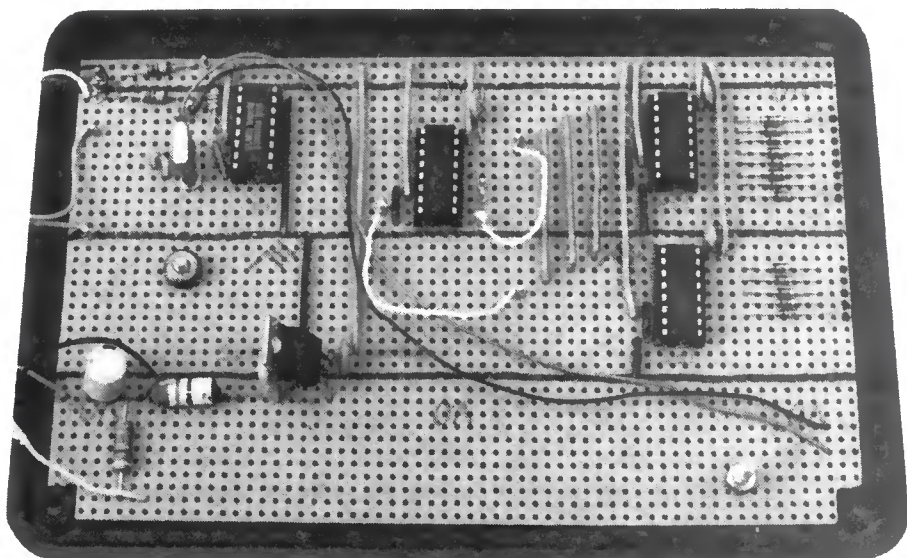


Fig. 4. Stripboard topside component layout and details of breaks required in the underside copper strips. The circled connections on the topside layout represent solder pins.



The complete prototype circuit board mounted on the underside of the case lid. The two leads that go from the top left to the right-hand edge are so that all connections to the keyboard come from the same side of the board.

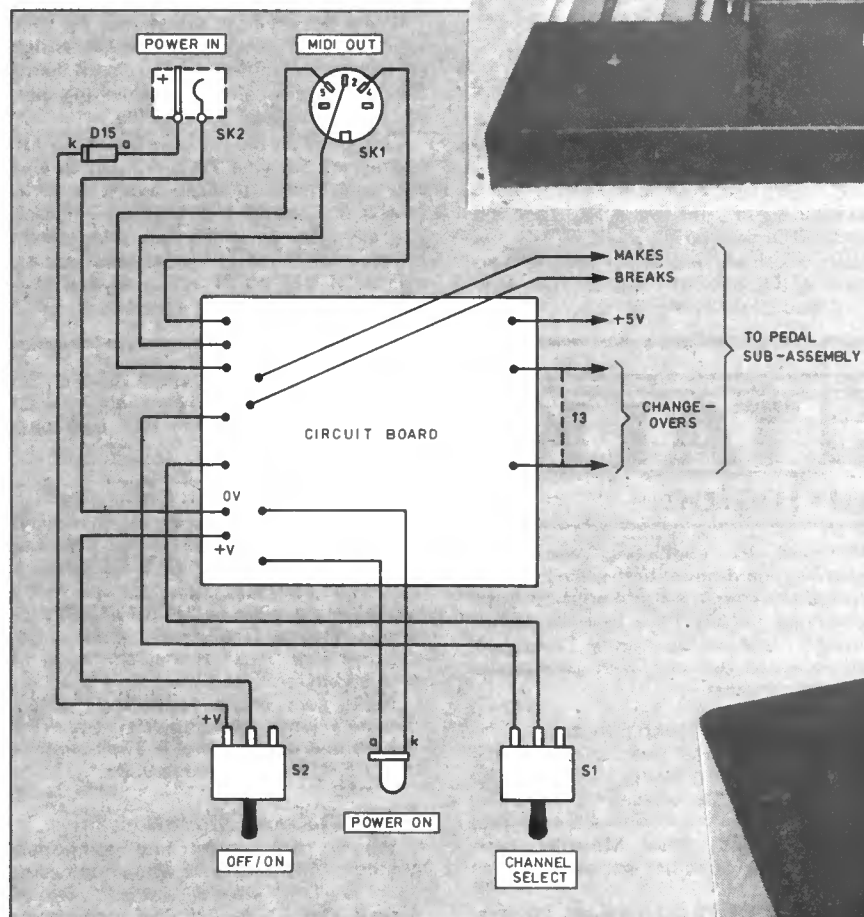


Fig. 5. Interwiring from off-board components to the circuit board

Table 1: Jumper connections for Note Ranges

Link L1	Link L2	Note Range
IC2/15 - IC3/4	IC2/14 - IC4/4	C-2 to C-1
IC2/12 - IC3/4	IC2/11 - IC4/4	C0 to C1
IC2/9 - IC3/4	IC2/7 - IC4/4	C2 to C3

Note: Some keyboards do not accept the lowest note range, but all should accept the highest range which is the octave just below middle C. (Middle C = C3).

components - i.e. sockets, resistors, link wires etc. Also, set the two jumper "note" links L1 and L2 for the required note range using Table 1. Then cut the underside tracks as indicated.

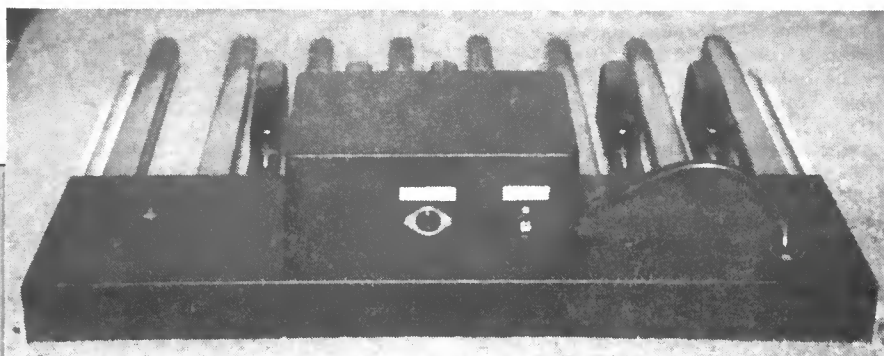
Next, fit the trackside decoupling capacitors C3 and C4 to IC1 and IC2 pins as is shown. Fit diodes and crystal, then lastly insert the i.c.s into their holders.

Before fitting i.c.s you could power-up and check with a meter that +V is only on the following pins:

IC1 pins 13 and 16; IC2, IC3 and IC4 pins 6 and 16.

Visually check the board for faults. The board should then be fitted onto the underside of the plastic box lid, the sockets and switches being fitted in the sides of the box. A 16-way cable was brought out of the box to wire to the pedal sub-assembly. See Fig. 5 and photograph.

On the front of the plastic box are the On/Off and CH1/CH2 switches, and the Power On i.e.d. The user may wish to consider placing the switches on one of the



Rear view of the Pedal Board showing the MIDI input and the Power-In sockets. Note also the 16-core cable sleeving, taking the note leads to the pedal sub-assembly.

other faces of the box, to prevent accidentally catching them with the foot when in use. On the back of the box is the MIDI output DIN socket, and the +9V power input socket.

PEDAL ASSEMBLY

The pedal sub-assembly requires two stabilising legs, one on either side to enable the unit to be free-standing. These should



The completed keyboard scanner unit showing the MIDI Channel select switch and On/Off switch. These switches could be mounted on one of the side panels, away from any "flying feet."

be fashioned from aluminium or wood approximately 356mm x 25mm x 12mm – see Fig. 6. Likewise a cover should be made from sheet aluminium or plywood to cover the contact body.

On the pedal sub-assembly, all the “make” contacts are strapped together, and all the “break” contacts are also strapped together as shown in the circuit diagram Fig. 2. The +5V supply is connected, via resistors R4 and R5, to the strapped-up contacts. The wire for each pedal from diodes D1 to D13, are connected to the “changeover” contacts. (D1=Low C, D13=High C). Once the wiring has been completed, the box containing the electronics should be securely fastened to the body of the sub-assembly.

SETTING UP

Connect the MIDI output to the MIDI input of your keyboard using a MIDI cord. Power-up the Pedal Unit and the Keyboard. Press each pedal and confirm that the correct note is heard. Pressing quickly should give a louder note due to the touch sensitive processing in the E510.

The E510 IC1 has an internal scanner which scans each pedal in turn, via IC2, IC3 and IC4, and diodes D1 to D13. The contact transit time, and hence the pedal speed, is measured by IC1 pins 10 and 11.

Thus the harder you press the pedal, the faster it moves and so the louder will be the note velocity signal generated by the E510. It is important that the contact gaps be all the same so that the volume of each pedal is the same, see Fig 7.

When a pedal is pressed, the E510 sends MIDI NOTE-ON and VELOCITY data for that note on the selected MIDI CHANNEL. The data is then converted into a musical note by the synthesiser in the remote keyboard.

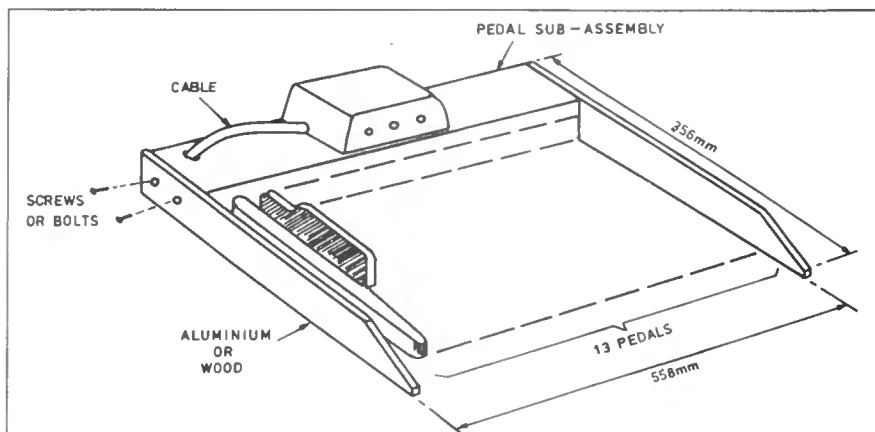


Fig. 6. Suggested method of housing the pedal sub-assembly.

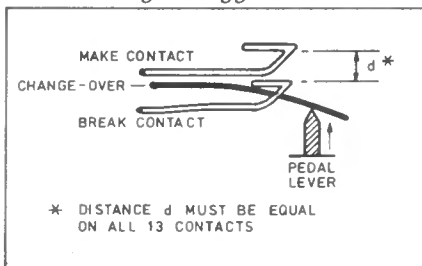


Fig. 7. Pedal switch contacts.

MIDI COMPATABILITY

The MIDI Pedal Unit sends data on MIDI Channel 1 or Channel 2, depending upon the setting of Channel Select S1. Many keyboards default to OMNI when first switched on, this means that they will accept MIDI data on any channel. You can usually select which channel you want to receive MIDI data on, consult your keyboard manual for how to do this.

Depending on the type of keyboard or synthesiser, you may be able to control two individual voices: for example the keyboard on Channel 1 playing a solo voice, and the pedal-board on Channel 2 playing a bass voice. Your keyboard manual should explain how to do this.

TROUBLE SHOOTING

If you do not hear any sounds on your keyboard when you press the pedals, switch off the power and re-check the circuit board for errors, touching tracks, solder splashes, dry-joints etc. Check pedal wiring.

Check that the jumper links L1 and L2 are appropriate for your keyboard. Check also that your keyboard MIDI receive is set to OMNI or Channel 1 or Channel 2. Check that any other parameters are set correctly on your keyboard to enable data receive, e.g. MIDI REC=ON – refer to your keyboard manual for further information. □

SHOP TALK

with David Barrington

12V 35W PA Amplifier

Both the driver and output transformers used in the 12V 35W Public Address Amplifier were specially designed for this project. They are available from **Tavistock Electronics, Unit 8, Crelake Industrial Estate, Pixon Lane, Tavistock, Devon, PL19 9AZ. (☎ 0822 617289).**

For those who wish to attempt winding their own ferrite driver transformer, the ferrite core type E42/15 (Siemens part B66325-GX127) and bobbin (B66242-J1000R1) can be purchased from **Electrovalue (☎ 0784 442253).**

The printed circuit board is available from the **EPE PCB Service**, code 930 (see page 163).

MIDI Pedal Board

Only the special E510 MIDI keyboard scanning i.c. used in the *MIDI Pedal Board* project will not be obtainable from your local supplier. This is, of course, apart from the pedal assembly.

The E510 i.c. seems to be only available from Maplin, code KU41U. Currently, their stocks stand at about 50 items. This is an expensive chip at £33.50 so it makes it even more important to use an i.c. socket with this device.

It is suggested that an inexpensive source for the pedal assembly may

be found by contacting your local organ/keyboard shop, and asking for the address of an organ repair workshop. Such workshops usually have new or reconditioned one-octave units available. Remember to get one with *changeover* electrical contacts.

The Ultimate Screen Saver

We can only find two listings for the MOC3041 “zero-crossing” opto-isolator triac i.c. used in the *Ultimate Screen Saver* project. These are from **Electromail** (code 301-628) and **Maplin**, code RA56L. There does not appear to be an equivalent.

Capacitor C4 MUST be rated for *continuous* operation when placed across the 240V a.c. mains. There are two basic types with this rating, known as class X and class Y. The one chosen here is class X. These should be generally available, but in case of difficulty Maplin list it as code JR34M.

The triac used in the model is a BT138 type, however most 600V TO220 package triacs, such as C206M, C226M and BTA08-600B, should work here. One of these should be stocked by most of our component advertisers.

The Euro connectors and 8-pole d.i.l. switch are items that should be available

from your regular component supplier. The printed circuit board is available from the **EPE PCB Service**, code 927 (see page 163).

Foot-Operated Drill Controller

Some difficulties may be experienced in finding a 50V 3A bridge rectifier called up for the *Foot-Operated Drill Controller*. If this is the case you could use one with a higher rating, such as the BR32 200V 3A bridge listed by **Greenweld**. Choose one that has wire “legs” as they can easily be played out to fit the p.c.b.

Make sure you specify “log” potentiometers when ordering VR1 and VR2. The printed circuit board is available from the **EPE PCB Service**, code 928.

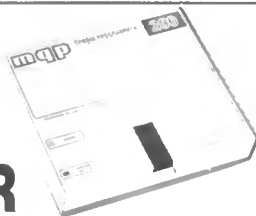
Model Railway Signals

We do not expect any component buying problems to arise when purchasing parts for the *Model Railway Signals* project. Quite a few of our components advertisers stock the small glass reed switches and most come with a small magnet.

The printed circuit board is available from the **EPE PCB Service**, code 929. Note that the p.c.b. is supplied as a three-module strip and can hold three Two-Aspect circuits plus additional parts for three Three-Aspect operation.

The a.c. supply from a model railway transformer **must not be used** to power this circuit. It may, however, be rectified and stabilised at +5V d.c. in the conventional fashion and then used as the power source.

SYSTEM 200 DEVICE PROGRAMMER



SYSTEM

Programs 24, 28, 32 pin EPROMS, EE-PROMS, FLASH and Emulators as standard, quickly, reliably and at low cost.

Expandable to cover virtually any programmable part including serial E², PALS, GALS, EPLD's and microcontrollers from all manufacturers.

DESIGN

Not a plug in card but connects to the PC serial or parallel port; it comes complete with powerful yet easy to control software, cable and manual.

SUPPORT

UK design, manufacture and support. Same day dispatch, 12 month warranty. 10 day money back guarantee.

ASK FOR FREE INFORMATION PACK



MQP ELECTRONICS Ltd.

Unit 2, Park Road Centre, Malmesbury, Wiltshire, SN16 0BX UK
TEL. 0666 825146 FAX. 0666 825141

GERMANY 089/4602071; NORWAY 0702-17890; ITALY 02 92 10 3554
FRANCE (1)69.41.28.01; IRELAND 1-2800395; SWEDEN 08-590-32185;
Also from ELECTROSPEED UK

WINTER 1994/5 CATALOGUE



The Winter '94/95 edition has 280 pages packed with over 4000 products and now with news and features including two full construction projects

- ▶ New additions to Cirkits' unique range of kits, including:
Infra-red Remote Control System
Combustible Gas Detector
Mains Carrier Audio Link
Mains Carrier Remote Control
Electrical Appliance Watt Meter
Breath Tester
TV Audio/Video Tuner

£1.95
+ 30p p&p

- ▶ Two feature projects, fully detailed articles for Hi-Fi quality Infra-red Cordless Headphones and 'Chiptester' a logic IC tester with full PC software, with full construction kits available for both
- ▶ Many more additions throughout the catalogue including mobile phone batteries and chargers, low cost thermometers, timers, ICs, LEDs, test equipment, books, opto couplers and much more
- ▶ 280 pages, 26 sections, over 4000 products from some of the worlds finest manufactures and suppliers
- ▶ Available at most large newsagents or direct from Cirkit
- ▶ **Send for your copy today!**

Cirkit



Cirkit Distribution Ltd

Park Lane · Broxbourne · Hertfordshire · EN10 7NQ
Telephone (01992) 448899 · Fax (01992) 471314

★ NASA COMMUNICATIONS

- 5 watt PPO FM Broadcast (built) Transmitter, 250mA.....**£34.50**
- Many types of FM Stereo PLL crystal controlled broadcast equipment available from 5-150 watts, 88-108MHz.
- 3 watt, 80-108MHz FM Transmitter Kit, coil tank controlled, 3 mile range, supply 12V D.C. at 0.5 amps.....**£12.50**
- 5 watts as above except 1amp, 5 mile range.....**£16.50**
- Video sender unit, transmits picture from your video, computer or satellite to any TV in your house over TV band, UHF.....**only £17.50**
- FM long range bug, built on MIC, 25mm x 35mm, Kit **£11.50**; Built **£15.00**

WE BUY ALL TYPES OF SECOND HAND TRANSMITTERS – BEST PRICES PAID.

ALL price include VAT

Please send £1.00 P&P payment to:-

NASA Communications, St. Georges House, 31A, St. Georges Road, Leyton, London E10 5RH.

Send 2 x 1st Class Stamps for our catalogue.

FOX REPORT

by Barry Fox



Cloning Macs

Even before it went into print, my prediction that Apple would have to change its policy on clone Macs, had come true. The company will now start to licence third party manufacturers to use the Mac operating system.

Recently I got my first chance to try an Apple Mac "out of the box". The company has always had the policy of loaning equipment only to bona fide reviewers, with specific review projects in hand. Columnists are expected to make do with demonstrations given by Apple, which is no way to judge how easy it is to plug in a system and start using it.

On this occasion I was helping a glossy magazine write a review of portables and the first two Macs supplied by Apple had been faulty. Apple was very anxious not to be left out, so sent the third direct to me for a weekend.

The first surprise was how heavy and chunky the Apple portable felt, compared to modern DOS/Windows laptops. Apple has fallen literally years behind in the size and weight race. Although Apple sub-contracts manufacture of its designs to firms (e.g. Sony and Sharp) in the Far East, licencing Far Eastern clone makers to do their own thing should create Mac laptops that look and feel as compact as DOS/Windows laptops.

Without doubt the Mac operating system is very easy to use. I got the hang of it within minutes. Five years ago it would have blown the early versions of Windows and DOS out of the water. But after more than ten years of clumsy trial and error by Microsoft, DOS 6 and Windows 3.1 finally work together as something approaching a coherent team that mimics a Mac.

The two last big advantages left to the Mac are speed of operation and plug-and-play set up of software and peripherals. Windows is slow because its graphics capability sits on top of DOS. The Mac operating system grew out of Apple's Lisa project and was thus designed from the ground up to present the user with a graphics interface i.e. pictorial icons to click on instead of a DOS prompt into which the user must key cryptic text commands.

Dark Horse Games

Here, two dark horses enter the picture. One is Microsoft's new operating system, previously known as Chicago and now renamed Windows 95 because it will arrive sometime in the first half of 1995. Windows 95 will effectively get rid of DOS, so speeding everything up. Or at least, that's the theory.

The other dark horse is Intel's plan for hardware modifications to the IBM PC standard, which of course is really just a mess of almost-but-not-quite standards. It is this mess that makes running one piece of PC hardware with another piece of PC software such a hit and miss affair. Intel and Microsoft plan to create plug and play compatibility between new PCs and Windows 95, so that everything works with everything else. This is especially important for CD-ROM games.

At the Screen Entertainment 2000, New Technology Agenda, conference in London recently, Keith Benjamin, of US analysts Roberston Stephens and Co told delegates:

"The games business is not a fad. As video games players grow up they migrate to PCs, and play games.

"I see a yuppie mass market boom, with people boasting that my drive is bigger than yours.

"The gross margins for PC games are 65%, compared to 35% for video games.

"Top of the top ten games for Christmas will be Doom II. In fact I am flying back early to the States to try and reach the next level".

Trade insiders admit that there are now so many firms producing often inadequate PC ROM games that shops will only stock them on sale-or-return basis. It is often the packaging that sells the game. When customers cannot get a game to work they ask for their money back.

Plug and Play PC Standard

Although Mac ROM games can be relied on to plug in and play, Benjamin discounts the Mac as a games platform because well under 10% of the computer population are Macs. He pins his faith in the Intel/Microsoft plan for a plug-and-play PC standard. "They will be almost idiot-proof" he predicts. "Plug and play turns the PC into something like a stereo. Until now PCs have been for Nerds and Geeks. Some time next year a normal person will find them friendly. People will no longer have to know about autoexec.bat and config.sys files".

By coincidence, Paul Maritz of Microsoft was in London on the very same day. Maritz is one of founder Bill Gates' right hand men.

Ducking any firm launch date for Windows 95 Maritz says it "will not be done until it's done". This is certainly better than launching too early, and leaving users to trap the bugs, as has happened with virtually every version of

DOS and Windows up until the current 6/3.1 pairing.

"It should have been done years ago" says Maritz of plug-and-play, perhaps overlooking the fact that it is a decade of selling PC operating systems that has made Microsoft the largest software company in the world.

One hard fact emerges, however. Users will not get the full benefits of plug-and-play simplicity until they have paired new hardware with new software. It remains to be seen whether PC users stick with what they have got, or are willing to junk it all to buy into the world of plug-and-play. It also remains to be seen whether they will buy into PC plug-and-play or switch to the Mac world. The promise of Mac clones may tip some balances. So may the compatibility bridges which Apple is now building with the DOS world.

Publicity Driving

Once the Windows and Mac operating systems are fully bridged, and the same clone makers are making PCs and Macs, purchase decisions shake down to price, performance and style. The way the companies sell themselves will carry a lot of weight, too. Intel and Microsoft are now gearing up to a publicity drive on the advantages of plug-and-play simplicity.

Perhaps we may now even see an end to Applespeak, the fogging technique by which statements with enough factual content to fill a page are stretched into a multi-page ramble of cotton wool confusion.

Apple's press release on the monumental decision to licence clone makers is typical.

"Licensing to phased approach focussing first on vendors with complementary strengths" reads the snappy headline of a press release which was sent to those who knew they could have it if they asked for it.

"Broader installed base of Macintosh platforms ... creates new opportunities for ISVs ... reach customers in geographies where Apple has limited presence ... includes initiatives regarding extending the Macintosh platform's price/performance leadership".

One thing could still change all the rules of the game. If Windows 95 is bug-ridden, and fails to deliver plug-and-play simplicity, Apple and its licensed clone-makers get a golden opportunity to pounce on a market which Intel and Microsoft will have primed with their promises and advertising.

VIDEOS ON ELECTRONICS

A range of videos designed to provide instruction on electronics theory. Each video gives a sound introduction and grounding in a specialised area of the subject. The tapes make learning both easier and more enjoyable than pure textbook or magazine study. They should prove particularly useful in schools, colleges, training departments and electronics clubs as well as to general hobbyists and those following distance learning courses etc.

VT201 to VT206 is a basic electronics course and is designed to be used as a complete series, if required.

VT201 54 minutes. Part One; D.C. Circuits. This video is an absolute must for the beginner. Series circuits, parallel circuits, Ohms law, how to use the digital multimeter and much more.

Order Code VT201

VT202 62 minutes. Part Two; A.C. Circuits. This is your next step in understanding the basics of electronics. You will learn about how coils, transformers, capacitors, etc are used in common circuits.

Order Code VT202

VT203 57 minutes. Part Three; Semiconductors. Gives you an exciting look into the world of semiconductors. With basic semiconductor theory. Plus 15 different semiconductor devices explained.

Order Code VT203

VT204 56 minutes. Part Four; Power Supplies. Guides you step-by-step through different sections of a power supply.

Order Code VT204

VT205 57 minutes. Part Five; Amplifiers. Shows you how amplifiers work as you have never seen them before. Class A, class B, class C, op.amps. etc.

Order Code VT205

VT206 54 minutes. Part Six; Oscillators. Oscillators are found in both linear and digital circuits. Gives a good basic background in oscillator circuits.

Order Code VT206

By the time you have completed VT206 you have completed the basic electronics course and should have a good understanding of the operation of basic circuit elements.

VCR MAINTENANCE

VT102 84 minutes: Introduction to VCR Repair. Warning, not for the beginner. Through the use of block diagrams this video will take you through the various circuits found in the NTSC VHS system. You will follow the signal from the input to the audio/video heads then from the heads back to the output.

Order Code VT102

VT103 35 minutes: A step-by-step easy to follow procedure for professionally cleaning the tape path and replacing many of the belts in most VHS VCR's. The viewer will also become familiar with the various parts found in the tape path.

Order Code VT103

Each video uses a mixture of animated current flow in circuits plus text, plus cartoon instruction etc., and a very full commentary to get the points across. The tapes are imported by us and originate from VCR Educational Products Co, an American supplier.
(All videos are to the UK PAL standard on VHS tapes)

Now for the digital series of six videos. This series is designed to provide a good grounding in computer technology.

VT301 54 minutes. Digital One; Gates begins with the basics as you learn about seven of the most common gates which are used in almost every digital circuit, plus Binary notation.

Order Code VT301

VT302 55 minutes. Digital Two; Flip Flops will further enhance your knowledge of digital basics. You will learn about Octal and Hexadecimal notation groups, flip-flops, counters, etc.

Order Code VT302

VT303 54 minutes. Digital Three; Registers and Displays is your next step in obtaining a solid understanding of the basic circuits found in today's digital designs. Gets into multiplexers, registers, display devices, etc.

Order Code VT303

VT304 59 minutes. Digital Four; DAC and ADC shows you how the computer is able to communicate with the real world. You will learn about digital-to-analogue and analogue-to-digital converter circuits.

Order Code VT304

VT305 56 minutes. Digital Five; Memory Devices introduces you to the technology used in many of today's memory devices. You will learn all about ROM devices and then proceed into PROM, EPROM, EEPROM, SRAM, DRAM, and MBM devices.

Order Code VT305

VT306 56 minutes. Digital Six; The CPU gives you a thorough understanding in the basics of the central processing unit and the input/output circuits used to make the system work.

Order Code VT306

By now you should have a good understanding of computer technology and what makes computers work. This series is also invaluable to the computer technician to understand the basics and thus aid troubleshooting.

VT401 61 minutes. A.M. Radio Theory. The most complete video ever produced on a.m. radio. Begins with the basics of a.m. transmission and proceeds to the five major stages of a.m. reception. Learn how the signal is detected, converted and reproduced. Also covers the Motorola C-QUAM a.m. stereo system.

Order Code VT401

VT402 58 minutes. F.M. Radio Part 1. F.M. basics including the functional blocks of a receiver. Plus r.f. amplifier, mixer oscillator, i.f. amplifier, limiter and f.m. decoder stages of a typical f.m. receiver.

Order Code VT402

VT403 58 minutes. F.M. Radio Part 2. A continuation of f.m. technology from Part 1. Begins with the detector stage output, proceeds to the 19kHz amplifier, frequency doubler, stereo demultiplexer and audio amplifier stages. Also covers RDS digital data encoding and decoding.

Order Code VT403

VT501 58 minutes. Fibre Optics. From the fundamentals of fibre optic technology through cable manufacture to connectors, transmitters and receivers.

Order Code VT501

ORDERING: Add £1 p&p per order for UK orders. **OVERSEAS ORDERS:** Add £2 postage for countries in the EEC. Overseas orders outside the EEC countries add £3 per tape airmail postage (or £5 per order surface mail postage). All payments in £ sterling only (send cheque or money order drawn on a UK bank).

Visa and Mastercard orders accepted – please give card number, card expiry date and cardholder's address if different from the delivery address.

Orders are normally sent within seven days but please allow a maximum of 28 days – longer for overseas orders.

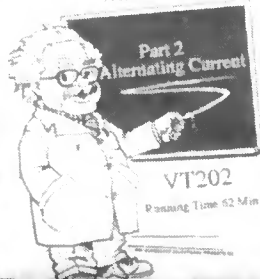
Send your order to: Direct Book Service, 33 Gravel Hill, Merley, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 1RW (Mail Order Only)

Direct Book Service is a division of Wimborne

Publishing Ltd., Publishers of *Everyday with Practical Electronics*. Tel: 01202 881749. Fax: 01202 841692

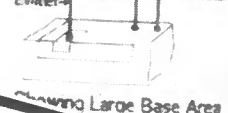
£29.95
each inc. VAT

UCANDO
VCR EDUCATIONAL PRODUCTS COMPANY
PRESENTS



PHOTOTRANSISTOR

Emitter Base Collector



ORDER EIGHT OR MORE TOGETHER – GET ONE FREE (or order 16 together and get TWO FREE)

PHOTOTRANSISTOR



Electronics from the Ground Up

Mike Tooley, BA

Part 5

ELECTRONICS from the Ground Up is designed to provide you with a comprehensive and up-to-date introduction to the world of electronics. The series is based on *Electronics Workbench*, a remarkable new software package that lets you use your PC to build and test a wide range of circuits. Back issues of earlier parts of this series are available – see *Back Issues* page.

In this fifth part we introduce operational amplifiers. These handy devices were originally designed for use in analogue computers where they provided a means of performing mathematical operations such as addition, subtraction, integration and differentiation. Today, with the advent of integrated circuits, operational amplifiers have deservedly found their way into almost every field of electronics.

OPERATIONAL AMPLIFIERS

Operational amplifiers (op.amps) can be thought of as universal "gain blocks" to which external components are added in order to define their function within a circuit. By adding two resistors, we can produce an amplifier having a precisely defined gain. Alternatively, with three resistors and two capacitors we can realise a low-pass filter. From this you might begin to suspect that operational amplifiers are really easy to use. The good news is that they are!

The symbol for an op.amp is shown in Fig. 5.1. There are a few things to note about this. The device has two inputs and one output and no common connection. Furthermore, we often don't show the supply connections – it is often clearer to leave them out of the circuit altogether!

In Fig. 5.1, one of the inputs is marked "–" and the other is marked "+". These polarity markings have nothing to do with the supply connections – they indicate the overall phase shift between each input and the output. The "+" sign indicates zero

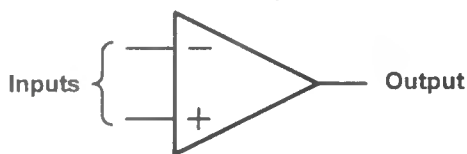
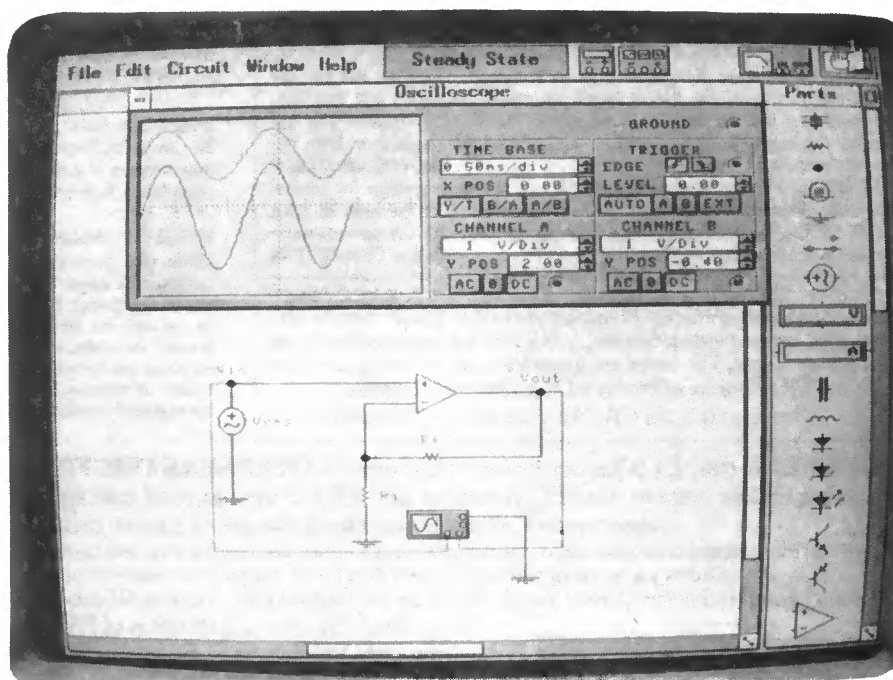


Fig. 5.1 Symbol for an op.amp.

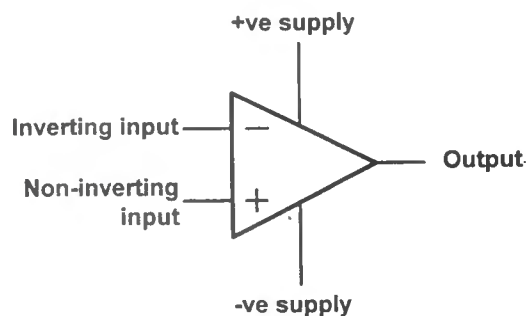


Fig. 5.2 Op.amp with supply connections.

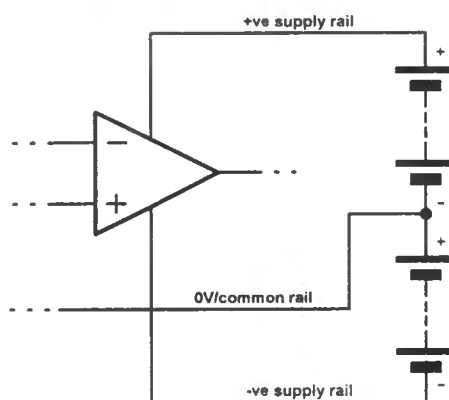


Fig. 5.3 A typical op.amp power supply arrangement.

phase shift whilst the “-” sign indicates 180° phase shift. Since 180° phase shift produces an inverted (i.e., turned upside down) waveform, the “-” input is often referred to as the “inverting input”. Similarly, the “+” input is known as the “non-inverting” input.

Fig. 5.2 shows how the supply connections would appear if we decided to include them. Note that we usually have two separate supplies: a positive supply and an equal, but opposite, negative supply. The common connection to these two supplies (i.e., the 0V rail) acts as the common rail in our circuit. The input and output voltages are usually measured relative to this rail. Fig. 5.3 shows how the supplies are connected.

Terminology

Before we take a look at some of the characteristics of “ideal” and “real” op.amps it is worth introducing some of the terms that we apply to these devices:

- (a) **Open-loop voltage gain.** This is the ratio of output voltage to input voltage measured with no feedback applied. Open-loop voltage gain may thus be thought of as the “internal” voltage gain of the device. In practice, this value is exceptionally high (typically greater than 100,000) but is liable to considerable variation from one device to another.
- (b) **Closed-loop voltage gain.** This is the ratio of output voltage to input voltage measured with a small proportion of the output fed back to the input (i.e., with feedback applied). The effect of providing negative feedback is to reduce the loop voltage gain to a value which is both predictable and manageable. Practical closed-loop voltage gains range from one to several thousand but note that high values of voltage gain may put unacceptable restrictions on bandwidth, see later.
- (c) **Input resistance.** This is the ratio of input voltage to input current expressed in ohms. It is often expedient to assume that the input of an op.amp is purely resistive though this is not the case at high frequencies where shunt capacitive reactance may become significant. The input resistance of op.amps is very much dependent on the semiconductor technology employed. In practice values range from about 2MΩ for common bipolar types to over 10¹²Ω for FET and CMOS devices.
- (d) **Output resistance.** This is the ratio of open-circuit output voltage to short-circuit output current expressed in ohms. Typical values of output resistance range from less than 10Ω to around 100Ω depending upon the configuration and amount of feedback employed.
- (e) **Input offset voltage.** An ideal op.amp would provide zero output voltage when 0V is applied to its input. In practice, due to imperfect internal balance, there may be some small voltage present at the output. The voltage that must be applied differentially to the op.amp input in order to make the output voltage exactly zero is known as the input offset voltage. Offset voltage may be minimized by applying relatively large amounts of negative feedback or by using the

Table 5.1 Characteristics of ideal and real op.amps

	Ideal	Real
Voltage gain	Infinite	100,000
Input resistance	Infinite	100MΩ
Output resistance	Zero	20Ω
Bandwidth	Infinite	2MHz

“offset null” facility provided by a number of op.amp devices. Typical values of input offset voltage range from 1mV to 15mV. Where a.c., rather than d.c., coupling is employed, offset voltage is not normally a problem and can be happily ignored.

- (f) **Full-power bandwidth.** This is equivalent to the frequency at which the maximum undistorted peak output voltage swing falls to 0.707 of its low frequency (d.c.) value (the sinusoidal input voltage remaining constant). Typical full-power bandwidths range from 10kHz to over 1MHz for some high-speed devices.
- (g) **Slew rate.** This is the rate of change of output voltage with time, when a rectangular step input voltage is applied. Slew rate is measured in V/s (or V/μs) and typical values range from 0.2V/μs to over 20V/μs. Slew rate imposes a limitation on circuits in which large amplitude pulses rather than small amplitude sinusoidal signals are likely to be encountered.
- (h) **Common-mode rejection ratio.** This is the ratio of differential voltage gain to common-mode voltage gain. Common-mode rejection ratio is thus a measure of an op.amp’s ability to ignore signals simultaneously present on both inputs (i.e., “common-mode” signals) in preference to signals applied differentially. Common-mode rejection ratio is usually specified in decibels and typical values range from 80dB to 110dB.

OP.AMP CHARACTERISTICS

The desirable characteristics for an op.amp are summarized as follows:

- (a) The open-loop voltage gain should be very high (ideally infinite).
- (b) The input resistance should be very high (ideally infinite).
- (c) The output resistance should be very low (ideally zero).
- (d) Full-power bandwidth should be as wide as possible.
- (e) Slew-rate should be as large as possible.
- (f) Input offset should be as small as possible.
- (g) Common-mode rejection ratio should be as large as possible.

Table 5.3 Characteristics of the op.amp circuits shown in Fig. 5.5, Fig. 5.6 and Fig. 5.7.

	Input resistance	Voltage gain	Phase shift
Inverting amplifier (Fig. 5.5)	R ₁	R ₂ /R ₁	180°
Non-inverting amplifier (Fig. 5.6)	$R_{in} \times \frac{A_{OL}}{1 + (R_2/R_1)}$	1 + (R ₂ /R ₁)	0°
Differential amplifier (Fig. 5.7)	2R ₁	R ₂ /R ₁	180°

*Where R_{in} is the input resistance of the op.amp, and A_{OL} is the open loop voltage gain.

The characteristics of modern i.c. op.amps come very close to those of an “ideal” op.amp, as Table 5.1 will testify.

GAIN AND BANDWIDTH

It is important to note that, since the product of gain and bandwidth is a constant for any particular device, an increase in gain can only be achieved at the expense of bandwidth. Fig. 5.4 shows the relationship between voltage gain and bandwidth for a typical op.amp (note that axes use logarithmic, rather than linear scales). Typical voltage gains and corresponding bandwidths for an op.amp are shown in Table 5.2.

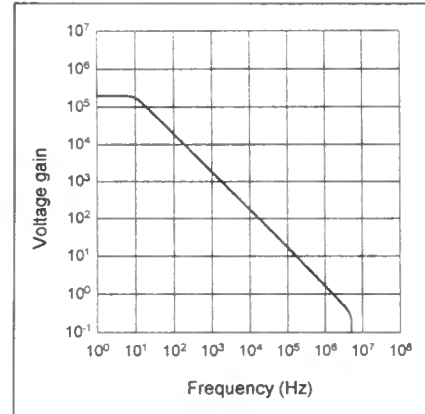


Fig. 5.4 Gain plotted against bandwidth for a typical op.amp.

Table 5.2 Table showing the relationship between voltage gain and bandwidth

Voltage gain	Bandwidth
1	d.c. to 2MHz
10	d.c. to 200kHz
100	d.c. to 20kHz
1000	d.c. to 2kHz

OP.AMP CIRCUIT CONFIGURATIONS

The three basic configurations for operational voltage amplifiers are shown in Figs. 5.5, 5.6 and 5.7. Supply rails have been omitted from these diagrams for clarity but are assumed to be symmetrical about 0V, as in Fig. 5.3. All three of these basic arrangements are d.c. coupled and their characteristics are summarised in Table 5.3.

Practical assignment 5.1: Op.amp configurations

In this practical assignment you will investigate the three different circuit configurations used for op.amps (i.e., inverting amplifier, non-inverting amplifier, and differential amplifier).

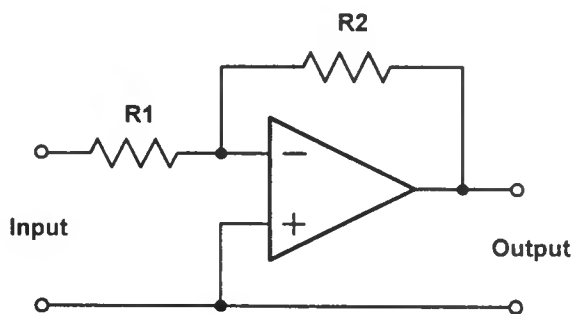


Fig. 5.5 Basic inverting amplifier circuit.

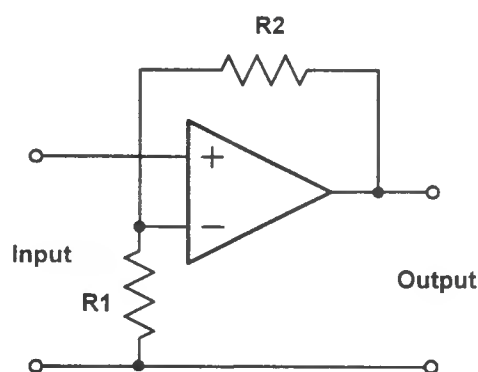


Fig. 5.6 Basic non-inverting amplifier circuit.

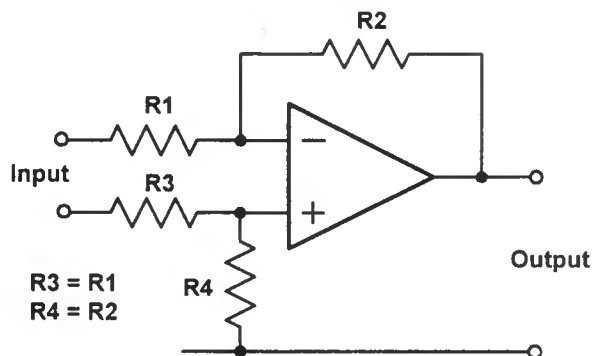


Fig. 5.7 Basic differential amplifier circuit.

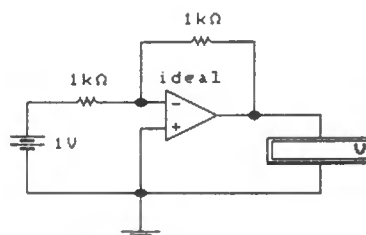


Fig. 5.8 Inverting amplifier circuit (Assignment 5.1).

Table 5.4 Measured values for the inverting amplifier with $R_F = 1k\Omega$.

V_{IN} (V)	1	-1	2	-2	3	-3	4	-4
V_{OUT} (V)								

Table 5.5 Measured values for the inverting amplifier with $R_F = 2k\Omega$.

V_{IN} (V)	1	-1	2	-2	3	-3	4	-4
V_{OUT} (V)								

Objectives:

- 5.1.1 To investigate the behaviour of inverting, non-inverting and differential amplifier stages.
- 5.1.2 To determine the voltage gain of an op.amp stage and to relate this to the component values used.

Instructions:

(a) Inverting amplifier

1. Connect the inverting amplifier circuit shown in Fig. 5.8. Check that the values of input and feedback resistor are both $1k\Omega$ and that the input voltage (from the battery) is 1V.

2. Switch on the power to your circuit and measure the output voltage produced. Note this down in Table 5.4.
3. Reverse the battery connections and again measure the output voltage produced. Note this down in Table 5.4.
4. Repeat steps 1 to 3 using input voltages of 2V, 3V, and 4V. Once again, record the output voltages in Table 5.4.
5. Next, increase the value of feedback resistor to $2k\Omega$.
6. Repeat stages 1 to 4, recording values in Table 5.5.
7. Use the results from Tables 5.4 and 5.5

to plot two graphs showing V_{OUT} plotted against V_{IN} for input voltages over the range $-4V$ to $+4V$. One graph will be for $R_F = 1k\Omega$ whilst the other will be for $R_F = 2k\Omega$ (see Figs. 5.9 and 5.10).

8. Finally, return to the circuit of Fig. 5.8 with $V_{IN} = 1V$. Choose a value for R_F that will produce an output voltage of 10V (i.e., a voltage gain of exactly 10). Check that the circuit works and note down the value of R_F used.

(b) Non-inverting amplifier

1. Connect the non-inverting amplifier circuit shown in Fig. 5.11. Check that the

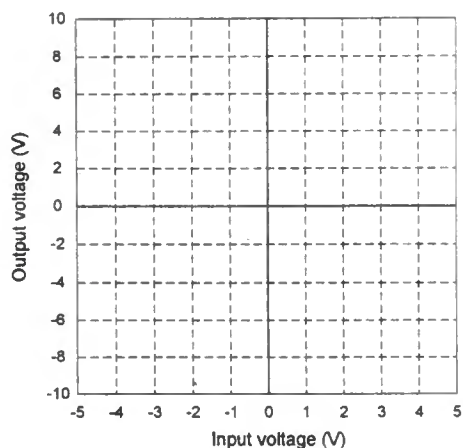


Fig. 5.9 Output voltage plotted against input voltage for the inverting amplifier $R_F = 1k\Omega$.

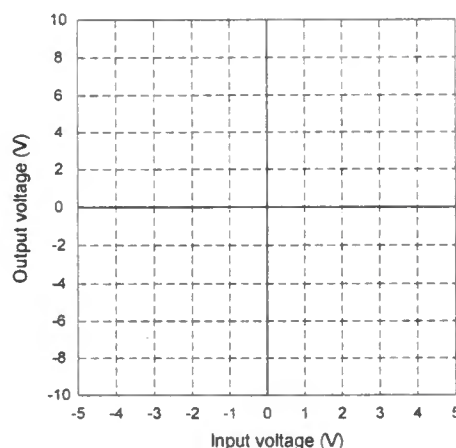


Fig. 5.10 Output voltage plotted against input voltage for the inverting amplifier $R_F = 2k\Omega$.

Table 5.6 Measured values for the non-inverting amplifier with $R_F = 1k\Omega$.

V_{IN} (V)	1	-1	2	-2	3	-3	4	-4
V_{OUT} (V)								

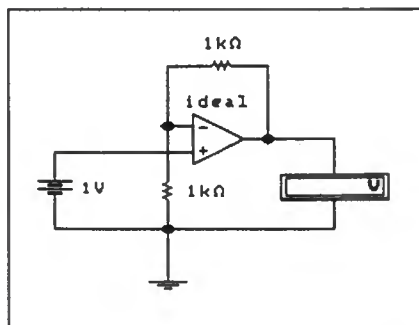


Fig. 5.11 Non-inverting amplifier circuit (Assignment 5.1).

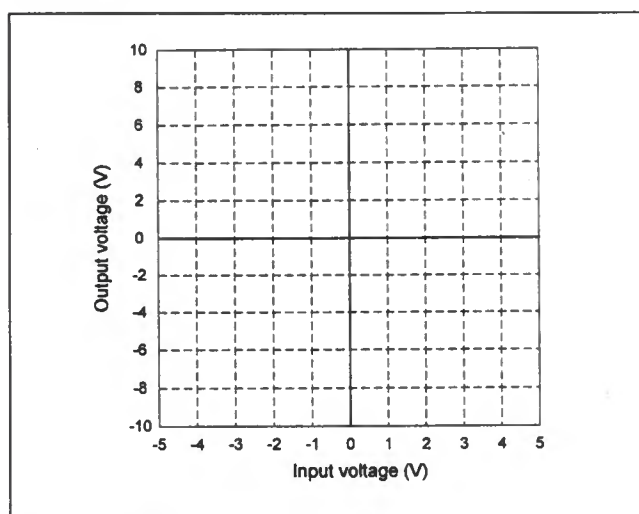


Fig. 5.12 Output voltage plotted against input voltage for the non-inverting amplifier ($R_F = 1k\Omega$).

Table 5.7 Measured values for the non-inverting amplifier with $R_F = 2k\Omega$.

V_{IN} (V)	1	-1	2	-2	3	-3	4	-4
V_{OUT} (V)								

- Repeat stages 1 to 4, recording the values in Table 5.7.
- Use the results from Tables 5.6 and 5.7 to plot two graphs showing V_{OUT} plotted against V_{IN} for input voltages over the range $-4V$ to $+4V$. One graph will be for $R_F = 1k\Omega$ whilst the other will be for $R_F = 2k\Omega$ (see Figs. 5.12 and 5.13).
- Finally, return to the circuit of Fig. 5.11 with $V_{IN} = 1V$. Choose a value for R_F that will produce an output voltage of $10V$ (i.e., a voltage gain of exactly 10). Check that the circuit works and note down the value of R_F used.

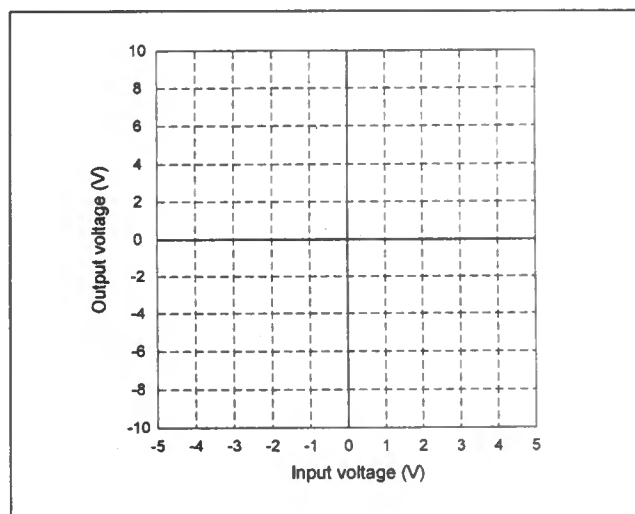


Fig. 5.13 Output voltage plotted against input voltage for the non-inverting amplifier ($R_F = 2k\Omega$).

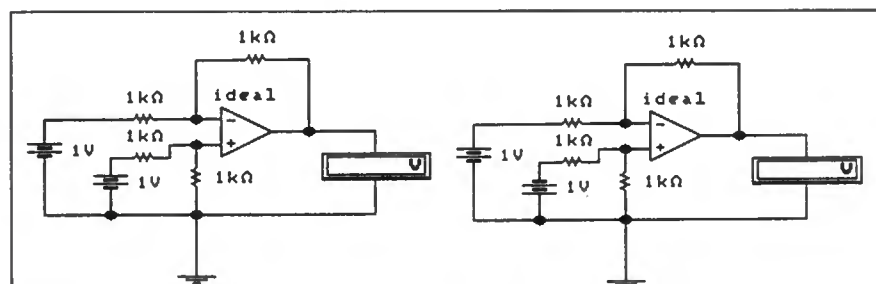


Fig. 5.14 Differential amplifier circuit (Assignment 5.1).

Fig. 5.15 Differential amplifier circuit (Assignment 5.1).

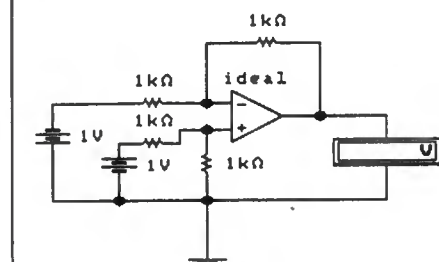


Fig. 5.16 Differential amplifier circuit (Assignment 5.1).

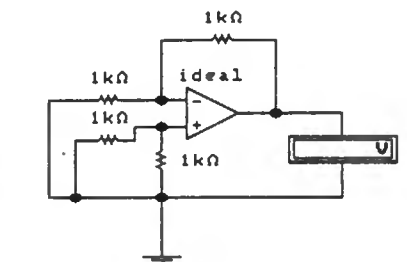


Fig. 5.17 Differential amplifier circuit (Assignment 5.1).

(c) Differential amplifier

- Connect the differential amplifier circuit shown in Fig. 5.14. Check that all resistors are $1k\Omega$ and that the batteries are connected in a sense that will produce an input of $+1V$ at both the inverting and non-inverting inputs.
- Switch on the power to your circuit and measure the output voltage produced. Note this down in Table 5.8.
- Reverse one of the battery connections as shown in Fig. 5.15. This connection produces an inverting input of $+1V$ and a non-inverting input of $-1V$. Once again, record the output voltage in Table 5.8.
- Now reverse the battery connections as shown in Fig. 5.16. This connection produces an inverting input of $-1V$ and a non-inverting input of $+1V$. Once again, record the output voltage in Table 5.8.
- Finally, remove both batteries and connect both inputs to common ($0V$) as shown in Fig. 5.17. Record the output voltage in this condition.

Conclusions:

To what extent have the objectives for this assignment been met? Comment on the shape of the graphs showing output voltage plotted against input voltage for

Table 5.8 Measured values for the differential amplifier (all resistors = 1k Ω).

Fig. no.	5.14	5.15	5.17	5.17
Inverting input voltage (V)	+1	+1	-1	0
Non-inverting input voltage (V)	+1	-1	+1	0
V _{OUT} (V)				

both the inverting and non-inverting circuits. What do you notice that is different about them? Does the measured voltage gain (i.e., the ratio of V_{OUT} to V_{IN}) agree with the calculated values (based on the formulae in Table 5.3). Can you suggest an application for the differential circuit?

IMPROVING SYMMETRY

To preserve symmetry and minimize offset voltage, a third resistor (R3) is often included in series with the non-inverting input (see Fig. 5.18). The value of this resistor should be equivalent to the parallel combination of R1 and R2. Hence:

$$R3 = \frac{R1 \times R2}{R1 + R2}$$

A number of op.amps provide a means of precisely balancing the differential input stage by means of an external potentiometer (see Fig. 5.19).

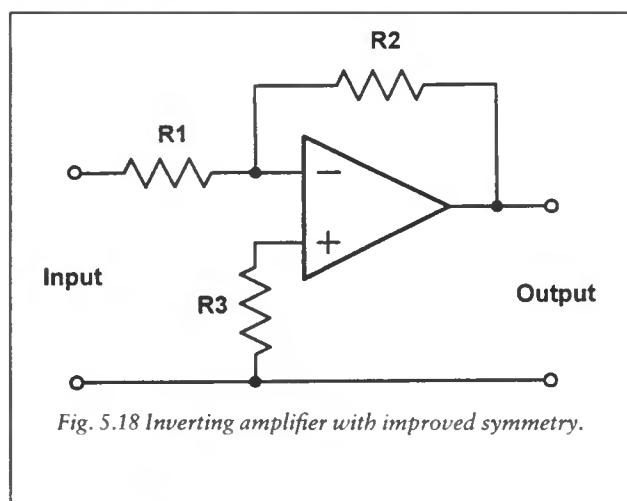


Fig. 5.18 Inverting amplifier with improved symmetry.

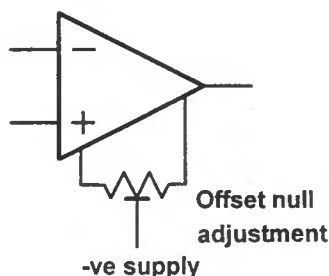


Fig. 5.19 Offset null adjustment.

FREQUENCY RESPONSE

All of the amplifier circuits described previously have used direct coupling and thus have frequency response characteristics

which extend to d.c. This, of course, is undesirable for many applications, particularly where a wanted a.c. signal may be superimposed on an unwanted d.c. voltage level. In such cases a capacitor of appropriate value may be inserted in series with the input, as shown in Fig. 5.20. The value of this capacitor should be chosen so that its reactance is very much smaller than the input resistance at the lower applied input frequency. The effect of the capacitor on an amplifier's frequency response is shown in Fig. 5.21.

We can also use a capacitor to restrict the upper frequency response of an amplifier. This time, the capacitor is connected as part of the feedback path. Indeed, by selecting appropriate values of capacitor, the frequency response of an inverting operational voltage amplifier may

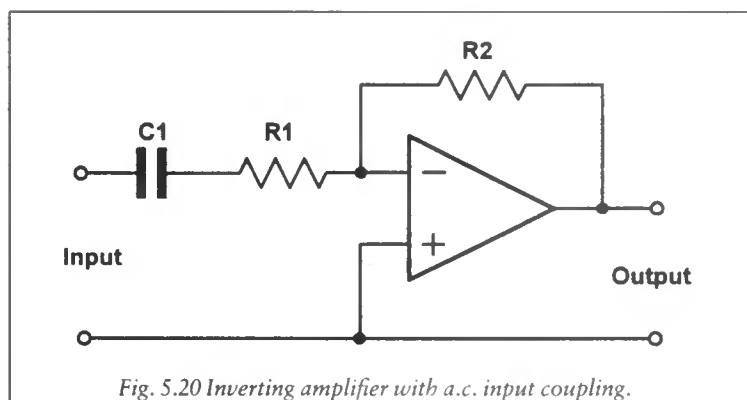


Fig. 5.20 Inverting amplifier with a.c. input coupling.

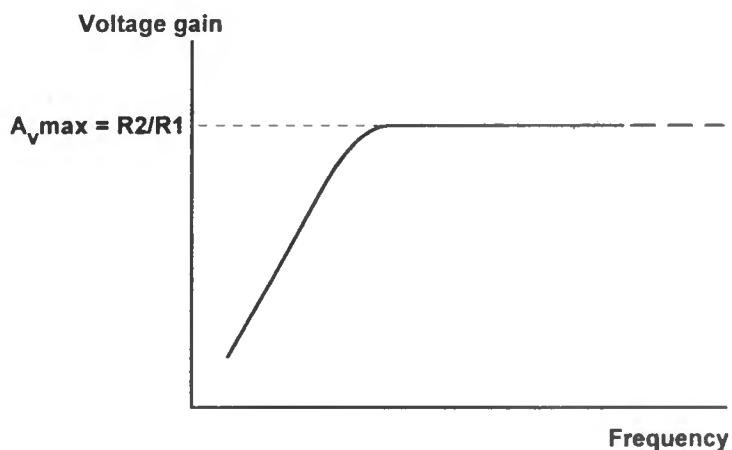


Fig. 5.21 Effect of C1 on the frequency response of the circuit shown in Fig. 5.20.

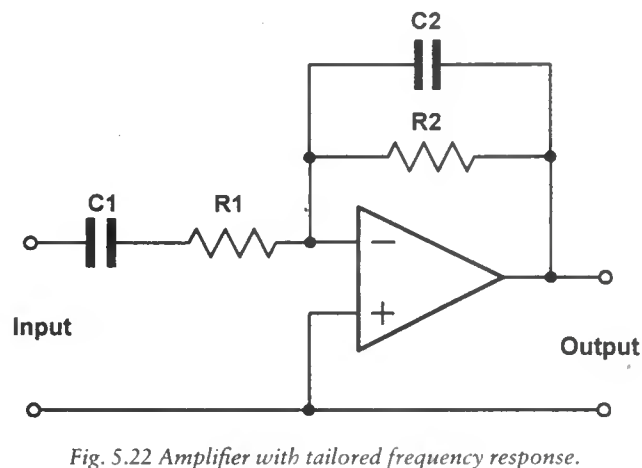


Fig. 5.22 Amplifier with tailored frequency response.

be very easily tailored to suit individual requirements (see Figs. 5.22 and 5.23). The lower cut-off frequency is determined by the value of the input capacitance, C1, and input resistance, R1. The lower cut-off frequency is given by:

$$f_1 = \frac{1}{2\pi C1 R1} = \frac{0.159}{C1 R1} \text{ Hz}$$

where C1 is in farads and R1 is in ohms.

Provided the upper frequency response is not limited by the gain \times bandwidth product, the upper cut-off frequency will be determined by the feedback capacitance, C2, and feedback resistance, R2, such that:

$$f_2 = \frac{1}{2\pi C2 R2} = \frac{0.159}{C2 R2} \text{ Hz}$$

where C2 is in farads and R2 is in ohms.

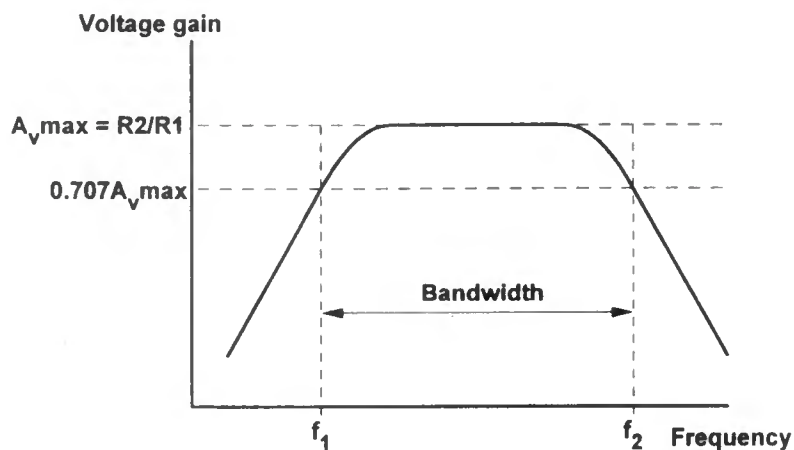


Fig. 5.23 Frequency response of the circuit shown in Fig. 5.22.

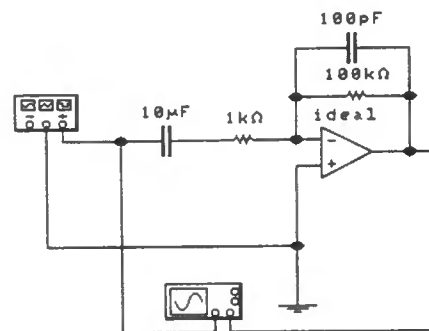


Fig. 5.24 Circuit for Assignment 5.2.

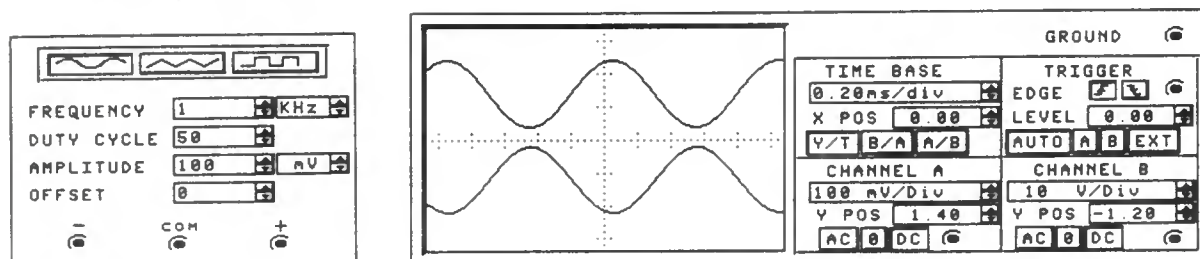


Fig. 5.25 Waveform generator and oscilloscope settings for Assignment 5.2.

Practical assignment 5.2:

Amplifier with tailored frequency response

In this practical assignment you will construct and test an amplifier in which the gain and frequency response can be accurately predicted by appropriate choice of component values.

Objectives:

- 5.2.1 To show how an op.amp can be used in a practical audio frequency amplifier.
- 5.2.2 To measure the voltage gain, phase change, and frequency response of an amplifier stage.

Instructions:

1. Connect the circuit shown in Fig. 5.24 with $C_1 = 10\mu\text{F}$, $R_1 = 1\text{k}\Omega$, $C_2 = 100\text{pF}$, and $R_2 = 100\text{k}\Omega$.
2. Switch on the power to your circuit and adjust the function generator and oscilloscope controls as shown in Fig. 5.25.
3. Use the oscilloscope to measure and record the peak-peak input and output voltages and record the results in Table 5.9a.
4. Modify the circuit so that $C_1 = 1\mu\text{F}$ and $C_2 = 1\text{nF}$ and repeat steps 2 and 3. Once again, record your results in Table 5.9b.
5. Plot frequency response graphs (i.e., voltage gain plotted against frequency) for the two sets of values (you should use log-lin graph paper for this). Use the graphs to determine the mid-band voltage gain, upper and lower cut-off frequencies, and bandwidth.
6. Finally, observe the input and output waveforms at mid-band and hence determine the phase shift at mid-band.

Table 5.9. Measured values for Assignment 5.2.

(a) $C_1 = 10\mu\text{F}$, $R_1 = 1\text{k}\Omega$, $C_2 = 100\text{pF}$, $R_2 = 100\text{k}\Omega$

Frequency (Hz)	2	4	10	20	40	100	200	400	1k	2k	4k	10k	20k	40k
Input voltage (V pk-pk)														
Output voltage (V pk-pk)														
Voltage gain														

(b) $C_1 = 1\mu\text{F}$, $R_1 = 1\text{k}\Omega$, $C_2 = 1\text{nF}$, $R_2 = 100\text{k}\Omega$

Frequency (Hz)	10	20	40	100	200	400	1k	2k	4k	10k	20k
Input voltage (V pk-pk)											
Output voltage (V pk-pk)											
Voltage gain											

Conclusions:

To what extent have the objectives for this assignment been met? Compare the measured values (voltage gain, upper and lower cut-off frequencies) with the calculated performance using each set of component values. Do the values agree? If not, why not? Comment on the shape of the frequency response graph. Is it what you would expect? Comment on the phase shift. Is it what you would expect?

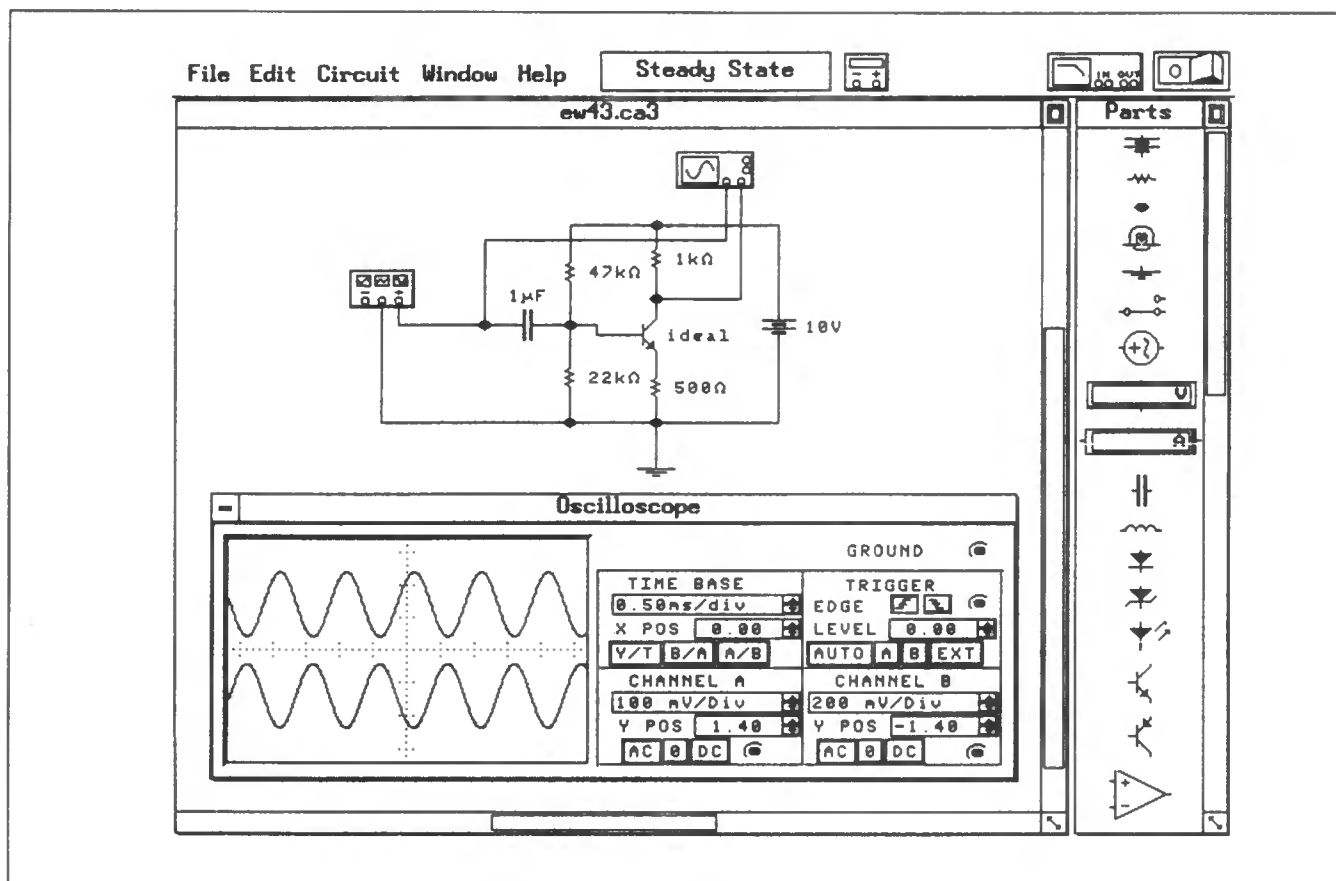


Fig. 5.26 Solution to last month's Brain Teaser.

BRAIN TEASER

This month's challenge for those of you who are using the full *Electronics Workbench* package is to design a circuit based on a single op.amp that will perform according to the following specification:

Voltage gain: 20

Frequency response: d.c. to 10kHz

Input resistance: 10kΩ

Phase-shift (mid-band): 180°

Test your solution using *Electronics Workbench*.

Answer to last month's Brain Teaser

Last month's Brain Teaser involved the design of an a.c. coupled class-A common emitter amplifier with the following specifications:

Voltage gain = 2

Overall phase shift = 180°

Supply voltage = 10V

Fig. 5.26 shows one solution arrived at using the full version of *Electronics Workbench*.

CORRECTION

In *Electronics from the Ground Up* Part 2, page 865, answer Q1(b) should read 3W, and answer Q5 should read (a) 16-62kΩ (b) 90kΩ.

OMNI ELECTRONICS

174 Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh EH16 5DX ★ 031 667 2611

The supplier to use if you're looking for:-

A WIDE RANGE OF
★ COMPONENTS AIMED AT THE ★
HOBBYIST

★ COMPETITIVE VAT INCLUSIVE ★
PRICES

★ MAIL ORDER – generally by ★
RETURN OF POST

★ FRIENDLY SERVICE ★

OPEN:

Monday-Thursday 9.15 - 6.00

Friday 9.15-5.00

Saturday 9.30-5.00



Tavistock electronics

We can supply the following items for this month's 12V 35W. Public Address Amplifier Project.

Printed Circuit Board ... £12.25

Driver Transformer £5.55

Output Transformer £12.55

All prices include VAT and postage.
Cheque or Postal Order only.

Tavistock Electronics, Unit 8, Crelake Industrial Estate, Pixon Lane, Tavistock, Devon PL19 9AZ. Telephone: 0822 617289

BTEC
Certified



TUTOR
Supported

N A T I O N A L
C O L L E G E O F
T E C H N O L O G Y

DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES

The National College of Technology offer a range of packaged learning short courses for study at home or in an industrial training environment which carry modular BTEC awards leading to a higher BTEC certificate. Study can commence at any time and at any level enabling you to create a study routine to fit around existing commitments. Courses on offer include:

Analogue Electronics
Digital Electronics
Fibre/Optoelectronics
Mechanics & Mechanisms
Programmable Logic Controllers
Electronic Testing & Fault Diagnosis

Tutor support and BTEC certification are available as options with no travelling or college attendance required. These very popular courses which are ideal for vocational training contain workbooks, audio cassette lecturettes, PCB's, instruments, tools, components and leads as necessary to support the theoretical and practical training. Whether you are a newcomer to electronics or have some experience and simply need an update or certification, there is probably a distance learning course ready for you. Write or telephone for details to:

National College of Technology
NCT Ltd., PO Box 11
Wendover, Bucks
Tel: (0296) 624270

revised
edition

TRANSMITTERS

AT LAST. A comprehensive, easy to follow guide to building short range transmitters and surveillance devices. Packed with useful information and circuits.

★ Only **£3.95** inc p&p.

(Some of the circuits included cannot be used legally in the UK)

RADIO KITS

All kits come with pre-drilled PCBs and high spec. components.

- MICRO FM TRANSMITTER (a).** 1km range, 80-100MHz preset inc. mic., very small (2.3cm) **£6.95**
MICRO FM TRANSMITTER (b). Variable mic. sens., tunable 90-110MHz. 1km range **£7.95**
FM TRACKER. Transmits an audio tone for direction finding, tracking etc. 80-110MHz **£8.50**
ULTRA MINIATURE FM TRANSMITTER. Runs off watch battery (inc), only 1x2cm, 200mtrs range. 80-100MHz **£8.95**
FM RECEIVER (a). Tiny high quality FM radio. Will drive headphones direct (not inc) **£10.90**
FM RECEIVER (b). As (a) but with 3 watt audio output and tuning LED **£13.50**
CRYSTAL RADIO. Includes tuner, earphone, ferrite aerial, etc. **£7.50**
AM RADIO. Single chip radio for headphones (not inc.) **£8.90**

AUDIO KITS

- AUDIO POWER AMPS**
15 WATT General purpose upgrade **£8.95**
40 WATT High quality, HD 0.003%, switch on mute ideal for compact disc **£15.50**
150 WATT Rugged and powerful MOSFET design. PA/sound systems **£22.95**

PREAMPS ETC

- GENERAL PURPOSE PREAMP.** Variable gain 9-25V 40mV max in **£4.00**
ULTRA LOW NOISE. For high quality mixers, mics etc 9-25V **£4.50**
ACTIVE TONE. 12dB c/b bass and treble with variable gain **£8.95**
7 BAND EQ. 150Hz-18kHz for EQ units and tone control, includes on-board preamp and pots. Variable gain **£12.95**
NOISE GATE. Dynamic noise reduction system. Variable input and cut off level. Will accept instruments, tape decks etc **£15.95**
MUSIC KITS. Full range of on-board units for guitars and other instruments. Tone boosters, active circuits, delay lines, transducers. Send for list.

Prices include P&P. **Mail Order Only.** Make cheques and postal orders payable to:

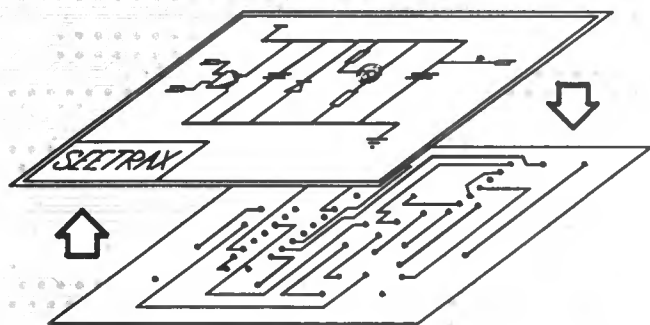
JCG

PO Box HP79, Woodhouse Street, Leeds LS6 3XN

SEETRAX CAE - RANGER - PCB DESIGN

Ranger1 £100

- * Schematic capture linked to PCB
- * Parts and wiring list entry
- * Outline (footprint) library editor
- * Manual board layout
- * Full design rule checker
- * Back annotation (linked to schematic)
- * Power, m and signal autorouter - £50



Ranger2 £599

- All the features of Ranger1 plus**
- * Gate & pin swapping (linked to schematic)
 - * Track highlighting
 - * Auto track necking
 - * Copper flood fill
 - * Power planes (heat-relief & anti-pads)
 - * Rip-up & retry autorouter

Ranger3 £3500

- All the features of Ranger2 plus**
- * UNIX or DOS versions
 - * 1 Micron resolution and angles to 1/10th degree
 - * Hierarchical or flat schematic
 - * Unlimited design size
 - * Any-shaped pad
 - * Split power planes
 - * Optional on-line DRC
 - * 100% rip-up & retry, push & shove autorouter

Outputs to:

- * 8/9 and 24 pin dot-matrix printers
- * HP Desk/Laser Jet, Canon BJet, Postscript (R3 only)
- * HP-GL, Houston Instruments plotters
- * Gerber photoplotters
- * NC Drill Excellon, Sieb & Meyer
- * AutoCAD DXF

All systems upward compatible. Trade-in deals available.

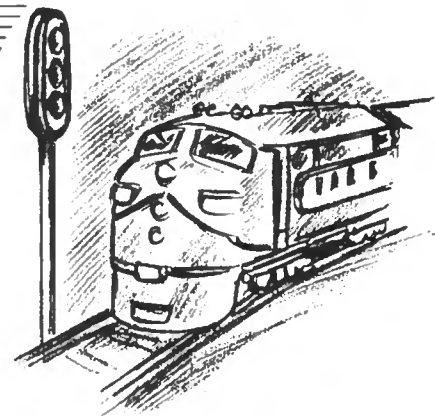
Call **Seetrax CAE** for further information/demo packs.
Tel 0705 591037 Fax 0705 599036

Seetrax CAE, Hinton Daubnay House, Broadway Lane,
Lovedean, Hampshire, PO8 0SG

All trademarks acknowledged.

MODEL RAILWAY SIGNALS

GRAHAM LONG



Boolean logic and BR know-how combine to create enhanced model railway signalling reality.

As a technology teacher with a wood and metal-working background, the author had found that the National Curriculum demands for electronics and computer control had caused him some concern.

However, inspired by the 2-Aspect signals design published in *EPE* September 1992 (*Model Railway Automatic Signal* by Stuart Dando), he had the idea of using a model railway as an area on which to base projects for his classes. This seemed to provide many types of control problem suitable for both electronic and computer control, as well as being an area for links with the world of work.

When a group of pupils displayed at an open evening the *EPE* 2-Aspect signals they had built, the interest shown by parents and pupils encouraged him to think further.

HELPFUL BR

Letters from the author published in *EPE* and elsewhere requesting further information produced many useful replies. In particular, *EPE* reader Graham Knott, who is both a British Rail man and a railway modeller, was able to give advice through "having done it". Thanks to him, and through a secondment period with BR, the author gained an understanding of railway signalling procedures and some ideas about the type of circuit needed.

The circuit described here has been designed to be used as a single module board which can work either as an independent 2-Aspect (red and green) signal or, with three or more identically-assembled printed circuit boards (p.c.b.s), as an integrated 3-Aspect signalling system controlling red, yellow and green lights. The design allows flexibility for alternative connections.

Train detection is made via reed switches. By connecting capacitors across the switches and using screened cables for all the connections away from the circuit board, all false-signal problems were eliminated from the prototype circuit. The circuit can probably also be used with infra-red or other opto-sensors, or with manual switches.

If an older engine is being used and is causing problems with excessive stray radiated signals, a new suppressing

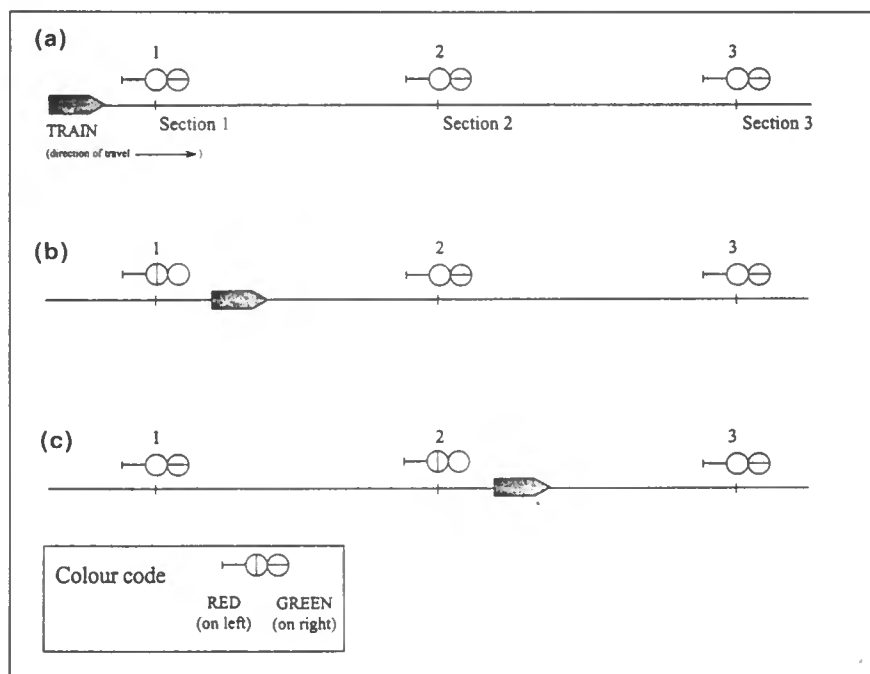


Fig. 1. 2-Aspect railway signal logic diagram.

capacitor of, say, 470 picofarads (470p) across the motor may help.

SIGNALLING

Keen railway modellers will find this circuit useful for automating signalling on a large model electric railway system, but it is also ideal for use with a "dining room" table layout. An additional suggested circuit design is included to allow small filament bulbs to be powered, which should allow shop-bought model railway signals to be controlled by the circuit.

How the 2-Aspect signal works on an example model railway layout is shown in Fig. 1. This signal could be used on a quiet line, or perhaps on a siding. The control system illustrated in the schematic is: (a) the train has not entered Section 1 so the signals are all set at green; (b) the train moves into Section 1 and Signal 1 changes to red; (c) the train moves to Section 2, so Signal 2 changes to red and Signal 1 changes back to green as Section 1 is now clear.

The 3-Aspect signal, whose operational system diagram is shown in Fig. 2, could be used for a main line, most suitably with a circular layout. It could also be used on a straight backwards and forwards line with modification to the switching devices. The logic has four stages: (a) the train has not reached Section 1 so all signals show green; (b) the train enters Section 1 and Signal 1 changes to red; (c) the train enters Section 2, Signal 2 changes to red, Signal 1 changes to yellow, this warns that the next signal is red, so prepare to stop; (d) the train enters Section 3, Signal 3 changes to red, Signal 2 changes to yellow, signal 1 changes to green, therefore a train approaching Section 1 has two full sections of clear track in front of it.

2-ASPECT SIGNAL

The circuit diagram for the 2-Aspect signal controller is shown in Fig. 3. It uses two NAND gates, IC1a and IC1b, configured as a multivibrator, or flip-flop.

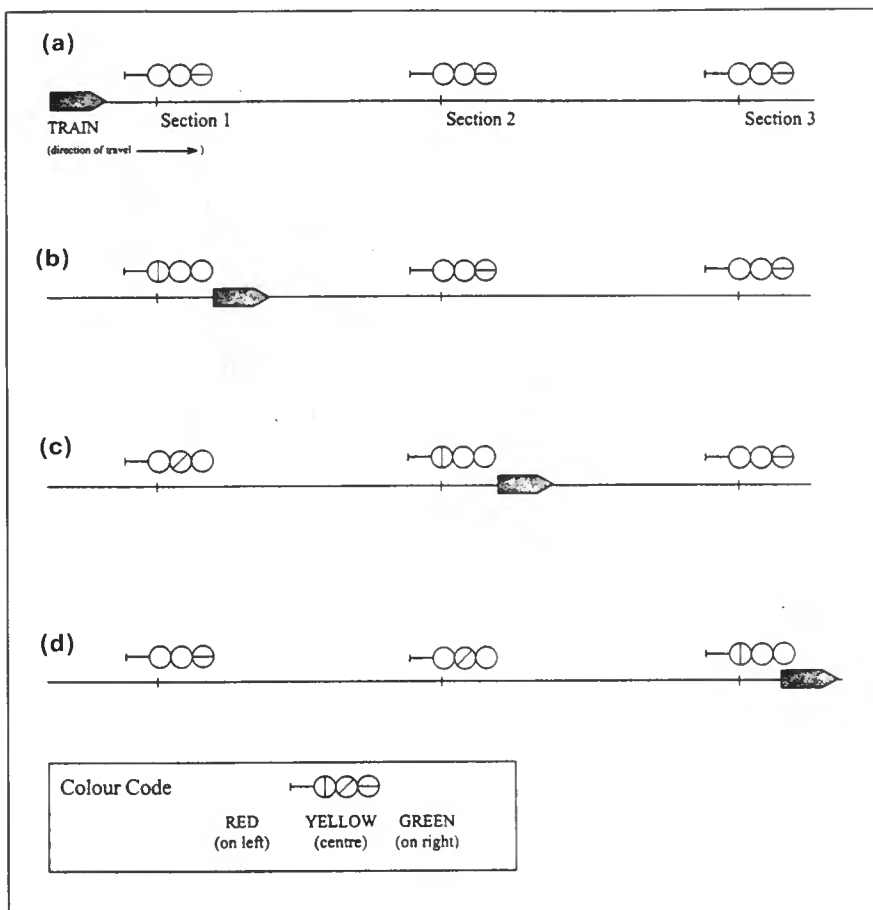


Fig. 2. 3-Aspect railway signal logic diagram.

If reed switch S1 is operated (i.e., closed), the input at NAND gate IC1b pin 4 will be taken to 0V. This will result in a logic 1 at the gate's output pin 6. This output is fed to the input at NAND gate IC1a pin 2.

When reed switch S2 is open, the input at IC1a pin is held high (logic 1) by resistor R2. Consequently, the output of this gate, pin 3, will be at 0V (logic 0).

The latter output is fed to input pin 5 of the first gate IC1b. Thus, even when switch S1 is released, there is still a logic 0 on this input, and so the gate maintains a logic 1 output level. Any further operation of switch S1 has no effect. When switch S2 is operated, a similar action takes place and both outputs, IC1a pin 3 and IC1b pin 6, change their logic states.

Resistors R1 and R2, respectively, are included to hold high the switched inputs of gates IC1a and IC1b and prevent them from "floating" (unconnected to either of

the power supply lines) when switches S1 and S2 are open.

Each of the gate outputs, IC1a pin 3 and IC1b pin 6, controls its own light emitting diode (l.e.d.), D1 and D2. The respective l.e.d. will be turned on when the output of the controlling gate is at logic 1.

Resistor R3 is used as a common current limiter for both l.e.d.s.

3-ASPECT SIGNAL

The 3-Aspect signal controller is basically an extension to the circuit for the 2-Aspect unit, taking its control signal from the output of the flip-flop at IC1b pin 6. Thus each signal derived from one reed switch (S1 or S2) is held until the next

switch is operated (S2 or S1 as appropriate). The practical circuit implementation is shown in Fig. 4.

If there is a train in the corresponding track section controlled by the circuit, IC1a pin 3 (Fig. 3) will be at logic 1 and IC1b pin 6 will be at logic 0. The latter output level is inverted by IC1c in Fig. 4 and, from IC1c pin 11, controls D3, the red l.e.d. So in this instance the 2-Aspect signal shown in Fig. 3 will be set to red.

IC1b pin 6 is also taken to NAND gates IC2a (input pin 1) and IC2b (input pin 4). The output from IC2a pin 3 is inverted by IC2c and controls D4, the yellow l.e.d. Similarly, the output from IC2b is inverted by IC1d and controls D5, the green l.e.d.

The outputs from IC2a pin 3 and IC2b pin 6 are also fed to the NAND gate IC2d. This gate is actually used as though it were an OR gate and it detects if either yellow l.e.d. D4 or green l.e.d. D5 is turned on. The circuit is arranged so that if the red l.e.d., D3, is on, then D4 and D5, the yellow and green l.e.d.s, are turned off.

FORWARD LOGIC

However, the signals for this track section can only have a green light showing if the next track section's signals, controlled by an identical circuit, are not on red. Therefore a logic level is taken from the next track section's IC2d pin 8 and fed back to NAND gate IC2b pin 5 of this section which we are currently discussing.

Only if IC2d pin 8 of the next section and the output of flip-flop IC1b pin 6 (Fig. 3) are both at logic 1 can green l.e.d. D5 be turned on via IC2b and IC1d. In this instance, the logic 0 level output from IC2b pin 6 also holds IC2a pin 2 at logic 0. Consequently, IC2a output pin 3 will be at logic 1 and so IC2c output pin 11 will be at logic 0, thus yellow l.e.d. D4 will be turned off.

If, instead, the signal in the next track section is at red, a logic 0 level will be fed back from that section's IC2d pin 8 to this section's IC2b pin 5. Consequently, IC2b pin 6 will be high, IC1d pin 8 will be low, and so green l.e.d. D5 will be off. The logic 1 output from IC2b pin 6, though, will allow IC2a output pin 3 to go low if IC2a pin 1 is also high. The inverted output from IC2c pin 11 will thus go high, and so yellow l.e.d. D4 will be turned on.

Resistor R3 provides common current limiting for all three l.e.d.s, D3 to D5.

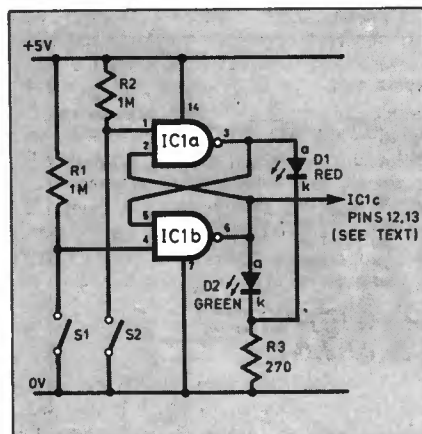


Fig. 3. 2-Aspect signal circuit diagram.

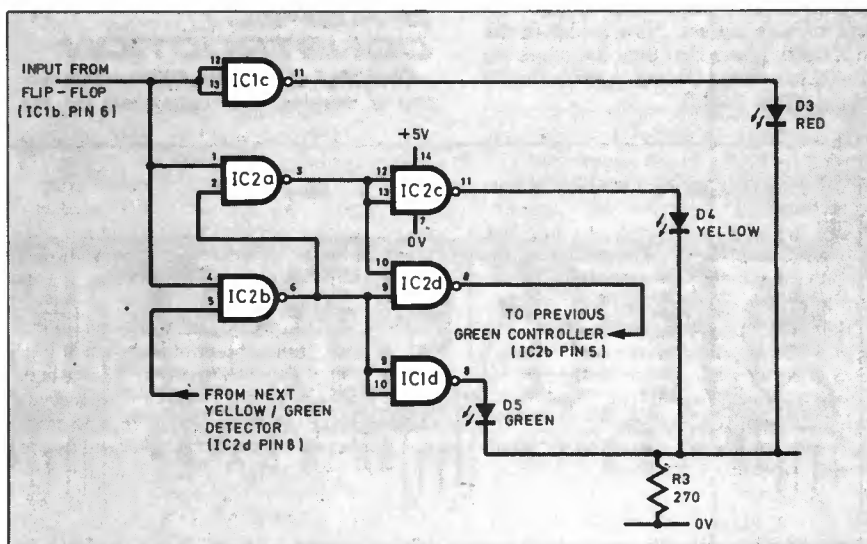


Fig. 4. Circuit diagram for the 3-Aspect signal extension to the circuit of Fig. 3.

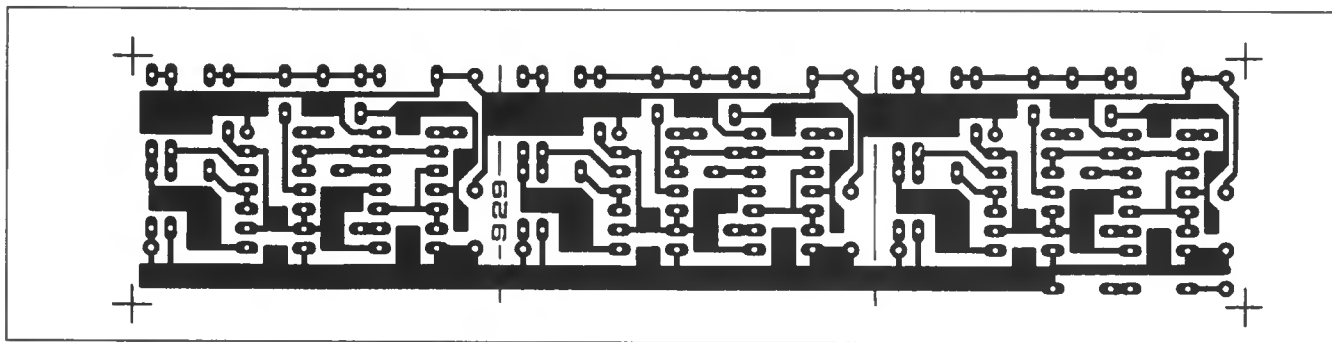


Fig. 5. Full size underside copper foil master track pattern for combined three-module p.c.b.

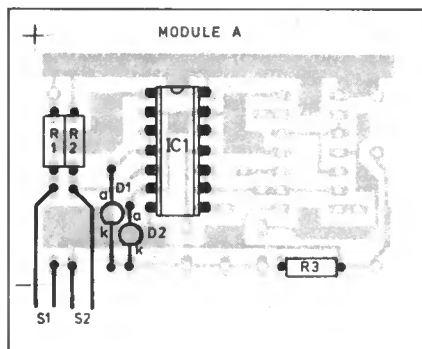


Fig. 6. Component layout for the 2-Aspect signal controller.

2-ASPECT CONSTRUCTION

The full size master foil track layout for the p.c.b. which is common to both the 2-Aspect and 3-Aspect signals controllers is shown in Fig. 5. This board holds three identical circuit assemblies and is available from the *EPE* PCB Service, code 929.

The component layout for the 2-Aspect signals controller on this p.c.b. is shown in Fig. 6.

For the 2-Aspect circuit, insert the d.i.l. (dual-in-line) chip socket for IC1 into its designated position on the board. Ensure that the notch in the socket is orientated as shown, and that the socket is pushed firmly down on the board. Unless you are using a p.c.b. assembly frame, you may find it helpful to solder one pin first and then check that the socket is still fully in position. Then solder the remaining socket pins.

Next insert and solder the resistors, and then trim off their excess lead lengths with a pair of wire cutters. Now solder in the l.e.d.s, making sure that their flat edges are correctly orientated (facing towards the 0V tracking on the board).

At this stage it is a good idea to temporarily use link wires in place of reed switches S1 and S2. On the prototype, the wires cut off the resistors were used.

Before connecting to a power supply, thoroughly check the assembly, looking for solder shorts across tracks, especially between the pins of the i.c. socket. Now carefully insert IC1, making sure that its legs are not bent under and that pin 1 is in the correct place, as shown.

Finally, a power supply should be connected. Although +5V d.c. is the ideal supply voltage, in practice four AA type batteries can be used, delivering about +6V ($4 \times 1.5V$). Rechargeable AA batteries will probably deliver about +4.8V ($4 \times 1.2V$). Do not use a supply which exceeds +6V d.c.

The a.c. supply from a model railway transformer **must not be used** to power the circuit directly. It may, however, be rectified and stabilised at +5V d.c. in the conventional fashion and then used as the power source.

2-ASPECT TESTING

To test the signals, simply short together the wires for reed switches S1 and S2 in turn. The two l.e.d.s, D1 and D2, should be seen to turn on and off alternately. If neither of the l.e.d.s turn on when the power supply is switched on check that they (and IC1) have been inserted the correct way round. If necessary, also recheck your soldering for missed joints and bridged tracks.

If the 2-Aspect signal is to be used on its own without the addition of the 3-Aspect components, it is necessary to also connect IC1 pins 9 and 10 to the 0V line.

3-ASPECT CONSTRUCTION

Once the 2-Aspect signal controlling section is working, the components for the

3-Aspect section can be added. Basically, this only amounts to adding a socket for IC2, and adding l.e.d.s D3, D4 and D5. However, it is expected that railway modellers will want to use several identical 3-Aspect signal controllers and these should be constructed in the same way as the first one. The p.c.b. component positioning details for the three sections of the 3-Aspect controller are shown in Fig. 7. Once again, make sure that the components are correctly orientated and that the soldering of the connections is satisfactory.

3-ASPECT TESTING

For testing the triple series of 3-Aspect controllers it is probably easiest to link the switch connections as shown in Fig. 8.

Connect the power supply and two l.e.d.s should light on each module, one on the 2-Aspect side, and one on the 3-Aspect side, probably all the green l.e.d.s.

Short the left hand Module A point S2 to the battery 0V line. This should result in one 3-Aspect signal on red, one on yellow, and one on green. Next do the same for point S2 of Module B, and then for point S2 of Module C. The sequence of red, yellow and green should follow the shorting pattern. Do not operate the modules in the wrong order since this will create logical display errors.

It is probable that the complete modular set-up will work first time if the initial 2-Aspect section has first been tested and that component positioning and soldering has been correctly carried out.

If there is an unexpected sequencing of the light displays it is most likely that the link wires have been incorrectly connected.

In the component layout of Fig. 7 are shown resistor R4 and diodes D6 and D7, these components are optional and not shown in the circuit diagram of Fig. 4. They are intended to offer a safety factor to

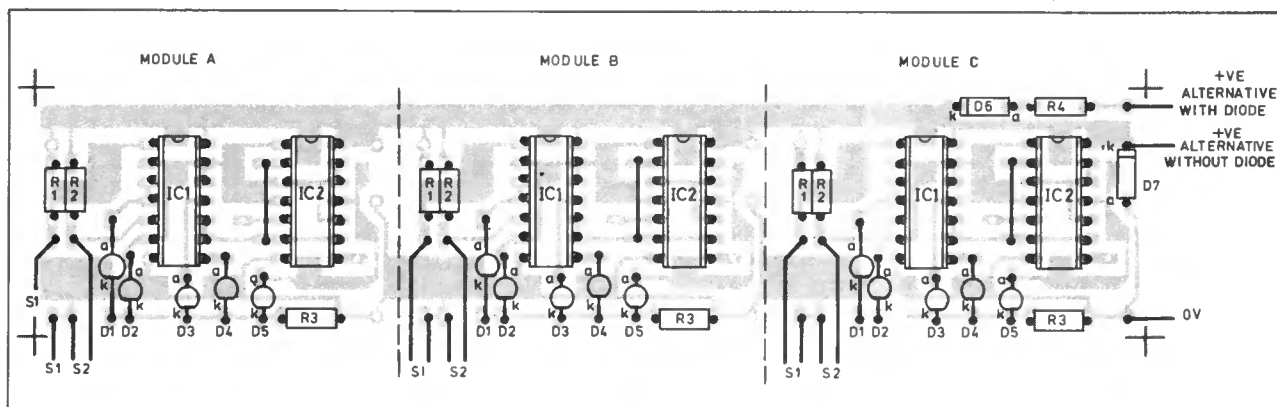


Fig. 7. Component layout for the complete triple-module 3-Aspect signals controller.

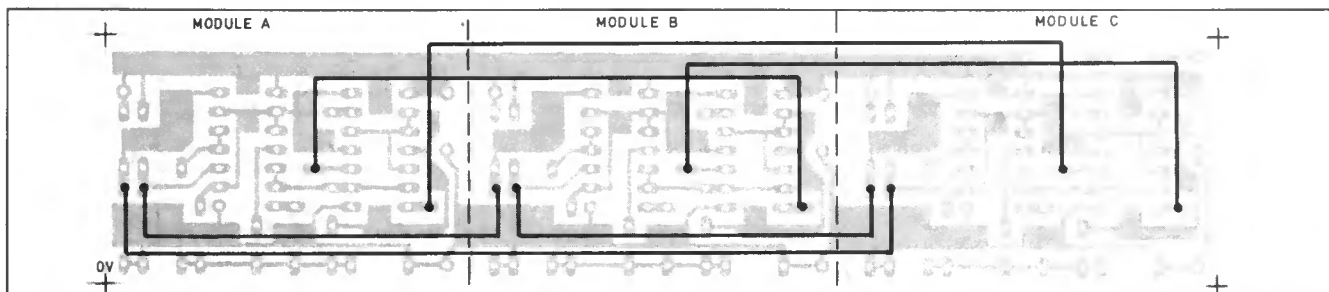


Fig. 8. Details of the wired interconnections between the three modules on one board.

prevent damage to the circuit from inadvertent wrong polarity connection of the power supply, or connection of a power supply in excess of the allowable +6V. A suggested value for R4 is 33Ω for a +9V DC supply, but this value may be changed if necessary, to suit supply sources.

RAILWAY CONNECTIONS

At this point there are many possibilities for practical circuit connections. It is essential, though, that any wires taken from the circuit to the railway are of sheathed (screened) cable, with the screening connected to the 0V points of the signals. This applies equally to the reed switch links and to the signal light links. (If the signals are intended to be used with clockwork or plastic push-along trains, then ordinary un-screened cable will be satisfactory.)

The reed switches need to be attached nearby or between the railway tracks. A 10nF capacitor should also be soldered across each reed switch. Although the capacitor (C3) could be placed across the connections at the p.c.b. end, with the prototype it was found that the best results were obtained with the capacitor right across the reed switch as shown in Fig. 9. Operation of the reed switches is performed by a small magnet connected in a suitable place on the railway engine.

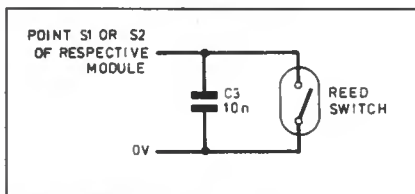
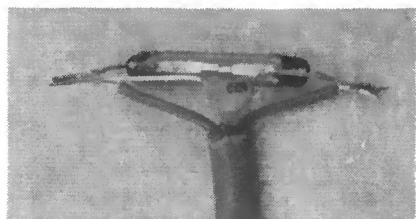


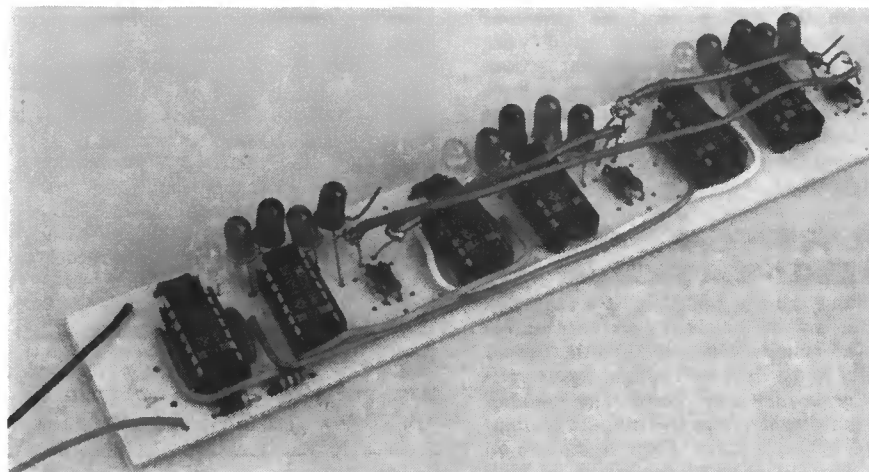
Fig. 9. Reed switch wiring detail.



Closeup detail showing reed relay, capacitor C3 and screened cable.

It is a matter of personal preference whether the l.e.d.s are left on the p.c.b. as a signal indicator board or mounted on small pieces of strip-board assembled into suitable housings to simulate trackside signal gantries. It is suggested that for "00" gauge railways 3mm or 5mm l.e.d.s are used.

The layout for a three module system which will suit many people is shown in Fig. 10. One reed switch per module is required and the logic is that the red signal is only turned on when the train is fully in the section.



Completed triple 3-aspect signal controller board, also showing interwiring as illustrated in Fig. 8.

COMPONENTS

2-ASPECT MODULE

Resistors

R1, R2 1M (2 off)
R3 270
All 0.25W 5% carbon film.

Capacitors

C1, C2 10nF ceramic (2 off)
C3 10nF ceramic (see text)

Semiconductors

D1 l.e.d. red, 3mm or 5mm
D2 l.e.d. green, 3mm or 5mm
IC1 7400 quad NAND gate

Miscellaneous

S1, S2 s.p. normally open reed switches (2 off)

Printed circuit board available from the EPE PCB Service, code 929; 14-pin d.i.l. socket; 4×AA type battery holder, plus batteries and battery clip; 4-core screened cable (length to suit distance to signal displays); 2-core screened cable (length to suit distance to reed switches).

See
**SHOP
TALK**
Page

3-ASPECT MODULE

(In addition to components required for 2-Aspect section)

Resistor

R4 33 (see text)

Semiconductors

IC2, 7400 quad NAND gate
D3 l.e.d. red, 3mm or 5mm
D4 l.e.d. green, 3mm or 5mm
D5 l.e.d. yellow, 3mm or 5mm
D6 1N4001 rectifier diode (see text)
D7 5V1 Zener diode (see text)

Miscellaneous

14-pin d.i.l. socket

Note that the p.c.b. is supplied as a 3-module strip and can hold three 2-Aspect circuits plus the additional components for three 3-Aspect circuit sections.

Approx cost
three complete
modules

£18

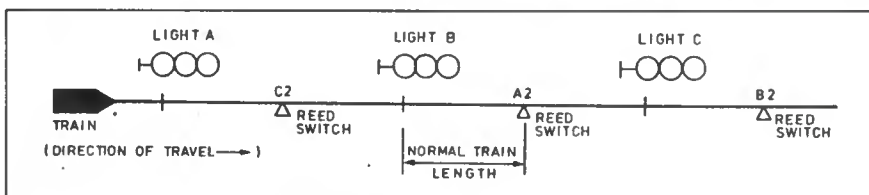


Fig. 10. Positioning of the reed switches to control three 3-Aspect signal light gantries.

In reality, of course, a train will often be in two sections at the same time because of its length. It is better, therefore, if the engine switches the next section to red as soon as it enters that section, while

still leaving the previous section on red to protect the rear coaches. In this case, it will be necessary to remove the wires linking the switches on the p.c.b. and use six reed switches as shown in Fig. 11.

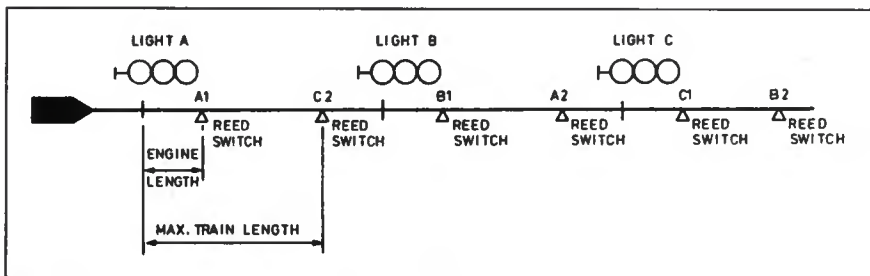


Fig. 11. Using six reed switches to control the signal gantries so that the rear of a train also determines the signalling logic.

With this arrangement one switch is placed just after the signals so that they are set to red when the train enters that section. The second switch in the section is positioned so that it is operated once the rear of the train is safely out of the last section, allowing the previous red signal to be reset to yellow.

FURTHER ADAPTATIONS

Some railway modellers have suggested to the author that l.e.d.s are too big for smaller gauge railways and that they would prefer to use "proper" bought signal units or "grain of wheat" bulbs. These cannot be run directly from the outputs of standard 7400 type chips. There is, though, an interface circuit which can readily be built which will enable the controller board to drive this type of lamp.

The interface circuit is shown in Fig. 12 and simply consists of several individual transistors each of which can drive one or more of the lamps, depending on the transistor's current rating. The circuit should be repeat-assembled for each of the l.e.d.s it replaces, i.e. three assemblies to replace three l.e.d.s.

The driver assemblies could be built on strip-board, as shown in Fig. 13, and then taped to the side of the controller p.c.b.

A smaller assembly could be achieved by using ULN2003 7-stage Darlington drivers, each of which contains seven Darlington transistors, as schematically shown in Fig. 14. No constructional details are offered for this alternative technique.

(It may be possible to use type 74HC00 chips in place of the standard 7400 devices. These are capable of sinking or sourcing about 25mA at each output pin. The maximum allowable power dissipation of the chip is about 750mW. Ed.)

ISOLATION HALT

Another facility suggested to the author by a railway buff is to allow the signal unit to cause a following train to stop at a red signal. For example, if an express train is catching up with a slow train, the express must stop if it meets a red signal. This is fairly easy to achieve by isolating about 150mm of track just before the red signal. The isolated section is then powered from the ordinary track supply via the normally-closed contacts of a relay.

The red signal is used to supply current to the base of a transistor which powers the relay coil. Thus, if the red signal is on, the closed contacts would open, so cutting power from that section of the track. In this way, the following train would stop at the red signal until the forward train has cleared the next section, setting the red to yellow and allowing the following train to proceed. Fig. 15 shows an example of how this system could be implemented. □

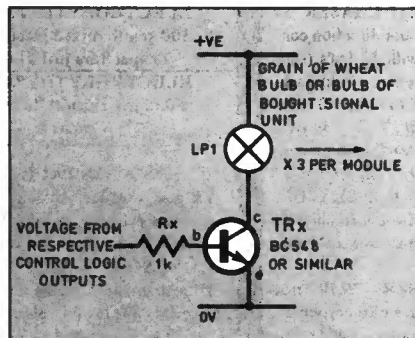


Fig. 12. Interfacing circuit which allows higher-wattage lamps to be switched.

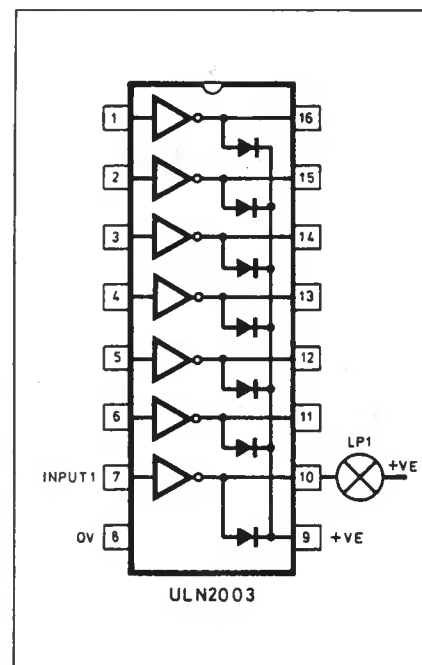


Fig. 14. Schematic diagram of the ULN2003 7-stage Darlington driver which could be used in place of seven circuits shown in Fig. 12.

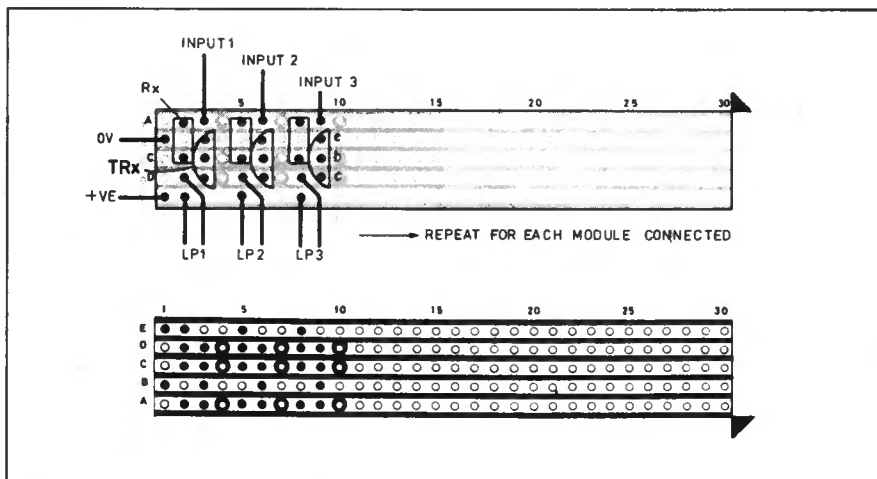


Fig. 13. Layout of three circuits as in Fig. 12 assembled on strip-board.

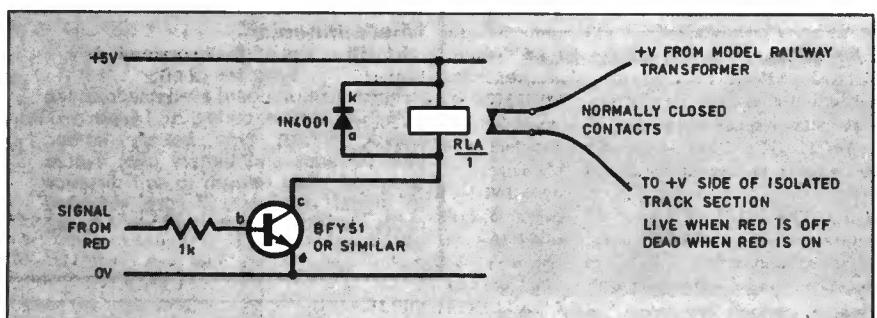
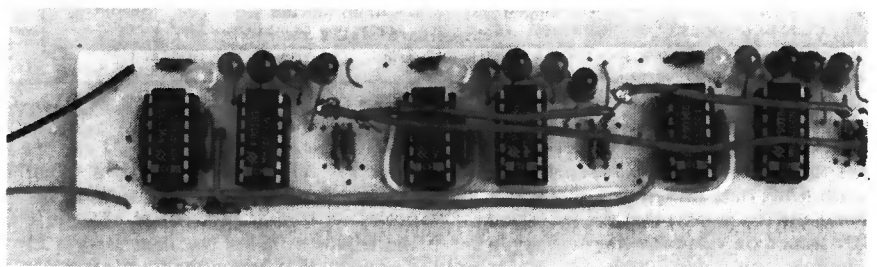


Fig. 15. Suggested circuit which provides track isolation in order to prevent two trains colliding front to rear.



EXPRESS COMPONENTS

MAINS IONIZER KIT. Very useful kit that increases the flow of negative ions, helps clear cigarette smoke, dust, pollen etc. Helps reduce stress and respiratory problems. £15. kit, £20 built.

COMBINATION LOCK. Electronic 9 key combination lock suitable for alarms, cars, houses etc, easily programmable. Includes mains 2A relay o/p. 9v operation. £10 kit, £14 built.

VARIABLE POWER SUPPLY. Stabilized, short circuit protected. Gives 3-30v DC at 2.5A, ideal for workshop or laboratory. £14 kit, £18 built. 24VAC required.

LEAD ACID CHARGER. Two automatic charging rates (fast and slow), visual indication of battery state. Ideal for alarm systems, emergency lighting, battery projects etc. £12 kit, £16 built.

PHONE LINE RECORDER. Device that connects to the 'phone line and activates a cassette recorder when the handset is lifted. Ideal for recording 'phone conversations etc! £8 kit, £12 built.

ROBOT VOICE. Turns your voice into a robot voice! answer the phone with a different voice! £9 kit, £13 built.

PHONE BUG DETECTOR. This device will warn you if somebody is eavesdropping on your 'phone line. £6 kit £9 built.

PHONE BUG. Small bug powered by the telephone line. Only transmits when the phone is used. Popular surveillance product. £8 kit, £12 built.

STROBE LIGHT. Bright strobe light with an adjustable frequency of 1-60hz. (a lot faster than conventional strobes!) £16 kit, £20 built.

4W FM TRANSMITTER. 3 RF stages, audio preamp. 12-18vDC. Medium powered bug £20 kit, £28 built.

3 CHANNEL LIGHT CHASER. 3x 800w output, speed and direction controls, can be used with 12 led's (supplied) or TRIACS for mains lights (also supplied). 9-15v DC. £17 kit, £23 built.

25W FM TRANSMITTER. 4 stage, a preamp will be required. (Our preamp below is suitable) £79 built. (no kits).

SOUND EFFECTS GENERATOR. Produces any thing from bird chips to sirens! add sounds to all sorts of things £9 kit £13 built.

FM/AM SCANNER. Well not quite, you have to turn the knob yourself but you will hear things on this radio (even TV) that you would not hear on an ordinary radio! A receiver that covers 50-160MHZ both AM and FM. Built in 5w amplifier. £15 kit, £20 built.

CAR ALARM SYSTEM. Works on vibration and/or voltage drop from door etc being opened. Entry and exit delays plus adjustable alarm duration. Low cost protection! £12 kit, £16 built.

15W FM TRANSMITTER. 4 stage, high power bug. You will need a preamp for this (see our preamp below which is ok) £69 built. (no kits).

1W FM TRANSMITTER. 2 stage including preamp and mic. Good general purpose bug. 8-30VDC. £12 kit, £16 built.

50 I/C's for £1.50
Nice mix of chips at a bargain price!

CERAMIC CAPACITOR PACK
Good mixed pack of 100 capacitors for just £1.00

ELECTROLYTIC PACK 1
100 small mixed electrolytic capacitors just £1.00

ELECTROLYTIC PACK 2
50 larger electrolytic mixed capacitors

RESISTOR PACK NO 1
250 low wattage resistors, ideal for most projects etc. Just £1.00

RESISTOR PACK NO 2
Hi wattage pack, good selection of mixed wattages and values 50 in all, bargain price just £1.00

PRESET PACK
Nice selection of 25 mixed preset pots for just another £1!

RELAY PACK NO 1
6 mixed relays for £1, that's just 17p each.

CONNECTOR PACK
10 different connectors, again for £1

FUSE PACK NO 1
40 mixed 20mm fuses, ideal for repairs etc, or just to stock up the spares box! Just £1.00

FUSE PACK NO 2
30 mixed 1.25" fuses again ideal for spares etc. Just £1.00

WIRE PACK
25 Metres of insulated wire for just £1.00, good for projects etc.

SLEEVING PACK
100 assorted pieces of sleeving for connectors etc. Yours for just £1.00

DIODE PACK
100 assorted diodes for just £1.00

LED PACK
20 light emitting diodes for £1.00

TRANSISTOR PACK
50 mixed transistors, another bargain at £1.00

BUZZER PACK
10 things that make a noise for just £1.00!

POT PACK
10 pots for £1, (5 different types) a snip at £1.00

DISPLAYS
10 seven segment displays for £1.00

ORDER 10 PACKS OR MORE AND CHOOSE ONE FREE PACK!!

FREE COMPONENT CATALOGUE WITH EVERY ORDER!!

BULK PACKS

99p
Post

KITS 'N MODULES

PREAMP MIXER. 3 channel input, independent level and tone controls. Ideal for use with the hi power FM transmitters. £15 kit, £19 built.

TREMBLER ALARM. Designed for bikes etc, adjustable sensitivity, preset alarm time, auto reset. Could be adapted for all sorts of "borrowable" things £12 kit, £16 built.

ULTRASONIC RADAR. A project that can be used as a movement detector in an enclosed space. Range about 10 metres, 12vDC. Good basis for car, shed, caravan alarm etc. £14 kit, £19 built.

PHONE CALL RELAY. Very useful kit that incorporates a relay that operates when the phone rings. Can be used to operate more bells, signalling lights etc. Good for noisy environments or if you have your headphones on! £10 kit, £14 built.

PORTABLE ALARM SYSTEM. Small 9v alarm system based on a mercury switch. The alarm continues to sound until disabled by the owner. Buzzer included. £11 kit £15 built.

800W MUSIC TO LIGHT EFFECT. Add rhythm to your music with this simplesound to light kit. £8 kit, £12 built.

MOSQUITO REPELLER. Modern way to keep the midges away! Runs for

about a month on one 1.5v battery. Frequency is set to drive away mosquitos etc. £7 kit, £11 built.

3 CHANNEL SOUND TO LIGHT. Can be used anywhere as no connection is made to hi fi. Separate sensitivity controls for each channel, 1,200W power handling. Microphone included. £14 kit, £19 built.

MINI METAL DETECTOR. Detects pipes, wires etc up to 20cm deep. Useful before you drill those holes! £8 kit, £12 built.

0-5 MINUTE TIMER. Simple time switch adjustable from 0-5 mins, will switch 2A mains load. 12v op. Ideal for laboratory, photographic projects etc. £7 kit, £11 built.

7 WATT III FI AMPLIFIER. Useful, powerful amplifier 20hz-15hz, 12-18vdc. Good for intercoms, audio systems, car etc. £7 kit £11 built.

INCAR SOUND TO LIGHT. Put some atmosphere in your car with this kit. Each channel has 6 led's that create a beautiful lighting effect! £10 kit, £14 built.

VOX SWITCH. This is a sound activated switch, ideal for use on transmitters, CB's, tape recorders etc. Adjustable sensitivity, built in delay. Mic input. £7 kit, £11 built.

LIQUID LEVEL DETECTOR.

Useful item, can be used to detect fluid levels in watertanks, baths, ponds, fishtanks etc. Could also be used as rain alarm with an easily constructed sensor. £5 kit, £9 built.

FM TRANSMITTER. Mini FM transmitter 2 transistor, comes with FET miniature mic and is tuneable from 63 to 130MHZ. £7 kit, £11 built.

FUNCTION GENERATOR. Generates sinusoidal, saw tooth and square waveforms from 20hz up to 20khz. Separate level controls for each waveform. 24vac. £15 kit, £20 built.

5 WATT SIREN. Powerful siren kit with an impressive 5 watts output. Ideal for alarms etc. £6 kit £10 built.

TELEPHONE AMPLIFIER. Very sensitive amplifier which using a 'phone pickup coil (supplied) will let you fol-

low a telephone conversation without holding the handset to your ear! £11 kit £15 built.

SWITCH PACK
10 switches for just £1.00

12v FLOURESCENT. A useful kit that will enable you to light large fluorescent tubes from your car battery etc. 9v mains transformer required. £8 kit, £12 built.

KNOB PACK
10 knobs for just £1.00

REMEMBER! YOUR FREE COPY OF OUR CUT PRICE COMPONENTS CATALOGUE SENT WITH EVERY ORDER!!!

How to place your order.....

By phone.....0273 771156

By FAX.....0273 206875

By Post...PO box 517 Hove Sussex BN3 5QZ

Payment by ACCESS, VISA, CHEQUE OR POSTAL ORDER.

Cheques and postal orders should be payable to Express Components.

ALL PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO 99p POST AND VAT. Some of our products may be unlicensable for use in the UK (particularly the FM transmitters.)

QUICKROUTE 3.0 REVIEW

ROBERT PENFOLD

For some time Quickroute has been one of the leading PCB CAD software packages. The latest Windows version is well worth examining.

QUICKROUTE 2.0 Professional Edition was reviewed in the *Interface* article that appeared in the December 1993 issue of *EPE*. Quickroute 3.0 in its most advanced version is a direct descendant of the earlier program. Like its predecessor, it is available in somewhat simplified and lower cost forms, but there is no longer a DOS variant. All four of the current versions run under Windows 3.1.

A fairly powerful PC is needed in order to run Quickroute 3.0. The minimum recommended system is an 80386 based PC having two megabytes of memory and at least three megabytes of vacant hard disk space, plus a Windows compatible mouse. A VGA or super VGA colour display plus a maths co-processor are also "strongly recommended". In order to make real use of the program it is necessary to have some means of providing good quality hard copy. Ideally a laser printer would be used, but it should be possible to utilize any Windows supported output device.

GETTING STARTED

Going against the modern trend, this program is supplied on a single 3.5 inch 720K disk. However, the files are mostly in compressed form, and once installed onto a hard disk they occupy nearly two megabytes. Installation is very simple, and surprisingly fast. The installation program is run from within Windows, and it takes only about three minutes to get the program loaded onto the hard disk.

You have to enter a serial number before the installation will proceed, but there is no other form of copy protection. The program is automatically installed into its own Windows group, and you simply "click" on the appropriate icon in order to run the program.

There is a definite advantage in using the Windows environment in that it avoids the need for lengthy setting up procedures in order to get the program to work with your particular hardware. If your screen, printer, etc. work with Windows, then they should work with Quickroute 3.0. The only problem encountered was when using a high resolution (1024 x 768) super VGA screen. A band down the right hand side of the screen failed to redraw when using the

vertical scroll-bar. This problem does not seem to occur at lower screen resolutions.

A drawback of using the Windows environment is that it is not particularly fast. Using a 33MHz 80386 based PC fitted with a maths co-processor gave an acceptable operating speed with small to medium size designs, but results were rather slow with a large design loaded.

The problem is made worse by the program performing complete screen redraws each time even a minor piece of editing is undertaken (deleting a single pad or track for example). This method ensures that the on-screen representation of the design is always up-to-date, but it makes Quickroute 3.0 much slower than most of the competition. The situation can be eased by using the "Turbodraw" option, which speeds up screen redraws by representing pads and tracks in outline form.

IN USE

The program is "driven" in much the same way as the earlier versions, and the original screen layout is largely retained. There are the usual Windows header and menu bars at the top of the screen, and below these there is a toolbar. The menu options are mainly used for general tasks such as saving and loading files, and switching the on-screen grid on and off.



Most of the drawing and some of the editing is undertaken using the toolbar.

The first three icons in the toolbar give access to three pads of preselected size and shape. To use a pad it is merely necessary to "click" on its icon and then "click" again in the main (drawing) area of the screen at each point a pad is needed.

To alter the selected pad size/shape the right hand mouse button is "clicked" on the icon, which brings up a window showing sixteen alternatives. It is possible to select several further "pages" of sixteen pad sizes and types using arrow icons. Circular, square, and oval pads are available, and each type can be plain or with a centre hole. The size of any pad can be altered by the user, as can the hole size (where appropriate).

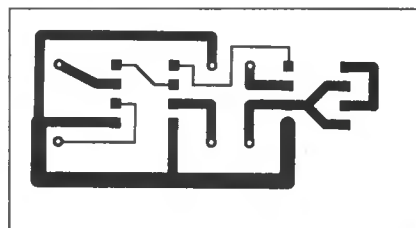


Fig. 1. Example of simple p.c.b. created using Quickroute 3.0.

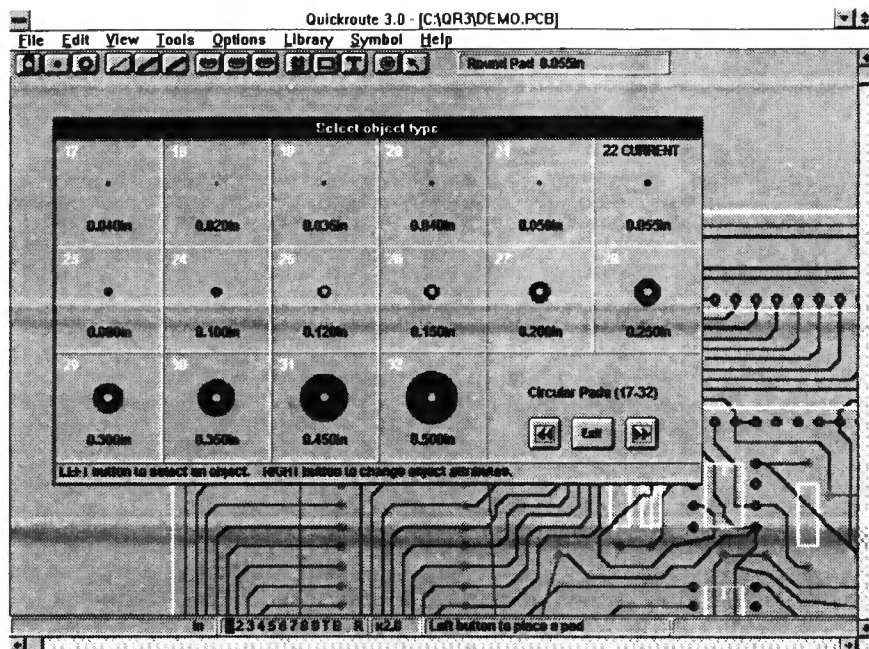


Fig. 2. Quickroute 3.0 pad selection window.

Tracks are selected using the next three "buttons", and these are used in the same basic manner as the pad icons. A wide range of track widths are available. There is a useful "polygon" option available from the menu bar, and this enables an irregular shape to be outlined and then filled.

The next three icons in the toolbar give access to a range of predrawn symbols (transistors, resistors, capacitors, etc.), and the fourth icon is used for d.i.l. integrated circuits having from eight to 28 pins. There is no rotation option for integrated circuits, so each d.i.l. integrated circuit symbol is included in vertical and horizontal formats.

The symbols are selected and used in much the same way as tracks and pads, but there are no user selectable characteristics. However, they can be rotated through 90, 180, or 270 degrees via a sub-menu of the main menu bar. This sub-menu also permits symbols to be mirrored in the X and (or) Y planes, and also permits separate X and Y scaling with a high degree of resolution. Users can generate their own symbols, and edit existing symbols.

Using the eleventh icon it is possible to produce a rectangle, an ellipse, or an arc, or filled versions of these. Icon number twelve provides access to two types of text. One is normal *Windows* text, and the other is the program's own vector text. The four sizes of vector text are made up from pieces of track. This gives relatively crude results, but it permits the text to be manipulated in ways that are not possible with *Windows* text. Vector text can also be produced by an output device which does not have a driver that supports *Windows* fonts.

SCHEMATIC CAPTURE

"Pins" can be inserted into a design when the thirteenth icon button is selected. This button does not actually do anything on the more basic versions of the program, but on the versions that have schematic capture it is used as a means of identifying connection points. *Quickroute 3.0* can be used to produce circuit diagrams ("schematics"), and on the more sophisticated versions of the program a list of interconnections can be taken from a schematic and carried on through a printed circuit layout.

This is one of those things that seems quite simple in principle, but which tends to get very involved in practice. Each circuit symbol must be twinned with a physical symbol for use in the printed circuit layout. Every pin of every component must be identified by a pin number, and the pin numbering must be the same for the circuit and physical symbols. The set of interconnections in the circuit will then be carried forward correctly to the printed circuit layout.

The *Quickroute 3.0* schematic capture facility is easier to use than the similar facilities I have encountered on other programs. I have not tested it extensively, but on a quick test it seemed to work flawlessly. It is in many ways fairly basic though, and it cannot handle modifications to a circuit and board layout quite as easily as some other schematic capture facilities.

Many professional printed circuit designers favour the use of netlists, which is simply a text file containing a list of the

components in the circuit, plus a list giving details of every interconnection. The more advanced versions of *Quickroute 3.0* can export a netlist generated by the program, but there seems to be no netlist import facility. Of course, you do not have to use the schematic capture and netlists, and any version of the program can be used as a sort of electronic drawing board. When dealing with relatively simple designs this is probably the best way of working.

EDITING

The final "button" of the toolbar sets the program into its editing mode. This enables single objects or groups of objects to be selected, and then deleted, moved, copied, etc. Deleting, adding, and moving track nodes is very simple and straightforward. For example, to move a node you simply place the cursor over it, press and hold down the left mouse button, and then move the cursor to the new position for the node. The editing facilities are somewhat improved on the earlier versions of *Quickroute*, but there still seems to be no block move command that preserves the interconnections between the objects inside and outside the box.

Next to the toolbar there is a text bar that gives details of the "tool" currently selected (track size, pad size, symbol, or whatever). The co-ordinate display which formerly occupied this space is relegated to the status line at the bottom of the screen. This also gives other information, such as the zoom factor and the current layer.

The pop-down menus give access to the usual file utilities, help facility, etc. Several preset zoom factors are available, or a custom zoom factor can be entered. It is possible to scroll around a design with the aid of the usual scroll bars, or "clicking" the right hand mouse button will cause the screen to be redrawn with the current cursor position being used as the centre of the display. The cursor can be "snapped" to an invisible grid, and a separate grid of on-screen dots can be activated to make it easier to place objects accurately.

AUTO-ROUTER

All versions of "Quickroute" now include an auto-router, but the more expen-

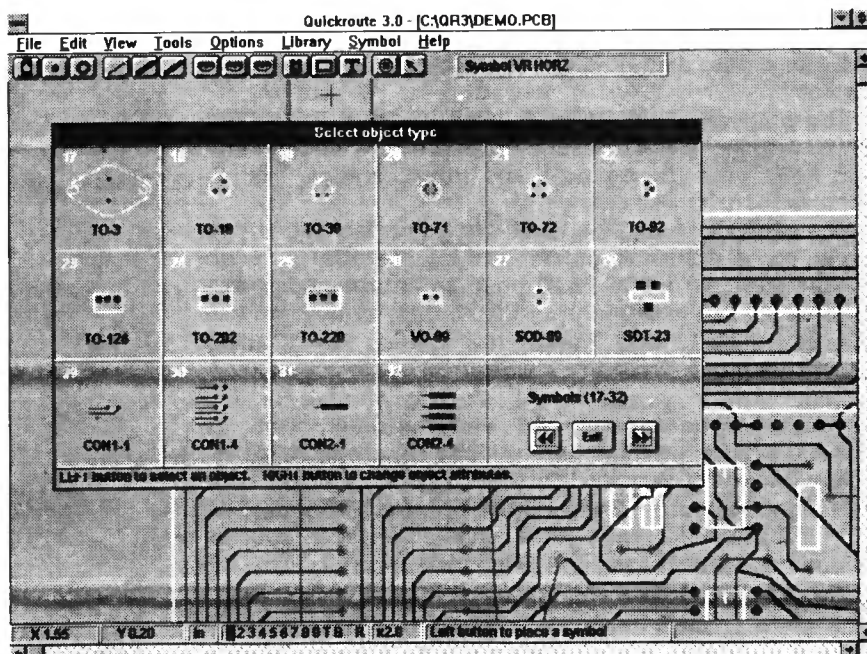


Fig. 3. Quickroute 3.0 symbol selection window.

sive versions have faster and more sophisticated auto-routers. A "rats nest" must first be entered, either manually, or via the schematic capture facility. The "rats nest" is simply a set of interconnections going straight from pin-to-pin, with each net line often crossing several pads and other net lines on the way. The auto-router tries to route each net line so that pads and other tracks are avoided, but in common with other low cost routers, it is not usually successful in routing all the tracks.

The most sophisticated of the *Quickroute* auto-routers is quite good at finding suitable routes, even when the only available route is a rather tortuous one. It is also reasonably fast. Unusually for a low cost auto-router, it can attempt single-sided boards, and makes a reasonable job of it. The only real shortcoming is that it is apt to "paint itself into a corner", making it necessary to do some manual editing before the last few nets can be routed manually. This problem seems to be a common one amongst inexpensive auto-routers.

CONCLUSIONS

The quality of the hard copy is very good provided you have a *Windows* compatible printer that is up to the task. The scaling of printouts is controlled by the screen zoom factor, making it easy to obtain practically any scaling factor. The program originally submitted for review tended to block up the holes in pads with the ends of tracks (both on-screen and in printouts). The previous version of the program automatically kept holes in pads clear of obstructions.

Fortunately, the latest version of the program now includes a "sort pads" option which clears the holes when the screen is redrawn. Subsequent printouts show the pads correctly, complete with the hole in the middle. The printing speed with an HP compatible laser is impressively fast.

Learning to use the program is quite quick and easy, especially if you are

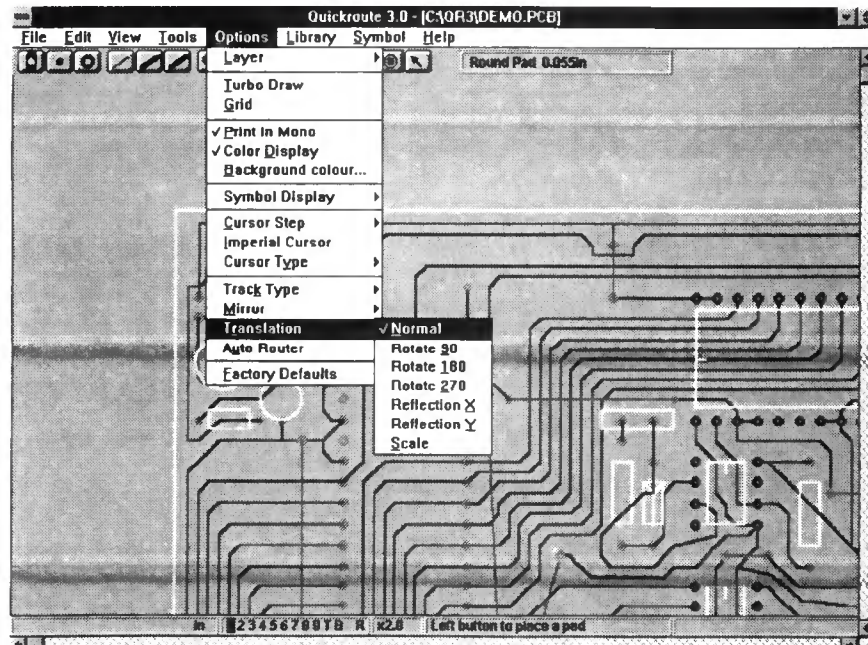


Fig. 3. Symbols can be rotated, mirrored and scaled via one of the *Quickroute 3.0* drop down sub-menus.

familiar with other *Windows* applications software. The 110 page A5 ring bound manual is perfectly adequate, and includes a useful index.

"Designer" is the cheapest version of the program, and it costs £99 (excluding postage and VAT). This version has an auto-router that is restricted to two layers, and it has no Gerber import or export facilities. Board designs can have up to 10,000 nodes. The version reviewed here is "PRO+", and it sells at £299 (again excluding postage and VAT). This has an eight layer fast auto-router, schematic capture, Gerber import and export, and can handle designs with up to 40,000 nodes.

At these prices *Quickroute 3.0* is in direct competition with well established printed

circuit design programs such as *Easy-PC* and *Boardmaker*. It compares well with the competition, particularly in its cheapest form. I think I could use it quite happily to produce quite large board designs.

However, the best program for the job depends on personal preferences, the type of boards you will be designing, and the hardware you have available. If you have a PC that will run *Quickroute 3.0*, and you are in the market for this type of software, it is certainly a program you should give a trial (a demo disk is available from the manufacturer).

Quickroute 3.0 is produced by: POWERware, (Dept. EPE), 14 Ley Lane, Marple Bridge, Stockport, SK6 5DD. Tel/Fax 061 449 7101.

RING BINDERS FOR EPE

This ring binder uses a special system to allow the issues to be easily removed and reinserted without any damage. A nylon strip slips over each issue and this passes over the four rings, thus holding the magazine in place (see photo).

The binders are finished in hard wearing royal blue p.v.c. with the magazine logo in gold on the spine. They will keep your issues neat and tidy but allow you to remove them for use easily.

The price is £5.95 plus £3.50 post and packing. If you order more than one binder add £1 postage for each binder after the initial £3.50 postage charge, (for overseas readers the postage is £6.00 each to everywhere except Australia and Papua New Guinea which costs £10.50 each).

Send your payment in £'s sterling cheque or PO (Overseas readers send £'s sterling bank draft, or cheque drawn on a UK bank or pay by credit card), to Everyday with Practical Electronics, Allen House, East Borough, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 1PF. Tel: 01202 881749. Fax: 01202 841692 (We cannot reply to overseas queries or confirm orders by fax due to the high costs).

We also accept credit card payments. Mastercard (Access) or Visa (minimum credit card order £5). Send your card number and card expiry date plus cardholders address (if different to the delivery address).



Protects your valuable issues - keeps them together and tidy.

Take the

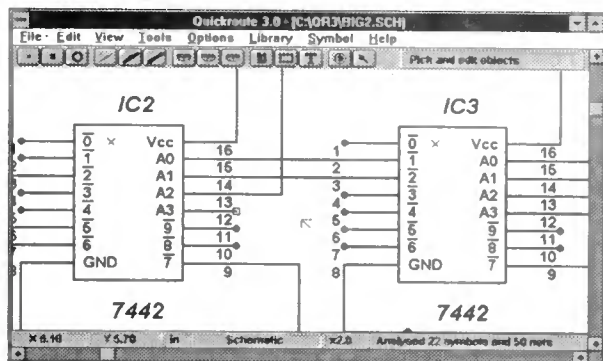
Quickroute

from
£99.00

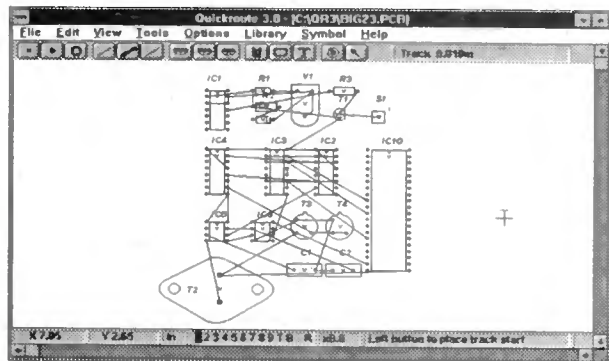
to successful PCB &
Schematic Design



Design PCBs and Schematics quickly



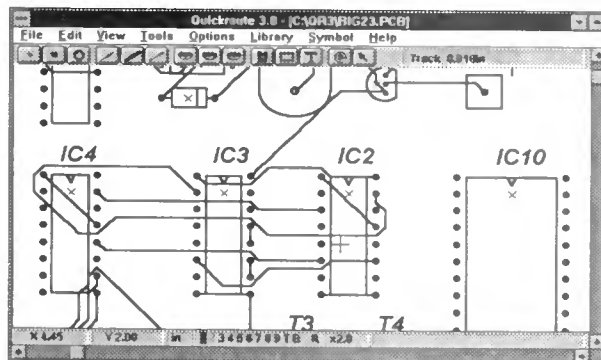
After schematic capture, components can be re-arranged prior to manual or automatic routing.



	Auto Router Max Layers	Schematic Capture	Gerber & NC-Drill	Design Size K nodes
DESIGNER	2 Standard	None	None	10
DESIGNER+	2 Medium	None	Export	20
PRO	8 Fast	Standard	Export	30
PRO+	8 Fast	Advanced	Export/ Import*	40

*PRO+ can import Gerber files

All versions include an auto-router.



Telephone or FAX POWERware on 061 449 7101

POWERware, 14 Ley Lane,
Marple Bridge, Stockport,
SK6 5DD, UK.

Quickroute 3.0 for Windows 3.1

DESIGNER £99.00 DESIGNER+ £149.00

PRO £199.00 PRO+ £299.00

All prices exclude post & packing, and V.A.T.

**DEMO
DISK
Available**

EVERYDAY WITH PRACTICAL ELECTRONICS BACK ISSUES

We can supply back issues of *EPE* by post, most issues from the past five years are available. An index for each year is also available – see order form. Alternatively, indexes are published in the December issue for that year. Where we are unable to provide a back issue a photostat of any *one article* (or *one part* of a series) can be purchased for the same price.

DID YOU MISS THESE?

OCT. '93

PROJECTS • Multi-Purpose Audio System, Part 1 • Magic Socket • Linear Power Supply • Fake Car Alarm • Kettle Alert • L.E.D. Sandglass.

FEATURES • Audio Amplifier Design, Engineering or Alchemy, Part 3 • Teach-In '93, Part 12 • Becoming a Radio Amateur.

NOV. '93

PROJECTS • Portable Miniguard (PIR alarm) • Tracktronic Projects (Thyristor Latched L.E.D. Display, Night Light, Twin Input Status Indicator) • 20 Metre Direct Conversion Receiver • Inside the Electric Guitar • Multi Purpose Audio System, Part 2.

FEATURES • Velleman View • Electronics Principles, Special Software Supplement.



DEC. '93

PROJECTS • Three-Way Christmas Tree Lights Flasher • Auto Alarm • 250W/600W Inverter and Uninterruptable Power Supply, Part 1 • Multi-Purpose Audio System, Part 3 • Waterproof Delay Switch.

FEATURES • Safety First, Part 1 • Index for Volume 22.

JAN. '94

PROJECTS • Autolight (automatic nightlight) • Timer and NiCad Capacity Checker • 250W/600W Inverter and Uninterruptable Power Supply, Part 2 • Multi-Purpose Audio System, Part 4 • Pond Heater Thermostat.

FEATURES • Safety First, Part 2 • Calculation Corner, Part 1 • Electronics Testing and Fault Diagnosis, Course Review.

FEB. '94

PROJECTS • Whistle Controlled Light Switch • Reviving the Valve Sound (rebuilding the Quad II power amp) • Introduction to Microcontrollers – Timeout • Battery To Mains Inverter and Uninterruptable Power Supply, Part 3 • Multi-Purpose Audio System, Part 5.

FEATURES • Calculation Corner, Part 2 • Safety First, Part 3 • European International Audio & Video Fair.

MARCH '94

PROJECTS • Smart-Key Immobiliser • Audio/R.F. Monitor • CCD TV Camera, Part 1 • Visual Doorbell • Three-Phase Generator.

FEATURES • Safety First, Part 4 • Calculation Corner, Part 3 • Free Wall Chart – Electronics Formulae 1.

APRIL '94

PROJECTS • MOSFET Variable Bench Power Supply • *EPE* Soundac PC sound output board • CCD TV Camera, Part 2/Frame Grab • Impulse Clock Master Unit • Telephone Ring Detector.

FEATURES • Best of British, Part 1 • Calculation Corner, Part 4 • Electronics Workbench Review • Free Wall Chart – Electronics Formulae 2.

MAY '94

PROJECTS • Simple TENS Unit (transcutaneous pain relief) • Capacitance/Inductance Meter • L.E.D. Matrix Message Display, Part 1 • Stereo Noise Gate • Dual Stepping Motor Driver for PCs.

FEATURES • Calculation Corner, Part 5 • Best of British, Part 2.

JUNE '94

PROJECTS • Microcontroller P.I. Treasure Hunter • Digital Water Meter • Microprocessor Smart Switch • Advanced TENS Unit (transcutaneous pain relief) • L.E.D. Matrix Message Display, Part 2.

FEATURES • Best of British, Part 3 • Calculation Corner, Part 6

JULY '94

PROJECTS • Voxbox Voice Recording Board • Simple NiCad Charger • Watering Wizard (automatic garden watering) • Pocket Print Timer • Stereo HiFi Controller, Part 1.

FEATURES • Best of British, Part 4 • Calculation Corner, Part 7.



AUG. '94

PROJECTS • Experimental Noise Cancelling Unit • Dancing Fountains, Part 1 • Charged-Up (PC battery tip) • 6802 Development Board • TV Camera Update • Stereo HiFi Controller, Part 2.

FEATURES • Calculation Corner, Part 8 • Best of British, Part 5 • I'll Be Seeing You (multimedia communications)

SEPT. '94

PROJECTS • Protector Plus Car Alarm • Greenhouse Watering System • Experimental

Seismograph, Part 1 • Three-Channel Lamp Controller • Dancing Fountains, Part 2.

FEATURES • Calculation Corner, Part 9 • The Invisible Force (magnetic force).

OCT. '94

PROJECTS • Digilogue Clock • Visual/Audio Guitar Tuner • Hobby Power Supply • Audio Auxilexer • Experimental Seismograph, Part 2.

FEATURES • Electronics from the Ground Up, Part 1 with Free PC Software • Calculation Corner, Part 10.



NOV. '94

PROJECTS • 1000V/500V Insulation Tester • Video Modules, Part 1 (Simple Fader, Improved Fader, Video Enhancer) • Active Guitar Tone Control • Power Controller • TV Off-er.

FEATURES • Electronics from the Ground Up, Part 2 • Consumer Electronics Show.

DEC. '94

PROJECTS • Spacewriter Wand • *EPE* Fruit Machine • Universal Digital Code Lock • Video Modules, Part 2 (Horizontal Wiper, Vertical Wiper, Audio Mixer) • Rodent Repeller.

FEATURES • Electronics from the Ground Up, Part 3 • Embedded Controllers • Index for Volume 23.

JAN. '95

PROJECTS • Magnetic Field Detector • Moving Display Metronome • Model Railway Track Cleaner • Beating the Christmas Lights • *EPE* Fruit Machine, Part 2 • Video Modules, Part 3 (Dynamic Noise Limiter, System Mains Power Supply).

FEATURES • Electronics from the Ground Up, Part 4 • Electromagnetic Compatibility • Checking Transistors.

BACK ISSUES ONLY £2.30 each inc. UK p&p.

Overseas prices £3.10 each surface mail, £4.10 each airmail.

We can also supply the following issues from earlier years: 1989 (except March, June and Nov), 1990 (except March), 1991 (except Aug. and Sept.), 1992 (except April and Dec.), 1993 (except Jan., Feb. and March). Please note we are not able to supply copies of *Practical Electronics* prior to the merger of the two magazines in November 1992. Where we do not have an issue a photostat of any *one article* or *one part* of a series can be provided at the same price.

ORDER FORM – BACK ISSUES – PHOTOSTATS – INDEXES

- ☐ Send back issues dated
- ☐ Send photostats of (article title and issue date)
- ☐ Send copies of last five years indexes (£2.30 for five inc. p&p – Overseas £3.10 surface, £4.10 airmail)

Name

Address

☐ I enclose cheque/P.O./bank draft to the value of £.....

☐ Please charge my Visa/Mastercard £.....

Card No. Card Expiry Date

Note: Minimum order for credit cards £5. Please supply name and address of cardholder if different from that shown above.

SEND TO: Everyday with Practical Electronics, Allen House, East Borough, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 1PF.

Tel: 01202 881749. Fax: 01202 841692.

Send a copy of this form, or order by letter if you do not wish to cut your issue.

DIRECT BOOK SERVICE

The books listed have been selected by *Everyday with Practical Electronics* editorial staff as being of special interest to everyone involved in electronics and computing. They are supplied by mail order direct to your door. Full ordering details are given on the last book page. For another selection of books see next month's issue.

ELECTRONIC PROJECTS - BOOK 1

Published by *Everyday Electronics* in association with *Magenta Electronics*.

Contains twenty of the best projects from previous issues of *EE* each backed with a kit of components. The projects are: Seashell Sea Synthesiser, EE Treasure Hunter, Mini Strobe, Digital Capacitance Meter, Three Channel Sound to Light, BBC 16K Sideways Ram, Simple Short Wave Radio, Insulation Tester, Stepper Motor interface, Eprom Eraser, 200MHz Digital Frequency Meter, Infra Red Alarm, EE Equaliser Isolator, Bat Detector, Acoustic Probe, Mains Tester and Fuse Finder, Light Rider - (Lapel Badge, Disco Lights, Chaser Light), Musical Doorbell, Function Generator, Tilt Alarm, 10W Audio Amplifier, EE Buccaneer Induction Balance Metal Detector, BBC Midi Interface, Variable Bench Power Supply, Pet Scarer, Audio Signal Generator.

128 pages (A4 size) **Order code EP1** £2.45

ELECTRONICS TEACH-IN 88/89 - INTRODUCING MICROPROCESSORS

Mike Tooley BA (published by *Everyday Electronics*)
A complete course that can lead successful readers to the award of a City and Guilds Certificate in Introductory Microprocessors (726/303). The book contains everything you need to know including full details on registering for assessment, etc. Starting with basic terminology, integrated circuits, logic families and numbering systems the text builds in stages, with revision and assessments built in, up to programming, languages, flow charts, etc. The course is ideal for the newcomer to the subject.

80 pages (A4 size) **Order code TI-88-89** £2.45

Special Everyday Electronics Books

LAST FEW
ORDER NOW

ELECTRONICS TEACH-IN No.5 GUIDE TO BUILDING ELECTRONIC PROJECTS

Published by *EVERYDAY ELECTRONICS*
Due to the demand from students, teachers and hobbyists we have put together a range of articles from past issues of *Everyday Electronics* that will assist those involved with the construction of electronic projects.

The book contains the complete *Project Development* for GCSE series.

Contents: Features - First Steps in Project Building; Building with Vero; Project Development for GCSE; Getting your Project Working; Guide to Printed Circuit Boards; Choosing and Using Test Equipment - The Multimeter, The Oscilloscope, P.S.U.s, Logic Probes, Digital Frequency Meters, Signal Generators, etc; **Data** - Circuit Symbols; Component Codes; Resistors; Identifying Components; Capacitors; Actually Doing It - Understanding the Circuit Diagram, Component Codes, Mounting circuit boards and controls, Understanding Capacitors; **Projects** - Lie Detector; Personal Stereo Amplifier; Digital Exposure Unit; Quizmaster; Siren Effects Unit; UV Exposure Unit; Low-cost Capacitance Meter; Personal Radio.

88 pages (A4 size) **Order code TI5** £2.95

ELECTRONICS TEACH-IN No. 6 DESIGN YOUR OWN CIRCUITS

(Published by *Everyday with Practical Electronics*)
Mike Tooley B.A.

This book is designed for the beginner and experienced reader alike, and aims to dispell some of the mystique associated with the design of electronic circuits. It shows how even the relative newcomer to electronics can, with the right approach, design and realise quite complex circuits.

Fourteen individual p.c.b. modules are described which, with various detailed modifications, should allow anyone to design and construct a very wide range of different projects. Nine "hands-on" complete DIY projects have also been included so readers can follow the thinking behind design, assembly, construction, testing and evaluation, together with suggested "mods" to meet individual needs. The practical projects have each been designed to stand on their own as complete items of

equipment. P.C.B.s for all the modules and projects are available by mail order.

The subjects covered in each chapter of the book are: Introduction and Power Supplies; Small Signal Amplifiers; Power Amplifiers; Oscillators; Logic Circuits; Timers; Radio; Power Control; Optoelectronics.

The nine complete constructional projects are: Versatile Bench Power Supply, Simple Intercom; Bench Amplifier/Signal Tracer; Waveform Generator; Electronic Die; Pulse Generator; Radio Receiver; Disco Lights Controller; Optical Communications Link.

136 pages **Order code TI6** £3.45

TEACH-IN No. 7 plus FREE Software ANALOGUE AND DIGITAL ELECTRONIC COURSE

NEW

(Published by *Everyday with Practical Electronics*)
Alan Winstanley and Keith Dye B. Eng(Tech)AMIEE
The highly acclaimed *Teach-In '92* series, which included the construction and use of the *Mini Lab* and *Micro Lab* test and development units, has been put together in book form. Additionally EPT Educational Software have developed a GCSE Electronics software program to complement the course and a FREE DISC covering the first two parts of the course is included with the book.

An interesting and thorough tutorial series aimed specifically at the novice or complete beginner in electronics. The series is designed to support those undertaking either GCSE Electronics or GCE Advanced Levels, and starts with fundamental principles.

If you are taking electronics or technology at school or college, this book is for you. If you just want to learn the basics of electronics then this book is for you. If you are teaching electronics or technology you must make sure you see it. *Teach-In No. 7* will be invaluable if you are considering a career in electronics or even if you are already training in one. The *Mini Lab* and software enable the construction and testing of both demonstration and development circuits. These learning aids bring electronics to life in an enjoyable and interesting way; you will both see and hear the electron in action! The *Micro Lab* microprocessor add-on system will appeal to higher level students and those developing microprocessor projects.



Computers and Computing

HOW TO CHOOSE A SMALL BUSINESS COMPUTER SYSTEM

D. Weale
This book is for anyone intending to buy an IBM compatible computer system, whether it is their first system or a replacement. There are sections on hardware, application and systems programs and how to actually make your choice as well as sections on the law, ergonomics and a glossary of common terms.

The text contains many useful tips and some warnings (which could save much effort and expense).

114 pages **Order code BP323** £4.95

UNDERSTANDING PC SPECIFICATIONS

R. A. Penfold
If you require a microcomputer for business applications, or a high quality home computer, an IBM PC or compatible is often the obvious choice. They are competitively priced, and are backed up by an enormous range of applications programs, hardware add-ons, etc. The main difficulty for the uninitiated is deciding on the specification that will best suit his or her needs. PCs range from simple systems of limited capabilities up to complex systems that can happily run applications that would have been considered beyond the abilities of a microcomputer not so long ago. It would be very easy to choose a PC system that is inadequate to run your applications efficiently, or one which goes beyond your needs and consequently represents poor value for money.

This book explains PC specifications in detail, and the subjects covered include the following: Differences between types of PC (XT, AT, 80386, etc); Maths co-processors; Input devices (keyboards, mice, and digitisers); Memory, including both expanded (EMS) and extended RAM; RAM disks and disk caches; Floppy disk drive formats and compatibility; Hard disk drives (including interleaved factors and access times); Display adaptors, including all standard PC types (CGA, Hercules, Super VGA, etc); Contains everything you need to know if you can't tell your EMS from your EGA!

104 pages **Order code BP282** £4.95

AN INTRODUCTION TO 68000 ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE

R. A. & J. W. Penfold
Obtain a vast increase in running speed by writing programs for 68000 based micros such as the Commodore Amiga, Atari ST range or Apple Macintosh range etc., in assembly language. It is not as difficult as one might think and this book covers the fundamentals.

112 pages **Order code BP184** £2.95

MULTIMEDIA ON THE PC

Ian R. Sinclair
In this book, you'll find out what a CD ROM is, how it works, and why it is such a perfect add-on for a PC, allowing you to buy programmes, text, graphics and sound on a CD. It also describes the installation of a CD ROM drive and a sound card, pointing out the common problems that arise, and then shows how to use them to create a complete multimedia presentation that contains text, photos, a soundtrack with your own voice recorded as a commentary, even animation and edited video footage.

184 pages **Order code PC112** £11.95

A CONCISE INTRODUCTION TO MS-DOS

N. Kantaris
This guide is written with the non-expert, busy person in mind and, as such, it has an underlying structure based on "what you need to know first, appears first". Nonetheless, the guide is also designed to be circular, which means that you don't have to start at the beginning and go to the end. The more experienced user can start from any section.

The guide covers versions 3.0, 3.1 and 3.2 of both PC-DOS and MS-DOS as implemented by IBM and other manufacturers of "compatible" microcomputers.

64 pages **Order code BP232** £2.95

MAKING MS-DOS WORK FOR YOU (covers version 6.2)

N. Kantaris & P. R. M. Oliver
This book was written with the busy person in mind and, as such, it has an underlying structure based on "what you need to know first, appears first". Nonetheless, the

book has also been designed to be circular, which means that you don't have to start at the beginning and go to the end.

The book explains: How to write customised batch files which allow you to display what you want on your screen, and in the form and order you want it, instead of being forced to use the DOS prompt on a blank screen. How to design and set up a fast interactive and professional looking menu system, so that you or anyone else can run utility applications or commercial software packages easily. How the ANSI.SYS display and keyboard commands can be used to position the cursor on any part of the screen, change the intensity of the displayed characters or change their colour. How the Edit screen editor or the Edlin line editor can be used to enter ESCAPE (ANSI.SYS) commands into simple ASCII files to allow control of both your screen display and your printer. How to control the operation of the two main types of printers in use today, Epson compatible dot matrix and HP compatible laser printers. How to use several useful routines, such as moving and finding files, protecting files from accidental erasure, a simplified backup process, a screen saver, and a disc cataloguing system.

The Debug program and how it can be used to create, see and change the contents of any file, including those of programs written in assembler code. This includes how to find your way around the names and tasks of the CPU registers and the meaning of some simple assembler mnemonics.

182 pages **Order code BP319** £4.95

AN INTRODUCTION TO CP/M

R. A. Penfold
In order to run and use programs operating under CP/M it is not essential to have an understanding of the system, but a reasonable knowledge of the subject can certainly be of immense help when minor problems occur, and also in fully exploiting the possible potential of the system. This book tells the story!

84 pages **Order code BP183** £2.95

Audio and Music

ACOUSTIC FEEDBACK - HOW TO AVOID IT

Feedback is the bane of all public address systems. While feedback cannot be completely eliminated, many things can be done to reduce it to a level at which it is no longer a problem.

Much of the trouble is often the hall itself, not the equipment, but there is a simple and practical way of greatly improving acoustics. Some microphones are prone to feedback while others are not. Certain loudspeaker systems are much better than others, and the way the units are positioned can produce or reduce feedback. All these matters are fully explored as well as electronic aids such as equalizers, frequency-shifters and notch filters.

The special requirements of live group concerts are considered, and also the related problem of instability that is sometimes encountered with large set-ups. We even take a look at some unsuccessful attempts to cure feedback so as to save readers wasted time and effort duplicating them.

Also included is the circuit and layout of an inexpensive but highly successful twin-notch filter, and how to operate it. 92 pages **Order code BP310 £3.95**

PRACTICAL MIDI HANDBOOK

R. A. Penfold

The Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI) is surrounded by a great deal of misunderstanding, and many of the user manuals that accompany MIDI equipment are quite incomprehensible to the reader.

The Practical MIDI Handbook is aimed primarily at musicians, enthusiasts and technicians who want to exploit the vast capabilities of MIDI, but who have no previous knowledge of electronics or computing. The majority of the book is devoted to an explanation of what MIDI can do and how to exploit it to the full, with practical advice on connecting up a MIDI system and getting it to work, as well as deciphering the technical information in those manuals. 128 pages **Order code PC101 £6.95**

PREAMPLIFIER AND FILTER CIRCUITS

R. A. Penfold

This book provides circuits and background information for a range of preamplifiers, plus tone controls, filters, mixers, etc. The use of modern low noise operational amplifiers and a specialist high performance audio preamplifier i.c. results in circuits that have excellent performance, but which are still quite simple. All the circuits featured can be built at quite low cost (just a few pounds in most cases).

The preamplifier circuits featured include:- Microphone preamplifiers (low impedance, high impedance, and crystal). Magnetic cartridge pick-up preamplifiers with R.I.A.A. equalisation. Crystal/ceramic pick-up preamplifier. Guitar pick-up preamplifier. Tape head preamplifier (for use with compact cassette systems).

Other circuits include:- Audio limiter to prevent overloading of power amplifiers. Passive tone controls. Active tone controls. PA filters (highpass and lowpass). Scratch and rumble filters. Loudness filter. Audio mixers. Volume and balance controls. 92 pages **Order code BP309 £3.95**

AN INTRODUCTION TO LOUSPEAKERS AND ENCLOSURE DESIGN

V. Capel

This book explores the various features, good points and snags of speaker designs. It examines the whys and wherefores so that the reader can understand the principles involved and so make an informed choice of design, or even design loudspeaker enclosures for him or herself. Crossover units are also explained, the various types, how they work, the distortions they produce and how to avoid them. Finally there is a step-by-step description of the construction of the *Kapellmeister* loudspeaker enclosure. 148 pages **Order code BP256 £2.95**

COMPUTERS AND MUSIC - AN INTRODUCTION

R. A. Penfold

Computers are playing an increasingly important part in the world of music, and the days when computerised music was strictly for the fanatical few are long gone.

If you are more used to the black and white keys of a synth keyboard than the QWERTY keyboard of a computer, you may be understandably confused by the jargon and terminology bandied about by computer buffs. But fear not, setting up and using a computer-based music making system is not as difficult as you might think.

This book will help you learn the basics of computing, running applications programs, wiring up a MIDI system and using the system to good effect, in fact just about everything you need to know about hardware and the programs, with no previous knowledge of computing needed or assumed. This book will help you to choose the right components for a system to suit your personal needs, and equip you to exploit that system fully. 174 pages **Order code PC107 £8.95**

ELECTRONIC PROJECTS FOR GUITAR

R. A. Penfold

This book contains a collection of guitar effects and some general purpose effects units, many of which are suitable for beginners to project building. An introductory chapter gives guidance on construction.

Each project has an introduction, an explanation of how it works, a circuit diagram, complete instructions on strip-board layout and assembly, as well as notes on setting up and using the units. Contents include: Guitar tuner; Guitar preamplifier; Guitar headphone amplifier; Soft distortion unit; Compressor; Envelope waa waa; Phaser; Dual tracking effects unit; Noise gate/expander; Treble booster; Dynamic treble booster; Envelope modifier; Tremolo unit; DI box. 110 pages **Order code PC110 £8.95**

HIGH POWER AUDIO AMPLIFIER CONSTRUCTION

R. A. Penfold

Practical constructional details of how to build a number of audio power amplifiers ranging from about 50 to 300/400 watts r.m.s. Includes MOSFET and bipolar transistor designs. 96 pages **Order code BP277 £3.95**

Theory and Reference

ELECTRONIC HOBBYISTS HANDBOOK

R. A. Penfold

Provides an inexpensive single source of easily located information that the amateur electronics enthusiast is likely to need for the day-to-day pursuance of this fascinating hobby. Covers common component colour codes. Details the characteristics and pinouts of many popular semiconductor devices, including various types of logic ICs, operational amplifiers, transistors, FETs, unijunctions, diodes, rectifiers, SCRs, diacs, triacs, regulators and SMDs, etc. Illustrates many useful types of circuits, such as timers and oscillators, audio amplifiers and filters, as well as including a separate section on power supplies. Also contains a multitude of other useful data. 88 pages **Order code BP233 £4.95**

FROM ATOMS TO AMPERES

F. A. Wilson

Explains in crystal clear terms the absolute fundamentals behind electricity and electronics. Really helps you to discover and understand the subject, perhaps for the first time ever.

Have you ever: Wondered about the true link between electricity and magnetism? Felt you could never understand the work of Einstein, Newton, Boltzmann, Planck and other early scientists? Just accepted that an electron is like a little black ball? Got mixed up with e.m.f. and p.d.? Thought the idea of holes in semiconductors is a bit much?

Then help is at hand with this inexpensive book, in as simple a way as possible and without too much complex mathematics and formulae. 244 pages **Temporarily out of print**

ELECTRONICS - A "MADE SIMPLE" BOOK

G. H. Olsen

This book provides excellent background reading for our *Introducing Digital Electronics Teach-In* Book and will be of interest to everyone studying electronics. The subject is simply explained and well illustrated and the book assumes only a very basic knowledge of electricity. 330 pages **Order code NE10 £6.95**

A REFERENCE GUIDE TO PRACTICAL ELECTRONICS TERMS

F. A. Wilson

Electronic devices surround us on all sides and their numbers are increasing without mercy. Ours is the problem therefore in keeping up with this relentless expansion, unfortunately we cannot know it all and most

of us do not wish to afford the cost of large reference books which explain many concepts in fair detail. Here is an answer, an inexpensive reference guide which explains briefly (but we hope, well) many of the underlying electronics features of practical devices, most of which, to a certain extent, control our lives.

This book is in effect more than just a dictionary of practical electronics terms, it goes a stage further in also getting down to fundamentals. Accordingly the number of terms may be limited but the explanations of the many which are included are designed to leave the reader more competent and satisfied - and this is without the use of complicated mathematics which often on first reading can even be confusing.

For those who also wish to get right down to the root of the matter, there is a second volume entitled *A Reference Guide to Basic Electronics Terms* (BP286), each of the books referring to its companion as necessary.

A reference guide for practically everybody concerned with electronics. 432 pages **Order code BP287 £5.95**

NEWNES ELECTRONICS POCKET BOOK

E. A. Parr

Newnes Electronics Pocket Book has been in print for over twenty years and has covered the development of electronics from valve to semiconductor technology and from transistors to LSI integrated circuits and microprocessors. To keep up to date with the rapidly changing world of electronics, continuous revision has been necessary. This new Fifth Edition takes account of recent changes and includes material suggested by readers of previous editions. New descriptions of op.amp. applications and the design of digital circuits have been added, along with a totally new chapter on computing, plus other revisions throughout. 315 pages (hard cover) **Order code NE02 £12.95**

ELECTRONIC MODULES AND SYSTEMS FOR BEGINNERS

Owen Bishop

This book describes over 60 modular electronic circuits - how they work, how to build them, and how to use them. The modules may be wired together to make hundreds of different electronic systems, both analogue and digital. To show the reader how to begin building systems from modules, a selection of over 25 electronic systems are described in detail, covering such widely differing applications as timing, home security, measurement, audio (including a simple radio receiver), games and remote control. 200 pages **Order code BP266 £3.95**

Project Building

HOW TO GET YOUR ELECTRONIC PROJECTS WORKING

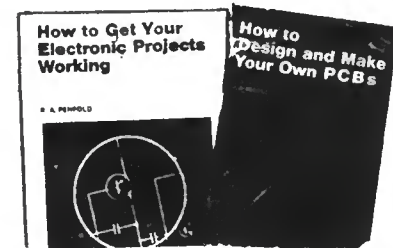
R. A. Penfold

We have all built projects only to find that they did not work correctly, or at all, when first switched on. The aim of this book is to help the reader overcome just these problems by indicating how and where to start looking for many of the common faults that can occur when building up projects. 96 pages **Order code BP110 £2.95**

HOW TO DESIGN AND MAKE YOUR OWN P.C.B.s

R. A. Penfold

Deals with the simple methods of copying printed circuit board designs from magazines and books and covers all aspects of simple p.c.b. construction including photographic methods and designing your own p.c.b.s. 80 pages **Order code BP121 £2.50**



A BEGINNERS GUIDE TO MODERN ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS

R. A. Penfold

The purpose of this book is to provide practical information to help the reader sort out the bewildering array of components currently on offer. An advanced knowledge of the theory of electronics is not needed, and this book is not intended to be a course in electronic theory. The main aim is to explain the differences between components of the same basic type (e.g. carbon, carbon film, metal film, and wire-wound resistors) so that the right component for a given application can be selected. A wide range of components are included, with the emphasis firmly on those components that are used a great deal in projects for the home constructor. 166 pages **Order code BP285 £3.95**

BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO BUILDING ELECTRONIC PROJECTS

R. A. Penfold

Shows the complete beginner how to tackle the practical side of electronics, so that he or she can confidently build the electronic projects that are regularly featured in magazines and books. Also include examples in the form of simple projects. 112 pages **Order code 227 £1.95**

ELECTRONICS SIMPLIFIED - CRYSTAL SET CONSTRUCTION

F. A. Wilson, C.G.I.A., C.Eng., F.I.E.E., F.I.E.R.E., F.B.I.M. Especially written for those who wish to participate in the intricacies of electronics more through practical construction than by theoretical study. It is designed for all ages upwards from the day one can read intelligently and handle simple tools. 80 pages **Order code BP92 £1.75**

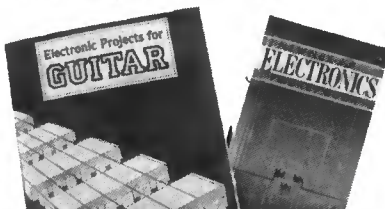
GUIDE TO BUILDING ELECTRONIC PROJECTS

Published by *Everyday Electronics*

See the first page of books - *ELECTRONICS TEACH-IN* No.5 - for full details.

ELECTRONICS PROJECT BOOK

Published by *Everyday Electronics* in association with *Magenta Electronics*. See the first page of books for full details.



Testing and Test Gear

HOW TO USE OSCILLOSCOPES AND OTHER TEST EQUIPMENT

R. A. Penfold

This book explains the basic function of an oscilloscope, gives a detailed explanation of all the standard controls, and provides advice on buying. A separate chapter deals with using an oscilloscope for fault finding on linear and logic circuits, plenty of example waveforms help to illustrate the control functions and the effects of various fault conditions. The function and use of various other pieces of test equipment are also covered, including signal generators, logic probes, logic pulser, and crystal calibrators. 104 pages **Order code BP267 £3.50**

Circuits and Design

PRACTICAL ELECTRONIC FILTERS

Owen Bishop

This book deals with the subject in a non-mathematical way. It reviews the main types of filter, explaining in simple terms how each type works and how it is used.

The book also presents a dozen filter-based projects with applications in and around the home or in the constructor's workshop. These include a number of audio projects such as a rhythm sequencer and a multi-voiced electronic organ.

Concluding the book is a practical step-by-step guide to designing simple filters for a wide range of purposes, with circuit diagrams and worked examples.

88 pages

Order code BP299

£4.95

ELECTRONIC ALARM CIRCUITS MANUAL

R. M. Marston

One hundred and forty useful alarm circuits, of a variety of types, are shown in this volume. The operating principle of each one is explained in concise but comprehensive terms, and brief construction notes are given where necessary.

Aimed at the practical design engineer, technician and experimenter, as well as the electronics student and amateur.

124 pages

Order code NE11

£13.95

DIGITAL LOGIC GATES AND FLIP-FLOPS

Ian R. Sinclair

This book, intended for enthusiasts, students and technicians, seeks to establish a firm foundation in digital electronics by treating the topics of gates and flip-flops thoroughly and from the beginning.

Topics such as Boolean algebra and Karnaugh mapping are explained, demonstrated and used extensively, and more attention is paid to the subject of synchronous counters than to the simple but less important ripple counters.

No background other than a basic knowledge of electronics is assumed, and the more theoretical topics are explained from the beginning, as also are many working practices. The book concludes with an explanation of microprocessor techniques as applied to digital logic.

200 pages

Order code PC106

£8.95

ELECTRONIC CIRCUITS FOR THE COMPUTER CONTROL OF ROBOTS

Robert Penfold

Robots and robotics offer one of the most interesting areas for the electronics hobbyist to experiment in. Today the mechanical side of robots is not too difficult, as there are robotics kit and a wide range of mechanical components available. The micro controller is not too much of a problem either, since the software need not be terribly complex and many inexpensive home computers are well suited to the task.

The main stumbling block for most would-be robot builders is the electronics to interface the computer to the motors, and the sensors which provide feedback from the

robot to the computer. The purpose of this book is to explain and provide some relatively simple electronic circuits which bridge this gap.

92 pages

Order code BP179

£2.95

ELECTRONIC POWER SUPPLY HANDBOOK

Ian R. Sinclair

This book covers the often neglected topic of electronic power supplies. All types of supplies that are used for electronics purposes are covered in detail, starting with cells and batteries and extending by way of rectified supplies and linear stabilisers to modern switch-mode systems, IC switch-mode regulators, DC-DC converters and inverters.

The devices, their operating principles and typical circuits are all dealt with in detail. The action of rectifiers and the reservoir capacitor is emphasised, and the subject of stabilisation is covered. The book includes some useful formulae for assessing the likely hum level of a conventional rectifier reservoir supply.

136 pages

Order code PC108

£7.95

50 SIMPLE LED CIRCUITS

R. N. Soar

Contains 50 interesting and useful circuits and applications, covering many different branches of electronics, using one of the most inexpensive and freely available components – the light-emitting diode (LED). Also includes circuits for the 707 common anode display.

64 pages

Order code BP42

£1.95

BOOK 2 50 more l.e.d. circuits

Order code BP87

£1.95

CIRCUIT SOURCE BOOK 1

A. Penfold

Written to help you create and experiment with your own electronic designs by combining and using the various standard "building block" circuits provided. Where applicable, advice on how to alter the circuit parameters is given.

The circuits covered in this book are mainly concerned with analogue signal processing and include: Audio amplifiers (op.amp and bipolar transistors); audio power amplifiers; d.c. amplifiers; highpass, lowpass, bandpass and notch filters; tone controls; voltage controlled amplifiers and filters; triggers and voltage comparators; gates and electronic switching; bargraphs; mixers; phase shifters, current mirrors, hold circuits, etc.

Over 150 circuits are provided, which it is hoped will be useful to all those involved in circuit design and application, be they professionals, students or hobbyists.

182 pages

Order code BP321

£4.95

CIRCUIT SOURCE BOOK 2

R. A. Penfold

This book will help you to create and experiment with your own electronic designs by combining and using the various standard "building blocks" circuits provided. Where applicable, advice on how to alter the circuit parameters is provided.

The circuits covered are mainly concerned with signal generation, power supplies, and digital electronics.

The topics covered in this book include: 555 oscillators; sine wave oscillators; function generators; CMOS oscillators; voltage controlled oscillators; radio frequency oscillators; 555 monostables; CMOS monostables; TTL monostables; precision long timers; power supply and regulator circuits; negative supply generators and voltage boosters; digital dividers, decoders, etc.; counters and display drivers; D/A and A/D converters; opto-isolators, flip/flops, noise generators, tone decoders, etc.

Over 170 circuits are provided, which it is hoped will be useful to all those involved in circuit design and application, be they professionals, students or hobbyists.

192 pages

Order code BP322

£4.95

HOW TO USE OP-AMPS

E. A. Parr

This book has been written as a designer's guide covering many operational amplifiers, serving both as a source book of circuits and a reference book for design calculations. The approach has been made as non-mathematical as possible.

160 pages

Order code BP88

£2.95

A BEGINNERS GUIDE TO TTL DIGITAL ICs

R. A. Penfold

This book first covers the basics of simple logic circuits in general, and then progresses to specific TTL logic integrated circuits. The devices covered include gates, oscillators, timers, flip/flops, dividers, and decoder circuits. Some practical circuits are used to illustrate the use of TTL devices in "real world" applications.

142 pages

Order code BP332

£4.95

DIRECT BOOK SERVICE

ORDERING DETAILS

Please state the title and order code clearly, print your name and address and add the required postage to the total order.

Add £1 to your total order for postage and packing (overseas readers add £2 for countries in Europe, or add £5 for all countries outside Europe, surface mail postage) and send a PO, cheque, international money order, (£ sterling only) made payable to **Direct Book Service** or credit card details (including the card expiry date), Visa or Mastercard (Access) – minimum credit card order is £5 – quoting your name and address, the order code and quantities required to **DIRECT BOOK SERVICE, 33 GRAVEL HILL, WIMBORNE, DORSET BH21 1RW** (mail order only).

Although books, videos and software are normally sent within seven days of receipt of your order, please allow a maximum of 28 days for delivery. Overseas readers allow extra time for surface mail post.

Please check price and availability (see latest issue of *Everyday with Practical Electronics*) before ordering from old lists.

Note – our postage charge is the same for one book or one hundred books!

MORE BOOKS NEXT MONTH

Direct Book Service is a division of Wimborne Publishing Ltd

Tel: 0202 881749

Fax: 0202 841692

Radio, TV, Satellite

PROJECTS FOR RADIO AMATEURS AND S.V.L.S.

R. A. Penfold

This book describes a number of electronic circuits, most of which are quite simple, which can be used to enhance the performance of most short wave radio systems.

The circuits covered include: An aerial tuning unit; A simple active aerial; An add-on b.f.o. for portable sets; A wavetraps for combat signals on spurious responses; An audio notch filter; A parametric equaliser; C.W. and S.S.B. audio filters; Simple noise limiters; A speech processor; A volume expander.

Other useful circuits include a crystal oscillator, and RTTY/C.W. tone decoder, and a RTTY serial to parallel converter. A full range of interesting and useful circuits for short wave enthusiasts.

92 pages

Order code BP304

£3.95

AN INTRODUCTION TO AMATEUR RADIO

I. D. Poole

Amateur radio is a unique and fascinating hobby which has attracted thousands of people since it began at the turn of the century.

This book gives the newcomer a comprehensive and easy to understand guide through the subject so that the reader can gain the most from the hobby. It then remains an essential reference volume to be used time and again. Topics covered include the basic aspects of the hobby, such as operating procedures, jargon and setting up a station. Technical topics covered include propagation, receivers, transmitters and aerials etc.

150 pages

Order code BP257

£3.50

SIMPLE SHORT WAVE RECEIVER CONSTRUCTION

R. A. Penfold

Short wave radio is a fascinating hobby, but one that seems to be regarded by many as an expensive pastime these days. In fact it is possible to pursue this hobby for a minimal monetary outlay if you are prepared to undertake a bit of d.i.y., and the receivers described in this book can all be built at low cost. All the sets are easy to construct, full wiring diagrams etc. are provided, and they are suitable for complete beginners. The receivers only require simple aerials, and do not need any complex alignment or other difficult setting up procedures.

The topics covered in this book include: The broadcast bands and their characteristics; The propagation of radio signals; Simple aerials; Making an earth connection; Short wave crystal set; Simple t.r.f. receivers; Single sideband reception; Direct conversion receiver.

Contains everything you need to know in order to get started in this absorbing hobby.

88 pages

Order code BP275

£3.95

AN INTRODUCTION TO AMATEUR COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITES

A. Pickford

Communications and broadcast satellites are normally inaccessible to individuals unless they are actively involved in their technicalities by working for organisations such as British Telecom, the various space agencies or military bodies, even those who possess a satellite television receiver system do not participate in the technical aspects of these highly technological systems.

There are a large number of amateur communications satellites in orbit around the world, traversing the globe continuously and they can be tracked and their signals received with relatively inexpensive equipment. This equipment can be connected to a home computer such as the BBC Micro or IBM compatible PCs, for the decoding of received signals.

This book describes several currently available systems, their connection to an appropriate computer and how they can be operated with suitable software.

102 pages

Order code BP290

£3.95

AERIAL PROJECTS

R. A. Penfold

The subject of aerials is vast but in this book the author has considered practical aerial designs, including active, loop and ferrite aerials which give good performances and are relatively simple and inexpensive to build. The complex theory and mathematics of aerial design have been avoided.

Also included are constructional details of a number of aerial accessories including a pre-selector, attenuator, filters and tuning unit.

96 pages

Order code BP105

£2.50

INTERNATIONAL RADIO STATIONS GUIDE

P. Shore

Provides the casual listener, amateur radio DXer and the professional radio monitor with an essential reference work designed to guide him or her around the ever more complex radio bands. This new edition has been completely revised and rewritten and incorporates much more information which is divided into the following sections:

Listening to Short Wave Radio; Choosing a Short Wave Radio Receiver; How to Use the IRSG; Abbreviations; Country Codes; Worldwide Short Wave Radio Stations; European, Middle Eastern and African Long Wave Radio Stations; European, Near and Middle Eastern and African Medium Wave Radio Stations; Canadian Medium Wave Radio Stations; USA Medium Wave Radio Stations; Broadcasts in English; Programmes for DXers and Short Wave Listeners; UK FM Radio Stations; Time Differences From GMT; Wavelength/Frequency Conversion.

226 pages

Order code BP255

£5.95

ELECTRONICS SOFTWARE

from E.P.T. Educational Software
(Tel: 0376 514008)

If you are looking for a means of improving your knowledge of the basics of electronics then this software is for you.

ELECTRONICS PRINCIPLES II

- ★ Insulators, Conductors, Resistance ★ D.C. Circuits
- ★ Capacitance and Inductance ★ A.C. Series Circuits
- ★ A.C. Parallel Circuits ★ Reactance and Impedance
- ★ A.C. and D.C. Power ★ Frequency and Tuned Circuits
- ★ Using Numbers ★ Complex Numbers, Phase Angles
- ★ P.N. Junction Diode ★ Transistors ★ Operational Amplifiers
- ★ Logic Gates ★ Digital Number Systems ★ Combinational Logic
- ★ Flip Flops ★ Counters and Shift Registers ★ Memory
- ★ Microcomputer operation

Electronics Principles II is a major revision of the successful original version currently used by electronics hobbyists, schools, colleges, and for training within industry throughout the U.K. and overseas. Some of the modifications are as a result of feedback from teachers, but mostly the changes are due to making greater use of the available improvements in software development technology.

The individual sub-menus are changed to selection buttons, this makes all those topics available within a module, clearly visible to the user. **The layout of the calculations is considerably enhanced**, firstly by providing the formulae used and secondly by showing the calculation steps, exactly as in a textbook; the advantage here being that you can input your own values.

Having reviewed a dozen, or more, educational software packages designed to "teach" electronics, I was more than a little sceptical when I first heard about Electronics Principles: there seemed to be little that could be done that has not been done elsewhere. When I started to use the package my views changed. Indeed, I was so impressed with it that I quickly came to the conclusion that Everyday with Practical Electronics readers should have an opportunity to try the package out for themselves! – MIKE TOOLEY B.A. Dean of Faculty of Technology, Brooklands Technical College

Over 200 menu driven screens with interactive graphics enabling a learning by doing approach to encourage experimentation.

Complete package **Only £49.95** inc. VAT.

ELECTRONICS PC TOOLBOX VERSION 2.0

An extended and improved version of the popular Toolbox software. Presents commonly used formulae in a way that makes calculations easier thus encouraging experimentation in circuit design.

Covers D.C. Calculations from Ohm's Law to Loading a Potential Divider; Further D.C. Calculations from Power Ratio Decibels to Kirchhoff's Laws; A.C. Calculations from Average Peak Current to Filters and Admittance; Capacitance Calculations from Values to RC Time Constants; Inductance Calculations from Values to Selectivity; Binary Calculations from Addition to 2's Complement; Numbers and Phase Angles from Addition to Polar to Rectangular; Operational Amplifiers from Inverting Op.Amp to Op.Amp Differentiator.

Only £19.95 inc. VAT

These programs require a PC (or fully compatible system) running DOS with an 80286 or better processor and VGA (ideally colour) graphics. In addition you must have 4Mb of hard disk space, a high density (1.44Mb) floppy drive and at least 640K of RAM. We also recommend the use of a mouse. Site licences are available – please enquire.

Distributed by **Direct Book Service**, 33 Gravel Hill, Merley, Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 1RW. (Mail Order Only).

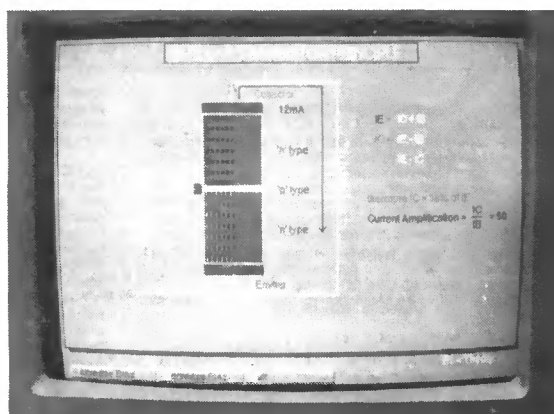
Add £1 per order for UK post and packing. Make cheques payable to **Direct Book Service**.

Direct Book Service is a division of **Wimborne Publishing Ltd.** publishers of *Everyday with Practical Electronics*.

Tel: 0202 881749. Fax: 0202 841692.

Visa and Mastercard orders accepted (minimum credit card order £5) – please give card number, card expiry date and cardholders address if different from the delivery address. Orders are normally sent within seven days but please allow a maximum of 28 days – longer for overseas orders.

OVERSEAS ORDERS: Add £2 postage for countries in the E.E.C. Overseas readers, **outside the E.E.C. countries** add £3 for airmail



GCSE ELECTRONICS

Designed to complement our *Teach-In No. 7* publication, which contains a complete electronics course aimed at GCSE and A Level students, this software can also be used as a stand alone learning package for everyone interested in electronics. From simple current flow and Ohm's Law it covers the whole GCSE syllabus from a.c. to semiconductors, op.amps, digital electronics and even a grounding in microprocessors.

An interactive, user friendly medium which assists learning in an enjoyable and interesting way.

Only £24.95 inc. VAT

Teach-In No 7 152 page A4 book £3.95 including a Special Limited Version of GCSE Electronics software which covers the first two of the 12 parts of the course, thus enabling an assessment of the complete package. Both the book and the software can be used on their own.

DEMONSTRATION DISK
Special demonstration disk containing *Electronics Principles II*, *GCSE Maths and Mathematics Principles* is available for £2 (Overseas orders send £3) – includes post and packing.

GCSE MATHS

A series of programs covering all the major topics required by the school syllabus. Designed to be user friendly enabling you to study or revise in what we believe is an interesting and enjoyable way. There are nearly one hundred and fifty menu driven screens with interactive graphics, enabling a "learning through doing" approach to encourage experimentation. Now being used in many schools throughout the U.K.

Overseas customers or those with general interest in maths order *Mathematics Principle* – covers the same subjects without reference to GCSE.

Only £49.95 inc. VAT

PCB SERVICE

Printed circuit boards for certain EPE constructional projects are available from the PCB Service, see list. These are fabricated in glass fibre, and are fully drilled and roller tinned. All prices include VAT and postage and packing. Add £1 per board for airmail outside of Europe. Remittances should be sent to **The PCB Service, Everyday with Practical Electronics, Allen House, East Borough, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 1PF**. Cheques should be crossed and made payable to *Everyday with Practical Electronics* (Payment in £ sterling only).

NOTE: While 95% of our boards are now held in stock and are dispatched within seven days of receipt of order, please allow a maximum of 28 days for delivery – overseas readers allow extra if ordered by surface mail.

Back numbers or photostats of articles are available if required – see the **Back Numbers** page for details.

Please check price and availability in the latest issue.

Boards can only be supplied on a payment with order basis.

PROJECT TITLE	Order Code	Cost
Electronic Fire APR '93	820	£4.84
Mind Machine MkII – Signal Generator	824	£5.57
Ventilation Fan Timer	825	£4.70
Universal Data Logger	826	£5.88
Mind Machine MkII – Magic Lights MAY '93	827	£6.58
Superhet Radio Control Receiver	828	£5.93
Guitar Preamp and Distortion Unit	829	£5.46
Linear Clock – Timing Board	830	£8.00
Display Board	831	£7.00
Universal Alarm Module	9070	£3.00
Electronic Snooker Scoreboard JUNE '93	832	£9.17
Mind Machine MkII JULY '93		
– Computer Interface	833	£6.39
Xenon Strobe	834	£5.84
Electronic Gong	835	£7.50
Micro Lab – p.c.b., EPROM, PAL and booklet	MICRO	£35.00
Bike Odometer (pair of boards) AUG '93	836/7	£7.00
Amstrad PCW A to D Converter (double-sided)	838	£9.85
Experimental Electronic Pipe Descaler	839	£5.50
Sound Activated Camera Trigger SEP '93	840	£5.34
L.E.D. Sandglass OCT '93		
Main and Display boards	841/2	£7.30
Kettle Alert	843	£5.19
Linear Power Supply (double-sided)	844	£9.77
Multi-Purpose Audio System		
Six Channel Stereo Mixer	845	£11.98
Multi-Purpose Audio System NOV '93		
Microphone Pre-Amp module	846	£4.88
RIAA Pre-Amp module	847	£5.11
20 Metre Receiver	848	£6.63
Multi-Purpose Audio System DEC '93		
Tone Control and 1W Stereo Amplifier	849	£6.09
Tone Control	850	£5.12
1W Stereo Amplifier	851	£4.88
Three-Way Christmas Tree Lights Flasher	853	£5.65
Auto Alarm	854	£5.49
250W/600W Battery to Mains Inverter	855	£13.92
Multi-Purpose Audio System JAN '94		
10W + 10W Stereo Power Amplifier	852a	£5.65
Amplifier	852b	£5.49
Power Supply		
Pond Heater Thermostat	856	£5.77
Timer/NiCad Capacity Checker	857	£6.30
Multi-Purpose Audio System FEB '94		
Balanced Microphone Preamplifier	858	£5.30
Balanced Microphone Power Supply	859	£5.14
Whistle Controlled Light Switch	860	£5.19
Battery to Mains Inverter – U.P.S. charger board	862	£7.38
Three Phase Generator MAR '94		
Visual Doorbell	861	£5.95
	863	£5.80
CCD TV Camera – Control Board		
(double-sided, plated-through-hole)	865	£15.00
Telephone Ring Detector APR '94		
CCD TV Camera	864	£4.72
Combined Video, Test & Ext Plug Boards	866a/e	£11.00
Frame Grab Control	867	£15.00
(double-sided plated-through-hole)		
EPE Sound DAC PC Sound Board	868	£4.77
MOSFET Variable Bench Power Supply	869	£5.80
L.E.D. Matrix Message Display Unit MAY '94		
Display Board	870	£18.00
CPU Board	871	£7.20
Stereo Noise Gate	873	£6.14
Simple TENS Unit	875	£5.84
Capacitance/Inductance Meter	876	£6.44

PROJECT TITLE	Order Code	Cost
Advanced TENS Unit JUN '94	877	£6.56
Digital Water Meter – Scaler	878	£11.19
Counter/Display	879	pair
L.E.D. Matrix Message Display Unit		
Keypad	872	£5.19
PC Interface	880	£5.82
Microprocessor Smartschwitch	881	£5.61
Microcontroller P.I. Treasure Hunter	882	£6.60
Print Timer JULY '94	874	£5.82
Watering Wizard	883	£6.60
Simple NiCad Charger	884	£4.98
Voxbox	885	£6.90
Stereo HiFi Controller – 1 Power Supply	886	£5.66
Stereo HiFi Controller – 2 AUG '94		
Main Board	887	£7.39
Expansion/Display Boards (pair)	888	£9.80
Dancing Fountains – 1		
Pre.amp	889	£5.28
Pump Controller	890	£5.41
Filter	891	£5.23
6802 Microprocessor Development Board	894	£9.15
Dancing Fountains – 2 SEPT '94		
PC-Compatible Interface (double-sided)	892	£10.90
Automatic Greenhouse Watering System	895	£5.33
Seismograph – 1 Sensor/Filter	896	£6.23
Clock/Mixer	897	£5.87
3-Channel Lamp Controller	899	£8.17
Seismograph – 2 OCT '94		
PC-Compatible Interface (double-sided)	898	£10.72
Visual/Audio Guitar Tuner	900	£7.55
Digilogue Clock	901	£12.50
Hobby Power Supply	902	£5.00
Audio Auxplexer		
Control Board	903	£7.72
Receiver	904	£6.24
Power Controller NOV '94		
1000V/500V Insulation Tester	905	£4.99
Active Guitar Tone Control	906	£5.78
TV Off-er (pair)	907	£4.50
Video Modules – 1 Simple Fader	908/909	£7.25
Improved Fader	910	£5.12
Video Enhancer	911	£6.37
	912	£5.15
Rodent Repeller DEC '94		
EPE Fruit Machine	913	£6.26
Video Modules – 2 Horizontal Wiper	914	£8.14
Vertical Wiper	916	£6.23
4-Channel Audio Mixer	917	£6.35
Spacewriter Wand	918	£6.20
Universal Digital Code Lock	921	£4.00
	922	£6.25
Video Modules – JAN '95		
3 Dynamic Noise Limiter	919	£5.92
System Mains Power Supply	920	£4.98
Magnetic Field Detector	923	£5.77
Model Railway Track Cleaner	924	£5.11
Moving Display Metronome	925	£6.24
The Ultimate Screen Saver FEB '95		
Foot-Operated Drill Controller	927	£5.66
Model Railway Signals	928	£5.73
12V 35W PA Amplifier	939	£5.96
	930	£12.25

EPE PRINTED CIRCUIT BOARD SERVICE

Order Code Project Quantity Price

Name.....

Address.....

I enclose payment of £..... (cheque/PO in £ sterling only) to:



Everyday with
Practical Electronics



Access (MasterCard) or Visa No.
Minimum order for credit cards £5

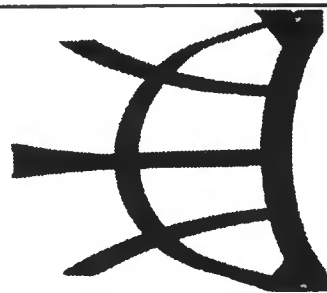
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Signature..... Card Exp. Date.....

Please supply name and address of cardholder if different from the address shown

REPORTING AMATEUR RADIO

Tony Smith G4FAI



IARU NO CHANGE ON MORSE

In a recent issue it was reported that the IARU Administrative Council had appointed a special sub-committee to examine the issues related to the amateur Morse test, and to propose the position the IARU should take on this controversial matter.

Following the AC's meeting in Singapore on 10 to 12 September 1994, a press release included the following statement:

"A resolution concerning the requirements in the Radio Regulations for a demonstration of Morse code ability for operators licensed to use amateur frequencies below 30 MHz was adopted.

Consistent with the views of the member societies as expressed through the regional organisations, the IARU will neither propose nor support a change in the requirement at this time."

RA ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Report of the Radiocommunications Agency, 1993/94, shows that as at 31 March 1994 the number of amateur radio licences on issue was 63,033. This is an increase of 3,790 over 1992/93, more than making up for the reduction of 2,200 recorded in that year.

Compared with 1992/93, there were 593 fewer class A licences, showing a continuing slow decline in this type of licence. There were, however, increases in all other types of licence, i.e., class B +3926, Novice A +33, and Novice B +425. The actual figures were: A - 31,817; B - 29,717; Novice A - 139; Novice B - 1360.

The Agency reports that it maintains an active dialogue with the Radio Society of Great Britain on a wide variety of issues affecting the amateur radio community, and the national and international arrangements that govern the use of the amateur radio spectrum.

It has continued, it says, to support the efforts of the RSGB and others to promote amateur radio as a rewarding hobby, especially among young people, and continues to give its backing to the Young Amateur of the Year Award.

CB UNDER STRESS

It is also reported that CB licences have continued their downward plunge, dropping a further 3,222 to 50,704 as at 31.3.94. The Agency accepted proposals from the CB community for a relaxation of current antenna restrictions and, says the Report, would be changing the licence rules in the near future.

This change will allow the use of half-wave and 5/8 wavelength antennas which are capable of greatly improved performance compared with the compulsorily attenuated antennas previously permitted. (The change rules came into effect on 2 August 1994 but the RA

stress that beam antennas are still not permitted in CB operation.)

The RA has been monitoring discussions in the European Telecommunications Standards Institute about a specification for AM/SSB CB equipment. Such equipment is not permitted in the UK says the Report, because of the potential for interference, and there are no plans at present for the introduction of an AM/SSB CB service even if the ETSI standard is published.

LITTLE LEO

In the USA, the FCC has granted the first v.h.f. low-earth orbit (LEO) satellite license. The new Non-voice Non-Geostationary (NVNG) Service, is popularly known as *Little LEO*.

The first licensee, Orbital Communications Corp. (Orbcomm), plans to provide global E-mail, equipment monitoring, position-location and paging services through a network that will eventually grow to 36 satellites.

They will provide one-way and two-way data communications to pocket-size communicators costing as little as \$50. Orbcomm transceivers will connect to laptop computers for E-mail. Early users of the system will include shipping companies tracking the location of trailers and containers or monitoring conditions such as container temperature, and oil and gas companies monitoring remote pipelines.

At the Orbcomm control room arrays of Unix workstations, running tracking software, monitor and predict spacecraft position and status. The highly automated system can be operated by two controllers, a far cry from the massive Mission Control facilities required by satellites of old.

The NVNG Service is the first fully-commercial descendant of the Amateur Satellite Service pioneered by radio amateurs since the 1960's. (*W5YI Report*).

STELAR SUCCESS

AMRED (Amateur Radio in Education), journal of STELAR (Science & Technology through Educational Links with Amateur Radio), reports good results from the Easter '94 crash Radio Amateur Examination course for teachers from schools with no current amateur radio programme. There was 100 per cent success on paper one, and three retakes of paper two were planned for December.

Applications are now invited for next Easter's course (sponsored by Kenwood UK) from teachers from schools with no RAE qualified staff (or where the licensed teacher is about to move on).

Those selected will receive four days of tuition, course materials, meals and hotel accommodation free of charge. Their only financial obligation will be travel to and from Rickmansworth, plus registration and exam fees at their local City & Guilds examination centre for the May 1995

RAE. There are twenty places available and early application is recommended.

Teachers interested should send a brief letter stating their interest to: *Richard Horton G3XWH, Harrogate Ladies College, Clarence Drive, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG1 2QG*. Please mention that you read about STELAR in EPE.

UNIVERSAL LICENCE?

According to the *W5YI Report*, the United States is considering International Amateur Radio Licensing. There is already an international agreement whereby some 20 countries, including the UK, participating in the Conference of European Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), have a Common Amateur Radio Licence arrangement. Last year New Zealand was the first country outside Europe to join in the scheme, and now the State Department is discussing with representatives of the CEPT the possibility of the CEPT Common Licence being recognised by the United States and vice versa.

The FCC, the U.S. licensing authority, is also working on an international amateur radio operating permit for certain countries in North, Central and South America. Unlike the CEPT arrangement, which still requires some formality, the Americas licence would be something like an international driving licence, valid in all participating countries.

The way things are going, perhaps it's not too fanciful to suggest that there will come a time when amateur licences issued nationally will be universally recognised around the world!

GB2SM TO CONTINUE?

Following an announcement by the *Science Museum* in London that its radio station, GB2SM, was closing on 7 November 1994, amateurs around the world have expressed dismay at the loss of this famous station after nearly forty years of operation.

Happily, the museum has agreed to enter into discussions with the Radio Society of Great Britain with a view to their providing the museum with a state-of-the-art hands-on amateur radio exhibit to replace the old station.

In the meantime, the RSGB is hoping to devise some means of keeping the GB2SM callsign on the air until the replacement exhibit is in place.

CORRECTION!

In the November column, reporting on the new power level for Top Band, it was indicated that this extended across the whole band. In fact, 26dBW is only permitted over the sub-band 1.8-10MHz to 1.850MHz. For the rest of the band, up to 2.000MHz, the limit is still 15dBW.

My thanks to reader Les Caine, G4XVQ, for writing to me about this "slip of the pen" as he so tactfully described it!

WE HAVE THE WIDEST CHOICE OF USED OSCILLOSCOPES IN THE COUNTRY

TEKTRONIX 7000 SERIES OSCILLOSCOPES Available from £200 - ALL RINGS SOLD SEPARATELY	
TEKTRONIX 2245A 4 Channel 100MHz Cursor etc	£1000
TEKTRONIX 2246A 4 Channel 100MHz Cursor Voltmeter etc	£1250
TEKTRONIX 475 Dual Trace 200MHz Delay Sweep	£500
TEKTRONIX 465 Dual Trace 100MHz Delay Sweep	£400
TEKTRONIX SC504 Dual Trace 80MHz in TMS038	£300
NATSU 55571C 4 Channel 100MHz Delay Sweep with DMM	£500
TRIO 2100 4 Channel 100MHz Delay Sweep	£400
TRIO CS2070 4 Channel 70MHz Delay Sweep	£450
TEKTRONIX 2215 Dual Trace 60MHz Delay Sweep	£400
KIKUSUI COS5060TM 3 Channel 60MHz Delay Sweep	£400
HITACHI V650F Dual Trace 60MHz Delay Sweep	£350
PHILIPS PM5217 Dual Trace 50MHz Delay Sweep	£400
LE CROIX 9400 Dual Trace 150MHz Delay Sweep	£240
COULD OS3000 Dual Trace 20MHz	£200
TRIO CS1566A Dual Trace 20MHz	£200
COULD OS2508 Dual Trace 15MHz	£125
HITACHI VC6045 2 Channel 40 MS/s Digital Storage Cursors	£1100
LE CROIX 9400 Dual Trace 150MHz Delay Sweep	£1000
COULD OS4000 Dual Trace 10MHz Delay Sweep	£200

THIS IS JUST A SAMPLE - MANY OTHERS AVAILABLE

NEW! HETTER PACKARD 1740A OSCILLOSCOPES 100MHz Dual Trace, Delay Sweep. For only £350

MARCONI 2018 Synthesised AM/FM Sig Gen 30kHz-520MHz	£700
HP 8640B Sig Gen 500kHz-102MHz	£1000
HP 8620C Synthesised Oscillator with 86245A 5.9-12.4GHz	£400
SYSTRON CONNOR 1700 Dual Trace 100MHz-1GHz	£500
RACAL 9081 Synthesised Sig Gen 5-520MHz	£500
FARNELL SS2052 Synthesised AM/FM Sig Gen 10MHz-520MHz	£400
MARCONI TF2015 AM/FM Sig Gen 10kHz-510MHz	£200
MARCONI TF2015 With Synchroniser TF2171 lock box	£350
MARCONI TF2016 FM Sig Gen 10kHz-120MHz	£250
MARCONI TF2016 With Synchroniser TF2173 lock box	£375
PHILIPS PM5326 AM/FM Sig Gen 100kHz-110MHz	£150
MARCONI TF2002B AM/FM Sig Gen 10kHz-88MHz with Dig Sync	£300
H.R. SMITH ANTENNA type 12-602-4	£2000
RACAL INSTRUMENT RECORDER type Store 40N	£500
HP 3575A Gen Phase Meter 10Hz-10kHz	£400
MARCONI TF2337 Automatic Distortion Meter	£200
SAYROSA Automatic Modulation Meter type 252B	£125
RACAL 9104 RF Power Meter 1MHz-1GHz 10mW-300W	£400
RACAL 9100 Absorption Wattmeter 1.5MHz-520MHz 300mW	£100
TEKTRONIX CPS250 Trip Output PSU 2x20V 0.5A Var. 5V/2A Fxd	£225
TEKTRONIX CP250 Function Gen 0.2Hz-2MHz Sine/Sqr/Tri etc	£180
TEKTRONIX CM2520 Digital Multimeter 3-digit LED	£125

SPECTRUM ANALYSERS	
HP 8553 with 8559A 0.01-21GHz	£4500
HP 3589A LED 0.5MHz-50kHz	£1000
POLARAD 641-1 100kHz-50kHz	£1500
ANDO AC2821 with AC2811 1700MHz	£1500
HP 182 with 8558B 100kHz-110MHz	£1500
HP 1411 with 8554B & 8552B 500kHz-1250MHz	£1200
HP 1411 with 8553B & 8552A 1kHz-110MHz	£800
MARCONI TF2370 30kHz-110MHz	£1000
HP 8443 Tracking Generators Available from...	£500
HP 1411 Main Frames Only, Good Tubes	£700

Used Equipment - Guaranteed. Manuals supplied if possible. This is a VERY SMALL SAMPLE OF STOCK. SAE or telephone for lists. Please check availability before ordering. CARRIAGE all units £16. VAT to be added to Goods and Carriage.

STEWART OF READING
110 WYKEHAM ROAD, READING, BERKS RG6 1PL
Tel: 0734 268041 Fax: 0734 351696 Callers welcome 9am to 5.30pm MON-FRI (Residual 8pm THURS)

HP 3456A 6-digit DC/True RMS AC/Res HPB	£600
EP DANA 5510 Microwave Frequency Counter 20Hz-18GHz	£500
HP 5341A Frequency Counter 50MHz-15GHz LED	£200
MARCONI 2435 Digital Frequency Meter 20Hz	£900
RACAL 1998 Freq Counter 1.3GHz options GPIB & High Stabl	£400
RACAL 1991 Universal Counter/Timer 180MHz 9 digit	£175
MARCONI 2437 Universal Counter/Timer DC-100MHz 8 digit	£150
MARCONI 2431A Frequency Counter 10Hz-200MHz 8 digit	£150
MARCONI 2430A Frequency Counter 10Hz-800MHz 8 digit	£125
RACAL 9918 Frequency Counter 10Hz-520MHz 9 digit	£125
RACAL 9913 Frequency Meter 10Hz-200MHz 8 digit	£125
RACAL 9901 Universal Counter/Timer DC-50MHz 6 digit	£100
RACAL 9901 Frequency Meter 10Hz-120MHz 7 digit	£100
DAITRON 1061A 6.5 digit Autocal Multimeter True RMS AC/Current	£750
HP 3450A 5 digit Multimeter AC/DC/Ohms	£250
HP 3455A 3.5 digit Multimeter AC/DC/Ohms/Current LED	£150
PHILIPS PM2534 Multi Function DMM 3.5-6.5 digit GPIB/IEEE	£400
SOLARTRON 7150 6.5-3.5 digit DMM with EEC	£80
SOLARTRON 7045 4.5 digit Multimeter Volts/Amps/Ohms	£60
WAYNE KERR 8905 Automatic Precision Bridge 0.05%	£165
MARCONI TF2100 Universal Bridge Battery Operated	from £125
MARCONI TF1313A Universal LCR Bridge 0.1%	£150
HEATHKIT IB RLC Bridge	£60
BRADLEY 192 Oscilloscope Calibrator	£80
WILTRON 560 Scaler Network Analyser with Detectors	£1000
HP 5050A Signature Analyser	£350
FARNELL H90 100 0-30V 0-100A Metered	£300
FARNELL TV570 M2 70V 5A/35V 10A Metered	£200
FARNELL B3010 30V 10A Variable	£125
FARNELL L30E 0-30V 0-5A Metered	£125
MARCONI W60 TF2154 0-30V 1A 0-15V 2A 0-7.5V 4A Metered	£150
HP 8515A 0-30V 0-100A Metered	£150
BRANDENBURG 472R PSU - / - 2kV	£300
FEEDBACK F6000 Sine/Sqr/Tri 0.01Hz-100kHz	£80
LYONS PG71N Pulse Gen. PRF 1Hz-20MHz 150Vcs	£75
FARNELL PC101 Pulse Gen. 100ns-100MHz 15Vcs 1Hz	£125
ENDON LA1 M2B Audio Analyser	£350
UNIDHAM EP501 Audio Analyser	£350
PHILIPS PM5518 Colour TV Pattern Generator	£1250
RADFORD LD04 Low Distortion Oscillator	£300
RADFORD LD452 Low Distortion Measuring Set	£300
MARCONI TF2163 Attenuator DC-1GHz	£100
MARCONI TF835B audio Power Meter Sinad	£250
HP 16300 Logic Analyser 45ch	£250
HP 8405A Vector Voltmeter 1-1000MHz from	£300

NEW EQUIPMENT

HAMEG OSCILLOSCOPE HM1005 Triple Trace 100MHz	£947
Daytime Timebase	£953
HAMEG OSCILLOSCOPE HM604 Dual Trace 60MHz Delay Sweep	£653
HAMEG OSCILLOSCOPE HM303 Dual Trace 30MHz Comp. Tester	£392
HAMEG OSCILLOSCOPE HM205-3 Dual Trace 20MHz Digital Storage	£653
All other models available - all oscilloscopes supplied with 2 probes	
BLACK STAR EQUIPMENT (P&P all units £5)	
APOLLO 10 100MHz Counter/Timer/Period/Time Int. etc	£222
APOLLO 100 100MHz as above with more functions	£325
METER 100 FREQUENCY COUNTER 100MHz	£119
METER 600 FREQUENCY COUNTER 600MHz	£145
METER 1000 FREQUENCY COUNTER 1GHz	£189
JURTOR 500 FUNCTION GEN 0.1Hz-500kHz Sine/Sqr/Tri	£119
ORION COLOUR BAR GENERATOR Pat/TV/Video	£229
All other Black Star equipment available	
OSCILLOSCOPE PROBES Switched X1 X10 X100 £30	£12

Used Equipment - Guaranteed. Manuals supplied if possible. This is a VERY SMALL SAMPLE OF STOCK. SAE or telephone for lists. Please check availability before ordering. CARRIAGE all units £16. VAT to be added to Goods and Carriage.

STEWART OF READING
110 WYKEHAM ROAD, READING, BERKS RG6 1PL
Tel: 0734 268041 Fax: 0734 351696 Callers welcome 9am to 5.30pm MON-FRI (Residual 8pm THURS)

COMPAC ELECTRONICS

3L WEYLONG ROAD, DAGENHAM, ESSEX RM8 3AB
Tel: 081 984 0831

L.O.P.T. TRANSFORMERS WIDE RANGE STOCKED. PHILIPS, FERGUSON etc.

Phone with your requirements.

Handsets: Amstrad, Toshiba, Ferguson, Philips, VIDEO PLUS handsets, ex-rental, £20.

Universal Remote Control, operates TV, Video, satellite. We repair Philips hand sets, £5.00.

Video carriages - wide range stocked. Pinch Rollers.

Video figure eight mains leads, £1.00.

R.F. Video leads, 50p. SCART to SCART leads, £1.75.

SCART to SCART leads, all pins connected, £2.33.

Aerial R.F. cable, RG62, 30p per mtr.

Aerial R.F. male plugs, 30p each.

TV on/off switches, £1.95, most types.

Halogen Lamps, 240V, 500W, £2.00.

Miniature Tool Kit, comprises: side cutters knife, screwdrivers, £7.00.

Marconi Blue Cap, ex-rental, £5.

Amstrad Compact black cap. LNB £29.95 plus £2, post & carr.

Satellite dishes, £28 plus £5, post & carr.

Satellite cable, 30p mtr. F. Connectors, 40p each.

MASPRO LNB FSS, 1-dB max., £13.33.

NOKIA LNB FSS 1-3, £13.33.

NOKIA Feed Horns, for offset antenna, £10.67.

NOKIA Electromagnetic, Polarizers, £8.00.

i.c.s

SAA3010P £3.40.
TDA3654 £1.89.
TDA3561A £2.85.
TDA3562AE £2.85.

High quality loudspeaker cable, 50p per mtr.

Servicing Sprays £3.00 most types.

Please add £1.00 postage & packing, VAT inclusive.

VARIABLE VOLTAGE TRANSFORMERS

INPUT 220/240V AC 50/60 OUTPUT 0-260V	
Price	P&P
0.5KVA 2.5 amp max	£31.90 (£44.53 inc VAT)
1KVA 5 amp max	£41.15 (£56.58 inc VAT)
2KVA 10 amp max	£59.40 (£79.78 inc VAT)
3KVA 15 amp max	£78.65 (£102.40 inc VAT)
5KVA 25 amp max	£139.15

(Plus Carriage)
Buy direct from the Importers. Keenest prices in the country. COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF TRANSFORMERS-LT-ISOLATION & AUTO 110-240V Auto transfer either cased with American socket and main lead or open frame type. Available for immediate delivery.

WIDE RANGE OF XENON FLUORESCENT TUBES

Ultra Violet Black Light Fluorescent Tubes	
4ft 40 watt £14.00 (callers only)	(£16.45 inc VAT)
2ft 20 watt £9.00 (callers only)	(£10.58 inc VAT)
12in 8 watt £4.80 + 75p p&p	(£5.52 inc VAT)
9in 6 watt £3.98 + 50p p&p	(£4.48 inc VAT)
6in 4 watt £3.98 + 50p p&p	(£4.48 inc VAT)

230V AC BALLAST KIT

For either 6in, 9in or 12in tubes £6.05 + £1.40 p&p (£8.75 inc VAT).

The above Tubes are suitable for Forged Bank Note detection, security marking etc. Other Wave Lengths of U.V. TUBE available please telephone your enquiries.

400 WATT UV LAMP

Only £38.00 + £4.00 p&p (£49.35 inc VAT)
160 WATT SELF BALASTED BLACK LIGHT MERCURY BULB

Available with E.S. fitting. Price inc VAT & p&p £25.55

12V D.C. BILGE PUMPS

500 GPH 15ft head 3 amp £19.98
1750 GPH 15ft head 9 amp £34.55
Also now available:
24V D.C. 1750 GPH 15ft head
5 amp £35.55
All designed to be used submerged. PRICES INCLUDE P&P & VAT

SUPER HY-LIGHT STROBE KIT

Designed for Disco, Theatrical use etc. Approx 16 joules. Adjustable speed £50.00 + £3.00 p&p. Case and reflector £24.00 + £3.00 p&p (£31.73 inc VAT). SAE for further details including Hy-Light and Industrial Strobe Kits.

SERVICE TRADING CO
57 BRIDGMAN ROAD, CHISWICK, LONDON W4 5BB
TEL: 081-995 1560 FAX: 081-995 0549
Showroom open Monday/Friday ACCOUNT CUSTOMERS MIN ORDER £10

"BOFFINS SPECIAL" - UNIQUE OFFER

Surplus Precision Medical Unit, internally in excellent condition. Designed primarily to eject a precise controllable amount of fluid from a medical syringe (latter not supplied). Contains the following removable components: Dual Micro Processor Boards and EPROMS. Escap Precision 12V DC Motor with 300:1 Gear Box and optical encoder coupled to a precision threaded drive mechanism. Mains supply with 6 x 1.5V Ni-Cad A.A. cells back-up. L.C.D. Digital read-out 17mm high with legends. Audible warning.

These are sold for the dismantling of the exceptional quality components. Regret no Circuits available. Ridiculously low price: £20.00 + £4.00 p&p (£28.20 inc VAT).

3.5 KVA ISOLATION TRANSFORMER

New Manufacturers surplus, mounted in a solid metal enclosure with a surface mounted MKR Residual Current Circuit Breaker. Internally fused 240V AC Input and Output. External SHA Ground Point. Ideal for work bench isolation etc. Size: Width 44cm, Depth 44cm, Height incl. RCD 47cm. Weight 60 Kilos. Price: EX-WHAREHOUSE £120.00 + VAT.

240V AC CENTRIFUGAL BLOWER

New Manuf. Surplus Skeleton Blower suitable for mounting inside an enclosure to cool equipment. Overall size 130 x 110 x 85mm. Outlet 80 x 35mm. Impeller 60mm dia x 60mm long. Price £14.10 inc p&p & VAT.

SEWING MACHINE MOTOR

Brand new 220/240V AC/DC SEW-TRIC 2 lead Brush Motor. Size L. 100mm x H. 70mm x W. 55mm. Spindle 1/8 in. dia x 1 in. long. Price £14.10 inc p&p & VAT.

GEARED MOTORS

71 RPM 20lb torque reversible 115V AC input including capacitor and transformer for 240V AC operation. Price inc VAT & p&p £27.73.

SOLID STATE EHT UNIT

Input 230/240V AC. Output approx 15KV. Producing 10mm spark. Built-in 10 sec timer. Easily modified for 20, 30, 30 sec to continuous. Designed for boiler ignition. Dozens of uses in the field of physics and electronics, eg. applying neon or argon tubes etc. Price less case £8.50 + £2.40 p&p (£12.81 inc VAT) NMS

EPROM ERASURE KIT

Build your own EPROM ERASURE for a fraction of the price of a made-up unit kit of parts less case includes 12in 8 watt 2537 Argon Tube Ballast unit, pair of b-pn leads, neon indicator, on/off switch, safety microswitch and circuit £15.00 + £2.00 p&p (£19.98 inc VAT)

MICROSWITCH

Pye 15 amp changeover level switch, type S171. Brand new, price 5 for £7.05 inc VAT & p&p

WASHING MACHINE WATER PUMP

Brand new 240V AC fan cooled. Can be used for a variety of purposes. Inlet 1 1/2 in, outlet 1 in. dia. Price includes p&p & VAT. £11.20 each or 2 for £20.50 inclusive.

20 Amstrad Games	£5.00*
20 Spectrum Games	£5.00*

£1 PACKS

50 BC184; 50 BC547A; 20 BS107; 20 BSS92; 10 2N2907A; 20 2N5086; 50 2N5551; 5 2N5657; 20 2N5769; 4 2N6394; 5 2N6400; 12 BCY69; 3 BD144; 3 BD145; 10 BD237; 10 BD239A; 5 BDX42; 2 BDX94; 5 BFW43; 10 BFX30; 3 BSU78; 5 BSW68; 3 BSX59; 2 BUF410A; 4 BUV26; 20 MPSA93; 10 VN2010-L; 20 ZTX304; 20 ZTX311; 20 ZTX510; 20 ZTX551; 5 5V d.i.l. relays; 10 21-10MHz crystals; 10 811MHz filters; 50 6-way i.c. skts.; 50 14-way d.i.p. hors; 20 TO18 heatsinks; 20 TO5 heatsinks; 200 TO5 mounting pads; 200 TO18 mounting pads; 2 100Ω LOPT Tx; 5 12-way terminal blocks; 10 silver control knobs; 10 95V V.D.R.; 3 12V counters; 25 3.5mm jack plugs; 10 PCB MT microswitch; 10 6-way d.i.l. switch; 10 1-pole 3-way rotary switch; 25 slide switches; 5 3A 250V power toggle switch; 50 4-7μF 25V caps; 15 2200μF 25V caps; 50 10μF 16V caps; 10 0.047μF suppression caps; 25 neons; 10 1μF 250V polyesters.	
--	--

5 1/4" to 3 1/2" floppy converter leads.....£1.50 ea*

STC p.s.u. 240V Input; 5V 6A Output, (converts to 12V 3A, details supplied).....£5.95

Temperature probes, with data.....£3.95*

Universal Timer (10 min. delay and 20 min. cut-off functions).....£3.95*

12V 400mW Zeners.....100 off £1*

UM1287 sound and video modulator.....£2.50 ea*

3AMP mains filters.....£1.00 ea*

40 Character x 1-line dot matrix display.....£4.95 ea*

Car Dashboard Display (shows lights, indicators, doors, on picture of car).....£4.95*

4-digit clock display.....£2.50*

4-digit i.c.d. with 7211 driver.....£3.50*

17-digit v.f. display.....£2.95*

Giant 2-digit v.f. display	£2.95*
----------------------------	--------

12V stepper motors, 48 steps per rev., 7-3" step angle.....£3.95*

250 off mixed electrolytic caps.....£4.95*

250 off polyester caps.....£4.95*

1000 off mixed resistors 1/4W.....£4.95*

100 off phono plugs.....£2.95*

50 off mixed terminal blocks.....£2.50*

25 off buzzers & sounders.....£3.50*

25 off mixed relays.....£4.95*

50 off mixed switches.....£7.50*

250 off i.c. sockets.....£3.95*

1000 off Ceramic caps.....£7.50*

5 off 3V Lithium memory back-up batteries.....£2.00*

100 off 2200μF 25V caps.....£6.00*

100 off 4-7μF 25V caps.....£2.50*

31b mixed component pack.....£4.95

Jumbo component pack.....£10

Crystal oscillators 10/12MHz.....£1 ea

5V DPCO D.I.L. relay.....60p ea*

EVERYDAY WITH PRACTICAL ELECTRONICS

CLASSIFIED

Everyday with Practical Electronics reaches twice as many UK readers as any other independent monthly hobby electronics magazine, our audited sales figures prove it. We have been the leading independent monthly magazine in this market for the last ten years

If you want your advertisements to be seen by the largest readership at the most economical price our classified and semi-display pages offer the best value. The prepaid rate for semi-display space is £8 (+VAT) per single column centimetre (minimum 2.5cm). The prepaid rate for classified adverts is 30p (+VAT) per word (minimum 12 words).

All cheques, postal orders, etc., to be made payable to Everyday with Practical Electronics. VAT must be added. Advertisements, together with remittance, should be sent to Everyday with Practical Electronics Advertisements, Holland Wood House, Church Lane, Great Holland, Essex CO13 0JS. Phone/Fax (01255) 850596.

For rates and information on display and classified advertising please contact our Advertisement Manager, Peter Mew as above.

★ ★ ★ SURVEILLANCE KITS ★ ★ ★

MRT1 MICRO TRANSMITTER, 26mm x 20mm including sensitive electret microphone, tuneable 80-115MHz, 500M range. Kit £4.95, Assembled £8.95.

MTT1 TELEPHONE TRANSMITTER, 35mm x 10mm, powered from line, transmits all conversations, 500M range, 80-120MHz. Kit £5.95, Assembled £10.95.

All prices include p&p. Send 2x2nd class stamps for Catalogue. Cheques/P.O.s payable to:

EXCEL PRODUCTS (Dept. EPE)
Unit 14, Sunningdale, Bishop's Stortford, Herts CM23 2PA

ASTRA Desk Top Accounting™

Overture - Invoicing, Sales, Nominal, VAT, etc
Premier - plus Stock, Jobs, EPOS, etc
Professional - plus Multi-Currency/Depts, etc

S&S Systems Ltd, Bretton Court, Manor Road, Wales
Sheffield, S31 8PD, UK. (Software distributors and Apple dealers)
Tel: (01909) 773399 • Fax: (01909) 773645 • Int Code: +44 1909

This 2½cm space in
**Everyday with
Practical Electronics**
Would ONLY cost you
£20 + VAT

**THE BRITISH AMATEUR
ELECTRONICS CLUB**

exists to help electronics enthusiasts
by personal contact and through a
quarterly Newsletter.

For membership details, write to the
Secretary:

**Mr. J. F. Davies, 70 Ash Road, Cuddington,
Northwich, Cheshire CW8 2PB.**

Space donated by Everyday with Practical Electronics

Typefit

The Typesetting programme for all
your Typesetting needs.

If you need typesetting for your
Adverts, Brochures, etc.
Typefit can help you.

Please telephone 01202 882299

YUGA ENTERPRISE

BA, LA, LB, LC, UPA,
UPB, UPC, TA,
TBA, TDA, TEA,
2SA, 2SB, 2SC,
2SJ, 2SK, SAA,
STA, STK, STR,
HA, AC, KA, KIA,
IX, LM, MN, PA

**Buy
&
Sell
Japanese
ICs &
Transistors**

**TEL: (65) 741 0300
FAX: (65) 749 1048**

705 Sims Drive #03-09
Shun Li Industrial Complex,
Singapore 1438.

**BTEC ELECTRONICS
TECHNICIAN
FULL-TIME TRAINING**

THOSE ELIGIBLE CAN APPLY FOR E.T. GRANT SUPPORT
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAMME

O.N.C., O.N.D. and H.N.C.

Next course commences
Monday 24th April 1995
FULL PROSPECTUS FROM

**LONDON ELECTRONICS COLLEGE
(Dept EPE) 20 PENYVERN ROAD
EARLS COURT, LONDON SW5 9SU
TEL: 071-373 8721**

RCS VARIABLE VOLTAGE D.C. BENCH POWER SUPPLY

1 to 24 volts up to ½ amp, 1 to 20 volts up to 1 amp, 1 to 16 volts up to 1½ amps d.c. Fully stabilised. Twin panel meters for instant voltage and current readings. Overload protection.

Fully variable
Operates from
240V a.c.
Compact unit.
Size 9 x 5½ x 3in.

£45 inc. VAT
+ Post and insurance £4

NEW MODEL. Up to 38volts d.c. at 6 amps, 10 amps peak. Fully variable.
Twin panel meters. Size 14½ x 11 x 4½in. £95 inc VAT Carr £6

RADIO COMPONENT SPECIALISTS

337 WHITEHORSE ROAD, CROYDON
SURREY, U.K. Tel: 081-684 1665

List. Large SAE. Delivery 7 days. Callers welcome. Closed Wednesday

ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS

Transistors, Resistors, Capacitors, Inductors, Opto Electronics, Digital and Linear ICs, MICROs, PIC MICROs, EPROMs, Encoders, Decoders, Holtek HT Series ICs, SMT Components, Computer Products, Rams, Sims, Radio Tx Rxs, Car Alarms, Burglar Alarms, Speakers and Sounders, Switches, Relays, Transformers, Connectors, Batteries and many more items.

Send 2 x 1st class stamps for full price list.

FRANS FRANCIS
66 Tyrwhitt Road, London SE4 1QE
Tel: 081-244 6966

Miscellaneous

**PROTOTYPE PRINTED CIRCUIT
BOARDS** one offs and quantities, for details
send s.a.e. to B. M. Ansbro, 38 Poynings
Drive, Hove, Sussex BN3 8GR, or phone
Brighton 883871.

G.C.S.E. ELECTRONICS KITS, at pocket
money prices. S.A.E. for FREE catalogue.
SIR-KIT Electronics, 70 Oxford Road, Clacton,
CO15 3TE.

PLDs AND EPROMS copied or programmed. We supply logic devices/convert
discrete logic to PLDs. Also PCBs designed.
Send for details to PO Box 1561 Bath (0225
444467).

VALVE ENTHUSIASTS: Capacitors and
other parts in stock. For free advice/lists
please ring, Geoff Davies (Radio), Tel: 0788
574774.

**HUNDREDS OF UNUSUAL ITEMS
CHEAP!** Send £1 coin for interesting samples
and list. Grimsby Electronics, Lambert Road,
Grimsby.

FREE variable power supply plus 12 project
catalogue, £1 p&p. Power amps, 60 watt,
£5.00. TO3 heatsink ex. equipment. K.I.A. 1
Regent Road, Ilkley.

WORKING NICAM STEREO UNITS from
£28.50. Cheap project repairs get you going
service, also component sales, for more details
please send s.a.e. G.D.H. 43 St. Pauls Road,
Nuneaton, CV10 8HW.

WANTED! Everyday Electronics November
1971 to August 1972. Offers to S. Butler, 25
Chippendale Avenue, Bangor, Co. Down, N.
Ireland, BT20 4PT.

EVERYDAY WITH PRACTICAL ELECTRONICS

SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM

Annual subscription rates
(1994/5):
UK £24.00.
**Overseas £30.00 surface mail,
£47.50 airmail.**

To:
**Everyday with Practical
Electronics,
Allen House, East Borough,
Wimborne,
Dorset BH21 1PF**

Tel: 01202 881749 Fax: 01202 841692

Name

Address

.....

.....

.....

I enclose payment of £.....

(cheque/PO in £ sterling only,
payable to Everyday with Practical
Electronics). Alternatively send Access
or Visa number and card expiry date.

Signature

Please supply name and address of card-holder if
different from the subscription address shown
above. Subscriptions can only start with
the next available issue. For back numbers
see the Back Issues page.

M2/95

MAKE YOUR INTERESTS PAY!

Over the past 100 years more than 10 million students throughout the world have found it worth their while! An ICS home-study course can help you get a better job, make more money and have more fun out of life! ICS has over 100 years experience in home-study courses, and is the largest correspondence school in the world. You learn at your own pace, when and where you want under the guidance of expert 'personal' tutors. Find out how we can help YOU. Post or phone today for **FREE INFORMATION** on the course of your choice. (Tick one box only!)

GCSE/A' LEVEL over 20 examination subjects to choose from. Ask for details.

Electronics <input type="checkbox"/>	TV, Video & Hi-Fi Servicing <input type="checkbox"/>
C & G Basic Electronic Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>	Refrigeration & Air Conditioning <input type="checkbox"/>
Electrical Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>	PC Repair <input type="checkbox"/>
Electrical Contracting/Installation <input type="checkbox"/>	Computer Programming <input type="checkbox"/>

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms

Address

P.Code

ICS International Correspondence Schools, Dept. ECS 25, 312/314 High Street, Sutton, Surrey SM1 1PR. Tel: 041-221 7373 (24 hours). Fax: 041-221 8151.

VISA



Cooke International

SUPPLIER OF QUALITY USED TEST INSTRUMENTS

ANALYSERS, BRIDGES, CALIBRATORS, VOLTMETERS, GENERATORS, OSCILLOSCOPES, POWER METERS, ETC. ALWAYS AVAILABLE

ORIGINAL SERVICE MANUALS FOR SALE
COPY SERVICE ALSO AVAILABLE

EXPORT, TRADE AND U.K. ENQUIRIES WELCOME
SEND LARGE S.A.E. (50p POSTAGE) FOR LISTS OF EQUIPMENT & MANUALS
ALL PRICES EXCLUDE VAT AND CARRIAGE
DISCOUNT FOR BULK ORDERS SHIPPING ARRANGED

OPEN MONDAY TO FRIDAY 9AM-5PM

Unit Four, Fordingbridge Site, Main Road, Barnham, Bognor Regis,
West Sussex, PO22 0EB

Tel (+44) 0243 545111/2 Fax (+44) 0243 542457

EQUIPMENT & ACCESSORIES PURCHASED

N. R. BARDWELL LTD (EPE)

200 Signal diodes 1N4148.....£1.00	25 3mm red l.e.d.s.....£1.00
75 Rectifier Diodes 1N4001.....£1.00	25 Assd. high brightness l.e.d.s.....£1.00
50 Rectifier Diodes 1N4007.....£1.00	50 Axial l.e.d.s (Diode package).....£1.00
25 Rectifier Diodes 1N5401.....£1.00	12 Assd. 7-segment displays.....£1.00
10 NE555 Timer I.C.s.....£1.00	2 CRP12 light dependant resistors.....£1.00
50 Assd. Zener Diodes.....£1.00	30 Assd. IF transformers.....£1.00
30 BC212L Transistors.....£1.00	48 Assd. coil formers.....£1.00
30 BC213L Transistors.....£1.00	100 Assd. RF chokes (inductors).....£1.00
20 BC327 Transistors.....£1.00	30 Assd. connectors edge d.i.l., all etc.....£1.00
30 BC328 Transistors.....£1.00	30 Assd. d.i.l. sockets up to 40-pin.....£1.00
30 BC337 Transistors.....£1.00	200 Assd. disc ceramic capacitors.....£1.00
30 BC478 Transistors.....£1.00	80 Assd. capacitors 1nF to 1µF.....£1.00
30 BC546 Transistors.....£1.00	80 Assd. electrolytic capacitors.....£1.00
30 BC547 Transistors.....£1.00	10 4P3W MBB min. rotary switches.....£1.00
30 BC548 Transistors.....£1.00	20 Min. SPICQ slide switches.....£1.00
30 BC549 Transistors.....£1.00	20 1" glass reed switches.....£1.00
30 BC550 Transistors.....£1.00	200 4N7 mini axial capacitors.....£1.00
25 BC557 Transistors.....£1.00	24 24-pin d.i.l. wire wrap i.c. skts.....£1.00
30 BC558 Transistors.....£1.00	1 12V motorised volume control 50k.....£1.00
30 BC559 Transistors.....£1.00	50 Grommets 6.3mm id. 9.5mm od.....£1.00
25 BC640 Transistors.....£1.00	100 c/f 1/2W 5% resistors any one value, E24, range 1R to 10M.....£0.45
30 MPSA42 Transistors.....£1.00	
30 MPSA92 Transistors.....£1.00	
30 2N3702 Transistors.....£1.00	
20 2N3504 Transistors.....£1.00	
10 78M08 8V 500mA Pos Regulators.....£1.00	
10 79M08 8V 500mA Neg Regulators.....£1.00	
30 5mm red l.e.d.s.....£1.00	

Prices include VAT, postage £1.25. Stamp for Lists
288 Abbeydale Road, Sheffield S7 1FL
Phone (0114) 2552886 Fax (0114) 2500689

SERVICE MANUALS

We have what is probably the largest range of Service Information available anywhere.

From the Earliest Valve Wireless to the Latest Video Recorders. Colour Televisions, Test Gear, Audio, Computers, Amateur Radio in fact practically anything.

Write, Fax or Phone for immediate Quote.

Originals or Photostats as available.

Also available. Our FREE catalogue detailing Hundreds of Technical Books and Repair Guides available.

STOP PRESS

Now Available. Our Service Manuals Index on P.C. Disc (3.5") for use on your Computer. Just £3.50 with FREE everlasting Updates. Order MP-285.

MAURITRON TECHNICAL SERVICES (EPE),
8 Cherry Tree Road, Chinnor, Oxon, OX9 4QY.

Tel:- 01844-351694. Fax:- 01844 352554.

Please forward your latest catalogue for which I enclose 2 x 1st Class Stamps, or £3.50 for the Technical Books Catalogue plus Manuals Index on PC Disc(s).

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

If you do not wish to cut your magazine photocopy this coupon or use a separate sheet



NEWMARKET
TRANSFORMERS LTD.



Unit 15, Craven Way Industrial Est., Newmarket, Suffolk. CB8 0AP

Telephone: (0638) 662989 Facsimile: (0638) 660799

TOROIDAL TRANSFORMER MANUFACTURERS

220/240V ANY TWO Secondaries

VA	Price	Dimensions
30	£11.30	70 x 35mm
50	£12.40	80 x 45mm
80	£13.90	90 x 35mm
120	£14.80	90 x 45mm
160	£17.85	110 x 45mm
225	£19.20	110 x 50mm
300	£19.86	110 x 60mm
500	£26.70	140 x 60mm
625	£28.90	140 x 70mm
800	£33.90	125 x 90mm
1000	£39.90	160 x 70mm

Prices include VAT & Carriage

For further information and quantity discounts, contact Michael Dorman

Phone: 0638 662989 Fax: 0638 660799

INFOTECH & STREE

76 Church St, Larkhall, Lanarks, ML9 1HE

Phone (0698) 883334/888343 or Fax (0698) 884825

Remember: Not only do we have every sheet ever produced, but we also have

The World's Largest Collection of SERVICE MANUALS & CIRCUITS

We are now successfully running a Library Service which allows you to borrow any manual you want for as long as you want; and when you need another manual, just return the one you have, plus a £4.95 exchange fee and tell us what you want next.

*Borrow any Service Manual for £4.95
regardless of its size or normal cost*

The cost of this service is a yearly subscription fee of only £59.95. Join now & get a free 'Data Ref Guide'.

SHERWOOD ELECTRONICS 7 Williamson Street, Mansfield, Notts. NG19 6TD

CHOOSE 1 x £1 packs FREE with every 10 purchased

SP1 15 x 5mm Red Leds	SP104 15 x 16 pin DIL sockets
SP2 15 x 5mm Green Leds	SP112 5 x Cmos 4093
SP6 15 x 3mm Red Leds	SP125 10 x 1000/16V radial elect caps
SP7 12 x 3mm Green Leds	SP130 100 x Mixed 0.5W C.F. resistors
SP10 100 x 1N4148 diodes	SP133 20 x 1N4004 diodes
SP11 30 x 1N4001 diodes	SP135 6 x Min. slide switches
SP18 20 x BC182 transistors	SP137 4 x W005 1.5A bridge rectifiers
SP20 20 x BC184 transistors	SP138 20 x 2.2/50V radial elect caps
SP22 20 x BC214 transistors	SP142 2 x Cmos 4017
SP23 20 x BC549 transistors	SP147 5 x Stripboard 9 strips x 25 holes
SP28 5 x Cmos 4011	SP151 4 x 8mm Red Leds
SP36 25 x 10/25V radial elect caps	SP157 5 x BCY107 transistors
SP42 200 x Mixed 0.25W C.F. resistors	SP167 6 x BC107 transistors
SP47 5 x Min. push button switches	SP169 4 x Cmos 4069UB
SP102 20 x 8 pin DIL sockets	SP175 20 x 1/63V radial elect caps
SP103 15 x 14 pin DIL sockets	SP183 20 x BC547 transistors

RESISTOR PACKS - 0.25W C.F. Film

RP3 5 each value - total 365	£2.75
RP7 10 each value - total 730	£4.15
RP10 1000 popular values	£5.60

1995 Catalogue available - £1 or
FREE with first order over £5

Cheques or P.O. to **SHERWOOD ELECTRONICS** NO VAT
Please add £1.25 P&P to all orders

Mixed metal/carbon film resistors 1/4W E12 series 10 ohms to 1 Megohm	2p
Carbon Film resistors 1/4W 5% E24 series 0.51R to 10M	1p
100 off per value - 75p, even hundreds per value totalling 1000	£6.00
Metal Film resistors 1/4W 10R to 1 MO 5% E12 series - 1% E24 series	2p
Mixed metal/carbon film resistors 1/4W E24 series 1R to 10M	1p
1 watt mixed metal/carbon film 5% E12 series 4R7 to 10 Megohms	5p
Linear Carbon pre-sets 100mW and 1/4W 100R to 2M2 E6 series	7p
Miniature polyester capacitors 250V working for vertical mounting	
015, 022, 033, 047, 068, 4p, 0.1 - 5p, 0.12, 0.15, 0.22 - 6p, 0.47 - 8p, 0.68 - 8p, 1.0 - 12p	
Mylar (polyester) capacitors 100V working E12 series vertical mounting	
1000p to 8200p - 3p, 0.1 to 0.68 - 4p, 0.1 - 5p, 0.12, 0.15, 0.22 - 6p, 0.47/50V - 8p	
Subminiature ceramic plate capacitors 100V wkg vertical mountings. E12 series	
2% 1.8pf to 47pf - 3p, 2% 56pf to 330pf - 4p, 10% 390p-4700p	4p
Disc/plate ceramics 50V E12 series 1P to 1000P, E6 Series 1500P to 47000P	2p
Polystyrene capacitors 63V working E12 series long axial wires	
10pf to 820pf - 5p, 1000pf to 10,000pf - 6p, 12,000pf	7p
741 Op Amp - 20p, 555 Timer - 20p, LM3900	80p
CMOS 4001 - 20p, 4011 - 22p, 4017 - 40p, 4069UB unbuffered	20p
DIL holders, 8-pin 9p; 14-, 16-, 18-pin 12p; 24-pin 18p; 28-pin 20p; 40-pin 25p.	
ALUMINIUM ELECTROLYTICS (Mfds/Volts)	
1/50, 2.2/50, 4.7/50, 10/25, 10/50	5p
22/16, 22/25, 22/50, 33/16, 47/16, 47/25, 47/50	6p
100/16, 100/25, 7p, 100/50	12p
220/16, 220/25, 220/50, 10p, 470/16, 470/25	11p
1000/25, 25p; 1000/35, 2200/25, 35p; 4700/25	70p
Subminiature, tantalum bead electrolytics (Mfds/Volts)	
0.1, 0.22, 0.47, 1.0, 2.2, 3.3 @ 35V - 4.7/16, 6.8/10, 10/6, 10p, 6.8/35, 12p	
4.7/25, 6.8/16, 10/6, 11p; 15/16, 22/6, 33/10, 15p; 10/25, 16p; 10/35, 22/16, 20p	
47/10, 20p; 47/16, 25p; 47/20, 30p; 47/35, 32p; 100/3, 18p; 100/6, 220/6, 20p	
VOLTAGE REGULATORS	
1A + or - 5V, 8V, 12V, 15V, 18V & 24V - 55p, 100mA 5, 8, 12, 15, V +	30p
DIODES (piv/amps)	
75/25mA 1N4148 2p, 800/1A 1N4006 4p, 400/3A 1N5404 14p, 115/15mA OA91	8p
100/1A 1N4002 3p, 1000/1A 1N4007 5p, 60/1.5A 1S1M1 5p, 100/1A bridge	25p
400/1A 1N4004 4p, 1250/1A BY127 10p, 30/150mA OA47 gold bonded	18p
Zener diodes E24 series 3V3 to 33V 400mW - 6p, 1 watt	10p
Battery snaps for PP3 - 7p for PP9	12p
L.E.D.'s 3mm, & 5mm, Red, Green, Yellow - 10p, Grommets 3mm - 2p, 5mm	2p
Red flashing L.E.D.'s require 9-12V supply only, 5mm	50p
Mains indicator neons with 220k resistor	10p
20mm fuses 100mA to 5A, O. blow 6p, A/surge 10p, Holders, chassis, mounting	6p
High speed pc drill 0.8, 1.0, 1.3, 1.5, 2.0mm - 40p, Machines 12V dc	£15.00
HELPING HANDS 6 ball joints and 2 croc clips to hold awkward jobs	£4.50
AA/HP7 Nicad rechargeable cells 90p each, Universal charger unit	£6.50
AA/HP7 zinc/carbon batteries in packs of 4	£1.10 per pack
Glass reed switches with single pole make contacts - 8p, Magnets	20p
0.1" Stripboard 2 1/2" x 1" 9 rows 25 holes - 25p, 3 1/2" x 2 1/2" 24 rows 37 holes	70p
Jack plugs 2.5 & 3.5mm - 14p; Sockets Panel Mtg. 2.5 & 3.5mm	10p
Ear pieces 2.5 & 3.5mm, dynamic - 20p; 3.5mm crystal	£1.50
Multi cored solder, 22G - 8p yard, 18G - 14p yard.	
TRANSISTORS	
BC107/8/9 - 12p, BC547/8/9 - 8p, BC557/8/9 - 8p, BC182, 182L, BC183, 183L	
BC184, 184L, BC212, 212L - 10p,	
BC327, 337, 337L - 12p, BC727, 737 - 12p, BD135/6/7/8/9 - 25p, BCY70 - 18p,	
BFY50/51/52 - 20p,	
BFX88 - 15p, 2N3055 - 55p, TIP31, 32 - 30p, TIP41, 42 - 40p, BU208A - £1.50, BF195, 197 - 12p	
Ionisers with seven year guarantee, 240V AC, list price £16.95 or more	£12.50
Do not add VAT. Postage 30p (free over £5). Stamp for list.	
THE CR SUPPLY CO	
127 Chesterfield Rd., Sheffield S8 0RN Tel: 0742 557771 Return posting	

High quality stepping motor kits (all including stepping motors). 'Comstep' independent control of 2 stepping motors by PC (via the Parallel Port) with 2 motors and software.		
Kit	£67.00, ready built	£99.00
Software support and 4-digital inputs kit		£27.00
Power interface 4A kit	£36.00, power interface 8A kit	£46.00
Stepper kit 4 (manual control) includes 200 step stepping motor and control circuit.		
		£23.00
We are now stocking a range of stepping motors and kits to drive them - please ask for the stepping motor data sheet for full information.		
Inverter toroidal transformers 225VA 10.5-0-10.5V primary 0-260-285V secondary		
LEDs 3mm or 5mm red or green	7p each, yellow	11p each
Cable Ties 1p each, £5.95 per 1000, £49.50 per 10,000		
High quality photo resist copper clad epoxy glass boards		
Dimensions	single-sided	double-sided
3x4 inches	£1.09	£1.23
4x8 inches	£2.75	£2.99
6x12 inches	£6.20	-
12x12 inches	£12.25	-

RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES	
AA (HP7) 500mAh	£0.99
AA 700mAh	£1.75
C 2AH with solder tags	£3.60
D 4AH with solder tags	£4.95
1/2AA with solder tags	£1.55
AAA (HP16) 180mAh	£1.75
AA 500mAh with solder tags	£1.55
C (HP11) 1.6AH	£2.20
D (HP2) 1.2AH	£2.60
PP3 8.4V 110mAh	£4.95
Sub C with solder tags	£2.50
1/3AA with tags (Philips CTV)	£1.95
Standard Charger, charges 4 AA cells in 5 hours or 4Cs or 4Ds in 12 to 14 hours plus 1x PP3 (1, 2, 3 or 4 cells may be charged at a time).	
	£5.95
High power charger, as above but charges the Cs and Ds in 5 hours; AAs, Cs and Ds must be charged in twos or fours.	
	£10.95
Nickel Metal Hydride AA cells, high capacity with no memory, 1000mAh £3.50, 1200mAh £3.75	
SPECIAL OFFERS - PLEASE CHECK FOR AVAILABILITY	
42mm x 16mm dia. 1.2V battery	£1.45
Stick of 4 171mm x 16mm dia., with red and black leads 4.5V	£5.95
Computer grade capacitors with screw terminals, 87000uF 10V £1.95; 68000uF 15V £2.95; 10000uF 16V £1.50; 58000uF 60V £4.95	
7-segment common anode I.e.d. display, 12mm	
LM537K TO3 case variable regulator	£1.95
100 + £1.44 each	
GeAs F.E.T. low leakage current S8873 £12.95 each, £9.95 10+, £7.95 100+	
BS250 p-channel MOSFET	45p
BC559 transistor	£3.95 per 100
74LS05 Hex inverter	£10.00 per 100
Used 8748 Microcontroller	£3.50
SL952 UHF Limiting amplifier, LC 16 surface mounting package with data sheet	£1.95
AM27502	£1.25 each, 90p 100 +
CD4007UB	10p 100 +, 6p 1000 +

Sinclair light gun terminated with a jack plug and PP3 clip gives a signal when pointed at 50Hz flickering light, with output waveform chart.	
	£3.95
DC-DC converter, Reliability model, V12P5, 12V input 5V 200mA out, 300V input to output isolation, with data	
	£4.95 each or pack of 10 £39.50
Hour counter used 7-digit 240V a.c. 50Hz, £1.45	
QWERTY keyboard, 58-key good quality switches, new	
	£6.00
Airpax AB2903-C large stepping motor 14V 7.5" step, 27 ohm, 68mm dia. body, 6.3mm shaft	
	£8.95 or £200.00 for a box of 30
Polyester capacitors, box type, 22.5mm lead pitch	
0.9uF 250V d.c. 20p each, 15p 100 +, 10p 1000 +	
3.3uF 100V d.c. 30p each, 20p 100 +, 15p 1000 +	
1uF 50V bipolar electrolytic axial leads, 15p each, 7.5p 1000 +	
0.22uF 250V polyester axial leads, 15p each, 100 + 7.5p each	
Polypropylene 1uF 400V d.c. (Wima MKP10) 27.5mm pitch, 32 x 29 x 17mm case, 75p each, 80p 100 +	
Philips 123 series solid aluminium axial leads, 33pF 10V and 2.2uF 40V 40p each, 25p 100 +	
Philips 108 series long life 22uF 63V axial 30p each, 15p 1000 +	
Multilayer AVX ceramic capacitors, all 5mm pitch, 100V 100pF, 150pF, 220pF, 10,000pF (10n) 10p each, 5p 100 +, 3.5p 1000 +	
500pF compression trimmer	60p
40uF 370V a.c. motor start capacitor (dielectric type containing no p.c.b.s.)	£5.95 or £49.50 for 10
Solid carbon resistors, very low inductance, ideal for r.f. circuits, 27ohm 2W, 68ohm 2W 25p each, 15p each 100 +	
we have a range of 0.25W, 0.5W, 1W and 2W solid carbon resistors - please send SAE for list	
P.C. 400W PSU (Intel part 201035-001) with standard motherboard and 5 disk drive connectors, fan and mains inlet/outlet connectors on back and switch on the side (top for tower case) dims. 212 x 149 x 149mm excluding switch, £26.00 each, £38.00 for 6	
MX180 Digital Multimeter 17 ranges, 1000V d.c. 750V a.c. 2Mohm 200mA transistor Hfe 9V and 1.5V battery test	
	£12.95
AMD 27256-3 EPROMS	£2.00 each, £1.25 100 +
DIP switch, 3PCO 12-pin (ERG SDC-3-023)	60p each, 40p 100 +
Disk Drive Boxes for a 5 25 disk drive, with room for a power supply, light-grey plastic 67mm x 268mm x 241mm	
	£7.95 or £49.50 for 10
Handheld Ultrasonic remote control	
	£3.95
CV2486 gas relay 30mm x 10mm dia. with 3 wire terminals, will also work as a neon light	
	20p each, £7.50 per 100
All products advertised are new and unused unless otherwise stated.	
Wide range of CMOS TTL 74HC 74F Linear Transistors kits, rechargeable batteries, capacitors, tools etc. always in stock.	
Please add £1.95 towards P&P VAT included in all prices	

IPG ELECTRONICS
276-278 Chatsworth Road
Chesterfield S40 2BH
Access/Visa Orders: (0246) 211202
Callers welcome

Millions of quality components at lowest ever prices!

Plus Tools, Watches, Fancy Goods, Toys.
Mail order UK only.

All inclusive prices -
NO VAT to add on.

Send 43p stamped self addressed label or envelope for catalogue/clearance list.

At least 2,100 offers to amaze you.

Brian J Reed

**6 Queensmead Avenue, East Ewell
Epsom, Surrey KT17 3EQ
Tel: 081-393 9055**

ADVERTISERS INDEX

AUDON ELECTRONICS	113
N. R. BARDWELL	167
B.K. ELECTRONICS	Cover (iii)
BRIAN J. REED	168
BULL ELECTRICAL	Cover (ii)
CHATWIN GUITARS (JCG)	147
CIRKIT DISTRIBUTION	137
COMPAC ELECTRONICS	165
COMPELEC	165
COOKE INTERNATIONAL	167
CRICKLEWOOD ELECTRONICS	113
CR SUPPLY COMPANY	168
DISPLAY ELECTRONICS	86
ELECTROMAIL	128
ESR ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	96
EXPRESS COMPONENTS	153
GREENWELD ELECTRONICS	91
HART ELECTRONIC KITS	117
ICS	167
INFOTECH & STREE	167
JPG ELECTRONICS	168
LABCENTER	131
MAGENTA ELECTRONICS	94/95
MAPLIN ELECTRONICS	Cover (iv)
MAURITRON	167
M&B ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES	92
MQP ELECTRONICS	137
NASA COMMUNICATIONS	137
NATIONAL COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY	147
NEWMARKET TRANSFORMERS	167
NICHE SOFTWARE	90
NUMBER ONE SYSTEMS	89
OMNI ELECTRONICS	146
PICO TECHNOLOGY	93
POWERWARE	157
RADIO & TV COMPONENTS	90
ROBINSON MARSHALL	125
SEETRAX CAE	147
SERVICE TRADING	165
SHERWOOD ELECTRONICS	167
STEWART OF READING	165
SUMA DESIGNS	88
TAVISTOCK ELECTRONICS	146
TSIEN	109

ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER:

PETER J. MEW

ADVERTISEMENT OFFICES:

EVERYDAY with PRACTICAL ELECTRONICS,
ADVERTISEMENTS,
HOLLAND WOOD HOUSE, CHURCH LANE,
GREAT HOLLAND, ESSEX CO13 0JS.
Phone/Fax: (01255) 850596

For Editorial address and phone numbers see page 97.

POWER AMPLIFIER MODULES-TURNABLES-DIMMERS-LOUDSPEAKERS-19 INCH STEREO RACK AMPLIFIERS

★ PRICES INCLUDE V.A.T. ★ PROMPT DELIVERIES ★ FRIENDLY SERVICE ★ LARGE (A4) S.A.E., 60p STAMPED FOR CATALOGUE ★

OMP MOS-FET POWER AMPLIFIERS HIGH POWER, TWO CHANNEL 19 INCH RACK

THOUSANDS PURCHASED
BY PROFESSIONAL USERS



THE RENOWNED MXF SERIES OF POWER AMPLIFIERS FOUR MODELS:- MXF200 (100W + 100W) MXF400 (200W + 200W) MXF600 (300W + 300W) MXF900 (450W + 450W)

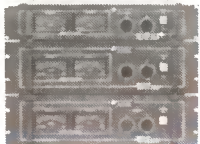
ALL POWER RATINGS R.M.S. INTO 4 OHMS, BOTH CHANNELS DRIVEN

FEATURES: ★ Independent power supplies with two toroidal transformers ★ Twin L.E.D. Vu meters ★ Level controls ★ Illuminated on/off switch ★ XLR connectors ★ Standard 775mV inputs ★ Open and short circuit proof ★ Latest Mos-Fets for stress free power delivery into virtually any load ★ High slew rate ★ Very low distortion ★ Aluminium cases ★ MXF600 & MXF900 fan cooled with D.C. loudspeaker and thermal protection.

USED THE WORLD OVER IN CLUBS, PUBS, CINEMAS, DISCOS ETC.

SIZES:- MXF200 W19"xH3 1/2" (2U)xD11"
MXF400 W19"xH5 1/4" (3U)xD12"
MXF600 W19"xH5 1/4" (3U)xD13"
MXF900 W19"xH5 1/4" (3U)xD14 1/2"

PRICES:- MXF200 £175.00 MXF400 £233.85
MXF600 £329.00 MXF900 £449.15
SPECIALIST CARRIER DEL. £12.50 EACH



OMP X03 STEREO 3-WAY ACTIVE CROSS-OVER



Advanced 3-Way Stereo Active Cross-Over, housed in a 19" x 1U case. Each channel has three level controls: bass, mid & top. The removable front fascia allows access to the programmable DIL switches to adjust the cross-over frequency: Bass-Mid 250/500/800Hz, Mid-Top 1.8/3/5KHz, all at 24dB per octave. Bass invert switches on each bass channel. Nominal 775mV input/output. Fully compatible with OMP rack amplifier and modules.

Price £117.44 + £5.00 P&P

STEREO DISCO MIXER SDJ3400SE ★ ECHO & SOUND EFFECTS ★

STEREO DISCO MIXER with 2 x 7 band L & R graphic equalisers with bar graph LED Vu meters. **MANY OUTSTANDING FEATURES:-** including Echo with repeat & speed control, DJ Mic with talk-over switch, 6 Channels with individual faders plus cross fade, Cue Headphone Monitor, 8 Sound Effects. Useful combination of the following inputs:- 3 turntables (mag), 3 mics, 5 Line for CD, Tape, Video etc.



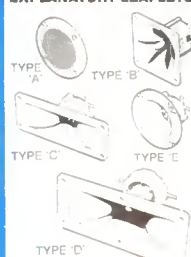
Price £144.99 + £5.00 P&P

SIZE: 482 x 240 x 120mm

PIEZO ELECTRIC TWEETERS - MOTOROLA

Join the Piezo revolution! The low dynamic mass (no voice coil) of a Piezo tweeter produces an improved transient response with a lower distortion level than ordinary dynamic tweeters. As a crossover is not required these units can be added to existing speaker systems of up to 100 watts (more if two are put in series). **FREE EXPLANATORY LEAFLETS ARE SUPPLIED WITH EACH TWEETER.**

TYPE 'A' (KSN1038A) 3" round with protective wire mesh. Ideal for bookshelf and medium sized Hi-Fi speakers. Price £4.90 + 50p P&P.
TYPE 'B' (KSN1005A) 3 1/2" super horn for general purpose speakers, disco and P.A. systems etc. Price £5.99 + 50p P&P.
TYPE 'C' (KSN1016A) 2" x 5" wide dispersion horn for quality Hi-Fi systems and quality discos etc. Price £6.99 + 50p P&P.
TYPE 'D' (KSN1025A) 2" x 6" wide dispersion horn. Upper frequency response retained extending down to mid-range (2KHz). Suitable for high quality Hi-Fi systems and quality discos. Price £9.99 + 50p P&P.
TYPE 'E' (KSN1038A) 3 1/4" horn tweeter with attractive silver finish trim. Suitable for Hi-Fi monitor systems etc. Price £5.99 + 50p P&P.
LEVEL CONTROL Combines, on a recessed mounting plate, level control and cabinet input jack socket. 85x85mm. Price £4.10 + 50p P&P.



IBI FLIGHT CASED LOUDSPEAKERS

A new range of quality loudspeakers, designed to take advantage of the latest speaker technology and enclosure designs. Both models utilize studio quality 12" cast aluminium loudspeakers with factory fitted grilles, wide dispersion constant directivity horns, extruded aluminium corner protection and steel ball corners, complimented with heavy duty black covering. The enclosures are fitted as standard with top hats for optional loudspeaker stands.



**POWER RATINGS QUOTED IN WATTS RMS FOR EACH CABINET
FREQUENCY RESPONSE FULL RANGE 45Hz - 20KHz**

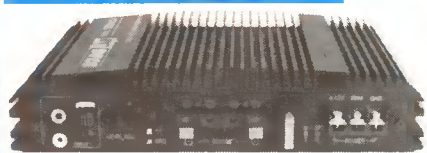
IBI FC 12-100WATTS (100dB) PRICE £159.00 PER PAIR

IBI FC 12-200WATTS (100dB) PRICE £175.00 PER PAIR

SPECIALIST CARRIER DEL. £12.50 PER PAIR

OPTIONAL STANDS PRICE PER PAIR £49.00
Delivery £6.00 per pair

IN-CAR STEREO BOOSTER AMPS



PRICES: 150W £49.99 250W £99.99
400W £109.95 P&P £2.00 EACH

**THREE SUPERB HIGH POWER
CAR STEREO BOOSTER AMPLIFIERS**
150 WATTS (75 + 75) Stereo, 150W
Bridged Mono
250 WATTS (125 + 125) Stereo, 250W
Bridged Mono
400 WATTS (200 + 200) Stereo, 400W
Bridged Mono
ALL POWERS INTO 4 OHMS

Features: ★ Stereo, bridgable mono ★ Choice of high & low level inputs ★ L & R level controls ★ Remote on-off ★ Speaker & thermal protection.

OMP MOS-FET POWER AMPLIFIER MODULES

SUPPLIED READY BUILT AND TESTED.

These modules now enjoy a world-wide reputation for quality, reliability and performance at a realistic price. Four models are available to suit the needs of the professional and hobby market i.e. Industry, Leisure, Instrumental and Hi-Fi etc. When comparing prices, NOTE that all models include toroidal power supply, integral heat sink, glass fibre P.C.B. and drive circuits to power a compatible Vu meter. All models are open and short circuit proof.

THOUSANDS OF MODULES PURCHASED BY PROFESSIONAL USERS



OMP/MF 100 Mos-Fet Output power 110 watts R.M.S. into 4 ohms, frequency response 1Hz - 100KHz -3dB, Damping Factor >300, Slew Rate 45V/uS, T.H.D. typical 0.002%, Input Sensitivity 500mV, S.N.R. -110 dB, Size 300 x 123 x 60mm.
PRICE £40.85 + £3.50 P&P



OMP/MF 200 Mos-Fet Output power 200 watts R.M.S. into 4 ohms, frequency response 1Hz - 100KHz -3dB, Damping Factor >300, Slew Rate 50V/uS, T.H.D. typical 0.001%, Input Sensitivity 500mV, S.N.R. -110 dB, Size 300 x 155 x 100mm.
PRICE £64.35 + £4.00 P&P



OMP/MF 300 Mos-Fet Output power 300 watts R.M.S. into 4 ohms, frequency response 1Hz - 100KHz -3dB, Damping Factor >300, Slew Rate 75V/uS, T.H.D. typical 0.001%, Input Sensitivity 500mV, S.N.R. -110 dB, Size 330 x 175 x 100mm.
PRICE £81.75 + £5.00 P&P



OMP/MF 450 Mos-Fet Output power 450 watts R.M.S. into 4 ohms, frequency response 1Hz - 100KHz -3dB, Damping Factor >300, Slew Rate 75V/uS, T.H.D. typical 0.001%, Input Sensitivity 500mV, S.N.R. -110 dB, Fan Cooled, D.C. Loudspeaker Protection, 2 Second Anti-Thump Delay. Size 385 x 210 x 105mm.
PRICE £132.85 + £5.00 P&P



OMP/MF 1000 Mos-Fet Output power 1000 watts R.M.S. into 2 ohms, 725 watts R.M.S. into 4 ohms, frequency response 1Hz - 100KHz -3dB, Damping Factor >300, Slew Rate 75V/uS, T.H.D. typical 0.002%, Input Sensitivity 500mV, S.N.R. -110 dB, Fan Cooled, D.C. Loudspeaker Protection, 2 Second Anti-Thump Delay. Size 422 x 300 x 125mm.
PRICE £259.00 + £12.00 P&P

NOTE: MOS-FET MODULES ARE AVAILABLE IN TWO VERSIONS: STANDARD - INPUT SENS 500mV, BAND WIDTH 100KHz. PEC (PROFESSIONAL EQUIPMENT COMPATIBLE) - INPUT SENS 775mV, BAND WIDTH 50KHz. ORDER STANDARD OR PEC.

LOUDSPEAKERS



LARGE SELECTION OF SPECIALIST LOUDSPEAKERS AVAILABLE, INCLUDING CABINET FITTINGS, SPEAKER GRILLES, CROSS-OVERS AND HIGH POWER, HIGH FREQUENCY BULLETS AND HORNS, LARGE (A4) S.A.E. (60p STAMPED) FOR COMPLETE LIST.

McKenzie and Fane Loudspeakers are also available.

EMINENCE:- INSTRUMENTS, P.A., DISCO, ETC

ALL EMINENCE UNITS 8 OHMS IMPEDANCE

8" 100 WATT R.M.S. ME8-100 GEN. PURPOSE, LEAD GUITAR, EXCELLENT MID, DISCO. RES. FREQ. 72Hz. FREQ. RESP. TO 4KHz, SENS 97dB. PRICE £32.71 + £2.00 P&P
10" 100 WATT R.M.S. ME10-100 GUITAR, VOCAL, KEYBOARD, DISCO, EXCELLENT MID. RES. FREQ. 71Hz. FREQ. RESP. TO 7KHz, SENS 97dB. PRICE £33.74 + £2.50 P&P
10" 200 WATT R.M.S. ME10-200 GUITAR, KEYB'D. DISCO, VOCAL, EXCELLENT HIGH POWER MID. RES. FREQ. 65Hz. FREQ. RESP. TO 3.5KHz, SENS 99dB. PRICE £43.47 + £2.50 P&P
12" 100 WATT R.M.S. ME12-100LE GEN. PURPOSE, LEAD GUITAR, DISCO, STAGE MONITOR. RES. FREQ. 49Hz. FREQ. RESP. TO 6KHz, SENS 100dB. PRICE £35.64 + £3.50 P&P
12" 100 WATT R.M.S. ME12-100LT (TWIN CONE) WIDE RESPONSE, P.A., VOCAL, STAGE MONITOR. RES. FREQ. 42Hz. FREQ. RESP. TO 10KHz, SENS 98dB. PRICE £36.67 + £3.50 P&P
12" 200 WATT R.M.S. ME12-200 GEN. PURPOSE, GUITAR, DISCO, VOCAL, EXCELLENT MID. RES. FREQ. 58Hz. FREQ. RESP. TO 6KHz, SENS 98dB. PRICE £46.71 + £3.50 P&P
12" 300 WATT R.M.S. ME12-300GP HIGH POWER BASS, LEAD GUITAR, KEYBOARD, DISCO ETC. RES. FREQ. 47Hz. FREQ. RESP. TO 5KHz, SENS 103dB. PRICE £70.19 + £3.50 P&P
15" 200 WATT R.M.S. ME15-200 GEN. PURPOSE BASS, INCLUDING BASS GUITAR. RES. FREQ. 46Hz. FREQ. RESP. TO 5KHz, SENS 99dB. PRICE £50.72 + £4.00 P&P
15" 300 WATT R.M.S. ME15-300 HIGH POWER BASS, INCLUDING BASS GUITAR. RES. FREQ. 39Hz. FREQ. RESP. TO 3KHz, SENS 103dB. PRICE £73.34 + £4.00 P&P

EARBENDERS:- HI-FI, STUDIO, IN-CAR, ETC

ALL EARBENDER UNITS 8 OHMS (Except EB8-50 & EB10-50 which are dual impedance tapped @ 4 & 8 ohm)

BASS, SINGLE CONE, HIGH COMPLIANCE, ROLLED SURROUND
8" 50WATT EB8-50 DUAL IMPEDANCE, TAPPED 4/8 OHM BASS, HI-FI, IN-CAR. RES. FREQ. 40Hz. FREQ. RESP. TO 7KHz, SENS 97dB. PRICE £8.90 + £2.00 P&P
10" 50WATT EB10-50 DUAL IMPEDANCE, TAPPED 4/8 OHM BASS, HI-FI, IN-CAR. RES. FREQ. 40Hz. FREQ. RESP. TO 5KHz, SENS 99dB. PRICE £13.65 + £2.50 P&P
10" 100WATT EB10-100 BASS, HI-FI, STUDIO. RES. FREQ. 35Hz. FREQ. RESP. TO 3KHz, SENS 96dB. PRICE £30.39 + £3.50 P&P
12" 100WATT EB12-100 BASS, STUDIO, HI-FI, EXCELLENT DISCO. RES. FREQ. 26Hz. FREQ. RESP. TO 3KHz, SENS 93dB. PRICE £42.12 + £3.50 P&P
FULL RANGE TWIN CONE, HIGH COMPLIANCE, ROLLED SURROUND
5 1/4" 60WATT EB5-60TC (TWIN CONE) HI-FI, MULTI-ARRAY DISCO ETC. RES. FREQ. 63Hz. FREQ. RESP. TO 20KHz, SENS 92dB. PRICE £9.99 + £1.50 P&P
6 1/2" 60WATT EB6-60TC (TWIN CONE) HI-FI, MULTI-ARRAY DISCO ETC. RES. FREQ. 38Hz. FREQ. RESP. TO 20KHz, SENS 94dB. PRICE £10.99 + 1.50 P&P
8" 60WATT EB8-60TC (TWIN CONE) HI-FI, MULTI-ARRAY DISCO ETC. RES. FREQ. 40Hz. FREQ. RESP. TO 18KHz, SENS 99dB. PRICE £12.99 + £1.50 P&P
10" 60WATT EB10-60TC (TWIN CONE) HI-FI, MULTI ARRAY DISCO ETC. RES. FREQ. 35Hz. FREQ. RESP. TO 12KHz, SENS 98dB. PRICE £16.49 + £2.00 P&P

TRANSMITTER HOBBY KITS

PROVEN TRANSMITTER DESIGNS INCLUDING GLASS FIBRE PRINTED CIRCUIT BOARD AND HIGH QUALITY COMPONENTS COMPLETE WITH CIRCUIT AND INSTRUCTIONS

3W TRANSMITTER 80-108MHz, VARICAP CONTROLLED PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE, RANGE UP TO 3 MILES, SIZE 38 x 123mm, SUPPLY 12V @ 0.5AMP. PRICE £14.85 + £1.00 P&P

FM MICRO TRANSMITTER 100-108MHz, VARICAP TUNED, COMPLETE WITH VERY SENS FET MIC, RANGE 100-300m, SIZE 56 x 46mm, SUPPLY 9V BATTERY. PRICE £8.80 + £1.00 P&P



PHOTO: 3W FM TRANSMITTER

B.K. ELECTRONICS

UNITS 1 & 5 COMET WAY, SOUTHEM-ON-SEA,
ESSEX. SS2 6TR.

Tel.: 0702 - 527572 Fax.: 0702 - 420243



POSTAL CHARGES PER ORDER £1.00 MINIMUM. OFFICIAL ORDERS FROM SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, GOVT. BODIES, PLCs ETC. PRICES INCLUSIVE OF V.A.T. SALES COUNTER, VISA AND ACCESS ACCEPTED BY POST, PHONE OR FAX.



NEW

FULL COLOUR GUIDE TO ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS

Sept 1994–Aug 1995

Maplin



BS 5750
Part 2 1987

Level B:
Quality Assurance
RS12750



Order your copy of the New MAPLIN Catalogue on sale NOW!

Pick up a copy from any branch of WHSMITH, branches of John Menzies in Scotland ONLY, Eason & Son in N. Ireland ONLY, and Maplin stores nationwide for just £3.45 inc. p&p. If you live outside the U.K. send £7.30 or 18 IRCs to receive your copy for just £3.95 inc. p&p. If you live outside the U.K. send £7.30 or 18 IRCs for surface mail for Airmail in Europe (including Republic of Ireland); £6.50 or 16 IRCs for Airmail outside Europe. I enclose £3.95/£7.30/£6.50/£12.30 (delete as applicable).

Name

Address

Post Code

Send to Maplin Electronics,
P.O. Box 3, Royleigh,
Essex, England
SS6 8LR

**Over 800 colour packed pages
with hundreds of Brand New
Products at Super Low Prices.**

**OUT OF THIS WORLD
ON SALE NOW
ONLY
£3.45**

Available from all branches of WHSMITH, John Menzies in Scotland ONLY, Eason & Son in N. Ireland ONLY, and Maplin stores nationwide.
The Maplin Electronics 1995 Catalogue – **OUT OF THIS WORLD!**