THE SEALED NICKEL CADMIUM BATTERY

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S ealed, maintenance-free rechargeable batteries are becoming increasingly readily available to the model maker, handyman, radio enthusiast and electronics engineer. Until recently they have served the public in a somewhat hidden way, as components of 'rechargeable' razors, calculators etc. Nowadays they can be obtained off the shelf, and for most purposes only a small amount of knowledge on simple charging techniques is necessary. Single units are referred to as 'cells', and these can be connected together into 'batteries'.

We shall be considering the sealed nickel-cadmium cells and batteries, which are the 'maids of all work' in the small power source field.

- Probably the most important facts are:— 1. The cell discharge voltages are essentially the same as those of 'dry', cells, i.e. zinc/carbon or alkaline manganese:
- Some nickel-cadmium cells have exactly the same dimensions as the common dry cells and can be interchanged;
- 3. Their discharge currents can be drawn continuously, and very rapidly as required
- They can be recharged and discharged a great number of times; 500 or 1,000 times, or many more depending on use;
- They can be left on continuous charge for years, and thereby maintained in a constant, fully charged state of readiness. There are, of course, a few 'ifs' and 'buts' relating to the above and we shall consider these below.

There are two basic types of sealed nickel cadmium cell: the 'cylindrical' cells and the 'button' cells. A mixed group is shown in Figure 1, and Figures 2 and 3 illustrate construction differences and similarities. Respectively tables 1 and 2 give details of the available sizes of the two kinds.

Note that the nickel cadmium cells which are interchangeable with dry batteries are to be found amongst the cylindricals, and Table 1 includes references to the nonrechargeable zinc-carbon and alkalinemanganese equivalents. We shall deal with the cylindrical cells first.

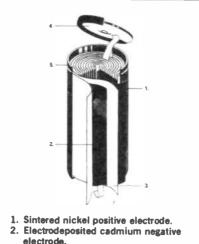
Cylindrical Cells

As an example, consider a nickel cadmium cell of penlight size, the AN 50. It can be left permanently on charge at currents of up to 65mA; it can deliver 10A for 30 seconds; 5A for 3 minutes; or 0.5A for 1 hour. All this can be done in any position, and cycles of charge and discharge can be repeated hundreds or thousands of times. It has the same dimensions as the penlight HP7 and MN1500, and can be used in temperatures as low as -30°C, and as high as +50°C, and attains at least half capacity at the extremes.

How is this versatility achieved? The main secret is in the 'Oxygen Recombination Reaction', which means that the gas produced internally on overcharge is absorbed continuously and re-used inside the sealed 24



Figure 1. Various Ni-Cad batteries



- 3. Separator.
- 4. Top cover with resealing safety vent.
- 5. Nickel plated steel can.
- 6. Electrolyte.

Figure 2.	Construction	of a	4.5	Ah	cylindrical	
-	cell (AN450)					

cell in accordance with the reaction:-

 $0_2 + 2 H_{20} + 2 Cd \rightarrow 2 Cd (0H)_2$ The oxygen is given off at the positive (nickel) electrode and reacts very quickly with the cadmium in the charged negative electrode. To help this reaction in the cell the two electrodes are separated only by a thin porous membrane. Cylindrical cells are spirally wound (as shown in Figure 2), whereas button cells consist of flat plates (as shown in the sectional drawing in Figure 3). The electrode 'plates' are made containing finely divided 'active' materials, nickel hydroxide for the positive and cadmium hydroxide for the negative. These materials are absorbed into a sintered or an electrodeposited metal matrix, and this type of construction gives the very low internal resistances and the correspondingly high short-circuit currents shown in Figure 4.

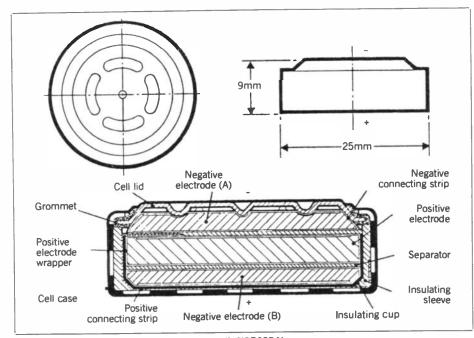
Note that the cylindrical cells are fitted with a re-sealing one-way safety vent that relieves any excess internal pressure caused by a fault or abuse. It opens at about 200 psi and closes again at about 175 psi. Typical abuse conditions would be overcharging at too high a current or excessive reverse charging.

The electrical capacity of a secondary (i.e. rechargeable) cell is expressed in Ampere hours (Ah) or for small cells in milli-Ampere hours (mAh). It depends on the rate of discharge, and it is common practice to measure it at the 5-hour rate. It will be seen from Table 1 that the cylindricals come in a wide range of capacities, from 110 mAh to 10 Ah.

Cells can be connected together in series to produce batteries. Only cells of the same capacity should be used. Connecting in series increases the voltage but the resulting battery has the same ampere hour capacity as the individual cells. Thus ten 4 Ah cells connected in series will give a battery of 12

Ready ogue			Voltage	sre-Hour city (Ah)	eter	ŧ.	ht	16 Hour Charge Rate Milliamperes	Equivaler 'Dry' Batt (not rech	eries
Ever Ready Catalogue Code	IEC No.	Size	Cell V	Ampere - Capacity	Diameter (mm)	Height (mm)	Weight (g)	16 Hc Charg Millia	Zinc Carbon	Alkaline Manganese
NCC18	KR/11/45	AAA	1.2	0.18	10.5	44.5	10.0	18	HP16	MN2400
NCC12	KR/15/18	¦∕₃AA	1.2	0.11	14.1	17.0	8.0	12		
NCC24		1/2AA	1.2	0.24	14.3	28.1	14.0	24		
AN 45	KR/16/29	1⁄2A	1.2	0.45	16.7	28.1	19.0	45		
AN50	KR/15/51	AA	1.2	0.50	14.3	50.3	25.0	50	Penlight HP7	MN1500
AN60	KR/17/51	super	1.0	0.60	15.6	50.0	30.0	60		
411140	KD (00 (40	AA	1.2	1.40	00.6	40.6	50.0			
AN140	KR/23/43	RR	1.2	1.40	22.6	42.6	50.0	140		
AN220	KR/27/50	С	1.2	2.20	26.0	49.0	70.0	220	HP11	MN1400
AN260	KR/35/44	½D	1.2	2.60	32.5	43.7	100.0	260		
AN400	KR/35/62	D	1.2	4.00	32.5	61.3	140.0	400	HP2	MNU1200
AN450	R/35/62	D	1.2	4.50	33.8	61.0	150.0	450	nrz	MN1300
AN700	KR/35/92	F	1.2	7.00	33.8	91.0	225.0	700		
AN1000	KR/44/91	super F	1.2	10.00	41.5	91.0	345.0	1000		

Table 1. Some typical cylindrical cells.





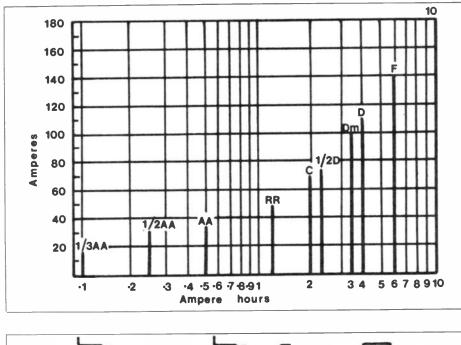




Figure 5 Solder tag styles.

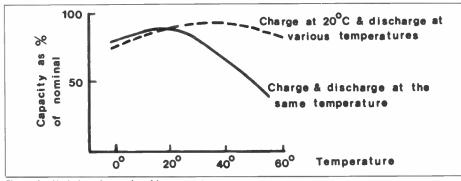


Figure 6. Variation of capacity with temperature. September 1982 Maplin Magazine

volts (1.2 x 10) and the capacity is unchanged at 4 Ah.

The charge or discharge currents (or 'rates') of cells and batteries are usually expressed as multiples or sub-multiples of the ONE HOUR or 'C' rate. This standard convention makes for easier comparison between batteries of different sizes.

For instance the C/10 rate will discharge any cell or battery in 10 hours; the C/5 hour rate will discharge it in 5 hours and the 2C rate will discharge in $\frac{1}{2}$ hour. The C/10 rate is 1 A for a 10 Ah battery and 200 mA for a 2 Ah battery.

It is very important to grasp that the charging/discharging cycle has an efficiency coefficient of about 1.5, so that the 'C/10' current would in fact need about 15 hours (10×1.5) for a full charge.

It is worth dwelling a little on the cells which have the same dimensions as 'dry' or common non-rechargeable cells. For many purposes e.g. tape recorders, transceivers, torches etc., nickel cadmium cells can take the place of the equivalent battery. They have many advantages. They can give heavier, continuous power if needed, and their voltages are more uniform during discharge. Their rechargeability makes them very economical in use, and many hundreds of recharges can be obtained at a small fraction of a penny each.

Very often nickel cadmium cells are soldered into circuits. This is desirable if high currents are to be taken, or the battery is to be kept on permanent charge in readiness or standby for emergency purposes. Cell manufacturers fit solder tags at no extra cost, and the styles are shown in Figure 5. When ordering cells the designation 'CF', 'HH' or 'HB' should be used. This is easy to remember if associated with the terms 'Contact Free', 'Head-Head', 'Head-Base'. Note that soldering directly on to a cell case could severely damage the cell.

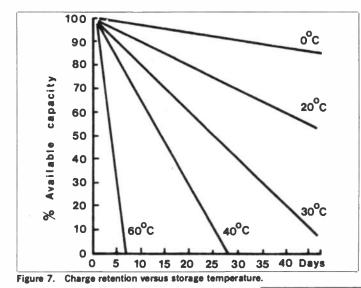
From the point of view of the tolerance of electronic circuits, it is very important to realise that the battery on-charge voltage is higher than the discharge voltage. Thus, a circuit may have to tolerate 1.5 volts per cell on charge at the C/8 rate and a mid-point discharge voltage of 1.25 volts/cell at the C/5 rate.

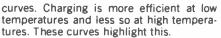
Sealed (i.e. gas recombining) cells should not be charged in parallel as their very low internal resistances and supressed overcharge voltages can mean that one cell or one row of cells is doing all the work and getting more than its fair share of overcharge current. It is also possible under these parallel conditions for a row of cells to receive very high 'stray' currents from neighbouring rows. Diode protection between rows is sometimes incorporated to reduce this possibility.

Temperature

A battery is by nature a chemical device and therefore it is affected by temperature in a variety of ways. The lower working limit of the nickel-cadmium system is generally taken to be the freezing point of the potassium hydroxide electrolyte at about -30°C. At low temperatures the charging process becomes more efficient, and for continuous charging under these conditions an upper charge voltage limit of 1.55 volts per cell is often imposed. By this, it is meant the circuits are designed so that as this voltage is approached the charging current will decrease and the upper voltage limit is not exceeded. This will greatly reduce the possibility of gassing under these very efficient charge conditions.

The battery capacity is also affected by temperature and Figure 6 demonstrates this. Note the differences between the two





Another important aspect of battery temperature is its influence on the retention of charge on standing. Figure 7 demonstrates the marked self-discharge brought about by storing charged cells at elevated temperatures. Compare, however, with the button-cell performance shown on Figure 9.

Special Cylindrical Cells

When batteries have to be kept on continuous charge under conditions of high temperature, such as in emergency lighting where there are electric lamps, transformers, chokes etc. to generate heat, it is now common practice to use specially formulated cylindrical cells to withstand these arduous conditions and to comply with recent specifications. These batteries need to have an expected life of at least four years in use. (Specification BS 5266 and ICEL 1001.)

Button Cells

These cells are not fitted with a venting mechanism, and their construction means that they have a higher internal resistance. They are very popular for relatively small current, regular cycling, and infrequent or limited overcharge applications. Their capacities range from 60 mAh to 600 mAh, as shown in Table 2. Although their energy densities are somewhat less than that of cylindricals (70 watt-hours per litre compared with 100 watt-hours per litre), this is often compensated for by the compact way in which they can be stacked to form very convenient battery packs, as illustrated in Figure 8.

A cross-section of a button cell is shown in Figure 3. This is of the 250 mAh size and it will be seen to have three electrodes; one positive sandwiched between two negatives. This is a typical so-called 'D.A.' construction. Other variations are the 'Z.A.' type with only two electrodes and the 'V.A.' with four electrodes. The greater the number of electrodes, the lower the internal resistance for a given Ampere hour capacity (see Table 2).

Bution cells are of the 'mass plate' type of construction, in which the electrodes are produced by compressing the active chemical ingredients into metal mesh pockets. The big advantage of these pressed plate cells is that they retain their charge longer when stored (compare figures 7 and 9). This very important property of button cells is often utilised for memory protection in electronic circuits.

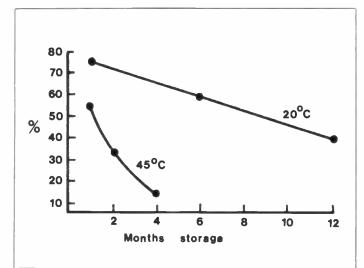






Figure 8. A selection of button cell batteries.

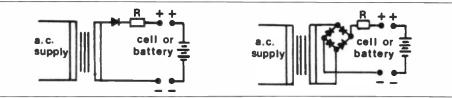


Figure 10. Simple charging circuits.

	Capacity	Voltage	Maximum Diameter	Maximum Thickness	Approx. Weight	C/10 Charge Rate	Internal Resistance
NCB6ZA	60mAh	1.2	16mm	6.1 mm	4g	6mA	280m 🔉
NCB11ZA	110mAh	1.2	23mm	4.5mm	6g	11 mA	140m 🔉
NCB15ZA	150mAh	1.2	25mm	5.5mm	9g	15mA	120m 🔉
NCB25ZA	250mAh	1.2	25mm	9.0mm	13g	25mA	100m Ω
NCB25DA	250mAh	1.2	25mm	9.0mm	13.5g	25mA	70m 🔉
NCB60ZA	600mAh	1.2	35mm	10.0mm	30.0g	60mA	70m 🔉
NCB60VA	600mAh	1.2	35mm	10.0mm	30.5g	60mA	30m 🔉

Table 2. Some typical button cells.

Charging

Continuous charging of button cells is possible at normal temperatures, but it is necessary to limit the charge current to C/100. Thus, for the 250 mAh cell or battery, the maximum 'trickle' current should be 2.5 mA.

As with other cells, solder joints must not be made directly on to the cell cases, as internal plastic insulators could be damaged. Manufacturers supply cells and batteries with solder tags as requested. Certain packs, for memory protection, are often supplied with tags suitable for fixing directly to PC boards.

For most purposes a 'constant-current'

suitable for this purpose. For a satisfactory constant current it is recommended that the resistances marked 'R' drop a voltage about equal to that of the battery being charged. Other types include circuits for charging

from vehicle batteries, solar cells and transistorised sources, and there are many techniques employed for controlling such refinements as fast charging, and correcting for extremes of environmental conditions.

charge system is used for sealed cells.

Figure 10 gives a couple of simple circuits

Simple, well designed, and convenient chargers are readily available on the retail market, to accept and charge cells and batteries for domestic items such as torches, tape recorders, and toys etc.

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The price list is intended for use with our 1981 catalogue and applies to all mail orders. Prices in our shop are generally lower on heavy items as mail order prices include postage and packing costs.

Copies of manufacturers' data sheets are available for most IC's — price 40p each.

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Page 37 RQ42V Book HD585 XW04E Book FT1055 XW42V Book HD115 XW24B Book HD14 XW24B Book HD14 XW59P Book HD154 XW59P Book HD154 XW59P Gook FT1095	£5.60NV £7.65NV £9.95NV	XQ09K G-Range 3G XQ10L G-Range 4B Page 43 XY61R Centurion DX1 XY62S Centurion DX2 XY63T Centurion DX3 XY64U Centurion WX3	£6.95 £7.85 £8.65	BL53H L/C Wire Red. BL54J L/C Wire Vrotet BL55K L/C Wire Vrotet BL55K L/C Wire Yellow BL56L L/C Wire Yellow BL01B Wire 10M Black BL02C Wire 10M Brown BL030 Wire 10M Green BL031 Wire 10M Green	£1.25 £1.25 £1.25 £1.25 35p 35p 35p 35p	XR29G Low Loss Co-Az. XR31J Bal Feeder YR19V Marker A0 YR20W Marker A1 YR21X Marker A2 YR22Y Marker A3 YR23A Marker A5 YR25C Marker A5 YR25C Marker A7	190 90 90 90 90 90 90	WX71N Ceramic 1800 WX71N Ceramic 1200 WX32P Ceramic 2200 WX33Q Ceramic 2200 WX74R Ceramic 3200 WX75F Ceramic 3300 WX75F Ceramic 4700 WX77F Ceramic 4700 WX77F Ceramic 4700 YX78 Ceramic 2000 YY28 Monocap 0.001 YY25C Monocap 0.0021	6p 6p 6p 6p 6p 6p 6p 0 4 6p 0 6p
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Page 82 HL09K Wafercon Skt 3-way HL10L Wafercon Skt 4-way HL11M Wafercon Skt 6-way HL12N Wafercon Skt 12-way HL14Q Wafercon Terminat. YW32K Polarcon 0.2in YW32K Polarcon 0.2in YW32K Compactboard. YY22Y CB Pin Blue. YY23A CB Pin Red. YY22D CT Pin White	10p 16p 17p 25p 3p 6p £1350 37p	Page 88 AF18U Canon LC31 Canon LC31 Canon LC52 Canon LC52	£11 85 £13.95	HL56L Te *HL57M 57 RW67X 13 HL58N Ru HL59P 15 HL60Q Ke HL61R Fle HL62S Ma HL62S Ma	rminal Block 30A rminal Block Conn. Amp Plug Amp Plug Nylon bber 13A Plug A Plug Nylon ttle Connector ex Connector ex Connector ans Adaptor 2-way aver Adaptor	£1.47 59p 79p 	BF48C ISOD BF49D ISOD BF50E ISOD BF51F ISOD BF52G ISOD BF53H ISOD BF54J ISOD	Screw M2 6mm olt M3 12mm olt M4 6mm olt M4 25mm olt M3 25mm olt M3 312mm olt M3 12mm olt M2 5 5mm olt M2 5 6mm olt M2 5 12mm olt M2 5 12mm olt M2 5 12mm	33p 57p 20p 26p 35p 19p	RW88V Knob M1 M2 RW93W Knob M2 M2 RW93V Knob M3 RX00A RX10L Knob M4 RX11 RX11M Knob R2 R4 Page 114 RW78K Knob F1 RX012 Knob F1 RX012 RX012 RX012 Knob F1 RX02 Knob F2 RX012 Knob Knob KA M3 M3 M3	38p 30p 26p 45p 45p 55p
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Page 87 RW23A Dinpak K	£1.34 £1.55	Page 103 AC20W Crcus Game. AC17T Human Cannonball. AC23A Casing Game. AC31J Night Driver Game. AC32K Dodge Em. AC33L Pele Soccer Game. K for leaflet XH52G (Issue 3 t	£18 95 £24.95 £18.95 £24.95	BF24B S BF25C S BF26D S LR01B S	asher 88A hake 28A hake 28A hake 48A hake 68A hake 68A ag 28A ag 48A ag 68A ag 88A	9p 9p 9p 8p	XH40T Trai XH41U Trai XH42V Trai XH43W Trai XH43W Trai XH44X Trai XH45Y Pan XH46A Pan	3 Guides nsfer 1/8in Black. nsfer 1/8in Red nsfer 1/8in White. nsfer 1/4in Black. nsfer 1/4in Red nsfer 1/4in White. nel Transfer Black. nel Transfer Red nel Transfer White.	25p £1.35 £1.56 £1.56 £1.56 £1.45 £1.45 £1.35 £1.56 £1.56 £1.35	YW79L Mic Hidr Magn XY72P Base Station M LB65A Tie-Clip Mic. Page 119 YW71N UM Tie-Clip M YB34M Low-Cost Elect YB350, Eletret Mic 8Cl WF34M Electret Mic Do	etic
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Page 161 XH21X MES37 XX03D 10-Channel GI XB74R 10-Chi Eqisr M XB75S 10-Chi Eqisr M HY21X Clock Timer PC	25pNV 	WHOGE FUse 11/4 160mm WHOGE FUse 11/4 250mA WRIOL FUse 11/4 250mA WRIOL FUse 11/4 450mA WRID FUse 11/4 450mA WRID FUse 11/4 50mA WRID FUse 11/4 154 WRID FUse 11/4 154 WRID FUse 11/4 154 WRID FUse 11/4 154 WRID FUse 11/4 164	8p 8p 8p 9p 9p	VX17T Stylue Philip /		Y113P Resnet 220F Y1140 Resnet 470R Y115R Resnet 1k Y116R Resnet 1k Y117R Resnet 1k Y177R Resnet 1k Y120W Resnet 2k Y120W Resnet 2k Y120W Resnet 2k Y212K Resnet 20k Y212K Resnet 10k Y212K Resnet 10k.	28 swg £3.35 850 850 850 850 850 850 850 85	PW87U Dual Pot Lin 101 PW88V Dual Pot Lin 201 PW89W Dual Pot Lin 201 PW90X Dual Pot Lin 170 PW91X Dual Pot Lin 1M PW92A Dual Pot Lin 1M PX08J Dual Pot Log 10 PX10L Dual Pot Log 10 PX10L Dual Pot Log 20
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Page 166 LR24B HO Mixer PCB LR42V HO Mixer PCB LR25C HO Mixer PCB LR25D HO Mixer PCB		PO28P Carrier Kit SP25VI FO29G Carrier Kit SP25VI L876H Dr Wheel Carrard FO30H Dr Wheel Carrard FO31J Spindle Man Long FO33L Spindle Auto Shon FO34M Spindle Auto Long YB43W SP25IV Tone Arm FO350 CB Weight SP25IV FO36F Carrard Drive Bel YB43Y SP25IV Motor	Sm£2.85 t72p 79p t£4.50 DIS	YW84F Stylus Brush FR46A Stylus Clean YB55K Cleaning Kit	C103 12n	WR92A Hor Skeleto WW00A Vrt Skeleto WW01A Vrt Skeleto WW02C Vert Skeleto WW03D Vrt Skeleto WW03C Vrt Skeleto WW05G Vrt Skeletor WW06G Vrt Skeletor WW06G Vrt Skeletor WW01A Vrt Skeletor WW01A Vrt Skeletor WW12N Vrt Skeletor WW14Q Vrt Skeletor	in 470R 24p 1 k 24p 2 k2 24p 1 2 k2 24p 1 2 k2 24p 1 0 k 24p 1 2 k2 24p 1 0 k 24p 1 2 k 24p	Pi22? Thermistor VAI FX42W Thermistor VAI FX43W Thermistor VAI FX62S Thermistor VAI FX62S Thermistor G16 WH24B Thermistor G16 WH24B Thermistor G23 HB10L LDR DRP12 HB11M LDR DRP61 HB12N LDR DRP61
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Maplin Magazine September 1982

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TF410 74595 QX87U 744596 YF42Y 741596 QX71N 74107 QX88V 7415107 QX88V 74109 YF44X 74109		YH51F 8279 YH52G 825126M1 Page 224 0H36P LM301A QH37S LM308	£9.95 £3.49	Page 243 YH68Y ML928 YH69A ML929 YY71N LM1871 YQ69A LM1871 Xmitter PCB		0006G 4164 250ns. 0005F 1702 1000ns 0015F 2708 450ns. 0007H 2716 450ns. Page 260	£5.990 £4.10 £4.40	WF33L Free Stand Tweeter WF43W Dome Tweeter WF44X Rectangular Tweeter *WF02C Crossover 2-Way WF03D Crossover 3-Way Page 271	£5.95 £5.45 £5.45
WH00A 74122 0054J 74LS122 WH01B 74123		Page 225 W054J NE531 VY68V NE5534A QL20W uA709C QL22Y uA741C 8-pin DIL QL23A uA741C 14-pin DIL	£1.65 £2.45 	Page 244 YY72P LM1872 YQ70M LM1872 Receiver PCE W055K NE 544 YQ71N Servo Driver PCB WQ76H TL172C	E2 18	0008J 2732 450ns	ALV A	WF45Y Escutcheon Crssover. WF46A Controlled Crossover WF47B Low-Cost 4in Sphr. WB27E Rd Sphr CM420. YW55K Hastic Car Gnile WF50E Elliptcal Spkr CM641 WF50E Elliptcal Spkr CM641	r£10.69 £4.25 DIS 90p DIS £6.45
WH02C 74LS124 YF49D 74LS125 YF50E 74LS126 WH03D 74132 YF51F 74LS132 YF52G 74LS136	DIS 33p 33p 55p 45p 32p	01248 uA747C. 0125C uA748C. 0H46A 1458C		Page 245 W0755 TL170C	\$2.65	WQ27E ER3401 YH52G 825126M1 WQ59P RO.3-2513 YH38R 8038 CCPD	DIS £3.49 £8.95 £4.69	WF50E Elliptcal Spir CM-641 WF18U Elliptcal Spir CM-74 WF23A Ethiptcal Spir CM-852 WY13P Elliptcal Spir LT853 Page 272 WF00A Rd Speaker LT530	2£4.45 2£5.20 £6.45
QQ55K 74L5137 YF53H 74L5138 WH05E 74141 WH06G 74145 YF55K 74L5145 QL89W 74150 WH07H 74150 WH07H 74151		Page 226 OH350_LH0042C		Page 246 YY98G AY.3.1270 WQ41U LM3914 YY96E LM3915 YY97F LM3916 YQ66w LM3914 PCB	£8.30 £2.41 £2.93 £3.46 85p	YQ65V 8038 PCB OWB08 4151 OQ018 DAC0801LCN OQ00A ADC0804LCN YH59P ICL7109 WQ38R LM2917	85p 89p £2.45 £4.45 £16.55 £2.29	WF52G Rd Speaker L1610. WF08J Rd Speaker L1610. WF11M Rd Speaker L1830. WF12N Rd Speaker L1830. WF53H 20W Squawker WT15R 40W Squawker X077J Fane 50 4R. X826D Fane 50 8R. X826D Fane 50 8R.	£5.75 £5.95 £7.30 £11.45
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FH25C Hekia Switch Red. FH25D Hekia Switch White. FH27E Hekia Switch Yellow H30H SFST Rocker FH31J SFDT Rocker YR69A Rocker Se DP FH34M DFDT Rocr * R70M Dual Rocker Neon * X70D Dual Rocker Neon	DIS DIS 39p 49p 63p 63p 98p 10	Page 283 YX94C Ultra-Min Relay SPDT YX95D Ultra-Min Relay DPDT YX95E 3A Min Relay YX97F 10A Mains Relay YX98G 5A Mains Relay Page 284		Page 297 YX74R Min Screwdriver BR52G Small Screwdriver BR53H Large Screwdriver Yt224D Driver S2 Pr12N Driver S5 Pr12N Driver S5 Pr13P Driver S6 Pr15R Pozidriver P1 Pr15R Pozidriver P2 BR71N Mains Tester	89.0	HQ11M HS Drill 13/64in HQ12N HS Drill 13/24in HQ13P HS Drill 15/64in HQ14Q HS Drill 15/64in HQ15R HS Drill 17/64in HQ15B HS Drill 17/32in HQ17T HS Drill 17/64in HQ17T HS Drill 17/64in HQ17T HS Drill 21/64in HQ17B HS Drill 21/64in HQ20W HS Drill 21/64in HQ21X HS Drill 21/64in		HX57M GE Coil L8 HW24B GE Coil L14 HX56L GE Coil L7 HX55K GE Coil L6 HX54J GE Coil L5 HW25C GE Coil L5 HW25C GE Coil L12 HW26D GE Coil L11	£2 20 £1 95 £2 20 £2 20 £2 25
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Page 277 FF730, Rotary SW12B FF74R, Rotary SW4B FF75S, Rotary SW4B FF75S, Rotary SW4B FH42W, Rotary SW4 FH43W, Rotary SW4 FH45W, Rotary SW4 FH45W, Rotary SW4 FH45Y, Rotary SW4 FH45W,		FX30H 4p Sub-Min Relay 12V Page 285 HY20W Relay Flat 12V FX48C Power Relay 12V AC FX48C Power Relay 230V AC YB80W Car Relay Single FX50E Reed Relay 6 to 9V	£2.43 £3.95 £4.25 DIS £1.98	Page 298 BR70M Box Joint Min Cutter PY20W Box JT End Cutter FY21X Low-Cost Cutters FY76H Large Low Cost Cutters BR74R Side Cutters	C.93 C.015 C.225 C.25 C.25 C.25 C.25 C.25 C.25 C.	HÖ25D HS Drill 7/16in HÖ25F HS Drill 7/26in HÖ28F HS Drill 15/32in HÖ29G HS Drill 1/2in. PY58N Round Tape Rule PY59P Retractable Rule PY600 Feeler Gauge Inp PY601 Feeler Gauge Metric.	DIS £2.45 £2.75 DIS £2.75	XX30H Equaliser Pot Core HW27E Choke 10H HX15R Choke 5uH HC HX15R Choke 1.5mH HX16S Choke 2.5mH HX17T Choke 5mH HX18U Choke 7.5mH HX19V Choke 10mH	£1.99 £1.96
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Page 278 FH45A Maka Shaft	£1.10 £1.06 £1.06 £1.25 £1.10	FX92A Dil Rd Relay 1 pC/05V FX93B Dil Rd Rly 1 p C/012V FX68V Reed SW Standard FX68V Reed SW Compact FX70M Reed SW Wornsiture FX71N Magnet Small FX72P Magnet Large HB13P Sw Former Stan One HB17T Sw Former Stan One HB17T Sw Former Comp One	£8.39 89p £1.75 	Page 299 FY27E Low-Cost Long Pilers BR92A Combination Pilers BR930 Box Radio Pilers FY28F Low-Cost Elec Pilers FY29C Low-Cost Elec Pilers	£3.99 £5.50 £7.49 £6.37 £2.85	PY65W Bit 1102 PY67X Bit 1103 FR01B Element Type CN FR02C Handle Type CN FR03D Bit 102 FR04E Bit 104 FR05F Bit 106 FR05F Bit 106 FR07H Bit 821 FR06J Bit 822 FR07BJ Bit 822 FR07BJ Bit 822		WH331 Choke 4.7uH WH344 Choke 6.8uH WH340 Choke 10.0uH WH350 Choke 10.0uH WH350 Choke 10.0uH WH350 Choke 15.0uH WH350 Choke 15.0uH WH375 Choke 15.0uH WH380 Choke 33.0uH WH390 Choke 33.0uH WH390 Choke 33.0uH WH390 Choke 33.0uH WH410 Choke 34.70uH WH417 Choke 170uH WH417 Choke 170uH WH429 Choke 170uH WH427 Choke 100H WH428 Choke 100H	48p 48p 48p 54p 55p
FH53G Maixe Weiter Up 2 2w h FH53H Maka Wafer 2p 6w M FH53H Maka Wafer 2p 6w M FH54J Maka Wafer 2p 9w M FH55K Maka Screen FH55K Maka Screen FF88W Click Cap Black FF89W Click Cap Black FF90X Click Cap Green FF91Y Click Cap Green FF91Y Click Cap Grey.		TEST GEAR Page 287 HF19V Test Prod Black HF20W Test Prod Red YS57M Min Probe Black YX59N Min Probe Black YX59P Min Probe Blace		BR31Y Electricians Miers. FY30H Pincers. FY31H Cimp Tool BR76H End Acton Stripper BR93B Wire Strippers 3A. BR95D Wire Strippers 9 BR95C Stripmaster. BR95F Biade L5361 XX11M Biade L4421.	£4.90 £3.37 £2.15 £5.99 £2.35 £1.49 £3.96 £16.25 £6.20	FR08.J Bit 822 FR12N Iron X25		Page 311 HX42V Toko YRCS 11098 YG30H Toko YRCS 11309 HX43W Toko YRCS 11100 YG31J Toko XS3464 YG32K Toko XS3464 YG92F Toko ACS 34343 YG39F Toko ACS 34343 YG39R Toko ACS 34343 YG39A Toko KACS 4449 LB00A IFT 13	51 p 52 p 52 p 47 p 47 p 64 p
FF91Y Click Cap Grey FF92A Click Cap Ivory FF93B Click Cap Ivory FF93B Click Cap White FF95D Click Cap Velow FF61R Keytop a Velow FF62S Keytop 1 Position FF63T Keytop 2 Position FF64U Keytop 3 Position FF65V ASCII Transparency YR71N Switch Contact Sheet.		YX600 Min Probe Red. YX61R Min Probe Vellow. HF21X Probe Clips. HF30H Pistol Probe Black. HF31J Pistol Probe Black. HF32Y Lo-Cost Test Probe. HF32K Moulded Test Probe. HF33L 4mm Test Probe. YR93A CAVO-type Test Lead Vi.	42p 42p 98p 99p 99p 74p 79p 89p 64.45 £2.75	Page 300 FY32K Hand Wrap Tool HY16S Verowire Pen HY17T Verowire Spool FY33L Verowire Comb FY34L Allen Keye AF	£5.48 £4.95 	Page 305 FY69A Kit SK4. WY05F Rechargeable Iron. YX67X B50 Bit Round YX67X B50 Bit Rangled. YX69A B50 Bt Flattened YX70M B50 Lamp YX71M B50 Holder YX72P B50 Sponge FR10L Heat Sink Tweezers. FR23A Solder Sucker		LB03D IFT 16	£1.75 £1.72 £1.75 £1.81 £2.19
Page 279 FF77J SP Slide FF79L Long Chrome Slide FF79L Long Chrome Slide FF36F Slid Slide Switch FH36F Slide VR67X HQ Push Switch FH59P Push Switch FH50P Dreak Push FH50C Square Push Black.		FY73Q Logic Probe Page 288 FY88V Continuity Probe BW05F Scope Probe BNC BR89W Scope Probe Amm FY74R IC Test Clip YB21X Safebloc YR95D Lo.Cast Scope Probe		PY350 Alten Keys Metric. YR820 Min Spanner Set. PY35P Min Spanner 24. PY357 Min Spanner 62. PY38R Ring Spanner 62. PY38N Ring Spanner 62. YW61R Box Spanner Set. YW61R Box Spanner Set. YW62R Crescent Wrench 210 Page 301	£1.69 £2.15 DIS	FR10L Heat Sink Tweezers. FR23A Solder Sucker FR24B Sucker Tiplet. FR26D Desider Tool. FR27E Desidr Vozte Type 2 FR3T Desidr Washer Type 2 FR3T Desidr Washer Type 2 FR27E Desolder Nozzle FR29G Solda-Mop. FR21X Solder D622. PY70M 1/2kg Reel Solder PY71N Alum Solder Im Pk.	£1.55 £7.25 	HX69A Trans Coil 11 Blue HX70M Trans Coil 11 Red. HX71N Trans Coil 11 White HX72P Trans Coil 21 Blue HX72P Trans Coil 21 Blue HX73G Trans Coil 21 Blue HX75S Trans Coil 21 White HX75M Trans Coil 21 White HX75M Trans Coil 31 Blue HX79L Trans Coil 31 Blue HX79L Trans Coil 31 White HX79L Trans Coil 31 White	w
FF97F Square Push Green FF98G Square Push Red FF99H Square Push Yellow. YW41U Square Psh Lck Black YW42V Square Psh Lck Green YW43W Square Psh Lck Rd YW44X Square Psh Lck Yolw. FH41U Pushlock SPCD FH66W Pushlock DPCD FH44C Pressil Switch		Page 289 X882D Calscope Super 6 eXB83E Scopex 14D1 UK with X882. Carr in UK with X883 Page 290		PY40T Box Spanner 28A PY41U Box Spanner 48A PY42V Box Spanner 68A PY42W Box Spanner 88A PY44X Quick Grips PY447B Adjustable Wrench PY47B Adjustable Wrench PY49D Needle File Flat Wrd PY50E Needle File Hand	£3.20 £5.60 £1.75 £1.75	Page 306 FY72P Conductive Paint LH04E Freeze-it. LH03D Switch Cleaner YB77J Servisol	£5.35 £1.94 £1.94 £1.66 £1.55	HX808 Trans Coil 31 Yelio HX89W Trans Coil 41 Blue HX90X Trans Coil 41 Blue HX90X Trans Coil 41 Red. HX91Y Trans Coil 41 White HX92A Trans Coil 51 Blue HX94C Trans Coil 51 Red. HX95D Trans Coil 51 White HX95E Trans Coil 51 White	£2.17 £2.45 w.£2.20 £1.82 £2.17
Page 280 FH92A Press Toe Sw Type 1 FH93B Press Toe Sw Type 2 LB64U Foot Switch 2.5mm Jk FH37S Mains Push	£1.20 £1.95 £4.25 £1.10	XY05F 500MHz Frequery Cntr. LH05F Transistor Test HFE Y882D LCR Bridge Y881C Seesure Sig Gen Y993B Low Cost Multimeter FL60Q Pocket Multimeter FL60Q Pocket Multimeter Page 291 Seesure Sig Gen Y893C Y893C	£7.50	PY51F Needle File Halfrod. PY52G Needle File Round BR64U Gin Hucksaw Blades PY54I Wire Brushew Blades PY54I Wire Brushew Blades PY55K Wet & Dry Fine PY55K Wet & Dry Fine PY57W Wet & Dry Course PY50C Wet & Dry Course PY02D Retractable Knife		YB730 Aero-Duster YB74R Silicone Grease YB75S Plastic Seal. YB76H Foam Cleanser YB78K Excel Poist YB79L Anti-Static Spray. YB806 Fire Extinguisher FL43W Evostik Impact. Page 307	£1.72 £4.85 	Page 312 HX82D Min Tr LT44 LB140 Min Tr LT700 YR91Y Min Tr LT800 WB00A Sub-Min Tr 6V WB01B Sub-Min Tr 9V WB02C Sub-Min Tr 12V WB03E Min Tr 12V WB10E Min Tr 9V WB10B Min Tr 12V WB10E Min Tr 15V WB10E Min Tr 15V WB10E Min Tr 15V WB10E Min Tr 15V	
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Page 281 PH67X Latchswitch 4-pole PH68A Latchswitch 4-pole PH69A Latchswitch 8-pole PH70M Latchswitch 10-pole BW11M Latchsoft 4-pole BW12N Latchsoft 4-pole PH72P Latchdurny PH72P Latchsoft 4-pole PH72P Latchsoft 4-pole PH72P Latchsoft 4-pole PH72P Latchsoft 4-pole PH72P Latchsoft 4-pole PH72P Latchbracket Single		YB84F Microtest 80. YB85G Supertester 680G YB86T Supertester 680R Page 293 LH80B LH80B Clamp Meter LH94C DMM 100		PY05F Scalpel Handle PY05G Scalpel Bid Type II BR59P Punch 3/8in BR59P Punch 7/16in BR61R Punch 1/2in BR61R Punch 5/8in BR80B Punch 5/8in BR81C Punch 3/4in BR83E Punch 11/2in BW00A Punch 11/2in	£1.75 46p £4.38 £4.29 £4.64 £4.64 £4.64 £4.83 £4.83 £5.20	FLASC PYC Tape Blue FLASD PYC Tape Brown FLSDE PYC Tape Red FLSDE PYC Tape Red FLSIF PYC Tape Red FLSZG PYC Tape White YR99H PYC Tape Yellow	35p 35p 35p 35p 35p 35p	WB25C Tr 12V 1A WB26D Tr 12V 2A WB03D Tr 9V 1.1/2A WB12N Tr 20V 1A WB17T Tr 28V 1.1/2A WB37T Tr 28V 1.1/2A W55PP Trnsformer Mtg Pia	£7.95 £6.25 £8.25 £9.95 £23.25
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AF40T Epson MX80F/T Mk III Price £447.35 AF41U Centronics Interface for Atari 400 Price £59.95 AF42V Centronics Interface for Atari 800 AF42V Centronics Interface for Atari 800 Price £59:95 AF43W Versawriter for Atari 400/800 Price £169.00 Price £125.35 AF44X 48K RAM Module Pric AF45Y 48K Upgrade for Atari 400 Price £75.00 AF47B VIC20 Colour Computer Price £199.99 AF48C VIC20 Cassette C2N AF48C VIC20 Cassette C2N AF49D VIC20 Printer Price £199.99 AF49D VIC20 Printer Price £230.00 AF50E VIC20 Disk Drive AF52G VIC20 Disk Drive AF54J VIC16K RAM AF54J VIC16K RAM AF54J VIC20 Memory Expansion AF54J VIC20 AF54 AF54J VIC20 AF FI ECTRICAL ICAL Timetouch Electronic Time Switch Price £24.80 HARDWARE HY30H Isobolt M3 x 9mm (pk of 10) Price 12p HY31J Steel Washer 4BA (pk of 10) Price 11p HY31J Steel Washer 4BA (pk c KNOBS QY00A LC Cap Black QY00B LC Cap Blue QY02C LC Cap Green QY02C LC Cap Grey QY03D LC Cap Grey QY05F LC Cap White QY06G LC Cap White QY06G LC Cap Vellow YG40T Low-Cost Collet Knob MICPOPUNATS Price 5p Price 27p MICROPHONES HY33L Crystal Mic Insert (metal body) Price 84p RK03D Power Mic DM313P Price £11.75 RK04E Power Mic DM311P Price £13.95 XG11M Base Station Mic DX357 Price £33.50 XG12N Base Station Mic BSA610A Price £33 50 OPTO-ELECTRICAL QR54J Rectangular Multicolour LED Price 75p Price £7.95 Price £8.95 Price £10.25 RK22Y Solar Panel 6V RK224 Solar Panel SV RK23A Solar Panel 9V RK24B Solar Panel 12V ORGAN COMPONENTS Price 96p Price 96p Price 96p Price 4p Price 2p Price £1.55 BH49D Tablet Rocker Grey BH50E Tablet Rocker Orange BH51F Tablet Rocker Red BH51F Tablet Rocker Red BH62S Spacer Block BH62S Spacer Block BR98G Drawbar Blue BR99H Drawbar Green F898G Rubber Coupling QY07H Contact Springs XB95D Organ Stool XG00A Roll-Top Guides (pair) XG00A BMusic Stand XY89W Switched Swell Bedat £1.55 Price 66p Price 8p Price £29.50 Price £2.50 Price £4.75 XY89W Switched Swell Pedal Price £11.45 XY92A Twin Keyboard and Frame ATSKA Iwin Reyboard and Frame Price £49.90° XY97F Keyboard Separator XY98G Swell Pedal Housing and Trim Frice £1.95° XY99H Roll Top Price £19.50° PANEL METERS RK05F Quick-fit Meter 100-0-100uA Price £2.95 Price £2.95 Price £2.95 RK06G Quick-fit Meter 50uA RK08H Quick-fit Meter 100uA RK08U Quick-fit Meter 100uA RK09K Quick-fit Meter 10mA RK10L Quick-fit Meter 10mA RK12N Quick-fit Meter 10mA RK12P Quick-fit Meter 100mA Price £2,95 Price £2,95 Price £2,95 Price £2,95 Price £2,95 Price £2.95 Price £2.95

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GA08J Woofer PCB GA09K 24-Way Contact PCB GA10L 25-Way Contact PCB GA11M Continuity Tester PCB GA12N Consover PCB GA12N Crossover PCB GA13P Balanced Line Driver PCI GA14Q PA Controller Display PCB GA15R PA Controller Displa	Price £2.85 Price £2.80 Price £2.80 Price £2.87 Price £2.87 Price £2.50 B Price £2.10 Component Price £1.25 y LED PCB Price £1.45
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YK20W Toroidal 120VA 0-30, 0-3	
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NEW BOOKS



Electronics Simplified -- Crystal Set Construction by F. A. Wilson

This book is designed especially for those who wish to participate in the intricacies of electronics more through practical construction than by theoretical study. The original Crystal set is no longer with us, but it has a modern counterpart and the circuits are still the basis of radio receivers so the reader discovers much about modern radio. Construction of several crystal sets is shown in detail

1982. 80 pages. 178 x 110mm. Illustrated.

Order As WA34M (Book BP92) Price £1.75NV

Mini-Matrix Board Projects by R. A. Penfold

A selection of twenty useful and interesting circuits any of which can be built on a small Veroboard type 14354 (FL06G). Projects include a MW radio, guitar headphone amp, transistor checker, microphone amp, aerial booster, kitchen timer, baby alarm touch switch, automatic signal, magnetic lock and 10 more. 1982. 112 pages. 178 x 110mm. Illustrated.

Order As WA35Q (Book BP99). Price £1.95NV

Multi-Circuit Board Projects by R. A. Penfold

The book contains 21 electronic projects, any of which may be con-structed on the same specially designed pcb. Ready-made pcb's are available from Maplin (GA79L £1.25). Also the same components have been used in each design where possible so that components and pcb may be used over and over again. 1982. 128 pages. 178 x 110mm. Illustrated.

Order As WA36P (Book BP103) Price £1.95NV

Aerial Projects

by R. A. Penfold

The book contains various practical aerial designs including active, loop and ferrite aerials which give good performances yet are relatively simple and inexpensive to build. Complex theory and mathematics of aerial design have been avoided. Constructional details are given for a number of aerial accessories including a preselector, attenuator, filters and tuning unit.

1982. 96 pages. 178 x 110mm. Illustrated.

Order As WA37S (Book BP105) Price £1.95NV

Understanding Automotive Electronics

by W. B. Ribbens & N. P. Mansour (Texas Instruments Data Library) Many automotive functions are now being controlled electronically. Engine performance with good fuel eco-38

nomy and low exhaust emissions, cruise control, digital panel, displays even speech synthesis products are just a few of the practical applications of automotive electronics. This book explains in detail many of the applications of electronics in cars. 1982. 288 pages. 210 x 134mm. Illustrated.

Order As WA44X (Understanding Car Price £4.95NV Electronics)

The Art of Programming The 1K ZX81 by M. James & S. M. Gee

The book shows you how to use the features of the ZX81 in programs that fit into the 1K machine. The book covers random number generation graphics, moving graphics, PEEK and POKE, the ZX81 timer, and strings and words. There are several ready-to-run programs and plenty of hints and tips to help you get even more out of your 1K ZX81

1982. 96 pages. 178 x 110mm. Illustrated Order As WA38R (Book BP109)

Price £1.95NV

Advanced 6502 Interfacing by John M. Holland

For anyone interested in robotics and computer control, here is a collection design techniques and actual of circuits that can be used or adapted to virtually any situation. Thoroughly covered are input and output port design, serial communications, timing and timers, A/D and D/A conversion, data acquisition and closed-loop control. Though offering advanced solutions to some rather complex and perplexing problems, it is written in an easy-to-understand manner, with clear explanations of circuit applications and operation for those looking for new ideas

1982. 192 pages. 216 x 134mm. illustrated

Order As WA41U (Advanced 6502 Interfacing) Price £11.45NV

Beyond Games: Systems Software For Your 6502 Personal Computer by Ken Skier

Use your 6502-based personal computer for more than games! This book, for Apple, Atari, Ohio Scientific and PET, presents a guided tour to your computer. It moves through a fast, but surprisingly complete course in assembly language programming. Having mastered these fundamentals, the reader is introduced to many useful subroutines and programming tools, such as screen utilities, print utilities, a machine language monitor, a hexadecimal dump tool, a disassembler and a simple screen-based text editor 1981. 438 pages. 232 x 186mm. Illu-

strated. Order As WA45Y (Beyond Games)

Price £13.00NV

30-Hour BASIC (ZX81 Edition) by Clive Prigmore, Richard Freeman and Robert Horvath

BASIC

This book has been specially pre-pared for BBC TV's 'The Computer Program' for use with the ZX81. The book is a simple self-instructional course on the language of microcomputers, but it teaches you good programming techniques. You'll learn how to keep, order and sort files, records and directories; how to print letters and addresses; how to invent your own computer games; how to handle numbers and so on

1982. 228 pages. 210 x 148mm. Illu strated in 2 colours.

Order As WA42V (30-Hour Basic) Price £6.50NV

Practical Programs (for the BBC Computer & Acorn Atom) by David Johnson-Davies

The programs in this book illustrate many of the features of the BBC computer and its close relative, the Acorn Atom. They include games, language manipulation, mathema tics and sophisticated graphics. Users of the book are encouraged to understand how the programs work so each program is explained in great detail. The programs are listed in both BBC Computer and Acorn Atom formats

1982. 120 pages. 210 x 148mm. Illustrated.

Order As WA43W (Book JW414) Price £6.95NV

Games For The Atari

by S. Roberts The book contains a BASIC listing for

eight games and a machine code listing for one large game, Gunfight. The book also provides hints and tips for programming your own games. Screen movements are covered along with overlap detection, programming the joystick, sound features and ANTIC. The GTIA, display list interrupts and character set redefinition are also described

1982. 128 pages. 208 x 136mm. Illustrated Order As WA47B (Games For The

Price £4.45 NV Atari)

Atari Sound and Graphics

by Herb Moore, Judy Lower and Bob Albrecht

A crystal clear guide to the vast creative possibilities of artistic programming to owners of the Atari 400 or 800, the most visually advanced personal computers on the market With this self-teaching guide you'll learn how to compose and play melodies, draw cartoons, create sound effects and games and progress to more sophisticated artistic programming. 1982. 240 pages. 252 x 170mm

Illustrated. Order As WA39N (Book JW593) Price £8.25NV

Your Atari Computer by Lon Poole with Martin McNiff &

Steven Cook

De Me Atari

Here's an invaluable all-in-one guide for Atari 400/800 computer users. The authors provide complete operating instructions and troubleshooting tips on hardware, peripherals and compatible software. Two chapters are devoted solely to the superb Atari graphics capabilities. For beginners there is a tutorial in Atari BASIC plus instructions for use of colour graphics and sound. The book has a comprehensive reference of BASIC statements and functions

1982. 464 pages. 234 x 164mm. Illustrated

Order As WA40T (Your Atari Com-Price £13.45NV puter)

Atari Computer Operating System **User's Manual and Hardware** Manual.

This comprehensive loose-leaf book, covers the operating system of the Atari 400 and 800 in great depth. It also describes the hardware and hardware registers at a highly technical level. There are memory maps and complete circuit diagrams of the computer.

1981. 356 pages. 282 x 196mm. Illustrated.

Order As WA46A (Opsys Users Manual) Price £16.95NV

De Re Atari

This book is essential for the serious pro-grammer using the Atari 400 or 800, and unlocks the full amazing possibilities of these incredible machines. De Re (Day Ray)

these incredible machines. De Re (Day Ray) is Latin for 'All About' and this book is precisely that: All About Atari. The book describes Atari's second micro-processor, ANTIC which controls the TV display and whose program is a Display List, and details are given of how you can alter or build your own Display List and thus directly create pictures on your TV set instantan-eously. The colour registers and character sets are discussed, there is a whole section on Player Missile Graphics that permits real high-speed arcade-type graphics on your TV high-speed arcade-type graphics on your TV set and the powerful potential of Display List Interrupts is covered in detail.

The amazing scrolling capabilities of the Atari are described. Program techniques are described that allow the TV set to appear to be a window showing a small portion of a picture or map for example. By just using a joystick the window can be made to move horizontally, vertically and diagonally over the map smoothly, without steps or flickers. The Atari has four separate sound generators each having a frequency register determining the note, and a control register regulating the volume and the noise content. Several options are shown allowing you to insert high pass filters, choose clock bases, set alternate modes of operation and modify polynomial counters all in your programs. In addition the book covers the Operating System, the Disk Operating System and the BASIC interpreter, showing how the tokenis-ing scheme operates. This book opens the door to the amazing power of the Atari order As WG56L (De Re Atari) Price £16.95NV

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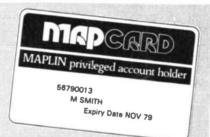
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Come and see all our superb software and Atari hardware at the 5th Personal Computer World Show to be held at the new Barbican Centre in the City of London. The show will be more than double the size of last year's show. The show will be held on two floors, one for professional and business microcomputing and one devoted to home and hobbyist applications and that's where you'll find us. So here's your chance to visit the marvellous new Barbican centre and see all the latest September 1982 Maplin Magazine

things that are happening in microcomputers at the same time.

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by Chris Barlow

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- * Easy to build only two interconnecting wires

This frequency counter offers a superior specification for the first time in kit form. The design is based on the Intersil ICM7216D, and includes electronically switched ranges for greater reliability and ease of construction. Provision has been made for possible future extensions, so this kit can be considered truly flexible.

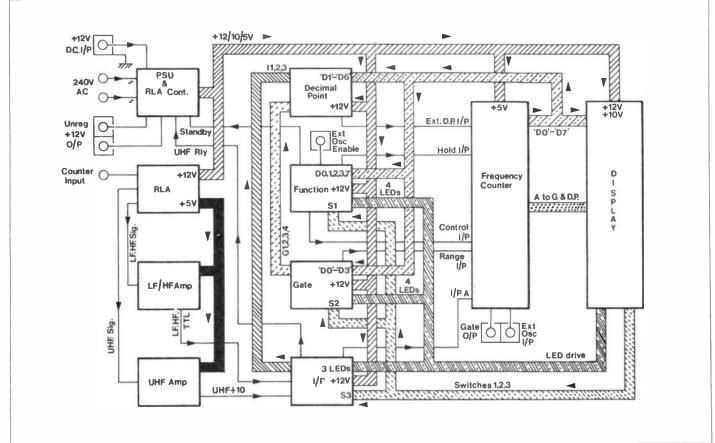
The integrated circuits used are of an extremely advanced and sophisti-

cated design, including CMOS, ECL, and Schottky TTL. The display uses multiplexed large red 7-segment LEDs for easy viewing. The functions and ranges are selected by computer-style key switches, and displayed on rows of different coloured LEDs. The input is a single BNC socket, and is switched automatically to the correct input amplifier. The counter will run off either an internal or an external reference oscillator, of either 1MHz or 10MHz (programmable). The power supplies are fuse protected on both DC and AC inputs.

Sain drain drain de

The Frequency Counter

IC1 (ICM7216D) has multiplexed inputs for function and range select. It also has its own internal reference



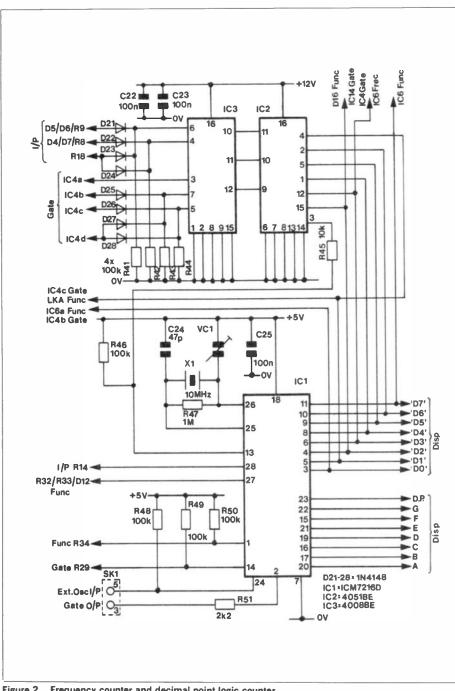
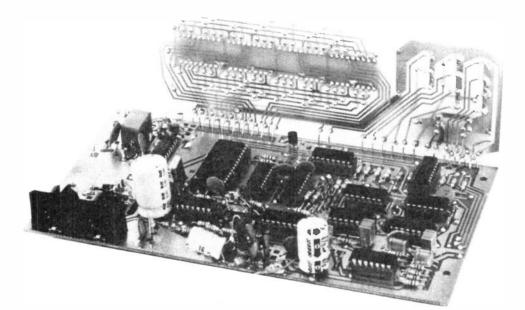


Figure 2. Frequency counter and decimal point logic counter.



oscillator, as well as provision for an external oscillator input (pin 24). Its internal oscillator is controlled by either a 10 MHz or a 1 MHz crystal. A 10 MHz crystal is supplied with the kit. Please note that if you wish to use the 1 MHz option, LKA on the PCB must be fitted. The crystal frequency is set by VC1. The setting of VC1 will determine the accuracy of the displayed frequency, and care should be taken in making this adjustment. IC1 provides the digit and segment drive for the 8-digit 7-segment displays. The digit drive multiplex signal is also used in the function and gate time selects circuits, to control the function and range inputs of IC1. Pin 2 of IC1 provides a gated signal output, which is fed to pin 3 of SK1, for possible future expansion to the system.

The Decimal Point

ICs 2 and 3 (CMOS 4051 and 4008) control the position of the decimal point. This is calculated by looking at the input range and gate time settings. The decimal point occurs at the transitional point between MHz and 100s kHz, except for the 10s gate time on L.F. range, where the decimal point occurs between Hz and tenths of Hz.

The Gate Time Function

This uses the CMOS 4093 (IC11) and 4017 (IC5) to select the gate times. The 4017 controls the CMOS bilateral switch CMOS 4016 (IC4). This selects the appropriate multiplex data line, which controls the range input (pin 14 of IC1). ICs 9 and 10 are the LED drivers for the four LEDs used in the display.

The Function Circuit

This is almost identical in operation to the Gate Time Circuit, but the multiplex data selected is fed to the control pin of IC1 (pin 1). In addition, the function circuit feeds signals to the input select, gate time select, and +10V control circuits. This disables the input select and gate time select in every mode except COUNT, also the +10V control is shut down in the DISPLAY OFF mode. A hold signal is generated in the function circuit which is fed to pin 27 of IC1, so that the frequency displayed can be stored for as long as is required. The display LEDs are driven by IC10 (CMOS 4049).

The Input Range Select Circuit

This functions similarly to the previous two, but features the control of Schottky TTL gates, which select either direct frequency, divide by ten, or divide by a hundred ranges. This is necessary because the maximum frequency that IC1 can handle is 10 MHz, therefore, for HF and UHF, division of the input signal is necessary. IC13 is the divide by ten chip used for HF and UHF ranges. In the UHF mode the 41

prescaler IC14 divides by ten, which is then fed into IC13, making a total division of one hundred. IC9 drives the display LEDs.

The UHF Input Amplifier/Prescaler

The UHF input stage uses a ZTX326 (TR3) broad band, high frequency amplifier in the common base mode. The UHF signal is fed to TR3 via the input relay circuit. It is then fed to the input pins (15 and 16) of IC14. The IC divides the signal by a factor of ten, and the signal is then fed to the input select circuit.

The LF/HF Amplifier

The input to the amplifier is a FET source follower, TR5, to provide a high input impedance. This feeds the signal into pin 5 of IC16, a three stage broadband amplifier. The output on pin 15 is a 1V peak-to-peak signal, which is fed to the base of TR4. This then converts the signal into a TTL switching level, which is fed to pin 1 of IC15. This provides a clean switching waveform to drive the input select circuit. The output is on pin 8.

Power Supply and Relay Control

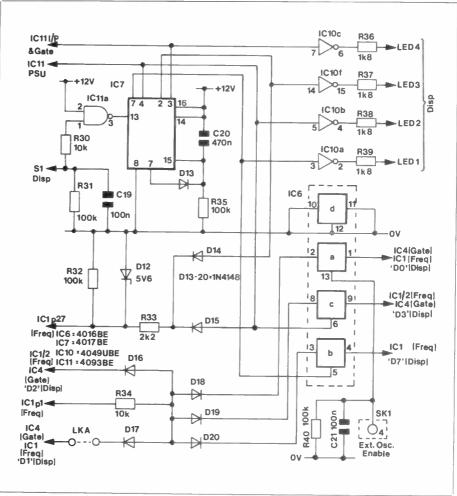
This consists of a standard transformer/bridge rectifier network, which provides an unregulated 12V supply for the CMOS circuits. REG 1 is a +5V, ½A regulator, and has a 1N4148 diode in its common return to increase the output voltage to +5.6V. This gives a brighter display and more reliable TTL switching. The 10V controlled output feeds the display LEDs on GATE TIME and INPUT ranges. The 10V is shut down in the DISPLAY BLANK mode, by IC11 controlling TR1. The relay RLA is con-trolled by TR2/IC9, and is active when UHF is selected. The relay controls the voltage and signal feed to either the LF/HF amplifier, or the UHF input amplifier/prescaler.

The Input Protection Circuit

This provides DC isolation to 500V, and AC protection up to a 5V peakto-peak signal. This is achieved with limiting diodes and DC isolation capacitors on the input.

Construction

This project has been designed to fit into the aluminium instrument case XY45Y. Holes have to be drilled for the transformer, regulator, mains input socket, and fuse, as they are all mounted on the back of the box. Holes also have to be drilled to allow access to the PCB mounted power connector and auxiliary socket. The front of the case requires holes drilling for the BNC input socket, the three key switches, the 42





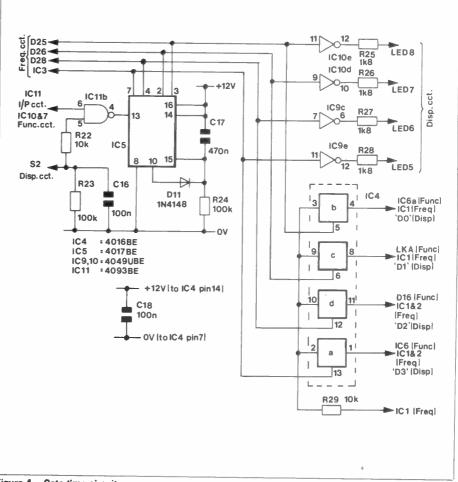


Figure 4. Gate time circuit.

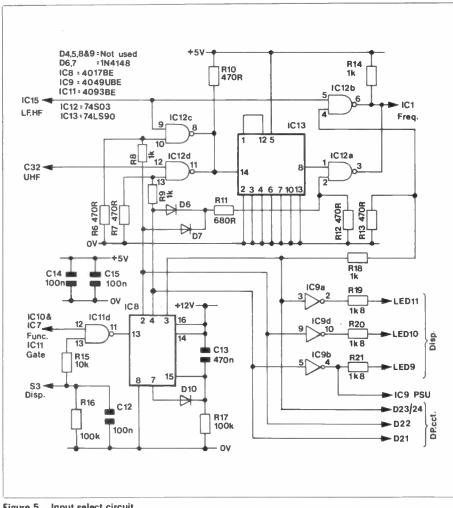


Figure 5. Input select circuit.

three rows of LEDs, and a rectangular window needs cutting for the display. The holes are already provided on the bottom of the box to fit the main PCB on 1/8" 6BA spacers. The CMOS ICs are all provided with sockets, and care should be taken when handling these devices.

The Main PCB

First, fit all track pins, making sure

that they are all soldered on both sides. Then insert and solder the Vero pins into their correct positions, and fit all resistors and diodes, including BR1, checking for correct polarity on all the diodes.

Fit the two PCB mounting connectors and the fuse clips. Fit all capacitors, including VC1. Make sure that all the electrolytics and tantalums are

correctly polarised. Fit the relay RLA and all IC sockets. These are only provided for CMOS ICs. Sockets should not be fitted to the ECL and TTL devices, as these can operate at frequencies that make the use of sockets undesirable. Fit the transistors, including the input FET, and solder the regulator into a position enabling it to be bolted to the back panel when the PCB is fitted into the case. Fit the crystal, taking care not to overheat this component. Clean the underside of the PCB, and check soldering for possible dry joints etc.

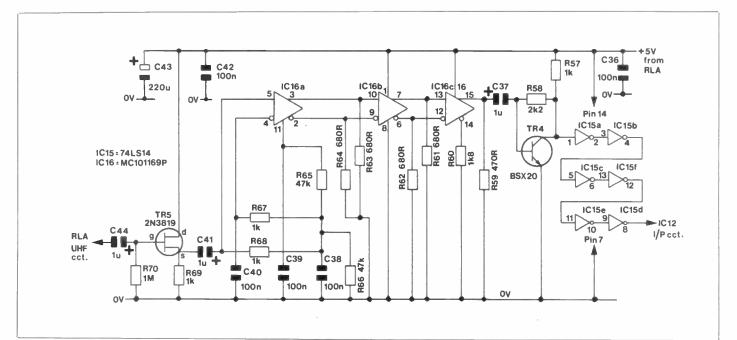
The Display PCB

Fit all track pins. Fit all 7-segment displays, ensuring correct orientation with markings towards the bottom of the board. Fit all display LEDs, and then the three push switches as shown in Figure 10. Check your soldering!

Fitting the Display PCB to the Main Board

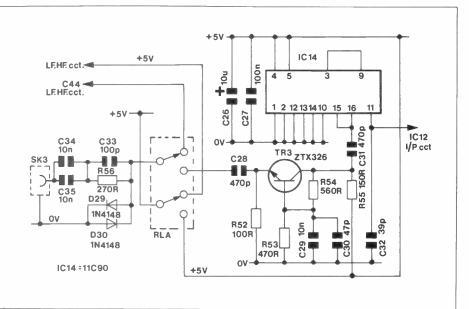
The display PCB must be mounted at an angle of 90 degrees to the main board, and the bottom edge must run parallel to the front edge of the main PCB. Solder the inter-PCB connecting links to the main board.

All CMOS chips with the exception of IC1 should now be fitted. Normal CMOS precautions should be observed. Fit the BNC socket and glue the red filter to the front panel (as shown in Figure 11). The main PCB should now be tested (see the setting up procedure). After testing, mount the PCB with spacers (Figure 11), and bolt the regulator (using the mica washer), the mains transformer, the fuseholder, and the mains input socket to the back panel (Figure 12), and wire up as shown. Fit the capacitors to the back of the BNC socket as shown in Figure 11.

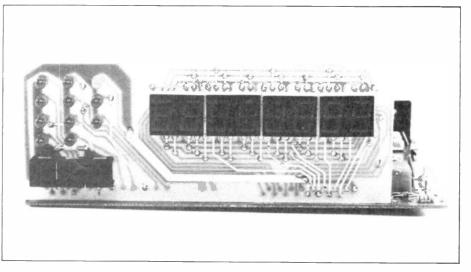


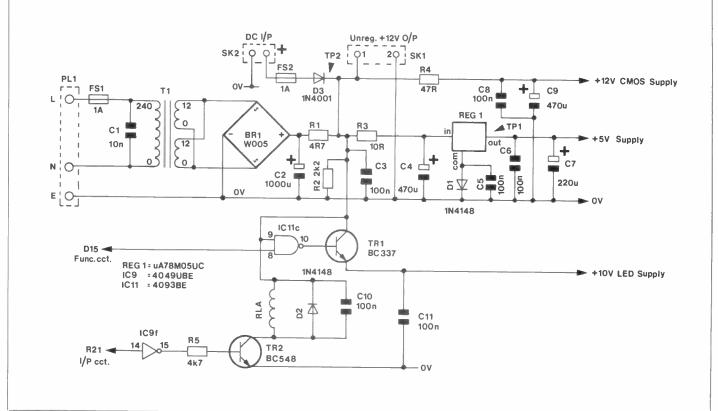
Setting Up

Before fitting into the case, the voltage regulator and CMOS control logic can be tested. A 12V DC supply is needed. This can be a battery, C.B. power supply, or similar. Fit a meter capable of reading 1A fsd across the PCB fuseclips, with the negative lead on the side of the fuseclip which connects to the anode of D3. Fit a temporary heatsink (e.g. a croc clip) to the metal tab of the regulator. Connect the 12V supply via the PCB mounted power input socket. A current of no more than 200mA should be observed. If there is more than 200ma, disconnect immediately and check the construction. If there is zero current, you may have incorrect polarity on the power supply. If all is correct the bottom LED in each row should be lit, but none of the 7-segment displays. Press each switch in turn, and check that the LEDs illuminate in sequence. The function should be kept in COUNT mode whilst checking the ranges. When the function is in any mode other than COUNT, the other two switches should have no effect. In 'DISPLAY OFF' mode, the range LEDs will extinguish. Remove the meter and replace the fuse FS2. The regulator output should now be measured, using a voltmeter connected with the negative lead to OV, and the positive lead to test point 1. A reading of approximately 5.5V should be obtained. Ensure that there is no DC present on pins 1, 13, and 14 of IC1 holder, and that when the function is on HOLD, there should not be more than 6V on pin 27. Remove the power and carefully insert IC1. Re-apply the power and a display should be visible, as









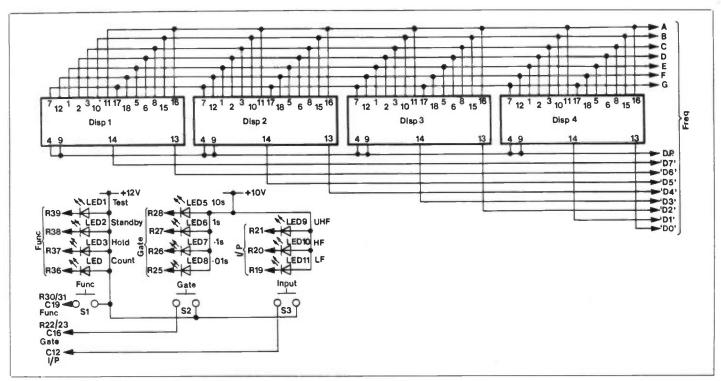


Figure 9. Display circuit.

MAIN PAR	TS LIST			TR5 REG.1.	2N3819 uA78M05uC		(QR36) (QL28)
Resistors: All 1/W	5% Carbon unless specified.			IC1	ICM7216D		(YY940
	4R7(1/2W)		(S4R7)	IC2	4051BE		(OW34N
2,33,51,58	2k2	(4 off)	(M2K2)				
		(+ 01)		IC3	4008BE		(QW140
13	10R (3W wirewound)		(W10R)	IC4,6	4016BE	(2 off)	(QX08.
74	47R(½W)		(S47R)	IC5,7,8	4017BE	(3 off)	(QX09)
₹5	4k7		(M4K7)	109.10	4049UBE	(2 off)	(QX21)
86,7,10,12,13,				IC11	4093BE	and started	(OW53H
53,59	470R	(7 off)	(M470R)	IC12	74\$03		(QY24E
15,22,29,30,				IC13	74LS90	2.2002363	(YF38F
34,45	10k	(7 off)	(M10K)	IC14	11C90		(OY18L
8,9,14,18,57,	1011	((
	11.	19.04	(MIK)	IC15	74LS14		(YF12N
67,68,69	1k	(8 off)	(MILIN)	IC16	MC101169P		(QY23/
16,17,23.24,31,				BR1	W005		(QL379
32,35,40.44,46,				Miscellaneous			201200
48-50	100k	(16 off)	(M100K)	X1	10MHz crystal		(FY78)
19-21,25-28,			STATE AND AND	RLA	Ultra-min Relay DPDT		(YX950
	1k8	(12 off)	(M1K8)				
47.70	1M	(2 off)	(M1M)	SK1	P.C. Mtg. Power Skt.		(RK375
		(2011)	(MIOOR)	SK2	P.C. Din SKT 5-Pin 'A'		(YX91)
52	100R			FS2	20mm Fuse 1A		(WRO3E
54	560R		(M560R)	all and the state of the state	Fuse clip	(2 off)	(WH490
55	150R		(M150R)		28 Pin Dil Skt	2 States	(BL21)
56	270R(1/2W)		(S270R)		14 Pin Dil Skt	(3 off)	(BL18L
11,61-64	680R	(5 off)	(M680R)			(7 off)	
	47k	(20ff)	(M47K)		16 Pin Dil Skt		(BL19)
65,66	4/h	(200)	(INTERIO)		Veropin 2141	(1 Pkt)	(FL21)
apacitors					Track Pin	(2 Pkt)	(FLB2D
1	10nF suppression Cap.	1	(FF53H)		P.C.B.		(GB020
2	1000uF 25V P.C. Electrolytic		(FF18U)		Screw 6BAx1/2"	(1Pkt)	(BF060
3,5,6,8,10,11,		1.11.11.24.24.24			6BA Nut	(1Pkt)	(8F18L
14,15,18,21-23,					6BA Washer	(1Pht)	(BF22)
25,27,36,38-40							
	100-F disa sesseria	(19 off)	(BX03D)		6BA Spacer x 1/4"	(1 Pkt)	(FW331
42	100nF disc ceramic			1.1	Kit (P) Plas	ALES SHOW	(WR23/
4,9	470uF 25V P.C. Electrolytic	(2 off)	(FF16S)	DICDIAV	PARTS LIST		
7,43	220uF 16V P.C. Electrolytic	(2 off)	(FF13P)	DISPLAT	FARIS LISI	0.12-02-121000	24.2.2.2.2
12,16,19	100nF Polycarbonate	(3 off)	(WW41U)	Disp. 1-4	'DD' Display Type C	(4 off)	(BY68)
13,17,20	470nF Polycarbonate	(3off)	(WW49D)	\$1,2,3	Click Key Black	(3 off)	(HY34N
24	47pF Silver Mica		(WXO9K)	LED 1-4, 10	Red LED		
	10uF 16V Tantalum		(WW68Y)			(5 off)	(WL27E
26		1 2.40		LED 5-8, 11	Green LED	(5 off)	(WL28F
28,31	470pF Ceramic	(2 off)	(WX64U)	LED 9	Yellow LED		(WL30 H
29	10nF Disc Ceramic		(BX00A)		Track Pin	(2Pkt)	(FL820
30	47pF Ceramic		(WX52G)		P.C.B.	All and a second second	(GB03D
32	39pF Ceramic		(WX51F)	ADDITIO	the second se		100000
33	100pF Ceramic		(WX56L)	ADDITIO	NAL ITEMS LIST	(074), 02559)	
34,35	10nF 500V H.V. disc	(2 off)	(BX15R)	T1	Transformer 12V 500mA		(YK28)
	1uF 35V Tantalum	(3off)	(WW600)				(WRO3E
37,41,44		(3011)		FS1	20mm Fuse 1A	The second second	
C1	Trimmer 65pF		(WL72P)		Chassis-Fuseholder		(RX96
emiconductors			2	PL1	Euro Conn. Lead set	Gelen and State	(BW99)
1,2,6,7,10,11,			A CONTRACTOR OF THE OWNER	SK3	BNC Skt		(HH18L
13-30 inc.	1N4148	(18 off)	(QLBOB)		Case		(XY45)
		(10 011)	(OL730)	THE PARTY OF THE	Filter Red		(FR34N
3	1N4001					The second second	(QY22)
12	BZY88C5V6		(QH08J)		BNC Earth Tag		
'R1	BC337		(QB68Y)		Freq. C. Front Panel		(RK39)
R2	BC548		(QB73Q)		Long Power Plug		(HH61)
TR3	ZTX326		(QL54J)		BA Mains Plug		(RW67)
R4	BSX20		(QF32K)		Mains Fuse 3A		(HQ32)
171.49	DOALU	and the second	18. sent	and a state of the state of the state		A PARTY OF A PARTY OF A	

Order As LW79L (Frequency Counter Kit) Price £85.00

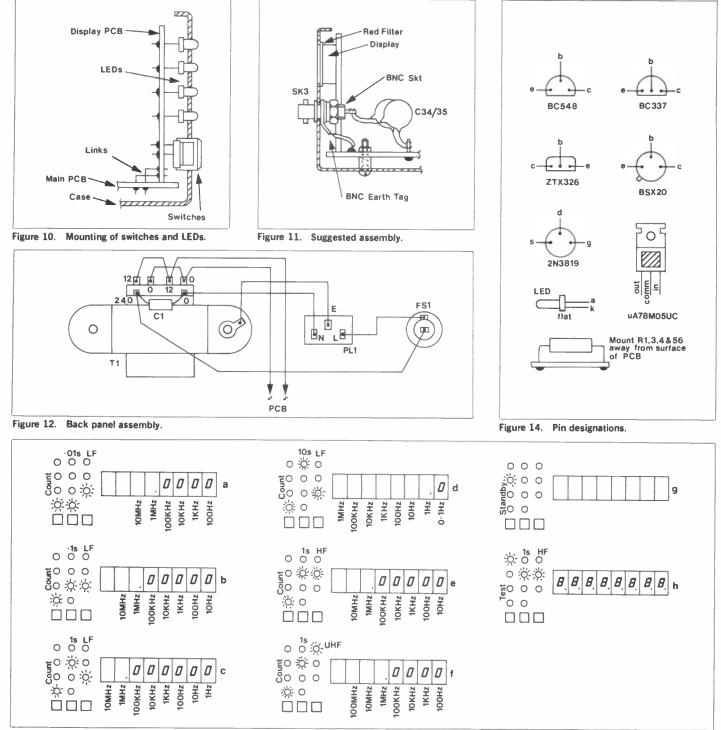


Figure 13. Display conditions,

shown in Figure 13a. Switch through the ranges, and check that the display varies as in Figures 13b to 13h. At this stage the counter is fully working, and frequency measurement is possible.

When the function is in the TEST position, no more than 320mA should be drawn from the DC supply. The counter should now be assembled as described in Construction Details, and the AC feed wires should be connected to the PCB.

Plug in the mains, and check that all functions are correct as before. A DC voltage measurement should be taken between OV and TP2. Not more than +15V, and not less than +11V should be present. The trimming capacitor VC1 should be adjusted for correct reading using an input of known frequency. 46

NEW MAPLIN CATALOGUE

The new Maplin Catalogue for 1983 will be Prices are as follows: published in November 1982. Expanded to 384 pages, the new catalogue contains hundreds of interesting new lines, an enlarged Computing section and a new section titled Communications.

As always, the whole catalogue is completely rewritten and updated where necessary, and forms a superb reference book for the home constructor. This is the only book every home constructor must have. And it's an incredible best-seller. Our 1981 catalogue has now sold well over 160,000 copies. Our new catalogue will be available at the Electronics Hobbies Fair at the Alexandra Pavilion from 18th to 21st November; it will be available in all branches of W. H. Smith by 19th November and mail-ordered copies will be posted out on the 30th November.

Electronics Hobbies Fair W.H. Smith and Maplin shops Mail Order:	£1 £1.25
UK Europe surface mail Europe air mail Outside Europe surface mail Outside Europe air mail (depend distance): (A) £4.32 (B) £5.76 (C) £6.48	£1.50 £1.90 £3.06 £1.90 ing on
For surface mail anywhere in the wo can send ten International Reply Co	
LOOK OUT FOR THE NEW MAPLIN LOGUE. Place your order with W. H. S Maplin NOW!	

The Electronics Hobbies Fair

An exciting new electronics show is being launched in November this year. The Electronics Hobbies Fair will be at the new Alexandra Pavilion from the 18th to the 21st of November 1982.

The Alexandra Pavilion is a brand new exhibition hall that offers the best possible modern facilities. There are three cafes and two bars and the superb natural lighting and air conditioning make strolling around the exhibition a pleasure. And you can bring the whole family — there's even a baby changing room!

Getting There

Getting to the exhibition will be really easy too. The organisers have laid on a shuttle bus service that will run regularly from Alexandra Palace British Rail station to the Pavilion. The BR station is right alongside Alexandra Palace Underground station (by the way this station used to be called Wood Green — and probably still is on most maps). If you come by car there is lots of FREE car parking space in Alexandra Palace park and a free shuttle bus service will run from the car park through the grounds to the Pavilion.

The fair is being sponsored by 'Practical Electronics', 'Practical Wireless' and 'Everyday Electronics' who are arranging lots of special extras. There will be special discounts for those travelling by British Rail and full details will be given in all three magazines in their October or November issues. In addition there will be lots of special exhibits and demonstrations as well as some fascinating items that you will be able to operate. Unfortunately we can't be more specific at this time, but we can assure you that there will be lots of things to do.

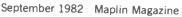
Prices and Times

Entrance to the exhibition will be £2 for adults and £1 for children, OAP's and parties. However, vouchers will be printed in the monthly magazines 'PE', 'PW' and 'EE' in the near future that will allow you 50p off the entrance fee. The exhibition will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

The exhibition will cover electronics, computing, amateur radio, CB, practical hi-fi and radio control modelling. So there will be a part of the show dedicated to your particular interest.

MAPLIN'S TOP TWENTY BOOKS

- 1. (-) De Re Atari (WG56L) (See note).
- (2) Z80 IC's Data Sheets (RQ54J) (Cat. P35).
 (-) How To Identify Unmarked IC's by
- (-) How To Identify Unmarked IC's by K. H. Recorr (WG87U) (See note).
- (1) Atari Basic Learning By Using by T. E. Rowley (WG55K) (See note).
 (5) Power Supply Projects by R A
- 5. (5) Power Supply Projects by R. A. Penfold (XW52G) (Cat. P29).
- 6. (19) Newnes Radio And Electronics Engineers' Pocket Book (RL06G) (Cat. P24).
- 7. (-) The 6809 Companion by M. James (WG88V) (See note).
- (8) Programming The 6502 by Rodnay Zaks (XW80B) (Cat. P35).
 (12) IC555 Projects by E. A. Parr
- (LY04E) (Cat. P27).





The MAPLIN Stand

Maplin's own big stand at the exhibition will be split into three sections. The first section will be a display of the amazing Atari computers. We will have a whole bank of computers and TV sets, each set running a different piece of software and you will be able to play with them yourself or just stand back and watch. We will also be demonstrating the VIC20 computers.

The second section will be an active display of the best of our projects. Our ZX81 keyboard will be connected up so that you can try it out, and you will also be able to play with our new telephone exchange, the frequency counter, the stereo amp with its remote control unit, and the Matinee organ. You will also be able to see lots of our other projects including the digital model train controller, the burglar alarm and all the peripherals so far described for it, the universal timer, the stopwatch, the comboamp, the modem, the super-fast ni-cad charger, the inverter, the 5600S and 3800 synthesisers, the Spectrum synthesiser and the touch-sensitive piano.

The final section of the stand will be dedicated the new Maplin catalogue. This fantastic new catalogue for 1983 contains nearly 400 pages of useful information. By post, the catalogue will be £1.50 and from all branches of W.H. Smith it will cost £1.25. But for the Electronics Hobbies Fair only, the price will be just £1. Renowned as the very best electronics catalogue in the country, £1 for nearly 400 pages is outstanding value for money.

So whether your main interest is electronics, amateur radio, radio control, practical hi-fi or CB this is the only show in the year for you. The Electronics Hobbies Fair is going to be a great day out for you and the whole family. Don't miss it!

NEW ITEMS USED IN PROJECTS IN THIS MAGAZINE

GA79L	Multi Olive he pop				
GA90X	Multi-Circuits PCB I/O Port PCB	Price £1.25 Price £2.25	LW81C	Digi-Tel Connect Kit	Price £9.95
GA97F	Stereo amp IR Decoder PCB	Price £2.75	LW82D	Digi-Tel Main Kit	Price £67.50
GA98G	Car Burglar Alarm PCB	Price £1.10	LW83E	Ultrasonic Xceiver Kit	Price £12.25
GA99H	Stereo Amp IR Controller PCB		LW84F	Ultrasonic Interface Kit	Price £2.50
GBOOA	Ultrasonic Transceiver PCB	Price £1.40	QY18U	11C90	Price £15.75
GB01B		Price £1.60	QY19V	LM1035	Price £4.50
GB01B GB02C	Ultrasonic Interface PCB	Price £1.60	QY22Y	BNC Earth Tag	Price 20p
GB02C	Frequency Counter PCB	Price £4.95	ÔY23A	MC10116P	Price 85p
GB03D GB04E	Freq Counter Display PCB	Price £1.85	ÔY24B	74503	Price £1.45
	E.L.C. Board	Price £2.95	ÒY25C	2716/M4	Price £10.50
GB05F	Connect PCB	Price £3.80	RK350	P.C. Edgecon 2 x 23 way	Price £2.25
GB06G	T/E Motherboard	Price £12.75	RK36P	Switch Panel	Price £1.20
GB07H	T/E PSU Board	Price £4.50	RK37S	P.C. Mtg Power Socket	Price 15p
GB08J	ZX81 Extendiboard	Price £3.95	RK38R	8-Way P.C. Terminal	
LW76H	I/O Port Kit	Price £9.25	RK39N		Price 55p
LW77J	Amp Remote Control Kit	Price £26,95		Frequency Counter Front Panel	Price £1.99
LW78K	Car Burglar Alarm Kit	Price £6.95	XG18U	PB Telephone	Price £21.90
LW79L	Frequency Counter Kit	Price £85.00	XG19V	Set of 4 PB Telephones	Price £69.99
LW80B	Digi-Tel ELC Kit	Price £24,95	YK33L	Toroidal Transformer 24/100V	Price £15.75

- (6) Electronic Synthesiser Projects by M. K. Berry (XW68Y) (Cat. P33).
- (3) Towers' International Transistor Selector Update 2 by T. D. Towers (RR39N) (Cat. P25).
- (7) Remote Control Projects by Owen Bishop (XW39N) (Cat. P29).
- (-) Cost Effective Projects Around The Home by John Watson (XW30H) (Cat. P28).
- (-) Projects For The Car And Garage by Graham Bishop (XW31J) (Cat. P23).
- 15. (-) The TTL Data Book (WA14Q) (See note).
- (-) Practical Repair And Renovation Of Colour TV's by Chas. E. Miller (RH27E) (Cat. P32).
- 17. (-) How To Use Op-Amps by E. A. Parr (WA29G) (See note).
- (-) Popular Electronic Circuits Book 2 by R. A. Penfold (WG86T) (See note).

- 19. (10) How To Make Walkie-Talkies by F. G. Rayer (RF18U) (Cat. P30).
- 20. (14) CB Projects by R. A. Penfold (WG73Q) (See note).

Note. For prices see page 36 of this magazine. Full details of books WG55K and WG73Q were published in issue 1 of this magazine, details of books WA14Q, WA29G, WG86T, WG87U and WG88V were published in issue 3 and WG56L is described in this issue.

These are our top twenty best-selling books based on mail-order and shop sales during May, June and July 1982. Our own publications and magazines are not included. We stock over 375 different books relating to electronics or computing and the full range is shown on pages 23 to 37 of our 1981/2 catalogue plus page 37 in this magazine and the new books described in this magazine.

STARTING POINT

by R. Penfold

Introducing the fundamentals of electronics for the constructor.

Inductance

An inductor is one of the most simple types of electronic component, and even a short piece of wire acts as an inductor having a very low value. However, most practical inductors are in the form of a coil of wire wound on a special core that gives a high value for the length of wire used. In theory an inductor is assumed to have zero resistance, but practical inductors do, of course, have significant resistances. It is for this reason that special cores which enable a minimal length of wire to be used for a given inductance are an asset, since the shorter the length of wire used, the lower the resistance of the component. Even so, high value R.F. inductors (or "chokes" as they are often called) are usually wound using a considerable length of thin wire, and consequently have a resistance of a few tens or even hundreds of ohms.

Although an inductor allows a D.C. signal to pass readily, the situation is very different if an inductor is fed with an A.C. signal. As we saw in an earlier "Starting Point" article, a magnetic field is generated around a piece of wire if it is fed with an electric current, and an electric current is generated in a wire if it is placed in a magnetic field of varying strength. These two effects are used in a transformer to couple an A.C. signal from one winding to another.

With a simple inductor fed with an A.C. signal it is not the effect of the generated magnetic field on another inductor that is of importance, it is the effect of this magnetic field on the inductor which receives the signal that is of interest. One might reasonably expect the magnetic field produced to either generate a signal within the inductor that aids the input signal, or opposes it, and in practice the polarity of the magnetic field is such that it opposes the input signal.

If a voltage source is applied to an current flow gradually inductor the increases, and (for a theoretically perfect inductor) is only limited ultimately by maximum current that the signal source can provide. Inductance is specified in "henrys", and a change incurrent flow of one amp per second is produced when one volt is applied to a one henry inductance. As one henry is an extremely high inductance value most practical inductors, have their value specified in millihenrys (mH) or microhenrys (uH). A millihenry is one thousandth of a henry, and a microhenry is one millionth of a henry

Like a capacitor an inductor has reactance, and it is this property that is exploited in electronic circuits, and it is unusual for an inductor to be used in a timing circuit as capacitors are usually much more convenient in such applications. It is important to realise that capacitive inductance and inductive reactance are very different. The reactance of a capacitor falls as the input 48

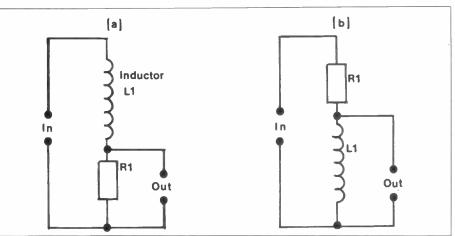


Figure 1(a). A single section L - R low pass filter, (b) a single section high pass L - R filter.

frequency is increased, whereas the reactance of an inductor increases as the frequency of the applied signal is raised. As a capacitor has a very high resistance and an inductor has an extremely low resistance, these two types of component are complementary to each other rather than true alternatives, and are definitely not direct substitutes for one another.

Reactance rising with increased frequency is caused by the limiting effect the inductance has on changes in current flow. With a very low input frequency the current flow would rise and fall very slowly anyway, but with a high input frequency even quite a modest inductance value will severely limit changes in current flow and provide a difficult path for the signal to negotiate. The greater the inductance of a component, the more it opposes changes in current flow, and the higher its reactance at any given frequency.

Filters

Simple filters using capacitors were discussed in an earlier "Starting Point" article, and inductors can be used in similar filters. Figure 1(a) shows the circuit of a simple L - R low pass filter, and Figure 1(b) gives the circuit of a simple high pass L - R filter. These diagrams also show the circuit symbol for an air cored inductor. Figure 2 shows the circuit symbols for iron cored and adjustable inductors.

Operation of these two filters is quite straight forward, and if we consider the low pass type first, at low frequencies L1 will have a reactance which is low in comparison

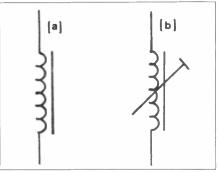


Figure 2(a). The circuit symbol for an iron or ferrite cored inductor, (b) the circuit symbol for a variable inductance with an adjustable iron or ferrite core.

to the resistance of R1. The losses through L1 due to a potential divider action are consequently very low. At higher frequencies the reactance of L1 is higher, and at some point losses through L1 start to rise to significant proportions. A doubling of frequency causes a doubling in the reactance of an inductor, and this gives a single stage L-R filter an ultimate attenuation rate of 6dB per octave (i.e. a doubling of input frequency causes the output signal to be reduced by 50%). This is the same roll-off rate as that obtained using a simple C - R filter.

The high pass filter operates in the same basic way, except that it is at high frequencies where the reactance of L1 is high that low losses are produced, and at low frequencies where L1 has a low reactance that large losses are produced through R1.

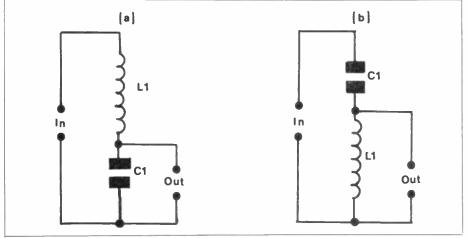


Figure 3(a). An L - C low pass filter, (b) an L - C high pass filter.

Like the low pass filter, the high pass one has a 6dB per octave attenuation rate.

It is possible to use both capacitors and inductors in filters to give an increased roll off rate, and Figure 3(a) shows the circuit of a simple L - C low pass filter which uses one capacitor and a single inductor. The equivalent high pass filter circuit is provided in Figure 3(b).

With these filters there is not just the attenuation provided by the doubling in the reactance of the inductor with a doubling of the input frequency, but also an attendant halving in the reactance of the capacitor. This gives a roll-off rate of 12dB per octave, with a doubling or halving of frequency (as appropriate for the type of filter) giving a 75% reduction in the amplitude of the output signal.

L - C filters are much used in cross-over networks in loudspeaker systems, and it is quite common for high pass and low pass filters to be connected in series to give a simple bandpass filter which directs middle audio frequencies to the appropriate drive unit. It is also quite common for L - C filters to be employed in transmitters and receivers to prevent R.F. signals breaking through to parts of the circuit where they could cause instability. Another application for L - C filters is at the output of transmitters where a low pass type can reduce harmonics which could otherwise cause radio and T.V. interference. However, in most other applications C – R filters are used.

The reactance of an inductor can be calculated using the following formula:-

$$XL = 2\pi FL$$

Parallel Tuned Circuit

A parallel tuned circuit simply consists of a capacitor and an inductor connected in parallel, as shown in Figure 4. At most frequencies this arrangement has a fairly low reactance with the capacitor providing

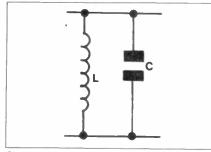


Figure 4. A parallel tuned circuit.

an easy signal path at high frequencies and the inductor providing a low reactance path at low frequencies. At a certain frequency though, the reactance of a parallel tuned circuits peaks at a very high level, and in theory there is actually infinite reactance at this "resonant frequency" as it is known. The resonant frequency is the one at which the inductor and capacitor have the same reactance value.

If we assume that the capacitor is given a charge, when the signal source is removed the capacitor will discharge into the inductor so that a new magnetic field builds up. When the capacitor has discharged, the magnetic field collapses and produces a voltage in the inductor. This voltage is of opposite polarity to the original input signal, and it charges up the capacitor. The capacitor then discharges into the inductor again, and this process continues indefinitely with an A.C. signal at the resonant frequency being produced across the tuned circuit.

In practice the oscillations do in fact rapidly die away due to losses caused by factors such as resistance in the wire used in the winding of the inductor, and leakage September 1982 Maplin Magazine through the capacitor. In theory any signal fed into the tuned circuit remains in the tuned circuit so that no output is obtained if the circuit is inserted in a signal path, and the tuned circuit has infinite reactance. A practical tuned circuit will obviously not achieve this, but may still have a reactance of a few hundred kilohms or more.

Parallel tuned circuits are often used as bandpass filters, especially in radio equipment where only small and inexpensive inductors are required. The operating frequency of a filter of this type is easily varied by using a variable capacitor in the tuned circuit, or by adjusting the core of a variable inductance (the latter being known as permeability tuning). A filter of this type is thus ideal for use in the tuning circuits of radio receivers.

The basic method of using a parallel tuned circuit as a bandpass filter is shown in Figure 5. The input signal is provided by a

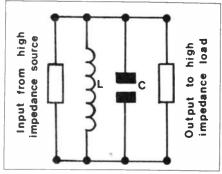


Figure 5. A parallel tuned circuit used as a bandpass filter.

fairly high impedance source, so that at most frequencies the low impedance of the filter seriously loads the source and gives little output. At and near the resonant frequency of the tuned circuit there is no significant loading of the signal source due to the very high reactance of the tuned circuit, and the signal can pass through to the output. A high impedance load must be present at the output since this is in parallel with the tuned circuit, and a low impedance here would effectively eliminate the high impedance of the tuned circuit at resonance and give very poor results. It is possible to use a filter of this type with a low impedance source and load if the tuned circuit is used as part of a transformer, and one method of doing this is illustrated in Figure 6. Another method is to

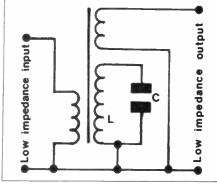


Figure 6. A low impedance bandpass filter using a tuned circuit.

use the tuned circuit as a single wound transformer with the input and output signals connected to tappings on the inductor. **Series Tuned Circuit**

There is an alternative type of tuned circuit known as the "series tuned circuit", and as one might expect, this simply consists of an inductor and a capacitor wired in series instead of in parallel (see Figure 7). This provides a low impedance at most frequencies, like a parallel type, but at

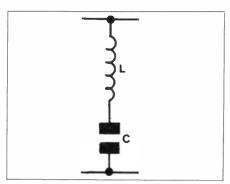


Figure 7. A series tuned circuit.

resonance it theoretically has zero impedance rather than an infinite impedance.

This type of tuned circuit is not as useful in practical applications as the parallel type, and it is not often encountered in electronic circuits.

The formula for calculating resonant frequency is the same for both the parallel and series types, and is as follows:-

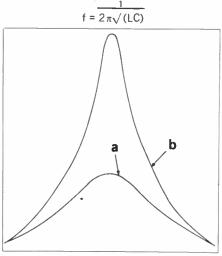


Figure 8. A low Q tuned circuit (a) gives a flatter response than a high Q type (b). O Factor

Although no practical tuned circuits quite achieve theoretical perfection, some are closer to this than others. The efficiency of a tuned circuit is known as its "Q", and the higher the Q value the more efficient the tuned circuit. The Q value is very important when a tuned circuit is used as a bandpass filter since it has a very large effect on the frequency response obtained.

A low Q tends to give a very "flat" response of the type shown in "a" of Figure 8. A high Q gives a very "sharp" response of the type shown in "b" of Figure 8. In order to obtain a reasonably high Q it is necessary for the inductor to be wound on a special core (usually made from a ferrite material) which gives a high inductance value for a winding of a given size, and sometimes special wire such as "Litz" wire is used in the winding. Litz wire is basically just a number of thin enamelled copper wires held together by a cotton covering. Radio frequency signals tend to flow down the outer part of wires and not along the centre of the wire, and this is known as the "skin effect". Litz wire gives a greater surface area and therefore a lower resistance than single strand wire of a comparable thickness, and thus gives higher Q in R.F. tuned circuits (but is of no benefit at low frequencies).

In some applications it is not possible to produce normal tuned circuits of sufficiently high Q, and it is then necessary to use alternatives such as crystal or mechanical filters which have similar electrical characteristics to ordinary L - C tuned filters, but are in other respects very different.

THE ULTRASONIC INTRUDER DETECTOR by Dave Goodman

- * Range up to 20 feet (400 sq. ft. area)
- ★ Adjustable sensitivity
- * Direct connection to the Maplin Home Security System via our ultrasonic interface plug-in module
- * Single PCB construction with no setting up required
- * Up to three may be used on any Maplin Home Security System

he new ultrasonic intruder detector is a worthwhile addition to your Maplin Home Security System. It will function over a much wider area than conventional switch contacts, it is highly portable, can be used almost

anywhere, and can offer total security of a fairly large room.

The ultrasonic detector works on the Doppler Effect Principle (see issue 3, page 7), which in this case means transmission of a 40kHz carrier signal, and reception of the fundamental carrier along with additional frequency shifted signals. These extra signals can vary in frequency by up to 200Hz either side of the fundamental, and are quite small in amplitude. Several stages of

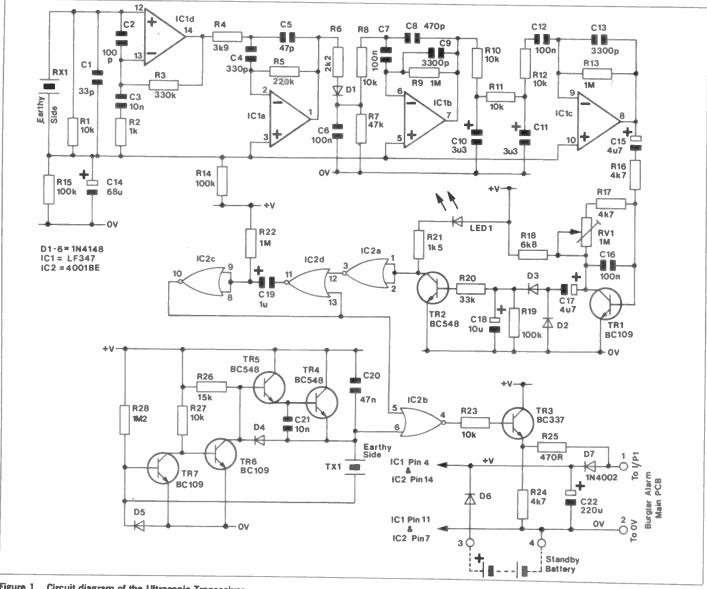


Figure 1. Circuit diagram of the Ultrasonic Transceiver. 50

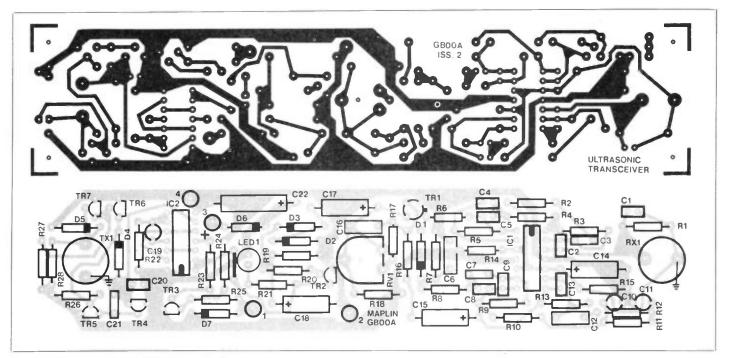
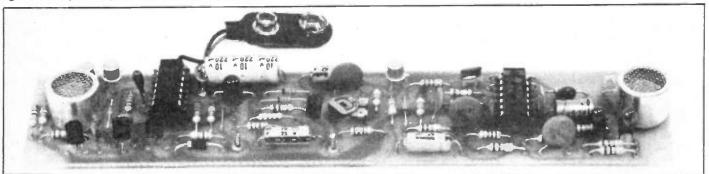


Figure 2. Component layout of the Ultrasonic Transceiver.



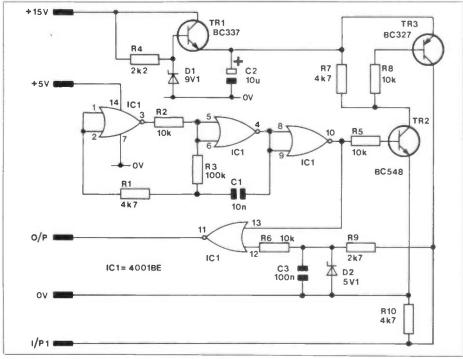


Figure 3. Circuit diagram of the Ultrasonic Interface.

filtering are required to remove the carrier, spurious r.f., and mains interference. The remaining signals are amplified, and, if they are sufficiently large, the alarm will be triggered. The level of triggering is dependent on the sensitivity setting. In this design the transmitter and receiver are both September 1982 Maplin Magazine mounted on the same PCB, along with their associated circuitry, and signals are 'bounced' around the room.

The Transmitter

As an improvement over conventional systems, in which the oscillator may require many tedious hours of alignment, we have designed a system in which the transducer determines the oscillator frequency, i.e. the circuit needs NO setting up at all.

The circuit TR4,5,6 and 7, allows the transducer to oscillate at its self-resonating point. C20 at switch-on-discharges through the transducer, causing it to resonate. The produced signal is amplified by TR6 and 7, and a constant current circuit comprising TR4, 5 and D4, allows the necessary feedback for sustained oscillation. From this it can be seen that the normal operating frequency becomes dependent on the transducer.

The Receiver

Ultrasonic signals transmitted in an enclosed area will reflect and bounce off hard surfaces, and be absorbed by soft surfaces. A percentage of these signals (called nodes and anti-nodes) are reflected back at the receiver transducer. The transmitter and receiver being matched pairs means that the receiver has a greater affinity for signals transmitted by its partner than for those produced by anything else. Because we are dealing with audio signals, it is possible for low frequency signals of sufficient amplitude (e.g. the rumble of a lorry going past) to trigger the intruder system, so filtering is required. Tests have shown that beat frequencies of between 5Hz and 100Hz can be produced by objects moving through

the ultrasonic field. C1 and C2 remove unwanted r.f. signals present at the input of ICId. This stage has a gain of 300, and high rejection of signals above the ultrasonic band. IC1a amplifies the received ultrasonic signals only, and has a first order response. D1 allows only the positive portion of the signal through, and the carrier part of the signal is removed by C6/R7, leaving only the lower frequency content of the signal. IC1b amplifies all low frequency (I.f.) signals, also filtering any possible remaining high frequency (h.f.) content. R10/11/12 and C10/11 form a low pass filter, which only allows signals below 50Hz to pass through to the final amplifying stage of IC1c. We should now be looking (on pin 8) at what is a stable threshold voltage of about +3v, modulated by l.f. signals of 5-50 Hz, and up to 5v in amplitude.

The stage comprising TR1, RV1, and R16/17 determines the overall sensitivity of the receiver, with a range from unity to x100. Amplified signal peaks are coupled to the diode pump D2/3, C18, R19, so that when the voltage across C18 develops more than 0.7v, sufficient current is produced to bias TR2 into conduction. LED1 illuminates. This has been included to give the user a means of visibly testing the circuit range and coverage (see setting-up procedure).

IC2a inverts and buffers the output from TR2. IC2c and IC2d form a monostable triggered by IC2a. IC2b is a control gate switching the 40kHz carrier from the transmitter oscillator to TR3

With the working system in a stable condition the 40kHz carrier is coupled via R25 to the incoming supply rail. If the system is triggered the carrier is removed. Note that the supply rails connect to the burglar alarm via a plugin module (the u/s interface PCB, GB01B).

A standby battery (PP3-9V) is shown connected, positive terminal to pin 3, and negative terminal to pin 4. Charging or 'topping up' facilities have not been added to this part of the circuit, so periodical checks on battery conditions are advisable. Note that the battery will not be required when using the transceiver in conjunction with a u/s interface PCB and our Home Security System, although it will be necessary to increase the NiCad battery pack from 7.8v to 9v. This can be accomplished with a total of eight NiCads (1.2v nominal) and two 6v battery holders (HF29G).

Ultrasonic Interface PCB

This simple circuit identifies the carrier signals transmitted by the ultrasonics module. These signals appear between each 2ms current pulse (used for powering the transceiver), and allows monitoring of the two wire supply connection.

IC1a and b form a 500Hz CMOS oscillator, and switch the buffer transistor TR2 at this rate. The regulator D1, TR1, applies 8.6V d.c. to TR3, which is

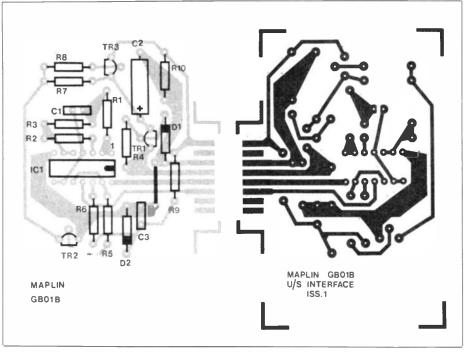
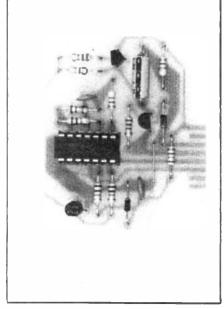


Figure 4. Component layout of the Ultrasonic Interface.



pulsed on and off by TR2, producing an 8.6V, 500Hz signal across R10. This signal is rectified by D7 and C22 (figure 1) in the transceiver, producing 8.2V on the positive rail.

IC1d has a 500Hz clock pulse on pin 13, and an in-phase signal of 500Hz on pin 12. The two signals cancel at the output, pin 11, producing an inverted trigger signal, which fires the burglar alarm. However, under normal conditions a carrier signal will be present across R10, appearing between each 2ms pulse. R6, R9, D2, and C3 filter and limit this composite signal, and ICId output remains low. Either disconnection of the supply, or triggering the transceiver will remove the 2ms 'carrier' from across R10, sending ICId output high (+5V), and setting off the alarm.

Constructional Details for Ultrasonic Intruder Detector

Refer to the parts list and figure (2). Mount D1 to D7 ensuring correct orien-

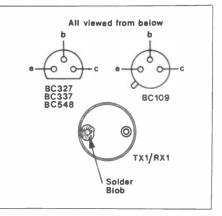


Figure 5. Pin Designations.

tation. Mount resistors R1 to R28, and capacitors C1 to C22. Check that the electrolytics C14, C15, C17, C18 and C22, also tantalums C10, C11 and C19 are mounted with correct polarisation. Electrolytics are marked at the negative end but tantalums at the positive. Fit the I.C. sockets, and all transistors. TR1, TR6, and TR7 have their emitters marked with a pip on the case, and should line up with the legend marked on the PCB. If a metal case is used, it is important that the transducers do not touch the chassis. The transducers each have one pin connected directly to their case, and this pin should be connected to the hole marked + (figure 2).

Assembly of Ultrasonic Trigger

Observe the usual precautions when mounting components. Use an I.C. holder, for IC1, and double-check all solder joints. Plug the module into any channel on the main PCB of the Home Security System (issue 2, figure 5), and apply power. If you have a voltmeter, check across pins OV and I/P1 on the main PCB. This should read approx. 5.0V dc. Also the selected channel should trigger, and the monitoring LED will light.

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Setting Up

Set RV1 anti-clockwise. Connect a 9V battery across pin 3 (positive) and pin 4 (negative). LED 1 should come on for a few seconds and then extinguish. Allow 30 seconds settling time, and then wave your hand about six inches away from the transducers. Response to movement should be indicated by LED 1 illuminating, and it should remain so for a few seconds. If there is no response, turn RV1 to approximately ¹/₄ travel to increase sensitivity, and repeat check. If the LED now stays on, move away to a point where the LED is still visible, and keep completely still. After a few seconds the LED should go out. If the circuit still does not work, try disconnecting the battery, and repeating the above checks. If all is satisfactory remove the battery and connect the transceiver to the Maplin Home

Security System main PCB.

Use either bell wire, or our 4-wire phone cable (XR66W) to connect the transceiver to the main PCB (burglar alarm). Pin 2 will connect to OV and Pin 1 will connect to I/P 1.

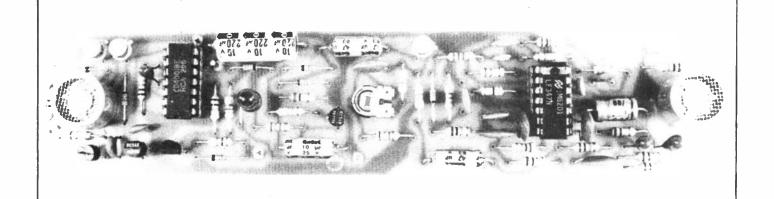
Whatever channel is used for this project, ensure that a u/s interface module is plugged in to this position only.

At switch-on the burglar alarm channel LED will flash. Allow about a minute for the transceiver to stabilise. Turn the sensitivity control RV1 clockwise, to suit conditions, and set the key switch for 'ARM'. Don't forget to switch in the selected channel (switches 3 to 8).

If stand-by batteries are to be used, remove the mains supply, then reconnect. Check that the system does not trigger. If all is well, experiment with RV1 settings for optimum results before putting into service.

Using Ultrasonics

The module is best placed in a corner of the room to be protected, preferably just below ceiling level, and inclined at an angle of 30 to 45 degrees downwards. Keep as far away as possible from windows, radiators, central heating thermostats, and telephones and bells. Remember that anything that moves (e.g. curtains, telephone bells) can set off the alarm, dependent on sensitivity. RV1 must now be adjusted for required sensitivity. Obviously, the more sensitive the system, the greater the possibility of false triggerings occurring. If areas greater than 400 square feet need covering, then two or more devices may be used. Note that each transceiver will draw 24mA, and up to three may be used on one system, dependent on what else is connected to the system.



(OL74R)

ULTRA	SONIC TRAN	ISCEIVER	PART	S LIST
Resistors: Al	1/1 W 5% carbon			
R1,8,10-12 inc.23,27	10k		(7 off)	(M10K)
R2	lk			(M1K)
R3	330K			(M330K)
R4	3k9			(M3K9)
R5	220k			(M220K)
R6	2k2			(M2K2)
R7	47k			(M47K)
PQ 13 22	184		(3 off)	(M1M)

1	330K		(M330K)	Misce
	3k9		(M3K9)	TX1/F
	220k		(M220K)	
	2k2		(M2K2)	
	47k		(M47K)	
.13.22	1M	(3 off)	(M1M)	
4,15,19	100k	(3 off)	(M100K)	
6,17,24	4k7	(3 off) *	(M4K7)	
8	6k8	(0 011)	(M6K8)	
20	33k		(M33K)	11/1
21	1k5		(M1K5)	U/9
25	470R		(M470R)	Resist
26	15k		(M15K)	
28	1M2		(M1M2)	R1,7,1
1			(WR64U)	R2,5,6
	1M hor sub-min preset		(111010)	R3
pacitors				R4
	33pF ceramic		(WX50E)	R9
?	100pF ceramic		(WX56L)	Capac
1,21	10nF disc ceramic	(2 off)	(BX00A)	C1
	330pF ceramic		(WX62S)	C2
	47pF ceramic		(WX52G)	C3
,7,12,16	100nf disc ceramic	(4 off)	(BX03D)	
	470pF ceramic		(WX64U)	Semic
,13	3300pF ceramic	(2 off)	(WX74R)	DI
0,11	3u3F 35V tantalum	(2 off)	(WW63T)	D2
4	68uF 6V3 axial electrolytic		(FB44X)	TR1
5,17	4u7F 63V axial electrolytic	(2 off)	(FB18U)	TR2
8	10uF 25V axial electrolytic		(FB22Y)	TR3
9	1uF 35V tantalum		(WW60Q)	IC1
0	47nf minidisc		(YR74R)	Miscel
2	220uF 10V axial electrolytic		(FB60Q)	meee
miconduc				
-6 inc.	1N4148	(6 off)	(QL80B)	

LED 1 TR1.6,7 TR2,4,5 TR3 IC1 IC2	LED RED BC109c BC548 BC337 LF347 4001BE	(3 off) (3 off)	(WL27E) (QB33L) (QB73Q) (QB68Y) (WQ29G) (QX01B)
Miscellaneou TX1/RX1	US Ultrasonic transducers (pair) Veropin 2141 14 pin DIL Skt Ultrasonic Transceiver PCB	(2 off)	(HY12N) (FL21X) (BL18U) (GB00A)
Or	A complete kit of all the above pa der As LW83E (Ultrasonic Xceiver		
	IC INTERFACE PAR	TS LIST	
R1,7,10 R2,5,6,8 R3 R4 R9	4k7 10k 100k 2k2 2k7	(3 off) , (4 off)	(M4K7) (M10K) (M100K) (M2K2) (M2K7)
Capacitors C1 C2 C3	10nF mini disc 10uF 25V axial electrolytic 100nF mini disc		(YR73Q) (FB22Y) (YR75S)
Semiconduc D1 D2 TR1 TR2 TR3 IC1	tors BZY88 C9V1 BZY88 C5V1 BC337 BC548 BC327 4001BE		(QH13P) (QH07H) (QB68Y) (QB73Q) (QB66W) (QX01B)
Miscellaneou	14 pin DIL Skt U/S Interface PCB		(BL18U) (GB01B)

A complete kit of all the above parts is available

Order As LW84F (Ultrasonic Interface Kit) Price £2.50

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C22

D1

D7

BASICALLY BASIC

Graham Hall, B.Sc.

Part 13

This month we continue to describe the string functions available in BASIC. Table 1 provides a summary of the common string functions and explains their use.

LEFT\$ Function

The LEFT\$ function creates a substring from a main string specified as an argument to the function. The general format of the LEFT\$ function is:

LEFT\$ (X\$, n)

where X\$ is the main string and n specifies the length of the substring. The argument n can be an integer or an expression. If the expression evaluates to a non-integer value BASIC truncates the result to an integer. The substring is formed from the first character (left-most character) of the main string to the boundary specified by n. If n is greater than the number of characters in the main string the entire string is returned. If n is zero or less than zero, a blank (null or empty) string is returned.

The following program demonstrates the use of the LEFT\$ function: 10 LET X\$ = "MAPLIN ELECTRONIC SUPPLIES LTD"

20 LET A\$ = LEFT\$ (X\$,6) 30 PRINT A\$ 40 LET B\$ = LEFT\$ (X\$,0) 50 PRINT B\$ 60 PRINT LEFT\$ (X\$,33) 70 END RUN

MAPLIN

MAPLIN ELECTRONIC SUPPLIES LTD

RIGHT\$ Function

The RIGHT\$ function is similar to LEFT\$ function in that it creates a substring from a main string. The substring is formed from a boundary specified as an argument to the function, to the last (right-most) character in the main string. The general format of the RIGHT\$ function is:

RIGHT\$ (X\$,n)

where X\$ is the main string and n is the position of the first character in the substring. The argument n can be an integer or an expression. If the expression evaluates to a non-integer value BASIC truncates the result to an integer. If n is greater than the number of characters in the main string a null string is returned.

The following program demonstrates the use of the RIGHT\$ function:

10 LET X\$ = "MAPLIN ELECTRONIC SUPPLIES LTD" 20 LET A\$ = RIGHT\$ (X\$,8) 30 PRINT A\$ 40 PRINT RIGHT\$ (X\$,31) 50 PRINT RIGHT\$ (X\$,1) 60 END RUN

ELECTRONIC SUPPLIES LTD

MAPLIN ELECTRONIC SUPPLIES LTD

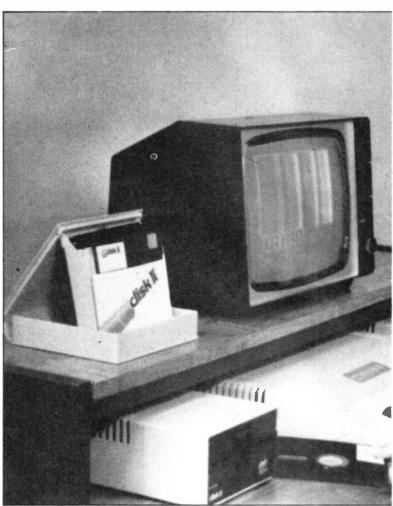
The substring returned by the RIGHT\$ function on line 40 is a null string because the position of the first character in the substring (specified as an argument to the function) is greater than the number of characters in the main string.

MID\$ Function

The MID\$ (middle) function creates a substring from a specified main string within boundaries specified to the function as arguments. The general format of the MID\$ function is:

MID\$ (X\$,n1,n2)

where X\$ is the main string, n1 is the starting position of the substring and n2 is the number of characters in the substring. The arguments $n\bar{1}$ and n2 can be integers or expressions the results of which are 54



truncated to an integer value if necessary. If n2 is zero a null string is returned. If n1 or n2 is less than zero, an error message is given.

The following program demonstrates the use of the MID\$ function: 10 LET X\$ = "MAPLIN ELECTRONIC SUPPLIES LTD" 20 LET A\$ = MID\$ (X\$,8,10) 30 PRINT A\$ 40 PRINT MID\$ (X\$,19,20) 50 END RUN

ELECTRONIC SUPPLIES LTD

In line 40 of the program the argument to the MID\$ function specifies a substring beginning at the nineteenth character of the main string. The number specified for the length of the substring exceeds the number of remaining characters in the main string, hence the entire string from the nineteenth character is printed.

LEN Function

The LEN (length) function returns the character count of a string given as an argument. The general format of the LEN function is: LEN (string)

where string can be a string constant or a string variable. Tabs and spaces within a string are counted as significant characters. The following program demonstrates the use of the LEN function: 10 LET X\$="MAPLIN SUPPLIES"

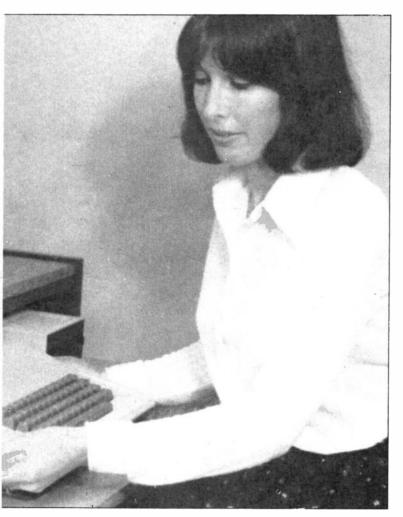
20 PRINT "LENGTH OF STRING=":LEN(X\$)

30 FOR I=1 TO LEN(X\$)

40 PRINT LEFT\$(X\$,I) 50 NEXT I

60 END

RUN



LENGTH OF STRING=15 Μ MA MAP MAPL MAPLI MAPLIN MAPLIN MAPLIN S MAPLIN SU MAPLIN SUP MAPLIN SUPP MAPLIN SUPPL MAPLIN SUPPLI MAPLIN SUPPLIE MAPLIN SUPPLIES

Line 10 assigns the string 'MAPLIN SUPPLIES' to the string variable X\$. Line 20 prints the message within double quotes followed by the length of the string assigned to X\$, returned by the LEN function. The space

Function	Application
ASC(X\$)	Converts the first character in the string, X\$, to its equivalent ASCII value.
CHR\$(X)	Converts the ASCII code number, X, to its equivalent character.
LEFT\$(X\$,n)	Creates a substring from the string X\$ in a range from the left- most character to the nth character.
LEN(X\$)	Returns the number of characters in the string X\$.
MID(X\$,n1,n2)	Creates a substring from the string X\$, that begins at position n1 and is n2 characters long.
	Creates a substring from the string X\$ in a range from n to the right-most character.
STR\$(X)	Converts the contents of numeric variable X to the ASCII charac- ter string equivalent.
VAL(X\$)	Converts a specified string of numeric characters to a numeric value.

between the word 'MAPLIN' and the word 'SUPPLIES' is counted as a significant character so the length of the string is fifteen. The FOR statement, lines 30, 40 and 50, initialises the variable 'I' to one and sets the limit of the loop to the value returned by the LEN function. Its corresponding NEXT statement is on line 50. Each time the loop is executed a substring is created and printed. The LEFT\$ function on line 40 is given the loop variable 'I' as the argument which determines the length of the substring.

Each time the loop is executed 'I' is incremented by one, subsequently the substring printed is increased by one character. The output from the program is shown following the RUN command. Line 60 — the END statement signifies the finish of the program.

STR\$ Function

The STR\$ function is used to convert a numeric variable to a string of ASCII characters. The string is the character equivalent of the numeric content of the variable. The general format of the STR\$ function is:

STR\$ (variable).

The following program demonstrates the use of the STR\$ function: 10 LET A=365

20 LET X\$=STR\$(A) 30 PRINT X\$ 40 PRINT MID\$(X\$,2,1) 50 END RUN

365 6

The integer 365 is assigned to the numeric variable 'A'. Line 20 uses the STR\$ function to convert the contents of 'A' to its equivalent ASCII string, which is then assigned to the string variable X\$. Line 30 prints X\$. To demonstrate that an ASCII string has been created, line 40 uses the MID\$ function to extract the middle character from the string X\$. This is printed on the terminal.

VAL Function

The VAL (value) function converts a string of numeric characters to a numeric value. This is the opposite of the STR\$ function. The general format of the VAL function is:

VAL (string)

where the argument is a character string or string variable. If the argument string contains a non-numeric character an error message will be output.

The following program demonstrates the use of the VAL function: 10 LET X\$="1234"

20 LET A=VAL(X\$)

30 PRINT A 40 END

RUN

1234

String Concatenation

Some versions of BASIC include a concatenation symbol (+) which can be used to combine string variables or string constants to generate a new string. For example the command PRINT "HEL" + "LO" will output the string HELLO on the terminal. Consider the following program: 10 LET A\$="MAPLIN"

20 LET B\$="ELECTRONIC "

30 LET C\$="SUPPLIES"

40 LET D\$=A\$+B\$+C\$

50 PRINT D\$

60 END RUN

MAPLIN ELECTRONIC SUPPLIES

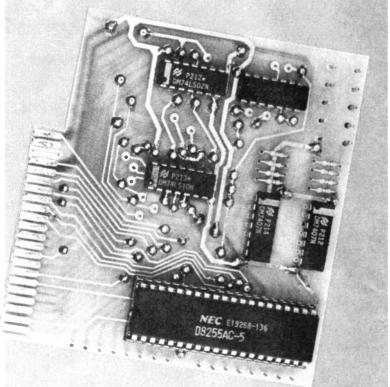
The concatenation symbol is used on line 40 to concatenate the strings assigned to the string variables A\$, B\$ and C\$. The new string is assigned to the string variable D\$ and printed by the statement on line 50. If the concatenation symbol is used illegally, such as on the left side of an assignment statement, an error message will be output to the terminal. For example, 10 LET W\$ + 2\$ = Y\$ is illegal and returns an error message.

In response to the many enquiries we have received about this extremely popular article, we will shortly be making the complete series available in book form at low cost. Watch this space for further details!

ZX81 INPUT~OUTPUT PORT

by A. Daykin

- Two 'bi-directional' ports for a total of 16 input or 16 output lines
- One buffered output port which can interface directly to CMOS
- Able to be used with the MAPLIN digital train controller
- ★ On board address selection allows for expansion to 6 ports with two PCBs



his project for the Sinclair ZX81 will give you access to the outside world with your '81'.

The I/O port, shown in figure 1, gives many possible modes of operation. For the purposes of this article examples are given for only the simplest, although the 8255 used here has a total of three programmable operations.

MODE 'O' provides 3x8bit ports, two of which can be programmed to function either as inputs or outputs, and one (port B), as a buffered output only, which can directly drive the MAPLIN DIGITAL TRAIN CONTROLLER (issue three) or, indeed, many other forms of hardware with a minimum of interfacing.

Circuit Description

Figure 1 shows a complete circuit diagram of the board, and Figure 5 shows the alternative address decoder circuitry. The MP8255 (IC4) has two address lines, pins 8 and 9, which are connected directly to the ZX81 address lines A1 and A0. The remainder of the address decoding is performed by ICs 1,2, and 3, which enables the MP8255 with a logic Ø at pin 6 (CS).

with a logic Ø at pin 6 (CS). Data lines DØ to D7 are connected directly to IC4, along with write and read lines WR and RD. The RESET line, P35, has been tied directly to 0v. Should an external reset be required, the track will have to be broken here, and an external reset pin fitted to P35. Two possible address groups are provided on the PCB, which can be selected at the construction stage, by inserting appro-56 priate pins through the PCB. Addresses used are 16360 to 16363, which are designated by a square symbol on the legend, and 16380 to 16383, which are designated by a circle on the legend. All other track pins have a broken circle for designation. If two PCBs are used, they should be constructed for two different address groups.

IC5 and 6 are 7407 buffers, with open collector outputs capable of sinking up to 40mA at a maximum of 30v.

Construction

Commence by inserting all track pins into the holes marked with a broken circle. Decide which address group you require, and insert all track pins into their appropriate holes (see circuit description). Fit R1 to R8, and D1 (note polarity). Insert all 26 Vero pins and push home. Solder all pins and components, remembering that the track pins will need soldering to both sides of the PCB. Fit the 40 pin IC socket and ICs 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6. Solder these components in place and, finally, insert IC4 in the socket. Cut off any protruding leads and clean flux off the PCB with a stiff brush and thinners. Check all components and joints before connecting to your computer. If you are using a mother board the PCB will plug straight in, but if you are using the port direct into the ZX81 a 23-way socket (RK35Q) will be required. Place this socket over the edge connector, aligning pin 3 with the slot cut in the PCB, and solder all 44 pins to both sides of the board.

Testing And Using The Ports

With the power off, plug the port PCB into your ZX81. Switch on and ensure that the command cursor appears. If not, or if the screen fills with lines, switch off and re-check your assembly.

A few lines of BASIC program are now required for use. The highest address (16363 or 16383), used for the

Con Wo		D7	D6	D5	D4	D3	D2	D1	DØ	Port A	Port C Upper	Port C Lower	Port B
12	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Output	Output	Output	Output
12	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Output	Output	Input	Output
13	6	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	Output	Input	Output	Output
13	7	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	Output	Input	Input	Output
14	4	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	Input	Output	Output	Output
14	5	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	Input	Output	Input	Output
15	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	Input	Input	Output	Output
15	3	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	Input	Input	Input	Output

Table 1. List of Control Words.

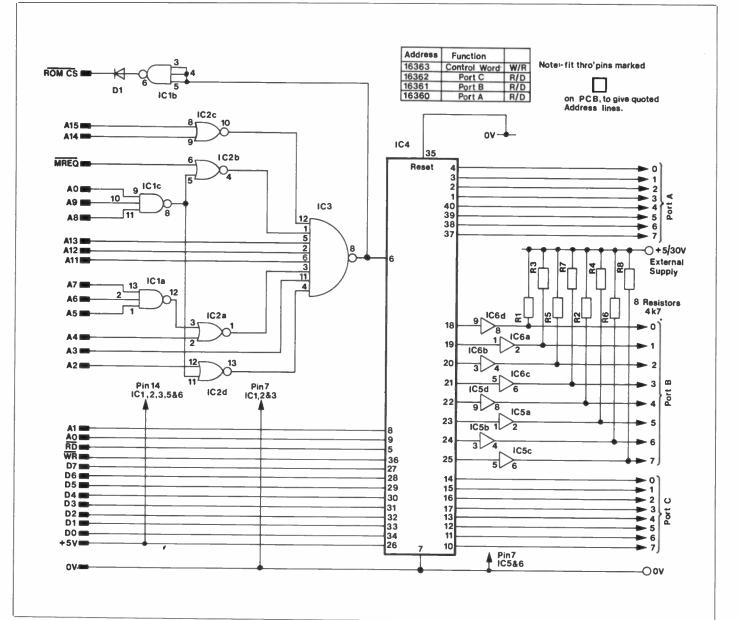


Figure 1. Circuit diagram of I/O Port.

CONTROL WORD, will set MODE and program which ports are to be input and output (see table 1).

- PORTA can be used as either input or output, but all the DATA lines will be in the same mode.
- PORT B on our PCB can only be used as an output, because of the buffers.
- PORT C can be either input or output, and may also be split into two parts, upper and lower halves, which can be changed independently.

Table 1 gives a complete list of the CONTROL WORDS available, along with DATA BUS state and a definition of PORT USE.

Reliable operation with PORT C in split mode can be difficult when using BASIC, and it is advisable to use only the control words 128, 137, 144, and 153. Port A is located at address 16360 or 16380, and if used as an output POKEing to this address will output data on the port pins. PEEKing at the same address will read data in from the same pins. Port B is located at address 16361 or 16381, and can only be POKEd here. September 1982 Maplin Magazine

I/O PORT PARTS LIST

Resistors - al	1 %W 5% carbon unless specified		
R1-8	4k7	8 off	(U4K7)
Semiconducto	rs .		
D1	1N4148		(QL80B)
IC1	74LS10		(YF08J)
IC2	74LS02		(YFO2C)
IC3	74LS30		(YF20W)
IC4	8255A PIA		(YH50E)
IC5,6	7407	2 off	(QX76H)
Miscellaneous			
	40-pin DIL socket		(HQ38R)
	Veropin 2145	1 pkt	(FL24B)
	Track pin	2 pkt	(FL82D)
	PCB	a priv	(GA90X)
Test Componer	nts		
	2k2 resistors	4 off	(M2K2)
	220R resistor		(M220R)
	LED red	8 off	(WL27E)
or	Red bargraph display		(BY65V)
			(0,001)
		1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1	

A complete kit is available for this project. It does NOT include the Test Components.

Order As LW76H (I/O Port Kit) Price £9.25

Port C is located at address 16362 or 16382, and can be POKEd or PEEKed as for port A. Printed here are two demo programs which will quickly check out your board. For demo 1 a number of discrete LEDs or a bar-graph display can be connected to 0v via a 220 ohm resistor, and then to the outputs of port B (see figure 4). Remember to connect the positive supply pin (next to port B pin 0) to a +5v/30v supply.

For the demo 2 program the LEDs can be left connected, and will give a display similar to that of the previous program. Input coding can be set up by wiring port A and C pins to either 0v or +5v, as required, but for test purposes connect the 0v and +5v via 2k2 resistors (figure 5) in case the MP8255 is set in the output mode. This should be done before running the program.

For constructors who may wish to use the I/O port with external hardware, a mother board is available for the ZX81 (GB08J) and will accept the Sinclair 16k RAM pack and up to three plug-in modules. You will need four PC edge connectors 2 x 23 way (RK35Q) and the pcb. See page 47 for prices.

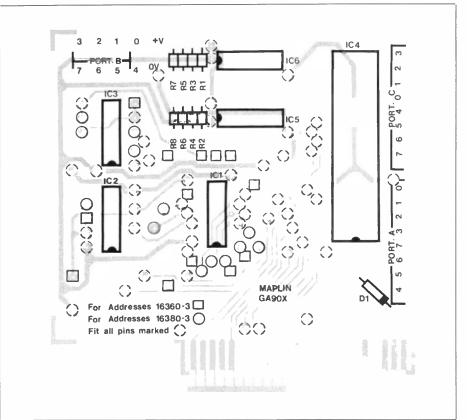
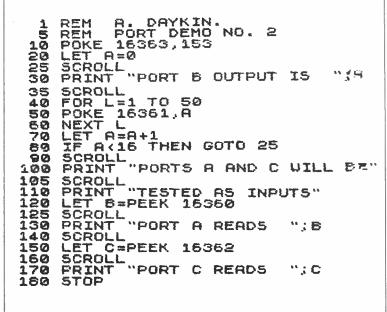


Figure 2. Component layout of I/O Port pcb.

DEMO 1 REM P REM P POKE 1 LET R= SCROLL PRINT A. DAYKIN. PORT DEMO 16363,128 1000500000000 1000500000000 NO. 1 ิตะติ =1 TO 5 16361,A FOR L=1 POKE 16 50 NEXT A=A+1LET SCROLL IF ASE16 THEN GOTO 20 GOTO 30 100

DEMO 2



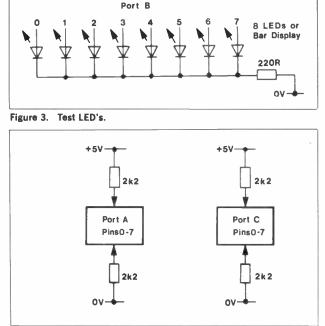
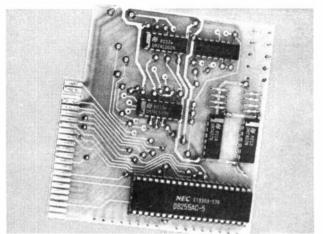


Figure 4. Test resistor connections.



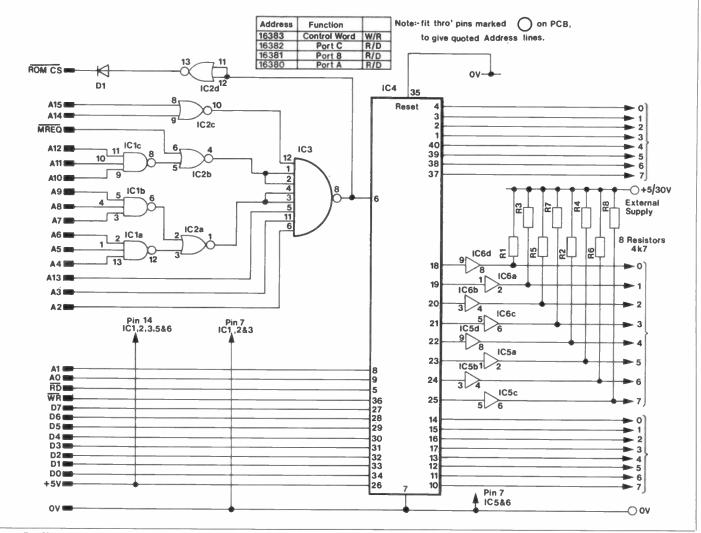


Figure 5. Circuit diagram of I/O Port with alternative address decoding.

MAPLIN TRAIN CONTROLLER PROGRAM FOR ZX81 by Dave Goodman

his program has been designed for use with the ZX81 1k or 16k RAM and our I/O port interface PCB.

Port address used is "16361", and the POKE command in line 3 simulates a track supply fail, bringing on the LED and stopping all trains.

Table 1 shows the decimal value (which, of course, appears as a binary number between 0 and 255) on the data lines.

	Α	В	С	D
F	0-9	32.41	64.71	96-105
R	16-25	48-57	80-89	112-121

Table 1. Direction and speed.

So, if controller "A" is required to move a train in a forward direction at a 'snails pace' speed of 1, then the decimal code set up will be 1.

Similarly, to select controller "D" with reverse direction and speed at maximum (9), the required decimal code will be 121.

Type in the program, followed by RUN and NEW LINE. Two statements are printed. The first, EMERGENCY STOP E, allows key E, when pressed, to stop all trains running at any time, and the second, CONTROLLER A-D?, X TO CHANGE, allows you to select the required train control unit A, B, C, or D. Pressing key X allows you to re-select a control unit.

Select a control unit (A-D) and note that a third statement is added, DIRECTION F/R?.

	-
1 POKE 16363,128	16 IF E\$="R" THEN LET H=16
2 LET E "16361"	17 PRINT "Speed Ø-9?"
3 POKE E, 128	18 GOSUB 100
4 CLS	19 IF C\$<"0" OR C\$>"9" THEN GOTO 18
5 PRINT "Emergency STOP E"	20 IF D\$="A" THEN POKE E, VAL C\$+H
6 PRINT "Controller A-D?, X To change"	21 IF D\$="B" THEN POKE E, VAL C\$+H+32
7 GOSUB 100	22 IF D\$="C" THEN POKE E, VAL C\$+H+64
8 IF C\$<"A" OR C\$>"D" THEN GOTO 7	23 IF D\$="D" THEN POKE E, VAL C\$+H+96
9 LET D\$=C\$	24 GOTO 4
10 PRINT "Direction F/R?"	100 IF INKEY\$ <>"" THEN GOTO 100
11 GOSUB 100	101 IF INKEY\$ ="" THEN GOTO 101
12 IF C\$="F" OR C\$="R" THEN GOTO 14	102 LET C\$= INKEYS
13 GOTO 11	103 IF C\$="E" THEN GOTO 3
14 LET E\$=C\$	104 IF C\$="X" THEN GOTO 4
15 IF E\$="F" THEN LET H=Ø	105 RETURN

Now that you have selected a controller the direction of travel is needed. Press key F for forward, key R for reverse.

Finally a fourth statement is added, SPEED 0-9?. Now that control and direction are set, train speed must be chosen. Note that speeds minimum (0, stopped) to maximum (9) are set by keys Ø to 9 in either forward or reverse. Press a number, and the code corresponding to all variables will set the train running. The screen will then return to the first two statements, waiting for A-D, F-R, and O-9 to be input again. Remember that E (panic), and X (train controller) can be pressed at any stage, and that NEWLINE is not required during the program. Under normal conditions the program should be found to be crashproof, and entry to the program is made by pressing the BREAK key (D/101) and NEWLINE.

Connections from the I/O port PCB to the train control remote latchboard are as follows:-

I/O port	Remote data
B pins	latch PCB pins
0	28 - B5
1	27 - B6
2 3	30 - B4
3	31 - BO
4	32 - B1
5	33 - B2
6	34 - B3
7	26 - B7
OV	28 - B5

The +5V supply for the I/O port buffers IC5 and 6 can be taken from the ZX81 +5V supply.

COMPUTER NEWS

K-DOS A better disk operating system for your Atari computer.

Have you been programming with an ATARI disk based system for some time? Are you irritated by the need to load the second stage of DOS II even to look at the directory of a diskette? Are you frustrated by seeing the screen fill with a menu that you already know? If so, read on.

K-DOS is an exciting new disk-operating system for the ATARI 400/800, which can transform your ATARI from a machine which treats you and the novice as equals into a professional-style system.

K-DOS, from K-Byte, is supplied with a concise manual, which has all the functions laid out in an easily understood format. Booting up the supplied disk will load K-DOS in the usual manner. A successful boot is indicated by the K-Byte identification header. The BASIC cartridge, if present, is then initialised, and control is transferred to it, with the appropriate READY sign. The usual format AUTO RUN.SYS file is supported, and would have been loaded and executed by this stage. Assuming that BASIC is present, one may simply type the usual DOS command to enter DOS control. The immediate confirmation of this is the echoing of DOS two lines down in lower case characters. The two obvious advantages at this stage are:-

1. There is no delay in entering DOS, as it is present in its entirety.

2. The screen is not blanked, then filled with a redundant menu; the screen simply scrolls when the cursor reaches the bottom line.

A directory is obtained by typing 'DIRECT' or its abbreviation 'D', then hitting the return. This results in the listing as normally produced by ATARI's own DOS. Returning to BASIC is just a matter of typing 'BACK' or its abbreviation 'B', whereon BASIC is entered as usual, but with the difference that the screen is not cleared — a very useful point for those of us with memories like sieves, and who, like myself, are continually forgetting filenames!

Just as it is possible to return to BASIC by hitting (SYSTEM RESET), so is it also possible to go to K-DOS by holding down the (START) key and simultaneously pressing (SYSTEM RESET). This is a nice fast method of entering K-DOS, and is very cleverly done; great if you do not require the contents of the screen to be retained.

K-DOS not only supports all the usual functions of DOS II, i.e. copy file, rename file, delete file, lock and unlock, write DOS file (WB00T), format disk etc., but also provides



COMMAND SUMMARY

Disk Maintenance	INIT n FORMAT n WBOOT {n} *DISKdup {scr{{,}dest}//A}{/W}
File Control	(/F}{//P} Direct {filespec}{,output} Copy input {,output} DELete filespec {/N} LOCk filespec UNlock filespec REName file, filename APpend {sourcefile, } destfile *TRansfer filename {/SIRG} {,filename {/SIRG} {,filename {/SIRG}}
Program Control	Eack WARM COLD Xit UNLOAD LOMem DC (character)
Machine Monitor	Bu file {M}{/N}{/P} Load file {M}{/N}{/P} Save file {M}{/N}{/P} Go {hhhh Proceed {hhhh} Examine { filest > , *last > } Alter {ad}{ < hexor "asoi Register (+)
Device Control	RESET Text CLose ERror nn
DUP Special	*UDC Ident KILL REVIVE
* Indica	ites the minimum abbreviation, ites a UDC command that normally as in a disk file.

a whole host of additional ones, which are listed here.

As you can see, commands consist of logical English words. Most of these will have an abbreviation, usually of one or two characters (the minimum abbreviation is shown underlined). Many of the commands shown will have option switches, which may alter the way in which the command is executed. One example of this is the LOAD command. This loads a binary file into memory from disk, and the three option switches are:— /M which causes the printing to the screen of the area of memory into which the file is loading, as well as the INIT. and RUN addresses.

/N will prevent the file from being run, and

/P will allow the file to overlay an area of DOS, an event which would normally produce an error trap.

Speaking of errors, another of the K-DOS features is the production of proper English error messages, e.g. ERROR 138, DEVICE TIMEOUT, or ERROR 1, ILLEGAL COMMAND. The text for these error reports can be changed easily by using one of the utility files on the supplied disk (CHERROR.SYS), allowing the creation of highly amusing and lively error statements!

One of the nice facilities for large business systems is the ability to define a command to run a particular machine code program. The 'UDC' (User Defined Command) program supplied permits the assignment of one or more character names, which when typed call up and run the designated file — pretty neat, eh?

Another interesting function of K-DOS is its disk duplicate utility. Whereas the DOS II DUPDISK command does not actually duplicate an entire disk, merely its file structure. DUPDISK with K-DOS has an option switch, /A for ALL, which causes the duplication of every single sector of a disk — a true disk duplicate.

A similarly well-written file utility is also supplied, and this is called TRANSFER. This is a file transfer utility primarily for copying files from one device to another, and files from one disk to another using the same drive. A special feature is that it will load from cassette to disk, a file or program written with short inter-record gaps e.g. autoboot cassette programs, as well as reading and writing those with long IRGs.

These are just a few of the functions that K-DOS offers, but as can be seen from the list they represent only a small part of what is available. All of these commands can actually be used from BASIC without actually going 'into' DOS. Simply type a comma before the command, and hey presto!, it is executed from BASIC (e.g., D will produce a directory listing whilst still under BASIC cartridge control).

K-DOS, it seems, represents a major step forward for the serious ATARI programmer, in that:—

1. It provides a very powerful set of monitor and disk commands and 2. It is fast and logical to use, thus giving the user big machine features on a personal computer.

It is highly recommended by myself, indeed, I have not used ATARI's own DOS for at least three months!

NEW SOFTWARE FOR THE VIC20

AC77J AC78K AC79L AC80B AC81C	(Sargon II Chess Cartridge) (Another VIC In The Wall Cassette) (VIC Panic Cassette) (Cosmiads Cassette) (Backgammon Cassette) requires at	Price £24.95 Price £7.00 Price £7.00 Price £7.00
AC82D	(VIC-Men Cassette) (VIC Asteroids Cassette)	Price £7.00 Price £7.00 Price £7.00



THE ATARI 400/800

ATARI 800

ARE THE BEST HOME COMPUTERS AVAILABLE and here's why! by Ron Levy The majority of microcomputer purchasers are buying for the first time. When they look at what is available, they find a vast bewildering range of machines to choose from. Each manufacturer claims his is the ultimate personal computer system and most are better than all the others. But these advertisements rarely give any thought to the requirements of the home user or to the practicalities of using a system at home.

The three main purposes of a home computer are education, personal software development and entertainment. The educational aspect requires that the machine be well-designed in terms of ease of use, with good documentation and tutorials with the appropriate software back-up to make learning enjoyable. For personal software development, the machine needs to be fully expandable to a complete system with disk drive, printer and cassette recorder etc. without masses of interfacing circuitry, wiring looms or the need for extra chips to be added.

The entertainment aspect is usually of equal importance (certainly when impressing friends or getting the rest of the family interested) and can be the most difficult to fulfill in terms of the complexity of the hardware and software involved.

To achieve these ends a home computer must be designed as a system rather than just a processor with the other parts left to be designed later. The Atari was the first personal computer to be designed specifically for home use. It was conceived as a complete system. Many people purchase low-priced personal computers only to find that to make it do anything worthwhile involves great expense for memory or hardware expansion. Memory for the Atari is relatively inexpensive and hardware expansion does not require expensive interface units. Everything just plugs directly one into another.

Graphics

But the one outstanding virtue of the Atari computers, both in terms of personal software development, education and entertainment is its graphics capabilities. These are quite simply unrivalled on any machine costing under £3,000.

The ZX Spectrum and The BBC micro uses Ferranti's Uncommitted Logic Arrays (ULA) to extend the power of the main processor (6502). These are quite powerful chips, but they do not approach the power of a real microprocessor. The reason they are used is because they are many many times cheaper to design than a complete microprocessor, but clearly if it was a viable proposition a microprocessor would be far more powerful. Atari are owned by the giant Warner Bros. Corporation who spared no expense in the design of the Atari computers. They designed a microprocessor (and called it 'ANTIC'), specifically to control the TV display, and the Atari therefore has two microprocessors and, as we said, the most brilliant graphics as a result.

But Atari didn't stop there. On top of that there is still another chip that has a hand in the control of the TV display. This chip, called a GTIA, provides a function known as Player Missile Graphics, and it's this concept that makes those amazing arcade games so clever.

With the GTIA, the programmer is able to create an object on the screen in any desired shape and simply designate the shape, a player and missile number. This object does not, however, exist as part of the screen memory known to ANTIC, but is in fact an entirely separate entity having its own separate area of memory which can then be manipulated and superimposed on the display by the GTIA.

These player/missiles can then be assigned a priority relative to the background or other objects so that they move behind or in front of different objects without further intervention. The colours, positions and even the shapes of these player/missiles can also be changed and on the display, the changes appear instantaneously while the 6502 and ANTIC get on with their jobs uninterrupted. It is these major advantages of the Atari computers, that put Atari graphics leagues ahead of any other computer under £3,000. The Atari makes graphics control easy, colourful and above all permits objects to move with incredible speed and smoothness around the screen, or complex objects to be repositioned instantaneously. The story does not end there, however, for the Atari has yet another specially designed extremely powerful IC called POKEY. This amazing chip deals with serial input/output, keyboard scan, audio generation, random number generation and analogue to digital conversion.

The Atari has four separate sound generators and on each one the pitch and volume are controllable. Any may be used to produce noises, squawks, bangs, rattles, hisses etc. No other personal computer in the Atari's price range has such a versatile sound generator system.

A look at the front of the machines shows the four joystick ports. As well as being joystick ports, these present one of the easiest methods of interfacing to a computer because they are bi-directional (i.e. they can be used as inputs or outputs) and can be addressed simply as memory locations. Each socket also has two analogue to digital converter inputs (giving a total of eight) that could be used by those wishing to experiment with add-on hardware for robot control for example.

On the side of the machine is the serial input/output port (SIO) to which the periphals, disk drive, printer, etc. can be connected. And again, this has been designed with the home user primarily in mind, for from this one neat little socket, peripherals may be connected, each extra one just plugging into the one before, obviating the need for interface boxes or dozens of cables. Each device has its own command data frame so that even though they are all connected together there are no problems with the software talking to the particular device required.

One of the major criticisms levelled against the Atari computers by manufacturers and owners of other machines is that the Atari 400/800s are "just games machines". It is a comment given exclusively by people who haven't the faintest idea what they're talking about.

Atari Cassette System

Those who know the Atari will find the comment devoid of any serious consideration, for how many other machines can control up to four disk drives, a printer, a professional multi-channel RS232/Centronics (i.e. non-Atari) interface and communications box and a cassette recorder, simultaneously without further interfacing or hardware and without any hardware or software conflicts or problems of any sort? Another unique feature of the Atari computer is the way it handles its cassette recorder. The Atari cassette recorder is in fact a two-track device. One track is the data signal as with all other computers, but the other track is used for storing a soundtrack. This brilliant, yet simple idea puts the Atari's educational capabilities in a class of its own!

In Atari's own software, it is used to great effect in the 'Learn Programming' and language learning cassettes. With a single POKE statement, it is possible to transfer the audio track to the TV speaker, thus making controlled commentary a possibility with learning programs on the Atari. I wonder how many people realise that the first "Bonjour" you hear in Atari's TV advertisement is actually spoken by the computer!

Another key feature of the Atari cassette system is that it is possible to increase or slow down the tape drive speed through several times its normal speed without affecting data loading. Data will still load correctly because at the start of every 128byte block of data there are two additional bytes that are used by the operating system in a very smart piece of software that calculates the baud rate of the tape being loaded. The result is that manufacturing tolerances in the speed and construction of the tape unit and the tapes, have no detrimental effect upon reliability of operation.

The physical construction of the Atari 400 and 800 is very attractive and modern. A heavy-duty plastic moulding is used for the external cabinet and will withstand a good deal of rough treatment unlike the majority of micros currently available. A look inside the machine reveals the fact that the entire CPU and its RAM cards are encased in a diecast aluminium alloy moulding. Consequently there is very little radiation or interference from the computers and conversely Atari computers do not suffer from system crashes caused by external interference. The quality and quantity of software for the Atari also far exceeds that of any other personal computer for two very good reasons. Firstly, since the machine is so comprehensive in its graphics facilities, it attracts the best programmers and secondly because the Atari makes it easy to protect software very well against unauthorised copying, producers of software are able to invest time and money developing good programs knowing they will get a fair return from it.

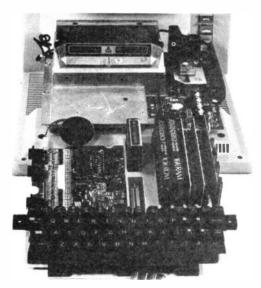
There is already masses of software available for the Atari, from the latest arcade games to complex languages like LISP and FORTH. Over 30 software houses in America are busily writing software for the Atari and others are adapting Apple software. The Atari's are currently America's best-selling computer - the Americans at least have found out how good it really is!

Sinclair's Advertising

Finally, let's take a look at Sinclair's six-page advertising brochure which has been inserted in most of the computer magazines in recent months. In the leaflet, there is a table comparing the ZX Spectrum with the BBC micro, VIC20, Atari 400, TI99/4A and TRS80 Colour computers.

Taking the chart line by line, the first point to note is that the Atari 400 is now a little cheaper than shown, but is still about twice the price of the Spectrum both for the 16k and 48k versions. Nevertheless, we still believe that if you can afford it, the Atari gives you more for your money. When you're fed up with the relatively low quality and quantity of Spectrum software and fed up with the much lesser capabilities of the Spectrum, you'll still be finding new, exciting things to do on the Atari.

The line showing standard RAM available using hi-res graphics is a cunning way of making a bad point look good. The reason the Spectrum has more RAM left than the BBC or Atari is that its highest resolution is less than the BBC or Atari so naturally it has more RAM left.



The highest resolution on the Spectrum, Atari and BBC is as follows respectively: 256 x 192, 320 x 198, and 640 x 256. The BBC machine looks very good here, but using its highest resolution you do only have 3k of RAM left and you can only use two colours on the screen, soyou can't doa lot with it. Even on the BBC model B you only have about 10k of RAM left. On the 48k Atari you have 30k of RAM left (nearly 40k if you're not using BASIC) and with this or 16k RAM you can have at least six colours at once.

But, in any case, the ability of a computer is not directly related to its highest possible resolution. On the Atari, most of the best games use low resolution graphics modes. The next line on Sinclair's chart compares maximum memory and although Sinclair could not have known at the time Maplin can now supply Atari 400's with 48k RAM fitted. To directly compare the Atari or BBC's sound generators with the Spectrum is ridiculous. Both are far and away superior to the Spectrum's one sound generator. The BBC has three and a noise channel and the Atari has four with volume and noise software adjustable on all four.

The number of colours available on the Atari is 16, but each can be displayed in 16 intensity levels which does give the impression of being different colours and it is in fact possible, though not easy, to display all 256 colours and levels on the screen simultaneously.

This fact then makes the next line on Sinclair's chart look pretty ridiculous since he claims you can only have 5 colours on the screen at one time. This is simply not true. Even in the highest resolution mode you can have six colours on the screen at once (there is usually a trade off between resolution and numbers of colours available). Another major advantage with the Atari is that different parts of one picture can actually be in different resolution modes simultaneously! - So the possibilities with the Atari really are far in advance of any other machine on this table. To be fair, comparing the graphics on the Spectrum with the graphics on the Atari is like comparing Meccano with the Empire State Building.

Flash is not available from the keyboard on the Atari, but is so easily implemented in software that it's not a factor worthy of serious consideration when choosing a computer.

Surprisingly Sinclair do not think the Atari has user-definable graphics characters, but don't worry, it has - and what you can do with them on the Atari is of course far, far better than on the Spectrum.

The only other point worthy of note is that the Atari cannot interface a normal cassette recorder, but as we've pointed out, the advantages of the Atari system far outweighs this fact.

The Atari is a very clever computer and if we had more space we could go into even more detail about its amazing capabilities. It can be used as a business machine, but it's not ideal; it wasn't designed to be. It was designed to be a home computer and this is where it excels. It was designed to be a complete system. It has got an enormous amount of software back-up.

It is the world's best home computer - and that's a fact!

NEW SOFTWARE FOR ATARI

This month we're pleased to announce another massive selection of titles available for the Atari computers.

Adventure Games Ali Baba & The Forty Thieves Star Warrior Rescue At Rigel Invasion Orion Datestones of Ryn Crush, Crumble and Chomp Crush, Crumble and Chomp Temple of Apshai (Part 1) Upper Reaches of Apshai (Part 2) Upper Reaches of Apshai (Part 2) Curse of Ra (Part 3) Curse of Ra (Part 3) Mission: Asteroid Ulysses & The Golden Fleece	-D-32K-(BQ78K) £27.95 -D-32K-(BQ79L) £28.95 -D-32K-(BQ80E) £22.45 -D-32K-(BQ81C) £18.95 -D-32K-(BQ82D) £14.95 -C-32K-(BQ84F) £22.48 -D-32K-(BQ84F) £22.48 -D-32K-(BQ87L) £14.95 -D-32K-(BQ87L) £14.95 -D-32K-(BQ8V) £14.95 -D-32K-(BQ90X) £14.95 -D-32K-(BQ90X) £14.95 -D-32K-(BQ90X) £14.95 -D-32K-(BQ91V) £14.95 -D-40K-(BQ91V) £12.19	CULCATION DECADO		Dodge Racer Matchracer Matchracer Pathfinder Deluxe Invaders Raster Blaster Bug Attack Haunted Hill Haunted Hill Haunted Hill Time Bomb Time Bomb Space Chase Space Chase Canyon Climber
Softporn Adventure Zork I: The Great Underground Empire Zork II: The Wizard of Frobozz Deadline The Battle of Shiloh (war game)		Mini Word Processor Mini Word Processor File-It 2 Bob's Business (14 programs) Bob's Business (14 programs)	-C-32K-(BG08J) £9.95 -D-32K-(BG09K) £11.95 -D-48K-(BG10L) £34.95 -C-32K-(BG11M) £9.95 -D-32K-(BG12N) £9.95	Canyon Climber Tumble Bugs Ricochet Ricochet Lunar Lander Angle Worms K-Razy Kritters
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WANTED

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WORKING WITH OP-AMPS (Continued from Page 13)

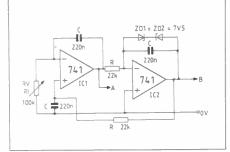


Figure 11. The quadrature oscillator.

The Sine-Square Converter

Having produced the required sinewave, the next step is to square it off. A very simple way of doing this is to use the op-amp comparator, shown in Figure 10. The inverting input is tied to OV and the sinewave input is applied to the non-inverting input. Every time the input goes positive, even by a fraction of a milli-volt, the output goes into positive saturation, and for negative halfcycles at the input, the output goes into negative saturation. So the sinewave is very efficiently converted into a square-wave, which can then be integrated, using a standard op-amp integrator, to develop the triangular waveform.

The Quadrature Oscillator

Having dealt now with several circuits that produce different time-related waveforms, it is interesting to consider a circuit in which the waveforms are identical but differ by a fixed phase angle, whatever the frequency. The actual phase angle is 90° so that the sinewaves are in 'quadrature', hence the name of the circuit, which appears in Figure 11. Two integrators are used, IC1 and IC2, the former being a non-inverting type and the latter an inverting type. The frequency of the output waveforms is determined by the time constants obtained from three resistors and three capacitors, known as R and C respectively on the basis that they are nominally equal. In practice, one of the resistors is a potentiometer RV, which is carefully adjusted until the given outputs A and B are obtained, best viewed on a double-beam CRO. If RV is turned too far one way, the circuit stops oscillating, and if too far the other way, the waveforms become a triangle and a square-wave! However, the correct setting of RV is easily found and the sinewaves are then quite stable and of excellent waveform. An amplitude limiter is included in the form of two zener diodes connected back to back.

The formula for the frequency of operation is that f=1/(2π R.C) and, with the values given in Figure 11, the circuit oscillated at 33Hz. It will work quite happily over a wide range of frequencies. For example, with R=47k; C=220n, the frequency is as low as 14Hz and with R=1k; C=47n, the frequency is then 3.7kHz. At the higher frequencies a smaller value of RV makes the setting less critical.

AMENDMENTS TO CATALOGUE

The following points have come to our notice since the last issue of this magazine.

Page 20

The picture of the 2m Rubber Duck (YG15R) shows a UHF plug, but the item is supplied with a BNC plug as stated in the text.

Page 47 The Lift-off Hinge (YL04E) is now cad-mium-plated, not chrome-plated.

Page 84 Euroboard 4-way (WY16S) does not have a neon indicator

square face.

Page 125 Pan Neon Amber (RX82D) now has a small

Page 145

Photo-Etch PCB (BW19V) is now being supplied in a smaller size: 160 x 100mm (Eurocard size)

Page 258

For WQ18U we are now supplying AY-3-1015D. This IC is directly equivalent to AY-5-1013A except that it requires only a single 5V supply. Therefore no connection must be made to pin 2

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CORRIGENDA ZX81 KEYBOARD KIT AMENDMENT

Additions To 'Connecting To ZX81'

Additions To 'Connecting to ZX81' Before connecting the keyboard to your ZX81, use a meter set to read d.c. volts and measure between 0V and pins 1 to 8 (SK2), and pins 1 to 5 (SK1) in turn. This test must be performed with the power supply plug-ged in and switched on, and without the keyboard connected to the ZX81. There should be no voltage present at these pins until a key is depressed

VIC20 Programs Corrected Colour Demonstration Program

10 PRINT 🕽 20 FOR D = 7680 TO 8185 : POKE 0, 224 : NEXT O

30 C = INT (RND(1)x506) + 38400 40 A = INT (RNO(1)x8) : IF A < 1 THEN 40 50 POKE C, A : GOTO 30

Joystick Demonstration Program

10 PRINT 3: X = 7680: Z = 0: V = 1: POKE 37154, 127 20 FOR C = 38400 TO 38960 : POKE C, 6 NEXT C

70 IF PEEK (87152) = 119 THEN X = X+1 : Z = Z+1 : IF Z>21 THEN X = X-1 : Z = Z-1

80 GOTO 30

Other Amendments

Issue 3 Page 20 Figure 5a R5 should be a 47k, not a 100k as shown. R16 should be an 820R, not a 4k7 as shown

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require a

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