## Energy Leak Detector Reveals Home Heat Losses Secrets of the New Amateur Code Exams Designing Circuits for "Worst-Case" Performance

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The Cobra 50XLR CB has it all. AM/FM Stereo. Cassette. And CB. All in one compact unit. All engineered to bring you the same loud and clear sound Cobra is famous for.

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The Cobra.


Punches through loud and clear.
Cobra Communications Products DYNASCAN CORPORATION 6460 W. Cortland St., Chicago, Illinois 60635 Write for color brochure
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## THE ULTIMATE CAR RADIO.




The new Energaire ionized oxygen generator will make a handsome addition to any desk.

You need oxygen to live. You can live without food for 60 days, without water for seven days, but without oxygen. you won't make it past two minutes.
That small piece of fuzz located on top of the cylinder shown above emits ion zed oxygen

You are already famillar with ionized oxygen if you ve smelled the air aiter a thunderstorm. You feel great, revitalized and alert The lightening from the storm adds a small negativelycharged electron to each oxygen molecule in a process called ionization.

## POSITIVE ADVANTAGES

lonized oxygen performs several positive functions. First, it cleanses the air by attaching itself to anything iloating in the air, causing it to fall to the ground

Secondly. when inhaled. it has the same effect on the body as pure oxyger. It is absorbed quickly by the luncs and goes into the bloodstream making you feel more alert and alive.

The new space-age product shown above is an oxygen ion generator called Energaire. The copper mesh fuzz on top of the unit is one of the secrets of the system

# Miracle Fuzz 

## A new space-age invention and the same effect as lightening combine to create the world's first home oxygen regeneration system.

Although it has no moving parts, you can actually feel a wind produced from the fuzz. This wind is ionized oxygen which spreads to fill a 1500 cubic foot room or about 15 feet square.

## EFFECTS FELT QUICKLY

You will feel the effects immediately. The Energaire will clean your room of odor-causing bacteria and stale, musty or smoky air. Energaire will keep you alert. With a fresh supply of ionized oxygen, you will have more energy, be less fatigued, and you will sleep better.

Our polluted cities often deprive us of enough oxygen to make us feel healthy and alert. The Energaire solves this important problem by providing a personal environment - an area that surrounds your body and work location with fresh ionized oxygen.

## NEW SCIENCE

The oxygen ion generator is a relatively new product, yet its use in the home may make it more important than any filter system

The Energaire is a new breakthrough. lonized oxygen generators have been under development since the early 60's. The Energaire, using the latest in microelectronics, is the first cost-efficient system that produces over 100 times the ion production of other commercial units that cost ten times the cost of the Energaire.

## USED IN HOSPITALS

lonized oxygen creates a germ-free en-vironment-proven through research at several universities. Hospitals are now converting many of their operating rooms to ionized oxygen. Among the hospitals in California are Eden Hospital in Castro Valley, Chico Memorial Hospital in Chico, and the Valley Medical Hospital in Fresno.

TRY THIS DRAMATIC TEST
To show the dramatic effect of ionized oxygen, take the ion generator, biow cigarette smoke into a clear bowl, and hold the bowl inverted over the system. The smoke will vanish. The charged oxygen particles appear to dissolve the smoke particles, precipitating them from the air.

In a room, Energaire surrounds you with these oxygen ions and cleans and purifies the air so even in a smoke-filled room, you will be breathing clean, country-fresh air all day long.

## DRAMATIC LIFE CHANGES

Working in an ionized oxygen environment, you think clearly, are more alert, and your brain functions better. In actual brain wave tests, there was an increase in alpha waves
when ionized oxygen was used, indicating greater alertness, deeper relaxation, less stress, and more creative brain functioning.

We are so impressed with the pleasant effect of Energaire that we urge you to personally test it yourself in your home or office.

Order one at no obligation. Put it by your desk, in your bedroom, or in any room where you spend a great deal of time. See if it doesn't keep you alert, feeling better, and more productive. See how it rids your room of unpleasant odors and freshens the air.

## SLEEP EASIER

At home, use the Energaire to control odorcausing bacteria. Use it by your bed and see how fresh, country-like air makes you sleep easier, deeper, and more relaxed.

You should notice the difference within one day-especially in a work environment. But use it for a full month. Then, if you do not feel better and totally convinced of the positive effects of ionized oxygen, return your unit for a prompt and courteous refund.

The Energaire is manufactured by the lon Foundation, one of America's leading ion research laboratories, and JS\&A is America's largest single source of space-age products.

Service should never be required, but if it is, there's a prompt service-by-mail center as close as your mailbox - further assurance that your modest investment is well protected. The Energaire measures $9^{\prime \prime}$ high by $3^{\prime \prime}$ in diameter and weighs 24 ounces

To order your Energaire ionized oxygen generator, send $\$ 69.95$ plus $\$ 3.00$ for postage and handling (Illinois residents, please add 5\% sales tax) to the address shown below or credit card buyers may call our toll-free number below.

Let space-age technology revitalize your life with the world's first home ionized oxygen generator. Order one at no obligation, today.


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Call TOLL-FREE $\qquad$ . 800 323-6400 In Illinois Call. ..... . (312) 564-7000
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The new Bearcat 250 An unbelievable advancement in no-crystal scanning.

Bearcat's new, 250 is fully synthesized for punch-in programming. It searches, stores, and recalls every bit of programming, on a vast, 50 -channel spectrum. Automatically.

Unbelievable? Read and: believe.

CRYSTAL-LESS
Micro processor
controlled. Brings in every
local frequency.
automatically, without a crystal
50 CHANNELS Scans up
to 50 channels in banks of 10 each.
Scans any combination of banks at the touch of a button.
SEARCH/STORE. Seeks out and stores up to 64 active local public service frequencies automatically
SEARCH/RECALL. Retrieves
stored trequencies for simple entry into scan program
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quartz crystal digital clock. Shows hours. minutes, seconds
5-BAND COVERAGE. Low, high, UHF. UHF-T Plus 2 meter amateur ham band and other UHF frequencies COUNT Transmissions on each frequency counted automatically to determine which are most active SCAN/SEARCH LOCKOUT A unique feature Not only locks out
channels while scanning, it also eliminates
unwanted frequencies while searching.

# THE INCREDIBLE,NEW BEARCATㄹSI SCANNER. 

LEADING THE WAY TO REAL EXCITEMENT.

AND
MUCH MORE!
Selective Scan
Direct Channel
Selection. Scan Speec
Control Automatic Squelch Track Tuning Circuitry Front-
Mounted Speaker Decimal
Display Quality Construction
AC/DC UL listed. FCC Certified

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JOSEPH E. MESICS
Puthisher


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Editorial

## THE STANDARDS MUDDLE

There's an ongoing effort in the electronics industry to set up standards so different types of products will be compatible. As often as not, this results in a handful of "standards" for the same product type.
As an example, Japanese manufacturers are pursuing a standard format for video disc players (still on the horizon). But RCA and Philips have their own incompatible systems. Moreover, there are a host of different systems even in Japan. And it might require years for developers and marketers to effect a compromise so that one system will be used. Chances for a single system are better from "Japan, Inc.," however, than from U.S. and European developers. There are many video tape recorder standards, too. which could be a contributing reason for the disappointing last-quarter sales of home VCR's.

Even the famous " $\mathrm{S}-100$ " computer bus is not truly a standardized bus. There are variations on the theme. Proposals to the IEEE Standards Committee for a single S-100 bus standard, however, have been made. Ithaca Audio, Ithaca, NY, sent us a copy of its suggested version-all 36 pages of it! Included is a proposal for 16bit read/write operations on the S-100 bus, whereby data in and data out are ganged bi-directional buses during 16 -bit operation.

In the TV receiver area, the FCC on May 19 ruled that all uhf tuners must limit internal noise level to 14 dB by Oct. 1, 1979 certification tests. But a divided FCC staff hasn't made it binding on manufacturers, with some members pushing for a 12-dB limit as of Oct. 1, 1982.

In the audio field, there are lots of standards that should be established or brought up-to-date. The Institute of High Fidelity is doing just this, as evidenced by a PE article on new IHF amplifier standards last month, and the new FM standard a few years ago. Now how about one for tape recorders and for transducers! At some time in the near future, digital audio standards should be established, too. Just one area, sampling rates, would be a good starting place. There's also a fine opportunity at this early time to establish equalization and bias standards for the promising new metal-particle cassette tape formulation.

And in the CB radio field, the EIA is attempting to standardize selective calling systems.

Some standards are easier to effect than others, of course. Many are essential to doing business, such as standards for audio phone plugs and jacks (ANSI/EIA-RS453-1978). Others are not, so each manufacturer can continue to go his own way or frustrate attempts to standardize a system or measurement method without suffering obvious damage.

Having sat in on same standards meetings, I can attest that getting agreement from a group of penple with competing systems is not at all easy. It requires yeomanship work from technical experts, and a personal give-and-take that is easier said than done. In the final analysis. it's the marketplace that acts as the arena for action, with the consumer wielding the prod.


# PERSONAL COMPUTER 

## With technology so advanced, Concept so remarkable, Operation so utterly simple, Cost so incredibly low.

 The PET has given rise to a brand new era. The Age of the Personal ComputerHIGH SPEED PRINTER ACCESSORY

Immediate Delivery
FEATURING AN IEEE-488 BUS

THE PET has become the standard for the personal computer industry. Consumer and business publications have lauded its discovery. POPULAR SCIENCE ard PLAYBOY have given special tribute to the "'mind-boggling"' PET IN A LEAGUE WITH IBM, HP
AND WANG MINICOMPUTERS
THE PET is a minicomputer and should not be confused with garne products that hook up to househoid T.V's. What sets it apart from other computers is price. While athers cost from $\$ 11,000$ to $\$ 20,000$ and more. THE PET, with similar power, costs only $\$ 795.00$.
Features an IEEE-488 Bus -- like HP's mini and full size computers. This standard data and control channel permits direct connection to many peripherals. Over 120 pieces of compatible equipment such as counters, timers. spectrum analyzers, digital voltmeters and printer plotters, from HP Phillips. Fluke, and Textronix, etc., are currently avalable ROM Magazine, January 1978, writes, "THE PET comes out of the box. plugs into the wall, and is ready tc use. "It is equipped with a CRT viceo display with reverse and blink features, an alphe-nurneric keyboard with complete graphics and a built-in standard cassette tape deck.
THE PET has 8K bytes of RAM [user memory]. Optional equipment permits expansion to 32 K . And, it has 14 K bytes of ROM [program memory)

THE PET COMMUNICATES IN BASIC.
THE EASIEST COMPUTER LANGUAGE
If THE PET wants you to press a key, it will flash, "Press such and such", on the display. You speak back to it through its full size 73-k ey keyboard
EXTENSIVE CHARACTER
ORIENTED GRAPHICS
The unit features a 9 -inch, high resolution, 1000 character CRT. Characters are arranged 40 columns by 25 lines on an $8 \times 8$ matrix for superb graphics
WHAT IS THE PET REALLY FOR?
It is the single most important teaching device for any comt puter related subject. It will entertain the most sophisticated data application. or the simplest inquiry/response assignment. IN THE LAB it handles instrumentation, process monitoring, and more. A number of Fortune 500 companies have already made it an integral part of their lab and general office system.

## TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

 MEMORYRandorn Access Memory (user memory); 8K internal expandable to 32 K bytes
Read Only Memory (operating system resident in the computer), $14 K$ bytes
8K-BASIC interpreter program, 4K-Operating system 1K-Diagnostic routine
1K-Machine language monitor

## VIDEO DISPLAY UNIT

9 enclosed, black \& white, high resolution CRT 1000 character display, arranged 40 columns by 25 lines $8 \times 8$ dot matrix for characters and continuous graphics Automatic scrolling from bottom of screen
Winking cursor with full motion control
Reverse field on all characters
64 standard ASCII characters; 64 graphic characters KEYBOARD
91/2" wide $\times 3^{\prime \prime}$ deep: 73 keys
All 64 ASCII characters available without shift
Caiculator style numeric key pad
All 64 graphic and reverse field characters accessible from keyboard (with Shift)
Screen Control: Clear and erase
Editing; Character insertion and deletion
CASSETTE STORAGE
Fast Commodore designed redundant-recording scheme assuring reliable data recovery

As a BUSINESS TOOL it will; Mantain ledgers Keep payroll records Create P \& L's Control inventory Store and analyze sales data Draw bar graphs. Issue invoices Hook up to on-line computer systern. AT-HOME it will; Compute state and federal tax returns. Make heat and insulation analyses. date A variety of games, from Black|ack to Galaxy. is currently avarlable.


Bar Graphs


Black Jack


Arnortization Chart


Teaching Trigonometry

## HIGHSPEEDPET PRINTER

This powerful word processor prints hardcopies, invoices. computer correspondence. Faster than an IBM Selectric THE PET Printer delivers 60 characters per second at a sustained rate -- with upper and lower case capability Characters ot matrix the printer uses a standard 8 -e wide pape oll. And, it is only \$695.00
PERIPHERALSECONDCASSETTE
This optional component expands storage and increases flexibility. Only $\$ 9995$
MILES OF SOFTWARE
Many programs are avallable now, including. "BASIC BASIC" which shows how to write a program. You cen develop your own programs tn meet personai requirements

Cassette drive modified by Commodore for much higher eliability of recording and record retention
High noise immunity, error detection, and correction Uses standard audio cassette tapes
Tape files. named
OPERATING SYSTEM
Supports multiple languages (BASIC resident)
Machıne language accessibility
File management in operating system
Cursor control, reverse field, and graphics under simple BASIC control
Cassette file management from BASiC
True random number generation or pseudio random sequence
INPUT/OUTPUT
All other $/ O$ supported through IFFE-488 instrument interface for peripherals
/O automatically managed by operating system software Single character $1 / 0$ with GET command
Easy screen line-edit capability
Flexible I/O structure for BASiC expansıon with periphera BASIC INTERPRETER
$8 K$ BASIC: $20 \%$ faster than most other $8 K$ BASICS
Upward expansion from BASIC language
Upward expansion from BASIC language
Strings, integers, multiple dimension
Direct memory access: PE EK and POKE commands
DIMENSIONS
$16^{\prime \prime}$ wide: $18^{1 / 2 "}$ deep; $14^{\prime \prime}$ high, Weight: 44 lbs

GAME PROGRAMS ARE $\$ 9.95$ EACH Black Jack Draw Poker Galaxy Games Space Flight Target Bong, Off-The-Wall Lunar Lander, Wumpus. Rotate. Tic-Tac-Toe Osero. Reverse Spacetrek |। Kingdom PROGRAMS AT \$14.95 EACH: Mortgage Analysis Diet Planner and Biorhythm Basic Basic -by Lodewyck and James
PROGRAMS AT $\$ 24.95$ EACH: Basic Investment Analysis-loans, annuities, return on regular and irregular sequences of payments calendar calcułations
Stock Portfolio Recordkeeping and Analysiskeeps track of buys, sells, and dividends. Calculates current vaiue, rates of return
Checkbook Recordkeeping and Analysis-keeps track of checks and deposits Analyzes expenses by date and type
PROGRAMS AT $\$ 29.95$ EACH:
Basic Math Package-matrix addition, multipication, determinants and inverses to $16 \times 16$, schution of simultaneous linear equations, vector and plane geometry calculations, integration by trapezoidal, Simpson's rule or Gaussian quadrature, differentiation

Basic Statistics Package-mean, median, variance, stan dard deviation. skewness, kurtosis, frequency distribution, hnear regression, $T$-tests, correlation analyses

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To order your PET send check or money order for $\$ 795.00$ plus \$20 OD for shipping and insurance To order the PET Printer, add S595.00. plus \$12.00 for shipping and int surance. The Second Cassette is $\$ 99.95$. No shipping and insurance charges are required when ordering a second cassette or programs with your PET Credit card orders are invited to call our toll free number below. Orders will be accepted on our TELEX, No. 25-5268
Use THE PET for 30 days with no obligation. If, for any reason, you are rot satisfied, return it for a prompt and courteous refund. ORDER DIRECT

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Letters

## AUDIO COMPANDER ENHANCES RECORDING

I have always prided myself on making the fullest possible use of my home tape recorder. But with the addition of the "Audio Compander" (November 1977) to my taping system, I discovered that I had fallen short of my goal. I found that the Audio Compander's ability to accommodate a wide range of levels obviates the need to "pot up and down." One of the simplest and most dramatic rewards is realized when using the compander with a simple cassette deck and a stereo system. But recording from discs or off-the-air FM programs is not enough of a challenge.

One way to demonstrate the dynamic range and noise-reduction properties of the compander is to make a recording of at least a couple of people placed around a room, with one person very far from and another very close to the microphone. If you can then arrange to $A-B$ compare the recording with and without the Audio Compander, you will immediately hear the superiority of the recording with the compander. -David J. Malinaric, Pittsburgh, PA.

## PATENT INFRINGEMENT POSSIBILITY

With reference to "Experiments With Programmable Logic Arrays" (June 1978), I would like to inform your readers of possible patent infringement if the circuit described in the article is used commercially. A very similar circuit forms the basis of the waveform control circuitry used in our new digital polyphonic synthesizer that can generate a virtually unlimited spectrum of waveshapes, with variable resolution ( 16 to 4096 points), up to 2 MHz . Our American patent has been pending since April 1977.

It may also be of interest to readers who build this project that inexpensive 8223 programmable read-only memory chips can be used as an alternative to the PLA and IC4 through IC6. Of course, the 8223 PROM's must be connected to a +5 -volt source through R1. -Charles D. Kellner, Director. R\&D, Syntauri, Inc., Salem, OR.

## TWO-SIDED COIN

I wish to thank Popular Electronics for the Operation Assist column. I have received several replies to my request for a schematic diagram.-John H. Taylor, Glen Mills, PA.

As a long-time reader of Popular Electronics, I am always on the lookout for
someone in the Operation Assist column to whom I might be of some help. Having offered to help several individuals who were listed in the column and receiving not even one "thank you," l've become disillusioned. -C.A. Harvey, Sturbridge, MA.

We're sure that anyone aided in this manner appreciates it, but it would be a nice gesture to send a "thank you" note.-Ed.

## PART AVAILABILITY

Popular Electronics readers interested in building the project in "Listen to a New World of Sounds With Ultrasonic Detector" (July 1978) may have trouble finding a source for the TBA231 dual operational amplifier specified for IC1. If so, (in Canada and U.S.) they can obtain it from us for $\$ 3.50$ postpaid. -D. Rost, Northern Bear Electronics, Box 7260, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7K4J2, Canada.

## CB SIDEBANDERS' REBUTTALS

I greatly enjoyed your coverage of a sideband CB club meeting in the July 1978 issue (CB Scene). However, so as not to give the general public the wrong impression, I feel I must present some of my own observations. First, the failure to use official FCC call signs must be a local phenomenon because practically all sidebanders I hear give call signs to begin and end a transmission. Secondly, the use of linears is not nearly as widespread as you would have your readers believe. Except when the $D X$ is really bad, the average sidebander needs no more than 10 to 12 watts PEP to communicate 25 to 50 miles with an inexpensive omnidirectional antenna.

Your statement about the five-minute talk limit also deserves comment. Due to the general cooperation with slow keying, most people feef that as long as no one asks for a QSK, the frequency is clear and they are not inconveniencing anyone. I have never found a situation where someone did not give way to a QSK in a minute or so. -Jerry Brown, $\triangle 505$, KAlT-5860, Louisville, KY.

Convenience or pragmatism still isn't a valid reason for breaking the law. We're pleased to hear that some illegal practices cited are not spread throughout the country.-Ed.

After reading the July 1978 CB Scene, I felt I had to write in to tell you that I have been a member of the Whiskey group for almost three years. I use my $W$ number, first name, and license information number at the end of all transmissions. There are almost 7000 members in the Chicago-area $W$ group. I know that a lot of CB'ers on AM and a few even on SSB operate in an illegal manner, but not me. I am no fool. -Richard W. Bailey, W-3862, Chicago Area W Group, Chicago, IL.

## MIXED FEELINGS

Overall, the February 1978 issue of PopuLar Electronics was good. The hi-fi articles were excellent, especially the Stereo Scene
on digital electronics in hi-fi. However, on the articles on computers, it appears that a reader must already know all there is to know about computers to understand them. There are a lot of us who do not understand computer jargon. -Donald D. Capodanno, Vinton, VA.

There are many low-cost computer "buzz word" books available so that one may enter the field more smoothly.-Ed.

## IMPROVING THE IMPROVEMENT

"How to Upgrade a Basic ELF Microcomputer" was a delight (Feb 78). However, the usefulness of the TAPE OUT and TAPE IN programs (Tables I and II) would be greatly improved if they contained a provision for specifying the end of the read routine. The following "fix" adds this feature to the TAPE Out programs; a similar modification applies to the TAPE IN program.

## Original

| Loc, | Instr. | Remarks |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0000 | E1 | Start addr |
| 01 | 7A |  |
| 02 | F868 A1 |  |
| 05 | F800 |  |
| 07 | A6 A7 |  |
| 09 | F8 10 A 2 |  |
| OC | F801A3 |  |
|  | - |  |
|  | - |  |
| 50 | 64 | Display byte |
| 5 E | 81 | Get next byte |
| 5 F | 3201 | If end, goto mark |
| 61 | 3036 | Eise return |
|  | Modification |  |
| Loc, | Instr. | Remarks |
| 0000 |  |  |
| 02 | F8 B1 | Start PAGE addr |
| 05 | F8 A1 | First byte addr |
| 08 | F8 B8 | MSB $\}$ of total bytes + 1 |
| OB | F8 A8 | L.BS ${ }^{\text {a }}$ ( 1 |
| OE | F800 A6 A7 |  |
| 12 | $\begin{array}{ll} \text { F8 } & \text { A2 } \\ \text { F8 } & \text { A3 } \end{array}$ | $\}$ See note |
| 15 | F8.A3 |  |
| 68 | 64 | Display byte |
| 69 | 88 FF 01 A8 | $\mathrm{R}(8) .0$ - 1 into R (8).0 |
| 6 D | 3272 | If end LSB, goto MSB |
| 6 F | 81 | Get next byte |
| 70 | 3041 | and return |
| 72 | 98 FF 01 B8 | $\mathrm{R}(8) .1$ - 1 into $\mathrm{R}(8) .1$ |
| 76 | 3201 | If end MSB, goto mark |
| 78 | 306 F | else get next byte |

This fix will now permit one to dump any contiguous section of memory (up to 65 K ), provided the starting address and total number of bytes plus one in hex are specified. The


Ohio Scientific now offers you the world's most powerful portable personal computer in both BASIC-in-ROM and mini-floppy configurations.

## C2.4P Mod 2 Standard Features:

- Minimally equipped with 8 K BASIC-in-ROM, 4K RAM, machine code monitor, video display interface, cassette interface and keyboard with upper and lower case characters. (Video monitor and cassette recorder optional extras.)
- The fastest full feature BASIC in the microcomputer industry.
- The C2-4P Mod 2 features the most sophisticated video display in personal computing with 32 rows by 64 columns of upper case, lower case, graphics and gaming characters for an effective screen resolution of 256 by 512 elements.
- The CPU's direct screen access, coupled with its ultrafast BASIC and high resolution, makes the C2-4P capable of spectacular video animation directly in BASIC.
- The C2-4P features computer "BUS" architecture. It internally utilizes a 4 slot backplane. Two slots are used in the base machine leaving 2 slots open for expansion.
- Comes fully assembled and tested. BASIC and machine code are always accessible immediately after powerup.
- A new high density static RAM board and two economical minifloppy options give the C2.4P tremendous expansion capability without sacrificing portability.

The $\mathrm{C} 2-4 \mathrm{P}$ offers the user mainframe performance in a portable package. This performance makes the C2-4P suitable for use in home computing, education, scientific and industrial research and small business applications.

Other small personal computers can satisfy the requirements of the computer novice, but no other personal portable can match the C2-4P in professional and computer enthusiast applications.

Yet the C2-4P and its accessories are priced only slightly above the mass marketed "beginner" or "home" computers.

For more information, contact your local Ohio Scientific dealer or the factory at (216) 562-3101.


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MSB of the total number of bytes should have a nominal value of 01 to prevent the program from going into an infinite loop. Bear in mind that the additional instructions will affect program timing. It will be necessary, therefore, to adjust the values of $R(2) .0$ and $R(3) .0$, based on the system clock, to reflect the added timing. -Henry H. Tolbert, Tallahassee. FL.

## TAPE HEADS DO WEAR

I recently read with interest Craig Stark's article "Selecting the Best Cassette Tape for Your Recording Needs" (November 1977). It was very informative and helpful. However, I was quite surprised when I read "A better known $\mathrm{CrO}_{2}$ disadvantage-rapid head wear-is actually a myth at cassette speeds and pressures. Believe it only when you find someone who has actually worn out a cassette head using any kind of tape.
I have a deck that is one year and nine months old with a worn playback/record head (high density, Permaflux) that makes listening to tape intolerable. I would estimate the total playing time of the deck to be 2500 hours. The heads have been cleaned and demagnetized regularly and it is not operating in a dusty atmosphere. I have also seen many cheaper tape decks with severely worn tape heads. So, tape head wear does occur and can be a serious problem to the recordist who uses his machine as often as I do. - M. F. Amirault, New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, Canada.

## TYPICAL PE READER

From your March 1978 Editorial, I've concluded that I'm a typical Popular Electron-
ics reader. I'm close to the norm in age, education, and income, and most of your other survey demographics. So, l've decided to join your vocal minority as well. I would like to see the Amateur Radio column become a monthly feature.

Popular Electronics has been a pioneer in educating us in microcomputers and all kinds of other fine things. And I hope this leadership continues. However, I don't see any reason to scrap the Amateur Radio column in deference to the CB service.-Mary M. Cappuccili, WB8RRG, Toledo, OH.

An Amateur Radio column is planned to be run on at least a bimonthly basis.--Ed.

## AUDIO AUTO ALARM NEEDS COMPARATOR FOR METER CIRCUITS

In regard to my article "Audio Alarm Backs Up Car Warning Lights or Meters" (August, p 64), it should be pointed out that the circuit won't work directly with most car metering systems. In such cases, a simple comparator would have to be added so that its limit point could be set to indicate a fault condition. The comparator output could go high or low at the limit point, assuming it were connected to the correct point in the circuits as printed. Included should be a low-pass filter ( $20-\mathrm{V}, 5-\mu \mathrm{F}$ electrolytic capacitor to ground and series 220,000 -ohm resistor) between the meter output and the comparator input to provide a 1 -second time constant. Also the trace between pins 13 and 14 on the Autotel (see Parts List) board will have to be opened for input C to function properly. -Gene Nelson.

## MODIFIED NI-CD CELL ZAPPER

'Zap' New Life Into Dead Ni-Cd Batteries' (July 1977) was of great interest to me. After building the project, I decided to modify it as shown in the schematic diagram to add what 1 feel is an extremely desirable feature. My battery "zapper" both zaps and charges $\mathrm{Ni}-\mathrm{Cd}$
cells. The 1500 -ohm wirewound potentiometer ( $R 2$ ) is in the circuit to accommodate the charging current required and to allow the charge rate to be varied for different size cells. The milliammeter is required to provide a means for monitoring the charge current. —Clifford D. Dorman, La Habra, CA.


## Out of Tune

In "Build an Electronic Voltage Regulator for Your Car" (July 1978), on page 57, the quantity n is stated to be 3 ; it should be 5 . This would make the actual value of R5 2700
ohms, for an output of 14 volts, instead of 2000 ohms, which would yield a 13.5 -volt output.

In "Build a Fail-Safe Timer" (May 1978), it was stated that a 556 dual-timer IC could be substituted for the two 555 timers. This is not the case. Both halves of the 556 share a common internal ground, which renders it useless for this application.

Here's the speed and convenience the industry said couldn't and wouldn't be available at this low price until sometime in the future. A highly sophisticated, full capacity, solid state microprocessor made to the most exacting standards and warranteed for one full year against defects in quality and workmanship.

## Some Favorable Comparisons

The closest you can come to the Rapidial" is the Telephone Company's Touch-a-matic ${ }^{\text {W }}$, which handies 15 numbers compared with Rapidial's 20, and must be leased for $\$ 9.00$ a month plus tax plus installation of $\$ 105.00$. (The 32 memory unit is almost $\$ 20$ a month plus $\$ 132.00$ to install.)

The next lowest price is $\$ 130.00$, for a 16 number dialer with no keyboard, sc it has to be programmed through the telephone. A cumbersome technique that limits the use of the unit to numbers put in memory.

You can go up the line, from $\$ 150$ to $\$ 400$, and you won't find an easier to use, more efficient or versatile unit. Rapidial, for example, has a built-in speaker to tell you if the line's busy, and when your party's on the line. So, with Rapidial you only pick up the receiver when someone answers.


## Some Surprising Uses

Frequently Called Numbers We always assumed you'd put your 20 most frequently called numbers into memory - including, probably, your emergency numbers. And that's exactly the way many people use it. Delighted with the time and trouble they save with automation. Numbers You Always Look Up Others find using it in exactly the opposite way even more advantageous. They store important but less frequently used numbers. Numbers they almost always had to look up before.
Inter-Office For many, the greatest convenience is using Rapidial primarily for inter-office calls-so they don't have to stop to look up the extensions.
OCTOBER 1978

Daily Schedule Caller Still others use Rapidial as a memo caller. Each morning they pencil in the names of the people they have to call that day, and enter their numbers into memory. When the call's completed, they just wipe off the name, erase the number. Adding new ones, if necessary, as the day progresses.
Emergency calls are always dialed correctly; and you save the time of looking up the number of Police, Fire Department, Doctor or anyone you need to reach immediately.

## For All Your Calls

Actually, you'll probably use Rapidial in all these ways-and more. It's so easy to program and reprogram. Can be set to pause, access WATS lines and PABX systems. What's more, calling is incredibly fast. A digit is "beeped" in a tenth of a second, so a 10 -digit number is dialed in just one second!

Of course, if you don't have a Touch-Tone phone, you'll use the Rapidial keyboard for all your calls. It's so much faster and easier.

## An Important Addition To Your Home

While Rapidial has been designed for the office, it's priced for the home. Besides family, friends, the police and fire departments, you'll use it to store the number where the baby sitter can reach you in an emergency, and for the numbers you always have to look up-like the hardware, drug and local department store, the take-out restaurant, your bank, barber, the hairdresser. And you'll be amazed at how many 20 numbers seem when you go through your directory.

## Thirty Day Trial

One day will demonstrate the extraordinary convenience, unbelievable freedom you'll enjoy with Rapidial.

Still, as one of America's oldest and largest mail merchandiser, Douglas Dunhill wants you to be convinced of the flawless performance, the years of trouble-free service you'll get. Therefore, we'll send Rapidial to you on an unconditional 30-day money back guarantee.

If you can find any unit that sells for less, or a better unit at any price, if you're dissatisfied for any reason, return Rapidial to us for a complete refund.

## Installs in Seconds

Rapidial comes complete with adapters that fit either a 4-prong wall jack or the newer circle no 15 on free information caro
modular jack. (If you have phones without jacks, your phone company will install a modular jack at a nominal one time charge.)

For multiple line office phones, there's a special optional adapter that fits the Rapidial and connects in seconds. With this Anphenol adapter Rapidial will dial on any line on your multi-line phone. Should you have any further technical questions about use or installation of the Rapidial, call toll-free 800-227-8363 (in CA. call 415-494-9402).

## Rapidial Highlights

- LED Display lets you verity or refer to any number in memory
- Internal Speaiker System lets you hear busy signal or your party before you pick up receiver
- Push Button Dialing on any phone, even ROTARY DIAL Portable only $61 / 2^{\prime \prime} \times 31 / 2^{\prime \prime} \times 13 / 4^{\prime \prime}$ and can be moved from phone to phone in an instant
- Plug Two Together to increase memory capacity to 40 numbers
- Keyboard Access with up to 30 digit capacity for placing any cal
- Waits for Dial Tone befora dialing - easily programmed
- One Year Warranty with nothing to maintain or wear out.
- Approved for attachment to the telephone system.


## CALL 800-325-6400 ASK FOR OPERATOR \#11

(Missouri residents cal 800-342-6600)
These lines are in operation 24 hours,
7 days a week
Rapidial is just $\mathbf{\$ 9 9 . 0 0}$ plus $\$ 2.05$ shipping and handling. Complete with back-up batteries in case of a power failure and the adapter to fit your present jack. The multiple line adapter is only \$19.95 extra.

To order with any credit card, call the toll free number above Or you mav send your check to Douglas Dunhill at the adcress below. Be sure to tell us if you want multiple line adapter. (IIlinois and New York State residents add the sales tax.)
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New Products
Additional information on new products covered in this section is arailable from the manufacturers. Either circle the item's code number on the Free Information Card or write to the manufacturer at the address given.

## Kenwood High-End Turntable

The Kenwood Model KD-750 direct-drive turntable uses a quartz/PLL controlled servo system to achieve a claimed $0.02 \%$ wow and flutter. The $13^{\prime \prime}(33-\mathrm{cm}), 5.7-\mathrm{lb}(2.6-\mathrm{kg})$ platter has a rubber mat designed to absorb or can-

cel all vibrations and resonances. A 20-pole, $30-\mathrm{slot} \mathrm{dc}$ motor delivers a $1.5-\mathrm{kg}-\mathrm{cm}$ starting torque that is said to bring the platter up to full speed in less than one revolution. The tonearm employs a flexible decoupling system to cancel resonances, while pivot friction has been reduced with a new high-precision dualbearing system. A $T$-shaped magnesiumalloy headshell with a resonance beyond the audible range contributes to the claimed high sensitivity and accurate tracking of the tonearm. Other features include all-electronic braking, microswitch digital controls, and a turntable base that utilizes compressionmolded resin concrete. $\$ 450$. Address: Kenwood Electronics, Inc., 15777 S. Broadway, Gardena, CA 90248.
circle no bi on free information caro

## McKay Dymek <br> Communications Receiver

The McKay Dymek DR 33C receiver covers 50 kHz to 29.7 MHz continuous (AM, USB, LSB, CW, plus RTTY with external converter). Frequency selection is in $10,1,0.1$, $0.005-\mathrm{MHz}$ steps with $5-\mathrm{kHz}$ fine tune. Sensitivity at $10 \mathrm{~dB}(\mathrm{~S}+\mathrm{N}) / \mathrm{N}$ varies from $10 \mu \mathrm{~V}$

for 5 kHz on 100 kHz to $0.35 \mu \mathrm{~V}$ for 400 Hz on 20 to 29.7 MHz . Claimed frequency stability is $\pm 50 \mathrm{~Hz}$; image rejection 70 dB . Other features include a class-D AM envelope detector, crystal filters in first and second i-f amplifiers, switch-selectable mechanical filters in third i-f, noise limiter quartz-crystal-controlled PLL digital synthesizer, and $100-\mathrm{Hz}$ accuracy LED digital frequency readout. Audio notch filter at 5000 Hz is greater than 25 $d B$. Headphone jacks are provided on front panel and audio output is 2 watts at 4 ohms. Dimensions: $17.5^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{W} \times 15^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{D} \times 5.1^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{H}(43 \times 37$ $\times 13 \mathrm{~cm}$ ). Address: McKay Dymek Co., 675 N. Park Ave., Pomona, CA 91766.
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## Compucolor II Personal Computer

The Compucolor II "Renaissance Machine" personal computer is available in five models depending on number of display lines (16 or 32), memory size ( 4,8 or 16 K ), and whether graphics and expanded keyboard are included. Each system has 64 characters/line on its own $13^{\prime \prime}(33-\mathrm{cm})$ diagonal video CRT 8 color display. Separate keyboards are standard ASCII 4-level, coded with 192 codes, including 77 gold crossbar commercial key switches. The microcomputer has an 8080A


CPU with total memory expandable to 64 K . A built-in mini-disk drive for mass storage has 40 tracks with access time of 400 ms . The Compucolor II uses BASIC 8001 conversational programming language with Englishtype statements and familiar mathematical notations. Programmed diskette-albums are available (games, financial problems, engineering applications, etc.). Address: Compucolor Corp., Box 569, Norcross, GA 30091.
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## Tannoy Floor Speaker System

Tannoy's floor-standing Buckingham speaker system has a three-way design with four drivers that can handle up to 200 watts of continuous program material. Two 12 " bass drivers are mounted in a reflex ported enclosure. The 10 -inch midrange transducer uses a high-energy barium ferrite magnet and "ferro fluidics," a magnetic fluid technique which is said to increase heat dissipation. The treble transducer consists of a pressure unit, phase-compensating throat, exponential horn assembly and acoustic lens. The midrange and treble transducers are spaced so that they appear to radiate from a single point. Crossovers are at 350 and 3500 Hz with four controls for variation. Power-handling range is 10 to 1000 watts (peak), while sensitivity is 1 watt for 92 dB SPL, 200 W for 112 dB SPL, both at 1 meter distance. Dimensions are $3^{\prime} 10^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{H} \times 2^{\prime} \mathrm{W} \times 1^{\prime} 6^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{D}$ and weight is 212.5 lb . Address: Tannoy-Ortofon, Inc., 55 Ames Ct., Plainview, NY 11803.

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## NLS Mini-DMM <br> Measures True RMS

The Model RMS-350 digital "Volksmeter" from Non-Linear Systems, Inc., features true rms ac voltage and current measuring capability, is battery-powered, and measures $4^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{D}$ $\times 2.7^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{W} \times 1.9^{\prime} \mathrm{H}(10.2 \times 6.9 \times 4.8 \mathrm{~cm})$. It

has a liquid-crystal display and employs a single-chip A/D converter. Ac voltage ranges are from 1 mV to 750 volts rms, dc voltage ranges are from 1 mV to 1000 volts, ac rms and dc current ranges are from $1 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ to 1 ampere, and resistance ranges are from 1 ohm to 10 megohms. Other features include 10 megohm input, automatic polarity and overload indication, and overload protection. Optional equipment includes rechargeable batteries and charger, high-voltage probe, leather carrying case, and tilt-stand carrying case. \$189. Address: Non-Linear Systems, Inc., Box N, Del Mar, CA 92014.
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## Tandberg Open-Reel Tape Recorder

Tandberg's new Model TD 20 A open-reel tape deck has a 4-motor logic-controlled (no solenoids) tape transport. It employs the

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Utility - Models are available with or without built-in regulated power supplies (fixed or adjustable)

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| NODEL <br> NUMBER | NO. OF SOLDERLESS TIE-POINTS | IC CAPACITY (14-PIN DIP'S) | MANUFAC <br> SUGG. LIST | OTHER FEATURES |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| FB-6 | 630 | 6 | \$15.95 | Kit-10-minute assembly |
| FB-100 | 760 | 10 | 19.35 | Kit-with larger capacliy |
| PB-101 | 940 | 10 | 22.35 | 8 distribution buses, higher capacity |
| PB-102 | 1240 | 12 | 26.35 | Large capacity, moderate price |
| PB-103 | 2250 | 24 | 44.95 | Even larger capacity; only 2.7 e per tie-point |
| PP-104 | 3060 | 32 | 54.95 | Largest capacity; lowest price per tie-point |
| PB-203 | 2250 | 24 | 75.00 | Built-in 1\%-regulated 5V, 1A low-ripple power supply |
| PB-203A | 2250 | 24 | 124.95 | As above plus separate $1 / 2$-amp +15 V and -15 V internally adjustable regulated power supplies |

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company's new "Actilinear" recording system that is said to provide a $20-\mathrm{dB}$ improvement in headroom capacity over conventional systems. The system uses a transconductance converter to reduce the effect of amplifier slew rate and improve transient signal handing. The deck has $101 / 2$-in. reel capacity with tension switch, front-panel bias control and a two-position microphone sensitivity switch. Other features include 4 line inputs, echo and sound-on-sound capabilities, separate power supplies, and PROM and triac speed control for spool motors. Available in $33 / 4$ and $71 / 2 \mathrm{ips}$ or $71 / 2$ and 15 ips speeds, quarter and half-track formats. \$1200. Address: Tandberg of America, Inc., Labriola Ct., Armonk, NY 10504.

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## President AM/SSB Mobile CB Rig

The McKinley is a new compact AM/SSB mobile transceiver from President Electronics. Rated at 4 watts AM/12 watts PEP SSB, it features a digital LED channel display, large $S / r$-f power meter, and transmit and receive LED's. The control complement includes: channel selector, volume (and power on/off switch) control, squelch control, microphone gain control, r-f gain control, clarifier control, PA/CB selector switch, noise blanker switch, and dimmer switch. Specifications are: less than $0.5 \mu \mathrm{~V}$ sensitivity for 10 dB ( S $+N) / N$ on AM, and less than $0.25 \mu \mathrm{~V}$ on SSB; better than 60 dB spurious rejection;


60 dB typical alternate-channel rejection; and better than -60 dB harmonic suppression. Dimensions: $9.78^{\prime \prime} L \times 7.28^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{W} \times 2.28^{\prime \prime} H$ $(25 \times 18.5 \times 5.8 \mathrm{~cm})$. Address: President Electronics, Inc., 11691 Hale Ave., Irvine, CA 92714

## Sherwood

 AM/FM Stereo TunerSherwood's new HP 5500 AM/FM stereo tuner has a rated $F M$ sensitivity of 9.31 dBf ( $1.6 \mu \mathrm{~V}$ ) for $30-\mathrm{dB}$ quieting. $1-\mathrm{dB}$ capture ratio, and $85-\mathrm{dB}$ alternate channel selectivity. Image and i-f rejection are said to exceed 120 dB . The HP 5500 features a fivesection FM front end with dual-gate MOSFET's; FM tuning and signal-strength meters; four matched linear phase ceramic filters; coil-less r-f, detector, and MPX circuitry; and dual cross-coupled audio operational amplifiers. The AM section uses a three-gang tuning capacitor and a rotatable ferrite rod antenna. Variable muting threshold and AFC controls (automatically defeated when tuning) are also provided. A quad analog switch handles muting, stereo/mono, and stereo-only switching. Front-panel provisions include tape dubbing provisions, an FM noise filter switch, and a $75 / 25 \mu$ s deemphasis switch. The cabinet has walnut veneered end panels.
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# IF YOU OWN ATVANDAHIFI, YOU'D BE FOOLISH NOT TO OWN THIS COMPONENT. RIS 

 2.

Television has always been fun to look at.
But compared to your hi ti, it's an ab. solute disaster to listen to.

Where your hi fi provides you with rich, undistorted sound, the average TV sounds no better than a cheap kitchen radio.

And how can you seriously expect to experience something like the "thrill of victory" (or even the agony of deteat) through a 3"TV speaker?

As the world's leading audio company, we ar Pioneer have long felt obligated to do something abour the qual ity of TV sound.

Which is why we created the TVX 9500 .

It's the first TV audio tuner. A high quality audio component that attaches to your receiver or amplifier like a cassette deck, and provides you with rich, clean, clear TV sound. Through your hi ti system, instead of the TV. (When you use the TVX-9500, you turn your TV sound off.)

But the TVX-9500 does more than just make TV sound better.

It makes TV an entirely difterent experience.

When you watch a tootball game, you teel more like a participant than a spectator. You hear the signals. Feel the
snap. And almost wince at the tackle.
Movies begin to teel as if you're sit. ting in the theatre, instead of your living room. Characters like Brando's Godtather remain just as menacing in $19^{N}$ as they were in Panavision. Musicals like "The Sound of Music" don't end up teaturing "the sound of distortion." And for the tirst time, someone like King Kong will also sound larger than lite.

Then there's TV music.
With the TVX 9500 , live concerts will, at last, sound that way.

Symphonies will tinally be as much fun to listen to as they are to watch. (Which is the whole idea of watching them in the tirst place.)

And when you view something like "Gone With The Wind," you'll actually be able to hear Atlanta burning

Admittedly, even the great sound the TVX-9500 ofters won't make up for bad TV programming.

But then our advice would be to do what you'd do to a bad TV show anyway:

Turn the set oft.
And enjoy your hi ti.

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We bring it back alive.
US Pioneer Flectronics Corp., 85 Oxford Drive,
Moonachie, N. 107074.

## Hutec Programmable Light Controller

Hutec Corp. uses a microprocessor in its "Vigilite" light controller that simulates the user's lighting habits to discourage would-be intruders when his house is vacant. The controller features a built-in digital clock and installs in minutes in place of a standard light switch it turns lights on and off (including overhead lights) in up to five rooms. Turn-on time can be set for between 5 and 30 minutes every hour between 6:00 and 11:30 p.m. and for 2 hours during the morning hours. \$39.95. Address: Hutec Corp., 1050e E. Duane, Sunnyvale, CA 94086.

## Lafayette <br> High-Power Receiver

The new top-of-the-line Model LR-120DB is the most powerful AM/FM stereo receiver ever offered by Lafayette Radio Electronics. It is rated to deliver 120 watts rms minimum per channel into 8 ohms from 20 to $20,000 \mathrm{~Hz}$

at no more than $0.09 \%$ THD. On FM, alter-nate-channel selectivity is rated at 80 dB , capture ratio at $1.3 \mathrm{~dB}, 50 \mathrm{~dB}$ quieting, sensitivity at $14.1 \mathrm{dBf}(2.8 \mu \mathrm{~V})$ mono and 36.8 dBf stereo, and stereo separation at 45 dB . The receiver features dual power-output meters, two-position loudness contour switch, threeposition phono sensitivity switch, FM highblend switch, Dolby FM switch, and adjustable FM mute. Additionally, it has dual tape monitors for two-way dubbing; bass, treble and midrange tone controls, two headphone jacks, and A,B,C speaker switching in any combination. $\$ 600$. Address: Lafayette Radio Electronics, 111 Jericho Tpke., Syosset, NY 11291.

Cibcle no 96 on free information card

## Alliance <br> Antenna Rotator

The Model HD-73 heavy-duty rotator, designed especially for serious radio Amateurs, has been introduced by Alliance Mfg Features include a dual-speed control with one five-position switch, with the slower speed allowing for pinpoint fine adjustments. Automatic brake action simplifies positioning and reduces the risk of antenna damage due to sudden stops. Mast-mounted, the rotator develops a 10,000-in.-lb windload bending moment. Icing is overcome by a 400-in. Ib

torque. Vertical balance weight capacity is 1000 lb . A special support bracket design permits simplified centering for in-tower applications. Drive motor is 20 -volt ac capacitor split-phase. Control box contains meter marked for full $360^{\circ}$ as well as S-W-$\mathrm{N}-\mathrm{E}-\mathrm{S}$ and ON/OFF and CALIBRATE controls. Power supply, in control box, uses $117-\mathrm{V} 60-\mathrm{Hz}$ ac, and includes fuse and thermal protection. Mast mounting size range is $13 / \mathrm{s}^{\prime \prime}$ to $21 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ OD. Cable is 6 -conductor. Address: Alliance Mfg. Co., Inc., Alliance OH 44601

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## Avdex Data Cassettes

Avdex Corp. is marketing a line of data cassettes specifically designed for use in personal computers for home and small business. The new cassettes have abbreviated tape lengths in 1-, 3 -, and 5 -minute lengths that are more convenient to use for single programs. The cassettes use high-quality computer shells, polyolefin slip sheets, machined guide rollers, stainless-steel pins, oversized pressure pads with special liners, and oversize hubs. They're loaded with extra-short leaders that do not come in contact with the recording head, which allows for instant starting. Prices are: $\$ 4.95$ for CDC-1, $\$ 5.65$ for CDC-2, and $\$ 6.35$ for CDC-3. Address: Avdex Corp., 2280 Grand Ave., Baldwin, NY 11510.

## OK Wire-Wrapping Kit

The Model WK-5B Wire Wrapping kit from OK Machine \& Tool Corp. contains a complete range of tools and parts for prototype and hobby applications, all conveniently

packaged in a sturdy plastic carrying case. Included in the kit are: the Model BW-630 battery-powered wrapping tool with bit and sleeve: Model WSU-30 manual wrap/ unwrap/strip tool; universal pc board; edge connector with Wire Wrap terminals; set of pc card guides and brackets; mini-shear with safety clip; industrial-quality 14-, 16-, 24-, and 40-pin DIP sockets; assortment of Wire Wrap terminals; DIP inserter; DIP extractor; and three-color wire dispenser with $50^{\prime}$ (15.2-m) each of red, white, and blue Kynar insulated silver-plated solid AWG-30 copper wire. $\$ 74.95$. Address: OK Machine and Tool Corp. 3455 Conner St., Bronx, NY 10475.

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## Nagatronics Ribbon Cartridge

The Nagatronics Model HV-9100 stereo phono ribbon cartridge has no conventional coil so that its internal inductance is virtually zero. According to the company, this results in a phase-coherent signal. The cartridge is hand assembled and individually tuned for low distortion, optimum frequency response, and tonality. The cartridge is built into its own integral headshell. Frequency response specs are 20 to $30,000 \mathrm{~Hz}$; channel separation 25 dB at 1000 Hz ; and output voltage 0.05

$\mathrm{mV} / 1000 \mathrm{~Hz}$ at $5 \mathrm{~cm} / \mathrm{s}$. A companion Model HA-9000 matching head amplifier is batterypowered and rated to deliver 40 dB of gain and to have a frequency response of 10 to $200,000 \mathrm{~Hz}+1 \mathrm{~dB}$ and THD of $0.01 \%$ at 1000 Hz . $\$ 220.00$ for Model HV-9100 cartridge; $\$ 275.00$ for Model HA-9000 head amplifier. Address: Nagatronics Corp., 2280 Grand Ave., Baldwin, NY 11510.

CIRCLE NO 99 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

## Microwave Filter Hidden CB Antenna

The "InTenna" from Microwave Filter Co., Inc. consists of a small device called a "launcher" that connects to your CB transceiver and then via a single inconspicuous wire in a vehicle window to the metal body of the vehicle. This turns the whole metal shell of the vehicle into a radiator. Hence, there are no visible antennas for a potential thief to notice and no protrusions to hang up on things and break off. \$24.90. Address: Microwave Filter Co., Inc., 6743 Kinne St., East Syracuse, NY 13057.
gircif no ton on fref information caro

# The original, indispensable KIUAE BAG The "No-Waiter" <br> <br> A six piece set in one easy to carry-on <br> <br> A six piece set in one easy to carry-on ...for overnight or around the world. 

 ...for overnight or around the world.}

## Two time TV Emmy Award Winner Stan Hart: "The Kluge Bag is the best. The only piece of luggage I ever use.

Pennsyivania cattleman Robert Johnson: "For quality, convenience, organization, the Kluge Bag tops any set of luggage l've ever used.
DRG Record Company President Hiugh Fordin: 'One carry-on piece sure beats three or four check-in bags. I'm delighted.

Here's the famcus original you'll see on the Concorde. the shuttle to Washingtori, the commuter out of O'Hare. The Kluge Bag. The only combination overnighter and fortnighter in the world.
And the only bag that's as easy to carry to the last airline gate with a complete wardrobe as it is with a single change of clothing

A "no waiter" you never check in. Never have to wait for at the baggege counter

## Extra Comfort and Convenience

You'll use the Kluge $\exists a g$ like a week-ender, too, because it's just as easy to carry on and a whole lot better. Better because nothing gets wrinkled or creased . because you have extra room for all the reports and papers you need, the tennis thinas you may or may not use, the sweater you'd like to be able to knock around in at night, and to bring back anything from repo ts to a new suit you pick up on your trip. (You can prove it yourself at our risk!)


## Beautilully Organized

The almost infinute flexibility is the result of an organization system designed by Peter Kluge, an international businessman, who travels constantly, from Chicago to Dallas, New York, Los Angeles, to Europe and the Middle East, never sure if he'll be away two days or two weeks, or of the clothing he'll need.

So. in one lightweight. compact easy-to-carry handle or shoulder bag you get (1) a garment bag that holds two suits, (2) a pullman case, (3) a week-ender, (4) a tote-lennis bag, (5) a oilet-accessories kit, (6) a laundry-wet stuff bag....plus a fuli-size portfolio. Compartmentalized foi easy access to your shirts, ties and belts; shoes and socks; underwear; suits, slacks and jackets: sportswear. sweater, bathrobe, business reports and papers. Anything and everything you need


One Vs. Two, Three or Four
You can't even begin to compare the ease and convenience of the Kluge (rhymes with huge) Bag with the bulky. heavy. loaded-down check-in luggage you usually carry on trips of three, four or more days.
The Kluge Bag alone easily outcarries a garment bag, a weekender or pullman plus a dispatch case. It not only looks better, weighs less, it's also much easier to carry and leaves your hands free to get your wallet or ticket. Most important of all, only the Kluge Bag is always ready when you are to get off the plane.

## Top Quality Construction

Simply, there's no other piece of luggage anything like this. Beautifully made of top-quality cellulose rayon, the material that's most often used in expensive iuggage today because it's as strong as it is light, and sponges clean in an instant to retain its beauty through years of use and abuse, the Kluge Bag is available in natural canvas color with rich brown piping and in striking solid black diamond and brown trim.
Outside there are three sectional zippers, so you can get to anything in a second, with security snap locks and an over-all snap lock safety strap, plus comfortable carrying handles and the adjustable, burden-bearing shoulder strap.
Inside. a fold-up rigid bottom supports everything you can carry in the zippered main compartment. The fittings and detalls are equally impressive, like a tie rack. a fitted compartment for toiletries, a zippered compartment for valuables, pockets for cards, notes, keys and more. Plus a huge volume portfolio. Every thing you need to make packing and traveling for days or weeks easier and faster than it's ever been before


Yet fully packed the Kluge Bag is just $18^{\prime \prime}$ high by $23^{\prime \prime}$ long and $12^{\prime \prime}$ deep.

## Only $\$ 40.00$ !

Most extraordinary of all, though. is the price. At $\$ 90$ and $\$ 100$, which is the price you'd probably have to spend in a fine retail store, the Kluge Bag would be an excellent value At $\$ 40.00$ it's absolutely unbeatable.

A price that's possible because we're one of the largest mail merchandisers in the United Statesable to commit for an entire manufacturing run, and to eliminate salesmen, distributors and retailers and their costs by selling direct.

## No Risk Trial

Now we invite you to judge the Kluge Bag for yourself-for 30 days without risk or obligation. You must be convinced that it's the finest. most useful, convenient and versatile piece of luggage on the market today, a time and trouble saver, the perfect piece for every trip. or return it to us for a complete refund. No questions asked

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# Stereo Scene 

## UNDER THE BIG TOP

THE SUMMER Consumer Electronics Show, the second big audio event in an unprecedentedly busy spring season, has now had its several days of glory in Chicago's enormous McCormick Place and environs. Coming so hard on the heels of Atlanta's IHF exhibition in late May (see last month's "Stereo Scene"), the CES was impressive not so much for its wealth of hitherto unseen products (there were of course some) as for its sheer size.

Doing It Digitally. Major Japanese manufacturers are not flagging a bit in their campaign to stake out major portions of the digital audio market. To previously exhibited prototypes and (in Sony's case) actual production-ready products of a digital nature can be added PCM processors from Technics and Hitachi. These are designed to be used
with video-cassette recorders and employ 13-bit systems with sampling rates of about 44 kHz . Even as these things go, the new units are physically large. At present, however, they should be looked upon as essentially prototypes and thus subject to change.

Meantime, deep in the bowels of McCormick Place, behind an unmarked (and guarded) door, a privileged few could get a look at and listen to Matsushita's "VISC"-a video-disc system that has already begun branching out into audio. VISC is another 13-bit system, with dropout correction, that samples at 44 kHz . The pickup principle for the players-several were shown in prototype form, including a two-speed mod-el-is mechanical/piezoelectric. VISC shares with some of the other disc systems a capability for real-time mastering. It also employs conventional press-
ing techniques and materials for its software, which was shown in 12- and 7inch versions in forms superficially identical to their audio-only counterparts, the 12 -inch LP and the 7 -inch 45 -rpm single. In its audio version, VISC operates at 450 rpm for a per-side playing time (stereo) of 30 minutes. Dynamic range is 85 dB , with less than 0.1 percent harmonic distortion. The price for a player is not expected to exceed $\$ 600$ in Japan.

And In Amplifiers. Not a great deal of noise is being made about it, but a large number of the latest power amplifiers being introduced are class-A de-signs-at least up to the first few watts per channel. Evidently, IC technology, which is still not highly considered for use in the actual audio-signal path, has made complex control of power supplies a relatively straightforward and inexpensive affair. Hence the bias on the output stages can be easily altered under dynamic conditions, permitting an amplifier to run class $A$ at low output and class $A B$ for high signal levels. A comprehensive list of the products incorporating this feature would be difficult to provide just now (in many cases English-language specifications and design details are still not available for products from overseas). In one case, that of the Monogram 3300 (200 watts per channel; \$595), class-A operation is said to persist up to 10 watts output, which is substantial.

Mitsubishi's tentative name for a new group of products is "microcomponents." The rationale behind this is the full utilization of size reductions made

## SHOW HAPPENINGS



Tuner with digital readout


## Twin arms

possible by modern circuitry. To emphasize the concept, the company has worked out styling that is a clear departure from current trends and something of an Arabian-Nights delight to behold. Multi-colored jewel lights gleam from petite soft-gold panels, and all control functions are handled as much as possible by microswitches rather than knobs and other gross devices. So far, Mitsubishi has introduced a preamplifier, the M PO1, a power amplifier (M-A01; 70 watts per channel), and a quartz-oscillator synthesizing FM tuner, the M-F01.

Yamaha's 70-watt-per-channel A-1 integrated amplifier (\$595) has an almost shockingly simple front panel that represents certain internal refined simplicities, such as a phono preamplifier that can be coupled to the output stages by means of the most direct signal path. Beneath a flip-down panel the A-1 provides most of the conventional controls one would expect from an integrated amplifier, but the ability to bypass most of them is the philosophy behind the new design.

Lux has recently established a "Laboratory Standard Series," all transistorized, and consisting at present of a quartz-locked tuner with automatic fine tuning, a 100-watt-per-channel integrated amplifier, 80-watt stereo power amplifier, 150 -watt mono power amplifier, preamplifier, and octave-band graphic equalizer. Approximate prices range from $\$ 500$ to $\$ 900$, with the L-100 integrated amplifier being the costliest. Audio Research, another company known for its mixed line of vacuum-tube and
transistorized gear, has spread its latest offerings between two new solid-state power amplifiers ( 50 and 100 watts per channel) and an all-new vacuum-tube preamplifier, the SP-6, at about $\$ 1,075$. Other introductions include an electronic crossover and a moving-coil-cartridge "head amplifier."

The Program Sources. According to B.I.C., the $33 / 4-\mathrm{ips}$ cassette is an idea whose time has finally come. The company has introduced three two-speed cassette-deck models, all front loading. The top-of-the-line three-head, dualcapstan Model T-3 provides all the improvements in frequency response and dynamic range that one might expect from the higher tape speed. In turntables, B.I.C. has adopted the motionalfeedback approach for several of its new belt-drive machines. The more elaborate of them, such as the $\$ 200916$ MP and the $\$ 320918$ MPC, boast microprocessors to handle speed control and other operating functions, as well as digital readout of speed. The new B.I.C. machines, which include manual and single-play models, also have a unique control by which the user can adjust the compliance of the suspension.

More motional feedback turns up in the new Eumig CCD cassette deck ( $\$ 1,300$ ), a three-head machine that lacks a capstan flywheel. Instead, an LED light source and a photo transistor "read" an opaque pattern of lines on a transparent disc that rotates with the capstan. The resulting photo-transistor output, compared with a fixed reference
frequency, governs the speed-control circuitry. The extremely low inertia of the CCD's drive system permits astonishingly rapid switching of transport functions. The deck also uses voltage-controlled amplifiers to establish recording levels-the only machine in my experience to do so.

The latest cassette-deck manufacturer to announce the ability to handle the up-and-coming metal-alloy tape formulations such as 3M's Metafine is Marantz. By taking a machine already existing in its line and switching the heads and making appropriate changes in the electronics, Marantz has come up with the new Model 5025, with a Metafine switch prominent on its front panel.

Some months ago Fisher introduced wireless remote control on the two-head CR4025 cassette deck. Now there are two three-head machines, the CR5125 and CR5150, with the latter having a remote controller that completely duplicates all the transport functions, including fast forward and rewind. Other convenience features grace the Pioneer CT-F900, a \$475 three-head deck with a four-function memory that can be set up to initiate various modes of automatic rewind. The machine also has peakresponding fluorescent recording-level indicators with peak-hold capability. Sony's new TC-K8B cassette deck employs 64-element liquid-crystal record-ing-level indicators for a most cheery and colorful display. In addition, Sony has established what it calls a "purist" line of components, starting with its previously introduced class-D amplifier and


Remote control phono


Fluorescent record level indication


## Scope display

Style No. 176
Big Stick ${ }^{\text {me }}$ CB base antenna

- 300 watts power rating / DC ground
- 125 MPH wind rating
- 12 times more capture area at 60 height
- conductor sealed in fiberglass
- 18 height, includes U-bolts for mounting to $11 / 4$ " and $11 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ pipe
- accepts standard PL 259 connector and 50 ohm cable

Big Stick ${ }^{\text {m" }}$ Antenna gets out when the skip gets thick. With its unique design, this antenna delivers the longest possible range, the strongest signal capture area, and the lowest radiation angle of any omni-directional antenna in its class.


## Only two pleces

 make one Big StickYou can count on Big Stick's engineering for performance that'll keep you talking. It's the one and only two piece antenna that's a cinch to install and trouble-free.

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(1) Big Stick has a band spread tuned circuit that yields a low SWR across all 40 channels. (See SWR chart)(2)Its DC ground provision lowers static noise and reduces lightning hazard.(3)Signal loss is prevented by its innovative polystyrene air cell dilectric structure. (4) The silver plated copper braid in the decoupling sleeve lowers resistance and increases efficiency.(5)The metal radiator is completely protected by a sheath of high grade fiberglass. (6)Its aluminum mounting sleeve includes U-bolts for easy installation (7) Factory designed crimping permanently
locks the So 239 comnector in position. locks the SO 239 connector in position.
(8)And the connector is sealed and protected from the elements.


# EVERYOME TALKIIIG! 

deterioration, severe environment


The princlpal of "skin effect." A transmitted signal, in the form of energy, travels on the surface of the metal radiator of an antenna. This occurs regardless of the fength, density, or thickness of the metal radiator. Picture an antenna surface after it has been bombarded by millions of tiny particles day after day. Dust, dirt, pollutants, salt, chemicals ...all of them impinging on the surface to create obstacles that offer resistance to your transmitted signal. Within six months exposure, surface resistance on an exposed radiator can rob you of up to $20 \%$ of your power.


METAL ANTENNA (TYPICAL)


SHAKESPEARE FIBERGLASS ANTENNA

## A Speck of dust? If's hell in your eye... even worse on your antennal

When it's the surface of an antenna that's designed to radiate the signal, youre in for problems...

Metal corrodes...fiberglass does not. And the fiberglass surface of the Big Stick is far less susceptible to pollution and contaminants in the environment.

With a Shakespeare fiberglass antenna, surface contamination and crud does not mar performance because the surface is not the radiator. Instead, the radiator is sealed inside the fiberglass sheath, which is transparent to radio frequencies and lets the signal through without interference or distortion.


Built in the factory so you don't have to rebuild it on your roof. Big Stick comes in two pieces. Not like the multi-pieced antenna puzzle you helped your neighbor put up last summer. You know...the one with all those radials and that huge bag of bolts. The same one that came crashing down during the windstorm.

The Big Stick is super engineered. Quick, easy installation allows you more time to modulate. High winds or solid ice...it's built to keep you talking whatever the weather.


204,000 square fect devoted entirely to communications antennas and related fiberglass products, complete with advanced testing facilities and laboratories for research and development.

## Shakespeare ${ }^{\circ}$

ELECTRONICS AND FIBERGLASS DINSION

Antenna Group/P.O. Box 246, Columbia, S.C. 29202

The Shakespeare Company / Manufacturers of Communication Equipment, Fishing Tackle, Industrial Fiberglass, Wonderthread and Specialized Monofilaments, Golf Equipment, Automotive Products, Saddlery and Equestrian Accessories, and Marine Taxidermy.
working its way down through the similarly styled TA-N86 power amplifier [switchable between class-B ( 80 watts) and class-A (18 watts) operation], the TA-E88B and TA-E86 preamplifiers, and an electronic crossover.

Optonica, which recently amazed the world with its microprocessor cassette equipment, has taken that technology over to record players in the form of the RP-X1 turntable, which can be programmed to play bands or portions of bands on records in any desired order automatically, with up to ten repeats possible. A laser scanner, apparently carried on a separate sub-arm, is said to count the grooves and thus execute the program; a remote controller that duplicates the main programming keyboard transmits via infrared. Finally, an LED digital readout indicates the instructions given to the direct-drive machine.
Another giant in tape, Akai, has stepped into the record-player arena, in this case with the more conventional approach of five initial models beginning with a belt-drive semi-automatic machine and proceeding up to a fully automatic quartz-locked direct-drive model. On the unconventional side of the street,
the British-made JBE turntable line is available with three different arms (Shure/SME, Formula 4, or Dynavector) and three different styling schemes, one of which involves a transparent acrylic base. The platter is made up of six large circular disc supports on an acrylic subplatter; the controls for the direct-drive machine are housed in a separate unit. Even more unconventional is the Oasis T-1 manual turntable, which employs two motors and a fluid coupling to drive an otherwise isolated acrylic platter.

A brief look at new phono cartridges: Audio-Technica has two new top models, the AT15SS and AT20SS, with beryllium stylus shanks and improved Shibata styli. The replaceable styli fit the previous AT15Sa and AT20SLa models. Empire's "Broadcast One" is the first "ruggedized" model from that manufacturer, intended primarily for heavy-duty professional applications. ADC has worked its way up to a MK III designation for its finer phono cartridges, and has just introduced an XLM MK III together with a QLM MK III series. A new line of pickups, the Osawa "Moving Permalloy" cartridges, comprises three models ranging in price from $\$ 35$ to

## If You Have the Means, Nikko Has the High End

 MOS-FET circuitry which enables it to produce a resounding 80 watts per channel* at a low $0.006 \%$ THD. Complete with LED readout to monitor the pulse of power in each channel.

If you like to get involved with shaping the destiny of your music, the 10 band per channel ( $\pm 12 \mathrm{~dB}$ boost or cut) EQ 1 graphic equalizer lets you adjust your audio system to suit your room acoustics and your taste.

The Gamma $V$ synthesized digital FM stereo tuner features automatic (or manual) tuning with LED station frequency readout that is as accurate as the state-of-the-art permits.

Yet. as "high end" as Nikko's components are, the "means" it takes to acquire them is surprisingly low. Call this toll-free number for the name of your Nikko dealer and find out for yourself: (1) 800 423-2994.

## Nikko Audio

For Those Who Take Their Stereo Seriously
Nilkko Electric Corp. of Americo. 16270 Roymer St., Von Nuys. CA 91400 - (213) 988-0105 *both chonnels driven into 8 ohms, 20 Hz to 20 kHz
\$100. The top model, the 300 MP , has a carbon-fiber stylus cantilever. Another new moving-magnet line is entitled Andante, and is made up of two models, the E and the S, with elliptical and spherical tips. Grace's latest cartridge, the SF-90, is integrated with a universal headshell for reliable electrical connections, rigidity, and low mass.

Among the more newsworthy events of the show was the demise of a product: the esteemed Yamaha CT-7000, one of the most celebrated FM tuners ever built. The CT-7000 will be replaced by the T-2 (\$700), a model with a black front panel, even lower and leaner proportions, and a claimed augmentation in performance. (In case you wondered, there is a new T-1 tuner also, at $\$ 355$.)

A novel concept in tuners comes from Technics. Its ST-9038 FM tuner, with quartz-crystal synthesized digital readout, is available with the SH-9038 "Micom Programmable Unit." The latter is a microprocessor that will literally operate four components in an audio system over a period of a week, following in detail any schedule punched in by the user. Up to eight FM stations can be preset; the SH-9038 also functions as digital clock, with a stop-watch mode. As for the tuner itself, it offers manual tuning along with several automatic tuning modes that will reject stations with excessive noise plus distortion.

Marantz has revived oscilloscopes as front-panel features in two of its new tuners, the $2110(\$ 340)$ and the more elaborate 2130 (500). Monogram is pursuing the ideal of the totally non-mechanical tuner with the Model 3600 digital-readout design, which is entirely voltage controlled. Another British manufacturer, Amstrad, has enlarged the rather skimpy number of tuners offering multiband reception with two models, the EX. 303 and EX.202. And Lux has added a quartz-locked FM-only model, the 5 T 10 , to its prestigious Laboratory Reference Series.

Until Next Year. This brings us to the end of our available space, and hence necessarily to the end of this two-part highlighting of the year's newest audio products. The "highlighting" should be stressed. What has been briefly described here does not begin to approach a comprehensive cataloging of the latest high-fidelity gear soon to go on the market. But if it manages to inform you that there is truly new equipment out therelots of it-it will have served its major purpose.

## Let's set the record straight!

## Stanton has had it all for more than 15 years.

The 881S has been acclaimed worldwide as the finest cartridge available. It embodies a unique combination of features developed by Stanton. After all, it was Stanton who pioneered the first Magnetic Stereo Cartridge - as well as the first CD-4 pickup produced in the United States

(c) Stanton Magnetics inc. 1978

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { FEATURE } \\
& \begin{array}{l}
\text { Record Static Elimination System } \\
\text { Every Stanton cartridge for the last } 15
\end{array} \\
& \begin{array}{l}
\text { years has featured a patented stylus assembly } \\
\text { which neutralizes the atmosphere surrounding } \\
\text { the diamond stylus and discharges record } \\
\text { static harmlessly into the grounded record play- } \\
\text { ing system. }
\end{array}
\end{aligned} \quad \begin{aligned}
& \text { BENEFITS } \\
& \text { A. Eliminates harmful static electricity at the record. } \\
& \text { B. Eliminates static clicks and pops at the } \\
& \text { C. Endspeaker. }
\end{aligned} \quad \begin{aligned}
& \text { Crubles the brush to do a proper cleaning job } \\
& \text { D. Permits the use of an Ungrounded Brush. } \\
& \text { E. Eliminates electrostatic dust attraction to the stylus } \\
& \text { tip. }
\end{aligned}
$$

## 2. <br> FEATURE <br> "Longhair" ${ }^{(8)}$ Brush

its independently hinged action does not interfere with the tracking force of the stylus while its tapered nylon bristles clean the grooves in front of the stylus. Stanton developed it in 1966

## BENEFITS

A. Cleans records efficiently.
B. Damps tonearm resonance
C. Improves low fequency tracking
D. Dynamically stabilizes tonearm system
$E$. Aids in playback of warped records.

## 3.

## FEATURE

Stereohedron ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ Stylus Tip
Patented in 1976, the Stereohedron stylus tip has a far greater bearing radius and more contact area with the groove

## BENEFITS

A. Exceptional frequency response
B. Superior protection of high frequency signals in the groove.
C. Longer record life
D. Longer stylus life.
E. Better tracing ability.

## FEATURE

High Energy Rare Earth Magnet
First introduced by Stanton in early 1977, this type of magnet enabled the complete miniaturization of the stylus assembly and tip mass. It is the beginning of a whole new generation of cartridges.

## BENEFITS

A. Outstanding tracking ability.
B. Unequaled transient response
C. Higher output with one tenth the mass of ordinary magnets.
D. Superior tracing ability

## Add it all up... and you see why Stanton is

 imitated...but unequaled!
## Shon gottan.



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well you do it.

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you learn and review the basicsperform dozens of experiments. Plus, you use a 3 -in- 1 precision Multimeter to learn testing, checking, analyzing!


When you build your own 5 MHz TriggeredSweep, Solid-State Oscilloscope you take your first real professional step. You use it as a doctor uses an X-ray machine - to "read" wave form patterns.. . lock them in . . study, understand and interpret them!

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Tenith 19-inch Diagonal Solid-State Color TV you

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you work with a completely Solid-State Color Bar Gencratoractually a TV signal transmitter-you study up to ten different patterns on your TV screen . . . explore digital logic circuits. . observe the action of a crystal-controlled oscillator!

Of course, CIE offers a more advanced training program, too. But the main point is
simply this:
All this training takes effort. But you'll enjoy it. And it's a real plus for a troubleshooting career!

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For some troubleshooting jobs, you must have your FCC License. For others, employers often consider it a mark in your favor. Either way, it's govern-ment-certified proof of specific knowledge and skills!

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## Julian Hirsch Audio Report

## What Is the Best (Tuner, Amplifier, etc.)?

IWISH I had a dollar for every time someone has asked me that question! It seems that we have a deep-seated need to know what is the "best" of anything, if for no other reason than to satisfy our curiosity. (Most of us accept the fact that the "best" will be beyond our means, but it's fun to know.)
Maybe there are ways to determine the "best" brand of frozen peas, or lawn mowers, or what have you-but how does one go about determining which high-fidelity component is the "best" of its type? If it were simply a matter of measuring a few key performance parameters, the problem might be solvable, but this becomes less likely when dozens of different and unrelated measurements are involved. Suppose one FM tuner has Usable and $50-\mathrm{dB}$ Quieting Sensitivities of 11 and 13 dBf , and another measures 10 and 14 dBf . Which is the better? Suppose, also, that the first has an alternate-channel selectivity rating of 70 dB , and the second is 80 dB. As an additional complication, one tuner might have 25 dB of channel separation across the full audio range, while the other measures 50 dB at 400 Hz , but only 15 dB at the frequency extremes. How about noise? Is it significant that tuner A has a $70-\mathrm{dB} \mathrm{S} / \mathrm{N}$ rating, while tuner $B$ is only 65 dB ?

I am deliberately trying to muddy the waters a bit; but, in actuality, things are much more complicated than this simple example would suggest. There are literally dozens of FM tuner performance ratings to be considered; a similar situation exists with amplifiers. Once we know all the pertinent facts (and some that are not so pertinent), is it possible to make a logical choice and say with some assurance that one product is "better" than another?

If you can do this, I wish you would
pass the secret along to me! Most of the dozens of tests made on tuners and amplifiers follow standardized procedures, established by technical groups such as the IHF or the IEEE. They are meant to place the ratings of products from different manufacturers on a common footing, so that one can avoid the common error of comparing "apples and oranges." For this purpose, they are certainly useful. Nevertheless, I submit that they tell us much less than most of us would care to admit about how good a product really is. Since they do not recognize the subjective qualities that strongly influence our initial purchase decision and long-term satisfaction, they can hardly give a meaningful answer to the question: "Which is best?"

As a specific example, let us go back to that FM tuner selection problem (I use the tuner as an illustration because it is subject to frequent manual manipulation by the user, and is especially subject to quirks that are not covered by existing specifications).

I think we can agree that the purpose of a hi-fi FM tuner is to receive FM broadcasts without audible degradation of the signal transmitted by the broadcast station. I will further qualify this by stating that the evaluation of received quality will be done by listening, through amplifiers and speakers in a home environment, rather than by laboratory tests with expensive test equipment. In the vast majority of cases, no one could distinguish one tuner from another by an A-B listening comparison, regardless of the disparity in price or ratings between them. This may sound strange, but I have done it literally hundreds of times and don't always hear a difference which would induce me to spend an extra dollar for
one of the tuners being compared. Of course, it is understood in this discussion that we are dealing with high-quality equipment in proper operating condition. This does not mean that all tuners are alike but that the differences between them are not too significant with available program material.

If listening quality alone is not sufficient to distinguish between tuners, how can we make a reasonable choice? What other factors distinguish FM tuners from each other, besides their electrical performance? Size, appearance, special features such as Dolby circuits or digital displays, tuning aids, di-al-scale legibility and accuracy, and cost are a few that come to mind.

When I am evaluating a tuner, I connect it to an audio system and to an antenna. I then tune in several of my favorite stations, out of the more than 50 that can be received here at most times. Many of these signals are spaced only 400 kHz apart (alternate channel assignments). If the dial scale is so sparsely or inaccurately calibrated that I cannot tell whether I am tuned to 103.9 or 104.3 MHz without listening to the station, I downgrade the tuner severely. For me, the mere ability of a tuner to receive a signal and render its modulation audible is not sufficient. It must be able to receive the station that I want to hear, without benefit of "trial and error" or guesswork tuning processes.

Now, does the tuning meter or other indicator actually show me the best tuning point (and here, "best" means the tuning that gives lowest noise and distortion)? If not-if the meter pointer is near or beyond the edge of the indicated correct zone when the station is tuned correctly-what use is the meter? That's another strike against the tuner if this occurs.

When I tune across the FM band, are my ears assailed by bursts of noise as I pass through various broadcast channels? A muting system that does not mute solidly is worse than none at all, and is another black mark against the tuner. Does the tuner drift enough to require retuning after a time when a station has been tuned in from a "cold" start? Drift is rare these days, but it does happen, and should not be tolerated.
I won't bother going on-the point should be clear by now. The "best" tuner is the one that lets you tune in a station of your choice, without guesswork, which gives you the full audible performance inherent in the broadcast material, and which does not add any audible noises in the tuning or listening processes. This is not as difficult as it might seem, since even a moderately priced tuner has better quality than almost every FM broadcast station. If the tuner looks good, harmonizes with your amplifier appearance, and is within your budget, it is probably the "best" for you. Keep in mind that there are probably a number of "best" products, since the substantive differences between comparably priced models from reputable sources are usually negligible.

The same considerations apply to amplifier selection, except that more emphasis should be placed on adequate control flexibility. The factors to listen for are noises: switching transients, hiss, and hum. In listening to program material, and comparing two amplifiers, be suspicious of any obvious sound-quality differences. The real differences in sound between amplifiers are so subtle that they often cannot be heard without playing special records. If you plan to spend your spare hours listening only to those records, this is a valid basis for choice. If your
tastes are more catholic, you might ignore those subtleties which must be pointed out to you by the person making the demonstration. (We are all very susceptible to suggestion, and can easily be convinced we are hearing something that may not be there at all.)

I have not mentioned amplifier power, which is really a system consideration. (It will either affect your choice of speakers, or if you have the speakers, it can affect your choice of an amplifier. In itself, it has little to do with sound quality.)

Insofar as distortion is concerned, you are not going to hear any difference between amplifier distortions of $0.05 \%$ or $0.005 \%$, though some golden-eared people can sometimes distinguish sound differences even between two very-low-distortion products. But this may be due to other factors.

This article was not intended to be a guide to component selection (that would require book length), but rather to show that there are no simple answers to the question of which product is "best." I am deliberately avoiding the matter of speakers, which warrant a separate treatment.

I would like to make a final point, however. I have attempted to "de-bunk" audible differences as an absolute basis for hi-fi component selection. Please do not assume that there are no audible differences, for they do exist! This does not necessarily make one product better than another, though, in many instances it does. It is quite possible, for example, for two products to sound different (this is especially true with speakers and phono pickups) without one necessarily being better. And when it comes to "best" in a particular price range, there are too many tradeoffs to be made for such a statement to be possible.

# Tested In This <br> Issue 

# audio test reports: 

\$290 unit would have cost \$1000 only 4 years ago



The Model JT-V77 AM and FM stereo tuner, which is a companion to the Model JA-S77 integrated amplifier, heads JVC's tuner line this year. In addition to being a fullfeatured deluxe tuner in all conventional respects, the Model JT-V77 has a Phase Tracking Loop (PTL) FM detector that is said to elevate its overall performance level to well beyond the norm for its price class.

The tuner measures $173 / 4^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{W} \times 141 / 2^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{D}$ $\times 61 / 4 / \mathrm{H}(45 \times 37.4 \times 15.8 \mathrm{~cm})$ and it weighs $13.9 \mathrm{lb}(6.3 \mathrm{~kg})$. Its suggested retail price is $\$ 289.95$.

General Description. The AM and FM scales, both of which are linearly calibrated, occupy most of the top half of the front panel. There are separate large center-channel (FM only) and relative signal strength (AM and FM) tuning meters on the lower half of the front panel. Between the meters and a large tuning knob are stereo and tuning hold indicators.

Across the bottom of the panel are five lever switches and a small volume control knob. The switches are for controlling POWER, selecting the MODE (STEREO, MONO, or bLEND), MUTING, FM/AM selection, and REC CAL. The REC CAL switch is a convenience that simplifies off-the-air taping. It replaces the tuner's audio outputs with a $400-\mathrm{Hz}$ tone at a level equivalent to $50 \%$ modulation ( $37.5-\mathrm{kHz}$ deviation at the transmitter).

JVC suggests that the REC CAL tone level be set to give a $0-\mathrm{dB}$ indication on the recorder's meters to assure that program peaks do not drive the recorder into distortion. If one wishes to record an off-the-air FM broadcast, the REC CAL tone should be used to set the recorder's meters to read in the range of 0 to -6 dB , depending on its reserve headroom (since program peaks may exceed


# quieting sensitivity and capture ratio beyond its price class in the JVC Model JT-V77 AM/FM stereo tuner 

this level by 6 dB ). The rec Cal feature greatly simplifies the making of clean, distortion-free cassette recordings without any reference to the actual program levels being transmitted when the gain levels are set up.

When a stereo-FM broadcast is tuned in, the stereo indicator comes on. The tuning hold light comes on when any

## $400-\mathrm{Hz}$ calibration

## tone for

## cleaner taping

FM signal is accurately tuned. This indicates that the tuner has locked onto the signal and is set for optimum reception. Although JVC does not specifically state that this is an amplified automatic frequency control (afc) system, it appears to be just that, with a delayed activation that is controlled by the presence of the signal and a long filter time constant.

A hinged and pivoted ferrite-rod AM antenna is on the rear apron. Also on the rear apron are terminals for 300 - and 75ohm external FM antennas and two pairs of audio-output jacks. One pair of jacks is at a fixed level, while the other
pair's level can be adjusted with the volUME control on the front panel.

The tuner has a very neat, uncluttered interior. Almost all of its circuitry is mounted on a single large circuit board. A smaller board, just behind the front panel, accommodates some of the lever switches and a few circuit components, while a second small board contains the power-supply circuitry.

A large portion of the tuner's active circuitry is contained inside IC's. Although no schematic diagram was supplied with the tuner, we were able to determine that most of the basic tuner functions (i-f amplification and limiting, PTL detection, and the PLL multiplex demodulator) are performed by single special-purpose IC's. A separate IC is used for the AM-tuner section.

The tuner's front end has a four-gang tuning capacitor and a FET r-f amplifier for good interference rejection. A combination of a four-resonator ceramic i-f

## FM detector <br> features phase tracking loop

## semiconductor gas sensor

The TGS-812 transducer is a solid state device which changes resistance proportionally with exposure to the following gases:

- Hydrocarbons, such as methane, ethane, propane, gasoline, kerosene and benzene;
- Halogenated Hydrocarbons, such as methyl chloride, methylene chloride, trichloroethane and vinyl chloride;
- Alcohols, such as methanol, ethanol, propanol and butanol;
- Ethers, Esters and Ketones;
- Carbon Monoxide
- Hydrogen



## Gas Concentation, PPM

The transducer requires 5 volts at 125 milliamps to operate an integral heating element which maintains a temperature of 300 degrees celcius, and the semiconductor may be used in any high impedance circuit up to 28 volts.

Response and recovery time constants are a few seconds, and the life of the transducer under most conditions will be a minimum of five to eight years.


Transducer Assembly, shown actual size
Circle mo 52 on fate information card

## Product Focus

The most unusual feature of JVC's Model JT-V77 tuner is its Phase Tracking Loop (PTL) FM detector. This circuit can be considered as a variant of the phaselocked loop (PLL) used as a multiplex demodulator in many fine tuners. In fact, the PLL can be used as an excellent FM detector in which its voltage-controlled oscillator (vco) tracks the FM i-f signal inphase. The control voltage that maintains the two in sync is actually the demodulated FM program. JVC uses the PLL as a detector in its higher-priced Model T-3030 digital tuner. but the circuit is expensive and has certain limitations.

The vco used in a PLL has noise modulation sidebands that set a "floor" on the obtainable S/N of the FM tuner. By taking special care in component selection, this noise can be minimized, but the resultant cost rules out the PLL detector for any but the higher-priced tuners. The PTL used in the Model JT-V77 tuner is derived from JVC's experience in developing PLL and PTL circuits for tuners and CD-4 demodulators. The incoming 10.7MHz i-f signal enters a phase comparator directly. Part of it is diverted through a phase tracking fifter. which is a voltagetuned filter that can be scanned through the $100-\mathrm{kHz}$ bandwidth of an FM broadcast channel. The instantaneous relationship of this filter to the i-f signal frequency is such that the filter's output is 90 out-of-phase with the direct i-f signal. This quadrature signal is supplied to the other port of the phase comparator.

The output of the comparator is the er ror voltage of the phase tracking loop. After being passed through a low-pass filter and amplified, it is used to control the phase tracking filter in a manner that reduces the error voltage to a minimum The output of the amplifier (the filter control voltage) is the recovered program modulation of the FM signal. Since the PTL has no oscillator, it is free of the noise associated with a vco.

If the gain of the loop is great enough, the PTL's frequency-to-voltage transfer characteristic can be made as linear as desired over the entire passband without the curvature that is typical of a conventional quadrature detector or even a ratio detector or discriminator. This high linearity is not dependent on the stability of any tuned circuit or other critical component since the PTL is a negative-feedback system that is basically independent of outside influences.

The PTL detector is inherently insensitive to amplitude variations, so the AM rejection and capture ratio of a tuner employing it can be made very good. Also, an interfering signal will be rejected by the PTL because the PTL is locked to the phase of the desired signal and resists capture by other signal frequencies.
filter and a separate single-resonator filter is used to give linear phase response with satisfactory selectivity. The PLL multiplex section has an automatic pilot signal canceller to attenuate the $19-\mathrm{kHz}$ pilot signal in the audio outputs without loss of high-frequency response.

Laboratory Measurements. Our tests of the tuner yielded some rather unusual results. For example, the IHF usable sensitivity and $50-\mathrm{dB}$ quieting sensitivity were exactly the same at 12 $\mathrm{dBf}(2.2 \mu \mathrm{~V})$. Although this was not quite as good as the rated IHF sensitivity, it was considerably better than the more important rated quieting sensitivity. The quieting curve shows that the weak signal output from the tuner is largely distortion, with a very low noise level. This is a definite "plus," since noise is much more objectionable than distortion in weak-signal reception.
The distortion and noise readings were very close to the rated values and

## capture ratio

was an incredible 0.86 dB --one of

## the lowest ever

represent excellent performance. We found that the noise measurement was limited by the residual noise in the modulating circuits of our FM signal generator. When the generator was in the CW mode, the tuner's noise output dropped several decibels, to a very low -77 dB in mono. (However, the stereo reading of -71.3 dB had to be made with the generator in its stereo mode to supply the 19-kHz pilot carrier.)


Frequency response and crosstalk averaged for both FM channels.

The $0.86-\mathrm{dB}$ capture ratio was one of the lowest we have ever measured, and it was also remarkably noncritical and repeatable. These are very unusual qualities in a capture-ratio measurement. The measurement did not change with signal level changes between 45 and 65 dBf .

JVC claims that the PTL detector effectively increases the ability of the tuner to reject interference from other signals while maintaining the full i-f bandwidth required for optimum stereo reception. In other words, it is said to give many of the benefits of the dual-bandwidth i-f systems used in some other tuners, without their cost or other performance compromises. We confirmed this claim, at least tentatively, by our measurements. The measured alternate-channel selectivity was 70 dB , which should be more than adequate for almost any receiving location. The distortion was low enough to tax the abilities of the best signal generators. The only performance compromise that we could attribute to the relatively wide i-f bandwidth was a rather poor adjacent-channel selectivity, although it must be admitted that very few tuners have enough adja-cent-channel selectivity to really separate stations only 200 kHz apart.

Another claimed and confirmed prop-


Noise and sensitivity curves for FM section of tuner.

## How to listen to <br> Moscow, Russia...Moscow,Idaho and your good buddy, Max Moscow.



# Panasonic introduces the Command Series. 

Tune in. Sit back. And travel the worlat we th Panasonic's stort weve radios-the Commard Series. Set your itirerary by simply setting the dial. Step off in London foa concert with the London Philharmotic. Be in Peking when they announce the new pecking order. Or visit old friends in the old country. Any old country. Even the good or U.S.A.

There are thousands of overseas and domestic st ort wave transmissions* you can tune in. And w th an optior al outside antenna, you'll get incredible ascuracy with the RF-2800 (shown above). Because Pa asonic \& LED Digital FreqLency Display is so precise, it's acsurate to within 1 kHz . That's the kind of tuning that used to cost twice the price. That was up until the Pa 1asonic RF-2800.


And if you want to hear more than short wase, the RE-2309 gives you more. Like SSB (single sideband) amateur radio. All 40 CB channels. Ship to shore. Even Morse comrunications. And, of course, there's AM and FM.
Inc like more expensive short wave receivers the RF-2\&00 1 as an RF-Gain Control to enhance weak, distart statizns or to prevent overlcac distcrtion from oversircing stations.
-he Camr and Seriestrom Panasonic. Now you ca- travel the world without ever leaving hcme.
Sro- nive reception will vary with weather corditions, speratcr s ceosjaphic location and other factors.
Panasonic.
just signtly ahead of our time.
Gaste mo ar en free iwformation safo
erty of the PTL detector is its low distortion over a wide tuning range. Here again, the confirmation was tentative because the effective tuning cannot be misadjusted once the tUNING HOLD light comes on. With the light on, the tuner was always set for optimum noise, distortion, and channel-separation characteristics. There was no ambiguity whatever in tuning this tuner. We noted that the muting action was completely noisefree and had a time delay that prevented any audio from appearing at the output until a second or so after a station was properly tuned in.
The stereo channel separation was almost identical in both channels, and the frequency response was virtually ruler flat. There was no loss of output at $15,000 \mathrm{~Hz}$, yet the $19-\mathrm{kHz}$ subcarrier was suppressed to a very low -82 dB by the automatic pilot null circuit in the PLL multiplex IC. Although the channel separation was slightly less than is claimed by JVC, it was very good over the entire audio-frequency range. The HI BLEND switch reduced the high-frequency separation and noise substantially, without serious loss of stereo effect.

A frequency-response plot was the only test we performed in the AM section of the tuner. The response was very limited, even by "typical" AM tuner standards. It was down 6 dB at 90 and 2600 Hz . On the other hand, the AM background noise was quite low.

User Comment. The tuner's measured performance in terms of noise, distortion, and outstanding $50-\mathrm{dB}$ quieting sensitivity places the Model JT-V77 very close to the "super-tuner" category. Only its very good, but still measurable, selectivity and image rejection properties (as well as its price) distinguish it from some very high-performance tuners we have measured.

The tuner's dial calibrations were accurate, with the largest error being about 100 kHz . Over most of the FM band, the

| Specification | Rating | Measured |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Usable sensitivity: |  |  |
| Mono | $10.3 \mathrm{dBf}(1.8 \mu \mathrm{~V})$ | $12 \mathrm{dBf}(2.2 \mu \mathrm{~V})$ |
| Stereo | NA | $17 \mathrm{dBf}(4 \mu \mathrm{~V})$ |
| 50-dB S/N sensitivity: |  |  |
| Mono | $16.3 \mathrm{dBf}(3.6 \mu \mathrm{~V})$ | $12 \mathrm{dBf}(2.2 \mu \mathrm{~V})$ |
| Stereo | $36.3 \mathrm{dBf}(36 \mu \mathrm{~V})$ | $35 \mathrm{dBf}(30 \mu \mathrm{~V})$ |
| S/N ratio: |  |  |
| Mono | 78 dB | 77 dB |
| Stereo | 72 dB | 71.3 dB |
| Distortion at 1 kHz : |  |  |
| Mono | 0.08\% | 0.075\% |
| Stereo | 0.10\% | 0.12\% |
| IM distortion: |  |  |
| Mono | 0.05\% | NA |
| Stereo | 0.08\% | NA |
| Capture ratio | 1.0 dB | 0.86 dB |
| Alternate-channel selectivity | 75 dB | 70 dB |
| Adjacent-channel selectivity | NA | 2 dB |
| Image rejection | 90 dB | 88 dB |
| I-f rejection | 100 dB | NA |
| Spurious rejection | 100 dB | NA |
| R-f IM rejection | 65 dB | NA |
| AM suppression | 65 dB | 63 dB |
| Stereo separation at: |  |  |
| 100 Hz | 45 dB | 42.5 dB |
| 1 kHz | 50 dB | 43 dB |
| 10 kHz | 40 dB | 34 dB |
| Subcarrier rejection | 70 dB | 82 dB |
| Stereo threshold level | $31.5 \mathrm{dBf}(20 \mu \mathrm{~V})$ | $15.7 \mathrm{dBf}(3.3 \mu \mathrm{~V})$ |
| Muting threshold level | $31.5 \mathrm{dBf}(20 \mu \mathrm{~V})$ | $17.2 \mathrm{dBf}(4 \mu \mathrm{~V})$ |
| Frequency response |  | $+0.4 /-0.6 \mathrm{~dB}$ |
| Output level: |  |  |
| Variable | 0-1.3 V | 0-1.4 V |
| Fixed | 750 mV | 710 mV |
| Recording level | Equivaient to 50\% | $-5.9 \mathrm{~dB}$ |
|  | FM modulation ( -6 dB ) |  |

tuning error was not readable. Since the TUNING HOLD indicator signifies that a station is being received with the full performance of which the tuner is capable, the user is virtually guaranteed of being able to match the performance we measured on our test bench. This is exceedingly rare in tuners that do not employ
synthesized local oscillators.
If the Model JT-V77 tuner had made its appearance only four years ago, it would have cost more than $\$ 1000$. That it sells for less than $\$ 300$ today says a lot for the advances made in audio electronic technology.

## a radical departure from the pioneer of small enclosures, the Acoustic Research AR-9 speaker system



In its 25 years in business, Acoustic Research has been a steadfast proponent of compact speaker systems. Even its nine-driver Model AR/LST of a few years ago was relatively compact for a speaker system of its capabilities. Now AR has made a turnabout with the introduction of its Model AR-9 floor-standing speaker system that is large by any standard.


The Model AR-9 is a tall, columnshaped four-way speaker system with five drivers. It's rated to handle up to 400 watts of continuous power, with each channel driven to clipping $10 \%$ of the time on normal music material. Since

## large system

handles up to 400 watts

## continuous power

the speaker system is rated for 87 dB SPL at 1 meter when driven by 1 watt, it can actually deliver an ear-splitting 113 dB SPL at 400 watts! The five-driver speaker system's only response specification is for its lower limit, which is -3 dB at 28 Hz . The impedance is rated at nominally 4 ohms, with a minimum of 3.2 ohms.

The speaker system measures 52 $3 / 4^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{H} \times 153 / 16^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{D} \times 15^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{W}(134 \times 40.2$ $\times 38.1 \mathrm{~cm}$ ) and weighs $130 \mathrm{lb}(59 \mathrm{~kg})$. Suggested retail price is $\$ 750$ each.

General Description. The bass frequencies from the speaker system, up to 200 Hz , are radiated by a pair of $12^{\prime \prime}$ (30.5-cm) acoustic-suspension woofers located at the bottom rear on the two sides of the enclosure. Radiation is to the sides. By keeping the bass radiators as close as possible to the rear-wall and floor surfaces, this placement essentially eliminates cancellation of the upper bass by reflections from room surfaces through shifting the lowest cancellation frequency to a point beyond the driver's operating range.

The midrange, from 200 to 1200 Hz , is
radiated by an $8^{\prime \prime}$ ( $20.3-\mathrm{cm}$ ) acousticsuspension driver located in a separately sealed subenclosure that faces forward about halfway up the front surface of the enclosure. The cancellation reflections from room boundaries that might affect the response of this driver fall beiow its operating range. The two remaining drivers are vertically aligned with the lower midrange driver.

## two side-firing acoustic-suspension woofers per cabinet

Frequencies between 1200 and 7000 Hz are handled by a $11 / 2^{\prime \prime}(38.1-\mathrm{mm})$ dome tweeter surrounded by a donutshaped ring that AR refers to as a "semihorn." (It's designed to improve driver radiating efficiency in the upper part of its frequency range.) Beyond 7000 Hz, a smaller dome tweeter that measures $3 / 4^{\prime \prime}$ ( $19.1-\mathrm{mm}$ ) takes over. The gaps in the voice coils of the two tweeters are filled with a high-temperature "ferrofluid" that helps conduct heat away from the voice coil and provides mechanical damping of the tweeters' resonances.

The front of the speaker surrounding its middle and high-frequency drivers is covered with a sheet of acoustic fiber that AR calls an "Acoustic Blanket." Its function is to absorb energy radiated in the plane of the speaker board. According to AR, the radiated energy would otherwise be reflected from the edges of the speaker cutouts and cabinet. So the "Blanket" is designed to reduce the possibility of interference with the smoothness of the system's frequency response and directional characteristics.

Three small three-position switches on the front panel below the $8^{\prime \prime}$ cone driver are provided for adjusting the levels of the lower, upper midrange, and high-frequency drivers from their maximum (nominally flat) outputs to -3 and -6 dB .

The crossovers between the lower and upper midrange drivers have a gradual 6 -dB/octave slope to smooth the blending of sound in this most vital part of a speaker system's operating range. The woofer crossover circuit has an equalizing section that flattens out the bass response in the vicinity of resonance and extends it downward somewhat in frequency. Moreover, the upper midrange driver portion of the crossover system has an impedance-equalizing function as well.

Laboratory Measurements. The measurements we made on the Model AR-9 under semireverberant conditions yielded the widest and flattest frequency response curve we have yet obtained from a speaker system. When it was combined with the close-proximity microphone bass response curve and corrected for the room's and microphone's characteristics, the composite response of the system was within $\pm 2 \mathrm{~dB}$ from 25 to $12,000 \mathrm{~Hz}$. It rose slightly to +4 dB at $15,000 \mathrm{~Hz}$. This was the limit of our calibrated microphone's known accuracy. (A new calibrated microphone we now use, Bruel \& Kjaer's Model 4133, will enable us to give more accurate and meaningful results at the highest audio frequencies in future reviews.)

## driver positions

## give uncolored

## spatial imaging

The dispersion characteristics of the tweeter were good. There was only about 3 dB of difference in the high-frequency response curves measured onaxis with the speaker and $30^{\circ}$ off-axis. The level switches had their indicated effects, which were confined to the rated operating frequency ranges of the respective drivers. The tone-burst response of the system was excellent, yielding bursts that were as clean as any


Composite corrected frequency response curve.

## Product Focus

In designing the Model AR-9, Acoustic Research has made a special effort to achieve the best possible stereo imaging. One school of speaker system de sign holds that phase coherence, or uni form time delay across the system's operating frequency range, is important for the optimum stereo effect. AR made a study of the subject that led to the conclusion that the human ear is insensitive to phase shifts having a major effect on the shape of a complex waveform

AR used a computer to analyze the qualities of music itself, as well as of a number of different speaker systems. In the former case. a specific musical tone from six different recordings of the same work, were analyzed and no consistent phase relationships between the components of that tone were found. The conclusion was that phase relationships are completely inconsistent over time periods longer than a few milliseconds, and that the resulting gross waveform changes are imperceptible to listeners

The second experiment, involving a number of speaker systems, led to the conclusion that the "blurring" of a spatial image due to various frequency components arriving at slightly different times was mainly caused by reflections from the speaker structure itself, rather than from any "time alignment" error between the drivers. In fact, some of the stepped enclosure shapes used to obtain uniform time alignment of the drivers in a multiway system were noted to actually degrade the stereo performance of the system by causing unnecessary reflections from the edges of the enclosure.

In the Model AR-9, a high degree of accuracy in spatial imaging was ob tained by positioning the midrange and high-frequency drivers on a single vertical axis and covering the front of the cabinet with a heavy fiber sheet that absorbed high-frequency energy before it could be reflected from the edges of the cabinet and speaker cutouts. This had the expected effect of smoothing out the frequency response of the system. (As our measurements confirmed, it is impressively smooth.) Furthermore, in lis tening tests with the blanket in place and removed, AR found that it improved the perceived stereo imaging and location of instrumental sounds and enabled the listener to judge the acoustic size of individual sound sources more accurately. It also reduced the audible coloration of the sound, as a result of the smoother frequency response.
we have been able to make in a "live" acoustic environment. The system's sensitivity was as rated, so that driving it with 1 watt of random noise in the octave centered at 1000 Hz produced an 87-dB SPL 1 meter away.

Low bass distortion was one of the system's most striking qualities, though it was not too surprising in view of the use of two large acoustic-suspension woofers in a $4.25 \mathrm{cu} \mathrm{ft} \mathrm{(120-liter)} \mathrm{cabi-}$ net. At a 1 -watt input (based on 8 ohms, which is actually 2 watts into the speaker system's nominal impedance), the distortion was between $0.22 \%$ and $0.50 \%$ from 100 Hz down to 50 Hz . It rose very gradually to $1.3 \%$ at 25 Hz and to $2.5 \%$ at 20 Hz . A 10 dB increase in power to
tances. Also, the high end is far better than that of some of the earlier AR speaker systems, which tended to have a "soft" quality. If the program has energy in the highest audible octave, it emerges from the Model AR-9 with crystalline clarity. By the same token, if the program has any distortion or a frequen-cy-response aberration, the system will do nothing to conceal the flaw.

The bass quality is tops, too. Male voices are not artificially colored by the usual resonances in the upper-bass system. However, not only did the AR-9 deliver the usual excellent bass response expected of any good speaker, it also seemed to have a subliminal "floor" of deep bass that could be felt rather than


Tone-burst responses at (left to right) 60,250 and 4000 Hz .
the very considerable level of 20 watts into the nominal 4 -ohm impedance had only a slight effect on the distortion. It then measured between $0.32 \%$ and $0.63 \%$ down to 50 Hz and rose to $3 \%$ at 30 Hz and $6.7 \%$ at 20 Hz .

The impedance was relatively constant, measuring a minimum of about 3 ohms at 50 and 2500 Hz (also its approximate dc resistance) and reaching maxima of 8 ohms at 28 Hz and just shy of 10 ohms at 750 Hz . Since the impedance was between 3 and 5 ohms almost everywhere except at 28 and 750 Hz , the 4 -ohm rating is well justified

User Comment. Although the Model AR-9 should be installed as close as possible to the rear wall to obtain the full benefit of its woofer placement in smoothing the upper bass response, this is not critical. We were unable to get the speaker systems much closer than $18^{\prime \prime}(45.7 \mathrm{~cm})$ from a wall, but they still sounded fine.
The system's sound betrays its kinship to earlier AR models in its smoothness and lack of coloration. Moreover, it has an exceptionally blended and homogeneous sound that never gives a hint that it is emanating from five drivers distributed over a large cabinet. The unified nature of the AR-9 sound remains apparent, even at rather close listening dis-
heard on much of the material we played. In an A-B comparison against the AR/LST (which headed the AR line a few years ago, and can hardly be said to be shy of bass), the Model AR-9 appeared to have another octave of response at the low end. The feeling of "body" that this imparts to the sound is rarely, if ever, heard through speaker systems whose ouput extends only to 35 or 40 Hz . It is usually associated with a good "subwoofer" system, but in this case the subwoofer is part of the basic system (remember, there are two woofers in each speaker system).

Although the Model AR-9 can deliver a most impressive sound level when driven by a powerful amplifier, we recommend staying within the AR guidelines for driving it. Husky as the drivers are, they can be blown out by an overenthusiastic application of several hundred watts of power. While tastes differ widely when it comes to speaker system selection, we feel that anyone who wants to listen to music reproduced as naturally as possible in the home-and who has the space and money to accommodate a pair of Model AR-9's-should certainly audition a pair before making a final buying decision (or even to compare them to one's present speaker system, just for curiosity's sake).

[^1]

## very low mass and viscous damping highlight Shure SME Series III tonearm

## expensive <br> tonearm is <br> super-resistant to vibration



The British-made SME 3009 Series III tonearm (distributed here in the United States by Shure Brothers) has little in common with its predecessors. It has been designed to have extremely low mass, making it compatible with the most compliant of today's phono cartridges. The tonearm can accommodate cartridges weighing up to 13 grams and has a tracking force range of 0 to 2.5 grams. The low-frequency tonearm/cartridge resonance can be damped, at the user's option, by a viscous damping system supplied with the tonearm.
The suggested retail price of the SME 3009 Series III tonearm is $\$ 294$.

General Description. The Series III features a knife-edge vertical pivot that is virtually frictioniess and has an indefinite life. Its horizontal pivots are precision ball bearings. The tonearm has a fully adjustable sliding base that requires an elongated mounting slot. This permits the tonearm to be adjusted for
minimum tracking error near the inner grooves of a record.

The structure on the rear of the tonearm is made from plastic that is reinforced with carbon to give it the desired strength and acoustical properties. The counterweight consists of a number of lead weights that are loaded into a plastic carrier that mounts on the rear of the tonearm. Since the balance range is limted to keep the mass of the counterweight near the pivots, only the proper number of weights needed to balance the cartridge and tonearm must be used. (Weights to provide the proper tonearm balance come installed for cartridges weighing 6 to 10.5 grams.)

Balancing is performed by operating a
knob that moves the entire counterweight structure. Then the tracking force is set by operating another knob that moves a weight on one side of the main weight. The stylus pressure force scale is calibrated in 0.25 -gram intervals from 0 to 1.5 grams. A second weight on the other side of the counterweight can be moved forward against a stop to add exactly one gram to the weight indicated on the stylus pressure scale to obtain forces up to 2.5 grams. Then the entire counterweight system can be moved laterally by a third knob to allow the tonearm's center of gravity to be placed over the center of the knife-edge pivot. Finally, the weight-and-string antiskating compensation system's control, calibrated from 0 to 2.5 grams, can be adjusted as required.

Since the usual plug-in headshell contributes a large portion of the effective mass of a tonearm, it has been eliminated in the Series III tonearm. The entire "arm" plugs into a socket near the pivots. The headshell is a slim plastic cartridge mount that is permanently fixed to the arm tube, which also contains a finger lift.

A lever that extends from the tonearm's base permits the height of the tonearm to be raised and lowered from the turntable and its distance from the center of the turntable to be adjusted. (A

## it will likely reduce record wear

stylus protractor is supplied for setting the stylus overhang for minimum tracking error.)

The low-frequency tonearm-cartridge resonance damping system consists of a curved trough that clips around the


Illustrated is normal low-bass response vs. flattened response with viscous damping.
metal housing that contains the tonearm's lift linkage. A small plastic paddle moves through the trough as the tonearm traverses the record's surface. A tube of silicone damping material is supplied with the tonearm. (If damping is to be used, the damping material must be emptied into the trough by the user.) Three different-size paddles are furnished to permit the user to optimize the tonearm for different compliance ratings.

Laboratory Measurements. We in-

## Product Focus

A major design goal of the new SME 3009 Series III tonearm was to reduce its effective mass. referred to the stylus po. sition, to the lowest possible value. This requires that as much as possible of the arm's actual mass be located near the pivots, where it does not contribute as much to the arm's moment of inertia, which is what affects the interface with the cartridge stylus and the record groove. In a counterbalanced arm, this means that the counterweight cannot extend far behind the pivot axis: in the Series III. it is in fact concentrated directly over and just behind the pivots.

Another requirement is that the mass of the forward extension of the arm, where the cartridge is mounted, be an absolute minimum. In the Series III, this is an S-shaped tube with a fixed cartridge mount that is little more than a thin piece of perforated plastic containing 12 " (12.7$\mathrm{mm})$ spaced mounting holes and a finger lift instead of the customary massive headshell and its socket and locking ring. The entire arm plugs into the pivoted section. so that the mass of the socket is as close as possible to the pivots.

Aside from its physical configuration. the "secret" of the SME design lies in the materials used for its construction. The arm's tube is thin-walled titanium that is extremely light and rigid. It is filled with a light damping material to control resonances. The rather strange looking rear section of the arm. which contains the countenweight and the many arm adjustments, is a black carbon reinforced plastic (although it looks like cast and machined metal). The actual counterweight is composed of a number of lead plates in a removable plastic holder. Only as many plates are used as are actually needed to balance the mass of the cartridge, in the interest of low mass.

Another feature of the Series III not found on previous SME tonearms is its optional viscous damping device. It can be used to damp arm motion, both horizontally and vertically, by means of a paddle attached to the arm
stalled the tonearm on a turntable that had previously been fitted with an early model SME tonearm. While this simplified installation (the two tonearms require identical mounting cutouts), the setup procedure for the Series III tonearm is lengthy and made practical only by one of the best manuals we have seen. It took some two hours for actual installation plus two more hours later on when the damping fluid was added (it takes that long for the fluid to flow from the tube and fill the trough).

We installed a new Shure V15 Type IV cartridge in the tonearm for our tests. A piece of clay-like material supplied with the tonearm was placed between the cartridge and shell to damp out any resonances in the forward end of the tonearm. Since the cartridge has its own integral viscous damping system in its hinged brush assembly, we performed our low-frequency response tests with and without having the damping fluid in the tonearm.
Setting the tonearm tracking error to zero at a $23 / 8^{\prime \prime}(60.3-\mathrm{mm})$ radius resulted in less than $0.7^{\circ} / \mathrm{in}$. tracking error over the entire surface of the record. The accuracy of the tracking force calibration was perfect, within 0.05-gram resolution of our measurement balance over its full range.

The tonearm is supplied with a very high-quality signal cable that is fitted with gold-plated plugs at both ends. It plugs into jacks in the base of the tonearm. The capacitance to ground in each channel was 280 pF , and interchannel capacitance was a very low 2 pF . The effective mass of the tonearm with the Type IV cartridge was only 11.5 grams, which means that the tonearm's basic mass was an incredible 5 grams! By comparison, most contemporary tonearms have masses of 15 to 25 grams.

We measured the $4-\mathrm{to}-100-\mathrm{Hz}$ frequency response of the tonearm and cartridge with a Denon 7001 test record to evaluate the effect of the arm's damping system. To simulate the tonearm's operation with a conventional cartridge, we did not use the cartridge's damping system. Having obtained the response curve, we filled the damping trough and repeated the tests. The two curves we obtained were dramatically different and should convince anyone of the efficacy of the tonearm's damping system. Undamped, the bass response began to rise at about 25 to 30 Hz . It was +3.5 dB at $15 \mathrm{~Hz},-1.5 \mathrm{~dB}$ at 10 Hz , and +3 dB at 8 Hz . It fell off steadily below 8 Hz . (Less compliant cartridges than we used
will resonate at higher frequencies and could have larger response peaks at resonance.)

Operating with the damping system of the tonearm in use, the total variation in response was $\pm 0.6 \mathrm{~dB}$ from 9 Hz to the $100-\mathrm{Hz}$ upper limit of the test record. We have no doubt that, with sufficient patience and the selection of the proper damping paddle, the response of almost any cartridge could have been flattened as effectively as was this one.

One obvious benefit of the tonearm's damping system, which could be appreciated even without listening to a record, was the isolation it provided from external jarring and vibration.

User Comment. The Series III tonearm has the lowest mass by far that we have ever measured for a tonearm. Hence, it will move the resonant frequency of most cartridges installed in it to a point well above the critical 5to $-7-\mathrm{Hz}$ warp range. Furthermore, the tonearm's damping will effectively wipe out any remaining resonance on the fre-quency-response curve. In our tests, the tonearm tracked warped records that had proved to be unplayable with conventional arms.

The immunity of this tonearm to external vibration and shock was so extraordinary that we must conclude that it would be an effective remedy for a severe or persistent case of acoustic feedback. We were able to pound and jar the turntable quite violently without causing the cartridge to skip grooves or even lose contact with the record. Since feedback can muddy the sound long before it causes audible oscillation, it can also be a valid reason for expecting cartridge sound to be improved.

The aural aspects of the tonearm/cartridge combination was impressive. We felt we heard every last nuance of the material on our records, with nothing left out and nothing added. Of course, the tonearm is not perfect. The lift and descent mechanism does not prevent the arm from drifting out during descent as a result of the antiskating force. We found the drift to be great enough to obviate the usefulness of the lift as a cueing device. In partial compensation, the viscous damping lets the tonearm descend in an especially smooth manner.

This is an expensive tonearm, to be sure. Teaming it with a cartridge of highest quality, however, should result in a winning combination. Additionally, it will likely reduce record wear.
cIRCLE NO 103 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

## The Realistic SCT-30 tells it like it is:

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Why Realistic ${ }^{\mathbb{} 1}$ ?
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IF YOU'RE a communications buff or electronics experimenter who wants to try something really different, this construction project is for you! There's a whole new world of personal communications waiting to be explored-the world of microwaves. Now you can do just that with the compact, low-cost MiniWave Personal Communications system presented here. This inexpensive microwave link allows you to transmit and receive fast-scan television pictures and/or voice signals over paths of 20 miles or more. It can also be used to transmit digital information over similar paths at extremely high baud rates.
Relatively simple circuits are employed in the transmitter and receiver sections, which are available in kit form. The microwave portion of the project, called a Gunnplexer, is available factory assembled.

The Gunnplexer is the heart of the Mini-Wave system. It is a solid-state product of Microwave Associates, Inc., of Burlington, MA. The Gunnplexer (Fig. 1) consists of a Gunn diode (a microwave source) housed in a resonant cavity, one side of which has an output port called an iris. A short section of
waveguide accepts energy from the iris and contains a low-noise Schottky mixer diode and a ferrite circulator (a type of microwave directional coupler).

When a certain level of dc bias is applied across a gallium-arsenide wafer, the current through it begins to oscillate at microwave frequencies. This is the Gunn effect, discovered in 1963 by John Gunn, a researcher at IBM. If a Gunn diode is operated in free space, it generates a train of current pulses whose period is proportional to, among other things, the thickness of the GaAs wafer. The disadvantages of this operating mode are very low efficiency and a fixed output frequency.

Mounting the Gunn diode in a resonant cavity, which behaves like a high-Q tuned LC circuit, allows the user to tune the microwave output (within limits) to a specific frequency. The Gunnplexer provides two methods of varying the output

> FOR HAMS AND OTHER EXPERIMENTERS. NO-CODE LICENSES AVAILABLE (SEE TEXT).
frequency. A mechanical tuning slug permits altering the characteristics of the cavity, resulting in a tuning range of $\pm 100 \mathrm{MHz}$ referenced to the center frequency of the Gunnplexer. Also mounted in the cavity is a Varactor diode for electronic tuning over a minimum span of 60 MHz . The Varactor is tuned by varying its bias from +1 to +20 volts dc. When the Varactor is operated in the most "sensitive" portion of its curve, a one-volt change in bias level results in a frequency excursion of 15 MHz .

The oscillating Gunn diode sets up an electromagnetic field in the cavity oscillating at (nominally) 10 GHz . A small opening in the cavity (the iris) scaled to the proper dimensions allows the energy to escape from the cavity and pass into a short section of waveguide. The waveguide plays the same role at microwave frequencies that coaxial line plays at hf, vhf and uhf-it couples signals from the source to the antenna. The output of the Gunn oscillator is relatively low (nominally 20 mW ), but wavelengths are so small at these frequencies that highly directional antennas with large amounts of gain are physically practicable. Accordingly, the most convenient way to obtain a large effective radiated power (e.r.p.)


COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

is to use a high-gain antenna. Microwave Associates manufactures several antennas which bolt directly to the wave guide of the Gunnplexer, including horn and parabolic dish antennas. (More on this in Part II of this article.)
In the transmit mode, the Gunn oscillator is frequency-modulated by applying a low-voltage baseband signal across the Varactor tuning diode. The characteristics of the cavity and thus the frequency of oscillation vary in step with the modulating waveform. The Gunnplexer can also be used as a microwave receiver. Here's how.

When the microwave energy generated by the Gunn oscillator escapes from the cavity and enters the waveguide, it passes by a circulator, a special ferrite rod. The circulator samples a small amount of the outbound signal (about 0.5 mW ) and couples it to a Schottky diode mounted in the waveguide. Microwave energy from a remote transmitting Gunnplexer also enters the waveguide, but from the opposite direction (via the antenna). The circulator also passes this signal to the Schottky diode.
Because it is a nonlinear device, the diode causes the received signal and the local oscillator injection signal from

## A low-cost link

 for audio, video, or datacommunications on the $10-\mathrm{GHz}$ band.


Popular Flectronics
OCTOBER 1978

the cavity to heterodyne, resulting in sum and difference mixer products. A Schottky diode is employed. (Noise generated in the receiver can reduce range dramatically, so care must be taken to minimize it. One way to do this is to use low-noise components such as the Schottky diode.)

If the Gunn oscillator in the receiving unit is operating at 10.245 GHz and the oscillator in the transmitting Gunnplexer is operating at 10.2 GHz , the two signals will mix in the Schottky diode to produce a sum signal at 20.445 GHz and a difference signal at 45 MHz . For our purposes, we can ignore the sum signal and concentrate on the difference signal. This $45-\mathrm{MHz}$ i-f signal contains all of the information used to modulate the transmitting Gunnplexer. Because it is at a relatively low frequency, we can employ more or less standard techniques to amplify the signal and extract the information from it.

This article is based on the use of Gunnplexer "transceivers" in the 10.0-to- $10.5-\mathrm{GHz}$ band, which has been allocated to the Amateur Radio Service. If you have a Technician or higher Class ham ticket, you can operate Gunnplexers manufactured for use in that frequency band. Gunnplexers designed to operate on other frequencies are available from Microwave Associates on a special-order basis. No-code Mobile and Experimenter licenses that allow you to operate Gunnplexers on bands slightly above 10.5 GHz can be obtained from the FCC. This will be covered next month in Part II.

The Receiver. The Mini-Wave video receiver with afc is shown schematically in Fig. 2. As in the previous example, we shall assume that the Gunn oscillators in the transmitter and receiver are operating at frequencies displaced from each other by 45 MHz .


The Gunnplexers in the transmitter and receiver are identical, but they are operated at different frequencies (displaced by the chosen i-f). In one-way applications the microwave energy that escapes from the antenna of the receiving unit, which is actually the bulk of the Gunn oscillator's output, is ignored. In the transmitting unit, the built-in receiving function and i-f output are ignored. Of course, you can use the Gunnplexers as transceivers by installing T/R switching to alternately connect the transmit and receive support circuits to the microwave units. You cannot duplex (send and receive at both ends simultaneous(y) video signals, but duplexing audio only is possible.

Licensing. Before we take a look at the support circuits schematically, a few words about microwave frequency allocations and licensing are appropriate.

The i-f signal is coupled from the Schottky diode mixer port of the receiving Gunnplexer to a low-noise $45-\mathrm{MHz}$ gain stage. The active device employed, Q1, should be able to provide 7 to 10 dB of stage gain, have a minimum gain passband of 10 MHz (the i-f passband is 40 to 50 MHz ), and have a maximum noise figure of 3 dB . The author has chosen a Siliconix J-310 low-noise, n-channel junction FET operated in the ground-ed-gate mode. A low noise figure is very important because it helps keep the overall receiver noise figure down. The typical Schottky diode employed in the Gunnplexer has a maximum noise figure of 12 dB . That might sound high, especially if you're used to working with semiconductors designed for operation at frequencies up to vhf or even uhf, but is fairly low for a microwave device.

The amplified $40-$ to $-50-\mathrm{MHz}$ i-f signal is coupled to another gain stage (Q2) via

## RECEIVER <br> PARTS LIST

C1. C2. C8. C11.C12. C15.C17.C20.C21. C35. C36-0.001- $\mu \mathrm{F}$ disc ceramic
(3. C22. C24. C25-10-pF NPO disc ceramic

C4-1-pF NPO dise ceramic
(5-3.3-pF NPO) disc ceramic
C6-2.7-pF NPO dise ceramic
(7*-4-10-40-pF trimmer (Elmeneo type 422
(or equivalent)
C9. C10. C13.C16-0.005- $\mu \mathrm{F}$ dise ceramic
CI4. C19-0.0013- $\mu$ F dise ceramic
C18* C31* C32*-1- $\mu \mathrm{F}, 50$-volt tantalum
(23-5-pF NPO) dise ceramic
(26-22-pF NPO) dise ceramic
C27-0.05- $\mu \mathrm{F}$ disc ceramic
(28*, C33* $33-\mu \mathrm{F}, 50$-volt electrolytic
C29- $1(00)-\mu \mathrm{F}, 25$ volt electrolytic
C.30*-100 $10-\mu \mathrm{F}, 50$-volt electrolytic

C $3.4^{*}-1(0)-\mu \mathrm{F} .5(0$-valt electrolytic
D) ${ }^{*}$ through D4*-HPSOX2-2800 hot carrier dinde (Hewlen Packard)
D5*-10-volt. I-watt zener diode
FI*—11/2-amp fast-blow fuse

IC2*—MCI458V dual operational amplifier
J1*—F-type chassis-mount coaxial jack
I.I*- $21 / 2$ lurns of No .20 wire wound on an air-core $1 / 2$-inch form. tapped 2 turns above ground end
1.2*. L.10*. I.12*-6 turns of No, 30 wire wound on a Ferroxcube No. 56-590-65/4B ferrite bead
L.3*-I8 turns of No . 22 wire wound on a Go wanda Electronics Nor 71525 brass-slug form
1.4*-18 turns of No. 22 wire wound on a Gowanda Electronic: No 71528 ferrite-slug furm
L.5*-14 turns of No .22 wire wound on a Gowanda Electronies No. 71528 ferrite-slug form
L.6*. L.9*. L.11*-6 turns of No. 30 wire wound on a Ferroxcube No . $56-590-6.5 / 4 \mathrm{~B}$ ferrite bead. tapped wo turns from one end
L7*-2 turns of No. 30 wire wound on a Ferroxcube No. $56-59()-6.5 / 4 \mathrm{~B}$ ferrite bead
1.8*. L.I.3* 4 turns of No .20 wire wound on an air-core $1 / 4$-inch form
L.14*. 1.15*_18 turns of No. 22 wire wound on a Gowanda Electronics No. 71528 fer-rite-slug form
L.ED) ${ }^{*}$ - 20-mA light-emitting diode

Q1*. Q6*-J-310 n-channel junction fieldeffect Iransistor (Siliconix)
Q2*-SDIONG npn silicon transistor (Solid State Scientific)
Q.3*. Q4*. Q5*. Q7*-2N356.3 npn silicon Transistor (Motorola)
Q**—2N6122 npn silicon transistor (Fair(hild)
R1*. R19*, R20*, R32*, R38*—10.0() () -ohm trimmer potentiometer (Beckman No. 72PMRIOK or equivalent)
R23*-5(K)-ohm trimmer potentiometer (Beckman No. 72PMRS(0) or equivalent)
The following are $1 / 4$-watt. $10 \%$ tolerance carbon composition resistors:
R2-I( $K$ ) ohms
R3.R10, R27.R37, R46-3300 ohms
R4. R6- 150 (K) ohms
R5.R7, R16. R2I, R22, R.34-47()ohms
RR.R44-6.2 ohms
R9.R12.R14.R29.R30.R45—110ohms RII-680 ohms

R1.3-240 ohms
R15-560 ohms
R17. Rix- 51 ohms
R24-10.000 ohms
R25.R.39-47.000) ohms
R26-1 megohm
R28.R.3.R.35.R+2.R+3-2200 ohms
R31-330 ohms
R.36 180.000 ohm

R40-100 (KX) ohms
R+1-8200) ohms
RECTI*-I-ampere. I(x)-PIV modular hridge rectifier
SI*-Spdt miniature toggle switch
S2*-Spst miniature toggle switch
TI*-30-voit center-tapped. $5(0)-\mathrm{mA}$. transformer
Misc.-Printed circuit hoard*. standolfs*. at line cord* and strain relief, suitable enclosure*. Microwave Associates Model MA-87140-1 Gunnplexer. shielded cable. hookup wire. terminal strips*. solder lugs*. fuse holder*, machine and self-tapping hardware*. solder, ete
*-parts included in "non-standard parts" kit (see Parts Availability box).


Fig. 2. Schematic of the Mini-Wave video receiver with automatic
frequency control. I-f output of Gunnplexer is coupled to $45-\mathrm{MHz}$ gain stage.


Photo of Mini-Wave receiver without case. All components including i-f are on pe board. Power supply is located at left of the power transformer.
an LC network. It functions as a bandpass filter, shaping the receiver's i-f response so that it is flat from 40 to 50 MHz and rejects signals outside this range. The emphasis in this part of the receiver is voltage gain, but noise cannot be ignored. A Solid State Scientific SD-1006, neutralized for stability, is employed in this stage.

Following the SD-1006 are three gain stages utilizing 2N3563 bipolar transistors (Q3, Q4 and Q5). The overall gain of the first five active stages is approximately 50 to 52 dB . After the i-f signal has been amplified to this extent, it is ready to be "cleaned up" before being detected. That is, it is ready for limiting. The primary purpose of a limiter, which is found in just about every FM receiver, is to remove any amplitude variations from the signal before it is applied to the discriminator (FM demodulator). That's the major reason why FM is a much quieter mode of communications than AM.


Rear view of Gunnplexer showing resonant cavity bolted to short section of waveguide.

The limiter in the Mini-Wave receiver employs a pair of Hewlett Packard HP5082-2800 Schottky barrier diodes, D1 and D2. Schottky barrier diodes consist of rectifying metal-semiconductor contacts in which current flows by means of majority carriers. Most are made of n-type silicon and a metal such as gold. When forward-biased (the metal being more positive than the n-type semiconductor), electrons are injected from the semiconductor into the metal. These electrons have greater velocities than thermally activated electrons of the metal and are called "hot electrons" or "hot carriers." Accordingly, Schottky barrier diodes are often called hot electron or hot carrier diodes. Hot carrier diodes exhibit voltage and current characteristics closely approximating those of an ideal diode. Because no minority charge carriers are involved, the diodes are faster and quieter than conventional pn junctions and have superior dynamic range and signal-handling abilities.

In the limiter stage, the hot carrier diodes are forward-biased to a predetermined level. As the signal from the last i-f amplifier increases in level, the diodes begin to detect (rectify) it. This creates a dc voltage which tends to reverse-bias the diodes, increasing their internal resistance. Further increases in signal level result in greater reverse bias and internal diode resistance, causing the signal level at the output of the limiter to remain constant once full limiting is reached. This is the limiting action necessary for good FM demodulation.

The output of the limiter is split into two equal signals by R17 and R18, two 51 -ohm resistors. Each half of the limiter output is applied to a tuned circuit comprising L14 and C22 or L15 and C23. The L14C22 network is tuned by adjusting the inductor form's slug so that it res-
onates at 35 MHz . The L15C23 network is tuned to resonate at 55 MHz . Signals selectively passed by the tuned circuits are rectified by D3 and D4, another pair of HP 5082-2800 hot carrier diodes. A portion of each rectified signal is shunted to ground by R19 or R2O, and the output signals from the two legs of the discriminator are recombined through R23. a 500 -ohm balancing potentiometer. During alignment, R19 and R20 are adjusted so that an unmodulated carrier at exactly 45 MHz produces a zero-volt output, and R23 is adjusted so that there are equal positive and negative voltage swings produced by the two discriminator legs.

Before we examine the video amplifier, here's a note concerning D1, D2, D3 and D4. One might be tempted to substitute less expensive diodes for the HP5082-2800 components. Don't! The quality of the limiter and discriminator diodes is crucial to overall receiver performance. In fact, one of the major differences between this receiver and a commercial model that performs essentially the same function is the substitution of higher-grade and more expensive ( $\$ 7.50$ each) diodes in the limiter circuit. So do not substitute components in this project if you expect it to deliver the same level of performance as the author's prototype.

What the discriminator delivers is essentially pure video, or, to be more precise, the baseband (modulating) signal with a $0-t o-5-\mathrm{MHz}$ bandwidth. Most of the useful video information, however, is found between dc ( 0 Hz ) and approximately 3.8 MHz . The detector output is capacitively coupled to a low-noise amplifier employing a J-310 JFET (Q6). Output signals from the drain of the JFET drive Q7, a 2 N3563 npn silicon transistor operating as an emitter follower. The output of the follower is capacitively coupled to J1, the video output jack. When the limiter is fully limiting, an output signal of 1 volt peak-to-peak across a 75 -ohm load will be produced.

The output signal will not contain a dc component because of the blocking action of coupling capacitors C27 and C29. It will, however, contain a $4.5-\mathrm{MHz}$ audio subcarrier if one was introduced at the transmitter. The composite output can be tapped via R31 for application to the optional audio subcarrier demodulator, which will be examined later.

Frequency Stability and AFC. To receive signals from a transmitting Gunnplexer, the receiver must of course


## TRANSMITTER PARTS LIST

CI*- $1000-\mu \mathrm{F}, 50$-volt electrolytic C2*, C3*- $1-\mu \mathrm{F}, 50$-volt tantalum C4*-33- F F, 50-volt electrolytic** $\mathrm{C} 5, \mathrm{C} 8, \mathrm{C} 13-\mathrm{O} .1-\mu \mathrm{F}$ disc ceramic** C6*-0.9-10-7-pF trinmer** (Elmenco type 400 or equivalent)
C7- 3.3 pF NPO disc ceramic**
C9.C10-500-pF NPO disc ceramic**
C11-39.pF NPO disc ceramic**
C12, C16-0.001- $\mu \mathrm{F}$ disc ceramic**
C14-5-pF NPO dise ceramic**
C15*-1.5-to-20-pF trimmer** (Elmenco type 402 or equivalent)
C17*- $10000-\mu \mathrm{F}, 25$-volt electrolytic
D1*-10-volt. I-watt zener
D2*-5-volt, 1 -watt zener**
D3*-BB105G Varactor** (Amperex)
F1*-1/2-ampere fast-blow fuse
1C1- $\mu$ A7812CU 12-volt regulator
1C2*- $\mu \mathrm{A} 741 \mathrm{CV}$ operational amplifier**
Jl*-miniature phone jack**
J2*-F-type chassis-mount coaxial jack
LI* through L4*- $100-\mu \mathrm{H}$ inductor **
(J.W. Miller No. 70-F-104AI or equivalent)

LED1*-20-mA light-emitting diode
Q1*-2N6122 npn transistor (Fairchild)
Q2* through Q5*-2N3563 npn silicon transistor** (Motorola)
RI*, R4*- 10,000 -ohm trimmer potentiometer (Beckman No. 72PMRIOK or equivalent)
R7*-10,000-ohm trimmer potentiometer** (Beckman No. 72PMR10K or equivalent)
R30*-500-ohm trimmer potentiometer (Beckman No. 72PMR500 or equivalent)
The following are $1 / 4$-watt, $10 \%$ tolerance carbon composition resistors unless otherwise noted:
R2-2200 ohms
R3,R14,R18,R22,R23-470 ohms**
R5-110 ohms
R6,R10.R11,R15.R19.R20-10,000 ohms**
R8-100,000 ohms**
R9--22,000 ohms**
R12,R21-2200 ohms**
R13.R17-1000 ohms**
R16-2700 ohms**
R24- 10 ohnis**
R25-560 ohms, $1 / 2$-watt**
R26,R28-- 150 ohms**
R27-110 ohms**
R29-330 ohms**
RECTI*-1-ampere, 100 PIV modular bridge rectifier
SI*-Spst miniature toggle switch
S2*-Spst miniature toggle switch**
T1*--30-volt center-tapped, $500-\mathrm{mA}$ transformer
Misc.-Printed circuit board*, standoffs*, ac line cord* and strain relief, suitable enclosure*. Microwave Associates Model MA-87140-1 Gunnplexer, shielded cable. hookup wire, terminal strips*, solder lugs*, fuseholder*, machine and self-tapping hardware*, solder, etc
*-parts included in "non-standard parts" kit ( see Parts Availability box)
**-required only if optional $4.5-\mathrm{MHz}$ audio subcarrier generator/modulator is included in transmitter
be tuned to the proper frequency. It also must stay tuned to that frequency. In our Mini-Wave system, the goal is to keep the receiver local (Gunn) oscillator exactly 45 MHz above the transmitting Gunnplexer's output frequency. Initially, the Gunnplexers can be tuned to their respective frequencies by adjusting the coarse (mechanical) tuning control and fine-tuning them electronically by varying Varactor bias.

However, Gunnplexers will drift to an extent. The major cause of the drift is the effect of temperature upon the cavity in which the Gunn diode is mounted. As the ambient temperature increases, the cavity will expand slightly and the frequency of oscillation, which is very dependent on the resonant frequency of the cavity, will decrease. Conversely, cooling the Gunnplexer will cause the cavity to contract and the frequency of

oscillation to increase. Each one degree (Celsius) change in temperature will cause the Gunnplexer frequency to shift by 0.35 MHz .

If both the transmitting and receiving Gunnplexers are located in roughly the same environment-say, outdoors reasonably close to each other-both units will drift in the same direction and will stay in tune. However, if one Gunnplexer is indoors, the other is outdoors, and there is a substantial difference in ambient temperature, the Gunnplexer output frequencies might drift considerably away from each other. A switchable afc circuit has been incorporated into the Mini-Wave receiver to help the user cope with this potential problem.
Directly after the 500 -ohm discriminator balancing potentiometer (R23) there is a 10,000 -ohm resistor (R24) which taps a portion of the discriminator output. This signal is applied to the noninverting input of $I C 2 B$, one half of an MC1458 dual operational amplifier. It is amplified by this stage and $/ C 2 A$. In the second gain stage, the amplified discriminator output is applied to the inverting input. A positive dc voltage is applied to the noninverting input via R37 and R38. The trimmer potentiometer is adjusted during the alignment procedure so that a +4 -volt offset appears at the output of IC2A under no-signal conditions. Trimmer R1 is also adjusted during alignment with S1 in the AFC OFF position so that +4 volts is applied to the Varactor diode. This is the normal reverse bias for the tuning diode in the Mi-ni-Wave receiver.

If $S 1$ is placed in the AFC ON position and one or both Gunnplexers start to drift so that the normal $45-\mathrm{MHz}$ frequency offset is not maintained, an "error" voltage will be developed at the output of the discriminator. This error voltage is sampled, amplified, and level shifted by the afc circuit. The result is a change in Varactor bias and, thus, in the receiving Gunnplexer's frequency of oscillation. The afc circuit allows the receiver's local (Gunn) oscillator to track the transmitter over a $\pm 10-\mathrm{MHz}$ range with a worstcase error of 0.5 MHz . In this way, the $45-\mathrm{MHz}$ offset can be maintained and the received signal kept in the center of the receiver's i-f passband.

The temperature drift characteristic of the Gunnplexers was carefully considered when forming the "band plan" for the $10-\mathrm{GHz}$ amateur band described in Part II of this article. (The band plan is a system of channelization intended to provide as many interference-free, si-
multaneous one-way video channels in a single area as possible within the 500MHz wide allocation.) Normally, temper-ature-caused drift is an undesirable characteristic of communications equipment; good engineering practice is to make it as small as possible. However, there are applications which depend on thermally induced drift in the equipment employed.

For example, a transmitting Gunnplexer can be set up at a remote location and its frequency allowed to drift wherever (within band limits!) variations in temperature take it. A receiving Gunnplexer is then installed in an environment with a closely controlled ambient temperature. The difference frequency at the i-f output of the receiving Gunnplexer is sampled, counted, and scaled using the $0.35-\mathrm{MHz} /{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ thermal characteristic. Finally, the quantity obtained via the foregoing procedure is added to the ambient temperature at the receiver. These operations can be performed by suitable digital arithmetic circuits. The numerical result is the ambient temperature at the transmitting Gunnplexer, and the entire system forms a highly accurate, remote-sensing, wireless electronic thermometer!

The Mini-Wave receiver requires several operating voltages which are furnished by a line-powered, regulated supply. Transformer T1 and modular bridge RECT1 convert line-voltage ac into low-voltage bipolar pulsating dc. The positive bridge output is filtered by C30 and the negative output by C33. Regulator IC1 delivers +12 volts at pin 3 , its output terminal. Most of the receiver is powered by this +12 -volt line.

A few circuits call for other operating voltages. The operational amplifiers in the afc circuit require -10 volts dc as well as +12 volts. The negative voltage is derived by regulating the filtered negative bridge output by means of zener diode D5 and current-limiting resistor R34. The Gunn diode in the Gunnplexer requires +8 to +12 volts of pure dc at 500 mA maximum. The diode is supplied with +8 volts regulated by tapping the +12 -volt output of the regulator IC via trimmer potentiometer R32. The potentiometer supplies base drive for pass transistor Q8 and is adjusted so that +8 volts appears between the emitter of $Q 8$ and ground. The Varactor diode is normally biased by +4 volts, which is derived from either trimmer R1 (afc off) or the afc circuit (afc on).

The power supply is extensively bypassed and r-f decoupled. Tantalum

## PARTS AVAILABILITY

So that readers with varying levels of experience in building projects and/or parts procurement opportunities can get started in microwave communications, Mini-Wave hardware is available in several different versions.

- Kit of parts for one Mini-Wave transmitter and one Mini-Wave receiver, including pc boards, all components, enclosures, etc., but not including Gunnplexers:
a) video only, $\$ 140.00$;
b) video and audio, $\$ 180.00$
- Non-standard parts kit including all components marked with single asterisks in the Parts Lists:
a) video only, $\$ 105.00$;
b) video and audio, $\$ 145.00$.

The above items are available from Mi crowave Division, CSSC, Box 20335, Oklahoma City, OK 73120. Add $\$ 7$ postage and handling for each kit shipped within U.S. Oklahoma residents please add sales tax.

Gunnplexers and Antennas. The following are available from Microwave Associates, Inc., 63 Third Avenue, Burlington, MA 01803, Attention: Dana Hapgood.

- Two Gunnplexers with 17-dB gain horn antennas, Part No. MA-87141-1, $\$ 180.00$. Specify operating frequency or channel number.
- One Gunnplexer with 17-dB gain horn antenna, Part No. MA-87140-1, $\$ 108.00$. Specify operating frequency.
- Two Gunnplexers less 17-dB gain horn antennas, Part No. MA-87127-1, $\$ 160.00$. Specify operating frequency.
- One Gunnplexer less 17-dB gain horn antenna, Part No. MA-87127-1, \$85.00. Specify operating frequency.
Prices of Gunnplexers operating outside the 10.0 -to-10.5-GHz amateur band are slightly higher.
- Two-foot diameter, solid-surface parabolic antenna with 32 dB gain and $4^{\circ}$ half-power ( -3 dB ) beamwidth, mounts to 2 -inch pipe, Part No. MA-86555, $\$ 165.00$. Specify operating frequency.
- Four-foot diameter, solid-surface parabolic antenna with 38 dB gain and $2^{\circ}$ half-power ( -3 dB ) beamwidth, mounts to 2 -inch pipe, Part No. MA-86556, $\$ 265.00$. Specify operating frequency.
Prices include postage and handling for items shipped within U.S. Massachusetts residents please add sales tax.

Additional Literature. Gunnplexer data sheets, a compilation of application notes from prior users of Gunnplexer equipment, are available at no charge (include stamped, self-addressed businesssize envelope) from Microwave Associates, 63 Third Avenue, Burlington, MA 01803, Attention: Dana Hapgood.
capacitors C31 and C32 prevent noise from disturbing the regulator IC, and such components as L10, L12 and C13 provide decoupling. The supply is fuseprotected and has a LED pilot light.

The Transmitter. The Mini-Wave video transmitter with optional $4.5-\mathrm{MHz}$ audio subcarrier generator/modulator is shown schematically in Fig. 3. In the transmit mode, the Gunn oscillator output, except for the small portion sampled by the circulator, is radiated by the antenna. The receiving capabilities of the Gunnplexer and the small loss of output signal to the circulator are, for our present purpose, ignored. The typical 10GHz Gunnplexer provides 12 to 20 mW of output power, drawing a maximum of 500 mA from an 8-to-12-volt dc source.

We have already seen that the Gunnplexer's frequency of oscillation can be varied by mechanical (coarse tuning) and electronic (fine tuning) means. The frequency can be shifted electronically by varying the bias applied across the Varactor tuning diode from +1 to +20 volts. If a modulating signal with an amplitude varying within these limits is applied across the diode, the amount of frequency deviation will depend on the amplitude of the modulating signal, while the rate of deviation will depend on the frequency of the modulating signal. In other words, it's possible to frequency modulate the Gunnplexer merely by applying an audio or video baseband signal across the Varactor diode. That's exactly what is done.

The transmitter is relatively simplethe bulk of the "hard work" has already been done by Microwave Associates in assembling the Gunnplexer. In fact, the major portion of the transmitter schematic is occupied by the optional 4.5MHz audio subcarrier circuit shown within the dashed lines.

The video input signal, say, from a TV camera or video tape player is applied to jack J2. A portion of this signal is tapped by the wiper of level control R30 and capacitively coupled by C17 to the Gunnplexer's Varactor input port. The level control should be adjusted so that a 1volt peak-to-peak modulating signal is obtained. This signal and a de level are simultaneously applied across the Varactor. The dc level is derived from the transmitter power supply's 12-volt regulated output via trimmer R4 and R5. The trimmer should be adjusted during alignment for a +4 -volt bias level.

The power supply is similar to that in the receiver. Line-voltage ac is stepped


Mini-Wave units with 17-dB horn antennas can be mounted on camera tripods.
down by T1 and converted by RECT1 into pulsating bipolar dc. Positive and negative dc components are filtered by $C 1$ and C4, respectively. The positive dc is regulated by $I C 1$, a $\mu \mathrm{A} 7812 \mathrm{CU} 12$ volt regulator. This regulated voltage supplies the bulk of the audio subcarrier generator/modulator circuit. It is also tapped by R4 and R5 to provide dc bias for the Varactor tuning diode inside the Gun oscillator cavity

Operating voltage for the Gunn diode ( +8 volts regulated) is supplied by pass transistor $Q 1$. The collector of $Q 1$ is connected to the unregulated positive dc voltage. Base drive is derived from the regulated +12 -volt output via trimmer R1, which is adjusted so that +8 volts appears between the emitter of Q1 and ground. The -10 volts regulated dc required by the op amp in the subcarrier generator/modulator section is provided by zener diode D1 and current limiting resistor R3.

Now let's examine the audio subcarrier generator/modulator. Input signals from a high-impedance $(10,000$ ohms or more) source are sampled by level control R7, which couples them to op amp IC1. The output of the op amp IC1 is applied across Varactor diode D3, whose capacitance varies in step with the amplitude of the audio waveform. Changes
in diode capacitance cause the frequency of oscillation of Q2, a 2 N 3563 npn transistor oscillating at 4.500 MHz under no-signal conditions, to vary. Thus, the resulting output is frequency-modulated by the audio input waveform.

Common emitter amplifiers Q3 and Q4 boost the level of the $4.5-\mathrm{MHz}$ frequency modulated audio subcarrier. Emitter follower Q5 buffers the amplified subcarrier, which passes through an LC network tuned for maximum response at 4.5 MHz to a resistive pad. Trimmer capacitor C15 tunes the LC network's response; trimmer $C 6$ in the oscillator stage (Q2) allows the subcarrier frequency to be set at exactly 4.500 MHz .

When switch $S 2$ is closed, the subcarrier is coupled to the Gunnplexer's Varactor diode via C16. The video input and the audio subcarrier simultaneously frequency modulate the Gunnplexer. However, the level of the audio subcarrier is 20 dB below that of the video input due to the attenuation introduced by the resistive attenuator. This difference in signal level (1 volt peak-to-peak video, about 0.1 volt rms audio subcarrier) prevents the subcarrier from adversely affecting the quality of video reception.

Switch S2 allows the user to disconnect the subcarrier generator/modulator from the rest of the transmitter if he


Mini-Wave system can be used in data communications.
Photo shows information received from a TV typewriter located several miles away.


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 and how to study for it.

BY HARRY HELMS

In 1977, the Federal Communications
Commission broke with 50 years of tradition that had required all candidates for an Amateur radio license to prove proficiency in receiving Morse code by copying a solid minute of code without error. Instead, the FCC introduced new "comprehension" exams. Here, a five-minute-long message is sent in CW and the applicant answers ten multiplechoice questions about the message's content. If the applicant correctly answers at least eight questions, he passes the test. Sounds easy, but is it?

When the new exams were introduced, some old-timers thought the FCC had virtually eliminated Morse code as a requirement for an Amateur license. Hams-to-be were almost universally relieved at the prospect of taking an "easier" code exam. Yet, many persons still failed the code portion of the Amateur exams after the introduction of the comprehension exams. Dark rumors soon began to circulate that the FCC had "pulled a fast one" on Amateurs; that the new exams were actually tougher than the old straight-copy tests!

This author attended the 1978 Met-

## SAMPLE TEXT OF TYPICAL FCC COMPREHENSION CODE EXAM

VVV VVV VVV $\overline{B K}$ K2XXX DE WB2XYZ OK JACK TNX FOR CL. NAME HR IS JACK ES QTH IS NEW BEDFORD, CONN. TNX FOR THE RST 579 RPT, UR RST IS 589. MY XMTR IS A DX60, 90 WATTS INPUT, INTO 40 MTR INVERTED L. RCVR IS A DRAKE 2C WITH NINE TUBES. TEMP HR IS 35 DEGREES $C$ ES WX IS CLOUDY ES WARM. I AM AN ATTORNEY, 47 YRS OLD. I ALSO WORK SSTV ES HAVE A SKED AT 0230 GMT WITH VU6DZZ. I HOLD A GENERAL CLASS LICENSE ES PLAN TO TAKE THE EXTRA EXAM IN JULY. JUST RCVD MY WAC CERTIFICATE IN THE MAIL. AR K2XXX DE WB2XYZ K

## Sample Questions

1. The call sign of the transmitting station is:
A. WA2XYZ
B. K2XXX
C. WB2XYZ
D. WB2XXX
E. K2XYZ
2. The names of the two operators are:
A. Jack, John
B. Jack, James
C. Jack, Jackie
D. Jack, Jack
E. Jackie, John
3. The location of station transmitting is:
A. New York. New York
B. New Bedford, New York
C. New Bedford, New Jersey
D. New Beddington, New York
E. New Bedford, Connecticut
4. The RST signal report sent by the transmitting station is:
A. RST 579
B. RST 569
C. RST 589
D. RST 559
E. RST 599
5. The input power used by the transmitting station is:
A. 60 watts
B. 70 watts
C. 80 watts
D. 90 watts
E. 150 watts
6. What type of antenna is the transmitting station using?
A. Dipole
B. Inverted V
C. Vertical
D. Longwire
E. Inverted L
7. The temperature at the transmitting station's location is:
A. 35 degrees Fahrenheit
B. 45 degrees Fahrenheit
C. 35 degrees Centigrade
D. 45 degrees Centigrade
E. 30 degrees Centigrade
8. The operator of the transmitting station is an:
A. accountant
B. advertiser
C. attorney
D. actuary
E. adviser
9. The transmitting station has a schedule with which station and at what time?
A. VU6DZZ at 0130 GMT
B. VU6BZZ at 0230 GMT
C. VU6DZZ at 0230 GMT
D. VU6BZZ at 0130 GMT
E. VU6DZZ at 0230 EST
10. The transmitting station just received which of the following certificates?
A. WAS
B. DXCC
C. WAZ
D. WAC
E. WAE
rolina Hamfest in Charlotte, NC, where more than 600 applicants took Amateur exams administered by the FCC. Those who took the new CW exams had a variety of reactions, terming them: "easy," "nitpicking," "tricky," "less pressurized," and "devious." But one word kept popping up time after time: different. It became readily apparent from the reactions of those taking the new exams that many of the study techniques and testtaking strategies applicable to the old straight-copy tests no longer apply.

What It Involves. As noted earlier, previous Amateur code exams were split into separate sending and receiving tests. Five minutes of CW were sent, and the applicant had to copy at least one solid minute without error to receive a passing score. The sending test was similar, with the applicant required to send at least one minute of perfect CW.

Today, there is only a receiving exam. The FCC is now using personnel who do not know CW themselves to administer some Amateur exams, thus making
elimination of the sending test a necessity. The use of such personnel also forced a conversion to the new receiving tests. When an exam is graded, the examining officer ignores the applicant's copy. Only the answers to the multiplechoice questions are graded. In fact, there is no requirement to write down any of the code received. You can copy in your head or merely make notes on what you hear. Of course, you may still copy everything received if you wish.

When you report for the code exam, the examiner gives you a sheet of paper with space to copy the message and spaces for answering the multiplechoice questions. One minute of CW is sent as a warm-up exercise, after which the examiner asks if anyone had problems hearing the code. If everyone heard the warm-up material satisfactorily, the examiner sends a five-minute message. The content of the message is a typical amateur QSO. All code tests are on tape cassettes, and each group examined on a particular day gets a different test.

At the end of the message, the examiner distributes a sheet with 10 multi-ple-choice questions about the material sent. Each question has five choices for answers. You can refer to the copy or notes you made during the message. Upon completing the test, the examiner grades your paper. If you answer at least eight out of 10 questions correctly, you pass. The examiner keeps your answer and question sheets and any notes or copy you made.

The Pitfalls. One of the biggest problems encountered by many applicants on the new exams is a misunderstanding of what the FCC means by the term "comprehensive." Many people apparently interpret this to mean that test questions will involve only generalities. This is not so! The questions deal with details. Some people would even term the exams "picky." The fact is, however, that you cannot pass the new exams without knowing specifics of the message sent.
Among the items you must copy are station call signs, names of operators, signal reports, locations, types of gear and antennas used, ages of the operators, transmitter power, and virtually everything else involving a number. That's quite a bit to keep straight in your head. So, you're well advised to copy down what you hear unless you are blessed with total recall from memory.

One frequent complaint is that the
new exams are deceptive. This seems to be justified, judging from some of the examples told to this author. The various answer possibilities offered are so similar that copying one letter or number wrong could result in an incorrect response. Exam questions must be read very carefully if one is to avoid an incorrect response owing to confusing the transmitting and receiving stations and their call signs.

The message must be followed very literally when answering questions. Some of the information in the message may be improbable, but it is the only information on which your responses should be based. Here are some examples: A station with a W4 prefix, normally assigned to the Southeast, may be located in the Northwest. Both operators may have the same first names. The weather may be inappropriate for a station's location, such as "snow in Florida." Yet, all responses must be based on the message

Other Considerations. Many applicants express surprise at the pitch at which the code in these tests is sent. The pitch is fairly high in comparison to
many commercial code-practice tapes Consequently, you will find it worthwhile to spend some time copying highpitched CW.

Many people seeking the 5-WPM Technician license are startled to discover the CW sent at about 13 WPM, but spaced out between characters for 5 WPM. Only 25 characters are sent in each minute, yet the speed of each character is such that it is virtually impossible to count the dots and dashes that make up each character. In contrast, many commercial code practice tapes for 5 WPM are sent at a speed slow enough to allow such counting and may therefore harm the prospects of passing the Technician tests. Fortunately, the widely heard code practice transmissions of the American Radio Relay League on W1AW send CW at 5 WPM in the same manner as does the FCC.

Taking the Test. Though you must mark your answers to the multiplechoice questions with a pencil, you can copy by pen if you like. Having a pencil point break while copying $C W$ for your license is not a pleasant experience! Since the exams are a "typical amateur"

QSO, you can anticipate some of the items that will be sent, such as signal reports, descriptions of gear, locations, etc. But be prepared for some "clunkers." Items such as call signs and frequencies may pop up unexpectedly in the middle of the text. When you miss a character, resist the temptation to dwell on it. Concentrate on copying the remaining characters. Chances are you'll be able to "fill in" any missing letters by guesswork.

Studying for Tests. Since the exams simulate Amateur QSO's, the best practice is to actually copy Amateur contacts that you hear on your receiver. Proper tapes can be an asset, of course. Finally, don't overlook the previously mentioned ARRL's W1AW transmissions. (For a complete schedule of W1AW transmissions, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the American Radio Relay League, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111.) When copying, be sure to practice for full five-minute periods. Writer's cramp can develop in a hurry when you're not used to writing rapidly without interruption.

Good luck on your exams!

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# Energy Leak Detector Reveals Home Heat and Cooling Losses <br> Provides instantaneous readings of temperature changes to check leaks around doors, windows, etc. <br> BY RALPH TENNY <br> CONSIDERING the high price you pay for the energy to air condition 

and heat your home, you should be aware of how much of your expensive cooled air escapes and how much cold air leaks into your house at the wrong times of the year.

Large air leaks can be easily felt with the hand, of course. But what about those smaller leaks that can add up to a large, expensive one? Now you can find these leaks with the "Energy Leak Detector," described here, and take corrective action.

The Detector, or ELD, is a low-cost differential temperature detector that can be built in an evening. This useful instrument features a new solid-state temperature sensor that has a positive temperature coefficient (PTC). This means that the sensor's resistance increases linearly with temperature.

Circuit Operation. The currentmode amplifier (LM3900) used in the detector amplifies the difference between the current flowing in the two inputs to produce a voltage change at the output

The input circuit is shown in Fig. 1. Note that there is an arrow between the inverting and noninverting inputs in the diagram for this type of amplifier. Also observe that the inputs are simply baseemitter junctions of grounded emitter transistors.



Photo of internal construction shows board attached to meter.

This leads to a very important consideration reçarding current-mode amplifiers: Never apply voltage directly to the inputs that can cause a current flow of 5 $m A$ or more. This limitation allows for
some unusual circuitry that can be an advantage under some circumstances. Two other limitations must also be mentioned. The open-loop gain (gain without feedback) can be as low as 1000:1, and the amplifier will not respond to voltages lower than 0.6 volt.

The amplifier maintains correct operation over a wide variety of power supply voltages, and uses about the same amount of power supply current (exclusive of load current), regardless of the power supply voltage. Thus, the amplifier is well suited for battery operation.

As shown in Fig. 2, temperature sensor TH1 is connected in a bridge circuit consisting of R1, whose value is nominally equal to the $T H 1$ resistance at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ( 1000 ohms) plus R2, R3, and R12. Potentiometer R12 is used to balance the bridge when the sensor is at any given temperature. Voltage for the


Rear view of the detector's front panel with perforated board mounted on meter and battery attached.
bridge ( +3 volts) is furnished by IC1C operated in conjunction with zener diode $D 1$ as a reference. The resulting +3 volts is stable since the current amplifier regulates the zener current. Power is applied only when pushbutton switch S1 is depressed, thus extending battery life.

A change in bridge balance that occurs whenever TH1 changes resistance is amplified by IC1A. The output of IC1A serves as the reference voltage for one input of IC1B, which is used as a current amplifier. When there is a bridge unbalance, the output current of IC1A flows through R7, forcing IC1B to drive Q1 until the current through feedback resistor R10 equals the current through R7. Since meter M1 is in series with the Q1 collector, any current passed through R11 to bias R10 also passes through the meter. Resistor R11 is selected so that M1 indicates about half scale with the bridge balanced at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. If a different sensitivity is required for the ELD, the ratio of R7/R10 can be changed and, most likely, the value of R11 too.

Construction. The circuit can be assembled by any desired method, using perforated board, Wire-Wrap, or a small pc board. A conventional 14-pin socket may be used for $I C 1$.
The author's prototype pictured in this article illustrates how the perforated board (in this case) mounts on the meter lugs. The meter, in turn, is mounted to the metal cover of a small plastic box.
Balance control R12 and pushbutton switch S1 are mounted beside the meter. The battery is mounted in a holder affixed to the bottom of the plastic case. A small hole in the cover plate allows the temperature sensor leads to exit.

The temperature sensor (TH1) can be mounted at the end of a length of plastic, wood, or even thin metal rod. Make sure the sensor is not surrounded by a large mass that can slow the response of the device.

Use. Although this sensor can be used to measure temperature directly (more on this later), for use as a relative temperature sensor, depress switch S1 and adjust balance control R12 for a midscale meter indication.
Touching the sensor with your fingertips, which are relatively warm, should cause an up-scale meter movement. Cooling the sensor should cause a down-scale movement.
With the sensor exposed to ambient air, and the meter adjusted to mid-scale, place the sensor near a suspected air


Fig. 2. Any unbalance in bridge circuit, containing TH1, is amplified and indicated on the meter.

PARTS LIST

BI-9-voli hattery and holder
DI- 1N5 226 diode
ICI-L.M390) quad Norton amplifier
MI-()-1 mA meter (Calectro DI-912, Radio Shack 22-052 or similar)
Q1-2N5449
The following are $1 / 4$-wall resistors unless otherwise noted:
RI-1000)-ohm
R2.R3-22(0)-6hm
R.4. R5-22.000-ohm

R6-2.2-megohm
R7—82(0)-ohm

R8.R9-39.000-0hm
R10-27.(0)(0-ohm
RII-5600-ohm
RI2-1000-ohm, 10-rurn potentioneter
R13-510-ohm
SI-spst NO pushbutton switch
THI-TSPIO2J positive temperature coefficient thermistor (Texas Instruments)
Misc.-Suitable enclosure, mounting hardware. knob.
Note: Sensor, TSPIO2J, is available for $\$ 1.50$ from Tenny, Box 545, Richardson, TX 75080
leak. If there is cold air leaking in, the meter will show a sharp drop as the sensor gets closer to the air leak. Converse$\mathbf{l y}$, if there is a warm air leak, it can be pinpointed with great accuracy by watching the meter move upscale.

Keep in mind that in this configuration you are measuring relative temperature. Also remember that there is a temperature differential between the ceiling and the floor in a room even without an air leak.


Thermometer. The basic probe can be modified to create a thermometer by using the circuit shown in Fig. 3.

Potentiometer R12, used to balance the circuit, is still a 1000 -ohm, 10 -turn potentiometer. But now it has a turnscounting dial. Trimmer potentiometer $R 13$ is a 1000 -ohm, multi-turn type, while R7 and R11 have been changed to 10,000-ohm, multi-turn potentiometers.

Since the circuit has now become a thermometer, it must be calibrated. The basic technique is to create two water baths at each end of the desired temperature range. Since water and ice reach an equilibrium at $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, and water boils at $100^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (at sea level), these are convenient to duplicate.
Assuming a linear sensor, the circuit is adjusted to $0^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and $100^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ with the sensor immersed in the appropriate water bath. With the linear control and turns-counting dial, intermediate temperatures can be read from the dial after the meter is again center-scaled. Compensation for the $100^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ range must be made if you live at high altitudes.

To calibrate the circuit, set up the ice bath and keep it stirred as long as the sensor is immersed in it; also prepare a boiling water bath.

Set potentiometers R7 and R11 to their maximum resistance, and $R 12$ to its minimum resistance. Be sure that the counter on $R 12$ indicates zero when $R 12$ is at its minimum resistance.

Immerse the sensor in the ice water, short the bridge at points $A$ and $B$, and adjust $R 7$ and R11 until the meter indicates at center scale. Remove the short across the bridge and adjust R13 to center the meter again.

Then immerse the sensor in boiling water and set the turns counter of R12 to 10.0. Adjust $R 7$ until the meter is centered, then return the meter to the ice water. Rotate the R12 dial to 0.0 and adjust R11 for a meter center. Return to the hot water and adjust R7, repeating the actions until the meter indicates the temperatures at each end of the scale.

Other temperature ranges may be calibrated, but the dial will no longer indicate the temperature directly. A chart can be created to translate dial indications into temperature.
If you wish to use the ELD as a remote thermometer, the circuit will tolerate a considerable length of lead between the circuit and the sensor. Just be sure that you calibrate the system using the long leads so that resistance will be taken into account.

Happy energy savings!

# Designing Circuits for Worst-Case <br> How to choose components <br> Operation <br>  

0NE CONSTANTLY recurring problem for many hobbyists is that some circuits in the projects they build fail to work properly. Other than improper assembly and bad components, the most probable cause of this problem is that a "typical" circuit design was used. A typical circuit design might be sound on paper, but unless component characteristic variations are taken into account, the design may not produce a working circuit. And the cause is normal component parameter variations. It is important, therefore, that when you design or build a project, you take into account the possible variation range of the components you will be using to ensure that the project works properly.

In this article, we will discuss why component characteristics vary and what can be done to circumvent possible problems. Stated differently, we will discuss how to design for worst-case conditions.

Why They Vary. Component characteristics can vary for any number of reasons. For example, IC's are manufactured in "batch" lots, wherein a number of identical chips are fabricated simultaneously on a single silicon wafer. This approach results in significant manufacturing savings and a very low cost per
circuit element. Unfortunately, the parameters of the individual components can vary greatly from one wafer to the next, even though component characteristics on a single wafer will "track" very closely.

It is not uncommon to find a circuit that contains components whose parameters fall anywhere between their worstcase limits. If the circuit was designed around devices that have typical parameters, there is the possibility that it will not function because it contains a device that operates at an extreme end of its parameters. Here is an example.

Assume a circuit has 50 components. Of these, $80 \%$ have typical parameters and $10 \%$ are sensitive to parameter variations. That means $20 \%$, or 10 components, have atypical characteristics and 5 components are parameter sensitive.

The probability of an event occurring can be defined by the equation $P=$ $M / N$, where $P$ is the probability, $M$ is the number of times the event is expected to occur, and N is the number of trials. Hence, the probability of a sensitive component occurring per circuit is $1 / 10$, while the probability of a component having atypical performance is $1 / 5$.

By the Law of Multiplication Probability (compound probability), when an event is regarded as occurring if a num-

(A)

Fig. 1. A theoretical capacitor (A) actually contains parasitic $R$ and $L$. Theoretical equivalent of an inductor (B) is even more complex.


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[^3]Book 3: Half adders and full adders; subtractors; serial and parallel adders; processors and arithmetic logic units (ALUs); multiplication and division systems.

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Fig. 2. Maximum sinking current as a function of power supply voltage variation.


Fig. 3. Maximum input forward current as a function of the input voltage.
also true for combining gates and other elements of IC's. When circuit elements are so combined, a block diagram is created. The self-contained entities can then be individually analyzed and the results combined to analyze total circuit performance. This approach also allows system partitioning and interconnection methods to be considered, as well as such problems as impedance matching, level shifting, and fan-out.

The entire circuit's specifications can be divided down to the individual blocks that are sufficiently detailed to be treated on a stand-alone basis. All characteristics must be considered. If the circuit
block does not satisfy the detailed requirements (input and output impedance, temperature range, threshold levels, propagation delay, hold times, etc.), the circuit must be modified.

Every component in a circuit must be allowed to vary over its full range of values, as specified by its tolerance, and still allow satisfactory circuit operation. It is the tolerance range that specifies the worst-case parameter range.
Every component contains parasitic components, such as capacitance, inductance, and resistance. In many circuits, the parasitic components are observed only during worst-case condi-

TABLE I-SWITCHING CHARACTERISTICS $V_{C C}=5 \mathrm{~V}, \mathrm{~T}_{\mathrm{A}}=25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$

| Parameter* | From input | To input | Test | Min. | Typ. | Max. | Units |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ${ }^{\text {P PLH }}$ | A | Q | $\begin{aligned} & C_{e x t}=0 \\ & R_{\text {ext }}=5 k \\ & C_{L}=15 \mathrm{pF} \\ & R_{L}=400 \end{aligned}$ |  | 22 | 23 | ns |
|  | B |  |  |  | 19 | 28 | ns |
| ${ }^{\text {t PHL }}$ | A | Q |  |  | 30 | 40 | ns |
|  | B |  |  |  | 27 | 36 | ns |
| ${ }^{\text {t }}$ PHL | Clear | Q |  |  | 18 | 27 | ns |
| ${ }^{\text {P PLH }}$ |  | Q |  |  | 30 | 40 | ns |
| ${ }_{\text {twormin) }}$ | A or B | Q |  |  | 45 | 65 | ns |
| two | A or B | Q | $\begin{aligned} & C_{\text {ext }}=1000 \mathrm{pF} \\ & R_{\text {ext }}=10 \mathrm{k} \\ & C_{\mathrm{L}}=15 \mathrm{pF} \\ & \mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{L}}=400 \end{aligned}$ | 2.76 | 3.03 | 3.37 | $\mu \mathrm{S}$ |

${ }^{*} \mathrm{P}_{\mathrm{PLH}}=$ propagation delay time, low- to high-level output
${ }^{{ }^{\mathrm{P}} \mathrm{PHL}}=$ propagation delay time, high- to low-level output
$t_{w Q}=$ width of pulse at output $Q$

## TABLE II-RECOMMENDED OPERATING CONDITIONS

| Parameter | Min. | Nom. | Max. | Units |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Supply voltage, $\mathbf{V}_{\mathbf{C C}}$ | 4.75 | 5 | 5.25 | V |
| High-level output current, $\mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{OH}}$ |  |  | -800 | $\mu \mathrm{~A}$ |
| Low-level output current, $\mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{OL}}$ |  |  | 16 | mA |
| Operating free-air temp., $\mathrm{T}_{\mathbf{A}}$ | 0 |  | 70 | ${ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ |

## TABLE III-ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATING OVER FREE-AIR TEMPERATURE RATING

| Supply voltage, $\mathbf{V}_{\mathrm{CC}} *$ | 7 V |
| :--- | :---: |
| Input voltage | 5.5 V |
| Operating free-air |  |
| $\quad$ temperature range | $0-70^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ |
| Storage temperature range -65 to $+150^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ |  |
|  |  |
| "Voltage values are with respect to network |  |
| ground terminal. |  |

5000 ohms. (If you were making only one circuit, you could hand-select the components to make it work, but this is not a safe approach to use in a construction article.) Now note $t_{w Q}$ when $C_{\text {ext }}$ is 1000 pF and Rext is 10,000 ohms. The width of the pulse can be between 2.76 and $3.37 \mu \mathrm{~s}$. Hence, the value can range from $+8.9 \%$ to $-11.2 \%$ of the typical specified value for the given $R$ and $C$ values. Note also that the spec sheet does not tell you that this error is linear throughout the $t_{W Q}$ range. For all we know, this may be the best point on the curve. So, when designing such a circuit, make certain that your design can accommodate this type of tolerance.

Note the column in Table II headed Nom (nominal). This value is the one for which you should strive, but you may find that it is not possible to obtain or hold it through the design.

It should be understood that one parameter may affect another. For example, consider the effect of varying the power supply voltage on the output sinking current (lOL). The output sinking current is a linear function of the power supply voltage, as shown in Fig. 2. When the supply potential is 4.75 volts, the output can sink 15 mA . A similar condition can be observed in Fig. 3, where the maximum input forward current ( IF ) is shown as a function of input voltage. Here again, the variation of one parameter can cause a variation in another.

At this point, you should realize that you must know which characteristics are important so that you can design with a knowledge of their probable variations. To do this, you must know just what will affect a given parameter.

All of the parameters thus far discussed have been of the type that can cause circuit failure, not failure of a component. Most IC data sheets carry a set of catastrophic characteristics, such as those listed in Table III. With resistors and capacitors, characteristics like maximum power dissipation and breakdown voltage should never be exceeded. Never come close to these specifications in your circuit designs.

Summing Up. If you use the techniques detailed in this article, or keep them in mind, your circuits will work and so will other circuits built from your design. If you build projects from magazines, steer clear of broad-tolerance components, especially in critical components. Do not be afraid to test semiconductors and passive components before using them.


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OCTOBER 1978

## BUILD A STEREO

MOST STEREO recordings made in a professional studio begin as a number of "tracks" (usually 16 or more) on tape, which are subsequently mixed down to two channels. During mixing, the apparent location of each instrument and vocalist is fixed in the final left and right channels by its relative loudness. Usually, the listener cannot alter the mix other than by transposing or by blending the two channels to reduce stereo separation. With the "Stereo Roto-Blender," however, he can remix the recording, within certain limitations, to improve the mix and emphasize previously "buried" sounds. It also allows him to blend and transpose the two resulting channels in the conventional manner. The new mix will have roughly the same channel separation as the original program.

The Basic System. The Roto-Blender is made up of two basic parts: a stereo ROTATE control, which is the heart of its remixing capabilities, and a stereo blend control (Fig. 1). The rotate control "rotates" the performers in a circle around the listener. With the control centered, the mix is unaltered. As it is rotated clockwise, the sounds originating from the left and center shift to the right. The sound originating from the right moves over to the left to complete the rotation.

The above effect is illustrated in Fig. 2. Note that, with the Rotate control centered (NORMAL), a vocalist is centered between a guitar on the left and a piano on the right. By rotating the control to the left, the vocalist and piano shift one position to the left and the guitar

> Lets you manipulate your stereo to blend or transpose the two channels.

comes over to the right. Exactly the opposite rotation occurs when the control is rotated in the clockwise direction. The control alters both the sonic directions and relative loudnesses of each sound. Normally, when a sound is shifted to the center, it becomes louder, and when it is shifted away from center, it becomes quieter. This allows the listener to emphasize interesting or previously unnoticed sounds.

The BLEND control allows you to reduce channel separation down to monaural as it is turned from fully clockwise to center. Rotating the control counterclockwise causes the separation to increase, this time with the left and right channels transposed. This transposition provides additional flexibility in the remixing process.

About the Circuit. The left- and rightchannel inputs to the Roto-Blender in Fig. 1 are buffered by IC1A and IC1B and passed to differential amplifier IC1C whose output is an $R-L$ signal. This signal is similar to the combined left- and right-channel signals minus the centerchannel material. NULL ADJ control R13 permits the center-channel material to be precisely cancelled to achieve optimum results.

The R - L signal is inverted by IC1D to produce an $L$ - $R$ signal. The left- and right-channel signals plus the composite signals are applied to ROTATE potentiometer R14. Figure 3 illustrates the signals applied to R14 and indicates how the resulting output signals on each control wiper vary over the range of the potentiometers. An important feature of this arrangement is the cancellation of one channel when the control is at its center of rotation, leaving only the remaining channel, attenuated by one half. In this manner, normal stereo is obtained at center of rotation. The attenuation is counteracted by IC2A and IC2B, whose boosted outputs are added to the R14 outputs through R11 and R12. This does not affect the signal at the extreme positions of the rotate control, due to the potentiometer's zero source impedance, but increases in effect as the pot is adjusted to its center position. This results in a nearly constant loudness at all positions of the potentiometer for most stereo signals.

After rotation occurs, the signals are applied to buffer amplifiers $1 C 2 C$ and IC2D. BLEND control $R 15$ mixes the signals in varying proportions to achieve


Fig. 1. The left and right stereo signals are buffered in IC1A and IC1B and combined in IClC. Potentiometer $R 13$ adjusts the null.


PIANO EMPHASIZED

gUITAR EMPHASIZED
Fig. 2. With R14 centered, as in middle diagram, vocalist is between piano and guitar. With $R 14$ rotated to either extreme, relative positions are changed.
either normal or reversed stereo, mono, or anything in between. These signals are then buffered by IC3A and IC3B, after which they are delivered to the RotoBlender's outputs. Capacitors C3 and C4 are optional and are required only if the input to the amplifier to which the Roto-Blender is connected does not have similar capacitors. Their values should be chosen to have a low impedance at 20 Hz , compared to the impedance of the amplifier.

The Roto-Blender can be either battery powered as shown in Fig. 1 or driven by a $\pm 6$-to- $\pm 15$-volt ac operated supply, which should be decoupled using capacitors C5 through C10 located close to the $+V$ and $-V$ pins of each op amp used. (The op amps used in the author's prototype were 4136 quad types, which required only three IC packages. If you use a different op-amp type, and almost any other type will work in this circuit, you will have to increase the number of $0.01-\mu \mathrm{F}$ capacitors so that two capacitors are used for each IC package.)


Construction. The circuit can be assembled on a printed circuit board of your own design or on a perforated board using pencil wiring techniques. In either case, it is a good idea to use sockets for the IC's. Mount the potentiometer controls, input and output jacks, and POWER and IN/OUT switches on the box in which the circuit is housed. Use a drytransfer lettering kit to label the controls, jacks, and switches according to function and operation.

Application. The Roto-Blender unit should be connected to suitable highlevel inputs and outputs for optimum results. You can connect it between a preamplifier and power amplifier or,

Fig. 3. The left and right signals and the composite are applied to R14 as shown. Note how the resulting output signals on each control wiper vary over potentiometer range.
lacking this facility, into the tape-monitor loop. It is a good idea to hook it up ahead of the headphone amplifier, since the Roto-Blender is best appreciated using headphones.

For proper operation, the Roto-Blender should be nulled to counteract imbalances in the source material and preceding electronics. This can be done by disconnecting the right channel output of the Roto-Blender and, with the ROTATE and BLEND controls fully clockwise, adjusting the NULL ADJ control to exactly cancel the center sounds of the program source. If a mono source is used, adjust for minimum sound. Excessive distortion heard at this time indicates either a worn record or stylus or
some other deficiency in the source material or amplifier's electronics.

Cancellation of center sounds with some recordings is not possible when the sounds are reproduced differently in each channel, using reverberation techniques. This case should not be confused with the case where distortion prevents nulling with a raspy sound.

Once nulling is accomplished, the right channel can be reconnected and the rotate pot should be centered for normal stereo reproduction. If an instrument on the left-a trombone, for exam-ple-is to be emphasized, rotate the sound to the right by turning the rotate control clockwise. This moves the trombone to the center, where it will be more dominant. At this point, if the BLEND control is rotated fully counterclockwise, the trombone will remain centered while the left and right channels will be effectively transposed.

The effects achieved by the RotoBlender are a function of the source material and cannot be fully described here. Perhaps the most fascinating aspect of the Roto-Blender is its ability to bring forth sounds that were never noticed before.

## How to Measure THE RESISTANCE OF HOT ELEMENTS

## BY ALVIN G. SYDNOR

ACONVENIENT means of measuring the hot resistance of lamp filaments, or other elements whose resistance changes with operating temperature is a highly desirable item for the electronics experimenter. This is especially true in cases where these elements are used in circuits requiring close voltage tolerances.
Although there are several ways to measure hot resistance, excellent results can be obtained from the simple circuit shown here

Using conventional components, the circuit has a range from one or two ohms, up to several thousands.
The transformer should have a secondary voltage and current sufficient to fully illuminate the lamp under test. In the case of a 117 -volt lamp, $T 1$ should be a $1: 1$ isolation type whose secondary can handle the required lamp current.

The range of the bridge is about 100:1 and depends on the value of R2. A 10ohm value of $R 2$ enables measurement between one and 100 ohms, while an R2 value of 100 ohms, produces a $10-$ to- 1000 -ohm range. The lower the resistance of R2, the more accurate the measurement. This is due to the low voltage drop across R2. The wattage of R2 should be such that it can handle the necessary load.

If the lamp must be measured at full operating voltage, measure the voltage across the lamp. Then increase the input voltage to overcome the voltage drop across R2.

With the circuit connected as shown in the schematic (R3 not installed), adjust R1 until the ac voltmeter indication is at a minimum. Switch to a lower voltmeter range as the minimum is approached. Record the value indicated on the ac voltmeter.
Without disturbing the setting of R1, remove the lamp under test, and substitute potentiometer R3 for the lamp. This potentiometer can have a value between 100 and 1000 ohms.
Adjust R3 until the ac voltmeter indicates the same value as that previously recorded. Remove R3 from the circuit and measure its resistance. This will be the hot resistance of the lamp.


This circuit can be used to measure resistances up to several kilohms.


IT IS OFTEN necessary to simulate a wide range of load conditions when building and repairing power supplies. To perform such a task, a large supply of power resistors or a power-resistor substitution box would normally be required. However, the "Active Power R Box" described here reduces the demand to a minimum. The R Box can convert any resistor, whether fixed or potentiometer, into 40-watt power resistors.

The R Box's active circuitry is programmed by an external resistor, connected across terminals $A$ and $B$ in the schematic diagram, so that it functions as a power resistor with a value that is

1/1000 of the external resistor's actual value. There is also a 1 -ohm resistance preprogrammed into the circuit that adds to the resistance programmed in. Hence, if an 8000 -ohm resistor is placed across programming terminals $A$ and $B$, the resulting power resistance will be ( $8000 / 1000$ ) $+1=9$ ohms.

The $R$ Box can be programmed to serve as a constant-current load if desired. This is accomplished by replacing the programming resistor with a dc bias voltage between terminal $B$ and the negative ( - ) terminal. It is important that the positive side of the biasing source be connected to terminal B . The magnitude


The circuit of the " $R$ Box" converts the resistance at terminals $A$ and $B$ to $1 / 1000$ its value plus one ohm and circuit can handle 40 watts. Use 12-gauge wire for power circuit (heavy lines).
of the programming current load will be 1 ampere per volt on terminal $B$. For example, if terminal $B$ is biased at 150 mV , the positive terminal of the R Box will take in 150 mA for all supply potentials.

The input potential must be restricted to 40 volts, and maximum power (input voltage times input current) must be limited to 40 watts. Also, the proper polarity must be observed or the R Box will not operate. The R Box will operate for supply outputs as low as 3 volts. The maximum allowable current is 3 amps .

When assembling the R Box, use 12gauge wire for the high-current path (shown with heavy line in schematic diagram) and minimize the length of this wiring. Since the current drain of the dual operational-amplifier circuit (IC1) is only about 5 mA , a pair of 9 -volt batteries for B1 and B2 will do fine. Mount the 10-watt, 0.5 -ohm resistor (R5) so that the heat generated in it does not increase the heat of power-Darlington transistor Q1.

The heart of the R Box is transistor Q1. It can be a Motorola MJ1000 or any other suitable power-Darlington npn transistor. During assembly, Q1 must be mounted on an adequate heat sink, such as the Wakefield No. NC-403-2.

The dual op amps in IC1 sense both the input voltage and the potential across the 0.5 -ohm resistor and compute the required base drive for Q1 so that the desired performance is obtained. The accuracy of the R Box will be very good if $1 \%$ tolerance resistors are used throughout the circuit. The resistors can be rated at $1 / 4$ or $1 / 2$ watt, except for R5, since little current flows through the circuit.


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## BUILD A KEYBOARD CONVERSION CIRCUIT

## Three /C's convert spst keyboard output to column-row format used by decoder chips.

ESSENTIALLY, there are two types of keyboards available for the digital experimenter. These are column-row types, and low-cost keyboards having independent spst switches with one side of the switches sharing a common bus.

There are several decoder chips (such as the 74C922 16-key and the
$X$-inputs to the decoder chip. The row $(Y)$ signals are also bussed to form the $Y$-inputs to the decoder.
The individual keys are grounded on one side, with the other side tied to each buffer input. Each key may be tied high through a pull-up resistor to improve noise immunity. The three-state enable


Buffers A through F are on one IC (DM8097, DM7097, or SN74367); G-L on second; and M-P on third.

74C923 20-key decoder) that provide all the logic necessary to fully decode a col-umn-row device. The circuit shown here converts an independent spst keyboard into the column-row format that can be used with the above mentioned decoder chips.

The circuit requires three DM8097, DM7097 or SN74367 noninverting hex three-state buffers. The columns have their three-state enable pins bussed together with these lines serving as the
lines $(X)$ are scanned by one input at a time going low, or becoming active with the next one becoming active and the others inactive, etc., until all columns have been scanned (tested). This action enables a column, and each individual keyswitch enables its associated buffer (within the enabled column). The col-umn-row enabled input is applied to one of the 16- or 20-key decoder logic where it is latched at the output. The output of the decoder is also three-state.


Solid State

## CHIRP, JANGLE, WOOSH, BOOM!

AVERSATILE and unusual IC, virtually made-to-order for the experimenter and hobbyist, has been introduced by Texas Instruments, Inc., Box 84, Sherman, TX 75090. Designated the SN76477 complex sound generator, the new device is a monolithic IC combining both bipolar analog and $\mathrm{I}^{2} \mathrm{~L}$ digital circuitry on a single silicon wafer. It includes basic circuit "blocks" which can be interconnected to produce an almost unlimited number of special sound effects ranging from a dog's bark or bird chirp to a gunshot or explosion. With the proper choice of external components, the SN76477 is capable of developing either familiar sounds such as a train whistle or futuristic sounds such as a "talking computer" or firing "phaser" ray gun. Offered in both standard 0.6 -inch ( $1.5-\mathrm{cm}$ ) wide type N and the smaller 0.4 -inch (1.0-cm) type NF 28 -pin DIP's, the SN76477 can be powered by either a 5 -volt regulated dc supply or well-filtered dc at 7.5 to 10.0 volts.

Not only is the SN76477 capable of producing a virtually unlimited variety of special sound effects, but the number of ways in which these may be used is limited only by the imagination and skill of the circuit designer and builder. In fact, a more experienced hobbyist might easily assemble a widerange "Sound Effects Generator" by combining the SN76477 with a power amplifier, loudspeaker, and dc power supply. Such a project would also require multiple input and output jacks for the device terminals, potentiometers, various control switches, and a broad assortment of external components, selectable by means of appropriate rotary or toggle switches.

The functional block diagram of the new device is shown in Fig. 1. The SN76477 comprises a super-low-frequency (slf)
oscillator, a programmable logic circuit permitting a choice of inputs to a voltage-controlled oscillator (vco), a noise clock, noise generator, noise filter, mixer, logic circuits for both systems inhibit and envelope selection, a one-shot, an envelope generator and modulator, an output buffer amplifier, and voltage regulator. Most of the circuits can be controlled or programmed externally by suitable components or signals. Circuit inputs identified with circles are programmed by using different capacitor values, squares identify programming by means of various resistors, triangles via logic levels and diamonds by analog voltages. Device pinout is shown in Fig. 2.

The slf oscillator has a nominal range of 0.1 to 30 Hz , depending on the $R$ and $C$ values used for programming, but can be used to generate frequencies as high as $20,000 \mathrm{~Hz}$. It supplies two output signals, a $50 \%$ duty-cycle square wave which is applied to the Mixer and a triangle wave which can be routed to either an external vco or, through the sLf SELECT logic circuit, to the on-chip vco which can supply a fixed or frequen-cy-modulated output over an almost 10:1 frequency range. Its lowest frequency is established by the values of the external resistor and capacitor connected to pins 18 and 17, respectively. The vco's output signal also is coupled to the mixer. A noise clock generates clock pulses to control the noise generator which, in turn, develops pseudo-random white noise that is applied through a variable-bandwidth, low-pass noise filter to the mixer. Accepting input signals from one or more sources (slf, vco, noise filter), the mixer performs a logical AND function and delivers the resulting signal to the envelope generator and modulator circuit. The mixer output is estab-

Fig. 1. Functional block diagram of Texas Instruments' new SN76477 Complex Sound Generator integrated circuit.


lished by the logic levels applied to its three select terminals, pins 25, 26 and 27.

System inhibit logic circuit controls the system's output and also triggers a separate one-shot used to develop short-duration momentary sounds such as gunshots, bells or explosions. The duration of the one-shot's output is determined by the values of the control resistor and capacitor connected to pins 24 and 23 , respectively, with the maximum period of approximately 10 seconds. The one-shot does not generate a sound signal itself, but is coupled through the envelope select logic circuit to the envelope generator and modulator, which provides an envelope for the signals from the mixer.

The envelope select logic circuit establishes the overall shape of the envelope which amplitude modulates the combined signal obtained from the mixer. Depending on the logic signals applied to Envelope select control pins 1 and 28, one of several operating modes can be selected, including vco, mixer only, one-shot, and vco with alternating cycles. The final shaping of the generated signal is performed by the envelope generator and modulator circuit, where the slf, vco, and filtered noise signals from the mixer are controlled by the system inhibit logic and modulated with the envelope established by the envelope select logic. This circuit also acts to modify the resulting signal's attack (rise time) and decay (fall time) characteristics.
Developing a maximum 2.5 volts, peak-to-peak, the output amplifier buffers the signal so that it can be applied to an external modulator or power amplifier. The buffer has a low output impedance. Finally, the regulator is designed to operate from either of two power sources. If available, 5 volts regulated dc can be applied to pin $15\left(\mathrm{~V}_{\mathrm{REG}}\right)$. Alternatively, 7.5 to 10
volts unregulated dc can be applied to pin $14\left(\mathrm{~V}_{\mathrm{CC}}\right)$, in which case the on-chip regulator will furnish a 5 V regulated output at up to 10 mA to power other circuits.

In summary, the SN76477 generates complex audio signal waveforms by combining the outputs of a low frequency oscillator, variable frequency (voltage controlled) oscillator, and noice source, modulating the resulting composite signal with a selected envelope and, finally, adjusting the signal's attack and decay periods. At each stage, the process can be controlled at the programming inputs of the signal modification and generation circuits, using control voltages, logic levels, or different resistor and capacitor values.

Representative signal waveforms developed during the process are illustrated in Fig. 3. The mixer output in the example shown in Fig. 3A is a variable-frequency signal containing filtered noise elements. This is modulated with a pulse envelope obtained from the one-shot and then shaped to form different types of sounds by altering the signal's attack and decay. In the second example (Fig. 3B), the mixer output is modulated by a repetitive pulse derived from the vco.

Different sounds are developed by varying the attack or decay, or both. The attack and decay can be modified by connecting different capacitor values to pin 8 and different resistor values to pins 10 and 7 which control the attack and decay, respectively.

Practical circuits featuring the SN76477 are illustrated in the figures. These were selected from among many circuits described in TI's data sheets. All feature a simple but effective audio amplifier to provide a low-level loudspeaker output and are designed for operation on a standard 9 -volt transistor battery. At those points in the circuits where 5 V is required, it

Fig. 3. Complex signal waveforms showing different attack and decay characteristics with (A) one-shot and (B) voltage-controlled oscillator modulation envelopes.


can be derived from pin 15 of the IC. All can be assembled using standard, readily available components. Except where potentiometers are specified, all resistors are either $1 / 4$ - or $1 / 2$ watt components. Small capacitors can be ceramic, plastic film, or tubular paper units; larger capacitances are 15 -volt electrolytics.

Neither layout nor lead dress are critical in any of the circuits, which can be duplicated using a solderless breadboard, perforated or printed circuit board. The usual precautions should be observed when soldering to avoid overheating the semiconductors, and all polarities must be observed.
When duplicating a normally loud sound such as a gunshot or explosion, it will be necessary to couple the circuit to a highpower audio amplifier driving a large loudspeaker. However, a 4-to-6-inch (10.2-to-15.3-cm) loudspeaker and the push-pull amplifier shown in the schematics should be adequate for most applications.

Designed to simulate the sounds of either a gunshot or explosion, the circuit shown in Fig. 4A is triggered by applying a 5 -volt pulse through a momentary-contact, normally open pushbutton switch to the system inhibit logic and one-shot cir-
cuits (pin 9). The 5 -volt dc level required here as well as for the envelope select logic (pin 1) and mixer select (pin 25) is obtained from the IC's $V_{\text {REG }}$ output (pin 15). Different resistor values are used to program the noise filter circuit (pin 5) to simulate the two sounds, $(82,000$ ohms for a gunshot and 330,000 ohms for an explosion).

Several different sounds can be simulated by the circuit shown in Fig. 4B, including a siren, space war, or "phaser" gun, depending on the adjustment of the 200,000 -ohm RATE CONTROL potentiometer. For increased realism, the IC's oneshot (pins 9, 23, 24) and decay (pins 8,7) functions can be implemented. As before, +5 volts dc needed for pins $1,19,22$ is obtained from $V_{\text {REG }}$ ( $\operatorname{pin} 15$ ).

Circuits for simulating the sounds of a racing car motor or crash and a chugging steam engine or reciprocating airplane engine are shown in Fig. 5A and 5B, respectively. In the first circuit, the racing car motor's rev rate is adjustable by means of a 100,000 -ohm potentiometer which varies the dc voltage applied to the external vco control input (pin 16). The maximum and minimum rev rates are set by fixed resistors in series with the potentiometer. A crashing sound is initiated by

depressing a spst normally open pushbutton switch, which applies a voltage pulse through a $10-\mu \mathrm{F}$ capacitor to the system inhibit logic and one-shot circuits (pin 9), simultaneously changing the envelope select (pin 1) and mixer select (pin 25) settings.
In the second circuit, the slf oscillator frequency is controlled by a 1-megohm potentiometer connected to one of its programming input (pin 20). As this Rate COntrol is adjusted from a very low to a moderately low frequency, the generated sound is like that of a steam engine gradually increasing in speed. At higher frequencies, the sound approximates that of a propeller-driven airplane.

From a technical viewpoint, there's virtually no limit to the number and types of sounds that can be generated using one, two, three or more SN76477 IC's in conjunction with multiplexing and external programming networks. By using pro-
grammable analog switches to select outputs from different units, for example, a clever experimeter easily could create circuits to generate background jungle noises, night sounds, complete battlefield or eerie haunted-house sounds, or even musical selections interspersed with unusual sound effects. In commercial and industrial alarm applications, different sounds could be used to identify various danger conditions, such as illegal entry, fire, basement flooding, or power failure. The IC's are available through Tl franchised dealers and are relatively inexpensive. The rest is up to your imagination!

Reader's Circuit. Alan Peter Allegra (218 11th Ave., Bethlehem, PA 18018) was intrigued with J. Fortuna's "Digistart" project in our column of April 1977. One of his friends, Frank Resul, had designed a "combination lock" digital ignition switch for his ' 75 VW sometime earlier.

Fig. 6. Reader's circuit for a digital combination lock for a car's ignition switch.


Although it is based on the same operating principle as Fortuna's design (flip-flops must be actuated in the proper sequence for operation), the Resul/Allegra circuit shown in Fig. 6 is different in a number of details. First, the dual J-K flip-flops (IC1 through IC5)) are wired as simple toggles rather than in the J-K configuration. Second, there is no interlocked timer, permitting the operator ample time to set the combination, because reader Resul felt that the odds were against a thief hitting the right sequence by pure chance. Third, a LED indicator has been provided to alert the operator when the proper sequence has been completed. Fourth, a nine, rather than five, number (letter) sequence is required for operation.

Referring to the schematic diagram, the dual flip-flops, IC1


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# Hobby Scene / 人áy 

By John McVeigh

## SPEAKER IMPEDANCE


#### Abstract

Q. How does one measure the impedance of a speaker system to determine, for example, if it is 4,8 or 16 ohms? If a manufacturer states that his amplifier is designed for use with 8 -ohm loads, is it possible to use 4or 16 -ohm speakers instead? What matching techniques, if any, can be used to make the amplifier and speakers compatible?-Ronald $L$. Williams, Ithaca, NY.


A. When a loudspeaker's impedance is given as 4,8 , or 16 ohms, a nominal rating is being reported. In actuality, a speaker's impedance will vary dramatically with frequency. The absolute value

Impedance is the vector sum of resistance, inductive reactance and capacitive reactance. To fully describe its variation with frequency, impedance must be plotted in the complex plane (Fig. B). You might not be familiar with the operator " j ." This symbol is used by electrical engineers in place of the mathematician's "i" (the square root of negative one) to avoid confusion with current terms, which are traditionally expressed by " $i$ " or "I." If a reactance is written as " +j 10 ," it is 10 ohms of inductive reactance. A reactance expressed as "-j10" is 10 ohms of capacitive reactance.

You might be surprised by the relatively large incursions into the capacitive


Fig. A. Impedance vs. frequency for a typical two-way speaker system.
of a representative two-way speaker system's impedance is plotted against frequency in Fig. A. Immediately obvious is a peak in the system's impedance at its resonant frequency, here about 55 Hz . A secondary peak occurs at about 800 Hz .

A loudspeaker's impedance is far from constant over the audio frequency range. How then, do manufacturers arrive at an 8 -ohm rating? The EIA standard specifies that the rated impedance is the minimum value noted as the driving signal's frequency is increased above that of resonance. This is sometimes referred to as the trough impedance. For modern speakers, the trough is usually located at about 400 Hz .
region. Although part of the reason for this is the intrinsic capacitance of the voice coil, a larger contribution is due to the back emf generated by the speaker. This voltage is $180^{\circ}$ out of phase with the applied signal, so it "looks" like the product of a capacitive reactance.

Clearly visible in the polar impedance plot is the resonant frequency of the system ( 55 Hz ), at which point the impedance is 25 ohms resistive. The complex nature of the system's impedance is also obvious. The rated "nominal" impedance of this system is 5 ohms , the minimum value it attains above system resonance.

Contemporary solid-state power amplifiers have low output impedances.

They usually work well into 4 -, 8 -, or 16 ohm (nominal) loads without requiring any impedance matching. Of course, an amplifier will produce more output power when coupled to a lower output impedance. This is a fact well known to those who follow Julian Hirsch's Audio Reports. Test results of a new superpower amplifier indicate the following output power levels at clipping: 207 watts into 16 ohms (per channel!); 312.5 watts into 8 ohms; 458 watts into 4 ohms.


Fig. B. Speaker impedance plotted in complex plane.

On the other hand, vacuum-tube circuits usually have high output impedance, necessitating the use of imped-ance-matching output transformers. These transformers usually have selectable taps to provide the right match for 4,8 and 16 ohms. When impedances are matched, maximum power transfer occurs.

As noted earlier, transistorized amplifiers will usually work with loads in the 4-to-16-ohm range. They will work a little harder driving 4 -ohm speakers, producing somewhat greater output levels. Rarely, however, will trouble result when 4 -ohm loads are used. This is not true when the load impedance is reduced to, say, 2 ohms-a condition which results when two 4 -ohm speakers are wired in parallel. To avoid such problems, follow the manufacturer's guidelines concerning output impedance. Most amplifier designs now include protective circuitry to prevent excessive output levels. This protection can be supplemented by properly fusing the speaker lines.

[^4]
# 부우ํ Experimenter's Corner 

By Forrest M. Mims

## ANALOG TO DIGITAL CONVERTERS, PART 2

INN OUR FIRST look at A/D converters, we briefly examined several ways of converting analog information such as a variable voltage into the binary format that microprocessors and other digital circuits understand. We also developed a homebrew parallel or flash A/D converter made from a voltage divider and a series of comparators. Now we're going to increase the resolution of our homebrew A/D converter from two bits (00-11) to four BCD digits (0000-1001). We're also going to substitute a single IC for the complicated network of gates we previously used to encode in binary form the output of the comparators.

Parallel A/D Converter with BCD Output. Figure 1 shows the circuit of the simplified A/D converter with increased resolution. The heart of the new


Fig. I. Parallel A/D converter.
circuit is the $\mathbf{7 4 1 4 7}$ priority encoder. This chip is not often used in experimenter circuits. It's a standard 7400 series TTL part, however, and is available from many mail-order suppliers in the "Elec-


Fig. 2. Pin outline and truth table for the 74147.
tronics Marketplace" section of Popu: Lar Electronics.
The technical designation for the 74147 is 10 -line-to-4-line priority encoder. It's an MSI (medium scale integration) device comprising 31 gates, and is available in both conventional and lowpower (74LS147) versions.

The 74147 has ten inputs and four outputs. It's called a priority encoder be-
cause it encodes only the highest priority or most significant input and ignores all others. In other words, if inputs 1, 3,5 and 7 are active, only input 7 will be encoded since it has the highest priority. The binary output will then be 0111. This feature makes the 74147 ideal for use as a simple single-chip encoder for calculator and telephone keypads.

Figure 2 shows both the pin outline and truth table of the 74147. Notice that an active input is low (L) while an inactive input is high ( H ). The status of each input below that with the highest priority is irrelevant. Therefore, these "don't care" states are indicated by X's.

In Part 1 we covered the operation of the voltage-divider and comparator portions of the homebrew parallel A/D converter. Now that you know how the 74147 works, look back at Figure 1 again and note how simple the complete A/D converter becomes when the encoding network used in the original circuit is replaced by the 74147. Keep in mind that this simplification is accompanied by an increase in resolution from two bits to four BCD digits.

The circuit in Figure 1 employs four LED's to indicate the BCD output. The highest-order comparator is connected to an additional LED to indicate an overrange condition. You can use this basic circuit for such A/D converter applications as a single-digit voltmeter, storing analog data in a RAM for later retrieval, and supplying analog data to a 4-bit microprocessor.

In operation, an analog voltage is connected to the circuit's input. The potentiometer (at the top left) is then adjusted to give the desired calibration factor, which can range from a few millivolts/LED to one volt/LED (see Part 1). As the input voltage is gradually increased, one or more of the output


Fig. 3. Adding a digital readout to the $A / D$ converter.

LED's may tend to oscillate on and off at certain critical points. This is caused by the highest priority comparator rapidly switching on and off as the voltage applied to it via the resistive divider just reaches its turn-on threshold.
This is usually not a major problem when only LED's are connected to the outputs because the oscillating LED's just glow dimmer than those that are fully on. Oscillation can cause major problems, however, if the circuit is coupled into another digital circuit as false readings can occur. One way to reduce or eliminate the oscillation is to reduce the gain, hence the sensitivity, of the comparators. This can be done by connecting a 100,000 -ohm resistor between the noninverting $(+)$ input and the output of each comparator.

Single-Digit Voltmeter. It's easy to use the basic A/D converter in Fig. 1 as a simple single-digit voltmeter with the help of a 7404 hex inverter, a 7447 BCD to 7 -segment decoder and any com-mon-anode LED display. Figure 3 shows how the new components are connected together and added to the circuit in Fig. 1

The inverters are necessary to change the BCD data from the 74147 to the logic levels accepted by the 7447 . The decimal point of the display is used as an overrange indicator. The four LED's connected to the 74147 in Fig. 1 can either be removed or left in place when the 7 -segment readout components are added. They will not affect the operation of the circuit, although they will increase current consumption.

The single-digit voltmeter has some interesting and very practical applications. It's great for checking approximate voltages in battery-powered equipment. It also allows you to check quickly the approximate voltage level of rechargeable cells and batteries. It can even be assembled into a miniature probe and used as a hand-held voltmeter.

As you will recall from Part 1, the parallel A/D converter can be used as a timer by connecting a capacitor directly across its inputs. Try this with the singledigit voltmeter and you'll have a 0-9 (plus overrange) timer that can indicate fractions of a second to several minutes per count. Larger capacitors provide longer intervals. You can also measure resistance with the single-digit voltme-


Fig. 4. Ten-position movingdot readout circuit.
ter. Just connect the input terminals directly across the unknown resistance.
In all these applications it's necessary to calibrate the circuit by adjusting the 100,000 -ohm potentiometer in the volt-


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age divider. For best results, use a knob with a pointer and a homemade scale. This will help insure repeatable results. In some applications you'll want to increase the value of the 100,000 -ohm potentiometer. By using a $10-$ megohm potentiometer, for example, I was able to measure the resistance of a human chain formed by a dozen people.

Moving-Dot Readout. You can use solid-state electronics to simulate a mechanical meter movement with the help of the circuit in Fig. 4. This circuit, like the previous one, is connected directly to the A/D converter of Fig. 1.

In operation, a voltage increasing from zero lights each LED in succession until the overrange LED glows. Note that
only one of the LED's connected to the 74145 glows at any instant. This produces a moving-dot effect that draws less current than a bargraph or "thermometer" readout made by connecting LED's directly to the outputs of the comparators in the A/D converter (see Part 1). Because only one LED is on at any instant, a single current-limiting series


The subject of the June 1978 Experimenter's Corner was voltage multipliers made from a network of diodes and capacitors. If you read that column, you'll recall that voltage multipliers provide an easy


Two multipliers on DIP headers.
way to obtain high-voltage dc from lowvoltage ac.

Voltage multipliers are easy to miniaturize. The photo shows two compact multipliers I assembled on miniature dual in-line
(DIP) headers. The upper circuit has four diode-capacitor pairs connected as a voltage quadrupler; the lower has eight diodecapacitor pairs. With their plastic covers installed, each of these circuits occupies no more space than a 16 -pin DIP!

Figure A shows the circuit diagram and construction details of the four-stage multiplier in the photo. A cascade voltage multiplier chain like the one shown in Fig. 5 in the June 1978 column was used in the eight-stage circuit. Ideally, each additional diode-capacitor stage should add the approximate value of the input voltage to the output voltage. In practice, the actual output voltage is affected both by the size of the capacitors and the frequency of the input voltage.

The four-stage circuit uses $4.7-\mu \mathrm{F}$ miniature tantalum capacitors and has an open-circuit multiplication factor of 2.5 . The eight-stage circuit uses $0.005-\mu \mathrm{F}$ ceramic capacitors and has an open-circuit


Prototype of circuit in Fig. B.
multiplication factor of 3.5 . These multiplication factors were measured by applying a $100-\mathrm{kHz}$ square wave to the input of each multiplier.

You can drive either of these miniature multipliers with an audio-frequency oscillator made from an op amp, 555 timer or a few gates connected as an astable multivi-
brator. Refer to the June 1978 column for sample oscillator circuits.

Meanwhile, you might want to build the self-contained upconverter circuit shown in Fig. B. This circuit includes its own oscillator made from the four gates in a single 4011 and a six-stage multiplier. I assembled the prototype version of the circuit on a small perforated board only twice the length of a 16 -pin DIP, but you can modify the construction to suit your requirements and the space available.

If you want to miniaturize the circuit, use perforated board with small copper solder pads at each hole (Radio Shack 276-152 or similar). Before installing the components, thread Wire-Wrap wire between the various holes where the IC will be installed in accordance with the circuit diagram. The wires should be laid flat against the top side of the board.

After the wires are in place, insert the IC into the board (over the wires) and carefully solder each of its pins to the appropriate solder pads and Wire-Wrap wires. Be sure to use proper CMOS handling and soldering methods to avoid damaging the $I C$.

Complete assembly by installing the resistor and capacitor of the 4011 oscillator and the diodes and capacitors of the multiplier. The prototype circuit is shown in the photo. The resistor and the six diodes are hidden under the various capacitors.

This circuit multiplies a 3 -to- 15 volt dc input by a factor of approximately 5 (no load). It's therefore ideal for miniature circuits employing avalanche detectors, fourlayer diodes and other components requiring from 15 to 75 volts.



Fig. B. Miniature dc-dc upconverter circuit.
Fig. A. Circuit diagram and construction details of 4-stage miniature voltage multiplier.


Fig. 6. Screen of 160-LED
solid-state scope.
I recently assembled a Wire-Wrapped solid-state scope based on the parallel A/D converter shown in Fig. 4. A block diagram of the scope is shown in Fig. 5. Figure 6 is a photograph of the 'scope's "screen" showing the positive half of a triangle wave.

The screen has 160 yellow LED's organized as 16 columns of 10 rows. A single red LED at the upper left side of the screen indicates an overrange condition. The LED at the lower right corner glows brighter than the other LED's in the screen because the trigger is connected to it.

As you can see, the resolution of the 160 -element screen is limited. Also, up to three LED's in a single column can appear to be on when a sloping waveform is displayed. Fortunately, the human eye is usually able to integrate the information displayed by the array so that the true shape of the waveform is apparent. Waveforms with flat tops are even easier to visualize.
The circuit for the scope shown in Fig. 6 uses thirteen IC's and is reasonably straightforward. It's construction details, however, are much too involved to be included here. The $160-L E D$ screen, for example, requires more than 650 solder connections and several hours of tedious work.
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signed to test signal and power transistors for gain and leakage, determine whether they are npn or pnp, and identify their leads. It also tests for leakage and $I_{\text {DDS }}$ in both normal and enhanced FET's and identifies their leads and whether they are n - or p-channel. All tests can be performed both in and out of circuit.

The tester measures $10^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{H} \times 5.5^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{W} \times$ $3.5^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{D}(25.4 \times 13.8 \times 8.9 \mathrm{~cm})$ and weighs $4.5 \mathrm{lb}(2 \mathrm{~kg})$ with battery installed. Suggested retail price is $\$ 225.00$.

General Information. Devices to be tested are connected to the instrument through color-coded "E-Z-Mini-Hooks." There are no sockets on the instrument to fatigue and fail. The E-Z Hooks connect directly to component leads and apply a positive, secure grip. There is no need to determine beforehand which leads are the emitter, base, and collector (or source, gate, and drain) on the device being tested

To make a test, the E-Z Hooks are simply connected to the device under test in any order at all. Then the large Permutator switch is rotated until a tone is emitted by the instrument and the meter's pointer deflects into the GOOD area of the scale. At this point, the device is identified as either an npn or a pnp bipolar transistor or an n- or p-channel FET and its basing will be known.

Imprinted on the bar of the Permutator
switch are the legends EBC and SGD for emitter / base / collector and source/ gate/ drain. On the panel surrounding the switch are the legends for the various combinations of the green, yellow, and red color code of the test-lead cable's E-Z Hooks. The code combinations are repeated on both the $N$ and $P$ sides of the dial. Hence, if the tone is emitted when the Permutator switch is in the GRY position on the $N$ side of the dial and the device under test is a bipolar transistor, it is an npn type and the leads of the test cable are connected green to emitter, red to base, and yellow to collector.

Once the type of device-bipolar transistor or FET-is known, the remaining tests on it can be performed. To do this, the Permutator switch is left in the proper position and the type of device is fed in by depressing the sig trans, output trans, normal fet, or Enhance fet switch to the left of the rotary switch. Then by momentarily pressing the GAIN and LEAKAGE switches to the right of the rotary switch and observing the meter's pointer, the condition of the bipolar transistor can be determined. To determine the condition of a FET, one presses the GAIN and then IDSs buttons.

Although the Model TF46 is not specifically designed to test silicon controlled rectifiers, it will test many types of SCR's. The SCR specification that determines whether or not it can be tested is the gate trigger voltage or current. Diodes are tested by connecting the rea and green test leads to it and rotating the Permutator switch alternately between the two DIODE positions (YGR and YRG on the $P$ side) of the dial, simultaneously pressing the leakage button. A good diode will indicate high leakage in one position of the Permutator switch and low leakage in the other position. If the meter indicates high leakage in both positions, it is shorted, and if it indicates no leakage in both positions, the diode is open. Lead identification is spelled out in the instrument's manual.
The instrument's test currents have been chosen to provide the best balance between high testing accuracy and protection for the device under test. In addition, protection circuits prevent the application of bias signals if the Permutator switch is not in one of the positions that produce the gain test. This makes the instrument safe for testing any transistor or FET

The Super Cricket's $41 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ (11.4-cm) meter movement has five easy-to-read scales. The topmost scale is a simple BAD/GOOD indicator. The next two
scales are for GAIN over ranges of from 0 to 500 beta and from 0 to $25 \mathrm{~K} \mu$ mhos. Finally, the two Leakage scales are calibrated from 0 to $2.5 \mathrm{~K} \mu \mathrm{~A}$ ( $\mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{CBO}}$ or $\mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{GSS}}$ ) and 0 to $50 \mathrm{~mA} \mathrm{I}_{\text {Dss }}$. Built into the instrument's case is a metal plate that one can slide over the meter movement to protect it from damage when not in use.

The test cable folds up and fits into a well at the bottom front of the instrument when not in use. Also in this well are the SPEAKER ON/OFF (which can be set to OFF to defeat the tone and conserve battery power) and BATT. TEST switches. A door swivels up to enclose the well when the instrument is not in use. At the top of the instrument's case is a convenient carrying handle that doubles as a tilt stand on the service bench.

The Super Cricket is normally powered by six AA cells that fit into a well in the rear of its case. An optional No. PA202 ac adapter is available for operating the instrument on line power and recharging $\mathrm{Ni}-\mathrm{Cd}$ cells installed at the user's option. The Model TF46 has a built-in circuit that automatically defeats the power after 10 minutes of no use to conserve battery power.

Technical Details. The specifications for the Super Cricket are excellent. The good/bad gain test uses Sencore's patented square-wave approach, which employs a test frequency of 2000 Hz and a $V_{C E}$ of $\pm 4$ volts dc and $a V_{B E}$ of 7 volts peak-to-peak on a zero reference. Test currents are 12 mA maximum $\mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{C}}$ with 2 to 3 mA average and 7 mA maximum $\mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{B}}$ with 3 mA average.

The dynamic beta test operates with the good/bad tests with a 25 mA maximum $I_{C}$ for signal transistors and 150 mA maximum for power transistors. The respective $I_{B}$ 's are 50 and $300 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ max.

The bipolar leakage-key tests measure the reverse collector-to-base leakage ( $I_{C B O}$ ) and all other paths ( $I_{E B O}$, $\mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{BEO}} \mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{CEO}}$, and $\mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{BCO}}$ ) with the Permutator switch. Test levels are $\pm 3.5$ volts for $V_{C B}$, with emitter open, and 0 to 2500 leakage range.

FET's are tested using the dynamic mutual-conductance approach. The test frequency is 2000 Hz , and the test potentials are $\pm 4$ volts dc $V_{D S}$ and 0 volt $V_{G s}$. The signal level is 0.4 volt peak-topeak, while the Gm range is 0 to 25,000 $\mu \mathrm{mhos}$. The open-source $\mathrm{l}_{\mathrm{GSS}}$ FET leakage test potential is $\pm 3$ volts and the loss zero-bias drain current test uses a $\pm 4$-volt dc $V_{\text {DS }}$.

User Comment. Having worked with
the Model TF46 Super Cricket at our workbench for a couple of months, we can readily attest to the instrument's accuracy and ease of handling. It did not take us long to test and sort several hundred transistors and FET's we have accumulated over the years. The connect-in-any-order E-Z-Mini-Hooks and Permutator switch arrangement took most of the hassle out of testing and reduced the time required significantly.

The test tone was perhaps the most helpful indicator for the tests we performed. Backed by the meter indications
obtained, we performed all our tests with complete confidence.

Once we had our transistors tested and sorted, we proceeded to test the multitude of diodes we had lying around. We did not have many SCR's to test, but those we did have were easily tested and appeared to be good.

The price of the Model TF46 Super Cricket is a bit steep; but if you work with a lot of transistors, FET's, diodes, and SCR's, it car pay for itself in short order in time savec.
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By Karl T. Thurber, Jr., W8FX

## KEYS, KEYERS AND OTHER ACCESSORIES

0F ALL station accessories, the telegraph key is usually given the lowest priority and the smallest budgetary allocation. Actually, it should not be considered an accessory at all, but an integral part of the station. In the CW-only Novice installation, the "straight" or hand key is (forgive the pun) the key piece of telegraphic equipment. Until the hand key is mastered, it's wise to keep away from semiautomatic "bugs" or fully automatic electronic keyers. Using such a key enables the Novice to develop a sense of timing and rhythm invaluable in attaining the proficiency needed to successfully tackle the General and Extra Class code requirements.

Straight Keys. Many different straight keys are available commercially, ranging from the old military surplus $\mathrm{J}-38$ that many old timers (including this columnist) used to pound their first brass, to the newer but essentially similar models of Japanese manufacture distributed by Radio Shack and others. Also of interest to Novices and higher-class licensees who are straight-key buffs is the relatively new line of keys manufactured by the Wm. N. Nye Company, Inc. (1614 130th Ave., N.E., Bellevue, WA 98005).


Nye Viking's heavy-duty Speed-X straight key with Navy knob.

Nye Viking standard Speed-X keys feature adjustable bearings, silver contacts and are mounted on an oval diecast base with a black wrinkle finish. They are available with standard or Navy knob, with or without switch, with nickel or brass-plated key arm and hard-
ware and are priced under $\$ 10.00$. Nye Viking's slightly more expensive heavyduty Speed-X keys are mounted on a die-cast rectangular base with baked black wrinkle finish. Features include a Navy knob mounted on a $1 / 4$-inch (6.4mm ) square brass key arm, adjustable bearings and silver contacts. The keys come with brass, chrome, or nickel-plated hardware and with or without switch. Those who really want something special in a straight key might be interested in Nye Viking's special "presentation" model Speed-X key. It has the smooth action of the other Nye keys, but all metallic elements are gold-plated and the key is mounted on a jet black plastic sub-base. Price is $\$ 50$.

Any of these straight keys is suitable for Novice work, but some brass pounders prefer the feel (and/or look) of one particular model. If possible, you should visit a radio store that carries a wide variety of keys and try each one yourself. No matter what key you choose, it should be properly mounted and adjusted so that you can use it to send good code, comfortably. It should be mounted on a sub-base that will not "walk" across the table while you're sending code, or it can be secured directly to the operating table. In any event, the key should be positioned so that you can rest your elbow and forearm on the table while you are using it.

The key's contacts should be clean and free of oxidation. Careful experimentation should be made to discover the optimum combination of the various key adjustments-contact spacing and vertical travel, side bearing adjustments and spring tension. When making these adjustments it's best to enlist the aid of an experienced CW operator. He can not only help you adjust the key properly but also audition your sending off the air through a code oscillator and suggest ways to develop a good "fist."

A good straight key should see you
through your Novice days. However, sooner or later, the CW operator gives thought to the use of a semi-automatic "bug" or fully automatic electronic keyer. You should not make the switch until you can send at 15 WPM for sustained periods using your hand key with very few mistakes. The bug, very popular during the 50 's and early 60 's, generates dits automatically by means of a vibrating metallic reed and permits good sending up to about 40 WPM, a code speed adequate for most amateur applications. Actually, the limiting factor is the dahs which can be sent just so fast manually. Bug adjustments can be a bit tricky and, with the advent of relatively inexpensive electronic keyers, the Novice should consider sticking with his straight key until he has sufficient proficiency to try the electronic keyer. Usually the change to a keyer is made after the General ticket is won. (The old-fashioned CW purist will undoubtedly disagree with this recommendation and will say that real CW operators never abandon their Vibroplex bugs!)


Heathkit Model HD-1410 electronic keyer with adjustable volume.

The fully automatic keyer is a sensible progression beyond the bug if the operator wants cleaner, faster signals with much less physical effort and strain ("glass arming"). Keyers are more costly than straight keys with prices starting at about $\$ 20$ for basic assembled circuit boards which are less paddle (mechanical "heart" of the unit, a sensitive singlepole, double-throw switch) and enclosure to several hundred dollars for very sophisticated units with memories which are actually keyers plus a microprocessor all rolled into one

Keyers contain complicated circuitry, including IC's and other exotica to generate the dits and dahs electronically. This makes possible virtually perfect CW if properly used by an experienced operator. Listening to good keyergenerated CW is a genuine pleasure. The key to the intelligent use of a keyer lies with the operator, who must learn to synchronize himself with his keyer and
send within the confines of its timing parameters.

A Novice who is considering the purchase of a keyer should thoroughly analyze his needs. If he intends to permanently abandon CW once he gets his General, a keyer would not be a good investment. However, a Novice who really enjoys CW would be wise to invest in a good keyer at the time he is upgrading his license. All the literature should be thoroughly studied to obtain a working knowledge of keyer terminology (for example, completing vs. non-self-completing characters, iambic operation, types of paddle mechanisms, and whether or not the keyer has an internal memo-ry-a "must" for the serious contest operator).

Many excellent keyers are commercially available, such as the Heath HD-1410, the MFJ CMOS-8043, the Ten-Tec KR-50, and the Ham-Key HK-5. Some keyers, such as the Heath and Ten-Tec units, include a built-in paddle mechanism, while others require an additional expenditure for a separate paddle.

The Autek Research Model MK-1 is a state-of-the-art programmable keyer. It has a built-in 100-character memory al-
required to build equipment and the need to develop construction skills.

On the receiving side, the addition of the usually optional CW i-f fiter accessory to the transceiver or receiver will work wonders in helping you separate and work closely spaced CW signals which would otherwise not be possible to copy. Many rigs on the market today are designed primarily for SSB operation, sporting i-f selectivity on the order of -6 dB at $\pm 1200$ to $\pm 1500 \mathrm{~Hz}$, usable on CW but much too broad for serious work on today's Novice bands.

Complementing the i-f filter is the CW audio filter. Some of the more advanced designs are truly amazing in their ability to bring down effective receiver selectivity to 50 Hz or less. MFJ and Autek Research offer sharp active audio filters and their products are also available $n$ circuit-board form to fit into one corner of a receiver or transceiver or in a separate enclosure.

The SWR bridge is another useful accessory, and a necessary one if an antenna coupler is used. Many inexpensive CB-type bridges are designed 10


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work well with power levels up to 1000 watts. Some, however, are capable of operation up to only about 200 watts and should not be acquired if you entertain notions of getting high-power gear after upgrading your license. The Dentron Model W-2 is a very handy unit as it doubles as a direct-reading wattmeter as well as an SWR bridge.

Also highly recommended is a crystal calibrator to provide known reference marker signals for receiver dial calibration and as insurance that one is operating within the band-the FCC frowns on out-of-band operation! In selecting a calibrator, if one is not already an integral part of the receiver or transceiver, be sure that it is capable of putting out markers a maximum of every 100 kHz . A calibrator requires a simple initial adjust-ment-zero beating the calibrator output with the carrier of the National Bureau of Standards' time and frequency station, WWV. If your receiver doesn't cover the frequencies on which WWV transmits ( $2.5,5,10$, and 15 MHz ), you can use a general-coverage receiver to trim the calibrator. A very interesting calibrator is that produced by Rainbow Industries, Indianapolis, Ind. It is capable of generating markers as low as 25 Hz , making it


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useful as an audio generator and oscilloscope calibrator in addition to its primary function. It is available in an attractive cabinet or as a wired circuit board for custom installation in the receiver.

A receiving preamp is generally not necessary if you are using contemporary solid-state equipment with good sensitivity [ 1 microvolt or less for 10 dB $(S+N) / N]$. A preamp can even cause receiver overloading and cross-modulation if used improperly. However, the gain of even some of the best receiving gear tends to decrease on 10 meters and, to a lesser extent, on 15 meters. A preamp may be of some value in compensating for this roll-off in gain. Whether a homebrew or commercial unit is selected, make sure that, if you are using it with a transceiver, there is a positive means of switching the preamp out of the circuit (by either a relay or electronic switching) to prevent its ruin by application of the rig's r-f output on transmit. Ameco's PC-series of preamps and MFJ's Model 1030BX are popular and highly effective commercial units. Building an equivalent preamp is not too difficult even for the beginner. There are many designs to choose from in the ARRL Handbook and other amateur radio publications.

If your Novice transmitter is crystalcontrolled, a vfo (variable frequency oscillator) would most certainly be a valuable addition, providing considerable operating flexibility and convenience. Anyone contemplating vio construction should have some mechanical ability and good tools to make a mechanically rugged unit, plus enough circuit knowledge to troubleshoot any key clicks or chirps (common maladies in poorly designed vo's) which may develop. A number of good vo's are on the market and they can be made to work with a wide variety of transmitters. The old Heath Model HG-10 or Johnson Viking vo's are good companions for the crys-tal-controlled Heath DX series transmitters or such old-timers as the Johnson Adventurer and Challenger.

Most operators can send better code if they can actually hear what they are sending. Many beginners using equipment which doesn't contain a built-in sidetone oscillator simply use the station receiver or an auxiliary receiver as an on-the-air monitor. Employing the main receiver for code monitoring is inconvenient because you must constantly retune the receiver and "ride the gain" to prevent blasting and overloading. There are many different ways to monitor your
keying, such as using a small r-f-actuated audio oscillator or simultaneously keying both the transmitter and a separate code practice oscillator. If your transmitter or transceiver doesn't have a built-in monitor, your best bet is to buy a keyer which contains its own sidetone (most do). This will allow you to practice your sending off the air without connecting the keyer to a practice oscillator.

Necessities. Two accessories which belong in every ham shack are a lowpass filter and a dummy load. Although the use of a good antenna coupler can add 10 to 20 dB of harmonic suppression, this still might not be enough in "fringe" TV reception areas. Also, the use of a multi-band antenna, such as a trap dipole, actually increases the possibility of harmonic radiation. A good TVI filter, such as a Drake, Nye Viking or Barker and Williamson model can provide 70 to 90 dB of harmonic suppression. That should make the rig "clean" as far as TVI harmonics are concerned, assuming the rig itself is well shielded and grounded.
A dummy load absorbs the power output of the transmitter and allows you to make practically any transmitter adjustment without actually radiating a signal and interfering with other hams. Most dummy loads are nothing more than 50ohm air- or oil-cooled resistors. In a pinch, an ordinary light bulb can be used to absorb the transmitter's power output. One disadvantage of using the light bulb is that its resistance changes with filament temperature, causing transmitter loading to change as the bulb gets warm. Various commercial products are available, some of which include a di-rect-reading wattmeter to indicate actual transmitter output power so you can keep a continuous check on transmitter performance. However, the simpler units should be adequate for most purposes, such as the Heathkit Cantenna. This load, if filled with oil coolant, can handle a full kilowatt at frequencies up to 30 MHz and sells for under $\$ 15$. It can be used in conjunction with your SWR bridge or directional wattmeter to tune the rig for maximum power without conducting excessive on-the-air tuningsomething the FCC frowns upon.
A grid-dip meter and field-strength meter are also useful additions to the ham shack and, if bought in kit form, offer good construction practice. They are especially helpful when you are tuning a directional antenna such as a Yagi or cubical quad.


By Leslie Solomon

## ANOTHER GRAPHICS SYSTEM

THERE is no doubt that the next advancement in personal computing will be in graphics. Alphanumerics are great if the program you are running has to be read or printed out. However, the old adage about one picture being worth 10 K words still applies.
Currently, most computers use either their associated CRT terminal or a "plug-in" video module to display a coarse form of graphics that uses char-acter-generator types of symbols. Resolution, in such cases, is fine for games. In many other instances, however, higher resolution is desirable.
A couple of manufacturers have indeed made high-resolution plug-ins, especially for the ubiquitous S-100 bus that can create up to $256 \times 256$ pixels ${ }^{~}$ (picture elements) for an excellent image on a monitor CRT screen.

Now, another company has entered the lists: Vector Graphics Inc., 790 Hampshire Rd., Westlake Village, CA 91361 (Tel: 805-497-6853). They introduced a "High Resolution Graphics" board at \$235 assembled, and \$195 in kit form. This $\mathrm{S}-100$ bus plug-in is raster scan and can operate in either of two modes-digital with 256 horizontal by 240 vertical screen elements or a 16level gray scale having 128 horizontal by 120 vertical elements. In either case, the video output conforms to RS-170 to allow interface with any raster-scan video monitor.

Special circuitry on the new board allows the video screen to be updated without "glitches."
The board, specifically designed for the Vector Graphic 8 K static RAM mem-
ory board, is used for both screen refresh memory and as conventional memory. The two boards are interconnected by five small cables.
The graphics board has all the circuitry required to multiplex the address and data signals to the associated 8 K memory board. This logic allows the memory to be addressed by the MPU and the video counters, thus delivering both conventional data transfer and video to the monitor.
Software provided includes the source listing for a callable alphanumeric U/L case character generator set that could also be used to create special symbols and graphics. A North Star diskette is also provided, and includes a robot control language by Dr. LiChen Wang, and some demo graphics.
We installed the graphics/memory pair in our computer and ran the demo program. Some of the images generated were of excellent quality. We understand that these photographic demos were created by digitizing a slow-scan TV camera.

The robot language was interesting. The cursor forms a "bodyless" robot that can be programmed to move around the screen in almost any pattern desired. Routines within the language can be called to make the "robot" move around. We assume that once a robot is built, the bits that position the cursor can then be transmitted to the robot mechanics to make the machine physically move in the same programmed manner.

This is the second high-resolution graphics board that we have had the opportunity to work with. We feel that such


This is the kind of resolution obtained from Vector Graphics video board.
graphic displays open up new application areas for the computer enthusiast.

Hard Copy Stuff. If you have, or are going to get, a Selectric Model 731 or 735 I/O Writer, then take a look at the "Typeaway." This is an S-100-to-Selectric interface from Micromation, Inc., 524 Union St., San Francisco, CA 94133 (Tel: 415-398-0289). This \$350 assembled ( $\$ 275$ in kit) board includes a single S-100 plug-in that has solenoid drivers, I/O ports, complete software in PROM, all necessary cabling and connectors, and a power supply.

Software is supplied in two 1702A PROM's; all code conversions and control functions are included.

SWTP Board. National Multiplex Corp., 3474 Rand Ave., Box 288, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 (Tel: 201-5613600 ) is now selling a $Z 80$ board that plugs into the SWTP bus. Costing $\$ 190$ assembled and tested (plus $\$ 3$ shipping and handling), the new board uses a 2MHz clock, and on-board baud-rate generator up to 9600 baud. A 1K ROM monitor, and tape recorder read/write routines for both KC and National NRZ recorders are included. This new board replaces the 6800 board currently used.

This same company also has a 2 SIO plug-in for the SWTP machine. It features 3 K of ROM space and two 1/O ports. One or two recorders can be controlled via a 4-bit parallel port along with two serial ports.

Apple Stuff. Electronic Systems, Box 9641, San Jose, CA 95157 (Tel: 408-374-5984) announced its serial 1/O board for the Apple II. The board comes with software to input or output BASIC programs, monitor a serial $20-\mathrm{mA}$ device, or for using the Apple II as a video terminal. Both input and output are RS-232 compatible. The board also features selectable parity, number of stop bits, and has a jumper-selectable address. Data rate is to 30,000 baud.

The board is available as an assembled and tested unit for $\$ 62$, or as a kit for $\$ 42$. Full documentation and software is included with each board. The circuit board is available for $\$ 15$.

Other available kits include a tape interface, modem, r-f modulator, power supply, 8 K static RAM for the S-100 bus, UART and baud-rate generator, tape interface DMA board for the S-100 bus, a TVT, and RS-232 to TTL or TTY.

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213-374-1673) has announced its EPROM programmer for the Apple II at \$89.95, with a $\$ 9.952716$ socket adapter. Two empty ROM sockets can be filled with 4 K of user-selected programs. This assembled and tested plug-in fits into any available slot in the Apple and contains a zero-insertion-force socket. The board is self-contained and has its own "on board" 25 -volt power supply for programming the Intel 2716 EPROM.

Handling MOS Devices. In our August 1978 issue, we discussed the handling of static-sensitive MOS devices without destroying them. Unfortunately, the company that was to supply a lowcost anti-static kit went out of business shortly after the article was published.

Recently, we heard from Westcorp, 1155 Terra Bella Ave., Mountain View, CA 94040 (Tel: 415-969-7717), a pioneer in the development of anti-static work stations. This company advises it is ready to offer the hobbyist an antistatic work station consisting of a conductive cotton twill wriststrap, an $18^{\prime \prime} \times$ $24^{\prime \prime}$ conductive felt workbench cover, and a conductive grounding strap. Three alligator clips are provided; two for the grounding cable, and one for the free end of the wriststrap. The latter feature allows use by a left-handed person. The twill wriststrap should be more comfortable than the older plastic straps. With its Velcro fastener, it will allow the user to fasten the strap to optimum tightness. The resistance built into the grounding strap is said to prevent electrical shock if the strap should contact an exposed lead. Price is $\$ 13.95$ ( $\$ 12.95 \mathrm{kit})$.

The conductive felt workbench cover can be folded for storage without breaking or forming permanent creases. It also has greater bulk than conductive plastic covers, thus providing greater mechanical protection to the circuit board being worked on.
According to Westcorp, the type of an-ti-static material used is superior to the earlier conductive plastics. Though the plastics meet federal recovery standards of two seconds, some of the newer MOS devices can be burned out in less than one millisecond, Westcorp claims. Since the new material is a carbon-filled plastic, it "looks" like a fixed resistor built into the circuit, and thus recovers faster than the MOS device.
Westcorp also manufactures a complete line of anti-static devices, including an ionizing air blower (\$265) that prevents static electricity from building up in the area.

Pet Peripherals. If you have a Pet and wish to increase its memory capacity to 16 -, 24-, or 32 K -bytes, then take a look at the Pet Store from Computer Mart Systems, 13 E. 30th St., New York, NY 10016 (Tel: 212-686-7923).

Priced at $\$ 550$ for the $16 \mathrm{~K}, \$ 650$ for the 24 K , and $\$ 750$ for the 32 K version, the board can be mounted within the Pet. It uses the existing power supply without degradation. No disassembly of the Pet is required and all mounting hardware and cables are provided. Each board comes assembled and tested with a six-month warranty.

The accompanying manual details installation and operation, and includes a memory test program that uses the Pet graphics capability. That is, the program illustrates the chip layout of the memory board and identifies the bad chip.

Commodore, creaters of the Pet, have also developed a couple of peripherals. First is an external cassette drive for expanded file keeping. This new item connects to the Pet special I/O port, and is available at under $\$ 100$ from Commodore or Pet dealers. The cassette drive is capable of read/write up to 170 K bytes and is accessed directly through a BASIC command.

The second peripheral is a printer that features up to 80 characters per line on an $81 / 2$-wide roll or fanfolded paper. Printing is at 120 characters per second. All upper and lower case and graphic characters can be reproduced on the printer with a $7 \times 8$ dot matrix. In addition, the system can be programmed to generate a special graphic character (company symbol) when desired.

Composite Video. Matrox Electronics Systems, Box 56, Ahuntsic Stn., Montreal, Quebec, H3L 3N5, Canada (Tel: 514-481-6838) has just announced its MSBC-24/320 Controller. This new board integrates an alphanumeric display of 24 lines of 80 characters per line with a graphic display of $320 \times 240$ dots. This format matches the $4: 3$ TV screen aspect ratio while maintaining equal horizontal and vertical dot spacing.

On the input side, the new board "looks" like a $4 \mathrm{~K} \times 8$ RAM with an access time of 500 ns . The card uses the Intel SBC bus. Character fonts are $5 \times 7$ or $7 \times 9$, and video reversal is possible. External sync is also allowed. The price is $\$ 1395$.

Floppy Disk. A floppy-disk system for $\mathrm{S}-100$ bus machines is available from Quay Corp., Box 386, Freehold, NJ


Apple's Disk II has controller card, cable, and drive.

07728 (Tel: 201-681-8700). The Quay 80 F1 ( $\$ 795$ ) includes a controller board (supporting up to four disks), a DOS, a Q/FD1 125K 51/4" drive, with power regulator and interface cables and a cabinet. Add-on drives are priced at $\$ 395$ each.

In addition to the disk support, the controller board also features a programmable 8-bit, TTL-compatible parallel I/O port.

Sorcerer. Developed by Exidy, 2599 Garcia Ave., Mountain View, CA 94043, the "Sorcerer" computer (\$895) features a Z80 CPU, 8 K of RAM (expandable to 32K), RS232 I/O port, 8-bit parallel port, 4 K of ROM, S-100 bus connector for exterior expansion, capability to handle two cassette recorders, and a 64-character by 30 -line video display. There are 64 defined graphic characters and 64 user-defined characters.

Cabinet dimensions are $19^{1 / 4^{\prime \prime}} \times 13^{\prime \prime}$ $\times 4^{\prime \prime}(49 \times 33 \times 10.2 \mathrm{~cm})$ and weight is 13 pounds ( 5.9 kg ). An external video monitor is required. The keyboard consists of 79 keys (upper and lower case and graphics) and a separate 16-key numeric cluster that also carries some graphic symbols.

The BASIC (Microsoft) comes in a Rom Pac plug-in that looks like a cartridge for a video game. A cartridge containing an assembler and editor is also available, as is a user-programmable EPROM Rom Pac. In development is a DOS that allows operation under FORTRAN and COBOL. The BASIC and Development Pacs are $\$ 95$ each, and the EPROM Pac is $\$ 45$.

Apple Remembers. Using one of the smallest controller cards around, the new Apple Disk-II (\$495) and its DOS can drive one or two minifloppys for almost instant access to 1.6 -million bits of data. The system provides full disk capability with 16 K of RAM, ability to load and store files by name, random and sequential access, automatic generation of graphics on your TV set and design microprocessor circuits-the very first night-even if you've never used a computer betore!

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file-name directories, storage capacity of 116 K per diskette, and use of the present Apple power supply.

Each track contains 13 sectors of 256 bytes, and data transfer is 156 K bits/ second. Track access time is 200 ms average and disk latency is 100 ms .

Apple Listens, Too. Until now, only S-100 bus systems could have speech input. Now, Heuristics, Inc., 900 N. San Antonio Rd., Los Altos, CA 94022 (Tel: 415-948-2542), introduces the Speechlab 20A (\$189 assembled and tested) for the Apple II computer. With a $20-$ word "vocabulary," the new Speechlab plugs directly into an Apple connector, where it is addressed as a keyboard. Several games, like Shooting Star, Blackjack, and Mastermind, are available for this new vocal interface.

Take AIM. Rockwell International has
now come on the one-board computer scene with its AIM 65 general-purpose microcomputer. Priced at $\$ 375$ for the 1 K version and available at any Hamilton Avnet supplier, this new machine features an on-board 20 -character printer and display, and a 54-key terminalstyle keyboard. Its R6502 processor can address up to 64 K with 13 addressing modes and both decimal and binary functions. An 8 K ROM resident monitor provides all peripheral control and user programming functions. Spare sockets are provided for expansion.

A separate application connector on the computer interfaces a TTY and two conventional cassette recorders. It also includes a user-dedicated adapter that has three 8-bit bidirectional ports (two parallel and one serial) and two 16-bit interval timer/event counters.

The 4 K version is $\$ 450$, the assembler is $\$ 100$, and BASIC is also $\$ 100$. $\diamond$


## Adiertisement

ARIZONA<br>Micro World Mail Order<br>1425 West 127th Place<br>Tempe, AZ 85281<br>(602) 894.1193<br>CALIFORNIA<br>Rainbow Computing<br>Complete Apple II Line<br>10723 White Oak Avenue<br>Granada Hills, CA 91344<br>(213) 360-2171<br>ILLINOIS<br>American Microprocessors<br>Equipment and Supply Corporation<br>6934 North University<br>Peoria, IL 61614<br>(309) 692-5852<br>American Microprocessors<br>Equipment and Supply Corporation<br>At the Chicagoland Airport<br>20 North Milwaukee Avenue<br>Half Day, IL 60069<br>(312) 234-0076<br>MICHIGAN<br>United Microsystems Corporation<br>The Professional Computer Store<br>2601 South State Street<br>Ann Arbor, MI 48104<br>(313) 668-6806<br>NEW JERSEY<br>Computer Mart of New Jersey<br>The Microcomputer People ${ }^{\text {TM }}$<br>501 Route 27<br>Iselin, NJ 08830<br>(201) $283-0600$<br>\section*{NEW YORK}<br>Computer Mart of New York<br>First in the East<br>118 Madison Avenue<br>(30th Street Entrance)<br>New York, NY 10016<br>(212) 686.7923

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Englewood, CO 80110
(303) 761-6232

[^5]
## Software Sources

CP/M Disk Sort/Merge. QSORT is a CP/M-compatible sort/merge program which can sort and merge files with fixed record lengths under 256 bytes, up to a full diskette of data. Output is written to a temporary file which is renamed after the sort has been completed. Therefore, the previous output file will remain intact in case of power failure or malfunction. Files may reside on any drive, independent of each other. Sort parameters can be filed separately for later reference, so they need only be entered once. Up to five sorting keys can be specified, and upper- and lower-case letters are treated equivalently for sorting. Single-density diskette of object code with 20 -page user's manual, $\$ 95$. Structured Systems Group, 5615 Kales Ave., Oakland, CA 94618.

## TDL Software for Digital Group

280. Z80 software written by Technical Design Labs is available in a version for $\mathrm{Z8O}$ based Digital Group systems. The programs are provided in self-loading cassette, and do not require disabling the EPROM. Programs are available with hard-copy routines for 110baud TTY, Baudot TTY, and Digital Group Printer. Programs, prices and requirements are: MICRO Monitor (requires 2 K memory starting at page 340), \$40; Relocating Macro Assembler (requires 9 K , controlled reader and Micro-Monitor), \$40; Zapple Text Editor (requires 7 K plus text space), $\$ 30$; Zapple Text Output Processor (requires 3 K , controlled reader, Zapple Text Editor and MicroMonitor), \$40; Zapple 8K BASIC (requires 12 K plus program space), $\$ 40$ : Zapple 12 K Super BASIC (requires 16 K plus program space), \$79. Micro-Com, 1261 Southwest 11th Ave., Deerfield Beach, FL 33441.

## 8080 Floating-Point Math Pack-

age. For 8080- or Z80-based systems with any peripheral configuration, this new float-ing-point package requires less than $2 k$ bytes. It includes floating-point routines for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, plus routines to place the floating-point accumulator anywhere in memory, and for conversion from $B C D$ to binary and vice versa. Also included are square root, natural logs and anti-logs, sine and cosine, hyperbolic sine and cosine, arctangent, and base-10 logs. The package is available as object or source code. The machine-language, obiectcode version, on Intel hex-format papertape, loads from address 1 k . It is $\$ 10$, complete with annotated source listing. Two sourcecode (mnemonic) versions are available, both on paper tapes in Intel assembly format, for $\$ 25$ each. Version I, the commented version, requires about 40 k bytes if the whole program is resident in memory. Version II, with comments stripped, requires about 15-20k bytes. Write: Burt Hashizume, Box 447, Maynard, MA 01754.

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| 4:00.4:15 a.m. | 0900.0915 | BBC | A | 9510,6195 |
| 4:00.4:15 a.m. | 0900-0915 | R. Japan ${ }^{4}$ | B | 9505 |
| 4:00.5:00 a.m. | 0900.1000 | AFRTS Washington | A | 11805, 9755 |
| 4:00.6:00 a.m. | 0900.1100 | R. Oman | 0 | 11890 |
| 5:00.5:05 a.m. | 1000. 1005 | UN Radio | A | 9565, 5955 (Tue Sat) |
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| 5:00.6:00 a.m. | 1000.1100 | KGEI, San Francisco | A | 9575 |
| 5:00.7:00 a.m. | 1000.1200 | AFRTS Washington | A | 11805, 9755,9700 |
| 5:00.sunrise | 1000. | R. Australia | B | 5995 |
| 5:30.6:30 a.m. | 1030-1130 | Sri Lanka Br. Corp. | C | 17850, 15120, 11835 (Not all Eng.) |
| 5:30.7:00 a.m. | 1030.1200 | CBC Northern Service | 8 | 9625, 6065 (Mon.Fri 1155) |
| 5:55.6:55 a.m. | 1055.1155 | R. Thailand | C | 11905.9655 |
| 6:00.6:15 a.m. | 1100-1115 | R. Japan | 8 | 9505 |
| 6:00.6:25 a.m. | $1100 \cdot 1125$ | R. Tirana | C | 11985. 9500 |
| 6:00-6:30 a.m. | 1100-1130 | V. of Chile | 8 | 15175, 15150, 15145, 15125. 15115, 15110, 11765, 11755 |
| 6:00.6:56 3.m. | 1100.1156 | R. RSA | 8 | 21535, 17780 |
| 6:00.7:35 a.m. | 1100.1235 | TWR. Bonaire | A | 11815 (Sat, Surl-1220) |
| 6:00.7:50 a.m. | 1100.1250 | R. Pyongyang | c | 11535,9977 |
| 6:00.8:00 a.m. | 1100.1300 | R. Australia | A | 9580 |
| 6:00-8:30 a.m. | 1100.1330 | BBC | A. ${ }^{\text {A }}$ | 15215, 11775, 6195, 9510 |
| 6:00-9:00 a.m. | 1100.1400 | VOA | A | 9730, 9565 (to 1430). 5955 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 7:00.7:13 a.m. } \\ & \text { (Mon.Fri) } \end{aligned}$ | 1200.1213 | CBC Nontern Service | B | 9625, 6065 (Sun 1205.1300) |
| 7:00.7:15 a.m. | 1200.1215 | R. Japan | B | 9505 |
| 7:00.7:30 a.m. | 1200.1230 | Israel Radio | C | 21495, 17685, 15530, 15405 |
| 7:00.7:30 a.m. | 1200-1230 | R. Tashkent | C | 15460, 15115, 11925, 17130 |
| 7:00.7:30 a.m. | 1200-1230 | HCJB, Ecuador | A | 11800, 9715 (Mon \& Thu only) |
| 7:00.7:45 a.m. | 1200.1245 | V. of Germany | B | 17165. 15410 |
| 7:00.7:45 a.m. | $1200 \cdot 1245$ | R. Berlin International | C | 21540, 15320, 15125 |
| 7:00.7:55 a.m. | 1200.1255 | R. Peking | C | 11685 |
| 7:00.9:00 a.m. | 1200. 1400 | AFRTS-Washington | A | 15430, 15330, 11805, 9700 |
| 7:00.11:30 a.m. | 1200.1630 | HCJB. Ecuador | A | 15115. 11745 |
| 7:15-7:30 a.m. | 1215.1230 | V. of Greece | B | 17830, 15345, 11730 |
| 7:20.7.50 a.m. | 1220.1250 | R. Ulan Bator, Mongolia | D | 12070. 6383 (not Sun) |
| 7:30.7:55 a.m. | 1230-1255 | Austrian R. | C | 15110 (frequent changes) |
| 7:30.8:00 a.m. | 1230.1300 | R. Bangladesh | 0 | 21683, 15520 (both vaiy) |
| 1:30.8:00 a.m. | 1230.1300 | $V$ of Chile | B | 15125, 15110, 11765, 11755 |
| 7:30-8:00 a.m. | 1230.1300 | R. Sweden | C | 21690 |
| $\begin{gathered} 7: 30 \cdot 8: 20 \text { a.m. } \\ \text { (Sat) } \end{gathered}$ | 1230.1320 | TWR Bonaire | A | 15255 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 7:30-9:20 a.m. } \\ & \text { (Suin) } \end{aligned}$ | $1230 \cdot 1420$ |  | " | " |
| 8:00.8:15 a.m. | $1300 \cdot 1315$ | R. Japan | 8 | 9505 |
| 8:00.8:30 a.m. | 1300.1330 | R. Finland | C | 15105 |
| 8:00-9:50 a.m. | 1300.1450 | R, RSA | 8 | 21535, 17780, 15220. 11900 |
| $\begin{gathered} 8: 13 \cdot 11: 13 \text { a.m. } \\ \text { (Mon- Fri) } \end{gathered}$ | 1313.1613 | CBC Northern Service | B | 11720, 9625 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 8:00.11:00 a.m. } \\ & \text { (Sun) } \end{aligned}$ | $1300 \cdot 1600$ |  | " | " |
| $\begin{aligned} & 8: 10 \cdot 12: 05 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m} . \\ & (\mathrm{Sat}) \end{aligned}$ | 1310.1705 |  | * | " $21520,17830,177$ Cos S88, 15350 |
| 8:15-8:45 a.m. | 1315-1345 | Swiss R. International | C | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 21520, } 17830,17740 \cdot \text { SSB, } 15350 \text {, } \\ & 15305,15140 \end{aligned}$ |
| 8:30.9:30 a.m. | 1330.1430 | R. Fintand | C | 15200, 15105 |
| 8:30.10:00 a.m. | 1330.1500 | All India R. | C | 11810 |
| 8:30-11:00 a.m. | 1330.1600 | BEC | B.C | 21710, 17705, 15400, 15070 |
| 9:00-9:30 a.m. | 1400.1430 | R. Japan | 8 | 9505 |
| 9:00-9:30 a.m. | 1400.1430 | R. Sweden | 8 | 17790 |
| 9:00-9:30 a.m. | 1400.1430 | R. Norway | B | 17840 (Sun only) |
| 9:00.9:30 a.m. | $1400 \cdot 1430$ | V. Rev. Party, N. Korea | 0 | 4557.4120 |
| 9:00-9:30 a.m. | 1400.1430 | R. Alghanistan | C | 4775 |
| 9:00.9:30 a.m. | 1400-1430 | R. Tashkent | C | 15460, 15115. 11925, 11730 |
| 9:00.9:30 a.m. | 1400-1430 | R. Ghana | C | 17870 (has been inactive) |
| 9:00.9:45 a.m. | 1400.1445 | R. Berlin International | B | 21540. 15125 |
| 9:00-10:00 a.m. | 1400.1500 | V. of Indonesia | C | 11789 |
| 9:30-10:00 a.m. | 1430.1500 | R. Finland | B | 15200 |
| 9:30-10:00 a.m. | 1430.1500 | V. of Chite | C | 17755, 11755 |
| 9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m. | $1430 \cdot 2200$ | UN Radio | A | 21670, 15410 (olso French; when in session |
| 9:45-10:30 a.m. | 1445.1530 | R. Ghana |  | 21540, 17870 (has been inactive |
| 10:00-10:15 a.m. | 1500.1515 | R. Japan | C | 9505 |
| 10:00-10:50 a.m. | 1500-1550 | R. RSA | 8 | 21535. 11800 (Sat, Sun only) |
| 10:00-11:00 a.m. | 1500-1600 | V. of Rev. Ethiopia | 0 | 9615 (trequent changes) |
| 10:00-11:00 a,m. | 1500.1600 | BBC | 8 | 17840, 11775 (Sat, Sun) |
| 10:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m. | 1500.1730 | R. Australia | C | 11775 |
| 10:15-10:30 a.m. | 1515.1530 | V. of Greece | B | 17830, 15345, 11730 |

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| 10:30-11:00 a.m. | 1530.1600 | Swiss R. International |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 10:30.11:30 a.m. | 1530.1630 | V. of Vietnam |
| 10:45-11:00 a.m. | 1545.1600 | R. Canada International |
| 11:00.11:15 a.m. | 1600.1615 | R. Japan |
| 11:00-11:15 a.m. | 1600-1615 | R. Pakistan |
| 11:00-11:30 a.m. | 1600.1630 | R. Korea |
| 11:00-11:30 a.m. | 1600-1630 | R. Norway |
| 11:00-11:30 a.m. | 1600.1630 | V. of Chile |
| 11:00-11:50 a.m. | 1600.1650 | R. RSA |
| 11:00-12:00 a.m. | $1600 \cdot 1700$ | voa |
| 11:00 a.m. $12: 09 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. | 1600-1709 | 88C |
| 11:05.11:55 a.m. | 1605.1655 | R. France Internation |

## 11:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m

 11:45-12:00 a.m. 12:00.12:15 p.m. 12:00-1:00 p.m. 12:00.3:00 p.m 12:05-2:00 p.m. 12:45-3:00 p.m. 1:00.1:15 p.m. 1:00-1:30 p.m. 1:00-1:30 p.m. 1:00-1:30 p.m. 1:00-1:30 p.m. 1:00.2:30 p.m. 1:00-5:00 p.m.1:00.6:00 p.m. 1:15.1:45 p.m. 1:15.2:00 p.m. 1:30-1:35 p.m 1:30-2:00 p.m. 1:45.2:45 p.m 1:45-3:00 p.m 2:00.2:10 p.m. 2:00-2:15 p.m. 2:00-2:30 p.m.

2:00-2:30 p.m. 2:00-2:30 p.m 2:00-3:00 p.m. 2:00.3:30 p.m 3:00-3:15 p.m 3:00.3:30 p.m. 3:00. 3:30 p.m. 3:00 4:00 p.m. 3:00.4:05 p.m. (Sa1)
3:00.6:00 p.m. (Sun)
3:00.4:15 p.m 3: 10.4:50 p.m 3:30-4:25 p.m. 3:30.4:30 p.m. 3:50.4:40 p.m 4:00-4:15 p.m. 4:00-4:50 p.m. 4:15.5:00 p.m 4:30-4:45 p.m 4:30-5:00 p.m. 4:30-5:00 p.m 4:30-5:00 p. m. 4:30-6:00 p.m. 4:40.5:40 $\mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$ 5:00-5:15 p.m. 5:00-5:15 p.m. 5:00-5:30 p.m 5:00-5:30 $\mathrm{om} . \mathrm{m}$ 5:00-5:30 p.m. (Mon-Fri)
5:15.7:00 p.m. (Sat)
5:00.5:45 p.m.
5:00-7:00 p.m.
5:00-7:00 p.m. 5:30. 6:00 p.m. 5:30.6:20 p.m 5:45-6:00 p.m
5.45-6:00 p.m 6:00.6:30 p.m.

1630 R. Singapore
1630.1800 HCJB, Ecuador
1645.1700 R. Canada International
1700.1715 R. Japan
1700.1800 VOA
1700.2000 R. Kuwait

1705-1900 CBC Northern Service
$1745 \cdot 2000$ BBC
1800.1815 R. Japan
1800.1830 CBC Northern Service

18001830 R. Canada International
1800-1830 R. Norway
1800.1830 R. Korea
1800.1930 V. of Nigeria
1800.2200 VOA
1800.2300 AFRTS.Washington
1815.1845 Swiss R. International
1815.1900 V. of Revolution, Guinea
1830.1835 UN Radio
$1830 \cdot 1900$ R. Teheran
1845-1945 Sri Lanka Br. Corp.
1845.2000 R. Ivery Coast
900. 1910 R. Tahit
1900.1915 R. Japan

1900-1930 R. Canada International
1900. 1930 V. of Chile
1900. 1930 R. Atghanistan

9000-2000 B.S.K. Suudi Arabia
1900.2030 HC J8, Ecuador
2000.2015 R. Japan
2000.2030 R. Carada international
$2000-2030$ Israel R
2000.2100 R. Ghana
2000.2105 CBC Northeın Service
$2000 \cdot 2300$
$2000 \cdot 2115$ BBC
2010.2150 R. Habana Cuba
2030.2125 R. Nederland
2030.2130 V. of Vietnam
2050.2140 R. Habana Cuba
2100.2115 R. Japan
2100.2150 R. RSA
2115.2245 BBC

2130-2145 R. TV Congolaise
2130.2200 R. Canada International
2130.2200 R. Sofia
2130.2200 R. Baghdad

21302300 V. of Turkey
2140.2240 V. Ot Free China
2200.2215 R. Yugoslavia
2200.2215 R. Japan
$2200-2230$ H. Narional, Veneruela
2200.2230 R. Nuway
$2200 \cdot 2230$ CBC Nothern Service

22152400
2200.2245 BBC
2200.2400 CBC Southern Service
$2200 \cdot 2400$ VOA
2230.2300 Israel R
2230.2320 R. RSA
2245.2300 BBC

22452300 UN Radio
$2300-2330$ BBC

B 21570
12035, 10040
17820, 15325 (Man.Fri only)
9505
15520, 11672
9720.9640, 7150

17795, 15175 (Sun only)
11755, 11720
$21535,17780,11900$
21485, 17870, 15250
21710. 17840, 11775 (Sat, Sun-1745)

21620, 21580, 17860, 17850,
17800, 17720, 15315, 15300, 15155
(from October, 1705-1755)
11940 (fade-in time varies)
21480. 17755, 15310

17820, 15325
9505
21670, 21485, 17870, 17785, 15250
12085
11720, 9625 (Sun anly)
15400, 15070
15105
11720. 9625 (Mon. Fri only)

17750, 15260
15175 (Sun oniy)
9720
15120, 11770
21670, 21485, 17870
17710, 15410
17765, 15430, 15330, 11790
21585
15310 (varies) (Sun only)
21670, 19505-SSB, 15410 (Mon-Fri)
9022, (1930-2000 from Dct.)
17850, 15120, 15115, 11870
11920
15170, 11825 (exc Sun)
15105
17820, 15325, 11855
17750, 15260
17790, 17715, 17640, 15115
11820
11855
21480, 17755, 15300
15105
17820. 15325, 11855

11655, 9815
11850 , (has been inactive)
11720. 9625

[^6]| 6:00-6:30 p.m. | 2300-2330 | R. Japan | B | 15105 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 6:00.6:30 p.m. | $2300-2330$ | R. Sweden | B | 15205, 9690 |
| 6.00-6:30 p.m. | 2300.2330 | R. Finland | 8 | 15265, 11800 |
| 6:00-6:30 p.m. | $2300 \cdot 2330$ | R. Vilnius | B | $\begin{aligned} & 15405,15180,12060,11790,11780, \\ & 9600 \end{aligned}$ |
| $6.00 \cdot 6: 50 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. | $2300 \cdot 2350$ | Rdif. Argentina | c | 11710 (Mon-Fri) |
| 6:00.7:00 p.m. | 2300.2400 | R. Clarin, Dom. Rep. | B | 11700 (Sat-2430 Sun; not Sun) (irregular) |
| 6:00-7:00 p.m. | 2300-2400 | AFRTS-Washington | A | 15430, 15330,6030 |
| 6:00.7:50 p.m. | 2300-2450 | R. Pyongvang | C | 11535, 9977 |
| 6:00-8:00 p.m. | 2300-0100 | R. Moscow | B | 15425, 15245, 15100, 12050, 12030, 11960, 11750, 11735, 9685, 9665, 9600, 9530 |
| 6:30.7:30 p.m. | 2330.2430 | BBC | A | $\begin{aligned} & 15070,11910,9590,9580,7325 \\ & 6175,6120,5975 \end{aligned}$ |
| 6:45-7:45 p .m. | 2345-2445 | R. Japan | B | 17825, 15270 |
| 7:00-7:15 p.m. | 0000-0015 | R. Japan | B | 15105 |
| 7:00-7:25 p.m. | 0000-0025 | R. Tirana | B | 9750, 7065 |
| 7:00-7:30 p.m. | 0000-0030 | R. Norway | C | 9605. 6080 (Mon only) |
| 7:00.7:30 p.m. | 0000-0030 | R. Canada international | A | 5960 |
| 7:00.7:30 p.m. | 0000-0030 | $V$. of Chile | B | 17800, 15175, 15140 |
| 7:00-7:55 p.m. | 0000-0055 | R. Peking | B | 17680, 15520, 15060 |
| 7:00-8:00 p.m. | 0000-0100 | R. Sotia | B | 15330 |
| 7:00.8:00 p.m. | 0000-0100 | AFRTS.Washington | A | 17765, 15330,6030 |
| 7:00-9:00 p.m. | 0000-0200 | CBC Norhern Service | B | 9625, 6195 (Sun -0100) |
| 7:00-9:00 p.m. | 0000.0200 | VOA | A | 15205, 11740, 9640,6130 |
| 7:00.9:00 p.m. | 0000.0200 | Spanish Foreign R. | B | 11880, 9630 (exc. Mon) |
| 7:00-9:00 p.m. | 0000.0200 | R. Luxembourg | C | 6090 |
| 7:15-7:30 p.m. | 0015-0030 | V. of Greece | B | 11730,9760 |
| 7:15-8:00 p.m. | 0015-0100 | BRT, Belgium | C | 6080 |
| 7:30-7:50 p.m. | 0030.0050 | SODRE, Uruguay | C | 11885, 9515 (time varies) |
| 7:30-8:00 p.m. | 0030-0100 | R. Sweden | B | 9590 |
| 7:30-8:00 p.m. | 0030.0100 | R. Prague | C | 9630, 6055 |
| 7:30.8:00 p.m. | 0030-0100 | R. Kiev | B | 15405, 15180, 11780, 9600 |
| 7:30-10:30 p.m. | 00300330 | 8BC | A | $\begin{aligned} & 9580,9510,9410,7325,6175 \\ & 6120,5975 \end{aligned}$ |
| 7:30-12:00 p.m. | 0030.0500 | HCJB, Ecuador | B | 11915,9560 |
| 7:35-8:35 p.m. | 0035-0135 | TWR-Bonaire | B | 11925 |
| 8:00-8:15 p .m | $0100 \cdot 0115$ | R. Japan | B | 15105 |
| 8.00.8:15 p.m | $0100 \cdot 0115$ | R. Vatican | B | 11845, 9605, 6015 |
| 8:00.8:20 p.m. | 0100-0120 | RAI, Italy | B | 11810,9575 |
| 8:00-8:30 p.m. | $0100 \cdot 0130$ | R. Canada Internatronat | A | 9755, 9535 |
| 8.00 .8 .45 p mm . | 01000145 | R. Berlien International | C | 9730 |
| 8.00-8:55 p.m. | $0100 \cdot 0155$ | R. Prague | B | 11990, 9630, 9540, 7345, 5930 |
| 8:00-8:55 p.m. | 0100-0155 | R. Peking | B | 17680. 15520. 15060 |
| 8:00-9:00 p.m. | 01000200 | V. of Free China | C | 17890, 15425 |
| 8.00-10:00 p.m. | 0100.0300 | R. Moscow | B | 15425, 15245, 15100, 12050, 12030, 11750. $11735,9700,9685,9665$. $9600,7290,7250$ |
| 8:00.10.36 p.m. | 0100.0330 | R. Habana Cuba | A | 11930 |
| 8:00-12:00 p.m. | 0100.0500 | R. Australa | B | 17795, 15320 |
| $8.00 \cdot 12.00 \mathrm{pm} . \mathrm{m}$. | 0100.0500 | WYF R. Family Radio | A | 5985 |
| 8:00-12:00 p.пn. | 0100.0500 | AFRTS Washington | A | 17765, 15330, 11790,6030 |
| 8:30-8:50 p.m. | 01300150 | V. of Germariy | A | $11865,9605,9565,9545,6100,6085$ 6075, 6040 |
| 8:30.8:55 p.m. | 0130-0155 | Austrian Radio | C | 9770, 6155 |
| 8.30-8:55 p.m. | 0130.0155 | R. Tirana | B | 7300, 6200 |
| 8:30.9:00 p.m. | 0130.0200 | V. of Chile | B | 11890, 11765 |
| 8:30-9:25 p.ri. | 01300225 | R. Bucharest | C | $\begin{aligned} & 11940,11840,11705,9690,9570 . \\ & 6155,5990 \end{aligned}$ |
| 8:30.9:30 p.m. | 0130.0230 | R. Japan | B | 17825, 17755, 17725, 15195 |
| 8:45-9:15 p.m. | 01450215 | Swiss R. Inter national | $B$ | $\begin{aligned} & 15305,11780 \text { SSB, } 11715,9725 \\ & 6135 \end{aligned}$ |
| 9 00.9:15 p.m. | $0200-0215$ | R. Japan | A | 15105 |
| 9:00-9:30 p.m. | 0200.0230 | R. Canada internationd | A | 1:845.9755 |
| 9:00.9:30 p.m. | 02000230 | R. Norway | B | 11860.9550, 6180 (Mon only) |
| 9:00.9:30 p.m. | 0200.0230 | R. Budapest | 8 | $15225,11910,9833,9585.6000$ 6080 (not Mon) |
| 9:00-9:30 p.m. | 0200-0230 | F. Warsaw | c | 15120. 11815, 9525, 7270, 7145. 6135. 6095 |
| 9.00-9:55 p.mm. | $0200 \cdot 0255$ | R. Peking | $B$ | 17680, 15060, 12055 |
| 9:00-10:30 p.m. | 0200.0330 | R. Carro | 8 | 9475,6230 |
| 9:15-9:30 p.m. | 02150230 | V. of Greece | 8 | 11730, 9760,9655 |
| 9:30-9:45 p.m. | 0230.0245 | R. Pakistan | C | 21590, 17830 |
| 9:30.9:55 p.m. | 0230-0255 | R. Tirana | 8 | 7300,6200 |
| 9:30-10:00 $\mathrm{p} . \mathrm{mm}$. | 02300300 | R. Lebanon | 8 | 11965 (frequent changes) |
| 9:30-10:00 p.m. | $0230 \cdot 0300$ | R. Korea | C | 11850 |
| 9:30.10:00 p.m. | 0230.0300 | R. Sweden | 8 | 11705. 9695 |
| 9:30.10:15 p.m. | 02300315 | R. Berlin International | c | 9730 |
| 9:30-10:25 p.m. | 0230-0325 | R. Nederland | A | 9590, 6165 |
| 9:30 p.m. 12:10 a.m. | 0230.0510 | CBC Northern Service | B | 9625, 6195 (Mon) |
| 10:00-10:15 p.m. | 0300.0315 | R. Japan | 8 | 15105 |
| 10:00-10:15 p.m. | 03000315 | Austrian Radio | C | 9770,6155 (Sun Orly) |
| 10:00.10:30 p.m. | 0300.0330 | R. Canada Interinational | A | 11845, 9755, 9535,5960 |
| 10:00-10:30 p.m. | 0300.0330 | $V$. of Chile | B | 11890, 11765 |
| 10:0 | 0300.0330 | R. Portu | B | 11935, 6025 (Mon -0320) |


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| 10:00.10:30 p.m. | 0300.0330 | R. Budapest | B | 15225, 11910, 9833. 9585, 6080, 6000 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 10:00.10:30 p.m. | 0300.0330 | R. Warsaw | c | $\begin{aligned} & 15120,11815,9525,7270,7145, \\ & 6135,6095 \end{aligned}$ |
| 10:00.10:30 p.m. | 0300-0330 | R. Kiev | B | $\begin{aligned} & 15425,12060,12050,12030 \text {. } \\ & 11780,9775 \end{aligned}$ |
| 10:00-10:55 p.m. | 0300.0355 | R. Prague | B | 11990, 9630,9540, 7345, 5930 |
| 10:00.10:55 p.m. | 0300-0355 | R. Peking | B | 17735, 15305, 15060, 12055 |
| 10:00-11:00 p.m. | 0300.0400 | RAE, Argentina | C | 9690 (Tue-Sat) |
| 10:0011:00 p.m. | 0300.0400 | R. Baghdad | C | 11925 |
| 10:00-11:00 p.m. | 0300.0400 | R. Moscow | B | 9700, 9685, 9665, 9600, 9530 . $7290,7250$ |
| 10:00-11:26 p.m. | 0300.0426 | R. RSA | B | 9585, 7270, 5980, 4990, 3995 |
| $\text { 10:00 p.m. } 12: 07 \text { a.m. }$ | 0300.0507 | CBC, Northern Service | 8 | 9625, 6195 (Sun 0510) (not Mon) |
| 10:15.10:45 p.m. | 0315.0345 | UBC, Uganda | B | 15325 (time varies) |
| 10:25.10:30 p.m. | 0325-0330 | V. of Armenia | 8 | 15405, 15180, 15100, 11870 (Sun, Wed, Thu, Sat) |
| 10:30-10:55 p.m. | 0330-0355 | R. Tirana | 8 | 7300, 6200 |
| 10:30.10:55 p.m. | 0330-1355 | Austrian Radio | C | 9770,6155 |
| 10:30-11:15 p.m. | $0330-0415$ | R. Berlin International | 8 | 11970, 11890, 11840 |
| 10:30-11:30 p.m. | 03300430 | R. Moscow | B | 15180, 15100, 12050, 12030, 12000, 11720,9710 |
| 10:30.11:45 p.m. | 0330.0445 | BBC | A | 9410,6175,5975 |
| 10:30-11:50 p.m. | 0330.0450 | R. Haluna Cuba | A | 11930, 11725 |
| 10:30 p.m. 1:00 a.m. | 0330-0600 | R. Habana Cuba | A | 11760 |
| 11:00-11:15 p.m. | 0400.0415 | R. Japan | B | 15105 |
| 11:00-11:15 p.m. | 0400.0415 | R. Budapest | B | 15225, 11910, 9833, 9585, 6000 60 BO (Wed \& Sat) |
| 11:00.11:30 p.m. | 0400.0430 | R. Bucharest | C | $\begin{aligned} & 11940,11840,11705,9690,9570 \text {, } \\ & 6155,5990 \end{aligned}$ |
| 11:00.11:30 p.m. | 0400.0430 | R. Canada International | A | 11845, 9535, 5960 |
| 11:00.11:30 p.m. | 0400.0430 | R. Norway | B | 9645, 6180 (Man only) |
| 11:00-11:55 p.m. | 0400.0455 | R. Peking | B | 17735, 15305, 15060, 12055 |
| 11:00 p.m. 2:00 a.m. | 0400.0700 | R. Kuwait | C | 15345 |
| 11:30-11:55 p.m. | $0430-0455$ | R. Austria | C | 6015 |
| 11:30.12:00 p.m. | 0430-0500 | Swiss R. International | 8 | 11715,9725 |
| 11:30-12:00 p.m. | 0430.0500 | R. Sofia | B | 11750 |
| 11:30 p.m. 1:30 a.m. | ¢430.0630 | R. Muscow | B | $15100,12030,12000,11720 .$ $9730,9710,9610$ |
| 11:45 p.m. $2: 30$ a.m. | 0445.0730 | BBC | A | 9510, 6175, 5975 |
| 12:00-12:15 a.m. | 0500.0515 | Israel R. | 8 | 11960, 11655, 9833 |
| 12:00-12:15 a.m. | 0500.0515 | R. Japan | 8 | $15105$ |
| 12:00.12:30 a.m. | 0500.0530 | R. Portugal | B | 11935, 6025 (Mon - 0520 ) |
| 12:00.1:00 a.m. | 0500-0600 | AF RTS, Washington | A | 15330, 9755, 6030 |
| 12:00.1:00 a.m. | 0500.0600 | R. Austratia | C | 17725. 15240, 15140 |
| 12:00.2:00 a.m. | 0500. 0700 | HCJB Ecuador | B | 6095 |
| 12:15.1:15 a.m. | 0515.0615 | Spanish Foreign R . | B | 11880, 9630 (exc. Mon) |
| 12:30-12:50 a.m. | 0530.0550 | V. of Germany | A | 9545, 6185, 6135, 6100, 5960 |
| 12:30.1:00 a.m. | 0530.0600 | V. ol Chile | B | 11765 |
| 12:30.1:25 a.m. | 0530.0625 | R. Nederland | A | 9715.6165 |
| 12:45-1:00 a.m. | 0545.0600 | UN Radio | A | 9620. 6055 (Tue-Sat) |
| 12:55-3:35 a.m. | 0555.0835 | V. of Nigeria | B | 15120, 11770, 7255 |
| 1:00-1:15 a.m. | 0600.0615 | R. Japan | B | 15105 |
| 1:00.1:30 a.m. | 0600.0630 | R. Norway | B | 9645 (Mun only) |
| 1:00-2:00 a.m. | 0600-0700 | RAE, Aıgentina | C | 11755, 9690, 6120 (Tue-Sat Oniy) |
| 1:00-2:00 a m. | 0600.0700 | R. RSA | C | 17780, 15220 |
| 1:002:30 a.m. | 0600.0730 | R. Australia | B | 17795, 17725 |
| 1:00-4:00 a.m. | 0600.0900 | AFRTS Washington | A | 15330, 11805, 9755, 6030 |
| 1:00-6:30 a.m. | 06001130 | HCJB, Ecuador | C | 11900.6130 |
| 1:15-1:30 a.m. | 0615.0630 | R. Canada International | 8 | 11960, 9655, 6150, 6140 (Mon.Fri) |
| 1:30.2:00 a.m. | 0630.0700 | R. Korea | C | 9640 |
| 1:30-2:30 a.m. | 0630-0730 | R. Moseow | B | $\begin{aligned} & 15100,12030,12000,11750,11720 . \\ & 9730,9710,9610 \end{aligned}$ |
| 1:30-3:00 a.m. | 0630.0800 | R. Habana Cuba | A | 9525 |
| 1:45-2:00 a.m. | 0645.0700 | R. Canada finternational | B | 11960, 9655, 6150, 6140 (Mon-Fri) |
| 2:00.2:15 a.m. | 0700-0715 | R. Japan | B | 9505 |
| 2:00-3:30 a.m. | 0700.0830 | HCJB, Ecuador | C | 11835,9665 |
| 2:00-4:55 a.m. | 0700.0955 | V. of Philippines | c | 9580 (varies) |
| 2:00 5:30 a.m. | $0700 \cdot 1030$ | HCJB, Ecuador | C | 9745 |
| 2:07.2:15 a.m. | 0707.0715 | UN Radio | A | 6135,6055 (Tue-Sat) |
| 2:30-2:45 a.m. | 0730.0745 | UN Radio | A | 6135, 6055 (Tue-Sar) |
| 2:30-3:25 a.m. | 0730.0825 | R. Nederland | B | 9770, 9715 |
| 2:30.4:00 am . | 0730-0900 | BBC | A | 9510 |
| 2:30.5:00 a.m. | $0730 \cdot 1000$ | R. Australia | C | 17725, 11835 |
| 3:00.3:15 a.m. | 0800.0815 | R. Japan | B | 9505 |
| 3:30.4:25 a.m. | 0830-0925 | A. Nederland | B | 9715 |

Explanatory Notes.

1. Times in first columinare CDT or EST. For ADT ddd 2 hours; EDT or AST, add 1 hour. CST or MDT, subtract 1 hour. MST or PDT, subtract 2 hours. PST, subtract 3 hours. Days of week are in GMT.
2. Quality. A-stiong signal and very reliatile reception. B-regular reception. C-occasionai reception under favorable conditions. D-rarely audible. These ratings are for locations in the central USA. European and African stations are in general. more reliably received in eastern North America. Asian and Pacific stations are more relably received in western North America. North Anerican stations are received well except in areas too close to the transmitter site. 3. The intormation in this listing is conect to press time. However, frequencies and schedules are constantly changing. Listen to "DX Digest" on Sunday hoasucasts of R. Canada International for late changes.
3. R-Radio: $V$-Voice

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## MODEM*

Part no. 109

- Type 103 - Full or half duplex - Works up to 300 baud • Originate or Answer - No coils, only low cost components - TTL input and output-serial $\cdot$ Connect 8 ohm speaker
 and crystal mic. directly to board - Uses XR FSK demodulator - Requires +5 volts - Board $\$ 7.60$ with parts $\$ 27.50$


## DC POWER SUPPLY*

Part no. 6085

- Board supplies a reguiated +5 volts at 3 amps., $+12,-12$, and -5 volts at 1 amp . Power required is 8 volts $A C$ at 3 amps., and 24 volts ACC.T. at 1.5 amps. - Board only $\$ 12.50$; with parts excluding transformers $\$ 42.50$


## TAPE INTERFACE *

Part no. 111

- Play and record Kansas City Standard tapes Converts a low cost tape recorder to a digital recorder • Works up to 1200 baud - Digital in and out are TTL-serial - Output of board connects to mic. in of recorder - Earphone of

recorder connects to input on board - No coils e Requires +5 volts. low power drain - Board $\$ 7.60$; with parts $\$ 27.50$


## T.V. TYPEWRITER

Part no. 106

- Stand alone TVT - 32 char/line, 16 lines, modifications for 64 char/line included - Parallel ASCII (TTL) input • Video output - 1 K on board memory Output for compu ter controlled cur-
 ser - Auto scroll
Non-destructive curser - Curser inputs: up, down, left, right, home, EOL, EOS - Scroll up, down - Requires +5 volts at 1.5 amps , and -12 volts at 30 mA - A. 117400 , TTL chips - Char gen 2513 - Upper case only • Board only $\$ 39.00$; with parts $\$ 145.00$


## TIDMA *



Part no. 112

- Tape Interface Direct Memory Access - Record and play programs without bootstrap loader (no prom) has FSK encoder/decoder for direct connections to low cost recorder at 1200 baud rate, and direct connections for inputs and outputs to a digital recorder at any baud rate. - S-100 bus compatible - Board only $\$ 35.00$, with parts $\$ 110.00$


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Part no. 101

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Part no. 300

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Part no. 600

- Converts RS-232 to 20 mA current loop, and 20 mA current loop to RS-232 - Two separate circuits - Requires +12 and -12 volts • Board only $\$ 4.50$, with parts $\$ 7.00$



## RS 232/TTL* INTERFACE

Part no. 232

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| The ZIP DIP It socket has been devened for (muntied with A thouthtul whem of rampe (munted with a thoughtul ynem of ramper and |  |
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| Wauls in d soukt mion whin, the device can |  |
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| 2.4576 MHz | MP024 |
| 2667 MHz | MP026 |
| 3.00 MHz | MP030 |
| 3.20 MHz | MP031 |
| 3.2768 MHz | MP032 |
| 3579545 MHz | MP036 |
| 40 MHz | MP040 |
| 10 MHz | MP04A |
| 4.194304 MHz | MP041 |
| 4.91520 MHz | MP042 |
| 5.0 MHz | MP05A |
| 5.0688 M Hz | MP050 |
| 5.185 MHz | MP05 |
| 5.7143 MHz | MP057 |
| 6.00 MHz | MP050 |
| 6.144 MHz | MPOEI |
| 6. 40 MHz | MP064 |
| 6.5536 MHz | MP065 |
| 8.0 MHz | MP080 |
| 10.0 MHz | MP100 |
| 1800 MHz | MP180 |
| 18432 MHz | MP184 |
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Superior Instrument CB model TD-55 Schematics, parts list. and operating manual. Franklin Bergquis?. 104 Sarver Dr., Leesville, LA 71446

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Superior instrument Multi-tester model 670-A. Parts list schematic, and operating manual Roy Swanger, 104 Valley Dr.. Briageport. WV 26330.

Dumont type 241 cathode ray oscilloscope. Instruction and senvice manual. Frank Bloom, Box 1128, Rockville. MD 20850

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Precision Electronics signal tracer mode 102. Schematic and parts hist. Andrew Lee. 1522 W. 34th St.. Houston. TX 77018.

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Mercury model 990 tube tester. Operating instruction. schematic, and fube chart. Reginald Higgins, 656 Clevenger Rd.. Ontario. NY 14519.

Mercury model t500 model dynamic mutual conductarice tube tester. Need power transformer and latest tube chart. Jeff Brown, 1431 Jonah Dr.. North Huntington. PA 15642.

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Maganavox electrostatic headphone power supply Model 1A9217 or part \#1A9224. Ken Mossman. \#3 1205 Bay Victoria, B.C., Canada V8T1S7.

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