

The communications, electronics \& computers magazine

TRIO-KEMWOOD


Low Cosi merauncy
GNDARD

BUILD XOUR OMIN DOT MAIRIX PRINIER

DATA FILE - AUDIO PREAMPICS LIN 381382387

HICH SPETD DALA TRANSMISSION

BUILD AN RF BRIDGE

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# AMTRONICS (tonsilices ca syz THE AMATEUR RADIO SPECIALISTS IN KENT 

CLOSED MONDAYS: 9 TO 5.30 TUES TO SAT


| FDK |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| 750XX.. | ........... £349.00 |
| 725X... | ..........£219.00 |
| 70 cm E | XP.........£249.00 |


| FORTOP | $\stackrel{A}{T}$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{V}$ |  |$|$


| B.N.O.S. |
| :---: |
| 1-100 Linear... $£ 172.50$ |
| 3-100 Linear.. $£ 172.50$ |
| 10-100 Linear.. $£ 149.50$ |
| 25 amp PSU .... $£ 125.45$ |

B.N.O.S.

1-100 Linear.. £172.50
3-100 Linear.. £172.50
25 amp PSU .... £125.45

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Safety Mic ........ £43.25 Safety Mic ........ £28.95 503 Mic .............. £47.50

## SPECIAL OFFERS

LAST FEW : TOTSUKO : 2 M SSB/CW $1 / 10$ watt. Portable mobile rig complete STILL only
£115.00
YAMATO ROTATOR takes up to 8 element 2 metre beam. Uses 3 core cable, in line and neat controller $\mathbf{£ 4 0 . 0 0}$

ALINCO EMR 400 ROTATOR similar spec to KR400. Takes large 2 metre beam etc. £79.00, lower bracket......................... £14.00
GLOBAL MINI CLOCK Rotate the Globe: London and Country zone time. Special price........................................... £45.00
JAYBEAM LOG BOOKS
£2.10

## JAYBEAM - Full range in stock

$5 \mathrm{XY} / 2 \mathrm{~m} \quad 7.8 \mathrm{DB} \quad$ MBM $2870 \mathrm{~cm} 11-5 \mathrm{DB} \quad$ LW $52 \mathrm{~m} \quad 7.8 \mathrm{DB}$ $8 \mathrm{XY} / 2 \mathrm{~m}$ 9.5DB MBM 4870 cm 14.00 DB LW 82 m 9.5 DB $10 \mathrm{XY} / 2 \mathrm{~m} 10.8 \mathrm{DB} \quad \mathrm{MBM} 8870 \mathrm{~cm} 16.30 \mathrm{DB} \quad$ LW 102 m 10.5 DB

Phasing Harness C5 Colinear 2m 4.8 DB
PMH 2/2m 2 way $2 v \quad$ LR1 Colinear 2 m 4.3 DB
PMH $4 / 2 \mathrm{~m} 4$ way UGP/2m Ground Plane 0-0DB
PMH $2 / 70 \mathrm{~cm} 2$ way $\quad \mathrm{C} 870 \mathrm{~cm}$ Colinear 6-1 DB
PMH $4 / 70 \mathrm{~cm} 4$ way

FT290R Multimode Transceiver 2m.... FT790R Multimode Transceiver 70 cm SMC 8C 220mA Charger (13A Style). MMB11 Mobile mount CSC1A Carrying case FL2010 2m 10w Amplifier.. FL7010 70cm 10w Amplifier. FT203R New 2 m Handy. FT230R 2 m Transceiver 25w FT730R 70 cm Transceiver 10 w FT208R 2 m Handheld 2.5 w . FT708R 70cm Handheld 1 w
 SMC8.9AA Compact charger (13A Style). NC7 Base charger.
NC8 Base quick charger \& psu.
PA3 DC Adaptor and charger FT77 8 Band RX/TX 100 w output FT77S 8 Band RX/TX output FP700 Matching AC PSU. FC700 Matching Antenna Tuner FV700DM Digital VFD Unit. MKT77 Marker Unit. FMUT77 FM Unit

E269.00
. 249.00 .. E8.80 . 226.85 . 4.20 . 63.25 . 51.00 . 169.00 £259.00 £229.00 E199.00 £179.00 ... 88.05 £ 32.95 . $£ 54.05$ £15.35 £459.00 E425.00 ع135.00 £98.90 £200.00 . $£ 10.35$ £27.20

## FAST MAIL ORDER:

Access, Visa, Postal Order or Cheque. Instant HP with Call sign for callers at the shop.


Sales assistant required of smart appearance. Call sign an advantage. ${ }^{0} \infty^{01}$ To work 5 day week, Tues/Sat. Salary according to age and experience.
Please write in the first instance to Peter Stonell.

## Radioe Electronics The communications, electronics \& computers magazine, 40

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Editor $\qquad$ DENNIS HAYES

Advertisement Manager .......... NICOLA DYER Advertisement Executive ......... ANNE BRADY

Subscriptions $\qquad$ 01-6843157

Accounts $\qquad$ CLARE BRINKMAN

Publisher $\qquad$ PETER WILLIAMS
General Manager ALAN GOLBOURN

ON SALE: Second Thursday of the month preceding cover date
NEXT ISSUE: Cover date July 1984 on sale 14 June 1984
PUBLISHED BY: Radio \& Electronics World Magazines, Sovereign House, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4SE, England (0277) 219876
PRINTED: In England
ISSN: 0262-2572
news TRAdE SALES BY: Seymour Press Ltd, 334 Brixton Road, London SW9 7AG Tel: 01 -733 4444

## CHANGE IN PUBLICATION DATE

We are changing from Friday to a Thursday publication date with effect from the July, 1984, issue of R\&EW. This means that the July issue will be on sale from 14th June

We regret to inform readers that due to continually rising production costs and to enable us to maintain the high standard of content in R\&EW the price of the magazine will be $90 p$ from this issue. This is your last chance to subscribe at the old rate. See page 80


See pages 59 and 60

## COVER PICTURES

Top leff: Low cost frequency standard Top right: A Russian TV announcer Centre left: Dual trace oscilloscope Centre right: Digital multimeters Bothom: Amateur TV picture

Whilst every care is taken when accepting advertisements we cannot accept responsibility advertisements we cannotaccept esponsibisfactory transactions. We will, how for unsatisfactory transactions. We will, ho
The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the publishers.

Every care is also taken to ensure that the contents of Radio \& Electronics World are accurate, we assume no responsibility for any effect from errors or omissions.

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# PRODUCT NEWS 

Featured on these pages are details of the latest products in communications, electronics and computers. Manufacturers, distributors and dealers are invited to supply information on new products for inclusion in Product News Readers, don't forget to mention Radio \& Electronics World when making enquiries


## TWO NEW PRINTER

 MECHANISMSTwo new printer mechanisms have been launched by Epson (UK) Ltd - the M-170 (see photo), a 40 -column capacity dot matrix printer and the M-1200 thermal printer.
The M-1200 represents a major breakthrough for Epson by bringing the instal-
led cost for thermal printer mechanisms down to a level which will appeal to the home computer marketplace. The M-1200 has a 40-column printing capacity, uses 112 mm width thermal paper and offers both text and graphic mode with print speeds of 45 cps and 0.41 ps respectively. The unit is compact, measuring 139 mm wide $\times 45 \mathrm{~mm}$ deep

$\times 23.5 \mathrm{~mm}$ high and a wide range of applications includes intelligent instrumentation, home computers and mini and portable terminal printers. The unit will cost $£ 23$ (based on quantities of 1,000 ).
The new M-170 is a true 40column capacity plain paper printer with full dot graphics capability. It is an extension
of Epson's successful M-160 series offering all the same benefits of clear dot printing, low price, and compact size with the additional advantage of accepting normal paper of up to 69.5 mm in width.
The M-170 prints at 0.4 lines per second and will be available for £21 (based on quantities of 1,000 ).

## NEW AMDO 60-WATI AMPLIFIER

Amdio have just released a 60 watt MOSFET amplifier and will have a 120 watt version available in the late summer. Amdio have found that there is a market for an amplifier with 5 microphone inputs and 1 auxiliary input at an inexpensive price. The microphone inputs are balanced line with XLR sockets with transformers. There is automatic override for microphone 1.

The output is 60 watts RMS into 8 ohms or 100 volt line and MOSFET's are used in the output stages. MOSFET offer

excellent performance, low temperature operation and a fast slew rate. They are inherently free of crossover distortion and thermal runaway which results in this range of amplifiers being of very high quality and reliability.

The 60 watt amp was designed for installations such as churches and conference use where up to 5 microphones are required. The amplifier retails at $£ 360$ plus VAT, and is available from stock. Details from: AMDIO LTD, 26-28 Reading Road South, Fleet, Aldershot, Hants. Tel: (02514) 20567.

## PRODUCT NEWS

## MOSTEK 16-BIT SINGLE CHIP MICROCOMPUTER Mostek <br> Corporation

 announces a new high-performance 16-bit single-chip microcomputer that can be configured either as an embedded stand-alone controller in a single-chip mode or as an intelligent peripheral controller in an expanded bus mode.Designated the MK68200, the new component implements an architecture with an advanced 16-bit instruction
set which offers high-speed execution and code space efficiency along with extensive on-chip I/O capabilities Included in the instruction set are powerful bit-manipulation, extensive BCD arithmetic and high-speed multiply/divide operations. As an embedded stand-alone controller, this advanced NMOS device is designed for high-performance applications such as industrial controls, robotics and instrumentation.


HECROSTAIIC FITLDKITIE:
A new high sensitivity, autoranging electrostatic fieldmeter, the JCl 101, has been developed by John Chubb Instrumentation - UK Specialists in electrostatics and electrostatic instrumentation. This fieldmeter gives stable and accurate measure ment of electric fields in the vicinity of 'static' charges on insulating or conducting surfaces.

The fieldmeter is designed to investigate and monitor static. Static can cause problems of material handling, attraction of dirt and shock risk to personnel in the plastics, textile, paper and packaging industries. In the microelectronics industry even low levels of static can damage sensitive semiconductor devices in manufacture and during printed circuit board assembly and handling. The high sensitivity of the instrument enables low
levels of charge and low voltages to be measured remotely and without contact to the surface. Voltages as low as 100 volts can easily be observed on a person at a distance of 1 metre.

The JCl 101 fieldmeter is compact, light and easy to use for handheld investigatory studies around industrial plant and the definite, stable response with the auto-ranging liquid crystal display ensures reliable and unambiguous readings.

The front of the instrument is provided with a simple bayonet pin arrangement around the sensing aperture for easy mounting of additional units to expand the range of application of the instrument. One such unit is a guard plate to assist interpretation of measurements of charge densities on plastic webs another is a Faraday Pail for the measurement of charge on small items.


## SOLD-STAIE TV CAMIERAS

Industrial
Monitoring Equipment Ltd have recently introduced a comprehensive range of solid-state cameras developed from charge-coupled devices. The development of practical cost-effective vision systems is a recent phenomenon and they are now able to offer relatively low cost video cameras for robotic vision.
The new silicium solid-state sensor technology provides many advantages including high reliability, control of lighting variation by the use of an anti-blooming device,
fast image capture speeds and no image blurring when the camera is moved quickly.

The NUMEVISION concept provides the user with an entire range of modular image acquisition and processing systems. Each system is built upon a basemodel depending on the CCD used. It is completed with electronic modules which are specific to precise applicational requirements.

For further information contact: Industrial Monitoring Equipment Limited, Penn House, Penn Place, Rickmansworth, Herts, WD3 1SN.


The JCI 101 Electrostatic Fieldmeter is part of the broad range of electrostatic instruments available from John Chubb instrumentation. For further information on
this and other instruments available from JCl contact: Dr J N Chubb, Unit 30, Lansdown Industrial Estate, Gloucester Road, Cheltenham. Tel: 0242-573347

## Cirkit.A new name

This year Ambit will stop being Ambit. And become Cirkit.

Cirkit is more than just a change of name. It means a better service for you. Faster delivery.

A bigger range of the best and latest products with well over 10,000 different items available.

Everything for the home and industrial user.
A whole new Cirkit range of constructional kits, graded for the student, expert and enthusiast.

Modules to build for everyone.
Cirkit is a go ahead company that believes in giving service to its customers.

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We keep in touch with the manufacturers and we know what's going on.

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Cirkit means a bigger catalogue. A better company to deal with.

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For further information send for our latest catalogue or visit one of our three outlets at: 200 North Service Road, Brentwood, Essex, CM14 4SG; 53 Burrfields Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO3 5EB; Park Lane, Broxbourne, Hertfordshire, EN10 7NQ.
To: Cirkit Holdings PLC, Park Lane, Broxbourne, Hertiordshire.
$I$ enclose 80 p. Please send me your latest catalogue and $3 \times £ 1$ discount vouchers!
Name Address

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Area ofSpecial Interest
Cirkit
Bigger Stock. Better Service.

## Computer Products

A complete range from Connectors to Board Level product


## Nicad Batteries \& Chargers

Minimum life 600 ( 300 PP 3 size) full charge/discharge cycles. Batteries must be charged from a constant current source only. All batteries are supplied only with a residual charge and should be charged before used.

|  |  |  |  | 1-9 | 1049 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| AA | 1.2 V | 500 mAH | 01-12004 | 0.80 | 0.74 |
| ${ }^{\text {c }}$ | 1.2 V | 2.2 AH | 01-12024 | 2.35 | 1.99 |
| 'D' | 1.2 V | 4.0AH | 01-12044 | 3.05 | 2.85 |
| PP3 | 8.4 V | 110 mAH | 01-84054 | 3.70 | 3.50 |
| $\mathrm{CHI} / 22 \mathrm{PP3}$ Charger 11 mA for 16 hours |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 01.00159 |  | 4.30 |
| CH8/RX Multi-purpose Charger |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 01-02204 |  | 9.40 |

Will recharge AA, C, D and PP3 size cells with automatic voltage selection. Will recharge following combination: $6 \times \mathrm{D}$,
$6 \times$ AA, $6 \times$ C, $2 \times$ PP3, $2 \times \mathrm{D}+2 \times \mathrm{C}$,
$2 \times \mathrm{D}+2 \times \mathrm{AA}, 2 \times \mathrm{D}+1 \times \mathrm{PP} 3,2 \times \mathrm{C}+2 \times \mathrm{AA}$, $2 \times \mathrm{C}+1 \times$ PP3, $2 \times \mathrm{AA}+1 \times$ PP3 .
Battery Adaptor
01-12001
0.96

Sold in pairs: one to convert AA size to C size and one to convert $C$ to $D$ size. Both may be used together to convert an $A A$ to $D$ size.

## Semiconductors

Linear IC's

| LM301AN | DIL version | $61-03011$ | 0.44 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| LM308CN | DIL version | $61-03081$ | 0.65 |
| LM31ICN | Popular comparator | $61-00311$ | 0.46 |
| LM324 | Low power quad op amp | $61-03240$ | 0.67 |
| LM339N | Lowpower quad comparator | $61-03390$ | 0.68 |
| LM346 | Programmable quad op amp | $61-00346$ | 3.72 |
| LF347 | Quad Bi-FET op amp | $61-00347$ | 1.82 |
| LM348 | Quad 741 type op amp | $61-03480$ | 1.26 |
| LF351 | Bi-FET op amp | $61-03510$ | 0.49 |
| LF353 | Dual version of LF351 | $61-03530$ | 0.76 |
| LM380N | IW AF power amp | $61-00380$ | 1.00 |
| NE555N | Multi-purpose low cost timer | $61-05550$ | 0.45 |

##  <br> for a better service.



Microprocessor \& Memories
z80A Popular and powerful
8-bit CPU
Z80AP10 2 port parallel input/output
Z80A CTC 4 channel counter/timer
Z8671 $\quad$ Z8 Micro comp. and Basic
6116-3 16K (2kx8) CMOS
RAM 200 nS
Z6132-6 $\quad 32 \mathrm{~K}(4 \mathrm{kx} 8)$ quasi
RAM 350nS
4116-2 $\quad 16 \mathrm{~K}(16 \mathrm{kxl}) 150 \mathrm{nS}$
2764 64K (8kx8) 450nS
2732 32K (4kx8) 450nS
Voltage Regulators
7805 5V 1A positive
7812 12V 1A positive
7815 15V 1A positive
7905 SV 1A negative
7912 12V 1A negative
$7915 \quad$ 15V 1A negative

## Transitors

| BC 182 | General purpose | $58-00182$ | 0.10 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| BC 212 | General purpose | $58-00212$ | 0.10 |
| BC 237 | Plastic BC107 | $58-00237$ | 0.08 |
| BC 238 | Plastic $\mathrm{BC108}$ | $58-00238$ | 0.08 |
| BC 239 | Plastic $\mathrm{BC109}$ | $58-00239$ | 0.08 |
| BC 307 | Complement to BC237 | $58-00307$ | 0.08 |
| BC 308 | Complement to BC238 | $58-00308$ | 0.08 |

26-18400 $\quad 3.40$ 26-18420 2.95 26-18430 $\quad 2.90$ $26-0867117.50$ $26-36116 \quad 6.68$
$26-06132 \quad 15.00$ 26-24116 1.59 26-02764 9.50 $26-02732 \quad 5.70$

27-78052 0.40 $27.78122 \quad 0.40$ $27.78152 \quad 0.40$ 27-79052 0.49 $27.79122 \quad 0.49$ 27-79152 0.49
$\begin{array}{ll}58-00182 & 0.10\end{array}$ $58-00212 \quad 0.10$ 58002370.08 $5800239 \quad 0.08$ $58-00307 \quad 0.08$

| BC309 | Complement to BC239 |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| BC327 | Driver/power stage |  |
| BC337 | Driver/power stage |  |
| MPSA13 | NPN Darlington |  |
| MPSA63 | PNP Complement to |  |
|  | MPSA13 |  |
| J310 | JFET for HF-VHF |  |
| J176 | JFET analogue switch |  |
| 3SK51 | Dual gate MOSFET-VHFamp |  |
| 3SK88 | Dual gate MOSFET-Ultra lo |  |
|  | noise | 60 |
| TIP31A | Output stage | 58 |
| TIP32A | Complement to TIP31A | 58 |
| VN66AF | VMOS Power FET | 60 |
| ZTX3866 | E-line version 2N3866 | 58 |
| IN4001 | Rectifier diode | 12 |
| IN4002 | Rectifier diode |  |
| IN4148 | General purpose silicon |  |


| $58-00309$ | 0.08 |
| :---: | :---: |
| $58-00327$ | 0.13 |
| $58-00337$ | 0.13 |
| $58-04013$ | 0.30 |
|  |  |
| $58-04063$ | 0.30 |
| $59-02310$ | 0.69 |
| $59-02176$ | 0.65 |
| $60-04051$ | 0.60 |
|  |  |
| $60-04088$ | 0.99 |
| $58-15031$ | 0.35 |
| $58-15032$ | 0.35 |
| $60-02066$ | 0.95 |
| $58-03866$ | 0.45 |
| $12-40016$ | 0.06 |
| $12-40026$ | 0.07 |
| $12-41486$ | 0.05 |
|  |  |

Silicon Controlled Rectifiers
BRY55-100 100V .8A
52-55100 $\quad 0.50$ Cl06DI $\quad 400 \mathrm{~V} 4.0 \mathrm{~A}$ Cl22DI $\quad 400 \mathrm{~V} 8.0 \mathrm{~A}$ 3 mm Diameter LEDs
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { V178P } & \text { Red } \\ \text { V179P } & \text { Green }\end{array}$
V180P Yellow
5mm Diameter LEDs
CQY40L Red
CQY72L Green
CQY74L Yellow
Infra-Red LEDs
CQY99 Emitter
BPW41 Detector
$52-00106 \quad 0.70$
$52-00122 \quad 1.45$

15-01780 $\quad 0.15$
$15-01790 \quad 0.16$
$15-01800 \quad 0.18$

15-10400 $\quad 0.12$ 15-10720 $\quad 0.15$ 15-10740 $\quad 0.15$

15-10990 $\quad 0.56$
15-30410 $\quad 1.51$
Tri Colour LED
$\begin{array}{llll}\text { V518 Orange-Green-Yellow } & 15-05180 & 0.60\end{array}$
Capacitors


Aluminium Electrolytics Radial PCB Mounting

|  |  | Pack of 4 |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | ---: |
| 10 u | 16 V | $05-10606$ | 0.24 |
| 47 u | 16 V | $05-47606$ | 0.28 |
| 47 u | 25 V | $05-47607$ | 0.28 |
| 470 u | 6.3 V | $05-47705$ | 0.36 |
| 470 u | 16 V | $05-47706$ | 0.48 |
|  |  |  |  |
| TantaluIf Beads |  | Each |  |
|  |  |  | 0.18 |
| luf | 35 V | $05-10501$ | 0.28 |
| 10uf | 16 V | $05-47601$ | 0.45 |
| 47uf | 6.3 V | $05-47602$ | 0.92 |
| 47uf | 16 V |  |  |

Monolithic Capacitors

| Monolithic Capacitor |  | Packot3 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 n | 0410204 | 0.39 |
| 10 n | 04.10304 | 0.42 |
| 100n | 0410404 | 0.45 |
| Low Voltage Disc Cermaic |  |  |
| in | 0410203 | Pack of 5 |
| 10 n | 0410303 | 0.20 |
| Polyester (C280) |  |  |
| 10 n | 0410305 | ${ }_{0}{ }_{0} 18$ |
| 47n | 0447305 | 0.24 |
| 100n | 0410405 | 0.24 |
| 470n | 0447405 | 0.51 |
|  | 04410505 | 0.66 |

R F Components


Filters
CFU/LFB CFW/LFH SERIES
Miniature 455 kHz filters. I/P and $\mathrm{O} / \mathrm{P}$
impedance 2 K .

| -6dBW -40dBW |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| LFB6/CFU455H | 6 kHz | 18 kHz | 16-45512 | 1.95 |
| LFB12/CFU455F | 12 kHz | 26 kHz | 16-45515 | 1.95 |
| LFH6S/ CFW455HT | 6 kHz | 14kHz | 16-45525 | 2.45 |
| LFGI2S/ CFW455FT | 12kHz | 22 kHz | 16-45528 | 2.45 |

$\begin{array}{lll}22 \mathrm{kHz} & 16-45528 \quad 2.45\end{array}$ CFM2455A Mechanical IF Filters for
455 kHz
$19-45530 \quad 0.77$
Crystal Filters 2 Pole Types
$\begin{array}{llll}10 \mathrm{M} 15 \mathrm{~A} & 10.7 \text { Centre Freq. } & 20-10152 \quad 2.10\end{array}$ 10MO8AA $\quad 10.695$ Centre Freq. $20-111523.49$

## Inductors

We offer the complete Toko range of fixed and variable inductors. Over 500 coils from audio to V.H.F. See catalogue for details.

## Soldering Irons (Antex)

CS240 Iron 240VAC 17 Watts 54-22300 5.20
XS-240 Iron 25 W 240 V High heat capacity Presentation pack of one XS-240 with ST4 stand
MLXS
Handy 12V 15W soldering iron complete with crocodile clips and solder $\quad 54-20004 \quad 5.60$

Please add $15 \%$ VAT to all advertised prices and 60 p post and packing. Minimum order value $\$ 2$ please. We reserve the right to vary prices in accordance with market fluctuation.




## PRODUCT NEWS

## TOOLHOLDERS

Having the right tools for the job is one thing - equally important is the need to carry them in a way that is most convenient, comfortable and accessible for the user.

Jarvis Manufacturing of Eastbourne have a great many years' experience in supplying toolholsters, cases, wallets, wire wrapping gun holsters, rolls and belts.
Whilst some of their products are based on a standard format, the great majority are produced - often in fairly small quantities - to meet specific requirements. The
customer supplies a set of tools and consults with Jarvis on any special prerequisites, and Jarvis produce a prototype prior to manufacture.

Jarvis's capability in this field has seen their toolholders in use across a broad range of applications, including medicine, electronics, engineering, building construction office equipment servicing and electrical repairs.
For further information contact Ken Wagstaff, Jarvis Manufacturing, 116 Seaside. Eastbourne. Tel: (0323) 638624.


## MD CONVERTER

 MIH SERIAL WIERFACEMotorola Integrated Circuit Group announces availability of the MC145040/MC145041 analog-to-digital converters with serial interface. These devices are low cost, 8-bit A/D converters with serial interface ports that are compatible with SP1, Microwire and other similar interfaces.
The MC145040 offers the following features: wide operating supply voltage range of 4.0 V to 6.0 V for operation in NMOS as well as CMOS systems; wide operating temperature range of
$-55^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $+125^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$; conversion rate of 16 microseconds for the standard part.

To further reduce the system cost, the MC145041 offers an on-chip oscillator that allows integration with low cost MCUs that do not output a clock signal. The inputs are TTL-compatible which can be driven with CMOS parts as well. The 20 pin DIP packages provide for 11 analog channels. These devices will also be offered in plastic quad packages. Contact your local Motorola sales office or distributor for further information.


> MULTMETERS OFFE: DIGITAL PERFORMANCE AT ANALOGUE COST

Now available from Semicomps are the Beckman T100 and T110 handheld digital multimeters at a price that competes with anolog equivalents ( $£ 49$ and $£ 59$ ) but with the benefits of digital performance

They feature an easy to read $31 / 2$ digit liquid crystal display with automatic polarity, decimal point and over-range indication and a maximum reading of 1999.
All functions and ranges are selected by a single rotary
switch and are fully protected against overloads and transients and are shielded against external fields.

The T100 can be selected to read five ranges of $d c$ and ac voltage, six ranges of dc and ac current, six ranges of high power resistance and five ranges of low power resistance. The T110 has all these range and function selections plus an instant continuity test facility in the form of a buzzer.
The multimeters are pur-pose-built for heavy duty using high quality components throughout including a CMOS integrated circuit.

## LOW POWER DPM WIIH DIGIIAL HOLD

Lascar Electronics have announced the introduction of a low-cost, low-power LCD DPM with true digital hold of displayed reading. Consuming only 1 mA from a $7-15 \mathrm{~V}$ supply, the DPM10 features auto-polarity, auto-zero, 200 mV FSD, low-battery indication, 12.5 mm digit height and programmable decimal points. Connection to the 0.1 in board pins can be by direct solder or with a connector (supplied). The
meter can be easily rescaled by the user if required to indicate different voltages, currents or other engineering units. With its good accuracy and simple connections, this meter is particularly suited to high volume applications. Supplied with a bezel, mounting clips and connector, the DPM10 is the answer to many different measurement problems.

Details from: Lascar Electronics Ltd, Module House, Whiteparish, Salisbury, Wiltshire Tel: (07948) 567.


## NaW POWER MOSF7 COLOUR BROCHURE

Ferranti Electronics Limited has issued a colour brochure highlighting its new generation of Power MOSFETS. Ferranti Power MOSFETS are especially suited to a wide range of switching and amplifying applications where high input impedance, high gain and fast switching speed is desired. The brochure gives fundamental MOSFET information with with aid of clear colour diagrams and compares the MOSFET with existing bipolar transistors. The MOSFET
structure, its mode of operaion, its power handling capabilities and its advantages over bipolar transistors are noted.
Enquiries to: John Fowler \& Partners Limited, Ashbourne House, 334 Wellington Road North, Stockport SK4 5DA. Tel: 061-442 6060

## C.CKG TO ME MOULDED

Custom Cables International Limited, one of the first to mould 9, 15, 25, 37 ' $D$ ' type connectors onto cables, now offer socket connectors moulded onto round cable.

The 'Moulded Sockets' are available on $.100 \mathrm{in} \times .100 \mathrm{in}$ grid spacing and a wide range of contact quantities, $10-64$ ways, are available. The 'Moulded Socket' connector offers many advantages over the Standard Ribbon Cable Crimped Socket Connector, These include the very low price (up to $50 \%$ less in most cases), and the fact that they are very hard-wearing, (almost indestructable). Where frequent quick disconnect/reconnect capability is required, they will not come apart, can be used with screened cable, and are available in any length and any colour. Moulded Sockets are available from CCI along with moulded 'D' connectors and matching mating headers. Further information from: Custom Cables International Ltd, Units 2, 3 and 4, Shire Hill Industrial Estate, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 3AQ. Tel: (0799) 25014.

## QUICK REFERENCE PRODUCT GUIDE

Distributor Axiom Electronics Ltd has published its 1984 quick reference product guide and price list, with almost 200 pages of components, tools and instruments from Motorola, Sprague, WelIer, Cooper Tools, Multicore and - for the first time-H \& T Connectors. The guide contains more than 10,000 individual product lines, with the information organised using manufacturers' part numbers - which are also the Axiom order numbers - together with a product description, prices, and price break points. As well as the established range of products stocked in-depth by Axiom, the guide now contains full details of H \& T components, including sockets and headers, which have recently been added to the Axiom portfolio.

Copies of the guide are available free from Axiom Electronics at Turnpike Road, Cressex Industrial Estate, High Wycombe, Bucks HP12 3NR, Tel: (0494) 442181.

1BO-308S OSCILLOSCOPE
The LBO-308S is a battery/mains portable 20 MHz dual trace oscilloscope. It has a high sensitivity of 2 mV per division and full triggering facilities including a special circuit to ensure positive

## POWER UNITS FOR <br> LINEAR AND DIGITAL INTEERATED CIRCUITS

A new triple output bench power supply unit from Grenson Electronics, designed for the home constructor, is available as a kit at $£ 59$ or fully assembled at $£ 98$, both prices inclusive of VAT and delivery.

Called the Grenson BPU-4, the unit has three variable outputs; $3-8 \mathrm{~V}$ at $2.5 \mathrm{amps},+8$ to $+16 \mathrm{~V}, 0.5 \mathrm{amps}$ and -8 to 16 V at 0.5 amps. The $8-16 \mathrm{~V}$ supply lines are tracking outputs providing a true +ve/-ve supply across the range 8 to 16 V . All the outputs are highly stabilised with an output
change of less than $0.05 \%$ for a $10 \%$ input change, and less than $0.10 \%$ output change from zero to full load. Ripple is better than 0.05\% P-P. In addition, all outputs are fully protected against long term overloads, short circuits and aginst the injection of external voltages. Output voltages are set by two front mounted controls with two switched moving coil meters indicating voltage and current on all lines.
Further information from: Grenson Electronics Ltd, High March, Daventry, Northants NN11 4HQ. Tel: (0327) 705521.

synchronisation with composite video signals. The LBO308 S can compare phase and levels plus addition or subtraction of two signals.
It is compact in size measuring only $120 \times 235 \times 320$ and weighs 5 Kg yet retains ruggedness to withstand the normal wear and tear of field service. A heavy duty carrying
case is an available accessory. The LBO-308S is supplied complete with probes and internal rechargeable battery at a price of $£ 569+$ VAT.

Further information: Thandar Electronics Ltd, London Road, St lves, Huntingdon, Cambs PE17 4HJ. Tel: (0480) 64646.

NEW EQUIPNIENT FANS
Papst Motors Ltd have recently introduced two new equipment fans - the 812 and 814 in a new frame size of only 62 mm and weighing less than 3 ounces. Amongst the Papst 'Superquiet' range are two new 24 volt dc fans - the 4124 GXL and 8124 GL . The 8124 GL in particular measures $79 \times 79 \times 38 \mathrm{~mm}$ and is capable of producing $38 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{h}$ airflow at a noise level of 24 $d B(A)$ which is believed to be a record low for a framed fan of this performance.
Further information: Papst Motors Ltd, East Portway, Andover, Hampshire SP10 3RT. Tel: (0264) 53655

## SHIL DELAY LINES

Dau Components believe that their principals Bel Fuse are the first company to offer active single-in-line packaged delay lines. The pin outs are on 0.1 in pitch and are typically on 14 pin packages. The height is a maximum of 0.35 in and the width of the pack is 0.20 in maximum. These 14 pin packages are 10 tap parts offering total delays of $50,100,150,200$ or 250 nS . The parts are also compatible with TTL and DTL circuits. The S-I-L arrangement fits neatly into the modern resistor and network packages that help to increase density and reduce overall board size.
Further information from: Dau Components Ltd, 70-74 Barnham Road, Barnham, West Sussex PO22 OES. Tel: (0243) 553031

## RADIOTELEPHONE TEST SET

A new portable, fully selfcontained radiotelephone test set is available from Systron-Donner Limited, of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire. Complete testing and alignment of mobile radio equipment is now possible with the Model FMPM-30, which will be on show for the first time at Communications ' 84.
Manufactured by Neuwirth in Germany, the Model FMPM-30 covers all VHF/UHF mobile bands up to 1000 MHz . The microprocessor controlled test set comprises a synthesised signal generator, frequency counter, independent and fully automatic modulation meter for FM, PM and AM, two AF generators and an



## Venezuala

Radio Tachira, San Cristobal on $\mathbf{4 8 3 0}$ at 0345 , OM with station identification, YL with a promo then OM with announcements - all in Spanish. The schedule is from 0900 to 0400 and the power is 10 KW .

## EUROPE

## Belgium

BRT (Belgische Radio en
Televisie - the Flemish Authority) Brussels on 17610 at 1403, YL with a newscast in the English programme for North America and the Far East, timed from 1400 to 1445 (not on Saturday or Sunday). RTBF
(Radio-Television Belge - the French community authority) Brussels on 17680 at 1025, the interval signal which is the sound of an African xylophone, this signal originally being used by Brazzaville in the Belgian Congo prior to independence, then station identification in French at the start of that languaged transmission for Africa and Europe, scheduled from 1030 to 1100.

## Czechoslovakia

Prague on 9605 at 1434, OM with the news during an English presentation to Africa, the Far East and South Asia, timed from 1530 to 1625.

## East Germany

Radio Berlin International on 7185 at 1657, OM with announcements and the station identification at the end of the English programme for Europe, scheduled from 1615 to 1700 .

## France

Paris on 17795 at 1604, YL with a newscast in the English programmed World Service to Africa and Europe, listed from 1600 to 1700.

## Greece

Athens on 17565 at 1520, YL's with a Greek folk song during the Foreign Service 'Voice of Greece' programme directed to North America from 1500 to 1550 .

## Netherlands

Hilversum on 17605 at 1518, OM with the station identification at the close of an English programme for Europe on this channel from 1330 to 1420.

## Poland

Warsaw on 7270 at 0651, OM with a talk about the Polish theatre and recent productions during an English trans
mission for Europe, scheduled from 0630 to 0700.

## Spain

Madrid on 17660 at 1410, YL with a newscast in the Spanish programmed World Service (Programa Mundial) which may be heard on this frequency and in parallel on 17890 from 1400 to 1730.

## Vatican State

Vatican City on $\mathbf{7 2 5 0}$ at 1155, YL with a news commentary in English then OM in Spanish during the multi-lingual Italian, French, English and Spanish news and comment only programme for Europe, scheduled from 1130 to 1200 (not on Sunday).
Vatican City on 11700 at 2013, interval signal, bells then YL with the station identification at the commencement of the Portuguese programme for Africa, timed from 2015 to 2030.

## ASIA

## Afghanistan

Kabul on a measured 6231 at 1555, YL announcer, OM with songs and local-style music in a programme of the Domestic Service (2nd Programme) in Pashto/Dari, timed here from 1430 to 1630 .

## China

Radio Beijing on 9290 at 1414, YL with songs and music in the Thai programme, scheduled on this channel from 1330 to 1430.
Radio Beijing on 9945 at 1420, OM with a long talk during the Vietnamese transmission, timed from 1400 to 1500.

Radio Beijing on 17605 at 0745, YL with a talk in Chinese during a Domestic Service 1 programme, on this frequency from 0100 to 1100.

## India

AIR Delhion 9950 at 1452 , YL with the news in English until 1455 then the station identification and OM with a programme in vernacular.

## Israel

Jerusalem on 9385 at 2100, 'pips' time-check then OM with station identification in a relay of the Domestic Service Network 'B' to Europe and North America from 0400 to 0615 and from 1745 to 2310 on this frequency, entirely in Hebrew.

## Kuwait

Kuwait on 9840 at 1510 , OM with recitations from the Holy

Quran in a Domestic Service General Programme presentation which is on this channel from 1505 to 0015.

## North Korea

Pyongyang on 6577 at 2047, OM with a talk in the 'Radio Magazine' series - all about internal events and all in the English programme for Europe, scheduled from 2000 to 2150 .

## Pakistan

Karachi on a measured 9864 at 1445 , OM with announcements, OM with a song and some local orchestral backing, $Y L$ with station identification at 1447 during the Urdu transmission for the Middle East and the Persian Gulf, timed from 1330 to 1600 . Karachi is listed on 9860!
Karachi on 17640 at 1023, OM with a news commentary in the Indonesian programme, scheduled on this channel from 1000 to 1045.

## Turkey

Ankara on 7154 (measured) at 2020, OM and YL alternate with a news commentary, mainly about local events and affairs, in the English programme for Europe, on this frequency from 2000 to 2100.

## Yemen Arab Republic

San'a on 9780 at 2100 , OM with recitations from the Holy Quran, OM with announcements and station identification in Arabic, the National Anthem and sign-off at 2106. This is a Home Service presentation entirely in Arabic and is scheduled from 0230 to 0700 and from 1000 to 2100 on this channel.
 shorthand into English, this heading becomes English Programmes - a list of which has been sent to the writer by W M Rigby of Morecambe, Lancs. All are correct at the time of writing and are listed here in GMT order.

0900 to 10309535 Berne, Switzerland; 1015 to 1045 17775, 21655, 21695 Dubai, United Arab Emirates; 1100 to 1200 21535, 25790 Johannesburg, S Africa; 1300 to 1600 9585, 15220, 25790 Johannesburg; 16307065 Tirana, Albania; 1630 5930, 7345 Prague, Czechoslovakia; 1800 10040, 15010 Hanoi, Vietnam; 1830 7065, 9480 Tirana; 1900 10040, 15010 Hanoi; 20007155 (but see above) Ankara, Turkey; 20307065 Tirana; 2030 10040, 15010 Hanoi; 2115 to 22459805

Cairo, Egypt; 2200 to 23009560 Ankara and 2200 7065, 9480 Tirana. Where termination times are not shown, the transmissions are of 30 min utes duration.
Our thanks are due to WMR for his efforts on our behalf.

## CLANDESTINE

The almost endless search for clandestine transmitters continues unabated and so does the interest displayed by many DXers. In one notable SWL publication a special section is devoted to them almost every month and also deals additionally with the pirate pop stations never mentioned in these articles. Clandestine stations are political and claim to represent an opposition to the governments with which they are at variance. I shall be dealing with the clandestine stations more fully at a later date but for the moment I bring to your attention one of the latest loggings.

## Voice of the PLA

Voice of the PLA (People's Liberation Army) on 9627.6 (measured) at 1115, orchestral version of the Internationale followed by OM with station identification in Chinese ('Jiefangjun Zhi Sheng') and sign-off. The transmissions are irregular, the subsequent three days listening sessions drawing a blank. An alternative frequency is that of $\mathbf{7 5 2 4 . 6}$ but no joy there either

## NOWLQG THIS Radio Nacional de Sao

 Tome on 4807 at 1957, OM's with a discussion in Portuguese. This one has been back on its original frequency on the short waves for some months now after a prolonged absence. The Home Service entirely in Portuguese operates from 0530 to 2300 (Saturday until 2400) with a power of 10 KW . The full identification is 'Aqui Sao Tome transmite Radio Nacional de Republica Democratica de Sao Tome e Principe'.
## ETHOWHFAR THIS

Radio Station 4VEH Cap Haitien, Haiti on 4930 at 2302 OM with announcements and a talk in French. This is another transmitter absent for some time from the short waves, seemingly abandoning its 9770 and 11835 channels. The schedule is reportedly from 1100 to 1500 and from 1900 to 0400 . Listen then on 4930 around 2300 .

## REGULATORS

LM317T Plastic TO220 variable．
LM317 Metal
7812 Metal
…．．．．£1．00
036 TO3 Metal 12v L037 15v ．．．．．．．．．．．．．．ea 50p
7805／12／15／24 plastic
7905／12／15／24 plastic
CA3085 TO99．
LM723 14 dil or TO99
EPROMS／MEMORIES
2764 300ns
$E 7.00$
2732A－4
2716 Exeqpt
2102500ns AMD
MC6810P
POWER TRANSISTORS
2N3055 Motorola
2N3055 Motorola
．．．

50p5／E200

MJE3055 5／E1．00

MJE2955 equiv 50p
DISPLAYS
Futaba 4 digit clock fluorescent display FLT－02－8．．． Futaba 8 digit calculator fluorescent display 9CT－01－3L ．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．£1．50
LCD Clock display 0．7＇digits．
Large Clock display 1＇digits
83.00
$\varepsilon 3.00$
$7 \mathrm{seg} 0.3^{\prime \prime}$ display comm cathode MISCELLANEOUS
QUARTZ HALOGEN LAMPS
A1／21624v 150w
ع2．25
H1 12v 55w（car spot）．
WOUND POT CORES
with adjusted unused
RM7 LA4245 $\qquad$ $3 / \Sigma 1.00$
RM8 LA4344
TOK KEY SWITCH 2 POLE 3 KEYS
ideal for car／home alarms £3．．． $100+\mathbf{5 2 . 0 0}$ $12 v 1.2 \mathrm{w}$ small wire ended lamps
fit AUDI／VW TR7VOLVO ．．．．．．．．．．．10／£1．00 14v 0．75w MES lamps s．．．．．．．．．． Heat shrink sleeving pack． PTFE sleeving pack asstd colours 8／£1．00 250 mixed res diodes，zeners Convergence pots asstd Mixed electronlytic caps． ITT CASS RECORD／PLAY AMP＋cct
．
100／E2．00
$\Sigma 2.00$
Stereo cassette deck
E5．00
Stereo cass R／P head $\mathbf{\Sigma 2 . 5 0}$
Mono head £1 Erase head ．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．50p
Thermal cut－out $50^{\prime} \mathrm{C}, 77^{\prime} \mathrm{C}$ or $85^{\prime} \mathrm{C}$ ．．．．．．．．50p Thermal fuse $121^{\circ} \mathrm{C} 240 \mathrm{v} 15 \mathrm{~A}$ ． sim RS 413－563
Veropins fit 0．1＂Vero．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．100／50p
Double sided PCB pins ．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．100／50p TO220 Micas＋bushes 10／50p．．．100／玉2．00 TO3 Micas＋bushes ．

10／50p
RELAYS 240v AC coil PCB mounting
2 pole changeover．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．． $\mathbf{\Sigma 1 . 0 0}$
3 pole changeover．
11.00

Varley 24 v dc 4 p c／orelay．．．．
．．80p
Fig 8 mains cassette leads．
． $3 / \mathbf{1} .00$ KYNAR wire wrapping wire 20 reel $\mathbf{\Sigma 1 . 0 0}$ PTFE min screened cable
$10 \mathrm{~m} /$ \＆1．00
TOKIN MAINS RFI FILTER 250v 15A．£3．00 TDK MAINS RFI FILTER $115 \vee 15 \mathrm{~A} . . . . \mathbf{£ 1 . 0 0}$ Epoxy potting compound 500 g ．．．．．．．．．． $\mathbf{\Sigma 2 . 0 0}$ Mercurytilt switch small ．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．50p Min rotarysw 4 p c／o 1／8＇shaft ．．．．．．．2／£1．00 Thorn 9000 TV audio o／p stage ．．．．．．．2／£1．00 10 m 7 CERAMIC FILTER 50p．．．．．100／ $\mathbf{2 0 . 0 0}$ 6mCERAMIC FILTER．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．50p

240v AC FAN 4．6＂SQUARE NEW ．．．．．．． $\mathbf{£ 5} \mathbf{5 0}$ $12 v$ DC Brushless fan reversible 2．5＂sq 2＂ deep QUIET． E9．00 KLIPPON terminal block EKS $12 / 412$ way 20A term block． 3／E1．00 BELLING－LEE 12 way block L1469．4／E1．00 POTENTIOMETERS short spindle 2k5 10k 2m5Lin．．

5／£1．00 500 k lin 500 k log long spindle．．．．．．．．．4／£1．00 555 Timers

5／E1．00
40 KHZ ULTRASONIC TRANSDUCERS EX－EQPT．NODATA ．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．PAIR／E1．00

## RECTIFIERS

120v 35A stud ．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．40p
12FR400 12A 400v small stud．．．．．．．．．．．4／E1．50 BY1271200V 1．2A．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．10／E1．00 1N5401 100v 3A．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．10／£1．00 BY254 800v 3A ．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．8／£1．00 BY255 1300v 3A ．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．6／£1．00 1A 800v bridge rectifier ．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．4／£1．00 6 A 100v bridge． 10A 100 v bridge 50p
．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．ع1．25 25A 200V bridge ．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．． $\mathbf{\varepsilon 2 . 0 0 \text { ea } 1 0 / \varepsilon 1 8}$ 25A 400v bridge ．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．£2．50

## SCRs

2N6399A 10A600v．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．． $\mathbf{E 1} 0$
BTX95800v 15A．．． $E 1.20$
35 A 800v stud
ع2．00
70 A 500 v large stud
$E 3.00$
MCR106 equiv 4A 400v 40p ea．．．100／£20．00 2N5061 8A 60V TO92 4／玉1．00 ．．．．100／£10．00 TICV10D 8A 400vTO923／E1．00
$100 / \mathbf{\Sigma 1 5 . 0 0}$

## TRIACS

TXAL 2288A 400 visoltab
2／£1．00
25A 800v ex eqpt tested
$E 1.50$
20A 500 v isolated ex eqpt．tested ．．．．．．£1．50

## CONNECTORS

＇D＇ 9 way £1．00 15 way $£ 1.2525$ way $£ 2.00$ 37 way $\mathbf{2} .0050$ way $\mathbf{£ 2} .50$
（EX EQPT price perpair）covers 50p ea
AMPHENOL（Centronics） 36 way plug + skt exeqpt．
$\mathbf{E 2 . 5 0}$
$0.1^{\prime \prime}$ double sided edge connector 32 way ideal ZX81／SPECTRUM ．

ع1．50
$0.1^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{d} /$ sided PCB Plug $24+25$ way．．．． $\mathbf{\Sigma 1 . 5 0}$
2 pole sub min connectors ideal radio control RS 466／472／488／343 5 pairs／£2．00 IDC CONNECTORS
25WAY D＇SOCKET ．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．． $\mathbf{\Sigma 2} .00$
20WAY SOCKET（ORIC PRINTER）．． $\mathbf{\Sigma 1 . 0 0}$ 26 WAY SOCKET（BBC PRINTER）．．．． $\mathbf{\Sigma 1 . 5 0}$ 34 WAY SOCKET（BBC DISC DRIVE）
$\Sigma 2.00$
40 WAY SOCKKET．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．． $\mathbf{\Sigma 2 . 0 0}$
IDC EDGE CONNECTORS D／S EX－EQPT 34 WAY（FITS DISC DRIVE PCB）．．．．．．．£3．00 40 WAY（FITS CENTRONICS 739 PCB）
$E 3.00$
50 WAY ．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．£3．50
WIRE WOUND RESISTORS 2.5 W （W21 or sim）
R10，1RO，2RO，2R7，3R9，5RO，4R7，10R， 12R，15R，18R，20R，27R，33R，36R 47R 100R 120R 180R 270R 330R 390R 470R 560R 680R 820R1K 1K21K31K82K73K310K

10 FOR $£ 1.00$
W22 or sim 6 watt
7 for $\mathbf{E 1 . 0 0}$
R22 1R5 9R1 10R 12R 20R 33R 51R 56R 62R
120R 180R 270R 390R 560R 620R 1K2 2K2 $3 \mathrm{~K} 3 \mathrm{3K9} 10 \mathrm{~K}$

W23 or sim 9 watt 6 for $£ 1.00$

R22 1R0 3R0 6R856R 62R 100R 270R 1 K810K W24 or sim 12 watt

4 for $\mathbf{E 1 . 0 0}$ 10R 68R 75R 200R 270R 400R 620R 1K

## PHOTO DEVICES

Slotted opto－switch OPCOA OPB815

$E 1.30$

2N5777．．．．．．．．．．．．．．50p 100／£26 1000／£190．00
TIL81 T018 Photo transistor．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．£1．00
TIL38 Infra red LED ．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．2／50p
OPI2252 Opto isolator ．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．50p
Photo diode 50p．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．6／£2．00
MEL12（Photo darlington base o／c）．．．．．50p
RPY58 LDR ．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．50p
T018 LDR ．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．50p

LEDs RED 3 mm or 5 mm 12／£1．00 ．．．．£5／100
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BICOLOUR RED／GREEN 5MM OR RECT
50p．
5／E2．00
DIODES
1N4151 sim 1N4148．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．100／£1．25
1N4148．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．100／£1．50

1S3740 Germanium ．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．100／E2．00
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10R 20R 100R 200R 500R．
40p
2K 5K 22K 50K 100K 200K

## IC SOCKETS

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18／20 pin 7／£1．00 100／£12 $1 \mathrm{~K} / \mathbf{\Sigma 9 0}$ 22／28pin 25p 24pin 25p 100／£20 $1 \mathrm{k} / \mathrm{E} 130.00$
40 pin $\mathbf{3 0}$ p 16pin 12／£1 100／E6．00 TRIMMER CAPACITORS small
Grey 1．5－6．4pF GREEN 2－22pF．．．．．． 6 for 50p YELLOW 2－16pF
SOLID STATE RELAY NEW 10A 250v AC zero voltage switching
control voltage $8-28 \mathrm{~V} D C$ ．
E2．00
VARIAC 0 to 270 v 12 A new uncased
$\mathbf{\Sigma 2 0 . 0 0}$
VARIAC 0 to 130 v 6 A new uncased ．．．． $\mathbf{£ 6 . 0 0}$ POLYESTER／POLYCARB CAPS
10n ax 100／£2．00 22 n radial 100／玉2．50 47 n rad 100／ $\mathbf{2 2} .50$
1u 250v Polyester C280
5／E1．00 100／玉10．00
1u5 P／carb 15 mm rad
100／25．00
2 u 2160 v red 28 mm
100／E10．00
470 n 250 v AC X rated rad
100N 250 V AC X rated rad $20 \mathrm{~mm} . . . .4 / \mathbf{~} \mathbf{E 1 . 0 0}$
33 n 250 v AC X rated rad $15 \mathrm{~mm} . . . . .10 / \mathbf{1 0} .00$
BEAD THERMISTORS
GLASS BEAD NTC Res © $20^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．80p 250R 1K2 50K 220K 1M4
R53 THERMISTOR
$E 1.50$
BEAD TANTALUM CAPS
47u 3 V 10 u 6V3 68u 6V 12／£1．00．．100／\＆6．00 2u2 20V ．．．．．．．．．．．8／\＆1 100／£8．00
SMALL AXIAL CERAMIC CAPS 50V
15p 18p 22p 27p 33p 47p 68p 82p 470p in 10n （25v）．
STEPPER MOTOR 4 PHASE 29 v
WINDINGS£4．00 ea．
100／玉3．00
10／£35．00

# POINT OF CONTACT 

The general interests of some of our readers are shown below. If you have similar interests why not establish a point of contact at the time and on the band indicated
If you wish to be included in this scheme, would you please complete and return the form below and send to: Radio \& Electronics World, Sovereign House, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4SE.

MOST IMPORTANT - include a telephone number - if you have a particularly interesting contact so that we can contact you for details for publication.

## G4LNA:

Usually available Mondays to Fridays between 06.30 and 07.15 and before 12.00 during weekends on 1.8, 3.5, 7,10 and 14 MHz . Uses CW mainly but sometimes phone on RNARS nets nr 2069. Equipment includes Redifon marine TCVR with H/B synthesiser and his special interest is Homebrew. Most interesting contact was QSO and CARU from the Magnus oil platform.

## 5B4NA:

Usually available daily except Mondays and Tuesdays between 13.30 and 16.30 GMT on 10, 15 and 20 metres. Uses phone and CW. Equipment includes FT-902 DM and his special interests are DX stations and contacts with USA stations. Most interesting contact to date was QSO-A3J with 5W1DZ in Apia (Western Samoa) on 21.243.

## G4VFG:

Usually available between 22.00 and 24.00 Monday to Friday on 80 m and at various times during the weekends on 10 metres and 2 metres SSB. Uses mostly phone but occasionally CW. Equipment includes Yäesu FT77, Eddystone EC10 RCVR, Trio 2300 FM 2 m , Belcom liner 2 SSB. His special interests are QRP portable work on VHF, construction and simple antennae. Most interesting contact was VP8ALD on S Orkney on 28 MHz .

## G4NNJ:

Usually available daily on 20, 40 and 80 metres. Uses CW only.
Equipment includes Homebrew QRP on 80 m and Heath HW7 40/20/15. His special interests include ragchew around the UK on 80 m .

## GU6NAE:

Usually available daily after 18.00 on 144 MHz . Phone only at present. Equipment includes IC290H, IC2E, Belcom Liner 2, R1000, Vic 20 with MPTU-1 terminal unit (RTTY). His special interests are $/ P$ operation, RTTY, amateur satellites and FSTV (receive only).

## G3VMR:

Usually available Sundays on $2 \mathrm{~m}, \mathrm{CH} 14(145 / 35)$ and 10 m (28.4). Nets 11.00 (social), 19.30 (data). Uses phone, FM preferred. Equipment includes Multi 2000 \& Atlas 210. Special interests are high speed data and news bulletins using CCITT tones at 300 and 1200 baud, text and programs.

## G3IFM:

Usually available daily between 08.00 and 20.00 on 160 through 10 metres (local chats on 2 m ). Uses RTTY and AMTOR. Equipment includes FT1012D, VIC-20, AMTOR AMT-1, 5 band vertical ant. His special interests are RTTY and AMTOR mainly 20 m . Auto-mode available on 14075 MHz daily. Most interesting contact was FP8 in 1950s, 10Watts CW on 7 MHz .

## GIESG:

Usually available on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays between 08.30 and 21.00 on 144 MHz . Uses phone, F3E and sometimes J3E. Equipment includes Icom IC2E and FT290R. His special interest is DX. Most interesting contact was Lebanon during lift, RST (5-0-3).

## G3ZNZ:

Usually available most days on 144 and 432 MHz . Uses J3E and FM mainly horizontal. Equipment includes FT221R

Mutex Board, FT780R and 19ELE 'Cushcraft' Boomer. Special interests are radio computing with Dragon 32, diplomas especially DLD1000 on VHF and PA1000 2 metres VHF. Most interesting contact made to date was QSO with King Hussein (JY1) and his then wife Princess Muna (JY2). Both confirmed. Last QSO to complete 'WAB' gold (13) and 'Mary Rose'

## G3NRW:

Usually available on Sundays between 0900 and 1300 on 2, 4 and 20 metres. Equipment includes FT200, MM transverters, Nascom for RTTY and AMTOR. He is editor of 'Datacom' and of the BARTG quarterly magazine. His special interests are RTTY, AMTOR, Packet radio, computers, QRPp ( 50 mW on 20 m ) and transmitting RTTY news on 2 m on Sundays at 10.30 .

## G3YLR:

Usually available most days on 3.5 MHz through 30 MHz and $144-146 \mathrm{MHz}$. Uses mainly phone. Equipment includes HF bands, Ten Tec Argosy II, 144 -Trio 2300 and 40 w amp. Special interests are RNARS, AMSAT, G-QRP, mobile, Technical interest: antennae transmission lines, methods of matching. Has upwards of 1000 QSL cards and has had one interesting QSO with Jan Mayen Island and another with St Kilda.

## G1DCD:

Usually available daily between 1800 and 0100 on 2 metres. Uses phone and RTTY. Equipment includes KDK FM 2030, Belcom LS102 and MM transverter. Special interests are AMTOR, satellite work and European DX.

Most interesting contact was made with F6BY (France).

## G8YOX:

Usually available early evenings on most days on 2 m , 23 cm and above.
Uses phone, RTTY with computer, SSB, ATV. Equipment includes, Trio TR1010 SSB Txcur, H/brew linear, H/brew FM Synth Rig, 9ELE Tonna, 24 ELE Quad ( 23 cms ) and his special interests include VHF;UHF DX, Meteor scatter microwave propogation, homebrew equipment and computer-aided communication. Most interesting contact to date was made with Karl OK1KH/P. Czech 2 m SSB.

## G3FCK:

Usually available most days during the afternoons of the winter months and in the mornings and early evenings during the summer. He uses CW only and the bands preferred are $80,40,20,15$ and 10 metres. Equipment includes homebrew QRP, med pwr, QRO and his special interests are homebrew gear, U/W awards, DARC (DIG) awards and experimental 'small garden' antennae. His most interesting contact made to date was with a Japanese Maritime Mobile.

## G6YQD:

Usually available late evenings on Thursdays and at weekends on 2 m . Uses phone. Equipment includes FT290R + Mickey Mouse 10 W linear and FT1012 (listening only). He is club secretary of the 308 Amateur Radio Club and his special interest is computer link-up to Ham radio. Most intersting contact to date was Vic Elliot (VE1QH) Nova Scotia lighthouse keeper.

## POINIS OF CONIACI

## G2VF:

Usually available most afternoons and evenings on $40,15,20$ and 10 m (CW only). Equipment includes Heathkit HX1681 and DX100 transmitters, HF loop antenna. Special interests include loop antennae for HF bands. RSGB QSL awards. Bureau Sub Manager.

Had an interesting contact with OR4VN during the Antarctic expedition of 1964/65.

## G3AKG:

Usually available Monday to Friday: 08.00-09.00, 09.30-10.30, 15.00-17.00 on 10, 15 and 80 metres. Uses CW and SSB.

Equipment includes FT101E (modified), Standard C8500 and Datong downconverter. Special interests are various nets, $80 \mathrm{~m}, \mathrm{KSG}, \mathrm{BTI}$, RNARS and RAOTA.

## G4ASR:

Usually available daily from 16.00 on $70,144,432,1296$ and

5760 MHz . Uses SSB, CW, FSTV, RTTY. Has various equipment and his special interests include EME on $144 / 432 \mathrm{MHz}, \mathrm{MS}$ on 144 (432), Auroral, Sporadic-E and DX Tropo. Most interesting contacts made to date: 584AZ on 70 MHz , LA6HL/TF Iceland, three QSO's on 144 MHz .

## POINT OF CONIACT

Name.
Telephone No Call Sign Date licensed.
Type of Licence A A................... $\square$ B.

Bands usually preferred
Operating days M T W T F S S Times
Equipment $\qquad$
$\qquad$

Phone/CW. $\qquad$
Special interests eg DX,AMSAT etc. $\qquad$
Most interesting contact made to date $\qquad$


Whilst every effort is made to minimise errors in diagrams we will correct these as they come to our knowledge and we also appreciate the co-operation of our readers in notifying these.
We occasionally receive suggested modifications from readers who have constructed projects form Radio \& Electronics World and we will publish those that would interest other readers.
For example, it may be possible to extend the use of a particular item by minor circuit changes or re-arrangement only. If this can be done for minimal cost and the idea has been proved in practice, others may benefit from the information. Write to Corrections and Mods, Radio \& Electronics World, Sovereign House, Brentwood, Essex, CM14 4SE

## HF LINEAR AMPLIFIER

## (APRIL 1984 ISSUE):

We are advised that Mr. G R Jessup, G6JP, originated this article and regret that Mr. Jessup was not included in the acknowledgements.

## SX-200N RELATIVE S-METER

 (MAY 1984 ISSUE):We regret that we omitted the Parts List for this project. It is as follows:-

## Parts list

IC1 - LM 3915

R1-220K, $1 / 8 \mathrm{~W}$ R2-1K, 1/8W VR1-1K pre-set C1-270pF ceramic C2-0.01uF ceramic C3-10uF 25 V wkg

D1, D2 - IN 4148 or similar LED 1-10-3mm green Connecting wire, PCBs, adhesive pads


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## FOR SAI:

Yaesu FT101E MK3, CW Filter, 12 volt converter RF Processor, Fan plus spare valves \& holdings FM Rx/Tx conversion (not fitted) £275. Hirschman RO250 rotator $£ 25$. Two $11 \mathrm{ft} 11 / 2 \mathrm{in}$ square aluminium boom sections plus approx $40 \mathrm{ft}^{1} / 2 \mathrm{in}$ tube, $£ 10$ the lot. G4RSY Tel:01-651-0633 (Croydon).

- FRG7 Yaesu comms. receiver, excellent condition. Also 2 metre converter $£ 135.00$ for both. Tel: Yateley 0252875810.
- Yaesu FRG7700, as new, mint condition, 9 months old $£ 240.00$. FRV770A converter. 118 MHz 150 MHz . FRT7700 ATU $£ 70.00$ or $£ 290.00$ complete.Tel:Hastings East Sussex (0424) 51795. - J-Beam D15/1296 assembled but unused, £25. JBeam professional end-fed 105 MHz dipole, unused, $£ 10$. Reftec 934 MHz short colinear for 2 in . pole, unused $£ 5$. High quality power splitter (not phasing harness) for 23 cm . Heliax N conectors £10. Masthead antenna changeover switch, with remote control. Ideal VHF/UHF, $£ 20$. Two 19 in . racks, approx. 20 in . and 25 in . tall. Need repaint, free to good home. 12V, 8 amp computer PSU. With fault and diagram, £1. Buyers collect or pay carriage please. Andy Emmerson, G8PTH: 71 Falcutt Way, Northampton, NN2 8PH Tel: 0604 844130.
- ATV Program for the 48 K spectrum as reviewed in Nov 83 R\&EW now with 36 features including testcards, maps, large printing, QRA calculator and much much more. The price which includes a 16 K version and full instructions is only $£ 5.50$ inc.P\&P from R. Stephens, Toftwood, Mill Lane, High Salvington, Worthing, Sussex. For list of other programs send SAE.
- AOR AR240A handheld, $140-150 \mathrm{MHz}$, with accessories £99; Yaesu FT290R, mint, unmodified £185; cordless telephone £35; $26-30 \mathrm{MHz} 12 \mathrm{~V}$ linear amplifier, AM/FM/SSB 100 W PEP, switchable preamp, brand new £45. D. Hawkins, G8KNF, 20 Putteridge Road, Stopsley, Luton, Beds.
- Philips 54 dictation machine complete with microphone headphone and footpedal, £25. Canon NP200 plain paper copier, in good working condition, £425 Tel: 01-647 5434.
- Sharp MZ80B, 64K RAM personal computer, built in moniter and tape deck. Excellent condition. Extras include basic conversion from MZ80K, plus many programs, basic tape \& manuals, only $£ 600$ ono. Will deliver 50 miles fram Newcastle. Please write to: SM Mahmud, 4A, Richardson Road, Newcastle-U-Tyne, Tyne \& Wear.
- Trio TR 2500 hand-held 2 m FM Rig, excellent reports, as new, must sell to go to 70 cms , just $£ 200$ ono. Stuart Law 16c Tapton House Road, Sheffield, S10 SBY. Tel: $0742662989.5 .30-6.30 \mathrm{pm}$.
- Two Uniace 200 CB sets $£ 75.00$ the pair. Also Durst M601 enlarger all sizes up to $6 \times 6$ compl. with two lenses, glassless neg carrier and $10 \times 8$ enlarging frame. Make me sensible offer around £200. Adcock, Arlington Terrace, Aldershot, GU11 3JF. Tel: 025225165 (evenings).
- Yaesu FT902DM HF transceiver, mint condition, complete with Y0148 desk microphone, hi-mound electronic key, PTT foot control, pair spare valves, (brand new). Brand new G5RV antenna never used, instruction manual. £625 the lot, all letters answered, sorry no phone. Consider computer plus cash. John McCurdie, 80 Thornyflat Road, Ayr, Scotland, KAB OLT.
- Marconi Sig Gen 801B/3/S/D, looks like new. RF 12 to 490 MHz in 5 bands very good working order with three manuals; its own Caibi handbook, parts manual, service manual. Also with new set of valves. The valves alone cost $£ 100$. It all must be collected. The lot will be sold for $£ 65$. First buyer pays by post collects at his own time arranged. Peter Tel: Ipswich 047385526 anytime.
- Bearcat 220 scanner receiver mains/12V synthesised, $32-50,118-136,144-174,421-512 \mathrm{MHz}, ~ £ 135$. G8RHU Tel: Newhaven (0273) 516801.
- Old mags, PW, SWM, Radcom etc. ideal for study for RAE. Kenwood TS 130 very little use so offers, swap, haggle, WHY? 10 m FM rig never used $£ 35$. Portable VHF multiband RX $£ 5$. Log books $£ 2$ each, only a few left. Split charge relay new $£ 15$. Martyn Bo£t, 112 Leeds Road, Mirfield, Yorks, WH40JE. - Printer LX180-L high speed matrix 180 characters second ASC11 code with parallel interface and continuous paper feed. Good working order complete with cables connectors but uncased $£ 50$. Floppy disks 8 in twin measures $8.5 \times 12 \times 13 \mathrm{in}$, uncased but complete with 19 in rack mount cards, cables etc. Removed from a working system $£ 50$. Modems 2400/1200 BPS working order £10. Tel: G4PEY, Horsham (0403) 69835.
- Yaesu FT290 with 10W Linear Mobile Mount bracket, set of NiCads, mobile charger, aerial lead and mobile oscar, complete $£ 250$. Tel: Brighton 309335 (evenings or weekends).
- Test equipment. Telequipment D83 dual-beam scope, dual-timebase, $50 \mathrm{MHZ} £ 250$ ONO. (cost new circa $£ 2,500$ ). HP. 141 B dual-beam, 20 MHz scope with storage facility $£ 125$ ONO. Fluke 895A DC differential voltmeter range 1 mV to 1000 V . Very accurate $£ 75$ ONO. Fluke 8000A digital multimeter $31 / 2$ digit $0.1 \%$ AC DC and resistance $£ 50$ ONO. All the above have been looked after and are in working order. (Manuals/circuits available) Tel: Stoneyburn, Scotland (05016) 231.
- Clearing out packs of resistors/capacitors/transistors, all new, mixed with some other devices, very best quality $100+$ items $£ 2.50$. Every one delighted so not much left so write soon. Also 22 K lin pots, 10 for $£ 1$. Power pack 13 A plug type, output 100 mA at $8 \mathrm{~V} D C$, just $£ 2$. Only 5 left. D. Martin, 29 St. Johns Close, Leatherhead, Surrey. - York Home Base CB.complete with loft aerial, Power Mic., SWR Meter, instruction manual etc. In excellent condition, only used twice. Will sell or swap for an equally good scanner or WHY? Vicki. Tel: Potters Bar 53596.(weekdays after 6pm, anytime at weekends).
- CD1400 CRO circuits for main frame, CX1442 and CX1571 £2 each. Mains Trans. 36 V 7 A sec $£ 5$. Philips N1700 long play VCR, new head drum fitted, good working order $£ 70$. Anita 1000 comptometer 10 gas NY discharge readout tubes, solid state mains operated $£ 30$. Tel: Hythe (Kent) 68854.
- Magazines from 1956 to 1983 some full and some part years. Practical television/wireless/electronics. Please ring with offers or enquiries.Mr. Halsall, 47, Smalley Street, Castleton, Rochdale, Lancs. OL11 3EB. Tel: 070633511.
- Regonda 3 speed stereo record player. Brand new $£ 50$. ONO. For details tel: Godalming (Surrey) 048687088.
- Lowe SRX30D receiver L/M/HF-PLL tuning digital readout. Brand new, boxed, never connected £150. Costs new £215. For details tel: Godalming (Surrey) 048687088.
- DX100L LW $150-400 \mathrm{KHz}$, MW $520-1620 \mathrm{KHz}$, SW 1 $1.55-4.5 \mathrm{MHz}$. SW $24.5-13 \mathrm{MHz}$, SW3 $13-30 \mathrm{MHz}$. BFO pitch range $\pm 5 \mathrm{KHz}$ (at 7 MHz ). Power required: $220 / 24050 \mathrm{HZ}$ plus 12 V neg ground $£ 65$ carriage paid. Tel: Abergele 825765.
- Stag 357 120ch CB radio $£ 40$. Formak 8880 ch CB £15 or swap exchange for short wave aerial and SWL's books and require 2 m converter for FRG7000. Also require active aerial Datong or Yaesu or similar. Any short wave items will be considered. Mr. P. O'Brien, 12 Church Street, Caernarvon, Gwynedd, Wales, LL55 1SW. Tel: Caernarvon 5468.
- Eddystone 730/4 receiver full spec excellent condition with spare valves. 500 KHz to $30 \mathrm{MHz} £ 90$. Mr. Day, 17 Beche Road, Colchester.
- Alda 103 super 250 watt mobile rig 204080 metres, £220. Datong ASP processor with Shure 201 mic, $£ 60$. G - whip multimobile $10-80 \mathrm{~m}$ slightly damaged base £30. KP202 hand held S20, S21, R3 NiCads, no charger. Offers. MR Davies, Laburnum House, Guilsfield, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 9PX. Tel: 093875441.
- Synthesized scanner. Gem Scan 70. Covers LO band, airband, 2 metres, high band, LO UHF, 70 CMS, high UHF AM or FM thoughout coverage. Sensitivity 0.8 UV. Channel spacing $12.5 / 25 \mathrm{KHz}$ BNC aerial connector. Built-in 240 volt AC power supply or external 12 volts DC memory back up. 70 channel memory scan with lock outs. 2 scan rates. Cost new £279, sell $£ 195$ complete with original packing and accessories. G6BEX Tel: Dunstable (0582) 604767.
- Vorta 92 Element UHF aerial array high gain wideband UHF TV coverage ideal for TV DX work complete with fitting bracket and original packaging, £20. Also 2 metre vertical colinear 6 dB gain with brackets good condition, E15. Some UR67 available if required. G6BEX. Tel: Dunstable (0582) 604767.
- Sell or swap WS19, R1155, BC-3Y8, BC-1000, 028RO. Ragnar Otterstad, Ve!dammen 5, DK28YO Holte. Tel: 02-801875 (evenir.gs).
- Rolls Royce Morse Tutor Program for CBM64. Too many features to list, tape $£ 10.00$, disk $£ 12.00$. Contact E14BVB.
- WKS 1001120 Channel AM USB/LSB PLL No MC 145106p, full digital frequency read out, instruction book. circuit diagram, Doxed. In excellent condition £75, owner going licensed, sent recorded delvery. Tel: 079589565 (evenings).
- Collaro Conquest 4 speed autochange. Collaro 3 speed 3 motor tape deck. mains XFR, CRT for Solartron CD1014 oscilloscope. Various Cossor 4 inch CRT. Marconi 600 ohm atten. quantity WW text rom 1970 offers. CA cooper, 11, Radical Ride, Wokingham, Berks. Tel: 0734734312.
- Trio 22006 channel 2 meter FM transceiver inc NiCads carrying case, $£ 40$. 2 meter beam 8 ele $£ 9$. FRG7 digital readout $£ 140$. Rotator $£ 35$ with control cable. Katsumi electronic keyer $£ 25$. HF5 30 radial kit £20. G3ZH1 QTHR. Tel: 0709814911 between 1700 and 1900.
- Reftec, perfect working order, £200. Tel: Brighton 774381 after 6 pm or weekends.
- Yaesu FT720R 10 W 70 cm tranceiver. Fully synthesised memories and scan. Can be made dual band by purchasing 2 m rear end. Excellent condition £170 ONO. John Hodson. Tel: 0270256458 weekdays 9-5.
- SX27 $27-143 \mathrm{MHz}$ + discone $£ 55$. Sansui stereo amp AU101 $2 \times 40 \mathrm{~W}$ £25. SP600JX $500 \mathrm{KHz}-56 \mathrm{MHz}$, immaculate condx. Collectors $\mathrm{Rx} £ 160$. Very rare collectors Rx. Howard 450 c 1937 USA £100. BRT 400 $150 \mathrm{KHz}-32 \mathrm{MHz}$ good condx $£ 80$. ex BBC all working. Exchanges for RA63 and outboard frequency counter. Tel: 0908314095 before 2 pm . - Sony ICF 6800W FM/AM Multi Band receiver 1983. Model excellent condition £230. Walker. Tel: likley (0943) 607872.
- FDK T1200 Hand held Tx/Rx, covers 143.000 to 149.995 in 5 KHz steps. Keypad operation. Scan and search facilities, 10 memories, 7 watt or 4 watts output, good condition, only 18 months old with NiCads and charger $£ 140$ ono. Plastic case and Ext spkr/mic $£ 10$. FV101B ext VFO Good condition $£ 75$. 7C601 digital display £45. G6LKF QTHR or Tel: Derek on Southend 553841.
■ YP 1502 dummy load $£ 75$. YD 148 desk mic (wired for 902) $£ 15$. Multimeter $£ 5$. DNT M40 for $10 \mathrm{M} £$ ? $10 / 11 \mathrm{~m}$ mobile ant mount on screen $£ 10$. Kenwood TS 130 £ 400 or offers. Px's swaps considered why? Datong ASP/A $£ 70$ ono. Martyn Bolt. 112 Leeds Road, Mirfield, Yorks. Tel: 0924495916 (evenings). - Maxline ML212 HF linear amplifier, built in


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preamp, 4 output settings up to 100W AM, $£ 50$. ZetaGi B. 70 linear amp AM/FM SSB 70W AM $28 \mathrm{MHz}-30 \mathrm{MHz} £ 18$. Peter Tel: 018591688 (evenings/weekends)

- Storno 2 m Tx/Rx 50 watt base unit, 4 channel but provision for more, $£ 60$, buyer collects, for details please phone or SAE. Cisira Bede: G8ZIT, 72 Primrose Hill, Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 9LS. Tel: 0440 61113.
- Trio R1000 receiver, hardly used, mint condition, £200. 3, Burwash Road, Plumsead, LonPdon,SE18 7QY. Tel: 01-855-2998 after 6pm
- Pye Radio Telephones in working order, easily converted to Amateur bands. Hand-held Bantams 1.5 W output $£ 15$, Cambridge Mobile $5 \mathrm{~W} £ 10$, Vanguard 20W £18, also Avometers Model 7 £15, Model 40 £12, York 863 CB new with guarantee, Fidelity 2000 also new $£ 29$ each. Many other spares and bits including valves. Carriage extra. Walker 23 Forest Hill, Yeovil Somerset.
- HRO 5T receiver with mains PSU and complete set of nine general coverage coils $50 \mathrm{KL}-30 \mathrm{ML}$ clean working condition with handbook $£ 60$. Buyer collects. K G Pullen, 210 Hollett Rd, Penfilia Est, Treboeth, Swansea, SA5 9ER.
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- Manual for Lafayette receiver HE80 or photostat. Will pay. Ray White, 38 Boxted Avenue, Clacton on Sea, Essex.
- Owners Manual/Service manual or telequipment D31R, Tayior valve tester, Windsor 45B/photocopy, buy, borrow. Tony Palmer, 409B Chiswick high Road, London, W4. Tel: 019948001
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Further details on the Model FMPM-30 can be obtained from: The Sales Department, Systron-Donner Limited, St Marys Road, Sydenham Industrial Estate, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, Tel: (0926) 35411.

designed to prevent cross interference and provide cleaner sounds in AM broadcasts.
Elegantly styled in a silver and grey finish, the RFB600LBE has a recommended retail price of $£ 444.50$ and is available complete with instruction manual through Panasonic's authorised dealer network.

## 

Magnum Microwave Corp of California, Luxor $A B$ of Sweden and Luxor (NA) Corp of Washington, announce the presentation of the TVRO Satellite Receiver Systems in North America and Europe. The Luxor/Magnum joint enterprise will focus on 4 GHz
and 12 GHz Satellite Receiver systems, combining a range of advanced design Luxor Satellite Receivers with Mag-num-designed Downconverters and Low Noise Converters. Further information: Magnum Microwave Corporation, Mountain View, California. Tel: (415) 968-9281.


## WOULD YOU Banday ll

Sansui Electronics (UK) are launching a whole new range of in-car hi-fi products that aim to offer the same levels of sound reproduction in your car as you have become accustomed to in your home.
Sansui have achieved this goal by concentrating on the technical specifications of the product range, eg their RX 700/710 models have a THD (Total Harmonic Distortion) of $.05 \%$ which is even less than their own highly acclaimed AU-D22 domestic amplifier, and something you'll really appreciate when you turn the volume up.
This concern with sound quality, has not, however, caused Sansui to ignore those convenient features that allow you to keep your eyes on the road, whilst operating your system. The RX 700/710 has auto reverse and there is automatic .music
program search, to help you easily locate tracks on a cassette. There are also 30 pre-sets on the tuner section, which again is highly specified with a frequency response of $30-15 \mathrm{kHz}$ - as good as the majority of domestic tuners.
The range starts at just over £200, with the flag-ship model, the CX 910L costing around £ 340 , for wheh you get Dolby B \& C, bass, treble, loud, quartz PLL synthesized tuning, automatic station seek and a choice of green or orange panel illumination as well as a host of other features.
The power output of the models ranges from 12 watts per channel to 20 watts, with the additional option of two power amplifiers for those who want up to 55 watts per channel.
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The first flickering, eyestraining pictures which heralded the birth of the television era and a social and entertainment revolution have been made to live again by engineers and apprentices with Plessey Radar at Cowes, IOW. They have combined their talents, and their patience, to restore an early 1930's televisor - an antique, mechanical 'goggle box' which fascinated affluent grandparents.
The original Baird set, costing $£ 18$ in the days when steam radio ruled, has been loaned to the National Wireless Museum at Arreton Manor, IOW, after being discovered under a pile of rotting firewood in an Essex outhouse where it had lain forgotten for half a century. Only six televisors have survived and all are believed to be priceless.
To operate the televisor a household had also to own two radio sets to watch pictures described as 'barely discernible' which were broadcast for two hours each evening on the medium wave. One wireless provided the picture, the other the accompanying sound.

The televisor operated on 30 lines but, with the aid of a scan converter, it is hoped
that it may eventually be adapted to show today's 625 line pictures.
Two technician apprentices Mark Holloway and Nick Warry helped to restore the televisor. Nick said: 'I had seen photographs of one before in magazines which I read, but I didn't think I would ever work on the real thing. We had to decide how best to reproduce a new disc and we worked from photographs of a drawing made at Cowes. Fortunately, the televisor was complete and no bits were missing but it was extremely tarnished and needed a great deal of cleaning up. The scan converter involved a great deal of design work but we thought that it would be possible'.
Mr Ian Moth, a principal electro-optics engineer with Plessey Radar and also a radio amateur, advised the apprentices on the rebuild. He said: 'Our principal problem was the large aluminium disc which had been buckled and torn. We couldn't restore it, so we had to copy it. It was through the whirling disc that the televisor scanned the picture. Behind it was a light and a family of three or four, huddled together, viewed by looking through a magnifying glass incorporating two lenses which gave good distortion properties. The
effect could be compared to looking at a slide viewer'

## US may adopf European TV system

A new colour TV system that may be selected to improve the technical quality of American television is based on the European PAL colour television system. The proposed system is one of a number being studied following an American decision to look at ways of improving the technical quality of their TV system. If adopted, new sets for the system would be needed, though manufacturers would be able to use many of the existing components and sub-assemblies.

The new system, called AmPAL, is not identical to PAL but improves on it by removing its 'eight-field sequence' - jargon for PAL's major drawback. American viewers are at a disadvantage as a result of being first with colour television back in the 1950s. The NTSC system, named after National TV Standards Committee, (or alternatively, 'Never The Same Colour!'), has long been criticised for its sensitivity to what engineers call 'phase errors' in the transmission path and which frequently results in poor colour rendition.

If the Americans change their TV system to AmPAL it
could have benefits for the British consumer. Japan would be under pressure to change from NTSC and production of single-system sets would be expected to reduce the price of imported sets.

## New repeater group

A recent meeting was held to form a new repeater group for GB3NN (RB2), located 3 Km south of Wells Next The Sea in Norfolk. Site approval and a franchise have been received and licensing procedures are in progress with the DTI.
It is hoped to have the repeater operational at its new site by June/July '84. The repeater is a Pye 460 UHF unit converted to 70 cm repeater use, the aerials are 4 stacked $J$-poles for $R x$ and 4 stacked dipoles for $T x$, the site is 77 m ASL, with aerials at 25 m high, giving an ERP of 12 watts.

Donations from any prospective users of GB3NN would be gratefully accepted by the keeper: Bill Tuck G8KZP, 'Whalebone Cottage', Wells Next The Sea, Norfolk NR23 1EN, or the treasurer: Malcolm Amis G4VDC, 'Arcantell', 5 Waveney Close, Wells Next The Sea, Norfolk NR23 1HU.

## Digifal storage oscilloscopes

A new in-depth application note written by Chris Crook of Gould Design \& Test Systems Division gives an authoritative review of digital storage oscilloscopes and their applications. The application note compares digital storage oscilloscopes with other classes of waveform-storage instruments, and also discusses the effects of resolution and sampling on waveform capture.
Specific applications discussed in the new publication include the simultaneous display of reference trace and updated trace for easy testing of electronic circuits; automatic plotting of spikes on power-supply lines to analyse the causes of data corruption in computer circuits; automatic recording of alarm conditions using the variable setpoint facilities on a DSO; automatic recording of bursts

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## New computer school in London

A new London Computer and Electronics School is due to open in Hammersmith. Apart from management and financial support from The BOC Group, it will receive backing from The Manpower Services Commission and grants from The Department of Trade and Industry and the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. Of the £1 million cost, over half will come from The BOC Group.
Prospective students for the six month and one year courses must be at least 19 years of age, unemployed, and will need to show evidence of having been out of full time education for the past two years. They will also need to succeed at an aptitude test and an interview. The courses begin in June/July and initially, the number of students will be limited to 120. During the course, students will receive a wage in the region of $£ 40$ per week, according to personal circumstances.
The School aims to meet two urgent needs. First, people can be provided with access to a new career with good long-term prospects and second, employers can be provided with people who are productive from day one. The demand for such people has been demonstrated by a survey which revealed that a shortage of several thousand suitably trained people in the computer and electronics field exists in the London area.
The success of the School will be measured by how many of its students are placed in jobs at the end of the course. As the programme has been designed to meet the criteria for produc-
ing qualified graduates for industry, it is hoped to achieve a high job placement rate. Indeed, there is a built-in incentive in the arrangements with the MSC to achieve a high placement performance whereby its financial contribution will be reduced for each graduate not placed in a job related to the skills for which he or she has been trained.

Overseeing the establishment of the London School, is Mr Marty Hanfling, President of BOC's Educational Services Division. He says: 'We see this first couple of years as very much a pilot scheme. It's the first time a school of this type has been set up in the UK and, in conjunction with our partners in the venture, we shall be monitoring its progress closely'.

The address of the London Computer and Electronics School is Glenthorne House, Hammersmith Grove, London W6, and the office will be open to receive applications from Saturday 7th April.

## Satellite study to keep solar panels in their place

Marconi Space \& Defence Systems Ltd has been commissioned by the 11-nation European Space Agency (ESA) to study ways of improving the pointing accuracy of large spacecraft. The study will focus on the particular problems presented by large, flexible solar panel structures with a view to the eventual application of this research to very large telecommunications spacecraft.

Large satellites with high output powers (up to several kilowatts) need to be manoeuvered with a high degree of accuracy to ensure that their communications antennae are correctly orientated with respect to the Earth; even a tenth of a degree error in a satellite communications beam at a distance of 20,000 miles could mean a serious loss of data at the ground station. Pointing accuracy is, of course, even more vital for satellites with very narrow beams.

The Space Division of MSDS, located at Portsmouth, has already embarked on an ambitious programme aimed at improving the control thruster jets (and their propellants) which react to, and correct the natural drift of satellites in

orbit. Earlier improvements in thruster jet controi have already led to a phenomenal increase in pointing accuracy for small, power-limited craft where the solar-collecting panels are fixed to the body of the satellite. However, large, power-hungry craft with their extended solar panel structures present a particular
problem: such structures tend to bend under the impulse generated by the control thrusters. This unwanted flexing introduces further movement of the spacecraft, probably necessitating additional correction by the thrusters and ultimately leading to further disorientation of the satellite. This could negate any improvements in thruster control and result in depletion of propellant reserve. The operational life of the craft would, therefore, be seriously affected.
The new study takes a mathematical approach to the problem by applying Sturm's algebraic theorem, first proposed in 1836, to calculate a correctly timed sequence of thruster commands. These commands, delivered by a Marconi attitude control microcomputer, could correct the pointing of the satellite and bring the solar collectors and other flexible parts of the satellite to a state of zero vibration at the same instant. This process can be repeated automatica!ly, to correct natural drift or the effects of deliberate commands from the ground to alter the position of a spacecraft in the sky.

The study also addresses methods of determining the vibration pattern of flexible satellite structures from a single sensor, typically a gyroscope, attached to the spacecraft. By adopting these Sturm-based techniques, satellite pointing accuracies should soon improve from the $0.15^{\circ}$ currently achieved, to better than $0.05^{\circ}$.

## Walmore Electronics

Walmore Electronics Ltd, the Covent Garden based communications specialists, have been appointed sole UK agent by E-H International inc. This Oakland, California based manufacturer of automatic test equipment claims to produce 'the cleanest pulses in the world'. To substantiate their claim, E-H International produce a range of programmable and benchtop pulse generators with frequencies from 0.5 Hz to 250 MHz and pulsewidths from less than 1 ns to 1 s .

To complement the pulse generators, a full range of waveform analysers is available and to facilitate the
switching of pulses, a line of programmable coaxial switches is available. Additionally, PCB mounted reed switches are available.

## Leisure Zone Ltd

Leisure Zone Ltd, home consumer electronics and electronic games importers, are now in liquidation. The company began trading in March 1982 and had lost some $£ 50,000$ by June 1983. It has now gone into voluntary liquidation with a total estimated deficiency as regards unsecured creditors of £32,361.
For further information please contact Clive Hicks on 01-499 1649.

## NEWS DESK

## Videoconference Service

A digital videoconference service between London and New York will start shortly. The new service will be set up jointly by British Telecom International (BTI) and AT\&T Communications. Initially, it will operate between British Telecom's studios in London and other cities in Britain, and AT\&T's studios in New York and 13 other American cities.
The digital videoconferencing service to the USA follows the inauguration of a similar service earlier this year to Toronto, Canada (R\&EW News, April).
The service will use a highspeed digital link between international exchanges in London and New York, providing full motion video and audio communications. A British Telecom-developed video coder/decoder (Codec) codes and compresses the signals that make up the television picture, transmitting only changes in picture content from one frame to the next. This reduces the bandwidth required to $2 \mathrm{Mbit} / \mathrm{s}$ or possibly less.

British Telecom is planning to provide terminals and codecs for private use on purchase or rental terms through its VideoStream domestic videoconferencing service scheduled for launch after Easter. These video terminals will incorporate television cameras, monitors, microphones and loudspeakers, enabling users to set up conferences from rooms in their own premises.
The announcement was made at the International Teleconference Symposium which is being run under the auspices of Intelsat by BTI in conjunction with Comsat (USA), KDD (Japan), OTC (Australia) and Teleglobe (Canada).

Intelsat, which has 106 member countries, owns and operates a global satellite network supplying two-thirds of the world's international telecommunications services. Britain is Intelsat's second largest shareholder.

## R\&EW Zilog competition

Following a series of articles describing Zilog's Z8000
microprocessor, Radio and Electronics World and Zilog UK ran a competition whose prize was donated by Arcom Control Systems Ltd. Entrants had to answer some fifty questions and describe a suitable application for their prize.

Mike Quee, Zilog UK's European Marketing Manager, had the great pleasure of presenting the 28000 CPU VME board to lucky winner Dave Wells.
Mr. Wells is attending the Cranfield Institute of Technology in Cranfield Bedfordshire where he is taking a PhD in Ecological Physics studying bird migration using an X-Band Radar System. He is planning to use the board in his experiments.

## Learn from Maplin

Maplin Electronics are set to become a major supplier of training products and services. As the sole UK distributor of the now expanded Heathkit Educational Systems, Maplin can supply a fully comprehensive range of training and educational pro-
ducts, support services and courses.
Having appeared on TV, radio and the press, Maplin's highly user-friendly robot 'Hero' has become the best known and best selling training robot. Also receiving considerable interest are the Heathkit microprocessor courses, which range from basic instruction to 'build yourself a micro' level with kits supplied by Maplin.

Maplin, the major UK suppliers of electronic components and a leading distributor of hobby computer products, are similarly expanding their range of 'Practical Projects'. These provide users with a kit covering such projects as special interfaces for many of the popular range of home micros, home security devices, car and radio enhancements. The company have decided to produce and publish on a monthly basis 'Maplin's Top Twenty Kits'. At the top of the first best seller listings are the 75W Mosfet Amp Module; Modems; The ZH81 I/O Port and a car burglar alarm.

## LOW COST COMPUTER <br> CAD FOR ELICTRONICS

Number One Systems, the Cambridgeshire based electronics design consultants, announce the launch of a Sinclair Spectrum version of their ac linear circuit analysis program for micro-computers.
The program was written originally for the BBC-B and Newbrain computers and has proved to be extremely popular with universities and industrial R \& D establishments both at home and abroad.
The version for the Spectrum is in response to many requests, particularly from undergraduate students and school science teachers, and brings professional electronics CAD facilities within the reach of all. Circuits of up to 16 nodes and 60 components can be analysed for input impedance, output impedance and gain.

Resistors, capacitors, inductors, transformers, opamps and FETs can be simulated by the program, and the ac performance of circuits containing any combination of these components fully evaluated over a wide frequency range without the
need for laborious breadboarding and bench testing. Once a circuit has been entered into the computer it can be stored on tape for further analysis at a later date.
Modifications can be made to the component values and circuit configuration during a simulation thus enabling the
designer to assess quickly the circuit's sensitivity to component tolerances, stray capacitances, temperature effects etc.
The program is ideally suited for frequency response analysis of filter circuits, audio amplifiers, wideband amplifiers, tuned RF amplifiers, linear inte-
grated circuits etc, and has now been in use for over two years.
The version for the Sinclair Spectrum is supplied on cassette and is fully documented.

For further information contact Adrian Espin or Martin Morris at Number One Systems on (0480) 61778


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# MICROPROCESSOR-CONTROLLED DOT MATRIX PRINTER WITH RS232 INTERFACE 

An inexpensive way to extend the home computer facility by adding a hard copy printer.Graham Moore, G4DML,explains how he did just that.


#### Abstract

Many people with home computers do not own a printer of any sort. Certainly they do seem rather costly for what they are, mainly because electromechanics are much more expensive to produce than the pure electronics found in micros. The following article explains a simple method of constructing an RS232 ASCII printer utilising one of the many cheap dot matrix plain paper printer mechanisms that are available today. The mechanism used in the printer described is a Roxburgh DP822 7 -needle 21-column unit that was picked up from the scrap heap with a burnt-out needle solenoid. After rewinding the solenoid no other problems were experienced and the design was embarked upon.


## Print mechanism

The DP822 unit, as in most others of similar type, is a unidirectional printer. The needle head is driven by a spiral grooved shaft, the return spiral being
$50 \%$ shorter than the print spiral. When the motor is turned-on the head begins to move and a 'start print' signal is generated by a reed switch closing. This switch remains closed for the complete print cycle and is used to define the start of printing and to keep the motor running.
A pulse generator incorporated in the printer gives a timing signal which defines the positions for print-head needle firing. This provides a pulse approximately every 1.7 milliseconds and it is imperative that the needles are accurately synchronised to these pulses in order to ensure exact registering of the printed characters (see Figure 1).
Paper feeding is performed by energising the paper feed solenoid while the motor is running. The solenoid must be energised for approximately 30 milliseconds to ensure correct operation of the mechanism chosen; this will, however, vary if other mechanisms are used.


## Timing signal



Needle current
Fig 1 Needie solenoid timing and control waveforms

Printing a character is performed by seven solenoids which drive needles that impact the ribbon against the paper. The operation is carried out five times in succession with a varying pattern until the character matrix is built up. Being energised for only 750 microseconds, the solenoids are therefore of very low impedance; a peak current of 2.5 A is drawn by each needle and it is essential that the 12 V PSU can supply adequate current for these periods.

## Design

Because of the complexity of the control functions required it seemed obvious to use a processor of some kind, the $Z 8681$ being the one chosen (Figure 2). This processor, IC1, is one of the latest additions to the Zilog $Z 8$ range and is ideally suited to control applications, with its three $1 / O$ ports, 256 bytes of internal RAM and an internal UART. The Z8681 has no internal ROM, allowing an external 2716 EPROM to be used for program storage. A 74LS373 latch is used to demultiplex the address/data bus, and the processor design is completed with the 4049 inverter, IC4a. In order to interface the Z8 UART with the 'outside world' an RS232 to 5 V logic converter, TR1, is included so that the printer can be driven by most micros.
To enable the Z 8 to interface with the motor and solenoids on the printer mechanism, the circuits incorporating IC7 and IC6a respectively were constructed. As can be seen from Figure 2 they consist mainly of Darlington current drivers to power the low impedance electromechanics on the printer.
So that the Z8 can interpret the 'start print' signal and the timing pulses, both of these must be amplified and converted to ITL. This is done by IC4c in the case of the start signal, and by TR2-IC4d for the timing pulse. Both circuits generate 5 V square pulses that can readily be input to the processor.

The power supply, as previously mentioned, must be capable of supplying quite large currents for relatively short periods of time. This can be accomplished by constructing a supply with a high-value output smoothing capacitor, large enough to supply the $750 \mu \mathrm{~S}$ pulse to the print solenoids without overloading the rest of the circuits.
The power supply circuit Figure 3 shows a PSU capable of supplying about


Fig 2 DOT matrix printer control circuit


Fig 3 The power supply circuit

1A continuously, but the $15000 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ capacitor stores enough charge to power the solenoids during a print cycle.
Due to the fact that the print solenoids are activated on switch-on by the processor, it was found necessary to run the 5 V supply for the $Z 8$ PCB from a separate winding on the transformer. This is because the 12 V supply line cannot supply enough current from switch-on to power both the $Z 8$ and the print mechanism, thus preventing Z8 from completing its reset cycle properly.

## Software

The software for the printer application was developed on the Ambit Z8 TBDS Computer PCB using the Zilog assembler. A full listing of the software is included with this article and a brief description of the routines is given below.
The incoming ASCII data is stcred in a line buffer which is output to the printer mechanism whenever either the buffer is full or a 'CR' (Carriage Return) is received.

In order to print a character a matrix must be made up of 5 binary words that are output consecutively to the print needle solenoids. As can be seen from the table of ASCII characters the codes start at 20 Hex and end at 7F Hex, those below 20 being reserved for control codes. Therefore, if we subtract 20 Hex from the ASCII code we obtain values between 0 and 5F Hex. The resulting value is multiplied by five and the result used to address a look-up table which contains the 5 bytes to output.
As can be seen from the table, a carry will be generated by the higher of the codes and this must be taken into account before addressing the ROM look-up table.
The resulting pattern is thus (for the figure 8): $8=38 \mathrm{H}$ (ASCII code)
$38 \mathrm{H}-20 \mathrm{H}=18 \mathrm{H}, 18 \mathrm{H} 5=78 \mathrm{Hex}$
Thus the look-up table pointer for 8 is located at 78 bytes from the start.


The resulting bit pattern is that of a figure 8 lying on its side. Note that the high order bit of the word is always 0 as we only need to drive seven needles, these being connected to the low order data lines.

## Construction

The complete printer interface was constructed on Veroboard to allow for the numerous modifications that one usually has to make on a project of this kind. It was also felt to be impracticable to publish a PCB layout as most of the dot matrix mechanisms have differing drive requirements; however, a good idea of the circuitry required should be obtained by studying the circuit diagram.
Most of the devices used are noncritical and any device with similar specification can be used, remembering that the EPROM must be at most a 450 ns device if the processor is to be used at 7.4 MHz on normal timing. Ensure that the 12 V and 5 V rails are as isolated as possible, i.e. by taking all the 0 V lines back to a very low impedance point; otherwise some problems may be experienced with transients when the print needles are energised.

## Testing

Switch on and confirm that the solenoids are not operated. The motor may run during the processor reset cycle: this



## DOT MATRIX PRINTER



## DOT MAIRIX PRINIER

is normal due to the 28 's architecture. Confirm that there is a clock on $Z 8$ pins 2 and 3 at 7.373 MHz ; note that it is this clock that also determines the baud rate (being set by the switches on port 0 ). Confirm that the current drawn is less than 400 mA from the 5 V rail and less than 10 mA from the 12 V rail.

If the ASCll input is now pulled high the printer should operate - but print garbage. The reason for this is that the $\mathbf{Z 8}$ is looking for a start bit which it sees when the input goes high, although the character it reads in will be all ' 1 's, which is invalid. If the testing so far is satisfactory then proceed as in the next paragraph.

## Operation

On switch-on ensure that all the print needles are not energised - otherwise they may overheat and burn out. Ensure that the correct baud rate is selected, as follows:


Input a 'CR' (Carriage Return) from an ASCII keyboard and ensure that the printer performs a linefeed and paperfeed and that the head positions itself at the beginning of the next line. Now input 22 characters and ensure that nothing happens until the last one is input, at which point the complete line should be printed and a 'CR' 'LF' (Line Feed) performed. Note that the print head is now positioned one position in from the edge of the paper when the next line is printed to indicate a continuation line. This does not happen if a 'CR' is received.
In the software described no facility is included for printing lower-case letters. However, this facility just involves adding them to the look-up table should they be required.
A sample print-out is shown below

> THE WUICK BROUM FIX 30 WFS OUER THE LHZY DOG - Moderghimbiduques

A flowline diagram of the main polling routine is shown in Figure 4.

## Conclusion

Although this project was initiated as a software exercise on the $\mathbf{Z 8}$ it has proved
to be an immensely useful method of obtaining hard copy at very low cost. Further, the $Z 8$ part of the printer can also be used for alternative applications when a printer is not required-the one in the Author's establishment being used as a darkroom computer.


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DOT MATRIX PRINTER



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ERRORS $=0000$

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| BVAL | $\% 101$ |  |
| BVAL | 201 |  |
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| BVAL | \％1F | $i_{V}^{56 M}$ |
| BVAL | $\% 20$ |  |
| BVPL | $\% 48$ |  |
| BVFL | \％29 |  |
| BVAL | $\% 1 F$ |  |
| BVal | \％3F | $: \begin{array}{ll} 57 \mathrm{H} \\ u_{1} \end{array}$ |
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| BVAL | $\% 38$ |  |
| EVAL | \％ 40 |  |
| EVFL | XIF |  |
| BVFiL | \％63 | 58 H |
| BVAL | \％14 |  |
| Byal | \％ 68 |  |
| Bval | \％14 |  |
| SVPL | \％63 |  |
| BVAL | ：07 | $y_{4}^{59 H}$ |
| byal | \％88 |  |
| bval | \％ 76 |  |
| bval | 208 |  |
| sVfil | $\% 97$ |  |
| BVal | \％61 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 5RH } \\ & \mathrm{Z} \end{aligned}$ |
| EVAL | ：51 |  |
| bval | \％49 |  |
| Buat | \％ 45 |  |
| bval | \％43 |  |
| End |  |  |


| count | 0008 | CT1 | COEC | EXPRRNT | 0086 | flags | Oefc |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| home | 9088 | HT1 | OBED | 1 mR | －8FB | INMESS | 0845 |
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| PROUT | $0 \cdot \mathrm{ab}$ | RP | gafd | SILIN | 0604 | Silo | Ce20 |
| Sillut | 0005 | 510 | Oefe | 5 SP | 90FE | SPM | 6efe |
| SPL | gef 5 | Te | 80F4 4 | T1 | 0 ef2 | TPBLE | e380 |
| til | 0182 | timi | BeFF | TMR | 00F1 |  |  |

## HEX LISTING

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 10001 C0056E16F0E4E1EF4EEFSEAEGFZUFEGF1GIEETC







 10019FE60116B08E7042620045EFCFESFFF76030487






 100320065525600650206106102241616442210


 100560141454 E 1181412 FF 1027454545954 A 9 106361049493617109653649494360494959
 10059606141414141464122140302015169617
 16G3EG001414141227F4141221C7F494949417FG9FE


 1603F6G07F6969060EE4151214EFFG152G464ECE

 670420606967E15149454242 06060121FF

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## PLUG-IN MODULE REPLACES 2532 EPROM

## by D R Locke

This circuit is intended to provide a plug-in module that can replace a 2532 EPROM during the design stages of a ROM/EPROM. As the unit runs from the READ/WRITE line of the computer, correction of errors or re-programming is much faster and easier than with EPROMs.

## The circuif

The unit, shown schematically in Figure 1, consists of a simple inverter (TR1) and two static RAMs (IC1,2). Address lines $A_{0}$ to $A_{10}$ and Data Bus lines $D_{0}$ to $D_{7}$ are common to both IC's. Address line $A_{1 t}$ is used to switch between the two static RAMs, with the aid of the output enable (OE) and the inverter TR1.

Resistors R1-R3 hold the chip unselected and in the READ mode. This allows the unit to be unplugged without losing the data within. When powered down or removed from the computer, battery B1 provides power for data retention through D2. In addition, diode D1 provides a DC block when the computer is powered down. This is to prevent excessive load being taken from the battery by the rest of the circuit.

Battery life will be several days with a fully charged battery. The battery itself is charged through D1 and R4 all the time that the unit is in circuit. The approximate charge time is typically between 1 and 2 hours.

## PARTS LIST

## Resistors

R1, R2, R3
R4
10k 0.25W
1k50.25W

## Semiconductors

IC1, IC2
6116-35
TR1 2N3906
D1
IN4001
IN4148

## Miscellaneous

1 PCB back-up battery
2 12-way PCB connectors (Ambit)
1 veroboard/PCB


Fig 1 a Circuit diagram


Fig 1b Power supply

## Construction and testing

Construction is fairly simple, but requires some dexterity. The board has to be small to fit in the space allowed by the average computer. Veroboard can be used but a PCB will give a neater result. Connect the headers on the solder side of the board, taking care to get the spacing between them correct.

Examine the board for short circuits and poor solder joints before plugging it in.

Once you are happy with the module, plug it into a 2532 EPROM socket on your computer. Connect the flying lead to the

READ/WRITE line of the expansion bus connector.
The unit should now function as a 4 K block of RAM at the address of the EPROM socket. Write a data pattern to the unit and read it back to check for READ/WRITE errors. Then turn the power to the computer off for a couple of minutes, then back on. The data written into the unit should still be present with no errors. This test will fail if the back-up battery has not been charged beforehand. Once programmed, the unit may be removed from the computer without loss of data.

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| ELSE | ? | SAVE | GRAPH | TON | CASE | @ | - | LOG | COL |  |
| ON |  | LOAO | TEXT | OIM | RUN | \# | FUMCTIOMS | SYR | MOD |  |
| GOTO | 1 UNIT | MOTOR | PLOT | LET | SIZE |  | FNA-FNZ | TIC | KEV |  |
| GOSUB <br> POP | BAUD | ESCAPE | UNPLOT | DEF | CONT | ? | ABS | SGN | OPERATORS |  |
| REM | OATA | RANDOM | CHAR | NEW | MON | \% | ASC |  | OR |  |
| FOR | READ | ENTER | SPRITE | BIT | OLLMMIERS | \$ | ATN | CRB | I.OR |  |
| NEXT | RESTOR | LIST | SHAPE | CRB | TO |  | SIN | CRF | AND |  |
| ERROR | RETURN | PURGE | SPUT | CRF |  |  | cos | MWD | LAN |  |
|  |  | NUMBER | SGET | MEM |  | \& | EXP | LEN |  |  |
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# मालस SPGFD DATA <br> The next venture in amateur radio 

In this article RJ Redding describes the reasons for radio amateur interest in high speed data transmission and explains the techniques that are irvolved


One of the finest aspects and most absorbing interests of amateur radio, is the pioneering of new techniques. The terms of the transmitting licence puts this beyond dispute, and it has been a continuous process since the earliest days.

Scientists knew about radio waves for decades, before the cat's whisker and home made coils of the hobbyist led to the growth of broadcasting.

Commercial pressures on the known wavelengths pushed amateurs into shorter and shorter ones, with the opening up of the higher frequency bands and the pioneering of techniques such as single side band and the narrow band $F M$, to meet each limitation as it was encountered.

Once a public service is well established, as is the case now with sound and vision broadcasting, the opportunities for original experimentation become slim. However, new components and techniques open up fresh possibilities, and possibly this is now the case in the transmission of high speed data, because of the ubiquitous microprocessor.
Although the home computer is viewed with mixed feelings by radio amateurs, it is undoubtedly here to stay, and there is a communication problem. Continually
buying programs on tape cassettes has disadvantages, and there are currently two novel alternatives. One is 'Micronet', which makes use of Prestel to download programs, and the other is 'Basicode', which has recently been broadcast by 'The Chip Shop' on Radio 4 with considerable impact.

These are concerned with computer programs which apply mainly to games. There is a much bigger and wider use for the same technology, namely INFORMATION EXCHANGE and also there is a need to operate in plain English text without the restrictions inherent in any program language.

## Data transmission

Amateurs are well used to 'data transmission' even if they call it CW, RTTY, or Amtor. In all cases, the information is contained in a binary
signal which has two states, or to put it more plainly, either it is there or not there. This is, perhaps, an exaggeration, for Morse is really three-state, but again the speed of transmission is limited because we need time to distinguish between the dots and dashes.

On the other hand, if we use electronic logic for translation, the limitation becomes the speed with which the data can be input and the rate at which it can be printed out. For mechanical teleprinters this sets the speed at 45 or 55 baud, or at the most 110 baud.

If, however, we go on to the microprocessor and electronic storage, we can prepare text in a memory and then proceed to dump it into a communication channel to be received into another memory and subsequently printed out when required. The limitation is now a matter of communication, and determined by the channel quality and the available bandwidth.

Table 1 indicates the order of speed capability of a telephone line or a speech radio channel. The transmission speed is measured in 'baud', which may be loosely translated as 'bits per second'. It is perhaps more realistic to compare in terms of characters transmitted per second, because the number of bits varies from code to code.
RTTY tends to use a five bit code, whereas ASCII variously uses six, seven or eight with various 'protocols' and hence the apparent discrepancy between baud number and character rate.

To show what this means in practice, a

## TABLE 1: Capability of a Radio Channel

| Information | Frequency <br> Range | Signal <br> Deviation | Typical Speed <br> wpm |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Music (Stereo) | $40-15 \mathrm{~K}$ | 75 KHz | - |
| Broadcast (AM) | $40-8 \mathrm{~K}$ | 10 KHz | - |
| Mobile Speech | $300-2.4 \mathrm{~K}$ | 3 KHz | 100 |
| FSK Data | Shifted tones | 200 Hz | 330 |
| CW (Morse) | On/Off |  | 12 |

## HIGH SPEFD DAIA

ten minute news bulletin of the type transmitted by RSGB would take 80 minutes to transmit by Morse, 10 minutes by RTTY, 3 minutes at 300 baud ASCII, and less than one minute at 1200 baud ASCII.

## Speed and storage

One may argue that we cannot follow the sense much faster than speech, so what is the point of sending it any faster? The new and significant import is STORAGE. We can compile a message or information at leisure, establish a link and at the appropriate moment, quickly dump it into the memory of another machine, from whence it can be utilised when required
One does not have to listen or read through the entire bulletin to find an item; one can use the computer to search or scan whether there is anything on a particular topic of interest.
The next stage is, of course, to arrange to receive the news bulletin automatically - via a time switch regularly - so that the latest is available, in case any of the information is required. Thus we always have the latest information, for example, about satellite predictions and band conditions.
Such facilities are the essence of commercial electronic mail and networking, in that one can send a message at an appropriate time to be collected and used or responded to when convenient. Anyone who has participated in the 'telephone tango' in attempting to fix a date with a number of individuals, will appreciate the value of such a system, which is, of course, extendable in all sorts of directions.
At the moment these techniques are mainly used on the telephone network, and are highly developed in the USA. The reason is probably because local calls in many areas are free, whereas the use of networks, even amateur club ones in the UK, can prove very expensive and this is where the radio amateur can use his abilities to his own advantage.
I believe we can take the apparatus and techniques which are used on telephone lines and use them to great advantage on amateur radio communication channels. The problems in some ways are simpler because we are conditioned to simplex working as opposed to the duplex (both ways at once) operation, which is the norm in telephony.
To make the best use of this, I feel that we need to look very carefully at present day telephone practice and see how much we can leave out and how we can simplify the remainder to make it suitable for amateur radio use.
Let us first look at what has already been done with data to see how we may benefit from telephony-type practice.

## Current practice in data transmission

Data transmission uses a 'modem' which is a shortened form of MODulator/DEModulator in which a tone is shifted, ie frequency-shift keyed (FSK) by a small amount to indicate binary 'ones' or
'zeros'. Unfortunately, the various users have adopted different tones and degrees of shift as well as different speeds, and Table 2 approximates the spread of these.
This is far from absolute, because the American telephone systems differ from the rest of the world and the various cassette recording styles for home computers bear some similarity, but the number of different 'standards' nearly matches the number of machines.

## Standards

It is hardly worth arguing the pros and cons for a further standard because of the versatility of electronics. It is possible to make one chip which will work on a large number of the 'standards', just as it is possible to write a computer program which will turn any dialogue of Basic into any other.
An ambitious project in a home computer club was well advanced in such a universal translation program when it was found highly desirable to play back a program on the same recorder on which it was made, to avoid the dissimilarity of individual magnetic heads. Perhaps the success and popularity of Basicode, as broadcast by Radio 4, is that this point is automatically satisfied in the philosophy.

## Sending programs over the air

On many occasions amateurs have transmitted programs to one another, but invariably this has been from one machine to another of exactly the same type. Thus there is little doubt about the feasibility of such transmission, even at comparatively high speeds like 1500 baud used on the Dragon.
However, I think there is great advantage in adopting strictly the tones and format of the standard used universally on telephone lines, namely the CCIII and using plain ASCII for the text. The reason for this is that anyone with data equipment for a telephone line or a Prestel system can, with a little
ingenuity, use this for programs and data reception from the air waves, and even to transmit as well if they have a licence. Further, there is a considerable market in used modems and surplus Prestel equipment which is ready made for adaptation to such amateur purposes, in just the same way as the existence of cheap teleprinters made RTTY popular 20 years ago.

## RTTY and AMTOR

In suggesting this, I am in no way meaning to cast aspersions on existing RTTY and AMTOR practice, merely attempting to extend it. Indeed, many people who go for the high speed data will include the lower speed types because of their unique specialities. RTTY is an easy and cheap way of getting going with data and receiving commerclal traffic, and AMTOR is a DX-form of it which has been well publicised recently, (March 1984 R\&EW.)
It is supreme in what it was designed for, eg high accuracy, highly reliable transmission of message into the Telex-on-Radio (TOR) system which, because of its mechanical nature, is fairly slow.
In its amateur form, AMTOR, it requires an answering transmitter for each character and though the system has been developed into 'forward error correction' by doubling each transmission, it is hardly suitable for widespread broadcasting on channels that are available for news bulletins etc. It is limited to 110 baud, which is about one tenth of the speed at which a dot-matrix printer of computer practice can operate.

## Tests

Again, this is a proposal on tests over a few months and open to modification in the light of experience. There will be mismatches and incompatibilities; for instance, most computers have some sort of interface, and one needs to unravel the mysteries of RS 232 or RS 423, although luckily most of it seems quite irrelevant for radio purposes.

| TABLE 2: FSK Tones Used by Various Systems |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Frequency in Hz |  |  |  |  |
| RTTY \& | Baud-rate |  | Space (0) | Shift |
| AMTOR | 1-100 | 1445 | 1275 | 170 |
| DUPLEX |  |  |  |  |
| MODEM V21 | 300 | 980 | 1180 | 200 |
| (CCITT) |  | 1650 | 1850 | 200 |
| DUPLEX |  |  |  |  |
| MODEM | 300 | 1270 | 1070 | 200 |
| BELL-US |  | 2225 | 2025 | 200 |
| V23 | 600 | 1300 | 1700 | 400 |
| MODEM | or |  |  |  |
| (CCITT) | 1200 | 1300 | 2100 | 800 |
| (Optional) | 75 | 390 | 450 | 60 |

# THE TRIO-KENWOOD ‘TS-430S’ TRANSCEIVER 

A comprehensive review of one of the latest 'TS' series of transceivers by Anthony Stokes, G3ZRH


The TS-430S is a general coverage MWSW transceiver introduced in the UK market during 1983 and performance of the set is substantially better than that of many earlier models.
The receiver has continuous coverage from 150 KHz to 30 MHz , and the transmitter operates on all of the amateur bands, although it can be made general coverage for non-amateur requirements.
The set is comparable with the Yaesu FT757 and Icom 751, although the latter is rather more expensive and does have some superior features. Weighing in at only 6.5 Kg it contains no valves in the PA or driver stages, and therefore requires only a single supply of 13 V at 20 amps . The voltage (in the range $12-16 \mathrm{~V}$ ) is not critical regarding performance. It is thus much more portable than similar valve transceivers. The block diagram is shown opposite.

## Capabilities

As well as CW/SSB/AM, FM may be received across the frequency spectrum. The sharpness of the selectivity in the, AM position is such that 'slope detection' of narrow band FM (NBFM) signals does not work well, and therefore the optional FM board is required for satisfactory FM working.

Even the addition of the YK88A AM filter does not appreciably help the demodulating signals in the 27 MHz citizens band, although it may be possible to zero-beat the carrier in the receiver SSB position.
The frequency stability of this receiver is so good that one can listen to AM music broadcasts for long periods on either USB or LSB.

Although the main tuning is in 100 Hz or 10 Hz steps - by microphone control if desired - there is also a receiver independent tuning control for obtaining final precision. As well as two independent VFO circuits there are eight 'memory' channels that may be preset independently to any frequency and mode, sequentially scanned if so desired. Another scanning facility enables the receiver to scan continuously between two preset fre-
quencies until a signal is received that is strong enough to break through the squelch if this is set; this is particularly useful on ten metres where, for example, $29.52-29.69 \mathrm{MHz}$ may be continuously scanned until the squelch lifts and shows when an NBFM station is present. The transceiver has split frequency capability and can even transmit and receive in different modes. This is useful on, say, top band where the transmitter might be on AM, but the receiver on SSB.

## Periormance

The selectivity of the receiver is very good, helped by the tunable IF shift control and the IF notch filter. This is ably demonstrated, for example, on long wave DX reception or on 75 metres where amateur stations must be separated from non-amateur signals. With the YK-88CN 270 Hz filter it is pleasant to enjoy a major improvement on 7 or 14 MHz CW in the separation of stations without the 'ringing' effect of older AF filters. Although the sharpness of the IF filters in the Icom 751 is appreciably better, the author is well satisfied with the TS-430S selectivity characteristics. Only the FM detector circuit could profitably be improved upon. The quoted -6 dB bandwidth of 15 KHz is really too broad for working on 29 or 27 MHz where channel separation is typically 10 KHz but this complaint applies to all the current generation of general coverage Japanese transceivers. The sensitivity is good, and the addition of an external preamplifier only improved the overall $\mathrm{S} / \mathrm{N}$ ratio by around 3 dB , although the 'S' meter responded better to weaker signals.
Whilst the RF attenuator switch is both simple and effective (if seldom needed), it is regrettable that the noise blanker is relatively ineffective. It does prove fairly effective against RFI, but little else, unlike the Yaesu and Icom noise blankers which are effective against a wide variety of QRM. It is hoped that the manufacturers might improve on this in future models.
The transmitter PA is well designed, and whilst the output circuit is fixed at about 50 ohm impedance, a standing
wave ratio detector circuit ensures that power input to the PA is steadily reduced in response to a rise in SWR. Additionally there is a fan which switches on when the PA heatsink becomes warm, and if there is excessive heat generated the transmitter switches itself off until safe operating conditions are resumed.
There appears to be adequate sensitivity in the microphone preamplifier and audio processor circuits, and the VOX or Morse key adjustable delay transmitreceive switching is fast enough, even for contest operation. Rear panel connections are provided for VHF transverter, linear amplifier, external speaker, Morse key etc. The output from the external speaker socket may conveniently be taken to the input of an RTTY decoder, so that headphones need not be unplugged from the front panel when operating in the 'teleprinter' mode.

## Conclusions

Being only $10.6 \times 10.1 \times 3.8$ inches the set provides a performance equal to or much better than many older sets of substantially greater dimensions. The maximum legally permitted CW power of 100W output is readily obtained on all bands $3.5-29 \mathrm{MHz}$, but on $A M$ it is recommended that 30 W is not exceeded if modulation characteristics are to remain good, and on FM the driver AGC is set to obtain a 40 W output. On SSB, more than 250W PEP input is possible.
The receiver is relatively immune to signal breakthrough but some weak spurious responses are occasionally perceptible, but scarcely at a level to cause any bother, and certainly far below the level of many current-production, transistorised, general coverage receivers. In addition to the main tuning knob there are push switches for changing the frequency in 1 MHz steps, or in larger steps from one amateur band to another and the frequency is displayed to the nearest 10 or 100 Hz .
The set can be thoroughly recommended where one does not wish to incur a larger outlay such as that required for an Icom 751 and is, on the whole, good value for money.

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# SOFTWARE PROGRAM FOR THE SINCLAIR ZX SPECTRUM 



During spring and early summer last year, a group of other radio amateurs and myself, in the Norwich area, carried out data transmission experiments using ZX Spectrum computers and 2 m VHF FM transceivers on a frequency of 144.7625 MHz.
The interface between the computer and the transceiver is a fairly simple matter. One has been designed and built by Paul G4VLS (ex G6LUN), a member of the group, who supplied several to other members.
However, to get started, a simple interface can be made by connecting the extension loudspeaker socket to the earphone socket on the computer for 'receive' and connecting a spare transceiver microphone socket to the microphone socket on the computer for 'transmit'. An additional pair of leads is connected to an on/off switch to key the transmitter.
The internal loudspeaker connections of most transceivers are disconnected when an extension loudspeaker is plugged in, thus an indication that the station is going to transmit data and this will alert receiving stations to connect their transceivers.

## Performance

The group started with limited programming knowledge, and during our data transmission periods, we were all able to pass on hints, tips, information and ideas to assist each other in learning 'Basic'.
We started by transmitting simple programs from magazines or books and progressing to longer programs and 'Screen\$' pictures. In general we had a fair amount of success, varying from 95\% to $55 \%$ throughout the group, depending on factors that we previously agreed. These were listed during our many discussion sessions after each 'data transmission' period and are as follows:-

1. Transmit/receive frequency alignment of the different transceivers in the group.
2. Correct deviation at the 'transmitting station.
3. The quality of recovered audio at the 'receive' stations, eg freedom from distortion and noise.
4. Extent of multipath reception and general man-made interference between the stations in the group.
5. Duration of the data transmission.
6. Power output of the 'transmitting' station.

It might come as a surprise to readers that 'Power output' is number 6 , however the group found that received data transmission at a signal strength of about S1, could be successfully received, provided that the first five items on our list were maintained within close limits.
With regard to number 5 of the list, the group found that whilst short programs could usually be transmitted, the longer programs, which contain Screen\$ and machine code segments, quite often failed. This was due to one or more factors on the 'list' and some members found this discouraging at first. We were all fairly pleased with the results after successive attempts.

## The program

Our experiences will enable others to understand some of the problems concerning data transmission and । have produced a program that is of professional quality and easy to use for any data transmission application, whether it is for amateur or private mobile radio use.

My first objective was to determine what the program should be able to achieve, keeping it easy to use, reliable and well presented. Then I planned the

## SOFTWARE PROGRAM FOR THE ZX SPECTRUM

ASCII Data Listing.

CLEAR 28999
FOR $i=29001$ TO 29824
READ a: POKE i, a: NEXT i
STOP
DATA $22,9,0,49,46,32,80,114,101,112,97,114,101,32,109,101,115,115$, $97,103,101,13,13,50,46,32,68,105,115,112,108,97,121,32,99,117,114$, $114,101,110,116,32,109,101,115,115,97,103,101,13,13,51,46,32,68,105$, $115,112,108,97,121,32,115,116,111,114,101,100,32,109,101,115,115,97$, $103,101,13,13,52,46,32,83,97,118,101,32,109$ ,16,32,109,101,115,1 $54,46,32,82,101,99,105,101,118,101,32,109,101,115,115,97,103,101,16$, $7,22,21,0,32,69,78,84,69,82,32,65,32,78,85,77,66,69,82,32,49,32,84$, $79,32,54,32,22,1-5,68,73$

DATA $83,80,76,65,89,32,67,85,82,82,69,78,84,32,77,69,83,83,65,71,69$, $32,22,21,1,80,82,69,83,83,32,69,78,84,69,82,32,84,79,32,82,69,84,85$, $82,78,32,84,79,32,77,69,78,85,32,22,1,10,69,78,84,69,82,32,77,69,83$, $83,65,71,69,32,22,1,5,68,73,83,80,76,65,89,32,83,84,79,82,69,68,32$, $77,69,83,83,65,71,69,32,22,1,7,83,65,86,69,32,77,69,83,83$ DATA $65,71,69,32,84,79,32,84,65,80,69,22,21,0,83,116,97,114,116,32$, $116,97,112,101,32,45,32,113,114,101,115,115,32,101,110,116,101,114$, $32,116,111,32,115,97,118,101,32,22,1,9,84,82,65,78,83,77,73,84,32$, $77,69,83,83,65,71,69,22,3,4,70,79,76,76,79,87,32,84,72,69,83,69,32$, $73,78,83,84,82,85$
DATA $67,84,73,79,78,83,22,6,4,49,16,32,67,79,78,84, \quad 65,67,84,32,79$, $80,69,82,65,84,79,82,13,13,50,46,32,71,73,86,69,32,79,80,69,82,65,84$, $79,82,32,68,69,84,65,73,76,83,32,79,70,32,67,65,76,76,13,13,51,46,32$, $87,72,69,78,32,67,79,78,78,69,67,84,69,68,32,45,32,83,87,73,84,67,72$, $32,84,79,32,32,32,32,32,32,84,82,65,78,83,77,73,84,32,65,78$ DATA $68,32,80,82,69,83,83,32,69,78,84,69,82,32,22,1,9,82,69,67,73,69$, $86,69,32,77,69, \quad 83,83,65,71,69,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,22,0,0,143,143$, $136,32,32,143,143,32,32,143,143,143,32,32,143,143,32,32,32,143,143$, $138,32,143,143,32,32,143,32,32,143,32,143,32,133,32,133,32,32,138,32$, 32,143,32,32,133
DATA $32,32,138,32,32,143,32,32,133,32,32,138,32,143,32,32,143,32,143$, $32,133,32,133,32,32,138,32,32,143,32,32,133,32,32,138,32,32,143,32,32$, $133,32,32,138,32,143,32,32,143,32,143,32,133,32,133,131,131,138,32,32$, $143,32,32,133,131,131,138,131,32,143,32,32,133,131,131,138,32,143,32$, $32,143,32,143,32,133,32,133,32$
DATA $32,138,32,32,143,32,32,133,32,32,138,32,32,143,32,32,133,32,32$, $138,32,143,32,32,143,32,143,143,130,32,133,32,32,138,32,32,143,32,32$, $133,32,32,138,32,32,143,143,138,133,32,32,138,32,143,143,32,143,143$, $32,32,32,32,32,32,32,32,32,32,32,32,32,32,32,32,32,32,32,32,32,32,32$, $32,32,32,32,32,32,32,32,32$
66 DATA $143,143,143,143,143,143,143,143,143,143,143,143,143,143,143,143$, $143,143,143,143,143,143,143,143,143,143,143,143,143,143,143,143$ $77,87,32,67,79,76,76,73,78,83,32,74,65,78,32,49,57,56,52,32,0$

## ****NOTE: THEN ALL DATA ENTERD AND PROGRAM RUN FITHOUT <br> ERRORS - DELETE LINES 42 TO 68 ****

displays and layouts of the parts of the program. My first version was written in Basic, but although this was adequate, I was not satisfied with the operating speed, so I decided to write the program in machine code. The Input statement was retained in Basic.
The program is written in three parts and should be entered in the following order:

1. ASC II Data Listing: The very long data list contains all the screen printed items and control characters from ASCII code in a decimal format. The listing is essential for the correct display operation of the program and will need to be entered very carefully.
2. Machine Code Listing: This listing is the brain of the program and includes

Hex code, Mnemonics and, as necessary, decimal coding. This Listing is not relocatable and should be assembled with any good assembler. I used UV 48K from ACS, which I find very good.
3. Basic Program Listing: This short Basic Listing is for inputting your information and interfacing the machine code routines.

## Message preparation

The program has been written for either a 16 K or 48 K Spectrum in the same memory locations. It is Menu driven and, apart from a few notes to help the reader understand how to use it, should be selfexplanatory. This is the Menu:

1. Prepare Message
2. Dispiay Current Message
3. Display Stored Message
4. Save Message to Tape
5. Transmit
6. Receive

To prepare a message select (1) and print out the first line of your message, followed by 'enter' and continue until the last line is on the display, then press 'Enter' by itself. After a short delay the screen will clear and the menu will return.
To save message to tape, select (4) and when you have the tape ready press 'Enter' and your message will be written onto tape without a header.
To transmit, select (5) and follow instructions given. It is interesting to note that a complete 'screen' of informa-

## SOFTWARE PROGRAM FOR ZX SPECTRUM

## Machine Code Listings

| Start | ; |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Main | ; | CD 8574 | call Menu (29829) |
| End | ; | C9 | ret |
| Menu | ; | CD 3376 | call Clear (30259) |
|  |  | CD 1076 | call Logo (30224) |
|  |  | 114971 | 1 d de,29001 |
|  |  | 01 A9 00 | $1 \mathrm{~d} \mathrm{bc}, 169$ |
|  |  | CD 3C 20 | call 8252 |
|  |  | C3 9774 | jp Choice (29847) |
| Choice | ; | CD 9F 75 | call Scan (30111) |
|  |  | FE 41 | cp 49 |
|  |  | CACO 74 | jp z,Prepare (29898) |
|  |  | FE 32 | $\text { cp } 50$ |
|  |  | CA D2 74 | jp z,Dieplay (29906) |
|  |  | FE 33 | cp 51 |
|  |  | CA 0775 | jp z,Load (29959) |
|  |  | FE 34 | $\text { cp } 52$ |
|  |  | CA 1C 75 | jp z,Save (29980) |
|  |  | FE 35 | cp 53 |
|  |  | CA 3475 | jp z,Tranemit (30004) |
|  |  | FE 36 | cp 54 |
|  |  | CA 4C 75 | jp z, Recieve (30028) |
|  |  | FE 23 | cp 35 |
|  |  | CA $1 F 76$ | jp z, Break (30239) |
|  |  | C3 9774 | jp Choice (29847) |
| Prepare | ; | CD 3376 | call Clear (30259) |
|  |  | CD AF 75 | call Plot (30127) |
|  |  | 112 F 72 | 1 d de,29231 |
|  |  | 011000 | $1 \mathrm{~d} \mathrm{bc}, 16$ |
|  |  | CD 3C 20 | call 8252 |
|  |  | C3 8474 | jp End (29828) |
| Display | ; | CD 3376 | call Clear (30259) |
|  |  | CD 7C 75 | call Current (30076) |
|  |  | CD AF 75 | call Plot (30127) |
|  |  | 211879 | 1d h1,31000 |
|  |  | 3 E 16 | $1 \mathrm{da}, 22$ |
|  |  | D7 | ret 16 |
|  |  | 3E 03 | 1 da 3 |
|  |  | D7 | ret 16 |
|  |  | 3E 00 | 1 da a |
|  |  | D7 | ret 16 |
| Loop | ; | 23 | inc hl |
|  |  | 7 E | 1da, (hl) |
|  |  | FE OD | cp 13 |
|  |  | CA 0175 | jp z,Linefeed (29953) |
|  |  | FE 20 | cp 32 |

tion will be transmitted in about 7 seconds with this program, compared with about 45 seconds for the Sinclair Screen\$ command.

## In conclusion

It is hoped that this article and program Pwill be of interest to many readers of R\&EW and that it will encourage more amateurs to experiment with 'data transmission'. Any reader who has any difficulty in entering the program, can obtain a copy on tape from me at the following address:- Mike Collins, 5 Stafford Ave, Costessey, Norwich, Norfolk NR5 OQF, or telephone 0603666260 during working hours.

## Acknowledgements

I would like to express gratitude to the members of the group, G4VRX (ex G8JQQ) Dave, G4VLS (ex G6LUN) Paul, G40LP Richard, G4GIE John and G4RMN Mich who took part in the experiments and provided the results which promoted the idea of this program.

I would also like to thank Dr I Logan whose books were used to teach myself Machine Code, Mr P Lyons (National Field Manager of Aircall PLC) and G6PAM Derek who both persuaded me to prepare the article for publication.


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# AMATEUR RADIO WORLD 

## Compiled by Arthur C Gee G2UK

It is now eighteen months or more since the 'new bands' became available for amateur use. The 10 MHz allocation of $10100-10150 \mathrm{KHz}$ became available on 1st January 1982, whilst allocations in the 18 MHz and $24 \mathrm{MHz}-18068-18168 \mathrm{KHz}$ and $24890-24990 \mathrm{KHz}$ - became available on 1st October 1982.
Activity on these bands has been increasing quite noticeably in recent months, particularly on 10 MHz where some amateur station activity can be found at most times. Activity on 18 MHz can best be described as 'sparse', whilst on 24 MHz very little in the way of reports of activity has been seen.
Writing about these new allocations, Richard Baldwin in the IARU news feature in the January 1984 issue of QST, reminds readers of how close to failure the request for these frequency allocations came, when they were discussed at the World Administrative Radio Conference in Geneva in 1979. Not all countries at this Conference were in agreement with the proposals, by any means. However, the day was won, and these allocations went through. It was agreed that these bands, 'will remain allocated to the fixed and land mobile service, until amateur primary status is achieved, not later than 1st July 1989.'

In view of the limited width of 'new' bands and in order not to cause interference to the primary user by others it was agreed that fairly severe restrictions should be applied, particularly on 10 MHz . Because of the anticipated popularity of this band, vis-a-vis the other two, use was to be restricted to CW and RTTY. Contests would not be sponsored on these bands nor would contacts be credited for awards.

Do these voluntary, mutually agreed restrictions please everyone, asks Richard Baldwin? No naturally they do not! There is considerable pressure being brought to permit SSB and the crediting of DX contacts for the DXCC award.
But, says Richard, 'sometime in the near future another General World Administrative Radio Conference will occur and the ITU will be taking another look at the allocation table. One of IARU's goals will then be to try and get expanded privileges for 10 MHz . We will be in a better position to achieve these if we have done nothing to violate the terms under which we now occupy these


Two QSL cards sent to G2UK from Rolf Niefind DK2ZF, who is the keeper of the 10 MHz beacon at Nordeich Radio
bands, ie, we remember we are there on a secondary basis and that we do not cause intereference to primary users'.
The 10 MHz beacon at Norden, Germany, on 10144 KHz is still functioning well, and is a good indicator of conditions on this band. It is installed at NORDEICH RADIO, one of the German Coastal stations. Its callsign is DKOWCY - see these notes for October 1983.

## 'New look' newsletter

The British Amateur Radio Teleprinter

Group has just up-dated its Newsletter. It has a new name 'Datacom', and a new look. As their editor, Ian Wade, G3NRW, says, 'The new name was chosen because we felt that a professionally printed magazine with more than 100 pages was hardly a newsletter any more and we also needed a name which would roll off the tongue more easily and would tell the world that BARTG is about data communications. Hence the name 'Datacom'. Ian goes on to say: 'Data communica-

## AMAIEUR RADIO WORLD

tions in BARTG is just what it says communicating data, in its widest sense, from one point to another by radio. One of the oldest forms of data is, of course, RTTY, but the Group has also been concerned for a long time with many other forms, such as ASCII, AMTOR, FAX, weather broadcasts, satellites, telemetry and so on. At one time, the word data was used by some to denote ASCII transmission, to distinguish it from RTTY, but this rather narrow definition has now been overtaken by the reality of computer-tocomputer communcation in many different forms, with modes like Packet Radio and developments like digital repeaters stimulating the imagination of many BARTG members.

The first issue of Datacom is a truly fine effort, and does great credit to lan Wade as its editor. It is to be published quarterly, and should attract many more members to BARTG.

## UOSAT 2

Can you imagine the disappointment which must have fallen upon the UOSAT 2 team? After a mamoth effort to build the satellite to meet a launch date opportunity, a faultless launch and two orbits in which perfect, strong, telemetry signals were received, they suddenly ceased on the third orbit. UOSAT was over the Pacific Ocean at the time and no obvious reason for the failure has
become apparent. Since then, 'deathly silence!' There have been some reports that signals have been heard, but so far no telemetry has been recorded and the cause of the trouble cannot therefore be determined.
It looks as though another effort, similar to that needed to get UOSAT 1 off a similar 'hook' shortly after its launch, will be needed to 'bring the bird back to life.' All we can do at the moment, is to wish Martin and his team success and to express to them our sympathy in their dilemma.

Dr Martin Sweeting spent several days at the end of March at Jodrell Bank Radio Telescope using the 85 foot antenna to see if signals from UOSAT 2 could be picked up. The 85 foot antenna with a crossed-dipole feed on 145 MHz was used both within a narrow 2.5 KHz bandwidth and with a wider bandwidth of $\pm 100 \mathrm{KHz}$.
The receiver and the antenna was first checked out using UOSAT 1 and with radio noise from the sun and the star Cassiopia. With these test sources, everything worked well. The UOSAT 1 signal peaked to +75 dB above the minimum discernable signal level and provided the best UOSAT telemetry data the team had ever heard! So if UOSAT 2 was still radiating even the weakest of beacon signals, it should have been audible. OSCAR 10 was also tracked and
signals from 42.000 km right out at apogee from the 145.810 MHz beacon were 55dB above noise.

UOSAT 2 was tracked on evening and morning passes but nothing could be detected that could be reliably ascribed to UOSAT 2. So it looks as though it's 'back to the drawing board', to try to come up with something else to explain UOSAT 2's demise!

## Top of the class

Norfolk radio amateur Martyn Jordan was recently presented with a bronze medal for having the highest marks in the country in the City and Guilds Radio Amateurs examination. He lives at Edgefield, Lyng. Aged 34, Mr Jordan is a Norwich fireman. He puts his success down to the hard work of his tutor at the Fakenham Adult Education Centre, Mr Roger Rayner. He first became interested in radio during his schooldays at the Alderman Jex School, Norwich, which has a shortwave radio receiver. His call is G4VAO. He is a member of the Firefighters Net, an international radio club for firemen. Eight thousand students passed the test.

## Chinese Amateur Radio Society

Amateur Radio is once again active in China. The Chinese Radio Sports Association has recently applied for membership of IARU.

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with a simple mod, we can give you details).

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- Full instructions, parts list, circuit etc.

K责 E14-80 assembled PCB module E19-80
DCRX DURECT CONYERSKON COMMUNICATIONS RECEYER
This kit is reviewed in the May issue of 'Shortwave Magazine' by G3RJV. The article says a lot more than we can in this space. Suffice to say these are very popular with both beginners and experienced operators.
*Single band versions for $3.5,10 \mathrm{n}$ and 14 MHz .

- 12 Volt operation
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- Only one adjustment to make to align the module.
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- Balanced FET mixer, FET VFO.

The unit only requires a couple of 50 pF tuning capacitors by way of external components to function.
K £13-95, assembled PCB module (aligned) £18-90
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PM2/15 2M LMEAR AMPMFIER 15 Watt
Do you have a 2 M hand-held that could do with a boost? Suitable for mobile or base station use this unit will give a 10 dB gain with any hand-held having up to $11 / 2$ Watts output. Easy to build, with preformed inductors for simplicity, this unit is also suitable for 1 Watt SSB rigs. An RF switched (or PTY operated) unit is also suitable for 1 Watt SSB rigs. An RF sw. PA2f15 K $\mathbf{8 1 8 - 9 0}$, assembled PCB module £22-80.

## PA2/30 2M LNEAR AMPLFIER 30 Watt

This unit gives approx 8 dB gain for use with an IC202. FT290 etc. It puts out a clean signal with margin against overdriving with these popular radios. The ciean signal with margin againstors ind ore output trimmers for good A2/30 includes preformed inductors and PiFE output thmers used with this item. PA2/30 Kit £22-80, assembled PCB module E26-90.

## CO1 RF or PTT SWITCHED CHANCE-OVER UNIT

This unit is designed to switch a linear, preamp, or both in and out of line Suitable for all bands 160 to 2 M , with an RF sensitivity of $1 / 2 \mathrm{~W}$ for switching. Will switch up to 100W RF output from a linear. 25 W max from the rig. Suitable for many uses apart from switching our PA Series Linears.
KR E8-80, assembled PCB module E11-90.(includes a switched bias output on TX and provision for a TX LED indicator).

## all CRYSTAL CONTROLIED FRECUENCY MARIE

A really useful piece of test equipment, besides helping you meet Amateur licence frequency measurement requirements. Out kit has a bulit in voitage stabaliser to maintain accuracy over a wide voltage range (8 to 24 V DC). The XM1 provides marker outputs at $1 \mathrm{MHz}, 100 \mathrm{kHz}, 25 \mathrm{kHz}$ and 10 kHz , these are usable up to 70 cm , unlike some CMOS designs. The XM1 has a pulsed iden facility for distinguishing markers from off-air signals on crowded bands. This facitity is very useful, and much preferable to tone modulated markers, whose bandwidth becomes larger as frequency increases. If you are going to invest in a piece of test equipment, it pays to go for a good quality design, the XM1 provides this.
Ki £15-60, ansembled PCB module £19-60.

## ST2 CW S:DE-TONE UNIT OF PRACTICE OSCILLATOR

The ST2 provides a nice sounding sinewave note, either from your key or from the output of your TX by RF sensing. This design should not be confused with cheap and nasty squarewave circuits so common in horrible sounding practice units. I think side-tone, or a practice oscillator should sound like a good off-air signal received on a quality set. Output is up to approx. 1 W at 800 Hz , a volume control is included. Kit $\mathbf{8 6} \mathbf{- 2 0}$, assembled PCB module $\mathbf{E B} \mathbf{9 0}$.

If you would like further information on any product, simply drop us a line enclosing an SAE, we have an information sheet on each item We aim to keep everything in stock and delivery within 7 days.

PLEASE ADD 60p Pep to you total order value.
73, Dave C4KOH, Technical Manager.

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# DATA FILE 

## Ray Marston takes an in-depth look at <br> National Semiconductor's LM381/LM382/LM387

## range of dual audio-oreamplifier ICs



## Introduction

Each channel of a modern stereo 'hi-fi' audio system can be represented by a number of inter-connected blocks, as indicated in Figure 1. Here, input signals from either a radio tuner, a tape (cassette) deck, or a phono' pre-amplifier are selected via SW1 and then fed to the input of a power amplifier stage via a tone-control system and a volume control. In practice, the tone control system may include refinements such as 'scratch' and 'rumble' filters, etc.

Typically, the tone-control system needs to be driven by input signals with mean amplitudes of tens or hundreds of millivolts. Signals of suitable amplitude are usually available directly from the output of a tape or tuner unit, but not directly from the output of a magnetic phono' pick-up. In the latter case, therefore, the phono' signal must be passed to the tone-control input via a suitable pre-amplifier stage, as indicated in the diagram.
Several manufacturers produce dedicated ICs specifically intended for use in audio pre-amplifier and tone-control applications. These devices are designed to give excellent power-supply ripple rejection, low signal distortion a wide bandwidth, and a very low noise figure.
Among the best-known of such devices are the LM381/LM382/LM387 range of dual audio pre-amplifier ICs, available from National Semiconductors.

## LM381/LM382/LM387 ICs

National Semiconductors produce a range of five low noise dual pre-amp ICs, these being the LM381 and LM381A, the LM382, and the LM387 and LM387A: the ' A ' suffix devices are simply premium versions of their type, with superior lownoise figures. Figures 2 to 4 show the outlines of each of these ICs, together with the actual circuit of one of the identical pair of amplifiers housed in

Figure 1 Block diagram of one channel of a 'hi-fi' system


Figure 2 Circuit of the LM381/LM381A dual low-noise preamplifier


Figure 3 Circuit of the LM382 dual low-noise preamplifier

## DATA FIL:

in each package, and Figure 5 gives a summary of their performances.
All five of these ICs are designed to operate from single-ended power supplies. They all use the same BASIC amplifier circuitry, but differ in minor internal details and in their pin-outs. They incorporate internal compensation and comprehensive power supply decoupler, regulator circuitry, and can give large output voltage swings and a wide power bandwidth. The various ICs differ in the following respects.
The LM381 and LM381A have provision for externally optimising their noise figures and for adding external compensation (for narrow-band or low-gain applications). These ICs are normally used in the differential input configuration, but can be used in the 'single ended' input mode in ultra-low-noise applications.
The LM382 has no provision for adding external compensation or for operation in the single-ended input configuration, but has a built-in resistor matrix that enables the user to select a variety of closed-loop gain options and frequencyresponse characteristics.
Finally, the LM387 and LM387A are 'utility versions of the LM381/LM381A, with only the input and output terminals of each amplifier externally accessible, and with no provision for external frequency compensation or singleended input operation.

## LM381/LM381A basics

It has already been stated that the National Semicomductors range of five pre-amp ICs all use the same basic internal circuitry, but differ in minor details.
The operation of the entire range of devices can thus be understood by taking a close look at the circuitry of the LM381/LM381A shown in Figure 2. This circuit in fact comprises four major sections, these being a 1 st-stage amplifier (Q1-Q2), a 2nd stage amplifier (Q3 to Q6), an output stage (Q7 to Q10), and a biasing network (Q11 to Q15). Figure 6 shows a simplified 'equivalent' circuit of a complete pre-amplifier, showing its four major sections.
The Q1-Q2 1st-stage input amplifier of the IC is powered via the internal biasing network, and has a biasing potential of 1.2 V permanently applied to Q1 base via a 250 k series resistor. This 1st-stage can be operated as either a differential or a single-ended amplifier (a differential stage generates $41 \%$ more noise than a single-ended stage).
When used in the differential mode, the Q1-Q2 amplifier must be 'balanced' by feeding 1.2 V to Q2 base via an external biasing network connected as shown. When used in the ultra-low-noise singleended mode, Q2 must be turned off by grounding its base, and Q1 must be 'balanced' by feeding 0.6 V to Q2 emitter via the external biasing network. This 1st-stage amplifier gives a voltage gain of $\times 80$ when used in the differential mode, or $\times 160$ in the single-ended mode.


Figure 2a Outine of LM381/LM381A


Figure 3a Outline of LM382


Figure 4 Circuit and outline of the LM387. LM387A dual low-noise preamplifier


|  | LM381 | LFh381A | LM382 | LM387 | LM387A |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| V Supply | $9 \mathrm{~V}-40 \mathrm{~V}$ | $9 \mathrm{~V}-40 \mathrm{~V}$ | $9 \mathrm{~V}-40 \mathrm{~V}$ | $9 \mathrm{~V}-30 \mathrm{~V}$ | $9 \mathrm{~V}-40 \mathrm{~V}$ |
| 1 Quiescent (Typ) | 10 mA | 10 mA | 10 mA | 10 mA | 10 mA |
| Power Bandwidth (20V P-P) | 75 KHz | 75 KHz | 75 KHz | 75 KHz | 75 KHz |
| Supply Rejection Ratio at $\mathbf{1 K H z}$ (Typ) | 120 dB | 120 dB | 120 dB | 110 dB | 110dB |
| Equivalent noise input Typ | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.65 |
| ${ }_{\mu} \mathbf{V}$ V RMS $\quad$ Max | 1.0 | 0.7 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 0.9 |

Fig 5. Performance characteristics of the five dual pre-amplifier ICs.


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The 2nd-stage amplifier comprises common emitter stage Q5 (with con-stant-current load Q6), which is driven from the output of Q1 via Darlington emitter follower Q3-Q4. This 2nd-stage amplifier gives an overall voltage gain of about 2000, and is internally compensated via C 1 to give unity gain at 15 MHz . This compensation provides stability at closed-loop gains of $\times 10$ or greater. At lower gains, an external capacitor can be wired in parallel with C1 to provide suitable compensation.
The output stage of the amplifier comprises Darlington emitter follower Q8-Q9, which is provided with an active current sink via Q7. Transistor Q10 provides short-circuit protection by limiting the output current to 12 mA .
The biasing network of the amplifier is designed to give a very high supplysignal rejection ratio ( 120 dB ), and consists essentially of very-high-impedance constant-current generator Q11-Q12Q13, which is used to generate a ripplefree reference voltage across ZD2. This reference voltage is then used to power the first two stages of the amplifier via Q14 and Q15, and to provide internal biasing to Q1 base.

## Differential operation

The LM381 or LM381A IC can be operated in either the differential-input or the single-ended-input modes. Differential-input operation is suitable for use in all general-purpose applications in which a 'good' low-noise performance is required. Single-endedinput operation is recommended for use only in applications where an ultra-lownoise performance is needed.

To use a LM381 or LM381A pre-amp in the differential-input mode, the IC must first be biased so that its output takes up a positive quiescent value that is independent of variations in supply voltage, and this can be achieved by connecting potential-divider R1-R2 between the output and the noninverting input of the IC as shown in Figure 7, thus forming a dc negativefeedback loop. The inverting input terminal of the IC (Q1 base, in Figure 6) is internally biased at roughly 1V2 above zero: consequently, when R1 and R2 are connected as shown in Figure 7, dc negative feedback causes the noninverting input terminal to take up a value equal to that of the inverting terminal (1V2). The amplifier output therefore attains a dc value of 1 V 2 x (R1+R2)/R2, and can be set at any desired value by suitable choice of R1/R2 ratio. In practice, R2 should have a value less than 250 K .

The Figure 7 circuit can be made to act as a non-inverting ac-amplifier by simply ac-coupling the input signal to the noninverting input terminal of the amplifier. In this configuration the circuit has an input impedance of about 250 K : input signals must be limited to 300 mV rms maximum, to avoid excessive distortion.

The dc voltage gain of the above


Figure 6 Equivalent circuit of the LM381/LM381A amplifier


Figure 7 Differential biasing of the LM381 or Figure 8 Low-noise $\times 100$ non-inverting LM381A


Figure 9 Low-noise phono pre-ame (RIAA,


Figure 10 Low-noise tape playback amplifier (NAB)
circuit is determined by R1 and R2. If the desired ac-gain differs from the dcvalue, the desired ac-gain can be obtained by ac-shunting one or other of the bias-network resistors. Figure 8 for example, shows the circuit of a low-noise x100 non-inverting amplifier. In this case the dc-gain is determined by R1 and R2 and is less than $\times 10$, but the ac-gain is determined mainly by R1 and R3, and approximates $\times 100$.
The above 'shunting' technique can easily be expanded to provide fre-quency-dependent ac-gain in various 'filter' applications. Figure 9 for example, shows the circuit of a low-noise phono' pre-amp with RIAA equalisation, and Fig 10 shows a tape playback.
The Figure 7 circuit can be made to act as an inverting ac-amplifier by simply acgrounding the non-inverting terminal and feeding the input signal to the inverting terminal via a gain-determining resistor, as shown in Figure 11. Here, bias resistors R2 and R3 give a dc-gain of roughly $\times 10$, and thus set the quiescent output at +12 V . The ac-gain, however, is determined by the R3/R1 ratio, and has a value of $\times 10$ in this example: the input impedance roughly equals the value of R1. Finally, Figure 12 shows how the above circuit can be made to act as a unity-gain 4 -input audio mixer by simply providing each of the four input channels with its own series-input resistor.

## Single-ended operation

The LM381A can be operated in the single-ended input mode in applications where an ultra-low-noise performance is needed. This mode can be understood with the aid of Figure 13, which shows (within the dotted lines) a simplified representation of the IC, together with external biasing components, etc.
In Figure 13, the Q1-Q2 differential '1ststage' amplifier is shown powered via the internal 5V6 regulator, and has its Q1collector signal fed to the outputvia a dcamplifier. The IC can be connected into the basic 'single-ended' configuration by simply grounding the base of Q2 as shown, thereby disabling Q2. Note in athis case, however, that the circuit can no longer be dc-biased via Q2 base, so biasing must be achieved by using feedback to Q2 emitter.
Suitable dc-biasing can be obtained by connecting potential divider R1-R2 as shown, so that roughly 600 mV is developed across R2 when the IC output is at the desired dc-voltage level. Thus, if a quiescent output of +12 V is needed, R1 and R2 must give a dc-voltage gain of $\times 20$. R2 can, if desired, be shunted by R3-C1, to give an ac-voltage gain that is greater than the dc value.
Note in the above biasing circuit that R2 is in fact wired in parallel with the internal 10 K emitter resistor of Q1, and thus causes the emitter and collector 'current density levels' of Q1 to increase above their normal values of about 15 uA . In practice, however, it can be shown that the noise generation of Q1 varies with collector current density, and is mini-

Figure 11 Low-distortion (<.05) $x 10$ inverting amolifier


Figure 124 -input unity-gain audio mixer


Figure 13 LM381A with external components for single-ended


Figure 15 Ultra-low-noise magnetic phono' pre-amp with RIAA equalisation
mum at a density of about 170uA Consequently, the circuit generates minimum noise when R2 has a value of about 1K2. To prevent Q1 collector from saturating at this current level, the internal 200 K collector resistor of Q1 must be by-passed and the major part of the current provided via external load resistors R4-R5, which are decoupled via C2.

The Figure 13 'single-ended' circuit is intended for use as a non-inverting amplifier only, and has a typical input impedance of about 10K. Ideally, input signals to the circuit should have source impedances below 2 KO , and all resistors should be low-noise metal-film types. Figures 14 and 15 show a pair of practical versions of the ultra-low-noise circuit. Figure 14 is a $\times 1000$ amplifier, and Figure 15 is a magnetic-phono pre-amplifier with RIAA equalisation. In both cases, RV1 is used to set the dc output voltage at half-supply value. In Figure 14, C3 is used to limit the upper 3 dB point of the frequency curve to 10 KHz .

## LM382 circuits

The internal circuitry of each half of the LM382 is identical to that of the LM381, except that the addition of a 5 resistor matrix and the elimination of certain terminals means that this IC cannot be used in the 'single-ended' input mode and has no facility for external compensation; but the addition of the resistor matrix means that biasand filter-network design can be greatly simplified. It should be noted that this matrix is specifically intended for use in applications in which the IC is powered from a 12 V supply.

Figures 16 to 19 show various ways of using the LM 382 with a 12 V supply. Figure 16 shows how to use the IC as a noninverting amplifier with an ac-gain of 40 , 55 or 80 dB . Figure 17 shows the circuit of an inverting amplifier with a gain of 40 dB , and Figure 18 shows a unity-gain inverting amplifier. Finally, Figure 19 shows a phono' pre-amp with RIAA equalisation.

## LM387 circuits

The internal circuitry of each half of the LM387/387A is identical to that of the LM381, except for the elimination of certain terminal connections. The elimination of these terminals means that the IC can only be used in the 'differential' input mode, without external compensation. The IC is, nevertheless, quite versatile, and Figures 20 to 26 show some practical applications of the LM387 (or LM387A) IC.

Figure 20 shows how to connect the IC as a non-inverting amplifier with an acgain of 52 dB . The dc-gain (and thus the quiescent output voltage) is determined by R1 and R2, and the ac-gain is determined by R1 and R3. Figure 21 shows how to modify the circuit for use as a phone pre-amp with RIAA equalisation, and Figure 22 shows how to modify it for use as a NAB tape playback amplifier.

Figures 23 to 26 show various ways of


Figure 16 LM382 used as a fixed-gain non-inverting amplifier with a 12-volt power supply


Figure $1740 d B$ inverting amplifier


Figure 18 Unity-gain inverting amplifier

Figure 19 Phono pre-amp (RIAA)


Figure 20 LM387 non-inverting ac amplifier with a gain of 52 dB


Figure 21 LM387 phono pre-amp (RIAA)

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Figure $\mathbf{2 2}$ LM387 tape playback amplifier (NAB)
Figure $\mathbf{2 3} L M 387$ active tone-control circuit


Figure 24 Rumble filter


Figure 25 Scratch filter


Figure 26 Speech ( $300 \mathrm{~Hz}-3 \mathrm{KHz}$ ) filter
various ways of using the LM387 in the inverting-amplifier mode in active filter applications. The Figure 23 circuit is that of an active tone-control that gives unity gain with its controls in the 'flat' position, or 20 dB of boost or rejection with the controls fully rotated.
The 'rumble' filter of Figure 24 is actually a 2 nd-order high-pass active filter that rejects signals below 50 Hz and does so with a slope of $12 \mathrm{~dB} /$ octave. The 'scratch' filter of Figure 25 is a 2nd-order low-pass filter that rejects signals above 10 KHz . Finally, the 'speech' filter of Figure 26 consists of a $2 n d$-order highpass and a 2nd-order low-pass filter
wired in series, to give $12 \mathrm{~dB} /$ octave rejection to signals below 300 Hz or above 3 KHz .

## Usage hints

In this article we've looked at various circuits based on the LM381/ LM382/LM387 range of ICs. These ICs are, however, high-gain, wide-band devices, and in practice, some care must consequently be taken in the construction of these circuits if they are to work correctly. The two most-frequently encountered problems are those of RFinstability, and RF 'pick-up'.
The RF-instability problem is usually
caused by inadequate high-frequency power supply decoupling: note that in ALL pre-amp circuits the power supply to the IC must be RF-decoupled by wiring a 100n ceramic or 1n0 tantalum capacitor directly across the power supply pins of the IC.
The RF 'pick-up' problem manifests itself in the pick-up and demodulation of AM broadcast signals. This problem can usually be eliminated by wiring a 10 H RF choke in series with the IC input terminal, and perhaps by also decoupling the input terminal (or terminals) with a low-value capacitor, as shown in Figure 27.

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# NOTES FROM TH <br> EAST 

## Comments on the world of radio <br> originally written 25 years ago

This veteran can recall the days in the early 1920 's, when, mains electricity was not widely available when it did arrive it was by means of rather unsightly wooden poles and overhead wires

Another Old Timer, ET, has written: 'Since last year I have retired down here in remote North Cornwall where we are still without electricity supply. It's almost like the good old days, except that modern dry batteries are reasonably reliable and present-day valves are so economical in their current demands.'
Ninety-five per cent of the real Old Timers will well remember being without mains. They were still a great rarity in private houses at the conclusion of World War 1 - and for a good few years after.

We had only bright emitters taking 4 or 6 volts at not less than one amp apiece, and you can guess what they did to the clumsy and crude accumulators of that period. It was not the chief worry that they lasted only one evening or so between charging.

## Few and far

The worst problem was hauling them to the nearest charging station, and these were few and far between.
Some of the more enterprising motor garages had a 'Charging Board', and it made a real hole in my limited pocketmoney - which I found equally as hurtful as having to haul the darn things backwards and forwards

Radio enthusiasts were easily identifiable by the acid burns on their jackets and, indeed, when one went to visit friends one invariably looked around to see how many more holes had been burned in their living-room carpet. Distracted housewives spent much time and ingenuity searching out matching rugs, etc, to cover the gaping scars.
For myself, I had to haul my batteries nearly a mile to get them recharged and, although still only a schoolboy, the waste of time and energy irked me sorely. The avoidance of tiresome jobs always stimulates my imagination, so I invented what was many years later to re-appear as the wheeled shopping-stick. This consisted of a stout walking cane, two 6 in pram wheels and a box platform designed to keep the battery upright when held at the transit angle. Perhaps in those more leisurely days most groceries, etc, were delivered. Anyway, nobody copied my 'invention' for shopping purposes.

However, twenty-five years later, when I came back from World War II and everyone had to fetch and carry, I found half the housewives in the country busily tripping each other up with their wheeled shopping-sticks.

## Down our way

Eventually the electric mains came right to the end of the road in the select South London suburb in which we then lived. It was the real stuff, too. 200 volts AC. Adjacent districts which had been wired some years earlier were of supposedly 'safe' voltages of 35 or 50 volts DC or some other queer figure. I was so excited that I shot round to the Electric Company's office without even asking my parent's permission. Oh, yes, they would bring it to our front door for a mere £35, after which we would have to get an approved contractor to wire the house. I used all my schoolboy eloquence on Dad and Mum to take advantage of this modern blessing. I even argued that we should not wait for the neighbours to have it first. Let the Jones's keep up with us! Whether that argument carried any weight I don't know, but at last Dad decided to have it laid on to the ground floor only, 'to start with'

While no one had yet seriously considered mains-operated sets I had long since dreamed of battery charging; and to my joy, in addition to having it installed on the ground floor, we also had a lighting point put in our rather large cellar. There were, of course, no metal rectifiers available at that time and as the mains were AC, I got busy collecting jam jars, chemicals and bits of metal to try my hand at chemical charging. I couldn't find out much about it, and it seemed that nobody else knew much either, but such minor considerations did not deter me.

I had everything two or three days later in readiness, and the big moment to switch on arrived. No explosions - just a few gentle bubbles, and off I went to school.

Now, I had never known Mother to go in that cellar before, but for some extraordinary reason she decided to go down there that very morning. She was horror-stricken at the sight of my jam jars bubbling away merrily. Indeed, according to her version they were boiling and seething like a witch's cauldron, and she was convinced the house would be going sky-high at any moment.

She rushed off the fetch Dad, and by the time she got there she also claimed
she saw sparks dancing up and down the wires. So convincing was her story that apparently he dared not go too near it, and finally contented himself with switching off at the mains.

Of course, there was a terrible row and I was forbidden to carry out any more experiments with chemical charging, hence I have had less experience of this than any other branch of old-time radio acivity. I might add that I spent several more years trundling my wheeled stick backwards and forwards - a most humiliating experience for a bright, proud youth whose family actually had their own electricity supply right to the house!

## Two-way traffic

It is curious how slowly wrong ideas die. Years ago there was a belief that crystal sets gave a 'purer' tone than valve sets. I suppose it was the association of ideas. A crystal set must obviously be crystal clear! There are still many people who believe that the two aerial sockets at the back of their TV receivers are one for the picture and the other for the sound. To one such believer who I met this week I remarked it was amazing that the signals knew which hole to go in! At first he agreed that it was quite as remarkable as TVitself, but after a little reflection he said he thought it was probable that something inside the set 'draws' the respective signals into the appropriate holes. Which only goes to show that you can think of an explanation for anything if you ponder on it long enough. However, it is better to get to the truth of the matter and the radio amateur is well served in this by membership of the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB).

## RSGB

The following short comment on support for the Radio Society of Great Britain is as apt today as when it was written twenty-five years ago. This is essentially a democratic body and is, in its major principles, truly representative of a world-wide movement. It has much good service to the hobby both at home and in Europe to its credit. The youthful amateur to-day has a lot to thank it for, and he should do everything in his power to strengthen its position. The Society represents his sheet-anchor in the maintenance of national goodwill, and may yet be his sole safeguard against possible future curtailment of his privileges by an autocratic officialdom.

MCl 648 (SL1648)
Voltage Controlled Oscillator
The term 'VCO' is in fact a small misnomer, since the MC1648 is only the active part of the circuit - the tank coil and the tuning varactor are outside, and can be user-designed to operate anywhere in the range from virtually DC to 150 MHz .
Why this instead of a familiar one transistor oscillator? The answer is simple - the tank circuit is essentially a two-terminal circuit, with the minimum of circuit strays, enabling the maximum possible tuning range to be achieved.

Q6 and Q7 form a positive feedback pair like many now found in one-chip AM radio ICs, with AGC in a feed back loop to provide a stable output level and obtain maximum frequency response. Q4 isolates the oscillator pair from the loading effects of the output driver stage and to feed the AGC stage formed around Q5.
The device is primarily aimed at the synthesiser designer - the circuit illustrated here shows the MV1401-although these days the TOKO KV series offer better value for money and a wider choice of applications and frequency ranges.
The MC1648 is also well suited to applications in instrumentation - particularly as a result of the AGC and buffered output, and the simplicity of single point range switching. The low noise characteristics also score when the output of the device is mixed with a crystal oscillator in wide ranging mixer generator applications.


Circuit schematic used for collector output operation


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L: Micro Meral Toroidal Core \#T44.10. 4 turns of No. 22 CODDEr wire.

$\mu F \underset{T}{I} \quad \begin{aligned} & V_{C C 1}=V_{C C 2}=+5 V_{d c} I \\ & V_{E E 1}=V_{E E 2}=G \text { nd } 0.1 \mu F\end{aligned}$

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- The 1200 onm resistor and the scope termina tion impedance constitute a 251 attenuator probe. Coax shall be CT. $070-50$ or equivalent


ICOM's IC-745 is the all-in-one transceiver featuring an HF all band SSB, CW, RTTY, AM (receive only) ham transceiver, plus a general coverage receiver. Options for FM transceive and an internal power supply make the IC-745 the complete transceiver in an all-in-one package.

The receiver section features a 100 KHz to 30 MHz general coverage receiver, this allows access to all HF bands plus all the frequencies in between. The IC-745 has an adjustable AGC circuit and DFM (Direct Feed Mixer) giving a wide dynamic range of 103dB with an intercept point at +18 dBm . Exceptionally clean reception is achieved with a low noise PLL circuit and a 70 MHz first IF.

The IC-745's features include IF shift, 16 programmable memories with lithium battery back-up, passband tuning, a noise blanker both wide and narrow, threshold level control, notch filter, receive audio tone control and an all mode squelch. Also available is a front end switchable receiver preamp providing 12dB gain. RIT has a $\pm 1 \mathrm{KHz}$ range.

The transmitter section of the IC-745 features two powerful 2SC2904 transistors running a conservative 100 watts at $100 \%$ duty cycle rated output. Also included are a speech compressor and VOX circuits. The 600 ohm microphone system is adaptable to the modern mic of your choice. Monitor circuitry allows the operator to hear sidetone in CW and SSB

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## COM d System

The IC-471E is the most advanced 430 MHz transceiver available today, it covers the spectrum from $430-440 \mathrm{MHz}$ with FM , SSB, or CW using the most advanced 10 Hz PLL system. The IC-471E is suitable for simplex, repeater operation, moonbounce or satellite work, and has features found on no other transceiver

Some standard features include 32 tunable memories, a high visibility fluorescent display, RIT readout, scanning, 12V DC or AC operation with optional power supply.

The UHF receiver section of the IC-471E features FET front end and mixer, a 70.4515 MHz first IF, low noise PLL locked to 10 Hz and an AGC circuit. Sensitivity is less than 0.3 uV for 12 dB Sinad without the optional GaAs FET preamp which adds another 15 dB .

The transmitter section provides 25 watts of power in FM, SSB and CW , this can be varied in all modes from 1 to 25 watts. The design of the IC-471E is based on an entirely new CPU chip that is easy to operate and offers the maximum number of functions
available. A lithium battery memory backup is featured maintaining the sets memory for up to 7 years. An internal computer interface option is available as well as the IC-PS25 internal switching AC power supply

The 471E has a speech synthesizer that announces the displayed frequency, ideal for blind operators, this is an optional extra along with the SM6 desk microphone and 22 channel memory extension with scan facilities.

As you can see from this brief description the IC-471E, (and its 2 meter brother the IC-271E) are very versatile sets indeed. More detailed literature can easily be obtained from Thanet Electronics Limited.


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OCTOBER 1983
Designs - Modular Communication Systems Part 1,4 Channel Audio Mixer Part 2: Tone Bursts: PF70 Conversion. Features
Blanking Techniques, The Lambda Blanking Techniques, The Lambda
Diode; A Gurde to HF Coils Part The Chromicro (Colour Processing): Timeplex: Data Brief - The NEC PC1037H Double Ealanced Modulator: Amateur Radio World. Reviews - Tandy VSC-1000 (Variable
Speech Control): Yaesu FT-77 (Solid State HF Transceiver)


NOVEMBER 1983
Designs - Communications Building Blocks (Front Ends): Poor Man's Spectrum Analyser: Wideband FM Stereo Tuner Module Part 2; 4 Channel Audio Mixer Part 3; Three
Digit Timer. Features - Squelch Systems: Expansion Bus (First add-on - A light pen): A Guide to HF Coils Part 2. Data Brief - NE564 PLL Tone Decoder. Reviews - Meteor 100.600 . 1000 (All-British Frequency
Counters): Personal Peari (For text and information manipulation)


DECEMBER 1983
Designs - Poor Man's Spectrum Analyser Part 2; Communications Building Blocks Part 2; A 4001/4011 Tester; Continuity Tester Features-
Inside the Sinclair Flat TV. An indepth probe, A Circuit Designers Guide to Batteries: Data File on Op-Amps Part 1: Metal Detectors in Warfare; Data Brief 1-LM1821S Video IF PLL Synchronous Detector: Data Brief 2-SL6270 Gain Controlled Audio Your Dragon 32. Reviews - ALDEN Weather Chart Recorder Kıt: Digithurst MicroSight 1


## MARCH 1984

Designs - Modifying the Pye PFI Pocketfone Receiver; Communications Building Blocks (IF
Amplifiers): One Night's Work (Audio-Amp); 200W PEP Transmatch. Features - Sony ICF 7600D Receiver; Data File on Op-Amps; UOSAT-B; AKD Absorption Wavemeter, Data Brief - Hitachi HA 1197 AM Tuner:
Oscar 10 and its Orbit Parameters Programmable Sound Generator (the AY8910 family): Random Morse Computer Program; ICOM World Clock.


## APRIL 1984

Designs - One Night's Work (IF Oscillator) : HF Linear Amplifier: The Morse: Peak-Reading LED RF Wattmeter, Speech and the Computer - Make the Beeo Micro Talk!: 2 Metre Tiger Antenna Features - Hall Effect Devices Exploiting Magnetisms Effect on Conductors; Data File Multiplexer/ Demultiplexer ICs: Data Brief-TD 2002A Linear IC


## FEBRUARY 1984

Designs - Switched Mode Power Supplies: Crowbar Protection Universal NiCad Charger: Communications Building Blocks ( $\mid \vec{F}$ Amplifiers); Real Time Calendar Clock. Features - Data File on OpAmps: Six Antennas from Three Wires (Double your directions
without doubling your cost): Designers Update (Helical Filters); Moving Pictures from Wax Phonovision: Computers. Communications and Applications. Data Brief - Low cost. wide range
varicap diodes.


## JANUARY 1984

Designs - Communication Building Blocks (Active Antennae); FAX Receiver, RGB Interface for the Detectors; LCD Capacitance Meter; Cymar Q-meter (An aid to winding coils): Zener Diode Checker: A Drinker's Delight: LCD Display Option for the Rewbichron II. Features - A Novel Recetver (Sony) Capacitors for Data File on Op-Amps Part 2, Fareweil to Test Card ' $F$; A Soundboard for the Jupiter Ace; Data Brief - MC1377 Colour Signal Encoder.


## MAY 1984

Projects -One Week's Work VHF/UHF Frequency Meter): Spectrum Analyser Signal Generator: 2 Metre J-Stick Aerial; SX-200 Relative S-Meter. Features - Data File-4046B Phase Locked Loop CMOS IC: Hamey HM203-4 Oscilloscope review. A Beginners Guide to Meteor Scatter
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## HP4ICX Calculator



Now that the computer is firmly established in the home, numerous manufacturers are producing a new species, referred to as 'portable computers'. They come in all shapes and sizes some with built-in cassette, printer, and discs. The marketing philosophy is simple: the professional businessman has come to expect a computer in the office, so, when he travels, he should be able to take one along. In the midst of this boom, it seems strange that any company should be troubled to produce a new handheld calculator. After all, with so much computing power even in home systems, a calculator might be expected to be less than what is wanted. However, Hewlett-Packard (makers of exceedingly nice calculators) have decided to do just that.

## The new 41

Following the HP41C, and the 41 CV , the HP41CX is the newest family member. Weighing in at a mere 7 ounces and fitting into the back pocket of the author's jeans, it is a true pocket machine-ideal for the busy engineer or executive who needs to wander around acquiring and analysing data.

With over 200 functions (including the usual trigonometric, base-conversion, statistical...) the 41 CX is well suited to the task. Indeed, the operating system is a
staggering 24 kilobytes. Programming is simplicity itself - like most programmable calculators, the user just types in the keystrokes as if the problem was being solved manually. The CX's memory will swallow up to 3000 program steps. There are extensive program editing facilities as well as a filing system which enables the user to create files of programs, data, or ASCII text.
Most of this is common place these days - so what is so special about the 41CX? The clue lies in Hewlett-Packard's description of the 41 CX as a low cost portable system controller. The calculator (if that is a fair description) is really the heart of an expandable system. A magnetic card reader allows storage and retrieval of programs or data, a thermal printer can provide a permanent record of results, and an optical wand will ingest bar-code.

On examining the rear of the $41 C X$, the user will spy four hatches that may be removed to plug in the peripherals mentioned above - and a whole family of incredible interface modules. Incredible because the 41 C series can now talk system-speak in dialects of RS232C, IEEE488, Video signals, or HP-IL

The HP-IL interface allows the 41C series to control up to 30 peripherals in a loop which chains all the devices together. Information, in frames of 11
bits, is passed round the loop and returns to the 41C for verification; transfer rates of 50 Kbaud can be achieved. Using the 41 CX, the built-in clock can selectively wake up some of the loop peripherals, perform a measurement at a set time, and then put the whole loop to sleep again; over 30 time functions (such as day-of-the-week and number-of-days-between-two-dates) are available.

If the vast number of instruments with IEEE488 and RS232 protocols is considered, it is clear that Hewlett-Packard have produced a winner. There is even an HP-IL interface kit for design engineers and hobbyists to link up their custom made hardware to the loop.

## At home

The impressive parade of technology described above is all very well for the commercial purchaser - but what of the hobbyist? There is no danger of a beginner being left out in the cold. An excellent set of documentation is supplied. Pre-written software modules are available for antenna design - including calculation of beam patterns for aerial arrays, shortwave transmission path calculations, and RF path loss. So the 41CX will feel at home in the shack - but even away from the radio room, other software packs do general electrical calculations. Plug in an 'Electrical


Engineering' module, and the 41CX will help you design active filters, optimise class A amplifiers, or calculate transmission line impedances.
Once you have constructed an interface kit, the rig can no doubt be linked-in along with a monitor. Indeed, without any add-ons, the vast memory space for programs allows the DX-er access to
useful information - a short program will calculate beam headings and estimated best frequency for a contact with known longitude and latitude. The satellite user may program in the orbital elements to obtain altitude and azimuth for VHF/UHF aerial pointing.
At just over £200 for the basic unit, the 41CX represents good value-for-money

as a pocket computer. Although the addon units and modules are not cheap, the end product is hard to match for ease of use, flexibility, and sheer professionalism.
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\title{

PRINTED circuit <br> David Silvester, G4TJG, presents some thoughts for the amateur constructor <br> Ten years ago most amateur circuits were constructed on one of two types of insulated boarding. <br> The first, a plain synthetic resin bonded paper (SRBP) board with holes <br> plane. For more complex projects that would involve a large number of link wires on a single sided board, a doublesided PCB with both sides having printed wires can be produced, but we will return
drilled at 0.1 inch intervals was used by making circuit connections in tinned copper wire on the reverse side of the board to the components. This method of construction is illustrated in the photograph.
The second method used 0.1 or 0.15 inch veroboard with straight printed lines in copper foil on the reverse side of the board, the components being soldered to the printed wires as in normal printed circuit board (PCB) construction. The veroboard method is still used for small projects but for most work, printed circuit boards reign supreme.

## Types of boards

Many advertisers offer PCBs made for articles published in the electronic magazines, but how does the designer of a new circuit turn his idea into a working project?
The printed circuit board, as supplied, consists of an insulating sheet of SRBP or glass fibre with a thin copper foil bonded onto one side. Double-sided boards are also available and these are used in radio frequency projects, one side of the board being used as a ground
to this later.
Breadboarding can be used to check the constructor's own design with a low frequency circuit, but RF circuits must be made on double sided PCBs from the outset. Since it is easier to show an actual rather than a theoretical design we shall start from the 9 V power supply shown in Figure 1

## Circuit drawing

The next step is to draw the circuit using actual component shapes and, when ICs are needed, photocopies from the suppliers catalogues can be cut up and used. Small pieces of paper showing ICs, transistors and other components can be stuck to a larger sheet and wiring added in another colour.
An alternative method is to stick the photocopies to one piece of paper and cover with a sheet of drafting film on which the wiring can be drawn in pencil. It is very easy to correct the pencil lines on the drafting film as it is less prone to damage when rubbing out lines. Note that the drawing is of the circuit looking onto the component side of the board. If a number of wires need to cross over

## Caution

## Caution

Toxic and corrosive chemicals are necessarily used in the processes described in this article. Ensure that an adequate degree of ventilation is available, do not inhale the vapours or smoke during processing and do not splash the liquids. Keep the chemicals away from the eyes and AWAY FROM CHILDREN. Wash the hands thoroughly after using these chemicals.
each other, the drawing may be altered by rotating the components and redrawing the wires. In some cases it will be impossible to remove all the crossovers but the aim is to reduce them to the smallest number possible. Figure 2 shows such a 'rough' drawing viewed looking down onto the component side of the board

The next part of the procedure depends upon the method the designer decides to use for actual circuit production. All PCB production requires that a protective material (etch resist) is placed over the copper foil that will form the final circuit thus allowing the etching solution (normally ferric chloride) to


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Figure 2 A 'rough' drawing viewed looking down onto the component side of the board 2N3054


Figure 3 The various stages in the photo-etching process


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E

## ETCHING



F

remove the unwanted foil. The etch resist must then be removed, prior to drilling the board and soldering the circuit together. There are a number of alternative ways of applying the etch resistant material to the board. The large-scale rough drawing is used to show the wiring diagram from the foil side of the board by viewing from the wrong side against a bright light. The drafting film method makes this a simpler proposition.

## Efching processes

Observe the cautions stated under the heading of this article when carrying out the following procedures. When using a system in which the etch resist is applied directly to the board, the reverse view of the rough drawing is used and this is copied using correctly sized spots and lines for the components required. The PCB must be cleaned thoroughly before use and Vim or Jif household cleaners are suitable if used sparingly.
Although there are a number of ways of applying the resist, (etch resistant ink pens, etch resistant transfers or in emergency, sellotape), the masking of the copper is rather difficult since the foil carries no guide as to the correct location for the wires. The constructor must also take extreme care when working with etch resistant transfers or inks as errors are difficult to correct and the remainder of the copper foil must be kept free of fingerprints, which will interfere with the etching process. A 1 mm wide strip of foil is capable of carrying over 1 amp, but for all high power applications, the width of the foil carrying heavy currents should be increased substantially.

## More complicated boards

The method described so far is satisfactory for simple circuits of up to four ICs but what happens when we need 10 ICs and, say, 30 other components on the PCB? The simplest method now becomes the more professional photoetching process. The illustrations of Figure 3 show the process in full and this method does not require a darkroom or even a UV exposure box to work satisfactorily. It should be noted however that a UV box does ensure a constant source of light and provides reliable results.
The most difficult part of this method is the drawing of the negative shown in Figure 3c, but even this is substantially easier than drawing the circuit onto the copper foil directly and the negative can be used to make many identical boards if required.

The negative may be drawn on either clear acetate film (as used in overhead projectors) or translucent drafting film. When using drafting film the negative is drawn with the view shown from the component side of the board, Figure 4a, and the surface which is drawn on is placed against the photosensitive layer before exposure.

The translucent sheet can prevent a


Figure 4a Component side view
Figure 4b Copper foil side view
clear outline being formed if it comes between the drawing and the photoresist layer, and I would recommend adopting the same method even when using acetate film. When the negative is being drawn. a sheet of 0.1 inch graph paper should be placed below the acetate film to act as a reference. Transfers covering the pin layouts of a vast range of components, as well as plain circles for resistors etc, are easily available and these can be placed on the acetate sheet with great speed and accuracy, due to the 0.1 inch grid of graph paper. This is because most components have lead outs set at 0.1 inch intervals or multiples thereof.

The wiring between transfers can be put on in either of two ways, using black tape or by direct drawing with a 1 mm hollow point drafting pen and indian ink. I have used Rotaring pens and TT ink which, like the drafting film and acetate sheet, are available from office equipment suppliers. Special ink rubbers which remove the ink without marking the acetate film are also available.

Figure 4 shows the negative drawn from Figure 2, using these transfers, and is on a $1: 1$ scale with the final PCB.

Double sided boards for RF use, when the second side of the PCB is left as a plane copper foil, can be treated as a single sided board when drawing the negative. The lines connecting the components will be substantially larger than with low frequency designs and the remaining copper on the board will be left as an earthed copper screen except for thin etched lines around the live
connections. After drawing the outlines of the enlarged areas, matt black model enamel can be used to fill in. Double sided boards with both sides having printed wires will need locating holes drilled into the PCB and on the two negatives to allow accurate alignment during exposure.

## Photosensitive boards

Photosensitive boards may be purchased ready-made or an uncoated board may be sprayed with photosensitive lacquer. Coating of the board should be carried out in the following way.
Having cleaned the board sufficiently to make the copper layer water 'wetable', it is dried thoroughly with a clean cloth or paper tissues. The board is then sprayed with photosensitive lacquer in a darkened corner of the room and allowed to dry for about ten minutes. It is most important that the board is kept dustfree. When the board is dry, it can be baked at $70^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 20 minutes or left at room temperature for a further 24 hours prior to exposure. The photoresist is exposed through the negative, about 10 minutes is needed with a UV light box having two 8 watt lamps, although sunlight can be used for exposure but the results vary considerably.

After exposure, the board is developed in a dilute solution of sodium hydroxide (caustic soda). About 6-7 grams (1 tablespoon full) per litre seems to be best. This will leave a coloured resist over the foil that will form the final circuit. It is best to check that there are no scratches in the photoresist layer
which would cut one of the required connections. Faults can be corrected using an etch resistant ink pen. Etching in ferric chloride is carried out next and is much faster if one uses a warm to hot ferric chloride solution, and a neat way of achieving this is to use a hot water bath. Always etch in a non-metallic container, for example, an old 1 gallon ice-cream tub made of thick plastic, or if using a water bath a suitable glass dish. After washing excess etchant off the board, the photoresist is removed with an organic solvent, such as acetone which seems to work best. The board can now be drilled with a 1 mm bit and, with RF double sided boards which were etched on one side only, the copper foil around the component holes can be cut back with a $1 / 8$ inch drill to prevent the components shorting to earth.

Sodium hydroxide and acetone should be available from a chemists shop although you may have to order them. Ferric chloride and other suitable etchants are sold by many electronic component suppliers, either in anhydrous (powdered) form, or as an already made up concentrated solution.

## Please note

These chemicals can do some extremely unpleasant things to your skin and eyes. Use rubber gloves at all times, wash all equipment very thoroughly when finished and keep separate from household utensils. The author normally wears glasses and would always advise that eye protection be worn when working with chemicals.

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The author, $M$ de Pace, has been using computers for nineteen years, and specialises in applying technology to the needs of the modern business or office environment. He is a member of the British Computer Society, Institute of Management Consultants, and Institute of Data Processing Managers.

Granada Publishing Ltd, 8 Grafton Street, London W1X 3LA. Tel: 014937070.

[^2]
cooking.
The book is very clearly written and supported throughout by clear, informative diagrams and also has a selection of very interesting and topical photographs. There are eighteen chapters, each of approximately half a dozen pages, so one does not get bogged down in theory. This might, however, leave a more technical reader wanting to know more and it might be a little frustrating to find that the chapter finishes just as you are getting your teeth into the subject concerned! However, for those who simply want a good, up-to-date, sound introduction to a fascinating subject, this book can be thoroughly recommended.

Lutterworth Press, Farnham Road, Guildford, Surrey.

[^3]tice. The author, Gordon King, has again updated the text to keep up with the changes in radio technology.
The book takes you in logical steps from the theory of electricity and magnetism to the sound you hear from the loudspeaker. It describes the nature of the radio signal, what is involved in transmitting and receiving it (including stereo broadcasting) and what kinds of equipment are needed. Then it examines the components of a receiver, and how they are built up into circuits that will do the various jobs required.
This edition includes a new chapter on Citizen's Band radio and information on CB aerials. Other sections have been re-written to help those readers studying for the Radio Amateurs' Examination (RAE)
Written in a non-technical, highly readable style, with a minimum of mathematics, this guide provides the newcomer to radio with an enjoyable introduction to the subject. It will open the door to further reading and to greater skill in handling radio equipment, whether for work or leisure.

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## Introduction

Let us start with wires and broken lines of communication. There is an old saw that it is not the telephone but the connections between them that go wrong. How often has a serviceman been called out, merely to find a wire loose or a plug half out?

Flexible cables eventually break, often near one end, and hence it is wise to have a 'strain-relief' moulding, as shown in Figure 1. Wires are occasionally cut through by doors or by sharp edges on cabinets, but this form of carelessness should be obvious and therefore more easily avoided.
More subtle are the problems with interconnections that gradually go 'soft' or become intermittent. A good sprung contact, if possible with some wiping action to cut through oxide layers, is advisable. Connector blocks should have leaves or captive bushes under their screws (Figure 2), so that wires are not severed. It is often forgotton, however, that the metals tin and lead suffer from 'creep', and so wires should not be solder-tinned prior to securing under any form of screw terminal: with time, the pressure becomes relieved, the connection worsens, and $I^{2} R$ heating speeds up the decline

## Moisture and corrosion

Turning now to the insidious faults caused by moisture and corrosion. Where dissimilar metals are in contact and some damp is present, an electrical cell is formed.
In relays, even where contact materials are consistent, a corrosive atmosphere can fuse closed contacts together, or encourage the growth of 'fur' that keeps open contacts forever open (Figure 3.) Gasket-sealed connectors are effective only if it is certain that moisture will not be trapped on the inside, eg during mating.
If high voltages are present the problems are worse, and tracking lengths on insulators must be improved, eg with 'sheds' or re-entrant sections (Figure 4).

## Leak proof

Batteries are a frequent source of trouble, and leak-proof types are most desirable. Fine wires from relay and transformer windings can corrode and break at their terminations. More surprising is the brittle fracture that can occur at the spot-welded ends of potentiometer wires, despite being dry.


Figure 1 Strain-relief moulding


Figure 2 Leaf or bush

stuck closed

stuck open

Figure 3 Relay contacts



Figure 5 Safe operating area

## Deliberate

Some connections, of course are deliberately breakable; a fuse is intended to blow on overload, but remember that it will also eventually break if run near its limit for a long time. In some cases, thermally or magnetically tripped circuit-breakers are preferable.
Even with 'solid state' devices, ie semiconductors, a built-in fuse exists (the bonding wire), but it is not easily repairable!
With rugged devices such as diodes and thyristors, protection against excessive current can be provided by a separate fuse, but if transistors are to be made safe from second breakdown (Figure 5), fast electronic protection is needed.
There is much to be said in favour of simplicity of design. With a little extra thought, a piece of equipment may sometimes be simplified, for example with wiring harnesses lessened and interconnections generally reduced. This may mean having most of the backwiring on a printed-circuit mother-board (See Figure 6). The fewer the handrouted and hand-soldered joints the better, resulting in a simpler, more reliable and lower-cost product.
With modern flow-soldering machinery, the dry joint should be a thing of the past. Unfortunately, some components must of necessity be testable or fieldreplaceable, and here sockets of some kind are desirable. However, beware the 'dicky' socket, that merely adds to cost and unreliability. It is worth paying a little extra for dual-in-line sockets that have good lead-ins and contacts for the IC's pins.


## CONNEGIONS



## Mechanical considerations

Often, purely mechanical considerations are important. For example, in a multiway connector, how good is the locking arrangement, and will it hold the weight of a heavy cable? (See Figure 7). Also, are contacts accessible or replaceable without special tools? Do shells and clamps cut into the wires? There is a trend now to insulation-displacement connectors, where sharp tines cut through the insulation and bite into the conductors. They typically take lightweight ribbon cables. Clamping arrangements and mechanical robustness are worth investigation, especially if connection is to be made outside (rather than merely within) some equipment.

## Faulf-finding tips

Only a supreme optimist would expect equipment never to go wrong. Nowadays, with products incorporating
microprocessors and memory devices, specialised test-gear is often required for fault finding. However, it can be extremely difficult to trace intermittent faults, and poor contacts that show up only now and then.
The traditional method is to bang the equipment. Dry joints or cracks in tracks on printed circuit boards can often be located by flexing and tapping the board. Other useful dodges are to apply heat with a blower, or maybe squirt selected areas with a freezer-aerosol. Devices prone to breakdown may be found by raising the supply voltage, and vulnerable ICs by aiming some form of sparkgenerator (eg a gas-lighter) at them; unfortunately, these are destructive tests.

## Case-histories

Now here are some case histories. A certain make of popular home computer was found to give much trouble in loading programs from the cassette player. Signal levels and various other electronic parameters were checked, but in fact the problem was traced to the miniature jack-plugs provided, which were a very loose fit. Curiously, there is no such thing as a 'standard' 3.5 mm jackplug or socket, and hard plating or irregular insulators and mouldings do not help. In another, somewhat different, instance, a problem arose with connec-


Fig 8 Polarised plug and socket
tors of the soft, moulded-on variety: the three-pin plug (Figure 8) which connected a twin electric blanket to two thermostatic controllers could (with sufficient force!) be reversed in the socket, with the result that one partner's heater was controlled by the other's knob, and vice-versa. The result was a classic case of positive feedback, where one person froze and the other boiled.
In another case involving jack-plugs, the quarter-inch variety were used on a large piece of studio equipment for cables linking various units; on one occasion, a somewhat short technician. who needed to reach the top chassis, was observed climbing up these cross links as if on a rope-ladder!
As so often is the case, best results are obtained with a blend of expertise and common sense, but few systems are foolproof. The trouble with fools is that they are so damnably ingenious.


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## ERadios <br> The communications, electronics \& computers magazine 1010

## VLF CONVERTER

This project by LIONEL SEAR introduces the subject of very low frequency reception. The unit costs little to construct but provides a wealth of interest.

## FAST RESPONSE LOGIC PROBE

This probe, designed by C. ODDY, responds to full CMOS speeds and will catch pulses to 300 nanosecs. It has references for CMOS and TTL thresholds and will indicate the true logic state for either group.

REVIEWS
Two reviews by TERRY WEATHERLEY. The first describes a low-cost readymade printer from AMPLICON. The second describes an interesting reference addition to your bookshelf.

## DATA FILE

In this latest report, the first of a special two-part feature, RAY MARSTON presents a wide selection of practical IC audio power amplifier circuits.

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# A LOW COST FREQUENCY STANDARD 

by Brian Adkinson



## A straightforward project utilising an unmodified television receiver to generate the reference



This frequency - standard provides an accurate and stable signal source which may be used to calibrate a low cost frequency counter. With suitable division of the output accurate frequencies of $10 \mathrm{KHz}, 1 \mathrm{KHz}, 100 \mathrm{~Hz}$ etc may also be obtained to calibrate, say, an oscilloscope timebase and, no doubt, other uses can be found for the unit.
Many frequency-standard designs are based on the principle of using a very accurate off-air carrier such as the BBC 200 KHz long wave transmission from Droitwich. The carrier is used to phase lock an internal oscillator, often running at 10 MHz , and thereby produces a reference output at a much higher multiple of the input carrier frequency but with the same basic accuracy.
Many electronics engineers and hobbyists probably have only occasional need for a frequency - standard and the purchase of a commercially-made unit is not justified. A fair commitment in time and effort is needed to construct a reference of the type outlined. The reasons for this are due, in part, to the
need to build a suitably sensitive receiver 'front end' for reception of the off-air signal, so that reception in any chosen location will be reliable. Also the inevitable modulation of the carrier (Radio 4) must be well filtered out to prevent phase jitter from entering the PLL system. These two factors add considerably to the complexity of the design and, bearing these points in mind, a far simpler approach was decided upon, whilst still retaining the basic PLL principle of operation.
This project is cheap and easy to build, utilises standard 'off the shelf' parts and requires no setting up or alignment. The trade off for this simplicity is a maximum output frequency of 1 MHz instead of 10 MHz (because of a CMOS PLL IC with a maximum VCO operating frequency of
1.5 MHz ), and the need for a domestic television receiver (colour or monochrome) to provide the reference signal. No direct connection or modification to the TV is necessary.

## The frequency source

The high voltage $15,625 \mathrm{~Hz}$ line pulse generated by the television receiver EHT section during the line flyback period is used as a frequency source. A strong field of positive-going pulses is present in close proximity to the receiver timebase section and this field is of sufficient amplitude to turn on the base


LOW COST FREQUENGY STANDARD


Figure 2 The circuit diagram

Figure 3 The 4046 PLL

emitter junction of an NPN transistor. The timing of the flyback pulse is initiated by the line synchronising pulse which is transmitted with the vertical sync pulses and video information.
The line sync pulse occurs during the transmitted line period of $64 \mu \mathrm{~S}$ which is very accurately controlled and this, together with the vertical sync pulse, provides the master timing for the complete 625 line transmission system.

## Circuit description

A block diagram of the frequency standard is shown in Figure 1. This illustrates the connections between the three main parts of the circuit, namely input conditioning and signal detect circuitry, the PLL system output buffer and power supply.

## Input conditioning

Referring to the circuit diagram Figure 2 , flyback pulses are coupled to the input socket SK1 via a 'pick-up' lead. C1 together with the input impedance of T1 form a simple high pass filter to reduce the effect of 50 Hz vertical pulses from the TV receiver. T1 is unbiased and will turn on when a pulse with an amplitude greater than 0.6 V is present. This further reduces pickup of unwanted low-level signals. IC1a, an inverting Schmitt trigger, ensures a clean logic switching input for the SIG pin of IC2 (pin 14).
D1, D2, R4 and C3 rectify and filter the incoming signal and via Schmitt inverter IC1b, drive the SIGNAL LED (D4) to give clear indication of an incoming pulse train. As there is no 'power on' indication, except when an input signal is present,

R4 and C3 also serve the purpose of momentarily taking 1 C 1 b input high during power up of the unit and SIGNAL LED D4, therefore, pulses momentarily at switch on, but if an input signal is present D4 will remain on. D3 protects the input of IC1b from the negative voltage present at the 'earthy' end of C3 after switch off.

## Signal inhibit

The output of IC1b (pin 4) is also taken, via R6, to the VCO inhibit pin of IC2 (pin 5). In the absence of an incoming signal IC1b output is high and the VCO inhibited, hence preventing spurious output from the unit.

## Phase lock loop system

The heart of the PLL system is 1C2 (Figure 3), a low power CMOS device incorporating a choice of two phase comparators, a linear voltage controlled oscillator and a 5.2 V zener diode. (Not used in this application). The VCO free running frequency is determined by the valves of R8, R9 and C5 which, with the values specified, will be approximately 850 KHz . Phase comparator II (pin 13) was used in this design because with the PLL in a locked condition, a clear indication of phase lock (namely a logic high), is present at the PHASE PULSES output (pin 1).
This output via IC1c lights the lock LED (D5) and thus gives reassurance that the loop is locked. At phase lock, using comparator II, there is a $0^{\circ}$ phase shift between the SIG IN (pin 14) and COMP IN (pin 3).
Early experiments with phase compa-
rator 1 (pin 2) proved that, whilst providing better noise immunity than phase comparator II, misleading 'lock' indications were evident, due to the mode of operation of comparator I. Here, in a locked condition, the phase angle between SIG and COMP can be between $0^{\circ}$ and $180^{\circ}$, depending upon the initial free running frequency of the VCO. Due to the phase shift, this type of locked condition is difficult to detect.
C6 and R10 form the low pass or loop filter for control of the VCO and a long time constant was chosen for two reasons. Firstly, as previously stated, phase comp II has relatively poor noise immunity (due to edge triggering of the SIG and COMP signals) and secondly, although the incoming $15,625 \mathrm{~Hz}$ is a very accurate frequency, there is a degree of phase jitter present. This has presented no serious problems in the design and is believed to be caused by slight modulation of the line scanning circuitry by the vertical timebase. There is a phase jitter of less than 0.05 Hz as measured at the 1 MHz output when using the component values chosen for the filter. The phase lock loop is completed by IC3, a 7 -stage binary counter. Output $0^{5}$ (pin 4) is used here to give $2^{6}$ division.
The VCO output (pin 4 IC 2 ) of 1 MHz is applied to the clock pulse input of IC3 (cp pin 1) which then divides it back down to $15,625 \mathrm{~Hz}$ to provide the COMP input to IC2. T2 buffers the 1 MHz output from IC2 and gives a 6 V peak-to-peak output at low impedance on SK2 and IC4 is a 12 V regulator which ensures reliable operation of IC2 at the required operating frequency.

## LOW COST FREQUENCY STANDARD

## Construction

The unit may be housed in any available case, metal or plastic, of suitable dimensions. Input and output sockets can be selected to suit individual requirements. Component layout is not critical, but use of printed circuit rather than strip board is advised. A mains power supply is not essential if only occasinal use is envisaged. Two alkaline PP3 batteries in series, will provide power for periods long enought to allow periodical calibration of test equipment. If a mains or external DC supply is used, the maximum dissipation of IC4 must not be exceeded, therefore, the input should lie within the range of 15 to 25 volts.

## Initial testing

No setting up is required but, in the event of non operation, the following information may be helpful. With an input signal supplied from a TV receiver or signal generator, D4 will confirm operation of the complete input circuit. Should a fault be suspected in the PLL section, the VCO can be allowed to free run as an aid to diagnosis by earthing pin 5 of IC2 (VCO inhibit). The free running frequency is not critical and may lie within the range 750 KHz to 950 KHz .
Current drain with no input signal is approximately 3 mA and, with loop lock, approximately 35 mA . Investigate large deviations from these figures.

## Operation

Virtually any TV receiver will generate a suitably strong field to trigger the reference. The author has found a single unscreened piece of wire, preferably not more than 1.5 metres in length, to be adequate although if problems are encountered with a particular TV receiver, a 'capacitor pickup plate' may be reuired. This can take the form of a 10 $x 10 \mathrm{~cm}$ piece of copper clad PCB or similar, with the pickup lead soldered to it.

The pickup lead or plate should be taped to the cabinet of the TV after first determining the area of strongest field srength. Reasonably noise-free reception is required.
When a suitable signal is received the SIGNAL LED should light, followed shortly by the LOCK LED. Observe the LOCK LED carefully as any flicker or dimming, indicates the input signal is noisy and, therefore, not allowing stable lockup of the PLL. Reposition the pickup lead until a stable lock is obtained, before using the standard.

## Fire performance

The prototype unit has been extensively used with many receivers and over a long period of time. During this period it has operated reliably, the the author has been well satisfied with its performance.

## PARTS LISTS

| Resisfors |  |
| :--- | ---: |
| R1, 4 | 1 M |
| R2 | 15 K |
| R3, 5,7 | 1 K |
| R6 | 100 K |
| R8, 9 | 12 K |
| R10 | 10 K |
| R11 | 3 K 3 |
| R12, 13 | 390 R |
| All $1 / 4 \mathrm{~W} 5 \%$ |  |
| Capacitors |  |
| C1 | 47 pF plate ceramic |
| C2 | 10 nF disc ceramic |
| C3 | $0.47 \mu \mathrm{Felect}$ |
| C4 | $4.7 \mu \mathrm{Felect}$ |
| C6 | $1 \mu \mathrm{Felect}$ |
| C5 | 100 pF polystyrene |
| C7,8 | 100 nF disc ceramic |
| C9 | $1000 \mu \mathrm{Felect}$ |

All electrolytics 25 V dc wkg

## Semiconductors

| T1,2 | BC109C or sim |
| :--- | ---: |
| IC1 | 4093 |
| IC2 | 4046 |
| IC3 | 4024 |
| IC4 | 78 L 12 |
| D1,2,3 | IN4148 |
| D4,5 | TIL209 |

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## DATES FOR <br> YOUR DIARY

Dates for your Diary is updated every month.
Club secretaries and organisers are requested to send information of forthcoming events as early as possible to Radio \& Electronics World, Dates for your Diary, Sovereign House, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4SE

| Date 11 May | Function <br> TV Show repeat Japanese Morse: talk by Norman Kendrick G3CSG | Location <br> Dunstable Downs Radio Club S Manchester Radio Club | Contact <br> P Seaford G8XTW G3FVA, G3UHF, G8SMR |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 13 May | First Sunday DF Contests | Wirral and District AR Club | G Scott G8TRY |
| 15 May | Operating evening using club callsigns GARQT \& G6TBH on HF \& VHF | Biggin Hill AR Club | I Mitchell G4NSD |
| 16 May | Foxhunt briefing | SBristol AR Club | G8X1H/G40PQ |
| 18 May | AGM <br> AGM <br> Amateur Satellites-talk by G3AAJ at Downs | SManchester Radio Club <br> Kent Repeater Group <br> Sutton \& Cheam Radio Society | GSFVA,G3UHF, <br> G8SMR <br> MWStoneham G4RVV G3HSK |
| 21 May | Model Engineering-Michael Kingston | Leighton Linslade Radio Club | PBrazier G6JFN |
| 23 May | 2 Metre SSB night <br> Equipment Demonstration by Gordon Adams, G3LEQ | SBristol ARClub Wirral and District AR Club | G6ZTX/G6ZTY G Scott G8TRY |
|  | Talkon Slow Scan TV | The Home Counties Amateur Television Club | PW Andrews G6MNJ |
|  | HF Field Day Preview | Farnborough and District Radio Society | PTaylor G4MBZ |
|  | Basic Computing techniques | Fareham \& District AR Club | B Davey G4IT6 |
| 25 May | Oscar 10 by G3VZV <br> Talk by winners of Homebrew contest | Dunstable Downs Radio Club S Manchester Radio Club | P Seaford G8XTW G3FVA, G3UHF, G8SMR |
| 27 May | Plymouth Rally | Devonport Secondary School, Park Ave, Devonport, Plymouth | - |
| 30 May | ATV Night DF Practice, from Heswall lay-by | SBristol AR Club Wirral and Distrıct AR Club | Peter G8WAX G Scott G8TRY |
| 1 June | Modifications to the Club's FT221 by G4MYB | S Manchester Radio Club | G3FVA, G3UHF, G8SMR |
| 2-9June | HF National Field Day Operation Overload-a special event station | Leighton Linslade Radio Club Southampton Private AR ClubRoyal British Legion premises | PBrazier G6JFN <br> LSmith GAVNK |
| 2-3June | HF National Field Day | Leighton Linslade Radio Club | PBrazier G6JFN |
| 3 June | 70 MHz CW contest, 6 hours section | Wirral and District AR Club | G Scott G8TRY |
| 4June | Quiz; round two | Leighton Linslade Radio Club | P Brazier G6JFN |
| 6 June | Lecture: Radio Interference Service | SBristol AR Club | Len G4RZY |
| 8June | Summer Barbecue at Old Warden Club quiz | Dunstable Downs Radio Club S Manchester Radio Club | PSeaford G8XTW G3FVA, G3UHF, G8SMR |


| 10 June | Contest-425 MHz Trophy Contest-432 Trophy Elvaston Castle Mobile Radio Rally | Wirral and District AR Club Leighton Linslade Radio Club Nunsfield House Community Assoc-ARGroup | G Scott G8TRY <br> P Brazier G6JFN <br> John Robson G4PZY |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 13. June | Longleat Preparations Talk on Racal Equipment G3VCX | SBristol AR Club <br> Farnborough and District Radio Society | G4KUQ/G4RZY PTaylor G4MBZ |
| 14June | 'Electronic Music Demonstration' | Edgware \& District Radio Society | G3MNO |
| 15 June | Latest Developments on Top Band Direction Finding Techniques by Dave Holland G3WFT | Manchester Radio Club | G3FVA, G3UHF, G8SMR |
| 17June | Royal Navy ARS Mobile Rally DFHunt | HMS Mercury nr Petersfield Wirral and District AR Club | A Walker G4DIU G Scott G8TRY |
| 18 June | G8ELA on Packet Radio | Leighton Linslade Radio Club | P Brazier G6JFN |
| 19 June | Spring sale of surplus equipment | Biggin Hill AR Club | I Mitchell G4NSD |
| 20 June | Longleat Final Briefing | S Bristol AR Club | G4KUQ/G4RZY |
| 22 June | VHF NFD Planning <br> Mid Summer 1.8 MHz direction finding competition followed by barbecue | Dunstable Downs Radio Club S Manchester Radio Club | P Seaford G8XTW G3FVA, G3UHF, G8SMR |
| 24 June | Carboot sale | Dunstable Downs Radio Club | P Seaford G8XTW |
| 27 June | Rig Tweaking Night <br> The Eileen Medley Challenge Cup DF Hunt Outside Activity Night on 70 cm and 23 cm TV <br> VHF Field Day Preview | S Bristol AR Club <br> Wirral and District AR Club The Home Counties Amateur Television Club Farnborough and District Radio Society | G4SDR Mark <br> G Scott G8TRY <br> PW Andrews G6MNJ <br> PTaylor G4MBZ |
| 29 June | An introduction to operational amplifiers by Chris Ward G4HON | S Manchester Radio Club | G3FVA, G3UHF, G8SMR |
| 2 July | Electrical and Electronic Tool Aids for the Radio Enthusiast, by Mike Wells of AB Engineering Co Ltd | Leighton Linslade Radio Club | P Brazier G6JFN |
| 4 July | Lecture-RSGB BBQ | S Bristol AR Club <br> Wirral and District AR Club | G4FRG/G4ROX G Scott G8TRY |
| 6 July | Preparation for VHF NFD contest at weekend | S Manchester Radio Club | G3FVA, G3UHF, G8SMR |
| 7-8 July | VHF NFD 4 band club entry VHF National Field Day | Wirral and District AR Club Farnborough and District Radio Society | G Scott G8TRY <br> PTaylor G4MBZ |
| 8 July | Radio Rally | West Manchester Radio Club | Alan Nixon |
| 9 July | Quiz, round three at MK and DRS in Newport Pagnell | Leighton Linslade Radio Club | P Brazier G6JFN |
| 10 July | Visit IBA Transmitter Site at Emley Moor | Bury Radio Society | B Tyldsley G4TBT |
| 11 July | 70 cms night | S Bristol AR Club | G4EIA Martin |
| 13July | The synthesis of the elements by Mike Ellis G4ROM | S Manchester Radio Club | G3FVA, G3UHF, G8SMR |
| 15 July | DFHunt | Wirral and District AR Club | G Scott G8TRY |
| 17 July | QRP Operating Christopher Page G4BUE | Biggin Hill AR Club | I Mitchell G4NSD |
| 18July | Computernight | S Bristol AR Club | G1DBH Brian |
| 21 July | Radio \& Electronics Fair, Open 9.30am-5pm | Royal Victoria Hall, S'borough | W Kent AR Society |



# Radio Frequency 

 BRIDGEAlthough simple in design and easy to construct, an RF bridge has many uses. It can measure unknown values of impedance, inductance, and capacitance. The circuit consists of a Wheatstone bridge (Figure 2a), but instead of a battery as a source of current a two-transistor multivibrator is used, and the conventional moving coil balance meter is replaced by a radio receiver (Figure 2b). The multivibrator operates at an audio frequency, but the square wave output contains many harmonics which can be detected by a radio receiver up to 30 MHz and beyond.
The multivibrator acts as an RF signal generator, but unlike conventional generators it produces all its outputs at the same time. It is this combination of broadband signal generator and selective receiver that makes the bridge such a versatile measuring instrument.

## Construction

The building of the bridge should present no problems, and it can be built in an evening. A small metal box is an ideal housing. The shaft of the variable potentiometer RV (Figure 2) should be fitted with a pointer and sufficient room left around the knob to mark a scale. The connection to the receiver should be by a short length of screened lead. Because the receiver earth is then connected to terminal B (see Figure 2b), no other part of the circuit should be electrically connected to the box.

## Calibration

To calibrate the scale, the bridge is connected to a radio receiver which is tuned to any frequency between 500 KHz and 2 MHz . The receiver should have an intermediate frequency (IF) with a passband of at least 3 KHz , and it should preferably have an S-meter. If the IF is too narrow, the individual harmonics of the multivibrator will be detected, and balancing the bridge will be difficult. (This is the ideal application for an old receiver with an IF as wide as a barn door).
When the bridge is connected to the Rx (Figure 1) and switched on a tone should be heard, and the S-meter should read. As the tuning is altered the tone should remain at a constant sound level. Tuning should have no effect. If the tone rises and falls as the tuning is moved the receiver selectivity is sufficient to distinguish between the individual harmonics of the multivibrator. At this point, either use a wider IF, or double the value of the capacitors $\mathrm{C}_{1}$ and $\mathrm{C}_{2}$ in Figure 3. Changing these capacitors will lower the frequency, bring the harmonics closer in frequency and make

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Figure 1 The RF bridge and associated recerver

Figure 2a Conventional Wheatstone bridge


Figure 2b The RF bridge



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$\mathrm{LBO}-525 \mathrm{~L}$ is a 50 MHz dual trace oscilloscope offering comprehensive triggering and timebase facilities. LBO-518 is a 100 MHz quad channel oscilloscope with eight trace capabilities, offering comprehensive triggering and timebase options.
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Figure 3 The Multivibrator
operation easier. However the harmonic energy at higher frequencies may be less and the highest working frequency may be reduced.
A selection of close tolerance resistors should be connected across the 'unknown' terminals and the bridge balanced by adjusting RV for a null (ie, a dip) in $S$ meter reading, then the value should be marked on the scale.P

At this stage the frequency range and balance can be assessed with a resistor connected, null the bridge at 1 MHz . The null should be sharp. Repeat at 10 MHz , the null may be less precise. As the frequency is increased the null will become less deep, and may be at a slightly different position. The output of the multivibrator will also fall with increasing frequency, so that the $S$ meter no longer reads. The null can still be detected by ear, and the bridge used at frequencies where the $S$ meter reading is insufficient. The highest usable frequency depends on several factors, one being the receiver sensitivity. The bridge is now ready for a variety of tasks.

## Inductance

If the receiver is tuned to 159 KHz the scale can be read directly in microhenries. That is, 10 ohms may be read as $10 \mathrm{uH}, 47 \mathrm{ohms}$ as 47 uH , and so on.
If the receiver is tuned to 1.59 MHz the range of inductance is altered so that 10 ohms equals $1 u \mathrm{H}$, and 47 ohms equals
4.7 uH , and so on in proportion.

This simple relationship is achieved by a little mathematical juggling of the formula $X_{L}=2 \pi f \mathrm{~L}$ (Symbols have the usual values).

## Capacitance

This is harder to measure than inductance, and the easiest solution is to mark additional scales for the capacitance ranges required. Initial calibration should be done with a selection of close tolerance capacitors.
Using the formula: $x_{C}=1 / 2 \pi f C$ gives the reactance (in ohms) where $\mathrm{f}=$ frequency in $\mathrm{Hz} ; \mathrm{C}=$ capacitance in Farads.
At 1.59 MHz a capacitor of 100 pf has a reactance of 1000 ohms, and another of $10,000 \mathrm{pf}(0.01 \mathrm{uF})$ has a reactance of 10 ohms. Other frequencies will give other ranges of capacitance.

## Tuned circuits

The resonant frequency of a paralle tuned circuit can be found by connecting it to the bridge and setting RV to a high value and adjusting the receiver frequency until a dip in the $S$ meter is found.

## Baluns and RF transformers

The effective frequency response of aerial baluns and RF transformers can be easily checked with the bridge.
For a balun, the balanced connections should be terminated in the correct
impedance, say 50 ohms. For a balun with a 1:1 turns ratio, the 50 ohms should be reflected to the unbalanced terminals which should be connected to the bridge. As the receiver is tuned over the designed frequency range of the balun the null should remain substantially in the same position but a fall in efficiency of the balun will show as a fall in impedance reading.
Inaccuracy of the bridge at higher frequencies can be checked by measuring the 50 ohm resistor on its own. Whatever variations in value the bridge indicates with the resistor alone should be the same as those when the balun is interposed between the bridge and resistor.
A balun or transformer with a turns ratio other than unity will behave in a different way. Impedance is proportional to the square of the turns ratio, so a 2:1 turns ratio will reflect an impedance of 200 ohms ( $50 \times 4$ ) into the primary when the secondary is connected to a 50 ohm resistor.

## Conclusion

Sufficient has been said to illustrate the use of this simple instrument. Any work in electronics or radio requires test equipment, and I can think of no other aid to a workshop that can so quickly pay back the time spent in construction and calibration. Every radio shack should have one.

This modification, compensates the varying brightness levels of displayed colours from a BBC micro when used with the RGB interface for the TX-90 (described in R\&EW, January 84 issue).

The interface was built so that the Ferguson 37140 colour television could be used as a colour monitor for the BBC microcomputer. The television's controls were set up for the usual viewing conditions of a dark background and light text or graphics. Some programs create a display with a light background (eg yellow) and dark text (eg blue). This caused the displayed brightness to fall, but it can be compensated for by increasing the brightness control. Rather than adjusting the controls every time the display changes, a solution to the problem was sought and resulted in the following modification to the interface circuit.

## Procedure

Looking at the circuit of the interface (R\&EW, Jan 84 issue, Page 47), the Red, Green \& Blue signals are ac coupled into the transistor amplifiers by 10 UF capacitors C1, C2 \& C3. Converting the amplifiers to dc coupling throughout will remove the problem. The conversion is much easier to perform than might be expected.
a) Remove C1, C2 \& C3.
b) Remove R1, R10 \& R18.
c) Remove R2, R11 \& R19.

## Modifying the RGB Interface for the Ferguson TX-90 <br> by Martyn Dyer



Figure 1: Circuit diagram of the modified red channel input amplifier. Green and blue channels are similarly modified
d) For each channel, connect the input signal to the slider of the preset potentiometer RV1, 2 or 3.
e) For each channel, connect the top of the preset potentiometer to the base of
the input transistor TR1, 3 or 5.
Figure 1 shows the circuit diagram of the now dc coupled input stage. RV1, RV2 \& RV3 are adjusted in a similar manner as described in the original article.

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# ATV on the Air 

## Presented by Andy Emmerson, G8PTH



High Resolution slow-scan picture by G3YCV

Time seems to fly: it's time to run down the activity report once more. So here it is: as ever, we start on 70 cm and go progressively higher, finally returning to the lower frequencies for a bit of slowscan.
We seem to have been well served with openings during the past winter season, and reading the Benelux DX Club magazine (kindly passed on by Arthur Milliken) I see that our signals have been making it over to the Netherlands.
Noted in despatches, so to speak, are: G3DFL, G4NPS, G4RNA, G4SRF, G8CTT, G8LES. G8SKO, G8VBS, G6LIC, G6YLG (29.9.83 \& 26.10.83 at Beemster); G4NPS (23.10.83 in Texel); G3DFL, G4PSX, G6YLG, G8VBS (26.10.83 in Bergum); G4RNA \& G6AVB (27.10.83 at Driebergen); G4RKP and GU8FBO (4.12.83 in Rotterdam).

Gordon Hunter GM3ULP is prompted to write from Motherwell to tell us about the large ATV net which operates every Monday. His setup is a MM transmitter and 48 element Multibeam at 35 feet in a less than perfect location. Licensed first in 1969 as GM6ADR/T, he used to work GM6AEG/T across the Clyde. Nowadays, his most regular contact is Norrie GM4BVU, also 'just across the Clyde'. Gordon is also QRV on slow-scan, but finds little activity; how about some skeds?
In downtown Newport Pagnell, Jon G4MDU and Andy G6LTZ recently gave
an impressive talk and demonstration of ATV to members of the Milton Keynes radio club. Not content with the usual talk and slide show, the pair went on to mount a live outside broadcast from the pub across the road! A portable camera and backpack transmitter/aerial combination made this all possible, and the results made the audience extremely aware of the possibilities of ATV. We can confidently expect an increase of ATV activity in the district as a result!

The aforementioned openings which favoured 70 cm gave equal or better possibilities on 24 cm . On the 29th December, Rod G8VBC saw P5 pictures from F3LP on 24 cm . Given that Rod is located near Derby and F3LP is in Le Havre (nearly 400 km ), this is most encouraging. Rod was unable to get through on 2 metres, no doubt because lower bands were not so favoured.
From Southampton, Allan G8CMQ writes about 24 cm activity in the Solent area. Two stations are on the air, himself and Sid G4JQU, with Mike G8LES in the role of visiting advisor and source of encouragement. Sid built the first Tx W\&D oscillator on 429 MHz , home-made 70 cm PA with $3-5 \mathrm{~W}$ into a homebrew tripler and Tonna 21 element 1296 yagi. Operating frequency is 1285 MHz FM. Allan made the first Rx from an Ambit 23 cm converter (modified), a TV tuner and BATC IF board. With a double 15 slot antenna, results were P3 over 2.5 miles.

## P5 every time

Mike suggested mods to the converter, retaining just the oscillator chain and results shot to P5. Further mods and a GaAsFet front end mean P5 every time now, and P3 even when Sid runs 10 mW from the BATC free-running oscillator.

Sid has a W\&D FM IF which works well, fed by the BATC converter but is plagued by UHF broadcast breakthrough. Allan's TX is now up to 10 W input to the tripler. Allan is off the air but hopes for even better results from his new QTH.

Even over non line-of-sight paths they have been surprised with the capability of the 24 cm band; best $D X$ was over 25 miles when Allan took the Rx to Nick G8MCQ's place, giving P4 despite a long cable run and no preamp. Activity is expected to increase and Allan's new QTH has a clear takeoff for at least 10 miles in all directions. So point your beams towards ZK04g!
A letter from Cyril James G3VVB bemoans the price of varactor diodes, saying that Mullard quoted $£ 36$ each for BXY36s. I must say I am glad I bought a Microwave Modules unit while they were still available; if you are not the happy possessor of one of these, look out for


Power amplifier cavity for 23 cm - an example of G3VVB's handiwork

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One of several 32 seconds frame black and white pictures transmitted by slow-scan TV using a Wraase (German) converter. Date was 13 February 1984 and frequency 14230 KHz , sent by Peter $13 \times Q W$. Richard Thurlow G3WW received the signals and recorded them on audio cassette before printing them with his Seikosha GP-250X computer printer

them at bring and buy stalls or the Wood \& Douglas substitute may well be available by the time you read this. Cyril does a very nice line in cavities, dish feeds and filters for 23 and 13 cm (see photo) and if you have any special requirements, you could do worse than write to him QTHR. I bought one of his $23 / 24 \mathrm{~cm}$ interdigital filters and it is a work of art.

## Slow-scan news

This time we seem to have more SSTV letters - is there a slow-scan revival perhaps? Dick G3LUl from Hullbridge in Essex, counts at least 16 stations in the two metre net he organises on Wednesday evenings. Stations from London, Cambridge, Kent and Essex take part, and the old problem of shifting beam headings (and non-SSTV QRM) has been overcome by splitting into two or more QSOs and QSYing HF of the calling frequency.
Two stations, G3WW and G4GZN, are producing good quality colour with the new SC1 scan converter from Wraase. Roddy G3CDK has perfected his instant colour SSTV playback of commercial TV transmissions, while Dick has found it extremely bad luck to replace all the fixing screws on any piece of shack equipment!
Another regular correspondent, Richard G3WW tells of a two way SSTV contact with 16GK1 on 26th February.

Frequency was 14227.4 KHz , with 5-9-5 signals; Richard received six pictures on his SC1 converter which were displayed on a normal Sony TV set. Richard has now added a GP-250X dot-matrix printer to his setup, enabling him to produce permanent pictures on paper; a sample was enclosed with his letter.

## Exotic contacts

A lot of Richard's contacts have callsigns which look distinctly exotic to me, such as 5 N8HEM (listen on $14230+5$ at 17.45-18.00 GMT) and ZL2AUJ on 14229.7. G4NJI has a 'print out' board for the SC1 and with G4DYB can be found almost nightly on 144.5 FM or 144.23 SSB around 21.00 GMT. Apparently an FM voice net congregate on the SSTV calling frequency and refuse to move because their licences don't mention 144.5 as the SSTV calling frequency. Such crassness beggars belief; my response would be to run QRO (whoosh, over the top!) but that is not 'the ham spirit' either. I suppose the simplest idea is to have a pre-arranged fallback frequency and hope you don't upset some other special-mode users!

Our final SSTV letter is from John Hibbert G3YCV in Ramsgate. He too, is a member of the Essex net on Wednesdays, and has lately made contacts to South Africa, North \& South America and Europe. He has replaced his Pye Lynx camera and got colour filters, so can now
produce smart colour pictures.
John and a colleague have also devised a colour caption generator program for the Dragon computer, producing four lines of eight characters to the page. The computer's video output is fed to the SC-160 scan converter's camera input. If anyone else is interested they can send a SAE to John QTHR or to Aphros Software, Hawley Square, Margate, Kent. John also gave a talk to the Thanet club recently; the demo went well and seemed to impress those present, especially the way you can get colour pictures from a black and white camera! Look out for more SSTVers in Kent.
Finally, a plea from Bob Valder G4RRU in Peacehaven, Sussex. He has built the 'RadCom' SSTV receive converter and BATC character generator and is looking for ideas for a fast-to-slow scan converter. He will be pleased to hear from others in his area, so that he can try out the receive converter.

## More news

So there we are: once again you have sent plenty of letters, and I apologise if I had to abbreviate your news just a little. I always enjoy reading your letters and printing your news, even if I don't get a chance to reply to each letter. Let me have more news for next time and send it to me at Brentwood, care of the Editor. Many thanks in advance.


In retrospect, February wasn't anything to shout about as far as DX-TV was concerned compared with previous months. The Sporadic-E activity which continued throughout the winter appeared to fizzle out at the beginning of the month. Most days produced evidence of meteor-scatter activity which helped fill an otherwise empty log. A tropospheric opening appeared during the period between the 12th and 16th giving Scandinavian Band III and UHF reception on the 12th and the usual West German and Dutch transmitters for the remaining time.
A short-lived but intriguing Sporadic-E (SpE) opening occurred on February 5th during the late morning. Signals were observed on channels E2 and E4 consisting of programme material coming from south-east Europe. Tuning around the band produced colour bars between channels IA and E3. The pattern was finally swamped by RAI (Italy) programmes on channel lA. It is suspected that the colour bars originated from Nord Center Television, one of Italy's private stations situated close to Udine in the north-east of the country. This station is frequently received during the summer months when there are intense SpE openings. We haven't as yet seen them on programmes. Colour bars or similar electronic displays are often radiated by NCT for lengthy periods even during the early evening.
Eastern European signals were seen on R2 at 1136 GMT via SpE but they soon faded away. The highlight was the sighting of a test card not unlike the very old USA 'Bull's Eye' type via meteorshower for just a second or so on channel E4. It was probably only a technical programme from a European service!

## DX-TV Log for February

The following meagre log reflects the conditions during the month under review. But don't forget, as you read this the 1984 Sporadic-E season should be opening up.

## 1/2/84:

CST (Czechoslovakia) on channels R1 and R2 with the 'RS-KH' EZO electronic test card; ORF (Austria) on E2a radiating the Philips PM5544 test card plus the monochrome Telefunken T05 test card; DDR: F (East Germany) E4 on electronic test pattern; TVE (Spain) E3 on test card prior to programmes

## 5/2/84:

Unidentified programmes via SpE during the late morning from south-east Europe; unidentified signal on channel R2; RAI (Italy) on IA; Colour-bar pattern probably from NCT Italy on a frequency between IA and E3; USA-type test card on E4 via meteor-shower propagation (NiS).

## 6/2/84:

TSS (Russia) R1 transmitting the old 0249 monoscopic test card via SpE; cochannel reception of programme on R2 at times.

DR (Denmark) E3 on PM5544; CST R1 on EZO test card floating with TSS and co-channel programme; TSS R2 via SpE with programmes.

## 7/2/84:

TSS R1 on 'BPEMR' News programme; MTV-1 (Hungary) R1 with the multi-burst pattern; CST R2 on EZO test card; unidentified programme via $\operatorname{SpE}$ on E4.

## 8/2/84:

DDR: F E4 on test card; CST R1 with the 'RS-KH' test card.

## 10/2/84:

CST R2 on test card.

## 12/2/84:

NOS (Netherlands) 1st network clock caption with programmes during the early evening on E4 from the Lopik transmitter via improved trops.

## 13/2/84:

NOS-1 E4 on 'PTT-NED.1' PM5544 test card; SR (Sweden) on E10 from the 60 kW outlet at Naessjoe and E11 from Kisa (30kW); DR (Denmark) E5 and E10 with skiing followed by closedown sequence and 'DR DANMARK' PM5544; SR-2 channel E30 and SR-1 on E9 seen late evening on programmes from the Goeteburg outlet; NRK (Norway) E10 from Skien and E11 from Halden on programmes fo!lowed by the closedown sequence at 2215 with a clock caption and programme schedule for TV and radio.

## 14/2/84:

NOS-1 E4 and E6 on 'PTT-NED. 1 PM5544 plus NOS-2 with 'PTT• NED.2' test card on channel E45. NOS-1 was seen later on E5 with programmes; RTBF 1 (Belgian French-language network) on E8 from Wavre with the PM5544 following closedown; West Germiny E9 and E11 from Westdeutscher Fernsehen (WDR) 1st Network with identification caption and programmes. All reception via improved tropospheric conditions.

## 16/2/84:

TSS R1 on clock caption and BPEMR News programme during a short $\operatorname{SpE}$ opening between 1759 and 1805 .

## 20/2/84:

CST R2 on 'RS-KH' test card.

## 21/2/84:

TVP (Poland) R1 on PM5544 with a dark background; CST R1 and R2 on EZO pattern.

## 22/2/84:

NRKE3 with the identification 'NORGE GAMLEM' on the PM5544 from Gamlemsvetten.


Pic 1 Telefunken T05 monoscopic test card radiated by ORF FS2 in Austria


Pic 2 Russian News programme relayed in East Germany for the Soviet Army stationed around Berlin

## DXTV RECEPTION REPORIS

## 23/2/84:

DRE3 on PM5544; DDR:F on colour test pattern.

## 24/2/84:

CST R2 on 'RS-KH' test card.

## 25/2/84:

Unidentified signal on channel E4 via SpE.

## Reception reports

The Wrekin transmitter radiating the Belgian test card: that's what Andy Webster of Billinge near Wigan saw on the 16th. The test card carried the identification 'TV2' in the lower black rectangle and appeared co-channel to BBC-1 transmissions on channel 26. Since there isn't a Belgian 2nd network outlet on this channel we can only assume that the Wrekin takes BBC-1 programmes from Sutton Coldfield offair on channel 46 and on this particular occasion was re-broadcasting the Belgian transmission from Egem, also on channel 46.
Andy is currently improving his DX installation. He's feeding a MOSFET VHF/UHF tuner via two Philips G8 IF selectivity modules into the normal IF's of a Philips 210 chassis. The filters are realigned to provide narrowband working and greater selectivity. Andy has also fitted a G8 filter to a Bush TV 161 receiver belonging to fellow DX-TV enthusiast Arthur Milliken. This enables Arthur to resolve the Dublin channel H broadcasts from RTE on a daily basis. The filter has been re-aligned to notch out offending splatter from the local BBC-1 Winter Hill transmitter on channel B12.
Bob Brooks (South Wirral) received Iceland on E3 from 2145 GMT on February 1st. This originated from Stykkisholmur in the north-west of the island. Incidentally, Rikisutvarpid is easy to identify during the summer - it is the only 625 -line signal to come from the north-west. Programmes start as late as 2100 BST which means the test card carrying the identification 'RUV ISLAND' is radiated for generous periods. The PM5544 is even transmitted throughout the night, probably for DX-TV insomniacs!

Experienced French DX-er Pierre Godou (Rennes) has supplied details of his DX-TV set-up. His aerials are shown in Picture 4 and comprise separate wideband Band III and UHF arrays both with masthead amplifiers. For Band I coverage two Fuba multi-element arrays are used. One is cut to channel E4, the other is cut to channel E2. Both are equipped with masthead amplifiers. The system is atop a lattice mast and is fully rotatable. A dual-standard (French 819 lines/CCIR 625 lines) Sony 112 UM monochrome portable receiver is used which covers the CCIR system B channels. For FM radio DX a Sony CRF 230 receiver is employed which provides 64108 MHz coverage. Pierre's receivers are shown in Picture 5.
Alan Jardin has written from Kuwait informing us of possible Italian TV reception towards the end of the last Sporadic-E season. He has also received several Middie East TV services such as those operating in Bahrain and Dubai in Band I. Alan hopes to receive the ARAMCO TV service from Dhahran in Saudi Arabia but it may be very difficult. Dhahran uses channel E3 with only a few kilowatts effective radiated power (ERP) and it is too close for normal SpE reception. At the same time the transmitter seems too low-power for reliable tropospheric DX. Alan has now become interested in satellite TV. Only the Emir (or King) has a satellite dish, so far, and when our correspondent made enquiries


Pic 3 Typical American 'Bull's Eye test card used several years ago by WLVI-TV
about obtaining a system, the local suppliers were very suspicious!
A few Swedish delicacies were sampled during the trops by Kevin Jackson in Leeds. On the night of the 12th, Sveriges Radio 2nd network programmes were coming in on channel E39. Kevin suggests that this may have been the 2.2 KW outlet at Kungshamn on the west coast, just north of Goeteborg at a distance of some 937 Km . There are two alternative outlets but at greater distances. These are Oernskoeldsvik with $400 \mathrm{KW}(120 \mathrm{Km}$ north-east of Sundsvall) and Sysslebaeck on 10KW situated north of Karlstad.
The 13th showed an improvement for Kevin with SR-1 on E9 (from Goeteborg) and E11 (possibly from Kisa with 30 KW ) together with SR-2 on channel E30 (Goeteborg) and E37 (from Västeraas on the east coast at 1265 Km ). The latter two signals were almost snow-free on test card and programmes. Danmarks Radio (Denmark) were also seen during the afternoon from both the E5 Aalborg 50KW and E10 Vestjylland 60 KW transmitters. A few French (TDF) transmitters in Brittany were noted but the only West German signals to arrive at Kevin's location were from Harz West on E10 and Kiel on E35.
Gösta van der Linden (Netherlands) appears to have received the low-power (10KW) Belgian UHF transmitter located in the Brussels area on channel E25. The outlet, which radiates BRT TV2 programmes, is situated atop a tall building. Gösta has advised that following the collapse of the Wavre transmitter in Belgium, one of his most frequent signals on channel E28 has disappeared from his log. However he can receive RTBF TELE 2 programmes from a channel E49 outlet operating near Brussels. During the recent improved tropospheric conditions, Gösta noted a variety of British UHF stations and he even caught a glimpse of the famous BBC 2 Colour Test Card ' $F$ '.

## Service information

## Eire:

Radio Telefis Eireann are to close the low-power channel C relay in Dublin


Pics 4 \& 5 The fully rotatable aerial system used by French TV-DXer Pierre Godou in Rennes, along with some of his shack equipment

## DX - TV RECEPTION REPORTS



FuBK test card with Tx identification used by Bayerischer Rundfunk, W Germany
since UHF coverage of RTE-1 in the area is considered to be adequate.

The RTE-2 network is to be radiated from the Kippure main transmitter on channel $J(223.23 \mathrm{MHz}$ vision) on full power by mid-1984. It should be noted that channel 1 is often omitted from charts and listings and is usually incorrectly quoted as being channel J. Channel H is 207.25 MHz , channel I is 215.25 MHz and channel $J$ is 223.25 MHz These frequencies correspond to vision carriers.

## Spain:

Television Española appears to have altered their test transmissions. The GTE electronic test card, normally radiated for about 15 minutes prior to programme commencement, has been seen at
various times of the day. Perhaps the familiar electronic bar patterns which carry transmitter location information has been discontinued - at least for the moment. We will keep a look out towards the south over the next few weeks.

## Belgium:

According to the latest EBU station list the Brussels transmitter radiating TELE2 programmes on channel E45 has increased its ERP from 500 W to 1 KW .

## France:

France Régions 3 are radiating a special colour test pattern during the afternoon. It consists of vertical bars with superimposed Antiope (French teletext service) information.

## Syria:

The EBU now lists the SRT transmitters at Abou Kamal and Nabi-Saleh, both operating on channel E3, with ERP's of only 400 W and not 400 KW ! Hassake on E4 is listed as 95 W rather than 35 KW .

## Denmark:

The regional programme from Danmarks Radio known as 'TV SYD' is radiated on Sundays between 1300 and 1400 local time with repeats on Mondays from 0830 to 0930 and 1545 until 1645. The outlet at Sonderjylland operates on channel E7 with 60KW ERP.


Colour electronic test card used by NDR from the Harz outlet on E10 and E40

## West Germany:

Programmes from Norddeutscher Rundfunk (NDR) are broadcast on channel E28 from Neumünster with 200KW. The ERP should soon increase to 500 KW .
The Mölln/Tarkau transmitter is in service on channel E53 with an ERP of 20 KW . Transmissions are also radiated from a 100W relay at Lauenburg on E46. The FUBK test card includes the identification ' SH '
WDR-1 has started broadcasting from a 100 KW outlet at Bonn on channel E43. The FuBK test card carries the identification 'WDR 1 BO 43'.

Service Information this month was kindly supplied by Andy Webster (Wigan), Gösta van der Linden (Rotterdam, Netherlands) and the European Broadcasting Union (Belgium)

## HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF BECOMING AN AUTHOR?

We are always interested in receiving articles to be considered for publication and are particularly keen to hear from anyone who has something to say related to the amateur radio field. As mentioned before, projects for fellow readers to build are most welcome.

You don't need to be an expert writer. If you can get your ideas down on paper, preferably typed, with drawings that we can follow and photographs where relevant, we will sort out the style, grammar, spelling etc.

If you have an idea for an article, or have designed and built a project that you think others would be interested in, but still have doubts about becoming an author, why not write (giving brief details and your telephone number) or telephone the editorial dept... and of course you will be paid for your effort.

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# SHORT WAVE NEWS FOR DX LISTENERS 

## by Frank A Baldwin

All times in GMT, bold figures indicate the frequency in kHz

Keeping the promise made in the December 1983 issue, here are some Latin American stations to be heard on the 90 metre band ( 3200 to 3400).

There is a station, Radio Riberao Preto in Brazil, on 3205 that has been logged here many times and which is on the air from 0800 to 0400 with a power of 1 KW . If conditions are good for LA reception and the channel is relatively QRM free, then this one is a good 'marker' or indicator for the logging of other South American transmissions on this band.
Slightly higher up the band there is HCJB Quito in Ecuador on 3220 where it is scheduled from 0900 to 1300 and from 2130 to 0200 in Quecha - the local Indian language - and from 0200 to 0500 in Spanish, the power being 10 KW .

Regularly reported in the short wave listener press is the Brazilian Lins Radio Clube, Lins on 3225 which operates in Portuguese and is on the air from 0730 to 0400 at 1 KW . Sometimes the dominant transmission to be heard on this channel is the Venezualan Radio Occidente in Tovar, on the air from 1000 to 0400 at 1KW (Saturday and Sunday until 0300) in Spanish.
The Ecuadorian La Voz del Triunfo, Santo de los Colorados may be heard on 3252 but reportedly varies from 3252 to 3253 on occasions, identifying as 'La Voz del Tigre'. It is on the air from 1000 to 0400 with a power of 1 KW .
In Calceta, Ecuador is located La Voz del Rio Carrizal operating on 3260 at 2 KW from 1300 to 0330 (Saturday until 0400) and on Sunday from 1200 to 0300 , identifying as 'Radio Carrizal'. If, however, you would like to try for some real super DX, why not tune to 3262 where operates the Peruvian La Voz de Oxapampa located in Pasco and timed on the air from 1100 to 0330 at 1 KW . Recently moved from 3260, where it was rarely reported probably due to co-channel QRM, it
should now be in the clear we hope.
On 3275 there is a mix of two Brazilians and one Venezualan, the latter being Radio Mara, Maracaibo working from 1000 to 0400 at 1 KW and the most often reported channel occupant, the Brazilians being Baura Radio Clube ( 0730 to 0400 at 1 KW ) and Radio Difusora, Caceres scheduled from 0900 to 0300 at 1 KW . The latter mentioned is not very often featured in the SWL press.
More often brought to notice is the Ecuadorian La Voz del Napo located in Tena and radiating programmes in both Spanish and Quecha from 2200 to 0230 with a power of 1 KW on $\mathbf{3 2 8 0}$. Quite recently a new occupant has appeared on this channel in the guise of Radio Chaco, Yacuiba in Bolivia, both the power and the schedule being unknown.
On nearby 3284 may be found the Peruvian Radio Esmeralda in Huanta, on the air from 2100 to 0300 at 1 KW . Just alongside, on 3285, you will find the often logged Radio Belize, Belmopan in Belize working to the schedule 1100 (Sunday from 1200) to 0510 at 1 KW , always assuming of course that your listening session has coincided with a period of good conditions for reception of this area of the world.
Another DX gem for UK listeners would be the reception of the 0.36KW La Voz del Rio Tarqui in Cuenca, Ecuador, scheduled from 1000 to 0500 . It is currently reported by USA DXers as operating on 3286, a move from the previously occupied 3285 channel, but it has also been heard on 3869 so take your choice.
On $\mathbf{3 2 9 0}$ there is the Peruvian Radio Tayabamba in La Libertad province with the schedule 1100 to 0315 , power unknown; and Radio Panamericana with a 1 KW signal from 2300 to 0300 operating from Quero in Ecuador.
A few KHz up the dial to

3300 where, sometimes, one can log Radio Cultural in Guatemala City, Guatemala, now working from 2245 to 0630 with a power of 10 KW and being regularly mentioned in reports from DXers.
The Bolivian Radio San Miguel located in Riberalta occupies the 3310 channel from 1000 to a variable closing
time around 0300. The power is 1 KW and logged here in the UK several times a year.

In the above schedules I have included only that part applicable to possible reception here in the UK and omitted those times which prohibit any chance of success. The review continues next month.

## AROUND THEDIAL

This information is provided to assist those interested to tune around their dials to the frequencies, and at the times stated, hopefully to log the stations we have listed here.

## AFRICA

## Egypt

Cairo on 15155 at 1529, an interval signal of local-style music then OM (old oam $=$ male announcer) with station identification and recitations from the Holy Quran at the commencement of the Afar programme directed to East and Central Africa from 1530 to 1630 .
Cairo on 17690 at 1433, OM with recitations from the Holy Quran during the Hindi transmission times from 1430 to 1530.

## Libya

Tripoli on 15415 at 1100 , OM with station identification in Arabic, drums, Arabic-type music then OM with songs in a relay of the Domestic Service on this channel from 1100 to 1745, thereafter radiating programmes as "Voice of the Greater Arab Homeland'.

## Morocco

Tangier on 17595 at 1435, OM's with songs in a vernacular, local-style music in a relay of the Home Service to the Middle East, West Africa, Europe, South Morocco and Mauritania, scheduled from 1100 to 0100 on this frequency.

## Zambia

Lusaka on 4910 at 2017, OM's with a discussion in a vernacular-they use seven of them plus English in their
broadcasts - but this channel is the Home Service entirely in vernaculars on the air from 0350 to 0530 and from 1530 to 2105 (Friday and Saturday until 2205). The power is 50KW.

## THE AMERICAS

## Columbia

Emisora Nuevo Mundo, Bogota on 4755 at 0654, OM with a programme of recorded local pop songs and music then OM with promos complete with echo-effect. The language is Spanish and this one is operating irregularly on a 24 -hour basis, the power being 1 KW .

Ondas del Meta, Villavicencio on 4885 at 0656 , OM with a ballad in Spanish complete with local-style orchestral backing. OM with the station identification as 'Ondas del Meta, La Voz del Llano, Villavicencio, Colombiana' and frequencies. 1 KW .

## Costa Rica

Emisora Radio Reloj, San Jose on 4832 at 0553, OM announcer then pop songs and music in typical local style. This one is on the air around-the-clock and has a power of 1 KW .

## Guatemala

La Voz de Nahuala, Nahuala on 3360 at 0223, OM with announcements in Spanish, YL (young lady - female announcer or artiste) with a local folksong. LV de Nahuala operates from 2130 to 0230 at 1 KW . The channel is a difficult one owing to the surrounding commercial QRM (man-made interference).


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[^1]:    Turn your surplus IC's Trans stors etc into CASH. Immediate settlement. We also welcome the opportunity to quote for complete factory ciearance.
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[^2]:    PADIO WAVES
    UNDERSTANDING RADIO WAVES by Peter Bubb (Price £6.95).
    This book takes the reader through, at a general level, a wide variety of aspects of radio waves, from first principles through communications receivers and aerial systems, to such diverse topics as navigation, model control and microwave

[^3]:    CUIDE TO RADIO
    BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO RADIO (Ninth edition).
    This new edition continues the work of its predecessors, which have given many readers a sound basic knowledge of radio principles and prac-

