

EQUSEWIFE! POP STAR! PHOTOGRAPHERS PHOTOGRAPHERS YOU WILL ALL FIND SOMETHING INTERESTING INTERESTING TO BUILD IN



SLAVE FLASH

Easy-to-build unit allows a second flash gun to be automatically fired

BOORBELL

Add a distinctive ring to your home with this d.j.y. design

WAA WAA

Another sound dimension for guitar or organ



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

COMPRESSION T *WE STOCK THE LARGEST RANGE IN THE U.K. (Possibly in Europe!)

Here's a page from our Catalogue showing a

few typical types



HOME RADIO (Components) LTD.

Dept. EE 234-240 London Road, Mitcham CR4 3HD

The price of 77p applies only to catalogues purchased by customers in the U.K. and to BFPO addresses

catalogue

Regd. No. 912966 London

QUALITY STEREO AT BUDGET PRICES! STABILISED POWER The STEREO 20

The 'Slerec 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 controls, Attractively printed front panel and matching control knobs. The 'Slerec 20' has been designed to fit into most turntable plinths without interfering with the mechanism or, alternatively, into a separte cabinet. Output power 20w peak input 1 (Cer.) 300mV into 1M Freq. res. 25Hz-25kHz input 2(Aux.) 4mV into 30K typically 0-25% at 1 watt Treble con. ± 14dB at 14 kHz



£13 ·48 free p. & p.

MODULE SPM80

STEREO PRE-AMPLIFIER

£3-25

AP20 especially designed to power 2 of the AL50 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 MT80, will provide outputs of up to 15 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 hitherio unobtainable price. Ideal for many other applications including:-Disco Systema, Public Address, Intercom Units, etc. Handbook available. 10p.

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 state 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

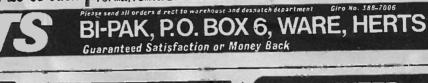
Built to a specification and NOT a price, and yet still the greatest value on the market, the PA100 stereo bre-amplifier has been conceived from the latest circuit techniques. Designed for use with the ALS0 power amplifier systam, this quality made unit incorporates no less than eight sillcon glanar transitors, two of these are specially selected low noise PNP devices for use in the input stages. Three switched stereo inputs, and rumble and scratch filters are features of the PA100, which also has a STERCOMONO switch, volume, balance and continuously variable bass and treble controls. SPECIFICATION:

TYPE PA100

SPECIFICATION: Frequency response 20Hz-20kHz ±1dB Harmonic distortion better than 0.1% Inputs 1. Tape head 1.25mV into 50kΩ 3. Magnetic P.U. 1.5mV into 50kΩ Ali input voltages are for an output of 250mV. Tape and P.U. Inputs equelised to RIAA curve within ±1dB from 20Hz to 20Hz. SPECIAL COMPLETE KIT COMPRISING Z AL50°s, 1 SPM80, 1 BMT50 & 1 PA100 ONLY £25-30 FREE p. & p.

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

±15dB at 20Hz ±15dB at 20kHz 100Hz 100Hz 8kHz better than +65dB +25dB +35 volts at 20mA 292 x 82 x-35 mm. only £13.15





VEROBOARDS GIVE A PROFESSIONAL FINISH TO YOUR WORK

0.1" and 0.15" pitch, plain and copper clad universal circuit boards. AVAILABLE FROM YOUR LOCAL RETAIL TRADE DISTRIBUTOR N. Rose (Electrical) Ltd., London, W.C.T.



INSTRUMENTAL AHEHO **EFFECTS**

SUPER "FUZZ" UNIT KIT. CONNECTS BETWEEN GUITAR & AMPLIFIER. OPER-ATES FROM Sy BATTERY (not supplied). ALL COMPONENTS AND PRINTED CIRCUIT BOARD WITH FULL INSTRUCTIONS. KIT PRICE: £2-86 post paid.

CREATE "PHASE" EFFECT ON YOUR RECORDS, TAPES ETC., UNIQUE CIRCUITRY ENABLES YOU TO CREATE PHASE EFFECT AT THE TURN OF A KNOB. OPER-ATES FROM Sv BATTERY (not supplied) COMPLETE KIT OF COMPONENTS WITH PRINTED CIRCUIT BOARD & FULL INSTRUC-TIONS, KIT PRICE: £2-86 post paid.

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The Japanese have a Yen for it.

in case you are not familiar with Japanese: Our distributors in Japan are telling their their customers about the importance (when soldering I.C.'s and transistors) of the low leakage of our Model X.25 soldering irons.

TUNIN

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Model X.25 – 25 watt sells at £1.75 + P & P 8p VAT18p Model G – 18 watt £1.95 + P & P 5p V.A.T. 20p Model CCN – 15 watt miniature iron £1.95 + P & P 5pVAT 20p

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Antex X25

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Everyday Electronics, August 1973

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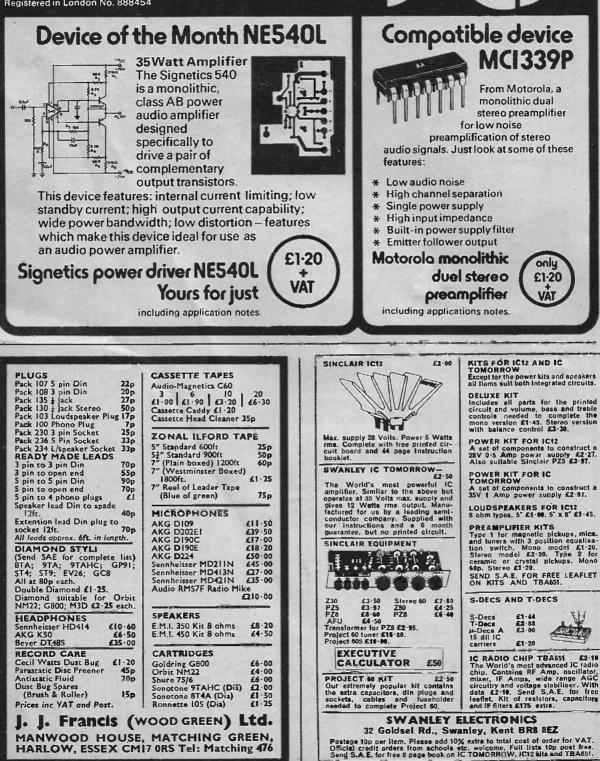
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TERMS Retail mail order subject to £1.00 minimum order. Cash with order only. Trade and educational establishments M/AC on application (minimum £5.00). Postage 10p inland, 25p. Europe.

GUARANTEE: All goods carry full manufacturer's warranty. Get in touch today for a complete run-down of devices available from SCS (include SAE).

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When both classes of goods are ordered the charge is 13p plus any p. & p. charges shown. (Overseas extra). Telephone 01-592 4412.

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I CHIP RADIO Ferranti's latest device ZN414-gives results better than superhet. Supplied complete with technical notes and circuits. \$1:35 each. 10 for \$12.

HI-Q TUNER COMPONENTS

Hi. Q TUNER COMPONENTS For experimenting with the ZM04. MT HO. 1. Plenexy Ministure Yuning Condenser with built in LW writch and 3' territ slab and litz wound MW coil, 729. KIT MO. 2. Air spaced tuning condenser 6' ferrite rod litz wound MW and LW coils, 949 EIT MO. 8. Air spaced TC with alow motion drive 8' ferrit rod, with litz wound LW and MW coils, 81-10. KIT NO. 4. Permeability tuner with fast and alow motion drive and LW loading coils, 509.

12 VOLT I AMP



This comprises double-wound 230/240V mains transformer with full wave rectifier and 2000 m/t/d/ smoothing. Price £220 + p. & p. 20p.

Heavy Duty Mains Power Pack, Output voltage adjustable from 15-40V in steps -maximum load 260V-tabat is from 6 amp at 40V to 15amp 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 lead. Silicon restliers and smoothing by 3,000mF. Price 26 33 plus 65p post.

BALANCED ARMATURE UNIT 500 ohm, operates as speaker or micro-phone, so useful in intercom or similar

000 phone, so useful circuits. 37p each

MUSIC ON TAPE A further buy enables us to offer these at an even lower price-namely 72p each or 5 for 52-50. Send S.A.E. for list of titles. We can brepeat

22 50. Send S.A.F. for int of titles. we can trepeat when sold out. FIRE ALARM BELL Mains operated. Really loud ring 6" gong. Size approx. 12" x 6" x 4j". Suitable outside or inside, Heavy cast case with §" conduit entry. Maile by A.F.A. Operates off 200/240V AC. 24-13 plus 60p.



15 amp. On/Off 12p each. 15 amp. change over 15p each. ULTRA sensitive 5 amp. change over 30p each. 10% off if 10 of a type ordered.

FLEX CABLE SNIP 5 core heavy circular T.R.S. waterproof flex, ideal for rouning down the garden to pool or shed. Johna cores (5 smp) 100 yard colls \$478 plus carriage 759 up to 200 milles. \$1-300 milles \$1:40-600 milles.

20 WATT INVERTER

20 WATT INVERTER Smatt and Brown-For van lighting or camping etc. Will light a 21t. 20 watt standard fluorescent tube from a 12% car baltery, current approx. 2A. Very well made unit using the cast chassis. Biza 117 x 2" x 14". Price 57-15 complete with lamp holders and tube clips.

BAKELITE INSTRUMENT CASE



CASE Size approx. 64" × 31" × 2" deep with brass inserts in four corners and bakelite panel. This is a very strong case suitable to house instru-ments and special rigs, etc. Price Sin each

54p each. pax lid 11p extra

QUICK CUPPA

GUICK CUPPA Mini Immersion Heater, 350W. 200/ 240V. Bolls full cop in about two minutes. Use any socket or lamp holder. Have at belaide for tea, haby's food, etc. 612-62, post and insurance 20p. 12W car model also available. Same price, Jug heater also available fil 75 plus P. & P. 20p.

DOOR INTERCOM

DOOR INTERCOM Know who is calling and a speak to them without leaving hed, or chair. Outfit comprises microphone with call push button, connectors and master inter-com. Simply plugs together. Originally sold at \$10. Special anip price \$3.85 plus 20p nostage

SPIT MOTOR



SPIT MOTOR 200-250V induction motor, driving a Carter grafbox with a 14" output drive and transite running at 5 revue p.m. Intended for roarting chickens, also for driving modela-windmills, colour-end inse lighting effects, etc. £205 plus 20p port and inse

and ins

10 AMP. DIMMER CONTROLLER. For th 10 AIP. DIMER CONTROLLAS, For the control of lighting on stage of in studio of for the control of portable equipment in workshops etc. This has two 13 amp, socket outlet. Each is controlled by a 5 amp, solid state regulator. The overall length is 17° with 34° and length 14°. In the end is fitted a master confirm fich indicator, mp and mar. Frice 5 825. ZPM-MODULATION MOTOR

Cond also be used to open ventilators, doors, valve, damper etc., particularly suitable for remote control. Made by Statichwell. Essentially a reversible geared motor fitted with internal limit ewitches to stop it at the end of its travel of the sport. State of the state of the state of the state This is extremely powerful and would lift a beary door or put the 50 cycle supply through a change over switch on a long line of ventilations. To operate this motory you For instance a thermostat with change-over contact could automatically regulate the temperature in a growing house chicken hatchery etc. An indicator on the motor gradmased of shows the state of open or close. Also internally fitted is a vertable result.

CENTRIFUGAL FAN

CEN IRIFUGAL FAN Mains operated turbo blower type. Pressed steel housing contains motor and aluminium impeller. Motor is 1/10th h.p. giving considerable air flow but virtually no noise. Approx-dimensions 10jin. wide x 12ins. dia. outlet into tranking 10j x 4jin. 26:50 plus 21 post and insurance. 1.1

FORTYLITE s TLISE the polyester choke and finished white snamet model, ideal kitchen, bedroom, baliway, porch, loft etc. With tube hed ready to install, 22-20. post 40p. Pluores 40 ine

PROCESS TIME CONTROLLER



PROCESS TIME CONTROLLER Made by Smiths, Motorised and mains driven in metal case with giass front 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 18 minutes to 8 hours. Probable cost from Smiths over 48. Special mip price 41-76 plus 20p post and insurance.

THIS MONTH'S SNIP _

Solenoid Operated (so could be remote controlled) tape deck-comprises; motor driven heavy but balanced fly-wheel which forms capetan. Tape drive is operated by No. 1 solenoid, two more solenoids operate fast for-ward and fast reverse. Complete with tape spools record/playback head and crase head. Real Bargain at \$6.60.



24-HOUR TIME SWITCH

Made by Smiths, these are AC mains operated NOT CLOCKWORK. Ideal for mounting on rack or abdl or can be built into box with 13A socket 2 completely adjustable time periods for 24 hours, δ amp changever contacts will writch circuit on or off during these periods. 2276, post and ins. 23p. Additional time contacts 50p

PAPST MOTORS Eat. 1/40th h.p. Made for 110-120 volt working, but two of these work ideally together off our standard 240 volt mains. A really benutiful motor, estimately guiler running and reversible. \$1.45 each. Postage one 23p, two 33p. 230v model \$3.30.

RADIO STETHOSCOPE Basiest way to lault find-traces signal from serial to speaker-when signal slops you've found the fault. Use it on Radio, TV amplifier, anything-com-plets kit comprises two special transistors and all parts inclu-ding probe tube and crystal espice. £2:30-twin stetho-est include of explane file set instead of carpiece i extra-post and ins. 20p 88. ET.

MULLARD AUDIO AMPLIFIERS

All In module form, each ready built complete with heat sinks and connection tage, data supplied. Model 1153 500m wait power output S3p. Model 127 750m wait power output S4p. Model BP9000 4 wait power output Al-86. RP9001 Stereo pramp 22. 10% discount if 10 per type or more ordered.



I HOUR MINUTE TIMER

Made by famous Smiths company, these have a large clear dial, size 45in. x 31in., 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. \$1-28

7

DIGITAL COUNTER TIMER

Very stable and reliable crystal con-trolled circuit Capable of work in excess of 15 MHz. Construction simplified by use of 15 integrated circuita. Complete kits with case \$48.50 or construction data and price list 50p.

TIME SWITCH





Smiths mains driven clock with 15 amp switch, also notes showing how you can wake up with music playing, kettle hoiling or come home to a warm house, warn off burglars trop pots warm, halve your heating bill, etc. £2.20.





PRESSURE SWITCH Containing a 15 anp. change over which in turm is 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. There are quite low pressure devices and can in fact be operated simply by blowing into the injet table. Original use was for washing machines to turn off water when tub has reached correct level but' no drubt has many other applications \$1:38, each.

5 PUSH BUTTON SWITCH

5 PUSH BUTTON SWITCH Mains, cultable for audio or R.F. Each switch rated at 2507. Is amps. Ist (black puab button) closes 2 circuits, 2nd (white puah button) operates one change-over, 3rd (white puah button) operates one circuit. Note: all depressed buttons remain down until cleared by the 56th (red button). Further note: It is a relatively casy job to aller the position of the tags thus making the switches suit your circuit. Fitted with 3 which, 1 red and 1 black button. 33p each or 10 for £297.

SA 3-PIN SWITCHED

An excellent opportunity to make that bench dis board you have needed or to stock up for future jobs. This month we offer 6 British made (Hiersti) bakelite flush mounting abut-tered switch sockets for only find not be and any 55p plus 20p post and insur-ance. (20 hoxes post free.)

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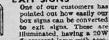
EXIT

CAR ELECTRIC PLUG

1

Fits in place of cigarcite lighter Useful method of making a quick connection into the car electrical system. 42p each of 10 for £3-76.

EXIT SIGNS



box signs can be converted to exit signs. These are fluminated, having a 20 W fluorescent lamp with asso-lated control gear. The front is very thick, clear plastic. Directly on to this you can stick down the letters available at most stationers. There is room inside the box for a bakkery and low voit isnip in the case of power failure. Size of sign 18 2ft. high x 141s, wide x 51s. deep. Solidly made from sheet steel and hammer finished in enamel. Price \$28.85 pins 50p carriage per 200 miles. 1.9

SPRING COIL LEADS As fitted to telephones, 4 core 179 each, 10 for \$1.53. S core 11p cach. 10 for \$1.

Lap cach. 10 for £1. 6 core 20p each LARGE PANEL MOUNTING MOVING COLL METERS Size Sin. x din. Centre zero 200-0-200 micro amp. Made by Sangamo Weston. Regular price prob-ably 58. Our price £3:86.

A.C. AMMETER

0-5 amps. flush mounting-moving fron. Ex equipment but guaranteed perfect \$1.65.

CIRCUIT BOARDS

Heavy copper on 3/32 parolin sheet, ideal for making power packs etc. as sheet is very strong and thick enough to allow copper to be out away with hacknaw blade. Sin. × Sin. Sp each.

with hacksaw blade. Sin. x Sin. by each. 18m. x Sin 289. PHOTO-MULTIPLIER TUBE American RGA type no. 4555. The regular price is understood to be between £14 and £15 each. We offer these brand new and perfect for \$14.90 each.

RESISTANCE WIRE

Kanihal, Nichrome etc. Approx. 2 tona of this Koning in-many sizes and grades. If you are a user of this you can save yourself half the cost. Send now for our list. Sorry, not available on small size recis.

PP3 BATTERY CHARGER

Almost 3 times the life can be obtained from PP3 battery if you re-charge it from the mains --this ready to use charger with instructions only 55p.

SUB-MINIATURE MOVING

COIL MICROPHONE as used in behind the ear deaf aids Acts also as carphone, size only \$1n.x \$in.x \$in. Regular price probably \$3 or more. Our price \$1.10. Note these are exapiment but if not in perfect working order they will be exchanged.

perfect working order they will be exchanged. **PROTECT VALUABLE DEVICES FROM THERMAL RURAWAY OR OVELS HEATING** Thyristors, rectifiers, transistors, etc., which use heat-sinks can easily be protocted. Simply make the contact thermostat part of the heat-sink. Motors and equipment generally, can also be adequately protected by having thermostat in trai-serie spots on the casing. Our



also be adequately protected by having thermostat has in trad-egic spots on the casing. Our contact thermostat has a calibrated dial for setting between 90deg. to 190deg. J. or with the dial removed range setting is between 80 to 80deg.F. Price 83p.



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2

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 returd if construction has not been started. We reserve the right to arbeitute components should deliveries be protracted so as to avoid undue delay.

If reprint of data is required add 10p

HOME SENTINEL

HUBE SEATIAEL "Ward off the unwanted intruder"---No elaborate setting up or wiring required. Kit of parts \$4.85.

"SNAP" INDICATOR Press your button first and your opponent is blocked also suitable for Quiz games and reaction testing. Kit of parts £1.20

BECOBD PLAYER Good quality at a reasonable price-good enough for classical records and pop. Kit of parts \$610.

WIRDSCREEN WIFE COWFOL Wet dirty road - Drizzle - Fog-Smeared screen-Beraping wipers - combat these with add-on wiper control. Kit of parts 22:50.

FUZZ BOX Add weird and interesting effects to guitar playing with this solid state Fuzz box. Kit of parts \$2.50.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COLOUR TEMPERATURE

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 A simple M build, £3-80.

REMOTE TEMPERATURE COMPARATOR Measures small temperature changes in liquids or gaseeo-fish tank, photographic solution-thermo-statically controlled rooms etc. Kit \$5 25.

BAIN WARNING ALARM

Keep your washing dry with this automatic alarm device Kit #2.20.

WAA WAA PEDAL d excitement and sound vibration to your sic. Kit \$3-50.

ELECTRO LAUGH

Laughter simulator also useful electronic alarm. Kits of part £2.20.

SOIL MOISTURE METER

SULT MUSPULES METER Many plants are killed through over-watering— this meter measures soil moisture at root depth— probes can be lett parmanently beside the plant— indicator remotely housed could monitor several plants. Kit 23 90.

SIGNAL INJECTOR

A useful pocket instrument for fault finding 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 23-10.

POWER SUPPLY UNIT Just right for testing low voltage circuits— simple stabilised supply providing 0-26 volts D.C. continuously variable. Kit 25-20.

METAL LOCATOR A simple casy to construct self-contained metal. locator giving a meter indication of burled metal. Kit \$5.00.

AUDIO TONE GENERATOR Makes electronic music-covers range from 60-2000 hz. Specifically designed for use with tape recorder. Kit 28-25.

LIGHT TO SOUND CONVERTER

Produces an audio tone-the frequency of which is dependent on the light leval, Kft 22-15.

SHAVER INVERTER Provides 240v 50hz from 12 volt car battery— gives approx 10 watts which is enough for most shavers. Kit £4:35.

ELECTRONOME Electronic Metronome with pulse frequency continuously variable from 40-225 beats per minute. Kit#2-15.

THROUGH LENS LIGHT METER A simple light meter for use with single lens reflex camers. Kit 24-35.

MEDIUM AND LONG WAVE RADIO TUNER A simple radio tuner for use with almost any amplifier. Kit £3.25.

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 \$4-35.

TERMS :- 10% discount if ten of an item ordered, send postage where quoted -oth items, post free if order for these over £6.00 otherwise add 20p.

Everyday Electronics, August 1973



MULLARD UNILEX

THYRISTOR LIGHT DIMMER

Domestic model for any lamp up to 250 watt. Mounted on switch plate to fit in place of standard switch. Virtually no radio interferences. Price 42.95. Industrial model 5 amp module with control hand \$3.80.



DISTRIBUTION PANELS

PORTABLE ELECTRIC

DRILL

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/off switch with neon warning light. Supplied complete with 6 feet of flex cable. Wired up ready to work. £2 50 plus 23p P. & I

DRILL Very superior quality made by a famous Dutch tooinaker. Model No. ABM 330, 300w-2 speed 2200/ 3000. With 4" chucker. Model No. ABM 330, 300w-2 speed 2200/ 3000. With 4" chucker. Model key, also separate side handle and hanmer tacility for dealing with concrete, stc. An equivalent British made drill world cost £15-00. either model on approval for 7 days.

ALC: N

INTEGRATED CIRCUIT BARGAIN

INTEGRATED CIRCUIT BARGAIN A parcel of integrated circuits made by the famous Plessey Company. A once-in-a-lifetime offer of Micro-electronic devices well below cost of manufacture. The parcel contains 5 IGs all new and perfect, first-grade device, definitely not sub-standard or seconds. 4 of the ICs are single silicon chip GP amplifiers. The 5th is a monolithic NPN matched pair. Regular price of parcel well over 56. Full circuit details of the ICs are included and in addition you will receive a list of many different ICs available at bargein prices 259 upwards with circuits and technical data of each. Compiler parcel only 51 post paid. DON'T MISS TRIS TERRIFIC BARGAIN.



CD CAR IGNITION This system which has proved to be amazingly efficient. We offer kit of parts as P.W. Circuit 3655 pits 200 p. & p. Deluxs model with pre-pared circuit board 37.95. When ordering please state whether for positive or negative system. tate whether for positive or negative systems.

state whether for positive or **CENTRIFUGAL BLOWER** Ministure mains driven blower centrifugal type blower running—driven by cushioned induction motor with specially built low noise bearings. Overall size $4^+ \times 4^+$ $\times 4^+$. When monuted by fange, air is blown into the equipment but to suck 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 flux smoke when soldering etc. etc. A real bargain at £2.05.

MORTSMAN 24 MOUR TIME SWITCH

With 6 position programmer. When fitted to hot water systems this could programme as follows: --Programme Hot Water Central Heating

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)	Off	
	Twice daily	
2	All day	
2	Twice daily	Twi
4	All day	All
5	Continuously	Con
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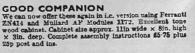
vice daily l day ntinuously er than central

Suitable of course, to programme other than central anti-beating and hot water, for justance, programme upstairs and downstairs electric heating on heating and cooling or taped imagic and radio. In fact there is no limit to the versatility of this Programmer. Mains operated—Size 3" × 3" x 2" deep as illustrated but less case. Frite 5.3 50 each.

011 001

Y重

FE 1.11.101



MIGHTY MIDGET

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



Electronically changes speed from approximately 10 reva. to maximum. Yull power at all speeds by Anger-th control. Ki includes all parts, case, everything add full instructiona. All do Jun 139 post and insurance. Made up model also available. E3-00 Jun 139 post & p.



KITS FOR PREVIOUS PROJECTS

CASSETTE TAPE POWER SUPPLIES Two mits to power a cassette tape player of recorder one from the mains Price \$2-50. Two from the car battery-price \$1-40.

REACTOMATIC A reaction testing game that can also be a quis answering indicator. Kit \$3-80.

ELECTRONIC MOUSE TRAP

A humane mouse trap_catches them alive so that you can release them in the park. Kit \$3.25.

TRANSISTOR TESTER A rapid tester for checking most transistors-tests transistors in an oscillator circuit and gives audible indication of goodness. Kit £2:15.

Prolongs life of soldering iron bit-prevents pitting. Kit \$1-85.

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

AUDIO COLOUR UNIT Add s colour dimension to your audio equipment. This unit will modulate three lamps in accord with Bass-middle and treble notes of any music. Ett of parts 37:20.

U.H.F. T.V. AERIAL A simple aerial for U.H.F. to reception on your band could improve your reception immensely. Kit 21-65.

DAMP LOCATOR Easily carried in your pocket this little unit gives visible indication of damp. Kit \$1-25.

ENLARGER & EXPOSURE METER For D.L.Y. photographer 25-1

EGG TIMER

aple timer with audible warning. \$4-15

MEON NOVELTY Interesting modern ornamental device \$1.65.

CONNECTING WIRE

500m. colle-7 stranded flex copper P.V.C. covered. Available in popular colours:-52-20 per coll, plus 40p post.

8 GANG TUNING CONDENSERS. 800pf cab section ideal for transmitter or com-munications receivers. 61p.

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Project605 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.

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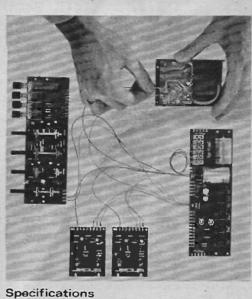
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PROJECTS. THEORY

TIME ON OUR HANDS

Time on our hands. That's the prospectexciting or frightening, depending upon the individual-as the four-day working week becomes a reality. Already a number of industries have adopted a flexible method of working whereby the employee can choose the days and hours he works, so long as the requisite total of hours is worked within each week.

Make no mistake, a second industrial and social revolution is upon us. The signs have of course been around for years, but positive moves to reorganise working life have only just begun. The insurance industry and local government are noteworthy pace setters in this new fashion, and it seems to be happily accepted by the employees concerned.

The industrial revolution we are in the midst of owes very much to the progress and expansion of electronics. Business offices, no less than factory floors, are feeling the effect of electronics. Automated calculating and computing systems are contributing as significantly to this new industrial age as automated machine tools and conveyor belts.

But to come back to our opening remarks. We think it will be generally conceded that more free time is not a prospect greatly relished by some people. Sociological workers have been concerned with this very problem for a long time now. The general conclusion is that much more must be done to promote interest in leisure acti-

vities and the necessary facilities must be made available for all to pursue their chosen recreation. How one spends one's free time is a matter of personal preference. The kind of activities we can choose from are without number. They range widely in character and setting: from the overtly flamboyant and energetic to the quiet and reflective sedentary kind of occupation; from the great outdoors to the domestic scene.

Electronics has played a very vital role in creating the conditions that promise a transformation in the future pattern of our working life. Electronics can also play a very important and useful part in filling in some of the extra leisure hours that will shortly become the general rule. The study of electronics and the construction of simple electronic devices is an interesting and rewarding pastime, in itself. It must not be overlooked that this particular hobby can, furthermore, become a very useful supplementary activity to support and increase the enjoyment derived from many other, totally different, leisure activities.

feel bennett

Our September issue will be published on Friday, August 17

EDITOR F. E. Bennett
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EASY TO CONSTRUCT

VOL. 2 NO. 8



AUGUST 1973

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Everyday Electronics, August 1973

NEW TO ELECTRONICS?

Then you must not miss our new course of instruction

TEACH-IN '74

Further details next month (pass it on to your friends!)

SLAVE FLASGI Enables a more realistic photograph to be obtained. By C. Angell

> **P** HOTOGRAPHS taken using a single flash unit tend to have a rather "flat" appearance because they are usually devoid of shadows. A second flash unit, used with the master at the camera, can, when positioned correctly, give a feeling of depth and produce a more realistic photograph.

of components including V.A.I.

£1.85 plus case

This article describes a unit which operates a second flash unit—or slave flash as it is known —without long trailing wires across the room. It has a maximum range of 60 feet and can be used for side or back lighting.

THE CIRCUIT

The complete circuit diagram of the Slave Flash unit is shown in Fig. 1. The components R1, D1, D2 and TR1 form a common "and" gate with only one input.

Resistor R1 provides the bias to turn on TR1 through D2; the latter and the base/emitter junction of TR1 form two diodes in series and this combination drops $1 \cdot 2V$ (since silicon devices are used).

If D1 is connected to earth, there will be a voltage drop of 0.6V across it and the current through R1 will flow through D1, rather than D2 and the base emitter junction of TR1. Under these conditions TR1 will turn off, i.e., not conduct.

The l.d.r., PCC1, has a very high resistance under dark conditions and a very low resistance under bright conditions (typically in the order of 25 ohms for very bright sunlight) so when the master flash fires, and the light is incident on PCC1, its resistance value momentarily falls

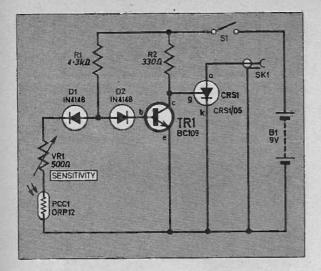


Fig. 1. The complete circuit diagram of the Slave Flash.

to a very low value.

Thus when the master flash operates, D1 is virtually shorted to earth at the moment of the flash and TR1 is turned off.

The diodes D1 and D2 ensure that turn off of TR1 is rapid.

The gate of the thyristor has to be positive with respect to the cathode, but while TR1 is on, the gate is virtually at earth potential so the thyristor remains switched off. When TR1 switches off, the gate of CSR1 receives a positive pulse since the collector end of R2 quickly rises to $\pm 9V$ and CSR1 is switched on and fires the



Photograph of the completed Slave Flash unit ready for use.

Slave Flash. When CSR1 is switched on the gate current is limited to about 20mA by resistor **R2**.

CONSTRUCTION

The layout of the components on the Veroboard is shown in Fig. 2. The layout is not critical and can be changed if desired and may be built into any type of case required.

However, a case with a wide base or side is preferred so that the unit can stand up by itself. A transparent case can be used if desired, in which case PCC1 can be mounted inside the case on the Veroboard.

The prototype circuit was built on a piece of 0.15in. matrix Veroboard size 9 x 6 holes and as the circuit board is so small it seemed unnecessary to mount it.

If a metal case is used, the circuit board must be insulated and one way of doing this is to place the board in a small sealed plastic bag.

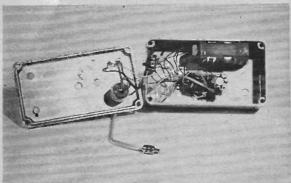
When a suitable case has been chosen, drill and make the cut-outs for VR1, PCC1, S1, the battery mounting clip and the grommet to take the screened cable, as indicated in Fig. 3, and attach these components to the case and lid.

To mount the l.d.r., two small holes are drilled in the lid, 9mm apart (Fig. 3). These holes are filled with waterproof glue and the l.d.r. is immediately stuck to the case with its leads through the holes.

The screened cable used is a length of normal audio coaxial cable and the socket is an in-line type which can be bought from most large photographic shops.

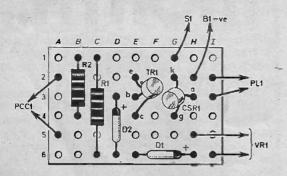
Next solder the components on the Veroboard as shown in Fig. 2, remembering to use a heatshunt on the leads of the diodes, transistor and thyristor. When satisfied that the components have been mounted correctly, wire up the board to the other components as depicted in Fig. 3.

The polarity of the flash gun must be determined, and the negative side of the flash should be connected to the negative on the circuit board, location 12 via the screen of the cable.



Photograph of the completed unit with lid removed.

SLAVE FLASH



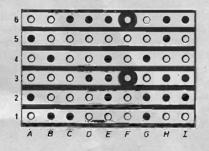


Fig. 2 (Above). The layout of the components on the Veroboard.



Photograph of the finished unit ready for plugging into the second flash.

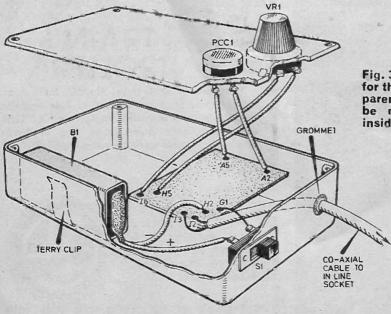


Fig. 3. The complete wiring details for the Slave Flash Unit. If a transparent case is used, PCC1 would be mounted on the Veroboard inside the case.

Componen	ts
Resistors R1 4·3kΩ R2 330Ω	SEE SHOP TALK
Variable resistor VR1 500Ω	
Light Dependent F PCC1 ORP12	Resistor
Semiconductors TR1 BC109 silic D1 1N4148 D2 1N4148 CSR1 CSR1/05 0	
clip; grommet; Te	

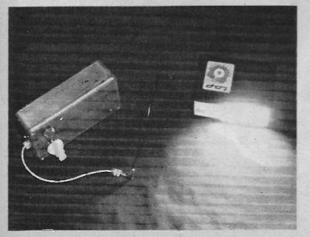
USING THE UNIT

The slave flash is plugged into the unit and positioned to provide light from the required angle. The l.d.r. is pointed towards where the camera will be, or towards a wall where light will be bounced from. The master flash is mounted on the camera and all the units are switched on.

The photograph is now taken in the normal way and the slave flash produces extra light from useful angles without long wires trailing over the room and getting in the picture.

The unit can also be used out of doors for fill-in flash at a range of up to 60ft.

In bright sunlight VR1 will have to be adjusted so that the flash doesn't fire by itself. This of course will reduce its range.



The Slave Flash unit in use. Everyday Electronics, August 1973



small in size, cheap and easy to build yet gives excellent results.

AQUARIUM ERMOSTAT 00

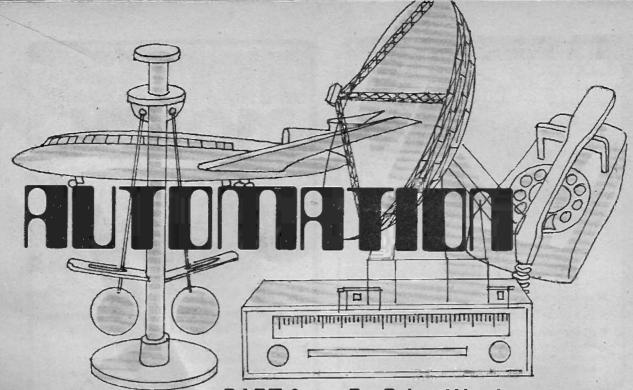
For all who keep tropical fish, a very sensitive electronic thermostat. Can also be used for many other applications requiring fine temperas ture control.



The trouble with most electric train controls is the lack of torgue at low speeds resulting in unnatural performance. This electronic unit overcomes the problem and makes slow speed control realistic.

Seē thešē and other exciting features in the September issue on sale Friday, August 17.





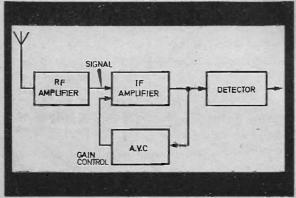
PART 2

One of the early uses of electronic automation was in the control of receiver volume by controlling the gain of preceding stages. In Fig. 4 a radio frequency (r.f.) amplifier is followed by an intermediate frequency (i.f.) amplifier.

The output of the i.f. amplifier is applied to a detector and an automatic volume control (a.v.c.) circuit. If the signal level at the output of the i.f. amplifier decreases, the a.v.c. circuit increases the amplification of the i.f. circuit and the signal level at the output is brought back to the predetermined level required.

If the signal level at the output of the if. amplifier increases, the amplification is decreased. In this way the signal level is automatically controlled by feedback.

Fig. 4. Automatic gain control for a receiver circuit.



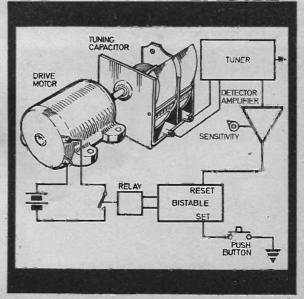
By Brice Ward

AUTOMATIC RADIO TUNING

In Fig. 5, a continuously rotating capacitor is driven by a d.c. motor. With a signal level above that set by the sensitivity control, the bistable is reset and the solenoid de-energized.

The pushbutton can be foot or hand operated and when pressed it will set the bistable. The solenoid is energized and the motor begins to turn the variable capacitor until the next

Fig. 5. Automatic radio tuning device.



Everyday Electronics, August 1973

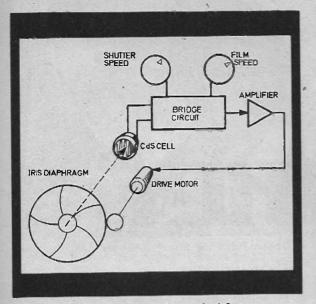


Fig. 6. Basic automatic iris control for a camera.

station, which has an output above the desired signal level, is reached. At that point the bistable is again reset, the solenoid de-energized and the motor stopped.

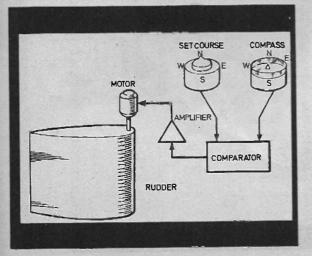
In this way, the entire band can be swept searching for the desired station.

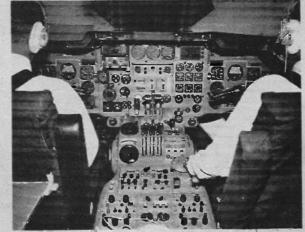
AUTOMATIC DIAPHRAGM CONTROL

In modern cameras, the iris diaphragm can be automatically adjusted to the available light level. In Fig. 6, the shutter speed control and ASA speed control set the bridge sensitivity. With the camera directed at the scene to be photographed, a certain amount of light falls on the photocell.

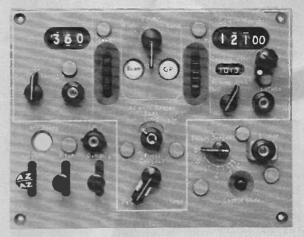
If the amount of light is too great, the bridge circuit is unbalanced. The output is applied to an amplifier to drive a motor which reduces

Fig. 7. Block diagram of a simple automatic pilot, control system.





Photograph of a Trident cockpit showing the central controller of a Smiths Autolanding System (shown larger below). The system is in use in the photograph above.



the diaphragm opening. The decrease in light level causes the bridge to balance and the motor stops.

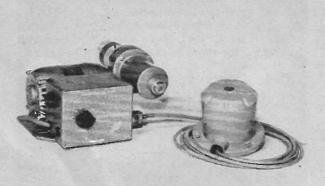
If the light level is too low, the "error signal" voltage polarity from the bridge is reversed and the motor opens the diaphragm to admit more light. Again, in this way the exposure of the film is automatically controlled in response to shutter speed, film speed and the amount of available light.

AUTOMATIC PILOT

An automatic pilot for either a boat or an aircraft depends on a magnetic compass or gyro compass. Since the compass will indicate the course of the boat or aircraft at any time, it is only necessary to compare the output of the compass with a device that allows a desired course to be set.

This device could be a potentiometer, synchro transmitter or a more sophisticated device. When the desired course is set, the comparator (Fig. 7) will detect the difference between the

Everyday Electronics, August 1973



A simple Space Age Electronics autopilot for small boats.

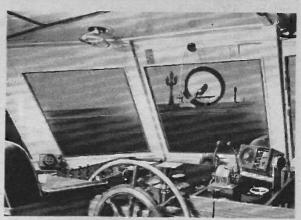
actual and the desired course and actuate the rudder to reduce the difference to zero. The motor would actually be more complex than shown in terms of gearing and auxiliary circuits or it could be a hydraulic system.

AIRCRAFT

In an aircraft it becomes necessary to control both the heading, the bank and the pitch. These signals are obtained from gyroscopes called the "directional gyro" and the "artificial horizon". There will be other instruments in the modern jet aircraft but these serve to illustrate the basic idea.

Control surfaces on the aircraft will be operated by hydraulic systems controlled by special servovalves in response to error signals obtained from the comparison of the gyros with the various attitude controls set by the pilot.

The current work to advance automatic land-



A Decca Pilot 250 fitted on board M.Y. Cadabra.

ing systems that allow passenger aircraft to land at fogbound airports, makes use of even more complex control systems. Radio altimeters and airport radar are used in conjunction with the aircraft's "on-board" systems to make it possible to land without pilot intervention.

NUMERICAL CONTROL

Generally, numerical control refers to the various systems used for drilling, milling, and grinding metals to various shapes under the control of special computers or computer systems.

One part of such a system is shown in Fig. 8. In this case a table that would carry a workpiece is controlled in its position in two dimensions. Other necessary controls for a more complex system would include a third dimension, tool selection and tool speed control systems.

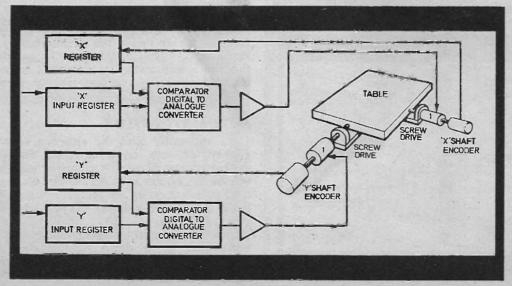


Fig. 8. Part of a numerical control system for two dimensional control-

The illustrated system is only one of a number of possible approaches to this operation. The "X" and "Y" registers obtain their input from the "X" and "Y" shaft encoders attached to the drive motors.

The table would normally be zeroed by setting both inputs to zero and allowing the table to stabilise. At this point the work-piece could be attached to the table and mechanical adjustments made.

Once the set-up is complete, the process would begin by entering information into the "X" and "Y" input registers. A continuous comparison is being made by the comparator circuitry between the contents of the input register and the contents of the "X" and "Y" register.

When the information is entered, the comparator detects the digital difference and converts it to an analogue voltage to drive the table positioning motor in a direction that will reduce the difference.

ACCURACY

The shaft encoders are constantly feeding digital information to the "X" and "Y" registers which causes the difference between the contents of the "X" input and "X" register to reach zero at which time the table is properly positioned.

In actual fact, the motors would be driving a set of reduction gears and the shaft encoder would be attached to a further reduction gear for best resolution in reading the table position. It is quite easy to obtain accuracies of 0.001 inch and, with some care in design, accuracies

Spegel battery charge controllers in production being prepared for automatic test under control of a Ferranti Argus computer.



Everyday Electronics, August 1973

of better than 0.0001 inch can be obtained.

Modern digital plotters use systems similar to this to drive a pen but much additional circuitry is involved since the plotter must actually look ahead to determine when a curved section of line must be calculated with analogue techniques.

These plotters can move at rates of 70 inches per second on straight line segments—a velocity that could literally tear the pen apart if a curved line was attempted at top speed.

DRAFTING

In conjunction with computers, plotters can be used to draw schematic diagrams, make circuit board layouts and draw masks for integrated circuits. One of the most modern applications—one that anyone might have developed—is that of drawing graded patterns for use in the clothing industry. One size is laid out by hand and the material fed to the computer where all other sizes are computed from this initial one. The computer can also be used to control the cutting of the fabrics.

Did you ever stop to think how blazer badges for school uniforms and a thousand other uses are made? Believe it or not on giant 50 to 100 foot looms with hundreds of needles being controlled by Jacquard type punch cards. But efforts are already underway to automate both the design and layout—number of stitches, colour of thread and so forth—and the actual embroidery operation itself.

Automation, especially in the field of electronics, is an ever widening subject and almost everyday another process is automated.

The Siemens Ltd., Pegamat automatic test system for general automatic measurement and testing.



413

An electronic unit providing an unusual sounding monitor.

Approximate cost of components including VAT.

£4.00 plus case

by A. D. Huff.

an old-fashioned type trass door knocker was made redundant many years are by the ctric door bell, this too, however, has largely superseded by the two tone door chime, real electronic alternatives have also been esigned and have found their way into the con-troctor's hall. These vary from amplified rusical box mechanics to wailing sirens, not forgetting the latest two tone electronic horn. All of these devices work quite well but all tend to suffer from the came fault, that is the sound they ends, although loud and clear, is often harsh and uppleasant

The design effered here, however, does not suffer from the above disorders, due to the fact that several vibrating tones are emitted at the same time, thus making it quite pleasant to listen to. The sound is difficult to describe in

414

words but can be assumed to be that of several notes varying in frequency (pitch) with an overall tremolo effect.

Although the device is only low power output (typically 500mW) the resultant varying tone makes it quite di tinct from any other general

CIRCUIT DESCRIPTION

The basic circuit consists of two astable multivibrators, one being comprised of TR1 and TR2, and the other TR5 and TR4.

A basic knowledge of the operation of an astable multiviorator is all that is required to understand the circuit. Hence, the multivibrator comprised of TR3 and TR4 and the overall function of the unit will be explained. The circuit of TR3 and TR4 has two states,

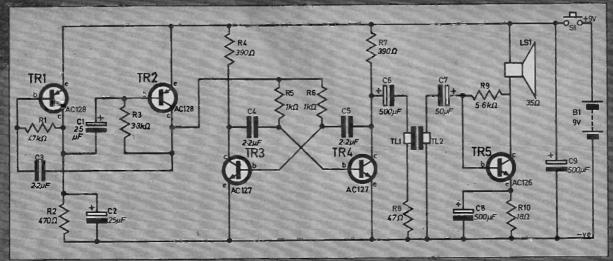


Fig 1. Circuit diagram of the Electronic Doorbell.

these are: with TR3 hard on and TR4 off (no collector current), and with TR3 off and TR4 on.

At the instant of switch on, current will flow in TR3 and TR4, but, due to variations in gain and component tolerances, one transistor will draw more current than its counterpart.

Let us assume TR3 draws more current than TR4. The voltage at TR3 collector therefore goes less positive, this voltage change is coupled to TR4, via C4, which tends to switch TR4 off. Positive feedback occurs via C5, and TR3 is turned fully on. Capacitor C5 now charges through R7 and TR3, and, as it becomes fully charged, tends to turn off TR3. Positive feedback takes place via C4 which tends to turn TR4 on. As soon as TR4 is turned on, C4 starts to charge and will eventually switch TR4 off. This see-saw action continues as long as the supply is connected.

$ \begin{array}{c} \textbf{Resistors} \\ R1 & 47k\Omega \\ R2 & 470\Omega \\ R3 & 3\cdot 3k\Omega \\ R4 & 390\Omega \\ R5 & 1k\Omega \\ R5 & 1k\Omega \\ R6 & 1k\Omega \\ R7 & 390\Omega \\ R8 & 47\Omega \\ R9 & 5\cdot 6k\Omega \\ R10 & 18\Omega \\ All \frac{1}{4}W \pm 10\% \text{ carbon} \end{array} $
R2 470 Ω Shop R3 $3 \cdot 3k\Omega$ Shop R4 390 Ω Shop R5 1k Ω Shop R6 1k Ω Shop R7 390 Ω Shop R8 47 Ω Shop R9 5 \cdot 6k Ω R10 18 Ω All $\frac{1}{4}W \pm 10\%$ carbon All $\frac{1}{4}W = 10\%$ Carbon
R51kΩR61kΩR7390ΩR847ΩR95.6kΩR1018ΩAll $\frac{1}{4}$ W \pm 10% carbon
R51kΩR61kΩR7390ΩR847ΩR95.6kΩR1018ΩAll $\frac{1}{4}$ W \pm 10% carbon
R51kΩR61kΩR7390ΩR847ΩR95.6kΩR1018ΩAll $\frac{1}{4}$ W \pm 10% carbon
R7 390Ω R8 47Ω R9 $5 \cdot 6k\Omega$ R10 18Ω All $\frac{1}{4}W \pm 10\%$ carbon
R847ΩR9 $5 \cdot 6k\Omega$ R1018ΩAll $\frac{1}{4}W \pm 10\%$ carbon
R9 5·6kΩ R10 18Ω All $\frac{1}{4}$ W ± 10% carbon
R10 18Ω All $\frac{1}{4}$ W ± 10% carbon
All $\frac{1}{4}W \pm 10\%$ carbon
Capacitors
C1 25μ F elect. 12V C2 25μ F elect. 12V
C3 $2\cdot 2\mu$ F miniature foil
C4 $2 \cdot 2\mu$ F miniature foil
C5 2·2µF miniature foil
C6 500µF elect. 12V
C7 50µF elect. 12V
C8 500µF elect. 12V C9 500µF elect. 12V
C9 300µ1 elect. 124
Transistors
TR1 AC128 germanium pnp
TR2 AC128 germanium pnp
TR3 AC127 germanium npn TR4 AC127 germanium npn
TR5 AC126 germanium pnp
Miscellaneous
S1 Single pole push to make pushbutton (for door mounting).
B1 9V PP6 battery and connectors
TL1, TL2 G.P.O. telephone earpiece inserts
(approx. 21 ohms impedance, 2 off)
LS1 35Ω loudspeaker approx. 5 x $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches.
Veroboard plain perforated 0.15 inch matrix
5 x 2½ inches, materials for cabinet (see text), 4BA fixings, Terry clips (2 off), small clip on
heat sink for TR5, connecting wire.
Hour on the of the official and

CIRCUIT OPERATION

Transistors TR3 and TR4 as already stated form an astable multivibrator the frequency output of which has been centred around 400Hz. This frequency is the resultant of the time constant between R5, C4, R6, C5 plus the resistance of the collector emitter junction of TR2. Therefore if a current change can be made to flow through the emitter base junction of TR2, its collector current will change thus altering the time constant values and hence the output frequency of TR3 and TR4.

Since TR1 and TR2 also form a multivibrator, the base current of TR2 is constantly changing and therefore constantly changing the output frequency. The complex resultant frequencies of the two multivibrators are thus present across TL1.

Base bias for TR1 and TR2 is obtained via R1 and R3 respectively, the collector load of TR1 (R2) has been decoupled by C2 to remove any high frequency harmonics in this part of the circuit and also lower the working frequency of TR1 and TR2.

The varying output frequency of TR2 and TR3 appears, together with the output frequency of TR1 and TR2 (via R6, C5 and C6) across the transducer TL1. The coupling of the multivibrators to the audio amplifier is by two G.P.O. telephone earpiece inserts placed together as shown in Fig. 2, care must be taken to ensure that the three holes of each earphone align correctly.

The resistor R8 is included to account for any changes in resistance of TL1 which should be 21 ohms. There is no doubt that a matching transformer could be used in place of TL1 and TL2 but, however, all those tried produced a much more harsh output than the earphone coupling, also, the price of the two earphone inserts is cheaper than most matching transformers.

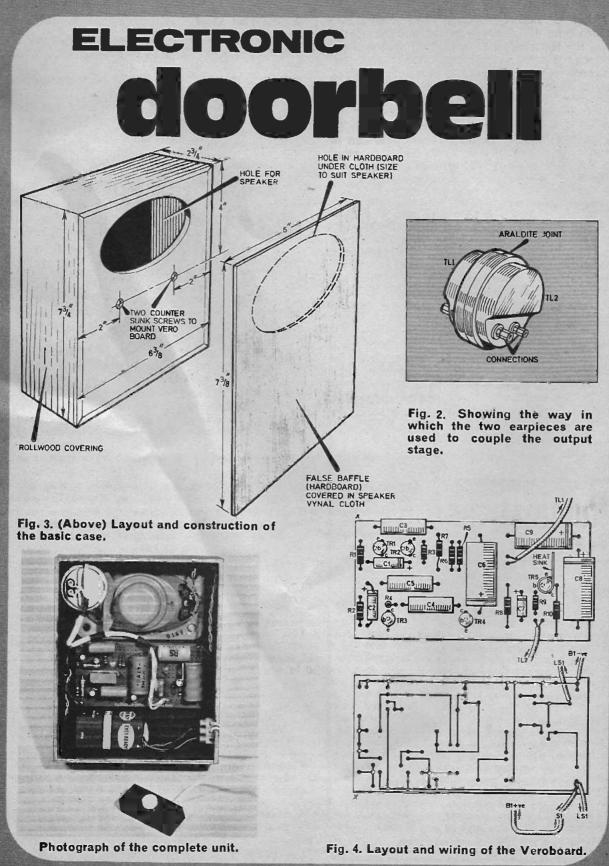
Transistor TR5 and its associated components follow normal audio amplifier practice and TR5 is biased into class A operation by R9 and LS1; R10 is included in the emitter leg to prevent thermal runaway, this is decoupled by C8 to prevent negative feedback occurring at low frequencies across R10.

The output volume could if required be increased by use of an output transformer but care must be taken to avoid distortion.

The component values are quite critical and should not be varied from the original. The current drawn by the monitor is about 140 milliamps which is quite small compared to that of conventional door chimes which are often in the order of amps. Hence quite a long life from a standard PP6 battery should be expected.

CABINET CONSTRUCTION

The original unit was built complete with loudspeaker and battery into a small wooden box made from 3-ply to the dimensions shown



in Fig. 3. Before covering, two countersunk ³4inch long 4BA bolts were set and lock-nutted into the front panel to hold the Veroboard and associated components. The cabinet was then covered in teak rollwood to give a professional finish, although Formica or vinyl covering would have served just as well.

At the front of the cabinet a false baffle is fitted, this is made from hardboard. The baffle is slightly smaller than the front and can be covered in vinyl speaker cloth and then glued to the main cabinet. The overall appearance is thus that of a miniature speaker cabinet.

CONSTRUCTION

Commence construction by wiring the positive and negative supply wires to each side of the Veroboard (Fig. 4). Resistors and capacitors should be first to be soldered in, and last of all, the transistors. The layout is not critical and may be modified if required. Care must be taken in correct wiring since direct coupling is used in the circuit and any faulty wiring could easily destroy one or more transistors.

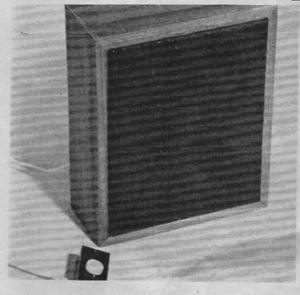
When the two earphones have been glued together they can be secured to the cabinet by a Terry clip or just glued to the cabinet. The battery is also held in place by a Terry clip.

The monitor has been well proven and should. if constructed correctly, function perfectly for years.

GENERAL USE

If the unit is to be used for a door monitor the heat sink on TR5 should be sufficient, however if continuous use, such as alarm, is required, this heat sink should be increased in size.

Several other interesting outputs can be obtained by increasing the value of C3 in stages, up to about 100μ F, best results are found by experimentation.





Blind Faith

Last week 1 met a radar engineer who is responsible for the maintenance of radar and electronic navigational equipment fitted on board fishing boats. In the area where he works, sea fogs are common at this time of the vear and the fishermen are very dependent on the ship's radar in order to avoid collisions with other vessels or natural hazards. In fact, so much confidence have these seamen in their radar gear that they will continue to fish in conditions so bad that a ship only a cables length away cannot be seent

It says much for the reliability of the equipment when men are prepared to place their lives at risk with complete faith in their

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electronic equipment. The engineer responsible for maintenance carries a heavy load and is aware of the reliance placed upon the equipment under his charge but nevertheless may feel a little anxious when the fog comes down.

Joining Up

Great things are happening off the coast of North East Scotland. The pipe line is now being laid to bring oil from a well 160 miles off shore to a landfall in Aberdeenshire. The pipe layers are kept "on track" over a previously surveyed route by the Decca Navigator system and, as the pipe is being laid simultaneously by two vessels, one from landward and one from seaward, the two ends will be joined together far out at sea. Although I have every confidence in the men and equipment involved I would, personally, feel much better if a very long flexible joint were availablejust in case of difficulty.

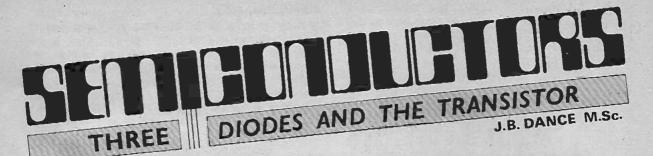
There are other examples of

the use of electronics in this kind of application. Modern tunnel boring techniques employ a laser beam to keep the excavators on the right road and there is no fear of missing the "other end".

Enormous, unwieldly looking machines are controlled and guided with precision by electronic systems and their users take for granted that the equipment will function accurately and reliably at all times. Of course, we all rely upon other sciences in a similar way and perhaps have the least confidence in those we know best.

Does the civil engineer avoid driving over box section girder bridges? Or does he cross gingerly with a prayer on his lips? Does the surgeon avoid the knife?

I think that most journalists are sceptical of what they read in the papers and a chef I knew was not at all keen to eat in a restaurant. I suppose that if everyone does his job properly everything will be fine. But a "long flexible joint" is well worth having.



LAST month explained the various characteristics associated with silicon and germanium diodes; we shall now continue with various types of diode and introduce the transistor.

POINT CONTACT DIODES

A point contact diode consists of a springy wire (often tungsten) which touches a semiconductor crystal (normally n-type germanium). A small region of p-type germanium is formed beneath the tungsten wire by passing a suitable current through the device during manufacture.

The pn junction thus formed enables the diode to pass a current in one direction only. The point contact concentrates the electric field near to the surface of the germanium. The point contact diode is the modern equivalent of the old "cat's whisker" which was used as a detector in the early days of radio.

Point contact diodes have a low capacitance when reverse biased and are widely used as radiofrequency detectors and mixers. They have the disadvantage that their forward voltage tends to be higher than that of junction diodes at the same forward current.

It can be seen in Table 3.1 that the forward voltage of the point contact diodes is higher than that of silicon diodes, although one might expect it to be lower owing to the lower natural junction potential of germanium.

On the whole, point contact diodes are less robust than junction diodes, but this is not normally of great importance.

GOLD BONDED DIODES

Gold bonded diodes are point contact diodes in which the point contact is made of gold wire.

The electrical characteristics of gold bonded diodes are roughly intermediate between those of normal point contact diodes and those of germanium junction diodes. Their forward voltage is fairly low, whilst their junction capacitance is only a little greater than that of a normal junction diode.

JUNCTION DIODES

Germanium junction diodes have been largely replaced by silicon diodes. It can be seen from the table, however, that the type OA10 germanium junction diode has a low forward voltage. The type OA10 is now a maintenance type and therefore it may not be readily available.

ZENER DIODES

Zener diodes are silicon junction diodes which show a very sharp breakdown characteristic when reversed biased, see Fig. 3.1.

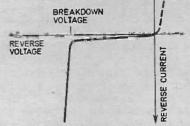


Fig. 3.1. Shows the sharp breakdown point for reverse biased silicon *pn* junction.

Device	Maximum Reverse	Maximum Forward	Typical V _F at I _F		Typical I _R at V _R		Construction
	Voltage (V)	Current (mA)	(V)	(mA)	(µA)	(V)	
OA91	115	50	2.1	30	75	100) Germanium point
AA119	45	35	2.6	30	170	45	contact
OA47	30	250	0.54	30	10	30	Germanium gold
IN994	8	20	1.0	10	30	6	bonded
OA10	30	100	0.38	30	4	30	Germanium junction
OA200	50	80	1.15	30	0.02	50	Silicon junction
IN4148	75	200	1.0	10	0.025	20	Silicon high speed
IN4308	80	250	0.77	20	0.1	75	Silicon planar epitaxia
BY100	800	550	1.5	5000	10	1250	Silicon power

Table 3.1 : Diode Parameters

VF-forward voltage; IF-forward current; VR-reverse voltage; IR-reverse current.

The manufacturers can make diodes of a chosen breakdown voltage by a suitable choice of impurity levels on each side of the junction. The diodes can be used for voltage stabilisation.

You will come across two circuit symbols for the Zener diode—to distinguish them from other diodes, and these are shown in Fig. 3.2. The symbol type (a) will be found in English text books and journals whereas (b) will be found in American books and journals. The polarity marking at the end of the body i.e. the ring or dot, signifies the cathode.

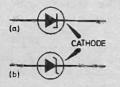


Fig. 3.2. Circuit symbols used for identifying the Zener diode.

STABILISATION

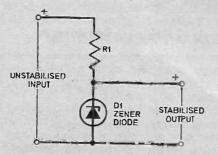
The simplest circuit in which a Zener diode can be used for voltage stabilisation is shown in Fig. 3.3.

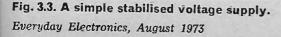
The voltage across the Zener diode remains fairly constant as the current passing through it changes. If, therefore, the input voltage becomes somewhat larger, the Zener diode will pass an increased current so that the voltage drop across *R1* becomes greater and the stabilised output voltage remains almost unchanged.

If the output current increases, the current passing through the Zener diode will decrease by almost the same amount, leaving the output voltage almost unchanged.

The circuit must be designed so that some current always passes through the Zener diode, but the current must never exceed the amount which would cause more than the permissible amount of power to be generated in the diode.

These conditions must be satisfied no matter how the output current or input voltage may vary.





More complicated circuits with a wider range of output currents can be designed using Zener diodes with transistors.

Diodes which pass a high reverse current at an applied voltage of less than about 5V depend on the true Zener effect.

ZENER BREAKDOWN

Zener breakdown occurs when the large electric field near the junction releases numerous charge carriers.

When reverse voltage breakdown occurs at about 7V or more, the avalanche effect is responsible. In this case electrons are accelerated across the junction to such a velocity that they produce further charge carriers when they collide with atoms. The newly formed charge carriers are in turn accelerated and form still more charge carriers. The process continues and produces complete breakdown.

Diodes employing this effect are usually called Zener diodes, although voltage regulator diodes would be a rather better term.

A typical series of voltage regulator diodes is the Mullard BZY88 series. These can provide stabilised outputs from $1 \cdot 3$ to 30V, depending on the particular diode chosen.

For example, the BZY88/C6V8 has a breakdown voltage of $6 \cdot 8V$, whilst the BZY88/C10 breaks down at 10V, the tolerances on these voltages being ± 5 per cent. The maximum dissipation of this type is 400mW and the maximum current 250mA.

The diodes numbered 1N746 to 1N759 are a similar series of 400mW Zener diodes for the voltage range 3.3 to 10V. Larger Zener diodes are available for high currents and high power dissipation; some types should be mounted on a heat sink.

DIODES AS VARIABLE CAPACITORS

It has been shown earlier in this series that the thickness of the depletion region of a junction diode varies with the applied reverse voltage (and also with small forward voltages less than the natural junction potential).

The insulating depletion region of a junction diode can act as the dielectric of a capacitor, the capacitance value varying with the thickness of the dielectric.

Thus, the capacitance of a junction diode can be varied by altering the voltage applied to the device.

Reverse biased junction diodes are used as electrically controlled variable capacitors for tuning radio receivers, especially in the v.h.f. and u.h.f. regions.

OTHER TYPES

Many specialised types of diode are manufacfactured for use at high frequencies (such as tunnel diodes, backward diodes, hot carrier diodes, Schottky barrier diodes, etc.). The principles of operation of such devices will not be covered, since they are beyond the scope of the present article.

SIMPLE DIODE TESTING

The amateur experimenter can easily test a *normal type* of diode using the simple circuit of Fig. 3.4.

When the diode is placed across the test prods in one direction, little current should pass, whilst in the other direction the diode should pass about 5mA.

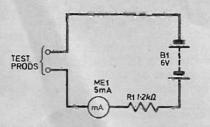


Fig. 3.4. A simple circuit for the testing of diodes.

Obviously many more tests would have to be carried out to check the full performance of a diode, but the purpose of the simple circuit of Fig. 3.4 is merely to provide a very rapid check that the diode is performing basically in the way that it should.

If the diode being tested is a Zener type, care should be taken to reduce the voltage of the battery to a value of less than the Zener voltage, or the diode will conduct in both directions. Even if this is not done, the circuit will not damage the diode, since the series resistor limits the current to 5mA.

The values suggested are convenient ones, but any other reasonable values could be used, for example, a 9V battery, a 0-10mA meter and a 1 kilohm resistor.

TRANSISTORS

The common transistor is somewhat more complicated than the semiconductor diode, since it involves the use of two junctions in a single crystal of the semiconductor material. Nevertheless the elementary theory we have so far developed can be used to explain its mode of action in very simple terms.

Transistors are extremely important devices because they can be used in circuits which enable a small current to control the amplitude of a much larger current; they can therefore be used as amplifiers.

POINT CONTACT TRANSISTORS

The point contact transistor was the first type

of transistor to be produced in commercial quantities. In this device two pointed wire contacts (or "cat's whiskers") touch a piece of *p*-type or *n*-type germanium, the two points of contact being very close together.

The point contact transistor has not been in commercial production for many years and will not, therefore, be discussed further.

JUNCTION TRANSISTORS

Modern transistors can be divided into field effect transistors (which will be covered in a later article in this series) and the more common junction bipolar type to be discussed now.

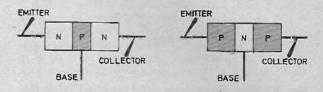


Fig. 3.5 Construction of npn and pnp transistors.

Ordinary junction transistors can be constructed in two distinct ways, as shown in Fig. 3.5. Both of these types of device consist essentially of a single crystal of the semiconductor material containing a sandwich of the one type of doped material between two layers with the opposite type of doping.

The two types of junction transistor are known as *npn* and *pnp* types for reasons which are obvious from Fig. 3.5.

The layer at the centre of the sandwich is known as the base, whilst the other two parts are known as the emitter and collector respectively. We shall see shortly that the emitter emits charge carriers (electrons or holes) and most of these charge carriers pass through the base region into the collector.

In almost all practical transistors, the construction of the two junctions is different. Thus the emitter and collector are not completely interchangeable, as might be expected from the symmetry of Fig. 3.5.

The base is always very thin, being perhaps 0.001cm in thickness in some types.

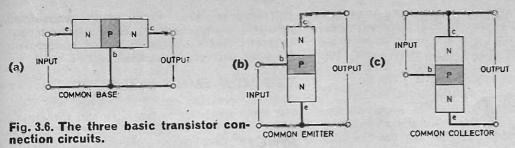
SILICON AND GERMANIUM

Some ten years ago germanium *pnp* transistors were used for most purposes, but now silicon transistors can be made with a better performance at a similar price.

Silicon npn transistors tend to be rather easier to manufacture than silicon pnp transistors of a similar performance thus silicon npn types tend to be rather cheaper and therefore more frequently used. For this reason the npn transistor will be considered first in detail.

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THREE BASIC CIRCUITS

If an input circuit is connected to a transistor, two wires are used. A further two connections are required for the output. Thus a total of four connections must be made to the three leads from the transistor.

One of the transistor leads must therefore be common to both the input and output circuits. Any one of the three connections to the transistor may be chosen as the common one, but the performance of the circuit is very dependent on the choice made.

In the basic circuit of Fig. 3.6a, the base is common (common base) to both the input and output circuits. The most commonly employed basic circuit is the common emitter circuit of Fig. 3.6b, since this provides maximum overall amplification.

The common collector circuit of Fig. 3.6c is also known as the emitter follower and is used when a low output impedance or high input impedance is required.

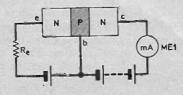
It may be mentioned in passing that three similar methods of connection are used with thermionic valves, these being the common grid (or grounded grid), the common cathode (the most commonly used circuit) and the common anode (or the cathode follower).

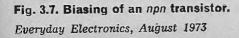
BIASING

When a transistor is to be used as an amplifier, it is necessary that the emitter/base junction should be forward biased and the base/ collector junction reverse biased, no matter which type of basic circuit is used.

In the npn transistor, this means that the base should be slightly positive with respect to the emitter and the collector appreciably positive with respect to the base, as shown in Fig 3.7.

The resistor Re limits the current flowing in





the forward biased emitter/base circuit to a reasonable value.

A depletion region is formed at the base/ collector junction, since this is reverse biased. Majority carriers (holes in the *p*-type material and electrons in the *n*-type material) are repelled away from the junction.

Thus the reading of the milliammeter in Fig. 3.7 would be very small if the presence of the emitter/base junction did not affect the current flowing in the collector circuit.

THE EMITTER BASE JUNCTION

The forward current flowing at the emitter/ base junction consists of electrons passing from the emitter to the base and of holes passing in the reverse direction. Any of the electrons from the emitter which pass through the thin base region into the depletion region of the base/ collector junction, will be quickly swept into the collector by the positive voltage applied to the latter.

A few of the electrons entering the base will combine with the holes present in the latter, thus giving rise to a current in the base connecting lead.

In a practical transistor, the base is lightly doped and contains few holes, therefore most of the electrons from the emitter will reach the collector before they have the opportunity to combine with a hole. Fewer electrons are lost by combination with holes in the base region if the base is very thin.

Electrons which pass from the emitter to the collector in Fig. 3.7 cause a collector current to be registered by the milliammeter. The fraction of the electrons from the emitter which reach the collector is almost constant. Therefore the collector current is almost proportional to the emitter current.

In the common base circuit of Fig. 3.6a, this means that the output current is almost proportional to the input current.

COMMON BASE CURRENT GAIN

In a typical transistor, about 98 per cent of the electrons leaving the emitter reach the collector. Thus one may say:

current gain =

 $\frac{\text{output current}}{\text{input current}} = \frac{\text{collector current}}{\text{emitter current}} = 0.98$

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In practice, we are usually more interested in the incremental current gain (or small signal current gain), since we are likely to be using the transistor for amplifying a small signal. This current gain is usually designated ∞ or $h_{\rm FB}$ in the common base circuit and is given by:

a small change in output current

 $\infty = corresponding change in input current$ $The value of <math>\infty$ is also normally about 0.98.

One may wonder how one can use the common base circuit to amplify a signal, since the output current is slightly smaller than the input current. In order to answer this point, we must consider the circuit resistances involved and the behaviour of the collector circuit.

COLLECTOR CHARACTERISTICS

The collector characteristic of a transistor is of the general form shown in Fig. 3.8.

As the collector voltage is increased from zero, more electrons from the emitter will be attracted from the base across the depletion region into the collector, thus increasing the collector current.

When almost all of the electrons leaving the emitter reach the collector however, any further increase in the collector voltage will have little effect on the collector current. Thus the characteristic has a "knee" or bend at point A in Fig. 3.8.

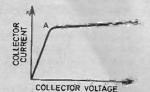


Fig. 3.8. Basic collector characteristics of a transistor.

The small increase in current with applied voltage above point A implies that the collector circuit resistance has a high value at applied voltages above this point. Typically, the value of the collector resistance is about one megohm above point A.

If a resistor is placed in series with such a high resistance circuit (that is, in series with the collector), it will produce a much smaller effect on the current flowing than a similar resistor placed in a low resistance circuit, such as the emitter circuit.

Although a small change in the input emitter current produces a collector current change at the output which is slightly smaller than the input current change, a much larger value of resistor may be used in the output circuit than in the input circuit. Even a small change in the collector current will produce quite a large voltage change across this resistor.

A transistor in the common base circuit can

therefore provide voltage amplification (and also power amplification), although the output current changes are always rather smaller than the input current changes.

COMMON EMITTER CIRCUIT

In the common emitter circuit of Fig. 3.6b, the input electrode is the base and the output electrode is the collector. The current gain is therefore base current divided by collector current.

The transistor is biased as before. A forward current flows in the emitter base junction, this consisting mainly of electrons flowing from the emitter to the base (and hence, to the collector), since there are few holes in the lightly doped *p*-type base to flow in the other direction.

The few holes which do flow are replaced by a current flowing into the base through the external base lead.

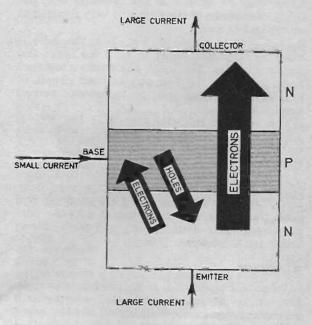


Fig. 3.9. Flow of charge carriers in the npn transistor.

Thus, as depicted in Fig. 3.9, a large electron current flows from the emitter to the collector via the base, whilst a much smaller current flows in the base lead.

Any increase in the base current being fed to the transistor will result in an increased flow of forward current in the emitter/base junction and the flow of collector current will be increased almost in proportion. Thus, the small base current can be used to control the much larger collector current.

Next month: Common emitter current gain and further discussion on transistors in circuits.



Batteries

Why do battery manufacturers choose such odd values for their voltages (i.e. 4^{1}_{2} and 9 volts)? It would make calculations a lot simpler if they were to be 5 and 10 volts respectively!

We agree! Unfortunately the manufacturers have to pander to the whims of nature (or rather the Leclanché cell). The standard cell used in batteries has electrodes of zinc and carbon; these provide electrode potentials that give a difference of about 1.5V. Hence most common batteries have voltages which are an exact multiple of 1.5. Some special types of batteries (e.g. those based on the mercury cell) have a different range—based on multiples of about 1.2V.

Meter Output

My multimeter has a socket on it marked "output". As far as I can see there is nothing that can come out of it! I investigated inside and found a capacitor connected to this point but am none the wiser about what it is for.

It is quite likely that this is (paradoxically) another input to your meter and it is for measuring a.c. signals superimposed on a d.c. level—as one encounters in the output stages of amplifiers.

Try it across the loudspeaker connections of an amplifier having the meter switched to a low a.c. range. In the absence of an audio signal you should get no reading but as soon as there is sound to be heard in the speaker you should get a reading proportional to the volume. This facility is useful when tuning a superhet radio to maximum signal because the ear is not always as discerning to level changes as one would like it to be.

Radio Amplifier

I have an old radio which produces a very good tone but unfortunately only works well on very local stations. Is it possible to dispense with the radio part and just use the amplifier to make a simple record player? If so what sort of pick up should I use?

You can convert most radio sets to make a simple record player amplifier. Obviously the quality depends on the type of set you have but the conversion is quick and simple and if done properly does not prevent the set being used as a radio as well. The technique can be applied to valved or transistorised radios but should not be carried out on a.c./d.c. mains sets that do not have isolating transformers.

Locate the rear of the volume control-be careful that you select the right component if it is ganged with the mains on/off switch! Of the three connections to the potentiometer, ignore the centre one (the wiper). Of the other two, one will be connected to ground or chassis (it might have the screening of coaxial wire connected to it or have a piece of tinned copper wire running straight to the chassis of the radio). Leave that as it is but now -by a process of elimination turn to the third termination. This will have the signal wire coming from the radio detector.

Replace this wire with the centre core of a piece of screened lead running from your pick-up; the screen should be connected to the chassis of the radio. You might prefer to insert a switch so that you can change over from radio to "gram"; a single pole two way switch is suitable for this, and the pick up connections brought out to a socket on the radio's cabinet. You will probably need a reasonably high level signal from the cartridge and we suggest a crystal pick up would be best.

Radio Design

I would like to know if there is a formula which relates the number of turns on a ferrite rod used in a radio, to the frequency covered. Could you also tell me what frequencies coastal stations and trawlers/ships broadcast on.

Most of the services you mention can be heard in the 1.75 to 3.0 MHz band, or on approximately 170 to 100 metres.

Using a 6inch ferrite rod 3 ₈inch in diameter, this band may be covered by a winding consisting of 35 turns of 24 s.w.g. enamelled wire, side by side, the winding beginning 1 ₂inch from one end of the rod.

As the inductance and coverage depend largely on the position of the winding on the rod, the turns may be wound on stout paper or thin card, so that it can be slid on the rod to adjust coverage if necessary. The tuning capacitor for this range is 350 or 365pF maximum capacitance.

Moving the winding towards the end of the rod raises the frequency tuned. This adjustment will allow a 5 inch to 8 inch rod to be used.

Exact inductance calculations with ferrite rods or cores can only be made with reference to actual core material of particular manufacture, and by reference to the maker's figures for the material.

Earth

Why is it we hear that using an earth wire makes a piece of equipment safe. As I see it there is still just as good a chance of getting an electric shock from the mains going into, say, an electric fire.

Having an earth wire does not prevent one getting an electric shock if one was to touch the live mains lead under certain conditions. However, most pieces of electrical equipment have metal cases to protect you from such contact and there is always a faint chance that a live wire might come loose inside the box and touch the case, or possibly insulation on a transformer might break down. If either of these possibilities occur, the case will be live and there is no way of tellinguntil it is too late!

If, however, the case is well and truly connected to earth, the current from the loose wire, inside, will go to ground preferentially down the earth wire—rather than through you—and at the same time there is a very good chance that the current will be so great that the fuse will blow—giving total protection. That is why you should always check why a fuse has blown before you replace it!

Transformer Action

Am I right to assume that a direct current flowing in the primary of a transformer gives a standing direct current in the output with any alternating current superimposed?

No, this is not true. It is possible to have a circuit when there is standing d.c. flowing through a transformer primary. This does not produce any induced voltage across the secondary because induction only takes place when there is a rate of change in current. If there is a.c. superimposed on the standing primary current only the a.c. variations will induce currents in the secondary circuits.

There is a side effect from the standing d.c. If it is too great it could saturate the magnetic characteristics of the iron core of the transformer and make transformer action less efficient; at the same time one has to watch that the input current rating of the transformer is not exceeded—the a.c. has to be added to the standing d.c.

Thyristors

You say that CSR's (thyristors) used in the Audio Colour Unit conduct only in one direction so the lamps do not receive the full sine wave. Does this mean there will be a flickering of the lamps? If so could triacs be substituted in the same circuit?

It is true you will notice a slight flickering of the lights because when using only half the a.c. cycle the power applied will be going from zero to peak only 50 times a second whereas normal mains goes from zero to peak 100 times a second—positive going and negative going alternatively. Strictly speaking the lamps run from the Audio Colour Unit are off for as long as they are on. The flicker is only slight and is not

Thyristor Ratings

The thyristor CRS1/40 is exactly the same physical size as some types of transistors. The thyristor is capable of passing 1 amp at up to 400 volts (which I make to be 400 watts) whereas the transistors in the same size case have a maximum rating of only about 1 watt. They are both semiconductors so why is there such a vast difference?

Take the first case; the current is zero and the voltage across the thyristor might be the full 400V. Even so when you multiply 400 by zero the answer is zero so there is no dissipation in the device. In the second case say the maximum current flowing is 1 amp (as for the CRS1/40) and the voltage drop across the device is 1V; power dissipation is 1 watt.

You should be able to see now that although the thyristor might be operating a load that dissipates 400 watts there is only 1 watt dissipation within the thyristorequivalent to the maximum rating of the transistors you mentioned. With a thyristor you can never have maximum current and peak voltage across it at the same time; however this is a possible condition that a transistor might meet when it is operating on the linear region of its characteristic.

Impedance

Is there any simple way of determining whether a loudspeaker is 3 ohms or 80 ohms?

Strictly speaking the 3 or 80 ohm is describing the loudspeaker's impedance at 400Hz. This impedance is made up of the coil's inductive reactance in series with its resistance to d.c. Usually, and especially for small loudspeakers, the inductive reactance is small and most of the value for impedance is contributed by the resistance.

As a rule of thumb you can measure the resistance on a low range ohm-meter and add about 20 per cent to get a rough idea of the impedance. The alternative method is rather complex and requires some more equipment.

Transistors

Do the direction of the arrows on *npn* and *pnp* transistors have any significance apart from being an arbitrary identification of the two types?

Yes! They point in the direction conventional current can flow through the transistor i.e. from positive towards negative.

Don't miss the start of an exciting new term-details next month.

DEMO CIRCUITS 9 By Mike Hughes

The Monostable

A s promised earlier we shall now deal with another member of the family of multivibrators. This one is called the monostable or one shot multivibrator. Very often used in amateur applications its prime role in any circuit is to provide a timing or time delay function. For example, the circuit that we shall describe could form the basis for a simple photographic enlarger timer (automatically switching off the lamp at the end of a pre-determined time period).

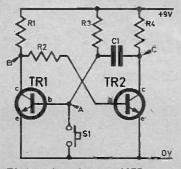
Sometimes it is necessary to convert a very short electronic pulse (such as a "spike") into a clearly defined and time extended rectangular pulse—the monostable (perhaps preceded by a Schmitt trigger) is ideal for this.

The basic circuit is shown in Fig. 9.1. Notice the similarity between it and the bistable described in a previous part. The main difference is that cross coupling in one direction is by means of a resistor (R2) but the other way the coupling is done by means of a capacitor (C1) and an associated resistor R3.

CIRCUIT OPERATION STABLE STATE

To understand how the circuit works we must make an initial assumption—that TR2 is switched off. This means that point C is at approximately 9V positive and that, given a reasonable period of time, C1 will discharge (assuming it had some charge on it in the first place) through the circuit of R3 and R4. This means that in the absence of any other effects,

Fig. 9.1. Basic monostable circuit.



the junction of R3 with C1 would eventually reach a potential of 9V positive.

However there is something we have overlooked. The junction of R3 and C1 is connected to the base of TR1 at point A and we know that as soon as A reaches a potential of 600mVpositive with respect to the emitter of TR1 assuming TR1 is a silicon device—base current will be drawn through R3 and the potential at A will be "clamped to a maximum positive value of 600mV.

The base current flowing in TR1 will cause it to be switched on and the potential at B will be—to all intents and purposes—zero. Thus no base current can be provided through R2 into TR2 so we can say TR2 is switched off—the assumption we made in the first place.

Discerning regular readers will see that we have a, now familiar, feedback loop. The fact that TR2 is off makes TR1 on and the latter in its turn ensures that TR2 stays off. Provided we introduce no other effects the circuit will stay in this condition indefinitely—so long as the supply is not interrupted. This is a "stable" state.

UNSTABLE STATE

We are now going to describe the effect produced by an action that occurs very quickly and while you read the description remember that although our arguing takes quite a long time the electronic operation that is occurring happens within a few microseconds.

We can upset the stable state of affairs by deliberately making TR1 turn off. This is easily accomplished by shorting point A to ground thus diverting all TR1's base current. When TR1 turns off, point B tries to rise to 9V positive but in so doing base current starts to flow through R1 and R2 into the base of TR2 turning TR2 on. The potential at C falls rapidly towards zero.

The sudden change in charge on the plate of Cl connected to TR2's collector induces a change in potential on the other plate. The potential will change in the same sense (i.e. in a negative direction) and will be of approximately the same magnitude (9V). Here is a slight problem in our argument—we must

ensure that once we have shorted point A to ground to initiate the action we must immediately remove the short to allow the potential at point A to follow the change at C. This would not be possible manually but using electronic help—to be described in the practical circuit this can be achieved quite easily.

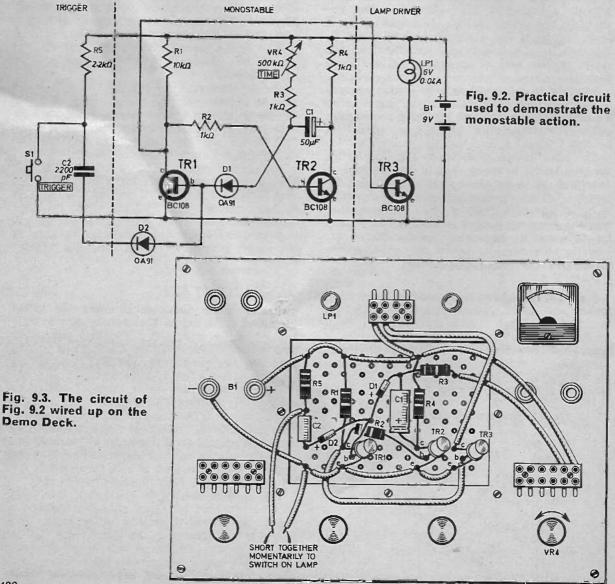
Point A was initially 600mV positive, but when we get the sudden change in charge on C1, as described, the potential will swing by 9V in a negative direction to minus $8 \cdot 4V$. This action makes doubly sure that no base current flows in TR1—a sort of "overkill"—TR1 stays switched off. For those sitting with bated breath, that is the end of the high speed part of the circuit's operation. We can now sit back and at our leisure describe the rest of the operation.

Transistor TR1 will not stay switched off indefinitely because C1, which has a potential difference across it (0V at C and minus 8.4V at A), will slowly discharge through R3 and R4. As point C is well and truly held to ground by the action of TR2 the discharge of C1 will cause the potential at A to rise in a positive direction towards 9V positive. It will never, however, reach 9V because as soon as point A reaches 600mV positive TR1 will switch on and—as described previously—this makes TR2 turn off.

Point C is now able to rise to 9V positive and this sudden movement contributes to a surge of current from the other plate of the capacitor into the base of TR1 ensuring that TR1 is well and truly on. From the instant when we shorted point A to ground we have been describing the astable part of the circuit's operation.

TIME DELAY

There are two distinct phases in the opera-



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tion, one is stable and the other unstable hence the circuit's name—the monostable. It is the unstable part that gives us our timing factor the time it takes Cl to discharge from minus 8.4V to plus 600mV. There is a simple formula for this:

Time (in seconds) $t=0.7 \times C1 \times R3$

where C and R are measured in farads and ohms respectively.

This formula is an approximation because it assumes that R3 is very large compared with R4.

COMPONENT VALUES

There are several, not so obvious, points to be made about the value of the various components in the circuit. We have already implied that R4 should be a low value compared with R3 otherwise the timing equation becomes modified; also the waveform at C will show a slow rise time as TR2 switches off. Resistor R3 must have a value that does not exceed a certain amount; the value being determined by the minimum base current into TR1 that will guarantee the latter switching hard on. This in turn—is dependent on R1 not being too low a value. Resistor R2 is chosen so that when in series with R1 enough base current can be made to flow into TR2 when TR1 switches off.

Generally speaking once the values for resistors have been chosen—and these are usually set by considerations of the stage the monostable is to drive—the length of time of the unstable phase can be set by adjusting the value of C1 which, theoretically can be as large or as small as possible. Further adjustment of time can be effected by reducing the value of R3 below its maximum. The minimum value for the latter must be considered otherwise unlimited base current could flow in TR1.

PRACTICAL CIRCUIT

A practical circuit is shown in Fig. 9.2. The monostable portion is very similar to that

 What do you know?

 SEMICONDUCTORS

 1 What two materials do you most associate with semiconductors?

 2 A circuit is said to use a transistor in the common emitter mode, what does this mean?

 3 There are two main types of transistors, what are they and how do you differentiate between them on a circuit diagram?

4 If a circuit calls for a BC109 type transistor and you only have 2N2926, OC71, AC127, 2N3819 types, which one could you substitute and expect the circuit to operate? already described; R3 has VR4 in series to adjust the length of time delay. In this case the maximum delay will be about 18 seconds (probably slightly higher because there is a good chance the 50μ F of C1 will have a value on the high side due to tolerance). With VR4 set to minimum resistance the time will reduce to a fraction of a second.

Remember we used the term "overkill" describing the negative swing at TR1's base; this term was deliberately used because a reverse voltage of 8.4V between base and emitter of a BC108 exceeds the reverse rating of the junction so diode D1 is incorporated. This has no effect on the working of the circuit and only affords protection to TR1.

TRIGGERING

Triggering—and removal of the short—at TRI's base is effected by R5, C2, D2 and the switch. When the switch is closed (in the practical circuit, shown in Fig. 9.3, the two flying leads are shorted together) C2 charges through D2 and the base current into TR1 is momentarily diverted to provide this charge current. As soon as the potential at the junction of R3 and C1 goes negative D1 becomes reverse biased and the capacitor discharges through R3 and VR4 free from any other influences.

With this type of trigger it does not matter if the switch is kept closed—provided C2 is small compared with C1—the astable part of the cycle will still maintain the same delay, during which time TR1 will be off. We can indicate this effect by driving a lamp from the signal produced at TR1's collector.

Touch the leads together and the lamp will light and stay alight for the length of time set by Cl and VR4 in series with R3. Try substituting different values for Cl; 500μ F should give a time approaching 3 minutes. If LP1 was replaced by a relay with contacts capable of switching mains, you can see how valuable this circuit would be as an enlarger timer.

ANSWERS

non type 2N2926 transistor. The OC71 and the non type 2N2926 transistor. The OC77 types are pnp; the 2N3819 is a f.e.t.

- positive than the emitter whereas the emitter is more positive than the collector in a pnp type. 4 You could expect the circuit to work with the
- 3 The two types are pnp and npn. They can be distinguished by two methods: the arrow on the emitter terminal points in towards the base in a pnp device and away from the base in an npn device; in an npn device the collector is more
- both the input and output terminals of the transistor.
- in modern transistors and diodes. 2 Basically, it means that the emitter is common to
 - 1 Germanium and silicon, the basic substances

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OOKING back over the past months-in particular at those Shop Talks giving names of suppliers of the more difficult to get items-it is apparent that about three or four firms are mentioned quite often-try it.

Since these suppliers all sell catalogues (at reasonable prices considering the amount of information in them) it would seem that the easiest way to find components would be to get the catalogues and have a good look at what's on offer. There are of course some items that can only be obtained from special suppliers or single sources and this is what this page is for-to tell you where.



Slave Flash

One component used in the Slave Flash will not be available from your electronic component dealer - the in-line "camera socket"-this should be purchased from a photographic shop. Remember it is for connection to a flash gun and not a camera.

Two other items to note concerning components for this project are the photocell, ORP12this exact type may not be available but the type number is well known and most alternatives will be suitable. The case used should be fairly wide so that it is able to stand up, enabling the photocell to "look" at the camera operated flash. The prototype unit used a small diecast aluminium case. available from most suppliers,

and this makes a tough case which is heavy enough not to be easily knocked over.

Waa Waa

The Waa Waa design published in this issue must be one of the simplest posible and it is one that works well. There are one or two points on the components used that are worth noting.

One of the sockets-the inputshould be a Re-An Products type R26/1, this has an extra tag that is used to turn the unit on-the second socket can be the same type to make ordering easier if required. Re-An Products are at Burnham Road, Dartford, Kent.

The potentiometer used should be a carbon type of 1 kilohm, only a small portion of track at one end of this is used and wirewound types have proven noisy in this situation.

Lastly a couple of points on the mechanical parts; the linkages can be made from Meccano parts as shown in the photographsthis will help to simplify construction. The return spring is taken from a battery as stated in the text-if you cannot find anyone who uses these batteries you could try asking your local retailer if he has any dud or broken ones.

Electronic Doorbell

The magnetic earphone inserts (GPO type) used in the Electronic Doorbell are not available from all suppliers. If you cannot find a local supplier, Henry's Radio list them at 35p each. The 35 ohm loudspeaker may also cause some difficulty but should be available from the larger suppliers. A speaker of lower impedance should not be used-one of higher impedance will result in a lower volume.

The pushbutton used can be bought from most electrical shops or Woolworths.

New Products

Another low cost stereo system in kit form has been announced by Radio and TV Components. At £17.95 plus £1.50 for postage and packing this system must be one of the cheapest available. By using complete modules with tag connections the need for soldering has been eliminated, the cabinets are also easy to construct and only require glueing together.

Using two integrated circuits



The complete Stereo 21 unit as it looks when finished.

the output is 2.7 watts r.m.s. per channel, the amplifiers have separate volume controls and a tone control (treble lift and cut). Both headphone and tape output are provided, as is an auxiliary input socket.

The Stereo 21 utilizes a BSR autochange deck housed, together with the amplifier, in a neat, Perspex topped, cabinet and two matching speaker cabinets each housing an 8 inch by 5 inch drive unit. Not claimed to be hi fi but for the price few could ask for better quality.

Also new this month is the Minos case, initially in only two sizes (100mm x 65mm and 130mm x 100mm, both 50mm deep). The cases are moulded in ABS (plastic) of high impact strength which provides a gloss finish of intense black.

The front panels are fixed by plated steel posidrive screws and are in white p.v.c. coated steel. or plain aluminium.

From West Hyde Developments Ltd., Ryefield Crescent, Northwood Hills, Northwood, NA6 1NN. Middlesex. Price for one offs 40p and 50p, postage and packing 7p and 8p respectively.



"Ive shelved the idea of constructing a two-way intercomshe'd be able to nag me when she wasn't with me."







Readers' Bright Ideas; any idea that is published will be awarded payment according to its merit. The Ideas have not been proved by us.

This simple idea of mine will be found most useful to the experimental handyman. It consists of a two-amp connector strip which can be purchased at any electrical shop, and used as an assembly jig for any test circuit.

No soldering is necessary, and any component can be substituted at will. The strip can be used over and over again and its simplicity is an encouragement to any keen experimenter.

Mr. T. Doyle, Croydon.

Not long ago I discovered an economical "test board" for the construction of "spur of the moment" circuits,

Glue a piece of one foot square hardboard onto a piece of chipboard of the same size. Next make a grid of 1in. squares on the hardboard, and then hammer large-headed ‡In. nails in each corner of the squares, leaving about a quarter of the nail protruding above the board. File the nail heads and apply solder to form a button on the top of the nail. You now have a test board that components can be applied to quickly and securely. If one of the nails is in the way then it is quickly removed with a pair of pliers. It can be replaced later.

R. Harris, Petworth, Sussex.

I do not know if fellow constructors have the same problem as I, but I find that when building a circuit from the magazine, the latter ends up on the bench and eventually gets covered with flux, hot solder burns and generally becomes very tatty. A good remedy I found was to glue a piece of flat 1 in. thick plate glass to four pleces of wood size 1 in. x 11 in. so making a small table with transparent top. The magazine (or book) can then be placed under this and work carried out on the top.

R. J. McLellan, Birmingham. As a lot of electronic projects are housed in aluminium cases, perhaps other readers would be interested in a method I have found of giving the cases a professional finish.

Place a piece of emery cloth or paper over a piece of wooden doweling and fix in the chuck of a power or hand drill so that the emery paper is held firm. If the drill is then operated and the covered dowel placed in contact with the aluminium case, circular impressions will be made. Overlapping of these circles will produce a very pleasing effect.

A thin layer of clear varnish over the surface will protect and keep the surface shiny.

> P. Horton, Stourbridge, Worcs.

I have made a Demo Deck using a T-Dec and I overcame the difficulty of fastening this to the panel by the use of Velcro strips (obtainable from any haberdasher) glued on with rubber cement. This can also be used for firmly fixing other articles such as battery-holders. A push and it is fixed—a pull and it is free.

> G. Edmunds, South Africa.

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

All items submitted should be original and not previously published. If similar ideas are submitted by two or more readers the first received will be published.



Some readers who have constructed the Mini Organ (June 1973) have only been able to obtain a clicking noise instead of the correct oscillation.

The "clicking" noise is caused by the unijunction oscillator working at the wrong frequency and is due to C3 being connected in parallel with C2 via the base/ emitter junction of TR2. This did not show up on the prototype organ because the three unijunctions tried out were from the same source and thus, presumably, from the same production batch. Due to production spread of characteristics the saturation voltage across the junction of emitter and base I can vary, and this seems to be the cause of the trouble. The higher voltage of some of the junctions raises the emitter of TRI to a higher voltage than that at the base of TR2, thus effectively paralleling C3 with C2.

The remedy for this is to remove C2 and C3, and to then replace C2 in the C3 position; i.e. C3 becomes 0-1 microfarad (it may be necessary to alter the value of this capacitor slightly to tune the organ to the right frequency.)



YATES ELECTRON (FLITWICK) LTD DEPT. E.E., ELSTOW STORAGE KEMPSTON HARDWICK, BEDFORD.	Catalogue which contains data sheets for most of t components listed will be sent free on reque
RESISTORS W Iskra high stability Carbon film-veryl ow noise-capless construction. W Mullard CR25 carbon film-very small body size 7 · 5 x 2 · 5 mm. $\frac{1}{2}$ W 2% Electrosil TR5. Power vatus Tolerance Range values Price vatus Tolerance Range values Price vatus 10% 3 · 3MQ-10MQ E12 1 · 0p 0 · 8p 4 · 10% 10.3 · 9Q E12 1 · 0p 0 · 8p 4 · 10% 10.3 · 9Q E12 1 · 0p 0 · 8p 4 · 10% 10.3 · 9Q E12 1 · 0p 0 · 8p 4 · 10% 10.3 · 9Q E12 1 · 0p 0 · 8p 4 · 10% 10.3 · 9Q E12 1 · 0p 0 · 8p 5 · 59 Quantity price applies for sny selection. Ignore fractions on total order. DEVELOPMENT PACK	MULLARD POLYESTER CAPACITORS C296 SERIES 400Y.0.001μF, 0.001μF, 0.0022μF, 0.0033μF, 0.0047μF, 24p. 0.0068μF, 0.00164 0.033μF, 0.022μF, 0.033μF, 0.0022μF, 0.0033μF, 0.0047μF, 24p. 0.0068μF, 0.00164 0.033μF, 10.004μF, 0.033μF, 0.047μF, 0.068μF, 0.1μF, 4p. 0.15μF, 8p. 0.22μF, 74 160Y.0.01μF, 0.013μF, 0.022μF, 0.033μF, 0.047μF, 0.068μF, 3p. 0.1μF, 3p. 0.1μF, 3p. 0.1μF, 3p. 41p. 0.12μF, 5p. 0.33μF, 6p. 0.47μF, 74p. 0.668μF, 11p. 1.0μF, 13p. 41p. 0.12μF, 5p. 0.33μF, 6p. 0.47μF, 74p. 0.668μF, 11p. 1.0μF, 13p. 41p. 0.12μF, 5p. 0.33μF, 6p. 0.47μF, 74p. 0.668μF, 11p. 1.0μF, 13p. 41p. 0.12μF, 5p. 0.33μF, 6p. 0.47μF, 3p. 0.034μF, 0.068μF, 0.068μF, 0.047μF, 0.068μF, 11p. 1.0μF, 10. 31p. 0.1μF, 4p. 0.1μF, 0.01μF, 0.02μF, 0.022μF, 3p. 0.068μF, 11p. 1.0μF, 11. 1.5μF, 20p. 2.2μF, 24p. 24p. 0.47μF, 80.068μF, 11p. 1.0μF, 11. 1.5μF, 20p. 2.2μF, 54p. 0.01μF, 0.02μF, 0.02μF, 0.01μF, 0.02μF 1000F to 10.0002μF, 2p. each. 1.5μF, 0.05μF, 0.05μF, 0.01μF, 0.
0.5 watt 5% Iskra resistors 5 off each value 4.7Ω to IMΩ. EI2 pack 325 resistors 62:40. E24 pack 650 resistors 64.70. POTENTIOMETERS Carbon track 5kΩ to 2MΩ, log or linear (log ±W, lin ±W). Single, 12p. Dual gang (stereo), 40p. Single D.P. switch 24p. SKELETON PRESET POTENTIOMETERS Linear: 100, 250, 500Ω and decades to SMΩ. Horizontal or vertical P.C. mounting (0:1 matrix). Sub-miniature 0:1W, 5p each. Miniature 0:25W, 6p each.	ELECTROLYTIC CAPACITORS MULLARD 015/6/7 RANGE REPLACES C487 RANGES (µFV) 10/63, 1:5/63, 2:2/63, 3:3/63, 4:7/63, 6:8/40, 10/25, 10/63, 15/16, 15/4 15/63, 21/10, 21/25, 22/63, 33/63, 3:3/63, 4:7/63, 6:8/40, 10/25, 10/63, 15/16, 15/25, 22/64, 220/10, 220/1 15/6-7, 220/64, 220/10, 220/1 130/4, 330/10, 470/6-3, 5p each, 68/63, 150/40, 220/25, 330/16, 470/10, 680/26, 1000/10, 1500/6-3 12p, 220/6 150/40, 220/25, 130/16, 1500/10, 1500/10, 1500/25, 1500/1 1200/10, 3300/6-3, 4700/4, 18p, SOLID TANTALUM BEAD CAPACITORS 12 SOLID TANTALUM BEAD CAPACITORS 12/2 12 0:1µF 35V 2:2µF 35V 22µF 16V 0:2µF 35V 4:7µF 35V 32µF 6:3
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$\label{eq:starsest} \begin{array}{c} \textbf{BRUSHED ALUMINIUM PANELS}\\ 12ln x 6in=25p; 12in x 2in=10p; 9in x 2in=7p,\\ \textbf{SLIDER POTENTIOMETERS}\\ \textbf{B6mm x 9mm x 16mm, length of track 59mm,}\\ SINGLE 10K, 25K, 100K log, or lin, 40p,\\ SINGLE 10K, 25K, 100K log, or lin, 40p,\\ RNON B FOR ABOVE 12p,\\ FRONT PANEL 65p\\ \textbf{B Gauge panel 12' x 4' with slots cut for use with}\\ \textbf{B Gauge panel 12' x 4' with slots cut for use with}\\ \textbf{fixings for 4 pots.} \end{array} $	SMOKE AND COMBUSTIBLE GAS DETECTORGDI (2:0 The GDI is the World's first semiconductor that can convert a concentration of gr or smoke into an electrical signal. The sensor decreases its electrical resistance whe is absorbs deoxidizing or combustible gases such as hydrogen, carbon mooxid methane, propane, alcohol. North Sea ga, as well as carbon-dust containing air o smoke. This decrease is usually large enough to be utilized without amplification full details and circuits are supplied with each detector. Detector GDI, 62, Kit of parts for detectors including GDI and P.C. board bu excluding case. Mains operated detector 6:20, 12 or 24V battery operated audibi alarm 67-30. As above for PP9 battery, 66-40. PRINTED BOARD MARKER Draw the planned circuit onto a copper laminate board with the P.C. Pen, allow t dry, and immerse the board in the etchant. On removal the circuit remains in hig realief.





104 KENT CRESCENT, KENT ROAD, PUDSEY, YORKSHIRE. .



"The feedback bias arrangement (Fig. 1) used in some transistor amplifiers worries me. If the input signal swings positive as shown then the output must immediately go strongly negative. This will cancel the signal and also remove the operating voltage from the collector. How can the circuit work?"

Let's begin with a parable. A man dropped a penny into a wishing well. At once, fifty pennies shot up out of the well and landed at his feet. "That's not much use," he said, "my pennyworth of wishing has been more than cancelled out." He walked off, leaving the pennies on the ground. Along came another man. He picked up the pennies and dropped them into the well, one by one. Each time, fifty pence came back. When the man had collected all the money he could carry he went home. What has all this got to do with feedback bias circuits? More than you might think. The moral of this story is, don't worry if things move in an unexpected direction. so long as you can still profit.

In the feedback bias circuit of Fig. 1, there's no need to worry because the polarity of the signal gets reversed, so long as the signal gets amplified. It certainly does get reversed, since a positivegoing input, as shown, brings about an instantaneous increase in collector current. This means that the 10 kilohm load resistor R2 drops more than the usual voltage, so the collector voltage falls below its steady-state value of 4 5V that we have assumed.

The collector swings to a less positive i.e. more negative voltage, without actually becoming negative. Does this matter?

If the voltage gain of the circuit is 200, and the input signal swings to a positive peak of 10mV, then the collector voltage must change by $(200 \times 10) mV = 2V$.

This change of 2V reduces the collector voltage to 2 5V, but this is quite enough to keep the transistor working and all is well. The output coupling capacitor removes the steady component of the voltage at the collector and passes on the variation, in other words the output is 2V. Strictly we should have said *minus* 2V, since it is a negative swing with respect to "earth". By the same token, the voltage gain should strictly be stated as minus 200.

To my way of thinking, the person who raised the question has been trying very hard to get the feel of the circuit, maybe he hasn't quite succeeded, but he's not a thousand miles from it. For one thing, he's quite right about the removal of the operating the voltage from collector. because if you go on increasing the signal voltage the point will be reached at which the collector swings downwards by 4.5V, in which case all the standing voltage is wiped out and the transistor can't go on working.

What this means is that the amplifier overloads at this point. All amplifiers overload at some point, it's a natural limitation.

He says that the signal is cancelled, no doubt because when the collector swings negative this puts a polarity swing at the collector end of the feedback resistor R1 which appears to oppose the signal. In fact, it has the opposite effect.

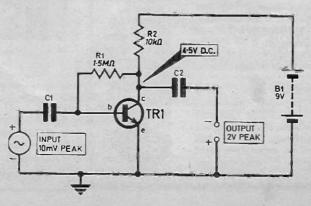
If you study the circuit carefully you see that the a.c. input and output voltages are "seriesaiding". They both try to drive current through R1 in the same direction. The net signal voltage across R1 is 2010mV (2V+10mV), which drives just 201 times as much current through the resistor as would the signal itself.

Way back in the early days of electronics, when we had only radio valves to perform the task of amplification, an American called Miller realised that this was the reason for getting an unexpectedly low input impedance. All the extra current has to come from somewhere. It turns out that it has to come, in the long **run**, from the signal source.

Looked at from the signal's point of view, R1 takes the same current as you would expect a resistance of only 1.5MQ/201 (=7.5 kilohms) to take. The actual figures don't matter though, the important thing is that if you connect a resistance between collector and base then from the input signal's point of view that resistance is reduced by a factor of (A+1) where A is the voltage gain. This reduces the input impedance of the amplifier. Fortunately the input resistance is low anyway in the present circuit, so the overall effect is not to drastically reduce the input resistance to a small fraction of the expected value.

In a stage designed on the lines of Fig. 1, this "Miller feedback" effect reduces the input resistance (or impedance, if you like) to just half the expected value. This is a point to bear in mind when deciding on what size C1 must be to give the required low frequency response. It should be twice as big as you would expect.

Fig. 1. Feedback bias circuit.





Test Gear

I have been taking EVERYDAY ELECTRONICS since last November and I find that the issues are very enlightening and just about as easy to understand as any subject as complex as electronics could be.

I am very interested in the test gear in the May '73 issue. As 1 intend buying a multimeter and an oscilloscope-cost is not the primary consideration. First the multimeter, I would need one suitable for checking components used in proportional radio equipment as used in model cars, boats and aeroplanes, these use miniature components and operate on the 27MHz Band. According to the adverts in EE, some have overload protection and an instruction leaflet and others don't mention this.

Generally I purchase an article first and then find out afterwards what I should have bought, so I would be glad of your advice. Obviously you can't mention any particular make but if you could quote the range I need to check miniature components it would be a great help. To check from 4.7 ohms to 100 kilohms, capacitors 4.7pF to 0.047μ F.

Also, what specifications would the oscilloscope need to have to check for a 27MHz pulse of approximately 8 milliseconds duration. Where could I buy one at £25 as mentioned in the May E.E. article on Workshop Components and Tools.

R. Lockie Bournemouth

The multimeter should be a 20,000 ohms per volt type and, for the resistance range required should really have three separate resistance ranges. It is not possible to check capacitors with a multimeter on its own and we suggest that you take no notice of capacitance ranges — these can

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hardly ever be used satisfactorily. There are many good meters available for about £8 and one with overload protection will prevent damage to the meter if you try to measure too large a current or voltage.

To get a 'scope that will display a waveform with a frequency of 27MHz will probably cost about £200. We suggest that your best bet will be to look around for a good secondhand 'scope with a frequency response up to about 8MHz—this should give some indication of operation at 27MHz although you will not be able to see the actual waveshape.

Keyboard Polishing

With respect to the Mini Organ design given in the June issue. 1 believe that the printed circuit keyboard must be polished with metal polish before being played because once the surface becomes tarnished the notes change, due to increased resistance of the copper oxide coating.

A roller tinned or silver plated keyboard would seem to be necessary if this tiresome task is to be avoided.

> F. L. Ellis Oxford

The keyboard will not require polishing very often—as you say only when it becomes tarnishedsince it is quite small this task is simple.

Shock!

With reference to the Night Light Switch in the April 1973 issue of EVERYDAY ELECTRONICS, in the drawing on page 198 the "live" wire from the mains is connected to the "open" end of the fuseholder, and not to the tip.

In these circumstances an inquisitive child may unscrew the fuse and push one of his or her fingers into the fuseholder thus receiving a shock.

This may seem a small point to make, but if the fuseholder is wired-up the right way a person may be saved a nasty experience --which I have seen happen.

D. S. Franklin High Wycombe

Courses

. I thought it might be useful to let you know what courses for radio and electronic enthusiasts are to be offered at the Knaresborough Adult Education Centre during the academic year 1973-74. They are as follows:

Tuesday, beginning September 18, "Morse Code for Radio Amateurs."

Wednesday, beginning September 19, "Electronics Workshop."

Thursday, beginning September 20, "Radio Amateurs' Examination Course."

All these classes are from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. at a fee of £1 per term. The courses have run for several years now, have been well attended and a stock of tools and test equipment has been built up.

J. B. Smith Head of Centre Knaresborough Centre King James Road Knaresborough Yorkshire

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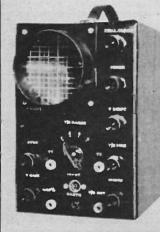
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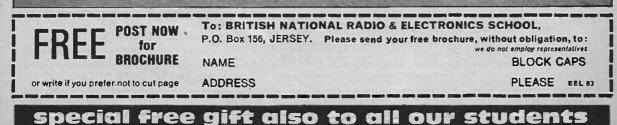
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A very simple unit designed with the "pop" group in mind By B. W. Terrell B.Sc.

O F THE many special effects employed in the musical world, especially the world of "pop" music, the waa waa may be one of the most difficult to use, but when mastered, the waa waa can add a new and useful dimension to your music.

WHAT IS WAA-WAA?

For those who do not know what waa waa is, try saying nasally aloud and several times the words WAA WAA. The sound produced gives a good idea, with a little imagination, of the manipulation of the Waa Waa device to the output from an electric guitar, piano, organ or microphone.

Electronically, the waa waa sound is produced by means of a tuned amplifier (this amplifies only a selected band of frequencies) whose resonance peak can be varied smoothly between the bass and treble content of the signals from the musical instrument.

FILTER

The heart of a tuned amplifier is a filter network; consider the simple filter shown in Fig. 1. This is known as a "bridged-T" filter.

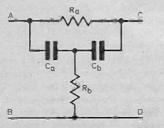


Fig. 1. A bridged-T filter used as the basis of the Waa Waa.



If an input signal containing a multitude of frequencies is applied across terminals AB, most of the signal will be transmitted with relatively little attenuation and will appear across CD. However, a narrow band will be attenuated drastically—the position of this band being dependant on the relative values of $R_a C_a C_b$ and R_b . Thus for a particular band the attenuation of the circuit is very high. The position of this band and its overall shape is dependant on the relative values of the filter components.

This type of filter is sometimes called a notch filter, the reason for this is seen in Fig. 2 which shows the ratio of the output to the input as a function of frequency for one set of filter components.

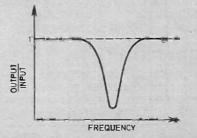
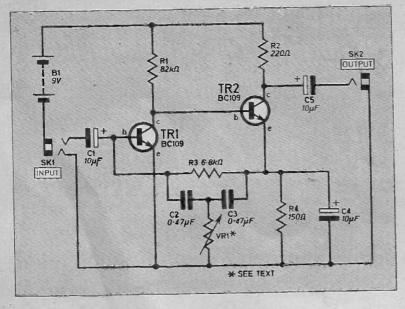


Fig. 2. Bridged-T filter characteristics.



It was found experimentally that the notch position could be varied over a considerable range by varying only one component, namely R_b . Although the overall shape of the notch changes with the value of R_b , it was found to have no adverse effect on the performance for this particular application.

CIRCUIT DESCRIPTION

The complete circuit diagram of the Waa Waa unit is shown in Fig. 3 and consists of a twostage d.c. feedback pair amplifier, with a bridged-T filter built around the d.c. feedback resistor R3; the latter provides the base bias for TR1 from the emitter of TR2. The complete circuit forms a tuned amplifier whose resonant peak can be varied by the variable resistor VR1, and functions as follows.

Dependent on the setting of VR1, the filter network for a particular frequency is a high impedance path, at other frequencies it is a low impedance path for negative feedback.

Therefore, signals other than those near the narrow band (selected by VR1) are not amplified whilst the selected band is amplified and appears at the output.

By varying the value of VR1, the amplified band can be made to sweep smoothly from the bass end to the treble region of the frequency spectrum. By varying the value of VR1 up and down, the waa waa sound is produced.

VARIABLE RESISTOR

The pedal linkages were designed to be as simple and as inexpensive as possible while at the same time, the actual pedal movement was to be kept to a minimum for easy use and comfort.

The value of VR1 needs to vary from near zero ohms to about 150 ohms for the required Fig. 3. The complete circuit diagram of the Waa Waa unit. Note that the unit is switched on by inserting the input Jack plug.

effect. This is accomplished by means of a l kilohm potentiometer which gives the required range since the linkage causes a maximum rotation of about 45 degrees. It is essential to use a carbon track type potentiometer—a wirewound type will produce a noisy output.

COMPONENT BOARD

The Waa Waa circuit in the prototype was constructed on a piece of 0.15 in. matrix Veroboard size 14 x 10 holes. The layout of the components on the board is shown in Fig. 4.

Make the cut-out on the reverse side of the board as shown and then drill the mounting hole. Next mount the components on the board in accordance with Fig. 4 leaving the transistors until last and remembering to use a heat shunt on the transistor leads when soldering. Do not connect the flying leads at this stage.

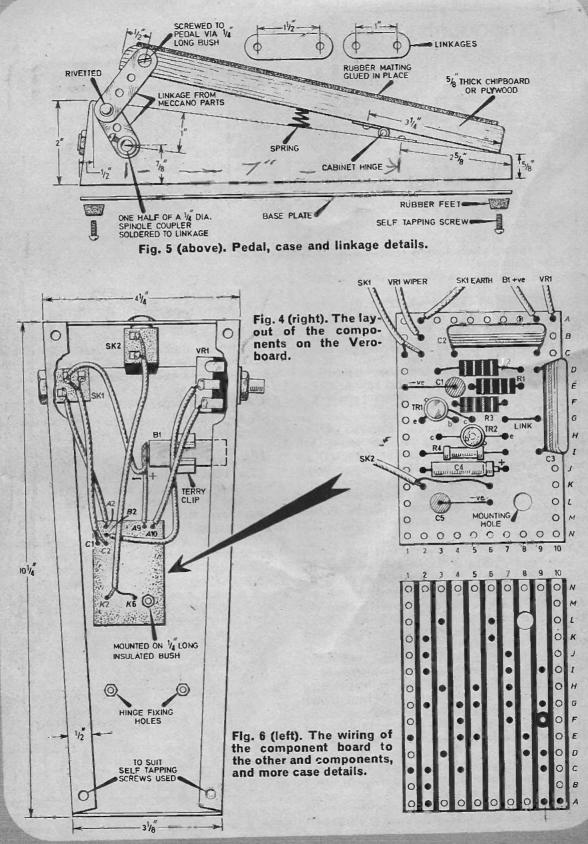
CASE AND LINKAGE

Details for constructing the case, pedal and linkages are shown in Figs. 5 and 6. The prototype case was constructed from ¹₁₆in. thick aluminium for the sloping base and base-plate and ¹₂in. thick chipboard for the pedal. The latter had rubber matting glued to the top to prevent the foot from sliding when in use.

The linkages in the prototype were made from Meccano parts but these parts are not essential as tin plate cut to the dimensions shown will do just as well.

The shorter linkage was made by soldering one half of a ${}^{1}_{4}$ in. diameter spindle coupler (cut with a hacksaw) as shown. The two linkages should be joined together by means of a copper or brass rivet, but this should not be made too tight as the joint must be free to move without binding or catching.

It is important that the case and linkage



Components. Resistors R1 82kΩ R2 220Ω R3 6.8kΩ R4 150Ω All 1 watt ± 10% carbon Potentiometer VR1 1kΩ linear carbon Capacitors C1 10µF elect. 10V C2 0.47µF C3 0.47µF C4 10µF elect. 10V C5 10µF elect. 10V Transistors TR1 BC109 silicon npn TR2 BC109 silicon npn Miscellaneous SK1 Jack socket with one break contact type R26/1 SK2 Jack socket standard type **B19V PP3** Veroboard: 0.15in. matrix 14 x 10 holes; battery clip; screened cable; 4in. diameter spindle coupler; insulated spacer; 1in. long bush for linkage; cabinet hinge; rubber matting; aluminium for case; chipboard or plywood for pedal; conical spring; 2BA and 4BA nuts bolts and shakeproof washers.

dimensions be adhered to, otherwise the required resistance sweep range may not be obtained, resulting in a reduced waa waa sound or "dead" pedal movement.

It is advisable to make the case before drilling any of the component locating holes in case your bending is not that accurate.

ASSEMBLY

With the case and pedal finished and the holes drilled, fit the component board mounting bolt (2BA) in place and tighten down using a shakeproof washer, and then fix the battery clip in position again using a shakeproof washer. Screw the potentiometer VR1 and the Jack sockets in position and fully tighten.

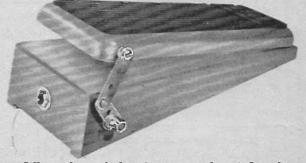
Screw the conical type spring and the cabinet hinge in the correct place on the underside of the pedal and then bolt the hinge to the sloping. base by means of 4BA nuts, bolts and shakeproof washers. The prototype used the spring from the top of an old 996 battery; this type of spring was chosen because when compressed it is virtually flat.

Next lightly screw the complete linkage assembly to the side of the pedal (Fig. 5) via a $^{1}_{4}$ in. long bush.

Turn the shortened potentiometer spindle fully *clockwise* and with the pedal in its uppermost position, attach the coupler to the spindle and tighten fully. Tighten the other end of the linkage to the side of the pedal.

Wiring up of the board to the other components should now be carried out according to Fig. 6. When this is complete, secure the component board to the mounting bolt via a 4 in. long insulated spacer. It may be as well to stick some insulating tape on the casing below the board to prevent a possible short circuit. Plug in the battery, screw on the base plate and the unit is complete.

The Waa Waa is switched on by inserting a Jack plug in the input socket, SK1.



When the unit has been tested and found to work it can be dismantled and painted. It was found on the prototype that the spray on aerosol paints could easily be scratched off, so it was hand painted with a plastic enamel paint after being rubbed down and undercoated. This was found to give a very good and durable finish.

USE

The Waa Waa unit has been designed for use with standard guitar and amplifier equipment and has been satisfactorily tested with this arrangement. It should also be suitable for electronic organ.

The Waa Waa pedal should be interposed between instrument and amplifier and the effect is produced when the pedal is moved to and fro whilst playing.

If desired a switch can be incorporated in a small box located near the main unit so that the latter can be bypassed for normal play. The circuit diagram for this is shown in Fig. 7 and a double-pole double-throw switch should be used.

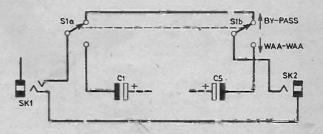


Fig. 7. Wiring details for connecting a by-pass switch.



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 21/3055 MULLARD POLYESTER'S Transistors MULLARD POLYESTER CAPACITORS C280 SERIES 250 V P.C. mounting: 0-01µF,0-015µF, 0-22µF,31p.0-35µF,0-047µF,0-068µF,4p.0-4µF,41p 0-15µF,0-22µF,51p.0-33µF,7p.0-47µF,91p.0-68µF,12p.1-0µF,14p.1-5µF,22p.2-2µF,27p 1_9 23p 27p 10 plus MULLARD POLYESTER CAPACITORS C296 SERIES 100 V: 0 001μF, 0 0015μF, 0 0027μF, 0 003μF, 0 0047μF, 21p. 0 0066μF, 0 01μF, 0 015μF 0 022μF, 0 033μF, 31p. 0 047μF, 0 005μF, 0 1μF, 41p. 0 15μF, 61p. 0 22μF, 81p. 0 35μF, 12p. 0 47μF, 14p. 160 V: 0 01μF, 0 015μF, 0 22μF, 0 033μF, 0 047μF, 0 068μF, 3p. 0 1μF 31p. 0 15μF, 44p. 0 22μF, 51p. 0 33μF, 61p. 0 47μF, 81p. 0 68μF, 12p. 1 0μF, 14p. FULLY MARKED TYPES AD161. AD162 M/P 1-9 10 plus 59p VOLUME CONTROLS Potentiometers Carbon track 500 Ω to 2-2M Ω Log or Linear Single 18p.-Dual gang (stereo) 44p Single type with D.P. switch 13g extra. RECTIFIERS P.I.V. 1 AMP 1-5 AMP BC107-BC108 BC109 IN4001 44p IN4002 44p IN4003 54p IN4004 54p IN4004 54p IN4005 8p IN4006 9p IN4006 9p IN4007 10p PL4001 8p 50 1-9 10-99 100 phus 99 89 819 PL4001 89 PL4002 9p PL4003 10p PL4004 10p PL4005 13p PL4006 15p PL4007 20p 100 200 400 600 SLIDE POTENTIOMETERS SEIDE FOIENTIOMETERS SEMM, TRACK SINGLE GANGED, LOG or LIN 1k to 1M. (50 each TWIN GANGED, LOG or LIN 1k to 500k. 669 each. BC 182L:-3-4-212-4 1-9 9p 10 plus 8p 800 1000 CARBON SKELETON PRESETS AC127 or AC128 1-9 13p 10 plus 13p 100 plus 13p BRIDGE RECTIFIERS Small high quality type (linear only). All vaires 100-5 meg ohms. --1 watt 5ip cach -2:5 watt 6ip cach P.I.V. 1 AMP 2 AMP 5 AMP 10 AMP 33p 85p 87p 40p 44p 49p £1.76p £2.20p 58p 57p 60p 64p 68p 50 100 200 400 600 800 £2-31p £2-42p £2-75p 0-15 Matrix 19p 28p 0-1 Matrix 28p 28p 28p \$1.98p \$2.15p \$2.42p VEROBOARD
 14p
 Matrix
 Matrix
 Matrix

 18p
 24in × 34in
 18p
 28p

 18p
 24in × 36in
 28p
 28p

 18p
 34in × 34in
 23p
 28p

 18p
 34in × 36in
 33p
 32p

 18p
 34in × 36in
 32p
 30p

 18p
 56in × 17in (plain)
 94p

 24p
 Vero Pins (bag of 36), 22p
 Vero Pins (bag of 36), 22p

 24p
 Vero Pins (bag of 36), 22p
 1and

 19p
 -16 matrix) at 61p.
 ZENER 400 M/W 5% Miniature BZY 88 Range THYRISTORS All voltages 3-3-33 Volt Sp each PIV 50 100 200 300 400 SLIDE SWITCH SPST 11p each. D.P.D.T. 18p each. 41 60 1-01 44 25 58 50 96 66 1.24 1 watt 5% MINIATURE NEON LAMPS 240V or 110V 1-4 5p, 5 plus 41p each. All voltages 6-8-200 Volts 14p each MINITRON DIGITAL INDICATOR TYPE 3015F Reads 0-9 and decimals (Data Sheet on request) ONLY £1:50 IS DVI. Stoket RESISTORS t wait 5% carbon 19 each t wait 5% carbon 19 each 1 wait 10% carbon 29 each Range 10 ohms to 4.7 meg. 4 wait m/o 2% 39 each Range 10-1 meg ohms 11p 10 watt 5% All Voitages 7-5-100 Voite 51p each 16 DIL Socket Driven by 7447 330 £1-05

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