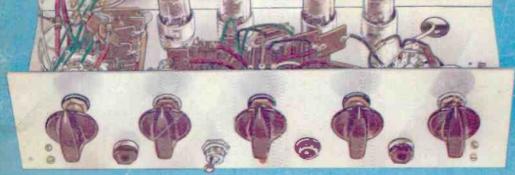


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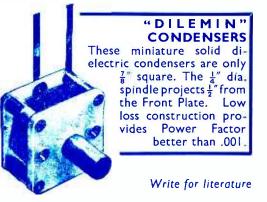
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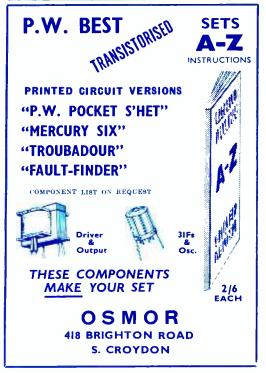




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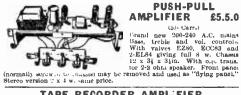
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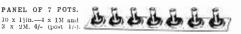
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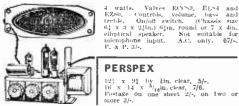
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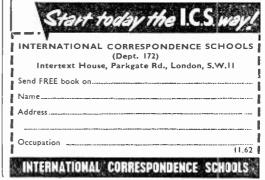
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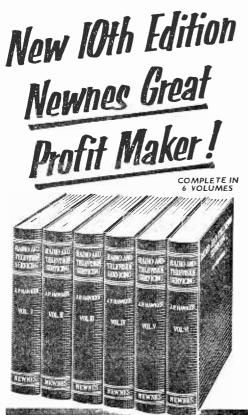
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S	ENSATIONAL ST	TEREO OFFE	ian" 3	PEAKERS. 10m. W or 15 ohms type HF1		Ižin. lo WATT	HIGH QUALIT	Y

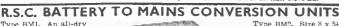
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COMPLETE V.F.O. UNIT from TX53. Freq. range in 4 switched bands from 1.2-17.5 Mc/s. Two V.T. 501s. as oscillator and buffer, 807 as driver, two S130s as voltage stabilizers. Output sufficient to drive two 813s in parallel. Slow motion drive directly calibrated in Mc/s. Provision for crystal control, metering of buffer for crystal control, metering of burger and drivar stage, Power requirements 400 v, and 6.3 v. D.C. Can also be used as low power transmitter. In excellent condition with valves and circuit diagram. **£5.** P, & P. 15'-,

P. C. RADIO LTD. 170, GOLDHAWK RD., Shepherds Bush 4946 W.12 AERIALS 11ft. long. 2ft. long when folded, 15/-, P. & P. 2/-,

CRYSTAL CALIBRATORS No. 10. Frequency range 1.5 to 10 Mc/s. Together with working instructions, lead and spare valves. £4.10.0. P. & P. 3/-.

AMERICAN WIRE RECORDER/ REPRODUCER UNIT. Facilisies for recording from Dynamic or Carbon microphone and radio. I knob operation for recording, rewinding and erasing, Neon recording lever indicator. Internal speaker. Mains 110 v. Supplied with speaker. Mains 110 v. Supplied with outer transformer, carbon mike and wire magazine for I hour's operation and hasdphones. Price £18.00. P. & P. £1. Spare Wire Magazine 50'-. Dynamic mike and stand £4.

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PRICE REDUCTIONS

(a) The KIT OF PARTS to build both the "5-10" Main Amplifier and the 2-vaive PRE-AMP CONTROL UNIT H.P. Dep. £3.7.0 and 12 **£15.15.0** months at £12.9. (b) The "5-10" and the 2-stage PRE-AMP both ASSEMBLED and TESTED H.P. Dep. £3.16.0 and 12 **£18.18.0** With Partridge O/put Transformer £1.6.0 extra.

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Each Unit is available with Stereo Cartridge fitted.

THE NEW GARRARD "AUTO-SLIM" 4-speed Autochanger **£8.10.0** with Crystal Pick-up PIIILLPS MODEL AG1016 ... A 4-speed Player which can be operated both manually and automatically. Suitable for Mono or Stereo opera- **£13.13.0**

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KIT OF PARTS £6.17.6 ASSEMBLED AND TESTED £8.8.0 Consists of a MASTER UNIT, size only 81 x 53 x 6in. and ONE EX-TENSION (a second extension may be added to any time). The Master Unit incorporates switching and power supply and with the chassis completely isolated from the mains is operated in absolute safety. Cases covered in quality leatherette.



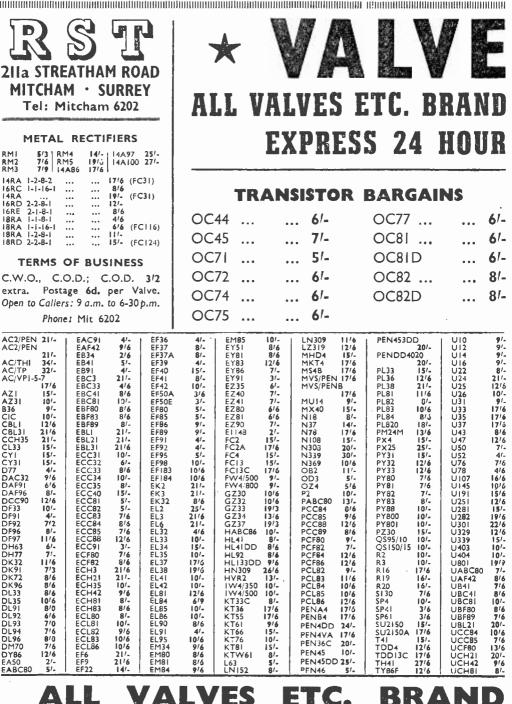
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November, 1962





PRACTICAL WIRELESS

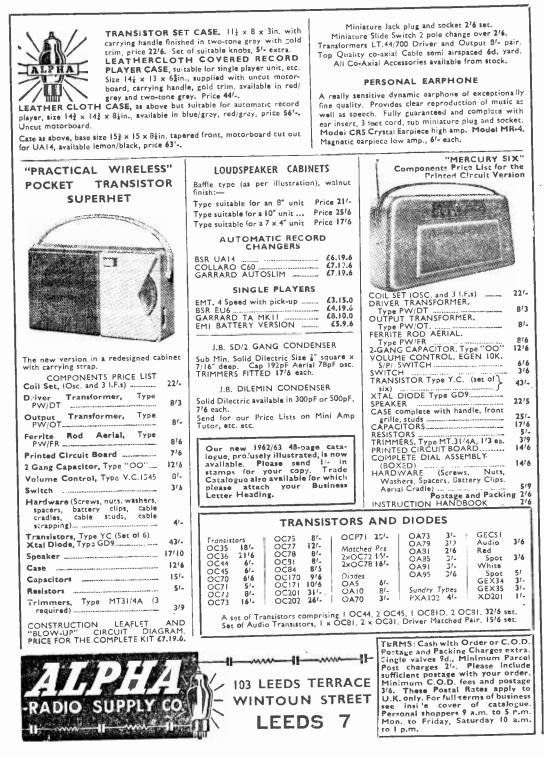


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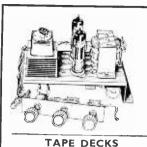
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B.S.R. Monardeck (Single speed) $3\frac{1}{4}$ in. per sec., simple control, uses $5\frac{1}{4}$ in. spools, **£6.15.0**, plus 5/6 carr. and ins. (Tapes extra.) COLLARO STUDIO DECK

£10.10.0, plus 5/6 carr. and ins. (Tapes extra).





A stylishly finished monaural ampli-fier with an output of 14 watts from 2 EL84s in push-pull. Super repro-duction of both music and speech, with negligible hum. Separate in-puts for mike and gram allow records and announcements to follow each other, Fully shrouded ultra output transformer (to match 3-15 speaker) and 2 independent volume controls, and separate bass and treble controls and separate bass and treble controls, are provided giving good lift and cut. Valve line-up 2 EL84s, ECC83, EF86 and EZ80 rectifier.

(Simple instruction booklet 1/6, free with kit). ONLY

£6.19.6 P. & P. 1/6

LOUDSPEAKERS

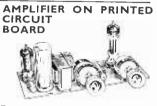
All 3 ohm impedance,	
2½in.	12/6
JIN	12/6
07111.	15/-
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Goodmans Sin, tweeter	10/6
E. M. Lyin. tweeter	10/6
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middle register speaker	10/6
P. & P. 1/6 per Speaker.	

SPECIAL OFFER!

6 Watt Push-Pull Amplifier

2 ECL82 metal rec., separate bass and treble cont. on aux. panel. Made for one of the largest manufacturers of record players. Used in 30 gn. unit. Size $7 \times 4in$. panel, $6 \times 1\frac{1}{2}in$. 3 ohm output, trans. included.

Our Price £4.9.6 Post 4/-



Two valve. UY85, UL84 with O.P. trans., use with 80 volt tap off motor. 39/6.

39'6. Two valve. UY85, UCL82, 3 watts output. O.P. trans., use as above, 49'6. P.P. 2'6 on above. Dropper res. for filaments if required, 2'6.

B.S.R. AUTO UNITS 160 v. Suitable for use with above. (Slightly soiled.) £5.5.0. P. & P. 5/-,

LARGE CABINET



ohm

speaker. £3.9.6. Carr. 5/-.

Superior Cabinet. Similar to above to take 8 x Sin, speaker, with motor board, will accommodate BSR UA14 or UA16. £3.9.6. Carr. 5/6. Speaker 15'- extra. P. & P. 1/6 extra.

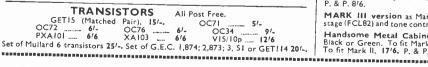
WODEN TRANSFORMERS

(Ex equip.), 200-240 v. input. Output 12 v. I amp., tapped I, 8 and 10 v. Ideal for model railways and chargers. 8/6, P.P. 2/-.

Colvern Wire Wound Potentiometers. 3in. 10 ohm 1 amp. Suitable for above. 5/-. P. & P. 1/-.

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TRANSFORMER 220/240 v. input. Output 40 v. at 3 amps. tapped 30 and 35 v. H.T. voltages 300 v. 100 mA. tapped 10 v. 150 v., 230 v., 260 v., also 90 v. 100 mA., 350 v., tapped at 200 v. 100 mA. Size $4\frac{1}{2} \times 5 \times$ Sin. Weight approx. 12 lb. 20/- each. P & P cf. 5in. Weig P. & P. 5/-.



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A first class 2 waveband transistor superhet in kit form. Printed circuit form. Printed panel (size 8[±]/₈ x 23in.) • 3 3 pre-aligned, I.F.
 transformers, High-gain
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24in. 35 ohm speaker, 10'6; 34in. 35 ohm speaker 16'6; 35 ohm 5in. P.M. 18'6; 7 x 4in. 35 ohms speaker 21'.. P. & P. 1'6

per speaker



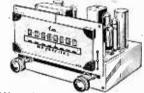
PORTABLE CABINET

Size approx. $9\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{3}{4} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ in. Suitable for above using $3\frac{1}{4}$ in. speaker. 25/-, P. & P. 2/-,

COIL AND TRANSFORMER SET FOR TRANSISTOR SUPERHET

3 I.F. transformers, one oscillator coil, one driver transformers, one oscinator coil, one driver transformer and wound Ferrite aerial (med, long and aerial coupling), 28/6 com-plete, post 1/-. 6 transistor printed circuit, board to match, 8/6, post 94. Circuit diagram 1/6 extra

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 F.M. tuning head by famous maker. Guaranteed non-drift,
Permeability tuning. Frequency coverage 88-100 mc/s. OA81 balanced diode output.
Two I.F. stages and discriminator. • Attractive maroon and gold dial (7 x 3in. glass). • Self powered, using a good quality mains transformer and valve rectifier.
Valves used ECC85, two EF80s, and EZ80 (rectifier). \bigcirc Fully drilled chasses. \bigcirc Size of completed tuner 8 x 6 x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. All parts sold separately. £5.19.6, plus 8/6 P.P. and ins. Circuit diagram and illustrations 1/6 P. free.

MARK II version as above but complete with magic eye, front panel and brackets. £6.12.6. P. & P. 8%.

MARK III version as Mark I but with output stage (FCL82) and tone control. £7.7.0. P.&P.8/6.

Handsome Metal Cabinet in choice of Grey, Black or Green. To fit Mark I. 25'-, P. & P. 2'6, To fit Mark II. 17'6, P. & P. 2'6.



+ 2 watt Output.

RECORD PLAYER

AMPLIFIER

🛨 Ready built with valves and 61in.

751- P. & P. 21-.

STEREO AMPLIFIER

Bargain Offer

4 watts per channel. ★ Full tone and volume controls.

QUALITY

speaker.

+ Complete with sockets, etc.

89/6 P. & P. 2/6.

PLAYER AMPLIFIER

A top-quality record player amplifier.

This amplifier (which is used in a 29gn, record player) employs ECC83,

EL84, EZ80 valves. Bass, treble and volume. On/off controls.

PRICE 69/6 P. & P. 3/6.

DITTO. Mounted on board with

output transformer and 61 in.

4-SPEED PLAYER UNIT

BARGAINS SINGLE PLAYERS

Complete at 89/6

RECORD

speaker, tone and volume con-trols. Mounted on panel 13 x 71.



Garrard TA Mk. 2, £7.15.0. B.S.R. TU/12, £3.15.0. Carr. 3/6 on each. AUTO CHANGERS B.S.R. UAI4, £6.19.6. Latest B.S.R.

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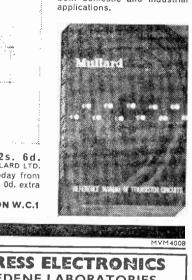


Mounted on unit plate. Complete with turn-

over head and sapphire

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This manual of transistor circuitry has been prepared by Mullard engineers, as an up-todate and readable volume which will be of use and interest to technicians, service engineers, junior designers and electronics students. It has a page size of $8\frac{1}{4} \times 5\frac{1}{4}$ and describes more than 60 circuits-over 30 are made generally available for the first time-including both domestic and industrial applications,



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YNAMIC MIGROPHONES Model DM-16 III. Single direction pick-up, dual impedance. (50,000 chms ligh. 50 ohms low). Excellent for PA recording both voice and music. Handsome new styling with terrific performance. Will stop or greatly re-duce feed-back howl on PA systems and allow greater working distance from mike. Quickly changed from high to low impedance, allowing long mike lines without irequency loss, has detachable cable. Flat response 60-12,000 cps. Output-62db. Swivel mounting for i stands. PRICE 7 gns. COMPLETE.

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Modern. tastefully interrated design mike and stand. Wide vange fast response from 60 to 12,000 cps. Other impedance. Stands vertically others in any direction from wide base desk stand. Removes irom desk stand and can be attached to floor stand. Finished in blue mist metallic lacquer with chrome trim. Supplied with chrome trim. Supplied with shielded plastic covered cable. An elevant vet practical instrument. AT An AT ONLY 5 gus.





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Model 8A7. Frequency range 50-16.000 c/s. Lowest resonance 60 ± 15 c/s. Sensitivity 98db. Programme source input 8 watts. Voice coil impedance 16 ohms. Net weight 970 grammes. BRAND NEW AND GUARANTEED, 92/6.



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A MINIATURE TRANSISTOR TAPE **RECORDER IN SEMI** ASSEMBLED KIT FORM

Consisting of three transistor amplifiers, record/play, volume control, miniature speaker, forward-stop-rewind-switch, reci of tape and spare roel, motor, attractive coloured case. Mic, and carrhone sockets, pick-up coll, mike, carrhone and carrying handle supplied. Standard battery operated. Simple to put tograther in loss than one hour, Brand new and guaranteed.

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A guaranteed saving of at least £4: Results comparable with similar built-up recorders selling at around 12 gns. S.A.E. for further details. Order early.

ILL'GS bakelite wo-way, olack bakelite soluer terminal PLUG. Panel mounting, neat finish. Standard size 2/6 cael. (Plug only). NEW: "STERLO-STETHO" IJEADPHONES Freq. response 40-16000 cps \otimes Impedance 1 ohms, Equip-ed with two individual individual ransducers ind cord sets or true stereo or true steteo reproduction Latremely ensitive, the sound is cur-fied through plastic tubes tippod with Lipped

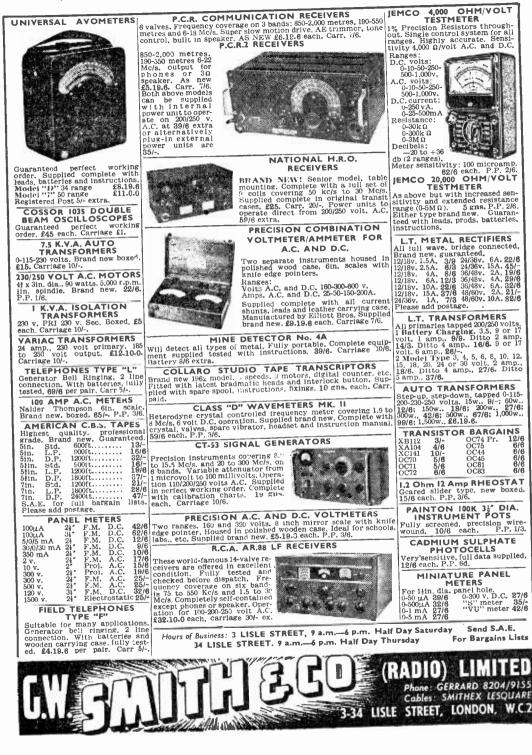
tipped with removatie carpictes, ingenious hinge device permits adjust-ment to any desired spacing. Weight les, than 2 ors, May also be used for monaural listennia. 2716.



OIDAR 2

November, 1962





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Transfilters

These ceramic devices save alignment problems and improve performance. Use instead of I.F. transformer. Complete with circuit 846 anab circuit, 8/6 each.

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The 'Good Companion'

Mk.II using

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In the 'de-luxe' cabinet as illustrated it costs #10.10.6 to build—but What a set!

FIGURE 10.5 to build-build what asst: Sec.n these pages; you will find nothing to compare with its speci-fication. It uses trans-than to the sec. and the sec. and the sec. and the sec. The sec. and the sec. and the sec. and the sec. and the sec. powertui Medium Motion Tuning, etc. etc., and its a very powertui Medium Motion Tuning, etc. etc., and its a very powertui Medium Motion Tuning, etc. etc., and its a very powertui Medium Motion Tuning, etc. etc., and its a very powertui Medium Motion Tuning, etc. etc., and its a very powertui Medium Motion Tuning, etc. etc., and its a very powertui Medium Motion Tuning, etc. etc., and its a very powertui Medium Association of the sec. powertui Medium Association of the sec. powertui Medium Association of the sec. and the sec. and the sec. powertui Medium Association of the sec. Also full atter sales ervice available. Nou will definitely be doing the right thing if you buy a Good Combanion.

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Cheaper than you can possible make it, we offer a completely made up transistor Pocket Super-het. Uses all first made minia-ture parts and is complete with leather case, carphone and battery, 535-1065 kc/s., sensiti-vity 300 micro volts/M, output 150 mW, ferrite slab aerial. Size approximately 41 x 21 x 14in. Price \$6,19.6. Post and Ins. 3/-



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Be the Best Dad in the World What a thrill for your boy to receive a present like this. Completely transistor-





Miniature Circuit Breaker

(Or repairable fuse) will have experience (Or repairable fuse) You will have experienced the annoyance of having to repair a fuse especially in the middle of an experi-ment or repair job. Save yourself this bother by installing a simple circuit breaker. All you have to do then (if you touch the wrong wires together) is to reset (push in) the circuit breaker. Offered with ins-tructions at 15/- each. (Will save its cost in time and temper in no time). time).

Triple Purpose Auto Transformer

Ministry reference 10K/143. This will convert ± 30 v. to 110 v. or ± 30 v. to 460 v. Use it also as a filament transformer ± 30 v. to 6.3 v. 5 emps or ± 30 v. to 1.6 v. 3 amps. Price 12/6. Post and Packing ± 6 .

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This is a small thermostat which cuts on and off at around freezing point. Has many uses, one of which could be an ice warning device to be fitted under your motor car. Price 7/6. Post 1/-

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E.M.1.4 speed with turntable and pick-up on control board #4.5.0, plus 5/- post & ins. Plinth for mounting same in cupboard or drawer 12/6. Post free if ordered with motor.

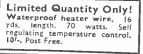
Mains Motor

Mains Motor Intended for vertical mounting so suitable for gramophone or tapp recorder. Can also be mounted horizontally when it can be used as a ian for ventilating, the fan blades being fitted directly on to the shaft. Snip price only 15/-, plus 2/6 post and Insurance.

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Flood Lamp Control Our dim and full switch is ideal for controlling photo flood lamps: It fives two lamps in series, two lamps full brilliance and lamps off. Stiniar control of other appli-ances can be arranged where circuit can be split exactly in half. Technically the switch is known as a double-pole change over with off. Our price 3/6, plus post and insurance 1/-.





15 amp. Thermostat

(Survie) Adjustable over a fairly wide range of temperatures but set for 70°F, sul-table for wall mounting to control room heaters. Exceptional bargain a 9/6, plus 1/- post and insurance. Crackle finished and calibrated case, suitable for mounting this (only minoradjustment) 5/- extra.

Fluorescent Lighting Complete Complete Kit, Comprises: Hi-Comprises: Hi-C r a f t s t a r b s 2 lamp holders, white enamel metal work and 40 watt tube. Special summer price 200- complete, plus carriage and insurance 6/-. Lots of 12 or more carriage free.

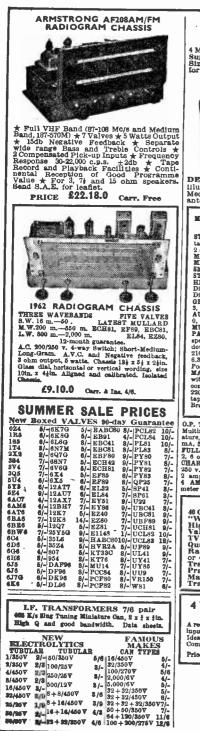
Zener Diodes

Latest invention for voltage control and stabilisation. Complete with circuit diagram 7/6.

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C.R.T. BOOSTER TRANSFORMERS C.R.T. BOOSTER TRANSFORMERS for heater cathode short circuit, or tubes with failing emission. Full instructions supplied mains input. Type A optional 25% and 56% boost, 2v. Or 4v. or 6.3v. or 10.8v. or 12.6v. State voltage read. PRICE 10/8.

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BAKER SELHURST LOUDSPEAKERS

Details S.A.E. Details 5.A.n. 12in. Baker 15w. Stalwart 3 or 15 ohins, 45-13,000 90/-Stereo, Foam 90/-•• Sus pension, 12w., 35.16,000 £6.17.6 12in. Baker Ultra Tweive, 20 c.p.s. to 25 kc/s. £17.10 15in. Auditorium, 35 w., Bass. 20 c.p.s. to 12kc/s, £18 Enclosure



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CONDENSERS. New stock. 0.00 ml. 7 kV, T.C.C., 5/6; Ditto, 20 kV, 9/6; 0.1 mld., 7 kV, 9/6; Tubular 500 v. 0.001 to 0.00 mld. 94.; 0.1, 1/-0.25, 1/6; 0.5/500 v., 1/9; 0.1/350 v., 94.; 0.1/2,000 v. 0.1/1/00 v., 1/9; 0.1 mld., 2000 v.0014, 3/6. CERAMIC CONDS. 500 v. 0.3 pF to 0.01 mld., 94.

SILVER MICA CONDENSERS. 10% 5 pF to 500 pF 94.; 500 pF to 3,000 pF, 1/a. Close tolerance (± 1 pF) 22 pF to 47 pF, 1/a. Ditto 1% 50 pF to 815 pF, 1/a; 1,000 pF to 5,000 pF, 1/8.

465 kc/s SIGNAL GENERATOR Price 15/~, Uses B.F.O. Unit, ZA 30038 ready made with velve 155. POCKET SIZE 24 x 44 x 1in. One resistor to change, full instructions supplied. Battery 8/6 extra 69V 11V. Details S.A.E.

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Toggle Switches, s.p., 2/-: d.I d.p.t.d., 4/-. Ex. Govt. s.p.d.t., 1/-. d.p., 8/6;

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Practical Window

Vol. XXXVIII No. 669 NOVEMBER, 1962

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TWO NEW BLUEPRINTS

NCLUDED in this issue of P.W. is the second in our current series of free blueprints, dealing with a pre-amplifier and a VHF tuner.

The Mayfair pre-amplifier has been specially designed to feed the Strand amplifier (which was the subject of the October blueprint) but it can be used equally well with any other high quality amplifier requiring an input of up to 250mV.

The Mayfair has all the features one expects from a versatile control unit, including a choice of five separate input circuits, treble and rumble filters, treble and bass cut-and-lift controls and two outputs-normal output for feeding the power amplifier and an auxiliary output for feeding a tape recorder.

The other side of the blueprint features the Savoy VHF tuner. This incorporates a turret tuner which can be switched to the three BBC Band II F.M. programmes plus two positions for Band I and Band III Television sound (A.M.) The turret is supplied ready trimmed and fitted with the appropriate coils. In the interests of quality, the discriminator is of the Foster-Seeley type, which permits the use of A.F.C.

The December issue of P.W. will also contain a free doublesided blueprint to complete the present series.

A P.W. FILM SHOW

N February 1st, 1963, beginning at 7.30 p.m., a film show is to be held at Caxton Hall, Westminster, London. As in previous years this show has been arranged in collaboration with Mullard Ltd. and will include the showing of the two films "Fuel for the Future" and "The Electroneers".

Readers are invited to apply to these offices for free tickets which are now available. When applying for tickets, please enclose a S.A.E. (which must measure at least $3\frac{1}{2} \times 6in$.).

RADIO SHOW INTEREST

LTHOUGH the Radio Show has come and gone, many in-A teresting facts continue to emerge from those hectic two weeks.

A research team acting on behalf of Bush Radio Limited took a $12\frac{1}{2}\%$ test sample and found that of the 350,620 visitors in ten days, no fewer than 138,277 spent a considerable time in their clients' demonstration room. In addition 72,739 visitors passed through the main stand and the information desk dealt with a total of 12,062 firm enquiries.

Yet, despite this obvious interest by the public (and by the dealers) many firms considered it not worth while exhibiting. We wonder exactly why?

Our next issue dated December, will be published on November 7th.



being switched automatically to the A.A. office in Leeds, from which help is forthcoming at any hour of the day or night.

New Experimental Dish Reflector

A 30ft diameter experimental dish reflector has recently been produced at Marconi's mechanical engineering works at Felling, Co. Durham. It has been designed to operate at wavelengths down to 3cm and an intensive programme of load and deflection tests has been arranged for it.

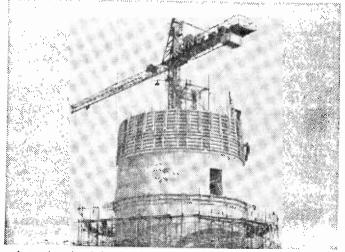
Several new production techniques had to be devised in order to ensure a sufficiently high degree of precision and this large dish has been manufactured with a measured surface accuracy of better than 20 thousandths of an inch standard deviation. Reflectors of this type working at these high frequencies are likely to find increasing use in the field of satellite tracking.

Transistors Replace Valves in U.K.-Belgium Cable

TRANSISTORS will take the place of valves in the U.K.-Belgium submarine cable when new repeaters are inserted in the cable in mid-1964. This will be the first British cable using transistors and will provide a big increase in circuit capacity.

An order for transistorised repeaters has been placed by the Post Office, working in partnership with the Belgian Regie des Telegraphs et des Telephones.

The cable, laid in 1948 between St. Margaret's Bay, Kent, and La Panne, at present carries 216 telephone circuits and by inserting two transistorised repeaters the capacity will be



A start has already been made on the new radio tower which will house the Museum Telephone Exchange, in London, and will also be used for radio and television broadcasting.

NEWS AT HOME AND ABROAD

Broadcast Receiving Licences

THE following statement shows the approximate number of Broadcast Receiving Licences in force at the end of July, 1962, in respect of wireless receiving stations situated within the various Postal Regions of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The numbers include Licences issued to blind persons without payment.

Region				Total
London Postal	••	••	••	641,529
Home Counties Midland			••	594,562
North Eastern			••	430,216
North Western	••		••	455,066
South Western	••	••	•••	391,406 349,789
Wales and Border (Count	ea		199,284
			···-	200,201
Total England and	Wales			3,061,852
Scotland Northern Ireland	••	••		327,135
MALTHELU THEIRUG	••			109,340
Grand Total	••	••		3,498,327

Extension to A.A. Radio Network

OVER 1,200 square miles of North-East England were recently added to the area covered by the Automobile Association's radio - controlled breakdown services with the official opening of a new A.A. area headquarters at York.

The new Fanum House serves the North and East Ridings of Yorkshire and is the third A.A. office to be established in Britain's largest county, the others being at Leeds and Sheffield.

Radio emergency services are available from the new office from 8 a.m. until 11 pm., calls to the office outside those hours

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raised to 420 circuits of standard CCITT quality for 4kc/s spacing. The cable, which is 47.5 nautical miles long, is a single coaxial cable of 1.7in. diameter in which the polythene core incorporates a partial air space.

It is the largest type of submarine coaxial telephone cable in service, but, since it was laid, the rapid development of submerged repeaters has made the use of such large and expensive cables less attractive.

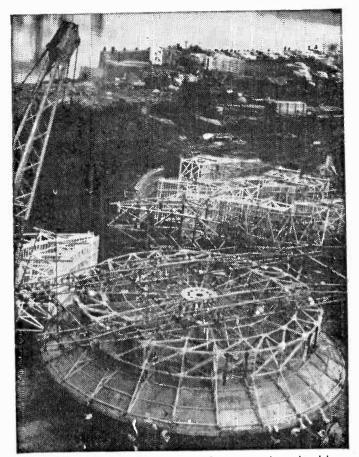
An essential feature of the repeater is the submerged emphasis on reliability and, as one of the factors to achieve this, only components of proven reliability are incorporated. The transistor offers obvious advantages for a submerged repeater because its power requirement is substantially less than that of a thermionic valve of similar capacity; this should give an advantageous reduction in power feed voltages for a long system using many repeaters in tandem. However, until it has been established that transistors will meet exceptional reliability the requirements they will not be submerged incorporated in repeaters for use on long routes.

The present system uses frequency bands of 60-956kc/s and 1152-2048kc/s for the 216 circuits now in service; the new system will use bands of 312-2044kc/s and 2544-4276kc/s and the transistorised amplifier in each repeater will therefore be operating in the band from about 0-3 to 4-3Mc/s.

It is expected to have the repeaters ready for insertion in the cable by about the middle of 1964.

Experimental Transmissions of Stereophonic System

SINCE 1958 the BBC has been making experimental stereophonic transmissions on alternate Saturday mornings, using the sound transmitters of television stations for the right-hand channel and the Third Protransmitters (medium gramme wave and VHF) for the left-hand channel. The use of two transmission channels in this way makes it necessary for listeners to have two receivers and would practicable for not be regular stereophonic broadcasting. Although no decision has been made to introduce a stereophonic service the BBC is now



The 30ft diameter experimental dish reflector, recently produced by Marconi's.

making some experiments with a system in which a single VHF transmitter is used for both channels in such a way that listeners with ordinary VHF receivers can obtain satisfactory monophonic reception of the stereophonic transmissions.

On 28th August the BBC started a series of experimental transmissions from the Wrotham VHF sound station, using the Zenith-GE stereophonic system developed in the USA. This system is compatible—i.e., the stereophonic signals can be reproduced monophonically by a conventional VHF receiver. The main purpose of these transmissions, which will continue for about ten weeks, is to enable an engineering assessment of the Zenith-GE system to be made under service conditions, in particular to allow a check to be

carried out of the service area for stereophonic reception. The Wrotham Third Programme transmitter (91·3Mc/s) is being used for the experiments with an effective radiated power of 120kw.

There are four regular transmissions each week and each transmission consists of a settingup period lasting about five minutes, followed by the playing of stereophonic recordings. The setting-up period consists of four speech items from different positions in the following order: centre, left, right, centre.

The service area of the stereophonic transmissions is somewhat less than that for the normal transmissions from Wrotham and in the fringe of the service area the stereophonic effect may not be realised without an efficient receiving serial



By W. J. Delaney

HE Savoy tuner, which forms the subject of one side of this month's Free Gift Blueprint has been designed on novel lines, as may be seen from the circuit. Firstly, it utilises a commercial type of tuner of the switched type, being pre-set to five stations. Two of these are for the local TV transmissions (A.M.), and

stations. Two of these are for the local TV transmissions (A.M.), and the remaining three the standard BBC F.M. transmissions. Accordingly, the turret requires critical adjustment and this is carried out by the manufacturers, so that part of the main alignment troubles of an F.M. tuner are already overcome.

Outputs

Secondly, the I.F. stages are based on normal lines, but after the detector, which is of the Foster Seeley type, the output may be taken direct to an amplifier or preamp, or fed to either of these via a cathode follower, and it will be seen on the blueprint that there is a broken line between these two points (A) indicating the fact that the circuit may be terminated on either side of it, as well as after the cathode-follower (B). This divides off the power

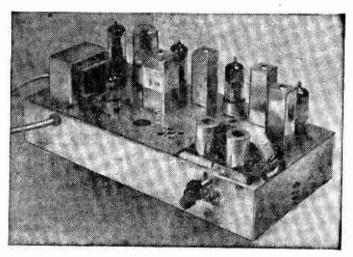
This divides off the power supply, and indicates that if desired, the mains section may be dispensed

with and the tuner fed from a power amplifier. There are thus two alternative schemes available, and when building the tuner the chassis may be cut down in size to suit the actual unit which is to be used.

I.F. and Detector

The tuner is fed direct to the I.F. section which consists of two stages—the first an EF89, the gain of which is controlled by the AGC line, and the second an EF80.

The next stage is the limiter, which also employs an EF80, and the output from the previous stage is tapped off between these two and the signal



The finished tuner.

rectified by a simple diode with I.F. filter and taken to one side of a simple change-over switch. The output from the limiter is taken through a special discriminator transformer to a simple double-diode valve from which it is fed to the other side of the change-over switch previously referred to.

It will be noted in the circuit that the arm of this switch is on the line "A", and the signal at this point may be either the F.M. or A.M.—

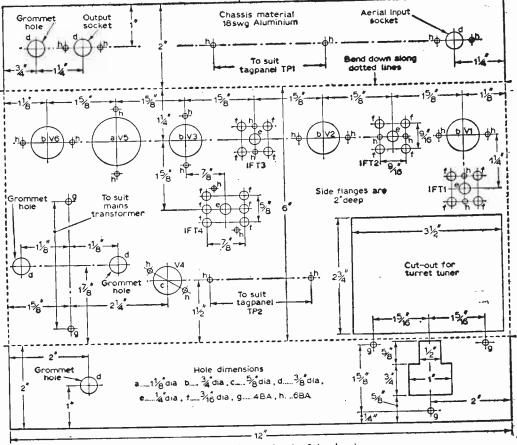


Fig. 5-The drilling details of the chassis.

according to the position of the switch—and is taken either to the pre-amp or the cathode-follower.

Construction

Having decided on the type of tuner which is required the chassis should be drilled as shown in Fig. 5, noting particularly the cut-out for the turret. Some care is necessary here, as if the cutout is too large, the chassis will be weakened, whilst if too small, difficulty will be experienced in fitting the turret without distorting it. When the chassis has been drilled grommets should be fitted as required, and then the actual work of wiring commenced.

For this, it is preferable to make up the two tagboards first. These should be fully wired, and the appropriate extension leads attached. Note particularly here that if the A.M. section is not required (owing to the use of an alternative turret of the all-F.M. type) the tag-panel 2 may be suitably shortened, and one of the output coupling condensers omitted.

Capacitor C17 is shown at two points, (a) and

(b). If the cathode follower is dispensed with, then the output is taken direct from C17(a). The capacitor marked C* in Fig. 4 is important from the point of view of stability, and may give more stable working on F.M. if transferred to a position over C16, R19 etc.

Wiring and Turret

Proceed with all the wiring as shown in Fig. 4, and only when this has been completed and checked should the turret be mounted and wired. Fig. 6 shows the position and colour coding of the leads of this, and in conjunction with Fig. 4 there should be no difficulty.

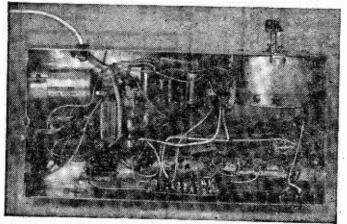
Just one word of caution when connecting up the leads on the turret. The AGC lead (coloured green) is attached on the turret to a resistor, and care should be taken when taking out the green lead to the short tag-strip not to pull the lead so that the resistor comes into contact with the valve screen and thereby introduces a short-circuit.

Switch S2 may be of any preferred type, either a simple toggle, or a rotary with long spindledepending upon how you intend to mount the chassis on completion. By using screened leads for the three points on the switch it is possible to mount the switch on a control panel remote from the chassis, and this was the idea behind the prototype.

The switch was then mounted close to the main control on the turret, but if desired an ordinary toggle may be mounted in place of the grommet in Fig. 4 and the three leads terminated there.

Alignment

When wiring is complete, the tuner is ready for alignment and the first task is to check carefully for any short-circuits or left-out connections. Go over the circuit carefully, and check with a meter for any H.T. shorts. When satisfied that everything is in order, alignment may commence and it



An underside view of the tuner.

should be stressed here that the turret and the I.F. transformers (with the exception of the discriminator transformer) are pre-aligned by the makers and should not be adjusted in any way at first.

Insert the various valves as shown in Fig. 4 and switch on. As soon as the valves have reached normal temperature some sound should be heard at all the five settings of the turret. Note carefully that this has twelve positions, and therefore a number of these will not be productive of signals.

Ideally, alignment should be carried out using a wobbulator and oscilloscope. If this equipment is not available, an ordinary A.M. signal generator and high resistance $(10,000\Omega/V \text{ or more})$ testmeter can be used.

Clip the negative lead of the meter to the chassis, and join the other lead to TP1 via a 100k resistor, the ends of the resistor being clipped off to about tin. to avoid detuning effects.

Then loosen the screening can on V2 and slip a small roll of paper under it so that it encompasses the valve, and replace the can just short of the skirt. In other words remove the can slightly so that it is still over the valve but is not earthed.

See page 589 for Components List

Clip the signal generator lead to the can through the hole in the top and this will provide ideal input coupling without upsetting the tuning. Tune the signal generator to 10°7Mc/s. The I.F. transformers should now be adjusted to provide a fairly wide response centred round the intermediate frequency—say a width of 150kc/s.

As these transformers are over-coupled a staggered response will not be possible—that is, it will not be possible to tune one primary to say, 10.64 and its secondary to 10.74 and so on. However, with patience a nicely squared response may be obtained—but use a long thin plastic trimming tool, not a screwdriver.

The Discriminator

We now come to the most tricky part of the trimming, namely the discriminator transformer.

The meter should be transferred to T/P2. The trimmer at the lower end of the transformer (secondary) should now be adjusted down to zero and a careful note made when the meter pointer arrives at the end.

The two leads must now be changed on the meter and the trimmer again adjusted until it starts to increase. (A centre-reading meter would indicate the passage of current from negative through zero to positive.) Make quite certain that you have the zero point accurately defined and then adjust the trimmer so that there is a very small residual positive voltage—not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}V$.

Now adjust the trimmer on top of the transformer (this is the primary) to show a maximum reading, and return to the

secondary trimmer and adjust this for absolute zero. Return again to the top trimmer and make certain there is no improvement possible and the tuner is then set up.

On no account should the trimmers on the turret be adjusted until station reception has been

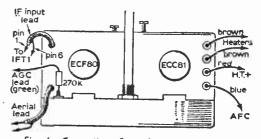


Fig. 6-Connections from the turret tuner unit

obtained at all five positions. If there is any distortion present on one station only, then the trimmer for that may be adjusted through the hole in the turret screen, but it should only need the slightest movement, and if this is ineffective, attention should be paid to the adjustment of the LF.'s.

A HOME-MADE **HI-FI OUTPUT TRANSFORMER**

THE USE OF A TERTIARY FEEDBACK WINDING ARRANGEMENT SIMPLIFIES THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS TRANS-FORMER AND REDUCES THE COST.

HE section diagram of one of the author's tertiary-wound transformers is shown in Fig. 12, which may seem, at first glance, to be as complex as the conventional high quality product, but it is really quite a simple job for the enthusiastic home constructor. Sections 1 and 7 are only of 20 turns each spaced to form single layers and the secondary (4) is a simple winding of about a hundred turns. The primary is so arranged that sections 2 and 5, serving one valve,

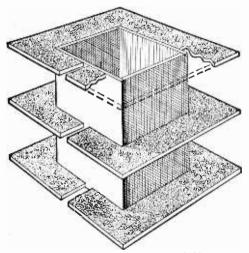


Fig. 10-The construction of the bobbin.

match 3 and 6 for the other much more accurately than the more usual arrangement in which only the number or turns-and nothing else-can be matched.

Laminations

The amateur's main difficulty is obtaining core material, for very few dealers carry laminations in stock and the delivery for small orders of one or two stacks seems somewhat lengthy. Fortunately, the tertiary-wound transformer is so stable, so free of trouble in the use of heavy negative feedback, that quite generous tolerance is permissible in the choice of laminations before

BY W. GROOME

(Continued from page 502 of the October issue)

any audibly detectable loss of quality occurs. Because of this, a departure has been made from the usual rigid specification that limits the amateur's choice of material (and reduces expenses because core material is far from cheap) and constructional details will be given which can be adapted to material that is available or easily obtainable.

Stripping down an old component is one way of obtaining laminations, and wire too. It can bring a slight simplification in the job of re-winding, because, as stripping proceeds, the turns per layer, and the number of layers can be counted and so the number of primary turns to put on for powerhandling at least equal to, and probably better than, the original component can be discovered. It will be a useful guide, but not quite all of the It will be a userul guide, but not quite all of the wire will go back on because two single-layer tertiary windings, some extra insulation and a possible loss of compactness owing to hand-winding, will use up some space. The sacrifice need not be too great, and the turns-ratio (if it must be the same) can be mointeined. must be the same) can be maintained.

Former

The constructor who does not resort to using old components will have to make decisions on wire gauge and number of turns, but some guidance will be given. The transformer needs a special cheeked and partitioned bobbin in place of the simple former most often used, and this, shown in Fig. 10, can be made at home from paxolin, Perspex or even cardboard. Cardboard bobbins look rather the worse for wear on completion of the winding but can be made to serve the purpose.

Set the dimensions by measurement of the stack of laminations. The end cheeks and the central partition are identical, and can be slotted to enable the leads to be brought out if rigid material is used. Alternatively, with cardboard, they can be brought out through holes pierced with a needle as winding proceeds. A bobbin made for a core of square section will wind more smoothly than one made for a rectangular stack. A geared handbrace makes a useful winder when clamped in a vice. Check the gear ratio by counting the chuck revolutions for one turn of the handle. Fig. 11 shows one simple way of fitting the bobbin to the chuck. It comprises a woodscrew driven into a piece of wood of the same size and section as the core; the head is then removed.

The gadget must be made accurately, otherwise it will revolve with a wobble that will cause overlapping turns and snapped wires. Try cutting the wood oversize and paring it to exact size after fitting the screw.

Ratio

Almost the only simple aspect of transformer design is the turns ratio, which is given by (Zp/Zs)where Zp and Zs are respectively the valve output impedance and the nominal loudspeaker impedance. All others are so complex that no single specification can be offered when the object is to enable the constructor to use available materials. Nor would it be helpful to present a page of formulae with an invitation to the constructor to sort it out himself. Because of these difficulties, and because the tertiary-wound transformer is tolerant to a reasonable range of variation, a procedure that seems rough and ready is given but which will prove satisfactory. A general description of the method will be given first, followed by step-to-step winding instructions.

Refer to Fig. 12, which gives a cross-section of the windings with the core on the left and the partition seen horizontally. The cheeks, which would be horizontal at top and bottom, have been omitted to avoid confusing the leads in the diagram. All sections are balanced equally each side of the secondary winding (section 4), and therefore this section must be positioned accurately half-way through the depth of the winding space. Allowing for four layers (at the most) of 20 or 22 s.w.g. enamelled wire plus paper interleaving and Empire cloth insulation, the secondary will occupy 0-20in. of winding space, of which 0-10in. will lie either side of the true mid-point.

Mark these boundaries on the outsides of the cheeks near the slots, or on the insides if they are not slotted. The inner marks indicate the limits of sections 1, 2 and 3. There, with all insulation layers, they must stop, regardless of the number of turns wound on because an equal space is needed for sections 5, 6 and 7. As all four primary sections are equal, the number of turns on section 2 can be multiplied by 4 and the product divided by the required turns ratio to give the number of turns that must be wound on for the secondary (section 4).

Turns

Reference to standard wire tables will give advance guidance as to the likely number of primary turns that can be accommodated. The width between one cheek and the partition divided by the wire diameter gives the number of closewound turns per layer. The section depth less 0.05in. for insulation gives the actual winding space. Add 0.003in. to the wire diameter for interleaving paper and the layer thickness is obtained. The total number of turns is then given by

Winding space × turns-per-layer

Layer thickness

From 3000 to 3500 turns is a fair total for a primary winding and the gauge can be chosen from the range 32 to 38s.w.g. to suit the available space. If the original gauge of wire is used with an old component, it will be found that the number of turns is less than the number removed.

Use laminations of reasonably good quality and aim for a core section of about $\frac{1}{2}$ in. square for 5W and up to $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. thickness for 10W. Make the bobbin to suit and mark the secondary boundaries on the cheeks. Wind section 1 (Fig. 12) straight on to the bobbin, 20 turns only, spaced to occupy the full width, passing the partition so that 10 turns lie each side of it. Gauge (25 to 30s.w.g.)

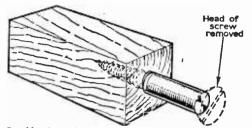


Fig. 11—A suitable bobbin holder for use with a geared brace for winding.

is not very important because the feedback network draws virtually zero current and only a few milliamps of V1 cathode current passes through the winding.

Insulation

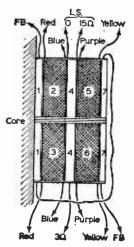
Fasten the wire ends to the cheeks with adhesive tape to prevent them becoming tangled as winding proceeds. This section will operate near to earth potential, but the next will have a wide A.C. swing; therefore, three layers of 0-005in. Empire cloth should be wound on for insulation. It also provides an even surface on which to commence the next winding.

The first primary layer for section 2 should be close-wound to fill the width between one check and the partition. Note the number of turns, add a layer of 0.003in. paper and continue to add similar paper-interleaved layers until it is obvious that the addition of three layers of Empire cloth

will fill the allotted space up to the boundary mark. Calculate the total number of turns.

Section 3 is identical to section 2 but, as it serves the other valve of a push-pull pair, it must be wound in the reverse direction. Simply take the bobbin off its temporary wood core and put it on the other way round; then, rotation of the winder need not be reversed. This section, complete with insulation, should

Fig. 12 (right)— The arrangement of the sections.



end up level with section 2 on the other side of the partition.

Calculation

Next is the secondary, section 4, and the number of turns has to be calculated. The number of turns in section 2, multiplied by 4, gives the total primary turns and this figure divided by the turns ratio, gives the number of secondary turns. For example, if section 2 has 750 turns and the ratio required is 30:1 the calculation is

$$\frac{750 \times 4}{30} = 100$$

The secondary must be wound evenly right across the bobbin, passing the partition as it extends from cheek to cheek. If the last layer

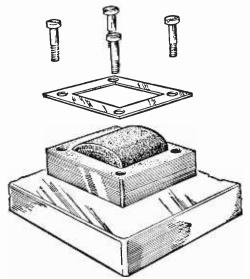


Fig. 13—A method of clamping the finished transformer to the amplifier chassis.

has insufficient turns to fill its full width the turns must be spaced evenly to distribute them equally each side of the partition. A 3Ω tap can be made at 50% of a 15Ω secondary provided it can be arranged near a cheek. This is impossible with a three-layer secondary and easy with a two-layer one when the wire gauge is chosen to fill the width exactly. In a four-layer winding, the second and fourth can be spaced evenly so that the tap can be at a cheek and the balance maintained.

When the secondary has been insulated with three layers of Empire cloth, the remaining winding space should equal that used for sections 1, 2 and 3. Wind section 5 exactly the same as section 2 and in the same direction. Section 6 must be wound in the same direction as section 3. These sections, with three-layer insulation, should leave just enough space for the outer tertiary winding which is identical with section 1 and wound in the same direction. Three more layers of Empire cloth complete the work of winding.

The end of section 1 and the beginning of section 2 should be soldered together, leaving two leads which should be sleeved. The flimsy

primary wires should be anchored and colour coded immediately, those from each check being a separate one-valve set. Sleeve them, using the colours indicated in Fig. 12, and then bind the sleeves firmly to the insulated windings with adhesive tape, or tape coloured leads to the insulation and solder the wires to these. If the securing is delayed until after assembly of the laminations, tag-strips can be fitted to the transformer mounting.

Assembly

Insert the laminations with the E's and I's in alternate directions, and butted together without gaps. Firm clamping is essential to avoid buzz and chatter. Fig. 13 shows a transformer dropped into a rectangular hole in the chassis and clamped by a plate with a rectangular hole bolted through the laminations.

In all circuits to which this versatile transformer can be applied, sections 2 and 5 together form the load for one valve of a push-pull pair and for straight anode loading they are put in series by joining the blue and purple leads together. Yellow is then taken to the anode and red to H.T. Sections 3 and 6 are used in exactly the same way with the other valve. Ultra-linear loading is obtained by taking the screens to the junctions of the blue and purple leads.

				NICHITC	LIST
THE "SAVOY" COMPONENTS LIST Resistors: (all ½W unless otherwise stated)					
Resisto	ors: (all $\frac{1}{2}$	W unle	ss othe	rwise sta R17	2-2M
Rİ		R9			
R2		RIO		R18	
	100Ω	RII	1M 1-5M	R19	ik 2W
R4	1 M 22k	RIZ RIZ	1.21		680Ω
R5	22k	RIJ	1 //1		8.2k IW
	4.7k	RI4			IM
	47k	RIS	120k	N23	1.04
R8	220k	RIO	120k		(herete an
Capac	itors: (all	ceran	nic unie	ss othere	vise stated)
CI	0·01μF1		C4	1000¢F 5	. M
C2				476F S.J	
	0.005µF		60	4/pr 3./	*84
6	0.05µF	paper			
C7	0·005μF 0·05μF		C9	0-005µF	
68	0.05µF			0.003m	
C10	0 05µF	paper	<i>c</i> 12	IDONE	
	270 pF			100pF	
	0·05μF 8μF ele	paper	C14	4/9/	
	8µr ele		CITL	0.05µF	hahee
	a 0.05μF	paper	22 5 -		haber
	and CIS		szµr e	lec.	
	8μ F elec		C 22	0·005µF	
	0·005μl	•			
C*	par	paper	(see to	extj	
Valve		V3	E F 80	V5	6 [5
	EF89	¥3 ¥4			E Z80
V2		74	ED7I	10	
	formers:			250-0-25	0V, 60mA
יד	rviains		ormer:	200-0-20	· · , •••••••
107	and 6.3	2 I E	teans	formers	(lanan)
1 12	1, 2 and 4 Discri	⇒ 1.F. minat-	. trans	former /	lane
		minato	n naib	louner, /	1
Switches: SI On/off switch					
S2 S.P.D.T. switch					
Miscellaneous:					
Valveholders. Two tag boards. Two coaxial					
Va Va	kets. On	a diad	, lug D	evt) etc	
500	kets. Un	a 0100	a l'sca r	ext, etc	•

Vintage-Model or F.M. Tuner?

By E. Dexter

HE writer has followed the lively discussion regarding "Vintage Models" in Letters to the Editor in the past months with considerable interest. Having considerable practical and theoretical experience on this subject, it is felt desirable to add a finalising word to this interesting discussion.

What is Good Tone ?

590

There can be only one real criterion for good tone, and that is to obtain reproduction as close to the original as possible.

The person taking this question at all seriously should therefore first of all visit (a) an opera, (b) a symphony concert, and (c) a jazz concert, and listen very carefully and very critically to the general frequency balances and tonal pictures involved in reality.

He will notice several things then apart from the condition for distortion-free reproduction, which are all too often forgotten in the design of electronic music-reproduction installations. The two most important of these are the reverberation -its time and its frequency-selection, i.e. the "acoustics" of the listening room, and the geometric dimensions of the sound source, which are normally very large in any concert orchestra, etc., and some attempt must be made to imitate these dimensions in the home-installation if lifelike reproduction is required. Thus at least two loudspeakers are needed, well separated from each other-preferably at least two yards apart. If these are fed with stereo-signals in the conventional way, so much the better, but this is by no means essential, as surprisingly great improve-ments result from proper use of a normal monosignal in such an arrangement-and present-day radio programmes are still "mono" anyway!

Acoustic Influences

The dimensions of most domestic rooms being quite small, and the reverberation of these selecting very often the higher frequencies (with average surfaces, furnishings, etc.), the result of operating an amplifier with true balanced bass and treble response, such as is possible only from modern F.M. transmission, easily leads to the accumulation of considerable treble-energy as standing-waves, etc., in the room, leading to "screeching" in the ears of the listener, which is naturally unpleasant. Furthermore, such conditions can even overload the human ear, giving crossmodulation products of bass and treble within the ear, which are felt as real distortion.

SOME INTERESTING NOTES ON THE RESPECTIVE QUALITIES OF A.M. & F.M. RECEIVERS.

On account of these facts, an old vintage set giving ample bass response, and virtually no treble (because such sets are generally fully incapable of real treble response, A.M. transmissions not containing such anyway, for reasons already explained by other writers) naturally sounds far more *pleasant* in such domestic rooms than a poorly-installed and acoustically mismatched, but otherwise superb. 7HF F.M. hi-fi installation. In this sense, the writer fully agrees with the vintagemodel supporters, though he nevertheless feels they are missing something! There is a world of difference between a "pleasant" tone and "good" tone in the sense defined above. "Good" tone is naturally pleasant, but "pleasant" tone need not be "good" in all cases. Those vintage-model owners who do not believe this should make a comparison between a live concert in the concerthall and the reproduction of the same or a similar transmission on their sets. Both will sound pleasant, but the live-performance will certainly give the better enjoyment, and make the vintagemodel owner think and wonder whether his set really is the best possible after all!

Geometric-Dimensional Improvements in Domestic Rooms

If full-frequency range reproduction in a domestic room is to sound natural, i.e. a balanced natural reproduction of all frequencies from about 30c/s to at least 15kc/s, the geometric size of the sound source *must* be increased, to avoid danger of the screeching-effect already mentioned, which invariably sends the owner running to turn down the treble-control, or to condemn the set!

The simplest, cheapest and most effective method discovered and used by the writer is to give his audio amplifier two identical but fully separate output stages. These are fed from a common pre-amplifier stage or stages, with the tone-controls and volume controls, an independent set of controls for each output stage, between this pre-amp and the respective output stages.

The one output stage feeds a good loudspeaker, as large as possible, in the cabinet of the set, and the other output stage feeds a good large extensionloudspeaker at least two yards away in the same room. Positioning the loudspeakers as for stereo, relative to the listener, gives very good results

relative to the listener, gives very good results. Volume controls and tone controls for the two channels are individually adjusted for the best "apparent size" of the sound-source, maximum brilliance, and general best acoustic match to the qualities of the room. Both loudspeakers should handle all frequencies to some extent, but the one should be a little stronger on bass, and the other a little stronger on treble, which tends to give the impression of separation in space between various types of musical instrument.

Performance is certainly not identical to the concert-hall, and also certainly not equal to true stereo, yet it is a *vast* improvement on a simple one-speaker installation, and is probably essential in that it represents the bare minimum of extra equipment necessary to make proper use of VHF F.M., doing justice to such transmissions.

Reverberation

There are various methods open to the experimenter to increase the reverberation of his listening room, to imitate the concert hall to a small extent. The best is the use of electrodynamic torsional transducer elements within his amplifier, a recent development just coming on to the market. Another method capable of success if carefully dimensioned is to use a microphone situated within the listening room, feeding its output into the same amplifier at a level below that causing self-oscillation over the resulting acoustic loop. The quality of this method is improved if the signal picked up by the microphone is fed to a tape-recorder head situated close to a playbackhead, a short closed loop of tape running continuously between the two heads. The signal from the playback-head is then fed at a suitable small level back into the main amplifier. The reverberation time-constant is set by altering the separation of the record and playback heads, the tape-loop speed, or both.

Note that very small reverberation effects are fully sufficient. Particular caution is needed not to overdo the matter in time or intensity, as otherwise ringing signals result. A stage further is the addition of another amplifier channel for the delayed signal from the playback head, so that apart from feeding this into the main amplifier it can at the same time be fed alone to some additional small loudspeakers concealed (psychologically important; Listeners must not be able to see these further loudspeakers) at the rear of the room behind the listeners.

Note that, although this arrangement may sound complicated, it in fact uses very straightforward and inexpensive items, which can all be homebuilt at a most reasonable cost by the handy experimenter. The many volume and tone controls can in fact be pre-sets within the cabinet of the amplifier, and all amplifier channels included in the one cabinet. As external controls need only appear combined volume and tone controls, and possibly a reverberation-intensity control. Even the two-head tape-loop transducer can be built permanently into the cabinet, as it does not normally need further attention.

Psychological Factors

It must be remembered that such an installation will give a tone quality which is already *extremely* lifelike, especially in spacial dimensions. It will overpower the listener, *demanding* his attention. This is, of course, exactly what one desires when listening properly to music, yet can prove irritating if one is not really intending to listen, but just

want a "background-din" for what one is otherwise doing. In that case, the vintage-receiver type of tone again scores and is to be recommended. It is primarily a brilliant natural treble response coupled with adequate bass-balance which psychologically demands our attention. Bass alone does not share this property, and thus strong basslift together with strong treble-cut (vintage-model tone) does not force us to listen—one can even carry on a conversation with other listeners at the same time! Maybe some vintage-set owners like

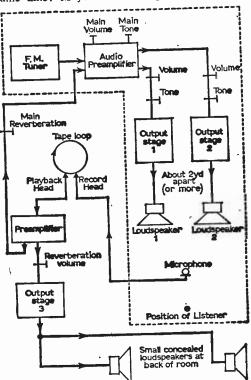


Fig. I—A block diagram of the system used by the author of this article to obtain high quality audio reproduction.

this facility, preferring such social possibilities to intensive music-enjoyment. That is a matter of personal taste.

A further example bearing out this point is afforded by the jukeboxes appearing at so many public places of entertainment, etc. These invariably boom bass, and cut treble, even though "hi-fi" may be written on them in large letters! This is "vintage-model" tone, not hi-fi, and is of course essential in such places of public entertainment, for true hi-fi would render all other activities impossible, the sounds demanding the full attention of the listener.

Resonances

A final point to be touched on briefly is the question of loudspeaker and cabinet resonances, The cabinet must be properly designed acoustically, and the loudspeaker resonances should be damped out by using output stages with exceedingly low output impedances reflected across the loudspeaker. Using special transistor-circuits, it is possible to get high power at high power-efficiency into ordinary speakers, yet having output impedances ten times lower than the speaker impedance. This effectively short-circuits the loudspeaker as far as any signals not present in the electrical input are concerned. It should be possible with such output stages, to make the bass strong, yet crisp and clear, free of all 'hooting', 'thumping'

Distortion in R.F. and Detector Stages of VHF F.M. Receivers

So much for the audio-amplifier side of a VHF F.M. receiver system; the points which require

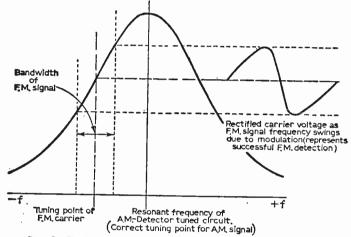


Fig. 2—Flank-detection (slope-detection) of an F.M. signal using ordinary A.M.-detector of sufficient bandwidth.

attention there have now been discussed. It remains to make sure that a proper signal is emerging from the detector.

One point which seems to go right through the readers correspondence is that, if distortion or any trouble is experienced, they blame it immediately onto the F.M. detector. This may not be correct. The detector can certainly cause distortion, but so can improperly aligned I.F. stages. This is one important difference between A.M. and F.M. receivers. Whilst misalignment of I.F. transformers in an ordinary A.M. receiver merely causes lack of sensitivity and possibly incorrect selectivity, but never any harmonic distortion. The same maladjustments in an F.M. receiver can lead to severe harmonic distortion, the same as the effects produced when operating an audio-amplifier valve on a non-linear part of the characteristic.

It is not difficult to see the reason for this. If the I.F. transformers are so far misaligned that the pass-bandwidth is narrower than the F.M. signal bandwidth, non-linear harmonic distortion invariably results. The frequency-deviation is a measure of the amplitude (volume) of the

modulating signal. Thus, with an I.F. chain misaligned as described, all is well until the modulation-depth of the signal at the transmitter represents a frequency deviation which causes the sidebands to be further separated than the bandwidth of the misaligned IFT's but beyond this point, there is firstly a loss of amplitude response, which does not matter because the final limiter in front of the detector takes care of that, and secondly a phase-shift, which most certainly does matter. The phase between the input signal and output signal of an amplifier employing tuned circuits as loads is zero, i.e. the signals are fully in phase, as long as their frequencies lie within the pass-band of the tuned circuits. For all other frequencies there are progressive phase shifts, which reach a maximum of 90° far off resonance. Now, if a signal of rapidly-varying frequency is

presented to such an amplifier, the frequency excursions going beyond the pass-band of the tuned circuits, then the rapid swing through the corresponding phase - shifts is identical to corresponding additions to, or subtractions from, the net frequency swing. In other words, the output signal does not have the same frequency-swing as the input signal. The peaks are flattened or elongated, which results in the typical harmonic amplitude distortion, cross-modulation of bass and treble, and general roughness in the detected audio waveform.

Those constructors having trouble with their F.M. tuners, thinking this might be the detector, should first of all check for proper alignment of the I.F. stages and adequate bandwidth. If a wobbulator arrangement is not available, the set should be passed on for alignment to some person or shop possessing these facilities.

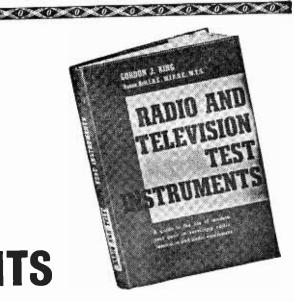
Naturally any ordinary A.M. detector will also work for F.M. provided one flank of the selectivity-curve of the associated tuned circuit is long enough on its linear portion to accommodate the entire F.M. signal bandwidth. Tuning the carrier of the F.M. signal to the midpoint of one of these flanks will then give the necessary direct correspondence between instantaneous frequency and instantaneous rectified D.C. amplitude to demodulate the signal.

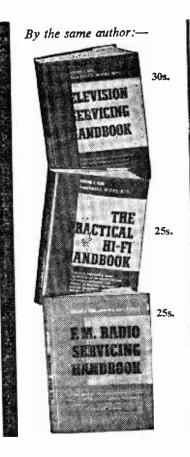
Quality is naturally equally good as good as any other form of special F.M. detectorprovided the flank-linearity and flank-bandwidth are adequate. However, the circuit responds excellently to A.M. interference of man-made nature and of any other nature—including valvehiss noise from a sensitive amplifier.

Summary

An F.M. tuner, if misaligned, leads to severe harmonic distortion. A.M. sets do not possess this difficulty. Thus tone of vintage-receivers is likely to be considerably better, taken as a whole, than an incorrectly-operated VHF/F.M. installation.

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INCREASING OHMMETER RANGES

By G. A. W. Partridge

HERE are many types of resistance measuring devices, but one of the most useful is the simple chmmeter. Resistances can be checked very quickly with this instrument, which is sufficiently accurate for most practical purposes. However, its range is limited. Some chmmeters read from 0 to $20,000\Omega$. Others go up to a Megohm or more, but on the other hand some meters are scaled to a few hundred ohms only.

How can the ranges of these instruments be increased? Fig. 1 shows a simple ohmmeter circuit which can also be found in some multimeters when they are switched to Ohms. The test leads are first shorted together and the rheostat is adjusted until the meter reads " 0Ω " at full

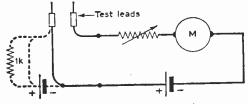


Fig. 1-A series ohmmeter circuit.

scale deflection. The test leads are then connected to the unknown resistance and its value read directly off the scale.

The range in question is from 0 to $13,000\Omega$ and power is supplied from a 1.5V dry cell fitted into the meter. To double the range $(0-26,000\Omega)$ it is necessary only to double the voltage. This can be done quite easily by connecting another dry cell in series with one of the leads.

Make sure that the polarity is correct and that all the rheostat resistant is in circuit before shorting the test leads, or the meter might be damaged by the excessive current.

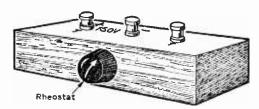


Fig. 2-The multiplier.

If the meter will not zero, add a 1,0000 resistor to the external battery circuit, short the leads and adjust the rheostat for zero. The scale reading with or without the extra resistor will be doubled (i.e. multiply all readings by 2).

reading with or without the extra resistor will be doubled (i.e., multiply all readings by 2). The multiplier in Fig. 2 increases the range of the instrument 100 times. So 0-13,000 Ω becomes 0-1,300,000 Ω . The value of the rheostat in the multiplier can be found by experiment but for a 0-13,000 Ω scale it will be about 150,000 Ω . 150V is drawn either from a battery or from a mains operated power pack.

operated power pack. The 1½V cell is taken out of the instrument and the terminal "bridged" as shown in Fig. 3. Full resistance is brought into circuit by adjusting the rheostats. The test prods are shorted and the rheostats adjusted for "zero Ohms". Resistances are now tested in the usual manner but remember in this case to multiply the scale by 100. The battery voltage has been increased by that amount.

Always multiply the scale by the number of times the voltage has been increased. The multipler rheostat can be mounted in a box with three clearly marked terminals (Fig. 2).

Fig. 4 illustrates the potentiometer type of ohmmeter. Its range can also be doubled by doubling the battery voltage, but a small rheostat R must

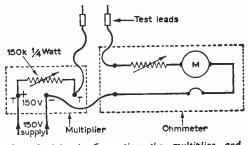
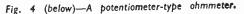
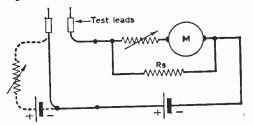


Fig. 3 (above)—Connecting the multiplier and ohmmeter.





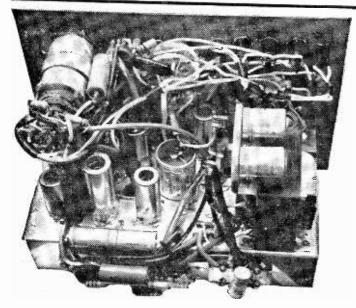
be placed in circuit to prevent overloading Rs. The ohmmeter is set to "zero ahms" on the 1.5V cell only.

The extra cell and the rheostat R is now brought into circuit and "zero ohms" again adjusted by using R and not the ohmmeter rheostat. It is now ready for checking resistors in the normal way but the scale reading is double.

The same principle applied when the range is increased to Megohms. The meter as it stands

(Continued on page 626)

THE AUDITRON (This instrument was previously known as the MINISCOPE-see footnote)



(Continued from page 514 of the October issue)

T is seen that the second stage of V2 (pins 1, 2 and 3) has also, apart from the main anode load R65+R63 feeding the CRT Y-deflection and V3, a tapping on the anode load, R63, and an equal cathode load, R68. This enables the sync-signal to be selected, via S7, with either polarity. The trigger transient needed at the timebase oscillator must be positive to be effective and thus negative at the grid of the sync amplifier. However, a negative transient at the signal amplifier input appears negative across R68 and positive across R63. A positive transient at the signal amplifier input appears positive across R68 and negative across R63. Thus, for a negative transient input, R68 gives the effective sync output and for a positive transient input R63 gives the effective sync output and the positions of S7 are labelled accordingly.

If an input signal contains steep transients of preferentially one polarity, then best sync is obtained by switching S7 to that polarity. On a sine wave either setting of S7 is equally good; the display will start with a positive half-wave if S7 is set "positive" and with a negative half-wave if S7 is set to "negative". But with inputs which are not sine waves, particularly at the upper frequencies within the range of operation of the

By M. L. Michaelis, M.A.

Auditron proper polarity on the sync switch can make all the difference between good or bad synchronisation.

Decoupling

Note the small-capacity paper condensers in parallel with the main electrolytics. These are necessary for achieving good decoupling over the entire frequency range of the Auditron as some electrolytics tend to have considerable inductive impedance at frequencies around 100kc/s.

The Signal Tracer Output Stage

R70 and C41 represent a topcut filter, allowing only frequencies below about 15kc/s to reach V3, the signal tracer output stage, only these frequencies being properly audible,

all others being of no interest at this stage. It is in general not sufficient to allow all frequencies to reach V3 and rely on the output transformer T2 to block supersonic ranges. There would then be danger of sufficient supersonic amplitudes reaching external circuits to produce various possible forms of trouble.

T2 is a perfectly ordinary small output transformer which should be designed for impedance matching from about 9k to $5-15\Omega$, though these values are by no means very critical. Far more important is the need for correct D.C. resistance of the primary, as this sets the operating point of V3. This D.C. resistance should be as close as possible to 500Ω . Under such conditions the linear drive which V3 will accept before onset of distortion is equal to the maximum undistorted output of V2, which just corresponds to full-screen deflection on the specified CRT. The output power from V3 is then about 50mW, which is the usual rating of headphones for full volume without giving pain to the listener and will give moderate volume on a miniature loudspeaker. If the D.C. resistance of the primary of the available transformer differs slightly from 500Ω , suitable series or parallel resistors can be used.

THE "MINISCOPE"

The General Electric Company Ltd. have drawn our attention to the fact that the name "Miniscope" is a registered G.E.C. trade mark. In view of this we have changed the name of our instrument to "The Auditron". We apologise to G.E.C. for the unwitting infringement of their trade mark.

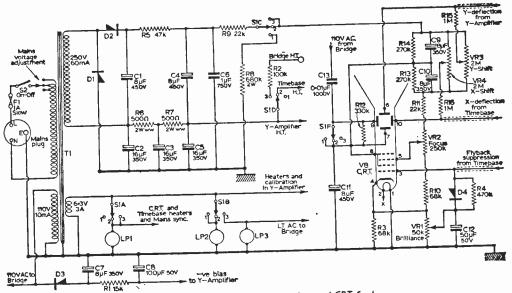


Fig. 4-The circuit of the power supplies and CRT-feed.

The Y-amplifier Voltage Calibrator

Two zener diodes connected back to back, D8 and D9, limit a sample of the heater voltage to 14V peak to peak, and any portion of this stabilised A.C. reference voltage can be fed into the Y-amplifier by means of VR11. The calibration on the scale attached to VR11 is such that it is direction the voltage which

indicates the voltage which, applied to the probe, would give the same amplitude of vertical deflection on the CRT. The range incorporated is from IV to 125V peak to peak.

The procedure to be adopted for setting any desired sensitivity for quantitative measurements is first of all to set the desired sensitivity (volts per centimetre deflection) on the scale of the calibrator VR11. With the probe point not connected to anything the gain control VR13 is then advanced until the calibrator waveform has a height of exactly 1cm on the CRT screen. The calibrator VR11 is then turned back to zero and the scope is ready for voltmeter quantitative A.C. operation. Setting the timebase trace to lie exactly on the centre line of the engraved centimeter-grid on the CRT window, by means of the Yshift control, the moving-coil meter indicates the D.C. level represented by this line in the subsequently displayed waveform (which may or may not be zero), and the A.C. deviations through each cycle can be quantitatively read off on account of the appropriate sensitivity calibration as just described.

A word of explanation why a separate calibrator D8, D9 and VR11 is used instead of calibrating the gain control VR13 directly. The signal runs through four amplifier stages before reaching the CRT and thus mains voltage fluctua-

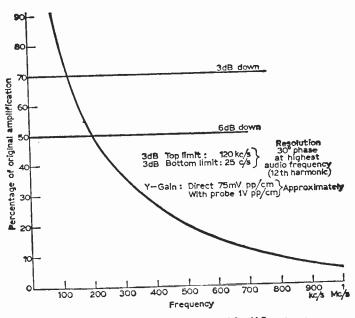


Fig. 5-The graph of the measured Y-amplifier H.F. response.

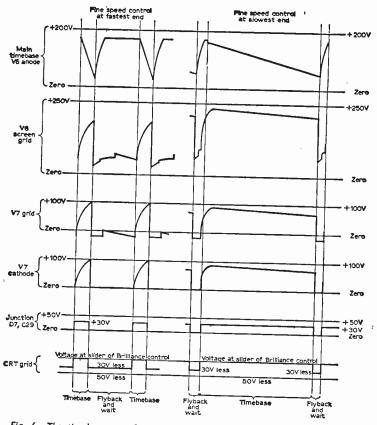


Fig. 6-The timebase waveforms when the flyback switch is set at "Long".

tions react in the fourth power into the gain, as do any ageings or deviations of the valves. The constancy would thus not be up to the accuracy achievable with the simple arrangement of D8, D9 and VR11.

Gain

There is a limit to the usable gain in an amplifier passing very low frequencies, as in the Auditron, if special stabilisation features are not used. Above this limit, which lies between about 500 to 1,000 voltage gain, "rumbling" sets in which consists of random fluttering output signals at average frequencies below 10c/s for no intentional input. Their amplitude can approach full output level in poor designs or even cause overloading. Whilst the signal tracer function would be far less disturbed, as such low frequencies are not audible and thus only possible overloadings and blockings could appear in severe cases or cross-modulation giving a fluctuatingly rough tone, the "scope" function is seriously disturbed by the slightest presence of such rumbling.

The causes of rumbling add together from chiefly two independent sources. Firstly, continuous tiny fluctuations in the local mains voltage reflect as H.T. fluctuations, which are passed on to

the grid of the first amplifier stage coupled from a previous anode circuit and then amplified through the whole amplifier chain. Secondly, electrolytics and even many metalised paper condensers manifest slight voltage fluctuations of a few millivolts (which become as many volts after amplification through а gain of about 1,000) when holding H.T. voltages of normal magnitudes, and this effect is normal and unavoidable. There is only one successful method of obtaining a rumble-free low-frequency amplifier with gain greatly in excess of 1,000 and that is to use accurately an balanced push-pull arrangement throughout. Expensive oscilloscopes thus use this type of amplifier, often augmented with electronically stabilised H.T. supplies. It was not considered to be justified to go to these expenses and complications in the Auditron.

The total gain of the Miniscope amplifier lies between 500 and 1,000 and the low value of R50 was chosen just to bring the gain down to a value where rumble is just no longer noticeable — i.e., visible random fluttering of the

CRT display just ceases. Further to this effect, the values of the coupling condensers and grid leaks throughout the amplifier were judiciously chosen so that the low-frequency response was no more than really necessary for normal audio frequency measurements—i.e., 25c/s lower 3dB down limit. Larger coupling condensers or grid leaks of twice the specified values could easily have been used, enabling superb display of really slow phenomena, but the whole display then dances about continuously unless the gain is considerably reduced. Thus, the specified component values are considered to be an ideal compromise for general purpose usage of the Auditron.

Bandwidth

The signal amplifier in the Auditron has a bandwidth of 25c/s to 120kc/s level within the usual specification of $\pm 3dB$. Thus, square waves are excellently displayed with fundamental frequencies anywhere in the range from 50c/s to 20kc/s, so that waveforms with fundamentals anywhere within the full hi-fi audio spectrum are accurately displayed whatever their shape may be. The Auditron is thus fully suited for any audio work and moderate frequency pulse work. It will be found useful for much television work, though

the bandwidth is not adequate for accurate display of all pulse features of television video waveforms, etc. However, all wobbulator work for equipment at any frequency can naturally be performed with full success.

A signal amplifier bandwidth up to at least 2 to 3Mc/s would be essential for comprehensive TV work. This would require various inductive peaking coils and special valves to raise the Y-amplifier top limit sufficiently. These concomplications were sidered an unnecessary burden for the average wireless experimenter for whom the Auditron is intended. It is seen that a carefully designed conventional RC amplifier, as here used, gives adequate bandwidth for his purposes and has the great merit of simplicity of construction.

The Miller-Transitron Timebase

Fig. 2 shows the complete timebase circuit for the Auditron. This uses a conventional Miller-Transitron oscillator (V6) as its heart, yet taken together with its three ancillary valves and other refinements constitutes a novel

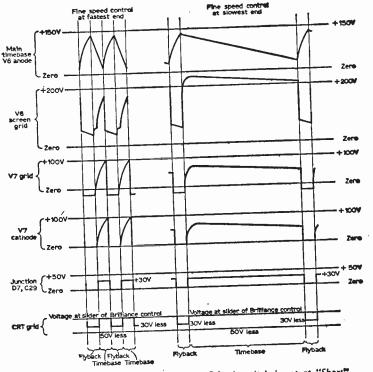
type of multi-function timebase circuit which is the outcome of careful experiments conducted specially for the Auditron during preparation of this article.

After having operated for a very long period with a simpler version of the Auditron in the workshop, and having noted all its shortcomings the present circuit may be regarded as "matured", and should be found to be very stable and reliable if the instructions given are followed carefully.

The Miller-Transitron circuit is a one-valve sawtooth-waveform oscillator with extremely good linearity. The saw-tooth-wave is produced at the anode, and its exact form is shown in graphs 2 and 3. The anode voltage falls relatively slowly at an extremely linear rate, this fall being used to sweep the spot on the CRT across the screen horizontally from left to right, at a constant rate, to form the time axis (time-base).

After the anode voltage has reached its minimum, it returns to its maximum in a short time (the "flyback"), the spot of the CRT returning to the start at the left of the screen, ready for the next linear timebase run.

The graphs show that the flyback is not particularly linear, but that is completely unimportant, as it is not used for the display on the CRT. In fact, the purpose of V7 and associated circuitry is to render the spot invisible on the CRT during flyback, by means of applying a well-refined negative pulse to the grid of the CRT during the flyback time.



PRACTICAL WIRELESS

Fig. 7-The timebase waveforms when the flyback switch is set at "Short".

The other parts of graphs 2 and 3 show how the screen-grid waveform of the Miller-Transitron, which is of the rudimentary form needed for this flyback-blanking, is progressively "shaped" to the required form in the circuitry associated with V7. These graphs should be used primarily for checking operation of the Auditron when building, or in case of any necessary future repairs.

For observation, any other good oscilloscope may be used, but though this is helpful it is not essential to successfully construct the Auditron. It was only during design and refinement of the circuit that another oscilloscope was idispensable, and the observations on the finalised circuit given in Fig. 2 are depicted in the Graphs 2 and 3.

D5 serves as "anode-catch", shortening the flyback-time by removing the progressively more non-linear later portions (as the flyback is really a normal exponential charging curve). V5 diode (pins 1 and 7) serves to prevent the suppressor-grid of V6 going positive to chassis, which could otherwise cause the timebase to block and stop oscillating, erratically.

There is no reason against using a semiconductor-diode here, too, of the same type as D6 and D7. The same applies to the other diodesection in V5 (pins 2 and 5), which is used to remove any negative spikes in the synchronisation input, which could irritate V6, leaving only positive spikes which represent the correct polarity for synchronisation at V6 pin 8. (To be continued)

The Finishing Touch

LETTERING RADIO PANELS

By M. O. Sparks

HE circuitry of a unit may be first class and the construction follow the best precepts; it may out-perform its commercial counterpart or fill some need for which the manufacturers have not provided, but nine times out of ten the appearance labels amateur-built equipment as "home made". This applies particularly to home-made test gear where finished panels and dials

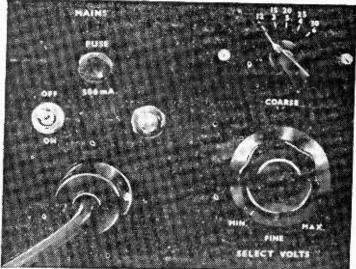
where initial panels and dials are not generally available as they are for some designs of amplifiers and tuners. Even where the instrument is housed in a well-made case the finish of the panel, particularly the labelling of the various controls, lacks the crispness and clarity of the factory-built design. To a certain extent this difficulty may be overcome by the use of commercially available decals, but sooner or later the need for a more flexible method of labelling controls will arise,

Type Transfer System

The method of lettering control panels to be described makes use of the "Letraset type lettering system." This consists of a special type sheet from which the individual letters can easily be transferred to any surface and arranged to form any word. A large variety of type faces and sizes are available in black or white letters, figures and punctuation marks. The author's own choice is 10 and

author's own choice is 10 and 12 pt. (pronounced "ten and twelve point") Gill Sans Bold in white and used on charcoal-grey panels. Sheet No. 3A/B contains the 10 pt. and 12 pt. sizes in both Roman (this is the professional's term for ordinary upright letters and figures) and italic faces, with the numbers of the various letters correctly adjusted so that there are more of the frequently used letters and fewer of the little used letters. The whole sheet contains over 2,000 characters and costs about 3s. 6d.

The method of applying the letters is extremely simple, the only requirements, apart from the actual transfer sheet, being a razor blade, a very fine artist's watercolour brush, a saucer of water, a small piece of blotting paper and a large amount of patience. Arrange the finished instrument with its panel horizontal and draw a fine guide line where the letters are to be placed. Cut round each selected letter on the type sheet with a razor blade and peel off the gummed tissue bearing the letter from the paper backing. Float it on water for about one minute and then place the letter, still on its tissue backing, face uppermost in its approximate position. Hold down the tissue with the corner of the razor blade and slide the letter off into position with the brush. Final spacing of the letters is done by eye, the letters floating on the drop of water carried over with them from the soaking.



An example of the excellent results achieved with the author's method of finishing his home-constructed equipment.

When correctly positioned the surplus water is removed with the corner of the blotting paper and the lettering allowed to dry naturally. One word of warning: watch out for any odd letters which float out of alignment as they dry and coax them back into position with a wet brush before they dry out completely. The result is a label without any "background" other than the panel itself and in which all the characters are identical in size and shape, forming a perfectly matched whole.

A fully detailed catalogue is available from Letraset Ltd., 21 Webber Street, London, S.E.1., from which address single type transfer sheets may also be obtained.

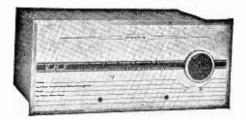
It is regretted that, owing to Indisposition, the usual page by "Thermion" is not available this month, but will be resumed in the next issue.



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601





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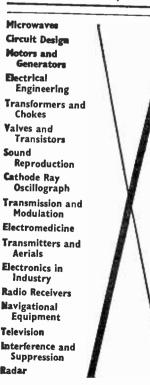
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4



RADIO and ELECTRONICS Edited by J. H. Reyner, B.Sc., D.I.C., M.I.E.E.

Student and specialist alike need a book which will give them the fundamental applications of radio and electronics in an easily digestible form, and this book has been produced with that need in mind. In these two well-illustrated volumes a team of electronics experts show you the theories and techniques, the methods and materials of this exacting science, from Acoustics to X-rays. You cannot hope to keep all of radio and electronics in your head, but you can keep *Radio and Electronics* on your bookshelf.

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Radio Components

(Continued from page 485 of the October issue)

AST month's article gave a component-bycomponent analysis of a battery-operated TRF receiver. The mains-operated counterpart is akin in principle, but uses mains-type valves and a mains power supply system. Certain components, therefore, may differ slightly in value from those considered in the previous article, but this is solely so that they will suit the mains valves in terms of operating conditions.

How the components differ in value will be almost totally revealed when we consider the mains-operated superhet later in this article, but before going on to that, and for the sake of completeness, the mains power section of a TRF set will first be considered.

Such receivers are invariably designed for operation on A.C. or D.C. mains supplies, and Fig. 3 shows the basic arrangement employed. R1 is the mains dropping resistor, which could be either a large wire-wound component on a ceramic former or a line-cord. When it is a line-cord, the on/off switch S1 would be connected at the set end of the resistor, and not at the mains end as shown. The resistor is required to set the current in the series-connected valve heaters to the correct value for the particular class of valve adopted.

For example, suppose that the valves have an 0.3A heater rating (they must, anyway, have the same current in a series chain, though the voltage is relatively unimportant), that V1 and V2 have a 12V rating and V3 and V4 a 25V rating. This adds up to a total of 74V. Now, if the mains voltage is, say, 230, then R1 would have to drop 230-74V, which is 156V.

It has to do that with a current of 0.3A flowing, so by Ohm's law is it easy to find the value required for R1. In this particular example, R1 would be equal to 156 (the voltage to be dropped) divided by 0.3 (the heater current in amperes), which works out to 520Ω .

The wattage rating of the resistor is also important, and it must be as least equal to 156 (the voltage dropped) times 0.3 (the heater current in amperes), which is almost 47W. This represents quite a large resistor which will dissipate a fair amount of heat. Alternatively, the line-cord, if used, must itself be rated at 0.3A, and it must be trailed out to avoid overheating.

Some mains droppers, and even line-cords, have a tap for connecting to the anode of the rectifier valve V4, as shown in Fig. 3. Section "A" serves the dual functions of surge limiting and voltage dropping for the rectifier. Thus, instead of the rectifier anode being in receipt of the full mains voltage, a smaller value as required is picked up from a lower potential point down the resistor, towards the beaters. This section also limits heavy surge currents in the event of the sct being switched off and then on again before the rectifier has had a chance to cool off.

and their Functions

By K. Royal

Three-way Cord

On some models a three-way line cord is used, as shown in Fig. 4. The end of the resistive element connects to the heater chain, via the on/off switch S1, the black lead connects to chassis, via the other pole of S1 and the red lead connects either direct to the anode of the rectifier valve or through a 100Ω surge limiting resistor. At the mains input end of the line-cord, the red and resistive cables are joined as shown.

Included in the series chain may be a thermistor and a pilot lamp. The thermistor has a negative temperature co-efficient. That is, its resistance falls considerably as its temperature rises. This compensates for the heavy rise of heater current which would otherwise occur when first switching on due to the low resistance as they warm up. The thermistor thus ensures that the current progressively rises to the normal value in the chain as the valve heaters warm up.

If a pilot lamp is used, this must have a current rating equal to that of the valves themselves, and the voltage must be taken into consideration when computing the value for R1. It is current practice to shunt the pilot lamp in a series-connected chain with a thermistor.

The idea of this is to prevent the set from failing in the event of the lamp fusing. Owing to the high "cold resistance" of a thermistor, it bypasses very little current from the bulb under ordinary conditions, but if the bulb should fuse all the chain current would be passed by the thermistor. It would thus get hot and reduce in value, and in that way keep the heaters alight.

The remaining items in Fig. 3 are C1, C2 and R2. C1 is the reservoir capacitor, which is an electrolytic usually valued at about 16μ F and rated at 275V. C2 is the smoothing capacitor. This is also an electrolytic and may, in fact, partner C1 in a common case. R2 is the H.T. smoothing resistor. This component usually has a value of $1,000\Omega$, or perhaps a little higher, and is rated between 1 and 3W, depending upon the set's H.T. current.

The Mains Superhet

A typical circuit of this kind of receiver is given in Fig. 5. It is for AM-only, with V1 the frequency changer, V2 the I.F. amplifier, V3 the A.F. amplifier and detector, V4 the output valve and V5 the H.T. rectifier. The aerial signal is applied to the aerial coupling coils L1 (S.W.) and L2 (L.W. and M.W.) via the isolating capacitor C1. On A.C.-only sets, as this one is, C1 would have a value of around 0.001μ F and would be rated at 350V.

In the "S.W." position, switch section S1 simply shorts out the aerial coil on the L.W. and M.W. assembly. This avoids a loss in S.W. signal strength, and ensures that all the S.W. signal picked up by the aerial is fully coupled to L1 secondary.

Coil L5 and the trimmer C33 form a wavetrap circuit adjustable over the set's intermediatefrequency. This avoids I.F. breakthrough (e.g., the pickup of interfering signals at the i.f.), since at the tuned frequency the wavetrap "looks" like a short-circuit between aerial and earth, this being the normal characteristic of a series tuned-circuit.

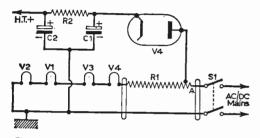


Fig. 3—The power supply circuit of a typical TRF A.C./D.C. model. RI may be either a wire-wound mains dropper on a ceramic former or the resistive element in a line-cord. The valves are usually connected in the order shown to reduce the effects of hum.

Switch section S2 selects the required L.W., M.W. or S.W. tuned winding and directs the signal as tuned by C7 section of the tuning gang to the signal grid of V1. C2 is the M.W. trimmer and C4 the L.W. trimmer. These are adjusted during realignment for maximum sensitivity at the highfrequency ends of the appropriate bands.

C5 holds the bottom of the L.W. and M.W. coil assembly (L2 secondary) down to chassis from the R.F. point of view, whilst also acting as isolation for AGC. It will be seen that AGC is applied via R5 to the signal grid of V1 via L2 and S2. In the S.W. position, however, AGC is removed, since L1 secondary is terminated direct to chassis.

C5 has a value of the order of 0.002μ F, which gives a sufficiently low impedance at R.F. and acts to a small extent as a fixed padder for enhancing the tracking towards the low-frequency ends of the LW and MW bands. C3 in conjunction with R1 provides a small amount of bottom-end coupling on the M.W. and L.W. bands. R1 is about 1,0000 and C3 0.02μ F.

A degree of fixed bias is applied to V1 by the voltage drop across R2, this making the cathode of the valve positive with respect to the signal grid. The triode section of V1 is not biased in that way since the grid is returned direct to the cathode through the grid leak R3.

R2 is in the region of 220Ω , and the capacitor across is (C9) has a value of 0.05μ F. This gives a low impedance path to the R.F. signal across R2, thereby completely masking the effect of the resistor from the signal point of view.

Local Oscillator

L3 is the S.W. and M.W. oscillator coil, while L4 is the L.W. oscillator coil, these being selected by the ganged switch sections S3 and S4. The coils provide a feedback path between the anode and grid of the triode oscillator section of V1, and the oscillator frequency is tuned by the oscillator section of the tuning gang C17. The trimmer C18 is for tuning the S.W. band during alignment. This is partnered by C7 trimmer also on the gang. Trimmers C14 and C11 are for the L.W. and M.W. oscillator coils respectively, while C13 and C15 are the M.W. and L.W. padders respectively.

The trimmers are adjusted for correct dial calibration at the high-frequency ends of the bands, whole the padders are adjusted for correct calibration at the low-frequency ends of the bands. The padders always have a greater value than the trimmers (and are thus larger), an example being 700pF for the M.W. padder and 50pF for the M.W. trimmer.

Coupling is provided to the oscillator coils by Cl2 in the grid and Cl6 in the anode, typical values being 60pF and 100pF respectively. Cl2 forms a time-constant with the grid leak R3 ($47k\Omega$) to give optimum oscillator activity over the three bands. Poor or intermittent oscillator activity is often attributable to a faulty Cl2 or Cl6. Grid current flows in R3 when the triode is oscillating, but since the current is very small a microammeter is required to detect it.

However, the current in the anode is far greater, occurring through the anode resistor R4 $(22K\Omega)$ and can be measured on a normal milliammeter

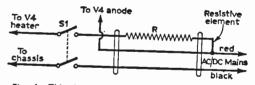


Fig. 4—This diagram shows the use of a three-way line-cord in an A.C./D.C. TRF receiver.

by connecting at the top of R4, as marked by "X" in the circuit. When the oscillator is working correctly, there should be a distinct change in anode current when a short is applied across the oscillator tuning gang (C18). If there is no change in current, then the oscillator is defective.

The anode of the mixer section of VI is fed with H.T. voltage through the primary of the first I.F. transformer T1. This is tuned to the I.F., currently 470kc/s, being the difference between the incoming signal and the local oscillator. Tuning is accomplished by the trimmers across the windings, though in some transformers a fixed capacitor is used and the associated winding is tuned by a dustiron core.

The I.F. signal is applied to the control grid of V2 via the secondary of T1, and there is no fixed bias on that valve since the cathode is connected direct to chassis. The bottom end of the secondary winding is held to chassis signal-wise by the $0.1\mu F$

C19, which also provides isolation for the AGC bias.

The second I.F. transformer T2 is tuned in a like manner and the secondary winding is connected to the diodes in V3. These rectify the I.F. signal, and extract the modulation across the load resistor R8, which is the volume control valued at $0.5M\Omega$. Residual I.F. signal at that point is bypassed to chassis through the 100pF C20. There are two components of the signal across R8; one if the A.F. signal at the other a direct-voltage due to rectification of the I.F. carrier.

The former is coupled to the grid of the A.F. triode in V4 through C21 which also isolates the electro-chemical characteristics of the valve. The cathode is therefore taken direct to chassis.

R10 is the triode anode load $(270k\Omega)$ across which the amplified A.F. signal is developed. This is fed through the coupling capacitor C23 $(0.01\mu F)$ to the control grid of the output tetrode. This valve is biased by the voltage developed across its cathode resistor R12. The cathode is made positive by the amount of the voltage drop relative to control grid which is held to the chassis end of R12 via the 1MΩ grid-leak R11.

R12 has a value of 270Ω , but is not by-passed with a capacitor. This means that there occurs a small A.F. signal across the resistor, and this as

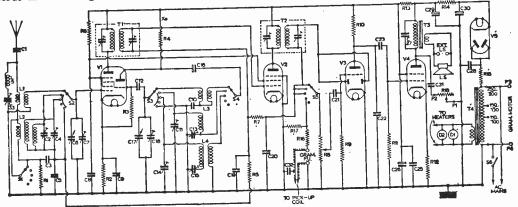


Fig. 5-A complete circuit of a mains-operated superhet receiver.

direct-voltage. The latter, however, is used as AGC bias, and is fed through R7 $(1M\Omega)$ to the control grids of V1 and V2. R7 can have a high value since the grid circuits are adequate help to chassis from the signal aspect, as we have already seen. The high value also helps to get rid of any residual I.F. which may be present at the output of the detector.

The AGC bias can be measured with a voltmeter, but owing to the high impedance circuits involved, the meter must have a sensitivity at least as high as $10,000\Omega/V$. A meter of smaller sensitivity would damp the AGC circuits and probably decrease the voltage to a level which is not recordable. The loading would, of course, also upset the operation of the AGC circuit.

It will be found that the voltage rises negatively (with respect to chassis) when a strong signal is tuned in. This negative voltage biases the valves and thus causes their gain to fall, thereby avoiding overloading. On weak signals the bias is negligible and the valves work at full gain.

S5 switches out the detector load in the "gram" position and switches in the pick-up and associated equalising components comprising R16, R17 and C32. The pick-up signal is effectively applied across the volume control, and is thus fed via the slider to the grid of V3 triode, as is the radio A.F. signal.

The triode is biased due to a small difference in potential which is developed across the $10M\Omega$ grid-leak R9. This is often called "contact potential biasing", it being a function of the

well is reflected back into the control grid circuit out of phase with the applied signal from V3. In that way, negative feedback is applied to the output valve and hum and distortion are reduced.

The anode of the tetrode is loaded with the primary of the output transformer T3, the turns ratio of which is selected as described in Part 1 of this series. C27 (0.02μ F 450V paper) across the primary of the transformer attenuates the higher order harmonics (e.g., harmonic distortion) produced by the output valve. Variable tone control is given by C31 in series with the tone control R18 (0.05μ F and 50kΩ). This circuit reduces the higher audio frequencies at an amount increasing with decrease in R18 resistance.

The set features a fully isolated mains transformer for the valve heaters, but the H.T. circuit is connected direct across the mains primary of the transformer, between receiver chassis and the parallel-connected anodes of the rectifier V5.

R15 is the surge limiting resistor, the purpose of which is given in the first part of this article. R14 is the smoothing resistor, and is a 2W component valued at 1,000 Ω . C30 is the 16 μ F electrolytic reservoir capacitor, while C29 is the main smoother of like value. Further smoothing is provided by R13 (1,000 Ω) and C26 (8 μ F electrolytic). C25 is connected in parallel with C26 to by-pass the inductive effects of the latter.

Although C25 is only an 0.1μ F it effectively offers a low impedance to any R.F. or I.F. which could develop across the electrolytic.

(To be continued)

universal test oscillator

By R. Murray-Shelley

A MINIATURE TRANSISTORISED

OST signal generators which are used for test purposes are designed to produce a note of one specific frequency together with a relatively small number of harmonics of trat frequency. In this piece of test equipment, a deliberate attempt has been made to produce an oscillator having as many harmonics of the fundamental frequency as possible in its output. The use of such an instrument is at once apparent—it is invaluable for the testing of almost all types of radio receivers and amplifiers, since a signal from the oscillator can be injected into the circuit under test at any point, whether in a radio frequency or audio frequency stage, and, if the circuit is in order, will produce a response in the output.

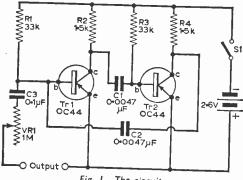
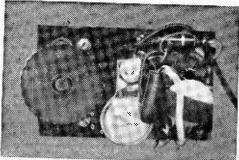


Fig. 1—The circuit.

The circuit employed in this equipment is, in the main, quite conventional. It is the well-known multivibrator arrangement which produces square waves (Fig. 2). If a square wave is analysed, it is found to be composed of a very large number of odd harmonics of the basic frequency. If the fundamental frequency lies in the audio spectrum, then harmonics extending well into the radio frequency bands will be produced. In this design transistors capable of operating up to many megacycles are used, and, as a result, although the fundamental frequency is of the order of four kilocycles, harmonics have been detected at frequencies of several megacycles.

Method of Construction

A fairly novel method of construction is suggested. This makes use of a small piece of



The prototype instrument

paxolin board to form a type of "chassis", the components being mounted on this as shown in the wiring diagram (Fig. 4). It will be seen, from Fig. 3, that the whole oscillator is extremely small.

Components

A study of the circuit diagram, Fig. 1, shows that there are, in fact, relatively few components. Construction is simplified if miniature or even subminiature parts are obtained, but the prototype was built using quite conventional components throughout.



Fog. 2-The output waveform.

The resistors are normal $\frac{1}{4}$ W components of 10% tolerance. The exact values used are not particularly critical, any changes in R2 and R4 merely serving to alter the fundamental frequency of the oscillator. Care should be taken, however, to see that both R2 and R4 have approximately the same value otherwise a reduced output will result.

The condensers C1 and C2 are of the disc ceramic type, though here again their characteristics are not particularly critical. The output of the unit can be adjusted as regards amplitude by the control VR1. This is a miniature volume control of the type which are used in hearing aids etc. If a really small oscillator is required, then this refinement could be omitted, though it is useful for carrying out comparative gain tests on amplifiers in particular.

The transistors call for some mention. It has already been explained that radio frequency types are used in order to accentuate the higher frequency harmonics and make the oscillator suitable for testing the radio frequency and intermediate frequency sections of radio receivers. Almost any types of R.F. transistors will prove to be suitable.

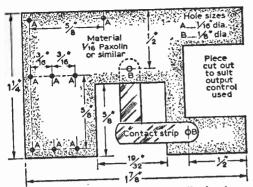


Fig. 3-The drilling details of the paxolin chassis.

The prototype used OC44's, since these were to hand. Whatever types are decided upon, it is important to ensure that both of the transistors have more or less the same characteristics.

Power Supply

The power requirements of the oscillator are very modest, only 2mA at a potential of 2.6V. The smallest and most convenient source of power comes from two mercury cells. These cells are eminently suitable since they will provide a very steady current at a constant potential throughout their working lives which may amount to many hundreds of hours. The case of the cells forms the positive terminal, and the smaller electrode is negative. The specified cells should not be heated in any way. The battery mounting is shown in detail in Fig. 5. Great care should be taken to ensure that the polarity of the supply battery is correct, otherwise damage to the transistors may result,

Construction

The construction of the equipment is quite simple provided elementary precautions are taken

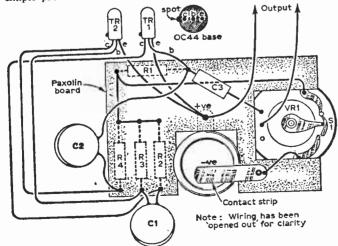


Fig. 4-The complete wiring diagram.

COMPONENTS LIST		
Resistors (All ‡W comp RI 33k R2 I-5k VRI IM miniature P SI	onents) R3 33k R4 1-5k otentiometer with switch,	
Capacitors C1 0.0047 µF cerami C2 0.0047 µF cerami C3 0.1 µF 150V T1, T2 OC44 trans December 200	C	

to avoid overheating components—particularly the transistors.

The paxolin "chassis" is first prepared. The dimensions of this together with all the necessary drilling instructions are given in Fig. 3. Paxolin is rather a brittle substance and care is needed when working with it. It is most easily cut using a fret-

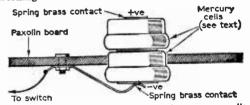


Fig. 5-The method used to mount the mercury cells.

saw or a fine-toothed hacksaw blade. The mounting of the output control depends on the nature of the control itself and thus some improvisation will be required on the part of the individual constructor. The battery clips are made from pieces of springy brass obtained from old 44V dry cell batteries. These are bent to make contact with the cells, and also to help hold them in position. The brass strips are bolted on to the chassis and connecting wires soldered to them.

The component wires are cut fairly short and they are inserted through holes in the board as shown in Fig. 4. The wiring is very compact and for this reason alone the constructor should be careful to see that there are no shorts between components. The transistor leads should be kept as long as is possible and insulated with sleeving. A thermal shunt in the form of a pair of long nosed pliers must be used when soldering the transistors. Note that the mercury cells should only be inserted after the rest of the wiring is complete. The output from the unit is

The output from the unit is taken via two flying leads, though small terminals could be substituted in their place if thought to be necessary.

Using the Oscillator

When the oscillator is used to test an amplifier or radio receiver, (Continued on page 614)



HE Mayfair pre-amplifier has been designed for use with the Strand power amplifier and incorporates the kind of features normally expected in a versatile high quality reproduction system. It is, of course, also suitable for use with other power amplifiers requiring an input not in excess of 250mV for full output.

This pre-amplifier will accept inputs from magnetic and crystal pick-ups, radio tuners, tape recorders and microphones. Separate input sockets are provided for these five different categories of programme source and an appropriate equalisation network is brought into operation at each setting of the input selector switch.

A treble filter circuit with a choice of three roll-off frequencies (3, 9 and 20kc/s) is included. This switched filter is particularly useful for reducing

surface noise on certain records, and at its lowest setting it will assist in the elimination of interference and whistles on radio programmes.

The low frequency response of the pre-amplifier is deliberately reduced just below 20c/s in order to eliminate motor rumble and other undesirable L.F. effects. Wide range tone controls allow the bass and the treble response to be either boosted or cut to meet individual preferences and to suit acoustical conditions in the listening area.

With the tone controls in the level position, and the treble filter set to 20kc/s, the overall frequency characteristic of the pre-amplifier is substantially flat from 30c/s to 20kc/s.

A double-pole mains on/off switch is wired to a plug at the rear of the instrument so that connection can be made to the mains terminal block in the Strand power unit, thus allowing the whole amplifying system to be controlled from the pre-

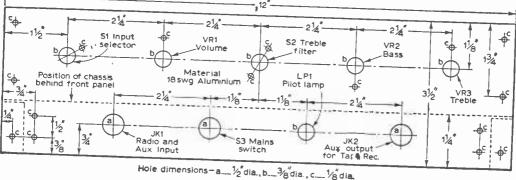


Fig. 6-Front panel drilling details.

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amplifier. Indication of the availability of the mains supply is given by a pilot lamp.

The power requirements of the pre-amplifier are as follows: H.T. 350V 7mA; L.T. 63V 1A. These supplies are usually obtainable from the associated power amplifier unit, and are fed into the pre-amplifier through a four-core cable. The cable plug PL2 as specified in the components list is suitable for mating with the auxiliary power outlet sockets on the Strand power unit.

Details of the five input channels and the kind of programme source for which each is suited are given below. The sensitivity figures quoted are for a 20W output from the power amplifier.

Radio and Auxiliary Input

Connection may be made at JK1 or SK1. insertion of jack plug into JK1 automatically disconnects the coaxial socket SK1 from circuit. This input is suitable for radio tuner outputs, the sensitivity is 250V, and the impedance $1M\Omega$. No frequency compensation is applied and therefore the response is linear.

Other alternative uses are: (1) for the connection of a high output crystal pick-up (2) for tape with a replay speed other than 7½in./see, or having a recording characteristic different to C.C.I.R.

Tape Input

The input at SK2 is for use with pre-recorded tapes, replayed at $7\frac{1}{2}$ in/sec with high impedance heads. Bass boost is provided, approximately in accordance with C.C.I.R. curve. The sensitivity at 5kc/s is 3mV and the input impedance $80k\Omega$.

Microphone Input

High impedance (crystal) microphones may be connected directly to SK3; or moving coil type via a matching transformer. The response characteristic is linear. Sensitivity is 6mV and impedance 1M.

Magnetic Pick-up Input

The sensitivity at SK4 is 6mV for microgroove (L.P.) and 13mV for 78 r.p.m. The impedance is

100k Ω . Separate equalisation arrangements are provided to suit the requirements of current recording standards (R.I.A.A.) for both L.P. and 78 records.

Crystal Pick-up Input

The sensitivity at SK5 is 85mV for microgroove (L.P.) and 250mV for 78 r.p.m. The impedance is $100k\Omega$. Bass cut is introduced in this input circuit so that the resultant signal has a characteristic similar to that of a magnetic pick-up; this facilitates the equalisation arrangements.

Circuit Description

Four high-gain, low-noise pentodes type EF86 are employed in this circuit. The five coaxial input sockets SK1-SK5 are connected to the input selector switch SIA via series resistors. The value of each resistor has been chosen to adjust the input sensitivity and impedance of the preamplifier to suit a particular type of programme source.

The first pentode amplifier stage V1 provides frequency compensation or equalisation for the various inputs by means of a feedback loop between anode and grid, the appropriate feedback components being selected by S1C. The two remaining sections of the input selector switch are used for muting purposes and are wired up in such a manner that the input sockets immediately adjacent to the required input are taken to earth by the rotors S1B and S1D. This arrangement minimises any likelihood of signal break-through when a number of signal sources are permanently connected to the pre-amplifier.



Output from V1 anode is taken via C8 to the volume control VR1, the slider of which feeds the grid of V2. An auxiliary output at a suitable level for applying to the input of a tape recorder is made available at JK2. This auxiliary output is approximately 200mV and will match a tape recorder having an input impedance of not less than 500kQ.

Treble Filter

The second valve is triode connected, and feedback is applied via low-pass parallel-T filter networks which are

brought into circuit between this and the following stage by S2C and S2D (positions 1 and 2). Associated with these filter networks are the phase shift capacitors C12, C13 and C14, C15 which are connected into the grid circuit of V2 by S2A and S2B.

Due to the phase lag introduced by these capacitors, the feedback over this stage is positive at frequencies below the resonant frequency of the filter network, while at frequencies above resonance the feedback becomes negative.

Consequently the response characteristic of this stage has a slight rise just below the filter network frequency and then a steep fall off of more than 20dB per octave. The roll-off frequency, i.e. the point at which the response is 3dB down, is 5kc/s for switch position 1, and 13kc/s for switch position 2. In the third position of S2, a single Tsection filter comprising R32, R33 and C25 gives a

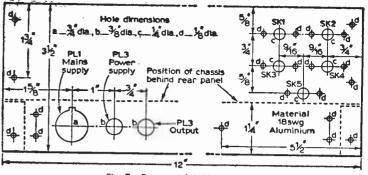


Fig. 7-Rear panel drilling details.

fairly sharp cut-off at 20kc/s.

Rumble Filter

The third valve is also triode connected and like its predecessor provides little gain: its main purpose is to reduce the response below 20c/s through the use of a high-pass parallel-T feedback network comprising R34-37, C26-28. The combined effect of this circuit and the comparatively small value inter-stage coupling capacitor C18 results in a 30dB per octave fall-off below 20c/s in the overall frequency response of the pre-amplifier.

Tone Controls

A frequency dependent negative feedback tone control network is connected between the input and output of the final stage. The two variable elements of this network, VR2 and VR3, are the bass and treble tone controls respectively.

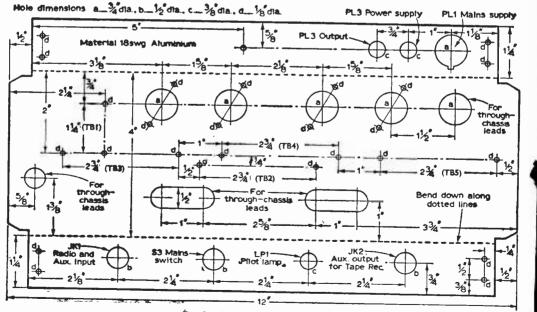


Fig. 8—Chassis drilling dimensions.

COMPONENTS LIST 360pF (2 x 180pF) silver mica 1% Resistors (all 10%, $\frac{1}{2}$ W carbon, unless otherwise C20 C21 stated) 56pF silver mica 1% C22 RII IM 150k R6 220k RI 110pF silver mica 1% C23 RI2 100k **R7** IM R2 560k 56pF silver mica 1% C24 100k 56k RI3 10M **R8** R3 C25 IM 560k **R9** R4 C26 RI0 68k 5-6M **R5** IM 5%, H.S. cracked carbon 8:2k 5%, H.S. eracked carbon 220k 5%, H.S. cracked carbon 2:2k 5%, H.S. cracked carbon C27 **RI4** 3,900 pF silver mica 19 C28 **R15** 25µF electrolytic I2V C29 **R**16 0-25µF paper 350V C30 **RI7** 0.04µF paper 500V C31 **R18** 3-3k 8µF electrolytic 350V C32 330k R20 100k R21 **R**19 100k 4,700pF ceramic C33 220k 5%, H.S. cracked carbon 2.2k 5%, H.S. cracked carbon R22 4,700pF ceramic C34 R23 C35 100pF silver mica 1% R24 3-3k 0.25uF paper 350V C36 R35 2M R30 100k 470k R25 0·IµF paper 350V C37 R31 47k R36 2M 100k R26 $25\mu F$ electrolytic 12V C38 R37 IM R32 47k R27 100k 0.05µF paper 500V C39 220k R38 470k R33 47k R28 R34 10M R39 IM R29 100k Plugs: 220k 5%, H.S. cracked carbon 2.2k 5%, H.S. cracked carbon R40 PLI R41 R44 470k R46 Ik R42 47k PL2 R45 180k 180k R43 PL3 390k 5%, H.S. cracked carbon 3·3k R50 1k R52 100k R51 20k R47 P/AC) R52 2M R48 Sockets: R49 500k carbon potentlometer, logarithmic VRI IM carbon potentiometer, logarithmic VR2 500k carbon potentiometer centre tapped VR3 logarithmic Switches: Capacitors: 390pF silver mica 1% SI ĊΙ 150pF silver mica 19 C2 560pF silver mica 1% **S2 C3** 2,200pF silver mica 1% break **C4** D.P.S.T. toggle IA 220pF silver mica 1% **S**3 C5 $0.1\mu F$ paper 350V 25 μF electrolytic 12V **C**6 Valves: **C**7 VI-4 EF86 0.1 µF paper 350V **C**8 16µF electrolytic 350V Lamp: **C**9 LPI 6-5V 0-15A 0·1µF paper 350V C10 22pF silver mica ± 1 pF ĈÌÌ 300pF silver mica 1% 56pF silver mica 1% 470pF silver mica 1% Miscellaneous: C12 **CI3 CI4** 120pF silver mica 1% C15 16µF electrolytic 350V C16 25µF electrolytic 12V **C17** 5,000pF silver mica 1% **C18** 170pF (175pF) silver mica 1% **C19**

A level response is obtained when both controls are in their mid position, anti-clockwise rotation provides cut and clockwise rotation boost. The extreme settings of VR2 raise or lower the response level by 14dB at 50c/s with respect to the level at 1kc/s; a similar rise or fall at 10kc/s is obtained for the two extreme settings of VR3.

The final pentode stage V4 supplies an output signal of between 2 and 3V; this is fed via C39 and R51 to the output plug PL3.

Construction

The chassis assembly is built up from three

170pF (175pF) silver mica 1% 360pF (2 x 180pF) silver mica 1% 3,900pF silver mica 1% 7,800pF (2 x 3,900pF) silver mica 1% 6-way chassis mounting plug (Bulgin P427); free socket P428 5-way cable plug (T.S.L. A5B) Coaxial cable plug (Belling Lee L734) SKI-5 Coaxial sockets (Belling Lee L604) JKI, JK2 Closed circuit jack socket (**igr**anic P72) Two wafers, each 2-pole 5-way (Radie-spares "Maka-Switch") 4-pole 3-way single wafer make before Four valveholders, B9A nylon-loaded with screening skirt. Four 10-way group board (Bulgin (Bulgin C125). One 5-way group board (Bulgin CI20). One 4-way tag strip. Lampholder with amber lens (Bulgin D180). Five knobs (Bulgin K370). Aluminium for chassis, B.A. bolts and nuts. Lightweight screened cable (about 5ft).

overall 18s.w.g. aluminium. The pieces of dimensions and drilling details of the chassis section and the front and rear panels are given in Figs. 6, 7 and 8. It is essential that the pre-amplifier is thoroughly screened when in operation and complete enclosure can be effected by the addition of a pair of end panels and top and bottom plates. The end panels should not however be fitted until the wiring has been finished.

Having cut out and drilled the three sections of the assembly, take the chassis section and fit the valveholders; then mount three 10-way group-boards to the underside surface, first drilling an

SK2 Tape

additional hole in TB3 and TB4 as indicated in Fig. 11. A pair of 6B.A. screws are required for securing each group-board.

Mount the five-way group-board TB1 to the top surface of the chassis, passing one of the fixing screws through the additional hole in TB3. Mount the 10-way group-board TB2, passing one screw through the additional hole in TB4; the second screw passes directly through the chassis between the ends of TB3 and TB4. Finally fit the four-way tag strip as indicated.

Secure the front panel to the front edge of the chassis with 6B.A. screws and nuts. Mount the following components: JK1, JK2, SW3 and the pilot lamp holder assembly. The valveholder heater pins (4 and 5) and the lamp holder should now be wired up using for this purpose a tightly twisted pair of leads, and running the wire close to the chassis throughout. threaded rod so giving sufficient clearance between wafers to facilitate wiring.

Before fitting the switch in position it is essential to wire up the linking connections between S1B, and S1D (see Fig. 3). With the switch in position complete the wiring between it and TB1, but leave the remainder of the switch wiring (including the input resistors) until the rear panel has been fixed in position.

Proceed now to mount the components and wire up the 10-way group-board TB2; then fit the treble filter switch S2—which must be of the "make-before-break" type—and wire up to TB2. The three potentiometers should be mounted on the front panel and the tone control circuit components wired in position as shown in Fig. 2. Take the rear panel and fit the five coaxial

Take the rear panel and fit the five coaxial sockets in position, then secure the panel to the rear edge of the chassis. The input resistors can

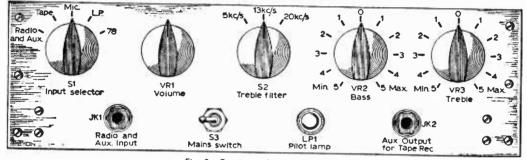
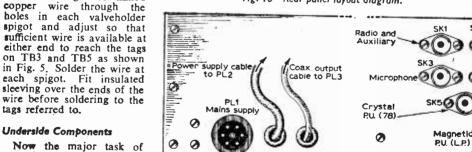


Fig. 9—Front panel layout diagram.

Fig. 10-Rear panel layout diagram.



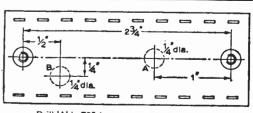
Now the major task of mounting the underside components can be com-

Pass a length of tinned

menced. It is advisable to start work from the outer end of TB3 and to proceed methodically from tag to tag towards the other end of the chassis, digressing to complete the wiring of each valveholder, and to fit the few components that are not installed on the group-boards, as these points are reached. All screened leads should be ignored for the present.

Wiring the Controls

The top side of the chassis should now be dealt with. First mount and wire the components on TB1. Prepare the switch S1 for fitting to the front panel. Ensure that this component is properly accombled, with two spacers fitted on each



Drill 'A' in TB3 for access to TB1 fixing screw. Drill 'B' in TB4 for access to TB2 fixing screw. Fig. 11 — Group board drilling diagram. (Continued on page 637)

A WIDEBAND MASTHEAD AMPLIFIER

IMPROVING SIGNAL-TO-NOISE RATIO ON MEDIUM AND LONG-WAVE BANDS

LTHOUGH the country is well covered by BBC VHF/F.M. stations, a considerable number of listeners still use the long and medium wavebands for the reception of foreign stations. Reception is, however, only too often spoilt by "man-

made" interference. Most of this interference is "mains-borne", and if this interference can be eliminated or greatly reduced, then better entertainment value can be obtained from the medium and long wavebands. It was with this purpose in mind, that this masthead amplifier was designed.

The amplifier is mounted in a small box at the base of a whip aerial, and is connected to the receiver by a coaxial cable. The power supply for the amplifier is obtained from the receiver which it feeds, and this is sent up the coaxial feeder. The signals received by the aerial are amplified by about 30dB, then changed in impedance to 70Ω for transmission by coaxial cable. The cable length used is unimportant—up to 1,000ft could be used if desired.

The overall effect of this system is to increase the signal to "man-made" noise ratio by some 30dB. The amplifier can of course, be equally well used with a long wire aerial, the only essential being that the aerial and amplifier are kept some 10ft away from any building and its resultant noise field.

Circuit Description

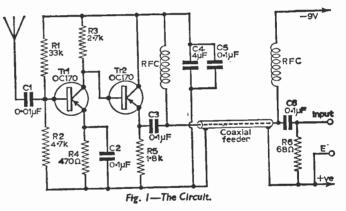
The circuit of the amplifier and the method of power feeding is shown in Fig. 1. It will be seen that only two transistors are used in the circuit. The first transistor, Tr1, is a common-emitter amplifier. This is D.C. coupled to the second transistor, Tr2, which is an emitter follower stage. This results in a low output impedance suitable for feeding the co-axial cable.

By K. Berry

The transistors used are OC170's. These are R.F. junction transistors with an average f^{α} of 70Mc/s and their use in this circuit results in an amplifier with a useful gain at over 6Mc/s. The frequency response of the prototype amplifier is shown in Fig. 2. The amplifier requires a supply of 9V (approximately) at 4mA. This is derived from the receiver to which it is connected.

Construction and Operation

The amplifier is mounted on a small S.R.B.P. tag-board, and this board is screwed to a tinplate



bracket. The bracket is soldered to the inside of a lid from a can of the type used for packaging commodities which must be kept dry. The can itself is painted to resist corrosion, rust, etc., and is secured to the aerial mast with insulating tape. This tape is varnished with copal varnish to give it some protection from the weather.

The aerial lead-in and coaxial feeder are led through tightly fitted grommets inserted in holes drilled in the lid of the can. It should be noted that the can is fixed to the aerial mast so that the lid is on the underside; this reduces the chances of rain entering the amplifier housing should the lid be a poor fit. The details given here, are, in fact, those of the author's installation and in no way essential for the successful operation of this unit.

The lead from the amplifier to the receiver should be of normal 70Ω characteristic impedance

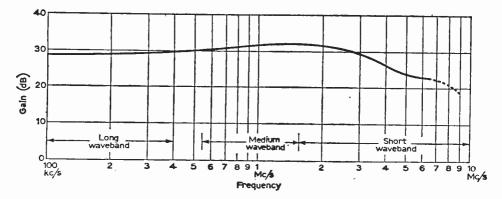


Fig. 2-A graph showing the gain of the amplifier.

coaxial cable of the type sold for television down-leads. The usual "solid" dielectric cable may be used, since at the frequencies concerned, there is no advantage to be gained by using the "air-spaced " low loss feeders which are available.

It should be noted that at the receiver end of the cable, there is a 68Ω terminating resistor (see Fig. 1). This resistor is necessary to ensure that the feeder is correctly terminated and that no "standing waves" occur. This is particularly important if the amplifier is required to work at the highest possible frequency.

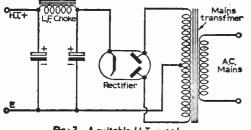
Power Supplies

To power the amplifier from the main receiver it is necessary to make a slight modification to the receiver power unit in order to provide the 9V supply required for the amplifier. In Fig. 3 is shown a typical receiver H.T. supply. This is shown again in Fig. 4 with the addition of an extra resistor, R, and a 50μ F decoupling capacitor. The value of "R" should be calculated from the 9.000

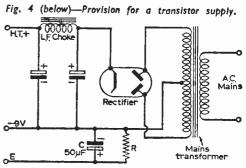
expression R = --, where I =the measured H.T.

consumption of the receiver. Many receivers will have an H.T. consumption of about 60mA, in such cases the value of "R" would be 180Ω .

Reference to Fig. 4 will show that the main smoothing capacitors of the receiver must be isolated from chassis. If this is impossible, then the resistor "R" may be connected between the transformer centre-tap and chassis. In this case, it should be decoupled by connecting a 250 or $500\mu F$



Re.3-A suitable H.T. supply.



12V electrolytic capacitor in parallel with it.

The information in this article on connecting this amplifier to a receiver should only be followed on receivers employing a double-wound mains transformer. It must not be so connected to A.C./ D.C. receivers. If it is desired to use it with such receivers a separate power supply must be provided and care taken to ensure that the feeder is isolated from the mains.

universal test oscillator (Continued from page 607)

the procedure is as follows. One side of the oscillator output is connected to the chassis of the equipment under test. The other side of the output is then applied to the various stages of the equipment, working backwards from the final stage until the faulty section of the apparatus can be determined.

Note that when the oscillator is used to test equipment of the A.C./D.C. variety, which may or may not have a live chassis, isolating condensers $(0.1\mu F 1,000V$ are suitable), must be used in both of the leads between the generator and that equipment.

This oscillator will be found to be invaluable for the rapid diagnosis of faults in all manner of apparatus, whether it be used primarily as a signal generator, or in conjunction with a pair of high resistance headphones, as a continuity testing device.

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Transportable A.C. Superhet

By F. G. Rayer

A 5-VALVE MAINS RECEIVER

HIS receiver is an A.C. mains 5-valve superhet of quite compact size, tuning long and medium waves, and with an internal ferrite rod aerial. A circuit of this type is very good indeed for general listening purposes, and will give ample volume from a fairly large number of stations. As no external aerial or earth is needed, the receiver can be operated wherever mains are available, and is thus useful for general listening.

The circuit is shown in Fig. 1, and has five miniature valves. The ferrite rod has a medium wave winding L1. L3 is the medium wave oscillator coil, with its padder C7. For long wave reception, the loading coil L2 is in series with L1, and L4 is the long wave oscillator coil, with padder C8. This arrangement proves to be very efficient on both bands. A 6BA6 is used in the intermediate frequency stage, followed by the 6AT6, which provides detection, automatic volume control, and audio amplification. A 6BW6 is used as output

stage, driving a 3¹/₂in. speaker. The receiver is isolated from the mains by T2, and the 6X4 is a full-wave rectifier.

With a standard or general purpose circuit of this type, there is considerable latitude in coils, valves, and other components, but if items to hand are to be used, a few points must be observed, or results may be unsatisfactory. L1 and L2 should be for normal M.W. and L.W. coverage, and L3 and L4 should be oscillator coils to suit, with the specified padders C7 and C8. IFT1 and IFT2 also require to be 465kc/s or 370kc/s transformers; if these points are observed, any set of coils and pair of IFT's should be satisfactory.

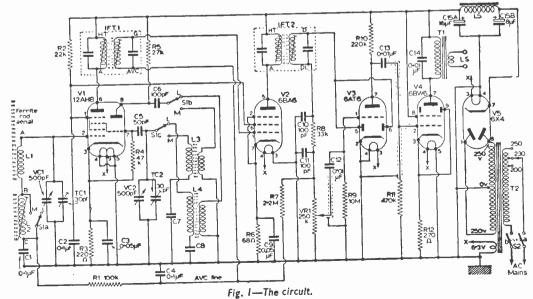
If different valves are used, screen grid and cathode bias resistor values may need changing to suit. Some rectifiers also require a separate heater winding. The 6X4 heater is, however, run in parallel with the other heaters.

Above chassis Layout

The layout is shown in Fig. 2. The chassis is about 4in. x 8in. x 2in. deep, and a hardboard panel about $5\frac{1}{2}$ in. x $8\frac{1}{2}$ in. is bolted to the chass front, to carry the loudspeaker. A tuning scale may also be glued to the hardboard panel. In the receiver illustrated, the scale was upon glass, fitted to the cabinet front, so only a sheet of thin white card was required behind the pointer.

For station identification, the simplest method is to mark the dial when stations are tuned in, then to draw up the scales as neatly as possible. A dial calibrated in wavelengths, from a signal generator, is also useful.

The 2-gang capacitor, VC1 and VC2, has its spindle passing through a clearance hole, and a double ended push-on pointer is fitted. The drum is situated as in Fig. 2, and the cord is taken through holes, to the driving spindle, as in Fig. 3. The cord is given one complete turn



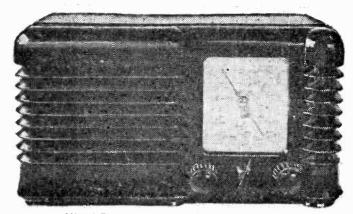
Nevember, 1962

round the spindle, and its ends are passed through the slot in the drum, and tied so that the spring is under tension.

618

A piece of aluminium about 24 in x 24 in. is bent to form a bracket about 24 in. high, shown in Fig. 2. This bracket is bolted to the chassis near the twin-gang condenser. A tag is bolted to the bracket (M.C. in Fig. 2) and the trimmers TC1 and TC2 are soldered to this. A stout, short lead is taken from the second tag of TC1 to the rear fixed plates A. A similar lead goes from TC2 to the front fixed plates of VC2.

A strip of paxolin about 1in. wide has a slot cut in it to take a grommet, the latter being a



(Above) The cabinet used on the prototype receiver.

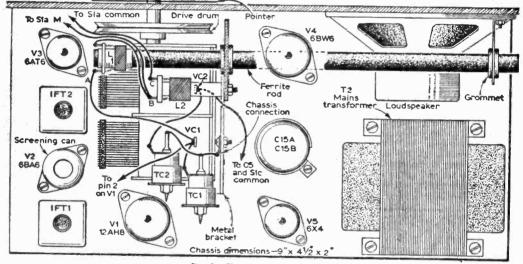
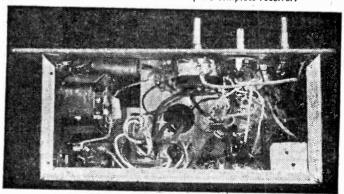


Fig. 2-The above-chassis view.

(Below)-The underchassis view of the complete receiver.



push fit on the ferrite rod. The paxolin is bolted to the large bracket described. The other end of the ferrite rod is fitted in a similar grommet, which is held by a strong wire hook placed on one of the bolts securing the loudspeaker, as in Fig. 2.

The long wave loading coil L2 is also mounted on the bracket. IFT's and valveholders are positioned as shown. T2 may have leads or tags, and a slot. or two large holes, will allow leads to pass through the chassis.

(Continued on page 621)



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PRACTICAL WIRELESS

November, 1962



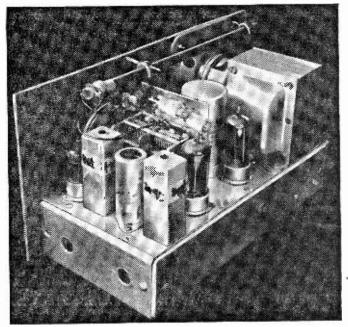
COMPONE	ENTS LIST
Resistors $\binom{1}{2}$ W unless otherwise stated): RI 100k R5 27k IW R9 10M R2 22k IW R6 68 Ω R10 220k R3 220 Ω R7 2.2M R11 470k R4 47k R8 33k R12 270 Ω IW VRI 250k potentiometer with single pole switch	 VCI, VC2 500pF twin-gang tuning TCI and TC2 30pF trimmers Transformers: TI Output transformer (with 60mA primary) to match loudspeaker to 5k load: 45:1 for 2/3Ω loudspeaker T2 Mains transformer; 250-0-250V, 70mA; and 6-3V, 2A secondaries
Capacitors: C1 0·1µF paper 250V	IFTI, IFT2 Miniature I.F.'s: 465 or 47.0kc/s
C2 0·1μF paper 250V C3 0·05μF paper 250V C4 0·1μF paper 250V	Coils (Osmor): Ll 8in. x 3 in. M.W. ferrite rod aerial, QFR3
C5 50pF mica C6 100pF mica C7 470pF 5%	L2 QA6 L3 Q08 L4 Q09 L5 SH at 70mA
С8 I 50pF 5% С9 0·05µF paper 250V С!0 I00pF mica	Valves: VI I2AH8 V2 6BA6 V3 6AT6 V4 6BW6 V5 6X4
Cli 100pF mica Cl2 0-01µF paper 250V Cl3 0-01µF mica Cl4 0-01µF paper Cl5A and B 81+6µF elec 350V	Miscellaneous: Chassis, 4in. x 8in. x 2in. Three B7G and two B9A valveholders. One $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. 2W loudspeaker. One 3-pole 2-way rotary switch, etc.

(Continued from page 618)

Wiring and Components Underneath the Chassis

Fig. 3 shows the underside of the receiver chassis. The wavechange switch is fitted to the panel between VR1 and the tuning drive, and is removed in Fig. 3 to clarify tag connections.

removed in Fig. 3 to clarify tag connections. Point A in Figs. 1 and 2 is the fixed plates tag to VC1, and goes to T1, and the coil L1. A lead



Another view of the receiver.

also passes from these fixed plates, through the chassis, to tag 2 of the 12AH8 holder. Point B is the junction of L1 and the loading coil L2, and is wired to the switch tag shown in Fig. 3. Point C is the end of L2 and is connected to R1 and C1, and also to the switch tag indicated.

Wiring for the oscillator coils L3 and L4 is shown in Fig. 3. One switch tag is connected to C5, and a lead also passes from this tag through

the chassis to the front fixed plates of the gang capacitor. These fixed plates are also wired to trimmer T2, as mentioned.

The lead from C12 to the centre tag of VR1, is screened, the braiding being taken to a convenient chassis return point. In the same way, the lead from C11 to V4 pin 2 and R11, is also screened.

With the first IFT, Anode, H.T. positive, Grid and AVC circuit tags are wired as indicated. In the case of the second IFT, tags are for H.T. positive, anode, diode, and diode load circuits. A central hole is required under each IFT, so that the lower cores can be reached.

All wiring should be insulated, and no tags or joints should be in such a position that they may touch each other, or the chassis. Heater circuit wires are run against the chassis, and are clear of other connections. The 12AH8 has centretapped heater, so tags 4 and 5 are joined and connected to the chassis.

The mains transformer primary connections are taken to the appropriate tags or leads. To suit the actual mains voltage. If the

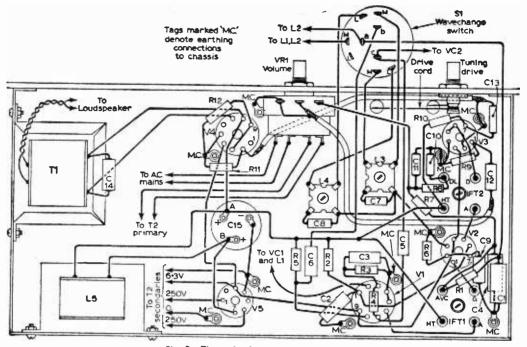


Fig. 3—The underchassis wiring diagram.

transformer has leads, unused leads should be insulated with tape. The H.T. secondary centretap, and one side of the 6.3V winding are both connected to the chassis. All control bushes, and the metal case of VR1, are wired to the chassis.

Testing and Alignment

The valves are inserted in the positions shown in Fig. 2. When the receiver is switched on, all heaters should soon reach operating temperature, and a $1.000\Omega/V$ meter connected from H.T. positive, Fig. 3, to chassis, should show about 250V. Roughly 12:5V bias should be found across R12. Some stations may be heard, if alignment is not too much in error.

To align the receiver, the IFT's are first tuned to 470kc/s. This is done by inserting an insulated blade so that it engages with the cores. Each transformer has two cores, so two are reached from below, by placing the receiver on its side. A high resistance voltmeter may be connected from the AVC line to chassis, and all adjustments can be directed towards obtaining the highest meter reading, either with a signal generator input, or with a station tuned in. The AVC line is negative, and chassis positive, for this purpose. If no signal generator is to hand, the cores are adjusted for best results. Once the IFT's have been aligned to 470kc/s, or fairly near this frequency, they do not need further attention while adjusting oscillator and aerial circuits.

To align for M.W. reception, put the switch (S1) in the M.W. position and set both trimmers to about half capacity. It can then be checked that the receiver tunes to about 550m with the gang capacitor fully closed. If the receiver tunes to a rather higher wavelength, unscrew the core of L3, to correct this, but if the receiver does not reach 550m the core of L3 is screwed in. L1 can then be slid along the rod, to the positive giving best results. A low-wavelength signal should then be tuned in (with the tuning capacitor nearly open) and the trimmers adjusted for best results. Slight re-adjustment of L1 will then probably be necessary, at a high wavelength.

Adjustments are easy, if it is remembered that TC1 and TC2 are set at a low wavelength, and also modify coverage at the low wavelength end of the M.W. band. The position of L1, and the core of L3 are adjusted at a high wavelength in the M.W. band. When maximum sensitivity has been obtained throughout the M.W. band, leave L1, L3 and both trimmers untouched, and adjust the core of L2 for best L.W. results. This is done by turning the switch to the L.W. position, and tuning in a station of fairly high wavelength, on the L.W. band. The core of L2 is then rotated, and should tune quite sharply, for best reception.

If adjustments are made by ear, instead of with a meter wired as mentioned, very weak signals should be chosen. Strong signals will operate the AVC system, so that adjustments seem to have less effect on sensitivity. For this reason, aligning with the aid of a meter is preferable. If a sensitive voltmeter is not available, a 10mA or similar meter may be wired between the H.T. pin of IFT2 and the H.T. line, with a 0.05μ F or similar capacitor from the H.T. pin to chassis. Adjustments are then directed towards obtaining the lowest meter reading, which corresponds with the highest AVC voltage, and thus with maximum sensitivity.

only 2/6

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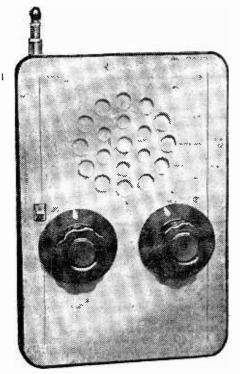
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PRACTICAL WIRELESS



ADDING EXTRA STAGES TO THIS POPULAR P.W. DESIGN



The prototype receiver.

Reflexing the P.W. MINUETTE

By F. G. Rayer

HIS receiver was described in the January and February issues and uses a straightforward 4-transistor circuit, having a detector (with regeneration), driver, and push-pull output stages. The original circuit is shown in Fig. 1, which gives very good speaker results, from local stations.

A simple TRF receiver of this kind lends itself readily to development into a larger set. This will require more components, but there will be plenty of space for these in its original case. If the original receiver works well, these enlargements to the circuit will increase sensitivity, so that more stations can be received.

Regeneration

The first transistor in Fig. 1 operates as a regenerative detector. By adding some further components, this may be changed to a reflex stage,

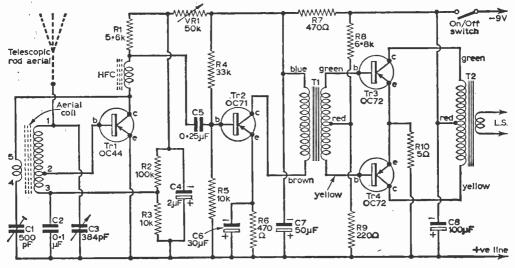
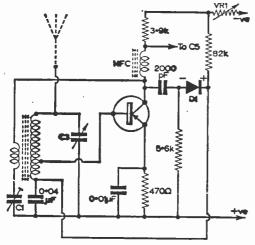


Fig. 1—The original circuit.

providing a regenerative R.F. stage, followed by a diode detector, and with the same transistor also working as A.F. amplifier.

A suitable circuit for this purpose is shown in Fig. 2. Here, values are given for the extra components, other parts remaining unchanged. Regeneration is obtained in the same way as in Fig. 1. The amplifier R.F. signal passes to the diode. After detection by the diode, the signal returns to the transistor base through the ferrite aerial winding, and is amplified at audio frequency. The A.F. signal is taken to C5, in Fig. 1.

In Fig. 1, C2 is 0.1μ F. This must be reduced to about 0.04μ F, as in Fig. 2, or there will be a great loss in volume. The crystal diode must be connected in the polarity shown. For maximum possible efficiency, with any individual diode, it may be worth changing the value of the 82k resistor. This is because the diode and 5.6k resistor virtually replace R3 in Fig. 1, and the internal resistance of such diodes varies somewhat. With an OA70 or equivalent diode, 82k or 100k should usually be satisfactory.





Operation of the receiver is exactly as before The H.F. choke should preferably be a good, dustcored miniature transistor type, kept well clear of the ferrite rod.

Audio Amplifier

An increase in amplification, at the expense of a very slight increase in current consumption, may be obtained by taking the blue lead in Fig. 1 directly to the 9V negative line, instead of to R7. Other items remain unchanged, and C7 is still wired as in Fig. 1.

The sensitivity of the output stage may also be increased, if desired, by removing R10, taking emitters directly to the battery positive. This has little effect on current drain at moderate volume, but will increase current peaks by some 5mA to 10mA or so, at full volume. With R10 in circuit, the output should generally be adequate, but a resistor is not always included here, so it can be omitted if preferred.

Adding an A.F. Amplifier

When the regeneration circuit is working correctly, the receiver is very sensitive to weak signals. Due to the use of only four transistors, distant stations cannot give very loud speaker results. For such purposes, signal strength may be increased by adding an A.F. amplifier before the driver.

A suitable stage for this purpose is shown in Fig. 3. Because of the large degree of amplification in following stages, this stage must use a good

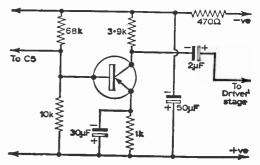


Fig. 3-An extra A.F. amplifier stage,

quality transistor, such as the OC71. If a surplus transistor with a high noise level is fitted, the noise will be amplified, and will be tiresome. With good transistors, the background noise will be very low.

The extra stage is decoupled by the 4700 resistor and 50μ F condenser, to avoid instability. Wiring must be short and direct. A stopper resistor of about 2.7k may be wired in series with the 2μ F condenser, if instability is apparent.

Increasing Ohmmeter Ranges

(Continued from page 595)

reads up to, say, $5,000\Omega$. To increase the range to one Megohm it will be necessary to multiply the scale by 200, which means that the voltage will have to be $1.5 \times 200 = 300V$.

If the total resistance of the ohmmeter at "zero ohms" is 500Ω then a multiplier will have to be used to increase this resistance to $500 \times 300 = 150,000\Omega$.

A 200,000 Ω rheostat is chosen and fitted into the multiplier which is constructed in the same way as the one for the series ohmmeter (Figs 2 and 3)

the one for the series ohmmeter (Figs. 2 and 3). The ohmmeter is again adjusted to "zero ohms" without the multiplier. The 1.5V cell is then removed and the terminals "bridged" in the same way as the series instrument in Fig. 3. The multiplier is connected to a 300V D.C. supply and to the ohmmeter which is adjusted to "zero ohms" by means of the multiplier rheostat. It is now ready for use. Its scale readings must be multiplied by 200.

For the higher ranges the 1.5V cell is dispensed with so that an exact multiple of the scale is obtained by using 150 or 300V. The 1.5V cell can, however, be left in circuit if 148.5 instead of 150 or 298.5 instead of 300V supplies are used.



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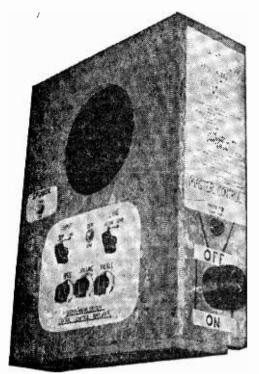
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627





Central Control Amplifier

By E. McLoughlin

A MASTER-CONTROL UNIT FOR AN AUDIO INSTALLATION

N Audio distribution system " (August, 1962, issue page 297) sketched, in a quite general way, the possibilities open for designing a multi-way radio/audio installation in a small house or flat, using inexpensive and neat three-core unscreened mains power cable for all transmission lines. A single such cable carries mains distribution, audio power, aerial and earth. The introductory article discussed the advantages and the limitations of such a system and showed how, with at the most a few and simple modifications. almost any available radio, amplifier and loudspeaker equipment could be used in an installation of the envisaged type. Thus, whilst the constructor may use any other equipment he may have already built from other designs published in this magazine, or which has been otherwise procured, the specific continuation articles of this series will deal with special units which have been designed to be *particularly* suitable for the installation. These units will also be of such a form that they each preserve, in addition, the widest possible characteristics of "independent usability", so that those constructors not wishing to follow through the whole series can build and use almost any of the units isolated and alone (with suitable simple omissions and slight modifications for such cases, which will usually be obvious).

The unit described in the present article, the first of the "specific" articles, is the only one which is probably of no use isolated and alone. This for the excellent reason that it is to form the heart of the whole installation. For this reason, too, it is taken first of all. It is to provide mastercontrol for the whole installation and embodies a very special amplifier particularly suited to the requirements of this form of audio-distribution. Thus, whilst it is perfectly true that, provided not too many loudspeakers are switched in parallel on to the line, matching is in practice uncritical and ample volume is obtained simply by switching ordinary output-transformer secondaries on to the line (as discussed in the initial article). The special type of drive-amplifier introduced in this article gives performance of superior quality and power and has the interesting advantage that it will largely suppress other signals on the line from simpler sub-units, replacing them with its own output signals (without the need for further override switching) when it is switched on to the line. This is because of its exceedingly low internal output impedance, which largely short-circuits other signals present and not because of any "shouting-down" on account of excessive power. The new amplifier here to be introduced has high power certainly, but this is only developed when sufficient loudspeakers are switched on to the line and is not blasted into a single loudspeaker if all others are switched off. Thus a very smooth "master-control" action, justifying this name, results.

Functional Summary

The unit is designed for the "principal" station of the installation, which will be the workshop, laboratory or "den" of the experimenter. Here it forms a permanent wall unit containing, first of all, the mains-input, main fuse and master-switch for the whole installation. If power is switched off here everything else in all rooms wired to the system is necessarily dead—whatever the switchpositions on subsidiary apparatus in the other rooms. This master-control is essential as otherwise it is too awkward to run round all rooms each evening to see that all is switched off.

The unit contains two amplifiers, integrated as one functional whole. A two-valve high-fidelity amplifier, using an only very slightly modified form of a design for an EF86 driving an EL84 output pentode, provides audio-gain. This has separate bass and treble controls, as well as volume control, and very heavy negative feedback, giving some three watts output into a built-in 8in.

loudspeaker at very low inherent distortion, low cross-modulation and wide frequency-range. Either the internal 4Ω loudspeaker (or a dummy 4Ω resistor-load in the off position) match this output correctly at all times.

Three watts into 4Ω represents some 3.5V r.m.s. Were another loudspeaker connected in parallel this voltage would collapse to a considerably smaller value, so that each loudspeaker would receive *less than half* of the power (because of the resulting mismatch to the EL84). Matters are progressively worse as more loudspeakers are hypothetically switched in. Nevertheless, ample volume would normally still be obtained from is a push-pull emitter-follower, using a matched pair of 2N257 power-transistors. This feeds the audio-signal on to the line at a source-impedance of something under a quarter of an ohm and a voltage some 10 to 15% higher than that impressed on the internal speaker or its dummy load. The slight excess is to compensate, roughly, losses in the line to the other rooms so that the distant loudspeakers finally receive each precisely the same power as the internal loudspeaker running direct from the EL84. The voltage does not collapse much as more loudspeakers are switched in; each comes on almost independently with full power and volume of about 3W maximum.

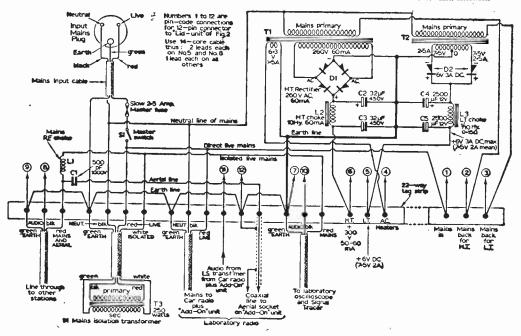


Fig. I The power-pack circuit and cabinet-body distribution wiring plan.

many loudspeakers but there would be a progressive lack of available "punch" on difficult music, etc. All this is because the EL84, in common with any other output valve, is very exacting regarding its precise load and impedance conditions are relatively high, so that the voltage rapidly collapses with decrease of load-resistance.

It would thus be highly desirable, whilst still keeping to the same voltage developing some 3Win a 4Ω loudspeaker, to transform the effective source-impedance down to a much lower value before feeding the signal on to the main line. A simple transformer would be useless for this purpose as it would simultaneously reduce the voltage to a negligible value. Some form of cathodefollower is the correct solution to the problem and, because of the high powers and extremely low impedances to be involved, a transistorised version is ideal. A valve-version would be unnecessarily awkward, though—in principle—possible.

Accordingly, the second incorporated amplifier

Number of Loudspeakers

Design is for any arbitrary number of loudspeakers between one and five on the line in the unit here detailed. Operating points have been chosen carefully such that the transistors just receive maximum acceptable drive under the given conditions when the EL84 is also just receiving maximum acceptable drive, and distortion then just does not start on the line when all five loudspeakers are switched on. If more than five loudspeakers are on the line, or an additional partial short is present, distortion will start on the line before the EL84 reaches full undistorted output. In spite of the very low source impedance, excessive power is not driven into a full short-circuit fault condition on the line because the L.T. D.C. power-pack has been designed such that its output voltage then collapses sufficiently at the resulting increased current. The transistors are rated at 12W collector dissipation each and 4A peak collector current each. (To be continued)



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TYPICAL FAULT SYMPTOMS AND THEIR CURES

PRACTICAL WIRELESS

SERVICING TAPE RECORDERS

By T.S. Smith

(Continued from page 525 of the October issue)

N past articles of this series, we have investigated the principles of tape recording, examined circuit sections in some detail and discovered the best ways of recording a radio programme. In this final article of the present series we will examine a typical recorder circuit, find out exactly what the components do and finally discuss the various fault symptoms which are characteristic of tape recorders.

The circuit to be discussed is given in Fig. 32. Here V1 is a high-gain low-noise pentode which serves as a preamplifier for both the microphone on "record" and the tape head on "replay". Failure of this valve or associated component would thus result in lack of both record and replay. This is typical of most recorders, and well worth bearing in mind.

With switch SIA in the "record" position, the microphone signal is coupled direct to the control grid of VI, across the grid leak R2 and the equalising capacitor C3.

High Gain Amplifier

V1 is arranged as an ordinary A.F. amplifier to provide a high gain, this being necessary to boost the very weak signals from the microphone and replay head. Since it is running at high gain, the valve may be prone to microphony (e.g., it may produce a ringing noise in the loudspeaker when mechanically disturbed), and for that reason its holder is often mounted on rubber buffers on the chassis.

After some time in service, the valve may become "noisy"; that is, frying and crackles may be superimposed on replay or on the recording, but this can usually be checked by switching to replay, turning the volume control to maximum and gently tapping the valve with the handle of a screwdriver. If this action results in loud noises from the loudspeaker, then the valve should be checked by substitution. Note, however, that even a new valve will give some noise when mechanically disturbed owing to the very high circuit gain.

If the valve is reasonable, yet a disconcerting background noise remains, but only with the volume control turned up, the cause must lie in V1 stage. Typical troubles are bad connections between the pins of the valve and the sockets on the holder, a "noisy" grid leak (R2), a "noisy" anode load resistor (R3) and poor soldered connections on the valveholder. If the trouble persists

even with the volume control turned right down, the trouble must then lie after V1 stage, since V1 is always operating at full gain and the volume is controlled prior to V2A.

VI is biased by the voltage dropped across the cathode resistor R4—this making the cathode more positive than the control grid, which is the same as the control grid being more negative than the cathode. Heavy cathode decoupling is provided by C5 to avoid degenerative feedback. Should C5 go open-circuit, then the gain on both record and replay would be well below standard, and there would be a definite lack of bass response. A short-circuit would cause bad distortion and excessive microphony.

The stage would fail completely, of course, in the event of either the screen feed resistor or the anode load (R1 and R3) going open-circuit. The same would happen should the screen decoupler C2 or the main decoupler C1 short-circuit, but in the latter case R7 would overheat.

The amplified signal at the anode of V1 is coupled to the volume control VR1 through the coupling capacitor C4. The required level of signal is taken from the volume control and fed direct to the control grid of V2A. This valve is also arranged as a voltage amplifier and, in conjunction with the following stage V2B, gives suitable equalisation via the negative feedback loop coupled through C7.

It will be seen that the feedback signal is injected at the cathode of V2A, and to facilitate that, the cathode is not decoupled. R6 is the anode load, and from here the signal is fed to V2B grid through the coupler C6. Because the overall gain provided by V2B need not be very great, degenerative feedback (e.g., current negative feedback) is introduced by leaving the cathode resistor R10 unby-passed.

The H.T. supply for both V1 and V2A is decoupled by R7 and C1. these components also giving extra H.T. smoothing, which is essential in high-gain stages to eliminate all traces of mains hum.

Radio and Pick-up Input

On the majority of domestic recorders, there is provision for the injection of a radio or pick-up signal for recording purposes (see Parts 7 and 8). This does not require to be a low-level input since the signal from a radio or pick-up is usually far stronger than that from a microphone or replay head, so the signal is fed in after the preamplifier V1.

In the circuit of Fig. 32, it is applied across the volume control. This, then, gives another way of checking stage V1, for if the microphone input is dead and yet normal operation is possible by injecting the signal at the radio and pick-up input socket, we can be absolutely sure that the trouble is in stage V1. The signal at this socket can also be monitored, if required, on a pair of high resistance headphones.

The amplified signal at the anode of V2B is fed to the negative feedback loop, via R11, R12 and R13, with frequency correction being given by C9. The signal is also fed to the wiper of switch S1B through R14. Moreover, the signal is also directed to the "extension amplifier" socket. The signal at that point is at a fairly high level, so it can be used to drive a separate hi-fi amplifier, for example. as a bias oscillator. Feedback takes place between the screen grid and control grid circuits via C15. Erase on this model is by permanent magnet but on models where an erase head is used instead the oscillator also feeds that head in the "record" position.

Record Level

V3 is a "magic eye" valve which is arranged as a record level indicator. This comes into operation only on record, the anode being switched to the H.T. line by SIC.

The grid of the valve is fed by a D.C. voltage the level of which is proportional to the peaks of the signal at the anode of V2B. The signal is rectified by M3 and smoothed by C12, which also endows the circuit with a time-constant. R15 and C11 form an A.F. filter circuit and contribute towards giving a clear-cut shadow on the eye.

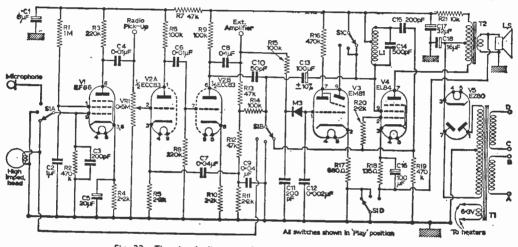


Fig. 32-The circuit diagram of a typical domestic tape recorder.

With switch S1B in the "record" position the signal is taken back to the head and a "constant current" record characteristic is secured by the signal being passed through the high resistance of R14. With the switch in the "replay" position, however, the signal is directed to the control grid of V4 through R20, with R19 being the grid-leak

of V4 through R20, with R19 being the grid-leak. On "replay" V4 is the normal output valve, it being loaded in its anode by the speaker and speaker transformer T2. Under that condition S1D disconnects the bottom of the cathode resistor R18 from chassis, the return circuit then being provided through the secondary of the speaker transformer. This is done to facilitate switching the speaker out of circuit on "record".

Also the screen grid of V4 is connected direct to the H.T. positive line, since S1C shorts out the oscillator coil L1. Thus V4 works as a conventional output stage. On "record" several things happen. S1D

changes over and puts the bottom of R18 to chassis, thereby shorting out the speaker. S1C changes over and puts L1 into the screen grid circuit of V4, in that way causing the valve to act The recorder is powered from the mains supply via a fully-isolated mains transformer T1. The two primary windings give 200-250V operation when points B and C are connected and 110-115V operation when points B and C are disconnected, A connected to C and B connected to D.

The H.T. primary winding feeds a full-wave rectifier V5, while a separate 6.3V winding energises all the parallel-connected valves. The reservoir capacitor is C18, with C17 as the main smoother. The tapped primary of the speaker transformer gives hum cancellation, since the hum voltage in the top section is opposite in phase to that in the bottom section, and lower current smoothing is provided by R21.

Replay Normal—No Record

On the type of instrument detailed in the foregoing this symptom would almost certainly mean that a faulty connection exists between the switch section SIB and the record/replay head. The best thing to do would be to switch to "record", inject

(Continued on page 637)

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(Continued from page 634)

a signal and endeavour to monitor it either on a high resistance A.C. voltmeter or pair of headphones first at S1B and then at the head.

Since "replay" is normal R14 must be working correctly and there would be a good connection at the wiper of the switch, since the signal is conveyed correctly to the control grid circuit of V4.

Replay Normal—Distorted Recording

This symptom is typical of bias oscillator failure. One check for oscillation is by metering the screen current at the H.T. tap of L1. The tap should be disconnected from the H.T. line and a milliammeter (25mA full scale) connected between the tap and H.T. positive (positive of meter to H.T. positive). If the stage is oscillating a distinct change in screen current will occur when L1 is short-circuited.

If the stage is not oscillating C15 would proably be open-circuit or there may be shorting turns in L1. If the stage is proved to be oscillating, lack of bias at the record head could be caused by C13 being open-circuit.

Record Normal—No Replay

Again, as all the valves themselves must be working reasonably well to give normal record facilities the trouble would most likely be in the head switching or in the speaker circuit. A pair of headphones could be used to trace a tape signal through the preamplifier and triode voltage amplifiers right up to the control grid circuit of the output valve.

Indeed, a pair of headphones can be extremely useful to trace the signal through any audio section whether it be on record or replay. The bias signal, of course, will not be heard since this is at a frequency just outside the audible range.

Low Record/Replay Gain

If this is accompanied by the record level indicator not closing fully on signal peaks, even with the record level control (gain) turned to maximum, attention should first be directed to the preamplifier and voltage amplifier valves themselves. Low emission of one or more of the valves is a frequent cause of the trouble.

If the valves are in order it would pay to check

Mayfair pre-amplifier

(Continued from page 612)

now be wired in position and the remainder of the wiring to S1 completed.

Screened Leads

1

It now remains to make the connections between top and underside of the chassis. Lightweight plastic covered screened cable should be used for this purpose. Each screened lead is clearly shown in the wiring diagrams Figs. 2 and 5, and is marked with a code letter to distinguish it from the other leads that pass through the same opening in the chassis, thus simplifying cross-references from one diagram to the other.

Final Wiring

The mains input circuit should be wired next. This requires four conductors—two lengths of twin-core mains lead will be satisfactory—and these should be routed from the input plug PLI across the end of the chassis then along the front edge of the chassis close in the angle of the metal-

any cathode by-pass or decoupling electrolytics, such as C5 in Fig. 32, by shunting each one in turn with a test capacitor known to be in good order (remember that electrolytics are polarised and must, therefore, be connected the right way round).

If the symptom is accompanied by distortion and high background noise, check the heads and gaps for tape deposit. Any deposit left on the record/replay head will greatly impair the reproduction, while an unclean erase head will upset a subsequent recording made on an already recorded tape. The heads can be cleaned with a little switch cleaner or carbon tetrachloride applied on a matchstick or a small piece of cloth.

Also make sure that there is reasonable pressure applied to the heads via the pressure pads and check to see that the tape is tracking correctly e.g., that it follows dead in line from the record/ replay head to the erase head. Otherwise a small part of the recording will be left on the tape where the erase head does not cover.

Note that if the heads are checked by making a resistance measurement of the windings a small residual magnetism may occur. This can cause noise on replay, the solution being to demagnetise with a defluxer. For that reason, therefore, head continuity readings should not be taken until the last resort.

Hum Troubles

If hum is present with the volume control turned right down it is usually caused by low value or open-circuit of one of the electrolytic smoothing capacitors.

If hum occurs only when the volume control is advanced it is probably getting in at the preamplifier. Check the valve by substitution and ensure that the screening (if fitted) on the head is properly bonded to chassis and also that the braid of the wire connected to the head winding is earthed to chassis. Check the preamplifier decoupling capacitor and screen by-pass capacitor (such as CI and C2 in Fig. 32).

Displaced heater leads to the preamplifier valve is another cause of hum injection.

work, and terminated at the mains switch S3.

Because of the close proximity of PL1 to other components and wiring, the protruding pins must be covered with insulated sleeving.

With the mains wiring in position the earth busbar can be completed. This involves running a length of 18s.w.g. tinned copper wire between the two jack sockets JK1 and JK2 with further connections to TB3, TB4 and TB5. As this wire runs very close to the mains switch and the lamp holder, suitable lengths of insulated sleeving should be threaded on to the straight portion of busbar so that, except for the points where a branch connection is made, the whole of the wire running from JK1 to JK2 is covered.

from JK1 to JK2 is covered. Connect wire "D" to TB3 and feed this wire through to the top of the chassis and secure it by means of a solder tag to a fixing screw of one of the input sockets.

This completes all the internal wiring. The fourcore power cable and the coaxial output cable should be brought in through grommet holes and connected up according to Figs. 1 and 5.

A Simple Method of ANODISING ALUMINIUM By K. D. Rendall

NODISING is a process that can be carried out by the average home constructor for an initial outlay of about 15s. and, as the chemicals can be used again and again, the cost is even cheaper than painting and there is the advantage that one can carry on work as soon as it is finished and not have to wait for paint to dry.

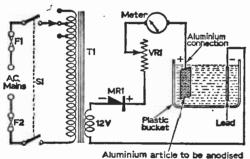


Fig. 1—The apparatus needed in the operation.

Chemicals

The only equipment needed is a couple of containers for the chemicals and plenty of clean water. The author used a plastic bucket for all processing and put the chemicals in bottles as soon as he had finished each stage of the process.

The first and most important rule to observe is absolute cleanliness, or the final product will be smeary and the colour uneven, so at all times keep the article to be anodised as clean as possible. First clean the article by brushing it all over with steel wool so that there is an even matt finish all over the surface. Care spent in ensuring that all parts of the surface are clean will be repaid in the appearance of the finished product.

The cleaned article is next placed in a strong solution of ordinary caustic soda; this is not a critical operation and as long as the mixture is strong enough to etch the metal then it is strong enough. The article is left in this solution for about a quarter of an hour and then it is removed, thoroughly rinsed and placed to one side. It is not advisable to touch it after this operation as greasy finger marks can be caused. Great care must be taken that the caustic soda does not

COMPONENTS LIST Transformertapped mains primary, 12V 8A secondary (or lower current
rating if desired-see text)
Double pole mains on/off switch
Mains fuses—2A
Rectifier-I2V A.C. input to give 8A D.C.
According -124 A.C. Impar to give on D.C.
(or to suit transformer current rating)
about 2Ω 10W—may, be several W.W. resistors in series, tapped where required.

splash into the eyes or on to the skin. If this does happen, then rinse it off with plenty of cold water as soon as possible. A preparation of dilute sulphuric acid diluted in the following proportions will then be needed: to one part of acid add seven parts by volume of water. Always add the acid to the water, not the water to the acid or the liquid will become very hot and may splash violently. This dilute acid is then placed on one side and allowed to cool.

A D.C. supply of 12V is needed in order to form the layer of oxide that will accept the dye to give the anodised finish. This layer is formed by electrolysis and the theory of this will not be given as public libraries have many books on the chemical theory. The D.C. supply must be capable of providing 8A or thereabouts. If this is not possible, then the times given by the author must be extended to suit the individual needs of the constructor. The circuit of a suitable supply is given in Fig. 1.

The acid is placed in a plastic bucket and the aluminium article to be anodised placed in it with a connection made with a piece of aluminium. The reason that this metal is specified for the connection is that a piece of copper or steel will be attacked and cause the aluminium article to take on a colour that is not wanted. A small piece of lead is used for the negative connection and the article is connected to the positive lead and the current adjusted to between 6 and 7A. Current is passed for about 15 minutes or longer if a current lower than 6 to 7A is used.

Dyeing

The next stage is the actual dyeing of the metal in the colour that you prefer. The dye used is a domestic dye that is known as "Drummer" the contents of which are dissolved in half a gallon of water that is just below the boiling point to which a spoonful of acetic acid (vinegar) has been added. This assists in the fixing of the dye and helps to render it stable and stop it being bleached out by sunlight. Into this mixture the article is placed and left to soak for about half an hour. It is then taken out and washed. Then it is left in a solution of copper sulphate. The strength of this solution is 2% of copper sulphate in water (by weight). The anodised article is left in this solution for about ten minutes and then washed.

The chemicals can be used again and again until they become discoloured and the dye begins to lose its strength and does not dye to the same strength as before. The anodised article may be bent and drilled, but this is best left to the final operation so that it does not become scratched. Note that the oxide layer must be scratched away before an electrical connection can be obtained to the metal underneath.



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TRANSISTORS

MULLARD, Reduced prices. Current production types, not rejects. All in makers' boxes. Postage 3d. on each. UC44, 9/3: OC45, 9/-; OC70 and OC71. 6/6: OC72 Matched Pairs 18/-; OC78, 8/-; OC81, 8/-; OC170, 9/6; OC171, 10/6.

OUTPUT TRANSFORMERS

GILSON: W0696A, W0696B. 50/8, post 2/8. W0710, 55/6, post 2/8. W0892, 62/3, post free; W0767, 27/-, post 1/8. W01796A, 57/8, post 2/8. PARTRIDGE: P366Y, 75/-; P4131, 65/-; P5202, P5203, £5.18.6.

PARMEKO: P2629, 45/6: P2642, 43/3; P2643, 45/6. All plus post 2/9. P2641, 28/3, post 2/-; P2928, 15/3, post 2/-; P2832, 39/3. post 2/6.

ELSTONE: OT/ML. 45/-, post 2/9; OT/3. 25/-, post 2/6.

MAINS TRANSFORMERS

GILSON: W0741AB, 63/-, post free: W0839, 40/9, post 2/9; W01328, 58/6, post 3/6; W01288, 58/-, post 3/6. PARMEKU: P2831, 33/9, post 2/9; P2630, 52/6, post 3/3; P2644, 73/8, post free: P2303, 38/3, post 3/4; P2631, 54/6, post 3/3. ELSTONE: MTI/MU, 45/-, post 3/3; MT3/M, 35/-, post 3/-; MT/510, 49/4, post 3/3. 42/-, post 3/3.

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We have full stocks of all components for the Mullard 510. Mullard 3-3. Mullard 2 and 3 Valve Pre-amp. Mullard Stereo. Mullard Mixer, GEC 912 Plus, Fully detailed list on any of these sent upon request. Instructional Manuals: All Mullard Audio Circuits in "Circuits for Audio Amplifiers". 9/5, GEC 912, 4/6. All post free.

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We now stock the following range of the new Mullard Miniature Foll and Polyester condensers as used in the latest TV and Transistor sets. Fully detailed list available free giving technical information and dimensions.⁴ Miniature Foll. 30 volt working for Transistor sets. Junid. 71d.; 022mid, 9d.; 047mid, 9d.; Junid, 11d. Polyester Tubular Capacitors. Moulded outer case designed to withstand accidental contact with the soldering iron. Tolerance 10%. 129. range: John 4, 052mid. 307mid, all 9d. each. Junid, 112: .22mid, 1/3: .47mid, 1/6: Imid, 3: 400v. range: .001mid, .002mid. .007mid, .01mid. .022mid, all 9d. each. .047mid, 1/2: .1mid, 1/3: .22mid. 1/6. 47mid 2/5.Pogtage extra.

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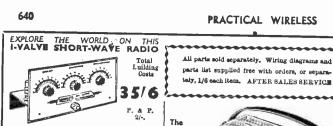
TAPE PRE-AMPLIFIERS ARMSTRONG PABO-3. This is a ready made version of the Mullard Tape C Pre-amplifier. Price 216.16.0. Hire Purohase Deposit 25.30, and 12 monthly payments of 21.4.7. MULLARD TAPE C PRE-AMPLIFIER. We stock complete kits and all components. Send for list. MARTIN. Pre-amp kit for Collaro Studio Deck 28.8.0.

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NEW RECORD PLAYER

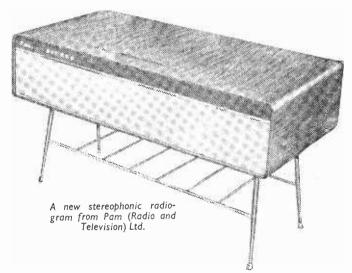
A PRODUCT new to their range of audio equipment has recently been released by Ekco Radio and Television Ltd., and is a fourspeed record player fitted with a Garrard "Autoslim" four-speed autochanger. The crystal pick-up, which has a sapphire-tipped styli, provides the input to the amplifier which employs printed circuit construction and feeds an 8in. x 5in, moving coil loudspeaker. The record player features a frequency-corrected volume control and independent bass and treble controls.

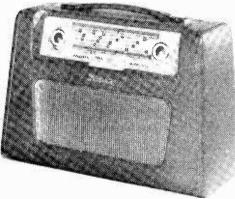
The lightweight case of the record player measures $14 \pm in$. x $7 \pm in$. x 17in. and is available in two colour schemes. The price of this new equipment is 24 guineas and it is made by *Ekco Radio and Television Ltd., Southend-on-Sea, Essex.*

7-TRANSISTOR RECEIVER

THE RT.8 is the latest radio to be announced by Roberts' Radio Co. Ltd. It employs a 7-transistor circuit which tunes over the medium and long wavebands. The RT.8 has a IW output stage feeding an 8in. x 5in. loudspeaker fitted with a high flux ceramic magnet. The receiver is also fitted with car aerial and tape recorder sockets.

The price of this new receiver is 22 guineas and is made by Roberts' Radio Co. Ltd., Molesey Avenue, West Molesey, Surrey.





The RT.8 seven-transistor receiver made by the Roberts' Radio Co. Ltd.

STEREOPHONIC RADIOGRAM

A RECENT addition the the range of radio and television equipment made by Pam (Radio and Tclevision) Ltd., is the model 5210 stereophonic radiogram. This model employs a loudspeaker system covering the full range of audio frequencies, and which reproduces both stereophonic and monaural sound.

Incorporated in the 5210 is a radio receiver covering long, medium and VHF transmissions. This receiver features two built-in aerials and the record deck employed in the gram is a four-speed autochanger.

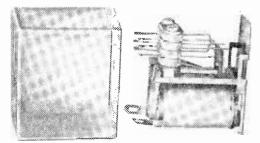
The cabinet of the radiogram is in sapele mahogany veneers with a polyester finish. It is priced at 63 guineas and is made by *Pam (Radio and Television) Ltd., 295 Regent Street, London,* W.1.



ELECTRICIAN'S KIT

THE amateur electrician will find the Steadfast Electrician Kit No. 4 a useful addition to his supply of tools, as all essential tools needed for normal use in this field have been included in this kit which comes in a handy plastic wallet.

All the tools are made by J. Stead and Co. Ltd., and the complete contents of the wallet are; an electric mains tester, diagonal nippers, insulated combination pliers, electrician's insulated screwdriver and a small screwdriver, This kit costs 25s. 3d, and the manufacturers are J. Stead and Co. Ltd., Manor Works, Cricket Inn Road, Sheffield 2.



This relay, made by The Plessey Company (UK) Limited, is intended for R.F. switching at frequencies up to 100 Mc/s.

RELAY FOR USE UP TO 1000Mc/s

DETAILS of a new low-capacitance relay have been announced by the Industrial Relays Division of the Plessey Company (U.K.) Limited. November, 1962

The new relay is intended for R.F. switching at frequencies up to 100Mc/s and has a capacitance between contacts of less than 0.5pF, with contact-to-frame capacitance less than 1pF. Contact rating is 5mA at 200V with a life of more than 10⁶ operations. The self-cleaning silverpalladium wire contacts are arranged to give two-pole changeover switching and can be used at switching rates up to 25c/s

at switching rates up to 25c/s. Designed for D.C. operation, the coil can be supplied in a wide range of operating voltages and resistances to suit individual requirements. The unit is housed in a transparent dust cover and one of its useful features is its short operating time of 6 milliseconds. The makers of this new relay are *The Industrial Relays* Division, *The Plessey Company* (U.K.) Limited, Abbey Works, Titchfield, Fareham, Hampshire.

TRANSISTOR PORTABLE RADIO

THE model TR.106 is a new portable receiver from Bush Radio Limited. It covers medium

and long waves and waveband selection and tone control is achieved by push-button controls.

The TR.106. which incorporates a fully transistorised circuit, weights only 4lb and costs 164 guineas. Bush Radio Ltd., Power Road, Chiswick, London, W.4.

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PRACTICAL WIRELESS



Short-wave Listeners' Log

N average receiver will not usually cover wavebands required by the S.W.L., but this can be overcome by using a converter. The converter itself tunes the bands needed, and its output is fed into the aerial socket of the main receiver. This arrangement allows short-wave or VHF A.M. transmissions to be heard with the aid of a receiver having no S.W. or VHF bands. Many all-wave receivers begin to lose efficiency towards 15m or 10m (30Mc/s), while few such receivers cover the 5m (60Mc/s) and other VHF bands. For these reasons, a converter is quite often used by S.W. listeners who are interested in the H.F. bands.

In an ordinary superhet with 470kc/s intermediate frequency, all signals received are converted to 470kc/s. With a "double superhet" receiver, signals received are converted to a frequency such as 1.6Mc/s (1.600kc/s), and after amplification, are again converted to a lower frequency, such as 470kc/s, or 110kc/s. This method is very effective in obtaining high selectivity, and avoiding interference on H.F. S.W. bands.

When a converter is used, its output is within the ordinary tuning range of the receiver. The receiver is tuned to the converter output signal, and the receiver R.F. stage or frequency-changer provides some amplification. The receiver then converts the signal to its own intermediate frequency (say 470kc/s). When a converter is used in this way, the whole thus acts as a double superhet, and very good results indeed can be obtained.

The frequency of the output of the converter is

not too important, provided it is fairly high (within the tuning range of the receiver) and not on a frequency where the receiver is liable to pick up a local or other strong signal.

Surplus Units

Various surplus units are often modified for use as converters. For example, the R.F. Unit Type 27 tunes approximately 3.5-5m, while the Type 26 tunes about 5-6m. The output of these units is on about 7-8Mc/s, so the receiver is tuned to the converter signal in this range.

For home construction, the simplest converter is a single valve employed as a frequency changer stage. The tuned circuits in the converter cover the required bands, and this method can be used to obtain S.W. coverage with a long- and mediumwave set, or to extend the coverage of an all-wave receiver. Current for a single valve can often be drawn from the receiver power supplies.

[A two-valve converter for short-waves was described in the August and September issues.— Ed.]

For the VHF bands, low-loss construction is used, with small coils and a low value tuning capacitor. Three valve circuits, having R.F. amplifier, mixer, and separate oscillator, similar to the R.F. Units, are popular, but generally require a separate power pack.

Tuning is carried out on the converter, as the receiver only operates as the intermediate frequency and audio amplifier stages. The lead from converter to the receiver's aerial socket should be short, and may be screened to avoid to pick-up the receiver frequency.

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AMATEUR RADIO MOBILE SOCIETY

Hon. Sec.: G3FPK, 79 Murchison Road, London, E.IO. September this year was a busy month for mobile amateurs. The first important fixture was the Thames Valley Amateur Radio Society's rally at Polesden Lacy, Surrey. This was followed by the R.S.G.B. mobile rally at Woburn Abbey in Buckinghamshire, which was well attended by A.R.M.S. members and on September 16th the Lincoln Rally was held in North Hykoham.

CRAWLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Hon. Sec.: R. G. B. Vaughan, G3FRV, 9 Hawkins Road, Tilgate, Crawley, Surrey

At a recent meeting, GBRW gave a lecture on "23cm operation". Other recent activities have included a visit to Gatwick Airport which was enjoyed by a number of members.

Future Event:

October 24th-Annual film show.

DUDLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Hon. Sec.: D. H. W. Pratt, G3MHS, 23 Kent Street, Upper Gornal, Dudley, Worcestershire. On 14th September, GBCK and GGGR gave a talk on "Mobile activities". In the radio guz, held on 28th September, the S.W.L.'s challenged the Hams, with G2DTQ as quiz-master.

JERSEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Hon. Sec.: D. Watkin, 73 Marett Court, Marett Road, St. Helier, Jersey.

This newly formed club will be holding a meeting at the YMCA, New Street, St. Helier on 15th October, commencing at 8 p.m., when prospective members and visitors are invited to attend.

MIDLAND AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Hon. Sec.: C. J. Haycock, 29A Wellington Road, Handsworth Birmingham, 20. The society's Annual General Meeting was held on September

Bth, but the evening was also the occasion for an exhibition of mambers' home constructed equipment.

PURLEY AND DISTRICT RADIO CLUB Hon. Sec.: E. R. Honeywood, G3GKF, 105 Whytecliffe Road,

Purley.

A number of members visited the BBC receiving station at Tatsfield in Kent on September 1st, and on September 7th, mem-bers enjoyed a 90 minute programme of films presented by Ralph Cathles, G3NDF.

WESSEX AMATEUR RADIO GROUP Hon. Sec.: G. J. Fowle, 138 Surrey Road, Branksome, Poole, Dorset.

Dorset. An "Aerial" quiz was the main item of the meeting on September 3rd, but mambers also took tart in a discussion which followed. A "Bring-and-buy" sale of equipment was held on October 1st.

YORK AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Hon. Sec.: N. Spivey, G3GWI, 80 Melton Avenue, Clifton, York.

The September meeting was taken up by a tape recorded lecture called "Receivers". Future Event:

October 11th-"Tx design and TVI".



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B.S.R. TD2. Latest model	£9.9.0
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Tape Amplifier for B.S.R. deck, printed circuit ready wired, with	1
ECC83, ECL82 EM85 and EZ81. Complete with all	1
plugs, sockets, panels, knobs, etc. The whole amplifier	
mounts on to the deck, making a self-contained unit	£8.8.0
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Case with 7 x 4in, speaker, in two-tone grey	£4.4.0
Complete kit as above	£22.0.0
Deposit £2.4.0 and 12 monthly £1.16.6	
The above recorder can be supplied assembled, tested and	
complete with tape and microphone for	£25.0.0
Deposit £2.10.0 and 12 monthly £2.1.6	
Collaro Studio Deck, Very latest model, 3 speeds, 7in, spools	£12.10.0
Deposit £1.5.0 and 12 monthly £1.0.8	
Tape Amplifier for Studio Deck with ready wired printed credit.	
control and input panel. Mains and output transformers.	
Complete with valves, knobs, plans, screws etc.; EF86,	1
ECC83, EM84, EZ81, OA81 and 2 EL84, 3 watts output.	
Magic eye, Radio and Mic inputs, ex L/S socket, tone and	1
monitor controls. Can be used as an amplifier	£11.11.0
Deposit £1.0.0 and 11 monthly £1.1.0	
Case for above, including 9 x 5in. speaker	£5.5.0
Total kit. as above	£29.0.0
Deposit £2.19.0 and 12 monthly £2.8.2	
We can offer the above recorder complete with tape and micro-	
phone in a De Luxe two-tone grev cabinet, assembled for	£35.0.0
Deposit £3.10.0 and 12 monthly	
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Case with 9 x 5in. spraker. £5.5.0 Complete Kit 4 track Collaro
Complete Kit, 4 track Collaro
Tape Pre Amplifier for Collaro deck with power supplies ECC83,
E(1.82, EZ80 and EM85, Radio and Mic, sockets, gives
an equalised output of 400m/volts.
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Cabinet, polished to house either Pre amps or Studio deck 26.6.0
Mounting kit for above, brackets, etc £1.11.6
BUILDING INSTRUCTIONS AVAILABLE at 2/6 each kit.
BRENELL Mk, 5 Recorder. Complete 1 track £67.4.0
Deposit £6.14.6 and 12 monthly£5.11.11
FERRGGRAPH 5A/N, New Series £89.5.0
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The Editor does not necessarily agree with the opinions expressed by his correspondents

Whilst we are always pleased to assist readers with their Whilst we are always pleased to assist readers with their technical difficulties, we regret that we are unable to supply diagrams or provide instructions for modifying commercial or surplus equipment. We cannot supply alternative details for receivers described in these pages. WE CANNOT UNDERTAKE TO ANSWER QUERIES OVER THE TELE-PHONE. If a postal reply is required a stamped and addressed envelope must be enclosed with the coupon from page iii of the cover.

COMMERCIAL RADIO STATIONS

SIR,-With reference to your editorial in the September issue of Practical Wireless you rightly ask why the Pilkington Committee outlaws commercial radio. In the States, Australia, Malaya and everywhere in progressive communities, major towns have their own station. In this way the housewife learns which store is promoting a certain product; the sports fan hears the scores in local matches; in fact everyone gets to know local news. For serious programme all the material there is always the national medium or short-wave network.

In my travels as a radio officer for a manufac-turer of radio equipment I have studied these systems and I must confess that I become impatient when the idea is dismissed here at home. -P. ROBINSON, G3MGJ (Stratford-on-Avon, Worcestershire).

LOCAL STATION PICK-UP

SIR,-May I put forward a suggestion for Messrs, R. Ferguson and B. J. Claxton and other readers who experience broadcast breakthrough in audio equipment such as tape recorders? It appears that very often it is the mains lead which is to blame; a wire roughly 5ft long is very near the resonant length for a 94Mc/s acrial.

Whether your readers are detecting VHF transmissions I know not, but may I suggest that they try altering the length of the mains lead to their equipment or investigating the possibilities of screening it or, in extreme cases, fitting R.F. filters?—C. STEVENSON (London).

AMERICAN STATION

SIR,-Concerning the transmission referred to by Mr. R. R. Diamond (September issue), I would like to confirm that this is a single sideband transmission for the Overseas Telephone Service in Frankfurt (Main)-Eschborn, Germany. The station has a power of 20kW, a frequency of 7537kc/s with a call of DFG53 and the aerial used is a three-wire rhombic type directed at New York. I obtained this information by sending in a report of these transmissions to the station .--R. HARSANT (Ware, Hertfordshire).

SIR,-The letter written by Mr. R. Patrick in the September issue about the transmissions from the American station of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company is quite correct, but I would like to add that this station is operated as a point-to-point radio/telephone station in the international fixed public service. It is located near White Plains, New York .- R. W. H. PEMBERTON (Bury, Lancashire).

[We have received many replies to Mr. T. Gerrard's letter which appeared in the July issue concerning this transmission and there seem to be one or two discrepancies concerning its exact source. We will be interested to hear from any other readers about this station .--- Ed.1

CORRESPONDENTS WANTED

SIR,-I am 16 years of age and have been interested in radio for several years. I hope to take the R.A.E. sometime in the near future and I should like to correspond with any other radio enthusiasts of my age from any country. All letters I receive will be answered.—M. R. KING (32 Langley Crescent, South Yardley, Birmingham 26).

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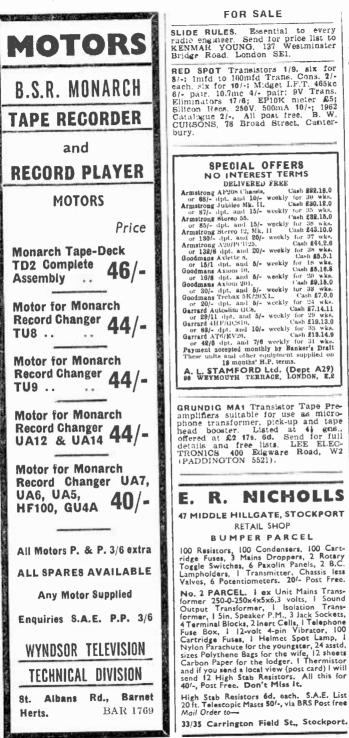
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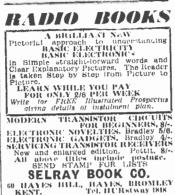
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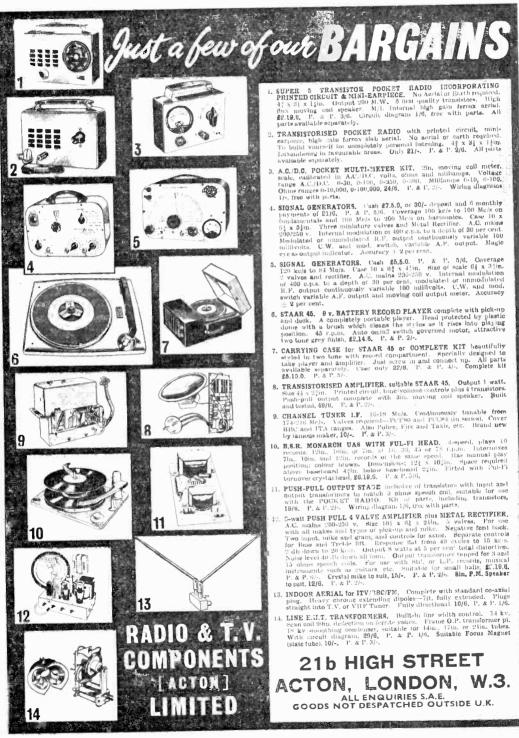
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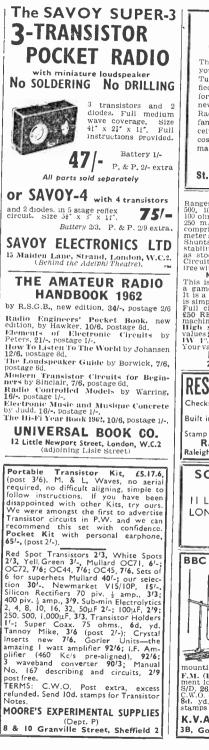
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