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## MONITOR

## Three From Two

New to the wide range of optocomponents from Zaerix Electronics, is a tri-colour rectangular LED (below). Complementing their existing 5 mm diameter tri-colour LEDs, the L119HGW rectangular LED measures $2 \mathrm{~mm} \times 5 \mathrm{~mm}$ and can emit red, green or yellow light. This is achieved (inside the package) by using two LEDs, red and green, either separately or both on together. In the latter case the light passing through the diffused white lens appears as yellow.

The LED is supported on a common cathode 3-way lead frame with wirewrappable legs having $0.1^{\prime \prime}$ spacing. Luminosity is about 3 mcd at 20 mA . For further details write to Zaerix Electronics, Electron House, St. Mary Cray, Orpington, Kent BR5 30J.


## Oric Aims At Spectrum

Shortly to be released onto the micro market is the Oric I (right), marketed by Oric Products and designed by Tangerine Computer Systems. Aimed to compete directly with the $Z X$ Spectrum, this micro computer is to be produced in two versions; one with 16 K RAM and the other with 48 K . Both models will have 16 colours and run the popular Microsoft Basic. There is also planned to be a range of software compiled by a large software house.

The Oric I has 57 . keys on the keyboard, upper and lower case and no more than two functions on any key. It has teletext/viewdata compatibility and a display resolution of 24 rows $\times 40$ characters. Oric say they will be bringing out a range of peripherals (including modem, printer and discs) shortly after the launch. Costs for the 16 K version will be $£ 99$ including VAT, and for the 48 K an extra $£ 70$. Further details may be obtained from Oric Products International Lid., Coworth Mansion, Coworth Park, London Road, Sunninghill, Ascot, Berks SL5 7SE.

## Adapted From AC

A new low cost AC adaptor (below) is now available from Stotron Ltd. For use with low voltage battery equipment, such as calculators, tape recorders etc, the unit takes a mains ( 240 V ) input and produces three switched outputs of $6,7.5$ and 9 volts DC at 300 mA .

Supplied complete with a four-way universal adaptor plug, the device costs £5.12 all inclusive. Orders and enquiries to Stotron Lid, 72 Blackheath Road, Greenwich, London SE10 8DA.

## Thandar Starts Gigging

Introduced primarily to extend the upper range of their TF200 LCD frequency meter, Thandar have started selling the TP1000 prescaler (right). This compact unit allows counting up to 1 gigahertz via a 50 ohms BNC input connector. Power is taken from a separate adaptor (supplied) and the complete unit is priced at $£ 74.75$ including VAT.

Contact Thandar Electronics, London Road, St. Ives Huntingdon, Cambs. PE1 7 4HJ for more information.



## Synthesizers For Sinclair

The Namal Super Talker is a low cost speech synthesizer form Namal Electronics of Cambridge. It has a standard vocabulary of 600 words and will con nect directly to the $\mathrm{ZX}-81$ or Spectrum. Later units will suit any machine with an RS232 interface.

The Super Talker is easy to program requiring a simple two word instruction to produce spoken words. It is based on a phonetic speech synthesizer made by Votrax, of Detroit. The unit comes in a plastic case, measuring $15 \times 18 \times 35$ centimetres, complete with integral loudspeaker, volume control and ribbon cable. A users manual is also supplied. Prices vary according to the machine it is to be used with, but the cheapest (for the ZX-81) is $£ 57.44$ including VAT.

Namal Electronics are at 25 Gwydir Street, Cambridge CB1 2LG. Telephone Cambridge (0223) 355404.

## And Now . . . Test Gear

That well known purveyor of control knobs and panel meters, Sifam, have now entered the test equipment market. They are starting off with a modest selection; bench and hand-held multimeters and a digital logic probe. All the instruments are competitively priced and backed by a one year guarantee.

The logic probe (left) will operate with CMOS, TTL and DTL circuitry and has a frequency range from $D C$ up to 50 MHz . There are three colour signals, indicating high, low and open circuit/bad level states. An alarm sounds if the input voltage exceeds that of the device under test.

The probe comes complete with carrying case, clips and manual for $£ 44.95$ including VAT.

Both the multimeters are $31 / 2$ digit LCD, with a basic accuracy of $0.3 \%$ DC volts. Model DMM2200B (centre) is a hand-held unit with 21 ranges covering resistance and AC/DC vottage and current. A PP3 battery supplies the power - over 1000 hours continuous use - and the meter is protected against voltage and current overloads. It is sent with test leads, spare fuse, battery and manual and costs $£ 49.95$.

The other model (DMM2500 left) is a bench standing unit with an additional 3 ranges and longer battery life (in fact, twice as long). Basic accuracy is the same as the DMM2200B, but the construction and layout are geared more for the professional person who needs something robust and reliable. The price is also higher at $£ 75.95$. For further information contact Sifam Ltd., Woodland Road, Torquay, Devon TQ2 7AY.



THE IDEA of a mechanical man, or "robot", is an ancient one, dating back to the time of the Egyptian Pharaohs. The word itself was coined by the writer Karel Kapek; it comes from the word robota in his native Czech, meaning "labourer" or "worker". Kapek's fictional invention undoubtedly owed a debt to the legend of the Golem, a walking figure formed from the clay of the earth by occult powers; the story of
Frankenstein, although written by an English gentle woman, is also derived from the legends of Bohemia and Transylvannia and offers another point of departure for the invention of the robot. Perhaps these shadowy origins account for some, at least, of the fear and loathing with which the robot is sometimes regarded!

This was not always so; in the past, clockwork mechanisms delighted the crowds at fairs and carnivals, while more elaborate toys and models were built for the pleasure of the well-to-do.

Apart from these, however, the robot has been a total figment of science fiction, particularly in the works of Issac Asimov, who created a virtual science of Robotics in his
many novels on the theme. Another writer, whose fictional approach came closer to the modern realisation of the robot, was Robert Heinlein. His
"Waldoes" were giant manipulators with the strength of an hydraulic forge, linked to special controls in the form of arm-length gauntlets; the Waldo mechanisms simply duplicated the movements of the operator, transmitted via the gauntlets.

Like most good science fiction, the works of Asimov and Heinlein were soundly based on real science. At about the time the authors were formulating their ideas, Norbert Weiner was defining the science of Cybernetics as "The field of control and communications, whether in the machine or in the animal", and the British mathemetician Turing was laying down the standards for assessing artificial intelligence, ie computer or robot intelligence. Then, too, a man named Thomas Ross built the first "robot mouse", the prototype of all maze-solving turtle-type robots.

All this took place in the 1930s, but subsequently robotics developed at a very slow pace until the late 70 s , when useful industrial robots became a practical proposition. In the past ten

## How It Works

HEBOT II is controlled by eight data lines derived from the ZX81 computer's data bus via an interface board.

Bits 0 and 1 control the right motor drive circuits. When bit 0 is high and bit 1 is low, the motor will drive in the forward direction; when the bit pattern is reversed (DO low, D1 high), the motor drives in reverse. When both bits are low OR both are high, the motor is stopped. The left motor is controlled by bits 2 and 3 , in identical fashion, so that by turning on, or off, different combinations of bits $0-4$, HEBOT can execute quite a variety of movements.

The LEDs on the robot are swit-
ched on when bit 4 goes high, and bit 5 turns on the solenoid, forcing down the centrally-mounted pen. Finally, bits 6 and 7 control HEBOT's horn; a low tone sounds when bit 6 is high, increasing in pitch when bit 7 is taken high.

The action of the control bits, especially movement controls, is summarised in Table 1.

Four microswitches are mounted on the robot's PCB, mechanically connected to the 'shell' so that they operate as collision detectors. They are directly linked to four output data lines, DO'-D3', and thence to the computer data bus via the interface board.
years, of course, robots have become an exceedingly hot topic in the national press, to the point where they are proclaimed the keystone of the Second Industrial Revolution and Britain's economic revival.

It was at the start of the revival of interest in robotics that HEBOT, Hobby Electronics' first robot, appeared. The "Amiable Automaton" was, by today's standards, a simple device, entirely controlled by the onboard 'hardware'. In fact HEBOT represented no great operational improvement on Ross' original micromouse, though of course the control system was both simpler and more versatile due to the use of integrated circuit technology not available to Ross in 1938!

## Son of HEBOT

Three years on and HEBOT II, while in many ways a very similar beastie, is considerably improved both in its control system and in operation, because it is designed to be used in conjunction with a microcomputer. Specifically, it is designed to be run by a ZX 81 , but the control system is quite simple and any microcomputer


Block diagram of the total control system for HEBOT II. The Interface Board plugs into a $\mathrm{ZX81}$ computer and is connected to the HEBOT by a length of 16 -way ribbon cable. sists of four circuit blocks; the address decoder operates on the top ten address lines to produce an output only for a certain bit-pattern, corresponding to a particular address the address of HEBOT II. The control circuitry determines, in conjunction with the output from the address decoder, whether the computer is writing data to HEBOT or reading data from it. The output latch accepts data from the computer at specific times and stores it until the next time data is sent to the machine. The input buffer transmits data from the robot when the computer is ready to accept it.


Table 1. HEBOT II data input bus.
RM1 $=$ Right motor forward
RM2 $=$ Right motor reverse
LM1 $=$ Left motor forward
LM2 $=$ Left motor reverse

RM1 $=$ Right motor forward

LM1 = Left motor forward
LM2 = Left motor reverse
$\mathrm{L}=$ Lights on
$\mathbf{P}=$ Pen down
$H=$ Horn on
T = High tone

| D7 | D6 | D5 | D4 | D3 | D2 | D1 | D0 | DATA BITS |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| T | H | P | L | LM2 | LM1 | RM2 | RM1 | HEBOT CONTROL |
| 128 | 64 | 32 | 16 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 1 | DECIMAL VALUE |


| LM2 | LM1 | RM2 | RM1 | DECIMAL | LM | RM | MOVEMENT |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | off | off | stop |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | off | fwd | turn left about left side |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | off | rev | turn right about left side |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | off | off | stop |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | fwd | off | turn right about right side |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 5 | fwd | fwd | forward |
| 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 6 | fwd | rev | turn right about centre |
| 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7 | fwd | off | turn right about right side |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | rev | off | turn left about right side |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 9 | rev | fwd | turn left about centre |
| 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 10 | rev | rev | backward |
| 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 11 | rev | off | turn left about right side |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 12 | off | off | stop |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 13 | off | fwd | turn left about left side |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 14 | off | rev | turn right about left side |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 15 | off | off | stop |

Table 1 (above) shows the data control lines to HEBOT II. Data bits DO - D3 control the direction of movement, and various bit-patterns permit a great variety of movements, particularly in turning motions. The remaining bits, D4 - D7, control the lights (LEDs), the horn and its pitch, and the position of the solenoid (up or down). In practice, HEBOT is controlled by POKEing the decimal value corresponding to the required action or combination of actions; eg, POKE (address), $5+64$ commands forward movement, with the horn sounding. See Tables 3 and 4 for further examples.
Table 2 (below) shows the sensor data from HEBOT. PEEKing the robot's address will return a decimal value corresponding to a specific sensor, if a single-point collision has occurred. A 'touch' activating two sensors will return a decimal value corresponding to the combination of sensors.

Table 2. HEBOT II data output bus.

| D7 $^{\prime}$ | D6 $^{\prime}$ | D5 $^{\prime}$ | D4 $^{\prime}$ | D3 $^{\prime}$ | D2 $^{\prime}$ | D1 $^{\prime}$ | DO $^{\prime}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| - | - | - | - | Back | Front | Right | Left |
|  |  |  |  | Touch | Touch | Touch | Touch |


| TOUCH SENSORS. | BINARY | DECIMAL |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| ACTIVATED |  |  |
| None | 00000000 | 0 |
| Left only | 00000001 | 1 |
| Left and front | 00000101 | 5 |
| Left and back | 00001001 | 9 |
| Right only | 00000010 | 2 |
| Right and front | 00000110 | 6 |
| Right and back | 00001010 | 10 |
| Front only | 00000100 | 4 |
| Back only | 00001000 | 8 |

capable of input/output operations, whether via a dedicated I/O port or via an expansion port (as used by the ZX ) can be used to control the machine. A memory-mapped interface board for the $Z \times 81$ computer is presented as part of this project, and further issues of Hobby Electronics will explore the possibilities of other interface boards and computers. (We would welcome readers' submissions on this subject! - Ed.)

The significance of computer control is that, whereas the opriginal HEBOT had only a small 'library' of hard-wired routines, HEBOT II has almost unlimited capabilities within the restraints of available memory and computer speed.

## Programming In The Real World

Not only does the use of computercontrol greatly increase the capabilities of HEBOT II but the machine itself takes programming out of the two dimensional world of the VDU into the real, three-dimensional world. It can perform a bewildering number of moves under program control forward, backward, left and right with each wheel independantly controlled. Programs can be developed so that HEBOT can sense its environment via the obstacle sensing switches coupled to its 'shell'. allowing the most devious "aviodance routines" to be devised to solve a maze or map the shape of a room. It can even report directly on its environment, via the blinking LEDs and the two tone horn, and one of the most interesting possibilities is the use of the built-in pen, which can be forced down onto a sheet of paper or artboard, to draw graphs or outline sketches.

Two simple programs are listed, later, to illustrate the tremendous potential of this machine. Both routines are given as 'starting points', because they are very, very basic; this will quickly become obvious and at this point, it is left to the reader to develop more useful routines! However, HEBOT II will be fully functioning on improved programs at this year's Breadboard Exhibition, at the Royal Horticultural Society's New Hall, Greycoat Street, Westminster, London SW1, so come along and see it for yourself!

The first program is a simple 'walk and avoid' routine; when it is LOADed and RUN, HEBOT II will "proceed in a forward direction" (m'lud), flashing its 'eyes' until it encounters an obstacle. Then it will back off, sounding a note, turn left and continue forward until the next obstacle is encountered.

The second routine is a basic "learning" program which will allow up to five movement commands to be stored and repeated indefinitely. This program could form the basis of a routine for drawing patterns or graphs on a large piece of paper or board,





Figure 1. Circuits of the HEBOT II Control Board: (top) both motor control circuits - they are identical except that each is controlled by two different data bits and each has a separate +2 V7 bias voltage; (middle left) the circuit of the tone generator (horn) is based on a single 555 IC. Bit D6 turns it on by connecting pin 1 to ground via Q5, while bit D7 increases the pitch; (middle right) the solenoid control. Bit D5 turns on $\mathbf{Q 1}$ and O2, activating solenoid L1; (bottom left) the LED flasher circuit ; (bottom right) the collision detectors are simply microswitches connected accross a +4V7 Zener diode. The diagram shows all four switches closed -ie, a collision on all sides!
will be the same and the motor will not turn.

Thus these simple op-amp circuits convert logic levels into reversible and independently asjustable voltages; further, since the motor drive voltages are derived from a Zener stabilised supply, they will remain independent of variations in the supply line voltage. The RC networks on the outputs of the op-amps are 'Zobel networks', to further ensure high frequency stability.

The remaining circuits are very simple; data bit four (D4) turns on Q3 when high, thus turning on LEDs 1 and 2. The solenoid is controlled by D5; Q2 is a high current transistor which receives its basic drive from 01 when D5 is high. The two-tone horn consists of a 555 IC operating as an astable and driving a loudspeaker. Transistor Q5 will switch on whenever D6 is high, thus connecting pin 1 to ground allowing it to oscillate at about 500 Hz ; the frequency is increased to 1000 Hz by taking D7 high under program control.

On the output side, the microswitches simply switch from OV to $+4 \vee 7$ whenever a collision occurs.

## Project



Figure 2. The circuit of the ZX81 Interface Board. Resistors R2 - R9 are contained in a nine-pin SIL (Single-In-Line) package.


Figure 3. The component overlay board for the HEBOT Control Board; the LEDs indicate the "forward" direction.

## The Interface Circuit

This circuit (Figure 2) enables HEBOT II to be treated as a memory-mapped I/O device; in other words, data can be sent to and received from the robot as if it were another memory location in RAM or ROM. It uses the computer's address and data busses, together with the control lines $\overline{W R}$ (active low WRite command), $\overline{\text { RD }}$ (ReaD) and MRED (Memory REQuest).

As briefly explained in How It Works, the interface board consists of four circuit elements. The address decoder is a comparator, IC 1 , which compares the top ten address lines with a ten-bit code set up on the tenbank DIL switch and resistor network. Thus by setting these switches, any one of 1024 64-byte wide memory sectors can be selected as HEBOT's location in memory. The most convenient address is 65535 , right at the top of the memory space, corresponding to all DIL switches open (ie, all address bits high).

Whatever address is selected, IC1's output at pin 13 will go high only when the top ten address bits correspond to the code set up on the switches. When there is a match, and when both the $\overline{W R}$ and MREO lines are low, data latch IC2 will be enabled and the bit-pattern on the computer's data base will be tranferred to HEBOT's data input lines. After this, the data will remain latched in IC2 until a new WRite instruction to HEBOT is issued by the computer.

Simillarly, IC3, which is an eightbit buffer IC, will transfer data to the computer when both $\overline{\mathrm{RD}}$ and $\overline{\mathrm{MREO}}$ are low and when there is an address match from IC1.

## Construction

Start by assembling the HEBOT PCB
(Figure 3); the only points to watch here are that the microswitches are fitted square and firmly mounted, and that the ICs are fitted the right way around. To help, the makers have put an index mark on the package at the pin 1 end and, in case you miss that, they have also cut the corner off the cooling fin! Next, wire in the 16 -way ribbon cable which connects HEBOT to the interface band. The remaining components can then be fitted and the PCB completed.

Now for the collision detector -see Figure 4. First insert the central mounting screw, which will eventually hold the shell in place. Next assemble the mounting plate mechanism and screw it loosely to the PCB; the small ball-bearing must be slipped under the mounting plate, where it will be held between the depression in the PCB and the bottom of the central mounting screw - this is probably the trickiest part of the entire assembly! Now tighten down the four mounting screws, but then unscrew them about half a turn, to permit the plate to rock slightly. Pressing down on one side should operate one or two of the microswitches, and they should


Figure 5. The HEBOT mechanical assembly diagram.
release when the pressure is removed from the plate. After this, you can fit the 'speaker to the underside of the PCB using the special clip, and wire it in.

The next stage is to fit the motors to the side plates (see Figure 5) and to attach these to the base plate. Mount the PCB to the side plates using standoff spacers, and wire up the motors; the LEDs and the speaker are regarded as being the front of the robot. Secure the pen in the solenoid - Figure 6 and fit it to the base plate; fix the wheels to the motor shafts with a nylon washer between the wheels and the plates and then adjust the pen so

## Part

A complete kit of parts for HEBOT II , consisting of the components and hardware listed below, is available from Powertran Cybernetics - see Buylines for details. The components for the interface Board (including the doublesided PCB), the 23-way connector and the three-way RAM pack adaptor are all available separately see page 33.

## I/O Board

RESISTORS
(all $1 / 4$ watt $5 \%$ carbon, unless stated)
R1,10 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 4k7
R2-8 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 4k7
SIL package
R11-18
1 k
CAPACITORS
C1 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 680p ceramic disc
C2 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 47n ceramic disc
C3 ...1u16V tantalum bead
C4 tantalum bead

## SEMICONDUCTORS

IC
1 ............... DM8130 10-bit address decoder
IC2 .............. 74LS373
octal latch
tri-state octal buffer
IC4 . . . . . . . . . . . . . 74LS 11
triple 3-input AND
74LSO4
hex inverter
MISCELLANEOUS
SW 1-10
DIL switch
10 way rocker type
PCB; cable clip; 14 pin (2 off), 20 pin ( 2 off), 24 pin DIL sockets; 23 +23 way edge connector, polarising key (posn 3), PCB mounting (2 off); 16 way ribbon cable.

## Main Board and Mechanics

RESISTORS
(All $1 / 4$ watt $5 \%$ carbon)
R1,8,10,17


Figure 6. Mechanical detail of the solenoid. Note the cable tie, which holds the pen in place.

## List

| R2,7,11,16 | 4 k 7 |
| :---: | :---: |
| R3, $6,12,15$ | 47k |
| R4, $5,13,14$ | 3R3 |
| R9,18,21,22 | 470R |
| R19,20,24,26 | 22k |
| R23 | text) |
| R25 | 5k6 |
| R27 | 27k |
| R28 | $2 k 2$ |

## POTENTIOMETERS

(All miniature carbon presets) RV1-4

## CAPACITORS

(All polyester C280)
C1-7 ................. . 100 n

## SEMICONDUCTORS



## MISCELLANEOUS



## BUYLINES

page 33


Figure 4. How to assemble the collision detector mechanism.


Figure 7. The component layout of the Interface Board. Note that both sides of the double-sided PCB are shown.
that, when it is fully down, it is about 2 mm below the level of the tyres. To prevent the spring from ejecting the pen when the solenoid is deactivated, fit a cable tie around the pen, below the solenoid. Lastly, wire up the solenoid, screw on the 'toes' at the front and back of the base plate, attach the shell - and HEBOT is ready to roll! One word of caution however, try not to pick it up by the base of the shell, as this will release the ballbearing from its mounting. It remains trapped by the microswitches and the plate bolts, but the collision detection will not operate unless the bearing is in the correct position.

## The Interface

The interface board has been specially designed for use with HEBOT and should present no difficulties in assembly - just make sure that the ribbon cable wires go to the correct places! As mentioned earlier, any 1/0 system capable of controlling eight bits of output data and accepting at least four bits of input can be used to control the robot; the ZX I/O board which appeared in the September issue of Hobby Electronics, for example, would be adequate. In any case make sure you know the robot's address. On the HEBOT I/O board, this is

Table 4.

| 10 | REM "RECORD MOVES" | ; comments |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 20 | LET $A=65535$ |  |
| 30 | DIM $\mathrm{Z}(5)$ | ; set up move array |
| 40 | DIM T(5) | ; set up move time array |
| 50 | FOR D $=1$ TO 5 | ; move counter |
| 60 | FOR $N=1$ TO 100 | ; move timer |
| 70 | IF INKEY\$ < ${ }^{\text {P }}$ " " THEN GOTO 100 | ; jump if move |
| 80 | PAUSE 10 | ; move time increment |
| 90 | NEXT N |  |
| 100 | IF INKEY\$ = "S" THEN LET $M=0$ | ; stop |
| 110 | IF INKEY $\$=$ "F" THEN LET $M=5$ | ; forward |
| 120 | IF INKEY\$ = "B" THEN LET $M=10$ | : 'back' (reverse) |
| 130 | IF INKEY\$ = "L" THEN LET $\mathrm{M}=9$ | ; left |
| 140 | IF INKEY\$ = "R" THEN LET $M=6$ | ; right |
| 150 | POKE A, M | ; move |
| 160 | LET $\mathbf{Z}(\mathrm{D})=\mathrm{M}$ | ; store move |
| 170 | LET $T(D)=N$ | ; store move time |
| 180 | NEXT D | ; next move |
| 190 | PAUSE 20 |  |
| 200 | REM "PLAYBACK" |  |
| 210 | FOR D $=1$ TO 5 | ; set up move counter |
| 220 | LET $M=Z(D)$ | ; recall first move |
| 230 | LET $W=T(D)+1$ | ; first move time period |
| 240 | POKE A, M | ; playback the move |
| 250 | FOR $N=1$ TO 100 | ; set up move timer |
| 260 | PAUSE 10 | ; move time increment |
| 270 | IF $\mathbf{N}=W$ THEN GOTO 290 | ; at end of move period |
| 280 | NEXT N |  |
| 290 | NEXT D |  |
| 300 | POKE A, 0 | ; stop |
| 310 | STOP |  |

Table 3.

| 10 | REM "HEBOT'S MOVE" | ; comments in this column |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 20 | FAST |  |
| 30 | LET $\mathrm{A}=65535$ | ; Hebot's address |
| 40 | LET $\mathrm{X}=0$ | ; clear collision flag |
| 50 | LET M = 5 | ; movement command |
| 60 | POKE A, M | ; move |
| 70 | GOSUB 260 | ; short pause to move |
| 80 | POKE A, M+16 | ; flash lights |
| 90 | GOSUB 260 |  |
| 100 | LET K = PEEK A |  |
| 110 | IF $\mathrm{K}<\gg 0$ THEN GOTO 150 | ; collision! |
| 120 | IF $\mathrm{X}=1$ THEN GOTO 190 | ; previous collision |
| 130 | IF INKEY\$ = 'S' THEN GOTO 290 | ; emergency stop |
| 140 | GOTO 60 | ; continue forward |
| 150 | IF K > 6 THEN GOTO 200 | ; rear-end collision |
| 160 | LET $M=10+64$ | ; reverse and sound horn |
| 170 | LET $\mathrm{X}=1$ | ; set collision flag |
| 180 | GOTO 60 | ; move in reverse |
| 190 | LET $\mathrm{X}=0$ | ; clear collision flag |
| 200 | LET M = 8 | ; turn left |
| 210 | POKE A, M |  |
| 220 | GOSUB 240 | ; long pause |
| 230 | GOTO 50 | ; continue forward |
| 240 | PAUSE 50 | ; variable length pauses |
| 250 | PAUSE 30 |  |
| 260 | PAUSE 10 |  |
| 270 | POKE 16437, 255 |  |
| 280 | RETURN |  |
| 290 | POKE A, 0 | ; emergency stop |
| 300 | STOP |  |

set up on the ten-bank DIL switch, as explained. The most convenient address is right at the top of memory a ReaD instruction to HEBOT will clash with the ZX81's unbuffered memory, however no problems have been experienced using this high address, as the interface board overrides the unbuffered memory.

If the $2 \times 81$ is to be used with a RAM pack, then an address between 8192 and 16383 should be used and the 'echo' of the computers ROM should be disabled by pulling ROMCS high with a diode from IC4 pin 8, to that line. This connector will be included on PCBs supplied in Powertran kits. To fit the RAM Pack as well as the Interface board, a 3 -way adaptor is required and is available from Powertran. With this, the RAM Pack lies on top of the computer.

## Testing

Plug the I/O board into your $2 \times 81$ computer and power on. HEBOT will (probably) immediately begin to move in the direction of the nearest exit or table top, due to some random bitpattern on the control lines! Quickly send the following command: POKE 65535,0 . This will stop the robot in its tracks.

Now turn each motor drive preset fully clockwise; then, using a voltmeter, turn each preset back till the voltage has dropped by 1 V ; this will allow the supply voltage to fall by up to this amount without affecting the robot's speed.

Next, POKE 65535,5 and HEBOT will move forward; RV2 and RV3 must be adjusted to ensure that it travels in a straight line (make sure the rubber wheels are on straight before you do this). Now POKE 65535, 10 to move it in reverse, and adjust RV1,4 to match the reverse speed to the forward speed.

To test the remaining functions, POKE 65535,16; HEBOT should stop with the LEDs glowing balefully red; POKE 65535,32 should drop the pen, and POKE 65535,0 should retract it again. POKE 65535,64 will sound the horn in the lower frequency, while sending 192 should increase the pitch.

To test the collision detectors, write a short routine to repeatedly PEEK 65535 and look for 1, 2, 4, and 8 from the respective sensors.

## Two Programs

To really give your new pet a workout, try the two simple programs listed in Tables 3 and 4 - but please remember that these are presented only as starting points for further development. Come along to Breadboard ' 82 and show us what your HEBOT can do - or send in your program on cassette. The best routines will be presented in future issues as an inspiration to all HEBOT trainers. Watch out, Barbara Woodhouse!

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# Feel like sounding off? Then write to the Editor stating your Point Of View! 

## Beginner's Blues

Dear Sir,
I am a student with many hobbies, including electronics, but I am bad at all of them.

As a beginner, I have been advised to read monthly electronics magazines. I recently came upon Hobby Electronics (May '82 issue) and it was too good for me to believe.

The language does not bother me but I cannot build anything. I can read circuit diagrams but, at this stage, I need something more practical. I have a very strong desire to build something but I have never succeeded. I know the "building by numbers" method is childish but I can see no other solution.

Please help me if you can and I will be most grateful.
M.A.Khoury,

Beyrouth,
Liban.

We all appreciate the difficulties experienced by someone, new to electronics, who picks up our magazine and, fired with enthusiasm, attempts to build a project. However, we cannot include a complete course in every issue! The fact is that we all have to start somewhere and build up knowledge and experience over a period of years - it can't all be grasped in one lump.

From time to time, we present articles which are written especially for beginners. Our long-running "Into Electronic Components" series was intended for newcomers to electronics. We also write single features presenting specific aspects of electronics theory or practice.

Also, we try to help by making our projects as clear as possible, with helpful illustrations and pictures.

So don't be ashamed of "building by numbers". Keep on reading the magazine and keep building projects. You'll be surprised at how much you learn, even from failures.

## Thermocoupled

## Dear sir,

With reference to your article on transducers and, in particular, thermocouples, there are likely to be heated arguments caused by the statement; 'At some high temperature (the inversion temperature), the output of any thermocouple reaches a maximum and the voltage then reduces as the temperature is taken over this value'. Fortunately for
industry, where the thermocouple is the most widely used temperature transducer, this is not so.

When two dissimilar metals or alloys are joined at their ends, a thermoelectric current will flow in the circuit if the two junctions are maintained at different temperatures. This effect is known after its discoverer, Seebeck (1826) and the total EMF produced is the sum of two other effects, the Peltier Effect and the Thompson Effect.

The statement is of course true. One picks a combination of metals whose thermoelectric curves intersect. The point of intersection, known as the 'neutral point', is then the point of maximum EMF, since the Peltier Effect becomes zero. This occurs at about $270^{\circ}$ for an iron/copper combination. If the individual thermoelectric curves of the chosen combination do not intersect, then we have no neutral point - and no problem.
I would like to point out that, in making thermocouples, it is better to leave out soldered joints, because they introduce further dissimilar metal interfaces and, if operated above their melting point, will attack many metals (eg copper soldering iron tips), causing inaccurate readings and possible disintegration of the thermocouple. D. W. A. Ward,

Mickleover,
Derby.
Thank you for bringing this to our notice. In fact, in the course of preparing the Flash Point Alarm (HE October issue) for publication, we had a closer look at thermocouples and so we can confirm that your points are quite correct. You will no doubt be pleased to see that the thermocouple connections in this project are made via a two-way connector block, rather than being soldered. A further explanation of thermocouples is contained in the 'How it Works' section of the Flash Point Alarm.

## CB vs The Rest

## Dear sirs,

Before CB became legal, there was something in your magazine every month about it, but since legalisation - nothing. I know there are CB mags on the bookstands but I had hoped that you would have a circuit or two for CB nuts, eg matching units etc. Apart from that, a great mag. Keep it up.
J. W. Rogers,

Sheffield.

Yes, many readers are still truly interested in CBI However, we try to present a balanced mix of materials to satisfy the many interests (ranging from CB to audio, music to computers) of our many readers. With the Radio Rules series, and the projects and features presented in 'Into Radio', we have tried to broaden the range a little, to include radio generally, rather than CB specifically

## Switched On Pots

Dear sir,
I am constructing three light dimmers, as published in the October 1980 issue of Hobby Electronics. I have successfully obtained the 04006TLs but I cannot find a company which supply the 22 K linear DPDT switched potentiometers.

I would be most grateful if you could supply me with this information. J. Living Wordsley. West Midlands.

The company to contact is ElectroValue, of 28 St Judes Road, Englefield, Egham, Surrey. They supply a large range of pots including some of the more unusual types such as a dual pot with concentric spindles and a DPCO switch. Exotic, as you might say!

## Into Electronics Lost

Dear sir,
Recently a friend loaned me one of your books, 'Into Electronics Plus', published in 1979. I found it of great interest and wondered if you could advise whether it is still possible to obtain a copy, and the price.

Three years since publication is a long time, I realise, but if a copy could be located I would very much appreciate it.
D. C. Holmes,

Bury St. Edmunds,
Sufolk.
Unfortunately, we sold out of copies of 'Into Electronics Plus' some months ago. However, those readers who want a similar introduction to electronics, need not worry. A quick glance through the contents pages of the last few months' HEs reveals we've kept up on the plight of beginners with several features and series written at an introductory level. So the real answer is just keep reading Hobby!

## Project

# Diana VCO 

## An audio output for our popular metal detector, from the September'81 issue



There's plenty of room inside the casel


THIS DEVICE makes use of the voltage output from the HE Diana metal detector board, which normally drives the meter. It is used, here, to vary the frequency of a Voltage Controlled Oscillator (VCO) which then drives a small crystal earpiece, to give an audible output.

In the circuit, R1,R2 and C1 form a biasing and filter network for Q1, which amplifies and changes the DC level of the input. A proportion of Q1's output is selected by RV1 and passed via R4 and R5 to IC1, an integrated VCO. The voltage
appearing at IC1 pin 5 controls (within limits) the frequency of oscillation. The range over which the frequency of oscillation can be varied is determined by R6, C2 and the input voltage. The maximum range is about 10 to 1 for a control voltage change of about 3 V at the IC, or IV5 (nominally) at the input.

The output from the IC goes via C3 to RV2, which acts as a volume control, and thence to the crystal earpiece. A high impedance device should be used here to avoid overloading the output.
 the original circuit.

Figure 2. The
Veroboard component overlay of the VCO, showing the connections to the orginal PCB (Figure $3)$.


## Parts List

RESISTOR (All $1 / 4$ W $5 \%$ carbon)


R6

15k

## POTENTIOMETERS

RV1 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 22k
min. horiz. preset
RV2 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 1k jog carbon

## CAPACITORS

| C1 | $\begin{gathered} \text {. . } 10 \mathrm{u} 25 \mathrm{~V} \\ \text { tantalumbead } \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| C2 | . . . $10 n$ |
|  | C280 polyester |
| 3 | 220n |
|  | polycarbonate |

SEMICONDUCTORS

| IC2Q1 |  |
| :---: | :---: |
|  |  |

## MISCELLANEOUS

X1 . . . crystal earpiece or high impedance 'phones. 3.5 mm jack socket (if desired); Veroboard (13 x 26 holes); knob, wire, solder, etc.

BUYLINES
page 33


Figure 3. The Diana PCB, indicating the connections to the VCO board.

There are four connections to be made to the Diana main board; two are the power supply wires while the others are from the output which drives the meter. One wire goes to "METER -" on the main board and the other goes to "METER + ". The connection to the meter via R19 can be left in place, as it will operate quite normally.

The output from the device is a warble tone whose pitch changes
when any metal object is detected. The sensitivity is adjustable using RV1. Set the main circuit control so that the meter needle is near zero with the search head well away from any metallic object, then adjust RV1 on the sound board to about half travel. Now adjust RV2 for a comfortable volume level and try the unit with a metal object, varying RV1 for optimum results.

HE

## MODULES FOR SECURITY \& MEASUREMENT



- Buit-in elecironc siren drwes 2 loud speakers
- Provides exit and entrance delays together
with fixed alarm time
- Battery back-up with uckle charging facility
- Operates with magnetic swinches. W/sonic or

Operates w
I.R. unuts
I.R. unurs

- Anti-tamper and panic facilily


## DIGITAL VOLTMETER MODULE DVM 314



With this fully buitt and calibrated module a wide range of accurate equipment such as multimeters. thermometers. battery indicators etc can be constructed at a fraction of the cost of ready-made units. Full detaits are supplied for extending the voltage range. measuring current, resistance and temperature. Fully guaranteed, the unit has been supplied to electricity authorities, Government departments, elc.

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Stablised ouput votage for external units 2 operating modes - full alarm/anti-famper and pance faculity

- Screw connections for ease of installation - Separate relay contacts for switchung external loads
- Tesi koop faciuty


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US 4012
Fully built \& tested


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| * ACCESSORIES * |  |
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| Magnettc switch (with magnet) 5* Horn speaker for use with CA1250 |  |

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| Module Number | Output Power Warts,ms | $\begin{gathered} \text { Losd } \\ \text { Impedence } \\ \Omega \end{gathered}$ | distortion |  | Supply Voltage Typ | Size mm | $\begin{aligned} & \text { WT } \\ & \mathrm{gms} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Price } \\ & \text { ine } \end{aligned}$VAT |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { T.M.D, } \\ & \text { Typat } \\ & \text { 1KHZ } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { I.M.D. } \\ & \text { GOHz! } \\ & 7 \mathrm{KHz}_{4} .1 \end{aligned}$ |  |  |  |  |
| Hra* | 15 | 2-8 | 0.015\% | <0.006\% | $\pm 18$ | 76. $68 \times 40$ | 240 | ¢8.40 |
|  | 36 | 1.8 | 0.015\% | <0.006\% | 125 | $76 \times 68 \times 40$ | 240 | ¢9.55 |
| hitfixist | $30+30$ | 20. | 0.015\% | <0.006\% | $\pm 25$ | $120 \times 78 \times 40$ | 420 | ¢18.69 |
| 1ivies | 60 | 4 | $0.01 \%$ | <0.006\% | + 26 | $120 \times 78 \times 40$ | 410 | £20.75 |
| UV12\% | 60 | 8 | 0.01\% | <0.006\% | 135 | $120 \times 78 \times 40$ | 410 | £20.75 |
| Hrana | 120 | 4 | 0.01\% | <0.006\% | $\pm 35$ | 120× $78 \times 50$ | 520 | c25.47 |
| nriat | 120 | y | 0.01\% | <0.006\% | $\pm 50$ | $120 \times 78 \times 50$ | 520 | ¢25.47 |
| HY: | 180 | 4 | 0.01\% | <0.006\% | $\pm 45$ | $120 \times 78 \times 100$ | +:30 | ¢38.41 |
| ну:зз | 180 | 4 | 0.01\% | <0.006\% | $\pm 60$ | $120 \times 78 \times 100$ | 1030 | ¢38.41 |

Protection; Full load line. Slew Rate: $15 \mathrm{~V} / \mathrm{Hs}$. Risetime: 5 Hs . $\mathrm{S} / \mathrm{N}$ ratio: 100 db
Frequency 'esponse ( -308 ) $15 \mathrm{~Hz}-50 \mathrm{kHz}$. Inpur sensitivity: 500 mV ems

PRE.AMP SYSTEMS

| Module Number | Module | Functions | Current Requwed | Price inc. VAT |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| +1Y6 | Mino pre amp | Mic/Mag. Cartridge/Tuner/Tape/ Aus * Vol/Bass/Treble | 10 mA | [7.60 |
| hratio | Stereo pre amu | Mic/Mag. Cartridge/Tuner/Tape/ Aux * Vol/Baxs/T reble/Balance | 20 mA | ¢14.32 |
| HY73 | Cjuitar pre amp | Two Guilar (Bass Lead) and Mc $\ddagger$ separate Volume Bass Treble + Mix | 20 mA | £15.36 |
| HY78 | Steres pre amp | As HY66 less tone controls | 20 ma | £14.20 |

Moss pre:amp modules can be driven by the PSU priving the main power amp.
A seoante PSU 30 is available puroly for Dre amp modules if requlred for
C5.47 (inc. VAT). Pre-amp and mixing modules in 18 different vailetion
Prease send for deto
Mounting Boards
For eave of construction we recommend the B6 for modules HYB-MY 13 f1.05
解 and the $\mathbf{B 6 6}$ for modules HY68-HY78 1.29 (inc. VAT).
POWER SUPPLY UNITS (Incorporating our own toroidal uranstormers)

| $\begin{aligned} & \text { Moder } \\ & \text { Number } \end{aligned}$ | For Use With | Price inc. VAT | Moder Number | For Use With | Price ine. VAT | Model Number | For Use With | Price inc. VAT |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| PSU 21X | 1.00 2 HY30 | £11.93 | PSU 52X | 2KHVI24 | $¢ 17.07$ | PSU 72X | 2w $\mathrm{HY} \mathrm{V}^{488}$ | 122.54 |
| PSU $41 \times$ | 1 or 2 HY60, $1 \times$ HY6060, $1 \times$ HY 124 | £13.83 | PSU 53x | 2^MOS128 | £ 17.86 | PSU 73x | $1 \times \mathrm{HY} 364$ | t22.54 |
| PSU 42x | 1, HYY 28 | £15.90 | PSU 54 X | Ix HY248 | £17.86 | PSU $74 \times$ | 1 x HY368 | £24.20 |
| PSU 43x | $1 \times$ MOSI28 | £16.70 | PSU 55x | $1 \times$ MOS248 | ¢19.52 | PSU $75 \times$ | $2 \times \operatorname{MOS248.1} \times \mathrm{MOS368}$ | ¢24.20 |
| PSUSIX | 2 \% HY128, 1 n MY244 | ¢ 17.07 | PSU 71X | $2 \times \mathrm{HY} 244$ | [21.75 |  |  |  |

Pleaso note: Xin parl no. indicates primary voltage. Please invert " 0 " in place of

| Mostule Number | Output | Loed | oisto | TION | Supply | Size | WT | Price |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Power Watts rms | Imperdence $\Omega$ | T.H.D. <br> Typat 1 KHz | $\begin{gathered} \text { I.M.D. } \\ \text { 6OHz/ } \\ 7 \mathrm{KHz} 4: 1 \end{gathered}$ | Voltage Tyd | mm | 9 mm | $\begin{aligned} & \text { inc. } \\ & \text { VAT } \end{aligned}$ |
| MOS 128 | 60 | 4.8 | <0.005\% | <0.006\% | $\pm 45$ | $120 \times 78 \times 40$ | 420 | 530.41 |
| MOS 248 | 120 | 4-8 | <0.005\% | <0.006\% | $\pm 55$ | $120 \times 78 \times 80$ | 850 | [39.86 |
| MOS 364 | 180 | , | <0.005\% | <0.006\% | $\pm 55$ | $120 \times 78 \times 100$ | 1025 | [45.5 |

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Frequency response $(-3 \mathrm{~dB}): 15 \mathrm{~Hz}-100 \mathrm{~K} \mathrm{~Hz}$. Input sen
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Please note $X$ in part number denotes mains voltage. Please insert ' $O$ ' in place of $X$ for $110 \mathrm{~V}, ~ ' 1$ ' in place of $X$ for 220 V (Europe), and ' 2 ' in place of $X$ for 240 V (U.K.) All units except UC1 incorporate our own toroidal transformers.


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# ELECTRONIC HOUSEKEEPING 

## LOOKING AFTER YOUR EQUIPMENT

Clico Kingsbury (Electrolube Ltd).

HAVE YOU EVER wasted precious hours locating minor faults in your otherwise beautiful, 'all-singing', all-dancing, electronic equipment? It is a sad but true fact, that all electronic equipment relies on the proper functioning of even the smallest component. Often equipment will start by working well and then, suddenly, its performance declines for any one of a number of reasons. These include dust and dirt, cigarette smoke or extremes of temperature. The overturned coffee mug is a popular contenderl These potential tragedies can be minimised by preventive maintenance, under three headings; cleaning, lubrication and protection.
For example, a common fault that can be cured with the right treatment, is the noisy switch, probably caused by dirty contacts or wear. Intermittent faults (the most irritating of alli), are often the result of dry soldered joints; loss of frequency response and faulty read-outs may be caused by dirty record/playback heads, plugs, sockets and edge connectors. The first step on the road to tip-top performance, then, is to ensure that all components are properly cleaned.

## Keep It Clean

You can obtain cleaning compounds either on their own, or in combination with specialised lubricants. A simple example: there are now several air dusting aerosols on the market. These are handy, for the hobbyist, as a convenient source of compressed air - extremely effective in removing dust and other airborne contaminants from sensitive equipment and electronic circuitry. Most come supplied with an extension tube, so the direction of compressed air can be carefully controlled and dust in inaccessible places can easily be removed.
There are also specialist solvents on the market. These provide quick and efficient cleaning of delicate surfaces and do not leave a greasy deposit or harm sensitive materials. Such solvents should be used to clean all electrical contacts, tape heads, components in electronic and video equipment, microcomputers and other precision instruments.

Finally, to keep crackle-finish and plastic cases sparkling, there is now a special anti-static foam cleanser with a "gentle foaming action" that lifts grease and dust from surfaces and leaves behind a protective anti-static film.


## Lubrication

Now you've done the cleaning, it is important to lubricate all components immediately. Oxidation or tarnishing of unprotected surfaces starts within a few seconds after the cleaning process. This, if allowed to happen, will seriously increase contact resistance. For this reason, it is a good idea to use specialised lubricants rather than those based on hydro-carbons, which evaporate and carbonise to form insulating resins. Those containing silicones are also harmful, because they 'creep' and form insulating resins and rock-like crystals of silicon carbide. Treating contacts with a
specially designed lubricant ensures a low, stable voltage drop when the contacts are closed and minimises the effects of arcing when opened. There are a number of contact lubricants available which, as well as being electrically suitable, are capable of operating over temperatures similar to those encountered by the treated components. They are also non-flammable, non-toxic, anti-static and, most important, safe on plastics. For ease of application, most contact lubricants are available'either in an aerosol or pen with retractable snorkel applicator, which is ideal for pinpoint lubrication.

Maintenance of relays involves mak-

ing sure there are no contaminants, especially silicones, left on contact surfaces. A simple, yet effective method of removing these without causing damage, is to use a small strip of card impregnated with a contact lubricant. To clean a pair of contacts, hold the strip between thumb and forefinger and work it back and forth a few times over the surfaces. This action combines the tarnishloosening properties of the lubricant, with the absorbent nature of the card, to rapidly remove all contamination from both surfaces - the contaminants leave a dark stain on the strip. The strip is then withdrawn and deposits a very thin film of protective contact lubricant on both surfaces. This film has negligible electrical resistance and ensures good contact between touching surfaces. Contact cleaning strips are ideal for use on relays, edge connectors and other small contacts. British Telecom has been using them for years - which might be one reason why Buzby is so chatty!

A recent development, which should prove useful for the electronic hobbyist, is the introduction of a non-silicone heatsink paste. This is used to get a good thermal contact between heatsinks and their associated components. Without such paste, components can overheat and be permanently damaged. For example, it should be used, on semiconductors (diodes, power transistors and the like), instead of silicone pastes, which can lead to problems that are subsequently difficult to trace. At higher temperatures the silicones volatilise and then cause intermittent faults.

## Protection

Special lacquers are now on the market which protect printed circuit boards they are known as conformal coatings. Damage to PCBs can be caused by any number of causes, one of the most common being perspiration during handling. Traditionally, any conformal coating was hazardous as it was made from epoxies or polyurethanes and therefore unsuitable for use in the home. Now, however, there is a new range available, based on a single-part modified resin. This makes it completely safe to use, as supplied, in aerosol form. These new coatings can be removed either by soldering through them or cleaning with a specialist solvent to permit faulty components to be replaced.

Protection from radio interference involves the use of another form of coating. Recent developments in this field have lead to the introduction of a new range of brush-on materials which effectively screen outside electrical interference up to frequencies around 1 GHz . They can be applied to rigid or flexible surfaces, such as plastics. This makes them ideal for use on electric guitar scratchplates and organs, for example. The advantages of these coatings are that they are inexpensive, easy to apply (by brush or spray), even on to complex shapes. They are also used on scientific instruments, measuring apparatus, hi-fi, radio, TV and microcomputers.

Finally we have the special nonstaining, non-drying lubricants, which
were developed for use on all moving parts such as teleprinter arms and slide wires. These contain a clear, colloidal suspension of molybdenum disulphide, in a thin, synthetic oil base. They were originally developed for use in hospitals, since they are resistant to sterilizing processes and do not 'gum-up' or get thicker in use.

## Fault Finding

The hunt for faults on PCBs, and elsewhere, can be speeded up by using a freezing spray. This will lower the temperature of a component down to $-50^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ in a matter of seconds. Now, almost every electronic component is sensitive to variations of temperature to some degree. Equipment malfunction can be caused by a component overheating due to its physical location in the circuit. Finding this component by normal methods is a very hit-and-miss affair. Indeed, it is likely to prove impossible, as the removal of aninspection panel will often change conditions enough to make the fault to disappar temporarily, before more than one or two connections have been checked.

A freezing aerosol allows a large number of components to be cooled in a very short time. By spraying each component in turn for about a second, the component causing the fault will stop operating and the fault will temporarily disappear until the component warms up again. Some freezing sprays contain a microscopic quantity of coating which,

in addition to improving the efficiency of the freezer, provides a protective film between the component and the icelayer. This film ensures that ferrous (iron based) components are less likely to corrode. The high electrical resistance of the spray prevents an ice layer from forming, causing a short circuit in electronic equipment.

These are just some of the many ways that you can look after your electronic creations. By taking the three basic steps, of cleaning, lubricating and protecting, you will obtain long-term, trouble-free operation and peace of mind!



# Sinclair ZX Spectı 

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## Professional powerpersonal computer price!

The ZX Spectrum incorporates all the proven features of the $\mathbf{Z X} 81$. But its new 16K BASIC ROM dramatically increases your computing power.

You have access to a range of 8 colours for foreground, background and border, together with a sound generator and high-resolution graphics.

You have the facility to support separate data files.

You have a choice of storage capacities (governed by the amount of RAM). 16K of RAM (which you can uprate later to 48 K of RAM) or a massive 48 K of RAM.

Yet the price of the Spectrum 16K is an amazing $£ 125$ ! Even the popular 48 K version costs only $£ 175$ !

You may decide to begin with the 16 K version. If so, you can still return it later for an upgrade. The cost? Around $£ 60$.

## Ready to use today, easy to expand tomorrow

Your ZX Spectrum comes with a mains adaptor and all the necessary leads to connect to most cassette recorders and TVs (colour or black and white).

Employing Sinclair BASIC (now used in over 500,000 computers worldwide) the $Z X$ Spectrum comes complete with two manuals which together represent a detailed course in BASIC programming. Whether you're a beginner or a competent programmer, you'll find them both of immense help. Depending on your computer experience, you'll quickly be moving into the colourful world of ZX Spectrum professional-level computing.

There's no need to stop there. The ZXPrinter-available now - is fully compatible with the $Z X$ Spectrum. And later this year there will be Microdrives for massive amounts of extra on-line storage. plus an RS232/network interface board.


## Key features of the Sinclair ZX Spectrum

- Full colour -8 colours each for foreground, background and border, plus flashing and brightness-intensity control.
- Sound-8EEP command with variable pitch and duration.
- Massive RAM-16K or 48K.
- Full-size moving-key keyboard - all keys at normal typewriter pitch, with repeat facility on each key.
- High-resolution-256 dots horizontally $\times 192$ vertically, each individually addressable for true highresolution graphics.
- ASCII character set-with upper-and lower-case characters.
- Teletext-compatible-user software can generate 40 characters per line or other settings.
- High speed LOAD \& SAVE - 16K in 100 seconds via cassette, with VERIFY \& MERGE for programs and separate data files.
- Sinclair 16K extended'BASICincorporating unique 'one-touch: keyword entry, syntax check, and report codes.



## The ZX Printeravailable now

Designed exclusively for use with the Sinclair ZX range of computers, the printer offers $Z \times$ Spectrum owners the full ASCII character set-including lower-case characters and high-resolution graphics.

A special feature is COPY which prints out exactly what is on the whole TV screen without the need for further instructions. Printing speed is 50 characters per second, with 32 characters per line and 9 lines per vertical inch.

The ZXPrinter connects to the rear of your ZX Spectrum. A roll of paper ( 65 ft long and 4 in wide) is supplied, along with full instructions. Further supplies of paper are available in packs of five rolls.


## The ZX Microdrivecoming soon

The new Microdrives, designed especially for the ZX Spectrum, are set to change the face of personal computing.

Each Microdrive is capable of holding up to 100 K bytes using a single interchangeable microfloppy.

The transfer rate is 16 K bytes per second, with average access time of 3.5 seconds. And you'll be able to connect up to 8 ZX Microdrives to your ZX Spectrum.

All the BASIC commands required for the Microdrives are included on the Spectrum.

A remarkable breakthrough at a remarkable price. The Microdrives are available later this year, for around $£ 50$.


## How to order your ZX Spectrum

## RS232/network interface board

This interface, available later this year, will enable you to connect your ZX Spectrum to a whole host of printers, terminals and other computers.

The potential is enormous. And the astonishingly low price of only $£ 20$ is possible only because the operating systems are already designed into the ROM.

## ZX Spectrum

## Available only by mail order and only from

## Eincleir

## Sinclair Research Ltd,

Stanhope Road, Camberley.
Surrey, GU15 3PS.
Tel: Camberley (0276) 685311.

BY PHONE-Access, Barclaycard or Trustcard holders can call 01-200 0200 for personal attention 24 hours a day, every day. BY FREEPOST-use the no-stamp needed coupon below. You can pay by cheque, postal order, Access,

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| :--- | :--- | ---: | :---: | :---: |
| Sinclair ZX Spectrum-16K RAM version | 100 | 125.00 |  |  |
| Sinclair ZX Spectrum -48K RAM version | 101 | 175.00 |  |  |
| Sinclair ZX Printer | 27 | 59.95 |  |  |
| Printerpaper (pack of 5 rolls) | 16 | 11.95 |  |  |
| Postage and packing: orders under £100 | 28 | 2.95 |  |  |
| orders over £100 | 29 | 4.95 |  |  |

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*Please delete/complete
as applicable

## Signature

PLEASEPRINT

Address


FREEPOST-no stamp needed. Prices apply to UK only. Export prices on application.

Use this convenient form to order components from suppliers advertising in Hobby Electronics!



## Pedometer/Odometer

The only unsual component in the Pedometer is the mercury switch. Since we used these in April's Bike Alarm, Magenta will have a small stock of them. They also appear in the RS catalogue (code no 339-881). The 40103 is sold by Technomatic, though most other suppliers will probably be able to obtain one for you. The remaining components are all fairly easy to buy - just shop around!

The two batteries (5V6) can be purchased from larger chemists or photographic shops and the case is a potting box from the BICC-Vero range. Total cost should be about $£ 12$.

## Check List

RESISTORS
(All $1 / 4$ watt $5 \%$ carbon)
1M5; 22k; 47k; 1k
CAPACITORS
33 n ; 1 n ceramic; 47 u 16 V tantalum
SEMICONDUCTORS
40103; $2 \times 4026$ ICs; $2 \times$ DL704 7 seg
LED displays
MISCELLANEOUS
Mercury tilt switch or reed switch; DPDT slide switch; $2 \times$ sub-min push-buttons; $2 \times$ PX23 batteries; case

## Diana VCO

A simple one this, since the parts were obtained from the Hobby 'Junk Box'. The only components that might prove tricky to find are the VCO IC - one source is Bi-Pak - and the crystal earpiece - try the Watford catalogue (the oid one - we still haven't received their new one!)

The complete project can be built for under a fiver - well worth it for adding sound to the original metal detector. And for those of you interested in building the HE Diana as well, the issue in which it appeared, September ' 81 is still available from our Backnumbers service.

Check List
RESISTORS
(All $1 / 4$ watt $5 \%$ carbon)
10k; $2 \times 100 \mathrm{k} ; 2 \times 47 \mathrm{k} ; 15 \mathrm{k}$
CAPACITORS
10 u 25 V tantalum; 10 n polyester C 280 ;
220 n metallised polyester
SEMICONDUCTORS
NE566 IC; BC108 transistor miscellaneous
Crystal earpiece; 3.5 mm jack socket;
Veroboard (11 $\times 26$ holes); knob
and ZX81 Interface Board are available from Powertran Cybernetics, Portway Industrial Estate, Andover, Hants SP10 3NW.

The kit for HEBOT itself contains all the eletronic components, motors, mechanical parts, perpex dome and all fixings etc, and is priced at $£ 86.25$

The $2 \times 81$ interface Board is available seperately for $£ 11.50$; the 23-way edge connectors are priced at £ 2.88 and the three-way adaptor boad (which is necessary if the ZX81 is to be used with a RAM pack while controlling HEBOT) is $£ 3.45$. All prices include VAT and carriage is free.

The foil patterns for the double sided PCB for the Interface Board are reproduced on the PCB Printout page; only experienced PCB constructors should attempt to make this for themselves!

## Interface Board Checklist

 RESISTORS(All $1 / 2$ watt $5 \%$ carbon unless noted)
$2 \times 4 \mathrm{k} 7$ SIL resistor package, $8 \times 4 \mathrm{k} 7$; $8 \times$ $1 k$.
CAPCITORS
Ceramic disc: $1 \times 680$ p; $1 \times 47 n$.
Tantalum bead: $1 \times 1 \mathrm{u} 16 \mathrm{~V} ; 1 \times 10 \mathrm{u} 16 \mathrm{~V}$. SEMICONDUCTORS
ICs: $1 \times$ DM8130; $1 \times 74$ LS373;
$1 \times 74$ LS 11 ; $1 \times 74$ LS 11 ; $1 \times 74$ LSO 4 . MISCELLANEOUS
10 -way DIL switch; cable clip; $2 \times 14$-pin IC sockets; $2 \times 20$ pin IC sockets; $2 \times$ 23 -way edge connectors (polarising pin in position 3); wire wrap pins; 16 -way ribbon cable.


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## STEREO AMPLIFIER KIT



- Faaturing latest SGS/ATES TDA 200610 watt output IC's with in built thermal and short circuit protection. Mullard Stereo Preamplifier Module.
Attractive black vinyl finish cabinet, $9^{\prime \prime} \times 8 \%^{\prime \prime} \times 3 \%^{\prime \prime}$ (approx).
- $10+10$ Stereo converts to à 20 watt Disco amplifier. To complete you just supply connecting wire and solder Features include din input sockets for ceramic cartridge, microphone, tape or tuner. Outputs - tape, speakers and headphones. By the press of a button it transforms into
a 20 watt mono disco amplifier with twin deck mixing. The kit incorporates a Mullard LP1 183 pre-amp module, plus power amp assembly kit and mains power supply.
Also features 4 slider level controls, rotary bass and treble controls and 6 push button switches. Silver finish fascia with matching
knobs and contrasting
cabinet. Instructions
available, price 50 p.
Supplied FREE with kit.


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 $+£ 2.90$ p\&p. SPECIFICATIONS: Suitable for 4 to 8 ohm speakers Frequency response $40 \mathrm{~Hz}-20 \mathrm{KHz}$Input sensitivity P.U. 150 mV . Aux. 200 mV .
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Mic. 1.5 mV
Bass $\pm 12 \mathrm{db} @ 60 \mathrm{~Hz}$
Oistortion
Treble $\pm 12 \mathrm{db} @ 10 \mathrm{KHz}$
Mains supply
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The power amp kit is a module for high power applicatlons - disco unlts, guitar amplifiers, public address systems and even high power domestic systems. The unit is protected against short circuiting of the load and is safe in an open circuit condition. A large safety margin exists by use of generously rated components, result, a high powered rugged unit. The PC board is back printed, etched and ready to drill for ease of construction and Supplied with chassis is preformed and and instructions ACCESSORIES: Suitable mains power supply kit with ACCESSORIES: Suitable mains po
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8 ohm sott dome radiator tweet. er ( 3 \%" sq.) for use in up to 40 W
$£ 3.50$ each ( $\mathrm{p} \& \mathrm{p} \mathrm{E}$ ) or $£ 5.95$ pair ( $\mathrm{p} \& \mathrm{p} £ 2$ ).
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Max. output power (RMS): 125 W .
Operating voltage (DC): $50 \cdot 80$ max
oads: 4-16 ohms.
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35 WATTMICRO 2 -WAY SPEAKER SYSTEM Unit comprises one 50 w 14 "app.) Au soft dome tweeter HD100. And one $5^{\prime \prime}$ Audax bass/midrange 35 w driver HIFIIJSM. Complete with 2 element crossover. Total impedance of system 4 ohms.
$£ 7.95$
PER SET + E2.70 p\&ip.

## PE.STEREO TUNER KIT

This easy to build 3 band stereo AM/FM tuner kit is designed in conjunction with Practical Electronics (July 8 issue). For ease of construction and alignment it incorp orates three Mullard modules and an I.C. IF. System.
FEATURES: VHF MW, LW Bands, interstation muting FEATURES: VHF, MW, LW Bands, interstation muting and AFC on VHF. Tuning meter. Two back printed PCB's. Ready made chassis and scale. Aerial: AM - ferrite rod, FM - 75 or 300 ohms. Stabalised power supply with 'C' core mains transformer. All components supplied are to P.E. strict specification. Front scale size: $101 / 2$ $\times 2 / 2{ }^{2}$ approx. Complete with diagram and instructions. Self assembly simulated wood
cabinet sleeve to suit tuner only
Finish slze: $1114^{-4} \times 81 / 2^{\prime \prime} \times 31 / 4^{\prime \prime}$. £ 3.50 Plus $\mathbf{E 1 . 5 0 p \& p . ~}$

## TVSOUND

 TUNERKIT
## £11.45



As featured in E.T.I. December ' 81 issue. Kit of parts including PCB, UHF tuner and selector switch with all components excluding case.

- Transformer $£ 1.50+£ 1.50 \mathrm{p} \& \mathrm{p}$ (p\&p free on trans. former if ordered with kit). Ready built LP1183 Mod uie for simulated stereo operation. $£ 1.95+75 p p \& p$.


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THE EXHIBITION YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS


# EXHIBITION GUIDE 

## Introduction

BREADBOARD exhibition has now been on the scene for five years and has proved that there is a place for an exhibition for the serious electronics hobbyist. We normally use the term electronics enthusiast but one must remember that often beginners are as enthusiastic as those of us with many years experience - often more enthusiastic!

Various local exhibitions or club shows occur during the year, all of which offer something of interest to see and often to buy. Breadboard, being a centralised exhibition professionally run, can offer facilities a local club show cannot. As well as having the venue and stands that you'd expect at the premier amateur exhibition, we are fortunate in being able to attract exhibitors more used to professional exhibitions, and who are perhaps unwilling, for whatever reason, to attend the smaller shows.

Breadboard ' 82 not only has the stands you would expect with components, books, magazines, computers, kits etc, but also there will be a series of lectures and demonstrations for those that wish to improve their minds (or rest their feet!).

We will also be introducing a Computer Forum for the newcomers to computing, where some of the more popular home computers will be available for you to try out. Our staff wil be on hand to help you understand those areas that are giving you a late-night nervous breakdowns!

This year we are fortunate in having two particularly interesting exhibitions/demonstrations. One is a computer moderated wargame using computers together with a scale terrain, troops, etc., that enables the visitor to assume command of the overall tactics of a modern battlefield. Should be interesting to see if Ruritania really could be next years number one super-power! Secondly we will be having a fascinating exhibition of holograms. These will be supplied by Light Fantastic and really have to be seen to be believed. For not even an arm or a leg could you buy one for your own home.

For those parts that need special restoration we will have the usual bar and restaurant open for your use beneath the exhibition hall. Don't miss Breadboard '82, you could even save yourself some money on some of the exhibition's special offers!

## Peter Freebrey, Exhibition Manager

## SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS

## COMPUTER MODERATED WAR-GAMES

Dave Rotor sponsored by Amplicon Micro Systems, Brighton; figures supplied by Adventure Worlds, London, SW1

Wargames give you the chance to be your own general! The game that will be played at the exhibition is based on a small-scale encounter somewhere in Europe during World-War II. The players each have a small force at their command - made up of infantry, tanks and/or artillery and have to fight out their encounter on the terrain of the board. Each game turn represents a relatively small interval of time (eg, 3 minutes) and during one move, the commander of each side can tell any or all of his forces to move or fire selected weapons. The men and machines involved in the conflict will be represented by $1: 1 / 200$ scale models specially for the humans, however the computer will have an 'image' of the battle-field stored in memory.

Fed with each players' move, the computer works out the practical consequences, governed by data on the weapons in the possession of each side, the conditions of the terrain, the men, the weather, etc. The performance of the weapons, and even the men, is deduced from known details of real-life battlefield performance.

Suppose you have a squad of ten men and you decide to move them into battle; it's known that armed men can travel at 3 miles an hour in reasonable conditions: Depending on the time that each move represents, the squad will move a proportional scaled distance (worked out by he computer) in the direction you specify. If you order them to fire their weapons (or if your opponent's tank fires at them, for instance), the effectiveness will be gauged by the distance, the known effectiveness of the weapons against the type of target they are firing on, and
all the other factors programmed. The computer will then tell you what degree of damage you have inflicted on each other.

The sort of calculation involved in the evaluation of the tables, etc, used to take human moderators some considerable time; now a fair sized home-computer can do the calculations involved in less than a second. During the exhibition, both war-gamers and computer programmers will be on hand to give detailed explanations of the programming and the theory behind the game.

## HOLOGRAMS

## Light Fantastic Gallery, Covent Garden, London.

Light Fantastic is the first permanent gallery of holography in Britain, and was set up after the success of the 1977 and 1978 Light Fantastic exhibitions at the Royal Academy.

Holography itself has progressed a long way since the first indistinct three-dimensional images were produced in 1947 by Gabor, a scientist working at the Rugby Electrical Company in Scotland. Gabor was subsequently áwarded a Nobel Prize for his invention.

The invention of lasers in 1960 made holography much more of a practical proposition. Most of the early laser-produced holograms had to be lit by laser in an area with low ambient light level. Later in the 1960s, the technique was improved to allow holograms to be lit with a standard tungsten halogen light source. The development continued from here, now allowing low cost high-volume production in acceptable commercial quality.

Holographic Exhibitions Ltd (holding company for Light Fantastic) provide a total design to installation service for commercial holography.

Light Fantastic will be showing a selection of some of the most striking items from their permanent collection

# EXHIBITORS 

Here are just a few of the many leading companies who will be exhibiting their latest lines. More and more companies are booking all the time, and electronics is a rapidly changing field, so we won't have full details of all the exhibitors until the last minute - this is just a foretaste of what is to come. A full catalogue will be available at the exhibition.

## ELECTRONICS TODAY INTERNATIONAL

You've read the magazine, you've built the projects, now visit the stand and meet the people who are responsible for it all.

On display will be a large number of our projects, including the brand new 16 -bit home computer, the robot arm, and many, many more, all springing into action before your very eyes! Besides this, you'll be able to put your questions to us, and we'll do our best to help. So come and see us on our stand.

## HOBBY ELECTRONICS

An intelligent robot in a plastic basin is but one of the marvels on show to those of you who come to visit the Hobby Electronics stand at this year's Breadboard Exhibition.

As well as being able to see some of our best projects at close quarters - yes, they really do exist - you will get the chance to meet the people who produce HE. So, if you've been having some problem with getting your prototypes to work, or you'd just like to air your views on the mag, then pop along and we'll do our best to enlighten you. Even if you're the shy retiring type, don't be discouraged, just stroll up and play with something that takes your fancy - there's so much to choose from amongst test gear, audio, RF, gadgets, games and the like, that we'll be surprised if you want to look at any of the other exhibitors. Though, of course, there are plenty of others around, should you be that way inclined!

## COMPUTING TODAY

Computing Today is the leading magazine for the serious home computer user looking for the professional approach. Written by micro users for micro users, inside each issue you will find feature articles, projects, general topics, software listings, news and reviews. You'll also be able to buy copies of the current magazine (as well as back issues where available) and any of our popular range of CT Software. So, if you're a committed micro user, come and meet the editorial staff and we'll show you a truly personal approach to microcomputing.

## PERSONAL COMPUTING TODAY

Since its first issue in August of this year, PCT has become the magazine for the not-so-experienced computer enthusiast. We provide lots of helpful advice on choosing and using a home computer and associated peripherals, a directory of off-the-shelf software, plus lots and lots of programs from the very simple to the stunningly sophisticated. Come and visit our stand, and see how we can help you find your way through the maze of computing.

ETI, HE, CT and PCT are all magazines published by ARGUS SPECIALIST PUBLICATIONS LTD. Other magazines include Electronics Digest, ZX Computing and Personal Software.
ARGUS SPECIALIST PUBLICATIONS LTD, 145 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0EE, Tel 01-437 1002/3/4/5

## BRADLEY MARSHALL LTD

Bradley Marshall is one of the leading electronic component distributors in the UK, building a reputation for the highest quality items in every area of the micro-electronics business. At Breadboard ' 82 they will be exhibiting a select range of items from their diverse spectrum covering over 3,000 individual product categories.

Whilst it is almost impossible to keep pace with change in the electronic market, Bradley Marshall feel confident that their new 1983 catalogue is as up-to-date as it is possible to be. As well as the complete range of Bradley Marshall components, the catalogue contains a great deal of component data to aid the hobbiest. Bradley Marshall are delighted to be able to make available advance copies of the catalogue exclusively for Breadboard ' 82 at a special exhibition price of 50 p .

Bradley Marshall are the sole London distributors of Crimson Electrik Professional Audio Amplifier Modules. Crimson Electrik Modules are internationally renowned with a reputation based on quality, reliability and value for money as witnessed by the BBC, IBA and KEF to name but three. Bradley Marshall will be displaying the complete range of these extraordinary amplifiers at Breadboard ' 82.

Thandar and Leader are names that need no introduction to either the professional engineer or idedicated hobbyist as makers of some of the finest precision test equipment and accessories on the market today. Bradley Marshall will be displaying and demonstrating a selection from this high quality range.

They say a bad workman blames his tools - but not Bahco, the foremost quality tools from Sweden. The complete range is available from Bradley Marshall and will be on display at the exhibition.
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longe Elect Hobl show


## Breadboard '82 10-14 November The Royal Horticultural Halls Vincent Square London SW1

## Admission £1.00 (50p under 16's \& OAP's)

Open Wednesday 10 November<br>1000-1800<br>Thursday 11 November Friday 12 November 1000-2000 Saturday 13 November 1000-1800 Sunday 14 November 1000-1600



Enquiries: Administration \& Publicity
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[^2]
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## BRADFORD CONSULTANTS LIMITED

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Bradford Consultants Ltd, Prospect House, 39 Leeds Road, Rawdon, Leeds, LS19 6NW, Tel: 0423-506406

## CHORDGATE LIMITED

We are suppliers of electronic components and equipment to the hobby electronics/amateur radio market. We specialise in the resale of manufacturers' surplus to the retail customer. We advertise in the popular magazines and our catalogue/special offers list wil be available on our stand.

We have retail shops at 75 Farringdon Road, Swindon, Wilts, Tel 0793 33877, and at 21 Deptford Broadway, London SE8, Tel 01-691 5106.

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## ELEKTOR PUBLISHERS LTD

Elektor magazine provides practical and reliable circuit designs as well as an unequalled printed circuit board service (EPS) for many of the constructional projects published. In addition, there is the Elektor software service (ESS) of programs for microcomputers on disc or tape.

Elektor books will be available from our stand. Besides books containing large numbers of constructional projects, the stand will feature books for those who would like to learn more about computing, electronics, etc.

The Elektor technical query service (TQ) is available should unforeseen problems occur, and members of the technical editorial staff will be present at the stand to answer any questions.

Working projects will be on display. All visitors will be able to buy annual subscriptions to Elektor at the stand.

ELEKTOR PUBLISHERS LTD, Elektor House, 10 Longport, Canterbury, Kent. Tel 0227 54430/54439

## JPR DISTRIBUTORS

JPR are wholesale dealers in all types of electronic components from industrial surplus and other sources. We will be offering for sale a wide range of useful components including: switches relays, transformers, capacitors, semiconductors, P.S.U's, converters, ni-Cads, module cases, hardware packs, etc. etc. Also a varied selection of assemblies and part assemblies at unbelievable prices for home constructors. For audio equipment constructors we wil be exhibiting a range of loudspeakers and cabinets at very competitive prices.

Trade enquiries are welcomed, and we are always interested in purchasing large quantities of redundant or surplus components.

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Watford Electronics was established just over nine years ago. From a very modest start, we have now grown to our present size which makes us one of the leaders in the hobbyist/OEM Electronic components supplier's market. In 1973 our range of components was no more than 500 items; today the range has increased to more than 8000 items and keeps on increasing every week to keep pace with the changing technology.

Our two aims at Watford Electronics are to supply first grade components at very competitive prices and to provide an excellent service to both mail order and shop customers. The former we have been able to achieve by bulk buying direct from the manufacturers wherever possible, thus eliminating the middleman and passing the price advantage over to our customers. The latter we have been able to achieve by sheer hard work and dedication on the part of our staff. $80 \%$ of the mail-order orders received are processed and despatched the same day. The remainder (except where items may be out of stock) are despatched the next day. Access orders received by telephone are processed and despatched the same day.

We stock a comprehensive range of components, including linear, computer, CMOS and TTL ICs, transistors and other discrete semiconductors, nearly every variety of passive component, transducers, hardware and a large variety of connectors at very reasonable prices.

On our stand at Breadboard Exhibition, we shall be displaying some of the thousands of components that we sell. (N.B. We shall not be selling components from our stand due to sheer volume and variety that we would have to transport every day, but we will be accepting orders for postal dispatch. As a special concession, all orders over $£ 5$ accepted at the exhibition will be post free.) We shall be demonstrating our latest 'Ultimum' Micro Expansion System linked to various Micro Computers. Our Managing Director, Mr. N. Jessa will be in attendance. He will be pleased to meet and have a chat with the thousands of our customers who we have no opportunity to meet otherwise.

WATFORD ELECTRONICS, 33/35 Cardiff Rd, Watford, Herts. WD1 8ED, England, Tel Watford 40588/9

## Lectures and Demonstrations

| Wednesday 10th November | 1100 | ETI Music Demonstration |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1200 | Cable TV |
|  | 1300 | ETI Music Demonstration |
|  | 1400 | BICC-Vero: Speedwire |
|  | 1500 | Gateway to Electronics |
| Thursday 11th November | 1100 | ETI Music Demonstration |
|  | 1200 | Cable TV |
|  | 1300 | BICC-Vero: Wire-wrapping |
|  | 1400 | The Digital Solution |
|  | 1500 | ETI Music Demonstration |
| Friday <br> 12th November | 1100 | ETI Music Demonstration |
|  | 1200 | Cable TV |
|  | 1300 | The Digital Solution |
|  | 1400 | BICC-Vero: Speedwire |
|  | 1500 | ETI Music Demonstration |
| Saturday <br> 13th November | 1100 | Electronic Music Techniques |
|  | 1200 | The Digital Solution |
|  | 1300 | BICC-Vero: Wire-wrapping |
|  | 1400 | Holography |
|  | 1500 | Electronic Music Techniques |
|  | 1600 | Cable TV |
| Sunday 14th November | 1100 | ETI Music Demonstration |
|  | 1200 | BICC-Vero: Speedwire |
|  | 1300 | Cable TV |
|  | 1400 | ETI Music Demonstration |

ALL LECTURES WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE LECTURE THEATRE, WHICH IS APPROACHED BY THE LIFT OR STAIRS IN THE MAIN FOYER

WHILE EVERY EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO ENSURE THE ACCURACY OF THIS PROGRAMME, PLEASE CHECK FOR DETAILS OF ANY CHANGES WHEN YOU ARRIVE

## ETI Music Demonstration

Music projects that have appeared in ETI over the past few years will be put through their paces by a professional musician. This is a good opportunity to decide, with your ears, which synthesiser or fuzz-box to build.

Cable TV - G. Brant, BSc
Cable and satellite TV systems are the newcomers to the broadcasting world of the '80s. A brief description of the existing transmission network will be given, followed by a look at these new media.

## BICC-Vero

BICC-Vero Electronics will be giving audio-visual demonstrations of their new insulation displacement system called Speedwire, ideal for fast positive contacts. On alternate days, there will be lectures on wire-wrapping, an alternative system for solderless connections.

Gateway to Electronics - Dave Bradshaw, MSc
This is a lecture for beginners in electronics, and will offer a mixture of very basic circuit theory and practical advice.

The Digital Solution - Owen Bishop, BSc
In these lectures I propose to cover the whole range of applications of digital electronics, including digital computing, D-A conversion, digital recording, remote control, etc. There will be a selection of working demonstration circuits to illustrate points made in the lectures.

Electronic Music Techniques - Tim Orr, BSc
The lecture demonstration will consist of a technical explanation coupled with a musical demonstration of a polyphonic music synthesiser, a digital delay line and a vocoder: all these have been designed by the lecturer.

## Holography - Andrew Pepper

This will be an introduction to the principles, methods and techniques of practical holography.


Other exhibitors will include:

## BICC-Vero

Leighton Electronics
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and many more.

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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
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The Ace is set apart from all other personal computers on the market by its use of a revolutionary language called 'FORTH'. Some computer languages are easy for humans to understand, others are easy for computers; FORTH is most unusual in being both. Its underlying principles are so simple that it takes even a newcomer to computers only a few minutes to learn how to do calculations on the Ace, yet the very same principles are powerful enough to allow you to invent your own extensions to the language itself.
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FORTH's unique combination of speed, versatility and ease of programming has already made it a prime choice for professional applications as diverse as pub games and radio telescopes, and gained it an enthusiastic national user group. Now the Jupiter Ace can bring this addictive language into your own home.

## Designed by Jupiter Cantab

Leading computer Designers Richard Altwasser and Steven Vickers have a reputation for pushing technology forwards. After playing the major role in creating the ZX Spectrum they formed Jupiter Cantab to develop their latest brainchild the Jupiter Ace.

## Technical Specification

## Hardware

Processor/Memory
Z80A running at 3.25 MHz .
8 K bytes ROM 3 K bytes RAM.

## Input

40 moving-key keyboard with auto-repeat on every key.

## Output

Memory-mapped $32 \times 24$ character display with high resolution user graphics. Output to drive normal UHF TV set on channe! 36.

## Sound

Provided by internal loudspeaker.

## Cassette

Load Save \& Verify at 1500 baud, separate data storage.

## Software, FORTH

Data Structures
Integer, Floating point and String data may be held as constants, variables or arrays with multiple dimensions and mixed data types.

## Control Stuctures

IF-THEN-ELSE, DO-LOOP, BEGIN-WHILE-REPEAT, BEGINUNTIL, all may be mixed and nested to any depth.

## Operators

Mathematical,,$+- \mathrm{X} \div$.
Logical AND, OR, NOT, XOR.
Comparison $<,\rangle_{\text {, }}=$.

## Program Editing

FORTH words may be listed, edited and redefined. Comments are preserved when words are compiled.

## Order Form



The Jupiter Ace is available only by mail order. Please allow up to | 28 days for delivery.
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# The HE Odometer 

THIS PROJECT is the ideal companion for nature lovers and fitness fanatics, who can now record the exact distance of their country walks or cross-country runs, or cyclists can see how far they've pedalled.

The HE Odometer is a digital 'milometer' that can be programmed to your own pace length or wheel size. By using a compact PCB we have managed to squeeze a two decade counter, seven-segment displays, batteries, control switches, and a programmable pre-scaler, into the smallest general purpose Vero box. To achieve this degree of miniaturization and to keep the unit as light as possible we have used two photographers 5 V 6 flashbulb batteries. The standing current is only a few microamps, removing the need for an on/off switch and allowing the log to count paces for hundreds of miles. There are only three control switches; a push-to-display switch (for battery economy) which illuminates the LED's, a Reset pushbutton, and a Mode switch. The Mode switch allows counting either in miles (up to 9.9 miles in tenths of a mile), or paces (up to 99). An inclined mercury switch is used to

A versatile project that functions as a Pedometer, clocking up miles or paces, a bicycle Odometer, or as a tally counter.

detect each pace. The milometer works by counting the number of paces and deriving the distance in miles on the basis of pre-programmed value for the number of paces taken in one-tenth of a mile.

In use, the Odometer can be attached to your ankle or to a side hip pocket, using 'Velcro' sticky pads; the mounting angle must be adjusted for reliable counting. It can also be used on a bicycle, to count wheel revolutions, by connecting a remote reed switch in place of the mercury switch, activated by a small permanent magnet mounted to the wheel rim.

## The Circuit

The basis of the circuit is a two-decade counter build from IC2 and 3. These IC's (CMOS 4026s) are decade counters/dividers with seven-segment decoded outputs. They will directly drive the common cathode LED displays, DISP1 and 2. IC2 registers one count for each clock pulse received on pin 1. The divide by ten output (pin 5), which goes high on the tenth count is used to clock the following counter stage, IC3, which displays the tens count.

A push switch, SW3, is provided to illuminate the display only when required, thus allowing a very long life from small batteries. The display is kept normally off by holding the display enable inputs, pin 3 of ICs 2; 3 at logic zero, via the resistor R3. Closing SW3 takes these pins to the positive rail, turning on the display. The pin 4 output from IC3, which goes high when the display enable input is taken high, is used to illuminate the DISP2 decimal point. This is connected to pin 4 via the mode switch, SW2b, thus the decimal point only appears when miles are being counted.

SW4 is the reset switch; pressing it resets the counter to '00' and also presets the divider, IC1. The reset inputs (pin 15) of IC2 and 3 are both held low by R4, which allows the counters to operate and ensures that C3 is charged up through R2. On closing SW4, both resets are taken to the positive rail, resetting the counters and discharging C3 through R2. When SW4 is released, the preset input (pin 9) of IC 1 receives a negative going pulse from C3 as it charges up again. IC 1 is a eight bit programmeable-counter. It is loaded with an eight bit binary value set-up on the 0 to 7 inputs (with soldered links) and proceeds to count down from this value towards zero as clock puses are fed to pin 1. The preset input (pin 9) is normally held high by R2 and loads the eight bit counter, IC 1 , with the preprogrammed binary value when it receives a negative pulse. When the count reaches zero the carry-out output, pin 14, goes low, also taking the synchronous preset input (pin 15) low. On the next clock puise, the preset number is again loaded into the counter from the progamming inputs $0-7$, and the carry-out line goes high once more. This process repeats, producing one


Figure 1. The circuit details.

## How It Works

An acceleration detector, consisting of an inclined Mercury switch and R/C debouncing network, is set up to generate a clock pulse for each pace taken. Since the unit is mounted on the hip or at the ankle, the acceleration produced at each stride forces the blob of mercury to break its contact. The voltage pulses thus produced are used to clock a two-decade counter which receives clock pulses either directly, in Pace Mode, or via a programmable divider in the Miles Mode. Thus in Pace Mode the two-digit seven-segment LED display can show the number of paces counted directly, as a number from 0 to 99. In Miles, the pulses are fed to a progammable divider. This divider, or counter, gives one output
carry-out pulse for every $N$ clock pulses, where $N$ is the preset number of paces per tenth of a mile.

The memory switch, SW1, provides a pulse for each pace. It is normally closed, putting a high on the clock input (pin 1) of IC1, and keeping C2 fully charged positive. When any rapid movement forces the mercury to break contact, R1 will discharge C2, taking the clock line low; it goes high again when the mercury switch closes. C2 and R1 provide a debouncing time constant to overcome mercury splashing problems. The clock pulses so
pulse for every N input pulses, where the number $N$ can be preset between 0 and 255 , using soldered links. The counter is pre-programmed with the number of paces in one tenth of of a mile (ie, 176 yards), and its output is fed via the Mode switch to clock the decade counters. Assuming a correct value has been chosen the two-stage decade counter will then read in tenths of a mile, up to a maximum range of 9.9 miles. Alternatively, a reed switch and magnet may be used in place of the mercury switch, counting wheel revolutions for use as a bicycle milometer. The programming number is now determined by the wheel size (see text).
 divider, IC 1. For the Miles Mode, SW2a routes the divider's carry-out pulses to the decade counter IC2, thus counting in tenths of a mile up to 9.9 miles. In Pace Mode, IC2 is clocked directly from the mercury switch, counting up to 99.

An eleven volt power source is provided by two 5V6 flashbulb batteries. The quiescent current is only a few microamps. eliminating the need for an on/off switch; however quite high currents are required to illuminate the display. Capacitor C1 provides the required supply decoupling.

## RESISTORS

All $1 / 4 \mathrm{~W}, 5 \%$ carbon

| R1 | 1 M 5 |
| :---: | :---: |
| R2 | 22k |
| R3 | 47k |
| R4 | 1 k |

## CAPACITORS

C1
$33 n$ ceramic
C2
C3 ceramic 47 u 16 V tantalumbead

SEMICONDUCTORS
IC1
CMOSB-........ 40103
CMOS 8-bit presettable counter
1 M5
22k

## Parts List

IC2,3
4026
DISP1,2
CMOS counter/divider/decoder
DL704
7 segment LED display (common cathode)

## MISCELLANEOUS

SW1
mercury tilt switch or reed switch DPDT
SW2
SW3,4 . . . . ....... sub-miniature push-button switch
B1,2
. . . . . . . . . PX23
Duracell 5 V 6 camera battery PCB; case (see Buylines); solder, etc.

Buylines.
page 33


## Construction

The circuitry is constructed on the PCB as shown in the overlay diagram of Figure 2. Sockets must be used for the CMOS ICs and also on the sevensegment displays to acheive the required display height. The board has been designed to exactly fit the box and its corners must be filed to fit as shown on the overlay diagram.

Take a careful look at the photographs of our completed prototype before commencing. The three control switches are first mounted along one end, followed by the PCB (component side up) which is supported on small insulating blocks. The flashbulb batteries are mounted vertically and are held in place by the PCB cutout. The case lid needs a cutout for the displays and piece of copper contact strip glued on, to make the connection across the top of the batteries.

Assemble the PCB first, paying special attention to the orientation of the ICs and C1, and inserting two Veropoins at the points shown for connection to the Mercury swtich. The three control switches are connected up with short lengths of insulated wire and soldered to the pads, as shown on the overlay, from underneath the PCB. Also connect short lengths of insulated wire to the positive and negative supply points - (again from underneath the board). SW1, the mercury switch, is mounted using copper wire links to connect between the Vero pins and the switch terminals (this provides a measure of adjustment for sensitvity). Care must be taken to avoid a short across R1 or C2. The switch body is initally angled as shown. Before testing the board and assembling the case the programmable divider, IC1, must be set up using soldered links.

All eight programming presets $(0-7)$ of IC1 must be linked to either positive rail (for logic 1 ) or the OV rail (for logic


0 ). The diagram in Figure 2 shows the copper track pattern beneath IC1 with the preset inputs, pins $4,5,6,7,10$, 11, 12, and 13. Any count-down number between 1 and 255 can thus be programmed in binary by soldering links to the supply rails as shown. Having worked out the average number of paces, or of bicycle wheel revolutions, in a tenth of a mile, the number can be set up as an eight bit binary value.

Each preset input of IC1 corresponds to a single bit of an eightbit binary number as follows:

$$
\begin{array}{llllllll}
0 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\
1 & 2 & 4 & 6 & 16 & 32 & 64 & 128
\end{array}
$$

Thus any number up to 255 can be programmed by connecting the appropriate preset inputs to either the positive rail or ground. For example, let's say you average 122 paces per tenth of a mile.
Now:

$$
\begin{aligned}
122= & 0 \times 128+1 \times 64+1 \times 32+ \\
& 1 \times 16+1 \times 8+0 \times 4+ \\
& 1 \times 2+0 \times 1
\end{aligned}
$$

which is 01111010 in binary. This number is preset by making the link connections on the foil side of the PCB. Thus:

Preset 7 goes to $0 V$
Preset 6 goes to +ve
Preset 5 goes to +ve
Preset 4 goes to + ve
Preset 3 goes to + ve
Preset 2 goes to $0 V$
Preset 1 goes to + ve
Preset 0 goes to OV
A word of caution: the preset inputs 0-7 do not correspond to the IC pin numbers, so be careful to crosscheck!

Since there are 176 yards in a tenth of a mile, the average number of paces is easily calculated; simply count the number of paces (using the HE Odometer, of coursel) over a known distance and convert to find the number in a tenth of a mile. For example, if you take 69 paces to cover 100 yards, the number over 176 yards is:
$(176 \times 69) / 100=122$ paces,

approximately.
Alternatively, walk 100 paces and then measure the distance. Since an average stride is about one yard, the number is certain to lie between 0 and 255.

To calculate the number of bicycle wheel revolutions per tenth of a mile, use the formula:

$$
N=\frac{176 \times 3 \times 12}{3.1 .4 \times D}
$$

where $D$ is the wheel diameter in inches. The number must be rounded to the nearest integer.

A reed switch should be used in place of the mercury switch, mounted on the wheel fork and connected by two wires. A magnet, glued to the wheel rim with epoxy, will trigger the reed swich at each revolution.

## Testing

The board can be wired to an ordinary 9 $\checkmark$ battery for testing purposes. Start with SW2 in Pace Mode; on pressing SW3, the display will illuminate with a random number. Pressing the reset switch (SW4) should return the display to ' 00 '. Hold the PCB vertically with the battery cutout facing the ground; if the board is now moved back and forth horizontally the mercury blob will make and break contact, due to the acceleration, and for each shake the pace counter will advance by one.

Changing to Miles Mode, the decimal point should appear. Press Reste and shake the PCB for the preset number of times. Pressing the display switch should now show '0.1', indicating that a tenth of a mile has been counted and all is well.

Holes can now be drilled in the base of the box to take the three switches. The PCB should be supported above these, about 1 cm from the base of the box. Insulating pillars (or pieces of cork and adhesive pads) provide good fixing.
Two pieces of copper contact strip or tinned wire form the battery connectors. They should be stuck to the bottom of the box to make contact with each battery terminal; the supply leads are then soldered to these connectors - do remember that the batteries must be fitted opposite ways round, with the right polarity!

The display hole, cut out of the lid, can be covered from the inside with a piece of red plastic or polarizing sheet. A further contact strip glued into the lid, above the battery compartment, connects the two batteries together when the lid is screwed down. The unit is now complete and should be mounted in a suitable position for field-testing!

Wearing the Odometer on the hip will probably give the best results, although the position may need adjusting to suit individual characteristics. The sensitivity of the unit can be varied by adjusting either the tilt of the mercury switch, inside the case, and/or the tilt of the unit itself; the greater the tilt, the greater is the force needed to break the switch contacts.

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# William Shockley 

## Co-inventor of the transfer-resistor

SHOCKLEY, Bardeen and Brittain are three names that ring across the post-war years like a summons to a new age. And new age is just what they started, with their invention of the bipolar transistor in 1948, but there were years of painstaking research before that triumphant announcement in the journal, "Physics Review". Shockley was one of the men who changed the 20th Century more abruptly than anyone else, and this is how it happened

William Bradford Shockley was born in London in 1910 but was educated in the US where his family had moved. He started work, after University, at the Bell Telephone Laboratories in 1936. This, in itself, must have been a remarkable experience because of all the research laboratories around the world, the Bell labs were foremost in telecommunication research, nourished by the profits of the Bell Telephone Corporation. Yes, it's possible to have a telephone system which offers low prices to the user and still make profits for the provider - but don't tell Buzby!

## Solid States

Throughout the 30 s, the Bell labs had pursued a lot of very fundamental physics research into the nature of solids, the kind of research which in this country is normally carried out only by Universities. Solids, you see, are rather remarkable and when you look at their electrical properties, they seem even more remarkable. Why should one solid element be a metal, bright and lustrous, conducting electricity well, and another solid element be a non-metal, dull and shapeless and an insulator? The nature of gases was dimly understood in the 17 th Century, and our understanding greatly increased during the great years of discovery in the 18th and 19 th Centuries. The liquid state was being unravelled by theorists in the 19th and 20th Centuries, but the solid stateremained very much of a mystery. The main problem was that the atoms of a solid are packed together so tightly that they affect each other much more than happens in gases and liquids. Any theory that took account of the effect that atoms have on each other was likely to become too complicated to solve. The big breakthrough came early in the 20th Century, as a result of work by the great theoretical physicists Planck and (later) Dirac - and the steady follow-up to their work continued in laboratories all around the world. Bell TelephoneLaboratories were concentrating on the electrical aspects of solid materials, in the hope that something of importance would emerge. Research is like that; providing that it's genuine scientific research, then there's always some useful outcome, even if it's years later or in some quite unexpected way.

In particular, Bell labs were following up the work on hole conduction in crystals, which had been discovered at the tum of the century, and on the properties of
semiconducting materials; it was in these materials that the effects of impurities on conduction (an important clue to what was going on) were most marked.

## Foundation Stories

The foundations for the invention of the transistor were being laid, then, all through the 30s. There was no great pressure for spectacular results, but there was a steady stream of publications which map out for us how much progress was made. When war broke out, Shockley, along with most of his research team, was seconded to the US Navy to become Director of Research in the Anti-submarine Warfare Operations Group. He worked on all aspects of submarine detection and the effect of depth charges, returning to the Bell Laboratories early in 1945 to resume his research on semiconductors.

By this time, the work was beginning to bear recognisable fruit. The importance of purity was recognised, and the method of re-crystallising Germanium by zone refining was developed, leaving the way clear to investigate the doping of the material without the complicating effect of other, stray impurities. It was with such a doped sample that the team, following work which had been done in the 20 s with copper sulphide crystals, was able to produce the pointcontact transistor.

We should remember that the principles which were being followed were quite old. All the way through the 20 s , the crystal-and-catswhisker had been used as a sensitive detector (demodulator) for radio waves. The principle was that certain types of crystals, of which metal sulphides were the most useful, conducted; when a fine wire contact, the catswhisker, was allowed to touch the surface of the crystal, a rectifying contact or diode was created. These early detectors used natural crystals and their behaviour was unpredictable and unsatisfactory. You could be listening (using headphones) to a broadcast which would suddenly vanish until a new sensitive spot was found on the crystal. The problem was that the material of the crystal was never pure and the rectifying action, caused by the material of the catswhisker doping the crystal, would eventually overdope the crystal and stop the action.

There had been reports, too many of them to ignore, of amplifying action obtained by using more than one catswhisker on such crystals, and Shockley's team were hoping that their thoroughly purified materials would allow more consistent results to be observed, They had produced some $N$-doped germanium crystals and were making contact to them with fine metal wires spaced very close together, in the hope of finding some amplifying effect. The results must have been most gratifying. Those first point-contact transistors were unreliable and had either too little gain for practical use, or so much that they were
unstable - but they worked, and worked well enough to allow their characteristics to be studied.

## Naming Names

The crystal of germanium was dubbed the "base", because it was on this slab of material that the fine wires were located. One wire was called the "emitter", because it appeared to be emitting holes into the base; the other wire was called the "collector", because it appeared to be collecting the holes emitted by the emitter, rather than allowing them to be carried into the base. The circuit was what we would now call a common-base amplifier, and it was this circuit that dominated early transistor technology. The action, by the way, seemed to be that of a resistor which could transfer current to a third connection, so it was called a transter-resistor, and it was no time at all before someone shortened that to transistor.

The importance of the invention was recognised at once and Shockley, now head of the Transistor Physics Research Dept, initiated a new programme of research to improve the primitive point-contact transistor design. The faults were obvious - instability when used as an amplifier, manufacturing difficulties and unreliable operation. By this time, the reasons for transistor action, which had been worked out in the long years of research, were increasingly better understood and the team was able to turn to better methods of creating the junction between P-type and N-type material, which was so crudely achieved by the pointcontact method. It's a matter of history that they succeeded, using the welldocumented method of making a sand wich of N -type crystal wafer with contacts of P-type impuritiy on each side and then heating the sandwich so that the $P$-type impurity diffused into the germanium, creating regions of P-type germanium on either side of the N-type. This "diffused junction" technique was to dominate transistor construction until the advent of silicon transistors, bringing new techniques that were readily useable only with silicon.

Shockley was appointed visiting Professor at California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, in 1954, and was further honoured by the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1956. He had, by this time, left Bell Laboratories to join Beckmann Instruments, founding the Shockley Semiconductor Laboratories. From there on, his career turned in a more academic direction as he became, in 1958, a lecturer at Stanford University and, in 1963, the first Poniateff Professor of Engineering Science. In these latter days, he has been more noted for outspoken comment on the topic of genetics and inheritance, than on the subjects which made him one of the most illustrious of our Famous Names.


This month CD takes on the grovelling 'binder beggars' - and wins!

An intriguing and mysterious group of people seem to be reading $H \mathrm{HE}$ these days! Our office (cubbyhole, that is) is inundated with letters from anonymous writers (perhaps too ashamed to sign their names?) and, of course, from representatives of 'Groveller's International'. Lately, too many letters are in the latter category so to emphasise that this page is not a charity for hapless cases, l've decided to print this, the most boring, abject letter I've ever received. Please take note that my Binder Award is for humorous, intelligent and witty letters about interesting or unusual subjects. This example does not qualify

Dear Ultra sophisticated, highly intelligent, witty, gifted land so on for several boring lines), Clever Richard,

Grovel grovel grovel (and on and on and on-for 200 times, so he says . . . and I'm not going to bother countingl) Yours grovellingly humble, The Phantom Groveller

## lpswich,

Suffolk.
PS Do I get a binder for grovelling more than anybody else 1200 times, approximately).

The answer to your question (tricky one this!) is no, no and thrice no, OK? Potential groverllers, take note: remember what happened to Uriah! Right, now that's out of the way, let's get down to some genuine questions. Here's a bright young lad, though not I regret, a regular reader.

## Dear CD,

I am eleven years old, and have been alarmed to find a mistake on the "Intruder Confuser". Capacitor (C1) has been connected (not across) but in the same direction as the copper strips and there is no break between the two terminals. Also laccording to the schemetic diagram) the integrated circuit has been connected the wrong way round, there is also another problem. . . I have, nowhere to store my Hobby Electronics magazine.
Yours Faithfully,

## R Einstein

Ipswich
Suffolk
(hint, hint). Life isn't all problems though, because I think your magazine's great

Correct on both points - though the issue was raised in a previous HE (June '82, I think). As for the mag, I also think it's great lespecially this page), but then I am a little biased!

Readers sometimes write saying they've experienced problems obtaining the current edition of HE . In most cases, this situation is easily rectified by our distributors, ensuring local newsagents have enough issues to go round. However, this is only possible if you write and tell us -remember, one day you could be the unlucky person without a copy of HE (perish the thoughtl).

Dear CD,
I have a few questions to ask you about the Hobbit stereo amp in your first mag; 1/ Which of the capasitors are of Tantalum type (because I have lost the components list) 2) Would it be possible to use a rotary switch for an input selecter switch with a tape monitor switch.
Yours despretly,
A.C. Baker

Stockport
PS The page wouldnt have got ript if I had a $b-n-e$ -

The name of Hobbys first stereo amplifier was, in fact, The Hobit (for obvious reasons 1), and very popular it was, too. Now regarding your question the simple answer is that any electrolytic capacitors under 100u can be replaced by tantalum types, so long as you're prepared to pay the extra costs. The project specified C6, 11, 30,31 (4u7) and C16, 21 (1u) as being tantalum. As for the switch, it all depends on what you want to monitor-but it should be possible to wire a rotary switch to suit your requirements.

Sorry, no luck on the binder lif that's what you were on about), though I did consider sending a dictionary!

Our designers are very clever lads, (though naturally I have to help them out from time to time, when something really difficult comes up) but they are not yet able to whip-up a'new transistor type, as the next writer seems to imply.

## Dear Most Intelligent Richard,

 Don't worry, I'm not going to grovel for a much loved binder. I'm not like that! Please, just help me if you can. Where do I purchase the ZTX650 NPN transistor your team 'invented' for last November's Sound Torch. Nobody sells it!G. Foreman,

Colchester,
Essex.
PS I promised I wouldn't grovel!! PPS Keep up the brilliant work.

Of course I can help you, my son. But shall I? Oh well, it's only a two-word answer, so here it is: Magenta Electronics.

Dear DC
That's supposed to be a joke.
Back to the subject of your youngest reader. It involves a certain boy at my school who has had copies of HE since he was nine years old. He is not a regular reader because of pocket money but he borrows my mags occasionally.

I'm 14 and have been doing electronics for almost six years, but I have only subscribed to HE for just over a year, after I discovered it by accident in a newsagents, next to the dirty section.

Hope that binds up the prob. for you.
J. Kitchen,

Epsom,
Surrey.
Fourteen years old and he's hanging around the wrong end of the bookshelves, already? This boy will go far - which direction, I can't say.

Dear CD,
In your July issue you published a list of next months projects, one of which I was very interested in.
l eagerly waited for my August issue to drop through my letter box, so that I could start to make it. But on opening it, I found that no such project was included \& no apology was given for not printing it.

To say I was disappointed would be putting it mildly, or as "Chad" would say "What no Odometer Project'"I!!

If you are not going to put this in the Mag, could you supply me with the drawings.
F. Johnstone

Stanmore Middx.

Sounds like fighting talk to me (go for your blagger etc). However,before you march around here to seek a horrible vengeance, let me remind you to read the line at the bottom of the 'Whats on next' page; "circumstances" have kept the Odometer on the sidelines for a month or two, but I'm told it will be appearing shortly!

And finally (as they say) . . . if you're all wondering where this months binder is going, I'll tell you: it's staying right here on my desk until I receive a neatly written, amusing, original letter of interest to Hobby readers. Am I asking for too much? . . we shall seel

# LEARNING FROM THE MICROPROFESSOR 

Paul Kelly

# Single board computers are useful for controlling external hardware, for experiments and as a teaching aid. But just how much can you learn from them? 

'THE FIRST 50 years of the 20th century witnessed the invention of the internal combustion engine, which greatly extended the physical strenght of the human body. In the second half of the century, the birth of the microprocessor further extended our mental capabilities. Applications of this amazing product in various industries have introduced so much impact on our lives, hence, it is called the second industrial Revolution." It is with these words of immeasurable wisdom that the Multitech Industrial Corporation of Taiwan introduce their MPF-1 micro-computer to the markets of Western civilisation.

Cleverly named the "MicroProfessor" (MPF), the machine is a lowcost, Z80-based, microprocessor training/development tool, distributed in the UK by Flight Electronics Lit of Southampton. For a sum of $£ 69.95$ including VAT \& postage, mail order customers receive a single-board computer neatly packaged in the guise of a book, a mains adaptor (with the correct plug fittedl) and a 350 -page manual.

Functionally, the MPF offers little more or less than the many similar machines that have been on the market and have fallen into obscurity with the advent of the high-level language 'personal' computer (remember the Sinclair Mk 14?). Like its predecessors, the MPF has a keyboard and an LED display, which enables the user to enter, in hexadecimal, machine code programs and to run them; it has a cassette interface for program storage, a simple audio output and facilities for parallel input/output and memory expansion. A detailed examination of each of these facilities does, however, reveal an attempt to refine and improve upon the small substance of many other training machines.

The hardware of the MPF is constructed to a very high standard with a tidily laid out, gold-flash,. through-hole-
plated board, with all the main ICs socketed and with an excellent keyboard. This keyboard deserves special praise, particularly when compared with those of other development systems, for its well-spaced keys (36 of them) with a very positive action, clear markings and generally sturdy construction. The six digit LED display is used in several formats; when memory is being examined or modified, the first four digits display the memory address and the latter two display the data, both in hexadecimal; when examining registers, the latter two digits hold a symbol representing a register-pair (some of these, eg IX are, of necessity, poorly represented) whilst the contents are displayed in the first four digits. The system flags may be displayed in binary, again within the first four digits while certain conditions, such as reset or stack overflow, bring up symbolic messages across the whole display. This very flexible use of just six seven-segment displays allows the operation of the machine to be more clearly understood.

## Functions

The functions of the MPF are provided by 2 K byte monitor. In addition to those commands which permit modification and examination of registers and memory locations, there is a single-step feature, a breakpoint routine, insert and delete keys, cassette tape load and save and a few other minor but useful functions. The 'STEP' command allows a single $Z 80$ instruction to be executed followed by a return to the monitor, so that the registers and memory can be inspected by the user. A second debugging feature (SBR) allows a single breakpoint to be set at any memory address, causing program execution to stop, and control to return to the monitor, when the PC reaches this address. The process of hand-assembling programs writ-
ten in mnemonic form requires only a table of op-codes and a means of calculating address references. The first of these is taken care of in the manual, and the calculation of relative addresses is made easy by the 'RELA' function of the MPF. This reduces considerably the number of errors in assembly, and makes debugging programs simpler

A cassette tape recorder can be connected to the MPF by means of two jack sockets on the back of the board. It is necessary to connect to the 'EAR' and 'MIC' sockets of the recorder so that the replay signal during loading can be adjusted by the volume and tone control. Cassette storage systems are notoriously difficult to set-up and maintain but the MPF proved to be one of the better machines in this respect. I was able to get the system operating on several, cheap mono recorders, after a few minutes trial and error experimenting with the volume setting and, once setup, they seemed reliable as long as the tape heads were clean.

The data storage/retreival operates at a tolerable transfer rate lit takes about a minute for 1 K bytes of data, including the tone leader). The operating system requires a start address and an end address as well as a four digit Hexadecimal 'handle' to specify the program to be stored. During program retreival, only the program 'handle' needs to be specified so that it can be sorted from several programs on one tape, the program itself providing details of the memory locations. In addition, during program searching, all programs found prior to the one required are displayed by their 'handles'. Clearly, the cassette system is very neat for a machine of the MPF's class, with features normally found only on medium and high-priced personal computers.

A small loudspeaker, mounted on the MPF board, gives an audible blip when keys are depressed and also serves to

echo the sound of serial data transfer during cassette operations. The speaker output is accessible to the users program, (via the 8255 , which is also used for keyboard and display scanning) and is the subject of several 'musical'experiments found at the back of the manual. This is not a very necessary feature but it does add to the completeness of this well thought out machine.

## Hardwares

A single 24 -pin socket (U7) provides the only on-board memory expansion facility. According to Multitech, this socket will accommodate types 2516,2532 or 2732 EPROMS or type 6116 RAM. However as the board stands, a 2516 or 2532 may be directly fitted, whilst to fit 2732 s or a 6116 RAM it is necessary to cut and link jumpers on the PCB. The term 'jumper' is misleading, because it involves cutting tracks on the underside of the PCB, with a scalpel or similar tool, which are uncomfortably close to a ground track. The fact that the socket is wired for an EPROM rather than a 6116 RAM, as standard, may at first sight seem surprising; the intention here is that programs, having been developed on the MPF for dedicated control type applications, can be fixed in EPROM using Multitech's EPROM programmer add-on, and then fitted into the spare socket so that the MPF becomes the dedicated system.

If the RAM expansion ( 6116 ) option is chosen, the extra memory is located immediately following the standard RAM in the memory map (2000H-27FFH). Since the MPF monitor uses locations 1 F9FH-1 FF3H as a scratchpad, the user RAM does not run in one contiguous block but this is hardly a serious problem, since well written programs consist of small subroutines which can be placed anywhere in RAM.

However, it is a little clumsy and could so easily have been avoided. The . 280 busses are brought out on to a connector at the top left hand corner of the board, providing a means of expanding memory externally, in the unlikely event that this should be required.

Two further sockets are provided for the addtion of a 280 PIO (parallel input/output device) and Z80 CTC (counter timer circuit), which are not supplied with the basic machine. Of these, the PIO is undoubtedly the most useful, providing an interface between the MPF and external devices or circuits. A connector, below the main bus connector on the left of the board, holds all the interface lines of these two devices. Both devices are $1 / 0$ mapped and are therefore accessed via the $Z 80$ special I/O handling instructions. Together with the 8255, they are partially decoded from the address bus so as to repeat over addresses OOH to BFH. Any additional I/O devices that the user requires to connect to the bus must, therefore, be restricted to the address range COH to FFH.

On the right-hand side of the PCB is an array of DIL pads, described as the "breadboard or user area". Exactly what this is intended for is not expressed anywhere in the manual, but it would seem to accommodate about 8 small (14 or 16 pins) DIL wire-wrap sockets (my estimation). Whatever circuit you may devise for this area of the board, if it is in anyway associated with the MPF itself, will require a loom of wires to span across the board (top or underside), to make connections with either the $Z 80$ bus or the PIO(!). My personal feeling is that such practices are best left alone. The presence of this breadboard obviously does not subtract from the rest of the machine, but the board area could have been more usefully employed in extra RAM or PIO sockets, or a socket for another device.

Being, myself, in the field of hardware and software design, I could not avoid a careful scrutiny of the circuit diagrams and monitor listing given in the manual. The hardware and the monitor program are designed very competently, but not without a few points to question. For example, the breakpoint facility is implemented in hardware but under software control (this refers to the STEP and SBR functions). Without going into too much detail, a single output line from the 8255 device is used by the monitor to generate an NMI (non-maskable interrupt), delayed a few instruction cycles by a counter (type 74LS90). You will have to take my word for it that both these faciltiies could be provided purely by softiwarel It would involve rewriting some of the existing routines to make space for the additional (fairly simple) software, but would eliminate the counter chip and, more importantly, release the NMI input on the $Z 80$ for user applications. On the same point, there is no reason why the SBR function could not be allowed to set more than one breakpoint.

The choice of the 280 microprocessor in the MPF is probably due to the immense popularity of this device in industry and, as such cannot be criticised. Personally, I feel that it is too complex a device for beginners, with its vast instruction set and large assortment of registers. In my experience, once the basics have been grasped it is a relatively simple matter to 'relearn' another machine, even if it is more complex. Therefore, perhaps the 6800 or 6502 (or even the 1802!) with more compact instruction sets and fewer register types would have been a better choice.

## Manual Matters

All the advertising literature and, indeed, the MPF manual itself make it clear that the Micro-Professor is a teaching aid, aimed at the uninitiated amongst students, hobbyists and engineers, and it is in that context that the machine must also be judged. Now, while no machine can alone teach the fundamentals of micro-processor operation or machine code programming, a wellwritten book, on the other hand, can. However, a teaching tool like the MPF can support a well-conceived manual or course of lectures by adding enjoyment and inspiring imagination in what may otherwise seem a very dry subject. It must also be said that seeing and believing (ie, "hands on experience") is the larger part of understanding.

In the initial stages of learning, then, the MPF manual must be taken as of primary importance and the machine secondary, despite relative costs. Against this philosophy, I cannot find kind words for the manual supplied with the Micro-Professor, though, if, in concession, the manual is assessed on the basis of the owner being fully conversant with microprocessor principles, it.is adequate - but barely so.

The manual is in three parts; the operating instructions together with hardware details, a listing of the MPF monitor, and a course of 'experiments'.


The memory-map of the MPF.

It is very apparent that the text has been translated (from Taiwanese?) for, as is invariably the case, words have been translated reasonably accurately but grammar has been doubtfully touched. There are numerous scratch-outs and handwritten corrections which, when taken with poor printing of tables and diagrams (obviously photocopied from their original sources), leave a sad impression, compared with the machine itself. My main critisism, however, is related to the actual content and layout of the manual. The only sections that deal in fundamentals are the preparatory paragraphs at the beginning of part III; there are only eight pages which deal (very superficially) with some, but not all, of the important subjects.

There is little point in discussing the manual in any greater detail. It is sufficient to say that if you already have an understanding of 280 fundamentals, then you should be able to extract the information you want; however, this could have been made very much easier.

In summary, the Micro-Professor is a well designed well constructed piece of hardware, with most of the facilities required by its area of application; that is, as a low-cost training tool or development system. But if, as a newcomer to the subject of microprocessors and/or. electronics, you are considering the purchase of this machine, I advise investigating the availability of additional literature or teaching on these subjects, to supplement or, better still, supplant the supplied manual.

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## FM

LAST MONTH we looked at amplitude modulation and RF power stages. It only remains to mention briefly the PA modulation stage and interference problems, before we can move on to looking at FM.

The established method of modulation is at the PA stage, for AM transmitters. If the carrier is modulated at an earlier stage then the PA will have to be linear, rather than Class C. Though this allows a much simpler modulator to be used, the disadvantage of using linear PA (remembering that only a fraction of the power is useful) in place of the cheap and simple Class $C$ design usually outweighs the advantages.

Modulation at the PA is carried out by altering the supply voltage to the stage. Instead of taking the supply directly from the power pack, the supply current passes through the secondary of a modulator transformer (for high-power stages) or a modulator transistor (low power). The effect of an audio signal into the modulator is to make the supply voltage to the PA stage rise and fall in time with the audio waveform. The minimum voltage on the PA stage will supply DC minus the audio peak voltage, and the maximum voltage
will be supply DC plus audio peak, so that the resulting signal is still symmetrical around the DC supply voltage, as it must be. This means that the amplitude of the unmodulated carrier will be greater than the amplitude of the unmodulated carrier for half of the AF cycle, and less for the other half cycle. The modulator, in fact, contributes to the carrier power and at $100 \%$ modulation depth the extra power added to the carrier by the modulator is $50 \%$. This means that a carrier of 150 W (remember that's the DC power from the supply) will need a modulator stage with a power output of $50 \% \times 150=75 \mathrm{~W}$ to modulate it fully. This is a minimum figure, disregarding losses and general inefficiency, so that a figure of 100 W would be a better one to aim at.

Some modulator circuits are illustrated in Figure 1.

## Problems Of Interference

All transmitters are potential sources of interference, and one of the conditions of obtaining and holding an amateur licence is that you should be aware of how interference can be caused and what can be done about it.

In general, there are three main ways in which a transmitter can interfere with reception on other bands. One is by excessive bandwidth, so that your transmission overlaps an adjacent frequency, like the CB guy near me who manages to get out on several channels at once! The second possibility is harmonic radiation, so that you interfere with broadcasts which are at a multiple of your output frequency (or other frequencies used in the transmitter, for example by multiplier stages). The third possibility is self-oscillation at the PA stage, which can cause interference with a wide range of frequencies that are not in any way related to the band in which you are operating. This last is the most serious, because its effects are so unpredictable. We'll deal with these problems in more detail later, but some points are worth stressing at this stage.

Adjacent frequency interference is caused by using an excessively wide bandwidth, or by drift. Drift is a problem that can be tackled by attention to the oscillator, and we've looked at that in detail already. The bandwidth problem can be tackled by restricting audio bandwidth, using a low pass filter in the audio circuits prior to the modulator stage, and by avoiding overmodulation, which always causes excessive bandwidth ('splatter"). Overmodulation results when the amplitude of the carrier decreases to zero on each audio cycle Figure 2; this causes the waveshape to become very distorted,


Figure 1. The most common modulation system for AM transmission uses a modulation transformer in series with the supply to the collector of a transistor (a) or (b) the anode of a valve.
so that both harmonic and adjacent band interference are caused. Overmodulation isn't easy to avoid because the way the microphone is used can make a considerable difference to the audio signal. The problem is best tackled by using an AGC circuit (similar to the automatic recording level circuits of tape recorders) in the audio stages.

This also increases efficiency by keeping the modulation close to $100 \%$ while you are transmitting, making the best use of the carrier power. A cheaper, but less satisfactory, alternative is to use a modulation indicator which will warn you when you are approaching 100\% modulation.

Harmonic interference occurs on frequencies which are an exact multiple of the frequency of the transmitter; a transmission at 28.4 MHz is likely to cause interference at $56.8 \mathrm{MHz}, 85.2 \mathrm{MHz}$, 113.6 MHz , and so on, these being $2 \times$, $3 x$ and $4 x$ the transmission frequency. Some of these harmonics may coincide with heavily-used bands, and severe interference will be tracked down very quickly, so avoiding harmonics is important if you want to keep that precious licence.

Harmonics are caused by non-linear stages; class C stages used as PAs are the main offenders. Since harmonics are inevitably at a much higher frequency than the transmitter output, they should be comparatively easy to eliminate from the aerial circuit by using low-pass filters, such as the all-useful pi-filter. Unfortunately, because harmonics are at high frequencies, they radiate easily from wiring, so that careful attention to screening, construction and biasing of highfrequency stages is needed. It isn't enough to connect a low-pass filter in place and assume that all your worries are overl

Self-oscillation can arise because of stray capacitance, RF chokes and decoupling components all resonating in addition to the 'official' tuned circuits. It can be eliminated by the use of 'lossy' cores in RF chokes and resistors in series with some decoupling capacitors, so as to put a load onto any potential resonant circuits. Every tuned circuit can have a series resonance as well as a parallel one and every choke can resonate with its own capacitance, as well as with decoupling capacitors. By following a tried and tested circuit, using the correct components, the risk of self-oscillation is minimised. If you find that the final PA stage current fluctates considerably when you put your hand anywhere near the stage (but don't touch it!), that's an indication that there may be unwanted (parasitic) oscillation occurring. The presence of,'parasitics' can be confirmed with an instrument such as an absorption wavemeter, which can detect radiation over a wide range of frequencies. If you find, on checking, that your transmitter has an output only on its stated frequency, having used the wavemeter over its full range, then you can be reasonably sure that no unwanted oscillations are occurring.

## Frequency Modulation

Modulation, you recall, means changing some feature of a high frequency carfier
signal so that it carries another, lower frequency signal, which in our case is usually an audio signal of some sort. Amplitude modulation means that the maximum amplitude of the carrier is altered (modulated) by the low frequency signal. Frequency modulation, proposed by Edwin Armstrong 'way back in the 30 s, varies the frequency of the carrier to convey the audio signal. Somehow, a frequency modulated wave is less easy to imagine than an amplitude modulated one, and it becomes. easier to see what is happening if we take number examples, even if they are figures we wouldn't use in practice.

Suppose we have a 1 MHz carrier and we have decided that we will frequency modulate it. We first of all have to decide how much we can shift the frequency; this is a quantity called the 'maximum deviation', or 'peak deviation'. Suppose we make


Figure 2. Overmodulation causes the carrier to be cut off for part of the modulation cycle, causing excessive distortion.


Figure 3. Frequency modulation; the carrier frequency is altered by the amplitude of the audio signal. When the amplitude is maximum, the carrier frequency is also maximum.


Figure 4. A limiter circuit, using an oldfashioned CA3028A IC.


Figure 5. The ratio detector, at one time the most commonly used FM detector circuit, is still much used because of its simplicity.
this quantity 20 kHz ; what this means is that when we modulate with the largest amplitude audio signal we can use, the positive peak of the audio signal will cause the carrier wave frequency to be shifted to $1.02 \mathrm{MHz}(1 \mathrm{MHz}+20 \mathrm{kHz}$ ) and the negative peak of the audio signal will cause the carrier wave to be shifted to 0.98 MHz $(1 \mathrm{MHz}-20 \mathrm{kHz}$ ). If the amplitude of the audio wave is less, then the deviation of frequency is alsoless; it might well be less than 1 kHz , for example.

As the audio modulates the carrier, then, the frequency of the carrier is shifting up and down around the central value (1 MHz , in this example) and the rate at which it changes is equal to the frequency of the audio signal. At 100 Hz , an audio signal of the maximum amplitude would cause the frequency of our imaginary carrier to change from 1 MHz to 1.02 MHz , then down to 0.98 MHz and back to 1 MHz one hundred times per second. That's a lot of frequency shifting, and it uses a lot of bandwidth more than you would expect because of what are called 'sidebands', of which more later. For the moment lets just say that these always amount to a lot more than the maximum deviation, so that the FM system is not one we would want to use in bands where we are short of space for sidebands.

Why use FM, then? There are several reasons and one very important one is that the amplitude of the carrier wave is constant. This means that there is always a large amount of signal being sent out, so that the ratio of carrier amplitude to noise should always be fairly good. The other feature is that all forms of natural interference affect the amplitude of the signal, not its frequency, so that it's possible to make FM systems which are practically free of natural interference.

Broadcast FM services use a peak deviation of 75 kHz on the band between 90 MHz to 108 MHz but, for amateur use, narrow-band FM (NBFM) is much more common, using peak deviations of around 2 to 3 kHz . One great advantage of NBFM is that, since interference to TV is caused mainly by amplitude modulated signals, narrow-band FM will cause much less interference, even when the signals are on almost the same frequency.

## Receiver Differences

The use of FM in place of AM leads to some differences in the design of receivers, but not quite so many as you might expect. The mixer and IF stages are pretty much the same, though the IF stages may have to be stagger tuned or loaded with parallel resistors to allow a wider bandwidth than is usual for AM. In addition, there may be at least one extra IF stage, used as a "limiter". This is designed to remove any trace of amplitude modulation from the signal, because most types of FM de-modulator circuits will demodulate AM to some extent. A really good FMifeceiver will use more than one limiting stage, one with a short time constant, which will remove impulse noise (pulses, such as are produced by car ignition circuits) and one with a longer time constant, to remove the modulation from AM carriers so that they are not demodulated by the FM receiver circuits. Nowadays, an IC is more likely to be used, and Figure 4 shows the old-style CA3028A in this role.

The simple diode demodulator, which is favoured for amplitude demodulation, is of little use for FM demodulation (except in cases of desperation!) so that speciallydesigned demodulators, called discriminators, have to be used for good results. The ratio detector (Figure 5 ) is a circuit that is much favoured in commercial FM radios, mainly because it can be used without a limiter, thus cutting costs. For amateur radio narrow-band work, however, a better standard of performance is needed, and the choice is usually between a crystal discriminator and a PLL (phase-locked loop) IC.

A typical crystal discriminator is shown in Figure 7. Its operation is by no means simple but, briefly, it depends on phase shifts. C1 and L1 are tuned to the IF centre frequency (the frequency of an unmodulated carrier) and have a much wider bandwidth than the crystal, which is also tuned to the IF centre frequency. Capacitors C1 and C2 take signals in the same phase to diodes D1 and D2 and, when the input is at the centre frequency, there is no output because the voltages across the diodes are in anti-phase, cancelling each other. When the frequency changes, however, there is a violent phase shift across the crystal and the voltages across the diodes are no longer $180^{\circ}$ out of phase, thus causing an output. This output reverses polarity as the frequency shifts from higher-than-centre frequency to lower-than centre frequency, providing the audio signals. The main advantage of the crystal detector is that it needs no specialised setting-up procedure, in the way that ratio detectors and Foster-Seeley discriminators do, and it is, in addition, particularly well suited to narrow-band work, being much less effective for wide-band operations.

The PLL is a much more modern method. A phase-locked loop is an IC which includes a phase detector, a filter, a DC amplifier and a voltage controlled oscillator (Figure 8). The voltage controlled oscillator (VCO) is set up, using an external resonant circuit, so that it runs at around the IF frequency, the centre frequency. The phase detector will produce a DC voltage whose size depends on the phase difference between the incoming IF signal and the oscillator signal. This DC voltage is filtered, to remove any trace of modulation, and used to change the frequency of the VCO so as to lock it to the incoming signal both in frequency and in phase.

When the signal input to the PLL is frequency-modulated, the " DC " voltage that is used to correct the VCO will have to vary, to keep correcting the VCO frequency, and so will vary according to the frequency modulation. In other words, it's the audio signal that we want and no tricky adjustrnents are needed to obtain excellent results. The earlier PLL ICs had rather restricted frequency ranges, around 500 kHz , but later types such as the NE561, can be used up to 30 MHz . The circuits following these PLL discriminators, as with any discriminators, are low-pass filters to suit the audio bandwidth needed.

One feature of FM which sets it apart is its noise-suppressing ability. A good FM signal is practically free of any type of interference and will be received with a silent background by a good quality receiver (yes, they do exist - don't go by the CB rigs
you've heard!!. This can have its disadvantages if you are trying to hear a weak FM signal because weak signals will simply disappear in the presence of a stronger signal of around the same frequency. This is called "capture effect"; what happens is that the signals mix together at the front end of the receiver, and the weak signal modulates the strong one. In such a mixing, the modulation is amplitude modulation and since the receiver removes all traces of amplitude modulation, only the strong signal is detected. This can cause very disconcerting effects at times when several users are on about the same channe!!

## Transmitters And Recievers

The differences between FM and AM transmitters are considerably greater than the differences between FM and AM receivers. If you are transmitting FM you


Figure 6. The idealised frequency-vsamplitude graph of a discriminator.


Figure 7. The circuit of a crystal discriminator.


Figure 8. The PLL (phase locked loop) circuit is conveniently packaged in a single IC.
can forget about Class C output stages to start with, because a Class C stage simply doesn't cope with varying output frequencies. Modulation methods, in particular, are very different, as you might expect.

Since there's no simple way that you can modulate frequency after it has been generated, modulation is carried out at the oscillator. Unless a VFO is used (and that's not a particularly good idea, because the frequency stability is not really good enough), the amount of modulation will be very small because a crystal oscillator does not change frequency very much, even when the capacitance across it is changed. Fortunately, the way we use crystals helps here. If we are working in the 144 MHz band, for example, using a 6 MHz crystal, then we need to multiply the crystal frequency by 24 and any frequency deviation that is caused at the crystal is also multiplied by 24 . In this way, if we want to work with a deviation of 5 kHz at 144 MHz , the deviation of the crystal frequency need only be $1 / 24$ th of this, which is only 208 Hz . As a percentage of the crystal frequency, this is about $0.004 \%$, and it's easily achieved by circuits such as the varactor diode modulator shown in Figure 9. Remember that FM is permitted only in the higher frequency bands, so that this multiplier effect will always be working.

The PA for such a system must be Class $B$ or Class $A-B$, rather than Class $C$ and to avoid unwanted modulation, the power supply to the modulator circuits must be well stabilised because any voltage change will affect the varactor diode and cause a change of frequency.

Direct modulation of the oscillator is by far the best and most popular method of achieving frequency modulation, but it is not the only possibility. An alternative is to use a fixed frequency crystal oscillator stage and to 'phase-modulate' at a later stage. If the audio amplifier circuits, used prior to modulation, are filtered with the correct amplitude frequency characteristics, phase modulation can produce a signal which is indistinguishable from that of FM and will be decoded by any FM receiver. Phase modulation is far from being a simple method, and is best suited to higher power transmitters than can be licenced in the UK, so that the simple frequency-modulated crystal oscillator method is the best bet.

Figure 9. A typical FM modulator,
based on a varactor diode.


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When I said I am wanting to sell you the knowledge" please don't think I am offering a proceed in simple logical steps - how an 'AND gate' works, and what is a 4ilp-1Iop' and so on - microcompulers have leit an that simple sturn benind long ago and you il never catch up tha

Way, Learning computing is a bit like learning to swim, but you've got no time to waste. What I paddling pool learning a bit at a time. But if you're going in at the deep end you'll need a friend to save you from drowning - that's what 'm here for
before you can enter the water. Down at the shallow end - you have yo buy a computer first belore you can enter the water. Down at the shallow end this will cost you about £50 with a
further £50 for the necessary RAM (memory), - at the deep end, where you'n find me, the cost is at least double.
I bet you're saying 'some friend this - he's already wanting me to spend iwice as much as I thought'. Well it's true, I think you have got to, and here's why. The cheap systems are bullt down to a price - the 'chip count' (number of integrated circuits used) has to be kept righ
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poor state of alfairs if you have to be prepared to throw a way a hunding has come to a pretty system which cannot expand with you, but has to be replaced by the next model annually. I would also say beware of committing the diametrically opposite mis take - a gimmick computer. This an on whichis which can easily be adapted for this or that.
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# Breadboards 

## The design and development of an Audio Phaser.

JUDGING by the number of letters we received following the Tone Control design in September's Breadboards, it seems that you'd prefer more 'projectlike' circuits to be developed. So, we've decided to hold over your designs (until next month) to present one more breadboard project . . . and go out 'in a blaze of glory'. This circuit will, in a subsequent edition of HE , develop into a full length project - a high spec phasing unit.

## A Passing Phase

Professional phasing units achieve this well-known effect by splitting an input signal into two separate paths; one of which is delayed before being re-mixed with the other. By carefully controlling the delay time, the phasing sound is produced. However, such effects' units do not come cheap and even home built devices must contain certain expensive ICs to obtain reasonable


Figure 1. The circuit of an experimental single stage phase shifter.


Figure 2. A breadboard layout for the circuit of Figure 1.
results. So, the alternative is to produce a sound effect that is similar; but without employing complex delay circuitry. The basis for such a unit is a phase shifting network that can be swept across a frequency band. This is the subject of our breadboards circuit - a single op-amp phase shifter.

The circuit of the shifter is shown in Figure 1. It can be looked on as a differential amplifier configured as a high pass filter, with time constant (and corner frequency) dependent on the values of R3 and C1. However, the most interesting feature of the circuit is that by changing the time constant (ie by varying R3) there is an associated phase change.

The phase change could be achieved by placing a 10 k pot in place of R3, but is here done by voltage control via Q1. The voltage on the gate of Q 1 alters its drain-to-source resistance, which is in parallel with R3. In fact, the FET's resistance changes from a few hundred ohms up to several megohms, so the actual resistance at the ends of R3 will range from this value up to 10 K when the drain-to-source resistance of the FET is high, the parallel value with R3 is not altered significantly. So, the voltage on the gate controls the time constant and phase shift of the circuit. Apply a varying control voltage to the gate and you can sweep across a range of frequencies.


Figure 3. Development of a complete functional phase shifter; (a) the triangle wave sweep generator; (b) a single stage shifter with sweep input; (c) block diagram of the complete four-stage phase shifter.

## Clean Sweep

The sweeping, in our circuit, is provided by RV1, but in the phaser which will appear later, the sweep will be provided by a triangle wave generator, as shown - with a few modifications - in Figure 3b. The complete phaser will comprise four shift networks, a sweep generator, a buffer and a mixer connected as in Figure 3c. Each phase shifting network (Figure 3a) has a separate FET and all their gates are joined and fed from a single triangle wave. This produces a 'comb' filter sweeping across the audio spectrum.

The breadboard layout for our single stage phase shifter is shown in Figure 2. If you have a 'scope to hand you will be able to see the phase shift by comparing the input and output (with a sine wave source) - a dual beam 'scope is particularly useful for this and rotating RV1 to produce the effect. By changing the value of C1 you can vary the frequency bands. Values down to around 10 n may be used. If you're feeling adventurous you can build other shifters and wire them in series (cascade), controlled by a single voltage (all the FET gates connected together). This will give you a deeper effect - don't forget each stage requires power from the batteries but don't be too ambitious! H18

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