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 JANUARY 1975 25p
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## CoverStory

Some Marconi Instruments are designed to be mobile. Others are not - but do a lot of travelling all the same. In fact, nearly three-quarters of mi's total sales stem from export orders.

So there are plenty of people in Milwaukee or Mannheim or Melbourne or Montevideo who are just as discerning about Marconi Instruments as you are. And they're equally enthusiastic about mil service, too. We've service organisations in New Jersey, Munich, Paris and a whole lot of other
places to see to that.
There are $\mathbf{m i}$ distributors and representatives in more than 60 countries throughout the world and we have 14 associated companies in Africa, the Middle, Near and Far East, North and South America and Europe.
$\mathbf{m i}$, then, doesn't only cover all the intricacies of planning and producing some of the world's finest electronic testing and measuring instruments
it covers the world, as well.

# mi:THE INTERNATIONALISTS 

## MARCONI INSTRUMENTS LIMITED

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## LOW COST TESTERS <br> LEVELL

POBTABLE INSTRUMENTS

INSULATION TESTER


A logarithmic scale covering 6 decades is used to display either insulation resistance or leakage current at a fixed stabilised test voltage. The current available is limited to a maximum value of 3 mA for safety and capacitors are automatically discharged when the instrument is switched off or to the CAL condition. The instrument operates from a 9 V internal battery.

## RESISTANCE RANGES

$10 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ to $10 \mathrm{~T} \Omega\left(10^{13} \Omega\right)$ at $250 \mathrm{~V}, 500 \mathrm{~V}, 750 \mathrm{~V}$ and 1 kV .
$1 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ to $1 \mathrm{~T} \Omega$ at $25 \mathrm{~V}, 50 \mathrm{~V}$ and 100 V .
$100 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ to $100 \mathrm{G} \Omega$ at $2.5 \mathrm{~V}, 5 \mathrm{~V}$ and 10 V .
$10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ to $10 \mathrm{G} \Omega$ at 1 V .
Accuracy $\pm 15 \%+800 \Omega$ on 6 decade logarithmic scale. Accuracy of test voltages $\pm 3 \% \pm 50 \mathrm{mV}$ at scale centre. Fall of test voltages $<2 \%$ at $10 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ and $<20 \%$ at $100 \mu \mathrm{~A}$. Short circuit current between $500 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ and 3 mA .

## CURRENT RANGE

100 pA to $100 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ on 6 decade logarithmic scale.
Accuracy of current measurement $\pm 15 \%$ of indicated value. Input voltage drop is approximately 20 mV at $100 \mathrm{pA}, 200 \mathrm{mV}$ at 100 nA and 400 mV at $100 \mu \mathrm{~A}$.
Maximum safe continuous overload is 50 mA .

## MEASUREMENT TIME

$<3$ s for resistance on all ranges relative to CAL position. $<10$ s for resistance of $10 \mathrm{G} \Omega$ across $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ on 50 V to 500 V . Discharge time to $1 \%$ is 0.1 s per $\mu \mathrm{F}$ on CAL position.

## RECORDER OUTPUT

1 V per decade $\pm 2 \%$ with zero output at scale centre.
Maximum output $\pm 3 \mathrm{~V}$. Output resistance $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$.

TRANSISTOR TESTER


Tests bipolar transistors, diodes and zener diodes. Measures leakage down to 0.5 nA at 2 V to 150 V . Current gains are checked from $1 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ to 100 mA . Breakdown voltages up to 100 V are measured at $10 \mu \mathrm{~A}, 100 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ and 1 mA . Collector to emitter saturation voltage is measured at $1 \mathrm{~mA}, 10 \mathrm{~mA}, 30 \mathrm{~mA}$ and 100 mA for $I_{C} / I_{B}$ ratios of $10,20,30$. The instrument is powered by a 9 V battery.

## TRANSISTOR RANGES (PNP OR NPN)

${ }^{1}$ С в $\mathcal{\&} I_{\text {E B }}: 10 \mathrm{nA}, 100 \mathrm{nA}, 1 \mu \mathrm{~A}, 10 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ and $100 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ f.s.d. acc. $\pm 2 \%$ f.s.d. $\pm 1 \%$ at voltages of $2 \mathrm{~V}, 5 \mathrm{~V}$, $10 \mathrm{~V}, 20 \mathrm{~V}, 30 \mathrm{~V}, 40 \mathrm{~V}, 50 \mathrm{~V}, 60 \mathrm{~V}, 80 \mathrm{~V}, 100 \mathrm{~V}$, 120 V , and 150 V acc. $\pm 3 \% \pm 100 \mathrm{mV}$ up to $10 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ with fall at $100 \mu \mathrm{~A}<5 \%+250 \mathrm{mV}$.
$B V_{C B O} \quad 10 \mathrm{~V}$ or 100 V f.s.d. acc $\pm 2 \%$ f.s.d. $\pm 1 \%$ at currents of $10 \mu \mathrm{~A}, 100 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ and $1 \mathrm{~mA} \pm 20 \%$.
$I_{B}: \quad 10 \mathrm{nA}, 100 \mathrm{nA}, 1 \mu \mathrm{~A} \ldots 10 \mathrm{~mA}$ f.s.d. acc. $\pm 2 \%$ f.s.d. $\pm 1 \%$ at fixed $I_{E}$ of. $1 \mu \mathrm{~A}, 10 \mu \mathrm{~A}, 100 \mu \mathrm{~A}$, $1 \mathrm{~mA}, 10 \mathrm{~mA}, 30 \mathrm{~mA}$, and 100 mA acc. $\pm 1 \%$.
$h_{\text {FE }} \quad 3$ inverse scales of 2000 to 100,400 to 30 and 100 to 10 convert $I_{B}$ into $h_{F E}$ readings.
$V_{B E}: \quad 1 V$ f.s.d. acc. $\pm 20 \mathrm{mV}$ measured at conditions on $h_{\text {FE }}$ test.
$V_{C E(\text { sat })} \quad 1 \mathrm{~V}$ f.s.d. acc. $\pm 20 \mathrm{mV}$ at collector currents of $1 \mathrm{~mA}, 10 \mathrm{~mA}, 30 \mathrm{~mA}$ and 100 mA with $\mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{C}} / \mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{B}}$ selected at 10,20 or 30 acc. $\pm 20 \%$.
DIODE \& ZENER DIODE RANGES
${ }^{1} \mathrm{DR}$ : AsIEBO transistor ranges.
$V_{Z}$ : Breakdown ranges as $B V_{C B O}$ for transistors.
$V_{D F}: \quad 1 \mathrm{Vf.s.d}$ acc. $\pm 20 \mathrm{mV}$ at $\mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{DF}}$ of $1 \mu \mathrm{~A}, 10 \mu \mathrm{~A}$, $100 \mu \mathrm{~A}, 1 \mathrm{~mA}, 10 \mathrm{~mA}, 30 \mathrm{~mA}$ and 100 mA .

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## Galactron Mk 10

## Stereo Integrated Amplifier

A remarkably compact pre and power amp combination with 90 watts RMS per channel. Features 5 mixable stereo inputs, 5 plug-in-modules-two of which can be cross-faded by slide potentiometer.

## Galactron Mk 16

## Stereo/Quad Amplifıer

No comparable equipment has all these 3 functions. 5 inputs, independently mixable and equalised by plug in modules. Twin graphic equalisers having

10 filters each $( \pm 16 \mathrm{~dB})$ at octave intervals from 32 Hz to 16 kHz . Plug-in quadrophonic decoder panels for discrete and matrix systems allied to 4 output level controls.

## Galactron Mk 100

## Stereo Power Amplifıer

Originally designed as a monitor amp for recording studios, the Mk 100 is designed for use with the Mk 16 preamplifier. 100 watts RMS per channel output.

Full facts and figures are available from Goodmans Loudspeakers Limited, Downley Road, Havant, Hants.

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Feathers and things

Take a diaphragm from a QUAD electrostatic loudspeaker. Let it fall and you can count up to ten before it reaches the ground. Try to do this with a cone from a moving coil speaker and you'll need a high speed computer to do the counting. Remember all that stuff at school about kinetic energy? How heavy things are hard to start and
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The high fidelity amplifier illustrated has bass cut controls on each of the three low impedance balanced line microphone stages and a high impedance gram stage with bass and treble controls, plus the usual line or tape input. All the input stages are protected against overload by back to back low self capacity diodes and all use F.E.T.'s for low noise, low intermodulation distortion and freedom from radio breakthrough.

A voltage stabilised supply is used for the pre-amplifiers making it independent of mains supply fluctuations and another stabilised supply for the driver stages is arranged to cut off when the output is overloaded or over temperature. The output is $75 \%$ efficient and 100 V balanced line or $8-16$ ohms output are selected by means of a rear panel switch which has a locking plate indicating the output impedance selected.

The mixer section has an additional emitter follower output for driving a slave amplifier, phones or tape recorder, output 0.3 V out on 600 ohms upwards.

## 50/70 WATT ALL SILICON AMPLIFIER WITH

BUILT-IN 4-WAY MIXER using the circuit of our reliable 100 Watt Amplifier with its elaborate protection against short and overload, etc. To this is allied our latest development of F.E.T Mixer Amplifier, again fully protected against overload and radio breakthrough. The mixer is arranged for 2-30/60 $\Omega$ balanced line microphones, l-HiZ gram input and l-auxiliary input followed by bass and treble controls. 100 volt balanced line output OR 5-15 $\Omega$ and 100 volt line.

100 WATT ALL SILICON AMPLIFIER. A high quality amplifier with 8 ohms- 15 ohms or 100 volt line output for A.C. Mains. Protection is given for short and open circuit output over driving and over temperature. Input 0.4 V on 100 K ohms.

THE 100 WATT MIXER AMPLIFIER with specification as above is here combined with a 4-channel F.E.T. mixer. 2-30/60 $\Omega$ balanced microphone inputs, l-HiZ gram input and l-auxiliary input with tone controls and mounted in a standard robust stove enamelled steel case. A stabilised voltage supply feeds the tone controls and pre amps, compensating for a mains voltage drop of over $25 \%$ and the output transistor biasing compensates for a wide range of voltage and temperature. Also available in rack panel form.

20/30 WATT MIXER AMPLIFIER. High fidelity all silicon model with F.E.T. input stages to reduce intermodulation distortion to a fraction of normal transistor input circuits. Standard model l-low mic. balanced input and HiZ gram. Outputs available $8 / 15$ ohms OR 100 volt line.

CP50 AMPLIFIER. An all silicon transistor 50 watt amplifier for mains and 12 volt battery operation, charging its own battery and automatically going to battery if mains fail. Protected inputs, and overload and short circuit protected outputs for 8 ohms15 ohms and 100 volt line. Bass and treble controls fitted.

Models available with 1 gram and 2 low mic. inputs, 1 gram and 3 low mic. inputs or 4 low mic. inputs.

200 WATT AMPLIFIER. Can deliver its full audio power at any frequency in the range of $30 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}-20 \mathrm{Kc} / \mathrm{s}$. Can be used to drive mechanical devices for which power is 120 watts on continuous sine wave. Input 1 mW 600 ohms . Output $100-120 \mathrm{~V}$ or $200-240 \mathrm{~V}$. Additional matching transformers for other impedances are available.
F.E.T. MIXERS and PPM's. Various types of mixers available. 3, 4, 6 and 8 channel with Peak Programme Meter. 4, 6, 8 and 10 Way Mixers. Twin 3, 4 and 5 channel Stereo, also twin 4 and 5 channel Stereo with 2 PPM's.

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Following the sweeping success of SGS-ATES' integrated fixed voltage regulators in TO-3 metal can, these circuits are now also available, ex stock, in SOT 32 plastic package.
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| $-20^{\circ}$ to $+85^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | $V_{0}$ | Ioreg.typical | $0^{\circ}$ to $+70^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| L 129 | $5 V$ | 850 mA | TDA 1405 |
| L 130 | 12 V | 720 mA | TDA 1412 |
| L 131 | 15 V | 600 mA | TDA 1415 |

Distributors in the UK: Distronic Ltd., Harlow, 02796-32947 - Electronic Component Supplies Ltd., Windsor. O7535-68101 - Hawnt Electronics Ltd., Birmingham, 021-3594301- ITT Electronic
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## च니지




## Pin and varactor diodes for switching and tuning.

The types of PIN and varactor diodes listed here represent only a small part of the total AEI capability which includes devices widely used in both civil and military communications equipment. A number are available as DEF STAN types to Nato stock numbers.

With PIN diodes a wide range of silicon chips can be used in a number of outines offering a large choice of switching speeds, breakdown voltage and resistance-vs-current values.

As for varactors, our diodes can be supplied singly, or in matched sets to a range of capacitance tolerances, breakdown voltages and Q's etc.

PIN SWICHING DIODES Miniature Epoxy-Package Diodes

| Type No. | Package | $\begin{gathered} V_{R} \\ (m \text { mi.) } \\ V \end{gathered}$ | $R_{F}$ (max.) ohms at mA | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{Cd} \\ (\text { max.) } \\ \text { at } 50 \mathrm{~V} \\ \mathrm{pF} \end{gathered}$ | Lite. <br> time <br> (typ) $\mu \mathrm{S}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Rth } \\ & { }^{\circ} \mathrm{C} / \mathrm{W} \end{aligned}$ | High Rel. types |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DC1016 DC1028A | 36 08 | 250 250 | $\begin{aligned} & 0.75 \text { at } 100 \\ & 5 \cdot 0 \text { at } 5 \\ & 1.1 \text { at } 100 \end{aligned}$ | 0.7 0.45 | 1.0 0.7 | 40 350 | - |

available to DEF STAN specification.

- available to commercial High Rel. specification.

WRE ENDED GLASS•PACKAGED DIODES

| Type No. | Application | $V_{8}$ <br> Volts | $R_{F}$ (max) <br> at 100mA <br> ohms | Cd (max) <br> at looV <br> pF | $\tau$ (typ) <br> $\mu \mathrm{S}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DC2840E | General purpose | 250 | $1 \cdot 0$ | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| DC2825E | General purpose | 200 | 1.0 | $0.4^{\circ}$ | 0.3 |
| DC2841E | General purpose | 200 | 1.5 | 0.4 | 0.3 |
| DC2842E: | General purpose | 200 | 2.0 | 0.25 | 0.5 |
| DC2843E | High speed | 100 | 1.0 | 0.4 | 0.05 |
| DC2844E | High speed | 100 | 1.5 | 0.4 | 0.05 |
| DC2845E | Long lifetime | 150 | 3.5 | 0.3 | 1.5 |
| DC2846E | Long lifetime | 150 | 2.5 | 0.4 | 0.7 |

at-50V

| Approximate frequency of application | $\begin{gathered} \mathrm{Ci}(-4 \mathrm{~V}) \\ \mathrm{pF} \end{gathered}$ | Type No. (add suffix') | $\mathrm{Q}(-4 \mathrm{~V})$ at stated freq. |  | Package |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | Q | $F(\mathrm{MHz})$ |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & 500 \mathrm{MHz} \\ & \text { to } 10 \mathrm{GHz} \end{aligned}$ | $2 \cdot 2$ | DC4255B | 500 | 50 | 35 |
|  | $2 \cdot 2$ | DC4265B | 550 | 50 | 00 |
|  | $2 \cdot 2$ | DC4285B | 550 | 50 | 06 |
|  | $3 \cdot 3$ | DC4256B | 450 | 50 | 35 |
|  | $3 \cdot 3$ | DC4266B | 500 | 50 | 00 |
|  | $3 \cdot 3$ | DC4286B | 500 | 50 | 06 |
|  | $4 \cdot 7$ | DC4267B | 450 | 50 | 00 |
|  | 6.8 | DC4210B | 450 | 50 | 7 |
| 5 MHz to IGHz | 15 | DC4214B | 400 | 50 | 7 |
|  | 27 | DC4217B | 300 | 50 | 7 |
|  | 47 | DC4225C | 140 | 50 | 14 |
| $\begin{aligned} & 3 \mathrm{MHz} \\ & \text { to } 100 \mathrm{MHz} \end{aligned}$ | 68 | DC4227C | 120 | 50 | 14 |
|  | 80 | DC4228C | 100 | 50 | $14^{*}$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & 1 \mathrm{MHz} \\ & \text { to } 30 \mathrm{MHz} \end{aligned}$ | 100 | DC4232B | 200 | 10 | $18^{\circ}$ |
|  | 120 | DC4233B | 200 | 10 | 18 |
|  | 150 | DC4234B | 200 | 10 | 18 |
| $\begin{aligned} & 100 \mathrm{kHz} \\ & \text { to } 5 \mathrm{MHz} \end{aligned}$ | 210 | DC4298 | $180^{2}$ | 25 | 10 |
|  | 270 | DC4232C | 750 | 1 | 78 |
|  | -350 | DC4299 | $200^{2}$ | 25 | $10^{*}$ |
|  | 350 | DC4244C | 500 | 1 | 78** |

- available to DEF STAN specification. " available to commercial High Rel. specification. Notes: ${ }^{\text {S }}$ Suffices A, B, C indicate MW at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ of $30 \mathrm{~V}, 60 \mathrm{~V}, 90 \mathrm{~V}$ respectively. Preferred types shown. ${ }^{2}$ Measured at -8 V

For full details of the complete range please write to AEI Semiconductors L.td., Lincoln Telephone: 0522 29992, or call in at your local distributor.


Part of EiviluIIt
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AUDIO MEASURING INSTRUMENTS


## LOW DISTORTION OSCILLATOR SERIES 3

A continuously variable frequency laboratory oscillator with a range $10 \mathrm{~Hz}-100 \mathrm{kHz}$, having virtuallyzerodistortion over the audio frequency band with a fast settling time.

## Specification:

Frequency range:
Output voltage
Output source resistance:

Output attenuation:
Output attenuation accuracy:
Sine wave distortion

Square wave rise and fall
time:
Monitor output meter:
Mains input:
Size:
$10 \mathrm{~Hz}-100 \mathrm{kHz}$ (4 bands)
10 volts r.m.s. max.
150 ohms unbalanced
(optional 150 ohms unbalanced. plus 150/G00 ohms balanced/floating) $0-100 \mathrm{~dB}$ (eight. 10 dB steps plus $0-20 \mathrm{~dB}$ variable)
1\%
Less than $0.002 \% 10 \mathrm{~Hz}-10 \mathrm{kHz}$ (typically below noise of measuring instrument)

Price: 150 ohms unbalanced output:
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## DISTORTION MEASURING SET, SERIES 3

(illustrated above)
A sensitive instrument with high input impedance for the measurement of total harmonic distortion. Designed for speedy and accurate use. Capable of measuring distortion products down to $0.001 \%$. Direct reading from calibrated meter scale.
Specification:
Frequency range:
Distortion range (f.s.d.):
Input voltage measurement range:
Input resistance:
High pass filter:
Power requirement:
Size:

Price:
$5 \mathrm{~Hz}-50 \mathrm{kHz}$ (4 bands) $0.01 \%-100 \%$ (9 ranges)
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47 K ohms on all ranges
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with a 3" viewfinder for studio use.

FP1212



HV1100 An extremely compact, lightweight three tube colour TV camera ideal for surveillance and observation applications.

The Shibaden range of colour cameras are compact easy to operate and versatile in their application through educational, medical, business and broadcas ing studios. Shibaden Colour Cameras are designed with the customer in mind both from an application and performance stand point. They are fully backed by Shibaden's in-depth opto-electronic technology, which has proved to be superior through many years of application in a vast range of broadcasting equipment.


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 of digitized liquid delivery. The equipment illustrated is suitable for medical, veterinary. chemical and general laboratory applications.
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## WirelessWorld FULLCOLOUR WALLCHART OF FREQUENCY ALLOCATIONS 80p



The wallchart shows the allocation of frequencies within the radio spectrum ranging from 3 kHz to 300 GHz and is scaled on eight logarithmic bands contriving 15 main categories of transmissions which are identified by colours. All the important spot frequencies and 'special interest' frequencies are marked. The information is taken from the ITU and has been condensed into easily read chart form. Measures $2^{\prime} 11^{\prime \prime} \times 1^{\prime} 11^{\prime \prime}$.


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Electronics, Television, Radio, Audio JANUARY 1975 Vol 81 No 1469

SIXTY-FIFTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION


This month's front cover picture, from Philips Research Laboratories, shows an oil with extremely finely distributed iron oxide in suspension being attracted to the end of a rod magnet.

## IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

Digital clock. A six-digit, crystal-controlled clock, with alarm and relay to control electrical appliances.
Navigation by satellite. Principles of the Navy Navigation Satellite System using five Transit satellites travelling in polar orbits.
Speech clipping. A comparison of a.f. and r.f. clipping to give increased transmitter efficiency.

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I.P.C. Electrical-Electronic Press Ltd

Managing Director: George Fowkes
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## Sharing the spectrum

In the next two years the Annan Committee will be deliberating on the future of broadcasting in the UK. No doubt it will consider the amount and variety of broadcasting that we should have-bearing in mind the new channels in the broadcasting frequency bands that are likely to become available. But there ought to be another committee, with a wider brief, advising Annan on the amount of broadcasting usage of the radio spectrum there should be in relation to the needs of other users. Of course, the block allocations of frequencies for broadcasting, communications etc. are decided by international agreements, but there is still room for manoeuvre by individual national governments. For example the section of the v.h.f. band 87.5 to 100 MHz is internationally allocated to broadcasting, but within the UK the section 97.6 to 102.1 MHz is at present occupied by Home Office mobile radio users (the fire, ambulance and police services).

The new channels for broadcasting will be available for both sound and television. The mobile radio users mentioned above will be cleared from the 97.6 to 100 MHz section, allowing one more national sound broadcasting network to be set up. Furthermore, the BBC, pointing to the even higher frequencies used for v.h.f. sound broadcasting in other countries, has said that "further clearance to 104 MHz is most desirable". This would entail moving out the v.h.f. military communications at present in the section 102.6 to 104 MHz . In television there is, of course, spectrum space available for a fourth national u.h.f. network (sometimes incorrectly called a "channel"), the use of which has yet to be decided; and when the present 405 -line transmissions in bands 1 and 3 are shut down there will be room here for two more networks of near national coverage or a large number of local television stations. In general the broadcasters' attitude seems to be "we keep what we hold" but the BBC has publicly shown itself to be sensitive about the wasteful duplication of its sound (m.f./l.f. and v.h.f.) and television (v.h.f. and u.h.f.) programmes, which can only be justified on historical grounds and the laudable desire to keep faith with certain groups of listeners and viewers.

It is, of course, mainly the mobile radio manufacturers and users who are interested in these v.h.f. and u.h.f. parts of the spectrum. They are very much aware that in the USA the FCC has recently made available 115 MHz of additional space for mobile users in the 900 MHz bands. A bold suggestion from one British company is that the broadcasters might be prepared to surrender some of bands 1 and 3 "in exchange for the extended band 2".

The greatest problem of any spectrum advisory committee would be how to weigh against each other the requirements for spectrum space of very different types of users. How is society's need for entertainment, for example, to be balanced against society's need for telecommunications? Such value judgements are in fact already being made because they are implicit in the existing frequency allocations. But they are made under the influence of politicking by interested parties and to this extent it is doubtful if they reflect the true needs of society.

# Classifying f.e.ts 

# "'A unified view of the f.e.t. jungle" 

by B. L. Hart<br>North East London Polytechnic

A field effect transistor (f.e.t.) is a semiconductor device in which the flow of charge carriers in a "channel" between two terminals, designated source and drain, is controlled by a transverse field resulting from the application of a potential difference between one of these terminals and a third, control, terminal known as the gate. This definition is a convenient starting point and can be extended to include those devices having two gates. The manner in which the control function is achieved, without the requirement of significant d.c. input power, permits a division of f.e.ts into two basic categories, each of which can be further sub-divided.

## Junction-gate f.e.t.

The voltage applied to the reverse-biased p-n junction associated with the gate terminal determines the thickness of the junction depletion layers and this alters the effective dimensions of the conducting channel. The conducting channel may be p-type or n-type material. The jugfet is also known as a j.fet, p-n f.e.t., and sometimes, confusingly, just f.e.t.

## Insulated-gate f.e.t.

The voltage applied to the gate terminal determines the charge induced in a semiconductor material which is electrically insulated from the gate. The induced charge can either establish a conducting channel where none existed before, which is the case with the p - and n -channel "en-hancement-mode" devices, or modulate the conductivity of an already existing or built-in channel. This is the case with the p - and n -channel "depletion mode" devices.

Early igfets were made using established bipolar integrated-circuit processing technology and, as a result, had a metal gate and an oxide insulator. This led to the description most (metal oxide semiconductor transistor) or mosfet. Although metal and oxide are not always used mosfet has tended to be used interchangeably with igfet as a generic description of this device type. Cisfet (conductor, insulator, semiconductor) is, arguably, the best description of this group but because of past usage the former terms are unlikely to be displaced.

## General d.c. description

The pear-shaped symbol, shown at (a) opposite, represents an f.e.t. of unspecified type; the arrows represent the sign convention for positive $I_{D S}, V_{D S}, V_{G S}$. The relevant family of $\left|I_{D S}\right|$ versus $\left|V_{D S}\right|$ characteristics is shown at (b), opposite. It is apparent that $\left|I_{D S}\right| \approx 0$ at $V_{G S}=V_{r} ; V_{r}$ is thus a cut-in, cut-off, or a threshold-ofconduction voltage. For the jugfet, $V_{\gamma}$ is usually known as pinch-off voltage and written $V_{P}$, whilst for the igfet $V_{y}$ is normally referred to as the threshold voltage and written $V_{T}$. The form $\left|I_{D S}\right| \approx 0$, is used because $V_{\nu}$ is often conveniently measured at some specified low leak age current level of a few $\mu \mathrm{A}$.

When $\left|V_{D S}\right|<\left|V_{G S}-V_{\gamma}\right|$, the f.e.t. operates in the pre-pinch-off, triode, ohmic, or voltage saturation region. For $\left.\left|V_{D S}\right|\right\rangle$ $\left|V_{G S}-V_{y}\right|$, the f.e.t. operates in the pinchoff, . constant-current, current-saturation, or pentode region and since the curves are parallel to the $V_{D S}$ axis we can write an expression for $I_{D S}$ which does not involve $V_{D S}$ :

$$
I_{D S}=\lambda\left(V_{G S}-V_{p}\right)^{2}
$$

in which $\lambda$ is a device parameter dependent on material type, doping level, and geometry. The polarities of the quantities in this relationship for the six possible types of f.e.t. are given in the accompanying table.

| Device type | Carrier type | $\lambda I_{\text {ds }}$ | $V_{D S}$ | $V$ | $V_{r}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| n-channel enhancement igfet | electron | + + | + | + | + |
| n-channel depletion igiet | electron | + + | + | + |  |
| n-channel jugfet | electron | + + | + |  |  |
| p-channel jugfet | hole |  |  | + | + |
| p -channel depletion igfet | hole |  | - |  | + |
| p-channel enhancement igfet | hole |  | - | - | - |

The device d.c. relationship with appropriate parameter signs is the basis of the f.e.t. classification chart opposite, which links the transfer characteristic with symbolic representation and a simple cross-section of device construction. Note that the device is only on and in the pinchoff mode for that part of the $I_{D S}, V_{G S}$ parabola which has a positive slope.

The symbols shown, though not used in
all f.e.t. literature, arestrongly recommended because they permit instant recognition of device type without supplementary explanation. A thick continuous line connecting s and d indicates that for $V_{G S}=0 \quad\left|I_{D S}\right|=\left|I_{D S S}\right|>0$. All devices so drawn are termed depletion f.e.ts. In some texts depletion-mode igfets are referred to as normally-on or depletion/enhancement devices, but this can be confusing and is not recommended. A thick broken line connecting s and d indicates that for $V_{G S}=0,\left|I_{D S}\right| \approx 0$; as a result such a device has been referred to as a normallyoff igfet.

A horizontal arrow connected to a perpendicular line section indicates a p-n junction. The direction of the arrow is from $p$ to $n$. Thus, an $n$-channel jugfet has a p-type gate. In the case of a pchannel enhancement igfet the arrow points from the p-type induced channel to the $n$-type substrate.

The horizontal section of the gate terminal is on the same level as the source. The igfet gate has a vertical section isolated from the rest of the device to emphasise the insulated nature of the terminal. The substrate, shown as b for bulk on the symbol, is sometimes internally connected to the source and in such cases the substrate is often not shown. When the substrate terminal is at the disposal of the circuit design engineer it must be connected to a potential which ensures that both the drain-substrate and source-substrate junctions never become forward biased. For n-channel igfets this is often, conveniently, the most negative potential in the circuit whilst for p channel types the most positive potential in the circuit is appropriate.

Fig. I. (a) F.e.t. of unspecified type, (b) Drain-source characteristics for (a).

Fig. 2. F.e.t. classification chart showing device inter-relationships.

Transfer characteristics refer to "pinchoff' region. Channel type, whether initially "built-in", or induced always - has the same polarity as the semiconductor material in contact with the source terminal.



Before we look at the role played by electronics and communications and how these systems are achieved, the scene must be set to reveal what conditions have encouraged the growth of the special and vital systems now in use for the discovery and recovery of undersea oil.

The type of drilling installation used (platforms, barges or ships on which drilling rigs are mounted) depends upon the depth of the sea and possible storm conditions. A jack-up unit-so called because the drilling platform is jacked up on legs (which rest on the sea bed) to above the water level-is normally used in less than 200 ft of water. This type of installation is
by W. E. Anderton Assistant Editor, Wireless World

## A survey of the electronic systems used in the search for and recovery of oil under the sea-communications, telemetry, navigation and data collection with a brief look at special developments such as dynamic stationing of vessels and the national data buoy.

highly stable but can be moved only in calm seas and wasted time in waiting for these conditions may therefore run into several weeks. In deeper water, which will be typical of most future UK offshore operations, a floating installation will have to be employed, either a drill ship or a semisubmersible. A drill ship is fitted with a rig which operates through an aperture in the middle of the vessel or, in some cases over the ship's side. A semi-submersible, as the name suggests, has submerged pontoons which support the working deck well above wave level.

Floating installations are normally anchored to the sea bed, although dynamic

## Tropospheric scatter aerials at Brimmond Hill which serve the B.P. platforms in the Forties Field (Marconi Communication Systems photograph).

Fig. 1. Tropospheric scatter link from the Phillips Group field production facilities at Ekofisk to the crude oil terminal facilities at Teesside (PS—pumping station).
positioning (explained in detail later) by propellors appropriately oriented to counter the effects of wind and current is now used. However, in the waters around Scotland, where very high waves and winds may occur, keeping the platform in position is a major problem whatever method is employed.

Of the installations now available, only the semi-submersible can operate in Scottish waters during the winter months, and then only with difficulty; drill ships are less able to smooth out wave-induced vertical rig movements and can operate only during the summer season. To help overcome these difficulties, a new generation of large semisubmersibles is being built and the number of exploration installations at work in the UK sector of the North Sea is now about 25.

To put the cost of these operations into this background perspective, the new generation of installations will cost about $£ 10 \mathrm{~m}$ each to build, and with the associated supply boats, helicopters, etc, as much as $£ 20,000$ per day to operate. To drill a $10,000-\mathrm{ft}$ well in 60 days, a company would have to lay out more than $£ 1 \mathrm{M}$.

In the North Sea, the ratio of successful wells to wells drilled is reasonably good (about one to six) but the ratio of commercially viable wells is only 1 to 20 or less, so that $£ 10 \mathrm{M}-£ 30 \mathrm{M}$ may have to be spent on a drilling before a commercial oilfield is discovered. Luck enters into it as well. Some licensees may spend this sum of money and still find nothing. Finding a field is just the end of the beginning and two or three more wells at least have to be drilled to determine whether or not the field is commercial.

The cost rises rapidly in proportion to the water depth. In deep water (e.g. the 500 or 600 feet of water off the Shetlands), it could rise to more than $£ 40 \mathrm{M}$. No platform has yet been constructed in such a depth of water anywhere in the world, and, although it is technically feasible, the immense cost has prompted a search for alternative methods. An entirely new field of technology is therefore emerging encompassing such developments as completing the well under water (without the need for a fixed platform) by remote controls, or using two-man submarines fitted with remotely operated arms, or a diving bell which locks onto a capsule enclosing the wellhead, so enabling the technician to work as if on land.

## Communications

In the beginning, both needs and available facilities were simple-a straightforward radiotelephone link. Now the main service is provided by independent-sideband equip-

ment which caters for the simultaneous transmission of radioteleprinter on uppersideband and radiotelephony on lowersideband operating through special Post Office terminals at Humber and Stonehaven for rigs in the North Sea.

The radiotelephone and teleprinter are the two main types of communication link between the oil rig and the shore. A typical system supplied by Marconi Marine consists of independent-sideband or uppersideband only installations. The former permits simultaneous operation of both radiotelephone (l.s.b.) and teleprinter (u.s.b.) while the latter system allows both types of transmission but requires switching from one to the other.

Frequency shift keying is a modulation method used for teleprinter operation. For the mark/space teleprinter code an audio tone is deflected from "side to side". The teleprinter however generates positive or negative d.c. for transmission and requires the same for reception. To convert from d.c. into frequency shift keyed audio tones and vice versa, a voice frequency telegraph unit is required. Automatic high-speed telegraphy, particularly when used for data telex transmission requires the highest
standard of accuracy possible. The Post Office's specification W6652 calls for the fitting of single-path error correction equipment. A technique for satisfying this condition effectively doubles up on the normal teleprinter code to provide a "checking" signal with which the required signal can be compared. The result is a substantial improvement in accuracy on noisy transmission/reception paths. Tropospheric scatier systems also play a large part in rig-to-shore communication, explained in detail later.

Most communications from the oil rig to its supply vessels are carried out via v.h.f. links, but while rig to ship communication requires frequency modulated v.h.f., rig to helicopter radiotelephony requires amplitude modulated v.h.f. Usually only one or two channels in the band $121-123 \mathrm{MHz}$ are necessary.

## Mičrowave systems

Telemetry systems provide vital information on the status of the pipeline, on supply, demand and product quality, providing control at any point. On land, telemetry information is generally carried over a conventional telephone circuit by connec-
tion into the local network, or provided by a special cable or radio-relay system. The communication link is vital, particularly in an emergency and the cable system must provide alternative routing and the radio relay system include independent standby equipment. Conventional relay links provide a solution to communication problems so long as the platform is within "line-of-sight".

Oversea paths are generally engineered with vertically spaced antennas to provide a diversity system, whereby when one antenna receives a low signal, the other is brought into use. The permissible offshore distance is thus dependent upon the available shore height and antenna spacing, the facility for both being strictly limited on most platforms because of the additional loading and hazard that the antennas present to helicopters. Whether the operating frequency is in the v.h.f., u.h.f., or s.h.f. band, the limit range for antenna heights of 30 to 60 m will be 30 to 50 km , a shore height of 300 m extending the range to 80 to 100 km .

Many offshore developments of which the North Sea is a particularly interesting example, are well in excess of the line-ofsight limit and the signal diffracted beyond the horizon is rapidly attenuated. As the diffraction loss becomes prohibitive in terms of effective radiated power, the scattered signal takes over. To provide the required service, typical data error rates must be in the order of not more than 1 in $10^{5}$ for 99.99 per cent of the time.

North Sea scatter communications operate in the 2.5 GHz band. ${ }^{1}$ Six- and ninemetre paraboloids give gains of 41.5 and 45 dB respectively, which with 1 kW amplifiers produce effective radiated powers of 10 to 30 MW . With modern uncooled parametric amplifiers having noise figures of

2 dB , quadruple diversity receivers with i.f. combining and threshold extension techniques, an f.m. threshold of -140 dB or better is achieved. A path loss of 250 dB can be tolerated before the error rate becomes significant, corresponding to a range of 300 km with the required 99.99 per cent circuit availability.

There is one outstanding problem affecting both radio relay and scatter communication links particularly relevant to the North Sea, the phenomenon of ducting. For short periods of time, signals far beyond the horizon may exceed the freespace value; the normally insignificant over-shoot to other stations may assume levels of serious interference. The distance between stations operating on the same frequency must ensure protection against both the scattered and the ducted signals.

Although the communication bands are very wide, the large number of users and the wide-band transmissions involved call for maximum economy in channel allocations. Thus many radio-relay systems carrying television and telephony traffic have a bandwidth of 30 MHz , as wide as the whole h.f. band. The use of frequency diversity for both the line-of-sight and scatter links, occupying two channels for the same traffic, is being discouraged in favour of space diversity.

The scatter system often uses two antennas at each end, providing four physical paths. The two transmitters must be identified by the respective receivers by virtue of their different frequencies or, with single frequency links, the polarization of the two transmissions.

One of the latest troposcatter links is being established between the North East field called Ekofisk and the coastline near Teesside. The system provides for two 40ft dish antennas to be erected on the

800 ft hill at Eston Nab along the coast just south of Teesside, with feedhorn arrays angled towards Ekofisk and towards one of two pumping stations, 70 miles off the coast. Similarly at Ekofisk, two 30 ft dish aerials will be built with feedhorn arrays towards Eston Nab and towards the other pumping station, 70 miles from Ekofisk. Two $20-\mathrm{ft}$ dishes will be installed at Pumping Station I and two $12-\mathrm{ft}$ dishes at Pumping Station II both sited along the piping line. Each dish antenna will have two dual polarized feedhorns to provide for quadruple diversity operation-dual space and dual polarization techniques combined to provide four separate radio paths without using additional frequencies.

The main link is to provide a basis for 72 telephone or telegraphy channels, while the pumping stations' links will carry 12 channels with a capacity of 24 . Both major stations will operate at 1 kW transmitter power but the links with Pumping Station II will have 2 W output from Eston Nab and 2 W on the return path. Transmitted power from Ekofisk to Pumping Station I will be 20W.

## Accuracy in navigation

Marine seismic surveys are the commonest method of initiating exploration for offshore oil or gas fields which are indicated by certain geological formations. Sound waves are transmitted through the water and sea-bed and the reflections are recorded and analyzed to give a picture of the geological structure. The most favourable sites to drill and the depth at which prospective reservoir rocks are expected to occur are indicated by this picture, taken in conjunction with any other available information such as data on regional geology.


During the survey procedure it is essential that the area surveyed should be fixed and marked accurately, hence use has to be made of an accurate navigational system so that the survey ships know where they are, coupied with an equally accurate underwater system to define the limits of the area surveyed and to enable ships and drilling rigs to return to the same spot each time. ${ }^{2}$

Accurate navigation when reasonably close to the land can be obtained by a radio hyperbolic or ranging system. There are a number of such systems on the market, but in the North Sea surveys are often carried out using the Decca Survey Hi-Fix system. The present system consists of three shore stations working in the band 1700 to 2000 kHz . All three use the same frequency and transmit one after another. Receivers on board the survey ships measure the phase difference of the received continuous wave from two of the stations and so position themselves on a hyperbola. Then a further hyperbola is obtained using the third station and one of those already used. Where the two curves intersect is the ship's position. Hi-Fix has a range of about 150 miles and will produce a position accurate to within two metres under optimum conditions. Decca Survey have just developed an even more accurate system, known as Hi-Fix 6. This consists of up to six stations on-shore, all employing the same frequency.

For underwater fixing some form of transducer that can be activated by a ship's sonar is used. Such a system is particularly valuable when working at the limit of a radio hyperbolic system. Two or more transponders may be laid on the sea floor in known positions and ships interrogate them with their sonars. The transponders are triggered off and transmit return pulses. By measuring the time between the transmission of a pulse of energy and the reception of the transponder's return and noting the bearing on which the transmission was made, the ship's bearing and distance from the transponder can be deduced and thus the ship's position. By using more than one transponder a check can be made and an accurate position found. The transponders have a life of three to three and a half years and can be laid permanently in selected positions as navigational beacons, either for use when surveying or for positioning rigs or platforms.

To obtain an overall picture of the seabed the sonars used usually project their beams sideways and downwards and scan the bottom as their parent ship moves along. They will produce contour maps of the seabed and will show up such things as cables, wrecks, pipelines and areas of rock.

A hydrographic sonar, designed by the Admiralty Research Laboratory is being developed by Marconi Space and Defence Systems and is capable of producing both horizontal and vertical plan views of the seabed. The depth of objects on the seabed can be determined to an accuracy of within two feet to ranges of 200 yards.

## Rig manoeuvres

It is possible to manoeuvre a drilling rig or ship into position without human interven-

tion, thereby increasing the accuracy of manoeuvres. A system made by Decca Sur${ }^{\text {c }}$ vey and known as Dynafix uses shore stations up to 40 miles distant and processes their signals in such a way that they are used to operate specially fitted manoeuvring propellers.

Dynamic positioning of a drilling, whereby the vessel is held in position over the well without the use of anchors, was first used in drilling for oil in deep water early in 1972. This was achieved by Sedco 445, a drillship designed to Shell specifications and equipped to conduct world-wide drilling operations in water depths of about 2000 feet. Dynamic positioning enables the drillship to hold its position despite wind, waves and tides. Eleven sidewaysacting propellers and two main screws are controlled by two computers in keeping the ship over the hole while drilling takes place.

The method and systems were pioneered in the United States by the Shell Oil Company. Its work with dynamic positioning began in 1961 when it participated in the development of a manually controlled drillship. In the same year it developed the first automatically controlled dynamic positioning system in the core drilling vessel Eureka.

Sedco 445 provides laboratory space for drilling, electrical logging, mud logging, diving, petroleum engineering, and geological and management services, all of which are designed to be independent of shore support. However, for emergency supplies, timely re-stocking, personnel access and safety stand-by the drilling unit is provided with a helicopter deck and will be accompanied by a large crew-standby boat and a work boat. Two acoustic reference systems measure vessel's position with respect to beacons at the wellhead. As a backup and for use during certain operations, two tiltmeters are used either on a taut
line to bottom over the side or on a guideline. Two gyro compasses measure heading for control. Two anemometers measure wind velocity and direction with respect to the ship and permit the control system to command an immediate and opposite thrust.

To assure the highest reliability complete backup equipment is provided throughout the dynamic stationing system. Two Honeywell computers are used; while only one of them at a time is issuing commands to the thrusters, both are continuously receiving data from position and environment sensing instruments, comparing them for validity, performing the control calculations and checking each other. Control automatically transfers to the standby computer on failure of the operating unit.

The computer's thrust commands are sent to thyristor modules which provide variable voltage d.c. power to reversible speed standard traction motors.

Sedco 445 can be navigated by satellite. ${ }^{3}$ Conventional navigational positioning systems use stationary wave patterns generated by fixed, land-based, radio transmitting stations, and have an accuracy of about 25 to 50 metres. However, they are limited to a range of about 200 miles from shore.

The Navy Navigation Satellite System (NNSS) consisting of orbiting satellites and accompanying ground facilities was made available for non-military use in 1967. NNSS enables work to be carried out quickly and conveniently-the vessel Lady Glorita using satellite navigation as its prime positioning system was able to carry out a seismic survey off Guyana in only four days, whereas the setting up of a conventional positioning system could have taken more than a month of expensive preparation. On a moving ship, given an accurate knowledge of the vessel's true

speed and course, an accuracy of about 100 metres can be obtained, with the added advantage of not being limited to a range of 200 miles from the shore.

The equipment needed to operate satellite navigation is portable and selfcontained aboard ship. It consists basically of two radio receivers, a small computer equipped with teletype print-out facilities and a reference oscillator. The system measures the v.h.f. radio signals transmitted from one of the orbiting satellites and, using the Doppler principle, computes the latitude and longitude of the signal receiver. NNSS has five satellites orbiting the earth at an altitude of about 600 miles. They travel at a speed of about 16,500 miles per hour. The satellites are in polar orbit and their orbit planes are at angles of about $45^{\circ}$ from each other.

Each satellite is transmitting continuously two related stable frequencies at 150 and 400 MHz , while every two minutes it gives an accurate time check and its orbital position at that time. A ship with the necessary receiving equipment can compare the signal it receives from the satellites with the shipboard oscillator, which is fixed to a frequency slightly offset from the one transmitted by the satellite. The shipboard receiver measures the Doppler frequency by observing the changing relationship between the incoming frequency and the stable reference.

Satellite navigation is still in development. At its present state, it is unlikely to be used as the sole or primary means of navigational positioning except for cases such as seismic ships on roving commission. However, when combined with sonar Doppler into an integrated navigation system and used in shallow water, satellite navigation has shown that it has great potential for location fixing offshore work in the oil industry. (An article on satellite navigation by the NNSS will be published in the February issue.)

## New weather buoy

The national Data Collection Buoy, presently being manufactured by the Seatek consortium, is to be placed on station in the North Sea in summer 1975.

The 7.6 -metre-diameter wave-riding welded steel buoy is to act as a development platform for oceanographic and meteorological sensors. These include air temperature, barometric pressure, wind speed and direction, humidity, rainfall and visibility. Sea-bed pressure instruments, connected to the buoy by cable, are included in the range of oceanographic sensors, and these will help produce storm surge warnings. Other sensors include acoustic and electromagnetic current meters near the ocean surface, and current speed and direction monitors at three sub-surface positions. One hundred

> Reception of worldwide weather chart transmissions of the international meteorological services demonstrated by the EMI Weatherfax system at the 1974 Offshore International Exhibition, London.


Artist's impression of the UK national data buoy D.B.I.
data channels are provided, some 50 being used by the initial suite of sensors. Measurements can be made at any time within the one-hour cycle, and then stored ready for the hourly transmission. A 1 MHz temperature compensated crystal oscillator provides not only the high accuracy clock (ten seconds per year) for automatic control but also a basic input to synthesize all frequencies required within the transmitter.

A six-watt transmitter at 4163.5 kHz feeds a ten-metre whip antenna and is used in conjunction with space-diversity reception at Lowestoft. The A9J emission is a modification of tiie Piccolo system with one audio tone per decimal digit.

A slow morse call sign (2N102) pre cedes a synchronizing signal, followed by three sequential scans of the data channels. Each channel uses three decimal digits to provide $0.1 \%$ resolution and each digit is transmitted as a tone lasting 300 ms .

Every third hour an additional 20minute transmission of buoy heave, pitch, roll and compass data provides highfrequency wave information. A fuel supply of 400 kg of propane on the buoy will last two years and the data handling equipment is designed to operate unattended for at least six months, but the oceanographic sensors may require more frequent visits due to fouling by marine growths.

## Under-sea production

Research into the development of deep sea production facilities is being pressed forward in parallel with progress in drilling techniques in the deep oceans. Such facilities can either be on the sea floor or on the surface. Oil companies are exploring both routes in seeking solutions to the problems involved. The objective involved with the surface method when oil is found in commercial quantities
is to get the oil from the well to the surface as simply as possible, put it through production facilities on the surface and transport it away by tanker. This technique calls for man-controlled, remotely actuated devices, using electronic tools where necessary and embodying the means to feed continuous data on what is happening below back to the surface. If problems occur however there must be human access to the seat of the trouble-either by miniature submarines with mechanical arms or, dependent on depth, divers.

If large oilfields are found in very deep water far from shore, floating storage will have to be provided. A concept envisaged by the Shell companies is the use of a huge floating tube, the shape of a fisherman's float, suspended vertically in the water and with a storage capacity of perhaps 300,000 barrels (about 40,000 tons), linked by lines to the wellheads on the ocean floor. In very deep water, dynamic stationing equipment similar to that installed in the " 445 " would keep it in position.

A programme to build a complete oilfield on the seabed without any surface platforms and in deeper water than any existing wells is under way at Lockheed Petroleum Services. Several major oil companies are financing the programme. This gives a good indication of their interest in the project which is pioneering a range of subsea equipment to extract oil in up to $3,000 \mathrm{ft}$ of water. This is eight times deeper than any present oil well and yet is within a water depth where surveys indicate there could be major petroleum reserves in several areas throughout the world including the North Sea. A well-head on the sea floor is enclosed in a dry oneatmosphere, steel cellar which houses the
equipment normatly carried on surface platforms. It is serviced by engineers who travel to it in a one-atmosphere capsule from a surface support vessel. The capsule docks with the seabed cellar and engineers open a hatch to gain access and carry out their work in shirt-sleeve conditions with fresh air and electrical power supplied by umbilical cable from a surface support vessel. Lockheed is developing the system.

As a final note and with the sort of developments just mentioned in mind, there still remains a market of over $£ 2,000 \mathrm{M}$ in production wells and transportation over the next ten years and also on the many offshore and on land services associated with the oil business. Although much of the initial demand of the oil industry has been met by American and European suppliers, the United Kingdom's offshore oil business is a vast and expanding market that will stretch into the 1990s, and Britain now has not only the opportunity of rising to self-sufficiency in fossil fuels by the 1980s but also to evaluate the opportunities and establish itself as a major world supplier of products and services to the offshore industry. A report is due for publication in March by Industrial Market Research Ltd, London, containing up-to-date information on product and service opportunities in North Sea oil developments.

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2. Marriott, J., "Accuracy and instrumentation in offshore oil developments", Offshore International Exhibition and Conference publication, Oct. 1974.
3. "Satellite navigation", Shell Magazine. Vol. L11, No. 749, p.109, 110.



## ITU first I.f./m.f. conference session

Further to the news item published in our December 1974 issue, the following is a summary of the conclusions reached by the first session of the regional administrative l.f./m.f. broadcasting conference which was "to prepare the technical and operational criteria which will serve as a basis for the preparation by the Second Session . . . of frequency assignment plans for the I.f./m.f. broadcasting bands in Regions 1 and 3 ".

For ground-wave propagation, the curves of the International Radio Consultative Committee Recommendation 368 -2, which cover propagation at low and medium frequencies for different values of ground conductivity, were adopted by the conference. The conference decided that any new frequency plan should be based on the continued use of double sideband amplitude modulation with full
carrier and rejected proposals for a reduced value of modulation bandwidth Similarly, proposals to base planning on high degrees of signal compression, thereby improving protection against interference, were rejected by the conference because of the allegedly adverse effect upon reception quality. No upper limit on the radiated power of individual transmitters has been recommended but use should be made of directional antennae to reduce power in those cases where assignment incompatibilities cannot be resolved by any other means.
The conference decided that for most purposes a protection ratio of 30 dB against interference from other transmitters operating in the same channel should be adopted. A consensus was quickly reached that the channel spacing should be uniform throughout the whole of Regions 1 and 3 and that the carrier frequencies should be integral multiples of the channel spacing. The revised channelling in the m.f. band will start with a carrier frequency of 531 kHz and proceed in 9 kHz steps up to the highest channel with a carrier frequency of 1602 kHz . The l.f. band remains unchanged with its present 9 kHz channelling and carrier frequencies which are not integral multiples of the channel spacing.

## Liquid crystals for electron observation

A simple technique has been developed for the observation of electron pulses flowing through an integrated circuit. The technique employs liquid crystals. Conventional i.c. test equipment determines whether an i.c. is functioning properly but is of little value in determining exactly why and where it has failed. With the new

## Laser system installed at the Beckman Instruments, Glenrothes, Scotland factory for resistance and functional trimming of their d.i.p. resistor networks, ladder networks and hybrid microcircuits.


technique, developed by RCA, it is possible to observe where the electron flow has been interrupted at a defect. This is made possible by the normally clear liquid crystal which reflects or refracts light when stimulated by an electric current.
A drop of nematic liquid crystal is placed on the surface of the i.c. so that all the rod-like molecules align in the same direction. The i.c. is placed in a conventional microscope and illuminated by light passed through a set of polarizers arranged so that none of the light reaches the microscope's eyepiece under normal conditions. However, when the i.c. is operating, the refractive index changes caused by the electrons' electric fields allow light to pass through the polarizers and, in effect, give the viewer a "live" picture of the pulses or signals flowing in the i.c. The circuits can be examined at various speeds and at normal operating voltages-eight to ten volts for m.o.s. circuits and as low as two or three volts for bipolars.

## Paging the dead

A news release we recently received indicated that paging equipment installed at the South Essex Crematorium has contributed towards the efficiency of the organization. According to Multitone Electric, "the smooth operation of a crematorium in every detail is imperative by the very nature of the function which it discharges . . . At the South Essex Crematorium there was an additional problem in that the administrative offices are situated at the entrance to the grounds, some distance from the crematory itself. The new Multitone paging system has made things very much easier, however, "by ensuring that all key staff can be contacted immediately wherever they are". It is envisaged that the next application of radio paging will be its use by mediums to take some of the routine hard work out of their endeavours.

## Quadraphonic cassettes

Although details had not reached this office at the time of going to press, we have heard that BASF has been experimenting with the duplication of quadraphonic cassettes. Unfortunately none of the output from the German duplicating plant appears in the UK so it is unlikely that such cassettes will be offered for sale here, unless one of our own duplicators follows suit.

It is believed that the extra information is recorded on the standard track format, but matrix encoded using the SQ system. Although such an arrangement is perfectly feasible, it is possible that the phase stability of the cassette recording process may have to be of an order higher than most average domestic machines to achieve acceptable decoding. Should the
recordings be of such a type, standard add-on decoders, or those built-in to amplifiers may prove quite suitable for use with this type of recording. Further details will be published as they become available.

## New communications device

A control unit has recently been introduced which dispenses with space-wasting racks of switching and exchange equipment and condenses what would normally be a roomful of equipment into a space no larger than a small filing cabinet. The unit, MFC, was announced by Pye Business Communications as a new master control unit for its M100 speech intercom.

The MFC allows almost limitless expansion of M100 intercom systems while no conventional exchange or switching is required. The calling station initiates a pulse sequence which is in turn decoded by the receiving station. The control unit is constructed on a "plug-in" card principle, station capacity being decided by the number of cards employed.

When a call is initiated, the system memory is interrogated to confirm the availability of the required station and to evaluate the fastest method of connection. Should the called number be engaged, the system is able to keep trying the number every six seconds for up to 90 s to obtain a connection, or even arrange for it to call you back later. Extra features include automatic call transfer, three callers on line at once, connection to public address or pocket paging systems and the calling of all stations at once for emergency use.

## Parrot power

After decades of experience, the engineers and researchers at Austral Standard Cables Pty, Sydney, Australia, could perhaps be excused for believing they had overcome almost every conceivable environmental challenge that could confront the industry. The sad truth is that the ASC people recently have been given the bird. Over several years they successfully wrestled with problems of cable moisture permeation, submarine cable protection, electrical interference, assorted "gremlin-inspired" technical difficulties and termite attacks. The termites were beaten when they introduced nylonsheathed cable. Now another menace has arisen in Western Australia. "Iron beaks" have been pecking through cables (Integral Bearer Cables) at Mt Newman, W.A., causing shorts and interference within a mining company's domestic communications network. ASC supplied most of the cable when this private telephone system was commissioned in 1968 and since then has met substantial orders for extension and upgrading of the network. The system's radiotelephone signals link
both the Newman township and mine to the PMG exchange at Port Hedland, 265 miles to the northwest.

In such a communications complex, any pests which mutiate part of the network obviously are unwelcome. The birds have concentrated on a relatively small stretch of line. They land on the bearer wire, bend under and peck right through the polythene-sheathed cable. The ASC planners in Melbourne don't claim to have a quick remedy for the problem, but have suggested that brass tape may stop the birds. It has been urged that for ease of handling and installation poly-sheathed cable be lashed on site to the bearer wire with brass tape. If that doesn't stop the parrots, ASC's engineering services may be in for some overtime.

## Colour TV <br> examination

The Radio, Television and Electronics Examination Board is introducing a certificate of competence in colour television servicing. The qualification has been established in response to demand from the industry to provide a recognized certificate in this field which is issued on passing a comprehensive practical test. It is open to those who have already established themselves in the servicing of colour television receivers, who hold a recognized technical qualification and who have had a minimum of one year's full time gainful experience. The award will take the form of a certificate and personal identity card issued by the Board.

The examination is a problem-solving exercise in which the candidate has to identify the problem and obtain the relevant test information. There is a limit on time (five faults in two hours) and the candidate is required to work on more than one type of receiver, designated in advance. Setting up of pre-set controls also forms part of the test. In addition to the practical assessment, a short written
test is concerned with safety and installation. The practical test involves faultfinding to component level and the candidate is to state correctly the symptom, the fault area, the stage and the component.

## TV deliveries down

Deliveries to UK distributors of UK made and imported colour television receivers reached 153,000 in September-a $41 \%$ decrease on September $1973(259,000)$, according to the latest statistics compiled by the British Radio Equipment Manufacturers' Association. This brought the total for the first nine months to $1,638,000$, a fall of $18 \%$ compared with the same period of $1973(2,005,000)$. The share of imports of colour sets has fallen in the January to September period to $21 \%$ from $25 \%$ during the same period in 1973.
Total monochrome television deliveries for September of 72,000 brought the total for the year to 611,000 , a fall of $44 \%$ compared with January to September $1973(1,084,000)$. These figures are details of deliveries of UK made and imported deliveries, including those to rental and relay companies.

## Briefly

The journal you like. More and more people are reading Wireless World. At the time of going to press the estimated circulation for 1974 was an average of 65,723 copies per month (to be confirmed by the Audit Bureau of Circulations). This was 5,000 up on the 1973 figure of 60,528 per month.

RTS Hon. Sec. retires. The retirement of Charles Marshall as honorary secretary of the Royal Television Society was recently marked at a society luncheon in London. Mr Marshall who is head of public relations at Mullard had held the post for 13 years.


## Circuit Ideas

## Control of a binary counter for division by one or two

This circuit provides a method of switching division by two into or out of a stream of clock pulses. The output is in phase with the input, and free from spikes due to race problems, which may occur with conventional gating methods. Only one D-type flip-flop and one inverter are used.

The logic circuit is shown below; action is as follows.
Control low; input low
$\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{d}}, \mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{d}}$ both low, Q and Q both forced high.
Control low, input high
$\mathrm{C}_{\mathrm{d}}$ high; $\overline{\mathrm{Q}}$ goes low (complement of Q ).

## Control high

$C_{d}$ and $S_{d}$ are both high. At the positive edge of the clock, the D input is trans-

ferred to Q . This is the normal connection for division by two, using a D flip-flop.
An inverter is added to restore the phase. Note that $K \neq \mathrm{Q}$ in the divide by one mode, since Q is held up, by $\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{d}}$ low. Hence the use of the inverter.
J. M. Firth,

National Research Council,
Ottawa.

## Click-free switching for audio filters

It's often required in mixing consoles and other audio equipment to be able to insert a correction network for comparison purposes without producing transients or changes of level. The diagram shows how this can be achieved with a familiar Baxandall network, though of course the idea is applicable to other filters.

With $S_{1}$ open and $S_{2}$ closed, the circuit functions normally, but if the switch positions are simultaneously reversed, the response remains flat, regard-
less of the positions of the pots. The centre-frequency gain remains unchanged since the network is symmetrical and, furthermore, phase shift is unaltered.

The main value of this type of switching, however, is that with the controls in the flat position, there is no transient interruption of the signal, and with no d.c. in the network, no clicks either.
J. S. Wilson,

Amersham,
Bucks.


## Passive solid-state antenna switch

A lot of antenna switch schemes have appeared in the past, but all used complicated tuned circuits and lots of diodes, or vacuum tubes that required high-voltage supplies. This circuit uses only two pairs of silicon diodes, one pair ( $D_{1}$ and $D_{2}$ ) which effectively shorts the receiver input during transmission, and the other ( $D_{3}$ and $D_{4}$ ) which disconnects the transmitter during reception.

Because of the high power from the transmitter, $D_{3}$ and $D_{4}$ conduct, and the power flows towards the antenna. Likewise, $D_{1}$ and $D_{2}$ in the receiving branch also conduct and put a short circuit across the line at the receiver (only 0.6 volts appear across $D_{1}$ and $D_{2}$ ), thereby protecting the input
circuits of the receiver. As the short circuit is a quarter wavelength from the T-junction, the impedance in parallel with the antenna line at the junction is very high and does not affect the power travelling toward the antenna.

During reception, the impedance at the T-junction looking toward the transmitter is infinite because there is an open circuit half-a-wavelength away caused by nonconducting $D_{3}$ and $D_{4}$. Looking toward the receiver there is a matched line, so all the power from the antenna goes into the receiver. The diodes are high-frequency switching diodes with current ratings depending on the transmitter power. The line is the same as the one used to feed the antenna.
Alejandro Lieber, LU1 FCR,
Edinburgh.


# Charge-coupled devices 

# 2-Techniques for making two-, three- and four-phase devices 

by John Mavor<br>University of Edinburgh

In part 1 of this series of articles, the charge-coupled device concept was examined in relation to the simplest device embodiment; the three-phase single-level metallization structure (Fig. 1). Although c.c.d. structures are conceptually simple and essentially compatible with standard m.o.s. transistor processing, they do have an Achilles' heel. For acceptably high charge-transfer efficiency to be obtained, the formation of the very narrow interelectrode gaps (gate-to-gate spacings) must be produced.

Another important limitation to the simple, single-level metallization c.c.d., caused by the existence of the gaps, is that of stability and, ultimately, its longterm reliability.

For efficient transfer of charge carriers in c.c.ds, it was shown in part 1 that the silicon surface, just below the siliconsilicon dioxide interface, must be completely depleted between adjacent gates. Now for the silicon surface to be depleted, a voltage of a correct magnitude and polarity for repelling the substrate majority carriers must be applied across the insulator. For a given oxide thickness, a higher-doped substrate (with more majority carriers) will require a larger applied gate voltage than with lower doping (less majority carriers). For lightlydoped substrates of $20 \Omega \mathrm{~cm}\left(-10^{15} / \mathrm{cm}^{3}\right)$ about 10 V is required to allow a depletion layer depth into the silicon of $1 \mu \mathrm{~m}$. Because complete depletion is required between electrodes for good efficiency the gap length ( $t$ in Fig. 1) must be less than $3 \mu \mathrm{~m}$ in practice.

For integrated-circuit processing using conventional photolithography, $3-\mu \mathrm{m}$ gaps are possible but not always easily reproducible with high yield in a production environment. As the device yield will suffer, fabrication cost will inevitably rise. The problem of producing narrow gaps results in the increased probability of alignment errors in connection with masking. Also the masks which are used to define the gaps must be kept particularly clean and replaced frequently to avoid bad definition of the gaps. However, although the masks may be in good order, it is necessary to use a careful photoresistetching step to actually produce the narrow metal gaps.

Although single-level metal c.c.ds with acceptable yields may be fabricated, their performance may vary either after encapsulation or during life tests. For gaps of $3 \mu \mathrm{~m}$ or less, the substrate surface potential in the gap region is determined mainly by the fringing fields caused by the gate potentials. However, any charge present in the gaps, which could vary in location and size, will cause a second-order variation in device performance. This charge is due mainly to

- the "fixed", positive, surface-state charge, $Q_{s s}$, which exists just within the oxide near the silicon-silicon dioxide interface
- a charge component due to the "fast" surface states, $N_{s s}$. Their density varies with the size of the depletion region. These states have a major effect on the dynamic transfer of charge in the c.c.d, and
- any contaminant ions (usually sodium) which may be mobile within the gate insulator.
Any variation in location or size of these charge contributions will result in potential barriers and wells being formed in this region, Fig. 2. Although a value of gate-to-substrate voltage can usually be chosen to reduce charge loss owing to this variation, the required bias voltage for this condition to occur will change with time. Thus, c.c.ds with even partly exposed gate oxides have inherently unstable operating characteristics.


## Oxide growth conditions

Processing investigations on single-level metallization structures have produced satisfactory gate insulator growth conditions to reduce instabilities. Although more elaborate gapless techniques have been developed to improve c.c.d. performance and produce stable devices suitable for systems applications, great care must be exercised whenever the gate insulator (oxide) is grown. Some of the steps which are normally taken in a c.c.d. process are
-The use of particular crystal-orientation substrates to reduce the minimum obtainable values of $Q_{s s}$ and $N_{s s}$.
-Stringent cleaning procedures to prepare the surface of the substrate, prior to oxidation.
-Furnace tubes are either double


Fig. 1. Plan view of three-phase, singlelevel metal c.c.d. showing channel-stop diffusions. Difficulty in obtaining reproducible electrode gap width ( $t$ ) of less than $3 \mu \mathrm{~m}$ led to the "resistive sea" modification of Fig. 4.


Fig. 2. Variation in size or location of change in the electrode gaps (t in Fig. 1) forms potential barriers or wells. Charge loss can be minimized by suitable choice of substrate voltage, but required value changes with time.
walled, or are steamed out continuously to prevent ionic contamination.
-The use of specific growth conditions to provide low $Q_{S S}$ and $N_{S S}$ values, e.g. "dry" thermal oxide grown at $1050^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Conditions should be achieved for which both $Q_{S s}$ and $N_{s s}$ are at minimum values.
-Following oxide growth, a high temperature step in an inert atmosphere (say nitrogen), plus a low
temperature $\left(450^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ anneal; the former to reduce $Q_{s s}$, the latter to minimize $N_{s s}$.
-A phosphorus gettering step is often used to reduce the mobility of any mobile ions present in the gate insulator.
-Oxides are sometimes grown with a trace of HCl present, so that the contamination ion concentration is reduced.

## Channel confinement

To avoid the loss of the signal charge which has been introduced into the c.c.d. depletion regions, it is necessary to introduce a barrier to the charge around the periphery of the clocked gates. Two methods are immediately available from integrated circuit technology.

Thick oxide isolation. In m.o.s. fabrication a thick oxide called the "field" is used to prevent the formation of parasitic transistors. The field oxide is normally deposited by chemical vapour deposition, and is typically $1-\mu \mathrm{m}$ thickness. For the c.c.d. example, if the gates are taken over the edge of the field and down on to a thin oxide well, then c.c.d. action will only occur within the confines of the well. The two main disadvantages of this isolation method are that an extra processing step is required to deposit the field oxide, and that the thin gate metal required for the production of narrow inter-electrode gaps can easily break at the corners of the step in the oxide between the thick and thin transition.

Channel-stop diffusion. When a highly doped ring of diffusion surrounds, but just underneath, the periphery of the c.c.d. gate area proper, then no charge loss can occur (see Fig. 1). For an n-type substrate, the $\mathrm{n}^{+}$doped-up edge of the c.c.d., owing to the channel stop, cannot support a depletion region which would otherwise cause charge loss.

The disadvantage of this technique is that an additional diffusion must be made; however, no field oxide is required. Fig. 3 shows the basic processing steps used to fabricate a simple p -channel c.c.d. A further processing step is usually used to passivate the device, by coating the aluminium transfer electrodes with a vapour-deposited silicon oxide-Fig. 3(c).

## $\mathbf{N}$ versus P-channel c.c.ds

Charge-coupled devices-formed on n-type substrates, already studied in part 1 , have certain disadvantages over the performance of p-types, for a given gate arrangement.

For $\mathbf{p}$-channel, $n$-type substrate, devices, the channel must always be maintained in depletion. Otherwise the signal minority carrier charge, which is only located in the depletion region wells, will be lost. n-channel devices have a built-in surface depletion region owing to the positive $Q_{s s}$ charge which is located in the gate insulator (see Fig. 2). The $Q_{s s}$ charge tends to enhance the surface charge level in $p$-channel devices but deplete the surface in n-types.


Fig. 3. Basic single-level metal c.c.d. process steps: (a) drain, source and channel-stop diffusions, (b) gate-oxide grown, and (c) aluminium layer evaporated and etched to form individual gates.


Fig. 4. Two alternative c.c.d. structures to Fig. 1, for metal gates (a) or polysilicon gates (b).

Carrier mobility in an n-type substrate is higher than for p-types. This means that the ultimate speed limitation on an n-channel c.c.d. is inherently higher than for a p-channel device.

Finally, a p-channel device has a higher $V_{T}$ than an n -channel device. This is an important consideration for both on-chip and also commercially available clock generators.

## Modifications to single-level metal structure

Both an increased stability of the c.c.d. structure, and a reduction in the need for
narrow gaps can be achieved by using the "resistive sea" process modification ${ }^{1,2}$ which comes in several forms. For example Fig. 4(a), useful for metal gates, and Fig. 4(b), useful for polysilicon gates. The polysilicon is lightly doped or used as grown (undoped). However, its conductance is higher than the gate insulator so that it acts effectively as a conductor, and helps to stabilize the surface potential against variations in charge within the insulator.

An advantage of this process is that the inter-electrode gap can be increased substantially for the same operating performance of a narrow gap structure. However, the high-resistance conductor and the distributed, associated gate capacitance, makes the gap look like an electrical $R C$ transmission line. The characteristic delay associated with this equivalent circuit for the gap may severely limit the high frequency performance, even though the doping level of the polysilicon has been increased to reduce the delay to a practical minimum. This resistance between the gates presents an increased differential loading on the pulse generators which are driving the c.c.d.

## Gapless c.c.d. structures

The solution to the instability problem, coupled with increased performance, can be achieved by using overlapping, or gapless gate techniques. There is usually also a slight easing of the alignment tolerances. The penalty to pay, normally, is a multi-level gate arrangement which involves a more involved processing schedule. Fig. 5(a) shows how a threephase, improved c.c.d. can be fabricated using doped polysilicon to produce a gapless gate arrangement ${ }^{3}$. Each gate overlaps, or is overlapped by, the next gate. A similar approach to this for the formation of the gates can be used to form a four-phase c.c.d. (see later). In this structure, the gates can be made by evaporated metal, and/or polysilicon gates ${ }^{4,5}$.

## Two-phase c.c.ds

The main attractions of a c.c.d. which can be operated by a two-phase clock are the simplified clocking arrangement, and for a given gate length, a two-phase structure may take up less area. Directionality of charge flow can be obtained by a variety of techniques.
Stepped-oxide structure. Frequently the two levels of conductors (gates) are produced by a stepped-oxide structure ${ }^{6,7}$, Fig. 6(a), or by the two-phase clocking of a four-phase c.c.d. ${ }^{8}$, which has been fabricated with a deposited oxide and a thermally grown oxide, Fig. 6(b). These structures have the effect of producing gates with alternatively high, then low gate capacitances. Consequently, when the maximum value of the gate voltage on each phase is equal, then the size of the depletion regions (or the well depths) will have two values owing to the different gate insulator fields. This results in charge always propagating in one direction.

Essentially, the main disadvantage of a two-phase structure is that the chargecarrying capability, otherwise known as the dynamic range, is reduced for the same gate voltage size as in a three-phase structure. For a gate voltage, $V_{g}$, the charge-carrying capability, $Q$, of a c.c.d. can be written ${ }^{9}$

$$
Q=C\left(V_{G}-V_{J}\right)
$$

per unit gate area, where $C \propto 1 / t$ is the capacitance per unit area of an oxide of thickness, $t . V_{T}$ is the threshold voltage for the m.o.s. capacitor formed by a c.c.d. gate, its oxide and the substrate beneath it. It can easily be seen from this equation, that the charge-carrying capability increases by either increasing the gate voltage, or reducing the gate-oxide thickness. Notice that if charge is introduced into the oxide (see Fig. 6(e)) $V_{T}$ will change its value, and so will the chargehandling capacity of the c.c.d.

Ion-implanted barriers. The complex processing of a two-level metallization technique can be eliminated by using a implanted barrier to achievedirectionality ${ }^{10}$, Fig. 6(c). This technique has two potential advantages over other two-phase c.c.d. structures in that it provides a fairly large dynamic range and the length of a shiftregister bit is just larger than two gate lengths (say $<20 \mu \mathrm{~m}$ ). However, using ionimplanted substrates does not solve the requirement for an overlapping gate arrangement to achieve high charge transfer efficiency.
D.C. offset voltage. Asymmetry in the depletion region depths can be obtained by using two-level clock amplitudes across a single-level metallization structure. However, rather than having to generate this clock pulse train, it is easier to have each of two clock phases connected to consecutive pairs of gates, but incorporating a d.c. bias to one gate of each pair, Fig. 6 (d).

Fixed oxide charge. When additional charge is introduced into the oxide of an m.o.s. capacitor the threshold voltage is altered. For a single-level metallization c.c.d. structure, when a charge is introduced into the insulator of alternate gates, the depletion regions will be different under consecutive gates. This will result in twophase operation, when pairs of gateseach pair having a corresponding insulator region with, and without introduced charge-are clocked.

Additional charge may be introduced conveniently when the gate insulator comprises two insulators, Fig. 6(e), having different conductivities, e.g. silicon nitride covering silicon dioxide (m.n.o.s.). When pulsed with a voltage, the m.n.o.s. capacitor threshold voltage changes ${ }^{11}$ in value and sign under certain conditions. This shift in threshold voltage is due to charge which accumulates at the nitrideoxide interface owing to tunnelling currents through the very thin $(\sim 50 \times$ $10^{-10} \mathrm{~m}$ gate oxide). The charge density should remain constant at the interface for many years when the applied insulator


Fig. 5. Gap problem is avoided in this gapless technique, at the expense of more complicated processing. This can also be applied to four-phase devices.


Fig. 6. Two-phase c.c.d. structures: stepped oxide (a), deposited oxide (b), ion implant (c), d.c. offset (d), m.n.o.s. (e), and profiled silicon (f).
voltages remain at normal c.c.d. clock levels ${ }^{12}(<20 \mathrm{~V})$.

This m.n.o.s. technique has been used to form a single-phase c.c.d. ${ }^{13}$, by introducing two levels of charge into the gate insulator. The device performance can be electrically programmed.

Profiled substrates. The necessary small lateral spacing between gate electrodes can be achieved by etching holes, say, 0.2 to $0.3-\mu \mathrm{m}$ deep in the silicon substrate, Fig. 6 (f). Metal, evaporated during some stage of the process, will form breaks at the discontinuity in silicon surface levels. Two- or three-phase devices can be made by this technique ${ }^{6}$ by selectively connecting the multi-level gates.

## Four-phase c.c.ds

Superior clocking performance can be achieved using four-phase c.c.ds ${ }^{3,4}$ (Fig. 7). They employ two-level conductor arrangements, which provide all the advantages of a sealed channel technology. Four gates are used to form one bit of a c.c.d. analogue shift register. (This is also the area required for some two-phase devices.) The four-phase structure, being symmetrical, is thus electrically bidirectional and when the clock pulse train is reversed, the signal charge will propagate back along the c.c.d.

To understand the reason for this action, it is helpful to visualize the signal charge as being transferred along the device in a series of depletion-region wells, under the control of gate potential. Given a choice, signal charge will start to fill the deeper adjacent well. In three- and four-phase structures, which are both symmetrical in design, the direction of signal charge propagation is determined solely by the clocking sequence. Correct clocking operation for three-phase devices requires one phase being switched off slowly, as the next gate phase is switched on. Polarity of the clock pulses is also important, and depends on whether the substrate is p - or n -type.

## Fabrication of four-phase c.c.ds

Silicon gates. Four-phase devices are often made using basically a standard silicongate m.o.s. process. The gate structure avoids critical mask-alignment problems by using an overlapping gate arrangement,
Fig. 7(b): - The gate oxide is thermally grown under stringent conditions. for low $Q_{s s}$ and $N_{s s}$.
-A polysilicon layer is then formed on the top of the oxide and doped to achieve low resistance gates.
-The doped polysilicon layer is etched to form individual gates.
-The slices are then placed again in an oxidation furnace to form a top insulator.
-Then aluminium is evaporated over the surface of the oxide and selectively etched to form the overlapping gates. A further layer of polysilicon could be used to replace the aluminium (see Fig. 5). This last-mentioned gate structure is
particularly useful for imaging applications, because the polysilicon gates are transparent ( $200-\mathrm{nm}$ thick), whereas metal gates of practical thickness would reflect light.

Anodized aluminium. In one process ${ }^{5}$, c.c.ds are made by anodizing first-level aluminium gates, which are first evaporated on a thermal oxide. The oxide of aluminium, which is formed over the surface of the aluminium, provides the insulation between the two-levels of the metal gates-see Fig. 7(a). Anodization is performed at temperatures which will not affect the previously evaporated aluminium gates. A deposited oxide, at say $400^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, could also be used to form the intergate insulator. Alternatively, a refractory metal that forms a controllable, good quality grown oxide could be used. Molybdenum is a possibility, but its oxide is fairly uncontrollable in thickness.

Fig. 7(c) shows the normal clocking arrangement for a four-phase $n$-channel device. Signal charge resides in turn in the depletion-region under each of the four gates. An alternative and most useful arrangement is called double clocking: Fig. 7(d). This is possible where the gate oxide under each gate is the same thickness and the gate areas are similar. The advantages of this clocking sequence are:
-The clocks are on for twice the normal duration, therefore twice the normal amount of charge can be propagated, leading to a larger dynamic range than normal.
-Efficiency increased because the area under an electrode is without carriers for a shorter time than normal.
-The possibility of simpler clocking because each pair of clocks, e.g. $\Phi_{l}$ and $\Phi_{3}, \Phi_{2}$ and $\Phi_{4}$ are mirror images.
-The clock breakthrough can be significantly reduced because of the mirrored clocks.

## Buried-channel c.c.ds

Basic device. Surface-channel c.c.ds suffer from the fact that charge moves at the surface of the silicon, in intimate contact with the fast surface states. Unfortunately, the density of these states cannot be reduced beyond a certain minimum value, and interaction with these states is a major contribution to the charge transfer efficiency. In a buried-channel device ${ }^{14,15}$, Fig. 8, the depletion region well starts to form below the surface, within the bulk of the semiconductor. The shape and location of the depletion region, and, consequently, where the signal charge resides, is determined by several factors: the doping level and profile of the substrate; the oxide thickness; and the applied voltage. Because the charge is made to move within the semiconductor, only bulk trapping centres affect $\eta_{r}$ (these are normally at a low density as compared to $N_{S S}$ surface values). The carriers can move at higher velocities within the bulk because the bulk mobility is larger than the surface, inversion layer value. However, the charge handling capacity of the buried-channel
c.c.d. is lower than the surface version, owing to the larger effective distance of the charges to its gate electrode.
Construction. Buried-channel devices are usually made on n-type silicon layers on top of p-type substrates. the n-type layer is usually either ion-implanted with an n-type dopant, or epitaxially grown in an r.f. reactor.
The gate arrangements for buried-channel devices are usually three- or four-phase schemes which have been described


Fig. 7. Four-phase overlapping-gate c.c.ds can have anodized aluminium gates (a), or polysilicon ones (b)especially useful in imaging devices because of their transparency. Double clocking (d) allows twice the charge to be propagated and increases efficiency over normal clocking (c).


Fig. 8. In buried n-channel c.c.ds, carriers can move faster within the bulk because mobility is larger than the surface value.
earlier. Fig. 8 shows a simple buriedchannel c.c.d. with a three-phase gate arrangement. Four-phase devices can in some circumstances be driven by sinewave clocks at 5 or 6 volts peak-to-peak. This development is most significant for the advanced high-frequency applications of c.c.ds.

## Testing

At the end of the fabrication process, the finished slice contains perhaps hundreds of potentially working c.c.ds and m.o.s.ts. Before the wafer is scribed-up to produce individual chips, the circuits are d.c. tested. A test computer is often used to control the current and voltage sources used in the test, set the test limits on the detectors, and store the test data in a memory which can be read-out at a later time.

The parameters which are usually monitored to determine the d.c. performance of the chip, and thus the probability that the circuits will work under dynamic conditions, are simple continuity tests (forward biasing diode junctions); the gate oxide breakdown voltage(usually measured on the clock phases); a test to establish if any shorts exist between clock phase lines, and the source and drain diode reverse leakage. A c.c.d. chip which fails any of these d.c. tests is rejected by inking the offending device with the prober "inker" and removing it after the slice is scribed.

## Chip cost and yields

The chip cost calculation has basically three components:

- wafer processing cost-including labour and overheads;
- yield-proportional to the number of photoresist-masking steps required to fabricate the silicon slice, and
- area per bit required for a particular structure, which is a function of the number of bits in the device.
As the fabrication cost of a chip, and therefore the c.c.d. cost, depends exponentially on the chip area it is necessary to aim for a square layout. This has led to making c.c.d. shift registers, with many bits, in a serpentine shape and in some cases to serial-parallel-serial memory layouts ${ }^{16}$.


## Future developments

The commercial future of c.c.ds largely depends on the degree of process compatibility with existing standard m.o.s. processes; especially silicon-gate m.o.s. devices. The applications areas where this is particularly relevant is in the massmemory market, where the cost per bit is a crucial parameter and high yields are essential. However, there will undoubtedly be applications, especially in the specialized military system area, where high component costs can be tolerated and therefore where non-standard processes are acceptable. A full treatment of the progress of c.c.ds in penetrating specific application areas will appear in later parts of this series.

As regards future developments in
c.c.d. technology, new techniques for producing sub-micron inter-electrode gaps, such as by electron-beam lithography, will undoubtedly have an important influence on device structures and therefore result in improved performance. Another possibility is fabricating devices in materials other than silicon. Silicon technology is established; and the processes for growing stable oxides and making good diodes is well understood.

However, materials exist which potentially offer improved c.c.d. performance, if a suitable technology based around the new material existed. A prime example is gallium arsenide. It has a mobility about four times higher than for silicon. Thus, c.c.ds based on gallium arsenide should have a significant speed advantage. Its optical properties compared with silicon make it an interesting proposition for imaging applications. However, before gallium arsenide devices become widely available the cost of the starting material will have to drop substantially, and the high surface state density, which occurs with this material, will have to be reduced by further research.

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## "SETTLING TIME" IN AUDIO AMPLIFIERS

In an earlier article in your pages ${ }^{1}$ I noted that there appeared to be a relationship between the tonal quality of an audio amplifier and the type of transient response of the amplifier following a step function input under reactive load conditions. This was more noticeable with complex l.s. systems, which might be presumed to offer more highly reactive load impedances at certain parts of the frequency spectrum, than with simple I.s. configurations.

Shortly afterwards there appeared the now celebrated paper by Dr Otala ${ }^{2}$ which looked at the problem of the transient behaviour of audio amplific's on a formal basis, and drew attention to the possibility of transient intermodulation phenomena when the rate of change of the input waveform applied to a feedback amplifier exceeded the possible rate of change of the feedback voltage (or current).

Recent work in the field of high-quality operational amplifiers has led to the widespread adoption and specification of the parameter "settling time" as a measure of the transient performance of such amplifiers under specified load conditions. This is defined as the time which-elapses between the application at the input of the amplifier of a notionally ideal step function, and the "settling" of the output signal at a level which is, and remains, within some specified error band about its final output voltage.

I would like to suggest the extension of this concept to the field of audio amplifiers, as a means of defining the transient performance, partly because it is a readily visible and measurable thing-as an examination of the published "square wave" oscillographs in normal amplifier reviews will readily confirm-but principally because the argument suggests itself that when the output of an amplifier has "settled", steady state conditions, as defined by conventional t.h.d. and intermodulation distortion characteristics, must surely apply.

Following this argument, I would like to suggest, therefore, that the target for goodquality audio amplifier design should be
that t.h.d. should be, and remain, below $0.1 \%$ within the useful audio spectrum and the whole of the output power range, and also that the transient performance of the amplifier, under the anticipated "worstcase" reactive load condition, should be such that the output voltage settles within an appropriate error band (a realistic figure is probably $\pm 0.5 \%$ ) within a time which is short in relation to the highest frequency signal the amplifier is likely to be called upon to handle; 5 microseconds seems an appropriate value.
(If an input $C R$ lag network is incorporated at the input of the amplifier, as part of the design, to limit the possible rate of change of the input voltage wave-form-which may well be a prudent thing to do-the true settling time may be less than the apparent rise time, but can be derived from the difference between the measured rise time and that predictable from the effect of the input $R C$ network.)

Apart from the questions which this hypothesis may raise in respect of the performance of available audio amplifier designs, it also raises a query as to the desirability in use of steep cut audio filters, which not only produce an increase in settling time when used, but also-demonstrably-will introduce colouration on a "white noise" signal, perhaps for this very reason.
J. L. Linsley Hood,

Taunton,
Somerset.

## References

1. Linsley Hood, J. L. Wireless World, June 1970, p. 280.
2. Otala, M. Trans. I.E.E.E., $\mathrm{AU}-18$, pp. 234-239.

## REDUCING AMPLIFIER DISTORTION

In his article in the October issue (page 367) Mr Sandman states that "In Fig. 1 the undistorted part of the output $V_{\text {in }} R_{2} / R_{1}$ balances off at the junction of $R_{1}$ and $R_{2}$ to produce zero voltage, the only voltage to appear at this point being proportional to the distortion".

This statement is not strictly accurate. In Fig. 1, and in other circuits, the amplifier input is connected to the junction of $R_{1}$ and $R_{2}$. It is obvious, therefore, that the undistorted component of voltage at this point cannot be zero. If it were, the amplifier would have no input and could produce no output. If $A$ is large the voltage approximates to $V_{\text {in }} R_{2} / A R_{1}$; it may well be that this is small compared with the distorted voltage fed back, but it can never be zero.

Referring again to Fig. 1, there is a point in the circuit at which the undistorted component of signal does balance to zero, to leave only a distorted component. This point is not at the junction of $R_{1}$ and $R_{2}$, but is along $R_{2}$ between the input and output of the amplifier $A$. To obtain a true balance to zero it is necessary to connect the input of $A_{2}$ in

Fig. 2 to a tapping point on $R_{2}$ instead of to the input of $A_{1}$. This point on $R_{2}$ is critically dependent on the gain of $A_{1}$, however, and precise adjustment is needed to obtain the proper condition. As long as $A_{l}$ is high enough, therefore, it is probable that Mr Sandman's non-critical arrangement is better in practice.

There is no mention in Mr Sandman's references to the work of W. Baggally ("Distortion cancellation in audio amplifiers", The Wireless Engineer and Experimental Wireless, August 1933, page 413). I referred to this in my letter in the April 1973 issue of Wireless World, page 192. In Baggally's scheme a phase-reversing main amplifier had a resistance with an adjustable tapping connected between its input and output. A non-phase-reversing amplifier was fed from this tapping and its output applied to the input to the main amplifier. Critical adjustments of tapping point and of subsidiary amplifier gain were required, which is probably why the circuit never achieved popularity.
W. T. Cocking,

Ewell, Surrey.

## Mr Sandman replies.

The part of the article "It cannot be too strongly stressed . . ." (page 367) deals with the definition of distortion which I employ. Distortion includes frequency, amplitude, phase and non-linear distortion.

I am sure it is common ground that the output can be split up into two parts, undistorted

$$
\left(V_{i n} \frac{R_{2}}{R_{I}}\right)
$$

and distorted $V_{D}$.
It follows that $V_{\text {in }}$ and $V_{\text {in }} R_{2} / R_{j}$ balance off to zero at the input to $A_{I}$ and $A_{2}$ and that the voltage at this point is the distortion ( $V_{D}$ ) attenuated by $R_{I}$ and $R_{2}$ (a small voltage). This attenuation is compensated by the gain of amplifier $R_{1}^{\prime}, R_{2}^{\prime}$. and $A_{2}$ to produce $V_{D}{ }^{\prime}$ (the error take-off voltage as I now define it) which is taken off the output appearing across $R_{L}$.

If Mr Cocking were to build Fig. 11 incorporating the corrections in Wireless World, November 1974, page 454, I am sure his doubts would be laid to rest.

Mr Baggally's scheme falls down on both the principles of "non-interaction" and "rigidity of interconnection".

## CIRCUIT DIAGRAM LAYOUT

The article by Mr Amos on circuit diagram layout (November issue) was certainly welcome in these days of atrocities typified by his Fig. 9.

While agreeing with most of his recommendations, the golden rule I like to follow is to draw everything that is more positive "northwards" of everything that is negative, so that travelling from the bottom to the top of the paper each conductor is in order of potential above
earth. This makes it easier to understand the circuit once one has recognized it.
Therefore I totally abhor Mr Amos's Fig. 6 which, although it may be "clearly a multivibrator", is not easy to understand. I suggest the following drawing is preferable:


The crossover is preserved and so are the polarities. Caution is still needed, however, or, like Mr Amos, one might miss the fact that this never was a multivibrator, but is a bistable which self-destructs when triggered!
David Williams,
London SE12.
Speaking as one who earns his daily bread in a world of circuit diagrams I must say I entirely agree with the admirable basic aims set out in your November 1974 editorial and the opening paragraph of Mr Amos's article on layout of circuit diagrams in the same issue.

However, I feel Mr Amos has missed the point in attempting to lay down standard circuit diagram patterns for every type of circuit. Since there are already countless different circuit configurations and new circuits are being designed every day, you can never hope to achieve a standard pattern for every circuit. The aim should be to assist a complete stranger to learn the function of a particular circuit configuration; if someone who is already familiar with the circuit can instantly stamp it with the name "Colpitts oscillator" (or whatever) then so much the better, but that should be a secondary aim.

I therefore suggest four basic rules for a good circuit diagram should be, in order of priority:
(i) current flow vertically downwards;
(ii) signal flow from left to right and top to bottom;
(iii) minimize the number of bends in connecting lines;
(iv) minimize the number of crossings of connecting lines.
I place (iii) above (iv) because a line is fairly easy to follow if it is straight, even if it does cross several others in its path.

In my experience, when one encounters a totally unfamiliar circuit configuration rule (i) is fundamental in attempting to understand its function. Fortunately nowadays most circuits are drawn to this convention, which enables one to visualize small voltage changes as "up or down" and to keep a clear track of the various
inversions a signal undergoes.
By this argument, Fig. 5 in the article is preferable to Fig. 6, contrary to Mr Amos's conclusions. Being able to stamp Fig. 6 with the name "multivibrator" does not help one to understand its operation, since it is unusual in that both transistors are on (or off) simultaneously.
Paul V.J. Adkins,
Braintree, Essex.

## Mr Amos replies:

I am glad that Mr Williams welcomed my article in general and I like his redraw of the multivibrator circuit. I am puzzled, however, by his final sentence which seems to imply that a multivibrator cannot be bistable. In fact electronic circuitry bristles with bistable multivibrators usually abbreviated nowadays to just bistables. I take Mr Williams's point about my Fig. 6; I have perhaps oversimplified this in order to emphasize my argument. In a practical version of the circuit current-limiting resistors are necessary.
Mr Adkins also advocates the "current downwards" approach in circuit diagram layout and I think this has much to commend it in digital circuits. My article was, however, chiefly devoted to analogue circuits as I made clear in my first paragraph and here I think it is preferable to aim at preserving the standard pattern for well-used circuits no matter what the direction of standing currents. This is also the view of BSI as made clear in Section B2 of the Guiding Principles of BS3939.

## TRACKING FILTERS

I was very interested in the article in your October issue by Messrs Knott and Unsworth, particularly in their implementation of the technique of 50 Hz rejection with modern methods and their analysis of the performance of the filter.

One of the earliest examples of this method was described in 1953 by Beard and Skomal'. They used a switched capacitor storage system to reject 60 Hz interference in a model of a geophysical prospecting situation.

The technique has also been widely used for rejecting all signals (as well as those from mains) which are not locked to the store switching rate. Three papers which have probably not received the credit they deserve, because of inaccessability, are by G. Suryan ${ }^{2,3,4}$. He used a synchronous magnetic store and his analysis showed clearly its behaviour as a comb filter.
A switched capacitor store was introduced by me for rejecting 50 Hz ; and all other signals not locked to the switching cycle, in 1951 and described more fully in 19535 . Although the electronics are obsolete the account of the method may be of interest because it outlines some of the precautions against stray capacitances and capacitor leakage which are needed
if a stored waveform is to retain its shape. This technique has now become a standard method of examination in man for delay of conduction in diseased nerves. Also it is used for examining transmission in the auditory pathway in children who cannot communicate.

The technique is now usually implemented by purely digital methods, but there may still be a use for capacitor stores in special purpose applications. So it seems well worthwhile emphasizing the more general applications of a system such as that described by Knott and Unsworth. It can be easily used to extract the response of any system which can be stimulated at a fixed time in relation to the store switching cycle. Also, with digital switching, the occurrence of store switching cycles and locked stimuli may be irregular, if this is an advantage.

## G. D. Dawson,

Department of Physiology,
University College London.

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## QUADRAPHONIC QUANDARY

It would be pointless to make a technical reply to Mr Bauer's letter (September 1974) which concludes that it is sufficient for the producer and recording director to make and approve the SQ record and so "the various , mathematical and philosophical arguments about quadraphony, therefore, become inconsequential".

How delightful! Quadraphony equals SQ. All controversial problems may now be set aside.
B. J. Shelley,

Rome,
Italy.

## AMPLIFIER

## CLAIMS

I have just noticed an advertisement in your May 1974 issue, placed by Radford Audio Ltd. I wish to make some comments on some of their claims, as they have made some very bold statements
which I doubt would stand the scrutiny of the Trade Descriptions Act.

First, their statement, "We believe no other amplifier in the world can match the specifications of the HD250". I don't believe that they have checked other makers' equipment from, say, the USA or Japan. There are several pre-amps and main amps made in both these countries that will equal it and better it by an easy margin-if the Radford specs are written in the same manner. They are not properly defined.

Secondly, to say distortion (pre-amp) is zero is a very bold statement, to say the least. According to the IHF method of measurement, the only true distortion figure to quote is what is called total harmonic distortion (t.h.d.) which is defined as including noise hum, all spurious and harmonics of the frequency being measured. Incidentally many British makers seem to "loophole" their way round amplifier distortion these days by stating only harmonic distortion, let alone which one! The reason for including noise is that all amplifying circuits add some noise which was not there on the original signal fed in, thereby distorting the original. (This I know is a hypothetical case.) So let's have a look at their case-making many assumptions. That the phono has a sensitivity of 2 mV at 1 kHz and the nominal output from the pre-amp is 1 volt, then the lowest distortion with reference to this can only be about $0.03 \%$, not zero. The disc noise is given as -83 dBV bandwidth limited to 23 kHz , but with respect to what! The generally accepted method of quoting noise in Japan is on a wide band measurement up to 1 MHz and against a nominal 2.2 mV at 1 kHz sensitivity, and for auxiliary or other high level inputs a reference of 150 mV is used. Likewise whose " A " weighting do they mean? Overload margin of "disc" input is quoted at 40 dB ; nothing marvellous. I could find other points to grumble about in this advertisement.
Tim de Paravicini,
Lux Corporation,
Osaka, Japan.

## Reply from Radford Audio Ltd:

Mr Paravicini's comments are a little inconsistent and misleading. Am I to understand that our current advertisements for the HD250 amplifier would not stand the scrutiny of the Trade Descriptions Act because the performance specification extracts appear too good to be true? If so, then how can it be that several preamplifiers and power amplifiers in USA and Japan "will equal it and better it by an easy margin"?

The phrase from our advertisement "We believe that no other amplifier in the world can match the specification of the HD 250 " is mis-quoted by him as "We believe no other amplifier in the world can match the specifications of the HD250'. Mr Paravicini's plural specification is taken to mean "some specification details". The word "specification"(singular) means the totality of all specification detail. This includes visual presentation,
engineering design, quality of manufacture, servicability, facilities and functions available, flexibility in use, performance characteristics, etc. Mr Paravicini appears to have become enmeshed by his loose reading and colloquial popular hi-fi jargon.

In the advertisement it quite clearly states that the performance details quoted are extracts, and the specification is therefore not complete. In it readers are invited to write for a 12-page leaflet which describes the design details of the HD250, together with a complete specification. It is not possible or desirable to give a complete specification in an advertisement. Nor is it expected that our potential customers will purchase amplifiers by just reading the advertisement, or even after studying the leaflet, but only after hearing and comparing the HD250 with other amplifiers in the dealer's showroom.

The fact that we believe that the specification of the HD250 cannot be matched by any other integrated amplifier does not make it a claim or a fact. Nevertheless it is reasonable to expect that we have done some work to justify our opinion. Our belief is based on measurements carried out on amplifiers available in this country, and in America with similar test equipment and under similar conditions of test, and not by studying manufacturers' literature. Mr Paravicini compares the performance details of the HD250 quoted with unspecified separate pre-amplifiers and power amplifiers. Although it is generally accepted that it is not possible to obtain some performance parameters as good in integrated amplifiers as in separate pre-amplifiers and power amplifiers it does not alter the fact that we know of no other pre-amplifier with a better overall performance characteristic than the pre-amplifier section of the HD250 (the pre-amplifier section of the HD250 is now also available as a separate unit, namely the ZD22 Pre-amplifier Control Unit).

Concerning distortion. We do not claim that the harmonic distortion of the preamplifier section is an unqualified zero as he states. In general text we say that the distortion is "virtually zero" or qualified as in the advertisement "cannot be identified or measured as it is below inherent circuit noise".

The IHF method of specifying total residual background under dynamic conditions of distortion measurement as "total harmonic distortion" makes sense generally as this is what distortion measuring sets measure. If, however, after rejection of the fundamental test frequency by the d.m.s. there are no measurable or observable harmonics left-just the' static inherent noise of the equipment under test plus measuring equipment noise if anythen to specify this residual as "total harmonic distortion" is nonsense in any language. When the IHF test specification was drafted such a condition was probably not envisaged. If the total harmonic distortion products generated by an amplifier at the working signal level do not add to the static inherent noise background, then the harmonic distortion can surely be said
to be "virtually zero". In the disc amplifier referred to, the harmonic distortion cannot be measured or detected at working signal level or even at 20 dB above. It will be appreciated that distortion levels below $0.01 \%$ are largely academic in practical amplifiers for sound reproduction, but this does not prevent engineers from designing better and better amplifiers. The virtual elimination of harmonic distortion in audio amplifiers up to output stage clipping level is a logical target of development.

It is conventional when making distortion measurements with a d.m.s. to display the residual output, after fundamental rejection, on one trace of an oscilloscope and the fundamental on the other. This enables an assessment to be made of the harmonic distortion structure, the character and energy content of noise, crossover spikes, and spurious responses. The contribution of hum can be ascertained by using a 1 kHz test signal with the 500 Hz filter.

I am baffled by the statement that "British manufacturers seem to 'loop hole" their way around amplifier distortion by stating only harmonic distortion, let alone which one". One could gather from this remark that British engineers have a crafty way of eliminating hum, noise and a dominant second harmonic and quoting only a lower amplitude third harmonic. British manufacturers, in common with American and Japanese manufacturers, use conventional total harmonic distortion measuring equipment in development and do not generally use wave analyzers. As my, company has supplied this type of equipment to the major audio manufacturers in this country (and the rest of the world) I am aware of the situation.

The " $A$ " weighting characteristic is incorporated in standard noise measuring equipment and is also used by professional audio engineers in broadcast and recording studios. It was formulated to simulate the subjective hearing response in order to obtain significant noise figures. A bandwidth of 1 MHz for audio and acoustical noise measurement is unrelated and misleading.

The 40 dB disc overload margin is said to be "nothing marvellous". In itself it may not be extraordinary but if it is taken in conjuction with a noise level near the theoretical minimum and a "virtually zero" distortion at +20 dB above operating level and an RIAA accuracy of $\pm 0.2 \mathrm{~dB}$ then that is something. In the HD250 sales leaflet it clearly states that the signal-tonoise ratio is greater than 83 dB measured with a noise bandwidth of 23 kHz when used with a 5 mV output cartridge ( 1 mV / $\mathrm{cm} / \mathrm{s}$ at reference velocity of $5 \mathrm{~cm} / \mathrm{s}$ ). This figure is considerably better than in any other amplifier we have tested.

I am unable to appreciate the object of Mr Paravicini's letter. Is it intended to be a general tilt at British manufacturers? Is he worried about the advanced state of British audio and acoustical technologyor is it just "I am the greatest"?
A. H. Radford,

Radford Audio Ltd,
Bristol.

# Weather satellites ground station-3 

## Conclusion of this series with the display electronics described in full

by G. R. Kennedy

The block diagram of the picture display system is shown in Fig. 22.

The scheme of operations is as follows. Assume an input signal from a tape recording of an APT satellite signal at a moment when the signal is in the peak white between picture condition. The signal clock rate is determined by the limiters feeding the phase-lock loop, which locks on to the input signal rate. The phase-lock loop v.c.o. will then follow the apparent input clock rate, within the tracking range limits, and hence take account. of tape-recorder wow and flutter. The $X$ ramp generator takes the p.1.1. v.c.o. frequency and produces a step-function
ramp from the buffered square wave signal locked to the input rate. Hence the $X$ ramp also takes account of taperecorder speed errors. It should be borne in mind that a step-function ramp generator for the $X$ axis is superior to an analogue integrator ramp generator, for the former takes account of signal rate/ phase changes cycle by cycle with the input signal, whereas the integrator sums the effect and due to the large time constant, may be lagging or leading the inputsignal rate by flyback. This would give a ragged edge to the picture, and displacement of picture details.

The dividers count down the clock rate
in synchronism with any rate changes and accurately trigger the flyback of the $X$ ramp generator.

The start-sync circuit is quiescent during most of the satellite signal sequence. When the 300 Hz tone occurs, the circuit resets the decade counters in the divide chain to nine and the divide-by- 12 counter to zero at the beginning of one of the 12.5 ms black level periods in the five-second phasing period after the 300 Hz tone. After 12 cycles of the signal frequency the divide-by- 12 circuit changes state and sets the decade counters to zero, which resets the $X$ ramp generator. The 12 cycles of the signal frequency delay the flyback



Fig. 23. Display electronics (a) input and limiter/filter stages (b) phase lock loop and divider stages (c) switching gate and ramp generators (d1) start synchronizing circuit.
(and start) of the $X$ ramp by six ms or so. This forces the $X$ ramp to approximately midway through successive black periods in the phasing sequence and centres the picture $X$ scan lines so that there is a white border down each side of the displayed picture. The sync circuit keeps the reset line at logic low during the rest of the picture, until it sees more than 1.5 seconds of 300 Hz , whence the forcing action occurs again. The chances of the picture containing more than a few milliseconds of 300 Hz waveform are remote, but the sync circuit can be manually inhibited, if so required.

In the case of SR pictures such as sent by NOAA-2 there is no interpicture period -the sequence runs continuously-and it is convenient to manually phase the picture for either visible or infra-red picture on the left-hand side, using the lock/slip and slip-rate controls. These unlock the phase-lock loop v.c.o. and allow the p.l.l. output frequency to lag the satellite sub-carrier frequency. In practice it is a matter of moments to manually phase up the picture by observing the picture formation, and by slipping the desired picture border to the left-hand side. The lock position is then selected, and the picture will stay phased. Using the proposed circuit, it would be relatively easy to detect the $23.3 \mathrm{~ms}, 300 \mathrm{~Hz}$ burst in the NOAA-2 sequence which precedes each IR and visible picture line scan. As it stands, the burst is too short for the circuit to respond, but by switching in increased gain for the SR position, forcing of the counters could be carried out. Also, the 600 Hz burst every 30 seconds preceding an i.r. picture line scan could be detected using a 600 Hz filter, and the display phased automatically for lefthand IR pictures. For SR pictures, which run continuously during a pass, the $Y$ ramp generator is switched to run much slower than for APT pictures. The rate can be set by a preset potentiometer on the APT/SR switch to set the picture to the correct Index of Co-operation. It is for this reason that an analogue integrator is used for the $Y$ axis ramp generator, and not a step scan generator.


Fig. 24. Display electronics power supplies.

The complete display circuit is shown in Figs. 23, 24.

Input stage: the input transformer $T_{2}$ is a multi-tapped standard speaker isolating transformer. The number shown refers to the tag number on this transformer. The outputs to the monitor loudspeaker, the sync circuit and to the $Z$ axis output socket are variable by simple resistive coupling using potentiometers $R_{72}, R_{73}, R_{75}$. The voltage to the limiter is increased by auto-transformer action to double the input level. Shielding of the input transformer from any stray mains fields, particularly from the power supply transformer is essential to reduce 50 or 100 Hz patterning on the displayed picture.

Limiter/filter stage: two similar limiters are used in series ${ }^{7}$. The input waveform is clipped on each half cycle by the opposed diodes $D_{14}$ through $D_{17}$ and amplified and filtered by $T r_{15}$ and $T r_{16}$. The filter networks of $C_{77}, C_{78}, C_{79}, R_{80}$, $R_{82}$ and $C_{85}, C_{86}, C_{87}, R_{86}, R_{88}$ are simple $180^{\circ}$ phase-shift lead networks across the amplifier transistors. For the simple circuit shown, and taking single
values for $R$ and $C$, the filter frequency is very approximately given by
$f \approx 1 / 2 \pi R C \sqrt{ } 10$
Phase-lock loop: an integrated circuit low frequency p.l.l. is used (Signetics NE565A). The usual detected output in unused, and the v.c.o. is $R C$ coupled to the following buffer stage. To avoid feedthrough problems, and for simplicity the circuit has its own $\pm 5$ volt supplies derived from the $\pm 12 \overline{\mathrm{~V}}$ rails. The working point of the input is set by the bias resistors $R_{90}$ and $R_{91}$.

The unlocked idle frequency is set by $C_{91}$ and ten-turn trimming pot $R_{94}$. The internal v.c.o. output connection at pin 4 and the internal p.s.d. connection at pin 5 are broken and brought out to the lock/ slip switch, which closes the servo loop for locked operation and opens it for slipping the picture sync. In the latter state the resistive loading of $R_{89}$ and $R_{92}$ are sufficient to alter the v.c.o. frequency.

Schmitt trigger: as mentioned earlier, a gate or emitter follower could perform as well as the Schmitt trigger. The purpose of the stage is to buffer the p.l.1. output and

(e)

Fig. 23 (cont.) Display electronics (e) start synchronizing circuit.
allow fan-out to the ramp generator and dividers. The use of a digital i.c. gives a guaranteed and precise logic level output, and the dual nature of the NAND Schmitt trigger on the chip used allows for further development work.
$X$ Ramp generator: The staircase ramp generator $\operatorname{Tr}_{17}, D_{20}, C_{97}, C_{98}$ is a standard diode transistor pump. The step rise per input pulse of $V_{\text {in }}$ is given by

$$
V_{o}=\frac{V_{i n} C_{97}}{C_{97}+C_{98}}
$$

assuming no loading of $C_{98}$. As it stands, the output across $C_{98}$ is at very high impedance, and unless driving a high impedance device such as an oscilloscope amplifier, must be buffered. A simple f.e.t. source follower is suitable.

Flyback trigger: The voltage on ramp generator capacitor $C_{98}$ is coupled via diode $D_{2 l}$ to the complementary pair $T r_{18}, T r_{19}$. In the quiescent state the anode of $D_{22}$ is held at +8.7 volts, $D_{22}$ is forward biased and $D_{2 I}$ is reverse biased, since the ramp on $C_{98}$ does not approach 8 volts. Diode $D_{21}$ is a silicon diode and does not present any appreciable discharge path to $C_{98}$. Transistors $\operatorname{Tr}_{18}$ and $\operatorname{Tr}_{19}$ are off, since the 8.2 V at $\operatorname{Tr}_{18}$ base due to potential divider $R_{I O 3}, R_{l 04}$
is insufficient to forward bias $\operatorname{Tr}_{18}$ base/ emitter diode with the forward conduction potential of $D_{22}$ in series. When a positive trigger pulse arrives at $C_{99}$ from the flyback trigger generator $D_{22}$ cuts off, $D_{21}$ remains cut off, $T r_{18}$ and $T r_{19}$ turn on and $D_{2 I}$ conducts forwards. Capacitor $C_{98}$ is rapidly discharged to the level of the sum of the forward bias potentials of $D_{21}, \operatorname{Tr}_{18}$ and $T r_{19}$. When no further charge is transferred through $C_{99}$ the circuit returns to its former state.

Divider stage: the divider stage comprises four NAND digital i.c. counter chips: a divide-by-12; a decade counter; an identical counter connected for divide-by-five; and a further divide-by-five counter. All the counters have two input NAND gates for zero setting, and the decade counters have also a two input NAND gate for binary coded decimal nine setting. The divide by 12 zero reset line and the decade counter nine reset line are taken to the output of the start sync stage. The line
nand gate truth table

| $a$ | $b$ | $c$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 1 | 0 |




Fig. 26. Start sync circuit block diagram.


Fig. 27. Start sync circuit waveforms.
is normally held at logic zero, and the counters count conventionally.

APT/SR switching gate: the APT/SR switch circuit is shown separately in Fig. 25. Three two-input NAND gates are used, A, B and C. The input to the final divide-by- 5 counter is fed in parallel to gate $A$. The output of the divide-by- 5 counter is fed to gate $B$, and the outputs of the gates feed gate $C$. Both of the second unused inputs of gates $A$ and $B$ are held at logic 1 by a direct connection through $R_{147}$ or $R_{148}$, but can be set to logic O by the $\mathrm{APT} / \mathrm{SR}$ switch. If any NAND gate input is held at zero, no gate transmission can take place, and the output remains high. Hence, whichever gate is not held at zero conducts, and transmits the square wave input to the output, in inverted state. Since one gate is always held off at logic 1 output, gate $C$ always toggles with the output of the other input gate, and inverts that output, returning the sign of the signal to that at the circuit input.

Start sync circuit: the block diagram of the start sync circuit is shown in Fig. 26, and the relevant waveforms in Fig. 27. Referring to the circuit Fig. 23(d), the input is taken from the input transformer via a potentiometer $R_{73}$ and $C_{101}$. Transistor $\operatorname{Tr}_{20}$ forms a high gain saturated amplifier detector. The pi filter $C_{103}, C_{104}$, $C_{105}$ removes the bulk of the 2.4 kHz subcarrier, and further amplification by $\operatorname{Tr}_{22}$ and $T r_{23}$ clips the detected signal to rapid transitions between high and low.

This signal is buffered by $\operatorname{Tr}_{24}$ and is converted to precise logic levels by Schmitt trigger $I C_{I 2 A}$. The Schmitt trigger output is fed in parallel to an inverter $I C_{14 A}$, one of six inverters on an inverter chip i.c., and to a 300 Hz filter at $\operatorname{Tr}_{25}, \operatorname{Tr}_{26}$. Components $L_{22}$ and $C_{108}$ are a circuit resonant at 300 Hz of low $Q$ due to the shunting effect of $R_{I 34}, R_{I 35}$ and $R_{I 37}$ through $T r_{26}$ base/emitter diode. Transistor $\operatorname{Tr}_{26}$ collector drives the high gain p-n-p transistor amplifier $\operatorname{Tr}_{27}$, which in turn feeds the capacitor $C_{109}$. When the potential at $T r_{26}$ base rises due to a 300 Hz tone, $T r_{26}$ switches on, which switches $\operatorname{Tr}_{27}$, which charges $C_{109}$ by the potential due to the collector current of $\operatorname{Tr}_{27}$ through $R_{139}$.

The potential rises on $C_{109}$ at a rate determined by its capacity, shunting components $R_{139}, R_{140}, R_{141}$ and $R_{142}$, and by the length of the 300 Hz burst. Hence the effect of the 300 Hz burst is stored by $C_{109}$. Transistor $\operatorname{Tr}_{28}$ emitter follows the charge rise on $C_{109}$ and depending on the value of potentiometer $R_{142}$, triggers Schmitt trigger $I C_{I 2 B}$, the second half of a dual Schmitt i.c. chip. This Schmitt output is inverted by $I C_{14 B}$, and the resultant signal applied to the second input of NAND gate $I C_{I 3}$, together with the inverted output of Schmitt trigger $I C_{12 A}$. Due to the fact that Schmitt $I C_{12 A}$ output is normally high, and hence its inverted signal is normally low, NAND gate $I C_{I}$ is normally disabled. When the input due to $I C_{I 2 B}$ via $I C_{I 4 B}$ goes high after a 300 Hz burst, a window is created when gate $I C_{I 3}$
can respond to its input from Schmitt trigger $I C_{12 A}$, carrying detected signal information.

For the window period, the length of which depends on the length of burst the setting of the storage capacitor shunt $R_{14}$, and the Schmitt trigger lever $R_{142}$, the NAND gate responds to the detected signal information. The period after the 300 Hz burst contains the 12.5 ms black pulses, and the gate goes low during these periods. The inverted output of the gate through inverter $I C_{14 C}$ therefore goes high. This output is connected to the divider chain counter reset line, and forces reset during the black periods within the 300 Hz store window. In practice, at the beginning of the window period, the 300 Hz tone will still be running, since it is three seconds long, and the reset line will be activated for several of the 300 Hz cycles. However, the counter will respond, as far as the picture display is concerned, to the last forced reset only.
$Y$ ramp generator: the vertical ramp is generated by a conventional operational amplifier integrator, $I C_{I I}$. The feedback integrating capacitor $C_{100}$ is shunted by a low resistance $R_{1 / 2 A}$ during reset via switch $S_{5}$. The integrator potential is derived from the negative rail by dividers $R_{110}, R_{H I}$ for APT and $R_{H / 0}, R_{1 / 1}, R_{I / 2}$ for SR, selected by switching. Both inputs are biased by resistors $R_{108}$ and $R_{109}$ Switch $S_{6}$ is opened to allow linear integration of the potential on $R_{110}$ wiper, with an optional negative potential being switched into the inverting input by $S_{6}$ to set the integrator to maximum ramp voltage. The vertical output is taken across load $R_{I I}$ to earth. As the circuit stands it is manually controlled. The addition of gate control from the start sync circuit could be arranged relatively easily to automate the start/reset cycle.

Stabilized power supplies: the main stabilized power supply uses integrated circuit stabilizers. Two supplies are used and combined to give $\pm 12 \mathrm{~V}$ at 0.5 A . The rail is fed to a simple series transistor stabilizer, comprising an $n-p-n$ power transistor ${T r_{2 g}}$ with base potential stabilized by $R_{146}$ zener diode $D_{25}$ and is decoupled by $C_{116}$ (Fig. 24).

## Display device

The obvious display for the preceding circuitry is an oscilloscope. The basic requirements are: $Z$ axis modulation capability; $X$ axis input capability with stable d.c. coupled amplifier; $Y$ axis stable d.c. coupled amplifier; small spot size; short persistence c.r.t. phosphor for photography, or long persistence for direct viewing; hum free supplies; and capability of disabling the beam blanking.

## Display system operation

The display must first be set for $X, Y$ and $Z$ range limits. The $X$ ramp is continuously available for setting up, as are the $Y$ limits using $S$ and $S$. On the oscilloscope the $Z$ axis is the most difficult to set, due to the generally coarse controls for bright-
ness on most oscilloscopes. The interpicture maximum brightness signal is useful for setting this level, but the overall dynamic range, as determined by $R_{75}$, is a matter of trial and error. Once set, the tape may be run until the 300 Hz tone is heard on the monitor in the case of APT signals. The oscilloscope camera shutter, if used, can then be opened, and $S_{5}$ switched to start. After the picture period, when the interpicture tone is heard, the shutter is closed and $S_{5}$ switched to reset. In the case of SR pictures, as outlined earlier, the picture must be viewed, or a slave display arranged so that phasing can be carried out manually with the lock/slip switch $S_{l, 2}$. The simplest way to set up the correct Index of Co-operation for the SR pictures is to count the telemetry "teeth" which occur every 25 lines, and to apply the empirical relationship
$\frac{\text { width of actual picture (centimetres) }}{\text { telemetry "teeth" per centimetre }}=2.6$
Lastly, two practical points when using an oscilloscope for display can be useful. It may well be found that the $X$-axis amplifier is too insensitive for the generated $X$-ramp. One solution is to transpose the $X$ and $Y$-axis outputs from the display electronics, since many oscilloscopes have a higher $Y$ input sensitivity than $X$ sensitivity, and the $Y$ output of the display unit delivers a 0 to +11 volt ramp. Secondly, if the oscilloscope has a stable and accurate trigger circuit, the display unit step-derived ramp may be omitted and the oscilloscope internal timebase used to generate the $X$ ramp. In this case, the 4 or $4 / 5 \mathrm{~Hz}$ output is coupled to the oscilloscope external trigger input and the timebase speed adjusted to suit.

Appendix
Capture and lock range for the Signetics NE565 phase lock loop. If the external frequency determining components at pins 8 and 9 (Fig. 19, Part 2) are $R_{53}$ and $C_{67}$ respectively:
free running frequency $f_{o} \approx 1.2 / 4 R_{53} C_{67}$. When the p.s.d. is in the limiting mode ( $V_{m} \gg 200 \mathrm{mV} \mathrm{pp}$ ) the lock range is given by $2 \omega_{L}=2 K_{o} K_{d} A \theta_{d}$
where $K_{o}$ is the v.c.o. conversion gain, $K_{d}$ is the p.s.d. gain, $A$ is the amplifier gain and $\theta_{d}$ is the maximum phase error for loop lock.
For the NE565 typical values are
$K_{o}=\frac{50 f_{o}}{V_{c c}}$ where $V_{c c}$ is the total voltage
supply to the circuit, $K_{d}=\frac{1.4}{\pi}$ volts/radian,
$\mathrm{A}=1.4$ and $Q_{d}=\pi / 2$ radians. Hence $f_{L}$ $\approx \omega_{L} / 2 \pi \approx 8 f_{d} / V_{c c} \mathrm{~Hz}$ either side of the centre frequency or a total range of $2 f_{L} \approx 16 f_{o} / V_{c c} \mathrm{~Hz}$.

The capture range is given approximately by $2 \omega_{c} \approx 2 \vee \frac{\omega L}{\tau}$
where $\omega_{L}$ is the one sided lock range
$\omega_{L}=2 \pi f_{L}$, and $\omega_{C}=2 \pi f_{C}$
and $\tau$ is the time constant of the loop filter. $\tau=R C$ ( C is the external filter capacitor on pin 7) with $\mathrm{R}=3.6 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ (internally on the chip).

$$
\begin{gathered}
\text { Re-writing, } f_{c} \approx \pm \frac{1}{2 \pi} /\left(\frac{2 \pi f_{L}}{\tau}\right) \\
= \pm\left[\frac{1}{2 \pi} /\left(\frac{16 \pi f_{0}}{\tau V_{c c}}\right)\right]
\end{gathered}
$$

Hz either side of centre or a total capture range of

$$
f_{c} \approx\left[\frac{1}{\pi} /\left(\frac{16 \pi f_{0}}{\tau V_{c c}}\right)\right]
$$

This approximation works well over narrow capture ranges when $f_{c}<f_{L} / 3$ but becomes too large as $f_{c} \rightarrow f_{L}$.

| Components list Resistors-R |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Fig. 23(a) | 72 | 1 k |  | 111 | 15k |
|  | 73 | 5 k |  | 112 | 100k |
|  | 74 | 33k |  | 112A | 100 |
|  | 75 | 5k |  | 113 | 10k |
|  | 76 | 10k | (d) | 114 | 100k |
|  | 77 | 10k |  | 115 | 1 k |
|  | 78 | 10k |  | 116 | 4.7k |
|  | 79 | 330k |  | 117 | 100 k |
|  | 80 | 10k |  | 118 | 1 k |
|  | 81 | 1.5 k |  | 119 | 4.7k |
|  | 82 | 10k |  | 120 | 100k |
|  | 83 | 10k |  | 121 | 2.2k |
|  | 84 | 15k |  | 122 | 5.6k |
|  | 85 | 470k |  | 123 | 100k |
|  | 86 | 10k |  | 124 | 10k |
|  | 87 | 1 k |  | 125 | 3.3k |
|  | 88 | 10k |  | 126 | 220k |
| (b) | 89 | 47k |  | 127 | 100 |
|  | 90 | 330 |  | 128 | 1 k |
|  | 91 | 330 |  | 129 | 2.2 k |
|  | 92 | 1M |  | 130 | 10k |
|  | 93 | 150 |  | 131 | 100k |
|  | 94 | 5k |  | 132 | 100k |
|  | 95 | 150 |  | 133 | 100 |
|  | 96 | 2.2k |  | 134 | 1 k |
|  | 97 | 470 |  | 135 | 1.7 k |
|  | 98 | 1k |  | 136 | 1.8k |
| (c) | 99 | 330 k |  | 137 | 1k |
|  | 100 | 330k |  | 138 | 100k |
|  | 101 | 5k |  | 139 | 470k |
|  | 102 | 10k |  | 140 | 10k |
|  | 103 | 470 |  | 141 | 250k |
|  | 104 | 1 k |  | 142 | 5k |
|  | 105 |  |  | 143 | 470 |
|  | 106 | 1 k |  | 144 | 470 |
|  | 107 | 1 k |  | 145 | 1 k |
|  | 108 | 510k | Fig. 24 | 146 | 560, |
|  | 109 | 510 k | Fig. 25 | 147 | 33k |
|  | 110 | 500, t | turn | 148 | 33k |

Capacitors-C
Numbers 83 and 84 are not included

| Fig. 23(a) | 75 | 50n |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 76 | 50n |
|  | 77 | 1.8p |
|  | 78 | 1.8 p |
|  | 79 | 1.8p |
|  | 80 | 470p |
|  | 81 | 50n |
|  | 82 | 50n |
|  | 85 | 1.8p |
|  | 86 | 1.8 p |
|  | 87 | 1.8 p |
|  | 88 | 470p |
|  | 89 | 50n |
| (b) | 90 | 1 n |
|  | 91 | 32n |
|  | 92 | $150 \mu / 15 \mathrm{~V}$ |
|  | 93 | 100n |
|  | 94 | $150 \mu / 15 \mathrm{~V}$ |
|  | 95 | 47p |
| (c) | 96 | 470p |
|  | 97 | 147p |
|  | 98 | $1.25 \mu$ |
|  | 99 | 680n |
|  | 100 | 6.8, mylar |
|  | 83 | 10 n |
| (d) | 101 | 100 n |
|  | 102 | 10 n |
|  | 103 | 220 n |
|  | 104 | $1 \mu$ |
|  | 105 | 0.68 $\mu$ |
|  | 106 | 150n |
|  | 107 | 680 n |
|  | 108 | 320 n |
|  | 109 | $10 \mu / 25 \mathrm{~V}$ |
| Fig. 24 | 110 | $10,000 \mu / 30 \mathrm{~V}$ |
|  | 111 | 10,000 $\mu / 30 \mathrm{~V}$ |
|  | 112 | $400 \mu / 35 \mathrm{~V}$ |
|  | 113 | $400 \mu / 35 \mathrm{~V}$ |
|  | 114 | 10 n |
|  | 115 | 10 n |
|  | 116 | $10 \mu / 30 \mathrm{~V}$ |
|  | 117 | $400 \mu / 35 \mathrm{~V}$ |
|  | 118 | 10 n |
| Diodes-D |  |  |
| Fig. 23(a) | 14 | GEX34 |
|  | 15 | GEX34 |
|  | 16 | GEX34 |
|  | 17 | GEX34 |
| (b) | 18 | MR56 |
| - | 19 | MR56 |
| (c) | 20 | IN400I |
|  | 21 | 1N4001 |
|  | 22 | 1N4001 |
| Fig. 24 | 23 | REL65 |
|  | 24 | REL65 |
|  | 25 | MR51 |

Inductor-L
Fig. 23(d) 22500 mH
Transistors- $\mathbf{T r}$
Fig. 23(a) $15 \quad$ 2N2926
16 2N 2926
(c) $17 \quad 2 \mathrm{~N} 2926$

18 2N726
19 2N706
(d) $\quad 20 \quad 2 \mathrm{~N} 2926$

2N2926
22 2N2926
23 2N2926
2N2926
25 2N2926
26 2N 2926
27 2N2926
28 2N2926
Fig. $24 \quad 29 \quad 2 N 3054$

## Integrated circuits-IC

|  | Fig.23(b) | 4 | NE565A |
| :--- | ---: | :--- | :--- |
|  | 5 | SN7413N |  |
|  | 6 | SN7492N |  |
|  |  | 7 | SN7490N |
|  | 8 | SN7490N |  |
|  | 9 | SN7490N |  |
|  | (c) | 10 | SN7400N |
|  |  | 11 | SN72741N |
|  | (d) | 12 | SN7413N |
|  | 13 | SN7400N |  |
|  | 14 | SN7404N |  |
| integrated stabilizer | 15 | MVR-12V |  |
| integrated stabilizer | 16 | MVR-12V |  |

Transformers-T
Fig. 23(a) 2 RS Components Ltd, universal speaker isolating transformer.
Ratios w.r.t. $\mathrm{i} / \mathrm{p}$ on pins 2 and 3.
pin 5-1.375: 1
pin 4-2.0: 1
pin 6-1.575:1
pins 7 and 8-0.475: 1
Fig. 24330 V rectifier transformer.

## Author's biography

Gerry Kennedy is a Higher Scientific Officer with the Science Research Council at the Appleton Laboratory, Chilbolton Observatory. His private project was started in the Falkland Islands with Nimbus 3 ice cover pictures. This work was continued on his return to the UK to encompass more recent satellites. He is a radio amateur with the call signs VP8LZ and G30GK.

## Corrections to Part 1

p.437, column 2, last line-diodes 3 to 13 (not 5 to 12).
p.438, column 1, line $2-D_{7}\left(\right.$ not $\left.D_{4}\right)$ line $11-R_{7}\left(\operatorname{not} R_{2}\right)$ line $24-R_{g}\left(\right.$ not $\left.R_{5}\right)$
p.439, column 1, line 15- $\operatorname{Tr}_{2}\left(\operatorname{not} \operatorname{Tr}_{I}\right)$ column 3, line 32- $L_{5}\left(\right.$ not $\left.L_{10}\right)$
p.440, components $R_{7}-1 \mathrm{M}($ not 111)
$C_{12}-1000$ (not 1)
$\mathrm{Tr}_{2}$-MS175TB (not 11S-1757B)

## Corrections to Part 2

p. 488 col. 3 line 15 -for $R_{5}$ read $R_{57}$, line 16 for $C_{3}$ read $C_{69}$, line 18 for $C_{6}$ read $C_{70}$, line 19 for $C_{4}$ read $C_{71}$, line 22 for $C_{4}$ read $C_{71}$. p. 489 picture is upside down and back-tofront.
p. 490 components list $R_{70}$ is 250 k .

## Acknowledgement

The author would like to thank the Reverend Dr Paul Sollom OSB, of Douai Abbey for his encouragement and helpful advice, also NOAA for data supplied periodically and NASA for making the whole project possible.

## References

7. Sollom, "Just Look at the Weather", Radio Communication, Radio Society of Great Britain, vol. 47, No. 12, Dec. 1971, p. 823.

# The monostable .. . doth give us pause 

## Introducing set 19 of Circards

by J. Carruthers, J. H. Evans, J. Kinsler and P. Williams

Paisley College of Technology

Not quite the words of Hamlet, but delay is one outstanding property of the monostable circuit. De Bono, in The Mechanism of Mind, could be describing another function of the circuit when he writes, "a short-term memory is just a way of extending the influence of an event beyond the real time of its occurrence along the dimension of time", e.g. a monostable will accept a transition at its input and respond with an output pulse, but for a finite time. A more formal description of the monostable (sometimes called a one-shot) circuit is having one stable state in which it remains until triggered by an external signal into a quasi-stable state, where it remains for a time determined by circuit parameters and subsequently returns to its stable state. This basic action allows the monostable to be used for a variety of purposes such as lengthening, delaying and regenerating pulses, sequential timing and delay applications and frequency division.

The nature of the monostable circuits can be widely different because they can be designed using $n-p-n$ and $p-n-p$ bipolar transistors (in cross-coupled emittercoupled and complementary modes), fieldeffect transistors, operational amplifiers, discrete and integrated-circuit logic gates, as well as purpose-designed monostable integrated circuits.

A very common type of monostable uses a cross-coupled configuration which can be thought of as being a modification of a symmetrical bistable where one resistive coupling is replaced by a capacitive coupling. Two can either be connected between the collector of a normally-off transistor to the base of a normally-on transistor, or between the collector of a normally-on transistor and the base of a normally-off transistor. Fig. 1 shows a circuit of the first type and Fig. 2 the associated current and voltage waveforms.

Transistor $\mathrm{Tr}_{2}$ is in a stable on state, until triggered, due to the base drive supplied through $R_{2}$. Transistor $T r_{I}$ is held in a stable off state as $R_{4}$ is connected to $\mathrm{Tr}_{2}$ collector which is at the low saturation value of $v_{c e 2}$ and $R_{3}$ is returned to the negative $V_{B B}$ rail. When a positive-going trigger pulse is applied to $\operatorname{Tr}_{I}$ base via $C_{I}$ this transistor turns on causing its collector voltage to fall to almost zero.

Because the charge on $C_{2}$ cannot change instantaneously, this negative-going transition is passed to $T r_{2}$ base which switches off. The transistors remain in these states while the charge on $C_{2}$ changes via $R_{2}$ causing
$v_{b e 2}$ to rise exponentially towards $+V_{c c}$. When $v_{\text {be2 }}$ passes through zero and rises positively to a value depending on the type of transistor used, which causes base current to flow in $T r_{2}$, this transistor begins


Fig. 1. A common monostable can be thought of as a bistable circuit with one resistive coupling replaced by a capacitative coupling. Two can be connected as shown.

Fig. 2. Waveforms associated with circuit of Fig. 1 .

Fig. 3. Switching speed of Fig. 1 circuit is improved by preventing saturation with diodes $D_{1}$ and $D_{2}$. Clamping diode $D_{3}$ reduces recovery time by connection to a supply less than $V_{\text {cr }}$.


to turn on. The resulting fall in $V_{C 2}$ is coupled to $T r_{l}$ base via $C_{3}, T r_{1}$ beginning to turn off; the regenerative feedback via $C_{2}$ and $C_{3}$ causes the circuit to restore to its stable state of $T r_{1}$ off and $T r_{2}$ on, the capacitor $C_{2}$ recharging through $R_{I}$.

The switching speed of this kind of circuit can be improved by using higher speed switching transistors in a non-saturating circuit. To prevent saturation, germanium diode $D_{1}$ and silicon diode $D_{2}$ can be added as shown in Fig. 3. When $T r_{2}$ begins to turn on, to return the circuit to its stable state, $D_{1}$ will be reverse-biased until $\boldsymbol{v}_{C_{2}}$ falls below ( $v_{\text {be2 }}+v_{D 2}$ ) causing the excessive base drive current, which would otherwise saturate $T r_{2}$, to be diverted through $D_{1}$. Two series-connected germanium diodes can be used in place of the silicon diode $D_{2}$. The waveform at $T r_{I}$ collector can have a slow recovery time, especially when driving capacitive loads, and this can be reduced by the addition of the clamping diode $D_{3}$ returned to a supply $V_{A}<V_{C C}$. The output voltage $v_{C I}$ attempts to rise towards a higher value with $D_{3}$ present but becomes clamped at $\left(V_{A}+V_{D 3}\right)$ when $D_{3}$ conducts.

Another method of reducing the recovery time is to include an emitter follower between $R_{1}$ and $C_{2}$ of Fig. 1, as shown in Fig. 4. As $C_{2}$ is charged to almost the supply rail voltage, the emitter of $T r_{3}$ is normally close to $+V_{c c}$. The input trigger pulse switches the circuit to its quasi-stable state and as the charge on $C_{2}$ changes, the emitter voltage of $\mathrm{Tr}_{3}$ rises above its base voltage ( $v_{C I}$ on) cutting the transistor off. When $T r_{2}$ again begins to conduct, the circuit returns to its stable state with $C_{2}$ being rapidly recharged by the emitter current of $\mathrm{Tr}_{3}$.

The output from $T_{1}$ collector can be made to more closely approach a rectangular pulse by the inclusion of an isolation diode $D_{4}$ as shown in Fig. 5. When $T r_{l}$ is on the collector current flows through $R_{1}$ and $R_{7}$ in parallel and a faster recovery time is achieved by making $R_{7}<R_{\text {, }}$ so that when $\operatorname{Tr}_{l}$ switches off $D_{4}$ is reverse biased and $C_{2}$ recharges more rapidly, through $R_{7}$, than in the circuit shown in Fig. 1. Other methods of triggering this type of monostable include negative pulses to either $T r_{1}$ collector or $\mathrm{Tr}_{2}$ base or positive pulses to the base of another transistor having its collector and emitter respectively connected to $\operatorname{Tr}_{I}$ collector and emitter.

Another form of the cross-coupled monostable is shown in Fig. 6, the major difference compared with the foregoing circuits being that $T r_{1}$ is on and $T r_{2}$ is off in the stable state. This is achieved by correct choice of the potential-dividing chain and by $D_{2}$ being forward-biased via $R_{1}$, holding the base-emitter junction of $T r_{2}$ reverse-biased. A negative-going input trigger pulse causes $T r_{I}$ to switch off and hence $\operatorname{Tr}_{2}$ to switch on and to remain in that state as $C_{2}$ charges, part of the charging current being base drive to $T r_{2}$. Diode $D_{2}$ is reverse-biased in this quasi-stable state which ends when the base drive to $T r_{2}$ has fallen to a level which will not maintain conduction. Transistor $T r_{2}$ then switches off causing $T r_{I}$ to return to the stable on state. No output is taken from $\operatorname{Tr}_{I}$ collector as a


Fig. 4. Recovery time can also be reduced with an emitter follower between $R_{1}$ and $C_{2}$ of Fig. 1 .


Fig. 5. Output from $T r_{1}$ is made more rectangular by isolation diode $D_{4}$ and by making $R_{7}<R_{i}$.


Fig. 6. In this variant of the cross-coupled monostable, $T_{1}$ is normally on and $T r_{2}$ normally off. Note trigger is of opposite polarity. Circuit has much faster recovery time.
load at that point significantly changes the off time of $T r_{2}$. This circuit has a much faster recovery time than the previous ones discussed.

A cross-coupled monostable which besides producing a time-constant-dependent output pulse may provide one due to the input pulse duration is shown in Fig. 7. In the stable state $T r_{1}$ is on and $\operatorname{Tr}_{2}$ is off, so when a short-duration trigger pulse is applied via $D_{l}$ the circuit remains in its quasi-stable state for a time determined largely by $C_{1} R_{3}$. However, when a long input pulse is applied, $T r_{1}$, will remain off until the input is removed even if $C_{I}$ completes its discharge during that interval.
Fig. 8 shows an emitter-coupled monostable where $T r_{2}$ is on and $T r_{1}$ is off in the stable state. Compared with the crosscoupled circuits, this type has the advan-
tages of only using a single supply and providing an output which is taken from a point having no internal coupling. When a negative-going trigger pulse is applied to $T r_{I}$ collector via $C_{l}$ it is coupled to the base of $T r_{2}$ which switches off. The emitter voltage falls allowing $T r_{1}$ to switch on for a time determined by that required for $C_{2}$ to discharge sufficiently to allow $\operatorname{Tr}_{2}$ to begin to conduct. The emitter voltage then rises, causing $T r_{I}$ to begin to switch off, and the resulting rise in $\dot{r}_{1}$ collector voltage is coupled to $\operatorname{Tr}_{2}$ base which switches on, and $T r_{J}$ switches off to regain the stable state. Due to the presence of $R_{4}$, the output voltage swing does not approach $V_{C C}$ and the recovery time is not very fast, as $R_{3}$ should be greater than $R_{6}$ to ensure the correct switching action. Recovery time can be improved by the


Fig. 7. This circuit produces an output pulse dependent on input pulse duration.


Fig. 8. Emitter-coupled circuit needs only one supply line and gives a more isolated output.


Complementary transistors enable both transistors to be normally off (Fig. 9, above) or normally on (Fig. 10, right). Opposite-polarity outputs are available from Fig. 10.
addition of an emitter follower as was done in Fig. 4.

A monostable using a complementary pair of transistors, having both transistors off in the stable state, is shown in Fig. 9. A negative-going trigger pulse applied to $\operatorname{Tr}_{\text {, }}$ base causes this $\mathrm{p}-\mathrm{n}-\mathrm{p}$ transistor to switch on, its collector current in $R_{I}$ and $R_{2}$ causing the base of $T r_{2}$ to go positive causing this $\mathrm{n}-\mathrm{p}$-n transistor to switch on also. The resulting collector current in $R_{4}$ causes the output voltage to go negative and this change is coupled to $\operatorname{Tr}$, base through $C_{1}$ causing $\operatorname{Tr}_{1}$ and hence $\operatorname{Tr}_{2}$ to be switched hard on. In this quasi-stable state $C_{1}$ charges through $R_{3}$ and $\operatorname{Tr}_{2}$ towards $-V_{E E}$ and when the charging current is insufficient to maintain conduction in $T r_{1}$ this transistor switches off, as does $\mathrm{Tr}_{2}$ and the circuit returns to its stable

state.
Fig. 10 shows a complementary monostable in which both transistors are on in the stable state, and which provides a pair of opposite-polarity outputs simultaneously. A positive-going trigger pulse applied to $\mathrm{Tr}_{2}$ base turns both transistors off and after $C_{1}$ charges sufficiently, through $R_{2}$ and $R_{4}$, both transistors return to the stable on state regeneratively.

These and other types of monostable cir cuits are discussed in Circards, set 19, together with component values for tested circuits-see next column.

Titles of cards in set 19 of Circards (available shortly)
1 discrete-component monostables
2 complementary circuits
3 op-amp/comparator types
4 t.t.l.-gate monostables
5 compensated c.m.o.s. circuits
6 emitter-coupled monostables
7 voltage-controlled monostables
8 long-delay circuits
9 dual monostable applications
10 high duty-cycle types

## What are Circards?

Circards are a new method of collating and presenting data about circuits in a compact and easily retrievable way. The sets of $203 \times 127 \mathrm{~mm}(8 \times 5 \mathrm{in})$ doublesided cards are designed for easy filing in standard boxes and for easy access at the desk or at the bench, where transparent plastic wallets keep the cards in good condition.

Each card normally describes operation of a selected circuit, gives measured performance data and graphs, component values and ranges, circuit limitations and modifications to alter performance. Suggestions for further reading are included together with cross references to related circuits. The Circard concept was outlined more fully in the October 1972 issue of Wireless World, pp.469/70.

## How to get Circards

Order a subscription by sending $£ 13.50$ for a series of ten sets to:

## Circards

IPC Electrical-Electronic Press Ltd
General Sales Department, Room 11
Dorset House
Stamford Street
London SE1 9LU
Specify which set your order should start with, if not the current one. One set costs $£ 1.50$, postage included (all countries). Make cheques payable to IPC Business Press Ltd.

Topics covered so far in Circards are:
1 active filters
2 switching circuits (comparator and Schmitt circuits)
3 waveform generators
4 a.c. measurement
5 audio circuits (equalizers, tone controls, filters)
6 constant-current circuits
7 power amplifiers (classes A, B, C \& D)
8 astable multivibrator circuits
9 optoelectronics: devices and uses
10 micropower circuits
11 basic logic gates
12 wideband amplifiers
13 alarm circuits
14 digital counters
15 pulse modulators
16 current-differencing amplifierssignal processing
17 c.d.as-signal generation
18 c.d.as-measurement and detection

## Meetings

## LONDON

2nd and 3rd. IEE-"The why and how of telephone exchanges". Christmas holiday lecture by C. A. May at 14.30 at Savoy PI., WC2.

6th. IEE-"Flat diaphragm loudspeakers" by
J. W. Manger at 17.30 at Savoy PI., WC2.

7th. IEE--"Protection performance as affected by the use of capacitor voltage transformers" by M. A. Hughes at 17.30 at Savoy Pl., WC2.

8th. IEE-Discussion on "Processor architecture for telecommunication switching" at 17.30 at Savoy Pl., WC2.

8th. IERE-"Train control developments on British Rail" by J. W. Birkby at 18.00 at 9 Bedford Sq., WCI.

8th. BKSTS-"The Turpin Colorflex system" by Gerry Turpin at 20.30 at NFT2, National Film Theatre, South Bank, Waterloo, SE1.

13th. IEE/IERE-"A review of electron microscopy" by Dr V. E. Cosslett at 17.30 at Savoy PI., WC2.

14th. IEE-Colloquium on "Applications of active, digital and passive filters" at 10.30 at Savoy PI., WC2.

14th. AES-"Practical design of magnetic heads" by Robert B. Dyer at 19.15 at the IEE, Savoy Pl., WC2.

15th. IEE-"Charge-coupled devices and their application" by D. Burt at 17.30 at Savoy Pl., WC2.

15th. IERE/RINav.-Colloquium on "Advances in airborne equipment for navigation and flight control" at 10.30 at the Royal Aeronautical Society, 4 Hamilton Pl., W1.

15th. IERE-"Good quality reception from medium-wave broadcasting" by Dr R. C. V. Macario at 18.00 at 9 Bedford Sq., WC 1 .

15th. I.Phys.-One-day meeting on "Surface effects on semiconductor devices" at 10.00 at Imperial College, SW7.
21st. IEE-Colloquium on "Standardization in geographically distributed control and telemetry systems" at I4.30 at Savoy Pl., WC2.
21st. IEE/IERE-"Designing machines for people" by Dr C. R. Evans at 17.30 at Savoy Pl., WC2.
22nd. IERE-Colloquium on "Thermionic emission devices" at 9 Bedford Sq., WCI.
22nd. IEE-"How to see in the dark" by Dr R. M. Hodgson at 18.30 at Savoy PI., WC2.
23rd. IEE-"Control of distributed parameter systems" by Prof. P. C. Parks at 17.30 at Savoy Pl., WC2.
27th. IEE-"Digital systems for sound programme transmission" by J. W. H. O'Clarey at 17.30 at Savoy PL., WC2.

28th. IEE-"The design of precision coaxial power meters" by Dr A. E. Fantom at 17.30 at Savoy Pl., WC2
28th. IEE--"The ESRO orbital test satellite" by Dr P. Bartholome at 17.30 at Savoy Pl., WC2.
29th. IEE/IERE-"Sensing, sizing and sorting of cells: the laser sorter" by D. F. Capellaro at 17.30 at Savoy Pl., WC2.
29th. IERE-"Speech engineering" by Dr A. J. Fourcin at 18.00 at the Haldane Theatre, Wolfson House, Stephensons Way, NWI.

## BIRMINGHAM

15th. IERE/RTS-"The status of British broadcasting" by C. B. B. Wood at 19.00 at the A.T.V. Centre, Broad Street.

22nd. SERT-"Liquid crystal displays and their applications" by G. P. Stenning at 19.00 at the Byng Kenrick Suite of the University of Aston, Gosta Green.

## BRIGHTON

9th. SERT-"Principles of video tape recording" by R. A. Bravery and K. G. A. Whittington at 19.45 at the TV Studio, Sussex University.

## CHATHAM

2Ist. IERE-"Quadraphonics" by Dr K. Barker at 19.00 at the Lecture Theatre 18, Medway and Maidstone College of Technology, Maidstone Road.

CHELMSFORD
15th. IEE-"C-MOS and its applications" by R. Henderson at 18.30 at the King Edward V1 Grammar School, Broomfield Road.

HALTON
16th. IEE/R.Ae.S.-"Radar and meteorology" by Prof. E. Shearman at 19.30 at Kermode Hall, R.A.F. Halton, Bucks.

## LEATHERHEAD

15th. IEE-"Man-made, God-made" by Prof E. R. Laithwaite at 19.30 at C.E.R.L. Offices, Kelvin Avenue.

## LLANDAFF

15th. SERT-"The Pye $110^{\circ}$ colour chassis" by P. E. Gibbs at 19.15 at Llandaff College of Technology.

## MANCHESTER

23rd. SERT-"Mobile radio equipment" by M. Howard at 19.30 at the Granada Building, College of Building, Hardman Street.

## MORDEN

29th. IEE-"Developments in superconductivity techniques" by J. A. Baylis at 19.00 at Merton Technical College, Morden Park, London Road.

## READING

6th. SERT-"Colour television" at 19.30 at The Technical College.

20th. IEE-"Concorde systems design" by H. Hill at 19.30 at the University, Whiteknights Park.
23rd. IERE-"Optoelectronic devices" by M. Miller at 19.30 at the J. J. Thomson Physical Laboratory, University of Reading, Whiteknights Park.

## SALISBURY

27th. SERT-"TEC, ERB and the technical engineer" by A. J. Kenward at 19.30 at Salisbury College of Technology.

## SOUTHAMPTON

22nd. SERT-"Philips video tape recorder" by R. Adams at 19.00 at the College of Technology, East Park Terrace.

Tickets are required for some meetings: readers are advised therefore to check with the society concerned.

## Wireless World lectures

H. W. Barnard, who was editor of our journal from 1965 until 1973, has been approached several times by societies, clubs and other organizations in the field of radio and electronics to address their members. With 48 years experience of $W . W$. , he is in a unique position to give a picture of the development of communications, broadcasting and the growth of "electronics" and it occurs to us that many other people would like to listen to an illustrated talk on this most fascinating subject.

If, therefore, secretaries of such bodies would like to write to us, we will try to arrange for Mr Barnard to give a lecture.

## HF predictions

Solar Index is now less than 10 and will remain so throughout the year with the end of the current sunspot cycle expected in August. As their number decreases sunspots tend to concentrate at low solar latitudes, then when the number increases the new spots appear at high solar latitudes. Minima are therefore used to mark the duration of a cycle as they are much more clearly defined than maxima.

A year of poor communication conditions can be expected especially during summer months as HPFs and FOTs will be at their very lowest.






## The heart of hi-fi.



Beauty is truth, truth beauty. The fact is that all too few music lovers realise that while certain high fidelity components can be less than best, there is one component that cannot endure a sacrifice in quality: the cartridge. Because the hi-fi cartridge functions as the source of sound (the point at which the recording is linked with the balance of the hi-fi system), its role is absolutely critical. Just as the camera can be no better than its lens, the finest hi-fi system in the world cannot compensate for an inferior cartridge. Suggestion: For a startling insight into the role of the cartridge in the overall hi-fi system, and a breathtaking re-creation of your favourite recording, see your nearby Shure cartridge dealer. He'll introduce you to the Shure cartridge that is correct for your system and your exchequer. Or, next best, send for our brochure:

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## EEVand M-OV know how.

# Silent switch for stereo-pair comparisons 

by K. Moulana, B.Sc.

University of Surrey/BBC Research Department

## Design and printed circuit construction details are given for an f.e.t. electronic switch designed to meet stringent requirements.

During the course of a project the need arose for a silent switch with the following specification: an on/off ratio greater than 70 dB ; a switching time as fast as possible without introducing any audible transients; remote control switching facility by means of a single, mechanically silent on/off switch; output clipping level not less than +10 dBm into 600 ohms; overall unity gain into 600 ohms; an input impedance greater than $50 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ over the frequency range 30 Hz to 15 kHz ; output impedance of 600 ohms $\pm 2 \%$ over the above frequency range; amplitude/frequency response $\pm 0.2 \mathrm{~dB}$ over the above frequency range; hum and noise not greater than -70 dBm over a 15 kHz bandwidth and a total harmonic distortion not greater than $0.5 \%$ and void of high order harmonics.
A preliminary survey showed that a unit satisfying the above requirements was not readily available on the market and, therefore, one had to be designed. However, before the actual design procedure which was adopted is outlined, a brief study of the underlying requirements may serve as a useful introduction.
When a programme is switched by mechanical means, transients of two different kinds are transmitted through the system. The first type is caused by the rapid change in the d.c. at the point of switching which of course leads to an audible thump. The second and less objectionable variety is the result of terminating an a.c. signal when its waveform is not passing through zero.
In order to eliminate transients caused by changes in d.c. levels, either the signal carrying part of the circuit must be electrically isolated from the switching section, or measures must be taken to ensure that the d.c. biasing potentials remain unchanged at the instant of switching.

In the past, the majority of transient free switches employed a light-sensitive resistance as the signal carrying element, and the luminance of a lamp to control the degree of attenuation required. The main disadvantage of light-operated
switches is that they are not fast enough, because an incandescent lamp has a decaying luminance after the current through it has been stopped. In fact, the decay rate is inversely proportional to the normal standing current through the lamp; even with low current lamps the decay time is too long. Up to now, such switches have, in addition, suffered from poor on/ off ratios whenever small size, low current and hence low power lamps have been used. It should be pointed out that in recent years light emitting diodes have also been used instead of incandescent lamps.

The other group of silent switches or electronic attenuators often used may be conveniently classified under the heading of d.c. modulators. Such circuits are essentially amplitude modulators under various disguises. The programme signal is injected into the otherwise carrier input


Fig. 1. Anf.e.t. used as a voltage controlled resistor.


Fig. 2. Biasing arrangement for a symmetrical junction f.e.t.
and a d.c. potential is used instead of the modulation signal to control the amplitude of the programme. Basically, these circuits make excellent electronic attenuators over a finite range, and with additional refinements high on/off ratio switches can be designed. Unfortunately, the use of the above technique to achieve the desired specification would have resulted in a fairly complex circuit unless integrated circuits were employed. Furthermore, during the designing stages (two years ago) the author could not find any i.c. modulator or attenuator that would meet the requirements. Therefore, the only feasible alternative was to use an f.e.t. as a voltage controlled resistor which in fact constitutes the basis of the present design.

If an f.e.t. is biased near the origin of its output characteristics, the channel behaves like a pure resistance whose value is a function of the gate voltage. In other words, the device becomes a voltage controlled resistor. With suitable circuit arrangements, this property can be put to use as the basis of a transient free switch.

Essentially, an f.e.t. is used in conjunction with a resistance to form a voltage controlled potential divider shown in Fig. 1. When the f.e.t. is conducting, $V_{G S}$ is zero and the channel resistance, $r_{D S}$, is a minimum and therefore:

$$
\frac{E_{o}(o n)}{E_{l}}=\frac{R_{L}}{R_{L}+r_{D S} \min .}
$$

If $V_{G S}$ is greater or equal to the pinchoff voltage of the f.e.t, $r_{D S}$ becomes a maximum and thus:

$$
\frac{E_{o}(o f f)}{E_{i}}=\frac{R_{L}}{R_{L}+r_{D S} \max .}
$$

For a 2 N 3819 junction f.e.t., $r_{D S}$ (min) and $r_{D S}$ (max) are of the order of $100 \Omega$ and $10 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ respectively. If $R_{L}$ is set at $3.3 \mathrm{k} \Omega$, an on/off ratio of 70 dB is achieved for the voltage controlled potential divider.

Let us now consider the biasing arrangement for the f.e.t. If the device is biased at the origin of the output charac-
teristics, the a.c. signal will swing symmetrically about that point, implying that the output characteristics of the f.e.t. must be symmetrical about the origin over the working range required. A symmetrical junction f.e.t. fulfils this requirement for small excursions about the origin of its characteristics.

Fig. 2 shows the basis of the biasing arrangement for a symmetrical junction f.e.t. The source and drain are both held at 12 V through $R_{32}$ and $R_{35}$ because the drain current is zero. When point KA is open circuited or at $12 \mathrm{~V}, V_{G S}$ becomes zero because the current through $R_{37}$ is zero, and the f.e.t. is switched on. The function of $D_{5}$ is to protect the gate against excessive forward bias. Taking KA to a voltage greater than the pinch-off voltage of the device, switches the f.e.t. off. In the actual circuit, point KA is in fact taken to earth.

So far as signal transmission is concerned, point F should ideally be at a.c. earth. In practice, the resistive path between F and true earth must be very small in comparison to $R_{32}$ at the lowest frequency of interest, because the two form a potential divider between the input and true earth, and hence a fraction of the a.c. signal always present at the input leaks through to the output via $R_{35}$ thus reducing the on/off ratio. In the actual circuit, a $5000 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ capacitor couples F to

Fig. 3. Complete circuit for one channel of a stereo pair. Parts enclosed in the broken line are repeated for the $B$ channels. Points marked with identical letters are connected together. Circled numbers refer to pin connections and operating voltages as shown in the table of voltages.
earth giving a theoretical leakage factor of about -70 dB at 40 Hz .

Using a single f.e.t., signals of the order of -30 dBm can be passed without exceeding the distortion limit when the device is conducting. For larger swings, the incremental value of the channel resistance will no longer be the same as its d.c. resistance. In other words, the channel resistance will change during the actual a.c. cycle which of course leads to distortion. The effect can be minimized by using two complementary f.e.ts in parallel so that the change in the channel resistance of one is compensated by the other hence reducing changes in the total resistance during the a.c. cycle. The complementary changes in resistance is due to the fact while one f.e.t. is forward biased, the other is reversed biased and the incremental value of the channel resistances are in the opposite sense for the two biasing

modes. The use of a complementary pair of f.e.ts was found to increase the signal handling capability by some 20 dB .

Fig. 3 shows the complete circuit of the stereo silent switch. Transistors $\operatorname{Tr}_{14}$ and $\operatorname{Tr}_{I S}$ form the switching elements for the A channel of a stereo pair, while $\operatorname{Tr}_{16}$ and $\operatorname{Tr}_{17}$ serve the A channel of a second stereo pair. The circuit for the B channels is identical to that enclosed by the broken lines. Resistances $R_{31}, R_{32}$ and $R_{35}$ maintain the drains and sources of the four f.e.ts at about 12 V . Resistor $R_{35}$ also acts as the a.c. load for both A channels. When points HA and KA are at about 12 V , f.e.ts $T r_{16}$ and $T r^{17}$ are switched on, and the signal present at their sources is developed across $R_{35}$. When point HA is at 24 V and KA is at zero volts, $V_{G S}$ for both $T_{16}$ and $T r_{17}$ becomes greater than their corresponding pinch-off voltages and, therefore, they are both switched off. Furthermore, at any given time if $T r_{16}$ and $T r_{17}$ are conducting, $T r_{14}$ and $T r_{15}$ will be cut off and vice versa. Therefore, the signal developed across $R_{35}$ is either that belonging to the A channel of one stereo pair or the corresponding signal of the other stereo pair. The advantage of this arrangement is that only one subsequent amplifier (consisting of $T r_{18}$ to $T r_{21}$ ) is required for two independent channels. However, the required d.c. switching for f.e.ts $T r_{16}$ and $T r_{17}$ is done by means of the phase splitter $\mathrm{Tr}_{8}$ which itself is driven by the differential amplifier consisting of transistors $T r_{1}, T r_{2}$ and $T r_{3}$. When $T r_{16}$ and $T r_{17}$ are on, $T r_{14}$ and $T r_{15}$ should be off and, therefore, points NA and PA are driven by the phase splitter $\operatorname{Tr}_{10}$ which is in turn driven in opposition to $T r_{s}$ by the differential amplifier.

The remaining a.c. carrying part of the circuit is fairly straightforward. The two input signals present on the bases of transistors $T r_{12}$ and $T r_{13}$ are attenuated by 20 dB before entering the switching elements in order to reduce harmonic distortion. The switching mode ensures that only one of the two input signals appears across $R_{35}$. The amplifier that follows the switching elements compensates for the initial 20 dB attenuation and therefore maintains the overall unity gain required. The amplifier proper is of the class A push-pull variety, the operation of which has been explained frequently in the literature.
The d.c. switching and indicating section was designed to operate by means of a single on/off switch $S$, which could also be paralleled with a second on/off switch to facilitate remote control switching. The differential output state of the amplifier $T r_{1}$ to $T r_{3}$ is governed by switch $S$, provided the base of $\operatorname{Tr}_{2}$ is connected to the junction of $R_{3}$ and $R_{4}$. This corresponds to linking pins 7 and 8 on the printed circuit board. Alternatively, the switching could be done by an external d.c. signal of about 4-5 volts negative with respect to the 24 V supply rail. In that case, the switching voltage should be applied directly to the base of $T r_{2}$ with pins 7 and 8 isolated from each other. The magnitude of this switching voltage was chosen with t.t.l. compatibility in mind.

Lamps $L_{I}$ and $L_{2}$ are indicators for the

## Component list

Resistors: $1 / 8 \mathrm{~W}, \pm 2 \%$ unless otherwise stated.

| $R_{1} \& R_{2}$ | $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $R_{23}$ | $150 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $R_{39}$ | $560 \mathrm{k} \Omega \pm 5 \%$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $R_{3}$ | $30 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $R_{24}$ | $330 \mathrm{k} \Omega \pm 5 \%$ | $R_{40}$ | $220 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| $R_{4}$ | $82 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $R_{25}$ | $150 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $R_{41}$ | 27k $\Omega$ |
| $R_{\text {s }}$ | $1.5 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $R_{26}$ | $330 \mathrm{k} \Omega \pm 5 \%$ | $R_{42}$ | $100 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| $R_{6} \& R_{7}$ | $15 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $R_{27}$ | $4.7 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $R_{43}$ | $47 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| $R_{8}$ | $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $R_{28}$ | 680, | $R_{44}$ | $2.2 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| $R_{9}$ | $5.6 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $R_{29}$ | $4.7 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $R_{45}$ | $18 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| $R_{10}$ | $3.9 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $R_{30}$ | 680 | $R_{46}$ | $100 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| $R_{R}$ | $\frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~W}, 160 \Omega \pm 5 \%$ | $R_{31} \& R_{32}$ | $3.3 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $R_{47}$ | $560 \Omega$ |
| $R_{12}$ | LW, $270 \Omega \pm 5 \%$ | $R_{33} \& R_{34}$ | $10 \mathrm{M} \Omega \pm 10 \%$ | $R_{48}$ | 27, |
| $R_{13}$ | $\frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~W}, 160 \Omega \pm 5 \%$ | $R_{35}$ | $3.3 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $R_{49} \& R_{50}$ | $470 \Omega \pm 10 \%$ |
| $R_{14}$ | $1 \mathrm{~W}, 270 \Omega \pm 5 \%$ | $R_{36} \& R_{37}$ | $10 \mathrm{M} \Omega \pm 10 \%$ | $R_{51}$ | $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega \pm 10 \%$ |
| $R_{15}-R_{22}$ | $120 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $R_{38}$ | $680 \mathrm{k} \Omega \pm 5 \%$ | $R_{52}$ | $100 \mathrm{k} \Omega \pm 10 \%$ |
|  |  |  |  | $R_{53}$ | $100 \Omega \pm 10 \%$ |
| Capacitors: |  |  |  |  |  |
| $C_{1}$ | $5000 \mu \mathrm{~F} / 12 \mathrm{~V}$ | $C_{6} \& C_{7}$ | $50 \mu \mathrm{~F} / 12 \mathrm{~V}$ | $C_{71}$ | 33 pF |
| $\mathrm{C}_{2}$ | $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{8}$ | $4 \mu \mathrm{~F} / 25 \mathrm{~V}$ | $C_{12}$ | $50 \mu \mathrm{~F} / 12 \mathrm{~V}$ |
| $C_{3}$ | $30 \mu \mathrm{~F} / 6 \mathrm{~V}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{9}$ | $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | $C_{13}$ | $100 \mu \mathrm{~F} / 25 \mathrm{~V}$ |
| $C_{4} \& C_{5}$ | $4 \mu \mathrm{~F} / 25 \mathrm{~V}$ | $C_{10}$ | $10 \mu \mathrm{~F} / 12 \mathrm{~V}$ | $C_{14}$ | $500 \mu \mathrm{~F} / 25 \mathrm{~V}$ |
| Semiconductors: |  |  |  |  |  |
| $D_{1}$ | BZY88, C3V3 | $T r_{5} \& \operatorname{Tr}_{6}$ | 2N930 | Tr ${ }_{16}$ | 2N3820 |
| $D_{2}-D_{5}$ | IN916 | Tr ${ }_{7}$ | 2N2219A | $\operatorname{Tr}_{17}$ | 2N3819 |
|  |  | Tr ${ }_{8}-\operatorname{Tr}_{13}$ | 2N930 | $\operatorname{Tr}_{18}$ | 2N3702 |
| $\operatorname{Tr}_{1}-\operatorname{Tr} 3$ | 2N3702 | Tri4 | 2N3820 | Trio-Tr 21 | 2N930 |
| Tr ${ }_{4}$ | 2N2219A | Tr ${ }_{\text {I }}$ | 2N3819 |  |  |
| Lamps |  |  |  |  |  |
| $L_{1} \& L_{2}$ | $6 \mathrm{~V}, 40 \mathrm{~mA}$ |  |  |  |  |

two stereo-pair programmes. When $S$ is open, $L_{l}$ lights and signals present at input pins 4 and 13 pass through to the output pins 2 and 12 respectively. Conversely, the closed position of the switch corresponds to $L_{2}$ lighting and the signals at pins 5 and 14 appearing at output pins 2 and 12 respectively.

Finally, the $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ capacitor $C_{2}$ is used to reduce the change-over speed at the output of the differential amplifier. In this way, transients otherwise generated by rapid switching of the a.c. signals are subjectively eliminated. Note that this capacitor alone determines the switching speed of the complete unit.

## Construction

All components of the stereo silent switch except the two lamps and switch $S$ are mounted on a printed circuit board shown in Fig. 4. The corresponding component layout is outlined in Fig. 5 which is immediately followed by relevant explanatory notes and the line-up procedure.

During assembly, it should be observed that the capacitor $C_{2}$ is not in physical contact with the resistor $R_{12}$ because the latter generates a certain amount of heat.

The length of the wires connecting switch $S$ to the circuit are not critical. In fact, the circuit operates satisfactorily with remote control wires ten meters long. However, should the casing of switch $S$ chosen be connected to any one of its pins, measures must be taken to eliminate the possibility of an inadvertent contact between the casing of that switch and earth. Otherwise, either a short circuit is created across the d.c. supply line, or a 21 V reverse bias will be imposed across the base to emitter junction of $\mathrm{Tr}_{3}$.

| Operating voltages |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Point | $S$ open | 0 Volts | $\boldsymbol{S c}$ closed |
| $1,3,6$ \& 11 |  |  |  |
| 7 | 17.6 |  | 24.0 |
| 8 | 17.6 |  | 24.0 |
| 9 | 24.0 |  | 17.8 |
| 10 | 17.8 |  | 24.0 |
| 15 |  | 24.0 |  |
| C |  | 20.8 |  |
| D |  | 21.9 |  |
| E | 18.3 |  | 21.4 |
| F |  | 11.8 |  |
| G | 10.7 |  | 0 |
| HA \& HB | 23.7 |  | 12.4 |
| I | 11.9 |  | 0 |
| J | 0 |  | 11.9 |
| KA \& KB | 0.14 |  | 11.4 |
| L | 11.4 |  | 24.0 |
| M | 24.0 |  | 11.4 |
| NA \& NB | 12.4 |  | 23.7 |
| 0 | 0 |  | 10.7 |
| PA \& PB | 11.4 |  | 0.14 |
| Q |  | 23.0 |  |
| R |  | 11.5 |  |
| T |  | 8.8 |  |
| U |  | 1.14 |  |
| V |  | 19.4 |  |
| a |  | 14.8 |  |
| f |  | 12.1 |  |
| g |  | 11.8 |  |
| h |  | 11.8 |  |
| m | 23.4 |  | 12.3 |
| n |  | 11.8 |  |
| q | 0.43 |  | 10 |
| r | 12.3 |  | 23.4 |
| t | 10 |  | 0.43 |
| u |  | 14.7 |  |

## Performance tests

Objectively, the unit meets the required specification initially outlined. Total harmonic distortion, for example, is in fact less than $0.2 \%$ from 30 Hz to 15 kHz for an output level of +10 dBm into $600 \Omega$. The distortion is predominantly second harmonic and its magnitude decreases with reduction in the output level.


Fig. 4. Printed circuit layout of silent
switch.


Fig. 5. Printed circuit component layout.

The d.c. switching and indicating section components are placed in the middle of the board. Components belonging to the signal carrying parts of the circuit are positioned to the left and right of the board for the A and B channels respectively.
External Connections. Connect points marked X to each other as indicated. DO NOT connect points $Y$ at this stage. Connect the following:
HA to HA, KA to KA, NA to NA, PA to PA, FA to FA, ZA to ZA, etc.

Line-up Procedure. With no signal applied, connect an ammeter between points YA. Adjust $R_{2}$ so that the ammeter reads 12 mA . Remove the ammeter and connect points YA together. Set $R_{53}$ to obtain an output impedance of $600 \Omega$. Terminate the output (pin 2) with a $600 \Omega$ load. Apply a $1 \mathrm{kHz},-10 \mathrm{dBm}$ signal (via a $100 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ capacitor with its positive end connected to the circuit) to either end of $C_{9}$. Adjust $R_{5 /}$ to obtain +10 dBm at the output. Connect pins 7 and 8 together. Apply a $1 \mathrm{kHz},+10 \mathrm{dBm}$ signal
to pin 4 (the input). Adjust $R_{50}$ so that the output is at +10 dBm . Apply a $1 \mathrm{kHz},+10 \mathrm{dBm}$ signal to pin 5. Close switch $S$ (see circuit diagram). Adjust $R_{49}$ so that the output is also at +dBm .
Repeat the same procedure for the B channels.
Pins 1 to 15 are laid out for connection to a Painton 15 pole plug type $73 / 10 / 1501 / 10$. $T r_{20}$ and $T r_{2 /}$ should be matched.

The switching speed of the unit was measured in terms of a parameter called parameter implies "Fade-in" as well as time taken for the output level of the switch to change by 60 dB . Note that the parameter implies "Fade-in" as well as "Fade-out". This mode of measurement was adopted in preference to the other criteria generally used because it is subjectively meaningful and compatible with the properties of human hearing as well as other parameters in acoustical engineering. The justification generally accepted is that a 60 dB reduction in the sound pressure level of a programme makes it inaudible under average conditions. A figure of $25 \mathrm{~ms} \pm 20 \%$ was obtained as the FadeTime of the silent switch.

Subjectively, the switching was found to be free from transients for all programme materials including pure tone. Nevertheless, in order to investigate the subjective detectability of the actual transition, the same programme was fed to both inputs and the switch was operated so as to create a momentary interruption. The degree of the impairment caused by the transition was then judged by a few observers experienced in sound quality evaluations. It was found that the detectability of the transition was dependent on the programme used and the relative instant at which the switch was actuated. For speech and music if the change-over was made during the momentary silences of the programme, then the transition was not noticeable. However, if switching was done during the existence of a continuous passage, then the interruption was found to be noticeable but quite acceptable. The same judgment was also passed when continuous signals such as pink noise or pure tone were used.

Two units were manufactured, both of which were in continual daily use for about 14 months with satisfactory performance. The few problems encountered during this period were minor ones and their corresponding remedies have already been mentioned.

It is perhaps worth mentioning that during the designing stages, attempts were made to add electronic fading facility to the unit. Unfortunately, it was found that using f.e.ts as the fading element, realization of a unit capable of low distortion performance during an entire fade, in addition to high on/off and signal to noise ratios, was not really possible. However, the author has since designed a four-channel modulation type electronic fader, the details of which will hopefully be published soon!

## Acknowledgement

The above paper presents an engineering aspect of a Ph.D. project financed by the University of Surrey but carried out at the BBC Research Department. I would like to thank both bodies for making this rather unusual but most productive arrangement possible.

# Literature Received 

APPLICATION NOTES
We have received a copy of the 256-page Sescosem linear i.c. application manual, Vol. 1, Les amplificateurs operationnels. The manual is published in French only. There are companion volumes on voltage regulators and active filters. Editions Radio, 9 rue Jacob, 75006 Paris, France. . . WW4 17 A Precision Monolithics leaflet on the realization of a high-speed, eight-bit a-d converter is available from Bourns (Trimpot) Ltd, Hodford House, 17/27 High Street, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 1TE. WW4 18 The British Standards Institution have recently published BS5 102, "Phenolic resin bonded paper laminated sheets for electrical applications," which gives requirements for six types of sheet material and test methods. Copies are available at $£ 4$ from BSI Sales Department, 101 Pentonville Road, London N1 9ND.
A chart has been prepared by ERMA to provide information on the correct way to crimp a variety of r.f. connectors, using ERMA hand crimping tools. ERMA Ltd, Mount Pleasant, Alperton, Wembley, Middlesex. . ..................... WW419 A bulletin (No. 2) is available from Qantex on the recovery of phase-encoded digital signals on magnetic tape in the ANSI four-track, $\frac{1}{4}$ in, 1600 bits per inch format. North Atlantic Industries Inc, Qantex Division, 200 Terminal Drive, Plainview, NY, USA. ..................... WW420 GIM have sent us a copy of their application note on the AY-5-9100 microcircuit for use in push-button telephone systems. The publication provides circuit information on the use of the i.c. in mains diallers, line-powered instruments, re-dialling and cardreading telephones and repertory diallers. General Instrument Microelectronics Ltd, 57-61 Mortimer Street, London WIN 7TD. . ................ WW421

## EQUIPMENT

A brochure is available describing the interfaces produced to enable Datalab 900 transient recorders to work with computers, punches, typewriters and other peripherals. Data Laboratories Ltd, 28 Wates Way, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 4HR. ......... WW408 Descriptions of paging systems, both loop and radio types, are contained in a publication from Sales Office, Multitone Electric Company Ltd, Underwood Street, London N1. . . . . . . . . . WW409 We have received a leaflet on the Nea Lindberg 1 kVA static inverter, which provides a 50 Hz , 220 V sinusoidal output at up to 4.6 A from $20-30 \mathrm{~V}$ d.c. Efficiency is $75 \%$. Avel-Lindbert Lid, South Ockendon, Essex.
.WW4 10
Teradyne have produced a book entitled "Highvolume testing for electronic device users" which is mainly concerned with the use of Teradyne automatic test equipment in the inspection of devices and assembilies. The publication costs $£ 1$ from Teradyne Ltd, Clive House, 12 Queens Road, Weybridge, Surrey.
A brochure on the CILCOM 1600 system for the conversion of magnetic tape computer output into a film record (COM for Computer Output onto Microfilm) has been sent to us by UCC/Computer Instrumentation Ltd, School Lane, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, Hants. . ...................WW411 The 1974/75 brochure of Pickering pickup cartridges is now available. The brochures are published in two editions, with six languages in each, and are obtainable from Highgate Acoustics, 38 Jamestown Road, London NW1 7EJ.
.WW412

We have received a brochure on the range of equipment marketed by Telephone Rentals, which includes telephones, data communications, staff location, time control, production control and fire and security equipment. Telephone Rentals Ltd, 197 Knightsbridge, London SW7 IRL. .... WW413 Ship-borne and shore station radio-telephone equipment is described in a brochure (RF-201M) sent to us by Harris Corporation, 1680 University Avenue, Rochester, New York. Specifications of six basic models are included. WW4 14
SE Labs have published the latest in a series of Complete Guides, this time to oscillographs, ultraviolet and other types. SE Labs (EMI) Ltd, North Feltham Trading Estate, Feltham, Middlesex TW 14 0TD.

WW415
Labgear have published a brochure on television and f.m. radio reception equipment, v.h.f./u.h.f. distribution equipment and television test instrumentation. Labgear Ltd, Abbey Walk, Cambridge CB1 2RQ.

WW4 16

## PASSIVE DEVICES

Beckman have produced a 12 -page booklet describing their range of Resnet resistor networks in various packages. Beckman Instruments Ltd, Components International, Queensgate, Glenrothes, Fife, Scotland ...................................WW406 Sprague have produced a wall-chart which gives brief details of a range of aluminium electrolytic capacitors. Sprague World Trade Corporation, Färberstrasse 6, 8008 Zürich, Switzerland. . WW407

## ACTIVE DEVICES

Mullard have sent us a copy of their newly published 1974/75 data book. Valves, c.r.ts, semiconductors, resistors, capacitors, i.cs and assemblies for entertainment purposes are briefly described. The publication is available from booksellers or from Technical Press Ltd, Freeland, Oxford 0X7 2AP at 40 p .
Microwave Associates Ltd have sent us three leaflets, on a Gunn diode local oscillator for a 9470 MHz centre frequency (MA87635), the MA7701C series of tunnel diode detectors and a range of p-i-n diodes (Bulletin 4306). Available from Microwave Associates, Dunstable, Beds. ...........................WW401 Siliconix have sent us their latest short-form catalogue, which includes information on junction f.e.ts and dual-gate mosfets, a $3 \frac{1}{2}$-digit a-to-d converter, a triple op-amp and new driver gates. Siliconix Lid, 30A High Street, Thatcham, Newbury, Berks RG13 4JG.

WW402
ITT have produced a booklet on m.o.s. devices entitled "Everything you wanted to know about m.o.s". It explains the pros and cons of the process and there is a glossary. ITT also have their new short-form semiconductor catalogue. ITT Semiconductors, Footscray, Sidcup. Kent.
Booklet
WW403
Catalogue
WW404
A wall-chart from RCA presents mechanical and electrical information on their range of linear integrated circuits and includes a cross-reference between the RCA products and twelve other types. There is a list of application notes. RCA Ltd, Solid-state-Europe, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . WW405

## GENERAL

The "Handbook of Electrical Connectors" has been published by Pye Connectors Ltd, Hitchin Street, Biggleswade, Beds. It is a loose-leaf folder in which is collected all the information on Pye's various types of connector, including the printed-circuit variety.

WW422
The solenoids in the Magnetic Devices range are described in a short-form catalogue which gives salient mechanical and performance information. Magnetic Devices Ltd, Exning Road, Newmarket, Suffolk.

WW423
A catalogue of small mechanical components and p.c.b. furniture is published by Dieter Assman Electronics Ltd, Victoria Works, Water Lane, Watford, Herts. The company markets the products of the German Assman KG company. No price list is provided. ............................ WW424

# Research Notes 

## Enter the white hole

If a black hole in astronomy is a star which has collapsed to nothing then a white hole is the reverse, that is, matter which suddenly appears at a point in space. While there is no observational evidence that such a thing happens it is always of interest to astronomers to theorize about such things. Three Indian astronomers have been doing so. They conclude that the appearance of a white hole would be marked by a great burst of radiation, mostly at very short wavelengths (X-rays and gamma rays). The radiation is not very different from what is actually observed from certain types of galaxy, so the possibility that white holes exist in reality as well as in theory is open.

Nature, Oct. 18, 1974, vol. 251, p. 590.

## Thermistor-stabilized oscillators

Low-distortion RC oscillators in which lamps or thermistors are used to stabilize the level of oscillation tend to suffer from "amplitude bounce". Any small disturbance to the circuit, such as the manipulation of a tuning control, causes the amplitude to jump about. Usually the effect dies away but in bad cases the bounce continues indefinitely, so that the output of the oscillator becomes an amplitude-modulated sine wave.

It has been known for a long time that bounce is an inherent property of lowdistortion oscillators and gets worse as the distortion of the maintaining amplifier is reduced. (Some commercial oscillators can be operated in two modes: a low-distortion mode for use when purity of waveform is important and a "fast-settling" mode for such work as measuring frequency responses where bounce is a nuisance.) In a thorough analysis, P. L. Taylor of the University of Salford shows that even a small amount of amplifier distortion ( $0.1 \%$ third harmonic) damps the bounce by a large factor (16) compared with the ideal case of a distortionless amplifier. Bounce in practice is less than predicted by simple theory, probably because the usual assumption that the temperature is uniform throughout the thermistor bead is in practice invalid. Non-uniformity changes the
effective thermal time constant, which is an important quantity in the bounce equation.

Distortion is caused by the thermistor itself heating and cooling a little during each half-cycle of oscillation. The distortion is worst at the lower frequencies $(0.1 \%$ at 10 Hz in a typical circuit). The distortion can be reduced (at the expense of increased bounce) by putting resistance in series with the thermistor.

Proc. I.E.E., Aug., 1973, vol. 120, no. 8.

## Power from ocean waves

An Edinburgh scientist says that if the energy in the Atlantic waves which approach Britain's western shores could be extracted along a frontage of a few hundred kilometres it would be enough to supply the present power needs of these islands.

Most proposals for extracting energy from sea waves make use of the up-anddown boat-bobbing movement as the wave passes a floating object. This, however, does not extract the maximum amount of energy, because the particle motion in the wave itself is not up and down but circular. A mechanism has been tested in the laboratory which makes use of the circular motion. It has rollers of egg-shaped crosssection which rotate, turning first one way then the other as the wave passes. A floating breakwater containing these structures should extract nearly all the wave energy, leaving calm water on the shoreward side.

The intermittent flow of wave energy poses problems in conversion to steady electrical supplies. One possibility is to use the waves to drive, first, a pump which would build up a head of liquid then allow the liquid to escape steadily, driving a turbogenerator. Development of the idea is to be supported by a government grant.
Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, Univ. of Edinburgh.

## First binary pulsar

The big radio telescope at Arecibo, Puerto Rico, has discovered a pulsar which is one partner in a double star, the other being an ordinary star. The ordinary star has not yet been detected, but its presence is deduced from the way in which the pulsar's period is Doppler-shifted every few hours, as it moves away from the earth then towards the earth in a highly elliptical orbit.

This discovery is of interest for the light it may cast on supernova explosions. Pulsars are currently thought to be neutron stars, small, very dense objects which may well be all that is left of a supernova. The fact that a normal star might have continued to exist in close proximity to a supernova in this present example lends support to the idea that the X -ray-emitting binaries recently discovered are also made up of supernova remnants.

## Watching high-speed transistors in slow motion

The scanning electron microscope has been used for some years to image transistors in operation. Changes in the potential of the transistor surface affect the electron beam
and are therefore visible on the microscope's "TV screen". The University College of North Wales, Bangor, has a method of "strobing" its scanning electron microscope at up to 10 GHz , making it possible to "freeze" high-speed events in the transistor under examination.

## Sunspots, Jupiter, and earthquakes

1982 should be a bumper year for sunspots -and earthquakes. So say J. Gribbin and S. Plagemann ("The Jupiter Effect," Macmillan, London). The basic idea is that the number of sunspots is affected by the gravitational pull of the planets on the sun; this is increased when two or more planets are in line. In 1982 all the planets will be in line, for the first time in 179 years. Sunspots are known to affect the climate on earth, and the authors argue that this in turn will produce a slight perturbation of the earth's rotation and trigger off any incipient earthquakes.

Meanwhile, astronomers and radiopropagation experts will be checking up on another sunspot relationship just reported by G. M. Brown of the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. Solar activity produces ionospheric currents which interfere with the horizontal component of the earth's magnetic field. The field on a normal "quiet" day goes through a minimum at about 11.00 hours local time. However, there are also "abnormal quiet days" when the effect takes place at some quite different time. Examination of magnetic records for England (which go back to 1885) shows that these abnormal quiet days go through a cycle like the sunspots, but with a maximum which occurs at sunspot minimum. What is more to the point, for ionospheric predictions, is that the "AQD" count seems to be a good measure of the intensity of the sunspot maximum which will follow it, in about six years.

Nature, Oct. 18, 1974, vol. 251, p. 594.


# Computer monitoring of TV signals 

# An experimental digital system for the monitoring of unmanned television transmitters. 

by J. Schaffer, B.Sc., A.R.C.S.

Decca Radio and Television Ltd
(formerly Independent Broadcasting Authority)

Present methods of monitoring the quality of a television signal are almost invariably based on measurements of Insertion Test Signals (ITS). These signals are inserted into the field blanking interval of the signal, and usually accompany it from point of origin (studio) to destination (domestic TV receiver).

Over recent years the forms of the ITS have been agreed both nationally and internationally, and are shown in Fig. 1. Certain technical quality parameters based on the ITS are listed in Table 1.

Practical techniques for measuring the quality parameters may be divided into two categories-manual and automatic. Manual methods use oscilloscopes with special graticules for the measurement of white bar tilt and 2 T pulse $K$ factors; for differential phase and gain, vectorscopes or special purpose measuring instruments are used. Manual measurement of nonlinearity is made with a differentiating filter acting upon the staircase waveform backed by a high gain amplifier ${ }^{1,2}$.

Automatic measuring methods may be sub-divided into the usual two categories of analogue and digital. There are now available automatic analogue machines ${ }^{3,4}$, which evaluate many of the parameters listed in Table 1. It is expected that auto-

Fig. 1. International Test Line Signals $a, b, c$ and $d$, inserted on lines 17, 18, 330 and 331. The National Test Line Signals $a$ and $b$ are inserted on lines 19 and 32 , and lines 20 and 335.

Table 1

| Quality Parameter | Waveform Used |
| :--- | :--- |
| Insertion gain | White bar |
| White bar tilt | White bar |
| Pulse to Bar K factor | White bar and 2T pulse <br> Non-linearity |
| Sifferential gain | Staircase <br> imposed sub-carrier |
| Differential phase | Staircase with super- <br> imposed sub-carrier |
| Chrominance luminance <br> delay | 10T or 20T pulse |

matic methods will predominate as more automatic correcting and control equipment is brought into service. The output signals (direct voltages) from these analogue machines are used to raise alarms or to actuate local control equipment should any of the quality parameters fall outside
certain pre-set limits. In addition, the analogue outputs may be converted into digital form by a digital voltmeter and the digitized data telemetered to a central control room. At the control room the received data may be used merely for record purposes, or to decide whether

(f)
remote control equipment should be actuated.

As far as is known there are no digital machines commercially available at present. There is, however, an experimental digital system, developed by the Independent Broadcasting Authority, which is being used to monitor unmanned television transmitters. This system has been undergoing field tests since November 1972 at the Lichfield control and monitoring centre of the Independent Broadcasting Authority ${ }^{5}$.

In its mode of operation, off-air signals are received at the monitoring centre from the unmanned transmitters in the vicinity, each transmitter being serviced in turn. After the received signal has been amplified and demodulated by a high-quality receiver, the ITS is extracted and applied to a fast sample-and-hold circuit backed by a fast analogue-to-digital converter. Evaluation of the quality parameters from the resulting digital data is performed by a general purpose digital computer. Results of the field tests show that good agreement is obtained with both manual measurements and with automatic analogue measurements. The off-air system of monitoring has the advantage that the main capital cost is concentrated at one location-the monitoring and control centre-giving a lower overall cost than a monitoring system using automatic measuring machines at each unmanned site.

Generally the signal-to-noise ratios met in off-air monitoring are poor compared to those met in on-site monitoring. Consequently the computer programmes which derive the quality parameters have been designed to operate in conditions of high noise by using averaging techniques to improve the signal to noise ratio ${ }^{6}$.

In passing it is worth noting that the relatively poor noise performance of analogue machines prevents their use in similar off-air monitoring systems.

Although the field tests have shown that adequate performance is obtained with off-air signals received at Lichfield, it was envisaged that cases would occur where the received signal-to-noise ratios would be too low for the system to operate, particularly where the unmanned station and the monitoring and control centre were located in hilly areas, or in conditions of severe co-channel interference.

To cover such cases the Independent Broadcasting Authority initiated the development of a digital telemetry system which could be dovetailed with the off-air monitoring system, using, as far as pos-


Fig. 3. Spectrum of the $2 T$ pulse.
sible, common digital hardware and software. The function of the digital telemetry system would be to transmit measurements made at the "difficult" sites back to the monitoring and control centres using either the public switched telephone network or private telephone lines.

## Design of the digital telemetry system

An important factor in the design of the telemetry system is the need to minimize the cost of the measuring equipment installed at the sites to be monitored. Consequently it would seem that only the simplest measurements and processes should be undertaken on-site, with the bulk of the data processing carried out by the relatively expensive equipment at the monitoring and control centre. Unfortunately, it is found that this strategy dictates long data transmisssion times and a slow system response.

This can be seen by taking as an example the measurement of r.m.s. noise. To obtain a good estimate of noise about 200 samples need to be taken at a nominally constant part of the television waveform (preferably during the "quiet line"). If these samples are digitized by an eight-bit analogue-to-digital converter, the total number of bits equals 1,600 , and the time taken to transmit these bits over a 50-baud (bits per second) channel is 32 seconds. Coupled with the transmission time of the ITS data, which would be at least as long, it is seen that the total data transmission time is in the order of minutes. This time may be reduced if, instead of transmitting raw data, a small amount of digital processing is performed upon the data prior to transmission. A block diagram of a measuring system, incorporating the above ideas, is shown in Fig. 2.

Circuit design was begun using readonly memories (ROMs) to determine sample timings and random access


Fig. 2. The time taken to telemeter digital information over narrowband channels is reduced if a certain amount of processing is performed before transmission from a remote site to the control
output to
transmission ransmission
system
memories (RAMs) to hold the data prior to transmission-data processing was carried out by an adder/subtractor unit made up in t.t.l. It was soon realized that the design was merely reproducing, at a high cost, circuitry that was already available in commercial microcomputers, and the original development policy was abandoned, subsequent development being based on the use of a microcomputer containing a single chip four-bit central processing unit.

The need for cheapness also limits the performance of the analogue-to-digital converter employed. Some converters are able to convert in fractions of a microsecond and form the heart of equipments such as DICE ${ }^{7}$. Unfortunately these fast converters are too expensive for this application and a cheaper, slow converter was used, which converts to eight bits in about 12 microseconds. Using a slow converter means that only a small number of samples can be taken in the 64 -microsecond duration of each insertion test signal.

In practice, programming the microcomputer is simplified if only one sample is taken during each ITS, i.e., a sample rate of 25 Hz or 50 Hz . At this point it may be well to recall the well-known Sampling Theorem which states that a band limited signal may be reproduced, without error, from samples taken at a rate of at least twice the bandwidth of the signal. Sampling at field or picture rate would therefore apparently limit the bandwidth of the measurements to either 12.5 Hz or 25 Hz . This limitation is overcome by employing strobing techniques identical to those used in sampling oscilloscopes ${ }^{8}$, wherein the sample timing is advanced, between samples, by an amount not greater than half the period of the maximum frequency contained in the signal.

## Measurement theory

Luminance parameters. Sufficient samples need to be taken at various points along the ITS to provide the required data for calculating the luminance quality parameters: white bar amplitude, white bar tilt, 2 T pulse response, and luminance non-linearity.

Measurement of white bar height and tilt requires four samples to be taken at appropriate points along the waveform. The accuracy of measurement is limited by the quantization errors of the analogue-to-digital converter, and may be estimated as follows. If the input signal is 1 volt peak to peak and it occupies, say, 0.7 of the full range of an eight-bit analogue-to-digital converter (thus allowing for a possible 3 dB increase in input signal level without overloading the converter), then the picture component would span $0.7 \times 0.7 \times 255=125$ quantization levels where the number 255 corresponds to the highest level of an eight-bit converter ( $=2^{8}-1$ ). The measuring error for each sample due to quantization is $\pm \frac{1}{2}$ level; therefore the maximum error in bar height is $\pm 1$ level since two measurements are used to evaluate the white bar height. The
fractional error is $\pm 1$ in 125 or about $\pm 0.8 \%$. Error in tilt measurement expressed as a percentage of white bar height is likewise $\pm 0.8 \%$ maximum. These errors are usually quite acceptable for most television measuring purposes. In the case of luminance linearity, measured on the staircase, the situation is somewhat worse. Each staircase riser height is approximately 25 quantum levels and the error of $\pm 1$ level corresponds to an error in the measurement of luminance linearity of $8 \%$, a performance which is not satisfactory. Improved accuracy may be obtained by adding small amounts of noise to the signal and averaging over many samples ${ }^{6}$ or by superimposing subcarrier on the staircase and averaging over four, or multiples of four fields.

For the 2 T pulse, samples need to be taken at timing intervals short enough to permit the pulse to be reconstituted from the samples according to the Sampling Theorem. In Fig. 3 is shown the spectrum of the 2 T pulse, from which it is seen that there is little energy beyond 5.0 MHz , implying that the sample intervals should not exceed 100 nanoseconds.

As mentioned above, strobing techniques are used to obtain these short timing intervals, the samples, which in real time repeat at picture intervals ( 40 milliseconds), being advanced by the required sampling intervals until the whole of the 2 T pulse is covered. For reasons associated with the evaluation of the colour components of the Insertion Test Signal, the timing increments are derived from 13.5 MHz oscillator giving a minimum timing increment of 74.1 nanoseconds and a bandwidth of 6.75 MHz . The total number of pulses used for strobing the 2 T pulse is 27, covering 2 microseconds, including a half microsecond allowance for timing errors in the location of the 2 T pulse. In a similar manner, by strobing the line sync. pulse it is possible to measure sync., pulse amplitude, duration and rise times.

Colour components. At first glance the use of strobing techniques for evaluating chrominance data appears to be invalidated by the changes in sub-carrier phase which occur from field to field. Fortunately in the case of the PAL system these phase changes may be put to good use. It can be shown ${ }^{9}$ that the phase of the sub-carrier component of the Insertion Test Signal, when referred to the preceding line sync. pulse, varies from field to field in multiples of 90 degrees. Taking line 19 as reference, the relative phases are:

| Line No. 19 | 332 | 19 | 332 | 19 | 332 | 19 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | | Phase | 0 | 90.3 | 270 | 0.3 | 180 | 270.3 | 90 | 180.3 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

and so on, repeating in an eight-field sequence.

Suppose the amplitude of the Insertion Test Signal at a time relative to line sync. in given by:

$$
v=v_{L}+v_{c} \sin \left(2 \pi f_{s c} t+\phi\right),
$$

where $f_{s c}$ is the sub-carrier frequency, $v_{L}$ is the luminance amplitude, $2 v_{c}$ is the peak to peak sub-carrier amplitude, and $\phi$ is an arbitrary phase angle. Then it follows that the ampli-
tudes of four consecutive samples, taken at picture rate, have the values:-

$$
\begin{gathered}
v_{n}=v_{L}+v_{c} \sin \theta \\
v_{n+l}=v_{L}-v_{c} \cos \theta \\
v_{n+2}=v_{L}-v_{c} \sin \theta \\
v_{n+3}=v_{L}+v_{c} \cos \theta \\
\text { where } \theta=2 \pi f_{s c} t+\phi
\end{gathered}
$$

In these equations it is assumed that samples are confined to either odd or even fields; the method may therefore be applied directly to the International Insertion Test Signals which differ on odd and even fields. (It is also possible that future UK practice will be to use insertion signals from different origins on odd and even fields.) The amplitude and phase of the sub-carrier and the luminance amplitude may be easily derived from these samples by forming the variables:

$$
\begin{gathered}
v_{I}=v_{n}-v_{n+2}=2 v_{c} \sin \phi, \\
v_{Q}=v_{n+3}-v_{n+1}=2 v_{c} \cos \phi, \\
v_{T}=v_{n}+v_{n+1}+v_{n+2}+v_{n+3}=4 v_{L}, \\
\text { giving } v_{L}=v_{T} / 4, \tan \theta=v_{I} / v_{Q}, \\
v_{c}=\frac{1}{2} \sqrt{2} v_{I}^{2}+v_{Q}^{2} .
\end{gathered}
$$

When evaluating chrominance-luminance delay the 10 T pulse is strobed, groups of four phase samples being taken at each sampling point. The microcomputer is programmed to calculate the values of $v_{I}, v_{Q}$ and $v_{T}$, and it is these values which are telemetered. At the monitoring and control centre, the luminance amplitude $v_{L}$ and the chrominance amplitude $v_{C}$ are first evaluated. The values of $v_{L}$ and $v_{c}$ are then filtered in identical digital filters, in order to reduce noise and quantization errors and the luminance and chrominance 10 T pulses are reconstituted according to the Sampling Theorem. A further computer algorithm then evaluates the relative delay between the two 10 T pulses.

Unfortunately when evaluating differential gain and phase from the staircase waveform, the above equations when used directly, result in excessive quantization errors. With an eight-bit a-d.c. the 140 millivolt peak to peak sub-carrier superimposed on the staircase waveform spans approximately 25 quantum levels. The maximum quantization error in either $v_{t}$ and $\nu_{Q}$ is 1 quantum level corresponding to an amplitude error of $4 \%$ and a possible error in differential gain of $8 \%$. Maximum phase errors are about $1 / 25$ of a radian or $2 \frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ approx., resulting in a possible error in differential phase of $5^{\circ}$.

A method has been devised which reduces these quantization errors by a process of summing a multiple of samples at each staircase level. At each staircase level, the sampling point is progressed along the sine wave by a small angle $e$, the values of $v_{t}$ at each sampling point being added together to give a total $S$; likewise the values of $v_{Q}$ are added together to give a total $\stackrel{Q}{C}$. If for each staircase step a total of $n$ groups of fourphase samples are taken, it can be shown by summing sine and cosine series that

$$
S=2 v_{c} \sin \left(\theta+\left[\frac{n-1}{2}\right] e\right) \cdot \frac{\sin n e / 2}{\sin e / 2}
$$

$$
C=2 v_{c} \cos \left(\theta+\left[\frac{n-1}{2}\right] e\right) \cdot \frac{\sin n e / 2}{\sin e / 2}
$$

The relative sub-carrier phase and amplitude are again easily evaluated from $S$ and $C$.

The luminance value $L$ is equal to the sum of the sample values divided by $4 n$. In these sums quantization errors tend to cancel whereas the signal components reinforce. Although it has not been found possible to evaluate the errors theoretically, practical errors are approximately 1 degree in differential phase, $2 \%$ for differential gain, and $1 \%$ for luminance non-linearity. These values apply for $n=8$ corresponding to 32 samples being taken at each staircase level.

The required phase progression $e$ is automatically obtained by deriving the sample timings from a 13.5 MHz oscillator, the output of which is divided by 864 to line frequency, and locked to the line synchronizing pulses. The resulting value of $e$ is equal to $-5.3^{\circ}$. Other timing oscillator frequencies are possible, $\frac{\sin n e / 2}{\sin e / 2}$ should not be small and that the $\sin e / 2$ division ratio to line frequency should be easy to realize in practice.
The analysis of the staircase waveform requires a well-defined sequence of sample timings. On a given step, a set of fourphase samples is taken at a constant time relative to the preceding line sync. pulse; the sample timing is then advanced by three cycles of the 13.5 MHz oscillator and another set of four-phase samples taken and so on until a total of $n$ fourphase samples have been taken. The sample timing is then advanced to the next staircase step and the process repeated. The timing of each group of $4 n$ samples is made constant relative to the staircase risers, so that transients associated with staircase transitions, or tilt across the steps, affect each group of readings equally. Consequently in the above formulae the value of $\theta$ varies with the step number, and correction angles must be applied when evaluating differential phase. The values of the correcting angles are given by $\theta n=2 \pi f_{s c} n T$. where $T$ is the time separation between the steps ( 4.00 microseconds) and $n$ is the step number ( 1 to 5 ) whence

| $\theta_{1}$ | $\theta_{2}$ | $\theta_{3}$ | $\theta_{4}$ | $\theta_{5}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| -84.4 | +11.2 | -73.2 | +22.4 | -62.1 |

Another group of colour measurements often required is the amplitude, position, and rise and fall times of the colour burst envelope. The phase sequence of the colour burst differs from that of the Insertion Test Signals by virtue of the phase alternation which is inherent in the PAL system, and it is not possible to use the above method without modification. It can be shown ${ }^{10}$ that the phase of the colour burst, relative to line sync, on a given line and the corresponding line in the next field takes one of two phases $180^{\circ}$ apart. Quadrature phases are only obtained when the samples are taken on
pairs of lines half a field apart, for example lines 19 and 175 . The sub-carrier amplitude may be evaluated from samples taken on these lines using the previous formula and by strobing the sampling point through the colour burst the required information may be obtained.

Noise measurement. Signal-to-r.m.s.-noise ratio is an important measure of signal quality. As indicated previously, about 200 samples taken at a nominally constant part of the signal, are required to obtain a good statistical estimate of the noise. It is of course possible to programme the microcomputer to compute the r.m.s. value of the samples directly, but the relatively complex squaring programme involved in this computation may be avoided by making use of a relationship ${ }^{11}$ between the mean square $P$ and the mean deviation from the mean $d$, possessed by Gaussian (normal) noise:

$$
d^{2}=\frac{2}{\pi} P
$$

Using this relationship it may be shown ${ }^{12}$ that the signal-to-noise ratio ( $S / N$ ) in dB is given by:

$$
(S / N)=20 \log _{10} \frac{(2 . B \cdot m)}{\left(\pi . S_{m}\right)},
$$

Where $B$ is the white bar amplitude and $S_{m}$ is the telemetered noise word formed by adding the magnitudes of the differences between consecutive noise samples for a total of $m+1$ samples.

For an eight-bit analogue-to-digital converter this method of noise measurement is accurate for signal-to-noise ratios less than approximately 49 dB .

## Hardware

A block diagram of experimental equipment operating according to the above concepts in shown in Fig. 4. The video signal is clamped and applied to the input of the sample and hold circuit. Timing information from the microcomputer is compared, in a ten-bit comparator, with
the state of a divide-by-1,024 counter driven by 13.5 MHz crystal oscillator. When coincidence occurs a pulse is generated which, after gating by the output of a second comparator, actuates the sample and hold circuit. The second comparator ensures that sampling occurs only during the line selected by the microcomputer. Synchronism between the sequence of operations within the microcomputer and the television waveform is maintained by the line $3 / 316$ signals applied to the microcomputer.

The microcomputer itself, as used in the experimental equipment consists of a single-chip four-bit central processing unit, four ROM and four RAM packages and about 30 t.t.l. packages which are used for control purposes. The ROMs have a total capacity of 1,024 programme steps and the total RAM capacity is 1,280 bits.

## Programming the microcomputer

As a first experimental application of these ideas, it was decided to programme the microcomputer to analyze the staircase waveform. The flow diagram of this programme is shown in Fig. 5, which is seen to consist of a main programme and a measuring subroutine labelled LABA. The main programme after defining the starting time for the scan at black level jumps to the measuring subroutine LABA.

On rejoining the main programme after completing sub-routine LABA the process is repeated for the next step and so on, until the five steps are scanned. At this point the processed measuring data are held in the RAM store and would, in the final system, be read out into the telemetry channel. However in the present experimental system the data are read out directly onto paper tape using a routine labelled PUNCH.

The heart of the staircase programme is the sub-routine LABA. This routine organizes the arithmetic operations made upon the digital measurements in accor-
dance with the foregoing equations. On entering the routine the sample counter is incremented, followed by a test to determine whether the sample count is a multiple of four. If so the sample timing counter is incremented by three which results in the sample timing being advanced by three cycles of the 13.5 MHz oscillator for each group of four samples. A test for the presence of the line three signal on an input line of the computer follows.

If the line three signal is not present the microcomputer enters a sub-loop which it can leave only on the presence of the line three signal. The latest timing information as determined by the state of the timing counter is then entered on to the ten output lines which are connected to the timing comparator in the measuring circuitry.

At this point in the programme, a delay is inserted which ensures that the a.-d.c. data accepted is derived from a sample taken at the new sampling time. The amount of delay required is estimated by dividing the c.p.u. instruction cycle time (which for this microcomputer is approximately ten microseconds) by the difference between the times that the sample timing data are outputted ( $T_{1}$ ) and the timing ( $T_{2}$ ) of the sample in line 19. The time difference between line three and line 19 corresponds to 102 instruction cycles: 16 instruction cycles are taken up between the detection of line three and $T_{1}$, and the delay must therefore be at least 86 instruction cycles. In practice the delay is made up by traversing a loop of 32 instruction cycles five times, giving a total delay of $160-$ well in excess of the required delay. It is permissible to waste programme time in this way since there is room for approximately 4,000 instructions in the 40 millisecond interval between samples, whereas only 50 are used in the present programme.

After the a.-d.c. output has been accepted, one of six RAM locations con-


Fig. 4. Measurement, timing and processing system used at the remote site.

(a)

taining the luminance totals is addressed according to the step being sampled ( $n=0$ to 5) and the a.-d.c. reading added to the contents of this RAM location.

Next follows an algorithm for evaluating the chrominance data. A test which operates on the least significant bit of the sample counter determines whether to address the $S_{n}$ or $C_{n}$ RAM location. A further test on the second least significant bit of the sample counter determines whether the a.-d.c. reading is to be added or subtracted from the RAM store addressed.

Finally a test is made to check whether the samples taken total 32 . If so the main programme is rejoined after zeroing the sample counter. In the subroutine LABA there are two nested subroutines LABT and LABS, which respectively add and subtract the a.-d.c. readings from the appropriate RAM locations. These subroutines are necessary, for although the
c.p.u. possesses add and subtract machine instructions which occupy single instruction cycles, these instructions operate only on four-bit words, whereas in this application, to prevent overflow, 16-bit words are used. That 16 -bit words are required may be seen by considering the contents of the luminance store when sampling the fifth staircase step. Peak white corresponds to a quantum level of about 180 , giving for the total luminance content, $32 \times 180$ or 5760 , which in binary notation becomes the 13-bit word

1011010000000 . The basic word length of the c.p.u. is four bits and any arithmetic operation on a 13-bit word must necessarily involve four operations in cascade giving a working word length of 16 bits.

For chrominance measurements the 140-millivolt peak-to-peak chrominance amplitude on the staircase for the UK signal corresponds to 25 quantum levels, giving possible maximum values $S$ and $C$ of approximately $25 \times 32$ or 800 , which in binary notation becomes the ten-bit word 1100100000 . A difficulty now arises
because the values of $S$ and $C$ may be negative and a sign bit must be added. Further, if the higher level of subcarrier for the international test signal is taken into account, and a one-bit margin against overflow is allowed the total number of bits required for the chrominance values $S$ and $C$ also equals 13 . The net result is that both luminance and chrominance working word lengths are 16 bits long.

The subtraction operation in the c.p.u. uses two's-complement arithmetic requiring the 16 -bit $S$ and $C$ words to be interpreted in the following way. The 16th most significant bit (sign bit), if zero, signifies a positive number, with the remaining 15 bits regarded as a normally weighted binary number. If the sign bit is unity the number is negative, the magnitude of the number being equal to the binary complement of the remaining 15 bits plus one.

The next step in programming is to transform the flow diagram into a series of instructions using the instruction set belonging to the c.p.u. The c.p.u. here used has a set of 45 instructions, examples of which are:
ADD -Adds two four-bit numbers with carry
SUB -Subtracts two four-bit numbers with borrow
INC A-Increment contents of register A
LD X -Loads contents of register X into the accumulator
Completion of this stage of programming results in a series of machine instructions which are next translated into machine code. This translation is simple, since each member of the instruction set corresponds to a unique eight-bit machine code word. In machine code the programme consists of a sequence of eight-bit words; it is these words which are written in order into the Read Only Memory (ROM).

The task of programming the microcomputer is eased by using assembler and simulator programmes designed by the microcomputer manufacturer. With these programmes, which are accessed via computer time-sharing services, the microcomputer programmes may be checked for correct operation prior to entering them into the ROM, thereby decreasing the cost and time of programming. A product of the assembler programme is a paper-tape which contains the microcomputer programme as a sequence of machine code instructions. This tape is used in a special machine to programme the ROM automatically.

## Results

Measurements made with the staircase programme may be taken to indicate the performance of the monitor based on this work since it involves appreciable on-site processing of the raw data and produces three quality parameters.

A single read-out from the staircase programme consists of 18 measurements made up of six sets of values $L_{n}, S_{n}, C_{n}$, where $n$ varies from 0 to 5 . On paper tape these values are recorded as 36 words, each word having a length of eight bits.

TABLE 2

| Col |  |  | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |

TABLE 3

|  | Col 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $n$ | $L_{n}$ | $S_{n}$ | $C_{n}$ | $R_{n}$ | $A_{n}$ | $\theta$ | $\theta^{\prime}$ | $\theta_{n}$ | $\theta_{f}$ | $\theta_{r}^{\prime}$ |
| 0 | 1819 | -162 | +61 | - | 173 | -69.4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 2452 | +79 | +153 | 633 | 172 | +27.3 | +96.7 | +84.4 | +181.1 | +1.1 |
| 2 | 3078 | +145 | -93 | 626 | 172 | -57.6 | +11.8 | -11.2 | +0.6 | +0.6 |
| 3 | 3700 | -107 | -137 | 622 | 174 | +38.0 | +107.4 | +73.2 | +180.6 | +0.6 |
| 4 | 4327 | -125 | +120 | 627 | 173 | -46.2 | +23.2 | -22.4 | +0.8 | +0.8 |
| 5 | 4949 | +131 | +112 | 622 | 172 | +49.5 | +118.9 | +62.1 | 181.0 | +1.0 |

A typical set as read off from paper tape and converted to decimal notation is shown in Table 2. In column four of this table are evaluated the relative riser amplitudes, and in columns five and six the chrominance amplitude and phase. After normalizing to the phase at black level and correcting by $\theta_{n}$ the final phase is shown in column nine.

$$
\begin{gathered}
\text { Non-linearity is given by } \\
\mathrm{NL}=100 \frac{\left(R_{M A X}-R_{M / N}\right)}{R_{M A X}} \text { per cent }
\end{gathered}
$$

$$
=1.9 \%
$$

Differential gain is given by the largest in magnitude of

$$
100 \frac{\left(A_{n}-A_{0}\right)}{A_{0}} \text { per cent }
$$

$$
=2.0 \%
$$

Differential phase is the largest in magnitude of $\theta_{r}$

$$
=+1.3^{\circ} .
$$

To give an idea of the repeatability of the measurements, results from the same signal measured at a level of -1.5 dB are given in Table 3.

These results give

$$
\mathrm{NL}=1.8 \%
$$

Differential gain $=+0.6 \%$ or $-0.6 \%$ Differential phase $=+1.1^{\circ}$.
In evaluating differential phase in this case, an additional correction had to be made in column ten to compensate for the $180^{\circ}$ ambiguity in the evaluation of arctangents. This correction is not always necessary but depends on the particular point in the eight-field sequence at which the summations of $S$ and $C$ commence.
Tables 2 and 3 show that the maximum difference in phase at each staircase step between these two sets of measurements is $0.9^{\circ}$, which is typical of results obtained.
Detailed measurements to determine the accuracy of the monitor in the presence of random noise have not been made. However it is expected that the effects of random noise will be reduced in the same manner as quantum noise, and the
accuracy will not be significantly impaired for signal-to-random-noise ratios exceeding about 46 dB .

## Acknowledgement

This work was carried out whilst the author was employed by the Independent Broadcasting Authority, and the author wishes to thank the Director of Engineering of the Independent Broadcasting Authority for permission to publish this article. The author also wishes to acknowledge the important contribution made by Mr John Moore (formerly of the IBA now of Sumlock Anita Ltd) in producing the original programmes.

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# Twin voltage stabilized power supply 

## A simple high-quality practical design

by J. L. Linsley Hood

The classical series voltage stabilizer system using thermionic valves is shown in Fig. 1, and most transistor operated stabilized supply circuits are simple derivatives of this, of the form shown in Fig. 2. In both cases the h.t. output voltage is varied by altering the setting of $R_{I}$. Among the snags of this arrangement is the fact that the lowest output voltage at which the stabilized output can be obtained is roughly equal to the reference voltage $V_{r e f}$.

If a stable negative reference voltage is available, the circuit can be rearranged as shown in Fig. 3, to give an output variable down to 0 V . The performance of the stabilizer arrangement in this circuit has also been upgraded by including a monolithic op. amp. integrated circuit in the control loop, and a conventional "constant current" current limiting circuit has been included in the form of $\mathrm{Tr}_{3}$. With some form of Darlington transistor arrangement as $T r_{I}$, this type of circuit forms the basic layout of the bulk of normal stabilizer arrangements.

However, as it stands, this circuit arrangement suffers from three significant drawbacks. These are: (1) the forward bias applied to the series pass transistor, $T r_{1}$, cannot be greater than the input-tooutput voltage drop less the base-emitter potential(s) of $T r_{I}$. Consequently, the value of $R_{I}$ must be kept fairly low if adequate base bias current is to be provided for $T r_{1}$, which lowers the loop gain and increases the quiescent dissipation in $\operatorname{Tr}_{2}$. Also, since at higher currents there will be some ripple on the input supply voltage, the forward minimum voltage drop must in fact be larger than simple calculations would suggest if output ripple is to be avoided; (2) since the operation of the current limit circuit is to "steal" the base current from $\operatorname{Tr}_{I}$, and this current must flow in the output circuit, this sets the lower limit at which the short-circuit output current can be set; (3) under short-circuit conditions, the portion of the stabilizer which provides the high loop gain is removed from useful participation in the operation of the circuit, and in consequence, the output current under these conditions is much less well stabilized than when the circuit


Fig. 1. Traditional "series" valve voltage stabilizer.


Fig. 2. Conventional transistor voltage stabilizer circuit derived from Fig. 1.

is acting as a voltage controlled arrange ment.

These snags can be removed if the circuit is rearranged as shown in Fig. 4. In this the forward bias of the pass transistor $\operatorname{Tr}_{1}$ is obtained from the zero volts line, and is, in consequence, the whole of the input supply potential. Also, the amplifier transistor, $\operatorname{Tr}_{2}$, now is required to pass current only when the load current requires it, and the static dissipation of the device is consequently much less. (The use of the pass transistor in this mode is probably due to Owen ${ }^{1}$.) As before, an operational amplifier is used to increase the


Fig. 4. Rearranged stabilizing circuit with $\operatorname{Tr}_{3}$ and op-amp inverted. The circuit of $\mathrm{Tr}_{3}$ is rearranged below to give re-entrant current limiting.

Fig. 3. Improved transistor stabilized supply with current limiting circuitry and op-amp to increase loop gain.


Fig. 5. Twin stabilized d.c. power supply. Capacitors of $0.1 \mu$ F may be connected across the transformer secondaries if r.f. modulation hum is found. Switches $S_{1}, S_{2}$ and the two voltage adjustment potentiometers may be ganged.
low frequency loop gain, but this time in a shunt feedback mode.
Transistor $\operatorname{Tr}_{3}$ is used to give a "constant current" limiting effect, but this time by effectively bypassing the voltage adjustment potentiometer, and causing the circuit to voltage regulate at a sufficiently lower voltage that the load current reduces to the required limit value. By this means, the voltage regulator circuit is in operation all the time and the output performance is not degraded under "current limit" conditions. The capacitor across $\operatorname{Tr}_{3}$ serves to limit the gain of this device at h.f. and prevent loop oscillation due to the increased circuit gain when this transistor comes into operation.

Because of the very high open loop gain of the 741 at low frequencies, where no negative feedback is applied to it, the d.c. output voltage is extremely stable and shows none of the low frequency "noise" excursions to which simple stabilizer circuits are normally prone. In fact the performance is probably limited mainly by the quality of the negative reference line.

This circuit arrangement has been embodied in a twin output (positive and negative lines (bench stabilized supply, of which the circuit is shown in Fig. 5. Although, in principle, the two supplies could be quite independent, and use identical circuits, because of my interest in audio amplifier circuits which have a split ( + and - ) supply, I have chosen the arrangement in which the input ( + and -) supply is used to provide the two 12 -volt lines which power the 741 s and provide the positive and negative reference rails. For economy in knobs on the front of the box I have also ganged the
two voltage adjustment potentiometers and the current limit switches.
The measured performance of the prototype is as follows.
Output voltage $0-35$ volts, positive and negative
Output current 2 amps max
Load regulation $\approx 2 \mathrm{mV}$. No load to full load
Output hum, noise and ripple approx. $150 \mu \mathrm{~V}$, not significantly affected by load
Limit currents (nom.) $5 \mathrm{~mA}, 20 \mathrm{~mA}, 100 \mathrm{~mA}$, 500 mA and 2 A
Adequate heat sinks should, of course, be used for the pass transistors $T r_{l}$ and $T r_{l a}$, and the output voltage sensing (the "live" ends of $R_{l}$ and $R_{l a}$ ) should be taken from a point as close to the output terminals of the supply as possible. In practice, since the voltage control potentiometer will be mounted on the instrument front panel this is an easy requirement to satisfy. The small value output electrolytics are used to bypass


Fig. 6. Circuit configuration to give precise switched output voltages.
any h.f. noise and to assist in avoiding loop instability. Their stored energy should not be an embarrassment under short circuit conditions.

An interesting further possibility exists in the case of any supply circuit having a negative reference voltage line, and that is as shown in Fig. 6. If the current drawn from the reference supply is set to be precisely 1 mA , by means of the preset $R_{2}$, the output voltage can be adjusted in $0.1-, 1$, and 10 -volt increments by the switches $S_{2}, S_{3}$ and $S_{4}$, with the output voltage as accurately set as the precision of the resistors allows.

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Owen, T. R. E., "Circuit Ideas" Wireless World, May 1971, p234.

## Teletext receivers

Engineers are now turning their minds to the design of receivers for Teletext, the unified Ceefax/Oracle system of information display now being experimentally transmitted (November issue, p.441). B. S. Barnaby of GEC and G. O. Crowther of Mullard presented a paper at the International Broadcasting Convention in London on the receiver techniques needed to take advantage of the transmissions, pointing out that the design philosophy that is eventually adopted will have been decided by economic factors, and that if it is not found possible to bring the cost of the extra circuitry down to an acceptable level then Teletext will probably not succeed. They also recognize that largescale integration will play a vital part in this exercise, though it seems likely that even larger-scale integration, bringing the cost down further still, will have to wait until the system has been accepted before semiconductor companies will feel impelled to spend several million pounds on the development.

Two possibilities exist: an add-on unit. with a tuner, i.f. and modulator, to feed the aerial socket of a receiver: and a combined television/Teletext receiver. With the former, one is not restricted to the television channel being used; while the latter, though cheaper, is a little restrictive.

The memory part of the circuit is, perhaps, the thorniest problem, and two techniques are considered-the shiftregister and RAM, both of the largescale m.o.s. type. The shift-register is a possibility, even though there is no random access, as transmission and use of the digital information is serial in form, as is shift-register operation. The authors conclude that the RAM offers the best chance of success in both cost and
ease of access, although the standard RAM does have binary organization, which is a slight disadvantage. The dynamic type of "refreshed" memory is acceptable with the information flow presented to it.

The data acquisition part of the decoder, which consists of instructions for the display character ROM and address information, will possibly be realized in the t.t.l. family of devices, because the data clock rate-nearly 7 MHz -is a little high for m.o.s. techniques. The user, incidentally, will be able to select the required page number by means.of either a thumbwheel switch or a calculator-type keyboard. It seems probable that some sort of remote control device (ultrasonic?) would eventually be used.

The display section uses the coded signals to produce the video character signals and the timing. The charactermemory, which produces characters in response to the transmitted instructions, is a "read-only" type (ROM), in the m.o.s. technique. Characters are on a $7 \times 5$ matrix, and the rather restricted character-forming facilities can be improved, at no expense in bandwidth, by using raster interlace to "fill in the corners". Upper- and lower-case characters can be generated, but a lower-cost, upper-case-only ROM gives a slight cost reduction. Timing circuits are in large-scale m.o.s. modules.

The test transmissions are to last two years, and one hopes that manufacturers will have the next generation of 1.s.i. circuits well considered before the end of this period, because the smaller-scale devices now available could lead to an overall decoder cost of up to $£ 150$, depending on whether "combined" receivers or add-on units are used.

The BBC "Ceefax" information display system was publicly demonstrated for the first time on our Audio Fair stand. A Wireless World staff member, Mike Sagin, demonstrates the equipment: the decoder can be seen in the centre. This is a BBC laboratory pro-totype-much larger than a commercial unit will be.


## World of Amateur Radio

## Oscar 7 up and working

The seventh amateur-radio space satellite, Oscar 7, was successfully launched into orbit on November 15, exactly 25 months after the launching of Oscar 6 which is still functioning, although to a restricted timetable. The new satellite-by far the most ambitious of the series-carries two linear repeaters: one (built in West Germany) that accepts signals on 432.125 to 432.175 MHz and retransmits them on 145.975 to 145.925 MHz ; the other provides a similar service to Oscar 6 , accepting signals in the 144 MHz band and retransmitting them on 29.4 to 29.5 MHz . The two transposers operate on alternate days. The anticipated 2304 MHz beacon could not be carried (apparently it proved impossible for the Americans to obtain permission to use this frequency in space) but it carries beacons on 29.50, 145.98 and 435.10 MHz . A feature of the new satellite is the use of circularly-polarized aerials for 144 and 432 MHz . The orbit is very similar to that of Oscar 6 (sun synchronous).

## The president from Wales

When, on January 17 at Cardiff Castle, Cyril Parsons, GW8NP, formally takes over the insignia of president of the Radio Society of Great Britain he not only makes history as the first person with a "GW" (Wales) callsign to hold this office but is likely to find that, figuratively at least, the chain is not growing any lighter. For amateur radio, both in the UK and in many other parts of the world, is going through a period of uneasy change at a time when rapid inflation is undoubtedly pressing hard on many long-established societies. Although financially the RSGB has had two good years, undoubtedly costs are rising at a pace that is difficult to match with subscriptions; like many London-based societies there are persistent suggestions that a move to the provinces might reduce running costs. Again, amateur radio itself is increasingly subject to pressure to expand by making it ever easier to become an operator, yet experience has shown that where licences are easy to obtain they are valued less and tend to result in a form of Citizens Band approach to the hobby.

But in Cyril Parsons the national society will have as president someone who while clearly accepting that the hobby must be ready to change, does so from the viewpoint of one with a knowledge of experimental radio stretching back more than 50 years to the time when at the age of 14 he obtained (through a guardian as was then necessary) an "Experimental Receiving Licence" and soon progressed from a crystal receiver with loosecoupled aerial to a more sophisticated three-valve receiver using French $R$ valves. By the end of the twenties an early interest in high-quality reproduction was reflected in constructing experimental moving-coil loudspeakers that did away with the need for an output transformer by winding 4000 -ohm speech coils (centretapped) and with a machined steel pot wound with wire capable of taking the necessary two amps to excite the gap.
Then, after an interval in which motorcycles and hydroplane racing played a part, Cyril Parsons came back to radio experimentation in 1934 with the call 2BPN, becoming GW8NP in February 1937. He was one of the considerable number of pre-war amateurs who joined the RAF Civilian Wireless Reserve in 1938 and was mobilised just before the outbreak of war in September 1939. He served as a Staff Signals Officer, retaining his interest in the Air Force for more than ten years after the war in the Royal Auxiliary Air Force with such units as No 3615 Fighter Control Radar, finally stepping down with the rank of Hon. Wing Commander and the Air Efficiency Award and Bar. From 1946 he was also again very active in amateur radio.

Cyril Parsons takes office at a time when there are a record number of over 20,000 licensed amateurs in the UK but with mode and band rivalries hardening and signs of differences of opinion between those with Class A and Class B licences. While by European standards the numbers here are large, there are today over 400,000 amateurs (about three-quarters of them in code-free categories) in Japan with an average age of 22 years. In the United States there are some 250,000 licensed operators (about 180,000 'active' stations) but with a growing belief that the FCC is shortly to introduce a new structure giving more facilities to code-free categories, including operating rights above 29 MHz . American amateurs are still puzzled at the recent unexpected decision of FCC to waive logging requirements.
A difficult maze for the new president to find his way through.

## Commonwealth microwave record?

Murray Willis, ZL2THW, and Neil Lambert, ZL2TGC, established on August 12, 1974 a New Zealand record for 3.3 GHz of 144 miles. This is 46 miles better than the current UK band record and may well be a Commonwealth record. Equipment at both ends was a CV237 feeding a 3 ft dish aerial and using f.m. (transmitter power

60 mW ) with signals " 59 " both ways.
From New Zealand's Break-in also comes news that a 28.17 MHz beacon station (ZL2MHF) is being installed by the very active Upper Hutt branch of NZART on Mount Climie. This follows an approach some time ago by the RSGB enquiring whether a ten-metre beacon could be installed in New Zealand to help propagation studies. There are over 20 v.h.f. beacons in Region 3.

## Amateur television

The experiment of holding the 1974 British Amateur Television Club's convention at Rugby was a qualified success, with some disappointment in the attendance of about 100 members for what was a most interesting day. Among the demonstrations were those of the BATC "outsidebroadcast" vehicle "Monoculus", microwave and fibre optic experimental equipment, low-definition television and slow-scan television. Bob Roberts, G6NR, continues at president with Don Reid taking over as chairman from Malcolm Sparrow.

An experimental, low-definition, mechanical television system by D. C. Hodges, G6MXY/T, uses 30 lines at the high rate of 50 pictures/second (to allow the use of standard monitors) based on a Nipkow dise running at 3000 rpm .

## In brief

Almost 6,000 people attended the 1974 ARRA amateur radio exhibition at the Granby Halls, Leicester . . . The RSGB Education Committee is presenting one of the Christmas holiday lecture demonstrations at the Science Museum. This will be at 11 am and 3 pm on Saturday, January 4. Ticket applications to J. D. Freeborn, Lecture Service, Science Museum, South Kensington, London SW7 2DD . . During the period May 16 to October 10 the Australian amateur VK3CZ heard on 1.8 MHz a number of North and South American amateurs but the only European amateur heard was the Czech station OKIDOK (August 6) although the German commercial station DHJ (commonly used as a Top Band "DX beacon") was heard on many occasions . . The March and District Amateur Radio Society emerged as overall winner of the 1974 VHF National Field Day. This was held under extremely bad weather conditions but nevertheless attracted 115 entries for operation on 70, 144,432 and 1296 MHz . Runners-up were Southampton RSGB Group . . . M. Hawkins of Chelmsford won the 1974 Direction Finding Contest as the first to locate three 1.8 MHz hidden transmitters

The RSGB affiliated societies contest is being held on January 11 to 12 (a changed date) . . Quote from Don Keith, WA4BDW: "So long as we depend on the publicly-owned frequencies for amateur radio's very existence we had better make sure the public knows who we are and what we do."

PAT HAWKER, G3VA


## Mini oscilloscope

A miniature battery/mains-powered oscilloscope, the A1010, measures only $5.5 \times$ $13.5 \times 19 \mathrm{~cm}$. The $y$ amplifier has a 10 MHz bandwidth, a $10 \mathrm{mV} /$ division sensitivity and the pre-amp stage can be isolated for use in conjunction with the external sweep input. The input attenuator is switched to give $\times 1, \times 10$ and $\times 100$ with a maximum input of 350 V a.c./d.c. The timebase is continuously variable on each of three switched ranges from $1 \mu \mathrm{~s}$ to $1 \mathrm{~s} /$ division. Built-in batteries provide four hours' operation before recharging is necessary, which takes place automatically when the instrument is powered from external $240 / 110 \mathrm{~V}$ a.c. or 12 V d.c. supplies. Lawtronics Ltd, 139 High Street, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 5AX.
WW313 for further details

## Sweep generator

The model 7271 linear/logarithmic sweep generator offers sine, square, triangle, pulse and ramp waveforms over the range 0.0001 Hz to 20 MHz . The sweep width is set by two controls-one for start
frequency and the other for stop, over a three-decade range. The internal sweep generator, having a range of sweep times from 1000 s to 100 ns , may be triggered manually or externally. The pulse generator has variable pulse width and repetition rate which can be set independently. Several choices of d.c. offset, for vertical positioning of the waveform, are offered as well as a voltage-controlled offset for remote control. Dana Electronics Ltd, Collingden Street, Luton, Beds.
WW306 for further details

## Optical transmission system

A fibre-optic data transmission system comprising an emitter, lightguide, and receiver is capable of transmitting a 16 -bit digital word or one analogue signal with a 12-bit accuracy. With an additional multiplexer, 16 analogue signals may be transmitted at the same accuracy. Plug-in p.c. cards are also available to expand the transmission capacity in steps of 32 bits up to a maximum of 320 bits. The system, which is noise immune, can operate over distances up to 100 metres. Triskelion AG, Leimatt 1, 6317-Oberwil/ZG, Switzerland.
WW305 for further details

## Function generator

The latest function generator from the Heath/Schlumberger range of assembled instruments is the SG-1271. The instrument will provide sine, square, or triangle waveforms over the frequency range 0.1 Hz to 1 MHz . Frequency selection is by means of six variable ranges. The output delivers a 10 V peak-to-peak signal into a 50 ohm load. A calibrated step attenuator adjusts from 0 to 50 dB in 10 dB steps with a variable attenuator providing up to 20 dB attenuation in each step. Frequency accuracy for the generator is $\pm 3 \%$ with wave-


WW313


WW300
form symmetry within $10 \%$. Heath (Gloucester) Ltd, Bristol Road, Gloucester, GL2 6EE.
WW302 for further details

## Static-protection aids

A range of materials and accessories for the handling of devices sensitive to electrostatic-discharge damage is available from Semicomps Ltd. The range, which is constructed from electrically conductive material, includes items such as aprons, wrist straps, shoes and stool covers. The material is also available in $4 \mathrm{ft} \times 8 \mathrm{ft}$ sheet form for bench tops and foam sheets for shorting component leads. Semicomips Ltd, Northfield Industrial Estate, Beresford Avenue, Wembley, Middx.
WW303 for further details

## Pushbutton potentiometer

A potentiometer, known as the 3680 knobpot, combines an incremental decade resistance-element with a digital display and pushbutton section in one package. Ratings for the device are a temperature coefficient of 100 p.p.m. $/{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, resistance tolerance of $\pm 1.0 \%$, resolution of $\pm 0.1 \%$ and a power rating of 2 W . Bourns Trimpot Ltd, Hodford House, 17/27 High Street, Hounslow, Middx.
WW307 for further details

## Surge suppressor

A voltage-dependent resistor has been developed by Mullard for the suppression of mains-borne transients. The resistor; type 232259453912 , is made from zinc-oxide and has a higher degree of nonlinearity than the usual silicon-carbidebased components. Whereas the current through silicon-carbide components is proportional to the fifth power of the applied voltage, this figure becomes the


WW305


WW302

35th power for zinc-oxide types. In normal operating conditions with a 240 V a.c. supply the zinc-oxide v.d.r. dissipates a few milliwatts, an increasing voltage causes a rapidly falling resistance to effectively short circuit the transient. Under surge conditions the v.d.r. can pass currents of 100 A . Mullard Ltd, Mullard House, Torrington Place, London WCIE 7HD.

## WW301 for further details

## Multiplying oscilloscope

In addition to a full range of facilities, the Philips PM3265 dual-trace oscilloscope possesses a multiplying mode in which signals from both amplifiers are multiplied and displayed on one trace, the other displaying one of the original signals. The multiplying bandwidth is 100 MHz , which means that power products in high-speed logic circuitry can be displayed. Bandwidth of the $y$ amplifiers is 150 MHz at 5 mV per cm and operating modes are A, B, chopped, alternate, added or multiplied. The horizontal deflection is by a delayed time-base, the delaying and delayed sweeps appearing apparently together, although, in fact, on alternate sweeps. Triggering, in a variety of modes, is workable with a signal up to 300 MHz . A $8 \times 10 \mathrm{~cm}$ screen is provided, the 20 kV accelerating potential making for a bright, sharp trace, which is stable with variations in beam current. Pye Unicam Ltd, York Street, Cambridge CB1 2PX. WW315 for further details

## Instrument modules

A recently introduced instrument module system from Metrowatt comprises basic frame sizes ranging from volumes of 300 c.c. up to housings of 3500 or 10,000 c.c. Most of the frames are divided into two subframes. The upper frame accepts the
display movement and offers a variety of control layouts. There is also a choice of lower frames for various battery sizes and types. Blank circuit cards are available for all frame sizes together with ancillary components such as battery connectors, jacks and safety switches. Metrowatt UK Ltd, York House, Stevenage Road, Hitchin, Herts SG4 9DY.
WW308 for further details

## Peak-reading voltmeter

The Semikron peak-reading storage voltmeter will read the maximum transient voltages on a line in any given period. The transients to be measured are selectable by filters for duration and amplitude. The instrument has six voltage ranges from 30 to $10,000 \mathrm{~V}$ and an input impedance of $10 \mathrm{M} \Omega$. A minimum pulse width is selectable from 1,10 or $100 \mu$ s and a selectable storage time from 1 to 20 s and infinity. The voltmeter is mains or battery powered with an automatic-charge circuit for the latter. An automatic reset facility is provided, so that if the meter is connected to a suitable recorder the voltmeter will give a history of supply variations. Semikron UK Ltd, Brewhouse Lane, Hertford.
WW312 for further details

## Optical tachometer

Using the Power Instruments optical tachometer it is possible to take measurements up to two feet away from a revolving mechanism. The instrument uses the principle of a collimated beam and a high-speed response phototransistor. A small piece of reflective tape is attached to the rotating component, and the instrument receives only its own light to provide a reading. The instrument is self-calibrating from any fluorescent light operating from 50 or 60 Hz . Four ranges, from 0 to 30,000


WW315
r.p.m., are provided on the tachometer which has a claimed accuracy of $1 \frac{1}{2} \%$ of f.s.d. The instrument is battery powered and measures approximately $5 \times 7 \frac{1}{2} \times 2 \frac{1}{2}$ in with a 24 in probe cable. Electronic Brokers Ltd, 49/53 Pancras Road, London NW 1. WW300 for further details

## Moisture-proof switch

A moisture-proof switch called the E7240A, is rated at $10.1 \mathrm{~A}, 186 \mathrm{~W}, 115$ / 250 V a.c., and is claimed to operate immersed in water. The switch measures approximately $1 \times \frac{7}{8} \times \frac{1}{3}$ in with $10 \mathrm{in}, 14$ gauge leads. The one-off price is $£ 0.60$ from Cherry Electrical Products UK Ltd, Lattimore Road, St Albans, Herts.
WW309 for further details

## Frequency-to-voltage converter

Teledyne Philbrick have introduced a 10 kHz frequency-to-voltage converter. The device, which is known as the 4714 , has a 1 mV to 10 V output directly proportional to a 1 Hz to 10 kHz input frequency. A non-linearity of $0.08 \%$ of f.s. in four decade ranges is claimed for the device which is priced at $£ 19.75$ one off, from Teledyne Philbrick, Heathrow House, Bath Road, Cranford, Hounslow, Middx. WW310 for further details

## Miniature power supply

A d.c. power supply in a d.i.l. package provides outputs of 5 or 12 V at 1 W . The total volume of the package, which fits into a standard i.c. socket, is 0.3 cubic in. Isolation is provided and the source is short-circuit proof with an automatic reset. TI Supply, 165 Bath Road, Slough, Bucks SLl 4AD.
WW311 for further details


WW308


WW312

## Audio fair new products

## Three-head cassette deck

Teac showed an unexpected new model of a three-head cassette tape deck at the Audio Fair. Designated the A-850 this machine is placed upright, thus occupying only the depth of a shelf. Three d.c. motors provide forward drive and fast wind functions via logic-controlled solenoid operation. In common with Sony and Nakamichi, dual capstans are used to improve control of the tape across the heads. Dolby noise reduction is included and calibration controls and a built-in test oscillator provide the flexibility to get the best out of all tapes. Separate three-position bias and equalization switches, a peak-reading facility for the VU meters and full microphone/ line mixing are included among the facilities. Price will be about $£ 400$. Acoustico Enterprises Ltd, Unit 7, Space Waye, North Feltham Trading Estate, Feltham, Middlesex TW14 0TZ.
WW327 for further details

## Omal loudspeaker

The Omal TL6 "monitor" loudspeaker is designed to leave the listener with many options as to the kind of loudspeaker used. Using five drive units, with mid-range and h.f. units in both the front and rear, it is possible to operate in the forwardradiating mode or in the "omnidirectional" mode by adjustment of the level controls.

In the bass region there is a choice of mode brought about by mechanically


WW320
operated flaps which alter the loading of the bass unit, from a quarter-wave design to' either a distributed port or damped labyrinth.

Crossover frequencies are 400 Hz and 5 kHz using 12 and 18 dB /octave slopes. Mid- and high-frequency unit controls are switched with constant-resistance and Zobel impedance correction networks. Sensitivity in the direct mode, all controls set level, is quoted as $80 \mathrm{dBA} /$ watt. Distortion is claimed to be less than $1 \%$ above 65 Hz for 90 dB s.p.l. (at 1 kHz ). Maximum amplifier rating should be 20 watts (into $8 \Omega$ ) and maximum power handling figure is 50 watts. Ambionic Sound Reproducers Ltd, Omal House, North Circular Road, London NW 10 7UF.
WW320 for further details

## Belt-drive turntable

With much of the emphasis on directdrive turntables at the top end of the market, it is unusual to see a competitive new belt-drive turntable. Sansui showed such a product, the SR-313, and claim that it can out-perform many types of direct-drive units. Complete with tone-arm, the SC-38 induced magnet cartridge, plinth and cover, the unit offers the following manufacturer's specification. Signal-tonoise ratios: $>50 \mathrm{~dB}$, frequency response: $20 \mathrm{~Hz}-20 \mathrm{kHz}, \pm 3 \mathrm{~dB}$, wow and flutter: $<0.06 \%$ w.r.m.s. Approximate price is $£ 142.86$ plus v.a.t. Vernitron Ltd, Thornhill, Southampton.
WW323 for further details


WW327

## Professional CD-4 demodulator

A new high-performance CD-4 demodulator for professional use was demonstrated by JVC. Designated CD4-1000, it features lower distortion and improved signal-to-noise than the consumer model. The carrier-channel circuitry has been improved by use of a "crosstalkcancelling" circuit; the a.n.r.s. circuit has been upgraded to the standard of the recording circuit. Two switched filters are included-one giving a 3 dB loss at 18 Hz , the other giving a 6 dB loss at 10 kHz , with a slope of 6 dB /octave. Harmonic distortion quoted for the baseband channels is $0.03 \%(1 \mathrm{kHz})$. No distortion figures are issued for the carrier channels. Baseband amplitude frequency response can extend to $20 \mathrm{kHz}(-3 \mathrm{~dB})$. Victor Company of Japan Ltd, 1, 4-chome, NihonbashiHoncho, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 103.
WW324 for further details

## Dolby cartridge recorder

The 3 M Company made quite a showing with a new range of equipment selected from the American Wollensak range. The first is an eight-track cartridge recorder, designated the Wollensak 8075 and is unique in as much as it is the first Dolby cartridge machine to be marketed in the UK.

In addition, a cassette deck based on the well-known Wollensak mechanism was shown, the model 4766. Again, this machine has Dolby noise reduction, plus a claimed wow and flutter of $0.07 \%$ w.r.m.s., twin VU meters and peak overload indicators. 3M United Kingdom Ltd, 3M House, Wigmore Street, London W1A IET.
WW321 for further details (8075)
WW322 for further details (4766)


WW323

## Mini loudspeaker

An interesting design produced by Technics is the SB30 loudspeaker system. This consists of one full-range 9 cm loudspeaker mounted in a closed cabinet measuring only $10.3 \times 18.1 \times 12.7 \mathrm{~cm}$. Maximum input power to the nominal $8 \Omega$ unit is 20 W and 1 W will produce 86 dB at a distance of 1 m on axis. The weight of each speaker is 1.5 kg and the claimed frequency range is 50 Hz to 20 kHz , no limits being specified, however. Price is $£ 15$ each plus v.a.t. National Panasonic (UK) Ltd, 107-109 Whitby Road, Slough, Berks, SL1 3DR.
WW328 for further details

## New valve amplifiers

One of the most surprising new products at Olympia was the Lux MQ-80 valve stereo power amplifier from Lux (perhaps not so surprising on reflection). A twin triode tube 6336A is used per channel at the output stage in a push-pull circuit. The output transformer in each output has bifilar windings to ensure maximum coupling with no leakage inductance. The transformer design also permits a claimed frequency response extending up to 200 kHz . Main specifications are: Power output: 40W ( $8 \Omega$, each channel, both driven); t.h.d.: below $0.5 \%$; frequency response: 10 Hz to $60 \mathrm{kHz}(-1 \mathrm{~dB})$; damping factor: 15 ( $8 \Omega$ load); residual noise: below 0.5 mW . Price $£ 398$ plus v.a.t.

Associated with this power amplifier is the Lux $35 /$ II valve pre-amplifier ( $£ 298+$ v.a.t.). Howland West Ltd, 3-5 Eden Grove, London N7 8EQ.
(Howland West state that they do not keep these models as stock items but will order on request.)
WW329 for further details

## Calibration cartridge

Wilmex, distributors of Stanton cartridges, showed the model 681 EEE which is claimed to represent a "state of the art" standard in magnetic cartridges. The stylus tip is a low mass (two-thirds the mass of its predecessor) nude diamond, $0.2 \times 0.7$ mil elliptical type. Frequency response: $10 \mathrm{~Hz}-12 \mathrm{kHz}, \pm 0.5 \mathrm{~dB}$, overall, $10 \mathrm{~Hz}-22 \mathrm{kHz}$. Nominal output for $5 \mathrm{~cm} / \mathrm{s}$ recorded velocity: $3.5 \mathrm{mV} \pm 2 \mathrm{~dB}$, channel separation: 35 dB , tracking force: $0.75-$ 1.5 g , total cartridge mass: 5.5 g . Wilmex Ltd, Import Division, Compton House, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4DE.
WW326 for further details

## New Brahms speaker systems

An enclosure added to the Brahms range of loudspeakers is the SAL 3000, a design which incorporates an 8 in bass unit with an aluminium voice coil and rubber-roll suspension. It has a one-inch dome high-frequency unit mounted in a cabinet which measures $48 \times 27 \times 25 \mathrm{~cm}$. Power handling is rated at 30 W and nominal impedance is $4-8 \Omega$. Each cabinet weighs 9.5 kg and teak or walnut is the
choice of cabinet finishes. The manufacturers claim a good stereo image and a flat response to 22 kHz . Price is $£ 29.50$ each plus v.a.t.

The new Windsor loudspeaker system also has two units but the bass unit is a 10 in neoprene doped cone mounted in a larger cabinet measuring $61 \times 33 \times$ 28 cm . Finishes are also similar and the price $£ 34$ each plus v.a.t. Brahms also had a new range of German loudspeakers manufactured by Schilling on view at Olympia, which is due for release during January. These are similar in operating principle to the Sonab surround sound loudspeakers and the range consists of four models which range in price from $£ 31.93$ to $£ 95.81$ plus v.a.t. Brahms Manufacturing and Development Co, Unit E, Rochester Airport, Maidstone Road, Rochester, Kent ME1 3QJ.
WW325 for further details

## Solid State Devices

The names of suppliers of devices in this section are given in abbreviation after each entry and in full at the end of the section.

## Switching power-transistors

Three new series of switching transistors from Sescosem are constructed using the triple-diffused technology and have ratings for $V_{\text {CEO (sus) }}$ from 90 to 500 V at maximum collector currents from 15A to 30A.
WW350 for further details Sescosem

## Quad opto-isolator

The 1LQ74 is a quad opto-isolator in a 16-pin d.i.l. package. Each channel has a typical isolation resistance of $100 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ and a minimum breakdown voltage of 1500 V . The coupler costs $£ 2.87$ for oneoff and $£ 1.65$ for 1,000 -off quantities. WW351 for further details Jermyn

## 80V op-amp

An op-amp designated the HA2-2645-5 is capable of operating from $\pm 40 \mathrm{~V}$ power rails. The device, which incorporates an output current limiter, will deliver an output swing of up to $\pm 35 \mathrm{~V}$ at $\pm 10 \mathrm{~mA}$ with a bandwidth of 4 MHz . Offset voltage is typically 2 mV and offset voltage drift is typically $15 \mu \mathrm{~V} /{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The op-amp costs $£ 2.65$ in $100+$ quantities.
WW352 for further details
Memec

## Step-recovery diodes

The 5082-0800 series of step-recovery diodes has been designed for use in highand low-order harmonic generators. The
diodes have typical outputs of 0.3 W from 10 to 20 GHz and 6 W from 3 to 5 GHz . Junction capacitance for the two ranges is 0.1 pF minimum and 3.5 pF maximum respectively. Transition times range from 50 ps to 250 ps .
WW353 for further details Hewlett Packard

## Buffer register

The AMI S1709 buffer register contains 13 parallel-in/parallel-out shift registers plus the control logic necessary to achieve a first-in/first-out memory configuration. External control signals allow cascading of several register arrays and the device may operate with independent input and output data rates. The S1709 is supplied in a 24 -pin di.i. package and costs $£ 8.69$ for $100+$ quantities. WW354 for further details

GDS

## Liquid-crystal driver

A b.c.d.-to-seven segment latch/decoder/ driver called the MC14543 is designed for use with liquid-crystal readouts. The device is constructed using c.m.o.s. and offers direct l.e.d. driving capability, latch storage of code and readout blanking on all unpermitted combinations.
WW355 for further details
Lock

## Suppliers

Hewlett-Packard Ltd, 224 Bath Road, Slough, Berks SL1 4DS.
GDS (Sales) Ltd, Michaelmas House, Salt Hill, Bath Road, Slough, Berks.
Lock Distribution, Neville Street, Middleton Road, Oldham, Lancs OL9 6LF.
Memec Ltd, The Firs, Whitchurch, Aylesbury, Bucks.
Jermyn Distribution, Sevenoaks, Kent.
Sescosem, 50 rue Jean Pierre, Timbaud, BP120, 92403 Coubevoie, France.

## Semiconductor service

Amateur constructors and servicing technicians can now obtain small quantities of semiconductor devices at manufacturers' list prices from the distributor Semicomps through a new service started by its subsidiary SCS Components. The range available includes all discrete and integrated semiconductors from Mullard, Motorola, Signetics, General Instrument (Microelectronics), G.I. (UK), Ferranti, RCA, Monsanto, and Mostek. Data sheets are free on request. Passive components from Mullard, Seatronics and Centralab will be added to the range later. A catalogue is available free. SCS Components is at 5 c Northfield Industrial Estate, Beresford Avenue, Wembley, Middlesex, HA0 1SD, telephone 01-903 3168.


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Ceramic Pick.up
Ceramic Pick-up
Microphone
Tuner
Input impedance
Outputs
Main output Odb
Active Tone Controls
Treble $\pm 12 \mathrm{db}$ at 10 kH
$\pm 12 \mathrm{db}$ at 100 Hz
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Signal/Noise Ratio 68 db
Overload Capability 40 db on most
Supply Voltage $\quad \pm 16-25$ volts.
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TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION
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Input Sensitivity Odb ( 0.775 volts RMS) Input Impedance $47 \mathrm{k} \Omega$
Distortion Less than $0.1 \%$ at 25 watts typically 0.05\%
Signal/Noise Ratio Better than 75 db
Frequency Response $10 \mathrm{~Hz}-50 \mathrm{kHz}+3 \mathrm{db}$
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PRICE $£ 5.98+0.48$ V.A.T. $P$ \& P free


The PSUSO can be used for either mono or stereo systems.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS
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Input voltage $210-240$ volts
Size L.70, D.90, H. 60 mm
PRICE $£ 5.00+0.40$ V.A.T. $P$ \& $P$ free.

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WW-120 FOR FURTHER DETAILS

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LOW PROFILE SOCKETS 14 pin DIL, 16 p . Stockists of English Electric, Farranti, M.O. Valve Co.



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Prices include panels. feet, P. \& P. and VAT. State whether $\frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{2}$ or full panels required.
The Wast Hyde prestige case
The smartest of the West Hyde cases, all
anodised aluminium. with top and bottom
panels only: in black or-covered steel (plain or
brackets. Supplied ex-stock. fully assembled, with SS Pozidinium
 C21 (5 ${ }^{\frac{1}{2}}{ }^{\prime \prime}$ hatf rack) C31 (5 " ${ }^{\text {" }}$ whole rack £13.43
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| Pr. Brackets | Extrafor Louvre |
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| $86 p$ | $79 p$ |
| $86 p$ | $79 p$ |
| $\mathbf{8 6} .22$ | $79 p$ |
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The new Oryx 50 is temperature controlled, light. small, easy to handle, rapid heating and high performance. It has a temperature control within $\pm 2 \mathrm{C}$ and adjusted in seconds whilst running to any value between 200 C and 400 C . Long life iron-coated tip as standard (11 sizes available).
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cards (two styles, three sizes). connectors cards itwo styles, three sizes). connectors double-sided and all contacts gold-plated Shown: Mod-301 case with boards 421 . guides 311. 21-way connectors. Prices


$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Mod-301 (including chassis) } \\
& \text { £4.06: Connector } 21 \text {-way }
\end{aligned}
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84p: Boards 421 \& 422 f1.11. (up to 8 DILS on each board): Card guide pairs $311 £ 1.78$. Prices include P. \& P. and $8 \%$ VAT. Much less
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LEDs with chromium-plated screwed case suitable for 5.5 mm . hole or unmounted LEDs 3.2 mm . dia.

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| $\dagger$ | Motional feedback speaker circuit |  | One-chip MOS digital clock |
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| $\dagger$ | Varicap tuned masthead preamplifier |  | railways |
| t | High quality amplifier |  | switch |
| t | Distortion meter | t | Quadro systems |

[^3]
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## U4323 MULTIMETER 20.000opv. Simple unit with audiolf oscillator. Suitable unit with audio/if osillotor. Suitabe for geneal receiver tuning. Pangesesive $0.5 / 2.5 / 10 / 50 / 250$ $500 / 1000 \mathrm{~V}$ DC 2.5/10/15/250/500/1000V AC. $0.05 /$ $0.5 / 5 / 50 / 500 \mathrm{~mA}$ DC. Resistance: $0.5 / 5 / 50 / 500 \mathrm{~mA}$ DC. Resistance: $\times 10 . \times 100 \times 1,000, \times 10,000(50 \Omega$. $\times 10 . \times 100, \times 7,000 \times 10,000$ $5002.5 \mathrm{~K} \Omega 50 \mathrm{k}$ centra scale) Batten operated. Size: $160 \times 97$ Batter, opprated. Size: $160 \times 97 \times$ 40 mm . Supplidin carry ing case complote with test leads. OUR PRICE $£ 7.70$

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30,000 opv. Over
load protection. 6/30/60/300/600/ 1200 V DC. $12 / 60 /$ $120 / 600 / 1200 \mathrm{~V}$
$60 / \mu \mathrm{A}$ $30 \mathrm{~mA} / 300 \mathrm{~m}$
$2 \mathrm{~K} / 200 \mathrm{~K} /$ 2 Meg Ohm. -10 to 63 dB OUR PRICE $\mathbf{f 7 . 5 0}$ U4324

 0/120/600/12/30 DC. 3/6/15/60/150/
$300 / 600 / 900 \mathrm{AC}$ Current: $0.06 / 0.6$. 6/60/600mA/3A DD
$0.3 / 3 / 30 / 300 \mathrm{~mA}$ $25 / 500$ ohms/0.5/5/50/500k ohms/5 Mohms. Decibels: -10 to 122 tB . Size
$167 \times 98 \times 63 \mathrm{~mm}$. Supplied complete with test leads, spare diode and
instructions. OUR PRICE F9.25 P\&P 30p U435 MULTIMETER Arot


$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { orms. Size: } 205 \times 110 \times 84 \mathrm{~mm} \text {. Sup. } \\
& \text { plime conmpene with leads. crocodile } \\
& \text { clips and steel carrying case. }
\end{aligned}
$$ clips and stoel carrying case.

and OUR PRICE E8.75 P\&P 30p U4312 MULTIMETER
 instrument for
general
gese 667 toctrical

 60050 DC \& 75 mV .
$900031.5 / 7.5130 /$ 60/150/300/600/ $900 V \mathrm{AC}, 0 / 300 \mathrm{~A}$
$1.5 / 6 / 15 / 150 / 60$ 600mA/1/1.5/6A
DC. $0 / 1.5 / 6 / 15 /$ $60 / 150 / 600 \mathrm{~mA} / \mathrm{l}$
$1.5 / 6 \mathrm{~A} A C$.
$0 / 200 / 3 \mathrm{k} / 30 \mathrm{k}$ ohms. DC accuracy 1\% AC 1.55 . Knite. odge
pointer, mirror scale. Complete with pointer, mirror scale. Complete withe
sturdy metal carrying case, leads and instructions.
OUR PRICE $£ 10.25$ P\&P50p

## AMMETER

AMMETER
For measuring AC volt-
oge and currant age and current withou
breaking circuit. Ranges $300 / 600 \mathrm{~V}$ AC. . Rerrgent:
$10 / 25 / 100 / 250 / 500 \mathrm{l}$ $10 / 25 / 100 / 250 / 500 \mathrm{~A}$.
Accuracy $4 \%$. Size 283 x Accuracy 4\%. Size 283x
$94 \times 36 m$. Compore
with carrying caspe. leacas with carryin
and fuses.
DUR PRICE f 13.50
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MODEL 500 30,000 opv with
 100/250/500/ 0/2.5/10/25/100/

 500 mA .12 ADC . C. megohm OUR PRICE $£ 13.95$ Case for above $£ 1.75$

## HIOKI 750X VOLT-OHM



DUR PRICE EIT.OS PAP


| HIOKI MODEL 700X |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| 100.000 opv, Overload |  |
| (tatection. Mirror sca |  |
| 12/30/60/120/300 |  |
| 600/1200V DC. |  |
| 1.5/3/6/12 |  |
| 15/304A/3/6/30/6 |  |
| 150/500 mA/6/12 |  |
| 2k/200k |  |
| OUR PRICE £14.95 |  |

Model HT100B4 MULTIMETER Overload protected,
shock proof circuits.

 | switch. Ranges: $0.5 .52 .5 /$ |
| :--- |
| $1 . / 50 / 250 / 550 / 1.000$ | Volts DC. $2.5 / 10 / 50 /$

25011.000 Volts AC. DC resistence' 0 -20)
$200 \mathrm{k} / 2 / 20$ Meg. onms.
DC current:- $10 / 250 \mathrm{uA} / 2.5 / 25 / 250$
 batteries. Size: $180 \times 134 \times 79 \mathrm{~mm}$. OUR PRICE f17.50 P\&P 40p

## MOOEL AS. 1000 VOM

 100,000 opv.Mirror scale.
Built-inmeter
protection. $0 / 3 /$
$12 / 60 / 120 / 300 /$
$12 / 60 / 120 / 300 /$
$600 / 1200 \mathrm{OC}$.
$0 / 6 / 30 / 120 / 300 /$ $6 / 60 / 300 \mathrm{~mA} /$
$200 \mathrm{~K} / 2 \mathrm{M} / 200$ Ohm. - 20 to - 17 dB
OUR PRICE f17.50
 $25 \mathrm{~mA} / 250 \mathrm{~mA}$. -20
to +68 dB . to +68 dB .

## RICE 16.50 P \& P 30p

 KAMOOEN HM720B FET VOMInput impedence 10


KAMODEN 360 MULTIMETER High sansitvity,
DC 100kohm/

## 

 $2.5 / 10 / 50 / 250 /$
$1000 \mathrm{~V} ~ 510 /$ $50 / 250 / 1000 \mathrm{~V}$ AC. Current:
$0.01 \mathrm{~mA} / 0,5 / 5 / 50 /$
$500 \mathrm{~mA} / 10 \mathrm{~A}$. Resistanc: ${ }^{0.1 /}$
$1 / 10 / 100$ ohms/ $1 / 10 / 100$ ohms/
$1 / 10100 \mathrm{k}$ ohms/
$10 / 100 \mathrm{M}$ ohms
 10/100M ohms.
Decibels -20 to
+62 dB . Battery Decibels -20 to
+62 dB . Battery operated. Size: $180 x$
$140 \times 80 \mathrm{~mm}$. Supplied complate with. test lead
OUR PRICE E17.50 P \& P 40p
TMK MODEL 117 FET ELECTRONIC VOLTMETER Battery operated.
11 Meg input, 26 ranges. Large 41/4" mirros. scarge Size :
$149 \times 117 \times 60 \mathrm{~mm}$. $149 \times 117 \times 60 \mathrm{~mm}$.
$0.3-12000 \mathrm{DC}$.
$3-300 \mathrm{~V}$ RS AC.
$8-800 \vee \mathrm{P}$.
 DC current $0.12-1$
12 mA . Resistenc 12mA. Resistence
4 p to 2000 MO .
+51 mB . Supecibels: -20 to +51 dB . Supplied complete with leads OUR PRICE 18.50 P\&P 20p

## TMK 100K LAB TESTER

 100.000opv. $61 / \%^{\prime \prime}$scale. Buzzer scale. Buzzer
short circuit check.
Sensitivity 100000
opy DC. $5 k / V$ AC Sensitivity 100.000
opv DC. $5 \mathrm{k} / \mathrm{VAC}$
DC Voits: $0.5 / 2.5 /$
$10 / 50.250 / 1000 \mathrm{~V}$ 10/50/250/1000V
AC. $3 / 10 / 50 / 250 /$ AC.
$500 / 1000 \mathrm{~V} D \mathrm{DC}$

current $10 / 100 \mathrm{uA}$
$10 / 100 / 2.5 / 10 \mathrm{~A}$ $10 / 100 / 2.5 / 10 \mathrm{~A}$. Resistence:
$1 \mathrm{k} / 10 \mathrm{k} / 100 \mathrm{k} / 10 . \mathrm{Meg} / 100$ Meg ohms.
Decibels: -10 to +450 B . Plastic case Decibels: -10 to +49 ydB . Plastic case
with carrying handle. Size: $190 \times 172$ $\times 99 \mathrm{~mm}$.
OUR PR
 KAMODEN 72.200 Multitester High sensitivity
tester. 200,00 opy tester. 200,000 opy
Overroad protected
Mirror scale.
Rangass:-0/06/.3
3/30/120/600 Rangess:-0/.06/.3
$3 / 30120 / 600 /$
1200 V 2 O 1200 V DC: $0 / 3$
$12 / 60 / 30011200$ $V \mathrm{AC} .0 / 6 \mathrm{AA} /$
$1.2 \mathrm{~mA} / 12 \mathrm{~mA} /$
600 mA 12 DC $600 \mathrm{~mA} / 12 \mathrm{~A}$ DC
$0 / 12 \mathrm{ACC}-20$ to
$+63 \mathrm{~dB} .0 / 2 \mathrm{k} / 200 \mathrm{k} /$


OUR PRICE $\mathrm{f} 22.50 \quad$ P\&P 30p U4317 MULTIMETER High sensitivity
instrument for field
and laboratory work.
Knife edge pointer,
86mm. mir ror scate. $86 m \mathrm{~mm}$, mir $\begin{aligned} & \text { ror scate. - } \\ & \text { Overoad protection. }\end{aligned}$
Ranqes: 100 mV I
$0.5 / 2.5 / 10 / 25 / 50 / 10$
0.5/2.5/10/25/50/100/250/500/1000 $500 / 1000 \mathrm{~V}$ AC. Current: 50 u A/0. 1/5/10/50/250mA/1/5A DC. 0.25 ) 0.5/1/5/10/50/250mA/1/5AAC. Res. stanco: 0.5/10/100/200 ohms/ $1 / 3 /$ Gattery operated. Size: $210 \times 115 \times$ 90 mm . Supplied in carrying case com
DUR PRICE $\mathbf{f 1 6 . 5 0 \quad \text { P\&P 40p }}$


5/300750ma
 30/75/150/300/750V DC. $/ 7 / 75 \mathrm{mV}$ AC. Automatic cut out devica. Suppand test certificates. DUR PRICE £52.00 P\&P 50p MODEL AF. 105 VOM 60,000 opv. M
scale. Meter
protection. protection.
$0 / 3 / 3 / 12 / 60 / 120 /$ $0 / 3 / 3 / 12 / 60 / 120 /$
$300 / 600 / 1200 \mathrm{~V} D$. 0/6/30/120/. 300/600/120 $0 / 30 \mu \mathrm{~A} / 6 /$
$60 / 300 \mathrm{~mA}$
12 Amp. $0 / 10 \mathrm{~K}$
$1 \mathrm{~m} / 10 \mathrm{~m} / 100$
 OUR PRICE E12.50 PGP 30p. Tests ICO and B . PNP/NPN. Operates
from 9V battery.
Instructions supplied OURtructions sur QUR PRICE
£3.95 P\&P 20p LB4 TRANSISTOR TESTER Tests PNP or NPN indication. Opdio
Operates on two 1.5 V
batteries. Complete batteries. Complet
with instructions OUR PRICE K4.50 P\&P 20p TRANSISTOR TESTER High quality
instrument to isst reverse leak
teurrent and DC current. Amplification factor of
NPN, PNP, diodes
 claar scale meter Operates from internal betteriex
Complete with Complete with
instructions, leads carrying handie.
DUR PRICE $£ 17.50$ P \& P 40 U4341 Multimeter 8 Transistor Tester 27 ranges. 16.700 opv Rvenges: $0.3 / 1.5 / 6 /$ $30 / 60 / 150 / 300 / 900 \mathrm{~V}$
$\mathrm{DC} .1 .5 / 7.5 / 30 / 150 /$ DC. $1.5 / 7.5 / 30 / 150 /$ Current: $0.06 / 0.6 /$
$6 / 60 / 600 \mathrm{~mA} 0 \mathrm{C}$ $6 / 60 / 600 \mathrm{~mA}$ DC.
$0.3 / 3 / 30 / 300 \mathrm{~mA}$
R Resistance: $0.08 / 2$
$0.6 / 2 / 6 / 20 / 60 / 200 \mathrm{k}$ Battory operated. Supplied complete
with probes, lads and stool carrying with probes, leads and stoel carrying
case. Size: $115 \times 215 \times-90 \mathrm{~mm}$. OUR PRICE E10.50 P\&P 30p S100TR MULTIMETER
TRANSISTOR TESTER $100,0000 \mathrm{pv}$. Mirror
scale. Ovarioad protection. $0 / 0.12 /$
$0.6 / 3 / 12 / 30 / 120 /$ 600 V DC. $0 / 6 / 30$ / 0/12/600u A/12 $300 \mathrm{~mA} / 6 / 12 \mathrm{~A} D C$ $0 / 10 \mathrm{k} / 1 \mathrm{Mag}$
100 Mieg.
-20 to +50 dg .
$0.01-0.2 \mathrm{MFD}$


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\begin{aligned}
& \text { VRMS/mm: 0.3-25 } \\
& \text { Preset triggered sweep } \\
& 1-3000 \text { sec. Fres ru }
\end{aligned}
$$

kHz in nine ranges. Calibg $20-200$ kHz in nine ranges. Calibrator pips.
$220 \times 360 \times 430 \mathrm{~mm}$. $115-230 \mathrm{~V}$ AC. OUR PRICE $\mathbf{4 3 . 0 0}$ Carr. paid

| RUSSIAN CI16 Double Beam OSCILLOSCOPE <br> 5 MHz pass band. Separate Y1 and Y2 amplifiers. Rectangular $5^{\prime \prime} \times 4^{\prime \prime}$ CRT. Calibrated triggered sweep from 0.2 usec. to $100 \mathrm{milli}-\mathrm{sec} / \mathrm{cm}$. Free running time base, $50 \mathrm{~Hz}-1 \mathrm{MHz}$. Built-in time base <br> Calibrator and amplitude Calibrator. Supplied complete with all accessories and instruction manual. |
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|  |  | OUR PRICE E87.00 Carr. paid



## OUR PRICE f17.50 P\&P 30p




WAVE AUDIO GENERATOR Range 19-
220.000 Hz Wave $19-100.000 \mathrm{~Hz}$ Square Wave. Size $180 \times 90 \times 90 \mathrm{~mm}$. Operation 220/240v. A.C.
OUR PRICE £I9. 95 POWER RHEOSTATS High quality ceram
construction. Windings embedded in
vitreous enamel. vitreous enamel.
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wiper Continuous wiper. Co
rating.
Single hole fixing. $1 / \mathbf{y}^{\prime \prime}$ dial
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25 WATT * 10/25/50/100/500/1000/ 2500 ohms. £1.15 P\&P 10p 50 WATT 10/50/100/250/500/ $1500 / 5000$ ohms.

## £1.62 P\&P 10p

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## £2.34 P\&P 15p



PS200 Regulated POWER
SUPPLY UNIT

| Solid state Variabl |
| :--- |
| output $5-20 \mathrm{z}$ |
| 10 DC |


up to 2 Amp. inde-
psndent meters to
monitor voltage and
current. Output
$220 / 240 \vee \mathrm{AC}$.
Size: $190 \times 136 \times$
98 mm
OUR PRICE £19.95 P\&P50p
AUDIOTRONIC LE-102A
intercom


Beautifully made and finished in two tone ivory/buff, the LE-102A is
useful in the home, office or shop and is suitable for use as baby alarn. Wallordesk mounting 57 mm speaker/mic gives clear way communication with on/of
and volume control on master unit. Operates d́n 9 V batt. Approx OUR PRICE £3.95 P\& P 30p
TRITON 4318 PORTABLE 8 TRACK CARTRIDGE PLAYER WITH MW/LW RADIO
Will play 8
track ster
cartridge cartridge
monaurally. Channel
selector

## switch. Cover

bands Volume and tone bands Volume and tone controls.
Earphone socket. Battery/Mains OUR PRICE $\mathbf{f 1 1 . 9 5 \quad P \& P 5 0 p}$


Headphone impedence 16 ohms. Mic.
rophone impedence 200 ohms. OUR PRICE E5.95 P\&P 30p

## HANIMEX HRC 3075

CASSETTE RADIO


## OUR PRICE E12.95BAIR P\&P 50p

FM TUNER CHASSIS
6 transistor
high quality
tuner. Size
andy
only $153 \times$
$101 \times 63 \mathrm{~mm}$
3 IF stages.
Double tuned

discriminator
Ample outpu
Ample output to feed most amplifiers.
Operates on $9 V$ battery. Covers $88-$ 108 MHz . Ready built. ready for use.
Fantastic value for money. OU'R PRICE $\mathrm{f8} 85$

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both pocket and desk calcula
both pocket and desk calculators from as little as $£ 9$.
possible to include them in this possible to include them in this
advertisement, so send for our advertisement, so send for our
latest price list or call into any
miniature organ MUSIC MASTER AM100

## 年 $\begin{gathered}\text { Spanning } \\ \text { nearly two } \\ \text { octaves. } \\ \text { including } \\ \text { semi. } \\ \text { tones }\end{gathered}$ <br> This instrument

 finished The family. Beautifully be adjusted to be in tune with can instrument Operates from internal 9 V battery. Fitted with on/off switch, vibrato switch. OUR PRICE f 7.95 P\&P 50 BINATONE DIGITAL CLOCK
A.C. 240 V operation.

OUR PRICE £4.50 P\&P 50p

## SINCLAIR ICI2

integrated
CIRCUIT
AMPLIFIER $\dot{N} \mid$
printed circuit
mounting board.
OUR PRICE $\mathrm{f} 1.50 \quad$ P\&P $15 p$ SINCLAIR Project 80 Modules 240 Power Amp
260 Power Amp Stereo 80 Pre.Amp.
Active filte
FM Tuner
Stereo Decoder
P25 Power Supply
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Transtormar for PZ8
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { Transformer for P28 } & \text { f4 } \\ \text { IC } 20 \text { Stereo Amp. kit } \\ \text { f7. } \\ \text { PZ20 Power Supplykit } \\ \text { \&5 }\end{array}$
SINCLAIR Project
$2 \times 240 /$ Stereo $80 /$ P25
$2 \times 2820 / 60$


TE1021 Stereo Listening Station and gain selection
of loud speakers
and gain solection
of loudspeakers
with additional
facility for stereo
headphone
sitheres witching. Two
gain controls, spaakers on-off stide OUR PRICE E2.25 PRP 15 p AUDIOTRONIC
LOW NOISE CASSETTES $\begin{array}{lccc}\text { TYPE } & 5 & 10 & 25 \\ \text { C60 } & £ 1.57 & £ 3.00 & £ 7.08 \\ \text { C90 } & £ 2.24 & £ 4.25 & £ 10.00 \\ C 120 & £ 2.73 & £ 5.17 & £ 12.24\end{array}$ P\&P 3p each. 10 and over Post Free
MP7 MIXER-PREAMPLIFIER SMicrophone
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| 5A DC .. | 53.65 | 15 V AC .. | $\underline{63.75}$ |
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|  | f4.30 |  |  |
| 100.0.100uA.. | 14.45 |  |  |
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| 1A DC .. .. | 54.30 |  |  |
|  | f4.30 | 150 V AC | ¢4.45 |
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| 10 mA .. ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | 15.20 55.20 |  |  |
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Component packs for a choice of three outstanding amplifiers are stocked together with packs for a regulated power supply, suitable for use with a pair of any of them. Also stocked are packs for a very well-established pre-amplifier-the Bailey-Burrows design which features six inputs, a scratch and rumble filter and wide range tone controls which may be either rotary or slider operating

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Pk. 1 F/Glass PCB
Pk. 2 Resistors. capacitors. pots
Pk. 3 Semiconductor set
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P.k. 2 Resistors, capacitors. pre-sets. transistors
Pk. 3R Rotary potentiometer se
Pk. 35 Slider potentiometer set (with knobs)
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£3.10
£ 2.05
£4.95
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£2.70

## STUART TAPE RECORDER

A set of three printed-circuit boards has been prepared for the stereo integrated circuit version of this highperformance Wireless World published design.
 for free list.

TOROIDAL T20 +20
Developed from the famous Practical Wireless Texan


Designed by Texas engineers and published in a series of articles in Practical Wireless. The TEXAN was a remarkable breakthrough in delivering true $\mathrm{Hi}-\mathrm{Fi}$ performance at exceptionally low cost. Now further developed to include a true Toroidal transformer, this slimline integrated circuit design. based upon a single $F$ /Glass PCB, features all the normal facilities found on quality amplifiers, including scratch and rumble filters, adaptable input selector and headphones socket.

## ACTIVE FILTER CROSSOVER

An essential and critical component in a high-quality speaker system is the crossover unit conventionally comprising of a series of passive networks which unfortunately, though introducing reactive impedances between the amplifier and the speakers, result in the loss of the advantage of high amplifier damping factor and renders the speakers prone to overshoots and resonances. An elegant solution to this problem, described by D. C. Read in Wireless World, involves the use of a series of active filters splitting the output of the pre-amplifier into three channels, of closely defined bandwidth, each of which is fed to the appropriate speaker by its own power amplifier. A design for a suitable 20 -watt amplifier, based on a proven Texas circuit, was also described by Mr Read. The printed-circuit board for this has been designed such that three amplifiers may be stacked and mounted together on a common heat sink to achieve a conveniently compact module.

## ACTIVE FILTER

Pack
1 Fibreglass PCB (accommodates all filters for one channel)

READ/TEXAS 20wamp.
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Pack
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FOR 20W
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2 Set of pre-sets. solid tantalum capacitors. $2 \%$
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Sets presests (not includ-
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ing $0 / \mathrm{P}$ coupling capacitors)
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 $£ 4.20$
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4 Special heat sink as4 Special heat sink as sembly for
5 Set of $30 / P$ coupling capacitors 2 off packs 4,5 required for stereo system

| $\begin{array}{r} \mathrm{f} 1.10 \\ \mathrm{f} 2.40 \\ \text { ereo } \end{array}$ | Pack |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1 | Fibreglass PCB | ¢0. 50 |
|  | 2 | Set of rectifiers. zener |  |
|  |  | diode. capacitors, fuses, |  |
|  |  | fuse holders | £2.60 |
|  | 3 | Toroidal transformer | £4.95 |
| ¢0. 85 |  |  |  |
|  | ENQUIRIES WELCOME |  |  |
| £1.00 |  | For quality sets of spea |  |

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SMITHS RINGER-TIMER Rellable 15 minute times, spring wound (concurrent with time setting)
divislons, $15 \times 1 \mathrm{~min}$
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Fully stabilised "'Labgear" Power Supply Unit. Input
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| 7400 | 60.15 | 60. 125 | $\pm 0.10$ | 7442 | 60.645 | 60.537 | CO. 43 | 7494 | 60.495 | 60.412 | 60.33 |
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| 7403 | 60.15 | 60.125 | 60.10 | 7446 | E1.05 | 60.875 | 60.70 | 74104 | 60.315 | C0.262 | c0.21 |
| 7404 | 60.18 | 60.15 | ¢0. 12 | 7446A | C1. 05 | 60.875 | c0. 70 | 74105 | 60.315 | 60.262 | C0.21 |
| 7405 | 60.18 | 60.15 | ¢0. 12 | 7447 | C1. 05 | ¢0.875 | c0.70 | 74107 | 60.315 | 60. 262 | CO.21 |
| 7406 | 60.375 | C0.312 | 60.25 | 7447A | E1.05 | 40.875 | 60.70 | 74121 | 60.315 | 60. 262 | C0.21 |
| 7407 | 60.375 | 60.312 | 60.25 | 7448 | 60.855 | 60.712 | 60.57 | 74122 | 60.45 | 60.375 | 60. 30 |
| 7408 | 10.15 | C0. 125 | c0. 10 | 7450 | ¢0. 15 | ¢0. 125 | 60. 10 | 74123 | 60.63 | C0.525 | 40. 42 |
| 7409 | 60.15 | c0. 125 | 60.10 | 7451 | 60.15 | ¢0.125 | <0. 10 | 74141 | 60.75 | 60.625 | E0.50 |
| 7410 | ¢0.15 | 60.125 | 60.10 | 7453 | 60.15 | 60. 125 | 60.10 | 74151 | 60.69 | 60.575 | ¢0.46 |
| 7412 | 60.195 | 60.162 | 60.13 | 7454 | 60.15 | 60.125 | 60.10 | 74153 | 60.69 | £0.575 | ¢0.46 |
| 7413 | 60.345 | 60.287 | 60.23 | 7460 | 60.15 | ¢0.125 | 60. 10 | 74155 | 60.69 | ¢0.575 | C0.46 |
| 7416 | 60.345 | c0. 287 | 60.23 | 7472 | ¢0.255 | 60.212 | 60.17 | 74156 | 60.69 | ¢0.575 | 60.46 |
| 7417 | 60.345 | C0. 287 | ¢0.23 | 7473 | 60.153 | 60.262 | 60.21 | 74160 | C1.005 | 60.837 | 60.67 |
| 7420 | 60.15 | 60.125 | 40.10 | 7474 | 60.315 | c0.262 | 60.21 | 74161 | ¢1.005 | ¢0.837. | 60.67 |
| 7423 | 60.27 | C0. 225 | 40.18 | 7475 | 60.465 | 60.387 | 60.31 | 74162 | E1. 005 | 60.837 | 60.67 |
| 7425 | 60.27 | c0. 225 | 60.18 | 7476 | 60.315 | 60.262 | 40.21 | 74163 | f1.005 | 60.837 | 60.67 |
| 7426 | 60.27 | 60.225 | c0. 18 | 7480 | 60.435 | 60.362 | 60.29 | 74166 | 41.425 | 61.187 | ¢0.95 |
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| 7438 | 60.27 | 60.225 | c0. 18 | 7490 | 60.465 | 60.387 | 60.31 | 74198 | C2. 10 | E1.75 | ¢1.40 |
| 7440 | 60.15 | 60.125 | 60.10 | 7492 | 60.465 | 60.387 | ¢0.31 | 74199 | $62 \cdot 10$ | ¢1.75 | ¢1.40 |
| 7441A | 60.825 | 60.687 | 60.55 | 7493 | 60.465 | 60.387 | ¢0.31 |  |  |  |  |

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| BXY38C/E | ditto | 120 GHz | f1 |
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An aerosol spray providing a convenient means of producing any number of copies of a printed circuit both simply and quickly
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UNIT containing: 1 heavy duty solenoid approx. 25 lb . pull
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25 inch mounting. 16 inch lens. Typical parameters 2 volt
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Designed for use in large rooms, halls and utillzes a Silica tube, printed circuit. Speed adjustable 1-20 f.p.s. strobes. Price f1400. Post 50p.
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Post 40 . (Motor not available separarely.) and wheel $\mathbf{f 5} .60$.
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 $0.018: 0.022: 0.027: 0.033: 0.039: 0.047: 0.056:$
$0.082: 0.1$

| Working volrage 100 V d.c. |
| :--- |
| $0.1=0.12 ; 0.154 \mathrm{p}: 0.185 \mathrm{~F}$ |

0.277p:0.338p:0.39:0.47.
0.56 12p:0.68
0.5612 p ; 0.68

7

## silvered mica


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| 2N3054 | 60 | bal 38 | 31 p | BF194 | $15 p$ |
| 2N3055 | 700 | 88103 | 249 | BFF39 | 23p |
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| 2N3703 2 N 3704 | 10p | ${ }^{\text {B8109 }}$ | ${ }_{150}^{480}$ | SF×29 | - 370 |
| 2N3705 | $1{ }_{10}$ | ${ }_{\text {BC }}{ }^{\text {B }} 1078$ | ${ }^{150}$ | ${ }_{\text {BFY51 }}$ | 23p |
| 2 N 3794 | 18 p | BC1088 | 14 p | BRY39 | 45p |
| 2N3819 | ${ }^{25 p}$ | ${ }^{\text {BCL }} 108 \mathrm{C}$ | 14 p |  | $1 p$ |
| ${ }_{2}^{2 N 409}$ | 11 p | ${ }^{\text {BC1 }}$ BC1098 | 180 | C10681 | 2p |
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$5 \%$ except $W W 10 \% \pm 0.05 \Omega$ below $10 \cap$ and MO $\frac{1}{2} W 2 \%$.
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| Afial Lead |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Q | 6.3 V | 10 V | 16 V | 25 V | 40 V | 63 V |


| 9 F | 3 V | 6.3 V | 10 V | 16 V | 25 V | 40 V | 63 V | 100 V |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0.47 1.0 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 11p | 8 p |
| 2.2 |  |  |  |  | 11p |  | 8p | 8p |
| 4.7 |  |  |  | 11p |  | 8p | 9p | 8 p |
| 10 |  |  |  |  | 8 p | ${ }^{9 p}$ | 8 p | 8 p |
| 22 |  |  | $8 \mathrm{8p}$ |  | 9 p | 8 p | 8 8p | 10p |
| 47 | 8 p |  | ${ }_{8 p}^{9 p}$ | $8_{8 p}$ | 8 p | 8p | 10 p | 13 p |
| 100 | 9 p | 8p | 8p | 8 p | 9 p | 10 p | 12p | 19p |
| 220 | 8 p | 8 p | 9 p | 10 p | 10 p | $11 p$ | 17p | 28p |
| 470 | 9 p | 10p | 10 p | 11p | 13p | 17p | 24p | 45p |
| 1.000 | 11p | 13p | 13p | 17p | 20p | 25p | 41p |  |
| 2.200 | 15p | 18p | 23p | 26p | 37p | 41p |  |  |
| 4.700 10.000 | ${ }_{42 \mathrm{p}} \mathbf{2 6 p}$ | $30 p$ $46 p$ | 39p | 44p | 58p |  |  | - |

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$\underset{\text { 6ftstrip }}{\text { DESORBRAR }} \mathbf{6 6 p}$
WAVECHANGE SWITCHES
pole 12 way: 2 pole 6 way
pole 4 way 4 pole 3 way
each ${ }_{11 p}{ }^{29 p}$
NUTS, SCREWS, ETC.

| 4BA NUTS 28p: <br> $\frac{1}{2} 48$ Screws 28p: <br> Threaded pillars 6BA. $\frac{1^{n}}{}{ }^{n}$ hexagonal <br> Plain spacers $\frac{1^{\prime \prime}}{}{ }^{\prime \prime}$ round ${ }^{2}$ <br> Other sizes available |  |
| :---: | :---: |
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ENAMEL COPPER WIRE in 2 ounce reels $\begin{array}{ll}\text { 32. } 34.20 .22 \text { SWG 34p: } & 24,26.28 .30 \text { SWG 40p } \\ 36.38 .4054 p\end{array}$


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DF／DT Toggle 36p 3P／ST Toggle 30p

## FUSES

$1 t^{*}{ }^{\text {and }} \quad 20 \mathrm{~mm}, 10 \mathrm{~mA}, 20 \mathrm{~mA}, 250 \mathrm{~mA}$
$500 \mathrm{~mA}, 1 \mathrm{~A}, 1.5 \mathrm{~A}, 2 \mathrm{Q}$ QUICK－BLOW bp ea

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| 42 F |
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CON 240.15 watt $22 \cdot 48$ Model G． 18 watt 82.26 K2．Soldering Kit $8 \mathbf{8} .25$ STANDS：8T1 \＆1 SOLDER：18SWG Multicore oz 21.81 228wG 7oz 21．81．188WG 22ft 51p 228wG Tube 33p
ANTEX BITS and ELEMENTS
Bite No．
102 For model CN240 $\frac{3}{3}$
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50 For model X25 A웅
51 For model X25 ${ }^{*}$
52 For model X25 $\frac{7}{18}$
ELEMENTS
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EON $24021 \cdot 30$ ANTEX HEAT SINKS 10 VA T included in all prices，Please add
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$40 \mathrm{~V}, 50 \mathrm{~V}$, and $26 \mathrm{~V}-0-25 \mathrm{~V}$
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MT50／1
MTEO／2
0.08 each
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1

## 21－93

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43.30

## PLUGS

Ps 1 D．I．N． 2 Pin（Speaker）
PS 2 D．I．N． 3 Pin
PS 4 D．I．N． 5 Pin 18
Pg 5 DIN． 5 PIn $240^{\circ}$
Ps 6 D．I．N． 6 Pin
$\begin{array}{lll}\text { PS } & 7 & \text { D．I．N．} 7 \text { Pin } \\ \text { PS } & 8 & \text { Jack } 2.5 \mathrm{~mm} \text { Screened }\end{array}$
PS 9 Jack 3.5 mm Plastic
PS 10 Jack 3.5 mm Screened
PS 11 Jack $\frac{10}{2}$ Plastic
PS 13 Jack Stereo Screened PS 14 Phone
PS 15 Car Aerial
PS 16 CoAxial
INLINE SOCKETS
PS 21 D．I．N． 2 Pin（speaker）
PS 22 D．I．n． 3 Pin
PS 23 D．I．N． 5 Pin $180^{\circ}$
PS 24 D．I．N． 5 Pin $240^{\circ}$
PS 25 Jack 2.5 mm Plastic
PS 26 Jack 3.5 mm Plastic
PS 27 Jack ${ }^{\text {＂}}$ Plastic
PS 28 Jack $\frac{10}{}$ Screened
PS 29 Jack Stereo Plastic
PS 30 Jack Stereo Soreened PS 31 Phone Screened PS 32 Car Aerial
pS 33 CoAxial

## SOCKETS

PS 35 D．I．N． 2 Pin（Speaker）
Ps 36 D．I．N． 3 Pin
PS 38 DIN． 5 Pin $240^{\circ}$
Ps 39 Jack 2.5 mm Switched
PS 40 Jack 3.5 mm switched
PS 41 Jack I＂Switched PS 42 Jack Stereo sk
PS 43 Phono Single

PB 44 Phone Doable PS 47 CoAxial Flush

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LS 1 Speaker lead 2 pIn D．I．N．plug to open
ends approx． 3 metres long（coded） 0.20

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$\qquad$ Microphone Fully Braided
Three Core Mains Cable Three Core Mains Cable Speaker Cable
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| UIC03 $=12 \times 7403$ | 0.54 | U1351 $=12 \times 7451$ | 0.54 | UIC93 $=5 \times 7493$ | 0.54 |
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| UIC05 $=12 \times 7405$ | 0.54 | UIC54 $=12 \times 7454$ | 0.54 | UIC95 $=5 \times 7495$ | 0.54 |
| UIC06 $=8 \times 7406$ | 0.54 | U1C60 $=12 \times 7460$ | 0.54 | UJC96 $=5 \times 7496$ | 0.54 |
| $\mathrm{UIC07}=8 \times 7407$ | 0.54 | UIC70 $=8 \times 7470$ | 0.54 | UIC100 $=5 \times 74100$ | 0.54 |
| $\mathrm{UIC10}=12 \times 7410$ | 0.54 | UIC72 $=8 \times 7472$ | 0.54 | UIC121 $=5 \times 74121$ | 0.54 |
| UIC20 $=12 \times 7420$ | 0.54 | $\mathrm{UIC73}=8 \times 7473$ | 0.54 | UIC141 $-5 \times 74141$ | 0.54 |
| $\mathbf{U 1 C 3 0}=12 \times 7430$ | 0.54 | UIC74 $=8 \times 7474$ | 0.54 | $\mathrm{ULC151}=5 \times 74151$ | 0.54 |
| UIC40 $=12 \times 7440$ | 0.54 | UIC76 $=8 \times 7476$ | 0.54 | $\mathrm{UIC154}=5 \times 74154$ | 0.54 |
| UIC41 $=5 \times 7441$ | 0.54 | UIC80 $=5 \times 7480$ | 0.54 | U1C193 $=5 \times 74193$ | 0.54 |
| UIC42 $=5 \times 7442$ | 0.54 | UIC81 $=5 \times 7481$ | 0.54 | UIC199 $-5 \times 74199$ | 0.54 |
| UIC48 $=5 \times 7.443$ | 0.54 | UIC82 $=5 \times 7482$ | 0.54 | UICXI-25 Assorte | 1.55 |
| UIC44 $=5 \times 7444$ | 0.54 | UIC83 $=5 \times 7483$ | 0.54 | Packs cannot be sp | 125 |
| U1C45 $=5 \times 7445$ | 0.54 | UIC86 $=5 \times 7486$ | 0.54 | arsorted pieces (our avallable as PAK | ix) is |

## TIMEAR 1.C.S-FULL SPEC.

Built to a apecification and NOT a price, and yet atill the greateat value on the market,
the PA100 stereo pre-amplifier has been concelved from the latest circuit technlques.
De Defigned for use with the AL60 power smplifier system, this quality made unit incorporates no lesa than eight silicon planar transistors,
selected Iow nolse NPN devices for use in the input stages. Three switched stereo inputs, and rumble and scratch filters are features of the
PA100, which aleo has a BTEREO/MONO switch, volume, balance and continuously
varloble bas and treble controls. varisble bass and treble controle. SPECIFICATION:

| SPECIFICATION: |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Frequency response |  | Bass control |  |
| Harmonic distortion | better than 0 | Treble control |  |
| Inputs: 1. Tape head | 3.25 mV into 50 K | Filters: Rumble (bigh pass) | 8 ckHz |
| 2. Radio, Tuner | 75 mV into $50 \mathrm{~K} \Omega$ | Scratch (low pass) | ${ }_{\text {better than }}+65 \mathrm{~dB}$ |
| 3. Marnetic P.U. | 3 mV into $50 \mathrm{~K} \Omega$ | Signal/notse ratio | better than +65 dB |
|  | output of 250 mV . | Input overload |  |
| nd P.U. Inputs equa | ised to RIAA carve | Supply | $\stackrel{+}{292 \times 82 \times 35 \mathrm{~mm}}$ |

## MK 60 AUDIO KIT

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 MODULES


The AL10, AL20 and AL30 units are
similar in thelr mppearance and in their
general specifcation. However in careiul general specifcation. However, carefin]
selection of the plastic power device has
resulted in a range of output
 The versatility of their desigg makes them
ideal for use in record players, tape recorders,
stereo amplifiers and cassette stereo amplifiers and cassette and cartridge
tupe players in the car and at home.

| Perameter | Conditions | Performance |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| HARMONIC DIBTORTION | Po $=3$ WATTE $\mathrm{f}=1 \mathrm{KHz}$ | 0.25\% |
| LOAD Impedance | - | 8-168 |
| INPUT IMPEDANCE | $\mathrm{f}=1 \mathrm{KHz}$ | 100 kS 2 |
| FREQUENCY RESPONSE $\pm 3 \mathrm{~dB}$ | Po-2 WATTS | $50 \mathrm{~Hz}-26 \mathrm{KHz}$ |
| SENSITIYITY for Rated o/P | $\mathrm{V}_{8}=25 \mathrm{~V} . \mathrm{R} 1=8 \Omega \mathrm{f}=1 \mathrm{KHz}$ | Tōmv゙. RMS |
| DIMENSIONS | - | $3^{\prime \prime} \times 21^{\prime \prime} \times 1^{\prime \prime}$ |

The above table relates to the AL10. AL20 and AL30 modulea. The following table -

| Parameter | AL10 | AL20 | AL30 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Maxirnum Supply Voltage | 25 | 30 | 30 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { Power outhut fur } 2 \% \text { T.H.D. } \\ & (R L=\$ \Omega \mathrm{f}=1 \mathrm{KHz}) \end{aligned}$ | 3 watts RMS Min. | 5 watts RMS Min. | 10 patts RMSMIn. |
| PRICE | 28.60 | ¢2.86 | 83.20 |



## TRANSFORMERS



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## PA 12. PRE-AMPLIFIER SPECIFICATION

 can be suppiied from their associated power supplies.
There are two stereo inputs, one has been designed for uie with Ceramic cartidgge wille the auxilisry input wil
sult most $\uparrow$ Magnetic cartridges. Full detall
 Volume and onloff swithen, hamiancee bass and treble
$84 \mathrm{~mm} \times 35 \mathrm{~mm}$
$\qquad$ ars control- 12 KB at 60 H Input $1+14 \mathrm{~dB}$ at $14 \mathrm{KH}_{7}$ Input 2. Sensitivity 300 m


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f0.60*

> L.E.D. TYPE HP5082/4850

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## APPOINTMENTS VACANT

DISPLAYED APPOINTMENTS VACANT: $£ 6.08$ per single col. centimetre (min. 3 cm ). LINE advertisements (run-on): 86p per line (approx. 7 words), minimum three lines. BOX NUMBERS: 35p extra. (Replies should be addressed to the Box number in the advertisement, c/o Wireless World, Dorset House, Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LU). PHONE: Allan Petters on 01-261 8508 or 01-261 8423.

> Advertisements accepted up to 12 noon Monday, January 6th for the February issue subject to space being

Classified Advertisement Rates are currently zero rated for the purpose of V.A.T.


We have a number of opportunities for instructors to train our customer engineers to service and maintain data processing equipment including the latest 370 Systems and Software.

If you're an experienced or potential instructor with a background in software and/or electronics, educated to HNC, C \& G standard or perhaps you've had similar service experience-now's the chance to find out more about these secure, well paid positions, based in NW London. Salaries start from£ 3000 and career development prospects and training are excellent.

If you are interested please write to: Anne Dare, IBM United Kingdom Limited, 389 Chiswick High Road, London W4 4AL. Quoting ref: WW/92418.

## YoungElectronicsEngineers A mobilefuture inbroadcasting?

We require Engineers qualified, or about to qualify, to H.N.C. or equivalent level and possibly with a few years' experience, who will learn to operate and maintain the advanced electronic equipment at our Transmitting Stations throughout the country bringing Independent Television and Radio into millions of homes.
Our Engineers may be called upon to rectify a fault anywhere, anytime and in all weathers. It's a job that requires flexibility about when and where you work; you'll need a driving licence and you must be prepared to undertake a demanding training course.

## Paid While You Train

IBA's special eighteen month training course, which combines theoretical study with practical 'on station training' will give you a comprehensive knowledge of operations and maintenance techniques, plus an additional recognised qualification, and you will be paid a training salary of not less than $£ 1841$, more for those with experience.

## The Future

On completion of your training, you will be in the field, full-time on a salary range of $£ 2861-£ 4167$. Further promotion to Team Leader and beyond is up to you.

Write or telephone for full details and an application form quoting ref. WW/I234 to: The Personnel Officer, Independent Broadcasting Authority, Crawley Court, Nr. Winchester, Hants. Tel: Winchester 822599.

## A place in the future for Electronic Test Engineers <br> As leaders in advanced technology. Ferranti hold a very firm <br> ability in electronics

place in the future electronic world.

We, have further vacancies for three Test Engineers to strengthen our team for the future. The successful applicants will join a busy, well-equipped organisation backed up by an excellent repair service. We test, and diagnose faults on, highquality Multi-layer Analogue and Digital Computer Panels (with over 300 different types). Ideally, applicants should have Analogue, Digital or Core Store experience, or have Forces training or hold a recognised qualification or have proven

If you think you're the right man for the job, telephone or write for an application form, quoting ref. no. D/530/WW, to:

The Personnel Manager.
Ferranti Limited,
Western Road,
Bracknell, Berks
or telephone Bracknell 3232, Recruitment Office ext. 471.

## Radio Operators. How to see more of your wife without losing sight of the sea.

 Post Office Maritime Service. We have openings for Radio Operators at several of our coastal stations. The work is just as interesting, just as rewarding as aboard ship, but you get home to see your wife and family more often. You need a United Kingdom General or First Class Certificate in Radiocommunications, or an equivalent certificate issued by a Commonwealth Administration or the Irish Republic.

Starting pay for a man of 25 or over is $£ 2,270$, plus cost of living allowance with further


In addition to your basic salary, you'll get an average allowance of $£ 450$ a year for shift duties and there are opportunities for overtime.

Other benefits include a good pension scheme, sick pay and prospects of promotion to Senior Management.

For more information, write to: ETE Maritime Radio Services Division (L531), ET 17.1.1.2., Room 643, Union House, St. Martins-le-Grand, London, ECIA IAS.

## Here is your opportunity to enter the TV service industry as a

## TRAINEE TV TECHNICIAN WITH REDIFFUSION

If you have some basic knowledge of TV or electronics, we will further your education with theoretical and practical training.

OUR MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS ARE
(1) A full (clean) driving licence.
(2) Age over 19 years.
(3) City and Guilds Part 1 in Radio \& TV/Electronics. Applicants possessing the General Certificate of Education or equivalent in Science, Maths and Physics will be considered.
(4) An ambition to become a fully qualified top grade technician.

If you are one of these people we offer :

* £30 per week whilst training, this will be increased if you successfully complete your training period.
* Regular courses at one of our training schools.
* A personalised vehicle when obtaining the higher grades.
* 3 weeks annual holiday after one year's service.
* Company Pension scheme.

INTERESTED? THEN APPLY IN WRITING TO:
The Service Supervisor,
Rediffusion (Redhire) Lid.,
727 Tudor Estate,
Twyford Abbey Road,
Párk Royal
NW10
Or Telephone 01-965 4554/5 during normal working hours.

## VOICE OF KENYA MAINTENANCE ENGINEER (BROADCAST TRANSMITTER)

Required by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to introduce a revised maintenance system and assist in its implementation; to instruct staff and compile a maintenance instruction manual; to give occasional lectures on maintenance to engineering trainees.

Candidates $30-50$ years, should be graduates in Electronics with at least three years' experience in Telecommunications Broadcasting systems or holders of the City and Guilds Telecommunications Final with seven years' experience in Broadcasting Transmitters, two of which must have been in a Supervisory capacity. They must be able to organise and formulate radio transmitter maintenance routine procedures. Experience as an Instructor in maintenance techniques would be an advantage.
Salary in the range $£ 3,020$ to $£ 3,440$ which includes an allowance, normally tax free, of $£ 1,212$ to $£ 1,488$ pa. Terminal gratuity 25 per cent.

Other benefits include Subsidised accommodation, Education Allowances; Children's Holiday Visit Passages, Free Family Passages, Appointment grant $£ 150-£ 300.30$ month tour.
The post described is partly financed by Britain's programme of aid to the developing countries administered by the Ministry of Overseas Development.
For further particulars you should apply, giving brief details of experience to:


M Division, 4 Millbank, London SW1P 3JD, quoting reference number M2K/730923/WF.

## The Royal Fleet Auxiliary requires <br> $$
\begin{aligned} & \text { Radio } \\ & \text { Officers } \end{aligned}
$$

with Ist Class PMG or MPT General Certificate or (with previous experience) 2nd Class PMG Certificate and DOT Radio Maintenance Certificate.
Basic rates of pay at entry depend on experience e.g. less than six months sea service $£ 2,312$ : over six months sea service $£ 2,570$. These rates are increased to take account of qualifications held.
Regular increments are awarded for Company service thereafter and there are excellent prospects for promotion into the Senior grade with salaries rising to £6, 156 per annum.

* Leave 183 days per annum served.
* Study leave on full pay.
* Generous sick leave and welfare arrangements.
* Special training courses on full pay.
* Opportunities for wives to travel.

The Royal Fleet Auxiliary is a career service offering an interesting and exciting way of life to young men of above average ability who seek a more challenging technical job at sea.
For further details write to:-
The Careers Office, Royal Fleet Auxiliary,
DGST(N) 74A, Room 603, Empress State Building,
London SW6 ITR. Or phone:-01-385 1244 ext. 2192. CX8117


## VIDEOTAPE FIELD SERVICE ENGINEER

MIDDLE EAST/AFRICA

We require an engineer with extensive practical experience troubleshooting professional television broadcast equipment. especially videotape recorders.

Applicant must be willing to travel extensively and to be able to work in the field without direct supervision.

Necessary specialised training will be given on Company products. He will be based in Beirut, Lebanon, and assistance will be given with relocation costs.

An excellent salary is offered.
Written applications including resumé and personal details should be addressed to: Service Manager, Ampex World Operations SA., P.O. Box 8411 , Beirut, Lebanon.


Interesting work testing new electronic equipment made by the BBC for its colour television and stereo radio services, involving analogue and digital techniques over a frequency range from D.C. to U.H.F.

## LABORATORY TECHNICIANS

Qualifications O.N.D., O.N.C. or C. \& G. Part II in Telecommunications or Electrical Technician certificate. Initial salary range normally £2127 to £2319 rising to £2952. Good opportunities for promotion to Senior Laboratory Technician.

## SENIOR LABORATORY TECHNICIANS

Qualifications H.N.D.,H.N.C. or C. \& G.Full Technical Certificate in Telecommunications or Electrical Technician certificate. Initial salary range normally $£ 2679$ to $£ 2931$ rising to $£ 3762$. Opportunities exist for further promotion to Engineering grades.
Staff will be based at Equipment Department, Chiswick which is within easy reach of British Rail and London Transport services and the M4, North and South Circular roads. Good club and canteen facilities are available.
The posts are pensionable with four weeks leave annually. Requests for application forms to The Engineering Recruitment Officer, BBC, Broadcasting House, London, W1A 1AA, quoting reference 74.E.4105/WW. Please enclose an addressed envelope at least $9^{\prime \prime} \times 4^{\prime \prime}$ with your application; no stamp is required. Closing date for completed application forms is 14 days after publication.


## S(1) II LIMITED,

Manufacturers of modern FM radio communication systems for all branches of industry, transport and Public Authorities require additional

## TEST TECHNICIANS

based in Camberley to assist in the final testing of personal and mobile radio equipment and sophisticated control systems.
Knowledge of RF, digital and thick film techniques desirable with academic levels to ONC or C. \& G. Final, but for an applicant with exceptional experience and knowledge these qualifications may be waived.
Pleasant working conditions, good salary and overtime. Opportunities for further study and training.
Hours: Monday-Thursday:
$8.15 \mathrm{am}-1.00 \mathrm{pm} .1 .30 \mathrm{pm}-4.45 \mathrm{pm}$.
Friday:
$8.15 \mathrm{am}-1.00 \mathrm{pm} .1 .30 \mathrm{pm}-3.30 \mathrm{pm}$.
Apply: The Personnel Officer,

## Stornil <br> LIMITED,

Frimley Road.
Camberley. Telephone: 027629131

## Avery-Hardoll

Manufacturers of Meter Pumps for Petrol and Fuelling Equipment for Aircraft, require a

## TECHNICAL SERVICE ENGINEER

resident in West Yorkshire, who has reached ONC in electrics or electronics and preferably has had experience in electro-mechanical servicing.
The duties are concerned with the commissioning, diagnosis of faults, and rectification of electronic equipment associated with liquid flow measuring devices, mainly on readout and control.

Permanent staff position with a Company car, four weeks' holiday after one year of service, contributory pension scheme etc.

Please write with brief details of experience to date to: Personnel Manager, Avery-Hardoll Ltd., Downley Road, Havant, Hants PO9 2NW.

14358


# AVIONCSINEDNBURCH ELECTRONIC ENGINEERS 

FERRANTI in Edinburgh are involved in many importēnt defence contracts including the Multi Role Combat Aircraft.

We need Engineers of experience and technical capability to join expert teams on a variety of interesting projects with high technological content. We are looking for

## TEST SPECIFICATION WRITERS <br> TEST ENGINEERS <br> TRIALS ENGINEERS <br> TECHNICAL AUTHORS <br> SERVICE ENGINEERS

and would be particularly interested to hear from candidates withqualifications and experience in any of the following areas: DIGITAL AND ANALOGUE TECHNIQUES, MICROWAVE ENGINEERING, LASERS AND OPTICS, ELECTRONIC DISPLAYS, AUTOMATIC TEST TECHNIQUES, AIRBORNE RADAR, INERTIAL NAVIGATIONAL SYSTEMS.

Priority will be given to incoming staff for Scottish Special Housing. The Company operates a contributory pension and life assurance scheme, and will assist with relocation expenses where necessary. Salary up to $£ 3,000$.

Apply in writing with details of qualifications and experience to the:
Staff Appointments Officer
Ferranti Limited
Ferry Road
FERRANTI Edinburgh EH5 2XS
Tel: 031-332 2411

## A versatile and experienced

## Radio and

 Audio Engineeris required to assist the Technical Director in the Service and Quality Control department of an established European Manufacturer/ Distributor.
Location N. London.
First-class salary in accordance with experience.
Contact Mr. A. Massing 01-837 3045.

## TRAINEE <br> WIRELESS TECHNICIAN

required by
EDINBURGH CITY POLICE
Salary scale $£ 888$ rising to $£ 1.923$ during training, 38 -hour week.
Applicants should hold ' $O$ ' level Mathematics and Physics.
Applications to Recruiting Officer. Edinburgh City Police, Police Headquarters, Fettes Avenue, Edinburgh EH4 1RB. 4360

## cramn



## ENGINEERING INSPECTORS (TELECOMS)

required by the CROWN AGENTS for their Offices in Croydon and Walsall

The duties comprise the inspection and testing of materials, plant and equipment at manufacturers' works prior to shipment overseas.
Candidates should have served a recognised engineering apprenticeship or had an equivalent period of practical training and preferably hold HNC or equivalent. Preference will be given to candidates with experience of manufacturing processes and inspection/quality assurance procedures.

## CROYDON-(Reference: M1S/741032)

Experience in Radio Systems (VHF, UHF or SHF) and preferably with some experience of either Transmission Systems, Common Control Exchange Equipment or Strowger Exchange Equipment.

## WALSALL—(Reference: M1S/741034)

Experience in Common Control Telephone Exchange Equipment and preferably with experience of current electronic techniques and with some knowledge of either Transmission or Radio Systems.
Commencing salaries in the range $£ 2,200$ to $£ 2,770$ in a scale rising to $£ 3,140$. Five weeks annual holiday. Non-contributory pension scheme. The candidate appointed to the Croydon Office will also receive Outer London Weighting of $£ 260$ p.a.
Applicants must be prepared to travel in the UK and to undertake short visits and, exceptionally, tours of up to two vears duration overseas.

For further particulars you should apply. giving brief details of experience to: CROWN AGENTS. M Division, 4 Millbank, London SW1P 3JD, quoting reference number MIS/741032/4/WF.

## BP Research Centre, Sunbury Technician Engineer

required at the BP Research Centre for the development and maintenance of a variety of proprietary and purpose-designed electronic equipment for use on refinery, biological and chemical processes as well as special purpose test rigs.
Candidates, aged 21-35, should have HNC or HND preferably with some experience of maintaining electronic equipment.
Salary will be dependent upon experience but is likely to be approximately $£ 2,700$ per annum. In addition London Allowance and Threshold Supplements are payable. Other fringe benefits include non-contributory pension scheme, four weeks' annual leave, restaurant lunches for $5 p$ per day, rising salary scale and excellent sports and social facilities.
For an application form please apply to: The Manager, Central Recruitment, The British Petroleum Company Limited, Britannic House, Moor Lane, London EC2Y 9BU.

14310

## UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM-INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION Colleges of Education



Closed Circuit Television Recording Unit

An Engineer is needed to assist the Senior Engineer in the maintenance and operation of a well-equipped Mobile Closed Circuit Television Recording Unit serving a number of Colleges of Education in the area, and based at Neville's Cross College, Durham. Recordings are made through. out the County. Applicants should have a basic general knowledge of television techniques and equipment. Ability to drive is essential.
Salary: Local Authority Scale T3: $£ 2,187$ to $£ 2,538$, with initial placing according to age and qualifications. Conditions of service will be those applicable in a College of Education. The appointment is tenable from Ist February, 1975 or as soon as possible thereafter.
Applications, including the names of two referees should be sent to the Secretary, University of Durham, Institute of Education, 48 Old Elvet, Durham, not later than Friday, 17th January, 1975.

## UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

## RESEARCH ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for a vacancy in the Electronics Workshop of the Nuclear Physics Research Unit. The duties encompass the maintenance and repair of existing electronic units associated with all aspects of the Unit's research interests as well as the design and construction of new equipment.
Salary will be determined according toqualifications and experience and applications should reach the Registrar, University of the Witwatersrand, Jan Smuts Avenue, Johannesburg, not later than 7th January 1975.
U.K. applicants may obtain the information sheet relating to this post from the London Representative, University of the Witwatersrand, 278 High Holborn, London W.C.I.
[4347

## £2,000-£2,500

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## REPAIR ENGINEER

ACCORDING TO ABILITY
for servicing audio and photographic
(electronic flash) equipment, etc.
AXCO INSTRUMENTS LTD.
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## HARINGEY

EDUCATION SERVICE

## Laboratory Technician

required at Stationer's Company's School, Mayfield Road, N.8, to work 35 hours per week x 52 weeks per annum.
Salary rising to $£ 2,127$ per annum plus threshold payment. Commencing salary according to quali21 years of age).
Minimum Qualifications: Ordinary National Certificate or Ordinary National Diploma; City and Guilds Laboratory Technicians Certificate; 4 G.C.E. passes with 2 at ' $A$ ' level in appropriate
subjects, Membership of Institute of Science Technology $O R$ an equivalent suitable qualification OR 5 years suitable experience. Qualifications in Electronics would be an advantage.
Candidates will be responsible for the maintenance of the Language Laboratory and will be required to assist in the upkeep of Audio-Visual aids throughout the school and help monitor a computer link-line.
The post is ideal for a candidate who wishes to gain experience in the maintenance of a fairly wide range of equipment.
An extensive range of improvements in employment conditions for officers has been approved, and is in the process of implementation, including an expansion of the assisted car purchase facilities in appropriate cases, annual bonus for continuous service, and disturbance travelling allowances for staff joining Haringey.
Application forms obtainable from Chief Education Officer, Somerset Road, N. 17 to be returnable by 27 December 1974.
[4318

## CHELSEA COLLEGE University of London <br> TELEVISION TECHNICIAN

A Television Technician (Grade 5) is required to operate and maintain a wide range of audio and video equipment. The successful candidate will be expected to work closely with academic staff and students, and assist in the interpretation of their requirements in television terms. The television service at the College is expanding and the installation and commissioning of new equipment wilt present additional responsibilities. Salary Scale: $£ 2,667-\{3,123$ per annum (including $£ 228$ London Allowance. which is under review).

Application forms from Personnel Officer WW, Chelsea College, Manresa Road, London, SW3 6LX.

## OPPORTUNITY FOR GRADUATE IN ELECTRONICS

with some experience of industry to join fast expanding firm specializing in power supply and logic signalling equipment.

ALPHA OMETRIC LTD.,
HOLMDALE, SIDMOUTH, DEVON.
TEL: Sidmouth 5151.

## AUDIO TEST ENGINEERS

Audix manufacture a wide range of public address, communications and broadcast studio equipment. To satisfy the increasing demand for our products we require engineers preferably with previous audio test/service experience and a good practical knowledge of transistor circuit techniques. Applicants will be expected to carry out systems and unit testing of custom built equipment, supervise junior staff and work, with the minimum of supervision. Vacancies also exist for junior engineers having ONC or equivalent qualifications who have a keen interest in audio equipment. The posts offered will be centred at a new factory now nearing completion at Saffron Walden, Essex.
Applications should be made in writing to:

AUDIX LMMITED
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## TELEVISION ENGINEERS

A million television rental contracts, hi-fi and audio sales plus overseas interests means we need A mivion a lively support team to handle the many engineering proble to cope effectively with these diverse tasks which cover the following areas.
tasks which cover the following areas.

* Television and audio equipment type approval
* BS4 15 safety requirements
* Design changes and component evaluation
* Quality assurance
* Factory and field technical support
* Preparation of technical information

Senior and junior positions are offered at our Chessington laboratories, situated on the edge of the Surrey countryside.

Applicants should ideaily have some formal qualifications, but relevant experience is particularly important. Excellent salaries are offered and assistance with relocation expenses will be given where necessary.

If you are interested, or would like further information, contact:
J. Sinclair,

Rediffusion Consumer Electronics,
Fullers Way South,
Chessington,
Chessin
Surrey,
KT9 1HJ 01-397 5411

## Under 3O? tr's your electronics experience wére after

If you are wondering what your future holds you should consider a career with International Computers Limited. If your experience is in radar, communications or electronic navigation equipment, we will train you to become a member of our field engineers team who maintain and service our installations from bases all over the country. You'll make use of all your knowledge and experience, but your personality and initiative will play a big part as well,

Your thorough training on ICL equipment, will stand you in excellent stead, whatever your future career path. We are

Europe's leading computer manufacturer, so you'll be dealing with our products over a wide range of customers, including government departments, universities, research organisations and industry.

This is not a 9-5 rut, hours are varied and prospects are excellent. Gross pay could be in excess of $£ 2000$ pa during initial training.

Don't gamble with your future, write now for an application form, quoting reference $W_{745} \mathrm{C}$, to J Cunnell, International Computers Limited, 85/91 Upper Richmond Road, Putney, London S.WI5. Computers
think computers-think ICL

## Merton, Sutton \& Wandsworth Area Health Authority (Teaching) <br> Wandsworth \& East Merton Teaching District <br> ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL, LONDON SW1 <br> OPPORTUNITY IN ELECTRONICS

A vacancy exists in the Electronics Section of the Department of Medical Physics. The work involves the design, development and manufacture of a wide variety of medical and research instruments; in particular, the solution of problems arising from the use of cardiac pacemakers. Experience with digital integrated circuits very desirable.
The salary is on the MPT II scale, which is $£ 2.727-£ 3.516$ pa plus Threshold. Minimum qualification HNC or the
MPT III scale, which is $£ 2,316-£ 2.943$ pa plus Threshold. Minimum qualification ONC. The salary point on the above scale depends on experience and qualifications.


Further information and application forms are available from the Secretary,
Cardiac Department,
St. George's Hospital,
Hyde Park Corner, London SW1X 7EZ.


The Company is looking for engineers of various grades to work from their new service and installation dept. in Langley, near Slough.
Applicants should be conversant with CCTV systems and equipment. Salary in accordance with age and experience.

Write in the first instance to CHIEFENGINEER TVEYE Ltd., 23 Victoria Street, Windsor, BerksSL41HE.

## SUNDERLAND POLYTECHNIC FACLLTY OF ENGINEERING

## REEARCH ASSOCIIII

Applications are invited from good honours graduates in Electrical Engineering, Computer Systems or an allied field, for the position of Research Associate in the above Faculty.

The research, which is in the area of image analysis by min-computer, is jointly sponsored by the Polytechnic and Joyce Loebl Ltd. The appointment is for three years, subject to satisfactory progress, and candidates will be expected to register for a higher degree. A range of computers will be available for the project.

This is an interesting opportunity to enable ing field wh to gained in a new and expand

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\begin{aligned}
& \text { Salary Scale } £ 2,000 \text { by } 81 \text { ( } 2 \text { ) to } £ 2,162 \\
& \text { plus threshold payments (based on the } \\
& \text { Burnham Seales for Assistant Lecturers, plus } \\
& \text { an industrial subvention). }
\end{aligned}
$$

Application forms may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, Sunderland Polytechnic Chester Road, Sunderland SR1 3SD, and should be returned within 10 days of the appearance of this advertisement.

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## SERVICE EHGINEFRS

ELECTRONIC and MEDICAL
LKB require two additional engineers.

1. A workshop based engineer to service our range of scientific and laboratory equipment. Good working knowledge of electronics required. Training given.
2. A Medical engineer to work from our office covering a wide area of England and Wales. Equipment includes Respirators and Artificial Kidney apparatus. Previous experience not essential. Car provided, training given.
The Company offers excellent working conditions, including Pension Scheme, Profit sharing bonus scheme, BUPA Membership.
Write for application form to:
The Service Manager,
LKB Instruments Limited,
232 Addington Road,
South Croydon,
Surrey CR2 8 YD.

# ELECTRONIC VACANCIES 

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195

## UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF NORTH WALES, BANGOR School of Physical and Molecular Sciences

ELECTRONICS TECHN|CAN GRADEE
Applications are invited for the post of
Electronics Technician Grade 5 in the above Electronics Technicia
mentioned School.
The successful appticant will be concerned with the development and construction of new specialised electronic equipment for research and teaching, and with the servicing and maintenance of existing equipment.
Applicants should have had several years practical experience in digital and linear sotid state electronics, preferably in industry or the services. coupled with theoretical knowledge to about H.N.C. standard.
Salary at an appropriate point on the scale:-
$62,439-62,895$ per annum $62.439-62.895$ per annum.
Applications (two copies), giving full details of age. qualifications and experience, together with the names and addresses of two referees should be submitted to the Secretary and Registrar, University College of North Wales. Bangor, not bater than the 23 rd December,
1974, 1974.
[4317

ROYAL HOLLOWAY COLLEGE (University of London)
Egham Hill, Egham, Surrey
EXPERIENCED
ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN
(GRADE 4)
Required in the Physics Department for 1 year only. Salary on the scale f1,848-E2,163. Applications together with the names and addresses of two referees should be sent to the Personnel Officer (WW) as soon as possible.

## Marine Radio Engineers for installation \& maintenance work

We need some more engineers to work from our Tilbury and Glasgow Depots on the service and installation of marine radio and associated equipment. Half the time will involve work on board ships, often at sea, and applicants must be ex-merchant navy radio officers with two or more years sea experience in equipment maintenance.
If interested, please write or phone: Jonathan Smith, International Marine Radio Co., Ltd., Peall Road, Croydon CR9 3AX. Telephone 01-684 9771.

## ITT

Marine

## COLOUR TELEVISION ENGINEER

We are a busy major international advertising agency working on household-name clients. To assist in the operation and maintenance of a growing colour-television installation we require a further television engineer. A sound basic knowledge of television is necessary together with operational experience of broadcast or closed-circuit television equipment. Experience in the operation and maintenance of a Rank Cintel Twin Lens Flying Spot Scanner would be particularly advantageous.
Excellent working conditions, five-day week, four weeks holiday, contributory pension scheme, free membership of BUPA.
Salary negotiable.


Applications to: Jean Powell, Personnel Manager, Leo Burnett Ltd, 48 St Martin's Lane, London WC2. Tel. 018362424.

## FIJI <br> <br> TECHNICAL OFFICER <br> <br> TECHNICAL OFFICER <br> HIGHER GRADE <br> (TRANSMISSON CONSTRUCTION)

required by the Posts and Telecommunications department to lead a small team engaged in the installation and commissioning of VHF, UHF and SHF radio tinks, both single-channel and multi-channel and all associated equipment. May also be required to assist with detailed planning of systems and installations.

Candidates must hold a Final City and Guilds Certificate in Telecommunications (including Radio C) or equivalent plus five years' supervisory experience on maintenance or installation of VHF, UHF or SHF radio systems.
Salary in the range $£ 2,440$ to $£ 3,550$ pa which includes an allowance, normally tax free, of $£ 696$ to $£ 996$ pa. Terminal gratuity 20\% on basic salary, 25\% on allowance.

Other benefits include: low local income tax, generous paid leave, subsidised accommodation: free family passages, children's education allowances and holiday visit passages: (tour $2 \frac{1}{2}-3$ years), appointment or disturbance grant of up to £300, interest free car loan up to £600 may be payable.
The post described is partly financed by Britain's programme of aid to the developing countries administered by the Ministry of Overseas Development.

For further particulars you should apply, giving brief details of experience to:


M Division, 4 Millbank, London SW1P 3JD, quoting reference number M2K/740307/WF

4314

## SERVICE MANAGER HI-FI

Do you have a good technical background in electronics with a flair for staff management and administration? Then you could be the man we need to take over and re-organise the service division of our organisation. The position entails close liaison with customers therefore a friendly personality and an awareness of public relations is important.

We are a fast-growing retail company specialising in audio, hi-fi and video products and this opportunity is at senior executive level responsible directly to the board. The person appointed will operate from our main service department at Watford.

An experienced man is envisaged with a proven record having spent at least five years in the audio/tape and television industry. He will command a salary commensurate with his abilities and the importance we attach to the position. The company has a non-contributory pension scheme with free life insurance and disability cover.

Applications in writing and in the strictest confidence to:
Alan A. Grove, Director, KJ Leisuresound Ltd., Bridle Path, Watford, Herts WD2 4BZ.

## UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM

Department of Engineering Science

## REQUIRES

ELECTRONICS
TECHNICIAN
Applications are invited for the post of Technician in the Department of Engineering Science. The successful candidate will be responsible for the existing electronic equipment in the department's laboratories and will be called on to develop novel circuits for teaching and research.
Salary will be at an appropriate point on the scale $E 2,01: 3$ to $£ 2,343$, according to experience.
Applications in writing giving full details of age, education, qualifications and experience together with copies of two testimonials to the PERSONNEL. OFFICE, Old Shire Hall, Durham.
[4287

## MEDICAL PHYSICS TECHNICIAN

required for servicing hospital and hame-based kidney machines. Considerable travel in South East England, and there are opportunities for research. Previous experience of kidney machines is not essential but proven ability in this or similar fields of engineering is of greater importance. Academic achievement should at least be ONC or equivalent stańdard. Current driving licence essential. Salary according to qualifications and experience.
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4324

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## Contact:

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Chassifiods contimued on p. 93

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| PCC189 | 41.0 |
| PCF80 | 31.5 |
| PCF86 | 39.0 |
| PCF801 | 42.0 |
| PCF802 | 40.0 |
| PCL82 | 39.0 |
| PCL84 | 34.0 |
| PCL85 | 39.5 |
| PCL86 | 41.0 |
| PFL200 | 55.5 |
| PL36 | 55.5 |
| PL84 | 25.0 |
| PL504 | 60.5 |


| Type | Goods | Type |
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