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| ADP $^{\text {A }}$ M/P | 5 | BCiazL | ${ }_{80}$ | ME6002 | 14 | OC29 | 86 | 2N3704 | 12 D | OA90 | 61 | 723 C | To90 | 87 |
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| $500 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 25 V | 180 | $32-32 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 450 V | 49 |
| $500 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 50 V | 25p | SO-50, F | 350 V |  |

MINIATURE ELECTROLYTICS

| $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 63 V | 6p | $47 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 16 V | 7p |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $2 \cdot 2 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 63V | $6 p$ | $47 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 25V | 6 p |
| $3 \cdot 3 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 63 V | 6p | $68 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 16 V | 60 |
| $4.7 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 63 V | 6 p | $100 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 10 V | $6 p$ |
| $8{ }_{\mu} \mathrm{F}$ | 40 V | 7p | $220 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 16 V | 7p |
| $10 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 25 V | ${ }^{6 p}$ | $330 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 16 V | $11 p$ |
| $10 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 64 V | 7 p | $470 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 10 V | $11 p$ |
| $16 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 40 V | 7p | $1,000 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | 16 V | 19p |
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# everyday <br> PROJECTS ... THEORY. 

## ADD COLOUR

To amplified sound, there is now that popular "added ingredient" colour. Perhaps, in a way too popular. Discotheques and dance halls have been quick to appreciate the emotive and sensuous atmosphere that sound and coloured lighting in combination can create. The strident sounds of pop generate an equally brilliant and flamboyant visual accompaniment. So not surprisingly it is the garish kind of colour display that usually comes to mind when this subject is mentioned.

But the technique is applicable to all kinds of music. And, after all, a link between sound and colour is not altogether unnatural. Most people have their own mental "colour" interpretation for various sounds they hear. It is well known that certain musical instruments evoke particular colour patterns in the mind. Furthermore a similarity of terminology employed helps to establish some affinity between the aural and visual fields. Tonal shades are the subtle variations that produce the "colourful" tune and the attractive picture. To combine harmoniously the senses of hearing and sight must only increase the general pleasure obtained.

## IN THE MIND

Not that everyone would subscribe wholeheartedly to this idea. Some music lovers would avow that their fullest and deepest appreciation of music is obtained when listening in a darkened room or with eyes closed. Yet this is not entirely contradictory to the idea proposed above. The
darkened room or closed eyes are devices to eliminate distraction and to aid the creation of mental imagery in response to the aural stimuli alone.

Perhaps, for many other individuals, such mental imagery may be more readily stimulated with the aid of a colour accompaniment.

## JUST DREAMING

But like music itself, this colour business is not all serious. It can of course be used to suit all moods and fancies. What about those occasions when all we want is quiet relaxation? Well, in today's centrally heated home the audio controlled colour display unit could be a very agreeable substitute for the flickering flames of the long departed coal fire. What better than to gaze at the kaleidoscopic display and let the imagination run?

## ANOTHER VIEW

However, for those readers who decide to go in for colour television instead, we can still offer some help. Our unique design for a u.h.f. aerial will save the handiman some of the normal initial outlay. And add some distinction to his roof top, being markedly different from the all too common Magi display - which is a familiar feature of the suburban skyline.


Our March Issue will be published on Friday, February 16

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## EASY TO CONSTRUCT SIMPLY EXPLAINED


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> Modulates coloured lamps in time with the bass, middle and high frequency notes.

The Audio Colour Unit described in this article is of a fairly basic design that can power a load of not more than 160 watts on each of the three channels used. The unit modulates three sets of lights with respect to the audio signal taken from across the loudspeaker of a sound system.

The signal is roughly divided into bass, middle and treble frequencies within the unit so that the three sets of lights correspond to these "sound channels"; the light intensity depends on the amplitude of the input signal.

## LIMIT ATIONS

Because of the simple design employed the circuit does have some limitations; these are basically the audio level required to operate the unit and the limited light output.

To take the second point first, you may be wondering why we say that three times 160 watts ( 480 watts) is limited. However it must be remembered that the thyristors (controlled
silicon rectifiers) used in this design only pass current in one direction, therefore the lamps will not receive the full sine wave even if the thyristor is turned fully on by the audio signal. Hence the total output power will be something in the region of 250 watts and that, only when all the channels are fully on.
The other limitation-the audio level required -actually governs; to some extent, the light output. By using more powerful thyristors it is possible to increase the lamp output power, however by doing this it is probable that a greater audio level will be required to drive the unit.
With the values and types given for the design shown, approximately half a watt output from an amplifier is required to drive the unit and, for the best results about one watt is a more realistic figure. Using higher power thyristors this figure' would be raised to a possible five watts, which is actually very loud for a domestic situation.


Fig. 1. Circuit diagram of the Audio Colour Unit using three 40W lamps on each channel as in the prototype unit.


## DESIGN

The unit as described is designed to be used in a reasonable size room and to provide some colour mixing rather than just individual flashing lights.

The unit can be used upright as a colour light column or placed horizontally on a bookshelf, or the basic light system itself could be incorporated in a wall panel or as concealed ceiling lighting. The display could be made square as an alternative to the oblong design shown. Two could be constructed for operation from a stereo amplifier, one each side with the loudspeakers or the single unit may be operated from a record player or hi fi system, mono or stereo.

The lamps used for illumination are standard 40 watt 240 V colour lamps which are readily
available from electrical equipment dealers in red, blue, green and yellow. Pink lamps are also made but few dealers seem to stock them.

## CONTROL CIRCUIT

The circuit diagram of the unit is shown in Fig. 1. The input from any mono or stereo amplifier is taken through a series resistor of 20 ohms ( R 1 or R2) to prevent amplifier loading. To operate a single display unit from a stereo amplifier the two channels are connected to $\mathrm{CH1}$ and CH 2 inputs which the common or earth lead being taken to E ; for mono amplifiers use either input and E. Signals fed into the circuit are taken via the level control (VR1) which can be adjusted according to the loudness of the music and the required light output.
For power levels from about 0.5 to 1 watt the control is used at maximum. When the amplifier output is increased (louder reproduction) then VR1 can be turned anti-clockwise to control the lights.
The audio signals are separated according to frequency by the filter circuits built around the three transformers T1, T2 and T3. These transformers are mains to low voltage types and therefore have mains voltage insulation. This is necessary to safely isolate the lamps and the


Fig. 2. Dimensions of the prototype lamp box. The size and shape of this box can be varied but adequate ventilation should be provided.

Fig. 3. Layout and wiring of the lamps and suggested colour combinations.



Photograph showing the finished lamp box and the back panel with lamps and reflector in place.

Wires to the lamps run underneath and should be connected before mounting the lamp platform onto the rear panel.

The lamp reflector screen is made from hardboard and is retained in position by the lamps.


Photograph of the complete circuit board of the prototype.

The reflecting surface is obtained by covering the upper side with aluminium foil, which can be glued on with Evostik (see photograph). The top and bottom of the interior of the box are also lined with aluminium foil to provide

Fig. 5. Layout and wiring of the "electronics" box. Make sure that components R1 and R2 cannot touch the component board and that the case is earthed if it is metal.



ANGLE BRACKET FOR MOUNTING IN CASE


Fig. 4. Layout and wiring of the complete circuit board. The spare wires from the transformers can be cut off as shown.
reflection. It is important that adequate ventilation is provided by means of holes in the sides of the case.

## CONTROL UNIT

All the "electronics" should be housed in a separate unit away from the lamps to prevent overheating. The circuit board layout and wiring is shown in Fig. 4. Note how the connections to the lamps are taken off via a mains connector block. These blocks are readily available from electrical equipment dealers and should be used for reasons of safety. The unit is connected to the lamps by means of a four-way cable. The wiring associated with the input terminals and VR1 is shown in Fig. 5.

Lamp wiring is shown in Fig. 3 and leads from this are taken off through another electrical connecting block to the four-way lead that is connected to the "electronics" unit. Wiring to the lamps should be completed before mounting the lamp platform onto the rear panel so that the wiring can be run underneath the platform. The wiring of the lamps in the groups as shown was found to be the most effective when used with either of the colour groupings shown below the lamp wiring diagram. Note that only one yellow lamp is used in either group as this colour produces a much stronger light than the others. It was found that more than one yellow lamp tended to swamp the light given by the other colours. Constructors can of course experiment with various lamp combinations.

## SETTING UP

With VR1 at maximum and VR2 and VR3 both at maximum resistance (turned down) connect CH and E to the loudspeaker connections on the audio equipment by means of a twoway cable-it does not need to be screened lead - and set the volume control to average listening level. Note that at least half a watt of audio signal is required to trigger the thyristors so the unit will not operate from low output amplifiers such as the output stage of a transistor radio or very low output record player or tape recorder. Verify that your amplifier, record player or tape recorder is rated for at least two to three watts output.

Music with a fairly well defined bass and some contrasting mid range and lower treble is best for setting the response of the three light channels. There is no adjustment for the treble filter circuit so it is only necessary to set VR2 so that mid range notes operate lamps LP4, 5 and 6 and VR3 so that bass notes operate lamps LP7, 8 and 9.

First adjust the amplifier volume so that lamps LP1, 2 and 3 (upper treble) are just flashing. Now bring VR2 toward minimum resistance until the corresponding lamps begin to flash and then do the same with VR3. The approximate setting for VR2 and VR3 should
be about half resistance. A little experiment along these lines with different kinds of music will soon reveal the optimum setting of VR2 and VR3 to obtain defined operation of the lamp groups for the three frequency bands.

These preliminary adjustments are easier made before enclosing the lamp platform or the circuit board within their cases. Whilst these adjustments are being carried out take care to avoid touching the thyristors, the cases of which are also the anode connection and are therefore live to mains voltage. This warning applies of course to any other mains wiring.

There will probably be some interaction between channels whilst setting up, e.g., variation of VR3 may alter the response of the other two channels, particularly the treble channel, hence some careful adjustment may be required.

The finished lamp case can be painted or covered with one of the plastic adhesive materials available in woodgrain or pattern.

## Components ....

Resistors


## Capacitors

| C1 | $0.05 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | C 4 | $0.2 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| C 2 | $0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | C 5 | $25 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ elect. 25 V |
| C 3 | $0.2 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ | C 6 | $25 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ elect. 25 V |
|  | C 7 | $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ at least 300 V rating |  |

## Semiconductors

CSR1, 2, 3, any 1 amp 400 p.i.v. thyristor (controlled silicon rectifier 3 off)
With respect to the above ratings see text.
Potentiometers
VR1 $1 \mathrm{kS} /$ carbon linear
VR2 $470 \Omega 2$ skeleton preset or miniature preset
VR3 $470 \Omega$ skeletan preset or miniature preset
Transformers
T1, 2, 3-12,0,12V secondary 240 V primary miniature mains transformers used in reverse (Eagle MT12 or similar-three off)

## Miscellaneous

SK1, 2, 3 Single screw or spring loaded terminals (three off)
LP1 to LP9 240V 40W coloured lamps and batten mounting holders ( 9 off)
S1 S.p.s.t. mains toggle switch
Plain perforated 0.15 inch matrix Veroboard $6 \frac{1}{2} \times 5$ inches, one four way and one 12 way terminal block, control knob, connecting wire, case for control unit approx. $7 \times 6 \times 2$ inches die-cast or similar metal or plastic case.
Materials for display case-see text and drawings, 4BA fixings and wood screws, three core mains lead and plug.

## BASIC (4) Electricity

By Maureen Birch

AST month we showed that the electric current flowing in a coil produced a magnetic effect. We can go on to show that the magnetic field strength produced is controlled by the amount of current.

## EXPERIMENTS

Use your U shaped electromagnet and a piece of iron that just closes the gap between the pole pieces.


Fig. 4.1. Experiment to show the relationship between magnetic strength and current flowing In an electromagnet.

First of all check the degree of force you need to pull the iron off the magnet when no current is flowing through the coil-there should be virtually no force required as any magnetism left in the magnet is due to remanence. Now connect the magnet to a 9 V supply and the force required will be very large; as an extra experiment connect a lead pencil or old electric fire element in series with the magnet and the battery-the force required to pull the iron off
the magnet will be reduced, Fig. 4.1. This is because we are limiting the current through the coil with the resistance of the pencil's graphite. The higher the current the higher the force and vice versa.

Increasing the electrical resistance of the circuit reduces the current-provided we do not change the battery voltage. Try different battery voltages ( 4.5 V ) with and without a resistance in circuit. You should find a relationship showing that the higher the voltage or the lower the resistance, the more force you need (i.e. we have most current flowing); a low voltage or high resistance will give a smaller current.

This very crude experiment is the beginnings of measuring the absolute magnitude of electric current and is the basic principle by which meters work.

## MOVING COIL METER

The modern moving coil meter uses this principle but works the other way round from our experiment. It uses a very powerful permanent magnet with a light coil of wire suspended on a pivot between the poles see Fig. 4.2. Note that there is no iron core in the coil.
The coil is mechanically coupled to a pointer that moves over a calibrated scale. The movement of the coil is limited by a very fine hairspring which is also used to carry the current to the coil; the other connection to the coil usually goes via the bearing and the pivot. Without the spring a very small current flowing through the coil would produce a field (even though there is no iron) and the coil would immediately line itself so that its North pole pointed straight to the permanent magnet's South pole.

This is a very sensitive way of showing that current is flowing through the coil but does not give any indication of magnitude. Without a spring our meter is called a ballistic galvano-


Fig. 4.2. The basics of a moving coil meter.
meter; reverse the direction of current flow and the coil will swing round the other way.

Now consider the action of the hair spring; it will always try to keep the coil in its original position (zero on the scale). If we pass a current, the magnetic forces will operate against the restraining action of the spring and instead of a full 90 degree rotation of the coil it will only move a few degrees-this being controlled by the strength of the field (proportional to the current) and the reverse torque of the spring.

Meter movements (as the magnet, coil, spring assemblies are called) are as delicate as any watch movement and thus they are able to register minute electric currents-millionths of an ampere as compared to the many amperes that flow in car electrical systems.

## HOT WIRE TYPE

Another effect of an electric current, with which we are all familiar, is its "heating effect". Examples of this are an electric fire element and light bulb glowing. Certain types of meter-used mainly for alternating currents-take advantage of this effect; they are called hot wire meters. Fig. 4.3 shows in schematic detail the principle.


Fig. 4.3. Schematic diagram of a hot wire meter.

When a current flows through the wire, it becomes hot and expands (irrespective of the direction of flow); this causes the pointer to move cver the scale indicating the current magnitude. Hot wire meters are not often used in amateur applications and the time they take to reach an end reading is a factor which limits their use.

## THERMOCOUPLE METER

There is another type that uses the heating effect in a roundabout way. Called a thermocouple meter it has a moving coil movement to which is connected a very sensitive thermocouple (a device that generates a voltage when it gets hot). The thermocouple is in contact with a piece of resistance wire that gets warm when cursent flows through it.

Again the direction of current flow is not important and the device is used for measuring high frequency currents-as occur in radio transmitters. Again they are not often used by amateurs and they have a non-linear scale (i.e. the readings tend to be cramped at one end and stretched out at the other).


Fig. 4.4. The movement of a moving iron type meter.

## MOVING IRON

In a fourth type of meter-called a moving iron meter-a magnetic field is produced by a current passing through a fixed coil. Two pieces of iron are placed within the coil, one fixed and the other on the end of a pivoted pointer, see Fig. 4.4.

The magnetic effect of the current causes both pieces of iron to become electromagnets having like poles at the same end; this produces a repulsion between the two pieces of iron and the one at the pointer moves away from the
fixed piece. As with the moving coil movement a hair spring limits the deflection and the scale reading is in proportion to the current flowing through the coil.

This type of movement is often used in very low priced meters but there are problems. The heavy iron on the pointer has an inertia which causes the meter to "overshoot" the correct deflection and the pointer tends to swing backwards and forwards for some considerable time -we say the meter is not damped.

The balance of the iron about the pivot is critical and the meter can only be used flat on its back; the scale is not truly linear and the coil requires quite a lot of current to produce a deflection-it is therefore not very sensitive. The direction of current flow, however, does not matter.

## SHUNT RESISTANCE

Because of the respective problems associated with the other types the moving coil meter is most generally favoured for straightforward current measurement. Very sensitive movements can be used to measure heavy currents by using a low resistance shunted across the coil, see Fig. 4.5.


Fig. 4.5. Using a shunt resistor to enable a high sensitivity movement to measure high currents.

This resistance has to be less than the internal resistance of the coil so that most of the current flows through the external circuit; only a very small proportion flows through the coil. This way we can make a meter sensitive to millionths of an ampere measure several amperes. Obviously care has to be taken in using the
correct value of shunt resistor. Using switched shunt resistors we could make a multi-range ammeter.

## VOLTMETER-SERIES RESISTANCE

The current flowing through the coil is controlled by the circuit resistance and the voltage causing the current as demonstrated in our simple experiment. If we make the circuit resistance a fixed value, the current will be in direct proportion to the voltage; thus we can turn our movement into a voltmeter by putting a fixed resistor in series with it.


Fig. 4.6. A high sensitivity moving coil meter used to measure voltages.

For a given movement sensitivity we will need a certain value of resistance to give a full scale reading indicating a known voltage. The greater the sensitivity of the movement the greater we can make this resistance. For electronics work it is usual to make the movement as sensitive as possible thus keeping the meter series resistance high. Fig. 4.6 shows the basic circuit of a voltmeter.

## MULTIMETER

It is possible, with careful switching, to combine both ammeter and voltmeter into one unit and this is called a multimeter, see Fig. 4.7.

A multimeter usually has other scales for measuring alternating current and voltage as well as resistance, but the full circuit for a complete multimeter is outside the scope of this simple series. It may be that you are considering the purchase of a multimeter for use in electronics, in which case you should buy the most sensitive you can afford.


Fig. 4.7. Schematic diagram of a multirange volt/amp meter.

Sensitivity is quoted in terms of the voltmeter's series resistance (ohms per volt) and the higher the value the better-ideally 20,000 ohms per volt for all practical applications; lower sensitivities of 1,000 to 2,000 ohms per volt are a lot cheaper and although they can be used in many applications can give rise to apparent inaccuracies in some instances.

## AMMETERS \& VOLTMETERS IN CIRCUIT

When using ammeters and voltmeters in a circuit they must be connected correctly if they are to measure current and voltage differences. Visualise an ammeter as a body with arms outstretched; the positive terminal is always connected toward the positive battery terminal, and the circuit current should flow in through the positive arm and out through the negative arm into the rest of the circuit. In other words, to measure current, the ammeter must be connected in series with the circuit.

Note: the arms and legs are used only as an illustration and should not of course be taken literally.


Imagine a voltmeter as a body with two legs standing astride parts of a circuit across which we want to know the voltage difference. The positive terminal must connect to the point that has the more positive voltage, see Fig. 4.8.

## OHM'S LAW

The amount of current measured by an ammeter is the quantity of electrons flowing per second, and this movement is caused by the voltage difference between the ends of the wire through which the current is flowing. This difference is usually called the electromotive force (e.m.f. for short).

Provided all the circuit conditions remain the same (e.g. there are no changes in temperature) doubling the e.m.f. will double the current. In fact we can say that the current is directly proportional to the e.m.f. and the constant of proportionality is the circuit resistance. We call this relationship Ohm's Law and if we use volts and amperes to measure the e.m.f. and current, then the resistance is in ohms.

## WORKED EXAMPLE

Let's say the current through our electromagnet was 2 A when we used an e.m.f. of 9 volts; it would fall to 1 A if we halved the e.m.f. to 4.5 V . The ratio of voltage divided by current is the same in each case i.e. $4 \cdot 5$ and this would be the resistance of our magnet's coil in ohms. There are three ways of writing down this relationship,

$$
\begin{gathered}
V=I \times R \quad R=\frac{V}{I} \\
I=\frac{V}{R}
\end{gathered}
$$

where $V$ is the e.m.f. in volts, $I$ is the current in amperes and $R$ is resistance in ohms.

Next month: motors, gererators and alternators.


## An extension speaker unit to improve the sound output of small transistor portables.

By A. Sproxton

ANYONE who uses a small portable transistor radio and is annoyed by the "quality" of the sound output may find this extension speaker project well worthwhile.

The construction of the unit can be completed in a very short time and the improvement in the sound is well worth the small outlay. Most of the small transistor radios suffer from a lack of bass. After hearing a demonstration of how, by placing a speaker in a tube, the bass response could be increased, it was decided to apply the idea to a small extension speaker for a transistor radio.

## CONSTRUCTION

The resulting speaker consists of a $2{ }^{1}{ }_{4}$ inch diameter 8 ohm speaker placed between two 6 inch pieces of $2^{1}{ }_{8}$ inch diameter paxolin or


## Components SHIOP TALK

## Loudspeaker

LS1 $8 \Omega, 2 \frac{1}{4}$ inch diameter, moving coil type

## Miscellaneous

JK1 2.5 mm or 3.5 mm mono jack plug 2t inch paxolin or plastic tube 6 inches long (2 off). Thin 2 core wire, wooden or rubber feet, Contact fabric, plastic sticky tape and 4BA fixings.
plastic tubing, see Fig. 1. The tube rests on the metal surround of the speaker, which is a slightly larger diameter than the tube, and plastic sticky tape is stretched around the tube to hold the whole thing together.

A small notch cut in the tube allows the wire to the speaker to be led out. The other end of this wire is connected to a 2.5 mm or 3.5 mm jack plug-whichever suits the portable being used. Plug the jack plug into the earphone socket of the radio and switch on; the difference in sound should be quite noticeable.

## FINISH

To finish off the speaker, it can be covered in Contact fabric, and rubber or wooden feet can be added as shown in Fig. 1. If thin wire is used for the connection and the outside of the tube is carefully covered the resulting speaker should be pleasing in appearance.



## REIVIEMban TP TO USETHE : Readers Letters

## Colour Code

Being a beginner with limited funds, I was pleased when I received an old television set to strip down. Among the resistors I removed were a few with a fifth coloured band, pink in each case. I can find no reference to this band.

## D. G. Wood Yorkshire

The fifth band-termed salmon pink-signifies that the resistor is a high stability type. This means that its value will not vary very much with temperature.

## Wireless Museum

We thought that some of your readers who are interested in old wireless sets with brightemitter valves, or crystal sets with cat's whiskers, might like to know of the recently opened Vintage Wireless Museum in Lincolnshire. Amongst the dozens of wireless sets from the twenties
on display, many can be found in working order and may be tuned in by visitors.

The Museum is run by the Wireless Preservalion Society, the sole objects of which are the preservation and restoration of vintage wireless equipınent for purely cultural educational and historical purposes. Readers can ring the curator at 077584 485 for an appointment to viewit's free of charge.

Wireless Preservation Society

## Index

I would like to put just one question to you-are you intending to publish an index to Volume 1-preferably of a "pull out" type so it can be incorporated in case any readers deciding to have their copies permanently bound?

> E. Heesom

Warrington
An index will be available, for a small fee, from us in due course -watch for an announcement in the magazine.

## Radio Control

We feel that some of your readers might be interested to know of our society.

In common with many societies in these times, our membership has slowly diminished for several reasons, the main one being that the society was formed in 1947, and exists today to encourage and assist its members to build their own radio control equipment and ancillary gear. With the advent of commercial equipment of every type, the aim and purpose of the society has been bypassed. However our group, as a result of this situation, is nowadays composed of members who are keen constructors.
We meet on the second Thursday in each month at: The Rose and Crown, Old Park Lane, Piccadilly, London W1.

Our meetings start at 7.30 p.m. and usually consist of a few mirutes of business matters followed by a lecture from well known experts in the radio control world, or one of our own members. Throughout the year we hold conlests of radio controlled models at various venues.

## R. Ing.

Radio Control Models Society 41 Hogback Wood Road Beaconsfield, Bucks.


ONE basic "technique" wrongly executed can spell disaster for any constructional project; virtually all electronic construction is based on that technique--soldering. No matter how you try to avoid it, at some stage in the practice of constructional electronics you are going to have to be able to make a good soldered joint and it is better that you start soldering as soon as you start learning because soldering must be mastered not just learnt.

Having said this we hope that we have not put you off the subject-soldering is really quite easy provided you follow a few basic rules. We intend to set out a procedure which we hope, with the aid of the photographs opposite, will enable you to grasp the basics of the technique -after that, practice makes perfect!

## TOOLS

The first step is to obtain the correct toolsyou cannot expect to make a good job of soldering if you are using the wrong tools.

The most important "tools" are the soldering iron and the solder; they may sound obvious and simple but the right types make all the difference. The iron should be a small type of about 15 to 25 watts with ${ }^{1} 8$ inch or ${ }^{3}{ }_{16}$ inch bit.

Many such irons are advertised in our pages for around $£ 2$. The solder must only be the resin cored type sold for "electronic" or "radio" use and should be about 18 or 22 s.w.g. Many component retailers and radio and TV repair shops sell this type of solder in tubes or boxes-the more you buy the cheaper it will work out in the long run.

You will also need a pair of tapered nose pliers and a pair of side cutters, both about five inches long. A pair of wire strippers are also very helpful, as is a small flat file to clean up the soldering iron bit (unless it is a long life type) when it becomes pitted.

To demonstrate the method of soldering, we will use a piece of Veroboard and some lengths of wire and solder the wire to the board in the same way as components and flying leads would be fixed.

## TINNING

The first basic rule is to make sure everything is clean; no grease, dirt or paint on the surfaces to be soldered. Having satisfied yourself of this point, the next step is to take a short length of 18 s.w.g. tinned copper wire (available from most component stockists) and to tin one end of $i$.

To do this, first tin the iron bit so that a small amount of molten solder is held on the bit surface to aid heat transfer to the workalways retain a small amount of solder on the iron bit. Touch the end of the wire on the iron (either the wire or the iron can be fixed for this, we suggest using an iron stand that allows access to the bit which is pointing upwards) and melt some solder onto the wire (a)-not onto the iron.

By this means the wire will be hot enough to solder correctly and will tin properly. Remove the wire from the iron, it should be thinly covered by a layer of shiny solder.

## MAKING THE JOINT

Next bend the wire at right angles about $1_{4}$ inch from one end and insert it in the Veroboard, then bend the end down flat against the copper strip (b).

Place the iron bit on one side of the joint in contact with the wire and apply the solder to the other side. Apply enough solder for it to run around the wire and along the copper strip just away from the wire, as soon as the solder runs this far remove the iron, and leave the joint to cool.

The photographs opposite illustrate soldering technique and soldered joints. They are: (a) tinning a wire, (b) wire inserted In Veroboard, (c) a good joint on Veroboard, (d) a bad "blob" joint where the soider has not flowed around the copper strip, (e) two bad joints, a bridged solder joint and a dry joint, (f) a good joint using stranded plastic covered wire, (g) two good joints to a tag and a pin, (h) using a heat shunt to solder semiconductors.

(c)
(d)


Everyday Electronics, Februcry 1973

## BAD JOINTS

The solder around the joint should be clean and shiny and it should have flowed cleanly around the joint (c). If the solder has formed a blob on top of the copper (d) then you have not allowed the iron to heat the job to the correct temperature for proper soldering, this is one type of bad joint.

The second main fault when soldering is the "dry joint", this can be caused by transferring the solder to the job on the iron-the flux burns off and the job cannot solder properly-keeping the iron on the joint too long, with a similar effect, or moving the joint before it is cool.

The third bad joint is caused by trying to make a connection between two surfaces that are not in contact. Although this joint may be electrically good it will be mechanically very weak as the solder, which is soft-is forming a bridge, photograph (e) shows two bad joints.

## VARIOUS JOINTS

Try making a few joints with tinned copper wire and then make some using stranded plastic covered connecting wire (type 7/0076). This is done by stripping the insulation from ${ }^{1_{4}}$ inch of one end-use wire strippers, a sharp knife or side cutters-twist the strands together and tin them.

Be careful not to use too much solder when tinning as the solder will tend to run back up the wire and make it stiff, also too much heat will melt the plastic covering. Now make the joint as before. With a little practice it should be possible to get a good joint without damaging the covering on the wire (f).

Having practised these joints until you are confident of a good connection every time, it will be worthwhile to try soldering to some other items. We suggest that you try stranded wire to solder tags and Veroboard connecting pins, make sure you have a good mechanical connection first-to do this wrap the wire round the pin or insert it through the hole in the tag and bend it over, after tinning it. You should finish with joints like those shown in (g).

## heat shunt

When soldering transistors or other semiconductors you should use a heat shunt to prevent overheating of the component. For this use the pliers to grip the lead being soldered between the joint and the component (h).
As we have said before, practice makes perfect and after a fairly short time you should be confident enough to start some construction.

Most of the designs we publish utilise Veroboard of one kind or another and we would suggest that you commence construction with a simple project using standard $0 \cdot 15$ inch matrix Veroboard. The $0 \cdot 1$ inch matrix used for some projects is rather more difficult to work with. $\square$


## NEXT MONTH

## Electronic



Hard, soft or medium-the timer lets you know when the eggs are to your taste. The audlble signal at the end of the timed period will summon you from the morning paper to a perfect breakfast.

## ENLARGER EXPOSURE METER

Of special interest to the photographer who does his own enlarging, this article describes a meter to determine the exposure required for enlargements, without the need for test strips.

## NEON NOVELTY

A simple idea for an interesting ornamental project.

All in the March issue.

On sale Friday, February 16. 1

A simple aerial for u.h.f. TV r
oozinc arcund the rooftops one se variety of aerials used for television r tion on uh.i. In general the most cor designs are "Yagi" aerials or designs base the "Yagi", i.e an array of elements place front of a fed dipole with a reflector behin

There are good reasons for this, the main being that a Yagi array has good forward This means that it is able to concentrat -elatively larze proportion of the received sid towards its feed point, the dipole.

## DESIGN

The aerial described here however, consists of two diamond shaped elements fed in parallel and fixed in front of a reflecting mesh (Fig. 1.). It will be found to have comparatively good forward gain for its size and a good front-to-back ratio, due to the large reflector. The gain obtainz able is approximately equal to twice that from a single half-wave element placed in front of a reflector.

## D. TDOAEBJAL



Fig. 1. Details of the complete aerial showing various dimensions.

Table I: Aerial dimensions for various channels

| A | $21-34$ | $470-582 \mathrm{MHz}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $B$ | $39-51$ | $614-718 \mathrm{MHz}$ |
| C | $50-66$ | $702-838 \mathrm{MHz}$ |

Sin.
4tin.
3tin.
8in.
6 in.
$18 \times 18 i n$.
$18 \times 18 \mathrm{in}$.
$15 \times 15 \mathrm{in}$.

As the aerial is compact it will be found easy to mount in confined spaces such as lofts. It is also lightweight and in some cases can be fixed to an outside wall without appearing very conspicuous.

Although not intended for use in "fringe" areas, it can be used up to approximately 25 miles from the transmitter when mounted outside and up to 20 miles when used inside the house. These figures should only be taken as a guide as local conditions can cause widely varying signal strengths at u.h.f.

## QUALITIES

Some of the important qualities that a u.h.f. aerial should possess are (a) good matching to the feeder cable, (b) sufficient bandwidth, (c) good directional characteristics.

A good match means that the aerial impedance should "look like" the input impedance to the down-lead. This ensures maximum power transfer of the received signal to the receiver. In this case the aerial elements, the "diamonds", are dimensioned to give good matching.

By bandwidth we refer to the frequency band

Fig. 2. Polar diagram of the U.H.F. TV Aerial described.

that the aerial can cover without the received signal dropping below a certain specified value. Except for very wideband aerial types, three differently dimersioned versions of the same u.h.f. aerial are usually required to cover the u.h.f. TV band. These bands are called A, B and C.

Table 1 gives details of the relative sizes of the elements and the spacing required for the three versions of this aerial covering the three bands.

The directional characteristics of an aerial are shown on a polar diagram, which is a graph of the signal received by the aerial as it is rotated through 360 degrees.

The diagram in Fig. 2 shows a typical plot for this aerial (plotled at 570 MHz ). The front-toback ratio (i.e. ratio of signal received in the forward direction to that received from behind) is some 8 or 10 to one.

## CONSTRUCTION

The reflecting mesh (Fig. 1) can be made in two ways, the one shown is constructed from Weldmesh 22 s.w.g. galvanised ${ }^{1} 4$ inch square mesh, framed with $1_{2}$ inch aluminium angle.


Fig. 3. Insulator box mounting.
The reflector can also be made from Expamet expanded aluminium, any type with the longest opening of mesh less than one inch is suitable. If Weldmesh is used it can be painted for extra protection. The frame is made first by screwing or pop-riveting four pieces of aluminium angle together to form a square (see Table 1 for dimensions). The mesh is then cut to size so that it fits exactly into this frame, and is fixed to the frame with pop rivets and washers or brass screws and nuts.

The diamond shaped elements are made from half inch wide aluminium strip ( 18 gauge) with dimensions according to Table 1. If these are made as two separate diamonds they can be
fixed together when the insulator box is mounted between them (Fig. 3). Two metal strip spacers support the elements and these are fixed to the apex of each diamond and bolted directly to the reflector frame. Finally a 1 inch diameter aluminium boom can be fitted to the back of the reflector, as shown, if it is desired to mount the aerial to an existing mast.

A suitable small insulator box can be obtained from Stromberg Components Ltd. The cable used should be 80 ohm low loss coaxial, terminated at the receiver end in a suitable coaxial plug.

## SETTING UP

The direction of maximum signal strength can easily be found before mounting the aerial at any height. One method is to prop the aerial up against an outside wall facing roughly in the direction of the desired signal with a length of cable connected to aerial and TV set. The set is then tuned until a faint signal is heard and lines appear on the screen. After this the aerial is held in the hand outside and rotated to find the direction giving the best results. This is best done by two people, one with the aerial and the other watching the set. When taken higher the best direction will be similar to that obtained on the ground. But test to be sure.

Some u.h.f. channels are horizontally polarised and others vertically polarised. A Yagi aerial has its elements horizontal for the former and vertical for the latter.

With our diamond aerial it should be noted however, that for horizontal polarization the aerial must be mounted with the two diamonds vertically above one another and for vertical polarisation the two diamonds are horizontal.

This polarization can be checked by rotating the aerial through 90 degrees in the same plane to see which gives maximum signal.

## Materials .... <br> SEEMD TAIK

Aluminium angle, $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2}$ inch, four pieces to dimension of reflector side (see Table 1).
Galvanised $\ddagger$ inch square mesh or expanded aluminium grille material to dimension of reflector (see Table 1).

Aluminium strip $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide, $18 \mathrm{~s} . \mathrm{w} . \mathrm{g}$. length as required (see Table 1).

Aluminium mounting boom, 1 inch diameter tube, if required, length approx. 3 feet.
Small u.h.f. insulator box (Stromberg Components Ltd.).
Length of 80 ohm low loss coaxial cable and coaxial plug to suit TV set.

Pop rivets or 4 BA brass fixings.
Paint to protect Weldmesh if used.


## By P. E. Hopkins



A simple and inexpensive device for locating damp regions on walls, ceilings etc.

Tне device to be described is an inexpensive simple, but effective, damp locator that will eveal damp in a variety of normally non electrically conducting materials such as stone, oncrete, plaster, papers and textiles.
As well as making a fascinating toy for children, it may prove invaluable to the prospeclive house buyer, di.y. enthusiast and housewife.
The prototype, using some miniature components, was built and installed in a box measuring only lin. $x \operatorname{lin} . x^{3}{ }_{4} \mathrm{in}$. The circuit layout is not critical, so the constructor has ample scope for improvisation and further miniaturisation.
Since the device is intended to indicate a low level of dampness that is normally hard to determine by hand or eye, the use of a meter was not merited, and indeed by using an l.e.d (light emitting diode) a fair portion of space and cost are saved.

Dampness occurs when a material absorbs small quantities of water. With some materials it can be hard to determine merely by the sense of touch, whether the material in question is damp or just cold

Most building materials are, as far as low voltages are concerned, insulators, and thus they will only conduct electricity when they become damp.

## CIRCUIT DETAILS

The complete circuit diagram of the Damp Locator is shown in Fig. 1. The two transistors, TR1 and TR2, are arranged in a configuration known as a Darlington pair. This arrangement has the property of providing extremely high gain-approximately equal to the-multiplied gains of TR1 and TR2-with very high input impedance. Thus a small current flowing between TR1 base/emitter causes a very much larger current to flow between TR2 collector and emitter.

When the Damp Locator is placed upon a



Fig. 1. The complete circuit diagram of the Damp Locator.
damp surface, a minute current is able to pass via that surface between the sensors. This small current provides the base bias for TR1 causing it to be in the conducting state and allows a larger current to pass through its collector and emitter to the base of TR2. This in turn allows TR2 to reach a state of conduction allowing a current to flow through the light emitting diode, damp is indicated by the resultant glow.

In the absence of a conducting media between the sensors, the circuit draws negligible current from the battery, thus an on/off switch was not used on the prototype, the battery being removed during long periods of non use. For long life and compactness a mercury battery is used.

## CONSTRUCTION

The circuit components are laid out on a small piece of Veroboard, size 10 by 6 holes by $0 \cdot 1$ in. matrix as can be seen in Fig. 2. Begin assembly by making the three cut-outs on the back of the Veroboard as shown in Fig. 2 and then solder in position the resistors, capacitor and flying leads-these should be about $1^{1}{ }_{2} \mathrm{in}$. long single cored insulated wire. Next solder the transistors in position using a heat shunt on the transistor legs. Not using a heat shunt could easily cause permanent damage.

Now solder two short pieces of tinned 22 s.w.g. copper wire in locations E9 and F10 to take D1 and then solder Dl in position (paying attention to polarity indicated by spot) so that its tip is parallel with the top edge of the Veroboard. A heat shunt must be used when soldering Dl in position.

## TEST

Before installing the unit in a box, check the layout of the components and that there are no bridges between the Veroboard strips. If this is satisfactory carry out the following test. Hold the battery flying leads on the battery and touch the sensor lead (from B3) on the positive terminal of the battery. The diode should glow brightly. If this does not happen re-check and rectify.

## FIXING IN A BOX

The prototype was fitted into a small transparent plastic box having a removable lid; any size box will do but it must be made from a non electrically conducting material.

Drill four small holes in the base of the box as indicated in Fig. 3 and photograph, then, using either two lengths of Q -strip or stout tinned copper wire pass through the two pairs of holes to form two parallel contacts on the underside of the box; these are the sensors of the device.

The ends of the sensors protruding through the holes should be bent down against the base of the inside of the box. Apply a dab of polystyrene glue to each hole to make watertight.

Next prepare the battery clips from two thin pieces of copper or brass plate as shown in Fig. 3. Note that only one clip is to be connected to the sensor; make this piece, solder to the sensor and glue in position as shown.

To the other terminal, Bl negative, solder a short length of spring-such as is used to hold the carbon brushes in place in an electric motor. Now solder this clip to the flying lead from $D 6$ on the component board and glue this clip in position on the side of the box.

Next place the cardboard washer in place and then solder the flying lead to the sensor as shown. Solder the other flying lead to the positive battery clip and place the component board and battery in the box. It may be necessary to put a piece of cardboard in between the battery and component board for insulation purposes.

Apply a small blob of glue to each side of the component board to hold the board in place.

Next, place the transparent lid in position over the box and mark the position of the l.e.d. as seen through the lid. The complete box may then be painted leaving a clear space on the lid where the l.e.d. will shine through. Take care not to get paint on the sensors.

## Components....

```
Resistors
    R1 100k \Omega
    R2 15k \Omega
    R3 180\Omega
        t}\mathrm{ watt }\pm10% carbo
Capacitors
        C1 0.01\muF sub-miniature type
Semiconductors
    TR1 BC108 or similar silicon npn
    TR2 BC108 or similar silicon npn
    D1 TIL209 or similar light emitting diode
Miscellaneous
    B1 5.6 volt mercury type PX-23 battery
        Veroboard 10 < 6 holes x 0.1in. matrix;
        small transparent plastic box; Q-strip stick
        down wiring or }22\mathrm{ s.w.g. tinned copper wire.
        Connecting wire, paint
```





Fig. 3. Layout and wiring of the complete Damp Locator.


Erequently a voltage level is required to initiate a reaction; for example an automatic car light switch might rely on the falling output of a photo electric cell to turn on the car lights. The ambient light level might be falling very slowly but the car lights must come on positively (usually via a relay or a power transistor) and a circuit is required that will detect the lowest level of available light permitted and then cause the switching circuit to operate once and for all. The car lights must either be on or off; they cannot be "half on".

The output of the detector must, therefore be unambiguous and one of two pre-determined states. The Schmitt trigger is such a detector "and also incorporates a form of electronic "backlash" (known as hysteresis) that prevents the output state changing back if there is a small amount of variation of its input conditions (e.g. the ambient light level might rise slightly due to a car passing etc., and we would not want the car lights to switch off again if this was to happen).

A more general description of the function of a Schmitt trigger is that it only has two output voltage levels "high and low" whatever type of input waveform is applied; therefore it can
be used to convert sine waves or sawtooth waveforms to square waveforms. This effect is sometimes used to create fuzz from electronic guitars.

## CIRCUIT OPERATION

The basic experimental circuit, shown in Fig. 3.1, looks fairly simple but like most things

Fig. 3.1. Basic circuit of the Schmitt Trigger.

there is more to it than meets the eye. We suggest you wire up the circuit of Fig. 3.1 on the Demo Deck and measure voltage levels as we proceed with the description. The input to the trigger is at the base of TR1 and an input waveform of 0 to 3 V is simulated by adjustment of the wiper of VR2.
With the wiper of VR2 at zero, TR1 will be non-conducting as there is no base current and, assuming that the base current flowing into TR2 is so small that it can be ignored, it is possible to calculate the potential at point A by the potential divide effect of R2, R4 and R5. Point A is at $\frac{9 \times 27 \cdot 6}{28 \cdot 8} \mathrm{~V}=8 \cdot 6 \mathrm{~V}$. Similarly the potential at the base of TR2 will be about $1 \cdot 75 \mathrm{~V}$. Base current will flow in TR2 but by emitter follower action the potential at point B will rise to 0.6 V less than TR2's base (i.e. $1 \cdot 15 \mathrm{~V}$ ).

The emitter current of TR2 can now be calculated because it must be the current flowing through R3 that gives rise to the $1 \cdot 15 \mathrm{~V}$. The emitter current is therefore $\frac{1 \cdot 15}{150}=7.7 \mathrm{~mA}$ and this will be approximately the same as the collector current. The voltage drop across R6 can now be calculated ( $0.0077 \times 1,000$ volts), it is $7 \cdot 7 \mathrm{~V}$; the output voltage relative to the common rail is therefore 1.3 V .
If the input voltage rises slowly (actioned by slow adjustment of VR2), as soon as it reaches 1.75 V the base of TR1 will be 0.6 V more positive than the emitter and base current will start to pass. Several things now happen very quickly; the potential at A will start to fall from its original 8.6 V and this reduces the level at C . The potential at B will start to rise as TR1
begins to draw emitter current; this in conjunction with the fall in voltage at C makes TR2 start to cut off. While this is happening TR1 begins to "steal" current through R3 which was formerly flowing through TR2 and the potential at A falls even mare quickly.

There is a complicated positive feedback loop in operation and the two transistors interact with each other until TR1 is fully conducting and TR2 is fully turned off. The process occurs very quickly and the speed is limited only by stray capacitance within the circuitry; it is impossible to see a gentle change in voltage at the output however slowly VR2 is adjusted. Notice that triggering occurred when the input voltage reached 1.75 V ; increasing the input


Fig. 3.2. Practical circuit for the light operated switch.

Fig. 3.3. The circuit of Fig. 3.2 wired up on the Demo Deck.

voltage above this level will make no further difference to the output voltage.

## HYSTERESIS

On reducing the input voltage to about 1.6 V -it would be reasonable to expect the output to revert to its original level of $1 \cdot 3 \mathrm{~V}$; this does not happen even though the input has been reduced to below the "up-going" triggering level; this is due to the hysteresis or backlash mentioned earlier. The reason for this is that once TR1 is conducting the potential at A is very low and there is no reason why it should not stay low-provided we are passing sufficient base current into TR1.

By monitoring the potential at $A$ and reducing the input voltage to about $1 \cdot 2 \mathrm{~V}$ an increase will be observed at A-due to the fact that there is no longer enough base current to keep TRI saturated. When the input reaches about $1 \cdot 1 \mathrm{~V}$ the potential at A will have risen sufficiently for base current to flow in TR2 and it will start to conduct. The potential at B rises and forces TR1 out of conduction. Again positive feedback takes place and TR2 becomes fully conducting with the output falling to its original $1 \cdot 3 \mathrm{~V}$.

Try cycling the circuit several times taking note of the hysteresis and the various voltage measurements (use a 20,000 ohm per volt meter). Operate VR2 as fast or as slow as "possible and try to catch the output voltage "mid-way" between 1.3 V and 9 V ; this will be impossible because of the regenerative trigger action of the circuit.

## PRACTICAL CIRCUIT

An example using a Schmitt trigger in conjunction with a light dependent resistor (PCCl)
:o control a low voltage bulb is shown in Fig. 3.2. The circuit of Fig. 3.2 is shown wired up on the Demo Deck in Fig. 3.3. In a moderately lit room with VR2 set to minimum, the meter will show that the output of the trigger is low and, of course, the bulb in the emitter follower output stage will be out. Slowly advance VR2 until the output just changes and the bulb lights. Try shadowing the photocell as slowly as possible, it will be found that there is an extremely positive and sharp reaction controlling the bulb
Notice also that the hysteresis also helps to enhance the effect by introducing a margin between the levels for triggering on and off

Next month: The Grounded Base Amplifier

PEAEE

The transistors specified for the Ice Warning Device, last month should be AC126 not AC127. The AC127 is an npn device not pnp. The unit will work with the AC127 provided the battery and capacitor polarities are reversed.

The AC127 was also wrongly listed as a pnp device in the Constructors Companion given free with the May 1972 issue (no longer available).

no previous knowledge no unnecessary theory no "maths"



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## INTEGRATED CIRCUITS

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| ${ }^{\text {BC109 }}$ | ${ }^{108}$ | ${ }^{\text {BrY }}$ |  | TIP35A ${ }_{8}$ | 2 N 2906 | ${ }^{10331}$ |
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We continually get letters from readers asking about the supply of back numbersmainly for the beginners' series Teach-In or for various parts of it. As we have said before, we are sorry but we are not able to supply any back issues or copies of individual articles.

It is the intention of this magazine to publish further series for beginners, both at a similar level to Teach•In and at rather higher and lower levels-Basic Flectricity is an example of the latter. It is not our intention to go very much higher in level as other publications, in particular Practical Electronics-our associate magazine-cover the "higher level" techniques and theory.

Therefore we recommend that if you want a basic course in electronics, you follow Basic Electricily, our next beginners' series and the various theory and practice articles that we publish e.g. Demo Circuits and Simple Soldering in this issue. If you miss any issues we are unfortunately unable to supply them but you may be lucky enough to find a technical or reference library that keeps them, or even a school or college.

## Audio Colour Unit

Before building the Audio Colour Unit we suggest that you take note of the limitations mentioned in the article and decide what type of display is required and just how you want to use the unit. Having decided this you can then decide how many lamps you require and what type of thyristors must be used.

Assuming that you are going to build the unit exactly as described the only component likely to cause difficulties is the transformer specified (Eagle type MT12, 3 off). It is better to use this transformer rather than a substitute as the inductance of the primary winding will affect the tuning of the audio filter. If you do use substitutes make sure all three are the same and small enough to fit on the component board. The Eagle type is available from most large suppliers but in case of difficulty we suggest writing to G. W. Smith.

As far as the remaining components go, Woolworths is probably the best place to buy the lamp holders and bulbs. Case materials should be readily available but remember to provide adequate ventilation for the lamps.

When the prototype was constructed, the author had difficulty in obtaining a piece of frosted glass and reeded glass with tracing paper glued onto the back provided an excellent substitute.

## Damp Locator

One or two rather unusual items are used in the Damp Locator, the main one being the l.e.d. (light emitting diode). This device is employed because it is miniature, consumes very little power and is much more reliable than a bulb. Prices of l.e.d.'s vary by a considerable amount, and we have found that Arrow Electronics' price is one of the lowest.

Another unusual item is the $Q$ strip stick down wiring employed for the sensor, this product was mentioned in Shop Talk some months ago, and we are now assured that it is generally available, again, if you have any problems one of the London suppliers should be able to help.

A point to remember when buying the resistors and capacitor for this project is the space into which they must fit-if you do not get the resistor wattages quoted they will quite simply not go in, so buy the smallest sizes-a ceramic disc capacitor should be suitable.

If the battery cannot be obtained locally Henry's Radio can supply.

## U.H.F.TV Aerial

An unusual project for this magazine, the U.H.F. TV Aerial uses no electronic components in
the normal sense of the word and most of the parts should be available from an ironmonger or hardware shop. Various types of metal mesh can be used for the reflector, Expamet (expanded aluminium) being the most readily available from many metal suppliers, but you must use the type with holes smaller than one inch. Another useful material is Weldmesh, this is made for use in reinforcing concrete and is available through British Reinforced Engineering Co., Dichfield Road, Stafford, write to them for addresses of local suppliers.

The remaining aluminium sections should be readily available and we suggest the use of brass fixings to hold the aerial together if poprivets are not used.

For the insulator any small u.h.f. irsulator similar to that shown can be used, or the actual component can be obtained from Stromberg Components Ltd., Electra Works, Baddeley Green, Stoke on Trent, Staffs, who inform us that that will supply one off's to readers.

## Bass Booster

The components for the Bass Booster should all be readily available; if you have difficulty with the tube try Home Radio Components Ltd.

## New Products

Two tools of possible interest to readers have recently been introduced by Spiralux (Hollands and Blair Ltd). The most interesting is a combined wire stripper, cutter, cable looper and screwdriver which has an adjustable wire guage control-not that the markings mean anything to usand what we think is a crimping tool, bu: Hollands and Blair do not mention this fact. The tool should be available from most retailers for 40p (recommended retail price).

The second Spiralux tool, which should also be available from most retailers, is a "Swinghead Snap Rivetter". This is an improved version of a previous design and can be used with two sizes of rivet by virtue of the "swinghead". The new model 2710 would be suitable for case or chassis construction, or for such items as the U.H.F.TV Aerial in this issue, recommended retail price, $£ 1.98$ with some rivets and instructions.


RESISTOR COLOUR CODE
There are normally four coloured bands on carbon resistors, the first three indicating the ohmic value and the fourth band giving the tolerance limit. The code should be read starting with the band nearest to the end of the resistor body (usually the other end has a metallic gold or silver, band).

The first band gives the value of the first digit, the second band gives the second digit whilst the third band gives the multiplying constant, or more simply, the number of zeros to place after the first two digits. The fourth band indicates the tolerance, see right.


| Colour | $\begin{gathered} \text { Diglt } \\ \text { (ist } 2 \text { bands) } \end{gathered}$ | Multiplying Factor (3rd band) | Tolerance $\pm$ per cent (4th band) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Black | 0 | 1 | - |
| Brown | 1 | 10 | 1 |
| Red | 2 | 100 | 2 |
| Orange | 3 | 1000 | 3 |
| Yellow | 4 | 10,000 | 4 |
| Green | 5 | 100,000 | - |
| Blue | 6 | 1,000,000 | - |
| Violet | 7 | 10,000,000 | - |
| Grey | 8 | 100,000,000 | - |
| White | 9 | 1,000,000,000 | - |
| Gold | - | 0.1 | 5 |
| Sllver | - | 0.01 | 10 | No fourth band indicates a tolerance of $\pm 20$ per cent

## ABBREVIATIONS

The following is a list of abbreviations used in the text of articles and in components lists. Only the direct meaning of the abbreviations is given, no attempt has been made to describe the meaning of the words in full.

| a.c. | alternating current |
| :--- | :--- |
| a.f. | audio frequency |
| a.f.c. | automatic frequency control |
| a.g.c. | automatic gain control |
| a.m. | amplitude modulation |
| BA | British Association (nut and bolt sizes) |
| cm | centimetre |
| d.c. | direct current |
| d.p.d.t. | double-pole double-throw |
| elect. | electrolytic |
| e.h.t. | extra high tension |
| e.m.f. | electromotive force |
| f.e.t. | field effect transistor |
| f.s.d. | full scale deflection |
| f.m. | frequency modulation |
| ft. | feet |
| g. | gram |
| h.t. | high tension |
| i.c. | integrated circuit |
| in. | inch |
| l.e.d. | light emitting diode |
| l.d.r. | light dependent resistor |
| lin. | linear |
| log. | logarithmic |
| l.t. | low tension |


| m | me:re (measurement of length) |
| :---: | :---: |
| mm | millimetre |
| m.w. | medium wave |
| $n p n\}$ | transistor structure |
| $p n p\}$ | (two types) |
| OZ | ounces (avoirdupois) |
| p.i.v. | peak inverse voltage |
| p.v.c. | polyvinyl chloride |
| r.f. | radio frequency |
| r.m.s. | roct mean square |
| s.p.s.t. | single-pole single-throw (switch) |
| s.r.b.p. | synthetic resin bonded paper |
| s.w.g. | standard wire gauge |
| t.r.f. | tuned radio frequency |
| u.h.f. | ultra high frequency |
| u.j.t. | unijunction transistor |
| v.h.f. | very high frequency |
| \% | per cent |
| X | reactance |
| Z | impedance |
| A | ampere (amp) |
| dB | decibel |
| F | farad |
| H | henry |
| Hz | hertz (cycles per second) |
| $\Omega$ | ohm |
| V | volt |
| W | watt |
| p | pico ( $\div 1,000,000,000,000$ ) |
| $\mu$ | micro $(\div 1,000,000)$ |
| m | milli $(\div 1,000)$ |
| k | kilo ( $\times 1,000$ ) |
| M | Mega ( $>.1,000,000$ ) |



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## Faraday Lecture

This year's Faraday lecture is concerned with NavigationLand, Sea, Air and Space. The lecture tells the story of the development of navigation, from the days when the stars were man's only guide, to the sophisticated instruments of today.

The lecture, the 44th in the series, is being given at various centres (listed right) by Dr. Andrew Stratton, Director of Defence Operational Analysis Establishment, together with his deputy lecturer, Wing Commander (Ret'd) E. W. Anderson, navigational adviser of Smiths Industries Ltd.

The lectures are organised by the Institute of Electrical Engineers and tickets may be obtained, free of charge, from addresses given right-a stamped addressed, correspondence size envelope must be sent with all applications for tickets. Tickets are not available earlier than one month before each lecture; the morning and afternoon presentations are for students and "older" school children only.

## 

FARADAY LECTURE 1972/73 TOUR DETAILS

| Date | Place | Presentations | Address for Tickets |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 29 and <br> 30. 1.73 | Birmingham. Town Hall | evening (29). morning, afternoon and evening (30) | G. E. Bennett, IEE., <br> Savoy Place, <br> London, WC2R OBL. |
| 6. 2.73 | Leicester. De Montford Hall | afternoon and evening | G. M. Bayley, c/o Brush Electrical Engineering Co. Ltd., Rotating Machine Design Dept., Loughborough. Leicestershire. |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 15. } 2.73 \\ & \text { 16. } 2.73 \end{aligned}$ | London. <br> Central Hall, Westminster | evening evening (students) | IEE., L.C. Dept., Savoy Place, WC2. |
| 22. 3.73 | Exeter. Great Hall, Exeter University | afternoon and evening | J. J. Mathews, 18 Fairfield Avenue, Whipton, Exeter. Devon. |
| 27. 3.73 | Sheffield. City Hali | morning. afternoon and evening | R. Smalley, 80 Crimicar Lane. Fulwood, Sheffield. |
| 29. 3.73 | Liverpooi. Philharmonic Hall | afternoon and evening | N. A. Pond, IEE., Savoy Place, London, WC2R OBL. |
| 5. 4.73 | Edinburgh. Usher Hall | afternoon and evening | L. E. J. Green. c/o SSEB., 130 George Street, Edinburgh. |
| 10. 4.73 | Newcastle. City Hall | afternoon and evening | S. H. Walker, <br> 63 Langdon Road, Hillhead Estate, Westerhope, Newcastlo-upon-Tyne. |

# Ruminations By Sensor 

## A Bit of Straw

I recently became a country dweller in a sparsely populated area where mains water is not available. This would not have mattered at all if my removal here had not coincided with the worst drought for over thirty years!

One by one my neighbours' wells went dry, until eventually my own three wells dried up. When the water eventually began to flow into the wells again I was unable to pump it out of them-a most frustrating situation.

It seemed obvious that the pump needed to be primed, but priming made no difference to the water supply and only made me critical of the pump's designers. After checking all connections, looking for frozen pipes, lifting heavy well covers and peering
into the depths, I decided to dismantle the pump.

In one of the valves I found a small piece of straw. When the straw was removed and the pump again primed, water began to flow. Such a little bit of straw, but what a lot of inconvenience caused!

## Mice and Men

All this trouble caused me to recall how often the unexpected and unplanned for "bit of straw" can cause the failure of the most sophisticated equipment. The commonest "bit of straw" in electronics, is undoubtedly, the dry joint; but there are countless others. I have seen military radar equipment put out of service by the unwanted attentions of various insects.

At the domestic level, I heard only the other day of a television receiver which seemed to be functioning correctly, but which produced no sound output. It was discovered that the whole of the loudspeaker cone had been eaten by mice!

The process of decay, in its many forms, takes its toll of any
electronic equipment that is not sufficiently protected from its environment. Experience over the years has helped to identify the causes of component failure and severe testing of all components intended for military use is the order of the day. The domestic user benefits enormously from this, since many of the components he utilises are manufactured to the same high standard of quality.

The advantages to be gained by the use of integrated circuits, lie not so much in their small physical size but more in the great reduction in the number of soldered joints, per equipment, made possible by their use, and consequently the reduction in numbers of potential "dry" joints.

The high degree of protection, against adverse environmental conditions, built into the integrated circuit itself, plus the additional protection afforded by the encapsulation does much to improve reliability.

An integrated circuit is not entirely immune to "bits of straw" but the failure rate is very much lower than a similar circuit employing discrete components.


When using nuts and bolts for chassis assembly and finding that the bolt is too short to allow a necessary shake-proof washer to be fitted, this may be overcome by making the nut into a locking nut as follows.

Using a kerf or razor saw (junior hacksaw for larger nuts) cut a slot in the side of the nut about one-third of the way through. Pinch the nut across the slot to obtain the desired amount of locking pressure.

> B. Besant, Bristol.

I have devised a way of protecting the fragile leads from I.d.r.'s such as the ORP12 when used on the outside of a project. Cut a table tennis ball in half and coat the inside with a thin layer of plastic filler (such as Isopon). A suitable sized aperture is then drilled and filed to shape in the half ball. The I.d.r. leads are then soldered to tags for connection to either small bolts or'a two-pin plug. The l.d.r. is then placed in position and the remainder of the half ball filled in with more filler.

> D. J. Powditch, Norfolk.


Here is another idea for a used Scripto felt tip pen. Rather than use the usual type of solder dispenser, I find the thin pen more compact, and more easy to use.

Removing the feit and nylon tip, I wound the solder round a No. 5 knitting needle ( 7 ft . of solder) this solder spiral is placed inside the pen and the white cap replaced. The solder protrudes through the black pointed top, as it is used it can be pulled out at ease.

> E. R. Wall,
> Chalton, S.E. 7

Before building a piece of electronic equipment I always lay the components out on the table in the order I want to use them. However, sometimes the bits and pieces get mixed up, or they roll off the table and are lost or broken. To stop this happening I now push the wires of the components into a polystyrene tile to hold them still. Also I can now move my half-built project from the kitchen table without disturbing the components.

> David Piper, Norwich.

Also suggested by G. P. Wild, Tooting.

For the beginner and the more experienced constructor this is an invaluable tool, it is very simple to construct. Start by selecting a crocodile clip and a narrow, thin piece of copper. Cut the copper into two equal pieces and slide one into each of the teeth of the clip. A slight tapering of the ends may be needed for a snug fit followed by a small drop of glue to hold the copper in place. This can now be used as a heat shunt when soldering semiconductors.

> A. Smith, Thornton Heath. Also suggested by Revd. John H. Hart, Liverpool.

The quickest and cheapest way for a beginner to get a stock of components to "play" with is to buy circuit boards and strip them. It is messy, damaging and time consuming to unsolder components, and leads are so short that cutting them is out of the question.

I find that with a coarse Abrafile (or possibly a Surform?) the solder can be filed off the back and the components gently prised out with a small screwdriver. Anything other than an extremely coarse file quickly becomes clogged with the soft solder.

The leads on transistors are generally so short that they are better left on the board which can be easily sawn up and the solder blobs make for easy soldering of leads.

R. D. Pasn ham, Sheffield.

Please Note: this column is intended for constructional ideas and ideas relating to electronic construction. It is not our intention to publish circuits of any description.

All items submitted should be original and not previously published.


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Gh4 Barser Eif．Eleven parta．Tranfparent coverm and teaches how electromegnetiem．with an und iematic switch resulis in an operating buszer EAS－2－Polo 1otor EHt，Twenty－four parta including enamel wire，armature and pole plece． etc．Motor operstes from if volt bat terg．Illus． trates and teaches how electro－magnetlem operate：
KA7 Elictro－1 1 egnet Eit．FIfteen parta，Inciudes compase．Makes two electro－magnets，one with lre．Pickn up tecks，nails and any amall part howing how maknetism works．
KA8 Current and Redstenoe Fit．Twenty－nine parta，including bench and light bulb．Conduct interenting and educational projecta to learn the application of＂OHM8 LAW＂and see the differ ence in current and reasotance with difterent typen and lengths of wire．
As Bell Eit．Eight parte，inciud Ing bell and puab button awitch．Bulld a complete electric bell and nee how the hammer ts triggered to make the
KA10 lore Key buszer and bell lit． 25 part klt ary to construct，simple to operate．

Where postage ha not stated then order over 26 are pont free．Below as add 20p Semficonductors add Sp post．Over 11 poot free，B．A．B．with enquiries plesee

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For any lamp up to 600 watt．Mounted on witch plate to ht in piace of atandard awitch．Virtually no radio inter－

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This heater unts is the very lateat type，moat efticient，and quiet running．Is an otted in h oover and blow heat element and ikw eleruent allo－ing ew only 1， 2 and 3kW．and with thrimal anety cut－out．Can be fited into any metal line
 case or cabinet．Only need controi awitch． 88.50 ． Don＇t nilse thil．Control Britch ${ }^{2}$ sp．P．\＆P．40p．

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Jut what you need for work bench or lab． tandani is amp fumed plugs and on／oft awiteh wlth neon warning lipht．Bupplle complete with 6 feet of Dex cable．Wired up ready to work．A． 26 plun 2sp P．\＆ 1

## THIS MONTH＇S SNIP

## －AMP VARIAC for 4

Thie heading in not quite sccuraie because it in not a variable tranoformer that we are offering but a solid atate device which serves the mame purpose In almost all applicstions and，of course，much minaller．Made by Cltra Electronics，can be fitsed into ordinary awitch box．Engrave a circle on the front plate，mark this of in divisions，fit a pointer knob，calibrate －power controller equal to a $B \mathrm{amp}$ variac conting f 12 or more．

## BARGAIN PARCEL OF SEVEN MOTORS

A bargaln parcel of 7 motore for 41 ．Bome not as large
 notors are used in racing cars power toys etc．The model tathe，or similar．This it it pole motor，optlmum． wotking $16 \cdot 5 \mathrm{v}$ but very powerfal even as low an $4 \mid \mathrm{v}$ ． Don＇t mise thle wonderful enip．

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| No．of Polen | 2 wny | \％way | 4 way | 5 way | 6 way | 8 way | 9 way | 10way | 2way |
| 1 pole | 40 | 400 | 40 | 401 | 40 | ${ }^{40}$ | 40 | 40 | 40 p |
| 2 poles | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40） | 40. | 100 | 40 | 70 | 70 |
| poles | 40 | 408 | 40 | 40 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 098． |  |
| 4 polce | 40 | 405 | 40 | 70 | 70 | 709 | 70 | －1－20 | I1． 0 |
| 5 polee | 40 | 400 | 70 | 70 | 05 | 0\％\％ | $0 \cdot$ | 81.45 | \＄1．46 |
| －polee | 49. | 700 | 70 | 70. | 05 | 95 | －8． | S1－70 | 81.70 |
| 7 polee | 70 | 76 | 70 | －15． | 11．0 | 11－4 | 11.0 | \＄1－6 | 11．95 |
| 8 polee | 70 | 70. | 70 | 0 | 51.2 | $51-20$ | 120 | 動－20 | 8ter |
| －pole | 70 | 70 | 0 | 85 | 21．45 | 11－46 | 11.45 | 81945 | －5－45 |
| 10 poles | 701 | 70 | 85 | －1．20 | 11－65 | $51-4$ | 81.45 | 51．78 | 2t．70 |
| 11 pole＊ | 70 | 08 | 08 | 11－20 | A1．70 | 81.70 | 81.70 | 锡－85 | 的 |
| 12 poles | 70 | ＊） | $95 \%$ | 81－50 | $81 \cdot 70$ | 81.70 | 81.70 | 挂 6 | 89．00 |

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13 mp eelf－Axing tnto an oblong hole． slzo approx
10 for 78.

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glide 8 fitch． $2 \cdot$ pole changeover panel
mounting by two 6B．A．merewa．Size approx． $1 \mathrm{in} \times \mathrm{In}$ ．rated 250 V lamp．
op each． 10 for $54 \mathrm{p}, 100$ for $\mathrm{e5} \cdot 10,500$ for 294．Ditto an above but for printed 8 cb Yinilatare $81 t \mathrm{de} 8$－tich DPIT 19 mm in approx．）between fixing centres．18p each o 10 tor $\mathrm{\& 1}$ ．08．\＆P Change over spring return 250 y 1 mp .10 p ．
KITS FOR PREVIOUS PROJECTS Cniess otherwise atated，kita contain elec－ iteus can be obtained locally．Also batteries arn not included．Kite may be returned for refund if conatruction has not been started．We reserve the right to substitute components should deliveries be protracted so as to avold undue delay
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RELAYS $\begin{gathered}\text { New SIEMENS PLESSEY, etc. } \\ \text { Relors a co competitive prices. } \\ \text { ind }\end{gathered}$

| $\dagger$ | 2 |  |  |  | 2 | 31 | 4 |
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| 52 | 3-6 | $2 \mathrm{c} / 0$ | $63 \mathrm{p}{ }^{\circ}$ | 700 | 15-35 | $2 \mathrm{c} / 0 \mathrm{HD}$ | 73p* |
| 280 | 9-12 | $2 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{o}$ | $73{ }^{\text {P }}$ * | 700 | 16-24 |  | 65p* |
| $4!0$ | 10-18 | 4 clo | 73 p * | 1.250 | 24-36 | $4 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{o}$ | $63{ }^{\circ}{ }^{\circ}$ |
| 700 | 16-24 | $4{ }^{4} 28$ | $63{ }^{\circ}{ }^{\circ}$ | 2,500 | 36-45 | 6M | 63p* |
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slotted front lent slotted front leak flalah loudspeakers, Garrand SPas Mk. III
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Thin conalete of KIINOER KC903 atereo amplifer glving 8 Finta rmi prep channel with Bane, Treble, Volume and Baner Controla. laputa for Magnetic and Ceranic plez-up,
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