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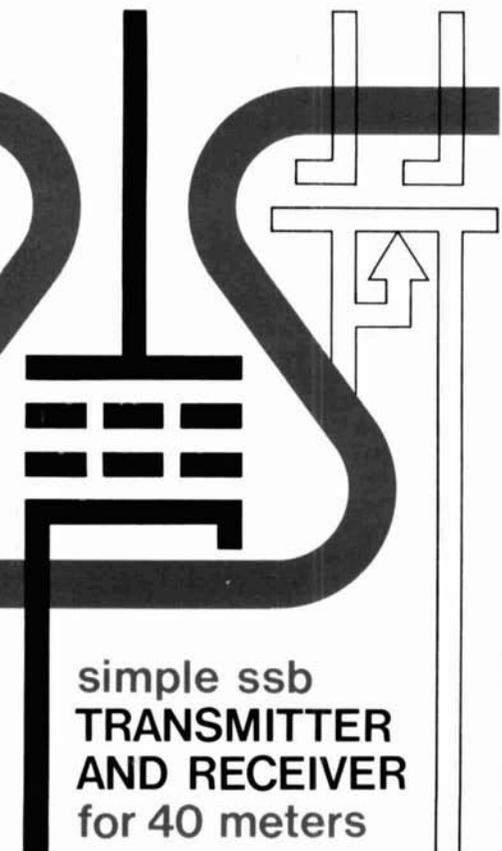
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MARCH 1974

this month

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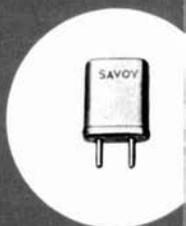


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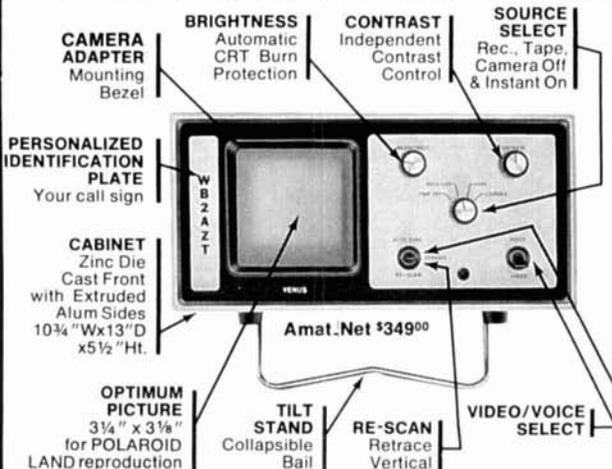
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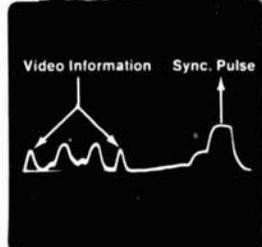


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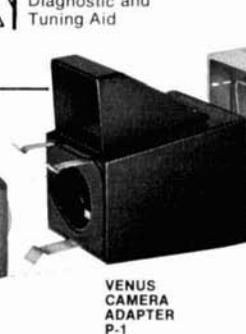
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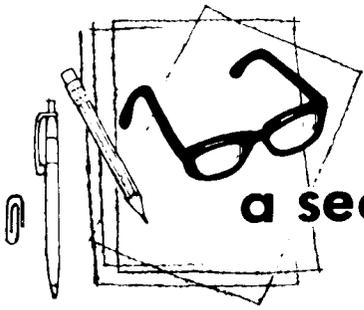
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a second look

by Jim
fisk

A few months ago, down in Oklahoma, several old-time radio amateurs, each now retired, attended an auction of the electronics equipment and *junk* collection of a prominent local amateur. From all reports, it was quite a collection, filling four large warehouses. Except for the huge volume (and original cost) the collection resembled the typical "hell box" of every amateur who lived through the halcyon days when building your own transmitter was conventional practice and everyone eagerly added to his junk collection at every possible opportunity. The same is still true to a somewhat lesser extent, with amateurs maintaining large collections of old and new electronic goodies for some, yet unplanned, project. Talk to any amateur who has been around for a few years and you're sure to find a garage, an attic or a basement full!

However, there was one big difference in the Oklahoma collection. Where most radio amateurs painfully part with dollars, this amateur had painlessly parted with thousands of dollars. The contents of the four warehouses vividly reflected this difference. Think back a few years — what was the most delectable piece of radio gear you could imagine? It was probably in the Oklahoma collection. And not just one, but several. Parts, radio sets, test equipment, you name it, it was all there in unimaginable profusion. One whole warehouse floor was crammed full of big transmitters, spark coils and rotary gaps for 1920-style transmitters, spider-web coils and thousands of variable capacitors of every possible make and description. The list could go on for pages.

Now here's the tragedy: These priceless articles, which belong in a museum, were grouped in huge lots with utter junk and sold to the only people who can handle large lots of junk — junk dealers! The probability that these dealers have

the background to differentiate between the valuable antique and the valueless junk is frighteningly small. Antiques that can never be replaced, items not preserved in any collection, are going to be bulldozed under at a county landfill dump, and that's a bloody shame.

This scene, on a much more modest scale, is probably repeated many times a year. Without getting morbid, each one of us should realize that we are not immortal. Each of us has a collection of electronic gear that we've acquired over the years that will, if someone doesn't know any better, be bulldozed under with the trash at the city dump when we join the list of Silent Keys. Each item, when you acquired it, represented a jewel to be treasured and was carefully put away. If you were ever so careless as to toss out one of these treasures, you could be sure you would have an almost immediate pressing need for an identical article. I know, because it's happened to me everytime I've cleaned house!

The point is this: Talk to your heirs. Clue them in as to what items belong in a museum. Better yet, make arrangements with the executor of your estate to donate certain prized items to the museum of your choice. This applies not only to equipment, but to your library of old electronics books. The same sort of foresight applies to your newer equipment as well. Give your executor the names of several trusted amateur friends who will help dispose of modern radio gear and test equipment. They will know the fair market value — the executor may not. There have been more than a few cases where an amateur's survivors have been ripped off to the tune of thousands of dollars. Don't let it happen to your family.

Jim Fisk, W1DTY
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simple ssb transmitter and receiver for 40 meters

Complete construction information for a no-frills ssb and CW transceiver system that offers high performance at low cost

This article describes a simple, high-performance 40-meter ssb and CW receiver and transmitter. The receiver incorporates a very stable vfo and incremental tuning while the transmitter features 180-watt PEP input. Although the receiver was designed to operate in conjunction with a companion 40-meter exciter, it can also be used with any number of separate exciters.

Furthermore, the basic design can be used on any of the amateur bands from 80 through 10 meters by simply using the appropriate tuned circuits in the rf and mixer stages, and by changing the frequency of the vfo so it tunes 455 kHz below the desired band. For maximum stability vfo pre-mixing should be con-

sidered for the two higher-frequency bands, 10 and 15 meters.

the receiver

A look at the block diagram in **fig. 1** shows that the basic receiver circuit is a rather conventional single-conversion super-heterodyne. The incoming 7-MHz signal is coupled to the first rf amplifier, Q1, amplified, and applied to gate 1 of the mixer, Q2 (**fig. 2**). The dual-gate mosfets used in the rf amplifier and mixer stages provide high gain, low noise and a minimum of cross-modulation problems. These particular devices are also internally gate protected, a significant bonus when the receiver is used in strong rf fields. Diodes CR1 and CR2 are included in the input circuit as additional protection to the first rf stage.

The 6.545- to 6.845-MHz vfo signal is injected at gate 2 of the mixer. The 455-kHz difference frequency is selected by the i-f transformer, T1. The very stable vfo circuit features incremental tuning and output buffering, and is a modification of an earlier design (**fig. 3**).¹ Output buffering is provided by the emitter-follower stages Q6 and Q7. Transistor Q7 also serves as a power amplifier, allowing the vfo to drive a 7360 balanced mixer tube used in the companion exciter.

The incremental tuning circuit uses a Motorola MV1654 varactor diode, CR3. This circuit permits an approximately 10-kHz offset to either side of the vfo frequency. The control voltage on the varactor is set by R3, the offset tuning control. Resistor R4 compensates for differences in varactors and allows the vfo to be adjusted to zero offset.

W.J. Weiser, M.D., VE3GSD, 98 Banstock Drive, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada

Switch S2 allows the receive offset to be activated manually; receiver offset is automatically turned off by relay K1 when the receiver is placed in the transmit or standby mode. This particular type of switching is necessary because a 1.5-kHz frequency difference between the transmitted and received signal exists at my station. This frequency difference resulted from the use of a 455-kHz mechanical filter in the exciter and a 453.5 kHz filter in the receiver. If you are building from scratch, I recommend that

described receiver (fig. 6).² The use of a CA3028A as the product detector allows significant conversion gain in this stage. The high-impedance output of the CA3028A is matched to the base of the audio preamplifier transistor, Q8, through transformer T5. Although the Motorola MC1454 provides more than sufficient audio output, an MC1554 or HEP593 may be substituted for even more audio. Alternately, a Motorola MFC9010 can be used to replace both Q8 and U2 and deliver about 2-watts of audio.³

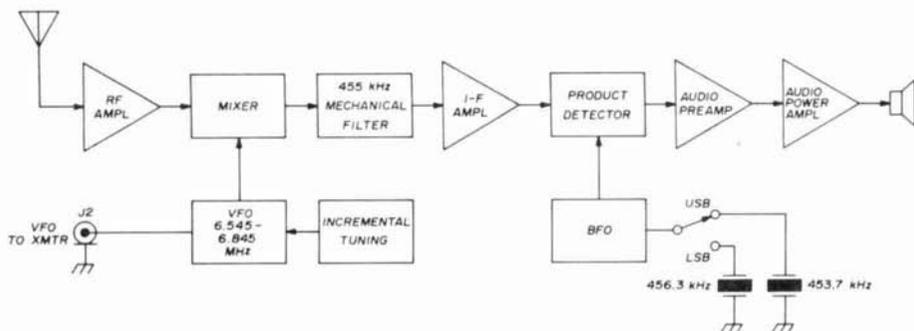


fig. 1. Block diagram of the single-conversion 40-meter receiver ssb and CW receiver.

you use a 455-kHz filter in the receiver, such as the Collins FA21-7102.

The two-stage i-f amplifier, Q3 and Q4, is relatively straightforward and provides more than enough i-f gain (fig. 4). For the sake of simplicity I did not include an agc system in the receiver — if you want to include agc, it should be connected to gate 2 of the rf and i-f amplifier stages, Q1, Q3 and Q4.

An MPF102 fet is used in a simple bfo circuit which is based on the old tuned-grid, tuned-plate vacuum-tube circuit (fig. 5). Bfo output is taken from the secondary of transformer T4. For optimum performance of the CA3028A product detector, U1, the amplitude of the bfo injection voltage should be 2 to 3 volts rms. The sideband crystals are selected by switch S1. The crystal frequencies shown in the diagram are for use with a Collins 455-kHz mechanical filter.

The product detector and audio stages used here were adapted from a recently

In my receiver with the audio gain control, R2, adjusted for maximum gain, the MC1454 was driven into oscillation by transistor Q8. This was corrected by bypassing a small amount of the input audio signal to ground through C7 (0.1 μ F). Because of component differences, and differences in circuit layout, you may not require this bypass capacitor.

Any well-regulated power supply with an output of 12 to 13.5 volts may be used with this receiver. Excellent voltage



Homebrew 40-meter receiver uses all solid-state circuits.

regulation is required to ensure maximum vfo stability because the MV1654 varactor used in the incremental tuning system will significantly shift the vfo output frequency with the slightest dc voltage variation. For additional vfo stability it might be a good idea to insert a three-terminal voltage regulator IC, such as the Fairchild μ A7812, in the vfo supply line.⁴

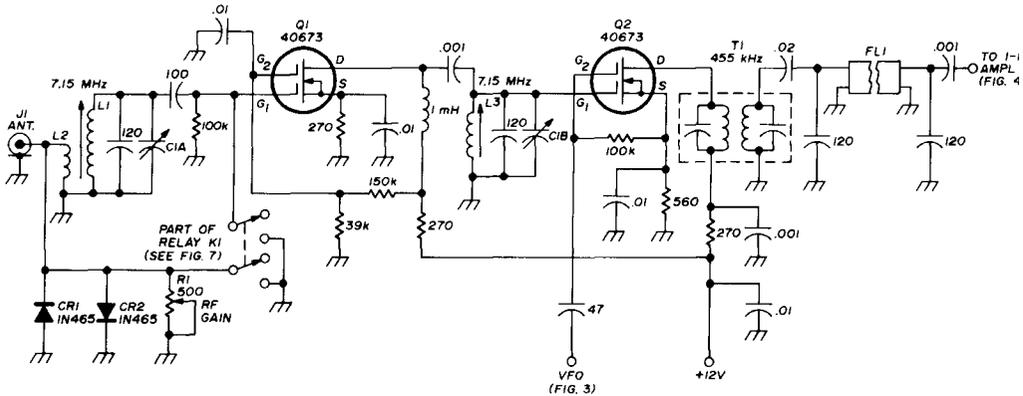
receiver construction

The mechanical layout of the receiver is shown in the photographs. The rf

The 1-inch-deep aluminum chassis, 10-inches long and 5½-inches deep, is installed in a commercial enclosure. The rf amplifier and mixer tuning capacitor, C1, is a modified dual-section 365-pF broadcast variable with all but two rotor plates removed from each section. With the values given for C8 and C9, the modified variable will cover the frequency range from 7.0 to 7.3 MHz.

receiver alignment

Before starting the alignment procedure, all slug-tuned coils must be rough-



- | | | | |
|-----|---|--------|--|
| C1 | modified dual-section 365-pF broadcast variable (see text) | L1, L3 | 30 turns no. 26 wound on ¼" slug-tuned ceramic form, resonated to 7.15 MHz |
| FL1 | 455-kHz mechanical filter, 2.1-kHz bandpass (Collins FA21-7102) | L2 | 4 turns no. 26 on cold end of L1 |
| | | T1 | 455-kHz input i-f transformer |

fig. 2. Schematic diagram of the rf amplifier, mixer and mechanical filter.

amplifier, mixer and mechanical filter are constructed on a 2¼x2¼-inch section of Vector board, copper clad on one side. The i-f amplifier is built on another, similar sized board, and the vfo and incremental tuning are built on another 2¼-inch square board. These three boards are mounted on ¾-inch spacers under the chassis.

The bfo, product detector, and audio stages are built on a 2½x5-inch board which is mounted on top of the chassis on 1-¾-inch spacers. Relay K1 is installed under this board. Each board is built and tested individually, and connected to the others with miniature shielded cable.

ly adjusted to the proper frequencies with the help of a grid-dip meter. Also, each stage is initially tested and aligned before being mounted on the chassis. This points up any difficulties that might be more difficult to pinpoint when the receiver is completely assembled. Inductor L4 in the vfo is adjusted for an output of 6.695 MHz with C4 set at mid-excursion.

Although a signal generator is best for initial alignment of the rf and mixer stages, it is possible to use an on-the-air signal. Apply a 7.15-MHz signal to L1 and peak C1 for maximum rf voltage on gate 1 of the rf amplifier stage. Next apply a 455-kHz signal to the primary of T1 and tune the transformer for maximum signal

at the output of the mechanical filter. Since a reading of 0.1 volt is typical here, a sensitive rf probe and voltmeter is required.

To align the i-f amplifier a 455-kHz signal is applied to gate 1 of transistor Q3 and transformers T2 and T3 are tuned for maximum signal at the output of T3. The bfo should require no adjustment although T4 may be tuned, as required, if the bfo fails to oscillate.

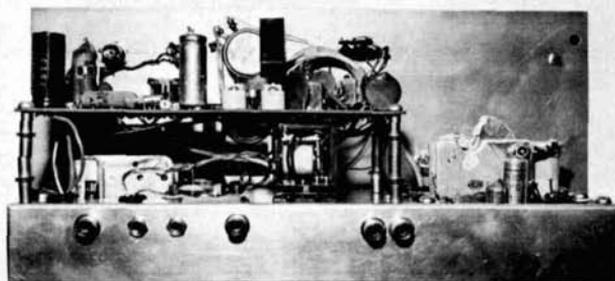
After each of the individual boards has been tested and aligned, and the receiver has been assembled, final peaking can be

the midpoint of this dc voltage swing. With the incremental tuning turned off, vfo output is centered at its mid-frequency point with R4, and resistor R3 will move the vfo about 10 kHz to either side of this center point.

receiver performance

The performance of the receiver is most rewarding. It appears to be as sensitive as my FTDX-401, and its frequency stability is excellent. No significant vfo warmup drift has been noted, the audio is apparently distortion free,

Rear view of the 40-meter receiver. The product detector and audio board is mounted on 1-3/4" spacers. Relay K1 is underneath the board while the vfo tuning capacitor is on the right.



accomplished with an on-the-air signal. The rf amplifier, mixer and i-f stages are tuned for maximum receiver gain. To obtain good tracking with C1 it is necessary to alternately re-tune the mixer and rf amplifier coils, L1 and L3, several times. The vfo inductor, L4, is accurately adjusted and the tuning dial calibrated with the aid of a communications receiver equipped with a crystal calibrator.

To align the incremental tuning system, monitor the received frequency, adjust resistor R3 and note the amount of frequency change. A 40% change in the resistance of R3 should result in an approximate 20-kHz shift in the vfo frequency. The dc voltage range coinciding with this frequency shift is measured at the wiper of R3 and should be in the range from zero to about 2.5 volts.

When the dc voltage required for a 20-kHz frequency shift has been determined, the wiper of resistor R4 is set to

and the set provides more than enough gain. One very pleasing feature of the mosfet stages is their very low noise figure. The ambient noise level in this receiver is the lowest of any comparable receiver I have ever used.

the transmitter

The 180-watt PEP ssb transmitter may be used as a separate unit, or with the receiver. The unit is completely self-contained and incorporates a stable vfo, power supply and all the necessary control functions for antenna switching and receiver muting. The use of an RCA 7360 beam-deflection tube for the balanced modulator and balanced mixer stages provides excellent carrier suppression and local-oscillator rejection, two requirements that are difficult to achieve in single-conversion ssb exciters which use a 455-kHz i-f.

A block diagram of the transmitter is

shown in fig. 8. The output of the high-impedance microphone is amplified by V101, and applied to one of the deflection electrodes of V102, the 7360 balanced modulator. The crystal-controlled carrier signal is injected at the cathode (see fig. 9). The 455-kHz

grid 1 and grid 2) serves as a self-oscillatory carrier generator, with switch S101A selecting either Y101, a 455-kHz crystal for tuneup or CW, or Y102, 456.25-kHz crystal for lower-sideband operation. For tuneup or CW one of the deflection plates of V102 is grounded by

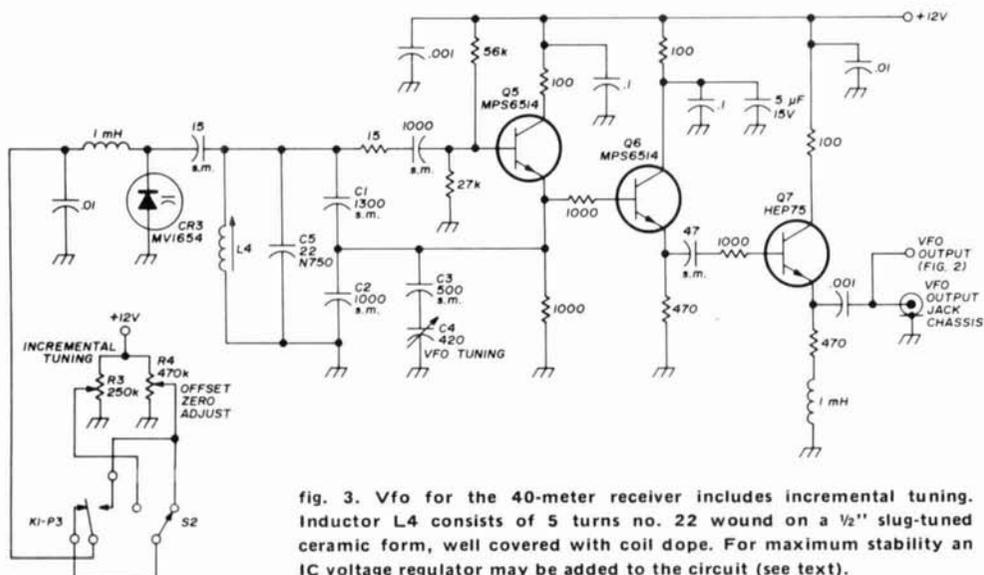


fig. 3. Vfo for the 40-meter receiver includes incremental tuning. Inductor L4 consists of 5 turns no. 22 wound on a 1/2" slug-tuned ceramic form, well covered with coil dope. For maximum stability an IC voltage regulator may be added to the circuit (see text).

double-sideband output signal is coupled into a Collins mechanical filter.

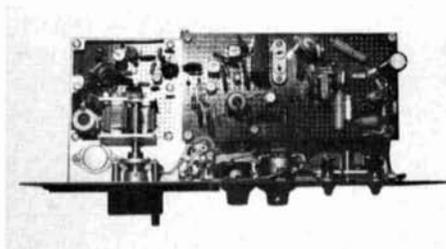
One of the absolute requirements of a modern single-sideband exciter is adequate carrier suppression. By using a 7360 beam-deflection tube up to 60-dB of carrier suppression can be achieved if careful construction and layout have been followed, and the circuit has been properly adjusted.

The triode section of V120 (cathode,

switch S101B, effectively unbalancing the modulator so that a 455-kHz carrier signal appears across the output network. In ssb service the audio signal applied to one of the deflection plates unbalances the modulator.

Another requirement for effective and courteous single-sideband operation is adequate suppression of the unwanted sideband. The Collins mechanical filter can provide up to 60-dB of sideband attenuation if careful attention is given to mechanical layout, and stray coupling is prevented between the input and output of the filter. The filter also attenuates the 455-kHz carrier signal by an additional 20 dB. The 120-pF capacitor across the output of the filter helps match the output impedance of the filter to the input impedance of the 6BA6 i-f amplifier, V103 (see fig. 10).

The ssb signal from the output of the 6BA6 i-f amplifier is coupled through



Top view of the receiver chassis. The vfo board is to the left, the product detector and audio board to the right.

transformer T101 to V104, the 7360 balanced mixer. The triode section of V104 is used in a Colpitts-type internal vfo. Capacitor C102 is the main tuning capacitor and C103 and C104 serve both as frequency-trimming and temperature-compensating capacitors. For transceive

short as possible and the input and output must be sufficiently isolated; the 33-ohm non-inductive resistor in series with the grid serves as a parasitic suppressor.

The screen bypass capacitor is soldered directly across the base of the 6GK6

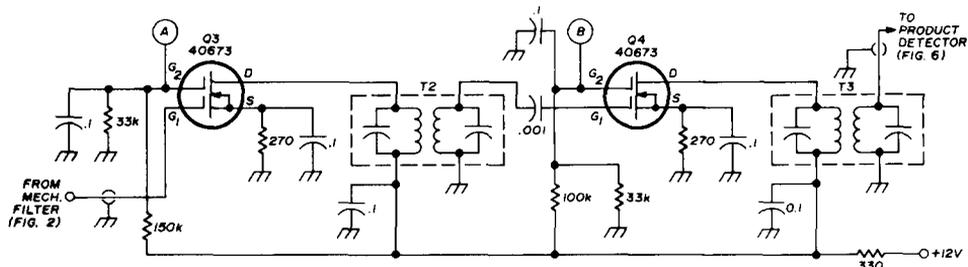


fig. 4. Two-stage 455-kHz i-f amplifier. Transformers T2 and T3 are miniature 455-kHz input i-f transformers.

operation the internal vfo is bypassed and an external vfo coupled into grid 1 through switch S102.

One problem when designing a 40-meter ssb exciter using a 6.545-MHz vfo and a 455-kHz i-f in a single-conversion system is inadequate vfo suppression. Since the vfo frequency is only separated from the desired output frequency by 455 kHz, a single-tuned resonant circuit in the output of a conventional mixer stage would probably not be adequate to sufficiently attenuate the vfo signal.* However, by using a 7360 beam-deflection tube as a balanced mixer, up to 40-dB of vfo rejection is possible.

The 7.0- to 7.3-MHz ssb output from V104 is coupled through L102-L103 to the 6GK6 driver stage, V105, fig. 11. A 6GK6 was selected as the driver because it offers considerable gain and can safely handle a 300-volt plate supply. However, because of its high gain, care must be taken to prevent instability and self-oscillation. All leads must be kept as

socket between the input and output pins and the ground end is also soldered to the central pin of the socket. This technique provides an effective grounded shield between the input and output circuits of the driver stage.

The output of the 6GK6 driver is coupled into the grids of V106 and V107, the 6146B power-amplifier tubes through C106 and L104. Capacitor C106 should be pruned by removing plates from a miniature variable capacitor until the tuned circuit resonates from 7.0 to 7.3 MHz with one full revolution of the shaft. Fix-tuning the power amplifier's grid circuit to the desired band makes tuneup simple and prevents the operator from inadvertently tuning the final amplifier to some unwanted spurious signal that may appear at the output of the high-gain

*Both single- and double-tuned bandpass circuits were tried by the author. The double-tuned bandpass arrangement was workable with a conventional 6BA7 mixer stage, but it allowed an unacceptably high level of vfo signal to feedthrough to the driver stage.

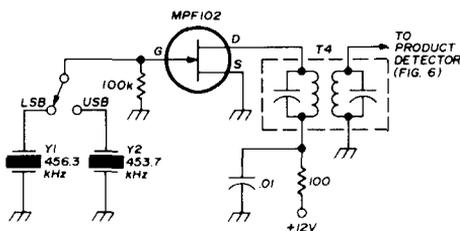


fig. 5. The 455-kHz bfo stage. T4 is a miniature 455-kHz i-f input transformer.

driver stage. Resistor R105, a 5000-ohm, 5-watt wirewound potentiometer, serves as the driver gain control.

A pair of 6146Bs in parallel are used as a power amplifier (fig. 12). These tubes are still among the best power amplifier tubes for ssb service, offering good linear-

the cathode keying line to prevent self-oscillation. Parasitic suppressors Z101 and Z102 help minimize any high-frequency instability. With these techniques, I did not find it necessary to neutralize either the driver or PA stages. Both are extremely stable.

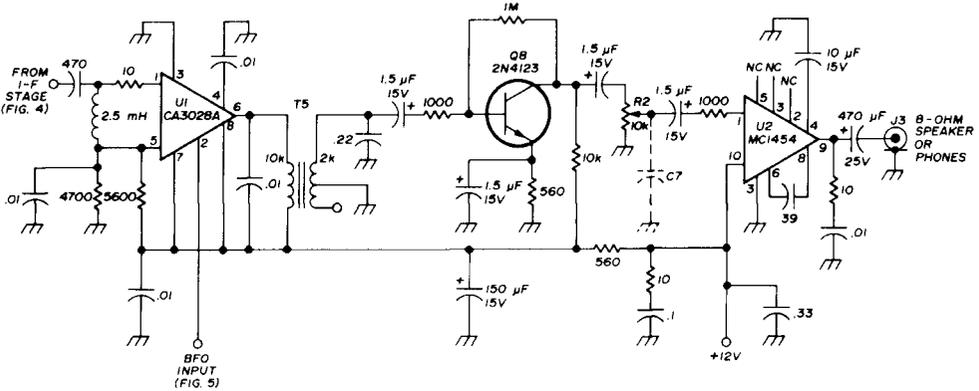


fig. 6. Product detector, audio preamplifier and audio output stage. Capacitor C7 (0.1 μF) may be required to suppress an oscillating output stage (see text).

ity, excellent IMD characteristics and good power sensitivity. They can also withstand considerable abuse during groggy-eyed, early morning DX chasing tune ups.

As with the driver stage, considerable care must be taken in keeping leads short around the PA stage sockets, separating input and output circuits, and shielding

The final-amplifier tank circuit is a standard pi network. Capacitor C108 is a surplus, high-voltage 400-pF variable. With the values specified for C107 and L105, the stage loads nicely into a 50-ohm resistive load. You may wish to change the value of L105. In that case an additional capacitance (C109, 100-400 pF) may be needed in parallel with C108 to load properly. Or, if you wish, a triple-section 365-pF broadcast variable, with all sections in parallel, may be substituted for C108.

In the interest of simplicity and thriftiness, a grid and plate current metering system was excluded in favor of a simple rf output indicator. A sample of the output rf is applied to a 1N34A diode through a voltage-dividing network; the rectified dc is filtered and read on a 0-1 millimeter. Resistor R106 serves as a sensitivity control.

transmitter control circuits

Since this exciter was intended to work in conjunction with the matching receiver, antenna switching and receiver muting functions were included in the

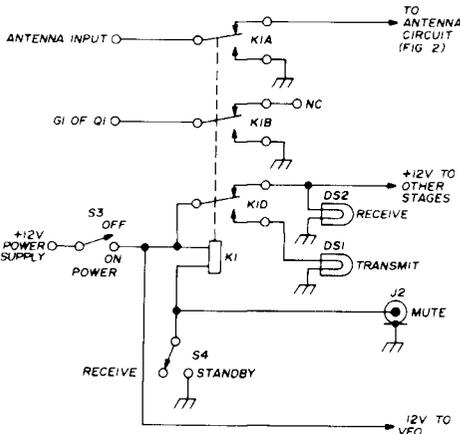


fig. 7. Switching and control circuits for the 40-meter receiver. Relay K1 is a miniature 4-pole relay with a 12-volt coil.

design. All control functions are provided by two surplus, 6800-ohm, 55 Vdc relays. One relay, K101, switches antennas and functions in receiver muting while the other, K102, is used for B+ switching between transmit and standby (see fig. 13).

ternal vfo, to talk himself on frequency using the companion receiver as a monitor.

power supply

The 350-0-350-volt center-tapped winding of transformer T102 is used in a

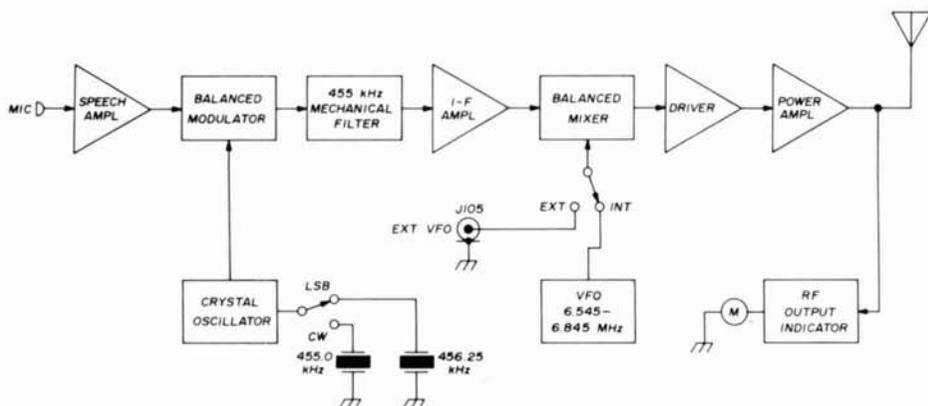


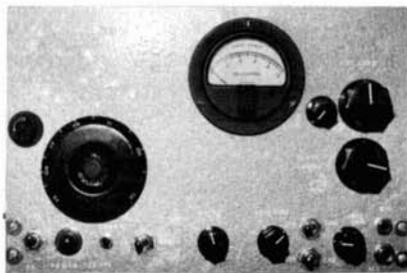
fig. 8. Block diagram of the 40-meter ssb and CW transmitter. Power input is about 180-watts PEP.

One relay section, K101A, switches the antenna between the receiver and exciter while K101B grounds the exciter output during standby. A third section, K101C, activates the receiver's muting relay during transmission.

The second relay switches the 210- and 310-volt B+ supplies to the final-amplifier tubes and the driver, respectively, via K102C and K102A. Another section, K102B, switches 210-volts to the speech amplifier, V101, and i-f amplifier, V103, during transmit. This B+ switching is paralleled by a second manual switching network, S104, which is used as a spotting switch.

With S104 in the *transmit* position, activating the PTT switch through S101 or the manual transmit/tune switch, S103 picks up the relays and switches the exciter from standby to transmit. With S104 in the *spot* position the PTT switch and S103 are interrupted and no relay switching can occur, but B+ is applied to the speech amplifier and i-f amplifier through S104B. This spotting function allows the operator, when using the in-

conventional full-wave bridge circuit to provide 750-volts dc for the final amplifier (see fig. 14). The 310-volt supply for the driver is obtained from the center tap after choke-input filtering. The regulated 210-volt supply is provided by a pair of OB2 regulators in series. Bias voltage for the 6146Bs was acquired by reversing a 6.3-volt filament transformer and rectifying the 117-volt winding. A 50k, 10-watt wirewound potentiometer, R5, is used as the bias voltage adjust control (see fig. 14).

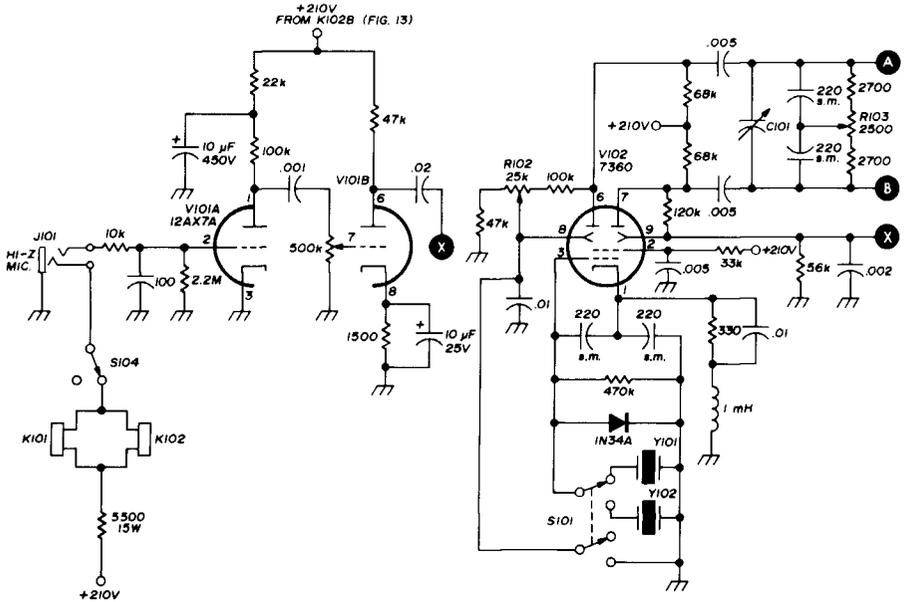


Front panel of the 40-meter ssb and CW transmitter. Power input is approximately 180 watts.

transmitter construction

The eternal frustration of any ardent home-constructor today is finding the needed parts. Most of the values given in this design can be varied; all the tuned-circuit inductors and capacitors of the tuned circuits, with the exception of the vfo, can be changed, of course, if required

closes the final-amplifier tubes and the pi network and is made of 1/16-inch-thick aluminum siding with a ventilated top cover. The plate-tuning and antenna-loading capacitor shafts are brought out to the front panel with 1/4-inch couplers and shaft-extenders. For the sake of neatness and compactness I used a rather



C101	5-25 pF NPO ceramic trimmer (phase balance control)
K101,K102	surplus 4-pole relays, 55-volt, 6800-ohm coil
R102	25k potentiometer (carrier amplitude control)
R103	2500-ohm potentiometer

S101	d p d t toggle switch (lower-sideband, carrier)
S104	d p d t toggle switch (spotting switch)
Y101	455.0-kHz crystal (carrier)
Y102	456.25-kHz crystal (lower side-band)

fig. 9. Speech amplifier and balanced modulator circuits. Complete relay switching system is shown in fig. 12.

resonant frequencies are maintained. The seasoned builder may have his own scheme of chassis layout and wiring, and neither is particularly critical.

My transmitter was built into a 12x10x2-inch aluminum chassis. The photographs show the layout. In any chassis layout a straight-line approach is usually best and that is what I used, with the speech amplifier followed by the balanced modulator, the mechanical filter, the i-f amplifier and so on.

The power amplifier cage entirely en-

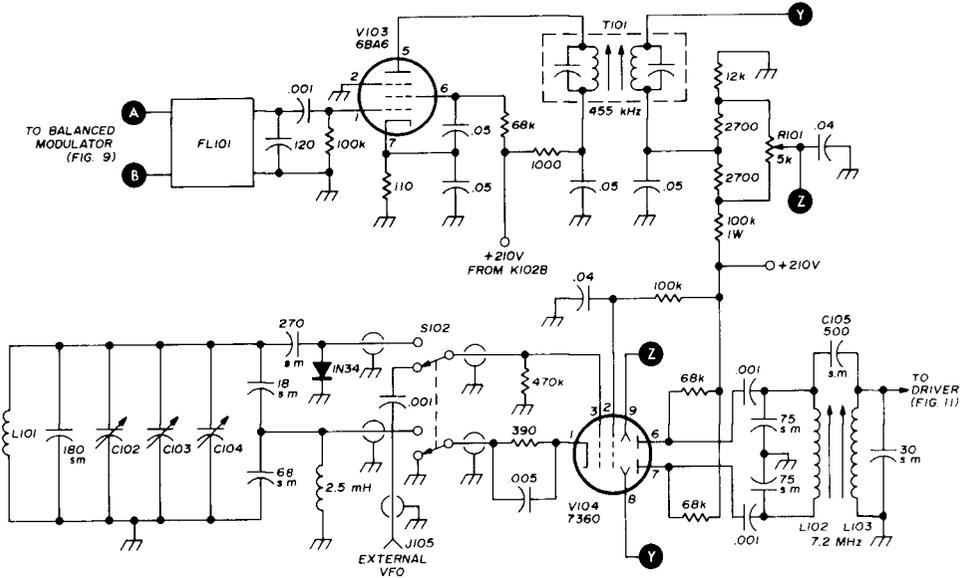
elaborate system of universal joints and gears to angle the shaft of capacitor C107 away from the speech amplifier tube, V101. This system can be avoided if you use a larger chassis or disrupt the straight-line layout by moving V101's socket closer to the edge of the chassis.

Two variable capacitors, C106 and C102, were modified for use in this design. The grid-tuning capacitor, C106, was originally a 25-pF miniature variable; all but one rotor plate was removed to achieve the desired resonance range of 7.0

to 7.3 MHz for one complete rotation. A small L-shaped bracket is used to mount C106 underneath the chassis.

The vfo main-tuning capacitor, C102, is a modified variable from a surplus ARC-5 receiver. The gear train and gear reduction ratio used on these capacitors make them ideal for amateur vfo applica-

switch S102. The vfo tank coil was closewound on a 1/2-inch diameter ceramic form and Q-doped several times. Finally, the entire vfo was enclosed by an aluminum shield. The mechanical precautions were justified by the excellent vfo frequency stability characteristics I obtained.



- C102 modified ARC-5 receiver tuning capacitor (see text)
- C103 4-25 pF NPO ceramic trimmer
- C104 4-25 pF N500 ceramic trimmer
- C105 500-pF silver mica (see text for other values)
- FL101 455-kHz mechanical filter (collins 455 FA21 7102)

- L101 12 turns no. 22 enamelled on 1/2" diameter ceramic form
- L102,L103 29 turns no. 22 enamelled on 1/2" diameter, slug-tuned form
- S102 dpdt toggle switch (internal/external vfo)
- T101 455-kHz i-f input transformer

fig. 10. Transmitter vfo, i-f and balanced mixer circuits. Colpitts-type vfo circuit tunes from 6.545 to 6.845 MHz.

tions. Only one capacitor section is used in the vfo. Each capacitor section had about 100-pF capacitance, and plates were removed until the entire excursion of C102 yielded a vfo range of 6.545 to 6.845 MHz with C103 and C104 set to midrange.

All the vfo components were securely soldered with short leads to firm tie points. Miniature shielded cable, soldered to frequent ground lugs, was liberally used in the switching circuitry around

As mentioned previously, great care should be taken to isolate the input and output circuits of all rf stages. Particular attention should be paid to circuit isolation around the mechanical filter as stray capacitive coupling between the input and output circuits here can significantly reduce sideband and carrier suppression.

transmitter alignment

Aligning the exciter is simple and should be done in stages, with each stage

being built and aligned before the next one is started. The speech amplifier needs no adjustment and can be checked by connecting an ac voltmeter between the plate of V101 and ground through a series blocking capacitor. Speaking into a high-impedance microphone should produce a swing of several volts on the meter.

maximum carrier suppression. With a typical rf probe virtually no rf voltage should be recorded at the plate of V103 when the balanced modulator is properly adjusted.

Final adjustment of the i-f amplifier is now accomplished with switch S101 in the *carrier* position. Move the rf probe to the secondary of T101 and alternately

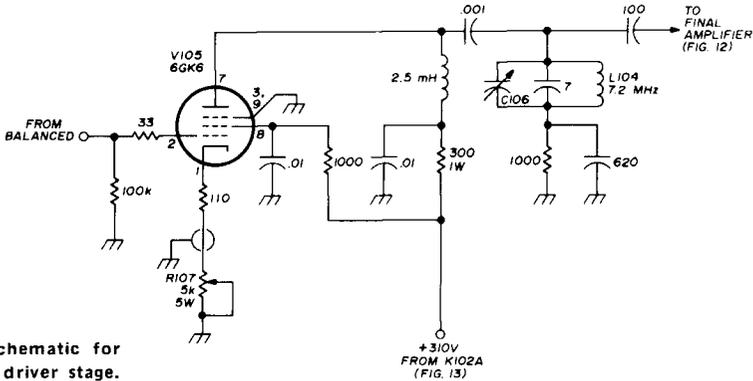


fig. 11. Schematic for the 6GK6 driver stage.

C106	approximately 5 pF (25-pF air variable with all plates removed except one)
L104	28 turns no. 26 enamelled on 1/4" slug-tuned form
R107	5000-ohm, 5-watt wirewound potentiometer

Since the mechanical filter has noticeable insertion loss, adjusting the balanced modulator is best done by monitoring the signal at the output of the 6BA6 i-f amplifier, V103. A vtm with an rf probe is coupled to the plate of V103, and switch S101 is placed in the *carrier* position. This unbalances the modulator and allows the 455-kHz carrier oscillator signal to pass through the mechanical filter. About 5- to 10-volts rf should be recorded by the probe. Next, tune the primary of transformer T101 for maximum rf voltage.

adjust the primary and secondaries of the i-f transformer for maximum rf voltage indication (typically 10 to 15 volts).

To adjust the balanced modulator for optimum carrier suppression, switch S101 is switched to the *lower-sideband* position. This switches in the 456.25-kHz carrier oscillator crystal, Y102, and any rf voltage measured at the plate of V103 is due to carrier. Alternately adjusting R102 and C101, the amplitude and phase balance controls, for minimum rf voltage sets the balanced modulator, V102 for

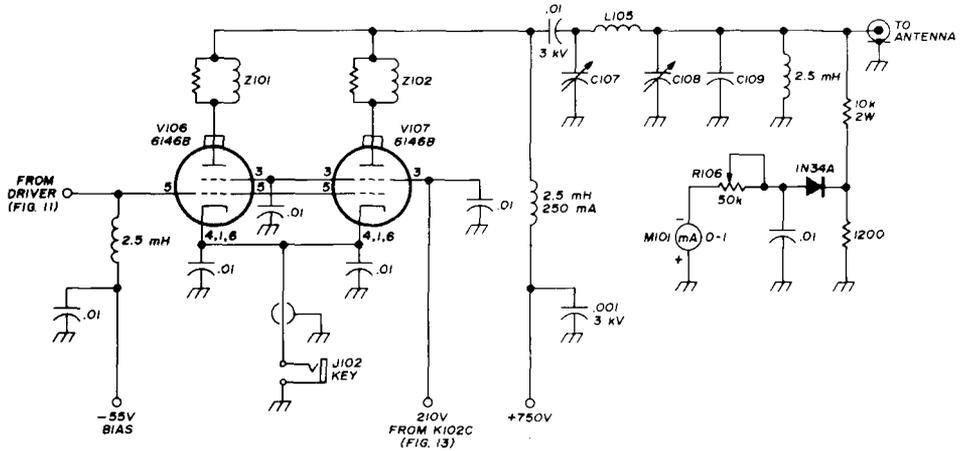
Putting the vfo on frequency can be most easily done by using a well-calibrated general-coverage receiver. If one is unavailable, a reasonably accurate grid-dip meter can be used to place the vfo within the proper general operating range. With capacitors C102, C103 and C104 set approximately at midexcursion, identify the vfo signal using a general-coverage receiver. Inductor L101 may have to be decreased or increased in value (by changing the number of turns) if the vfo signal is far from the desired range of 6.545 to 6.845 MHz. Now, with C102 at midrange, adjust C103 (and C104, if necessary) to bring the vfo frequency to 6.695 MHz. Temperature compensation was found to be unnecessary in my exciter as vfo warmup drift was quite acceptable and the frequency stability is excellent.

If you experience any excessive fre-

frequency drift during warmup, this may be minimized by experimentally adjusting C104 to an increased value while checking on the frequency stability. Generally speaking, an uncompensated vfo will drift to a lower frequency as the temperature rises; adding a negative coefficient capacitance will minimize this. If it is necessary to increase the value of C104, be certain

required, values of 10 to 100 pF can be used for C105, while still maintaining adequate mixer output.

Once the vfo has been set on the desired frequency, the balanced mixer can be easily aligned. During these adjustments, be certain that the internal vfo has been switched into the circuit. Place an rf probe on pin 2 of the empty driver socket



- C107, C108 400-pF, 1000-volt air variable (see text)
- C109 see text
- L105 23 turns no. 22 enamelled, close-wound on 1" ceramic form

- M101 0-1 mA meter
- R106 5000-ohm, 5-watt potentiometer (rf sensitivity control)
- Z101, Z102 parasitic suppressors, 8 turns no. 16 enamelled, wound around 10-ohm, 1-watt carbon resistors

fig. 12. Power amplifier and rf output meter. Grid and plate current metering may be added if desired.

to reduce the value of C103 to keep the vfo within the proper operating range.

Tuned circuits L102 and L103 were not adjusted in the conventional bandpass manner as there was more than enough drive from the mixer when its output circuit was peaked at 7.2 MHz to fully power the 6GK6 driver across the entire 7.0- to 7.3-MHz range of the exciter. The coupling capacitor, C105, connected across L102 and L103 is 500 pF. The 7360 balanced mixer offered so much carrier oscillator rejection that I opted for maximum mixer output by heavily coupling L102 and L103 at the expense of decreased selectivity of these tuned circuits. However, if more vfo rejection is

and, with S101 in the *tune* position and S104 in the *spot* position, alternately adjust L102 and L103 for maximum rf voltage. I measured more than 5 volts rf on the grid of V105 in my unit.

Maximum vfo carrier oscillator rejection is achieved in a similar fashion. Leaving the rf probe on pin 2 of V105, place S101 in the *lower-sideband* operating position, adjust R101, the rejection control, for minimum rf voltage. The 7360 balanced mixer is capable of about 40-dB carrier rejection and the measured voltage should be 0.05 volts or less with the proper adjustment of R101.

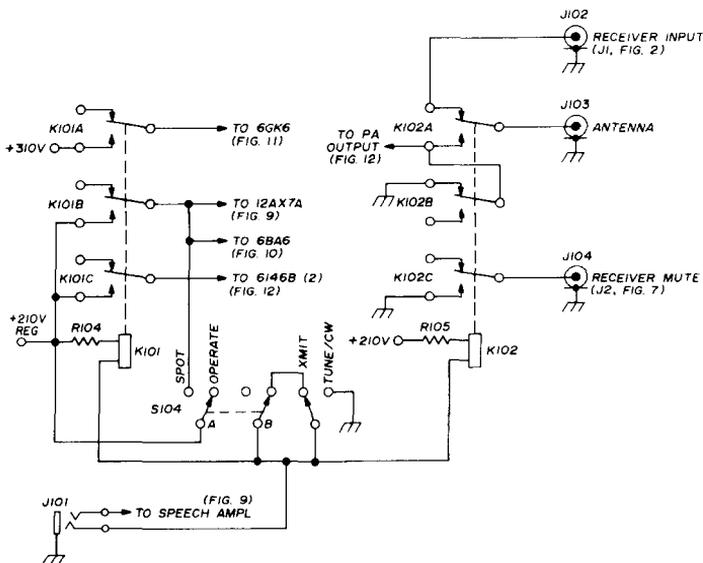
Before aligning the 6GK6 driver stage, be sure the final amplifier tubes, V106

and V107, are removed from their sockets. Place the rf probe on pin 5 of V106 (or V107) and set the driver control, R107, at midrange. Now place the exciter in the tune mode by switching S101 to the *tune* or *carrier* position and S104 to the *transmit* position. Move S103, the manual tune/transmit switch to the *tune* position, and with C106, the grid-tuning capacitor, at midrotation, adjust L104 for maximum rf voltage. Turning the driver output control, R107, should increase the

volts rf on voice peaks. The monitored, detected audio should be clear and crisp and without distortion.

Finally, switch the monitoring receiver to the upper sideband mode and check sideband suppression. No intelligible upper-sideband signal should be heard. With the sideband suppression check completed, all the low-level stages of the transmitter have been aligned and only the power amplifier and relative power output metering stages need be adjusted.

fig. 13. Voltage switching and transmitter and receiver control circuitry. Relays are shown in the standby (receive) position. Resistors R104 and R105 are voltage-dropping resistors, value chosen to reduce 210-volts dc to proper relay operating voltage.

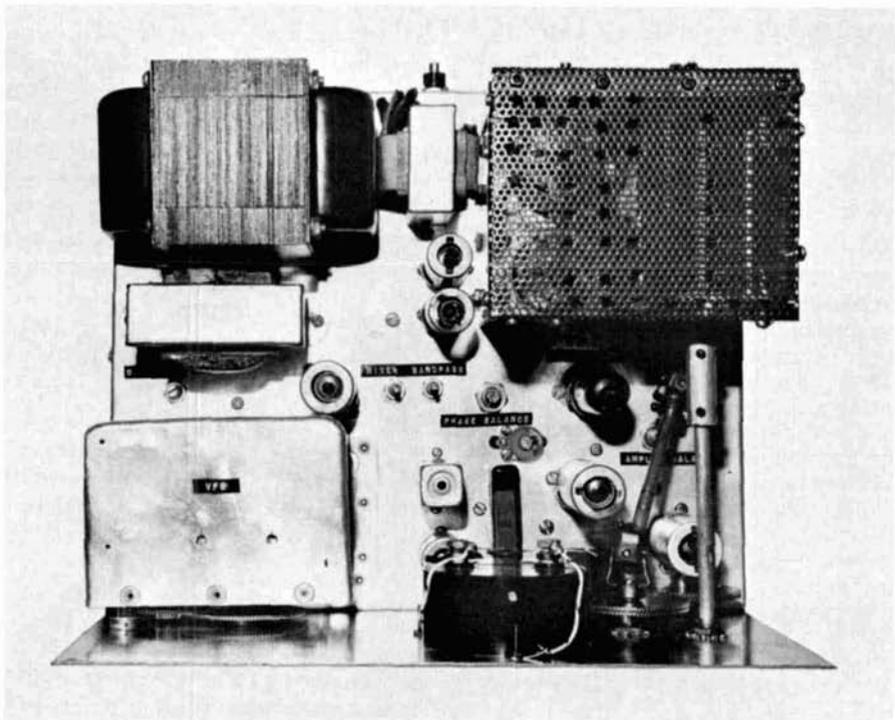


measured output to a maximum of about 60 volts rf. Tuning C106 should further peak the driver output rf voltage.

As a final check of proper alignment, the exciter's single-sideband signal should be monitored with an amateur-band receiver. Keep the 6146Bs out of their sockets during this testing. Place S101 in the *lower sideband* position, S104 in the *transmit* positions and switch S102 to *internal vfo*.

Keep the rf probe on the grids of V106 and V107 and loosely couple the receiver to L104. With the PTT switch closed and without modulation, virtually no rf voltage should register, indicating good carrier and vfo oscillator suppression. Speaking into the microphone should give readings of about 35 to 40

When adjusting the PA stage remember that more than 750 volts exists there, and if touched inadvertently, that's more than enough to prematurely end a promising career. Place the 6146B power tubes in their sockets and connect a high-wattage 50-ohm dummy load to J104. Adjust R105 to supply about -55 volts bias to the grids of V106 and V107. Set the drive control, R107, to about midrange and the relative power output sensitivity control, R106, to about one-third. All the other operating controls should be set as previously described when monitoring the exciter's signal, except that switch S101 should be in the *carrier/tune* position. With the PTT switch or S103 closed, adjust C107 and C108, the plate-tuning and antenna-loading capacitors, for maxi-



Top view of the transmitter chassis. Power amplifier cage is upper right, next to the power supply. Vfo enclosure is lower left, next to the front panel. Speech amplifier tube is underneath the antenna-loading capacitor shaft to the extreme right.

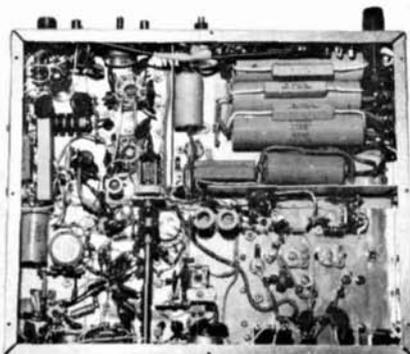
S101 could be changed to a 3-pole unit to switch in the required 453.75-kHz crystal. If you thrive on the sight of swinging meter needles, appropriate switching and metering could easily be

added to monitor final plate current, plate voltage and grid current. And, for the few courageous builders who seek still more, multibanding this exciter might even be considered. Changing vfo frequencies and switching in separate mixer and driver coils would be the most simple means of adding 80- and 20-meter operation. For the higher frequencies, a second frequency conversion scheme would probably offer the best results.

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3. *The Radio Amateur's Handbook*, 50th edition, 1973, ARRL, Newington, Connecticut, page 258.
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Underneath the transmitter chassis. Front of chassis is at bottom. Power supply components are in upper right-hand corner.

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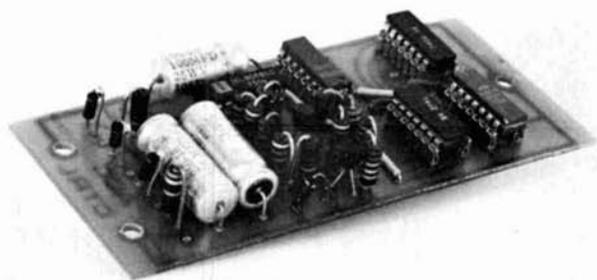
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unwanted transmissions. Even if the input frequency is less popular, the growing availability of synthesizers puts an unguarded repeater at the mercy of the operator who can't resist seeing how many squelch tails he can generate and how many identifiers he can trigger each time he pushes the button on his microphone.

WR8ABC, the 146.16/76 repeater serving the Cleveland area, is located on the crest of a ridge southeast of the city. There are 16/76 repeaters to the east, at Ashtabula, to the south at Newcomertown and Columbus, and across Lake Erie in Detroit. Even without a band opening, mobiles in the fringe areas between repeaters often key more than the machine — with only a slight propagation enhancement the situation can become chaotic.

The Detroit repeaters, Great Lakes on 146.16/76, and DART on 146.04/64, have adopted sub-audible tone access, or full-time private-line. The Ohio 16/76 repeaters have established secondary inputs on discrete tertiary frequencies (for

R.B. Shreve, W8GRG, 2842 Winthrop Road, Cleveland, Ohio

example, 146.355 in Cleveland) to permit base stations and high-powered mobiles in the fringe areas to select the repeater they want to access.

the problem

The group that operates WR8ABC has consistently voted to keep the repeater as open as possible. When conditions made it necessary to guard the 146.16-MHz input, provision was made for access with

made it possible for a fringe area station to picket-fence the repeater indefinitely as long as his signal was strong enough to open the receiver squelch once every five seconds, which was hard on the equipment and even harder on the control operator. More than once the repeater has been out of service for several hours because a control operator switched it off and forgot to turn it on again when the interfering signal disappeared.

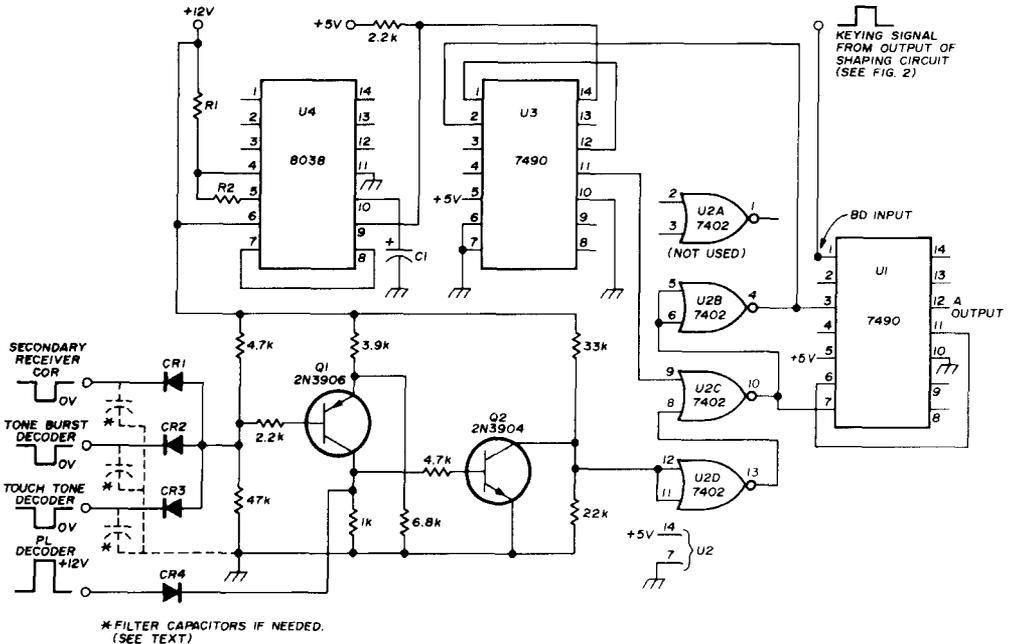


fig. 1. Timing circuit and counter for the repeater control system. For values of R1, R2 and C1, see text. All diodes are general-purpose silicon types such as the 1N914.

private-line (110.9 Hz), tone burst (2000 Hz) and the 1336-Hz tone generated by a Touch-Tone pad. In addition, once the guard was opened by one of these means, the repeater remained open to access by any on-frequency carrier for the duration of each transmission and five seconds thereafter.

Permitting "tail-ending" in this way effectively opened the machine to use by any number of stations, with or without private-line or tone generators, as long as one of them could whistle the machine up in the first place. Unfortunately it also

the solution

In an attempt to overcome some of the disadvantages of the previous method, a new system to control access to the 146.16-MHz input has been installed which leaves the input open until it is repeatedly keyed by a signal which is not modulated by any of the access tones recognized by the decoder. When the receiver squelch is operated three times in succession by such a signal the input is automatically guarded. The guard is opened, also automatically, by a timer in approximately 15 minutes; it opens

sooner if the repeater is keyed by a station using an accepted access tone, or by one using the unguarded secondary input.

The circuit is shown in **fig. 1**. The BD input of an SN7490 decade counter, U1, is toggled by a signal source that goes high each time the guarded receiver COR

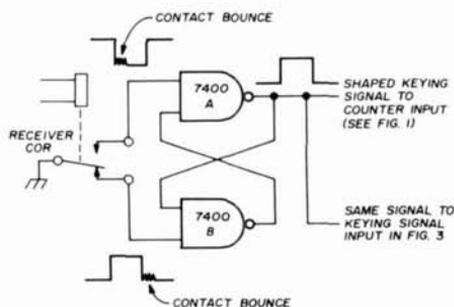


fig. 2. Shaping circuit for the keying signal.

is triggered by a signal. It counts the pulses generated by a signal with no access tone, and latches in the "binary 9" condition on the fourth count. This generates a logic 1 at the A output, pin 12, until the counter is reset to zero.

To make the counter operate in this manner the D output, pin 11, is wired to one of the R_9 reset inputs, and the other R_9 input and one R_0 input are controlled by an SN7402 NOR gate, U2. So long as one R_0 and one R_9 input are low, U1 counts the receiver COR cycles. On the fourth count the D output at pin 11 carries the R_9 input at pin 6 high. If pin 7 is also high, the counter latches with both A and D outputs in the high state. It will remain in this condition until the second R_9 input, pin 7, is switched to the low state by gate U2C. The same signal that does this switches the output of gate U2B high and U1 resets to zero.

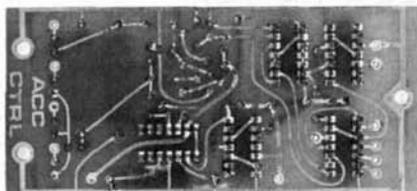
The impulse to reset the counter to zero can come from any one of the four sources connected to the resistor-transistor network through diodes CR1 through CR4. The private-line (PL) output from the WR8ABC PL decoder is low when the receiver is squelched and high when the squelch is opened by a private-

line tone. The inputs to the other three diodes are normally high, and are switched to ground potential when an activating signal is received.

If no signal is received from any of the four sources connected to the diodes for a predetermined interval, the timer connected to the second input of gate U2C will reset the output counter. The timer is another decade counter, U3, driven by the square-wave output of an Intersil 8038 precision waveform generator, U4. The rate at which the 8038 cycles is controlled by the values of C1, R1 and R2. As installed at WR8ABC, C1 = 100 μ F, R1 = 47k, and R2 = 100 ohms. The generator cycle is just under two minutes, and U3 reaches the count of 8 in 15 minutes, at which time it resets itself and U1.

construction

Note that the 2.2k load resistor connected to pin 9 of the 8038 is returned to +5 volts rather than to +12 volts to make the square-wave output TTL compatible. Some precautions in construction are advisable. Rf shielding is essential if the unit is to be installed near a transmitter, although there should be no problem with a split-site repeater. The count and reset inputs are all sensitive to short pulses. Signals connected to the PL and

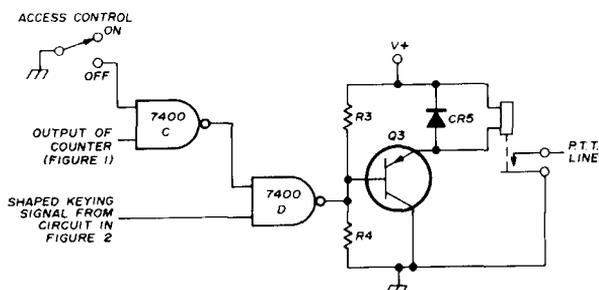


Front and rear views of the printed-circuit board used for the repeater access system. The relay is not mounted on the board.

tone inputs that reset the unit should be filtered to suppress response to transients, and so should the signal from the secondary receiver COR. A small electrolytic capacitor or a resistor and capacitor should suffice.

The keying signal to the counter input is more critical. COR relay contact bounce can cause erratic counting. The

fig. 3. Transmitter control relay circuit. Values of R3 and R4 are selected as described in text. Transistor Q3 is a pnp silicon transistor capable of switching the relay current and voltage. Diode CR5 must have a PIV rating higher than the positive voltage supply.



best way I have found to shape the COR signal is shown in fig. 2. This system uses two sections of an SN7400 NAND gate and a double-throw COR relay on the receiver.

The unit was designed to work with the solid-state control logic described in an earlier article,¹ but the output can be used to drive any TTL-compatible logic, or to operate a transmitter keying relay with a transistor driver. A circuit to do this using the other two sections of the SN7400 is shown in fig. 3. Transistor Q3 is a pnp silicon switching transistor capable of handling the keying relay current and voltage. Resistor R3 should be selected to limit the current through it to approximately 10 mA when the junction of R3 and R4 is at ground potential.

Resistor R4 should limit the voltage at this junction to between 3.5 and 5 volts when the junction is ungrounded. Diode CR5 protects Q3 against surges when the relay opens. The *access control on/off* switch, which can be a remotely controlled flip-flop or relay, permits the operator to inactivate the guard circuit if a completely open operation is desired at any time.

The original unit in service at the

WR8ABC repeater is built on a home-made PC board approximately 2x4 inches, which provides for all the components in figs. 1 and 2 except the COR relay. Boards for the later model shown in the photographs, which includes the optional input filters, and/or complete assembled units are available from the author.*

conclusion

To summarize operation of a repeater with this system of access control, so long as no more than three successive signals without access tones key the transmitter through the guarded receiver in any 15-minute period, the guard will remain open indefinitely. It will close immediately, however, when the guarded input is plucked three times, accidentally or on purpose. A visitor to the area, without tone access, never has to wait more than 15 minutes for the repeater to open up, and since he is usually answered by a station using PL, tone, or the secondary receiver, can carry on a conversation indefinitely in most instances as though the repeater was unguarded.

reference

1. R.B. Shreve, W8GRG, "Integrated-Circuit Sequential Switching for Touchtone Repeater Control," *ham radio*, June, 1972, page 22.

ham radio

*Epoxy printed-circuit boards can be purchased from the author for \$5.00, postpaid. Prices on complete units, with any reset time interval up to 30 minutes, and designed to interconnect with the user's equipment, will be quoted on request.

six-meter frequency synthesizer

Complete
construction details
for a
frequency synthesizer
that covers the entire
50-MHz band
in 1-kHz steps

Although I have been relatively inactive on 6 meters in recent years, this band has always been a favorite. This is no doubt due to an austere but exciting ham beginning on 5 meters during the 1930s when modulated oscillators, superregen receivers and Pickard antennas were common. After World War II modulated oscillators were phased out by stability

regulations, and crystal control became mandatory.

Rock-bound transmitters forced development of improved vacuum-tube vfos over the years, and these gradually gave way to solid-state circuits. Heterodyne versions improved on them in turn and now, with the "galloping IC Technology," synthesizer frequency control is coming on strong. Widely used in military and commercial equipment for many years, until recently frequency synthesis has been too costly for general ham use. However, two-meter units are now on the market and a number of construction articles have appeared in print for the do-it-yourselfers.

Recently, I had a go at working up one of these exotic channelizing vfos for a 50-MHz a-m rig. New and unusual circuit problems had to be solved before success was attained. For the unwary homebuilder who is or will be building an indirect synthesizer, this article will endeavor to point out some constructional pitfalls, offer a few guidelines and, hopefully, aid in maximizing proper operation on your first try.

design

Following a modest literature search, a 6-meter IC frequency synthesizer was blocked out that tuned from 50.000 to 54.000 MHz in 1.0-kHz steps. Considera-

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tion was given to minimum steps of 5 or 10 kHz, knowing it would ease the task of phase-locking and reduction of spurious outputs, but this less desirable trade-off was finally overcome by intensive debugging. To be useful as an 8-MHz crystal replacement, output frequency runs from 8,333,333 to 9,000,000 Hz. An electronic calculator made quick work

enamed wire, a handy enamed hookup wire with insulation which melts back from hot solder to leave a nicely tinned end ready for connection. Feeding in clock pulses having a configuration called for by the chip manufacturer at a 8,333,330 Hz rate resulted in an output that closely resembled a pseudo-random bit stream! "Oh well!" said I, "probably

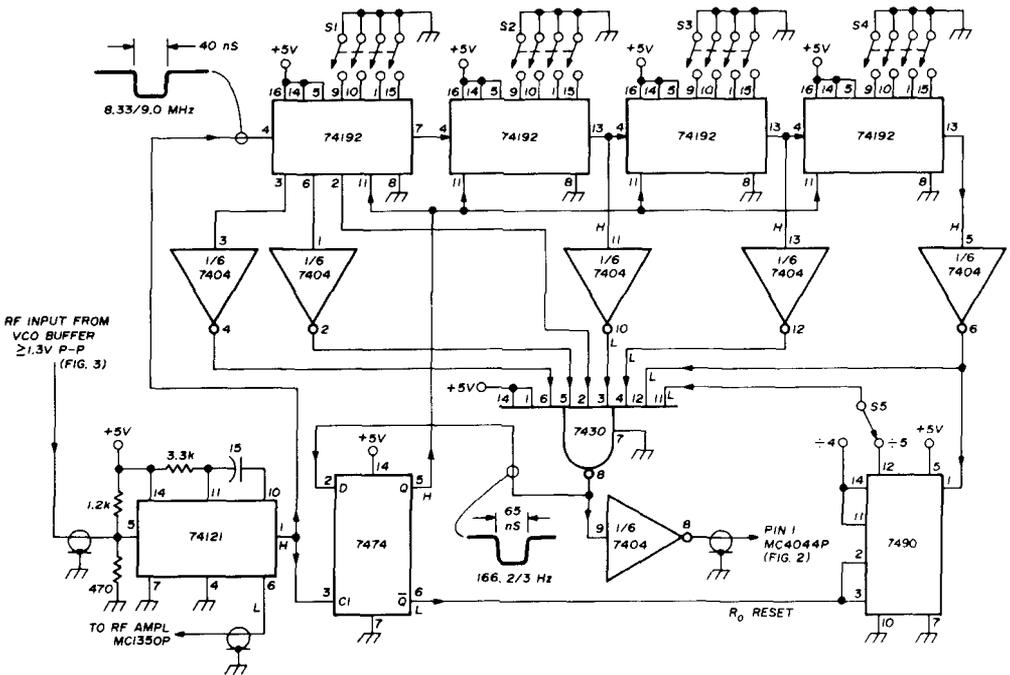


fig. 1. Programmable divider divides from 50,000 to 54,000 in steps of 1. The thumbwheel switch assembly (S1, S2, S3 and S4) is an EccoSwitch type 4R177612G. Switch S5 provides divide-by-4 for MARS netting (see text).

of the math. Frequency increments of 166.2/3 Hz, when multiplied by 6, yield 1.0-kHz steps on 6 meters; the required division is 50,000 to 54,000. A 1.0-MHz reference crystal divided by 6000 produced the necessary 166.2/3 Hz comparison signal for phase detection.

First off, a string of five 74192 programmable divider ICs were plugged into sockets Duco cemented to perfboard and wired to divide by 50,000 as shown in fig. 1. This wiring consisted of no. 28 Beldsol

just a wiring error, maybe a stray oscillation or a bit more B+ bypassing."

Three weeks later, the output wasn't quite so random but counting down to zero from a given input frequency never agreed with the divider truth table. Even getting close to 166 Hz required a higher input frequency than theory said was necessary. The B+ supply from a three-terminal IC regulator had to exhibit very low impedance. Miniature axial-lead tantalum capacitors added for supply voltage

bypassing helped a little, but it was just impossible to obtain a stable, fixed division ratio.

About this time K2OAW described his programmable divider.¹ After some reading, the operating principles of K2OAW's circuit became clear. Since I only had transmitter frequency control in mind, his circuitry for receiver LO use could be deleted. Also, since the most significant

extra counts. My skinny little magnet wire must have looked like kilohms!

Not wishing to process double-clad printed-circuit board, and with low cost always in mind, the socket/perfboard layout was modified to accommodate 3M's 1181 half-inch wide, copper-foil adhesive tape, one pattern stuck down for ground and the same pattern directly opposite for B+. This formed a low dc resistance,

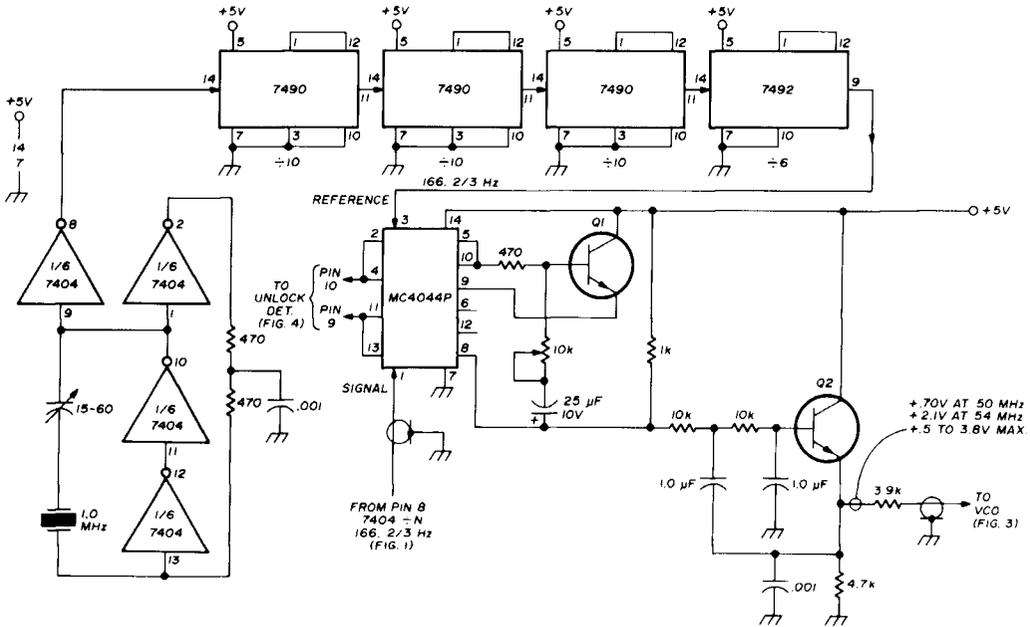


fig. 2. Circuit for the 1-MHz reference oscillator, divide-by-6000 and MC4044P phase detector. Transistors Q1 and Q2 may be any small npn transistors with current gain of at least 100 such as the 2N4124 or 2N5130.

digit never changed, a 7490 wired bi-quinary could divide by five.

This new circuit replaced the first version and at least got me into the ballpark, meaning division was off by only scores of numbers instead of hundreds! Many troubleshooting tricks were tried and failed. Finally, a fruitful discussion with WA1CTS yielded a nugget generally known to computer builders but seemingly little known among amateurs: B+ and ground for TTL logic should use ground-plane techniques with a 100-ohm transmission line built in for power distribution. Neglect of this basic design requirement was manifested in

low inductance and distributed bypass capacitance power feed system that also made socket wiring easier. When fired up once again, the long sought after magic numbers appeared!

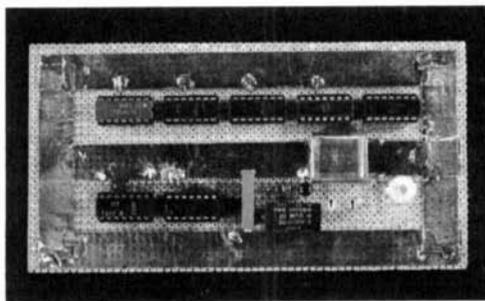
Dividing 8,333,330 by 50,000 gave 166.6 Hz, and dividing 9,000,000 by 54,000 also gave 166.6 Hz. Various in-between divisions were tried; all came out correctly. This without *any* B+ bypassing to ground, too. Success was so sweet, the foil transmission line impedance never did get measured. However, 4.2 pF per half square inch of foil was measured and with 20 inches per board this is 168 pF. As a rule of thumb,

pulse rise time can be related to one cycle of rf in the same period, so the 5-nano-second transitions correspond to 200 MHz where 168 pF has a reactance just under 5 ohms. Obviously, this is quite effective in shunting pulses whose source impedance is 10 to 20 times higher.

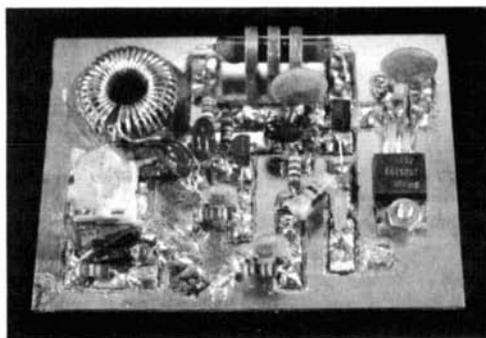
With an idealized clock pulse obtained from a lab pulse generator the next item of business was to simulate it inexpensively. A 74121 one-shot, timed to deliver 40-ns negative-going pulses, was found to be perfectly adequate. Proceeding next to the reference circuit and again using copper foil for power distribution, a 1.0-MHz crystal oscillator divided by 6000 was constructed (fig. 2) and never failed to operate properly from first turn-on.

VCO

As other writers have indicated, the vco must be inherently stable by itself before electronic frequency control is fed back. A Vackar oscillator circuit was chosen for three reasons: it is frequency and amplitude stable, and, like the Clapp, has one connection where small capacitance variations result in large frequency shifts. The circuit, fig. 3, was built on a bit of double-clad printed-circuit stock to insure mechanical integrity and simplify shielding. It was then tested by feeding in varactor bias from a 10-turn 10k pot tied across 5 volts of B+. Tuned-circuit component values were juggled to obtain the



Layout of the reference divider, showing the use of 3M adhesive-backed copper tape to achieve the low-impedance B+ and ground leads required for proper operation of the TTL logic. Circuit board for the programmable divider (fig. 1) uses the same technique.



Small size of the circuit boards used in this synthesizer results in a very compact package.

graphed tuning curve shown in fig. 4. This check should always be made to get an idea of linearity and voltage swing required for a given configuration.

When tuned in on a CW receiver, the carrier jumped in discrete steps as the pot wiper moved along individual turns of winding resistance which is understandable when it is realized that slew sensitivity is about 500 Hz per millivolt. Slow frequency drift is not important during this test but any audio rate burble must be eliminated. Some rectifier diodes work well as tuning devices but be careful of ambient light effects; one diode I tried had a translucent plastic case which caused 60 Hz fm from an overhead light until the device was wrapped in black plastic tape.

Oscillator B+ must be essentially battery-pure and stable, and a separate 7805 IC voltage regulator is recommended. No doubt a μ A723 regulator could be used, but these new three-terminal voltage regulators are so easy to wire in, they spoil you for anything else.

Unilateral amplification is necessary to prevent spurious vco pulling by logic pulses sneaking back through the gain chain. The resultant pulsed fm generates a wide spectrum of hash that is impossible to cure without redesign. A Darlington emitter follower has worked well in this regard and is able to properly fire the one-shot. Additional isolation and gain is provided by a MC1350P which drives the transmitter multiplier.

phase detector

Next on the agenda was selecting and optimizing a phase detector circuit. Perhaps it would be helpful to set up an idealized specification and then see what can be done to meet it in the real world. This black box would detect the slightest difference in phase of incoming 166-Hz pulses, change this information into a precise step of dc control voltage and instantly slew the vfo back into exact synchronism with its reference. In truth, since nothing works in zero time, there

during a second effort. After considerable playing around with component values, sidebands were down to about 20 kHz. One bad feature was the lack of drive toward sync if the vco happened to get outside one end of lock range. For all its faults, a MC4044 IC always drove towards lock, no matter where the vco was initially.

Since W1UYK's circuit³ worked on 41-Hz pulses I decided to give it a try. It was wired in per his schematic and showed promise right away; sidebands

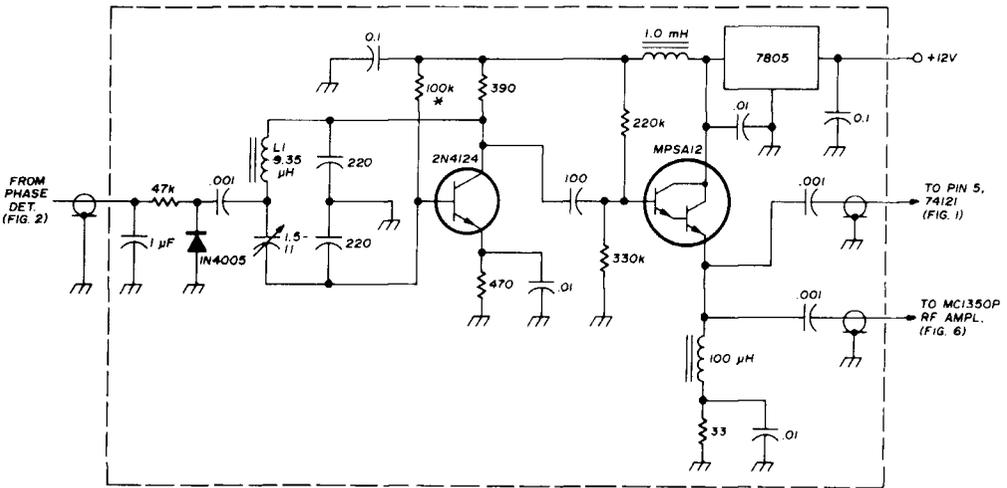


fig. 3. Circuit for the vco used in the 6-meter frequency synthesizer. The 9.35 μ H inductor, L1, consists of 37 turns no. 22 enamelled on a T-68-2 Amidon toroid core.

would have to be *some* phase difference to produce a correction voltage, and steps of dc voltage generate wideband transients. Therefore, a real world circuit will necessarily have time delays, small error signals and low pass filtering as minimum requirements.

The first circuit I tried² was totally unsuited for low-frequency use; the vco put out a spectrum of hash many hundreds of kHz wide and optimization only reduced this to about 90 kHz. For audio-frequency phase detectors, many designers have gone to sample-and-hold circuits as a means of reducing pulse feedthrough, but since I didn't have any enhancement-mode fets on hand, a pair of MPSA12 Darlingtons were substituted

came down to about 10 kHz. Another period of testing commenced in an attempt to modify the circuit for this particular synthesizer. The final result is similar with one interesting exception — the use of a 10k variable for adjusting loop lock-up rate.

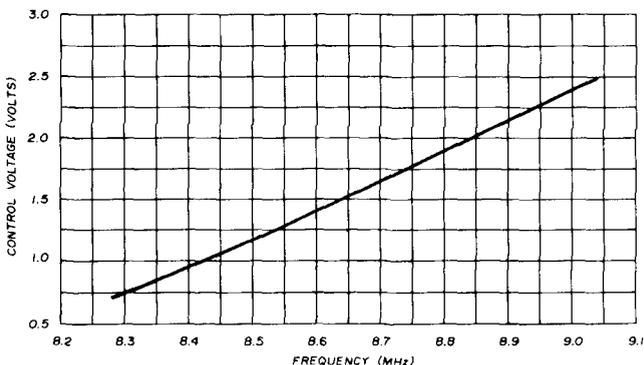
As resistance is progressively reduced, vco slew response changes from over to critical to under damping and eventually into sustained hunting. It's quite easy to hear this effect on a CW receiver and adjust for a rapid settling time (about 2 seconds) by placing a finger momentarily on the vco tank coil to force it far out of lock. Do this at 8.33 MHz where loop gain is highest.

Settling time is a little longer at 9 MHz

due to slightly lower voltage sensitivity and is a tradeoff made for non-linear varicap pull range. A low leakage electrolytic must be used for the 25- μ F capacitor (20 megohms on a Simpson 260) because it connects between a possible maximum 4 volts and a dc amplifier having a current gain of about 50,000. Only ac coupling is wanted. An RC filter follows the active filter to reduce sidebands to essentially zero and at 40 dB over S9, the carrier sounds perfectly quiet.

In a lab check using a special oscilloscope, varicap control voltage showed 10 microvolts pulse and about 30 microvolts random dc on a plus 1.0-volt pedestal at 8.5 MHz.

fig. 4. Frequency of vco vs control voltage, using a Sylvania 1N4005 rectifier as a varactor.



This equates to an average carrier uncertainty of ± 7 Hz or six times that on 6 meters, an acceptable figure for most transmission modes. These small error voltages remain unchanged, but the major dc voltage will lie between 0.5 and 3.8 volts, depending on frequency and trimmer capacitor adjustment (0.7 at 50 MHz and 2.1 at 54 MHz used here).

A simple but revealing test can be made by tuning in the reference crystal's 9th harmonic at 9.0 MHz, then setting in a division of 53,999 to produce a 166-Hz heterodyne. Servo loop limitations will be evidenced by a small burble or beat note instability. Any circuit modifications should be aimed at minimizing this randomness without degrading sideband levels or lock-up action.

unlock detector

If the synthesizer becomes unlocked for any reason, transmission of off-

frequency signals could take place. To prevent this, a simple pulse-width comparator, timer and relay deactivate the transmitter and hold it off until sync is regained (see fig. 5). Two NAND gates make up a one-shot whose timing capacitor produces one microsecond for every 770 pF, so .01 μ F gives about 12 microseconds. This is longer than the normal up-to-5 microseconds out of the first gate. These two signals take turns keeping inputs low on a third gate and its output stays high. Should the vco suddenly shift

frequency more than 10 kHz at 6 meters, the 5-microsecond pulse briefly becomes longer than the 12, gate output drops, firing the timer and energizing the relay for 4 seconds. Consequently, a frequency change of several kHz is possible without initiating action.

A desired frequency shift tolerance may be set in by variation of the one-shot capacitor while off time is changed by appropriate shift of R or C in the NE555 timer. Start-up, long settling times or hunting will keep the relay on; it will not reset until phase lock is effected.

construction

If you decide to build this six-meter frequency synthesizer, there are several important points to keep in mind. First of all, use a ground plane or copper strip for logic B+ and ground power distribution. Strive for battery-pure dc supplies for the oscillator and buffer. Use at least

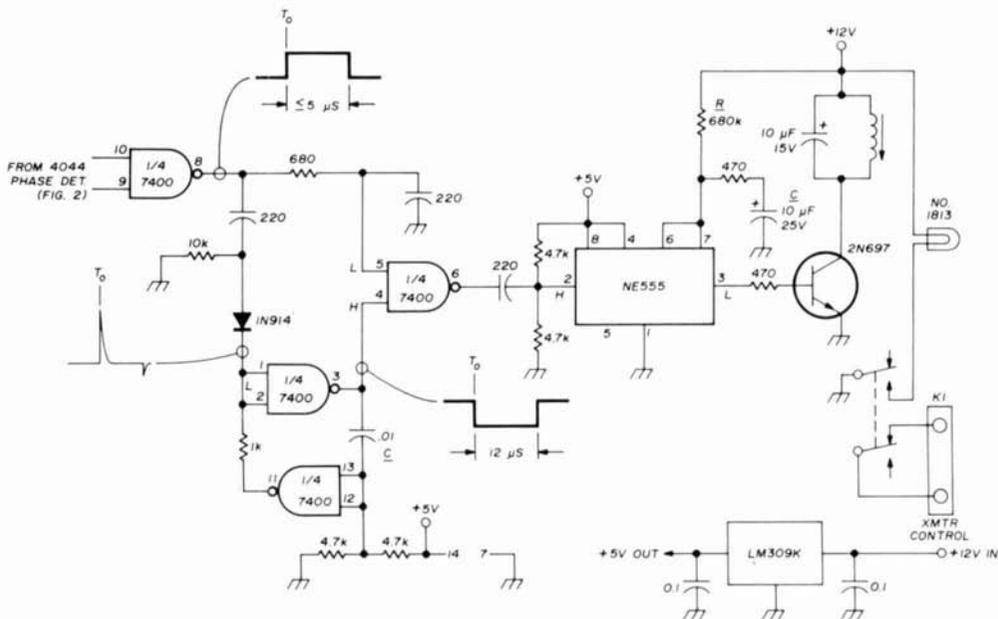


fig. 5. Circuit of the unlock detector and timer. Relay K1 is a Sigma 62R2-12DC. Simple three-terminal five-volt voltage regulator for the entire synthesizer is shown at right, below.

two voltage regulators: One for logic, one for the vco. Zener diodes have too high impedance and unregulated B+ is out of the question.

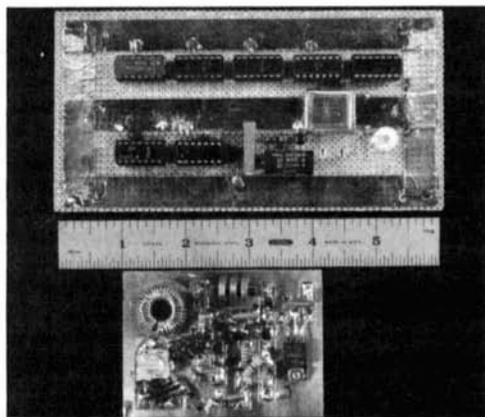
Keep the dialed logic wiring short and direct to its respective IC terminal. Optimize the base-bias resistor in the vco using the 9-MHz burble test (use a 22k isolating resistor and 250k pot in series to determine the proper value). Follow the vco with one-way rf amplification.

Shield the entire synthesizer. Shield the oscillator separately, and use feed-through capacitors and shielded cable. Beware of ground loops — non-reducible sidebands usually result. All construction must be mechanically secure. Anything that moves will cause phase shifts that the detector tries to correct for. Think of phase as a change of less than one-half Hz at 8 MHz!

Stray capacitance at the varicap connection will have considerable affect on the capacitor values required to bracket 8.33/9.00 MHz with a given tuning diode and bias voltage swing. A frequency counter is convenient, but a well-calibrated communications receiver will

do fine. If only the first MHz on six meters is of interest, adjustment is that much easier. Experiment with different voltage-variable capacitors. A Sylvania 1N4005 rectifier diode produced less frequency jitter than a Motorola Epicap MV2209.

For a real eye-opener, try placing a battery-powered broadcast radio next to the programmable divider board to pick up its amazing spectrum of signals. Then,



Construction of the vco. The 9.35-µH inductor is in the upper left-hand corner of the board.

"finger test" the vco — the result is hard to believe!

summary

Troubleshooting this synthesizer was a real challenge but definitely worthwhile once it began to operate correctly. There is tremendous satisfaction in having a 6-meter crystal-stable rf generator with 4000 discrete frequencies. Great for nets, receiver calibration and avoiding interference. When asked to move "up a couple," you'll shift *exactly* two kHz. Schedules on a prearranged frequency will be right on. Other vfos can be

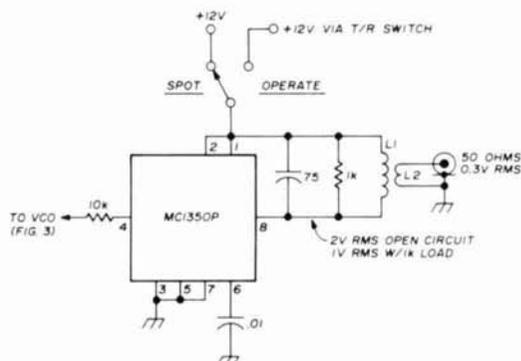


fig. 6. MC1350P rf amplifier provides 0.3-volt rms output into 50 ohms. L1 is 19 turns no. 28 on 3/6" diameter iron-core form, 3/4" long. L2 is 6 turns no. 28 over center of L1.

calibrated by your dialing in spot frequencies to zero in on. MARS netting is possible by adding a toggle switch on the 7490 bi-quinary to divide by four; see the schematic in fig. 4. Narrow-band fm is possible by adding modulation to the vco control voltage, but hum will be a problem as only tens of microvolts can be tolerated.

references

1. P.A. Stark, K2OAW, "Frequency Synthesizer for Two-Meter FM," 73, October, 1972, page 15.
2. K.W. Robbins, W1KNI, "Tunable Six- and Ten-Meter Phased-Locked Loop," *ham radio*, January, 1973, page 40.
3. D.H. Stevens, W1UYK, "A 4000-Channel Two-Meter Synthesizer," *QST*, September, 1972, page 17.

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performance characteristics of vertical antennas

A discussion of
matching networks,
network losses
and bandwidth of
vertical antennas
of various heights

I've been interested in antennas for 80-meter DX that were simple, inexpensive and effective, so I've been reading a lot of the vertical antenna literature prior to putting up a vertical or a phased vertical array. I chose verticals early in this effort since antenna books show that the low angle radiation from vertical monopole antennas is considerably better than from horizontal dipoles unless the dipoles are unreasonably high, at least for 80 meters.

The first question was, "What vertical height should be used?" A recent article¹ shows that short verticals do a pretty good job, which I agree with. Although some antenna articles have indicated that

tall verticals have much better low angle radiation than short ones, reference to antenna books such as those written by Kraus² or Jordon³ show that the low-angle radiation pattern is essentially the same for a wide range of vertical heights. More on this later.

My studies show that earth and network losses are the most important factors. These losses are greater for short verticals than they are for tall verticals.

I've indicated a few considerations, but there are still a number of questions to consider and answer, and in more detail. How high should the vertical be? Is a tall vertical better than a short one? If so, how much better? What does better mean, or what factors or tradeoffs are important, and what is their relative importance?

You will find that there is quite a bit of choice in the height that may be used for a single vertical. If two or more verticals are to be part of a phased array, then there is less choice as to which antenna height may be used.

Some of the factors that must be considered are self-impedance; mutual impedance in arrays; earth, radial, and network losses; bandwidth and vswr versus height; vertical radiation pattern; type of tuning network required; type of transmission line used; physical or mechanical factors; and the radial ground system.

How can you make sense out of so many interrelated factors? You don't want to reinvent the wheel, so I will make use of material such as that from early

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issues (1930s) of the *Proceedings of the IRE*, and from standard antenna textbooks. Today there are a number of new tools at our disposal such as digital computers, pocket electronic calculators, etc., and these were used to develop answers to some of the questions.

Rather than try to answer all of the questions at once, several articles are planned, with only a few topics in each. The data and examples will cover a range

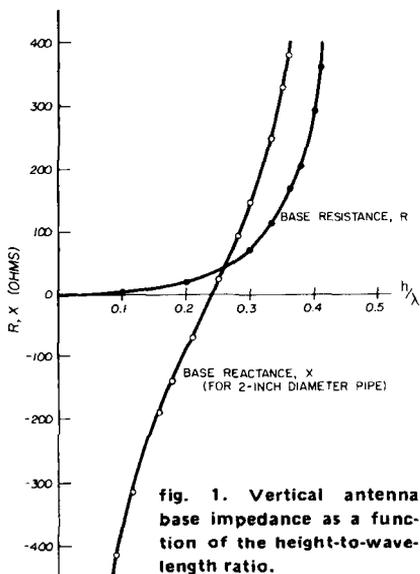


fig. 1. Vertical antenna base impedance as a function of the height-to-wavelength ratio.

of values which are practical for average amateur situations. The graphs will be large enough to serve as useful reference data for amateurs who wish to work out other examples.

This first article will deal with the self impedance of a single vertical, and indicate what networks (if any) are required for various heights of verticals, what losses occur in these networks, and what bandwidths result.

The second article will compare the vertical radiation patterns of various height verticals. The third article will discuss ground losses, and answer the remaining questions posed here. The last article will present mutual impedance data, and will analyze a particular phased array.

antenna self impedance

The electromagnetic field produced by an antenna results from certain current distributions on the antenna which vary with time. Many cases are analyzed in the literature, from the elementary current element, to the elementary dipole, to a full-length dipole with sinusoidal current distribution. Various steps in the analysis show that induction, radiation and electrostatic fields result, all of which fall off differently with distance. All of these fields (the near field) must be considered to determine either the reactance of a single antenna, or the mutual impedance between two or more antennas.

The radiation field is sufficient when considering the radiation patterns. These theories were used by authors of antenna books and articles to develop equations used to make calculations here. I used the appropriate formula from Jordan² for antenna self impedance (one for resistance and one for reactance). Each formula is a long complex expression consisting of many sine and cosine integral terms, and they are also functions of antenna height.

Antenna self impedance, as used here, consists of the antenna base resistance, R, and the antenna base reactance, X. You must be careful when using such formulae to be sure that loop or base values are used consistently and properly. The base impedance values are those seen at the

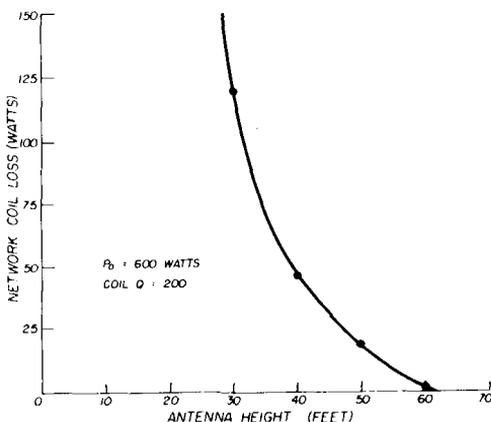


fig. 2. Network coil loss vs antenna height (see text).

base of a vertical antenna. Loop values result from considering the current loop up on the antenna. It is easy to convert from one set of values to another, as for example

$$R_{\text{base}} = R_{\text{loop}} / \sin^2(\beta h)$$

Antenna textbook data is sometimes given for loop values, and sometimes for base values. Base values are used here.

$$\beta = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$$

where λ is the wavelength, and h is the electrical length of the antenna in wavelengths.

antenna height

Another time you must be careful is when you calculate the physical length of the antenna. For antennas of the diameter of interest (2-inch diameter conduit was used here), the physical length should be 5% less than the electrical length. The computer calculations were made using the electrical length in order to compare my results with standard antenna textbook data, but the physical lengths given here will have the 5% shortening included. A handy formula for this is

$$HA = \frac{984 \times h/\lambda}{F_{\text{MHz}} \times 1.05} \quad \text{feet}$$

where HA is the physical antenna length in feet, and h/λ is the electrical length in fractions of a wavelength. For example, if $F_{\text{MHz}} = 3.8$, then $HA = 246 h/\lambda$. Then, if $h/\lambda = 0.25$, $HA = 61.5$ feet.

The results of the first computer program I wrote gave values of R and X vs h/λ . This standard data is reproduced in **fig. 1** for use in selecting some examples of practical heights of verticals.

The antenna lengths selected for consideration were even multiples of 10-foot pieces of conduit, and specifically were 30-, 40-, 50-, 60- and 70-foot long. Some special lengths were also selected, and these were lengths which were easily matched to RG-8/U or RG-11/U coaxial cable.

table 1. Calculated vertical antenna characteristics vs height, and vswr performance with three different types of matching systems.

1. No matching network (center of coax connected directly to antenna base).

HA (feet)	h/λ	R	X	coax	vswr
80.0	0.325	90.6	+230.0	RG-11/U	8:1
76.0	0.31	75.0	+180.0	RG-11/U	8:1
60.0	0.243	33.8	+ 5.7	RG-11/U	2.2:1
70.0	0.285	55.0	+108.0	RG-8/U	6:1
69.0	0.28	52.0	+ 95.0	RG-8/U	5:1
61.5	0.25	36.6	+ 21.3	RG-8/U	1.8:1
60.0	0.243	33.8	+ 5.7	RG-8/U	1.5:1
59.3	0.241	32.0	0	RG-8/U	1.6:1

2. Series capacitor, C, between coaxial transmission line and antenna base.

HA (feet)	h/λ	R	X	coax	C,pF	vswr
80.0	0.325	90.6	+230	RG-11/U	182	1.2:1
76.0	0.31	75.0	+180	RG-11/U	233	1.0:1
70.0	0.285	55.0	+108	RG-8/U	388	1.06:1
69.0	0.28	52.0	+95	RG-8/U	441	1.0:1
61.5	0.25	36.6	+21.3	RG-8/U	1966	1.4:1

3. Type-C L-network (see fig. 3) used with RG-8/U coaxial cable. Vswr 1.0:1.

HA (feet)	h/λ	R	X	L, μH	C,pF
60.0	0.2433	33.8	5.7	0.80	591
50.0	0.2028	20.7	-86.5	4.69	991
40.0	0.1622	12.1	-183.8	8.62	1467
30.0	0.1216	6.3	-303.0	13.41	2164

4. Type-A L-network (see fig. 3) used with RG-8/U coaxial cable. Vswr 1.0:1.

HA (feet)	h/λ	R	X	L, μH	C,pF
70.0	0.285	55	+105	4.33	637

Table 1 lists these choices, the network used (if any) and the resulting vswr calculations made at 3.8 MHz. This data shows that with no network and RG-11/U transmission line, the lowest vswr is 2.2:1 with $HA = 60$ feet. With no network and RG-8/U coax, the lowest vswr is 1.5:1 with $HA = 60$ feet. If the proper series capacitor is used, the vswr is 1.0:1 for RG-8/U at $HA = 69$ feet, and for RG-11/U at $HA = 76$ feet.

For antennas of other heights the vswr is 1.0:1 if the proper L-networks are used. The L-networks were calculated using the methods outlined in my *QST*

article,⁴ or from the methods detailed in *ham radio*.⁵

network losses

The next topic to explore is that of matching network losses. Of course, there

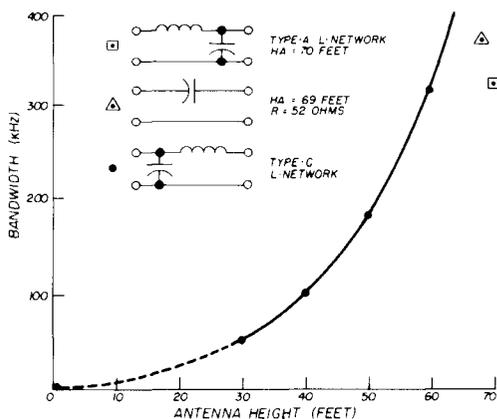


fig. 3. Bandwidth of vertical antennas vs height. Bandwidth edges defined by frequencies at which vswr increases to 2.0:1.

is no network loss for cases not using a matching network, and I will also assume that there are no losses in any of the network capacitors. However, there are coil losses, and these can be significant for matching networks for short vertical antennas. Assuming that the power output to the matching network is 600 watts, and that the Q of the network coil is 200, coil losses are as shown in fig. 2. On the basis of this graph you can select a height of vertical depending upon the amount of network loss that you are willing to accept.

As an example of these calculations, consider a 30-foot vertical, where HA = 30 feet, R = 6.3 ohms, and $X_L = 320$ ohms. If there are no capacitor losses, the 600 watts delivered by the coax feedline to the network must be divided between the network coil and the antenna. There are earth losses too, but I will consider these in a later article, and assume that they are zero now in order to examine network losses. The coil loss resistance, r, is X_L/Q , or $320/200 = 1.6$ ohms. The

current in the coil and antenna is then

$$I = \sqrt{\frac{P}{R+r}} = \sqrt{\frac{600}{6.3+1.6}} = 8.71 \text{ amps}$$

Thus, the coil loss is $I^2R = 121.5$ watts, and $I^2R = 478.5$ watts delivered to the antenna.

antenna bandwidth

The last topic for this article is that of the bandwidth for the antenna examples given. For each of these examples the network was designed to make the input impedance seen by the coax feedline to be 52 ohms for a vswr of 1.0:1 at an arbitrary frequency of 3.8 MHz. Another computer program was written which calculated the input impedance versus frequency for the same network and same height vertical. The previous program furnished the changing antenna self impedance versus frequency. The changing input impedance versus frequency was plotted on a Smith chart for 30-, 40-, 50- and 60-foot verticals using one type of L-network; the 69-foot vertical using a series C network; and the 70-foot vertical using a different type of L-network. Bandwidth was arbitrarily defined as being the difference between those frequencies having a vswr of 2.0:1. These bandwidths are shown in fig. 3. As expected, the shorter antennas have a smaller bandwidth. Use of this graph will help you to select an antenna height depending upon what bandwidth is acceptable to you.

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lowpass filters

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Semiconductors have finally found their way into high-frequency linear amplifiers. Broadband, untuned amplifiers that were seldom practical with vacuum tubes have become the best approach with semiconductors. Along with the advantages of rapid QSY and circuit simplicity comes

the problem of unwanted harmonics. It is a recognized fact that a lowpass filter is a necessity with this type of amplifier.¹ Many of the broadband amplifier designs use push-pull circuitry, which may suppress the second harmonic by 50 dB, but the third harmonic is suppressed only 12 dB.²

I have selected an elliptic function filter design that provides low insertion loss, low vswr and attenuation peaks at the second and third harmonics. It is assumed that a linear amplifier will be used in the phone portion of the bands but adequate suppression is obtained for CW operation too.

Several listings of normalized filter data have been printed and are quite simple to use.^{3,4} Unfortunately, these publications are seldom in the average amateur's library. The theoretical design has been compromised only slightly to allow use of standard mica capacitors (either compression molded or dipped) that can be purchased from Allied, Newark or other suppliers. Five-hundred-volt capacitors will handle several hundred watts if the vswr of the antenna is near unity and are a wise choice unless low power and miniaturization is contemplated. The Micrometals toroidal cores listed are readily available from Amidon Associates.

G. Kent Shubert, WAØJYK, 1308 Leevue Drive, Olathe, Kansas 66061

fig. 1. 160-meter lowpass filter. L1 is 26 turns number-18 on Amidon T80-2 toroid ($4.2 \mu\text{H}$). L2 is 23 turns number-18 on Amidon T80-2 toroid ($3.13 \mu\text{H}$). Insertion loss is 0.1 dB over the 160-meter band.

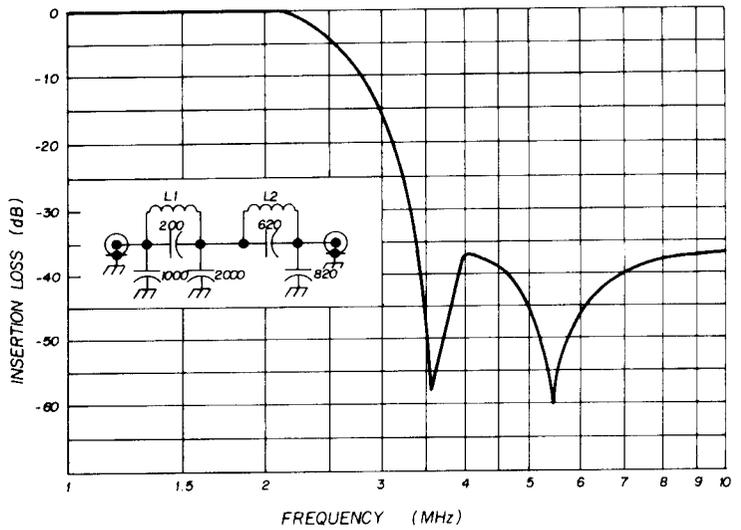


fig. 2. 80-meter lowpass filter. L1 is 18 turns number-16 on an Amidon T80-2 toroid ($1.9 \mu\text{H}$). L2 is 16 turns number-16 on an Amidon T80-2 toroid ($1.46 \mu\text{H}$). Insertion loss is 0.12 dB over the 80-meter band.

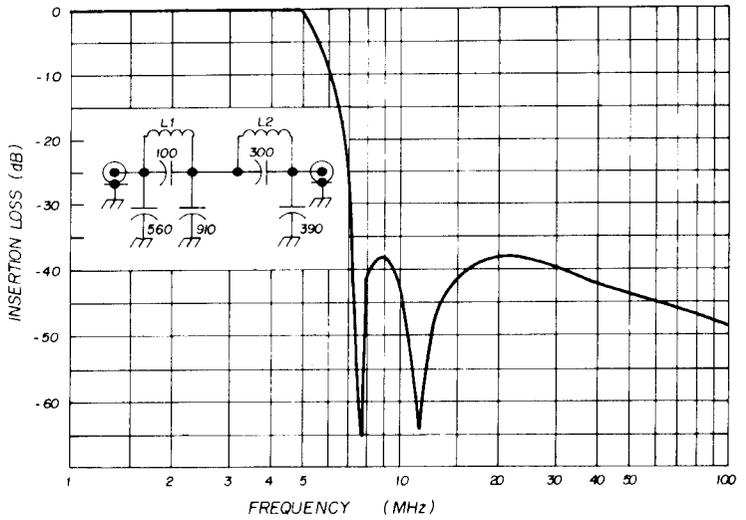
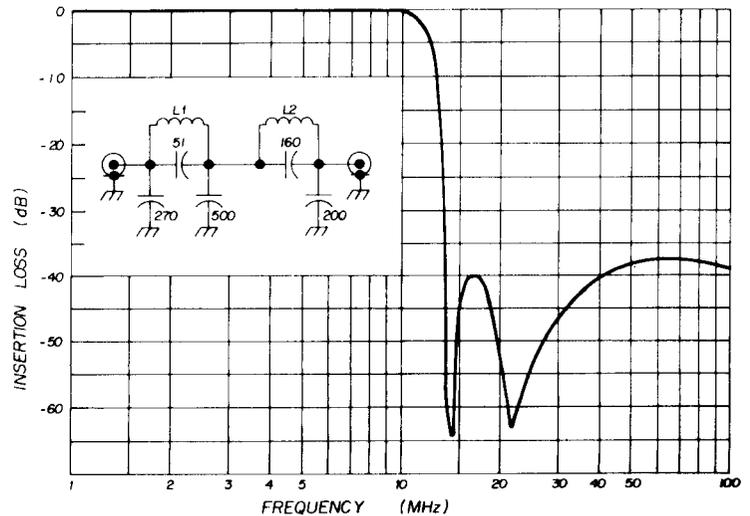


fig. 3. 40-meter lowpass filter. L1 is 10 turns number-16 on an Amidon T80-6 toroid ($0.57 \mu\text{H}$). L2 is 9 turns number-16 on an Amidon T80-6 toroid ($0.41 \mu\text{H}$). Insertion loss below 18 MHz is 0.17 dB.



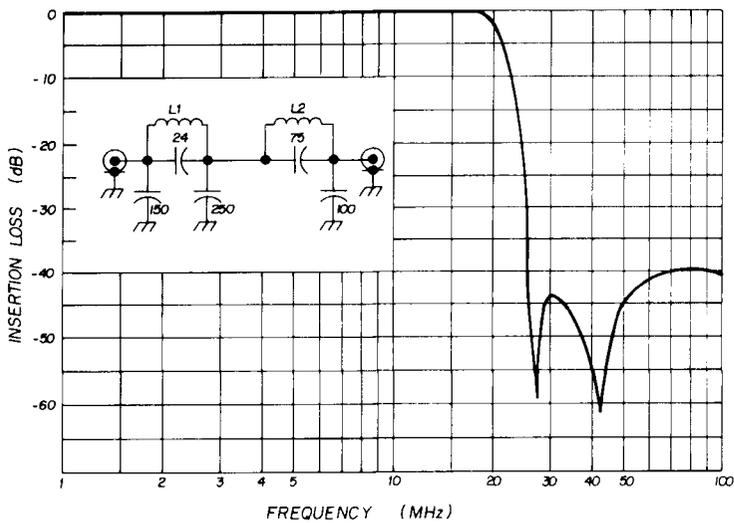


fig. 4. 20-meter lowpass filter. L1 is 10 turns number-16 on an Amidon T80-6 toroid ($0.57 \mu\text{H}$). L2 is 9 turns number-16 on an Amidon T80-6 toroid ($0.41 \mu\text{H}$). Insertion loss below 18 MHz is 0.17 dB.

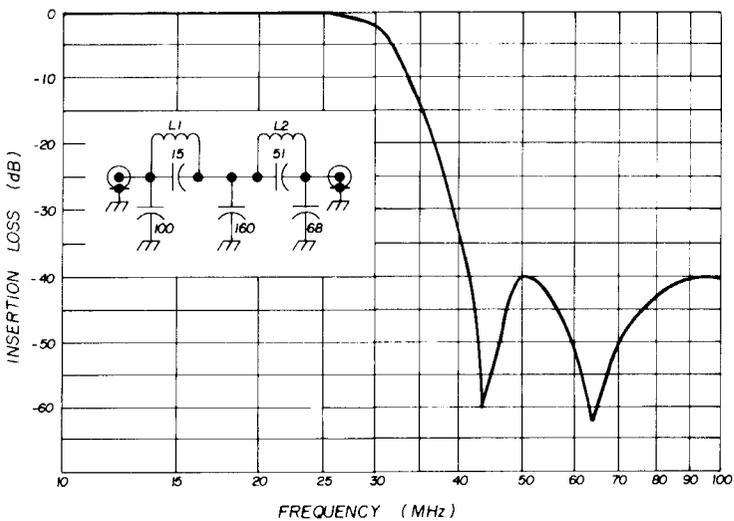


fig. 5. 15-meter lowpass filter. L1 is 9 turns number-16 on an Amidon T80-6 toroid ($0.41 \mu\text{H}$). L2 is 8 turns number-16 on an Amidon T80-6 toroid ($0.27 \mu\text{H}$). Insertion loss below 24 MHz is 0.25 dB.

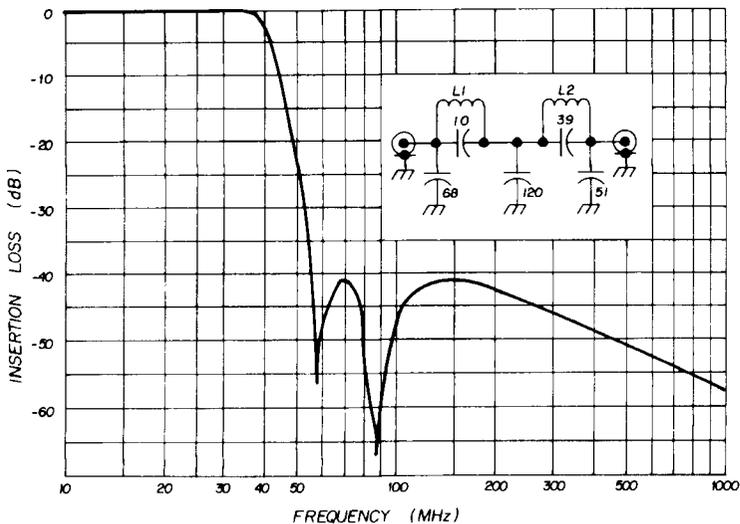


fig. 6. 10-meter lowpass filter. L1 is 8 turns number-16 on an Amidon T80-6 toroid ($0.33 \mu\text{H}$). L2 is 7 turns number-16 on an Amidon T80-6 toroid ($0.19 \mu\text{H}$). Insertion loss below 35 MHz is 0.3 dB.

Bathtub cans from old oil-filled capacitors make good cases with BNC or RCA Phono connectors soldered in the ends. If you are going solid state those old 1000-volt, oil-filled capacitors won't be needed anymore, so salvage the cases.

Designs and winding information are given for the top six amateur bands. The response curves were obtained by computer analysis with actual testbench verification of the 80- and 40-meter filters (those are the two bands I'm now working). The filters perform well without tuning, but a little adjustment of the resonant frequency will help assure 60-dB suppression of the second and third harmonics. There are several ways to tune the toroidal resonators.⁵ In all six filters inductor L1 will resonate at the third harmonic and L2 will be resonated at the second harmonic.

Please join me in fighting air pollution. Keep the bands upstairs clean for the other operators!

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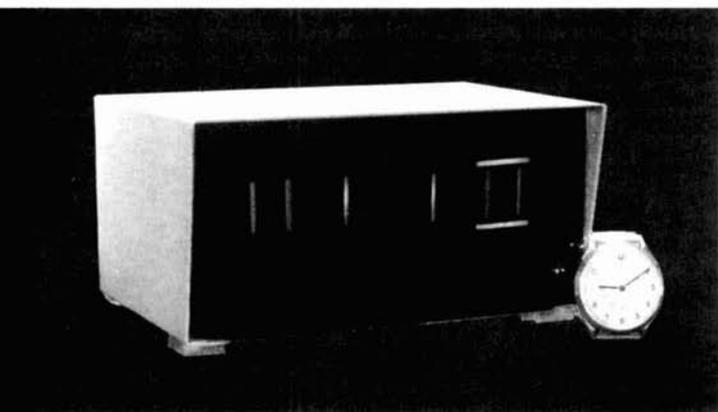
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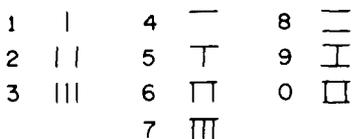
The word **instrumentation** has a magic ring and is something every true amateur desires, but usually cost tempers that desire. Some years ago, while fighting to read a Potter counter which used four columns of four lamps each, displaying a BCD format, I was sure there must be a better way. As transistors mutated to integrated circuits and costs plummeted, a number glyph was developed that could revolutionize numeral concepts. As not everyone is interested in the historical development of numerals, suffice it to say that man has spent several thousand years developing and changing his numeric glyphs. Now the age of the computer will require another change if man and machine are ever to communicate directly.

invention

Accepting the fact that digital equipment will never be anything more than

*Rad-Ex Syntactics, 1043 East Atchison Street, Pasadena, California 91104

off and on switches relegates them to *binary* operation. Man must learn to use these bits of information in an efficient manner. My own approach to this binary age is to reform the old Potter readout lamps by arranging them in illuminated bars as follows:



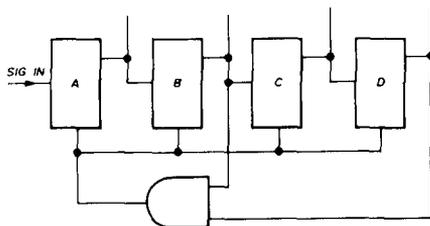
Why? These bars are a *direct* output from the decade counter. What has been gained? A readily readable symbol, reduced cost, simplified circuitry and more reliability.*

logic

To answer in more detail, some discussion of *logic, counters and circuitry* is necessary. It helps to remember that any digital device is just a mass of electrical switches. It depends on your own insight and knowledge to parallel or series them

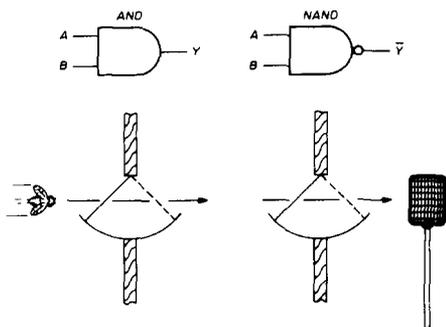
applied to a door and window forming the OR and NOR gates.

Master these concepts and their ramifications, and you will be able to follow any logic design. One ingredient you must apply to all logic is that in the real world a finite time must be allowed for signals



D	C	B	A	
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	1	1
0	0	1	0	2
0	0	1	1	3
0	1	0	0	4
0	1	0	1	5
0	1	1	0	6
0	1	1	1	7
1	0	0	0	8
1	0	0	1	9
1	0	1	0	10 = Reset signal
0	0	0	0	

fig. 1. Theoretical divide-by-10 ripple counter.



to produce your desired result. For instance, the door and screen door are AND gates. Both must be open for the fly to come in. The results can be negative, NAND, if somebody is waiting with the fly swatter. The same analogy can be

to pass through each logic block. Believe me, this is important. Usually, logic circuits end up in a counter, probably for display, or register, a group of binary bits which will be processed further.

The device of most interest to the amateur is the ripple counter. Fig. 1 is the logic diagram for a ripple counter decade unit. This unit should go through the binary sequence shown in the accompanying table and repeat.

The old problems of finite time and reality interfere and develop into a condition called *critical race*. Beware of these problems. It's been the downfall of many designs.

What happens is that the reset pulse has set all flip-flops to zero but in so doing, flip-flop B passes a trigger signal to flip-flop C and you find yourself with *binary 0100*. Thus, you spend a few more hours devising lockout circuitry so this

*U.S. Patent No. 3,671,943. A copy may be obtained from the Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 (50 cents money order).

RIPPLE COUNTER WITH BCD OUTPUT

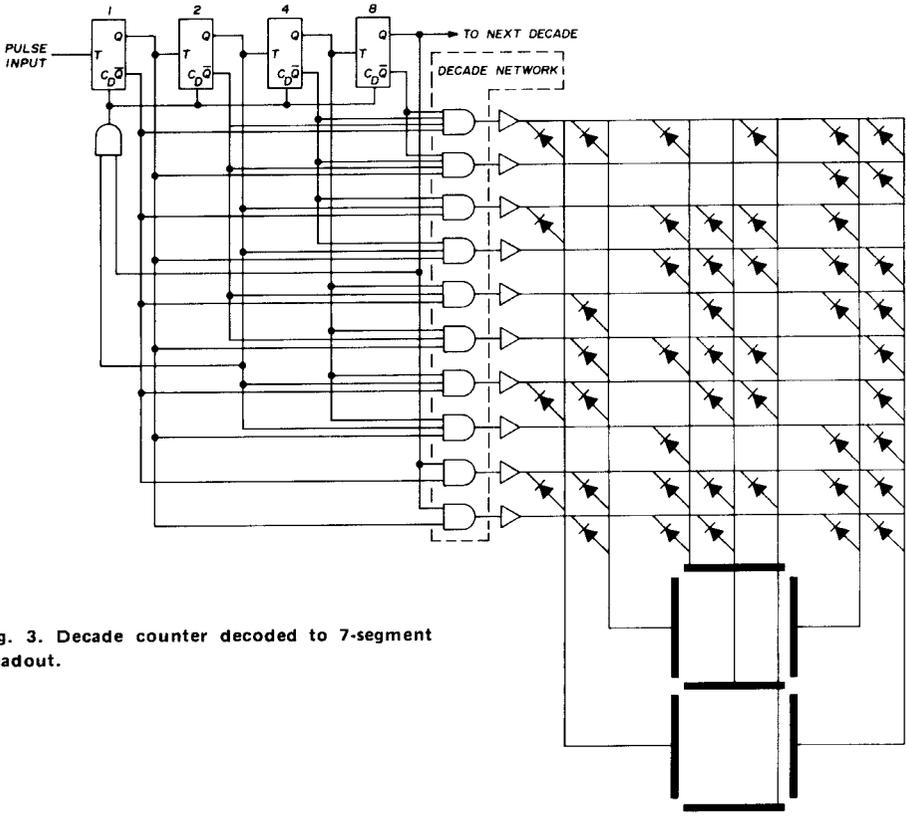


fig. 3. Decade counter decoded to 7-segment readout.

paths, while almost doubling the counting rate and automatically suppressing leading zeros. Fig. 4 shows the circuit; its truth table is below:

D	C	B	A
0	0	0	0 State Before Count Begins
0	0	0	1
0	0	1	0
0	0	1	1
0	1	0	0
0	1	0	1
0	1	1	0
0	1	1	1
1	0	0	0
1	0	0	1
1	0	1	0
1	0	1	1 AND to Reset
0	0	0	1

At first the truth table seems to indicate two zeros, but the fact is that

binary 0000 is a true starting point where no count exists. It is also a unique way of suppressing leading zeros. Once the counter starts, binary 1010 becomes the systems designated zero. (For many reasons it is handy to have a binary designation for zero; for instance, on a punch tape a blank space is ambiguous.) Electronically, good things happen too. Circuitwise, the first flip-flop is independent and needs no clear signal when counting. Thus critical races are eliminated, allowing the use of a simple 3-input NAND gate to reset the counter for each decade count.

For readout purposes, with one exception, the lamps are tied through lamp drivers directly to the flip-flops. The one exception is the case where binary 1000 also illuminates the lamp associated with flip-flop C.

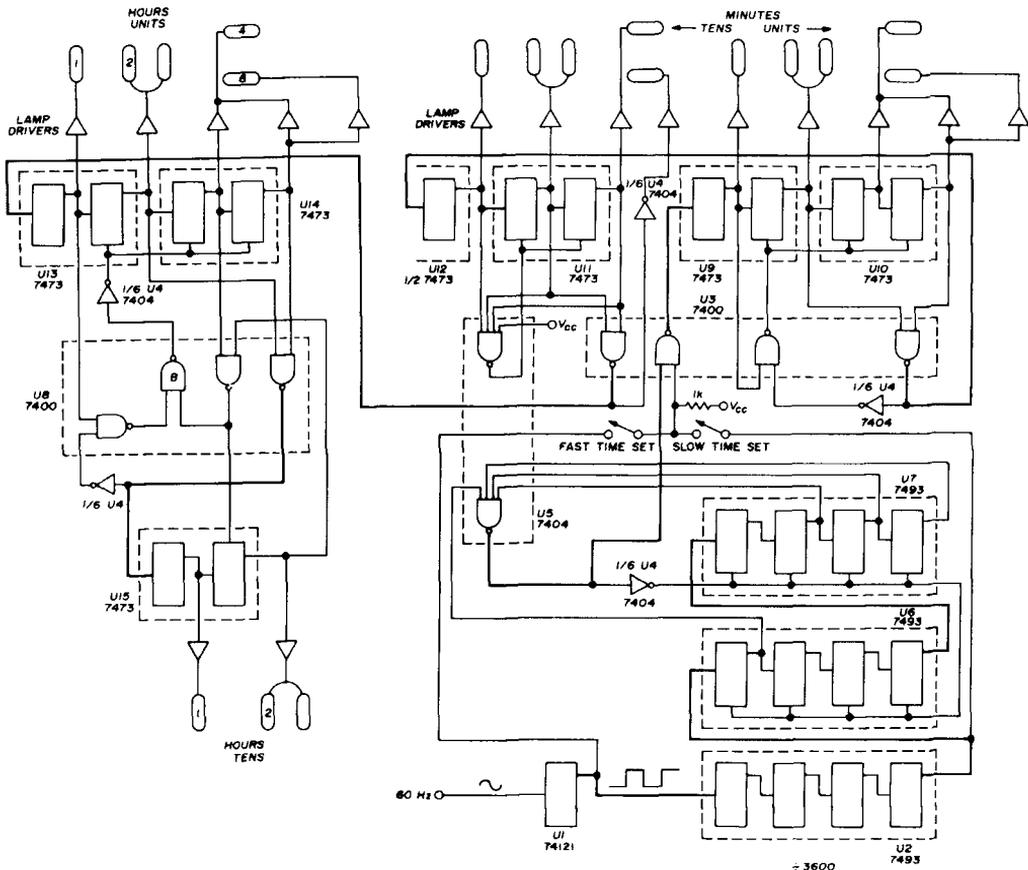


fig. 5. Twenty-four hour clock using Rad-Ex readouts.

application

The use of the Rad-Ex system can best be illustrated in a 24-hour clock where mixed counting is necessary. Fig. 5 is the logic diagram for the clock and should be used as reference in the following sequence of operation: 60 Hz is fed to a one-shot multivibrator, U1, simply to eliminate false triggering. The output from U1 triggers a chain of 7493 flip-flops U2, U6, U7, which are used as a ripple counter to divide incoming pulses by 3600 (1110, 0001, 0000).

All that is required for this operation is to detect the four binary ones and use a 4-input gate, U5, to reset U6 and U7 (U2 is already at 0000). The resulting one-minute pulses are fed to the first decade counter which displays zero to 9 minutes.

As the transition from binary 1001 to 1010 occurs, a pulse passes to a divide-by-6 counter. Again, the non-conventional system works to the advantage of simplicity. The truth table shows how the Rad-Ex numbers zero through 5 are energized.

C	B	A	
0	0	1	
0	1	0	
0	1	1	
1	0	0	
1	0	1	
1	1	0	
1	1	1	AND to Resets B & C
0	0	1	

The 24-hour portion of the clock uses the standard Rad-Ex decade counter plus a counter to keep track of the hours.

Essentially, the decade counter acts the same as the minute decade with the exception that the suppressed leading zero feature may be observed. The binary numbers 10 (2) and 0100 (4) are combined in a NAND gate, U8, to reset both decade and modulo-4 counters to binary

A check of the cost of ICs for this unit amounts to \$9.85. ICs for a comparable clock designed to use 7-segment readouts cost about \$14.00. A set of Rad-Ex readouts costs \$4.75; the 7-segment readouts and four decode units cost about \$15.00.

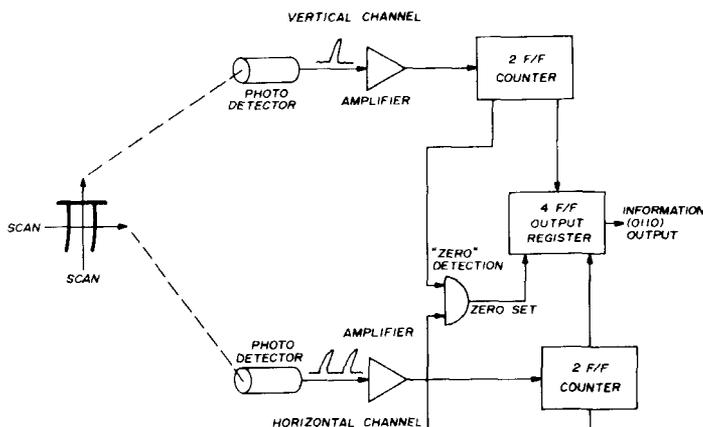


fig. 6. Rad-Ex optical reader device.

(00) (0000). Thus, until the first hour is reached only the minute display is illuminated.

The sharp eye may spot two NAND gates, part of U3A and U8B, which don't seem quite right. Here you must juggle your logic thinking for in the case of the NAND gate, I say, "If both inputs A and B ($A \cdot B$) are high, Y is low (\bar{Y})."



You may look at this in a different way and say, "If A or B ($A+B$) is low, ($\bar{A+B}$), Y is high.



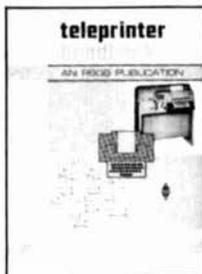
These two NAND gates are used in a NOR sense, U8B is used to clear the decade counter whenever the count of ten or 24 is present. Gate U3A is used to allow a fast or semi-fast setting of the clock.

future

As mentioned earlier, this is a symbol that can be handwritten and machine read. Fig. 6 is a block diagram showing a method of scanning the numeral to set up a BCD character. The number is scanned horizontally to pick up ones and vertically to pick up fours. These outputs are combined in a shift register which on command transmits the BCD word.

Hopefully, this article will inspire experimenters, hobbyists, and professionals to become involved in the man-machine communication problem. At present, there is a growing need for man to communicate through handwritten glyphs directly to computers, with bank drafts and zip codes being prime examples. There is also need to simplify instrumentation so that digital voltmeters, frequency counters, etc. can talk more directly and less expensively to you. Rad-Ex Syntactics feels we have brought these goals closer to realization.

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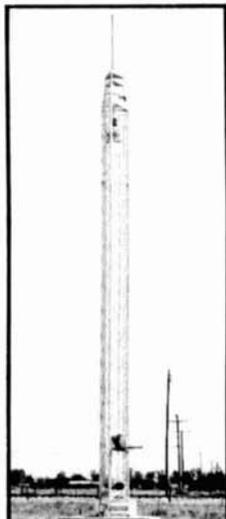
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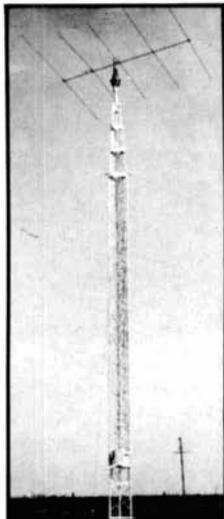
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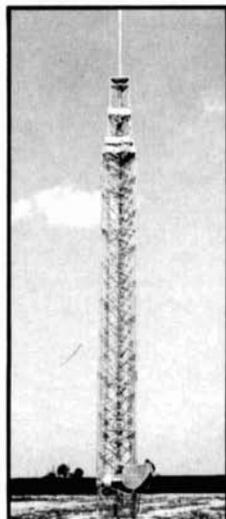
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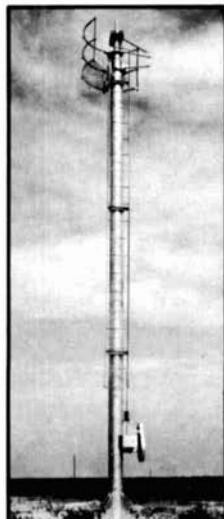
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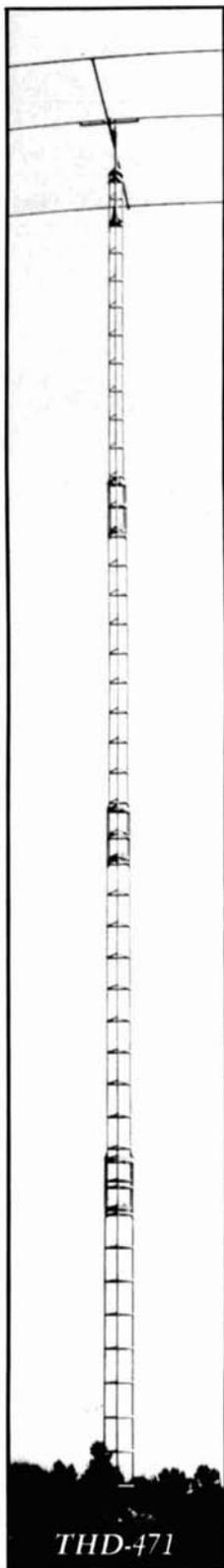
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families simplify
proper biasing

Many circuits in the amateur literature specify the Motorola MPF102 fet. The Texas Instruments 2N3819 and the Siliconix U183 have essentially identical data sheets to that of the MPF102. The trouble with all three of these devices is the 10-to-1 spread of I_{DSS} (2-20 mA) which makes bias point and performance somewhat unpredictable. I_{DSS} is the drain current when zero bias is applied between the gate and source terminals of the fet.

bias problem

The circuit shown in fig. 1 is a typical fet biasing arrangement. The gate of the fet is held at ground potential (zero volts) by resistor, R_g , and the voltage drop across the source resistor, R_s , biases the source terminal to some voltage above ground. Thus, the gate is biased negative with respect to the source. The value of the gate-to-source bias is equal to the product of the drain current, I_D , in mA, and the source resistor, R_s , in kilohms. If R_s is 2000 ohms and I_D is 1.5 mA, the voltage across R_s is 3 volts. The gate is thus biased 3 volts more negative than the source.

Fig. 2 shows how drain current varies versus gate-to-source voltage for an fet whose I_{DSS} is 20 mA. This fet could be an MPF102, a 2N3819 or a U183. A straight line is drawn through the origin which represents a source resistor, R_s , having a resistance of 1000 ohms. Notice that a change of one volt along this line

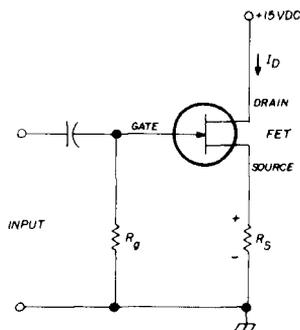


fig. 1. Typical field-effect transistor biasing arrangement.

Courtney Hall, WA5SNZ, 7716 La Verdura Drive, Dallas, Texas 75240

results in a change in current of 1 mA, indicating a resistance of 1000 ohms.

The point where the straight line intersects the curve gives the values of drain current and gate-to-source voltage. In this case the drain current is about 3.7 mA, and the gate-to-source voltage (drop across R_S) is about 3.7 volts. Fig. 3 shows how the situation is changed if the fet is replaced by one having a value of I_{DSS} equal to 2 mA. The drain current is now 0.48 mA, and the gate-to-source voltage is 0.48 volt. This shows that the drain current of an MPF102, 2N3819 or U183 may be anywhere from 0.48 mA to 3.7 mA when a 1000-ohm source bias resistor is used.

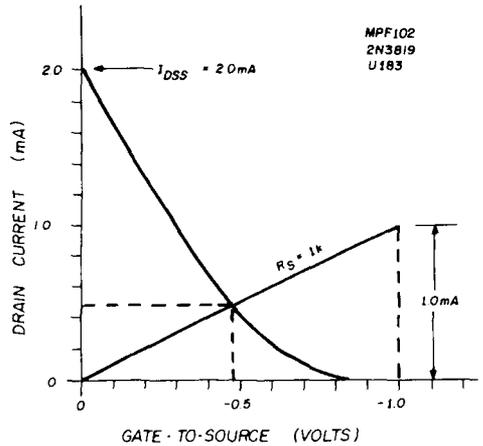


fig. 3. Typical fet drain current vs gate bias characteristic for $I_{DSS} = 2$ mA.

But if a 10k resistor is used for R_D , and a 2N3819 with I_{DSS} equal to 20 mA is plugged into the circuit, the drain current will try to be 3.7 mA, which would produce a 37 volt drop across R_D . Obviously this is impossible with a 15-volt supply, so the fet simply saturates, and linear amplification is not possible. If, on the other hand, R_D is chosen so that it has a 5-volt drop when the current through it is 3.7 mA (I_{DSS} equal to 20 mA), its value would be

$$R_D = \frac{5 \text{ volts}}{3.7 \text{ mA}} = 1.35\text{k ohms}$$

If this value of resistor is used with an fet

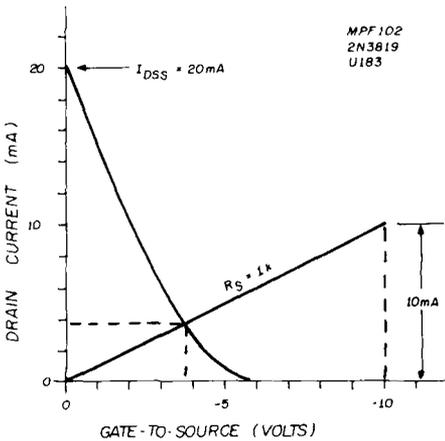


fig. 2. Typical fet drain current vs gate bias characteristic for $I_{DSS} = 20$ mA.

With such a wide range of possible drain current, it is impossible to choose an efficient drain load that would be suitable for all fets of these types. As an example, suppose a 2N3819 is to be used in a resistance-coupled audio amplifier stage such as shown in fig. 4. Under no-signal conditions, it is desired that the dc drain voltage be 10 volts. This means there must be a 5-volt drop across the drain resistor, R_D . If a 2N3819 is used which has an I_{DSS} of 2 mA, the drain current will be 0.48 mA, and the value of R_D should be

$$R_D = \frac{5 \text{ volts}}{0.48 \text{ mA}} = 10.4\text{k ohms}$$

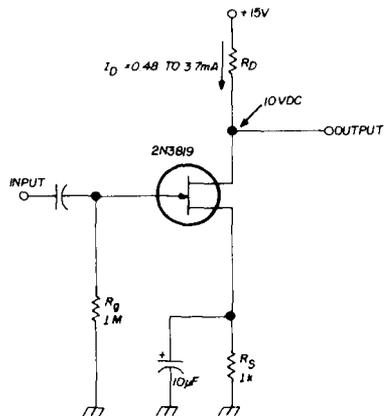


fig. 4. Simple audio amplifier circuit using a 2N3819 fet.

having an I_{DSS} of 2 mA, the drop across it will be only

$$(0.48 \text{ mA}) (1.35\text{k}) = 0.65 \text{ volt}$$

The problems involved in biasing fets with large I_{DSS} spreads should now be quite apparent.

new fets give relief

One way to get around this biasing problem is to take a large number of fets and sort them into groups, each group having a relatively narrow I_{DSS} range. Fortunately, manufacturers are now doing this. Texas Instruments has taken the 2N3819 and broken it into five fet types, each of which has an I_{DSS} spread of 2 to 1 or less. These fets, which have a different pin configuration than the 2N3819 are listed in table 1. All of these

table 1. List of 2N3819-type fets with small I_{DSS} spreads.

fet type	I_{DSS}
2N5949	12-18 mA
2N5950	10-15 mA
2N5951	7-13 mA
2N5952	4-8 mA
2N5953	2.5-5 mA

fets are priced under a dollar in small quantities, and they should be available from any of the larger electronic wholesalers which stock TI semiconductors.

Fig. 5 shows how the drain current of a 2N5953 would be in the range of 0.7 to 1.1 mA if its source bias resistor is 1000

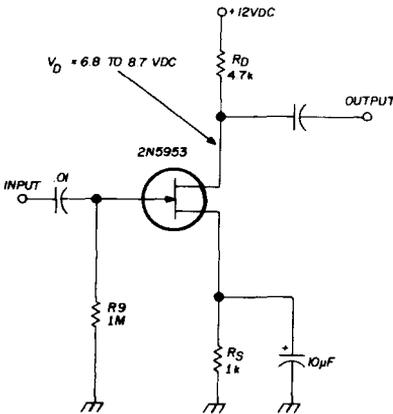


fig. 6. Audio amplifier circuit using a 2N5953 fet.

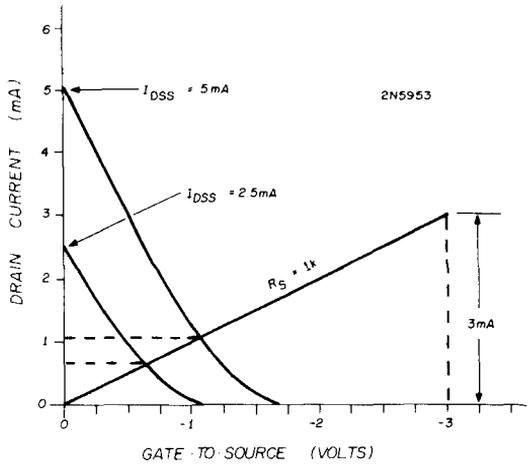


fig. 5. Typical drain current vs gate bias characteristic for Texas Instruments 2N5953 fet.

ohms. The drain current could be said to be 0.9 mA, ± 0.2 mA for all 2N5953 fets used with a 1000-ohm source bias resistor. Fig. 6 shows a practical fet audio amplifier circuit using the 2N5953. Voltage gain is typically around 10, and any 2N5953 used in this circuit will be reasonably well biased.

The Motorola 2N5484 series, priced at about a dollar each, have I_{DSS} spreads of 5 to 1 and 2.5 to 1.

fet type	I_{DSS}
2N5484	1-5 mA
2N5485	4-10 mA
2N5486	8-20 mA

This isn't as good as the TI 2N5949 series, but is considerably better than the MPF102 types.

conclusion

The newer fets, having lower I_{DSS} spreads, allow the use of simple bias arrangements to arrive at reproducible circuits. The cost of these devices is not much higher than the older types having wide I_{DSS} spreads. Thus, fets may be applied with greater ease to a wide variety of circuit applications, and the high input impedance of fets may be taken advantage of without the penalty of unpredictable bias conditions.

ham radio

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FMTR41V	12w, vibrator	25.00
U41GGT	30w, transistor	100.00
U51GGT	50w, transistor	110.00
U41HHT	30w, motrac ps	200.00
U51HHT	50w, motrac ps	225.00
U71HHT	100w, motrac ps	250.00
T71GJT	100w, transistor	125.00

6/12 volt-trunkmount

T41GGV	30w, vibrator ps	70.00
T51GGD	60w, dynamotor	40.00
T51GGV	60w, vibrator ps	75.00
T51AGD	60w, dynamotor	40.00

HIGH BAND 12 volt-trunkmount

MODEL	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
FMTRU80D	30w, dynamotor	\$ 35.00
FMTRU140D	50w, dynamotor	45.00
U43GGT	30w, transistor	100.00
U43HHT	30w, motrac	200.00
U53HHT	50w, motrac	225.00
U63HHT	80w, motrac	250.00
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comments

log-periodic antennas

Dear HR:

Last December the Cyprus Government issued me a ham ticket. Then I began a mad scramble, looking for a source of commercial beam antennas. I quickly found that all antennas cost at least double the retail prices in the United States. Considering the cost of a beam, tower and rotator, it was very discouraging. Next, I searched for material for building my own beam. Aluminum is practically unobtainable here, and PVC tubing was out because the available material is too thin and flexible.

The log-periodic antenna article by W4AEO in the September, 1972, issue of *ham radio* provided the answer. It was the only antenna I could find parts for and the design had sufficient gain to consider working the United States (as noted by myself and others, most of the signals from the States on 20 meters average 20-dB less here than reported by stations located in continental Europe).

Putting the log periodic together was much faster than I imagined, but a vswr of 4:1 when fed with 50-ohm coax was a puzzle until a check with a noise bridge indicated the input impedance was 200 ohms. I wound a 4:1 balun and maximum vswr on 15 and 20 meters is now 1.2:1. On-the-air reports indicate at least 8-dB gain. I'm running a Collins KWM-2 bare-

foot, but many old timers accuse me of using at least a kilowatt.

It goes without saying that W4AEO's log periodic, while requiring some acreage, provides considerable gain and solves the parts and money problem. Due to W4AEO's article, a number of us in Nicosia are building other log periodics. We are discovering that the surface has only been barely scratched, and amateurs still have plenty of elbow room to incorporate their own innovations.

Stan Whiteman, 5B4AO/W1MDZ
Nicosia, Cyprus

reciprocating detector

Dear HR:

I have received several letters regarding my "reciprocating detector" article which appeared in the March, 1972, issue of *ham radio*. Transistor Q5 is part of the reciprocating detector switch, but the questions are understandable due to the lack of a dot to show a connection in the schematic; resistors R4 and R5 should be joined with a dot where these two resistors form a junction point at the input to the diode and the base of Q5. The diode is a 1N252.

Several readers have also asked where the selectivity curve is 500-Hz wide and what is its slope. The filter I used was designed to have its 500-kHz passband at the 3-dB points on a slope which is not particularly steep for an inductive filter. Indeed, at 500 Hz, the L3 inductance is very loosely coupled to the other two sections of the transformer. The bandpass formula (f_r/Q_o) indicates that the bandpass of the filter is actually narrower than

500 Hz – in fact, bandpass is closer to 250 Hz. The 390-ohm resistor used in series with one of the differential inputs loads the thing down so it is broader. If the bandpass is too narrow, poor lock-in range is experienced on a-m, and there is very poor “presence” in the quality of ssb signals. If the bandpass is too wide, poor impulse rejection will result.

Stirling M. Olberg, W1SNN
Waltham, Massachusetts

vhf fm in the United Kingdom

Dear HR:

Fm channel operation in the United Kingdom is now going strong, thanks to the imported black boxes and new regulations permitting 12.5-kHz deviation (there are lots of 25-kHz mobile equipment around, made by Pye and Storno). We now have one repeater working north of London in Hertfordshire. The callsign is GB3PI with input at 145.15 MHz and output at 145.75 MHz (600-kHz spacing). This repeater just covers outer N. London.

Our Radio Society of Great Britain now has at least five applications for repeaters, and our group, the UK FM Group (Southern), hopes to be able to put a repeater in Hampshire (one of five). Coverage of this repeater should be from Southampton to the edge of southwest London.

John Akam, G8BIH
Wooteys, Alton, Hants

finding square roots

Dear HR:

The technique for computing square roots described in the *ham notebook* by K9DHD in the September, 1973, issue can be extended to increased accuracy by carrying out further iterations. For example, if one uses the first approximation of the square root of 54 obtained as the next estimate and recomputes, an answer of 7.348469 is obtained; this

closely approximates the 7.348692 provided by the square root key on my calculator.

As another example, my calculator gives the square root of 75 as 8.660254. Using the Mechanic's Rule, first iteration results in an answer of 8.6875; the second then becomes 8.6602965, and the third the desired 8.660254 whose square is 74.999999. These answers were obtained using the very crude first estimate of 8.

Fred R. Scaif, Jr., K4EID
Springfield, Virginia

Dear HR:

I would like to add a note to the short article on finding square roots which appeared in the September, 1973, issue of *ham radio*.

In that article K9DHD gave a procedure for estimating the square root of any number. By a simple extension, arbitrary roots of any number can be determined with a little work and a hand-held digital calculator. To find the nth root of any number P, estimate the root, X_0 , and use the following formula

$$X_1 = \frac{1}{n} \left[(n-1) X_0 + \frac{P}{X_0^{n-1}} \right]$$

where X_1 is the desired root. For the case of a square root, $n = 2$, this formula is the same as that presented by K9DHD. For a cube root, $n = 3$, and the formula is

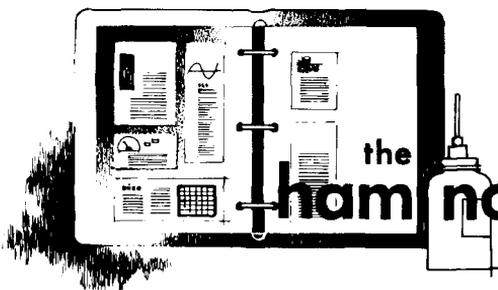
$$X_1 = \frac{1}{3} \left(2X_0 + \frac{P}{X_0^2} \right)$$

For example, to find the cube root of 30, first estimate the cube root (about 3.1). Then

$$X_1 = \frac{1}{3} \left[(2 \times 3.1) + \left(\frac{30}{3.1^2} \right) \right] = 3.107$$

This is very close to the accepted, approximate, cube root of 30, 3.1072. Of course, the closer your initial estimate, the closer the answer will be to the exact value. With a little patience, this formula will do great service to anyone making use of it.

Stephen R. Alpert, W1GGN
Auburn, Massachusetts



the ham notebook

surplus thumbwheel switch modification

At this year's Rochester Hamfest I picked up at a bargain price an assembly of thumbwheel switches made for Fairchild consisting of 20 Digiswitch C units. I needed these to complete my frequency synthesizer.¹ I took a chance on these switches in spite of the fact that the connector terminals plainly showed they were coded 1 2 4 2' (the last number is read, "two prime") and not the 1 2 4 8 BCD called for in most synthesizers. I took this calculated risk since, first, I am a cheapskate and the price was too good to resist, and second, I hoped to convert the switching to the required coding.

I am happy to say that I was successful in converting the switches to the desired coding, and I offer the following for other bargain hunters since these switches appear to be in plentiful supply and will probably be showing up on the surplus

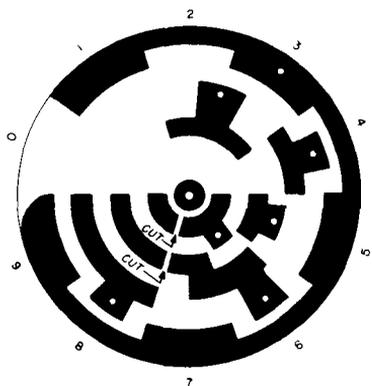


fig. 1. First step in the modification is removal of two thin sections of conducting material on the wiper side of the switch.

market. Since the old 1242' code is passed now, these switches can be purchased for one-tenth of their original cost. The time required to rework each switch amounts to 7 to 10 minutes, so one evening's work can yield all the switches necessary for a two-frequency synthesizer.

These switches can be identified by placing a single unit so the thumbwheel number is right side up and facing to the

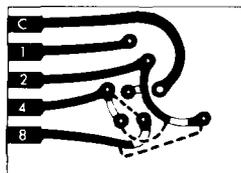


fig. 2. On the reverse side of the switch remove the sections indicated and install the three jumpers.

right. The edge connector coming out the back then indicates, from bottom to top, 335-1, which I presume is the model number, C (common), and 1 2 4 2'. To modify the switch, remove the PC board from the case and set it on the bench so the inside is facing upwards, and the gap is oriented at 9 or 10 o'clock. Using an Xacto knife, remove a thin sliver of the conducting material from the second and third contacts from the center as shown in fig. 1. The cut edges should be bevelled so the moving contact can slide up and over easily.

At the same time, remove the 2' designation and scratch in an 8 in its place. Turn the PC board over and, referring to fig. 2, cut away all the conducting material indicated by the crosshatch. From a small length of approximately no. 22 stranded wire use a single strand to solder in the three jumper-

ers where shown. Be sure the solder doesn't lump up since these switches have minimal clearance between units when stacked. For best results use a small soldering *iron*.

table 1. With an ohmmeter connected between the common and pins 1, 2, 4 and 8, respectively, of the modified Digiswitch, you should obtain the following readings.

number	1	2	4	8
0	open	open	open	open
1	short	open	open	open
2	open	short	open	open
3	short	short	open	open
4	open	open	short	open
5	short	open	short	open
6	open	short	short	open
7	short	short	short	open
8	open	open	open	short
9	short	open	open	short

When you are finished, put the two parts together and check out the switching sequence to make sure it agrees with table 1. Use an ohmmeter, one lead on C and the other lead on 1 2 4 and 8, respectively, to make sure the BCD sequence is correct.

Geo. Hrischenko, VE3DGX

reference

1. A.D. Helfrick, K2BLA, "High-Frequency Frequency Synthesizer," *ham radio*, October, 1972, page 16.

cutting a minibox down to size

Although several sizes of metal boxes and chassis are available to experimenters, sometimes the nearest size for your project is a little too large. It is not difficult to reduce the *height* of a two-piece metal box. One-half of the box is the top and two ends; the other half is the bottom and two sides.

From the first piece cut down the *ends* to the desired height. On the other piece cut down the *sides* to the same height. The result is a Minibox that fits and looks as good as the original, but which has less height.

I. Queen, W2OUX

finding the focal length of surplus microwave dish antennas

The focal length of most parabolic dish antennas can be determined with two simple measurements, the diameter and the depth as shown in fig. 3. The antenna's surface can be described by

$$Y^2 = 4Px$$

where P represents the distance from the vertex to the focal point. The equation is that of a parabola with its vertex at $x = 0$, $Y = 0$. The curve is symmetric about the x-axis and opens to the plus-x direction. The coordinates of one point other than the vertex are needed to determine the

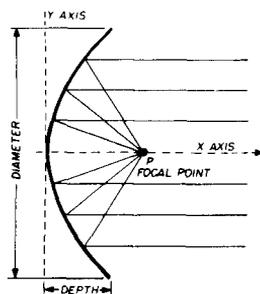


fig. 3. Cross-section of a typical microwave dish antenna. Equation for finding the focal point is given in the text.

curve. The edge of the antenna is a convenient point. The diameter is equal to $2Y$ and the depth is equal to x . Solving for the focal length P

$$P = \frac{Y^2}{4x} = \frac{(\text{diameter})^2}{4(\text{depth})}$$

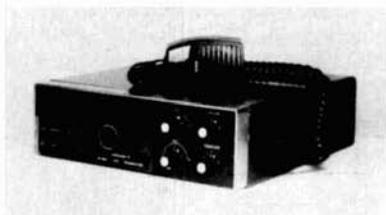
$$\text{or } P = \frac{1}{16} \frac{(\text{diameter})^2}{\text{depth}}$$

The units of P are the same as those used to measure the depth and diameter. This method also works for orange-peel or segment dishes, but cannot be applied directly to off-center-feed dish antennas.

John M. Franke, WA4WDL

new products

six-meter transceiver



Linear Systems has announced the introduction of a new amateur transceiver for use on the 6-meter band. The transceiver, known as the SB-50, is completely solid-state and weighs only 7 pounds. The SB-50 is synthesized with variable frequency control of both receiver and transmitter with separate receiver incremental tuning control. It covers the band from 50.05 to 50.28 MHz. The new transceiver should be especially useful for mobile installations since it contains a very effective noise limiter.

The SB-50 is rated at 20-watts PEP input and 8-watts a-m. Receiver sensitivity is less than 0.5 microvolt for 10-dB S + N/N and selectivity of 20 dB at 3 kHz and 60 dB at 6 kHz. Additional features include a lighted S-meter which indicates receive signal strength as well as power

output in both the ssb and a-m mode, separately adjustable receiver incremental tuning and an external speaker connection. The transceiver comes equipped with push-to-talk dynamic microphone and mobile mounting bracket.

For further information regarding the new SBE SB-50 6-meter transceiver, write to Linear Systems, Inc., 220 Airport Boulevard, Watsonville, California 95076, or use *check-off* on page 94.

two-meter converter

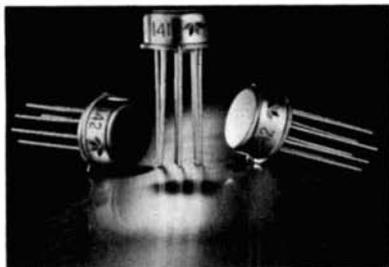
Janel Labs has announced a new crystal-controlled two-meter converter that combines an impressive list of performance features with a low selling price. This new converter, the 144CC, rounds out the Janel line that already includes the deluxe 144CA high performance two-meter converter. Other products include converters for 50, 220 and 432 MHz as well as a complete line of receiving preamps.

The new 144-MHz converter uses gate-protected dual-gate mosfets to provide high sensitivity while avoiding serious overload effects. The carefully designed circuit allows full utilization of the mosfet sensitivity with one rf amplifier. This is of great help in preventing cross-modulation overload by keeping the signal level low at the mixer. It allows reception of signals with 15 to 20 dB greater strength than is possible for converters with two rf stages.

The converter is virtually free from birdies due to the use of a seventh overtone crystal oscillator. This high overtone oscillator eliminates the need for frequency multipliers. This feature, standard in all Janel converters, is very effective in reducing spurious responses. Three tuned circuits between the rf amplifier and the mixer complete the defense against spurious responses.

An attractive, metallic green, die-cast cabinet is used with this compact converter. BNC connectors are provided on the back panel for input and output. A power connector for 12 Vdc is also provided. Gain is 20 dB and noise figure is 3 to 5 dB. Converters are available for i-f frequencies of 26-30 MHz or 28-32 MHz. The units, completely guaranteed, are priced at an economical \$49.95, postpaid. Order from Janel Laboratories, Box 112, Succasunna, New Jersey 07876. For more information, use *check-off* on page 94.

general-purpose op-amps



Teledyne Semiconductor has introduced a low cost, general purpose operational amplifier series, LM 141/142, which fills the performance gap between the 741 and 108 type op amps. Improved electrical characteristics of the new series include an increased slew rate of $2V/\mu s$ providing full output voltage swing through the audio frequency range and reduced input bias current of 30 mA maximum and 5 mA input offset current maximum.

The LM 141 series is fully compensated internally and is compatible with existing circuit designs using the popular 741, 107 and 1556. The uncompensated LM 142 series is a replacement for 101A, 748 and 777 applications and approaches the input performance of the 108 series amplifiers at a significant price reduction. The LM 141/142 is expected to fit applications where the 741 falls short on speed and impedance performance. They have excellent characteristics for sample

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and hold circuits, long interval integrators, timers and active filter through the audio frequency range. Each amplifier meets all of the standard electrical characteristics and also includes the convenience features of short circuits and latch up protection found in other general-purpose amplifiers.

Teledyne Semiconductor will provide a free sample of the LM 141/142 to qualified engineers who respond on company letterhead with information on intended application. For more information, write to Teledyne Semiconductor, 1300 Terra Bella Avenue, Mountain View, California 94040, or use *check-off* on page 94.

**base-station
power supply**



E&L Instruments has developed a new power supply designed primarily for ham radio enthusiasts. The unit, called the PW-4, produces enough power to operate both an fm transceiver and an amplifier simultaneously. The new PW-4 uses 110-120 volt ac input power, and produces a rated output of 13 volts dc at 10 amps, IC regulated to $\pm 3\%$. This increased power capability means that amateurs with mobile units in their cars may take them into homes for use at night. The

PW-4 features a modern cabinet design, current limiting and reliable heavy-duty components.

It can be used with most 12 to 13-volt dc transceivers, together with 50 to 60-watt amplifiers. The PW-4 is available direct from the factory, or from local distributors, at \$84.95. For more information contact E&L Instruments, Inc., 61 First Street, Derby, Connecticut 06418, or use *check-off* on page 94.

programmable voltage regulator



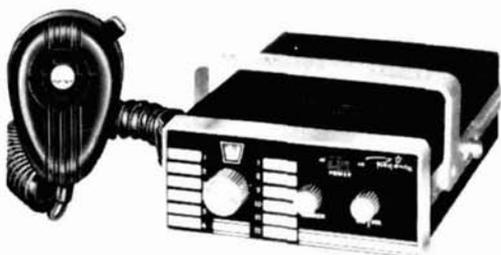
A 100-watt hybrid silicon voltage regulator capable of line regulation of 0.10 percent and load regulation of 0.15 percent has been introduced by Motorola. The new MPC1000 is a 10-ampere positive or negative series voltage regulator capable of operating with input voltages as high as 60-volts. Output voltage can be adjusted from 2 to 35-volts.

Output currents of 10-amperes are easily obtained from the MPC1000 without external pass transistors; however, circuits using external pass transistors can expand the capability of the regulator to handle currents in excess of 50-amperes. Current limiting protection also has been built-in to protect the regulator from excessive surge currents.

The price for the MPC1000 in a 9-pin, metal TO-3 package is \$14.95 in single unit quantities. For more information contact the Technical Information Center, Motorola Inc., Semiconductor Products Division, P.O. Box 20924, Phoenix, Arizona 85036, or use *check-off* on page 94.

More Details? CHECK-OFF Page 94

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ACT 10 HI/LO
3 Band-10 Channel FM
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variable rf attenuator



Singer Instrumentation's new variable rf attenuator operates from dc to 500 MHz with an attenuator range of 10 to 60 dB. It is particularly suitable for coupling between instruments, checking transmitter out-put and receiver system degradation. Power dissipation is 100 mW. Input and output impedances are 50 ohms. Typical accuracy curves for each 10 dB of attenuation over the full frequency range are provided. The unit is priced at \$130 and is available from Singer Instrumentation, 3211 South LaCienega Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90016. For more information, use *check-off* on page 94.

eliminating engine interference

Engine interference has long been a major problem to amateur mobile operators. This new book is concerned with solving this problem in a practical manner. It explains why modern engines create interference and discusses the parts of the engine that contribute to the problem. Instructions are included on how to identify and isolate the specific components that generate noise.

Commercial noise-suppression and shielding techniques are discussed, and instructions are given for their installation. Diagrams covering the most common types of automobile ignition wiring have been included. Automatic noise limiters are also covered as are such other interference problems as instruments, wheels and tires, turn and stop signals, power-supply vibrators and antennas. 128 pages, softbound, \$4.50 from HR Books, Greenville, New Hampshire 03048.

More Details? CHECK-OFF Page 94



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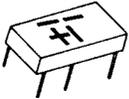
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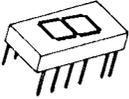
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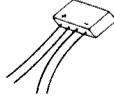
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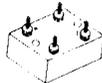
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short circuits

capacitance meter

In the circuit for the capacitance meter on page 50, of the August, 1972, issue there should be a 2200-ohm resistor connected between the base of transistor Q1 and the -6 volt bus.

motorola dispatcher conversion

Inquiries and parts orders for this popular Motorola conversion should now be sent to the author at his new address: John Darjany, WB6HXU, 622 Pacific Avenue, Long Beach, California 90802.

vhf superregen receiver

In the July, 1973, issue, on page 23, the schematic for the vhf regenerative receiver should include a 0.01-μF capacitor between the wiper of the 5000-ohm gain control and the base terminal of the first TIS97 transistor.

continuous-phase audio-shift keyer

In the continuous-phase audio-shift keyer published in the October, 1973, issue the 2N5033 field-effect transistors used at Q1 and Q3 must be Fairchild's. It has been found that 2N5033s from other manufacturers have a different "on" resistance and are not usable in this application.

two-meter cavity filter

The dimensions for the two-stage, vhf cavity filter shown in fig. 3 on page 25 of the December, 1973, issue are incorrect. Use the following corrected dimensions when building this filter.

	frequency (MHz)			
	50	144	220	432
A	41.0"	17.0"	7.30"	5.00"
B	38.0"	15.0"	5.20"	4.80"
C	35.0"	12.9"	4.00"	3.80"
D	3.0"	3.0"	3.00"	3.00"
E	4.5"	1.5"	3.00"	3.00"
F	1.4"	0.375"	1.00"	0.75"
G	3.0"	2.1"	1.20"	1.00"
H	3.0"	1.063"	2.75"	2.75"
J	0.75"	0.75"	0.75"	1.00"
K	-----see text-----			

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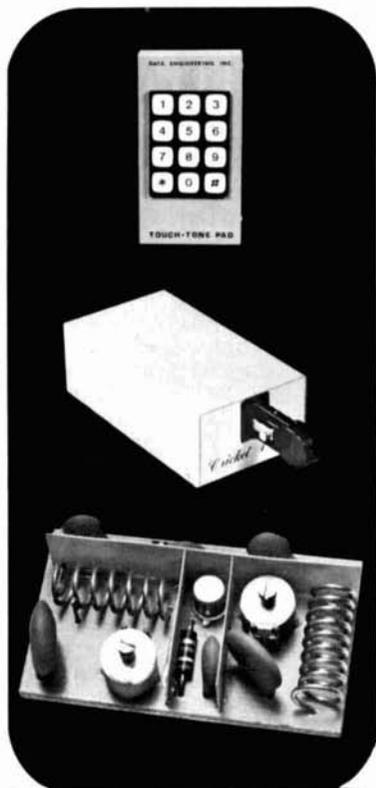
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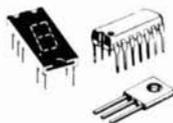


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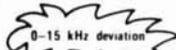
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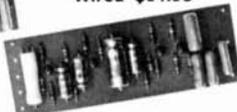
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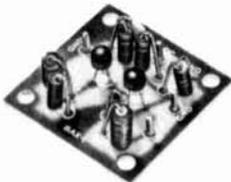
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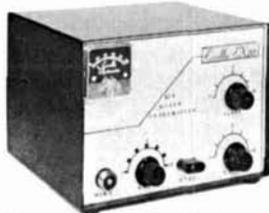
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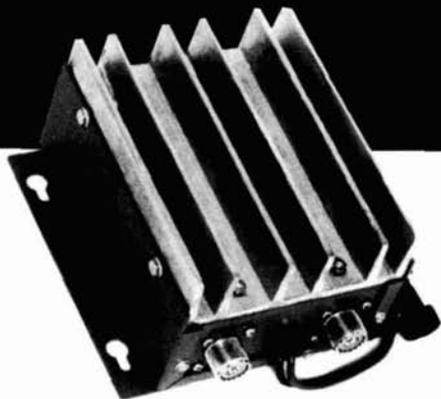
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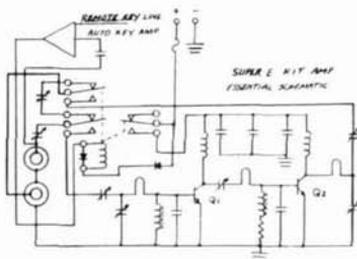
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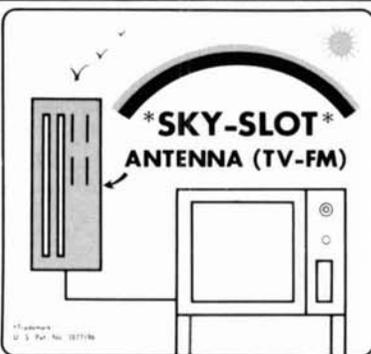
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7402	25	7450	29	74126	96
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7404	29	7453	32	74145	125
7406	27	7454	45	74150	126
7406	55	7455	32	74151	106
7407	53	7460	30	74153	44
7408	29	7461	30	74154	175
7409	29	7464	45	74155	135
7410	25	7465	45	74156	150
7411	35	7470	50	74157	150
7413	95	7472	45	74161	165
7415	50	7473	55	74163	180
7416	50	7474	55	74164	290
7417	50	7475	95	74165	295
7420	25	7476	55	74166	195
7421	32	7478	89	74173	195
7423	32	7483	32	74175	195
7423	37	7485	20	74176	95
7425	39	7486	53	74177	95
7426	39	7489	325	74180	115
7427	39	7490	125	74181	425
7430	25	7491	403	74182	110
7432	30	7492	105	74190	165
7437	50	7493	105	74192	165
7438	55	7494	310	74193	165
7440	25	7495	105	74194	165
7441	125	7496	105	74195	115
7442	115	74100	65	74196	235
7443	125	74106	55	74197	115
7444	130	74107	55	74198	250
7445	125	74121	65	74199	250
7446	45	74122	55		

Low Power TTL

74100	\$ 40	74151	\$ 40	74190	\$1 75
74102	40	74152	50	74191	150
74103	40	74171	60	74193	175
74104	40	74172	60	74195	175
74106	40	74173	80	74196	235
74110	40	74174	80	74195	295
74120	40	74178	80	89152	295
74130	40	74180	75	89175	295
74142	125	74186	95		

High Speed TTL

74H	\$ 40	74H21	\$ 47	74H60	\$ 45
74H01	40	74H22	47	74H61	45
74H02	40	74H30	40	74H62	45
74H04	45	74H40	40	74H72	60
74H08	45	74H50	45	74H74	70
74H10	40	74H53	47	74H75	70
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8121	105	8282	105	8630	69
8122	105	8288	105	8631	295
8123	175	8520	145	8632	295
8130	175	8521	195	8639	69
8182	175	8552	295	8680	150

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74C00	\$ 85	74C76	\$1 70	74C102	\$3 26
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74C04	85	74C161	290	74C104	350
74C10	85	74C164	350	74C173	290
74C20	85	74C192	290	74C192	325
74C42	215	74C180	320	74C195	300
74C73	70	74C181	325	80C87	150
74C74	150				

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CD 4002	85	CD 4013	150	CD 4025	85
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CD 4011	85	CD 4019	130	CD 4036	295

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MM6240	2560-bit Character Generator	4.95 ea.
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7488	64 bit RAM TTL	3.25 ea.
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MCD 2	Diode	\$.99 ea.
MCT 2	Transistor	.99 ea.

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LM 302	Voltage Follower	TO-5	.46 ea.
LM 304	Negative Voltage Regulator	TO-5	1.25 ea.
LM 306	Positive Voltage Regulator	TO-5	1.25 ea.
LM 307	Op Amp (super 741)	TO-5 or MINI-DIP	.46 ea.
LM 308	Micro Power Op Amp	MINI-DIP	1.25 ea.
LM 309H	V Regulator	TO-6	1.25 ea.
LM 309S	5 V 1/2 Regulator	TO-3	1.95 ea.
LM 310	Voltage Follower Op Amp	TO-5	1.45 ea.
LM 311	H perf Voltage Comparator	TO-6 or MINI-DIP	1.25 ea.
LM 318	H Speed Dual Comp. Driver	TO-5	1.95 ea.
LM 320	5.2 V Negative Regulator	TO-3	1.95 ea.
LM 320	12 V Negative Regulator	TO-3	1.95 ea.
LM 320	15 V Negative Regulator	TO-3	1.95 ea.
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LM 380	Pressure Voltage Regulator	DIP	.95 ea.
LM 703	RF IF Amp	MINI-DIP	.59 ea.
LM 708	Operational AMPL	TO-6 or DIP	.38 ea.
LM 711	Dual Differential Comparator	DIP	.38 ea.
LM 723	Voltage Regulator	DIP	.75 ea.
LM 738	Dual H Performance Op AMP	DIP	1.25 ea.
LM 741	Comp. Op AMP	TO-6 or MINI-DIP	.46 ea.
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LM 1304	FM Multiplex Stereo Demod	DIP	1.50 ea.
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LM 8803	Retriggerable One Shot	DIP	.85 ea.
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- MM6736 -- 18 pin calculator chip -- four function -- 8 digit
- A pair of 3-in-1 dip paks (8 digit) LED Similar to DL-33
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Data supplied on above items. You supply switches, resistor, keyboard and battery for complete calculator. **\$11.95/kit**

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MCA 2 30	Darlington	\$.95 ea.
MCD 2	Dualist	1.95 ea.
MCT 2	Transistor	1.45 ea.

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UNTESTED MOS									
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MM1404	1024-bit dynamic shift register	DIP	85 ea.						
MM5013	1024-bit dynamic shift register/accumulator	DIP	TO 6 55 ea.						
MM6016	912-bit dynamic shift register	DIP	TO 6 25 ea.						
MM6018	Dual 206-bit master prog. shift register	TO 6	30 ea.						
MM6050	Dual 32-bit static shift register	TO 6	30 ea.						
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Teletype Model 28 tape unit; Tape reader LBXD, 3-speeds, 60-75-100 WPM; High-speed perforator BRPE, 700 WPM, on LRB9 Base, all mounted on LTHS Tape Handling unit. Exc. cond., as removed from service. Shpg. wt. 100 lbs. \$75.00 each

LED READOUTS: Opcoa SLA-1. Electrically equal to MAN-1. .33" high, 20 ma. per segment. With decimal point. Red. \$2.65 each, 6/\$15.00

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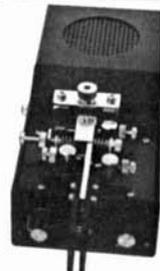
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BRAND NEW, 115 volt AC input. OP AMP XFMR, out puts: 16 VCT 1/2 amp, 17 VCT 1/2 amp. \$3.50

FILAMENT or BTRY CHARGER XFMR

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Brand new keyboards for hand held calculators. Two styles available.

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µl 923 JK FLIP FLOP TO-5	
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Used \$1.00 Brand New \$2.00
With schematic for GIANT clock.

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AM PATCH — \$5.00 SSB PATCH — \$9.00

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CMOS HEX INVERTER, dual inline package. 3-18 volt range, dual diode protection against static charge. Dielectrically isolated complimentary MOS. \$1.00 each 12 for \$10.00

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flea market



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SURPLUS TEST EQUIPMENT, VHF and microwave gear; write for bulletins. David Edsall, 2843 St. Paul, Baltimore, Md. 21218.

CANTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB annual auction & flea market, Friday, March 8, 1974, at the Imperial House Motel in Canton, Ohio, at 7:30 p.m. Doors open for set-up at 5:00 p.m., mobile check-ins on 147.06 & 146.94 Simplex, Stark County repeater 146.19/79. Grand Prize, mobile check-in prize, other prizes awarded each half-hour. Free coffee and donuts. All companies are invited to attend and set up displays and exhibitions, free space will be provided. For reservations or information contact Mark Schontz, WB8NUA, 601 Perry Dr. N.W., Canton, Ohio.

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■ **SEND MATERIAL TO:** Flea Market, Ham Radio, Greenville, N. H. 03048.

19TH ANNUAL HAMFEST AND AUCTION to be held Saturday, March 9, 1974 at the Lucas County Rec. Center, 290 Key St., Maumee, Ohio. Registration \$2.00 at door, \$1.50 advance. For further info. write Toledo Mobile Radio, Ass'n., P. O. Box 273, Toledo, Ohio 43695.

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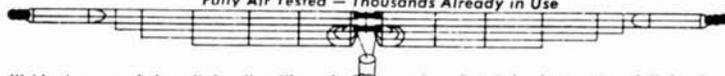


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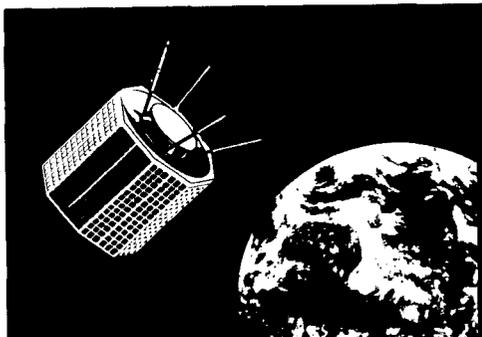
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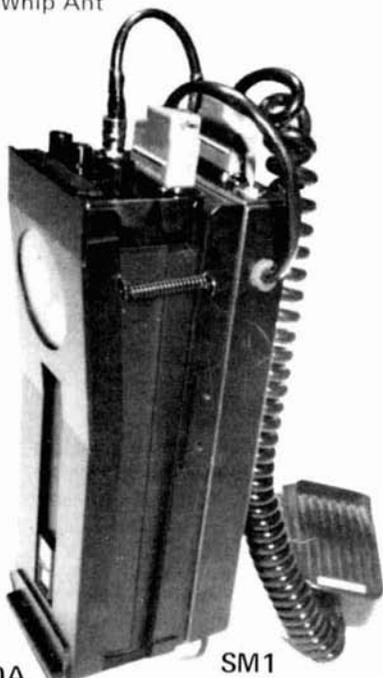
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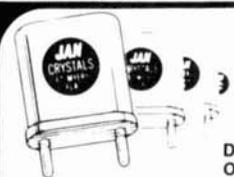
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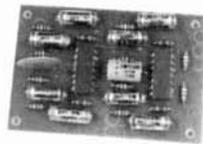
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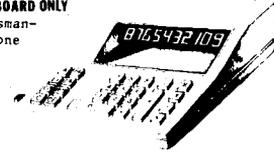
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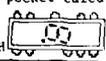
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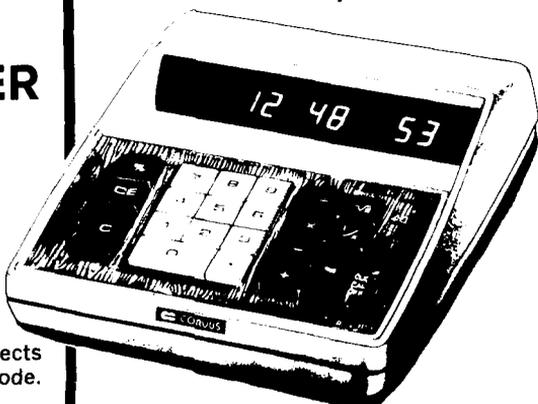
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