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DPDT standard slide
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Toggle switch DPDT 1 amp 250 V ac
Rotary on-off mains switeh
Push switch - Push to make
Push switch - Push to break
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A fange of rocker
In hlgh insulation
choice of colours idea
for small apparatus

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## SWIICHES

## escription

PDT standard slide
oggle switch DPDT 1 amp 250 V ac
Push switch - Push to make
ROCKER SWITCH
A range of rocker
switches SPST-moulded
In hlgh insulation
for small apparatus

## $\begin{array}{ll}\text { Colour } & \text { No. } \\ \text { RED } & 1980 \\ \text { BLACK } & 1981 \\ \text { WHITE } & 1982 \\ \text { BLUE } & 1983 \\ \text { YELLOW } & 1984 \\ \text { LUMINOUS } & 1985\end{array}$

Description
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Miniature DPDT toggle centre of 2 amp
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Rastic button gives simple 1 pole change over action $\quad 1970 \quad$ co. 29
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LED's (diffused)


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1 ín car inlline type
I In car inline type
Panel mounting 20 mm
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$\mathbf{5 1 0}$ 6p
10 p
$\begin{array}{lllllllll}250 \mathrm{~mA} & 612 & 6 p & 1.5 A & 616 & 7 p & 4 A & 620 & 10 p \\ 550 \mathrm{~mA} & 613 & 6 p & 2 A & 617 & 6 p & 5 A & 621 & 6 p\end{array}$
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| 500 mA | 624 | $1.6 A$ | 627 | $5 A$ | 630 |

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## Projects...Theory...

## and Popular Features ...

These last few weeks before Christmas are hectic ones for the typical household and this has been borne in mind in planning this month's issue.

One of the many extra chores that have to be organised is the setting up of decorative lights, but this is not always a simple and trouble-free operation.

Anyone who has had experience in handling strings of miniature alectric light bulbs knows only too well the trouble that can be caused by just a single defective bulb. This is always a possibility, especially in the case of lights that have been in one's possession for a number of years and are brought out of storage annually to provide another brief but scintilbating performance.

Anything that helps the harassed householder to pin-point the fault quickly will be welcome at this time. Such helpful practical guidance is offered this month in our special feature Xmas Lights Without Tears. The same article also gives ideas for improving the overall reliability of decorative lights.

Dealing with a closely related theme is Xmas Bright Ideas which provides a few novel circuit ideas for electronically controlling decorative lights. These can be put to imaginafive use by our readers to enhance the overall effects of such illuminalions.

Coming now to fully detailed projects, time is short we realise but constructors should be able to complate at least one of our three simple novelties before Christmas.

That perennial problem of seeking out unusual and interesting small gifts for children could be solved with our Everlasting Candle or the Peg-A-Hole game; while the Twinkling Star will add further lustre to any Christmas Tree, or fit into other decorative arrangements.

All three are easy to build, need but a few circuit components and make use of commonplace materials and items found around the home.

From among the other projects this month we make special mention of the Lightcall, principally because this simple device could be of great service to the hard-of-hearing. Its construction and installation would be a worth-while task (during the Christmas vacation?) for any enthusiast who knows of a neighbour or relative who would appreciate a visual back-up for the doorbell or chimes.


Our January issue will be published on Friday, December 14. See page 817 for details.

## Readers' Enquiries

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Fig. 2. Simple and convenient means of connecting a diode in series with the Christmas Lights. See text for details.
ming of filament lamps has a dramatic effect in increasing the life. It is thought that these lights are too bright anyway-the pinpricks of brilliant light can be very distracting. There seems to be a definite case for introducing a slight dimming.
A cheap and extremely simple way of achieving this is to connect a suitable diode in series with the chain of lights. This rectifies the mains supply so that current only flows on one of the half cycles. A small diode may be chosen which will fit inside the mains plug as shown in Fig. 2.

The diode may be connected (either way round) in the neutral lead using a hooked connection for the lead out of the plug. This connection must be soldered. The cable clamp on the plug must be tight so that a trial tug on the wire cannot dislodge the wire from the diode. As virtually no heat is generated in the diode it will be quite safe in position.

## DIODE RATING

The diode must be capable of withstanding the current required for the lights and also must have a voltage rating at least equal to the peak voltage of the mains supply. For a 240 volt mains it will be necessary to choose a diode with at least 340 volts working. The type 1N4004 is ideal.

Experiments yielded no noticeable flickering as might be expected from such an arrangement (the current is turned off for half the wave cycle and the filaments in the bulbs have a chance to cool down a little before the next current pulse arrives).

As a general rule, the resistance of a metallic conductor rises with increased temperature. When a lamp is under-run it will operate at a lower temperature than normal so its resist. ance will be lower. This means that a higher average current will flow in the lamp than theory predicts. This

Fig. 1. Lamps in Chrisimas Lights are connected as shown above-in series.
ultimately means that the dimming effect is not as great as might be imagined but it is still significant.

Obviously a transformer could be used to reduce the voltage applied to the lights. This idea was ruled out on the grounds of cost and size.

## BULB ACTS AS RESISTOR

Another way to achieve dimming is to connect a suitable resistor in series with the lights. The disadvantage of a resistor is that it dissipates heat and could be dangerous for this reason. The advantage over the diode idea is that the effect may be controlled by suitable selection of the value of the resistor. This idea was almost ruled out on safety grounds until experiments with mains lamps as resistors were investigated. Here the heat is far less likely to be a problem and there is no difficulty with the housing or connections.

In operation the mains lamp will probably glow a little. The light may be used to illuminate a Christmas scene or just hidden out of the way. A standard bayonet lampholder is used in series with the chain. In the author's case, the correct effect was obtained with a 60 watt lamp but there is room for experiment here. As mains voltage exists along the chain it is essential to make proper connections to the lampholder.

Beware of calculations based on the resistance of the lamp-once more, the temperature effect of resistance makes such figures misleading. For instance, the calculated value of the resistance of a 60 watt lamp is about 1 kilohm. However, a multimeter indicates a resistance of only 80 ohms! Under working conditions, the resistance of the lamp will be somewhere between these extremes.

## USING A CAPACITOR

An excellent, if unconventional, way to dim the lights was found. This was to connect a capacitor in series with the chain. A capacitor allows an a.c. current to flow but not d.c. In a way, a capacitor behaves as a resistor as far as a.c. is concerned but there is one important difference. A capacitor produces no heat and wastes no energy.
A good effect was obtained with a $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ capacitor but a brighter operation was obtained with $2 \cdot 2 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ (or two $1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ capacitors wired in parallel) When
buying a capacitor it must be a good quality component with a working voltage of at least 340 volts. On no account must it be an electrolytic capacitor. These are polarised and must not be used in a.c. work of this kind.

Another idea is to connect a few more bulbs of the same type in series with the chain. An old, discarded set of lights would be ideal for the purpose. Care must be taken over the quality of the joints. Trial and error will soon reveal the best number of additional lamps.

It would be possible to replace all the 6 volt bulbs in a 40 lamp set with the 12 volt variety designed for 20 lamp sets. It is likely that the final effect would be too dim, however. Unless lamps have the same current rating, it is important not to mix lamps of different voltages.

## TRACING FAULTY BULB

So much for extending the lives of bulbs. Now for the other problemthat of finding which bulb has blown when failure occurs. The most obvious way is to replace the lamps one by one with a lamp known to be good. Alternatively, each lamp may be tested with a battery. This is a tedious job especially when the blown bulb is


Fig. 3. Construction details for making a test lamp.



Fig. 5. Procedure for tracing a faulty bulb in a string of tweive series connected bulbs.
the last one in the chain to be tested! Another problem is that when the bulbs are on the tree it is easy to miss one. Although the following method sounds complicated at first it greatly reduces the time required to locate the faulty lamp.

## TEST LAMPS

Three "test lamps" are made in the following way. Old "blown" (nonfunctioning) bulbs have the glass broken and carefully removed. The wires leading to the filament are then gently twisted together and a short length of wire soldered to them as seen in Fig. 3. The whole joint is protected with a little quick setting epoxy resin adhesive.
As well as these test lamps, a multimeter will be required. If none is available, a suitable alternative is an 1.e.d. connected in series with a 470 ohm resistor and a 9 volt battery (as shown in Fig. 4). When using l.e.d.s it should be remembered that they will only work one way round with the battery. For all the following the plug is disconnected from the mains.

## EXAMPLE

For simplicity of description, imagine a set of only 12 lamps with number 8 blown, Fig. 5. A lamp near the centre of the chain (say LP6) is replaced with a test lamp. Checks are then made with the multimeter set to ohms or with the le.d. between the wire end on the test lamp and the Live and Neutral pins on the mains plug in turn.

In this example, a low ohms reading (or l.e.d. on) will be indicated between the test lamp and the Neutral but a high ohms value (or l.e.d. off) between this and the Live pin. This shows that the fault lies in the latter half of the chain. In this way the fault has been narrowed to one half of the chain. Naturally, if a low reading is indicated in both of these tests, then the faulty lamp is the one which has been replaced with the test lamp i.e. LP6. A high reading in both tests will indicate a faulty bulb in each half.
Having established which is the faulty half, another test lamp is connected about half way along that section (say LP9). Checks are then
made as above between the test lamp just inserted and that already in LP6 and the live pin of the plug in turn. In the example, a high reading will be indicated between LPG and LP9. This locates the faulty quarter of the chain.

## FURTHER CHECKS

A similar check will narrow the location of the bulb still further but when it has been found to within two or three bulbs it is simpler to check by substitution than to pursue the above method any further.

With a 40 lamp set, one operation will find which " 20 " the fault lies in. The next operation will find which " 10 " and the third operation will locate which " 5 ". Another test may be used to find which " 2 " or " 3 ", then substitution used.

One day someone may invent very reliable l.e.d. Christmas tree light sets -there are some very good colours these days. Until that time the foregoing may help to avoid unnecessary aggro during the festive-season.

I

##  

## SANTA'S EYES

Among the many decorations used at Christmas time is a cardboard face of Santa Claus. By use of the circuit in Fig. 1 Santa's eyes can be made to wink (or flash) at you.
The circuit uses a 555 timer i.c. wired as an astable multivibrator. The flashing rate is set by the values of R1, R2, VR1 and Cl . The output at pin 3 alternately switches at this rate between 0 V and +9 V . Thus for
pin 3 at 0 V , D1 is lit with D2 off; for pin 3 at +9 V , D2 is lit and D1 off.
If the l.e.d.s are fitted in the eye positions on the "Santa card". he will appear to be winking at you. A red knob on VR1 placed at Santa's nose will add to the effect and allow the flashing rate to be altered to suit. Lots of fun for the children.

Alternatively, a single l.e.d. could be used on a cardboard replica of "Rudolph" at his nose position.


Fig. 1.

## FLASHING TREE LIGHTS

The Christmas tree lights can be caused to repeatedly flash on and off by the application of the circuit in Fig. 2. Once again, a single 555 timer i.c. is used in the astable mode with its output feeding a relay coil.

The relay contacts are wired to act as a switch in series with the string of lamps. The contacts need to be of the normally closed (n.c.) variety to allow the lamps to be on (no flashing) when the unit is switched off. The contact rating must be 240 V a.c. at a current to suit the total bulb load.

Resistor R1 is made small in relation to R2 to obtain an almost $1: 1$ mark/space ratio; R2 and C1 control the operation rate which has been arranged to flash at 0.5 Hz .

When the output at pin 3 is low $(0 \mathrm{~V})$, the relay coil is not activated and the contacts are closed and the lamps are lit. When pin 3 goes high $(+9 \mathrm{~V})$ the coil is energised and the contacts open and the lights are switched off. Thus under running conditions, the lamps are alternately switched on and off at 0.5 Hz producing a low-rate flashing effect.


## XMAS SOUND-TO-LIGHT

For the teenage fraternity the circuit of Fig. 4 is included. This converts the sound picked up by a microphone into a flashing light pattern-the lights being a string on a Xmas tree.

Almost any microphone can be used and is placed close to a source of music such as that from a loudspeaker of a record player for example. The signals are first amplified (or attenuated) by a variable gain amplifier, ICl and then isolated and boosted by the action of T1. The resultant signal on the secondary of the "step-up" transformer is connected to the gate terminal of a mains thyristor loaded with the string of lights.

The lamps flash in time with the amplitude peaks of the music heard in the loudspeaker. The threshold of triggering is variable by means of VR1. The i.c. amplifier is battery poweredtwo PP3 batteries are suitable.

## BELL-LIGHTS

With the party in full swing it is sometimes difficult to hear the doorbell when it rings. The circuit of Fig. 3 will announce the arrival of a caller by flashing the lights on the Christmas tree (or elsewhere) for a period of about 15 seconds when the bell-push is operated. After this time the lights return to their constant illumination condition.

Here two 555 timers are employed, one wired as an astable with the other as a monostable.

The reset terminal, pin 4 of IC2 (astable configuration) is linked to the output of 1 Cl which is at 0 V in the untriggered condition. This inhibits the operation of IC2.

Integrated circuit ICl is switched on for a time governed by the values of R3 and Cl when a low voltage (less than 3 V ) is received on pin 2, the trigger input. This happens when the bell push is operated via TRI functioning as an inverter. ICl, pin 3, goes high allowing IC2 to oscillate and cause the relay contacts to open and close as described for Fig. 2. Contacts müst be capable of handling mains voltages.

The astable here runs $a_{i}$ a faster rate than the previous astable to produce a more startling effect.

The lights will flash for each successive operation of the bell-push after the expiration of the monostable "on" time for each push.


By F. G. Rayer

THis game is suitable for one or more players, and can be of any grade of difficulty, from the very easy to almost impossible. In play, shaped metal plates with holes drilled at their centres are placed one by one on a metal peg using a "stick" fitted with a crocodile clip. As the size of the hole becomes smaller and smaller, so does the successful placing of the piece on the peg become more and more difficult. An additional "hazard" is the releasing of the plate from the crocodile clip. This device can therefore be used to measure co-ordination and a steady hand.

## RULES OF PLAY

A single player can find how small a hole he can successfully peg, or can place the metal pieces while timing himself. Two players can take it in turns to place the pieces, until one (the loser) fails, or they can compete individually while timing the successful placing of a certain number of plates.
The game can be made more interesting for two players (or teams) by using say 10 pieces and numbering them 1 to 10 , these being the points scored for successfully placing the piece on the peg. The point value is to be inversely proportional to the hole size i.e. the smallest hole-10 pts, the largest hole-l pt.
The players take turns and are allowed to choose any piece to try and peg. If successful they score its point value. If they fail, that players score so far is reduced by the point value of that piece but that piece remains on the peg. The winner is the player with the highest score after all ten pieces have been played.

## CIRCUIT OPERATION

The complete circuit diagram of the Peg-a-Hole game is seen in Fig. 1.

The circuit uses a thyristor, CSR1. This device exhibits an open circuit between anode and cathode until a positive voltage is received at its gate terminal. The lamp LPl is normally off. The "peg" is wired to the gate terminal.

The crocodile clip which is used for gripping the actual playing pieces is connected via R1 to the positive supply rail. Thus when a gripped metal
plate touches the peg, with SI closed, a positive voltage appears on the gate terminal and causes CSRI to turn on, (anode effectively shorted to cathode) resulting in LPI being lit. The lamp remains on even if the contact to the peg is broken, and can only be turned off by means of SI.

A 6.3 V 150 mA bulb is fitted, but a 3.5 V 300 mA bulb could be used instead. A three-cell 4.5 volt battery is adequate, but 6 V could be used, with a bulb to suit.

## ASSEMBLY ON BASE

The game is constructed on a board about $200 \times 150 \mathrm{~mm}$ and 12 to 18 mm or so thick as seen in Fig. 2.

The metal peg used in the prototype was a 76 mm long nail, driven through from the bottom. Recess the wood for the head, or drive it flat with the surface. Solder on a wire and bring it up through a hole near to where the tagstrip is to be positioned. This is the gate ( $g$ ) connection to the thyristor.

Screw the batten mounting lampholder and the tagstrip to the board and solder the components to the strip and wire the latter to the holder. $A$ strip of aluminium, about 115 mm long and 20 mm wide should be shaped to secure the battery to the board, and fitted by means of two screws.

Switch SI consists of a strip of metal, bearing on a round-héaded screw. It is simply lifted with one's finger to break circuit. And may be rotated to one side to leave the game permanently off. A conventional switch, or push-for-off switch could be used instead.

Convenient and economical battery connectors for the 1289 battery can be made from paper clips soldered to lengths of p.v.c. covered wire.

A sheet of cardboard glued to the underside will protect the wiring and the playing area. Four rubber feet fitted to the underside will afford the same protection and enhance the appearance.

## PLAYING PIECES

The "gripper" for the playing pieces is made by feeding about 50 cm of flexible p.v.c. covered wire, fitted with a crocodile clip at one end, through an old Biro pen case. The clip should be a tight push fit into the end, otherwise it will need to be glued. The free end is then soldered to the tag strip.

The metal playing pieces used by the author were rectangular in shape and cut from stout scrap aluminium sheet ( 16 s.w.g.). Any shape could be used e.g. triangular, circular, hexagonal, etc., or a combination of different shapes for the sake of appearance, with a range of different sized holes drilled at each plate centre.

## PLAY

Several different ideas for playing have been discussed earlier, and no doubt constructors will devise their own rules for the game.

Beside its obvious amusement value, this unit has a more serious application in testing a persons co-ordination and could be used in this connection with children, the hole sizes probably being enlarged.



Fig. 1. Circuit diagram of the Peg-a-Hole game.

## COMPONENTS

R1
$2 \cdot 2 \mathrm{k} \Omega \frac{1}{4} \mathrm{~W}$ carbon $\pm 5 \%$
CSR1 CSR1/05 or other type to accommodate LP1 current

LP1 $\quad 6.3 \mathrm{~V} 150 \mathrm{~mA}$ A.e.s. bulb
B1 $\quad 4.5 \mathrm{~V}$ type 1289
S1 single-pole on/off (homemade type used in prototype)
Batten mounting m.e.s. bulb holder; standard crocodile clip; 4-way tag strip with support; aluminium plate; woodscrews (7 off); pen case; flexible wire; wood for base; rubber feet; 76 mm long wire nail; paper clips (2 off)



Fig. 2. Completed game showing interwiring and suggested dimensions for the metal pieces.


The complete game showing stick and metal pieces.

THE purpose of this useful gadget is to provide a convenient portable form of light for the odd nocturnal visit to the bathroom. It also has the added advantages that it will never fail because of a used-up battery, and it is easy to find in the dark because of the tiny glow from the incorporated light emitting diode.

## CIRCUIT DESCRIPTION

The circuit diagram is shown in Fig. 1. It consists of a $1 \cdot 25 \mathrm{~V}$ m.e.s. bulb and rechargeable battery wired in parallel with the transformer secondary and an l.e.d.

With the candle in position on the charger board, S 2 opens turning off the lamp, and S1 closes completing the circuit from the secondary of the transformer. The light emitting diode D1 acts as a rectifier and the battery is supplied with a charging current.

When the candle is removed, $\mathrm{S}_{2}$ closes turning on the light, and SI opens switching off the battery charging circuit. The resistor R1 is used to reduce the charging voltage to a suitable value. Besides acting as a rectifier, Dl also serves to show when charging is taking place.

## CHARGER BOARD

It is best to start construction with the board for the charger. This consists of a piece of plywood $150 \mathrm{~mm} x$ $100 \mathrm{~mm} \times 15 \mathrm{~mm}$. To determine the positions of S1 and magnet B, take the ceiling rose and remove the terminal block. This can easily be done using a hot soldering iron and some ingenuity.

Place the rose on the board about 10 mm from one end, draw round it and mark the position of the terminal block and lower knock out panel. Recesses can now be cut in the board so that reed switch Sl and magnet $B$ can be mounted flush with the surface as shown in Fig. 2a. Note that magnet B is offset. This is because the contacts in S2 are at one end of the glass envelope and not in the centre.

Two holes should now be drilled through the board to take the leads from Sl , which can now be mounted and secured in position by bending its wires carefully with pliers. Glue magnet $B$ in place.

## CANDLE

Construction of the candle itself can start next. The switch $S 2$ consists of part of a single-pole changeover reed switch. The unwanted "normally open" contact wire should be cut off carefully about 5 mm from the glass. This switch can now be glued with Araldite onto the base of the ceiling rose in the recess where the terminal block used to be, see Fig. 3, making sure that the contacts of the switch are on the right hand side. Magnet $A$ can then be glued down over the lower knock-out panel.

## ROSE GUIDES AND CONTACTS

At this stage the ceiling rose base should be placed on the charger board to make sure that S1 and S2 are aligned properly and are working. The top of the charger board can then be covered with Formica or similar laminate.

The rose guides can be mounted next. These are positioned by placing the ceiling rose base in the correct operating position on the charger board, drawing round it and spacing out the rose guides about 5 mm outside this circle.

Next the charger contacts are fixed in position. These are made of large brass drawing pins with 24 s.w.g. tinned copper wire attached to them and are located in the following way. Place the rose base on the charger board and mark the position of the mounting screw holes. A small hole is then drilled through the board at these points to take the contact wires and then the contacts themselves are secured (glued) in position.

Finally the transformer and associated components can be mounted and wired up as shown in Fig. 2b and c. The underside of the board should be finished with a protective covering e.g. hardboard, and a small ventilated plastic box fitted over the transformer for safety reasons.

The contacts on the underside of the ceiling rose can be fitted next. These consist of short 2BA bolts with solder tags mounted on the inside, see Fig. 3. These should be countersunk so they lie flush with the rest of the underside. Replace the cover on the rose and place it in its correct operating position on the charger board. Mark the desired location of the l.e.d. and carrying handle, drill suitable size holes and fit these components.

Assembly of the candle unit can now be completed. Take one of the end caps, cut it down to about 15 mm in length and drill a hole in the centre just big enough to fit over the hole in the top of the ceiling rose. Glue this on to the ceiling rose cover. The other end cap should be similarly treated so that it can take lamp LP1.

## COMPLETING ASSEMBLY

Wires are then soldered onto the battery and lamp according to Fig. 3 and the two solder tags fitted to the ceiling rose cover. Complete the wiring and slot the unit together. Care should be taken to wire the l.e.d. in the way shown or the battery will not charge and may be damaged.

As a finishing touch some form of location marks can be put on the board and candle to ensure that it is always set down in the right position.

## COMPONENTS -

[^2]

Fig. 1. Complete circuit diagram of the Everlasting Candle.


The "candle" being removed from the charger base. For safety reasons a plastic cover must be placed over the mains transformer.


Fig. 3. Component layout of the candle unit.


Fig. 2. Component layout of charger board showing (a) top side before covering with Formica, (b) top side after covering, (c) the underside.

TMin
BNE:N.N

## POWER SUPPLY SECTION

Mains voltage is placed across the primary of T1 via Sl resulting in 6 V a.c. appearing across Tl secondary. This is half-wave rectified by Dl to produce pulsed d.c. to reservoir capacitor Cl which results in a fairly smooth d.c. level of about 9 volts at Cl positive terminal.

## STAR

The construction is in two distinct parts, the encased circuit board/ transformer and the star lamp wiring. Four wires interconnect the two.
The prototype five-pointed star was made from hardboard and covered with aluminium cooking foil and edged with tinsel. The star was drawn inside a 30 cm diameter circle. This dimension is not critical and can be altered to suit application.

With the hardboard cut to shape drill the six lampholder mounting holes. The size will vary according to holders obtained. Secure the plastic four-way terminal block in place using countersunk bolts. Crinkled foil (or other covering) can now be lightly glued or folded over the edges to hold in place followed by the fixing of the lampholders which can then be interconnected according to Fig. 2.

## CIRCUIT BOARD

The remainder of the components with the exception of the transformer were mounted on a small piece of 0.1 inch matrix stripboard size 19 strips $\times 22$ holes with breaks made on the underside as seen in Fig. 3.

Assemble the components as shown in Fig. 3 including the flying leads and then fix this and the transformer to the base of the case. The four wires from the board reach the externally mounted screw terminal block via a small hole drilled in the case. The mains cable enters the case, near the transformer, via a cable strain relief bush or other means of securing cable.

Insert the bulbs in their holders and interconnect the two sections and plug into the mains. A twinkling star should be seen. which should add sparkle to your festive decorations. [


Fig. 1. The complete circuit diagram of the Twinkling Star including an integral power supply unit. Alternately, a battery eliminator can be employed, see text.

Fig. 2. The positioning and wiring details of lamp-holders and terminal block on the rear face of the hardboard star.
£4.20
excluding case


## COMPONENTS

Resistors
R1 $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$
R2 1MS2
R3 $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$
R4 $1.5 \mathrm{M} \Omega$
All f W carbon $\pm 5 \%$
Capacitors
C1 $1000 \mu \mathrm{~F} 10 \mathrm{~V}$ elect.
$\mathrm{C} 2,3 \quad 0 \cdot 22 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ plastic (2 off)

## Semiconductors

D1 IN4001 or other 1A silicon diode
IC1, 2555 timer i.c. (2 off)
Miscellaneous
LP1-LP5 6 V 100 mA m.e.s. bulbs (5 off)
LP6 6 V 40 mA m.e.s. bulb
T1 mains primary/ 6 V 500 mA sec ondary
S1 mains on/off toggle Stripboard: $0 \cdot 1$ inch matrix 19 strips $\times 22$ holes; m.e.s. lampholders (6 off); 4-way plastic screw terminal block ( 2 off); p.v.c. covered wire; materials for star; case; 6BA fixings; solder tag; mains cable.


Fig. 3. (Above and right). Shows the layout of the components on the topside of the board (and breaks to be made on the underside) fitted in the case with complete interwiring details.


TO S 1$\}$

$\sigma$


## Choosing Your Game

The world of video games is now moving so fast that almost anything written about specific brand name products and their price is likely to be out of date before it's published. Here then are some more general guidelines which could help anyone thinking of buying a game for themselves or their children.

First and foremost the word "game" is now a misnomer; many video games or toys could equally well be called "educational aids". But advertising men know full well that the word "education" is the kiss of death to large sales.

So microprocessor-based fully programmable systems which can be used for education will often be sold under the generic label "TV Game". Children and adults who would normally run a mile at any suggestion that they should take up home computing, can be hooked on the idea while thinking that they are simply playing games with a toy

It's fascinating for instance to watch children in a modern amusement arcade striving to beat the ever more sophisticated computer games that are appearing. Without realising it they are learning to interface with a computer display screen and thereby learning skills that will be of real value to them in this modern age.
In the beginning, which in this fast moving field of technology is only about five years ago, all TV games were built up from literally dozens of discrete chips and transistors. After 1976, when GI produced a single i.c. (integrated circuit) offering six games, the price fell significantly.

## Dedicated Game

But all those early games, whether based on discrete circuitry or the single chip, were "dedicated" i.e. completely inflexible over the choice of game. To extend the choice of games, and to make the games more complicated, required the provision of more digital memory to store more game instructions.

One early idea was to store the game instructions on a cassette tape and this approach was patented by Sanders Associates. This is the American research firm who invented and patented the
original concept of TV games, but subsequently sold the licensing rights to Magnavox (the North American subsidiary of Philips).

## Brain Power

The idea of taped game instructions didn't catch on and designers came up with the idea of a semi-programmable game. The basic game circuit contains very little memory and is thus like a body without a brain.

The brain power comes in cartridges, each with enough ROM (or Read Only Memory) to instruct the game body how to play one or more specific games. The more complicated the games and thus the more instructions needed, the fewer the games that can be stored in a single cartridge.

Semi-programmable games of this type tend to be fairly cheap, currently as low as $£ 30$ for the game body and around £10 a time for each cartridge of brain power. A major disadvantage is the lack of long term flexibility.

## Fully Programmable

A fully programmable game costs more because the body contains a microprocessor and is thus really a mini-computer. One of the cheapest is the Philips Videopac G7000 which is made by Magnavox in the USA and sold here for around $£ 150$.

Fully programmable games are very flexible and thus of greater long term value to the owner.

The microprocessor has a Random Access Memory or ram. The instructions necessary for programming the micro to play a TV game are stored in a ROM contained in a cartridge superficially similar to that used for a semi-programmable game.

When the cartridge is plugged into the game, its ROM dumps programming instructions for the game into the micro RAM.
In the Philips-Magnavox game the microprocessor has an 8 K bit ROM of its own which permanently offers enough basic memory to generate characters and graphics on the screen under the control of whatever game instructions are fed into
the microprocessor RAM by the cartridge ROM. The micro RAM has a capacity of 2 K bits and the cartridge ROM has a 16 K bit capacity.

The instructions are grouped in 8 bit words and transferred from the cartridge ROM to the micro RAM at a rate of around 5 Megabits per second. So although the cartridge is programming the micro-processor like a human operator, it's far, far faster than any human could ever hope to be.

In practice it takes an eight man team at Magnavox around a month to write the programme for each new game and the cartridge ROM dumps them into the micro RAM in well under a second!

Because the cartridge ROM has a greater capacity than the micro RAM, each cartridge can contain several different games, for instance several versions of car racing and moon landing, or one much more complex, multi-stage game like golf or baseball which is continually scanned by the micro while the game is played. With a fully programmable game it is theoretically possible to use something other than a cartridge ROM to supply the micro RAM with instructions.

## Cable Games

One idea currently gaining support in the USA is for cable TV stations to pipe not just TV entertainment into the home, but a choice of TV game programmes. Several of the British TV companies are working on the idea of transmitting game programmes over the air.

A special interface cartridge links the micro RAM to the cable TV outlet or TV receiver and in a split second the micro is programmed to play a completely new game. And of course the game needn't be a game. If the unit has a typewriter style keyboard, as well as ordinary joystick game controls, it can be used in the manner of a budget computer and even used as a video film titling machine.

You type out a phrase on the keyboard and connect the system output to the input of a video recorder; the phrase is then "written" directly onto video tape. There's also the possibility of interface with an ordinary audio cassette recorder, to enable information typed into the keyboard to be stored as a digital recording on an audio cassette.

## Making a Choice

Indeed, the possibilities with a fully programmable video games system are virtually limitless. But how does a customer know whether a game is fully- or only semi-programmable?

Obviously prices are one indication. At current levels a games unit costing around $£ 30$ will almost certainly be only semi-programmable. But how to tell whether a unit costing around $£ 150$ is a good-value for money fully-programmable unit or an overpriced semi-programmable?

Unfortunately, there's no really foolproof rule of thumb. The best guide is avallability or otherwise of a keyboard. If the unit either has a built in alpha-numeric (i.e. typewriter style) keyboard, or if such a keyboard can be used as an optional extra, then it will be fully programmable.

If there is no keyboard facility possible, and the game has just fader or joystick controls, it's an odds on certainty that it's only semi-programmable.


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This month we show some of the circuit symbols and circuit references used in E.E. circuit diagrams to represent components and their interconnections.

## CAPACITORS





Variable inductance coll with ferrite core

Transformer with laminated core, no tappings

"Earth" connection
(a) to earth
(b) to chasels

Continuous craened lead

## 

## 

## ACRO88

1 \& 5 Means of preventing alternatlve clrcuits (10, 4).
\# Fandom electrical diecharge produces sound action in such a manner.
9 Personal Induction.
10 To oppose electrically.
12 Coulombs per volt,
14 Use Xorayn for creatlve activity.
16 Roof cover.
18 Vegetative vehlcle decay baric. ally caused by electrolytlc action.
10 Specialisen in entertainment by means of electronic display.
20 Descriptive of one who is rather rude and basic.
28. Valve interior, posalbly needed for 14 across unless you are 20 across.
25 To run lazily.
28 I moan Ma , about a gas (Anag.).

27100 db ?
28

$(B, B$,

## DOWN

8 Discharge tube shows red light.
8


4 Volts per amp.
5 Examination intended to ind. cate fault, even, perhaps, a coaking.
8 The output ond of lines of force?
8 Equine goad of circuit exten. slon.
11 Creator of electrical embar rassment, possibly by 20 actoss.
12 1dB?
18 Galvo which is never ecstatic.


Solution on page 730
15 \& 21 Communications natellite which got the worm? $(5,4)$.
17 Selection of one and then the other by means of a.c?
18 Element designed to respond to waves.
21 The triode provides an entertaining group.
22 Small unit of plant life.
28 Relaxation, but not a circuit.


N N the first part of this series, the simplest electric circuit was described. This consisted of a piece of wire connected to a battery. We saw how the electromotive force of the battery supplied electric charge to maintain the field across the wire.

In real life, it would be unwise to connect a wire directly across a battery, since either the wire or the battery would be damaged by the large current which would flow.

Electric current has already been defined as the rate of flow of charge. Since the wire across the battery caused too much current to flow, let us instead consider a resistor placed across the battery terminals (Fig. 3.1). The resistor/battery combination forms a closed loop and since we know that charge cannot build up in one place, an imaginary cross-section taken anywhere in the loop would show the same number of elec trons crossing it per second.

The actual rate of flow of charge (current) can be calculated as we know both the voltage across the resistor and the value of the resistor. The resistance in the loop due to the connecting leads and the battery itself we will ignore for the moment.

From Ohm's Law the current is found to be $V$ divided by $R$, where $V$ is the battery voltage and $R$ is the resistance. If the units we
measure in are volts and ohms respectively then the current will be in amperes.
We now have a complete description of the circuit-all currents and voltages have been specified.

## TWO RESISTOR CIRCUIT

Let us add one step of complication to the circuit by connecting another resistor in the circuit as shown in Fig. 3.2.

Again we have a simple loop so we must again deduce that the current in any part of the circuit


Fig. 3.2. This circuit shows two resistors in series with the battery.
must be the same. Hence the current in resistor $R_{\mathrm{A}}$ is the same as that in $R_{\mathrm{B}}$. If we call the current 1 we should be able to calculate it from a knowledge of the values of the two resistors and the battery voltage.
The electromotive force of the battery $V$ must be exactly equal to the sum of the potentials across the two resistors. Mathematically we can state this as

$$
V=V_{A}+V_{B}
$$

But for any resistor the potential difference between its ends is equal to the current flowing through it multiplied by the resistance. So

$$
V_{\mathrm{A}}=I \times R_{\mathrm{A}} \text { and } V_{\mathrm{B}}=I \times R_{\mathrm{B}}
$$

Combining these three equations we get

$$
\begin{array}{ll} 
& V=\left(I \times R_{\mathrm{N}}\right)+\left(I \times R_{\mathrm{B}}\right) \\
\text { or } & V=I \times\left(R_{\mathrm{A}}+R_{\mathrm{B}}\right)
\end{array}
$$

To get $l$ we simply divide both sides of the equation by ( $R_{\mathrm{A}}+R_{\mathrm{B}}$ ) obtaining

$$
I=V /\left(R_{\mathrm{B}}+R_{\mathrm{A}}\right)
$$

Stated in words this equation indicates that the current in this circuit is exactly the same as that which would flow if a resistor whose value was equal to that of the values of the two resistors added together was used in their place,

Fig. 3.1. (left) In this simple circuit all the voltages and currents are defined by application of Ohm's Law. An imaginary cut at any point in the circuit would show the same number of electrons crossing per second i.e. the same current.


Fig. 3.3. The two resistors in the circuit shown here are in parallel.

When the same current flows through two (or more) circuit components we say that the two components are in serles.
We can use the same sort of reasoning as used above to derive the result that if any number of resistors are placed in series then their overall resistance is equal to the sum of all the individual resistances.

## TWO LOOP CIRCUIT

There is an alternative way of connecting a second resistor in the circuit and this is shown in Fig. 3.3.
Here we have a new situation as we have departed from the simple single-loop circuit. The current from the battery now divides into two paths, some of it flowing in resistor $R_{\mathbf{A}}$ and some in resistor $R_{B}$; but how much in each?
Since charge cannot accumulate in any part of the circuit the current measured at the battery terminals must be equal to that flowing in the two resistors. Mathematically,

$$
I=I_{A}+I_{B}
$$

Both resistors have the same voltage across them so each of the currents can be simply derived.

$$
I_{A}=V / R_{A} \text { and } I_{\mathrm{A}}=V / R_{\mathrm{B}}
$$

Combining these two equations we get
or

$$
\begin{aligned}
& I=V / R_{A}+V / R_{3} \\
& I=V /\left(\frac{1}{R_{\Lambda}}+\frac{1}{R_{3}}\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

or

Fig. 3.4. (a) shows the circuit to be analysed (b) the series resistors replaced by a single resistor and (c) the parallel combination eliminated to give the required

(b)

We call the reciprocal of resistance (one divided by the resistance) the conductance of a resistor. The equation we have obtained can thus be stated in words by saying that the total current flowing in the circuit is the same as that which would flow if a resistor whose conductance is the sum of the two individual conductances is used in their place.
When two (or more) components have the same potential across them we say that they are in parallel.
For the oase of two resistors in parallel we can find the value of the single resistor which could replace them. Its conductance ( $1 / R$ ) must be equal to the sum of the two conductances.
So:

$$
1 / R=1 / R_{\mathrm{A}}+1 / R_{\mathrm{B}}
$$

But $\quad 1 / R_{\mathrm{A}}+1 / R_{\mathrm{z}}=\frac{R_{\mathrm{A}}+R_{\mathrm{B}}}{\boldsymbol{R}_{\mathrm{A}} \times R_{\mathrm{B}}}$
Thus $\quad \frac{1}{R}=\frac{R_{\mathrm{A}}+R_{\mathrm{g}}}{R_{\mathrm{A}} \times R_{\mathrm{B}}}$
Inverting both sides gives the required value of the equivalent resistance:

$$
R=\frac{R_{\mathrm{A}} \times R_{\mathbf{z}}}{R_{\mathrm{A}}+R_{\mathrm{E}}}
$$

When there are more than two resistors in parallel, it is not so simple to find the equivalent single resistance. It is necessary to take the reciprocal of each of the resistors, add them together and then take the reciprocal of the sum.
single loop. single loop.

(c)

## MORE COMPLEX CIRCUITS

It is worthwhile studying the results obtained above since the concepts of series and parallel elements are very useful in understanding how electronic circuits operate. Very often one will come across a fairly complex looking circuit but on inspection it appears to be simply a combination of series and parallel connections.

It should be noted that not all circuits are capable of being analysed into series and parallel units but it is unusual to find a circuit with no components or groups of components in one or other of these arrangements.

Let us look at a circuit which, while appearing complex at first sight, in fact breaks down into easily studied sub-units.

The circuit is shown in Fig. 3.4 and consists of four resistors connected to a battery. We want to find the current flowing from the battery.

Inspection shows that resistors $R_{\mathrm{c}}$ and $R_{\mathrm{D}}$ must be in series since they both have the same current flowing through them. They could therefore be replaced with a single resistor of value ( $R_{\mathrm{C}}+R_{\mathrm{D}}$ ), see Fig. 3.4b.

Let us call this new resistor (or imaginary resistor) $R_{\text {r }}$. It now becomes apparent that resistors $R_{B}$ and $R_{z}$ are in parallel, the value of the equivalent resistor being $\left(R_{B} \times R_{B}\right) /\left(R_{B}+R_{B}\right)$.

Let us redraw Fig. 3.4b inserting a new resistor $R_{r}$ in the place of the parallel combination, see Fig. 3.4c. Now $R_{P}$ is in series with $R_{A}$, the equivalent resistance being $R_{A}+R_{p}$. We can now find the battery current by simply dividing the battery voltage by $R_{i}+R_{r}$.

Let us insert some values into the circuit to see how the calculation goes.
$R_{\mathrm{E}}=100+200=300$ ohms
$R_{\mathrm{F}}=\frac{300 \times 300}{300+300}=150$ ohms
$R_{r}+R_{\mathrm{A}}=150+750=900$ ohms
$I=9 / 900=0.01 \mathrm{~A}$ or 10 mA
Knowing the battery current we can now work backwards and calculate all the voltages and currents in the circuit. We know the current in $R_{\Delta}$ is 10 mA so the potential difference across it must be $750 \times 0.01$ volts, that is 7.5 V . The voltage across $R_{P}$ must therefore be $9-7 \cdot 5=1 \cdot 5 \mathrm{~V}$.

The current through $R_{B}$ is $5 / 300=5 \mathrm{~mA}$ and the same current must flow through ( $R_{\mathrm{c}}+R_{\mathrm{D}}$ ). The voltage across $R_{c}$ is therefore $100 \times 0.05=0.5 \mathrm{~V}$ and that across $R_{\text {D }}$ must be $200 \times 0.05=1 \mathrm{~V}$.

## BRIDGE CIRCUITS

Take a look at the circuit in Fig. 3.5. It consists merely of four resistors connected to a battery with a meter placed across the junctions of the two pairs of resistors. At first sight one would not think this a very useful circuit but it is one that turns up a great deal in electronics.
we make the currents flowing in the rest of the circuit large as compared to the current in the meter then the error caused by neglecting the meter will be minimal.

If no current flows in the meter then it is effectively an open circuit. The circuit is thus reduced to a parallel arrangement of two sets of resistors in series.

The current flowing in the lefthand arm is given by $V /\left(R_{A}+R_{B}\right)$. The voltage at the junction of $R_{\Delta}$ and $R_{B}$ is therefore given by

$$
V_{\mathrm{A}}=R_{\mathrm{z}} \times I_{\mathrm{E}}=R_{\mathrm{E}} \times \frac{V}{\left(R_{\mathrm{A}}+R_{\mathrm{n}}\right)}
$$



Fig. 3.6. The simple bridge can be converted into an ohmmeter by using a potentiometer and fixing $\mathbf{R}_{\mathrm{g}}$.

The voltage measured by the meter is $V_{A}-V_{\mathrm{B}}$ which is

$$
\begin{gathered}
\frac{V \times R_{\mathrm{s}}}{R_{\mathrm{A}}+R_{\mathrm{B}}}-\frac{V}{R_{\mathrm{c}}} \frac{\times R_{\mathrm{D}}}{+R_{\mathrm{D}}} \\
\text { or } V \times\left(\frac{R_{\mathrm{s}}}{R_{\mathrm{A}}+R_{\mathrm{g}}}-\frac{R_{\mathrm{D}}}{R_{\mathrm{C}}+R_{\mathrm{D}}}\right)
\end{gathered}
$$

An interesting situation occurs when $V_{\Delta}=V_{B}$ for we obtain

$$
\frac{V \times R_{\mathrm{B}}}{R_{\mathrm{A}}+R_{\mathrm{B}}}=\frac{V \times R_{\mathrm{D}}}{R_{\mathrm{c}}+R_{\mathrm{D}}}
$$

Now since $V$ appears on both sides of the equation we can cancel it out, finally arriving at

$$
\frac{R_{\mathrm{B}}}{R_{\mathrm{A}}+R_{\mathrm{g}}}=\frac{R_{\mathrm{D}}}{R_{\mathrm{C}}+R_{\mathrm{D}}}
$$



Fig. 3.7. A simple electronic slide-rule can be achieved using four variable resistors (or potentiometers connected as variable resistors).

Let us make a few calculations so that we know exactly what is going on in the circuit. We will assume that the meter can measure voltage without any current passing through it. This may seem unrealistic but as long as

## PART 3 QUESTIONS

3.1. To reduce the current in a resistor should another resistor be placed:
(a) in parallel
(b) in series
(c) either
(d) neither
3.2. The following are sets of values for $R_{A}, R_{B}, R_{c}$ and $R_{0}$ in the bridge circuit of Fig. 3.3. Which will form a balanced circuit:
(a) $1000,2000,2000,4000$
(b) $1000,2000,3000,4000$
(c) $1000,2000,1,2$
(d) $100,1,100,100$

Similarly the current through the right-hand arm is $V /\left(R_{c}+R_{D}\right)$ and the voltage at the junction of $R_{\mathrm{c}}$ and $\boldsymbol{R}_{\mathrm{D}}$ is
$V_{\mathrm{D}}=R_{\mathrm{D}} \times I_{\mathrm{D}}=R_{\mathrm{D}} \times \frac{V}{\left(R_{\mathrm{C}}+R_{\mathrm{D}}\right)}$
3.3. What resistance could be used in place of 80,100 and 400 ohms in parallel:
(a) 580
(b) 40
(c) 80
(d) 32
3.4. What value must be placed in parallel with 100 ohms to give an equivalent resistance of 90 ohms:
(a) 10
(b) 100
(c) 900
(d) 9000

## PART 2 ANSWERS

2.1 a) 2.2 b) 2.3 b) 2.4 b) 2.5 a)

Cross multiplying gives

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \left(R_{\mathrm{C}} \times R_{\mathrm{B}}\right)+\left(R_{\mathrm{D}} \times R_{\mathrm{D}}\right)= \\
& \left(R_{\mathrm{D}} \times R_{\mathrm{A}}\right)+\left(R_{\mathrm{D}} \times R_{\mathrm{D}}\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

Cancelling $R_{D} \times R_{B}$ gives

$$
\begin{aligned}
\quad R_{\mathrm{D}} \times R_{\mathrm{A}}=R_{\mathrm{E}} \times R_{\mathrm{C}} \\
\text { or } \frac{R_{\mathrm{A}}}{R_{\mathrm{E}}}=\frac{R_{\mathrm{C}}}{R_{\mathrm{D}}}
\end{aligned}
$$

The circuit we have been looking at is known as a Wheatstone bridge clrcuit; "Wheatstone" after its inventor and "bridge" from the appearance of the meter as a "bridge" between the two sides of the circuit. When the meter is made to read zero we say that the bridge is balanced. The important fact to note is that when the ratio of the four resistors is chosen so as to balance the circuit it does not matter what the battery voltage is, the meter will still read zero.

What use is the circuit? First let us fix the value of $R_{\mathrm{B}}$ and instead of two resistors let us replace $R_{C}$ and $R_{D}$ by a potentiometer. We now have a way of

## EXPERIMENT 3.1 :

## SERIES AND PARALLEL

Components required: $10 k \Omega$ resistors ( 40 off ), $100 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ resistor

Connect the clrcuit as shown in Fig. 3.8a, the component layout being shown in Fig. 3.8b. Resistors R3 and R4 should not be Inserted at this stage.
Adjust the setting of VR1 until the meter reads zero. The reading on the scale of VR1 should be very close to " 5 ".
Next insert the resistor marked R3 into the circuit and again adjust the potentio-
(a)

meter until the meter reads zero. Note the new reading. Remove R3 and fit R4. Adjust the potentiometer and note this third reading. Finally insert both R3 and R4 and again find the new balance point.

Work out why the readings changed as they did and see if the calculated readings match your measured readings.
The readings, in order, should be: $5,6 \cdot 6$, $3 \cdot 3$ and 5.

(b)

Fig. 3.8. (a) Circuit diagram of the experiment for investigating series and parallel connections. (b) layout of the components on the Tutor Deck.

## EXPERIMENT 3.2:

## SIMPLE OHMMETER

Components required: $10 k \Omega$ resistor, $100 k \Omega$ resistor

(a)

(c)

The circuit of a simple ohmmeter is shown in Fig. 3.9a with the component layout on The Tutor Deck in Fig. 3.9b.

This ohmmeter can measure resistances from about $1 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ to $100 \mathrm{k} \Omega$. Outside this range the potentiometer will be very near the end of the track making measurement difficult.

The unknown resistor should be placed in the deck and the potentiometer adjusted until
the meter reads zero. The value of the unknown resistor will then be given by

$$
R=\frac{S}{10-S} \times 10 \mathrm{k} \Omega
$$

where $S$ is the scale reading of the potentiometer.

Alternatively, the scale of the potentiometer can be marked so that it reads resistance directly, see Flg. 3.9c.
varying the ratio $R_{\mathrm{c}} / R_{\mathrm{D}}$ since $R_{\mathrm{c}}$ is now the resistance from the wiper to the top of the potentiometer and $R_{D}$ is the resistance from the wiper to the bottom of the potentiometer-both varying as the wiper is moved. Imagine the scale of this potentiometer calibrated so that the ratio $R_{\mathrm{c}} / R_{\mathrm{D}}$ can be read directly. We have now built a simple ohmmeter.

The unknown resistor is simply placed in the position of $R_{\mathrm{A}}$ and the potentiometer adjusted until the meter reads zero. By reading the potentiometer scale and knowing the resistance $R_{B}$ it is a simple matter to calculate $R_{\mathrm{A}}$.

$$
R_{\mathrm{A}}=R_{\mathrm{t}} \times \frac{R_{\mathrm{C}}}{R_{\mathrm{D}}}
$$



By Dave Barrington
Two small mail order catalogues have been received this month from TK Electronics and Ace Mailtronix.

## SIMPLE SLIDE-RULE

Another use of the Wheatstone bridge is as a simple electronic slide-rule for doing simple multiplications and divisions. All four of the resistors in the bridge circuit are now replaced with variable resistors whose scales are calibrated from zero to 10 . To do division we set variable resistor $R_{B}$ to " 1 ". The divisor is set on $R_{\mathrm{D}}$ and the dividend on $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{c}}$. The variable resistor $R_{A}$ is then adjusted to make the meter read zero, its scale then showing the answer.
To do multiplication, $R_{s}$ is set to " 1 " and the two numbers to be multiplied are set on $R_{B}$ and $R c$. $R_{\mathrm{D}}$ is then adjusted to make the meter read zero when its scale
should indicate the answer. Ot course, this "computer" is really only of limited use since it is restricted to positive number. below ten.
Many pieces of test equipment have been produced using the principle of the Wheatstone bridge. Some use fluctuating voltages to power the bridge with a speaker or earphone to monitor the balance of the bridge. It does not matter that the voltage is fluctuating since when the bridge is balanced the current in the balance monitor, be it meter or earphone, will be zero.

Next month we will meet the simplest semiconductor device, the diode.

The TK Electronics catalogue consists of 28 pages and contains a useful selection of integrated circuits. Also, there are some interesting circuit diagrams with suggested applications.

Copies of the TK Electronics catalogue are available free of charge from TK Electronics, Dept EE, 106 Studley Grange Road, London, W7 2LX. A $230 \times 152 \mathrm{~mm}$ stamped addressed envelope is required.
Only 7 pages make up the Ace Mailtronix catalogue, but most components called for in our projects are listed. They are also prepared to obtain some of the more difficult components

Cost of the catalogue is 30 p which is redeemable with orders over $£ 5$.

## CONSTRUCTIONAL PROJECTS

Looking through the components list, we do not envisage any component buying problems for our special Christmas projects, Peg-A-Hole, Everlasting Candle and Twinkling Star.
Most readers will, no doubt, use their own ingenuity for the housing of the Everlasting Candle (an old torch perhaps?), however Home Radio are able to supply a complete kit, including ceiling rose and plastic tubing.

All the "specials" for the EE Radio Control System were covered last month. The additional components, including crystals, listed this month should be available from most advertisers.

The only item likely to be difficult in our Uniboard Burglar Alarm project, is the thyristor MCR102. This would appear to be only available from Maplin. However, the 2N5060, 2N5061 or 2N5062 could be used.

The components for the Modulated Tone Generator should present no buying problems. The power transistor specifled can be substituted by many other power types, for example the common 2N3055. Plastic types are not essential since TO.3 and TO. 66 cased versions can easily be mounted "off-board" on heatsinks (required for higher power outputs) and connected by leads to the board positions.

Any type of miniature or sub-miniature relay capable of operating at 9 V , with a coll resistance of approximately 185 ohm. should be suitable for the Lightcall project. However, the relay contacts must be rated at 240 V current as required.

The relay used in our prototype model was the RS Components $12 \mathrm{~V} 185 \Omega$, stock No. 348980.



This project was designed to give a visual indication when a caller operated the doorbell. It was originally intended to enable someone working in the garden to be aware of a caller and this was achieved by operating a bright bulb in a prominent position.

The author quickly realised that the same system could benefit deaf people or could be used in any situation where either, distance or extraneous noise prevented the bell or chimes from being heard.

## FEATURES

The Lightcall has the following features.

First, it is an add-on unit with its own power supply. Only two simple connections are made to the existing doorbell circuit, the operation of which is quite unaffected. Secondly, the circuit is designed to switch on one or more mains voltage bulbs. Small bulbs operated by a battery are not really bright enough to attract attention. Thirdly, there is a variable time delay element which switches the bulb, or bulbs on for a preset interval. This is quite independent of the length of time the bell push is operated.

## time delay

The prototype gives delays as short as two or three seconds and as long as one minute. If a longer time interval is required this is easily obtained by increasing the value of Cl . A push button switch on the unit, or indeed elsewhere may be used to cancel the light at
any time. Finally, it does not matter what type of bell or chimes are used. They may be battery or mains operated.

If desired, the Lightcall may be built complete but without the mains wiring. An electrician may be called in to do this work and the wires simply connected to the terminal block on the unit. This might be the best plan where several lamps are to be run in different locations or where weatherproof housings are required for outside use.

## CIRCUIT DESCRIPTION

The full circuit of the unit appears in Fig. 1. When the bell push at the door is pressed, current flows momentarily through a current-limiting resistor, R1, and diode D1. It then flows to the electrolytic capacitor C1. This charges rapidly and cannot discharge
through the bell because of the action of D1. Current may "bleed" from this charged capacitor by two paths.

First, it may pass through the high value preset variable resistor VR2 to the pair of transistors TR1 and TR2. These transistors are therefore held on as long as C1 can supply the necessary current.

## DARLINGTON PAIR

Two transistors connected together directly in this way are called a Darlington pair. They behave as one transistor with very high current gain so that a very small base current in the first transistor will turn or hold the second one on. If only one transistor were used, Cl would not be able to keep up the necessary current for long. As it is, C1 can supply the current for one minute or so. When the transistors are on

Fig. 1. Circuit diagram of the Sight and Sound Doorbell.

valuable aid for the hard-of hearing

the relay, RLA is energised and a pair of normally open contacts switch on the mains bulbs. There is a second discharge path for Cl . This is through the variable resistor VR1. This gives the variable time setting.
The cancelling switch, Sl is of the push to make type and allows for rapid discharge of Cl through the current limiting resistor R2.

If it is anticipated that longer timing periods will be required then a higher value for Cl should be used from the outset. A value of 470 or even 1000 microfarads will greatly increase the maximum times available. Short periods will become very tricky, however.


## CIRCUIT BOARD

Construction is very straightforward and is based on $0 \cdot 1$ inch matrix stripboard. A suggested layout is given in Fig. 2 but it is not critical. The copper strips must be cut in the places indicated on the diagram and care must be taken to avoid bridging between the strips during the soldering stage.

In the prototype a square hole was cut in the stripboard to allow all the terminals of the relay to pass through. This will depend to a large extent on the relay used. A relay socket may be used if desired but this was not considered
necessary for the prototype. It is not a good idea to use the copper strips for mains connections and all relay connections are made direct. To avoid possible trouble, the copper strips should be broken in the vicinity of the relay connections.

## COMPONENTS

The relay deserves special mention. This must operate reliably from a 9 volt supply. Many relays sold as $6 / 12$ volt types are suitable but if in doubt the manufacturer's specification should be checked. It is essential that the relay should have at least one set of normally open contacts. The current handling capacity should be at least one amp at mains voltage for up to 240 watts of load-say 4 off- 60 watt bulbs. If a greater load is anticipated then contacts with a greater current capacity will be needed, 3 amps for up to 720 watts, etc. There is no harm, of course, in the relay having contacts with a current rating greater than that required. The important point is that the contacts must be suitable for mains use.

The resistance of the coil of the relay used in the prototype was 185 ohms but this is not thought to be particularly critical. The purpose of diode D2 is to prevent back e.m.f. as the magnetic field collapses in the relay. Without it there is a possibility of damage to the transistors. The author left D2 out originally without damage but it is certainly advisable to include it. Note the way in which D2 is connected-not in the direction of battery current but against it.

## EXTERNAL CONNECTIONS

External connections are made to two miniature terminal blocks Fig. 2. It was thought best to use a separate 2 -way block for the mains connections and a 3 -way for the other connections. This was to avoid as far as possible any mains connections being made wrongly. This could prove disastrous.

Although a small self contained battery could give reasonable service, it was decided to use a larger 9 V battery outside the case. During periods of non-use the battery drain is exceptionally low, but of course there is a drain each time the relay operates in the course of service. For periods of absence, a toggle switch, S3, is provided in

the battery positive line. When switched off the device is totally inoperative. A mains switch S2 should also be provided to give isolation from the mains when required to do so. This will not normally be used but it would be bad practice to omit it.

It would also be possible to use one double-pole mains switch to fulfil both functions but possible confusion over connections makes this an unattractive idea. Two separate $s$ witches are definitely advised. The two switches just mentioned together with the cancelling switch, S1, will be mounted on the front panel of the unit. As mentioned previously, S1, could be placed elsewhere or even several switches in parallel could be used. This would mean that the unit could be cancelled from various locations. A small plastic box was used to house the circuit in the prototype.

When connecting Cl it is essential to observe polarity. In other words, its positive and negative connections must be made the correct way round. This is because Cl is an electrolytic capacitor and damage results if these are incorrectly connected. The polarity is indicated on the body of the capacitor. Any voltage rating over about 12 volts will be satisfactory.

## TESTING

After construction, the unit should be tested in the following way.
For a start, no mains connections should be made, only the battery leads. Presets, VR1 and VR2 should be initially set to about mid position. The battery positive terminal should then be connected temporarily to connection $A$ on the terminal block. A distinct click should be heard from the relay. Some time will elapse before it clicks back again. Some variation of VR2 may be needed for proper operation, whilst VR1 will alter the time intervaI.


The complete circuit board for the Lightcall showing the layout of components and mounting of the terminal strips.

## 

Resistors
R1, 2 100 2 (2 off)
Both $\frac{1}{2} W$ carbon $\pm 5 \%$
Potentiometers
VR1, $21 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ miniature horizontal preset (2 off)

Capacitor
C1 $100 \mu \mathrm{~F} 12 \mathrm{~V}$ elect.
Semiconductors

TR1, 2 ZTX300 silicon npn (2 off)
D1 1 N4001 silicon
D2 OA81 germanium
Miscellaneous
S1 push to make press switch
S2, 3 standard single pole toggle
RLA 9 V relay, $185 \Omega$ coil with one make contact
LP1, 2240 V 60 W bulbs as required B1 PP69V battery
Stripboard: $0 \cdot 1$ inch matrix 23 strips $\times 22$ holes; small plastic terminal blocks, 1 off 3 way, 1 off 2 way; battery connector for B 1 ; small plastic case, size as required; connecting wire.


Fig. 2. Complete wiring details for the unit, also showing the stripboard and breaks to be made.


It will be noted that the setting of VR2 has some effect on the time interval as well as VR1 as this controls the current flowing to the transistors. It is important, whilst experimenting with the settings of VR1 and VR2, not to set VR2 to too low a value i.e. on anticlockwise rotation of VR2 a small margin must always be left before the end of the track. If this is not done, damage may occur to the transistors due to excessive base current flowing.

## IN USE

Assuming all is well, the leads $A$ and $B$ are connected to the doorbell. If the doorbell is battery operated it is necessary to connect lead $A$ to the positive terminal. It is not harmful to do the opposite but the project will not work as current will not then flow through D1. If uncertain about the polarity,


Fig. 3. Typical connections to two of the most popular types of bell systems. These connections are for guidance only and will not necessarily be correct in all cases.
then the best plan is to connect $A$ and $B$ by trial and error. If the doorbell is transformer operated it does not matter which way round $A$ and $B$ are connected as the diode Dl will conduct on the positive half cycles of the alternating current.

There are many types of doorbells and chimes in use today so specific details of the connections cannot be given. It is largely a matter of common sense finding
the connections which are directly across the bell. In an effort to help some readers, connections for two popular units are illustrated in Fig. 3.
If the circuit functions correctly it is suggested that a simple battery and bulb circuit should be used to check the action of the relay contacts. If this works correctly, the mains part may then be completed. It is important to remember that the mains circuit should be protected with a fuse according to the current requirements of the bulbs. This far is not shown in the circuit diagram, but should be wired in the live lead of the mains. Alternatively connection to the mains could be made via a fused plug.
This little device lets you know visually when a caller is there. You may heed it or ignore it as you please.

п


## New ideas

|N SPITE of my gentle leg pulling, I am all for new ideas, and I think it is only right and proper, that us chaps who sell the electronic hardware for, what is after all, the most advanced science, in the world, should be. I certainly have never shirked my duty in this respect or even put personal safety first.
I must have bought the first pressure cooker ever offered for sale. I bought it, and let my wife try it, while I stood outside the house with my fingers in my ears. Well after all you cannot be too carefull
I rushed out and bought one of the first quick heat soldering irons. "Heats Up In Ten Seconds" said the makers and so it did. Unfortunately, I was building a Quality Amplifier at the time and only when I was half way through, did the truth dawn on me, that if you have to wait ten seconds before you can make each joint, a conventional iron is ten times faster!
I think I must have had the first turntable for playing long playing records and one of the first stereo "out-fits".
Even so I have occasionally had my doubts, a case in point being digital presentation instead of analogue, par-
ticularly for watches and test gear, and in this respect it looks as though time is proving me right. It seems that even the power station engineers get dizzy seeing numbers flash before their eyes instead of a large black pointer making a leisurely sweep, to the right or left and in America the conventional watch face is making a come back.
It is strange how the human eye or the mind, prefers the analogue view. The reason for it, may be just this, we have been looking at analogue presentation for over 5000 years. I am thinking of course of sundials.
Another recent invention I am not happy about, is the Microwave cooker. For a start I am always suspicious of loud proclamations made by Government Departments or powerful manufacturers and if either of them tell me something is perfectly safe, I immediately assume it isn'tl!! There have been cases of radiation leakage with these cookers and the consequences can be very serious.
While we are being told they are perfectly safe, I now see special depots are being set up to check them, and someone is even offering for sale a pocket radiation leakage tester, so you can test your own! Nuff said!

## Don't suffer in silence

I am sure half our troubles today are caused by lack of communication. This aspect is particularly applicable to the home constructor who so often relies on mail order for the supply of his bits and pieces.
Every firm makes mistakes, but I know of none, who would not go to great lengths to put them right, once they know, and this is the operative phrase. I am bound to admit that the post today leaves a lot to be desired and this does not help the situation, but as my dear old medico used to tell me, "Don't suffer in silence".
In other words if something has gone wrong write or telephone your supplier, tell him concisely what your complaint is and he will put it right as quick as he can. Most of you I know are very good in this respect, although, a very small minority regard the postal service as perfect and accuse us of making it a scapegoat for any delays.
Try and remember (l am sure you do) that most of us are short staffed and time is precious, so short letters are our favourites. Above all do not put technical queries in with orders or complaints, and if it is about a project, do not send it to us at all, but to the appropriate source.

Sometimes, but fortunately only about once or twice a year, I get a customer who seems to have all the time in the world on his hands, as a result, if he gets one incorrect item in his parcel he sends me a four page letter. I had one recently, and I wrote a letter simply asking him how much we owed him on the postage for returning the wrong part and what did he want us to send him.
Back comes another four page letter telling me how superior all my competitors are and how wicked I was for trying to blame the PO for the delays. This time in desperation 1 wrote and told him that during the War, Churchill made an agreement with Russia on half a sheet of notepaper, would he please be a good fellow and follow his example!

lby R.A.PENFOLD

This unit provides a very effective audible alarm signal which consists of an audio tone of rapidly changing pitch. The output power of the unit depends upon the supply voltage and speaker impedance selected, and varies from about 112 mW with a 6 volt supply and 80 ohm speaker to approximately 4.5 W with a 12 volt supply and 8 ohm impedance speaker.

The alarm is therefore suitable for use in fairly high power applications such as burglar alarm systems, as well as in lower power circuits such as timers.

In order to aid the selection of a suitable supply voltage and speaker impedance, Table 1 is provided. Apart from giving the nominal r.m.s. output powers for various speaker impedance and supply voltage combinations, it also gives the approximate mean current consumption.

The circuit has a gating input which can, if required, be used to electronically control the alarm, rather than simply switching it on and off by means of the power source. This enables the unit to be
easily controlled by many circuits without the need for a relay or other form of driver circuit.

It should be possible to use it as an add-on alarm, perhaps for a circuit which already has an alarm, but one which proves to be ineffective for some reason.

## THE CIRCUIT

The complete circuit diagram of the Modulated Tone Generator appears in Fig. 1. This is based on two oscillators: one to generate an audio tone, and the other to frequency modulate the tone generator. This gives a much more noticeable sound than that given by a single tone.

Both oscillators are based on the same integrated circuit, which is a cmos Quad 2-input Nor gate (IC1). Two gates are used in each oscillator. Although this device is not specifically designed for use in oscillator circuits, it lends itself well to such applications and is often used in this mode.
The output of a NOR gate assumes the high logic state (vir-
tually equal to the positive supply rail voltage) unless one of the inputs is taken to the high state. The output then goes to the low logic state (virtually equal to the negative supply potential).

In this case, one input of each gate is taken to the control input, and if this input is high, the output of each gate must be low and the other four inputs will have no effect on the circuit. With the outputs low, TR1 and TR2, which are connected as a Darlington pair, will be cut off and no significant current will be supplied to the speaker. The circuit will be blocked and only small leakage currents of about $1 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ in total will be drawn from the supply lines.

With the control input at the low state, the output state of each gate will depend upon the logic state of its second input. If this input is low, the output will go high, and if it is high, the output will go low. In other words, there is a simple inverter action between the input and output.

## INVERTERS AS OSCILLATORS

Now cmos inverters are easily made to function as oscillators by adding two stages in series, biasing the first stage with a resistor connected between its input and output, and using a capacitor to provide a positive feedback path between the output of the second stage and the input of the first stage. This configuration is used for both oscillators in this circuit.

Inverters Glc and Gld are used in the tone generator oscillator, and the specified values for R3 and C3 give a nominal operating frequency of about 800 Hz . A squarewave is produced at inverter Gld output, and on positive excursions TR1 and TR2 are switched hard on

Table 1. Table showing r.m.s. output power and mean current consumption for various speaker impedances and supply voltage options.

| LOUDSPEAKER | SUPPLY VOLTAGE (V) |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| IMPEDANCE $(\Omega)$ | 6 | 9 | 12 |
| 8 | $1 \cdot 125 \mathrm{~W}$ | $2 \cdot 53 \mathrm{~W}$ | 4.5 W |
|  | 375 m A | 562 m A | 750 mA |
| 16 | 562 m W | 1.27 W | 2.25 W |
|  | 187 m A | 281 mA | 325 mA |
| 25 | 360 mW | 810 mW | $1 \cdot 344 \mathrm{~W}$ |
|  | 120 mA | 180 m A | 240 mA |
| 40 | 250 mW | 506 mW | 1 W |
|  | 75 mA | 112 mA | 150 mA |
| 80 | 112 mW | 253 mW | 500 mW |
|  | 37.5 mA | 56 m A | 75 mA |




Fig. 1. The complete circuit diagram of the Modulated Tone Generator.
by the base current they receive via R4. This causes a series of pulses to be fed to the speaker and an audio tone to be generated.

The modulating oscillator uses inverters Gla and Glb. The bias resistor (R1) and feedback capacitor (C2) have much higher values than their equivalents in the tone generator circuit, and this gives a much lower operating frequency of only about 1 to 2 Hz .

The waveform at pin l of Gla is a form of sawtooth signal, and it is this that is used to modulate the tone generator. The necessary coupling between the two oscillators is provided by R2.

As the modulating signal's voltage rises and falls, the current flowing through R2 alters the timing of the tone generator circuitry, and sweeps the output tone up and down in frequency.
Capacitor Cl is merely a supply decoupling capacitor.

If the gating facility is not required, the gating input is permanently wired to the negative supply rail so that the unit always operates when the power is switched on.


The unit is assembled on a piece of 0.01 inch matrix stripboard, 15 strips by 20 holes. The component layout is shown in Fig. 2. There are eight breaks in the copper strips, as detailed in the diagram, and it is advisable to make these before soldering in the various
components. If the appropriate tool is not available, they can be made using a hand held twist drill of about 4 mm in diameter, or using a sharp modelling knife.

The components and link wires are then soldered into position, the integrated circuit being left until last. This is a cmos device which can be damaged by high static voltages. It should be supplied in some form of protective packaging, and should be left in this until it is to be soldered into position. It should then be handled as little as possible and soldered in place using a soldering iron having an earthed bit.

An i.c. socket could be used for this component, of course, but the CD 4001 is such an inexpensive device that this is probably not worthwhile.

## COMPONENTS

Resistors

| R1 | $820 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R4 | $47 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| R2 | $120 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R5 | $2 \cdot 2 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| R3 | $47 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |  |  |
| All 4 Watt carbon | $\pm 5 \%$. |  |  |

## Capacitors

C1 $100 \mu \mathrm{~F} 12 \mathrm{~V}$ elect.
C2 $0.47 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ polyester (C280)
C3 $0 \cdot 022 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ polyester ( C 280 )
Semiconductors
IC1 CD4001BE Quad 2-input NOR gate
TR1 BC108 silicon non
TR2 TIP41A silicon non

## Miscellaneous

LS1 $8 \Omega$ to $80 \Omega$ loudspeaker (see text)
B1 6 V to 12 V (see text)
Stripboard: 0.1 inch matrix 15 strips $\times 20$ holes; connecting wire.


Fig. 2. The layout of the componente on the topside of the stripboard and the breaks to be made on the underside.


The circuit utilizes two oscillators; one to produce an audio tone, and the other to automatically vary the pitch of this tone. The modulating oscillator operates at a frequency of about 1 to 2 Hz , and its output therefore causes the pitch of the tone osciliator to rise and fall about once or twice per second. This rapidly varying of the output note produces a very noticeable and effective alarm signal.

Only a low power signal is generated by the oscillators, and this is considerably amplified to produce a very loud tone via a loudspeaker.

## USING THE UNIT

It is important to ensure that the loudspeaker employed with the alarm has a suitable power rating, although slightly exceeding this rating is unlikely to have any detrimental effects in this particular application. If the highest possible volume is required it is advisable to use a fairly large speaker since
these generally have higher efficiencies than smaller types.
If the alarm is being controlled by the gating input, it must be borne in mind that the alarm is switched on when this input is low, and turned off when it is high. If the opposite of this is required, it will be necessary to add an inverter stage at the input. Incidentally, in this case the low logic state means

less than one third of the supply voltage, and the high state means more than ${ }_{3}$ of the supply potential.

This unit is compatible with the popular NE555V timer i.c. and many other devices and circuits.
If the alarm is supplying an output power of more than about 2 watts it is advisable to fit TR2 with a small finned heatsink, as it might otherwise overheat and be destroyed.
The frequencies of the modulator and tone oscillators can, if desired, be altered by changing the values of C2 and C3 respectively. Decreasing the value proportionately increases the frequency of operation, and vice versa.
No case fixing details are supplied as it is likely that this device will be added to existing units. I

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Suparior guality Ideal for Halls/PA syetems. Disco's and Groups. Two Inputs with Mlxer Volume Controle. Master Bats, Troble and Gain Controls. 50 wattis RMS. Three apeaker outiots 4,8 , $16 \mathrm{ohm}, \mathrm{AC} 240 \mathrm{~V}$ (120V avaliabie). Blue
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## R.C.S. SOUND TO LIGHT DISPLAY MK 2

Complete kit of parte with R.C.S. printed circuit. Three channels. Up to 1,000 watte each. Will operate from

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200 Watt Rear Reflecting White Light Bulbe, Ideal for Disco Lights.
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## Two kits 20.

Postage $\mathbb{\&}$. One or two kits.

AS explained in Part l, the first major concern before starting construction is to decide how many channels you are going to have; remember you can have any number up to seven. Having decided, there is one more option to decide upon: that is the plug-in channel facility which requires the 3 -pin plugs and sockets.

## HARDWARE

As was mentioned in the Introduction last month the whole of this R.C. system has been based where possible on commercially available parts, this is especially so in the case of the transmitter where the sticks, case and plugs and sockets and other sundry items are manufactured by S.L.M. (Model) Engineers Ltd. of Cheltenham. It is strongly recommended that these identical parts (especially the case) are used in order to have a neat and tidy system as an endproduct.

We will describe the construction from the point of view of using these parts. However, should you decide to
make your own case, purchase the sticks, meter, switch, etc., before drilling and bending so that their position can be chosen to enable the p.c.b. to be mounted on the back of the sticks.

The S.L.M. case as specified comes ready bent with plastic sides and holes punched for a pair of open gimble sticks, so if you require more than four channels then extra holes and slots will have to be cut where required. However, the case does have holes cut for the aerial socket, meter, Noble switch and charger socket.

## PRINTED CIRCUIT BOARD

Most of the transmitter circuit is built on a printed circuit board. A full-size pattern of the p.c.b. is given in Fig. 2.1 and the top view of the board showing the disposition of the components appears in Fig. 2.2.

Assembly of parts on to the p.c.b. should commence with the stick socket(s) SK1.

In the case of the full system this means the 7 -way block, and for less
than seven channels the single 3 -pin sockets are used. Channel 1 is at the top and Channel 7 at the bottom of the board, so if only three channels are going to be used then the sockets should be inserted into the top three positions.
If you are not having the channel reverse option, that is no sockets, then leave the necessary spaces for the wires to be soldered directly to the board at a later date (Fig. 2.2). Unused channels will have wired in their place fixed resistors Ra and Rb as in Fig. 2.3a. These are positioned on the -p.c.b. as in Fig. 2.3b in place of the sockets or wires.

Resistors R4 to R10 can now be inserted between the block and ICl. When insenting these resistors stand them up in the hole nearest ICl then pass the other lead through either of the holes in the island next to the block then loop under and solder to the centre pin of the block and to the island itself (Fig. 2.4).

Where the Ra and Rb resistors are used then the lead is cut off at the island as per Fig. 2,3b.

## CRYSTAL SOCKET

The crystal socket SK3 can be inserted next by locating its two plastic lugs in the p.c.b. holes and melting them into place on the copper side using the side of your soldering iron bit. Small lengths of tinned copper wire are used to connect from the crystal socket pins to the p.c.b.

Insert the two links and the aerial loop using the same type of wire. Something in the region of 20 s.w.g. wire is best for these connections and links; however, if you do not already possess something suitable then use the chopped-off resistor leads.

## CARE WITH ICS

The remaining components can now be inserted in any order providing the cmos i.c.s ICl and IC2 are left until last, as these can be damaged by static electricity.

For those constructors not familiar with cmos there are two precautions to take that virtually eliminate any possibility of damage. The first of these is to ensure that your soldering iron is earthed correctly and the second is to keep the i.c.s in their black conductive foam until you are ready to insert them into the board and then to do so as quickly as possible with the least amount of handling; try to avoid touching the leads.

## POTENTIOMETER CONNECTIONS

Having now completed the insertion of the components the connecting wires to the pots can be attached for

## ADDITIONAL COMPONENTS REQUIRED FOR LESS THAN 7 CHANNELS

Resistors
$\mathrm{Ra}, \mathrm{Rb} \quad 2 \cdot 7 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ (one pair for each unused channel) $\pm W \pm 10 \%$ carbon
Plugs and Sockets
3-pin plug and socket (one pair for each channel used-instead of 7 -way block for full system)
Sticks
Single-axis sticks (for less than 4 channels-see Table 1-1)

## CRYSTALS

XI, 2 pair of 27 MHz band crystals with 455 kHz spacing (one for transmitter and one for the receiver-see text)

## NOTE - CIRCUIT DIAGRAM Fig. 1.3

Transpose SK2 pin numbers 1 and 3 to agree with Fig. 2.6.


Fig. 2.3. (a) Part of channel switching circuit (see Fig. 1.3) showing additional resistors Ra and Rb fitted to unused channels.


Fig. 2.3. (b) Edge-on view of p.c.b. showing how the additional resistors are mounted in place of the 7 -way socket block. (Individual 3 -pin sockets are installed for each channel used).


Fig. 2.4. Edge-on view of p.c.b. showing resistors R4 to R10 and their connection to the 7 -way socket block.


Fig. 2.1. Printed circuit board for the EE Radio Control Transmitter. This is actual size. Note the fixing holes on the outer "plain" or completely etched areas.

Fig. 2.2. Top view of the printed circuit board with all components in situ (full 7-channel version).

## COST TO BUILD

Approximate cost for different-sized systems.

| Two-channel version | $£ 75$ |
| :--- | ---: |
| Four-channel version | $£ 110$ |
| Seven-channel version | $£ 170$ |

The cost for each version includes all units specified in Part 1.

The EE Radio Control System is fully capable of expansion from two channels to seven channels at anytime, simply by fitting additional sticks and servos.
those constructors not using the sockets. Fig. 2.2 shows the points to connect to. For tidyness sake the wires should be twisted together to form a trio; 6in lengths should be sufficient to attach to the board for now, final trimming to length can be performed at a later date when the


Fig. 2.5. Transmitter case panel opened out flat. Cut-out and drilling detalls to accommodate controls for seven channels.

## CASE DRILLING

As already explained the case which comes from S.L.M. requires the extra holes to be cut for the 5th, 6th and 7 th channels. So before construction decide upon the positions of these functions. See Fig. 2.5.

Fig. 2.7 shows the positioning of the two auxiliary function sticks on the front panel as used in the prototype. The 7th channel was a switch on the top panel positioned such that it was in easy reach of the right index finger This requires a ${ }^{1} 4$ in hole.
The only other drilling required is for the battery pack mounts which consist of two plastic end-caps for the buttontype Nicad battery. These mounts require four 3 mm dia. holes as in Fig. 2.5.

## ASSEMBLY WITHIN CASE

Start assembly with the smallest parts (such as the switch and meter) first, as once the open-gimble sticks are in place there is not much room left for tightening nuts and screws.

Before the channel switch Sl is mounted it is best to solder on to this switch the resistors R1, R2 and R3 as in Fig. 2.5.

## POTENTIOMETER ADJUSTMENT

Before the sticks can be inserted the pots need to be secured in the stick assemblies and for this you will require to have a multimeter to hand.

The pots are fitted in place with their fixing screws loose enough so the pot body can just be rotated; then, with the stick in the neutral position (don't forget the trim on the main sticks) the pot is rotated until the wiper of the pot is in the centre.

To do this set your multimeter to the resistance range and connect one lead to the pot wiper connection then take a reading of the resistance to each end of the pot and move the pot in the required direction until both readings are the same, then tighten the securing screws.

With the screws now tightened check the readings again to make sure that there was no movement during tightening. If there was then you will have to set up the pot again. It is most important that the pot wiper is in the centre to ensure that all channels have the same neutral pulse width and to also ensure there is no offset when the plug is turned round for channel reversing.

## FIXING ARRANGEMENTS

All the parts except the meter are secured to the case with small screws. The meter requires to be glued in position, using either an epoxy or contact adhesive. When using the glue ensure that none comes into


Fig. 2.7. Stick modes. Note: Throttle is usually a ratchet and all other functions are self-centering.

(a)

(b)

(c)

(d)

Fig. 2.8. Stick Potentiometers (a) connections to 3-pin plug (b) standard pot (c) cermet or plastic film pot (d) carbon film pot.
contact with the actual meter face as this will mar its appearance. All glueing should be done on its hidden face.

The aerial base should be bolted in place with a 6 B.A. nut and bolt of sufficient length such that it acts as the aerial locating screw as well. Position a solder tag on the bolt end, pointing out to the rear of the case so that it can be folded back down
on to the loop of wire on the top of the p.c.b. when the board is in place. With all the items now secured into the case the wiring-up can now proceed. Start with the supply connections as shown in Fig. 2.7. The voltage offset components D3 and R23 provide the connection between the meter and switch and their leads should be kept as short and as close to the case front as possible to avoid


Fig. 2.6. Wiring within the case, to be completed before fitting the p.c.b.
them coming into contact with the rear of the p.c.b.
Note that there is a central point for the ground leads on the switch S2, with the case earthed at the DIN socket SK2.
Now attach the wires to the stick pots. These wires were orginally left at a length of 6 in . These can be trimmed to suit each stick such that they do not flop around and yet are not so short that they are a struggle to fit into the socket. A good idea, which was used on the prototype, is to use Ty-rap clips to hold the cables in one bunch to aid tidyness.

If you are not using the plugs and sockets then you should already have the wires connected to the p.c.b. so this should aid you to adjust the length correctly.

## CHANNEL FUNCTIONS

An ideal order for the channels is to have the most used functions first as follows: (1) Aileron/Rudder, (2) Elevator, (3) Rudder, (4) Throttle, (5) Aux. 1, (6) Aux. 2, (7) Switch. Fig. 2.7 shows where these functions will appear on the sticks.

There are two basic modes used in radio control and there are advantages and disadvantages to both, however, the guide here is to find out from local modellers which system they use and then set up your system accordingly as this makes things easier when you ask them to test your model for you.

## POTENTIOMETER VARIETIES

The stick assemblies available today come with several types of pot. Fig. 2.8 shows these different types and how to connect to them. If your stick assembly uses a standard pot then Fig. 2.8b is the wiring configuration, Fig. 2.8c is for the cermet or plastic film pot. Fig. 2.8d is another type of film pot available.


## FIXING THE P.C.B.

The p.c.b. should now be ready for mounting. First ensure the switch S2 is off (switch knob down) then solder the two supply leads to the underside of the board.

To mount the board the two screws on each stick assembly nearest to the centre of the case require to be removed, then the p.c.b. can be placed components side to the rear of the case and located over the sticks such
that the mounting holes coincide with the screw holes on the rear of the sticks. These screws can now be replaced and tightened so the p.c.b. is firmly mounted between the sticks.

The aerial is connected by folding the solder tag down on to the wire link at the top of the board and soldering well in place. The stick leads can now be plugged in the socket block on the board leaving only the crystal to be inserted to complete the transmitter.


## CRYSTALS

I'wo 27 MHz band crystals are reyurred, one for the transmitter and one for the receiver.

The pair of crystals should have a difference of 455 kHz between the values stamped on them, and it is the higher frequency of the two that is used in the transmitter. For example: $27 \cdot 045$ transmitter and $26 \cdot 590$ : receiver.

Within the R.C. band there are 13 spot frequencies, each indicated by coloured pennants as in Table 2.1. You should always display the appropriate pennant on your aerial when using your transmitter to enable other modellers to recognise which frequency you are operating on.

| TABLE 2.1 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | ---: |
| THE R.C. BAND SPOT |  |  |
| FREQUENCIES |  |  |

## TRANSMITTER SET-UP

The transmitter is tuned by adjusting the two variable capacitors VCl and VC2. To help this operation we require to build the "tune-up" tuned circuit shown in Fig. 2.9. If an oscilloscope is available it could be used with advantage during the following setting-up operations.

The circuit in Fig. 2.9 is a simple tuned circuit which we will use to monitor the field strength of the transmitter output. (Full constructional details for this Field Strength Meter are given below.)

## R.F. TUNING

With your multimeter set to d.c. volts ( 10 V range) and connected to the output of the tuned circuit place the circuit with its aerial close to the fully extended transmitter aerial ready for switch on.

To adjust the variable capacitors you will require a small plastic blade trimming screwdriver, so with everything now to hand and having given the p.c.b. and wiring one last check through, switch the transmitter on and check that the battery voltage meter ME1 shows full scale.

## FIELD STRENGTH METER

The Field Strength Meter circuit is built on a piece of $0 \cdot$ lin matrix stripboard. Two take-off points are provided for the meter. The coils L1 and L2 are wound round a 1 in former, L1 first with L2 wound on top. VCl will have to be adjusted for maximum reading on the meter during the transmitter tuning-up process.

(a)


Fig. 2.9. Circult diagram of the simple Field Strength Meter.

(b)

## COMPONENTS

C1 $0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ disc ceramlc
C2 $1,000 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ polyester
VC1 2-22pF miniature polypropy. lene trimmer
D1 IN4148 diode
L1 6iturns 22 s.w.g.
L2 $2 \frac{1}{2}$ turns 22 s.w.g.
L3 $10 \mu \mathrm{H}$ r.f. choke
L4 $10 \mu \mathrm{H}$ r.f. choke
Aerial 36 inch length of wire

Fig. 2.10. Construction of the Field Strength Meter (a) top view of stripboard (b) underside of stripboard (c) details of coil construction,

With good batteries installed in the transmitter see if there is any reading on the multimeter, if not switch to a more sensitive range. If there is still no reading on the multimeter on its most sensitive range then the crystal oscillator is not running so you will have to turn VC1 until it does. Once you have a reading VC1 requires to be adjusted carefully until a peak is reached. If your multimeter goes to full scale reduce the sensitivity and adjust VC1 again for maximum reading.
Turn your attention now to VC2 and adjust this for maximum reading on your multimeter; again, you may have to reduce the sensitivity of your multimeter. With VC2 now adjusted
go back and check VCl and then come back to VC2 again for its last adjustment and you should now have a correctly tuned-up r.f. stage. As a further check remove the crystal and your multimeter should show zero; if not, then the circuit is oscillating on its own so go back and check the wiring on the p.c.b.

## PULSE WIDTH ADJUSTMENT

The other adjustment to be made on the transmitter is to set up the pulse widths, this is done with VR7. If you have access to an oscilloscope then look at pin 14 on IC3 and you should see the inverse of the waveform shown in Fig. 1.5 (Part 1).

You now require to set the stick on the first channel to its neutral position and then to set-up the first pulse width to 1.5 mS using VR7. Moving the stick on the first channel to its extremes should change the pulse width from a minimum of approximately 1 mS to a maximum of 2 mS .

If you have no access to any equipment other than your multimeter it is suggested that the pot VR7 is left in the centre position and any final setting up its left until the receiver and servos have been made and then the whole system can be set up correctly together.

Next Month: The receiver.

# Everyday News 

## A ROYAL REWARD FOR THE YOUNG

The highlight for winning competitors in this year's finals of the "Young Engineer for Britain 1979" and the Design Council GiC Schools Design Prize "Tomorrows Designers" was to receive their prizes and diplomas from HRH The Prince of Wales and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

HRH The Prince of Wales presented the awards to find the "Young Engineer for Britain 1979" at a ceremony held in the Wembley Conference Centre, London, October 25.

A record entry of over 300 youngsters with some 180 projects joined the trail to become Young Engineer for Britain 1979. Amongst the class winners was a project for an electronic pelican crossing and a proximity alarm.

HRH the Duke of Edinburgh presented the young "designers of tomorrow" with their certificates at a ceremony at Buckingham Palace, October 18, and some of the class winners are shown below.

## Sense Box

An educational toy primarily to entertain mentally - handicapped children was produced by five girls, Sharon Scandrett, Tracey

Ellis, Beth Hall, Andrea Clark, Helen Taylor and three boys, Julian Mitchell, Adrian Taylor and Scott Kenney from Thomas Easterly Community College. The Sense Box consists of a series of differently shaped holes into which corresponding wooden blocks have to be "posted". When a block is in place, its weight triggers a switch which lights a similar shape.

## Space sell-out

The first 38 flights of the US Space Shuttle have been sold out reports John Yardley, director of the space transportation system at NASA.
First flight is now scheduled for mid-1980. The 38 flights will carry 62 individual peyloads, many of them directly concerned with elec tronics such as satellites, or experiments in orbiting laboratories.

## SPY RADIO

A new form of spy radio has been developed by Racal. It fits in an executive briefcase, is battery powered and self-tuning.
The message is converted into data and transmitted in a high-speed burst of code to avoid detection. Short messages can be sent in one or two seconds. A message of 204 five-figure groups only takes 20 seconds to transmit.

## Micro Aid Cuts

Government spending economies have resulted in cut-backs in aid in the British microelectronics industry promotion programmes. Under the revised arrangements the Microprocessor Industry Support Programme will now receive 555 million and the Microprocessor Applications Project $£ 25$ million.
The Inmos microelectronics production project still goes ahead with f 25 million of basic capital investment with a second tranche of $\mathbf{2 5}$ million currently under review.
On the plus side some $\mathrm{f6}$ million is being made available from the EEC to promote the technology in Europe, a sum regarded as derisory by many industry commentators.


## Dosimeter Recharger

Three students from St Austell College, Ian GraingerAllen, Alan Varco and Philip Dover won a prize for their design of a re-charging unit for a dosimeter- an instrument which measures the amount of atomic radiation in the air.
The Students' prize-winning idea was easy to use, effective, and ergonomically designed. For their charging agent they used a piezoelectric crystal, taken from a cigarette lighter, and designed a pistol-shaped casing to contain it. The dosimeter fits on top, along the "barrel", and the user holds the unit up to his eye in order to read the scale which tells him when re-charging has been successfully completed.

## Steam Engine Simulator

An interest in electronics rather than model trains brought a commission for Jonathan Stewart, Ampleforth College, to design a system which puts the "chuff" into a model railway steam engine.

Basing the sequence of
sounds on a full scale steam engine, Jonathan's design also produces the noise of a feedwater pump, the safety valve and the air pumps. The effect of the "chuff" is obtained from bursts of white noise repeated at a rate dependent on the velocity of the engine. The sound is regulated by a switching device on the train's wheel breaking the contact at regular intervals.

The idea of a model steam engine making a sound is not new, but Jonathan's design has two major innovations. One is that the unit is designed to be housed in the locomotive rather than beside the track, with the speaker in the engine tender. secondly, the sounds are automatically controlled according to speed and load so that all the sounds, including starting and stopping, are realistic.
Although the design is currently only at the prototype stage with a large box containing the circuitry, the likelihood is that if it is taken up for production by a firm it can be incorporated into a micro-chip.


# from the World of Electronics 

## —ANALYSIS

## THE WIRED COMMUNITY

Latterly there has been a huge expansion in information services. People can use the telephone for the latest test match scores, stock exchange index, today's food recipe and so on. With suitably equipped TV sets there is now access to data banks, constantly updated. And through merging the home telephone with radio, individuals are able to participate from their homes in live phone-in radio programmes.

Now the Japanese have taken community communications a whole stage forward by putting all such services into a single package which they call Hi-OVIS (Highly Interactive Optical Visual information System). It took over two years in design and construction and came into service in July 1978. It is the prototype of the wired city of the future.

Technically it is of greatest interest through the exclusive us of fibre-optic communication lines rather than co-axial cable. Operationally its greatest feature is that all the homes linked into the system not only have a keyboard terminal for calling up the services required but also a monochrome TV camera and microphone through which they can participate in community discussions on live TV without visiting a studio.

The choice of optical fibre cables was based on large transmission capacity, low loss, freedom from electrical interference and economy. The cable is strung overhead using existing telephone and power line poles. Total length of cable connecting the present 158 "'subscribers" to the Hi-Ovis centre is 350 km

Needless to say the whole system is computer-controlled from two sets of minicomputers which normally share the tasks involved in dealing with requests from subscribers. If one set breaks down the other carries on with all tasks so providing a fail-soft facility. Apart from responding to the requests of subscribers for national TV, local TV, films, data, weather and traffic news, shopping guide and dozens of other services, the computing system also generates statistics on the type and number of requests from the subscribers.

In fact Hi-Ovis is more a social than a technological experiment. The technology is available today and has been implemented, even though on a fairly small scale, in the HigashiIkoma District. But it is a modular system capable of easy expansion in sub-centre blocks of 168 home terminals.

The big question is whether people really need such comprehensive facilities for entertainment, information and two-way communication and how will it affect their livesfor good or for ill?

So the social consequences are being studied and analysed in depth and on an international scale. Well over 4,000 people from many countries and organisations have visited Higashi-lkoma to see Hi-OVIS in action. Whatever the final outcome we should be grateful to the residents of the area for offering themselves as guinea-pigs in a live social experiment which may one day transform our style of living.

Brian G. Peck.

## Energetic waves

The systems engineering and consultancy company EASAMS Ltd., has been awarded a contract from the Department of Energy to assess the viability of wave energy devices.

In the UK the most energetic wave fields are off the west coast of Scotland where it has been estimated that a wave power station 1000 km long could yield 70 million megawatt-hours/year, about one third of the present UK demand for electricity.

## MPUs in action

Of 66 equipments on show at the Racal Group's private exhibition Racalex 79 in London, 45 of them incorporated MPUs.

Among the new items was the first ever working demonstration of frequency-hopping v.h.f. military tactical radio which, by changing frequency several times a second, allows communications to continue successfully during heavy enemy jamming.

## Videodiscs

Philips/MCA system videodiscs will be pressed at Mullard's plant at Blackburn. It will be the first plant outside the USA to make videodiscs and will employ about 200 people in the process.

The Philips/MCA videodisc system is to be launched in Europe in 1981. The videodisc players are being made at the Philips plant at Hasselt in Belgium.

## British businessmen can

 now dial direct to Peking for sending telex mestages, a blg advantage now that trade with the People's Republic is increasing fast. China is the 129th country to which Britain's 80,000 telex users can directly dial.A bubble memory module with data capacity of 1,048,5\%6 bits (128t bytes) has been introduced by Intel. Texas Instrumente, however, also has a megabit memory which claims to have a faster access time. Other manufacturers are tooling up for the megabit market.

## EARTH TERMINAL

A new Plessey company, Clessey Sa:ellite Communications, got away to a good start with a £1.4 million order for an earth terminal for Western Samoa.

The sarth terminal business world-wide is currently estimated at $£ 100$ million a year. Plessey hopes to secure a 10 per cent market share by 1985 .


The Independent Broadcasting Authority aims to have 30 main high-power transmitting stations for the new Fourth Channel colour television network completed and ready for simultaneous launch in all ITV regions (except Channel Islands) by November 1982

From the outset the Fourth Channel will be available to over 80 per cent of the population of the United Kingdom, more than 40 million potential viewers. An additional 18 high-power main stations will then join the network as they are completed at the rate of one a month during 1983-84.

## Priority for Wales

Priority is being given to Wales in two ways. All six main high-power stations serving Wales are included among the first 30 stations on which the Fourth Channel will be launched. These are Wenvoe, Llanddona, Carmel, Presely, Blaen-Plwyf and Moel-y-Parc.

Additionally, it is planned to equip some 80 local relay stations in Wales before November 1982. The population coverage in Wales, from the start, should be in excess of 90 per cent.

## Contracts and Employment

The IBA has already awarded contracts totalling more than $£ 16$ million to Marconi Communication Systems Ltd, of Chelmsford and Pye TVT Ltd, of Cambridge for the supply and installation of the 48 sets of high-power transmitters. These contracts, for the latest generation of u.h.f. transmitters, are the most valuable ever placed by the Authority.
The new high-power transmitters will comprise the first major television network to be based on the latest generation of high-efficiency klystron amplifiers. Also, they will feature a novel microprocessor-based programmable transmitter control system which, in conjunction with control units to be supplied by the IBA, will provide automatic operation of the transmitters, together with external status indications and remote and supervisory functions at the IBA's new Regional Operations Centres around which the entire network will be built.
In placing these large orders, the first time all main trangmitters for a large television network have been ordered at the same time. the IBA will not only simplify its own planning and building operations but will also help the British manufacturers to plan their production on a long-term basis, creating and ensuring steady employment.

## Viewers sets

The Fourth Channel will be the first programme service in the history of British television for which the vast majority of viewers will already have suitable receivers and aerials at the time of the launching. While viewers will need to ensure that their sets are correctly tuned to the new channel, and some may need to have their aerials re-adjusted to achieve good balance of signals over all four channels, for many it will just be a matter of pushing their presently unused channel-selection button.

By Pat Hawker, gзva

## Safety first

J THESE days of growing awareness of environmental pollution and the health hazards lurking in so many formerly respectable substances, from lead to asbestos to cigarettes, it is perhaps not surprising that one has to admit that there are a few question marks hanging over some aspects of radio and electronic equipment and construction. And I do not mean the sort of cases that turn up in accident statistlcs that show that there are stlll people so foolhardy as to wear head. phones Inexpertly connected to mains equipment while taking a bath.
Electronic construction has, of course, become much safer In these days of lowvoltage semiconductors. But there are still a few grey areas.
Some of the chemicals used in servicing aids can be tricky; for example carbon tetrachloride that at one time was liberally splashed around in switch cleaning fulds or used for cleaning the old style of nonplated quartz transmitting crystals. A recent editorial in The Lancet suggests that some people become over a period of time sensitive and allergic to solder.flux fumes and may develop asthmatic symp. toms of coughing and wheezing; constructors who do a lot of soldering would be advised to heed the medical warning that there should be effective exhaust ven. tilation.
Then again some silicon planar transistors contain the very toxic substance beryllia (do not crack open discarded transistors) and this also turns up sometimes in the mounting washers that form part of the heat sinking for power transistors; beryllia is used because of its good thermal conductivity but it can be a hazard. The woolly white powder (cadmium salts of organic acids) that sometimes appears on cad-mium-plated items of electronic equip. ment(screwheads, switches) is dangerous if ingested.
Mains-operated domestic equipment including radios, television sets, music centres, video-cassette and audio recorders as well as microphones, loudspeakers and the like is expected to conform to British Standard BS415. Most people agree that this is now a very tough specification indeed and there are likely to be few hazards for those using equipment that conforms to it.
A new edition has recently been issued, bringing the British standard more into line with the international standard IEC65. But the formidable BS415 is unlikely to be read by many consumers since it costs £ $10 \cdot 70$ a copy.
Curiously, imported amateur radio equipment seems to escape the safety net of BS 415 , at least in practice; a number of amateurs have recently brought to my attention some decidedly bad practices found in the mains-input circuits of imported transceivers and other equipment, including the use of single-pole switches
in the "neutral" lead. On the other hand, a Brighton dealer was recently fined $£ 160$ for having on sale two secondhand refrig. erators wired according to the old green/ red/black colour code instead of the correct blue (neutral)/brown ("line")/ yellow-green (earth) code for three-wire malns leads.

## Building h.f. receivers?

My recent reference to the hobby of listening to DX (long-distance) shortwave broadcast stations and the deflciencies of most standard domestic recelvers for this purpose has resulted in some readers wondering whether it would be possible for them to bulld a high-performance receiver at lower cost than the factory-built general-coverage communi-cations-type recelvers, now often based on the Wadley loop "triple-mixing" principle which allows receivers to be set quite accurately to the listed frequency of a wanted broadcast station rather than having to search across a crowded band.

This is not an easy question to answer. Really experienced constructors can certainly build good receivers, though I would hesitate before recommending them to use the Wadiey loop which needs really good filtering and screening.

For an amateur-band receiver the "direct-conversion" approach can give excellent results and are simple to build. However, these designs are far more suited to reception of single-side-band and Morse transmissions on a single band, than for broadcast reception.

In these days of integrated circuits and pre-aligned ceramic i.f. filters the task of the home-constructor is simplified but even so this leaves the problem of stable and accurate calibration. It is still difficult to build from scratch a set capable of competing with some of the better factorymade sets, but I hope readers will tell me that I am wrong, and that they have done just this.

## These examination results

Last month I referred to what seemed an unnecessarily long delay on the part of the City \& Guilds in announcing the results of the May, Radio Amateur's Examination based, for the first time, on "multichoice" questions. A delay, incidentally, which in turn resulted in a sudden swamping of the Home Office licensing section when about 600 of the successful candidates all applied for licences at the same time. At some centres the pass-rate exceeded eighty per cent.

It is only fair to report that C\&G subsequently wrote to the Radio Society of Great Britain apologising for the delay and explaining that this was due to problems with a new scanner which forms part of the modernisation programme. The Institute promises that this will not happen again.

This is good news although | still feel that with multichoice examinations it should be possible to hold frequent examinations and to tell the candidates how they have done within a few days at the most. The RAE is not a professional examination after all.
Another point arising: last month 1 mentioned that the GB2RS amateur news bulletins went out in the London area on 3650 kHz at $9.30 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$. local time on Sundays -and so for many years it did, until the new schedule was introduced during October. Now it goes out at 9 a.m. In this area.

## Large means low

Most of us are aware that some creatures, such as bats and dogs, can hear high audio frequencles that we would consider ultrasonic. But I was interested to learn of some experiments that have proved that elephants have an audio range that extends a good deal lower than human hearing.

This is believed to be less because of the large size of their ears than the long distance between them. And how did the research team find this out? They trained an elephant to push a button whenever it heard a signall
But I see that Philip Vanderlyn, one of the engineers who helped to develop stereo, has recently underlined some of the complex wonders of the human auditory system. He points out, for instance, that this responds vastly more rapidly than our eyes and can detect time differences of only a few tens of microseconds, setting a difficult problem for the designers of surround-sound systems.

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## The Extra ordinar Experiments of

 Proiess Ernest Eversure
## by たnthony John Bassett

Maurice dug deeply into his amazingly capacious duffel bag and eventually produced a couple of dishevelled fuzz boxes, part of the electronic equipment for the "Space Age Rock Band" which he and Tom are forming to play in support of various local charities.

## WHAT'S ALL THIS FUZZ?

"These old fuzz boxes have been given to us and we wonder whether they're worth mending, also there are a few things we don't understand about fuzz boxes, and we would be very grateful if you could explain something of their principles."
"Yes, Prof.," Tom joined in, "One of the things that puzzle me most about fuzz boxes is that they all seem to sound different from one another.
"Although there are a few designs which sound nearly the same as each other and are probably almost identical copies inside, it seems to me that there are big ones, small ones, simple ones, complicated ones, expensive ones and cheap ones, some of which sound better than the expensive ones. When I plug my guitar in and try a few different fuzz boxes, the
sounds I hear from some are so radically different from others, it has puzzled me for a long time how these mysterious electronic boxes can, magically it seems, alter the sound of my guitar in so many ways!"
"A very interesting question, Tom," The Prof. began to explain: "It's all to do with sound waves, which are represented inside
audio equipment by changing voltage patterns which we can consider graphically as waveforms.
"I think we all know a little already about audio waveforms: the sinewave, Fig. 1, which sounds somewhat flute-like; square wave (Fig. 2) with a reedier sound; sawtooth waves (Fig. 3) which sound a little like violins, but without the rich resonance of a good instru-


Fig. 4. A selection of waveforms to produce the fuzz effect. There are many more, and if several different ones are heard at once a great variety of effects are produced.


Fig. 5. Modifying the waveform creates different effects. (a) sinewave. (b) A sinewave with crossover distortion; easily distinquished from (a). The square wave (c) and the square wave with "rounded corners" (d); also readily distinguished from (c).

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ment, and there are a good many more different waveforms (Fig. 4), and all of them sound different. Our hearing can be so sensitive that a healthy human being can easily distinguish between waveforms which may appear to be only very slightly different from one another (Figs. 5a, b, c, d).

## SAWMILL FUZZ

"A fuzz box will change the waveform of the electrical output from the pickups of your guitar. With some types of fuzz box the change may be quite subtle, but with our sensitive hearing, quite noticeable and often pleasant and interesting to listen to. Others produce a drastic change and may even cause a guitar which usually sounds mellow, to produce a harsh buzz like a sawmill!!
"Obviously a fuzz box which causes a guitar to sound like a sawmill will have processed the waveform in a manner quite different from that of one of the gentler types and this is why some guitarists have more than one fuzz box. One kind for use in ballads and quiet numbers, and another to really wake up their audience in heavy rock numbers.

## FUZZY WRINKLES

"It is interesting to consider how fuzz effects have developed over a number of years. For instance, most modern fuzz boxes plug in between the guitar and the input of the amplifier. Some of the earlier ones did not connect like this at all, but went in between the amplifier speaker output and the loudspeakers."

The Prof. drew a few sketches of early fuzz circuits which connect to the speaker (Figs 6a, b, c, d).
"This one, Fig. 6a, gives an effect on the waveform similar to Fig. 5a, b which resembles crossover distortion, whilst Fig. 6b gives a smoother sound. In each of these circuits, different capacitor values may be tried for individually preferred effects; also the two circuits may be combined together.
"In Fig. 6c the signal from the amplifier is split between two speakers. The positive half of the waveform goes to one speaker and the negative half to another. Although one may well disapprove of the ultimate effects on the

(c)

Fig. 6. Some early fuzz circuits which connect to the speaker. (a) Dlode fuzz. The diodes should be capable of carrying the full speaker current. (b) The capacitor should be a revarsible type 100 V worklng or greater. (c) In this circuit the negative half of the waveform is fed to a separate speaker.


Fig. 7. An electromechanical fuzz. The contacts are caused to vibrate by a speaker.
speakers, apparently some users of fuzz effects consider this worthwhile.

## MECHANICAL FUZZ

"Before we go on to consider a number of more modern fuzz boxes using transistors and integrated circuits, it is worth briefly mentioning mechanical fuzz and electromechanical fuzz; methods where the fuzz effects are mechanically produced and the only electronics being the amplifier!
"Perhaps the simplest 'mechanical fuzz' consists of a modification to a loudspeaker, the cone of which is pierced with a number of small holes. Through each small hole a split-pin or else a bifurcated rivet is threaded, and the tangs bent so that although it cannot come out, it will rattle freely when the speaker cone vibrates, rather like the rivets in a drummer's rivet cymbal. The holes in the speaker cone should be strengthened using metal or plastic eyelets or washers.
"I'll leave you to imagine what this might sound like, or else to try it if you've got a spare speaker to risk!

## ELECTROMECHANICAL

An electromechanical method which does not involve such drastic alterations to the fabric of a loudspeaker cone involves a number of vibrating contacts, which are caused to vibrate by means of a diaphragm stretched over a hole in a speaker cabinet.
"A small additional amplifier and speaker are used to vibrate the contacts, and are fed with the signal from the guitar. Each contact pair is carefully adjusted so that any slight vibration of the speaker cone causes it to make and break. The contacts are mounted on springs of different lengths so that their natural frequencies are not identical and are connected through a passive mixer network of resistors and potentiometers to the input of the main amplifier (Fig. 7).
"There is a lot of scope for experiments on mechanical and electromechanical fuzz; using vibrating particles, carbon rods, and many other ingenious ideas, some of which have been triedand some of which you could be the first to discover!"

To be continued.

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## WORKSHOP

 MATTERSBy Harry T. Kitchen

## Fastenings

We have now arrived at the situation where we have a number of sheets of aluminium cut, drilled and bent, ready to form our cabinet. How do we secure them together? Well, as amateurs, we have three basic methods, all with advantages and disadvantages. We can use "pop" rivets, self tapping screws, and nuts with bolts.

Pop rivets are fine for fixing things that do not need to be taken apart easily, as the rivet has to be drilled out. Self tapping screws cut their own threads into any metal hole, and thus have a limited life if continual dismantling is involved. Nuts with bolts are fine where accessibility is reasonable.

My personal preference is for nuts and bolts for fixings of a semi-permanent nature, with self tapping screws for fixing the front panel. Many years' experience has taught me that, with care, self tapping screws can be used in the same hole being inserted and withdrawn many times without damag. ing the thread it has cut in the metal.

To take the case of our cabinet as an example, I would use nuts and bolts for securing the rear panel of the cabinet to the upper and lower halves -I make much use of two "U" shaped pieces for these as this simplifies con-struction-with self tapping screws being used for securing the front panel as this may require periodic removal for servicing, rebuilding etc.

## Finishing

Now that we have our finished cabinet, do we leave it bare shining aluminium or do we paint it, or otherwise alter the finish? Personally, I have settled for a crackle black cabinet with a "brushed" aluminium front panel, a combination that looks very smart indeed, and assures continuity of appearance.

The black crackle paint is applied onto the aluminium, which is lightly sanded to provide a "key" or "tooth" for the paint. This preparation is essential if the cabinet is not to shower flakes of paint every time it is knocked.

One possible objection to the crackle finish paint is that it does provide lodging for dust; the better the crackle effect, the greater the amount of dust. An alternative which is free from this defect is the hammer finish paint.

If you do not like paint, you can cover your cabinets with materials such as Fablon, and this is available in various finishes; as such it is more suitable for equipment destined for the living room or lounge rather than the work shop. You are your own master here, and can choose the finish you like best, but be prepared to carry out some experiments to achieve optimum results.

## Brushed aluminium

The brushed aluminium effect is simple to obtain, and requires nothing more elaborate than steel wool and elbow grease, aided by a little light oil. such as 3 in 1 . One of the advantages of this finish is that it can delete careless markings on the panel provided these are not too deep.

To commence, put a few spots of oil on the panel then take a ball of steel wool and draw it across the length of the panel in as straight a line as you can. Repeat, a little further along, say equal to half the width of the ball of steel wool.

Continue doing so, turning the ball of steel wool so that fresh wool is always presented to the panel. You will probably have to repeat the whole operation a number of times. Eventually you should obtain the effect you want.

At this point you will have to wash off the oil and general aluminium/steel wool debris in which the panel is covered by a liberal application of washing up liquid and hot water. The panel must be really free from oil if the following processes are to succeed. Care is the watch word at all times.

## Labelling

If our panel is at all complex, then it is well worth labelling all the controls to denote their functions; this not only provides instant recognition, but gives a more professional appearance.

Probably the simplest way of labelling the panel is by using transfers. These are available in various sizes and styles, and most good art shops sell sheets not only of lettering but also of words and symbols, so that you can. with care and discrimination, end up with a panel of distinction.

The letters are transferred onto the metal panel by rubbing the reverse of the sheet with a smooth rounded object; many ball point pens have caps
that are ideally suited for this application. Having completed the lettering of the panel, it is now essential to protect the relatively fragile transfers.

There are essentially two ways of protecting the transfers. You can spray on a lacquer that, when dried thoroughly, gives a fair degree of protection, or you can use a clear Perspex cover. This is in essence another panel, since all the piercings in the panel have to be repeated here, so that it can fit over the panel proper. This is the more expensive and time consuming method, but it gives complete protection to the transfers.

## Stencils

An intermediate method that I have occasionally used is to stencil the appropriate wording, using a suitable stencil and pen with black Indian ink, onto a sheet of white card. This is then sandwiched between the panel and the Perspex, and of course hides any scars appearing on the panel.

If you use the hints and tips contained in this short series on panel bashing, with care and patience you should be able to produce cabinets to be proud of. And you will have saved a great deal of money. Try it and I'm sure you will agree.


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## UNIBOABDS 

## BURGLAR ALARM

Many designs have been published for burglar alarms which give comprehensive protection against intruders. Quite often, however, all that one may require is a very simple sys. tem such as the Burglar Alarm Module described here.
This device incorporates one n.c. (normally closed) and one n.o. (normally open) loop for the detection arrangement. Several switches could be placed in series or paralleldepending on the loop used-so that more than one potential break-in point could be monitored with just one loop, see later.

The system described operates from a 9V PP3 battery and as such is not intended for heavy use, although the circuit has been designed to draw as small a quiescent curent as possible ( 50 microamps), Battery life is therefore quite good, but if the module is to be used regularly, then it is ad. vised that a malns derived power pack is used thereby obviating battery replacements.

## CIRCUIT DESCRIPTION

The circuit diagram of the alarm is shown in Fig. 1. Resistors R1 and R2, being of equal value, form a potential divider clamping the base of TRI to half the supply rail, i.e. 4.5 V . The emitter TR1, therefore, will be 0.6 V less than this-3.9V. The normallyclosed loop is connected between TR1 base and OV , so the base is normally grounded and TR1 is off, the emitter being low.
When the n.c. loop is broken, the base rises immediately to 4.5 V and the emitter "follows" this, rising to $3 \cdot 9 \mathrm{~V}$. This signal is transmitted
through R4 and D1 to the gate of CSR1, thereby triggering this thyristor. The thyristor then completes the circuit to WD1 and R6, D2 and so WD1 sounds and D2 illuminates.

The alarm, WD1, is a miniature electronic audible warning device consuming only about 15 mA when operating. Conventional electro-mechanical buzzers cannot be used because they can easily draw in excess of 500 mA , the maximum forward current allowable in the thyristor. If a heavier alarm load needs to be switched, then WD1 could be substituted by a 9 V relay with contacts rated to sult one's needs.

Light emitting diode, D2, indicates that the alarm is operating, but it also provides a minimum holding current for the thyristor, thereby preventing It from resetting undesirably.

The n.o. loop is connected between the positive rall and R5, a current limiting resistor for the gate of CSRI.

When the loop is closed, even for a tiny fraction of a section, then CSR1 will trigger and operate the alarm. Diode D1 isolates the n.o. loop from R4 and R3. If it were not present then if the n.o. loop were closed, R5, R4 and R3 would form a potential divider holding the gate of CSR1 at exactly 0.5 V -not enough to trigger the thyristor.
Capacitor Cl prevents the thyristor from triggering on initial opower switch on. This particular design seemed prone to do this. Whist it will slow down the response time of the circuit, this is not noticeable and the circuit still operates very fast.
Finally, S1 is a normally-closed switch incorporated into the n.c. loop but this switch is mounted in the module. When it is pressed it will cause the warning device to operate. The switch therefore provides an alarm/battery test facility, and enables a rough check on the battery condition to be made.


## CIRCUIT BOARD

The module is built into a plastic box type PB1, of dimensions $114 \times 76$ $\times 38 \mathrm{~mm}$. The circuit itself is built onto a piece of 0.1 inch stripboard measuring 24 holes $\times 10$ strips, see Fig. 2.
Construction is quite straightforward. Drill two holes as shown to take two 6BA mounting screws. Make all op the breaks in the copper strip using alther a spot face cutter or a hand held twist drill, then proceed to solder in the components followed by sultable lengths of lead to reach the case mounted components.

Fig. 1. The circult dlagram of the Burglar Alarm with Integrated battery supply,



The finished Burglar Alarm module. The base of the case becomes the "front panel" and components are mounted as shown, including the warning buzzer. Small terminal strips are mounted on the side of the case to take the closed and open loop


Fig. 2. Complete construction details showing interwiring between board and case mounted components, and layout of the components on the top side of the stripboard.

COMPONENTS

Resistors

| R1 $180 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | R4 | $1 \cdot 2 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| R2 | $180 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ | $R 5$ |
| R3 | $27 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |  |
| All | $390 \Omega$ | R6 |
| A | $1 \cdot 2 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ |  |
| carbon $\pm 5 \%$ |  |  |

Capacitors
C1 $2 \cdot 2 \mu \mathrm{~F} 10 \mathrm{~V}$ elect.
Semiconductors
TR1 BC108 npn silicon
D1 IN4148 or similar silicon diode
D2 TIL209 or similar red I.e.d.
CSR1 MCR102
Miscellaneous

> S1 s.p.s.t. push-to-break, release-to-make
> S2 s.p.s.t. rocker
> B1 9 volt PP3 (preferably Duracell)
> WD1 miniature 9 V audible warning device
> Stripnoard: 0.1 inch matrix, 10 strips $\times 24$ holes; 4 -way 2 Amp terminal block; PP3 connector; retaining clip for D2; case type PB1, approximately $110 \times 73 \times$ 35 mm ; 6BA nuts ( 8 off) bolts ( 6 off); washers ( 10 off), spacers (2 off); wire and switches for loops.

## Approx. cost Guidance only $\mathbf{8 4 . 0 0}$ excluding loop components

The usual rules regarding soldering apply. Do not overheat any semiconductors and take care not to bridge adjacent copper strips with whiskers of solder, etc.

Prepare the case to accept the case mounted components and fix these in position and wire up to the board as shown in Fig. 2.

In the prototype, the board was fitted to the case by two 18 mm long 6BA nuts and bolts and 12 mm long spacers.

The audible warning device (WD1) is mounted on the front of the box using two 8BA bolts. A small hole is

Positioning of components, battery and circuit board within the case. The circuit board should be mounted on two small spacers. The battery can alternatively be held in place by glueing some sponge to the lid which when fitted, the sponge will compress and hold the battery in position.

drilled nearby to take the leadouts from the buzzer to the circuit board.

The two "loops" are connected to the circuitry by means of terminal blocks mounted on the side of the case. The interior layout can be arranged to suit one's requirements but enough room must of course be left to take the battery which, incidentally, can be stuck down using a small piece of doublesided foam strip.

Complete the construction of the module and check the wiring carefully. If satisfactory, the panel mounted controls can then be lettered as required to indicate their functions.

## TESTING

Short out the n.c. terminal block connector with a short piece of wire, clip on the battery and switch on. Press S1; this will cause the buzzer to operate and D2 should also illuminate. Reset the circuit at S2 and short the no. loop connector-this again should also operate the alarm. The device is then complete and ready to be connected to the "loops".

If the device is to be used with the 9 V Power Pack (to be described later in this series) then the battery clip will be omitted and a suitable con-
nector used instead (e.g. a 3.5 mm jack socket). However with a quiescent current of only 50 microamps, it might pay to try battery operation before building the power pack, to see if the battery power is feasible.

## LOOPS AND SWITCHES

The alarm offers double loop protection but only a single loop can be used if desired. If the normally open version is chosen alone, then a permanent shorting link across TB2 is necessary.

The switches in the n.c. loop must have normally closed contacts and all be wired in series. In the n.o. loop, all the switches must have normally open contacts and be wired in parallel.

The constructor will have his own ideas regarding the type of switch to use but can be either miniature pushbutton, microswitch, reed/magnet, a pressure mat or home-made from brass strip or conductive tape.
For security reasons the switches and wires should be concealed. The framework between the hinges is a safe place to site the switches for doors and windows.
Next Month: 9V Power Supply.

## The Adventures of Tanty Bead

By Matthew Reed



| LINEAR |  | LF356 <br> LM301AN | $\begin{array}{r} 80 p \\ N \quad{ }^{86 p} \end{array}$ | NE531 NE555 | 98p |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| THIS IS DNLY A SELECTIDN' |  | LM308 | 60p | NE556 | 60 F |
|  |  | LM318N | 750 | NE567 | 1000 |
|  |  | LM324 | 45p | RC4136 | 100p |
| 709 | 35p | Lм339 | 450 | SN76477 | 230 |
| 741 | 16p | LM378 | 230, | T8A800 | 700 |
| 747 | $45 p$ | LM379S | 4100 | T8A810S | 1000 |
| 748 | 30w | LM380 | 750 | TDA102 | 6200 |
| 7106 | 850p | LM3900 | 50\% | TL081 | 45p |
| 7107 | 9000 | LM3909 | 65p | TLO84 | 125p |
| CA3046 | 55 | LM3911 | 100 | 2N414 | 80 |
| CA3080 | 70p | MC1458 | 320 | ZN425E | 390 |
| CA3130 | 90p | MM5 7160 | 59 | ZN103 | 200 |


| TRANSSTOIS |  |  |  | 2TX500 2 N 697 | $\begin{aligned} & 16 p \\ & 12 p \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 8 CY 72 | 14p | 2 N 3053 | 180 |
| AC127 | 178 | ED131 | 350 | 2 N 3054 | 50 |
| AC128 | 16p | BD132 | 35 | 2N3055 | 50 ? |
| AC176 | 18p | 8D139 | 35p | 2 N 3442 | 135p |
| AD161 | 380 | 8D140 | 350 | 2 N 3702 | 80 |
| AD162 | 380 | BFY50 | 15p | 2N3703 | $8 p$ |
| 8 C 107 | 8 p | 8FY51 | 150 | 2N3704 | 80 |
| 8C108 | 80 | BFY52 | 150 | 2N3705 | $9 p$ |
| 8C108C | 100 | MJ2955 | $98 p$ | 2N3706 | 90 |
| 8 Cl 109 | 80 | MPSA06 | 20p | 2N3707 | 9 |
| 8C109C | 10 | MPSA56 | 20p | 2N3708 | 8 p |
| 8 Cl 147 | $7 p$ | TIP29C | 60p | 2N3819 | 15p |
| 8 Cl 48 | 7 p | TIP30C | 700 | 2N3820 | 44p |
| 8 Cl 77 | 14p | TIP31C | 650 | 2N3904 | 8 p |
| 8C178 | 14p | TIP32C | 800 | 2N3905 | 8 p |
| 8C179 | 11 p | TIP 2955 | 650 | 2N3906 | 8 p |
| 8 Cl 182 | 100 | TIP3055 | 550 | 2N4058 | 12p |
| 8C182L | 100 | 2TX107 | 14 p | 2N5457 | 32p |
| 8C184 | 100 | $27 \times 108$ | 14 p | 2N5459 | 32p |
| 8C184L | 100 | 2T×300 | 16p | 2N5777 | 50p |
| 8C212 | 100 |  |  |  |  |
| $8 \mathrm{BC212} 5$ | 101 |  |  |  |  |
| 8C214 | 10 | DIODES |  |  |  |
| 8 C 214 L | $10 p$ |  |  |  |  |
| $8 \mathrm{C4} 77$ | 19p | in4001 | 3 lo | iN5401 | 130 |
| $8 \mathrm{BC548}$ | 100 | 1N4002 | 4 p | 82Y88 se | er. 80 |
| 8С¢70 | 14p | ITT Full spec. product. |  |  |  |
| 8СY71 | 14p | 1N4148 | - 11 | 0/100. § 1 | 1/1000 |


| DISPLAYS |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| DL704 03 idCC | 130 p | $120 p$ |
| DL707 | 0.3 n CA | $130 p$ |
| FND500 | 0.5 in CC | 100 p |

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| Low protile |
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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 25*1 | 14p | 14p | Cutter 800. |
| $2.5 \times 3.75$ | 450 | 45p |  |
| $2.5 \times 5$ | 54 p | 54 p | Pin |
| 3.75*5 | 64p | 64p | 1001108 |

## Sinque sutied

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Top uuality tibre glass copper board Single sided Sire 203 ㅈ․ 95 mm 60 meach
Daio pens 750 each

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| 25 V | 10 | 22 | 33 | 47 |  |


| $25 V$ | 10 | 22 | 33 | 47 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | 100 |  | $5 p$ |  |
|  |  |  |  | $8 p$ |

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| :---: |
| socket |\(\substack{line <br>

socket}\)
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$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { CERAMIC CAPACITORS: } \\
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| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | DIL SOCKETS \# (Low Profle - Texab) |  |
| diodes | ZENERS |  |
| AA119 25 |  |  |
| AA129 20 <br> BA100  <br> 10  <br> 10  |  | A 1000 V 30 |
|  | Range 3 V 3 to $33 \mathrm{~V} .1 \cdot 3 \mathrm{~W}$ |  |
| ${ }_{\text {CRO33 }} 148$ |  | ${ }^{5 A 3} 300 \mathrm{~V}{ }^{35}$ |
| (eat | $\begin{aligned} & { }_{25 \mathrm{~J}}^{\text {NOISE }} \\ & \hline 160 \end{aligned}$ |  |
| $\mathrm{OA}^{\text {a }} 1012$ |  |  |
| OA79 15 |  |  |
|  |  | ${ }_{124500 \mathrm{~V}}$ |
| ${ }_{\text {OAB }}$ | RECTIFIERS (piastic case) |  |
| OA ${ }^{\text {a }}$ |  |  |
| OAPS | 1 A |  |
|  | 1A/200V 25 | TIC44 ${ }^{15}$ |
| 1 N914 | $1 \mathrm{~A} / 400 \mathrm{~V}{ }^{29}$ | TIC45 45 |
| ${ }^{1} 216$ | 1A/600V | triacs |
| insoous |  | 3A100V 48 |
| INstout 15 | ${ }_{2 A / 200 V}{ }^{\text {a }}$ |  |
| NNA006/7 | $2 \mathrm{~A} / 400 \mathrm{~V} 53$ | 8A100V 34 |
| ${ }_{1544}$ | 2 A | 84a00V 64 |
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| 1600 | 4A/400V 74 |  |
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