

## The communications and electronics magazine

SPECTRUM CAD:
DESIGNING AMS

## ASTRID: <br> UOSAT RECE REVIEWED

STARPHONE: A CHEAP HAN OPERATION FOR 70 CM THEPOLICE ON BANDI

Manufacturers, importers and suppliers of world famous communications products 584 HAGLEY ROAD WEST OLDBURY, WARLEY, BIRMINGHAM B68 0BS
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Amateur Radio. Business Radio. Radio Telephones. Sales. Service Accessories.

## © ICOM YAESU (he R THE TECHNICALLY ORIENTATED RADIO COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALISTS.

At the time of going to press YAESU and ICOM are planning to announce price increases! R. Withers will hold their prices whilst stocks last!!!


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## Safety in the shack

Some of the constructional projects featured refer to additions or modifications to equipment; please note that such alterations may prevent the item from being used in its the item from being used in its
intended role, and also that its intended role, and also th
guarentee may be invalidated.
guarantee may be invalidated.
When building any constructional project, bear in mind that sometimes high voltages are involved. Avoid even the slightest risk - safety in the shack please, at all times.

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We will, however, thoroughy investigate any complaints.
The views expressed by contributors are not necessarity those of the publishers. Every care is taken to ensure that the
contemts of this magazine are accurate, we contems of this magazine are accurate, we
essuma no responstillity for any eflect from errors or omissions.

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Is there any interest in a 934 MHz CB column, we asked ourselves? Well, let's give it a bash and find out, we replied (yeah, we must be nuts talking to ourselves all the time). Andy Emmerson obliges

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Peter Rouse GUIDKD


Easy listening - page 53

We regret to inform readers that due to continually rising production costs and to enable us to maintain the high standard of content in Radio \& Electronics World the price of the magazine will be $£ 1.30$ from of the
this issue

# PRODUCT NEWS 

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

## FUNCTION GENIRATOR

The new low cost TG302 function generator from Levell Electronics provides sine, square, triangle, pulse, sawtooth, ramp and asymmetrical sine waveforms over the frequency range of 0.02 Hz to 2 MHz . It is possible to sweep the frequency over three decades by applying an external voltage to the VCF input.
The main output amplitude can be varied from 20 mV to 20 V p-p from a 50 ohm source A TTL output of rise time $<3$ ns is also available. This output is capable of driving up to 20 TTL loads or triggering an oscilloscope. A dc offset control enables up to $\pm 10 \mathrm{~V}$ dc to be superimposed on the main output signal.
The TG302 is housed in a high impact ABS plastic case with internal screening. The size is $85 \times 235 \times 280 \mathrm{~mm}$ and it weighs under 2 kg . The price is $£ 136+$ VAT including UK mainland delivery.

A version is available which includes a 10 MHz frequency counter which can monitor either internal or external signals.


Levell Electronics Ltd,
Moxon Street,
Barnet,
Herts EN5 5SD.
Tel: (01) 4495028.



| PoRTABLE SCOPE | formance provided by the |
| :--- | :--- |
| A new mains/battery | TO315 makes it an ideal |
| oscilloscope has been | instrument for field use. It has |
| introduced by Thandar Elec- | a weight of 6 kg and size of |
| tronics, designated the | $113 \times 223 \times 310 \mathrm{~mm}$, and costs |
| TO315. It offers true portabil- | $£ 655+V A T$. |
| ity with 15 MHz bandwidth, a |  |
| dual trace display and an | Thandar Electronics Limited, |
| input sensitivity of $2 \mathrm{mV} / \mathrm{div}$. | London Road, |
| Selection of chopped or alter- | St Ives, |
| nate mode is automatic, as is | Huntingdon, |
| line orframe synchronization. | Cambs PE174HJ. |
| The portability and per- | Tel: (O480) 64646. |

## MICROWAVE COUNUERS

The Systron Donner Division of Thorn EMI Measurement Ltd has introduced a new series of wide range frequency counters operating from 10 Hz to 26.5 GHz , with resolution down to 1 Hz .

These rugged, lightweight counters are designed for simple operation and are built to MIL-T-28800 standard. Frequency measurement up to 20 GHz (model 6245B) or 26.5 GHz (model 6246B) is very accurate. The instrument is extremely sensitive and has a wide dynamic operating range (the difference

## WATMEIER

CIL has introduced a wattmeter especially designed as a low cost, simple to use test instrument for almost any electrical apparatus. Just plug in the equipment, press a button, and rms voltage applied, rms current drawn and effective power all to $\pm 0.2 \%$ accuracy are instantly displayed

The wattmeter is $\mathbf{Z 8 0}$ microprocessor based, using a unique analogue/digital technique for the digital sampling.

Applications include test
between sensitivity and damage level)
Designed to operate using a frequency locking technique, they will respond to signals with high levels of frequency modulation, regardless of the rate of change of modulation. Selfgenerated noise is very low, typically -65 dBm . Both instruments have a 10 -digit LED display and are available with an IEEE-488 interface.

Thorn EMI Measurement Ltd, Archcliffe Road,
Dover, Kent CT17 9EN.
Tel: (0926) 35411.
departments, goods inward and laboratories where instruments can be easily checked for their correct $\pm 0.2 \%$ effective power consumption, without any danger from the mains voltage.

The device supplies 240 V mains voltage up to 10 amps , with the display in either watts or kilowatts.

## CIL Electronics Ltd, <br> Decoy Road, <br> Worthing,

Sussex BN14 8ND.
Tel: (0903) 204646.

## CAPACIIANCE TESTER

Mercer Electronics has introduced a new digital capacitance tester, the model 9670, that will measure from 0.1 pF to $20,000 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ ( 9 ranges) with $0.5 \%$ basic accuracy.

Priced at $\$ 99.00$, the model 9670 features input discharge protection, easy-insert 'caplead' jacks and colour-coded test leads with alligator clips. The tester has a 0.5 inch LCD display with over-range and a 'lo bat' indication. Weighing only $3 / 4 \mathrm{lb}$, it uses a standard 9 V battery. It is conveniently sized at $6.85 \times 3.54 \times 1.42$ inches. A flame-retardant plastic case with an acrylic window and a tilt bail are included.

## Mercer Electronics,

Simpson Electric Company, 859 Dundee Avenue,
Elgin,
Illinois 60120
USA.
Tel: (312) 6972265.

## LOGIC ANALYSER

Hewlett Packard's 1615A 24channel state and timing logic analyser is now available from Carston Electronics Ltd, the used equipment and computer specialists, for just £950 (+VAT).
This highly versatile and powerful instrument is offered fully recalibrated and with a 12 -month guarantee. It gives clock rates of up to 20 MHz for a multitude of faultfinding and design applications.
Specifications of the HP1615A include a 5ns 'glitch' capture capability, six additional qualifier channels, plus an extensive trigger facility. Designed for quick and easy operation with a menu-driven format, the analyser has a memory depth of 256 words and offers a builtin self-test function for rapid maintenance.

Carston Electronics Ltd, 99 Waldegrave Road,
Teddington,
Middlesex TW11 8LL.
Tel: (01) 9434477.


CAPACIIANCE MEIER
Levell Electronics Ltd has introduced an accurate digital capacitance meter, type 7705, with a wide measurement range at a price of £49+VAT, including test leads and a soft plastic carrying case.

DIGIIAL MULTIMETER
Two compact digital clamp multimeters, the AC20 and AC30, which accurately measure currents of up to 200 and 300A ac respectively, have been introduced by Beckman Industrial. Prices are around $£ 60$ for the AC20 and $£ 67$ for the AC30.
The AC30 measures up to 500 V ac and has a built-in continuity bleeper. It features autoranging on both volt and amp scales for easy operation. Accuracy is $1.5 \%$ of reading plus 4 digits for current measurements on both models, and $1.2 \%$ of reading plus 4 digits for voltage measurements on the AC30.
Both instruments have a clear $31 / 2$-digit display and a data hold function for easy measurement in hard-toreach locations. Overload protection is 500A for one minute on current ranges and 750 V for one minute on voltage ranges. Resolutions are 0.1 A on 200A range, 1A on 300 A range, 0.1 V on 200 V range and 1 V on 500 V range.
The AC20 and AC30 will capture and measure a conductor of 1.1 in diameter, feature a low battery indicator and have a case insulation that will withstand 2000 V ac for up to one minute.

Beckman Industrial Ltd,
Queensway Industrial Estate, Queensway,
Glenrothes, Fife,
Scotland KY7 5PU
Tel: (0592) 753811.

Capacitance values between 0.1 pF and $2,000 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ may be measured on a $31 / 2$-digit liquid-crystal display (with 0.5 inch high characters, to a basic accuracy of $0.5 \%$ ). The test voltage is 3.2 V peak and the unit has an input protection fuse. Measurement rate is 2 per second. The 7705 is powered by an internal PP3 type battery.
Cases are moulded in high impact ABS plastic, 180x $87 \times 42 \mathrm{~mm}$, weighing only 350 g .

Levell Electronics Ltd,
Moxon Street,
Barnet,
Herts EN5 5SD.
Tel: (01) 4495028

## IR MEASUREMENT

A new low cost, modular, non-contact infra-red temperature measurement system is now available from Emmaflex Ltd. The system is designed for accurately measuring the temperature of objects that are moving, inaccessible, fragile or unsafe to touch.


The system consists of sensor modules operating within a temperature range of $-55^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $+1000^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. One sensor module ( $\mathrm{M}-100$ ) has a distance/ target ratio of $3: 1$, the others (M-350 and MX) have distance/target ratios of 15:1. The sensors can be used either as stand-alone units giving a 0.1 V non-linear signal, or with power supply and linearizer boards giving $1 \mathrm{mV} /{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}, 4-$ $20 \mathrm{~mA}, 0-5 \mathrm{~V}$ or Type J T/C equivalent outputs. A full range of sensor housings and board housings are available.
This system provides an effective low cost method of measuring actual product temperatures rather than air temperature near a product.

Emmaflex Ltd,
192 Main Road,
Milford,
Stafford ST17 OUN.
Tel: (0785) 665566.

## MULTMETERS

Test equipment distributor Eagle International has introduced four new multimeters from Kaise. The meters are aimed at the hobbyist and general electronics sector of the market, with sensitivities from 20,000 to 50,000 ohms per volt.
The SK 142 is a pocket-size 20 kilohms per volt meter with case and probes, with fuse and diode protection. There are sixteen ranges covering dc and ac voltages, dc current and resistance.

The SK 20 has a similar specification to the SK 142 , but with extra ranges on dc voltage and current. The SK 20 also has a polarity reversal switch and mirror scale.

The SK 44 has a sensivitity of $30,000 \mathrm{k} / \mathrm{V}$ and the SK 50 is a $50,000 \mathrm{k} / \mathrm{V}$ meter. Both have polarity switches, overload protection and carrying cases, and share identical range specifications: 8

ranges up to 3000 V dc, 5 ranges up to 1200 V ac, 5 ranges from $30 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ to 12 A dc, 4 resistance ranges up to 50 megohms fsd, and 3 capacitance ranges. Typical accurecy is within $3 \%$ of fsd on dc ranges.

Eagle Distributors Ltd, Unit 5,
Royal London Estate, 29/35 North Acton Road, London NW10 6PE. Tel: (01) 9653222.

## DC POWLER SUPPLY

New from Global Specialties is the model 1300, a low cost bench power supply which has been specifically designed for use by designers, technicians, educational institutions and hobbyists.
The instrument has a fixed output of $5 \mathrm{~V} \mathrm{dc}( \pm 0.25 \mathrm{~V})$ at 1 A maximum, with a line regulation of $0.2 \%$, a load regulation of $1.0 \%$, and a maximum ripple of 10 mV peak-to-peak. Variable outputs are $0-20 \mathrm{~V}$ dc at 0.25A maximum, with a line regulation of $0.05 \%$, and a maximum ripple of 10 mV peak-to-peak.
The outputs can be used independently or interconnected to accommodate different voltage and current requirements. Current limiting guards against damage due to short circuits.

The instrument's frontpanel voltage and current meter has an accuracy of $\pm 5 \%$ of full scale, and a lightemitting diode (LED) indicates overload on the 5 V supply.
Weighing only 2.7 kg and with dimensions of $76 \times$ $254 \times 178 \mathrm{~mm}$, the model 1300 power supply is easily portable. It is supplied with an illustrated manual which provides specifications, operation instructions, maintenance and calibration information, a circuit description, and a schematic diagram.

## Global Specialties

Corporation,
Shire Hill Industrial Estate, Saffron Walden,
Essex CB11 3QA.
Tel: (0799) 21682.



# The very larest IC-28E 2m. FM mini-mobile from ICDM. 

This new 2 metre band transceiver is just $140 \mathrm{~mm}(\mathrm{~W}) \times 50 \mathrm{~mm}(\mathrm{H}) \times 133 \mathrm{~mm}$ (D) and will fit nearly anywhere in your vehicle or shack. Power output is 25 watts or 5 watts low power and is supplied complete with an internal loudspeaker

The large front panel LCD readout is designed for wide angle viewing with an automatic dimmer circuit to control the back lighting of the display for day or night operation.

The front layout is very simple, all the controls are easy to select making mobile operation safe. The IC-28E contains 21 memory channels with duplex and
 memory skip functions. All memories and frequencles can be scanned by using the HM- 15 microphone provided. Also avallable is the IC- 28 H with the same features but with a 45 watt output power. Options include IC-PS45 13.8v 8A power supply, SP8 and SP10 external speakers, HS15 flexible mobile microphone and PTT switchbox.

## -C290D/490E Mobiles

These SSB CW FM transceivers are ideal for mobile or base station operation. The IC-290D for 2 metres produces 25 watts/ 5 watts low power. The IC-490E for 70 centimetres produces 10 watts/ 1 watt low power. Both transceivers have a range of operating features, these include 5 memory channels, dual V.F.O s and a prionty channel to automatıcally check your most used frequency Squelch on FM and SSB to allow silent scanning whilst searching for signals, slow or fast AGC for SSB and CW and a noise blanker to suppress pulse type QRM. Sidetone is provided on CW
Memory and full or programmable band scan with internal switches to stop on
 busy or empty channels. Programmable offsets are included for odd frequency splits.

Options include: IC-PS45 13.8v 8A power supply, IC-BU1 memory back up battery unit, IC-SP8 and SP10 mobile speakers



## [CRT000.

The R11E now has a team-mate - the IC-R7000. With these matching receivers it is now possible to tune from $100 \mathrm{KHz}-2 \mathrm{GHz}$.

The IC-R7000 covers Aircraft, Marine, FM Broadcast, Amateur Radıo, Television and weather satellite bands. The IC-R7000 incorporates FM wide/FM narrow, AM, USB and LSB modes of operation with six tuning speeds.-0.1, 1.0, 5, 10 12.5 , and 25 KHz . Frequency coverage $25-1000 \mathrm{MHz}$ and $1025-$ $2000 \mathrm{MHz}(25-1000 \mathrm{MHz}$ and $1260-1300 \mathrm{MHz}$ guaranteed specification). With the IC-R7000 you have normal tuning capability with the front panel tuning knob or for quick tuming of a desired frequency by using the front panel key-pad. A total of 99 memory channels are available for storage of received frequencles and operating mode. Memory channels can be called up by pressing the memory switch then rotating the memory channel knob or by direct keyboard entry

These receivers are available seperately but together would make a superb listening station for the shortwave listener or licensed amateur.

A sophisticated scanning system provides instant access to specific frequency ranges. By depressing the Auto M switch, the IC-R7000 automatically memorises frequencies that are in use whilst in the scan mode and can be recalled later. The scanning speed is adjustable and the scanning system includes memory selected frequency ranges or priority channels. All functions including memory channel readout are clearly shown on a dual colour fluorescent display with dimmer switch Other features include dial-lock, noise blanker, S-meter and attenuator. Options include RC12 infra red controller, EX310 voice synthesizer, SP3 and SP7 external loudspeakers, HP1 headphones and the ICOM AH-7000 super wideband discone antenna.

The IC-R71E is a general coverage receiver $100 \mathrm{KHz}-30 \mathrm{MHz}$ featuring direct keyboard frequency entry and infra-red remote controller (optional). SSB, AM, CW RTTY and FM (optional) modes of operation. With 32 programmable memory channels, twin VFO's scanning systems selectable AGC, noise blanker, pass band tuning and a deep notch filter. Keyboard frequencies can be selected by pushing the digit keys in sequence of frequency The frequency is altered without changing the main tuning control. Options include EX257 FM unit, RCll infra-red controller, CK70 D C adaptor for 12 volt operation, CW filter optıons and a high stability crystal filter, SP3 and SP7 external loudspeakers. EX310 voice synthesizer, HP1 headphones

Computer Control These recelvers can be connected to a computer terminal via a suitable interface JT602 Serial Interface for IC-R7000
JT602 Serial Interface for IC-R7000
fT603 Paralle! Interface for IC R71E (IC-R7000)
The ICOM IC-R7IE requrres the IC-EX309 interface connector
weight and high durability are very important, enabling the masts to be quickly and easily transported and deployed.
As well as being typically less than half the weight of traditional metal masts, this new range is less susceptible to corrosion and icing, and a 15 metre mast can be deployed by two people in less than half an hour.
They are also radio transparent, which can prevent degradation of radiation patterns and loss of efficiency for many HF antennas. Applications include radiating masts for MF and HF communications and navigation, support structures for wire, yagi and dish antennas and environmental monitoring,
Antenna Technologies use computer programs to analyse users' requirements in terms of static loading, wind loading, deflection, and safety factors to ensure that the recommended mast optimises performance and cost.

## Antenna Technologies, Horace Road,

Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey KT1 2SN.
Tel: (01) 5467808.

## IUNCTION GENERATOR

Telonic Instruments Ltd, UK distributor for Kikusui, has announced the availability of a new programmable synthesizer/function generator, FGE 3250. This new product combines a high stability $10 \mathrm{~Hz}-20 \mathrm{MHz}$ synthesizer and a multi-function generator in a single programmable instrument (frequency range $.001 \mathrm{~Hz}-20 \mathrm{MHz}$ as a function generator).
In the synthesizer mode frequency is continuously settable with an accuracy of $0.002 \%$, and in the function generator mode triggered, gated or burst oscillations are possible for sine wave, triangle wave, square wave,
pulse output and complemented pulse output. Maximum output level is $30 \mathrm{Vp}-\mathrm{p}$.
Tactile switches combine with a rotary knob in this easy to use instrument to enable the operator to set and store conditions for up to 100 programmed steps, enabling recall of any or all of these steps as required, making the FGE 3250 ideal for automated production line and similar applications. A GPIB interface is provided as standard.

Telonic Instruments Ltd,
Boyn Valley Road,
Maidenhead
Berkshire SL6 4EG.
Tel: (0628) 73933.


## MOBILE AFRIALS

A new UHF mobile aerial is now available from On-Glass Aerials Ltd of Cannock, Staffs, which will mount directly onto a windscreen without the need for fixing holes.
Although primarily developed for the PMR market, with models covering 420540 MHz, a 70 cm amateur band model, the OW432, has now also been produced. This will retail at around £35 + VAT.
Specifications include a 200W maximum power rating and nominal 50 ohm impedance, and connection is via a miniature UHF connector. The radiator can be removed from the ABS plastic base for security.
The company hopes to produce a VHF version for 144 MHz in the near future.

## B D Price G4DVB,

93 Highview,
Vigo Village,
Kent DA13 OTG.

## BJNCHPOWER SUPRLY

The new Thurlby LB-15 bench power supply is a low cost general purpose unit designed for versatility and ease of use. It provides up to 15 V at currents up to 2 A .
An output range switch allows the user to select a higher maximum output curent when using lower output voltages. Voltages up to 7.5 V are available at currents up to 4A.
Voltage and current levels are set using rotary switches which provide a rapid and accurate means of setting the output. Calibrated vernier controls provide infinite adjustment of voltage and current between each switch setting.
The units operate in cons-tant-voltage or contact-current mode with automatic crossover. LED indicators show the mode of operation and provide a convenient means for measuring the load current. Adjustment of the current controls until the CV and Cl indicators are illuminated simultaneously gives an accurate reading of the load current flowing.
Line regulation and load regulation figures are exceptionally good, as is the transient performance. Ripple
and noise levels are very low.
The design is totally protected against overload conditions and incorporates a sophisticated 'power foldback' protection system. The mechanical construction is equally robust.

The Thurlby LB-15 is designed and built in Britain and costs $£ 89+$ VAT.

Thurlby Electronics Ltd,
New Road,
St Ives,
Huntingdon,
Cambs PE17 4BG.
Tel: (0799) 26699.

## GUARTZ CRYSIAL FILTERS



A new range of quartz crystal filters from Piezo Products includes a large variety of standard designs for use in HF, VHF and UHF communications, spanning the 100 kHz to 100 MHz frequency range.
Made by the specialist firm CR Snelgrove of Canada, the filters come with a wide range of selectable attributes including sharp selectivity, low insertion loss, high stopband rejection and excellent intermodulation characteristics. Linear phase filters and filters with precise group delay characteristics are also offered.
The HF range includes types for many standard frequencies including 99.8, 250, $455,1400,1500,1748,1750,1751$ and 4400 kHz , plus $35.4,40,45$, $68.6,75$ and 100.2 MHz types for roofing filter applications. The VHF/UHF range covers 9.9 to 31 MHz in a variety of standard frequency selections.
This range of standard quartz crystal filters also includes 200,500 and 700 kHz versions for miscellaneous applications.

Piezo Products Ltd,
Millstream Trading Estate,
Christchurch Road,
Ringwood,
Hants BH24 3SD.
Tel: (0425) 479337.


The larger Satellit 650 has 60 memories (because of the microprocessor control, all are fully independent of mode and waveband). VHF and SW coverage are the same as the 400 , with MW coverage from $510-1620 \mathrm{kHz}$ and LW from $148-420 \mathrm{kHz}$. A BFO is provided, and short wave bandwidth is selectable between 2.2 kHz and 3.5 kHz . Sensitivity is $0.7 \mu \mathrm{~V}-4.5 \mu \mathrm{~V}$.

Both receivers will accept either 120 V or 240 V mains input in addition to the internal batteries.

Prices will be approximately $£ 180$ for the 400 and £400 for the 650 and we shall be reviewing both in the near future.

Grundig International Ltd, Mill Road, Rugby,
Warwickshire.
Tel: (0788) 77155.


## RANASONIC PRINIERS

The complete range of Panasonic KX printers is now in stock at First Software and includes five dot matrix and two daisy wheel machines. The dot matrix units, from the 80 -column KX-P1080 to the 136-column KX-P1595, are all bidirectional with full logic seeking and have multiple print modes selectable from the front panel. These machines offer draft, near letter quality and proportional printing as well as graphics capabilities.

The daisy wheels, KX-P3131 and KX-P3151, are respec
tively 110 -column and 132 column machines offering outstanding letter quality printing plus compatibility with the majority of small business and personal computers.

To complement the range a wide selection of accessories and options are available which will allow the printers to be configured for virtually any requirement.

First Software,
Intec 1, Wade Road,
Basingstoke,
Hants RG24 ONE.
Tel: (0256) 463344.

## DATA BUS CABLE

Amphenol has introduced a data bus cable with enhanced performance for use in applications where extra protection against interference is required, such as aircraft control systems and ground and marine-based communication systems.
Type 711-Pan 6421 is a 77 ohm, twin $24 a w g$ multiplex data bus cable approved to MIL-STD-1553B and DEF 00/18 (part 2), and meeting the requirements of Panavia specification.
The construction features dual screens of silver-plated copper strands, giving $85 \%$ minimum optical coverage for each screen. Silver-plated copper alloy cores are insulated with red and blue Kapton/FEP tape plus dispersion. The outer sheath is blue extruded FEP of 0.2 mm minimum thickness.
Characteristic impedance is 77 ohms $\pm 3$ ohms, mutual

## RACAL PHONEPATCH

Racal Acoustics Limited has launched its unique 27A300 series Phone-Patch.
This new telephone/radio interface incorporates a modern electronic telephone and a radio interconnect system within a compact unit, enabling interface between the public telephone system and users of simplex radio sets. This facility increases the scope of communication networks available by allowing access between telephone and radio systems.
Phone-Patch has three modes of operation which can be selected by push-button keys: Radio - for normal radio operation; Line - for normal

capacitance $98.4 \mathrm{pF} / \mathrm{m}$ max, and attenuation is 4.92 dB / 100 m max at 1 MHz , Maximum core-to-screen working voltage is 600 V rms.
Nominal diameter over outer sheath is 3.5 mm , and mass is $28 \mathrm{~kg} / \mathrm{km}$ max. The cable is supplied in multiples of 1 m length, minimum 5 m .

## Amphenol Ltd, <br> Thanet Way, <br> Whitstable, <br> Kent CT5 3JF. <br> Tel: (0227) 264411.

telephone operation; and Radio to Line - which enables the user to switch the radio through to the exchange line, allowing him to communicate with subscribers on the telephone network.

While the call is in progress the operator can monitor both Radio and Line speech, and in the case of poor telephone line condition can manually key the radio using a switch on the handset or by a remote foot-switch. Automatic keying of the radio transmitter is achieved by a built-in voice operated switch.

Racal Acoustics Limited,
Beresford Avenue, Wembley, Middlesex.



## BURN-N/NIEST SOCKETS

The latest Welcon range of burn-in/test sockets from Wells Electronics is now available from their UK distributor, Dage Intersem.
Wells' updated socket range caters for surfacemount technology, with new high-temperature sockets for leaded and leadless chip carriers and SOICs. The LCC sockets are self-aligning and allow devices to be held either way up. They are designed for even heat dissipation on all four sides, and contacts can be probed without withdrawing the device.

The new SOIC socket family saves valuable board space by its compact design. It is designed for fully automatic device loading and un loading.
Conventional burn-in sockets for device outlines from TO-5 to 48-pin DIP offer a wide choice of materials and features, including berylliumcopper or Pfinodal contacts with 10 or 30 micro-inches of gold plating.

Dage (GB) Ltd,
Intersem Division,
Rabans Lane,
Aylesbury,
Bucks HP19 3RG.
Tel: (0296) 33200.

[^0]interfaces for connecting external equipment to the recently announced IBM Token-Ring network. Meeting the ANSI/IEEE Std $802.5,1985$ and other relevant specifications, the TMS380 also meets the European Computer Manufacturers' Association (ECMA) standard for token-ring local area baseband networks.
The set comprises five integrated circuits containing local area network (LAN) management services. Providing a data rate of $4 \mathrm{Mbits} /$ sec using existing telephone twisted-pair, shielded twisted-pair and fibre optics, the set is designed for LAN connection to personal computers, advanced technology PCs and 32-bit professional workstations.

VSI Electronics (UK) Ltd,
Roydonbury Industrial Park,
Horsecroft Road,
Harlow,
Essex CM19 5BY.
Tel: (0279) 29666.

## RF FILTERS

The metal-cased, herme-tically-sealed, RFI/EMI filter and feed-through capacitor range available from Steatite has been updated to provide a more comprehensive family.
The filters are designed to operate in the most rugged industrial and military environments, being of bulkhead mounted construction and operating over a temperature range of $-55^{\circ}$ to $+125^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The family includes ' $L$ ', 'Pi' and ' $T$ ' configurations in addition to straight feed-through capacitor elements.
According to configuration, current rating and type, insertion losses are defined from as low as 30 kHz , extending to 1 GHz and above. The range includes filters with working voltages of up to 400 V dc and 125 and 240 V ac at 50 Hz and 400 Hz .

Steatite Group, Hagley House, Hagley Road, Birmingham B16 8QW. Tel: (021) 4546961.

## The Archer 780 8BC

The SDS ARCHER - The Z80 based single board computer chosen by professionals and OEM users.
$\star$ High quality double sided plated through PCB
$\star 4$ Bytewide memory sockets - upto 64 k
$\star$ Power-fail and watchdog timer circuits

* 2 Serial ports with full flow control
$\star 4$ Parallel ports with handshaking
$\star$ Bus expansion connector
$\star$ CMOS battery back-up
$\star$ Counter-timer chip
* 4 MHz . Z80A


## OPTIONS:

$\star$ SDS BASIC with ROMable autostarting user code
$\star$ The powerful 8 k byte SDS DEBUG MONITOR

* On board 120 / 240 volt MAINS POWER SUPPLY
* Attractive INSTRUMENT CASE - see photo.
* $64 \mathrm{k} / 128 \mathrm{k}$ byte DYNAMIC RAM card
* 4 socket RAM - ROM EXPANSION card
$\star$ DISC INTERFACE card


# Sherwood Data Systems Ltd 

Sherwood House, The Avenue, Farnham Common, Slough SL2 3JX.Tel. 02814-5067

## ETETE IC KII

ITT has announced a kit of ICs which can be used to design telephone subsets with a 'hands-free' facility using very few additional components. Previously exclusive to ITT, the devices are now available to the commercial market.

In the past, hands-free telephones have been built with discrete analogue circuitry, using simple switches as attenuators. They used many discrete components and were expensive. ITT has adopted a new approach which uses the advantage of LSI. The kit comprises three ICs: ITT 90 is the subset IC, ITT 91 is the hands-free control IC, and ITT 92 is the tone ringer and loudspeaker IC.

The ITT 90 subset IC is designed to be the line interface component for a wide range of telephones. It replaces the hybrid coil assembly with an electronic
hybrid, which drives the line directly. In its simplest form a telephone subset may be designed using this IC and no other active components.

The ITT 91 controls handsfree operation by means of attenuators in the transmit and receive paths, which are set in response to voice levels into receive, talk or standby states. The device is powered from the line via the ITT 90, which acts as a voltage regulator. Four modes of operation are selectable by the user: hands-free mode, loudspeaking mode using handset microphone, plain, ordinary telephone or handset mode, and handset mode with a small amount of voicecontrolled attenuation. There is a user-operated receive volume control.

ITT Semiconductors Ltd 145-147 Ewell Road, Surbiton,
Surrey KT6 6AW.
Tel: (01) 3906578.


In a recent agreement with Philips (MAP Division) of Milan, Sabre Computers International Limited has been appointed sole stockist for the 'Fimiline' ranges of professional quality openframe data monitors.

Sabre is stocking the popular 6-inch model 601, already in use in many applications including bank tellers' terminals, machine tool controllers and cash tills etc, and has now added the 9GP and 12GP frameless 'kit' style units, which are electrically identical to each other.

The 601 delivers a full 80 character $\times 25$ line resolution on a green (P31) anti-glare tube, running on 12 V dc at approximately 700 mA , with a choice of 1 V composite, or 5 V (TTL) separate sync + video
inputs. The mounting frame and I/P connector are industry standard so that the model 601 can directly replace other manufacturers 5.25 -inch units.

The 9GP has a 9 -inch tube, and the 12 GP has a 12 -inch tube. Both are ideally suited for high resolution data and graphics displays, with P31 (green) dark glass, anti-glare tubes, and greater than 25 MHz video bandwidth. They run on 12 V de at approx 800 mA , with 5 V (TTL) separate sync and video inputs.

Sabre Computers International Ltd, Process House, 43 Selsdon Road, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 6PY.
Tel: (01) 6818241.


BNE CONNECTORS
A commercial-quality BNC connector from Amphenol is designed to be cost-effective without sacrificing the RF electrical performance typical of BNC receptacles. Application areas include computer and business equipment, television broadcast and other communications equipment.

Series 31 connectors are ruggedly constructed, with a zinc diecast body finished in durable Astroplate, moulded insulators, and stamped and formed tin-lead contacts with solder-cup termination. They are designed to accommodate 0.125 and 0.25 in panel thicknesses, both types being front-mounted for easy
installation. The BNC twostud bayonet mechanism provides for quick connect and disconnect.
Connector impedance is nominally 50 ohms, rated working voltage 500 V rms. The connector is designed for a frequency range of 0 to 4 GHz . Ground lugs and shield ground lugs are available as options.

To mate with Series 31 receptacles, Amphenol manu factures low-cost BNC Suretwist plugs for RG-59 and 62/U cables. They will, however, mate with any male BNC plug.

## Amphenol Ltd,

Thanet Way, Whitstable,
Kent CT5 3JF.
Tel: (0227) 264411.

DC-DC CONVERTERS
Coutant Electronics Ltd have recently introduced a new range of wide input dc-dc converters that are specifically designed for telecomms applications.

Known as the SA series, these PCB mounted units operate over the temperature range $-25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ to $71^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ without any loss of performance. Most units in the range incorporate a six-sided continuous EMI/RFI screen.

The range consists of over 20 different units that provide a choice of $12 \mathrm{~V}, 24 \mathrm{~V}$ or 48 V dc inputs with outputs of $\pm 5 \mathrm{~V}$, $\pm 12 \mathrm{~V}, \pm 15 \mathrm{~V}$ or 5 V and $\pm 12 \mathrm{~V}$.

Coutant also supply a variety of encapsulated and semiregulated dc converters.

Coutant Electronics Ltd, Kingsley Avenue,
IIfracombe, Devon EX34 8ES.
Tel: (0271) 63781.

## HOTEMOULDED RESISTORS

Now available from Online Distribution are Allen-Bradley hot-moulded resistors, in values from one ohm to 100 megohms. Values up to one million megohms are also available to order. Standard tolerances are 5,10 and 20 per cent.

The main feature of these resistors is reliability plus uniform quality. Pairs of resistors from the same package or reel will track with each other throughout changes of temperature, humidity and load. This assures reliable behaviour in circuits such as flip-flops. Between $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and $85^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ the resistors are almost immune to temperature.

Online Distribution Ltd, Melbourne House,
Kingsway,
Bedford.
Tel: (0234) 217981.
amplifiers and filters. Its paralleled modular system allows transmission to be maintained under fault conditions.

During the past year, Eddystone Radio Ltd, a division of Marconi Communication Systems Ltd, has sold over £350k worth of FM transmitters to France.

## Well I never department

Marconi Radar Systems have come up with an 'over the horizon' radar. This OTH radar is designed for coastal and ship-borne air defense, and uses a short wave radio signal which follows the curvature of the Earth (apparently because of the salinity of the sea). The range is claimed to be up to 200 miles

It seems that the theory behind this technique has been known for many years but it has taken the power of modern computers to exploit it. Recent developments in HF communications equipment have also helped to some degree.

## Mobile radio specs

New technical specifications and an engineering memorandum for land mobile radio services have been published by the Radio Regulatory Division of the DTI. They are:
MPT 1318: engineering memorandum - trunked systems in the land mobile service.
MPT 1323 (JRC): angle modulated radio equipment in the frequency bands 139.5140.5 MHz and $148.0-149.0 \mathrm{MHz}$ for use by the joint radio
committee of the fuel and power industries.
MPT 1325: VHF and UHF radio transmitters for use at base stations in the wide area paging service.
MPT 1326: angle modulated VHF and UHF radio equipment for use at fixed and mobile stations.
Engineering memorandum MPT 1318 is intended to give an introduction to the principles and potential benefits of trunked systems, and contains design methods and recommended parameters for successful system design.

Specification MPT 1323 (JRC) was prepared to cover frequency bands 139.5140.5 MHz and $148.0-149: 0 \mathrm{MHz}$, to be used by the national power industries when displaced from the band 105108 MHz .
Specification MPT 1326 was prepared as an eventual replacement for MPT 1301 and includes transmitter intermodulation limits designed to reduce intermodulaton product levels at shared radio sites.

## Testing, testing

Electronic Brokers, supplier of a wide range of test and measurement equipment, has announced the setting up of a new division dedicated to second-user ATE (automatic test equipment) systems.

Electronic Brokers has considerable experience in larger-scale equipment because of its second-user DEC computer activities, and it will carry out the same degree of refurbishing and

The map shows the extent of Philips' operation in the UK. The company employs more than 20,000 people in this country with a £1 billion turnover
Some of these transmitters are to be installed at existing UK television relay stations by the IBA in 1986-87 and will extend the coverage of Channel 4 television programmes to many areas at present unable to receive them. The order also includes low power transmitters which are destined to extend coverage of both ITV and Channel 4 to new areas for the first time.
The low power transmitters are of the type known as transposers, which obtain their input signal off-air from another station, amplify it and retransmit it on a new fre-
quency. They can handle both the vision and sound signals together and can provide powers from about 0.5W up to 1 kW for retransmission.

Seeing the light
British Telecom has, through Comtec Cable Accessories Ltd, signed an order worth approximately $£ 1$ million for equipment to fusion-splice optical fibres. Ericsson Fiber Optics AB, Sweden, received the order in the face of intense international competition.

This order means that the Swedish company is today the sole supplier to British Telecom of fusion splicing equipment for so-called single mode fibres.

The splicing system consists of the fusion splicing machine FSU 850 and its accompanying equipment.

Ericsson Fiber Optics AB, with approximately 50 employees, was formed one year ago to develop and market new products within the fast growing area of fibre optic communication.

## Tx à la Francais

Eddystone Radio has received an order worth approximately £200k via its agent, Marconi Instruments France, to supply ten 2 kW stereo transmitters to the largest commercial FM radio network in France. The network will use the type 1707/2 transmitters to create new radio services.

Completely self contained, this solid-state transmitter features broadband RF power

re-manufacture to ensure that its used ATE systems match up to the original manufacturers' specifications.

## Effective EMC

A new publication from ERA Technology, Guide to Achieving Immunity from Electrical Interference, completely updates the previous report Code of Practice for the Avoidance of Electrical Interference in Electronic Instrumentation and Systems.
The report emphasises the importance of considering electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) at all stages of design, development, manufacture and installation of equipment, if acceptable immunity to interference is to be achieved effectively and economically.
Comprehensive guidance on the design and installation of sensitive equipment is given, and the characteristics of interference in typical environments is summarised. The guide also describes interference propagation, the coupling mechanisms into sensitive circuits and a range of susceptibility tests that can be used to evaluate equipment immunity and diagnose the causes of problems.
The report concludes with guidance on safety and the environmental constraints on measures used to prevent interference effects, plus a review of relevant standards and codes of practice.
Copies of the report can be obtained for $£ 50$ ( $£ 45$ to members) from the publication sales department of ERA Technology on (0372) 374151, extension 234.

## New transatiantic cable

A major development in British Telecom's plans for transatlantic digital communications was announced during May. An agreement was signed in Paris aimed at the construction of a new optical fibre cable that will be ready for service in 1991 and will land in Britain, France, Spain, the USA and Canada.
The four partners who have joined with British Telecom in signing this agreement are AT\&T of the USA, Teleglobe Canada, the French PTT and

Telefonica of Spain. Many other international communications carriers will be invited to join in the project as joint owners of the $\$ 400 \mathrm{~m}$ cable, which will be known as TAT9.
The partners intend to take a major step forward in submarine fibre optic cable technology by operating the fibres at the more efficient wavelength of 1.55 microns instead of the 1.3 microns of present cables, thereby reducing the number of amplifiers needed. The transmission rate of 565 megabits of information per second will be double that planned for earlier cables.

## Direct dialling to China

British Telecom has reached an agreement with the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications in China to open an international direct dialling (IDD) service.
Direct dialling will open between Britain and Beijing (Peking), Shanghai and 24 other major cities and towns, covering all but a handful of China's five million telephones. The IDD service will commence as soon as the new international switching centres in China become operational. This is likely to be in a month or two's time.
Calls will be sent via a geostationary satellite above the Indian Ocean, between British Telecom's Goonhilly Earth station and a new satellite station at Beijing.
A three minute call will cost $£ 3.45$, which is $£ 2.59$ less than making a call through the international operator.
With a population of more than 1,000 million, China has only one telephone for every 200 people, compared with Britain's one for every two people. By 1990 the number of phones in China is expected to double, rising to more than 30 million by the year 2000 .
China will become the 165th country to join British Telecom's IDD network. IDD services began in 1963 between London and Paris and have since been extended to every telephone customer in the country with access to over 550 million telephones world-wide. Now, more than 18 million IDD calls


ERA Technology has been examining the use of plastics in the production of low-cost, lightweight antennas. The result is the $12 \mathrm{GHz} 4 \times 4$ element planar array on the right, moulded to sufficiently close tolerances while still using simple tooling. A report covering the research work is now available
are made from Britain every month (no wonder BT is making so much money).

## Stinking rows department

A recent survey by NOP Market Research into home audio taping has revealed gaping holes in the Government's case for imposing a ten per cent levy on blank audio tape.

The levy would be paid to copyright holders and would entitle tape buyers to make recordings of broadcast or pre-recorded material. Yet the survey found that more than half of blank tape recording time is used to record an individual's own records - on which a copyright fee has already been paid. A further 18 per cent of home taping time is to record radio broad
cast material - on which a copyright fee has also been paid.

The rest of the sample used tape for many different purposes, some of which were totally unconnected to copyright material, such as dictation, taking letters and recording lectures.

The survey found that the majority of people tape albums either to preserve an LP's condition or to allow them to play their music in their car or personal stereo.
The anti-levy view is backed up by the survey finding that the heaviest buyers of blank audio tape are also the heaviest purchasers of prerecorded music. This shows that copyright owners benefit from home taping.
| think the message is clear,

How about this for a shack? It's a set-up from Rohde \& Schwarz for information and press services, and will recieve morse, SSB, DSB, teletype, fascimile and speech over the range 10 kHz to 30 MHz . I wantone!





In the US, expansion into the 'reserve' frequencies would limit their possible use for other applications, while in the UK, expansion into the 'pan-European' reserve by Cellnet and Vodafone would undoubtedly complicate the introduction of a pan-European cellular system at 900 MHz .

Cellular operators both in the US and the UK can be heard moaning that they don't have enough spectrum to provide the sort of service they would like, particularly in densely populated areas. No firm decisions on either request have yet been taken by the FCC in the US or by the DTI in the UK.

## Nationwide cellular

Cellular in the UK will eventually be virtually nationwide in its coverage. Both network operators (Cellnet and Vodafone) are racing ahead to achieve $90 \%$ population coverage, as required by the conditions of their licence. This corresponds to covering about $64 \%$ of the area of the UK. Vodafone announced last month that they were already up to over $70 \%$ population coverage with 156 base stations and 306 cells. However, in the US national coverage with the current generation of cellular networks could never be possible because of the much greater distances involved. It would not make economic sense to install 800 MHz 'cell' sites all over the country. In some more remote places it may be days before a car equipped with a telephone passes by.
The distances between major centres of population are just too great to seriously contemplate a nationwide US cellular car telephone network. However, key areas are being linked. It is now possible to drive from New York to Washington maintaining telephone contact all the way.

## HDTV: Europeans speak out

With just weeks to go before the opening of the all-important CCIR Plenary in Dubrovnik, HDTV was a major subject for debate at this year's NAB in Dallas. NAB is the world's largest professional broadcast equipment show and conference, and is attended by over 40,000 visitors from all over the world.
The 'European and 50 Hz ' lobby was making its voice heard at NAB. A new CCIR discussion paper presented by the French said, bluntly, that 'there is no question of setting definitive values for HDTV parameters (at the present CCIR Plenary) as a good deal of research and experiment are still required.'
This is in sharp contrast to the US/Japanese $(60 \mathrm{~Hz})$ view that 'now' is the time to decide on a world-wide HDTV studio production standard. The US and Japan are strongly advocating acceptance of the 1,125 line 60 Hz NHK HDTV proposal.
This proposal is being opposed by
much of the 50 Hz world because of the problems that the selection of a system based on a 60 Hz field rate would create. There is also a feeling among Europeans and other 50 Hz countries that they are being rushed into an important decision by the US/Japanese without full consideration having been given to the whole question of HDTV, including such areas as receiver and transmission standards as well as the studio standard.

Although it is a studio standard that is now being discussed by the CCIR, proponents of the 'wait and see' view on HDTV (largely the Europeans and 50 Hz countries) argue that you cannot sensibly define a TV production studio standard without seriously considering transmission. And for HDTV, this means satellite transmission.

## EBU wants 22 GHz band

In his address to the NAB Engineering Dinner, EBU Technical Director George Waters revealed that the combined broadcasting unions' recent meeting in Prague had passed a resolution calling for the allocation of spectrum in the 22 GHz band for HDTV broadcasting in ITU Region 1 (Europe, Africa and the USSR). Regions 2 and 3 already have this allocation. Waters explained that such an international frequency allocation, if it could be agreed, would greatly simplify HDTV transmission from satellites.
Such an agreement, it must be said, would be difficult to achieve in practice in the short term as different uses are already made, or planned, for these frequencies in different Region 1 countries. For instance, in the UK 22 GHz is partly allocated to Mercury for fixed links.



Frank W3LPL checks the mailbox at the VOA's Californian transmitter site in Delano

## HDTV transmission

HDTV transmissions from satellites at 22 GHz could be made without having to resort to bandwidth compression techniques such as the Japanese MUSE system, which are essential for the relatively restricted channel bandwidths available in the 12 GHz band. At 12 GHz a broadband HDTV signal has to be 'squeezed' into a single channel. By doing this it is argued that some of the advantages of HDTV are lost.
For the full benefits of HDTV to be realised, a broader channel bandwidth is required. An international satellite broadcast band at 22 GHz would have the advantage of being both high enough to provide adequate bandwidth and low enough to be within reach of today's, or at least tomorrow's, technology.
The next higher satellite broadcast band at 40 GHz could provide adequate band width for HDTV, but is said to be too high for current technology.
EBU chief Waters argued that a single world-wide satellite broadcast band would be the best solution for HDTV broadcasting. He warned that the world somehow had to avoid the proliferation of TV standards which currently exist: if all the variations of PAL and SECAM are included, today there are 14 different TV standards around the world. A single world-wide HDTV standard could provide the answer.

However, judging by the strength of feeling on both sides (European $/ 50 \mathrm{~Hz}$ and US/Japan/60Hz) it is hard to see what the outcome of the current CCIR discussions can be other than a compromise. A compromise at the CCIR will mean that there won't be agreement on a single standard for HDTV ... well, not for a while at least.

## Spectrum review

Peter Rouse GU1DKD has written Scanners: A VHF/UHF Listener's Guide. The book contains plenty of information on what equipment is available in the scanner market, as well as some useful frequency tables and other general information for the listener.

Aimed at the newcomer to radio, Peter's book fills a gap in scanner reading material in the UK. Scanners appear to be the current 'boom' in radio. Peter is already back at the WP, bashing out the second edition!

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Deck type 828A Deck mechanism only as used in both above. Deck type 828A. Deck mechanism only as used in both above.
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electronics. 3 -digit counter. AC drive motor and cassette door

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HO55 1 -Track Head for auto-reverse or quadrophonic use. Full Pease consult out list for technical data on these and othes special Purpose Heads
MA481 Latest version Double Mono (2/2) Record/Play head. Replaces R484
SM166 Standard Mounting 2/2 Erase head. Compatible with
bove or HO551 4 Track head ..................
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# AMATEUR RADIO WORLD 

## Compiled by Arthur C Gee G2UK

TThe latest furore to hit the amateur radio world, in this country at any rate, is what seems to be a very severe change in the procedure adopted by the Radio Investigation Service of the DTI for dealing with amateur radio transmission breakthrough causing TVI and radio interference to nearby receivers.

In the past, complaints of such interference were dealt with by an investigation into whether the fault lay with the amateur transmitting equipment or with the complainant's equipment. If the former, help was given in curing the trouble; if the latter, the complainant was expected to take steps to adapt his equipment so that it was not susceptible to such interference.

Now, it seems, such complaints are dealt with by sending the amateur under suspicion a standard letter couched in such terms that it suggests that the problem is automatically the radio amateur's fault and ends up by saying 'please inform this department (the local RIS office) within a month if you have resolved the problem to your neighbour's satisfaction.' If this has not been done, they suggest that your station will be inspected 'to see what action should be taken.' It concludes by indicating that in certain circumstances the department may need to vary your licence'. A copy of this letter is sent to the complainant!
What this 'variation' may be is unclear; it is presumed it may mean a restriction on the times when operating can be carried out and/or a reduction in the power to be used. Clearly the blame for the problem has been shifted on to the amateur and removed from his complaining neighbour.
Not unnaturally, the Radio Society of Great Britain has taken vigorous action over this matter. So far the DTI has agreed to 'have talks' about it.

## AMSAT name change

The Radio Amateur Satellite Organisation, which has been in operation for a number of years, has decided to change its policy. Originally its aim was to represent and organise amateur satellite affairs on a 'global' basis. It started off reasonably successfully in this objective and its board of directors was drawn from as wide a field as the USA, Canada, the UK, Japan and South Africa.

However, as world-wide interest in amateur radio satellites grew, and 'local' AMSAT groups were established, it became only too apparent that the original AMSAT concept was too unwieldy to function efficiently. Many problems arose and many personnel changes took place. Funds dwindled and its intended functions failed.

Consequently it has been reconstituted and will in future concern itself primarily with looking after the amateur radio satellite affairs of North America only. The board of directors has voted to change the name of the organisation to AMSAT-North America, shortened to AMSAT-NA. It will specifically serve as the regional representative of amateur satellite users in the US and Canada.

## Hands across America

From the amateur radio newsletter Westlink Report, we learn that amateur radio provided communications for the 'Hands Across America' project. On Sunday 21 May, some six million Americans attempted to join hands in a line stretching over 4000 miles from New York City to Los Angeles, California!
This event is a follow-up to the US Aid for Africa' project held last year. The National Communications Co-ordinator for this project was Charlie Kosman WB2NQV, who organised the communications for the Olympic torch run in 1984.

## Shuttle filight amateur radio log

Last autumn the Columbia shuttle flight carrying the European Spacelab D1 had several radio amateurs amongst its crew. One of them, Dr Ernst Messerschmid DG2KM, managed to find time to make some amateur radio calls using the callsign DPOSL, and there was also an automatic QSO recording machine in operation logging the calls, DARC, the German Amateur Radio Council, recently released the log of those amateurs who made calls: the list contained nearly three hundred such calls.

## Old Timers' Association

At one time this organisation was a very active and lively group, but in recent years it seems to have been rather in decline. Recently, however, steps have been taken to revive it.

Its object is to keep alive the pioneering spirit of amateur radio by personal and radio contacts and to preserve the legends of the past. Membership is open to anyone who has had an interest in the field of communication by radio for twenty-five years or more.

Applications for membership should be addressed to Miss Mabel Gadsden, 19 Rannock Court, Adelaide Road, Surbiton, Surrey KT64TE. As older readers will know she is a real 'old timer', having been associated with the OT Assn for forty years. Applicants should send $£ 6.50$ to cover the joining fee, the proposed subscription and the highly distinguished RAOTA badge.

## 28MHz activity

Considerable concern is being expressed in several quarters at the lack of activity on the 28 MHz band during the present solar cycle minimum. With such low usage by radio amateurs, the fear exists that the band may be taken over by intruders!
'Band condition' commentators describe activity on the band as being 'at an all time low' and 28 MHz being 'terribly under-used and vulnerable to take-over bids', to quote two recent comments. The suggestion that 'more converted CB rigs in the hands of licensed amateurs could help to retain the present width of the band' was not made in jest!

However, there are occasional openings, and even when these are few and far between there are other signals of interest to be heard if one looks for them. For instance, there is much to be gained from looking for the down-link satellite signals on mode B from the Russian RS series of amateur radio satellites.

Quite a lot of exotic calls can be heard, particularly if you can read CW. These can be found around the 29.5 MHz region of the 10 metre band. They can be easily heard on any modern SW receiver or transceiver with an ordinary long-wire or dipole antenna. If you join AMSAT-UK and get their orbital prediction calendar, you'll get all the information you need to find out how and when to listen for them.

Then there are numerous 28 MHz beacons operating under the auspices of the International Beacon Project which are interesting to monitor. The RSGB have produced log sheets for beacon reception, which may be obtained from
(and returned to) G4CEB, Building R25, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Chilton, Didcot, Oxon OX11 0QX.
Some radio clubs and ' 28 MHz interest groups' are organising 28 MHz activity periods. One such is the White Rose Amateur Radio Society. They have organised 28 MHz test periods on the last Sunday in four consecutive months, viz 28 May, 29 June, 27 July and 31 August. Each test period starts at 0900 UTC and continues for eight hours. Activity is on all modes and centres around 28.0 to 28.1 MHz for CW, 28.5 to 28.6 MHz for SSB
and around 29 MHz for FM. Reports of activity will be welcomed from SWLs as well as transmitting operators. Reports to White Rose ARS, PO Box 73, Leeds LS1 5AR. Send them immediately after each activity day.
Now is the time to start watching 10 metres regularly, as we shall soon be seeing an up-turn in the solar cycle and a resulting gradual improvement in propagation on that band.

## Satellite news

The 'student constructed' ISKRA 4

Russian satellite has been delayed for several months for a variety of reasons, and further delays are predicted for RS 9 and 10 launches. Permission has been granted for the RSGB/AMSAT-UK news bulletins on Oscar 10 to be transmitted on days other than Sundays, to which they were previously restricted by the licensing authority. This facility is much appreciated, since with Oscar 10's present orbit suitable periods for this broadcast do not always occur on a Sunday. The callsign GB2RS will be used for these transmissions.

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Other modules shortly available are:
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DMM 203 - Multimeter V-I-W (RMS)
DMM 204 - Precision Voltmeter (DC) (now available)
DMM 205 - Precișion DC Calibrator
DMM 206-Precision RT Thermometer
DMM 207 - Multimeter V-L-C-R \& Temperature

The module installed in the illustrated JAY is the 6 channel thermocouple temperature monitor. The microprocessor program is stored in PROM within the module. Each module therefore has a different program to perform its particular task.
This means that after the instrument is purchased for say temperature measurement, other modules can be purchased to perform almost all measurement tasks.
Advantages include low cost, simplicity and flexibility.
The DMM 201 allows any type of thermocouple to be used. There are 3 fundamental modes of operation:

1. Monitoring 1 channel at any one time
2. Monitoring all 6 channels
3. Data logging via RS232

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Price: Basic Jay ............................................................................... £245.00
RS232 modules.......................................................................................................
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## Ken Michaelson G3RDG looks at some UoSAT hardware

found the opportunity to review this piece of equipment a most rewarding experience. First of all, the unit is British, made in Pickering, North Yorkshire to be precise. Secondly, it was my first excursion into the realms of UoSATs 1 and 2, otherwise known as OSCAR 9 and 11 (Orbital Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio). Both these satellites were designed and constructed at the University of Surrey. Neither is a commercial communications satellite: they are intended for amateur experimentation and research. Further information can be obtained from AMSAT-UK (details at the end of the article).
ASTRID is an acronym for Automatic Satellite Telemetry Receiver and Information Decoder. The complete kit, if I can call it that, arrived well packed in a block of polystyrene. The receiver is
housed in a heavy gauge steel case finished in a pleasant shade of cream enamel. It is quite small, measuring approximately $63 / 8 \mathrm{in}^{2}$ by $15 / 8 \mathrm{in}$ high, with a sloping front panel taking it down to 1 inch.

The power supply actually has the three flat pins of a 13 amp plug projecting from the back, so it is only necessary to plug it into the nearest 13 amp socket. It has a lead coming out of it which plugs directly into the receiver - very convenient. A complete set of leads is also supplied, as is a collapsed dipole antenna with approximately 25 ft of co-ax attached and a Belling-Lee standard TV plug at the end suitable for inserting into the antenna socket of the receiver.
A brief specification of the receiver might be useful here. It is a dual conversion superheterodyne, which

| FOSSIRLE DATA ELOCKS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 02258 | 03586 | 04056 | 05041 | 30523 | 05237 | 31036 | 10367 | 32285 | 33577 |
| 34000 | 35216 | 36278 | 37444 | 38478 | 39513 | 40769 | 41121 | 42641 | 43062 |
| 44160 | 45000 | 46000 | 47497 | 48513 | 50469 | 51105 | 52620 | 53258 | 54648 |
| 55000 | 56000 | 57507 | 58500 | 59501 | 60822 | $615 F C$ | 621F4 | 63334 | 64440 |
| 65150 | 66480 | 67700 | 68000 | 69000 |  |  |  |  |  |
| ACCEFTED DATA ELOCKIS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| 51105 | 52620 | 5.3258 | 54648 | 55000 | 56000 | 57507 | 58500 | 59501 | 60822 |
| $615 F C$ | $621 F 4$ | 63534 | 64440 | 65150 | 66480 | 67700 | 68000 | 69000 | $8 \mathrm{OL2}$ |

[^1]works at only one frequency, nominally 145.825 MHz . It has a bandwidth of 12 kHz and a sensitivity of $0.2 \mu \mathrm{~V}$ for 10 dB S/N ratio. It has an audio output of 0.3 watts into 8 ohms and the antenna impedance is 75 ohms. Its power consumption is only 100 mA at standby ( 16 volts) and the remote control relay will switch up to 2 amps at 24 volts.

## Swithches

There is no on/off switch, the unit being live the moment the lead from the power supply is plugged in. There is a red LED on the front showing that the unit is 'on' and to the right of this is a switch which will allow the decoding of data from UOSAT 1 when switched one way, and from UoSAT 2 when switched the other. This is because the data received from UOSAT 2 is inverted with respect to UoSAT 1. If there is doubt as to which satellite you have recorded, the wrongly positioned switch will print groups of 'ffffff' and 'qqqqqq' at regular intervals. The other two 'edge' controls on the front are volume and squelch.
The underlying theory of the idea is that a VHF radio receiving system converts signals from the UoSAT satellites on a frequency of 145.825 MHz into data tones. The information is sent from the 'bird' at a speed of 1200 bauds and can easily be recorded by a standard small tape recorder using the microphone socket and which, if the remote microphone facility is used, can be arranged to switch on and off on receipt of a signal and on the cessation of that signal. If the tape recorder is operated on batteries, then no power is used while on 'standby' as the remote control switches the battery output off.
ASTRID is equipped with a squelch control which is arranged to control a relay operating the remote control of the tape recorder. As soon as the squelch is opened on receipt of a signal from a satellite, the recorder commences operation. Thus the unit can be left unattended for long periods, overnight for example.
The recorded signals are now fed back to ASTRID to be converted into digital 'ones' and 'noughts' to drive the serial port of the computer. Most home computers have an RS232 serial port, and in my case I used the BBC micro.

## Data display

There are several ways to get the data displayed on the screen. In the kit supplied by the manufacturers, a demonstration data tape is supplied which also has two programs on it, either of which have to be loaded into the computer before attempting to decode the data. Then, by typing 'RUN' and pressing the 'play' key of the recorder, the demonstration tape, or the tape which had been previously recorded live from the satellite, will be shown on the screen. This of
course will only give the figures or plain language which has been recorded on the tape and will not give the information which is contained in those figures．The instruction handbook suggests a method of decoding these numbers and letters to give meaningful results，but really there is only one way to do it．
Firstly，join AMSAT－UK．Next，purch－ ase two discs entitled＇SATPAC＇．They are written by Eric Twose and Craig Underwood and，in my opinion，are truly fantastic programs．The first one gives the display of any satellite on a world－ wide basis so that you can see exactly where your satellite is and how long it will be before it arrives over the horizon． The second one takes all the mass of figures and letters received from UoSAT 1 or 2 and with the aid of the computer gives you back clear and understandable results．

## The catch

There was one snag as far as I was concerned．I found it impossible to get a decent signal on the dipole provided．In fact，at this QTH I have a normal pair of crossed dipoles on a mast on the centre chimney stack，an additional pair of crossed dipoles with reflectors and a masthead pre－amplifier，and although I received reasonable signals on the chimney stack dipoles，they were far improved using the dipoles with the reflectors．
It may well be that I have a bad situation here but，nevertheless，by leaving the unit on standby overnight I was able to get some quite interesting results．I agree most strongly with the suggestion in the handbook that you seek the aid of a TV antenna erector and get him to place the dipole as high as possible in the clear．It may well have been that if I had mounted the dipole supplied in the open， then the signal levels would have been improved．
Another problem which developed occasionally was that the frequency would for no apparent reason be used as a simplex channel by local 2 metre operators with scant regard for the satellite transmissions．
Once bitten by the ability to receive these very interesting transmissions from the satellites，I must confess that I wanted to continue using a better antenna．I had no trouble in printing out the results of the processed data or，for that matter，printing data before proces－ sing when using the SATPAC package． The printer used was the Epson RX80 F／T， and possibly it was due to the SATPAC program that I was able to extract the information．
Of course the plain language was quite a different matter and proved to be very interesting reading．I found that，as the handbook and leaflets suggest，it was preferable to make a recording during the night because there was less

likelihood of interference and the com－ puter was switched off．It is unfortunate that my BBC micro，in common with others I understand，generates a lot of RF interference and would sometimes obliterate the signal from the satellite． But it always was a lucky dip to see what the night＇s recording had brought me！

In conclusion，I can say that I was impressed with the unit．Its compact size and excellent finish both inside and out are to designer Stephen Webb＇s great credit．However，there are some small points which I feel need attention．Both the volume and squelch controls are far too fierce．It would appear that slightly different values for the potentiometers might be helpful．As it was，I found it very difficult to find the correct position for both of them．I also thought that an ＇on／off＇switch would have been a good thing，incorporated perhaps in the volume control．

The unit should nevertheless prove to be a very attractive purchase for those who are interested in space reception． The simplicity of the connections to the BBC micro，or other computers with an RS232 port，is a great selling point，and the very competitive price of $£ 149.00$ fully inclusive makes it，in my view，a sure winner．

## Thanks

Thanks are due to Stephen Webb，of MM Microwave Ltd，Thornton Road Industrial Estate，Pickering，North Yorkshire，YO18 7JB，telephone（0751） 75455 ，for the loan of the equipment for this review．
The AMSAT－UK honorary secretary is RJC Broadbent G3AAJ．He can be contacted at 94 Herongate Road，Wan－ stead Park，London E13 5EQ，telephone （01） 9896741 ．Please enclose an sae when writing．

REM

```
LoSAT-2 TELEMETRY
Source file: 'RESULT
FRAME No. :8604115210026 (2)
A0S date/time :11/04/86 20:30 hrs
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Digital channel:61 《sFC>
Gravity Gradient Eoom Deployment Pyros
Gravity Gradient Eoom Deployment Pyros
Gravity Gradient Boom Deployment
Gravity Gradient Boom Deployment
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4.55 MHz PSK Mode
2401 MHz PSK Mode
Digital channel: 62 〈1F4〉
Attitude Control Magnetor quers
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CCD Camera Expt. Power
CCD Camera Integration Feriod Bit 0
Camera Integration Period Bit 1
CCD Camera Expt. Video Amp Gain Bit 0
CCD Camera Erpt. Video Amp Eain Bit
DSR Mode
Radiation Detect. Geiger-A EHT Fower
Radiation Detect. Geiger-B EHT Power

Point： 13 Conditions Safe
Foint： 14 Conditions Fafe
Point： 15 Condition：Safe
Point：is Conditions Deploy
Points 17 Conditions Retract
Point： 18 Conditions Arm
Point： 19 Conditions Off
Point： 20 Conditions Off
Point： 21 Conditions off
Point： 22 Condition：Forward
Point： 23 Conditions NRZI
Point： 24 Conditions NREI

Polnt： 25 Condition：High Power
Point： 26 Conditions Off
Point： 27 Conditions Off
Point： 28 Conditions 1
Point： 29 Condition： 1
Point： 30 Conditions 1
Point： 31 Condition： 1
Pointi 32 Conditions On
Point： 33 Condition：Read
Point： 34 Conditions Reset
Point， 3 Condition：Off
Carbon Film resistors $1 / 4 \mathrm{~W} 5 \%$ E24 series 0.51R to 10MO．． 17.00

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Metal Film resistors $1 / 4 \mathrm{~W} 10 \mathrm{R}$ to $1 \mathrm{MO} 5 \%$ E12 series－ 2 p 1\％E24 ..... ．．．．3p
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## Polystyrene capacitors $\mathbf{6 3 V}$ working E12 series long axlal wirea

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mp Amp－20p． 555 Timer$1 / 50,2.2 / 50,4.7 / 50,10 / 25,10 / 50$．．5p．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．．
12／6，22／25，22／50，47／16，47／25，47／50 .....  $.6 p$
100／16，100／25 7p；100／50 12p；100／100
11p
220／168p；220／25，220／50 10p；470／16，470／2
000／25 25p；1000／35，2200／25 35p；4700／25 ..... 70p
Submin，tamiahm bead electroiytics（WrdaNolts）
$0.1 / 35,0.22 / 35,0.47 / 35,1.0 / 35,3.3 / 16,4.7 / 16$ ..... $.14 p$
$2.2 / 35,4.7 / 25,4.7 / 35,6.8 / 1615 \mathrm{p} ; 10 / 16,22 / 6$ ..... 20p
DIODES（plv／amps）75／25mA 1N4148 2p．800／1A 1N4006 6p．400／3A 1N5404 14p．115／15mA OA91100／1A 1N4002 4p．1000／1A 1N4007 7p．60／1．5A S1M1 5p．100／1A bridge．400／1A 1N4004 5p．1250／1A BY127 10p 30／54 SIM150． $10 / 15$ biZener diodes E24 series 3 V 3 to $33 \mathrm{~V} 400 \mathrm{~mW}-8 \mathrm{p}$ ． 1 watLED＇s 3 \＆ 5 mm Red 10p．Green，Yellow 14p．Grommets $3 \mathrm{~mm}-11 / \mathrm{p}, 5 \mathrm{~mm}$20 mm fuses 100 mA to 5 A O／blow 5 p ．A／surge 8p．Holders pcor chassisHigh speed pc drills $0.8,10,13,15,20 \mathrm{Om}$ 22p．Machines 12 V do6650
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Electrolytics $-150 \mathrm{mf}-100 \mathrm{mf}$ Mixed Vits．
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CMOS IC＇s All New Inc Data Black Heatsinks Fit TO－3 TO－2 Ower－Fin Heatsinks $2 \times$ TO－320 Drilled Asst Heatsinks TO－1－3－5－18－320
BC107／8 NPN Transistors Good BC107／8 NPN Transistors Good Uncoded
BC177／8 PNP Transistors Good Uncoded


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[^2]This year the police and fire services are beginning a re-equipment programme to change their radio services as a result of the World Administrative Radio Conference of 1979. At present they use frequencies within the range $97.6-102.1 \mathrm{MHz}$ and $80-84 \mathrm{MHz}$. This will change to the 150 MHz and 140 MHz bands with 12.5 kHz channel spacing.

The FM broadcast Band II has to be cleared by 1995, and it is expected that the emergency services will have moved by the end of 1989. Police and fire services are suffering increasing continental broadcasting interference especially in the south.

Duplicate radio systems are being installed at more than 250 sites throughout the country. As the change-over is made it will be necessary for vehicles which cross into adjacent areas to be equipped with radios operating on both bands: engineers will have to ensure that there is no break in transmissions during this change-over. The cost of the programme is estimated at $£ 70$ million.

Kent police will be the first to operate the new equipment. Present radio equipment is crystal controlled and limited to about 15 channels, but the new equipment is synthesized and will work on all of the 256 channels allocated in the Police National Plan. All-British equipment is to be used, and contracts have been awarded to Burndept Electronics in Erith, Kent and Marconi Communications in Chelmsford. More than 25,000 vehicle radios will have to be replaced at a cost of $£ 18$ million.
Typical of the new equipment is the Marconi model RC690 mobile radio, capable of handling all of the allocated channels and with the added advantage of being able to handle transmission and reception of data from a computer link.

The UK FM broadcast band


The present system


The forthcoming arrangement



The new equipment has been subjected to rigorous testing to ensure it stands up to the demands of 24 -hour use.

## AM versus $\operatorname{FM}$

The Home Office Directorate of Telecommunications, which is responsible for the installation and maintenance of radio services in England and Wales, has decided to continue with AM (amplitude modulation) for VHF channels.
However, not all forces are in agreement with this. The Metropolitan Police, the Lancashire Constabulary, the Royal Ulster Constabulary and most Scottish forces have equipment supplied direct from the manufacturers and will continue to use FM (frequency modulation) on the new channels.
The main factor in deciding on AM for the police service was that wide area coverage with single-button action, enabling transmission simultaneously from a number of hill-top sites, was essential. Not all of the British mobile radio industry was in agreement with this, but the Home Office engineers opted for AM, and there will consequently be no common national system of modulation. The police are nevertheless confident that the problems, the like of which have been encountered before, can be overcome again with the new channels and equipment.
The fire brigades will have a national FM system which will enable them to communicate throughout the country, in much the same way as the ambulance service is able to do now. When the regional health authorities were reorganised in 1974 they adopted a national FM system on 166 MHz . This allows a common system to be used for all county ambulance services, so that it is now possible for any ambulance to contact the local ambulance control by switching to the emergency reserve channel. The
ambulance service will not be affected by the WARC 1979.

## Other users

The police and fire services are not the only services having to move out of Band II. The gas and electricity boards, British Rail and the bus companies have their mobile frequencies in the range 105108 MHz .
The gas and electricity companies will move to the new VHF mid-band at 139 149 MHz , while British Rail and the bus companies will be allocated frequencies in the new Band III radio channels. Most of the vehicle sets will have to be replaced by 1991 because of interference from continental users, but it may be possible for users in some parts of the country who are outside the range of the continent to continue until 1995. REW

The microprocessor-controlled Marconi RC690 VHF AM mobile transceiver. It can be programmed for single or dual channel simplex or full duplex operation. In full duplex mode it can also operate as an automatic repeater


## THE STARPHONE ON 70

## Peter Rouse GU1DKD has a few tweaks and mods for this compact single-channel UHF hand-held

The STC Starphone made its first appearance in the summer of 1969 and was clearly intended to be a riva for the Pye PF1 UHF pocketphone, unlovingly referred to as the 'two bit radio'. Unlike its rival, however, the Starphone was a complete one-piece transmitter/receiver, and so on singlechannel simplex operation the user wasn't forced to adopt comical postures in order to hold the receiver far enough away from the transmitter to avoid howlround, as was the case with the PF1.
Despite the Starphone's easier method of operation it never bred in quite the same numbers as the PF1 (put two on a stand at a rally and half an hour later there will be a dozen). Even so, batches have appeared on the surplus market in recent years and have been snapped up by amateurs.
The Starphone is very compact (little bigger than the PF1 receiver), with a quoted output power of 150 mW and a receiver sensitivity of $2 \mu \mathrm{~V}$. Although it can be used for simplex operation, with that kind of power and sensitivity it is obviously better for repeater operation. Despite its small size, with a bit of fiddling room can still be found inside to fit toneburst - but more on that later.

## Getting Hy going on 70

Although the set was designed to operate on PMR and emergency frequencies higher than the 70 cm band, there is no particular difficulty in tuning it down as long as certain steps are taken.
First of all the crystals needed must be ones specified for this particular set, since the receiver works on an unusual triple superhet system where the first LO crystal fundamental is also used as the second conversion LO in order to reduce possible image problems. However, the mathematics of this are eliminated if

crystals are ordered from firms like Quartslab* as it is only necessary to specify the channel number and the set.

## Delving Inside

A look inside the Starphone will reveal a clear dividing line down the middle with the transmitter stage on one side and the receiver on the other. The transmitter stage must be aligned before the receiver as the aerial tuning capacitor C1 must be set up for transmit and then not touched again.

The transmitter is aligned as follows: first locate the deviation control next to the transmit crystal. Mark its position and then turn it fully clockwise. Use a meter on the $3 V$ range and connect between the positive side of the supply and the 100 ohm resistor R137 and its junction with the 47 k resistor and L104. Adjust L101 for maximum meter reading.

Now move the negative probe of the meter to the junction of the 100 ohm resistor R141 and its junction with L106. Adjust L104/L105 for maximum reading. Set the meter to the 12 V range and move
*Quartslab Marketing Ltd, PO Box 19, Erith, Kent DA8 1LH
the negative probe to the junction of the 220 ohm resistor and L107 and adjust C138 for maximum deflection. If a suitable RF 'sniffer' isn't available use the circuit shown placed near the PCB aerial assembly.


By now some kind of indication should be apparent when the transmitter is keyed, so adjust C143/C147/C138 and L101/L104/L105 for maximum indication. Finally adjust C1 and repeat these last procedures until maximum output has been achieved.
A digital frequency meter or a second receiver to tune the crystal onto frequency exactly will now be needed. Connect the meter on its 100 mA current range in line with the power supply and then tune L102 for correct frequency. Now adjust L101 for maximum current. It will probably be necessary to repeat this procedure a few times as the two coils are interactive
Transmitter deviation can now be reset. Return the potentiometer to its original position and inject a 5 mV signal at 1 kHz into the microphone line. With a 'scope connected between the collector of Tr102 and the chassis, adjust the potentiometer next to the transmit crystal until the displayed waveform just starts to clip.

## Recelver allgnment

Firstly the squelch must be disabled. This is accomplished by connecting a link between ground and test point 2 (the small brass stud on the transmitter half of the PCB). Now set L7 to its mid position and L6/L8 fully out. Connect the RF sniffer between ground and the base of transistor Tr5 and adjust L6/L8 for maximum deflection. Move the sniffer to the emitter of Tr2 and adjust C21 for maximum deflection.
With a digital frequency counter connected to the base of Tr5 it should now be possible to tune L7 to give an output of double the crystal frequency. Without a DFM this part of the alignment will have to be carried out last of all with an off-air signal: a rough starting point can always be the harmonics of a synthesized 2 m rig feeding into a dummy load. This same signal will also be needed for the RF alignment if a suitable signal generator is not available.
Start by setting L5 fully out and C5/C7 not quite fully in. If an FM signal generator and 'scope are available then the 'scope should be connected across the speaker terminals and the volume adjusted for suitable indication. It is now
merely a question of adjusting the following controls for minimum waveform distortion and best signal to noise ratio. Start with C5 and then work through C7/L5/L11/L12 in that order and repeat the procedure until satisfied.
This stage of the alignment is the only one where problems are likely to occur. The L4/C7 combination often seems reluctant to tune low enough, but a 4.7 pF fixed capacitor strapped across C8 will usually cure this and a further slight improvement in sensitivity can sometimes be made by bending L4 slightly closer to L3.
If a DFM isn't available it should now be possible to tune the receiver exactly onto frequency using an off-air signal.
Once all is working check that the muting potentiometer R56 is correctly set with the link to TP2 removed. Early models had a fixed resistor in place of R56.

## Modfications

One of the most useful mods on this set is a simple mute override. By removing the earphone socket there is room for a small push switch, and this merely connects between ground and TP2.
Repeater toneburst can be fitted. Many miniature circuits have been presented

in R\&EW and so I have no intention of repeating them here. Room was made for my own by removing the loudspeaker and fitting a much smaller one from a PF1 (see photo). However, it may be possible to use a smaller microphone than the one mounted in the big rubber block and achieve a similar space saving.

Finally, the Nicads for this set seem to be in short supply. If you managed to get a pack that does not work don't throw it away. The cells inside are identical to the ones used in readily available PF1 packs, and by carefully opening up the plastic case of the battery pack it is possible to fit replacement cells.

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## FOR THE ZX SPECTRUM

# Design common-emitter amps, op-amp circuits and active filters using a home computer 

## Bob Nutt G4LIJ

Lis.
was my intention to write a program that would help in the design of small signal common-emitter amplifiers. The emphasis was to be on the practical rather than the theoretical aspects. As I went along I decided to include the 741 operational amplifier in my program, so it was a short step from there to go on to active filters.
The program in essence deals with the design of transistor common emitter amplifiers, operational amplifiers and active filters (high, low and band-pass). The program is menu driven and from the menu the user can choose one of the three circuit designs. A circuit diagram is drawn for whichever circuit is chosen, and the values of the components are worked out after some basic parameters are supplied following prompts.

## Filter selection

In the case of the active filters the response curves are drawn for each type of filter. The user is then asked for the type of filter wanted, and the program goes on to draw the appropriate circuit. After this the user has only to supply an arbitrary value for R and a -3 dB cut-off
frequency and the program will compute the value for $C$. Values for $C$ are given in terms of $\mathrm{pF}, \mathrm{nF}$ and $\mu \mathrm{F}$.

In the same way both the op-amp design and transistor design values for $R$ are given in megohms, kilohms etc.

## Program notes

The program entry is rather tedious due to the many plot and draw statements, so care must be exercised when keying in.

Lines 15-25 set up the array which stores the ohms, kilohms and megohms strings.

Line 30 calls the subroutine at line 6000 which sets up the User Defined Graphics used when drawing the circuits. The user graphics ' $A$ ' to ' $O$ ' are used.
Line 35 calls the menu.
Lines 45-490 draw the circuit and do the mathematics of the transistor design, printing out the values for the different components.
This is followed by the menu at lines 1000-1100 which offers the choice of the design.

Lines 1500-1890 are concerned with the op-amp design and also give some
relevant design information concerning operating parameters.
Moving on through the program, lines 2000-2215 draw the circuit of the low-pass filter and lines 2500-2575 draw the circuit diagram of the high-pass filter.
General information is given by lines 3000-3045 concerning the filters. The program goes on to draw the response curves of the three different types of filters via lines 3050-3255. From line 3300 onwards the program computes the value for $C$ in the high and low filters given a starting value for $R$ and a cut-off frequency.
Finally the user is given the option of trying different values of R and frequency before returning to menu.
Lines 6000-6070 are the machine code loader and data lists for the User Defined Graphics.

## Rough \& ready rules, OK?

Finally, remember that the results given in this program may not satisfy the purist but rather will enable you to "knock something up' that will work and so get you on the way.

Happy experimenting!

```
& REM Campurer gazed Desmg
MAY REMS
    FEM B% EOB NUTT - S4LT
    gorDer e: ink
    OIM F:(3,7
    LET PI(1)=* OnME
    LET F:(%)="N OHmइ
    LET PS(3)=* M OMms
    PEINT AT 1G, 2, LOHCING ERAPHICS ELEGSE WAIT"
    5TOP
    Go sug dea0
GO TO 1900: FEM MEN:
O REM - TRANSISTOR DESIGN *
45 GLS : PRINY ...', Enter Trans, Etor TYDe
    OO: IF CONE O $=78 OF COLE AB=11% OR CODE O:
```



```
    4860104
    58 CLS
    5 R REM ECT DIAG TRANS AMP
    53 IF O\& ( TO 1) ='N OR As ( TO 1) ='n. THEN GO SUB 113
```








```
    67 PRINT QT 14.17.L. 14 AT \(15.17 . M\).
    69 PLOT 49.151 OFAL 160 , O. PRINT AT \(2, ~=2\) UVC
```



```
    73 PLOT 84.47. DRAW 9.-2.
```


## CAD FOR THE SPECTRUM

5 PLOT 140,47 ORAW $0,-2:$
7 PLOT 150,30 ：DRAW $3,-2$
PLOT 34，04：DRFW E．6E

PLOT 84．64：DRGW 9.67
PLOT 96.151
PLOT 96.151 ：DRAW Q．-23
PLOT 140．151．DRAW $0 .-23$
PLOT 140.151 ：DRAW $0 .-23$
：PLOT 140．112：DRAW $0,-18$ ：DRGW $-12,6$
PLOT 152．109 ORAW－12． 0
PLOT 10，100：DRAW ： 84 ：DRAW 20，
PLOT 36．37：DRAW 25．0
CIRCLE 4．．34，3：PRINT MT ：2．3：＂：$=0$

IF CODE ：NKEY $=13$ THEN 60 TO 304


RETURN
STOP
CLS：PRINT AT 3．B：＂DESIGN PARAMETERS＊
PRINT AT 6,$\left.2 ;{ }^{\prime \prime} 1\right)$ SUPPLY UES＂
PRINT AT $8, \ldots ; 2$ GURRENT GAIH hre
PRINT AT 1日： 1 ， 3 ）GOLLECTOR CURRENT IN MA（IO）
PRINT AT 44.1 － 5 LOWEST FREQ USEO．
IF CODE INKEY $=13$ THEN GO TO 350
co to 343


INPUT：GERMANIUM OR SILICON G／S ？＂：GS PRINT ．．．GERMAN：UM＂：GO TO 374


PRINT MARE ALL PARAMEJERS CORREGT

60 TO 383
00 LET Ve＝vCEM．15：LET IC＝？C：1060
03 LET Ib＝IC／hf\＃LCh＝It＊IO：LET Re＝INT（Ue／IC
406 LET URZこVe＋VBR：LET R2＝INT（VRZ／IER）
10 LET RI＝INT（VR1／ICh）．LET VE＝0，5＊（VEC＋VE）
 0）


 430 EL5
434 FRINT



48 PRRINT U Voltage Gain $=$＂：
460 PRINT

470 PRINT Al：Press enter to return to menu
472 IF COOE INKEY $=13$ THEN GO TO 1000
47560 T． 472

 1800 CL

1030 PRINT ．．．2．，OPERATIONAL AMPLIFIERS＂
1040 PRINT … 3），ASTIVE FILTERS．
1060 PRIN：A1：EMEER AR OHOICE
1070 IF I HKE $=4$ ．THEN 00 TO 45
1080
1090 IF INKEY $=-7$. THEN 60 TO 3000

is90 REK Sturt of of amp design
LSOO CLS ：FRINT．There are two ypes of OP AMP carcuit conrigurations．
ises PRINT :., 1) NON INUERTING Output in phase with InRut,.,...,"
ises PRINT :., 1) NON INUERTING Output in phase with InRut,.,...,"
1SIO PRINT : =, INUERTING OUEPUE antIPMase WIth InPut
1SIO PRINT : =, INUERTING OUEPUE antIPMase WIth InPut
ISIS PRINT, INU OR NON INPUT AMP TYPE, (I/N):ZS
ISIS PRINT, INU OR NON INPUT AMP TYPE, (I/N):ZS
1525 IF 28=', OR zsE'I'. THEN GO SUB 1060
1525 IF 28=', OR zsE'I'. THEN GO SUB 1060
1532 IF CODE ES=10S OR CODE z$=73 OR COOE =$=78 OR COOE 2s=110 THEN GO TO 1535
1532 IF CODE ES=10S OR CODE z$=73 OR COOE =$=78 OR COOE 2s=110 THEN GO TO 1535
1535 PLOT 120.130: DRAW 38,-30: ORAW -38,-30: DRAW 0.60
1535 PLOT 120.130: DRAW 38,-30: ORAW -38,-30: DRAW 0.60
1340 PLOT 110,115: DRAW -20,0: PRINT AT 7,10;"* PLRT 78,115: DRAW -20.0
1340 PLOT 110,115: DRAW -20,0: PRINT AT 7,10;"* PLRT 78,115: DRAW -20.0
1545 PLOT 110,83: ORGW -3.日: DRAW 0,-93
1545 PLOT 110,83: ORGW -3.日: DRAW 0,-93
1535 PLOT 10S.115: DRAW 0: 32: DRAW 29,0: PRINT AT 3.17;" *: PLOT 153.167: DRA
1535 PLOT 10S.115: DRAW 0: 32: DRAW 29,0: PRINT AT 3.17;" *: PLOT 153.167: DRA
1560 PLOT 169,100: DRAW 30.0
1560 PLOT 169,100: DRAW 30.0
1565 PRINT AT 8,10; *R1"; AT 2,17; "R2"

1573 PRINT AT 21． 0, CRAW CEt FOT TEF


1582 IF COOE INK
1583 CO TO：532
1585 CLS：PRINT ：Inverting AMF goin as given D：RE／R：
1390 PRINT $\because$ NOn Inverting Amp gai
1593 PRINT $\because$ Ran is approx＝to RL
1997 PRINT＂OATA FQF 741 JF ÂMF．
1600 PRINT ：Freas ufto lkhz mak sain $=1906$
1605 PRINT，Freas upto lokr＝sain folls
log．PRINT．InPut gain requirea
1612 PNPUT，Gain read？＂：901
1615 PRINT $\because$ InPut a yalue for RI in onma
1626 INPUT ．RI
1625 PRINT．Inverting or Non Inverting．




1645 PRINT AT 0,$5 ; 741$ INUERTING AMF：
1650 PRINT AT 7,$14 ; \cdot 3:$ It


1660 PRINT AT 0．3：＊7．NON INVERTING GMF

1700 CLS：PRINT，IN INV AMP CHOSEN．FAUSE SE
1710 IF R2 11000 THEN LET $W=1$
1720 IF R2：1000 AND REイJeo THEN LET Rこ＝INT（RZ／100）：LET RZ＝R2／10：LET $W==$
1〕S5 IF RZ）1eb THEN LET RE＝INT（R2／1e5）：LET RE＝RE／10：LET W＝3

LET $t=2$
1740IF R1OP）：1e6 THEN LET R1OP＝INT（RIOP／1e5）：LET R1OP＝R10P／1E：LET E＝3


179 PRINT 1 ：：Press enter ror manu．
1793 IF CODE INKEY：＝13 THEN GO TQ 1日0日．REM MERU
179760 ITME
1800 CLS PRINT．．．NON IN：AMP こHOSEN
1802 LET RZ＝（gain\＃R1OR）－R1OF
1810 IF R2 $=1000$ THEN LET $\omega=$

1820 IF RESICO THEN LET RE＝INT（R2／JES LET RZ＝RE LO：LET $N=3$
1830 IF RIOP $=1000$ THEN LET $t=1$


$18 G$ PRINT：RI＝＊RIOR；EI（t）

186：PRINT W1：Fress enter for Manu＊
1885 IF COOE IHKEYS $=13$ THEN GO TO 1008
180860 TO 1885
2006 CLS：REM FILTER SECIION
2100 PRINT AT $1.0 ; "$ LOW PASS FILTER 12 DBS／OCTAVE
210S PRINT AT 3.0 ；＂DRAW CCT FOR REF

；＂；；AT 12．17；＂7．



2136 PLOT 03．33：ORAW E．33 DRAW 8．G：PLOT B7．110：OFHW 24．©

AW 日．－20
2140 PLOT 25，30：DRAW 190，©：GIRCLE 23， 29,2 ：PFIHT AT 18：27：6WN
2145 PLOT 109.100 ：DRAW 43,0 ：CIRCLE $=15,100,=$
2150 PLCI 130，100：DRAW 0．35：DRAW－7゙，O．DRAW 0．－18


2175 PRINT GT 2i，Q；N．B．Pin $4=-v E \ldots$ ．．．．
2206 PRINT WC：Press Enter to contanue：
2206 PRINT ME：Press Enter to cont
2210 IF CODE INKE $=13$ THEN RETURN
2210 IF CODE INKEY＝ 13 THEN RETURN
2500 CL5 ：PRINT AT 1，0；HIGH FASS FILIER $12085 / 0 C T Q U E$
2SOS PRINT AT 3．0：－DRAW CGT FOR REF：

E515 PLOT 120．130：DRAW 38．－30：DFGW－38．－30：DFAW 0．60

2525 ：IRCLE 20．84，Z．PLOT 22．84 ORAW 13．0：PLOT 56．84：©FAW 15．0：PLOT 86．84：
2530 PLOT 99，84：DRAW E．－20：FLOT 97.47 ORAW 0．－こ6
2535 PLOT O2．84：DRAW 0．31．ORAW Y， 0

IRCLE 214，10E， 2


2570 PRINT WQ；＂press Enter to sontanu
2575 IF COOE INKEV $=13$ THEN RETUFH
＝5BE GO TC＝5＞5
3960 REM FILTER DEE：EN SECT：OR
3005 GLSINT $\cdot$ THERE ARE THREE TYPES OF
DIFFERENT RESPONSE CUFUE
3810 PRINT，
3015 PRINT
3015 PRINT：2，LOW PGSS．．
JGES DRINT ．THIE PPOGFAM EHCWS THE DESYON AF LUW ANO HIGH FASS FILTERS．，Z
3030 PRINT PRES5 ENTER TO CUNTINUE＊
3035 IF CODE INKEY：$=13$ THEN GO TO 3040
3037 GO 103035
3040 CLS

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304S PRINT，HIGH PASS RESPORSE，
3050 PLOT 35,130 DRAW 0．－10日 DRGW 138，
3050 PLOT 35,130 ：DRAW 0，－100：DRAW 138,0
 P． 13 ．CRAW 2日，－6



$309 \mathrm{I}^{2}$ IF CODE INKEY 13 THEN GO TO 3085
388260 T0 3920
3100 CLS PRINT，COW PASS RESPONEE．
$310 S$ PLOT $35.130: ~$
3105 PLOT 35， 130 ：CRAW O，－100：DRFW 150，
3110

3120 PLOT 100．30：DRAW 20．05：DRAW 4日，20．－PI／3：DRAW 20,0
3125 PLOT 135．105．OFAW 0．10
3130 PRINT AT P．14：．FE．
3133 PRINT AT isis．Pass．at lo．oi bana

ATTENUATION＂：GT 14．10，OF THE FILTER＂；AT 15．16：＂WHERE FE＝＂AT 10．10；＂CUT OFF
REG
140 PAINT AT 21,0 ＂press Enter te continus．
3165 IF COCE INKEY：SOIS THEN GO TO 3150
3150 LLS PRINT．．．BGNO PASS RESFONSE．
3155 PLOT 35,130 ORAW O．－IOO ORAW 160.0
3165 PRINT AT 14，
3170 PLOT 35，110：DRAW 20．0：DRAW 20，－15，－P1／3：DRAW 20，－65
3175 PLOT 130．30：DRAW 15．0Q：DRAW 20，15，－P1／3：DRAW 30，



3195 IF CODE INKEY $=13$ THEN GO TO 3200
3197 GO 103195

ILTERS IN SERIES
3210 PRINT EXAMFLE
3210 PRINT ：＇E EXAMFLE＇
3215 PLOT $4.05:$ DRGW 30，DLOT 33.80 ：CRAW 30．－45：DRAW－30，－15：ORAW ©． 30




3235 PRINT AT 18，1：＊PGES Band＝FCE－FC1
3240 PRINT AT 21， 0 ；where $F E=$ sut off frea or filter．
3245 PRINT MO；＊Press Enter to continué
3250 IF CODE INKEY $=13$ THEN GOTO 3300
3253 G0 TO 3250
3306 REM MATHS FOR FILTERS

3305 CLS
3310 PRINT．．．CHOOEE FILTER TYPE
3315 PRINT．．．ENTER：． 3315 PRINT 3325 PRINT

3333 IF INEES OR AHD INKETE：THEN GQ TO I333
3337 IF INKEYS＝＇1．THEN GO SUE 2000
33．0 IF INKEY：＇ご THEN G0 5ue こ500
3350 CLS：PRINT．．．The Program Computes the value for $O$ ．Remember the value
3353 PRINT ：CHOOSE F VALUE FOF F．
3360 INPUT－VALUE FOR R IN OHMS
3379 PRINT $\because$ CHOOSE A CUT OFF FRE IN HE
IJTS INPUT－CUT OFFFREG，OFEI IN HE

339 IF ©r） 1 e－12 AND ©
 3410 IF CR：IE－S THEN LET GFEIN（CRM1EO：LET S＝3：GO TS 3420 3420 OIH d 13,3




340660 TO 3450
3998 STOF
3999 REM GFAFHICS FOF CCTE
O900 FOR $X=U S P$ ．
O⿹勹日丿 FOR K＝USR G．TO USF $0^{\circ}+7$
OOOS REFD
0010 NEXT
SQ15 DATA 0．0，0，3，3，3，3，3：PEH USP


－ibg PRINT
0.645 DAT
$1=0$ Revi

0050 data



9BOD INPU
9010 LET
5020 PFINT
ADD 5 POKE 23658,8 ：REM CAPS LOCK ON


In last month's edition of 'The File' we looked at transistor R-C and L-C oscillator circuits, and at the astable multivibrator. This month we continue this theme by looking at other types of multivibrator circuit.

## Multivibrator basics

A transistor multivibrator can be simply described as a cross-coupled two-stage 'switching' circuit in which each active stage (transistor) is regeneratively cross-coupled to its companion, so that one stage automatically turns on as the other turns off and vice versa.

This cross-coupling can be arranged to give either stable or semi-stable switching operation. When 'stable' cross coupling is used, the transistor switch locks permanently into the 'on' or 'off' state until it is forced to change state via an external signal. When semi-stable crosscoupling is used, the transistor initially locks into the on or off state, but then automatically becomes unlocked again after a delay period determined by the time constant of the cross-coupling components.
Four basic types of transistor multivibrator circuit are in common use, and these are shown in simplified form in Figures 1 to 4. The Figure 1 circuit is that of a manually-triggered bistable (two 'stable' states) multivibrator in which the base-bias of each transistor is derived from the collector of the other, so that one transistor automatically turns off when the other turns on and vice versa. Thus the output can be driven low by briefly turning Tr2 off via S2: the circuit locks into this state until Tr1 is turned off via S1, at which point the output locks into the high state, and so on.

Figure 2 shows a monostable (one 'stable' state) multivibrator or one-shot pulse generator circuit. The output is normally low, but switches high for a preset period (determined by C1-R5) if Tr1 is briefly turned off via S1.

Figure 3shows the circuit of an astable (no 'stable' states) multivibrator or freerunning square wave generator. The on and off periods of the square wave are determined by C1-R4 and C2-R3.
Finally, Figure 4 shows the circuit of a Schmitt trigger or sine-to-square waveform converter. The circuit action is such that Tr2 switches abruptly from the on state to the off state, or vice versa, as Tr1 base goes above or below predetermined 'trigger' voltage levels.
We took a detailed look at a variety of practical astable multivibrator circuits in last month's edition of 'The File'; we'll now look at practical versions of the three other types of multivibrator.

## Monostable circuits

The monostable multivibrator circuit of Figure 2 acts essentially as a triggered pulse generator. Normally, Tr1 is driven to saturation via R5, so the output (taken

## Ray Marston looks af a variety of useful transistor waveform generating and waveform shaping circults



Fig 1 Manually-triggered bistable multivibrator
Fig 3 Free-running square wave generator


Fig 4 Sine-to-square waveform converter vibrator


Fig 5 Basic manually-triggered monostable pulse generator
from Tr1 collector) is low; Tr2 (which derives its base-bias from Tr1 collector via R3) is cut off under this condition, and its collector is at full supply-rail voltage.

When a 'start' signal is applied to Tr1 by momentarily closing S1, Tr1 switches off, driving the output high and driving Tr2 on via R3, thus initiating a regenerative switching action in which (when S1 reopens) Tr1 base is driven negative by the charge of C1.

As soon as the regenerative action is complete C1 starts to discharge via R5, until eventually its charge falls to such a low value that Tr1 starts to turn on again, thus initiating another regenerative
action in which the transistors revert to their original states and the output pulse terminates; the action is then complete.
Thus a positive-going pulse is developed at the output of this circuit each time an input trigger signal is applied via S1. The period (t) of the pulse is determined by the R5-C1 values, and approximates $0.7 \times \mathrm{R} 5 \times \mathrm{C} 1$, where t is in $\mu \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{C}$ is in $\mu \mathrm{F}$ and R is in kilohms.
In practice the basic Figure 2 circuit can be triggered either manually or electronically; it can be triggered by applying either a negative pulse to the base of Tr1, or a positive pulse to the base of Tr2. Figure 5 shows a practical

DATA FILE


Fig 7 Electronically-triggered monostable


Fig 9 Manually-triggered $R$-S bistable
Figure 5 (and Figure 6) concerns the duration of the input trigger signal. The circuit triggers at the moment of application of a positive-going pulse to the base of Tr2: if this pulse is removed before the monostable completes its normal timing period, the period will end regeneratively in the way already described.
If, on the other hand, the trigger signal has not been removed by the time the monostable completes its natural timing period, the timing cycle will simply end non-regeneratively, and the output pulse will have a longer period and fall-time than in the former case.

## Electronic triggering

Figures 7 and 8 show alternative ways of applying electronic (rather than manual) triggering to the monostable pulse generator circuit. In each case the circuit is triggered by a square wave input signal with a short rise time. This waveform is differentiated by C2-R6 to produce a brief trigger pulse.
In the Figure 7 circuit, the differentiated input signal is discriminated by diode D1 to provide a positive trigger pulse on Tr2 base each time an external trigger signal is applied. In the Figure 8 circuit, however, the differentiated signal is fed to gate transistor Tr3, which allows the trigger signal to be quite independent of Tr 2 .
Note in the latter circuit that 'speed up' capacitor C3 is wired across feedback resistor R3 to help improve the shape of the circuit's output pulse.


Fig 10 Divide-by-two bistable
The Figure 7 and 8 circuits each give an output pulse period of about $110 \mu \mathrm{~s}$ with the component values shown. The period can be varied from a fraction of a microsecond to several seconds by suitable choice of the C1-R5 values. The circuits can be triggered by sine or other non-rectangular waveforms by feeding them to the monostable's input via a Schmitt trigger or similar sine-square converter circuit (see Figure 11).

## Bistable circuits

Figure 9 shows a practical version of the basic Figure 1 manually-triggered bistable multivibrator which was described earlier. This circuit is also known as an 'R-S' (reset-set) flip-flop, and acts as a crude 'memory' element; the output can be 'set' to the high state by briefly closing push-button switch S1 (or by applying a negative pulse to Tr1 base); the circuit then 'remembers' this state until it is 'reset' to the low state by briefly closing S1 (or by applying a negative pulse to Tr2 base). The circuit then'remembers' this new state until it is again set via S1, and so on.
The above circuit can be modified by connecting two 'steering' diodes and associated components, as shown in Figure 10, to give a divide-by-two or 'counting' action in which the circuit changes state each time a negativegoing trigger pulse is applied. Thus if the input pulses are derived from a square wave input signal, the circuit will generate a square wave output signal at half the frequency of the input.
Note that the circuit generates a pair of anti-phase output signals, known as the ' $Q$ ' and ' $\bar{Q}$ ' outputs. Also note that the introduction of very inexpensive CMOS IC versions of the bistable 'counter' circuit have now made the Figure 10 transistor circuit obsolescent.

## The Schmitt trigger

The final member of the multivibrator family is the so-called Schmitt trigger. This is a voltage-sensitive switching circuit which changes its output state


Fig 11 Schmitt sine/square converter


Fig 1225 Hz to 3 KHz non-linear sawtooth
generator
when the input signal goes above or below preset upper and lower threshold levels.
Figure 11 shows how the circuit can be used as a sine-to-square waveform converter. The circuit uses emitter coupling, together with cross-coupling between Tr1 collector and Tr2 base, to provide the necessary regenerative switching operation; C2 helps to speed up the switching action by shunting R4. The sine wave input signal is superimposed on a dc voltage (determined by RV1-R1 and R2) that is applied to Tr1 base.
In practice, the Figure 11 circuit needs a sine wave input signal amplitude of at least 0.5 V rms. The square wave output signal symmetry varies with the input signal amplitude, so RV1 should be adjusted to give optimum symmetry. The circuit acts as a good sine/square converter at frequencies up to a few hundred kHz , producing square wave output signals with rise times of only a fraction of a microsecond.

## Sawtooth generators

Sawtooth waveforms can be generated in a variety of ways. The astable multivibrator circuit of Figure 3, for example, generates negative-going sawtooths on the bases of both Tr1 and Tr2, and this circuit can thus be regarded as a free-running sawtooth generator. Similarly, the monostable multivibrator circuits of Figures 5 to 8 each generate a negative-going sawtooth on Tr1 base during the active phase of operation, and can thus be regarded as triggered sawtooth generators.
In practice, each of the above circuits generates a slightly non-linear sawtooth, since each of its timing capacitors charges exponentially (rather than linearly) via its timing resistors. This snag can easily be overcome by replacing each timing resistor with a constantcurrent generating device so that linear waveforms are generated.

If you need to generate positive-going triggered sawtooth waveforms, the best way is to use a 555 'timer' IC for the purpose. If you need to generate free-


Fig 13 Linear sawtooth generator or 'scope timebase
running positive-going sawtooth waveforms, however, you can do so by using a unijunction transistor (UJT) wired in the basic configuration shown in Figure 12.

The UJT is a 3 -terminal device, with terminals known as 'emitter', 'base 1' (b1), and 'base 2' (b2). In use the UJT is wired as shown in the diagram, with b2 positive to b1 and with the input applied to the emitter terminal.

The basic action of the UJT is such that its emitter presents a very high impedance until the input reaches a certain 'firing' voltage. At this point the UJT switches abruptly to the on state, in which the emitter presents a low input impedance, thus drawing significant current from the input circuitry; if this input current falls below a certain threshold value, however, the UJT automatically switches back to its 'high input impedance' state again.
Thus in Figure 12 the circuit action is such that C1 charges exponentially towards the positive supply rail voltage via RV1-R1 until the C1 voltage reaches the 'firing' value of the UJT, at which point the UJT switches on and rapidly discharges C 1 . As soon as C 1 is effectively discharged the UJT turns off
again, so C1 starts to recharge again via RV1-R1, and so on.
In practice, this simple circuit generates a stable but non-linear sawtooth waveform that is variable from 25 Hz to 3 kHz via RV1 using the C1 value shown. Tr2-Tr3 are wired as a Darlington emitter follower buffer stage, which makes the sawtooth waveform externally available at a low impedance level.
The above circuit can be made to generate a linear sawtooth waveform by charging timing capacitor C1 from a constant-current source, as shown in the circuit of Figure 13, which can be used as an oscilloscope timebase generator.
Here Tr1 is used as a temperaturecompensated constant-current generator, with current variable from $35 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ to $390 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ via RV1. The linear sawtooth is externally available at variable amplitude via RV2, and should be fed to the 'external timebase' socket of the 'scope. Positive 'flyback' pulses from R5 can be taken via a high voltage blocking capacitor and used for beam blanking the 'scope.
With the component values shown the operating frequency of the Figure 13 circuit is variable over the 60 Hz to 700 Hz


Fig 14 White noise generator
range via RV1; other frequencies can be obtained by changing (or switch-selecting) the C1 value.
The generator can be synchronised to an external signal by feeding the external signal to Tr2 via C2. This signal, which needs a peak amplitude between 200 mV and 1 V , effectively modulates the supply voltage (and thus the trigger point) of Tr2, thus causing Tr2 to fire in synchrony with the external signal.
C2 must have a lower impedance than R4 at the sync signal frequency, and needs a working voltage greater than the external voltage from which the signal is applied; if the sync signal takes a rectangular form, with short rise and fall times, C2 can simply be given a value of a few hundred pF .

## White noise generator

Another useful type of waveform is that known as 'white noise', which can be simply described as a signal containing the full spectrum of randomiy generated frequencies, each having equal mean power when averaged over a unit of time.


Fig 15 Wide-range Pierce oscillator

White noise is of value in testing AF and RF amplifiers, and is widely used in special-effects sound generator systems.

Figure 14 shows the practical circuit of a simple but useful white noise generator, which relies on the fact that any reverse-biased Zener diode inherently generates substantial white noise.
In this circuit R2 and ZD1 are wired in a negative-feedback loop between the collector and base of common-emitter amplifier Tr1, thus stabilising the dc working levels of the circuit; the loop is ac decoupled via C1. Consequently the Zener diode acts as a white noise source that is wired in series with the base of the transistor, which then amplifies the Zener noise to a useful level of about 1 V p-p. Any 5V6 to 12 V Zener diode can be used in this circuit.

## Crystal oscillators

Crystal oscillator circuits are designed to generate waveforms with a very high degree of frequency accuracy and stability. They use piezo-electric quartz
crystals as high-precision electromechanical resonators or tuned circuits; these crystals have typical Qs of about 100,000 and provide roughly 1000 times greater frequency stability than a conventional L-C tank circuit. Their operating frequency (which may vary from a few kHz to 100 MHz ) is determined by the mechanical dimensions of the crystal, which may be cut to provide either series or parallel resonant operation; seriesmode devices present a low impedance at resonance, while parallel-mode devices present a high impedance at resonance.

Figure 15 shows the practical circuit of a wide-range crystal oscillator designed for use with a parallel-mode crystal. This is actually a Pierce oscillator circuit, and it can be used with virtually any good 100 kHz to 5 MHz parallel-mode crystal, without need for circuit modification.
Alternatively, Figure 16 shows the circuit of a 100 kHz oscillator that is designed for use with a series-mode crystal. In this case the circuit is wired as a Colpitts oscillator. Note that the L1-C1C2 tank circuit is designed to resonate at the same frequency as the crystal, and that the tank component values must be changed if other crystal frequencies are used.
Finally, to complete this edition of 'The File', Figure 17shows the circuit of a very useful 2-transistor oscillator circuit that can be used with virtually any 50 kHz to 10 MHz series-resonant crystal. In this design Tr1 is wired as a common-base amplifier and Tr2 is an emitter follower, and the output signal (from Tr2 emitter) is fed back to the input (Tr1 emitter) via C2 and the series-resonant crystal. This is an excellent circuit that will oscillate with almost any crystal that shows the slightest sign of life.

In next month's edition of Data File we'll continue the 'transistor' theme by looking at practical audio amplifiers and associated circuits.

Fig 16 100kHz Colpitts oscillator (series-mode crystal)


Fig 17 Wide-range oscillator using almost any series-mode crystal



# POWER SUPPLY 

# Good regulation, low cost and a useful output: what more could you ask? W G Borland G3NXM 

Some commercially constructed power supplies quote a regulation of better than 700 mV , which would seem to be quite good until one realises that this is $5 \%$ of 13.8 V . The power unit to be described has a regulation somewhat better than this. In addition, as all the components were obtained at rallies the cost was considerably less.

Originally one rather large transformer was used. During a rebuild it was decided to limit the power supply height to 4 inches to match the transceiver, so two transformers were used in parallel.

Parallel transformers should be identical, and should be checked. Referring to Figure 1, connect the two transformers in parallel and check the voltage across $A$ and $B$. This should be the transformer voltage. If it is about zero then the transformers are connected out of phase, so reverse the primary connections.

Now disconnect one secondary connection at point $C$ and measure the voltage between C and D. Theoretically it should be zero, but a fraction of a volt, say under 0.2 V , would be acceptable.

In theory one would be quite safe in using a transformer which had a continuous commercial service (CCS) value of about one third of the peak power required for SSB. It would be advisable, however, to have a CCS rating not less than one half. Indeed, the prototype had a CCS rating nearly equal to the peak requirement.

The transformer voltage should not be less than 16 V . If it is much more than about 19 or 20 V the pass transistors will have to dissipate more power and will get hotter.

Fig 1 Test points for parallel transformers


The rectifying diodes should be at least 25A rating and mounted on a heat sink. The smoothing capacitor C1 consists of two $26,000 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ units in parallel. This is larger than necessary, and a good rule of thumb is $2000 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ pervolt. C 1 is rated at 30 V working.
When power is applied, C1 appears to be a short circuit until it is charged up, putting a great strain on the rectifying diodes. The current is limited to about 10 A by $R_{x}$, which is 9 inches of 1 kW radiator element wire coiled like a spring, and has a value of about 2 ohms. Of course a heavy duty resistor can be used in lieu.
When the 'short circuit' C1 had exhibited across the relay RL1 disappears the relay is energised, closing the contacts RL1/A and shorting out $R_{x}$. This gives a 'soft switch-on'.
R1 drops the voltage to suit the relay, and will need changing if a different voltage relay is used. The relay must have heavy duty contacts. RL1 and R1 also act as a bleeder for C1. It takes about 20 seconds for the relay to fall out on switching off.

## Convenience

The pass transistors used were 2N3771s simply because they were available already mounted on heat sinks. There is no reason why 2 N 3055 s could not be used, although as their dissipation is less they will become slightly hotter.
Originally the bases were held at a constant voltage by means of the 7812 voltage regulator, with the common being raised above ground by a variable resistor. Although this did give reasonable regulation, it did not take into account voltage drops due to the balancing resistors and fuse F3, the latter dropping as much as $1 / 2 \mathrm{~V}$ at full current.
Therefore the common of the 7812 is connected to the output of a 741. The non-inverting input of the 741 is held at 6.8 V by means of R3 and ZD1. R4, RV1 and R5 sample the output voltage and must be connected to the output terminal of the unit. RV1 is connected to the inverting input of the 741. If the output voltage rises the voltage to the inverting
input of the 741 rises, is inverted, and its output falls. The voltage to the common of the 7812 is reduced, and hence its output. As the voltage to the bases of the pass transistors is now reduced, their output is reduced.
If the output voltage falls, the opposite occurs. RV1 thus controls the output voltage of the unit.

The balancing resistors $R_{b}$ each consist of 9 inches of 2A mains wire (figure 8 cable split down the middle), making sure all lengths are exactly equal. Alternatively, 0.1 ohm 5 W resistors could be used.
The crowbar protection circuit consists of RV2, ZD2, C5 and the thyristor. Its input must also be taken from the output terminal of the unit.
To adjust the crowbar voltage, disconnect the anode of the thyristor and insert a 12 V bulb, which will light when the thyristor triggers. Adjust RV1 for the required output voltage and then adjust RV2 so that the thyristor triggers, lighting the bulb. Readjust RV1 for the output voltage and reconnect the thyristor. It has been noticed that at several rallies a firm was selling similar crowbar circuits already built on a small PCB.

## Metering

It was decided to include an expanded scale voltmeter to monitor the voltage output. This comprises RV3, RV4, ZD3 and the meter M1, which should not have a greater sensitivity than 1 mA . If it has, then shunt it.

RV3 is a voltage divider again connected to the output terminal. Set the output voltage to 13 volts using RV1, and adjust RV3 until the meter pointer is just moving off the stop. Readjust the output voltage to 14 V and adjust RV4 for fullscale deflection on the meter (ZD3 is passing 1V).

Without altering either RV3 or RV4, adjust the output voltage to 13.2 V and make a note of the meter scale reading. To calibrate the meter, divide the scale from the 13.2 V point to full scale into eight segments, each of which will represent 0.1 V .
Owing to the 'knee' of the Zener diode, the calibration below 13.2 volts is not linear and should not be used. A simple way to re-scale the meter is to draw the new scale on a self-adhesive label which can be fixed over the old scale.

R6 is present to provide some load even when the power supply is disconnected. C6 is to stiffen the supply; its value is not critical but it should be rated at 16 V working, preferably higher. L1 is an indicating lamp with R7 dropping the voltage to suit. If preferred, an LED and a 1.2 k resistor may be used.

Fuses F2 and F3 presented a problem until it was discovered that some motor car fuses fitted a $11 / 4$-inch panel fuse holder. They are small clear plastic tubes with capped ends. The one used for F2 is
labelled 12A continuous, 25A blow and F3 is 10 A continuous, 20 A blow. F 1 is a standard 5 A fuse in the 13A plug.
The Trio TS-130S transceiver for which this supply was designed has a doublepole on/off switch, one pole for switching dc to all stages except the PA transistors and the other pole for switching the ac for the power supply.
If your transceiver or transmitter does not have this type of switching, a switch will have to be fitted to the power supply.


Fig 2 PSU Circuit diagram

If this is the case, the transceiver should be switched on before the power supply. It will then have a 'soft switch-on'. Otherwise a surge or spike may occur, and as the crowbar circuit acts a few milliseconds quicker than the regulating circuit, the fuse will blow.

Most of the small components are mounted on a printed circuit board as shown in Figure 3. The preset variable resistors are the horizontal mounting type. Do not use the subminiature type as the wattage is too low. If the crowbar PCB is purchased separately then this part of the printed circuit can be omitted.
The two capacitors forming C1 are mounted side by side horizontally and the PCB can be mounted on top of them with 'Blu-Tack'.

Fig 3 Foil pattern and overlay


The power supply is constructed on an aluminium tray 7 inches wide $\times 13$ inches deep with $11 / 2$ inch lips on the long side and $1 / 2$ inch lips back and front. The front and back panels are $71 / 4$ inches widex 4 inches high with $1 / 2$ inch lips on both sides and top.
Each of the sides is formed with two of the pass transistor heat sinks and a small filling-in panel. A $5 / 8 \times 7 / 8$ inch angle holds the tops of these heat sinks and the filling-in panel.
The panel fuse holders for F2 and F3 the indicating lamp and meter are on the
front panel. The power connections are on the rear panel
The heavy current parts of the circuit were wired with 1.5 mm solid conductor electric wire, which can usually be obtained from the local electrician by the yard.
In order to prevent voltage drop between the power unit and the transceiver, the plugs and cables must be capable of carrying a heavy current. 12way square plugs and sockets were used, with four pins connected together for the positive and four for the negative. Two
pins were used for the mains switching and two left spare. The connecting cable was made up of two 15A flexible mains cable wires for the positive and two for the negative.
The usual twin double insulated 5A mains cable was used for the ac mains switching. A 3 -pin chassis-mounting connector was provided for connection to the mains.

This power supply has been in operation for three years with very good results, and regulation seems excellent. I hope it performs as well for you. 目ivil



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## SATELLITE TV



Since we last covered the subject, the satellite TV market has developed to the point where the companies offering receiving equipment can be counted by the dozen rather than in single figures. There is a certain amount of badge engineering, of course (ie different companies selling the same equipment with their own labels), but since some fairly large concerns are becoming involved it is a safe bet that a lot of people think there is a lot of money to be made.
Most readers will probably be familiar with established companies such as Connexions, Megasat (who don't actually make equipment but supply a large range of other peoples'), SATVRN etc. Household names now entering the field include Philips, through their French subsidiary Portenseigne (availability in the UK is uncertain, though), Grundig, who produce an

This shows the actuator used for moving the dish, in this case part of an NEC system

excellent tuner but whose total system price is well over the top, and Ferguson, who have taken the easy option and badge-engineered someone else's system. Other big names around include Luxor and Salora, both of whom have been offering equipment for a while now.
There are also some entirely new companies being formed. Notable amongst these is STS (Satellite Technology Systems), who supply the only British-designed low noise converter (LNC).

Prices are generally £1100+ for a basic system, although it is possible to get one for less than a thousand. As expected there are various enhancements on offer, such as automatic polarization changing for horizontally and vertically polarized channels, actuators for rotating the dish between satellites, and remote control.
As far as technical developments are concerned, flavour of the month seems to be the offset dish. This design approach places the LNC below the direct line between dish and satellite, since the LNC/mount assembly casts quite a 'shadow' if mounted centrally. As a result, offset dishes can be slightly smaller for the same gain.

If the price quoted above seems a little

## HOW IT WORKS

The Ku-band signals from ECS1 or Intelsat $V$ (11-12GHz downlink) are reflected off the parabolic dish onto the low noise converter (LNC). This dish gives a gain of around 42 dB , and further amplifier stages in the LNC give another
50 dB or so (this amplification is essential since each channel transmits at a mere 20W).
After amplification the signal is mixed with the output of a local oscillator running at 10 GHz (an extremely stable dielectric resonator oscillator or DRO) to provide a $950-1750 \mathrm{MHz}$ signal for the set-top tuner. Power for the LNC is fed up the coaxial cable from the tuner.
high (well, I wouldn't pay it) there are more than a few people prepared to part with that sort of money. No-one seems quite certain about total UK sales to date, but a rough estimate would put the figure at around 2500. Most of these sales have been made since last autumn.
That might not seem very many, but it is, perhaps, significant that the Japanese are becoming involved - they usually bother only with large volume markets, so maybe they anticipate rapid growth. With the amount of money behind some of the companies now providing equipment, a cynic might say that if there is no market now some judicious expenditure on promotion will create one. The profit motive is a powerful one.
As the market expands the price of equipment will fall. You could probably expect to pay about $£ 600$ for a system by the end of 1987, although there's a limit to how far the prices can fall because of the technology involved

Over in the United States, where there is already a sizeable market for such equipment, it is possible to buy a C-band sytem for as little as $\$ 300$. Some Stateside manufacturers are now producing Ku-band systems suitable for the European market.
Anyway, if it's a cheap system you want, and you want it now rather than in 18 months' time, I suggest you read R\&EW next month. .

If you must buy a system (more money than sense, some people), then make sure you shop around. Although all the set-ups l've seen will give acceptable results there is no doubt that some will give a better picture than others. Also check that the system you buy has a baseband output so that you can plug in decoders when (or rather, if) programme providers start encrypting en masse.

A typical offset dish. Despite its apparent simplicity, LNC positioning is critical


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This is a page from Satellite TV, a monthly magazine featuring program previews and schedules. It costs $£ 1.50$ and is published by 21st Century Publications, who also produce Cable \& Satellite Europe offering more technical coverage of the subject. 21st Century Publications are at 531-533 Kings Road, London SW10 OTZ. Tel: (01) 3513612

Only Sky Channel encrypts at present, but the Dutch FilmNet is due to start doing so from autumn.
A major factor in the expansion of the home satellite TV receiver market is the quality and diversity of programming available. At the moment you can disregard many of the channels available unless you happen to be an accomplished linguist. Of the remainder, some just aren't worth watching. CNN (Cable News Network), for example, carries little European news, and I, for one, am not particularly interested in the weather prevailing in the Blue Ridge Mountains or the financial difficulties of southern peanut growers
The language differences needn't be a problem. Europa-TV currently broadcasts in 5 different languages, each on a different audio subcarrier. Other channels could do the same in the future.
Encryption raises other questions. The reason for it in the first place is to allow programme providers to make money by charging people to see their programmes. However, if a significant number of channels do not encrypt, choosing to try and make money solely through advertising revenue, then people are bound to watch the unscrambled channels and not bother with the others (who, given the


Back in 1983 Mike Stone, Technical Director of Bristol-based STS, wrote a book about satellite TV. Copies are still available, and although it is a little out of date it is still well worth reading
choice, would pay for their TV?). Consequently encryption might be a nonstarter.
The number of channels available should increase steadily. The IBA is due to start transmitting Superchannel in the autumn, and two DBS satellites will be launched this year if all goes well, the French TDF1 and German TV-SAT.
An Irish DBS satellite is imminent, agreement having been reached with the Hughes company in the States, and SES in Luxembourg also plan a satellite for the near future.
What remains to be seen is whether what's on offer is worth watching. [Riai]

## Eadito ics NEXT ISSUE <br> <br> DIY SATELLITE TV RECEPTION

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March was largely an inactive month for DX-TV reception, following the trend of the previous few months. During almost two decades of TV DXing we cannot recall a winter with conditions matching those which we have just experienced. Hopefully it is the lull before the storm. By the time this column appears in R\&EW we should have a clear impression of the 1986 sporadic-E season.
Thanks to a combination of patience and determination, log reports have been forthcoming for the month under review and, again, it shows just what can be achieved during adverse conditions. It's all too tempting to simply give up while everything on the DX front is quiet.

## DX-TV log for March

The main log covering Band । this month is courtesy of Bob Brooks of South Wirral. The details are as follows:
1/3/86: Unidentified film received at 0909 on channel E2.
2/3/86: An unidentified picture on E2 of a Hitler look-alike, but wearing a bowler hat. This was timed by Bob at 0835.
5/3/86: Cartoon on E2, possibly of West German origin.
7/3/86: ORF (Austria) on channel E2a showing the PM5544 test card and 'ORF FS1' identification.
11/3/86: ARD (West Germany) on E2 displaying the 'ARD ZDF' logo. This was probably received from the Bayerischer Rundfunk transmitter at Grünten.
12/3/86: ARD on channel E2 with the 'GRUNTEN' FuBK test card.
14/3/86: TVP (Poland) on channel R1 using the PM5544 with a dark background.
15/3/86: Bayerischer Rundfunk (BR-1) on E2 with the 'GRUNTEN' electronic test card.
16/3/86: Very early morning signals consisting of an Italian programme on channel IA. Shortly after midnight a guitarist was noted on E2.
17/3/86: CST (Czechoslovakia) on channel R1 radiating the EZO-type pattern with the identification 'RS-KH'; ARD (BR1, West Germany) with the FuBK test card on channel E2.
18/3/86: CST on R1 with the 'RS-KH' test card.
20/3/86: SR/SVT (Sweden) on E2 transmitting the 'TV1 SVERIGE' PM5534 test card; unidentified station presenter at 1024 on channel E3.
21/3/86: SR/SVT on E2 with the Philips PM5534 pattern; ARD (BR-1) on E2 with the FuBK test card.
26/3/86: TVP using the PM5544 test card on channel R1; ARD radiating the 'GRÜNTEN' FuBK test card from Bayerischer Rundfunk.
27/3/86: Swedish PM5534 test card from SR/SVT carrying the 'TV1 SVERIGE' identification.
Kevin Jackson reports the following signals noted in Leeds via improved tropospheric conditions:
3/3/86: TDF (France) with Canal Plus transmissions on channel L5 from Litle; RTBF1 (French speaking network in Belgium) on channel E8 from the Wavre


Compiled by Keith Hamer and Garry Smith
outlet; DDR:F1 (East Germany) on E5 showing the electronic test card, possibly from the Inselsberg outlet.
11/3/86: BRT-1 (Flemish network in Belgium) on E43 and BRT-2 on E46, both from Egem.
12/3/86: TDF (Antenne 2) on E39; TDF (Canal Plus) L5; RTBF-1 E8; BRT-1 E10 (Wavre) and E43 (Egem); BRT-2 E46 (Egem); RTL (Luxembourg) on E7 with the PM5534 from Dudelange.
13/3/86: TDF (tf1) on E43; TDF (Antenne 2) E43; TDF (Canal Plus) from Lille on channel L5; BRT-1 E43; RTL E7.
15/3/86: TDF with Canal Plus transmissions on channel L5; BRT-1 E43; BRT-2 E46; RTBF-1 on channel E8.

Despite the adverse conditions for DXTV reception, three interesting test cards did manage to appear in Derby. They were the East German DDR:F1 pattern on channel E4 from Cottbus on the 10th, the new Dutch FuBK test card on E4 from Lopik on the 15th and a rarity the FuBK from West Germany on channel E3. This carried the identification 'KREUZBERG' and was noted on March 27th. The test card is radiated by Bayerischer Rundfunk.

## New Dutch FuBK test card

We've at last had a chance to examine the FuBK test card which was recently introduced by NOS in the Netherlands. This pattern will eventually replace the old PM5540 monochrome electronic test card.

As we reported in the February issue of R\&EW, the new pattern carries the name of the transmitter. It looks different from the standard FuBK - and it is! The NOS version omits the circle, and the small black triangle in the lower half of the pattern is reversed. The frequency gratings occupy a wider portion of the test card and the black band carrying the identification is correspondingly longer compared with a standard FuBK from, say, West Germany

## Reception reports

lain Menzies of Aberdeen has written to say that job promotion has meant less time for DX-TV activities. He sums up recent conditions in one word. Unfortu nately we can't use it here but roughly translated it would appear that reception has been lousy. Regular auroral activity seems to be a feature in northern parts of the UK, and during March occurrences
were noted on one day in every three producing signals in Band I from Norway and Russia.

Upon arriving home on the 31st, lain switched on to find a sporadic-E opening already in progress on channels R1 and E4. However, since a scanner was used to check the band, no clues could be gleaned as to where the signals were originating from.

## Broadcasting authorities upset

lain has advised that the first 50 MHz amateur radio stations are on the air in Portugal and CT1 WW was worked via the 'big' aurora of February 8th. He also points out that the broadcasting authorities in Lisbon had the hump after seeing pictures of some of their TV transmissions taken by a DX-TV enthusiast a couple of years ago. This may have prompted them to think about ceasing TV broadcasts in Band I in the near future. Assuming they do not want their transmissions to be picked up outside Portugal we can only suggest that the Portuguese powers that be close down the FM radio network as well!
While on the subject of Band I closures, lain mentions that correspondence with Radio Netherlands has revealed that NOS have no intention of closing the TV outlet at Lopik on channel E4 for at least the next decade. We will have to wait and see.

Chris Howles of Lichfield has again been preaching the virtues of TV DX in his neck of the woods. A chance meeting with a couple of other DXers prompted Chris to arrange an informal get together at his home recently. We were also invited to view Chris's set-up. Despite the use of loft aerials, signals from Europe are received on a daily basis. A new acquisition is a Tandy Portavision monochrome receiver which will resolve French system Lsignals as well as British TV. The French 'Canal Plus' transmissions from the Lille outlet on channel L5 are present for most of the time. If the programme isn't scrambled both sound and vision are usually present.

A couple of D100 DX-TV converters are pressed into service by Chris for narrowband $D X$ reception of weak signals. A Plustron multiband monochrome portable is also used. An almost new Tatung VHS video cassette machine has been purchased for recording DX reception. Signals are fed in at UHF from the D100.

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| CHERRY OWERTYKEYBOARD NEW ASCII ICS SN7493AN SN7400N ETC: $£ 1250$ C/P 1.50 | TEKTRONIX 7A12DUAL <br> TRACE AMP £275.00 | GOULD TYPE DC379240V INPUT $5 V 40 \mathrm{~A}-12.4 \mathrm{~A}+15.11 \mathrm{~A}$ SWITCH MODE PSU £55.00 C/P 5.00 |
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|  |  | KINGSHILL STABILISED METERED PSU TYPE 601240 V INPUT 0-60V 0-1A $£ 5000$ |
| DIE-CAST ALL BOX $41 / 2 \times 1^{1 / 8 \times 2^{1 / 2} 2 \text { in } £ 2.00 \mathrm{C} / \mathrm{P} 50 \mathrm{p}}$ | TEKTRONIX $53 / 54$ C DUAL trace calibrated PRE-AMP $£ 50.00$ |  |
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| COSSOR CDU 150 DUAL TRACE <br> O'SCOPE CIW MANUAL 35MHz <br> E16500 | CDC HAWK 5 + 5 MB HARD DISK DRIVE NEW \& BOXED C/W MANUAL £250 00 |  |
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|  |  | COMARK DIGITAL THERMOMETER TYPE 3000 1955 TO - $1: 00 \mathrm{C}$ DATA AVA £75 INC THERMAL COUP |
| AMF POTTER\& BRUMFIELD 12VDC RELAY 240VAC 5A RES ONLY. 2 P/CO. £3. $25 \mathrm{C} / \mathrm{P} 50 \mathrm{p}$ | TELEQUIPMENT D67 O SCOPE DUAL TRACE 35 mHz £250 00 |  |
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| 12-0-122A PER/WIND: 230 V PRIM. $£ 2.50$ C/P 1.00 | KROHN-HITE CORP = WIDE BANDDC-1MC. 1OWATT AMPLIFIER TYPE OCA10 $£ 125.00$ | AVA. 660.00 |
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|  | 30 V 25 A 240 V INPUT LINEAR PSU KINGSHILL $£ 30.00$ C/P 9.50 | HEWLETT PACKARD 180A O'SCOPEC/W T801A D/CHN |
| 9-0-9V 1 A 230 V PRIM $£ 1.95$ C/P 50p | INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH PHOT | TIME BASE \& DELAY GEN WITH DATA RACK MOUNT |
| 230V/115V AUTO TRANS. 500 W £23.95 C/P 300 | WFLASHINTER-GRATER H610 £12000 | WITH DATA. $£ 550.00$ |
| UNIVERSAL COUPLING ARMS IDEAL FOR ROBOTICS 4 in CLOSED APPROX £200 C/P 25p | 24 V 4.8 A 240V INPUT LINEAR PSU NEW \& BOXED $£ 19.95$ C/P 350 | LYONS INSTRUMENTS PULSE <br> GENERATOR TYPE PG-2E <br> 10 mHz |
| CETRONIC LTD LINE CONDITIONER 5OHZ INPUT FREQUENCY $240 \mathrm{~V} \cdot 20 \%+10 \%$ 5KVA 20:8 AMPS. £350.00 | FARNELL FAN COOLED SWITCH MODE 24OV INPUT +5 . $10 \mathrm{~A}-5.1 \mathrm{~A}+12.3 \mathrm{~A}-121 \mathrm{~A}$ £ $28.00 \mathrm{C} / \mathrm{P} 3.00$ | PRESTEL ADAPTOR MODEL PI C/W INFRA-RED REMOTE CONTROL KEYPAD INC ALL ELECTRONICS CPU ISOLATION TRANSFORMEA |
| TEKTRONIX TYPE SI SAMPLING HEADS £200.00 | DATA RECORDING FAN COOLED LINEAR PSU240V | MODEM 1200 BAUDS RATE PSU UHF MODULATOR ICS AY3-1015D AY-3-9710HK. PIC |
| TEKTRONIXIINEARIC TEST <br> FIXTURE 178 £500 00 | INPUT + 15-15 8A PER OUTPUT N/BOXED $£ 40.00$ | 1650A-532 TY 16502 AY-3-9725 N/ BOXED $£ 15.95 \mathrm{C} / \mathrm{P} 300$. |
|  |  |  |
| 3 SHENLEY R | OREHAM WOOD, <br> el: 01-953 6009 | TS WD6 1AA |
| OFFICIAL ORDERS/OVER OPEN 5 DAYS 9AM/5PM. PLE | ENQUIRIES WELCOME/TELE RING FOR C/P DETAILS NOT S UNLESS STATED | E ORDERS ACCEPTED ALL PRICES INC $15 \%$ VAT |



## PHOTO FILE OB Y

Clock caption radiated by the Portuguese TV service


Caption received at closedown on R26 from TVP-2 in Poland


RTP-1 (Portugal) opening caption received via sporadic-E


Caption from TSS in White Russian SSR, received on channel R10


Identification caption transmitted by RTP


New FuBK test card from NOS, Netherlands
Pics: Bob Brooks and Rijn Muntjewerff

Chris wants to part with his earlier VCR - a multi-standard Ferguson. This is similar in appearance to the 3 V 22 with key controls. The asking price is around $£ 90$. If anyone is interested in the VCR, or just wants to chat about DX-TV, give Chris a ring on (0543) 252121 after 6 pm.

## Further successes

"I've seen no sporadic-E yet, but I keep checking", writes Kevin Jackson of Leeds. Band III and UHF DX proved more fruitful with the East German test card coming in and out of the noise on March 3rd via channel E5. Surprisingly, RTLLuxembourg appeared on channel E7 during the 12th and 13th whilst radiating the PM5534 test card. Enhanced tropospheric conditions brought further successes throughout the month.

Kevin's DX set-up has been altered with regard to aerials and coaxial cable. He recently invested some cash in decent feeder cable. The type chosen is semi-airspaced and double screened. It is manufactured by Volex and called Raydex CT 100 . His estimated cable losses are now as follows: Band I, using three metres of CT100, the loss is less than 0.1 dB at 50 MHz ; Band III, using two metres of CT100, the loss is estimated as being less than 0.16 dB at 200 MHz ; at UHF using five metres of the new cable the loss is less than 0.77 dB at 600 MHz and 0.91 at 850 MHz .

The cable lengths quoted are not misprints. Kevin lives many floors up in a tower block (it saves buying a lattice mast!) and all the aerials are indoors. His 10-element group B aerial has been replaced by a wideband version which, he feels, will be better suited as a search array. Kevin hopes to acquire a four or five element Band III wideband aerial to improve results in that particular spectrum. However, the physical size could be a problem because it would have to be hand-held. Why not use a tripod, Kevin?
David Oliver of Birmingham can't wait for the sporadic-E season to begin. He's now equipped with a D100 DX-TV converter, a Thomson T2502PI multistandard colour portable and a multistandard Sharp VC-477EJ video recorder. David started DXing during the latter part of the 1985 season and he logged several European countries via spor-adic-E propagation.

## Old modified receivers

It seems that a few modified UK dualstandard receivers are still in use for DXTV reception. The presence of a switchable video detector diode meant they were ideally suited for standard nega-tive-going video (systems I,B,G,D etc) and positive going French video (system L). Bert Brand of Colchester has used such a set since it was retired from domestic use in 1973. It is a Thorn 1400 series chassis and is nearly 20 years old.

## What is SEB-TV?

We recently mentioned the reception in Kuwait by Jamil Charawi of transmissions from SEB TV, apparently from an American satellite used to radiate programmes to US Forces personnel stationed in Italy. Jamil received the AFRTS signals on his domestic TV.
K Jinadasa, a radiographer at the Mubarak Al Kabeer hospital in Kuwait read the report and has written in with his own observations. He noted SEB-TV on March 15th between 1.30am and 3am local time. Apparently a caption appeared which read 'SEB ITALY SERVING EUROPE'S BEST'. It was a programme featuring songs and dances called 'Solid Gold'.
Reception was via an NEC 14 T 420 SB 14 -inch colour set - the cheapest available in Kuwait. A standard UHF aerial was used in conjunction with a Nippon VHF/UHF pre-amplifier. The programme from SEB-TV (Southern European Broadcast TV) was noted on channels 21 and 27 . The image was in the negative form without any trace of the sound carrier.
Normally our correspondent watches TV programmes from Saudi 'Arabia, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and, of course, Kuwait but he has never seen a transmission intended for a European country. If anyone can reveal the mystery surrounding SEB-TV, we would be pleased to hear from them.

## Private TV scene in France

Two additional national television networks came into service in France last year. At present, about six million viewers are covered by the new networks. This figure should soon rise to around 29 million viewers with transmitters situated in 62 locations.
The only authority in a position to allocate 'free' television channels is Telediffusion de France (TDF). Following extensive surveys the TDF decided to allow the introduction of three additional TV services; more are likely to be authorised by the TDF at a later date. Currently there are five services in operation, namely Television Francaise (TF1), Antenne 2 (A2), France Regions 3 (FR 3), Canal Plus and TV5. The last one is basically a music channel with rock and pop video clips for viewers aged between 18 and 35 .
The proposed sixth programme will be a co-production from the television services in Luxembourg (RTL) and Monaco (TMC). Programmes from RTL will be aired in western, northern and eastern parts of France while material from TMC will be radiated in southern and south-western France plus a few central regions. The seventh TV service will be produced on a local basis.
The search for spare channels has been abandoned in locations around Nice, Mulhouse, Strasbourg, Forbach
and Belfort. Only one new TV service can be accommodated at Lille, St Etienne, Grasse-Cannes, Thionville, Hagondange, Maubeuge and Arras.

Our thanks to Gösta van der Linden (Netherlands) and Alain Duchatel (France) for providing details about the French private television scene.

## Service Information

France: The official start of France's fifth TV service took place on February 20th at 2030 local time. Known as 'La Cing' (or TV5), the first programme was 'Voila La Cinq'
The VHF transmitters at Saint Etienne (channel L2) and Le Havre-Harfleur (channel L4) have unfortunately been replaced by UHF outlets. The following TV5 transmitters are due to come into service this summer:
Amiens-Dury (channel E49); Avignon-Le Pontet (E47); Bourg-en-Bresse (E38); C Ferrand-Royat (E58); Le Creusot (E38); Lorient (E62); Marseille-P (E54); Nantes (E21); Poitiers (E41); Valence (E53); Ales (E62); Angers-Rochefort (E50); BayonneLa Rhune (E56); Caen-CHU (E38); Dunkerque (E59); Le Havre-Harfleur (E53); Mantes (E53); Montlucon (E49); Orleans (E52); Tours (E57); Valenciennes (E49).
The PM5544 test card is radiated by TV5 with the identification 'TDF' at the top and 'RES 5 ' in the lower black rectangle. Identification slides are used such as 'La Cing $5^{\prime}$.
The sixth network opened on March 1st at 1400 local time. TV6 is a music programme. The test card (Philips PM5544) carries the identification 'TDF' and 'RES 6'
TV7 is due to open in 1987. This service will be linked via satellite so its success depends on the Ariane space project.
Finland: Yleisradio (YLE) are now operating a transmitter located in neighbouring Sweden. The outlet, at Stockholm, is on channel E39 with an ERP of between 600 kW and 1000 kW . The PM5544 test card is radiated with the identification 'Channel 39' and 'Stockholm'. Programmes are in Finnish and Swedish and many carry subtitles.
Sweden: Sveriges Radio (SR/SVT) have brought into service a TV transmitter located on the Finnish Aaland Isles. The channel E28 outlet has an ERP of 600 kW . Crete: The TV transmitter on channel A2 at Iraklion is apparently still in service. Operated by the American Forces Radio and Television Service (AFRTS), this outlet (on 525 lines) was occasionally received in the UK a number of years ago. It had been assumed that the transmitter had been taken out of service, but a DX-TV enthusiast recently noticed an identification caption. The channel A6 outlet is still operational.

Our thanks to Gösta van der Linden and the Benelux DX Club (Netherlands) for supplying this month's service information.

ELMASET INSTRUMENT CASE $300 \times 133 \times 217 \mathrm{~mm}$ deep.............. $\mathbf{\Sigma 1 0 . 0 0 e a ( £ 2 . 2 0 )}$ REGULATORS
LM317T Plastic T0220 variable $\quad \$ 1.00$ LM317 Metal 7812 Metal 12v 1A. 7805/12/15/24 plastic 7905/12/15/24 plastic CA3085 T099 Variable regulator

## COMPUTER ICS

Used Eproms are erased and verified 27128-300nS ............................New £3.50 10+£2.60 2764 Intel/Fujitsu 300 nS ................. $£ 2.50$ Used £1.50 2716 EX EQPT. ... $£ 2.50$ Used $£ 1.50$
1702 EPROM ex equip. $+. \quad . \quad 55.00$ 2732 EX EQPT.
2114 EX EQPT 60p 4116 EX EQPT 6264LP158K static ram 6116-2 (TC5517AP-2).

## POWER TRANSISTORS

2SC1520 sim BF259


3/E1 100/E22 2SD794 sim BD131. 4/E1 100/E20 TIP141, 142, 147 £1 ea, TIP112, 125, 42B............ 2/ع1.00 TIP35B £1.30 TIP35C.
 2N3055 Ex eqpt tested. 2/E1.00
$4 / \varepsilon 1.00$ $00 / \varepsilon 30.00$ 2N3773 NPN 25A 160V £1.80.............................. 10/£16.00

## DISPLAYS

Futaba 4 digit clock, fluorescent display 5-LT 16
Futaba 8 digit calculator fluorescent display 9CT 01-3L.
1-3L.......................................................................50
7 seg $0.3^{\prime \prime}$ display comm cathode ....................... 2/E1.00
QUARTZ HALOGEN LAMPS

## A1/216 24v 150w........................................................25


MISCELLANEOUS
ELECTRET MICROPHONE INSERT .........................90p MODEM LINE TRANSFORMER
£1.50 $100+$ \&1 $1 k+50 p$
FX2243 POT CORE \& BOBBIN..
E1.50
FX2243 POT CORE \& BOBBIN.
. $5 /$ / 1 Linear hall effect IC Micro switch no 613554 51M R5 304-267............................................ $\mathbf{\Sigma 2 . 5 0 1 0 0 + £ 1 . 5 0}$ OSCILLOSCOPE PROBE KIT X1×10 ............... $\mathbf{£ 1 0 . 0 0}$ Micro-switch no 613 SS4 sim RS 304-267
Cheap phono plugs........................... 100/£2 1000/£18 Ipole 12 way Rotary switch ............................................ Audio Ics LM380 LM386........................................ ©1 ea Coax plugs... 5/E1
 INDUCTOR $20 \mu \mathrm{H}$ 1.5A............................................ 5/ع1.00 COAX PLUGS................................................... 5/£1.00 $10,000 \mu \mathrm{~F} 75 \mathrm{v}$ sprague 36D........................... $\mathbf{\Sigma 3 . 5 0 \text { ( } £ 1 . 2 5 \text { ) } ) ~}$ $15,000 \mu \mathrm{~F} 40 \mathrm{~V}$.............................................. $£ 2.50$ ( $£ 1.50$ ) NEW BRITISH TELECOM PLUG + LEAD ............£1.50 1.25" Panel Fuseholders..
. $5 / \mathrm{C} 1.00$ MAINS ROCKER SWITCHES 6A SPST.................5/£1
 10/E7.00
.. $3 / \varepsilon 1.00$ MAINS TRANSIENT SUPPRESSORS 245 V .... $3 / \mathrm{E} 1.00$
TOK KEY SWITCH 2 POLE 3 KEYS - ideal for car/home alarms ................................. $£ 3 £ 100+\mathbf{£ 2 . 0 0}$ 12v 1.2 w small wire ended lamps fit AUDI/VW TR7 VOLVO SAAB................................................ 10/£1.00 12v MES Iamps
......10/\&1
 PTFE sleeving pack asstd colours ............................. $£ 1.00$ 250 mixed res diodes, zeners ....................................00 Mixed electrolytic caps .........................................................
Stereo cass R/P head Stereo cass R/P head PCB Mono head $£ 1$, Erase head..

Thermal cut-outs $50^{\prime}, 77^{\prime}, 85^{\prime}, 120^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ Thermal fuse $121^{\circ} \mathrm{C} 240 \mathrm{~V} 15 \mathrm{~A}$,

$\qquad$ TO220 Micas + bushes 10/50p. TO3 Micas + bushes $\qquad$ RELAYS 240 v AC Coil PCB mounting 2 pole changeover£1 3 polec/o........................................00 Fig. 8 mains cassette leads. …........... $£ 1.00$ KYNAR wire wrapping wire $20 z$ reel ................. $\mathbf{£ 1 . 0 0}$ PTFE min. screened cable ........................ $10 \mathrm{~m} / \mathbf{\Sigma 1 . 0 0}$ TOKIN MAINS RFI FILTER 250V 15A. IEC Chassis plug/rfi filter 10A. Mercury tilt switch small......... $\qquad$ 3.00
$\qquad$ ... $\mathbf{\Sigma 3 . 0 0}$ Min. rotary sw. 4p c/o 1/8" shaft
$\qquad$ 10 m 7 CERAMIC FILTER 50p 6 m or 9 m CERAMIC FITLER 50p $240 V$ AC FAN $4.6^{\prime \prime}$ SQUARE NEW 240/115v AC FAN 4. $6^{\prime \prime}$ SQ. NEW W ....... $\kappa 7.00(81.60)$ BELLING-LEE 12 -way block L1469 POTENTIOMETERS short spindle $2 k 510 \mathrm{k} 25 \mathrm{~K} 1 \mathrm{M}$ Lin
ong spindle
$\qquad$ $5 / 21$
500k lin 500k log long spindle ............................... 4/e1 40 KHZ ULTRASONIC TRANSDUCERS EX-EQPT. NO DATA ............................................................... 1.00
 TO3 TRANSISTOR COVERS 10/\&1.00 TRANSISTOR MOUNTING PADS T05/T018 £ $3 / 1 \mathrm{~K}$ DIL REED RELAY 2 POLE N/O CONTACTS..... £1.00 ZETTLER 24 V 2 POLE c/o relay $30 \times 20 \times 12 \mathrm{~mm}$ sim RS 348-649........................................... $£ 1.50100+£ 1$ 100 WATT STUD ZENNER DIODES ................ 1.50 ea VOLTS AVAILABLE 10, 11, 12, 16, 24, 30, 33, 36, 43, 62, 68, 82.

## RECTIFIERS

1200 35A stud. $\qquad$
12FR4 00 12A 400v small stud.....................................51.50 BY1271200V1 2A 10 \&1.00
BY254 800~ 3 A
 10/E1.00 YY251300V 3A 6/£1.00 1A 800v bridge rectifier........................................................81.00 4A 100V bridge.......................................................3/£1.00 6A 100v bridge 50p 10 A 200 v bridge ......
...................... $\varepsilon 1.50$ ع1.50 5A 100v bridge 25A 200v bridge $£ .00$ ea. 0/K18.00 25A 400v bridge $£ 2.50$ 10/E22.00

## SCRs

## ACOV8FGM 800 mA 400 v TO-92 Triac <br> ... 3/E1

 MCR72-6 400v .. 112.0035A 600v stud. 82.00
2N5061 800 mA 60 V T092.....

$100 / \Sigma 15.00$
MEU21 Prog 400v T092 3/£
3/ع1.00

## TRIACS

diacs 25p

## TXAL225 8 A 400 V 5 mA gate $2 / \mathrm{E} 1.00$ 100/\&35.00

CONNECTORS (EX Eapt. pictop por palr)
Centronics 36 way IDC plug ع4 $10+\mathbf{2} .50$
Centronics 36 way IDC skt .
84
Centronics 36 way plug (solder type)
82.00

D' 9 -way £1; 15 -way $£ 1$ 150; 25 -way.....
£2.00

## 37 -way $£ 2 ; 50$-way $£ 3.50$; covers 50 p ea

## WIRE WOUND RESISTORS

W21 or sim 2.5W10 OF ONE VALUEFOR .............. \&1.00 R47 1R0 2R02R7 3R9 5R0 10R 12R 15R 18R 20R 27R 33R 36R 47R 120R 180R200R 330R 390R 470 R 560 R 680R 820 R 910R
1K 1K15 1K2 1K3 1K5 1K8 2K4 2K7 3K3 10K R05 ( 50 mifli-ohm) 1\% 3watt ..

4 for E 1 W22 or sim 6 watt 7 OF ONE VALUE for............... $\mathbf{\Sigma 1 . 0 0}$ R47 1R5 9R1 10R 12R 20R 33R 51R 56R 62R 120R 180 270R 390R R 47 560R 620R 1K 1K2 2K2 3K3 3K9 10K W23 or $\operatorname{sim} 9$ watt 6 OF ONE VALUE for............. £1.00 R22 R47 1R0 3R0 6R8 56R 62R 100R 220R 270R 390R

30p
5/ 1.00 00/E1.00 / 22.00 /E1 -

PHOTO DEVICES
Slotted opto-switch OPCOA OPB815 ............ $\mathbf{~ 1 . 3 0 ~}$ 2N5777 50p .....................................................................26.00 TIL81 T018 Photo transistor................................. £1.00 TIL38 Infra red LED.
OPI2252 Opto isolator
Photo diode 50p.
MEL12 (Photo darlington base $n / c$ )
RPY58A LDR 50p ORP12 LDR.
LEDs RED 3 mm or $5 \mathrm{~mm} 12 / \mathrm{s} 1 \ldots$
10/£1 ............ 100/£6.50
FLASHING RED 5 mm 50 p ........................... 100/£30.00

## DIODES

1N4148 ............................................................. 100/\&1.50
1S3740 Germanium ........................................ 100/£2.00
1N4004 or SD4 1A 300v .................................... 100/£3.00 .00
BA157 1A 400V Fast recovery. 10/E1.00 BA159 1A 1000V Fast recovery ..................... 100/玉4.00 SUB-MIN PRESETS horiz ............ 15/ع1.00 100/ $\mathbf{5} 5.00$ $1 \mathrm{~K}, 4 \mathrm{~K} 7,10 \mathrm{~K}, 22 \mathrm{~K}, 47 \mathrm{~K}, 100 \mathrm{~K}, 1 \mathrm{M}, 10 \mathrm{M}$.

## MULTI TURN PRESETS

10R 20R 100R 200R 5008 .
50p
2 K 5 K 22 K 50 K 100 K 200 K

## IC SOCKETS

6-pin 15/£ 18 -pin 12/£1; 14-pin 10/£1.00; 18/20-pin 7/£1 100/£12; $1 \mathrm{k} / \mathrm{\Sigma} 50$; 22/28-pin 25p; 24-pin 25p; 100/£20; $1 \mathrm{k} / \mathrm{I} 100$; 40 -pin 30 p; 16 -pin 12/£1; 100/£6
Turned pin 40pin 60p. 14pin 25p
TRIMMER CAPACITORS small
GREY 1.5-6.4pF GREEN 2-22pF ................ 5 for 50 GREY larger type 2-25pF...................................... 5 for50p
SOLID STATE RELAYS NEW 10A 250v AC
Zero voltage switching
Control voltage 8-28v DC...................................... £2.50
VARIAC 0 to 130v 6 A new uncased............... $\mathbf{8 . 0 0}$ (£3) POLYESTER/POLYCARB CAPS
1n/3n3/5n6/8n2/10n 1\% 63v 10mm .................... 100/86 $10 \mathrm{n} / 15 \mathrm{n} / 22 \mathrm{n} / 33 / 47 \mathrm{n} / 68 \mathrm{n} 10 \mathrm{~mm} \mathrm{rad}$. 100186 100 N 250 V radial $10 \mathrm{~mm} 100 / £ 3$
$2 \mathrm{u} 2160 \mathrm{vrad} 22 \mathrm{~mm} . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .100 / \mathrm{c} 10.00$ ( $£ 1.50$ ) 470n 250v ACX rated rad ..................................... 4/£1.00 $33 \mathrm{n} / 47 \mathrm{n} 250 \mathrm{v}$ AC X rated rad $15 \mathrm{~mm} . . . . . . . . . . . . . .$. 10/£1.00 10 n 250 v AC X rated rad $10 \mathrm{~mm} . .$. $10 / £ 1.00$
$10 / £ 1.00$ 100n 600V SPRAGUE axial 10/£1 .......... 100/£6.00 (£1)

## BEAD THERMISTORS

GLASS BEAD NTC Res $(\mathbb{a}$ 20'c 80p 250R 1K2 50K 220K 1M4

## BEAD TANTALUM CAPS

$825 \mathrm{~V} 47 \mathrm{u} 3 \mathrm{~V} 12 / £ 1$
$100 / \& 6.00$ $2 \mathrm{u} 2 \mathrm{2} \mathrm{V} 8 / £ 1$. 100/ 28.00

## MONOLOTHIC CERAMIC CAPS <br> 100N 50V axial Shortleads $100 / \Sigma 61 \mathrm{k} / 24010 \mathrm{k}$. 200 <br> 10 N 50 V . <br> $1 \mu \mathrm{~F} 50 \mathrm{~V}$ <br> 10N 50v dil package $0.3^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{rad}$. £4/100 ....................... £35/1k <br> STEPPER MOTOR 4 PHASE 2 ع.35 WINDINGS

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ATV M T
ON THE AIR

Andy Emmerson G8PTH puts you in the picture

AIot has happened in the world of ATV since a month ago, or so it seems. The BATC's convention/rally, call it what you will, has been and gone. I believe it was the most successful ever - everyone I spoke to seemed to be happy and I shall try and highlight some of the more interesting exhibits and points below.

## New names, new products

This year a large marquee was hired to make room for all the extra traders who came. Among the newcomers was Comex Systems Ltd of Leicester, who introduced a range of high quality products for 24 cm enthusiasts. A receiver system based on the rightly famed Astec satellite TV modules impressed several people, as did the sound and vision transmitter. This puts out 1.5 watts and there is also a matching 6 watt PA.
I hope to describe these products in greater detail in future; they are certainly of a professional standard and nicely finished. Several have gone to commercial customers, too, so they must be good!
Wood \& Douglas unveiled their new reference-locked 24 cm transmitter expect a detailed report on this shortly, as they handed over a review sample!
On the surplus equipment front many bargains were to be had - if you came early enough... I saw a Hitachi colour camera go for $£ 60$, which would have been a fair price for the lens alone. What

This rather well-equipped shack belongs to Heinz Venhaus DC6MR. I reckon his junk is better than most of my prized apparatus!

was lacking was an organised bring-andbuy stall, and I understand this will be rectified next year.

## Repeater groups

Two repeater groups set up displays which I found fascinating. The Sussex Coast folk showed several 'goodies' they had developed, including an ingenious panoramic scanning display for 24 cm receivers. This gives an on-screen display of the whole $23 / 24 \mathrm{~cm}$ band, with immediate indication of any activity.
In addition they had an agc board and an expansion board for the popular Cropredy Electronics test card generator. The group also offers to blow EPROMs for this, including a new BATCstyle test card; they seem to know the bugs in the circuit which several people have reported to me.
The Home Counties crowd had a display of equipment used to achieve their contest successes, together with a demonstration of the Pioneer audiovisual computer. I have mentioned this before: it's a home computer (MSX) which can superimpose genlocked colour graphics and captions, and it's now available at a very attractive price. Chase round to a Pioneer dealer if interested.
As ever, I had a chance to meet several ATVers at Crick, some old friends and some new, and they all passed on their news. I filled several pages in my notebook and as always I was promised letters describing local activity groups in great detail. Let's hope these all turn up!
Most of the activity news I shall save up for our three-monthly activity round-up, suffice to say it is clear that there is a great deal more slow-scan activity happening than ever gets reported here. But that's all I know!
There is also considerable interest in 24 cm TV - newish stations reported include G8SIN in Headington (Oxford) and G6LIC and G8TIS in Wakefield.

## Watch out, hamburglars about

Not as funny as it sounds because at least two people had their personal equipment thieved at Crick this year. I just hope the culprits stay away next time, we don't need their sort in the ATV fraternity.

This nicking was small fry, however, compared to what went on at other rallies. The RSGB's exhibition at the NEC saw several thefts both during opening hours and at night. Some of the thefts occurred right under the noses of traders. Worse, perhaps, was what went on at the Belle Vue rally, where more than 50 rigs were stolen from cars outside the hall. The organisers had to ask visitors to return to their cars to check them, and the police were doing a brisk trade in taking down details of missing equipment.
I suppose it's a sign of the times but it's sick, sick, sick. If you were lucky this time, don't laugh: it could be your turn next. Don't make it easy for the hamburglar, anyway.

## Prestel progress

Do you have access to Prestel? If so let me remind you there is a growing amount of material of interest. If you key $\star 258$ \# and then 7 you wind up on a newish section called Waveguide. This covers broadcast radio and TV, plus ham news by Gordon Adams G3LEQ. This last is full of Gordon's excellent insidious intelligence, and you will also find the latest updates on the North Sea offshore radio stations.
London's two pirate TV stations are regularly reported on Micronet 800's news pages, while the BATC, RSGB and BARTG share pages on Clubspot 810 . If you haven't checked these out lately they are well worth a look.

## Stateside happenings

Apart from writing I do a lot of reading: my job includes reading about 40 technical journals a month (fancy getting paid to read Wireless World!). The American microwave and RF magazines are often full of fascinating information, and I spotted a couple of interesting pieces in the latest Microwave Journal.
The first concerned M/A-Com announcing their PH1214 power transistor. Operating in the $1200-1400 \mathrm{MHz}$ band, this little beauty produces 60 watts output for up to 20 watts input. Gain is 7 dB and these ratings are CW, so it would be ideal in ATV service. Price in quantity is just $\$ 95$, which is quite reasonable when you consider the cost of building a PA using valve technology (with its EHT power supply and blower).
No doubt this transistor would double as a three-wire fuse if you got the slightest thing wrong, but in truth these devices are a great deal more robust than thought.
The growing use of 23 cm radar equipment is bringing down the price of solidstate power devices, and I guess they will be used in ham shacks all too soon. So when your 24 cm TV contacts are wiped out now by radar don't curse. . .just think of the falling cost of high power transistors!

Welcome aboard this new column, the first specifically for 934 MHz enthusiasts. Whether you enjoy just nattering on this band, or have a yen to do something technical as well, I hope you will find something here of interest.

As each month passes more and more folk come onto the 32 cm band, and this column will be the place where you can catch up on the activity news, read about the DX everyone else has been working and find out about new rigs, aerials and accessories. We'll also tackle some technical topics.
There should be plenty of variety, and you can help by letting me have your news, care of the editor. Feel free to write in, too, if you disagree on any topic or if there's a technical subject you'd like discussed. So, without further ado, let's get down to business.

## Notching out interference

In a future article I intend to take the lid off cellular radio interference, but first, a new filter which claims to offer a solution to this problem has come onto the market. It is supplied by Paul Sergent of 6 Gurney Close, Costessy, Norfolk, and is priced at £26.45, post paid. 'The genuine 934 MHz cavity filter,' says the advertisement: 'If you suffer from cellular radio interference then this cavity filter could help reduce the problem. No internal connections to the rig are necessary, just connect between rig and antenna.'
For your £26 you get a short block of aluminium fitted with two N -type connectors which you can indeed connect

The other item that caught my eye was a warning issued by the FCC to satellite pirates - not the people who watch programmes without authorisation, but people who uplink their own material!
A certain 'Captain Midnight' made the headlines recently when he managed to take over pay-TV network HBO's satellite and substitute his own programme for 10 minutes. The 'programme' was a message superimposed on colour bars: Captain Midnight protested that he would not pay HBO's new tariff of $\$ 19.95$ and claimed he would repeat his appearances until the company lowered its prices.
The FCC has warned satellite hackers such as Captain Midnight that they face fines of up to $\$ 10,000$ and/or a year's imprisonment. It also appealed for information, which it will probably not receive if Captain Midnight and his friends become folk heroes.
The idea of disgruntled viewers turning their back garden TVRO dishes into powerful transmitters is somewhat farfetched, though; more likely Captain Midnight is 'borrowing' time on one of the many uplink transmitters in use in the States.
It couldn't happen here, could it? 国国

NETWORK

Andy Emmerson G9BUP

between antenna downlead and the rig (or pre-amp). At one end is a plunger and a set screw for locking the plunger in position. In fact, the cavity works as a notch filter and can be adjusted to 'notch out' or remove (suck out) any desired frequency. In practice you listen to interference on a quiet 934 channel and gradually withdraw the plunger until cellular interference is at a minimum, then tighten the locking screw - and that's it!
Life is seldom that simple, however, and this filter only has a partial effect. Although it may be quite effective at reducing your receiver's sensitivity to cellular radio at, say, 935 or 936 MHz , it will also have some effect on the 934 MHz signals as well. This is because the notch is not that sharp and the laws of physics say that you cannot filter out a frequency 2 MHz away without incurring some insertion loss on the desired frequency as well.
The bottom line is will this filter help you (assuming you are suffering cellular radio interference)? The answer is yes, if the interference isn't too bad, but you will find 934 MHz signals a couple of ' S ' points or lights down. This is tolerable on strongish local QSOs, but it won't improve your DX contacts.
Paul Sergent is happy to send these filters out on a sale or return basis and will give you a refund (less the postal costs) if you find the filter does not help. He suggests that clubs order one and pass it around to see who it helps.
To be effective, any filter should be fitted ahead of the pre-amp, and it is, of course, the pre-amp which is usually the true cause of the cellular QRM. I shall return to this point in the months to come, but briefly, most cellular interference is caused by badly tuned 934 MHz rigs or, more likely, naff pre-amps!
Ideally you want a pre-amp with variable gain settings and the ability to switch it off altogether. And yes, one such beast is on its way from Corona of Japan. Watch this space for details.

## Activity news

Well, not much this time because I haven't received any letters yet!
Quite a few 934 people are also ATVers as well: there's Graham GM34 who has a superb 450ft as site in Leeds; he is G6YHW on ATV. Ivor G1IXF from Bristol is also into amateur television; and I use 934 MHz as the talk-back channel when l'm sending pictures to Bill WAK101 in Kettering.

Incidentally, Ivor tells me that he can work 50 miles to Tewkesbury under flat conditions, and it needs only the slightest lift to get up to John TB152 in Chasetown, Staffs.

The exact mechanisms that give us these openings will be covered soon, but in the mean time l'd be pleased to know your best DX mileages. We can then set up a league table of super-DX contacts. Who will be the first to get an authenticated contact with the Continent? Will it be to Switzerland or to Holland, which is supposed to be the next country to adopt 934 MHz ?

Of course you don't need a lift for DX contacts if you go out 'hilltopping'-some very good hook-ups are made regularly from mountain top to mountain top by mobiles, but that's not the same as a DX contact from home.

## QSL corner

If you have a distinctively designed QSL send it in won't you? We'll illustrate the best ones from time to time. This is your column so feel free to send in photos of any unusual aerial installations you have built, or anything else related to 934 .
Can anyone tell me why stations that are so grateful for DX contacts and promise to QSL directly by return of post never do - even when you send them an sae? Strange, isn't it - and very annoying if you need the card as proof for an award!

## Watch this space

That's about it for this month, but there's more to come. Next time I'll let you know what went on at the 934 Club's annual general meeting, and in the months to come we'll take a look at the Crestbyte masthead PA/pre-amp and the new antennas from Tonna, as well as mods for the Reftec transceiver, how to choose and fit N-type and BNC connectors (especially to H100 cable) and other technical topics.
I've got DIY designs for a compact HB9CV antenna (for portable and mobile operation) and for fitting a pre-amp inside a Reftec. If that doesn't keep you busy, I will also be looking at the Swiss PRS scene. So l'll see you next time, and 73 till then!

A good power/SWR meter is invaluable, and a cheap one is next to useless. The Daiwa crossed needle effort would be worth buying, as would this Nevada unit


Summertime has a couple of drawbacks as far as the MW DXer is concerned. Firstly the short nights restrict the path of darkness needed for really long distance listening, and secondly reception is often impaired by high atmospheric static noise due to thunderstorms. All is not lost though, since periods of very good DX are possible when conditions are right, and hopefully the beautiful (!) summer weather will not totally curtail your DXing.

## Long waves

The introduction to the long wave band in the May edition of this column attracted quite a bit of interest, so that is why we find ourselves back in this portion of the radio spectrum. Reader RM of Canterbury writes to mention that France Inter has indeed moved from its old channel of 163.84 kHz to a standard channel allocation of 162 kHz . This old frequency was intended to be used as an off-air frequency standard $(163.84 \mathrm{kHz}=$ $2^{15} \times 5 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ) against which other signals could be compared.
A number of other long wave stations are also used as frequency standards (eg BBC R4 on 200 kHz ) because the propagation characteristics of these frequencies are such (see the May issue) that signals can be broadcast over very large areas with minimal disturbance of received phase or amplitude. Transmissions on MW and SW bands generally suffer considerable distortion due to propagation via ionospheric paths, whereas signals on the LW band (and lower frequencies) will traverse long distances via the stable ground wave path. Such distortion would effectively negate the effort needed to maintain the extremely high frequency stability of such transmitters.

## Plenty to hear

Richard Marris (author of the LW Ioop aerial article published in R\&EW April 1986) writes that from his personal observations both in the UK and the USA, there is in fact plenty of interesting activity on the long wave band.
Of course the activities of the broadcasters in Europe/USSR and North Africa are well known, but outside this
area the LW band is widely used by aeronautical and maritime navigation beacons. One little known activity on the LW band is to be found between 160 kHz and 190 kHz ( 1750 metre band) in the USA where radio experimenters are able to operate low power transmitters without a licence.
The loop aerial described in the article by Richard Marris was primarily intended for use over the normal long wave band, but it is possible to adapt its operation for other frequencies. Gilbert Marazzini from Milan, Italy writes asking for details of such a modification to enable reception of meteorological chart transmissions from Offenbach and Pineborn in Germany (on 134 and 117 kHz respectively).
It is generally quite simple to modify an LW loop for this purpose; one can either add a few more turns to the winding to increase inductance (and coincidentally the signal pick-up) or one can increase the tuning capacitance. Figure 1 illustrates a loop that has been modified to cover a band of lower frequencies as well as the normal band.
Long wave loops often exhibit very selective tuning, and sometimes a resistor needs to be added in shunt to damp the Q of the tuned circuit. For example, an LW loop with a typical Q factor of 100 will typically exhibit only $2-3 \mathrm{kHz}$ bandwidth, which is far too narrow for good quality reception of AM signals; most

## DX file

The 1985-86 MW DX season is well and truly over now but it is nevertheless possible to hear many long distance stations at this time of year. All is not lost for the keen DXer; the transatlantic path to North America is often open in the few hours before UK sunrise. But by and large summer propagation conditions favour paths to South America and the Caribbean, which can be heard from around midnight (GMT) onwards.
Finally, don't forget that during the summer months it can prove worthwhile to search out some of the more elusive European and UK local stations.
As a conclusion to the DX season I managed to hear amongst others the following stations in May
receivers require a bandwidth of 9 kHz for satisfactory AM reception.

## UK MW news

At the end of 1985, community radio was hailed by some as a brave new experiment in broadcasting in the UK. However, the Department of Trade and Industry has still not announced the successful licence applicants; it was originally intended that station operators would be announced last December.
The latest news is that the Government is currently planning a drastic overhaul of local radio in Britain. In a green paper to be published this autumn it will consider loosening the structure and finance of the radio system to allow greater freedom of the airwaves. The green paper will discuss the freeing of the ILR stations from IBA control and will examine the now long overdue community stations, as well as the possibility of hiving off the BBC local radio network.
As for the Home Office's plans regarding the community radio stations, it is now considering the possibility of extra stations, especially in London where over 150 applications were received. The Government is expected to have announced 24 winners by the time this appears in print.

## New station

A recent new arrival to the MW band is Festival Radio, a special event station being operated by Signal Radio for the duration of the National Garden Festival being held in Stoke.
It will operate from May 1st till late October 0800-1900hrs local time, using a 200 W transmitter on 1017 kHz and airing programmes locally produced at a £60,000 studio specially constructed at the festival site. The transmitter is colocated with the Signal Radio MW unit on 1170 kHz . Unlike previous ILR operations at garden festivals, this operation at Stoke is being run on an entirely commercial basis.

590 VOCM St John's, NF Canada with pop music heard from 0000 .
918 R Ljubliana, Yugoslavia with English news at 2335 weekdays.
1050 WHN, New York, USA with country music around 0030.
1220 R Globo, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in Portuguese as early as 2230.
1530 Voice of Peace in the Eastern Mediterranean, in English with pop music around 0100.
Remember all times quoted are in GMT/UTC, frequencies are in kHz .

Why not drop me a line here at R\&EW (at the Brentwood office) with details of your loggings and any MW queries you may have, so that I may include them in this column in months to come.
73s till next month.
REW

## Clubs, manufacturers, publishers and agents are invited to send details of new books, catalogues, data sheets, etc for inclusion on this page

1you visited the RSGB's annual show at the NEC this year you may well have seen Peter Rouse's new book, Scanners - A VHF/UHF Listener's Guide, on display at the Argus stand.

Peter (GU1DKD) regularly writes articles for this and other magazines, and is doubtless familiar to many as a writer who 'knows his onions'. This book is written to his usual standard, and is intended as a beginner's guide to scanners and what can be heard using them. This said, much of the information it contains will be useful to many more experienced radio users.
It begins, of course, with basic radio theory, covering this in an elementary, nontechnical manner in just sufficient depth to allow a beginner to understand what's going on. Scanner hardware, operation, aerials and accessories are covered, with details of RT procedure so that what is heard can be understood, and a brief overview of equipment available in the UK.
The most interesting section for many people will undoubtedly be the chapter outlining UK frequency allocations. The basic list is similar to the one we published in R\&EW some time ago, but in addition to this

there are details of the air bands (including frequencies used at different airports, Volmet, etc), marine and amateur bands, PMR and radiophone frequencies, and so on.
All in all it's a rather good book, and I look forward to the promised Scanners 2, in which Peter will cover modifications, DIY accessories and international allocations as well as offering greater detail about some of the Scanners 1 topics.
Scanners (ISBN 085242880 4) is published by Argus Books Ltd, 1 Golden Square, London W1R 3AB. It costs £7.95.

Fig 1 Modified loop

$V C=500 \mathrm{pF}$ variable capacitor
C=680pF polystyrene or silver mica capacitor
$L t=56$ turns close wound: 7 strand flex $0.9 \mathrm{~mm} O D$
$\mathrm{L}=3$ turns close wound over L1
$R=$ damping resistor, select on test (20k $\Omega-200 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ )

Last month we mentioned the biography of a pioneer of television. We've another biography this month: A First Class Job! describes the life of Frank Murphy, who founded Murphy Radio Ltd in the late 1920s.
The book is written and published by Joan Long, Murphy's daughter, and describes a man who was not, surprisingly enough, primarily a wireless enthusiast.
Murphy became involved with radio almost by accident when he joined the Royal Flying Corps during the First World War, and although very talented and well educated he knew nothing of the subject at that time. Such was his ability that before the war ended he had set up and was running the Officers' Wireless Training School.
The book is a little disappointing here, for it just doesn't give enough information. I would like to have known a lot more about Frank Murphy's early years, with more anecdotal evidence to give a greater feel for the man's personality. A First Class Job! tends to merely recount the events of Murphy's life, with too little attention given to bringing the pages to life.

However, it is nevertheless a fascinating history. It gives some insight into the early days of commercial production of wireless sets, and shows Frank Murphy as a man of unusual personal philosophy and a laudable approach to running a business.
The company's logo was 'making wireless simple', and he appreciated the need for ergonomic design ('user friendliness', to use today's jargon) and reliability at a reasonable price. He kept his workforce happy with high wages and a real family atmosphere, and built up a first class dealer network in a time when rip-offs were accepted as nothing unusual (interestingly, companies such as Saab and Volvo are at present using a similar approach to engender the feeling of pride amongst the workforce, and of involvement in the success of the company, that Murphy thought so important).
That Murphy's prime interest was not radio is revealed when Joan Long describes how he left Murphy Radio to start a new business based on his ideas for a 'true industrial democracy' - his 'New Conception of Business'. Frank Murphy Ltd was formed just before the Second World War to produce cheap, good quality furniture, and it is unfortunate that the war intervened to spoil his plans.
The remainder of his life involved a series of abortive plans to start more businesses, emigration to Canada, and finally death in obscurity. The end was not as tragic as it may sound, and Frank Murphy does not come across as a man who ended his days as an unhappy and broken man: quite the reverse, in fact.

A First Class Job! is well worth reading, as much for the thought provoking business practices outlined as for the history of a fascinating
character. It is published by Joan Long, 5c Weybourne Road, Sheringham, Norfolk NR26 8HF (ISBN 0951120808 ). 1 reckon that's enough armchair reading this month: now on to more practical books. Practical Data Communications by Fred Jennings is a real goldmine of information for anyone with a serious interest in connecting up computer and terminal equipment.

It is intended for those with a professional interest in data communications (it most certainly won't lead you by the hand through connecting up your Spectrum to Micronet), but its appeal will extend to anyone with a need for a good reference book in this particular area.

Fred Jennings is one of those authors who doesn't believe in wasting a single word. Consequently there is a great deal of info in Practical Data Communications, but like a rich meal it will need quite a bit of digesting. It
covers communications interfaces (RS232, V.25, RS449 etc), modems, direct connection, analogue and digital networks, multiplexer networks, packet switched networks, local area networks and data link protocols. There is frequent reference to the international standards organisations, and extensive appendices.
Many people will find this a very useful book, but it definitely ain't bedtime reading (not, at least, if you're as dozy as me). It's published by Blackwell Scientific Publications, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 OEL (ISBN 063201306 0), and costs £14.95.
Another couple of books sure to prove useful have been published as second editions by Newnes Technical Books.
The first is Oscilloscopes How to use them / How they work by lan Hickman, revised from the 1981 edition. Most people would acknowledge that an oscilloscope is a highly desir
able piece of test equipment, and the more an operator knows about its capabilities and drawbacks the more use he will find it. The author draws an analogy with driving: the best drivers are those who know a little about what makes a car tick.
As well as describing the basic oscilloscope, the book details the functions of top range models (just so that we know what we're missing) and accessories such as probes, hoods, cameras etc, plus some special purpose 'scopes. Included in the chapter covering use are the areas likely to cause misleading results, with practical examples to describe using a scope.

Oscilloscopes won't tell you all there is to know about the subject, but it's a useful handbook to have about the shack. It retails at £5.50 (ISBN 060033373 6).

The other revision from Newnes, Op-Amps - Their principles and applications by J Brian

Dance, seems to have been a popular book: after first appearing in 1978 it was reprinted three times before being revised (there must be money in this lark - I think l'll write a book!).

This book is a lot like Data File: it describes a selection of op-amps (old favourites like the 741 and LM380 as well as some newer devices) and gives useful circuits based on them, illustrating by example how they work. The circuits are fairly straightforward, including audio amps, mixers, meters etc (although no mathematical applications, for which op-amps were originally designed and from which they got their name).

Op-ampsshould keep many people happily occupied next autumn when the weather closes in again, and will hardly break the bank at $£ 4.95$ (ISBN 060033372 8).

Newnes Technical Books are at Bridge House, 69 London Road, Twickenham, Middlesex TW1 3SB.


Available, with display software, to plug straight into BBC B and Spectrum 48 K .
VISA
For full information on the ASTRID SYSTEM contact us as above.


!n this issue we continue our review of out of band transmitters with a look at those stations operating between the limits 4460 and 4740 , with the exception of those in the Far East operating between 4002 and 4740. The frequencies and times are, to the best of my knowledge, correct at the time of writing. Note, however, that modifications to these published facts can always occur, sudden changes being a way of life on the short wave bands, particularly on the lower frequencies s $\mu \mathrm{ch}$ as those presented here.

Commencing at the low end of the frequency range under discussion, a start can be made with the recently reactivated Bolivian station, Radio Movima in Santa Ana de Yacuma on 4472 operating from 1100 to 1900 and from 2000 to 0300, both closing times being variable; the power is 1 kW . Radio Movima is rarely heard by DXers based in Europe. Like some other low powered stations featured here their signals are, more often than not, swamped by those emanating from local (to the listener), more powerful utility transmitters. However, hope springs eternal according to the old adage, and also according to many an old DXer just occasionally some of these low powered super-DX stations are heard by UK and European based listeners and reported in the SWL press.

## Sort 'em out

On 4485 there are two Russian transmitters: Petropavlosk, Kamchatka Oblast USSR; and Ufa, Bashkir ASSR. Petropavlosk is unlikely to be heard by UK listeners and is seldom listed in reports. It is on the air with Moscow 2 programmes from 1400 to 1600 , and from 1700 to 1800 , and 1800 to 1400 with those of Moscow 1; power unknown. Ufa is heard more often: at 50 kW , it is on the air
from 0200 to 1600 with both Moscow 1 programmes and locally originated presentations in Russian and Bashkirian. There are slight daily time variations within the limits specified.
Which station are you hearing? Sort 'em out - that is half the fun of short wave listening!

## More Russians

With snow on their boots? Not exactly, but you may care to freeze on 4520 where, if the trail isn't cold, you may dig out the 50kW Khanty-Mansiyisk in the Oblast of that name, USSR, relaying Moscow 2 from 0000 to 2000 . It is rarely located under the avalanche of surrounding QRM.
Then there is the more frequently heard Alm Ata, Kazakh SSR, relaying Alma Ata 1 from 0000 through to 1930. This schedule also includes local programmes in Russian and Kazakh and some relays of Moscow 1: the power is 50 kW and the frequency is 4545.
Kharbarovsk, Kharbarovsk Kray, on 4610 at 50 kW , operates from 2000 to 1400 with both local programmes and relays of Moscow 1, it is reported from time to time in the SWL press.
On nearby 4615 is the 5/15kW Pavlodar, Kazakh SSR with programmes of a local origin, from 0130 to 0200 and from 1345 to 1500 . Seldom logged, it is for that reason worth trying for - have a go.
A sure-fire logging of a USSR based transmitter will be obtained by aiming at 4635 . The 50kW Dushanbe, Tadzhik SSR is the target; a bullseye is likely to be scored from 0000 to 2000 when relays of Dushanbe 1 together with local programmes in Russian, Tadzhik and Uzbek are featured. Ranging on 4635 often results in a hit it seems.

## Ecuador

Radio Nacional Espejo, Quito, on 4679.6, has been
back on the air for some months after an absence of just over a year. At 5 kW , signon is reportedly at 1100 to 1130, sign-off unknown. Previously this one worked around the clock, but according to the latest information to hand it now operates irregularly.
An eventual return to the more normal schedule would not surprise me. Latin American stations, in company with those in other areas of the so called third world, encounter difficulties in obtaining spare parts when breakdowns occur; this resulting in long periods off the air and/or spasmodic operation. The hope is that Radio Nacional Espejo will soon be radiating around the clock at full power again.

## Bolivia

Radio Paititi, Guayaramerin, is occasionally heard by European DXers on its 4682.2 channel where it presents local programmes from 1100 to 1730 and from 2130 to 0300 with a power of 5 kW . Try around 0230 for this one.

Radio Riberalta, Riberalta at 0.5 kW is, rather surprisingly, frequently reported in the SWL press world-wide. The transmissions are in the clear for those with a selective receiver. The frequency is 4696.7 and the station is on the air from 1100 to 0330 , the sign-off time varying on occasions.

Radio Abaroa, Riberalta, has of late been reported on 4700.5 (ex4718 and 4720), so it is now back on or near the original 4700. With a power of 0.5 kW , Radio Abaroa is listed as being on the air from 1100 to around 0400. It often appears amid the reported logs of DXers world-wide.

## Peru

Radio San Juan de Caraz, Caraz, radiates on 4733.9 from 1200 to 0200, both times being variable. The power is unknown, this one being
reported mainly by those residing nearer to Peru than we are here in the UK.

## Mozambique

Radio Mozambique, Maputo, has for some time now been logged by many DXers on 4737. At 25 kW , Emissao Nacional is on the air in Portuguese from 0300 to 0615 and from 1500 to 2215, the latter closing time being variable.

## Bolivia again

Radio Mamore, Guayaramerin, at 1 kW seldom shows up in the SWL press and for that reason alone is worth going for. On 4739, the schedule is from 1030 to 1730 and from 2100 to 0300.

Radio Santa Ana, Santa Ana de Yacuma, is now being heard on 4749. This one was widely reported when it was on its former frequency of 4803.6. With a power of 1 kW , it is on the air from 1100 to 1800 and from 2130 to 0230, all times being variable. It has reportedly been heard to sign off at 0053 and on another occasion at 0250 - which makes the sign-off time exceedingly variable!

## Next month

In the next issue of this illustrious journal some information on the Colombian 60 metre band scene will be provided. To date, this country has not been individually featured in this series.

## AROUND THE DIAL

We trust the following information will enable those interested to hear many of the stations listed near the times stated.

## AFRICA <br> Ascension Isiand

BBC Relay on 21660 at 1523, OM with announcements, then OM with some folk songs in English during a World Service transmission to West and Central Africa, timed from 0915 to 1600.

## Cameroon

Radio Douala on 4795 at 2109, OM (Old Man = male) announcer with a newscast in English, this is a relay of Yaounde, the bulletin being timed daily from 2100 to 2115.

## Libya

Tripoli on 9600 at 0613, OM with the news in an Arabic transmission for Africa, scheduled from 0400 to 2300 .

## Madagascar

Radio Nederlands Relay on 17575 at 1440, YL (Young Lady) with a newscast of world affairs, the station identification and then 'Background Report', all in an English programme directed at South and East Asia, daily from 1430 to 1525 .

## Morocco

Tangier on 17595 at 1446, OMs with songs in Arabic followed by recitations from the Holy Quran at 1448 in an Arabic presentation for Europe, the Middle East, West Africa, South Morocco and Mauritania, scheduled from 1400 to 1700.

## Nigeria

Lagos on a measured 15119 at 0847, OM with news of local and African affairs and events in English. Radio Nigeria radiates English programmes in the North African and Overseas Service daily from 0500 to 0600,0700 to 0800,0830 to 1000, 1800 to 1900 and from 2100 to 2200.

## NORTH AMFRICA <br> Canada

Radio Canada International, Montreal, on 17820 at 1545, OM with the station identification at the end of a news bulletin in English for Europe, timed from 1538 to 1545 Monday to Saturday inclusive.

## USA

WYFR Family Radio, Okeechobee, Florida on 15440 at 1845, YL with the station identification at the end of the French transmission to Europe, scheduled from 1800 to 1900.
WYFR Family Radio on a measured 15566 at 1832, OM with a talk in the italian presentation to Europe, daily from 1800 to 1900.

WYFR Family Radio on 21525 at 1603, OM with the station identification and the English programme for African consumption, on the air from 1600 to 1700 on this channel.

## ERETSUTH AMERICA <br> Brazil

Radio Difusora do Amazonas, Manaus, on 4805 at 2310, OM with announcements, then OM with a pop song in Portuguese. At 5 kW , this one is on the air from 2230 to 0300 and is being reported by SWLs (short wave listeners) world-wide. The city of Manaus, on the left bank of the Rio Negro near the junction with the Amazon, is the capital of Amazonas state in north-west Brazil. It is a major inland port for ocean-going ships.

## Colombia

Caracol, Neiva, on 4945 at 0502, OM with a newscast in Spanish. Caracol has a power of 20 kW , the schedule is $24-$ hour. An easy one for newcomers to log, it is regularly heard and reported in the SWL press world-wide.

## Ecuador

Radio Quito, Quito, on 4920 at 0359, OM and YL with alternate announcements in Spanish, OM with the station identification at 0401. The frequently heard Radio Quito has a power of 5 kW and is on the air from 1000 to 0500 in the Red Informativa National Network.

## Venezuela

Radio Rumbos, Villa de Cura, on 4970 at 2242, OM with the station identification and promos (promotions) in Spanish followed by local-style pops.
Ecos del Torbes, San Cristobal, on 4980 at 2240 , OMs with the news in Spanish, each item being separated by two chimes.
Both of these Venezuelan stations are regularly heard, frequently appearing in DXers' reports submitted to club journals.

## China ASIA <br> China

Radio Beijing on 11600 at 1430, YL with annoucements in English then a violin solo during the English prog-
ramme for Asia, timed from 1400 to 1600 daily.

## North Korea

KCBS (Korean Central Broadcasting Station), Pyongyang, on a measured 9977 at 1919, military music then YL. with songs in the Korean programme for Africa, Europe, Near and Middle East scheduled from 1900 to 1950.

## Philippines PacIIC <br> Philippines

VOA (Voice of America) Relay, Tinang, on 9555 at 1450, OM and YL with the Chinese programme for the Far East and Asia, scheduled from 1100 to 1600 .

## NEAR AND MIDD E EAST India

AIR (All India Radio), Delhi, on 7412 at 2047, YL with a talk in English about Sri Lanka followed by the station identification, then YL with a Punjab folk song. This English transmission for Europe is on the air from 1845 to 2230.
AIR Delhi on 9950 at 1550, OM with a talk about Egypt in the programme announced as Spotlight during an English slot in the North Regional Domestic Service. Delhi is on this frequency in Indian languages and English from 1330 to 1740 but the closing time may vary to accommodate some sporting commentaries.

## Iraq

Baghdad on 9630 at 2020, YL announcer then OM with war news in Arabic with many mentions of 'Irani'. The schedule of this Arabic programme to Europe is from 1500 to 2130 .

## Pakistan

Karachi on 7365 at 1453, YL with songs and some localstyle musical backing in the Urdu/English transmission for the Middle East, timed from 1330 to 1613.

## Qatar

Doha on 15265 at 1429, Arabic-type music, YL announcer in the Arabic programme for Europe, radiated from 1300 to a variable closing time around 1700.

## Syria

Damascus on 9670 at 2028, OM with the station iden-
tification and a talk in English about their revolution which took place twenty-three years ago. Directed at Europe, this English presentation is broadcast from 2005 to 2105 daily.
Damascus, in Arabic EshSham in South Syria on the Barada River, is the capital of Damascus Province and of the Syrian Arab Republic. Dating from unknown antiquity it has been held by Assyrians, Persians, Romans, Macedonians, Arabs, British (it was captured in 1918) and a French mandate (1920 to 1941) prior to independence of the Syrian state in 1943.

## Turkey

Ankara on 7215 at 2059, piano music interval signal, YL with the station identification in English, 'pips' timecheck at 2100 then OM with the news and English programme to Europe, North America and Asia, scheduled from 2100 to 2200.
Ankara on 9660 at 2210, OM with songs in the Turkish programme for Europe, timed from 1600 to 2150 on this frequency.

## NOWHEARTHIS <br> (RFO (Radiodiffusion Fran-

 caise D'Outre-Mer), Cayenne, French Guiana, on 5055 at 2246 , OM with a talk in French. With a power of 10 kW , Cayenne is on the air in French from 0900 (Sunday from 1000) to 1100 and from 2000 to 0100 (Saturday until 0300, Sunday until 0200). The city of Cayenne, on an island at the mouth of the Cayenne River, is the capital of French Guiana.
## Faing NOWIOGTHIS

Radio Nueva America, La Paz, Bolivia, on a measured 4796.5 at 0008, OM and YL with announcements then OM with a talk in Spanish - still talking at 0016 retune. Radio Nueva America is on the air from 1000 to 1430 and from 2200 to 0400 (Sunday from 1030 through to 2300, variable signoff time). The power is 1 kW and it is regularly logged here in the UK and Western Europe. The city of La Paz is the largest in Bolivia and is the de facto (administrative) capital whilst Sucre is the de jura (legal) capital.

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## On these pages we present details of interesting contacts from clubs and individuals. We would be happy to receive any similar items from readers

## ERRATA

## Spectrum RTTY (Jan/Feb '86)

A couple of points have come to light which may be causing some difficulty to the less experienced constructor who is not able to pinpoint faults:
a) R3 is shown as 12 k when in fact it should be 8 k 2 , At 12 k it will prevent the baud rates from being set up correctly. b) In the set-up procedure steps 2 to 4 are not quite correct. The 3V stated is the expected ac voltage on the outputs of the filters. The steps should read:
(2) Connect the input lead of the terminal into the 'ear' socket of the Spectrum and select 'set-up/test' on the main menu. Monitor the ac voltage on IC7 pin 7 , select the ' 1445 Hz tone' option and adjust RV3 for a maximum (about 3 V ). Note that the test tone lasts only 10 seconds. If a longer time is needed, the tone should be re-selected.
(3) Repeat (2) for 1700 Hz tone after switching SW2, adjusting RV4 for maximum reading.
(4) Repeat (2) for 1275 Hz tone, adjusting RV5 for maximum ac voltage on IC7 pin 8 (about 3V).
c) The formulae associated with Figure 2 seem to have been omitted. These formulae will help if problems are encountered in setting up. Just for the record they should be:

Passband gain $=$ R3/(2R1)
Centre frequency $=\frac{1}{2 \pi \mathrm{C}} \quad \sqrt{\frac{\mathrm{R} 1+\mathrm{R} 2}{\mathrm{R} 1 \cdot \mathrm{R} 2 \cdot \mathrm{R} 3}}$
$Q=\pi f$ R3. $C$ where $C_{1}=C_{2}=C$
It also appears that R23 is better at 33 k than 39k.

Low-pass filters (April '86)
Some BBC micro owners have had problems with one of the programs accompanying this article.
The trouble arises because of the term LOG which appears in the function on line 30 .
In Microsoft Basic LOG refers to $\log _{\mathrm{e}}$, but in BBC Basic it means $\log _{10} ; \log _{\mathrm{e}}$ is represented by LN . If LN is substituted for LOG the program should run correctly.
Our apologies for any inconvenience caused.

## Class B morse

The DTI has announced that following the successful completion of the Class B morse experiment, during which more than 6000 letters of variation were issued to allow Class B operators to transmit morse code, this facility will now be a permanent feature of the B licence.

## Boozers' corner

If you want to celebrate the above announcement, you could do worse than to go along to the Southgate Amateur Radio Club gathering on 10 July, at which Ken Roberts G3DKZ is giving instruction in home brewing.
OK, I know what you're thinking: I've either cracked or I'm making rather bad jokes these days. However, I feel I ought to point out that they do mean the home brewing of alcohol.
The place to be (or not, depending upon your inclination) is Holy Trinity Church, Green Lanes, Winchmore Hill, London N21 at 7.30pm.

## More getting stoned . . .

It seems they're just as bad in Maltby. The Maltby ARS has arranged a trip to Stones brewery for 24 June (they must be mad - that's a Tuesday, up for work in the morning).
They're also looking for 'a few bodies' to give a talk in the autumn period (seems to me they should have more than a few bodies on 25 June ...),
I dare say they have a good idea of hospitality, all things considered, so if you've got something worth hearing get in touch.
Club secretary is Ian Abel G3ZHI, 52 Hollytree Avenue, Maltby, Rotherham.

## There is life on 10

March saw the publication of the first newsletter of the Southern 10m FM Group, an organisation formed to keep up activity on the band during sunspot minimum. A year's subscription costs $£ 1$ (to cover postage) and membership is open to anyone and everyone interested in 10 m , including listeners and Class B operators.
Contact Jim Hicks G4XRU, 33 Hayling Rise, Worthing

BN13 3AL (you might also like to watch out for a forthcoming article in R\&EW describing a suitable pre-amp for the band).

## More morse

To return to the morse theme for a moment, Harpenden Amateur Radio Club members Keith GOCXP and Ian GOCPN run an 'on-air' morse class every Sunday night.

The club meets at the Silver Cup pub (oh my God, more dipsomaniacs), St Albans Road, Harpenden twice a month (forthcoming dates: 8 and 22 July, 12 and 26 August).

## New blood

As a result of the AGM in April, the Grampian Repeater Group now has a new secretary to whom all enquiries should be addressed: Mrs Moira Brunton GM6VGL, 7 Fairview Drive, Daneston, Aberdeen AB2 8ZL.

## Calling all computers

G3WHO is giving a talk on the use of microcomputers for RTTY/AMTOR at the Coventry ARS meeting on 20 June. Further info from Robin Tew G4JDO, 4 Chetwode Close, Coventry CV5 9NA. Tel: (0203) 73999 (visitors are always welcome).

## Another nutter

If you live anywhere near Harrow it's worth becoming a member of the Radio Society of Harrow just to read the editorial in QZZ, the society's newsletter. Editor Chris Friel G4AUF definitely has a screw loose (in the latest issue he's babbling about lambs gambolling - and losing), but he writes one of the most consistently amusing columns l've come across (don't want my job do you, Chris?).

The society meets on Fridays at the Harrow Arts Centre (l bet it's got a bar, too), where on 20 June they're having a film show entitled Let's Build a Satellite.

## A day at the races

Brighton Racecourse will play host to this year's Sussex Mobile Rally on 13 July, where all the stands will be under cover in case of typical British summer weather (that's what I like, a note of optimism).
The entrance fee will be $£ 1$,
except for those under 14 years of age who get in free, as do disabled visitors (ramps and wide gangways provide easy access for wheelchairs).
There will be plenty of stands, a cafeteria and bars (note the plural) and a special event station, GB2SMR. Further details from Mark Spillett G4UAW, 26 Westlands, Rustington, Sussex BN16 3NW. Tel: (0903) 782594.

## Pushing the cause

The Telford and District ARS will be holding an open day on 29 June at Dawley Bank Community Centre, Bank Road, Dawley, Telford, Shropshire TF4 2AZ in order to promote the image of amateur radio.
Joe Public will get to see demonstrations of HF and VHF operating as well as fastscan TV and RTTY. The event will be visited by Lord Northfield, chairman of the Telford Development Corporation.

## Making contact

One of our younger readers
is looking for a pen pal interested in electronics and computers, preferably with a Commodore 64 and disc drive and aged between 15 and 17. If you fit the bill, contact M Whitcombe, 1 Pen-y-Waun Road, Trinant, Crumlin, Gwent NP1 4JS.

## Helpline

We seem to have had a lot of enquiries about where to get hold of radiation monitors lately. I wonder why? (I really must try and find time to read the papers more often).
Anyway, one query along similar lines concerns the radiation monitor design published in April '82, and strangely enough it was received before the Chernobyl disaster - the guy must have ESP.
This reader would like such a unit, or something similar, but doesn't have time to build it himself. Anyone care to oblige? (for a suitable remuneration, of course). Drop us a line and we'll put you in touch.


When Brian Kendal and Jeff Howell asked for ideas for useful programs back in April, one reader, P J Cooper G3CXI, responded with rather more than just ideas. Reproduced here are two programs he uses for designing antennas. $1 / 4$-wave spacing is used for the reflector and 0.15 for the directors, which performs fairly well in practice. The formula used is empirically derived as $5400 / \mathrm{F}(\mathrm{MHz})$, to give dimensions in inches (which makes life easier when dealing with VHF arrays). The Plus 4 program is included because not much software exists for this machine. Our thanks to Mr Cooper. It's only right that such efforts be rewarded, so a cheque is in the post!

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