

wireless world

NOVEMBER 1982 80p

**MPU-controlled
transceiver**

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Autoranging or manual

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Linear dB scale

Programmable

IEEE488 interface available.

Hold reading facility

Small size

Operates from a.c. mains or
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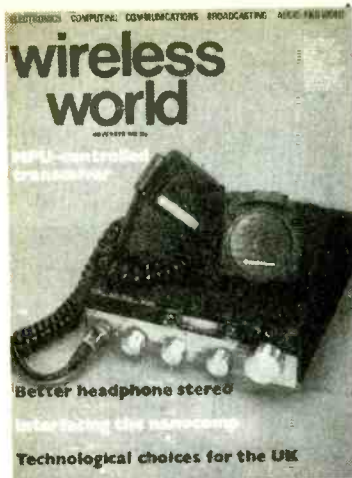
Low power consumption



details from ...



Farnell



Front cover is the microprocessor-controlled amateur transceiver featured in this issue by T. D. Forrester, photographed by Alan McFaden with special effects by Lasercolor.

NEXT MONTH

Morse decoding by micro computer, by J. P. Sargent, uses a 567 tone decoding and seven-bit clock to time incoming signals Morse code is interfaced to a ZX81 via a p.i.o. chip. Machine code routines use this data to provide up to 9 lines of text.

Leading Japanese research engineer Y. Hirata, gives measurements of non-linearities in four p.c.m. processors and compares them with those from three analogue tape recorders.

Logic maps, by N. Darwood, gives the history of methods for showing logical truth - from 13th century Lull to present-day Karnaugh maps.

Picotutor-microprocessor assembly language trainer designed by Bob Coates of Nanocomp fame assumes no previous experience of microprocessors.

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ELECTRONICS
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wireless world

COMMUNICATIONS
COMPUTING
VIDEO

NOVEMBER 1982

VOL 88 NO 1562

31 WIRING TECHNOLOGY OF THE PAST

32 INTERFACING THE NANOCOMP

by R. Coates

35 TWO-METRE TRANSCEIVER

by T. Forrester

39 BINAURAL RECORDINGS AND LOUDSPEAKERS

by J. Buljs

42 COMMUNICATIONS

Project Raven Piccolo system Amateur digital stereo

44 ENGINEERING AND SOCIETY

by R. Howes

46 BBC ENGINEERING - 1922 ONWARD

by P. Leggatt

52 MEMORY SYSTEMS

by L. Macari

55 CIRCUIT IDEAS

Eprom programmer Speed regulator Smoke detector

60 MODULAR PREAMPLIFIER

by J. L. Linsley Hood

65 DIGITAL POLYPHASE SINEWAVES

by N. Darwood

66 LETTERS

Digital thyristor control Citizens band Noise generator Nikola Tesla

70 DISC DRIVE CONTROLLERS

by J. R. Watkinson

74 NEWS

Computing with Forth/HDTV/Cable TV

78 PROGRAMMABLE GPIB TO SERIAL INTERFACE

by C. Jay

81 SINGLE IC FSK MODEM/EVENTS

82 EPROM EMULATOR

by P. Nicholls

85 NEW PRODUCTS

Personal computer Disc drive Storage scope ZX interface Ambisonic decoder

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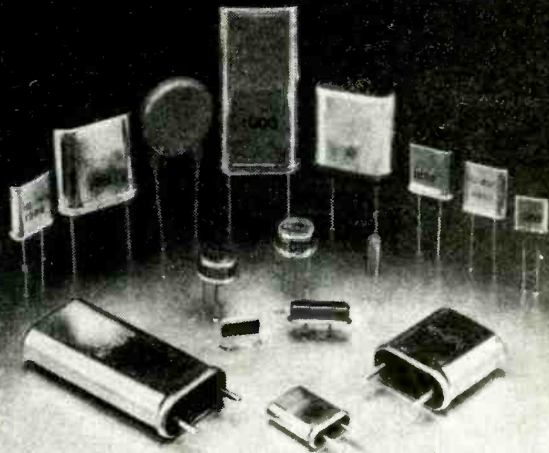
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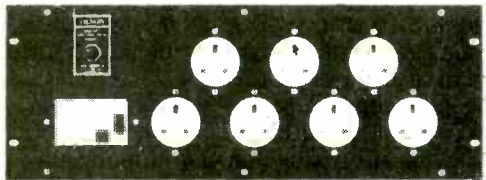
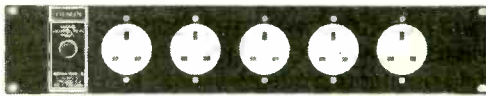
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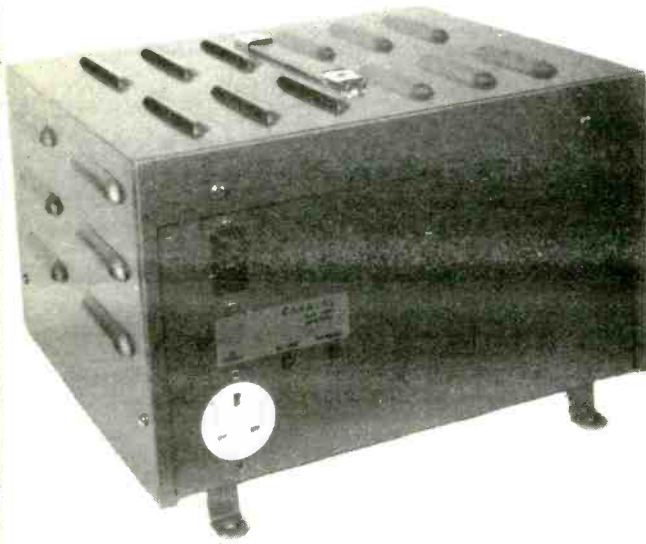
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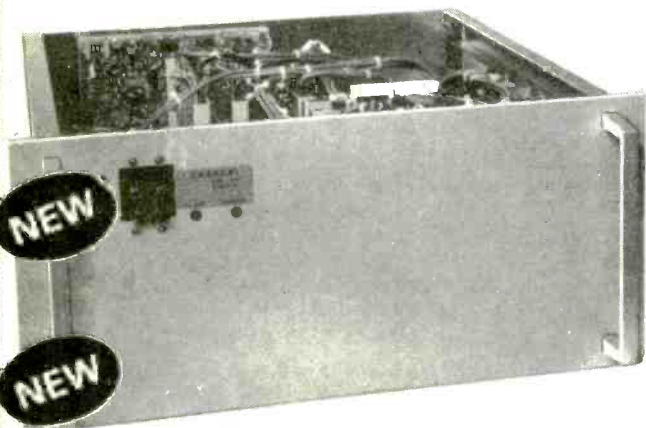
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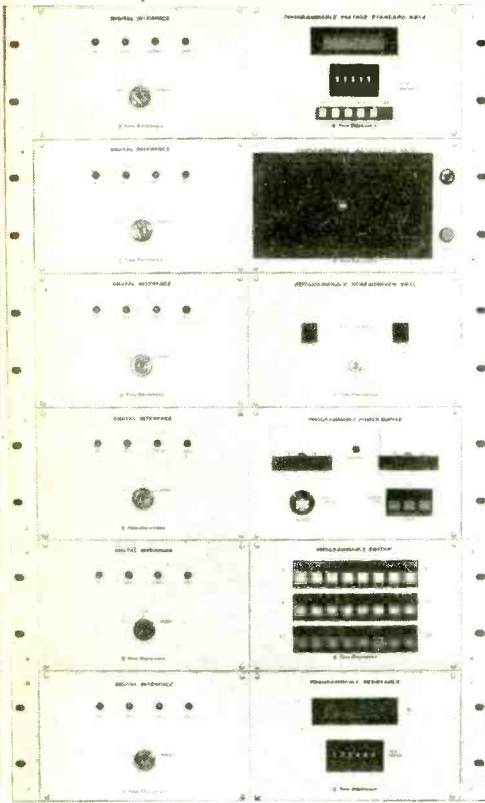
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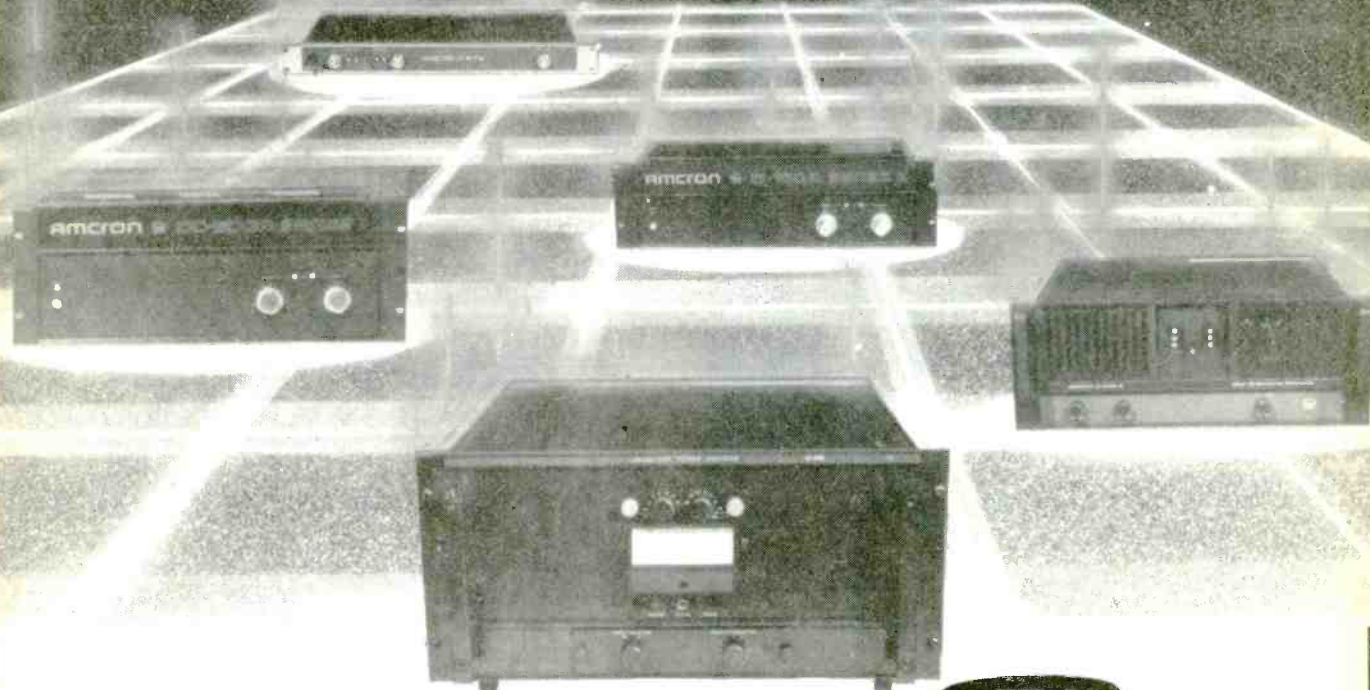
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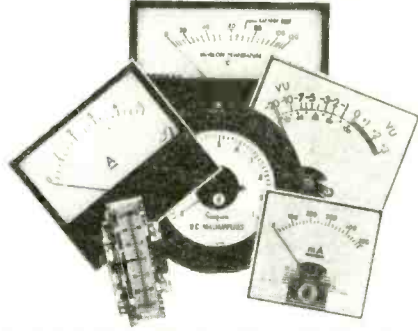
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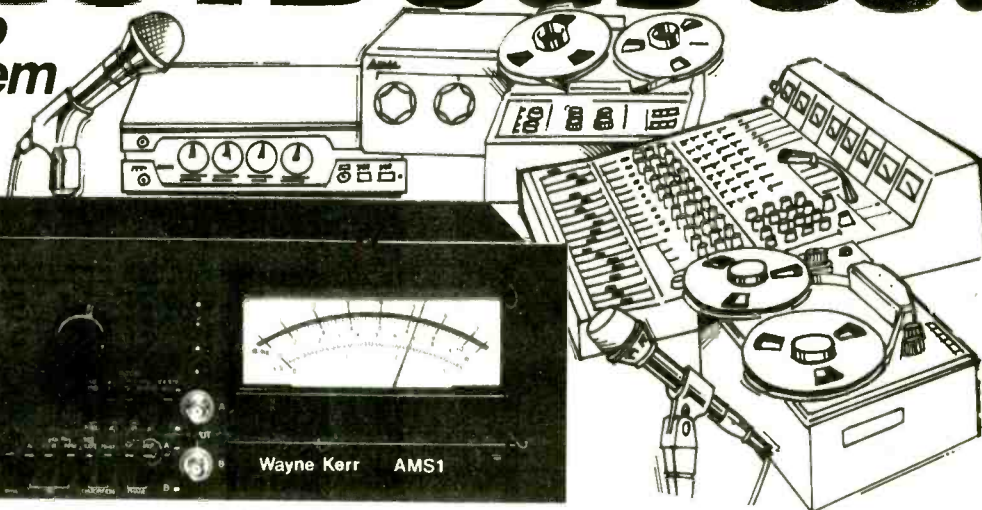
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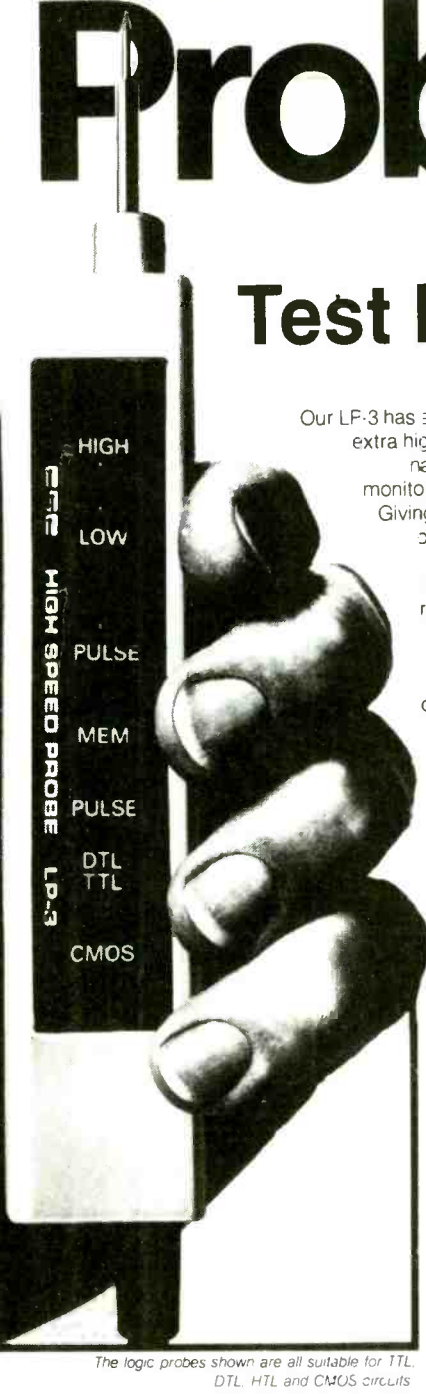
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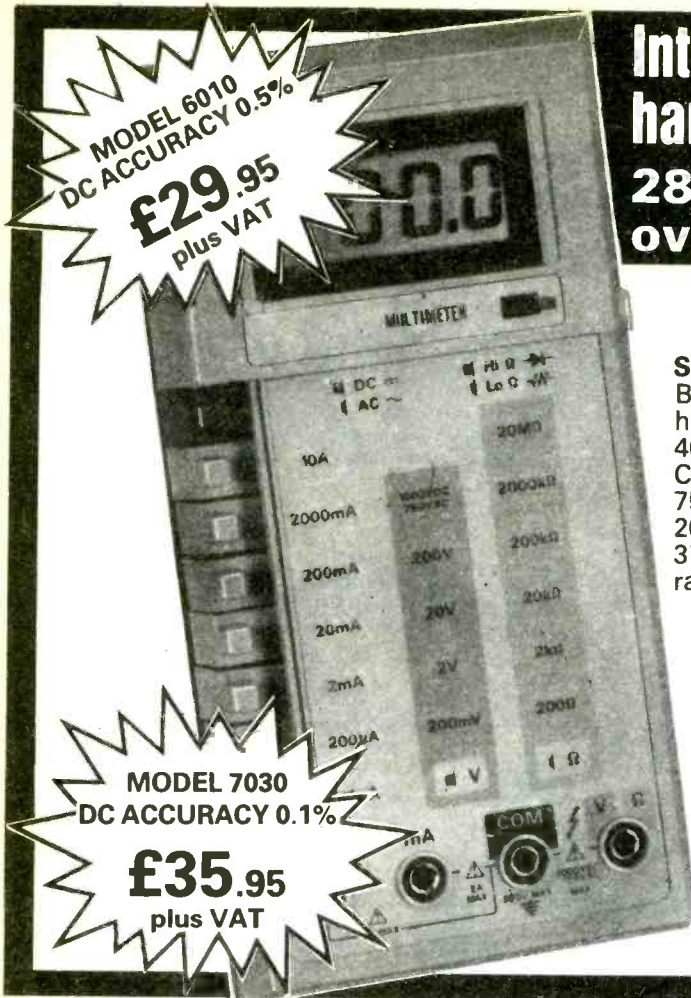
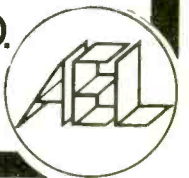
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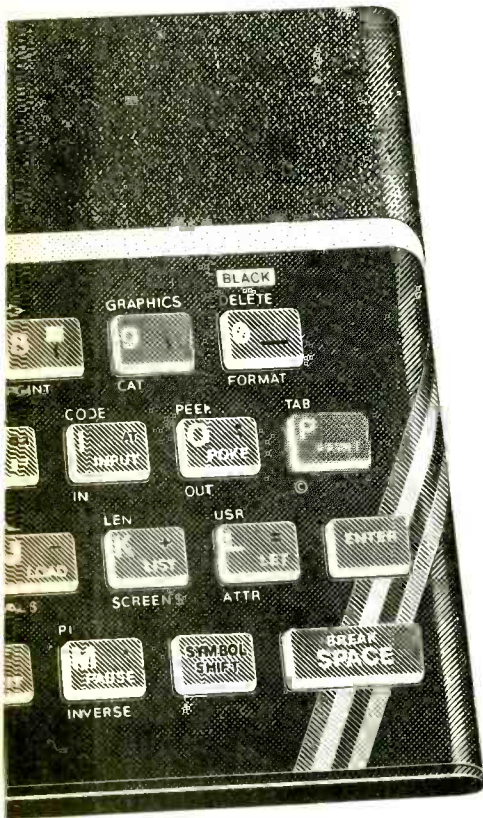
There's no need to stop there. The ZX Printer—available now—is fully compatible with the ZX Spectrum. And later this year there will be Microdrives for massive amounts of extra on-line storage, plus an RS232 / network interface board.



Key features of the Sinclair ZX Spectrum

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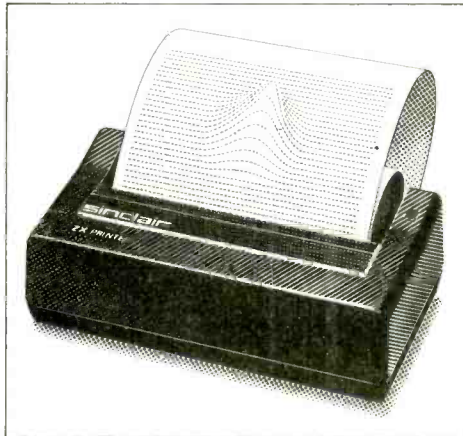


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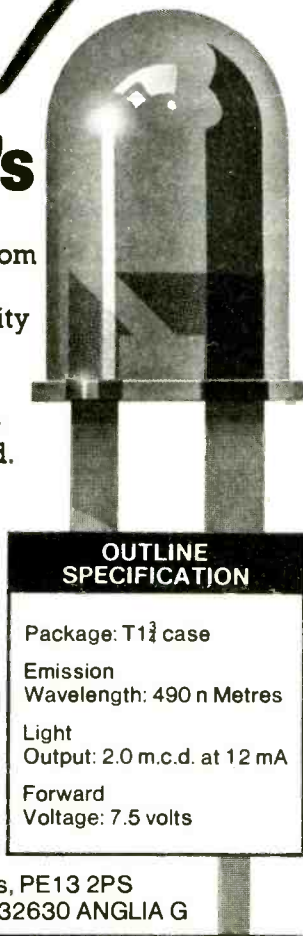
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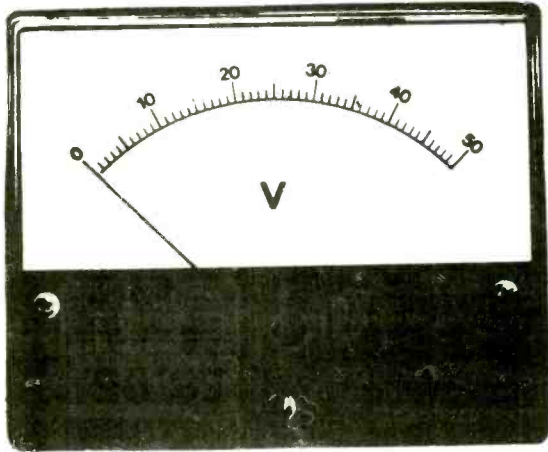
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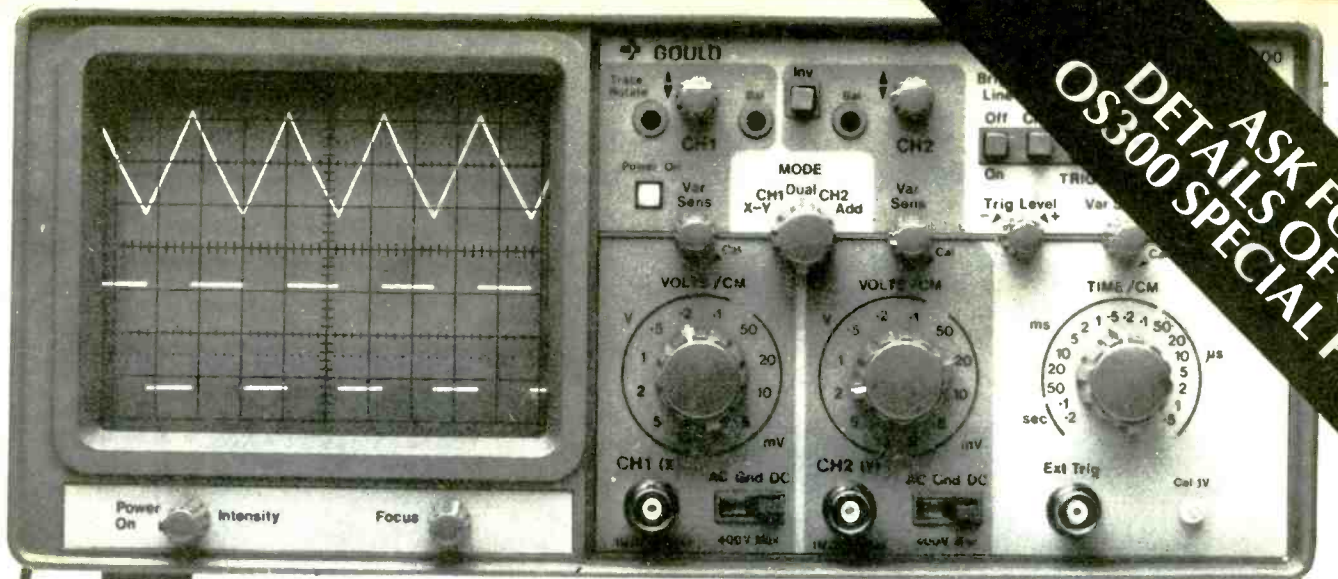
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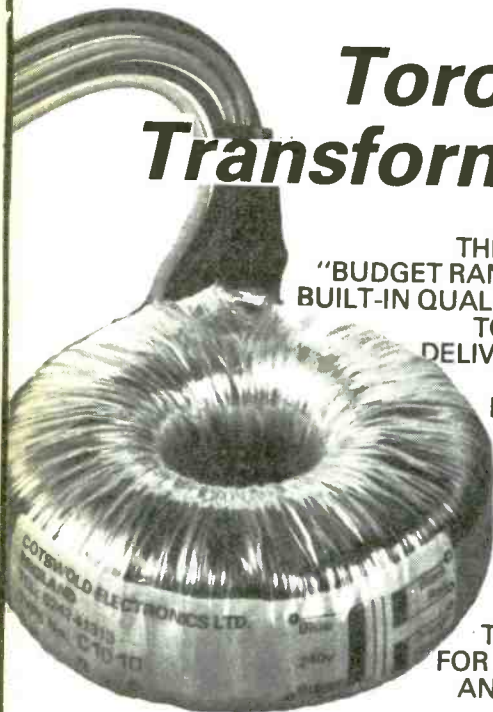
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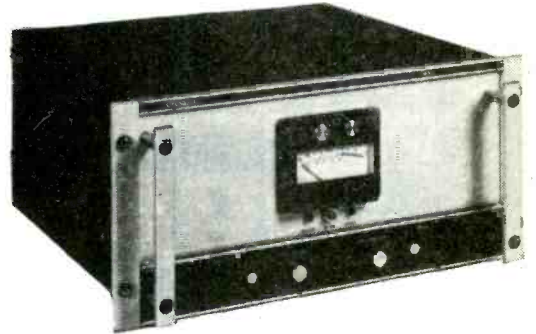
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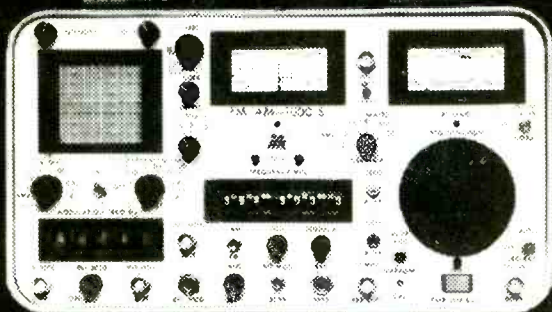
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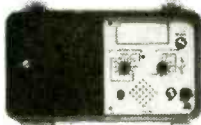
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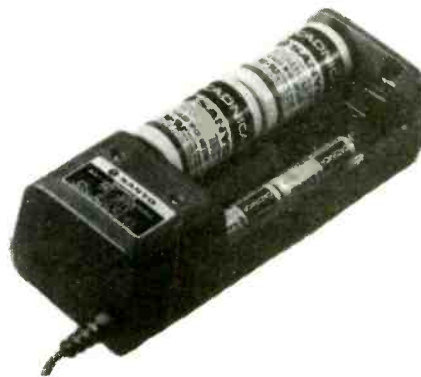
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2704
2708
2716(3)
2508
2758A
2758B
2516
2716
48016
2532
2732
2732A
68732-0
68732-1
68766
68764
2764
2564
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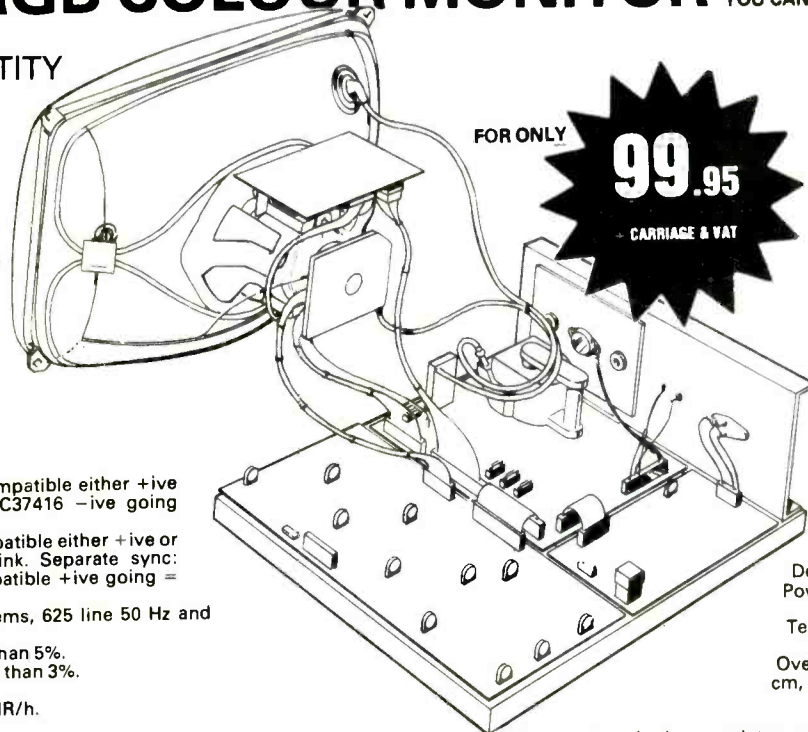
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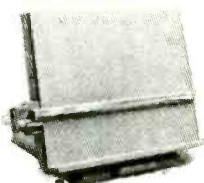
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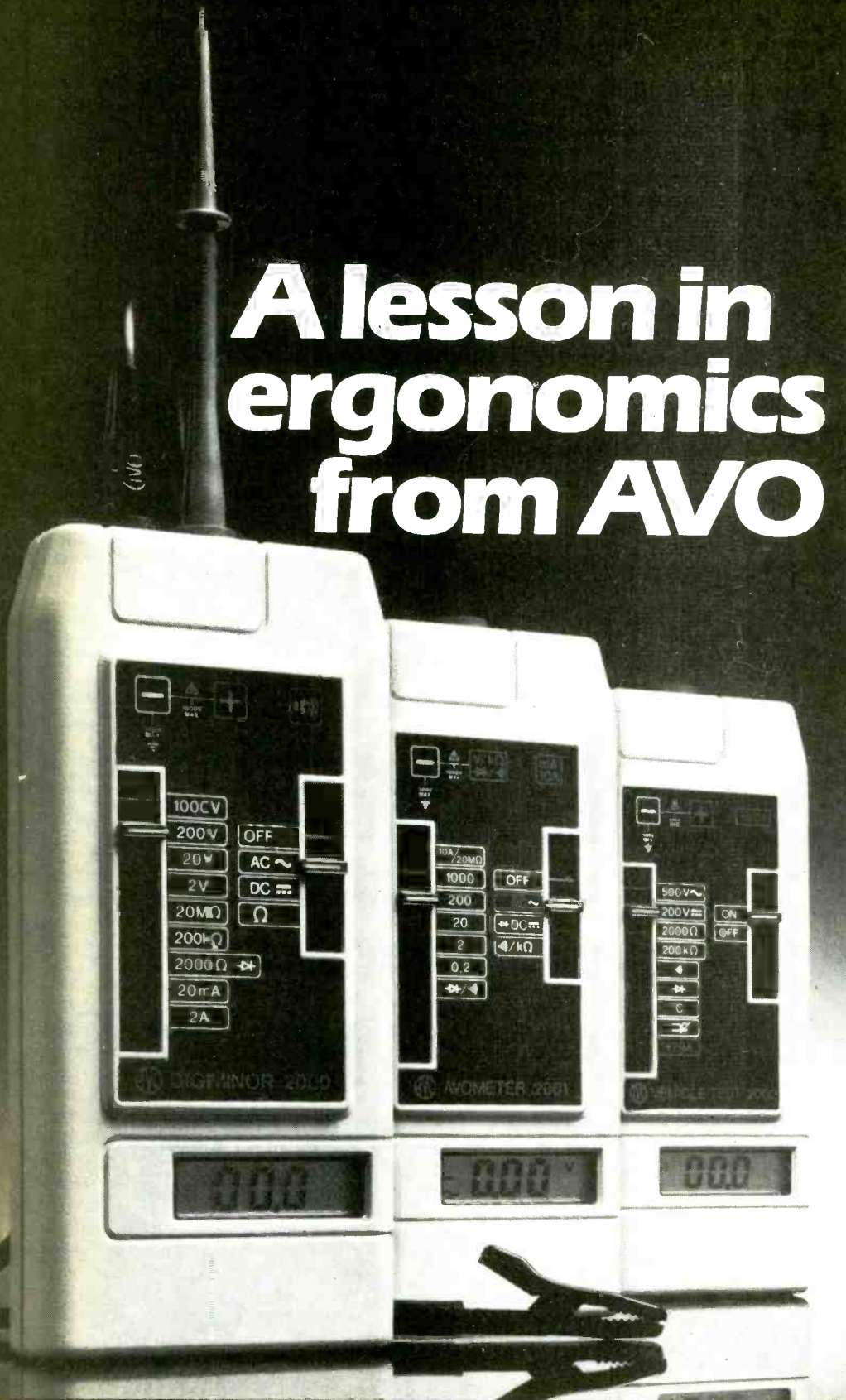
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Wiring technology of the past

In the aftermath of Hunt it will be important to keep the technical options open according to John Butcher MP, Under Secretary of State for industry, speaking to the Television and Radio Industries Club. He was referring to the choice of system architecture by potential cable system operators – tree or multi-star. Taken at face value, this may sound a flexible policy.

A tree structure is suited to broadcast distribution; it evolves outwards to feed additional customers by sub-division of its branches. Coaxial cables are the natural choice for tree structures where up to 30 channels per cable can be tapped off. But as a recently issued NEC report* points out in a 20-year look ahead, they have a very limited capability of providing two-way switched services involving wideband signals.

An alternative based on a multi-fibre tree structure would be very expensive in terms of optical switching and connectors. But a multi-star fibre arrangement – akin to the current telephone network – would allow an unlimited number of one-way channels to be accessed. And more importantly for the future the configuration readily provides full two-way capability; there is no need for encryption, and administration of charging for television channels is simpler.

If a network is required quickly, available technology and economics will favour coaxial cables rather than optical fibres. But a decision in favour of large-scale use of fibre would, says the NEC working party, in itself create a more

economic fibre solution.

It would be a tragic waste of the opportunity offered by a two-way switched broadband system if we were to allow this cabling to be dictated by the needs of entertainment broadcasting or narrowcasting alone. The varied facilities of a combined telecommunication and broadcast network, preferably digital, with exciting possibilities of computer-based interactive services in business and in learning, could act as a lubricant for efficiency and national well-being, now and in the foreseeable future. The technology is advancing rapidly; development is still in hand on certain aspects, and many relevant standards have yet to be internationally agreed. There is thus a danger, says the NEC study, that by moving too fast, the UK could go it alone and lose out on export markets.

The opportunity both at home and abroad may not be realised. On the same occasion, John Butcher said BT and its competitors may have to adopt “an evolutionary approach rather than set off with a state-of-the-art switched interactive system, with the high initial costs involved and the risk that the technical breakthroughs may not take place in time to justify the confidence of investors.” As the *Guardian* report of 30th September confirmed, this means reliance on coaxial cable feeds rather than optical fibres . . .

**Report of the Working Party on Technological Opportunities in Broadcasting, National Electronics Council 1982*

INTERFACING THE NANOCOMP

The popular Nanocomp microcomputer interface can be expanded by adding further p.i.a. devices and by connecting the interface board described in the October 1981 issue.

by R. Coates

For the Nanocomp microprocessor to pass information to and from additional devices it is necessary to bring out connections from its three buses. The eight data bus lines are of course needed as these are used in the transfer of data to and from the peripheral devices. Some address lines may also be required; for instance, the G821 needs A0 and A1 to select its internal registers. An address decoding signal will also be required to position the device at an appropriate place in the processor's memory map. On the Nanocomp, the 74LS138 decodes addresses; fortunately there are four outputs spare (five on the 6809) so these can be used to select this number of peripheral devices.

The addresses of the outputs of the 74LS138 are given in Fig. 1. The outputs are normally at logical 1, but go to 0 for the second half of the processor cycle if the microprocessor generates an address in the ranges indicated.

Although it's possible with these processors to address up to 65,536 different memory locations this is far more than can be used on a simple device like the Nanocomp; so some of the address lines are ignored in the decoding logic. Consequently the address range occupied by a particular device may be more than required. For instance, the on-board p.i.a. requires four consecutive memory locations given as 4000-4003. But because of the partial address decoding, it will respond to all addresses in the range 4000-4FFF, the four-byte sequence repeating itself 1024 times.

Similarly, the maximum address that can be used is 7FFF and not FFFF as would be expected, as the most significant address line (A15) is not used. So each of the outputs corresponds to a 4096 byte block in the memory map.

The spare outputs should be adequate for most purposes but if more are required a second or further 74LS138 can be added to split down one of the original outputs into eight, the connection details being given in Fig. 2.

A word of warning though: the processor cannot drive a limitless number of peripheral devices without buffering. Between seven and ten devices is the maximum, and there are four on the original board. If this figure is likely to be exceeded then all bus lines brought out should be buffered. Referring to Fig. 3, the data bus can be buffered with a single 74LS245, a bidirectional buffer, the direction being controlled by the read-write line. For the address and control lines, 74LS244s can be used as

control lines, 74LS244s can be used as these bus lines are outputs only. Each device can buffer eight lines, but the precise number required depends on the application.

The easiest place to make the bus connections on the Nanocomp is on the underside of the processor socket, with connecting leads as short as possible. Pin numbers of the relevant bus lines are given in Fig. 4.

Adding an additional p.i.a.

A further p.i.a. is the simplest expansion that can be made: a fairly useful one as well as being cheap. The original chip served a triple purpose of driving the display and reading the keyboard, as well as being available externally. This meant certain limitations in its use; if more than eight uncommitted lines were required for external use, the keyboard and display could not be used as part of the user program. Adding a second p.i.a. means that this one is completely free, leaving the original to cope with the keyboard and display.

Fig. 5 gives the connections associated with the 6821 p.i.a. One the bus side, all connections except 'chip select' input is taken to the equivalent pin on the 6802/5 chip; the 'chip select' input is taken to any one of the spare address decoding outputs of the 74LS138. And that is the p.i.a. connected. Addresses of the various internal registers are in the same sequence as the original, but the base address will depend on the 74LS138 output used.

6522 versatile interface adapter

An alternative to the 6812, more powerful but just as simple to connect, is the 6522 versatile interface adapter. Although an upgraded version of the 6821, it is not manufactured by Motorola, but is one of the 6500 microprocessor family from MOS Technology. Normally, mixing devices from one manufacturer's processor family with another can lead to problems; bus structures and timing are usually quite different. Fortunately, the 6500 family are based on the 6800, the 6502 microprocessor being a scaled down version of the G800, and therefore peripheral devices in the two families are completely interchangeable.

Circuit connections to the 6522 are shown in Fig. 6; the only difference is that four address lines are required instead of

two to access the 16 internal registers. The peripheral side connections are identical to the 6821. Further details of the 6522 can be found in the Interfacing Microprocessors articles*; a copy of the manufacturer's data sheet is also recommended.

Cuban interface board

Although analogue-to-digital converters for analogue input signals and digital-to-analogue converters for generating analogue outputs could be connected either to the p.i.a. or directly to the Nanocomp bus, a neater solution by way of the interface board described in the October 1981 issue. Designed for 6500-based systems, it is equally suitable for the Nanocomp. The facilities provided are a 6522 v.i.a., a 16-

* October 1981, pages 34-9, November, pages 59-62 and December, pages 71-5.

Table 1. A-D conversion, channel INO

	LDS # \$10FF	Initialize stack pointer
	STAA \$6010	Start conversion, channel INO
	LDAA # \$10	Wait for 100µs
LOOP	DEC A	
	BNE LOOP	
	LDAA \$6010	Get conversion data
	SWI	Do software interrupt

Table 2. D-A Conversion

	LDAA # \$80	Load accumulator with desired value
	STAA \$6020	Store in D-A
	JMP \$7D97	Return to monitor

Table 3. Voltage tracker

START	STAA \$6010	Start conversion, channel INO
	LDAA # \$10	Wait for 100 µs
LOOP	DEC A	
	BNE LOOP	
	LDAA \$6010	Read add
	STAA \$6020	Store value in
	BRA START	And repeat

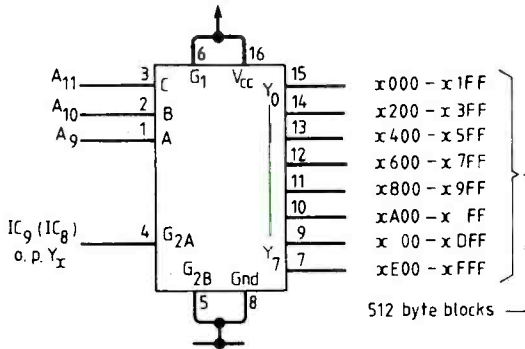
Table 4. VIA Test

	LDAA # 0	Set port A as inputs
	STAA \$6003	(all bits to 0)
	LDAA # \$FF	Set port B as outputs
		(all bits to 1)
LOOP	STAA \$6002	Read port A
	LDAA \$6001	Store in port B
	STAA \$6000	And repeat
	BRA LOOP	

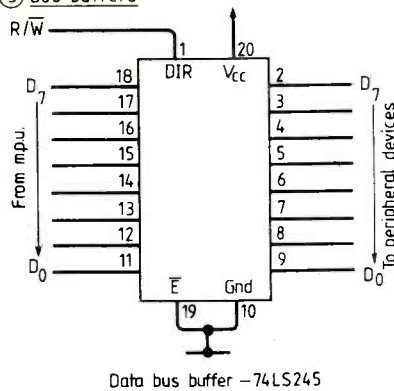
① 74LS138 OUTPUTS

Address range	Use
0000 - 0FFF	on chip ram (6802) spare (6809)
1000 - 1FFF	2114 rams
2000 - 2FFF	spare
3000 - 3FFF	spare
4000 - 4FFF	p.i.a.
5000 - 5FFF	spare
6000 - 6FFF	spare
7000 - 7FFF	eprom

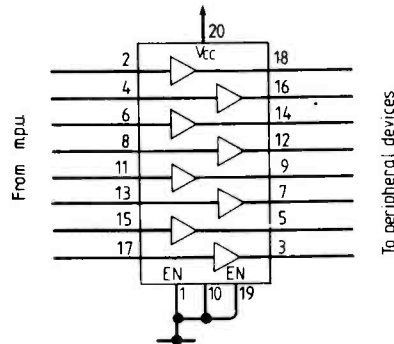
② Connections for second 74LS138



③ Bus buffers



Data bus buffer - 74LS245

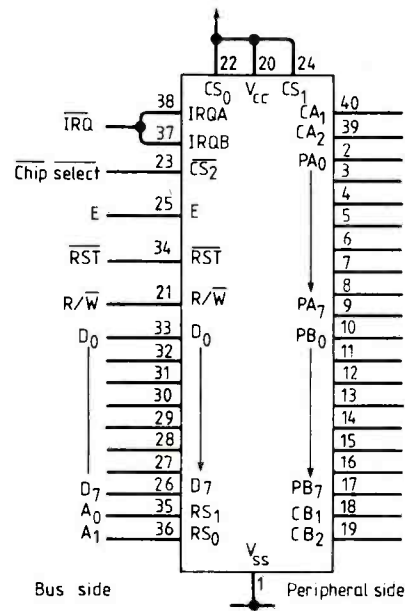


Address/control bus buffer - 74LS244

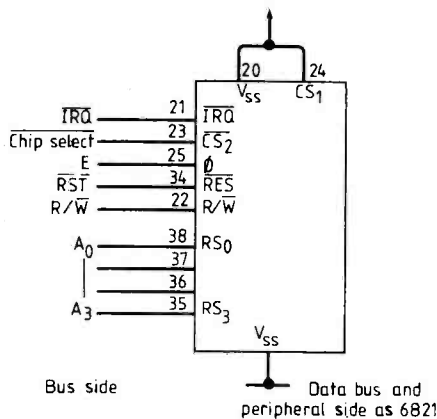
④ MPU bus connections

Name	6802	6809
D0	33	31
D1	32	30
D2	31	29
D3	30	28
D4	29	27
D5	28	26
D6	27	25
D7	26	24
A0	9	8
A1	10	9
A2	11	10
A3	12	11
A4	13	12
A5	14	13
A6	15	14
A7	16	15
A8	17	16
A9	18	17
A10	19	18
A11	20	19
A12	22	20
A13	23	21
A14	24	22
A15	25	23
E	37	34
VHA	5	-
R/W	34	32
RST	40	37
IRQ	4	3

⑤ PIA Connections (6821)



⑥ VIA Connections (6522)



already used by the Nanocomp. The block switch is the most significant digit in the four digit hex address, but remember, as A15 is not used in the Nanocomp, only positions 0-7 may be used. The page switch is the next most significant digit of the address.

In the examples given later, the board is assumed to be at 6000-60FF, which means block = 6 and page = 0.

As the address setting is unlikely to be changed, wire links could be used instead of the block and page switches, but note when working out which selector lines are 0 or 1 the 74LS136 is an exclusive-or gate, and not an exclusive nor-gate as shown in the circuit diagram.

Power for the interface board can be taken from the original power supply but the extra load will cause an increase in heat dissipation and ventilation should be adequate. A larger heat-sink may be required for the regulator.

The interface board will clearly not fit inside the original Nanocomp case, but a deeper case, RS number 509-276, will accept both boards. As the front panel sizes are almost identical, the original front panel can be used with a little modification.

Driving the Cuban

Some sample source code programs are given to show how to read an analogue input signal, how to set an analogue output level, and how to read and drive the v.i.a. peripheral lines. Only the mnemonics are given, not the machine-code, as this differs in some cases between the 6802 and 6809.

First, the analogue to digital converter. The ADC0817 is a 16-channel 8-bit anal-

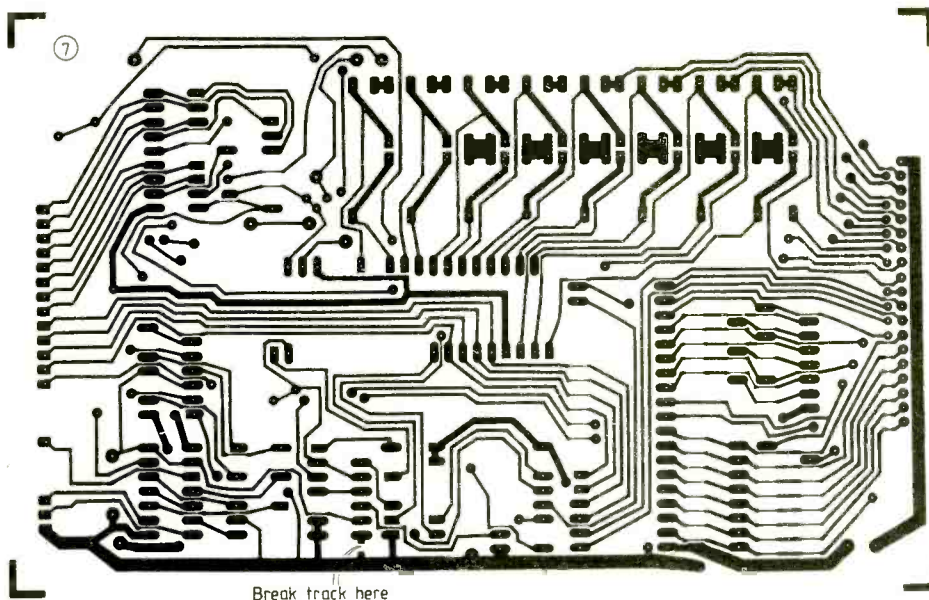
channel analogue-to-digital converter and a single digital-to-analogue converter.

Connection is mainly a matter of taking the appropriate bus connections shown on the interface board circuit diagram to the appropriate pin on the Nanocomp processor chip; Fig. 4 shows the pin numbers. But note several points. Number 02 corresponds to E on the 6802/9, NRST is the reset line (RST), and NWDS, NRDS, BLK on the interface board are not used.

One modification is required to the interface board for use with the 6802, but not with the 6809. Addresses can occur on the address bus which are not valid memory addresses. For instance, when an INX instruction is executed, the index register's contents will appear on the address bus but this is obviously not a proper address. For devices on the bus to

decide what is a memory address and what is irrelevant data, the valid-memory-address signal from the processor is used. This line will only be at a 1-level if the address bus contents are a valid memory address. This signal must therefore be gated into the address decoding circuitry to prevent spurious accesses to the interface board. This only requires a simple modification: the track to pin 1 of IC5 on the interface board should be broken, and pin 1 connected to v.m.a. on the 6802, see Fig. 7. Later Motorola microprocessors such as the 6809 do not generate these spurious addresses and so this modification is not required.

The interface board requires a section of the memory map 256 bytes long and this can be set anywhere in the memory by the block and page selector switches that is not



ogue-to-digital converter. That is, it has 16 analogue inputs, any one of which can be selected and the analogue voltage on it converted to an 8-bit value which can then be read and used by the microprocessor.

To measure a voltage, the converter must be told by the microprocessor to initiate a conversion on a specified channel. It takes about 100µs for this particular chip to perform the conversion, so there must be a wait of greater than this before reading the result. The conversion is initiated by the processor writing to one of the 16 a-d allocated memory locations (what data is written doesn't matter). The location written to determines the channel on which the conversion takes place; 6010 corresponds to channel IN0, 6011 to channel IN1, and so on up to channel IN15 at 601F.

A 100µs software delay loop should then be entered and then the conversion result obtained by the processor reading any one of the 16 a-d addresses.

Table 1 gives the listing of a simple program to read channel IN0.

After the software interrupt, accumulator A can be examined to determine the digital value proportional to the input voltage. This will be between 00 for zero input voltage and FF for a full scale (or greater) voltage. Full scale is defined as the voltage across the reference input pins of the ADC0817, and is set by the LM317 regulator and the 100 ohm potentiometer to between approximately 1.9 and 3.2 volts.

Digital-to-analogue converter

Digital to analogue conversion is the reverse of the above, and allows the microprocessor to generate an analogue voltage proportional to a binary value by simply writing a binary value to the d-a converter address.

The program in Table 2 gives a half full-scale output at the analogue output. Changing the contents of accumulator A changes the output voltage.

The program of Table 3 combines the two converters by reading the analogue input and setting the analogue output to the same value. The program then loops back and up-dates the output continuously, until "reset" is pressed. A variable voltage source on the input and a voltmeter on the output should confirm correct operation. When working correctly, adding an ASL A instruction after reading the a-d gives a voltage doubler!

Versatile interface adapter

The 6522 v.i.a. is similar in many respects to the 6821 p.i.a. but includes extra features such as two 16-bit timers and a shift register for serial communication. To access the greater number of internal registers therefore needed, the device occupies 16 consecutive memory locations, as opposed to the 6821's four. In this example the addresses are 6000-600F.

Consider the 16 peripheral data lines and their programming.

Each eight-bit peripheral port has a data direction register (DDRA, DDRB) for specifying whether the peripheral pins are to act as inputs or outputs. A logical 0 in a bit of the data direction register causes the corresponding peripheral pin to act as an input; a 1 causes the pin to act as an output.

Each peripheral pin is also controlled by a bit in the output register (ORA, ORB) and an input register (IRA, IRB). When programmed as an output, the voltage on the pin is controlled by the corresponding bit of the output, the voltage on the pin is controlled by the corresponding bit of the output register: a logical 1 causes the out-

put to go high, and a zero causes the output to go low. Data may be written into the output register bits corresponding to pins which are programmed as inputs, but in this case the output signal is unaffected.

Reading a peripheral port causes the contents of the input register (IRA, IRB) to be transferred onto the data bus. The B register operates similarly to the A register; however, for pins programmed as outputs there is a difference. When reading IRA, the level on the pin determines whether a 0 or 1 is sensed. When reading IRB however, the bit stored in the output register ORB is the bit sensed. Thus for outputs which have large loading effects and which pull an output 1 down or which pull an output 0 up, reading IRA may result in reading a 0 when a 1 was actually programmed, and vice-versa. Reading IRB, on the other hand, will read the 1 or 0 level actually programmed, no matter what the loading on the pin.

To program the device, first set up the direction of each line with the data direction registers. DDRA is at address 6003 and DDRB at 6002. The outputs can now be programmed, or the inputs read at 6001 for port A and 6000 for port B. This is simpler than for the 6821 which requires the setting of a bit in the control register to determine whether access is to the direction or data registers, which are at the same address.

The listing in Fig. 4 shows a simple test program for the v.i.a. Port A lines are all inputs and port B outputs. The program continuously reads port A and stores the data in port B, so the outputs reflect the state of the inputs.

Connecting inputs to +5V or around while monitoring the equivalent output with a meter or oscilloscope should confirm correct operation.

WW

TWO-METRE TRANSCEIVER

Design of a microprocessor-controlled transceiver with l.s.b., u.s.b. and f.m. simplex, repeater and reverse modes is described with which automatic scanning of the 144- to 146MHz band or up to nine memorized channels is possible. This first article covers specifications, operation and the front-end module.

It was my intention from the outset of this project about three years ago that the transceiver described here should be versatile yet uncomplicated and easy to duplicate. During the development stage components became available which simplified the design of the transceiver and the modular method of construction chosen made their inclusion a simple matter. There are currently commercially available modules which would further simplify the transmitter section even more, but as yet their cost is prohibitive. Should their price fall to a reasonable level they may easily be included.

The prototype was constructed using discrete-logic gates to control the synthesizer and displays, etc., but it soon became apparent that microprocessor control would be advantageous. Use of a microprocessor meant that many of the features found on commercial transceivers, and some additional ones, could be incorporated at the expense of time required to write the software, and that the number of i.c.s used could be reduced from more than 30 to six, thus simplifying the construction.

Each module has its own p.c.b. and is housed in a screened rectangular box. Six of these modules form the transceiver, one is the microprocessor circuit and the remaining three are the display-driver, tone-burst and a.f.-pre-amplifier boards.

While the resulting design is not the ultimate by professional standards, it is good value for money and is certainly competitive with currently available amateur transceivers.

by T. Forrester, G8GIW

Operation

As the transceiver is primarily intended for mobile use, the number of controls are kept to a minimum while retaining flexibility, partly in the interests of road safety. The transceiver is turned on by the mode control and the appropriate mode selected at the same time; the microprocessor starts up immediately and sets the synthesizer and display with the last used frequency, after which it scans the controls.

With the transceiver in its 'normal' mode tuning carried out using up/down buttons on the microphone causes the synthesizer to step up or down in 100Hz or 25kHz steps. If the up or down button is kept pressed the synthesizer continues stepping at a gradually increasing rate until the button is released.

The volume control doubles as a frequency-step selector. Pulling the knob gives 100Hz steps and, if required, the s.s.b. noise-blanking facility. Steps of 25kHz are obtained when the volume-control switch is in its normal position.

When scan mode is entered with the receiver set for normal operation, i.e. not in memory mode, the transceiver scans the band and stops for six seconds on any channel whose signal lifts the squelch. If the transceiver is taken out of the scan mode during these six seconds it will remain on that frequency. Pressing the skip button at this point will result in the channel in question being passed over on the next scan of the band. The skip button

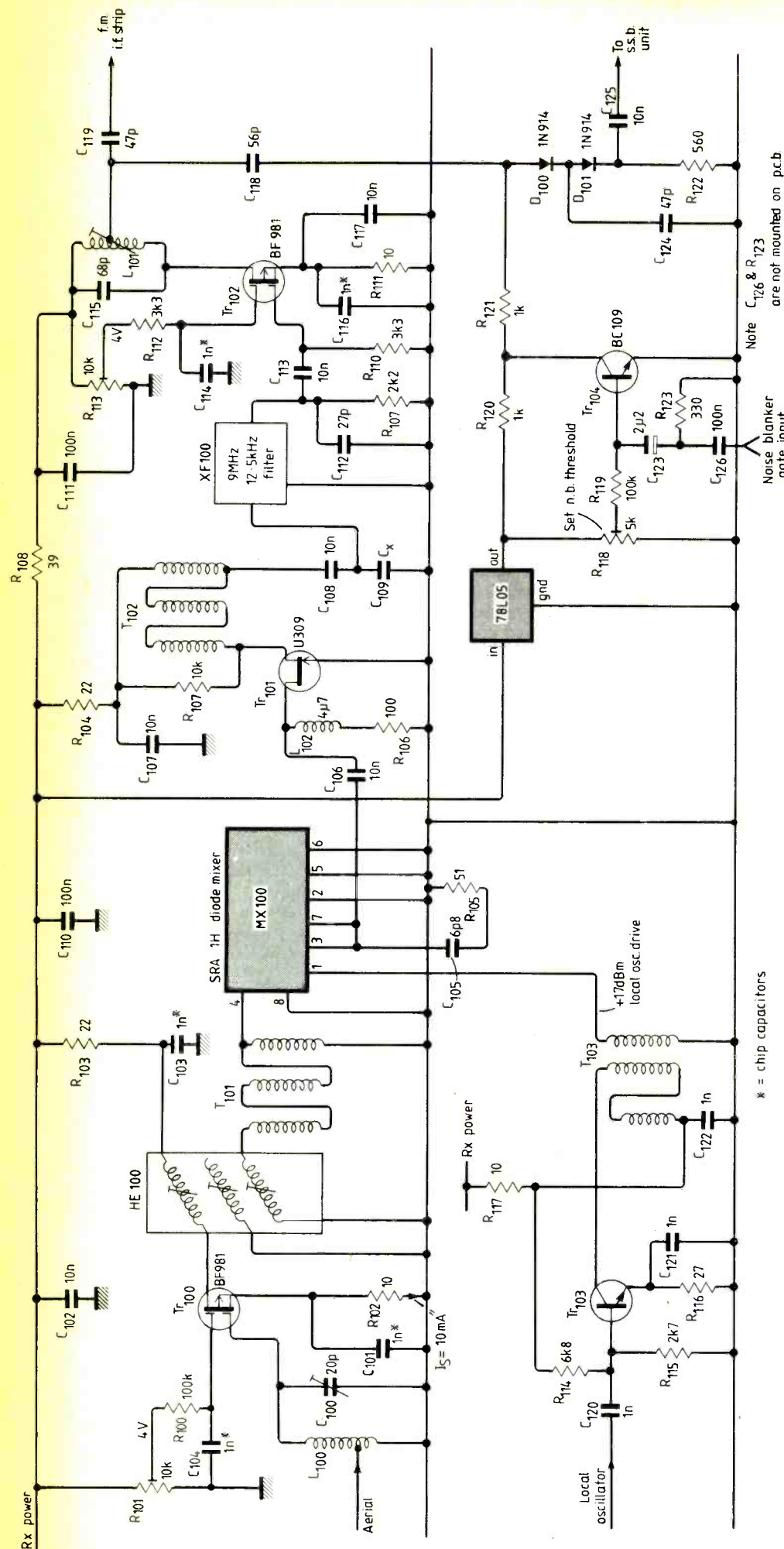
Specifications

Frequency coverage	144 to 146MHz
Frequency steps	100Hz or 25kHz
Frequency display	7-digit l.e.d. with 100Hz resolution
Tuning method	up/down buttons on microphone or channel switch (select memory channel)
Memory	9 memories programmed by push button - may be scanned with six second hold
Scanning	scan memory channels or scan band (144 to 146MHz) with provision to skip up to 40 channels
modes	l.s.b., u.s.b., f.m. simplex, repeater and reverse repeater
Power	16.5W f.m. and 14.9W p.e.p. s.s.b. with 13.8V supply
Spurious outputs	better than -70dB at 16.5W
Harmonics	-45dB at 288MHz -50dB at 432MHz
Carrier suppression	50dB (s.s.b.)
Squelch threshold	0.1µV (s.s.b. and f.m.)
Bandwidths	2.4kHz s.s.b. 12.5kHz f.m.
Sensitivity	0.2µV p.d. for 12dB quieting with f.m., 0.13µV p.d. for 12dB s/n ratio with s.s.b.
Receiver image response	< -76dB
Third-order intercept point (receiver)	-1dBm
Size	265 by 250 by 65mm
Antenna impedance	50Ω nominal

does not work when the unit is in memory mode. To remove a channel from the list one sets the transceiver for normal operation, tunes to the channel concerned and presses the skip button.

This feature of being able to skip certain channels while scanning the band has been found to be particularly useful if one does





Components, module 1

Resistors	
100, 119	100k
101, 113	10k sub-min. preset
102, 111, 117	10
103, 104	22
105	51
106	100
107	10k
108	39
109	2.2k
110, 112	3.3k
114	6.8k
115	2.7k
116	27
118	5k sub-min. preset
120, 121	1k
122	560
123	330

Capacitors	
100	20p sub-min. preset
101, 103, 104, 114, 116	1n chip
102, 106, 107, 108, 110, 111, 113	10n disc
105	6.8p
109	s.o.t. for filter, typ. 22p
112	s.o.t. for filter, typ. 27p
115	68p
117, 125	10n
118	56p
119, 124	47p
120, 121, 122	1nF disc
123	2.2µ tantalum
126	100n disc

Semiconductor devices	
Tr _{100, 102}	BF981
Tr ₁₀₁	U309
Tr ₁₀₃	2N918
Tr ₁₀₄	BC109
D _{100, 101}	1N914
VR ₁₀₀	78L05*
Mx ₁₀₀	SRAH1*

Inductors	
L ₁₀₀	5 turns of 20s.w.g., 12.5mm long, 7.5mm i.d., tapped at 1 1/4 turns
L ₁₀₁	25 turns of 30s.w.g. on 4mm dia. former tapped 4 turns from earthy end, slug tuned
HE ₁₀₀	3-stage helical filter, part number 17-10063*
T _{101, 102, 103}	4 turns per winding, trifilar wound with 30s.w.g.

The 9MHz crystal filter with 12kHz bandwidth is available from IQD, 29 Market Street, Crewkerne, Somerset. Components marked with an asterisk are available from Ambit International, 200 North Service Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4SG. All the resistors are 1/4W with 5% tolerance. Teko screened boxes are available from West Hyde Developments Ltd, Unit 9, Park Street Industrial Estate, Aylesbury, Bucks HP20 1ET.

Note C₁₂₆ & R₁₂₃ are not mounted on p.c.b.

Noise blanker gate input

* = chip capacitors

not wish to listen to repeaters or similar stations.

If certain favourite channels are to be memorized, it is only necessary to tune them in using the up-down buttons, enter memory mode, select a suitable position in the memory using the memory switch and then press memory-write button. The channel previously tuned to will then be displayed and sent to the synthesizer. Up to 9 channels can be memorized and, if required, scanned.

When repeater mode is selected the 1750Hz tone burst is automatically turned on, and when the unit is set to transmit the shifted transmit frequency is automatically displayed and the tone burst operated. Likewise for reverse repeater, the appropriate frequencies are displayed and no retuning is required.

While the operating frequency is being changed by means of the up-down buttons on the microphone, a 'peep' is emitted from a transducer mounted inside the transceiver. This feature is useful when driving since the frequency change can be judged by counting the peeps.

When the transceiver is in scan mode the peep generator is disabled, as its continual peeping as the synthesizer changes

channel would be annoying, if not distracting while driving a vehicle.

Modules

Each module is numbered as follows and any components referred to in the circuit descriptions will be preceded by the number of the module in which they are used.

- 1 receiver converter, 144 to 9MHz
- 2 transmit converter, 9 to 144MHz
- 3 transmit power amplifier and power regulators
- 4 t.m.-i.f. discriminator, squelch, noise blanking and a.f. power amplifier
- 5 synthesizer logic
- 6 synthesizer v.c.o. and power switching
- 7 s.s.b. 9MHz transceiver and exciter
- 8 microprocessor control and interfaces
- 9 frequency-display driver
- 10 1750Hz tone-burst generator and receive a.f. preamplifier

Units one to seven are housed in separate screened boxes measuring 160 by 50 by 26mm. Modules five and six share the same box while modules 8, 9 and 10 are attached directly to the transceiver chassis and are not in screened cases. The modules are described in the above order.

Receive converter – 1

The front end of any high performance receiver is perhaps the most critical component, with the possible exception of the frequency synthesizer, so these two elements justify extra care in design. This receive converter is the end result of six months' work, and gives excellent results.

Criteria for a good receiver, besides the obvious low noise figure and frequency stability are good dynamic range, i.e. reluctance to overload and cross-modulate in the presence of strong signals, and secondly good adjacent-channel rejection. Unfortunately most mass-produced amateur transceivers are built to a price, with one or two exceptions, and their perform-

ance when subjected to strong signals can leave a lot to be desired.

To overcome these problems, a different approach to the usual configuration comprising mosfet preamplifier, mosfet mixer, ceramic i.f. filter, etc., is used which gives excellent performance for a modest outlay. Most of the cost is tied up in the mixer and i.f. filters.

The receive converter comprises the usual modules, but individual parts are tailored to ensure good performance.

The antenna it matched to the r.f. preamplifier, Tr₁₀₀, to obtain the best noise figure for a conventional tuned circuit. The r.f.-preamplifier drain load is a readily

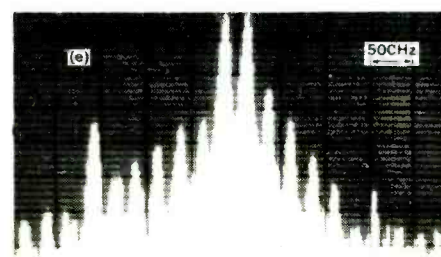
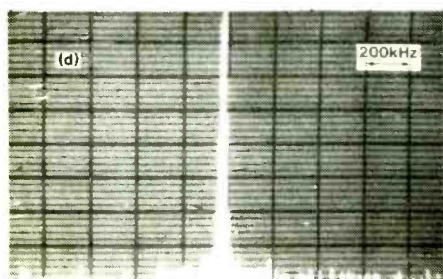
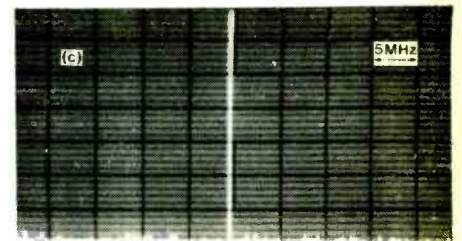
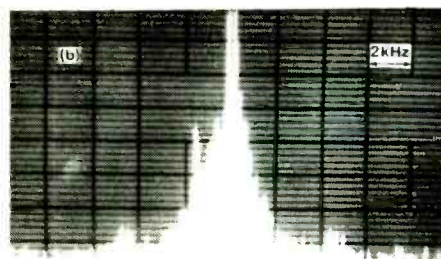
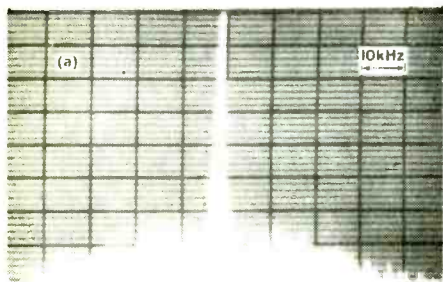
available three-stage helical filter which has an ideal bandwidth for the 2-metre band. This filter is transformed from its nominal impedance of 500Ω to 50Ω by T₁₀₁ (trifilar wound) to match the mixer impedance.

The mixer in this receive converter is the SRA 1H type which requires +17 dBm (approximately 45mW) of local-oscillator drive. This mixer has a typical third-order intercept point of +17dBm and a conversion loss of 7-8dB. To overcome this loss and maintain a good overall noise figure an i.f. amplifier is used directly after the mixer, Tr₁₀₁. To ensure that this i.f. amplifier does not overload a power f.e.t. is used (third order output intercept point +30dBm). An added benefit of using this type of f.e.t. (U309) is that its input impedance is 50Ω. It is important for the proper operation of a switching mixer such as the SRA1H, that the i.f. port is kept terminated with 50Ω. A 6.8pF capacitor, C₁₀₅, and 51Ω, R₁₀₅, resistor maintain 50Ω at high frequencies.

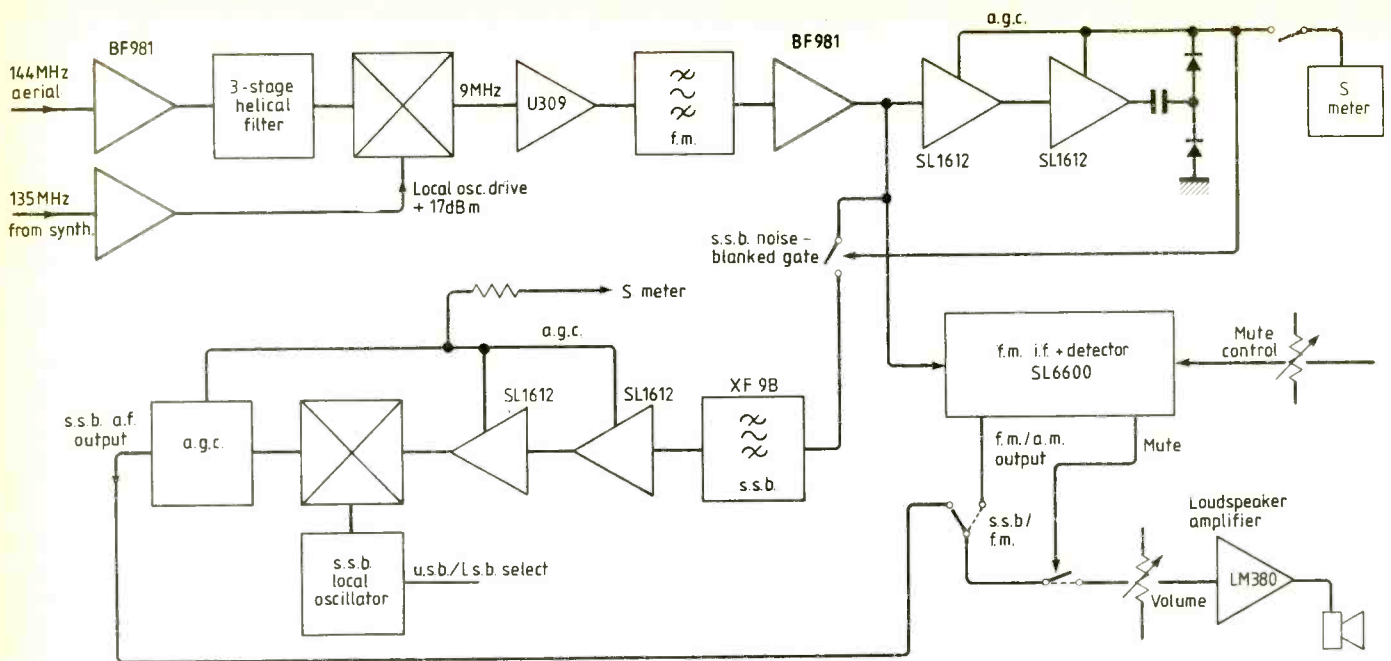
This i.f. amplifier gives 10dB gain, which is just enough to overcome the mixer loss, and its output is matched to the 9MHz 12½kHz crystal filter by another trifilar transformer, T₁₀₂. All three transformers in this module are identical. Use of a high-quality crystal filter at this point is important as it provides all the f.m. receive selectivity and aids the ultimate rejection on s.s.b. Ceramic filters are usually not good enough.

After the first i.f. filter comes a low-noise i.f. amplifier using another BF981, Tr₁₀₂, with a tuned-drain load. Its output splits two ways; one goes directly to the f.m. i.f. strip and the other goes to the s.s.b. receiver unit through the noise-blanking circuit shown at the bottom right-hand side of the diagram.

The noise-blanking circuit is placed between the f.m. and s.s.b. filters to restrict its sampling bandwidth to 12½kHz thus preventing i.f. cross modulation from strong signals on nearby frequencies. Local-oscillator drive for the mixer is amplified by a class-A amplifier using a



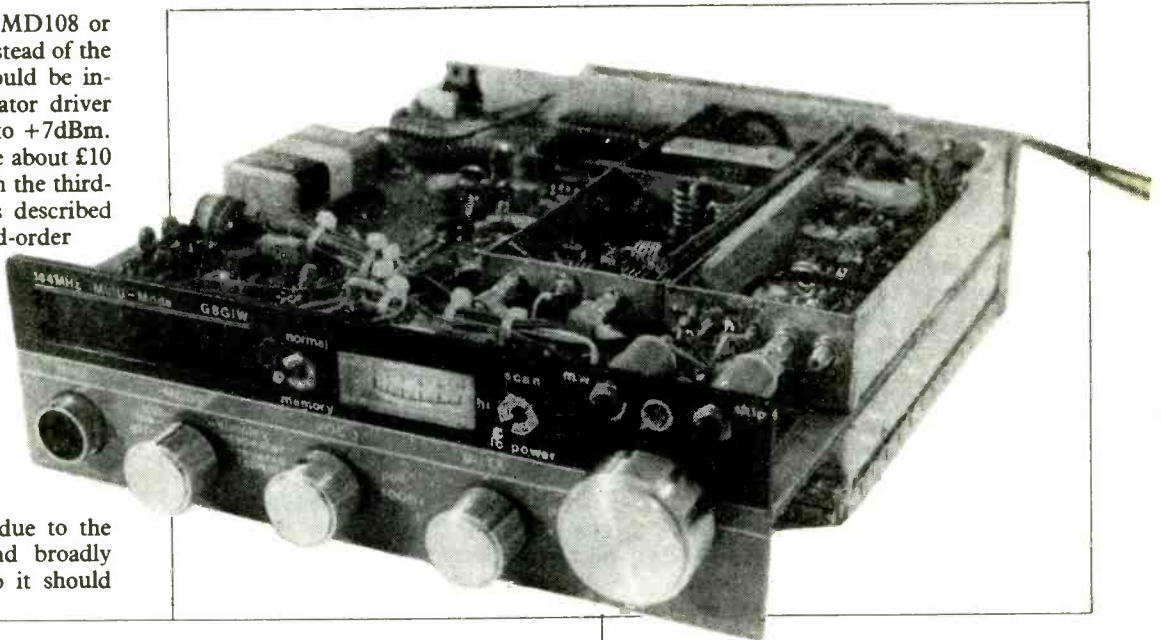
Analyses of transceiver performance all use 10dB/div vertical sensitivity and 145 MHz centre frequency, except (a) which has 136.5MHz centre frequency. Synthesizer output shows noise floor at approximately -70dB (a), two-tone s.s.b. intermodulation with wide sweep at 10W p.e.p. (b), extra-band spurious signals at full power (c), inter-band spurious signals at full power (d), and two-tone intermodulation distortion with narrow sweep at 10W p.e.p. (e).



2N918 transistor, Tr_{103} . If an MD108 or similar type of mixer is used instead of the SRA1H, then a 10dB pad should be inserted between the local-oscillator driver and mixer to reduce the drive to +7dBm. Using a MD108 mixer will save about £10 but at the cost of 10dB or so on the third-order intercept point. As it is described here, the circuit gives a third-order intercept point of -1dBm and a noise figure of between approximately 1.8 and 2dB.

Failure to use 1nF chip-type bypass capacitors or to mount them directly on the leads of the BF981 fet's may lead to instability and in consequence a poor noise figure.

Receiver alignment is easy due to the ready-aligned helical filter and broadly tuned 9MHz i.f. amplifier, so it should



only be necessary to peak the tuned circuits for maximum signal (including the helical) and trim the f.m. discriminator.

An overall block diagram of the receiver is shown and details the individual component parts, and the signal flow paths for both s.s.b. and f.m.

The 5kΩ potentiometer, R_{118} , sets the noise blanking threshold and initially should be set to the minimum voltage required to turn Tr_{104} off, so providing minimum noise blanking action and maximum signal to the s.s.b. i.f. This p.c.b. is fastened into the screened box by means of four tapped stand-off bushes fitted one in each corner.

All power and low-frequency signals to all modules in the design are filtered by means of 1nF lead-through capacitors, although they may not be shown on the circuit diagrams. These lessen the possibility of spurious r.f. feedback paths and so increase the repeatability of the design.

To be continued

BINAURAL RECORDINGS AND LOUDSPEAKERS

Analysing reproduction of binaural recordings through loudspeakers leads to the development of circuitry for their correct reproduction, and which also gives out-of-head localization for stereo headphone reproduction.

Binaural recordings are made with two microphones situated in the ears of a dummy head. As a consequence of this recording technique, reproduction should take place through headphones. One of the drawbacks of this system is that it is restricted to personal reproduction. To make the improvement in sound location over conventional stereo enjoyable by more than one person at a time without having to use several headphones, reproduction through loudspeakers has to be possible.

The standard recording and reproduction procedure is depicted in Fig. 1, where the microphones of the dummy head feed signals of the appropriate magnitude and phase position to the headphones. When the binaural recording is reproduced over loudspeakers, the situation as is drawn in Fig. 2 arises. The microphones send the same signals as before to the loudspeakers, but now each loudspeaker produces its own pressure pattern at the ears of the listener. The left loudspeaker generates the sound pressures L_l and R_l at the left and right ear respectively. The right loudspeaker generates the sound pressures L_r and R_r . Adding up the corresponding pressure phasors, the left phasor L leads the right phasor by a small angle γ , which is not equivalent to the original phase angle ϕ . This shows that when loudspeakers are used for the reproduction of a binaural recording, much of the directional information is lost.

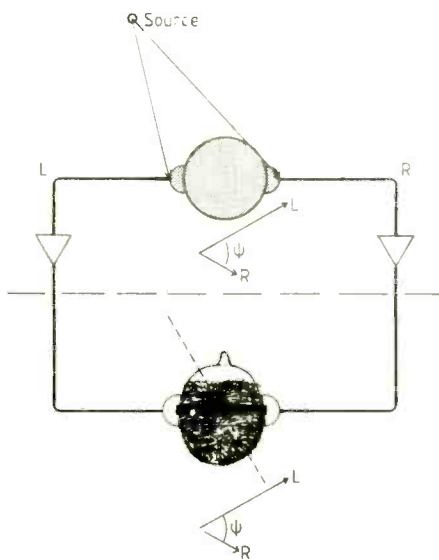


Fig. 1. Standard recording and reproduction procedure. Microphones of dummy head feed signals of appropriate magnitude to the headphones.

by J. H. Buijs

The cause of this loss of information is the existence of a double cross-feed, one at the microphones of the dummy head and the other at the loudspeakers. The situation can be improved by introducing a signal R'_1 in the right loudspeaker. This signal R'_1 should be equal to $-R_l$, so that R_l is cancelled. In the left loudspeaker a signal $L'_r (= -L_r)$ should be introduced for the same reason.

The result of such an operation can be gathered from Fig. 3, in which a similar analysis is given as in Figs 1 and 2. Signal L consists of the addition of the phasors L_l and $L(R'_1)$, and the signal R is formed by the phasors R_r and $R(L'_r)$.

A more detailed analysis reveals that the angle between L_l and $L(R'_1)$ is equal to $180 - 2\delta$, where δ is the phase angle between the phasors of the sound pressure at the left and the right ear caused by one of the two loudspeakers. This situation is drawn in Fig. 4, where $\alpha = 180 - 2\delta$ and one can see that

$$\tan \zeta = \frac{L(R'_1) \sin \alpha}{L_l + L(R'_1) \cos \alpha}$$

As $L(R'_1)$ is the same signal as L_l but

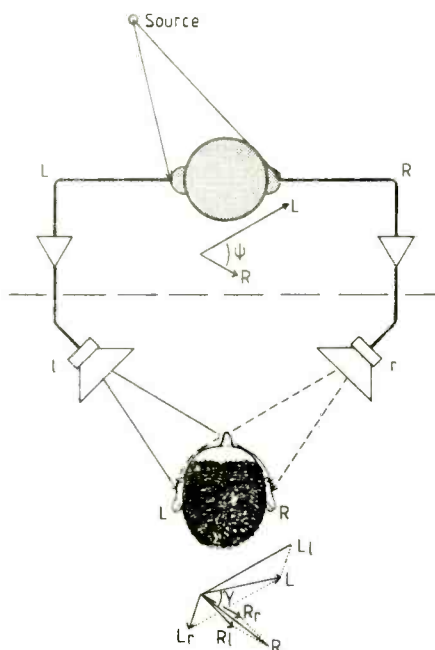


Fig. 2. When binaural recording is used for binaural reproduction, much of the directional information is lost.

adapted twice by the cross-feed function $H(f)$, one can also write

$$\zeta = \arctan \frac{|H(f)|^2 \sin 2\delta}{1 - |H(f)|^2 \cos 2\delta}$$

Because the same applies for the stimulus for the right ear R , the phase angle between L and R is equal to the phase angle between L_l and R_l , and is therefore correct. The amplitude of signal L is

$$\begin{aligned} & \sqrt{(L_l + L(R'_1) \cos \alpha)^2 + (L(R'_1) \sin \alpha)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{L_l^2 (1 - |H(f)|^2 \cos^2 2\delta)^2 + (L_l |H(f)| \sin 2\delta)^2} \\ &= L_l \sqrt{1 + |H(f)|^2 \cos^2 2\delta - 2 |H(f)| \cos 2\delta + |H(f)|^2 \sin^2 2\delta} \\ &= L_l \sqrt{1 - 2 |H(f)| \cos 2\delta + |H(f)|^2} \end{aligned}$$

From this one can conclude that correct reproduction of binaural recordings through loudspeakers is possible provided that the cross-feed function between the two ears of the observer is known, and can be reproduced electronically. Also, an amplitude-correcting circuit will have to be designed in view of the equation for the amplitude of the stimulus, as derived above. If one assumes that the loudspeakers are placed along lines which make an angle of 45° with the perpendicular to

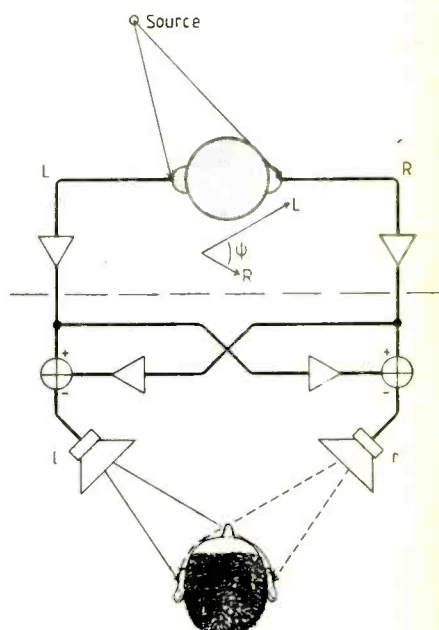


Fig. 3. Signal L consists of addition of phasors L_l and $L(R'_1)$ and the signal R is formed by phasors R_r and $R(L'_r)$.

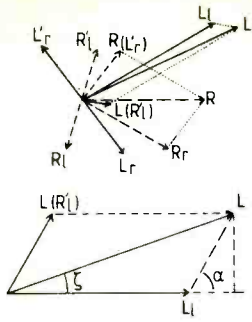


Fig. 4. Angle between L_1 and $L(R_1)$ is equal to $180-2\delta^\circ$, where δ is phase angle between phasors of sound pressure at left and right ear caused by one of two loudspeakers.

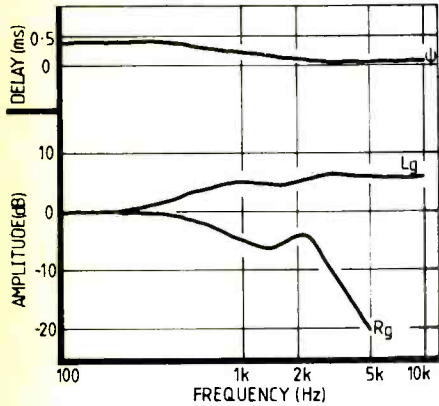


Fig. 8. Cross-feed function of Fig. 7, itself derived from the work of Wiener and Shaw.

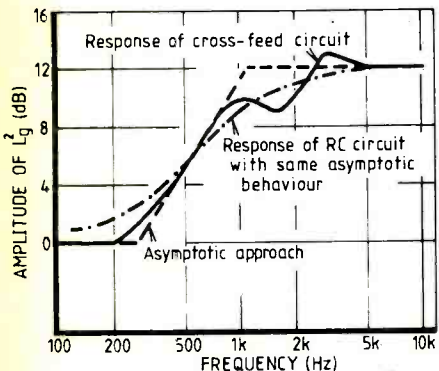


Fig. 9. Because transfer function L_g^2 enhances frequencies over 200Hz by 12dB a correction circuit gives approximate compensation, as above.

the line between the left and right ear, one can turn to research by Wiener¹ and Shaw² for the determination of the cross-feed function. The results obtained by Shaw are reproduced in Fig. 5, which form an extension in frequency range of the measurements performed by Wiener.

When these data are normalized to the ear canal pressure at 0° angle, Fig. 6 results. The value for the time delay between the signal for the left and right ear originating from the same loudspeaker is from Bauer³.

From similar data originating from Wiener, Bauer designed a circuit drawn in Fig. 7 to simulate the cross feed. In this circuit

$$\begin{aligned} V_{Lout} &= L_g V_{Lin} + V_{Rin} R_g e^{j\phi} \\ \text{and} \quad V_{Rout} &= L_g V_{Rin} + V_{Lin} R_g e^{j\phi} \end{aligned}$$

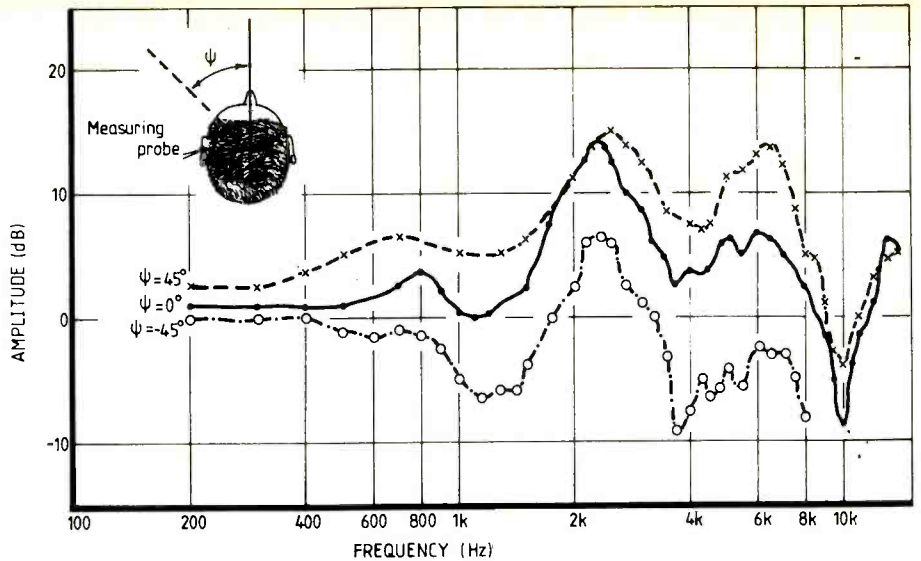


Fig. 5. Results obtained by Shaw for determination of cross-feed function assuming loudspeakers placed along lines making 45° with perpendicular between left and right ear.

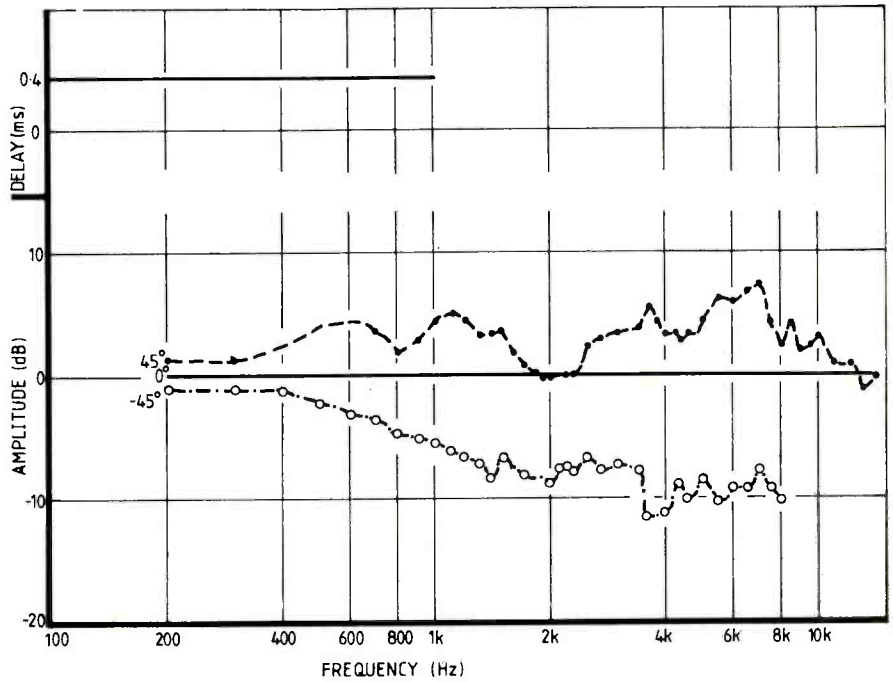


Fig. 6. When data of Fig. 5 are normalized to ear-canal pressure at 0° angle this results. Value for time delay between left and right ear originating from same loudspeaker is from Bauer.

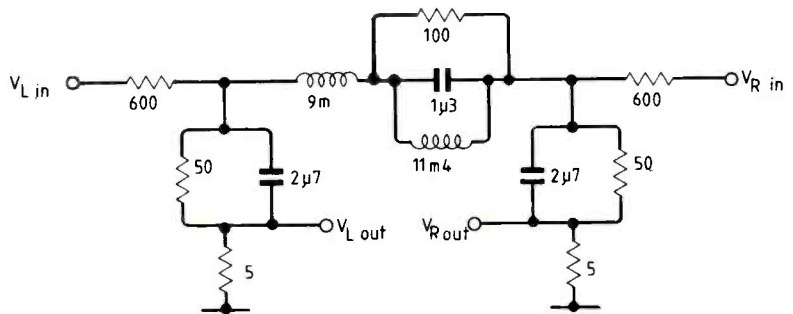


Fig. 7. Bauer designed this circuit to simulate cross feed from Wiener's data.

where L_g and R_g and ϕ are the transfer functions, as displayed in Fig. 8.

The input signals for the cross-feed generator to arrive at the loudspeaker signals for reproduction of binaural recordings are

$$\begin{aligned} V_{Lin} &= L \\ \text{and} \quad V_{Rin} &= -R \end{aligned}$$

which leads to

$$\begin{aligned} V_{Lout} &= L_g L - R R_g e^{j\phi} \\ \text{and} \quad V_{Rout} &= -L_g R + L R_g e^{j\phi} \end{aligned}$$

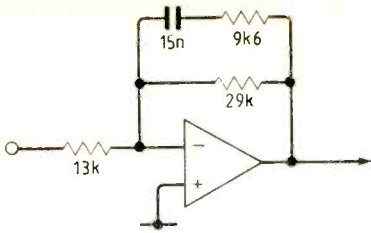


Fig. 10. Correction circuits give approximate compensation to L_g^2 transfer function of Fig. 9.

After inversion of V_{Lout} and reproduction of these signals by loudspeakers, the sound pressure at the ears is

$$V_L = L_g(-L_g L + R_g R e^{j\phi}) + R_g e^{j\phi}(-L_g R + R_g L e^{j\phi}) = -L_g^2 L + R_g^2 L e^{2j\phi}$$

$$\text{and } V_R = -L_g^2 R + R_g^2 R e^{2j\phi}.$$

Further corrections

From the previous section the general form of the sound pressure at the ears is

$$V_{ear} = (-L_g^2 + R_g^2 e^{2j\phi}) V_{in},$$

which can also be written as $V_{ear} =$

$$(-L_g^2 + R_g^2 \cos 2\omega T + j R_g^2 \sin 2\omega T) V_{in}$$

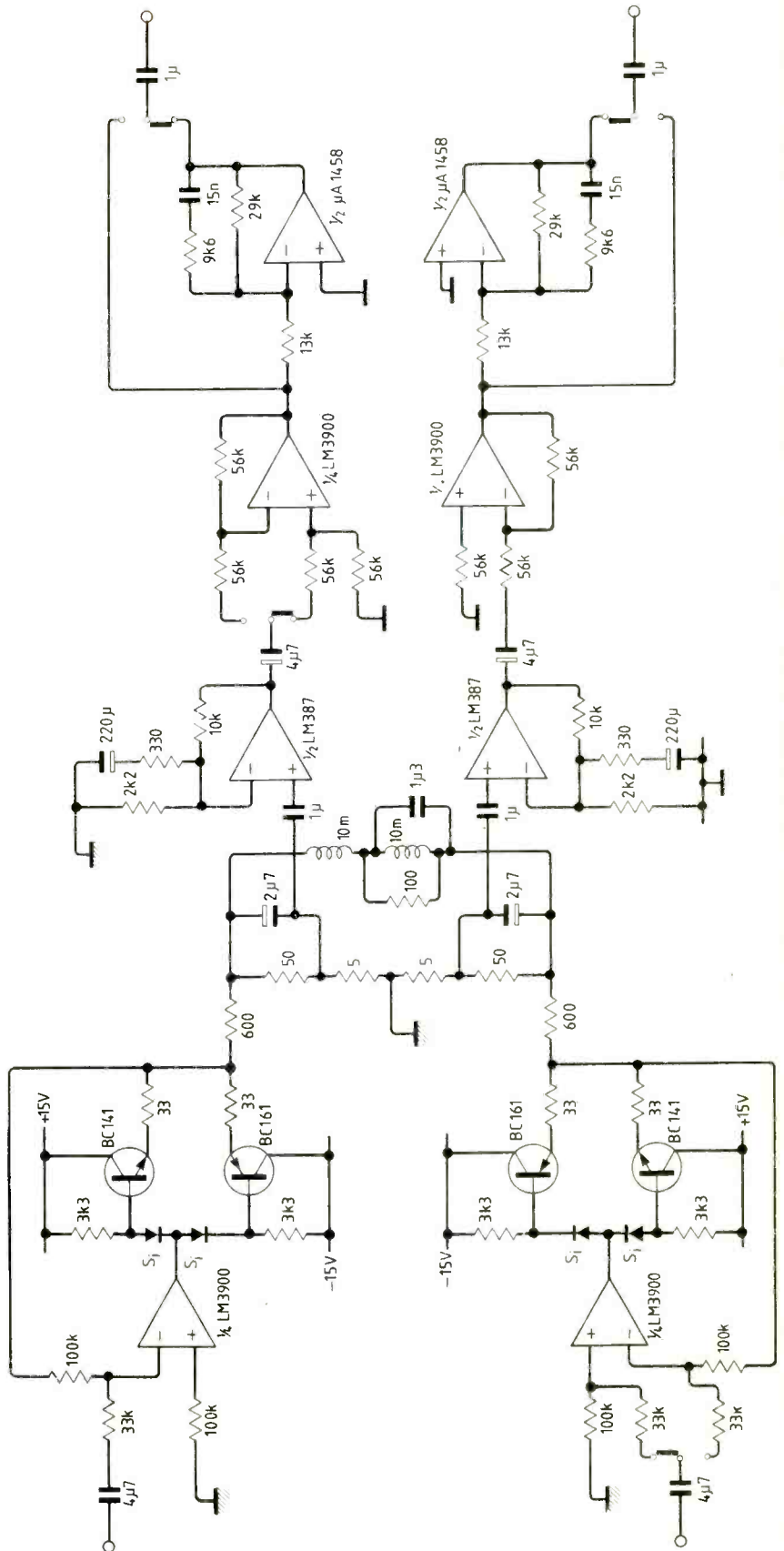
where ω is frequency in radian/s and T is time delay between left and right ear as given in Fig. 8. This signal consists of V_{in} and the $2T$ -delayed signal, V_{in} . One can compare this with the effect of reproduction of monophonic recordings via two loudspeakers, since the sound pressure at the ears now consists of the signal $L_g V_{in}$ and the T -delayed signal $R_g V_{in}$. Now a signal consisting of V_{in} and a delayed version of V_{in} with a delay smaller than 30ms is perceived as a single signal only consisting of V_{in} (Haas phenomenon⁴). This indicates that L_g determines the sound quality.

As the transfer function L_g^2 enhances the frequencies above 200Hz by up to

In practice...

The use of the circuit for "stereophonic headphones" results in an astonishing improvement in reproduction of stereophonic programs via headphones, since the sound seems to originate outside instead of inside the head. The use of the circuit for "binaural loudspeakers" leads to life-like positioning of the sound. Recordings of aircraft passing overhead sound so realistic that one is tempted to look up in search for the airplane. One person I demonstrated the circuitry to said, on reproducing the sound of waves at a beach: "It sounds as if I'm standing in the water," which indeed it did. It's difficult to describe the acoustic results of reproduction of binaural recordings via loudspeakers; one should try it to be convinced that this is a way toward better sound reproduction. —JHB

Fig. 11. For headphone reproduction of stereophonic recordings, circuit includes compensation for rise in L_g^2 transfer function above 200Hz. Switch is in headphone position.



COMMUNICATIONS

Piccolo players

The wartime rush to adapt for radio communication the teleprinter or Teletype system originally developed for line operation remains an example of the danger of making use of technology standards for a different purpose without a fundamental rethink. Compared with alternative forms of machine telegraphy, including high-speed Morse and the Hellschreiber system, conventional r.t.t.y. with five-unit code and frequency-shift keying has always demanded, if error rates are to be kept low, a very good signal-to-noise ratio, freedom from interference and multipath effects, and preferably diversity reception. To minimize these problems, the seven-unit code and other error-correcting techniques, including automatic repetition, have come into widespread use, though clearly these are palliatives rather than cures.

Many years ago it was recognized that under difficult radio conditions an improvement was possible by the use of multi-tone signalling. J. V. Beard and A. J. Wheeldon (*Point-to-Point Telecommunications* June 1960, pp.20-48) showed that two-tone a.m. transmission could offer substantial improvement over f.s.k. in conditions of selective fading, weak signals and interference. However, a series of counter-attacks on two-tone transmission, based on results over high-power point-to-point circuits, appeared soon afterwards, since when binary f.s.k. has remained the dominant system for h.f. — though with at least one notable exception.

Since October 1962, the Communications Engineering Department of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (formerly Diplomatic Wireless Service) has been using the Piccolo system based on multiple frequency-shift keying as the basis of its main h.f. network that links more than 50 British embassies to Hanslope Park, near Newport Pagnell. The original Piccolo system, with no less than 32 tones, imposed stringent requirements on frequency stability but, due to signal integration techniques using resonant LC filters, it could produce clean copy from signals almost buried in noise. It was thus far more suitable than conventional f.s.k. for use with relatively low-power transmitters located in residential areas, often with a flag-pole-type aerial. Harold Robin, Don Bayley and J. D. Ralphs made many attempts to interest British firms and organizations in the system and for a time Marconi undertook to market equipments built by D.W.S. More recently, manufacture and marketing has been by Racal, although clearly it has never been an easy task to introduce a relatively costly, non-compatible system. By 1968, by which time the Mark III unit was being intro-

duced, I was lamenting in print on the reasons why Piccolo went flat and on the general lack of interest in this technically elegant British system.

Recently a new Mark VI system has been developed that reduces the number of tones from 32 to 6 for ITA-2 and 12 for ITA-5 (*Radio and Electronic Engineer* Vol. 52, no. 7, pp.321-330, July 1982). Although this clearly loses a little in basic performance, it halves the bandwidth requirements and reduces the formerly extremely stringent frequency stability requirements. It also makes for rather lower capital costs and permits the use of either forward error correction or automatic request for repeats. Combined with the Piccabell selective calling system that summons an off-duty operator for urgent traffic, it remains one of the few technically successful attempts to match r.t.t.y. to simple low-power h.f. circuits. But it remains to be seen whether the Mark VI system (to be marketed by Racal as the LA1117 modem) will at last achieve the wider commercial acceptance that the Foreign Office engineers have always felt it deserved, but which has so far always eluded the earlier models.

Project Raven

Much though some engineers may regret it, the British communications industry has become increasingly coupled to meeting military or "defence" requirements; a market that has (so far) not been under pressure from Japan and one in which a good deal of expertise has been acquired by British design teams. A major Australian project, born in 1976 and due in service in 1986, "Project Raven," covering e.c.m.-resistant h.f. and v.h.f. vehicle and manpack tactical systems for ranges up to 2000 miles, looks like bringing major contracts to Plessey Australia (with Plessey UK participation). In 1981 "project definition" contracts were awarded to both Plessey and Racal Milcom but the latest A\$7-million contract for design and establishment of production facilities has been won by Plessey who hope it will lead to production contracts worth A\$150M to A\$200M.

Technically an interesting feature of the Plessey proposals is the use of electronic null steering of simple twin aerials to provide some 40dB rejection of a single jammer as an electronic-counter-counter-measure. Null steering as an anti-jam protection system is considered now feasible even for manpack v.h.f. sets and may be extended to h.f. In general Plessey engineers argue that while simple frequency hopping systems are of considerable value against an unsophisticated opponent they are particularly vulnerable to d/f-assisted attack. They list priorities for e.c.c.m. in

the following order: imperceptibility; inscrutability; physical invulnerability; and electromagnetic invulnerability. A simple null-steering technique for h.f. communications was described at the recent IEE conference "H.F. communication systems and techniques" by J. K. Webb (Mitre Corporation) using a quadrature phase-shift channel with an auxiliary aerial.

Secrets of Hut 6

In the decade since the disclosure of the breaking of the German Enigma cipher machine (as well as the Abwehr and police hand ciphers and the Italian machine cipher) in the books by Gustave Bertrand "Enigma" and Frederick Winterbotham "The Ultra Secret", there have been a spate of further books and memoirs of the fascinating Bletchley Park operation. But most of the insider books have reflected the views of the Intelligence analysts and distribution people of Hut 3 rather than those of the actual cryptanalysts of Hut 6, who were responsible for codebreaking, or the signals people and radio operators who intercepted the traffic. Few of the many authors, with the exception of Bertrand whose teams were in France and not at B.P., have been in any position to draw conclusions of permanent value to the black arts of codebreaking and Sigint.

For this reason it seems a pity that a new book "The Hut Six Story" by Gordon Welchman (published in the USA by McGraw Hill and in the UK by Allen Lane) has attracted less public interest and fewer reviews than the earlier books. For Welchman joined the B.P. team of cryptanalysts in 1939, worked in Hut 6 and later became Assistant Director of Mechanization. After the war, his plans for the peacetime GCHQ were largely rejected but instead of returning to the academic field he entered industry, joined the brain drain in 1947, and for many years worked in the field of communications systems planning for The Mitre Corporation, the US Federal Research Centre, etc. concerned with battlefield communication systems etc.

The earlier accounts, while differing in the credit given to the Polish and French cryptographic organizations, have largely supported the idea that Enigma could always be cracked by rigorous mathematical attack when backed up by some prior knowledge of the machines. Most (Bertrand's excepted) played down the role of Hans-Thilo Schmidt, the German who provided the French with a mass of information on Enigma ciphering procedures. Few have shown any clear understanding of why the German cryptographers had every reason to believe their system was totally secure in those pre-computer days.

Gordon Welchman shows that while indeed Enigma had fatal flaws, it would nevertheless have been impregnable against a purely mathematical attack. Unfortunately for the Germans they introduced a number of strengthening elements progressively with the result that Hut Six was normally in possession of, or could deduce, plaintext "cribs" and could "guess" likely key letters from their knowledge of the short-cuts of "lazy" operating procedures of the German cipher operators. Even so, Welchman maintains, the whole operation might have come to a sudden stop had the Germans taken more steps to ensure that the Enigma machines were used in accordance with the basic rules of cryptography (for example, never re-encode the same plaintext in different keys, never use standard long addresses, etc). It is worth recalling that B.P. never succeeded in breaking the Gestapo (SD) Enigma. He also emphasises the importance of good liaison between Hut 6 and the main Y intercept stations as well as the role of traffic analysis when the messages remained unread.

He believes that the Ultra secret was kept too long with the result that many lessons that could have been learned from B.P. have been lost.

He also reflects the view that engineers and administrators have too readily accepted the view that cryptosystems can be made secure by increasing the number of key permutations to a total beyond that which could be examined by computer in a reasonable time, pointing out that many systems contained short-cuts.

Not every communications man would agree with all of his outspoken and often provocative comments but his revelations of the tight-rope on which Bletchley Park walked, and the conclusions he draws from this, make this a book of current as well as historic interest, with a high technical content.

AMATEUR RADIO

435MHz digital stereo

First experimental transmissions from an amateur station of digital stereo audio signals in the UK (and possibly in Europe) were made on August 8 by Angus McKenzie, G3OSS in Finchley, North London with the help of G8UQX and G6BYH. The co-operating station, that of A. G. Goddard, G3NQR, in Harrow, first monitored the incoming signals to assist in set-

ting the pulse levels and then recorded them on video tape. Subsequently the tape was replayed through G3NQR's amateur tv transmitter back to G3OSS where the incoming signals were decoded back to high-quality stereo and also recorded for a second time. The recovered speech and tone signals included long passages that were virtually perfect though with rather more errors on the second generation tape.

The experiment highlighted several critical factors including the vulnerability of digital transmissions to multipath smearing of the pulses. Adjustments to the transmitter were also critical, though it was demonstrated that the digital audio could be well received at signal strengths below those required for good tv reception. Tests over longer distances at higher power are planned and later it is hoped to use the 1296MHz band.

Equipment used included AKG condenser microphone, Sony PCMF-1 digital processor with the digital bit stream superimposed on a PAL-compatible video waveform, Microwave Modules ATV transmitter with average power of about 1.5 watts and two 21-element Tonna aerial arrays at 68ft above ground level. Receiver comprised GaAs fed mast-head pre-amplifier, Microwave Modules up-converter feeding a Panasonic NV7000B VHS video recorder. Output from the VCR goes to a domestic colour tv set for waveform examination and analogue audio outputs go to KEF 105 series II loudspeakers from a stereo amplifier. Stereo audio is sampled at 44.056 kHz with 16-bit coding and a potential 90dB s.n.r. from 10Hz to 20kHz. The bandwidth is about 3MHz with the 435MHz transmission compatible with 625-line tv standards. G3OSS is equipped for PAL colour tv transmission and has been received at distances up to 50 miles.

While such digital audio is aimed at high-quality reproduction, it seems relevant to point out that intelligible speech can be transmitted digitally at much lower bit rates since amplitude variations contribute remarkably little to basic intelligibility. 3-bit or 4-bit coding of speech at about 8kHz sampling rate could provide an effective weak-signal communications system on the amateur microwave bands.

Bands released

Since October 1, UK amateurs have been permitted limited access to the WARC-1979 bands at 18 and 24MHz (18.068 to 18.168MHz and 24.89 to 24.99MHz) on a strictly non-interference basis. Restrictions include A1A (c.w.) mode only, maximum carrier power 10 watts, horizontally-polarized aerials only with zero gain relative to a half-wave dipole (i.e. no verticals or beam arrays). At the same time the new microwave bands at 47; 75.5, 142 and

250GHz became available to UK amateurs. It has also been announced that a limited number of Class A amateurs will be authorized to operate between 50 and 52MHz outside of television broadcasting hours. There is also to be an experimental relaxation, initially applying to special event (GB) stations only, on the sending of greetings by non-licensed persons over amateur stations.

On the other hand, British amateurs within 100km of London are being requested not to use the sub-band 431 to 432MHz, which is being made available to the private mobile radio service in the London area, and in future amateurs may find themselves sharing 10.25 to 10.4GHz with a commercial data network which becomes the primary user.

Here and there

The City & Guilds of London Institute will in future hold three instead of only two Radio Amateurs' Examinations each year. Next examinations will be in December 1982 and March and May 1983. There is however little sign yet of any reforms to the examination syllabus or paper.

Winner of the 1981 RSGB National Field Day trophy was the Racal Amateur Radio Group (B section). Leading single-entry station ("Bristol Trophy") was the Great Western Contest Group. Other leading clubs were Gravesend Amateur Radio Society ("Gravesend Trophy"), Glenrothes and District Radio Club (leading Scottish entry) and the Maidenhead club ("Frank Hoosen Trophy").

The Ipswich Radio Club announces that arrangements have been made for students to sit the RAE at Kesgrave and Claydon Adult Centre, the High School, Kesgrave, Ipswich IP5 7PB. Enrolments by mid-October for the December examination.

Reg Cole, G6RC

An old-time but apparently ever-young radio amateur, Reg Cole G6RC, an active operator on the bands for well over 50 years, has died, aged 81 years. Until his retirement, Reg Cole was company secretary of George Newnes Ltd, now part of the IPC Group of companies. During World War I he trained as a radio officer in the merchant marine and during World War II was first a Voluntary Interceptor for the Radio Security Service, then served at Hanslope Park until he became one of Lord Sandhurst's group of operators on the Secret Service clandestine links with France and the Low Countries. He put this experience to good use on the amateur bands in the post-war period, becoming one of the UK's leading DX operators.

PAT HAWKER, G3VA

ENGINEERING AND SOCIETY

The responsibility of engineers to society is often discussed in the abstract: here, Robin Howes deals with the subject in a more tangible manner. In this, the first of two articles, he relates the question of responsibility to the current industrial and political state of the UK.

You have probably heard of the nuclear engineer who, when asked about the social implications of nuclear power, said: "I'm here to stop you freezing in the dark, not to talk about it". His attitude is often thought commendable, and it is also thought, perhaps unjustly, that unless an engineer is competent at his job his views on social responsibility are irrelevant anyhow.

Let us pass from the individual engineer to one view of industrial society as a whole: "We are all in a car and the car is in motion. Nobody has found out how to steer it, but some groups have, for a long time, been making detailed studies of the steering linkage. It has been found that small changes in direction are a bit easier to understand and to influence, and the ride seems to be smoother, when a foot is kept hard on the accelerator. Hitherto this has never proved catastrophic because the car has been moving about a wide plateau. Someone looking out of the dirty wind-screen thinks he can see the edge of a precipice ahead and suggests they slow down. The others criticize his knowledge of the steering mechanism; they are affronted by his suggestion. Looking out of the window is a waste of time and talking like that alarms the passengers. A majority would prefer that there aren't any edges."¹ Should the engineer get on with his job on the steering linkage or should he look through the window as well?

To avoid debating definitions the following should suffice for the purpose of this article. Science is about finding things out and technology is about making things. Technology predates the rise of experimental science in the 17th century, as the building of Stonehenge and the feats of Roman architecture show. Technology today involves both applied science and traditional know-how, and in common usage the term technology is often synonymous with engineering. Both approach problems via systems analysis, design and modelling. Engineering, like medical practice, can also be regarded as an art in which an almost intuitive feel for the material world which has been developed by practice may be more important than systematic knowledge provided by scientific research. A recent textbook² speaks of electronics as a simple art, a combination of some basic laws, rules of thumb, and a large bag of tricks. As these authors would probably be the first to point out, you cannot learn electronics just by reading books. For a more philosophical approach

by R. W. Howes,
M.Sc., M.Ed., M.I.E.E.

there is the remarkable book by Robert Pirsig³: "There is no manual that deals with the real business of motor cycle maintenance, the most important aspect of all. Caring about what you are doing is considered either unimportant or is taken for granted . . . In that strange separation of what man is from what man does we may have some clues as to what the hell has gone wrong in this twentieth century."

Three options for the UK

If one looks at possible futures for the UK or similar industrial country, there are, broadly speaking, three options. The first is the high-technology future, which was first promoted in the 1960s although envisaged by science fiction years before. Apart from actual advances in military and space technology, including the moon landing in 1969, there was the hope of an automated, leisured society, dependent on the use of computers, the hope of electricity 'too cheap to be worth metering' provided by nuclear power, and the hope of using new cereal crops as a 'green revolution' to save the Third World from famine. From a purely technical point of view, such projects were usually outstanding successes; from a social and often economic point of view they were frequently outstanding failures. To take an example directly familiar to most people in Britain, one of the planners' dreams which came to fruition in the 1960s was a solution to the housing problem - the building of multimillion-pound complexes of high rise flats. These are now being blown up because they are too expensive to run and too vandalized to use. This is a classical example of the tunnel vision of experts who are blind to the social and even economic effects of their work, and is the result of trying to find a purely technical solution, a 'technical fix', to a systems-type problem.

In retrospect, such experts seem to have acted as if deficient in common sense and even in common humanity. The economic growth of the 1960s was fuelled by cheap, imported oil, which encouraged a profligate use of energy and which promoted technologies for the production of goods that were far more wasteful of energy and resources than ever before.

The second option rejects the first one as technocratic fantasy and disengages itself

completely from the industrial concept of economic growth. It promotes a society that is sustainable in the long term because its energy and resource inputs are renewable. Its technology is variously described as low, soft, alternative, intermediate or appropriate. The rather different meanings of these terms have been discussed by David Dickson⁴ and others. Perhaps the best term is 'appropriate technology' as it immediately raises the key issue - appropriate for whom? It is important to realise that alternative technology (AT) can be just a technical fix for the affluent in a consumer society, e.g. solar panels for the suburban householder and tidal power for the CEGB, but that its true realisation involves an alternative society. AT used to be the prerogative of commune dwellers, 'a bunch of middle-class misfits playing at being farmers', as one critic said, and the 'brown-bread-and-sandals brigade'. Today many professional engineers are working in the AT field, but its large-scale adoption in our present industrial society is clearly politically inadmissible, and most people would not want it.

The third option is a compromise between the other two and involves a gradual transition towards a more sustainable society, meanwhile trying to ameliorate the effects of present high technology. It still has made very little headway politically in the UK, where politicians still seem hooked on the 1960s mirage of unending economic growth, and see the current recession as U-shaped rather than L-shaped. An essentially middle-of-the-road report by Gerald Leach⁵ considered the energy inputs required for low to modest growth scenarios and concluded that waste reduction, recycling and conservation measures would enable modest growth to occur without the high energy inputs forecast by the Department of Energy and the CEGB. This removes the need for a major nuclear power programme, which in any case is now becoming increasingly suspect on purely economic grounds. On thermodynamic grounds alone it is wiser to save a kilowatt than to supply an extra one, and as energy consultant Amory Lovins has said, 'Instead of opening the bath taps even wider, it's better to put the plug in'.

In an important article which promoted the Engineering Responsibility Forum, John Endersby⁶ discusses the ills of contemporary industrial society and makes some proposals for their improvement. He quotes from an earlier book by Meredith

Thring⁷: "Very many thoughtful people in positions of responsibility, including British MPs, senior civil servants, teachers and business executives are well aware that society is heading for disaster, but are forced to stifle their subversive thoughts since their job is to uphold the status quo". Professor Thring has proposed a Hippocratic Oath for engineers in which they vow to use their professional skills only on projects which will better mankind. This immediately involves a value judgement by the engineer on what constitutes betterment and which sectors of mankind are to be bettered, since conflicting interests between the sectors involved is usual. Professor Thring has also considered the long-term implication of energy policy⁸: "One is inevitably forced to the conclusion that an essential condition for our grandchildren's life is that the rich countries bring their energy consumption per capita down to about the present world average figure over the next 30 years". This means a reduction from about 5 kW per head towards 500 W per head. As Thring says, "What is right for our grandchildren is always uneconomic and almost always impolitic".

In their pursuit of the chimera of economic growth, politicians of both left and right maintain a 'conspiracy of silence' about these issues. Their short-term efforts to relieve the symptoms have been described as an obsessive re-arrangement of the deck chairs of the Titanic.

British industry

When we look at British industry it is apparent that business as usual in the 1960s sense will not come again. By 1980 the industrial sector produced only 40% of the total goods and services. But the growing service sector cannot make good the loss of industrial export markets and the rise in imports, especially since we still import nearly half our food. Nor is a transition to a 'post-industrial society' likely to be the panacea for our ills.

Although the recession has produced massive unemployment among unskilled workers, the UK policy of capital-intensive energy growth has continued. The alternative would be a switch to a policy of energy and resource conservation which would be labour-intensive, and which could involve repair of goods which were made to last. An EEC study in 1977 on the potential for substituting manpower for energy showed that this change would provide more than enough jobs to compensate for those lost in the manufacturing industries.

Small firms are known to be a source of new jobs but the recession has meant that many small businesses have gone bankrupt. The now discredited dogma of the 1960s was that the merging of smaller firms into industrial giants was the way to produce goods efficiently. The age-old wisdom that about 500 people was the appropriate number for any corporate enterprise such as a school, an army battalion or a factory was ignored. In many large businesses it was found that what was

saved in economies of scale was more than lost socially by poor industrial relations. In contrast to the poor record of large firms is the fine innovative record of small technology-based firms. These have had the double benefit of small size and a high proportion of engineers among their managers.

The rest of British industry does not share this happy state. The editorial in *Electronics and Power* (journal of the IEE) of July 1978 pointed out: "One of the more enduring myths about British industry is that British goods are best, and that it is only their high prices, caused by low productivity, which makes them hard to sell. In fact there is growing amount of evidence that the reverse is true, and that, compared with the products of the other industrial nations, British goods are poor value and sell only because the depressed state of the British economy makes them cheap". This attempt to compete by low price instead of by quality may reflect the low esteem which the British establishment has for engineering skills as opposed to financial acumen. The engineer is still seen as the man with grease under his fingernails. The Finniston Report⁹ commented: "Although Britain is a nation rich in creative talent, it has been weak in the commercial realisation of its own engineering-based innovations or in the adoption of innovations originating elsewhere". The Report also criticized UK engineering education. The prestigious engineering schools of the Continent, such as the German Technische Hochschule, are based on the 'Technik' philosophy which involves the practical application of knowledge and the synthesis of technical, human and commercial factors. By contrast, in the UK engineering is treated as a branch of applied science. "This militates against an effective marriage between the theory and application and fails to give students a sufficiently wide outlook. In consequence, employers have often taken the attitude that few engineers are properly equipped to take on broader managerial responsibilities and have employed them instead as providers of technical services, thereby closing the vicious circle".

British politics

It must be admitted that the regeneration of industry and indeed the regeneration of national life is not helped by the British political establishment. The editorial in *Electronics and Power* of July 1979 stated: "The idea that increased energy consumption is a necessary condition of any increase in overall wellbeing, seems, in spite of all the evidence against it, to be an unchallengeable assumption as far as many of our policy makers are concerned. Indeed, there is a strong tendency to regard as politically suspect all those, no matter how respectable, who promote the opposite view". This can go to ridiculous extremes, as when the relatively respectable and certainly for from subversive conservation group Friends of the Earth are called Friends of the Kremlin. This is not to deny the fact that since the environmen-

tal movement cuts right across the political spectrum its fringes include some neo-Marxists, who, like homeless fleas, leapt into environmentalism when the corpse of sociology grew cold.

Politicians like a single solution to their problems, such as the current enthusiasm for nuclear power to solve the energy problem and for the Trident missile to solve the defence problem. Engineers know that there is never a single solution to a problem, only an optimal solution that may change with time and circumstance. Since the political decision-making process is secret, there are no checks and balances operating to help arrive at an optimal solution and to monitor the process afterwards. The British tradition of governmental secrecy, which Lord Croham, until recently Britain's top civil servant, describes as "The most secretive administrative system in the Western World", must be a major reason for the persistent backing of losers in high technology. Two notorious examples are Concorde and the AGR, which will produce a net loss of £2000 million each, according to Professor David Henderson. Part of the blame must lie with the engineers concerned who have been able to ride their hobbyhorses at the taxpayers' expense and did not have to defend their case in open debate with their peers, as occurs in 'advocacy planning' in the USA.

A recent report from the National Consumer Council¹⁰ points out that official secrecy in Britain conceals far more than that small sector of government concerned with national security. The operation of central government and nationalized industry is hidden from those whom the official view seems to consider the most subversive group of all - the citizens of this country. Secrecy, combined with the lobbying of vested interests, tends to produce faulty decisions, especially in high-technology projects with long lead times. This is not because the politicians and their senior civil servants are venal or incompetent; they may well be talented and dedicated. Part of the problem is that the whole system is too big, and so remedies must perforce be political in nature. Among those which have been suggested are regional devolution to overcome the 'diseconomies' of scale, proportional representation to break the stranglehold of a two-party system where the two sides of the House of Commons echo the two conflicting sides of industry, and, thirdly, a freedom of information act on the lines of that in Sweden or the USA to promote genuine as opposed to purported open government. Industrial deadlock could be broken by some genuine form of worker participation. Both the CBI and the TUC are opposed to industrial democracy of the type which works so well in West Germany, and which ironically was forced on the Germans by the British occupying power.

These political remedies are not so far removed from the proposals of Endersby and Thring. In case these two engineers should be thought of as crying in a wilderness otherwise only inhabited by

middle class self-sufficiency freaks, the work of the Council for Science and Society should be mentioned. The members of the Council, founded in 1973, include engineers such as Sir Monty Finniston, Sir Bernard Lovell and, prior to his death in 1979, Professor Dennis Gabor, in company with other distinguished individuals from the universities, management and the trade unions. The Council has produced several reports, including one on the problem of monitoring large scale technologies¹¹, such as nuclear power, aerospace and the chemical industry, which mention the need to protect 'whistle blowers'. At present in the UK these tend to be people already at the top of their professions or who have retired; engineers like Sir Martin Ryle and Sir Kevin Spencer, scientists like Professor Joseph Rotblat and Professor Patricia Lindop. More recently, the Council has produced a report which tackles the issues involved in questions like 'Are we on the brink of the post-industrial society, a world of leisure and information technology?'¹² Such questions tend to mask the real issues which are inevitably political:

Who is going to control the new technology, for what purposes will it be used, and who will benefit?

The essentially middle-of-the-road conclusions of the Report reject three possible scenarios, these being only slight change from the present situation, or a shift of 90% of the work force into service industries, or total breakdown of society (as a result of high unemployment, and leading to a dictatorship of left or right). The Report recommends further study of four areas of changing concepts to work, these being the producer co-operatives of Mondragon in Northern Spain, trade union participation in planning in Scandinavia, the Lucas Aerospace shop stewards 'Alternative Corporate Plan', and full employment for life provided by certain large Japanese companies. The Japanese experience is often thought to be inappropriate to the UK due to racial and cultural differences. But Japanese subsidiaries in the West, including the UK, which use local line managers and labour do as well as the parent companies in Japan. Their industrial relations are far superior to most UK companies.

Significantly, the Report also concludes that until we fully reject the exploitation and inhumanity of the Industrial Revolution and root out the philosophical principles to which it gave birth, we will not recover our energy and confidence. WWW

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BBC ENGINEERING, 1922 ONWARD

November 14th 1982 sees the 60th anniversary of the BBC's first broadcast Although there is only a psychological magic about round-number anniversaries, there is perhaps justification for a look back over the past decades and a look forward to those in store.

The essence of broadcasting is, of course, the programmes. But, as in any industry, production and distribution is founded on engineering; and the past 60 years have seen a very fruitful relationship between engineering and programme developments, each offering challenges and opportunities to the other.

The history of BBC engineering can fairly be called a success story. In case this sounds immodest, coming from a BBC pen, I would say that the ingredients of success were there from the beginning and that failure to exploit these would have been a surprising waste of opportunities. Let us examine what these initial ingredients were.

Broadcasting was one of the first major users of the brand new technology of electronics. It was a technology which clearly had great potential for development and it was therefore attractive to resourceful and inventive engineers.

Broadcasting in the UK was founded on

by Pat Leggatt

public service ideals and with the philosophy of aiming for the highest achievable standards, both in programme and engineering terms. This philosophy meets with general public approval, so that engineers and others in broadcasting feel that their best efforts are appreciated and fulfil a worthwhile social need.

The product (that is the programmes) can be of such variety as to suit all tastes for much of the time and is therefore in continuing and increasing demand. Engineering developments contribute directly to more and better programmes, and hence receive general support.

The benefits of good engineering have always been recognized within the BBC and financial investment has been adequate to secure continuing expansion and improvement. The required scale of investment, in terms of cost per head of the audience, is not very large and it has been possible, therefore, to direct engineering developments towards high qual-

ity rather than the lowest cost. So BBC engineering started healthily, has grown healthily and seems set for healthy maturity.

Wireless before broadcasting

Wireless communication originated in the 1880's with the experiments of Hughes and Hertz, based on the earlier theoretical studies of Clerk Maxwell. Before the close of the nineteenth century, Marconi had established himself in England and was doing imaginative work to increase the reliability and range of the new medium; he succeeded in transmitting signals across the Atlantic in 1901.

For this early work, spark transmitters were the norm and the detector usually employed was the coherer, in which metal filings were induced to 'cohere' under the influence of incoming radiation and hence provide a low-resistance current path for a bell or relay. Being an on-off device, the coherer could be used only for digital signals, such as Morse code.

In the early 1900s attention was turned to wireless transmission of telephony. For

Mr Leggatt is Head of Engineering Information

this a continuous carrier wave was required and the first systems employed modulated high-frequency alternators and electric arcs. Recognizable speech was transmitted by these means, but the quality must have fallen well short of today's standards.

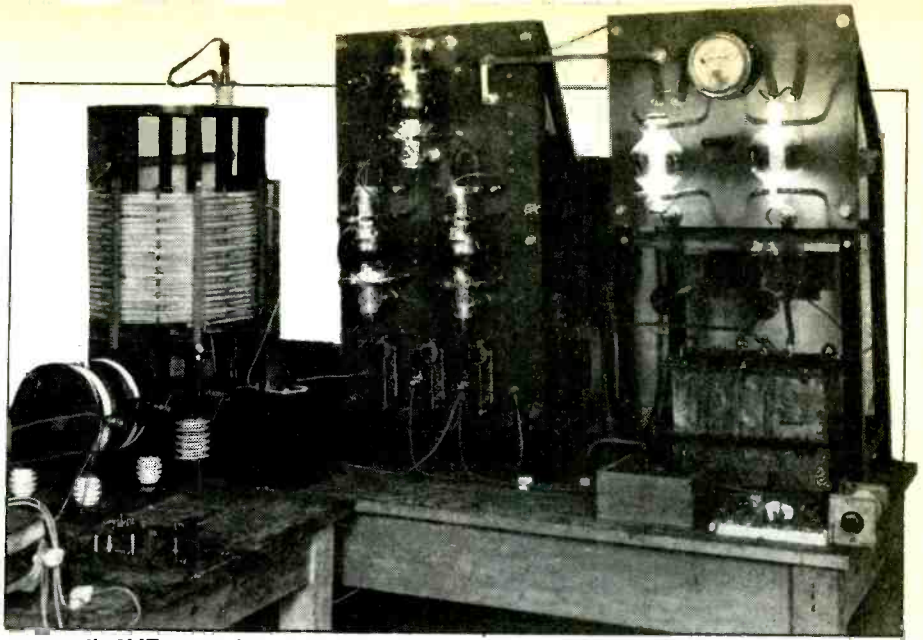
Shortly before World War 1, the triode valve, developed from Lee de Forest's Audion, began to be used for generation of continuous carrier waves. The relatively pure waveform produced, and the comparative ease of modulating such a source with speech signals, opened the way to wireless speech transmissions of reasonable quality. Receivers during this period employed crystal detectors, or Marconi's magnetic detector, in which the changing magnetic state of an endless loop of soft-iron wire served to demodulate incoming signals. Wireless was, of course, very largely used as a means of communicating with ships at sea and the magnetic detector proved far more mechanically stable than the more sensitive crystal detectors, whose cat's whiskers were easily jolted out of adjustment by the rolling and pitching of a ship.

The military necessities of the 1914-18 war gave a considerable boost to wireless development. Engineers fully appreciated the virtues of the valve and the French 'R' valve in particular was an outstanding development in terms of performance and stability, together with the Marconi 'Q' valve. The widespread use of valves in transmitters and receivers, and the development of tuned-circuit arrangements of reasonably good sensitivity, made usable wireless equipment available on a mass production basis.

Start of broadcasting

After the war, a lot of military wireless equipment and components came on the general surplus market and was eagerly bought up by amateur enthusiasts keen to try the intriguing new technology for themselves. Many people built crystal or valve receivers, but of course there was not much of interest for them to receive. The regular time signals (in Morse) from the Eiffel Tower had been transmitted since 1909, and were a useful facility for checking that a receiver was actually working: but they were of limited entertainment value.

Realising that there was a gap to be filled, an enterprising Dutchman commenced in 1919 a regular schedule of Sunday evening transmissions of music and speech which became known as the 'Hague Concerts'. These were much welcomed by listeners in the UK, as well as in Europe, and indeed were financed for a time by British listeners, following an appeal by *Wireless World*, and by contributions from the *Daily Mail*. The entertainment potential of broadcasting was appreciated also by UK industry: 1920 saw the Dame Nellie Melba recital from the Marconi transmitter at Chelmsford, followed in 1922 by the Marconi stations 2MT at Writtle, near Chelmsford, and 2LO in London. Also in 1922, two other industrial companies set up broadcasting facilities — Metropolitan



Marconi's 2MT transmitter at Writtle in 1922.

Vickers in Manchester and the Western Electric Company in Birmingham.

Thus it came about by 1922 that a number of organizations had seen and acted on the potentialities of entertainment broadcasting, primarily as a necessary aid to establishing a market for receivers. Many of these were eager to jump on the band-wagon and the time had come for some co-ordination and regulation.

Formation of the BBC

To bring order out of threatening chaos, the Postmaster General, who had refused to license any more independent stations, told those manufacturers wishing to be involved to get together to form a single company for broadcasting. Agreement was

reached at a meeting at the Institution of Electrical Engineers at Savoy Hill, London and the British Broadcasting Company was formed. Six large manufacturers combined in this venture, Marconi's, Metrovick, Western Electric, GEC, BTH and the Radio Communication Company, with John Reith as the General Manager.

The new BBC took over existing studios and transmitters, hitherto operated by the individual manufacturers. Its first broadcast was from the 2LO station in London on 14 November, 1922, with 5IT in Birmingham and 2ZY in Manchester on the following day.

The BBC remained a commercial company until 1 January 1927 when it was reconstituted with a Royal charter as the British Broadcasting Corporation.

Early engineering

Apart from operating the existing studios and transmitters, the first task of the Engineering Department was to spread coverage over the country. By 1924 there were nine main stations and eleven relay stations. Public interest and demand was very buoyant, and in 1925 there were nearly a million licence payers and no doubt many unlicensed listeners.

Although the main engineering efforts after the start of broadcasting were directed to such basic necessities as providing acceptable quality from the studios and distributing programmes as widely as possible throughout the country, there was time too for more innovative work. In 1925, for example, transmitters in London and Daventry were paired for an experimental transmission of stereo sound from an operatic performance, although it was to be forty years before these efforts bore final fruit in the form of regular stereo programme transmissions.

Expansion of radio. At the beginning, the various stations in different parts of the country transmitted their own individual programmes from their own studios. This was indeed local radio, one more thing in

broadcasting that is not as new as we may think today. It was not long before a 'simultaneous broadcast' system of lines was established, enabling all transmitters to radiate a common programme as a network when required. Soon after this, a high-power, long-wave station, 5XX, was built at Daventry, giving coverage of much of the country and giving listeners a national alternative to the regional programmes from the existing stations.

Another important step forward was taken with the opening, in 1932, of the Empire Service, broadcasting to the world on short waves. One of the first broadcasts in this service was the Christmas message from King George V on 25th December 1932.

The higher-power main transmitters were obtained from commercial suppliers, but no manufacturer could offer low-power equipment for the relay stations. Accordingly, these were designed in the newly-formed Development Section of the BBC Engineering Department. Later, they designed high-power, 50 kW transmitters, again because none were available from commercial sources.



Testing for the 1937 Coronation television transmissions from Apsley Gate.

The first broadcasting engineers had to be resourceful men. Not only were they continually breaking fresh ground on the technical front, but those operating the transmitters and studios were often called upon to fulfil announcer duties and even to act as 'uncles' in the children's programmes. What with this, and the fact that the first chief engineer Peter Eckersley had himself provided much of the entertainment on the original 2MT programmes, one wonders why it has since become necessary to have an army of producers, writers and performers to put the programmes across: perhaps they should have left it to the engineers!

The other important task for engineers in early days was to improve the quality of sound from the studios. Microphones needed much attention and a lot of co-operation between the BBC and industry was devoted to improvements over the original carbon granule types. One of the better new developments was the Magnetophone from the Marconi company. This gave a considerable improvement in quality, although requiring very skilled personal attention in that the voice coil was attached by pieces of cotton wool impregnated with vaseline. If the studios became too warm, the vaseline melted and more had to be applied: perhaps this was what gave rise to a skilled operator becoming known as 'dab hand'.

Studio acoustic plays a vital part in determining transmitted sound quality. Virtually nothing was known of these techniques when broadcasting began, and much early research effort was devoted to the subject. Many of the fundamental principles were established at this time, and BBC Research Department maintains a strong and continuing effort in this field at the present day.

For the first eight years of the BBC's existence, all programmes were broadcast

live. Although some programmes were recorded on disc by commercial recording companies for special purposes, programme production and scheduling suffered from the very severe handicap that no operational recording apparatus was available. Although the magnetic tape recording seems now to be the modern successor to disc, it was a magnetic system which was first used within the BBC. This was the Blattnerphone, using steel tape as a medium, which was introduced in 1930. It was five years later, in 1935, that disc recording was first employed, supplemented in 1936 by the Philips-Miller mechanical (not photographic) sound-on-film system.

From the early 1930's, then, all the fundamental ingredients for broadcasting were there: studio and outside broadcast origination equipment of acceptable quality; recording systems; and increasingly country-wide and world-wide transmitter networks. From then on, the story of radio up to the present day is one of improvement, expansion and sophistication. One should mention highlights such as the enormous improvements in audio quality in all parts of the chain, from studio acoustics to loudspeakers; the introduction of v.h.f. and stereo; the expansion of programme networks at home and overseas and the start of local radio; the use of digital programme links between studio and transmitter; and the start of digital sound recording. All these things represent 'very much more' and 'very much better', but all rest on the foundations completed by 1930.

Television

The first BBC transmissions of television took place in 1926, when experimental broadcasts of pictures from Baird's 30-line apparatus were carried by the 2LO transmitter. There were further tests in

succeeding years and in 1932 the BBC set up a 30-line television studio in the newly built Broadcasting House.

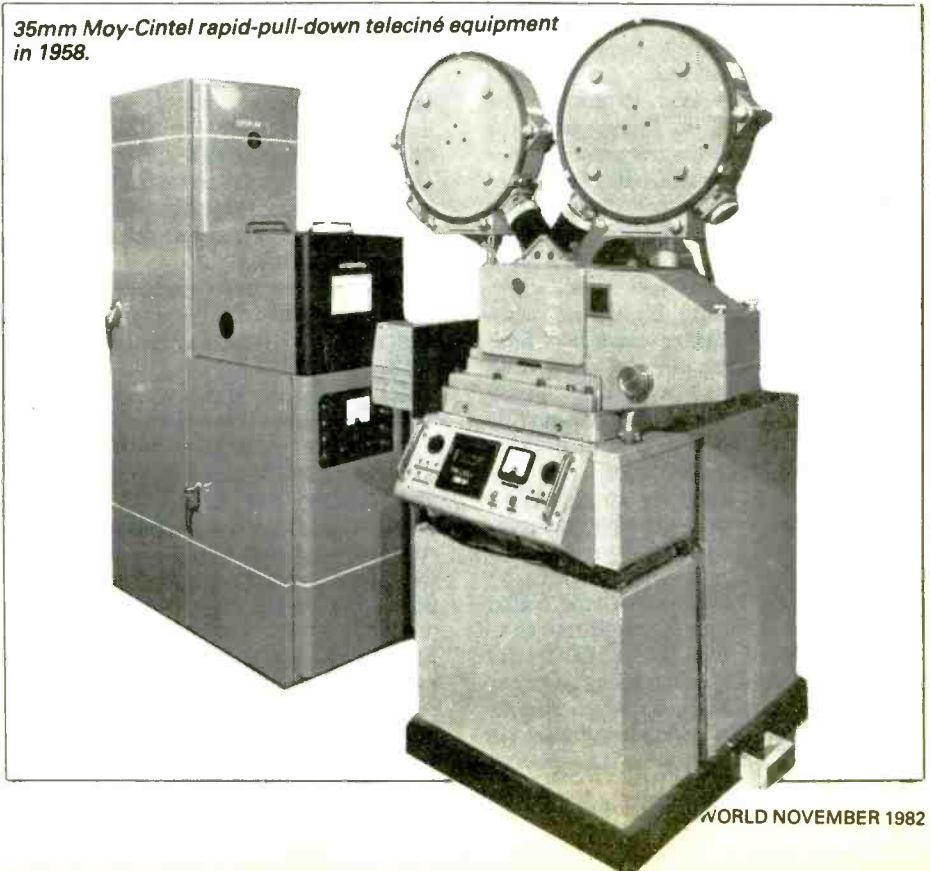
A rather different form of 'television' was experimentally transmitted in 1928. This was the Fultograph slow-scan, still-picture system, wherein radio signals from a medium wave transmitter actuated a facsimile paper printer. Recognizable pictures could be reproduced at the rate of about one every five minutes, but the system created little public enthusiasm.

During the 1930's, Baird up-graded his system to 90, 120 and 180 lines. In 1938 the BBC set up a purpose-built television studio and transmitter at Alexandra Palace, including Baird equipment, now operating on 240 lines. Also installed at Alexandra Palace was 405-line equipment from the Marconi-EMI company. This was an entirely electronic system, as opposed to Baird's electro-mechanical devices, and side-by-side trials revealed it to be much superior. Accordingly, after a few weeks of alternate transmissions by the Baird and EMI systems, the former was abandoned and transmissions from January 1937 continued on the EMI system alone.

The engineers and the programme makers quickly learnt the potentialities and limitations of the equipment; and quickly built up a body of increasingly sophisticated production techniques. In May 1937 quite comprehensive outside broadcast coverage was given to the Coronation of King George VI, a very ambitious venture at that early stage in television history.

Expansion of television. During the 1939-45 war, the frequency requirements of radar had to override those of television, and the service was closed down for the duration. It opened again in June 1946, in time to cover the Victory Parade on 8 June: the BBC television service was the first in

35mm Moy-Cintel rapid-pull-down teleciné equipment in 1958.



Europe to re-open after the war. In 1946 the television service had only the two studios at Alexandra Palace and two o.b. units. The one transmitter covered only the London and Home Counties area and there were little more than 20,000 viewers.

As had earlier been the case with radio, television suffered very much from the lack of any recording systems. Much research and development effort was applied to the problem and a workable system of recording television pictures on film was in use tentatively by the end of 1947, with an improved version being in regular service in 1949.

The scene was then set for the big expansion of television which the public wanted. Television transmitter coverage was extended to the major regional population centres and increasingly into more remote areas of the country. New studios were established, first at Lime Grove in West London, later in the purpose-built Television Centre and in numerous regional cities. Outside broadcast equipment and operations multiplied, taking events from anywhere in the country and even-

tually from overseas. Great improvements were made in the quality and sophistication of programme origination equipment, including of course the introduction of magnetic video tape recording which freed programme makers from so many shackles of location and time scheduling. Ever-extending links, including satellites, gave comprehensive national and international programme distribution and exchange, with standards converters of continually-improving quality.

Particularly notable were the start of the competitive commercial television service in 1955; and the second BBC programme in 1964, coincident with the start of 625-line television in the u.h.f. band. The introduction of colour on BBC2 in 1967, the first colour service in Europe, was perhaps the biggest single engineering change since television began.

Teletext, offering an entirely new information service riding on the back of the television signal, started in 1974 and heralded the first real public availability of the information technology which is so much in the news today.

throughout the country, often in very small communities, and it has so far taken about 600 television transmitters to achieve 99% coverage. Further relay stations are being provided for communities down to 500 people, and in the mid-1980's groups as small as 200 will be catered for. This television transmitter development programme is handled by the BBC and the IBA as a joint project and represents a major continuing effort over many years. Only eleven groups of four channels are available in the u.h.f. broadcasting bands and very elaborate planning is needed to enable the hundreds of stations to be operated without mutual interference. BBC Research Department have built up a computer-based frequency-planning system, taking account of geographical and topographical features, which enables maximum use to be made of these scarce frequency resources.

In sound radio, the m.f./l.f. bands are increasingly overcrowded and subject to foreign interference. The BBC is effecting marginal improvements here and there, but in general it is not possible to do anything very significant and it is to v.h.f. radio that major development efforts are directed. Current work includes the addition of a vertically-polarized signal to the existing horizontally-polarized transmissions, offering considerable benefit to users of portable and car radios with vertical rod aerials. Another important project is the continuing spread of stereo transmission throughout the country, progress on this being determined primarily by availability of digital audio p.c.m. links to the appropriate transmitters.

But the prime requirement for development of v.h.f. radio is availability of more frequency channels in the v.h.f. Band II. Without these it is not possible to provide the additional networks to avoid the current necessity for sharing of a v.h.f. channel by Radio 1 and Radio 2, by Radio 4 and educational programmes, and to provide Radio 4 v.h.f. coverage in the national regions of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Furthermore, we need additional frequencies to accommodate about 100 relay transmitters, which are needed to fill the gaps in existing v.h.f. coverage.

The v.h.f. Band II is, by international agreement, to be extended up to 108 MHz for broadcasting use, but the Home Office timetable for re-locating the emergency and mobile services using the upper part of the band at present is disappointingly slow. It appears that real progress on v.h.f. coverage is going to have to wait until 1990 or thereabouts.

So our 60 years have brought us to a very satisfactory state of studio and o.b. origination quality and facilities, although improvements and refinements will, of course, continue; but availability of television and radio services to all the public is by no means complete and much work remains to be done to improve this.

The first priority of BBC engineering in 1922 was to extend coverage and, while enormous progress has been made, it remains a priority today.

Broadcast engineering today

So where are we now after 60 years of broadcast engineering? On the programme production front I would say that we have reached the point where engineering does not seriously limit the range and nature of programme making. In radio and television studios, and in outside broadcasts, producers have nearly all the technical facilities they need, with very satisfactory quality and reliability, to give their creative ideas full scope.

Programme making is now constrained more by limitation of resources. There may not be enough studios, o.b. units, tape recorders and the like to satisfy all programme demands, but this of course comes down to economics. In the end it is the consumer who has to pay for the equipment, plus of course the artists' fees and the non-engineering costs, and somewhere there are economic, social and political limits to the overall cost of broadcasting.

While programme-origination facilities may have reached a very acceptable state of development, the same cannot be said of programme distribution. Here there is still much engineering work to be done, even before we start to consider the new satellite

and cable systems which the near future holds in store.

The u.h.f. television networks today cover 99% of the population of the United Kingdom and v.h.f. radio networks cover 97% (or 95% in stereo). M.f./l.f. radio networks provide lower percentage coverages, dropping appreciably lower still after dark. The television and v.h.f. radio percentage coverage in the upper nineties may seem acceptable at first sight, but it must be remembered that every 1% of the population not covered represents half a million people.

It is a source of frustration and distress to transmitter network planning that the half million people unserved with television, for example, refuse to move together into one convenient mass. They are, of course, distributed



U.h.f. television relay station at Ferndale in S. Wales.

The future

It is fashionable nowadays to talk of 'the technological revolution'. The term has become a cliché which all decent men now avoid, but it cannot be denied that it is in some senses a true one.

Certainly, there are technological developments now in progress which will profoundly change the broadcasting scene. There will not be dramatic technological revolution — there never has been one — but in the next few years we shall all become increasingly aware of major changes and new opportunities.

Wider choice

The first and the most publicly obvious area of development will be the provision of additional programme channels. In television, the start of the 4th channel (ITV's second programme) is upon us and this will complete the exploitation of terrestrial broadcasting in the u.h.f. Bands IV and V. The obsolete 405-line television services in the v.h.f. Bands I and III are in process of being closed down and it is possible, although not yet decided*, for Band III to be re-engineered to provide a fifth 625-line television network, perhaps on a regional basis. No other v.h.f. or u.h.f. spectrum is allocated for television broadcasting, so that four television programme networks with the possibility of a fifth will be the long-term limit of terrestrial transmission. Provision of these additional channels represents 'more of the same' rather than any technological innovation.

On a different level (literally!) is the introduction of direct broadcasting by satellite (d.b.s.). Satellite reception on a domestic basis has indeed been made feasible by recent technological advances, although these are refinements of techniques already used in the communications field rather than a current new development. With most other European countries, the UK has been allocated five d.b.s. channels in the 12 GHz band and the first two of

*But see interim report of Merriman Inquiry, News

BBC satellite up-link terminal coupled to standard radio-link van.



Prototype dish for satellite television broadcasts.

these will be made available for two new BBC programme services from 1986. The remaining three UK d.b.s. channels will no doubt be allotted in future years. The year 1986 will therefore see six broadcasting television programme channels in the UK, with the possibility of the total rising to ten in future years.

The number of television programmes available could increase even further as the proposed wide-band cable systems come into operation. In theory at least, a wide-band cable system could carry thirty or forty television channels and to this can be added the choice of programmes available in the homes of people equipped with video-cassette or disc players. As one final tit-bit, it will be possible for some satellite receiver owners who are willing to spend a bit more money to receive programmes from foreign satellites in addition to those of the UK.

Quality improvements

Improvement of the technical quality of vision and sound has been a continuing

process since broadcasting began. But there are now more opportunities for particular advances stemming from the "technical (r)evolution".

Satellite broadcasting, for example, offers such advancement opportunities. The effective video bandwidth which can be modulated onto a 27MHz satellite channel is, at about 10MHz, appreciably wider than the 5.5MHz offered by existing terrestrial transmissions; and this wider bandwidth can readily be exploited to remove some of the defects of the present PAL signals. Conventional PAL employs ingenious interleaving of the brightness (luminance) and the colour (chrominance) components of the signal, but exhibits some degree of mutual interference between luminance and chrominance, resulting in the flashes of false colour on finely detailed patterns (cross chrominance) and moving dot patterns on sharp edges (cross luminance). Both these cross effects are minimized by restricting the luminance bandwidth of the PAL signals in the receiver, but this results in limited picture definition and leaves some of the cross effects still apparent.

The wider satellite bandwidth will enable us to transmit luminance and chrominance signals separately, so that cross effects are eliminated without the need to restrict luminance bandwidth. The Research Department has evolved a system known as Extended PAL to achieve this, offering satellite pictures of full 5.5 MHz resolution with no cross colour or cross luminance distortions. With Extended PAL transmissions, existing receivers could still be used and would enjoy freedom from cross colour and cross luminance; while a new receiver, designed to exploit Extended PAL to the full and embodying a high-resolution cathode-ray tube display, would give the additional benefit of appreciably sharper pictures.

The IBA has also devised a system to exploit video satellite bandwidths. Known as Multiplexed Analogue Components

(MAC), the IBA system also offers freedom from cross colour and cross luminance, although in the form proposed there would be no significant improvement in picture definition.

Both Extended PAL and MAC provide separate transmission and reception of luminance and chrominance components. Given this, modern digital storage and signal-processing techniques offer the possibility of standards conversion within the receiver at a cost which would be acceptable in a domestic product. The implication of this is that picture signals, although still transmitted in 625 line 50 field/s form, could be converted in the receiver and displayed on a higher standard with, say, 1250 lines or 100 field/s or both. Although there would be no more information transmitted, a display with much less visible line structure and free from flicker could be subjectively far more pleasing. Considerable research effort has gone into these possibilities, with the hope that a large, bright, high resolution display device will appear in due course to do justice to such advances.

The longer-term goal is, of course, true high-definition television (h.d.t.v.) whose picture would be actually generated and transmitted on high line and field rates and would thus genuinely carry more information. The difficulty is that real h.d.t.v. would require a bandwidth of some 30 MHz and is thus beyond the capacity of currently-planned satellite channels in the 12 GHz band, unless it could be accepted that two or three 12 GHz channels could be employed for a single h.d.t.v. signal: but this seems an uneconomically lavish use of the available spectrum.

Progress towards broadcast h.d.t.v. must be either in considerable advances in bandwidth-comparison techniques, or in the use of a higher-frequency (say 40 GHz) satellite broadcasting band where more spectrum space could be available. But such high frequencies are very susceptible to absorption by rain or snow storms, so the viability of this approach must be in doubt. The ingenuity of BBC engineers, and others, will certainly be focused on these problems in the years to come. Not only are there intriguing possibilities for improvements in picture quality, but sound signals also can be expected to show dramatic advances. A satellite broadcasting channel will accommodate, in addition to wider-bandwidth picture signals, a number of high-quality digital sound channels. BBC proposals, for which it is hoped soon to receive international agreement, envisage six such sound signals with each of the two satellite channels, of which two would form a pair for stereo sound accompanying the television picture, with the remainder affording a vehicle for high-quality stereo radio programmes.

The advent of the BBC satellite broadcasting channels in 1986, therefore, will see the first direct transmission of digital sound and the first opportunity for broadcast stereo television sound in the UK.

The BBC, some years ago, conducted experiments in the terrestrial transmission

of digital sound signals. These were not very successful due to digit corruption by multipath (reflected signal) effects and it is difficult to see how this problem could be overcome. Satellite signals are not, of course, subject to multipath distortion.

BBC investigations into the possibilities for stereophonic sound on terrestrially-transmitted television are accordingly based at present on analogue methods. On-air experiments with a dual sub-carrier analogue system are currently in hand, the critical factor to be assessed being the absence of interference to existing, monophonic, television receivers. The addition of stereo sound to terrestrial television will surely come, but is likely to be some years in development. Even when a satisfactory transmission system is agreed, a long and expensive programme of work will be needed to provide a stereo sound distribution system from the studio centres to the country-wide transmitter network.

Other forms of distribution

Distribution by wideband cable (optical fibre or co-axial) and by video disc could be free from the bandwidth restrictions which limit the capabilities of terrestrial and, to a lesser extent, satellite broadcasting. The extent and the time scale of implementation of these new media cannot at present be forecast with any certainty, but the potential is there for exploitation of

many of the ideas which are being generated by engineers with broadcast applications in mind.

Development of cable systems, in particular, leads some people to forecast the eventual demise of broadcasting. But from an engineering standpoint, cable is simply another means of programme distribution and there is no fundamental reason why broadcasting (and the BBC in particular) should depend for its existence on distribution by radiated signals. BBC engineering will adapt in the future, as in the past, to whatever technological advances are appropriate to the time and will no doubt be ready to exploit the potentialities of cable or any other distribution methods. This is not to say that the BBC is now considering setting up or operating a cable system on its own account, any more than it plans to build and launch its own satellite, but it can be expected to continue to play a significant role in the technological development of distribution systems of the future.

Programme origination

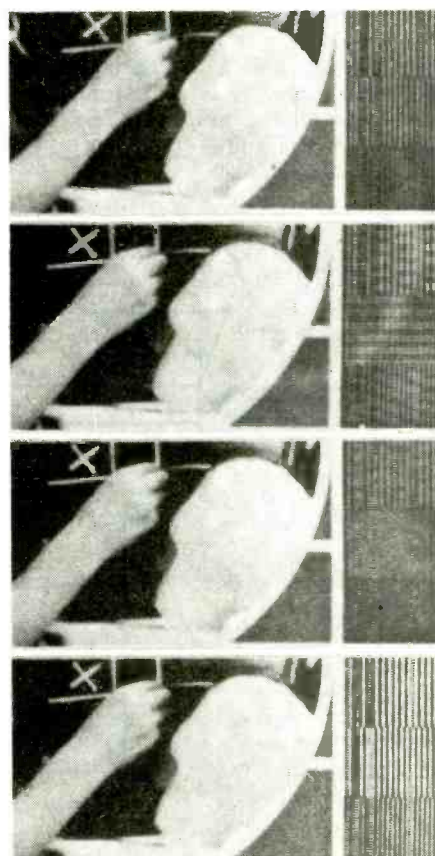
Extension and refinement of digital techniques will surely be the dominant theme in the development of studio origination equipment. BBC engineering research and development has been in the forefront of many advances in this area and will certainly continue to be so, both nationally in collaboration with British Industry and in the international sphere, where co-operation and standardization are so important.

The main advantages of digital signals and equipment are reliability and resistance to distortion. These virtues are of great importance to a large broadcasting organization, where breakdowns or signal impairment are expensive hindrances to the tightly-knit flow of programme production: but, like many virtues, they are perhaps a little unglamorous. More obviously exciting are the opportunities offered, not so much by digitization as such, but rather by the ease and economy with which digital signals can be stored and manipulated. Once a picture signal can be held in store and made available for manipulation, all sorts of possibilities present themselves in the way of special effects, graphics, standards conversion, noise reduction, removal of blemishes and programme editing. Digital storage is also fundamental to the development of information systems such as teletext and the radio-data system for identification of radio programme signals.

* * *

In the early 1920s, BBC engineering seized on the new technology of electronics and carried it forward in the broadcasting field with enthusiasm and innovation. In the early 1980s, we are once again in the fairly early stages of what is virtually a new technology, that of microelectronics and digital processing. Once again, a broad vista of new opportunities opens up before us and the next 60 years of BBC engineering promises to be as exciting as the first.

WW



Extended Pal. Top picture shows part of Test-Card F as seen in the studio. Second frame is picture as normally seen with existing equipment-distortions in the frequency bars are evident. Third picture is picture transmitted by Extended Pal but received on conventional equipment. Final frame shows result of E.Pal transmissions and E.Pal decoder.

MEMORY SYSTEMS

An introduction to the common types of memory cell and array, with their characteristics, and the application of memory to microprocessors

by L. Macari

In a computer both instructions and data are stored in various kinds of memory, whose design depends on the type of storage needed, whether it is permanent, semi-permanent or temporary, and on whether the stored information can be examined at random or in some kind of sequence. This two-part article outlines the memories most often used with microprocessors.

To illustrate the structure of a simple memory, Fig. 1(b) shows eight storage locations, each capable of storing one bit, i.e. an 8 bit memory or an 8×1 bit memory. If each cell in the memory (Fig. 1(a)) is a simple Nor gate memory, it is possible to arrange control and data lines so that the state of the data line is latched on to the memory when the \bar{W} line is low as shown in the diagram.

When eight cells are combined in a single memory circuit, some means of selecting the cell required for writing or reading must be available. A 3-line-to-8-line decoder is the simplest way to provide the necessary address lines internally from the three external address lines, each output line from the decoder selecting a single cell of the memory. The \bar{W} (write enable) and \bar{S} (device select) lines determine whether the data is being written or read and whether the circuit is selected or not.

Although there are no commercial memories with as few cells, the same principles apply to larger configurations. When the number of words stored is large, more than one decoder will be used and a row/column matrix will be used to select a particular word in the memory. As an example, the 4096×1 bit memory has 12 address lines. These are split into two 6-line-to-64-line decoders. The outputs from the two decoders will then be combined so that any two together will allow one word (in this case one cell) to be accessed.

Timing diagrams

Although it may appear to be the wrong order to look at timing diagrams for the read cycle before those of the write cycle, it is more convenient to do so because the diagram is simpler than that for the write operation. It must, therefore, be assumed that the memory has been loaded with data.

Read cycle. To access one item of data the address of the location in memory must be present as a binary pattern on the address lines, and must remain stable during the time the data is being read, as in Fig. 2. If the memory device has not previously been

selected by pulling \bar{S} low, this must now be done. If the data lines have tristate outputs they will remain at high impedance for a time t_s - the select time, after which valid data will appear on the data lines. The time between valid address and valid data is known as the access time t_a for the memory and is specified as a maximum value.

If the address is now changed, the data lines will remain steady for a time t_{HA} - the 'data-hold' time after an address change. Taking \bar{S} high causes the new and possibly changing data to remain on the data lines for a time t_d - the disable time, after which the lines will return to a high-impedance state.

Write cycle. It is usual for the 'write enable' control on a memory to be an active-

low signal, so when data is to be placed in the memory at a given address the address must be given time to settle and locate the required word in the memory. The time allowed for in Fig. 3 is known as $t_{SU(A)}$ - the address set-up time, which can be zero for some devices. After $t_{SU(A)}$, the write-enable line can be made active and must remain active for at least t_w - the smallest write-pulse width. If the memory device is not selected, SEL must go low for at least $t_{SU(S)}$ before the write-enable goes off again. The time $t_{SU(S)}$ is the set-up time for select.

If the correct data is to be placed in the chosen memory location then input data must be valid for a time $t_{SU(D)}$ before \bar{WRITE} goes high again. The data must also be held valid for a time $t_{H(D)}$ - the data-hold time, after the \bar{WRITE} signal is made inactive. (This time can also be zero.) The address must also remain valid for a time

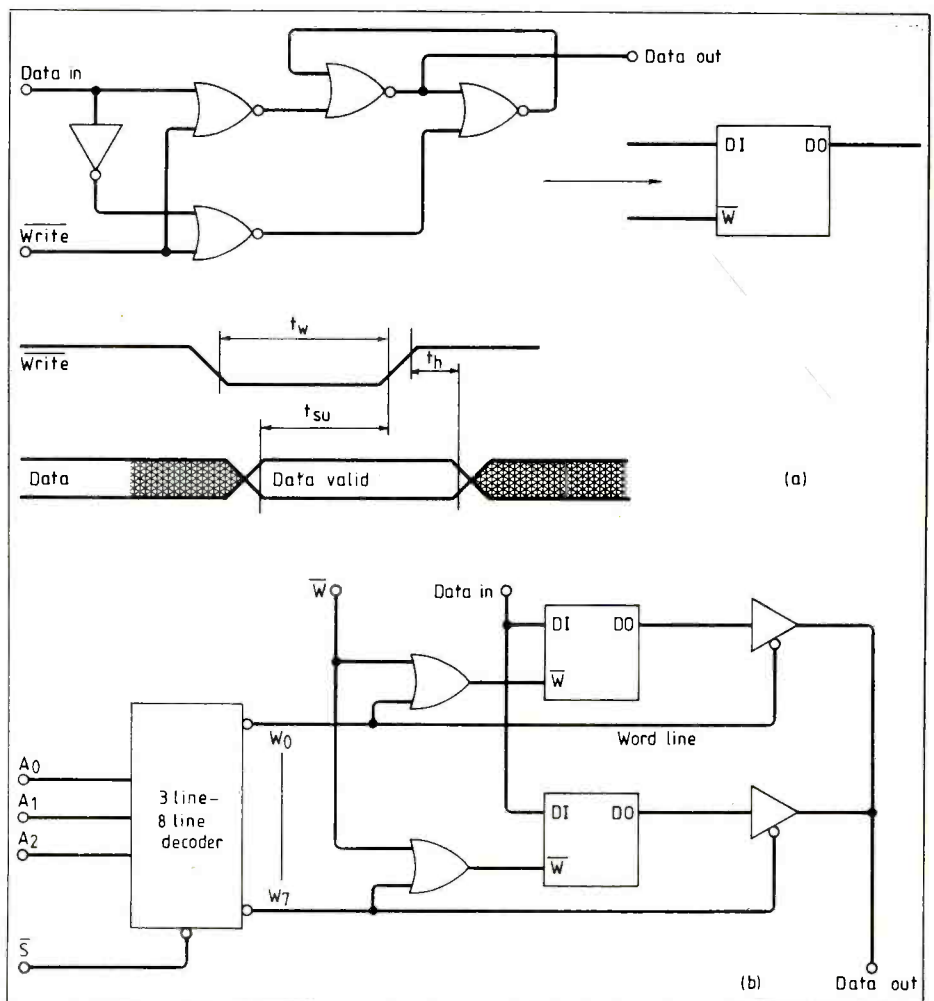


Fig. 1. A simple memory. At (a), a single cell of the memory, using Nor gates: when Write is low, data is latched in. Eight such cells are used in the 8 bit memory at (b), which is provided with a decoder, deriving eight cell addresses from three input lines. Data is always at the output. In a real memory, input and output data lines are multiplexed to give a single data line.

The author is at the Paisley College of Technology, working in the Microelectronics Educational Development Centre.

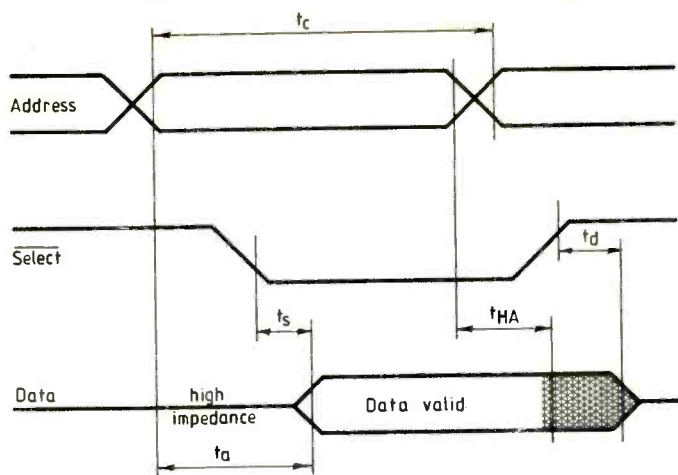


Fig. 2. Timing of a 'read' cycle of operations.

$t_{H(A)}$ - the address-hold time, after the **WRITE** is made inactive.

Some memory devices have more than one select line. In such cases, all the select lines must be in their active states for the memory read or write functions to be performed.

The terminology used here for the various time delays of the read and write cycles is not standardized, each manufacturer using different terms. What is important is that the diagrams and the significance of the various propagation times be taken account of when a memory system is to be matched to a given processor running at a particular clock frequency.

To choose a speed to suit the microprocessor and the clock rate at which it runs, it is necessary to examine the manufacturer's data to see how many clock cycles are involved in read or write operations and to choose the speed of the memory to be faster than this time.

As an example, the 8085 A-2 micropro-

Glossary

Microcomputer memories fall into a number of different categories, semiconductor and magnetic being the most common types: large computers use the same technologies for data storage. These are some of the terms used to describe memories and their operation.

Cell

A device within a memory which can store a single bit of information, e.g. a flip-flop. A memory consists of an array of cells.

Storage capacity

The total number of cells contained in the memory device, i.e. the total capacity in terms of bits.

Word

One or more cells within the memory which contain one item of data. The memory consists of a number of these units of data (usually a power of 2). Some data sheets quote the number of words and the size of the words instead of the capacity. Some memories have as few as one bit per word. Four-bit and eight-bit words are the other most common sizes of memory words.

Byte

The term used for an eight-bit word. Examples are: 4096 × 1 bit memory, which can store 4096 words of 1 bit length, and which has, therefore, capacity of 4096 bits; 1024 × 8 bit memory, storing 1024 words of 8 bit length, i.e. 1024 bytes, with a capacity of 8192; 32 × 8 bit memory, with 32 bytes of storage, i.e. 256 bits.

Address

The unique number which identifies a particular word in memory is known as the address of that word. If the memory can store 2^N words of data, there are N address lines to the device, so that each of the 2^N possible binary patterns applied to the address lines will locate a data word.

A 4096 × 1 bit memory has 12 address lines.

A 1024 × 4 bit memory has 10 address lines.

A 32 × 8 bit memory has 5 address lines.

If a memory is to be of any value, it must be possible to place data in it and at some other time examine the data. Some memories are designed so that these operations can be performed with equal ease, while others are designed for more permanent storage and the placing of data is only performed once, or at most a few times, in the memory's life.

Write operation

This is the term used to describe the placing of data in a memory and is also known as a store operation.

Read operation

This is the means whereby the information stored in the memory is obtained at the data terminals of the device, in memories where read and write operations are performed with equal ease, it is usual to have a control line to determine what operation is being performed. This signal line is usually active-low for a write operation and is labelled **W** or sometimes **R/W**.

Read and write cycle times

The cycle time is the minimum time which can be taken between successive operations of the same kind.

Random access

A memory for which the location of the data does not affect the time taken to write or read the data is known as a random-access memory.

Sequential access

If the data is stored in some sequential device, such as a shift register or magnetic tape, then access time to a particular data position depends on the position.

Read/write memory

Memory for which read and write operations are performed with equal ease. Memory known as **ram** is really read/write memory.

Read-only memory

The data in this type of memory is stored using techniques which are usually different from those used to read the data back from the memory.

- Mask programming is done at the manufacturing stage and the data storage is permanent.
- Fusible-link roms are constructed of arrays of transistors with links, which can be 'blown' by the application of suitable voltages. The blown and non-blown links constitute the 1s and 0s in the memory.
- Ultra-violet-erasable roms. This type of memory has a transparent window over the semiconductor in the i.c. package. Application of suitable voltage levels program the 1s and 0s which are then retained even when the supply is removed. When it is required to replace the data in the rom it is irradiated with u.v. light, which erases the data stored and makes it possible to write new data to the memory.
- When data is erased frequently it becomes progressively more difficult to store data in the memory.
- In electrically-erasable roms, the write operation is still a different operation, but it can be performed without removing the i.c. from the system and requires only the application of the correct voltage levels.

Core-store memory

Memory which makes use of a ferrite ring for each data cell, the direction of magnetization of the cell determining the binary state of the data stored.

Non-volatile memory

Memory which retains its data when the supply is removed (or fails) is known as non-volatile memory. Rom and core, and all magnetic memory is non-volatile. Ram can be made non-volatile by placing back-up batteries on the memory boards to provide for the event of supply failure.

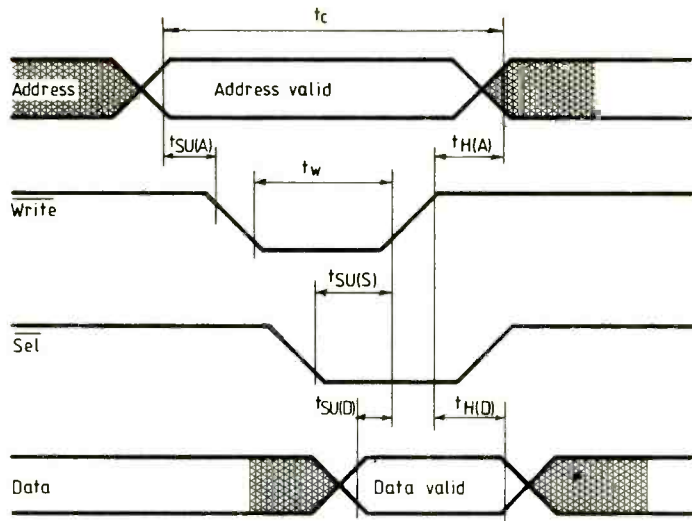


Fig. 3. 'Write' cycle timing. Terminology varies with manufacturers.

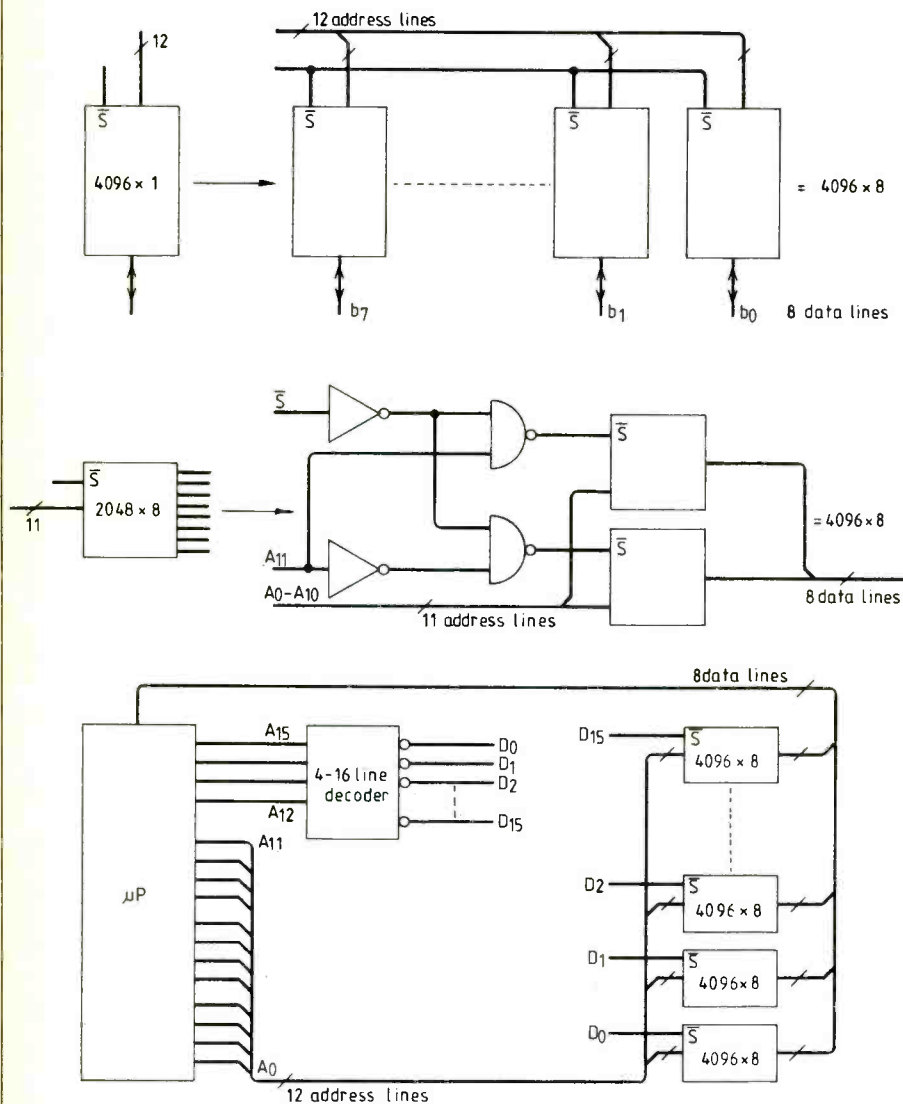


Fig. 4. Using both ram and rom with a micro. $4K \times 1$ bit ram blocks at (a) are made into a $4K \times 8$ bit memory and $2K \times 8$ bit roms are similarly arranged as in (b). All these $4K$ blocks are then connected as in (c).

cessor can use a 5 MHz internal clock. The processor expects valid data two clock cycles after the address has been set up. This is a time of 400ns, so the access time of the memory devices used with this processor must be shorter than this, 350 ns being a satisfactory figure.

Connecting to a processor

Figure 4 (a) shows, as an example, a system requiring a monitor program in rom, which is 4096 words in length and written into two $2K \times 8$ bit roms. If the rest of the 64K memory space is to be fully utilized with read/write memory, using $4K \times 1$ bit memories, how can such a system be arranged, assuming that the rom is to use the bottom 4K of memory space?

The ram chips have 12 address lines and a single data line, while the roms have 11 address lines and eight data lines. $4K \times 8$ blocks of ram can be made up by connecting the address lines of eight $4K \times 1$ bit rams in parallel and using one chip for each of the eight data positions. The $2K \times 8$ bit roms can be made into a $4K \times 8$ bit block, requiring 12 address lines, by taking the address line A_{11} to the two \bar{S} lines on the rom devices using the gating circuit shown. This can now be drawn as a $4K \times 8$ block of rom, with an active-low select line.

How are all the $4K \times 8$ blocks to be connected to the 16 address lines to use up the full amount of the memory space? First of all, parallel all the address lines on the $4K$ memory blocks in Fig. 4 (b) and connect these to the least significant 12 bits of the address bus on the processor. The four remaining address bits can now be taken to a 4-line-to-16-line decoder whose outputs are active low. Each of these outputs can be used to select a $4K$ block of memory, D_0 being used for the rom and $D_1 - D_{15}$ for the ram devices. The relevant control lines for reading and writing would then be connected to the sections of memory as required.

To be continued

Meteosat high-resolution images

Table 2 on page 62 of Mike Christie-son's August article, describing add-on circuits for his weather-satellite receiver, consists of three eight-bit words. The circuit of Fig. 5 on page 83 of the October, issue should sense these three words but is actually shown wired to sense three different words. Readers who find it difficult to work out what the correct wiring should be may obtain a photocopy of the correct diagram by sending an s.a.e. to Wireless World Meteosat, Room L303, Quadrant House, The Quadrant, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5AS. The original weather-satellite receiver, designed for Tiros N high-resolution images, was described in the November/December 1981 and January 1982 issues.

CIRCUIT IDEAS

Z80-based 2516 programmer

This simple programmer has few components, is easy to operate, and can be used to verify 2516 eproms. Originally designed for the *Wireless World* scientific computer, it can easily be modified to suit other Z80-based systems.

MREQ4 is an 8K page-select signal for address area 6000-7FFF though any other unused select signal covering at least 2K of memory can be used. When this line goes low, read line RD remains high and the monostable is triggered, resulting in a positive 50ms pulse on the chip-enable input and forcing latching of the processor data and address lines through a low wait signal.

Verification of the byte is possible since decoding and propagation delays result in the read signal going low before the memory-request signal so the monostable is inhibited. Now, the eprom output enable is active and data is gated onto the bus.

As the write signal arrives too late to produce the processor wait signal, wait is not carried out until the next cycle, i.e. an op-code fetch. Also wait inhibits the processor's dynamic ram refresh signals. To avoid spurious programming, the 25V supply to pin 21 should be applied after, and removed before, the 5V supply to pin 24 of the eprom.

Specifically for the scientific computer, bus request and wait signals should be separated, with the last-mentioned connected to +5V through a 2.2kΩ resistor and linked to a spare pin on the expansion socket. Bus request is tied to +5V using the 47kΩ resistor already on the board.

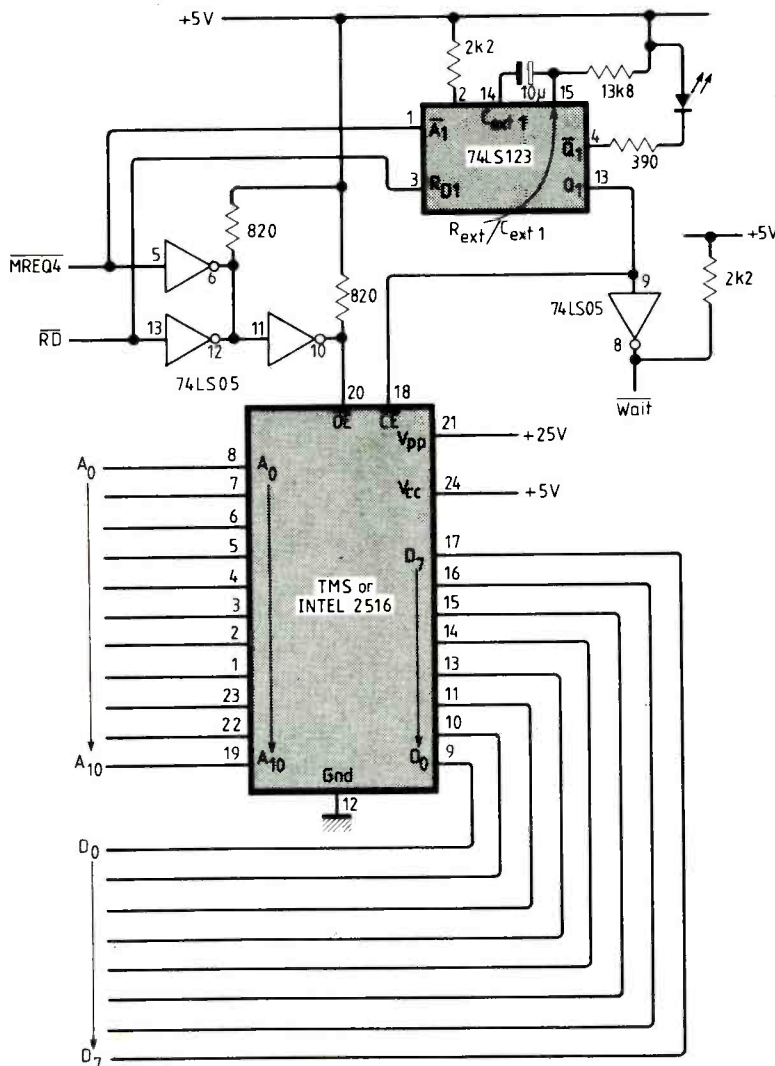
Single-byte programming is carried out using the ALT command. The routine for all 2048 locations shown takes about 100 seconds and uses the Mk III monitor.

Vincent M. Grayson
Haywards Heath

Gray-to-binary converter

Whilst the Gray to binary converter proposed by J. J. Mouton (Circuit Ideas, October 1981 issue) undoubtedly produces the correct conversion, it is inefficient in terms of component count. This is a direct result of the generation of a wealth of redundant terms, a problem which increases with the number of bits being used in the system. A ten-bit converter, for example, would require 45 exclusive-Or gates.

An alternative circuit is given in Fig. 1, which merely requires one gate fewer than the number of bits in the code. This drastic reduction in parts is possible because,



	11 00 10	LD DE,1000	;Start of ram
	21 00 60	LD HL,6000	;Start of eprom
	1A	LD A,(DE)	;Get byte
NEXT	77	LD(HL),A	;Program it
	BE	CP(HL)	;Verify
	28 04	JRZ,SUCCESS	
	CD 80 03	CALL 0380	;New-line & print HL
	C7	RST 0	;Return to monitor
SUCCESS	13	INC DE	;Next byte
	23	INC HL	;Next eprom address
	7C	LD A,H	
	FE 68	CP 68	;Finished?
	20 F0	JRNZ,NEXT	;No - continue
	C7	RST 0	;Return to monitor

Logic table for 2516

CE	OE	V _{pp}	Output	Mode
L	L	+5	D _{out}	read
H	H or L	+5	high Z	standby
pulsed L-to-H	H	+25	D _{in}	program
L	L	+25	D _{out}	program verify
L	H	+25	high Z	program inhibit

CIRCUIT IDEAS

as with And and Or gates, a combinational network using several exclusive-Or gates in cascade to increase the number of inputs also allows these inputs to be interchangeable. Considering part of J. J. Mouton's circuit, Fig. 2, a term D has been generated from input A being exclusive Ored with input B, which has further been exclusive Ored with input C. The Boolean expression for this is

$$A_{out} = \bar{A}.B.\bar{C} + A.\bar{B}.\bar{C} + \bar{A}.\bar{B}.C + A.B.C$$

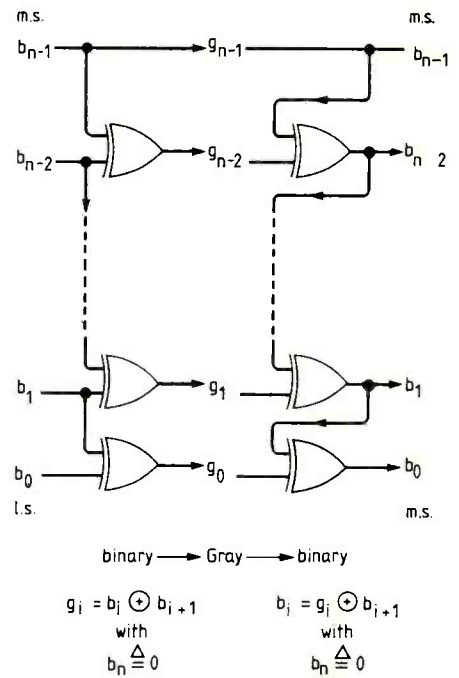
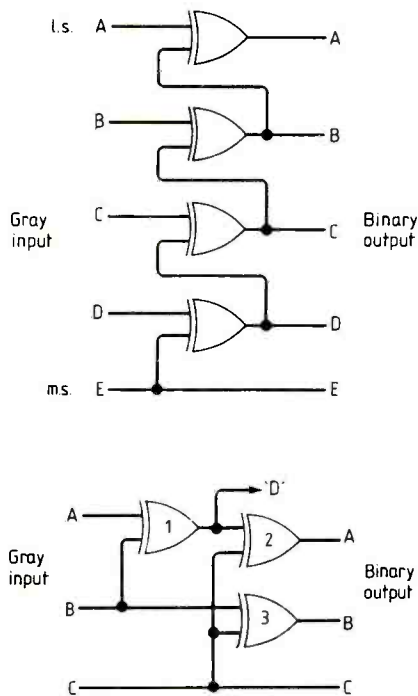
Exclusive-Or gate 1 may be eliminated by exclusive-Oring the already derived output B with the input A. The only difference is that to produce the A output, input terms A and C have been exchanged yielding the term

$$A_{out} = \bar{A}.B.\bar{C} + \bar{A}.\bar{B}.C + A.\bar{B}.\bar{C} + A.B.C$$

which is equivalent to the previous expression. This principle can be propagated through each successive bit, eliminating the redundant gates and producing the circuit of Fig. 1 which may be expanded to any number of terms.

P. Gladdish
Holbrook
Derbyshire

Here is a more elegant solution to the binary-Gray interconversion logic; if the original idea had interest, this smaller implementation presumably has greater interest. I cannot claim any originality in the design (e.g. "Switching theory in space technology", pp. 75-76, 1963). The im-



proved circuit, Fig. 3, is in the same form as the original, although this is not intended as parody.

A number in binary with n bits has a corresponding Gray code with n bits. The number zero is represented by all bits zero in both codes. When any number is incremented the binary code changes one or

more bits in a connected sequence, including the l.s.b. The corresponding Gray code changes only one bit, the one corresponding to the highest changed bit in the binary sequence. Code interconversion may be achieved as shown.

P. Kirkby
Ipswich

Automatic intensity control for leds

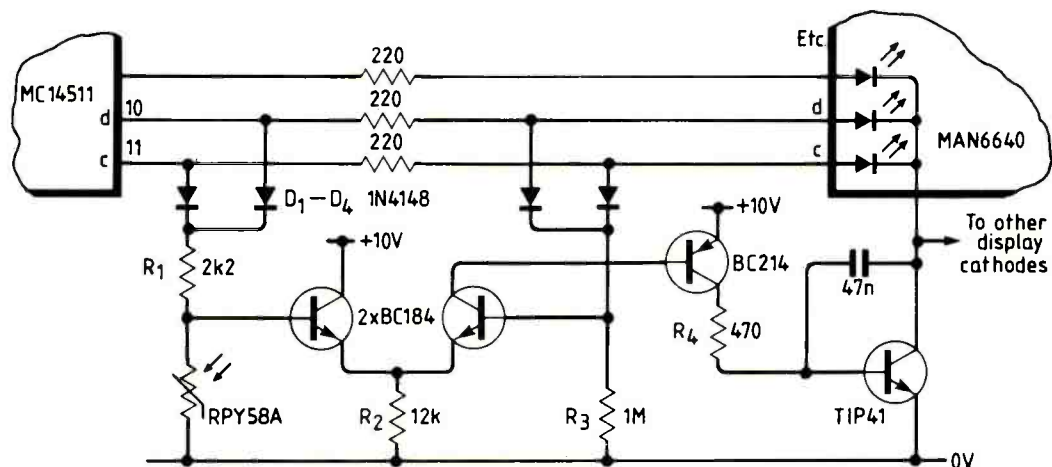
To save power and reduce glare at low ambient-light levels this simple circuit keeps luminance roughly proportional to incident illumination over more than two decades. Operation of the circuit is unnoticeable even with rapid changes of illumina-

tion and the circuit consumes no current when the display is blanked; thermal effects are imperceptible.

The original circuit running from a 10V supply produced sufficient brightness to be easily readable in bright daylight, except with direct sunlight on the display, using a high-brightness orange two-digit display. Resistor R₁ was chosen to suit the

l.d.r., used behind a mask with a 1mm² aperture. Lowering R₃ reduces the minimum led current. Due to the necessity to monitor the current through at least one led, segment c must be used in conjunction with any other except f.

M. G. Rainer
St Ives
Cambridgeshire



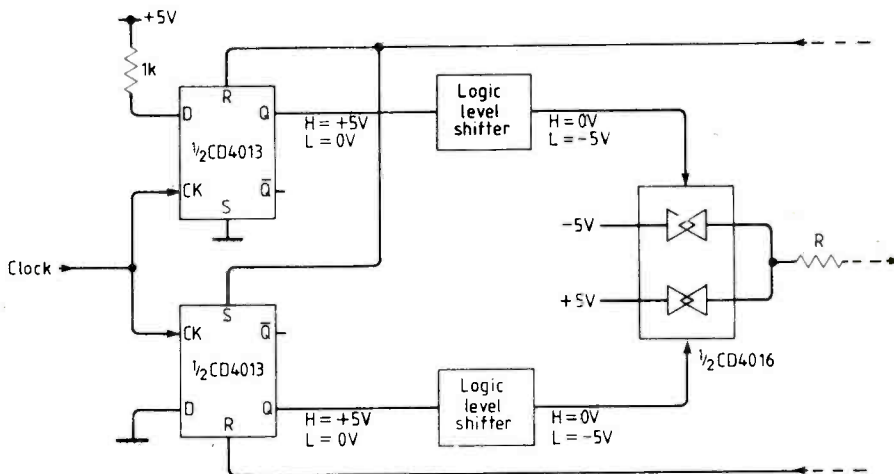
Clock-triggered triangular generator

In the circuit of G. Tombras (June 1982, page 60) output signals of the two CD4013 act as control signals to the analogue switches. From his circuit diagram +5v and 0V represent high and low signal-states respectively. But c.m.o.s. analogue switches permit peak input-signal voltage swings within the full supply voltage range; peak input-signal voltage swings outside this range cannot be transmitted.

The circuit is easily adapted by logic

level shifters which can be simply inserted between the 0 output of the D-flip flops (CD4013) and the control inputs of the analogue switches (CD4016) to act as interfaces between the different logic levels, $H \equiv +5V$ and $L \equiv 0V$ of the output signals of the CD4013 on one hand and that of the valid control input signals ($H \equiv 0V$ and $L \equiv -5V$) of the CD4016 on the other.

C. C. Odukwé
Gelsenkirchen-Buer
Germany

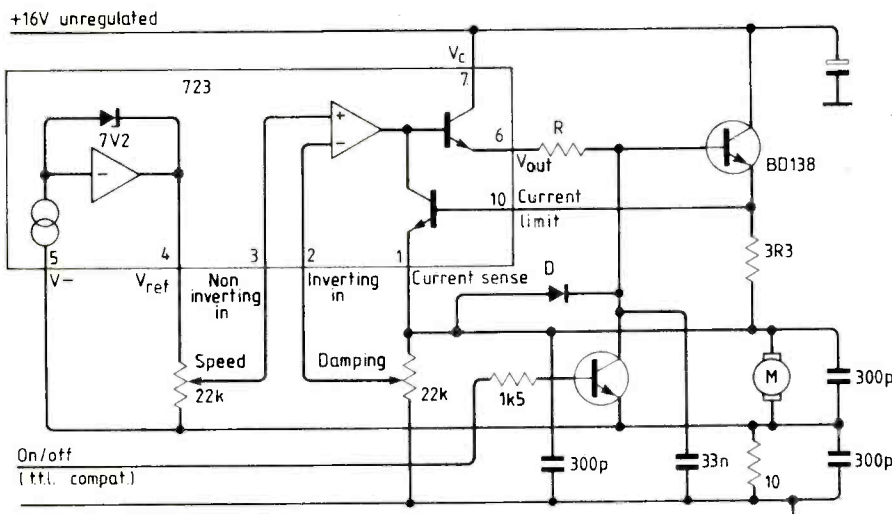


Speed control for small motors

Designed initially for use in a floppy-tape transport mechanism, this circuit senses back-e.m.f. for speed control. Unlike similar circuits, this one also detects current and can differentiate between motor voltage due to back-e.m.f. and that due to

resistive loading. In addition, a t.t.l.-compatible on/off input with active braking and independent speed and damping controls are provided. The on/off transistor is a 2N1893 and the braking diode D is a 1N4148. The value of R depends on the supply voltage.

P. H. Pazov
London



In our next issue

Morse decoding by microcomputer, by J. P. Sargent, uses a 567 tone decoding i.c. and seven-bit clock to time incoming signals. Morse code is interfaced to a ZX81 via a p.i.o. chip. Machine code routines use this data to provide up to 9 lines of text.

A leading Japanese research engineer, Y. Hirata, discussed the distortions in analogue and digital recordings, gives measurements of non-linearities in four p.c.m. processors, and compares them with results from three analogue tape recorders.

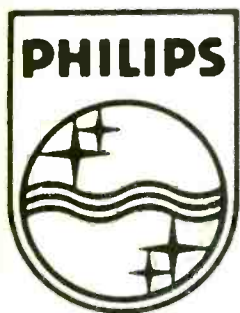
Logic maps, by N. Darwood, gives the history of methods for showing logical truths - from 13th century Lull to present-day Karnaugh maps.

To introduce computer networks, Philip Barker describes some of the current approaches used to link together two or more computer systems.

Picotutor is a microprocessor assembly language trainer, described by Bob Coates, the Nanocomp designer, and assumes no previous experience of microprocessors.

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£248.00

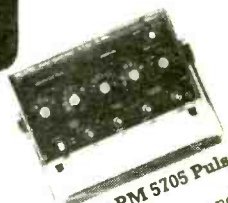
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The PM 6668 spans a wide frequency range of 10Hz to 1GHz. Like the PM 6667 it dramatically reduces the number of components by utilizing an advanced technology microprocessor, dependable large scale C-MOS digital circuitry and fully integrated monolithic front-ends, that can handle a wide range of input signal voltages. Don't let the small dimensions fool you - the PM 6668 gives full-size performance plus built-in Philips quality.

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PM 6668-02 high stability version available at **£496.00**



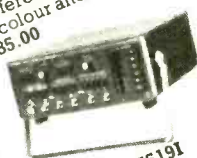
Philips PM 5107 Function Generator
10Hz-100kHz sine, square wave
Low distortion
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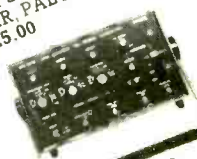
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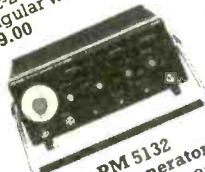
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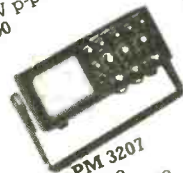
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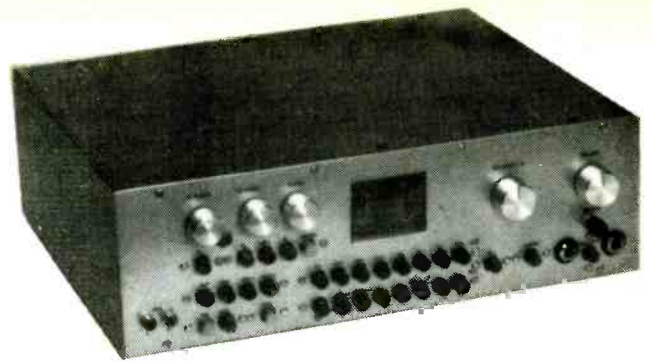
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MODULAR PREAMPLIFIER



The basic system described in the first article is developed by the addition of further modules – tone control, bass and treble filters and a headphone amplifier. Part one dealt with power supply, pickup amplifier, mixer and impedance converter.

Although the system described in the first part of this article will work very well when the programme sources, the loudspeakers, and the listening conditions are all as good as one would wish, it is, unfortunately, in the nature of things that for part of the time in some circumstances, and all of the time in others, it will be desirable to modify the signal in its route from source to listener. I am, therefore, going to describe some of the more conventional of these signal-modification modules in this part of the series: these are the tone control, the treble filter, and the rumble filter. Since it may be useful at this stage, I am also giving details of the headphone amplifier. These circuits are all based on dual, low-noise, low-distortion operational amplifiers wherever the signal level allowed, and are all, with the necessary exclusion of the headphone amplifier, unity-gain, non-inverting stages, so that they may be included, or omitted, as desired – either in the constructional stage, or by subsequent switching.

Tone control

Tone-controls have been the source of some debate among the 'hi-fi' fraternity over the past decade, with the purists insisting that the signal should be accepted, or rejected, as it stands. However, for those of us who are a little less pure, the nature of our tinkering with the frequency response is still an interesting question, and there are a number of options from which to choose. Figure 9 shows the types of frequency response adjustment offered by these.

Baxandall. This circuit, originally described in these pages by P. J. Baxandall, over thirty years ago¹ is still the most popular circuit of this type and is used in the majority of audio amplifiers, the world over, in one or other of its contemporary forms. The practical shortcomings of the circuit (a) are mainly that it does not allow any scope for selective adjustment of the frequency response, except for raising or lowering the signal level at bass or treble, though the frequencies at which the lift or cut can be made may be adjusted by switching the capacitor values, as I had done in an earlier amplifier². Also, with standard dual-gang potentiometers, it may not be possible to achieve a level frequency response, simultaneously, in both channels, by any setting of the pots. Finally, although the continuously variable quality

by J. L. Linsley Hood

of the adjustment is valuable, it does make it more difficult to return to a previously found combination of control positions.

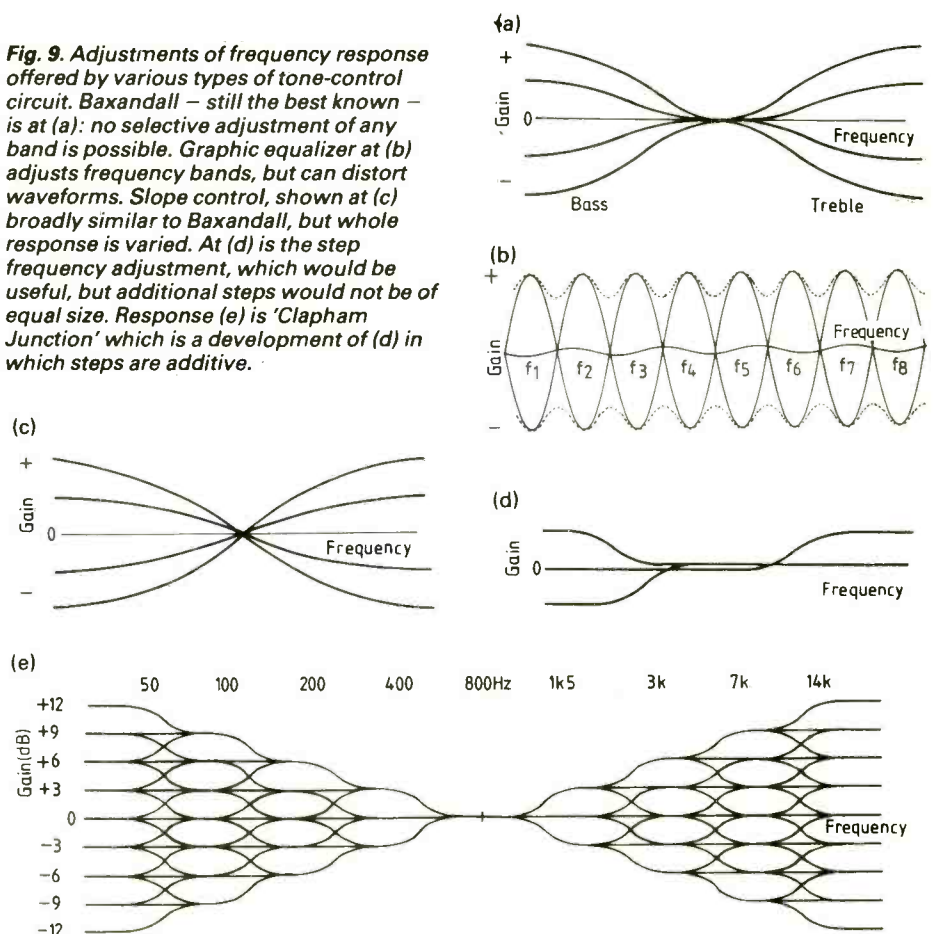
Graphic equalizer. The basic intention of the arrangement at (b) is a good one – that the received frequency spectrum should be divided up into eight or nine octave bands, within which the gain of the system can be individually adjusted, as required, by individual, calibrated-slider potentiometers. Alas, in the way in which it is normally implemented, with each octave band being selected by one or other of a group of LC tuned circuits, the transient response of the arrangement, to a square-wave or step-function input, is both complex and unnatural. Moreover, the frequency res-

ponse, with all of the sliders set 'level' at any point other than the precise mid-position, is likely to be exceedingly ragged. These major limitations, in the bulk of units of this type, have earned the arrangement the reputation of being more for the lover of sound than the lover of music.

Slope or tilt control. This concept (c) has recently been proposed, as a means of giving a small but continuous skew to the frequency response, to correct for the sound appearing over-'toppy' or bass heavy, and it does offer some unobtrusive benefits in use. However, like the Baxandall, it does not offer any opportunity to make an adjustment, perhaps quite small, to a particular part of the frequency response where some improvement is required.

Step frequency adjustment. Having contemplated this point for some years, the conviction has grown on me that it

Fig. 9. Adjustments of frequency response offered by various types of tone-control circuit. Baxandall – still the best known – is at (a): no selective adjustment of any band is possible. Graphic equalizer at (b) adjusts frequency bands, but can distort waveforms. Slope control, shown at (c) broadly similar to Baxandall, but whole response is varied. At (d) is the step frequency adjustment, which would be useful, but additional steps would not be of equal size. Response (e) is 'Clapham Junction' which is a development of (d) in which steps are additive.



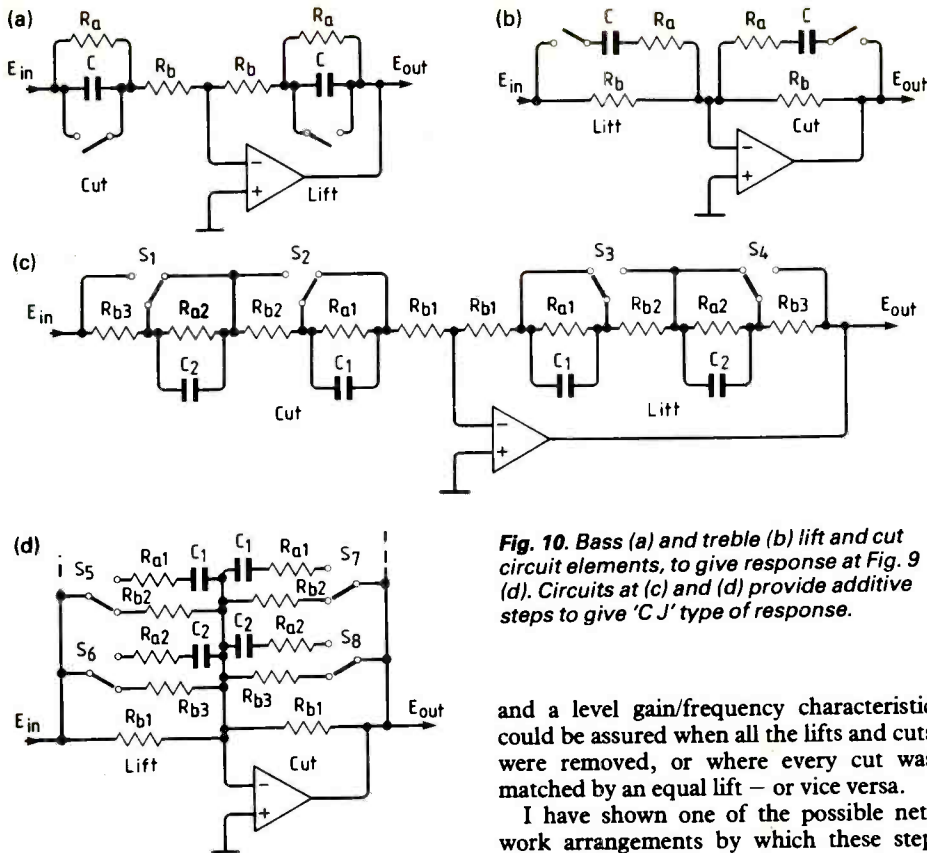


Fig. 10. Bass (a) and treble (b) lift and cut circuit elements, to give response at Fig. 9 (d). Circuits at (c) and (d) provide additive steps to give 'CJ' type of response.

would be most useful to be able to switch into circuit some arrangement which would give a small, say 3dB, platform-type lift or cut operating downwards or upwards from some specified frequency, in the manner shown in (d). If such lifts or cuts were truly additive, it might be possible both to correct an overall programme balance, if it seemed bass or treble dominant, but also to achieve a measure of selective equalization.

A single-frequency bass or treble lift or cut can be obtained with the switched-feedback network arrangements shown in Fig. 10(a) and (b), though these circuits would only be appropriate for a single step up or down. If the values of R_a and R_b were chosen to give a lift or cut of, say, 3dB it would be found that a subsequent RC block switched into circuit would give only, say, a further 2dB of adjustment, and so on, with progressively diminishing effect.

'Clapham Junction'-type tone control. If it were possible to make a multiple frequency step tone-control circuit, in which each of the steps was identical in amplitude, and in which the results were truly additive, the result could be a family of options of the type shown in 9(e), giving a whole range of possible frequency response paths down which the user could steer his ultimate frequency response curve, in the manner of a train negotiating a railway junction. This would allow a certain measure of discreet doctoring of the frequency response curve, in a predictable and reproducible fashion and, since it could be implemented in a feedback path having a limited phase excursion, the transient response would be free of ringing,

and a level gain/frequency characteristic could be assured when all the lifts and cuts were removed, or where every cut was matched by an equal lift – or vice versa.

I have shown one of the possible network arrangements by which these step bass and treble lifts and cuts could be obtained, in an additive manner, in Fig. 10(c) and (d). In this arrangement, the switches are arranged so that each time an RC element, such as $R_a C_1$, is switched into circuit, an element of R_b is switched out of circuit, restoring the potential subsequent gain increment. As shown, any number of switched steps could be adopted, and any required degree of lift or cut. However, there are practical limits, and I have chosen to employ two banks of eight push-switches, one for lift, one for cut, which give four possible frequencies each for treble and bass, centred on 800Hz. The centre frequency itself can effectively be raised or lowered by generating a symmetrical shelf on either side, leaving it either on a pedestal or in a trench. Similar trenches or pedestals may be implemented elsewhere in the spectrum.

In its simplest usage, with a one or two stage successive lift in bass or treble, the results are similar to that given by the familiar and well-known Baxandall arrangement, except that the steps are fixed rather than continuously variable, though there is scope for doing very much more than this, if required.

I have shown the circuit which I have used for this multiple step tone control, made by combining the separate elements of Figs 10(c) and (d), in its composite form

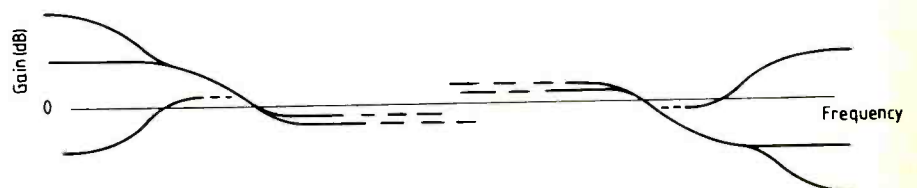


Fig. 11. Amplitude-frequency response given by circuits of Fig 10 (c) and (d).

in Fig. 12. This relatively simple implementation of the basic intention of 9(e) does have one, not unacceptable, characteristic which is that the lift is partly achieved by a depression of the remainder of the spectrum, such that a +3dB shelf centred on, say, 400Hz would raise the part of the frequency spectrum below this frequency by 2.5dB, while lowering that above it by 0.5dB, and so on, in the manner in which I have shown in Fig. 11.

If need be, the gain control can be used to restore the status quo, or it can simply be accepted as a combination of shelf and slope. A small elaboration of the switching network to remove an equal element of resistance from both arms each time an RC element was introduced into circuit would correct for this, but by this time, I felt that the circuit and its associated switching had grown complex enough. The small capacitor (C_{28}) across the bass circuit op-amp is to avoid possible troubles due to unpredictable inter-wiring stray coupling capacitances.

Putting the two successive phase-inverting stages in series fulfils the original stipulation that each module in the preamplifier should have unity gain, and be non-inverting. In the prototype, I have used non-interlocking, push-button, double-pole change-over switches, which can be operated without clicks; indeed, the whole tone control may be switched in and out of circuit noiselessly, to compare 'with' and 'without'. Also, the wish that a flat response should be given with all switches out, and with corresponding pairs in, both singly and in multiples, has been met in practice. My only major regret was that, in designing the p.c.b., I had not gone to the extra trouble of designing the wiring to the switches so that all I had to do was to plug them into the board. However, this regret faded once I had completed the task of wiring it up, and had put right the three or four erroneous connexions to the switches shown up by square-wave testing, in which certain pairs did not cancel!

Variable-slope treble filter

While some form of tone control stage can be useful in trimming the overall characteristics of the unit, the maximum slopes possible will not exceed 6dB/octave, and there may be occasions when some more drastic modification is desired. The circuit of Fig. 13 is a three-element active filter, in which the slope can be varied from -6dB/octave up to a maximum -20dB/octave optimally flat response. The circuit I have used is based on a 'bootstrap' filter design, though a three-element Sallen and Key filter could equally well be used with a unity-gain, non-inverting amplifier element. I have chosen to use a 'bootstrap'

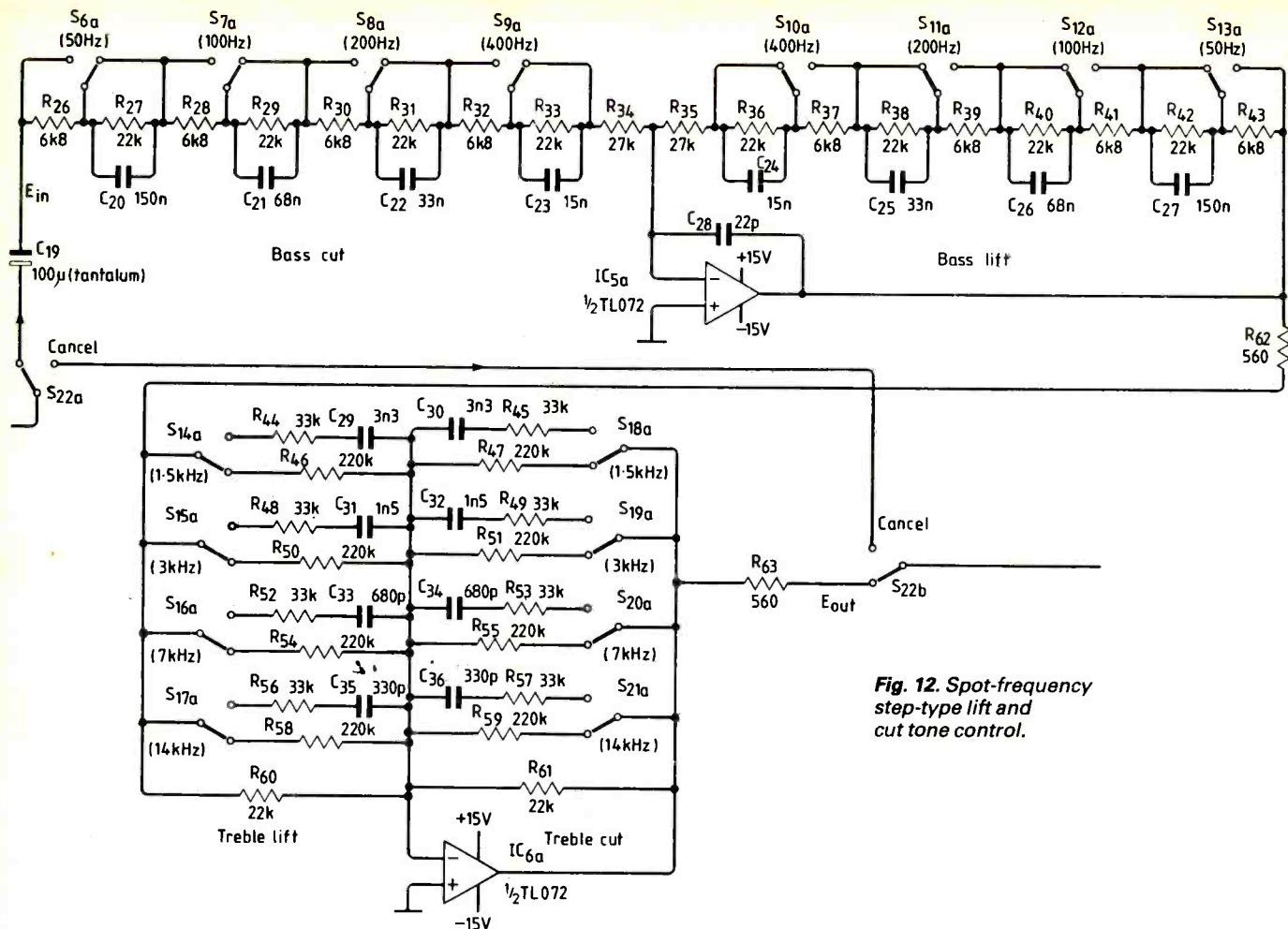


Fig. 12. Spot-frequency step-type lift and cut tone control.

filter circuit because I invented it and, in consequence, have a large amount of design calculations in a form which are intelligible (to me).

For the convenience of those who may wish to employ the circuit arrangement to give different cut-off frequencies, I have appended the design details at the end of the article. These also cover the circuit component values for the rumble filter which uses the same circuit configuration. A variable-slope circuit at which the pivot frequency (by which I mean the turn-over point) is constant, can be obtained by returning the third-stage integration capacitors (C_{41} and C_{42}) to the top of the slope pot. Unfortunately, this arrangement does not give quite such a good transient response, at all settings of the slope control, as the circuit shown. IC_8 is used as a unity-gain buffer stage to preserve the constant line impedance required by following

stages. The input resistor R_{64} is necessary to prevent the input seeing an open-circuit when the cancel switch (S_{23}) is open.

Rumble filter

This uses a similar three-element bootstrap filter circuit to that of the treble filter, and is shown in Fig. 14.

Since the presence of a small hump in the bass response curve is less significant audibly than the same peak in the treble response, I have calculated the circuit values for a slightly higher 'Q', to give a steeper attenuation rate below the nominal 28Hz transition frequency. I have shown the measured gain/frequency characteristics of the prototype, over the range 9Hz (the lowest frequency from my signal generator) to 1KHz in the Table. Calculations show a value of -43dB at 6Hz, and -49dB at 5Hz, which should give an adequate rejection of turntable v.l.f. components.

In use, the circuit shows very little detectable l.f. coloration, but does remove, very effectively, occasional rumbles from poor discs.

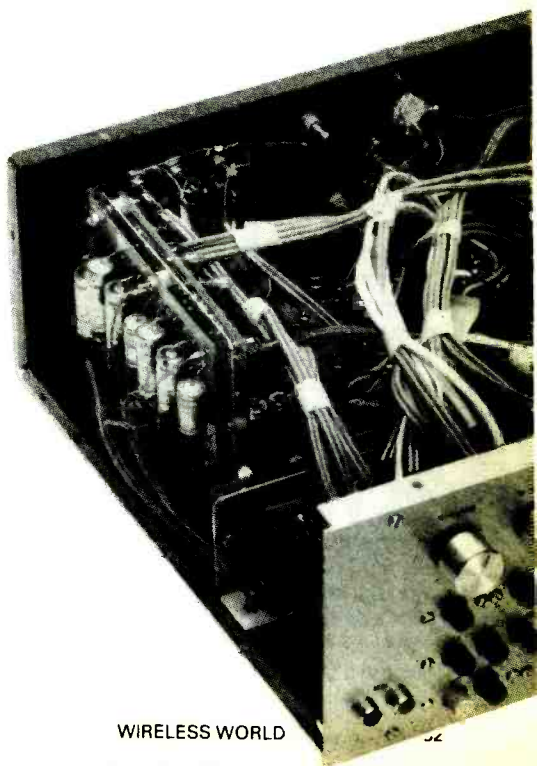
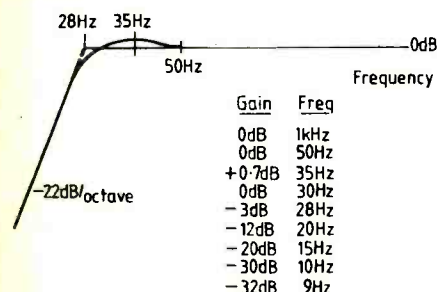
There is no particular preferred position in the post-mixer signal chain for either the treble or rumble filters. They can be inserted wherever it is mechanically or electrically convenient.

Headphone amplifier

My views on headphone listening underwent a change, some few years ago, when I built for a friend a high-quality

class A headphone amplifier, in which I had done the very best job that I then knew how, in order to preserve the greatest amount of information obtainable from the groove. Listening to some records through this amplifier was a delightful, and occasionally revealing experience, and showed — perhaps because I was tempted to listen at a somewhat greater sound level than I would have chosen (or would have

Attenuation role of rumble filter.



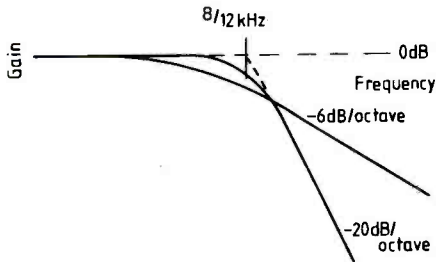
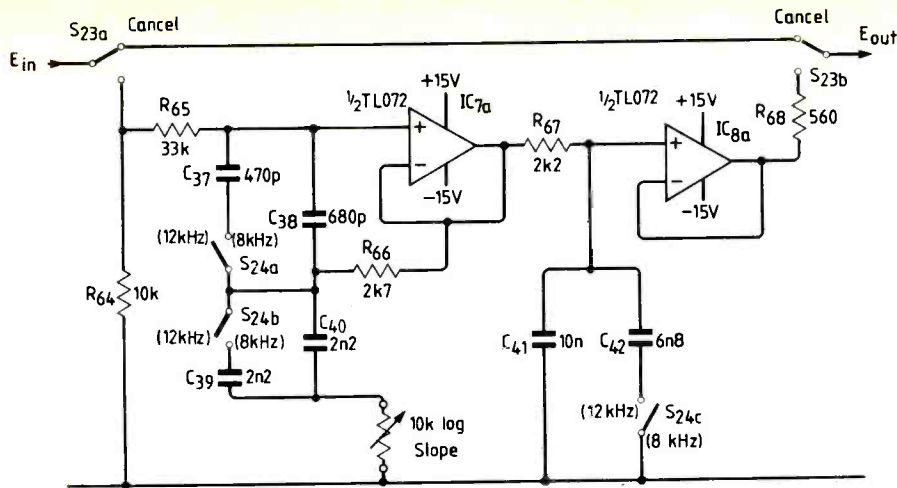


Fig. 13. Variable-slope treble filter using bootstrap circuit (see appendix).

been permitted!) on loudspeakers — things which I had not previously heard on the discs in question.

It also, and I suppose there must be a fly in every ointment, showed that some records, which I had previously thought to be very good, had substantial unobserved faults — such as the most irritating (once heard) background breathing of a noise reduction circuit, where the increase in hiss once the music increased in volume reminded me strongly of listening to a string quartet playing on a shingle sea shore, where the waves came in as soon as the instruments began to play, and receded again when they stopped.

However, on balance, I think a good headphone amplifier is a 'good thing', and preferably should be placed ahead of the power amplifier, to shorten the audio chain.

The snag, for me, was that I already had a very good, though complex, headphone amplifier, and I wanted one which was equally good but simpler to

build. Fortunately, the low-distortion i.c. allows a simplification in this area too, and allows a smooth transient response on resistive and reactive loads, and a distortion below 0.01% on all loads down to 8 ohms, up to 3V r.m.s. output. The amplifier will operate in class A under almost all headphone load conditions, especially

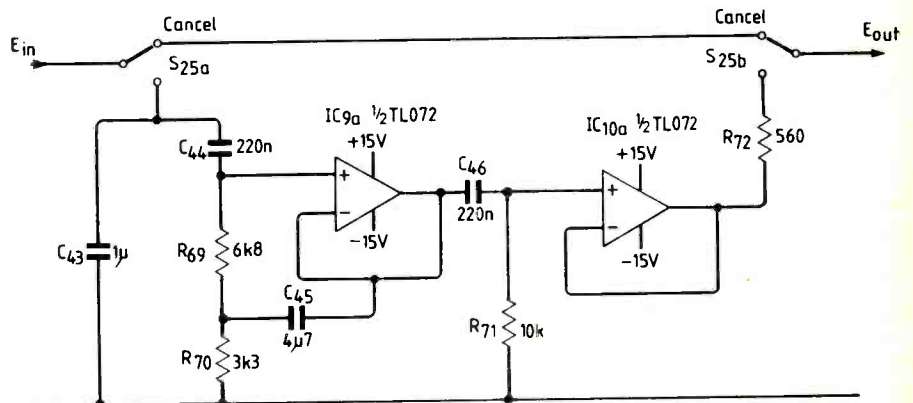


Fig. 14. Rumble filter for different cut-off frequencies — see appendix.

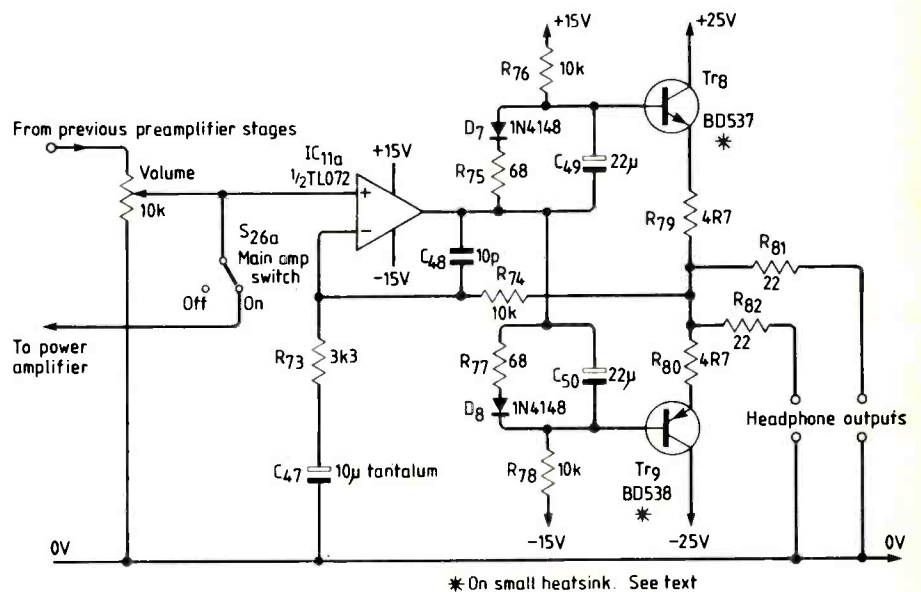
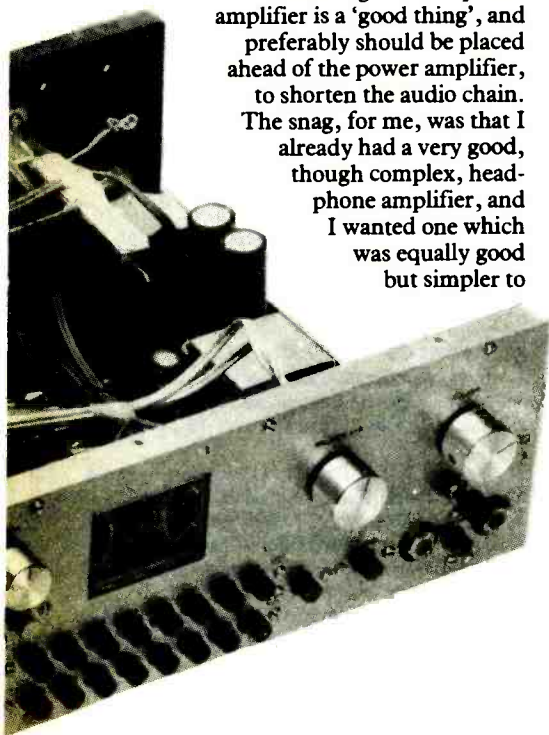


Fig. 15. Class A headphone amplifier — one channel shown.

since the lower-impedance 'phones will generally require a smaller output voltage swing.

To avoid the possible injection of asymmetrical signal components into the smoothed and regulated 15V supply lines used to feed the remainder of the pre-amplifier, I have drawn the large current (40-50mA/channel) supply to the output transistors from the unregulated $\pm 25V$ line in the power supply unit. This does not contribute any measurable 50 or 100Hz component to the output, though I confess that I was tempted to put in an extra pair of 7815/7915 regulators just to feed the headphone amplifiers. The gain of four seems about the right value to give a similar level on 'phones or on speakers through the power amplifier.

I have shown the circuit diagram for this unit in Fig. 15. The output transistors (four in all, since only one channel is shown) are mounted, with insulating washers, on a piece of aluminium sheet, some 6x2in overall, bent into a U-shape to take two transistors on either side. No further mounting fixtures are then required for this plate, which can be painted black, with advantage. The voltage regular i.c.s in the power supply can employ a similar heat sink.



In the next part of this article, I will describe the head amplifier for use with moving-coil pick-up cartridges, the microphone amplifier, the stereo image-width control – which will allow an increase in channel separation as well as a blend facility, the impulse noise-blanker circuit, which allows a useful reduction in the intensity of the annoying clicks and bangs which occur repetitively on a scratched gramophone record, and the signal-strength metering circuit.

References

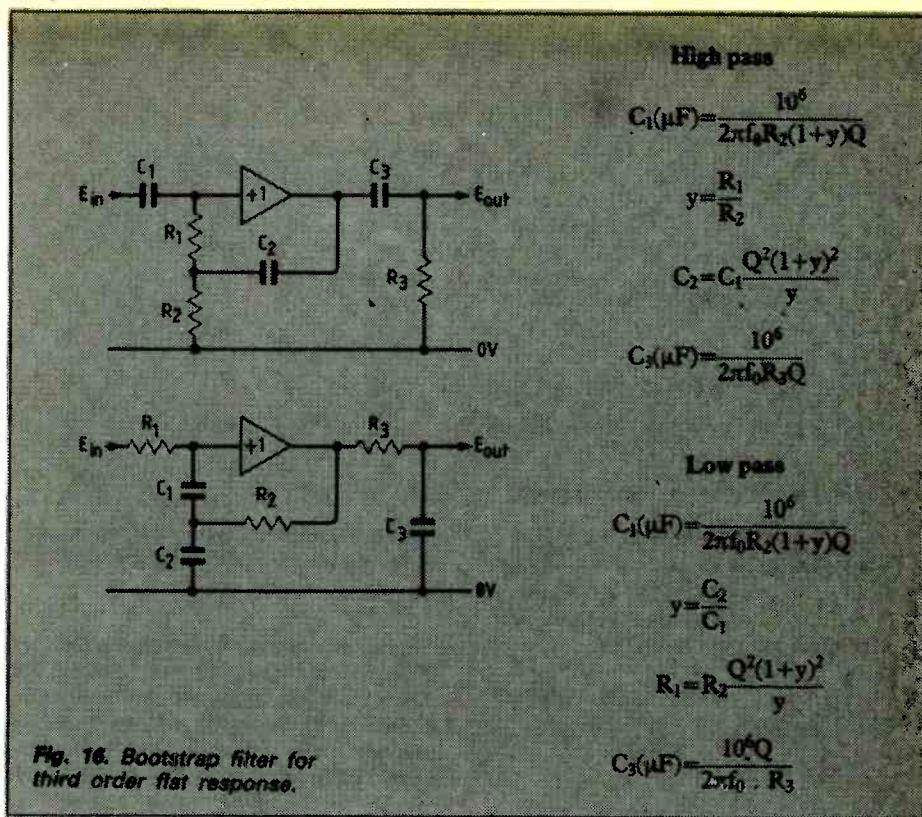
1. Baxandall, P. J. *Wireless World*, October 1952, pp402-405.
2. Linsley Hood, J. L. *Hi-Fi News and Record Review*, January 1973, pp60-63.

Appendix

The calculations below refer to the diagrams in Fig. 16, and are calculated to give a unity-gain system with a 0dB point at f_0 .

Any second-order active filter with a Q value greater than 0.707 will have a frequency response peak at the value I have defined as f_0 . If a third RC leg is added to restore the gain at this point to unity, the ultimate slope above or below this point can be increased. The optimally flat Butterworth characteristic is given by a third-order filter of this type with a Q of $\sqrt{2}$, which will give an ultimate attenuation slope of -18dB/octave . The Q can, however, be pushed a bit higher than this without the excursions above and below the datum line becoming too great. For example, a Q of 2.0 in this circuit will give a final slope of about -20dB/octave , with only about a 0.4dB ripple.

The practical calculations from these formulae can best be done by deciding the desired Q and the ratio y, and then seeing whether the required frequency of turn-



over can be given with preferred R and C values. If this is not the case, a different value of y can be used as the basis for a further attempt. Because the original calculations were made with the mathematically convenient assumption that the amplifier was an ideal, unity-gain, non-inverting stage, with high input impedance and low output impedance, and because many of the recent operational amplifier i.cs approximate quite closely to this ideal over the audio passband, these formulae

allow the implementation of a whole range of steep-cut filters which can be based on these op-amp i.cs.

A minor word of warning should be added. This type of filter may act as an oscillator if it is installed with its input circuit open, because of the positive feedback path through C_2R_1 or R_2C_1 . A small value of capacitor or an appropriate resistor connected across the input will prevent this, if the circuit calls for input switching, as in Fig. 14, where C_{43} is added.

continued from page 41

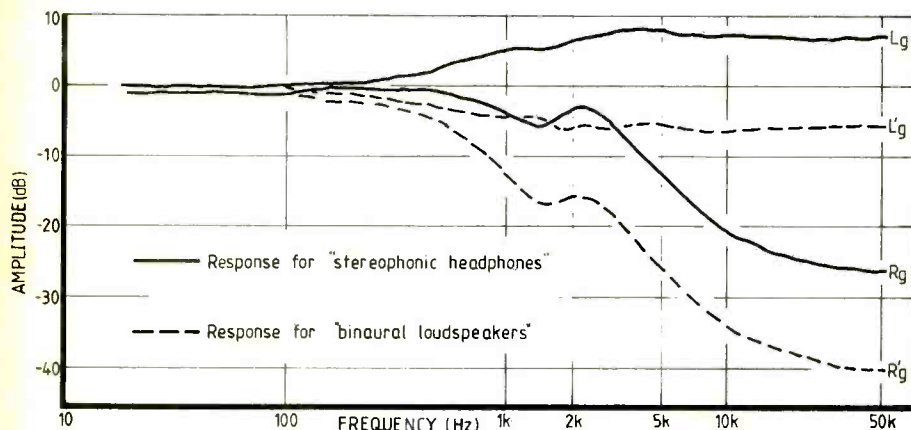


Fig. 12. Amplitude responses of Fig. 11 circuit for both headphone and loudspeaker switch positions.

12dB, a correction circuit has to be constructed to obtain a "flat" amplitude response. In Fig. 9 the turnover frequencies are determined graphically. The resulting frequency response is given as well and shows that deviations from the design ob-

jective are smaller than 2dB, which is considered sufficient. A circuit which realises the desired frequency response is given in Fig. 10. The total circuitry is given with further comment in Fig. 11, except that a switch is included for use of the

circuitry for "stereophonic headphones" as well as "binaural loudspeakers" (ref. 3). The frequency responses are given in Fig. 12.

For those who want to enjoy life-like sound reproduction, a description of a home-construction binaural microphone can be found in reference 5.

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4. N. V. Franssen, Stereofonica (Philips Technical Library). Dutch edition: Centrax, 1962; also available in English.
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DIGITAL POLYPHASE SINEWAVES

Arithmetical generation by computer program of any number of sinewave phases

by N. Darwood

The digital generation of a two-phase sine and cosine waveform was described in an earlier article*. In summary, the method, proposed by Pierre Diederich, was to assign initial values to the sine and cosine waveforms. Then for each step to compute the next values by adding a proportion of the cosine to the current value of the sine and subtracting the same proportion of the sine from the current value of the cosine. Supposing the proportion chosen was a half (0.5) this could be expressed in a computer program as:

```
10 S = n: C = m
20 Output S, C
30 S = S + 0.5 * C
40 C = C - 0.5 * S
50 GOTO 20
```

When run, this procedure produces the amplitude of a sine wave. It can be shown to be an approximation of the sum to two angle formulae thus:

$$\sin(A + f) = \sin A \cdot \cos f + \sin f \cdot \cos A$$

If f is small, $\cos f = 1$ and $(\sin f)/f = 1$ or $\sin f = f$ (in radians). Substituting,

$$\sin(A + f) = \sin A + f \cdot \cos A.$$

Returning to the program, the wave form may be inverted, seeming to run backwards by interchanging the + and - signs. The output gives a stepped version of the waveform and a D-to-A converter may be used to give an analogue signal. The step size is 0.5 radians, giving 12.5 steps for a cycle. Other step sizes may be chosen by altering the value of f (see Appendix). For example a value of 0.1 could be chosen to give a program:

```
10 S = 0: C = 1: f = 0.1
20 Output S, C
30 S = S + f * C
40 C = C - f * S
50 GOTO 20
```

This step size of 0.1 radians gives 62.8 steps per cycle in the output wave form. The amplitude of the waveform can be specified by altering line 30 to read $S = S + f(C + A)$ where A is the required peak amplitude. As each step takes the same amount of computer time, altering the step size (f) changes the frequency of the output wave. The frequency will depend on the speed of the computer used.

*N. Darwood, "Accurate sine-wave oscillator", *Wireless World*, June 1981.

Table 1. Three-phase software

```
10 A = 0: B = 0.866: C = -0.866
20 Output A, B, C
30 A = A + f * (B - C)
40 B = B + f * (C - A)
50 C = C + f * (A - B)
60 GOTO 20
```

In the program for generating three phases, A, B and C are the phases, each $2\pi/3$ apart. The initial conditions set are $A = 0$, $B = \sin 2\pi/3$ and $C = \sin 4\pi/3$. The step size was chosen as $\sqrt{3} \cdot f$ where f is the fraction used in the program. The presence of $\sqrt{3}$ is coincidental as will be seen later.

Table 2. 7-phase software

```
A = 0           (= sin (0 * 2π/7))
B = 0.78       (= sin (1 * 2π/7))
C = 0.97       (= sin (2 * 2π/7))
D = 0.43       (= sin (3 * 2π/7))
E = -0.43      (= sin (4 * 2π/7))
F = -0.97      (= sin (5 * 2π/7))
G = -0.78      (= sin (6 * 2π/7))

10 A = A + f * (B - C + D - E + F - G)
   B = B + f * (C - D + E - F + G - A)
   C = C + f * (D - E + F - G + A - B)
   D = D + f * (E - F + G - A + B - C)
   E = E + f * (F - G + A - B + C - D)
   F = F + f * (G - A + B - C + D - E)
   G = G + f * (A - B + C - D + E - F)
80 Output A, B, C, D, E, F, G
90 GOTO 10
```

The seven-phase generator shown above is in its longer version and computing time can be saved by reducing it. To explain the short form, consider the coefficient of f for phase A. From Table 2 this is $B - C + D - E + F - G$. We can call this I (for initial value) and then look at the coefficient for B, which is $C - D + E - F + G - A$ which is equal to $B - (A + I)$ and which becomes the new I . Similarly the coefficient for C is $D - E + F - G + A - B$ which is equal to $C - (B + I)$. Thus we can generate all the coefficients for the short form of the program. The initial value of I may be found from $I = B - C + D - E + F - G$. In trigonometrical terms this is

$$I = \sin \omega - \sin 2\omega + \sin 3\omega - \dots$$

where ω is 2π divided by the number of phases (N).

Surprisingly, considering it came from an approximation, I is found to be $\sin \omega / (1 + \cos \omega)$ where $\omega = 2\pi/N$. This has the golden property that the inverse of I is $\sin \omega / (1 - \cos \omega)$, which may be shown as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \sin^2 \omega &= 1 - \cos^2 \omega \\ &= (1 + \cos \omega)(1 - \cos \omega) \\ \therefore \frac{\sin \omega}{1 + \cos \omega} &= \frac{1 - \cos \omega}{\sin \omega} \end{aligned}$$

Table 3. 7-phase software, short form program

```
A to G have the same initial values as in Table 2.
I = B - C + D - E + F - G
  ≈ 0.48
10 A = A + I * f
   I = B - (A + I)
   B = B + I * f
   I = C - (B + I)
   C = C + I * f
   I = D - (C + I)
   D = D + I * f
   I = E - (D + I)
   E = E + I * f
   I = F - (E + I)
   F = F + I * f
   I = G - (F + I)
   G = G + I * f
   I = A - (G + I)
150 Output A, B, C, D, E, F, G
160 GOTO 10
```

For a 5-phase program, $N = 5$, and $\omega = 2\pi/5$. This would make $I = \sin 2\pi/5 - \sin 2.2\Omega/5 + \sin 3.2\Omega/5 - \sin 4.2\Omega/5 = 0.73$, f may be found by selecting a step size. As the step size is $I \cdot f$, suppose that we would like to make this 1° , i.e. 360 steps per cycle. $I \cdot f$ is then 0.075 radians and we have established that I is 0.73 so f is 0.024.

Appendix

Let $\sin(n)$ be the value of the sine wave at step n and assume the following procedure.

$$\begin{aligned} S(0) &= 0 \\ C(0) &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} S(1) &= S(0) + f \cdot C(0) = f \\ C(1) &= C(0) - f \cdot S(0) = 1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} S(2) &= S(1) + f \cdot C(1) = f + f = 2f \\ C(2) &= C(1) - f \cdot S(1) = 1 - f^2 \end{aligned}$$

... and so on. It is found that the coefficients of f at step n are the values in row n of Pascal's Triangle. This is shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Analysis

Step						
0	1					
1	1	1				
2	1	2	1			
3	1	3	3	1		
4	1	4	6	4	1	
5	1	5	10	10	5	1
sin		f	-f ³		+f ⁵	
cos	1		-f ²		+f ⁴	...

LETTERS

TELETEXT DECODER

Readers may be interested in two further modifications to the *Wireless World* teletext decoder, following those given in the October issue.

(V) Addition of board IV involved the removal of IC1 which, upon inspection, supplied 0V to R₄ via pin 10. While the decoder will still operate without this connection being made, it is preferable to restore the connection to 0V, thus giving the correct time constant and greater noise margin at this point of the circuit. Re-adjustment of VR₂ will then be necessary.

(VI) In the original decoder design, the memory-address converter functions correctly only for row addresses within the text display area, i.e. rows in the range 0-23. If the detected five-bit row address corresponds to n, one of the remaining rows in the range 24-31, this 'row' will appear in columns 33-40 of rows n-24, n-16 and n-8 due to the operation of the code converter during the display period (*WW* Feb. 1976 p.50). A simple modification to prevent such information being written into the memory is as follows: isolate 70(11), feed 20(12) and 20(2) to the inputs of a 2 input Nand gate whose output is connected to 70(11). This disables write pulses at 70(8) during the detected illegal rows.

Ken Drew
Nottingham

THE RIGHT FORMULA

Mr K. Wood cites an example in *Letters*, September 1982, which was not the one I had in mind. The one that intrigued me was a throwaway remark by Patrick Moore that an American observatory (I failed to catch the name) had observed the products of a supernova expanding at *ten* times the speed of light. I do not believe any valid explanation has as yet been put forward for the phenomena.

Mr O. B. Balean has figures closely paralling my own. What is not clear to me is why it is a mathematical 'figment'! It seems an awful lot of mass to 'lose', yet plainly it does not exist. Perhaps it is 'relativistic mass' which is the figment.

Mr Ivor Catt seemed rather tetchy! I suppose it must be rather frustrating when adjudicators demand 'proof' and he simply doesn't have any! Why is he so bitter about 'instrumentalists'? Is there any way of working with electronics without using instruments? He implies he uses a sampling oscilloscope and certainly uses a computer. His remark that 'today, hardly anyone can successfully assemble Ins logic' is highly suspect, since pulse circuitry is peculiarly adaptable to analysis by computers and checking by multiple-beam oscilloscopes. Is it really true that Mr Catt's theory came *before* he had found out how to do the job?

What is a 'theory', anyway? I read his letter and find he uses the word to mean (a) an equation, (b) an aid to understanding, (c) an extension of electromagnetic concepts and (d) a new way to view the phenomena. All in one letter! Surely the engineering comes *first*. Later on, the academics follow along, as always a few years behind! After all, isn't the whole fun of electronics the fact that we don't know how anything really works, we just know that if we

do so'n'so, such'n'such happens and on such slender bases huge industries grow.

I would merely ask Mr Catt two questions. What is the use of a theory if it doesn't predict what a circuit will do?

The second question is an equation:

$$\frac{E}{R}=?$$

Ronald G. Young
Peacehaven
Sussex

NIKOLA TESLA

Martin Berner is, perhaps, right to chide me gently for seeking a second centennial for the famous N. Tesla (*WW*, *Letters*, Sept., 1982, p.41). However, I do feel that Tesla is more to be respected for his work than for the accident of birth. Meanwhile we have about ten years in which to debate this point in regard to his radio-frequency spark generator of 1892. Martin Berner also reflects the hope that many historians must cherish - that somebody else will tackle the more difficult subjects! Tesla's writing makes excellent reading, but it is terribly short of vital technical information. I am sure it would be much easier to write about the less-known and certainly deserving Elihu Thomson, simply because Thomson wrote more clearly and more factually. And Thomson also had the grace to cite¹ the earlier work of Rowland in 1889, who used a Ruhmkorff coil as high voltage source. Classen seemed to be doing much the same in Germany in 1890², but more effectively by using an air-blast on the high-voltage spark. Classen acknowledges Rijke³ (1862) for this idea, one of the most fruitful contributions to the technology of spark transmitters, as far apart as Australia and the Eiffel Tower. Its widespread application may actually have been helped by the difficulty of establishing patent rights on a blast of air! Tesla's patent agents neatly avoid this kind of problem in his patent 645,576 of 1900; for they were wise enough to include a disclaimer on the actual apparatus itself. I suspect that this may well have helped the Supreme Court to find in his favour, even if his claim seems to have little technical merit to support it.

Desmond Thackeray
University of Surrey
Guildford

Rerences

1. *Electrician*, 44, (1899, Nov. 3), 40, Elihu Thomson
2. *Annalen*, 39, (1890), 647, H. Classen (reference supplied by Alan Douglas)
3. *Pogg. Annalen*, 117, (1862), 276, Rijke

IT'LL DO, PERHAPS

I was very interested in the August letters headed "It'll do - or will it?": so much that I have felt impelled to join in the argument.

Mr Feeny complains, quite rightly, about two faults which he feels should not have happened. The replies are jewels of their kind and should be framed and hung in every sales manager's office.

Mr Bennett carefully evades the main issue in the design he is defending. Surely he can see

that if a fuse goes high resistance, for any reason, and by doing so causes damage to the components it is supposed to be protecting, then the design is at fault. The bit about this being the only case that they know about is a refrain heard so often by purchasers of electronic equipment in this country that the majority of us can join in after the third or fourth note. His last line is worthy of further study. Why was production stopped? Perhaps the product got a bad name for some reason or other and didn't sell too well.

Mr Topping's reply is a much more upmarket version. Here again there is not the slightest intention of accepting the criticism and doing something about it. Instead we are treated to a short advertising blurb, followed by praises for the designer of the self-destructing amplifier (again the main point is evaded. A fuse should protect by its absence, not destroy), and we discover that the design in question had a market life of only four years. All interesting stuff to an industrial archaeologist no doubt, but it doesn't make the product any better.

Following this excursion Mr Topping finally gets down to his own product. In the first paragraph on this subject he appears to accept full responsibility for the equipment, in spite of it being of Japanese manufacture. This is as it should be. If you sell a product, it is your responsibility. Full marks here. But what follows? An argument based on what is known as the absent authority. The authority in this case is the specification referred to and it is absent because Mr Topping keeps it so (presumably with good reason). Again the main point is evaded. The switch failed, Mr. Topping, and any number of closely typed bits of paper won't change that fact. The moral of all this is plain to see. Complain to a British manufacturer and if you get a reply at all it will be one of the above. I worked with electronic instruments for nine years at one factory and felt that the society of psychical research would have been interested in the number of unique events which happened to us. At no time can I recall a single manufacturer offering to do something about it.

I suggest that the manufacturers take note and listen to their customers while they still have some, or they will go the same way as the cotton mills and motor bikes.

H. E. Hicks
Nether Kollett
Lancs

AMATEURS AND CB

Contrary to Mr Clayton's assertion (*Letters*, *Wireless World*, August, 1982) illegal broadcasting stations *are* traced and those involved *are*, where possible, prosecuted.

Mr Clayton was certainly misinformed if he was told - not by Home Office officials incidentally - that the Home Office would not authorise prosecutions. We do. A pity that you did not check this allegation with us.

In 1981, nine such stations were involved in successful prosecutions and 14 people were convicted; further prosecutions are being undertaken this year.

A. Wood
Chief Press Officer
Home Office

DIGITAL CONTROL OF THYRISTORS

I read with some interest the article by Dr Pardoe on digital phase control of thyristors (*WW*, Sept. 1982, p. 45). The system has some similarity with that described in the article by myself and N. M. Allinson (Microprocessor Controlled Lighting System - *WW*, April 1982, p. 36). Since our article was concerned with lighting control desks rather than lighting dimmers, I would like to take this opportunity to expand on the principles of phase-control dimmer design.

Our first article described the complex non-linear relationship between conduction angle and the perceived light output. Since the function is very difficult to synthesize using analogue methods, most analogue dimmers I have come across use a linear ramp. This allows the ramp generator circuitry to be kept quite simple and easy to align. Since the mains voltage and frequency is subject to variation a simple open-loop generator is not adequate. To overcome these problems the ramp generators are enclosed in a negative feedback arrangement which allows stabilization of both ramp height and linearity. Using components of reasonable tolerance and a reasonable circuit design, analogue dimmers can be built which require no adjustments.

The major problem in designing lighting dimmers is arranging for all channels to track each other; this is readily achieved by using one ramp generator (or its digital equivalent) to drive many comparators. The ramp generator can then be made quite sophisticated without increasing significantly the cost of the system. The article by Dr Pardoe uses a separate oscillator and counter arrangement for each channel. This oscillator frequency is not locked to the mains frequency and is dependent upon the tolerance of two passive components. Assuming that the oscillator is running at 50 Hz, a 2% variation in mains frequency will result in the loss of 2-3 bits at the maximum power end of the control range. Given a 5% tolerance in the components used in the oscillator circuit will give to a rough approximation a 5% tolerance in oscillator frequency which is well outside frequency limits permitted on the mains supply. The most marked effect on the oscillation frequency tolerance will be poor tracking between separate channels on the mid power control range when $dL/d\phi$ is at its greatest where L is luminous intensity and ϕ conduction angle (See *WW* April 1982, p. 37, Fig. 4).

As Dr Pardoe points out, in order to eliminate motor creep and light flicker the ramp generator (analogue or digital) must be synchronized to the zero volt crossing points of the mains. The trial trigger circuit shown by Dr Pardoe does, in fact, produce one pulse per half mains cycle; whilst this trigger method is entirely satisfactory for essentially resistive loads (lamps, heaters) it is inadequate for inductive loads. When switching inductive loads, current will still be flowing through the switching devices at zero voltage crossing points of the mains. Since a simple pulse may occur during the 'reverse' current period incorrect operation would result. This problem may be overcome by using a train of gate pulses and, to prevent spurious triggering, no gate pulses should occur between the zero crossing point of the mains and the desired

trigger point.

The equation given for the current in the primary of the pulse transformer is correct; however, the energy stored in the pulse transformer is dissipated in the diode across the primary. Assuming a suitably rated transistor, removal of the diode will allow the stored energy to produce additional gate drive.

While Dr Pardoe's circuit does provide a simple and cheap means of digitally controlling conduction angle in phase control, I would not recommend its use in a multi-channel system because of the tracking problems already mentioned. Additionally in a multi-channel system I believe that a solution based on our article would produce a cheaper system, since only one oscillator and counter are used for many channels and there will be no possibility of resolution loss.

J. D. H. White
University of Keele
Staffordshire

CITIZENS' BAND

I would like to reply to Mr Briggs and Mr Hewlett in July Letters: I will deal with the main points only.

When Mr Briggs says that there is nothing political about the CB pirates, what he means is that there is nothing *consciously* political about them. Nevertheless, whether they know it or not they are engaged in a political act; which is a revolt against an arbitrary power which had wrongly denied them a CB service.

I agree that not all CB users are young and that the f.m. service does have some technical merit. I did not mean to imply otherwise and I am sure Mr Steedman didn't either.

I am accused of being petulant, which means complaining and impatient; but if more people were impatient and complained about problems a lot more fiercely then the problems would be solved a lot more quickly.

Mr Hewlett says that he can "get enough of the other thing" from the rest of the media, but as far as CB is concerned this does not appear to be true. I am not aware that any other part of the media has discussed the true causes of illegal CB interference, so if *WW* did not discuss them they would not be discussed at all; and the chance to learn from the experience would be lost.

In my letter in the March issue I was trying to make a very serious point, which is that the interference caused by illegal CB has a political cause; and that part of that cause is the tyranny of an unelected, unaccountable, unscrupulous higher-civil-service, which is immune to rational argument. Jo Grimond, MP, has described the civil service in the following way; "Rigid, non-elective, hierarchical, cautious, secretive, conformist, narrow, furthering the interests of an apparatus and the careers of those within it."¹

Now let us see how this is relevant to the CB issue, and let us begin with a principle laid down by Burke 200 years ago;

"Those who give and those who receive arbitrary power are alike criminal, and there is no man but is bound to resist it to the best of his power . . . It is a crime to bear it when it can

be rationally shaken off. Law and arbitrary power are in dreadful enmity."³

The public service exists for the public; not the public for the public service. This means that if a citizen asks a public servant to do something the public servant must do it or show cause why not or resign. If he does none of these things he neglects his duty and should be disciplined or sacked.

A CB service was first requested in the mid-1970s, but the Minister and Parliament were too busy to look into the matter and so it was left to civil servants to decide.

The officials concerned neither gave permission for CB nor gave a good reason why not nor resigned. They therefore neglected their duty and exercised arbitrary power. The people who wanted to use CB then had no choice but to take direct action, and in so doing they were merely obeying Burke's dictum. They were resisting the arbitrary power of the Home Office to the best of their ability; and it would have been a crime to have borne it when it could be rationally shaken off.

S. Frost
Edinburgh

References

- 1 Community Politics, 1976, p.138
- 2 "Rule of Law," Conservative Political Centre, pp 19 & 39.
- 3 "Rule of Law," frontpiece.

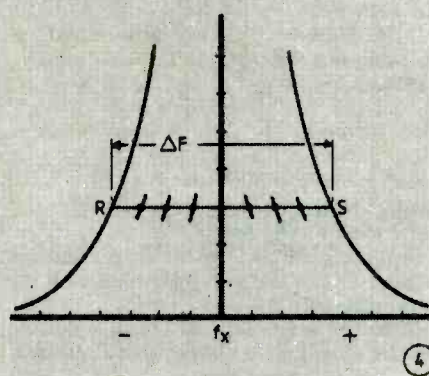
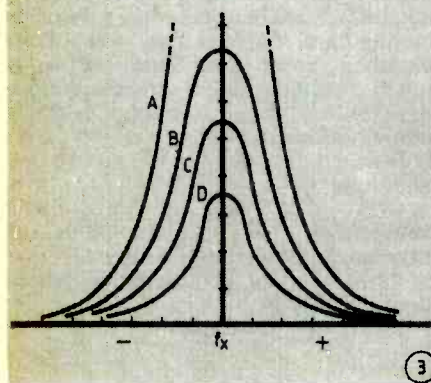
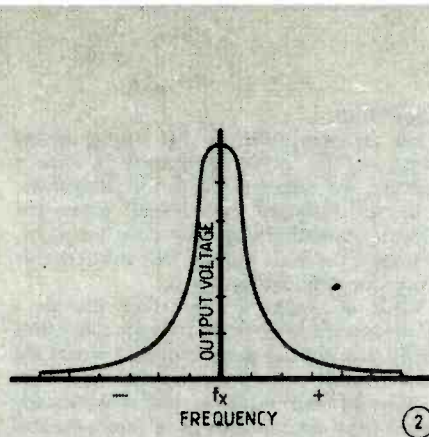
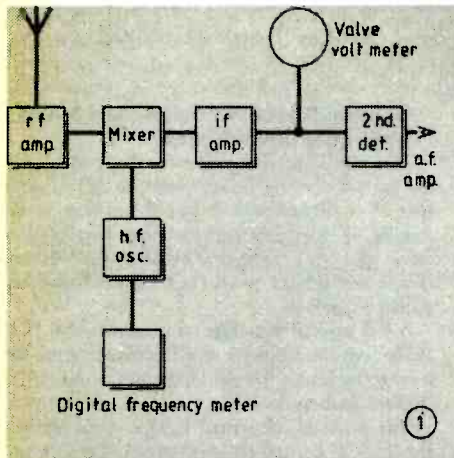
SPREADING

My letter in the October 1981 issue on the above subject has provoked some comment in subsequent issues, and that is a good thing.

Some correspondents have made the mistake of confusing the subject of "splatter" with the subject of "spreading". Until the amateur radio movement recognises that the two phenomena are separate and distinct, and learns to study each phenomenon separately and in isolation, they will not come to a proper understanding of either. My letter in the Oct. '81 issue, acting on the principle of "one thing at a time", referred to spreading - just that - and it would be desirable to confine discussion for the present to that subject.

Now, so far as spreading is concerned, I am saying that a single-sideband transmitter properly and correctly operated and occupying no more than 3 kHz of spectrum space, may nevertheless *appear* on a receiver, if assessment is made by S-meter readings in conjunction with dial frequency calibration, to be occupying *more* than that space, possibly much more; I am saying that this is *not* because the transmitter is radiating energy over the wider band, but is due to an effect in the receiver itself due to a combination of the effects of selectivity and a.g.c. There can be no doubt about the truth of that statement. It can be demonstrated by mathematical analysis and verified by experiment; there is also a fair bit of secondary evidence which backs it up.

Once the truth of this proposition is accepted it must necessarily follow as a corollary that it is impossible to tell from S-meter readings and dial calibration (with no other evidence) *how much* spectrum space a transmitter is actually occupying.



Consider the following simple exercise as an aid to thought. Refer to Fig. 1 which shows an elementary receiver to which has been added a digital frequency meter connected to the h.f. oscillator, the S-meter having been replaced with a vacuum-tube voltmeter or similar instrument as shown. Assume further that there is a crystal oscillator on the bench some short distance away putting out a signal of comfortable strength. The receiver is operated in the first instance without the benefit of a.g.c., that is to say, under manual r.f. gain control.

Tune the receiver across the crystal frequency and plot output voltage (read from the v.t.v.m.) versus frequency, maintaining the receiver at a constant level of sensitivity. You will obtain a curve rather like Fig. 2. This is a selectivity curve for the receiver under this set of conditions. There is a whole family of such curves, and the parameter of the set of curves is the r.f. gain of the receiver, howsoever it be defined quantitatively. To emphasize this point I have shown (Fig. 3) four such curves A, B, C and D, extracted from the family, in descending order of receiver sensitivity.

Switch on the a.g.c. and tune across the crystal frequency f_x as before, commencing well below f_x and proceeding to well above f_x . Coming along the curve of Fig. 2 (re-drawn in Fig. 4) you proceed to the point R. Here the a.g.c. takes control, the point R being determined by the voltage-delay of the a.g.c. system. Tuning higher in frequency the a.g.c. maintains the output constant, until finally we exit from the control of the a.g.c. at point S and continue along the original selectivity curve. Someone, expert in the Red Herring Department, will want to argue with me about the practical niceties of a.g.c.; some other time, please!

The output meter shows substantial output

across a band of frequencies Δf . This does not mean that the transmitter under scrutiny is actually radiating energy across the whole of the band Δf . The transmitter (in this case a crystal oscillator) is radiating energy on *one* single frequency only, viz. f_x . Only a very stupid person would attempt to argue that, because the output meter shows a substantial reading across a band of frequencies, this is proof that the transmitter is transmitting over the whole of that band of frequencies.

What has all this to do with a single-sideband transmitter? If you can understand the above reasoning, then you can understand why a single-sideband transmitter radiating over a 3 kHz bandwidth can provoke your S-meter to a substantial reading over a band of 8 or 10 kHz, or even more: the principle is the same in both cases.

One further point - I should have said earlier that when you traverse the section RS in Fig. 4 as described above you are in effect hopping from one selectivity curve to another. This is indicated in the sketch. There is, of course, an infinite number of such curves, so that it is a smooth transition.

And finally - you will note that if you turn up the r.f. gain and allow the a.g.c. to control the receiver, the impression of broadness is enhanced, because you are working across a curve such as A (Fig. 3). But if you turn down the r.f. gain control the apparent broadness is reduced, because you now work across a curve such as C or D. A single-sideband transmitter will exhibit the same effect - naturally - and the effect may easily be observed by a competent operator.

R. C. Yates
Charlestown
N.S.W.

WIDE-RANGE NOISE GENERATOR

With reference to Mr Ian Hickman's article in the July 1982 issue of *Wireless World*, I should like to suggest that if the 28-stage digital noise generator really works with a shift register pattern of $2^{28} - 1$ different states (the maximum length), this can only be the case because theoretical limitations are compensated by electronic anomalies. Obviously, these "shortcomings" may go completely unnoticed in practice and therefore the object of my letter is not to imply that the design is incapable of producing a wide range of very useful and interesting noise effects. Nevertheless theory and implementation (however elaborate) of this shift-register application show several doubtful points worth mentioning. In this respect it is, for instance, revealing that the practical implementation as given in Fig. 3 does not indicate where the second Ex-Or input comes from. A correct feedback configuration is far more difficult to find than is suggested in the mathematical "explanation".

The first incorrect statement is that in the general case a maximum-length sequence can always be obtained by using an Ex-Or gate with two inputs only: one from the last register stage, the second from "the correct earlier stage". This applies only to shift registers with up to seven stages, but the 8-stage case already invalidates the above "theorem". When an 8-stage implementation is used, eight different feedback configurations can be envisaged. In each case let us examine the sequence starting with the 11111111-state, the Ex-Or output determining the first bit (most left).

With both inputs coming from the 8th stage (most right), the Ex-Or will always turn out a zero and the sequence will never come back to the 11111111-state again; with the second Ex-Or input connected either to the 7th or to the 1st stage output, the sequence will have a length of 53; using either the 6th or the 2nd stage output, the sequence will have a length of 217 (which is still far less than the maximum $2^8 - 1 = 255$); finally using the 4th stage output, the pattern will have a length of only 12. As a matter of fact, maximum length shift register sequences can always be obtained, but the feedback function should generally apply to more than just two stages.

The second erroneous statement is that the maximum-length pattern will establish itself, provided at least one of the shift register stages comes on with a 1-output. Let us once again consider the relatively easier case of an 8-stage shift register and let the feedback function be taken from the 8th stage and the 5th stage. It can now easily be discovered that four different sequences are possible: one is 217 long and contains 1111111, the second is 31 steps long and contains the 11111011-state, the third is seven steps long and contains 10011101, the last one is the indefinitely repeating 00000000-state. When the shift register operating conditions are normal, one sequence (e.g. the one which contains the 11111011-state) will never jump to a different sequence (e.g. the one which contains the 11111111-state).

This clearly demonstrates that much more careful analysis is needed in order to establish whether in the particular case of a 28-stage shift register the maximum-length sequence of $2^{28} - 1$ can be obtained with an Ex-Or gate having only two inputs! By the way, a full 2^N sequ-

ence can also be obtained, but this requires a feedback function a little bit more elaborate than just an Ex-Or array connected in a parity check configuration!

The two misinterpretations should immediately have come to the mind of the author when he observed the (unexplainable?) peculiar circuit behaviour (long start-up effect, periods of silence alternating with hiss, apparent jumps from one sequence to another etc. . . .). May I suggest this could probably be explained by shortcomings in the circuit design (e.g. power supply rating too low, or decoupling near the i.cs insufficient, or spike pick-up by the unconnected gate inputs supposed to be at the high level, or wrong time constants giving long lasting amplifier saturation effects after power turn-on, . . .)?

More detailed information on the actual circuit layout might have been helpful, together with photographs and oscillograms. I doubt very much whether this circuit is easily reproducible! Faulty operation may arrange matters!

Maybe Mr Hickman could reveal the actual feedback function, as it should have been indicated in his Fig. 3, in order to obtain really the longest sequence (starting with the all-zero condition when an Ex-Or invert gate is used) . . . It would also be fruitful to analyse how much this longest sequence is actually off the maximum length of $2^{28}-1$. Even if the difference between projected and actual length turns out to be small, it should still be emphasised that the electronic implementation wouldn't fully exploit the lower frequency range, the values of the coupling capacitors in the filter, attenuator and output circuits as shown in Fig. 4 are too small, except for exclusive audio use: when the filter is set to 10Hz low-pass, the result is actually rather a band-pass! In applications other than audio this might limit the circuits effectiveness.

One might ask the question whether, for audio purposes, a shorter shift register wouldn't have given comparable results when designed correctly! Apart from these remarks, fundamental from a theoretical point of view, it goes without saying that Mr Hickman's circuit can be very instructive for musical applications.

G. J. Naaijer
Louviers
France

The author replies:

Before dealing with the points raised by Mr Naaijer I should like to correct one or two minor graphical errors which crept into the article as published.

In Fig. 1(a) the second input to the exclusive Or gate should be labelled "From m^{th} stage Q output", where m is of course less than n .

In Fig. 3, the input to pin 12 of IC₁₀ should come from pin 13 of IC₈.

In Fig. 4, R₃₅ and R₃₆ are the two sections of 22k Ω twin-gang potentiometer, and references to R₃₅ or R₃₆ in Fig. 5 and throughout the text should read "R₃₅/R₃₆".

The references to "R₃₄" in the 25th line of the third column of page 40 and in the last two paragraphs of the article should read "R₃₅/R₃₆".

The negative end of C₃ in Fig. 6 should go to 0V chassis.

The author should have made it clear that following normal practice, all unused gate inputs in Fig. 3 are returned to +5V via a 1k Ω resistor.

Turning now to Mr Naaijer's letter, he questions whether a shorter shift register would be

adequate. A 28-stage register was arrived at from the following considerations.

It was desired to have white noise with a Gaussian amplitude distribution available to as high a frequency as conveniently possible, say 100kHz. It was clear that the necessary number of stages would be of the order of 25, and a modest clock frequency of around 5MHz is convenient when using a simple And gate oscillator employing standard t.t.l. gates. As stated in the article, Gaussian noise is obtained if the sequence is filtered with a cut-off frequency lower than f_{clock}/n , i.e. lower than 5MHz/25 or 200kHz. Thus Gaussian noise is available up to about 100kHz as required. At the low-frequency end of the range, the frequency of the lowest spectral line in the output is of little interest in itself: the important consideration is the spacing between spectral lines at the lowest frequency of interest. This was taken as 10Hz, and the possibility of external bandpass filtering with a Q of 100 was catered for. The 3dB bandwidth would then be 0.1Hz. Now using SN7495s, six devices would provide a 24 stage register and the maximal length pattern would repeat at approx. 0.3Hz. Thus the spacing between the spectral lines would be greater than the filter bandwidth and the noise would not (in this admittedly extreme case) appear white.

Adding a seventh 7495 provides a 28 stage register, giving a spacing between spectral lines of 0.02Hz, which is quite adequate. It is interesting to note that Beastall, in his white-noise generator design, published in *Wireless World* in March 1972, used a 31 stage register (although 32 stages were available in the i.c.).

The purpose of the article being to describe the design and use of a white noise generator, the subject of maximal length shift registers was touched on only very briefly. The article did not, or was not intended to, imply that for any length shift register, two suitable tappings can be found to give a maximal length sequence with a single Ex-Or gate. This is not always the case. I admire Mr Naaijer's industry in working through all the possibilities for an eight stage register, but a correct feedback configuration is not, as he suggests, difficult to find. It is simply derived from any of the tables of irreducible polynomials published in the literature. These do not bear out Mr Naaijer's statement that "the feedback function should generally apply to more than just two stages" except in the sense that there are numerous possible feedback arrangements for most register lengths, all giving maximal length sequences. However for register lengths of 2 to 34 stages inclusive, there is a single Ex-Or configuration giving the maximal length sequence in 20 cases, including 28 and 31 stage registers. The remaining 13 cases require three or more taps, including lengths 8 (as noted by Mr Naaijer), 24 and 32. For length 28 the correct taps are stages 28 and 3 or stages 28 and 25; the one arrangement provides the same maximal length sequence as the other but with the bit sequence in the reverse order.

It is not always realized that the maximal length sequence is not unique. Even a register as short as five stages can (with the appropriate feedback arrangements) produce six different maximal length sequences, though only one of these (plus its time reverse) can be obtained with a single Ex-Or gate feedback arrangement.

Mr Naaijer has pointed out that there is a problem with the circuit as published, and perceptive readers will have noted the cause. On rereading the article it was immediately apparent to me that if the arrangement produced the intended maximal length sequence, then the sequence would commence immedi-

ately. For, ignoring the degenerate 'all-zeros' case, any other possible combination of register contents at switch-on is by definition a valid member of the maximal length sequence, which will therefore continue from that point. The problem was the tendency of the register contents to come up as all-zeros at switch-on. A section of IC₁₀ was therefore included as an inverter with the intention of making all 1s the degenerate case, but unfortunately this does not have the desired effect. One could alternatively use the correct Ex-Or gating instead of the Ex-Or arrangement shown, and arrange to load a 1 into at least one register stage at switch-on. But a simpler modification which I have tested and incorporated is to invert the *inputs* to the Ex-Or gate as well as its output. With this arrangement, the all zeros case in the register looks like the all 1s case to the Ex-Or gate, and the circuit commences the maximal length sequence immediately as expected. By connecting R₂ directly to pin 10 of IC₈ instead of pin 6 of IC₁₀, two spare Ex-Or gates are available and these were used to invert the outputs of stages 25 and 28 of the register, i.e. pins 13 and 10 of IC₈.

I do not know how long the non-maximal length sequence produced by the circuit as published is, but it must be said that none of the brief tests I was able to conduct in the frequency domain could distinguish between the noise produced and that produced using the correct maximal length sequence. Nevertheless I am grateful to Mr Naaijer for pointing out the snag, to which there is, as I have indicated, a convenient and simple solution.

OPTO-ELECTRONIC CONTACT BREAKER

In your Letters column of September 1982 Stevenson complains that he was unable to obtain the i.c. specified for my opto-electronic contact breaker, and transformer for Rod Cooper's c.d. unit.

I can assure him that in the case of the i.c. that component is crucial to the reliability of the circuit. I have written before in *WW* that the environment in which automotive electronics have to work is far from ideal, and it is not unreasonable to specify a 54-series device in an engine-mounted application. Like Rod Cooper, I am conscious of the need to specify obtainable parts, but there is a converse argument which suggests that sticking to parts from the corner shop stultifies design. This notwithstanding, I wrote on p.67 of the February 1982 issue the name of a Texas Instruments supplier (Quarndon Electronics) and many more spring to mind. Quarndon were kind enough to confirm today by telephone that the SN5401N is in stock and available to anyone.

If one assumes that Stevenson missed the February issue, I would still question whether he had exhausted all possibilities until Rod and/or myself had been consulted. Criticism for failing to provide that for which one has not been asked is hard to accept. Mr Stevenson should be aware that, as authors, we cannot hope to satisfy everyone all the time, but we do feel responsible for our designs, and can usually help.

J. R. Watkinson
Reading

DISC-DRIVE CONTROLLERS

Control logic, the penultimate subject in the disc-drive series, divides into data-handling and drive-coordination sections. These sections, and how they are controlled by sequencing logic, are discussed here.

by J. R. Watkinson

Essentially, disc-drive control logic does not vary much from one drive design to another, but because of the wide price/performance range and changes in technology, one cannot assume that all the features mentioned here will be found in all disc-drive units.

Control logic can be thought of as having two main sections — one for controlling the disc subsystem, including circuits for obtaining subsystem status information, and the other for handling data to be stored or retrieved. These sections are coordinated by sequencing logic.

Execution of a function by the disc-control logic requires a complex series of steps determined by logical decisions made between each step. Sequencing logic resembles a processor with subsystem functions as instructions and the steps as states.

As with central processors, sequencers can be implemented either with combinational logic or with rom-controlled microsequencers, but unlike c.p.us, sequencers have to work in real time and keep in step with the disc's rotation. Figure 1 shows the essentials of a rom-controlled sequencer.

Control and status. Excluding operator controls, disc drives are controlled entirely by functions and parameters loaded into registers in the subsystem. How the registers are loaded is not unique to disc drives and is therefore not discussed here.

Table 1 shows a list of functions performed by a typical disc subsystem and Fig. 2 depicts the most common functions, read, write and write verify. In Fig. 2(a), the disc is altered by data being read from memory and written into it, and changes in memory occur when data are read from the disc, Fig. 2(b). Neither memory nor disc is altered when written data are being verified. In this operation, data are read from the disc and compared word-for-word with data in memory.

Not all disc subsystems have the verify function; in some computer systems data verification is carried out by the main processor at the expense of some processing time.

Figure 2 also illustrates parameters necessary for a data transfer, namely the starting address in memory, the starting address on the disc, and the amount of data to be transferred.

Figure 3 shows a typical register set for a disc subsystem. Most units use direct-memory access (d.m.a.) techniques to transfer data to and from memory without involving the processor. To do this, the

d.m.a. logic needs to know the physical starting address of the memory area to be affected by the transfer. This address is loaded into the memory-address register which increments automatically every d.m.a. cycle so that sequential memory locations are accessed. A word-count register controls the amount of data to be transferred. As it is relatively easy to detect when a register contains zero using hardware, it is often arranged to load the two's complement of the desired word count into the register, which increments every d.m.a. cycle. When the register overflows to zero the transfer is complete.

The starting address of a selected disc must be specified in three dimensions,

namely desired sector, desired head and desired cylinder. One disc transfer may consist of many contiguous disc blocks, and the desired disc address registers can be arranged to increment as each block is completed. As the disc turns, the desired sector address increments first, until the highest numbered sector is reached. When this block is completed, the sector address is reset and the desired head register incremented. The next track is now in use. This process may continue until the highest numbered head reaches the highest numbered sector. In this case both desired head and sector registers reset and the desired cylinder address increments.

Not all units have this feature. The change in cylinder address causes a cylinder difference signal and implies a seek (explained in the May issue of *Wireless World*). Before the transfer can continue

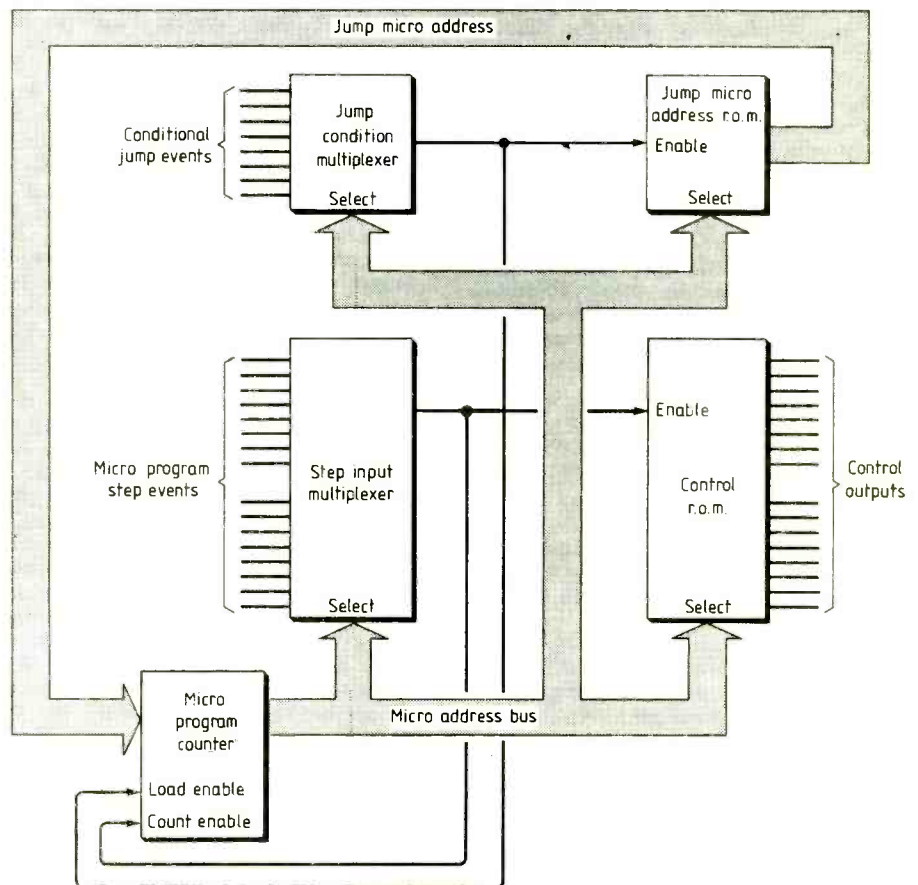
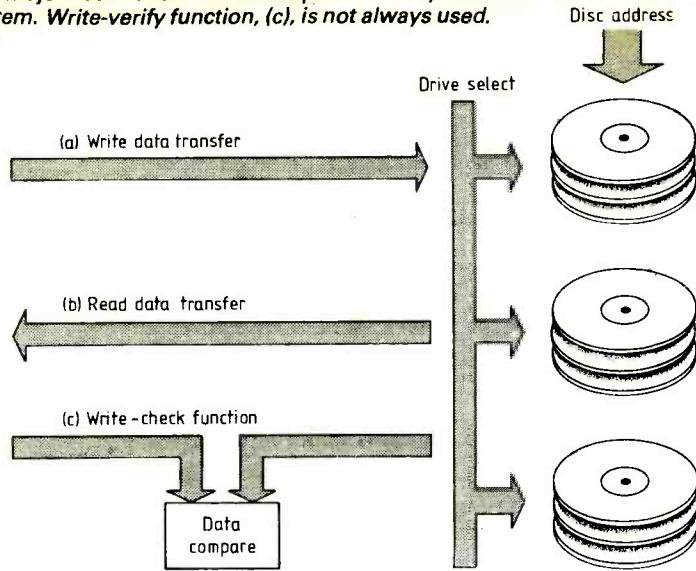


Fig. 1. Disc-control sequencer using rom control. Each address generated by the program counter results in one or more control signals being sent to the system. At the same time the event which causes the program to advance to the next step is selected by the input multiplexer. Certain addresses cause a conditional jump and if the conditions are satisfied, a new non-sequential address is loaded into the program counter from the jump-address rom. More advanced units have stack registers enabling them to call subroutines and return afterward.

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Fig. 2. Three major data transfer functions performed by a disc subsystem. Write-verify function, (c), is not always used.



the positioner has to move on to the next cylinder. The process is only terminated by a word-count or disc-address overflow.

Disc drives work with blocks of data, and hardware is necessary to prevent malfunction if a specified word count is not a multiple of the block size. When reading, if the word count overflows before the end of a block, the transfer to memory stops but the drive continues to the end of the block to read the error-checking character there. When writing, the disc-control logic pads a partially written block with zeros to retain the standard disc format before the check character. The purpose and operation of check characters will be discussed in the next article. Figure 4 shows the flow-chart for the automatic disc-address incrementing algorithm.

Status circuits give the operating system information about the operation of the drives. The boundary between control and status is difficult to define, since the status path can be thought of as a feedback mechanism for the control process.

On completion of a data transfer function, the status circuits inform the operating system that the disc subsystem is no longer busy by way of an interrupt; as with d.m.a. techniques, the c.p.u. is not involved with the data transfer and will be performing useful processing. Following the interrupt, the operating system will read the disc subsystem's status register. If all is well, a ready bit is set, but in the event of a malfunction, an error bit will also be set. There are many conditions which could cause such an error signal.

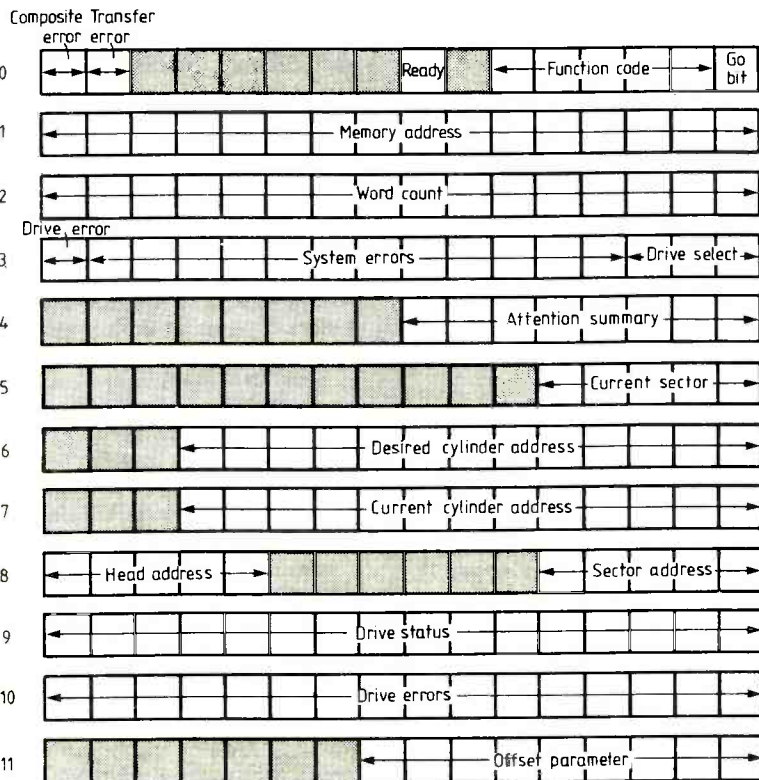


Fig. 3. Register set of a typical disc drive. Composite error is set by the change of state of an OR gate with inputs representing many possible error conditions.

The error bit in the status register is an OR function of all of them, referred to as the composite-error bit.

In a 16-bit system, the ready and error bits are often bits 7 and 15, since these are the sign bits of the low byte and the word respectively. Using 'test' or 'test-byte' instructions, the processor status word will become negative if the sign bit is set. A conditional branch instruction whose outcome is determined by the processor status is then used to determine the program flow. When an error occurs, the system branches to a routine to read the subsystem error register to find out what has gone wrong.

In the case of a non-data-transfer function, such as a seek or search, the drive will become ready when the operation is complete. Non-data functions can take place simultaneously with a data transfer in a multi drive subsystem, and upon their completion it is necessary to know which drive has become ready. This could be achieved by selecting each drive in turn using the unit-select register in a process

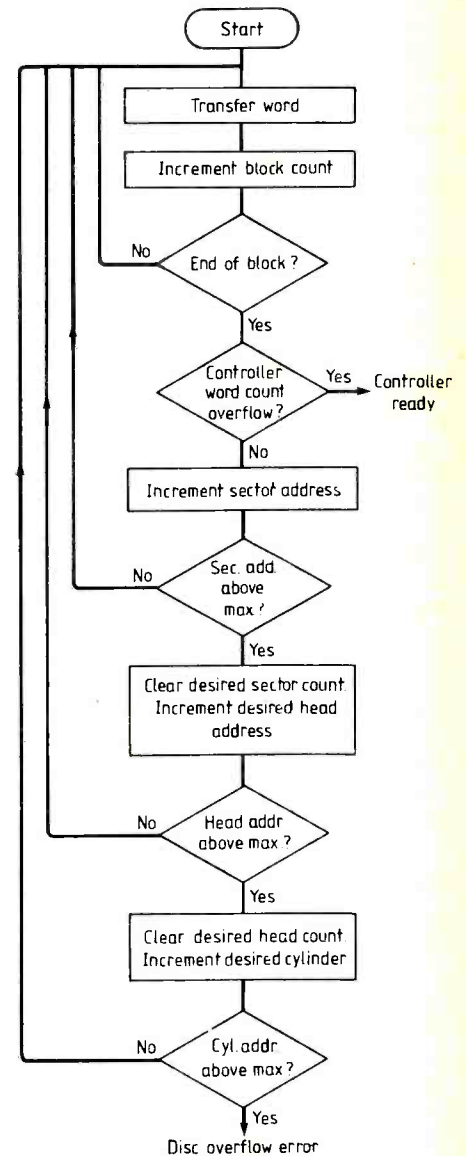


Fig. 4. Disc transfers may extend over several disc blocks without the need for each one to be addressed individually. The disc address increments automatically as long as there are words left to transfer.

known as polling, but this is wasteful of processing time. A better alternative is to use the summary register, which contains one bit position for each drive in the subsystem.

When a change of status occurs in one or more drives, a bit pattern is present in the summary register. Any bit present here will cause an interrupt, and the system has only to read the summary register to find out which drive requires attention. When one of the drives has a fault, the composite error bit will be set, as will a bit called drive error in the subsystem error register. If so, the unit number specified in the summary register has to be loaded into the drive select register. If the c.p.u. now reads the drive-error register, it will obtain the status of the affected drive. Figure 5 shows a typical service-routine flow-chart. Action taken as a result of an error varies from one operating system to another, but typically the error conditions would be recorded in the operating-system error log, and then attempts would be made to clear the error condition by issuing drive-clear or controller-clear commands. Positioning errors normally result in a recalibrate function prior to repeating the failed function.

Hardware failures, such as power-

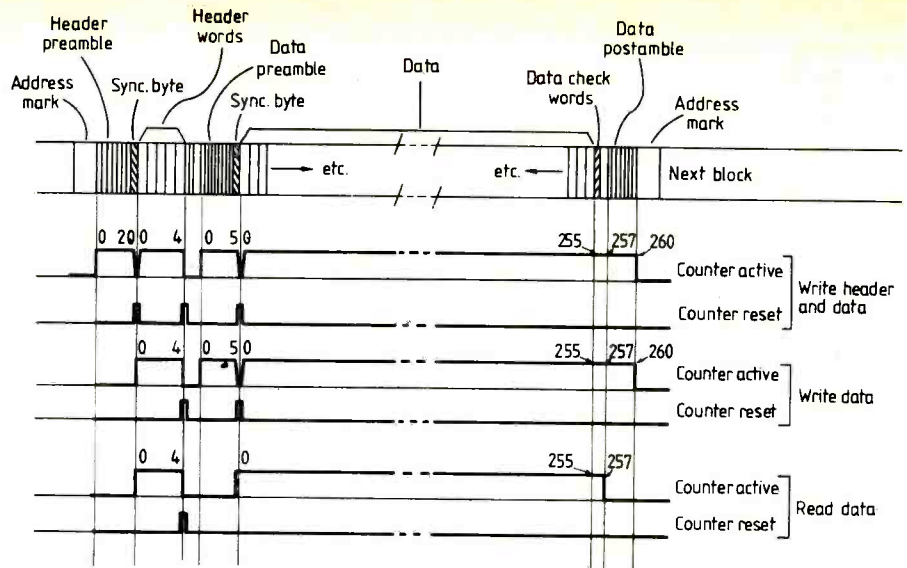


Fig. 6. Format of a typical disc block in relation to the count process used to establish the head's position in the block at any time. During reading the count is derived from data read but during writing the count is derived from the write clock.

supply faults, cause the system to discontinue use of the drive concerned and send appropriate messages to the operator. Such a failure in the swapping disc will usually cripple the whole computer, as the time-

sharing process cannot proceed. Action taken to recover from data errors will be detailed later.

Position verification. Before a data transfer can take place, the selected drive must physically access the desired disc block and confirm its position by reading the header. At the end of an implied seek, should one be required, the positioner circuits declare that the heads are on track and settled. The desired head will have been selected by the head matrix, and the next step is to perform a search along the track by comparing the contents of the current-sector, or 'look-ahead' register with the contents of the desired sector register. When the two are equal, the head is about to enter the desired block. Figure 6, the format of a typical disc track, shows that between blocks are placed address marks, which are areas of steady magnetization that generate no read pulses and can be detected by the read circuits.

Following address-mark detection, the data separator starts to synchronize to the header preamble. Any a.g.c. in the read channel will stabilize at this time. Toward the end of the preamble the data separator will be locked to the read signal and will generate zeros (assuming modified f.m.) and the separate bit clock.

Serial data is converted to parallel form by the serializer, Fig. 7, which is based on a shift register. The serializer also has the ability to convert parallel data to serial form for writing operations. Preamble zeros are clocked down the shift register in the serializer by the bit clock, and in due course the sync-byte's pattern shifts through and is recognized by the sync-byte decoder. When this takes place a divider is enabled, which divides the bit clock by the word-length to give a word count, or in some cases a byte count. The word count is decoded by part of the sequencing logic to enable the various steps which take place synchronously with the disc.

Figure 8 shows decoding necessary for the disc format shown in Fig. 6. The first

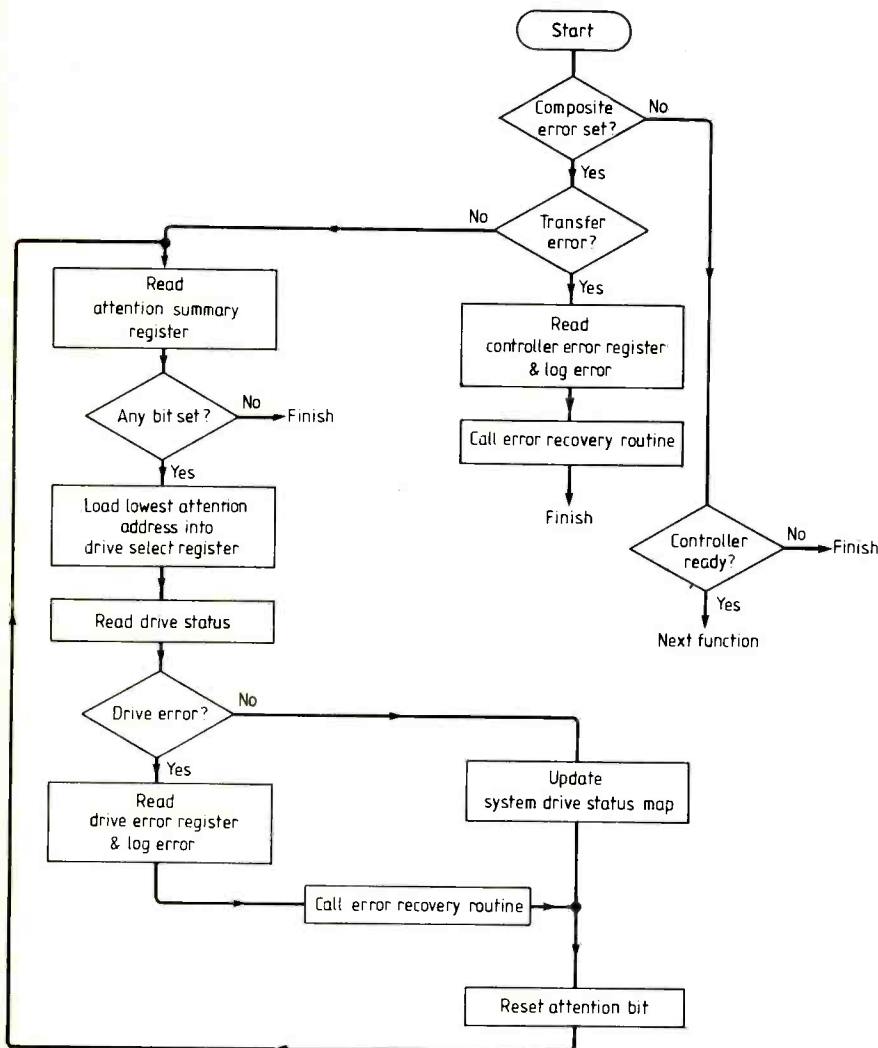


Fig. 5. Flow-chart describing the handling of disc subsystem status registers following an interrupt. Interrupt may have resulted from the controller on data-transfer completion, from a drive completing a function not involving data transfer or from an error condition. More than one drive may have an attention condition at once.

Table 1. Abbreviated list of functions performed by a disc drive. Only one data-transfer function can take place at a time, but other functions can be performed by different drives in the subsystem at the same time.

1 Read	} Data-transfer function (see Fig. 2)
2 Write	
3 Write verify	
4 Read header (and data)	
5 Write header (and data)	
6 Seek - move positioner to new cylinder	} Non-data transfer functions which may be issued to another drive at the same time as a data transfer
7 Search - interrupt when current sector is same as desired sector	
8 Recalibrate - move positioner to cylinder zero	
9 Offset - move positioner off track centre	
10 Return to centre line - cancel offset	
11 Port release - permit other port access to drive	
12 Standby - unload heads and stop spindle	

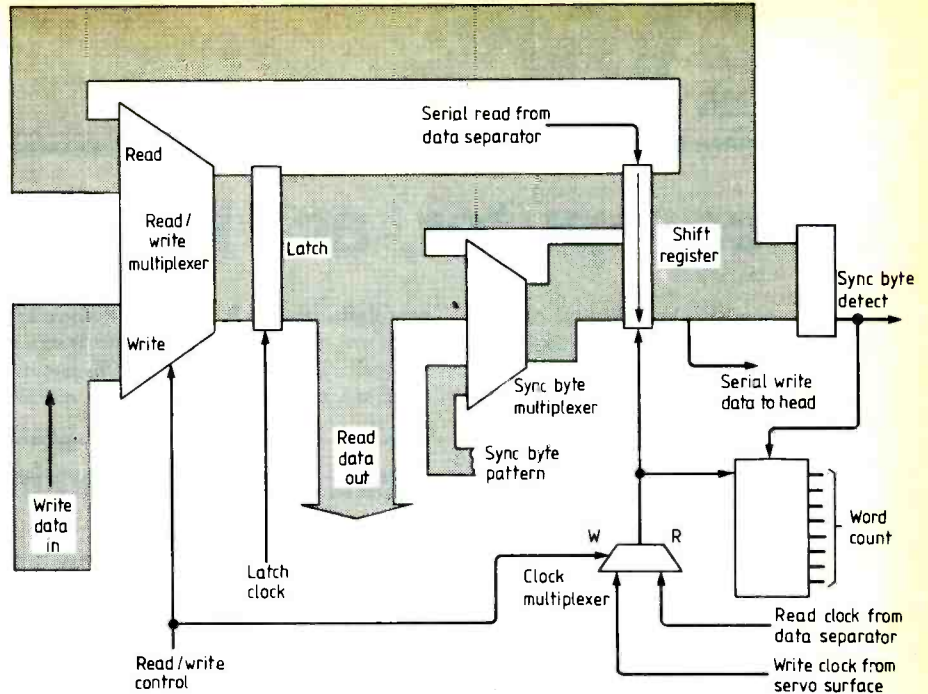


Fig. 7. Conversion between parallel data used by the computer and serial data used by the disc takes place in the serializer which reconfigures itself for either reading or writing.

header word is the cylinder address, and this is compared with the contents of the desired-cylinder register. The second header word contains both the sector and head addresses of the block, which are also compared with the desired addresses.

Some header formats contain extra information such as bits which specify the density of data in the following block, passwords which are used in high security systems and information about media defects in the data area. Each header finishes with a cyclic-redundancy check character

which confirms its validity. Only if the header contained the right addresses and was read correctly will the data transfer take place.

Figure 9 will show a flow-chart for the process of position verification. Automatic reading of the header by the sequencer should not be confused with the read-header command used to place the contents of the selected header in the memory. This is usually only used after a write-header command, to verify that the disc has been formatted properly.

Data transfer. During a data block read, the serializer and sequencer are employed again. As with the header, zeros from the data preamble are clocked into the shift register until the sync. byte is detected, when the next bit will be the first data bit in the block. On every word, the output of the shift register goes around the loop in the serializer and is loaded into the latches. The d.m.a. logic now has finite time to send the word to memory before the next word arrives from the disc. When the word-count decoder decides that the last word in the block has been transferred, check words are sent to the error-checking logic. A description of this operation will be given.

During a write function, header checking is repeated as it is important not to write in the wrong place on a disc. A write process is a little more complex than the read because preambles, sync. bytes and postambles have to be written together with the actual data. To write the preamble, again assuming modified f.m., the serializer is held clear by the sequencer.

At the end of the preamble, the sync.-byte pattern is loaded into the shift register. Data words are then loaded into the shift register from memory in order to write the block.

To be continued

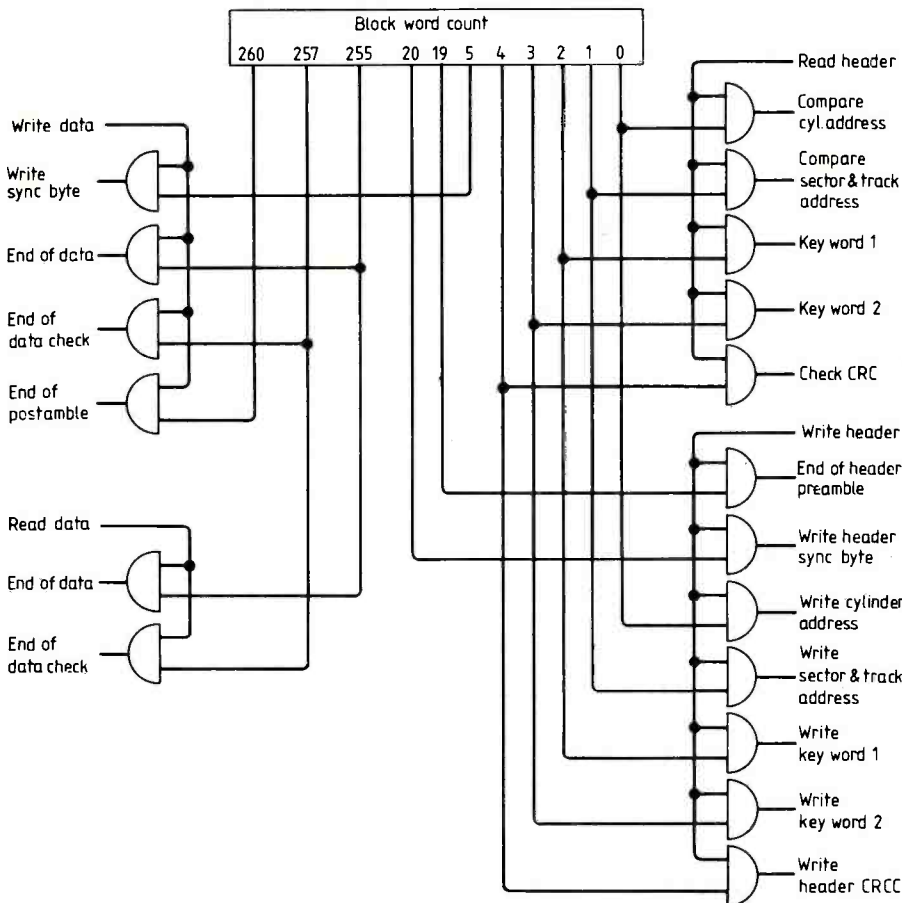


Fig. 8. Decoding for the disc format shown in Fig. 6. As the count is reset several times during a block, the same decoder can be used for a number of purposes. During writing, preambles and sync. bytes must be included but this is not necessary during reading.

Ace computer, ace language?

The most important characteristic of the programming language Forth is that it is a "threaded interpretive language", and not that it uses reverse Polish notation, as frequently reported elsewhere. But in terms of how a Forth computer is received it is interesting to look at Forth and how reverse Polish notation is used. The following analysis is based on experience with a pre-production prototype of the Jupiter Ace computer (News, October issue), and was sent to us by Boris Allan. "I hope the Ace succeeds," he tells us, "it is a very brave initiative, but I do not know whether it will; what I do know is that Ace Forth is the best implementation on small computer I have seen".

Reverse Polish notation seems to imply that it is in some way back-to-front – the accompanying description uses reverse Polish in the definition of F and so on, and the order does not seem unreasonable. It only becomes "unreasonable" when thinking purely numerically. To have to use $2\ 3\ +$ to perform the calculation $2 + 3$ may seem odd, though if it is introduced as "take 2 then 3 and then add them together" then it is much more reasonable. Though Forth is very useful for the numerical, its strengths become more apparent at a higher level of abstraction; yet the Jupiter Ace is aimed at the cheap end of the market. So to what extent is the strange mode of approach a problem?

It is only strange if it is approached in a way which makes it seem strange – the definition of the Forth word "F" (see panel) does not seem strange. The operation $2\ 3\ +$ only becomes strange when we say that it is equivalent to $2 + 3$, and not when we say that it is equivalent to take 2 and then 3 and add them together. This strangeness is not long-lasting.

A far more important problem with Forth is the ways in which restrictions are placed upon defining and redefining words, and it is the complexity of these manipulations that are far more telling for Forth as an introductory language. To make it easily usable, the defining, redefining, and editing of Forth words needs conceptual simplification. This is where the Ace scores over most other systems.

Ace Forth introduces new words EDIT, LIST, and REDEFINE, which make the changing of Forth words simple for the user. LIST F would produce BAR BLIP BAR BLIP BLIP CR and EDIT F would produce a similar listing, and allow one to edit the listing. After editing there would be an extra version of F on the VLIST (the new version), and if we then entered RE-DEFINE then Forth would search through the words in the dictionary (ie those on the VLIST) and substitute the

new definition of F for the old definition (as if we changed a page in our loose-leaf manual). If a word is defined by use of a word not yet defined, there is no way this

illegal definition can appear on the VLIST.

It is easy to crash most Forth systems because the checks on what the pro-

Forth: a threaded interpretive language

If the instructions in a repair manual are "unscrew the nut holding the wurble plate to the ding box, but only after disconnecting the mains supply to the ding box, otherwise you will be electrocuted" there will be a fair number of fatalities. In a t.i.l. the manual has to be written in a sensible order. "First, disconnect the mains supply to the ding box; second, unscrew the nut holding the wurble to the ding box" so that there are no nasty surprises. It is safe to read ahead in the manual because it makes the whole operation that much slower, and how far forward is it possible or necessary to read?

Forth and other t.i.l.s take the sensible approach to reading the manual because it is simpler, and you always know where you are. Any computer program is no more than a set of instructions, and sometimes the same set of instructions are repeated – a truly ignorant person might have to be told, on each occasion, how to unscrew a nut. The manual might then read "First, disconnect the mains supply (see page 1) to the ding box; second, unscrew the nut (see page 2) holding the wurble to the ding box", where the "(see page . . .)" instructions are pointers to other places in the book. That is, we have the name of the operation, and then the location of the instructions with that name (if there was only one operation per page, the page number alone would be sufficient).

The manual itself is an operation – repair a Thing – and is composed of smaller operations, which can then be seen to be composed of even smaller operations, until one reaches certain primitive operations, those which have to be left undefined, eg "pick up a screw-driver". As one goes through the manual new operations are defined before one uses them in terms of the operations which are included in the latest, more complicated, operation. This again is what happens to a t.i.l. (For more details consult Threaded Interpretive Language, by R. G. Loeliger. Byte Books, 1981.) It is now possible to understand any Forth program. Here is a line of program taken from "Starting Forth," by Leo Brodie (Forth Inc, 1981):

F

We know that this is an instruction to do something and so we also know that somewhere the instructions to accompany F will be found. They are

BAR BLIP BAR BLIP BLIP CR

thus whenever we come across F, the computer will think BAR BLIP BAR BLIP BLIP CR. There are three new named instructions here, and BAR means

MARGIN 5 STARS

whereas BLIP means

MARGIN STAR

and CR is a primitive which means "carriage return". MARGIN is defined as

CR 30 SPACES

(on an 80 column printer or vdu), so BLIP

misses 30 spaces and prints out one star, and BAR misses 30 spaces and prints out five stars, so that F (which is BAR BLIP BAR BLIP BLIP CR) will print out.

*

*

*

a trivial application but one which is totally transparent. To print out a large F, one types F -- could it be easier?

It is possible to program in this manner in Basic especially one which allows the user to use meaningful names for functions and procedures (though the applications in Forth – what are called "words" – are closest to *functions* in other languages). In Forth, however, the process of defining words is done there and then, and is done in what might be called, in Basic, "instant mode". Most forms of Basic will not allow you to enter (say) function definitions instantly, though it is possible to PRINT in immediate mode. In Forth, to define the meaning of F one enters

: F BAR BLIP BAR BLIP BLIP CR ;

where the colon means a word is to be defined (the next word in line) and semi-colon means that is the end of the definition. Try that in Basic; it is possible, but more complicated, using subroutines.

In most versions of Forth if one enters VLIST, an index is produced of all words so far defined and in the order in which they were defined. The order is important because the user of the manual (ie the Forth system) is incapable of looking forward in the manual to find a definition (one can only look back). If in the word F, one of the defining words (eg BLIP) had not already been defined the definition would be invalid. In terms of the output from a VLIST, a word can only be defined in terms of words which are lower down the list. What happens then when a manual is updated, and an improved method of unscrewing nuts is given?

Depending on the manual, various things could happen. If the manual was a loose-leaf manual, the old set of operations could be taken out to be replaced by the new set, and if each new set of instructions started on a new page, the insertion would be that much easier. An alternative method would be to mark the old instructions with a note, "see amendment sheet 14", so that on going to page 2 you would be redirected to the new set of instructions. Once done, the first is less work to use than is the second.

In conventional Forth systems, neither of these methods (or their equivalents) can apply. To change the definition of F so that it will be put closer to the left-hand-side of the screen, all that appears to be necessary is to alter the definition of MARGIN (as BAR and BLIP, and thus

grammer can do are few; it is simple to over-write the words in the dictionary, and for the system to disappear in a puff of smoke. Such things on the Ace didn't succeed. Steve Vickers (the language designer) explains that there were two modes of running programs in Forth on the Ace, FAST and (the default) SLOW. SLOW

F, both depend upon MARGIN in their own definitions), eg

```
:MARGIN CR 5 SPACES:
```

which is simplicity itself. However, this doesn't work.

If MARGIN is redefined and you ask for a VLIST, MARGIN will be at the top of and further down (lower than BLIP, BAR, or F) another occurrence of MARGIN. If you type at the console

```
MARGIN 10 STARS
```

You will find a space of 5 blanks and then 10 stars. If you now key F, the output will be exactly the same as the original version. When the computer comes across F within the body of coding for F there are pointers to the places at which the code for BLIP and BAR can be found. BLIP and BAR still point to the original coding for MARGIN - ie with 30 spaces. The introduction of a new definition for MARGIN has not affected anything earlier, and so all the old pointers are unaltered - they can only point backwards, never forwards. Without doubt this is a major problem.

Another problem concerns program development and the editing of source material. Suppose that we define MARGIN with 5 spaces, try it out, and then decide that perhaps it would be better with 10 spaces (then 8 spaces, then . . .), what happens? Under VLIST (unless one is careful) a large number of competing and conflicting definitions of MARGIN will appear. It is possible to FORGET MARGIN (ie erase the last definition) but often it is the kind of action which is easily forgotten. The way in which a source record is kept of the definitions (on what are termed "screens") can in itself lead to problems.

Consider this word, and its definition,

```
: LOOP-TO-12 13 0 DO I. CR LOOP ;
```

which prints out numbers from 0 to 12 (the point means print out the last number mentioned, in this case the loop counter I). If that is stored on a screen, and the EDITOR used, the EDITOR redefines I to an edit command, and so every time LOOP-TO-12 is used the word will use the redefined version of I (as per its use in the EDITOR). Unless one is careful more complex interactions can occur.

For a t.i.l. to work most effectively what is needed is a processor which is able to efficiently point to locations which point to locations which . . . More technically what is needed is a processor with sophisticated addressing modes. The common Z80 or Z80A micro-processor is not known for its sophisticated addressing - the opposite in fact - and though the also popular 6502 is slightly better, there is little to choose between them. The recent Motorola 6809, as used in the Tandy Color Computer and the Dragon, seems to be a chip which would fit the t.i.l. philosophy well.

BORIS ALLAN

mode means that everything that can be checked, is checked (eg the stack over-writing), and FAST means that all checks are off (useful when you know it works) and the program runs 25% more quickly.

Forth is an inherently compact efficient language and is not far short of the speed of machine code for some applications, and twice as slow at worst. The standard Ace comes with 3K bytes of ram, which may not seem a great deal but as Forth programs are so compact it is worth far more in terms of equivalent storage for a Basic program. The Ace will be able to use the Sinclair 16K ram pack in any case, so storage of programs presents no problem, and the cassette system is simplicity itself to use. The Z80A chip used is not the best for Forth - the 6809 is better suited - but Altwasser and Vickers say they knew the Z80A inside out and back to front -

and it worked.

Forth is excellently suited for control applications, and so the Ace might be bought for that. Success might partly depend on how many interfaces to the outside world are produced; though as many of the ZX81 (etc) devices seem to be already compatible perhaps this has been partly solved already.

A possible further demerit is the claim that Forth as a language can promote the datk syndrome ("design at the keyboard") in that, because one has to get the basics right first, the overall structure gets lost. I think that datk is valid and though it may not be "structured" in the sense of top-down programming, it does lead to efficiency of coding - top-down programming inherently leads to verbosity in programs.

Advice to dbs panel

The advisory panel considering technical transmission standards for direct broadcast satellites is accepting advice until early November. The panel, headed by Sir Antony Part once permanent secretary at the Department of Trade and Industry and now chairman of Orion Insurance, includes Roger Griffiths, professor of electronics at Loughborough University, and Alan Day, professor of economics at LSE, with consultant Bernard Rogers as an assessor. Secretary is P. R. Birch, DoI, 29 Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DT, tel. 01-213 5810. The short notice, according to the Home Secretary in a parliamentary answer, is to enable "the necessary receiving equipment to be ready in time for the projected start of d.b.s. in 1986."

Uosat back in operation

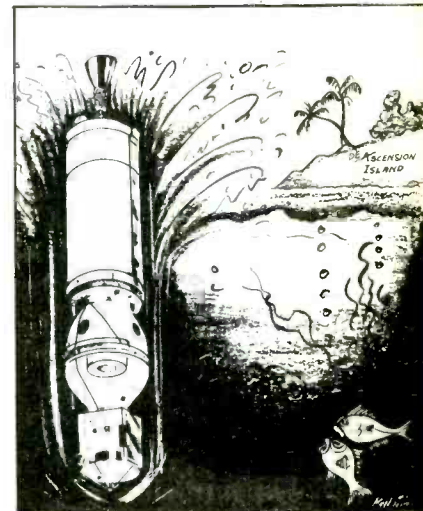
The amateur radio satellite Uosat has been given an "off" command through the large radio telescope dish of the Standord Research Institute, California. Uosat became uncommandable in April this year when both its 145 and 435MHz transmitting beacons were switched on together. This swamped the command receiver and no further commands could be passed.

Now, the University of Surrey is in full command. All telemetry has been tested and found to be correct as it was originally left in April. Test and analysis programs are being dumped on to the F100 spacecraft computer for future use in the Phase 3 programmes. The 1800 on-board compu-

ter is having its software checked to ensure that no false command will be accepted and thus cause the same fault.

The system transmits at various rates during weekday passes but for the next few weeks, at weekends, transmissions will be at 300 baud. Amsat-UK and the University of Surrey invite suggestions from readers on what the data rate should be at weekends to stimulate maximum interest. They would also be grateful for hard copies to be sent to the University for evaluation.

Information on Uosat and Amsat-UK can be obtained from Amsat-UK, London E12 5EQ, by sending a stamped addressed envelope. There is also a guide to operating Oscar available for £1 and the latest satellite information will be included.



After a "perfect countdown" to the launch of Mares B on 10 September, announced ESA said "an anomaly led to a lower trajectory than required".

HDTV-on-Sea

Visitors to the International Broadcasting Convention at Brighton had a good opportunity to assess the high definition colour television system which NHK, the Japanese Broadcasting Corporation, has been developing over the past few years. Sony were demonstrating a camera, monitors, a v.t.r. and a large-screen projector, all working on the 1125-line, 60 field/s standard proposed by NHK. The pictures are said to contain five to six times the amount of information provided by current NTSC, PAL and SECAM services, but although the images were undoubtedly superior they did not seem as impressive as one might expect from doubling the number of lines and sextupling the video bandwidth to 30MHz. Of course, the relationship between subjective picture quality and objective definition parameters is not a linear one and probably there is a law of diminishing returns here.

Sony's camera uses three 1-inch Saticon tubes with an optical beam-splitter, giving R, G, B signals with a resolution of 1200 television lines. The 17 and 24in colour monitors are based on Trinitron display tubes with a fine-pitch vertical grille (300, and 400µm respectively); while the projector, using red, green and blue 9-inch tubes, throws a picture on a 2000 by 1200mm screen. Recording on the 1-inch v.t.r. is by the f.m. method using Y, U, V signal components with a luminance bandwidth of 22 MHz and chrominance band-

width of 10MHz.

Of course all this was closed-circuit television, as there does not seem much likelihood of transmitting a 30MHz video bandwidth until direct broadcasting satellites get going. In the meantime it seems more likely that HDTV will have useful applications in the production, distribution and projection of motion pictures. Sony claim that the picture quality "fully matches that of 35mm motion picture film." (But this is not a new idea: older readers in the UK will remember Norman Collins's film production company High Definition Films of some 30 years ago.)

Nevertheless there is no reason why high definition equipment of this kind should not "be used in the studio well before the capacity to transmit such signals becomes established", in the words of Charles Sandbank, head of the BBC's re-

search department. Indeed if signal processing electronics become cheap enough, it might also be possible to use high definition techniques with advantage in the receiver (the transmission system remaining unchanged and compatible with existing standards). As Mr Sandbank remarked, in his paper on future broadcasting developments, for signals "derived from a high definition studio standard and pre-filtered for compatible 625-line transmission, up-conversion to a higher line standard, e.g. 1250, with adaptive interpolation may also be worthwhile."

However, the same speaker very sensibly pointed out that high definition television broadcasting in the full sense really awaits the time when large-area domestic displays capable of doing justice to a standard with more than 1000 lines" become commonplace components."

Wireless telephones legal

— at a price

Rumours that the Government were about to licence sale of wireless telephones were confirmed recently by the Department of Industry. The previous "liberalization" schemes of November last year covering extension telephones and modems, and of last May covering callmakers/repeating diallers with integral modems, are now extended to include "cordless" telephones, as the DoI call the wireless extensions to distinguish them from radio telephones.

The devices have to be tested for conformity with technical guide 47, which for a "small charge" is available from J. Jeans, BTHQ, ICS214, 45 Moorfields, London EC2Y 9U, tel: 01-432 9347 (the small charge turns out to be £10). There is a hefty charge for testing; probably between £3,000 and £5,000 will be required before testing begins. In defence of such amounts BT say that ordinary telephone testing already costs around £2,000 (three samples are assessed) and additionally there are r.f. and security aspects to take into account.

Interim frequency allocations up until 1986 are 1632 to 1792kHz for transmitting and 47.45 to 47.55MHz for receiving.

Interim Merriman

The Merriman spectrum review committee recommends that the 405-line tv service should be closed by the end of 1984, years earlier than planned. They suggest that the best use of these v.h.f. bands would be for mobile services — radio-telephones and internal and operational communication for the broadcast authorities. The mobile radio allocation plan should be developed in consultation with manufacturers and users by the end of 1983, as should plans for the broadcast ancillary services, to be implemented progressively, starting in 1985. Having considered some of the alternatives, such as community tv and a full channel of teletext, the review committee considered that all tv services would be best served by existing and proposed schemes such as satellite and multi-channel cable services.



"Some manufacturers have the u.l.a. made for them to the specification of the computer," says Oric computer designer P. T. Johnson of Tangerine Computer Systems, "rather than designing the u.l.a. around it". Like many popular computers Oric 1 is based on a 6502 microprocessor and a u.l.a., but unlike others it provides an eight-colour facility together with 15K of user ram for £100. A printer and disc drive are promised for the near future, as is a £60 modem to interface with videotex systems.

Tapping their own drum

After just a month of production in their new factory, the inventors of an electronic drum synthesizer had orders worth over £250,000, secured by the new company's New York distributor. Developed two years ago the drum kit, as it is called, has touch-sensitive pads that trigger production of sounds: rhythms are not programmed in as with conventional rhythm generators. Its four main touch pads trigger bass drum, snare, high and low toms and secondary pads operate high-hat, closed high-hat and variable crash/ride cymbals. It also incorporates a rhythm unit which can be set to trigger the high-hats with variable tempo and time signature modes. Sound levels of each effect is adjustable and outputs allow direct interface with multitrack mixing desks. Associated instruments can be used individually or triggered by the device, for instance the Clap gives a wide range of clap effects, gun shots, explosive and other white noise effects, while another gives tympani effects.

The electronics design aspects were the work of Clive Button who teamed up with Mike Coxhead, who otherwise runs a building renovation firm, "Its a bit of a



departure from my own business" says Coxhead "but I'm glad we got it on the market before anyone else got the idea". His initial investment of £30,000 for the prototype has paid off and he's now after £1 million orders by the end of year.

Micro arithmetic leaves UK in cold

Floating-point arithmetic for new microprocessor systems, the subject of IEC publication 559, defines ways to perform binary floating-point arithmetic, whether realized entirely in hardware, software or a combination. The need for this world standard comes from booming international trade in microprocessor systems say the IEC, and a divergence of national practices could act as a brake. In defining a family of commercially feasible ways for new microprocessor systems to perform floating-point arithmetic, the IEC say the benefits will be "enhanced portability and capability programs; direct support for execution-time diagnosis of anomalies, smoother handling of exceptions, and interval arithmetic at a reasonable cost; and development of standard elementary functions, high precision arithmetic and coupling of numerical and symbolic algebraic computation".

It specifies 32 and 64 bit formats, results for arithmetic operations, conversions between integers or decimal strings and floating-point numbers and between different formats, as well as exceptions and their handling, including non-numbers. The standard is based on an IEEE 754 draft and was prepared in just over a year by the

microprocessor sub-committee of the IEC semiconductor devices committee. The UK did not vote explicitly in favour of publication of this standard, though the USA, USSR, Japan and most of Europe did. And we haven't been able to contact anyone from the sub-committee yet - there were no UK members.

Basicode by radio

In an attempt to find a universal version of the computer language Basic which would allow different computers to 'talk' to each other and to be able to load the same programs from a single source, Dutch radio has developed Basicode, a list of reserved words common to nearly all versions of Basic. A large number of the more popular home and hobby computers may be easily adapted to load programs written in Basicode. Earlier this year Radio-Nederland started broadcasting computer programs on the English-language programme *Media Network*, as did NOS on the domestic *Hobbyscoop* programme. They found that for shortwave 300 baud was the maximum rate for reliable reception but they also transmit locally on medium wave at 1200 baud and have had reports of successful recording of data from neighbouring Germany. Use of Basicode on amateur v.h.f. bands has now been approved by the Dutch telecommunications authority.

Radio Nederland has published a book listing the Basicode reserved words and protocol and giving hardware and software adaptations which may be needed to use the system with a number of popular computers. The book and a cassette of programs written in Basicode are available at cost price (from Europe this is 25 guilders, about £5) from Basicode, Administrative Algemeen Secretariat, NOS, PO Box 10, 1200 JB Hilversum, Netherlands.

The Hunt is up

The findings of the Committee of Inquiry into cable television suggest that there should be few controls and that cable and programme providers can provide as many channels as they like. The report recommends the setting up of a supervisory, franchising authority. There would be no restriction on the quantity of advertising. Each franchise should cover an area of not more than half a million homes. Present providers of cable services would no longer be obliged to carry BBC and ITV programmes though any new service would.

These recommendations do not seem to provide the 'licence to print money' that many potential cable providers were looking for. It does not suggest a national standard for cable services (the Eden Inquiry is looking into cable standards). The main, and most controversial, point is that there is no distinction between the cable providers and the programme providers. If they were separated, there could be a national plan to give interactive services over the whole country. With the current plan, there will be no cable service in the less populated areas for a long time.

Fast a-2-d converter

Research into high-definition television at NHK laboratories has produced an 8-bit analogue-to-digital converter with a maximum sampling rate of almost one gigabit per second.

Corrections

Circuit modelling by microcomputer by R. I. Harcourt, August 1982. The graphs published were inadvertently printed in place of some more recent ones. In the examples used, the 'phase degree' axes should be shifted by 180° to correct the graphs.

Simple, low-frequency oscilloscope. There are one or two changes to the circuit diagram of this instrument, which was described in the September issue. The top contact of the sweep-speed selector switch should be removed, and the 10kΩ and 3.3kΩ resistors on the base of the tail transistor in the Y amplifier should be interchanged. The author also asks us to point out that the 470nF capacitor in the -2kV line (not +2kV) should be of 1200V working and the 1μF should be 600V, not 6000V.

PROGRAMMABLE GPIB-TO-SERIAL INTERFACE

Remote programmable facilities dispense with some of the switch packs used in the earlier talker/listener interface design.

A data byte on the internal instrument bus may be loaded into the octal latches of the comparator chip. In the acceptor-data state, the byte corresponding to the end-of-text character is clocked into the F524 by the rising edge of STB3, applied to the CP input. This signal is derived from the RXST 96LS488 output in the same way as STB1 and STB2. The RXST and RXRDY handshake is completed through and-gate 4 and multiplexer IC12. When the instrument receives an unlisten command, and provided one of the other three functions is addressed, ENBL3 returns high, so I11 drives the S0, S1 inputs low, putting the 74F524 into the compare mode. Appendix 1 gives a more detailed description of the 74F524 operation. In this mode the 74F524 compares the eight-bit data input with that data latched internally. If the bytes do not match the equals (=) output will stay low. But if there is a true comparison the internal open-collector driver turns off and the output floats passive high through the 10kΩ pull-up resistor. During talker active the three state condition on inverter I13 is removed, and a passive high on the 74F524 output results in an active low on the end-or-identify line. The assertion of EOĪ concurrent with the transmission of the final data byte in a character string can be treated by the controller, and listeners active on the bus as an end-of-text terminating message.

Interface as an active listener. After initialization, the interface may then be addressed as an active talker or listener for the serial/parallel or parallel/serial conversion of data. The interface becomes listener addressed after receipt of the following remote messages: UNL, MLA and MSA 0. When MSA 0 is received a falling edge at the 96LS488 LAD output inverts through the nand-gate 1, producing a rising edge at the CP inputs of the dual D-type latch IC7. The CP pulse clocks the low outputs from I1 and I2 to the Q outputs of the D-type latches. The A0 & 1 address inputs of the 74LS139 select the O0 outputs of IC8. The ENBL0 output of IC8b provides a low select input to IC12. This establishes a TBRE/RXRDY handshake signal between the u.a.r.t. and the 96LS488. The 96LS488 RXST output drives the uarts TBRL input through I5, the selected O0 output of IC8a and the nand-gate 5. The TBRE output from the uart is used as an enabling input to gate 5, which ensures that TBRL will not go low until the transmit register has serially encoded and transmitted the data byte present at the TB1-8 inputs. This

by Chris Jay

This second part completes the description of a programmable modification to the 488 parallel-to-serial interface. Featured in the July issue of WW, it was conceived as a low-cost interface solution for instruments with a serial data link such as an RS232C port. When configured to a keyboard and addressed as a talker, characters typed on the keys are converted by the interface from serial to parallel data and transmitted over the bus data lines. A printer interfaced to the bus is addressed as a listener; data bytes received are serially encoded and fed to the serial input port of the printer. The interface used 13 i.cs including a 96LS488 to perform interface functions and message decoding, an IM6402 uart for the serial/parallel encoding of data, and an MC14411 as a frequency reference for serial transmission and reception at four link-selectable rates. During the talker-active state the interface could automatically recognize an end-of-text character, and assert the EOĪ line concurrent with the transmission of the final data byte in the character string.

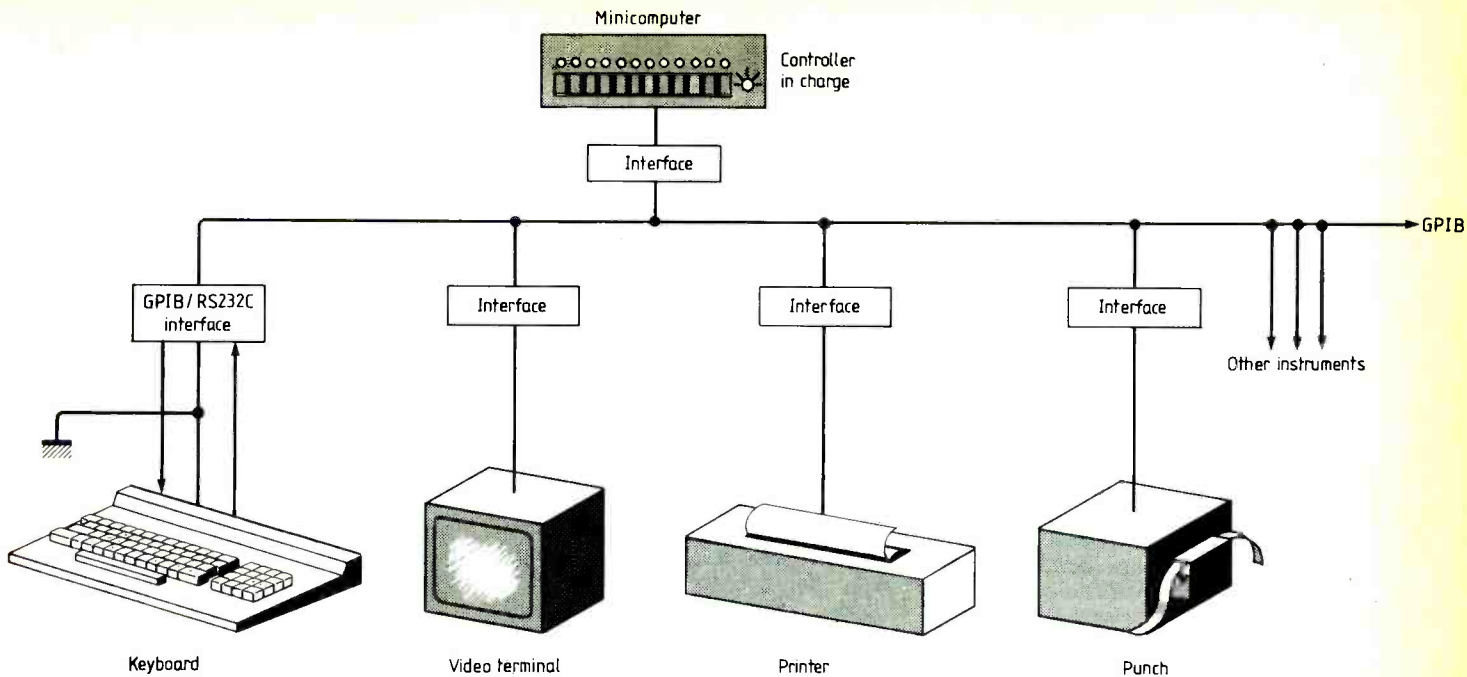
completes the RXST/TBRL handshake for the asynchronous transfer of data bytes to the uart transmit buffer register. Data bytes present on the GPIB data lines are inverted onto the internal instrument bus by IC3 which is enabled by the active low signal LACSENBFB.

Interface as an active talker. To program the interface as an active talker the sequence of UNL, MTA and MSA 0 is sent. The TAD 96LS488 output goes low and latches the code 00 into the dual D-type latch IC7. The ENBL0 output of IC8b goes low, and when inverted by I8 produces a high enable signal for nand-gate NG2, so the inversion of TXST may drive the DRR uart input. Also, the output of I8 enables and-gate seven establishing a DR/TXRDY handshake between the uart and 96LS488. When the interface enters the talker active state the TACSENBFB signal goes low. The 74F240 enable inputs and the uart receive register disable input goes low. Parallel data serially encoded from the RS232C input is inverted to drive the bus data lines by IC4. The uarts data ready output drives the 96LS488 TXRDY input high, via and-gate seven, to inform listeners active on the bus that a data byte

is valid. When this data byte has been taken the 96LS488 decodes the bus handshake lines to set TXST high. This assertion is inverted by gate 6 to drive the uarts DRR input low. When low the uart permits the next serial data input to be received without overrun error. Transmission of data bytes continues until the end-of-text character is sent. Transmission of the final data byte results in a data match with the contents of the 74F524. The EQU (=) will be pulled passive high by the 10kΩ pull-up resistor. Inverter I13, which has been enabled drives the EOĪ line low, concurrent with the transmission of the final data byte in the character string. The controller-in-charge may recognize this end-of-text message, regain control of the bus and un-address the instrument until it is required to talk again.

Serial poll capability

The instrument interface has the capability to generate a service request and respond to a serial poll. If, during the serial encoding or decoding of data bytes, a framing, parity, or overrun error occurs, the output of nor-gate 8 goes low. The cross-coupled latch of gates 9 & 10, set during a power on master reset, will drive the 96LS488 RSV (request for service) input low. The 96LS488 responds by asserting the service request line. The controller-in-charge may regain control of the bus to conduct a serial poll, and hence determine the source and cause of the service request. To perform a serial poll, the controller asserts the ATN bus line and issues an UNL message to prevent active listeners responding to status bytes as though they were data bytes. The serial poll enable message is sent over the data lines and each instrument capable of responding to a serial poll will sequentially receive its talk address. The controller removes the assertion on line ATN and listens to the bus for the instrument, to issue a status byte. When the interface is in the serial poll active state, the SPASENBFB output from or-gate 3 goes low. The 74F240 half of IC10 drives the data lines 1-3 with the inverted IM6402 outputs of PE, OE and FE. Note to relieve the three-state on these outputs the 6402 status flag disable input must be disabled low. The output of the SPAS-enabled EOĪ inverter drives the EOĪ bus line inactive high. This signal is not asserted by the instrument during serial poll active state. The requested service output RQS from the 96LS488, wire-or'ed to data line 7, will go active low, indicating that the interface originated the service request. When the



status byte is read by the controller the STST 96LS488 output goes high then low, pulsing the STRDY input low then high through inverter I₁₀. So as the status byte is read the local handshake STST to STRDY is automatically driven. From the format of the status byte the controller program may determine the error that occurred during encoding and transmission or reception. If an error resulted in one of the error flags going active high then it will

be necessary to issue a clear message to the interface before normal operation can be resumed.

Clearing the system

There are two ways of clearing the instrument interface. On the application of power the RC network of 10kΩ and 10μF reset the 96LS488 and the uart. The uart may be cleared remotely on the receipt of a device clear or selected device clear mes-

sage. If a request for service had arisen due to an error (framing parity or overrun) generated during the transmission or reception of data, it will be necessary to clear the uart and set the RSV latch. After the serial poll the controller may respond by addressing the interface as a listener and sending a selected device clear. The CLR 96LS488 output pulses low, producing a high at the output of gate 11. This resets the uart through the master reset input. Also, the CLR low output sets the cross-coupled nand-gate configuration of gates 9 & 10, resulting in RSV being driven inactive.

Table 5a. UART control register, MSA 1

DAB 1	DIO1 SBS	DIO2 EPE	DIO3 PI	DIO4 CLS1	DIO5 CLS2	DIO6 x	DIO7 x	DIO8 x
Control register	The following inputs are used to set the control register status when the CRL input goes high.							
CLS1, CLS2	Character length select — these two inputs select the character length according to							
	Character length		5	6	7	8 bits		
	CLS1		L	H	L	H		
	CLS2		L	L	H	H		
PI	Parity inhibit. A high level inhibits parity generation, parity checking and forces the PE status flag output low. This input overrides the EPE input.							
EPE	Even parity enable. When the PI is set low a high level on the EPE input generates and checks even parity conversely a low level selects odd parity.							
SBS	Stop bit select. This input selects the number of stop bits. The number of stop bits added to the transmitted character also depends on the character length selected by the CLS1 and CLS2 inputs. The following table lists the number of stop bits selected versus the character length and state of the SBS input.							

Table 5b. Data speed generator latch, MSA 2

DAB 2	DIO1	DIO2	DIO3	DIO4	DIO5	DIO6	DIO7	DIO8	Data Rate
	0	0	0	x	x	x	x	x	75
	1	0	0						300
	0	1	0						600
	1	1	0						2400
	0	0	1						1200
	1	0	1						4800
	0	1	1						4800
	1	1	1						19200

RS232C transmission and reception

The t.t.l. level signal at the uart TRO output and RRI inputs are converted to RS232C ±12 volt levels by the μA1488 transmitter and from the ±12 volt levels that by the μA1489 receiver. Pin 2 of the μA1489 is left open-circuit.

Clock frequency for the 96LS488 CP input is generated by a CR network of 470pF and 220Ω. The "power-on" reset consists of a 10μF and 10kΩ network, the diode 1N4148 configured to provide a rapid discharge path when power is removed from the circuit. The TAD and LAD 96LS488 outputs are wired to i.e.ds and resistor pull-ups. Red and green i.e.ds are configured to the TAD and LAD outputs of the 96LS488 and may be mounted so

Table 5c. MC14411 clock outputs

Outputs (Hz)	×64	×16	×8	×1
F3	307.2k	76.8k	38.4k	4800
F7	76.8k	19.2k	9600	1200

Clock rate outputs are 16 × data speed of the uart serialized data. Using A & B control inputs, 00 gives ×1, 10 ×8, 01 ×16 and 11 ×64.



Chris Jay is senior design engineer at Marian Electronics, Stroud, Gloucestershire. Joining GCHQ in Cheltenham as a trainee technician straight from school, he obtained City and Guilds (Telecommunications) and HNC qualifications at day release and evening classes. These qualifications helped him qualify as a mature student for a full-time degree course at Essex University. On graduation in 1977 he joined Texas Instruments as part of the engineering design effort on the 9911 DMA controller chip. Preferring to be involved with device applications he joined Linotype Paul in Cheltenham where he designed computerized file storage equipment for the newspaper and printing industries. He left to join Fairchild's Bristol design centre in 1980, where he wrote this article.

that the user may clearly see the current addressed state of the instrument. The return-to-local 96LS488 input is permanently wired to V_{cc} through a 10k Ω resistor.

Ideas for further development

Although the interface circuit was designed to have a number of useful features this design could be developed for increased functional capability. With the addition of a 74150 multiplexer circuit and

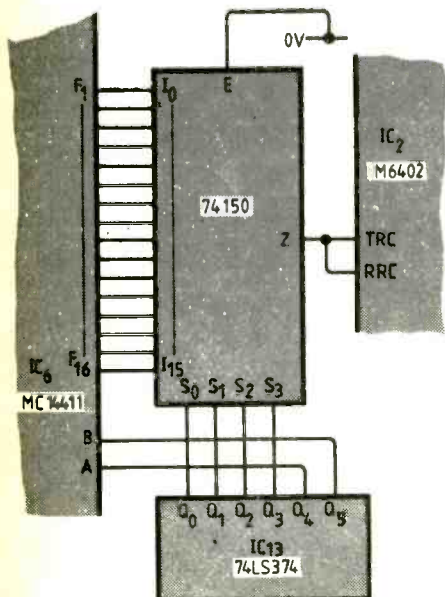


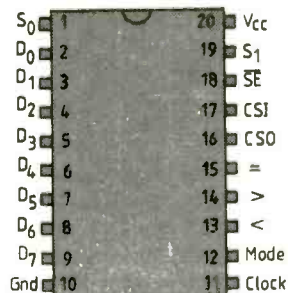
Table 6

S0	S1	Operation
0	0	Hold - retains data in shift register
0	1	Read - read contents in register onto data bus
1	0	Shift - Allows serial shifting on next rising clock edge
1	1	Load - load data on bus into register

use of three of the unused outputs of IC₁₃, a significant increase in the number of rates available may be achieved, see Fig. 3. Four address inputs S₀, S₁, S₂ and S₃ of the 74150 may be driven from the Q₀-3 74LS374 latch outputs. Address inputs may select any one of the clock outputs F₁-16 of the MC14411. If the E input is permanently low and the Z output is connected to the TRC and RRC inputs of the IM6402, the outputs F₁-16 wired to multiplexer inputs I₀-15 may be individually selected to provide a clock input to the uart. The A and B inputs to IC₆ can be wired to the Q₄ & 5 outputs of IC₁₃, 74LS374. The two-to-one multiplexer of OG₃, OG₄ and AG₂, shown in Fig. 2 may be dispensed with. A full description of the MC14411, including a table of the clock frequencies at the outputs F₁-16, may be obtained from the Motorola publication "European cmos selection".

Appendix 1

The 74F524 is a new addition to Fairchild's Fast family. It is a registered (latched) comparator with bidirectional eight-bit I/O and an independent serial data I/O. When data is stored internally the device may compare a byte offered to its parallel eight-bit data input, and generate an equivalence, greater than or less than output, for a programmed mode input of magnitude, or two's complement



compare. The three comparison outputs are all open-collector, and designed to be pulled passive high when asserted. This makes it convenient for cascading with other 74F524 devices. These outputs are enabled by a logic low on the \overline{SE} input. The S₀ and S₁ address inputs permit register loading, reading, data holding and shifting. Format of S₀ and S₁ is shown in Table 6. The mode input may be set high or low depending on whether the design requires magnitude or two's complement comparison. There is a single clock pulse input; the rising edge on this pin can load data into the register, or shift the contents by one bit from the CSI input to the CSO output. Pin configuration is shown in Fig. 4.

Appendix 2

Serial poll: The serial poll is a mechanism by which instruments capable of talking may individually send information pertaining to their current status over the data lines. The controller may interrupt events on the bus to invoke a serial poll either in response to a service request initiated by the instrument or as an autonomic process initiated by the controller's command program. The service request line may be used by the instruments to request attention from the controller and may be likened to the use of an interrupt line to generate an interrupt and divert processing during the execution of the computer program when attention is required by a peripheral component.

Parallel poll: The parallel poll can have a distinct speed advantage over the serial poll because a single status bit from eight individual instruments may be read by the controller simultaneously. The end-identify line is used by the controller as the identify line (this line is also used by talkers active on the bus for end-message, so it has a dual purpose). Any instrument capable of listening will be assigned a data line by the controller onto which it will declare its status bit during the parallel poll active state. Notice that two or more instruments may use a single line as a wired-or function. The controller will configure the instruments to respond to a parallel poll in the following way.

The instrument will be addressed to listen. The controller will send the parallel poll configure message which conditions the instrument to expect the following parallel poll enable message, and its format determines how the instrument responds during the active state. Data bits on lines 5, 6 & 7 of the PPE message are set to 110. Data line 4 will contain a parity bit. A true comparison with the device-dependant individual status message will produce an affirmative parallel poll response during the active state. A false comparison between the line 4 bit received in the enable message, and the i.s. message results in no response to the identify message. The remaining bits of the enable message on lines 1, 2 & 3 will contain a one-of-eight code which will assign one line for transmission of the compare bit during a poll response. If the bit pattern were 000, the response would occur on data line 1, 001 would yield a response on 2, and so on. WWW

Bidirectional interface

On the RS232 port of this GPIB-to-RS232 send-or-receive interface converter, data rates can be set by switches or are software programmable in the range 50 to 19200 bit/s. The RS488, distributed by Electroplan, has a 40-character input buffer and provides an RS232 clear-to-send signal. Price of the interface is under £200. Electroplan Ltd, PO Box 19, Orchard Road, Royston, Herts SG8 5HH. WWW501 for further details

Single i.c. for f.s.k. modem

Data transmission by telephone line remains the most convenient and cheap method of conveying digital information over medium and long distances despite its slowness, hence interest in modems. Advanced Micro Devices are to manufacture an i.c. that requires only a handful of non-critical components, some switching and level conversion logic, and an acoustic coupler or direct-coupling arrangement to form a modem that can be switched to suit one of four standards.

The Am7910, whose application is outlined in the diagram below, has built-in a-to-d and d-to-a converters and all processing, including filtering, is done digitally under the control of a crystal, so drift problems due to ageing and temperature change are not inherent and adjustments not required. Five mode-select inputs set the maximum data rate at 300, 600, or 1200 bit/s and select one of nine modes

shown in the table.

When set to operate to either Bell 202 or CCITT V23 standards, and say, acknowledgement and control signals may be returned to the sender on remaining bandwidth while the sender continues to transmit at 1200 bit/s.

An auto-answer facility meeting Bell and V25 specifications is also built in. Upon receipt of a signal at its ring input, a silence interval is followed by an answer tone at the transmit-carrier output. T.t.l.-compatible terminal-control signals such as data-terminal ready, request to send, clear to send and carrier detect are provided, with appropriate delays.

To aid testing, the device can be set to operate in one of ten loop-back modes, in which transmitter and receiver sections are set to operate on the same channel or frequency and either the analogue output and input connected together for local testing

or the digital data lines connected externally to allow testing of the local modem using a remote one.

Although this 28-pin n-mos device will not be in full production until the beginning of next year, samples of out-of-specification i.c.s should be available now.

WW500 for further details.

Modem configurations			
Standard	Bit/s	Duplex	Features
Bell 103	300	full	originate
Bell 103	300	full	answer
Bell 202	1200	half	
Bell 202	1200	half	line equalizer
CCITT V 21	300	full	originate
CCITT V 21	300	full	answer
CCITT V 23 mode 2	1200	half	
CCITT V 23 mode 2	1200	half	line equalizer
CCITT V 23 mode 1	600	half	

EVENTS

October 27

Application of viewdata to transaction processing; one day seminar in central London. Details from Modcomp, Molly Millars Lane, Wokingham, Berks.

October 28

Modern tv chassis – philosophy and circuits; Royal Television Society meeting, 7pm at IBA, 70 Brompton Road, London SW3.

November 2

Commencement of programme broadcasting on Channel 4

November 9

Comex 82, Radio communications exhibition, Saxon Inn, Northampton. Organised by the Federation of Communication Services, 70 Church Road, London SE19.

November 10

Industrial robotics; IEEE lecture, White Horse Hotel, Dorking, Surrey. IEEE 2 Savoy Hill, London WC2R 0BS.

November 11

Newspeed – news without paper. Royal Television Society meeting on TV news gathering system. 7pm, IBA, 70 Brompton Road, London SW3.

November 18-19

Industrial applications for distributed computing; conference at National Computing Centre, Manchester and sponsored by SERC. Details from F. Chambers, Logica, 64 Newman Street, London W1A 4SE.

November 20

Electronics for Peace Network; Inaugural meeting in Bracknell, Berks. Further details from Tim Williams, Telephone: 0732 864882.

November 23-25

2nd International Conference on Semi-custom ICs. The West Centre, London SW6. Organised by Prodex (Seminars) Ltd, 79 High Street, Tunbridge Wells.

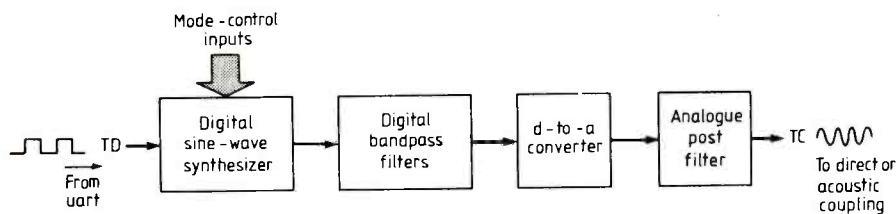
November 25

Hi-Fi TV – Bigger, Better Pictures; Royal Television Society lecture at IBA, 70 Brompton Road, London SW3 at 7pm.

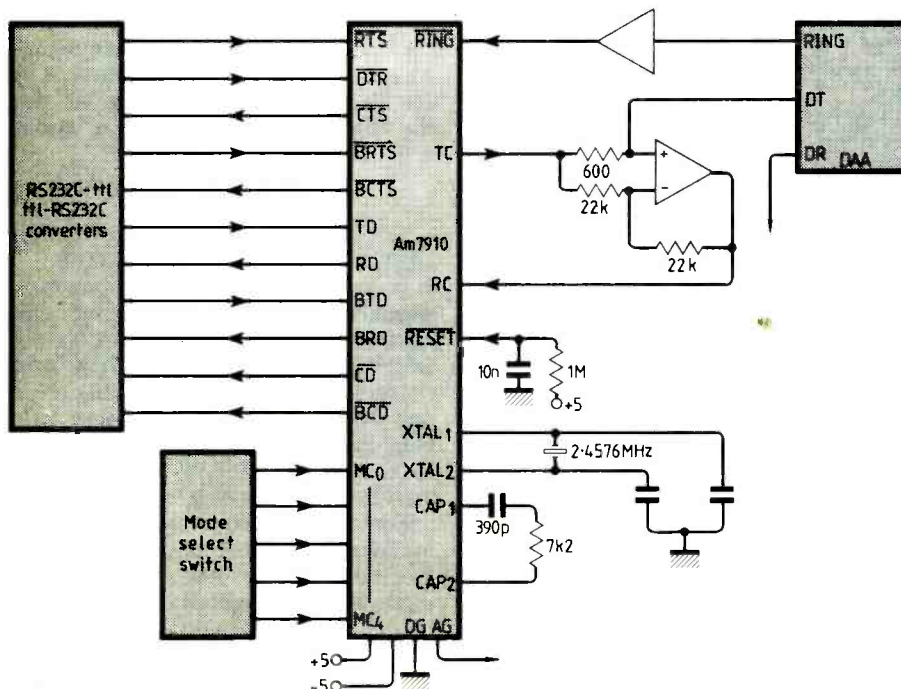
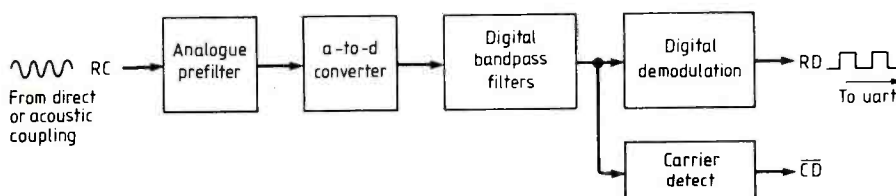
November 26 - December 5

11th International exhibition of inventions combined with the first **International exhibition of special techniques.** New Exhibition and Conference Centre, Geneva. Details from the Secretariat, International Exhibition of Inventions, 8 rue du 31- Decembre, CH-1207 Geneva, Switzerland.

Transmitter



Receiver



EPROM EMULATOR

This board programs a 2716 eprom with software developed on the emulator described in the September and October issues. A small printer provides hard copy of the software under development. Only two i.c.s are required for the programming board, one for conversion from 5 to 25V and the other to determine the programming-pulse length.

by Peter Nicholls, M.A.

Only a relatively simple circuit is required to transfer software evolved using the emulator into an eprom since the programming-control software and key are included in the main-board design already published.

To program a 2716 or any of its close relatives, addresses and corresponding data are presented to the 'empty' device and each byte is held for 50ms. This programmer addresses the eprom sequentially, as is usual. A 50ms pulse coinciding with the 'data-hold' period is applied to the

eprom's program input, pin 18, while pin 21 of the i.c., V_{pp} , is held at 25V. The 25V supply, present at pin 21 while the eprom is being programmed, must not be applied to the i.c. in the absence of a 5V supply, otherwise the eprom will be damaged.

Operation

Referring to Fig. 1, control software on the emulator board first switches flag 1 high

when the 'e' key is pressed. Transistors $Tr_{2,4}$ switch the 25V program voltage to the 2716 socket. The software continues, doing nothing more than reading all the 6116 ram's data onto the bus in sequence.

A few nanoseconds after the point in the read cycle where the 6116's chip-select input goes low, IC_{10} is triggered to provide two opposite pulses. Negative pulses, at pin 9, are applied to the processor's NHOLD input and, while low, cause the system buses to become static. When IC_{10} reverts, the processor goes into the next read cycle, and so on until the eprom is full. Positive pulses are fed to the eprom's program-pulse input.

Transistor Tr_3 only allows pulses to pass to the processor's hold input after the e key has been pressed and until programming is completed. Without this blocking transistor, transmit and receive functions of the emulator will not work while the programming board is connected and display problems will be encountered with some functions.

Power supply. Figure one also shows the switching-regulator circuit used to provide a 25V programming voltage from a 5V supply. The inductor shown may be made using 56 turns of 32 s.w.g. wire on an RM6/250 pot core. Both regulator and pot core are available from RS Components.

Before the programmer is used the programming voltage should be set to within half a volt of 25V at pin 21 of the eprom socket. This is done with a temporary 10k Ω load resistor connected between pin 21 of the programming socket and ground (pin 12). The programming board should be connected to the emulator, the 'e' control key pressed, and the potentiometer adjusted to give the required voltage at pin 21. Under the same conditions but with the flag input low, the voltage reading at pin 21 should be close to 4.3V.

Connection to the main board

A 24-pin dil socket, which may be either a standard or zero-insertion-force type, mates with the header plug on the lead from the emulator board. Three other connections to the programming board may be made through a four-way cable, plug and socket. I used an RS467 611 socket shell, with 467 589 terminals, and a 468 080 right-angle plug in my version.

Boards produced using the available overlays (and those boards from PKG Electronics) have four holes for this connector to the right of IC_1 . From top to bottom, the connections are flag 1, no connection, CS and NHOLD. Removal of the unused plug pin and fitting of

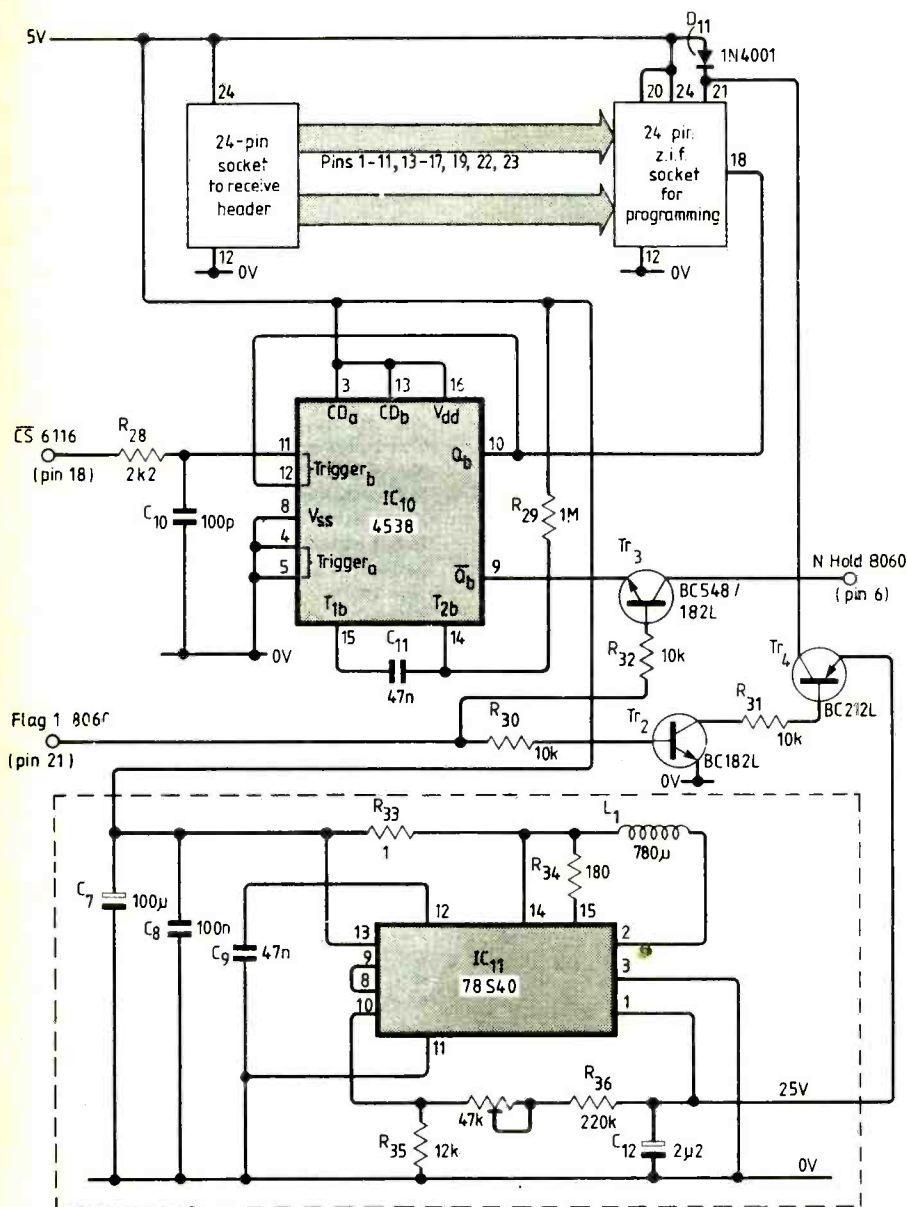


Fig. 1. 2716/2516-eprom programming board shown connects directly to emulator board and requires only 5V supply. A 25V supply is generated on the board by IC_{11} . Monostable IC_{10} generates 50ms programming pulses.

Table 1. Modification to the programming software. With the original software*, the e prompt did not occur until one second after e had been keyed. Uninitiated operators pressing the e key again within 1s to try and get some response on the display would find their software overwritten with FF bytes. The e prompt appears as soon as the key is pressed with the software modifications shown. Blank spaces in lines 36 and 45 should be ignored since the original software at their locations remains unaltered.

36				75									C4 00 C9
37	C0 C4 07 C9	C1 C1 C1 E4	9F 9C 40 C4	04 C9 C0 C4									
38	00 C9 C1 E9	30 9C E4 C4	08 36 C4 00	32 C6 01 36									
39	D4 0F 98 05	36 8F 02 90	F4 C4 00 07	C4 03 C9 2A									
40	C4 63 C9 2E	C4 2F C9 2C	C4 2E C9 2E	C4 07 C9 2F									
41	C4 7F C9 28	C4 05 37 C4	D2 33 3F C4	0E C9 C0 C4									
42	00 C9 C1 36	C9 30 36 32	C9 31 32 C4	FF CE 01 36									
43	D4 0F 98 07	36 8F 02 90	F4 90 1D C4	08 36 C6 01									
44	8F 02 32 01	C1 31 60 98	04 01 32 90	F1 36 01 C1									
45	30 60 98 A5	01 36 90 E6											

* The author asks us to point out that the tenth byte along line 21 of the main program shown last month read 69 but should have read B9.

a blanking plug in the socket will ensure that the connector cannot be fitted the wrong way round.

Before the eprom to be programmed is inserted, the 5V supply should be switched on and the emulator and programming boards connected together. Now, with a blank eprom in the socket and a developed program in the emulator's memory, the e key is pressed. This initiates the programming sequence, consisting of 2048 cycles of about 50ms each. When programming is complete, the display will show 'burnt'.

If the software written into the emulator is not intended to fill the eprom, set the

display to show the first unused address and press the e key twice within one second. The prompt will amend to F and each unused byte of ram will be loaded with FF immediately before the byte concerned is programmed into the eprom; otherwise, the programming sequence remains the same.

Should software in the emulator have to be programmed into the remaining space of a partially full eprom, the emulator ram should be filled with FF before the eprom is inserted ready for programming. When the procedure is finished, the display will show 'burnt'. Removing the three-pole

connector carrying flag 1, chip-select and hold will speed up the FF-filling process by eliminating the 50ms delay at each address. Now, the required program can be typed into the emulator from a specified address, the connector replaced, the eprom inserted and the e key pressed once. This transfers the new program, leaving data already in the eprom unaltered.

It is not possible to read back the contents of an eprom with this basic tool so it is wise to keep copies of programs on tape if future software expansions or modifications are envisaged.

Printer-mechanism control

Minor software modifications and a little additional hardware allow a small printer mechanism to be driven by the emulator to produce whole or partial listings of the emulator's memory contents. Discounting the printer and its 24V power supply, it is estimated that additional electronic components will cost about £2.

Printing is initiated by a spare control key marked p mentioned in the first article. Referring to Fig. 2, transistors five and six switch the 24V supply to control the paper when the p key is pressed. Transistors seven to ten drive and brake the motor.

The i.c. used for display driving on the emulator board, IC₃, consists of seven Darlington transistors. When the printer is operational, this i.c. is used to drive the heads so prompt characters are not shown on the display. In this case, the printer in action provides sufficient prompting.

Character generation and synchronization with the print-head traverse are carried out by software for which there is ample space in the 2K monitor eprom. Using software in this way keeps costs to a minimum.

Operation

Before the printer is used, the 24V supply should be set by adjusting the potentiometer in the 12V regulator's ground lead. When the printer is connected, the a key is used to set the displayed address to the beginning of the program to be printed and the p key is then pressed. Printing continues until address 7FF is reached unless the p key is redepressed for around a half of a second. When printing is completed, the print head positions itself at the left-hand side of the carriage and out of contact with the paper so that the software record can be fed through and torn off.

It is important to note that the metallized paper used is at 24V with respect to the 0V line of the emulator so damage is likely to result if the paper touches any conducting element of the system while still in the printer. Covers will be needed not only to prevent access to mains voltages but also to prevent the paper touching any conducting part of the system.

The PU245-L20 printer mechanism used with the original system prints twenty columns of 5-by-7-dot characters on 60mm-wide electrosensitive paper in roll form and is available from Farnell

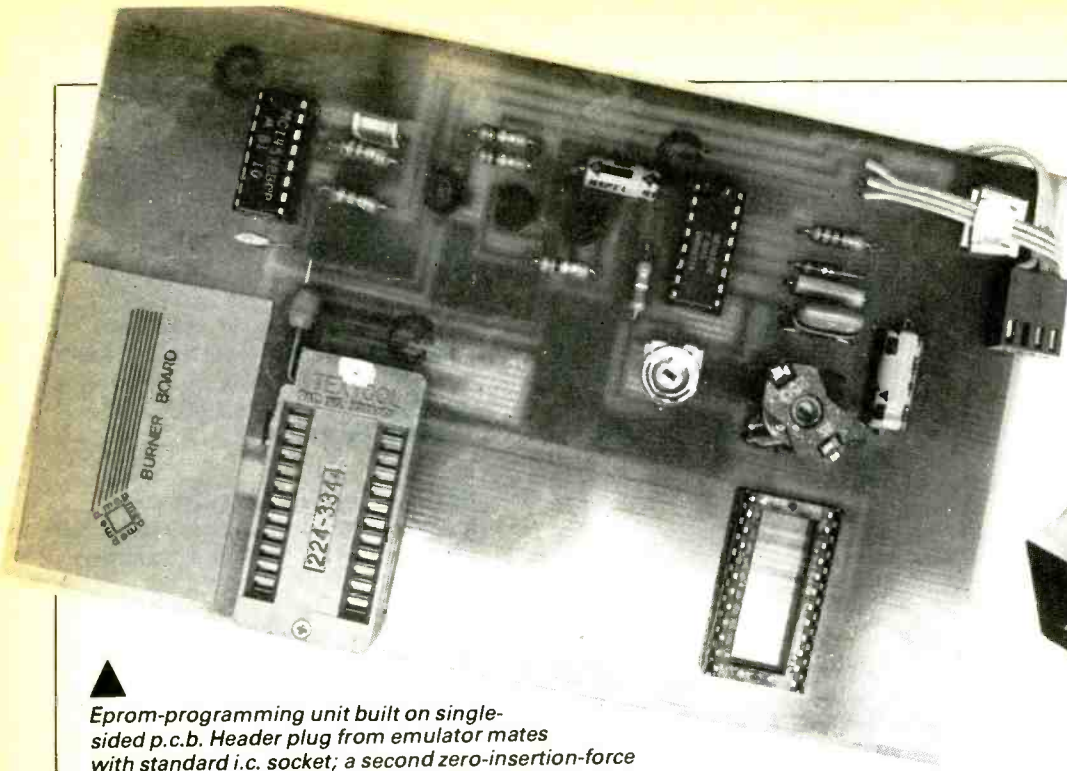
Table 2. Control and character-generator software for driving a small printer mechanism to provide listings of the emulator's ram. As shown, the relocatable printer routine between lines 45 and 60 follows on at the end of the modified programming routine shown in this article. If the programming software shown in the October issue is to be used, line 45(a) at the end of this listing should be used instead of line 45. If the modified programming routine is to be used without the printer, line 45(b) should be used. This leaves the eighth control key without a function and the program jumps back to the start of the monitor if it is pressed. Blank spaces should be ignored and decimal line numbers shown correspond with those given in the original listing. Lines 98 to 102 are character generator tables.

45							C4 06 37 C4	10 33 C4 00
46	C9 35 C9 36	C9 3C C9 3D	C9 3E C9 3F	C9 C0 C4 04				
47	07 C4 00 C9	41 C4 08 C9	40 06 D4 10	98 FE 06 D4				
48	10 9C FE C2	00 1C 1C 1C	1C 01 02 40	70 70 70 70				
49	01 C3 80 C9	30 C4 01 70	01 C3 80 C9	31 C4 01 70				
50	01 C3 80 C9	32 C4 01 70	01 C3 80 C9	33 C4 01 70				
51	01 C3 80 C9	34 C6 01 D4	0F 01 40 70	70 70 70 01				
52	C3 80 C9 37	C4 01 70 01	C3 80 C9 38	C4 01 70 01				
53	C3 80 C9 39	C4 01 70 01	C3 80 C9 3A	90 04 90 95				
54	90 A1 C4 01	70 01 C3 80	C9 3E C4 30	01 06 D4 20				
55	9C FE 06 D4	20 98 FE C1	80 C9 C0 C4	AE BF 00 C4				
56	00 C9 C0 06	D4 20 9C FE	06 D4 20 98	FE 40 E4 3F				
57	98 06 C4 01	70 01 90 D5	C1 C1 E4 9E	98 04 C4 01				
58	C9 41 E9 40	98 02 90 E8	36 D4 0F 98	05 36 C1 41				
59	98 AC 06 D4	10 98 FE 8F	E8 C4 00 07	C1 C1 E4 9E				
60	9C FA C4 00	37 C4 00 33	3F					

98	3E 45 49 51	3E 00 21 7F	01 00 21 43	45 49 31 42
99	41 51 69 46	0C 14 24 7F	04 72 51 51	51 4E 1E 29
100	49 49 06 40	47 48 50 60	36 49 49 49	36 30 49 49
101	4A 3C 3F 48	48 48 3F 7F	49 49 49 36	3E 41 41 41
102	22 7F 41 41	22 1C 7F 49	49 49 41 7F	48 48 48 40

45(a) 08 08 08 08 08 08 08 08 C4 06 37 C4 10 33 C4 00

45(b) 30 60 98 A5 01 36 90 E6 C4 00 37 C4 00 33 3F FF



Eprom-programming unit built on single-sided p.c.b. Header plug from emulator mates with standard i.c. socket; a second zero-insertion-force socket is more convenient here but far more expensive.

Electrosensitive printer mechanism used to provide hexadecimal listings of the emulator ram contents. It has a vertical row of seven dots and the character dot width is determined by software.

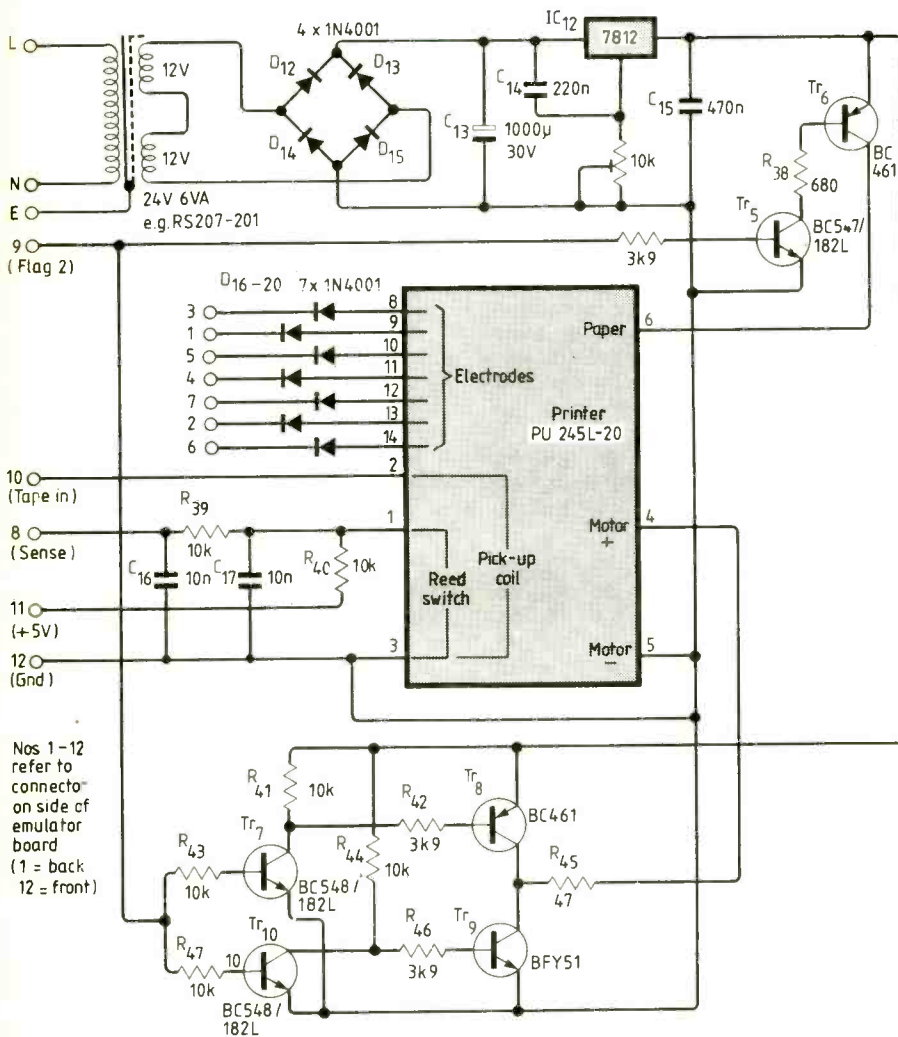
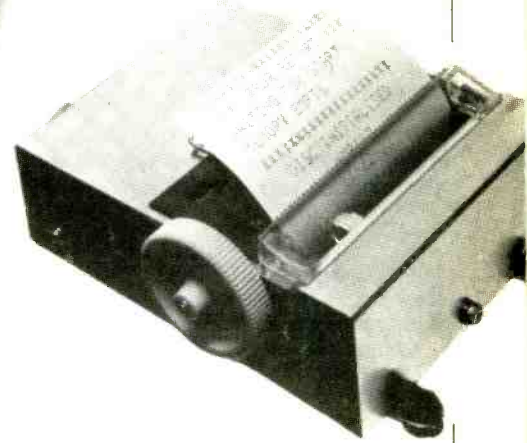


Fig. 2. Hard copy of the emulator ram's contents was obtained using a small, cheap printer mechanism connected as shown. The display-driver i.c. consisting of seven Darlington drives the print head so display prompts are not given during printing. Numbers 1 to 12 refer to connector pins on the single-sided boards available.

```


01 20 45 67 89 AE CC EF
00 11 22 33 44 55 66 77
88 99 AA BB CC DD EE FF
FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF
FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF
FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF

```

Sample of the PU245 printer's font which is under software control.

Electronic Components Ltd, Canal Road, Leeds LS12 2TU, or from GMT Electronics, Newport House, 22 Hartfield Road, London SW19 3TD under the code name 10E 012 LE. The print head has seven vertical dots and software is used to determine the character dot width.

Etched but undrilled boards for the programmer and printer electronics are available from PKG Electronics, Oak Lodge, Tansley, Derbyshire for £4 each including postage. Undrilled boards for the emulator are also available at £8 each inclusive, as are programmed eproms at £5 inclusive, from the same source. These eproms contain the printer routine.

Photocopies of the track layouts and component positions can be obtained by sending a large s.a.e. to Wireless World Emulator, Room L303, Quadrant House, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5AS. 

Wireless World Index
 The index for last year's volume of *Wireless World* is available for 75pence, postage included, from General Sales Department, IPC Electrical-Electronic Press Ltd, Quadrant House, Sutton, Surrey. Indices back to 1973 are available for the same price, except that for 1977 which costs £1.20.

NEW PRODUCTS

PERSONAL COMPUTER

Basic language in Hewlett-Packard's portable computer is part of a 48K operating system supplemented by 16K of ram, expandable up to 24K, and up to three plug-in rom modules of 8 or 16K. As the unit is battery powered, memory contents are retained when the computer is switched off and the real-time clock can be used as an alarm clock or to turn on the computer and run a program at a set time. The 32-character sections of 96-character lines shown on a dot-matrix l.c.d. may be scrolled from side to side. Programs and data stored on magnetic strips capable of holding 1.3K bytes are read by a transducer in the computer, or alternatively peripherals with much larger magnetic memories may be used. Of the 169 instructions in the operating system, 147 are Basic commands, statements or functions; program, data and appointment files can be named, saved and made to interact with each other. Every key on the 254 by 127 by 32mm unit is redefinable and may be given a new label using snap-on overlays. Peripherals include printers and plotters. Hewlett-Packard Ltd, Nine Mile Ride, East Hampstead, Wokingham, Berks.

WW301



WW301

existing software from one size of drive to the other, or existing software on 8in disc can be converted by the importer if two 5¼in high-density drives are to be used. Vincelord Ltd, Suite 2, 26 Charing Cross Road, London WC2.

WW302

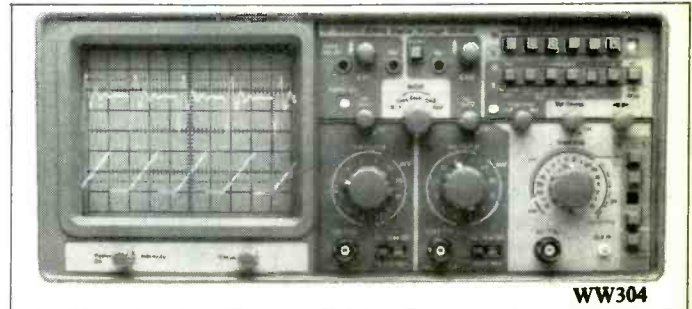
CMOS A-TO-D CONVERTER

An 8-bit microprocessor-compatible analogue-to-digital converter called the ADC830 is manufactured by Datal-Intersil (Intersil Datal in the UK). Conversion time is 100µs and the device, with external adjustment, gives a maximum error of $\pm 1/2$ l.s.b. Outputs may be switched to a high-impedance state. Intersil Datal (UK) Ltd, Snamprogetti House, Basing View, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2YS.

WW303

STORAGE SCOPE FOR LESS THAN £1,000

According to Gould, the OS1400 20MHz digital-storage oscilloscope is the first of its kind for under £1000 since their first one in the early seventies. This dual-channel instrument has pre-triggering from 0 to 100% and post-storage trace expansion facilities and may be used as a real-time oscilloscope. Its storage capacity is 1K by 8-bits, giving vertical and horizontal resolutions of 1 in 256 and 1 in 1024 respectively; a dot-joining facility giving linear interpolation between samples is incorporated. Display modes allow freezing of the display



WW304

at the end of a triggered sweep, immediate freezing of the display, data and display refresh on triggering and a rolling-display mode in which the pre-trigger storage facility may be used. A version with X, Y and pen-lift outputs for use with a plotter is also available. Gould Instruments Ltd, Roebuck Road, Hainault, Ilford, Essex IG6 3EU.

WW304

EIGHT-CHANNEL MULTIPLEXER

Eight analogue and/or digital time-related signals may be viewed at once on a single-channel

oscilloscope using the 8001 from Global Specialities. Multiplex rate and overall gain are variable as is the trigger level between $\pm 5V$, triggering being taken from the first channel and available as a t.t.l. compatible signal at the output. Each channel has an input impedance of 1MΩ, will accept levels of $\pm 5V$, and has a flat response to 12MHz down 3dB at 20MHz. Channels may be viewed individually by stepping manually, viewed all at once, or one of two groups of four may be displayed. Its price is £225 excluding vat. Global Specialities Corp., Shire Hill Industrial Estate, Saffron Waldon, Essex CB11 3AQ.

WW305



WW305

LOW-COST 1MBYTE DISC DRIVES

Up to 1.2Mbyte of formatted data can be stored on a half-height 5¼in disc drive costing under £400 excluding vat. Called the YD380T, this double-sided, double-density drive comes from the Japanese company Ye-Data who also manufacture a standard-height 5¼in drive capable of holding 800Kbyte of formatted data and costing £325, the YD280. An eight-inch version, the YD180, with a capacity similar to the 380T costs under £400 and uses IBM or equivalent diskettes. When used as double-density drives, the two 1.6Mbyte drives, the 180 and 380T, transfer data at 500Kbits/s and have average access times of 91ms and average latency times of 83ms. These drives are intended for original-equipment manufacturers and are thus uncased and without power supply.

Systems consisting of one 8in drive and one high-density 5¼in drive, or two of the latter, are also available. A CP/M compatible disc-operating system for either size of drive may be used to transfer

NEW PRODUCTS

ZX INTERFACE

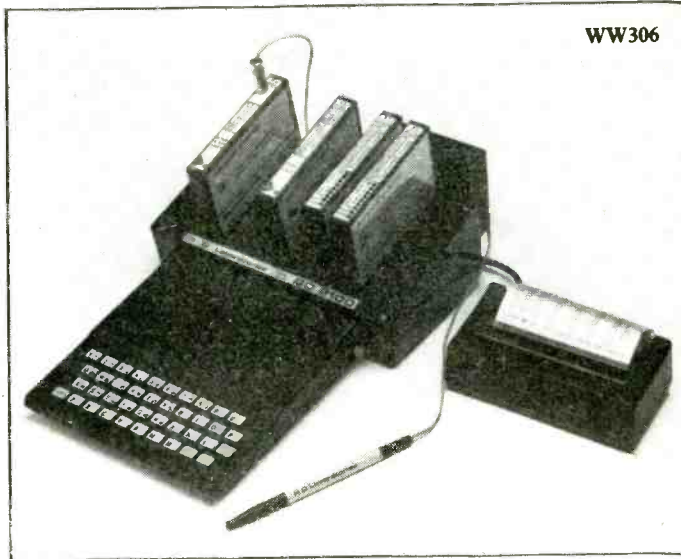
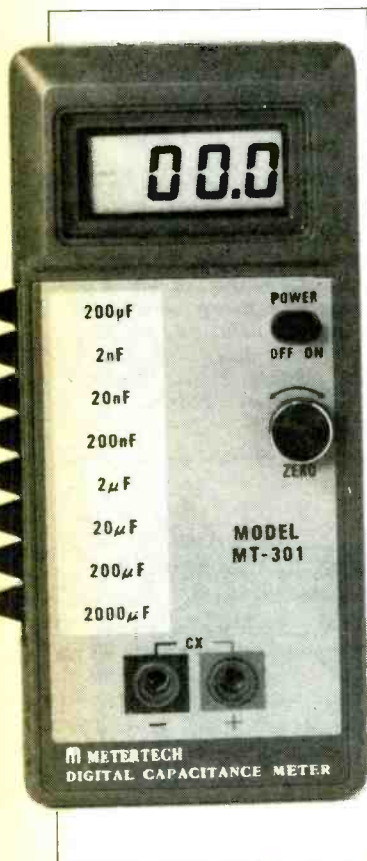
Digital and analogue i/o modules for control and sensing applications using the ZX80 and 81 computers are made by RD laboratories. These modules connect to the computer through one of two main interfaces, one at £15 for carrying two modules and one at £40 for carrying up to eight modules. Five modules ranging in price from £27.50 to £34.49 are available for digital i/o, analogue input, output and multiplexing, and light-pen connection. RD Laboratories, 5 Kennedy Road, Dane End, Ware, Herts SG12 0LU.

WW306

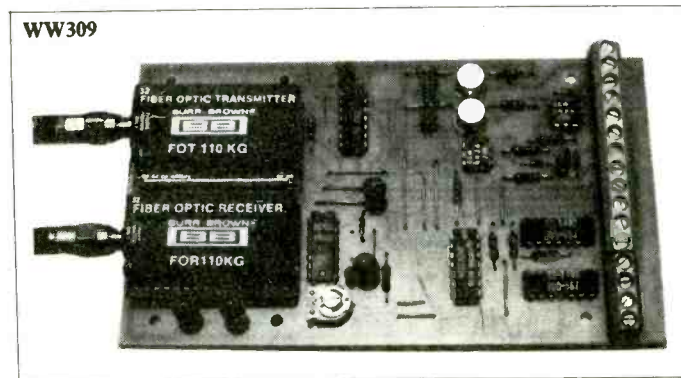
DIGITAL CAPACITANCE METER

Highest and lowest of eight ranges on Metertech's MT301 hand-held capacitance meter are 2000µF and 200pF respectively. The meter's readings are given on a half-inch high 3 1/2 digit l.c.d. with 0.5%, ±1 digit error on the lowest range with 0.1pF resolution. At £69, the instrument includes test clips and batteries; a case is available for £6. Centemp Instruments Co., 62 Curtis Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW4 5PT.

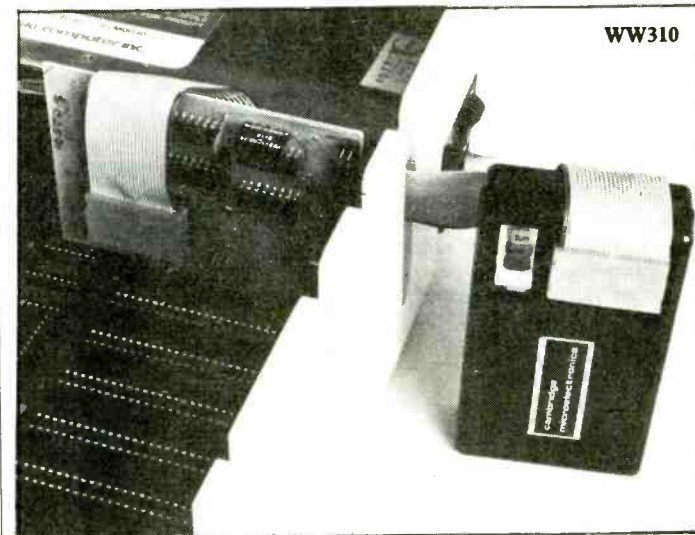
WW307



WW306



WW309



WW310

P.W.M. I.C. FOR REGULATORS

Two i.c.s designed for driving power mosfets in switched-mode power supply applications are manufactured by Siliconix and available through Semiconductor Specialists. The PWM25 and PWM27 are 16-pin devices containing an error amplifier, flip-flop, oscillator, pulse-width modulator and voltage regulator for controlling drive-signal frequency and pulse width. The

PWM25 has two outputs which are low in the off state; in the PWM27, the outputs are high in the off state. A shut-down function is included. The same distributors have recently introduced a range of low-noise op-amps from Raytheon, the RC714 series, that require an input bias current of typically 1nA. Semiconductor Specialists (UK) Ltd, Carroll House, 159 High Street, Yiewsley, West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 7XB.

WW308

FIBRE-OPTIC DATA LINK

Designers wanting to evaluate the many advantages of fibre-optic data-communication links over their electrically-conducting counterparts can do so with a kit from Burr Brown. Two RS232/20mA-compatible transmitter/receiver boards and two 33-metre lengths of fibre-optic cable are main elements of the £299 kit. Burr Brown International Ltd, Cassiobury House, 11-19 Station Road, Watford, Herts WD1 1EA.

WW309

ROM USING RAM

Lithium batteries are used to retain data in 2Kbyte of data in cmos ram for around 10 years in a product called Memic-L from Camel. Connection of the 102 by 61 by 25.4mm device to the computer is through a 30cm long 24-way cable so more than one unit may be used on boards with sockets that are close together such as used in the Apple. Function switches are used to select the upper or lower half of memory or the whole 2K, depending on the type of system, and access time is said to be better than 200ns. Each device is supplied with instructions for £29.95.

Cambridge Microelectronics Ltd, 1 Milton Rd, Cambridge CB4 1UY.

WW310

AMBISONIC DECODER

Besides decoding UHJ ambisonic recordings, such as used on records from Unicorn and Nimbus, the AD2 also enhances standard stereo. It consists of a board measuring 100 by 100 by 25mm intended to fit into existing hi-fi equipment and includes a control for compensating for different speaker layouts. Currently available recordings are two channel but the decoder will also be suitable for three-channel UHJ recordings. (See, for example, NRDC surround-sound system by M. A. Gerzon, WW April 1977 page 36.) The AD2 costs £49.45 including vat. Minim Audio Ltd, Lent Rise Road, Burnham, Slough SL1 7NY.

WW311

Professional readers are invited to request further details on items featured here by entering the appropriate WW reference number(s) on the mauve reply-paid card.

QUALITY OSCILLOSCOPES, THE RANGE FOR EUROPE!

HM307.4 £138

Y: Bandwidth DC-10MHz (-3dB) - Sensitivity 5mV-20V/cm ($\pm 5\%$)
X: Timebase 0.2s-0.5 μ s/cm ($\pm 5\%$) - Triggering 2Hz-30MHz (3mm) - Built in component tester - Calibrator - Screen 6 x 7 - 2kV.

HM203 £220

Y: Bandwidth DC-20MHz (-3dB) - Sensitivity 5mV-20V/cm ($\pm 3\%$) - Dual trace
X: Timebase 0.2s-40ns/cm incl. x5 Magn. - Trigger 3Hz-30MHz (4mm) - X-Y operation - Calibrator - Screen 8 x 10cm - 2kV.

HM412 £350

Bandwidth DC-20MHz (-3dB) Sensitivity 2mV/cm - 20V/cm ($\pm 3\%$) Timebase 40ns/cm Triggering DC - 40MHz (5mm) Algebraic Add., Sweep Delay, x5 Mag., Overscan Ind., Var. Holdoff, Single Sweep.

HM705 £580

Bandwidth DC-70MHz (-3dB) Sensitivity 2mV/cm - 20V/cm ($\pm 3\%$) Timebase 5ns/cm - 2.5s/cm - Triggering DC - 100MHz (5mm), Algebraic Add., Sweep Delay, x10 Mag., Alt. Trigger, Trig. After Delay, CRT 14kV.

For free data sheets of the full range contact:

HAMEG

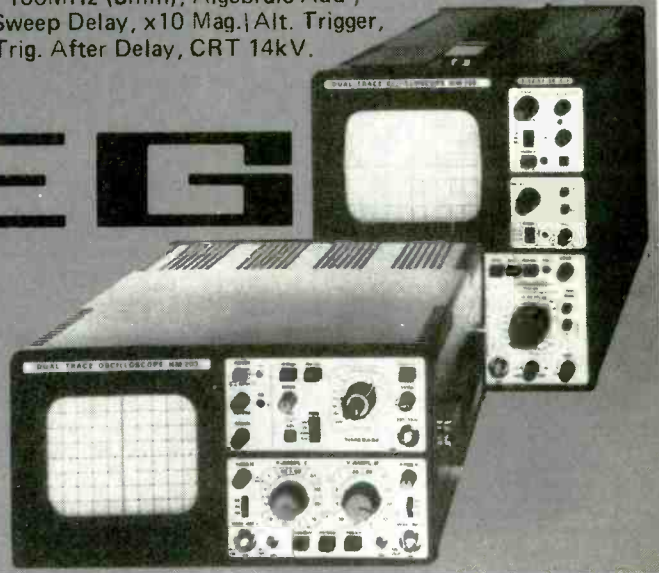
England
HAMEG, LTD.
74-78 Collingdon Street
Luton, LU1 1FX
Tel: (0582) 413174/Telex: 825484

France:
HAMEG S.A.R.L.
5-9, Avenue de la Republique
94800 Villejuif,
Tél: 678.09.98/Telex: 270705

West Germany:
HAMEG GmbH
6 Frankfurt am Main 71,
Kelsterbacher Str. 15-19
Tel: 0611/676017/Telex: 0413866

Spain
HAMEG IBERICA S.A.
Villaroel 172-174
Barcelona-36
Tel: 230.15.97

United States:
HAMEG, INC.
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pantechnic

**THE POWERFET
SPECIALISTS**

POWERFET AMPLIFIER MODULES

The people at Pantechnic have been designing with powerfets since they first became commercially available. Their experience of powerfet amplifiers, coupled with their insight into the sources of non-linearity often neglected by others, has resulted in a new range of powerfet amplifiers that are fast, tough, linear and cheap.

MODEL	POWER RANGE (Continuous RMS)	TYPICAL LOADS	NOTES
PFA 100	50W-150W	4 Ω , 8 Ω	Physically small 30mm x 79mm x 108mm
PFA 200	100W-300W	4 Ω , 8 Ω	High Watts per £ ratio
PFA 500	250W-600W	2 Ω , 4 Ω , 8 Ω	25A continuous output current
PFA HV	200W-300W	4 Ω , 8 Ω , 16 Ω	5dB dynamic headroom Drives 70V line direct

Key features:

- **RELIABLE** - Powerfet freedom from thermal runaway and secondary breakdown
- **LINEAR** - THD zero, IM/THD < 0.01% full power, (mid band THD down to 0.0015%)
- **FAST** - Slew rate > 30V/ μ s, (45V/ μ s typical)
- **QUIET** - Signal to noise ratio 120dB
- **BRIDGEABLE** - (100, 200, 500 without extra circuitry)
- **STABLE** - Unconditionally
- **LOW COST** - 10watts to 20watts per £, depending on model and quantity

As they stand these modules suit most P.A. and industrial applications and satisfy all foreseeable audiophile requirements. (The HV is aimed at digital audio.) Where aspects of performance fail to meet specific requirements (e.g. in speed or power) low cost customising is often a possibility. Alternatively entirely new boards can be produced.

Pantechnic make more than just PFAs. Loudspeaker protection boards and the quietest, lowest distortion preamp boards currently available are just two of an ever-expanding range.

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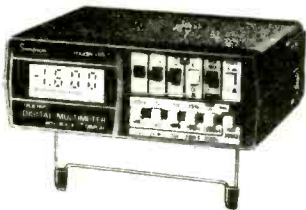
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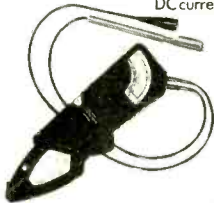
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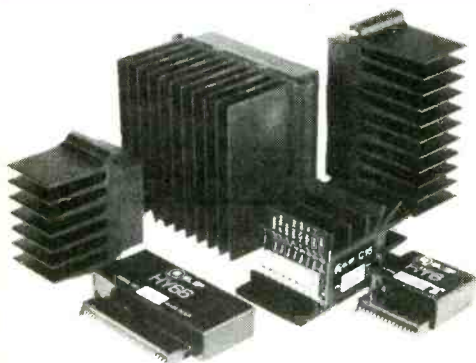
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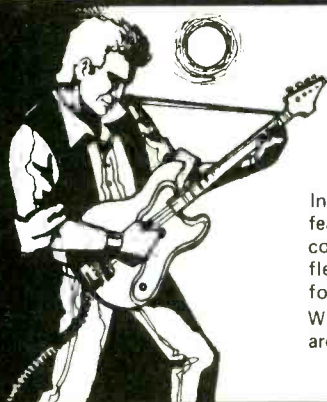
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BIPOLAR MODULES

Module Number	Output Power Watts rms	Load Impedance Ω	DISTORTION		Supply Voltage Typ	Size mm	WT gms	Price inc. VAT
			T.H.D. Typ at 1KHz	I.M.D. 60Hz/7KHz 4:1				
HY68	15	4-8	<0.015%	<0.006%	± 18	76 x 68 x 40	240	£8.40
HY69	30	4-8	0.015%	<0.006%	± 25	76 x 68 x 40	240	£9.55
HY66/66B	30 + 30	4-8	0.015%	<0.006%	± 25	120 x 78 x 40	420	£18.69
HY134	60	4	0.01%	<0.006%	± 26	120 x 78 x 40	410	£20.75
HY178	60	8	0.01%	<0.006%	± 35	120 x 78 x 40	410	£20.75
HY244	120	4	0.01%	<0.006%	± 35	120 x 78 x 50	520	£25.47
HY248	120	8	0.01%	<0.006%	± 50	120 x 78 x 50	520	£25.47
HY64	180	4	0.01%	<0.006%	± 45	120 x 78 x 100	1030	£38.41
HY66H	180	8	0.01%	<0.006%	± 60	120 x 78 x 100	1030	£38.41

Protection: Full load line, Slew Rate: 15V/ μ s, Rise time: 5 μ s, S/N ratio: 100dB, Frequency response (-3dB): 15Hz - 50KHz, Input sensitivity: 500mV rms, Input impedance: 100K Ω , Damping factor: 100Hz >400.

PRE-AMP SYSTEMS

Module Number	Module	Functions	Current Required	Price inc. VAT
HY6	Mono pre-amp	Mic/Mag. Cartridge/Tuner/Tape/Aux + Vo./Bass/Treble	10mA	£7.60
HY66	Stereo pre-amp	Mic/Mag. Cartridge/Tuner/Tape/Aux + Vo./Bass/Treble/Balance	20mA	£14.32
HY73	Guitar pre-amp	Two Guitar (Bass/Lead) and Mic + separate Volume/Bass/Treble + Mix	20mA	£15.36
HY78	Stereo pre-amp	As HY66 less tone controls	20mA	£14.20

Most pre-amp modules can be driven by the PSU driving the main power amp. A separate PSU 30 is available purely for pre-amp modules if required for £5.47 (inc. VAT). Pre-amp and mixing modules in 18 different variations. Please send for details.

Mounting Boards

For ease of construction we recommend the B6 for modules HY6-HY13 £1.05 (inc. VAT) and the B66 for modules HY66-HY78 £1.29 (inc. VAT).

POWER SUPPLY UNITS (Incorporating our own toroidal transformers)

Model Number	For Use With	Price inc. VAT
PSU 21X	1 or 2 HY30	£11.93
PSU 41X	1 or 2 HY60, 1 x HY6060, 1 x HY124	£13.83
PSU 42X	1 x HY128	£15.90
PSU 43X	1 x MOS128	£16.70
PSU 51X	2 x HY128, 1 x HY244	£17.07

Please note: X in part no. indicates primary voltage. Please insert "0" in place of X for 110V, "1" in place of X for 220V, and "2" in place of X for 240V.

MOSFET MODULES

Module Number	Output Power Watts rms	Load Impedance Ω	DISTORTION		Supply Voltage Typ	Size mm	WT gms	Price inc. VAT
			T.H.D. Typ at 1KHz	I.M.D. 60Hz/7KHz 4:1				
MOS128	60	4-8	<0.005%	<0.006%	± 45	120 x 78 x 40	420	£40.41
MOS248	120	4-8	<0.005%	<0.006%	± 55	120 x 78 x 80	850	£39.86
MOS364	180	4	<0.005%	<0.006%	± 55	120 x 78 x 100	1025	£45.54

Protection: Able to cope with complex loads without the need for very special protection circuitry (fuses will suffice).

Slew rate: 20V/ μ s Rise time: 3 μ s, S/N ratio: 100dB

Frequency response (-3dB): 15Hz - 100KHz, Input sensitivity: 500mV rms, Input impedance: 100K Ω , Damping factor: 100Hz >400.

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Very easy to use.

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Robust construction.

Mounts anywhere in car.

Automatic switch on.

Output power maximum 22w peak into 4 Ω .

Frequency response (-3dB): 15Hz to 30KHz, T.H.D. 0.1% at 10w, 1KHz

S/N ratio (DIN AUDIO) 80dB, Load Impedance 3 Ω .

Input Sensitivity and impedance (selectable) 700mV rms into 15K Ω , 3V rms into 8 Ω .

Size 95 x 48 x 50mm, Weight 256 gms.

C1515

Stereo version of C15.

£17.19 (inc. VAT)

Size 95 x 40 x 80, Weight 410 gms.

Model Number	For Use With	Price inc. VAT
PSU 52X	2 x HY124	£17.07
PSU 53X	2 x MOS128	£17.85
PSU 54X	1 x HY248	£17.86
PSU 55X	1 x MOS248	£19.52
PSU 71X	2 x HY244	£21.75

Model Number	For Use With	Price inc. VAT
PSU 72X	2 x HY248	£22.54
PSU 73X	1 x HY364	£22.54
PSU 74X	1 x HY368	£24.20
PSU 75X	2 x MOS248, 1 x MOS368	£24.20

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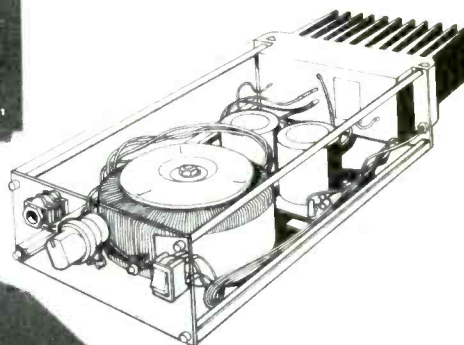
Hi Fi Separates

UC1 PRE AMP UNIT: Incorporates the HY78 to provide a "no frills", low distortion, (<0.01%), stereo control unit, providing inputs for magnetic cartridge, tuner, and tape/monitor facilities. This unit provides the heart of the hi fi system and can be used in conjunction with any of the UP Unicase series of power amps. For ultimate hum rejection the UC1 draws its power from the power amp unit.

POWER AMPS: The UP series feature a clean line front panel incorporating on/off switch and concealed indicator. They are designed to compliment the style of the UC1 pre-amp. Performance for each unit which includes the appropriate power supply, is as specified on the facing page.

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Our power slaves, which have numerous uses i.e. instrument, discotheque, sound reinforcement, feature in addition to the hi fi series, front panel input jack, level control, and a carrying handle. Providing the smallest, lowest cost, slave on the market in this format.



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UNICASES

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UP3X	60W/8Ω	Bipolar	Mono	Hi-Fi	£54.95
UP4X	120W/4Ω	Bipolar	Mono	Hi-Fi	£74.95
UP5X	120W/8Ω	Bipolar	Mono	Hi-Fi	£74.95
UP6X	60W/4-8Ω	MOS	Mono	Hi-Fi	£64.95
UP7X	120W/4-8Ω	MOS	Mono	Hi-Fi	£84.95
Power Slaves					
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US2X	120W/4Ω	Bipolar	Power	Slave	£79.95
US3X	60W/4-8Ω	MOS	Power	Slave	£69.95
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Please note X in part number denotes mains voltage. Please insert '0' in place of X for 110V, '1' in place of X for 220V (Europe), and '2' in place of X for 240V (U.K.) All units except UC1 incorporate our own toroidal transformers.



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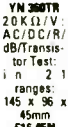
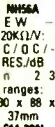


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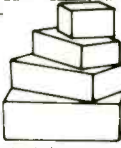


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Table with columns: L, W, D, Price for Vero Range and G Range boxes.

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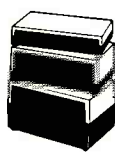


Table with columns: L, D, H, TYPE, PRICE for Vero Box cases.

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Table of CMOS components with columns: Part Number, Price, and other details.

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ELECTROLYTICS NON-polar (for LS X-overs) 50V peak 2uF 26p; 4uF 28p; 6, 8, 10, 15uF 32p; 25uF 37p; 40, 60uF 59p; 100uF 69p.

POLARISED, SIEMENS OR MULLARD FOR QUALITY (uF/V) 1/63, 2/2/63, 4/7/63, 6/8/40, 10/25, 22/10, 10p, 10/40, 22/25, 10/40, 47/10 11p; 47/25 12p; 100/10 13p; 10/63, 22/40, 100/16 14p; 22/63, 47/40, 100/25, 100/40 15p; 220/10 16p; 220/25 18p; 220/40 20p; 470/10, 470/16, 470/25, 1000/10 19p; 470/40, 1000/16 27p; 1000/25 26p; 1000/40, 2200/16 44p; 1000/63 78p; 2200/40, 4700/16 73p.

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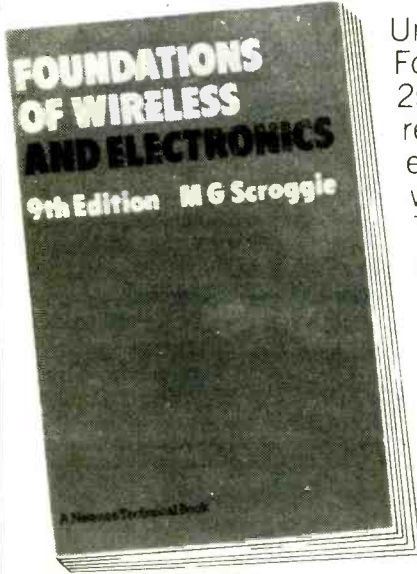
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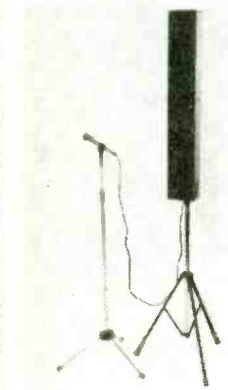
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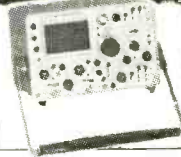
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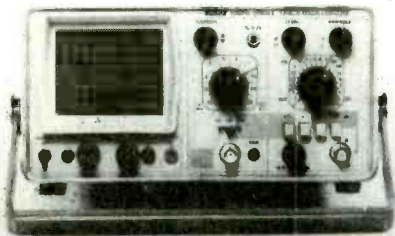
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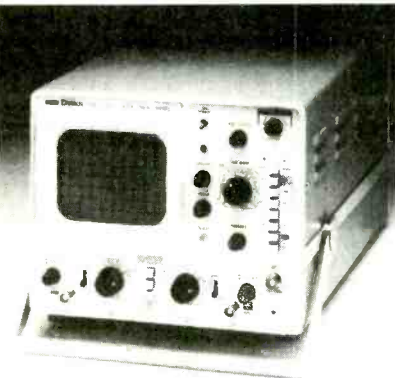


DC-15MHz Bandwidth
5mV/div sensitivity
200ns - 200ms/div sweep speeds
Rectangular CRT
Compact and lightweight

Triggered and automatic sweep
Triggering to 20MHz
Fully regulated high and low voltage supplies
200mV Calibration signal

BUILT-IN COMPONENT TESTER **£150***

TYPE 3131



DC-15MHz Bandwidth
5mV/div sensitivity on both channels
Algebraic addition and subtraction
X-Y Operation

200ns/div to 0.2s/div timebase
5" CRT
Triggering to 35MHz
Z Modulation
10 x 8 div display
TV Frame trigger

BUILT-IN COMPONENT TESTER **£240***

3030 and 3131 just two models in the range, reflect the Crotech philosophy of building-in extra performance. Both scopes offer the full specification you expect and demand. But now the extra: both feature a Component Tester which displays the characteristics of active and passive components either in or out of circuit. This benefit extends both instruments beyond the limits of a normal scope. The price?, well that speaks for itself.

For details telephone Reading (0734) 866945 and ask for our full catalogue.

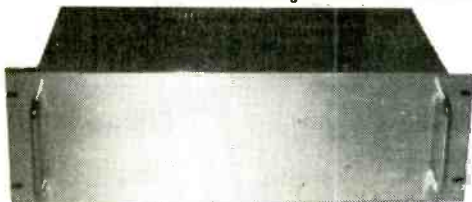
*U.K. LIST EXC VAT

Crotech Instruments Limited

5 Nimrod Way, Elgar Road, Reading, Berks. RG2 0EB.

WW - 031 FOR FURTHER DETAILS

19" Rack Mounting Cabinet - Or Free Standing



£23.95
£19.50

OFFER ENDS SOON

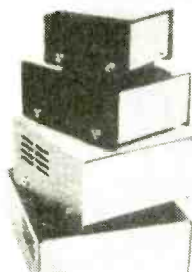
Front Panel 480x150 mm. Rear Case 425x250x140 mm

★ Top, bottom and rear cover removable for access ★ Plates have heavy duty grey paint finish ★ Front panel is heavy gauge - 3mm aluminium ★ Strong, screwed, construction throughout - screws included ★ Heavy gauge chassis mounting plate is pre-drilled and has four mounting positions to choose from ★ Front panel is of brushed aluminium finish enhanced with heavily chromed handles ★

Many sold to 'TANGERINE' users and INDUSTRY

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Ask for our FREE Catalogue



'metal cabinets'

a £1.70
b £2.55
c £3.04
d £4.08

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1P2T 10p
2P2T pcb 12p
2P2T 12p
2P3T 20p
1P4T pcb 26p
4P2T pcb 28p
4P3T pcb 35p
6P3T pcb 42p
4P4T pcb 45p

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Bridge WO-005 16p

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a - 102(d) x 56(h) x 83(w)mm
b - 150(d) x 61(h) x 103(w)mm
c - 150(d) x 76(h) x 134(w)mm
d - 184(d) x 70(h) x 160(w)mm

DIODES 1N4002 - 3p
1N4148 - 2p 1N4003 - 4p
1N4001 - 3p 1N4004 - 5p



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TRADE P.O.A.

'SEIKO' 30w Iron £2.95

WW - 081 FOR FURTHER DETAILS

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FEATURES:

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- No waiting for crystals, can be diode programmed between 156-164MHz.
- Automatic semi-duplex for private and link calls.
- Slide-on nicad pack recharges from mains or 12V.
- Lots of options, speaker mics, alternative battery packs, 12V leads, and desk chargers.
- Complete with nicad battery pack, mains charger, belt clip, earphone, rubber antenna.
- Home Office type approved. RTD HP 105.
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Input 230V A.C. Fully isolated. Aprrox. 15KV. Built-in 10 sec. Timer. Easily modified for 20 sec. 30 sec. to continuous operation. Size 155x85x50mm. Price £5 + 75p P&P. (Total inc. VAT £6.61).

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(For use in standard bin fittings).

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LESS CASE. Price: £13.60 + 75p P&P. (Total incl. VAT £16.50).
Warning: Tube used in this circuit is highly dangerous to the eyes. Unit MUST be fitted in suitable case.

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WW/11/82

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Logic Seeking, Bi-directional,
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Proportional Spacing,
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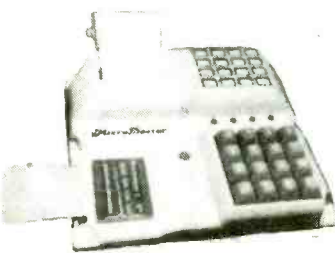
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136 cols
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Variety of interfaces, ribbons in stock.
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Microdoctor complete with psu, printer probe cable and two configuration board



CONNECTOR SYSTEMS

ID CONNECTORS

No. of Header Rows	(Speedlock type)	
	Plug	Edge Conn.
10	90p	200p
20	145p	240p
26	175p	300p
34	200p	360p
49	220p	550p
50	225p	600p

JUMPER LEADS

24" Ribbon Cable with Headers			
	14pin	16pin	24pin 40pin
1 end	145p	165p	240p 380p
2 ends	210p	230p	345p 540p
24" Ribbon Cable with Sockets			
	20pin	26pin	34pin 40pin
1 end	160p	210p	270p 300p
2 ends	290p	385p	490p 540p
24" Ribbon Cable with D. Conn. 25-way Male 500p, Female 560p			

DIL HEADER PLUGS

	Solder		IDC
	Type	Type	
14pin	40p	100p	
16pin	50p	110p	
24pin	100p	150p	
40pin	200p	225p	

RIBBON CABLE

(GWay)	
10 way	80p
14 way	90p
16 way	90p
20 way	105p
26 way	140p
34 way	220p
40 way	265p
50 way	330p
64 way	370p

D CONNECTORS

	No. of ways			
	9	15	25	37
Solder	MALE	90p	130p	160p 250p
	FEMALE	160p	230p	265p 425p
Solder	MALE	110p	160p	210p 350p
	FEMALE	175p	240p	310p 500p
Hood		95p	95p	125p

EURO CONNECTORS

(Indirect Edge Conn.)		
DIN STD	Plug	Skt.
41617 21 way	170p	170p
41617 31 way	180p	180p
41612 2x32 way	250p	320p
Angled 2x32 way	325p	375p
41612 3x32 way	275p	380p
Angled 3x32 way	—	400p
2x32 way IDC a+c	—	525p
(for 2x32 way specify a+b or a+c)		

EDGE CONNECTORS

	0.1" 0.156"	
	0.1"	0.156"
2 x 18 way	—	140p
2 x 22 way	200p	170p
2 x 23 way	210p	—
2 x 25 way	225p	220p
1 x 43 way	260p	—
2 x 43 way	335p	—
2 x 50 way	—	—
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S100 Conn.	—	600p

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★ 24-hour 7-day timer
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★ Output to drive day of week switch and status LEDs.
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The complete microprocessor development system for Engineers and Hobbyists. You can develop programs, debug, verify and commit to EPROMS or use in host computer by using softy as a romulator. Powerful editing facilities permit bytes, blocks of bytes changed, deleted or inserted and memory contents can be observed on ordinary TV. Accepts most +5V Eproms
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2532	375p
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UV141 with Timer **£78**
(Carr £2/eraser)
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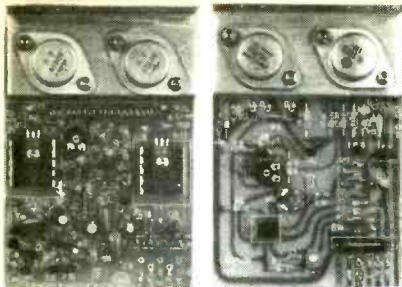
6502 Junior Computer **£85**
6802 Nancomp I **£80**
6809 Nancomp II **£80**
1802 Micro Trainer **£64**
Full details on request

RUGBY ATOMIC CLOCK

This Z80 micro controlled clock/calendar receives coded time data from NPL Rugby. The clock never needs to be reset. The facilities include 8 independent alarms and for each alarm there is a choice of melody or alternatively these can be used for electrical switching. A separate timer allows recording of up to 240 lap times without interrupting the count. Expansion facilities provided.
See July/August ETI for details. Complete Kit **£120** + £2 p&p

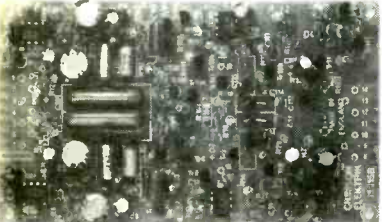
BOOKS

(No VAT p&p £1)	
CMOS Cook Book	£7.75
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Z80 Microcomp handbook	£6.95
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6502 Applications	£10.20
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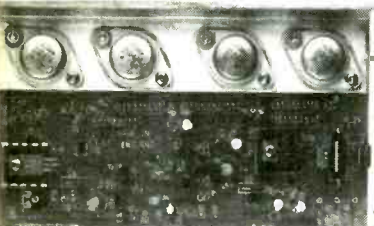
POWER AMPLIFIERS



PRE-AMPLIFIERS



ACTIVE CROSSOVERS



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 SERVO MOTORS
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B I P O L A R M O S	TYPE	MAX. O/P POWER	SUPPLY TYP.	VOLTAGE MAX.	THD TYP.	PRICE INC.
						V.A.T. & POST
	CE 608	60W/8Ω	± 35	± 40	< .01%	£21.50
	CE 1004	100W/4Ω	± 35	± 40	< .018%	£25.00
	CE 1008	120W/8Ω	± 45	± 50	< .01%	£28.00
	CE 1704	200W/4Ω	± 45	± 63	< .015%	£35.50
	CE 1708	180W/8Ω	± 60	± 63	< .01%	£35.50
	CE 3004	320W/4Ω	± 60	± 63	< .02%	£49.50
	FE 908	90W/8Ω	± 45	± 60	< .01%	£30.00
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HART

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These latest designs from the drawing board of John Linsley-Hood, engineered to the very highest standard, represent the very best that is available on the kit market today. The delicacy and transparency of the tone quality enable these amplifiers to outperform on a side-by-side comparison, the bulk of amplifiers in the commercial market-place and even exceed the high standard set by his earlier 75-watt design.

Three versions are offered, a 30-watt with Darlington output transistors, and a 35- and 45-watt, both with Mosfet output devices. All are of identical outside appearance which is designed to match and stack with our Linsley-Hood cassette recorder 2.

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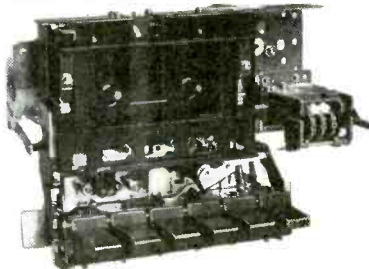
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12v DC Servo Feedback Motor.

VFL910 Deck. Fitted with HS16 Sendust Alloy Super Head £31.99

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ELECTRIC SHOCK

2 WAYS TO RECOVERY

ACT AT ONCE – DELAY IS FATAL

ELECTRIC SHOCK ACT AT ONCE – DELAY IS FATAL

make sure it is safe to approach

If the casualty is not clear of the source of the shock, break the contact by switching off all the current, removing the plug or paper book) and try to push or pull the casualty clear of the contact using insulating material (such as broomsticks) or rubber mats. Do not touch him with bare hands.

if the casualty is breathing

Place a casualty in the recovery position and call medical aid.

if the casualty is NOT breathing

start artificial respiration – speed is essential

- Chest wounds: not blocked. Remove loose clothing. Cover with a clean cloth. Press hand well back on one hand and pull the other with the other.
- Take a few breaths. Pinch casualty's nostrils together with your fingers. Keep your lips around his mouth and blow air freely into his lungs. Watch his chest rise.
- Remove mouth and neck to a flat position. Repeat and continue at your natural rate of breathing. When casualty starts breathing place him immediately in the recovery position.

if AFTER FOUR INFLATIONS casualty does not respond to artificial respiration

Check carotid pulse. Colour of skin and pupils of eyes. If the pulse is absent, the skin is black grey and the pupils dilated, this means that the casualty's heart has stopped beating. Give the casualty a double pump on the lower part of the breastbone, slightly to the left with a clenched fist.

external heart compression

Feel for the lower half of the breastbone. Place the heel of your hand on the part of the bone slightly to the left. Keeping your fingers off the neck, press this hand with the heel of the other hand, firm, swift, straight into the breastbone, pushing down on the lower half of the breastbone. Do this 15 times – one per second and then give the casualty two inflations.

Check the pulse again. If it is present continue with inflations until casualty breathes on his own then place him immediately in the recovery position. If the pulse is absent, give two compressions and two inflations.

an recovery continue to work usually, casualty is breathing may stop. If it does not, casualty on his back and start external respiration again.

recovery (first aid):

phone: _____

ambulance: _____

phone: _____

hospital: _____

phone: _____

nearest first aid: _____

phone: _____

← 1

← 2

Display the ELECTRICAL REVIEW shock first aid chart (356x508mm) supplied in thousands to destinations world-wide. Recent deliveries include consignments to companies in Papua New Guinea, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, The Philippines, apart from UK commercial and industrial, educational, Central Government, Local Authorities' orders.

Carry the ELECTRICAL REVIEW pocket-size shock card (92x126mm) designed to help safety and training officers, medical and welfare personnel; all who might find themselves called to save a life. Always pocket your card; there's a useful two-year calendar on the back.

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BE READY TO SAVE A LIFE.
SOMEONE MIGHT SAVE YOURS.

ACT AT ONCE—DELAY IS FATAL!

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INSTRUMENT	SELLING PRICE £	MANUF PRICE £	INSTRUMENT	SELLING PRICE £	MANUF PRICE £
OSCILLOSCOPES & ACCESSORIES			TAPE RECORDERS		
Tektronix Scope 7704A/7A26/7A26/7B53A	3600	6318	Racal Store 4Ds	3000	5285
Tektronix Scope 465B/DM44	1775	2177	Racal Store 7D	4000	8281
Tektronix Scope 455	930	1945	Racal Store 14D	6000	11570
Tequipment Scope DM63	750	1776	S. E. Labs 3500/14	8000	10800
Philips Scope PM 3244	1395	2299	S. E. Labs 7000A	10500	16120
Gould Scope OS4000	1100	2095			
Gould Scope OS4002	1200	2550	DATA LOGGERS		
Tektronix Stg. Scope 464	1950	3429	Solartron Compact Logger 3430B	1800	3300
Tek. Stg. Scope 7313/7A18/7A18/7B53A	2150	6832	Fluke 2240B System	P.O.A.	-
Tek. Stg. Scope 7623A/7A26/7A26/7B53A	4275	7797			
Tek. Stg. Scope 7633/7A26/7A26/7B53A	4975	9045	TRANSIENT RECORDERS		
Tektronix CT5 Probe	350	830	Data Labs DL905	750	1519
Tektronix Camera C30 AR	350	581	Franklin 3500R Dist. Mon.	2400	4331
Shackman Camera Super 7 MK 2	300	591	Dranetz 606 - 3	2250	3689
Tektronix P6201 FET Probe	530	880			
			SOUND LEVEL METERS		
CURVE TRACERS			Bruel & Kjaer (B & K) 2209	800	1410
Tektronix 577/177	2300	3648			
			LOGIC ANALYSERS		
DIGITAL MULTIMETERS			Biomation 810 D	375	1958
Datron 1051	740	1750	Biomation 1650 D	1925	4550
Datron 1059	510	995	Tek. 606 Display (for Biomation)	370	1908
Solartron 7045	250	360	H. P. 1610A	5450	7359
Solartron 7055	400	1390	Tek. 7603/7D01 F	3050	5956
Solartron 7065	600	1620	Paratronics 532	1800	2211
Fluke 8600A	295	433			
Fluke 8920A True RMS	620	1095	SPECTRUM ANALYSERS		
			Solartron 1510	2700	5151
COUNTERS			H. P. Storage Normalizer 8750A	900	1376
Racal Timer Counter 9905	225	395			
Systron Donner Freq. Counter 6053	425	1460	DESK-TOP COMPUTERS		
Systron Donner Freq. Counter 6153	650	3495	H. P. 9825A	2950	5006
H. P. Timer Counter 5327A	525	1193	H. P. 98210A String Prog. Rom.	125	162
H. P. Microwave Freq. Meter 536A	700	930	H. P. 98216A I/O Rom.	235	306
Fluke Timer Counter 1953A	825	1315	H. P. 9835A	3775	6987
			H. P. 98332A I/O Rom.	395	506
SIGNAL SOURCES			H. P. 98336A Adv. Prog. Rom.	295	337
Marconi Sig. Gen. TF2016	1225	2195	H. P. 98337A Plotter Graph Rom.	295	337
Systron Donner Pulse Gen. PG100A	200	600	H. P. 98338A Assem. Exec. Rom.	295	337
Racal/Adret GPIB Sig. Gen. 7100B	5500	7910			
H. P. Pulse Gen. 8013B	495	1031	DATA TERMINALS		
H. P. Function Gen. 3312A	415	751	Lear Siegler V.D.U. ADM 3A+	450	595
H. P. Sig. Gen. 8640B	3750	5880	Tektronix CT 8100 V.D.U.	325	-
H. P. Synthesized Sig. Gen. 8672A	16700	23900	H. P. 2621A V.D.U.	775	1174
			H. P. 2621P V.D.U. With Printer	1425	1946
RECORDERS			Texas Silent 743 Printer	495	1090
Philips Recorder PM 8222	830	1576			
Philips Recorder PM 8236	1380	2841	POWER SUPPLIES		
TOA EPR 200A YY - T	750	1100	Aplab LVED 30/2	80	190
Anaspec 20 - T	450	1100	Farnell TSV 70	275	445
Watanabe 6601	1800	3080	Aplab Inverter TIS 250/500	450	825
Micro Movement M10 - 120	2300	3547			
H. P. XY Recorder 7045	1160	2556	MISCELLANEOUS		
H. P. XYY Recorder 7046	1550	3588	Wayne Kerr B605 Bridge	1175	1350
S. E. Labs 993 Galvo Amp	400	1069	Ferrograph Test Set RTS 2	395	495
			Ferrograph Aux. Test Unit ATU 1	180	275
			Dymar A.F. Power Meter 2085	270	355
			Tektronix Data Comms Tester 832	840	1452
			H. P. Transmission Test Set 3552A	1400	1955
			H. P. Selective Level Meas. Set 3745B	6800	14700
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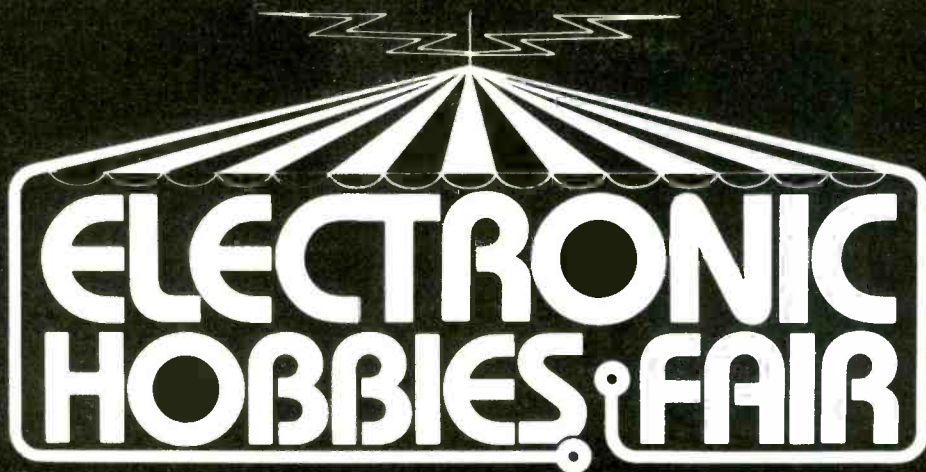
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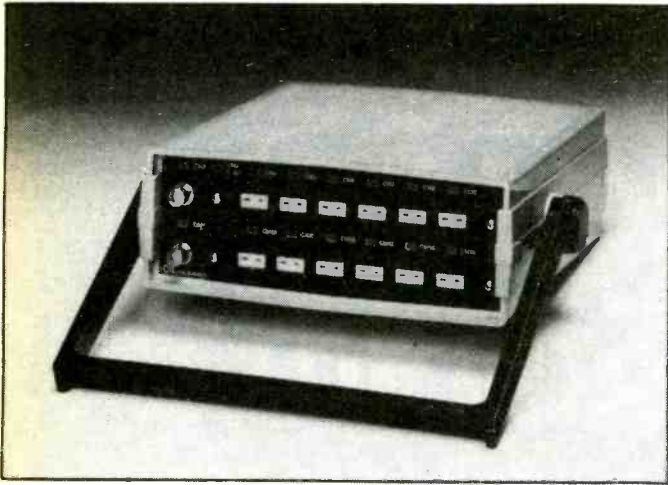
Ticket prices at the door are £2 for adults, £1 for children but party rates are available for 20 people or more. To find out more, contact the Exhibition Manager, Electronic Hobbies Fair, IPC Exhibitions, Surrey House, 1 Throwley Way, Sutton, Surrey SM1 400. Tel: 01-643 8040.

Electronic Hobbies Fair is sponsored by Practical Electronics, Everyday Electronics and Practical Wireless and is organised by IPC Exhibitions Ltd.

OPENING TIMES
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Friday 19 Nov. – 10.00-18.00
Saturday 20 Nov. – 10.00-18.00
Sunday 21 Nov. – 10.00-17.00



PCI 1002 IEEE THERMOCOUPLE CONVERTER



The PCI 1002 is a 12 Channel IEEE compatible thermocouple converter having two input ranges of $\pm 10\text{mV}$ or $\pm 100\text{mV}$ F.S.D. selected by an internal switch. It has 12 Bit resolution of the A to D converter giving a resolution of 0.06 deg.C on 10mV range and covers all common thermocouple types.

Cold Junction Compensation is provided giving a resolution of 0.2°C on 100mV range and 0.02°C on 10mV range.

Linearising software in Basic using optimised coefficients for ranges and thermocouple types.

Two other channels are provided via BNC input sockets on the front panel. Input ranges are $1/V$ for 10 mV range and $\pm 10\text{V}$ for 100mV range.



CIL MICROSYSTEMS LTD

DECOY ROAD, WORTHING, SUSSEX.

TEL: 210474.

High resolution graphics:

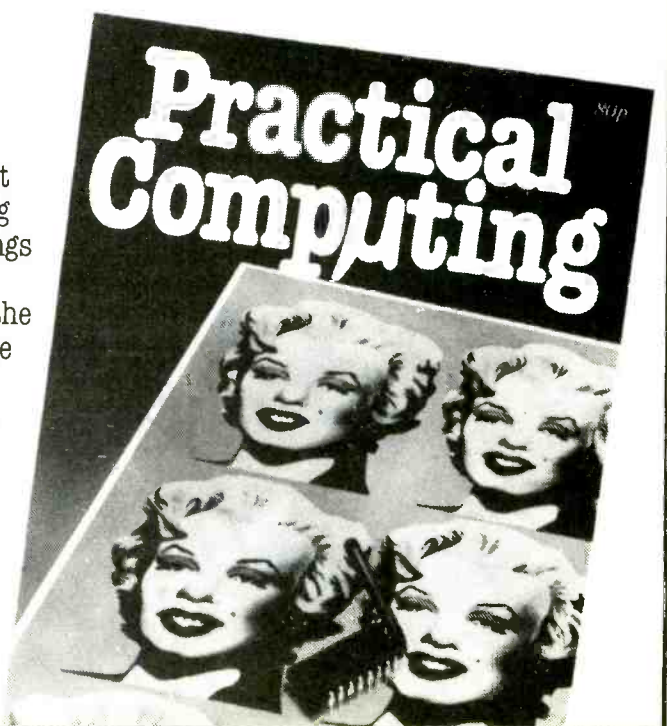
We put you in the picture

This month, we home in on the picture-making aspect of computers – and report on four exciting and intriguing developments: “Bit-stick”, the joystick device which brings out the artistic streak in Apple II; Apple II graphics for chemists – a package that draws molecular structures; the BBC micro as a colour graphics terminal, and how to store screen designs as graphic pages within a memory.

Also this month, we report on the Commodore 64 – a powerful computer with graphics facilities – and a new letter-addressing capability of Wordpro...

And that's just a sample of Practical Computing – together with advice for users of Pet, Apple, Tandy and Sinclair ZX 80/81 Computers. Buy Britain's leading personal computer magazine.

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HF ANTENNAS



- ★ **MODE;** Full half wave operation.
- ★ **BANDS;** Up to 4 spot frequencies.
- ★ **POWER;** Receive to 800W (PEP).
- ★ **SWR;** Better than 1.5:1 on channel.



From £125

THE SMC TRAPPED DIPOLE ANTENNA

has been developed to satisfy the needs of commercial and military users. It is capable of operation between 2 and 30 MHz on as many as four spot frequencies — each capable of accommodating many channels. Excellent matching and efficiency with a single coaxial feed is offered by the use of SMC H10 traps and the incorporation of a ferrite balun in a full half wave design. NB: Power absorbing terminating resistors are not employed. The antenna may be deployed using one or two support masts, installation (incorporating SMC light duty portable masts) can be easily effected by two people in half an hour.

HF SSB TRANSCEIVER



FT180 "PIONEER" HF SSB TRANSCEIVER. 1.8-18MHz, 6 channels 100 watts RF output measuring only 95(H) x 240(W) x 310(D)mm and weighing 6kg. May be operated as a base or mobile transceiver, complementing our trap dipole and HW4 mobile aerials. **Prices start at £500**, making this unit not only very attractive but highly competitive.

SOUTH MIDLANDS COMMUNICATIONS LTD.

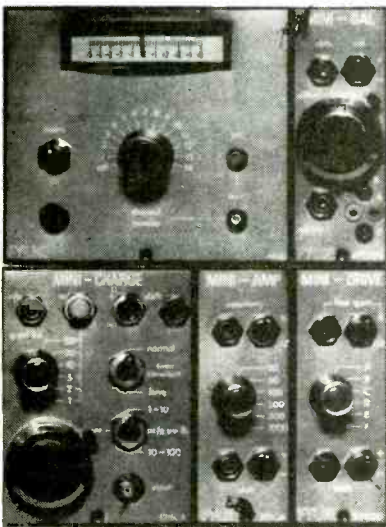
OSBORNE ROAD, TOTTON
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TOROIDALS

The toroidal transformer is now accepted as the standard in industry, overtaking the obsolete laminated type. Industry has been quick to recognise the advantages toroidals offer in size, weight, lower radiated field and, thanks to I.L.P., PRICE.



Our large standard range is complemented by our **SPECIAL DESIGN** section which can offer a prototype service within 7 DAYS together with a short lead time on quantity orders which can be programmed to your requirements with no price penalty.

- ★ 294 TYPES TO CHOOSE FROM!
- ★ ORDERS DESPATCHED WITHIN 7 DAYS OF RECEIPT FOR SINGLE OR SMALL QUANTITY ORDERS
- ★ 5 YEAR NO QUIBBLE GUARANTEE

TYPE	SERIES No	SECONDARY Volts	RMS Current	PRICE
30 VA 70 x 30mm 0.45Kg Regulation 18%	1x010	6+6	2.50	£5.12 +P/E1 34 +VAT E1 02 TOTAL E7 08
	1x011	9+9	1.66	
	1x012	12+12	1.25	
	1x013	15+15	1.00	
	1x014	18+18	0.83	
	1x015	22+22	0.68	
	1x016	25+25	0.60	
1x017	30+30	0.50		
50 VA 80 x 35mm 0.9 Kg Regulation 13%	2x010	6+6	4.16	£5.70 +P/E1 30 +VAT E1 05 TOTAL E8 35
	2x011	9+9	2.77	
	2x012	12+12	2.08	
	2x013	15+15	1.66	
	2x014	18+18	1.38	
	2x015	22+22	1.13	
	2x016	25+25	1.00	
2x017	30+30	0.83		
80 VA 90 x 30mm 1 Kg Regulation 12%	3x010	6+6	6.64	£6.08 +P/E1 37 +VAT E1 16 TOTAL E9 91
	3x011	9+9	4.44	
	3x012	12+12	3.33	
	3x013	15+15	2.66	
	3x014	18+18	2.22	
	3x015	22+22	1.81	
	3x016	25+25	1.60	
3x017	30+30	1.33		
120 VA 90 x 40mm 1.2 Kg Regulation 11%	4x010	6+6	10.00	£6.90 +P/E1 37 +VAT E1 39 TOTAL E9 86
	4x011	9+9	6.66	
	4x012	12+12	5.00	
	4x013	15+15	4.00	
	4x014	18+18	3.33	
	4x015	22+22	2.72	
	4x016	25+25	2.40	
160 VA 110 x 40mm 1.8 Kg Regulation 8%	5x011	9+9	8.89	£7.91 +P/E1 37 +VAT E1 44 TOTAL E11 02
	5x012	12+12	6.66	
	5x013	15+15	5.33	
	5x014	18+18	4.44	
	5x015	22+22	3.63	
	5x016	25+25	3.20	
	5x017	30+30	2.66	
225 VA 110 x 45mm 2.2 Kg Regulation 7%	6x010	6+6	14.16	£9.20 +P/E2 00 +VAT E1 68 TOTAL E12 88
	6x011	9+9	9.38	
	6x012	12+12	7.50	
	6x013	15+15	6.25	
	6x014	18+18	5.11	
	6x015	22+22	4.50	
	6x016	25+25	3.75	
300 VA 110 x 50mm 2.6 Kg Regulation 6%	7x010	6+6	20.00	£10.17 +P/E2 00 +VAT E1 83 TOTAL E14 00
	7x011	9+9	13.33	
	7x012	12+12	10.00	
	7x013	15+15	8.33	
	7x014	18+18	7.00	
	7x015	22+22	6.00	
	7x016	25+25	5.00	
500 VA 140 x 60mm 4 Kg Regulation 4%	8x010	6+6	33.33	£13.53 +P/E2 35 +VAT E2 38 TOTAL E18 26
	8x011	9+9	22.22	
	8x012	12+12	17.00	
	8x013	15+15	14.16	
	8x014	18+18	12.00	
	8x015	22+22	10.00	
	8x016	25+25	8.33	
625 VA 140 x 75mm 5 Kg Regulation 4%	9x010	6+6	41.66	£16.13 +P/E2 50 +VAT E2 79 TOTAL E21 42
	9x011	9+9	27.77	
	9x012	12+12	20.83	
	9x013	15+15	16.66	
	9x014	18+18	14.16	
	9x015	22+22	11.71	
	9x016	25+25	10.00	

TYPE	SERIES No	SECONDARY Volts	RMS Current	PRICE
225 VA 110 x 45mm 2.2 Kg Regulation 7%	6x012	12+12	9.38	£9.20 +P/E2 00 +VAT E1 68 TOTAL E12 88
	6x013	15+15	7.50	
	6x014	18+18	6.25	
	6x015	22+22	5.11	
	6x016	25+25	4.50	
	6x017	30+30	3.75	
	6x018	35+35	3.21	
300 VA 110 x 50mm 2.6 Kg Regulation 6%	7x016	40+40	2.81	£10.17 +P/E2 00 +VAT E1 83 TOTAL E14 00
	7x025	45+45	2.50	
	7x033	50+50	2.25	
	7x028	110	2.04	
	7x029	220	1.02	
	7x030	240	0.93	
	7x017	30+30	5.00	
500 VA 140 x 60mm 4 Kg Regulation 4%	8x025	40+40	4.28	£13.53 +P/E2 35 +VAT E2 38 TOTAL E18 26
	8x026	40+40	3.75	
	8x025	45+45	3.33	
	8x033	50+50	3.00	
	8x028	110	2.72	
	8x029	220	1.36	
	8x030	240	1.25	
625 VA 140 x 75mm 5 Kg Regulation 4%	9x016	25+25	10.00	£16.13 +P/E2 50 +VAT E2 79 TOTAL E21 42
	9x017	30+30	8.33	
	9x018	35+35	7.14	
	9x026	40+40	6.25	
	9x025	45+45	5.55	
	9x033	50+50	5.00	
	9x042	55+55	4.54	
8x028	110	4.54	£16.13 +P/E2 50 +VAT E2 79 TOTAL E21 42	
	220	2.27		
	240	2.08		
	9x017	30+30		10.41
	9x018	35+35		8.92
	9x026	40+40		7.81
	9x025	45+45		6.94
9x033	50+50	6.25		
9x042	55+55	5.68		
9x028	110	5.68		
9x029	220	2.84		
9x030	240	2.60		

IMPORTANT: Regulation—All voltages quoted are FULL LOAD. Please add regulation figure to secondary voltage to obtain full load voltage.

The benefits of ILP toroidal transformers

ILP toroidal transformers are only half the weight and height of their laminated equivalents, and are available with 110V, 220V or 240V primaries coded as follows:

For 110V primary insert "0" in place of "X" in type number.

For 220V primary (Europe) insert "1" in place of "X" in type number.

For 240V primary (UK) insert "2" in place of "X" in type number.

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Use this coupon, or a separate sheet of paper, to order these products, or any products from other ILP Electronics advertisements. No stamp is needed if you address to Freepost. Cheques and postal orders must be crossed and payable to ILP Electronics Ltd. Access and Barclaycard welcome. All UK orders sent within 7 days of receipt of order for single and small quantity orders.

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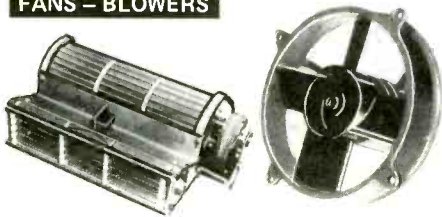
ILP TRANSFORMERS
(a division of ILP Electronics Ltd)

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Bargains BULK BUYERS LIST

That will save you money...

FANS - BLOWERS



Snail type blower with inset mains motor. Smiths £2.50
 Extractor fan. 5" Woods, ex computer £3.75
 Tangential blower. 10 x 3" air outlet. Dual speed, £ 2.90
 Ducting blower - Large 1/8 H.P. £12.50
 Medium 1/10 H.P. £10.00

LIGHTING & POWER CABLES



Copper Clad. PVC sheathed. Made by Volex to BSS.
 1.5mm single per 100 metres £2.00
 1.5mm flat twin per 100 metres £3.50
 1.5mm flat 3 core & E per 100 metres £5.50
 6mm single per 100 metres £3.00
 6mm flat 3 core per 100 metres £27.50
 16mm flat twin & E per 100 metres £47.50
 Telephone and multiway cables. Reliance as used by GPO
 15 core per 200 metres £60.00
 10 core per 200 metres £40.00
 3 core and screened power flex cable:
 3 cores each 50.025 (equiv. 2.5mm) per metre .40
 3 cores each 30.025 (equiv. 1.5mm) per metre .30
 3 cores each 24.02 (equiv. 1mm) per metre .20
 Armoured Cable 1.5mm, 3 core .40
 Extension lead. 3 cores .5mm pvc covered /100 M £9.50
 Ext. lead. twin .5mm rubber covered /1000 metres £60.00
 Iron Flex. Woven cotton covered, rubber insulated
 2 core 100 metre £12.50
FIGURE 8 FLEX Heavy Duty .75mm. 600 metre £19.00
 Figure 8 Flex per 100 metres £3.00

THERMOSTATS & HEAT SWITCHES

Thermostat: 3 level contact type .30
 10 amp appliance type thermostat. Spindle adjust .40
 Contact type with changeover, 10 amp switches, 0 - 100°C .58
 Wall mounting, metal case, c/o contacts low voltage £2.30

TIMERS & CLOCKSWITCHES

Time and Set Switches. Smiths, Glass fronted 25 Amp, 230 volts £2.30
 24 Hour time switch. 100 amp Smiths with clockwork reserve. Ex-Electricity Company. £5.50
 Cooker clock switch. Smiths, 12 hour £1.00
 Clockwork operated switches:
 15 amp, 230 volt. On time up to:
 10 minutes £1.37
 30 minutes £1.37
 120 minutes £1.37
 360 minutes £1.37
 OMRON mini timer, ref STP NH £3.50



BLEEPERS - SIRENS - BELLS - ALARMS - BUZZERS

Siren/Hooter - Delta 6 or 12v DC or 24v AC .37
 Open type buzzer, ex GPO, 10 - 20v .30
 Fire alarm bell, 12" gong, heavy cast iron const. £12.00



PROJECT BOXES - CASES - CABINETS



Black plastic boxes, 2 7/8 x 4 1/8 x 3 deep .50
 Ditto 3 5/8 x 2 3/4 x 1 3/4 deep .40
 Ditto 3 7/8 x 3 3/8 x 1 deep .30
 Plated metal box, 7 1/2 x 4 1/2 x 1 1/2 deep £1.00
 Dark grey half boxes. May be joined to make three different depth boxes, 4 5/8 x 2 5/8 x 3/4 deep .20
 4 5/8 x 2 5/8 x 1 deep .25
 White plastic box ideal for touch switch, transmitter, etc.
 Through top is square hole, 3 1/2 x 3 1/2 .50
 Loudspeaker cabinet for 6 1/2" speaker .95
PORTABLE RADIO CASE - 5" speaker, size approx 6 1/2" x 3 3/4" x 2" deep £1.00

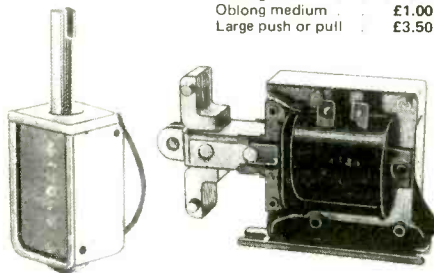
COUNTERS



6 digit counter. Mains operated. Not resettable .60
 Ditto. But even numbers only .50
 6 digit counter. 48v DC, 115v AC. Resettable £1.00
 Tape counter resettable 30p.

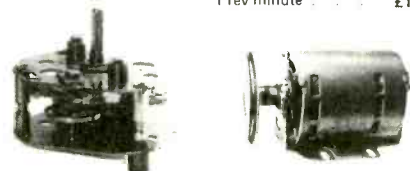
SOLENOIDS - BATTERY & MAINS

Mains operated with plunger. Round small .60
 Oblong small .75
 Oblong medium £1.00
 Large push or pull £3.50



MOTORS - MAINS & BATTERY

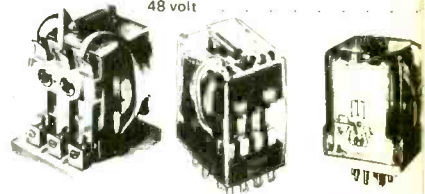
3 - 6 volt battery motor, very small .15
 3 - 12 volt battery motor, very low current .20
 Mains motor with gear box: 5 rev minute £2.25
 80 rev minute £3.00
 110 rev minute £2.00
 200 rev minute £1.50
 Mains motor, double ended fan motor £1.20
 Ditto single ended fan motor £1.00
 Fan blade for the above .50
 Mains motor, double ended, very powerful 1 1/2" stack £1.50
 Mains instrument motors with gear box: 1 rev 24 hours £1.50
 1 rev 1 hour £1.50
 16 rev minute £1.50
 4 rev minute £1.50
 2 rev minute £1.50
 1 rev minute £1.50



Motor, clockwork, set up to 1 hour .38
 Motor, clockwork, set up to 1 hour with ringer .75
 Mains motor 1/2 h.p. 1425 revs, ex computer £4.25
 Vent opening motor with end stop switches £12.50
 12 volt motors, Smiths. single ended 3/4" spindle £1.50
 12 volt motors, Smiths. double ended 3/4" spindle £2.00
 12 volt motors, P Magnet type, single ended £1.75
 1 1/2 h.p. motor 3450 rpm 100 volt. 50Hz. New £5.00

RELAYS & RELAY BASES

Standard open relays 3 x 8 amp c/o contacts
 6 volt dc coil .90 110 volt ac coil
 24 volt dc coil .50 230 volt ac coil
 1 x 8 amp changeover, 230 volt AC coil
 Enclosed plug in round base relays - 3 changeover contacts
 50 volt coil (ex fruit machine)
 110 volt coil 2 changeover
 12 volt coil 3 changeover
 8 pin bases. Bases for 2 changeover relay
 11 pin bases. Bases for 3 changeover relay
 Miniature Relays: 12 volt 2 changeover
 12 volt 4 changeover
 24 volt
 48 volt



SWITCHES - ROCKER, TOGGLE, ETC.

Rocker switches: white push into hole 1" x 7/16". All rated 10 amp, AC 250 volt.
 on/off
 changeover centre off
 on/off with neon
 push to make spring return
 push to break spring return
 Larger two circuit one on one off with mounting plate.
 13 amp rocker switch. Car Fastener (DoT)
 Pistol Grip Switch: with lock-on as in electric drills
 Interlocking Switch: blow heater, 3 rockers, 10 amp
 Micro switches. V3 types, 10 amp c/o contacts
 mains button operated: 15 amp c/o contacts
 10 amp off/on
 15 amp off/on
 Lever operated add.
 Lever with roller operation add.

Miniature types: Burgess V4T6 c/o
 Two mounted with roller operation
 Glass reed switches: 60 watt 10p, 40 watt 5p.
 flat multi stackable 60 watt
 Operating coils for reed switch multi voltage 3, 6, 9 or 12
 Ceramic magnets Mullard.
 Mini magnet

MAINS TRANSFORMERS

6 volt 1 amp .1
 6.3 volt 2 amp £1.1
 12 volt 1/2 amp .1
 12 volt 4 amp £2.1
 12 volt 1 amp £1.1
 8.5 - 0 - 8.5 1 amp £1.1
 18 volt 1 amp £1.5
 35 volt 2 amp £2.1
 38 volt 2 1/2 amp £2.5
 26 volt 10 amp £4.5
 50 volt 2 amp £2.7
 12 - 0 - 12 2 amp £2.1
 12 - 0 - 12 1 amp £2.1
 100W auto 115v o/p £2.1

FLUORESCENT LIGHTING

12 volt inverter for 21", 13w tube with lamp leads £1.1
 Chokes for: 8' 125 watt tube £3.1
 6' 85 watt tube £1.5
 5' 65 watt tube £1.1
 4' 40 watt tube £1.1
 2' 15/20 watt tube £1.1
 12" 8 watt
 Capacitor for 8' 125 watt choke
 ditto for 6' 85 watt choke
 12" 8 watt miniature tube
 2' 40 watt bi pin end tube 1 1/2" diameter
 3' 30 watt bi pin end tube 1" diameter
 1m 40 watt bi pin ends tube 1 1/2" diameter
 1m 25 watt bi pin ends tube 1 1/2" diameter
 5' 80 watt bc ends tube 1 1/2" diameter £1.1
 6' 85 watt bi pin ends tube 1 1/2" diameter £1.1
 8' 120 watt bc ends tube 1 1/2" diameter £1.1
 8' 120 watt bi pin ends tube 1 1/2" diameter £1.2
 Sign tube Philips 25 watt. "W" shape £1.5

AMPLIFIERS

1/2 watt, Japanese made with v.c. £1.5
 1 watt, Mullard module 1172 £1.0
 4 watt, Mini-amp with v.c. £1.0
 Pre-amp, Mullard Ref. 9001 module .8

Approximately 100 tons of stock has to be cleared right away from our big store, hence these very low price offers. Prices quoted are for bulk orders, minimum order £100, minimum any item £12. VAT and carriage are extra, although large orders not too far away will be delivered free. Contact us on this point.

Should you want a small quantity of any of the items as samples, for instance, then send the listed price x 2, which will cover the VAT and postage on letter post items. For heavy items, add the amount you think, bearing in mind that the smallest parcel now costs £1.35 and a 10 kilo parcel £3.25.

We have listed most of the items in our stores. All goods are offered subject to being unsold and conditions of sale are as stated, but should you want more information contact Mr. Bull or Mr. Stepney between 12-4pm on (0444) 454563.

J. BULL (Electrical) Ltd.

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HAYWARDS HEATH, SUSEX RH16 3QU.

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30 YEARS**

ELECTRICAL ACCESSORIES

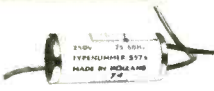
ITEM WHITE ACCESSORIES	
Single 1 way 5 amp switch	.40
no-way & intermediate 5 amp switch	.50
win 2 way 5 amp switch	.80
triple 2 way 5 amp switch	£1.20
double pole 20 amp switch	.75
double pole 20 amp with neon	.60
attract shallow	.20
itto - double deep	.40
metal Box	.30
ee Junction box	.15
3 amp spur with switch	.50
3 amp spur	.20
3 amp fuses	10 for .50
Surface Switches	
brown 1 way 5 amp	.15
brown 2 way 5 amp	.20
white 2 way 5 amp	.25
Socket 3 pin 5 amp brown	.20
Socket 3 pin 5 amp brown switched	.30
Switch push/push table lamp	.20
Blanket switch with neon	.55
Lamp holder, porcelain	.30
Lamp holder, screwed 1/2 brass thread	.20
Flexible conduits, plastic egotube	
20mm - 50 metres	£4.00
25mm - 50 metres	£5.00

TOROIDAL COIL

transformer lamination alloy, two sizes; 100mm outside dia meter 50mm internal diameter 25mm wide - 75p each; 58mm outside diameter 30mm internal dia. 20mm wide - 45p each.

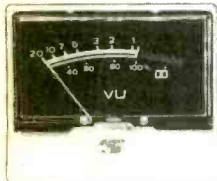
INTERFERENCE SUPPRESSORS

Suppressor .1 mfd 250v	
50Hz side tag metal	
cased	.10p
Condensers .1mfd + 2 x	
.0005 mfd side tag metal	
cased	.10p
.2mfd + 2 x .0005 mfd metal cased	.10p.
Choke/condenser combination, stops mains interference from	
or to equipment. up to 15 amps, stud or clip mount.	.95p.



PANEL METERS & INSTRUMENTS

Volt meter 0 - 200 volts 2 1/2" round	£1.50
- amp meter, hot wire scaled 0 - 9 amps	£1.20
Micro ammeter 2 1/2", round, centre zero 1ma f.s.d.	£1.00
Hot wire meter 6" panel mounting	£4.50



Charger panel meters, 1 1/4" dia. scaled 3 amp .35p
Panel meter 1 5/8" square, scaled VU .60p
Panel meter, Amstrad, 40mm sq. centre zero, scaled 1, 2, 3, .50p
Edgeways panel, 3" x 2 1/2" ma, ex GPO .£1.00.

FERRITE RODS FOR AERIALS, ETC.

Dia 1/4" - 4" long 15p	5" long 20p	8" long 30p
Dia 5/16" - 5" long 20p	6" long 25p	8" long 30p
Dia 3/8" - 4" long 20p	5" long 25p	8" long 30p
Dia 1/2" - 6" long 35p		
Ferrite slab - 3" long x 3/4" x 1/8"		.20
L & M coils for above, per set		.20

TELESCOPIC AERIAL

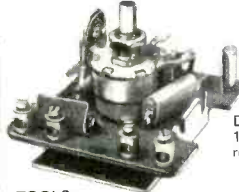
Nickel plated: Collapsed 8 1/2" extended 4'	.50
Collapsed 4 1/2" extended 2'	.40

BULBS & LAMPS

Torch bulbs, 3.5v MES Box of 25	.35
Pilot light bulbs 6.2v 3A 11mm Box of 50	£1.00
6.2v 3A 14mm Box of 10	.30
12v .5A 16mm Box of 10	.50
Car Bulbs: 18 watt SBC	.12
SBC Lamp holders	.15

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Neon Mains indicators. Standard	.15
Extra small	.25
Bench isolation mains in 230/240v output. 250W	£4.50
Mains input. Porcelain removable fuse	.20
Light operated switch 12 volt. Encapsulated	£1.25
Insulating board. srpb etc. Approx 10 tons. Sheet size 4' x 4' or larger. Various thicknesses, price per lb.	.50
Ditto, Tufnol, price per lb.	£2.00
Aerosol can ICI Fluon lubricant	.35
Variacap P.B. TV tuner	.50
Battery Holder takes 6 U2 batteries, snap connector	.25
Car Battery clips, as for charger. + and - per pair	.10



BUY TIME SLOT METER, 10p gives 1 hour, boxed with lock and coin tray .£2.00.

DIMMERS & CONTROLLERS
1250W dimmer, Ultra ref. SF20.5 .£2.00.

TOOLS:

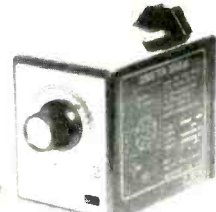
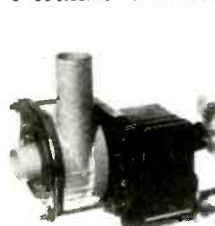
8 ba button dies	.15
Screw driver, miniature for grub screw	.10
Small size, general purpose	.08
Solenoid mains operated AIR VALVE	
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100 volt model	£1.15
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VALVE HOLDERS: B9A with skirt ceramic	.15
B7G PTFE	.25
INSERT speaker/mike, balanced armature, 600 ohm	.30
Rewireable fuse and carrier MEM 20 amp 250 volt	.28
Magnetic Clutch. Zerex 1215494 PN 866 - 10	.90

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In car, 12 volt for using 6 volt equipment	£1.25
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Fan cooled, mains driven, Price £3.50.

RESISTORS

1/4 - 1/3 watt: carbon film, 5% tolerance normal ends
Price per 100 .£1.00

CATHODE RAY TUBES

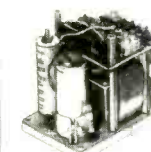
Short neck, 9 x 7 screen. Brimar, two models - F28 130 LD and F21 130 SR .£7.50 each.

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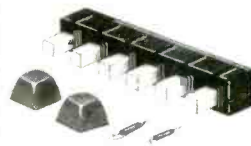
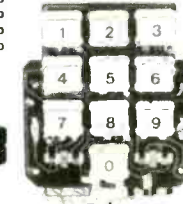
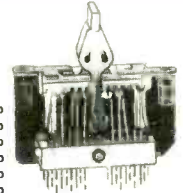
Single pole 12 volt coil. Size 17mm long 10mm diameter, price .£1.00.

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Miniature Make before break Wafer Switch:

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3 pole 4 way/ 4 pole 3 way	20p
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2 pole 4 way/ 8 pole 3 way	45p
12 pole 2 way	45p
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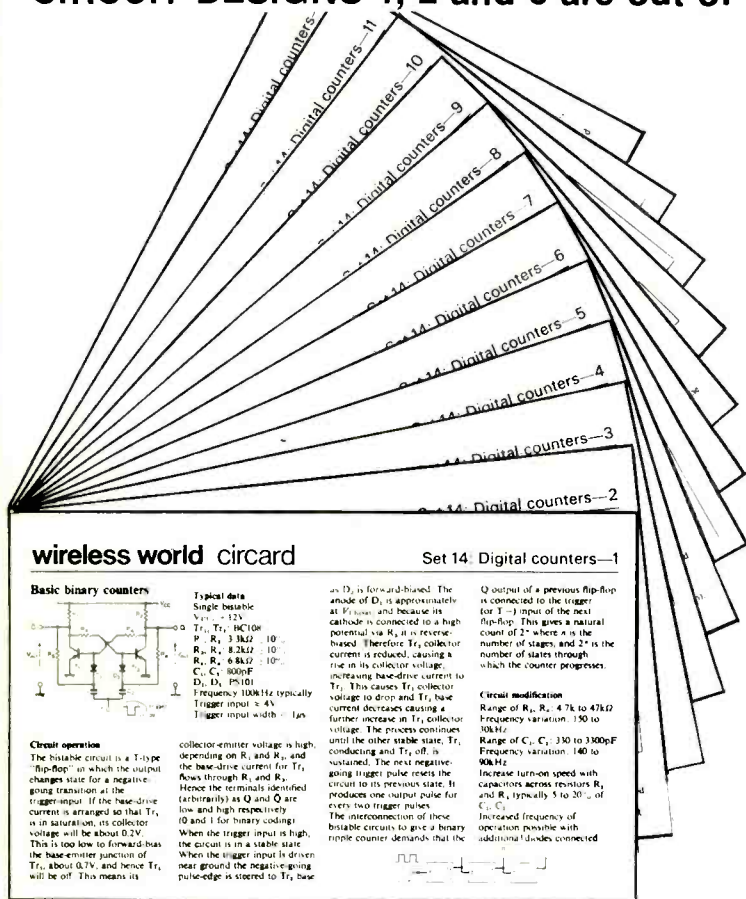
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.1 + 2x .005 250v .23	4uf 375v .58
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.2uf 1500v .38	5uf 370v .70
.2uf 275v .20	5uf 440v .76
1uf 440v .23	5uf 570v .82
1.25uf 360v .25	6uf 440v .80
1.5uf 440v .33	6uf 660v .90
1.5 + 1.5uf 440v .58	6.25uf 260v .58
1.5 + 1.5uf 450v .58	6.3uf 400v .85
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2uf 660v £2.00	8uf 600v £1.00
2 + 0.5uf 350v .44	7MFD 440v .80
2.2uf 250v .37	8.4uf 250v .70
2.5uf 250v .38	11uf 275v .83
2.5uf 440v .46	12uf 250v .80
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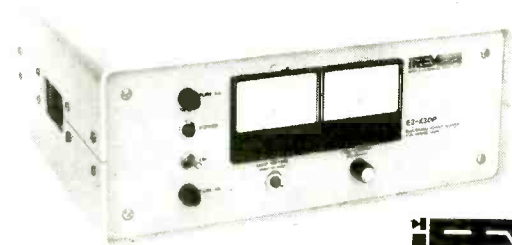
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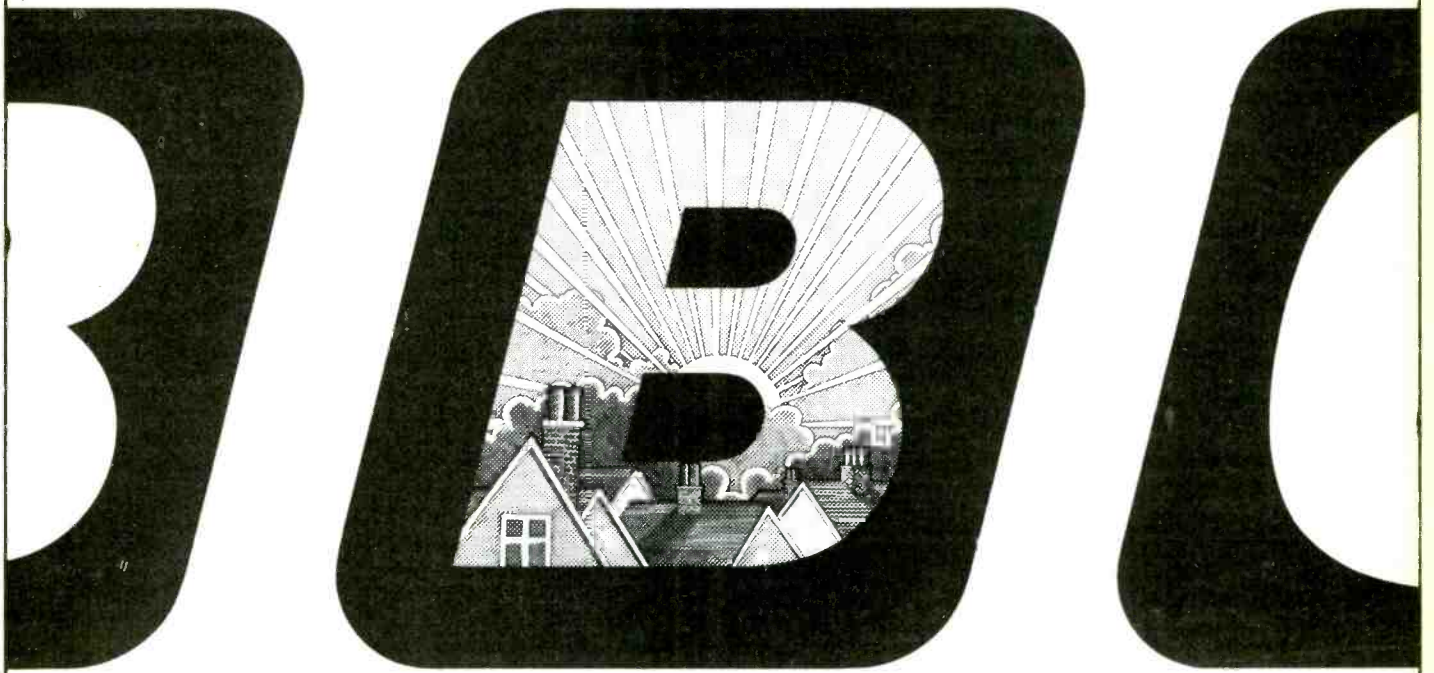
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Home Office

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To join a young and enthusiastic team involved in the design, manufacture and commissioning of complex static and mobile television systems. Candidates for this challenging and responsible position should have direct experience of sound and television principles gained in operational television or its allied manufacturing industry.

Proposals Engineer

Ideal for engineers experienced in the Broadcast TV industry who now wish to utilize their knowledge in a dynamic commercial environment. Duties will include the preparation of detailed and concise customer proposals, complete with pricing information and extensive customer and inter Company liaison will be necessary.

Field Service Engineer

To be engaged in the service and repair of a wide range of sophisticated equipment, including video cameras, VTR's and editing control systems. A high level of self motivation and initiative is required in order to successfully undertake customer visits throughout Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

Field Service Engineer (London Based)

Reporting to the Service Manager, who is based in Basingstoke, the successful applicant will be responsible for the service and repair of the full range of our equipment. Candidates should live in the London area, possess a relevant qualification in electronics and have several years experience in operational television or its allied manufacturing industry.

Sales Engineer (UK)

An engineer with experience in operational television or its allied manufacturing industry is required to join our UK sales team. Applicants should be aged 25-35, highly motivated and able to work on their own initiative. Previous sales experience would be advantageous although this is not essential.

Senior Engineer - Measurement and Maintenance

To be responsible for a wide range of equipment in our Technical Training Department. Applicants should have extensive experience in practical maintenance and measurement techniques on VTR's, editing systems and cameras. Many of our products are micro processor controlled, and a knowledge of micro processors, logical analysers and signature analysis techniques is desirable. Extensive product training will be given where necessary.

We offer an excellent remuneration package with first-class conditions of employment and fringe benefits. The prospects for personal development within the Company are considerable, and if you are interested, please write with brief details of career and present salary to: Mike Jones, Senior Personnel Officer, Sony Broadcast Limited, City Wall House, Basing View, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 2LA. Telephone (0256) 55011

SONY
Broadcast



Sony Broadcast Ltd.

City Wall House
Basing View, Basingstoke
Hampshire RG21 2LA
United Kingdom

(1835)

Appointments

CAMBRIDGE HEALTH AUTHORITY
Medical Physics Department
ADDENBROOKE'S HOSPITAL
 Hills Road, Cambridge

Medical Physics Technicians (Electronics) Grades III and IV

Two electronics technicians are required to provide a wide range of support services within the Cambridge area. Duties include maintenance, repair, development and construction of a wide range of equipment. The MPT III will also provide support to the CT Head Scanner in conjunction with other staff.

Minimum qualification OTEC or equivalent but HTEC/HNC preferred. MPT III applicants must have three years' relevant experience. Applicants should hold a valid driving licence.

Salaries:

MPT III £5,536 (starting) rising to £7,155 per annum.
 MPT IV £4,668 (starting) rising to £6,137 per annum.
 (NB Pay award pending)

For further details contact Mr. P. E. Ward, Principal Medical Physics Technician, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Hills Road, Cambridge. Tel. (0223) 245151, Ext. 471.

Application form and job description from: Personnel Department, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Hills Road, Cambridge. Tel. (0223) 245151, Ext. 7350.

(1805)

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To write high speed Real-Time multi-task software, largely in assembler but also high level languages on D.E.C. Processors running under RSX-11 for data collection and processing. Experience essential and a good (Engineering) degree. Salary up to £11,000 p.a. in West Hants.

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RADIO TECHNICIANS must have a diploma from a Radio Technical School and be able to install, maintain and operate fixed transmitters up to 40 kW, mobile and portable transmitting equipment, communications receivers, diversity systems and ancillary equipment associated with above, FSK, Teletype equipment and power generators. Must also be able to erect and erect omni-directional antennae and feeder lines. Climbing antennae masts may be required as field missions do not normally employ riggers for this purpose. Maintenance and repair teletype equipment of Teletype Corp. and Siemens make may be required. If candidates not experienced in these operations at recruitment time, they should be willing to acquire proficiency on teletype within a reasonable time. Salary US\$20,715 (net after Assessment \$16,880 with dependents, \$15,891 at single rate). All candidates must have a valid driver's licence and must have a very good knowledge of English. Appointments are for six months to one year, with possibility of renewal and are subject to medical examination. In addition to salary a monthly mission allowance will be paid in local currency. This allowance varies according to duty station. Good additional benefits.

Candidates may apply in writing to:

Miss Faith Metcalf, Office of Personnel
UNITED NATIONS – Room UNDC 200
New York, NY 10017 USA

(1806)

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We are looking for young electronics design engineers to support existing teams working on microprocessor-based systems, and/or analogue circuit design covering a variety of interesting tasks of a multi-disciplinary nature.

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Tel: 01-805 7222

(1857)

The Royal Marsden Hospital
Downs Road, Sutton, Surrey

MEDICAL PHYSICS TECHNICIAN GRADE III

Required to work in a technical group in the busy Radiotherapy Department of this hospital. The person appointed will be chiefly responsible for maintenance work on a Linear Accelerator.

Applicants should possess an ONC, HNC, HND or similar qualification in electrical engineering or electronics and have at least 3 years' technical experience.

Salary scale £6,093 to £7,712 p.a.

For an application form and further details please contact the Personnel Department - Tel: 01-352 8171 ext: 446.

(1817)

UNIVERSITY OF YORK Department of Electronics

Applications are invited for the post of

SENIOR TECHNICIAN (GRADE 5)

in the central workshop of the new Department of Electronics. The workshop staff are responsible for the maintenance of electronic instruments and for the development and construction of electronic equipment for teaching and research purposes.

Applicants are expected to have an appropriate qualification and considerable experience of electronics engineering, preferably including computers. The salary scale is currently £5,695-£6,650 (under review).

Applications giving full details of age, education and experience together with the names and addresses of two referees, should be sent to: Mrs. E. D. Heavens, Senior Administrative Assistant, University of York, York YO1 5DD, by Friday, 12th November.

(1836)

The Royal Marsden Hospital
Fulham Road, SW3

Medical Physics Technician Grade II/III

Required in the Radiotherapy and Physics Electronics Workshop of the above hospital. The person appointed will work in a small group responsible for the maintenance of radiotherapy equipment including three Cobalt units, a Philips 10 MeV Linear Accelerator and orthovoltage X-Ray equipment.

Applicants should have experience in electronics and electrical and mechanical servicing.

Applicants for MPT III should hold ONC, HNC or similar qualification in electrical, engineering or electronics with at least three years' relevant technical experience. Entry to MPT II grade is open to a technician who has served at least two years as a Technician III.

MPT III Salary on scale: £6468-£8087 (pay award pending)

MPT II Salary on scale: £7600-£9248 (pay award pending)

For application form and further details please contact: The Personnel Department, Royal Marsden Hospital, Fulham Road, London, SW3. Tel: 01-352 8171 Ext 446.

(1824)

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It is likely that the successful applicants will be educated to HNC or degree level and have worked for a minimum of 3 years in the Design, Production or Production Engineering departments of an electronics company. A knowledge of electronics could be a distinct advantage.

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A good Honours degree in electronics or physics is essential and relevant practical experience is desirable. The starting salary will be in the range of £5,667-£6,745 per annum (under review) according to postgraduate experience.

For further information or to make an application please contact:

Professor T. Shelley, Dept. of Medical Physics, Level D, Centre Block, Southampton General Hospital, Tremona Road, Southampton, SO9 4XY. Tel: Southampton 777222 ext. 4205.

(1799)

HULL HEALTH AUTHORITY

ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN GRADE II

Applications are invited from persons with an HNC in Electronics or an equivalent qualification, to join a small team of technicians working in the Hull and East Yorkshire Health Authorities. Duties involve maintaining a wide range of X-ray, biochemistry and electronics equipment, including SMA Analysers and CT scanner. Applicants must have experience of X-ray equipment and be car owner/drivers.

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Further details may be obtained from Mr P. Hall, Assistant Area Engineer, Tel. (0482) 223191 ext. 108.

Application forms and job description available from the District Personnel Office, Hull Health Authority, Victoria House, Park Street, Hull, tel. (0482) 223191, ext. 99.

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Write or phone for an application form to the Editor, Ray Ashmore, Middle East Electronics, Crown House, 14th Floor, London Road, Morden, Surrey SM4 5DX. Tel: 01-543 3051.

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A valid UK driving licence is essential. Application forms and further information are obtainable from Scottish Office Personnel Division, Room 110, 16 Waterloo Place, Edinburgh EH1 3DN (quote ref PM/PTS) 2/3/82 (031-556 8400, ext. 4317 or 5028). Closing date for receipt of completed application forms is 12 November, 1982. (1808)

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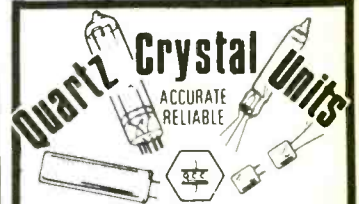
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Further information from The Registrar, The University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, P.O. Box 88, Manchester M60 1QD. Telephone 061-236 3311 extn. 2713; telex 666094. Closing date for registration 3rd December. (1810)

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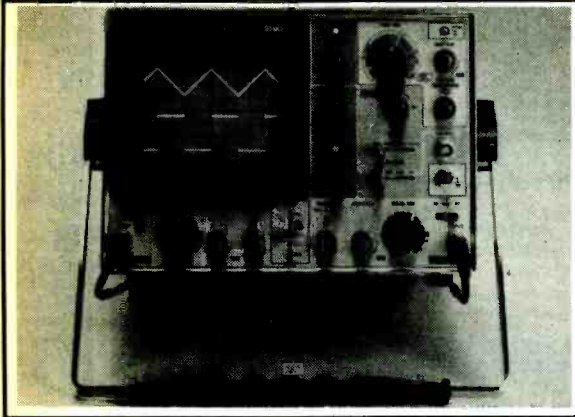
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INDEX TO ADVERTISERS

Appointments Vacant Advertisements appear 117-127

	PAGE		PAGE		PAGE
Acoustical Mfg. Co. Ltd.	9	Faircrest Engineering Ltd.	14	Pantechinc	88
Ambit International	98, 108	Farnell Instruments Ltd.	Cover ii	PM Components	106, 107
Amdio Ltd.	95	Fieldtech Heathrow Ltd.	24	Practical Computing	110
Analogue Associates	23	Flight Electronics Ltd.	2	P&R Computer Shop	8
Anglia Components	20	Foundations of Wireless and Electronics	94		
Armon Electronics Ltd.	14	Futronics Technology (UK) Ltd.	28	Radford Audio Ltd.	20
Audio Electronics	17	Fyde Electronic laboratories Ltd.	111	Radio Component Specialists	87
Audio Visual Electronic Contractors Ltd.	89			Ralfe, P. F. Electronics	96
Autotype	88			Relay-A-Quip	97
Avel Lindberg (Cotswold Electronics)	22			Robot (UK) Ltd.	98
				RST Valves	115
Bach-Simpson (UK) Ltd.	8, 89	GAS Electronics	7	Sagin, M. R.	21
Bamber, B. Electronics	108	Global Specialities Corp. (UK) Ltd.	13	Sandwell Plant Ltd.	116
Barrie Electronics Ltd.	95	Gould Instruments Division	22	Sche Tronics Ltd.	98
Baydis	116	GP Industrial Electronics Ltd.	26, 27	Service Trading Co. Ltd.	99
Black Star Ltd.	6	Greenwood Electronics Ltd.	Cover iv	Sescom Inc.	88
Broadfields & Mayco Disposals	14			Sinclair Research Ltd.	18, 19
Bull, J. (Electrical) Ltd.	112, 113	Hameg Ltd.	88	South Midlands Communications Ltd.	111
		Happy Memories	6	Sowter, E. A. Ltd.	2
		Harris Electronics (London)	21	Special Products (Distributors) Ltd.	14
		Hart Electronic Kits Ltd.	103	Stotron (Bournemouth)	24
		Hemmings Electronics and Microcomputers	93	Stotron Ltd.	89
		Henry's Radio	4, 12	Surrey Electronics Ltd.	22
Cambridge Kits	20	ILP Electronics Ltd.	90, 91, 111	Technomatic Ltd.	100, 101
Caracal Power Products Ltd.	5	Instrument Rentals (UK)	105	Teleradio Electronics Ltd.	108
Chiltern Electronics	96	Interface Quartz Devices Ltd.	2	Television Magazine	96
Chiltmead Ltd.	28	Intergrex Ltd.	16	Teloman Products Ltd.	28
CIL Microsystems Ltd.	110			Thandar Electronics Ltd.	Cover iii
Circuit Services	12	Keithley Instruments Ltd.	21	Thanet Electronics	97
Clark Masts Ltd.	15			Thorn EMI Instruments Ltd. (AVO)	30
Clef Products (Electronics) Ltd.	108	Langrex Supplies Ltd.	115	Thurlby Electronics (Reltech Instruments)	128
Comprosys Ltd.	23			Time Electronics	6
Crimson Elektrik	102	Manners, K.T. Design Ltd.	116		
Crotech Instruments Ltd.	97	Martron Ltd.	93	Valradio Ltd.	106
		Melkuist	16	Vigilant Communications Ltd.	20
Display Electronics	25	Midwich Computer Co. Ltd.	15		
DSN Marketing Ltd.	99	Modern Book Co., The	8	Watford Electronics	10, 11
		Monolith Electronics Co. Ltd.	28	West Hyde Developments Ltd.	8
				White House Electronics	22
Electrical Review Shock Cards	104	Northern Computer Fair	92	Wilmslow Audio	4, 16
Electricity Supply Hand Book	102	Northern Electronics	98	Wireless World Circards	114
Electronic Brokers Ltd.	3, 5, 58, 59			WKR Ltd.	12
Electronic Equipment Co.	106	Olson Electronics Ltd.	4	Your Computer	116
Electronic Hobbies Fair	109	Opus Supplies	29		
Electrovalue	94	Orion Scientific Products Ltd.	4		

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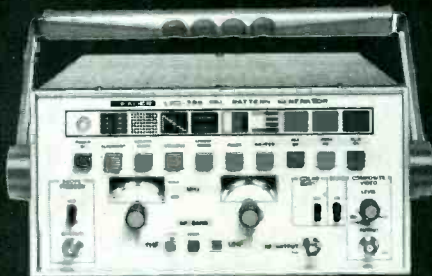
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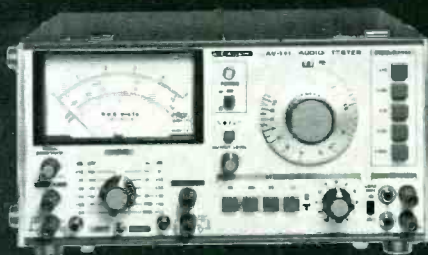
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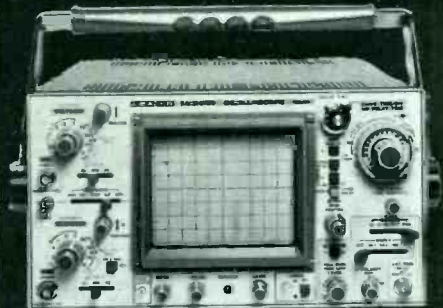
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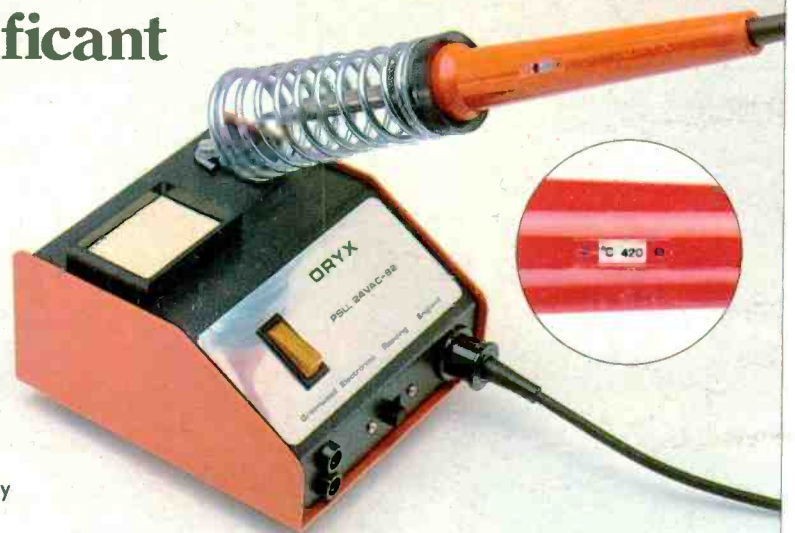
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