HUGO GERNSBACK, Editor-in-chief

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Some plain talk from Kodak about tape:

**Double or nothing... or the noble art of dubbing**

One good tape deserves another. That's another way of saying that half the fun in having a good-quality, home tape-recording system should consist of being able to make tape duplicates. The reasons for dubbing can be as varied as you want. Perhaps as simple as sending your Aunt Mabel a particularly good tape of the kids—a tape you also want for your own tape library... or because you want to exchange tapes with a fellow audiophile... or because you want to edit a tape to go along with a movie or slide film without chopping up the original tape... or simply to preserve your early tape recordings on modern, more efficient KODAK Sound Recording Tape.

**Takes two to swing.** If you already have a second tape recorder on hand, you're ready to get started. If not, find a good friend that will lend you his. But do be particular about your friend. Because that old cliché about the weakest link applies in spades as far as dubbing equipment goes. Also be particular about the tape you use... but as they say on radio, more on this later.

**Read the instructions.** First off—and though it may seem obvious—make sure your two tape systems are in the best possible condition. Look at it this way—the dubbed recording will be at best a second generation recording... it's going to combine all the deficiencies present in your original tape recording, in the playback recorder, and in the recording equipment. So read both instruction books... then clean the heads with one of the commercial preparations available for that purpose... and demagnetize the heads if you can lay your hands on a degausser.

Next, connect your two tape machines—the "master" and the "slave." If you have a choice, take your output from the master at the pre-amp stage rather than at the amplifier. No reason to add its distortion to your dubbing. For the input to the slave, you usually have a choice—one marked "mike" or "high-impedance" (usually in the 50,000-200,000 ohms range), the other marked either "radio," "phone," "tuner," "tape" or "low-impedance" (in the 500-ohm range). You want the latter one.

**Choose your tape.** Signal-to-noise is the touchiest area in dubbing. Picking a tape that will give you the lowest noise level on the duplicate without lowered output makes a lot of sense. We've got just the tape for you: KODAK Sound Recording Tape, Type 34A. It packs five or more additional decibels of undistorted output than the usual low-noise tapes. When dubbing on KODAK Sound Recording Tape, Type 34A, set the recording level on your slave unit at 4 decibels over your normal level—that's just slightly higher than normal if you set your level by a VU meter. Because you can put a lot of signal on this tape, you can play it back at lower gain... and, Eureka, there's your low noise!

KODAK Tapes—on DUROL and Polyester Bases—are available at most electronics, camera, and department stores. To get the most out of your tape system, send for free, 24-page "Plain Talk" booklet which covers the major aspects of tape performance. Write: Eastman Kodak Company, Department 940, Rochester, N.Y. 14650.

Kodak 34A Standard Play Tape

Kodak

EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY, Rochester, N.Y.

Circle 6 on reader's service card

Circle 7 on reader's service card

www.americanradiohistory.com
A Shortage of Service Technicians

Not long ago, I sat talking at lunch with three service-association leaders. All three of these men own and operate electronic service shops.

"I've been trying to hire a TV bench technician for 4 months," one of them said over a spoonful of soup. "It's next to impossible to find anyone nowadays who can fix a TV set right."

"You too?" asked another between forkfuls of salad. "I've been advertising for a tape-recorder-phono repairman for more than a year."

I buttered a roll and asked, "How much are you paying?"

The three exchanged glances. Each waited for another to answer, none of them looking at me. Here apparently was a question with an answer no one wanted to talk about.

I relieved the awkward silence myself. "I talked with the general manager of a large manufacturer the other day, and he was telling me how he attracts top men to his firm: he does it with money. He simply pays top salaries and then demands peak performance."

My three friends sat digesting that tidbit. I continued, "Do you suppose money has anything to do with the trouble you have finding good technicians?"

That started a lively conversation too lengthy to report. Coffee was cold long before we were through.

But one interesting fact emerged. A 1965 survey showed the average salary for a TV service technician to be under $110 per week. The average in 1960 was just under $104—a mere 6% increase over five years. Less than the change in the cost-of-living index. By equivalent standards, technicians now earn less than they did 5 years ago.

Shop owners wonder, "Where are all the bench technicians?" It shouldn't be hard to figure out. They're going to higher-paying jobs in industry—at least the young and the good ones are.

Do you blame them? Why struggle along for less than $6,000 a year when big companies offer technicians $7,000—$8,000—$10,000—and more—often throwing in a lot of training besides? Electronics schools find their television and radio courses aren't nearly so popular as their industrial electronics and advanced technology curricula.

Service dealers cry, "We don't make enough now to afford what we're already paying. How can we possibly pay more?"

I could answer, "Pay more or go slowly out of business." But that's too easy. Instead, I have suggestions for service-shop owners and technicians alike.

Take a lesson from the automotive industry. What happens when they get hit with a wage boost? They find a way to increase production or cut costs and thus absorb the higher wage cost, or else they up the price they charge for their product. Sounds simple, doesn't it?

How can you apply this procedure to your setup?

It is done in several steps.

Check your business practices. If you're not a trained businessman, get a professional to advise you. Believe it or not, he'll save you money. I've analyzed businesses for owners who had no idea why they were losing hundreds of dollars every year. Some weren't even sure they were losing money; they just never seemed able to pay their bills. The causes are often easy to eliminate. A more profitable charge, a reduced cost, a better inventory system, a stronger credit system—these and many more needs can be pinned down by a trained consultant. Make sure your business is fiscally sound. Otherwise, you can never afford the kind of help you need.

Make sure you're charging enough. Typical service-call charge now is $6. Many get more. You can't subsidize TV and radio repairs for your customers. Leave cheap service calls to shops that can't afford good technicians.

Hire only the best. Sure, you have to pay them more money, but then be sure you get your money's worth from them. Let the laggards earn their peanuts at the cut-rate shops.

Train the people you hire. As they turn out more work, you can afford higher pay—and incidentally have more left over for profit. Training costs needn't be high, either. Manufacturers, distributors, and associations are joining with schools in battling the shortage of technicians. They do it by offering night courses, clinics, advanced classes, 3-day seminars, 1-night lectures, correspondence lessons, and so on. Some of these programs cost you nothing. All of them are worth whatever they cost when you consider the benefits of more efficient, better trained men.

Buy modern instruments. Factories faced with higher wages invest capital in modern equipment that will raise production enough to offset the wage hike. You can do the same. The time your technicians waste on tough dogs means money of yours down the drain. Keep your technicians equipped for peak performance.

Check your business practices. Sound repetitious? It is. This step is a key to all the others. Fail at this step, and the others will only prolong the agony of your dying business.

And if you're a technician? You can help yourself, too. If you're a good technician, insist that the shop owner pay you as one! If you're not a good one he won't anyway, so get the training you need to become a good one. Shortage notwithstanding, there's no room anymore for half-trained technicians, no matter how willing they are. Shops can no longer wait while you learn by practical experience. Join the classes, study the books and lessons, attend the clinics and lectures. Get the basic training you need before you try to pass yourself off as a technician. You'll find it much easier then to work your way to top pay in this great and growing business.

—Forest H. Belt
Radio-Electronics
OCTOBER 1966  VOL  XXXVII  No.10
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p 32—When is a resistor not a resistor? When it’s extremely cold...for instance at -452°F. Then its resistance can even become negative (it becomes superconductive).

SHUTTER ANALYZER
p 35—Converted bench scope lets you find out how well your camera shutter works. Shows both timing and action (bounce).
OSLO SPLITS ON EUROCOLOR

The Oslo meeting on European color standards (RADIO-ELECTRONICS, July, page 68) broke down in complete disagreement. No delegation shifted its position during the three weeks of the conference—a situation that might have been expected, since the delegations all came instructed by their governments. At the end of the session, an informal poll showed 30 countries in favor of SECAM, the French system, 15 for the German PAL, and 9 for NTSC, as used in the United States, Canada and Japan. Several European countries hope to start colorcasting late in 1967, and is almost certain that West Germany, England (using PAL) and France will have stations in operation by the end of that year.

SATELLITE TV PROPOSED FOR EDUCATIONAL BROADCASTING

A coast-to-coast educational network using four satellites and carrying at least four channels of instructional TV for colleges and schools and a network of information and culture for home viewers, was proposed to the FCC by the Ford Foundation. The satellites would also carry six commercial channels which could be used for network broadcasting. The profits from the use of the six commercial channels could then be used to support the educational program.

As might have been expected, Comsat reacted furiously to the proposal, holding that it should have exclusive right to satellite communications and that the Ford Foundation plan would erode Congressional purposes and would not be in the public interest.

Ford Foundation president McGeorge Bundy held that the long-range public interest should take priority over the possible loss of a “microscopic portion of the total profits in satellite communications.” He said that the technical feasibility, legal correctness, economic validity and television practicality had been tested with experts he named. He further pointed out that in spite of Comsat’s statement that it should have exclusive rights in space, the legislation setting up Comsat specifically stated that the act did not “preclude the creation of additional satellite systems, if required . . . in the national interest” (Section 102-d).

Two weeks later, JFD Electronics Co. sent the FCC their proposal for a satellite-to-home TV concept. The JFD filing was supported by sketches of proposed antenna systems which could be used on TV viewers’ rooftops to receive telecasts from satellites in synchronous orbit.

HEART TROUBLES DIAGNOSED BY LONG-DISTANCE PHONE

Heart conditions are being diagnosed over telephone circuits in a number of areas in the United States. Computers have been used to aid the diagnoses in some cases.

Northwestern Bell Telephone Co. has probably made the most extensive use of the system, acting in cooperation with the Creighton University Cardiac Laboratory in Omaha. A Data-Phone serves about 30 hospitals, clinics and rural physicians in Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota. Nationwide service through the Bell System is expected before the end of the year.

Operation is simple. The physician prepares the patient for an electrocardiogram, hooks the output to a Data-Phone attachment which transmits it to the laboratory. There, the cardiogram is reproduced for examination by specialist. For rural use, a portable Data-Phone weighing only 6 lb can be coupled to any rural telephone.

A computer has been used experimentally to interpret 20,000 ECG’s for the US Health Service, and Dr. Cesar Caceres of that service reports that the Hartford (Conn.) Hospital is sending ECG’s by phone line to the George Washington University in Washington for computer interpretation. The University is also beginning experiments in the use of computers for intensive-care patients. The computer is expected to give warning if indications show a dangerous situation developing.

[Long-distance phone diagnosis and prescription has long been urged by Hugo Gernsback and has been described and illustrated by him in a number of articles for some years in RADIO-ELECTRONICS and his Christmas booklet FORECAST.]

FLUID CONTROLS NOW PRACTICAL

Fluid amplifiers and switches (RADIO-ELECTRONICS, February 1965, page 44) are now being employed in a variety of industrial uses ranging from controlling automatic twist-drill machines to sensing the level of liquid in a tank. Among the more interesting devices is the fluid switch that controls the Westinghouse Pad-O-Matic hospital air mattress. Ten of the 20 longitudinal cells of the mattress are automatically inflated while the other
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OCTOBER, 1966

Circle 9 on reader's service card
10 are deflated. Then the process reverses, providing continual massage and movement for the patient. Fluid amplifiers are also used to control power on a New York Central diesel locomotive, and an all-fluid flight guidance control for a missile system was designated at Redstone Arsenal. Use of fluidics has increased to the extent that the Corning Glass Works has opened a one-day school, held twice monthly. Prospective users, technicians and engineers study more than a dozen practical industrial applications of fluidics.

TV CHANNELS FOR PAGING?

The FCC has issued an order setting up an industry-government committee to work out plans to test the sharing of unused television channels for radio paging and two-way mobile systems. The action was in response to a petition by the Communications Committee of the National Association of Manufacturers. That committee requested the FCC to permit a test by Douglas Aircraft Co. on VHF channel 6 in Los Angeles, and to permit a test for two-way mobile radio on UHF channels 14 and 15 in the same area. There has also been discussion, says NAM Reports, of making similar tests on channel 12 in New York.

UNDERSEA ATOMIC BATTERY TO OPERATE FIVE YEARS

A new type of thermoelectric generator will operate continuously and unattended for five years at ocean depths down to 20,000 feet. Being built by Westinghouse for the Navy, it will be used in such underwater applications as research instrument packages, sonar generators, communication, navigation and monitoring equipment and scientific instrumentation. Some of these applications are meaningful only if the equipment can be left undisturbed for several years, according to W. E. Johnson of the Westinghouse Astronautical Laboratory.

The 5-watt generator will be 24 inches in diameter and 29 inches long, and will weigh about a ton and a half. It consists of a number of cells of thermoelectric material, series-parallel connected, with a radioisotope heat generator in the center. The generator will heat one terminal of each cell, while cold sea water cools the other. Prototypes using electric instead of atomic heating have been built and tested. The final unit will use strontium-90 as a heat source.

MORE COLOR TV MODELS THAN B-W

With the introduction of the new 1967 TV lines, the number of color TV models passed that of black-and-white, says Television Digest. The public now has 441 models to choose from, compared to 380 black-and-white models. The total number, 821, hits an all-time high, up eight models from 1966's 813.

Among the black-and-white sets, portable and table models are well in the lead, numbering 244 as against 125 console models and 11 combinations. In color, 50 models are table or portable, 298 console and 9 combinations.

PORTABLE VIDEO RECORDER DEMONSTRATED BY SONY

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(continued on page 12)
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NEWS BRIEFS continued

Cered by a lightweight battery, will be available early in 1967. Sony Corp. of America demonstrated a prototype at the NAMM (National Association of Music Merchants) Show in Chicago.

The carry-around model uses standard half-inch video tape and operates at 7.5 inches per second. Tapes recorded with it can be played back on any one of Sony's home video tape recorders.

Sony's smallest present machine is a tape deck intended for use with a separate monitor or a TV set. Described as a portable, it weighs 42.5 lb and operates only on ac.

WORLD'S BIGGEST ANTENNA STUDIES SUN'S CORONA

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology is using a phased-array radar antenna, covering more than 9 acres of land, at El Campo, Tex. A 4,000-dipole system is in the planning stage.

The new antenna is bouncing 500 kW at 38 MHz off the sun to gain information for use in mapping the sun's corona. Even with 500 kW and the 36-dB gain of the array, the return signal is 20-30 dB weaker than the noise. The signal is fed through 20 integrators to enable it to be distinguished from the noise.

Because the array cannot be directed, the sun can be observed for only 17 minutes around local noon each day.

END

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

IEEE 16th Broadcast Symposium, September 22-24; Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D.C.

New York Hi-Fi Music Show, September 22-October 2; New York Trade Show Building, New York, N.Y.

IEEE Aerospace and Electronics Systems Convention, October 3-5; Sheraton Park Hotel, Washington, D.C.

National Electronics Conference, October 3-5; McCormick Place and Conrad Hilton Hotel, Chicago, Ill.

Audio Engineering Society 31st Convention, October 10-14; Barbizon-Plaza Hotel, New York, N.Y.

AFIPS Fall Joint Computer Conference, November 8-10; Civic Center and Brooks Hall, San Francisco, Cal.

Radio-Electronics Adopts Hertz

Radio-Electronics is now using the term "hertz" in place of cycles in all references to frequency. Hz, kHz and MHz, abbreviations for hertz, kilohertz and megahertz, are replacing cycles, kc and mc in all recently edited material.

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Circle 12 on reader's service card

OCTOBER, 1966
KUDOS FOR HUGO GERNBSACK

Dear Mr. Gernsback:

Recently at a dinner here at The Rockefeller University, a group of us got to talking about boyhood experiences that led us ultimately to careers in science. And thus the conversation turned to you. All of us recognized our great debt to you for your prophetic stories and articles, and especially your Electro Importing Company which gave us as young experimenters access to all sorts of useful and instructive apparatus which could be bought within our limited means.

I feel that the present generation misses something through the lack of a similar institution. Of course today one can buy components and devices from a wide range of sources, but none is aimed at the awakening mind as your company was.

I thought you might like to hear some of these pleasant recollections from someone you inspired as a young boy in Bayonne, New Jersey, who sold Saturday Evening Posts in order to get money to frequent your store and carry away things for early experiences in radio and other scientific ventures that ultimately led me to the presidency of the National Academy of Sciences, The Johns Hopkins University, and The Rockefeller University.

With warm appreciation and best wishes,

DETELV W. BRONK

President
The Rockefeller University
New York, N. Y.

IT STILL HERTZ

Dear Editor:

I have enjoyed Gernsback publications for over 45 years and still have a copy of "A Wireless Course" by S. Gernsback, A. Lescarboura and H. W. Secor (published first in 1915).

I notice you have adopted the term "hertz" in place of "cycles" in all references to frequency. I think such a move is stupid and a classic example of change for the sake of change. As anyone with an engineering background knows, frequency of alternating current has always been expressed in "cycles per second." I suggest you consider changing back, and desist from promoting such a nonsensical idea and contributing to the confusion.

STANLEY E. HOOD

Pittsfield, Mass.

[Your complaint is echoed in a few other letters, Stanley. But the change is for the sake of standardization, not for change itself. The National Bureau of Standards in February 1964 adopted hertz as part of a program to make it
How long was your distributor out of stock after these new cartridges were introduced?

It isn't easy to keep up with the many new phono cartridges being introduced these days. And if your distributor doesn't order until you ask for them — you're in trouble. After all, a delay of more than 24 hours can cost you plenty in customer goodwill — perhaps even a sale.

But that problem is eliminated when you deal with an Electro-Voice distributor. Here's how. He can place a standing order with us. We ship every new model to him automatically, as soon as it comes out. He doesn't wait for an order, and neither do we.

This way, the new models are waiting for you before you need them. It's good business to see your E-V distributor — he's first with everything in needles and cartridges.

Electro-Voice
The modern complete line of replacement phono cartridges
ELECTRO-VOICE, INC., Dept. 1067E, 613 Cecil Street, Buchanan, Michigan 49107
Circle 14 on reader's service card

OCTOBER, 1966

www.americanradiohistory.com
TWO NEW "plastic view" screwdriver kits

EASY TO USE, CARRY & STORE

These neat, extremely compact kits fit hip pocket, tool box, boat kit, glove compartment...can also be hung on a wall. Durable "Plastic View" zipper case permits instant identification of tools.

Amber plastic (UL) Service Master handles are shockproof, breakproof, have patented spring holding device that accepts all Xcelite Series 99 blades—lets you add tools as needed at minimum cost.

Space saving, single-ended interchangeable blades...can be used with Xcelite extensions for extra reach.

easier to exchange scientific information with other countries. The term hertz is standard in the International System of Units.

No one seems upset over the term ampere. Yet, those with an engineering background also know that ampere is a shorthand way of saying coulombs per second. And ampere was named after an important man in the history of electronics, too. You see, it really depends on what you're accustomed to.—Editor

SERVICE-SHOP BROADCAST

Dear Editor:

With the requirements of color TV and the necessary high costs to operate a repair shop, why not have a TV station on an unused channel in a locality broadcast nothing but test patterns to be used by the subscribing shops for TV black-and-white, color and FM. The shop, instead of having to have expensive generators, can use a reasonably cheap translator to receive and convert to any channel. An appropriate way would be as an addition to NET (National Educational Television) transmitters which are usually on a college campus.

LEO E. SMITH
Sandy, Utah

[Problems that occur to us are: Who would pay for the service? Would owning your own equipment be less expensive than the proportionate cost of maintaining a television station transmitter and associated gear? The station can only broadcast one pattern at a time; how would you get the test pattern you want when you need it? Sounds like an interesting idea for someone to play around with.—Editor]

BACK-PAT FOR NEW STAFF

Dear Editor:

I must take this opportunity to congratulate you and thank you for the many interesting solid-state circuits you have been printing.

Admittedly there are other publications printing solid-state material, but I am not satisfied to read two-thirds of a magazine about what some manufacturers are doing or to scan over a monster of a circuit with no technical information. This type of news is informative, but not if it approaches the style of a mail-order catalog:

In short, you are doing a wonderful job of showing not only the latest but practical circuits that can be experimented with. I know this takes a lot of consideration and hard work on the part of your staff. Please be assured that I and many more like me are extremely grateful to you and your staff.

ANTHONY ROCCO
Bonita Springs, Florida
Industrial Electronics?

What’s That?

"INDUSTRIAL ELECTRONICS"—WHEN WE hear these words, too many of us get a mental picture of a monstrous machine about 50 feet long with banks of meters, flashing lights, and about 15 white-coated guys watching it. "Isn't so. Industrial electronics is anything that is used in business. A photocell gadget that opens the door at the supermarket, an electronic timer at the dairy, a burglar alarm at the bank—this is industrial electronics! And, there are a lot more of these than there are 50-foot machines with the guys in white coats!

These are "little gadgets"! They are simple, and they use the simplest principles of electronics. You can fix them easily. After digging into the fly-back circuits of a color set, or repairing a color demodulator, these things will look like child's play!

If you'll take a close look around your town or neighborhood, you'll find an awful lot of this kind of stuff. Too many units have always been sent back to the factory for repair, because the users didn't know that there was a man right across the street with all the equipment, skill and knowledge to repair them!

Practically all such devices are really ridiculously simple. A photoelectric control unit, for instance, may have only one tube or transistor and the PE cell! If the faulty gadget is a radio-control unit—they're using lots of them in industry today to control from a distance machines, doors, fans, vents, even mobile units like tractors—you'll have three units: transmitter, receiver and the relays that do the actual switching. If this sounds like a TV remote control, you're right, and it's no more complicated (and, usually, a heck of a lot easier to get into because it's bigger).

You'll need one thing, beside your standard test equipment—a thorough knowledge of the basic principles of electronics. This you have already, or ought to have. If you find that you've forgotten a few facts here and there, or that you're not quite clear on some others, there are a lot of good books that you can read to brush up. Also, articles in this magazine will give you a great deal of information on these processes. It'll take you only a little while to update your knowledge.

You'll find simple things: photoelectric cells, amplifiers, beat-frequency oscillators (used in metal detectors, presence detectors, burglar alarms), bridges and circuits and components that you see every day. No? Too simple? The lie detector used by police departments, a moisture meter used by lumbermen—you know what they are? Ohmmeters! A simple vom will do exactly the same thing.

You'll find sensors used to control...continued on page 22
SOMEONE SHOULD DEVELOP AN EASY WAY TO LEARN ELECTRONICS AT HOME

RCA INSTITUTES DID!

Here is a whole new approach to learning electronics at home! RCA Institutes, one of the nations' largest schools devoted to electronics, has developed a faster, easier way for you to gain the skills and the knowledge you need for the career of your choice. Here for the first time, is a student-proved, scientifically designed way to learn. If you have had any doubts in the past about home training in electronics—if you have hesitated because you thought you might not be able to keep up—or that electronics was too complicated to learn—here is your answer! Read how RCA Institutes has revolutionized its entire home training ideas!
NEW CAREER PROGRAMS
BEGIN WITH “AUTOTEXT” INSTRUCTION METHOD!

Start to learn the field of your choice immediately!

No previous training or experience in electronics needed!

With this new revolutionized method of home training you pick the career of your choice—and RCA Institutes trains you for it. RCA’s Career Programs assure you that everything you learn will help you go directly to the field that you have chosen! No wasted time learning things you’ll never use on the job! The Career Program you choose is especially designed to get you into that career in the fastest, easiest possible way!

And each Career Program starts with the amazing “AUTOTEXT” Programmed Instruction Method—the new, faster way to learn that’s almost automatic! “AUTOTEXT” helps even those who have had trouble with conventional home training methods in the past. This is the “Space Age” way to learn everything you need to know with the least amount of time and effort.

CHOOSE A CAREER PROGRAM NOW
Your next stop may be the job of your choice. Each one of these RCA Institutes Career Programs is a complete unit. It contains the know-how you need to step into a profitable career. Here are the names of the programs and the kinds of jobs they train you for. Which one is for you?

Television Servicing. Prepares you for a career as a TV Technician/Serviceman; Master Antenna Systems Technician; TV Laboratory Technician; Educational TV Technician.
FCC License Preparation. For those who want to become TV Station Engineers, Communications Laboratory Technicians, or Field Engineers.
Automation Electronics. Gets you ready to be an Automation Electronics Technician; Manufacturer’s Representative; Industrial Electronics Technician.
Automatic Controls. Prepares you to be an Automatic Controls Electronics Technician; Industrial Laboratory Technician; Maintenance Technician; Field Engineer, Digital Techniques. For a career as a Digital Techniques Electronics Technician; Industrial Electronics Technician; Industrial Laboratory Technician.

Telecommunications. For a job as TV Station Engineer, Mobile Communications Technician, Marine Radio Technician.
Industrial Electronics. For jobs as Industrial Electronics Technicians; Field Engineers; Maintenance Technicians; Industrial Laboratory Technicians.
Nuclear Instrumentation. For those who want careers as Nuclear Instrumentation Electronics Technicians; Industrial Laboratory Technicians; Industrial Electronics Technicians.
Electronics Drafting. Junior Draftsman, Junior Technical Illustrator; Parts Inspector; Design Draftsman Trainee Chartist.

SEPARATE COURSES
In addition, in order to meet specific needs, RCA Institutes offers a wide variety of separate courses which may be taken independently of the Career Programs, on all subjects from Electronics Fundamentals to Computer Programming. Complete information will be sent with your other materials.

LIBERAL TUITION PLAN
RCA offers you a unique Liberal Tuition Plan—your most economical way to learn. You pay for lessons only as you order them. No long term contracts. If you wish to stop your training for any reason, you may do so and not owe one cent until you resume the course.

VALUABLE EQUIPMENT
You receive valuable equipment to keep and use on the job—and you never have to take apart one piece to build another. New—Programmed Electronics Breadboard. You now will receive a scientifically programmed electronic breadboard with your study material. This breadboard provides limitless experimentation with basic electrical and electronic circuits involving vacuum tubes and transistors and includes the construction of a working signal generator and superheterodyne AM Receiver.

Bonus From RCA—Multimeter and Oscilloscope Kits. At no additional cost, you will receive with every RCA Institutes Career Program the instruments and kit material you need to build a multimeter and oscilloscope. The inclusion of both these kits is an RCA extra.

CLASSROOM TRAINING ALSO AVAILABLE
RCA Institutes maintains one of the largest schools of its kind in New York City where classroom and laboratory training is available in day or evening sessions. You may be admitted without any previous technical training; preparatory courses are available if you haven’t completed high school. Coeducational classes start four times a year.

FREE PLACEMENT SERVICE
In recent years, 9 out of 10 Resident School students who used the Free Placement Service had their jobs waiting for them when they graduated. And many of these jobs were with top companies in the field—such as IBM, Bell Telephone Labs, General Electric, RCA, and radio and TV stations and other communications systems throughout the world.

SEND ATTACHED POSTAGE PAID CARD FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION, NO OBLIGATION. NO SALESMAN WILL CALL. FREE BOOK INCLUDED. CHECK HOME STUDY OR CLASSROOM TRAINING.

RCA INSTITUTES, Inc., Dept. RE-06
A Service of Radio Corporation of America
350 West 4th St., New York, N.Y. 10014

The Most Trusted Name in Electronics

OCTOBER, 1966
Scott's new one-afternoon tuner kit delivers amazing FET Performance

Now you can get factory-wired performance from a kit that takes only one afternoon to build! Scott's new LT-112B is the only kit with Field Effect Transistor-circuitry, enabling you to enjoy more stations more clearly. Interstation Muting Control effects complete quiet between FM stations ... oscilloscope output allows laboratory-precise correction for multiroute distortion.

“For Scott's LT-112... is one of the finest FM stereo tuners we have tested and it is easily the best kit-built tuner we have checked... Because of its simple construction and trouble-free nature, it is a logical choice for anyone who wants the finest in FM reception at a most remarkable price.” HiFi/Stereo Review.

LT-112B specifications: (Useable sensitivity, 15 µV; Cross modulation, 90 dB; Stereo separation, 40 dB; Capture ratio, 2.5 dB; Price, $189.95.

Write to: Scott, South Westgate, Addison, Illinois. Export: Scott, 570-Io., Maynard, Mass. Write for your free copy of the instruction book, and the data from the operator, plus your own observations of how the machine is working, you should be able to find and fix any trouble in a pretty short time. After all, you've got only one thing to worry with, instead of the half-dozen interlocking reactions that you are used to dealing with in TV circuits!

This type of work ought to be a piece of cake for the alert electronics technician, and he can pick up a good bit of money doing it. If something is broken down in a business, it interferes with the progress of the work. The owner's income is being cut down, and he won't mind paying what such a job is worth to get that equipment going again, and usually without any argument! So, go get 'em!

WORKS at shop, but not at home

This one is driving me up the walls! It works perfectly at my shop. But, when I take it to its home, it falls out of horizontal sync after just a little while. Can't figure out what is doing this.

Belongs to two old ladies, and they keep the room awfully hot, up around 75°. Do you think that has anything to do with it? R. H. Marquette, Mich.

I made a similar trip up the walls many years ago! It was a different make of TV, but it sounds like the same problem! I found mine by accident, quite frankly. I was sitting, looking at the chassis, and I heaved a big sigh. The picture fell out of sync, in the shop, for the first time! Turned out I'd sighed right into the PC board for the horizontal a/c! It was the moisture from my
New solid state low-drain tone signal

Ever think what you might be able to do with an audible signalling device that operates on only a few milliamps?

We’ve got one. It’s called the SONALERT® Signal. It’s a piezoelectric transducer driven by a transistorized oscillator—all in one compact package. Just hook it up to a triggering circuit, and it does the job that usually requires an amplifier and loud speaker.

DC models work on battery supply from 6 to 28 volts, and take so little current that you can connect them as “fail-safe” alarms powered by a standby battery, or use them in security circuits where opening of a switch contact will apply full voltage across the Sonalert. Mallory Batteries, with their long shelf and service life, are ideal companions.

And there are AC models that work directly off 110 volt lines, and draw only 14 milliamps—about the same as a neon pilot lamp. These are ideal for light-actuated systems. Just connect the Sonalert in series with a cadmium sulfide cell and you have a signal that sounds when a strong light hits the photocell. Or connect the Sonalert in parallel with the photocell, and the tone comes on when light goes out.

That’s not all. You can get Sonalerts with either 2800 cycle tone or 4500 cycles. With appropriate circuitry, you can combine these into high and low alarm systems. And you can get a pulsed model that emits “beeps” at a rate of 3 to 5 pulses per second.

You get a lot of sound out of this little device. Intensity ranges from 68 to 80 db, depending on applied voltage. Frequency is fixed, however, and does not vary with voltage. And there’s another unusual feature; Sonalert’s operation depends on having an open air column in front of it. So it provides a means of detecting liquid level.

You may also be interested in knowing that Sonalert causes no RF interference. Also, it has no arcing contacts, so it’s completely safe in explosive atmospheres.

If you’d like to experiment with this unusual signal, write to us for a copy of our booklet of ideas. And get Sonalert, and all the quality Mallory components that work with it, from your franchised Mallory Distributor. Mallory Distributor Products Company, a division of P. R. Mallory & Co. Inc., Indianapolis, Indiana 46206.

Sonalert is a complete compact unit, mounted in a 1⅞" panel hole.

OCTOBER, 1966

Circle 21 on reader’s service card
ASSEMBLE YOUR OWN ALL-TRANSISTOR
Schober
ELECTRONIC ORGAN

3 NEW MODELS
Recital $1500
Console II $850
Spinet $550

This is the new, all-transistor Schober Console II...the most luxurious "house-size" organ available today.

Full 61-note manuals, 17 pedals, 22 stops and coupler, 3 pitch registers, and authentic theatre voicing leave little to be desired. Comparable to ready-built organs selling from $1800 to $2500.

The pride and satisfaction of building one of these most pipe-like of electronic organs can now be yours...starting for as low as $550. The Schober Spinet, only 38 inches wide, fits into the smallest living room. The all-new, all-transistor Schober Recital Model actually sounds like the finest pipe organ; its 32 voices, 6 couplers, 5 pitch registers delight professional musicians...making learning easy for beginners.

AND YOU SAVE 60% OR MORE BECAUSE YOU'RE BUYING DIRECTLY FROM THE MANUFACTURER
AND PAYING ONLY FOR THE PARTS, NOT COSTLY LABOR.

It's easy to assemble a Schober Organ. No special skills or experience needed. No technical or musical knowledge either. Everything you need is furnished, including the know-how. You supply only simple hand tools and the time.

You can buy the organ section by section...so you needn't spend the whole amount at once. You can begin playing in an hour, even if you've never played before—with the ingenious Pointer System, available from Schober.

Thousands of men and women—teen-agers, too—have already assembled Schober Organs. We're proud to say that many who could afford to buy any organ have chosen Schober because they preferred it musically.

Send for our free Schober Booklet, describing in detail the exciting Schober Organs and optional accessories; it includes a free 7-inch "sampler" record so you can hear before you buy.

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Circle 22 on reader’s service card

24

NEW SAMS BOOKS

101 Ways to Use Your Color-TV Test Equipment
by Robert G. Metzden. Completely revised and updated edition, written in the famous style loved by thousands of technicians. Describes the practical uses of various color, pattern, sweep, and marker generators, as well as other equipment, for the purpose of diagnosing color-TV problems quickly and easily. Covers each piece of test equipment, shows its full capabilities and proper use; tells how to test all types of color-TV circuits. Includes actual photos of the waveforms occurring at various points, and explains likely defects. Describes proper test setup, procedures, how to overcome test results, how to check instruments; includes time-saving techniques. 150 pages; 83/4 x 11". Order TEM-9A, only $295

Building Your Amateur Radio Novice Station
by Howard S. Pyle, W7OE. For many beginners in amateur radio, most construction data appearing in existing handbooks and magazines is either too complicated or does not include adequate building details. This remarkable new book provides complete, easy-to-follow construction details for building an inexpensive transmitter and receiver, plus several accessory items. W7OE's equipment has been specifically designed for, and meets all the requirements of a novice amateur radio station, it will also serve the General amateur as well. 128 pages; 83/4 x 11". Order ASP-1, only $310

ABC's of Capacitors
by William P. Mullan. This much-needed book, written in language anyone can understand, completely dispels the mystery and complexity with which the subject of capacitors is usually treated. Clearly explains how the various types of capacitors are constructed, their typical characteristics, and applications, the factors to consider when selecting replacements, and a number of practical methods for testing and measuring capacitors. Written for everyone from troubled hobbyists, designers, or constructors of electronic equipment; 96 pages; 83/4 x 11". Order CAP-2, only $225

Computers Self-Taught Through Experiments
by Jack Brayton. While modern computers contain involved circuit complexities and operate at fantastic speeds, they are basically made up of a multitude of simple circuits. This book explains those circuits and the fundamentals of computer principles and operation the easy way through 28 simple, detailed construction projects. Includes the use of transistors, integrated circuits, to describe the variety of individual computer operations and functions. Provides details for constructing actual working models of the computer circuits described. Finally, construction details are given for a ten-stage adder/subtractor, complete with read-out lamps. An easy-to-understand book which will fascinate anyone who wants a basic understanding of how computers work. 192 pages; 101/2 x 13 1/8". Order CEB-1, only $475

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Circle 23 on reader's service card

Circle 24 on reader's service card

breath! I found out that the owner used an open-flame gas heater. These liberate quite a bit of water vapor as a combustion byproduct. This moisture, condensing on the chassis, caused a leakage path from the acf to a nearby high ac voltage point in the filament circuit. Cure: move the ac voltage point, and spray about five coats of dielectric plastic on the chassis after drying it thoroughly.

You have a similar problem, apparently. Look for places around the acf where moisture could condense and cause leakage from any other circuits. Dry it out and spray it thoroughly or paint it with corona dope, etc. Anything to keep the moisture out of sensitive circuits.

Try sighing at it. Might help!

Overload or bad circuit breaker?
I've got a problem with a Silver-tone 8154. It's got one of the little resettable circuit breakers in the power transformer primary. Replaced the rectifiers and filters, and it works fine; voltages OK. But, in about an hour, the breaker kicks out! I reset it, and it kicks out again in about 5 minutes. I've checked everything I can think of, and I can't find anything wrong in the set.—E. S., Philadelphia, Pa.

I've had the same problem, and in a lot of cases it turned out to be the circuit breaker itself! Check: if you have a wattmeter, plug the set into it and check the input power. If it's normal, and stays that way, replace the breaker.

You can also check by tripping the breaker (open), and clipping a 1.5-amp fuse across it. If there is real trouble in the set, the fuse will blow.

All too often, makers fail to put any wattage or current rating on breakers. However, most distributors now stock them, with recommended values. Look up the rated wattage; this is given on the first page of all Sams Photofact service data. This set draws 1.3 amps; so, get a breaker that is about 1.5-amp or even 1.75!

VOM clears up snow
I got a call on a Hotpoint 21T052 TV, for very bad snow. You can just barely see a picture. Tubes all replaced, no help. I measured the de voltages on the 6AK7 with a tube-adapter, and they are all OK. When I touched the input grid with the voltmeter prod, the snow cleared up! Good picture! So I checked the age. Sams shows two 10-ohm resistors and two 39-ohm in parallel between the age and B+. I can't find these resistors at all! What's going on here? P. Q.—Clifton, N. J.

You did the right thing. However, if you suspect any of the cascades rf am-
Now instant movies in sound start at $695.

The new Sony Videocorder deck (model CV-2000D) is both compact and versatile. It's also quite reasonably priced, $695. It's just like current Sony Videocorder models, but without the built-in TV monitor. Using a separate monitor or TV set, you can tape selected TV programs off-the-air. Add the optional Sony TV camera and you can tape "live" action in sight and sound. Play back your tape, and you'll see instant movies in sound.

This new deck is small enough to fit on a bookshelf, as a part of your hi-fi component system. Light enough (only 44 lbs.) to take wherever you want it to perform. Adaptable enough to use with any TV monitor, small or large screen (the new Sony 8-inch and 22-inch receiver/monitors are perfect mates). It can be adapted to work with most home TV sets. Handsome too, in walnut-finish cabinet.

Looking for a Videocorder with its own built-in monitor? Then meet the rest of the Sony Videocorder family. TCV-2010 complete in its own carrying case, $995. The TCV-2020, handsome oil-finish walnut cabinet and with built-in timer to automatically tape TV programs while you're away, $1150. For taping "live" action, there is the Video Camera Ensemble VCK-2000 (camera, elevator, tripod, microphone) at $350. For an unforgettable demonstration visit your Sony Videocorder dealer today. For free 16-page booklet write:

SONY® Corp. of America, 47-37 Van Dam St.,
Long Island City, N.Y. 11101 Dept. H

*Diagonal measurement. The Videocorder is not to be used to record copyrighted material. Sony and Videocorder are registered trademarks of the Sony Corp. All prices suggested list.

www.americanradiohistory.com
plifier tubes of causing snow (6BK7, 6BQ7, etc.) and the voltages are OK. That is, the dc voltage on the middle plate-cathode is the normal 125-150 volts, the chances are that this stage is OK, and the real trouble is elsewhere.

When you touched the grid with your vorn probe, you put a comparatively small resistance between it and ground (60,000 ohms for the 3-volt dc range of a 20,000-ohm-per-volt vorn). So, this cut down on the highly positive age voltage, and let the picture get through.

Now, for those age bucking resis- tors: this isn't an error on the Sams schematic, but a modification. Early production of the "U" chassis did use the four resistors in the bucking network, but later models used a single, very small 22-meg resistor to replace them. This resistor is undoubtedly open; it's on the PC board right where R26 is shown on the Sams diagram, almost under a capacitor. While this isn't a common symptom (heavy snow from positive age) it can and does happen, as you saw!

**High-Voltage-Probe Multiplier Resistors**

I've got a 100:1 high-voltage probe on my vorn. I read the high-voltage on an old GE 17C103 the other day and, according to my figures, it had 28,000 volts! I have a feeling that this is a little off! What do you think is wrong?—S. S., Clearfield, Pa.

You're right, that's wrong! 28 kv would be a little high even for a color set, which this definitely isn't. Let's figure. For a high-voltage probe, the formula is: $R_m = M(R_{in}) - (R_{in} - R_p)$. Or: multiplier resistor in probe equals multiplying factor (M) times the meter input resistance minus (meter resistance minus original isolating resistor used in vorn probe).

Your isolating resistor is 1 meg. That last factor in the formula would be 11 meg minus 1 meg or a nice even 10 meg. Now, we have this: $R_m = 100$ times 11 meg minus 10 meg. If we got the decimal point in the right place, it would come out about 1,090 meg.

The Allied catalog shows two high-voltage probes—one with a resistance of 1,090 meg and another with a resistance of 740 meg. It sounds as if you have the 740-meg probe, which would make your meter read high. Take the probe apart and check. The resistance will be printed very plainly on the resistor unit. If you do have the wrong one, get the right size and things will read a lot more closely.

With the proper 100:1 multiplier, your meter will then read 100 times whatever scale you set it on. The 0-3 volt scale will be 0-300 volts, and so on.

**Build a Thunderbox into Your Guitar Amplifier:**

Get sound as loud as you want it out of your low-power guitar amplifier by building this 50-watt booster into it. Simple to make and fun to use as long as you don't deafen the neighbors!

In November RADIO-ELECTRONICS

---

**GET THE HOT ONES**

...the Turner +2 with volume control

...and a FREE Florentine Lighter

To introduce you to the +2 (the first microphone with a fingertip volume control), Turner is offering a FREE bonus—a beautiful Florentine lighter with each +2 sold! The lighter is the windproof type, decorated by the intricate carvings made famous by ancient Florentine silversmiths; and the microphone is the one-of-a-kind unit that is drawing acclaim all over the country.

The +2 is a transistorized base station microphone with a tailored frequency response of 300-3,500 cps; it features touch-to-talk or lock on/off switching, and works with all transistor or tube sets. And more important, the +2 lets your present transceiver perform like it was NEW again — provides up to 50 times the output level you now have, with just the turn of a dial! List price, $49.50.

See your CB dealer or parts jobber soon. Get your new +2 and ask about the free Florentine lighter.

In Canada: Tri-Tel Associates, Ltd.
Export: Ad Auriera, Inc., 85 Broad Street,
New York, N.Y. 10004

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VETERANS

If you had active duty in any branch of the Armed Forces after January 31, 1955, you may be entitled to Government-paid tuition for any CIE course.
Common materials do mighty unpredictable things when supercooled by liquid gases to temperatures near absolute zero. Some materials simply turn to dust and eventually vanish. Others lose resistance, become superconductive.

By EDWIN WALKER

A FASCINATING PHYSICAL SCIENCE scarcely 10 years old in its modern form promises revolutionary changes in basic electronic-circuit functions, and changes in familiar materials used in electrical and electronic equipment and systems. Cryogenics, the science of low-temperature physics, is concerned with the behavior of matter at temperatures approaching absolute zero (−273°C).

Even though applications for cryogenic theories became practical less than a decade ago, the origins of the science can be traced to the middle of the 19th century when a few elemental gases (oxygen, nitrogen, and hydrogen) first were produced in liquid form. Today, cryogenic technology makes possible exciting, even exotic, industrial developments and constitutes an important segment of the nation's defense and aerospace programs.

Shortly after World War II, modern cryogenics attained a major importance in US technology. Postwar development of the Thor, Jupiter, Atlas and Titan guided missiles demanded new techniques in science and engineering. Liquid oxygen—used as the oxidizer in liquid-fueled rocket engines—transferred a laboratory science into an important area of engineering applications and operating systems. Even though most cryogenic activity is limited to military and aerospace projects, several significant phenomena of low-temperature physics promise applications in many phases of modern life.

Simulating outer space on earth

What happens to materials and instruments in the high-vacuum, subzero, high-intensity-radiation environment of interplanetary space? No one knows for sure. Scientists have determined that many materials stable here on earth will slowly turn to dust and vanish when sent outside the earth's atmosphere. It's possible that plastic bearings, slip rings, paints, and other electronic components may do likewise. Electrical insulation may break down so that short circuits occur; electrical connectors, relay contacts, and switches may weld shut or break open to put equipment out of operation.

Besides all this, the only way heat can be transferred in interplanetary space is by radiation. there being no atmosphere to conduct heat through convection. This means that the heat generated even by solid-state electronic equipment might rise to levels which would burn components and melt wiring. Such poor heat transfer also means that the side of a space probe facing the sun may become red-hot, while the side oriented away from the sun may reach a temperature near absolute zero. These temperature extremes understandably create thorny problems in the design and operation of aerospace hardware.

Several years have passed since the first Russian Sputnik focused American technology on space exploration. Until very recently, however, space engineers and scientists were hampered in many ways by an inability to re-create, on earth, a simulated outer-space environ-
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Matt Stuczynski, Senior Transmitter Operator, Radio Station WBOE. "I give Cleveland Institute credit for my First Class Commercial FCC License. Even though I had only 6 weeks of high school algebra, CIE's AUTO-PROGRAMMING teaching method makes electronics theory and fundamentals easy. After completing the CIE course, I took and passed the 1st Class Exam. I now have a good job in studio operation, transmitting, proof of performance, equipment servicing. Believe me, CIE lives up to its promises!"

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Glenn Horning, Local Equipment Supervisor, Western Reserve Telephone Company (subsidiary of Mid-Continent Telephone Company). "There's no doubt about it, I owe my 2nd Class FCC License to Cleveland Institute. Their FCC License Program really teaches you theory and fundamentals and is particularly strong on transistors, mobile radio, troubleshooting and math. Do I use this knowledge? You bet. We're installing more sophisticated electronic gear all the time and what I learned from CIE sure helps. Our Company has 10 other men enrolled with CIE and they're just like it helped me."

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OCTOBER, 1966
Miracle in Deep Freeze

ment in which space-bound materials and instruments could be tested before launching. It appeared that not until we actually established laboratories in space would we be able to test under aerospace conditions.

At a time when the problem seemed insurmountable, the science of cryogenics changed everything. Now engineers can use a space-simulation chamber, several sizes of which are available. Based on techniques of "cryopumping," in conjunction with infrared and electro-magnetic energy sources, these chambers create certain environmental conditions found in space that might affect a spacecraft and its instrumentation. Cryopumping creates high-vacuum conditions within the space-simulation chamber by condensing and freezing gas molecules rather than by pumping them out of the chamber as is done with conventional vacuum-producing methods. This use of cryopumping is the first practical technique for creating the ultra-high-vacuum conditions of free space in an artificial environment.

The walls of the space-simulation chambers also are insulated using cryogenic techniques to prevent room temperature conditions from affecting the chamber's internal temperature. In the walls of the chamber, cryogenic liquids form a heat-insulation barrier to maintain the low-pressure, low-temperature conditions of space.

The extreme environmental conditions created by cryopumping cannot be measured using conventional instruments. As a result, engineers designed a new family of measurement devices. Research showed that an ionization gage could detect the scattered remaining molecules of gas inside the chamber after cryopumping evacuation. The ratio of the gas molecules remaining within the chamber to the gas molecules in an identical area outside the chamber is proportional to the vacuum pressure inside the chamber. Even this ionization technique, however, is not sensitive enough to measure the lowest pressures obtainable with cryopumping. Even more sensitive sensing devices must be designed.

Measuring cryogenic liquids

Simultaneously with advances in cryogenics, there developed a need for electronic instruments to measure and control the ultra-low-temperature liquids used in cryogenic applications. An example is the need for sensing the presence of cryogenic liquids and for actuating valves to control liquid flow when a reservoir is being filled or emptied. Since cryogenic liquids are harmful to life, a severe danger exists near these containers, and the use of automatic controls is the only good safety practice. Such a control system employs a sensitive probe which determines when the tank has been filled to capacity. At that point, the instrument closes the input valve.

The sensing element of the probe consists of two plates which form a capacitor whose capacitance varies when the dielectric material changes. Until the container is filled with cryogenic liquid, the capacitor dielectric is the atmosphere within the tank. When the cryogenic liquid reaches the top of the container, however, some of the liquid becomes the dielectric of the probe capacitor. The change in capacitance controls the frequency of an oscillator in the instrument itself, and the frequency change is demodulated by a ratio detector. The detector provides an output signal which operates the input valve and stops the flow of cryogenic liquid.

A second instrument, employing a temperature-sensitive thermistor as the sensing element in one leg of a Wheatstone bridge, monitors the level of the liquid to reactuate the flow through the input valve when the level drops due to
Superconductivity, the absence of electrical resistivity, permits developing ultrahigh-strength magnetic fields that will consume virtually no power.

To measure temperatures accurately over the cryogenic range—from 0° to 100° Kelvin—special thermometers have to be used. We can again turn to thermistors for this measurement, using a slice of germanium crystal processed to provide maximum resistance change with temperature over the cryogenic range. The thermistor element is mounted within a helium-filled, hermetically sealed platinum case with its external leads connected into one arm of a bridge circuit. The bridge normally is balanced and has zero output.

When subjected to cryogenic temperatures, however, the thermistor’s resistance increases and unbalances the bridge. The degree of unbalance is directly proportional to the drop in temperature below the value at which the bridge is balanced. The bridge output, indicated on a suitable meter graduated in degrees, provides a precise indication of the cryogenic temperature.

Cryogenics in the laboratory

Cryogenic temperatures often are required in the laboratory where basic research—such as that involving the interaction of free electrons and the thermal vibrations of crystal lattice structures—is being investigated.

Cryogenic refrigerators employing cryopumping techniques provide research scientists with a versatile tool for experiments at controlled temperatures as low as 0.3° Kelvin (−459.15°F). Refrigerators of this type are used in all areas of solid-state and materials research at low temperatures. In such a refrigerator, the material being tested can simultaneously be subjected to electromagnetic, nuclear, or other radiation, or placed within the poles of a magnet.

Superconducting magnets

Application of cryogenic techniques to magnetic devices has brought about completely new engineering systems with the development of superconducting magnets. Superconductivity, the absence of electrical resistivity, permits developing ultra-high magnetic fields that consume virtually no power.

Superconducting magnets are compact and lightweight coils of special niobium-tin or niobium-titanium wire, which exhibits zero resistance when cooled to or below a certain specific temperature. These supermagnets are capable of producing ultra-strong magnetic fields previously attained only by using large amounts of electrical power and massive coils of heavy-gage wire.

The superconducting conditions will exist as long as the wire is maintained at a temperature below that at which it became superconductive. A state of superconductition also may be controlled by placing the magnet in the path of a strong magnetic field.

When the external magnetic field is active (power applied), the coils of the cryogenic magnet become normally resistive. With the external magnetic field inactive, the coils once again become superconductive.

Computer-research scientists have directed considerable attention to this binary (off or on) character of cryogenic magnets which makes them usable as memory devices. The photo shows a stainless-steel liquid-helium dewar—an insulated flask—which includes a computer memory circuit. This dewar, when filled with liquid helium, maintains a cryogenic temperature of −452°F. After the memory circuit has reached that temperature, circuit wires are introduced into the dewar through a vacuum-jacketed inlet and connected to external computing equipment operating normally at room temperature.

In just a few years, cryogenic technology has become a familiar part of many programs tied to America’s space-exploration efforts. A whole new set of terminology and hardware has been generated to define and expand various phenomena associated with extreme low temperatures. And a sizable group of scientists, engineers, and technicians has become active in developing cryogenic technology.

While much laboratory work still is exploratory, cryogenics presents continuing evidence of the exciting and ever-expanding nature of electronics and its closely allied fields. Can any other technology offer so wide a choice of interests?
An Electronic Shutter Analyzer

Discarded bench-type scope is reborn as instrument to evaluate characteristics of photo shutters

By E. F. RICE

One of the things that positively stumps a professional photographer is whether or not his expensive equipment is operating as it should. This is particularly true of one of the most basic elements in a camera, the shutter. Shutter bothers have a habit of developing so slowly that the user is not aware of the problem until every other possible reason for substandard photos has been eliminated. The analyzer shown here gives an immediate visual picture of shutter performance. It reveals not only shutter-speed accuracy, but also the effects of dirty shutter leaves, the presence of "bounce," and other irregularities.

The instrument is particularly useful in large studios (especially those specializing in portraiture), photography schools, and newspapers where several cameras are available and a photographer may use a different one for each assignment. Unless the actual shutter speed is within its permissible tolerance, a photographer may find himself way out in left field. This device can provide a rapid, accurate check.

The unit, assembled from an oscilloscope salvaged from the service bench, uses the cabinet and power supply from a Jackson model CRO-2. Any old scope will suffice, however, even if the CRT is bad, because that tube will be replaced with one having a long-persistence (type P7) phosphor. Here's how to get started.

Remove the sync and sweep circuits from the chassis, keeping the focus, brightness, and positioning-control circuitry intact. The high- and low-voltage supplies also must be retained. It's possible, of course, to build from scratch, but it's easier to start with an old scope so you can use the cabinet and CRT mounting brackets: the front panel also is fitted for the face of the CRT. The only modification required in the cabinet is to cover the lower part of the front panel with a piece of \( \frac{3}{8} \)-inch aluminum. Appropriate holes for mounting the reset button, the speed-selector switch, and the octal socket for the sensing-unit cable plug are then cut through both thicknesses of metal.

The sensing unit itself, which is positioned by hand inside the camera when checking a shutter, is made from an octal cable connector with a "dummy" socket mounted in it. Two cadmium-sulphide photocells are glued in position behind two small holes drilled in the dummy socket. A 6-foot 3-conductor cable, terminated in an octal plug, permits the sensing unit to be located far enough from the light source to keep stray light from falling on the CRT screen.

In the Jackson scope, the original CRT was a 5UP1. It was replaced with a 5UP7 (yellow), which is identical physically and electrically but has a long-persistence phosphor. The P7 phosphor holds the image long enough to permit viewing the entire shutter action from start to finish. A single horizontal sweep can be seen for several seconds in a darkened room.

The circuit

The schematic (Fig. 1) shows the analyzer circuit. Parts salvaged from the scope are marked with an asterisk. Potentiometer R14 is the brightness control. R16 is the focus control, R3 the vertical-position control, and R11 the horizontal-position control. R1 and R2 were in the original power supply, but the value of R2 is changed to produce enough starting voltage to operate voltage regulator V3. S3, the speed selector, is a double-pole 5-position rotary switch. The five potentiometers (R19–R23) and five capacitors (C7–C11) used to control the sweep speeds are mounted on a subpanel under the chassis. (The analyzer has only five ranges. You can add more or select others by choosing proper R and C values. Table I lists R and C values for different ranges.) Diode D, filter C3, and trigger-sensitivity control R8 are mounted on the main chassis.

Pin 9 of the CRT, one of the horizontal-deflection plates, receives its voltage from the appropriate capacitor (C7–C11) in the speed-control circuit. When the capacitor is fully charged, its potential is 150 volts, regulated by V3. R11 adjusts the voltage applied to pin 10, the other horizontal-deflection plate, to position the spot at its starting point at the left side of the CRT. Once adjusted, this voltage remains constant. Therefore, when the voltage on pin 9 is reduced by discharge of the capacitor, the spot on the CRT moves to the right side of the screen.

Thyratron V4 is used to discharge the capacitor. D rectifies the heater voltage and applies a negative voltage to the control grid of V4, keeping it cut off. PC1 is a photoresistive cell in the sensing unit which is placed inside the camera. When the shutter opens during analysis, light strikes PC1, lowering its resistance, which reduces the bias and allows V4 to conduct. R6 protects the photocell from the grid-current surge that occurs when the thyratron fires.

Typical setup for testing shutter mounted on view-type camera. Probe is held behind open camera back. Camera shields scope face from light source in front of shutter.

Test trace of shutter in good operating condition and well within suggested tolerance.
R8 adjusts the bias voltage and determines the sensitivity of the trigger. When the V4 conducts, the timing capacitor is discharged through the tube in series with the calibration potentiometer, moving the spot across the CRT from left to right at a rate determined by the time constant of the series R-C network selected by S3.

Vertical deflection occurs at the same time, because light passing through the open shutter also reduces the resistance of PC2, the second photocell mounted in the sensing unit. This cell is connected so it changes the vertical-centering voltage applied to pin 6 of the CRT. With a fixed voltage on pin 7, the spot is deflected upward.

After the shutter has tripped and produced a trace on the screen, the spot is returned to its starting position at the left side of the screen by pressing reset button S2 momentarily. The thyratron stops conducting. When the switch is opened again, the tube remains cut off, and timing capacitor (C7-C11) recharges to 150 volts, returning the spot to the left side of the screen.

Before the unit is calibrated, the CRT screen must be marked to indicate the correct starting and ending positions for the trace. This can be done with India ink on a piece of clear plastic film fastened to the CRT face with Scotch tape (see photo). Marking the screen is a very simple operation, if it is done before the sweep speeds are calibrated, because any desired pattern can be used. The sweep is then adjusted to make the trace fit the design.

Each sweep speed is calibrated by adjusting its potentiometer against an external standard such as the 60-Hz line. An easy way to do this is to use a large neon bulb such as the NE-30 to trigger the sensing unit. The lamp is taped to the sensing unit so it is in direct contact with the surface containing the two holes and so no outside light strikes the photocells. Connect the lamp in the circuit shown in Fig. 2, so you can turn it on and off easily. With the diode shorted, the lamp will flash 120 times per second; the diode cuts the speed down to 60 flashes per second.

Turn on the analyzer and allow it to warm up for about 10 minutes before calibrating. While waiting, you can adjust the controls to bring the spot to its starting position and to obtain the best focus. Don't leave the intensity turned up high for more than a few minutes while the spot is stationary, because the high intensity of the electron beam will burn the screen. Also adjust trigger-sensitivity control R8 so the light from the neon lamp just trips the horizontal sweep.

With the spot at its starting position and vertical-gain control R4 set at maximum, switch on the neon lamp and observe the number of "pips" in the trace on the screen: Fig. 3 illustrates...
of the checking you needed overhauling. Can'treme accuracy helps, when some of the pips recycle many youbrate the pips for any speed moved from the speeds; start counting the number of pips that must be counted on slow speeds; on faster speeds, it can be removed from the circuit. The number of pips for any speed is found by multiplying the fraction by 60 when the diode is used and by 120 when the diode is switched out. See Table II.

Using this method, you can calibrate the sweep for any other speed you may need, and by using a switch with more positions, you can have as many speeds as you want.

On slow speeds, you may want to recycle the spot a few times and count some of the pips during each sweep. It helps, when counting a large number of pips, to darken the room to make the trace more visible. Fortunately, extreme accuracy is not necessary, and you may find it feasible simply to calibrate against another shutter that you know works well. Other cameras then can be compared to the "standard" shutter.

We added the ±10% tolerance marks to help us decide which shutters needed overhauling. A small error of 12-15% of the distance from start to ok can be tolerated in any shutter. If you want to place the 10% marks accurately, here is how to do it.

Use the setup that you'd use to check a shutter at 1/30 second, using a 60-Hz calibrating signal. You'll see two cycles of 60-Hz signal as in Fig. 4. The line going up from the start position is slanted because the shutter takes a small amount of time to open wide enough to energize the vertical-deflection photocell. This is not important. The second cycle of the signal is expanded because the horizontal sweep is faster on the right side of the screen. This is good because this is the area where critical measurements are to be made.

Adjust the analyzer controls so the peak of the wave is on the ok line. (Note that this differs from the procedure for shutter-speed measurements in which the wave crosses the ok line at the 50% point.) Two cycles equal 720° as shown in Fig. 4. When the calibrating wave is centered properly, the distance between A and B—measured along the zero axis of the wave—equals 90°. Thus 10% of the full sweep time (not distance) is one-tenth of 720, or 72°. The 72° point is easy to find. It is simply 1/8 of 90.

Testing a shutter

Allow time for the analyzer to warm up, and use the positioning controls to set the spot at its starting position. Plug in the sensing unit and place the photocells inside the camera—or behind the shutter, if you are testing an unmounted shutter. Open the diaphragm to maximum aperture. Set up a light source—a 50-watt lamp bulb, for example—so that, as the shutter opens, light will pass through the lens and strike the photocells. Keep stray light on the CRT to a minimum, because ambient light reduces the apparent persistence of the trace. Note: The intensity of the light, or the distance between the light and the lens, does not affect the calibration in any way.

Cycle the shutter through several trial runs, resetting the spot after viewing each trace. If horizontal or vertical deflection fails to occur, check to see that the sensing unit is held directly behind the lens opening so the light strikes both photocells. Be sure the diaphragm is open wide. Remember, to reset the spot, the sensing unit must be in complete darkness.

Using the vertical-gain control, adjust the height of the trace on the screen. For the calibration pattern used in this model, the line marked 50% indicates the point at which the shutter is half-closed. Since different shutters vary in the linearity of their opening and closing rates, all calibrations are based on the time when the shutter is half-closed. The trace of a perfect shutter crosses the junction of the dotted line marked ok and the 50% line.

A shutter should be checked several times in succession to permit observation of different characteristics on each trial. In addition to timing, which should be within 10%, you can see evidence of dirt in the shutter leaves; it causes irregularities along the slanted part of the trace while the shutter is opening and closing. "Shutter bounce," the tendency of a shutter to close slightly just after it has opened, makes a tell-tale dip in the horizontal part of the trace, usually near the beginning.

Focal-plane shutters also can be checked in a similar manner with one precaution: the sensing unit must be placed at the back of the camera where the film is normally held. In timing focal-plane shutters, the sensing unit must be held perfectly stationary with respect to the camera, and the two holes must be in a horizontal plane.

This instrument has a few shortcomings—it won't tell you the actual shutter speed, only indicate an out-of-tolerance condition, for example—but it's a mighty handy device for photographers who have many cameras. Institutions and newspapers also should find practical applications for the unit in maintenance and quality control. Since shutters have no simple do-it-yourself speed control anyway, knowing when to send a bad one to a camera-repair center can mean a great deal to anyone who depends on the accuracy of fractional seconds for his living.

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**Table I**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shutter Speed</th>
<th>Value of R (megohms)</th>
<th>Value of C (μF)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/10</td>
<td>0.22</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
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**Table II**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shutter speed</th>
<th>Number of Pips</th>
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<td>4</td>
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</table>

**Fig. 3**—Once calibrated, sweep traces show different number of pips for each speed.

**Fig. 4**—How the 10% points are adjusted.
Acousti-Lite Santa Claus

Simple, inexpensive device produces dramatic "talking display" effect

By FRED BLECHMAN, KEUGT

How would you like to have a "talking" Santa Claus at your door this Christmas to greet visitors? Or perhaps an unusual "animated" display in your shop window for the holiday season? For just a little over $8 and a few hours of your time, you can build a basic Acousti-Lite unit to power a standard illuminated Santa Claus that will appear to speak! This unit can be used to power any incandescent light up to 10 watts and make the light from it vary in brightness with any audio input. Add another dollar in extra parts and a $9.95 control unit, and you can do the same thing with a light display up to 500 watts!

The block diagram in Fig. 1 shows the complete Acousti-Lite system. An audio signal from a phono amplifier or similar external source is applied to a one-transistor audio amplifier, powered from a regular 117-volt outlet. The output of the amplifier varies the brightness of a small incandescent bulb, normally used as a pilot light. The light from this bulb falls on two photocells whose resistance changes as the light falling on them varies. One photocell is a power type, used directly to control the brightness of a 10-watt display light. The other photocell acts as a sensor whose output is fed to a high-power light-control unit that handles up to 500 watts of display lights.

A better understanding of the Acousti-Lite's operation can be obtained by studying the schematic in Fig. 2. The audio output of any speaker (radio, recorder, phonograph, or TV) is fed to input J1, where potentiometer R1 adjusts the level of signal reaching the base of power transistor Q through coupling capacitor C1. Resistors R2 and R3 provide bias and a little feedback for Q. The transistor amplifies the input signal and varies the brightness of its collector load PL1, a No. 49 pilot lamp.

Power is provided from the ac line through switch S and filament transformer T, the output of which is rectified and filtered by diode D and capacitor C2. Overload protection is provided by inexpensive glass circuit breaker CB or a conventional fuse. Pilot lamp PL2, a neon unit, and series resistor R5 indicate when power is applied to the unit.

The light output of PL1, varying with audio-signal strength, falls on power photocell PC2, which is in series with output socket J2. Shunting resistor R4 allows enough current to flow constantly to keep the display light almost at the point of visible brightness. As the brightness of PL1 increases, the resistance of the photocell drops, allowing more current to flow through the display light. Consequently, the brightness of the display light follows the variations in brightness at the output of the amplifier. A display light of from 7 to 10 watts may be plugged into J2, but higher wattage will destroy the power photocell with current surges.

Up to 500 watts may be controlled in a similar manner with an external light-control unit, such as the Knight-Kit...
KG-201 Motor-Speed/Light Control, slightly modified (Fig. 3). Small-signal photocell PC1 acts like a variable resistor in the circuit of the light-control unit. The light control is modified by adding resistor R6 and socket J3. The 500-watt (or less) display plug goes into the output of the light-control unit, and is biased almost on by the knob setting on the panel of the unit. The big display then varies in brightness with the signal from Acousti-Lite photocell PL1.

Putting it together

The Acousti-Lite unit is built in a prefabricated aluminum 3/4 x 3 x 2%-inch cabinet. Wiring is simple, straightforward and noncritical. A subassembly (shown in the photo) consists of the diode, the capacitor, PC1, PL1, Q, R2 and R3 mounted on a piece of perforated board 1% x 2% inches. This subassembly is mounted to the cabinet with bent sheet-metal clips or plastic spacers. The transformer, potentiometer, pilot lamp, switch, and input jack are mounted directly to the box with appropriate hardware, and then wired to the subassembly. A four-lug terminal strip mounted to the box is used for interconnections.

Placement of the photocells is important. They should be located so that both receive light from PL1, and should be as near to PL1 as is practical. In the author's unit, PC1 (the small photocell) is placed right next to PL1, and power photocell PC2 is placed on the box cover together with J2 and R4. Since R4 is intended to shunt the dark resistance of PC2 and allow enough current to flow through the display lamp so it is just below the point of glowing, the value of R4 depends on the type of light in the display. The 3,300-ohm value shown in Fig. 2 is for a standard 7-watt nightlight bulb. Lower resistance and higher wattage will be required with larger bulbs. If desired, a 5,000-ohm 5-watt pot could be used for R4 in place of a fixed resistor, so that you can accommodate any light in the display from 7 to 10 watts.

When mounting the power photocell, use some silicone grease to aid in heat transfer to the case. The manufacturer of the power photocell recommends using a copper heat sink of at least 6 square inches which should not be allowed to rise above 35°C. Use a good silicone grease between the cells and the heat sink and protect the unit against transients by bridging the power line with a 0.1-µF capacitor rated at 600 volts or more.—Editor

Be sure none of the parts connected to the power line are connected electrically to the case, or a severe shock hazard will be present. Since parts placement and wiring are not critical in this unit, the builder may exercise his imagination in using other forms of construction, just so long as PL1 is close to the photocells and the photocells are protected from external light.

Regarding parts substitutions, only PC1, PC2 and the Knight-Lit Light Control unit are "critical." Substituting for these parts would probably require design changes for satisfactory operation. You may use any neon bulb for PL2, and a No. 48 pilot lamp will work as well as an No. 49 for PL1. The transistor may be any inexpensive pnp medium-power unit. However, 10K ohms for bias resistor R3 is an average. Should you desire more sensitive operation, select a value for R3 slightly above that which allows PL1 to start glowing with no signal applied to the input.

The modification to the Knight-Kit is quite simple. A 100-ohm 1/2-watt resistor, which we'll call R6, is added to the circuit between the existing potentiometer and the 2,500-ohm 5-watt resistor. Two wires are added at the circuit points.

**Fig. 1—Operation of Acousti-Lite is uncomplicated. Photocells constitute main control to vary intensity of display lights when triggered by spoken words or music.**

**Fig. 2—Single-transistor amplifier, using power-type pnp unit, is heart of device. Contains its own power supply, designed around an inexpensive filament transformer.**

**Parts List**

- R1—Pot, 100 ohms, 2 watts
- R2—100 ohms, 1 watt
- R3—10,000 ohms, 1/2 watt (see text)
- R4—3,300 ohms, 1/2 watt (see text)
- R5—100,000 ohms, 5 watts (see text)
- R6—100 ohms, 1/2 watt
- C1—50 µF, 15 Vdc, electrolytic
- C2—1/2 mF, 15 Vdc electrolytic
- D—Silicon rectifier, 500 mA, 50 Vdc
- T—Filament transformer, 6.3 volts, 1 amp
- PL1—No. 49 pilot lamp, 2 volts, 60 mA
- PL2—NE-2 neon lamp
- S—Spst toggle switch
- P1—Ac line cord with plug
- P2—Insulated 2-prong male connector
- J1—Mike or phone connector
- J2—Chassis-type ac receptacle

* J3—Insulated 2-prong female connector
* PC1—Cadmium sulphide photocell (Lafayette 19R 2101, Clairex CLSM4 or equivalent)
* PC2—Cadmium sulphide power photocell, 10 watts, NSL 532-HP (available from Harvey Radiocircuits, 101 W. 43rd St., New York, N. Y., 10017, and James L. McCoy Co., 941 Alma St., Glendale, Calif. 91202, $1.50)
* CB—Sylvania MB-315 Mite-T-Breaker (Allied 34 Z 075)
* Q—Medium-power transistor, pnp (Lafayette 19R 1507, 2N176, 2N55, 2N301 or equiv.)
* Box—5" x 3 x 2 1/2" aluminum case (Bud CU-2106, LMB 880, Lafayette 12 R 8390)

Light control—Knight-Kit KG-201 motor-speed light control (Allied 83 U 335MW)
Perforated board, screws, nuts, spacers, wire, solder, etc.

* Used only if external light-control unit will be used

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shown in Fig. 3 and are brought out to insulated socket J3. A miniature two-prong socket was used by the author, but any insulated connector socket can be used. When P2 from the Acousti-Lite is plugged into J3, the resistance of PC1 shunts the combined resistance of R6 and the potentiometer leg. Therefore, when the resistance of PC1 is varied by the light output of PL1, it's as if the light-control knob were being rapidly rotated back and forth.

**Other display ideas**

Any number of display ideas could be used with the Acousti-Lite. The "talking" Santa Claus can be made from any one of many standard illuminated Santa Claus figures abundantly available around Christmastime. No modification to the purchased unit is required. Simply plug the display into J2 (make sure the bulb is 10 watts or less) and place it near a speaker that is also providing the Acousti-Lite input. If the audio source is a man talking, the variations in brightness of the Santa Claus in step with the speaking will give an audio-visual effect as if Santa were doing the talking. You may want to put a small speaker inside the display itself to heighten the effect, so both sound and light emanate from the same display.

Rotating color-wheel displays using 150- or 300-watt bulbs are also popular. They are used for lighting Christmas trees and house exteriors. As color filters in front of a bulb turn, projected color changes. These are inexpensive units, often available for less than $4. The Acousti-Lite, with the additional light-control unit to handle the high wattage, can be used to vary the brightness of these lights as the wheel turns. A modification must be made to the wiring of the color-wheel units, however. The motor and bulb are wired in parallel, and the motor would not operate properly when fed with the fluctuating voltage output of the light-control unit. Therefore, simply locate the motor leads and wire them to a separate ac plug. Now the motor is plugged into the house outlet as usual, and the bulb is plugged into the light-control unit.

If you want to experiment with nonstandard displays, feel free. White or colored bulbs may be wired in parallel in various physical arrangements, with tinfoil reflectors, glass-fiber front panels and even small motors to provide motions and reflections from attached mirrors. (Another simple display you may want to try is a jack-o-lantern pumpkin with a bulb inside, for Halloween. Units can be purchased around Halloween with bulbs installed, and shells of translucent orange plastic; a red bulb works great in these. A microphone amplifier fed to J1 makes an unexpected way to greet trick-or-treaters at the door!)

As for the sound source, you can tap the signal going to any speaker, or plug into the earphone jack of a radio or recorder. A continuous-loop tape cartridge can be used with a tape player for continuous messages.

There are only two precautions to observe in operating the Acousti-Lite. First, be sure not to exceed the power rating of the output used: 10 watts for J2, 500 watts with the light-control unit. Second, always turn potentiometer R1 to its minimum-signal (zero-resistance) position when connecting the audio input.

Overdriving Q will burn out PL1! Set the source volume at a comfortable level, plug the source into J1, plug the display into J2 or into the output of the light control unit, and rotate R1 until the display responds properly. PL1 is pretty rugged, but will burn out if overdriven. This can be prevented by inserting a short piece of Nichrome wire (about 2 ohms) in series with PL1, but this reduces the sensitivity of the unit.

When using the external light-control unit, first adjust the display to a just-below-glow condition with no signal, by rotating the light-control knob. The modification made to the light-control unit does not affect normal operation; it can still be used to light the display to anything from low to full brilliance without any connection to the Acousti-Lite.

Troubles can usually be traced pretty easily. Diodes or capacitors connected backward are a common wiring fault. Be sure you have positive voltage on the emitter and negative on the collector of Q. Check PL1 to see that it hasn't been burned out by a transient. Make sure R1 is not at the minimum input position. And, of course, don't forget to turn on the power!

The low cost and versatility of the Acousti-Lite unit make it a worthwhile project for experimenters, school classes or store owners who want an eye-catching display for their Christmas windows.
LeRoy German, president of MODEMCO, INC., makes a final connection before checking out a piece of remote equipment. This gear is an important part of a phone-company testing device.

THE INSTALLERS

You've got to be good or get that way fast to join the ranks of contract installers. The work is demanding, often tedious, sometimes lonely, but rewarding

By RAY D. THROWER

THE EXPLOSIVE IMPACT OF THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY on the American economy and its vital technological growth offer an unprecedented variety of career choices to youngsters and oldsters alike. There are jobs for the genius, the average, or the below average; for the active, the sedate, or the handicapped. It might truly be said that in electronics there is something for everyone who wants to meet the challenge.

A particularly demanding segment of the profession offers long hours on difficult jobs under sometimes almost impossible conditions. In compensation it promises good-to-excellent pay, an opportunity to travel widely, and a chance to demonstrate individual responsibility and initiative. Working as an installer of complex electronic systems won't be everyone's cup of tea, but those who have chosen to follow the sweep of electronic technology into the world marketplace seldom return to an easier or more comfortable line of work.

Requirements for the position of installer vary from company to company, but they have basic similarities. An apprentice installer usually must have a high-school education. Also, some background in electronics, as from amateur radio activity, may be required, but this generally can be waived for equivalent math or science courses. In all cases, employers require passing scores on aptitude and problem-solving-ability tests.

A master installer must be part technician, part engineer, administrator, mechanic; some companies also require at least a Second-Class Radiotelephone license. Extensive background and training in electronics are necessary as are a thorough familiarity with test equipment and the ability to read schematics, blueprints, and engineering specifications. At the same time, the master installer must be able to act as a public relations man for the company he's working for and supervise those subordinate to him.

To obtain a deeper understanding of what's involved in this branch of the industry, RADIO-ELECTRONICS visited MODEMCO, Inc., of Decatur, Ga., and spoke at length with three installers who joined abilities in January 1965 to form their own company. Corporation president LeRoy German, vice president Jimmy Hays, and secretary-treasurer William Bowers are all under 35, yet their combined industry experience totals that figure—35 years.

LeRoy German became interested in electronics while still in high school. His father, a Nebraska farmer, had taken a course in radio from National Schools of California during the 1930's, and young German happened across the old texts one day while exploring the attic. He studied them and took related courses in school, all of which eventually helped him pass Air Force qualification tests. As a result, he was able to attend many technical schools during his 4 years in the service.

After his discharge in 1960, LeRoy went to work for a major manufacturer of communications equipment, installing carrier, data, microwave, and power equipment for almost 3 years. In 1963, when the opportunity came to advance himself, he transferred to another company to become an installation supervisor. There he met Bowers and Hays.

Since its inception, MODEMCO has installed communications and control systems for power and pipeline companies, communications systems for independent telephone companies, intercom systems for banks, and battery/rectifier power plants for communications systems. Equipment manufacturers normally have their own installation crews, but subcontract their installation work to companies such as MODEMCO when their own installation crews are taxed to keep up with the expanding workload of the communications industry.

We interviewed MODEMCO to get some firsthand ideas about employment opportunities in installation work and spoke first with LeRoy German.

RADIO-ELECTRONICS: To begin with a topic of particular interest to our readers, are there really a lot of job opportunities in installation work?

MODEMCO: Very definitely. It's hard to find enough installers who can be depended on and who are willing to travel almost continuously. Probably the most difficult to find are the less-experienced installers. Apprentices are necessary in any occupation, and electronic installation work is no exception.

RADIO-ELECTRONICS: Why would beginners be any harder to find than more experienced installers?

MODEMCO: Well, when an experienced man is needed, he knows he is needed and has the experience—he has the self-confidence to apply for jobs. Also, he's more stable and, once hired, usually stays with a company. The beginner thinks there is no need for his inexperience, so he hesitates to try for what he thinks is an unattainable job. The beginner who does get into electronic-installation work can learn as much about practical electronics on the job as in a formal classroom.

RADIO-ELECTRONICS: We understand an installer often works in remote areas under difficult conditions. Was this true in your experience?

MODEMCO: Absolutely! From April to November of 1957, while in the service, I was stationed as one of a two-man team on Tern Mountain, installing and maintaining radio-relay equipment. Tern Mountain is an extinct volcano, about 500 feet above sea level, in southeastern Alaska. The mountain wasn't big enough or level enough to build an airstrip on, so everything was dropped in by parachute or flown in by helicopter. There was a small lake about 3 miles from the site where float planes occasionally would land but, for the most part, all our equipment and supplies were paradropped in.

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Radio-Electronics: How did the equipment hold together during air-drop delivery? Ever have any parachute failures?

MODEMCO: No failures on opening, but once the canopy failed to collapse on a deep-freeze unit that was dropped in. The winds were too high, and the unit was dragged across the rocky tundra and dumped into the Bering Sea. That was a real "deep" freeze! Oh, and another time, a generator was dropped in from too high an altitude, and the throttle opened too late; we had a pulverized generator that time. All considered though, it is surprising that well-packaged material, including sensitive electronic equipment, can survive being dropped into a remote site by parachute. Of course, a lot of our food was delivered this way, too.

Radio-Electronics: Where was the most distant-from-home job you've encountered as an installer?

MODEMCO: After I left the Air Force and got into industrial communications work, I unexpectedly found myself installing equipment in Turkey!

Radio-Electronics: That must have been quite an experience for you.

MODEMCO: It sure was. First, it was a great chance to get in some tourist activity in a part of the world where civilization is said to have started. Then, from the pure job aspect, there was the chance to work with technicians from different nations. I think the toughest thing there was the language barrier. Anyone thinking about installation work for a living should study the language of a country he would like to visit someday. Chances are he'll wind up there, especially if he knows the technical language. On this particular job I was on, we had Americans, Englishmen, Italians, Germans and, of course, Turks. Once our American group needed to talk to an Italian cable splicer. We had a Turk who spoke both English and German. He relayed our questions to the German, who spoke both German and Italian, and thus to the Italian.

Radio-Electronics: Would you prefer to work in any other phase of electronics?

MODEMCO: I don't think so. To me, installation work provides circumstances where you can enjoy just about all phases of electronic activity. There is inevitably some on-site engineering to be done, as well as installation, fabrication, testing, alignment, calibration, and administration. It's one of the few personally rewarding jobs in which a man can see the finished product performing its intended function.

(As this point Jim Hays and Bill Bowers walked in. We reviewed the discussion and asked for their ideas.)

MODEMCO: Well, I sure agree with LeRoy. The rewarding part comes when power is first applied to a piece of equipment and there are no great flashes of light or billowing clouds of smoke. The equipment seems to stand there almost like a monument to your efforts.

Radio-Electronics: What would you say is the most difficult thing about installation work?

MODEMCO: Some people might say travel. Being a small company to start with, we're working executives. Our jobs include, not only the corporate functions, but also some installation work and test and acceptance evaluations of equipment. We also act as company sales representatives, so we are kept on the move a good percentage of the time. But, it is enjoyable. It gives us the opportunity to work with new gear, meet new people, and perform a needed service.

The most difficult technical thing seems to be the ability to strike a balance between quality and quantity of work. This is true of any job, but it's especially so in electronics installation work. There is the pressure of working against a deadline, yet you must have the equipment operating in top-notch shape when you finish.

MODEMCO (Hays): That means you can't cut corners on the alignment of an I.F.-amplifier baseband curve in a carrier-communications system. A corner cut here and another there, and you're going to have trouble for sure. Aside from the job, though, one of the most demanding things about being an installer is that you must either be a bachelor or have a very understanding family, since this work requires extensive traveling. Actually, many wives and families like the mobility of the installers' life, especially when the family transfers as a unit. Many installer's wives seem to revel in a new house to work on every year or so. Even motel living is different and welcomed for shorter periods.

Radio-Electronics: Do companies usually pay for these family moves?

MODEMCO (Hays): Yes, on the long-term transfers of, say, 6 months or more, they do. They pay all moving expenses, and they'll put the family up in a motel at the new job location for a week or two while you look for more permanent housing. Out on the road though, when you're traveling constantly from location to location, it's pretty hard to take a family. Usually on the shorter jobs, you work out of the company's area office, anyway, and it's more practical to find permanent housing for the family near the area office.

Radio-Electronics: How about expenses when you're on the road?

MODEMCO (Bowers): Well, this sort of varies with the company and the job, but they're usually paid for by the company. The way it works is that each installer has an expense account which he submits on a regular basis. Some companies just pay a regular daily expense rate, and there is very little expense reporting to get involved with then.

Radio-Electronics: Okay, suppose a guy wants to be an installer. How does he get this kind of job?

MODEMCO (Hays): The first thing to do is to find out who needs installers. Trade journals and the large metropolitan newspaper ads are good sources for these. Then, when you read the ads, don't read too much into them. That is, don't be afraid to apply.

Radio-Electronics: What do you mean by that?

MODEMCO (Hays): These ads are written on a general basis. It may look like they want the proverbial 18-year-old Ph. D. with 25 years of experience. Usually, from the experience of most everyone I've known, they spell out everything the company may be looking for in the hope of finding several individuals with at least a partial combination of the experience they need. Then they will work these men together as a team, forming a composite of the experience they need. If necessary, in some cases, the company may even provide specific training to qualify the installers in certain areas.

Radio-Electronics: About this experience—what does a man have to know or do to be an installer?

MODEMCO (Bowers): Probably, above all else, he should excel in alignment and calibration techniques. This means a better-than-usual knowledge of different types of test equipment and how to use them. Installation work isn't just putting up a showcase of hardware with channel and angle iron and shoving equipment into racks. Once it is installed and power is connected, it has to be completely checked out and aligned.

Radio-Electronics: Working close to the heart of the industry, in installation work, what do you see in the future for the installer?

MODEMCO (Bowers): The electronics industry is expanding so rapidly that the installer always will have a future. And, he will be more in demand if he keeps up with techniques.

MODEMCO (Hays): That's right. Keeping up with technical advances means a lot of things. Reading all the technical and

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trade journals a guy can get his hands on, for one thing; correspondence schools for another. Magazines alone are an education, and those reader-service cards are ideal for the guy who wants to explore specific areas in a little more detail.

MODEMCO (German): Technical education is fine, but the guy who is really making long-range plans should also take some business and management studies, correspondence courses, and the like. As Jim just mentioned, a traveling job is ideal for correspondence-school work.

INDUSTRIAL PARTS IN RECEIVERS

By KENNETH ALLEN

THE SCR AND THE REED RELAY have usually been considered industrial components. But now both appear in home receivers.

Spot-killer circuit

De-coupled transistor sets pose a problem that has been solved quite simply with a reed relay. Although most transistor TV sets use low voltage on the r.f. and first video amplifiers, a separate dc supply is used with the last video amplifier to develop sufficient swing to drive the CRT.

When the set is turned off, the voltage on the last video amplifier rises to the power-supply voltage. This high positive voltage, which is also on the CRT, cuts it off. Without a spot killer of some sort, however, as the B+ on the picture-tube cathode drops, the electrons in the still-hot gun are attracted to the screen by the remaining high voltage and form a spot. Although the spot isn’t always damaging, it is annoying.

Simple spot-killing schemes have until now been only partially successful since they usually rely on operation of the on-off switch. When a set is turned off by a wall switch, the spot killer is ineffective.

The magnetic-reed relay is a simple device, consisting of two reeds sealed in the ends of a glass tube. The reeds overlap slightly in the tube and are separated by several thousandths of an inch. Since the reeds are made of a magnetic material, they pull together when placed in a magnetic field.

The magnetic-reed relay is actually the only part in the spot-killer circuit (Fig. 1). It is mounted near the B+ supply choke, whose magnetic field causes the relay to close whenever the set is on. The contacts inside the reed-relay bulb are in series with B+ to the last video amplifier. While the set is on, the B+ is supplied to the video amplifier through the relay contacts. When the set is turned off, the reed relay opens and removes B+ from the video-amplifier plate. That puts the CRT cathode at nearly ground potential and causes the CRT to conduct heavily before the raster collapses. The heavy conduction “bleeds” electrons from the gun and the high voltage, thus eliminating the spot.

If the relay needs replacing, the only caution is that the new relay should be positioned the same as the original.

The SCR circuit

An SCR operates very much like a thyatron. A positive voltage—either steady or pulse—applied to the SCR gate readies the device to conduct heavily whenever a positive voltage is present on the anode. Even though the positive voltage on the gate is later removed, the SCR continues to conduct until the anode voltage is removed or reversed. Fig. 2 shows how different anode and gate voltages affect current through the SCR.

An SCR stereo-indicator circuit is seen in Fig. 3. Because the 19-kHz pilot signal is present only when stereo is broadcast, it is used to operate the stereo-indicator light. The output of the last 19-kHz amplifier feeds the gate of a C106 SCR directly. Since only a positive gate can affect the SCR, it is not even necessary to rectify the 19-kHz signal. The first positive-going 19-kHz excursion will turn the SCR on, and other positive or negative excursions will have no effect on the gate.

The anode of the SCR is connected to 6.3 volts ac through the stereo-indicator lamp. The SCR can conduct only on each positive 60-Hz excursion. When the SCR is conducting, the lamp lights. The SCR can be turned on only by positive excursions if the 19-kHz pilot signal is present. It is turned off every half-cycle by the negative 60-Hz excursion, so actual power consumed in the bulb is only about half what it would be if the bulb were placed directly across 6.3 volts. A special 3.2-volt bulb is used.

When the stereo broadcast is finished—or the 19-kHz pilot is lost for some other reason—the SCR turns off on the anode’s next negative-going cycle.

These developments are two good reasons for technicians continuing their electronic education.
Industrial Applications
For Photoelectronics

A tiny photocell, sensitive to minute changes in light, is the nucleus of complex production-control and materials-handling instrumentation

By ALLAN LYTEL

In the field of industrial electronics, we've come to expect ever-increasing complexity, speed and precision in the mechanisms and systems that support high-speed materials-handling and production machinery. Even in so relatively simple an area as that of the photoelectric devices we most often see—door-openers, alarm-ringers, or light-control switches—industry has worked its usual wonders.

Television and newspapers keep us up to date on the use of photovoltaic cells that provide operating voltages for the equipment in orbiting satellites and interplanetary probes, but less newsworthy uses of photoelectric cells pass general notice. Among recent applications are high-speed computer tape readers, production-inspection systems, and carton-handling conveyor systems capable of identifying individual cartons and delivering them to pre-determined destinations.

All photoelectric systems include three basic elements—a light source, the photoelectric detector, and the control circuitry. The source normally consists of a tungsten-filament lamp and the optical components to form a beam of light. Though specifically designed for long life and operated at conservative voltages, the lamp should be replaced within its expected lifetime, even though it is still operating normally. Spare lamps should be easily available, and, wherever possible, the system should be fail-safe in operation.

The photoelectric detector uses light to generate electricity which can be controlled or which controls one factor in an electrical circuit. Although the photoconductive cell is the most common type, there are three basic photo devices: the photoconductive cell or photoresistor, in which the total resistance of the cell material (cadmium-selenide or cadmium-sulfide) varies in indirect proportion to the intensity of light falling on it; the photoemissive cell, which emits electrons when its cathode is illuminated, and the photo-voltaic cell, which produces a voltage when illuminated.

Small size, low cost and long life make the photoconductive cell a logical choice for many industrial systems. Typical units have a dark resistance ranging from 10,000 ohms to several megohms and an illuminated resistance of a few hundred ohms or less.

The control circuitry consists of various triggers, amplifiers, and relays that determine the function of the system. There literally is no end to the type or complexity of operations attainable through proper design of the control circuitry. Most systems, however, have in common the need for fail-safe circuits to protect the mechanism from serious damage when a lamp failure occurs and also to prevent unwanted operation under certain controlled circumstances. The control circuitry accomplishes the task designed into the system by the engineer.

Typical photoelectric unit

The solid-state photorelay control device shown in Fig. 1 is a unit of moderate sensitivity with an operation capability of 300 counts per minute. It uses a

Photocell groups produce operating voltages for orbiting satellites; generate power to recharge nickel-cadmium batteries.

Fig. 1—Response time of this typical photocell device is approximately 45 milliseconds with average cell illumination.
photoconductive cell and two transistors.

Across the 60-volt and -30-volt sources are resistors R5, R8, photocell PC, R7, and potentiometer R9. When not illuminated, the photocell has a high resistance. The base of Q1 is more negative than its emitter (base - 30 volts, emitter -11 volts). In this nonconducting state, the transistor has only a small value of collector current due to leakage: D2 and load resistor R1 compensate for any change in collector current as temperature increases.

When light strikes the photocell, its resistance drops sharply and permits an increased current flow through series resistance string R5, R8, R9 and R7. Since the drop across R8 will allow Q1 to conduct, its value is the important one in this circuit: R5 is used only to limit the current flow through the photocell to a safe value at all times. When R9 is set at minimum resistance, the photocell requires more light for a given voltage drop across R8. This control, then, is for light level.

When the drop across R8 becomes greater than 26 volts, Q1 conducts, because its base-to-emitter bias voltage is overcome. Collector current flows through R3, coupled directly to the base of Q2. Because the base of Q2 is positive relative to its emitter, the amplifier is normally cut off. Therefore, Q1 conducts, the Q2 base voltage is reduced, and Q2 collector current flows through the relay coil and R7 and back to ground through R2. This feedback voltage lowers Q1’s emitter voltage, increasing the current flow through both transistors in a regenerative action, and the relay armature pulls in sharply.

The photocell does not respond instantly when light is applied or removed, and this characteristic limits the maximum operating rate of the relay. The greater the intensity of light, the shorter the delay in energization. There also is a delay in dropout time due to cell-current delay time; this delay increases as light intensity is increased. For rapid drop-out, the light intensity should be kept relatively low.

Obviously almost any kind of relay with very simple or highly complex contact arrangements can be used with this device, depending on the exact function expected of the overall system. An examination of two complete systems will give a better understanding of how photoelectric controls contribute to industrial development.

Electronic inspection

The light-sensing photoelectric inspection system illustrated was designed for detecting and removing imperfect items from production conveyor lines. It can detect any variations that cause a 3% or greater variation in light reflected or transmitted from the items being inspected and is designed for use with conveyor belts up to 10 feet wide traveling at speeds as high as 600 ft/min. The system can be used to inspect plastics, metals, glass, processed foods, and textiles, among other manufactured products.

Like the human eye, the system detects the difference in reflected light intensity between the flaw and its surrounding area. The system consists of an illumination source over the conveyor, an optical scanner which gathers information on light-intensity differences, a data processor which analyzes the information, a control, and a power supply. The mechanism which removes or marks the flaw is specially designed for each application.

The scanner, also positioned above the conveyor, sweeps its optical field 14,000 times a minute. Light-intensity variations are then fed into the data processor which converts them to digital form. The digital signals then energize the mechanism which removes the imperfect item, marks the flaw, or executes any other design function.

Automatic carton selection

Materials-handling functions can be automated in a photoelectrically controlled, fully automatic carton-selector system, which differentiates among 31 types of packaged products on a moving conveyor and diverts each to its preselected destination. The entire operation is accomplished at one setting of the system’s toggle-switch control console. Each packaged product is identified by its own individual code which is printed on the carton and read photoelectrically by the selector system. This system, which also counts and totals the passing cartons, can be used at conveyor speeds as high as 200 ft/min.

The automatic carton selector also can be used in conjunction with a proportional-speed memory system in which the output signal from the selector is retained in the memory unit until the package arrives at its divert point. This
combined system is particularly well suited where mixed products combined on a single conveyor must be separated for specific handling operations, or where many units of the same product on a single conveyor must be scheduled for a number of destinations.

In operation, the photoelectric code reader is located adjacent to the conveyor and recognizes each code as the cartons move by. Plug-in selection modules, one for each code, are installed in a remotely located selector panel. By positioning toggle switches in the selection modules, an operator quickly selects the products to be counted and sorted.

The 31 codes consist of as many as 5 sequential bars. In the carton area provided for the code markings, the presence or absence of the bars triggers a response in the code reader and allows it to determine whether the passing carton is to be selected. An area ½ x 5 inches must be provided on the carton for the code, since this is the total area viewed by the 10 photocells in each reader.

When the system is in operation, the divert cycle begins as a carton containing the code for a specific divert station moves downstream on the conveyor. Shortly before the carton reaches the desired station, the code is read and the divert mechanism of the selected station elevates a small rubber wheel located in the main conveyor line, so the tire projects above the level of the conveyor rollers. The approaching carton reaches the protruding rotating wheel whose axis is at an angle of 30° to the path of the carton. As the front edge of the carton touches the moving tire, it is raised slightly and the carton is pivoted in the direction of the divert conveyor. A second rubber-tired wheel—electrically powered and revolving 10% faster than the first wheel—receives the carton, aligns it with the divert conveyor, and propels it onto the divert conveyor. The entire operation is accomplished quickly and without disturbing the rapid flow of closely spaced cartons on the conveyor.

Throughout industry, in numerous monitoring, sensing, controlling, limiting, and counting applications, photoelectric cells and their supporting electronic circuitry speed production of vital goods. Although basically a simple device, the photocell's unique properties make it a mainstay of high-speed production and material-handling lines. Industrial engineers and equipment designers daily find new applications for photoelectronic devices. While it's doubtful that the American economy would suffer a major setback without them, they hold a position out of all proportion to their diminutive size. The lowly photocell is mighty, indeed.
Surplus Printed-Circuit Boards Give That Professional Touch

A little study turns up some excellent circuits in pc boards which can be used after slight changes

By CLEMENT S. PEPPER

This is the golden age of electronics. The enterprising hobbyist never had it so good. The state of the art is moving so fast that fascinating devices are conceived, constructed and thrown out at such a pace that they often end up on the surplus market but little the worse for the trip. Never used—obsolete before they were delivered!

I'm thinking primarily about innumerable computer boards found on the counters of all the surplus stores (and sometimes out in front, in boxes on the street) at prices as low as 5¢ a board. Some of these are shown in the photos.

For the most part they are really loaded with the most delectable of electronic goodies—first-rate components, right out of the computer.

In the beginning I happily stripped off the parts and chucked the boards. The circuits on the back were just too tough to figure out—it would take hours. I thought.

But the boards look so darn neat. Very professional. They would really add class to the things I had in mind to make. So I went to work on a fast, efficient way of doping out the circuits.

When you think about it, the real problem is that the parts are all on one side of the board and the connections are all on the other. What you need is a transparent board. Aha! There is a solution. Transparent paper! First draw the parts on the top. Then flip over the board and draw the connections on the back. Problem solved!

The best paper is semitransparent drafting paper with a faint blue-line grid, 10 divisions to an inch. You can get it in drafting-supply stores. The grid isn't essential, but it helps.

Now set the printed-circuit board before you, component side up. Lay out the hole pattern on your paper and outline the parts. The grid lines are useful here. Roughly scale the spacing; keep components in their correct relative po-

October, 1966
Slightly modified board contains amplifier with gain of 1,000.

Breadboard made by selecting circuits on three printed boards.

Fig. 1—Black lines are components and leads on board top. Orange lines are leads on bottom of board. a—Schematic diagram and parts list drawn from board shown above.

R1 = 16K/.5W
R2 = 820Ω/1W
R3 = 560Ω/2W
R4 = 51Ω/.5W
R5 = 3.3K/5W
R6 = " "
R7 = 820Ω/1W
R8 = 18K/.5W
C1 = .005/100V, MYLAR
C2 = .1/100V, DISC
C3 = .0045/100V
C4 = 10/20V, TANTALUM

sitions. I use a red pencil to outline the parts. Don’t write part designations in yet.

Now flip over both your board and the paper. Be sure they flip the same way, so corresponding parts maintain their positions. If you have the right kind of paper, the hole pattern and components will show through very nicely.

Go ahead and sketch out the circuit patterns on the back of the paper. Try to follow the general contours of the conducting strips. Check carefully—don’t leave any out.

Return the board and paper to right side up. Circuit patterns are visible through the paper. Now assign designators to each part. Be sure to do this, because the designator really helps when you sketch out the circuitry. Put arrows in the diodes. If the board is a plug-in type, assign letters to the outgoing strips. Working from the board pattern you have just drawn, connect an ohmmeter to convenient points and identify the transistors as npn or pnp.

You are now ready to sketch out the circuits. The first go-around will produce a messy diagram. So at this stage I bring up a scratch pad and give myself a lot of room. Take the transistor you have labeled “Q1” and draw its symbol. Trace out its base, emitter and collector circuits as you go. Draw in parts symbols where you find them. Identify them by their designators or
you'll lose track in a hurry. Pay some attention to their positions in the diagram, but don't use too much time now trying to make a neat schematic. Look for dc supply lines, ground, bias lines, etc.

Now study the rough diagram you have just made. Look for familiar circuits. Mentally move things around; make a few tentative sketches.

After you've got it in mind, put a neat sketch of the diagram below your circuit-board arrangement. Put in the parts list. It should now look like the sketch in Fig. 1. After you've done a few you'll be surprised at how quickly you can draw up a board. Put your drawings in a three-ring binder or manila folder for safekeeping.

I have about 250 boards like those shown. I have diagramed 40 varieties so far, with about 30 to go. So you can see that there is a real diversity of circuits. There are flip-flops, Schmitt triggers, oscillators, ac and dc amplifiers, regulated power supplies, diode gates, NOR gates, along with a lot of weirdies. It can become an education. I wouldn't want to say this is the most exciting way to use up an evening, but I have found a number of valuable uses for the boards and I consider the time well spent.

Applications, too!

Let's talk about how to use 'em after you've got 'em. I take two approaches here. Some boards stand right out and yell to be used. One glance says this is an amplifier, that is a flip-flop. Then there are the others. You hope the circuits are a credit to the inventor, but you can't say for sure.

The first category is set aside, waiting for the day I want to use one in the manner for which it was designed. I usually have to replace some or all the components, and work in a few jumper wires on the back of the board. It's rare luck when you can hook one up to a power supply with no changes whatever and turn on the switch, though it does happen.

The second category is used when the circuit to be assembled doesn't sufficiently resemble any of the boards available or where I only need a small portion of a board and don't want to goof up a better circuit. The example application of Fig. 2 illustrates the situation where only a few components in an unconventional diagram are needed. This board ended up in the regulated power supply, Fig. 3.

I have used a dozen or so of the boards. Some of the results are illustrated in the photographs. The boards do make a difference. With a small investment of time and effort, you can really dress up your construction projects with a professional touch that only the printed-circuit board can give.
SEISMOMETER-RECORDER
IS PROFESSIONAL TYPE

You can use this instrument, along with the low-frequency amplifier described in a previous construction article, to measure and record the intensity of earthquakes and tremors. Readout is by means of a chart by EARL HANSEN and MERLE MONIA

THE SEISMIC AMPLIFIER STORY which appeared in the September 1966 issue of RADIO-ELECTRONICS only briefly mentioned the seismometer, marker clock, and recorder. These three items must be used with the amplifier if you wish to record distant earth disturbances. The cost of building them is very much less than the cost of similar commercially available units. However, the builder must have access to machine tools and the know-how to use them. He must also be able to improvise parts and dimensions not specifically detailed in this story. Space permits only basic hints and information. The experimenter can often make good use of items he has on hand, though they may not resemble closely the ones we used.

The seismometer, shown in Photo A and Fig. 1, is a vertical responding instrument. This is the most generally satisfactory axis of response for single seismo operation. The mechanical resonance period of the mass and spring is adjustable from 1 to 3 seconds per cycle. This assures response to very low frequencies, considerably below the resonance period rate. The reduced output below the resonance point is partially compensated for by the rising low-frequency response of the seismic amplifier. Actual oscillation of the mass is greatly reduced by a relatively low-resistance damping load on the coil (part of the amplifier's input circuitry). Output voltage from the seismo coil is typically less than 100 µV for a moderately distant tremor.

Construction: mass and springs

The mass is made from an 8-inch piece of thick-wall (½-inch) tubing, 3¼ inches in diameter, filled with lead. A piece of steel plate was pressed into one end, the lead poured in, and the other end covered with another sheet, for appearance. The pivoting of the spring within the mass must have very low friction. The pivot knife edges are made of hardened steel. The pivot is a hook-and-eye affair, with the contacting surfaces ground to knife edges. Tool steel is used, so the edges can be hardened. The suspension spring threads over a round piece of iron, into which the hook is threaded (Fig. 2-a). The seismo's natural period of oscillation may be varied by changing the vertical position of the pivot point with respect to the center of the mass. The adjust-

Photo A—With careful construction, this seismometer can approach lab performance.
ment at the top of the spring (Fig. 2-b) is to center the coil in the gap.

The seismo mass weighs about 30 lb. All the mass weight is suspended on the large spring. The pivot springs serve as a low-friction zero-movement point and do not support any appreciable weight. The sensor coil movement is three times that of the center of the mass. The coil moves in an air gap of 4,000 gauss. The suspension-spring support is pivoted and rests on a piece of acrylic (Photo B). This provides temperature compensation for the spring, and keeps the coil within the gap over a wide temperature range. As the spring

Fig. 1—This end view of the seismometer shows the heart of the instrument—the mass which responds to movement of the earth. Movement of mass is then coupled to sensor.

OCTOBER, 1966

Fig. 2—a—Detail of suspension-spring mounting and bottom adjustment. b—Top adjustment. c—Mounting of pivot spring.
expands with heat. lowering the mass, the acrylic expands and presses upward against the hinged spring support, to keep the mass centered on the pivot springs. The acrylic is positioned a quarter of the distance from the pivot to the spring suspension. Rest blocks are provided under each end of the mass. These are necessary when installing the pivot springs, suspension spring, and when transporting the instrument. They provide a stop for the mass for large shocks.

The pivot springs (Fig. 2-c) are made from 5-mil phosphor bronze sheet, 1/32 inch wide, and long enough to be clamped under the blocks. There are two springs at each end of the mass, at right angles to each other. (Photo C). About 1/32 inch is exposed, with the ends being clamped.

The suspension spring is wound of 1/32-inch spring wire with an initial tension slightly less than the 30-pound weight of the mass. This allows the greatest number of turns in the shortest spring length, while supporting the mass.

The sensing unit

The sensor coil (Fig. 3-a) is wound on a turned form of acrylic, with about 3,900 turns of No. 36 enamel wire. The dc resistance is about 500 ohms. The coil supporting bracket and coil form must be nonmagnetic.

Fig. 3-b is the sensor magnetic assembly. The Alnico V magnet should be remagnetized after assembly into the coil to the terminal strip on the post.

The basic recorder (Photo E) is similar to those used extensively in industry and research. The unique feature of this instrument is the large drum and feed screw which provide maximum recorded information on a moderate-size sheet of plain paper. One change of paper lasts 2 days, without crowding the recorded traces. Time of disturbance may be easily interpolated to the nearest 10 seconds. The recorder has a sensitivity of 5 mA from center to either side extreme (half of full scale). The recorder’s frequency response is much higher than any signals that can be passed by the amplifier, and of course extends down to dc.

Recorder and pen

The recorder unit has a sheet-metal drum, 8 inches wide and 12 inches in diameter. It is driven by a Cramer timing motor turning 1 revolution per hour. A lead screw of 8 pitch per inch inside the tubular shaft (Photo F) moves the drum laterally 1/8 inch per turn.

The pen-motor coil (Fig. 4-a) is wound of 600 turns of No. 40 enamel wire on a 2 x 2 1/8-inch form. The coil cross-section is about 1/4 x 1/6 inch, and the coil is made self-supporting with epoxy. The form is removed after the epoxy sets.

The bottom of the coil is supported by a 1/8 inch length of music wire which serves as a torsion spring to return the
arm to center. The top of the coil has a steel rod which fits into a brass bearing, and on which the pen assembly is mounted (Fig. 4-b).

The pole pieces (Fig. 4-c) form a 1/8-inch gap on each side for the coil, providing an overgrown meter movement. The pen arm (Fig. 4-d) is hard stainless-steel tubing 6 inches long mounted on the top of the coil. Its light sheet-metal housing is pivoted so the tip rests lightly on the recording cylinder (Photo G). The ink is fed to the tube through thin-wall plastic tubing from an inkwell (Photo H). The inkpen arm (Fig. 4-d) is hard stainless-steel tubing 6 inches long if a twisted shielded pair is used. Connect one end of the shield to the seismo frame and the other to the amplifier ground. The coil leads should not be grounded.

The marker clock can be made from almost any type of electric clock. Two contact springs are installed and insulated from the frame. See Photo H. The second and minute hands each contact one spring momentarily, each time around, at the 12 o'clock point. These contact closures make the minute and hour marks for the recorder.

Fig. 5 shows a recording of a serious earth disturbance later found to have originated in the Gulf of California on December 22, 1964, and several hours of relatively uniform local disturbances known to have been caused by earth-moving equipment about a quarter of a mile away. Note the relatively straight line in the center of all the confusion. That came while the earth movers were taking time out for lunch, just before the Gulf disturbance, which was great enough to cause the recorder to hit the limit stops. The recordings were made with the gain on the amplifier (September 1966, page 54) set to position 3 and the filter on 4.

**Installation and results**

The seismo is best placed on a large hard mass, such as concrete. It should, of course, be located as far as possible from roads or large machinery. The line from the seismo to the amplifier may be several hundred feet long if a twisted shielded pair is used. Connect one end of the shield to the seismo frame and the other to the amplifier ground. The coil leads should not be grounded.

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END
High Input Impedance for Multitesters

Change your ordinary 20,000 ohms-per-volt meter so it doesn’t load hi-Z circuits

By J. H. PHELPS

The advent of transistor circuitry, with its higher current, lower voltage levels and lower impedance levels, has not eliminated the need for high-impedance voltmeters. Converting a good-quality VOM to high impedance is a practical way to fill the occasional need to measure voltage in sensitive circuits without affecting the result by drawing significant current through the meter.

The circuit shown draws 1 µA for full-scale deflection on the 1-volt scale and 100 nA for full-scale deflection on the 10-volt scale; it provides an input sensitivity of 1 megohm per volt.

The dc amplifier is a two-stage differential amplifier using high-gain silicon transistors. It has a zero adjustment and a full-scale adjustment for both voltage ranges.

The differential connection assures temperature stability. Zero-position drift during warmup does not occur as it does in vacuum-tube voltmeters. Standby current drawn from the two 1.5-volt batteries is only several tenths of a microampere, so no on-off switch is required.

The amplifier connects to the meter through pin or banana plugs. The amplifier will work with most multitesters having a 60-100-µA basic movement.

After power is applied, zero is adjusted by shorting the input terminals and setting the 10K pot (start near the center of rotation). Next, the 1-volt scale is set. A low-voltage source may be devised using a 1.5-volt battery and a pot of 100-500 ohms. Set it (using the parent VOM) to 1 volt.

The 10V scale can be calibrated with a 12-volt car battery and the same 500-ohm pot. Be sure to select a pot in the range specified. If a lower value is used, make certain that heating of the pot is not excessive. The 10V-scale pot is adjusted to correspond with the VOM voltage reading of the calibration source.

END
Those seemingly abstract electrical quantities we work with are as real as inches, hours or pounds

By ROBERT G. MIDDLETON

What are we talking about when we say that 2 volts will push 1 ampere through 2 ohms of resistance? These are conventional dimensions with which we measure the things we deal with in electronics. And if you can measure a thing, you know it," as any television troubleshooter will tell you.

Electric quantities—voltage, current, charge, resistance, capacitance, inductance—are the foundation of electronics. But what are these so-called electric quantities? It is highly frustrating to use these dimensions unless we understand what volts and amperes and coulombs and ohms and farads and henrys are, and where they come from.

Where it all starts

Simple electrics are a part of ordinary physics, and our familiar physical units go back to Newton's laws of motion. As we learned (or forgot) in high school, things remain at rest or move in a state of uniform motion (like a satellite in "free fall") unless they're acted upon by some external force. Force is equal to mass times acceleration. In other words, if you want to move a thing you have to apply a force to it. The amount of force you have to apply depends on two things: the mass of the object you are moving, and how fast you are accelerating it. (The reason we say "accelerate" instead of "move" is that once you get a thing moving at a certain rate it will keep on moving at the certain rate unless friction, gravity or some other force slows it down and stops it.)

So force is equal to mass times the rate of change in velocity. Suppose you have a drag racer that accelerates smoothly from a standstill to 100 mph in 20 seconds. Obviously, your acceleration is equal to a rate of change in velocity of 5 mph per second. At the end of each second you are traveling 5 mph faster than you did the second before.

We see that the basic quantities in this law of motion are length (distance), time and mass. Believe it or not, these same basic quantities apply in electronics. We may consider, for convenience, that the mass of an object is equal to its weight. This is not true for satellites between the earth and Mars where an object of considerable mass can be weightless, but we will keep our feet on the ground for present purposes.

Of course, our choice of basic physical units (meters, seconds, etc.) is not really fundamental except in a practical sense. Nature knows nothing of miles, pounds (see Fig. 1.), or hours. We have bundled distance, mass and space into units that are convenient to us—the length of our own feet, for example. (One unit, the meter, was supposed to be a natural one, a 10-millionth of the distance between the earth's surface and its center, but the scientists who made the original calculation didn't get quite the right answer.) Physicists have guessed that the truly basic units of nature are the electrons and the quantities of mass and energy associated with them. But no physicist would go further than to say this is a shrewd guess.

Even though we cannot claim sure access to the absolute in nature's scheme of things, we feel that we are on the practical in expressing physical units in terms of length, mass and time—foot, pound, minute (or better, if we want to calculate with them—meter, kilogram, second). We are not so familiar with the units of force, even though we throw around terms like watts or horsepower. For calculations, the fundamental unit of force is the dyne, the unit that will accelerate a mass of 1 gram 1 centimeter per second per second. Since in electronics, we deal mostly with forces, this is an important quantity to us.

In the realm of electricity, Coulomb's law is as fundamental as the law of mechanics: \( F = ma \). Coulomb observed how the force between two electrical charges varies with the distance between them. He determined the law that the force between two charged bodies varies inversely as their distance and directly as a product of the two charges.

\[ F = \frac{q_1 q_2}{r^2} \]

where \( F \) is the force of attraction or repulsion, \( q_1 \) and \( q_2 \) are the quantities of charge, and \( r \) is the distance between the two charges (Fig. 2). The force is attractive if the charges are positive and negative, and repulsive if both charges have the same sign. But it is the same strength in either case.

Getting down to dimensions

So what is all this about? We have shown that electricity can be defined in terms of force and distance. The electric charge \( q \) is a given number (mass) of electrons, and the force depends on how large these groups of electrons are and how far away they are from each other. Let us put this into units. The fundamen-
tial electrostatic unit (esu) of electric charge is called a statcoulomb. and is that quantity of electricity which exerts a force of 1 dyne on an equal charge 1 cm away. This is a fundamental electric unit, but a little small for practical use. We have accepted the coulomb as the practical unit of charge. It is equal to 3 \times 10^9 statcoulombs. If a coulomb passes a given point in one second, the current is 1 ampere. So we have defined charge in terms of length and mass. Time enters when we define current flow.

Magnets, too

The electromagnetic unit (emu) of magnetic charge was defined, also by Coulomb, in the same way. The unit pole is one that will repel a like magnetic pole or attract an unlike pole 1 centimeter from it with a force of 1 dyne (Fig. 3). So magnetism also has the dimensions of time, length and distance (remember that time enters into the dyne—it is a force that will accelerate a gram 1 cm per second in 1 second). Incidentally, we use the magnetic unit in practical work. One unit pole creates a flux density of one line per square centimeter, and flux is measured in lines per square centimeter, or gauss.

The units we use

But we are chiefly interested in practical units, like volts, amperes and watts. We already have one: the coulomb, a quantity of electricity (or a number of electrons—6.28 \times 10^{18}, if you wish). And we have more or less defined the ampere in terms of mass and time in defining the coulomb. An ampere is the rate of current flow when 1 coulomb passes a given point in 1 second.

Potential, or electromotive force, is the force required to move a charge of electricity from one point to another against whatever force is acting against it in an electric field (in technicians' language, to get it "above ground"). In fundamental terms (esu's) the figures mean little to the practical man, but: 1 volt is that amount of electric potential required to transfer 1 coulomb of charge between two points (Fig. 4) by the expenditure of 1 erg of work.

So, as soon as we find out what an erg is, we will know the volt. The erg is a unit of work, and is better known to the electrical man as a part of a watt. It also goes back to the fundamental units of force, distance, and time: the erg is a dyne-centimeter, or the work done when a force of 1 dyne is applied through a distance of 1 centimeter. When 1 erg of work is performed in 1 second, this constitutes 1 erg/second of power. 10^7 erg/seconds equals 1 watt.

The unit of capacitance is a description of an electric container, rather than a directly electrical unit. We use it and are interested in it. The unit of capacitance is the farad, the size of the capacitor that will store 1 coulomb of electricity with a potential of 1 volt across its terminals. So you can trace that back to time, distance and force, too.

Inductance and resistance are measured by the force required to drive electrons through them. Inductance is related to time: When a current change of 1 ampere in 1 second in a circuit magnetically induces in the circuit an electromotive force of 1 volt, the circuit has an inductance of 1 henry. And if 1 ampere flowing through a circuit produces a continuous drop of 1 volt across it, that circuit has a resistance of 1 ohm.

These dimensions of electrical quantities not only give us a better idea of their significance but also show how they are defined in a particular system of measurement. (Dimensions change from one system of electrical measurements to another. This is inescapable because these dimensions have the essence of definitions, and it has been found convenient to define electrical quantities somewhat differently in the various systems of measurement.)

We have started with fundamental electrostatic and electromagnetic units and shown how they are related to those we use in practical work. And although simple electrics is not difficult, we see that we have to know our physics, and we have to mind our p's and q's. Electronics becomes more interesting when we see how it is tied into the laws of mechanics. Electronics grows out of mechanics, and dimensional analysis shows us this process of growth.
The Ground—Is It Grounded?

You too can learn this simple, do-it-yourself way to get erroneous resistance readings—it's easy to overlook what you take for granted

By JACK DARR

THE HORIZONTAL OSCILLATOR'S NOT working right; plate voltage off. Measure resistances in plate circuit (Fig. 1). Aha! Zero resistance across R52. Bad resistor. Replace it.

Huh? Same symptoms? Same voltages? Measure resistor just removed. Hmm...56K, just what the schematic calls for. What's going on here? An intermittingly shorted resistor, that healed up when we took it out? Ohmmeter gone bad all of a sudden? Check test resistor, 1 meg at 1%, kept for the purpose. Nope. Ohmmeter right on the nose! Well, what is it, then?

We have just been led up the garden path by a common, but often unnoticed, phenomenon. One that I've run into many, many times in the past, cursed, bemoaned, into many, many times in the past, when we hook up our ohmmeter, we get something like Fig. 2. Now, we have at least two paths back to chassis, and some pretty weird resistance readings.

Parallel-circuit theory

For instance, here's what we got in an actual check on the circuit of Fig. 1. In each case, we checked the resistor, then reversed the ohmmeter prods and took a second reading: R51 (actually 220K), 25K/185K; R52 (56K), 56K/0; R55 (80K), 14K/70K. (Incidentally, the ohmmeter of a vom showed the right resistance across each one.)

We made these tests with the ac line cord plugged in—set not turned on, of course! Reversing the line cord made no difference. But when the line cord was pulled out of the socket, the vtvm ohmmeter read the same as the vom.

This effect is worse in transformerless sets, such as the Truetone 2DC-1030A we took Figs. 1 and 2 from. In such circuits, we have a permanent path to chassis from one side of the ac line. On the other side, we have several “directional” components—selenium or silicon rectifiers, electrolytic capacitors.

In testing any of these parts by itself, we expect a difference in reading when the ohmmeter prods are switched (ohmmeter polarity reversed). In a circuit, we get the same thing. In many cases, the various paths come out in parallel, and the total resistance to ground is pretty small. For example, measuring from the ac line plug of the Truetone to chassis, we got zero on one prod, and 14K on the other. From B+ to ground, we got about 6K.

This even shows up in sets with power transformers, although we tend to think of those as completely isolated from the line. True, in that respect, but many sets use resistors from the primary connection to chassis! We checked three transformer chassis on the bench, just to see, and found resistors in all of them—from 100K to 470K. So, you'll get the same results, although not as bad, if you leave these sets plugged in while testing. Proof that this is the basic cause of the trouble: we hooked all our test sets up through an isolation transformer, and the effect disappeared completely.

The old reliable

There is a simple cure for this problem. Just be very sure that all other connections are taken off the chassis before making any resistance tests. Quickcheck, and a positive one: Leave the ground lead of the ohmmeter completely off, and jab the “hot” lead of the ohmmeter to the chassis of the set you are testing. Set the ohmmeter on about a ×1K scale, since this is where the effect is the worst. It's also the scale you'll
Handy Way to Adjust Bias

By DANIEL R. VON RECKLINGHAUSEN*

If your amplifier is to operate with low distortion and with good efficiency, it must have the proper supply voltages and a selected zero-signal current. This requirement is severe in push-pull output stages, and more severe in class-B than in class-AB or class-A operation.

Since tubes vary from unit to unit, their bias voltage has to be adjusted for proper zero-signal current. Customarily, this current is measured with a d.c. milliammeter, or with a voltmeter reading the voltage drop across a small-value resistor inserted in one of the supply leads of the output stage. This simple zero-signal current-test circuit has been developed for use when a suitable meter is not available.

In the circuit of H. H. Scott model 200-B amplifier, tubes V2 and V3 (Fig. 1) are the push-pull output stage for the left channel. B+ voltage is supplied to the screen grids and to the plates through the center tap of the transformer. Grid bias is supplied from the B—supply through bias adjustment potentiometer R211 and resistors R36, R37, R38 and R39. Cathode current for both tubes flows from ground by way of resistors R45, R46 and R40. Components for the right channel are identical in value and function.

Tubes V2 and V3 are connected in parallel and may therefore be represented as an equivalent adjustable resistance R. The value of R is equal to the tube’s voltage drop divided by the total cathode current.

As shown in the simplified schematic of Fig. 2, resistors R40 and R1 can be regarded as two arms of a resistance bridge, the other two arms being reference resistors R208 and R209. (Similarly R5, R140, R208 and R209 form a second bridge.) When the cathode currents are properly adjusted (which makes resistor R1 or R5 its desired value), there will be no voltage difference and the bridge is balanced.

A jumper must be connected between the test point of the channel being adjusted and the input of the other channel.

If the cathode current is not adjusted properly, a voltage difference will exist. When the bias switch is closed, the voltage difference will become zero, and this changed voltage is transmitted as a pulse through capacitor C204 and the other section of the bias switch to the left test point. This pulse is amplified to produce a click in the right-channel loudspeaker.

The bias-adjustment switch is nonshorting, i.e., the contacts break before they make. The values of capacitor C204 and resistor R207 are chosen so that C204 can fully charge or discharge in the switching interval. Therefore, repeated switch operation will cause audible clicks as long as the bridge is out of balance. Proper adjustment of bias control R211 is thus possible by setting for minimum click loudness.

The second half of the bias adjustment switch is included so that current in the other output stage may be adjusted. The clicks due to the left output-stage adjustment go only to the left test point, and clicks for the right-channel adjustment go only to the right-channel test point. In either case, the opposite channel is used as the click amplifier.

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*Chief Research Engineer, H. H. Scott, Inc.
Sensitive Electronic Relay

By REGINALD W. NEALE

HAVE YOU EVER WISHED FOR A relay with high input impedance that required negligible input power? If an occasional project seems to need something special, this device may be it! It features a low, stable pull-in voltage. Hysteresis—the difference between pull-in and drop-out levels—is reduced to less than 1% of input voltage.

Ordinary electromagnetic relays don't even approach these specs. Commercially available solid-state relays are expensive, and usually require substantial amounts of driving power. They are also subject to failure if their ratings are even momentarily exceeded.

The device described here satisfies the requirements quite well by using a novel circuit to drive a conventional relay. The resulting electronic relay is inexpensive, but remarkably precise and reliable.

Pull-in voltage is about 1 volt. Input impedance is 1.2 mgs; input power less than 1 µW. Compensation is provided for temperature and line-voltage variations. Almost any sort of transducer can be used to activate the relay circuit. Ac-powered loads such as motors or lamps can be controlled precisely by thermistors, photocells, etc.

The characteristics of this circuit are due to two silicon controlled switches (SCS), which are related to the silicon controlled rectifier. In addition to the cathode gate used by an SCR, the SCS has an anode gate, which can trigger it with a negative-going pulse. Once triggered, the SCS will continue conducting until its anode voltage is momentarily reduced to zero.

Fig. 1 shows the circuit. Q1 provides the high input sensitivity and low hysteresis. Q2 supplies the electronic "snap-action" that operates the mechanical relay positively. The anodes of both SCS's are fed by 10-20 volts ac from transformer T.

As the input voltage at point A reaches a level which will trigger Q1, usually about 1 volt, the SCS will latch on during each positive half-cycle and turn off during each negative half-cycle. Fig. 2 shows the Q1 anode-voltage waveform for this condition.

The steep negative step, which occurs in Q1's anode waveform as the switch suddenly conducts at turn-on, is coupled by C1 to Q2's anode gate. Q2 triggers, and C2 charges to about 20 volts. As the supply voltage crosses zero, beginning the negative half-cycle, Q2 stops conducting. The charge on C2 holds the relay in and keeps the anode of Q2 negative, preventing it from turning on again until most of the charge has leaked off through the relay coil. When C2 has nearly discharged, Q2's anode will no longer be reverse-biased. If Q1 is still coupling pulses to Q2's anode gate, Q2 will latch on, recharging C2 for another interval. This sequence, repeating about every third or fourth positive half-cycle, keeps the relay actuated as long as the input voltage remains above Q1's triggering level.

In some applications, the exact value of trigger voltage may be critical. Two refinements help maintain a stable operating point. The components shown in heavy lines in Fig. 1 compensate for line-voltage fluctuations. Increased line voltage would ordinarily allow a smaller drive input to trigger Q1. D3, R5, R6 and C3 develop a small negative bias and feed it to Q1's cathode gate through R7. This compensating bias changes with line voltage, and offsets any effects on sensitivity.

Temperature compensation is provided by diodes D1 and D2. Reverse leakage in D2 is all that reaches Q1's anode gate on positive half-cycles. A positive voltage reverse-biases the anode gate, making it more difficult for Q1 to trigger. Since diode leakage increases with temperature, it helps cancel cathode-gate sensitivity changes that occur with higher temperatures. "Bargain-type" diodes work well in this application, since their leakage doesn't hurt anything. Variations in SCS characteristics may make it necessary to alter voltage divider R6-R7 slightly for optimum temperature compensation, and you may have to hand-pick D2.

Construction technique is not critical. The unit shown in the illustration has small parts mounted on a perforated circuit card. The "doorbell" transformer, relay and other hardware are fastened to the 3 x 4 x 4-inch cabinet.

Front view of electronic relay is an indication of its simplicity, small size and utility.
Most of the components are mounted on the perforated board. Solderless connector (wire nut) is to the left of transformer T.

Relay contacts are brought out to a terminal strip at the rear of the cabinet. The original unit used a rather expensive Struthers-Dunn relay, but others can be substituted. The alternate relays in the parts list have the advantage of heavier dpdt contacts. Moderately sensitive relays having a dc coil resistance of more than 200 ohms can be used, with the value of C2 depending on coil resistance. Response time also depends on the relay. It's typically 20-50 msec for pull-in and 100-200 msec for dropout.

If the relay actuates in the absence of a signal, or does not actuate when a signal is applied, try changing the value of R3. Optimum value for different SCS's ranges from 100 meg down to 100K. [R3 was omitted and Q2's cathode-gate circuit was open in the unit shown in the photos.—Editor]

As the input voltage approaches the triggering value, a few millivolts of noise superimposed on the signal can cause the relay to trip. The noise can be from a nearby appliance being switched on or off, from stray 60-Hz hum fields, etc. As with any high-sensitivity, high-impedance device, maximum performance may require external noise-reduction techniques.

The completed instrument may be used for any application in which a feeble sensing signal at some predetermined level must switch a heavy load. It's a natural for automatic control of battery chargers, lighting systems, heating elements, chemical processes and humidifiers.

WHAT'S YOUR EQ?

Diode Motor Control?

This black box is powered by a 117-volt ac line and has an ac-motor load. If the switch is opened or the diode D1 reversed, the motor does not run. The box contains four components; no tubes, transistors, relays or resistors are used. Can you determine these components?—Thomas Mayfield

Too-Bright Lamp

A 150-mA, 6-volt pilot lamp is to be powered from a 120-volt, 60-Hz power line through a dropping resistor. In an attempt to reduce power dissipation in the resistor, a diode is added to allow conduction only on half-cycles. This resistor is 380 ohms which, without the diode, would allow 300 mA to flow on each half cycle.

Conducted by E. D. CLARK

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Hewlett-Packard 427A Multi-Function Meter

Circle 32 on reader's service card

FOR A TEST-EQUIPMENT-HAPPY TYPE like me, it's a real joy to have the chance to evaluate a fine unit like the Hewlett-Packard 427A Multi-Function Meter. The manufacturer of this little jewel specializes in laboratory test equipment, most of which the average service technician seldom sees. The 427A, however, has been designed to provide laboratory accuracy within the price range of ordinary shop-type instruments.

The 427A is a compact instrument—only 5 x 6 x 8 inches—with king-sized qualifications. It can read dc voltages from 100 mV to 1,000 volts full scale, ac volts from 10 mV to 300 volts full scale, and resistance from 10 ohms to 10 mgs, center scale. A dBm scale permits reading ac voltage values in dBm (0 dBm = 0.775 volt across a 600-ohm load). A conversion chart in the comprehensive instruction book is used to obtain accurate readings when the load is of any other value and to convert directly from dBm to dB or from dB to dBm.

Input impedance is 10 mgs on all ranges, and accuracy is ±2% of full scale on all ranges. The instrument will withstand accidental overloads as great as—to quote the manufacturer—not more than 300 volts on the 0.1-volt scale and 425 volts on scales over 1 volt. An accessory capacitive voltage divider (1,000:1) will extend the ac voltage range to a maximum of 25 kV.

The voltage sensitivity of this little instrument is amazing. On dc-volt scales, you can see a 0.002-volt (2.0 mV!) deflection of the meter. On ac-volt scales, more so than that: you can see a deflection of 0.002 volt (that's two-tenths of a millivolt!). This range is so sensitive you may have trouble getting the needle to stand still. With unshielded test leads lying on the bench, I noticed what appeared to be an erratic meter deflection. It turned out the leads were picking up rf voltage from a radio station over a mile away! However, when the test leads were hooked into the i.f. section of a transistor radio, the indicator needle was stable. The low-impedance circuitry damped things down so that there was no trouble. For best results in very low-level work, however, shielded test leads probably should be used.

The range of scales is very useful for low-voltage work; it's likely the designers had transistor circuits in mind when they chose them. Only two basic scales are used, 0-1 and 0-3. This provides center-scale readings of 0.5, 5, 50 and 500 volts, and 0.15, 1.5, 15 and 150 volts, etc.

I had an assortment of transistorized items on the bench when the 427A arrived, and it's really a pleasure to work with in troubleshooting transistor circuits. It's especially handy for reading bias voltages down in the tenths-of-a-volt range.

The ac voltage scales are useful for signal tracing. The manufacturer's specifications for this instrument indicate a frequency range flat from 5 Hz to 1 MHz, and within ±3 dB from 1 Hz to

![Diagram](https://example.com/diagram.png)
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Almost 4 MHz. While I didn't verify the spec, I got very good readings while signal tracing through f.t. stages of radio—for audio frequencies, signal tracing's a snap. By feeding in a steady sine-wave signal, I could go through the audio stages and make about the fastest stage-gain checks I ever made. In fact, the first time, I found an open coupling capacitor in less than 45 seconds! I am not joking! I hooked an af signal to the top of the volume control, took three voltage measurements, and there it was. Signal here—no signal there.

In further checks, I got such typical readings as 10 mV on the base and 170 mV on the collector of an af-amplifier transistor; the drive stage showed 0.1 volt base and 1.2 volts collector, and so on. Such tests as these are as simple as making dc-voltage readings in a tube-type radio.

The 427A is battery-powered, using a standard 22.5-volt battery (Everready 763, RCA VS-102, etc.) There also is an ac-powered version which functions on either ac or battery; a slide switch on the back selects the desired power supply. A five-transistor, one-Zener power-supply regulator circuit works even during battery operation and holds supply voltages to very close limits.

In the ocv position, the dc range attenuator (voltage divider) is connected across the voltage to be measured. In steps of 10 dB, the selected fraction of the input voltage is fed to the dc filter circuit. This rejects any superimposed ac, noise or whatever other non-dc signal might be present. In fact, this instrument will read dc voltages accurately, according to the manufacturer, even if there is ac present up to 100 times greater than full scale! One of the tests mentioned in the instruction-manual maintenance section involved applying 10 volts peak ac to the 0.1-volt dc range: the needle must not deflect more than 1 scale division (±1%).

In the dc amplifier an FET is used, because of its very high input-impedance characteristic. In this circuit, a dc-offset circuit compensates for the very minute (a fraction of a nanowatt) gate-leakage current of the input transistor, the presence of which could cause a few millivolts deflection on the meter during high-impedance dc measurements. A reverse-biased diode bounces this current. The compensating diode and the input transistor have nearly identical temperature characteristics, so the overall circuit remains compensated at all times. When an increased temperature causes the gate leakage to increase, the bucking current from the dc-offset circuit also increases.

On ac-voltage ranges, the input goes to a frequency-compensated atten-
Alliance Solid-State Tenna-Rotor

Circle 33 on reader's service card

A totally electronic concept based on a phase-sensitive bridge is used in a transistorized control for the Alliance C-255 Tenna-Rotor automatic rotator for TV, FM, amateur and CB antennas. The control is self-syncing, controls the antenna within $3^\circ$, and is completely silent.

Fig. 1 shows the basic phase bridge that controls the electronic circuit. Arms BC and BD are halves of a center-tapped winding, part of the power transformer. The voltages across BC and BD are equal and $180^\circ$ out of phase. Arm AC (R3) is a 511-ohm precision unit and AD consists of two 520-ohm rheostats, R1 and R2. R1 is the direction control in the control box, and R2 is the sensing resistor ganged to the rotor. The bridge is balanced when the sum of R1 and R2 equals R3.

If R1 is changed, the bridge is unbalanced and an error voltage is developed across terminals AB. If R1 is increased, the voltage will be in phase with voltage BC. If R1 is decreased, the error voltage is in phase with voltage BD.

Thus, when the bridge is unbalanced, the voltage amplitude indicates the amount of imbalance and the phase indicates the direction.

Fig. 2 shows the basic circuit in more detail. The transistor is zero-biased and operated as an electronic switch. Its collector is fed through two paths—one through diode D1 and loads 1 and 3, the other through D2 and loads 1 and 2. D1 and D2 supply pulses that are $180^\circ$ out of phase, but negative with recontinued on page 76

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The control knob is ganged to R1 and S1. S1-a is normally open and S1-b normally closed. When the knob is turned in either direction, the first two or three degrees of rotation close S1-a and open S1-b. This energizes the bridge and opens the circuit to the motor. Opening S1-b prevents the motor from starting before the bridge has determined which way the rotor must turn. The switch contacts return to their normal positions as soon as the knob is released.

Assume that the antenna is pointing east and we turn the control knob to the south position. This decreases R1’s resistance and unbalances the bridge. The error voltage at the junction of R1 and R3 is fed to the base of preamplifier Q1. It is in phase with the voltage at B and out of phase with that at A.

When A is positive, the error voltage applies a negative biasing pulse to Q1’s base. This increases the collector current through R5. A positive pulse through C3 keeps Q2 completely cut off, even though its collector receives a negative pulse from D2.

On the next half-cycle, point B and the error voltage are positive. Q1’s collector current drops, developing a negative pulse at Q2’s base. At the same time, point A is negative and D1 delivers a negative pulse to Q2’s collector. A half-wave pulse of current flows through R4 and RY2. (Collector current cannot flow through RY1 at this instant because D2’s cathode is positive and the circuit through RY1 is effectively open.) C2 filters these half-wave pulses and holds RY2 closed. RY2’s contacts are in parallel with S1-a so the transformer remains energized after the control knob is released. Releasing the knob closes S1-b and applies voltage to the armature of RY2.

RY1 is not energized so the motor is actuated through the normally closed contacts and the motor runs clockwise. As the antenna turns, the motor also turns R2 clockwise, increasing its resistance to rebalance the bridge. When the antenna is pointing in the desired direction, the bridge output drops to zero, RY2 releases and the primary circuit opens.

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Correct

There is an error in the large PC board for the metal locator on page 56 of the July issue. In the left-hand part of Fig. 2, there should be a foil link between the lower mounting hole for C9 and the left mounting hole for R12. When the link is added, it completes the necessary connection between C9 and R11 and the base of Q2.

Our thanks to Mr. Garland Hiestand, of Elmirga, N.Y., who also pointed out that the author’s description of the modifications on the Lafayette amplifier are not always valid. Some units have the red and orange leads transposed. In either case, the two switch leads can be soldered together. Mr. Hiestand also mentioned that he did not detect any errors in the pictorial diagram supplied with his amplifier.

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NEW SEMICONDUCTORS, MICROCIRCUITS & TUBES

TRANSISTORS FOR OTL AMPLIFIER

The RCA 40234, 40395 and 40396 are a group of four transistors especially designed for complementary-symmetry OTL output circuits in audio amplifiers. The 40234 is a silicon npn designed for service as a direct-coupled driver for the complementary-symmetry output stage. The 40395 is a high-gain pnp germanium transistor with controlled noise current, for use in input and other low level stages operating at signal levels as low as 1/2 μW.

The 40396 is the designation for a matched pair of germanium power transistors, one npn and one pnp type. The pair can deliver up to 1 watt rms into a 16-ohm speaker with 10% total harmonic distortion, when used in the circuit shown. Maximum ratings are:

\[
\begin{array}{cccccc}
V_{CEO} & V_{CEO} & V_{CEO} & V_{CEO} & V_{CEO} \\
-20 & 18 & 18 & -18 & -18
\end{array}
\]

\[
\begin{array}{cccccc}
V_{CEO} & V_{CEO} & V_{CEO} & V_{CEO} & V_{CEO} \\
-20 & 18 & 18 & -18 & -18
\end{array}
\]

\[
\begin{array}{cccccc}
L_{(mA)} & L_{(mA)} & L_{(mA)} & L_{(mA)} & L_{(mA)} \\
-20 & 5 & 2.5 & -2.5 & -50
\end{array}
\]

\[
\begin{array}{cccccc}
\text{Diss. (mW)} & \text{Diss. (mW)} & \text{Diss. (mW)} & \text{Diss. (mW)} & \text{Diss. (mW)} \\
\text{to 50°C} & \text{to 50°C} & \text{to 50°C} & \text{to 50°C} & \text{to 50°C}
\end{array}
\]

\[
\begin{array}{cccccc}
\text{Diss. (mW)} & \text{Diss. (mW)} & \text{Diss. (mW)} & \text{Diss. (mW)} & \text{Diss. (mW)} \\
\text{case} & \text{case} & \text{case} & \text{case} & \text{case}
\end{array}
\]

The phono amplifier shown is designed for a crystal cartridge with approximately 0.001 μF capacitance and 1.5 to 2 volts output. At 0.5 watt output, the total harmonic distortion, hum and noise combined do not exceed 2%. With the tone control in the "flat" position, response is flat from 180 Hz to 20 kHz. The tone (treble) control is a feedback type providing a maximum boost of about 9 dB and cut of 20 dB at 18 kHz when the volume control is set at maximum. The turnover point is approximately 700 Hz. When the volume control is set 20 dB below maximum output, the frequencies between 200 and 1,000 Hz are boosted with a peak of about 8 dB at 3 kHz. The turnover point moves to about 1,500 Hz and the treble boost and cut slopes are sharper. The matched-pair output transistors should be mounted on a heat sink of at least 4 square inches per transistor. They should be clamped to the chassis or heat sink with clips such as the RCA type SA2100.

PLASTIC-PACKAGED TRANSISTORS

Motorola Semiconductor Products has some new Unibloc (plastic encased) low-cost silicon transistors, the 2N3903-6 series. Specifications for the complementary 2N3903 npn and 2N3905 pnp transistors are: \(B_{VCEO} = 40\) volts, \(h_{FE} = (1 \text{ mA/} \text{V})\) is 50 to 130, \(C_{on}\) at 5 volts is 4 and 4.5 pF, respectively. \(f_{2} = (10 \text{ mA/20V}) = 250\) MHz for the former and 200 MHz for the latter.

For the complementary 2N3904 npn and 2N3906 pnp transistors, \(B_{VCEO}\) is 40, \(h_{FE}\) is 100 to 300. \(C_{on}\) is 4 and 4.5 pF, respectively. The 2N3904 has an \(f_{2}\) rating of 300 MHz while the 2N3906 is rated at 250 MHz.

Another "new from Motorola" is a line of matched-pair transistors—called Twins—in a single package. Twins are available as matched npn/pnp transistors or two of the same type. They are available as complementary pairs, Darlington and differential amplifiers with power and switching speeds to meet almost any need.
HIGH-POWER NPN'S

The B-143009-B-143014 and B-143024-B-143029 are in a series of Bendix 5-amp npn silicon transistors for rf power amplifiers and oscillators to be used in hf and vhf communications transmitters, pulse generators, high-frequency inverters and ultrasonic applications.

$V_{ces}$ ranges from 50 to 90 volts, depending on the transistor. The units are supplied in TO-5 and MT-27 packages. Introduced at the same time is a series of eighteen 10-amp silicon power transistors. Information and specifications can be obtained from Bendix Semiconductor Division, Holmdel, N. J.

COMPACTRONS FOR COLOR TV

General Electric has introduced five new multifunction compactron tubes for color sets. Six of these tubes can replace up to 13 non-compactron types.

- **6AG9**—Ultra high transconductance video output pentode and general-purpose triode.
- **6AG10** and **10AG10**—High-level color demodulator drives picture tube without additional amplification.
- **6EF4**—Improved 40-watt high-voltage regulator tube with new shield to prevent destructive arcing.
- **40KD6**—Series-string version of 6KD6. Has high perveance to minimize snivets and other spurious oscillations within the tube.

INFRARED DIODE

The 4107 gallium arsenide electroluminescent diode is a high-intensity solid-state infrared light source for card length of 9,000 Angstroms which can be efficiently detected by a silicon photodiode such as the 4205. The 4107 and 4205 are available through Hewlett-Packard Associates.

HIGH-POWERED RECTIFIER

The Westinghouse 790 high-voltage silicon rectifier is designed for improved efficiency in 1,000- to 2,400-volt applications. Its compression-bonded encapsulation withstands a 1-cycle surge of 4,500 amps. The rugged ceramic seal lengthens the potential current leakage path.

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OBSOLETE ALL 23 CHANNEL
CB TRANSCEIVERS!

99-3075WX*
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TECHNOTES

VERTICAL TROUBLES IN CTC12

In this chassis, low or unstable vertical sweep may be
cased by an arcing 47-meg resistor (R111) connecting the
focus voltage through the 1-meg resistor to the vertical os-
cillator plate (pin 5) and making vertical sweep and focus
eratic. If the resistor is open, vertical sweep is weak. By
readjusting height and vertical linearity controls it is possible
to fill out the screen, but then vertical hold gets critical and
the picture starts to roll with the slightest bit of interference
or line-voltage fluctuation.

The replacement resistor should be dressed in the open
away from all other parts and the chassis.

On rare occasions, a 6BK4 leaky shunt regulator may lower
B-boost and cause poor focus and low vertical sweep.—V. Karitons

OLYMPIC 23-INCH MODELS

Weak or snowy uhf reception may be caused by a weak
uhf diode or a defective uhf tuner in sets using the NCP
chassis (runs 11 and 12).

Check the tuner. The ceramic stud which supports the oscil-
lator tuning element may have cracked loose from inside
the case. This is a very difficult repair to make, so replace
the tuner with one bearing the same part number.

Replace the uhf diode if the tuner is OK.—Olympic
Service Bulletin
RCA KC597W—BAD SYNC

Symptoms on this TV screen looked like horizontal sync or agc trouble. All the tubes and voltages were checked, with no input signal to the sync circuit. When the sync stabilizer control was advanced, the set would perform a little better.

The horizontal hold control had little effect and was quite critical in adjustment.

When signal was injected into the sync section with an Analyst at pin 1 of the sync output stage, the picture would hold, but not well enough. The whole sync section was checked and voltages were quite good, except for a -47 volts on pin 7 instead of -73 volts.

The tube was pulled and resistance measurements were made across capacitors and resistors. Resistor R171, 82K, had increased to 2 megohms. The resistor was replaced and we were back in business.—Homer L. Davidson

HEATH 0-12: FEEBLE TRACE

A Heath model 0-12 oscilloscope became inoperable within a few minutes of being turned on. The trace would become progressively weaker and finally disappear even at full brightness setting. Occasionally it would reappear faintly, pulsate, then disappear again. All tubes, including the CRT, were good. Replacing the high-voltage filter capacitors failed to cure the trouble. The .02-µF 1,600-volt capacitor that couples the output of the blanking amplifier to the cathode of the CRT tested good on a capacitor checker. On the megohm scale of a vvm, however, it showed very slight leakage. Further checks showed that in the presence of high voltage and heat leakage increased. Replacing this capacitor restored the scope to normal.—Klaus Halm

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FM/AM/SW RECEIVER, model S-210. 6 bands including AM and FM broadcast, plus 4 short-wave bands. Bandspread tuning on short-wave bands. 3 dual-purpose, 3 single-purpose tubes. Power supply 105-120 volt 60-Hz ac. 14% x 3% x 5% in.—Hallicrafters Co.
Circle 46 on reader's service card

HIGH-BAND FM MOBILE RADIO, model DT75. "Instant-heat" transmitter driver and output stages, 6-second operating time. Amp-Miser current-saver circuit reduces battery drain in receive mode to 110 mA; 6.5 amps on transmit. Can be used with several base stations without individual netting. Sensitivity 0.3 µV. 10% x 3% x 5% in.—Kaar Electronics Corp.
Circle 47 on reader's service card

AEROSOL WINDOW CLEANER, Colorcleer. Contains ammonia-base glass cleaner, plus antistatic agent to discourage dust accumulation on TV picture-tube screens. Increases clarity of picture, which is more important in highly-critical color or receiver. Pressure-spray can.—GC Electronics
Circle 48 on reader's service card

PLIERS, catalog No. D 366-6C, minimize bending of wrist. Curve of handle fits in palm, thumb rests on shield. Long nose reaches into confined space. Handles cushioned in red plastic. 7% in.—Mathias Klein & Sons, Inc.
Circle 51 on reader's service card

HEATHKIT VERSION OF MAG-NECORDER 1020 STEREO TAPE RECORDER, model AD-16. Total assembly time approx. 25 hr. Precut, prestripped, and marked connecting wires and shielded cables. 4-track stereo or mono playback and record from microphones or auxiliary sources. Has 3 motors, 3 tape heads; without reel turnover or rethreading. Records through unit's twin cardiod microphones or direct from other source. Plays back through any stereo amplifier or own high-fidelity system. Also monaural on all 4 tracks with same automatic reverse and electronic shuffle. Dual VU meters and tone controls, digital counter, cue control, monitor position, 4 flux-field beads and automatic tape lifters. Detachable speakers. 6 x 2 x 2 in. with 6 x 6 x 10-in. speakers.—Concord Electronics Corp.
Circle 49 on reader's service card

2-IN-1 COMBINATION TUBE TESTER, model 115. Tests receiving tubes, including industrial types, and color and b-w TV picture tubes. Vtm circuitry. 10-circuit switching design. Facilities for beam-current tests. Portable carrying case. 16 x 9 x 4% in., 8% lb.—Preceis Electronics
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DIVISION OF GLOBE-UNION INC
Circle 107 on reader's service card

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Circle 107 on reader's service card

2.VU meters, front-panel-mounted inputs and outputs, vertical or horizontal operation, individual gain controls. Solid-state 21-transistor, 4-diode circuit. Requires amplifier and speakers for playback.—Heath Co.

Circle 52 on reader's service card

THERMO-ELECTRIC GENERATOR. Uses kerosene. Thermoelectric modules exposed on one side to hot metal chimney of burner, attached thermally to cooling fins on the other. In 6-volt 0.5-amp model 672 (illustrated) bismuth telluride alloy junctions are exposed to approx. 300°F. Other voltages and currents available.—Electro Impulse Laboratory

Circle 53 on reader's service card

2-CHANNEL WIRELESS INTERCOM, model 8221/8222 (single intercom is 8221, pair, 8222). Transistorized, uses any 117-V outlet. Two units independent, any number of intercoms usable in single system. Calling station can select one or more separate remote stations. Adjustable squelch control, rocker-type talk/listen switch with lock position.—Fasco Industries

Circle 54 on reader's service card

MICROPHONE MIXER, Shure M68. Frequency response 20-15,000 Hz. Has 4 Cannon XLR-3-14 type inputs for high- or low-level dynamic or ribbon microphones. "Aux" high-level input accepts tape recorder or tuner signal. Has
volume control for each of the 5 inputs, plus master volume control. Connects up to 4 microphones and tape recorder, tuner, phonograph (with accessory) to any amplifier or tape recorder. 2 outputs: 1 low-level, 1 for 0.5 to 2 volts.—Shure Brothers, Inc.

Circle 55 on reader's service card

UNIDIRECTIONAL DYNAMIC MICROWHONES, Shure 565 Unisphere I and 585 Unisphere A. Unidirectional microphones with strong, build-in wire-mesh spherical front that contains effective filter against wind and breath noises. Frequency response: model 565-50-15,000 Hz; model 585-50-12,000 Hz. Model 565 Unisphere I is for professional use; the 585 Unisphere A is a lower-cost unit.—Shure Brothers, Inc.

Circle 56 on reader's service card

INSTANT PIN-POINT CIRCUIT COOLER, No Noise Frigid-Air. Nonflammable, nontoxic, no carbon tet; won’t affect plastics. Delivers coldest possible temperature. Locates defective components without removal from circuit. Comes with 5-in. plastic extender, by means of which serviceman can apply spray precisely where needed.—Electronic Chemical Corp.

Circle 57 on reader's service card

SOLID-STATE AM/FM TUNER, model TT-100. Background music source for commercial sound system. All-transis-

Don’t blame the TV set for poor color reception

Good TV reception starts on the roof. If the signal delivered to the TV set isn’t good to begin with, there’s nothing any TV set can do about it. The moral: start at the top with the best. That’s Color Ranger UHF/VHF/FM log periodic antennas by Blonder-Tongue.

There’s a Color Ranger for any location from deep fringe to prime signal area, and they all offer flat response for top reception on all channels; a broad, flat bandpass for top color reception; exceptional front-to-back ratio to eliminate ghosting, and precise impedance match to insure maximum signal transfer to the set to prevent reflected signals in the cable.

Color Rangers have construction features found on no other antenna: double-boom construction; extra thick elements reinforced with 6" tubing; spring-loaded knife-edge contact points which maintain permanent electrical contact; strain-relief lugs for 300-ohm twinlead connections with a choice of 75-ohm coax or 300-ohm connection.

For UHF there’s the 11-element log periodic U-Ranger. Slips quickly and easily on any VHF Color Ranger, makes your VHF Color Ranger an all-channel antenna... and with only a single downlead! No additional couplers to buy!

If you go for FM-Stereo, get acquainted with the Stereo Rangers unbelievably brilliant high-fidelity FM-Stereo reception. Color Ranger and Stereo Ranger antennas are just two more reasons for you to go all-channel from antenna to TV set with color-approved and certified-for-stereo Blonder-Tongue TV/FM products. Write for free catalogs #52 and #88.

Blonder-Tongue Laboratories, Inc., 9 Alling Street, Newark, N. J.

Blonder-Tongue—the name to remember, for TV reception you’ll never forget

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Every No-Noise Aerosol Product
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Non-Toxic and
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Insist On This Trusted
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  Tuner Tools, with Perma-Film
  EC 44 For Electrical Contacts
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  Frigid-Air Circuit Cooler
FREE 5" plastic extender push button as-
sembly for pin-point application with all
No-Noise products.

SOLID-STATE COLOR GENER-
ATOR, model 1900. Line-width adjuster.
Separate horizontal and vertical bars. Con-
nects to antenna for most tests. Crystal-
controlled keyed-rainbow display. Color-
level control to check color sync circuits.
High rf output on channels 3, 4 or 5. 117
volts, 50-60 Hz, 3 watts. Color-coded gun-
killer switches, voltage-regulated transis-
tor and timer circuits.—Mercury Electronics
Corp.

Circle 59 on reader's service card

INSTANT-
LOADING CAR-
TRIDGE RECORDER,
model F 100.
Battery-powered. Rec-
cords 1 hr on stan-
dard cartridge, 2 hr
on double-play car-
gridge. Playback
through built-in speaker or high-fidel-
ity system. Remote
start-stop controlled
microphone. Flux-field record and play-
back heads. Recording-level and battery-
condition meters. 8 x 4½ x 2½ in., 3 lb.—
Concord Electronics Corp.

Circle 60 on reader's service card

PUSHBUTTON SOLID-STATE 4-
TRACK RECORDER, model RK 840.
Frequency response ± 3 dB, 40-18,000 at
7.5 ips, 40-12,000 at 3.75 ips. Wow and
flutter less than 0.2% at 7.5 ips, 0.36% at 3.75
ips. Power output 6 watts. Input sensitiv-
tor. FM sensitivity 3 µV, 200-kHz band-
width; AM sensitivity 10 µV, 8-kHz band-
width. Flywheel balanced dial, tuning
meter, multiplex adapter output.—Bell
P/A Products Corp.

Circle 58 on reader's service card

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ampere-hr. Normal recharge cycle 14-16
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TV-2—economy indoor model. Connects two sets to a single 300-ohm twin-lead. Not recommended for weak signal areas.

Quality combiners and splitters are also essential to a good all-channel color TV system. When you specify Blonder-Tongue, you get high quality, low loss and high isolation.

UVF-1—deluxe 300-ohm weatherproof model. Provides separate UHF, VHF and FM outlets from downlead carrying all three signals or feeds a single downlead from separate UHF, VHF and FM antennas.
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A-107—deluxe, weatherproof unit combines UHF and VHF antennas to one 300-ohm downlead or provides separate UHF and VHF output at set.
UV-C/S—indoor unit provides separate UHF and VHF outputs from a single 300-ohm cable carrying both signals, for connection to converter or TV set with separate UHF and VHF inputs.
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   The basic picture tube test (for each gun of color picture tubes, and the single gun of B&W tubes) is picture-producing beam current (net total cathode emission which is 95% indicative of picture brightness). The beam current test checks all picture tubes for proportionate screen brightness. The critical central area of the picture tube cathode is checked in addition to the controlling action of the first grid. Rejuvenation of picture tubes is accomplished by a unique capacitor discharge circuit which neutralizes the elements, and redistributes cathode oxide after the beam-producing central cathode area. Meter directly indicates increase in brightness after each rejuvenation "shot".

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DATA SHEET, G-7283, describes high-voltage feed relays for special applications.—General Electric

Circle 73 on reader's service card


Circle 74 on reader's service card

HEP CROSS-REFERENCE GUIDE, HMA-07, 28-page sheet-pocket guide lists 4,465 semiconductors for distribution through HEP (Hobbyist, Experimenter, Professional technician) program.—Motorola Semiconductor Products Inc.

Circle 75 on reader's service card

CONDENSED SEMICONDUCTOR CATALOG, 34 pages, tangential-punched. Type numbers and specs for transistors, diodes, integrated circuits, hybrid circuits, special MOS, FET components. Card and package drawings with dimensions.—Fairchild Semiconductor

Circle 76 on reader's service card

ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS CATALOG, No. 32-42 pages, universal-punched. Charts, curves, drawings, specs of potentiometers, switches, capacitors, etc.—Centralab

Circle 77 on reader's service card

MAJOR SPECIFICATIONS SEMICONDUCTOR CATALOG (640-12), illustrated, 60 pages, gives all specs, 130 outline drawings and dimensions of semiconductors, including many new SCN's and other "highest powered and lowest priced units."—General Electric

Circle 78 on reader's service card


Circle 79 on reader's service card


Circle 80 on reader's service card

RADIO-ELECTRONICS
Why professional MATV installers are fussy about matching transformers

The purpose of a matching transformer is to match 300- to 75-ohm, or 75- to 300-ohm impedance... and match it precisely! Otherwise you get all the problems of mismatch—poor color, smear, ghosting, snow. And installers of coax systems know that Blonder-Tongue is famous for its honest-to-goodness UHF/VHF/FM matching transformers that offer really precise match at all frequencies.

Next time try one of these all-channel, color-approved matching transformers:

**MT-283**—Deluxe indoor or outdoor UHF/VHF/FM network. Great for matching all-band antennas to coaxial downlead, or 300-ohm set impedance to 75-ohm coax downlead. Mast-mounting hardware and mating male coax connector supplied.

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In addition to these all-channel models, B-T offers a wide choice of VHF/FM matching transformers to meet any need.

Quality matching transformers like these are just one more reason why you should go Blonder-Tongue from antenna to TV set terminals. Write for free catalog #74.

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Blonder-Tongue—the name to remember, for TV reception you'll never forget.
Solving Delta and Wye Networks
By Transformation

What if a circuit is not simply series or parallel?

By S. R. SIMMONS

MOST TECHNICIANS AND ENGINEERS FEEL CONFIDENT ABOUT solving simple series- and parallel-resistance problems. But sometimes you encounter circuits that cannot be classified as either series or parallel. They are combinations of both. Delta and wye circuits are examples of these more complex networks.

Many delta and wye circuits have capacitively or inductively reactive components; solutions to problems with those require the use of complex values. Circuits of a purely resistive nature, however, aren't so difficult. Once you understand how to handle these, you may want to tackle the tougher ones, keeping in mind that reactive circuit problems are solved in the same manner using complex numbers.

One resistive-network problem appears in Fig. 1. Suppose you, as an engineer, need to know what voltage will be developed across resistor R5. At first glance, you might conclude that resistors R3 and R5 are the ones to be concerned about. But careful study reveals that, because resistor R2 is connected to the junction of resistors R3 and R5, the entire circuit is involved. This type of problem can be solved by
using simultaneous equations, but chances for error are rather high. A simpler method is a form of calculation known as delta-wye transformation.

In Fig. 2-a is a network known as a delta connection. Let's transform it to a wye connection, as shown in Fig. 2-b. To accomplish this, draw the wye circuit inside the delta (Fig. 3). This helps you to see the relationship between the two networks. Label all components and connection points.

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Determine the values of resistors \( R_1 \), \( R_m \), and \( R_a \). Skipping the derivations till later (box), the formulas are:

\[
\begin{align*}
R_a &= \frac{R_1 \cdot R_2 \cdot R_3}{R_1 + R_2 + R_3} \\
R_m &= \frac{R_2 \cdot R_3}{R_1 + R_2 + R_3} \\
R_1 &= \frac{R_1 \cdot R_2 \cdot R_3}{R_1 + R_2 + R_3}
\end{align*}
\]

These formulas are a form of the familiar product-over-sum formula for parallel resistances. The denominators are identical in all three formulas, but the numerators vary in value. You can figure out what the numerator will be in each formula by noticing the points where the resistors connect. That is, if you solve for resistor \( R_k \), the numerator will be composed of the two resistors in the delta that connect to point \( A \). In like manner, the numerator for resistor \( R_m \) contains resistors \( R_2 \) and \( R_3 \). Finally, the resistors that determine the numerator in solving for \( R_a \) are \( R_3 \) and \( R_1 \). Bear this relationship in mind when you perform other transformations.

DERIVE THE EQUIVALENT WYE FROM THE DELTA. THE SYMBOL \( S \) DENOTES THE SUM OF ALL SIDES OF THE DELTA.

\[
\begin{align*}
Y_1 &= \frac{D_1 \cdot (D_2 + D_3)}{S} \\
Y_2 &= \frac{D_2 \cdot (D_1 + D_3)}{S} \\
Y_3 &= \frac{D_3 \cdot (D_1 + D_2)}{S}
\end{align*}
\]

ADD THE FIRST 2 EQUATIONS, THEN SUBTRACT THE THIRD, AND YOU HAVE THE SIMPLE FORMULA:

\[
Y_3 = \frac{2D_1 \cdot D_2}{S} \quad \text{OR} \quad Y_3 = \frac{D_2 \cdot D_1}{S}
\]

\( Y_2 \) AND \( Y_3 \) MAY BE DERIVED BY A SIMILAR PROCESS, BUT THERE IS NO NEED FOR IT, SINCE THE DIAGRAMS ARE SYMMETRICAL, WE MAY WRITE AT ONCE, BY INSPECTION,

\[
Y_2 = \frac{D_2 \cdot D_3}{S} \quad \text{AND} \quad Y_3 = \frac{D_2 \cdot D_3}{S}
\]

THEY ARE IDENTICAL WITH EQUATIONS (a) IN THE TEXT.

2. DERIVE THE EQUIVALENT DELTA FROM A WYE CONFIGURATION

\[
\begin{align*}
\frac{D_1^2}{S} &= \frac{D_1 \cdot (D_2 + D_3)}{S} \quad \text{AN IDENTITY} \\
\frac{D_2 \cdot D_3}{S^2} &= \frac{Y_2 \cdot Y_3}{Y_3}
\end{align*}
\]

IN CASE YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND THE LAST TERM OF THIS EQUATION, WRITE

\[
\frac{D_1^2}{S} = \frac{D_1 \cdot D_2 \cdot D_3}{S} \quad \text{AND} \quad \frac{D_2 \cdot D_3}{S^2} = \frac{Y_2 \cdot Y_3}{Y_3}
\]

BY SYMMETRY, YOU CAN ALSO WRITE

\[
\frac{D_2 \cdot Y_2 + Y_3}{Y_3} \quad \text{AND} \quad \frac{D_3 \cdot Y_1 + Y_3}{Y_3}
\]

THESE ARE EQUIVALENT TO EQUATIONS (b) IN THE TEXT.
You develop an easily understood equivalent circuit for the network in Fig. 1 by transforming the upper half (R2-R3) into a wye circuit. The equivalent circuit then appears as in Fig. 4, which is a simple series-parallel circuit. From that point on, solving for the voltage across resistor R5 is easy. By Ohm’s law, you should get 230 volts for an answer.

A study of transformations would not be complete without an explanation of how to transform a wye circuit back to a delta. The procedure is similar except for the formulas.

Begin the transformation by enclosing the wye network with the delta equivalent, as in Fig. 5. Again minus the derivations, the formulas are:

\[
R_1 = \frac{R_a + R_b + R_c}{R_b}
\]
\[
R_2 = \frac{R_a + R_b + R_c}{R_c}
\]
\[
R_3 = \frac{R_a + R_b + R_c}{R_a}
\]

In these formulas, it is the numerators that are identical, while the denominators vary in value. The critical thing to remember is which resistor to use as the denominator for each formula. Rule of thumb is to use the wye resistor directly opposite the delta resistor that you are solving for.

Thus, the resistor opposite R2 will be Rb, and that value is the denominator. Likewise, resistor Ra is opposite R3, and Rb is opposite R1.

Look through any electronic text, manual or magazine and you’ll see such complicated-looking circuits as bridges, filters, attenuators, and voltage dividers. If you look closely, you’ll see that these circuits are usually one form or another of delta or wye.

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- 3-1/2 Meg Volume Controls...
- Clean Up the Kitchen "Jackpot"...
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You can repair that broken or cracked plastic TV knob by imbedding a piece of No. 22 hookup wire into the plastic shank. Remove the insulation and bend a sharp L in one end of the wire. With your soldering iron, heat the bent end and push it into the plastic knob. This will hold the wire in place.

Now wind the wire into the shank. Pull the wire tight and press it into the plastic with the hot soldering iron. The wire will easily pull into the plastic material and reinforce the knob shank. File off rough edges. Use an about 8-inch piece for most large TV tuning knobs—Homer L. Davidson

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200-Buss Wire...
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7-Assorted Volume Control.
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Circle 126 on reader's service card

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ARRANGE THE ITEMS TO BE soldered as needed, then place a metal strip "keeper" across the magnet as shown. This will hold light items securely without cooling them. The magnet is an excellent holder for small pins, keys and washers which are not lost or misplaced.—Glen F. Stillwell

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A youngsters' caddy coaster wagon enables one man to install a 30-30 (60-foot) double tower. Drop the heavy end of the tower off the service truck onto the wagon and then, lifting the lighter end, pull it up and the wagon to the installation site. Lay the tower on the ground and install the guy and other components. Fasten the tower's base to its concrete foundation; then get up on the roof and pull the tower up.—D. Bernius

GROUND BUS FOR WORK BENCH

A piece of ordinary copper tubing flattened with a hammer or a bench vise makes a fine ground bus in the home lab. Tying all test equipment to a safety ground eliminates shock hazards and keeps noise and hum out of test circuits. Connect one end of the tubing to a water pipe or the grounded third wire in your house wiring.

There are a number of ways to attach leads to the tubing. Some are shown in the photo. Use a five-way binding post, a bolt and wing nut, a nut—bolt—solder lug combination, or just clip test leads to it.—Don Lancaster

When you work on transformerless sets with grounded instruments—or in any case, for that matter, either use an isolation transformer or be certain the set is connected to the line so that the chassis is grounded.—Editor

END

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Prepared for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the book treats almost every phase of magnetic recording on tape. Covers the tape recorder itself, recording methods, tape transport systems, tape heads, the magnetic tape, the electronics in a recorder, and methods of testing and evaluating recorders. A little wordier than necessary, but covers the topic thoroughly.

York, N. Y. 10036. 7 x 10 in., 130 pp. Cloth, $10

Prepared under the sponsorship of Texas Instruments, this is a well-illustrated treatise on the theory of these devices. Quite mathematical, although not written in a stilted manner. There's a lot of practical information in here, and anyone who's really interested can get it out. Covers just about every kind of transistor, including power FET's. Even goes into FET's in integrated circuits.

Indianapolis, Ind. 46206. 6/5 x 3 in., 336 pp. Paper, $4.95

Filled with comprehensive explanations of more than 5,000 computer terms. 130 pages of appendices add considerable data about computers, computer companies, the human factor, mathematics and statistics, computer language, and acronyms that apply to the field. Definitions are a little stiff, but complete.

HOW TO BECOME A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER, by John D. Constance. McGraw-Hill Book Co.,
330 W. 42 St., New York, N. Y. 10036. 3/5 x 5/8
in., 254 pp. Cloth, $7.50

A readable work on how to develop a career as a professional engineer. Includes state registration laws, training, qualifying experience, and tells you how to prepare for the examination. Even tells you how to go about making the grade if you aren't a college graduate. Well organized and easy to read. Second edition.

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The setup was used to run a 50-hour test on an rf transmitter and power supply. All supply voltages and the output had to be continuously monitored by meters (meter relays) with contacts set to reflect any abnormal readings. An abnormal reading on any one of the meters was to actuate circuitry to turn off the entire setup. But some kind of memory was needed so that the attendant could tell, after the power was shut off, what had caused the failure. Normal use of relays would have resulted in a schematic that looked like part of a telephone exchange, and the cost of all those relays would have been prohibitive.

The circuit that was used is simplicity itself. The basic principle is that only one lamp can remain on at any time.

Hook up the circuit of Fig. 1 and turn the power on. One of the neon lamps will fire and remain lit. Even if both lamps have precisely the same starting voltage, the 500K resistance will sustain only one of them. Now open the switch to interrupt the lamp that is lit. Immediately the other lamp will fire and will remain lit even though you close the switch again. As you can see, this simple little circuit has the ability to remember which switch you opened last, i.e., a memory.

Now let’s go to Fig. 2. Apply power and push the reset button to force lamp A on. A typical neon lamp will have 55 to 60 volts drop across it. The voltage at the junction of R and the lamps will be approximately 60. If now we apply 50 volts to the bottom of lamp A through a push-button switch or any similar device, lamp A will have only 10 volts across it. It will extinguish and lamp B will immediately light and remain lit.

A simplified version of the circuitry used with control meters is shown in Fig. 3. Connect them to the circuit to be monitored. Press the reset button after the monitored circuits are set up and all meters are indicating normal. All lamps will be lit until a failure causes one of the meter indicators to make its contact. The associated lamp B will light, telling the operator at any time later which circuit failed, even if it was only a momentary failure. Another pair of lamps could be used on each meter to indicate whether the reading went high or low. The low ends of the 10K resistors can be returned to ground through a sensitive relay so that failure in any one circuit can operate an alarm or shut off the power.

I would be interested to hear from anybody who finds other practical applications for this novel circuitry.—L. F. Goldsmith

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Fig.1

Fig.2

Fig.3

**Category:** RADIO-ELECTRONICS

Page 104
The Division of Occupational Health states that not all silver solderers contain cadmium, but emphasizes that the above precautions should be taken when using any type of this material.

**TWO TECHNICIANS KILLED BY CADMIUM IN SILVER SOLDER**

The US Public Health Service warns that two deaths have been traced to improper use of silver solder containing cadmium. The most recent report was of a television station engineer in New Mexico who had been using silver solder with a high cadmium content. One death was in Utah. In California, a third, nonfatal case was reported.

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare warns that:

Warning labels, which should be on all packages, must be read carefully and followed.

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**WHAT'S YOUR EQ?**

These are the answers. Puzzles are on page 60.

**Diode Motor Control?**

The box contains four diodes connected in a bridge-rectifier configuration. These, in addition to D1, allow ac to flow to the motor load. During the positive alternation, current flows through D4, D1 and D3. During the negative alternation, current flows through D5, D1 and D2. If D1 is reversed or switched off, no current flows to the motor.

**Too-Bright Lamp**

The diode cuts the average current in half but the lighting effect of the lamp depends upon the rms or effective value. Without the diode, doubling the current to 300 mA increases the lamp dissipation four times. The diode cuts this in half but the lamp is still averaging twice its rated power. The rms current is proportional to the square root of the power so the required rms current is: $I = 0.15 \times \sqrt{2} = 0.2121$ amp.

Therefore, the dropping resistor needs to be about 537.5 ohms. $\frac{120 - 6}{0.2121} = 537.5$ END

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*In Gernsback Publications In October 1916 Electrical Experimenter*

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ALL TESTS AC & DC & FWD & LOAD SILICON POWER DIODE STUDS

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**"SCR" SILICON CONTROLLED RECTIFIERS "SCR"**

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