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WW-006 FOR FURTHER DETAILS

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# Wireless World 

Electronics, Television, Radio, Audio

Volume 76 Number 1426



The reflected image of an integrated circuit on the gettering of an $R$ valve on this month's cover symbolizes the advances in technology during Wireless World's 60 years. (Photograph by Paul Brierley)

## IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

Artificial vision. A microelectronic implant for directly stimulating the brain of blind people in order to restore some degree of vision: r.f. signals are conveyed by inductive-loop transmitters and receivers. Full description of Medical Research Council work.

Circuitry for a five-channel stereo mixer will be described along with constructional hints. The various high-quality amplifiers can be used as components for an audio pre-amplifier.
Experimental miles-per-gallon meter.

## ibpa


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Brief extracts or comments are allowed provided acknowledgement to the journal is given.

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The editorial regularly presents us with an opportunity to express an opinion on some topic of interest. We rarely discuss ourselves and it is not our practice to have 'guest editorials", but on this occasion, as we celebrate our 60th birthday, we have broken with tradition and have invited Hugh S. Pocock, F.I.E.E., to occupy the editorial chair once again. To him, more than any other one person, must go the credit for the development of Wireless World both in its formative years and in its later growth. He was editor from 1920 to 1941, then managing editor, and successively director, managing director and chairman of our publishing company until his retirement in 1962.

We also include in this issue several contributions reviewing progress during the past 60 years in various fields-audio, receiver techniques, basic theory, communications and radio propagation.

Looking back through the volumes of Wireless World we are conscious of the debt we owe to our contributors (some whose names became household words) whose knowledge and ingenuity has enabled us to maintain the ideals set in the first issue of W.W.-"This then is our policy: to be of use and interest to our readers, and through them to be a factor for progress."

We are also deeply grateful for the support given us by our advertisers and last, but by no means least, for the loyalty of our readers. Now we temporarily vacate the chair!

When the Marconigraph was published by the Marconi Company in 1911 the intention was to provide a means of giving wider publicity to the Marconi System than had been possible through Guglielmo Marconi's lectures to scientific bodies and references in the Press. The circulation, however, was mainly amongst Marconi engineers and marine operators with a small readership amongst those interested in the Marconi Company as an investment or speculation.

After two years of publication it was decided to broaden the scope of the journal and put it on sale on bookstalls, with the new name of The Wireless World, the idea being to remove the impression that it was merely a Marconi publicity publication. Under the new title it was to continue to favour the Marconi System but to be broader in its attitude towards other activities outside the company.

In making preparations for the launching of the first issue of The Wireless World the Marconi Company put out an advertisement for an editorial assistant preferably with some knowledge of wireless. This advertisement caught the eye of one who was to be closely identified with the journal's fortunes for the next fifty years. His qualifications were a fluent pen (at that time), the holder of an Experimental Wireless licence, and that he had absorbed almost everything published on the subject at that date, although he admitted to dodging the mathematical analysis of the spark in Fleming's "Wireless Telegraphy".

Being accepted for the job he found himself installed in Marconi House in the

Strand, London. The site for the present Bush House, alongside, had just been cleared for building. Preparation for the first The Wireless World was being made but that was not a full-time occupation for the new recruit so to him was assigned, as an extra duty, the editorship of the new publication "The Year Book of Wireless Telegraphy and Telephony".

The Postmaster General had granted a good many Experimental Wireless licences by this time and Gamages produced a directory of them and ran a department to supply experimenters with the gear they required. The Wireless Society of London (which became the Radio Society of Great Britain) was a focal point and the then editor was keenly supported in the idea of fostering amateur interests. The Wireless World became the official organ of the society and published, in full, its lectures and discussion's.

With the outbreak of the first world war there was strict censorship, experimental licences were withdrawn, and our publishing activities greatly circumscribed. We were, no doubt, the first wireless journal to have to submit material to censorship and we well remember taking our 'copy' to Whitehall, where the chief censor, F. E. Smith (later Lord Birkenhead), dealt with it personally.

A commission in the Royal Engineers with wireless and intelligence duties at home and then overseas meant a break in association with the journal until late in 1920, when the invitation, sent to Baghdad, to return to occupy the editorial chair of The Wireless World was a rewarding prospect.
When the present Editor recently did me the honour to invite me to make some contribution to the 60th anniversary number he said he had in mind that (for a very short time, I presume!) I should be back in the editorial chair and contribute a guest editorial.


The cover of the first issue of the journal under its or inal title.


The four-colour cover of April 1913 'Wireless World".

As that is the nature of the invitation it gives me every excuse to adopt the editorial 'we' as we proceed and we propose to confine ourselves mainly to touching on certain events and outside influences which have affected the journal's career.

With the lifting of censorship after the first world war a wealth of material became available for publication. The general availability of the valve provided great scope for inventors and experimenters.

Naturally, with such a promising field, $W . W$. did not long remain without competitors and a number of new journals appeared. The journal was taunted with its Marconi bias and consequent neglect of rival systems.

The Postmaster-General did not re-issue experimental licences despite the clamouring of the wireless societies and amateurs. Eventually the wireless societies decided to seek legal advice to obtain what clearly appeared to be their rights under the Wireless Telegraphy Act. Then something occurred which was to prove of great importance to our future. We were telephoned one evening by a press friend and told that a rival radio publisher had put out a news item to the press that $£ 500$ was being offered to the Wireless Society of London to assist in its legal show-down with the Post Office. A prompt telephone to the home of the manager of Marconi publications procured the authority to make a similar offer if we felt it necessary in the interests of the journal. So, the next morning our offer and that of the rival publication both appeared in the press. Nothing very interesting about that, one might say, but it had its repercussions! That morning we received a summons from the managing director of Marconi's, (F. G. Kelloway, a former PostmasterGeneral) to attend his office with the publisher. The Post Office had apparently
taken the line with the Marconi Company that it could not continue the present negotiations for wireless station contracts while the company's publication supported an attack on the Post Office monopoly. The outcome of that stormy interview was the decision to find a buyer for the offending Wireless World. This is how the journal came into the fold of Iliffe \& Sons, Ltd in 1924. Though respecting our former proprietors, we welcomed the change wholeheartedly because it gave us editorial independence and we could no longer be charged with bias, while we had the very important advantage that we now had the resources of a top publishing house ready with financial support and experience of publishing. One of the first moves was to change the format to suit rotary presses for a much increased printing order. The competition from other journals in the field remained intense but we were able to hold our own and establish a reputation for sound designs for constructional articles and all round technical reliability.

We remember the occasion when the first issue under our new proprietors was on the machines we spotted a letter from a reader which expressed his disapproval of stunt circuits, but this appeared as STunt circuits. At that time our rival publishers gave a serial number to the constructional designs which they published and prefixed the number with ST , being the initials of the designer. With alacrity the printing machine was stopped and the offending capital letters reduced to lower case.

The most active competition in the field eventually closed down and those journals of the rival group which continued did so under other publishers. It is interesting to recall that we later received from the former proprietor of the Radio Press (John Scott-Taggart) a generous tribute to The Wireless World. (We hope he reads this in his Beaconsfield retreat!)

## The RADIO REVIEW The Paper for Every Wireless Amaleur <br> The por ram inive



Constructional feature in this 1925 issue was a two-band crystal receiver and amplifier.

Hardly had the competition of the Radio Press faded out than we were confronted with another problem. The B.B.C., which had launched Radio Times, now produced a new journal World Radio. Profiting from the moncpoly of their own programmes, they were able to obtain, by exchange, advance details of a wide selection of foreign programmes for publication in World Radio. This at a time when there was very great interest in receiving the foreign transmissions and designers of receivers here competed to achieve a degree of selectivity which made it possible to sort out the individual programmes. Next, World Radio added to its contents technical articles and constructional designs, carried a sub-title 'The Technical Journal of the B.B.C.', and competed with us for contributors. In addition to protesting, which seemed to have little effect, we felt we had to take steps to safeguard our position especially when the B.B.C's use of the microphone to publicize its journals was taken into account.
That is why Wireless World began the very expensive policy of breaking the monopoly by publishing foreign programmes, as well. Both journals became unprofitable and eventually World Radio discontinued publication of technical articles of the type we objected to and we agreed in return to discontinue foreign programmes. In a general agreement between the B.B.C. and the Press the B.B.C. undertook to confine its future publishing activities to what was 'pertinent to the service of broadcasting'. World Radio was closed down at a later date and in any case could hardly have continued to obtain advance foreign programmes as the cloud of war in Europe darkened.
As events seemed to be moving towards war we felt that there could soon be an urgent need for people skilled in the very field for which our journal catered. We believed our readership would be the ideal medium through which to recruit for such services. So we launched a 'Wireless World Register', inviting our readers, who would be ready to give their services in an emergency, to complete a form giving such particulars as we thought would be most useful. Having got the approval of the Services we published the form in the journal with the address side carrying O.H.M.S. (on the recommendation of the Admiralty). We believe that such a permission had never been given previously to any technical journal nor has it been granted since, as far as we are aware. There was a rewarding response from our readers and the completed forms went to the Wireless Telegraphy Board as a convenient clearing house. Perhaps this resulted in our getting less credit for our enterprise than would otherwise have been the case. The register proved very valuable especially in meeting the need for radar personnel.

The imminence of war made things very difficult for us. It is well known that technical journals depend very largely on their advertising pages for a healthy existence. Manufacturers were now so overwhelmed with orders for war needs that they saw no purpose in advertising and


Our object "to be of use and interest to our readers, and through them to be a factor for progress" remains unchanged.
we suffered badly. So unpromising was the position that a boardroom decision was made that we should close down. That might well have been the sad end of Wireless World but fortunately our board of directors was not composed of Medes and Persians and they were prepared to reverse a decision. We produced facts and figures to show how Wireless World could be expected to continue, even profitably, by changing from weekly to monthly publication with a corresponding reduction in paper and printing costs and a reduced staff which was already inevitable with departures of a number to the Services. Actually, with the change to monthly publication, we never looked back.

From this point onwards in our history the editorial 'we' should be taken to include successive editors, the late H. F. Smith, and also F. L. Devereux, two names which will always be associated with the very best that we have been able to put before our readers issue by issue through the years. We are proud to have been followed by men of such outstanding qualities. Throughout its history Wireless World has enjoyed the co-operation of a loyal and efficient editorial team and the journal's success must, of course, be credited to them and to our many outstanding contributors, both staff and outside, who have devoted their energies to the needs of our readership. Our present editor, H. W. Barnard, carries on the tradition with that dedication and competence which can be expected from one who has devoted the whole of his working life to Wireless World.
It would seem appropriate here to make reference to the transfer of Iliffe's to new proprietors. A good many years ago Iliffe's, being a private company, was
attached, for convenience, to a public company (the Amalgamated Press) then controlled by Lord Iliffe with his partners. Some time later Amalgamated Press was sold to I.P.C., the Daily Mirror Group, and we believe the new proprietors only later discovered how important an acquisition had come their way with the lliffe journals. There was much reorganization and change, but Wireless World together with other electrical and electronic publications was gathered as one unit which still continues as a distinct entity constituted much as it was when we vacated the chairmanship of the unit to rest from our labours some eight years ago.

In "The Torrington Diaries"* which record the travels through England of John Byng (later Viscount Torrington) the author states, in his introduction, "If my Journals should remain legible, or be perused at the end of 200 years, there will, even then, be little curious in them relative to travel, or the people: Because our Island is now so explored: Our roads, in general, are so fine; and our speed has reached the summit". This he wrote during a tour in Lincolnshire in June, 1791. But we can have sympathy with John Byng for how could we, at the time the Wireless World was launched, foresee the future through successive stages of the invention of the valve, with all its applications, short wave communication, radio telephony, broadcasting, radar, television, the transistor and the employment of electronic devices in almost every human activity. And we do not think anyone today would venture to suggest that we have "reached the summit"!

[^2]
## Loud and Clear

# Developments in audio over 60 years 

remembered by F. L. Devereux, B.Sc.

Of necessity the Editor has had to comb the park benches for someone long enough in the tooth to remember when Wireless World began and who at the same time was engaged in sound recording-albeit in the humble capacity of holder of the hot flat-iron near the wax cylinder while his father made records of piano playing.

Yes, home recording was well established before the first issue of W.W. made its appearance on the bookstalls, and my father's Edison-Bell phonograph boasted an exponential horn, sapphire stylii for recording and playback and a hill-and-dale groove-recently revived in the Telefunken-Decca video disc. But wireless signalling was in a much more primitive state. There was no broadcasting as the term is now understood; indeed, wireless telephony, except for a few sporadic experiments of limited range and duration, was unknown.

When Wireless World began, signals were in morse-nice digital stuff. All you had to do to get the message clearly was to make it loud enough to stand above the threshold of background noise. Power at the transmitter and sensitivity at the receiver (amplification was to come later) were the first essentials in getting the signal from point to point; then it was a case of cutting down ambient noise in the receiving room until one could almost hear the blood circulating in the ear. My own dodge was to retire to an unventilated but heavily damped clothes closet, floor area $4 \mathrm{ft} \times 4 \mathrm{ft}$, with sufficient air for nearly half an hour, at the end of which time noisy breathing drowned all but signals from Eiffel Tower and Poldhu.
F. L. Devereux retired in 1965 after more than 40 years with Wireless World, including eight as Editor. In 1917, at the age of 17, he went to Parkeston Quay, Harwich, as a laboratory mechanic in the Board of Invention \& Research engaged on anti-submarine methods. He later joined the Navy as a midshipman and after demobilization in 1919 went to Birmingham University where he graduated in physics. Before joining Wireless World in 1923 he spend a short time in industry.

In those days when the very idea of a loud-speaking telephone seemed like science fiction, the most sought-after piece of equipment was the Brown reed-driven headphone. This highly sensitive earpiece, with an aluminium cone diaphragm and a slack gold-beater's skin surround, was designed by S. G. Brown (honoured also as a pioneer of the gyro-compass). It had micrometer screw adjustment of the air gap between reed and electro-magnet and was a great advance on run-of-the-mill iron diaphragm types then current.

Having made the signal audible the next step was to try to amplify it so that several people could hear it simultaneously without diluting it further among several headphones. Brown was again to the fore, first with a truncated conical horn added to the reed movement and later with current amplification by attaching a button microphone to the reed.

It is significant that at this time any device for augmenting the signal after detection was termed a 'note magnifier'. Oh, happy days, when all one had to design for was a single frequency! Success was measured by the amount of noise the device produced, and if a few harmonics crept in so much the better-the note was "crisper" and probably easier to read. (Incidentally, I wonder how many presentday pilots and $R / T$ operators see any incongruity in the expression 'How do you
read me?' As a fugitive from the morse era, whenever I hear it I see in my mind's eye the written message and the pencil flying across the signal pad at 20 w.p.m.)

Many mechanical devices as well as electrical were developed to augment the sound, e.g. the Brown 'Frenophone' in which pressures from a reed unit were made to control the friction between a rotating glass disc and a pad to which the apex of a cone diaphragm was attached; the Johnsen and Rahbek system where the friction between a partially conducting rotating drum and a band brake was augmented by electrostatic forces at the interface; and the aptly named 'Stentorphone' in which compressed air was released through an electromagnetically controlled valve.

The signal was by now quite definitely LOUD, and to the excitement induced by the exercise of these new powers of amplification was added, in the early 1920 s , the thrill of hearing voices and snatches of music through the babel of morse. And that's when our troubles really began: the primitive digital days were at an end and, headed by Fourier, analogue met hods were rearing their ugly heads.

Meanwhile during the 1914-18 war, the thermionic valve (originally partially gas-filled) had got rid of its early flatulence and with the emergence of the hard-pumped ' $R$ ' valve took over entirely

Wireless World's first $R-C$ coupled amplifier caused consternation among transformer manufacturers.



The Williamson amplifier-a vintage design of the valve era.
the amplification of audio-frequency signals. At first all amplifiers were transformer-coupled using bundled ironwire cores and later laminations.

The transformer became the focus of attention as the site of all the virtues of a.f. amplification and a whole industry of new firms sprang up to compete for the supply of this vital component. When a practical resistance-capacitance-coupled amplifier was first described in W.W. (October 10th, 1923) under, as it subsequently turned out to be, the rash title of 'Distortionless Telephony Reception', the article opened, in the prose style of the period, with these immortal words: "The methods adopted for low-frequency amplification applicable to the increase in volume of morse signals must no longer be regarded as satisfactory for the purpose of reproducing telephony with loud-speaking apparatus".

On the day following publication we were besieged by an angry mob (for such the rival transformer makers had joined to become in face of a common enemy) demanding instant recantation with veiled threats of withdrawal of advertising or, failing that, some retribution less painful to themselves like burning the author at the stake. The Editor of that day, never at a loss when choosing the appropriate means of surmounting, circumventing or just quietly infiltrating an impasse, subsequently wrote a skilfully worded note which, capable of being read both as a recantation and an endorsement, gave all interested parties so much to think about that we were able quietly to get back to the work of preparing future issues.

So the controversies began as to how, having got the signal loud, we should set about making it clear. Decoupling of anode circuits to control instability, 'straight-line amplification', 'tonecompensated volume control', 'harmonic', 'intermodulation' or just simply 'nonlinearity' distortion, negative feedback,


Vogt electrostatic loudspeaker of 1939 working on the "constant voltage" system, was inherently non-linear".


Western Electric "Kone" loudspeaker.
even 'ultra-linear' amplification (did they mean that having got the line straight we should go beyond and bend it the other way?)-all these topics, according to the fashion of the moment, have engaged the minds of high-quality enthusiasts, eventually to be absorbed into the technology or refuted and quietly forgotten. Some of the early practical embodiments of those ideas which have so far stood the test of time will not be forgotten when future histories come to be written. The W.W. Quality Amplifier of 1934 designed by W. T. Cocking and using PX4 output valves without feedback can still hold the candle to many more complex and over-sophisticated modern types. Nor should we forget the vintage years of 1947-49 which produced the Baxandall and Williamson high-quality valve amplifiers. "Not a ha'porth of difference" (to borrow a phrase from a current detergent commercial) might describe their performance; but most people could not afford to build both, and while they hesitated, the stampede in favour of Williamson started in Australia with endorsement by the Amalgamated Wireless Valve Co. Pty. Ltd, and rapidly spread back across the world to Europe.

From the beginning, amplifier design and performance have always been several jumps ahead of the loudspeaker, which is not really surprising when one starts to make a list of the factors involved--strength and elasticity of materials, internal friction, magnetism, dielectric properties, even thermodynamics when one considers the possible transitions from isothermal to adiabatic working in the throat of a high-power horn loudspeaker or the plasma of an Ionophone. But such complexities did not trouble us in the 1920s. Efficiency was the ticket and the competition then, as now, was chiefly between horn-loaded and direct-radiating diaphragms. Actuating mechanisms of both types were of the
moving-iron variety-telephone diaphragms driving the fashionable swannecked horns and reed mechanisms for the larger paper cone diaphragms. Both introduced prodigious asymmetrical distortion, proportional to the inverse square of the varying air gap. But who cared? The music kept good time, and by Edison-Bell phonograph standards the quality was quite acceptable.

At this time and for years to come the B.B.C. set a standard of quality which was streets ahead of the capabilities of commercial receivers to reproduce. Protagonist in the drive for better sound quality was the B.B.C's first chief engineer, P. P. Eckersley, whose energy and wit did much to stir the listeners from their indifference and the industry from its lethargy. His campaign was powerfully reinforced by the introduction in 1924 of the Marconi-Round-Sykes moving-coil microphone in place of carbon-granule types.

Returning to loudspeakers, the Baldwin balanced armature unit and the Western Electric 'Kone' showed how non-linearity distortion could at least be reduced and bass response improved, and there was a final fling of the moving-iron principle in the so-called 'inductor dynamic' unit with motion parallel instead of normal to the magnet pole-pieces. But this was a last despairing effort to stem the advancing tide of the moving-coil, patented in 1874 by Siemens, again by Lodge in 1898 , and brought up to date in 1924 by Rice and Kellogg of the GE Company of America.

No single step in the progress of sound reproduction has ever equalled that from


A new standard of performance was set in 1933 by the Voigt unit with a 20 kilogauss magnet.


[^3]

Of 19 pickups tested by Wireless World in 1929 only these six (BTH, Brown, Burndept, Igranic, Magnum, Webster) recorded any output above 4 kHz !
moving-iron to moving-coil, or fired so much enthusiasm. Those who were first privileged to hear the results felt compelled to spread the good tidings, and mass meetings were organized by the redoubtable Dr. N. W. McLachian in London, by Dr. F. W. Lanchester in the Midlands and by Wireless World's Assistant Editor, F. H. Haynes at the leading radio societies. At last the good things which for years the B.B.C. had been wasting on the desert air could be appreciated and we entered the first golden decade of high-quality sound, culminating in the work of P. G. A. H. Voigt, whose many-sided genius showed that the lily could indeed be painted. Through the medium of his domestic corner horns with
their massive 20 kilogauss field magnets and twin diaphragms, and with a temerity which smacked of lèse-majeste, he disclosed faults in the B.B.C's own transmissions. I well remember turning up at his home in South London for a demonstration of his latest model, only to be told that it was 'off'. "They're still using that mic. with the shrieking 6 -kilocycle frontal cavity resonance that I complained about last week" He was right, of course, and that microphone was subsequently taken out of service.

Thus is progress made, sometimes waiting for the man, sometimes for the means. The detailed design of stereophonic recording on di;c, as it is used today, was worked out ands patented in 1933 by A. D.

Blumlein, but at that time discs were made of heavily loaded shellac and, to quote Stuart Black (W.W. December 1943) "We get our music by scraping a steel point carrying some tons of weight per square inch over what is virtually a refined macadamized roadway". Not until the advent of vinyl co-polymers and microgroove recording could Blumlein's ideas be fully exploited.

And speaking of Blumlein reminds me of another story. When high-definition television started in England in 1936 all the high-quality enthusiasts were agog with excitement at the prospect of unlimited bandwidth on v.h.f. On medium waves the B.B.C. did not modulate above 10 kHz because of international agree ments on channel spacing. Sure enough, when the Alexandra Palace station opened up the improvement in quality of the accompanying sound channel was so marked that readers were demanding constructional details for v.h.f. receivers -just to demonstrate to their friends the virtues of unlimited bandwidth. At an I.E.E. discussion on the design of the A.P. transmitter several speakers rose to thank the B.B.C. for acceding to the public demand for greater bandwidth. To which Bluntlein replied that he was sorry to disillusion the gentlemen concerned, but the improvement had nothing to do with bandwidth; for some time the B.B.C. had been in process of redesigning its microphone ' $A$ ' amplifiers and it just so happened that the new equipment, with greatly reduced non-linearity distortion, had been put into service for the first time at Alexandra Palace. And wasn't it P. P. Eckersley at another I.E.E. meeting who
said: "The wider you open the window the more dirt blows in?"

When one is stirring up memories of technological progress, why is it that people so often keep popping up among the hardware? W. S. Barrell of E.M.I.: "When I want to impress other people I play Tchaikovsky but when my staff ask my opinion of their latest improvement I always insist on Bartok". G. A. Briggs, who came into the loudspeaker business from the textile industry and who, if he brought a pair of cloth ears with him when he started, must have quickly used them up for diaphragm surrounds, for no one can so unerringly detect a false sound-and that without benefit of scientific aids (who is likely to forget his demonstration, at the start of the Festival Hall recitals, of the qualities of loudspeaker enclosures using nothing more sophisticated than a carpenter's mallet?). And C. E. Watts: I once made the mistake of saying to him that I did not see the sense of square-wave testing since such sounds were not to be found in nature, or for that matter in music. On my desk next morning I found a beautiful photomicrograph of three consecutive square-groove traces (triangular, of course, with constant velocity recording). Attached was a compliments slip endorsed "From Danse Macabre". I found out later that C.E.W. had spent most of the night chasing up and down the groove of that well-known test-piece of the period until he found what he sen sed must be there.

Here I think we are getting near to the gist of the matter. When you know all about the physics of vibration and its transmission through the air even about

the mechanism of the cochlea of the ear-you do not yet know the first thing about sound which is the perception of vibration. After all the trouble with Fourier and sine waves we are back where we started with the digital spikes of trains of nervous discharge travelling in times of the order of milliseconds along multiple paths, many of them redundant, to be subjected to correlation processes of the order of micro-seconds between the two halves of the brain-then probably to be over ridden or ignored altogether by the recipient. As with sight the human capacity for instantaneous attention to detail is limited. Who knows or cares if there is a cut-off at 8 or 18 kHz when the back desks of the violins are out of tune or the woodwind is dragging its feet?

Looking into the future it would seem that startlingly new technological advances will be few and far between, though it is always possible that some simple improvement awaits discovery under our noses. One need only cite the electrostatic loudspeaker which seemed to have been fully exploited by Hans Vogt in the late 1920s until Prof. F. V. Hunt and his colleagues at Harvard, after thorough mathematical analysis, showed thirty years later that what seemed to be inherent distortions could be removed by the simple expedient of working under 'constant charge' conditions.

Much remains to be done in the field of psychoacoustics, to find how judgments are conditioned by previous experience, why the mind accepts the false as the norm and often rejects improvement for no other reason than unfamiliarity. I am old enough to remember that switches marked 'mellow' had to be fitted to many broadcast receivers after the makers had tried to give the public better high-frequency response.

## Envoi

As I drift, in the sixth age of man "into the lean and slippered pantaloon, with spectacles on nose" I know that if my old age pension does not run to a colour television licence I can still enjoy music, talks and plays-all those things that enter the mind's eye through the ear.

One small regret. The old W.W. Quality Amplifier was such a comfort on winter nights in my "den", but since changing over to integrated circuits I have had to buy an electric fire with two bars. We seem not so much to have miniaturized the watt as to have mislaid it altogether.

For his large scale lecture-demonstrations of high-quality sound on both sides of the Atlantic, G. A. Briggs might well have taken his motto from Danton: "De l'audace, et encore de l'audace et toujours de l'audace." Fears for their success were completely routea.

## Milestones in Receiver Evolution

## W. T. Cocking*, an innovator in the field, recalls some of the highlights in radio and television receiver development

The real beginning of radio can be said to date from James Clark Maxwell's hypothesis, which he formulated in the latter half of the 19th century, that a displacement current (i.e., a changing electric field) could produce a magnetic field. He formulated this hypothesis in order to improve the symmetry of his equations relating electric and magnetic fields and he showed that, if it were true, one solution of them indicated electromagnetic waves travelling in space with finite velocity. There was at that time no way of proving or disproving his hypothesis, but later Heinrich Hertz succeeded in generating such electromagnetic waves. Still later, Marconi developed the elevated open aerial and the way was then clear for the practical development of wireless communication.

Sixty years ago when Wireless World started, all normal transmissions were by spark telegraphy using Morse code and receivers were very simple affairs using one or two tuned circuits with magnetic coherers or crystal detectors.

The triode valve had been invented
(1907) but few people had heard of it and it was not until World War I that it became widely known and was manufactured in any quantity. Practical radio-telephony had to wait for this moment because a source of continuous oscillations was needed as a carrier for speech signals and the valve proved the only suitable way of generating them.

The early 20s may be said to be the real beginning of radio as we know it today. There was military equipment available on the disposals market and valves could be bought. Receivers existed using up to five r.f. 'amplifiers' in cascade with special valves having contacts at each end of a glass tube for the filament and one on each side for the grid and anode (V24. Q or QX). Even with these low-capacitance types the stage gain was very low.

The normal receiving valve was the R type. This was a bright emitter with a filament taking about 0.6 A at 5 V . It had an a.c. resistance of about $40 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ with a $\mu$ of about ten. All equipment was battery operated with a large accumulator for the l.t. supply and an h.t. supply of 60 to 120


The exterior of the famous 'Everyman's Four-valve receiver designed by W. James and described in the 1926 article as " $a$ 'two-control' receiver of remarkable efficiency".



#### Abstract

W. T. Cocking's first contribution to Wireless World was in 1929, but it was not until 1936 that he joined the staff. During the war he served in the R.A.O.C. and R.E.M.E., attaining the rank of major, and from 1942 to 1945 was attached to the Ministry of Supply. After the war he was appointed editor of our sister journal Wireless Engineer and in 1965 became editor-in-chief of Wireless World and Industrial Electronics (successor to W.E.) which ceased publication in 1969.


volts from dry batteries. The usual valve receiver was a reacting detector with or without one transformer-coupled a.f. stage. Headphones were normal and many receivers had nothing but a tuned circuit and crystal detector.

Broadcasting in this country began in 1922 and was the start of major development in receivers. Throughout the history of receiver development receiver designers have been quick to exploit, to the full, the potentialities of components available to them and the major advances have usually had to await component development-especially in valves.

The first valve improvement was the dull-emitter filament. The DER needed a $2-\mathrm{V}$ supply only. Then came the ' 0.06 ' types, which took only 60 mA at 3 V and permitted the use of a dry battery for the filament supply; but this had too short a life to become really popular. The other characteristics of these valves were very similar to those of the R type.

Broadcast listeners began to dislike using headphones and the loudspeaker became popular. The results of the early loudspeakers driven by a grossly overloaded valve of the time were so horrible that power valves were developed. We should hardly call them so today, for few gave more than two or three times the output of an R valve! Then came the LS5 and LS5A. The latter, especially, did give useful power but needed 400 V h.t. supply.
In this period there was great interest in the design of tuning coils. In the crystal-set days a solenoid of about 4 inches diameter and 12 inches long was used with a slider for tuning. Then variable capacitors (we called them condensers then) were used with plug-in coils of the honeycomb or Burndept types of windings.

Wireless World organized a competi-

tion among its readers who were invited to send sample coils. A prize of $£ 5$ was offered for the best. The results were published in the $17 \mathrm{th}, 24 \mathrm{th}$ Feb. and 3rd March 1926 issues ( $W . W$. was then a weekly). At around the same period $S$. Butterworth published a series of articles in Experimental Wireless \& The Wireless Engineer (April-July 1926) on 'Effective Resistance of Inductance Coils at Radio Frequency' and an abbreviated version appeared in Wireless World for 8th and 15th Dec. 1926 under the title 'Designng Low-Loss Coils'. Butterworth's work was of outstanding importance because for the first time it enabled unscreened air-core coils to be designed not merely for a required inductance but also for a required r.f. resistance.

At around this period, or a little earlier, the neutrodyne circuit was developed by Hazeltine in the U.S.A. and it enabled stable and useful r.f. amplification to be obtained. The typical American receiver of the period had two neutralized triode r.f. stages, triode detector and two trans-
former-coupled a.f. stages. There were three separate tuning capacitors, for ganging was still to come.

In Wireless World for 28th July and 4th August 1926 there appeared constructional details for a very famous receiver indeed, the Everyman Four. (Incidentally the original title was 'Everyman's Four-Valve', a prototype of which is kept at the Science Museum, London.) This had one r.f. stage neutralized with a DE5B valve ( $r_{a}=21$ $\mathrm{k} \Omega \mu=18$ ) with two tuned circuits. The coils were of 3 -in diameter and $3 \frac{1}{2}$-in long and had 74 turns of $27 / 42$ Litz wire, each strand s.s.c. and overall d.s.c. The stable r.f. gain was 36.5 to 46 over the medium-wave band. The detector was an anode bend type using a Cosmos SP18 Blue Spot valve $R C$ coupled to a DE5B, which was transformer coupled to a DE5 output valve. The whole set took 10 mA at 150 V and the output valve took 4.75 mA . The input power to the output stage was thus 710 mW and so the output to the
loudspeaker could hardly exceed 150 mW .
The performance of this receiver far outshone its competitors of the time and it set an entirely new standard of medium-wave broadcast reception. Its success depended largely upon the r.f. coil development referred to above, but also on the development of neutralizing.

In this country the neutrodyne never achieved the prominence that it did in the U.S.A., for it had barely reached here when the screened grid tetrode made its appearance and made neutralizing unnecessary. Shortly after this the output pentode appeared, and the introduction of the indirectly heated cathode made mains operation practicable.

From 1926 onwards valve development was rapid and receiver designs changed accordingly until in the early 30 s the "standard' receiver was mains operated with one r.f. stage, grid detector, and pentode output stage. Ganged tuning arrived. This was an obvious development, but its possibility depended on achieving much higher accuracy of manufacture of variable capacitors and it was not really satisfactory until this was done.
*At this time the increasing number of broadcasting stations in Europe called for a great increase of selectivity in receivers. At the same time, much more attertion was being paid to quality of reproduction. This led to the use of coupled-pairs of tuned circuits operating as bandpass filters ('Band-Pass Four' W.W., June and July 1930) and then to the revival of the superheterodyne.

This first appeared during World War I, but was comparatively little used until the early '30s. The main reason for this was that it required more valves than the straight set and it was not until the advent of mains operation that many people could afford the extra power supply for these valves. Mains operation and better valves made the superheterodyne at last practicable but it was for a time held


Schematic diagram of connectlons. $T_{1}$, aerial-grid transformer; $\mathrm{T}_{2}$, high-frequency valve transformer; Th, Ferrantic 3.5: low-



A photograph of the original circuit, compleie with caption, of the Everyman Four.
back by the problem of ganging the oscillator with the signal circuits.

An early design ('Super-Selective Six' W.W. June 1931) had separate controls for the two, but ganging was achieved quite soon ('Monodial', W.W., April, 1932). Around this period, some unorthodox designs appeared. They achieved temporary prominence and then fell into disuse because of certain drawbacks, so they are really side shoots to the main line of development.

One such was the Stenode. This was a superheterodyne using a quartz crystal in the i.f. amplifier to obtain high selectivity together with tone correction in the a.f. amplifier for the severe sideband cutting. It aroused great controversy about the physical reality of sidebands and some of the claims made for it appeared to contravene accepted theory. The true explanation eventually appeared, but the Stenode never achieved any real popularity. One feature of it, the correction of sideband cutting by a suitable a.f. amplifier response, was adopted in the Monodial.

Another sideshoot was the Single-Span (1934). In this a high intermediate frequency ( 1.6 MHz ) was used with a fixed tuned input bandpass filter covering 150 kHz to 1.5 MHz . This enabled all tuning to be done by the oscillator ( $f>1.6 \mathrm{MHz}$ ) and eliminated ganging and waveband switching. Although satisfactory when first described it did not long remain so. The increasing numbers and powers of broadcasting stations soon produced so many whistles that it became impracticable without excessive refinement.

All this time spasmodic attention had been paid to quality of reproduction. An outstanding example was the Science Museum Receiver (W.W., July and August 1930) which probably provided
the best reproduction of any equipment of its date.

An early Hi-Fi amplifier (this term had not then been invented) was the Wireless World 'Push-Pull Quality Amplifier' (May 1934). This had two PX4 triodes in push-pull driven with $R C$ coupling from push-pull MHL4 triodes in turn driven by a concertina phase-spliter. The output transformer was specially designed for the job and contributed greatly to the performance. The output stage operated in a mode which might be called slight class AB. It was nearly class A but not quite. The amplifier gave 4 W output at an unspecified, but quite low, distortion level.

Some examples of it exist today and judged aurally the results compare well with much more modern designs.

In 1934 Black in the U.S.A. 'invented' negative feedback, primarily for amplifiers in cable circuits. This, as always, was a specialized field and it took sometime for the principle to work its way out for more general usage (W.W., Nov. 1936), but within a few years it became common, although it was not at first always used to the best advantage.

At about this time the triode valve began to die as an audio output valve. Larger powers were being demanded and the biggest triodes (PX25, 25 W dissipation) were directly heated types. Indirectly heated cathodes did not seem to go with large power and in any case the pentode was more efficient (theoretical maximum $50 \%$ against $25 \%$ for a triode). The drawback of the pentode was that it introduced much more distortion than a triode and many quality enthusiasts would have nothing to do with it.

Here negative feedback came to the rescue and made pentode quality as good as triode quality and spelt the demise of the

triode output valve. It was eventually realized that the triode could be regarded as a pentode with $100 \%$ negative feedback from anode to screen! It was around this period (1936) that a.g.c., which is a form of negative feedback, came in.

To return to the early ' 30 s, there were two other important developments. One was a kind of negative feedback, automatic gain control (W.W., September 1932), although it was not then recognized as being such. It came into popular use long before true negative signal feedback. The second development ( $W . W$., Sept. 1932) was 'Ferrocart', which was the first iron-dust core for r.f. coils. Of German origin, it consisted of iron dust sprinkled on waxed paper which was then rolled and compressed to form a solid block which could be cut to the desired shape. Sometimes a ring core toroidially wound was used, at others the material was formed into E and I sections. It enabled a big reduction to be made in the size of r.f. coils and stimulated the development of the methods of construction and was soon replaced by cores of iron dust compressed with a binder into a solid. These were much nearer the cores of today.

During the ' 30 s there was intense activity in valve development not only in entirely new types, but in building multiple valves. The duo-diode-triode was one of the first, but by 1939 there were double triodes, double pentodes and triodepentodes. The new types were mainly multi-grid ones for superheterodyne frequency changing. The first was the pentagrid or heptode and this was followed by the octode. A parallel line of development for the same purpose produced the triodehexode, and triode-heptode.

Indirectly heated valves usually had 4 V , 1A heaters, but in the U.S.A. $6.3-\mathrm{V}, 0.3-\mathrm{A}$ heaters soon became standard because of the introduction of car radio. American cars had $6-\mathrm{V}$ batteries. When car radio came to this country a range of $13-\mathrm{V}$, 0.3 -A valves was produced to suit our $12-\mathrm{V}$ batteries. These could be seriesconnected for use in a.c. /d.c. sets.

It was not long, however, before some degree of standardization with the U.S.A. occurred and $6.3-\mathrm{V}, 0.3-\mathrm{A}$ heaters became general and was followed just before the war with the all-glass construction of which the best known early member is the famous EF50.

The advent of television in 1936 shifted the emphasis in valve development to r.f. pentodes of high- $g_{m}$ and low capacitance. An early example was the TSP4 with $g_{m}$ $=6 \mathrm{~mA} / \mathrm{V}$, but this was quite soon replaced by the EF50 which had about the same mutual conductance but which was much better screened and was much smaller physically. Further valve development was interrupted by World War II and for a good many years the EF50 was the standard valve in radar receivers.

In the U.S.A. the small all-glass construction was adopted and later in the war such types were made here. These were more robust and had lower capacitances and higher mutual conductances, so that radar i.f. amplifiers, for instance, became smaller and more reliable. After the war

this form of construction continued and it is now employed in nearly all valves.

The next major development was the transistor in 1948. Of outstanding technical interest, it took a long time to have effect upon receiver design. The crystal detector, which is a semiconductor diode, was used in the very early days of radio. The commonest types were carborundum with a steel plate, zincite-bornite (Perikon) and galena with a catswhisker. During World War II it was revived as a centi-metre-wave radar detector and properly designed with a pre-set capsule so that the user was presented with a little cartridge requiring no adjustment. Quite early on certain crystals were known to be able to generate oscillations under certain conditions, but little or nothing was known about how they worked.

As power rectifiers, copper-oxide and, later selenium, types were widely used from about 1930 onwards; little was known about how they worked, and their design was largely empirical. Nevertheless, they were very satisfactory.

The development of the transistor and the enormous amount of work on semiconductors which preceded and followed it cleared up all these other matters. The first transistors were point-contact types and it was not until the junction transistor arrived and became manufactured in quantity that its effect became evident.

Apart from the computer, its first main application was to hearing aids. It had the outstanding advantages of much smaller physical size than a valve and of requiring no filament-heating power. It was also more efficient in that, because the minimum permissible voltage drop across the device could be under 1 V (with a valve it had to be 10 V or more) the h.t. supply power could be reduced.

In receivers, the transistor for the first time permitted the construction of a really practicable portable receiver. Portables were made and sold from quite early days, but they were large and heavy, had a poor performance and short battery life. The transistor changed all this as soon as types capable of amplifying and oscillating up to about 2 MHz became available. So much is this the case that the old
table-model receiver is now virtually obsolete. It is now the mains-operated radiogramophone or the battery-operated transistor portabie. The development of ferrites, too, made the ferrite rod aerial possible and eliminated the cumbersome frame aerial from the portable. In the domestic market valves are now rarely used except in television receivers, but even here there are some which depend entirely upon semi-conductors.

During World War II, as we have said, valves began to get smaller. To match this components generally got smaller, too. The process of miniaturization had started. The transistor accelerated this and discrete components are now incredibly small by pre-war standards. But this is far from the end. Integrated circuits are with us and are coming into use in the domestic radio field. Even the variable-capacitor seems to be on the way out. It is starting to be replaced by a special semiconductor diode known variously as a varactor or varicap which has a capacitance dependent upon the voltage applied to it. At the moment, the only difficulty seems to be to manufacture diodes which all have the same capacitance at the same applied voltage; it is virtually the ganging problem again.

We cannot conclude without some mention of television. This started as a regular service in 1936 with one transmitter at Alexandra Palace, and after a short trial period the present 405 -line system was adopted. Receiving cathode-ray tubes had a $12-\mathrm{in}$. diameter screen with electric focusing and deflection and operated at 4 kV . By modern standards the tubes had poor focus and brightness.

Constructional details of a television set were given in W.W., 2nd-30th July 1937. The receiver was of the t.r.f. type with three r.f. stages, diode detector and one video stage. The power supplies formed a large part of the cost and bulk, for three separate ones each with its own mains transformer were needed. Supplies of 250 V for the receiver proper, 1000 V for the time bases and 4 kV for the c.r.t. Commercial practice of the time was similar, but a few manufacturers employed the superheterodyne. A major difficulty
was to obtain stable and high r.f. gain with the necessary bandwidth, because the valves available were not really suitable.

In the next two years, great improvements were made, partly because better valves became available and partly because of a change to magnetic deflection and focusing of the c.r. tube. To reduce costs the 9 in . tube was adopted, and at least one set (Murphy) sold for $£ 30$. A second constructional receiver was described in W.W., 29th June-20th July 1939, which took great advantage of these developments and gave a performance greatly superior to that of the first.

The war interrupted television, of course, and it was not until 1946 that transmissions started again. The post-war receivers naturally followed the immediate pre-war practice and the whole trend was to 9 in . tubes with magnetic focusing and deflection. The service restarted on 7th June 1946.

Another constructional receiver was described in W.W., Jan.-Dec. 1947. This was probably unique in that it included full constructional details of deflector and focusing coils, the reason being that such parts were not available on the retail market at that time. The receiver was initially of the t.r.f. type, but later a superheterodyne of much higher gain was described as an alternative. The e.h.t. supply, which was still no more than 5 kV , was obtained from the line flyback using a voltage-doubler with selenium rectifiers.

War-time, and early post-war, valve developments made a big difference to television receiver design, especially on the r.f. side. The development of ferrites, too, had a big effect, for it so greatly reduced the losses in line-scan transformers and deflector coils that it permitted a further development-the energy-recovery scanning systems. These are now universal, but on them depended the practicability of wide-deflection angles and, hence, large screen tubes and the higher voltages needed for adequate brightness with them. The period 1947-1957 was an exceptionally interesting one in development.

Then, of course, came a 625 -line system on v.h.f. and, finally, colour and a constructional receiver ( $W$. $W$., June 1968-June 1969), again appeared.

In this article, some may feel that undue stress has been laid upon designs for the home constructor. There is a sound reason for quoting these, however, which is that much more information about them is available than of commercially produced receivers of the time, especially in the early days. The heyday of the constructor was in the '20s and early '30s. After that, it became less popular as receivers became more complex, but the commercial pattern changed also and it gradually became more expensive to make a receiver than to buy one!

The demand for constructional articles fell off but the old saying, "An ounce of practice is worth a ton of theory", is still true. It is not that theory is unnecessary. It is more necessary than ever. It needs the practice, however, to drive it home and makn realize to the full what it means.

# Radio Wave Propagation 

## Ten more years

by R. L. Smith-Rose, C.B.E., D.Sc., F.C.g.I, F.I.E.E.

In the 50th birthday issue of Wireless World a review was presented on the development of our knowledge of the manner in which electromagnetic waves travel over the earth's surface and through the lower and upper atmospheres, and of the experience which has resulted in the development of practical communications on a world-wide basis ${ }^{1}$. It is the purpose of this article to review the progress that has been made during the past ten years, taking note, as appropriate, of the associated developments in radio astronomy and space communications.

Because electromagnetic waves travel, subject to conditions of absorption, refraction and reflection, not only round the surface of the earth but also into the surrounding space, it has long been recognized that international collaboration is essential if confusion and interference are to be avoided in the practical development of communications, navigational guidance and the satisfactory broadcasting of sound and television programmes. It is on account of the international aspects and the need to avoid a chaotic state of radio interference, that organizations such as the International Radio Consultative Committee (C.C.I.R.) and the International Union of Radio Science (U.R.S.I.) ${ }^{2}$ are continuously in operation to guide and control both the practical development and the scientific research associated with this subject. The introduction of sound and television broadcasting, advanced radio aids to both aerial and marine navigation and, more recently, the pursuit of research in radio astronomy and the space around us, have all served to emphasize the need for such international co-operation.

## Influence of terrain on wave propagation

The development of medium-wave broad casting has, for many years past, stimulated the continued study of the effect of the electrical conductivity and dielectric constant of the ground on the propagation of radio waves over the earth's surface. The C.C.I.R. has produced, and published from time to time, sets of curves showing the decrease of field strength with distance from the transmitter which is assumed to be radiating a power of one kilowatt. It is further assumed that both the se-ding and
receiving stations are on the ground and that the waves travel over a smooth homogeneous earth, neglecting any effect of the troposphere. Five sets of such curves were revised in $1970^{3}$ and have recently been published from Geneva. These sets of curves relate to four different values of the conductivity of the earth over which the waves travel, while the fifth set is appropriate to the much higher conductivity and dielectric constant of sea-water. Individual curves relate to a series of frequencies between 10 kHz and 10 MHz .

Recommendations covering the use of the curves emphasize that they should be used to determine field strengths only when it is known that ionospheric reflections at the frequency under consideration will be negligible in amplitude. An example of such application is given as propagation in daylight at frequencies between 150 kHz and 2 MHz , and for distances less than about 2000 km . These sets of curves continue to form the basis of international discussions on the siting of broadcasting and other radio transmitting stations.

Methods have also been developed for computing the propagation conditions over ground paths of mixed electrical constants, such as are encountered in travelling from dry sand to a fresh-water lake, or from normally moist soil to sea-water of greatly increased conductivity. Similarly the effect of a variable terrain, including hills and mountain ridges which may be regarded as sharp irregularities in relation to the wavelength, has been studied in considerable detail to obtain information on such effects required for the planning

Dr. R. L. Smith-Rose, who is 76, retired from the Scientific Civil Service in 1960 after 41 years' service. A graduate of Imperial College, University of London, Dr. Smith-Rose was superintendent of the Radio Division of the National Physical Laboratory from 1939 until 1948 when he became the first director of radio research in the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (now the Science Research Council). He is a past president of the International Scientific Radio Union and is at present chairman of the Frequency Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, and secretary-general of the Inter-Union Commission on Frequency Allocations for Radio Astronomy and Space Science.
of broadcasting and other services which depend on ground-wave transmissions. Renewed emphasis on the desirability for further study of this subject has arisen during the past decade by the need for such earth-bound services to share some of the bands of frequencies with space telecommunication systems. Practical experimental work in this field has been conducted in parallel with a large amount of theoretical study, so that the combined results may be used in planning radio systems and predicting their performance with a good measure of reliability.

## Ionospheric research and long-distance propagation

Apart from national internal services, the major portion of the world's communications is conducted in high frequency radio waves, taking advantage of the appropriate reflection of such waves from the several regions of the ionosphere. It is now over 45 years since the classical experiments of Sir Edward Appleton demonstrated the existence of ionized regions in the earth's upper atmosphere, which reflect radio waves within suitable bands of frequencies, resulting in the transmission of the waves all round the earth's surface.

Continuous research carried out in various countries has shown that the frequencies of waves that can be so reflected depends upon the density of ionization in the atmosphere at heights from about 100 to 400 km above the earth's surface. It was established some years ago that this ionization process is dependent upon the intensity of emission of ultra-violet radiation from the sun. Furthermore, physicists have known for a long time that this emission is subject to variation on a basis with a period of the order of 11 years. As a result the range of frequencies or wavelengths which can be used for the world's long-distance services is much greater during a period of maximum solar activity than in the corresponding period about 5 years later.

In a previous article ${ }^{4}$, mention was made of the co-operative scientific study which was conducted on a world-wide basis of conditions in the ionosphere during the period of maximum solar activity (1957-58)-the International Geophysical Year (IGY), as it was termed. With the
knowledge provided by astronomers that the mean period of the sun's activity is about 11 years, a similar and enhanced programme of studies of the ionosphere was planned and carried out during the period 1964-65, which was designated the International Quiet Sun Year (IQSY). During this period, for the first time observations at observatories on the earth's surface were supplemented by direct measurements of conditions in the ionosphere, made first with the aid of rockets and later by the launching of complete radio sounding equipments through and above the ionosphere.

## The topside ionospheric sounder

Prior to 1960 rockets and artificial earth satellites were already in use for the measurement of solar radiation and the study of its effect on conditions in the ionosphere.

It was in September 1962 that a complete radio ionospheric transmitting and receiving equipment, known as the Alouette I top-side sounder, was launched into an approximately circular orbit at a height of about 1000 km . The frequency of the transmitter swept over the range 1 to 11.5 MHz in a period of eleven seconds, during which time the satellite had moved about 120 km ; so that one complete ionogram was produced for approximately every degree of latitude.

The results obtained from this investigation have proved a most valuable supplement to the information provided by the world network of ionospheric sounding stations on the earth's surface. The fact that it was examining the properties of the ionosphere from above, in a virtually continuous world-wide orbit, brought to light some new and interesting points concerning anomolous geomagnetic conditions at the equator and the interaction between the previously identified radiation belts and the ionosphere below them.

The Alouette I satellite has provided a valuable series of observational emissions over a period of several years. It was still operating when, in November 1965, another artificial satellite-called Alouette II and also built in Canada-was launched into an elliptical orbit with major and minor axes of about 2980 and 500 kilometres respectively. This second satellite operates on command for about six hours per day, carrying out five experiments, which include a topside sounder, a radio-noise experiment over the frequency range 0.2 to 14 MHz , and the measurement of very low frequencies over the range 50 to 30,000 hertz. Both these and other satellites launched more recently have proved very successful in materially adding to our knowledge of radio transmission conditions at heights well above the ionosphere.

## Radio meteorology and the troposphere

For many years past the meteorologist has used radio sounding technique to give him detailed information of the temperature,

pressure and humidity changes in the earth's atmosphere up to heights of 10 km or more. In return, this information has proved invaluable in the planning and operation of radio communication services operating at very short-metre and centimetre-wavelengths. Under what is termed a normal or standard gradient of atmospheric temperature with height, such waves may travel in a path curved toward the earth at a radius of about four-thirds that of the earth itself. Variation of atmospheric conditions along the path may, however, change this to a greater or less curvature, including what is virtually rectilinear propagation ${ }^{5}$.

The development of direction finding and, later, radar techniques, has also enabled the radio scientist to explore wind movements up to the maximum heights in the troposphere, varying from 10 to 15 km depending on latitude and season. By international collaboration, a considerable amount of useful empirical knowledge has been gained from such combined radio and meteorological investigations in different parts of the world. But the search for a simple method of applying a knowledge of meteorological conditions to the determination of radio propagation has not led to very satisfactory results. In spite of such difficulties, however, the combined experience of scientists and engineers has enabled a certain amount of guidance to be made available to those responsible for the installation and operation of radio services at decimetre and centimetre wavelengths. A useful recommendation recently brought up to date by the
C.C.I.R. incorporates a revised set of curves relating field strength to distance of transmission for the v.h.f. $(30-250 \mathrm{MHz})$ and u.h.f. $(450-1000 \mathrm{MHz})$ bands. These curves display a statistical average of received field strength for $50 \%$ of the terminal locations and for periods of from 1 to $50 \%$ of the operating time. Associated reports enable the effect of changing the receiving aerial height to be estimated, and describe a method for determining the corresponding field strengths when the path of transmission is of a mixed land and sea nature.

But it is not only for the design and operation of radio systems with earthbound terminals that a detailed knowledge of the effects of the troposphere is necessary. Modern developments of unmanned satellites in orbit round the earth for radio relay communication purposes also require a detailed knowledge of the propagation of radio waves through the non-ionized regions of the atmosphere, taking account of spatial variations of refractive index which can cause both refraction and scattering of the waves. With this type of work is associated an investigation of the absorption of radio waves by oxygen and water vapour of the variable densities encountered in the earth's atmosphere, and of the corresponding scattering of the waves particularly caused by various types of rainfall.

The development of telecommunications on an international scale depends to a major extent on an agreement as to the
type of investigations to be carried out and, particularly, on the nomenclature used in organizing the work and describing the results achieved. It has been evident for many years past that the propagation of radio waves of frequencies greater than 30 MHz is greatly influenced by meteorological conditions in the troposphere. In recognition of this the C.C.I.R. has drawn up a recommended list of terms used in the study of radio propagation through the troposphere. This vocabulary ${ }^{3}$ was started nearly twenty years ago, and it has been constantly extended and revised as necessary at successive meetings of the international committee dealing with radio communications. Associated with the vocabulary are the agreed definitions of a basic reference atmosphere and the recommended formula for the radio refractive index. All these activities have done much to extend the successful application of the upper portions of the electromagnetic spectrum to practical use.

## Radio astronomy

It may not be out of place to conclude this review with a brief reference to radio astronomy, a science which has made
great advances during the period under review in many parts of the world. Excluding the relatively small activity in the field of radar astronomy, which uses a combined transmit-receive technique, the activities of the radio astronomer are confined to studying the natural radiations from sources in space, not only within the solar system but out to the limits of the explorable universe.

By the aid of either an extensive fixed aerial array or, more usually, of a large steerable aerial system, the astronomer is able to record and investigate the radiations emitted over the entire radio spectrum. So valuable has this work become in the past decade that a special international commission was set up in 1960, to review the requirements of the radio astronomer and to take all appropriate steps to ensure that his observations of these natural phenomena should be protected from interference by other services operating within the terrestrial environment.

In some cases the radio astronomer has identified specific emissions from natural phenomena, such as the radiation from neutral hydrogen in the frequency band 1400.1427 MHz . But more generally the
astronomers have sought protection from interference in a series of frequency bands at approximately octave intervals throughout the spectrum, so that they may conduct a co-ordinated long-term series of continuous observations of the phenomena which give rise to these radiations. The results so far obtained have materially added to our knowledge of the history of the universe which was already available from the much older work of the optical astronomer. While the major additions to our knowledge have been obtained from installations on the earth's surface, space radio astronomy has developed rapidly in recent years, culminating in the launching of the first Radio Astronomy Explorer Satellite for the observation of solar and galactic radiation free from the absorption caused by the earth's atmosphere.

It is perhaps of interest to note, in conclusion, that while up to a few years ago radio communications and control systems operated within the limitations of the earth's circumference, the modern astronaut seeks and receives a corresponding service which has already operated successfully at a range of about a quarter of a million miles-the mean distance between the moon and the earth.

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# Some Significant Steps in Radio Communication 

by W. J. Baker *

Anno Domini 1911... the coronation of King George V . . . . Sherlock Holmes in the Strand magazine . . . hansom cabs jingling through the streets, fighting a defensive battle against the noisome motor car . . . the heavier-than-air machine, a frail contraption of bamboo, wire and canvas, staggering uncertainly into the sky . . . no sound broadeasting . . . television no more than a Punch cartoon. It was in this year that Wireless World (then called The Marconigraph) first saw the light of day. Wireless telegraphy was fourteen years old, solidly established as the only means of long-range maritime communication but by no means so sure of itself in terms of inter-continental message-carrying; for in that area it constantly fell foul of the powerful cable interests, with tooth-and-nail battles being fought.

The first decisive step in wireless communication had been taken in 1895 when Guglielmo Marconi had the inspiration of adding an elevated wire and an earth system both to his transmitter and receiver, (thereby increasing the range from yards to miles) and of incorporating a morse key as a means of sending messages in code. It was strange that no one had thought of doing either of these things before, because the aerial wire had often been used as a collector of static electricity ever since the Benjamin Franklin experiment, while the use of the morse key (invented sixty years earlier) seems an obvious application. But the fact remains that no one did; and (what seems more incredible) no one, with the exception of Sir William Crookes, seems to have even considered the possibility of using Hertzian waves as a communications medium until Marconi arrived in England with his apparatus. A collection of scientific curiosities which he had improved and turned into a commercial communication system.
The second great step forward was the 'Four Sevens' (No. 7777) patent for tuned circuits, granted to Marconi in 1900. This again was not completely original work; it owed much to such workers as Lodge and Braun but embodied logical extensions which had not

[^4]previously been thought of. Hitherto, two or three stations operating within range of one another had brought chaos to the ether. The tuned circuit permitted multi-station operation (albeit the tuning was flat by our standards) and in so doing destroyed one of the most valid of the criticisms levelled at wireless telegraphy.

## Signals across the Atlantic

The hat trick was brought off in the following year (1901) with the Poldhu to Newfoundland transmissions of the letter 'S'. This was achieved against all odds; it defied the known laws of Hertzian wave propagation; it was done using lashed-up aerials (the main aerials on both sides of the Atlantic had been blown down in severe gales); the transmitter was beset with teething troubles; the wavelength of 366 metres was, it subsequently transpired, not a good choice; and the transmission took place at the most unsuitable time of the day, with daylight over the whole path. The project was one of the greatest technological gambles of all time-and how near to failure it was! The success of the experiment was all the more remarkable when it is remembered that the receivers of the day embodied no form of amplification and so the onus was entirely on the transmitter.

Spectacular as the spanning of the Atlantic was, some years were to elapse before a reasonably reliable commercial system of message-carrying became possible. The real triumph lay in the technology. Up to that time, wireless apparatus had consisted of toughened-up laboratory equipment-small, tablemounted and battery-driven. Thanks to Marconi's vision and the engineering genius of Dr. J. A. (later Sir Ambrose) Fleming, who designed the high-power equipment, the transition was effected in one tremendous leap. Poldhu brought wireless telegraphy out of its swaddling clothes and straightaway set it to man's work.

The experiment also provided a classic illustration of the dangers of leaning too heavily on laboratory results. In the laboratory it had been proven time and time again that Hertzian waves could not follow the earth's curvature to any significant degree, whereas Marconi's field work had shown they were doing so to a

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Characteristics of the Clifden, connemara, spark transmitter given by Marconi in a Royal Institution lecture in June 1911.
far greater extent than theory allowed. The question was, could the waves surmount a hump of ocean more than a hundred miles high and arrive at destination on the far side? When the transatlantic experiment showed that they could, science was confounded, because it seemed to make nonsense of Maxwell's theories and Hertz' wave propagation experiments. The anomaly arose because the ionosphere did not exist on paper or in the laboratory but it most emphatically did over the Atlantic, although no one knew it at the time (even twehty years later its existence was still causing controversy.)

## The Maggie

The following year (1902) saw the introduction of the Marconi magnetic detector, a device which enabled traffic to be handled at a rate of about 30 w.p.m.-more than three times that permitted by the best coherers. The cable companies, already alarmed by the transatlantic feat, were further perturbed by the advent of the 'Maggie' which brought wireless operating speeds on a par with their own. This detector remained as standard Marconi receiving equipment for a number of years and is known to have survived to the 1920 s.

## SThort-wave beam system

All experimental work done after the 1901 transatlantic experiment seemed to
indicate conclusively that the use of long waves in conjunction with high powers was the correct formula for long-distance communication. Thus by 1918 we find the Marconi 'timed spark' station at Caernarvon transmitting on 14,000 metres with a power of 200 kW , using a directional aerial which could radiate towards New Brunswick or the Antipodes. To this was added, in 1920, a long-wave 100 kW valve telephony transmitter which also established contact with Australia.

Ever since 1910 Guglielmo Marconi had had the dream of providing the British Empire with a chain of wireless stations to link its units together in a manner which would not be nearly so vulnerable as the cable circuits in time of war. Various governments, for various reasons, had procrastinated over this and the issue had not been settled by 1924, but matters then looked more hopeful and in fact, orders for long-wave high-power ( 1000 kW ) stations had already been received by the company from Australia and South Africa. At long last, Marconi's cherished ambition was coming true.
Into this situation Marconi and his assistant C. S. Franklin themselves inserted what was very like a spanner in the works. Various experiments on wavelengths between 10 and 100 metres had been undertaken since 1917; these were primarily for short-haul links, but it had been noted that on occasion the signals, while dying out at a comparatively short distance were reappearing hundreds of miles away. Wireless amateurs too, having had these 'useless' wavelengths forced upon them, were reporting trans-oceanic ranges which occurred at some times and not at others. Marconi and Franklin, in 1923, conducted exhaustive experiments between a specially built short-wave station at Poldhu and Marconi's yacht Elettra and these fully confirmed the skip-distance effect. Further tests, using various wavelengths from 32 to 92 metres established a rough rule-of-thumb as to the best wavelength to use at a given time of day to reach a given destination; it was also established that Australia could be contacted with a fraction of the power used by the longwave giants.

This, then, was the nature of the spanner. Orders were on hand for two huge, expensive long-wave stations. But,
secreted in the company files, were details of an entirely new concept; the use of short waves which, by reason of the manageable dimensions of the aerial arrays, could be beamed to destination instead of being scattered broadcast. Should the long-wave orders be executed notwithstanding, or should the customers be informed of the new development?

The solution was not so simple as all that. Freak propagation conditions might account for the extraordinary ranges; time alone could tell whether this was so or not. Again, the short-wave beam equipment used had been strictly experimental; it all needed engineering. Was it justifiable to put forward a largely untried experimental rig against a proven (but very much more expensive) system?

Marconi had everything to gain by proceeding with the original order and then developing the beam system at leisure, producing it some years later. Characteristically, he did it the hard way and kept faith with his customers, the Australian and South African governments. He told them the exact situation, offered beam stations in lieu of the long-wave giants and let them decide for themselves. Both opted for the beam system, with Canada following suit. The British Government and the Post Office agreed to the provision of an Empire beam system, provided that the first circuit (between Canada and Britain) fulfilled the stringent conditions laid down. It did so, and by the end of 1927 the Empire beam service was in full operation.

Not the least remarkable part of the story is the technical feat of C. S. Franklin and his small team. With the decision made, Franklin had to engineer the experimental transmitter into production form, to modify valve design, to design the various aerial systems to operate on the wavelengths selected and to devise a means of conveying the output power of the transmitter to the aerial system without undue loss. All this was done in a matter of weeks-the last-mentioned by Franklin's invention of the concentric feeder, forerunner of the coaxial cable.

## Thermionics

Not all momentous steps are immediately recognized as such. An instance occurred


## Receiving station

 at Bridgwater, Somerset, typical of the MarconiFranklin beam stations set up in 1926 for the Post Office.in 1904 when Dr. J. A. Fleming, Marconi's Scientific Adviser, utilized the Edison effect (originally noted 22 years earlier) to develop the first thermionic valve, the diode. Although not the first electronic device to be used (the 'Italian Navy' or 'Solari' detector of 1901 was a form of semiconductor rectifier) the Fleming diode was, nevertheless, the foundation stone of electronics as we know it today.

In 1906 Dr. Lee de Forest, of the U.S.A., set the cat among the pigeons by patenting a three-electrode valve, for which powers of amplification were claimed. Fleming was never a man to suffer rivals graciously and the Marconi Company promptly filed an action to restrain de Forest from manufacturing and to invalidate his patent, claiming then the diode constituted the master patent and that the third electrode, the 'gridiron', was an appendage. The first lawsuit, heard in the U.S.A., gave Marconi's the verdict, but this ruling was overset by another court. There followed an interminable series of legal actions which dragged on for years. Although World War I brought an easement of the situation, the wrangle was not finally resolved until the 1920s, when a compromise was effected.

The circumstance was ironic in that, at the onset, the squabble was over a virtually useless device. The early triodes had practically no amplification factor and were, at best, temperamental performers. Their theory of operation was imperfectly understood and it was widely accepted that a 'soft' vacuum or a gas filling was essential. Not until 1911-12 when research by Dr. Irving Langmuir and others produced the 'hard' or high-vacuum valve, was the device transmuted into a really effective component. The importance of this work cannot be over-emphasized because, for the first time, a batch of valves with reasonably similar characteristics could be predicted and manufactured.
In 1913 came another tremendous technical advance when A. Meissner (Germany) patented the first thermionic generator. In this he was closely followed by Franklin and Round (Britain) and, a little later, by Armstrong and de Forest (U.S.A.) This discovery not only made wireless telephony a practical proposition (although it had been done before by non-thermionic means) but it formed a critical point in the history of electronics. Until that time there had been one broad highway and one only-wireless telegraphic communication. The development of the triode valve in its dual roles of amplifier and generator (a process accelerated by the Great War) brought a post-war diversification which has continued to this day.
Sound and television broadcasting, the present gramophone industry, the talking picture industry, public address systems, electronic navigational aids, television, radar and electronic test instrumentation are just a few of the roads which branched from the wireless telegraphy highway as a result of the


2MT, the Writtle, Chelmsford, transmitter operated by P. P. Eckersley in 1921/2.


Lauritz Melchior broadcasting from the Chelmsford works of Marconi in 1920-two years before the formation of the B.B.C.
development of the triode, and which are now arterial roads in their own right.

## Broadcasting

All these diversifications, like Topsy, 'just growed'. Sound broadcasting for instance, came into being after World War I largely by accident when engineers at Westinghouse in the U.S.A. and Marconi's in this country, becoming bored with reciting into their respective microphones for range tests, used gramophone records as interludes during which they could restore their vocal chords. To their surprise they found they had a small but coviferous ready-made audience of amateurs clamouring for more. In Britain, this situation led, via the Melba and Melchior concerts, the joyous 'send-up' approach of P. P. Eckersley and his team at 2MT Writtle and the sobriety of the original 2LO at Marconi House in the Strand, to the formation of an association of British radio manufacturers known as the British Broadcasting Company in 1922. (It became a Corporation in December 1926.)

Television had a rockier road to tread. Historically its concept (as a closed circuit system with wires as the transmission medium) pre-dates sound broadcasting by more than half a century. Its practical realization, however, had to await the development of the valve amplifier. For
example, the apparatus designed by Nipkow in 1884 did not come to fruition until 1926 when John Logie Baird, using the Nipkow system of spinning-dise scanning, with the indispensable additions of an improved photo-cell and valve amplifiers, became the first man to give a public demonstration of television pictures which had movement and a degree of light and shade in them. He also implemented a suggestion made by A. Sinding-Larsen in 1911, namely that the signals generated by the televising apparatus might be used to modulate a radio-frequency carrier wave.

Not all steps which are taken are forward ones. In 1907 Professor Rosing (Russia) had pioneered the use of the cathode-ray tube as a means of picture display and achieved still pictures of simple geometric shapes. In the following year A. A. Campbell Swinton (a Scot) outlined a proposal for an all-electronic scanning system; he followed this three years later (1911) with a more detailed account and set down the essentials of the modern camera tube. He also visualized the receiver as using a cathode-ray tube type of display. Nothing significant was done to develop such a scheme, however, until V. Zworykin (U.S.A.) patented his iconoscope in 1923 and P. Farnsworth, another American, was known to be working on his image dissector. Zworykin's camera tube embodied the


Using the Nipkow system of spinning-disc scanning, Baird gave public demonstrations of television in 1926.
important inter-scan storage principle, which Farnsworth's did not. Neither inventor, it seems, knew anything about Campbell Swinton's proposal at that time.

Both devices presented immense difficulties in manufacture and it was not for some years that a practical demonstration of either could be given. In the meantime Baird demonstrated, in rapid succession, the production of television pictures in darkness, colour television, and stereoscopic pictures and in 1930 began a limited experimental 30 -line public service, using two B.B.C. medium-wave stations, one for vision, one for sound.

The publicity he gained in the late 1920s encouraged many of the bigger radio manufacturers to investigate the possibilities of television. Unfortunately almost all their effort was concentrated on various mechanical systems and in consequence a good deal of money went down the drain.

Electric and Musical Industries Ltd was one company which thoroughly investigated mechanical scanning, the EMI team being under the brilliant leadership of Isaac Shoenberg. By 1932 Shoenberg saw clearly that electronic scanning was the system for the future and intensive research was done on camera tube design, resulting in the Emitron tube. The team also developed interlaced scanning.

In 1934 the television interests of EMI were merged with those of the Marconi Company to form a new organization, the Marconi-E.M.I. Television Company ; by so doing the skills of E.M.I. in video work were allied to Marconi expertise in wideband modulation and amplification (it had been realized for some time that the complex high-definition video signals would have to be transmitted at v.h.f.)
Two years later (1936) the Government appointed Selsdon Committee recommended a public trial of the Marconi-E.M.I. system against a new high-definition system developed by the Baird Company. Transmissions on both systems, on a turn-and-turn-about basis, were radiated by the B.B.C. from Alexandra Palace, North London, for

[^5]several months from November 2nd, 1936. The Marconi-E.M.I. Company transmissions employed all-electronic scanning at 405 lines per frame, interlaced, while Baird used 240 lines sequential scanning; high-speed Nipkow discs performed the scanning process for televizing individual subjects in the Baird studio, while an intermediate film system took care of larger scenes. By February 1937 the battle was over, the MarconiE.M.I. system emerging the winner. Transmissions were, however, suspended from the outbreak of war in 1939 until June 7th, 1946.

## Electronics diversification

Over the years, from the mid-1930s to the present time, electronics research effort has mounted steadily; gone are the days of the lone-wolf investigator, his place taken by the mass-attack technique or by a sizeable team. The resultant multiplicity of inventions in a great diversity of directions makes it extremely difficult to select those which constitute the most significant advances from a list that would fill a book.

Which to mention in a limited space? The development of v.h.f. and microwave techniques immediately clamours for attention. So also does the study of the ionosphere and troposphere; the development of the super-het and frequency modulation by Armstrong; the pioneering of radio astronomy by Jansky and others; these and dozens more cry out for comment. But, in the space available, three innovations, radar, the transistor and satellite communications stand out as vital steps in the technology.

## Radar

Hertz in his earliest experiments had shown that wireless waves could be reflected from a metallic screen; Tesla, in 1900, suggested that such waves might be used to detect moving objects, while in 1904 Hülsmeyer actually patented a rudimentary form of radar. Then the dark ages set in; not until 1916, when Marconi and Franklin were working on two metres, was interest revived in reflected waves. This was referred to by Marconi in 1922 in the course of a speech to the American Institute of Engineers when he gave a remarkably accurate prophecy of how the detection of remote objects might be accomplished.

The practical development of what is today known as radar began with the work of Appleton, Barnett, Briet, Tuve and others in ionospheric sounding; the two last-mentioned seem to have been the first to have used pulsed transmissions for the purpose.

The first proposal for the use of pulsed transmissions for radar purposes was made in 1931 by Butement and Pollard of the Signals Establishment at Woolwich. They built a 50 cm equipment using a rotating beam and succeeded in detecting echoes from objects at a range of about 100 yards, but neither the War Office nor the Admiralty were interested and so the work was abandoned for lack of support.

Robert Watson-Watt's paper "Detection and Location of Aircraft by Radio


Examples of early klystron and magnetron tubes.

Methods", produced in 1935, is well known, as also is his work on the development of a practical radar system, for which he was subsequently knighted. Watson-Watt's work in this connection provided the chain of radar stations of various types established in Britain by the beginning of World War II. In 1939, the development of the resonant cavity magnetron by Randall and Boot was another momentous forward stride, in that it made high-power centimetric radar a reality. Centimetric Air-to-Surface Vessel radar, when introduced, brought a dramatic increase in U-boat destruction. Airborne radar for the interception of night raiders and a form of secondary radar which identified 'friendly' from 'hostile' aircraft were also introduced early in the war.

In the post-war years, to date, both ground and airborne radars have come into wide usage on civil aircraft and have become an indispensable air traffic control aid at busy airports.

## The transistor

Beyond question no other single component developed in the post-war period has influenced radio communications (and electronics in general) to anywhere near the same extent as the transistor. The rectification properties of certain crystals were known in the early 1900s and in 1906 Dunwoodie introduced the carborundum detector. Various crystal rectifiers have been used over the years, reaching their hey-day in the sound broadcasting boom of the mid-1920s but surviving in enormously improved form to the present day.

In 1911 Dr. Eccles announced the oscillating crystal but experimental interest in this lapsed for many years until $W . W$. in 1924-5 published various articles dealing with the phenomenon.

Contrary to general belief, it would seem that the first solid-state amplifiers as we know them were not, after all, invented at Bell Telephone Laboratories. The distinction goes to Dr. J. L. Lilienfeld who filed a patent entitled "Method and Apparatus for Controlling Electric Currents" in Canada in-1925. Although his description of how his invention
worked is wrong, the drawings show it to be a form of n-p-n transistor. Just why the potentials of this device were not explored is not known, but the next announcement of a solid-state amplifying device is that of Shockley, Bardeen and Brattain of Bell Telephones who, in 1948, announced their development of the point-contact transistor, for which, subsequently, a Nobel Prize was awarded.

## Communication via satellite

The evolution of radio communications has, until fairly recently, been largely a matter of coming to terms with the ionosphere. No single frequency band is ideal for all purposes; each has its advantages and limitations. The l.f. and m.f. bands are, for example, suitable for long- and medium-range transmission, but can accommodate only one information channel per carrier. H.F. transmission systems also provide long-range facilities but can carry only a few channels. The very high frequencies and ranks above give progressively greater channel-bearing capacities but the direct signals are limited in range to line-of-sight and therefore, as a generalization, could only achieve long-distance working by employing a series of installations as point-to-point links $\dagger$.

In 1945, Arthur Clarke, in a $W . W$. article entitled "Extra-Terrestrial Relays" prophesied that future progress lay in the direction of artificial earth satellites equipped with receivers and transmitters. This forecast came to practical fruition in the early 1960s and, in particular, in 1962, when the Telstar satellite was the medium of a successful series of communication transmissions (including television programmes) between the U.S.A. and England; subsequent launchings of synchronous satellites have provided a 24-hour service to the point where communication via satellite is commonplace. By such means, v.h.f. and the higher frequencies have been freed from their former short-range limitations and can have their multi-channel capabilities exploited for long-distance communications. To date, however, h.f. still remains the backbone of long-distance radio communications, on economic grounds.

## Knowledge versus wisdom

As is, I suppose, proper in a technical journal, the discussion has been confined to technical advances. Whether the application of such discoveries has made for a better world is not the business of the engineer and the physicist. Or is it? How far are we responsible for the part radio communication has played - and contin ues to play-in the destruction of lives in war-time? Again, sound and television broadcasting has affected the pattern of living to a profound degree, the extent of which we cannot fully appreciate. Its vast potential for moulding social behaviour and world opinion is, however, all too often concentrated on holding a distorting mirror to the faces of its audience. Are our hands clean in this respect?

[^6]
# Some of the controversies that have raged over the years 

by "Cathode Ray"

One basic theory which, I suspect, is held by many today is that way back in 1911 -and no doubt for many years after - 'wireless' was developed in scientific darkness on a 'try it and see' basis, quite different from the modern approach. A look through the early issues of The Wireless World would surprise and enlighten any who think that the theoretical basis of those far-off days was good only for a giggle.

The first thing that pulled me up when I did some browsing was an article by H. M. Dowsett in the May 1913 issue, 'Molecular Structure of Insulators'. That title wouldn't look at all out of place in 1971. It was quite a simple treatment which one could hardly improve upon for present-day beginners. After all, though Fermi-Dirac statistics have entered our ken in the meantime and would have to be included in any full treatise on insulators, one doesn't need them in an elementary picture.

Prof. G. W. O. Howe's treatises on electromagnetic waves (Nov. 1913) and aerial capacitance (1915) were not elementary. I suspect the Editor would quickly turn them down today as too mathematical. All levels of intellect were catered for in The Wireless World and besides theory articles for beginners a free wireless instruction course was offered by a certain Robert Baden-Powell. (The Wireless World itself was almost free, by our standards, being 5 s a year - 12 issues-including postage.)

One notes with interest that as early as 1911 someone was asking 'Does Wireless Affect the Climate?' Nuclear explosions, moon rockets and the Concorde have now largely taken the place of wireless as a scapegoat for unusual weather. It is worth noting that 60 years ago Campbell Swinton delivered a paper which included a detailed outline of essentially the present system of television, using cathode-ray cameras and receiving tubes.

Among people still living, John Scott-Taggart seems to have been the first to appear in The Wireless World (Dec. 1914), followed closely by H. S. Pocock (Feb. 1915). P. G. A. H. Voigt, better known how for audio, wrote on reflex receivers in Dec. 1921. It was not until 23rd Aug. 1923 that I came in, but still far
enough back to make it hard for me to imagine what it is like to start now. Is there anything to compare with the excitement we had on first hearing spark morse signals, very memorable still after 50 years? Observation of the way children now accept colour television leads me to doubt it. But such reminiscing is an intolerable self-indulgence by the aged, and anyway is outside my present brief.

As we look back have we any ground at all for a feeling of superiority about our present-day theory? Well, however sound people like G. W. O. Howe may have been (and he long continued to get us on the right tracks with his famous editorials in Wireless Engineer, the sister journal of $W . W$.) one must admit that many in the amateur fraternity (and some even of the professionals) were a bit hazy. The principles of tuning caused a lot of difficulty. One of the main problems at the relatively low radio frequencies used was interference due to atmospherics, or $X \mathrm{~s}$ as they were called. All sorts of ideas for tuning them out were thought up, usually in ignorance of the fact that interference of this kind, being almost aperiodic, shock-excited the tuning circuits at their own natural frequency.
'Cathode Ray' started his inimitable series of expository articles in Wireless World in 1934. Many of these articles have since been published in book form-'Second Thoughts on Radio Theory' and Essays in Electronics'. For many years the identity of 'Cathode Ray' was closely guarded but eventually it became known that it was M. G. Scroggie who has contributed to the Journal under his own name since 1923. When accepting our invitation to contribute to this 60th birthday issue he wrote 'Your letter started me on to calculating how much I have had published in $W . W$.; the result is 725 contributions (including reviews and letters over 47 years, totalling $1,400,000$ words. Can anyone top this record?' If we exclude members of the staff, the answer is no! Mr. Scroggie graduated at Edinburgh University and was chief engineer of Burndept Wireless Ltd from 1928 to 1931 and since then, except for the war years, has been a consulting radio engineer. During the war he was first in charge of the early CH radar station at Pevensey, Sussex, and then at No. 9 R.A.F. Radio School before going inte $t^{\prime \prime}$ "ir Ministry.

The urge of amateurs to achieve the maximum ranges of communication was often unaccompanied by a corresponding grasp of the factors involved, and a belief grew up that results were essentially outside the scope of theory and were maximized by following the superstitions of the most successful DX witch doctors. So it was refreshing to read (in Experimental Wireless and Wireless Engineer, Dec. 1924) a letter from E. H. Robinson demolishing one of these fetishes, broadly-tuned c.w. transmissions', and ending 'I should like to suggest that the many amateurs who despise theory as not in agreement with practice should inquire more closely into their actual knowledge of theory and the precision with which they observe practical facts'-advice that ought to be pasted in large letters on the walls of many labs as well as shacks.

In fairness to amateurs we must remember the other side of the coin: the professionals relied on their theory that short waves were no good for long-distance communication, so they allocated them to amateurs. They regretted their generosity when the amateurs opened up communication with the antipodes on a few watts. The old theory had to be replaced by a better one.
The supreme example of the ultimate triumph of theory is, of course, the semiconductor revolution. So long as work in this field was guided by practical people it was restricted mainly to fiddling with the catswhisker to find a sensitive spot on the chip of natural galena crystal for better reception of 2 LO . That, and perhaps copper oxide rectifiers in the charger needed to keep the l.t. battery fit to heat the bright-emitter valves which were displacing crystals. How vastly different since the physicists stepped in with their Fermi levels and things!
Although examples can be quoted of progress being made with the aid of theories afterwards proved to be wrong, in general it is helpful to pick the right theory. The most entertaining situations arise when theories clash. When Galileo was threatened with dire penalties unless he recanted his theory that the earth moves round the sun (instead of being the fixed centre of the universe) he did so, but is said to have muttered under his breath

$$
\text { , ..ess } \bar{W}_{b}
$$

'and yet it moves'; just $\omega$ in my young days we inaudibly added I don't think' to the declarations of good intent forced on us by parent or teacher. The classic example of a clash of theories in our own field was the great sideband controversy.

Anything of the kind would probably be impossible today. Persons who declare that the earth is flat stand no chance of raising a furore. But around 1930 a world-famous authority in the field of radio, Sir Ambrose ('the valve, invented by me') Fleming, F.R.S., declared-and stuck to it-that sidebands were imaginary; a mere mathematical fiction. This was of more than academic importance. As W. T. Cocking mentions elsewhere in this issue, a new and supposedly revolutionary type of receiver (the Stenode) was claimed to be proof of the wrongness of orthodox sideband theory. And the future of television appeared to hang on it.

Not even the caustic wit of G. W. O. Howe succeeded altogether in dispelling doubts, and in the end a Governmentsponsored committee was set up to investigate. Its findings, Special Report No. 12 of the Radio Research Board, published by H. M. Stationery Office in 1932, coldly and relentlessly re-established orthodox theory.

Although hardly such a cause celebre, the biggest correspondence I ever had on any article arose from one on a very similar subject, under the title 'Fourier -Fact or Fiction?' (W.W. Sept. 1955). Here again the theory is that a current (or other variable) which in pratice is generated as a whole, is nevertheless equivalent to a number (if necessary, infinite!) or harmonic components of constant amplitude. Coming 25 years later, this controversy revealed hardly any doubt about the reality of the harmonic components, but centred on a rather more subtle question posed in the article. Granted that there are good practical grounds for the unique place of sine waves in theory of this kind. Could some waveform other than sine wave be regarded as basic and an entirelydifferent but valid theory be erected on that basis? One correspondent declared this discussion to be 'singularly fruitless'. So it may have been in this particular case, but one of the most fruitful mental exercises is to do just what was suggested: question our assumptions. This is a hard mental exercise, so is seldom done. Progress is made by doing it. We tend, lazily, to cherish the concepts we have been brought up on and which have served us well, until we are convinced there can be no reasonable alternative.

I have become only too familiar with this kind of inertia in connection with phasor diagrams. This valuable aid to visualizing the workings of electronic circuits is rejected by all but a few because it looks like an unfamiliar-and therefore difficult-variety of the 'vector' diagrams that we know so well. These we have already found to be almost useless for electronic circuits and no help in understanding ordinary electrical a.c. circuits unless those circuits are simple
enough to be ..... ...urable without. These old 'vector' diagrams must bear a lot of the responsibility for the widespread teaching (even in textbooks) that there is a phase reversal between primary and secondary of a transformer. (With incredible self-control I'm going to say no more here about my alternative!)
Just after the last World War another controversy raged, about valve equivalent circuits. This time even G. W. O. Howe seemed to lack his usual gift for clearing away the red herrings and revealing the essential, which in this case is that the valve and its equivalent circuit are two quite different things. So the source of anode d.c., necessary for one, has no place in the other. The reference direction of output signal current in the equivalent circuit must be decided without reference to that d.c. source. A pity that muddled thinking on this plagues present-day transistor conventions.

More unnecessary confusion was introduced into valve amplifier theory by the work of Bode admittedly classic, but misguided) on negative feedback in that the symbol $\mu$ (a universally accepted standard symbol for voltage amplification factor) was used for actual voltage amplification; which is better denoted by A. The devil of it was that $\mu$ is correct in the formula for output impedance with feedback, but not in the others, for gain, distortion reduction, etc.

During the last War I was shocked to find many radar instructors teaching that when (say) a positive-going input signal is applied to a $C R$ circuit, as shown in Fig. 1, the output also goes positive because of the charging of $C$. In fact, of course, any charging or discharging of $C$ appears only as distortion of the signal at the output.

Talking about distortion, I would like to mention a variety which I named scale distortion (W.W. 24th Sept. 1937, p.318; also Nov. 1948, p.392). When thrown into any assembly of audio experts this term used to act like a petrol bomb in Bogside. Guaranteed instant controversy. I don't know whether it still works. The main point was that unless an audio scene' is reproduced at the same intensity at the listener's ear as the original, what he hears is a distorted version, in that the tonal balance (especially the proportion of bass) is upset.

In this statement, only the word 'distortion' could be seriously questioned. Often it was denied that it could be distortion, since the same effect was noted if one moved away from the original


- und, or nearer to it. Not quite true, for certain spatial effects would change too; but ignoring them I feel that if the objector had paid for the best seat, acoustically speaking, for a piano recital, and was obliged to sit half-way along the corridor, with the door open, or close against the piano, he might well use an even ruder word than distortion'. The comparison should be with the original heard in a favourable position. The other main argument concerned what, if anything, one could do about it when the reproduced intensity was unavoidably not the same as the original. Attemps to 'compensate' by having a tone control linked with the volume control were, in my view, misconceived.

Controversy tends to wax especially hot when, as in this example, subjective aspects are involved. Even a stone deaf man can measure sound intensities, but neither he nor anyone else is likely to agree about loudness; still less, unpleasantness. And all our work ultimately does involve subjective perception, rather than purely physical
What of the future? Since in all our theories we use concepts (such as fields) which of their nature cannot be said to be absolutely true or false (Essays in Electronics (lliffe), Chap. 1.) there may come a day when it will be found more convenient to use some alternative concepts. But human inertia tends to keep established concepts established. Then of course we can look forward to the discovery of new phenomena, possibly calling for new concepts. But the way things are going I would expect the greatest developments to concern the aforementioned mysterious link between objective phenomena and subjective perception. As a result of new theories of perception we may well be able to improve our equipment by discovering more precisely the physical factors that yield desired or undesired subjective effects. The Haas effect, which decides whether voice reinforcement appears to come from the actual speaker or not, is an example of what has been done along these lines.

To realize how difficult is investigation in the subjective, compare the most sophisticated computer that exists or can be imagined with a human being of very limited attainment-say, an average young child. Even a child has aesthetic likes and dislikes, outside the capacity of the computer. Why? Can strictly scientific investigation tell, or is it for ever beycnd its scope? Is it because human beings are not just machines?

# The World of Amateur Radio 1911-1971 

By Pat Hawker, G3VA

From a few thousand to half-a-million transmitting amateurs ... from spark to s.s.b. . . . from a few miles to moonbounce ... from coherers and crystal detectors to m.o.s.f.e.ts and integrated circuits from jiggers, slide tuning coils, high-speed rotary gaps, motor ignition coils and Wimhurst machines to transceivers and transistors . . . from the bright emitter valves of the twenties and the wide open spaces of " 200 metres and down" to the current pressures on the narrow frequency assignments . . from causing broadcast interference on the old 440 -metre band to television interference, the dominating problem of the past few decades. Yet always the same interest in extending working ranges whether on 200 metres or 2400 MHz ; the same problems of how to improve receiver selectivity and sensitivity -and almost always the same fears that other interests and authorities may wish to limit the scope of amateur communication.

Historically, amateur or 'experimental' radio reaches back more than 60 years-indeed it began as soon as the results of Marconi and the other pioneers started to reach outwards from purely scientific circles. In the U.K., its official beginning was determined by the Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1904, with its provisions for the use of 'wireless telegraphy for experimental purposes'-though the hobby remained unregulated in the U.S.A. until December, 1912, when the amateurs there were banished to the 'useless' and unwanted regions of ' 200 metres and below'.

In the pages of 60 years of Wireless World one can trace the major events which make up this durable interest. You can find descriptions of pre-1914 amateur stations, including W. K. Alford's station TXK the forerunner of his present call G2DX; the formation in 1913 of the Wireless Society of London which, in 1922, became the R.S.G.B. and for which Wireless World was the official journal until February, 1925.

## Early days

It was in the years from 1911 that amateur radio emerged as an activity distinct from the early dabbling in wireless telegraphy -then, as now, with strong links with similar activity in the U.S.A.


This illustration accompanied a description of W. K. Alford's station in the October 1914 issue of Wireless World.

Yet the links with modern operating were by no means tenuous. Wireless World in 1914 reported an attempt by the Wireless Society of London to put an end to 'jamming' that reads as though it could have been written yesterday. Among the 13 rules were: transmitter to be sharply tuned; receiver to be as selective and sensitive as possible. Those early amateurs were advised: 'do not transmit at less than 12 w.p.m.; listen carefully before calling a station; never carry out testing work with the aerial on that can be done equally well with it off; always use minimum power; refrain from answering a station that is calling some other station; listen in after finishing a conversation to see whether anyone is waiting to call you ...?

And the clubs were forming. A Junior Wireless Club (later to become the Radio Club of America) had been formed in New York in 1909 at the same time as Hugo Gernsback began publishing Modern Electrics with a large radio content. In 1911, the year W.W. began as The Marconigraph, five enthusiasts formed the Derby Wireless Club, which-as the Derby and District Amateur Radio

Society-is currently engaged in marking its own 60 th anniversary. The club met weekly, possessed a library, carried out experiments-one of these was to use two buckets as a variable capacitor; one suspended from a pulley by a cord to raise and lower it into the other! Those Derby enthusiasts soon decided that 'the secret of successful reception is a high aerial and a good pair of headphones'.

In 1912, the first British Commonwealth 'national' radio society was formed--the Wireless Institute of Australia (still the society representing Australian amateurs) and it was reported that some 400 experimenters in New South Wales were covering distances up to 30 miles with converted $\frac{1}{2}$-inch motor ignition spark coils.

In Britain, by 1914, 990 of the old three-letter experimental calls had been issued; there was even, in 1913, a 'directory of stations' published by Gamages which had emerged as one of the main suppliers of equipment to amateur experimenters. Meanwhile the hobby was going great guns in the United States, with A.R.R.L. formed in 1914, but then as only
one of a number of groups catering for amateurs. After the close-down of British stations in August, 1914, the Americans continued active until 1917 with as many as 6000 stations. occasionally working distances over 1000 miles. One of the early American amateurs was none other than Edwin Howard Armstrong whose regenerative receiver, used in his amateur station, was the first of this brilliant engineer's many inventions.

## Broadcasting and short waves

After World War I came a long struggle to re-establish amateur radio transmitting (and even receiving which had equally been banned during the war). In this struggle Wireless World played a major role. As early as March 1919 an editorial, with the support of Marconi, Fleming and Eccles, made a strong plea for the removal of restrictions; Marconi wrote 'I consider that the existence of a body of independent and often enthusiastic amateurs constitutes a valuable asset towards the further development of wireless telegraphy.'

But it was late in 1920 before transmitting licences were again issued with callsigns of current form (except for the absence of official international prefixes until 1928) for 1000 metres (later changed to 440 metres) and below 180 metres. By this time word was trickling through of long distances being covered by American amateur spark and valve (c.w.) stations: 500,1000 and even 2000 miles on wavelengths of about 200 to 230 metres.

Soon plans were launched for transatlantic tests, with the British listeners organized by Philip Coursey, 2 JK , then research editor of Wireless World. The first tests in February, 1921, proved a failure, but new tests were planned for the following winter. Paul Godley, American 2ZE, brought over receivers which he set up at Ardrossan, Scotland. During the December tests he logged 27 American and one Canadian station, but this time several British listeners also heard transatlantic signals. On 11th December, 1921, the special Radio Club of America station 1 BCG sent the first complete amateur message across the Atlantic-one of the signatories was Armstrong. These tests finally settled the spark versus c.w. controversy, overwhelmingly in favour of valve transmitters.

During his stay in England Paul Godley lectured to the Wireless Society of London saying 'one has far greater hopes of being able to travel greater distances on shorter wavelengths than on higher wavelengths'. This was a hint of things to come-the historic pioneering of short waves by amateurs. The breakthrough came in late November 1923 when Leon Deloy, French 8 AB , worked the A.R.R.L. station of Fred Schnell, 1MO, on about 100 metres, initiating a mighty rush to short waves. Jack Partridge, 2KF, was the first British station to work the Americans, on 8th December, 1923. In January, 1924, E. J. Simmonds, 2OD, made contact with
the States with an input of only about 30 watts. In the autumn Cecil Goyder, a 16 -year-old schoolboy at Mill Hill, and Gerald Marcuse, 2 NM , made contact with Frank Bell, Z4AA, in New Zealand. It was feats such as these that really woke communication companies to the possibilities of the short waves they had previously scorned.

Not all amateurs in the 'twenties were interested in long-distance working. In 1920-21, with no regular broadcasting in the U.K., British amateurs began putting out gramophone records and even live concerts-sometimes with official blessing, sometimes without it. The Wireless Society organized a massive petition, signed by 63 clubs representing 30,000 enthusiasts, asking for regular broadcast ing. Amateurs can also claim to have initiated Empire broadcasting when Gerald Marcuse, 2NM, began a series of transmissions on about 30 metres, well in advance of the first B.B.C. station G5SW.

But the coming of broadcasting soon brought problems to the amateurs, and 440 metres was lost. By then Hugh Pocock had been writing in Wireless World of the extent that petty rivalry was threatening to split the ranks of amateur enthusiasts. But the biggest threat was in the new regulations of April 1924 when the authorities attempted to impose a total ban on all casual international working by British stations. Wireless World immediately offered to place $£ 500$ at the disposal of the R.S.G.B. to allow a test case to be argued in the Courts. Fortunately the authorities gradually gave way (although the ban on the use of 'CQ' remained until 1946).

## Later days

In the years that followed, amateur radio became established as something quite distinct from broadcasting and turned more and more to h.f. and v.h.f. Strictly speaking all licences in the U.K. were 'experimental' as the first 'amateur' licences were not issued until 1946. But, in practice, in the 'thirties the hobby was recognized, even if newcomers were restricted to 10 watts and $1.8,7$ and 14 MHz .

Frequencies continued upwards. Jimmy Matthews, G6LL, (still active) made the first transatlantic contact on 28 MHz in October, 1928, but the band went dead for some years. About the same time, amateurs began to explore frequencies around 56 and 112 MHz , then wide-open and unused. In the 'thirties came the annual contests and the operating certificates. Equipment which until then had been virtually all home-built began to be purchased. The superhet communications receiver began to displace the $0-\mathrm{V}-1^{*}$ and 1-V-1 receivers. Names such as Eddystone, HRO, Hammarlund and Hallicrafters were heard increasingly. The

[^7]crystal filter, developed for h.f. by Lamb of A.R.R.L., exploited a British development for stenode reception.

By now crystal control had replaced the old t.p.t.g. and master oscillators (and was later to be partially replaced by v.f.o.). The 'Zepp' was the popular aerial of the 'thirties. Near Chicago, Grote Reber, W9GFZ, was making the first-ever radio telescope to plot radio sources in the sky-while Dennis Heightman, G6DH, identified solar hiss. A.M. stations on 14 and 28 MHz made intercontinental phone working a daily occurrence.

On 31st August, 1939, all British experimental licences were withdrawn and amateur activity, as such, ceased until January. 1946. Many amateurs used their operating skills in the Services-and incidentally were responsible for many of the most successful feats of both British and German intelligence! Indeed, interest in the hobby did not fade away, and the R.S.G.B. actually increased membership from 3800 to 9600 during this period.

In February, 1941 , a controversy arose following the publication of an article 'The future of amateur radio' in Wireless World (and which I can now reveal was written by me), as to the form that post-war licences should take. Many of the ideas put forward during this controversy were later adopted by the Post Office when, in January 1946, the first-ever U.K. amateur licences were issued, though a number of 'incentive' elements of this licence were later to be abandoned.

But the basic terms of the 1946 licence continue through several revisions to govern the hobby in this country, though the introduction in 1964 of Class B (phone-only, v.h.f.-only) licences poses the likelihood of further erosion of interest in c.w. telegraphy, which to some of us continues to be 'inescapably the basic form of amateur communication'.

By the 1950 s, the first steps towards the now dominant s.s.b. mode of operation had been taken, 144 MHz had displaced the old 56 MHz band, 420 MHz had been opened to amateurs (including the new interest in amateur television), rotary Yagi and Quad aerials had become popular, amateurs had discovered transequatorial propagation. Two further decades have brought the transceiver and the semiconductor revolution, but the hobby has changed remarkably little in its essentials.

One might ask what is the appeal of amateur radio that attracts recruits from both inside and outside electronics and succeeds in retaining their interest not just for the average 10 years or so, but for 30 , 40,50 and even 60 years? Its recruits have included such giants as Armstrong, Ryle, Kraus, Campbell-Swinton, Fink, Terman, Henney, Collins, Eckersley, Reber, Villard, Crosby, Beverage ... and also 'outsiders' such as Barry Goldwater, Brian Rix and King Hussein.

Perhaps Wireless World summed it all up when, in 1914, it quoted Tennyson:

## I hear at times a sentinel

Who moves about from place to place
And whispers to the worlds of space In the deep night that all is well.

# F.M. Stereo Tuner 

# High-performance design for home construction 

by L. Nelson-Jones, F.I.E.R.E.

In recent years there have been a number of developments in the components field, particularly in semiconductor devices, that have led to great improvements in the design possibilities for f.m. broadcast receivers. In particular these have been the advent of the dual-gate m.o.s.f.e.t., integrated-circuit i.f. amplifiers and demodulators, ceramic filters and improved variable-capacitance diodes. This two-part article describes an f.m. tuner design using these devices, discusses the advantages of the devices and gives constructional and alignment details. It does not attempt to be all-embracing and there will doubtless be some who disagree with the author's views of the current scene. It is hoped however that they do show some ways in which f.m. tuner design is currently evolving.
The work is the result of many months of design and measurement on five
prototypes, so that results are not based on a one-off, and should be reproducible by readers who wish to copy the design. The receiver was designed to achieve in a relatively simple way a performance equal to the better examples of the commercial models available, but at a much lower price. (Total material cost comes out at about £11.) Comparison with the figures given in a recent Wireless World survey of commercial tuners (September 1970) suggest this aim has been achieved. The performance of the tuner under normal conditions of use has been excellent. One of the units is in use in Blandford Forum in Dorset-very much a fringe area-and gives noise-free reception from the Isle-of-Wight transmitters, including the new local station Radio Solent.

The design for the front-end of the f.m. receiver is shown in Fig. 1. Both r. f. amplifier and mixer stages use dual-gate
f.e.ts with gate protection diodes. In the r.f. stage the upper gate is decoupled and acts as a screen between drain and gate 1 , much as the $g_{2}$ electrode of a thermionic valve does. In the mixer stage this second gate is used as the injection point for the local oscillator voltage. There is not the same need for a screen between drain and gate 1 in a mixer stage as the drain load is not tuned to either the signal or oscillator frequencies. There is therefore little or no gain at signal frequencies to cause oscillation provided care is taken with the layout. particularly the length and placing of leads.
The magnitude of the local oscillator injection at gate 2 will affect the mixer gain and the spurious signal response characteristics of the mixer stage. This local oscillator voltage will be higher than in transistor tuners using bipolar devices by up to an order of magnitude and for the circuit conditions used a value of

Fig.1. Front-end of receiver using dual-gate f.e.ts.


## Fig. 2. Intermediate-frequency amplifier using ceramic filters and

a.f.c. integrated-circuit quadrature demodulator. Circuit of $I C_{2}$ will be given in part 2 .
For stereo reception, use 150 pF and not $4.7 n F$ at pin if of $I C_{2}$.

500 mV r.m.s. gives a reasonable mixer gain without too high a spurious signal response. In fact higher levels have been used without great trouble from spurious signals. Far greater trouble can be caused by lack of screening, leading to i.f. harmonics being picked up by the front end-especially with the high sensitivity of this tuner and, because of its small size, the close proximity of the front-end and the i.f. amplifier.

The oscillator is a conventional Hartley circuit with the ground point moved to give a grounded-collector design. There is no particular advantage to be gained in using an f.e.t. in this stage so that the cheaper bipolar device is preferred. Automatic frequency control is applied by the variable capacitance diode $D_{1}$ coupled to the emitter of the oscillator stage. A resistor of $22 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ prevents the decoupling capacitor of $0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ from shorting out the oscillator voltage. The $0.1-\mu \mathrm{F}$ capacitor together with the 1 megohm resistor form a low-pass filter to prevent audio voltages in the a.f.c. voltage from reducing the modulation of the carrier by audio frequency modulation of the local oscillator.

The a.f.c. can be switched out of operation by connecting the diode to a constant reference voltage from the i.f. amplifier. Diode $D_{1}$ is returned to the 12 -volt supply line of the oscillator so that the a.f.c. control voltage changes the diode reverse voltage in the correct direction to reduce any oscillator drift. An increase in local oscillator frequency increases the intermediate frequency, which in turn leads to a rise in the output potential of the demodulator of the i.f. integrated circuit $I C_{2}$ (Fig. 2). As the diode is connected to the +12 V supply, this increase reduces the reverse bias across $D_{1}$, increasing the diode capacitance and reducing the local oscillator frequency to correct its drift.

The mixer has a grounded-base stage feeding the 330 -ohm resistor needed to correctly terminate the first filter unit $X_{1}$
(Fig. 2). This resistor also makes a convenient low-impedance output point from the front-end. A cheap p-n-p bipolar device is more than adequate for this position, because in a grounded-base configuration the requirements in respect of high frequency or noise performance are not stringent. The working $Q$ of the tuned circuit is less than 20 so that tuning is not critical, and it is set to maximize gain in the usual way.

The supply for gate 2 of the r.f. stage is derived from the decoupled oscillator supply rather than from the top of $L_{2}$. This is brought about purely by layout convenience on the printed wiring board and, as gate 2 is additionally decoupled, has no effect on the performance.

## I.F. amplifier

Two ceramic filter units $X_{1} \& X_{2}$ are separated by a buffer amplifier ( $I C_{1}$ ) of moderate gain (about 20 dB ). The reason for this moderate gain is that it is desirable to place the filters as early as possible in the i.f. amplifier so that as successive stages limit with increasing signal level there is no change in bandwidth. This would be fully achieved if the whole of


Fig. 3. Graph of low-level performance shows sensitivity of $0.75 \mu \mathrm{~V}$ (for $\pm 75 \mathrm{kHz}$ ) for 20 dB quieting. A bove 50 uV input, signal-to-noise ratio is better than $60 d B$.
the i.f. gain were after the filter, and provided the mixer did not limit.

In practice it is not possible to achieve this ideal, but the compromise of using only moderate gain before the second filter unit is a reasonable one and does not give rise to any undue increase in bandwidth over the normal range of signal levels. The performance obtained is a great improvement over normal bipolar i.f. amplifiers using discrete components with several double-tuned i.f. transformers. In such an amplifier the selectivity of the transformers is gradually lost starting at the output end as successive stages limit and the overall selectivity can leave a lot to be desired at high signal levels.

The first integrated circuit is a longtailed pair circuit, used as a cascode amplifier by ignoring one of the top pair of transistors and driving into the long-tail transistor. The input impedance of this stage is suitable for the ceramic filter unit so far as resistance is concerned, but is above the maker's ricommendations so far as input capacitance is concerned. For this reason the resistor terminating the filter $X_{1}$ is raised to 470 ohms, which compensates for the increased capacitance loading of the stage in restoring the top of the filter characteris ic to reasonable flatness.

The load of the cascode stage is a 330 -ohm resistor-to drive the filter $X_{2}$ from the correct source impedance. This low value results in the stage gain being low, especially 'when the loading effects of the filter are accounted for, so that although the slope of the cascode stage is around $100 \mathrm{~mA} / \mathrm{V}$ the overall gair from the output of $X_{1}$ to the input to $X_{2}$ is only a little over 20 dB .

The input impedance of the $I C_{2}$, around $2 \mathrm{k} \Omega$, is not very much greate. r than 330 ohms so that a terminating res istor of 390 ohms is used at the output of $X_{2}$. The value of the feed capacitor 'quadrature' tuned circuit $L_{5}$ is la the maker's recommended valu the ger than of 18 pF .

The value is not very critical in practice and up to 47 pF has been used with little change in performance once the circuit had been retuned. It is likely that with large departures from the recommended value there will be an increase in distortion, but no appreciable effect is likely to stem from the increase to 22 pF , a value more readily available than 18 pF .

One possible reason for the apparent insensitivity to the value of this capacitor is that the quadrature drive voltage is derived from a resistive tap on the load resistor of the final stage of the i.f. amplifier of $I C_{2}$. The value of the impedance at this tap is fairly low, and as the coupling to the circuit is increased by increasing the value of the capacitor, the damping effect of this resistor increases, lowering the $Q$ of the quadrature circuit, and compensating-at least to some extent-for the increased drive and tending to restore the correct phase relationship.

The audio output from pin 14 is taken via a $2.2-\mathrm{k} \Omega$ resistor to provide additional overload protection.

The reference used when a.f.c. is not required is derived from a potentiometer across the supply. The values chosen give a voltage close to that obtained at pin 14 of $I C_{2}$ (when there is either no signal or the signal is at centre frequency). The output level at pin 14 of $I C_{2}$ stays fairly close to around $46 \%$ of the supply voltage over the range $10-16$ volts, and thus a simple potential divider is adequate for this reference voltage as this will also provide such a percentage of the supply voltage.

Because the output at pin 14 is a percentage of the supply voltage it is essential that the supply to the tuner be very well smoothed if hum and noise on the output is to be prevented. This is also important as the a.f.c. diode is returned to the 12 -volt supply, and supply rail hum will therefore produce frequency modulation of the intermediate frequency whether or net a.f.c. is switched on.

The requirement for a ripple-free supply was one of the reasons for the choice of a 12 -volt supply, so that adequate resistive smoothing could be used with a large reservoir capacitor. The drain of the tuner is almost constant and fairly well defined at a little under 35 mA so that simple resistive dropping is satisfactory. An important point is that with such a network it is essential that the supply to the resistor be switched to disconnect the receiver, and not the supply to the receiver from the reservoir capacitor. In this latter case the capacitor would charge up to the full supply voltage with the receiver off, and on switching on the receiver would momentarily receive the full supply, which might well be enough to permanently damage the active devices of the receiver, especially $I C_{2}$. For supplies much above, say, 36 volts some form of simple stabilizer would be preferable.

## Performat ce

The low el performance of the tuner is show iig. 3. At signals above $50 \mu \mathrm{~V}$


Fig. 4. Metal bridge-covering lead from $\operatorname{Tr}_{1}$ drain to its tuned circuit-under the tuning capacitor is essential to maintain stability. Bridge, which can be tinplate, is detailed in F1G7 Fig. 7. Complete tuner is screened by fitting into a die-cast box.


Fig. 5. Self-supporting r.f. coils, wound wilk slightly stretched wire, are shaped on a $\frac{1}{6}$-in dia. rod.


Fig. 6. Two screened i.f. coils are wound with 33-gauge enamelled wire and secured with a little Denfix cement. Capacitors are fixed with masking tape.
the signal-to-noise ratio is better than 60 dB , and the 20 and 30 dB quieting figures are 0.75 and $1.9 \mu \mathrm{~V}$ respectively. Limiting ( -3 dB ) of the demodulated audio signal (single-tone filtered from noise) occurs at only $0.18 \mu \mathrm{~V}$ so that at all usable signal levels the i.f. section is limiting.
Unfortunately no signal generator was available which had an output with amplitude modulation-free from f.m., and it has therefore not been possible to check the a.m. rejection of the receiver. However, it is expected that the result will be close to the figure quoted for the i.f. integrated circuit $\left(I C_{2}\right)$ at moderate signal levels, with an improvement when the first i.f. amplifier limits. The figure quoted for the TAA661B is 40 dB at 10 mV input, equivalent to around $10 \mu \mathrm{~V}$ input at the aerial. Performance is summarized in the table on this page.

## General layout

The tuner is constructed on a single-sided printed circuit board and is divided into two areas. The front-end and the i.f. amplifier are laid out separately, side by side, on a printed circuit board about 10 $\times 8 \times 5 \mathrm{~cm}$ overall, and in such a way that they may be separated if desired.

The complete tuner is enclosed in a screened box to cut down on spurious responses due to radiation from the i.f. amplifier, and to reduce local oscillator radiation to a minimum. This screening is especially necessary with this design because of its very high sensitivity.

The dial drive system suggested gives a scale length of 13.7 cm with a reasonably linear frequency change over the centre $80 \%$ of this scale. A cord drive system is used which has the advantage of retaining the pointer at both ends, thus eliminating the problem of sliding friction at one end
of the pointer, and giving a much smoother drive.

The overall layout of the components is shown in Fig. 4 as seen from the components side of the board, and also in the oblique view.

In construction keep leads short and if possible test all components on a bridge before fitting them on the board, as this can save ruining a good p.c. board should the tuner not work first time. It cannot be emphasized too strongly that such component checks can save much wasted money and temper. It is also vital to check that the components are correctly located, the diode connected with the right polarity, and that there are no breaks or shorts on the 'track' of the p.c. board. This latter point is of importance on such a small board with roughly 200 component holes, as tracks are necessarily fine and gaps small. A watchmaker's eyeglass has been the constant companion of the author during the construction and design of this tuner.

## Coil construction

The r.f. coils are all made from 18-gauge tinned copper wire and are self-supporting. Taps are made by soldering leads of 22 -gauge tinned copper direct to the turns of the coils-Fig. 5. The coils were made by winding the wire on a $\frac{1}{4}$-in rod such as a drill shank. The wire should be straightened by placing one end of a length in the vice and pulling the other end until the wire stretches very slightly, when the wire will have lost all kinks.

The coil wires should be a firm push fit in the board, if undue strain on the copper foil of the board is to be avoided when adjusting the coils. At all cost avoid the wires being loose in the board before soldering and if necessaiy apply the
minimum of Araldite epoxy adhesive around the 18 -gauge coil wires on the components side of the board after soldering in position. The joints should then be quickly reheated with the soldering iron to cause the Araldite to run into the holes in the board, thus securing the coils rigidly. After using such an adhesive the board must be left in a slightly warm place, e.g. an airing cupboard, for 24 hours to ensure that the adhesive has set hard.

The coils should be mounted on the board in the positions shown in Fig. 4, and with the turns of the coils nearest the board surface 2.5 mm clear of the board. In the case of the oscillator coil this must also be 3.5 mm clear of the rear face of the tuning capacitor. It is best to adjust the coils before soldering them into the circuit board to minimize subsequent adjustment, and the overall coil lengths given (over the outside of the end turns) are close to the
Performance

| Sensitivity |
| :--- |
| -3 dB limiting |$\quad 0.18 \mu \mathrm{~V}$

20 dB quieting $\quad 0.75 \mu \mathrm{~V}$
final adjusted lengths required for correct tracking.

An alternative method of mounting is to open up the main coil mounting holes in the board and insert 'eyelets' which are big enough to allow the 18 -gauge coil leads to pass through them. The eyelets are riveted into the board so that the strain is removed from the copper track. Overall connection is obtained by soldering the track to the eyelet and to the coil leads. All the main pads for the ends of the coils are large enough to allow this to be done.
The two screened i.f. coils are both constructed on Neosid coils type NS /E3, and both are wound with 33 -gauge enamelled wire, preferably of the self-fluxing variety. The two coils are wound as shown in Fig. 6 and the turns secured in place for stability with a minute quantity of Denco Denfix polystyrene cement. (Do not use modelmaker's polystyrene cement as some varieties can have high loss factors.) It is essential to use the least possible quantity as the bobbin of the coils is made from polystyrene loaded with iron dust and is very easily dissolved by this cement. When the cement has dried, place the ferrite sleeve over the coils, ensuring that the leads are well pressed down in the slot at the base of the bobbin so that this ferrite sleeve does not scratch the wires.

Next push on the polythene retaining disc. Secure the ferrite sleeve to the coil former with a smear of Evostik latex-resin contact adhesive around the join between the sleeve and the coil former near the base. When dry connect the capacitors (and the resistor in the case of $L_{5}$ ). Tape these components to the former as shown to hold them clear of the coil can. Make sure all leads are well clear of the can when this is slipped over the coil. Next fix the core into the coil. The ferrite core cuts its own thread into the polythene top retainer. Set the top of the core level with the top of the polythene retainer-Fig. 6b. This should be close to the final adjustment position. In the case of $L_{4}$ the capacitor is connected to the coil on one side via the printed circuit, which connects pins 1 and 4 , thus placing the $68-\mathrm{pF}$ capacitor across the coil.

## Fitting components to the board

Due to the small size of the board and components it is absolutely essential to use a soldering iron with a small tip which is adequately hot and clean. Lead lengths must be kept short and the components close to the board. This is especially important with the ceramic disc decoupling capacitors ( 1 and 47 nF types). The transistors should be pushed down onto the board until the body is 2.5 mm above the board; pushing the transistors closer than this will strain the leads unnecessarily. This rule applies also to $I C_{1}$. The second i.c. should be placed down on the board until the shoulders on each lead contact the board; the body of the i.c. vill thēn be just clear of the board.
There will be some difficulty in locating the polarity of the diode due to the small size of $t$ is device. If in doubt check it with


Fig. 7. Metal bridge-covering lead from Tr, drain to its tuned circuit-under the tuning capacitor is essential to maintain stability.
an ohmmeter on the ohms $\times 1$ range, when the cathode will be the one connected to the positive lead of the multimeter when the meter shows conduction. (On a multimeter the polarity of the leads on the resistance ranges is the opposite to that shown on the meter panel so that the red positive lead is negative, and when connected to the cathode results in the diode being forward biased.)

There are two wire links on the board, one on either side of $L_{5}$ in the i.f. section. These links may be either 22 -gauge tinned copper or 1-024 p.v.c. covered wire. Connections to the 3 -gang capacitor are by similar wires. The capacitor is secured to the board by two 6BA screws not longer than 4.5 mm of thread.

The link from the r.f. to i.f. sections is by a twisted pair of 1-024 p.v.c. insulated wire as shown in Fig. 4 and in the oblique view. Take care to see that this is correctly connected, i.e. the live lead of the pair connects between the collector of $\operatorname{Tr}_{4}$ and the input to $X_{1}$.

The two screened coils $L_{4}$ and $L_{5}$ are soldered into circuit after being pushed
well down on the circuit board so that when the can is placed over the coil it just rests on the polythene retainer at the top of the coil, while also just contacting the p.c. board. The can is put on the coil after soldering the coil into the board, and the two can tags are then also soldered to the board.

There is one component not shown on the circuit because it is not a circuit component. This is a 'bridge' across the lead from the drain of $T r_{1}$ to its tuned circuit under the tuning capacitor. This bridge continues the earth plane as well as screening the lead. It is essential to use this bridge to maintain stability in the r.f. amplifier. The bridge is necessary because of the layout limitations set by the capacitor having its connections on only one side of the body, and the need to keep the coils well spaced to obtain good stability and keep oscillator radiation low.

The dimensions and location of this bridge are shown in Fig. 7. The bridge may be made of any metal that will not corrode but will solder. Tinplate was used in the original units. Take care not to short the wire to the centre-section stator of the variable capacitor at the end of the bridge nearest to $L_{2}$.

If the ceramic filters need removing from the board, take care not to apply pressure when applying heat to the connections, otherwise the component will be damaged. Remove solder first with a desoldering tool or with copper braid.

In the photograph the alternative type of oscillator transistor is shown. If this type is used then the fourth connection on the transistor won't exist-used to earth the can on the TO-72 type specified (40244). Only the three connections nearest the 3 -gang capacitor will then be used. In addition, an extra lead is shown in the photograph adjacent to the integrated circuit $I C_{2}$ that is not shown in Fig. 4. This lead connects to pin 14 of this i.c. to control the a.f.c. However, as the output lead (via the 2.2 -kohm resistor) will


Fig. 8. Suggested cord system eliminates pointer friction and can be mounted in any plane.


Fig. 9. Typical scale graduations for the band 87.5 to 108 MHz .
normally have a d.c. blocking capacitor in series, it will be at the same potential as pin 14, and is therefore suitable for the same purpose.

## Screening of the tuner

It is essential to screen the tuner to avoid instability in the i.f. section due to pick-up, particularly from the output lead. Although the de-emphasis capacitor removes most of the $10.7-\mathrm{MHz}$ signal and its harmonics, the output lead can still have sufficient of these signals present to cause spurious whistles when tuning if this lead is anywhere near the r.f. section. A great improvement results from connecting a capacitor of 470 pF from the output to ground which, with the $2.2 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ series resistor, removes these high-frequency signals sufficiently to make the position of this lead less of a problem. (In stereo applications the capacitor used will probably need reducing to $100-200 \mathrm{pF}$ to avoid attenuating the stereo switching waveform unduly, and if a long screened lead is used for the output the capacitance of this lead should be enough by itself.)

Protolypes were fitted into an ITT die-cast case with internal dimensions 12 $\times 9.5 \times 2.5 \mathrm{~cm}$ and is a tight fit with regard to height. Connections to the tuner should be made through insulated feed-through terminals close to the board so that all leads are as short as possible inside the screened box. A slot will have to be cut in the side of the box to allow the tuning capacitor shaft to pass through. The author found it easiest to fit the tuner board to the lid of the box, and to use the box as a cover, with holes drilled in line with the trimmer capacitors and $L_{4}$ and $L_{5}$ to enable final alignment with the box closed.

The board is mounted by four 6BA screws as shown in Fig. 4 and must be spaced about $5-8 \mathrm{~mm}$ from the surface of the screened box, to prevent the track-side of the board from shorting on the box. Extra nuts or spacers may be used to achieve this spacing.

## Dial drive system

Fig. 8 shows the layout of the suggested cord drive system which eliminates the problem of pointer friction, and is suitable for mounting in any plane. The parts required are made by the manufacturers of the 3 -gang capacitor with the exception of the pointer, made of 18 -gauge tinned copper, or similar, and the cord. Typical scale graduations for the 87.5 to $108-\mathrm{MHz}$ band are shown to scale in Fig. 9.

To be concluded with a discussion of devices used and alignment methods.

## Parts list

Set of parts is available from Integrex Ltd, P.O. Box 45, Derby DE1 1TW.

## Inductors

See illustrations and text for winding details $L_{4} \& L_{5}$ inductor assemblies are Neosid NS/E3

Dial components (ail Jackson)
$\frac{1}{2}$-in brass pulieys, type 4879 ( 4 off)
$\frac{1}{2}$-in brass pivots, type 4539 ( 4 off)
brass spacers, type 4880 (4 off)
type ' $G$ 'drive spindle, type 5080
drive drum 2.5 cm dia. $4-\mathrm{mm}$ bore

## Variable capacitors

$3 \times 14 \mathrm{pF}$ tuning capacitor, part no.5560/3/14 (Jackson)
4.5 to 20 pF trimmer ( 3 off) (Piher make from Henry's Radio or Rosenthal type STSE-7, N750 from Radio Resistor Co. or type 7S-Triko 02 from Steatite Insulations)

## Fixed capacitors

1 nF disc ceramics, $50 \mathrm{~V}, 1-\mathrm{cm}$ mounting centres (10 off)
$0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 16 \mathrm{~V}$ (Mullard type C280)
$32 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 10 \mathrm{~V}$ (Mullard type C426)
$22,68(2 \mathrm{off}) \& 100 \mathrm{pF}, 160 \mathrm{~V}$, polystyrene
15, $47 \&$ ( 2 off) 330 pF ceramic tubular or disc, or polystyrene mounting centres 1 cm
4.7 nF miniature tubular polystyrene $1.65-\mathrm{cm}$ mounting centres. Use 150 pF for stereo


Resistors
Miniature carbon film type, ${ }_{8}^{1}$ watt $\pm 5 \%$ tolerance (Mullard)

Active devices
40673 (RCA 2 off). In mixer stage, lack of gate protection diodes may be acceptable, in which case types 40604 or 3 N 141 can be used. If the risk of not using diodes is acceptable for r.f. stage, types 40603 or 3N140 can be used. N.B.: retain protective spring until power is applied
40244 (RCA), alternatively TI409 (TO-92) -now avaialable as TIS64 (TO-18), Texas
BC213L (Texas) or BCY70
CA 3053,3028 A or 3028B (RCA)
TAA661B (SGS)
TIV307 (Texas)

## Also needed are

printed circuit board (available drilled, solder coated and with component locations) ceramic filters type FM-4 (Vernitron). Order as pair with same colour coding (orange10.625 MHz , yellow- 10.6625 MHz , green -10.700 MHz , blue -10.7375 MHz , violet-10.775MHz)
trimming tool for $L_{4}$ and $L_{5}$ cores
nylon cord
die-cast box
Denfix cement
Denfix cement (from Home Radio)
Evostik latex-resin impact adhesive

## Baird's Video Disc turns again

The video disc is not a new idea, as J. C. G. Gilbert pointed out in his article on the Teldec system last year." John Logie Baird recorded video signals from his 30 -line television camera on a 78 r.p.m. wax disc as far back as July 1928. Copies were made and sold to the public by Selfridge's store, London, in the early 1930s, the idea being that they should be played from an electric gramophone into the Nipkow-disc Baird Televisor of the time.

Recently Wireless World was able to examine one of these discs, and see the kind of pictures it produced on a Televisor, at a demonstration put on by the I.T.A. at the television museum in its London headquarters. The disc, which looks like a 10 -inch black gramophone record with a red label, was acquired from Mr. G. Diment of Herne Hill, London, who bought it from Selfridge's in 1935 at a price of 7 shillings. On the label are the words 'Recorded Television Record No. 1, Speed 78, Scanning Speed 750, Lines 30, For Private Use Only'. Because the disc is very fragile a magnetic tape recording had been made of its video signals, and it was this taped copy which was played into the Televisor at the demonstration.

The Televisor was a 40 -year old model, one of two acquired by the museum and restored to working order by I.T.A. engineers at the Fremont Point transmitter, Jersey. The authenticity of the results was assured by H. J. Barton-Chapple, who worked with Baird, and by P. J. Packman, who built one of the two Televisors in 1928 at Plessey.

All that can be said of the pictures seen is that they were a sequence of patterns, in the characteristic orange light of the Televisor's neon tube. What the patterns depicted was anybody's guess, though we were told they were caricatures of human faces. Certainly, the first video disc cannot be regarded as anything more than a technical curiosity. It is nonetheless a further tribute to Baird's ingenuity and enterprise in the face of the public's indifference at that time.
*"The Video Disc", Wireless World, August 1970, p. 377.

## Correction

Peter Blomley, author of the articles 'Nev' approach to class $B$ amplifier design ${ }^{3}$ (February a nd March issues), tells us $\mathrm{Tr}_{3}$ in Fig. 1 of the secend article should be type 2 N 3904 and not 2 N 3905 , and that in Fig. 5 the ordinate should b labelled $0.00075 \% / \mathrm{cm}$, and not $0.0012 \% / \mathrm{cm}$.

## 'W.W.' amateur radio station

As part of the journal's 60 th birthday celebrations we are to operate during April an amateur radio station using the specially assigned call GB3WW. The station is being set up in Dorset House, where we have had our editorial offices for nearly 40 years, and will operate in the amateur h.f. bands.

Our contributor Pat Hawker, G3VA, will be in charge of the station and among those manning the station from time to time will be F. C. Ward (G2CVV) president of the R.S.G.B., D. A. Findlay (G3BZG) general manager of the R.S.G.B., R. S. Roberts (G6NR), B. M. Johnson (G3LOX), J. Brodzki (G3HQX), S. Andrews (G3OGY), D. R. Bowman (G3LUB) and G. M. C. Stone (G3FZL).
The station will comprise a KW2000B transceiver, KW 1000 linear amplifier, Eddystone 1830/1 receiver, Heath SB303 receiver and the s.s.b. receiver described by David Bowman in our July-September 1969 issues. The microphone is a Shure 444. A trap dipole is being installed on
the roof of Dorset House about 100 ft above street level.

We are grateful for the co-operation of manufacturers and the Minpostel in enabling us to operate this station. A special QSL card embodying a reproduction of the front cover of this issue is being prepared.

## Electronics industry manpower

For the first time the manpower problems of the electronics industry in the U.K. have been studied in isolation from those of the electrical industry. This has been done by a working group of the electronics 'Little Neddy' (Economic Development Committee), under the chairmanship of Professor G. D. Sims of Southampton University, and some conclusions and


New sector control consoles in the Mediator air traffic control system are now in full operational use for controlled airspace at the West Drayton centre. Consoles include flicker-free bright displays-made possible by a scan conversion technique-which combine both primary radar information in the form of blips and secondary radar data in the form of digitally generated characters. Secondary radar can provide aircraft identification, route ard height information depending on the kind of transponding equipment installed on board aircraft (see 'Progress in air traffic control' page 200).
recommendations are presented in a preliminary report 'Qualified Manpower in the Electronics Industry' published by the National Economic Development Office. The conclusions are not exactly startling, the main points being that while the availability of qualified engineers and scientists is satisfactory there is evidence of a serious shortage both of technicians and of graduate production engineers willing to work in the electronics industry.

There seems to emerge from the report a picture of an industry in a confused and mulish state of mind about its own problems. It does not understand what facilities and information are available to assist with the education and use of technological manpower; it does not have adequate statistics and forecasts for manpower requirements; it is not sponsoring students for 'Bosworth' bridging schemes in sufficient numbers to make the courses fully viable; and it does not regard the release of qualified workers at regular intervals for continuing education as normal and desirable.

Among the working group's recommendations is one that the electronics EDC should sponsor a study of manpower utilization in the context of the management of innovation and its consequences. The fact that U.K. industry is well behind the U.S.A. and Japan in the speed and effectiveness with which it can turn an R \& D project into a commercially available product is now well known, and has been made painfully apparent by the Rolls-Royce debacle. The working group is convinced that 'a better use of manpower, better management and control of projects, and a more appropriate mix of manpower resources could all make very substantial contributions to shorter lead-times, and thus to more effective innovation? The EDC has agreed in principle to the proposal and asked the NEDO to start the study.

## Film and chips

A new method of mounting integrated circuit chips, which looks like being very suitable for use with automatic assembly methods, has been developed by the Philips Research Laboratories, of Eindhoven, Holland. The processed integrated circuit chips are mounted on a long strip of Polymide film and can be stored on reels like recording tape. The Polymide film has a metallic film contact pattern on which the chips are mounted in the same way as 'flip-chips' are mounted in hybrid integrated circuits. After the chips have been mounted the reels of tape holding the chips are treated to improve mechanical strength and are then passivated. During testing faulty chips on the film are marked so that they can be rejected automatically during subsequent circuit building.
The film-mounted chips can be applied


The metalization pattern on the Polymide film can be clearly seen. Integrated circuit chips mounted in this way could easily be used in automatic assembly machines.
to a printed circuit board, or to any other substrate for that matter, or they can be mounted on specially designed headers for conventional insertion into printed circuit boards. When mounted in the header Philips are claiming excellent heat dissipation characteristics. An experimental monolithic audio amplifier with an output of 3 W has already been built and operated successfully using the technique.

## Amateur radio history

As mentioned elsewhere in this issue the Derby Wireless Club (now called the Derby and District Amateur Radio Society) was formed in 1911, and, like $W . W$., is marking its 60 th birthday with special events. The first is an exhibition to be held in the Derby Museum and Art Gallery from 3rd to 17th April (excluding Good Friday). The aim of the exhibition is to illustrate the various activities of the society, but space will also be devoted to the history of amateur radio. Exhibits will include items constructed by early members of the society, and there will also be a life-size reproduction of a typical amateur station of the period 1911-13. A modern amateur station will be in operation at the exhibition and the call-sign will be GB3ERD

The exhibition will be opened at 3 p.m. on 3rd April, by the Mayor of Derby, Alderman Miss M. E. Grimwood-Taylor, whose father, S. Grimwood-Taylor, was one of the founders of the society.

Being the oldest amateur radio society in the U.K. (now with 245 paid-up members it has many historic pieces of equipment and components and an effort is being made to set up a permanent museum.

## 100MHz m.o.s. i.cs

Metal oxide silicon transistors have been successfully made at the Hirst Research Centre (G.E.C.) with channel lengths of only $1 \mu \mathrm{~m}$ against the 6 to $10 \mu \mathrm{~m}$ normally employed in commercial m.o.s.
integrated circuits. Apart from increasing packing density by a factor of ten it is estimated that 100 MHz integrated circuits can be made with these devices and could mean that m.o.s. will soon be knocking t.t.l.

The short channel transistors were made from masks produced by Cambridge Scientific Instruments Ltd using electron beam methods. The ion implanted source and drain regions have a low feedback capacitance giving the device its high operating speed.

The work had been carried out under a Ministry of Defence contract and is part of a much larger programme of research into m.o.s. devices being carried out at the Hirst Research Centre.

## Top of the short-wave pops

The International Short Wave Club reported a record response to their poll, held once every three years, to establish the most popular short-wave station. Votes have been received from most countries in the world including China and the U.S.S.R. Each voter could give five-votes for his first choice, four for his second and so on. It was found that many individuals did not go any further than a first choice. Of the 30,836 valid votes cast (4,712 arrived too late) Radio Australia
won with 7,010 votes followed by the B.B.C. World Service with 4,493 . Third and fourth were Radio Nederland $(3,877)$ and Voice of America ( 3,711 ), followed by Deutsche Welle $(1,269)$, Radio Japan ( 1,051 ) and Radio Canada ( 1,018 )

## Printed circuit patent

A decision taken recently in the House of Lords ended a ten-year legal battle by Technograph Printed Circuits (London). The decision confirmed that the patent taken out in 1943 by Technograph describing the manufacture of printed circuits was valid until it expired in 1967 after a seven-year extension. In this particular case the decision was against Mills and Rockley (Electronics) who had been sued for patent infringement by Technograph. However, the implications are much greater and writs have been issued against forty other British printed circuit manufacturers.

In America a similar ten-year law suit has been going on involving Technograph Printed Circuits' associate company Technograph Inc. although a decision has not yet been reached.

## Selective crystallization

Work is in progress at the Battelle Development Corporation, an international independent research institute, on a new process to produce m.o.s.t. microcircuits on a sapphire substrate. Instead of coatino the sapphire with a film of silicon and using masking and etching processes to form active devices and interconnection patterns as is usual the new method does all this in one very complex process called selective crystallization.

The work so far has shown that the process is feasible but more research is needed before the method could be used for production.

A new low-cost navigation system, installed on the Blue Funnel cargo liner Prometheus, intended to operate with the American navigational satellite system. The equipment, which was built by S.T.C., carries out dead reckoning naviga tion between satellite passes.


## Birthday greetings

Congratulations to Wireless World on completing its sixtieth year of publication. It was the world's first radio journal and has always been in the forefront in report ing technical developments in broadcasting. It is regarded as essential reading by most B.B.C. engineers.

The B.B.C. is a slightly younger organization, but during the forty-nine years of its existence, B.B.C. engineers have had the pleasure and privilege of contributing to Wireless World many articles on broadcasting and associated subjects. We value these close links with Wireless World and send it our best wishes for continuing success.
J. REDMOND,

Director of Engineering,
B.B.C.,

London.

I am sure that thousands of radio and electronics engineers throughout the world will wish to congratulate Wireless World on reaching its sixtieth anniversary. Over this period, longer than any other journal in this field, Wireless World has accurately and honestly surveyed the broadest aspects of communications and electronics engineering, and initiated many designs of equipment using advanced techniques.

One of my most treasured possessio is a complete set of bound volumes of ${ }^{f}$ ns journal. In these is recorded the whole history of the remarkable devel whole
over the past sixty years, and over the past sixty years, and pf shans the
only regret is that the adve only regret is that the adve rhaps the
were not bound in for they were not bound in for they record the economics of the industry. in and the

It was fortunate that my ph at Westminster City School iv telegraphist in the R.N.V.R. first World War, and his en wireless and line commun tinued into the school cl laboratory. Soon he had winding hundreds of feet copper wire on 4 in diamete pregnated cardboard tubes : off to Lisle Street, which wi mecca for radio components of visiting the school tucker
ysics master vas a senior during the thusiasm for ications conassroom and his students of insulated $r$ paraffin imind sending us is already the .. So in place and buying

Fives balls we spent our pennies with Kate Raymond who sold ebonite end plates, aluminium vanes, 2 BA rod and brass spacers, with which we made variable condensers. Farther along the road was Will Day, an outstanding inventor of cinematograph apparatus, who saw the potential development of the radio industry, and who later financially assisted John Logie Baird with his early television experiments. Will Day was the source of galena crystal, and, if one had the money, quite sophisticated micrometer adjustment cat's whisker crystal detectors. Then a trek to Shoreditch to buy some continental headphones from Ted Rosen who later became the chairman of Ultra Electronics, Ltd. Already the school had a good aerial consisting of two parallel 50 foot $7 / 22$ s.w.g. copper wires on spreaders and a copper plate earth. Thus early in 1922 one was thrilled to hear the time signals from the transmitter on the Ciffel Tower.
These were the hays of the amateur constructor and the founding of many radio clubs, the activities of which were regularly recorded in Wireless World. Althoup ${ }^{\text {a }}$ other journals sprang up to encours age the newcomer to wireless, already ${ }_{f}^{W} W$. held the esteem of the relatively ew professional engineers and the band of enthusiasts who followed the advanced constructional articles published in the journal. Many outstanding designs followed and one remembers the first to use a double ended screen-grid valve as an r.f. amplifier, and the using of Litzendraht inductances. Over many years Wireless World has sponsored designs for high-quality amplifiers of which The W.W. Push-Pull Quality Amplifier probably laid the foundation of the audio industry. Also in the early 'thirties members of the $W . W$. staff set up the first investigation into the performance of loudspeakers with a large baffle board mounted on the roof of the building and a microphone mounted on a mast.

Throughout the years since 1925 when I first made personal contact with members of the staff of Wireless World, I have always regarded it as a privilege to enjoy the friendship and advice of the successive Editors and their staff. Each has set a high standard and given devoted service to the journal, their readers and the industry. Many of the articles have been
contributed by world famous scientists, physicists and engineers and in spite of changing economic conditions and wars every issue has maintained a high and accurate standard.

Long may Wireless World continue to be published and its team of contributors and staff maintain the high standard of technical journalism that has made it the pre-eminent journal in the communications world.
J. C. G. Gilbert

Northern Polytechnic,
London N78DB.

## Stereo decoder using sampling

Referring to D. E. O'N. Waddington's article in the February issue, I have found that the second harmonic distortion level ( $0.6 \%$ at 30 mV input) and the signal attenuation ( 9 dB at 5 kHz ) can both be reduced by simple modifications to the circuit.

The de-emphasis network accounts for 5 dB of the 9 dB attenuation quoted, but what of the other four? As resistors $R_{25}$ and $R_{27}$ (Fig. 7 page 73) bias $\operatorname{Tr}_{10}$ and $\operatorname{Tr}_{11}$ near pinch-off, particularly for a transistor with low $V_{(P) G S}$, the operating point is one at which $g_{m}$ is low and non-linearity comparatively high. Further, the low-value load resistor of $2.2 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ implies low gain.
The 2 V adjacent to the source of $T r_{10}$ suggests that transistors close to the lower limit of $V_{(P) G S}$ were used in the prototype. The manufacturer's data sheet shows $g_{m}$ to be $2 \mathrm{~mA} / \mathrm{V}$, and hence a gain of about five times open-loop or 0.8 $(-2 \mathrm{~dB})$ as a source follower. These figures were confirmed by measurement and a harmonic distortion figure of $0.1 \%$ obtained at 100 mV r.m.s. level-relating to the source follower only.
Turning now to the f.e.t. switch $\operatorname{Tr}_{8}$ or $T r_{9}$ it is important to bear in mind the inherent capacitance $C_{g d}$ between gate and drain of the transistor. Were this fixed in value, its effect would simply be to cause an error between the input sample voltage and the output hold voltage across $C_{12}$ or $C_{17}$. This error is caused by the transference of charge to $C_{g d}$ on the trailing edge of the sampling pulse, and is minimized when $C_{g d}$ is small and the hold capacitance as large as possible.
As the capacitance $C_{g d}$ in practice is voltage-dependent in a highly non-linear manner the hold voltage error is also nonlinearly related to the input sample voltage. This voltage is the instantaneous sum of the sample pulse amplitude and the composite signal at the source. The situation is summarized in the following expression

$$
V_{e}=\frac{1}{C_{12}} \int_{V_{1}}^{V_{2}} C_{g d}(V) d V
$$

where $V_{e}$ is the error voltage, and $V_{1}$ and $V_{2}$ define the input amplitude limits.

Measurements on Mr Waddington's sample-and-hold circuit show an harmonic distortion figure of approximately $0.5 \%$
to 100 mV r.m.s. output across $C_{12}$, and an attenuation of 2 dB was obtained.

To minimize both attenuation and distortion, the hold capacitor can be increased in value so long as it is able to become fully charged during the sampling interval. This is to say $5 C R=250 \mathrm{~ns}$. No value is given for $R_{d s(o n)}$ in the BFW 10 data but it seems this is below $300 \Omega$, so that $C_{12}$ and $C_{17}$ can be increased to 180 pF . Taking this opportunity to consider $R_{d s(o f f)}$, it is essential that the sampling pulse at the gate has an amplitude of at least 8 V to ensure that limit transistors switch off as required, and this necessitates an increased supply voltage. Taking all these factors into consideration the following modifications can be made.

1. Increase supply to 12 V and feed the drains of $T r_{10}$ and $\operatorname{Tr}_{11}$ from a 20 to 24-V supply.
2. Omit $C_{15}, C_{18}, R_{24}$ and $R_{26}$, directly coupling the drains of $\operatorname{Tr}_{8}$ and $\operatorname{Tr}_{9}$ to the gates of $\operatorname{Tr}_{10}$ and $\operatorname{Tr}_{11}$.
3. Increase $C_{12}$ and $C_{17}$ to $180 \mathrm{pF} . R_{25}$ and $R_{27}$ to $22 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ and $R_{28}$ and $R_{29}$ to say $33 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ while reducing $C_{19}$ and $C_{20}$ to 1.5 nF . These modifications reduce susceptibility to spread in f.e.t. characteristics, reduce distortion to $0.05 \%$ and reduce attenuation in the sample-and-hold and source follower sections to less than 1 dB .

It is desirable to disable the sampling action for monophonic reception, by opencircuiting $R_{13}$ and $R_{21}$ for example, other wise noise components around 38 kHz are translated to audible frequencies causing appreciable degradation of signal-to-noise ratio, especially in view of the triangular noise spectrum associated with an f.m. system.

This type of decoder is very attractive in terms of cross-talk performance, suppression of 19 kHz and 38 kHz components, and reduction of subcarrier sidebands. Perhaps fuller advantage of the technique could be taken by using a phase-locked-loop sampling oscillator, which would enable both setting adjustments and wound components to be eliminated.

Incidentally, one of the transistors suggested for $\operatorname{Tr}_{8}$ to $\operatorname{Tr}_{11}$-the BFW 10has a $V_{(P)} / J S$ max of 8 V -dangerously close to the supply of 9 V .
D. R. BIRT,

Oxted,
Surrey.

In his letter in the March issue D. E. O'N. Waddington states that for a sample-andhold network it ". . . is not the 'sampling' but the 'hold' which causes noise harmonics to be heterodyned into the audio bandwidth" and that "The mark-to-space ratio of the sampling waveform has very little to do with the interference introduced. . ."

It must be remembered that sampling is a process whereby each component in one signal is multiplied by each component in the other signal, producing sum and

difference frequencies. It follows that the difference frequency produced when h.f. noise is sampled at a high rate will be l.f. noise.

Further, because the h.f. spectrum content of the sampling waveform is a function of mark-space ratio, the amount of l.f. noise produced will depend on the mark-space ratio of the sampling signal. The hold network does not appreciably alter the frequency content in the audio bandwidth as it does not perform a nonlinear function. Above the audio bandwidth the h.f. signals are attenuated by the hold function.

The photograph shows the approximate response of Mr Waddington's sample-andhold circuit on a scale of $0-100 \mathrm{kHz}$. Zero amplitude occurs at integral multiples of 38 kHz . The response has a $|(\sin x) / x|$ shape and it is interesting to note that at 15 kHz the theoretical response is 2.4 dB down, agreeing very closely with the practical result.

I agree that low-pass filtering the input signal will prevent the generation of audio noise. The low-pass filter should ideally have a linear phase response to maintain high-frequency separation. I think Mr Waddington's suggested 80 kHz is a little high-the 2 nd harmonic of 38 kHz will be able to operate on noise dowis to 61 kHz to produce audible noise.

Improving the h.f. response of the decoder to reduce the $2.4-\mathrm{dB}$ loss at $15 \mathrm{kH}^{\boldsymbol{H}} \mathrm{Z}$ may be difficult if suppression of h.f. signals is to be maintained.

## R. T. Portus,

Rolls-Royce Ltd.

## Components for constructors

I must add my hearffelt agreement to the comment on this topic contained in "World of Amateur Radio" (W.W. Jan. 1971). Only in recent years have I been able to even contemplate building many pieces of equipment that captured my imagination when a teenager in the 1950 s. Alas now that I can afford such luxuries I am faced with the near impossibility of finding parts.

My own immediate problem is quite simply that I wish to build a receiver covering from, say, 10 to $2,000 \mathrm{~m}$ in the usual bands. I would like the receiver to have a reasonable sensitivity but not be in the communication receiver class. Basically, I feel able to "design" such a receiver along conventional lines.

Tuning coils can be obtained, and older readers will be delighted to know that Home Radio still include the famous

Wearite " $P$ " coils in their catalogue. Alas no one to my knowledge markets a suitable dial or tuning scale covering the above ranges to match a specified tuning capacitor gang and the Wearite coils or for that matter anyone else's coils.

There are some of us who wish to build such equipment from scratch and who do not want to buy a kit complete to the last length of wire.

All I want to do is to build a reasonably simple receiver and my mind boggles at the trials in store for anyone brave enough to consider the Wireless World colour receiver. Construction will be a simple task compared with obtaining replies to enquiries about component availability. It is evident that people like myself must be a dying race and it is for this reason that supplies seem to have disappeared from the market. Some of us might even be prepared to pay through the nose for what we require if only someone would realize we exist and set out to exploit us!

## F. Brian Kyle,

Workington,
Cumberland.
About a year ago we formed a buying group with a number of other dealers* in the London area which we provisionally call "Group One". Its primary object is to buy components at the best prices in reasonable quantities. There are several secondary aims such as exchange of surplus stock and exchange of information. To some extent this action has been forced on us because we wished to buy certain items that wholesalers do not wish to handle and the manufacturers will only sell in quantities that are beyond the pocket of one dealer to buy. But I would like to stress the fact that this is not aimed at distributors or wholesalers (I for one, have always believed that they do a useful job and earn their money); in fact any small wholesaler or equipment manufacturer would be welcome to join. I feel sure that you will agree that this is a desirable scheme as ultimately it means the Group can offer your readers a greater range of goods at the lowest prices. Initially we were going to limit it to about 20 dealers (not on a'ccount of any closed shop principle, $\mathrm{b}_{\mathrm{L}}{ }^{\mathrm{t}}$ because we thought, quite wrongly, that we could not handle the administration of a lárger number). Now we would like to offer me 'mbership to any bona fide trader in the U. K. and I would be very grateful if you co uld make this generally known through th e courtesy of your columns. At the mol nent there is no entrance fee or subscriptior ${ }^{1}$. If anyone is interested please write to me at Home Radio (Components) Ltd, 234-2 0 London Road, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 3HD.
alan Sprox ${ }^{\text {TON, }}$
Mitcham,
Surrey.

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[^9]

## Insure against distortion with Shure



WW-096 FOR FURTHER DETALL

# A low-cost instrument which may be used to assist in teaching logic and Boolean algebra 

by Brian Crank*

Although this instrument employs the same basic principles as the earlier Wireless World Logic Display Aid (May to December 1969) any resemblance ends there. The present instrument is simpler and is very much cheaper. The circuit has been reduced to just four integrated circuits, three digital and one linear, and four transistors plus a few resistors, capacitors and diodes. The cost need not exceed a few pounds.

Mind you, the present instrument is not nearly so versatile as the earlier design although the display is more pleasing to the eye. The instrument will produce, on the screen of an oscilloscope, the Karnaugh map of any combinational logic circuit. If you are not completely familiar with Karnaugh maps a simple description will be found in the appendix to this article.

The reason for designing an instrument which will produce a Karnaugh map for any circuit is quite simple. The student is often taught Boolean algebra and logic through the use of the Karnaugh map. It completes the circle for the student to see a logic circuit producing the same map that was used to explain the operation of the circuit in the first place. In other words the theory and the practice can be brought closer together.
You may remember that in the earlier display the characters nought and one were displayed on the oscilloscope screen in the form of a pattern of dots. In the present design the characters are drawn as continuous lines exactly as you would draw them by hand. A typical display is shown in Fig. 11(a). Another advantage over the earlier design is that only two leads are needed between the instrument and the oscilloscope. These are the leads for $X$ and $Y$ deflection; an intensity modulation lead is not required.

As already mentioned the circuit is hybrid in that both linear and digital circuits are employed. Broadly the characters are positioned using a combination of both linear and digital techniques and the characters themselves are formed by linear circuits. The choice of whether to display a nought or a one at a particular position is taken by the logic circuit the Karnaugh map of which is to be displayed.

To use the instrument all one does is

[^10]Fig. 1. A simplified block diagram of the instrument. Practically any oscilloscope will be suitable because the demands made upon it are small although it must be capable of operating from an external timebase.

Oscilloscope
switched for external timebase

to connect it to the $X$ and $Y$ inputs of an oscilloscope, and connect any logic circuit to the instrument; the Karnaugh map for that circuit will then appear on the screen.

A block diagram of the instrument is given in Fig. 1. In brief, a clock pulse generator is used to drive a four-bit counter. The counter is split into two and each half drives a resistive ladder network. The ladder networks perform digital-toanalogue conversions and the resulting four-step staircase waveforms are fed to operational amplifiers which are used to drive the oscilloscope's $X$ and $Y$ deflection inputs. The oscilloscope is switched for external timebase operation. This produces sixteen dots on the screen arranged in a four-by-four matrix.

A sine wave oscillator, with a frequency much higher than the clock generator, produces two outputs which have a $90^{\circ}$ phase difference. The sine wave corresponding to $0^{\circ}$ is fed to the $Y$ operational amplifier and the $90^{\circ}$ waveform is fed to the $X$ operational amplifier via an attenuator and a transistor switch. The result of the two sine waves on the screen of the oscilloscope is a vertical ellipse similar to the ' 0 ' printed here. The net result of both the sine and staircase waveforms is to dis-
play on the c.r.t. a four-by-four matrix of 0 s . If the switch in the sine wave lead to the $X$ operational amplifier is open there will be no horizontal sine wave component in the deflection waveform so on the screen will appear sixteen 1s. The 1 is formed by the sine wave input to the $Y$ amplifier.

The counter that drives the ladder networks also drives a logic circuit which produces outputs that comply with the rules of a Karnaugh map. These outputs are used to drive the logic circuit you wish to display and the output of this logic circuit is used to control the $0 / 1$ switch at the input to the $X$ operational amplifier. Each section of the instrument will now be described in detail.

## Sine wave oscillator

The sine wave oscillator is used to produce a Lissajous figure which represents 0 in the display and to do this, as we have already seen, it must produce outputs at $0^{\circ}$ and $90^{\circ}$. An early version of the instrument used a sine wave $R C$ oscillator followed by a $90^{\circ}$ phase-shift network. Although this worked it was unsatisfactory because it was necessary to specify close tolerance components for the frequency


Fig. 2. The four-section phase-shift oscillator used to produce the characters which form the display. Operating frequency is about 22 kHz .


Fig. 3. Astable multivibrator clock generator which runs at about 1.4 kHz .


Fig. 4. The Y ladder network.
Component reference numbers in brackets refer to the $X$ ladder. The circuit converts the output of a counter into a staircase waveform by performing a digital-to-analogue conversion.
to be right for the phase shift required. An $L C$ oscillator could have been used with the advantage that the frequency adjustment, to line the oscillator up with the phaseshift network, would have been no problem. However, coils, as well as being fairly bulky at the frequency we are interested in, are not the most popular items in constructional articles so it was decided to find a solution using $R C$ circuitry.
The circuit employed is shown in Fig. 2. As can be seen it is a single transistor phase-shift oscillator. Normally a phaseshift oscillator employs three $R C$ sections, each section phase shifting by $60^{\circ}$, to obtain the $180^{\circ}$ phase shift necessary to obtain positive feedback and oscillation.

In the present design four $R C$ sections


Fig. 5. The equivalent circuits of the ladder network for the four different conditions of the counter driving it.
are employed, each section shifting by $45^{\circ}$ ( $4 \times 45^{\circ}=180$ ). It is now a simple matter to pick off the $90^{\circ}$ signal after two $45^{\circ}$ phase shifts at the output of the second $R C$ section.
The potentiometer $R_{40}$, the only adjustment in the whole instrument, is used to vary the a.c. gain of $T r_{1}$ while maintaining d.c. conditions. The gain must just be enough to overcome the losses in the phaseshift network. If the gain is too low oscillation will not occur; if it is too high distortion will result. Potentiometer $R_{40}$ is adjusted for a good sine wave output from $T r_{1}$. The frequency of oscillation is about 22 kHz but this is not at all critical.

## Clock generator and counter

The clock generator is shown in Fig. 3. Little need be said about it as it is a conventional astable multivibrator which runs at about 1.4 kHz .

The four-bit counter is formed by one t.t.l. (transistor-transistor logic) integrated circuit type SN7493N. This i.c. comes in the m.s.i. or medium scale integration class. It contains four $J-K$ flip-flops and is connected as shown in the main circuit diagram (Fig. 10). The four flip-flops are cascaded to form a standard binary counter.

Looking at only the first two flip-flops, the outputs of which are called $Q_{1}$ and $Q_{2}$, the following outputs are produced:

| $Q_{2}$ | $Q_{1}$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 1 |
| 1 | 0 |
| 1 | 1 |

The outputs of the second pair of flip-

Clock


Output $Q_{1}$


Fig. 6. Shows how the output of the t.t.l. binary counter is affected by the clock generator. The steps in the waveform are removed by a clamping circuit.


Fig. 7. The clamping circuit. The outputs to the ladder networks are the voltage drops across three forward-biased diodes in series.


Fig. 8. The $X$ deflection amplifier complete with the single-transistor 1/0 switch. The $Y$ deflection amplifier circuit is the same but $\operatorname{Tr}_{4}$ and its associated components are omitted.


Fig. 9. Karnaugh map edge coding. A graticule, the same as this drawing, should be made so that the display on the c.r.t. can be viewed through it.


Fig. 10. The complete circuit of the Karnaugh map display instrument. The SN7486N actually contains four exclusive-OR gates, however, only two are used here.
flops, $Q_{3}$ and $Q_{4}$, produce exactly the same output but at one quarter of the frequency.

## Ladder networks

The two ladder networks are connected to the binary counter. When the flip-flop $Q_{1}$ is at 0 the $Q_{1}$ output is connected, via a saturated transistor, to the 0 V line. When the output $Q_{1}$ is at 1 it is connected via a saturated transistor to +6 V .
The circuit of one ladder network is given in Fig. 4. The inputs $Q_{1}$ and $Q_{2}$ are switched according to the tablegivenearlier. So Fig. 4 can be redrawn for each of the four states of the counter, so far as the output voltage is concerned (Fig. 5). If you would care to do the sums you will find that the output will rise from 0 V in equal steps to produce a staircase.

## Clamping network

Unfortunately the output of the flip-flops is not a good square wave. Although the rise and fall times are far more than adequate for the instrument the output of a particular flip-flop is affected by its input conditions. Fig. 6 illustrates this point.

The step in the waveform causes a corresponding step in the output of the ladder network which in turn causes certain characters on the display to appear double. The re for this trouble is to add a clamp-
ing network which slices the top off the output from the flip-flops. This network is shown in Fig. 7.

The diodes $D_{1 \text { to } 4}$ isolate the outputs of the flip-flops from each other and resistors $R_{24}$ to 27 limit the current to a safe value. The output to the ladder network is now the voltage drop across three diodes in series.

## Operational amplifiers

## and $1 / 0$ switch

The well known operational amplifier type 709 is used in the instrument. The particular version employed (SN72709DN) is manufactured by Texas Instruments and includes two 709 amplifiers in a single dual-in-line package. The circuit of the $X$ deflection amplifier is shown in Fig. 8. The $Y$ deflection amplifier is identical except that the $1 / 0$ switching transistor, $T r_{4}$, and its associated components are omitted.

Resistors $R_{p}$ and $R_{f}$ combine to form the feedback resistor which sets the overall gain of the amplifier. Additionally $R_{p}$ protects the amplifier from accidental short circuit of the output leads by limiting the output current. $R_{d} C_{a}$ and $C_{b}$ are frequency compensation components which ensure stability.

The BC108 ( $\operatorname{Tr}_{4}$ ) is the switch which is controlled by the external logic circuit. It short-circuits the $90^{\circ}$ output of the sine wave oscillator to ground when a 1 is
required on the c.r.t. $R_{h}$ is of a sufficiently large value to prevent the switch from significantly affecting the oscillator itself.

## Logic circuit

Imagine that the Karnaugh map of Fig. 9 is superimposed on the c.r.t. face. Bec ause of the action of the previously discussed circuitry the c.r.t. spot first rests in the top left-hand square, it then moves to the next square down, then to the square below that until it reaches the bottom of the column. The spot then flies back to the top but this time to the second column. The process continues until all 16 squares have been scanned. The spot then goes back to the first square again and the process is repeated, such is the effect of the two staircase waveforms. Each square on the map corresponds to a particular state of the counter. For instance, the top left-hand square is scanned when the counter outputs are all 0 , that is at the top of both staircase waveforms (both the $X$ and $Y$ amplifiers invert).

We also know that each square on a Karnaugh map corresponds to a particular set of variables as defined by the coding at the edge of the map (see appendix if necessary). We must ensure that when the spot is in a particular square that the set of variables represented by that square are available at the output of the instrument for


Fig. 11.(a). This is a photograph of the display which shows the map produced by an exclusive-OR gate connected to the $A$ and $B$ outputs $(\bar{A} B+A \bar{B})$. The photograph has been 'doctored' in that the squares and edge coding have been drawn in. Normally this information would be contained on a graticule as shown in Fig. 9, however, this would be very difficult to photograph. The remainder of the photographs are waveforms within the unit. (b) 1.4 kHz clock waveform; (c) sine wave oscillator ( 22 kHz ) taken at the emitter of $T r_{1}$; (d) the staircase waveform at the output of the $Y$ operational amplifier, for this photograph the sine wave oscillator was disabled; (e) Y deflection output when the display at (a) is being produced and (f) $X$ deflection waveform under the same conditions; (g) waveform at the collector of $T r_{4}$ when the display at $(a)$ is being produced.
feeding to the external logic circuit. We must therefore compare the output of the counter with the Karnaugh map edge codings and rectify any differences that occur.

| Karnaugh map <br> edge coding | counter <br> outputs |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $B$ | $A$ | $Q_{2}$ | $Q_{1}$ |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |

The above table compares the output of the $Y$ counter with the map's $A B$ edge coding. The last two terms are different and therefore some logic is necessary to correct this.

Firstly on examination we can say that $Q_{2}=B$ so a direct connection from the counter output $Q_{2}$ will form the output variable $B$.

Also, on examination, it can be seen that:

$$
A=Q_{1} \cdot \bar{Q}_{2}+\bar{Q}_{1} \cdot Q_{2}
$$

which is our old friend the exclusive-OR function. We have already stated that the $X$ counter outputs, $Q_{3}$ and $Q_{4}$, have the same outputs as $Q_{1}$ and $Q_{2}$ but at a slower rate and we can see that the Karnaugh map coding for $C$ and $D$ is the same as for $A$ and $B$. We must therefore conclude that an identical logic function is required, namely

$$
\begin{aligned}
& D=Q_{4} \\
& \text { and } C=Q_{3} \cdot \bar{Q}_{4}+\bar{Q}_{3} \cdot Q_{4}
\end{aligned}
$$

The circuit of the logic section of the instrument can be seen on the lower lefthand side of the main circuit diagram, Fig. 10, and it can be seen that only two integrated circuits are required. The output variables, $A, B$ etc., are buffered by simple inverters to prevent external connections from upsetting the operation of the counter. These inverters also provide the complement of the variables, $\bar{A}, \vec{B}$ etc.

## Complete circuit

Fig. 10 combines all the circuits discussed so far and therefore little need be said about it. The various waveforms present for a particular display are shown in Fig. 11. Because the sine wave oscillator and the clock are not synchronous flyback between characters takes a different route every time and is not visible on the screen at normal brightness levels. Because of this blanking (a $Z$ connection to the oscilloscope) is not required.

## Construction

Making the unit is quite straightforward and no special precautions need be taken. A photograph of the layout employed in the prototype is given in Fig. 12; several components will not be found in this picture because they are mounted on the reverse side of the board.
It is important to connect pins two and three of the binary counter (SN7493N) to the 0 V line. These pins are inputs to a gate which resets the counter. If this is not done the counter will be held at 0000 and the unit will not function. The only adjustment is $R_{40}$ which must be set to give a n cely shaped 0 . If you wish to adjust the si se of the characters changing the value of $R_{28}$


Fig. 12. A photograph of the prototype showing component positions. It should be noted that some parts have been mounted on the reverse side of the board and are therefore not marked. The integrated circuits are plugged into dual-in-line sockets which makes for easy removal.
will alter the height and $R_{30}$ will alter the width.

## Appendix

Karnaugh maps: The Karnaugh map is a means of pictorially showing all possible combinations of a number of two-state variables. Because of the way it is constructed it has other properties which make it possible to simplify Boolean expressions with the minimum of effort although it must be said that for more than four variables it is usually better to employ a more advanced method.

We will construct a Karnaugh map for four variables. The map will be the same as that displayed on a c.r.t. using the instrument described in the article. The basis of a Karnaugh map is a square. Each variable (usually labelled $A, B, C$ and $D$ for convenience) is allocated half the area of the square. To indicate the area occupied by a particular variable a simple edge coding system is employed. Fig. 13(a) shows the area occupied by the variable $A$ and it is the area adjacent to the 1 s under $A$ in the edge coding. What is the area adjacent to the 0 s under $A$ in the edge coding? This is obviously the area representing $\bar{A}$. If the square of Fig. 13(a) is cut out and rolled into a cylinder the areas representing $A$ and $\bar{A}$ become continuous-but more about that later. In Fig. 13(b) the areas representing $B$ and $\bar{B}$ have been added. The square is now divided in four and each section represents one of the four possible combinations of $A$ and $B$. From top to bottom, reading the edge coding, the sections are $\bar{A} \bar{B}, A \bar{B}, A B, \bar{A} B$.

You may have noticed that as you progress down the map, or up for that matter,
only one of the variables alters at a time and this still applies if the map is rolled into a cylinder again because $A B$ becomes adjacent to $\bar{A} \bar{B}$.
In Figs. 13(c) and (d) the variables $C$ and $D$ have been added. If you consider only these two variables and roll the map into a cylinder the opposite way each section differs by only one variable. Reading round the tube so formed we get $\bar{C} \bar{D}, C \bar{D}, C D, \bar{C} D, \bar{C} \bar{D}$ etc.

Looking at the map as a whole it is plain


Fig. 13. The construction of a Karnaugh map and two examples. See text for full explanation.
to see that each one of the sixteen squares we have formed represents one of the possible combinations of the four variables. For instance the top left-hand square, as can be seen by the edge coding, represents $\bar{A} \bar{B} \bar{C} \bar{D}$ and the bottom right-hand square represents $\bar{A} B \bar{C} D$.

But more important still is that adjacent squares, horizontally or vertically not diagonally, differ only in the negation of one of the variables. We have also proved, by rolling the map into a cylinder, that the top of the map is adjacent to the bottom and the left-hand-edge is adjacent to the right-hand-edge.

Two simple examples will show how these properties can be used to simplify Boolean expressions. Consider the expression $A \bar{B} C \bar{D}+A \bar{B} C D$. Draw a map as in Fig. 13(d) and put a 1 in the two squares representing the terms in the expression and an 0 in all the other squares. Because the 1 s are adjacent to one another they are ringed as shown in Fig. 13(e). The simplified expression is derived by taking only variables which are common in adjacent terms. So $A \bar{B} C \bar{D}+A \bar{B} C D$ reduces to $A \bar{B} C$.

Fig. 13(f) shows the Karnaugh map for the expression $\bar{A} \bar{B} \bar{C} \bar{D}+\bar{A} \bar{B} \bar{C} D+$ $\bar{A} B \bar{C} \bar{D}+\bar{A} B \bar{C} D$. All terms are adjacent and form a square of their own so only variables common to all four terms need be used. Therefore, from the map of Fig. $13(\mathrm{f})$ : $A B C D+A B C D+A B C D+$ $\bar{A} B \bar{C} D=\bar{A} \bar{C}$
This brief explanation will serve to give the reader some idea of what a Karnaugh map is all about.

Next month a memory unit will be described which can be used with the Karnaugh map display unit, in place of the external logic circuit, to form an 'electronic blackboard'. Up to two Karnaugh maps can be stored, displayed or amended at will.

## Shopping List

## Resistors

All resistors, except the potentiometer, are 0.25W 5\%.

| $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $\times$ | 18 | 150 | $\times$ | 4 |
| :--- | :---: | ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $470 \Omega$ | $\times$ | 1 | 150 k | $\times$ | 1 |
| $56 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $\times$ | 1 | 33 k | $\times$ | 1 |
| $6.8 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $\times$ | 2 | 3.3 k | $\times$ | 2 |
| $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $\times$ | 3 | 47 | $\times$ | 2 |
| $4.7 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $\times$ | 2 | 1.5 k | $\times$ | 2 |
| $6.8 \Omega$ | $\times$ | 1 |  |  |  |
| $470 \Omega$ | preset potentiometer. |  |  |  |  |
| Capacitors |  |  |  |  |  |
| 500 p | $\times$ | 4 | $5,000 \mathrm{p}$ | $\times$ | 2 |
| $100 \mu, 6 \mathrm{~V}$ | $\times$ | 2 | 200 p | $\times$ | 2 |
| $0.1 \mu$ | $\times$ | 2 | $100 \mu, 12 \mathrm{~V}$ | $\times$ | 2 |
|  |  | $500 \mu, 12 \mathrm{~V} \times$ | 1 |  |  |

## Semiconductors

|  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| SN7493N, 4-bit binary counter, | $\times 1$ |  |
| SN7486N, quad exclusive-OR gate, | $\times$ | ", |
| SN7404N, hex inverter, | $\times$ | $"$ |
| SN72709DN, dual op-amp, | $\times$ | " |
| BC108 transistors, | $\times$ | 4 |
| 1N914 diodes, | $\times$ | 6 |
| 5V,400mW zener diode | $\times$ | 1 |
| Miscellaneous |  |  |
| dual-in-line sockets, | $\times$ | 4 |
| Lektrokit board type LK141, | $\times$ | 1 |
| Lektrokit pins, | $\times$ | 100 |

## SONEX 71

Hotel hi-fi show at London Airport

Over 150 rooms have been booked by more than 60 exhibitors for the second Sonex exhibition to be held at the Skyway Hotel, London Airport. The show will be open to the trade only on Wednesday 31st March and Thursday 1 st April, between 11.00 and 18.00 . It will be open to the public for the next three days, from 11.00 to 21.00 on Friday and Saturday and from 11.00 to 18.00 on Sunday April 4th.
Because of the postal strike admission tickets will not be required. Each visitor will receive a free sixteen-page show guide.
Features of the exhibition that are new this year include a 'Living with $\mathrm{Hi}-\mathrm{Fi}$ ' display arranged by Homemaker magazine, and the promise of considerable activity by Radio London.

## Brand names at the show

| A.D.C. | Empire | Leak | Revox |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| A.K.G. | F.A.L. | Lowther | Richard Allan |
| Acos | Fane | Luxor | Rogers |
| Acoustic Research | Gabraphone | Metro-Sound | Rotel |
| Akai | Garrard | Mordaunt-Short | Sansui |
| Alpha-Arena | Goldring | Musitapes | Sheppard |
| Armstrong | Goodmans | National | Shure |
| Audio Packs | Grampian | Panasonic | Sinclair |
| Audio Technica | Harman-Kardon | Ortofon | Skandia |
| B.S.R. McDonald | I.M.F. | Peak Sound | Sonab |
| B \& W Electronics | J.B.L. | Peerless | Sonotone |
| Bib | J.V.C. Nivico | Philips Electrical | Sugden, J.E. |
| Brenell | Jordan-Watts | Pickering | Telefunken |
| Cambridge Audio | K.E.F. | Pioneer | Teleton |
| Celestion | KMAL (Monks | Poly-planar | Thorens |
| Connoisseur | Audio | Quad | Wharfedale |
| Decca | Koss | Radford |  |



An f.m. tuner from J. E. Sugden employs a varicap tuned front end and a four stage i.f. section with double tuned couplings. A switchable filter permits reduction of $L-R$ information thus allowing separation to be traded for reduced noise on weak signals.


The Lowther Auditorium Acousta is an enclosure combining two sound sourcesone forward, the other rearward. Using two such enclosures in place of a pair of conventional single perspective speakers gives increased solidity to stereophonic reproduction.

Futuristic Aids will be demonstrating a loudspeaker from Fane Acoustics which employs a new ribbon unit for mid range and top frequencies and a 12in driver for bass.

Cambridge Audio have a new speaker called the Junior, and a 'slave unit' to boost the output of their amplifiers.

Rogers will be demonstrating a modified and improved version of their Studio Monitor loudspeaker which is being manufactured under licence from the B.B.C.

# Elements of Linear Microcircuits 

# 7: Radio- and intermediate-frequency amplifiers 

by T.D. Towers,* M.B.E., M.A.

We tend to think of silicon monolithic technology (in which complete circuits are produced in small crystal chips little larger than the dot on a printed ' i ') as being very modern. Technologically this is so, but any reader who has access to Vol. 1 of Wireless World could well be surprised to find in the July 1913 issue a long article by Dr. A. E. H. Tutton entitled 'Crystals as Rectifiers and Detectors' examining crystal lattice structures in detail and pointing the way to the use of 'the very best procurable single individual crystals'. Some of the semiconductors examined by Tutton such as 'perikon', 'anastase' or 'brookite' may only evoke nostalgic memories from more elderly readers. On the other hand, unexpectedly, Tutton also devoted attention to pure silicon (so important now to monolithic integrated circuits), and to such sophisticated materials as silicon carbide and liquid crystals (important now in semiconductor opto-electronics).
The celebrated H. J. Round in a reply to Dr. Tutton in the August 1913 issue was curiously prophetic in his remark 'Crystals work well as wireless receivers'. In the 1970s we have indeed reached the stage where virtually the complete receiver circuitry can be produced in a silicon chip. The present article examines the state of the art for r.f. and i.f. amplifier microcircuits.

A survey of r.f./i.f. amplifier microcircuits in early 1971 showed about 100 commercial types available, all produced by semiconductor device manufacturers. Of these, virtually all are monolithic, although hybrid circuits are beginning to appear. Before we devote the remainder of the article to monolithics, it might be well to consider why hybrids are appearing alongside them.

Fig. 1 gives the circuit of the Newmarket NMC809A, a thick-film hybrid r.f. /i.f. amplifier. The seeing engineer's eye will note that it is a d.c. coupled feedback pair $T r_{1}, T r_{2}$, with an emitter follower buffer $\mathrm{Tr}_{3}$, the transistors being 2 N 918 family devices with a typical frequency cut-off approaching 1,000 MHz . The circuit has a frequency response from d.c. to over 40 MHz . The resistor trimming possible with thick film

[^11]

Fig. 1. Example of a thick film hybrid r.f./i.f. wideband amplifier; Newmarket Transistors NMC809A.
assembly gives it a very narrow gain spread; typically $\pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}$ in 22 dB at 1 MHz . It can be used as a wideband amplifier or as a tuned r.f./i.f. amplifier up to 40 MHz . The separate connection to the emitter of $T r_{2}$ allows for full decoupling for low-frequency applications, or for a peaking capacitor for top-end video expansion, and series or parallel tuned circuits for band-pass or band-reject purposes. Designed to work on 14 V with typically 14 mA current, the NMC809A does not require any external biasing components, as bias levels are set up by resistor trimming during manufacture.

## Monolithic r.f. circuits

In conventional discrete component r.f. /i.f. amplifiers it is normal to use a single transistor per stage, usually in a common-emitter arrangement, or, at very high frequencies, in a common-base arrangement. In both of these methods feedback from output to input can lead to instability and various neutralization techniques have to be used when high stage gain is called for.
Where higher stage power gain is wanted, some d.c.-coupled arrangement of two transistors can be used instead of a single transistor between tuned circuits. Three configurations often met with are
the long-tail pair, the cascode arrangement and the d.c. feedback pair.
Now with discrete circuitry the single transistor common-emitter stage has such advantages in gain, noise figure and impedance matching convenience that you only come across the other arrangements mentioned where abnormal performance is required.

When we come to monolithic i.cs, cost per transistor becomes less significant, being replaced by cost per stage. Here we find single transistors abandoned, and one


Fig. 2. Basic transistor configurations used in monolithic r.f./i.f. amplifiers; (a) long-tail pair; (b) cascode; (c) d.c. feedback pair.
of the three multiple-element arrays used. For ease of analysis, these are shown in basic form, without isolating and biasing networks, in Fig.2. Each has its advantages. The long-tail pair of Fig. 2 (a) has fairly low noise, high power gain, high stability, simple biasing, inherently symmetrical operation, non-saturating limiting action, fast recovery from overdrive and easy interstage matching. The cascode of Fig.2(b) has low noise, high power gain, high stability, and easy interstage matching. The d.c. feedback pair of Fig.2(c) is distinctive for low noise, large signal handling capacity and low power consumption.

## Long-tail pair

The long-tail pair with a resistor tail is widely used in r.f./i.f. monoliths. One example is given in Fig.3, which is the circuit diagram of the Philips TAA380A. This is an i.f. amplifier suitable for use in TV intercarrier sound circuits and f.m.
broadcast receivers and comes packaged in the small multi-lead TO-5 ou/line metal can. Transistors $T r_{1}$ and $T r_{2}$ form a long-tail pair with tail resistor $R_{1}$ and buffer isolating emitter follower $\mathrm{Tr}_{3}$ feeding to further long-tail pairs $T r_{4}, \operatorname{Tr}_{5}$ and $T r,{ }^{1} T r_{8}$ to drive an output tuned circuit connected to terminal five. Transistors $\quad T r_{9}$ and $T r_{10}$ provide stabilized voltages for close control of d.c. bias; reference voltages being provided from selected points in the series diodes $D_{1-8}$ which are forward biased through $R_{11}$.

The resistive-tail long-tail pair is used as a basic element in many other commercial monolithic r.f./i.f. amplifiers such as the General Electric PA 189, RCA CA304I, 3043, Fairchild $\mu$ A 717, Motorola MC1350, Siemens TBA120 and the Philips TAA570. Most of these are complex multi-stage circuits to provide a complete block of functions for a receiver.

Some monolithic multi-stage r.f./i.f.


Fig. 3. Commercial i.f. amplifier microcircuit illustrative of use of resistor-tail long tail pair as basic amplifying element in monolithic microcircuit construction (Philips TAA380A).


Fig. 4. Monolithic r.f./i.f. amplifier long-iail pair with transistor constant current tail (Philips TAA350).
amplifiers use a transistor instead of a resistor as the constant-current source for the long-tail pair. This three-transistor type of gain block can be seen forming repetitive elements in cascode in commercial microcircuits and Fig.4, the Philips TAA350 is an example of this technique. The long-tail pair with transistor tail, $\operatorname{Tr}_{1}, \operatorname{Tr}_{2}, T r_{3}$, with its output buffer emitter followers $T r_{4}, T r_{5}$ are repeated for the four stages. The bias for the tail transistor is provided from a common rail voltage defined by the forward voltage drop across the diodeconnected $T r_{21}$ fed from the positive rail through a $2.1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ resistor. The differential amplification with current-driven long-tail pairs gives high a.m. rejection making the amplifier suitable for use with very simple f.m. detectors.

Several monoliths have been made which can be used in a large number of different ways. Fig. 5 gives the circuits of a number of the more common commercially available ones. These can, in most cases, be used as a cascode or a transistor-tail long-tail pair.

All the circuits of Fig. 5 are basically a balanced emitter coupled transistor pair with a third transistor providing the emitter current for each of the pair. Such a configuration would be costly to fabricate with discrete components because of the difficulty of getting adequately matched balanced pairs and the need for separate biasing networks stable with temperature and supply voltage variations. With monolithic fabrication these difficulties do not arise. The different examples in Fig. 5 reflect different manufacturers' design approach to versatile microcircuits with many circuit connection options.

The RCA CA3053/3028 of Fig.5(a) uses resistor networks to bias the tail transistor $\operatorname{Tr}_{3}$. The Motorola MC1550 of Fig.5(b) features a diode in the biasing network for temperature stability; the Fairchild $\mu$ A703 of Fig.5(c) uses two biasing diodes; and the Amelco 911 (also National Semiconductors devices LM171/271/371 of Fig.5(d) uses as many as three bias semiconductors for maximum stability. Fig.5(e), the Signetics NE511, is a different approach and offers two amplifier stages in the one package together with one biasing diode. This gives the equipment designer great flexibility for special circuit requirements. Another example of extreme versatility is the RCA3004 / 3020 shown in Fig.5(f).

## Cascode circuits

So far we have not mentioned cascode operation. It will be found that in monolithic microcircuits a true twotransistor cascode arrangement is almost never found. This is because a cascode circuit can be made up by taking a transistor-tailed long-tail pair such as Fig.5(a) and using the tail transistor $\operatorname{Tr}_{3}$ as the common emitter input of the cascode pair and one of the balanced pair as the common-base output. Some of the circuits of Fig. 5 have direct access to the base of the tail transistor and can be used as


Fig. 5. Commercial single-stage monolithic r.f./i.f. amplifiers using long-tail pairs with transistor tails; (a) RCA CA3053/3028; (b) Motorola MC1550; (c) Fairchild $\mu A 703$; (d) A melco 911; (e) Signetics 511; (f) RCA 3004/3020.
(a)


Fig. 6. Alternative cascode and long-tail pair tuned amplifier arrangements of Motorola MC1550 microcircuit; (a) coscode $60 \mathrm{MHz}, 30 \mathrm{~dB} 0.5 \mathrm{MHz}$ bandwidth; (b) long-t, il pair 10.7 MHz f.m. i.f.
effertively in cascode as in long-tail pair mode (where the input is applied to one of the balanced pair). One feature not to be overlooked is that the three-transistor configuration (whether it be cascode or long-tail pair) always leaves an unused terminal which can be employed to apply automatic gain control.

Perhaps the easiest way to understand the versatility of the transistor triplet is to look at one specific example, say the Motorola MC1550 whose basic circuit is given in Fig.5(b). This microcircuit can be connected, for example, as a cascode 60 MHz tuned amplifier in the arrangement of Fig.6(a) or as a long-tail pair 10.7 MHz i.f. amplifier as in Fig.6(b).

## D.C. feedback pair

The cascode and long-tail pair are not the only configurations used by monolithic manufacturers. The d.c. coupled feedback pair shown for discrete circuitry at Fig.2(c) above has advantages that have led to its adoption by some manufacturers. One example of this is the Plessey SL612 r.f. amplifier (Fig.7). The design is essentially an emitter coupled d.c. feedback input pair $T r_{1}, T r_{3}$ providing d.c. bias from the emitter of $\operatorname{Tr}_{3}$ to the input of $T r_{1}$ via a $5 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ resistor. The d.c. coupled pair is followed by an emitter follower $\operatorname{Tr}_{5}$ providing feedback into the emitter of $\operatorname{Tr}_{1}$ via a $525 \Omega$ resistor. The overall circuit gain is 20 dB Low noise is ensured by running $T r_{1}$ at low current and good signal handling by the overall feedback. Effective a.g.c. control of 50 dB is achieved via $\mathrm{Tr}_{8}$ and


Fig. 7. Commercial r.f. amplifier monolithic microcircuit using basic d.c. coupled feedback pair configuration:
Plessey SL612 r.f. ( $2-76 \mathrm{MHz}$ ) tuned amplifier.

Table 1
Directory of r.f./i.f. microcircuit manufacturers

## Company

Amelco (Teledyne)
Fairchild
General Electric (USA)
Intermetall
Marconi-Elliott Microelectronics
Mitsubishi
Motorola
Mullard (Philips)
National Semiconductors
Newmarket Transistors
Plessey
R.C.A.
S.G.S.

Siemens
Signetics

Microcircuit type numbers
911
$\mu A 703 / 717 / 719$
PA189
TAA710
M316
M5142P
MC1 100/1350/1352/1550
TAA350/380/380A/450/570/640
LM171/172/271/371/372/703
NMC 809A
SIC 809A $502 / 503 / 551 / 552 / 553 / 610 / 611 / 612$
CA3002/3004/3005/3006/3028/3041/3042/3043/3044/3053
CA3002/3004/3005 TAA661/730
L103. TAA661/730
TAA981/991. TBA120/400
NE5 10/511. SE5 $10 / 511$
$T r_{2}$ and power consumption is some 15 mA on a 6 V supply. The circuit is optimized to give a 150 MHz cut-off frequency ensuring satisfactory operation over the $2-76 \mathrm{MHz}$ communications band.

To help readers see what is commercially available in the way of r.f. /i.f. amplifier microcircuits, Table 1 lists the major manufacturers whose products of this type are on the U.K. market, with a selected list of types known to the author.

The wide range of microcircuits available to the equipment designer vastly simplifies the production of tuned amplifiers from 100 kHz to 100 MHz , whether for fixed frequency i.f. use, with high gain, low current consumption and narrow bandwidth, or for variable r.f. use, with low noise, large signal handling, a.g.c., without substantial change of characteristics, and without a performance change across the tuning band.

## H.F. PredictionsApril

The charts are based on an Ionospheric Index of 96 , the corresponding sunspot number being 83. Similar predictions were made for April 1970 but the observed index value jumped to 130 and remained high the following month. There was a similar trend in 1969.

Transequatorial paths have their highest MUFs during equinox months and conditions should be good above 20 MHz . Evening fading is relatively independent of season and cycle on the South African path but is worse during this season on others Poor conditions are expected from the Far East midnight to 09.00 G.M.T. and North America will be liable to several days of weak signals 06.00 to 16.00 G.M.T.

MUFs apply to both directions of a route while LUFs are for reception in the U.K. only.


# Don't Look Now 

# Sampled Data Controlled Systems, and . . . . . 

by Thomas Roddam

Some years ago, when the book Principles of Feedback Design was in preparation, I did not dream of discussing a topic which, I then thought, was way out of our world The airlines tell me the world is getting smaller, but if it is, there is still the simple fact that it gets more packed every day. Having started on non-linear systems, and found that the describing function is relatively easy to use, we must examine the sampled-data systems because we need this method for practical equipment. We need it, in fact, for power supplies.

Simple sampled-data systems we use in everyday life. You come home, look at the thermometer, or just guess, and having sampled the room temperature you either switch on a heater, or you don't. There are two sampling modes which follow. Either you take a data sample, am I hot or cold, at regular intervals in the natural breaks of the telly programme, or you operate with a relay dead-band characteristic: it's getting too hot in here, and off goes the heater. It's so tempting to continue with this example until it collapses in confusion. There is one feature which can be examined. Suppose that you have a very powerful heater, and that it is a very cold day. With regular sampling you may never be comfortable: it gets too hot before the next sample is due, if the heater is on; if it is off it gets too cold. This is the characteristic behaviour of a nonlinear loop with an intolerable instability.

The theoretical study of sampled data systems is complicated by a number of factors. The sampling may not be exactly regular in period: this is a very common situation. The sample may not be taken, as the simple theory demands, in an infinitely short time. I do not propose to be pernickety about this, because this is merely an introduction to the subject. Furthermore, I have some numbers in mind. A particular system contains, in the loop, an inductor which is nominally 50 mH at 8 A d.c. An inductor of this kind, of course, is really $50-70 \mathrm{mH}$ at best, and may be up to 200 mH at lower values of polarizing current. And then there is a big electrolytic capacitor. Details of the sampling data process are trivial compared with the large range of uncertainty of the response of the linear system. It does not make engineering sense to impose close tolerances on these components just to enable the theory to be made more precise.

In most of the literature it would seem
that the forward path and the feedback path are shown as combined. This is because so much of the theory has been carried out in terms of control systems. For regulated power supplies this means, quite simply, that we connect the monitoring voltmeter in a different place. The essential bit of a linear regulator can take the form shown in Fig. 1. There are refinements, but they do not affect what we are considering. Normally we regard the voltage across the output terminals as the object of study, but in fact it is the voltage at point $B$ which is the significant term so far as the regulator is concerned. The long-tail pair can be considered as a combiner and the complete unit rearranged into the form of Fig. 2. The actual output is then given by $V_{B} /$ (pot' ratio). It is just the same for an audio amplifier, although we may put frequency dependent terms into the divider path. Stability depends on $\mu \beta$, not on either $\mu$ or $\beta$ alone.

A sampled data system begins by looking at the error signal. This is done by the sampler. The output from the whole system will be a continuous one, and so the system must have a continuous instruction supplied to it. This is provided by a hold circuit, which stores the latest news of the error, provided by the sampler, until the next sample is taken. You plan your Sunday by the sea on the basis of Saturday night's weather forecast: you can even get it in stored form, in the evening paper. The overall system takes the form shown in Fig. 3. In this the box marked "operate" would be marked ( $\mu \beta$ ) if we left out the sample and hold processes, and we shouid study the term $(1-\mu \beta)$, the difference signal, the error signal.

The elegant way of studying the stability of a system characterized by a function $F(s)$, or $f(t)$, is to study the roots of the equation

$$
F(s)=0
$$

In a simple world, all we know is $f(t)$, the way the system behaves when we give it a momentary impulse, but we find that we are urged towards the use of the Laplace transform and then to the Cauchy theorem, so that we finish up with a result which is simply the Nyquist diagram. It is usually fairly easy to find $F(s)$ for a linear system in the world of electronics. If we can find a form of $F(s)$ for the sample and hold part


Fig. 1 Heart of a power supply regulator.


Fig. 2. Symbolic view of Fig. 1.


Fig. 3. Sampled data control system.
of Fig. 3 we shall be able to proceed absolutely along the established lines. One way of attacking this would be by the route of the describing function. The alternative is a bold frontal attack to determine the behaviour in time of the hold output when a standard signal is applied to the sampler. If the Laplace transform can be used on this process we have just two functions, $F_{1}(s)$ and $F_{2}(s)$, for the two parts of the circuit which are in tandem, and overall we have

$$
F(s)=F_{1}(s) \cdot F_{2}(s)
$$

As it turns out, the Laplace transform which is obtained for a sampling system is an infinite series. I suppose this could have been expected, because the sampling process is one which implies infinite currents to reset the holder in an infinitely short time. A modified transformation, which is called
the $Z$-iansformation and which is related to the Laplace transform, is used. It has a rather interesting effect on the stability rules.

We had better look at the process we want to put into mathematical terms. Fig. 4 shows how an input signal is first converted into a train of pulses and is then processed by the hold circuit, a circuit which is often called a box-car circuit. If we think of the conversion of 4 (a) into 4 (d) in terms of the describing function there are two points which are obviously fairly true. The first point is that


Fig. 4. Sample and hold process.
the describing function is not a function of amplitude, as it is with dead band or saturation non-linearities. The sample-hold operaation is a linear one, in this sense. The second point is that the sample-hold operation provides a delay of about one-half the sampling period. This delay does not depend on the input frequency so that it is not a phase angle. Thus far, then, the s.h.o. behaves very much like a transmission line for the purpose of its describing function. Things get rather odd, however, if the input frequency is increased to around one-half the sampling frequency. If the samples are taken at 0 deg and 180 deg the output will be zero: if they are taken at 90 deg and 270 deg the s.h.o. will show a small gain. The output will show characteristic slow beats. This can be interpreted by treating the whole thing as a modulator, with input frequencies of $f_{i}$ and $\left(f_{s}+2 f_{s}+3 f_{s} \ldots\right.$ ), the spectrum of the sampler. The term $2 f_{s}-f_{i}$ is very close to $f_{i}$ when $f_{s} \approx f_{i}$, and this is one way of looking at the beat source: another is to fix attention simply on $f_{s}-f_{i}$. From the first, however, we see that we are likely to get this sort of thing happening when $f_{i}=2 f_{s}$, and so on right up the spectrum.

Two consequences can be guessed. The first is that any attempt to find a simple describing function in the form $G(s)$ will need to deal with an infinity of odd spots. This is because our sampler is what we might call an infinity generating function. The second is that we may get trouble with those beats in a practical system. Hold circuifs do not normally hold for ever: if we think of a power supply filter as a hold circuit it will do its job nicely at 100 Hz , getting rid of ripple, but if there is an instability near the sampling frequency which produces an input, will the beat frequency get suppressed? The describing function technique is at its
safest if one is throwing away harmonics. Here there is a nasty danger of subharmonics, and in practical systems it is found that oscillations at a subharmonic of the sampling frequency are, indeed, produced.
The formal approach is, as we have said, by means of the $Z$-transform. This is developed in the following way. Suppose that the input to the sampler is a waveform $f(t)$. The output is a series of pulses, separated by time $T$. The $n$th pulse, at time $t=n T$, is quite simply $f(n T)$ and is fully expressed by

$$
f(n T) \delta(t-n T)
$$

Where $\delta(t)$ is the impulse function, a unit impulse at time $t=0$, or, for $\delta(t-n T)$, at time $(t-n T)=0$, or $t=n T$. As we know from our delving into the Laplace transform, the impulse function is $\mathscr{L}$-transformable. In fact we can write

$$
\mathscr{L} f(n T) \delta(t-n T)=f(n T) \exp (-n T s)
$$

This takes advantages of the fact that while we are looking at this pulse, $n T$ is a constant, and so $f(n T)$ is also a constant.
The whole pulse series which comes out of the sampler is the sum of all the individual pulses:

$$
\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f(n T) \exp (-n T s)
$$

Now we write $z=\exp (T s)$ and the pulse becomes:

$$
\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f(n T) z^{-n}
$$

We call this $F^{*}(z)$, the $Z$-transform of $f(t)$, and write

$$
F^{*}(z)=Z f(t)
$$

Just as when we are dealing with functions of the complex frequency, $s$, we take the ratio of input $I(s)$, and output $O(s)$, and call its inverse the transfer function

$$
\frac{O(s)}{I(s)}=G(s)
$$

so in sampled systems we can take $F_{\text {in }}^{*}(z)$ and $F_{\text {out }}^{*}(z)$ and write

$$
\frac{F_{o u t}^{*}(z)}{F_{i n}^{*}(z)}=G^{*}(z)
$$

the sampled transfer function. It is a special kind of system gain. Fortunately it is related to the ordinary meaning of gain. The mathematics is of a kind best studied in privacy by consenting adults, with long expressions all over the place. The final answer is elegant:

$$
G^{*}(z)=\mathscr{L}^{-1} G(s)
$$

Thus all you do is work out $G(s)$, with all those $(s+a)$ and $\left(s^{2}+a s+b\right)$ terms that come from $X, R$ and $L, C, R$ circuits, find the inverse Laplace transform, using tables if you are idle, and then find the $Z$-transform, for which you should have another set of tables.

Although it is not uncommon for the hold function to be provided by a network of capacitance and inductance there are practical as well as theoretical circuits in which the box-car hold system is used. It is a circuit element of a rather special kind. It has what we may call a frequency response, that is to
say a transfer characteristic expressed in terms of $s$, which is obtained by using the Laplace transform on the behaviour in the time domain. It is rather unusual, in circuit theory, to find ourselves working this way round. Again the mathematics is a mass of long expressions, but in the end we obtain a transfer function for the hold circuit, $G_{h}(s)$, given by

$$
G_{h}(s)=(1-\exp (-s T)) / s
$$

Remembering that $s$ is a generalization from $j \omega$, we see that we have a sort of $j \omega T$, and the exponential function gives us a power series of this, a harmonic series of the sampling frequency.

Although I do not expect that, from this article alone, readers will be in a position to design sampled data systems, it is nevertheless of some value to know the form which some basic functions take when they are $Z$ transformed. The obvious one to begin with is the unit step, the most basic function which can be meaningful. Although we took the unit impulse for our normal kind of circuit, sampling a unit impulse is an exercise in probability which I will not attempt, especially as we would be considering the chance of two infinitely short pulses coinciding. The $Z$-transform of the unit step, however, is quite easy. All the pulses are the same height, and

$$
f(n T) \text { is a string of } 1,1,1 \ldots
$$

## This makes

$$
\begin{aligned}
F^{*}(z) & =\sum_{0}^{\infty} z^{-n} \\
& =1+1 / z+1 / z^{2} \cdots \\
& =z /(z-1)
\end{aligned}
$$

It is more elaborate than the Laplace transform, which is simply $1 / \mathrm{s}$.
A key waveform is the one we get from a single root on the real axis, for which the $s$-function is $1 /(s-a)$. For this the inverse Laplace transformation gives us

$$
f(t)=\exp (a t)
$$

Each pulse in the train which comes out of the sampler is $\exp (a T)$ the size in the preceding one: $a$ is usually negative, of course. The $Z$-transformation gives us

$$
\begin{aligned}
Z \exp (a t) \cdot u(t) & =\Sigma z^{-n} \exp (a n T) \\
& =\Sigma\left(z^{-1} \exp a T\right)^{n} \\
& =\frac{z}{z-\exp (a T)}
\end{aligned}
$$

Once all the analysis has been gone through, we have the overall sampled transfer function. In the familiar case of a linear system we, if we are using the Laplace approach, find $\overline{\mu \beta}(s)$, and then substitute $j \omega=s$. Most of us go by a different route, to get $\mu \beta$ as a function of $\omega$ without using $s$ at all. When we have this expression for $\mu \beta$ we plot it out as $\omega$ goes from 0 to $\infty$. We should in theory plot it from $\omega=-\infty$ to $\omega=\infty$, but we only need to do this in some very tricky systems. Where is the critical point ( 1,0 ), or if you don't slip the $180^{\circ}$, $(-1,0)$ ? This is the Nyquist test for stability. In a previous article we saw that this trick of standing at the critical point and saying "are we surrounded" is the equivalent of searching the whole half-plane for roots by


Fig. 5. Phase plane diagram.
going round it on a contour. We can be Indians or Wagon Train.

In a sampled data system we have

$$
z=\exp s T
$$

Let us put $s=j \omega$, so that

$$
z=\exp (j \omega T)
$$

But $\exp j \omega T=\cos \omega T+j \sin \omega T$
and as we vary $\omega$ this means that $z$ goes round and round on a circle of unit radius. Instead of varying $\omega$ from 0 to $\infty$ we need only go once round this circle. From then on, use Nyquist.

The underlying mathematics would seem to have evolved from the use of the Fourier and Laplace methods. Whenever one has a simple, powerful, mathematical technique one finds that there are mathematicians nibbling away at the foundations. Whenever the engineer says of a solution- that bit does not make sense, let's leave it out-the mathematician goes away to find a technique which will leave it out automatically. In the describing function method we leave out the harmonics, and sometimes land in trouble. The mathematics of the $Z$-transform comes from a study of where the Laplace transform goes wrong. There is less chance of applying the more rigorous theory which lies behind the Z-transform to functions which will have some odd feature which makes the procedure give the wrong answer. The difficulty, as always, is that the more general the rules, the harder it is to live with them: read the regulations at the park gate before you take the dog for a walk and you will see just what I mean.

Even if I had devoted ten times as much space to a very detailed explanation of how to use this classic sampled-data approach it would not have been a help in the real world. Practical sampled-data systems do not work with infinitely short sampling pulses, and the sampling pulses may not be evenly spaced.

One form of practical sampled-data system which is of both theoretical and practical interest is obtained when the sampling switch is closed for a finite time. This means that the sampler output is a normal pulse amplitude modulated signal, with pulses
which can pass reasonably well through at least a part of the linear system. The type of hold circuit is then probably not the zero order hold which produces the boxcar effect, but a first or second order integrator. One important feature of this is that the theory must fit at the ends. When the pulse becomes very short the situation is the one we have just discussed, for which the Z-transform or other short-pulse techniques must give the same answer. If the pulse length is $T$, the sampler switch is closed all the time, and the answer must be the usual linear, $\mu \beta$, answer.

The sampler may produce pulse length modulation. I simply will not start on this. Except, there is one form of pulse length modulation which we must consider. Suppose that the sampler switch closes at a moment determined by the sign of the error signal, and is opened at regularly occurring times. This produces pulse length modulation with a modulated leading edge. Suppose also that the pulses are an odd shape. Who would want to build such a circuit? This is, in fact, just what one gets with thyristor regulation in phase-control and is not too different from some switching regulators.

Other switching regulators behave even more awkwardly. Both pulse frequency and pulse length vary over the controlled range. These, in fact, are probably best dealt with by using the describing function, treating them as relay circuits with hysteresis. But if you feed in some jitter signal deliberately they look like sampled data systems.

I want to look at some practical systems next month: there is not enough space here. There is, however, one other theoretical approach which I think deserves just about the space I have left if I am to stick to my standard length. The mechanical people call this the velocity-phase diagram technique, which does not mean much to us. It is chiefly used for rather simple systems, which are, in fact, just the sort of systems we want to use it for. That sentence expresses my meaning precisely: up with changes I will not put.

A typical circuit equation is

$$
L \frac{d I}{d t}+R I+\frac{1}{C} Q=E
$$

It is not necessary that $L, C, R$ or $E$ should be constant. We can always write :

$$
\frac{d I}{d t}=\frac{E-R I-(1 / C) Q}{L}
$$

If $I=d Q / d t$ we have
and thus

$$
\left.\frac{d I}{d Q}=\frac{d I}{d t} \right\rvert\, \frac{d Q}{d t}
$$

$$
a Q Q_{2}-\quad L T
$$

This expression contains no mention of time, not even in the disguise of frequency, unless time is hidden in one of the parameters. The most likely place to find time is in $E$, but even the $t=0$ idea of the unit step can be eliminated in the plot which is adopted. Actually I never know what charge is: we used to catch it on little drops of oil. Volts I know, I've got a meter for finding them. And

$$
\begin{aligned}
Q & =C V, \text { so } \\
\frac{d I}{d V} & =\frac{E-R I-V}{(L / C) I}
\end{aligned}
$$

The validity of one or two steps needs checking in each particular problem by running through this process writing not just $C$ or $L$ or $R$ or $E$, but $L_{0} f(I)$ for an inductance which saturates, for example. The essential feature of this technique is that it is basically a practical one, working from the problem to the solution. The methods we normally adopt, like the Nyquist diagram, really start with the answer and we just test the problem against it.
The technique now is this. We choose our starting condition, when all the terms on the right-hand side are known. Let us begin by using the specific example we have, although this is not the only circuit we can handle in this way. To make life very easy, let us take $E=0, R=1,(L / C)=1$ and initial conditions $V=1, I=1$. We plot this point at $P$ in a voltage-current diagram (Fig. 5).

Now at $P$

$$
\frac{d I}{d V}=\frac{-R I-V}{(L / C) I}=\frac{-I-V}{I}=-2
$$

We draw in an arrow to describe this slope. Let us go along this line to $V=0.8$, $I=1.4$, and call this $P_{1}$. Here

$$
\frac{d I}{d V}=\frac{-1.4-0.8}{1.4}=-1.57
$$

A new arrow is drawn to show the path from $P_{1}$. Using the approximation

$$
\frac{d I}{d V}=-1 \cdot 5
$$

the next point is $V=0 \cdot 6, I=1 \cdot 7, P_{2}$.

$$
\text { Here } \frac{d I}{d V}=\frac{-1.7-0.6}{1.7}=1.35
$$

There is no reason why we should not go on like this, building up a trajectory which shows how the circuit behaves. Except this: where does the arrow head come from? We must let time into the system just a little way. The time to go from $P$ to $P_{1}$ is

$$
t_{P P_{1}}=\int_{P}^{P_{1}} d t=\int_{P}^{P_{1}} \frac{d V}{d V / d t}=\int_{P}^{P_{1}} \frac{d V}{I}
$$

and as in this short stretch $I \approx 1$ and $d V=$ $-0 \cdot 2$, the time in the movement from $P$ to $P_{1}$ is negative. We should head off in the other direction, instead of looking back into history. So we build up $P^{\prime}, P^{\prime \prime}, P^{\prime \prime \prime}$ and in the end we get the spiral path sketched in Fig. 6, which must, of course, decay to the


Fig. 6. The final picture.
origin, as we have no supply $E$ to provide any final voltage. In this particular circuit a fixed voltage input would have given a spiral centred, if that is the word, on the point ( $E, 0$ ). This is obviously a stable system : in the long run it settles down. It is not a very exciting sysuem, although it is easy to watch the spiral on an oscilloscope. If the brightness can be modulated it is possible to put time markers on as well.
In a non-linear system we can get up to all sorts of tricks. For simple folk like me a rather coarse stage by stage calculation is carried out. The example I am using now has been chosen so that it does not overlap the material I have in mind for the next article. Let us stick to our $L C R$ circuit, but let us take some special cases. If we take $R=0$ we have

$$
\begin{aligned}
\frac{d I}{d V} & =-\frac{V}{I} \\
I d I+V d V & =0 \\
I^{2}+V^{2} & =\text { const. }
\end{aligned}
$$

This is the equation of a circle and I really do not think we need a figure. If we make $R$ rather small we know that the oscillations die away very slowly. For convenience the system will be started off at the point $I=I_{0}$, $V=0$, and we shall get a spiral path which lies inside the circle. The first half-cycle is shown in Fig. 7 as the path from $I_{0}$ to $-I_{1}$.


Fig. 7. Formation of a spiral.

Suppose that when $V$ is negative the circuit is changed, to make $R$ negative. The behaviour is then an expanding spiral, which I have drawn as $-I_{1}$ to $I_{2}$. We are now back nearly where we statted, and we can repeat the whole process. As the figure is drawn $I_{2}$ is bigger than $I_{0}$, and so the spiral will get bigger and bigger. This, then, is a truly unstable situation.

In circuit terms this corresponds to an ideal class-B oscillator which drives for exactly half a cycle and decays for the other half. In terms of the $s$-plane the pole spends equal amounts of time on each side of the imaginary axis, but goes rather further into the right-hand half than it does into the lefthand half. The oscillator designer would disagree with the description "ideal". He wants the amplitude to stay constant. One way of doing this is to adjust the values of $R+$ and $R-$ very precisely, so that what we lose on the swings we make on the roundabouts. This is the function of a thermistor in such a circuit. There are two other ways, which are more in our line: the thermistor


Fig. 8. Stabilization of oscillation by clipping at $I_{0}$.
is a linear operator, after all. We can use a limiter of some kind. It is a matter of taste how the limiting is done. A diode can be used to clip the voltage used in this analysis: a diode can also be used to clip the current. Examination of particular circuits will show how a non-linearity is added to each. Without giving any particular preference to any method, the sort of behaviour we get is shown in Fig. 8. This would be analysed in three pieces, $A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow C$ and $C \rightarrow A$.

An alternative technique is to change the point at which $R$ is switched from negative to positive. This is indicated in Fig. 9. From $A$ round to $B$ the damping is positive, and from $B$ to $A$ the spiral is a growing one. The change now takes place at $-V_{0}$ and if this is chosen correctly the system remains in an equilibrium oscillation. It is, of course, a class-C oscillator and will be designed, with a d.c. loop study, to make $-V_{0}$ self-adjusting. If the d.c. loop is not correctly designed the system has a different instability and is either a blocking oscillator or a squegger.

Circuits of this kind often have a deadband characteristic. When this is so, the initial conditions become of great interest. There are two circles on the diagram of Fig. 10. If the circuit is set off at the point $\left(I_{1}, 0\right)$, inside the circle $C_{1}$ the dead, or partly-dead, band means that the gain, in the describing function sense, is not enough to keep the circuit oscillating, and it just dies slowly. If the circuit is set off at $\left(I_{2}, 0\right)$ it will begin to oscillate, and we have at first no restraint on the oscillation so that the spiral is a diverging one, until the circle $C_{2}$ is reached, when the oscillation settles down. For the initial condition $\left(I_{3}, 0\right)$ the limiting mechanism is rather over-working, bringing the


Fig. 9. Stabilization by change of transition
trajectory in towards $C_{2}$, the steady state oscillation.

For systems of reasonable simplicity these plots can be constructed on a point by point basis. They are also easy to produce by analogue modelling and to observe with an oscilloscope. Timing marks can be put along the trajectory, even when it is being constructed in this step-wise way. It is thus perfectly practicable to apply this method to a sampled-data system. The case against the method is one with which I have a good deal of sympathy. You are doing all this work on just this problem : you will have to do it all over again for the next problem. How nice to have general solutions. I am not satisfied, however, that the second, third, tenth problems of the same kind will involve the same amount of work. One great


Fig. 10. Three initial conditions.
point in favour of this approach is that it keeps currents and voltdges in your mind. They cannot slip off to iniitiity for an instant, leaving you with a sound analysis and a pile of dead transistors.

Non-linear circuit anal sis, and especially that part of it connected with feedback systems, seems to be in a ratiler awkward phase of its existence. There exists a very large amount of theoretical work in the form of original papers, some of great subtlety. The textbooks, when they are up to date, deal with the more elegant refinements of linear theory before they come to non-linearity. Not only does this discourage the student, who, if he is studying in his own time, collapses before he reaches the nonlinear material: the academic knows that non-linear systems are either trivial or too complicated to be subjects for an examination question. Meanwhile, we all need to build them. So let us stop thinking about Aspects of Non-linear Control Theory and start remembering, You, too, will go round the bend.

# Low Distortion Tone-control Circuit 

# Bipolar transistors used in a Baxandall configuration 

by P. M. Quilter*

Now that very high quality transistor power amplifiers are definitely with us, attention must be refocused on the preamplifier. The main source of distortion in the pre-amplifier is often the tone control circuitry as the power amplifier may require IV r.m.s. or more to drive it fully, and it usually takes this directly from the output of the tone-control circuit.

The standard one-transistor circuit, as used by A. R. Bailey ${ }^{1}$, gives a total harmonic distortion figure in the region $0.1 \%$ to $0.2 \%$. The circuit, adopted by J. L. Linsley Hood ${ }^{2}$ is an improvement but necessitates the use of an f.e.t. which is not yet as cheap as a bipolar transistor and, because of its high drain load, requires an output buffer. Ideally a distortion figure in the region of $0.01 \%$ at 1 V output is desirable.

To achieve this using bipolar devices requires that either the inherent openloop distortion in the amplifier be reduced, or the open-loop gain increased to give a higher feedback factor for the same closed-loop gain.

The distortion in a transistor with a very high ratio of collector-slope resistance to collector-load is very nearly a function of output current alone. Therefore if the collector load can be raised the output current required to produce a given voltage will be reduced with a consequent reduction in distortion (and an increase in open-loop gain). Unfortunately, the high value of collector load would ordinarily make a high value of supply voltage necessary, and might also make loading effects of the feedback network significant. These difficulties can be overcome simply with an emitter follower performing two functionsproviding an output buffer for the high collector load, and giving a bootstrap voltage to raise the effective value of collector load.

The function of bootstrapping is to reduce the actual voltage swing across the collector load resistor for a $\varepsilon$ iven collector current required to produce this change, and hence raise the effective resistance of the collector load. This can be achieved by driving the top end of the collector resistor in step with the collector

[^12]

Fig. 1. The complete tone-control circuit built round two n-p-n silicon transistors.


Fig. 2. Total harmonic distortion as measured at $2 V$ output. (a) is the measured t.h.d. of the signal generator, (b) the distortion curve with the tone control flat, and (c) the distortion curve with maximum bass and treble boost.
voltage. The final arrangement is shown in Fig. 1.

The circuit as tested omitted $R_{3}$ giving $R_{4}$ equal to $560 \Omega$ with the values of $R_{1}$ and $R_{2}$ shown. The gain was $2.2: 1$ at centre frequency with a subsequent loss of about 1.2:1 with the balance control fitted as shown. The distortion figures for a constant output of 2 V r.m.s. are shown plotted against frequency (Fig. 2). The distortion curves for the test oscillator
used and the distortion measured at the output of the amplifier are substantially the same up to 2 kHz but, with the treble control set for maximum boost, there is a slight rise at high frequencies. This may have been due to emphasis of the harmonics produced by the test oscillator itself because of the rising characteristic of the amplifier at high frequencies.
The output clips at 6 V r.m.s. and with the controls set to the "flat" position, the
total harmonic distortion from 40 Hz to 20 kHz was measured to be $0.01 \%$ or less at 5 V r.m.s. output.

The signal-to-noise ratio measured with reference to 1 V r.m.s. output over a 20 kHz bandwidth was 104 dB and the rise time to a step input, $0.1 \mu \mathrm{~s}$.

The circuit may be modified to suit personal taste as required. The relevant equations are as follows:

$$
\begin{align*}
& \text { gain }=\frac{R_{1}+R_{2}}{R_{2}}  \tag{1}\\
& R_{1}+R_{2} \approx 2 \mathrm{k} \Omega  \tag{2}\\
& R_{3}=R_{4}-\frac{R_{1} R_{2}}{R_{1}+R_{2}} \tag{3}
\end{align*}
$$

Some increase in distortion may result if the gain of the circuit increases beyond 5 or 6 although this may be acceptable especially if the required output voltage is fairly low, as the distortion is a function of output voltage.

Balancing equation (3) is important in order to ensure the controls will be set at their electrical centre when the frequency response is flat. In fact a perfect square wave response cannot be achieved for any setting of the controls unless this equation is balanced.

It should also be noted that the output impedance of the stage driving the circuit is part of $R_{4}$ because $R_{4}$ is the total source resistance. If this is not taken into account equation (3) will be invalid.

If $R_{4}$ is greater than about $500 \Omega 2$ the two $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ resistors $R_{5}, R_{6}$ can be omitted. They are included only to limit the ultrasonic gain to prevent instability. It is not advisable to increase $R_{4}$ above $2 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ as the treble control range within the audio range will then be restricted.

The transistor type BC184L was used for this circuit in preference to the more common BC 109 because, from experience, the latter type had a tendency to oscillate parasitically due to its collector connected metal can.

In conclusion, this circuit has the advantages of a high output voltage with very low output impedance, negligible distortion and good signal-to-noise ratio.

## REFERENCES

1. A. R. Bailey, "High-Performance Transistor Amplifier", Wireless World, December 1966. 2. J. L. Linsley Hood, "Modular Pre-amplifier Design", Wireless World, July 1969.

## Progress in

 Air Traffic ControlThe first stage of the national air traffic control scheme-code name Mediatorhas been introduced at the National Air Traffic Control Service centre at West Drayton, Middlesex. Civil and military radar units operating until recently at Heathrow and serving South-east England have now been closed. With 2,500 movements per day at peak times, increasing at about $10 \%$ per year, the new system is needed to increase capacity as well as safety. Work on Mediator was initiated by N.A.T.C.S. in 1962 when it was set up to organize a comprehensive air traffic control system for both civil and military use.

Mediator recognizes radar as the controlling agent whereas in the past radar has been a back-up to 'procedural' control. With it, a whole new range of radar, communications, and automatic data processing equipment is being brought into operation with its associated engineering control, maintenance, power station, and new traffic control techniques. Thinking behind the scheme is similar to that proposed in the early 1960 s-see 'Electronics for Mediator' Wireless World vol.71, September 1965, pages 426-9-but there have been changes since then, partly as a result of difficulties with equipment.

Difficulties with the computer for flight plan processing have meant postponement of the full implementation of stage 1 but in the words of Michael Noble, Minister for Trade '. . . This was not a reason for delaying other improvements . . . not dependent on this particular development.' Improvements include completely new consoles-illustrated on page 181-with bright radar displays and a secondary radar facility, providing controllers with aircraft identification codes superposed on the primary radar display.

The secondary system, of course, works only with those aircraft installed with transponders, at present in the minority. They either have a 64-bit coded transponder-which enables a two-digit route code to be shown on the radar display-or 4096-bit coded transponder which allows aircraft to be identified with two additional decimal digits. Further, some aircraft are fitted with altimeter telemetry equipment, allowing flight level to be shown as well.

Facilities which make up stage 1 of Mediator fall into four main parts-radar outstations, communications links, processing and distribution, and display. The most interesting parts of the system are to do with processing and display, but of course the outstations and communications links are vital and much effort has been devoted to their reliability. Of the long-range primary radar stations at Ash, Ventnor, Lowther and St Annes using $50-\mathrm{cm}$ radars-chosen in preference to the alternative $10-\mathrm{cm}$ radar which would give more precisely defined blips but is susceptible to rain effects-three have dual
aerial heads.
All the secondary radars, co-sited with the primary radars, have dual heads. The main heads have duplicated electronics to give a high degree of reliability and to facilitate maintenance without interruption to the service. . . .

Bright radar displays use a scan conversion technique in which primary video data is written into the storage surface of a conversion tube. This is read with a 1024-line scan many times a second reinforcing the $55-\mathrm{cm}$ display and thus achieving television-screen brightness level. This system differs from other scan conversion systems in the way the secondary radar information is added to the primary. Use of two electron guns-with consequent registration prob-lems-is avoided by sharing gun writing time between the two data. When secondary radar information is available, the normal 'square' scan (equal forward and 'flyback' trace time) for primary information is interrupted and the aircraft designation written on the 256 -bit line using digital character generation.

With this system it had been possible to superpose primary and secondary displays to an accuracy of $\pm 1.5 \mathrm{~mm}$.

There is also a third kind of information on the display tube-a locally generaied map together with range rings and other static information.

One problem found with this technique of digitally writing the secondary radar information relates to the equal forward and reverse scans. If a display's digit is not accurately matched in position on the forward and reverse scans a jagged sawtooth effect can be produced-an effect which did in fact occur. Attempts to right this by adjusting electrical lengths of cables between scan conversion unit display were unsuccessful and passive delay networks had to be introduced. This needed extra gain from the video amplifiers to maintain display brightness and consequently these are being replaced.

Flight plan processing for controlled airspace is now done with a 32,000 -word store using a Ferranti Hermes computer. The system stores flight plans-aircraft identification and certain other informa-tion-wind speed and direction, airways structure, link routes, reporting points, and runways in use at Heathrow, verifies the flight plans, calculates an e.t.a. for each reporting point en-route, and prints-out flight, progress strips.

For middle airspace a Marconi Myriad computer system will be brought into use by March 1972 at which time R.A.F. $m$ ddle airspace controllers move to the new centre. This triplicated real-time system was originally planned to be operational by now but software problems led to its postponement. Although only one of the three computers is connected on-line at any time, the others contribute thoough a kind of self-checking voting

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# EEV know how to makt 



1



## radartubes.



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# Power Amplifier for A.C. Servomotors 

# A simple general-purpose $10-W$ design that will drive size-11, -15 or -18 servomotors 

by R. J. Wallace*, m.I.E.R.E. and J. M. Clarke*, M.Sc.

An amplifier was required for use in the closed loop carrier servo system shown in Fig. 1 to drive the servomotor. The standard operational amplifier would obviously not supply the required amount of power and an investigation of commercially available amplifiers failed to reveal one that could be used in this system.
Amplifiers were found that would drive 20 V centre-tapped servomotor windings. However, these were not a lot of use as 20 V is not standard for servomotor tacho and reference windings. The reason for this is that suppliers of servo components are closely allied to the aircraft industry, where there is no need for an amplifier to drive the reference and tacho windings, since they are usually driven from the internal 400 Hz aircraft supply. However, in an industrial electronic system, it is not always convenient or desirable to use the 50 Hz line supply for excitation purposes and for the reasons of standardization one amplifier should be capable of driving any winding. The example given is a case in point. Here the inherent property of the a.c. servomotor to remove quadrature signal components is utilized by deriving the reference signal from optical sources. The excitation frequency in such a system can be anywhere in the region of 50 Hz to 1 kHz . *Sira Insitutuc

An alternative source of power amplifiers and power amplifier designs is the audio field. But here, in order to obtain very low distortion figures, these designs are unjustifiably complicated for industrial application.
In short, there is a need for a simple amplifier, capable of driving any winding of a suitable servomotor which might also be suitable for any application which requires a general purpose a.c. power amplifier.

## Design

It was decided, as discussed, that the amplifier should be able to drive any winding of the servomotor, that all windings should operate at the same voltage and that the amplifier should have no need of the centre tap often available on the control winding.

With regard to power output, one amplifier for reference and tacho windings and one amplifier for the control winding was considered acceptable. The most often used motor is size-11 which dictates that the amplifier should have a power output of 10 W . Incidentally, this is also sufficient to drive single windings on a size-15 or - 18 motor.

Since the frequency at which a servomotor may be required to operate can de-


Fig. 1. A closed loop carrie system where an a.c. servomotor is sed. Here two optical signals, which are varying at the same time at 440 Hz , are combined to derive a reference signal. In addition one signal is used as the error signal.

These signals are so close to the 400 Hz commonly used for a.c. servomotors, they can be directly used to excite a servomotor via suitable amplifiers.
However to find a source of supply of such amplifiers is a problem.


Fig. 2. Basic circuit of the class B output stage employed. Several other possibilities were considered and rejected.
pend on the system as well as the nominal operating frequency of the motor, the frequency response at the amplifier was made as wide as possible, consistent with stability into complex loads, and the final design will drive either $50-, 60$-, or $400-\mathrm{Hz}$ motors, and any complex load up to 20 kHz .

The most generally available servomotors have either 26 - or $115-\mathrm{V}$ windings. The 26 - V version was chosen as this allows a transformerless output stage to be employed. Because the amplifier may be used in systems where the preservation of phase information is important, clipping of the output waveform was arranged to be symmetrical. In addition, no damage will result from reasonable overloads.

Commercial amplifiers often incorporate a $90^{\circ}$ phase shift circuit but, since the required phase shift often depends on system phase relationships, such a circuit was not included.

The fact that a.c. servos can tolerate a small amount of distortion suggests the use of a class B, rather than class A, output stage. The higher efficiency of class B means lower heat dissipation and smaller size.

After considering a number of possibilities the simple output stage of Fig. 2 was chosen because of its simplicity, because feedback is easily applied and because the loop gain is low enough to make instability due to complex loads unlikely.

## Circuit details

The circuit of the amplifier is shown in Fig. 3. Each output transistor is driven by a common emitter stage and coupling capaci-
tors are avoided by the use of complementary circuitry. Overall feedback is by $R_{7}, R_{8}$ and $R_{9}, R_{10}$, with a separate path for each 'half' of the amplifier to assist in stabilizing the bias currents.

The high frequency response is restricted to 23 kHz by $C_{1}$ and $C_{2}$. The bandwidth can be increased to about 400 kHz by removing $C_{1}$ and $C_{2}$ if due care is taken with the component layout. Diodes $D_{1 \text { to }}$ are for bias current temperature compensation, the final value of the output stage bias being set by $R V_{1}$ and $R V_{2}$. All the transistors and diodes are mounted on a common heat-sink which should have a thermal resistance of less than $2.5^{\circ} \mathrm{C} / \mathrm{W}$.

Fuses $F_{1}$ and $F_{2}$ provide protection against damage when the amplifier is used into a load below the permitted minimum, or short circuits of small duration. They do not give full protection and the provision of additional safeguards was not considered to be worth while. The clipping action protects the amplifier when it is overdriven.

## Performance

Three amplifiers were built and subjected to the tests detailed below. The amplifier load resistance was $68 \Omega$ and the signal frequency was 400 Hz .

Voltage gain versus ambient temperature: The gain of the three amplifiers was measured for 10 V r.m.s. output. The results were as follows.

|  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Amplifier | Gain |  |
|  | $20^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | $70^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ |
| 1 | 5.72 | 5.85 |
| 2 | 5.72 | 5.9 |
| 3 | 5.72 | 5.84 |



Fig. 3. Final circuit. With the input shorted to ground $R V_{1}$ and $R V_{2}$ should be adjusted for $1 m A$ quiescent current through $\operatorname{Tr}_{3}$ and $T r_{4}$.


Fig. 4. The completed prototype.

Clipping levels: The r.m.s. output voltages at the clipping points of the three amplifiers were measured and are set out below. These voltages are marginally higher than might be expected because of the small amount of distortion.

| Amplifier | Clipping voltage <br> (r.m.s.) |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $20^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | $70^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ |
| 1 | 28.9 | 29.2 |
| 2 | 28.7 | 29.3 |
| 3 | 28.8 | 29.2 |

Frequency response: The high frequency response has been limited as described earlier and is 3 dB down at 23 kHz . As the amplifier is d.c. coupled, the minimum frequency for full output is determined by the maximum period over which it is permitted to average the instantaneous dissipation. While 40 Hz has been specified as the minimum, a margin of safety has been allowed for constructional and device parameter variations. One amplifier, has in fact operated satisfactorily down to 30 Hz .
Input impedance: The input impedance is slightly dependent on level, the lowest value being $3.5 \mathrm{k} \Omega$.
Quiescent current stability: Since the diode and transistor $V_{b e}$ characteristics are not matched perfectly, some change in bias current is observed with change in temperature. The figures were as follows:

| Amplifier | Bias current in mA |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $20^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ |  | $70^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ |  |
|  | $\operatorname{Tr}_{3}$ | $\mathrm{Tr}_{4}$ | $\operatorname{Tr}_{3}$ | $\mathrm{Tr}_{4}$ |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 26 | 25 |
| 2 | 1 | 1 | 28 | 28 |
| 3 | 1 | 1 | 27 | 26.2 |

The change of bias current with temperature is determined by the type of compensating diodes and the current through them. Since it is not practically possible to achieve a constant bias current with respect to temperature, á positive temperature coefficient is accepted so that increase of temperature will not lead to distortion because of insufficient bias current. Typically the bias current falls to 0.1 mA at $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ but the major change, to approximately 27 mA at $70^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, occurs between
$50^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and $70^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The figure of 27 mA represents only about $5 \%$ of the peak current at full output.
D.C. current in the load: The amplifier is completely d.c. coupled and any d.c. appearing at the input, perhaps, due to offset errors in a preceding operational amplifier, for example, causes a d.c. current to flow in the servomotor. In the worst case approximately 60 mA at the input causes 5 mA to flow in a $68 \Omega$ resistive load.

Since completion of this amplifier (Fig. 4) integrated circuit audio power amplifiers have become available in the U.K. with power outputs up to 5 W . Perhaps one of the integrated circuit manufacturers would think it worth while to market a servomotoramplifier with a similar performance to that described by the authors.

## Announcements

Duty free. All approved v.h.f. multi-channel radio communication and navigation equipment used in light aircraft is now exempt from U.K. import duty.

The entire share capital of General Video Systems Ltd, the main U.K. distributor of Shibaden broadcast and c.c.t.v. equipment, has been purchased by Shibaden. The name of the company has been changed to Shibaden (U.K.) Ltd, which will continue to trade from 61/63 Watford Way, Hendon, London NW4 3AX. Tel: 01-202 8056.

Nortronics Company Inc, of Golden Valley, Minnesota, manufacturers of magnetic recording heads, have formed Nortronics, S.A. in Brussels to market their products in Europe. A manufacturing facility will be formed at a later date.

The Avionics Division of Plessey Electronics Group are to supply IFF shipborne transponders and auto-decoders valued in excess of $£ \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{M}$ to the Royal Navy.

The Canadian Dipartment of Transport has awarded a $£ 118,000$ coniract to Decca Radar (Canada Ltd, for a harbour $\mathrm{r} \boldsymbol{e}$ har system to cover the Chedabucto Bay area, Nova cotia.

The Scottish Northern Lighthouse Board bas purchased four radio beacons and ancillary equipment, valued at $£ 25,960$, from AGA (U.K.) Ltd.

# High-gain Audio Voltage Amplifier 

by D. Leblebici*

One of the commonly used feedback amplifier circuits is the 'feedback pair', where feedback is applied from the collector of the second transistor to the emitter of the first transistor (Fig. 1(a), ref. 1).

The feedback circuit described here is a modified form of the conventional feedback pair (Fig. 1b). Feedback is the series voltage type applied from the emitter of ${T r_{3}}$ to the emitter of $T r_{1}$. The circuit has some advantages as compared to the conventional feedback pair:

- The output as well as the input terminals of the circuit are outside the feedback loop and consequently the amount of feedback is independent of the source and load impedances.
The input and output signals are in phase opposition and as a consequence it is possible to apply a second feedbar. $k$ loop (parallel voltage feedback) from the collector of $T r_{3}$ to the base of $T r_{1}$.
*Elektrik Fakültesi, Teknik Üniversite, Istaribul.
${ }^{1}$ National Bureau of Standards, preferied circuit no. 201.



Fig. 1. Comr form of feedback pair (a), and modifie the modifie independen
$\eta(b)$. One advantage of is that feedback is id impedance.

The feedback voltage is taken from the emitter of $T r_{3}$. The negative feedback acts to decrease the distortion of the voltage wave at that point. The relation between the output voltage $V_{2}$ of the amplifier and the voltage $V_{2}^{\prime}$ fed back can be written as

$$
\frac{V_{2}}{V_{2}^{\prime}} \approx \frac{R_{5} I_{e 3}}{R_{4}} \frac{I_{e 3}}{}
$$

provided that $R \gg R_{4}$. For a high-gain transistor $I_{c 3} / I_{e 3}$ is very close to unity. Hence

$$
\frac{V_{2}}{V_{2}^{\prime}} \approx \frac{R_{5}}{R_{4}}
$$

This shows there is an additional and practically linear (low distortion) voltage gain of magnitude $R_{5} / R_{4}$ from the emitter to the collector $\mathrm{Tr}_{3}$.
As the voltage gain from the collector of $\mathrm{Tr}_{2}$ to the emitter of $\mathrm{Tr}_{3}$ is approximately equal to unity, the voltage gain from the input terminal to the emitter of ${T r_{3}}^{\text {must be }}$ equal to the gain of a conventional feedback pair using the same transistors $T r_{1}$ and $T r_{2}$ and the same circuit components $R_{1}, R_{2}$, $R_{3}$ and $R_{F}$. As this gain is approximately equal to ( $R_{F}+R_{1}$ )/ $R_{1}$ (ref. 2), the total voltage gain becomes

$$
A_{v}=\frac{V_{2}}{V_{1}} \approx \frac{R_{F}+R_{1}}{R_{1}} \cdot \frac{R_{5}}{R_{4}}
$$

The only drawback of the circuit is its relatively high output resistance, which is approximately equal to $R_{5}$.

## Experimental circuit

The experimental circuit diagram is shown in Fig. 2. The stages are directly coupled. To stabilize the quiescent points a d.c. feedback across the first two transistors is used. A collector current of about $200 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ is chosen for $T_{1}$ this being the optimum collector current of transistor BC109 for minimum noise. The transistor operating points and component values have been calculated for a sufficiently high open-loop gain and as high a dynamic range as possible.

The calculated open loop gain $V_{2}^{\prime} / V_{1}^{\prime}$ is 11600 , a value that is sufficiently high. The additional gain provided by $\operatorname{Tr}_{3}$ is about 10 .

[^13]

Fig. 2. Practical circuit of preamplifier with voltage gain of 100 for $R_{F}=5.6 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ or 1000 for $R_{F}=78 \mathrm{k} \Omega$. Total harmonic distortion is $0.02 \%$ and $0.04 \%$ respectively.

The measured overall voltage gain for $R_{F}=5.6 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ was $A_{v}=100$ (calculated value: $A_{v}=92$ ) and the available maximum output swing was $18 \mathrm{~V} \mathrm{pk}-\mathrm{pk}$ $(6.4 \mathrm{~V}$ r.m.s.). For an output voltage of 5 V r.m.s. the total measured harmonic distortion was $0.02 \%$. For $R_{F}=78 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ the measured $A_{v}$ was 1000 (calculated value: $A_{v}=1150$ ). The maximum output voltage was again $18 \mathrm{~V} \mathrm{pk}-\mathrm{pk}$ and the total harmonic distortion was $0.04 \% \quad\left(V_{2}=5 \mathrm{~V}\right.$ r.m.s.). The measured lower and upper cutoff frequencies for both cases were 17 Hz and 200 kHz .

Consequently, the circuit is very convenient as a high-gain audio preamplifier. The possibility of applying a second, independent, parallel voltage feedback loop makes it possible to use the circuit as a low output impedance, moderate gain and high dynamic range booster amplifier. With frequency dependent feedback, it is also possible to use the circuit as a low distortion equalizer amplifier.

## ircuit Ideas

system enabling the system to meet a reliability specification which allows only one failure lasting 30 seconds or less in five years.

## Reducing noise in volume controls

Noisy volume controls have been a problem since the early days of radio and although solutions do exist they are generally expensive and/or inconvenient. In transistorized equipment the problem is often worse, or much worse. If there is a steady voltage between the ends of the track of the control as well as the signal voltage, when the control is varied a varying proportion of both voltages will be present at the slider and if the circuit connected to the slider can conduct d.c. then a varying current will flow between the track and slider. Because of contact irregularities noise will be generated. It is usual to include capacitors in the input and output of volume controls to eliminate such d.c. noise. Even when they are included, however, current will flow as they become charged or discharged at switch on or off of the equipment. For a given type, the higher the capacitance the higher the leakage, and in

high-quality equipment high value capacitors must be used for good low-frequency performance. Silicon n channel f.e.ts are now available at a price comparable with that of volume controls. The inclusion of a source follower, between the slider of a volume control and the following circuit will usually make the control much less noisy. The circuit shown is one used by the writer. The original circuit was broken at A B and the source follower inserted. In some circuits it may be necessary to reverse the electrolytic to
maintain correct polarity. In equipment using a positive h.t. line the whole source follower circuit should be inverted. The input impedance of the source follower is very high and as the input capacitor need be only $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ for very adequate lowfrequency response, a paper capacitor with virtually no leakage can be used.
C. H. BANTHORPE,

Northwood,
Middx.

## Single i.c. trip unit

D.T.L. nand gates may be connected so that they function as a trigger circuit from an analogue voltage. When a d.t.l. 6996259 integrated circuit -which contains three triple input nand gates-is connected as shown, the logic level output $V_{o}$ will be dependent on the setting of the potentiometer $R_{1}$. With an input of 5 V the output voltage $V_{o}$ is at logic 1. Reducing the input voltage by adjustment of $R_{1}$ will, at a critical voltage, cause the nand gate 1 to switch over, thus switching nand gate 2. The output voltage $V_{o}$ will now be at logic 0 . Feedback from gate 2 to gate 1 ensures that $V_{o}$ stays at logic 0 , until the input voltage is raised above the critical value. The nand gate 3

switches over which resets nand gate 2 , and then $V_{0}$ once again becomes logic 1 . The critical value for this particular unit was found to be 1.35 V . This circuit was used in place of a Schmitt trigger in a voltage-level detector.

## W. E. Price,

Laindon,
Essex.

## Nickel-cadmium battery charger

The circuit charges the battery at a constant current and switches off when a certain voltage is reached. The charging current can be varied by means of $V R_{2}$. For currents above 1A $R_{1}$ should be reduced. The switch-off voltage can be varied by means of $V R_{3}$. Should a batery of less than 4 V be connected for charging, then $R_{2}$ would have to be reduced to about $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$. The circuit functions as follows: $T r_{4}$ and $T r_{5}$ form a Schmitt urigger circuit with $\operatorname{Tr}_{4}$ on after $S_{1}$ has been ressed; when the preset voltage has been reached $T r_{5}$ goes on and $T r_{4}$ off, thus switching off the charger. The circuit was designed for 550 mA and 6 to 7.5 V .
F. Ballerini,

Rome,
Italy.


Complete circuit of electronically switched battery charger.

# 11. Information paths between units 

by James Franklin

We have seen that information-which might be numbers of objects in an electronic counting system or light intensity in a television system-may be represented by electrical variables. We have also looked fairly closely at some of these variables, and seen how they exist in circuits (Part 5). We have not, however, studied how the electrically represented information is act ually conveyed from one electronic unit to a nother.

Part 1 showed block diagrams of a television set and a computer and explained that the lines joining the blocks indicate paths for information. Some readers may have thought it odd that these paths, as well as the functional units themselves, were considered as "building bricks". The justification for this idea is that in practice these information paths are provided by circuits-particular arrangements of conductors.

At this point we should get to know one of the conventions of electronic diagrams -conventions, incidentally, which are automatically understood all over the world. The electrically represented information which comes out of an electronic unit is called the output, and is normally shown emerging from the right hand side of the unit. Conversely, the information an electronic unit receives is called the input


Fig. 1. The convention of a single line used to indicate an information path, the output of one unit becoming the input of another. (This line is not an electrical conductor as such.)
and is shown going into the left hand side of the unit. Thus, in Fig. 1 the output of unit $A$ becomes the input of unit $B$.

As we have said the basic means by which the information is conveyed is electrical energy-more specifically the rate of delivery of energy, which is power (Part 8). In practice, however, we don't usually consider power as representing the information, mainly because it is not very convenient to detect and measure the varyiıg power that flows from unit $A$ to.
unit $B$. The measuring instruments commonly used in electronics respond to other electrical variables, variables that are proportional to the power, in particular potential difference and current. This complicates the picture, because in any circuit where electrons are moving there must be an e.m.f., and this creates both potential difference and current. Which one, then, represents the information?

The answer is, simply, whichever one the electronic designer has chosen to represent the information. The other variable is there as well, in the sense that it can be measured, but it is not taken as significant as a bearer of information.


Fig. 2. An electric circuit joining two units so that it provides an information path between them. In this circuit, current is the significant variable.

As an example, Fig. 2 shows the basic principle by which information may be transmitted from one unit to another using current as the significant variable. It can be seen that there is a complete electrical circuit passing through part of unit $C$ and part of unit $D$. Electrons are made to flow in this circuit by an e.m.f. existing in section $c$ of unit $C$. (We will not discuss exactly how this e.m.f. comes to be there, as we are not at the moment concerned with the actual functions of units $C$ and $D$, but it originates from the e.m.f. source supplying electrical power to unit C.) The electron flow rate (current) varies with time and this variation represents information (Part 2). In unit $D$, at section $d$ of the circuit, there is a means of continuously detecting or responding to the value of the current. Thus the information represented by the current variation is conveyed into D.

It would be possible to detect a potential difference (resulting from the e.m.f. at $c$ ) between the two output terminals of unit C. or between the two input terminals of unit $D$, but this in itself is not significant


Fig.3. Another circuit providing an information path between units, but using potential difference as the significant variable.
because current has been chosen as the information bearing variable.

Fig. 3 shows how information may be transmitted using potential difference (p.d.) as the significant variable. Here again there is a circuit completed through the two units. There is a p.d. between the output terminals of unit $E$, resulting from the e.m.f. existing at $e$, and it is the variation of this p.d. which represents the information. The input terminals of $F$, being connected to the output terminals of $E$, have the same p.d. between them (analogy: the water level in a water gauge is the same as the water level in the tank to which it is attached). This p.d. is present at $f$, where there is a means of continuously detecting it, so that the information represented by the variation of p.d. is conveyed into $F$.

Again there is a current flowing in the circuit, but here it is this current which is not significant as an information bearer. In some electronic systems designed to use p.d. as the significant variable the current flowing is extremely small, for example less than a millionth of an ampere. In such cases one can think of the information virtually as being conveyed by a variation of p.d. alone. In other cases the circuit is not completed at $f$ (imagine broken line absent), and unit $F$ detects the information as an electric field (Part 5) which is created by the p.d. between the input terminals.

As a practical example, $E$ and $F$ in Fig. 3 could be two stages of an electronic amplifier (Part 9). The potential difference at $e$ would be that developed across a load in the high-power circuit of stage $E$, while circuit $f$ would be the low-power control circuit of stage $F$.

## Personalities

D. B. Weigall, C.B.E., M.A F.I.E.E. retires from the position of deputy director of engineering at the end of March after more than 37 years of service with the B.B.C. A graduate of Christ Church, Oxford, he joined the Corporation in 1933. After three years in the Research Department he became assistant to the superintendent engineer, studios. From 1940 to 1942 he was seconded as chief engineer to the Malaya Broadcasting Corporation and from 1943 to 1946 he was technical adviser on broadcasting to the Ministry of Information. After his return to the B.B.C. Mr. Weigall joined the Planning and Installation Department in 1948. He was appointed chief engineer, External Broadcasting, in 1962; assistant director of engineering in 1963 and deputy director of engineering in 1967.
G. Stannard, B.Sc., F.I.E.E., A.C.G.I., retires on May 24th from the position of chief engineer, communications, in the B.B.C. Educated at the City \& Guilds College, London University, he joined the B.B.C. in 1932 and after working in the London control room and the recording section he transferred to the Lines Department in 1935. He has been chief engineer, communications, since 1965. In this position he has been responsible for the planning and commissioning of the vision, sound and communication networks used for the distribution of programmes and the provision of other communication facilities.

As a result of the retirements of D. B. Weigall and of G. Stannard, the B.B.C. has announced the following appointments:
D. E. Todd, B.Sc.(Eng.), F.I.E.E., at present assistant director of engineering, will assume the responsibilities of deputy director, in addition to his present responsibilities for the engineering specialist departments. Mr. Todd joined the B.B.C. in 1946 and was head of Transmitter Planning and Installation Department from 1965 until his appointment as assistant director of engineering in 1968.
T. B. McCrirrick, F.I.E.E.,
F.I.E.R.E., will become assistant director of engineering and will be responsible for the Transmitter and Communications Departments, the Engineering Information, Engineering Training and Engineering Personnel Departments. Mr. McCrirrick joined the Corporation in 1943 and transferred in 1949 to the television service, where he later held the posts of engineer-in-charge, television studios. and head of engincering, television recording. Since last June he has been chief engineer, radio broadcasting.
D. R. Morse, F.I.E.E., lately chief engineer, capital projects, has been appointed to the new post of chief engineer, networks and communications. He will have special responsibilities for negotiations with the Post Office and the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications regarding the provision of B.B.C: programme and communication networks.
J. D. MacEwan, B.Sc., F.I.E.E., M.I.E.R.E., A.Inst.P., becomes chief engineer, radio broadcasting. Mr. MacEwan joined the B.B.C. in 1947. He was appointed a senior lecturer at the Engineering Training Centre, Evesham, in 1956. Since August 1969 he has been chief engineer, regions.

Tony Martin, who joined International Rectifier in 1959 when they commenced manufacture at their Oxted, Surrey, plant, has been appointed Northern European sales manager. He worked for several years as an application engineer and then transferred to the marketing department where he held successive posts of sales office manager and product sales manager. He will be responsible for the industrial sales organization in all Northern European countries.

James Lionel West, aged 35, has been appointed manufacturing manager of the m.o.s. division of Emihus Microcomponents Ltd at Glenrothes, Fife. Mr. West's previous appointments were with General Instruments, Elliott Auto-
mation and the A.E.I. research laboratories at Harlow.
P. Scargill, M.I.E.R.E., general manager of the Electronics Division of Union Carbide U.K. Ltd, is transferring to Union Carbide Europe, in Geneva, where he will be responsible for the group's European electronics business. Mr Scargill, who is 36, joined Union Carbide in 1966 from Hughes International (U.K.) and was previously U.K. capacitor sales specialist with International Electric Co. of New York.

Tony Wynter, who recently joined Devices Instruments Ltd, of Welwyn Garden City, Herts, has been appointed managing director of Devices Pty. Ltd, the sales and service organization set up in Sydney, Australia. Before joining Devices Mr. Wynter was a member of the medical electronics staff at the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases, Queens Square, London.

Peter D. Simmons has joined SE Laboratories as product manager of their new digital instrumentation division. Immediately prior to joining SE Labs he was sales manager for Racal, and before that was with Solartron and Dowty.

Guy Barnes, PhD., B.Sc., has joíned Emihus Microcomponents Ltd as technical manager. Dr. Barnes, aged 38, graduated in physics and mathematics at Reading University. He then undertook on behalf of the Admiralty four years research at


Dr. Guy Barnes
the University into the surface properties of semiconductors. He joins Emihus from Texas Instruments where he was integrated circuit department manager. From 1958 to 1963 he was chief physicist with Mining and Chemical Products Ltd.
A. G. Touch, M.A., D.Phil., who is 60, is retiring from the post of chief scientist at the Government Communications Headquarters. A graduate of Jesus College, Oxford, Dr. Touch joined Watson-Watt's radar team at Bawdsey research station in 1936. For his
contributions to the development of meter-wave AI and ASV he received a substantial award on the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Awards to Inventors. From 1941 to 1947 he was liaison officer with the British Joint Services Mission in Washington. On his return to this country he became superintendent of the Blind Landing Experimental Unit at Martlesham Heath, Suffolk, and from 1952 to 1954 was deputy director of electronics research and development (air) in the Ministry of Supply. From 1954 to 1959 he was director of electronics research and development (ground), M.o.S., and then senior superintendent of the Radio Department at R.A.E., Farnborough. He is to be succeeded as chief scientist at the Government Com. H.Q. by Ralph Benjamin, Ph.D., who is at present director of Admiralty Underwater Weapons Establishment at Portland. Dr. Benjamin, who is 47, joined the Admiralty Signal Establishment in 1944. His particular fields of research at A.S.E. were pulse techniques and weapon control. Dr. Benjamin's place at Portland is being filled by G. L. Hutchinson, Ph.D., at present head of the Military and Civil Systems Department at the Royal Radar Establishment, Malvern. A graduate of King's College, London, Dr. Hutchinson joined the Scientific Civil Service in 1939 working on the installation of the coastal radar chain. In 1943 he joined the Telecommunications Research Establishment, then from 1948 to 1954 was at R.A.E. Farnborough and later on the staff of the British Joint Staff Mission in Washington.

Siliconix Ltd., of Swansea, recently announced two new appointments. David Thomson, has joined the company as sales engineer. In 1963 he joined A.E.I. Telecom munications as a student apprentice concentrating on the design of linear and digital telecommunication equipment and gained an honours degree in electronic engineering at The City University, London. In 1968 he went to Elliotts, Rochester. as a development engineer on airborne digital computers. David J. West, aged 23, who graduated in electrical engineering only this year from the University College of Swansea, has joined the company as applications engineer.

## OBITUARY

Leonard Walter Filmore, manag ing director of Jackson Brothers (London) Ltd, which with his father and brother he founded in the early 'twenties, died on January 30th aged 67. During the war years he was very active on Ministry Standardization Panels and right up to the time of his death he worked on the Variable Capacitor Standardization Panel of R.E.C.M.F.

## New Products

## Beam tetrodes

Two compact conduction-cooled beam tetrodes are available from M-O Valve Co. Typically they give 400 W output in f.m. service up to 175 MHz , and 200 W up to 500 MHz . In s.s.b. service 300 W p.e.p. output is obtainable up to 175 MHz . Both tubes are electrically identical but differ in construction. The CCS1 has a square copper block fitted to the anode which is intended to be bolted to a heat sink directly or by means of a beryllia heat conducting block when electrical isolation is required. The CCS2 incorporates an electrically isolated flange intended to be clamped directly to a heat sink. Thermal resistance between anode and flange is made low by the use of beryllia ceramic. There is no significant increase in output capacitance. These conduction cooled tubes are fully replaceable in new equipment for existing well established forced air cooled types. The conduction cooling assists circuit designers by eliminating moving parts in the cooling system and so achieves greater reliability and compactness at reduced power consumption. M-O Valve Co. Ltd, Brook Green Works, London W.6. WW315 for further details

## R.M.S. voltmeter

Model A130 r.m.s. voltmeter from Prosser Scientific Instruments allows waveforms from d.c. to 100 kHz with crest factors (peak to r.m.s. ratio) up to $10: 1$ to be analysed. An averaging time constant facility allows integration from 1 to 300 s. At very low frequencies it is sometimes useful to measure the instantaneous power by measuring the instantaneous square of the voltage. This facility is provided on the A130 with a time constant of 10 ms . The instrument, designed for bench use or rack mounting, employs a large meter display ( $\pm 2 \%$ accuracy ) as

well as providing an output for higher accuracy readings. The specification includes the following:
input impedance $1 \mathrm{M} \Omega 25 \mathrm{pF}$
overload $\quad 300 \mathrm{~V}$ d.c. or peak on ranges $1 \mathrm{mV}-10 \mathrm{~V}$.
1000 V d.c. or peak on ranges 30 V to 300 V .
output 4 inch panel meter scaled $0-10 \mathrm{~V}, 0-3 \mathrm{~V}$, and -15 dB to +2 dB . Linear d.c. output 0 10 V and $0-3 \mathrm{~V}$ full scale depending on range selected.
output impedance $<10 \Omega .10 \mathrm{~mA}$ max.
accuracy
$\pm 0.5 \%$ of full scale.
power requirements $115 / 240 \mathrm{~V}$ a.c., $50 /$ $60 \mathrm{~Hz}, 50 \mathrm{VA}$.
dimensions $\quad 445 \mathrm{~mm} \times 133 \mathrm{~mm} \times$ 344 mm .
weight
5 kg .
Prosser Scientific Instruments Ltd, Lady Lane Industrial Estate, Hadleigh, Ipswich, Suffolk.
WW317 for further details

## Miniature silicon bridge rectifiers

A range of 1.2 A silicon bridge rectifiers is available from General Instrument (UK). The assemblies are of flat construction with in-line leads, and measure $23.5 \times 4 \mathrm{~mm}$. Called the FB series they have a p.i.v. rating of up to 600 V and a one cycle surge capability of 50 A at operating temperatures from $-55^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $150^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. General Instrument (UK) Ltd, Stonefield Way, Victoria Road, South Ruislip, Middx.
WW314 for further details

## Numeral indicator tubes

ITT Components Group Europe, by arrangement with Burroughs Corporation, are manufacturing two new long-life sideview cold-cathode indicators. The 5853 S is designed for use in time-sharing by anode strobing applications; the 5870S is intended for d.c. and pulsed operation with peak cathode currents up to 10 mA . Both tubes have a display of numerals 0 to 9 inclusive with one decimal point on the left and right of each main character, and a character
display area of 13.5 mm (height) $\times 7.6 \mathrm{~mm}$. Maximum overall height is 30.5 mm , and diameter 13 mm . Base connections are 14 tinned leads with in-line configuration for printed circuit or socket use. Typical operating conditions are:
type 5853S

| anode supply voltage | 200 V |
| :---: | :---: |
| peak cathode current | 14 mA |
| pulse duration | $100 \mu \mathrm{~s}$ |
| pulse repetition frequency | 500 Hz |
| type 5870S |  |
| anode supply voltage | 200V |
| cathode current (with |  |
| decimal point) | 3.2 mA |
| cathode pre-bias voltage | 67 V |

cathode pre-bias voltage 67 V
ITT Components Group Europe, Valve Product Division, Brixham Road, Paignton, Devon.
WW313 for further details

## Twin-chánnel oscilloscope

Differential oscilloscope type 155 from Bradley Electronics has an input impedance of $100 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ shunted by 1 pF , and 100 dB common-mode rejection. The commonmode signal may be as high as $\pm 15 \mathrm{~V}$ at maximum sensitivity. Sensitivity is $100 \mu \mathrm{~V} / \mathrm{cm}$, but this can be increased to

$10 \mu \mathrm{~V} / \mathrm{cm}$ by cascading the two channels. The timebase will operate down to $5 \mathrm{~s} / \mathrm{cm}$. Outputs suitable for driving pen recorders are provided and the oscilloscope can be used as an $X-Y$ plotter. Trigger arrangements include auto and single shot and the general facilities provided include beam locate and internal calibration. G. \& E. Bradley Ltd, Electral House, Neasden Lane, London N.W. 10.
WW 303 for further details

## Telephone dial testers

An instrument which tests telephone dial pulsing-in terms of operate and release times of individual dial pulses-is made by Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Ltd. Traditionally, dial performance during

production adjustment is done by measuring pulsing speed and make-tobreak ratio on an average basis. But the telephone dial pulse monitor type IT 1466 compares make and break duration of each pulse with preset tolerance limits. Indication is given if any interval is outside the limits set by the operator by lighting a 'short', or 'long' lamp. In addition the instrument detects excessive contact bounce, counts the number of pulses received, and checks sequerice and relative timing of off-normal contact re-closure. Pulse analyser type IT1467 performs similar tests and additionally gives 'short', 'pass' and 'long' indication for each of ten contacts. Both incorporate a crystal oscillator timing standard. Available in the U.K. from Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Ltd, Aldwych House, 81 Aldwych, London W.C. 2 .

## WW311 for further details

## Capacitors for s.c.r. <br> commutation

A range of capacitors for high-power controlled rectifier circuits is made by Aerovox Corpn. Developed to provide low inductance and low series resistance needed to turn off s.c.rs, the capacitors are said to be made more reliable than general-purpose types. They are made with three kinds of dielectric-paper, metallized paper and polycarbonateand are designed to dissipate internally generated heat. Paper dielectric gives lowest cost, but as might be expected gives largest bulk. Size is reduced by using metallized paper, but cost increases and

the ability to handle alternating current is reduced. This is circumvented by using polycarbonate, but at higher cost. Paper dielectric capacitors are available in voltage ratings from 200 to 2000 V d.c. and the values of capacitances available depends on voltage rating (in the region of 1 to $50 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ ). Polycarbonate types, rated at 600 V d.c., have values from 1 to $20 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ and metallized paper types, rated at 200 V d.c., have values from 25 to $150 \mu \mathrm{~F}$. U.K. agents are Auriema Ltd, 23 King Street, London W. 3 .
WW 305 for further details

## Cathode-ray display unit

A self contained c.r.t. display unit, the EV8000 from Electronic Visuals, has a $100 \times 80 \mathrm{~mm}$ flat-faced tube, regulated power supplies, balanced input amplifiers for vertical and horizontal deflections, and brightness ( $Z$ axis) control via either

a simple blanking amplifier or an optional wideband linear amplifier. The vertical amplifier has a bandwidth of d.c. to 10 MHz and all inputs are compatible with t.t.l.' and d.t.l. levels. The unit can be supplied in various case types and is suitable for 19 in rack-mounting. Electronic Visuals Ltd, P.O. Box 16, Staines, Middx. WW 304 for further details

## High-voltage multiplier dises

A series of 10 kV high-voltage multiplier discs developed by Aerovox Corp and marketed by Auriema are made with high K dielectric materials. The coating is epoxy resin. Available in 1,000 and 2,000 pF capacitances as standard (other values are available) the discs have a capacitance
tolerance of $\pm 20 \%$, a $2 \%$ maximum dissipation factor, insulation resistance of $20,000 \mathrm{M} \Omega$, and are designed for working voltages up to $10,000 \mathrm{~V}$ d.c. Other capabilities include a temperature characteristic of $\pm 15 \%$ change in capacitance from $+10^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $+85^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, a corona voltage of approx. $2,700 \mathrm{~V}$ r.m.s. at 50 Hz and a corona level of less than 100 picocoulombs. Auriema Ltd, 23-31 King Street, London W. 3.

WW318 for further details

## $60-\mathrm{GHz}$ varactor diode

A gallium arsenide varactor diode capable of operating at 60 GHz has been developed by the Services Electronics Research Laboratory and is manufactured by Marconi. The diode, of the diffused mesa type, is used in the $50-\mathrm{cm}$ circular waveguide system of $\mathrm{TE}_{01}$ mode propagation.


Known as type XMD3A, it is available in three figures of merit - from 40 to 90 GHz -in a ceramic leadless inverted device package for simple integration into stripline structures. Photograph shows the gold connection to the chip magnified 2000 times. Marconi Co Ltd, Chelmsford, Essex.
WW 308 for further details

## High-speed leadless diodes

Switching diodes for use in hybrid largeand medium-scale integrated circuits are made by Dickson Electronics Corpn (U.S.A.). They are rated for 75 mA forward current at 75 V d.c. with a dissipation of 250 mW . The diodes can be mounted upright with wire bonding or inverted with reflow solder bonds. Dual types are made with either common anode or common cathode connections. Available from Dage (G.B.) Ltd, Haywood House, 64 High Street, Pinner, Middx.
WW 310 for further details

## Logic modules

Feedback Instruments have added a reed relay unit RU336 and a lamp display unit LD265 to their range of logic and analogue teaching elements. The RU336 contains two reed relays which, when either is operated by a logic ' 1 ' input, will switch currents up to 1 A in external circuits, thus providing single-pole changeover switching controlled by the logic. The LD265 supplements the display lamps

already available on the Logikit mounting decks. Four buffered lamp circuits operate in the presence of a ' 1 ' at the input. All the logic (Logibit) elements are of identical size and are compatible with any of the Feedback logic teaching equipment. Prices of individual elements vary but all are under £10. Feedback Instruments Ltd, Park Road, Crowborough, Sussex.
WW316 for further details

## Ferrite limiters

A series of solid-state ferrite limiters introduced by EMI-Varian is claimed to gives a ten-fold increase in life expectancy over conventional TR tubes and limiters. The VFX 9500 device for example operates from 8.5 to 10.0 GHz (X-band). The integral unit consists of a ferrite limiter followed by a diode limiter. The ferrite portion provides about 10 dB of high-power isolation while the diode limiter reduces spike and flat leakage power to levels which provide reliable protection to the receiver diode.
Operating characteristics include: bandwidth
any $5 \%$ b.w. from 8.5 to 10.0 GHz
peak power
10 kW
v.s.w.r.
1.5:1 max.
insertion loss $\quad 1.0 \mathrm{~dB}$ max.
spike leakage energy 0.02 erg max.
flat leakage energy 20 mW max.
recovery time $\quad 0.5 \mu$ s max. insertion length $\quad 88.9 \mathrm{~mm}$ weight

680 g
EMI-Varian Ltd, Hayes, Middlesex. WW312 for further details

## V.H.F. frequency synthesizer

A frequency synthesizer for 27 to 70 MHz and tunable in increments of 25 kHz is made by Akers Electronics, a Norwegian

microelectronics manufacturing company. Using thin-film hybrid circuits and designed as a phase-locked loop it occupies only $86 \times 60 \times 40 \mathrm{~mm}$ and weighs 0.35 kg . It is intended as a frequency source in simplex military f.m. 'manpack' transceivers in the 27 to 70 MHz band. During transmission it operates as a modulated exciter and during reception as local oscillator, when frequency range is 37.7 to 80.7 MHz for an i.f. of 10.7 MHz . Akers Electronics, 3191 Horten, Norway. WW 301 for further details

## Power diodes in plastic

Two new power circuits from AEI handle double the power of earlier circuits. Type PM7A-Q, a bridge rectifier with $16-\mathrm{amp}$ mean output and 44 -watt dissipation, is available in seven voltage ratings from 200 to 1400 V r.m.s. Type PM6A-Q, two separate diodes of $10-\mathrm{amp}$ mean current and 34 watts dissipation, is also available in the seven ratings. (The other kind of circuit PM5A is a diode-thyristor combination, but remains as originally

specified.) These three combinations are used in BDA 'Hotpoint' washing machines and enable universal motors to be used in place of expensive induction motors with the multiple windings required by electromechanical regulators. AEI Semiconductors Ltd, Carholme Road, Lincoln. WW 302 for further details

## U.H.F. field-strength indicator

Designed and manufactured by Rohde \& Schwarz the u.h.f. field-strength indicator, type Huze, comprises a transistor receiver and a $\log$-periodic broadband aerial. The aerial is fixed to the receiver during measurement and can be adjusted in any direction and plane of polarization. The signal picked up is applied via a decade attenuator and a tunable bandpass filter to a mixer diode, where it is converted to the first i.f. of 150 MHz . The instrument is operated from built-in sealed chargeable batteries. Battery power is sufficient for about eight hours with the a.f. section switched on (charging the storage batteries takes about 14 hours).

The charger may also be used as the power supply, the storage batteries acting as buffers. Field-strength range is 31 to 110 dB above $1 \mu \mathrm{~V} / \mathrm{m}$ and voltage range 16 to 90 dB above $1 \mu \mathrm{~V}$. Aveley Electric Ltd, Arisdale Avenue, South Ockendon, Essex.
WW 307 for further details

## 6-mm potentiometer

Sub-miniature metal glaze potentiometers to MIL specifications are made by TRW Inc. Available from $10 \Omega$ to $1 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ in $\frac{1}{2}$-watt rating (at $85^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ) with temperature

coefficient of 1 in $10^{4} / \mathrm{deg} \mathrm{C}$. It measures 6.4 mm dia and 4.5 mm high. Type 171 is for vertical adjustment and type 172 for horizontal adjustment. Available in the U.K. from Dubilier Ltd, Victoria Road, London W.3.
WW 306 for further details

## I.C. for active filters

Three identical amplifiers are included on an integrated circuit made by Mullard. Designed for use in $R C$ active filters up to 150 kHz , each amplifier has an input resistance of $25 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ and an output resistance of $9 \mathrm{k} \Omega$. Gain is 39 dB or 117 dB in cascade. An emitter follower is included which reduces output impedance to $500 \Omega$. Designated type TAA 960 it operates from a 6 -volt supply and consumes about 2 mA . Mullard Ltd, Torrington Place, London, WC1E 7HD.
WW 309 for further details

## D.I.L. pulse transformer

Bourns (Trimpot) have introduced Model 4252-1005 miniature d.i.l. pulse trans-former-a 16 -pin unit with high insulation resistance, fast rise and fast fall time, clean pulse performance and low coupling capacitance. The specifications include:
operating temperature range $0^{\circ}$ to $70^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ pulse inductance

| $\left( \pm 10 \%, 0^{\circ}\right.$ to $\left.70^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ | $150 \mu \mathrm{H}$ |
| :--- | ---: |
| leakage inductance | $1.0 \mu \mathrm{H}$ |
| coupling capacitance | 5 pF |
| pulse width | 400 ns |

Bourns (Trimpot) Ltd, Hodford House, 17/27 High Street, Hounslow, Middx. WW319 for further details

## Literature Received

## For further information on any item include the appropriate $W W$ number on the reader reply card

Aveley Electrics Ltd, South Ockendon, Essex, have sent us the following literature which originated from Rhode and Schwarz of West Germany and Scientific-Atlanta of Georgia, U.S.A.
Rhode and Schwarz:
'Semitest 111' (ISP) for testing digital integrated circuits. Can be used on r.t.1., d.t.1., d.t.l.z., t.t.1., e.c.l., and m.o.s. logic . .............. WW439
'Power signal generator' (SLRE), 6.7 to 12.7 GHz , 0.5 to 3 W

WW440
'Modules for data aquisition and processing' (UC) $\ldots . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .$. WW441
'Antenna rotators' (HA455/3 \& 555/1) with hydraulic drive for directional aerial systems
'V.H.F. compact directional finder' (NP8), 117.5 to 136.5 MHz ..............WW443
Scientific-Atlanta:
'Swept-frequency microwave measuring system' (series 1700) ........................ WW444
'Horn antenna' (series 6800) . .......... WW445
'Transportable u.h.f. telemetry tracking system' (series 3000 R 18) 1435 to 1535 and 2200 to 2300 Mhz

A new catalogue has been produced by Eagle International, Coptic St, London WCIA INR., which lists audio and test equipment as well as a variety of components

We have received the following literature from Lyons Instruments, Valley Works, Ware Rd, Hoddesdon, Herts., which describes goods manufactured in Switzerland by Institut Straumann.

OSC 104, hermetically sealed tuning-fork oscillators operating at frequencies in the range 1 to 6 kHz at temperatures from -55 to $+85^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Power supply between 5 and 12 V ...WW448 DIV-, MUL-, FOS-104, frequency divider, frequency multiplier and sine-wave shaping unit for use with the tuning-fork oscillators WW449
STP-70/A, price list for the above range. WW450
A leaflet is available which describes the 'Miniscope' low-voltage soldering iron manufactured by Enthoven Solders Lid, Dominion Buildings, South Place, London ECM 2RE

Nortronic A/S, 1380 Heggedal, Norway have sent the following literature:
703 , multi-fiter 35 Hz to 14 kHz . Contains 26
$\frac{1}{3}$ octave filters $\ldots \ldots \ldots \ldots \ldots$................... 452 Sound level indicator; versatile sound measuring
 Logic simulator for tuition, etc. .......WW454
702 , universal filter 0.2 Hz to 20 kHz in 5 bands ................................WW455
701 , universal filter 40 Hz to $16 \mathrm{~Hz} \ldots \ldots$ WW456
Automatic tracking filter and wave analyzer (audio) ...............................WW457

Intended for use with Tektronix 540 and 550 oscilloscopes a light coupled oscilloscope plug-in unit is described in literature available from Lyons Instruments Ltd, Valley Works, Ware Rd, Hoddesdon, Herts. Called the IsoAmp model 6150 the unit provides 1.5 kV isolation and will accept signals up to 300 V peak-to-peak at up to 35 MHz . The signal is converted to light and the only connection to the oscilloscope is via a fibre optic light guide
.WW458
The leaflet 'Short-wave puts you where it's at' describes the range of Hallicrafters communications receivers. The Hallicrafters Co, 600 Hicks Rd, Rolling Meadows, Illinois 60008, U.S.A. . . WW459

Second-hand computers are the subject of a catalogue from Computer Sales and Services. 49 /53 Pancras Rd, London N.W.I.

Kampel Electronics Ltd, 99 Old Christchurch Rd, Bournemouth, BH1 1 EP , have produced a leaflet describing a stereophonic source simulator which is designed to be used with a stereo amplifier to produce a stereophonic effect from a monophonic signal source

## GENERAL INFORMATION

The Scientific Instrument Manufacturers' Association of Great Britain, SIMA House, 20 Peel St, London W.8, have produced a second edition of their 'Metrication Guide'. This revised edition costs £2.50

## April Meetings

Tickets are required for some meetings: readers are advised, therefore, to communicate with the society concerned

## LONDON

Ist. IERE-."Future techniques for cockpit display" by D. R. Evans and Capt. D. S. Kirkland at 18.00 at 9 Bedford Sq., W.C.I.

Ist. RTS-"Sound techniques for television and commercial recording" at 19.00 at Intersound Recording Studios, Park Drive, Wembley, Middlesex. 6th. IEE-"Business. society and the professional engineer" by B. M. Maskell at 17.30 at Savoy Place, W.C.2.

7th. IEE-."The use of telecommunications in meteorology" by A. A. Worthington at 17.30 at Savoy Place, W.C.2.

15th. IEE-Discussion on "Development of electrical and electronic systems during flight testing of new aircraft" at 18.00 at Savoy Place, W.C.2.
15th. RTS-"New techniques in video mixing" by W. R. Hawkins at 19.00 at I.T.A. 70 Brompton Rd., London S.W.3.
16th. IEF-Discussion on "Engineering science in schools and further education" at 14.00 at Savoy PI., W.C.2.

16th. IEE--"The effective training of professional engineers as managers" by P. H. L. Thomas at 17.30 at Savoy PI., W.C. 2 .

19th. IEETE-Panel under the chairmanship of Prof. R. C. G. Williams discussing "Panel connecting problems" at 18.00 at Savoy PI., W.C. 2 .
20th. IERE-"Automatic camera line-up in colour television" by D. V. Ryley and Mrs. G. Claydon at 18.00 at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel St., Gower St., W.C. 1 .

20th. AES-"Wide range ribbon loudspeaker development" by Stanley Kelly at 19.15 at the Mechanical Engineering Dept., Imperial College, Exhibition Rd., S.W. 7
21 st. Inst. Navigation-"The application of low light television to navigation" at 17.00 at the Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, S.W.7. 21st. SERT-"System 24" by C. P. Davies at 19.00 at London School of Hygiene \& Tropical Medicine, Keppel St., W.C.I.

21st. BKSTS -"Recording techniques for multichannel stereo" by Michael A. Gerzon at 19.30 at I.T.A., 70 Brompton Rd., S.W.3.

23rd. IEE-Discussion on "Light emitting diodes and their utilization" at 17.30 at Savoy PI., W.C.2.

27th. IERE--"Communications through space, flame and fibre" by Prof. P. J. B. Clarricoats at 18.00 at the London School of Hygiene \& Tropical Medicine. Keppel St., Gower St., W.C. 1.
28th. IERE-"Applications of Camac" by H. Bisby at 18.00 at 9 Bedford Sq., W.C.1.

29th. IEE/IERE-Colloquium on "Design and application of minimal computers" at Savoy PI., W.C. 2 .

29th. RTS-Fleming Memorial Lecture: "Perspectives in television" by Huw Wheldon at 19.00 at The Royal Institution, Albemarle St., W.1.

## BALLYMENA

20th. IERE-"Loudspeakers" by R. L. West at 19.30 at Ballymena Technical College.

## BIDEFORD

20th. British Computer Soc.-"Computer aided design" by B. Gott at 18.15 at the Library Theatre.

## BIRMINGHAM

19th. SERT-"Electronic music" by A. Douglas at 19.30 at Aston University.

21st. RTS-"Radio telescopes" by Dr. Guy Pooley at 19.00 at the A.T.V. Studio Centre, Bridge Street.

## BOURNEMOUTH

21st. SERT - "Remote control and indication systems" by N. Greene at 19.30 at Bournemouth Municipal Technical College.

## CHELMSFORD

28th. IEE-"Radio meteorology" by Dr. J. A. Saxton at 18.30 at King Edward VI Grammar School, Broomfield Rd.

## EVESHAM

20th. IERE-"World satellite communication systems" by G. H. Banner at 19.00 at B.B.C. Club.

## HIGH WYCOMBE

28th. IEE-"Plasma-the fourth state of matter" by Dr. J. E. Allen at 19.15 at the High Wycombe College of Technology and Art.

## LIVERPOOL

21st. IERE-"Computer aided circuit design" by E. Wolfendale at 19.00 at the Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Liverpool.

## MANCHESTER

15th. IERE-"Radio astronomy" by E. J. Daintree at 19.15 at the Renold Bldg., U.M.I.S.T., Altrincham St.
22nd. SERT--"Integrated circuits" by J. Tomson at 19.30 at U.M.I.S.T.

## NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE

14th. IERE-"Electronics and the entertainment industry-the future" at 18.00 at Ellison Building, The Polytechnic, Ellison Place.

## PLYMOUTH

7th. RTS-"Computers in television programming" by N. W. Green at 19.30 at the Studios of Westward Television Ltd.

## READING

29th. IERE-"Direct digital control-the case for the special purpose computer" by P. Atkinson and A. J. Allen at 19.30 at the J. J. Thomson Laboratory, University of Reading. Whiteknights Park.

## ROMFORD

21st. IERE-."Management of R \& D" by D. C. Dalton at 18.30 at Central Library.

## ROTHERHAM

22nd. IEETE-"Yorkshire TV studios, Leeds" by P. G. Parker at 19.00 at College of Technology, Main Hall, Howard Street.

## SWANSEA

1st. IERE/IEE-"The use of satellites for civil communication" by C. F. Davidson at 18.15 at Department of Applied Science, University College.

## WALSALL

28th. IEETE-"Electronics in the automobile" by
W. F. Hill at 18.45 at Midlands Electricity Board District Offices, Green Lane.

## WOLVERHAMPTON

6th. IERE-"Direct digital control-the case for the small special purpose computer" by $\mathbf{P}$. A. Atkinson at 19.30 at the Polytechnic.

## WORCESTER

22nd. B.Computer Soc.-."Introduction to computer simulation" by G. S. Perdue at 19.30 at Worcester Technical College.

## Conferences and Exhibitions

Further details are obtainable from the addresses in parentheses

## LONDON

Apr. 15 \& 16
Imperial College
Britain's Modern Standards-
the contribution and the Gain
a (British Standards Institution, 2 Park St., London WIA 2BS)
Apr. 19 \& 20
I.E.E., Savoy Place

Hybrid Microelectronic Circuits
(International Society for Hybrid Microelectronics,
c/o Dr. R. G. Loasby, A.W.R.E., Building A37,
Aldermaston, Reading RG7/4PR)
Apr. 19-22
Alexandra Palace
Physics Exhibition
(1.P.P.S., 47 Belgrave Sq., London S.W.1.)

Apr. 21-29 Earis Court
International Engineering and Marine Exhibition
(Industrial \& Trade Fair Ltd, Commonwealth
House, New Oxford St., London WC 1A 1PB)
BRIGHTON
Apr. 4-6

## University of Sussex

Vacuum Equipment
(I.P.P.S., 47 Belgrave Sq., London S.W.1)

Apr. 20-23
Technical Communication in the 70s
Technical Communication in the 70s
(Business Conference \& Exhibitions, Mercury
House, Waterloo Rd., London S.E.1.)
LANCASTER
Apr. 5-7
The University
Elementary Particle Physics
(I.P.P.S., 47 Belgrave Sq., London S.W.1)

YORK
Apr. 5-8 The University
Atomic and Molecular Physics
(I.P.P.S., 47 Belgrave Sq., London S.W.1)

## OVERSEAS

Apr. 5 \& 6
System Theory Atlanta
(C.O. Alford, School of Electrical Eng., Georgia

Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia 30332)
Apr. 12-15
Washington
Telemetering Conference
(Washington Technical Consultants, 422
Washington Bldg, Washington D.C. 20005)
Apr. 13-15
Boston
Electronics in Medicine
(Electronics in Medicine, 330 W. 42nd St.,
New York, NY 10036)
Apr. 13-15
New York
Computers and Automata
(Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, 333 Jay St.,
Brooklyn, New York 11201)
Apr. 13-16
Magnetics Conference
(C.D. Mee, IBM Corp., Building 015, Monterey
\& Cattle Rds, San Jose, California 95114)

# Real \& Imaginary 

by "Vector"

## Salute to "Free Grid"

Mention the name of Norman Preston Vincer-Minter to W.W. readers and I warrant that blank expressions will be the order of the day. But mention "Free Grid" and all of those of more than seven years' standing in readership will know at once who you're talking about. And will not only know, but almost invariably the mention of the name will provoke reminiscence of the "Do you remember what he said about-?" type.

But first, to the young among us, a word or two of explanation. The name N. P. Vincer-Minter appears in W.W. volumes prior to 1930, mostly as a contributor of constructional articles. Then, on September 17th, 1930, "Free Grid" made his entrance with a regular page feature under the heading "Unbiased". At first, to judge from his remarks, he was very much on trial (editors are adept at suspending the sword of Damocles) but before long his inimitable style made his place assured. For thirty-four years (he died, aged 67, on 11 th March 1964) he continued to delight readers with his wit, his scholarship, his anecdotes and his "inventions". "Free Grid" became as much a part of the journal as the front cover.

At first the drawings which accompanied his page were relatively characterless but by the end of 1930 the "F.G." image (which, incidentally, bore no resemblance to Vincer-Minter) emerged, together with those of the formidable Mrs. "Free Grid" and the little "Grid Leaks". The illustrations became a perfect complement to the writing. Here, epitomized, was the middle-class little man of the period-bowler. spectacles, neat suit, furled umbrella and all-ever ready to do battle with bureaucracy. intransigent manufacturers, slipshod terminology or sheer stupidity. The aggressive chin of the cartoonist's little man added emphasis to the prose, for "F.G." was an arch-puncturer of balloons and the sworn enemy of sacred cows.

But it is in the role of prophet that "Free Grid" is best remembered. Here he was in a league of his own. In the Jubilee issue of W.W. in 1961 he really let himself go and as no commemorative issue would be complete without "Free Grid"I make no apology for turning over the rest of the page to him. Ladies and gentlemen (and particularly new readers), here is the incomparable "Free Grid" writing ten years ago:

## A.D. 1971, 1986, 2011

Another 50 years will have to pass before Wireless World can publish another jubilee number, and that will be the centenary number of April A.D. 2011. However, it is customary to celebrate 60th and 75 th anniversaries of things. I shall be very surprised if by the 60th anniversary in 1971 we do not have coloured television and by the 75th anniversary in 1986 stereoscopic coloured TV.

By 1971 our television sets will probably have a scanning unit so that we can show our coloured slides and also our home cine films on the c.r.t. and by 1986 our home ciné films will be returned to us from the processing station in the form of magnetic tapes holding both sound and vision recordings.
By 1986 every set will, of course, have a built-in multi-channel tape recorder for vision and sound so that while we are watching one programme we can simultaneously bottle one or more of the several alternative programmes that will be available.

## Fettered by Physics

I will now . . . venture to glance into the future of electronics but I am definitely not
going to inflict on you any of the unimaginative and rather obvious ideas which most science-fiction writers present to their readers. . . .

The reason for their unimaginative stories is that writers of science fiction allow their minds to be fettered by physics, or, more accurately, by our contemporary knowledge of physics. The "sciction" scribes, as I call them, write fantastic stories-doubtless accurate by contemporary scientific knowledge-about travel to distant worlds while overlooking the possibility of travel to another kind of world which is right under their noses. The world to which I refer is the extra-spatial and extra-temporal one which I discussed fully in the March, 1959, issue of this journal. I am greatly indebted to "Cathode Ray" for my ideas and gladly acknowledge it. As I explained in my original thesis on the subject it was he who set me thinking by his article in the November 1958 issue. In that article he gave us a very vivid picture of electrons as being "waves of which nobody knows" which it is usual to call $\psi$ waves. As a result of reading this I expressed the view that if we could manage to alter one of the properties of the $\psi$ waves, such, for instance, as their ). . we should probably
find that these metamorphosed electrons vanished, like H. G. Wells's Time Machine, out of our world of time and space into that extra-spatial and extra-temporal "world" inhabited by ghosts, fairies, poltergeists and other seemingly shadowy and clammy entities who seem to pass through brick walls, to be able to be in two places simultaneously and, in general, to ignore many if not all the laws of physics.

In actual fact I don't believe they do ignore them; they merely seem to ignore physical laws because our knowledge of physics today is very limited in comparison with what it will be in 2011."

I am reluctant to call this spaceless and timeless place the metaphysical world because I don't think it is "beyond physics" as the name would imply. I will, therefore, call it the psychotronic world which simply means that it is built of metamorphosed electrons, or, in other words, psychotrons, a word which I coined in the May 1960 issue to describe these extra-spatial and extra-temporal electrons or $\psi$ waves which had had their wavelength or other property changed or metamorphosed and had, therefore become $\mu \psi$ waves.

## Electrovision

I will venture only one prophecy on more ordinary lines .... by suggesting that before 2011 our electronic experts and ophthalmic surgeons will have got together to do something very drastic for people like myself suffering from failing sight.

I have in mind the development of something like the special kind of cathode-ray tube used for transmission but in very miniature form so that it would actually take the place of an eye and convert vision into pulses along the optic nerve, as the natural eye does now.
Requiescat in pace "Free Grid"

'Books cannot always please, however good" was the caption to this cartoon illustrating "Free Grid" suffering from the symptoms of "uxorogenic cuicophoria".


Now available, six of the best from RCA
Six new power transistors for output levels from 5 W to 70 W ( $8 \Omega$ impedance).

Manufactured by RCA to the highest professional standards.
Available from your local stockist as of now
Make a note of the right number for your project.

| Type | 40629 | 40630 | 40631 | 40632 | 40633 | 40636 |
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There's plenty more to tell.
RCA Ltd., Solid State, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex.
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Herts. Tel: $50551 / 2 / 352202$.
ECS (Windsor) Ltd., Thames Avenue, Windsor, Berks. Tel, 68101 (20 lines)

## Sinclair Project 60



## the world's most advanced high fidelity modules

Sinclair Project 60 presents high fidelity in such a way that it meets every requirement of performance, design. quality and value and now that the remarkable phase lock loop stereo FM tuner is available, it becomes the most versatile of high fidelity systems. With Project 60, it is possible to start with a
modest mono record reproducer and expand it to a sophisticated stereophonic radio and record reproducing system of fantastically good quality to hold its own with any other equipment, no matter how expensive. Project 60 is a unique high fidelity module system where compactness and ease of assembly are combined with

|  | System | The Units to use | together with | Cost of Units |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| A | Simple battery record player | 2.30 | Crystal P.U., 12 V battery volume control | £4.48. |
| B | Mains powered record player | Z.30, PZ.5 | Crystal or ceramic P.U. volume control etc. | £9.45 |
| C | $20+20$ W. R.M.S. stereo amplifier for most needs | $\begin{aligned} & 2 \times 2.30 s, \text { Stereo 60, } \\ & \text { PZ. } \end{aligned}$ | Crystal, ceramic or mag. P.U., most dynamic speakers. F.M. tuner etc. | £23.90 |
| D | $20+20$ W. R.M.S. stereo amplifier with high performance spkrs. | $\begin{aligned} & 2 \times 2.30 \mathrm{~s}, \text { Stereo } 60, \\ & \text { PZ. } 6 \end{aligned}$ | High quality ceramic or magnetic P.U., F.M. Tuner. Tape Deck, etc. | £26.90 |
| E | $40+40$ W. R.M.S. deluxe stereo amplifier | $2 \times 2.50 \mathrm{~s}$, Stereo 60 PZ.8, mains trsfrmr | As for D | £34.88 |
| F | Outdoor P.A. system | 2.50 | Mic., up to 4 P.A. speakers controls, etc. | £5.48 |
| G | Indoor P.A. | 2.50, PZ.8, mains transformer | Mic., guitar, speakers, etc., controls | £19.43 |
| H | High pass and low pass filters | A.F.U. | C. D or E | £5.98 |
| J | Radio | Stereo F.M. Tuner | C. D or E | £25.00 |

circuitry that is far in advance of any other manufacturer in the world. Thus it is extraordinarily easy to assemble any combination of modules using nothing more complicated than the simplest of tools, and you certainiy do not have to be experienced to build with complete confidence. The 48 page manual free with Project 60 equipment makes everything easy and you can house your assembly in an existing cabinet, motor plinth, free standing cabinet or virtually any arrangement you wish. Once you have completed your assembly you will have superlatively good equipment to give you years of service and enjoyment. You will have obtained superb value for moneybecause Project 60 is the bestselling modular system in Europe and can therefore be produced at extremely competitive prices and with excellent quality control.
Sinclair Radionics Ltd., London Road. St: Ives, Huntingdonshire PE17 4HJ.


## Sinclair Project 60

## Z. 30 \& Z. 50 power amplifiers



The $Z .30$ and $Z .50$ are of advanced design using silicon epitaxial planar transistors to achieve unsurpassed standards of performance. Total harmonic distortion is an incredibly low $0.02 \%$ at full output and all lower outputs. Whether you use $\mathbf{Z . 3 0}$ or $\mathbf{Z . 5 0}$ amplifiers in your Project 60 system will deperid on personal preference, but they are the same size and may be used with other units in the Project 60 range equally well.
SPECIFICATIONS (250 units are inter-
changeable with Z.30s in all applications).
Power Outputs
2.3015 watts R.M.S. into 8 ohms using 35 volts: 20 watts R.M.S. into 3 ohms using 30 volts. Z.50 40 watts R.M S. into 3 ohms using 40 volts: 30 watts R.M.S. into 8 ohms, using 50 volts.
Frequency response: 30 to $300,000 \mathrm{~Hz} \pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}$.
Distortion: $0.02 \%$ into 8 ohms.
Signal to noise ratio: better than 70dB unweighted.
Input sensitivity: 250 mV into 100 . Kohms.
For speakers from 3 to 15 ohms impedance.
Size $3 \frac{1}{2} \times 2 \frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{2}$ in.
2.30

Built resed and
Built rested and guaranteed with circults and instructions manual
$£ 4.48$
2.50

Built, tested and guaranteed with circuits and instructions manual. $£ 5.48$


Designed specially for use with the Project 60 system of your choice.
Illustration shows PZ. 5 to left and PZ.8. (for use with 2.50 s) to the right. Use PZ. 5 for normal Z. 30 assemblies and PZ. 6 where a stablised supply is essential.
PZ-5 30 volts unstabilised $\mathbf{£ 4 . 9 8}$
PZ-6 35 volts stablised $£ 7.98$
PZ-6 35 vorts stabilised
PZ-8 45 volts stabilised
PZ-8 45 volts stabilised
(less mains transformer)
$£ 7.98$
PZ-8 mains transformer £5.98

## Guarantee

If within 3 months of purchasing Project " 60 modules directly from us, you are dissatisfied with tham, we will refund your money at once. Each modula is guaranteed to work pe fectly and should any defect arise in normal use we will service it at once and without any cost to you whatsoever provided that it is returned to us within 2 years of the purchase date. There will be a small charge for purchase date. There will be a small charge for
service thereafter. No charge for postage by service thereafter. No charge for pos
surface mail. Air-mail charged at cost.

Stereo 60 pre-amp/control unit


Designed for the Project 60 range but suitable for use with any high quality power amplifier. Again silicon epitaxial planar transistors are used throughout, achieving a really high signal-to-noise ratio and excellent tracking between channels. Input selection is by means of push buttons and accurate equalisation is provided for all the usual inputs.

## SPECIFICATIONS

Input sensitivities: Radio-up to 3 mV . Mag. p.u. 3 mV : correct to R.I.A.A. curve $\pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}: 20$ to 25.000 Hz . Ceramic p.u.-up to 3 mV : Aux-up to 3 mV .
Output: 250mV
Signal-to-noise ratio: better than 70 dB .
Channei matching: within 1 dB .
Tone controls: TAEBLE +15 to -15 dB at $10 \mathrm{KHz}:$ BASS +15 to- 15 dB at 100 Hz .
Front panel: brushed aluminium with black knobs and controls.
Size: $8 \frac{1}{2} \times 1 \frac{1}{2} \times 4 \mathrm{ins}$.
Built, tested
andguaranteed.
$£ 9.98$

## Active Filter Unit



For use between Stereo 60 unit and two Z.30s or $Z .50 \mathrm{~s}$, and is easily mounted. It is unique in that the cut-off frequencies are continuously variable, and as attenuation in the rejected band is rapid ( $12 \mathrm{~dB} /$ octave), there is less loss of the wanted signal than has previously been possible. Amplitude and phase distortion are negligible. The A.F.U. is suitable for use with any other amplifier system. Two stages of filtering are incorporated rumble (high pass) and scratch (low pass). Supply voltage -15 to 35 V . Current -3 mA . H.F. cut-off ( -3 dB ) variable from 28 k Hz to 5 kHz . L.F cut-off ( -3 dB ) variable from 25 Hz to 100 Hz . Distortion at $1 \mathrm{kHz}(35 \mathrm{~V}$. supply) $0.02 \%$ at rated output.
Built, testad
and guaranteed
£5.98

## Stereo FM Tuner


first in the world to use the
phase lock loop principle
Before production of this tuner, the phase lock loop principle was used for receiving signals from space craft because of its vastly improved signal to noise ratio over other systems. Now. for the first time, the principle has been applied to an FM tuner with fantastically good results. Other original features include varicap diode tuning, printed circuit coils, an I.C. in the specially designed stereo decoder and squelch circuit for silent tuning between stations. Sensitivity is such that good reception becomes possible in difficult areas. Foreign stations can be tuned in suitable conditions and often a few inches of wire are enough for an aerial. In terms of a high fidelity this tuner has a lower level of distortion than any other tuner we know. Stereo broadcasts are received automatically as the tuning control is rotated, a panel indicator lighting up as the stereo signal is tuned in. This tuner can also be used to advantage with any other high fidelity system.

## SPECIFICATIONS:

Number of transiators: 16 plus 20 in I.C.
Tuning range: 87.5 to 108 MHz
Capture ratio: 1.5 dB
Sensitivity: $2 \mu \mathrm{~V}$ for 30 dB quiating: $7 \mu \mathrm{~V}$ for full limiting.
Squelch ievel: $20 \mu \mathrm{~V}$.
A.F.C. range: $\pm 200 \mathrm{KHz}$

Signal to noise ratio : $>65 \mathrm{~dB}$
Audio frequency response: $10 \mathrm{~Hz}-15 \mathrm{KHz}$ $( \pm 1 \mathrm{~dB})$
Total harmonic distortion: $0.15 \%$ for $30 \%$ modulation
Stereo decoder operating level: $2 \mu \mathrm{~V}$
Pilot tone suppression: 30 dB
Cross talk: 40 dB
I.F. frequency: 10.7 MHz

Output voltage: $2 \times 150 \mathrm{mV}$ R.M.S.
Aerial Impedance: 75 Ohms
Indicators: Mains on: Stereo on; tuning indicator
Operating voltage: $25-30$ VDC
Size : $3.6 \times 1.6 \times 8.15$ inches: $91.5 \times 40 \times 207 \mathrm{~mm}$


Price: $\mathbf{E 2 5}$ built and tested. Post free

Yo: SINCLAIR RADIONICS LTD LONDON ROAD ST. IVES HUNTINGDONSHIRE PE17 4HJ Please send

Name

Address
for which I enclose cash/cheque/money order.

## Sinclair IC10/Q16/Micromatic

IC10


## The world's most advanced high

 fidelity amplifierThis is the world's first monolithic integrated circuit high fidelity power amplifier and preamplifier. The circuit itself is a chip of silicon only a twentieth of an inch square by one hundredth of an inch thick, having 5 watts RMS output ( 10 watts peak). It contains 13 transistors (including two power types). 2 diodes. 1 zener diode and 18 resistors, and is encapsulated in a solid plastic package which holds the metal heat sink and connecting pins This exciting device is more rugged and has considerable performance advantages, including complete freedom from thermal runaway and a very low level of distortion. The IC10 is primarily intended as a full performance high fidelity power and preamplifier, for which application it only requires the addition of such components as tone and volume controls and a battery or mains power supply. It may also be used in other applications including car radios, electronic organs, servo amplifiers (it is dc coupled throughout) etc.

## Circuit Description

The first three transistors are used in the pre-amp and the remaining 10 in the power amplifier. Class $A B$ output is used with closely controlled quiescent current which is independent of temperature. There is generous negative feedback round both sections and the amplifier is completely free from crossover distortion at all supply voltages, making battery operation eminently satisfactory.
Each IC10 is sold with a comprehensive manual giving circuit and wiring diagrams for a large number of applications in addition to high fidelity. These include oscillators, etc. The pre-amp section can be used as an RF or IF. amplifier without any additional transistors.

## Specifications

Output: 10 watts peak. 5 watts RMS continuous Frequency response: 5 Hz to $100 \mathrm{kHz} 1 \pm \mathrm{dB}$ Total harmonic distortion: Less than $1 \%$ at full output.
Load impedance : 3 to 150 hms
Power gain: $110 \mathrm{~dB}(100,000,000,000$ times) ow
Supply voltage: 8 to 18 volts. (A Sinclair power Supply voltage : 8 to 18 volts. (A Sinclair
unit, $P Z .7$ is available for mains operation) unit, PZ 7 is available for mains operation)
Size: $1 \times 0.4 \times 0.2$ in. plus heat sink and tags Size: $1 \times 0.4 \times 0.2$
Sensitivity 5 mV .
Sensitivity 5 mV .
Input impedance: Adjustable externally up to 2.5 Mohms.

Price (with manual) : $£ 2.98$ post free.

016


## High fidelity loudspeaker

The 016 employs the well proven acoustic principles specially developed by Sinclair in which a special driver assembly is meticulously matched to the characteristics of the uniquely designed cabinet. In ceviewing this exclusive Sinclair design, technical journals have justly compared the Q16 with much more expensive loudspeakers. Its shape enables the Q16 to be positioned and matched to its environment to much better effect than is the case with conventionally styled enclosures. A solid teak surround with a special all-over cellular foam front is used as much for appearance as its ability to pass all audio frequencies

This elegantly designed shelf mounting speaker brings genuine high fidelity within reach of every music lover.

## Specifications

Construction: Special sealed seamless sound or pressure chamber with internal baffle
Loading: up to 14 watts TMS
Input impedance : 8 ohms.
Frequency response: From 60 to 16.000 Hz . confirmed by independently plotted B and K curve. Driver unit: Special high compliance unit having massive ceramic magnet of 11.000 gauss, aluminium speech coil and a special cone suspension for excellent transient response
Size and styling: $9 z$ in square on face $\times 47$ in. deep with neat pedestal base. Black all-over cellular foam front with natural solid teak surround
Price f8.98.

To: SINCLAIR RADIONICS LTD LONDON ROAD ST. IVES HUNTINGDONSHIRE PE17 4HJ Please send

## Name

## Address



WW-104 FOR FURTHER DETALS


## REED SWITCH

West Hyde reed switches have illudu $50,000,000,000$ operations at ovar 2.000 per second. 1 oft 0.75 . 10 oft 0.65 . P\& P 10 P .
Already there are well over a milition seed switches a week being used in Great Britian alone. The West Hyde version has the additional advantage of hemetically seating and accurately positioning the reed in a protective polyaropylenie moulding
OVEA SPEED MONITORS FLOW MONITBRING, CONVEYOR MONITORING. COUNTING. POSITION OETECTION PROXIMITY OETECTORS (FeS REV COUNTERS. LIMIT SWITCHES. PRESS TOOL PROTECTION.
its ADVANTAGES ARE
LOW COST. EASY MOUNTNG LONG LIFE. SAFETY. Vibration resistance. Ideal for oriving logic.

Contil neon illuminated push micro switches. They can have, mains or transistor driven neot lighting inside the push button; momentary. or ON/OFF operation with twist action and switching by one or two micro switches or less nean. indicator, or a push button micro switch. West Hyde neons. nominally 25.000 hours. plus Pye switches, together make these push buttons remarkable value for money

## Supplied with or without nean

1 or 2 microswitches.
Momentary or lock on
$\left.\begin{array}{l}\text { Momentary or lock on. } \\ \text { Red or natural colour }\end{array}\right\}$
cost
2 switches. illuminated No switch, illuminated switch, non-illuminated
2 switches, non-illuminated

Same price
$\begin{array}{ll}10 \mathrm{off} & 100 \\ 0.73 & 0.67\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{ll}0.73 & 0.55 \\ 0.53 & 0.39 \\ 0.44 & 0.39\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{ll}0.43 & 0.38 \\ 0.48\end{array}$ $0.58 \quad 0.50$ quantities
specify
1 or 2 microswitches
Lock or momentary
Whether cap is required


## All Contil Transformers, with transistorised equipment, give a wide range of voltages. <br> WEST HYDE W(1)



## WW-105 FOR FURTHER DETALS

 resistant plastic, it has a full view embossing wheel with a precise action, which gives fast finger tip embossing with clear, sharp impressions on $12 \mathrm{ft} \times 3^{\prime \prime}$ tape. Labeller in Blue, Green, Yellow, Red. Tape in Black, Red Blue, Green, Gold

Labeller: $f 1 . P$ \& $P 8 p$.
Tape reels: $33 p, P \& P 5 p$.

Wese Hyde Diat Verier Caliners are manntirant value and an enarmous help on both development work and production. The dirsct reading dial is very tleat. and they provide insda, stael with hardened slides. Packed in avelvel -lined metal cass available in lour sizes: $6^{\prime \prime} \times 001$ or $150 \mathrm{~mm} \times .05 \mathrm{~mm}$这 $\mathrm{f} 10.75 .12^{\prime \prime} \times .001$ or 300 mm a E 22.75 . Less fo quantity


OSCILLOSCOPE PROBE TM8II9 High impedance $100 / 1$ resistive attenuated probe for accurate display of HF waveforms or short rise time pulse signals, offered brand new with all accessories and instruction manual. List price $f 17$. TM8I94. A MARCONI PRODUCT

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 nput 240 v ., output 2560 y . and 2820 v at 1 amp. Weight 75 lb . Price $£ 15$
## AUDIO OSCILLATORS

Range $0-200 \mathrm{kHz}$ in 4 ranges. Output voltage 1 micro volt to 12 volt. in seven ranges. Frequency check meter 60 and
400 Hz . Yery good stability and 400 Hz . Very good stability and low dis-
tortion. Contains thermostatically contortion. Contains thermostatically con-
trolled heater. Supplied complete with trolled heater. Supplied complete with leads circuit diagram etc *ondition. Price E35 P.P. ${ }^{\text {c/ }}$ MANY OTHER TYPES AVAILABLE

SOLARTRON OSCILLOSCOPE 523S. 2
The best of the surplus scopes for $\mathbf{6 5 2}$, fully serviced and calibrated, compare the specification with others. Bandwidth Time Base $0.1 \mathrm{usec}-1 \mathrm{~cm} / \mathrm{sec}$ in 7 decades Time Base 0.1 usec- $\mathrm{cm} / \mathrm{sec}$ in 7 decades C Core mains transformers/4 in. High resolution flat face PDA CRT and many other features make this scope very suitable for colour television servicing
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P. \& P. $1 \mid \cdot 25$.

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Recorders *Price only $£ 1.75$ P.P. 10 p

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 Precision Kelvin Wheatstone Bridge ype KW Measurements can be made type KWI. Measurements can be madefrom 0.0001 of an ohm. 100,000 ohms from 0.000 of an ohm. insitu Sullivan Galvo, four decade ranges, four standards and six Kelvin divide/multiply ratio's offered in excellent condition ready for use Price 695

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CRYSTAL contained in B7G envelope with flying lead connections. Brand new only $62 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{p}$ each.

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WATSON MARLOW ORBITAL LOBE PUMPS
Specially designed for corrosive liquids etc. Rated output against 10 ft . head-
110 G.P.H. direction of flow reversible. 10 G.P.H. direction of flow reversible. Supply 240 v. A.C. mains. Nett weigh
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Lucas diode rectifiers full wave bridge rectifier mounted on special heat-sink $50 \mathrm{~V},-60 \mathrm{~V}$. operation rated at 50A. Has many uses for heavy duty charging plants, plating rectifiers, etc., etc. Per pair E 8
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AVO Led. Model CT 378. Good quality AM generator 2-225 MHz in seven range calibrated output level I uV to I $V$ frequency range directly calibrated with set level meter. Smal size modern instru leads and mains lead for price only $\& 35$ Airmec Ltd. Model CT-212 AM/FM signa generator 85 kHz to 32 MHz directly calibrated output level calibrated 1 uV
to $I V$ deviation $0-30 \mathrm{kHz}$, fully portable to IV deviation $0-30 \mathrm{kHz}$, fully portable
for 24 DC and 240 v . AC operation in first for 24 DC and 240 v . AC operation in first
class condition. Our price, only $£ 45$.


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"INSULATION TESTERS" TYPE No. II METROHM by
famous British manufacturer. All solid state. No Mand es to cran Runs off 9 volt transistor battery. Simply press button for function. Range 0.1 to 25 M ohms for insulation testing. Also 0.1 to 100 ohms for resistance and continuity checking. Clear, concise scale. Small size modern instrument, complete with carrying strap and protecting cover. Offered in good used condition with battery ready to work. For 250 volt pressure only. List Price $£ 19.50$. Our Price $\mathbf{5 6 \cdot 0 0}$ plus $22 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{P}$ post/packing.

Rhode \& Schwarz ESM 300 UHF Receiver $A M / F M \quad 85 M H z-300 ~ M H z$ Rhode \& Schwarz BN 1503 Rhode \& Schwarz BN4151/2"60 Noise sength test receiver AM/FM Rhode \& Scharz
 Rhode \& Schwarz BN $33664 / 50$ UHF Load resistor 100 watt 50 ohm $\quad 0 \mathrm{MHz}-600 \mathrm{MHz}$. Rhode \& Schwarz BN4521 Vibration Meter $30 \mathrm{~Hz}-12 \mathrm{KHz}$. Rhode \& Schwarz

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Advance $Q$ meter type T.I.
$00 \mathrm{kHz}-100 \mathrm{MHz}$.
Marconi Q meter type 329G
$50 \mathrm{kHz}-50 \mathrm{MHz}$.
$15 \mathrm{MHz}-170 \mathrm{MHz}$
DOUBLE BEAM OSCILLOSCOPE RHODE \& SCHWARZ POLYSKOP
DC-7MHz CALIBRATED AI
CONDITION, ONLY $£ 65$ P.P. $£ 2$

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\begin{aligned}
& \text { (SWOB 2) } \\
& \text { With accessories for sale or hire. }
\end{aligned}
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Airmec portable RF signal generator. AM/FM Type CT212.
Specially designed for fleld use for mains or 12v operation. Frequency range 85 kHz to 30 MHz . Accurate scale calibration. *Variable output from 1 micro V 100 mV .

## TEKTRONIX 551 WITH TWO PLUGINS

| MARCONI 80ID |
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| A.M. SIGNAL |
| GENERATOR IO-470 |
| MHZ OUTPUT |
| $0.1 \mu V$ to IV | Marconi TF867 Standard RF Signal Generator. range 4 Volts. Extremely accurate attenuator, high output stability and discrimination make the generator very suitable for precision measurements on networks and filters. Modulation up to $100 \%$ nay be applied at

400 or 1000 Hz . Built in crystal calibrator. Offered in first class condition. Price El75.

Precision Multi Turn Indicating Dials sultable for 10 turn Helical Pots, machined from soldi dural with the skirt engraved 0 to 100 and inner dial engraved 0 to 10 sultable for standard $t$ inch spindles, these
small dials are as easy to fix as screwing on an small dials are as easy to fix as screwing on an for counter knob depth $\frac{1}{i} \operatorname{tn}$. Brand

## WANTED. GOOD <br> EQUIPMENT

Miniature solenold driven wafer switches, type-Ledex single pole, 7 pos., 3 wafers. Primarily used for channel switching in Radio-Telephones. Wafers may be sub-
stluted for any type. Solenoid voltage, 12 or 24 V . stituted for any type. Solenoid
Brand new. EI .50 each, p.p. $12 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{p}$.
CAMBRIDGE INSTRUMENT Co. Ltd. Precision test meters. Electrodynamic A.C. Ammeter 0 to 15 amps with test certificate Dynamometer A.C. Ammeter range 0 to 15 amps

Tinsley Universal Shunt type 4309 C
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Digital Voltmeter Solartron LM902.2 four digit readout
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> | TEKTRONIX 581 |
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| WITH TYPE 80 |
| PLUG IN AND PROBE |
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EIMAC SK-600A. Air spaced Valve Holders suitable for $4 \times 250$, etc. Power retrodes, brand hew, boxed, complet with clamps, screws; heavy silver plate | inish. Normal list price $\mathbf{6} 6 \cdot 50$. Our price |
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| 2.50 . | C2.50.

A.E.I. MINIATURE UNISELECTOR So SWITCHES
No waiting, straight off the shelf and are 2202 A equipment, the Catalogue Nos 250 ohms, 4/33A63/1; coil resistance price is $\mathbf{6 5}$. Limited quantity only available
Also: 2203A, 2200A, 2202A
Resolved Components Indicator VP 253/1a. Solartron Low Frequency Decad Oscillators. Solartron OS 103 and asso ciated equipment. 2 Phase Low Frequency Oscillator, type Bo 567. Solartron Solartron Synchro test set, type CT 428 Solartron AC Millivolt meter. Precision Type VF 252.

AERIAL CHANGE/OVER RELAYS of current manufacture designed espec 12 v ., frequency up to 250 MHz at 50 watts Small size only, 2 in. $\times \frac{7}{}$ in. Offere brand new, boxed. Price $\mathbf{\$ 1} \cdot 50$, inc. P.\&P

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Marconi CRI $50.2-60 \mathrm{MHz}$ as new. . 66 Hallicrafters S27C $110-220 \mathrm{MHz}$. HROM× $500 \mathrm{KHz}-30 \mathrm{MHz}$. Redifon R50M. $13 \mathrm{KHz}-32 \mathrm{MHz}$. .......
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$60 \mathrm{KHz}-31 \mathrm{MHz}$

COAXIAL SWITCHES
Suitable for aerial shangeover and high frequency switching up to $1,000 \mathrm{MHz}$ miniature Vacuum drawn type 110 vde operation connections BNC and $N$ types
Offered brand new, boxed. Price $\mathbf{\& 3 . 2 5}$

Hirger \& Watts Microspin X Band Bridge Type W957. Microspin Proton Hea Frequency Meter. Type FAZ 210
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Microspin 1 cm Wave guide direction couples, associated measuring equipmen High Voltage Klystron Power Supply Units. Type FA 80.
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LEAD-ACID EQUIPMENT
BATTERIES IOV 5AH.
Transparent casing. Size $2 \ddagger \times 5 \times 7$ in Offer box, brand new and boxed, 2 batteries instructions. Can supply voltages in th range from 2-20v. Price $£ 2 \cdot 25$, inc. P.\&.P Burndept RF Plugs still available. These hard to find plugs are used on a multitude lo relays Offered new ex equipment. 2 for 50 p , inc. p.p

Nife traction Batteries Nickel Iron. 1.2 V per cell rated at 180 A.H. Sold in crates of three cells or crates of five cells. \& per cell. Guaranteed best buy.

BT9I-500R THYRISTORS 500 PIV Max rect. Current 16 amps Guaranteed perfect. Price $\mathbf{£ 1 \cdot 2 5}$ each

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Price $£ 45$.
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PYE High Impedance DC Amplifier for measurements better than 20 uV to 10 volts centre zero. Price CS6.
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Capacitance range 0 to 100 pf fully screened with engraved verniar subdivided into 100 equal divisions complete
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50 DECO IMPULSE COUNTERS 4 DIGIT RESETT 10 Impulsos per second. 27MA 220 V COIL AC/DC OFFERED BRAND NEW AT $£ 2$ EACH

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## ADVANCE DC STABILIZED <br> P.S.U. TYPE PM8

Fully stabilized power module PM8 15 to 30 volts 5 amps offered brand new, Price $£ 25$

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SPECIAL 50p PACKS. ORDER 10 PACKS AND WE WILL INCLUDE

| RESISTORS, $\frac{1}{2} / \frac{1}{2}$ watt assorted <br> Wire-wound 1 to 3 watt 5 to 7 watt 10 watts |  | 50 p 50 p 50 p 50 p |
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| $7 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in} . \times 3 \mathrm{l} \frac{1 \mathrm{in}}{}$ |  | 50p |
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| 2.5 mm |  |  |
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SINCLAIR AMPLIFIERS AND SPEAKERS: Complete range in stock.
All at $10 \%$ discounton IINE All at $10 \%$ discount on tisy
 Postage/Packing 25p. is watt type, batten fitting for caravans 44 . Postage/Packing 25 n 13 watt type, batten with switch. 22in $\times 2$ in $\times$ lin $\mathbf{E 5}$. Postage/Packing 25p.

## MULLARD POLYESTER CONDENSERS

$1,000 \mathrm{pf}, 1,200 \mathrm{pf}$, $1,500 \mathrm{pf}, 1,800 \mathrm{pf}, \mathbf{2 , 2 0 0 \mathrm { pf } \text { , } 1 5 \mathrm { p } \text { -pir dozen (all } 4 0 0 \mathrm { V } \text { workingl } ) ~}$ $0.15 \mu \mathrm{f}, 0.22 \mu \mathrm{f}, 0.27 \mu \mathrm{f}, 30 \mathrm{p}$ per dozen (atil 160 V working). $25 \times$ discount for lots of 100 .ef any ohe type.

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$\frac{2}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$ Wate Most values in stock. 50p per 100. 10p per dozen of any one value. 1 watt to So MAINS DROPPERS. Hundreds of valuas from 0.7 ohm upwards. radio/television. Owing to the huge variety these can only be offered "assorted" 2t 50p per dozen.

SILVER MICA/CERAMIC/POLYSYYAENE CONDENSERS
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WE OFFER FROM STOCK AN EXCLUSIVE RANGE OF BRAND NEW CERAMIC FULL SPECIFICATION LOW COST TTL 7400 RANGE OF INTEGRATED CIRCUITS

BRAND FULLY NEW GUARANTEED NEW LIST－NEW PRICES

Send today for your FREE copy of our new 1971 list
$2 \mathrm{~N}_{2} 44$ $2 N 4696$
$2 N 697$

$2 N 706$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 2N706 | 17p | BC108 | 12p | BSX 21 |
| 2N | 37p |  |  |  |



 | 2N930 | 25p | BC114 | 35p | BY100 | 15p |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 2N1131 | 30p | BC115 | 32p | BY126 | 150 |





 \begin{tabular}{ll|ll|l|l|}
\& N1309 \& 25p \& BC138 \& 40p \& GET102 30p <br>
2N1613 \& 22p \& BC147 \& 17p \& GET111 40p \& 7 <br>
OET880 37p

 

2N1613 \& 22p \& BC147 \& 17p \& GET111 40p <br>
2N1711 \& 25p \& BC148 \& 12p \& GET882 27p \& 74 <br>
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2N1711 \& 25p \& BC148 \& 12p \& GET882 25p <br>
2N2147 \& 75p \& BC149 \& 20p \& MAT100 25p <br>
2N2160 \& 65p \& BC154 \& 37p \& MAT101 30p

 

2N2160 \& 65p \& BC154 \& 37p \& MAT101 30p <br>
2N2218 \& 30p \& BC157 \& 20p \& MAT120 25p <br>
2N2219 \& 32p \& BC158 \& 17p \& MAT121 30p

 

2N2219 \& 32p \& BC158 \& 17 p \& MAT120 25p <br>
2N2222 \& 30p \& BC159 \& 20p \& MJ2801E1．37

 

2N2222 30p \& BC159 \& 20p \& MJ2801є1 <br>
2N2222A37p \& BC177 \& 25p \& MJ2901

 

2N2369 \& 20p \& BC178 \& 25p \& M <br>
2N2484 \& 35p \& BC179 \& 27p \& MJE370 <br>
2N7D

 

2N 2484 \& 35 p \& BC179 \& 27 p \& MJE370 97p <br>
2N2646 \& 50p \& BCY30 \& 25 p \& MJE520 87p <br>
2N2904 \& 30p \& BCY31 \& 30p \& MJE2955
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| BAX16 | 7p | BFY84 | 42p． |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| BAY31 | 7p | BFY90 | 65p |

ouad 2－Input Dand Gate
（ Quad 2－Input Nand Gate
Quad 2－Input Positive Nor Gate
Hex Inverter
Hex Inverter open Collector Triple 3－Input Nand Gate
Single 8－Input Nand Gate
Single 8－Input Nand Gate
Dual 4－Input Buffer Gate
BCD to Decinnal Decoder and N
BCD to Decimal Decoder（TTL）
Dual to－Input and／or／not Gate－Expandable
Single 8－Input and／or／not Gate－Expandable
Dual 4－Input－Expandable
Single JK Flip Flop－Edge Triggered
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Dual D Flip Flop
7476 Quad Bistable Latch
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7492 Divide by 12． 4 Bit Binary Counter
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Data available for above series in booklet form，price 10 p ．
Dual Inline 14 Pin Sockets 30p each． 16 P＇in 35p each．

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## SILICON RECTIFIERS

## 1 AMP MINIATURE WIRE ENDED PLASTIC Type P．IV． $1-4950+100+500+1000+$

$\begin{array}{lrllllll}\text { Type } & \text { P．I．V．} & 1-49 & 50+100+500+1000 \\ \text { IN4001 } & 50 & 8 p & 7 p & 6 p & 5 p & \\ \text { IN4002 } & 100 & 9 p & 8 p & 7 p & 51 p & 4\end{array}$

1．5 AMP MINIATURE WIRE ENDED PLASTIC
Type P．I．V． $1-49 \quad 50+100+500+1000+$ $\begin{array}{lrrrrrr}\text { Type } & \text { P．I．V．} & 1-49 & 50+100+500+1000+ \\ \text { PL } 4001 & 50 & 10 p & 9 p & 8 p & 7 p & 6 p \\ \text { PL4002 } & 100 & 11 p & 10 p & 9 p & 8 p & 7 p\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{rrrrrrrr}\text { PL4001 } & 50 & 10 p & 9 p & 8 p & 7 p & 6 p & \text { 9p } \\ \text { PL4002 } & 100 & 11 p & 10 p & 9 p & 8 p & 7 p & 15 \\ \text { PL4003 } & 200 & 12 p & 11 p & 10 p & 9 p & 8 p & 25 \\ \text { PL } 4004 & 400 & 12 p & 11 p & 10 p & 9 p & 8 p & 10 \\ \text { PL4005 } & 600 & 15 p & 13 p & 11 p & 10 p & 9 p & 50 \\ \text { PL4006 } & 800 & 17 p & 15 p & 13 p & 12 p & 10 p & 10 \\ \text { PL4007 } & 1000 & 20 p & 17 p & 15 p & 13 p & 11 p & \end{array}$

## 3 AMP PLASTIC WIRE ENDED RECTIFIERS

Type P．I．V．1－49 $50+100+500+1000+$ $\begin{array}{rrrrrrr}\text { PL7001 } & 50 & 20 \mathrm{p} & 18 \mathrm{p} & 17 \mathrm{p} & 16 \mathrm{p} & 14 \mathrm{p} \\ \text { PL7002 } & 100 & 20 \mathrm{p} & 19 \mathrm{p} & 18 \mathrm{p} & 17 \mathrm{p} & 15 \mathrm{p} \\ \text { PL7003 } & 200 & 22 \mathrm{p} & \text { 20p } & 19 \mathrm{p} & 18 \mathrm{p} & 16 \mathrm{p}\end{array}$


## MINIATURE POTTED BRIDGE AECTIFIER

（Sillicon）Slze $t$ in．$x \frac{1}{2}$ in．$x$ in．
Type P．I．V．rent $1-4950+100+500+$
$\begin{array}{lllllll}1002 & 100 & 2 \text { anps } & 60 \mathrm{p} & 55 \mathrm{p} & 50 \mathrm{p} & 45 \mathrm{p} \\ 2002 & 200 & 2 \mathrm{amps} & 70 \mathrm{p} & 65 \mathrm{p} & 60 \mathrm{p} & 55 \mathrm{p}\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{lllllll}2002 & 200 & 2 \text { amps } & 70 \mathrm{p} & 65 \mathrm{p} & 60 \mathrm{p} & 55 \mathrm{p} \\ 4002 & 400 & 2 \text { amps } & 80 \mathrm{p} & 75 \mathrm{p} & 70 \mathrm{p} & 65 \mathrm{p} \\ 6002 & 600 & 2 \text { amps } & 90 \mathrm{p} & 80 \mathrm{p} & 75 \mathrm{p} & 70 \mathrm{p}\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{llllllll}4002 & 400 & 2 \text { amps } & 80 p & 75 p & 70 p & 65 p & \text { BY } \\ 6002 & 600 & 2 \text { ampp } & 90 \mathrm{p} & \text { 80p } & 75 \mathrm{p} & \text { 70p } & \text { BY } \\ 1004 & 100 & 4 \text { amps } & 70 \mathrm{p} & 600 & 55 \mathrm{p} & 50 \mathrm{p} & \text { BY } \\ 2004 & 200 & 4 \text { amps } & 75 \mathrm{p} & 70 \mathrm{pop} & 65 \mathrm{p} & 60 \mathrm{p} & 10\end{array}$

$\begin{array}{ll}4006 & 400 \\ 6006 & 60\end{array}$

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| :--- |
| I．C． |
| PA2 |
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| TAT |
| TAI |
| MC1 |
| UL9 |
| UL9 |
| LA7 |
| MC1 |
| PA23 |
| PA23 |

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\begin{aligned}
& \text { Zen } \\
& 400 \\
& \text { Mini } \\
& \text { BZY } \\
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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | 0.15 | $3{ }^{\text {N12 }} 18$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 | 0.20 | $2{ }^{2} 3$ |  | W 14 | $0.77$ |  |  |  |  | NKT215 |  |
| ${ }_{2}^{2 G 303}$ | 0.20 | 2N3402 | 0.22 | 3N141 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ${ }_{2}^{2 G 306}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & 2 \text { N } 3403 \\ & 2 \text { N } 3404 \end{aligned}$ | ${ }^{0} 0.32$ |  |  |  |  |  |  | NKT219 | 0.30 |
|  |  |  |  |  | 0.67 0.87 |  |  |  |  | NKT223 |  |
|  | 0.30 | 2N3405 | 0.45 |  | 0.52 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 0. | 2 N |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | 0250 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | 4025 | 0.32 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 0.22 | 2 N | 1.30 | 40309 | 0.32 | ${ }_{\text {BC }}$ | 0.20 | BFY56A | 0.571 | NKT2 |  |
| 2N69 | 0.2 | 2 N | 0.97 t | 403 | 0.45 | BC160 | 0.62 k | BFY75 | 0.30 | NKT2 | 27 |
| N697 | 0.20 | 2N35 | 1.25 | 403 | . 35 |  | 0.15 | BFY76 | 0.424 | NKT241 |  |
| 2 N 698 | 0.25 |  |  | 40 | 0.47 |  | 0.1 |  | 0.57 |  |  |
| 2N699 | 0.6 |  |  |  | ${ }^{0} .37$ |  |  |  |  | NK | 21 |
|  |  |  |  | 40316 | 0.47 |  | 0.15 | BF | 0.25 | NKT245 | 0.20 |
| 708 |  |  | ${ }_{0} 0.12$ | 40317 | 0.37 |  |  |  | 0.2 | NKT | 20 |
| 2N708 2N709 | $0.62{ }^{2}$ | 2 N 3703 | 0.12 | 40319 | 0.55 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 N 718 | 0.25 | 2 N 3704 | 0.17 | 40322 | 0.47 | BC |  |  | 5 |  |  |
| N718 | 0.30 | 2 N 3705 |  | 40323 | 0.32 | BC | 0.22 | BPY | 4 | N |  |
| 2 N 726 | 0.30 | 2 N | $0.12{ }^{0}$ | 40324 | 0.47 | ${ }^{\mathrm{BC}}$ | 0.12 | BR |  |  |  |
| 27 | $0 \cdot 30$ |  |  | 403238 | - 0.37 | ${ }_{8 C 184}$ | O. 0.15 | BSX | 0.17 |  |  |
|  | 0.17 0.17 | 2 N 37 2 N 3 | 0.09 | 4034 | ${ }_{0}^{0.27}$ | ${ }_{8 \mathrm{BCl}}^{82 \mathrm{~L}}$ | 0.10 | ${ }_{\text {BS }} \times 21$ | 0.37 | NKT281 | 27 |
|  |  |  |  |  | 0.57 |  | 0.10 | BSX | 0.45 |  |  |
| 2 N 929 | 0.221 | 2 N 37 | 0.12 |  | 0.52 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ${ }^{2} \mathrm{~N} 933$ | 0.2 | 2 N 37 |  |  | 0.42 | ${ }^{\text {BC }}$ | - 0.12 | BS | - 0.32 | NKT |  |
| 2N9870 | 0.2 | 2N37 | 2.221 | 4036 | 0.57 |  | 0.27 | BS | 0.62 | NKT405 | 75 |
| N091 | 0.22 | ${ }_{2}{ }^{2}$ |  | 4037 |  |  |  |  | 022 | NKT | . $62 \pm$ |
| ${ }_{2} \mathrm{~N} 1131$ | 0.25 | $2{ }^{2} 3773$ | 2.40 | 4040 | 0.57 |  | - |  | 0.27 |  |  |
| 2 N 132 | 0.25 | 2 N 3791 | 2.75 | 40407 | 0.40 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1 | 0.17 | 2 N 38 |  | 4040 | 0.52 |  |  |  | 7 | NKT | .32 |
| 1304 |  | 2N3823 | 0.97 | 4041 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 N 1304 2 N 1305 | 0.22 | 2N2754A | 0.27 | 4041 | 0.5 |  | 0.521 | BSY |  | NKT674F |  |
| N1306 | 0.25 | 2N3855 | 0.271 | 40467 | 0.57 |  | 0.371 | BSY | 0.17 | NKT677F |  |
|  |  | 2 N 385 | 0.30 | 40468 |  |  | . 15 |  |  |  |  |
| 2 N 130 |  |  |  |  | 0.5 |  | . |  |  |  |  |
| N1309 | 0.30 | 2 N 385 | 0.35 0.25 |  | 0.50 |  | 0.32 | ${ }_{85} 8$ | 0.17 | NKT736 | 0.35 |
| Ni6 | 0.2 | 2 N 38 | 0. |  | 0.30 | C | 0.22 | BSY36 | 0.25 | NKT73 | $0 \cdot 25$ |
|  |  |  |  |  | 0.20 | BC | 0.971 | BSY37 | 0.25 | NKT78 |  |
| 2 N 1632 |  | 2 N 3859 A | 0 |  | 0.25 |  | 0.20 | 85Y | . 22 | NKT103 | ${ }^{0.324}$ |
| N1637 |  | 2 N 38 |  |  | ${ }_{0} 0.22$ |  | 0.17 | BSY | O. 0.22 | NKT |  |
| $\mathrm{N}_{16} 6$ | 0.2 | 2N38 | 0 |  | 0.25 |  | 0.2 |  | 0.32 | NKT1051 | 0.32 |
| 2Ni701 | 1.62 | 2 N 3877 A | 0 |  |  |  |  |  | 0.32 | NKT20329 |  |
| $2{ }^{2} \mathrm{Ni} 711$ | 0.25 | 2 N 3900 | 0.371 | ${ }^{\text {ACl }} 88$ | 0.3 | B01 | $1.12+$ | BSY | 0.37 | NKT20 |  |
| 2N1889 | 0.32 | 2 N 3900 A | 0 | ACr | 0.27 |  |  | BSY |  |  |  |
| N1893 | 0.37 | 2 N 3901 | ${ }^{0} 0.975$ | ${ }^{\text {ACMI }}$ | 0.25 |  | O. | BSY | . 47 t | NK |  |
| - ${ }^{2} \mathrm{~N} 21478$ | 0.82 0.57 | 2N393 | 0.35 0.35 |  | 0.25 | ${ }_{8}$ | 0.9 |  | 0.45 |  |  |
| ${ }_{2 N}$ | 0.57 | 2 N 3905 | 0.374 | ${ }^{\text {ACY }}$ | 0.25 | BOI | 0.97 | ${ }_{\text {BS }}$ | 0.52 | NK |  |
| 2 N 2193 | 0.40 | 2N3906 | 0.377 | ACY22 | 0.20 |  | 1.37 + |  | 0.57 | NK |  |
| 2 N 2193 A | 0.424 | 2 N 4058 | ${ }_{0}^{0.17}$ | ${ }^{\text {ACr }}$ | 0.20 0.20 | BOY | 1. 51.5 | BSY9 | O. 012 | N | 0. |
| 2N2194 | 0.30 0.27 | 2N4 | 104 | ${ }^{\text {ACr }}$ A 4 | - 0.25 | BOYIP | 1.75 | BSW70 | 0.275 | 1802 |  |
| 2 N 22 | 0.32 |  | 0.12 | ACY4 | 0.40 | BDY | 1.97 ! |  | 0.75 | OC20 | 0.75 |
| 2 N 2219 | 0.321 | 2 N | $0 \cdot$ | ADI40 | 0.521 | BDY | 1.12 | C424 | $0.27{ }^{\text {a }}$ | $\mathrm{OC22}^{\mathrm{C} 23}$ | 0.50 0.50 |
| 2 N 2220 |  |  | 0.47 | AD | 0.57 0.57 |  | 1.25 | C426 |  |  |  |
| 2N2221 | ${ }_{0}^{0.25}$ | 2N42 | 0.42 | AD | ${ }_{0}^{0.371}$ | BOY | 1.25 | C428 | 0.371 | $\bigcirc$ | -42t |
| 2 N 2287 |  | 2 N 425 | 0.42 | AD | 0.371 | B0 | 1.00 | C74 | 0.30 | 26 | 訾 |
| 2 N 2297 | 0.30 | 2N4284 | 0.17 | AFIO | 0.42 | BF | 0.25 | D16P | $0.37{ }^{0}$ | ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C} 28$ | $0.62+$ |
| 2 N 2368 | 0 | 2 N 4285 | 0.17 | AFI 14 | 0.30 |  | O.474 | 016 | ${ }_{0} 0.37$ |  |  |
| 2N2369 | 0.17 | 2N4286 | O.17 | AFI15 | 0.2 | BF16 | ${ }_{0}^{0.37+}$ | ${ }^{8} 16$ | ${ }_{0} 0.40$ | $\bigcirc$ |  |
| 2N2369A | 0.17 | 2N4288 | $0 \cdot 17$ |  | 0.25 |  | 0.32 |  | 0.30 | $\bigcirc$ |  |
| 2 N 2483 | 0.2 | 2 N 428 | 0.171 | AFII 18 | $0.62 \pm$ | BF17 | 0.32 | GET | 0.20 | $\bigcirc$ | . 25 |
| 2 N 2484 | 0.32 | 2 N 4290 | 0.17 | AFII9 | 0.20 | 8F17 | 0.52 | GET: | 0.20 | OC |  |
| 2 N 2539 | 0.22 | 2 N 4291 | 0.17 | AFI24 | 0.22 | BF179 | 0.72 | GET | 0.20 0.20 | OC4s |  |
| 2 N 2540 | ${ }_{0}^{0.32}$ | 2N4292 | 0.12 0.47 | AFI25 | 0.20 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ${ }_{2}{ }^{2} 2614$ | 0.30 | 2N43 | 0.45 0.52 | AF127 | 27 | ${ }_{\text {BF }} 84$ | 0.25 | GET | 0.127 | $\bigcirc \mathrm{OC7}$ | 12 |
| 2N2646 | 0.571 | $2{ }^{2} 5$ | 0.57 | AF13 | 0.371 | BF18 | $0.42+$ | GETE | 0.30 | OC |  |
| 2N26 |  | 2 N | 42 | AFI7 | 0.42 | BE19 | ${ }_{0}^{0.20}$ | GET8 |  | OC |  |
| $2 N 271$ $2 N 27$ | 0.25 0.25 | 2N5 | 0.42 0.12 |  | ${ }_{0} .52$ | BF19 | $0.42 \downarrow$ | GET | 0.22 | $\bigcirc$ | 0.22 + |
| 2713 | 0.2 | 2 N | 0.52 |  | 0.42 | BFI9 | 0.42 | GET8 | 0.224 | $\bigcirc \mathrm{C} 77$ | 0 |
| 2 N 2714 | 0.30 | 2 N 5175 | 0.521 | AD | 0.427 | BFI9 | 0.42 t | GET8 | 0.22 | OC8 |  |
| 2 N 286 | 0.627 | 2 | 40 | AF2 | . 627 | BF2 | ${ }^{0} 0.52{ }^{\text {a }}$ | GE | 0.22 |  |  |
| 2 N 299 | 0.30 | ${ }^{2} \mathrm{~N} 5232 \mathrm{~A}$ | . 45 |  | ${ }_{0}^{0.62}$ | BF22 | ${ }_{0}^{0.20}$ | ${ }_{\text {M }}^{4} 4200$ | 1.12 |  |  |
| ${ }^{2} \mathrm{~N} 290$ | 0.32 0.37 | 2N5 | 0.42 |  |  | 8F2 | $0.22+$ | MJ 421 | 1 | $\bigcirc \mathrm{OCl}^{1} 9$ | $0.32 \pm$ |
| ${ }_{2} \mathrm{~N} 2905$ | d | 2 N 5249 | 0.671 |  | . 27 | BF | 0.22 | Mj430 | 1.02 | OC | 0 |
| 2 N 2906 | 0.25 | N | 25 | As | 0.27 |  | O. 0.42 | M M |  |  |  |
| 2N2906 | ${ }_{0}^{0.27}$ | 2 | 2.75 2.62 |  | 0.2 | ${ }_{\text {Br }}$ | ${ }_{0} .27$ | Ms | ${ }_{1} 1.25$ | $\bigcirc{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C} 200$ | 0.37 |
| 2 N 2923 2 N 292 | 0.5 | 2N5305 | ${ }_{0}^{2.371}$ |  |  |  | 0.22 | M 4 | 1.00 | O | 0.47 |
| 2 N 2924 | 15 | 2N5 | 0.40 |  | 0.32 t | BF 229 | 0.30 | MJ49 | 1.37 t | OC202 | 0.62 |
| 2 N 2925 |  | N | 0.371 | A | 0.25 |  | 0.30 | M118 | 2.17 | $\bigcirc \mathrm{OC}$ |  |
| 2N2926 |  | 2 N 5308 | 0.62 | As | 0.25 |  | ${ }_{0}^{0.374}$ | MJE | 0.62 | - ${ }^{\circ} 205$ | ${ }_{0}^{0} .62{ }^{0}$ |
| Gree |  | 2N5309 | ${ }^{0} 0.62$ | ${ }_{\text {AS }}$ | 0 | ${ }_{\text {er }}^{\text {BF }}$ | ${ }_{0}^{0.27}$ | Mjes | -0.87t | O | 0.75 |
|  | $\stackrel{0}{0.12}$ | - | 0.427 0.27 |  |  |  | $0.67 t$ | MPF | 0.42 t | $\bigcirc{ }^{\text {CP71 }}$ | $0.42+$ |
| 2 N 3011 | 0.30 | 2N5355 | 0.27 | ASY8 | 0.25 | BF | 0.25 | MPF | 0.377 | OR | $0 \cdot 6$ |
| 2 N 3014 | $0.32 \pm$ | $2 N 5356$ | 0.32 | ASY | 0.32 | ${ }^{8 F}$ | ${ }^{0} 0.32{ }^{\text {a }}$ | MP | ${ }_{0}^{0.374 .}$ | PRPGA | ${ }^{0}$ |
| 2 N 3053 | 0.25 | 2N5365 | 0.47 | ASZ20 | - 0.372 | ${ }_{8 F}^{\text {BF }}$ | ${ }_{0} 0.274$ | MP | 0.3 | Tis | ${ }_{0} 0.62$ |
| 2N3054 | O. 0.50 | 2N 2366 N 5367 | 0.32 | ${ }_{\text {AUSY }}$ | ${ }_{1}^{1.50}$ |  | 0.25 | NK | 0.4 | Tis43 | 0.40 |
| 2 N 3133 | 0.30 | ${ }^{2}$ N5457 | 0.371 | BC107 | $0.12+$ | BF | $0 \cdot 62\}$ | NKT | 0.42 | T1544 |  |
| 2 N 3134 | 0.30 | 25005 | 0.75 | ${ }^{\text {BCCl08 }}$ | 0.12 |  | - 0.70 | NK | 0.2 | Tis46 | - 0.12 |
| 2 N 3135 2 N 3136 2 | 0.25 0.25 | 2SO20 | 2.00 | ${ }_{\text {BCl }}^{\text {BCl13 }}$ | 0.127 $0.27 t$ | Bry |  | NK | 0.2 | Tis 47 | $0 \cdot 12$ |
| ${ }_{2} \mathrm{~N} 3340$ | $0.97 \pm$ | $2{ }^{2} 103$ | 0.25 | ${ }^{\text {BCL }} 14$ | 0.374 | BFYi7 | 0.22 | NKT | 0.271 | TS488 |  |
| 2 N 3349 | 1.30 | 25104 | 0.25 | ${ }^{\text {BCL }} 15$ |  | ${ }^{\text {BFYI }}$ BFY |  |  | O. 0.32 | Tis49 |  |
| 2 N 3390 2 N 391 | 0.25 0.20 | 25501 25502 | 0.324 0.35 | ${ }_{\substack{\mathrm{BC} \\ \mathrm{BCl} 16 \\ \hline 16 \\ \hline}}$ | - 0.627 | SFY19 | 0.327 1.60 | NK | 0.30 0.30 | Tis50 |  |
| ${ }_{2}{ }_{2} \mathrm{~N} 3391$ | 0.20 0.30 | 2 L | 0.35 0.27 | BC 116 BC 118 | 0.374 0.324 0. | BFY2 BFY2 |  |  | - 0.30 | Tis |  |
| 2N3391A | - ${ }_{\text {O }}$ | 2N53 | 0.27 0.40 | ${ }_{8 C 121}$ | ${ }_{0}^{0.20}$ | ${ }_{\text {BFL2 }}{ }^{\text {b }}$ | 0.45 | NKT213 | 0 | Tis53 | $0.22+$ |
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DIODES AND RECTIFIERS

| 0.07 |  | 8 |  | OAS | 0.171 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0.07 | BAIOO 0 | BY100 | 0.17 | OAIO | 0.221 |
| $0 \cdot 2$ | BA102 0.22 k | BY103 | 0.224 | OA9 | 0.10 |
| 0.10 | BAllo $0.32{ }^{\text {l }}$ | BY\| 22 | 0.37 | OA47 | 0.071 |
| 15120 0.15 | BAl15 0.07 | BY124 | 0.15 | OA |  |
| 151210.171 | BAI41 $0 \cdot 32{ }^{\text {a }}$ | BY126 | 0.15 | OA73 | 0.00 |
| Is130 $0 \cdot 12$ | BA142 0.32 t |  | $0 \cdot 17$ | OA79 |  |
| 0.121 | BAl44 0.121 |  |  | OA81 | ${ }^{0.071}$ |
| $\begin{array}{lll}15132 & 0.15\end{array}$ |  |  | + |  |  |
| A119 ${ }^{0.071}$ | BA 154 BAX 13 O.12 0 |  |  |  | 0.07t |
| 1290.10 | BAX 160.12 |  |  |  |  |
| $0 \cdot 10$ | BAY18: |  |  | OA200 |  |
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| post and packing 0.221 . <br> 5 amp (Douglas) MT107 Sec. tappings from 6y to 50 V .. 5.50 |  |  |  |  |  |
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INTEGRATED CIRCUITS
SEE OUR SEPARATEADVRTIEMENT ON PAGE 94
SHOWING NEW I.C.: AT NEW LOW PRICES.




CAPACITORS. Polyester, ceramics, Polystyrene, silver mica,
Eantalum, trimmers et

| D. |  | 4 | MFD. | V. | 4 | MFO. | V. | 1 |
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| Mri. | ${ }^{18}$ | 0.07 | 25. | 50 | 0.071 | 400 |  |  |
| 1.6 | 25 | $0.07 \frac{1}{1}$ | 32 | 40 | 0.071 |  |  |  |
| 2 | 350 | 0.10 | 32 | 450 | 0.274 | 500 | 25 |  |
| 2.5 | 16 10 | 0.07t | 40 | 16 | 0.071 | 500 640 | 16 16 | ${ }_{0}^{0.24}$ |
| 4 | 40 | $0.07 \%$ | 50 | 12 | $0.07 \pm$ | 1000 | 16 | 0.25 |
| 4 | 350 | 0.11 | 50 | 25 | 0.071 | 1000 | 25 | 0.25 |
| 5 | 18 | $0.07{ }^{\text {¢ }}$ | 50 | 50 | 0.10 | 1000 | 50 | $0.37 \pm$ |
| 5 | 50 | $0.07 \%$ | 64 | 25 | 0.07 | 2000 | 25 | 0.42 t |
| 6.4 | 6.4 | 0.07 | 80 | 16 | $0.07 \%$ | 2000 | 50 | 0.62 |
| 8 | 40 | 0.07 ¢ | 80 | 25.4 | 0.07 | 2500 | 12 | 0.25 |
| 8 | 450 | 0.15 0.07 | 100 100 |  | $0.07 \pm$ 0.07 | 2500 | 25 | 0.471 |
| 10 | 12 | 0.07 | 100 | 25 | ${ }_{0}^{0.10}$ | 2500 | 50 | 0.67 |
| 12.5 | 25 | 0.071 | 100 | 50 | $0 \cdot 12$ | 2500 | 64 | 0.77 |
| 16 | 10 | 0.07 | 125 | 10 | $0.07 \pm$ | 3000 | 25 | 0.521 |
| 16 | 15 | $0.07 \pm$ | 200 | 10 | 0.071 | 4000 | 100 | 2.371 |
| 16 25 | ${ }^{450} 6$ | 0.16 0.07 | 250 | 25 | 0.14 | 4500 | 64 | 2.25 |
| 25 | $10^{4}$ | $0.07 \pm$ | 250 | 50 | 0.19 | 5000 | 25 | 0.621 |
| 25 | 25 | 0.071 | 320 | 10 | 0.071 | 5000 | 50 | 0.97 t |


| ERMISTORS (MULLARD) |  |  |  |
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| R53 (STC) ${ }_{\text {l }}$ 27t |  | VA1039 0 | VA10770.20 |
|  |  | VA1053 $0.12 \frac{1}{4}$ | VAl0910 |
|  |  | VA10660.19 | VA1096 0.20 |
| 2 $\downarrow$ | VA10370.12t | VA1074 0.12t | VA10970.20 |
| $0 \cdot 15$ | VAIO38 0.12 | VA1075 0.22t |  |

Please note:-Due to bulk buying we can now offer Texas RCA and Newmarket Semiconductors at industrial distributor prices. New quantity Price List available for industrial users upon request.

LOW COST ELECTRONIC \＆SCIENTIFIC

## BRAND NEW MINIATURIZED AUTOMATIC STRIP CHART RECORDER


by RUSTRAK of Anterica．This recorder indicates the magnitude of applied currents or voltages by a continuous distortion－free 2 ？in Chart novenent scale calibrated $0-100$ microamps novement，scale callbrated 100 microamps 12v．D．C．C／W handbook，Price £40．P．\＆P 50p．

## MOTORS

LOW TORQUE HYSTERESIS MOTOR MA23 Ideal for instrument chart drives．Extremely quiet，useful in areas
where amblent nolse levels are low．High starting torque enable relative high inertia loads to be drisen up to 6 －oz／im．A vailable in
 r．p．m．， $1 / 16$ r．p．m．．， $1 / 24$ r．p．m．， $1 / 3$ r．p．m．， $1 / 2400$ r．p．m．， $1 / 300$
r．p．m．， $1 / 720$ r．p．m．， 1 r．p．m．M．P． 10 Induction Motor， 120 V 50 Hz r．p．m．， $1 / 720$ r．p．m．， 1 r．p．m．M．P． 10 Induction Motor． 120 V 50 Hz
20 r．p．m．$£ 1.50 \mathrm{P}$ ．\＆ $\mathbf{P}$ ．inclusive．

## CLUTCH MOTORS

$24080 \mathrm{~Hz} 1 / 12$ r．p．in．， $1 / 6$ r．p．m．．， $1 / 3$ r．p．m． $120 \mathrm{~V} 50 \mathrm{~Hz} 1 / 12$


WELDING POWER SUPPLY－Hughes Model MCW 550 ．Constant voltage．Weld voltage and duration controls． Mains input．Price on application．
NEW LOW INERTIA INTEGRATING MOTORS Electro Methods Model． 901 and 906 PL．Permanent magnet mechanisms，light loads driving mechanical counters performing integration，or as small power generators．Will operate directly off a photo－cell or thermo couple，etc．6V．Nominal．Typical para meters．Starting voltage（no load） 15 mV at 0.375 mA ．Full load
speed 1845 r．p．m．（approx．）．Moment of Inertia of Armature 1.8 gr ．cra／cm．Welght of Motor 300 gms （approx．）．
ع15．P．

SPLIT－FIELD D．C．SERVO MOTOR
 213．50．P．P．included．
NEW D．C．STEPPING MOTOR
＂Sloosyn．＂14V 0．53A 50 oz in torque．
B1F1LAR Gynchronous Motor．atepping duty 200 stepa／shatt revolution．Each step 1.8 dogreeE $3 \%$ accuract．Nons－cumu－
lative．Made by superint Elebtric C．U．B．A．\＆18．50．P．\＆P．
EHT GENERATOR，BRAND NEW D．C
CONVERTER MULLARD TYPE 1049 ，C
CONVERTER M．Ontput 1800V（Min）at $1 \mathrm{~mA}, 12500 \mathrm{~V}$（Min）
Input 2V D．C．0－3A．Ontput 1800V（Min）at 1 na，
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L．5in．，W．2tin．H．1zin．

MIDGET POWER RELAY TYpe Mis（OMRON）


## SYNCHRONOUS MOTORS

Model S 71 r．p．h．and $1 / 60$ r．p．h．Self starting complete with gearing shaft it in．dia．tin．iong， $200 / 250 \mathrm{~V} 50 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ．New condition Ex
Equipment．$£ 1 \cdot 50 . \mathrm{F}$ ．\＆P．included．

D．C．TACHOGENERATOR Type 9c／108 16v．at， 1000 r．p．m．Drive ع16－50．P．\＆P．inclusive．


R．F．ATTENUATOR MARCONI TF 1073A
$\mathrm{DC}-150 \mathrm{MHz} \mathrm{ddB}$ steps 75 Ohms．
Tested and in VG condition．$£ 25$.

## ACTUATOR

By English Electric．Type 4519 Mk ． $1 \mathrm{D} . \mathrm{C}$ ．Motor AE 1560 Mk ．
28V 3A． 500 r. ． m ．Intermittent ratlag． 218 ． P ．\＆ P ．inclusive，
ACCELEROMETERS
Model LA 23 C Potentiometric + or -10 G operating Voltage 30 V Model LA 23 C Potentiometric + or－ 10 G operating Voltage 30V，
Nominal resistance 17．5K and Model $\mathrm{LA} 23 \mathrm{C}+$ or -100 C 34 V ，
Rel 20 K ．Price 228. P．\＆P． $5 /$ ．

TYPE SE 55／A Range + or－ 1 G £28．P．\＆P， $5 /$
Suppled c／w technical leaflet．Weight 14.8 grammes．2BA stu mounting．E3．15．0． $\mathbf{P}$ ．


DIGITAL VOLTMETER DYNAMCO 2010 COMPLETELY OVERHAULED CALIBRATION CERTIFICATE EXCELLENT CONDITION GUARANTEED C／W HANDBOOK

Scale：109999．D．C．Accuracy： $0.001 \%$ ．FSD Range： 10 mincro $\mathrm{V}-1 \cdot 1 \mathrm{kV}$ ．I／P $Z$ greate than $25,000 \mathrm{M}$ ohm．C．M．R．D．C． 160 dB $50 \mathrm{~Hz} .130 \mathrm{~dB} .0 / \mathrm{P}$ ．Parallel B．C．D．Induc tive potentiometric system for excellen stability．£1000．（New Price over £2000．）

| Many other types of counters are available ranging from 3－6 derit with various supply voltskes．Ring our Sales Office for further information． |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| TEKTRONIX Plug in Unit Type E－BRAND NEW．Price 275 P．\＆P．60p．Also Type $80 \$ 25$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Manufacturer | Type | No．of Digita | Impuines per sec． | Reset | $\begin{gathered} \text { Oparatin } \\ \text { Volt } \end{gathered}$ | ing Current | 8180 | Ret． | Remarks | Price |
| Sedeco | ATCEZ3E | 3 | 10 | M． | 48V D．C． | 48 ma | $4^{*} \mathrm{~L} \times 1^{\prime \prime} \times{ }^{\prime \prime}$ | C． 2 |  | 3.00 |
| Sedeco | ATCEZ4E | 4 | 25 | M | 60V D．C． | 100 mA | 1 も゙ $\times 1 \times 4 \times$ ¢ | C． 6 | $600 \Omega$ coil new 10000 coil used | $\begin{aligned} & 2.50 \\ & 1.50 \end{aligned}$ |
| Sedeco | ATCEF4E | 4 | 10 | E／12V D．C． | 12V D．C． | 120 mA | $4^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{L} \times 2 \mathrm{l}^{\prime \prime} \times 1 \mathbf{1 m}^{\prime \prime}$ | C． 5 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { New } \\ & \text { Used } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 6.25 \\ & 1.50 \end{aligned}$ |
| Sedeco | ATCEFsE | 5 | 25 | E／24V D．c． | 24V D．C． | 240 mA | $4^{*} \mathrm{~L} \times 1 \mathbf{t}^{\prime \prime} \times 2 \mathbf{t}^{\prime \prime}$ |  | New | 6.00 |
| Sedeco | ATCEZSE | 5 | 25 |  | 160 V |  |  |  | Coil 100K．New ．． | 8.00 |
| Sedeco | T1F5 PIEH | 5 | 10 | M | $\begin{aligned} & 110 \mathrm{~V} \\ & 50 \mathrm{~Hz} \end{aligned}$ |  | $41^{* 5} \mathrm{~L} \times 5 \mathbf{t}^{\prime \prime} \times 5 \mathbf{4}^{\prime \prime}$ |  | 2 banks of 5 digits each bank independent．Used | $8 \cdot 00$ |
| Sedeco | ITPB3 | 6 | 10 | M．\＆E． | 240 V 50 Hz |  |  |  | Print out－Totalising | 40.00 |
| Counting Instrument | 1500 | 4 | 15 |  | 24 V D．C． |  |  | C． 3 | Each digit indepen－ dentlyset，counts down to zero operating main switch | 6.50 |
| ， | 429 | 4 | 15 | E／240V 50Hz | 24V D．C． |  |  | C． 12 |  | 4．12t |
| ＂ | 120 | 6 | 15 | E／24V D．C． | 24 V D．C． |  | $38^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{L} \times 3 \mathbf{t}^{\prime \prime} \times \mathbf{t}^{\prime \prime}$ |  |  | 4.75 |
| ＂ | 101A | 6 |  | M． | 48 V D．C． |  |  |  | Used ．．．． | 3．124 |
| Veeder Root | BD134545 | 5 |  |  |  |  |  |  | Mechanical operation， Ratchet reat Inverse Nos． | $0 \cdot 62$ |
| ＂．${ }^{\text {－}}$ |  | 6 |  | M． | 160V D．c． |  |  |  |  | 2.75 |
| ＂＂ | B38 | 6 |  | M． | 48 V D．C． |  |  |  |  | 2.75 |
| ＂$\quad$＂ |  | 6 |  |  | 110V D．C． |  |  |  |  | 200 |
| $\because \quad \cdots$ |  | 6 |  | M． | 230V 50Hz |  |  |  |  | 2．75 |
| ＂ |  | 6 |  | M． | 24V D．C． |  |  |  |  | 2.00 |
| Haztler |  | 6 |  | M． | 24V D．C． |  |  |  | $600 \Omega$ coll．New ．． | 4.50 |
| ＂ |  | 6 |  | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{M} / \mathrm{E} \\ 110 \mathbf{v}_{\mathrm{D}} \text { D.C. } \end{gathered}$ | 110V D．C． |  |  |  | $1100 \Omega / 800 \Omega$ ．Ubed | 2.45 |

BRAND NEW ELECTRO．
MAGNETIC COUNTER


## NUMICATORS

GRIOM／U（Clear）
Quantity $P$

e Each

Side Reading
XN $3 / \mathrm{FA} \quad 38 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{m}$ lea
XN3／FA $\quad 38 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{m}$ lead $\begin{array}{ll}\text { XN3A／F } & 6 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{m} \text { lead } \\ \text { XN3A } & 6 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{m} \text { lead }\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{lr}\text { XN3A } & 6 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{m} \text { lead } \\ \text { XN11／F } & 38 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{m} \text { lead }\end{array}$ （Amber）
（Red）
（Red）
（Clear）
（Red） $\xrightarrow[\substack{1-\\ 4-1 \\ 11-2}]{ }$ $\begin{array}{cc}11-25 & (21.05) 21 /= \\ 26-100 & (20.95) 19 /=\end{array}$

## EICHNER 8 HOLE PUNCH

No mowor dred equipment using 48v Reader £29．50：Punch $£ 48.50$ ．Carriage $£ 1 \cdot 25$ ．
7 HOLE NON PARITY TAPE PUNCH Lew condlition． 7 HOLE TAPE PUNCH 60 characters per second by well－known manufacturer．
TELETYPE 8 HOLE PAPER PUNCH BRPEII C260． Also available 5 hole punch BRPE2 as above．This model ba $5 / 7$ HOLE OPTICAL READER BY FERRANTI
（I83）SIONAL GENERATOR CT 480 SANDERS．Range 7 KHz － 12 KHz ．O／p．0－$\pm 60 \mathrm{~V}$ ．Attenuation range -10 to $\begin{gathered}+100 \\ \text { Price } \\ £ 85\end{gathered}$

TRANSDUCER OSCILLATOR－AMPLIFIER－DEMODULATOR．An where space or adverse matehing with \＆．E．Trangducers．Sultable Where space or adverae environmental conditions prevall．Supplied
with a match Supply voltage 12v．D．C．Range of transducers available 0 － 50 ： 1．0－1000．O4000 pai．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．Price £65 TRANSDUCER－Now Resistive Bordon Tube Prinoiple ${ }_{\text {Tranducer }}^{\text {pressure }}$
Tranducer by K． Ref．C．6．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．． RESISTANCE STRAN GAUGES Pang t


OSCILLATOR．High discrimination，by Marconi T．F．1168．This lnstrument suitable for H．F．Communlcation．Due to its high
discrimination makes it suitable for crystal fiter response in Tx and Rx drive units．Frequency range $90-110 \mathrm{KHz}, 2 \mathrm{~Hz}$ discrimina－


RECORDERS 4 PEN OSCILLOGRAPHS SOUTHERN INSTRU－ MENTS M942C． 4 Channel Atted with 4 speed gear bozes giving
$1,5,25,100 \mathrm{~m} . \mathrm{m}$ ．per sec．Frequency responat $0-55 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ，sensitivity O／m．m．M．A．

E．M．I．
Portable L．F．Tape Recorder，Ex－service equipment consistinf of hree Unit housed in tranait cases（Tape Deck，Amplifier，P．s．J．）． in．track speed 30 in．， 15 in．， $7 \frac{1 n}{}$ in．and $t$ in．min．Price $\$ 75$ ．
Many control taclitiles．This is a good quality recorder．

## 

## EQUIPMENT AND COMPONENTS

## MEASURING INSTRUMENTS AND RECORDERS

 ${ }^{1000} \mathrm{M}$. M . Vhm . R.F. Voltages 8 range 4 mV to $4 V$.
Battery powered. Offered in excellent condition. Teated before Battery powere. ofrered in exchent condition. Teated
deppatch. Complete with handbook. $£ 54$. Carriage $10 /$.

## FACSIMILE RECORDERS

D649 K 18 in. Chart Recorder. Helix speed: 60, 90,120 rev. $/ \mathrm{min}$ 96 lines/in.


## POWER SUPPLY UNITS



## PRECISION POTENTIOMETERS



VHF ADMITTANCE BRIDGE
Wayne Kerr B801A. I-100 MHz. Conductance 0.100 millimhos.
Capacitance $0-230 \mathrm{pF}$ and 0 to -230 pF . $\mathbf{£ 1 2 0}(40 \%$ of niew price $)$
 Aositive or negative copacitance for tines. antennas and feedelers.
$0-100 \mathrm{mMho}$.0 to
06 pF and -75 pF . Accuracy $2 \%$ up to

FENLOW LOW FREQUENCY ANALYSER FENLOW LOW FREQ UENCY ANALYSER
0.3 Hz to K Hz , Power density $0-10$ Bandwidth switching range.
$.06: 0.3: 1.5: 7.5: 37.5 \mathrm{~Hz}$. Priee $£ 275$.

TWENTY MILLION MEGOHMMETER
E.I. Model 29A. Test voltage 85 and 500 V . $8 / \mathrm{C}$ Current less than
4 mA 30 M ohm- $20 \times 104 \mathrm{M}$ ohin. Charging Delay $1 \$$ secs. Mains


NEW ELECTRO PNEUMATIC TRANSDUCER
TRANSMITTER
TRANSMITTER
Taslor. Cat. No. XX701 TF13.
Input- 30 . 50 Ma. Output 3-15 PSI. Spec. 670. Coill 3 ohms.
This preclsion transducer accurately controls air pressure by a Input - $50-0+50$ Ma. Output 3-15 PSI. Spec. 670 . Coll 3 ohms.
This preclsion transducer accurately controls air pressure by a
varying electrical signal. $£ 50$. $P$. $P$. included.
R.C. OSCILLATOR

Solartron Type CO $1004 \cdot 2$. $10 \mathrm{~Hz}-1 \mathrm{MHz}$ in 5 ranges. $\mathrm{O} / \mathrm{P}$ level Algo avallable Type co 1004. £30. P. \& P. £1.
PORTABLE FREQUENCY METERS
TF1026/1. A direct reading absorption meter, employing a con-
centric line closed at one ond and turned by variable capacitor
at the other end of the at the other end of the lige, giving a irequency range: 250 MHz
500 MHz , on an almost linear ccale approx. 9 in. In length. Com plete in pollshed wooden case. Price $£ 17.50$. Carriage extra,
DIGITAL INDICATORS KGM Type M3 A neat compact indicator providing selective diaplay
$0-9$. Fig. helght 18 mina. panel mounting. 6 mom. tubular
midget fangelan matt black anodize. supplied with 28 v . bulbs. Finighed £3.25. P. \& p. Free.
MODEL 1706 VISICORDER
In almest new condition. This direct reading U/V Recorder can
record up to 6 chasunels simultaneously frotn D.C. 5000 Hz at Frriting speed of 30000 m ohs/ace.
Recording range:
D.C.一 5000 H $z$.
Paper width:
Optical Arm:
Paper Gpeeds:


Eight. speeds from $0.25-32 \mathrm{in} / \mathrm{sec}$. and

BRAND NEW CAPACITOR REVERSIBLE
BRAND NEW CAPACITOR REVERSIBLE
SINGLE PHASE PARVALUX MOTORS $230 / 250$ Y. $50 \mathrm{~Hz} 2,800 \mathrm{r}$ r.p.m. $1 / 30 \mathrm{~h}$.p. Cont. rated. 甭 in. shaft
dia. $\times 31$ in. long. Foot mounting. Weight 6 ib. $£ 5.75$ post free.
COAXIAL LINE OSCILLATOR
By Baunders. Type CLC 7.12. The Osciltator is adiustable from 7-12 MHz. A high reset accuracy with no backlash having $\pm 1 \%$.
The instrument 19 supplied wlth a calibration caart and valve and is
suitable to be coupled to any waveguide size by using a coaxial to suitable to be coupled to any wryeguide size by using a coaxial
waveguide transiormer. Price: £55.
7.TRACK DIGITAL MAGNETIC TAPE STORAGE DECK
(Ref. 13) These machines, originally ex-computer
are multi-track recording are muli-track recording units, ideat for
data storage. Record and encased in one cond and Replay heads
resistance heads. Frequency reaponae

 230 v. to 380 r. A.C. Capstan Motor
gpeed 1.500 r.p.m. 48 . D. D. Rewind Ren
motors. Finiehed in brush aluminium motors. Finiehed in brush aluminium

MEMORY PLANES (Ref. C4) Ferrite core memory planen with wired
Ferrite cores. Used for bulding your own connputer or as an intereatio
exhibit in the demonstration of a con
puter. Mounted on plastic mater
 addressable and ditided into 2 hallyes
with findependent senge and inhibit


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Made by well knoxn manufacturers

in. 10 in diad spool and casette.
in. in. 8 in. dia spool and caseette.
in. metal $10 \frac{1}{\text { in }}$. dia. spool snd csasette
in. N.A.B. centrea $10 \dagger$ in. apool only.

## MULTI-RANGE TRANSISTORISED VOLT.

METER 1063
Employing sillicon planar F.E.T., thit instrument gives long-term stablity and negligible drift over a wide temperature range. Whde
irequency band $0-300 \mathrm{MHz}$. using HPV 1083 . Voltake range $0-80 \mathrm{KV}$. frequency band
Centre zero on DC ranges for differential circuit application. 1 nput resistance 1 M .ohm/Volt on all DC ranges. Accuracy + 3- F.S.D Meter scale 5in. with IM diferent colour for different scales.
Special price $£ 42 \cdot 50$ each. Carriage et1-60.
CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION Cling 1 in . Vldicon Comperiaing Pe operate at 405 Hines. Channel 2 ( 58 M Mz ). Can be tuned to other frequencles. W. $5 \ln$. H. 71 ln . D. 104 in . MONITOR.
19in. Ferguson Model $3622405 / 825$ Standard TV receiver. Work. igin. Ferguson Mode.


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This illustrated eight-page supplement is a comprehensive guide to test gear now on the market for use in testing radio and audio equipment. Though complete in itself, it will also provide a useful introduction to an important new series on servicing by H. W. Hellyer and Gordon J. King, which starts in the following month's issue.


Also other interesting constructional features

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## BARGAINS IN NEW SEMI-CONDUCTORS

MANY AT NEW REDUCED PRICES • ALL POWER TYPES WITH FREE INSULATING SETS

| 40361 | 55p | 2N2905 | 44p | 2N4291 | 15p | BCI48 | 14 p | BFX 87 | 29p |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 40362 | 68 p | 2N2905A | 47p | 2N4292 | 15p | BC149 | 15p | BFX 88 | 26 p |
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| 2N697 | 22p | 2N2925 | 22p | AC126 | 20p | BC154 | 28 p | BFY51 | ${ }_{20} \mathrm{p}$ |
| 2N706 | 12p | 2N2926 | $11 p$ | AC127 | 20p | BC157 | 19p | BFY52 | ${ }^{23} \mathrm{p}$ |
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| 2 N 1302 | 19p | 2N3703 | 13p | ACY20 | 20p | ${ }^{\text {BC }} 168$ | 11 p | MPS6531 | ${ }^{25 \mathrm{p}}$ |
| 2N1303 | 19p | 2N3704 | 13p | ACY22 | 16p | ${ }^{8 C 169}$ | 13p | MPS66534 | 35 p 30 p |
| 2 N 1304 | 23p | 2N3705 | 13p | ADI40 | 56p | BC 177 | 17p | MRS6334 | 35 |
| 2 N 1305 | 23p | 2N3706 | 13p | AD142 | 50p | BC178 | 15 p | NKT211 | 25 p |
| 2 N 1306 | 33p | 2N3707 | 13p | AD149 | 60p | BC179 | 17p | NKT212 | 25 P |
| 2 N 1307 | 33p | 2N3708 | 13p | AD161 | 40 p | BC182L | 13p | NKT214 | 23 p |
| 2 N 1308 | 36p | 2N3709 | 13p | ADI62 | 40 p | B6t83 | 110 | NKT274 | ${ }^{18} \mathrm{p}$ |
| 2 N 1309 | 36p | 2N3710 | 13p | AFII 4 | 30p | BC1841 | 130 | NKT403 | ${ }^{65}$ |
| 2 N 1613 | 23p | 2N3711 | 13p | AFII 5 | 30p | SC212L | 25p | NKT405 | 79 P |
| 2 N 1711 | 26p | 2N3819 | 35p | AFII 7 | 28p | BC213L | 25p | 0 O 71 | 29 p |
| 2 N 1893 | 54p | 2N3904 | 35p | AFI24 | 30p | BC214L | 25p | OC81 | 25p |
| 2N2147 | 95p | 2N3906 | 35p | AF127 | 28p | BCY70 | 19 p | OC8ID | 25p |
| 2N2218 | 34p | 2N4058 | 20p | AF139 | 48p | BCY71 | 33p | ZTX300 | 17p |
| 2N2218A | 43p | 2N4059 | 20p | AF239 | 49p | BCY72 | 15 p | ZTX301 | 17 p |
| 2 N 2219 | ${ }^{38} \mathrm{p}$ | 2N4060 | 20 P | ASY26 | ${ }^{27} \mathrm{P}$ | 8 BF 15 | 23P | ZT×302 | 22p |
| 2N2219A | ${ }_{53}{ }^{\text {p }}$ | 2N4061 | ${ }^{20} \mathrm{p}$ | ASY28 | ${ }^{27} \mathrm{p}$ | BF167 | 27p | ZTX303 | 22p |
| 2N2270 | 62 p | 2 N 4062 | 20p | BC107 | 14p | BFIT3 | $31 p$ | ZTX304 | 33p |
| 2N2369A | 19 p | 2N4124 | 18p | BC108 | 12p | 8 BF 194 | 17 p | ZTX500 | 25 p |
| 2N2483 | ${ }^{35 p}$ | 2 N 4126 | ${ }^{27} \mathrm{p}$ | BC109 | 14 p | BF195 | 18p | ZTX501 | 25p |
| 2N2484 | 42p | 2N4284 | 15p | BC125 | 15p | BFX29 | $31 p$ | ZTX502 | 30 p |
| 2N2646 | 54P | 2 N 4286 | 15 p | BCI26 | 22 p | BFX84 | 25p | ZTX503 | 25p |
| 2N2904A | 42p | 2N4289 | 15p | BCI 14 | 15p | BFX85 | 34p | ZTX504 | 60 p |

## RESISTORS

| Code | Power | Tolerance | Range |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |
| $C$ | $1 / 20 W$ | $5 \%$ | $82 \Omega-220 \mathrm{~K} \Omega$ |
| $C$ | $1 / 8 W$ | $5 \%$ | $4.7 \Omega-330 \mathrm{~K} \Omega$ |
| $C$ | $1 / 4 W$ | $10 \%$ | $4.7 \Omega-10 M \Omega$ |
| $C$ | $1 / 2 W$ | $5 \%$ | $4.7 \Omega-10 M \Omega$ |
| $C$ | $1 W$ | $10 \%$ | $4.7 \Omega-10 M \Omega$ |
| $M O$ | $1 / 2 W$ | $2 \%$ | $10 \Omega-1 M \Omega$ |
| $W W$ | $1 W$ | $10 \% \frac{1}{2} / 20 \Omega$ | $0.22 \Omega-3.9 \Omega$ |
| $W W$ | $3 W$ | $5 \%$ | $12 \Omega-10 \mathrm{~K} \Omega$ |
| $W W$ | $7 W$ | $5 \%$ | $12 \Omega-10 \mathrm{~K} \Omega$ |

Codes: $\mathrm{C}=$ carbon film, high stability, low noise.
MO = metal oxide, Electrosil TR5, ultra low nois
$W W=$ wire wound, Plessey.

## Values: E12 den

E12 denotes series: $10,12,15,18,22,27,33,39$, E24 denotes series: as E12 plus II
30, 36, 43, 51, 62, 75, 91 and their decades. ZENER DIODES $5 \%$ full range E24 values:
$400 \mathrm{~mW}: 2.7 \mathrm{~V}$ to 30 V , 15 p each; $1 \mathrm{~W}: 6.8 \mathrm{~V}$. to 82 V , 27 p each; $1.5 \mathrm{~W}: 4.7 \mathrm{~V}$ to $75 \mathrm{~V}, 60 \mathrm{p}$ each.
Clip to increase 1.5 W rating to 3 watts (type 266 F ), 4 p .

CARBON TRACK POTENTIOMETERS, long spindles. Double wiper ensures minimum noise level.
Single gang linear $220 \Omega$ to $2.2 \mathrm{M} \Omega, 12 \mathrm{p}$; Single gang log. $4.7 \mathrm{~K} \Omega$ to $2.2 \mathrm{M} \Omega$, 12 p ; Dual gang linear, $4 \cdot 7 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ to $2 \cdot 2 \mathrm{M} \Omega, 42 \mathrm{p} ;$ Dual gang log, $4 \cdot 7 \mathrm{~K} \Omega$ to
$2 \cdot 2 \mathrm{M} \Omega, 42 \mathrm{p}$; Log/antilog, $10 \mathrm{~K}, 47 \mathrm{~K}, \mathrm{IM} \Omega$ only 42 p ; Dual antilog, loK only, 42p. Any type with $\frac{1}{2} A$ D.P. mains switch, extra 12p.

Please note: only decades of 10,22 and 47 are available within ranges quoted.

## CARBON SKELETON PRE-SETS

Small high quality, type PR, linear only: $100 \Omega$,
$220 \Omega, 470 \Omega, 1 \mathrm{~K}, 2 \mathrm{~K} 2,4 \mathrm{~K} 7$ 1oK, $22 \mathrm{~K}, 47 \mathrm{~K}, 100 \mathrm{~K}$ $220 \mathrm{~K}, 470 \mathrm{~K}, 1 \mathrm{M}, 2 \mathrm{M} 2,5 \mathrm{M}, 10 \mathrm{M} \Omega$. Vertical or horizontal mounting, 5p each.

COLYERN 3 watt Wire-wound Potentiometers. $10 \Omega, 15 \Omega, 25 \Omega, 50 \Omega, 100 \Omega, 250 \Omega, 500 \Omega, 1 \mathrm{~K}, 1 \cdot 5 \mathrm{~K}$, $2.5 \mathrm{~K}, 5 \mathrm{~K}, 10 \mathrm{~K}, 15 \mathrm{~K}, 25 \mathrm{~K}, 50 \mathrm{~K}, 32 \mathrm{p}$ each.

ENAMELLED COPPER WIRE even No. SWG only: 2 oz. reels: 16-22 SWG 25p; 24-30 SWG 30p; 32, 34 SWG, 33 p ; $36-40$ SWG, 35p.

| Values <br> available | 1 to 9 <br> (see | 10 to 99 | 100 up |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| E12 |  |  |  |

Prices are in pence each for quantities of the same ohmic value and power rating. NOT mixed values. (Ignore fractions on total value of resistor
order.)

TYGAN SPEAKER MATERIAL
7 designs, $36 \times 27 \mathrm{in}$. sheets, $£ 1.57$ sheet.
MULLARD polyester C280 series
$\begin{array}{lll}250 \vee & 20 \%: ~ 0.01, ~ & 0.022, \\ 0.068,0.033, & 0.047 & 3 p \\ \text { each; }\end{array}$ $0.068,0.1,4 p$ ench; $0.15,4 \mathrm{p} ; 0.22$, $5 \mathrm{p} .10 \%$ :
$7 \mathrm{p} ; 0.33,0.47$. 0 pi 0.68 7p; $0.33,0.47,8 p ; 0.68,12 p ; 1 \mu \mathrm{~F}, 14 \mathrm{p} ; 1.5 \mu \mathrm{~F}$,
21p; 2.2 $\mathrm{L}, 24 \mathrm{p}$,
H,

MULLARD SUB-MIN ELECTROLYTICS
 ( $/ 10 ; 4 / 40 ; 5 / 64 ; 64 / 4 / 64 ; 4 ; 6 \cdot 4 / 25 ; 8 / 4 ; 8 / 40 ; 10 / 2.5 ;$ 10/16;10/64; $12 \cdot 5 / 25 ; 16 / 40 ; 20 / 16 ; 20 / 64 ; 25 / 6 \cdot 4 ;$ $\begin{array}{ll}25 / 25 ; & 32 / 4 ; 32 / 10 ; 32 / 40 ; 32 / 64 ; ~ 40 / 16 ; 40 / 2.5 ; \\ 50 / 6 \cdot 4 ; & 50 / 25 ; \\ 50 / 40 ; & 64 / 4 ; \\ 64 / 10 ; & 80 / 2 \cdot 5.80 / 16 ;\end{array}$ $50 / 6 \cdot 4 ; 50 / 25 ; 50 / 40 ; 64 / 4 ; 64 / 10 ; 80 / 2 \cdot 5 ; 80 / 16 ;$

$80 / 25 ; 100 / 6 \cdot 4 ; 125 / 4 ; 125 / 10 ; 125 / 16 ; 160 / 2$ | $80 / 25 ;$ | $100 / 6 \cdot 4 ;$ | $125 / 4 ;$ | $125 / 10 ;$ | $125 / 16 ;$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $200 / 6 \cdot 4 ;$ | $200 / 10 ;$ | $250 / 4 ;$ | $320 / 2 \cdot 5 ;$ | $320 / 6 \cdot 4$ | $200 / 6 \cdot 4 ; 200 / 10 ; 250 / 4 ; 320 / 2 \cdot 5 ; 320 / 6 \cdot 400 / 4 ;$

$500 / 2.5$.

## LARGE CAPACITORS

High ripple current types: $1000 / 25,28 \mathrm{p} ; 1000 / 50$, $41 p ; 1000 / 100,82 p ; 2000 / 25,37 p ; 2000 / 50,57 p ;$ 2000/100, £1.44; 2500/64; 77p; $2500 / 70, ~ 98 p ;$ $10000 / 15,85 p ; 10000 / 25$, E1-22; $10000 / 50, \mathrm{E2.20}$.

COMPONENT DISCOUNTS
$10 \%$ on orders for components for $£ 5$ or more.
$15 \%$ on orders for components for $f 15$ or more 15\% on orders for components for $\mathrm{E} / 5$ or more.
(No discount on nett items.) (No discount on nett items.)

## POSTAGE AND PACKING

Free on orders over $£ 2$.
Please add 10 p if order is under $£ 2$.
Overseas orders welcome:
Overseas orders welcome: carriage and insurance
charged at cost.

PEAK SOUND PRODUCTS


Stereo amplifier in modular kit form 12 watts RMS per channel into $15 \Omega £ 38 \cdot 45$
Cabinet kit only $\mathbf{E 6}$. These prices nett.
As reviewed in Hi Fi Sound and other important journals.


## BAXANDALL SPEAKER SYSTEM

Designed by Peter Baxan dall. Superb reproduc tion for its size. Handle ELAC watts with ease. Uses
$15 \Omega$
$59 R M 109$ peaker unit. Kit $£ 13.90$ nett; built $\mathbb{E} 19 \cdot 40$ nett.

## MAINLINE AMPLIFIER KITS

CA/SGS designed main amplifier kits. Input sensitivity 500 oomV for full output into $8 \Omega$.

| Power | Kit price | Suitoble unreg. |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
|  | including components | power supply kit |
| $12 W$ | $£ 8.40$ nett | $£ 4.82$ |
| $25 W$ | $£ 9.75$ nett | $£ 5.92$ |
| $40 W$ | $£ 10.50$ nett | $£ 6.03$ |
| $70 W$ | $£ 12.60$ nett |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

## 30 WATT BAILEY AMPLIFIER PARTS

 Sensitivity $\mathrm{I} \cdot 2 \mathrm{~V}$ for full output into $8 \Omega$.Transistors and PCB for one channel $£ 6.46$
Transistors and PCBs for two channels $£ 12.92$
Capacitors and resistors (metal oxide), $\mathbf{E 2} \cdot 00$ per channel Complete unregulated power supply pack, $\mathbf{6 4 . 7 5}$
Suitable heat sink $10 D \mathrm{~N}$ space $400 \mathrm{c}, 55 \mathrm{p}$

## INTEGRATED CIRCUITS

PLESSEY SL403A 3 watts into 7.5 ohms. Application data, 10 p.
Price per unit, nett $£ 2 \cdot 10$
SINCLAIR IC. 10 as advertised, complete with instructions and applications manual $\mathbf{6} \mathbf{9 5}$, nett. Components pack for stereo £4.75 nett.

## S-DeCs PUT AN END TO BIRDS NESTING

Components just plug in-saves time-allows re-use of comComplete T-Dec may be temper
(208 points), $\mathbf{£ 2 \cdot 5 0}$
MEDIUM RANGE ELECTROLYTICS
Axial leads: $50 / 50,9$ p; 100/25, 9 p; 100/50. 13p; 250/25, 13 p
$250 / 50$ 19p; $500 / 25,19 p ; 500 / 50,21$ p; $1000 / 25,20 \mathrm{p} ; 100 / 50,30$ $250 / 50,19 p ; 500 / 25,19 p ; 500 / 50,21$ p; 1000/25, 20p; 1000/50, 30p 2000/25, 30p; 2000/50 48p.
SMALL ELECTROLYTICS
Axial leads: $4 \cdot 7 / 10,4 \cdot 7 / 25,5 / 50,5 p$ each; $10 / 10,10 / 25,10 / 50$
$33 / 10,50 / 10,5 p$ each; $25 / 25,25 / 50,47 / 25,100 / 10,220110$, 33/10, 50/10, 5p each; 25/25, 25/50, 47/25, 100/10, 220/10, 6p
NEON INDICATOR LAMPS
all $200 / 250 \mathrm{~V}$. Square bezel, red only
Round, chrome bezel red, amber, clear
23p each

## TOGGLE SWITCHES, 250V a.c. I-5A

chrome dolly and chrome milled nut S.P.S.T. 19p, S.P.D.T. 25p D.P.D.T. 29p; S.P.D.T. centre off 20p
WAVECHANGE SWITCHES
LONG SPINDLES
IP 12W; 2P 6W; 3P 4W; 4P 3W 24p each
SLIDER SWITCHES D.P.D.T.
$15 p$ each


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80 Col Card Punches Refurbished and with choice of Keyboard \& coding.
Delivery from stock.

## ICT 129

80 Col Card Verifiers Refurbished and with choice of Keyboard \& coding.
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80 col Hand Punches Rebuilt with 3 month warranty.
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80 col rebuilt with 3 month warranty. Delivery from stock.

## COMPUTER SALES AND SERVICES (EQUIPMENT) LTD.

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## NEW LOW PRICES FOR W.W. AMPLIFIER KITS

100 W AMPLIFIER (OVERLOAD PROTECTION INCLUDED)
Designer, Texas Instruments Approved.
Matched Set 22 guaranteed Texas transistors, diode, 13 caps,
32 resistors, 3 pots, choke, $2 \mathrm{~h} /$ sinks $4 \mathrm{in} . \times 4.6 \mathrm{in} . \times 1 \cdot 3 \mathrm{in}$.,
drilled $2 \times$ TO3, fibreglass P.C.B., construction notes $\quad \therefore 18.00$

## 2 sets

$35 \cdot 00$
$\begin{array}{llllllll}\text { Texas } 2 \mathrm{~N} 3715^{\circ} & . . & . . & 2.25 & \text { Texas } 2 \mathrm{~N} 3791 & . . & . . & 3.50\end{array}$
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[^6]:    $\dagger$ Scatter links are exceptions.

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[^9]:    W-095 FOR FUKTHER DETAILS

[^10]:    - Deputy Editor, Wireless World

[^11]:    *Newmarket Transistors Ltd

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[^13]:    ${ }^{2}$ Millmar \& Holkias, 'Electronic devices and circuits', pp. 502, 3 .

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