



HOME RADIO (Components) LTD, Dept. EE, 234-240 London Road, Mitcham, CR4 3HD, Phone 01-648 8422

* In addition to telling you about our Catalogue each month we would like to bring to your notice one or two items which we believe are UNIQUE TO HOME RADIO (Components) LTD.

To start off here is the

ERSA

SPRINT IRON

We carry complete spares, right down to the last nut and bolt, even spare mains leads. Our price for this desirable object is only £3-98 plus 18 pence p & p. Essentially this is a tool for the field service engineer or the handyman and experimenter wishing to make a few quick joints. A constructor building something with a large number of joints might find a conventional iron quicker.

COMPONENTS

HOME PAOIO

To our knowledge this remarkable iron has been in use on the Continent for over ten years. It has several unusual features:

Heats up in 10 seconds!

Weighs only 5 ounces.

Parts can be changed in seconds.



Can be used on anything from a transistor upwards.

(A friend of ours used one to repair his water tank. We think this is asking too much!)

The "ERSA" SPRINT IRON is just one of the many exciting things to be found in the famous 250-page Home Radio Components Catalogue. No less than 6,785 electronic components are listed and indexed, and 1,750 items are illustrated. A free bookmark with a useful list of technical abbreviations is included. The catalogue costs 55p plus 22p post and packing. Every copy contains 10 vouchers each worth 5 pence when used as directed. Regularly updated price lists are supplied to you free.

* Send now for catalogue	Please write your Name and Address in block capitals
POST THIS COUPON with cheque or PO. for 77p.	ADDRESS
The price of 77p applies only to catalogues purchased by customers in the U.K. and to BFPO addresses	HOME RADIO (Components) LTD. Dept. EE 234-240 London Road, Mitcham CR4 3HD



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I CHIP RADIO Ferranti's latest device ZN414-gives results better than superhet. Supplied complete with technical notes and circuits. \$1 36 each. 10 for \$12.

HI-Q TUNER COMPONENTS

Hi-G TUNER COMPONENTS For experimenting with the ZN44. KIT KO. 1. Pleaser Miniature Tuning Condenser with built in LW switch and 3" territ slab and litz wound MW coil. 729. KIT KO. 2. Air spaced tuning condenser 6" territs red litz wound MW and LW colls. 94p KIT KO. 3. Air spaced TC with alow motion drive 8" territ rod, with litz wound LW and MW coll. gl 10.

KIT NO. 4. Permeability tuner with fast and slow motion drive and LW loading colls, 50p.



12 VOLT 14 AMP POWER PACK Tais comprises double-voand 220/240V mains transformer with full maxwell transformer with full maxwell amoething. Price \$2.20 + p. & p. 20p.

Haavy Duty Mains Power Pack. Output voltage adjustable from 15-40V in steps-maximum load 250W-chast is from 6 supp at 40V to 15 sump at 15V. This really is a high power heavy duty unit with dozens of workshop uses. Output voltage adjustment is very quick-simply inter-change push on leads. Silicon restifters and smoothing by 3,000 mF. Price 26 33 plus 65p post.

BALANCED ARMATURE UNIT

500 ohm, operates as speaker or micro-phone, so useful in intercom or similar circuits, 37p each. 000

MUSIC ON TAPE A further buy enables us to offer these at an even lower price-namely 72p each of 5 for 22 50. Send for list of titles. We can't reneat when sold out. FIRE ALARM BELL Mains operated. Really loud ring 6" song. Size approx. 12" x 6" x 4". Suitable outside or inside. Heavy cast case with 2" conduit catry. Mule by A.F.A. Onerates off 200/240V AC. 54-13 plus 60p.

5 AMP CHANGE OVER CONTACTS 9p each. 15 amp. On/Off 10p each. 15 amp. change over 15p each. ULTRA sensitive 5 amp. change over 30p cach. 10% off if 10 of a type ordered.

FLEX CABLE SNIP

S core beavy circular T.I.S. waterproof flex, ideal for running down the garden to pool or shed. 1.5mm cores (5 amp) 100 yard coils \$4.78 plus carriage 75 up to 200 miles. \$1-300 miles \$1:50-500 miles.

20 WATT INVERTER

AU WALL INVERTER Smart and Brown-For van lighting or camping etc. Will light a 247. 20 watt standard fluorescent tube from a 19° car battery, current approx 2.4. Very well made unit using die cast chassias Size 114" \times 2" x 14". Price 47-15 complete with lamp holders and tube olips.

MAINS RELAY BARGAIN



RGAIN Special this month are some single, double and trebke pole changeover relars. Contacts rated at 15 amps. Operating coll wound for 240V. A.C. Single pole 28p cach 10 for 22:00 Treble pole 28p cach 10 for 22:00 Treble pole 28p cach 10 for 22:00

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QUICK CUPPA

GUICK CUPPA Mini Immerion Heater. 350W. 200/ 240V. Bolls full cmp in about two minutes. Use any socket or lamp holder. Have at hedside for tes. habys food, etc. 51.25, post ani Inaurance 20p. 12W car model also available. Same price. Jug heater also available \$1.50 plus P. & P. 20p.

DOOR INTERCOM Know who is calling and speak them without leaving bed, or cha them without leaving bed, or chair. Outfit comprises microphone with call push button, connectors and master inter-com. Simply plug-together. Originally sold at £10. Special snip price £8.85 plus 20p

DIGITAL DISPLAY Patel mounting unit measuring approx. 3jin. × 1im. × 1jin. deep. Size of the display aper-ture is approx. 1jin. x 1in. Light up to 0-0. Rx oquipment but unused and in perfect order. Pulse £1-10 cach.

10 AMP. DIMMEE CONTROLLER. For the control of lighting on stage or in studio or for the control of portable equipment in worknhops etc. This has two 13 amp. socket outlets. Each is controlled by a 5 amp. solid state regulator. The overall length is 17", width 34" and depth 14". In the codi s fitted a master on/off switch indicator, lamp and fuse. Price £3:25.



Consider the set of th

CENTRIFUGAL FAN Mains operated turbo blower type. Pressed steel housing contains motor and aluminum impeller. Motor is $|f|01h h_{D-}$ giving considerable air flow but virtually no noise. Approx. dimensions 10jin. wide × 12ins. dia. outlet into trunking 10j + 4 jin. 45 50 pins 41 post and insurance.

(Commences and the second

5A 3-PIN STATES SOCKETS An excellent opportunity to make that bench dis board you have needed or to stock up for have needed or to stock up for made (Hieraft 0 FORTYLITE Foursecut lighting units with polyceter choke and finished white enamel. 40 has model, ideal kitchen, bedroom, hallway, porch, ioft etc. With tube assembled ready to instat, \$2:20. have needed of to stock up for future jobs. This month wa-after 6 British made (Hleraft-bakelite flueh mounting shut tered switch sockets for only 55p plus 20p post and insur-ance. (20 boxes post free.)



PROCESS TIME CONTROLLER Made by Smiths. Motorised and mains driven in modal case with glass fromts and chrome surround. Covers a period of 18 hours. During this 18 hours the controlled device can be made to awitch on for a period of 15 minutes to 3 hours. Probable cost from Smiths over 65. Special snip price \$1.76 plus 20p post and insurance.

THIS MONTH'S SNIP .

KETTLE ELEMENTS

Made by the famous A E.I. Co. Complete with washers and combined fixing ring and plug abrond. Normal 2 round pin and lat pin earth connection and overload reset panh button. 2 Model—Jin. (approx.) suitable for G.B.O., Hotpoint, etc. All quick boll 2] K.W. elements at 240v. Price 21-33p



24-HOUR TIME SWITCH Made by Smiths, these are AC mains operated NOT CLOCK WOLK, Ideal for mounting on rack or shall adjustable time periods for 24 hours, 5 amp changeover contacts will switch circuit on or off during these periods. 52-75, post and Ins. 259. Additional time contacts 509 role.

PAPST MOTORS

Ext, 1/40th hp. Made for 110-120 voit working, but two of these work ideally together off our standard 240 vole mains. A really beautiful motor, extremely quiet running and reversible. £1.65 each. Fortage one 23p, two 33p. 230v model £3.30.

RADIO STETHOSCOPE

Farlist way to fault find-traces signal from aerial to apeaker-when signal stops you've found the fault. Use it on Radio, TV amplifier, shything - comfault. Use it on Radio, TV amplifier, anything — com-plete kit comprises two special translators and all parts indu-ding probe tube and crystal earpicet. 22:20-twin stetho-set instead of earpicet 839 extra—post and ins. 20p.

MULLARD AUDIO AMPLIFIERS

TIGLEARD AUDIO AMPLIFIERS All in module form, each ready built complete with heat sinks and connection tags, data supplied. Model 1123 50m watt power output 839. Model 1127 50m watt power output 849. Violet EP9000 4 watt power output \$166. EP9001 Streeo preamp 22. 10% discount if 10 per type or more ordered.



Made by famous Smiths company, these have a large

clear dial, size 48tn. × 38in., which can be set in minutes up to 1 hour. After preset period the bell rings. Ideal for processing, a memory jogger or, by adding simple lever, would operate micro-switch. £1-2 6

DIGITAL COUNTER TIMER

Very stable and reliable crystal con-trolled olread: capable of work in excess of 15 MHz. Construction simplified by use of 15 integrated circuits. Complete kit with case 138 50 or construction data and price list 50p.

TIME SWITCH





showing how you can wake up with music playing, kettle hoiling or come home to a warm house, warn off burglars keep pets warm, halve your heating bill, etc. £2.20.

The state of the



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SPRING COIL LEADS As fitted to telephones, 4 core 17p each, 10 for \$1-53. 3 core 11p each, 10 for \$1. CAL

LARGE PANEL MOUNTING MOVING COIL METERS Bize5h. x 4in. Centre zero 200-0-200 micro amp. Made by Sangamo Weston. Regular price prob-ably 28. Our price \$285.

A.C. AMMETER

0-5 amps, flush mounting moving iron. Ex equipment but guaranteed perfect 21-65.

complete but guarantees perfect as of CIRCUIT BOARDSHeavy copper on S/32 parolin sheet, ideal for making poor packs etc. as sheet in very strong and thick enough to allow copper to be cut away with hacknaw blade. Sp. x Sin. Sp each. 13h. x Sin. 25p.

PHOTO-MULTIPLIER TUBE

Hakuto Co. Ltd., Ref. No. R.430. The regular price is understood to be between \$14 and \$15 each. We offer these brand new and perfect for \$4:50 each.

RESISTANCE WIRE Kanthal, Nichromo etc. Approx. 2 tons of this coming in-many sizes and grades. If you are a user of this you can save yourself hait the cost. Send now for our list. Sorry, not available on small size reals.

PP3 BATTERY CHARGER Almost 3 times the life can be obtained from 1P3 battery if you re-charge it from the mains -this ready to use charger with instructions only 550.



SUB-MINIATURE MOVING COIL MICROPHONE

as used in behind the ear deaf aids Acts also a earphone, size only $\frac{1}{2}$ in. \times in. \times in. Regular price probably 63 or more. Our price 21-00. Note these are captionent but if not in perfect working order they will be exchanged.

perfect working order they will be eachaged. PROTECT VALUABLE DEVICES PROM THERMAL RUNAWAY OB OVER-LEANTING Thysistors, rectificus, transistors, cally be protected simply part of the heat-sink. Motor-part of the heat-sink. Motor-part of the heat-sink. Motor-part of the heat-sink. Motor-gent of the heat-sink. Motor-part of the heat-sink. Motor-part of the secondary of the second by having thermostats in strat-recting between 90der, to 190deg.F. or with the dial removed range setting is between 80 to 800deg.F. Price 83p.



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PRESSURE SWITCH Containing a 15 amp. change over switch operated by a diaphragus which in turn 1s operated by air pressure through a small metal tube. The operating pressure is adjustable but is set to operate in approx. 10 in. of water. These are quite low pressure devices and can in fact be operated slouply by blowing into the indet tube. Original use was for waking machines to turn off water when tub has reached correct level but no doubt has mach due applications fl-33, each.

PRESSURE SWITCH

5 PUSH BUTTON SWITCHES

5A 3-PIN SWITCHED

5 PUSH BUTTON SWITCHES Mains, editable for and/or or R.P. Rach switch rated at 250v. 15 amps, 1st (black push button) close's 2 circuits, 2nd (white push button) operates one change-over, 3rd (white push button) operates one change-over, 4th (white push button) operates one chronic. Noic: all depressed buttons remain down until cleared by the 5th (red button). Purther noic: It is a relatively easy job to alter the position of the tags thus making the switches sait your circuit. Filted with 3 white. I red and I black button. 33p each or 10 to 12 97 SA 3 BIN SWITCHER

10 for £3.76.

EXIT SIGNS

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CAR ELECTRIC PLUG

Fits in place of cigarette lighter Useful method of making a quick connection into the car electrical system. 429 each or 10 for 53.75



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KITS FOR PREVIOUS PROJECTS

Unless otherwise stated, kits contain electronic parts only. The case and special items can be obtained locally. Also batteries are not included. Kits may be returned for refund if construction has not been started. We reserve the right to rabeitute components should deliveries be protracted so as to avoid undue delay. If reprint of data is required add 10p.

HOME SENTINEL "Ward off the unwanted intruder"---No claborate setting up or wiring required. Kit of parts 24-35.

"SNAP" INDICATOR Press your button first and your opponent is blocked also suitable for Quiz games and reaction testing. Kit of parts \$1.70

BECORD PLAYER

Good quality at a reasonable price-good enough for classical records and pop. Kit of parts 26-10.

WINDSCREEN WIPER CONTROL Wet dirty road Drizzle Fog-Smarred screen Scraping wipers-combat these with add-wiper control. Kit of parts 22:30. with add-on

FUZZ BOX Add weird and interesting effects to guitar playing with this solid state Fuzz box. Kit of parts 32-50.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COLOUR TEMPERATURE

METER Must fo METER Must for colour photographer get the colours right gives quick indication of filters necessary for correction in any light. Can be used with natural or Studio lighting. Kit of parts £3:58.

ASTRON M.W. RADIO A simple M.W. reflex circuit receiver easy to build. £3-80.

REMOTE TEMPERATURE COMPARATOR Measures small temperature changes in liquids or gases - dan tank, photographic solution - thermo-statically controlled rooms etc. Kit 25 25.

BAIN WARNING ALARM Keep your washing dry with this automatic alarm device Kit 22:20.

WAA WAA PEDAL Add excitement and sound vibration to your music. Kit 23-50.

ELECTRO LAUGH Laughter simulator Kits of part \$2 20. lator also useful electronic alarm.

SOIL MOISTURE METER

SOLL MOISTORE MATER Many plants are killed through over-watering-this meter measures soil moisture at root depth-probes can be left permanently beside the plant-indicator remotely housed could monitor several plants. Kill \$2.90.

SIGNAL INJECTOR

A useful pocket instrument for fault finding in radios and amplifiers. Kit \$1-10.

BABY ALARM Keep a Check on the kids—this device will give you peace of mind as you watch T.V. Kit £4-40.

SIMPLE CALCULATOR Teaching aid for multiplication-can be used for quick checks. Kit £3-10.

POWER SUPPLY UNIT Just right for testing low voltage circuits-a simple stabilised supply providing 0-16 volta D.C. continuously variable. Kit 25 20.

METAL LOCATOR A simple easy to construct self-contained metal locator giving a meter indication of baried metal. Kit \$5 00.

AUDIO TONE GENERATOR Makes electronic music-covers range from 50-2000 hs. Specifically designed for use with tape recorder. Kit 23-25.

LIGHT TO SOUND CONVERTER. Produces an audio tone-the frequency of which is dependent on the light level. Kit \$215.

ELECTRONOME

Riectronic Metronome with pulse frequency continuously variable from 40-225 beats per minute. Kit 22-15.

THEOUGH LENS LIGHT METER A simple light meter for use with single lens reflex camera. Kit \$4.35.

MEDIUM AND LONG WAVE BADIO TUNER A simple radio tun amplifier. Kit \$3-25. ner for use with almost any

INFRA RED BURGLAR ALARM Uses an invisible, reflected beam to detect in-truders when beam is intercepted a power output is switched on for up to one minute. Kit 54-35.

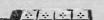
TERMS :-- 10% discount if ten of an item otherwise add 20p.

Everyday Electronics, June 1973

MINI-ORGAN RAIN ALARM

To receive parts for these and other projects featured in this issue send quoted approximate amount any cash adjustment can be made later.

THYRISTOR LIGHT DIMMER Domestic model for any lamp up to 250 wait. Mounted on switch plate to fit in place of standard switch. Virtually no radio interferences. Price 22.95. Industrial model 5 amp module with control knob \$8-30.



DISTRIBUTION PANELS

PORTABLE ELECTRIC

Just what you need for work bench or lab. 4×13 amp sockets in metal box to take standard 13 amp fused plugs and on joff switch with neon warning light. Supplied complete with 6 feet of flex cable. Wired up ready to work. 42:50 plus 23p P. & I



DRILL

HORTSMAN 24 HOUR TIME SWITCH With 6 position programmer. When fitted to bot water systems this could programme as follows:-Programme Hot Water Central Heating





or this Programme Hot Water Central Heating 1 Twice daily Off 2 All day Off 3 Twice daily Off 4 All day All day 5 Continuously Continuously 8 Stable of course, to programme other than central hosting and hot water, for instance, programme upstairs and downstairs electric heating or heating and cooling or taped musc and radio. In fact there is no limit to the versatility of this Programmer, Maina operated -Bits 3" x 2" deep as illustrated but less case. Price \$3:50 each.

CD CAR IGNITION



CD CAR IGNITION This system which has proved to be amazingly efficient. We offer kit of parts as P.W. Circuit 8185 plus 20p p. & p. Deluxe model with pre-pared gircuit board 27-96. When ordering please state whether for posibility or migative systems.

100

CENTRIFUGAL BLOWER Miniature mains driven blower centrifugal type blower unit by Woods. Powerful but specially built for quiet running-driven by cuabioned induction motor with specially built low noise bearings. Overall size $4^+ \times 4^+$ $* 4^-$, When mounted by fange, as its blown into the equipment but to work air out, mount it from centre using clamp. Ideal for cooling electrical equipment or fitting into a cooker hood, film drying cabinet or for removing flax smoke when soldering etc. at a real bargain at \$2.05.

INTEGRATED CIRCUIT BARGAIN

INTEGRATED CIRCUIT BARGAIN A parcel of integrated circuits inade by the famous Pleasey Company. A once-in-s-lifetime offer of Micro-electronic devices well below cost of manufacture. The parcel contains 5 ICs all new and perfect, fart-grade device, definitely not sub-standard or seconds. 4 of the ICs are single silicon chip GP amplifiers. The 5th is a monolithic MPN matched pair. Regular price of parcel will over 55. Full circuit details of the ICs are included and in addition power will receive a list of many different ICs available at bargain prices 25 upwards with circuits and technical data of each. Complete parcel only 15 pot paid. DON'T MISS THIS TERRIFIC BARGAIN.

GOOD COMPANION We can now offer these again in Le. version using Ferranti ZN414 and Mullard AP Modules 1172. Excellent tone wood cabinet, Cabinet size approx. 11in wide x 8in. high x 3in. deep. Complete assembly instructious \$5 75 plus 25p post and Ins.



MIGHTY MIDGET

J. BULL (ELECTRIC

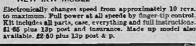
Probably the tiniest possible radio, as describéd in Practical Wireless, January 73. All electronic parts \$2.20 post paid.

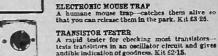


DRILL CONTROLLER NEW IKW MODEL

(Dept. E.E.), 7 Park Street, Croydon CRO IYD

Callers to: 102/3 Tamworth Road, CROYDON.





TRANSISTOR TESTER A rapid tester for obecking most transistors-tests transistors in an oscillator circuit and gives andible indication of goodness. Kit 52-15. RADIO CONTROL TRANSMITTER

KITS FOR PREVIOUS PROJECTS

A reaction testing game that can also be a quiz answering indicator. Kit £3-30.

CASSETTE TAPE POWER SUPPLIES Two mits to power a cancette tape player or recorder one from the mains Price 22:50. Two from the car battery—price 21:40.

A simple single channel transmittriss control of boats, aeroplanes and other models. Kit 26-15.

RADIO CONTROL RECEIVER A single channel super regenerative receiver to work in with above transmitter. Kit \$3.30.

REACTOWATIG

BIT SAVER. Prolongs life of soldering iron hit-prevents pitting. Kit \$1.95.

ICE WARNING DEVICE A device that can be set to indicate 'ice' conditions or similar temperature levels. Kit £1-55.

AUDIO COLOUR UNIT Adda scolour dimension to your audio equipment. This unit will modulate three lamps in accord with Bass-middle and treble notes of any music. Kit of parts 47:80.

U.H.F. T.V. ABRIAL A simple serial for U.H.P. to reception on your band could improve your reception immensely. Rit \$1:65.

DAMP LOCATOR

Easily carried in your pocket this little unit gives visible indication of damp. Kit 21:25.

ENLARGER & EXPOSURE METER For D.I.Y. photographer 25 00.

EGG TIMER

mer with audible warning. 24-15

NEON NOVELTY Interesting modern ornamental device \$1-65.

or 10 for £50.

(TRUVOX)

AC CONDENSERS

CONNECTING WIRE 500m. colls_7 stranded flex copper P.V.C. covered. Available in popular colours:-E2-20 per coil. plus 40p post.

8" x 5" P. M. SPEAKER 16 ohm -- 21.50. This is a good quality speaker by a famous maker. High flux ideal for use with our Mullard 4 watt simplifier.

S GANG TURING CONDENSERS. 500pf each section ideal for transmitter or com-munications receivers. 61p.

RECTIFIER PANELS Contain 4 of IN40 (400r) wire ended rectifiers, a glass encased fuse, fosion rout not known but bellered low. Also 4 small wattage resistors at only 16p each, which is less than many shope charge for one of the rectifiers.

16 TRACK TAPE HEAD for i^{α} or 1^{α} tape. This is a brass encased tape head and measures approx. $i^{\alpha}x \ i^{\alpha}x \ i^{\alpha}$. Resist-ance is approx. 20-0-20 ohras. These heads are beautifully made but we have no technical data: also have only a limited quantity. Price 25 50 éach or 10 for 450

RECORD PLAYBACK HEADS

AC CONDENSERS In addition to the normal uses as motor starters, power factor correction etc. These make very good voltage dropper for working low voltage appliances from mains. The voltage working quoted is AC and condensers are unually suitable for working on DC at 2¹/₂ times the quoted AC voltage.

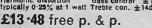
for working on 20 mid 570v 65p 12 mid 250v 77p 1-5 mid 400v 28p 5 mid 570v 65p 12 mid 250v 77p 2 mid 440v 43p 625 mid 250v 15 mid 230v 85p 3-4 mid 440v 44p 55p 20 mid 275v 99p 3-5 mid 250v 83p 8 mid 250v 85p 8 mid 440v 83p

8 mid 440 839 THHEST ADDIO UHIT Although only the same size as a Oxo cube these are completely acit contained and comprise microphone, 3 transitor amplifier with volume control and battery compartment and finally a dynamic earpiece. All in a plastic case. Made by Arient (80di, we believe at over £50 cach). These are really hearing sids complete except for the ear tabe but we are not selling these as hearing aids only for the micro midget parts they contain. Believed to be in perfect working order but not ested, Price £8.80 each.

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QUALITY STEREO AT BUDGET PRICES! The STEREO 20 STABILISED POWER

The 'Stereo 20' amplifier is mounted, ready wired and tested on a one-piece chassis measuring 20 cm x 14 cm x 5-5 cm. This compact unit comes complete with only off switch volume control, balance, bass and treble control should be control. Balance, bass and treble control should be control. Should be a switch for into most furnished plinths without Intertening with the mechanism or, alternatively, into a separate cabinet. Output power 200 peak input 1 (Car, 3 300m) into 30K Farmonic distortion Bass control ± 2268 at 601r. Upped box 200 peak input 2 (Aux,) 4mV into 30K Harmonic distortion Bass control ± 2268 at 601r. Upped box 200 peak input 1 (Car, 3 300m) into 30K





S

MODULE SPM80 £3.25

APso especially designed to power 2 of the ALSO Amplifiers, up to 15 watt (r.m.s.) per channel simultaneously. Embodies latest circuit techniques incorporating complete short circuit protection. With the addition of the Mains Transformer MTSO, will provide outputs of up to 1.5 amps at 35 volts. Size: 63 mm x 105 mm x 20 mm. These units enable you to build Audio Systems of the highest quality at a hitherto unobtainable price. Ideal for many other applications including.—Disco Systems, Public Address, Intercom Units, etc. Handbook awaitable. 10.

TRANSFORMER BMT80 £2.15 p. & p. 27p.

AL50 HI-FI AUDIO AMP 50W pk 25 (RMS) 0.1% DISTORTION

- Frequency Response 15Hz to 100.000-1dB.
- Load-3, 4, 8 or 16 ohms.
- Supply voltage 10-35 Volts.
- Distortion-better than 0.1% at 1kHz
- Signal to noise ratio 80dB.
- Overall size 63 mm x 105 mm x 13 mm.

Tailor made to the most stringent specifications using top quality com-ponents and incorporating the latest solid stats circuitry the AL50 was conceived to fill the need for all your A.F. amplification needs. FULLY BUILT-TESTED-GUARANTEED

BRITISH MADE only £3.58 each

Built to a specification and NOT a price, and yet still the greatest value on the market, the PA100 Stero pre-amplifier has been conceived from the latest circuit techniques. Designed for use with the AL50 power amplifier watan, this quality made unit incorporates no less than eight allicon pleaner translators, two of these are specially selected low noise PNP devices for use in the Input staget. Three switched steroo Inputs, and rumble and scratch filters are features of the PA100, which also has a STEREO/NONO switch, volume, balance and continuously variable bass and treble controls. SPECIFICATION:

FRFO PRF-AMPL

TYPE PA100

 SPECIFICATION:

 Frequency response
 20Hz-20kHz
 ±1dB
 Bass control

 Harmonic distortion
 better than 0-1%
 Trable control

 inputs:1. Tace head
 1.25m V into 50kΩ
 Filters: Rum

 2. Radio, Tuner
 35mV into 50kΩ
 Signal/notas

 All input voltages are for an output of 250mV.
 Input soverloo
 Signal/notas

 All input solta form 20Hz to 20Hz.
 Dimensions
 Dimensions

Bass control Treble control Filters: Rumble (high pass) Scratch (low pass) Signal/noise ratio Input overload

SPECIAL COMPLETE KIT COMPRISING 2 ALSO'S, 1 SPMU, 1 BMT80 & 1 PA100 ONLY £25-30 FREE D. & D.

±15dB at 20Hz ±15dB at 20Hz 100Hz 8kHz better than +65dB +26dB +35 volts at 20mA 292 x 82 x 35 mm. only £13.15

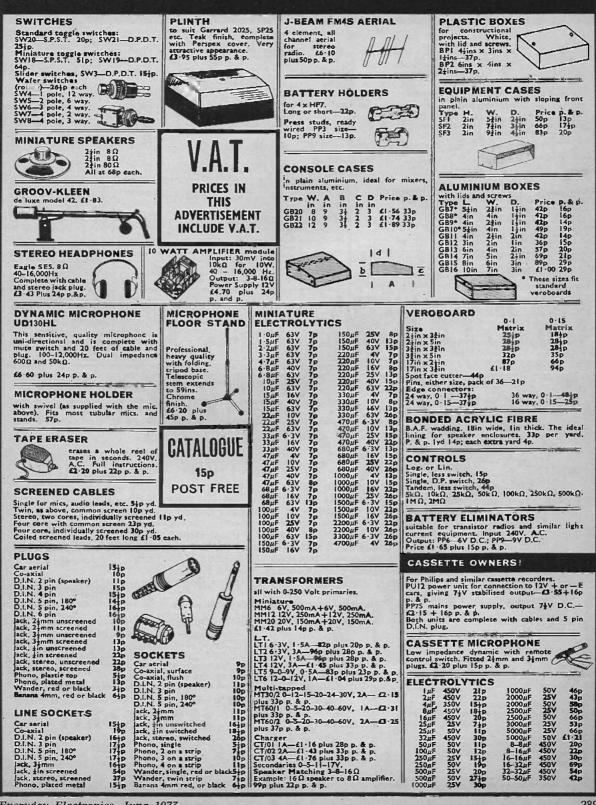






against them. Where p. & p. is not shown the charge is 13p for any selection. When both classes of goods are ordered the charge is 13p plus any p. & p. DEPTFORD BROADWAY, LONDON, SE8 4QN charges shown. (Overseas extra). Telephone 01-692 4412.

MALL ORDERS: Some items have a postage and handling charge shown GARLAND BROS. LTD









PROJECTS ... THEORY

PRINTED CIRCUITS

The so-called "printed" circuit board has for long been the standard method of assembly used in industry for large quantity production of electronic equipments. Each printed circuit board is unique, for it comprises a wiring pattern created exclusively for one particular circuit design. Once the master has been proved and tested, mass production is an easy process without any possibility of errors creeping into individual boards. Thus the chance of substandard products emerging from a production line is reduced to the very minimum.

Ideal for mass production, yes. But does the printed circuit technique have any special advantages to offer to the private constructor? On the face of it it might well seem that the initial preparatory work is hardly warranted in the case of one single item of equipment, and the average constructor is normally concerned with building just "one off". A high productivity rate is certainly not one of the needs that have to be met.

Yet many private constructors do use this technique on occasions in preference to a standard breadboard or wiring board.

PRACTICAL-AND ATTRACTIVE

Without a doubt the p.c.b. has an increasing value as the size and complexity of the circuitry increases. The danger of wiring errors is considerably reduced, and components are more readily mounted in position since their individual locations are precise and are easily recognised.

Yet there are also other considerations. The finished p.c.b. has a stamp of individuality about it and an appearance which is usually more pleasing to the eve than the regimented pattern of a general purpose wiring board. Though just how important such aesthetic effects are is, of course, a matter for each individual to decide.

One undeniable fact is that a knowledge of the printed circuit technique and some practice in its application are useful and valuable acquisitions for any constructor.

REAL AND IMAGINARY

From an essentially practical matter to something more "in the mind". When one tries to envisage electrons-to say nothing of "holes"the imagination is indeed put to quite a severe test

It is not at all essential to understand the principles underlying the operation of a transistor or other semiconductor device in order to use it in an applied circuit. But as likely as not, the newcomer to electronics will eventually find his curiosity getting the better of him, and will begin wondering what makes these tiny devices tick.

Well it is not an easy subject, certainly not at the first encounter. But we feel the series commencing this month will provide a good basic insight into the semiconduction phenomenon-the mechanism which is the real hidden "works" of solid state electronics.

Our July Issue will be published on Friday, June 15

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.EASY TO CONSTRUCT .SIMPLY EXPLAINED



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JUNE 1973

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DO YOU GET THE POINT

A three octave "probe" operated portable instrument by D. B. Stiles

WANT an electric organ" said my six-year-old daughter. Visions of Wurlitzer and Hammond consoles crossed my sight.

N CERE

"Would you like to play a guitar?" I asked, thinking of two old guitars in the attic.

"Aunty has an electric organ" she said accusingly.

In conversation with a friend it transpired that his son also aspired to ownership of an "electric organ". The result of these desires is contained in this article in the hope that it may save someone from having to purchase an expensive organ.

BASIC OSCILLATOR

The basis of the Mini Organ, it was decided, should be as simple as possible. One of the simplest oscillators can be made using a unijunction transistor; it has the attraction that the frequency can be altered over a fairly wide range merely by varying the value of one resistor.

The basic oscillator and its waveforms are shown in Figs. 1 and 2. An extensive coverage of the unijunction transistor is not within the scope

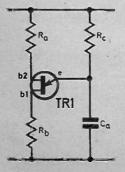


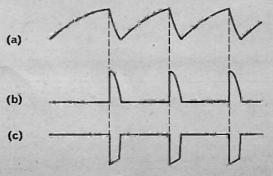
Fig. 1. (left) The basic unijunction oscillator circuit.

Fig. 2 (right) Waveforms associated with the oscillator.



of this article; suffice it to say that a capacitor charges via R_c until the "pinch" voltage is reached. At this point the capacitor discharges rapidly through the emitter/base 1 junction of the device. The rising edge of the emitter sawtooth waveform (a) is determined by the value of R_c and C_a and the trailing edge is dependent upon the value of C_a and the emitter/base 1 resistance.

Short pulses are produced at b1(b) and b2(c) when the capacitor voltage rises to the value of the "pinch" voltage. It was decided not to use



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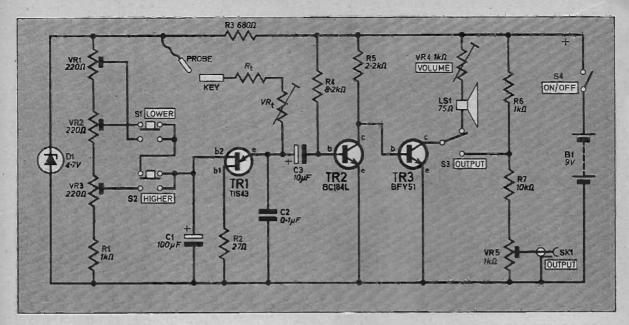


Fig. 3. Circuit diagram of the Mini Organ. Various values for R_t and VR_t for corresponding notes are given in Table 1.

these outputs as the sound was thought to be too staccato due to the short duration of the pulses. The emitter waveform seemed to be more promising, but for reasons explained later it was desirable to have a "square" waveshape rather than a sawtooth: TR2 (Fig. 3) accomplishes this.

FREQUENCY

The frequency of a unijunction oscillator is almost a linear function of the CR product. From the formula for the inter-semitone step for the standardised "concert pitch", the value of timing resistors for the circuit were calculated. A value of 15 kilohms was used as a starting point for the higher end of the scale.

As is probably known, the frequency of a note doubles for a complete octave step; thus it was to be expected that the value of timing resistor would halve, since the product of CR gives a time, and time is the inverse of frequency. This is shown in the formulae:

$$f = \frac{1}{t}$$
 $t = C \times R \times K$

where f is the frequency, t is time, C and R are the timing elements, and K is the constant for the oscillator under given conditions.

The results of the calculations are shown in Table 1. In practice it is easier to "tune" an oscillator using trimmer resistors rather than with fixed resistors due to the large tolerances involved. It is not sufficient to say that a 5 per cent error in the pitch would not be noticed by the average child or, indeed, adult.

The values obtained for Table 1 were used to determine the values of fixed and variable resistors shown. The instrument may be tuned "by ear" against any convenient piano, guitar, etc, simply by adjusting the trimmers, starting with VR_B and working down the scale.

A rather more accurate method of tuning the organ is the method I chose; being rather tone deaf, and with a fairly large stock of resistors to hand I fed the output of the organ into a convenient frequency counter and replaced the trimmers with fixed resistors until the counter read the correct frequency. For those with access to a frequency counter I can recommend this method of calibration, particularly if you, too, are tone deaf.

MULTI-OCTAVE VERSION

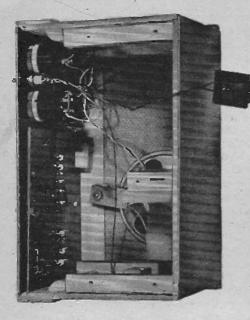
It is possible, by altering the value of base 2 voltage to the unijunction transistor whilst keep-

Note	C	C#	D	D#	Ε	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	В	С
Frequency	261.6	277.2	293.7	311.2	329.7	349.2	370·0	392.0	415.4	440.0.	466-2	493.9	523.3
Resistance Value (kΩ)	30.0	28.3	26.8	25.2	23.8	22.5	21.2	20.0	18.9	17.8	16.8	15.9	15-0
Fixed Resistor (kΩ)	27	27	24	24	22	20	20	18	18	16	16	15	15
Trimmer (kΩ)	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4-7	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	

The resistor and trimmer associated with each note take their designations from that note, e.g. fixed resistor for D is 24k Ω and its designation is R_D, similarly the trimmer will be 4.7k Ω and VR_D.

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Photograph of the prototype Mini Organ.

Fig. 4 (right) The layout of the printed circuit panel underside, shown full size.

ing the emitter supply voltage constant, to change the basic frequency of the oscillator shown in Fig. 1.

Initially it was proposed to utilise this fact to tune the one-octave organ to the octave starting at "middle C". It was found, however, that it was possible to alter the frequency over such a wide range that it would be feasible to provide a full octave above and below this range merely by switching in different values of base 2 voltage.

To provide the full three octaves the components VR1, VR2, VR3, R1, and the switches S1, and S2 were added to the basic circuit of Fig. 1 (see Fig. 3). The trimmers are used to tune the three octaves to standard pitch (and to each other). In the normal positions of S1 and S2 the centre range is selected; with S1 depressed a lower octave is selected and with S2 depressed a higher one. Depression of both switches simultaneously results in the higher octave being selected.

KEYBOARD

As was stated at the beginning, the original design concept of the organ was that it should be both simple and inexpensive. A full set of keys, it was found, would be too expensive for such a simple design; making the keys was too complex.

A simple solution to the problem was to etch the key-pattern onto the printed circuit component board. The resulting layout is shown in-

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Fig. 4; if necessary the keyboard and oscillator/ amplifier sections may be transferred to different relative positions or divorced from each other completely. The probe used on the keys can be of any suitable insulated metal object from a wander plug to a piece of brass rod in an old ball-pen case.

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OUTPUT AMPLIFIER

Transistor TR2 (Fig. 3) is an overdriven amplifier, and is used to convert the sawtooth waveshape from the emitter of TR1 to a reasonable facsimile of a square wave. It was decided that

Ο

normal amplifier techniques were unnecessarily complicated, and a direct coupling was made from the output of TR2 to the base of TR3.

With no note keyed the current supplied by R4 holds TR2 "on", or conducting heavily. This in turn holds TR3 non-conducting, so that no current flows through the speaker coil. This serves two purposes, first that of conserving power from the battery, and second, preventing the possible overheating of the speaker coil due to a continual power supply to it.

When the oscillator is "keyed", TR2 is momentarily turned off by each pulse, causing current to be supplied to the base of TR3 by R5. This turns TR3 on, allowing a current pulse of about 120 milliamps to flow through the speaker coil. This causes the speaker to emit strange noises which children appear to enjoy.

Adults, on the other hand, may object to the weird noises produced by the device, and shout phrases like "Turn it down!" or worse. To this end a volume control (VR4) has been provided.

The pulse amplitude at the collector of TR3 does not diminish, but the power available to the speaker coil does. In fact, the output power diminishes to somewhat less than 30 milliwatts r.m.s with adjustment of VR4.

For masochists who enjo, noisy children provision has been made for the unit to be plugged into the family hi-fi via SK1. It must be stressed that the amplifier input "low" terminal must be connected to the amplifier chassis, and that the chassis must be connected to earth, because of the open keyboard and probe used.

The collector of TR3 is disconnected from the speaker system by S3 and reconnected to the network of R6, R7 and VR5. Resistor R6 provides

the collector load, whilst R7 and VR5 drop the voltage output to about 0 to 0.5 volt r.m.s. If this output is too high to be easily adjusted by VR5 then R7 may be increased.

POWER SUPPLY

Because of the low quiescent current of the organ it is eminently suitable for battery operation. Due to the open contact type of keyboard it is inadvisable to operate the instrument from a mains derived source! Under no circumstances can the unit be operated from a "battery eliminator" type of device, since most of these are not isolated from the mains supply in any way, and a fatal shock could result.

The frequency of the oscillator is somewhat voltage-sensitive. To ensure that the basic note does not alter too much with battery voltage changes, the oscillator supply voltage is stabilised by means of a Zener diode D1.

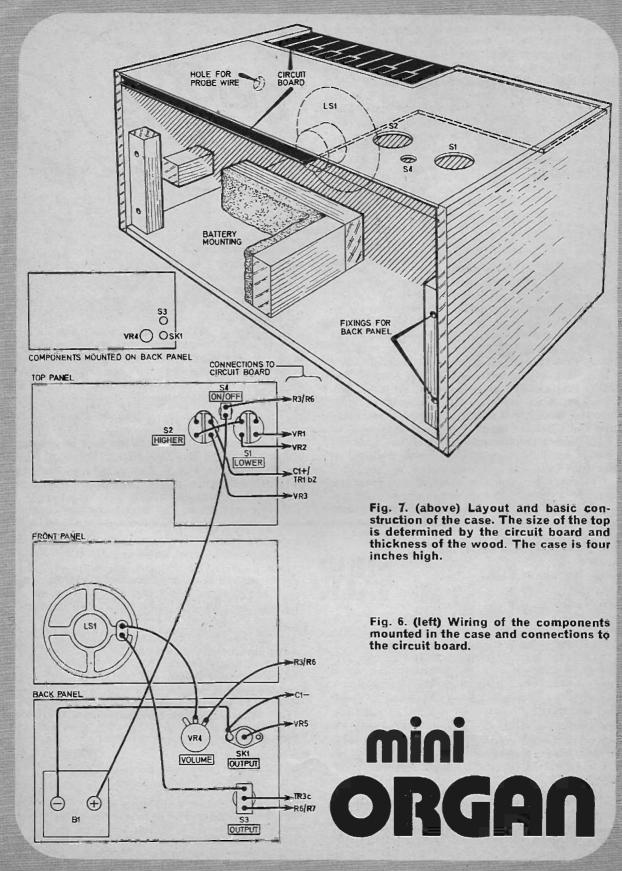
The 120mA current pulses when the oscillator is keyed originally caused the battery voltage to drop by about 700 millivolts. Despite the Zener stabilizer this change was acting on the oscillator to cause false operation. To overcome this the value of C1 was increased to its present value, but it should be noted that only the larger battery types should be used.

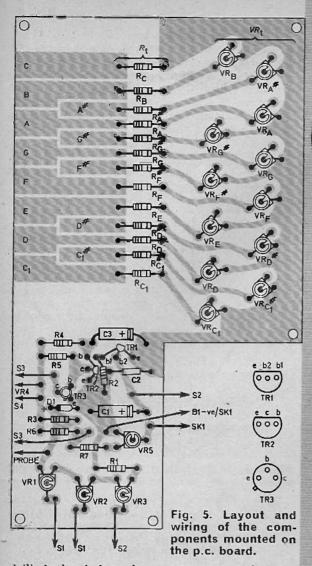
CONSTRUCTION

Commence construction of the unit by cutting and making the printed circuit board to the design shown in Fig. 4. This should be carried out with reference to the Making P.C. Boards article in this issue (page 300).

Having completed the board, checked it and

$\begin{array}{c} \textbf{Resistors} \\ R1 & 1k\Omega & R_{D^{2}} \\ R2 & 27\Omega & R_{E} \\ R3 & 680\Omega & R_{F} \\ R4 & 8 \cdot 2k\Omega & R_{F^{2}} \\ R5 & 2 \cdot 2k\Omega & R_{G^{2}} \\ R6 & 1k\Omega & R_{G^{2}} \\ R6 & 1k\Omega & R_{G^{2}} \\ R7 & 10k\Omega & R_{A} \\ R_{C1} & 27k\Omega & R_{A^{2}} \\ R_{D} & 24k\Omega & R_{C} \\ \textbf{Capacitors} \\ C1 & 100\mu F elect. 12V \\ C2 & 0 \cdot 1\mu F \\ C3 & 10\mu F elect. 12V \\ \end{array}$	24kΩ Shop 22kΩ 20kΩ 20kΩ 18kΩ 18kΩ 16kΩ 16kΩ 16kΩ	$\begin{array}{cccc} \mbox{VR}_A & 2\cdot 2k\Omega & \mbox{VR}_B & 2\cdot 2k\Omega \\ \mbox{VR}_A & z \cdot 2k\Omega \\ \mbox{All horizontal p.c. mounting, miniature skeleton presets, except where stated.} \\ \mbox{Switches} \\ \mbox{S1, S2 d.p.d.t. pushbuttons (Radiospares miniature type or similar—2 off)} \\ \mbox{S3 s.p.d.t. toggle switch.} \\ \mbox{S4 s.p.s.t. toggle switch.} \\ \mbox{Semiconductors} \\ \mbox{D1 } 4\cdot 7V \ 400 \mbox{mW Zener diode} \\ \mbox{TR1 } \ TIS43 \ unijunction \ transistor \\ \mbox{TR2 } \ BC184L \ silicon \ npn \\ \mbox{TR3 } \ BFY51 \ silicon \ npn \\ \end{array}$
Variable Resistors	ND 4.71()	Miscellaneous
VR1 220Ω VR2 220Ω VR3 220Ω VR4 1kΩ TV type	$ \begin{array}{rcl} VR_D & 4 \cdot 7k\Omega \\ VR_Dz & 4 \cdot 7k\Omega \\ VR_E & 4 \cdot 7k\Omega \\ \end{array} $	LS1 75Ω or 80Ω, approximately 300mW miniature loudspeaker B1 9V battery—see text SK1 coaxial socket and plug to suit
preset VR5 1kΩ VR _{C1} 4·7kΩ VR _{C1} 4·7kΩ	$ \begin{array}{l} VR_{F} & 4 \cdot 7 k\Omega \\ VR_{F^{2}} & 4 \cdot 7 k\Omega \\ VR_{G} & 4 \cdot 7 k\Omega \\ VR_{G^{2}} & 2 \cdot 2 k\Omega \end{array} $	Single sided copper clad paxolin or fibreglass panel 6 ³ / ₄ inches by 3 ³ / ₄ inches. Materials for case (see text) 6BA fixings, wire, connectors for B1, bannana plug or similar for probe.





drilled the holes, the components and flying leads can be attached as shown in Fig. 5. Note that the copper areas on the back of the board are shown tinted (as if looking through the board) in Fig. 5. Solder the transistors in after all other connections have been made, using a heat shunt on each lead as it is soldered.

Check the board and components against Fig. 5 paying particular attention to the transistor lead connections, diode polarity and capacitor polarities as shown. This is easily done by holding the board in front of a light so that the components can be checked and the image of the copper can be seen through the board. Finally wire up the complete unit as shown in Fig. 6 construct the case (Fig. 7) and install the electronics.

To test the unit switch on and place the probe on one of the key positions, check that all the notes are operable—including the upper and lower octaves and finally tune the organ by adjustment of the presets as mentioned earlier.



When drilling the component locating holes in a small, home made printed circuit, secure the board to the smooth side of a larger piece of hardboard using doublesided Selfotape.

The hardboard will support the brittle Paxolin and you can drill quickly and smoothly through it into the hardboard, making clean holes with less risk of breaking the fragile twist drill. Afterwards prise the circuit board and hardboard apart with a thin blade or a tab of tape left projecting from the "sandwich". Double-sided tape proves useful in many situations and a reel of 1 inch width is a handy addition to the hobbyist's toolkit.

> E. Mullis Dunmow, Essex.

The problem of overheating, oxidising, and eroding of soldering iron bits has always caused me concern, and annoyance. After trying various methods, including switched reduced voltage, I eventually devised a simple, long lasting, and foolproof method which kept the iron hot, but not too hot, and served the additional purpose of an iron bench stand and heat shunt.

Manufacture and construction; a length of heavy duty conduit is sawn to the desired length, and compressed near one end in the vice to produce a constriction in which the iron bit will rest. Secure the tube to the bench in a convenient place by means of two conduit clamps (the stand off type) and you have an almost everlasting, convenient iron stand and shunt; I used the same one for 30 years.

Incidentally I regularly notice in "radio books" different methods of heat shunts when soldering transistors, no doubt all the methods have some merit, but the one I use is to hold the transistor wire with a pair of small medical forceps of the self locking type, with these you can safely wave the transistor around and then present it accurately to any pinpoint, the forceps can usually be obtained as "throw outs" once personal contact has been established.

> J. Hardman Thornton-Cleveleys, Lancashire.

Instead of using long nosed pliers as a heat shunt use a hair grip "the type with a spring in". This gives a free hand for holding the solder.

> P. Ransey Berks.

REQUIREMENTS

The complete newcomer to this field may be well advised to start with one of the proprietary "printed circuit kits" currently available from suppliers who advertise in the technical journals from time to time.

These kits usually provide everything necessary to complete an etched circuit, including an instruction leaflet detailing the use of the etchant supplied.

However, all the "ingredients" are available separately and you will need:

(a) copper clad s.r.b.p. or fibreglass board

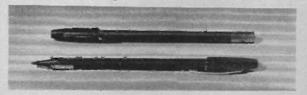
(b) resist

(c) solvent

(d) etchant

The copper clad board is available from the larger component retailers as well as several smaller firms who specialize in printed circuits. The board is generally sold in "stock size" pieces.

For the resist there are two main choices: small jars or tins of plastic enamel paint used by model makers or the special printed circuit pens available such as the Dalo Marker and the G.S.P.K. P.C. pen.



Photograph of the Dalo Marker pen used in this article.

Turpentine or white spirit makes an excellent solvent for removal of the paint and this also is readily available. Special solutions are available to remove the pen type resist or alternatively a light abrasive paste can be used such as Solvol Autosol-sold in garages.

There are several chemical agents used as etchants for printed circuits, one of the most common being ferric chloride.

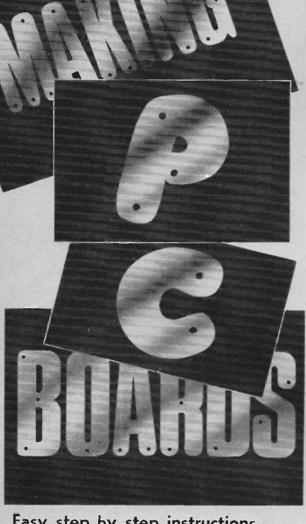
The author has found this etchant to be reliable and efficient as well as relatively easy to obtain. Your local chemist should be able to supply this, if not then you must resort once more to mail order component suppliers.

Ferric chloride is normally supplied in powder or crystalline form for dissolution in water. A suitable etching solution for a board size 3in. by 2¹₂in. can be made by adding about four heaped teaspoonfuls of ferric chloride powder to a quarter pint of luke warm water. For these conditions the etching time will be about 45 minutes.

A point worth mentioning here is to always add the chemical to the water, never add the water to the chemical.

Ferric chloride should be treated with some care as it will burn the skin and clothing if contact is prolonged. When using ferric chloride

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Easy step by step instructions.

by J. A. Nekrews

HE printed or etched circuit is used in virtually every piece of commercial electronic equipment produced these days. In fact projects detailed in this and other technical journals sometimes provide a ready designed layout to assist the amateur constructor in the production of his own printed circuit board.

Not all constructors are familiar with the techniques involved, especially the relative newcomer to solid-state circuitry, so if you are one of the many constructors who would like to attempt this most satisfying branch of our hobby, but you are not too sure where to start. read on.

make sure that it does not come in contact with the eyes. If some is spilt on clothing or comes in contact with the skin it should be washed off under running cold water as quickly as possible.

LAYOUT DESIGN

It is preferable, in fact almost a necessity to have all the components on hand and to design your circuit to suit the components, rather than have to shop around to find components to suit your design.

The author's experience has proved standard $0 \cdot 1$ inch graph paper to be an ideal medium on which to formulate a design.

Now to get to the actual design, the method is best described using a simple example such as the circuit of the Beta Fuzz as described in E.E. January 1973, see Fig. 1.

First of all decide on an approximate size for the completed board, and here you must be realistic; if you are striving for microminiaturization with discrete components then this system is not for you.

Getting back to the drawing board, first of all draw the outline of the board on the graph paper leaving the right-hand side blank just in case it is not possible to fit the complete circuit on the size of board originally desired. Conversely it may be found that the board could be made smaller if required.

Next, working from left to right on the circuit diagram and using the actual components as templates, mark the positions of all the components and connections using pencil until a satisfactory layout is produced.

Then, using coloured crayon or better still a felt-tip pen, shade in the interconnections to form a pattern similar to that shown in Fig. 2. It is common practice to have the "live" supply line along the top and an earth or zero volt line at the bottom just as in conventional circuit diagrams, see Fig. 2.

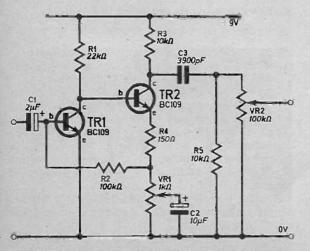


Fig. 1. The circuit diagram of the Beta Fuzz to be put on to the printed circuit board.

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Remember that you are working from the topside i.e. the unclad side of the board, therefore all components and connections are to be viewed from the topside. This is of particular importance with transistors and integrated circuits.

The resulting drawing should look something like Fig. 2. In this case, space was of no importance so a neat functional layout was obtained.

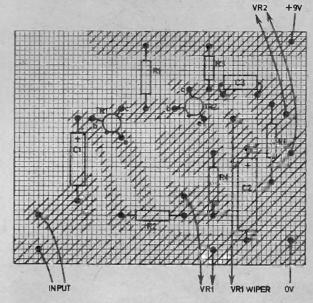


Fig. 2. The final design of printed circuit layout on graph paper.

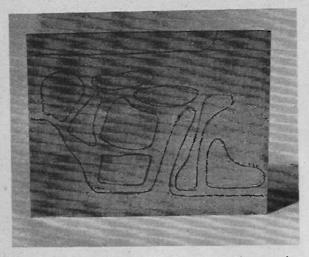
CLEAN BOARD

A piece of copper clad board should now be cut to the required size, a fretsaw or hacksaw is very handy for this, and the edges carefully filed smooth. The board should then be thoroughly and scrupulously cleaned. Ordinary household scouring powder such as Vim or Ajax makes an excellent job of this, after which be careful not to touch the copper surface as fingerprints leave greasy marks which could impair the etching action.

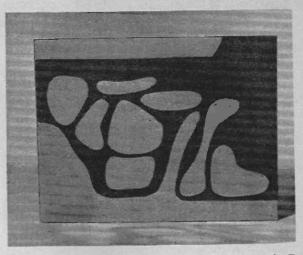
TRANSFER

Using the pattern of Fig. 2 we shall make the master drawing of the printed circuit—this is the pattern given with most printed circuit articles and which is usually full sized so that a direct transfer can be made to the board. The areas shown in black are the areas of copper strip to remain on after the etching process.

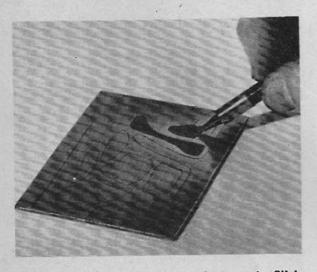
Place a piece of carbon paper (face side up) on the bench and then place your pattern of Fig. 2 on top of it. Run a soft pencil over the outline of the pattern so that a mirror image of the latter is produced on the reverse side. This "mirror image" is the master drawing. Shade in the areas of copper to be left on after etching, this will be helpful later. See Fig. 3.

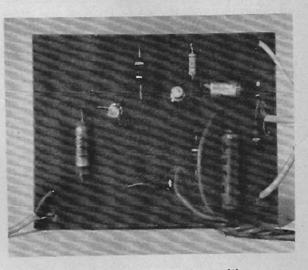


A. The carbon paper tracing from the master drawing on the copper side of the board.



D. The board after etching with resist cleaned off.



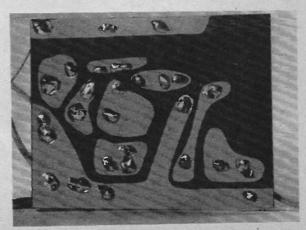


B. Using a printed circuit marker pen to fill in the areas of copper to remain after etching.

E. The components mounted in position.



C. The board dry and ready for etching:



F. The underside of the completed board. Everyday Electronics, June 1973



Fig. 3. The master drawing of the printed circuit board (full size).

Now place the carbon paper face side down on the copper clad side of the board (cut to size) and then place the master on top of this and align correctly with the board. Secure this in position with paper clips or Sellotape and then run a pencil over the outline of the master to produce the same on the copper. The result of this is shown in photograph A.

If using paint, such as Airfix or Humbrol (as used for painting models), paint in the areas of copper to remain (with reference to the master drawing) with a fine artists brush and leave to dry. Make sure there are no uncovered spots or "pin pricks", if there are, cover in.

If using one of the printed circuit pens, fill in the appropriate areas of the board according to the master drawing using the nib of the pen as shown in photograph B.

In both cases, ensure the edges of the resist are sharp and clean otherwise a ragged and diffuse type edge will result which looks unprofessional; allow the paint or pen resist to dry completely; photograph C shows the board ready for etching.

ETCHING

The following method of etching was selected for its simplicity and reliability. A Pyrex or photographic developing dish, large enough to allow the board to lie flat inside, is filled approximately half an inch deep with the ferric chloride solution, and the board is placed copper side upwards in the solution. This must then be constantly agitated. The etching process is complete after about 45 minutes.

The need for constant agitation cannot be overstressed as failure to do this results in the ferric chloride molecules combining with the copper forming an inactive coating on the surface of the board and halting the etching action. If the board is left in the solution too long the etchant may start to undercut the painted areas, so be warned.

Once the etching process is finished, the board should be removed from the solution, well rinsed in fresh water and dried. The resist can now be removed using the solvent or light abrasive, leaving a neat and professional looking printed circuit board (see photograph D).

DRILLING AND COATING

- Once the board is etched there remains the job of drilling the holes. This process needs to be carried out with care, otherwise the copper may be lifted from the board and then a new board has to be made.

With reference to the master drawing, mark the positions of all holes to be drilled on to the copper clad side of the board, and then carefully drill these with a 1/32in. diameter drill.

Drill slowly and apply minimum pressure to ensure that the drill breaks through the board cleanly; this will help to give the board a professional appearance; don't forget to drill the mounting holes before component assembly.

At this stage, if desired, the remaining copper on the board, thoroughly cleaned, can be coated with a thin layer of solder to protect the copper from oxidation. This also gives a neater appearance to the back of the board.

As an alternative to this, a coating of varnish may be applied to the back of the board after the components are soldered in position.

MOUNTING COMPONENTS

All component wires should be bent at right angles to the component body so that their bent leads exactly span the distance between the holes that have been allocated them. They should then be inserted in these holes such that the body of the component clears the board by about 1/16in. and then the leads cut off so they protrude only about 1/16in. beyond the copper. They should then be soldered in this position. See photographs E and F.

It is important to carry out the soldering of each component swiftly, as prolonged heat on the board (from the soldering iron) may cause the copper lamination to come adrift.

Transistors and other semiconductors should, as usual, be left until last, and when being soldered in position a heat shunt should be used.

CONCLUSION

In cases where several boards of the same design are required, special light-sensitive laquer is available. This process requires the design to be painted on a piece of thin acetate sheet. With this method an unlimited number of boards of the same design may be produced.

FREE DELLIS ... Win this VISCOUNT Audio System! 100 other prizes for Runners-up

This fantastic Viscount Audio System can be yours-free! It's the first prize in this exciting competition, open only to EVERYDAY ELECTRONICS readers. The system comprises the new RTVC Viscount III P102 stereo amplifier, two duo type III speakers and a Garrard SP25 Mk III turntable mounted on a perspex covered plinth. It's selling for around £70!

The competition is all about soldering and so, appropriately, are the rest of our prizes. Just take a look at this list of soldering goods making up the 100 runner-up awards:

From Adcola Products Ltd. Soldering kits, soldering irons and iron stands. From Antex (Electronics) Ltd. Soldering kits and soldering irons.

From Multicore Solders Ltd. Soldering handbooks, wire strippers and solder dispensers.

HOW TO ENTER

Listed below are eight points which make for successful and efficient soldering. All you have to do is place them in what you consider to be their order of Importance In contributing to a perfect soldered connection. For example, if you consider that "Use non-corrosive flux cored solder" is most important of all, write C in the box marked 1st on your entry coupon. The key letter of your second choice goes into the box marked 2nd, and so on for all eight.

Complete the coupon, all in ink or ball-point, with your full name and address, then post it in a sealed envelope to:

EVERYDAY ELECTRONICS SOLDERING COMPETITION. 16 GARRICK STREET, LONDON, WC2E 9PR.

IMPORTANT

Another free entry coupon for this competition will appear in the July EVERYDAY ELECTRONICS.

The closing date for entries-Friday, July 27th, 1973-gives you ample time to wait for our next issue and then post two different attempts together in one envelope.

- Parts to be soldered should be cleaned and tinned.
- B Use soldering iron of correct size and weight.
- C Use non-corrosive flux cored solder.
- D Use soldering iron with tip of correct size.
- E Maintain heat on joint until solder flows evenly over it entirely.
- Keep tip of iron "wet" with solder.

Use soldering iron of correct temperature and wattage. ĸ Make good mechanical contact prior to soldering.

SOLDERING COMPETITION, 16 GARRICK STREET, LONDON WC2E 9PR	<u>i</u>
	1st
My order of importance for the eight features is listed on the right. In	2nd
entering the competition, I agree to the rules as final and legally binding.	3rd
	4th
AME Mr./Mrs./Miss)	
DDRESS	6th
Block letters)	7th
	8th



The Viscount Audio System



An Adcola soldering kit

An Antex thermostatically controlled soldering iron

A COMPANY OF A COMPANY

COMPETITION RULES

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304

NEXT WONTH FOR THOSE WHO DO!



AUDIO MIXER

For use with a tape recorder or for p.a. systems

AUTOFAN

A thermostatic control for an electric, engine cooling fan

REPLICA CRYSTAL SET

Span the ages with this replica of an original, complete with "crystal" and "cats whisker"



DON'T BE DISAPPOINTED

A look at electronics at work

SEMICONDUCTORS

Second part of our new series introduces the diode

Our experts offer straightforward answers to technical problems

PLUS Second and final chance to enter the EE soldering competition

Your newsagent will be pleased to take your order





THIS series has been written to provide a very simple explanation of how common semiconductor devices function. No knowledge of mathematics or of the details of chemical bonding will be required in order to understand any part of the series. It is only necessary to know that, when a voltage is applied across a material, the electrons in the material are attracted towards the positive electrode and the positive charges towards the negative electrode.

This first part of the series introduces the basic principles of the semiconductor and semiconductor materials but later in the series it will be orientated more towards understanding the functioning of the various devices.

Simple ways of testing the various devices will be described in later articles, partly because the carrying out of such tests is very instructive for the beginner. The only equipment which will be required for the tests is a suitable meter, a battery and a few resistors.

CONDUCTION

All materials contain negative charges electrons—and an approximately equal number of positive charges. The number of these charges in a small amount of matter is enormous (about one million million million [10²⁴] in one gram of a substance).

A material will conduct electricity if it contains electric charges which are *free to move* under the influence of an applied voltage. The moving charges "carry" the current, since an electric current is merely a movement of electric charge.

Current flow in a material may consist entirely of electrons moving towards the positive electrode (anode) of the applied voltage and in some cases it consists only of positive charges moving towards the negative electrode (cathode) of the applied voltage, whilst in other circumstances both the electrons move to the cathode and the positive charges move to the anode at the same time. Any charges which are free to move will do so.

Metals are very good conductors of electricity because they contain very large numbers of *free* electrons, the word "free" implying that the

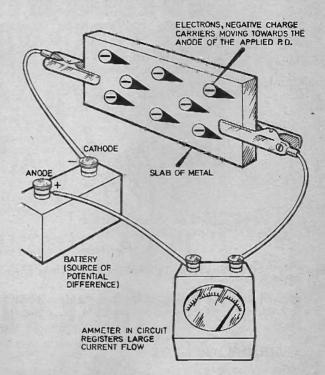


Fig. 1.1a. Schematic of conduction in a metal, movement of electrons.

electrons are able to move. Conduction in a metal is illustrated in Fig. 1.1a.

Solutions of acids, alkalies and salts are also good conductors of electricity, since they contain very large numbers of positive and negative charged particles (or ions as they are called) which are free to move. Conduction in such a solution is depicted in Fig. 1.1b.

A similar type of conduction occurs in the familiar yellow street lamps where an electric current passes through a gas which contains large numbers of electrons and positively charged sodium ions.

Insulators, such as glass, Perspex, air, etc., contain electrons and positive charges, but virtually all of these charges are firmly bonded to the atoms of the material and are not free to move when a voltage is applied across the substance. Insulators will not therefore conduct electricity unless an extremely high voltage is

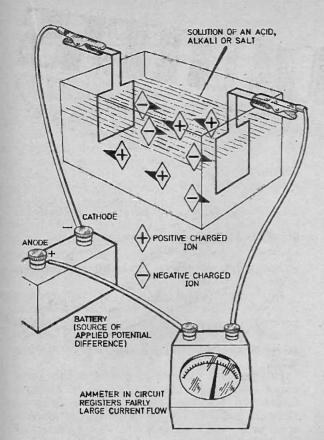


Fig. 1.1b. Electrical conduction in a solution, ionic movement.

applied across a very thin layer of the material so that some electrons are wrenched from their bonds.

SEMICONDUCTORS

Semiconductors form a class of substances intermediate between metals and insulators. The best known semiconductor materials are the hard grey brittle elements, germanium and silicon.

Such materials contain some electrons which are free to move, but the number of these mobile electrons is far far less than in a metal. Semiconductor materials will therefore pass a small current when a potential difference is applied across them, as depicted in Fig. 1.1c.

For example, metallic copper conducts about a million times better than germanium and about a thousand million times better than silicon.

The number of free electrons in a pure semiconductor material increases very rapidly as the temperature rises. At higher temperatures there is more energy in the material and this enables more electrons to break away from the bonds which secure them to a particular atom. As a "rule of thumb", it can be stated that the number of free electrons in a pure semiconductor material is doubled for each 10 degree

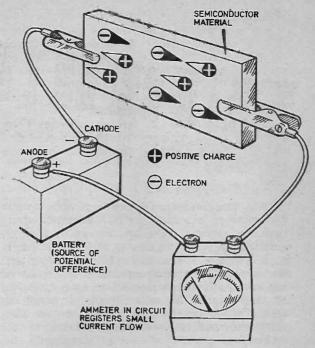


Fig. 1.1c. Schematic of electrical conduction in a semiconductor.

centigrade rise in temperature.

Electrons which are at some time free, become bonded to atoms, and other electrons break their bonds and become free so that the total number of free electrons in a piece of material remains fairly constant with time.

Pure germanium contains many more free electrons per unit volume than pure silicon at the same temperature. In general germanium devices cannot operate at temperatures much above 90 degrees centigrade, since at higher temperatures the number of electrons in the material becomes so great that the current cannot be controlled.

Silicon devices can operate at temperatures up to about 180 degrees centigrade. Some semiconductor materials, such as gallium arsenide, contain fewer free electrons than silicon at a given temperature and can therefore be used at even higher temperatures.

Conduction in a *pure* semiconductor material is known as **intrinisic** conduction, the word intrinsic merely showing that the conduction is taking place in the pure material itself.

IMPURITIES

Most chemicals are regarded as being pure if the total impurity content is less than one part in a thousand or even one part in a hundred.

However, the material used in semiconductor devices must contain a far smaller impurity concentration than this. Typically, the pure germanium and silicon used for manufacturing semiconductor devices contains less than one part of impurity in ten thousand million parts of the material.

The preparation of materials in such extreme degrees of purity cannot be achieved by normal chemical methods, special techniques have been perfected to enable the required materials to be prepared at a suitable level of purity.

It is useless preparing such a pure material unless it is kept pure throughout the life of the device. Semiconductor devices are therefore sealed in metal (with insulated leads), glass or a suitable plastic material so that no impurities can reach the semiconductor material itself.

SINGLE CRYSTALS

Most semiconductor devices not only require materials of extreme purity, but also require that the material shall be present as a single crystal. A crystal contains an orderly pattern of atoms in three dimensions extending throughout its volume, whilst non-crystalline materials do not have such an orderly pattern extending over an appreciable distance. Impurity atoms or atoms which are in such a position that they spoil the pattern, constitute defects in the crystal.

N-TYPE MATERIAL

A semiconductor material contains few free electrons. If certain impurities (such as arsenic or antimony) are introduced into the crystal in extremely minute concentrations (typically one impurity atom in many millions of atoms of the semiconductor material), the number of free electrons (and hence the conductivity) is greatly increased.

Each atom of the impurity material can release an electron relatively easily. At normal temperatures almost all of these electrons are free to move in the crystal.

Semiconductor materials containing such impurity atoms are known as n-type or negative carrier materials, since conduction takes place by means of negative charge carriers, that is, electrons.

The atoms of arsenic, antimony or a similar element which donate the electrons are known as donor atoms.

P-TYPE

Certain other types of impurity atom such as aluminium, indium and phospherous, also have a profound effect on the conductivity of a semiconductor material when they are added to it in minute amounts. These atoms are known as acceptor atoms, since each atom of such an element can readily accept one electron from a neighbouring atom of the semiconductor material.

HOLES

Let us consider how conduction takes place in a material containing acceptor atoms. In Fig. 1.2

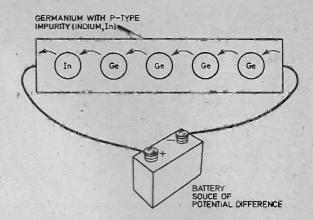


Fig. 1.2. Conduction in p-type germanium.

a single row of atoms is considered for simplicity.

An indium atom is next to the positive electrode, whilst the other atoms in the row are germanium. Under the influence of the applied electric field, the indium atom readily accepts an electron from the neighbouring germanium atom.

This leaves a vacancy or a hole in this germanium atom which can be filled by an electron. Under the influence of the electric field, an electron moves from the adjacent germanium atom to fill the vacancy as shown by the arrow. Similarly the new hole thus formed is in turn filled by an electron from the next atom.

Finally, an electron moves from the negative plate to fill the hole formed in the last germanium atom, and the electron which first moved into the indium atom now moves into the positive electrode. This whole process can be repeated indefinitely.

HOLE CONDUCTION

We have seen that conduction in a semiconductor material containing acceptor atoms actually consists of a *movement* of *electrons* from the cathode to the anode.

However, it is often easier to consider that one hole is moving from the anode to the cathode rather than to consider that the process consists of the movement of a large number of electrons in the opposite direction. This type of conduction is therefore known as hole conduction.

Holes behave as if they are positive charges. In Fig. 1.2 the holes move to the right, that is from the anode to the cathode, in the same direction as a positive charge would move.

Materials containing acceptor atoms are therefore called p-type materials, since conduction occurs by a movement of the hypothetical positive charge carriers known as holes.

In case any reader is in doubt about the matter, perhaps it should be made quite clear that the hole is not equivalent to the positron (which is the antiparticle of the electron).

ANALOGY FOR HOLE CONDUCTION

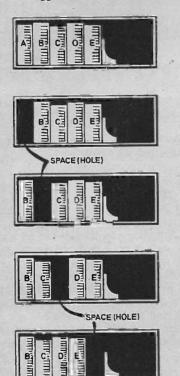
The analogy shown in Fig. 1.3 may make the process of hole conduction clearer. Let us imagine a bookshelf containing five books, ABCD and E.

Book A is removed (by an external force) for reference, thus leaving an empty space or hole at the left hand end of the shelf.

Book B is moved into this space, and then the rest of the books, one at a time. are moved to the left.

Although each of the books have been moved, the net effect is the same as if a hole (that is, a book space) had moved from the left hand side to the right hand side in the opposite direction to the movement of the books.

Fig. 1.3. An analogy showing movement of a hole,



DOPING

The addition of donor or acceptor impurities to a semiconductor material is known as doping. A material is said to be lightly doped if it contains few impurity atoms per unit volume and heavily doped if it contains a relatively large number of impurity atoms.

BOTH TYPES OF IMPURITY

If a semiconductor material contains both donor and acceptor atoms, electrons from the

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donor atoms will fill holes in the acceptor atoms. If the donor atoms are more numerous than the acceptor atoms, there will be more electrons than there are holes to be filled. The material will therefore be n-type.

Similarly, if there are more acceptor than donor atoms, there will not be enough electrons to fill all of the holes. The material will therefore be p-type.

As electrons tend to fill any holes they may meet as they pass through the semiconductor crystal, the number of holes in an *n*-type material will be less than the number of holes in the same volume of the pure semiconductor material.

Similarly, the number of electrons in a p-type material is less than in the pure semiconductor material, since the electrons keep tumbling into the more numerous holes where they are no longer free to move.

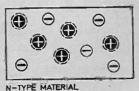
SUMMARY

As shown in Fig. 1.4, an *n*-type material contains mobile electrons. As the material is normally electrically neutral, there must be an equal number of positive charges to balance the charges of the electrons. However, these positive charges are fixed in position, as indicated by the broken circles around them.

In the case of *p*-type material, the positive holes are free to move, whilst the negative charges are fixed in position.

The very small number of holes in an *n*-type material and the free electrons in a *p*-type material are not shown in Fig. 1.4 since their numbers are so small. These charges are known as **minority carriers** because their numbers are far smaller than that of the carriers of opposite charge.

Thus the electrons in *n*-type material and the holes in *p*-type material may be referred to as majority carriers.





ELECTRONS CAN MOVE

P-TYPE MAIERIAL HOLES CAN MOVE

Fig. 1.4. N and p-type semiconductor materials. The broken circles show "fixed" charges.

The vast numbers of neutral atoms in any crystal are not shown in Fig. 1.4 since they play no part in the conduction process.

Suitably doped semiconductor materials employed in carefully designed devices have made modern miniature electronics possible.

Next month: Semiconductor diodes.

309

A very useful device for the busy housewife.

G REAT BRITAIN is well known for its bad weather, and when the busy housewife hangs out her washing to dry, she often has to dash out and bring her washing in again as the rain starts to fall.

Sometimes she is busy in another part of the house, and by the time she realises that it is raining, the washing is quite wet again.

One answer to this problem is to install an electronic device which attracts the attention of the housewife before it is too late.

The Rain Alarm described here sounds an audible alarm as soon as the first few drops fall.

THE CIRCUIT

The complete circuit diagram of the Rain Alarm is shown in Fig. 1.

The circuit consists of a Veroboard sensor, a trigger circuit loaded with a relay, and a two transistor oscillator.

When rain falls on the sensor, the rain drop in effect connects the free end of R1 to the positive supply rail which causes a positive potential to be applied to the gate of the thyristor CSR1.

This immediately turns on the thyristor and causes current to flow through the relay RLA and the latter is energised. The thyristor does not turn off, this can only be done in this circuit by switching off the supply.

When the relay is activated, its contacts cause the oscillator circuit to be "made" and hence the audible alarm is heard through the loudspeaker.

The oscillator, which is of the relaxation type, functions in the following way: when the relay contacts close and make the circuit, a positive

by C. Embleton

bias is applied to the base of TR1 and to the emitter of TR2.

This positive bias switches on TR1 via R2 and this conducts a negative voltage to the base of TR2.

Because TR2 is a *pnp* transistor, this negative voltage switches on TR2. When TR2 conducts, it causes current to flow through the loudspeaker.

This positive signal is then passed back to the base of TR1 via C1 and the whole process is repeated producing a continuous tone for the whole time the relay contacts are closed. The pitch of the tone can be altered by changing the value of capacitor C1; increase C1 to decrease the pitch and vice versa.

The light dependent resistor PCC1 in series with the Veroboard sensor is included so that the alarm will not sound if it happens to rain during the night and the unit is switched on.

When the l.d.r. is subjected to dark conditions, its resistance is very high, in the order of megohms, and this prevents the gate of the thyristor receiving enough current for it to "fire."



Components
$\begin{array}{c} \textbf{Resistors} \\ R1 & 330\Omega \\ R2 & 10k\Omega \\ \frac{1}{4} \text{ watt } \pm 10\% \text{ carbon} \\ \hline \textbf{Capacitors} \\ C1 & 0.1\muF \end{array}$
Semiconductors TR1 2N3704 silicon npn TR2 OC72 germanium pnp CSR1 CRS1/25-600 or any similar 1A device PCC1 ORP12 or similar
Relay RLA Post Office type 3000 with 400Ω coil or similar (see text)
Miscellaneous S1 On/off toggle or slide LS1 3 ohm to 20 ohm loudspeäker B1 9V battery PP7 Veroboard: 0.1in. matrix 5in. x 2½in., 0.15in. matrix 8 x 7 holes; battery connectors; 4-way terminal block; 4BA nuts, bolts and spacer; ½in. diameter dowel; length of two core cable; suitable case.

In daylight conditions, the resistance of the l.d.r. is very low, and does not prevent the thyristor from firing.

RELAY AND LOUDSPEAKER

The relay used in the prototype was a Post Office type 3000 with a coil resistance of 400 ohms. It is not essential to use this exact type as any 9V relay with a coil resistance of 100 to 400 ohms will suffice.

If desired, the relay can be used to switch heavier loads, i.e. a power alarm, the limit of power being determined by the rating of the relay contacts.

The loudspeaker used in the prototype had an impedance of 3 ohm, but this is not critical as any speaker up to 20 ohms will do.

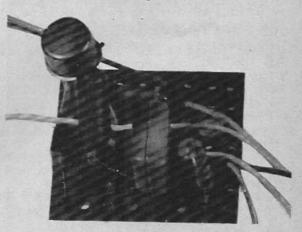
CONSTRUCTION

Begin construction by cutting to size the Veroboard, 8×7 holes $\times 0.15$ in. matrix and making the necessary cut-outs on the reverse side, see Fig. 2.

Next, mount all the components as detailed in Fig. 2 leaving the transistors until last. Use a heat shunt on the legs of the transistors when soldering them in position.

Obtain a suitable case—the prototype used an old sandwich tin with lid—and fix the components RLA, LS1, S1, and the two-way terminal block in position. The layout shown in Fig. 3 is not critical and may be changed to suit individual requirements.

With these components firmly fixed in position, wire up to the Veroboard as shown in Fig. 3 and then fix the board to the case using a 4BA nut, bolt and insulated spacer.



Photograph of the completed component board

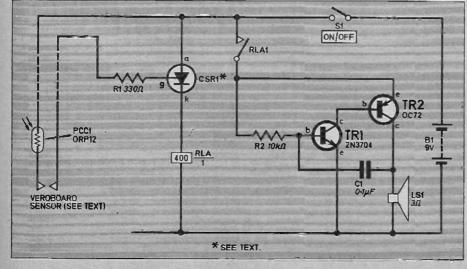
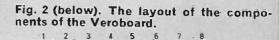


Fig. 1. The complete circuit diagram of the Rain Alarm. The I.d.r. prevents the alarm from sounding in dark conditions, i.e. at night.

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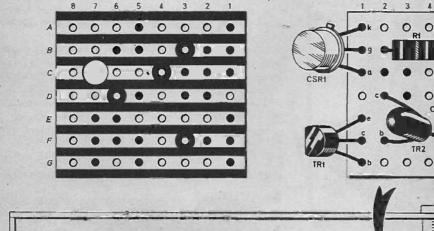
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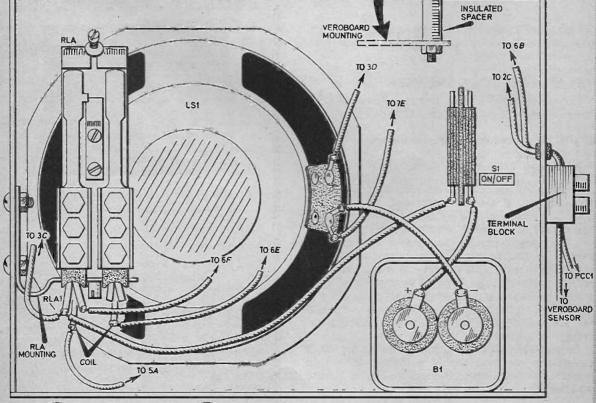
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Fig. 3. (above). The complete wiring diagram of the Rain Alarm. Shown left are the thyristor and transistor lead outs viewed from the underside.

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SENSOR

The sensor of the Rain Alarm should be made from a piece of $0 \cdot 1$ in. matrix Veroboard. The size used in the prototype was 5 in. x 2^{1} in.

The sensor is shown in Fig. 4 and the Veroboard has alternate strips joined at each end forming an interlocking finger pattern.

It is necessary to use $0 \cdot 1$ in. board to obtain the required sensitivity.

Wire up the l.d.r. to the Veroboard and the two-way terminal block and then glue to a piece of ${}^{3}_{4}$ in. diameter dowel. Araldite is a suitable adhesive.

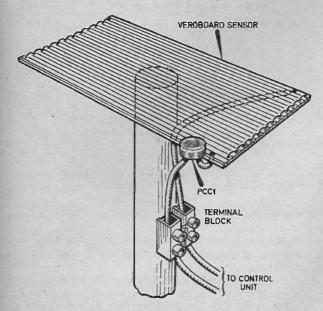


Fig. 4. Details of the Veroboard sensor.

TESTING

Before testing, check all wiring in the main control case. If satisfied, proceed.

Join, by means of a length of two-core cable, the sensor to the main unit and switch on.

Under bright conditions, place a wetted finger across the copper strips of the sensor and a tone should be heard from the loudspeaker; this tone will persist when the finger is removed and even when the board is completely dried.

To remove the tone, the unit must be switched off. Immediately switching on again should not trigger the alarm if the board is dry.

Repeat the above test procedure under dark conditions—no tone should be heard. If you do not obtain these results, check out your wiring and rectify.

MOUNTING AND USE

The sensor should be mounted somewhere in the garden such that it will not be sheltered from rain or daylight. It is recommended that the sensor should be mounted at an angle so that

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the rain will run off; the photocell must be uppermost.

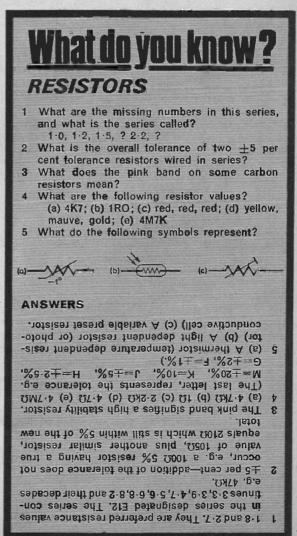
The control unit is mounted in the house so that its tone can be heard anywhere in the house when it is raining. Join the two parts by means of a suitable length of two core cable.

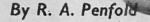
The unit is switched on when the laundry is hung out to dry and the alarm will sound when the first few drops of rain fall.

To reset the alarm, the unit is switched off by switch SI and, assuming it has stopped raining, the switch can be switched on again after the sensor has become dry. If the sensor is not dry the alarm will continue.

The Rain Alarm can be left on permanently, hence the purpose of PCC1, since the current drain with no rain is minute, the battery should last for a couple of months or more.

Finally the sensor board should be cleaned every couple of months to ensure maximum sensitivity.





Boosts the output from cassette tape recorders and transistor radios

D^{UE} to their small size, low cost, and portability, cassette tape recorders have become extremely popular. These do, however, usually suffer from having a rather limited output power (typically 500 milliwatts), and only a small internal speaker. The quality of the output is not therefore all one would desire.

It was therefore decided to construct an amplifier which would boost the output of the recorder to two or three watts, which is sufficient for most domestic requirements.

While it was originally intended to modify the recorder to take the output from it's volume control circuit, so as to obtain a virtually noise, and distortion free signal, this was not found necessary, and perfectly satisfactory results were obtained by taking the output from the earphone socket.

The amplifier can be used in the same way with small pocket radio receivers.

CIRCUIT THEORY

A circuit diagram of the cassette recorder amplifier is shown in Fig. 1, VR1 is the volume control, which consists of a variable voltage divider. The full input signal voltage will be present across VR1; the slider can tap all, or part of this voltage.

Capacitor Cl is a d.c. blocking capacitor which feeds the alternating input to the base of TR1. The voltage set at the base of TR1 by the biasing resistors, R1 and R2 would be altered with the setting of the volume control if C1 were to be omitted.

Transistors, TR1 and TR2 are wired as a Darlington pair. The Darlington pair is a method of connecting two transistors together in such a way that they in effect form a single transistor with a gain equal to that of the product of the gains of the two transistors—approximately 20,000 in this case.

OUTPUT STAGE

Resistors R1 and R2 bias the Darlington pair so that about half the supply voltage appears at TR2 collector.

Transistors TR3 and TR4 form the complementary class B output stage.

The output transistors are used in the common collector (also known as the emitter follower)



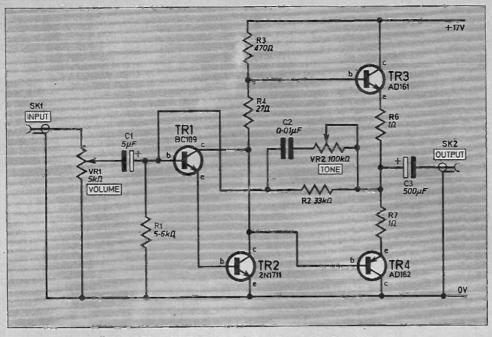


Fig. 1. Circuit diagram of the Cassette Amplifier.

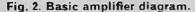
configuration. An emitter follower has almost exactly unity voltage gain, but has considerably more current available at the output (the emitter) than is put in at the base. It has a very low output impedance compared to the input impedance. The output transistors are thus able to match the 500 ohms output of TR2 to the 8 ohms impedance of the speaker.

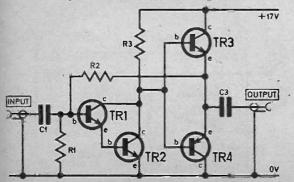
OUTPUT STAGE OPERATION

It will be easier to understand the operation of the output stage if reference is made to the skeleton circuit diagram, Fig. 2.

With no input signal applied to the amplifier, the voltage at TR3 and TR4 emitters will be the same as that at their bases (approximately half the supply voltage). The transistors are in effect working from two separate 8.5 volt supplies. As the output transistors stand, only leakage currents will flow, as their bases are in effect earthed.

If we now consider a positive pulse applied





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at TR1 base, this will cause TR2 to conduct more heavily, the voltage at TR3 and TR4 bases falling in consequence. This will cause the voltage at TR3 base to in effect fall below "earth", and TR3 will remain cut off. However, the base of TR4 will now in effect be above "earth", and it will conduct heavily. The voltage at its emitter will drop for the duration of the pulse, and then return to normal.

If a negative pulse is now applied at the input, TR2 will conduct less heavily, causing the voltage at TR3 and TR4 bases to increase. Now TR4 will be cut off, while TR3 conducts for the duration of the pulse, causing the voltage at the output to swing to a high level, and then back to normal. Thus TR4 amplifies positive input half cycles, while TR3 amplifies negative input half cycles.

The capacitor between the output, and the loudspeaker LS1 is required to block direct currents from entering the speaker.

EXTRA COMPONENTS

Comparing the circuit of Fig. 1 with the skeleton circuit of Fig. 2, it will be noticed that in Fig. 2, R4, R6 and R7 are omitted.

Resistor R4 is required in order to minimise cross-over distortion.

This distortion is due to the fact that a germanium transistor (which the output transistors are) will not begin to conduct between its collector, and emitter terminals until about 0.2volts is present at its base. When it is just turning on it has rather a non-linear characteristic; R4 is used to give a small biasing voltage to the output transistors, and so overcome cross-over distortion, reducing it to an unnoticeable level.

Resistors R6 and R7 are current limiting resistors, which are required as a precaution against damage to the output transistors due to what is termed "thermal runaway".

NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

The biasing resistors for the Darlington pair obtain their biasing current from the output, and the biasing will alter as the output voltage fluctuates. This is in order to give negative feedback to the circuit. Negative feedback is required in order to reduce distortion. It also greatly reduces the gain of the circuit, but the distortion is reduced by a greater amount than the required signal.

Providing the amplifier is perfectly linear. the feedback will be linear also, and its only effect will be to reduce the gain of the amplifier.

No amplifier yet designed is completely linear, and thus the feedback will not be linear either. As the feedback is negative, however, this nonlinearity will be in opposition to the non-linearity of the amplifier, and will tend to cancel out the distortion.

TONE CONTROL

In the output from the tape recorder there will be a certain amount of high frequency noise, known as tape hiss. Potentiometer VR2, and capacitor C2 form a simple tone control which can greatly reduce the high frequency response of the amplifier, and consequently this noise.

POWER SUPPLY

A stabilised mains power supply giving about 17V at up to 500 mA is incorporated in the amplifier. A circuit diagram of this is shown in Fig. 3. Switch S1 is the on-off switch which is ganged with the volume control, VR1. The mains transformer, T1, reduces the mains supply of 240V down to 12-15V. This refers to the r.m.s. value, and the peak value will be a little over 1.4 times this.

The bridge rectifier D1-D4 converts the alter-

nating currents from the mains transformer to a pulsating direct current.

Transistor TR5 is connected as an emitter follower. Resistor R5 and D1, the Zener diode, are used to hold the base of TR5 at 18V. In an emitter follower circuit using a silicon transistor, (such as TR5) the emitter voltage will be the same as base voltage, minus about 0.5 to 1 volt. The voltage at the output is thus stabilised at about 17 to 17.5 volts. Capacitor C5 smooths the output in the same way as C4, giving an almost ripple free output.

CONSTRUCTION

The unit is housed in a home made aluminium case measuring approximately 7 by 6 by 2^{1}_{2} inches. This is made in two sections, one forming the base, front, and rear, and the second forming the sides and top. The two are fastened together by four self tapping screws. Details of the case are given in Fig. 4. It is made from 18 or 22 s.w.g. aluminium sheet.

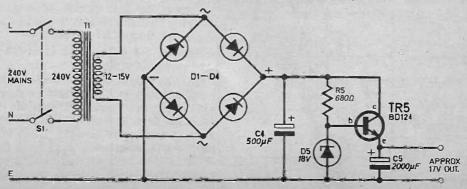
The three power transistors, TR3, TR4, and TR5 are mounted on the rear of the case. TR3, and TR5 must be insulated from the case using the insulating mica washers and plastic bushes supplied with the AD161/162 matched pair. The AD162 (TR4) case, which is the connection to it's collector, is connected to the negative supply, which is in turn connected to the case. There is therefore little point in insulating this transistor from the case. The spare insulating set should be used for the BD124 transistor, TR5.

No dimensions are given for the positioning of the mounting holes for the power transistors, in Fig. 4, as these are best found by using a mica insulating washer as a template—taking care not to damage the washer.

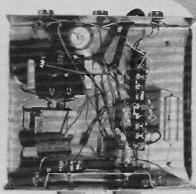
No exact dimensions are given for the mounting of Tl, the 8-way tag strip, or the bridge rectifier, only their approximate positions being given. This is because the mountings for these components can vary tremendously. Usually the components themselves can be used as templates.

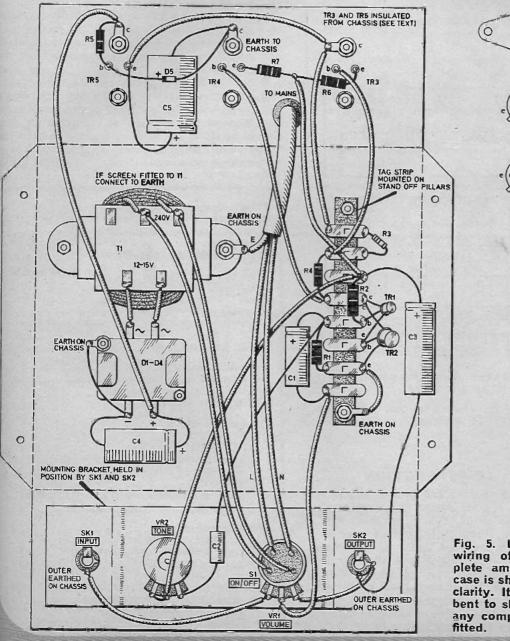
As well as details of the case, Fig. 4 also gives constructional details of the mounting bracket

Fig. 3. The stabilized power supply for the amplifier.









b O TR2

Oe

Ob

TR3,4,5

TR

Fig. 5. Layout and wiring of the complete amplifier. The case is shown flat for clarity. It should be bent to shape before any components are fitted.

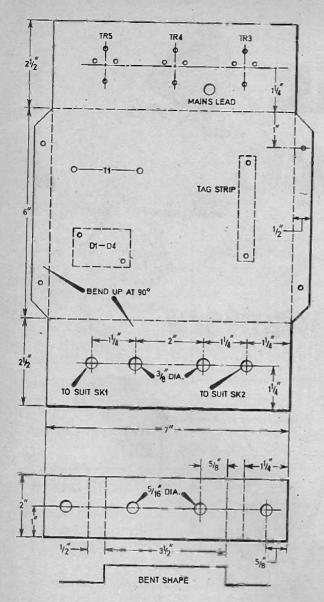


Fig. 4. Case construction details

for VR1, and VR2. Details of how this is fixed are shown in Fig. 5. This bracket is to enable the control knobs to fit flush against the front panel.

ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION

Full wiring details of the complete unit arc given in Fig. 5. It is important to make sure that no mistakes are made, as any incorrect wiring could result in ruining components, and as a mains supply is involved, could be dangerous.

The wiring up of the tag strip should be undertaken first and is quite easy, providing each of the component leads, and each tag is tinned with solder, before wiring is commenced. The connection to the negative supply is made to a solder tag on one of the tag strip mounting bolts. The tag strip must be mounted on stand off insulators, so as to prevent the connections underneath the strip from being short circuited through the metal case. Use a heat shunt when soldering in the transistors and finally wire up the remaining circuitry.

The amplifier should be connected to the mains supply by way of a three core mains lead and a three pin plug fused at 1 amp. Check the wiring carefully before switching on.

USING THE AMPLIFIER

An external loudspeaker is required, and this should have an impedance of 8 ohms, and be capable of handling at least three watts. This is plugged into the output socket.

To connect the amplifier, and the cassette recorder, a screened lead about 18 inches long with a 3.5 mm. jack plug at each end is required. The output from the recorder is taken from the earphone socket.

Best results will probably be obtained with the volume control on the recorder set fairly high, so as to obtain a low degree of background noise. If a tone control is fitted on the recorder, this should be set to the midway point, and then the tone control on the amplifier is set for the lowest background noise, consistent with a good treble response.

Components SEE		
$\begin{array}{c} \mbox{Resistors} & \mbox{SHOP} \\ R1 & 5 \cdot 6 k \Omega & R5 & 680 \Omega \\ R2 & 33 k \Omega & R6 & 1 \Omega \\ R3 & 470 \Omega & R7 & 1 \Omega \\ R4 & 27 \Omega & \mbox{All } \frac{1}{4} W + 10\% \end{array}$		
Capacitors C4 500μF elect. 25V C4 500μF elect. 25V C2 0.01μF C5 2,000μF elect. 25V C3 500μF elect. 25V C4 500μF elect. 25V 500μF elect. 25V C4 500μF elect. 25V 50μF elect. 25V		
Potentiometers VR1 5kΩ log. carbon with d.p.d.t. ganged mains switch (S1) VR2 100kΩ lin. carbon		
Semiconductors TR1 BC109 TR2 2N1711 TR3 AD161 \ matched pair (including mica TR4 AD162 ∫ washers and plastic bushes) TR5 BD124 D1-D4 24V, 500mA metal bridge rectifier D5 18V, 400 mW Zener diode		
Miscellaneous T1 12-15V, 500mA mains transformer SK1, 2 3·5mm jack sockets (2 off) 8-way tag strip, mains lead and fused 3-pin plug, 1A fuse, stand off mounting pillars, control knobs (2 off), aluminium for case (see text), connecting wire, earth tags, 4BA fixings, rubber feet.		

318

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The X25

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MODEL CN2

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DEMO CIRCUITS By Mike Hughes

The Differential Amplifier

A s its name implies the differential amplifier operates by amplifying differences between two input signals. This operation is frequently required to show very small variations in quite large levels of electronic signal between that produced by a standard—or reference—and a variable. Imagine an application where you want to measure minute differences in lighting level that can be detected by a couple of photoelectric cells, one of which is illuminated by a standard level.

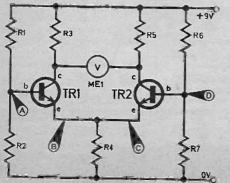
SIMPLE DIFFERENTIAL AMPLIFIER

The simplest form of differential amplifier is shown in general form in Fig. 7.1. Sometimes this circuit is called a long tailed pair—those who can remember valves will no doubt recall the term—because the emitters of both transistors terminate in a single emitter resistor (R4); this resistor forming the "tail" to the pair.

Imagine that the circuit in Fig. 7.1. is broken at the point C. Transistor TR1 becomes a straightforward common emitter amplifier biased into a quiescent operating condition by the potential divide effect of R1 and R2. If the transistors are silicon types the potential at point B will be 600mV less than the potential set at A and the current that flows between collector and emitter will produce a voltage drop across R3 giving a quiescent potential at the collector of TR1.

If we now reverse the operation and imagine that the circuit is broken at point B, TR2 is

Fig. 7.1. Circuit of the simple differential amplifier.



biased in exactly the same way as TR1 and if $h_{\rm FE}$ and the forward base/emitter drop are the same in both cases and identical biasing resistors are used, the quiescent potential at TR2's collector will be the same as at TR1 collector. Assuming both transistors are operating independently with separate emitter resistors a voltmeter (ME1) connected between the collectors would show a voltage difference of zero.

Imagine what would happen if a single emitter resistor is shared by the two transistors as shown in Fig. 7.1. The resistor (R4) having a value exactly half that of the imaginary independent resistors. Assuming both transistors are absolutely identical in every parameter and that all equivalent resistors have the same value, the circuit would act in the same way as before; the potential at *B* would equal that at *C*. *A* would equal *D* and the quiescent collector potentials would be the same.

Each transistor would be able to draw the same emitter current as before because we have halved the value of the emitter resistor and it will have twice the current flowing through it.

If we now reduced the value of R6 the potential at D will increase and more base current will flow in TR2. Several things now happen simultaneously, the potential at C will rise to become 600mV less than D and the potential at TR2's collector will fall because we are passing more base current; however that is not all! Because C and B are the same point (electrically) the potential at B will also rise; there will be less current drawn into the base/emitter circuit of TR1 and TR1 will conduct less between collector and emitter and thus its collector potential will rise.

Notice that there is a "see-saw" action; TR2's collector voltage falls and TR1's rises. Increasing the value of R6 to a value greater than R1 would produce the opposite effect. If R1 and R6 were photo conductive cells and R1 was illuminated by a standard source you can see that, provided both cells have identical photo-resistive characteristics, our circuit would show up differences in lighting levels falling on the two cells. The difference would be seen both in magnitude and direction if a centre zero meter was used as the voltmeter (ME1).

Everyday Electronics, June 1973

PRACTICAL CIRCUIT

We have, of course, assumed ideal characteristics so far and unfortunately it is impossible to get perfectly matched transistors—or for that matter resistors. Our practical circuit takes this into account and we compensate for slight differences in emitter current drawn by the two transistors with VR1 in Fig. 7.2.

As there is no centre zero meter on the Demo Deck a diode bridge is used to feed ME1; the diodes ensure that current always flows the same way through the meter, irrespective of whether TR1's collector is more positive than TR2's or vice versa. We therefore will not be able to see the direction of difference signals.

Wire up the circuit of Fig. 7.2 on the Demo Deck (Fig. 7.3) but initially make sure the circuit is broken at point X and temporarily connect a shorting link between both transistor bases (this is for setting up purposes to ensure that both transistors have identical bias conditions while we compensate for variations in their parameters). Set VR2 to the top of its track so that plenty of bias current is available; if you have a multimeter measure the collectorpotentials and see if you can tell whether both transistors are passing identical current—one will almost certainly be conducting more than the other.

Imbalance will be shown on ME1 but the direction of imbalance will not be obvious. The difference in collector currents is caused by slight differences between the transistors' base/ emitter voltage drops and can be compensated for by adjustment of VR1. The latter should be set so that ME1 reads zero and it should then stay at zero irrespective of what bias current is then applied to both transistors from VR2.

Remove the shorting link and connect up the photo conductive cell (PCC1) together with R6 and R7. The bias on TR2 will now be dependent on the amount of light falling on PCC1 and this —almost certainly—will be different from the last bias setting we had on TR1 from VR2; as a result ME1 will show a large deflection. Carefully re-adjust VR2 until ME1 again reads zero; thus restoring identical bias currents on both sides. Any small variations in lighting level on PCC1 will now show a positive indication on ME1 and the reading can be made extremely sensitive by shorting out the voltmeter series resistor R3.



If you have another ORP12, try experimenting with a simple photometer by discarding R1 and re-connecting R8, PCC2 and VR2 as shown in Fig. 7.2. When identical illumination falls on PCC1 and PCC2 adjust VR2 so ME1 reads zero; from then on any differences in light level on the two cells will show as an indication on ME1

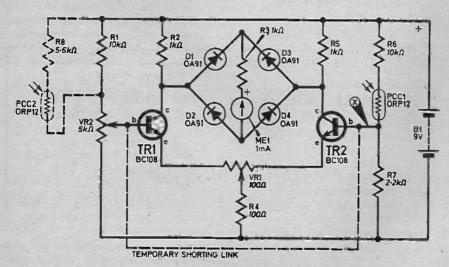
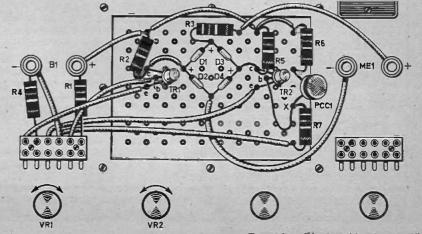


Fig. 7.2. (above) The practical differential amplifier circuit.

Fig. 7.3. (right) Layout and wiring of Fig. 7.2 on the Demo Deck.



Iook electronics really mastered



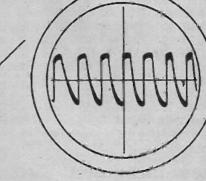
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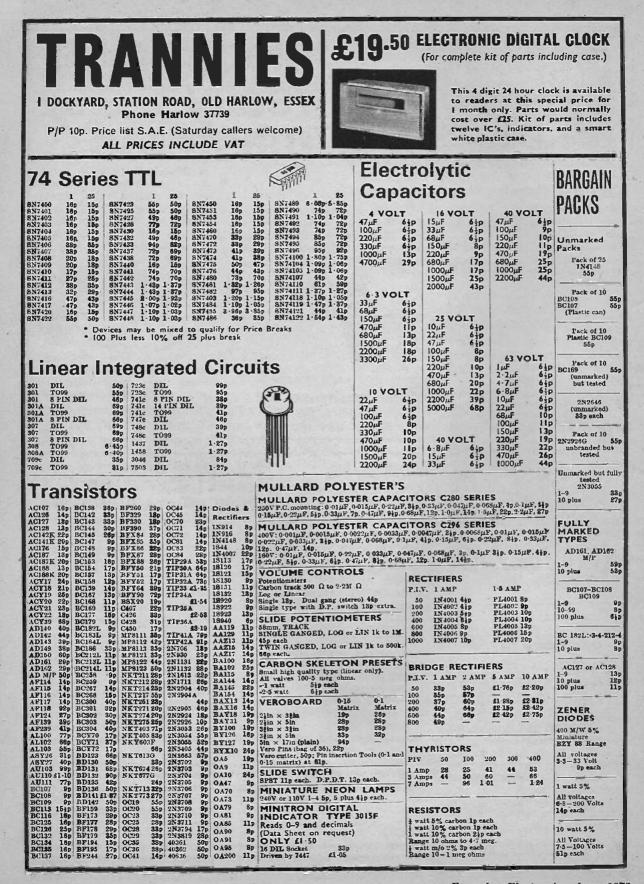


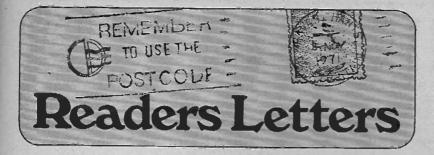
RAPY

3/ CARRY OUT OVER **40** EXPERIMENTS ON BASIC ELECTRONIC CIRCUITS & SEE HOW THEY WORK, including :

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Transistor Point

As a complete beginner to electronics at the time of buying the first issue of EVERYDAY ELEC-TRONICS, I found great difficulty in differentiating between transistors of types *pnp* and *npn* as shown on circuit diagrams.

I therefore devised a method of remembrance by saying that pnp = point in plate.

The "point" and "plate" referred to of course, being the "emitter" and "base" respectively of the standard transistor configurations. Knowing this, it follows, that if the "point" is away from the "plate" then the transistor is of type *npn*.

Possibly this sounds rather elementary, but I find it useful even now and hope other readers may also.

> C. C. Cullen, Thetford.



The I.C. and the Haggis

I wrote recently in "Ruminations" (April 1973) drawing some comparisons between an integrated circuit and a haggis. I concluded the piece by observing that I had yet to hear an address to the I.C!

A reader in Hull has written one for me, based somewhat irreverently, on the Lord's Prayer. With apologies to anyone who may be offended, I offer a "Creed for Semiconductor Men."

"I believe in epitaxial growth, in the planar technology, and the diffusion of silicon."

Are You Receiving Me?

When reading of the increase Everyday Electronics, Ju e 1973

Volume

I have completed the Audible Indicator Warning unit and am very pleased with the result, but it seems to be too loud. Would it be possible to install a volume control?

> J. Welch, Shoreditch.

The volume may be reduced by putting a low value resistor in series with LS1—try 100 ohms.

Guitar Impedance

Ref. your General Purpose Amplifier. I note you refer to guitars as being in the 200 ohms (impedance?) category. Well this just 'aint so. With one exception, every guitar I have ever owned used, or experimented with has

in telephone tapping, room "bugging" and other forms of snooping taking place these days, I began to wonder if it will ever be possible to "listen in" to an animal's mind. The thought was prompted by watching the dog, asleep in front of the fire, her paws twitching, nose wrinkling, ears moving, as she presumably, dreamed of a great chase.

It is easy enough to detect brain waves by means of an electronic encephalograph, but what a fascinating world might be opened to us if we could share the visual, alfactory, and other sensations experienced by the animals, birds and insects which share our planet.

Some very complex equipment would be needed to translate, for our appreciation, the pleasurable sensations of the dog on finding a putrefying old bone.

The possibilities are almost limitless. I can visualise the family sitting gathered around the equipment in the evenings (the television ignored) and exhad a d.c. resistance of between 10 kilohms and 50 kilohms. So the nominal impedance must be at least that high. The exception has a measured resistance of 10 megohms. No, I don't understand it either, but it works well into a high impedance valve (EF 86) amplifier:

This fallacy about guitars is repeated regularly in your family of magazines and just does not have any factual basis, except perhaps for the home-made pick-ups featured at various times. I would suggest you check this with any reputable guitar manufacturers, and stop this rather silly "old wives tale."

If you treat a guitar as a rather inefficient ceramic cartridge you won't go far wrong. (Still a good mag. though.)

> A. Gamble, Ormskirk.

We have unfortunately, misled some readers. The text stated "Two inputs are provided one being rated at 5mV which is suitable for low level signal sources such as 200 ohm microphones or guitars." By this we did not mean 200 ohm guitars but simply that a guitar could be inputted into the low level socket. Most guitar pickups are around 50 kilohms impedance.

periencing, say—"The life of the honeybee—from brood chamber to outcast, edited and condensed on tape to a two hour, never to be forgotten, experience."

Or, if you want thrills, what about "Be the horse that won the Grand National—jump Bechers Brook, feel the bit in your mouth as you clear Valentine's."

I would like to experience the soaring flight of an eagle, or the across the globe flight of the arctic tern, to join in the migration of the wild geese, or go with the salmon, down to the sea.

Impossible, do you say? I don't think so, much stranger things have happened. Perhaps, in the next ten years, we shall see suitable circuits and constructional details in EVERYDAY ELEC-TRONICS! There are snags of course, I would not wish my own "brain waves" to become available without my consent. And there would be many organisations that would attempt to obtain information of this kind for our own good, of course!

325

MANY readers may be surprised to find that they can make their own printed circuit panels and, provided you follow our instructions, the result is well worth a little time and care.

There are one or two firms selling p.c. board "construction kits" and these are generally excellent to start off with. The alternative—which will probably be cheaper if a number of boards are likely to be made—is to buy the board, resist and etchant individually in reasonable quantities.



There seems to be something of a shortage of single sided copper clad paxolin or fibreglass board at the moment, but the larger suppliers should be able to help if your local dealer cannot. Incidentally, the fibreglass board is more expensive but should preferably be used where heat or moisture are present, e.g., for car gadgets that are fitted under the bonnet.

The resist can be either paint (Humbrol model type) available from model shops, or you can use one of the p.c. resist pens. A recently announced pen is now available from G.S.P.K. (Sales) Ltd., Hookstone Park, Harrogate, HG2 7BU, Yorkshire. The pen is priced at 60p and postage and packing are 10p. The ease with which such a pen can be used probably makes it worth the extra cost.

Having talked about the p.c. board we can now look at this month's projects and first at the one that uses a p.c. board both for component mounting and to form a "keyboard!"

Mini Organ

There should be little trouble with component buying for the Mini Organ-the p.c. board may be difficult to get but this has been mentioned above. Other problems should be limited to some resistors-try Electrovalue of 28 St. Jude's Way, Englefield Green, Egham, Surrey, for these -and the two push-button type switches. One of the larger suppliers should be able to help with the push-buttons although they may not be exactly the same style as those shown in the photographs.

Small 75 ohm speakers are generally available for about 50p.

Cassette Tape Amplifier

Looking through the ad's in a recent issue we' were amazed at the price differences for a matched pair of AD161/162's as used in the *Cassette Tape Amplifier*. Although these are not that expensive, the prices vary by relatively large amounts; it just shows that it can be worth looking around even for transistors!

Aside from the above note there are no particularly helpful hints we can give for buying. The bridge rectifier can be almost any type of adequate ratings there are a number of different types available from advertisers.

Incidentally, the current quoted for both the transformer and the rectifier are the minimum ratings —if the one you get is quoted as having a higher current rating, this is suitable.

Rain Alarm

If we keep publishing straightforward designs like the Rain Alarm the need for this page may disappear since we find it difficult to give advice on buying components that are all readily available. A case for this unit can be any suitable box or can be made up from an aluminium chassis and a wood or perspex front panel.

New Products

Not a completely new product but an improved version of a well-known existing amplifier; the Radio and TV Components, Viscount III. This amplifier has been uprated from 14 to 20 watts r.m.s. per channel with no price increase (except for V.A.T. of course).

However, if a complete Viscount audio system is purchased, the V.A.T. increase is not passed on to the customer.

The latest amplifier, designated the R102, has a frequency response of 40Hz to 40kHz ± 3 dB and incorporates f.e.t. input stages, the price of the amplifier is $\pm 24 \cdot 20$.

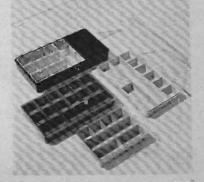
Readers of E.E. have a chance to win one of these amplifiers, together with a record deck and speakers, in this month's competition—see page 304 for details.

Kabi (Electrical & Plastics) Limited of Cranborne Road, Potters Bar, Herts., have introduced a new series of compartment trays which have a wide range of uses. The range comprises four sizes. $5^{1}_{4} \times 7 \times 1^{1}_{2}$ inches, $6 \times 10^{5}_{8} \times 1^{1}_{2}$ inches, $6 \times 10^{3}_{4} \times 1^{1}_{2}$ inches and $6^{1}_{4} \times 12 \times 2$ inches.

All models except the last quoted have fixed compartments of various sizes and all are formed in strong plastic which will give long service in normal usage (see photograph).

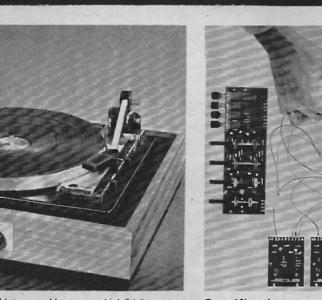
The largest model has moveable compartment modules, each module being capable of subdivision, so that compartments of virtually any size up to the total dimensions of the tray can be formed.

The trays are ideal storage units for electronic components and, in fact, anywhere where small parts have to be stored. Most are available in a range of colours at prices ranging from 45p to £1 50 each according to size. The trays are complete with clear plastic lids, having a hinge and snap fixing, and could accommodate small tools as well as components.



Everyday Electronics, June 1973

Project 605 the new simple way to assemble Sinclair high fidelity modules



For several years now you have been able to assemble your own high fidelity system to world beating standards using Sinclair modules. We have progressively improved these technically but hitherto the method of assembly at your end has remained the same - there has been no alternative to a soldering iron. Now for those who prefer not to solder, there is an alternative - Project 605.

In one neat package you can now obtain the four basic Project 60 modules plus a fifth completely new one - Masterlink - which contains all the input sockets and output components you previously bought separately. Also in the Project 605 pack are all the inter-connecting leads, cut to length and fitted at each end with plugs which clip straight onto the modules, eliminating soldering completely. The pack contains everything you need to build a complete 30 watt stereo amplifier together with a clear well illustrated Instruction Book. All you have to do is to arrange your modules in the plinth or case of your choice and then clip them together - the work of a few minutes.

Your hi-fi system will, as we said, match the finest in the world and you can add to it at any time to increase power or extend the facilities. For example a superb stereo FM Tuner unit is obtainable for only £25.

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Specifications

Output-30 watts music power (10 watts per channel R.M.S. into 3.01

Sinclair Project 605 Amplifier

eo mod ter amo ready to assemble using sterilink connector unit

Inputs-Mag. P.U. - 3mV correct to R.I.A.A. curve 20-25,000 Hz ± 1dB. Ceramic pick-up - 50mV. Radio - 50 to 150mV. Aux, adjustable between 3mV, and 3V.

Signal to noise ratio - Better than 70dB.

 $\begin{array}{l} \text{Distortion}-\text{better than 0.2\% under all conditions.} \\ \text{Controls}-\text{Press buttons for on-off, P.U., radio and aux. Treble} \\ +15 \text{ to } -15 \text{ dB at } 10 \text{ kHz. Bass } +15 \text{ to } -15 \text{ dB at } 100 \text{ Hz.} \end{array}$ Volume, Stereo Balance,

Channel matching within 1dB.

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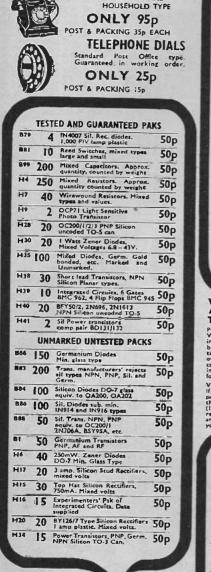
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say that this has been the best value for money I have ever obtained - a view echoed by two colleagues who recently commenced the course".— Student D.I.B., Yorks. "Completing your course, meant going from a job I detested to a job that I love, with unlimited prospects".—Student J.A.O. Dublin. "My training with B.I.E.T. quickly changed my earning capacity and, in the next few years, my earnings increased fourfold".—Student C.C.R., Bucks.

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These letters - and there are many more on file at Aldermaston Court speak of the rewards that come to the man who has given himself the specialised know-how employers seek. There's no surer way of getting ahead or of opening up new opportunities for yourself. It will cost you a stamp to find out how we can help you. Write to B.I.E.T. Dept. BEE17, Aldermaston Court, Reading RG7 4PF.

