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FOR MEN WITH IDEAS IN ELECTRONICS

**Antenna Accessories To Deliver Better TV Pictures**

**Build R-E's Dual-Function Generator**

**HOW DIGITAL READOUTS WORK**



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PUBLICATION

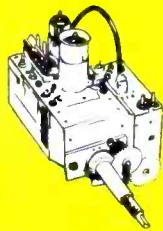
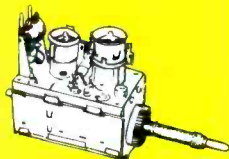
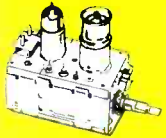
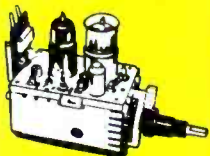
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94E229-8	471700	340078-2	OPPT404A		SEARS	470V188D02	175-621	175-736	175-1140	TA133
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94D257-7		340055-2	OPPT405			470V191D01	175-640	175-738	175-1142	TA138
94D257-49			OPPT414A			470V191D02	175-641	175-739	175-1143	TA147
94E260-8H		340130-1				470V191D03	175-642	175-740	175-1144	TA150
94E260-11	ET86X188						175-643	175-741	175-1145	TA157
94E261-1B	ET86X208		MUNTZ				175-644	175-742	175-1146	25A1241-002B
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94C273-4	ET86X221	TT133YA	PR9014			95-500.1B	175-170	175-747	175-1152	25A1245-006D
94C273-7	ET86X224	LTT307A	PR9044				175-201	175-748	175-1153	25A1245-009
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94C273-9	ET86X230	CPTT332A	PR9050			175-202A	175-202A	175-751	175-1155	25A1246-001
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94C273-15	ET86X236	CMTT340A	OLYMPIC			54-17234-1	175-204A	175-669	175-754	25A1246-005A
94C281-1K	ET86X242	CMTT340B	CL4692-1			54-17436-2	175-206	175-671	175-755	25A1246-006
94C286-1D	ET86X244	TT348B	CL5220-1			54-17436-3	175-212	175-680	175-756	25A1246-007A
	ET86X245	MTT348A	CL28874-1			54-17436-4	175-213	175-681	175-757	25A1246-008
94C286-1J	ET86X256	VTT348B	CL29554			54-17436-5	175-214	175-682	175-758	25A1249-001E
94C286-1L	ET86X265	VTT349B	CL29566			54-17778-1	175-216	175-683	175-759	25A1253-001B
94C286-4J	ET86X277	CPTT350B	CL29650			54-23853-3	175-220	175-684	175-760	25A1253-001D
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94C286-12		TT361Y	CL33858			54-78093-1	175-228	175-686	175-762	25A1254-001A
94C286-16		HEATHKIT	CL34190			54-88847-3B	175-230	175-687	175-763	25A1254-001B
94C289-1		CPTT366Y	CL34835			54-89093-1	175-232	175-688	175-764	25A1263-001
	110-17	CPTT366YD	K24013USA-1C			54-89720-1A	175-254	175-689	175-1101	25A1266-001B
	110-24	OPPT366YD	K50013USAH-3			54-89720-3	175-256	175-690	175-1102	25A1266-001B
	110-25	NCPTT378YA				54-89840-2A	175-262	175-691	175-1103	25A1266-001A
CURTIS	110-33	CPTT378YA				54-94869-3	175-264	175-692	175-1104	25A1270-001
MATHES	110-38	NCPTT378YA	PHILCO			54-97948-6	175-265	175-693	175-1105	006-014700
		OPPT385Y	76-12405-4			54-97948-7	175-268	175-694	175-1106	006-015000
7A11		OPPT385YA	76-13579-5				175-272	175-695	175-1107	006-015700
7A17		OPPT386YA	76-13579-7				175-402	175-696	175-1108	006-016500
7A38		OPPT388YA	76-13579-7				175-405	175-697	175-1109	006-017300
7A48	3400C9-1	CPTT396YA	76-13579-8			WESTING- HOUSE	175-406	175-698	175-1110	006-017700
7A050	340010-1	OPPT390YB	76-13579-9				175-412	175-699	175-1111	006-018600
7A53-001	340017-1	OPPT394	76-13851-2			470V007H03	175-416	175-700	175-1112	006-020100
7A056-001	340038-1	SCPTT394	76-13871-1			470V019H05	175-418	175-701	175-1113	006-020900
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\* Supplied with new channel indicator skirt knob, original illuminated dial is not used.



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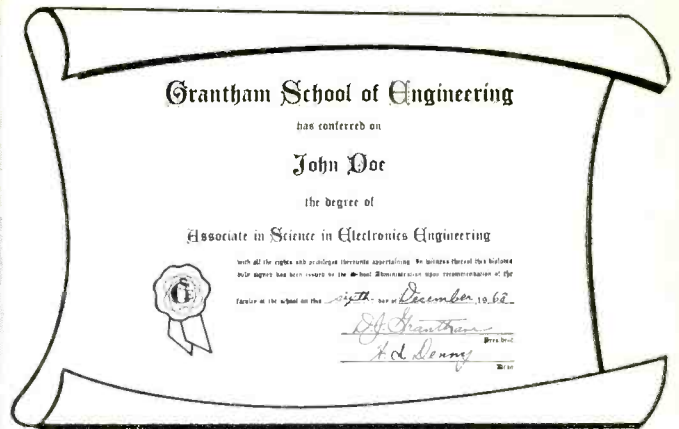
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# NEW & TIMELY

## IONOSPHERIC CHANGES MAY AFFECT WEATHER

LUBBOCK, TEX.—Research conducted at Texas Tech University by electrical engineering Professor Thomas F. Trost show that radio waves entering the ionosphere, particularly the "D region", run into surprising difficulties. The ionosphere is the 40 to 600 miles up region of the earth's upper atmosphere overlaying the stratosphere and the mesosphere. Within the ionosphere are an abundance of charged atoms called "ions"—atoms which have gained or lost an electron.

Because long distance communications depend on it to bounce radio signals back to earth, changes in the ionosphere, whether abrupt or gradual, can cause distortion and interruption of radio signals. The changes are often

related to the emission of radiation from the sun. There is also an effect on the weather.

In Lubbock, Dr. Trost is establishing a low frequency receiving station to monitor radiowave absorption in the "D region." He plans to correlate this information with weather data, temperatures and wind velocities obtained for the stratosphere at the Meteorological Rocket Network station at White Sands, New Mexico.

Dr. Trost is looking for the relation between the radio signal's interaction with the ionosphere and what scientists call cyclonic and planetary waves. The planetary waves are the "steering currents" for the smaller scale cyclonic waves which determine our weather. ★

## TAPE DECK WITH DYNAMIC NOISE LIMITER



NEW YORK, N.Y.—The first cassette tape machine to incorporate the new Philips Dynamic Noise Limiter (DNL) system was announced here by Norelco. DNL circuitry virtually eliminates noise and tape hiss, according to Paul B. Nelson,

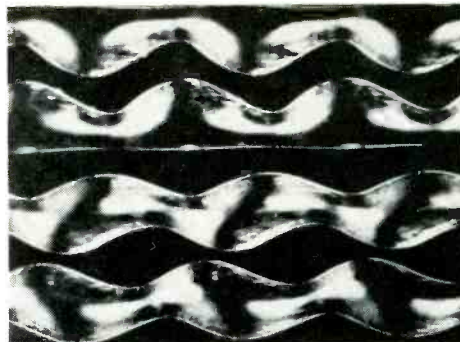
Jr., division vice president.

The DNL system featured in the Model 2100 was developed by Philips of Holland and is an active noise suppression circuit that operates in quiet and silent stretches of tape where noise is especially noticeable. ★

### IN THIS ISSUE

Nixie readouts are turning up in more and more new equipment. We know you'd like to learn more about how they work and how they can be used most effectively. So turn to page 50 and see what George Flynn has to say about digital readouts.

## NEW QUADRAPHONIC DISC SYSTEM



Left Front  
Right Front  
Left Back  
Right Back

**HIGHLY MAGNIFIED GROOVE** of quadrasonic record contains four modes of modulation.

MONTREUX, SWITZERLAND—A compatible quadrasonic disc system has been developed by Columbia Records, which now joins forces with Sony Corporation to enhance the basic invention and prepare it for worldwide marketing.

The system permits four channels of sound to be reproduced from a two-track source. Consumers will be able to obtain quadrasonic sound from their present hi-fi systems by adding a special decoder, another stereo amplifier, and two additional loudspeakers.

The basis of the innovation is a new double-helical modulation concept used to encode a quadrasonic

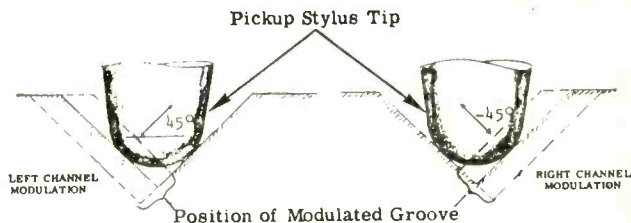
program onto a two-channel disc. During playback a special decoder re-creates the original program of four separate channels. Without this decoder, the program is heard as conventional 2-channel stereo.



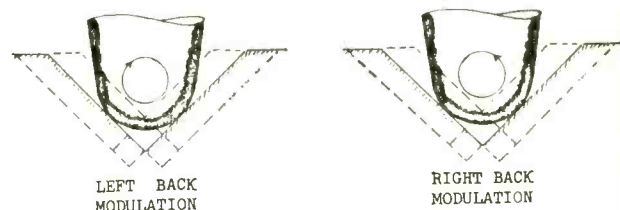
Therefore, the quadrasonic disc can be played on existing record players.

Quadrasonic sound is recorded in the studio on a multitrack "master tape" re-

(continued on page 6)



**TWO VIEWS OF GROOVE** of ordinary stereo record. To-and-fro motion of the stylus tip in response to the modulation is depicted by the arrows at 45° and -45° to the horizontal.



**VIEWS OF THE TWO NEW MODES** of modulation on the quadrasonic disc.

# Radio-Electronics

FOR MEN WITH IDEAS IN ELECTRONICS

September 1971 • Over 60 Years of Electronics Publishing

## TELEVISION

- Antenna Accessories For Better TV Pictures** **33** Robert G. Middleton  
*Those "little" extras make a big difference*
- Kwik-Fix Troubleshooting Charts** . . . . . **41** . . . . . Forest H. Belt  
*X & Z color demodulators*
- Service Clinic** . . . . . **71** . . . . . Jack Darr  
*Watch those diodes—plus solutions to reader problems*
- Dream Workbench** . . . . . **84** . . . . . Jack Darr  
*Part II—White space, mobility and equipment layout*
- Red Drive Control Update** . . . . . **95**

## GENERAL ELECTRONICS

- Looking Ahead** . . . . . **4** David Lachenbruch  
*Current events with future overtones*
- Home Appliance Electronics** . . . . . **16** . . . . . Jack Darr  
*New appliance tester*
- Equipment Report** . . . . . **22**  
*Heath GD-29 Electric Oven*
- How Digital Readouts Work** . . . . . **50** . . . . . George Flynn  
*Experiments tell how Nixies do their thing*
- Everything You Should Know About Resistors** **58** . . . . . Earl Waters  
*Behind the scenes with this important circuit element*
- IC Power Supplies** . . . . . **69** . . . . . Walter Jung  
*Dual-outputs with the uA723*
- Equipment Report** . . . . . **91**  
*Triplet 990 Industrial Maintenance Kit*

## RADIO

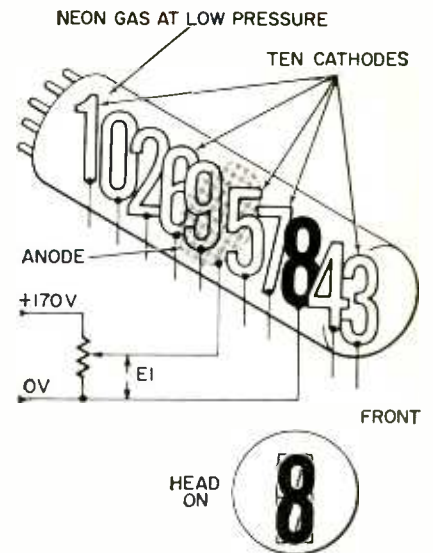
- Sweep Alignment Techniques** . . . . . **62** . . . . . Jack Darr  
*R-E's Service Editor shows how to sweep AM-FM radio troubles*

## BUILD ONE OF THESE

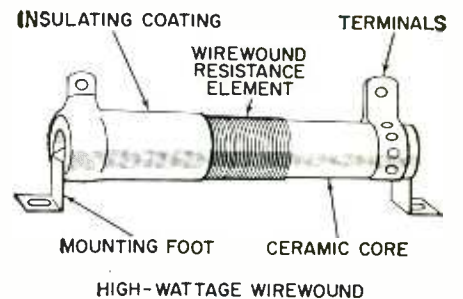
- Dual-Function Generator** . . . . . **36** . . . . . Philip Harms  
*Use it to troubleshoot and test all kinds of digital equipment*
- Simple Touch Switch** . . . . . **53**
- 24 Alarm Circuits** . . . . . **54** . . . . . R. M. Marston  
*Five final circuits detect fire and frost*
- Grid-Dip Meter Extension** . . . . . **61** . . . . . W. P. Turner

## DEPARTMENTS

- |                                       |   |                                   |
|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Coming Next Month . . . . . <b>87</b> | New Books . . . . . <b>83</b>           | Service Notes . . . . . <b>88</b> |
| Correspondence . . . . . <b>24</b>    | New Literature . . . . . <b>78</b>      | Technotes . . . . . <b>94</b>     |
| New & Timely . . . . . <b>2</b>       | New Products . . . . . <b>74</b>        | Try This One . . . . . <b>92</b>  |
|                                       | Noteworthy Circuits . . . . . <b>96</b> |                                   |



Digital readouts are popping up all over the place. Here's a look at how they work and what they do. . . . see page 50



Resistors are vital to every electronic circuit. Review your knowledge and add some new facts. . . . see page 58



Dual-function generator is a modern instrument used to test and build digital circuits. It's easy to make your own. . . . see page 36

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# LOOKING AHEAD

Volume 42 Number 9

RADIO-ELECTRONICS . . . FOR MEN WITH IDEAS IN ELECTRONICS

September 1971

by **DAVID LACHENBRUCH**  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

## A cable-TV receiver?

Some 5.3 million American families, in about nine percent of all TV-equipped homes, now get their television entertainment via cable. In Canada, the figure exceeds 20 percent. With the FCC nearing completion of its massive study of CATV, ending what has been, in fact, a freeze on cable growth in the larger cities, CATV is expected to expand rapidly. It's not uncommon to hear forecasts that 25 to 50 percent of U.S. homes will be cable-connected within the next decade or so.

Yet cable homes view their television on receivers that were designed for off-the-air reception. Increasingly, cable TV engineers are calling these receivers less than ideal for their systems, many of which already are distributing more than 12 channels of programming. Among their complaints about existing sets:

1. Many of them don't have adequate adjacent-channel interference rejection to permit use of all 12 vhf channels (cable systems currently can't use ultra-high frequencies).

2. Tuners often aren't shielded enough to prevent direct pickup of programs off the air in high-signal-strength areas, causing ghosts when a cable feeds in on the same channel. This often requires a top-of-set channel-converter.

3. AFC, when misadjusted, can cause severe adjacent-channel sound interference.

4. In some cases where a cable feeds in more than 12 vhf channels (via set-top converter), the receiver causes severe reception problems.

The CATV systems' trade association, the National Cable TV Association, has filed a petition with the FCC requesting rules and standards for special receivers designed for cable connection. There is no question that the Commission eventually will look into the entire situation, and that some day we will use a different type of receiver for CATV than we do for direct off-the-air reception. Specialized cable receivers—for multi-channel cable reception—already are being designed by major television set manufacturers. Magnavox is developing a set which can pick up 31 channels on vhf. RCA is supplying color receivers to two hotels in the new Disney World complex near Orlando, Fla., which have no tuners at all. The signal is fed directly into the i.f. and channels are selected by a switch that feeds signals from a bundle of slim cables. This distribution system, developed by Ameco, is called "Discade" and accommodates two TV channels on each cable. They are about the size of standard RG/59U coaxial antenna lead-in.

There are other methods of delivering more than 12 vhf channels. One is to use two separate standard cables, each supplying up to 12 vhf channels. By simply switching from cable A to cable B, the viewer can receive a total of 24 programs. Another system, that currently requires a set-top converter, simply carves more channels from the vhf band, by adding channels below 54 MHz (Channel 2), between 108 and 174 MHz (between the FM band and Channel 7) and above 216 MHz (Channel 13). As yet there's no standard system—and there may never be—making the development of a cable-designed receiver all the more challenging.

## Competition for Dolby

The Dolby Type-B noise-reduction system has started to show up in many different brands of cassette recorders. Next year you'll see it in a great many more, including some relatively modest-priced units, when a simple monolithic IC version is made available to equipment manufacturers as the result of a cooperative effort by Dolby Laboratories of London and Signetics Corp. The Dolby system requires special processing of the signal while recording, and decoding during playback. To take advantage of the noise-reducing effects of the Dolby system, the tape you play back must have been "Dolbyized" during the recording process.

Until now, Dolby has had the cassette noise-reduction field to itself. But N. V. Philips of the Netherlands, the developer of the cassette system, has come up with its own noise-eliminator, which it calls "Dynamic Noise Limiter" (DNL). Unlike the Dolby system, DNL operates on playback only—it can be used to cut noise from any standard, unprocessed recorded cassette. Philips says it adds about \$30 to the cost of a cassette deck, and Norelco will offer the first DNL deck in the U.S. at \$219.95. Philips plans to make the system available to other manufacturers without cost.

The DNL circuit operates in the high-frequency area, splitting the signal into two parts. For signals above 4 kHz (where tape hiss begins) and more than 38 db below reference level, the signals in the two channels are equal but of opposite phase and cancel each other. Louder signals are permitted to pass, since noise is not noticeable during these passages, while noise suppression is complete when there is no signal.

## Columbia's 4-channel system

Quadraphonic sound received a big boost with the introduction of a new four-channel disc system by big Columbia Records. At the same time, Columbia's espousal of its own proprietary system could further complicate the tangle over standards for quadraphonics. Although complete technical details weren't yet available at press time, Columbia's system is of the matrix type—other members of the matrix family are the Electro-Voice and Scheiber systems. Like the other matrix systems, Columbia's is claimed to be completely compatible with two-channel stereo and monophonic systems. That is, a Columbia "SQ" (for "stereophonic/quadraphonic") disc may be played over monophonic or conventional stereo equipment, and a conventional disc may be played on SQ equipment. For more information on SQ see story on page 2.

In a matrix system, four channels are decoded into two for recording or broadcasting, and decoded into four for listening. An accessory decoder or a decoder-equipped playback system must be used to receive the material in quadraphonic sound. The Columbia system may be broadcast on conventional stereo FM and heard in four-channel sound by listeners equipped with decoders and the required additional amplifier channels and speakers. Columbia says that left and right rear sounds are superimposed on the conventional stereo disc grooves in the form of two circular modulations, left-rear information being contained in a

*(continued on page 14)*

# Have you tried our canned tuner?

It's not only great for color television sets, it's also great for guided missiles.

As a matter of fact, Krylon® Tuner Cleaner is made with the same solvent used in the missile industry. Plus a special lubricating oil.

Just one little spray leaves a thin, non-drying film of lubricant that conditions contact surfaces and protects them from corrosion.

And that same little spray keeps surfaces self cleaning and water repellent without ever harming any plastic surface.

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Try it just once. You're sure to develop a taste for it.



Krylon Coatings—from the makers of Elmer's® Adhesives and Mystik® Tapes.  
Circle 3 on reader service card



(continued from page 2)

order and then mixed down to a 4-channel master tape, with a later encoding of these four channels onto a two-channel medium. This is done by a special encoder that produces four discrete modulation patterns on the record. These modulations are separated into four channels by the decoder for reproduction over four loudspeakers.

The quadrasonic system retains the two basic stereo modulations and provides two new additional modes of modulation for the remaining two channels. As the record rotates and the groove advances, a clockwise helix is produced for the left back channel and a counter-clockwise helix is produced for the right back channel. These two helices carry the back channel information. ★

## TAPES SEIZED

NEW YORK, N.Y.—Thirteen Manhattan stores were raided by detectives from the office of District Attorney Frank S. Hogan who charged that these "unauthorized mechanical reproductions of musical performances owned by another were being sold at prices far below those of legitimate record manufacturers." He accused the stores of selling pirated and counterfeit tape recordings. ★

## WWV Has Laryngitis

FORT COLLINS, COLO.—WWV, the National Bureau of Standard Frequency and Time Station, began broadcasting in its new all-voice format on July 1 (see **Radio-Electronics** June 1971). The time announcements are a model of clarity.

Unfortunately, however, the same cannot be said of the voice announcements concerning radio propagation conditions and the broadcast announcements concerning geophysical alerts. The propagation forecasts are broadcast at fourteen minutes past the hour, the geo alerts are eighteen minutes past the hour.

The modulation level for these voice announcements is much too low. In addition, the announcements are made by untrained announcers whose voices are not well suited to the microphone. As a result, it is difficult, and sometimes, impossible, to hear the announcements. We can only hope that the authorities will do something quickly to improve the situation. ★

### FIVE ALARM CIRCUITS

For fire or frost alarms see R. M. Marston's article that starts on page 54. They complete this series.

## VIDEOVOICE — NEW INTERNATIONAL PICTURE



NEW YORK, N.Y.—Videovoice, a new video communications system permits businessmen in the U.S. and overseas to exchange virtually instantaneous views of products, charts or other subjects as they talk. It was demonstrated between Tokyo and New York City by RCA Global Communications, Inc.

Representatives of RCA Globcom and Kokusai Den-shin Denwa (KKD) exchanged a series of black-and-white TV pictures over the same 3-kHz bandwidth circuits they were using for voice communications. KKD handles Japan's international communications. Videovoice is an accessory available to

subscribers of leased-channel communication links.

The service can be conducted as a 2-way exchange of visual information by having transmitting and receiving units at both ends of the link (duplex) or as a one-way (simplex) service with a receiver at one end and transmitter at the other.

The system combines live camera, frame-freeze and slow-scan TV techniques. When the subject is live and in motion, it is displayed on the camera monitor. The subscriber selects the desired scene and presses the "freeze" button to stop the action. The scene viewed at the instant

(continued on page 12)

## Radio-Electronics

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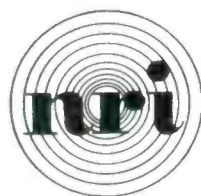
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**NEW  
COLOR TV**



## New & Timely

(continued from page 6)

the "freeze" button is pressed is stored in RCA's new silicon-target storage tube and then read out at the required speed for transmission over voice-frequency links.

At the remote end, the subscriber receives the call in the video mode and can view the transmitted picture for up to 15 minutes or until a new one is transmitted. In a simplex operation the transmitting party must cease talking during the 30-second video transmission period. Full two-way conversation can be resumed after the picture has been received and is being displayed. A 2-way discussion can be carried on during picture transmission in a duplex system.

The target in the new storage tube is an array of 600,000 silicon dioxide storage elements in a 1-cm square area of a silicon wafer. Stored information, pictures or printed matter, can be read out 30 times per second for up to 15 minutes be-

fore the information on the target must be regenerated.

The information is written in normal raster fashion on the target by a high-velocity scanning electron beam. The beam places on each individual silicon dioxide storage element, in turn, an electron charge proportional to the amplitude of the incoming video signal.

To read out the data, a low-velocity scanning beam sweeps the target. At those points where the stored information is dark the scanning beam is repelled from the target by the combined charges on adjacent silicon dioxide elements. And, conversely, the beam is attracted to the silicon wafer at points where the picture is bright. The electron beam current reaching the silicon wafer is then amplified and used to modulate the electron beam in a standard CRT at the normal TV scanning rate, even though the information may have been stored at a

different scanning rate.

Thus, the display CRT continually receives information from the storage tube. Since it can store information at one scanning rate and be read out at another, the storage tube can serve as an interface between narrow bandwidth systems that provide video information rather than display systems that require the transmission of high-speed video information. ★

## Silent Alarm

NEW YORK, N.Y.—Members of an independent taxi association in New York City will be the nation's first cab drivers to use a new RCA radio system to flash a silent alarm to their headquarters in case of a robbery or other emergency. By pressing a hidden switch a driver can signal, without the passenger's knowledge, to his radio dispatcher.



The alarm is part of an RCA two-way radio system which relays messages in number code as well as by (continued on page 14)

### ANTENNA ACCESSORIES

Getting a first-rate color TV picture on the screen doesn't stop with the antenna installation. But that is where it starts!

Along with the antenna there are amplifiers, boosters, lightning arrestors and a myriad of other "little" extras that make the difference between sharp clear pictures and so-so reception. For complete details read Bob Middleton's story starting on page 33.

# True 4-Channel Sound

## [\$42.50 per 20-watt channel]

There are several components on the market that you can take home and get true 4-channel sound out of today.

All are expensive.

Except ours.

We call ours QAUDIO.\* It's an amplifier and player with 4 discrete channels. And we designed it primarily to play the new 8-track 4-channel cartridges.

But we also give it the capability of playing ordinary 8-track stereo cartridges, because there are a lot more of them around today than there are 4-channel cartridges. And QAUDIO makes even ordinary stereo cartridges sound fuller and richer than they ever have before.

But of course it takes a specially recorded 4-channel cartridge to give you the real QAUDIO experience, and there's no point in try-

ing to describe what *that's* like. It's simply something that has to be experienced.

And you can experience it today—at a price that's almost as unbelievable as the sound: \$169.95. (That's \$169.95 for a true 4-channel amplifier-player with 80 watts of total music power.) A QAUDIO unit for your car or boat is just \$129.95.

We'll be happy to send you the names of dealers near you demonstrating QAUDIO, together with a brochure describing it in detail.

Write to Toyo Radio Company of America, Inc., 1842B West 169th Street, Gardena, Calif. 90247.



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# The Sensuous Speaker

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## Naturally Every Speaker Wants to be Loved.

But few manage it as well as the Quam Model 8C6PAX. A jillion of these speakers have already been installed in factories, offices, restaurants, and other locations. What's the secret of success? It's the Sensuous Sound!

The Quam 8C6PAX knows that music often has to compete with inherent situational sounds. It must manage to be *audible without being obtrusive*. It has to have what it takes.



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To be the Sensuous Speaker, you have to be well-engineered and well-manufactured.

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Don't try to be too deep. The 8C6PAX has just the right shallow construction. At three inches, it can fit almost anywhere. Transformer mounting facilities add to its appeal.

## The Easy Way

Maybe it sounds like too much trouble for you to become the Sensuous Speaker.

Especially when Quam has already done all the work . . . and made all this delectable sound available for you.

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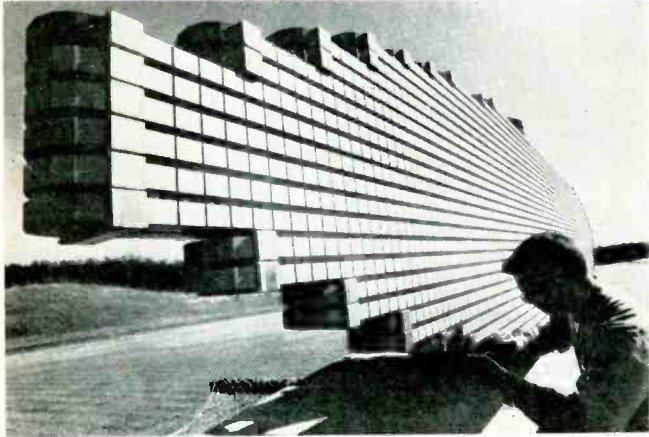
# New & Timely

(continued from page 12)

voice. When a driver presses the switch, automatic equipment in the dispatch room prints out a log showing the taxicab's identifying number, the time of the message, and sounds a bell as an additional alert. The system's clock is engineered to log incoming

calls in time increments of one-tenth second.

The RCA system, known as Voice-PLUS for its dual capability, also automatically transmits a return signal from the dispatcher that lights an "acknowledge" lamp on the cab's dashboard. ★



**THIS RADAR ANTENNA TEST MODEL** has been built by Westinghouse under an Air Force program to develop an improved radar screen for the U.S. Designers had to give special consideration to the problem of signals reflected from everything on the earth's surface—ground clutter—which can overwhelm radar reflections from low-flying aircraft. Reduction of sidelobe energy was used to suppress ground clutter.

## CCTV AIDS POLICE

MOUNT VERNON, N.Y.—With the assistance of a closed-circuit television system installed at police headquarters, law enforcement agents were able to arrest a suspected burglar.

The monitoring system consists of two screens located at the local police station and

linked with cameras in the business district. Noticing a man "acting suspiciously" at the door of Joe's Pizzeria, half a mile from his screens, the officer on duty quickly dispatched a radio car and two other policemen in time to seize the man on a charge of attempted burglary. **R-E**

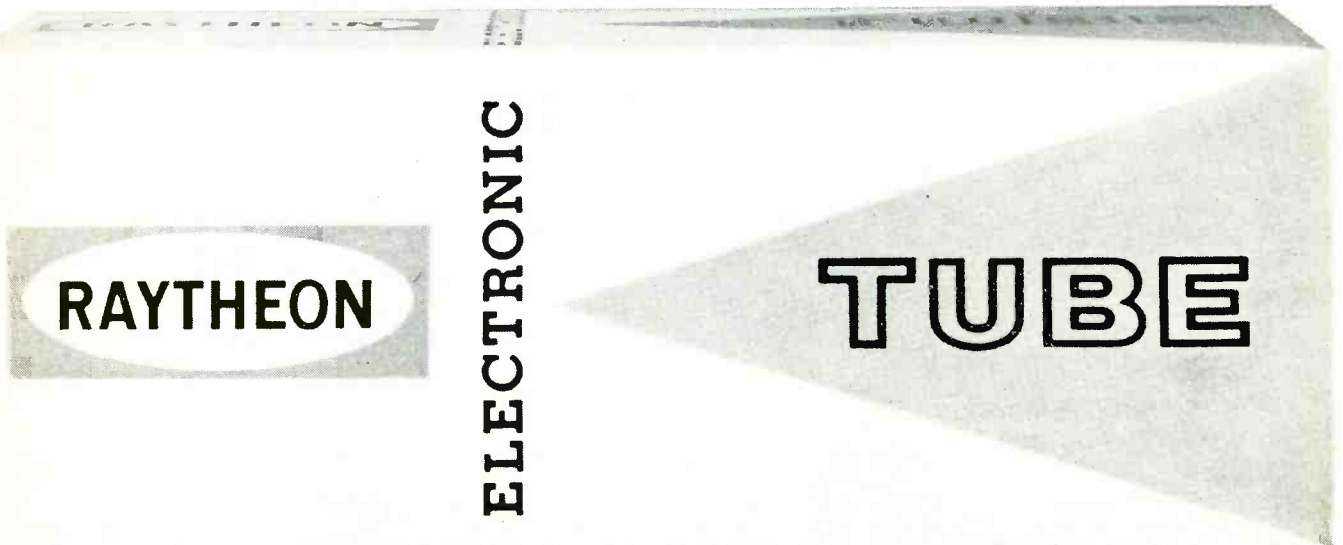
## LOOKING AHEAD

(continued from page 6)

clockwise helix, right-rear in a counterclockwise motion.

The first equipment for the Columbia SQ system will be built by Sony. A simple matrix decoder will retail for about \$55. A more sophisticated version, called a "logic" system—which increases directionality by adding amplification to the predominant channel—will initially sell for about \$165. Columbia's SQ discs will cost one dollar more than conventional stereo records.

The Electro-Voice matrix system has a headstart in the marketplace—equipment is available under several brandnames, about 50 discs are on the market, and perhaps a dozen FM stations are transmitting programs using this method. Whether the two systems can be brought into compatibility remains to be seen. **R-E**



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Let's keep it growing together.

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# SONY<sup>®</sup> achieves true integration

In all too many transistor integrated amplifiers, the preamp stage does not quite live up to the performance of the amplifier section.

Not in Sony's new TA-1130. Thanks to an FET front end, this integrated package has a preamp stage that really does full justice to its output section.

## Why FET's

For the same reason that we use them in our tuners and receivers, and in our studio professional condenser microphones; because FET's have a far wider dynamic range than ordinary transistor types.

And the preamplifier needs that range. Because it has to be sensitive enough to handle the lowest-

output, moving-coil cartridges, yet still accept the highest output cartridges without overloading. (The power amp has it easier: you keep its input level fairly constant with your volume control.)

## Power to Spare

But if the power amplifier doesn't need that range, it does need power. The output section of TA-1130 has it: 230 IHF watts (into 4 ohms), with continuous power rated at 65+65 watts into 8 ohms. (With all that power, we made sure that both transistor and speaker protection circuits were included.)

## Nothing Stands Between You and the Sound

Both sections are powered by balanced positive and negative supply voltages (not just positive and ground), so there need be no coupling capacitors or interstage transformers between you and the sound.

Without them, the TA-1130 can extend its power band width down to 7 Hertz, and actually exceed its rated damping factor of 100 all the way down to 5 Hz.

## An Abundance of Audiophile Conveniences

Of course, the TA-1130 has all the control facilities that you could ask for: low and high filters, tape monitor, a speaker selector, and even an Auxiliary input jack on the front panel. The selector switch is

Sony's instant-access knob-and-lever system.

There's even provision to use the TA-1130's power amp and preamp sections separately, to add equalizers, electronic cross-overs, or 4-channel adaptors to your system.

In fact, you can even get the power output section separately, as the model TA-3130 basic amp. It makes a great match for our TA-2000 preamp, too.

Your Sony dealer has both models available, and at prices—\$359.50 for the TA-1130; \$239.50 for the TA-3130. Sony Corporation of America, 47-47 Van Dam Street, Long Island City, New York 11101



**SONY<sup>®</sup> F.E.T. Amplifier**

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Broadcast quality transports for all NAB type endless loop tape cartridges. Three models — manual, semi-automatic or automatic for broadcast, industrial or commercial applications. Single or dual speed, in monoaural or stereo head configurations.



Matching electronics for above. RP 84, professional solid state, monoaural record and playback preamplifier for tape transports with two or three heads. Selectable equalization from 1-7/8 to 15 ips. A-B monitor switch. Mixing of line and mike inputs. Bias synch provision for multi-channel applications. Phone jack, VU meter, record light, 30-18,000 Hz  $\pm$  3dB at 7.5 ips. Also model PB-10 playback preamplifier and model PA94F, 8 watt playback amplifier.

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# HOME APPLIANCE ELECTRONICS

by JACK DARR  
SERVICE EDITOR

## THE "ANALYZER" IN AUTOMATIC HOME APPLIANCES

THE PRINCIPLE OF THE "ANALYZER" HAS been known and used by electronics men for a long time. This is an instrument which can be connected, plugged in, etc., to a machine, and used to make several different kinds of tests. Now, we're seeing "electric-appliance analyzers" showing up. With the numerous kinds of fully-automatic home appliances on the market today, this can be a great time saver. We'll probably see more of them in the future.

The first one I saw was a unit made by the Robinair Mfg. Co., Montpelier, Ohio, for use with various Frigidaire washers, and both gas and electric clothes dryers. Incidentally, the appliances themselves are designed for fast and easy diagnosis and repair, mostly in the home. This is a welcome trend, and one which should be adopted by a lot of other people; hopefully soon.

All of these units have removable "control consoles"; all wiring is connected by plugs and sockets. The console can be lifted off, by loosening a couple of simple clips, and the Analyzer plugged in. This allows a very rapid isolation of the trouble to one of two places; the controls themselves or the "machinery". All operations of the unit, in all parts of the cycle; can be started, stopped and controlled by the Analyzer. By running the unit through one full cycle, everything can be checked and any defective parts located.

A rotary selector switch on the Analyzer panel takes the place of the motor-driven timer in the unit. By setting this to various positions, every function of the unit can be operated normally and checked out: High, medium and low-speed agitation of the washer; high or medium-speed spinning, hot or cold water temperature—these can all be tested very quickly and easily.

Pilot lights on the Analyzer panel show which function is in operation. High, low and medium motor speed; hot or cold water; spin or agitate. There is even an "Overload" light warning that there is something jammed up in the mechanism, and putting an abnormal load on the motor. (A stray sock in the drain pump, a dry bearing, or even a motor with shorted turns in the windings will show up.) The starter relay can also be checked out, with its own pilot light.

If the machinery checks out in good working order, this clears it from suspicion. The trouble is pinned down to something in the control console which isn't working properly. The console it-

self can be tested with the Analyzer and the pilot lights. The Analyzer is plugged into an ac outlet, and the console plugged into it. Now, by running the timer, selector switches, etc through a full cycle, the Analyzer immediately shows up any defective switches, relays, controls or open wiring. The pilot lights indicate which functions are operating at any given time.

The Analyzer can be used, along with "actual operation" tests, to check out the numerous safety features provided on these machines. They have a "lid-switch", which should stop the machine instantly if the lid is lifted while it's in operation.

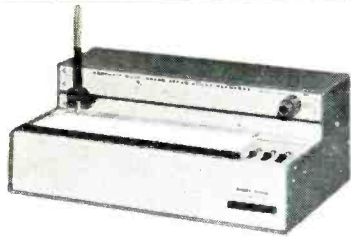
Another (and welcome) feature of these units is an "Out-Of-Balance" switch. Those of us who worked on the prototypes of these machines back in the late 1920's well remember what happened when a load of clothes got too far "off-center" in the first spin-dryers! The machine jumped straight up into the air, wiggled, and took off toward the lowest point!

In fact, one of these machines had such a tendency to "walk" while spinning that it was known, not affectionately, among repairmen as the "Galloping Goose"! Another one came equipped with a huge block of cement, 6 inches thick and about 4 feet square, fitted with four bolts, to which the unit was fastened. (After this, the machine didn't vibrate—the house did!) It took four husky men to carry this monolith into the house and get into place!

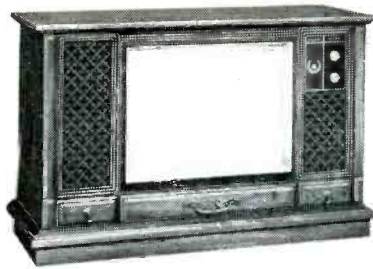
This, thank goodness, has been eliminated. These units have an "Out-of-balance" switch, which is designed to open, stopping the machine quickly (there is a *brake* on the drum!), if the vibration exceeds a certain number of G's. A test procedure is used; this is done by putting a deliberately unbalanced load in the machine, and running it, to make sure that the out-of-balance switch will stop it, in the right amount of time.

Electronic heat-sensors are used in both gas and electric dryers, as heat-limit controls. If they get too hot, it shuts off all power. On electrically-heated dryers, this is done by opening a relay. On gas-heated types, the main gas valve is always a solenoid type; these are always built so that if the power is cut off, the valve *closes*. This is a "fail-safe" feature; there are a lot of these in modern appliances. We will talk about them in future columns. **R-E**





NEW IR-18M solid-state 12-speed chart recorder kit



NEW GR-371MX 25" square-corner solid-state color TV kit



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## Seven new Heathkit® improvement ideas for home or shop

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**NEW!** GR-371MX 25" solid-state ultra-rectangular color TV. Check out the competition for standard features like these: 25" square corner Matrix picture tube for the biggest, brightest, sharpest color picture ever...high resolution circuitry plus adjustable video peaking...Automatic Fine Tuning...pushbutton channel advance..."Instant-On"...Automatic Chroma Control...factory assembled 3-stage solid-state IF and VHF & UHF tuners for superior reception, even under marginal conditions...adjustable noise limiting & gated AGC...adjustable tone control...hi-fi sound output to internal speaker or your hi-fi system. Plus your choice of installation in one of the three beautiful Heath cabinets or custom wall mounting capability. And the exclusive Heath self-service features let you do all normal adjustment & servicing, saving hundreds of dollars in service costs. If you want the finest, this is it...order your 371MX now. Kit GR-371MX, 125 lbs. ....579.95\*

**NEW!** GD-29 microwave oven...the most modern way to prepare food. Cooks up to 70% faster with better vitamin retention. Cooks on glass, ceramics, even paper plates. Low profile design fits under cupboards easily, yet has one of the largest oven capacities in the industry. Operates anywhere on standard 120 VAC current. Kit includes specially prepared cookbook. Kit GD-29, 97 lbs. ....379.95\* Roll-around cart gives oven easy mobility, Model GDA-29-1, 24.95\*

**NEW!** IB-102 Scaler and IB-101 Frequency Counter combination give you frequency measurement capability to 175 MHz at low, low cost. IB-101 counts from 1 Hz to over 15 MHz. Hz/kHz ranges & over-range indicator let you make an 8-digit measurement down to the

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Circle 10 on reader service card

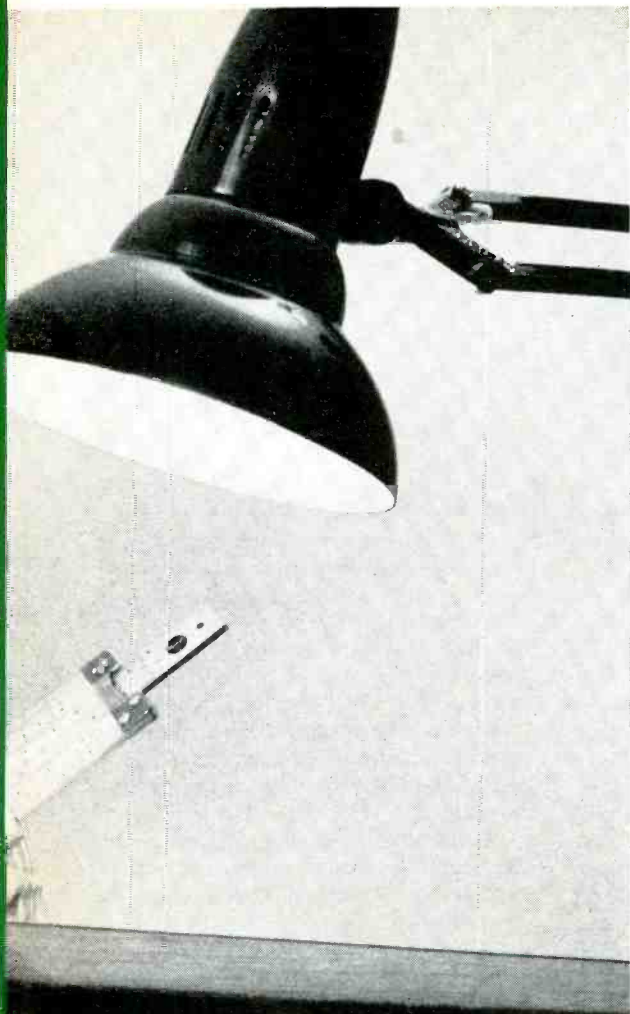


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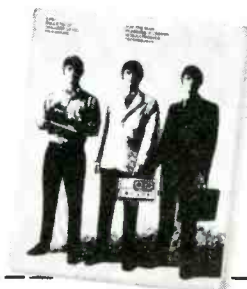
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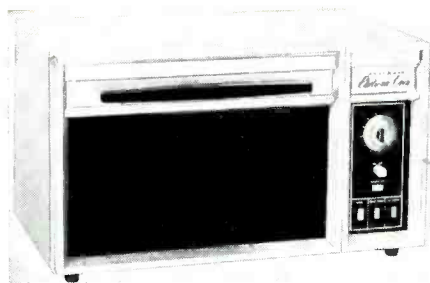


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Circle 11 on reader service card

## EQUIPMENT REPORT

### Heathkit GD-29 Electronic Oven

For manufacturer's literature, circle No. 20 on Reader Service Card.



AN ELECTRIC OVEN IS MAGIC. IT CAN'T possibly do the things that it does do. An electronic oven that you build yourself defies belief—but it does exist and we have built one.

The Heathkit GD-29 is more an appliance kit than an electronics kit. It's easy to build; we completed our test unit in just under ten hours. And very little of that time was spent on electronic assembly—most of it went toward mechanical assembly. There seemed to be more stainless-steel self-tapping screws in the kit than we had ever seen in one place before.

Actually, we found the construction very satisfying. It's fascinating to watch the oven take shape as you work. The magnetron unit is preassembled which further simplifies construction.

But the most fascinating part of all came when we started "cooking electronically." It's a whole new world. You can boil a glass of water in one minute. You can take a Cornish game hen out of the freezer, pop it in the oven, and sit down to a piping hot dinner fifteen minutes later. A baked potato takes a mere 4 minutes, and you cook right in the dishes you serve from—no more pots and pans.

For those with economy in mind, because the electronic oven cooks so fast, it uses only a fraction of the total electric power you would use to cook

the same food in a conventional electric oven. But you can read all about this in the "Cookbook" that comes with the oven.

Once you have made sure you've got all the parts and have completely unpacked the kit you'll assemble the high-voltage chassis first. Then it's on to the oven assembly and front-panel controls and indicators. There's a 35-minute, 2-speed timer, an on-off switch and four indicator lights.

When you turn the unit on, the oven door unlocks and the "power on" light goes on. When you open the door, the "door-open" lamp lights and power is disconnected from the magnetron, so even if you open the door in the middle of the cooking cycle the microwave power is off. The fourth lamp is a "hi-temp" that lights if the magnetron overheats. This is usually caused by a dirty air filter that takes only minutes to clean.

Because stray microwaves might be harmful, several safety precautions are designed into the oven and make it foolproof.

There are two safety interlocks, either one will turn off the magnetron. One operates whenever the door switch is triggered (you cannot open the door without releasing the door switch). The other is a microswitch that operates as soon as the door starts to open, it detects movement of the door guide. Also, the closed oven door is sealed against microwave leakage by a combination of a conductive vinyl seal and a Teflon-coated capacitive plate.

To sum up, the unit goes together in a matter of hours and works well—start work on a Saturday morning and you can be cooking Sunday dinner in the oven. **R-E**

#### SPECIFICATIONS

Power Output	650 watts minimum
Power Requirements	105-125 Vac, 60 Hz, 15A
Frequency	2450 MHz ±50 MHz
Microwave Leakage	1 mW/cm <sup>2</sup> or less
Magnetron Tube	Litton Industries L-5201
Stirrer	3 blades, rotates at about 65 rpm.
Interlocks	Door guide microswitch; door latch switch
Timer	0-35 minutes, split scale 0-5 minutes in 1-minute steps 5-35 minutes in 1-minute steps
Cooling	Forced air
Cooking Space	7-13/16" high; 15-1/2" wide; 14" deep
Outside Dimensions	15-1/8" high; 25-1/2" wide; 14-3/4" deep
Weight	75 pounds

# THE SANSUI QS-1 QUADPHONIC SYNTHESIZER®



**SANSUI QS-1**

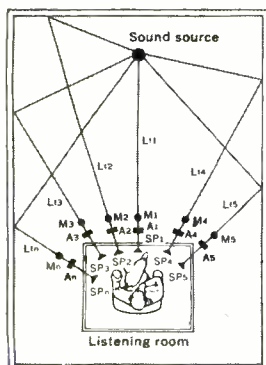
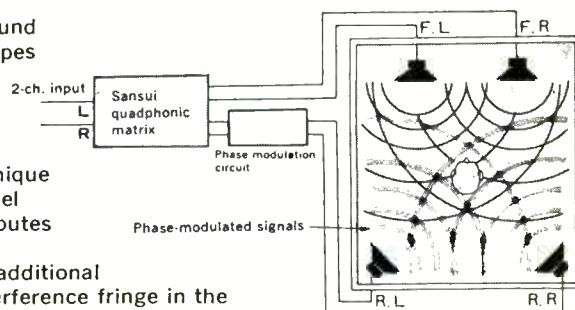
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After having discovered that the ambient components of the original total sound field are already contained in hidden form, in conventional stereo records, tapes and broadcasts, Sansui engineers developed a method for sensing and recovering them. These subtle shifts and modulations, if re-introduced, breathtakingly recreate the total of the original sound as it existed in the recording or broadcast studio.

The heart of the Sansui Quadphonic Synthesizer\* is a combination of a unique reproducing matrix and a phase modulator. The matrix analyzes the 2-channel information to obtain separate direct and indirect components, then redistributes these signals into a sound field consisting of four distinct sources.

This type of phase modulation of the indirect components, applied to the additional speakers, adds another important element. It sets up a complex phase interference fringe in the listening room that duplicates the multiple indirect-wave effects of the original field. The result is parallel to what would be obtained by using an infinite number of microphones in the studio (M1 through Mn in the accompanying illustration) and reproducing them through a corresponding number of channels and speakers.



The startling, multidimensional effect goes beyond the four discrete sources used in conventional 4-channel stereo, actually enhancing the sense of spatial distribution and dramatically expanding the dynamic range. Also, the effect is evident anywhere in the listening room, not just in a limited area at the center. And that is exactly the effect obtained with live music! This phenomenon is one of the true tests of the Quadphonic system.

The Sansui Quadphonic Synthesizer QS-1 has been the talk of the recent high-fidelity shows at which it has been demonstrated throughout the country. You have to hear it yourself to believe it. And you can do that now at your Sansui dealer. Discover that you can hear four channels plus, today, with your present records and present stereo broadcasts. \$199.95.

\*Patents Pending



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# TDK

Until TDK developed *gamma ferric oxide*, cassette recorders were fine for taping lectures, conferences, verbal memos and family fun—but not for serious high fidelity.



**TDK SUPER DYNAMIC (SD) TAPE**



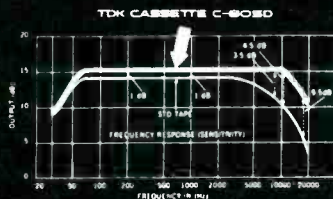
The new magnetic oxide used in TDK Super Dynamic tape distinctively differs from standard formulations in such important properties as coercive force, hysteresis-loop squareness, average particle length (only 0.4 micron!) and particle width/length ratio. These add up to meaningful performance differences: response capability from 30 to 20,000 Hz, drastically reduced background hiss, higher output level, decreased distortion and expanded dynamic range. In response alone, there's about 4 to 10 db more output in the region above 10,000 Hz—and this is immediately evident on any cassette recorder, including older types not designed for high performance. There's a difference in clarity and crispness you can hear.

Available in C60SD and C90SD lengths.

**TDK ELECTRONICS CORP.**  
LONG ISLAND CITY, NEW YORK 11103

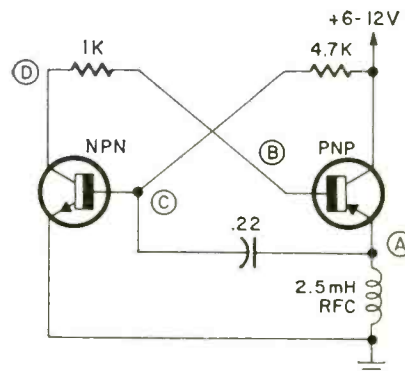
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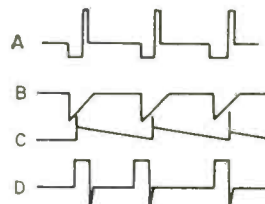


## OSCILLATOR CIRCUIT

The circuit below is an oscillator that I found through a misconnection. I don't know if this circuit was known before, but I haven't seen it.



OUTPUT WAVE FORMS



The circuit's interest lies in its simplicity and the fact that the pnp-transistor is reversed, collector is connected to +. The frequency of the circuit is 1-2 kHz, but if you connect a 0.01 $\mu$ F capacitor between the pnp-transistor collector and emitter, the frequency will be about ten times as high.

I have tried it with several types of transistors, both germanium and silicon, and the circuit will oscillate with almost any type.

JAN STRAND

Skurup, Sweden

## RADIO DIAGRAMS NEEDED

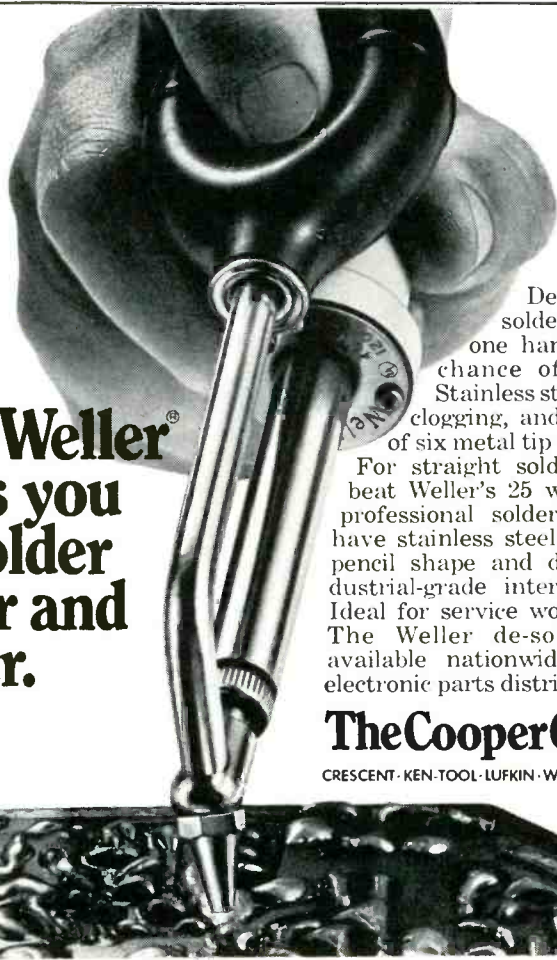
I recently bought two old radios and I'm trying to rework them. But I've run into a problem and need some schematics. The radios are:

Stromberg-Carlson  
Chassis PC # 30317  
Radio Receiver # 430-11

and

Columbia Phonograph Co.  
Columbia Radio Receiver  
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18VABP22	19HCP22/	490ASB22
18VACP22	19HKP22	490BAB22
18VADP22	19HFP22	490BCB22
18VAHP22	19HJP22	490BDB22
18VAJP22	19HKP22	490GBB22
18VAQP22	19HQP22	490HBB22
18VARP22	19HRP22	490RBB22
18VASP22	19HXP22	490CB22
18VATP22	19JBP22	490CHB22
18VBAP22	19JDP22	490CUB22
18VBGP22	19JHP22	490DB22
18VBCP22	19JKP22	490EB22
19EXP22/	19JNP22	490EB22A
19GVP22	19JQP22	490FB22
19EYP22	19JYP22	490GB22
19EYP22/	19JZP22	490HB22
19GWP22	19KEP22	490JB22
19FMP22	19KFP22	490JB22A
19FXP22	490AB22	490KB22
19GLP22	490ACB22	490KB22A
19GSP22	490ADB22	490LB22
19GVP22	490AEB22	490MB22
19GVP22/	490AFB22	490NB22
19EXP22	490AGB22	490RB22
19GWP22	490AHB22	490SB22
19GWP22/	490AHB22A	490TB22
19EYP22	490AJB22	490UB22
19GXP22	490AJB22A	490VB22
19GYP22	490AKB22	490WB22
19GZP22	490ALB22	490XB22
19HBP22	490AMB22	490YB22
19HCP22	490ANB22	490ZB22
	490ARB22	

## Replaces **22** types

19VABP22	21FJP22A/
19VACP22	21GVP22
21AXP22	21FKP22
21AXP22A	21GUP22
21AXP22A/	21GUP22/
21AXP22	21FBP22A
21CYP22	21GVP22
21CYP22A	21GVP22/
21FBP22	21FJP22A
21FBP22A	21GXP22
21FBP22A/	21GYP22
21GUP22	21GZP22
21FJP22	21HAP22
21FJP22A	

## Replaces **71** types

23VACP22	25AEP22	25BRP22
23VADP22	25AFP22	25BSP22
23VAHP22	26AGP22	25BVP22
23VALP22	25AJP22	25BWP22
23VAMP22	25ANP22	25BXP22
23VANP22	25AP22	25BZP22
23VAQP22	25AP22A	25CBP22
23VARP22	25AP22A/	25CP22
23VASP22	25XP22	25CP22A
23VATP22	25AQP22	25FP22
23VAUP22	25ASP22	25FP22A
23VAWP22	25AWP22	25GP22
23VAXP22	25AXP22	25GP22A
23VAYP22	25AZP22	25RP22
23VAZP22	25BAP22	25SP22
23VBAP22	25BCP22	25VP22
23VBGP22	25BDP22	25WP22
23VBHP22	25BFP22	25XP22
23VBEP22	25BGP22	25XP22/
23VBGP22	25BHP22	25AP22A
23VBHP22	25BJP22	25YP22
23VBJP22	25BMP22	25YP22/
23VBRP22	25BP22	25BP22A
25ABP22	25BP22A	25ZP22
25ADP22	25BP22A/	
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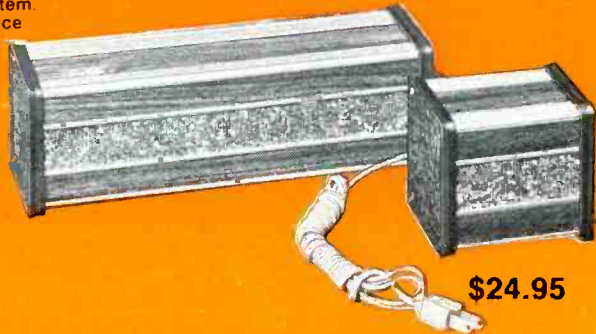
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I don't know the year on these radios for sure, but I believe the Stromberg-Carlson was made in the late 1930's and the Columbia in the 1920's.

If you or perhaps a reader have a schematic or know where I might locate one I would appreciate your help. I'm willing to pay a reasonable price for them. Thanks for your cooperation.

GENE PITTMAN

Apt. 70, 632-31 Ave. N.

Columbus, Miss. 39701

R-E

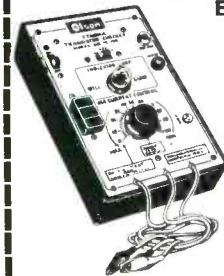


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"... That's the spring off my sweeper, I put it there so you'd fix it . . ."

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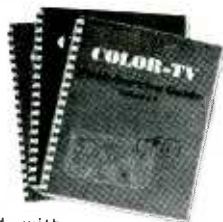
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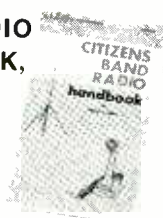
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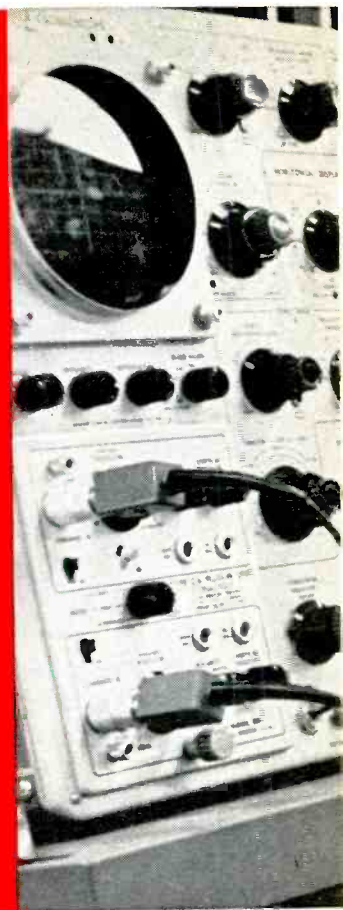
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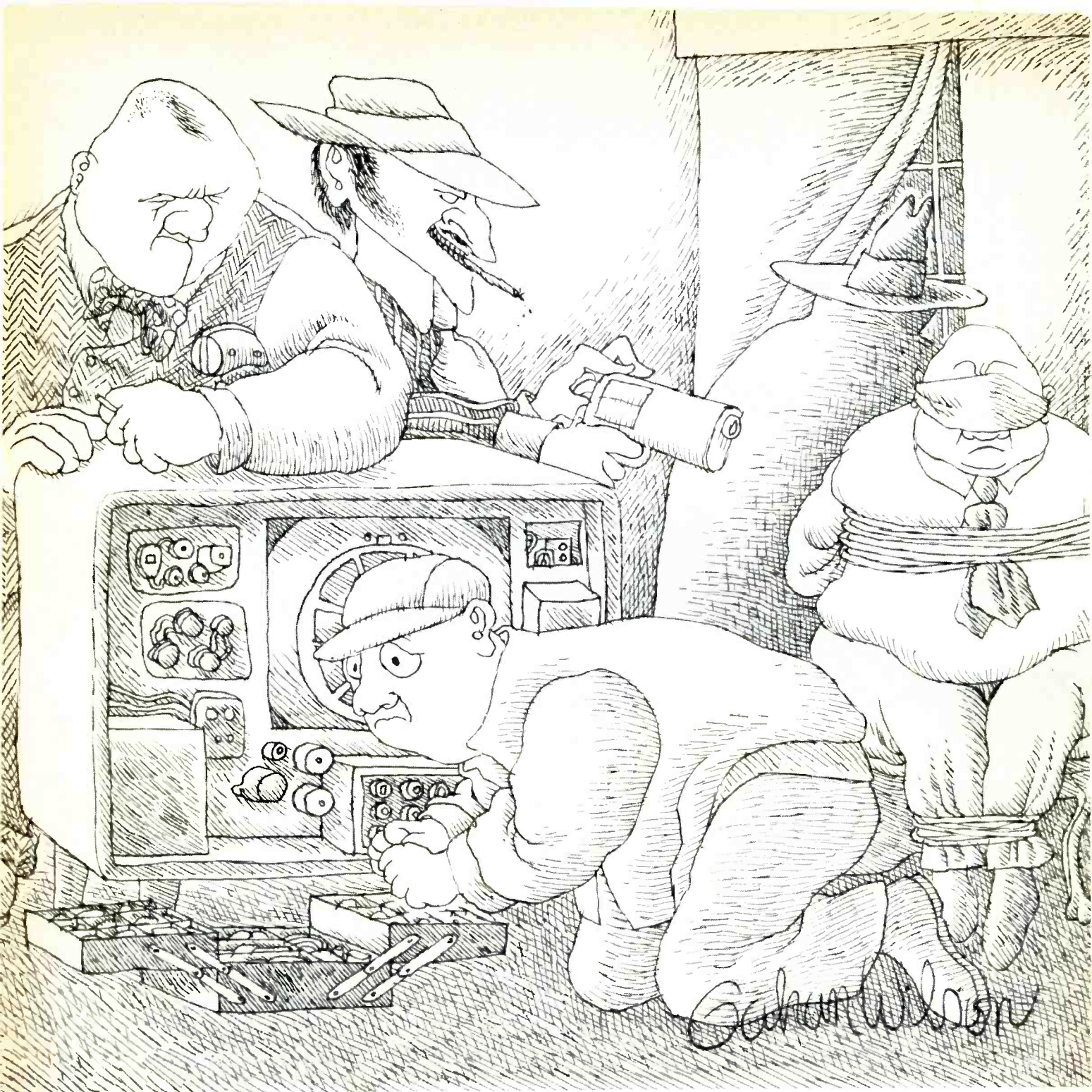
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# TV Antenna Accessories

*For better pictures on the TV screen  
use the accessories that can deliver them*

by **ROBERT G. MIDDLETON**

TV ANTENNA ACCESSORIES ENSURE OPTIMUM RECEPTION AND also account for a substantial portion of the technician's sales volume. Major accessories include mounts of various types, masts, standoffs, lightning arresters, ground clamps and rods, lead-in tubes, clamps of various kinds, straps, plates, brackets, clips, connectors, and incidental hardware. Other basic accessories are exemplified by multi-set couplers, band separators, matching transformers, antenna couplers, interference filters and traps, preamplifiers, distribution amplifiers, and distribution systems.

## Lightning arresters

Any survey of TV antenna accessories should start with lightning protection, since this is often ignored by the beginning technician. Sometimes a mast or tower is buried in the ground, and in such instances it is usually able to "unload" electrical discharges safely. On the other hand, a mast or tower mounted on a concrete base, an insulating support or structure should have a ground wire connected directly to a cold-water pipe or equivalent low-impedance ground connection. If the mast is used as a radio antenna, for example, the ground wire can be connected to a lightning arrester, as seen in Fig. 1.

When a cold-water pipe is not available, drive a ground rod into moist soil. A copper-plated steel rod  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch in diameter and eight feet long is suitable. Article 810 of the National Electrical Code gives specifications for safe installation of antenna systems. Grounding conductors should not be smaller than 17-gage copper wire. Local electrical codes may be more stringent, and take precedence over the NEC. Also place a lightning arrester at the point where the lead-in enters the building. A typical arrester is shown in Fig. 2.

Run a ground wire from the lead-in arrester to a cold-water pipe (or ground rod). Usually a ground strap or clamp is used to connect the wire to the pipe as in Fig. 3. Electrical codes generally stipulate that where more than one ground connection is used, each of the separate grounds should be interconnected when coaxial lead-in is installed use a lightning arrester specifically made for coax.

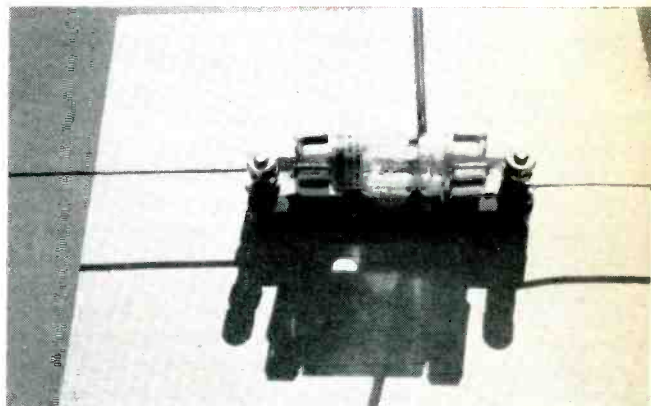


Fig. 1

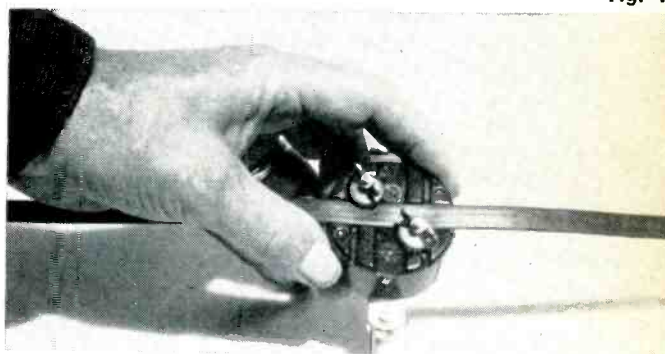


Fig. 2



▲ Fig. 3

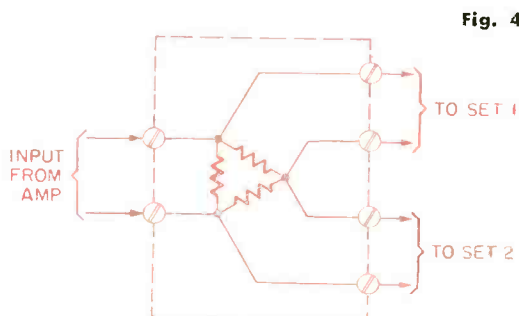
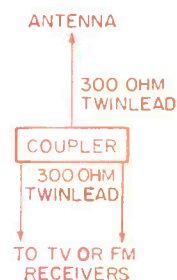
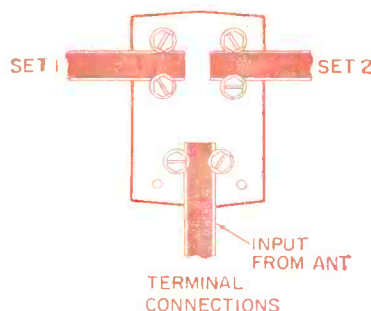


Fig. 4



## Multi-set couplers

One of the most widely used TV antenna accessories is the multi-set coupler that permits operating more than one receiver from the same antenna. The simplest couplers use a resistive network (Fig. 4) to feed a signal from a 300-ohm source to two or more 300-ohm loads. Although this design is satisfactory in strong-signal areas, its insertion loss is prohibitive in weak-signal areas, its insertion loss becomes greater as the number of outlets is increased. For example, a four-set coupler (Fig. 5) has a greater insertion loss than a two-set coupler.

When a resistive coupler is usable, but not entirely satisfactory, a transformer-type coupler will often provide the needed "edge". A properly designed transformer coupler has less insertion loss than a resistive coupler, while providing impedance matching and reasonable isolation between the individual receivers. Fig. 6 shows the configuration for a typical four-set transformer-type coupler. If only three of the outlets are needed, it is good practice to connect a 300-ohm resistor as a dummy load across the terminals of the outlet not in service.

An alternate solution is to install a preamp, as in Fig. 7. The one on the left has a cartridge amplifier (Fig. 8). The advantage of the cartridge is not only its easy replacement, but also possible substitution with interference filter, trap, or matching-transformer cartridges. A cartridge amplifier can boost the signal 10 times on vhf channels, and 4 times on uhf channels. Beginners, sometimes, do not know that the same booster installed at the receiver will give a poorer signal-to-noise ratio than if it is installed on the antenna mast. The reason for the difference is that noise enters along the lead-in, reducing the signal-to-noise ratio.

A bandpass-filter type of coupler for 75-ohm cables is in Fig. 9. The markers point to inductors with adjustable cores. This feature is useful when you want to introduce a "tilt" into the frequency response of the coupler. For example, if high-band signals are weaker than low-band signals, or vice versa, this difference can be more or less compensated by appropriate tilt adjustments. Equalizing the high and low bands provides operating convenience by minimizing the need for the viewer to readjust the receiver controls.

## Antenna couplers

Antenna couplers combine the signals from two or more antennas and feed the combined signals to a single lead-in. Fig. 10 shows an antenna coupler arrangement for combining the outputs of a vhf-FM antenna and a uhf antenna; feeding the combined signals to a 300-ohm lead-in. The coupler is mounted on the antenna mast, in the same manner as a preamplifier. A more elaborate type of antenna coupler is in Fig. 11. This kind of coupler com-

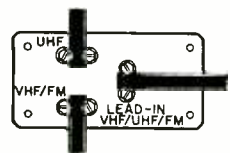
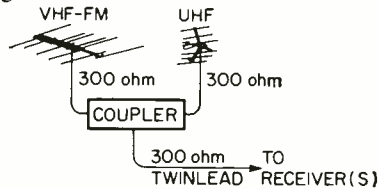
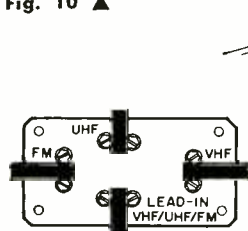


Fig. 10 ▲



▼ Fig. 11



Diagrams courtesy RCA

300 ohm BROADBAND TV ANTENNA

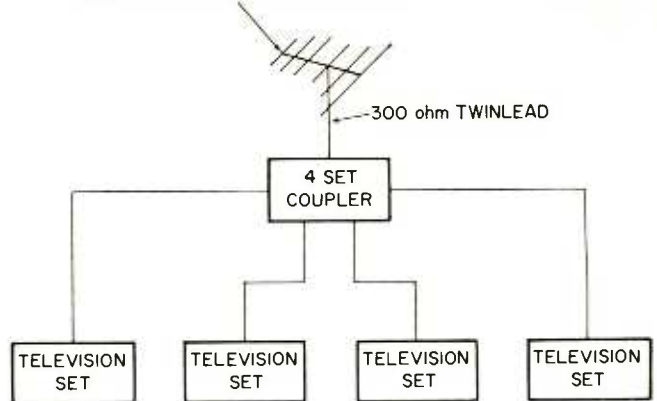


Fig. 5

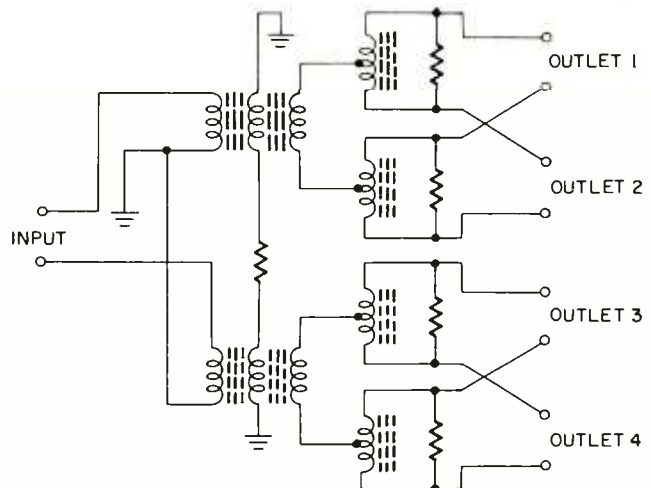
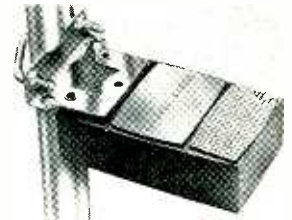


Fig. 6

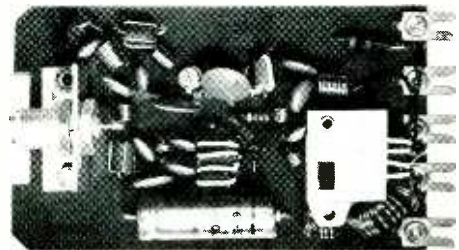


Winegard



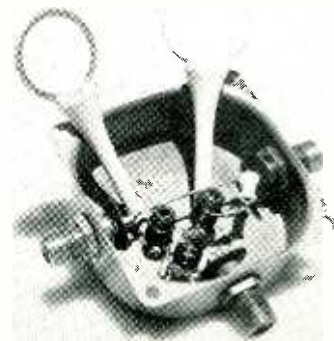
Channel Master

Fig. 7



▲ Fig. 8

Fig. 9 ▼



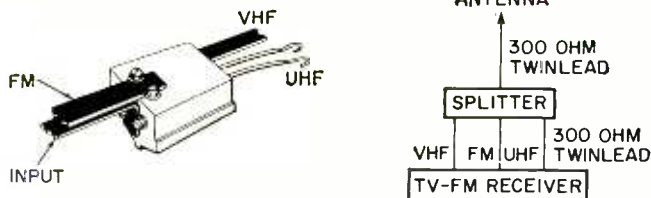


Fig. 12



Fig. 13



Fig. 14

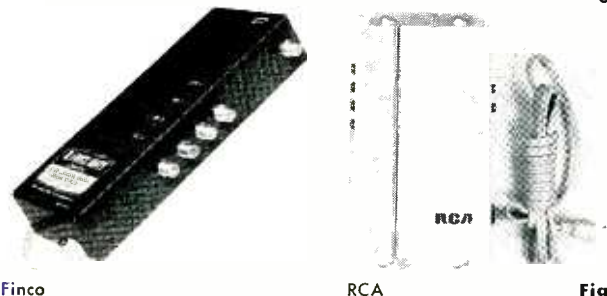


Fig. 15



Fig. 17

Fig. 16



binesthe outputs of separate vhf, uhf, and FM antennas; feeding the combined signals to a 300-ohm lead-in.

**Splitters**

When an 82-channel TV antenna is connected to a receiver with separate vhf, uhf, and FM terminals, a splitter is commonly used. The splitter is connected between the lead-in and the receiver, as in Fig. 12. Bandpass coupling networks are used. They provide low insertion loss, proper impedance matches, and good isolation between the individual outputs. Splitters for the vhf and uhf bands are shown in Fig. 13. In these examples, a 75-ohm single-ended input is transformed into two 300-ohm double-ended outputs. This type of unit is mounted on the back of the receiver.

As we showed earlier, passive networks do not use active devices. In turn, they are basically bilateral, and signals fed into the outputs will appear combined at the inputs. This class of device can therefore be used either as a splitter or as a mixer. These "trunk line" units commonly have a 75-ohm coaxial input, and 75-ohm coaxial outputs. A companion device is a back-of-the-set matching transformer (Fig. 14).

**Distribution amplifiers**

A distribution amplifier combines the features of a preamplifier and a multi-set coupler. Fig. 15 shows two four-output solid-state distribution amplifiers which can be used in place of the four-set coupler of Fig. 5. These amplifiers provide a gain of 7 dB per output over the vhf and FM bands. They are active devices, and the available gain permits connecting additional receivers into the system. This type of amplifier is designed to be mounted indoors, in an attic or basement. In weak-signal areas, the signal-to-noise ratio can be improved by installing a mast-mounted preamplifier to drive the distribution amplifier.

**Antenna rotators**

An antenna rotator is desirable in many locations, and essential in some. Rotators can be broadly categorized into light and heavy duty types. Although a rotator normally is long-lived, a small offset type of rotor loaded with a large and heavy antenna may not last very long. A rotator should be mounted as close to the antenna as practical, and never more than five feet below. This minimizes wind shear forces exerted on the rotator. Lightning protection must also be included.

A typical rotator unit is shown in Fig. 16. Beginners sometimes forget that a rotator must operate under heavy icing conditions during the winter season. Therefore, choose a unit with ample motor torque to anticipate "worst case" situations. In some installations, the control must be located at a considerable distance from the rotator. In turn, the line drop will be greater than usual, unless heavier wire is used. No. 20 wire is adequate for runs up to 75 feet. Longer runs should use No. 18 wire. Note that control units usually have pilot lights (Fig. 17) which occasionally must be replaced.

Specialized rotators that can be operated by two or more controls located in different areas of a building are (continued on page 81)

Fig. 18





# R-E's Dual-Function Generator

by PHILIP HARMS

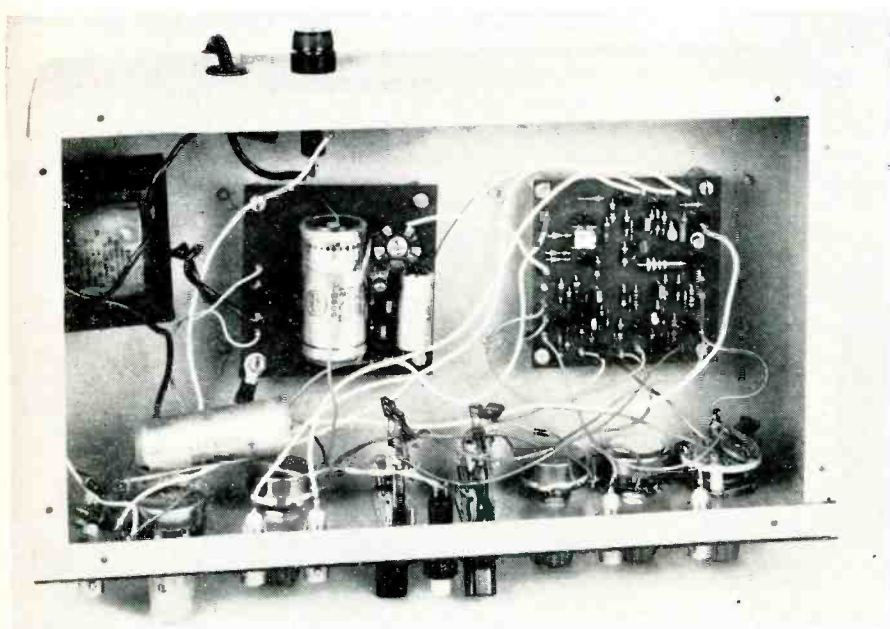
*Use this pulse and square-wave generator with your scope to check out those digital logic circuits*

NEED A PIECE OF TEST GEAR TO CHECK out some of the many new digital projects you've been thinking of building? Once you get beyond the basic tool, an oscilloscope, the next best item on the test bench is a pulse-and square-wave generator to develop the digital test signals. If you decide to buy one, the price tag is rather high and it's easy to get a lot of extra frills that pinch the pocketbook but add little to the function and basic purpose of the instrument. The dual function generator (DFG) described in this article, generates both square waves and pulses, giving you more than adequate control over their parameters. In addition, the instrument includes features lacking in test gear around the \$800 bracket. Total construction cost is under \$50 even if you start from scratch and buy everything.

The DFG provides complete control over pulse amplitude, width, frequency and time delay from a generated sync pulse. The sync pulse can be used as a second pulse when necessary. The square-wave portion of the DFG is also amplitude and frequency controlled; both outputs have hefty drive capability with over a watt of pulse power available. As an added feature, IC compatible outputs are also provided. These two outputs are baselined at 4.5 volts and generate signals with high current-sink capability, necessary for DTL and TTL digital integrated circuits. Risetime and fall-time specifications are fast enough for the choosiest ICs.

## Construction

The DFG is self-contained in a 12" x 7" x 3" aluminum chassis with all controls and input/output jacks lo-



**INSIDE THE GENERATOR** you can see how the two small circuit boards are positioned—power supply on the left, main generator board on the right.



cated on the front face for a low, slimline appearance. All circuitry is contained on two PC boards, one for the regulated power supply and the second for the generator electronics. The printed circuit boards can be made from the layouts shown or can be purchased from the supplier listed in the parts list.

If you don't want to go the PC board route, the generator can be built on perf boards using flea clips; if good solid grounds are used the specifications should not degrade.

First, build up the two PC boards. Make sure the transistors are located exactly as shown in the component layout drawing, observing either the flat portion of the plastic case or the emitter tab in case of the TO-5 metal-cased devices. Next, mark off the front panel and layout the controls, switches and jacks. Since the front panel is a tight squeeze to get everything included, be sure you have adequate clearance between the controls before drilling. The slots for the two lever switches are made by drilling a line of holes and filing. Solder the applicable capacitors to the two lever switches and the frequency decade switch before mounting on the front panel. Dry transfer letters can be used to label the front panel; use the photograph of the front panel as a guide.

Wiring of the DFG is not critical but to insure good results, heavy wire should be used to connect all ground points. A heavy ground wire should be connected to the chassis from the

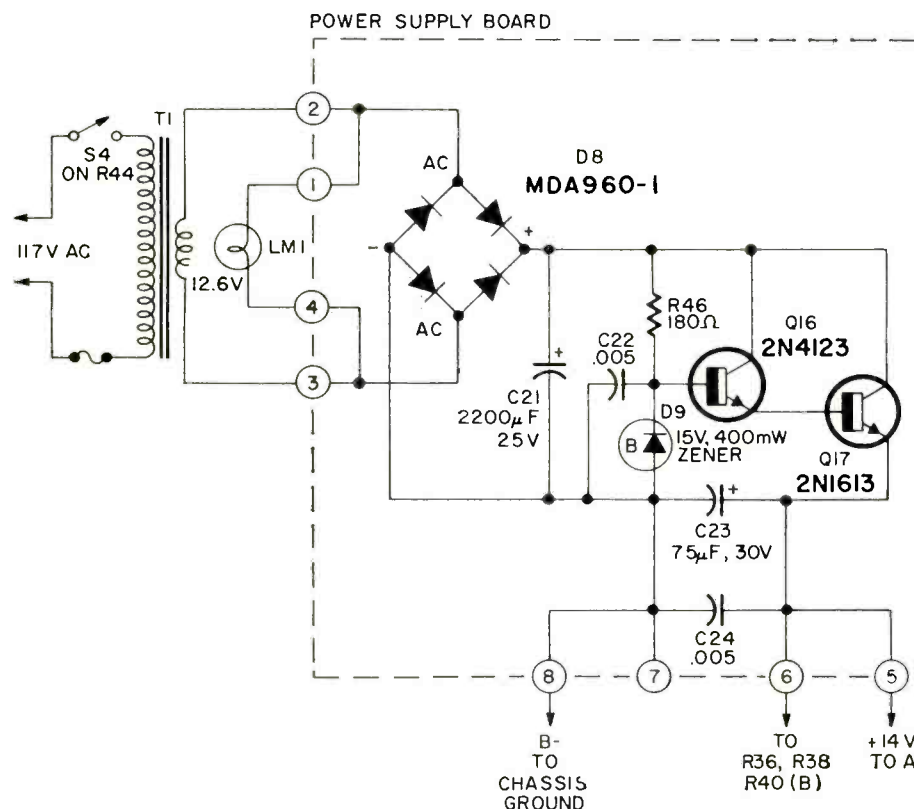
generator module. While it looks neat, suppress the desire to bundle wires going from the generator module to the front controls. Bundled wires have a knack of causing cross-talk. Short, point-to-point wiring is the best bet.

Capacitors C11 through C20 should all have a 10% tolerance to insure realistic results for the frequency, delay and width decades. Capacitors with this tolerance are available from any of the electronic supply houses or the builder can fabricate a set by paralleling several smaller values to arrive at the correct value. For example, I paralleled a 0.1  $\mu\text{F}$  and a 0.047  $\mu\text{F}$  to come up with

SPECIFICATIONS	
Frequency:	10 Hz to 100 kHz; 4 decades (pulse) 5 Hz to 50 kHz; 4 decades (sq wave)
Amplitude:	0 - 12V, adj, (pulse & sq wave)
Pulse Delay:	0.1 to 100 $\mu\text{sec}$ ; 3 decades
Pulse Width:	0.1 to 100 $\mu\text{sec}$ ; 3 decades
Rise time:	20 nsec (pulse) 35 nsec (sq wave)
Falltime:	40 nsec (pulse) 50 nsec (sq wave)
Output Impedance:	47 ohms (pulse) 470 ohms (sq wave)

**TWO OPTIONAL CIRCUITS** are on the right. They can be easily added to the dual-function generator.

**POWER-SUPPLY CIRCUIT** is shown below. It is a fully regulated, full-wave arrangement.

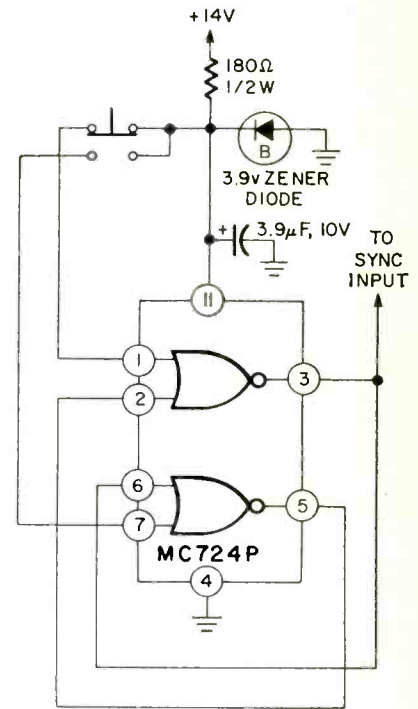


a composite to form capacitor C11.

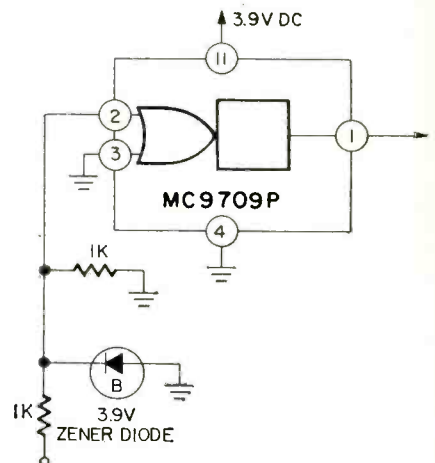
### Test before using

After construction is complete, test the unit with a good oscilloscope to insure all functions are operating normally. If a milliammeter is handy connect it between the power supply and generator modules. It should read about 60 mA with no loads on the outputs. Check the outputs with a scope and verify all of the controls are working correctly, full frequency range can be achieved and all pots are wired correctly. The pulse delay function can be checked by connecting the SYNC OUT signal to the sync input of a triggered scope and verifying the output pulse is delayed, as set by the delay pot and decade switch.

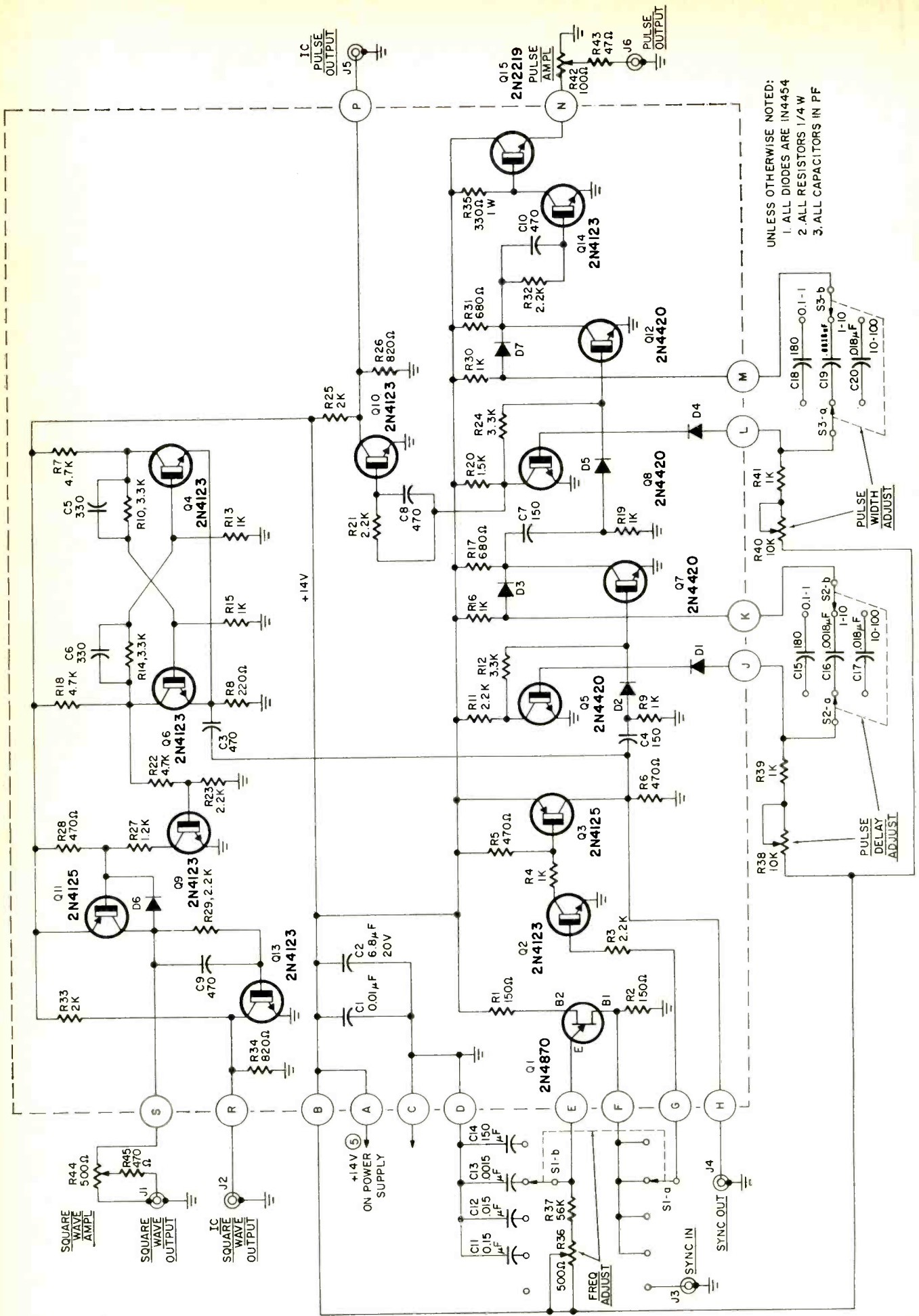
One important point should be kept in mind when testing and using the pulse generator controls. The



MANUAL PULSE OPTION



SCHMITT TRIGGER OPTION



UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED:  
 1. ALL DIODES ARE 1N4454  
 2. ALL RESISTORS 1/4 W  
 3. ALL CAPACITORS IN PF

DFG is specified as having a maximum output duty cycle of about 80%. It is necessary to understand fully the meaning of this limitation, since a misunderstanding can quickly lead to some strange signals on a scope.

The reciprocal of frequency is time (Frequency = 1/Time). For example, one period of 20-kHz is 50- $\mu$ sec in time duration. If you require a pulse frequency of 20 kHz, the pulses will be spaced in 50  $\mu$ sec increments. If the distance between successive risetimes of the pulses is 50  $\mu$ sec, it is impossible to squeeze a 75

$\mu$ sec pulse in this interval. For the example, an 80% duty cycle simply means that you can't get more than a 40- $\mu$ sec pulse in a 50- $\mu$ sec interval. If you try to exceed the duty cycle slightly (say 110%), the generator simply cheats on every other pulse. One pulse will be full width while the second one will be narrow. If you go overboard with the duty cycle, the generator will simply ignore every other pulse and put out a frequency half of what you have adjusted. Exceeding the duty cycle doesn't hurt the DFG in the least, although to do so can upset scope triggering and give

the appearance of instability. While wringing out the DFG it's a good idea to set up this condition so you'll know what to expect, and won't be surprised later.

### Applications

The dual outputs for each function provide versatile drive capability which will match with any type of circuit, either IC or discrete transistors.

The IC outputs are wired directly to transistor collectors and thus provide excellent current sinking capability, necessary for interface with DTL or TTL. These outputs are character-

### PARTS LIST

R1, R2—150 ohms, 1/4 watt  
 R3, R11, R21, R23, R29, R32—2200 ohms, 1/4 watt  
 R4, R9, R13, R15, R16, R19, R30, R39, R41—1000 ohms, 1/4 watt  
 R5, R6, R28, R45—470 ohms, 1/4 watt  
 R7, R18, R22—4700 ohms, 1/4 watt  
 R8—220 ohms, 1/4 watt  
 R10, R12, R14, R24—3300 ohms, 1/4 watt  
 R17, R31—680 ohms, 1/4 watt  
 R20—1500 ohms, 1/4 watt  
 R25, R33—2000 ohms, 1/4 watt, 5%  
 R26, R34—820 ohms, 1/4 watt  
 R27—1200 ohms, 1/4 watt  
 R35—330 ohms, 1 watt  
 R36—500 ohms, potentiometer, linear taper  
 R37—56,000 ohms, 1/4 watt  
 R38, R40—10,000 ohms, potentiometer, linear taper  
 R42—100 ohms, potentiometer, 1 watt, linear taper  
 R43—47 ohms, 1 watt  
 R44—500 ohms, potentiometer, linear taper, with spst switch  
 R46—180 ohms, 1/4 watt  
 C1—0.01  $\mu$ F  
 C2—6.8  $\mu$ F, 20 Vdc (Sprague 196L)  
 C3, C8, C9, C10—330 pF ceramic  
 C4, C7, C14—150 pF, 10% (CDE CD15 or equal)  
 C5, C6—330 pF ceramic  
 C11—0.15  $\mu$ F, 10% (CDE DMF-1P15-10 or equal)

C12—0.015  $\mu$ F, 10% (CDE DMF-1S15-10 or equal)  
 C13—0.0015  $\mu$ F 10% (CDE CD-19 or equal)  
 C15, C18—180 pF 10% (CDE CD-15 or equal)  
 C16, C19—0.0018  $\mu$ F 10% (CDE CD-19 or equal)  
 C17, C20—0.018  $\mu$ F 10% (Sprague 192P or equal)  
 C21—2200  $\mu$ F, 25 Vdc (Sprague 39D or equal)  
 C22, C24—0.005  $\mu$ F  
 C23—75  $\mu$ F, 30 Vdc (Sprague 39D or equal)  
 S1—2-pole, 5-position rotary switch (Mallory)  
 S2, S3—2-pole, 3 position lever switch (Centralab)  
 S4—spst switch on R36  
 T1—12.6 Vac filament transformer (Triad F25X)  
 LM1—12 V pilot lamp and assembly

### Diodes

D1, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7—1N4454 diode  
 D8—MDA960-1 diode bridge  
 D9—15 V Zener diode, 400 mW  
 Q1—2N4870 unijunction transistor (Motorola)  
 Q2, Q4, Q6, Q9, Q10, Q13, Q14, Q16—2N4123 transistor (Motorola)  
 Q3, Q11—2N4125 transistor (Motorola)  
 Q5, Q7, Q8, Q12—2N4420 transistor (TI)  
 Q15—2N2219 transistor (TI)  
 Q17—2N1613 transistor (Motorola)  
 F1—1/2-amp fuse and fuseholder  
 J1, J2, J3, J4, J5, J6—see text

### Miscellaneous Other Parts

Knobs, PC boards, mounting hardware, TO-5 finned radiator

### HOW IT WORKS

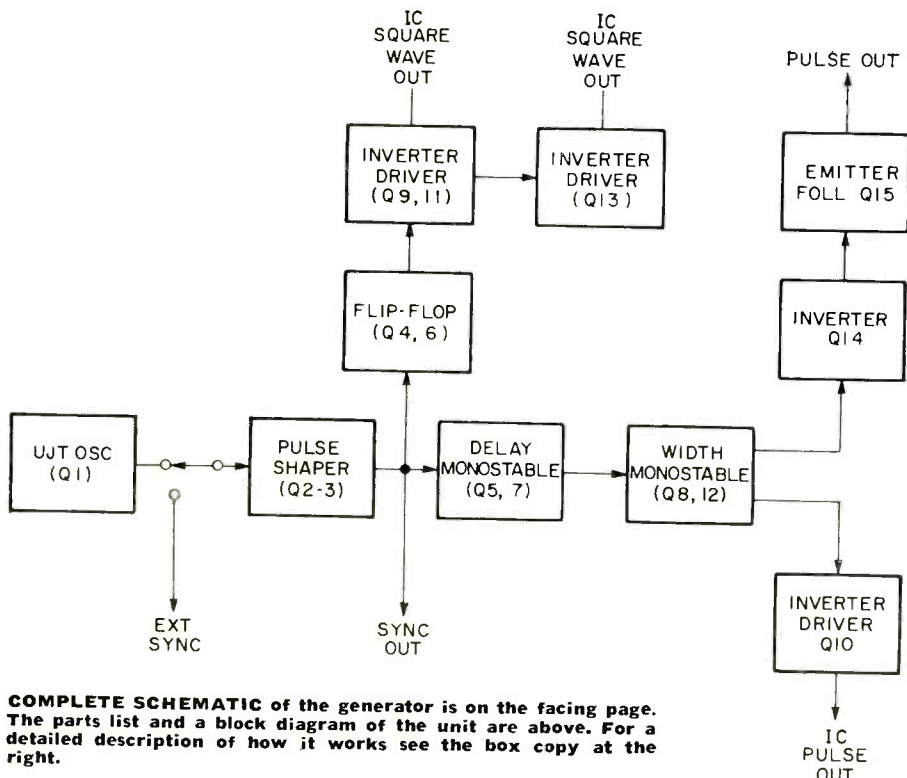
The DFG used a unijunction relaxation oscillator as the basic frequency source. Frequency is determined by the combination of the series resistance R36 and R37 and the decade switching of C11-14. The UJT output at base-1 is routed through the sync selector switch (S1-a) and to transistors Q2 and Q3, which shape the rounded UJT output. The pulse at the collector of Q3 is provided as a sync pulse for external test equipment. In addition this pulse is differentiated and routed to monostable multivibrator Q5 and Q7. The one-shot time period of this circuit is controlled by R38 (PULSE DELAY) and switching capacitors via S2. The period of Q5-Q7 determines the delay between the sync pulse and the output pulse leading edge.

The pulse at the collector of Q7 is differentiated to trigger a second monostable multivibrator, Q8 and Q12. The one-shot period of this circuit determines the output pulse width and is controlled by PULSE WIDTH controls R40 and switch S3.

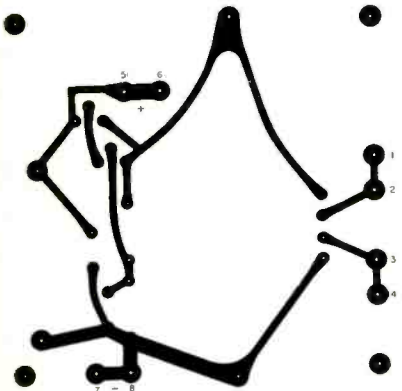
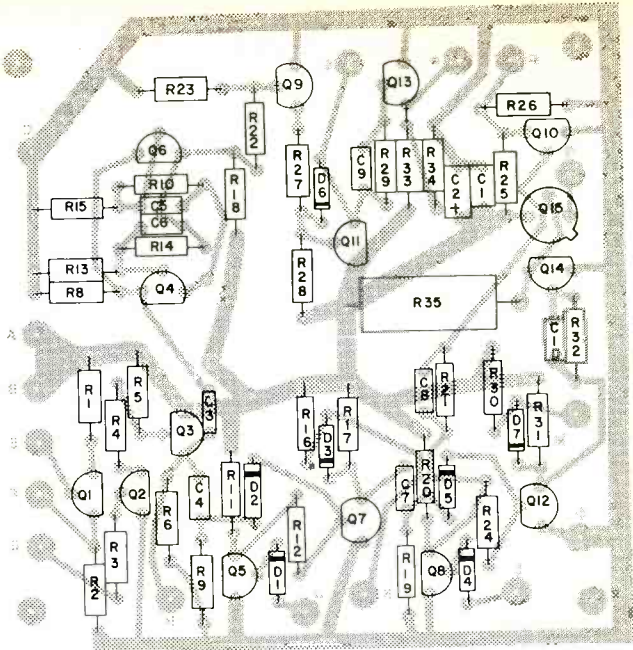
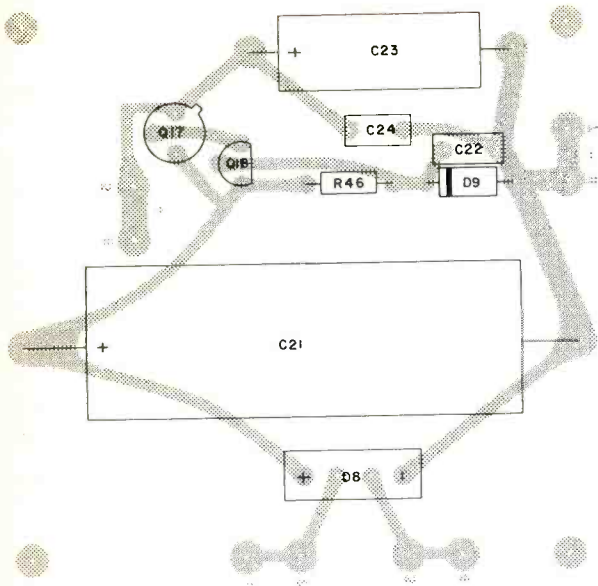
Transistor Q10 inverts the output pulse and develops a signal which is baselined at about 4.5 volts for digital IC requirements. The output, which is tied to the collector of Q10 is capable of high current sinking. The output of the Q8-12 one-shot is inverted by Q14 and provided as an output, using Q15 as an emitter follower for power boost purposes.

The circuitry containing Q4 and Q6 is connected as a conventional flip-flop with the output states switching each time an input pulse is present. The flip-flop is triggered by the differentiated sync output pulse. Transistor Q9 inverts and shapes the flip-flop collector signal while Q11 increases the drive capability for current-source requirements. Q13 provides an output baselined at 4.5 volts with high current sink ability.

The DFG is powered by a series regulated 14 Vdc power supply.



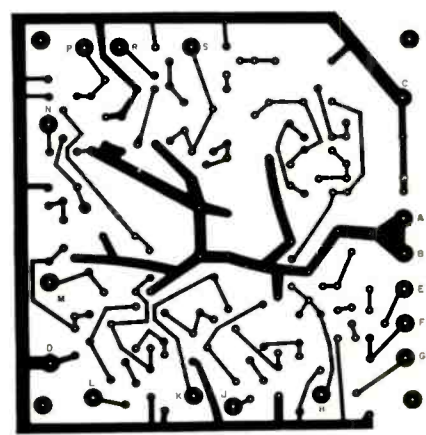
COMPLETE SCHEMATIC of the generator is on the facing page. The parts list and a block diagram of the unit are above. For a detailed description of how it works see the box copy at the right.



A set of two circuit boards is available for this generator. The glass-epoxy boards can be ordered from Photolume Corp, 118 E 28 St., N. Y., N. Y. Part number R-E 971, \$6.00, postpaid.

**POWER SUPPLY** parts layout (above left) shows how components are positioned on the circuit board. The circuit board pattern is at the left. The actual board should measure 2½ inches between the corner mounting holes.

**MAIN GENERATOR BOARD** (above right) shows parts layout. The circuit board pattern (right) should be enlarged to 3 inches square.



ized by fast falltimes, which are necessary for flip-flop clocking; the rise-time, while slower, is still good enough for IC use. The outputs will sink at least 50 mA of current and probably will handle more. Current drive capability in the high state is sufficient to drive RTL type IC's.

The adjustable outputs have enough power capability to drive pulse transformers, SCR's or other circuitry directly without additional buffers. The pulse output is routed through an emitter follower for optimum current drive. A watt of pulse power is available when going into a 50-ohm load. Both outputs are short-circuit protected with series resistors; the IC outputs as well can be short-circuited.

**Optional modifications**

While the basic DFG has all of the requirements for a complete lab-rated unit, two modifications not included in the author's original prototype will increase capabilities even further.

One option is a manual pulse

mode which allows you to generate one pulse each time the button is depressed. The circuit can be mounted on a small piece of perf board inside the unit and the circuit output connected through a MANUAL position on the frequency decade switch to the input sync circuit. The circuit is a cross-coupled gate arrangement which is normally used to eliminate contact bounce in switches and relays. When using this circuit a single pulse will be generated, useful when stepping counters or registers one step at a time. When monitoring the square-wave outputs, a step function will be generated since the output will change states whenever the button is depressed.

A second option expands the capability of the SYNC IN circuit, useful to lock the generator to an external signal. The SYNC IN signal can be any type of signal, periodic or random in frequency. The generator is synced whenever the input passes through about 1 volt. For signals with a dc component, the signal can be

coupled with a 0.01-μF capacitor. The sync generator (Q2 and Q3) does a good job of shaping the incoming signal but is restricted in low-frequency response. Low-frequency signals tend to set up oscillations while going through the active region of Q2, creating unstable pulses or sometimes a chain of pulses. If you expect to be syncing to low-frequency pulses, a Schmitt trigger circuit can be added which will allow the DFG to be locked to signals down to below 1 Hz. A Schmitt trigger circuit used the technique of hysteresis to prevent active region oscillation. One way of thinking of hysteresis is to think of a transistor equivalent of an anti-bounce circuit as discussed before.

Since the ICs used for the options are powered off of a nominal 4-Vdc supply, a Zener diode is used to divide down to the correct voltage. The Zener diode in the input of the MC9709P IC is to prevent the input from exceeding 3.9 volts; anything over this value is dropped across the series resistor.

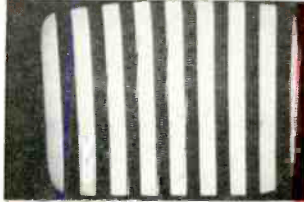







**R-E**

# Kwik-Fix™ picture and waveform charts

© Forest H. Belt & Associates\*

SCREEN SYMPTOMS AS GUIDES

WHERE TO CHECK FIRST

SYMPTOM PIC	DESCRIPTION	VOLTAGE	WAVEFORM	PART
	No color	Both screens- pin-6	WF3 WF5	R1, R2, R7, C2, L1, T1
	No blue; only red and green visible	All V2 voltages	WF5	R4, R6, R9, C1, L2, L4
	No red; only blue and green visible	All V1 voltages	WF4	R3, R5, R8, L3
	Red very weak	No help	WF5	C1
	Pink glaze over whole screen; colors very weak	V1-plate-pin-5	WF4	C3
	Left half magenta; right half light green	No help	WF5	L2
	Blue glaze over whole screen; colors very weak	No help	WF5	R9, C4
	Left half orange; right half light blue	No help	WF2 WF5	R2

*Notes on following page*

**NOTES FOR SYMPTOM GUIDE:**

Use this guide to help you find which key voltage or waveform to check first, or to guide you to the causes of symptoms that don't have voltage or waveform clues. Study the screen and the action of TINT and COLOR controls. The most helpful clues to the fault are to be found at the key test points indicated opposite whatever symptom

you observe.

Make voltage or waveform checks when indicated for screen symptoms.

Use the Voltage Guide or Waveform Guide to analyze the results of your tests.

For a quick check, test or substitute the parts listed as the most likely cause of the symptoms you observe.

DC VOLTAGES AS GUIDES						
Voltage change	to zero	very low	low	slightly low	slightly high	high
V1-cathode-pin-2 Normal 1.6 V		R5 open R7 open	R3 low	C2 leaky C3 leaky		R3 open, high
V1-plate-pin-5 Normal 220 V	R8 open C3 shorted		R8 high		R5 open R7 open	R3 open
V1-screen-pin-6 Normal 165 V	R5 open R7 open C2 shorted		R7 high	C2 leaky	R7 low	
V2-cathode-pin-2 Normal 1.2 V		R6 open R7 open	R4 low	C2 leaky C4 leaky		R4 open R4 high
V2-plate-pin-5 Normal 220 V	R9 open C4 shorted		R9 high		R6 open R7 open	R4 open
V2-screen-pin-6 Normal 165 V	R6 open R7 open C2 shorted		R7 high	C2 leaky	R7 low	

**NOTES:**

Use this guide to help you pinpoint the faulty part. Measure each of the six key voltages with a vtvm or fetvom. For each, move across to the column that describes the change you find.

Notice which parts might cause that change.

Finally, notice which parts are repeated in the other voltage changes you find.

For more guides to further narrow down the faulty part, see the Waveforms Guide.

**THE STAGES**

This version of a color demodulator is typical of some middle-aged color sets. Each pentode gets two signals: chroma sidebands and a 3.58-MHz continuous wave.

The secret of operation is a phase shift between the CW fed to the X stage and that fed the Z stage. One stage extracts mainly red chroma or R-Y. The other, on a demodulation axis around 90 degrees away, extracts blue chroma or B-Y.

The CW signal comes from the set's color oscillator, held in phase with the station transmitter by the burst or color-sync circuitry. The chroma sidebands come from a bandpass amplifier, often supplemented by an extra stage of color amplification.

The X demodulator drives an R-Y amplifier which may be labeled red color-difference amp. The Z stage drives a B-Y or blue color-difference amplifier.

**SIGNAL BEHAVIOR**

Color sidebands or chroma from the bandpass amp are developed across load resistance R1, the COLOR control.

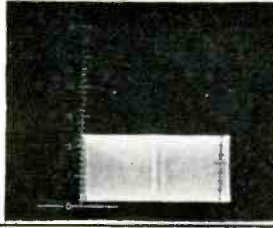
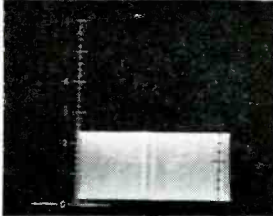
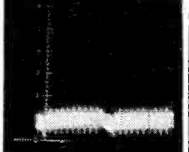
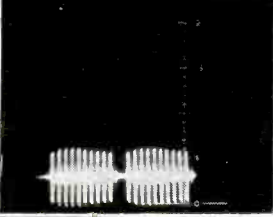

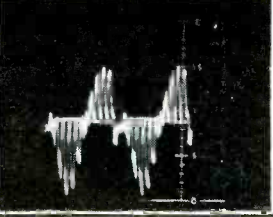
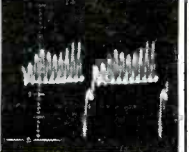



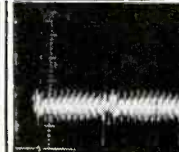
(Chroma in the schematic waveforms is a keyed rainbow series.) The slider of R1 couples a certain amount of the chroma through L1 to grid-pin-1 (the control grid) of both tubes. With the tubes fed in direct parallel, the phase of input chroma is identical for both.

Meanwhile, T1 couples CW from the 3.58-MHz oscillator. This color-reference signal goes directly to third-grid-pin-7 of V1. This same CW also goes through phase-shifting network L2-C1-R2 before it is applied to third-grid-pin-7 of V2, the Z demodulator. The network imparts a phase shift of about 60 degrees to that branch of the CW signal.

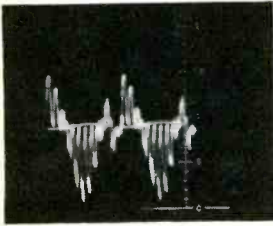
The phase of CW and the operating level of V1, the X stage, demodulate whatever red is in the color sidebands at grid-pin-1. The operating level is slightly different in the Z stage; that and the shifted phase of CW in V2 demodulate whatever blue is in the sidebands. (Green is part of both signals, and is separated by a subsequent circuit and stage.)

Capacitors C3 and C4 and coils L3 and L4 filter out (waveforms on next 2 pages, copy continues on page 45)

WAVEFORMS AS GUIDES

V p-p low	V p-p high	V p-p zero	Changed Shapes				
		<p><b>WF1 Normal 25 V p-p</b></p> <p>Taken at third-grid-pin-7 of X demodulator V1. Direct phase from 3.58-MHz CW output transformer T1. Viewed here at horizontal sweep rate, scope synced externally by pulse from lead clipped to insulation near output-tube plate cap. Scope shows sine waveshape if swept nearer 3.58 MHz.</p>					
T1 mistuned R2 open		T1 open C1 shorted R2 shorted					
		<p><b>WF2 Normal 25 V p-p</b></p> <p>Taken at third-grid-pin-7 of Z demodulator V2. Phase has been shifted 60 degrees, but you can't see that here. This waveform or WF1 can be used as guide for adjusting 3.58-MHz output transformer T1: adjust core for maximum amplitude of the waveform. Set scope sweep about 500 kHz to view sine wave.</p>					
T1 mistuned	R2 open	T1 open C1 shorted R2 shorted					
			0.2 V p-p L2 open				
		<p><b>WF3 Normal 7 V p-p</b></p> <p>Taken at control-grid-pin-1 of either tube. This is the chroma signal from a keyed rainbow color-bar generator. Examined with a vectorscope, this signal proves to be 3.56-MHz (approximately) energy, in phase that rotates with respect to 3.58 MHz. Amplitude depends on COLOR control.</p>					
T1 faulty		C1 shorted R2 shorted R1 open					
			1 V p-p L1 open				
		<p><b>WF4 Normal 15 V p-p</b></p> <p>Output of the X demodulator, taken following the 3.58-MHz filter. This is the R-Y content of the chroma input signal; third bar goes furthest negative. Phase of these bars can be shifted with the receiver's TINT control. Amplitude depends on COLOR setting.</p>					
C3 leaky	R3 shorted	C2 shorted C3 shorted C1 shorted R2 shorted					
			4.5 V p-p R8 open R7 open R5 open R3 open R1 open	3.5 V p-p T1 faulty L1 open	10 V p-p L3 open	15 V p-p L3 shorted	4.5 V p-p R8 low

## WAVEFORMS AS GUIDES



### WF5 Normal 15 V p-p

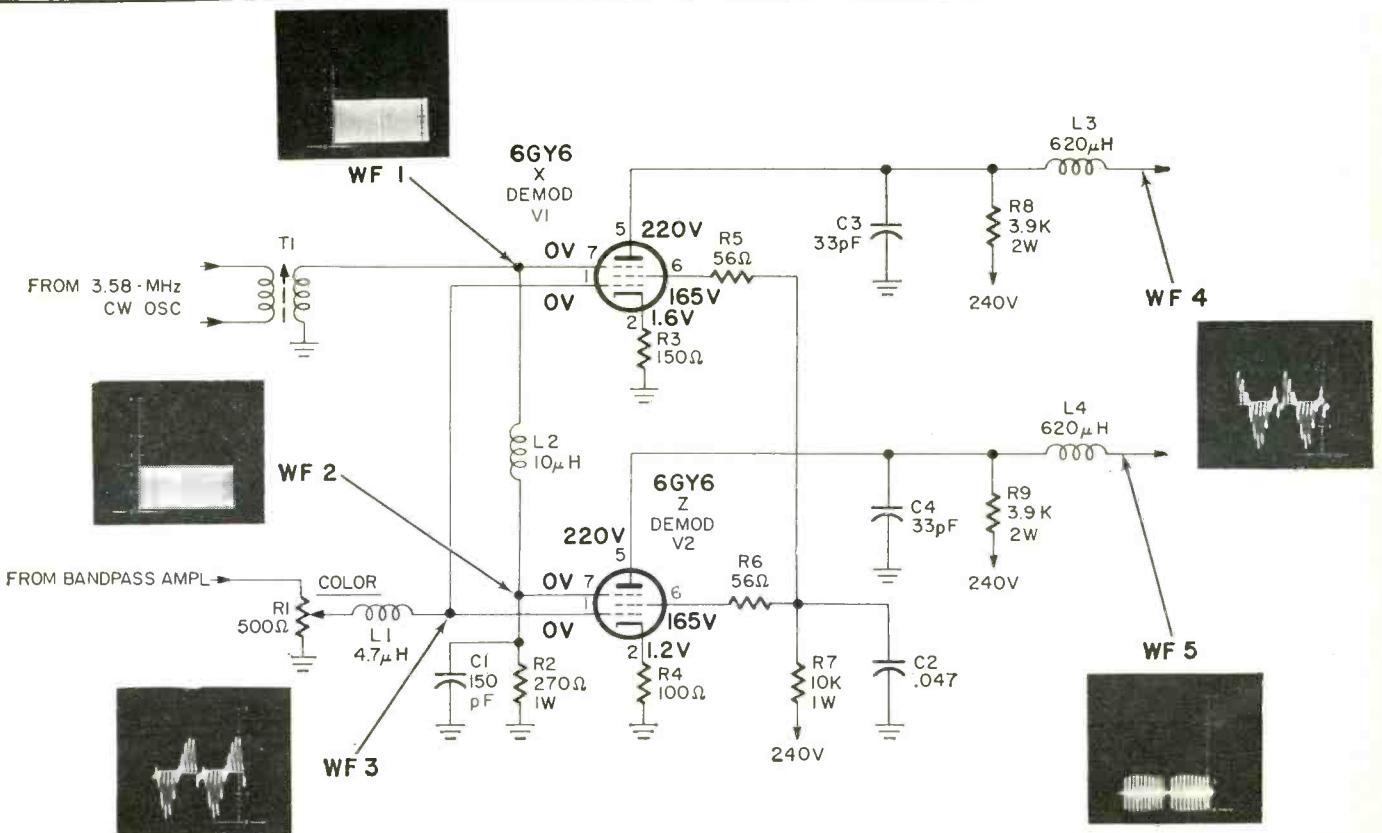
Output of the Z demodulator, taken following the 3.58-MHz filter. This is the B-Y content; the furthest negative-going bar is the sixth. Phase is movable by the receiver TINT control, and amplitude is variable by the COLOR control. This signal and WF4 later produce a G-Y signal too.

C4 leaky	R4 shorted	C2 shorted C4 shorted C1 shorted R2 shorted	 7 V p-p R9 open R7 open R6 open R4 open R1 open	 6 V p-p L2 open	 15 V p-p L2 shorted	 10 V p-p L4 open	 15 V p-p L4 shorted
	 3.5 V p-p T1 faulty L1 open	 15 V p-p C1 open	 6 V p-p C1 shorted	 14 V p-p R2 open	 6 V p-p R9 low		

#### NOTES:

Use this guide and the Voltages Guide to help you pin down fault possibilities.  
 Feed a keyed rainbow signal into receiver antenna terminals, with generator COLOR set just above 100%.  
 Turn the receiver COLOR control about two-thirds up, TINT control to midposition.

Use direct probe with the scope. Set scope sweep to just under 8 kHz, to display two cycles.  
 Check the five waveforms at the five key test points.  
 Note amplitude. If it's low or high, check the parts listed under those columns.  
 Note waveshape. If there's a change that matches one shown, check the parts indicated.





any 3.58-MHz signal remaining after demodulation. L3 and L4 dc-couple the color-difference signals to amps. Dc coupling is generally used all the way to the CRT cathodes.

Capacitor C2 decouples both tube screen grids. Resistors R5 and R6 suppress any tendency to parasitic self-oscillation the screen circuits may exhibit.

Each tube plate has its own supply circuit. Plate voltage for V1 comes through R8; for V2, through R9. Both resistors connect to the main 240-volt dc line.

The screens get dc power from 240 volts too. But 10K resistor R7 drops the value to a mere 165 volts. R5 and R6 carry screen current, but are too small to be significant to dc operation.

Both tubes use cathode bias. A slightly larger resistance value in the cathode circuit of V1 puts somewhat more bias on that tube than on V2. The bias difference turns the demodulation angle an extra 30 degrees or so.

First and third grids in both tubes rest at zero volts dc. The control (first) grids go to dc ground through L1 and R1. The third grids reach dc ground through R2, L2, and the secondary of T1.

The plates are dc-coupled through coils L3 and L4 to the stages that follow.

#### STATION AND CONTROL EFFECTS

Viewed with an ordinary scope, the CW signal shows

#### G-E G1 COLOR CHASSIS

The picture tube socket in the G-1 chassis has special built-in spark gap consisting of a brass plate placed close to the socket terminals (see diagram). Unusually high voltage on a socket terminal will arc to the brass plate and not to an adjacent terminal, thus protecting the picture tube and associated components.

Arcing does not necessarily mean that the socket is defective. It usually indicates trouble in associated circuitry. For example, cases of continuous arcing in the CRT socket have been traced to an open 47-megohm resistor (R284) in the focus divider circuit.



REAR VIEW OF SOCKET (COVER REMOVED)

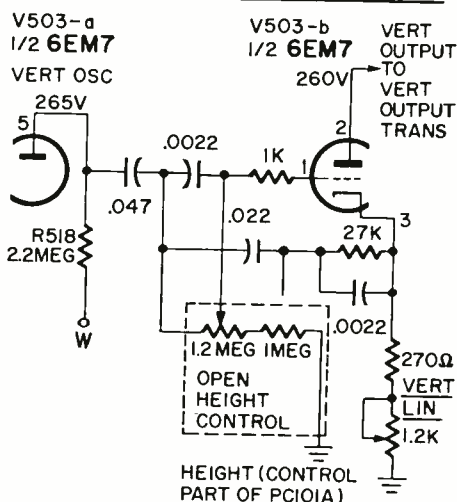
To obtain best focus, this resistor is connected through a jumper to either boosted B-plus, +280 volts or to chassis ground. A bad solder connection at the jumper or an open R284 causes the voltage on the focus anode (pin 9) to rise, causing an arc inside the socket.

If you run across a G-1 chassis with a continuously arcing CRT socket, compare the socket pin voltages against those on the schematic. The focus voltage on pin 9 should be between 3,000 and 5,000 volts, with respect to chassis ground. If it is over 5,000, there is an open circuit somewhere between the focus control (R253) and the low-voltage end of the focus voltage-divider circuit.—*G-E Portafax*

#### PULSING VERTICAL PICTURE

The picture in a RCA KCS136A chassis would collapse and then fill out repeatedly. A new 6EM7 vertical tube and adjustments of the vertical hold, height, and linearity controls did not help.

All voltages on the base of the 6EM7 were quite close to normal. We started to make resistance checks in the vertical circuit and luckily found the HEIGHT control open. This control is part of a printed component (PC101). The whole printed component was replaced and the pulsing picture was cleared up.—*Homer Davidson*



#### RCA KCS 176, -177 POWER CORD

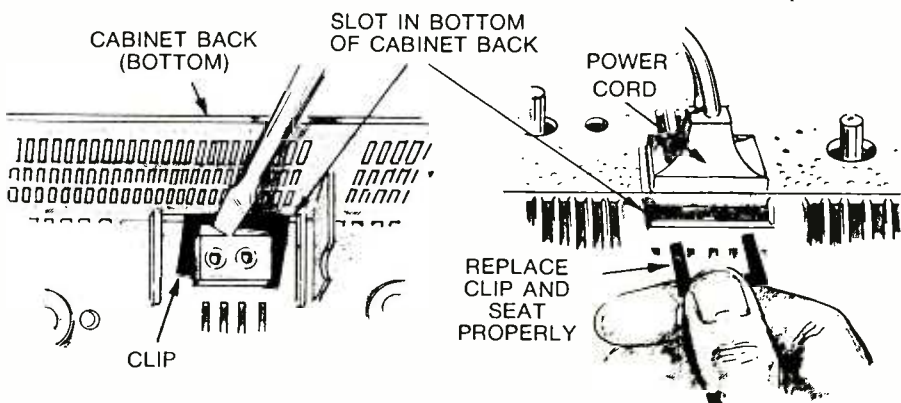
These chassis have a removable power line cord to facilitate cabinet back replacement and to insure a good ac interlock connection.

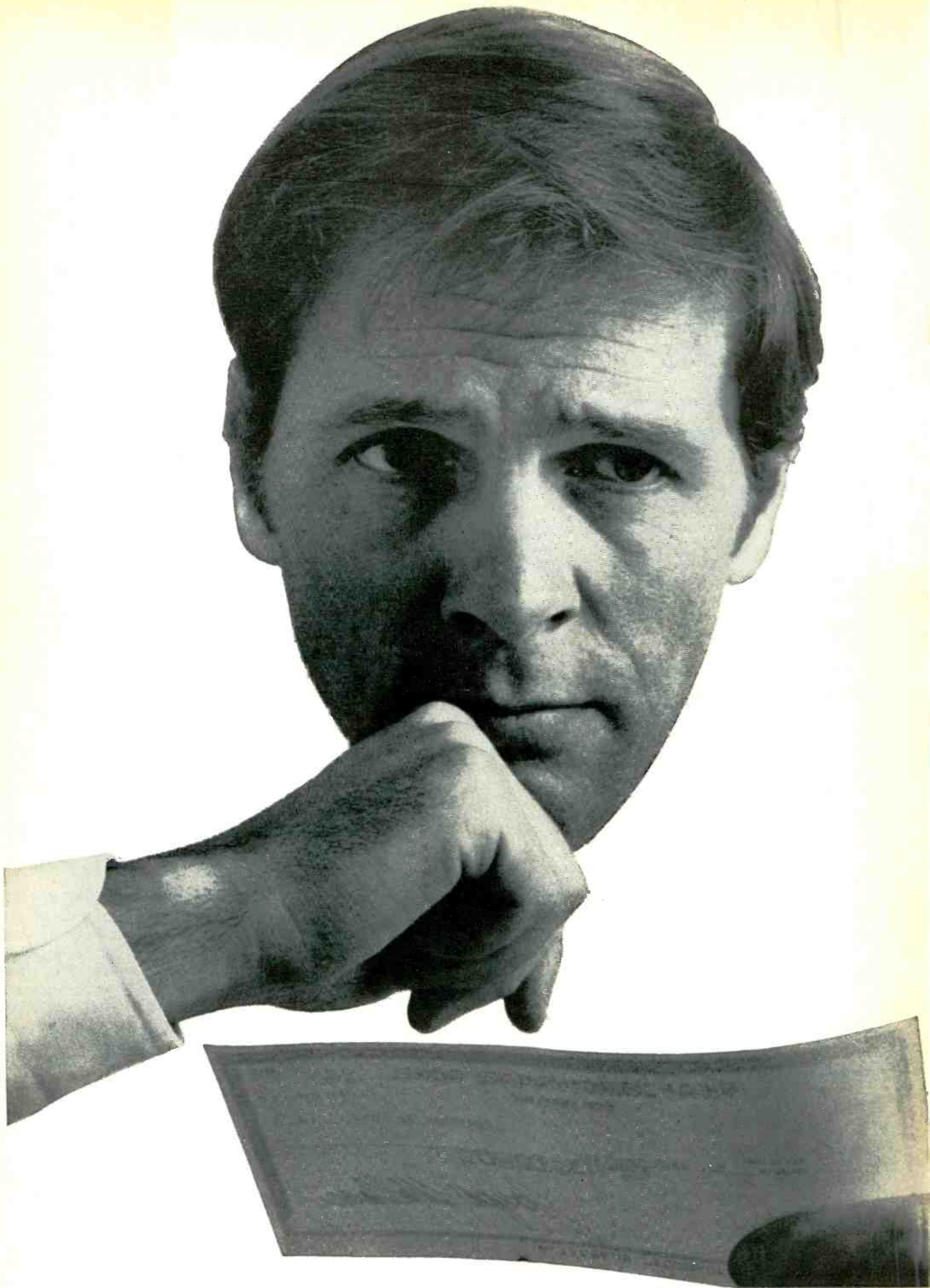
To replace the cabinet back (rear cover):

1. Release power cord by removing interlock clip through slot in cabinet back with a screwdriver as shown in the left drawing.

2. Replace and secure cabinet back.

3. Insert power cord and then replace interlock clip through slot in cabinet back as shown in the drawing on the right. Clip can be seated with a screwdriver. (**Caution:** For customer safety, this clip **must** be replaced and seated properly after servicing.)—*RCA Television Service Tips* **R-E**





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# HOW DIGITAL READOUTS WORK

*Nixies\* are easy to work with once you understand them. And they're not too complicated.*

by **GEORGE FLYNN**

**\*Nixie is a registered trademark of the Burroughs Corp. It is a brand name for their gas-filled readout tubes.**

If you've ever seen a digital voltmeter or a frequency counter you've probably seen Nixie tubes, because their use in digital instruments of all kinds has become widespread. Several other types of readout tubes are also used in some instruments, but more Nixies and Nixie-type devices are used than all other kinds put together and multiplied by ten. And for a very simple reason—the Nixie does a good job of displaying numbers and it does it cheaper than anything else.

Since Nixies seem certain to be around for a long time, and since anybody who associates with electronic types is bound to cross lances with this baby some time or other, it is worth taking a good hard look at what the thing really is. What does it do? How does it work? What makes it act up?

The basic job of any readout tube is to display numbers and/or letters and other symbols. The numbers, however, are more significant than letters in many applications, and thus a great deal of the art of letting machines talk to man deals primarily with numbers, plus a few symbols. Nixie-type devices, in particular, have been developed primarily to dis-

play numbers rather than letters.

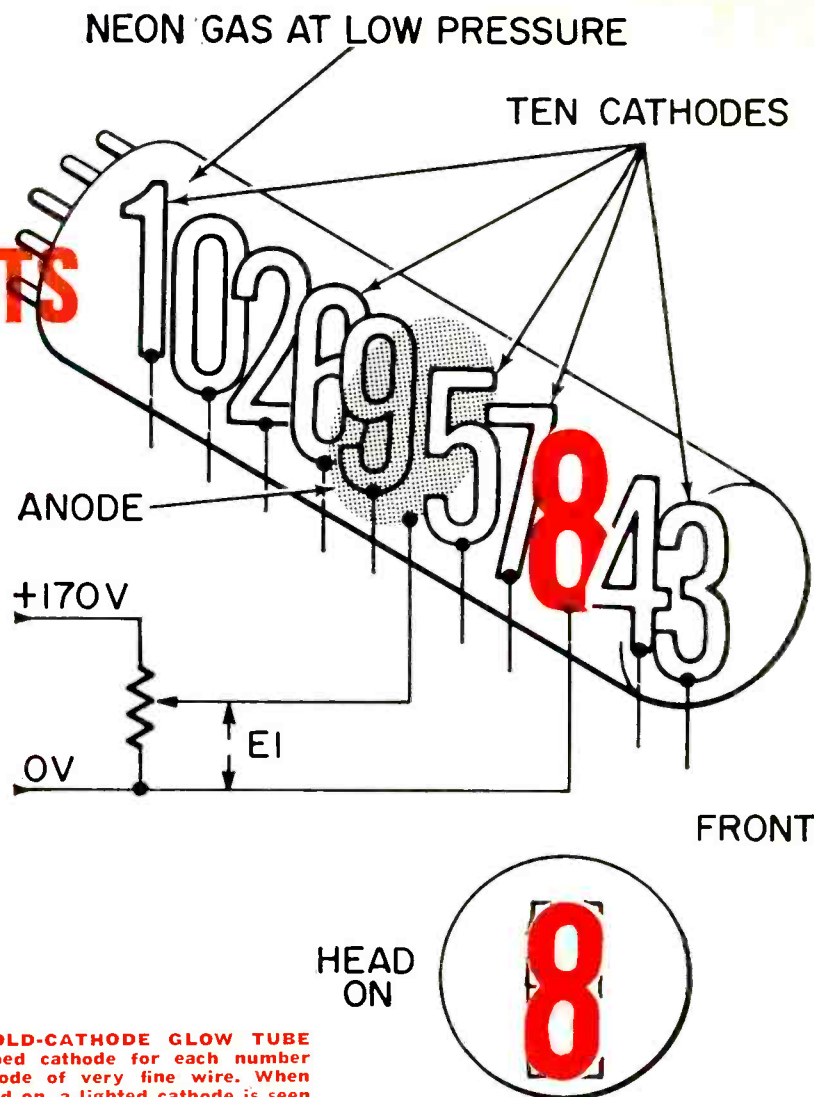
The typical Nixie is a cold-cathode gas glow tube that has an anode and ten cathodes, as in Fig. 1. (Variations, including tubes with plus sign and minus sign, are also available). Each cathode has an activated surface that allows it to emit electrons readily. Connect a voltage source to the anode and to any one cathode—leave the others open—and raise the voltage slowly. At a relatively low voltage the cathode will begin to glow over a small portion of its surface. Continue raising the voltage and the glow will spread until the whole cathode is lit and a number—0 through 9 depending on which cathode you latched on to—will be clearly visible, even from many feet away.

If the voltage is raised still further, the glow will creep down from the activated cathode surface and along the connecting lead and on to the socket pin. When this happens, you'll know you've gone too far. Lower the voltage until only the cathode area glows. You are now within the correct operating region for the tube.

Careful experiments with the current and voltage characteristics of the Nixie

have established the normal operating region shown by Fig. 2-a. The drawing allows for all the variables—element spacing, cathode activity, gas pressure, etc.—that cause individual tubes and individual cathodes within the same tube to differ slightly from each other. The minimum current needed to completely light a cathode of a Type B5991 Nixie (one of the most common varieties) is 1.5 mA. The maximum current for complete lighting but without creeping glow is 3 mA. When a cathode is drawing 1.5 mA, the voltage across the tube— $E_1$  in Fig. 1—is a function of the specific tube and specific cathodes and can be as low as 135 volts, but will not be more than 159 volts. When a cathode is drawing 3 mA,  $E_1$  again depends on the specific tube and cathode and will range from 144 to 168 volts. Two other electrical characteristics of the tube are worth noting. Operating the device with the voltage slightly high will not cause any smoke, but you may see the creeping glow. Operating at slightly low voltage can lead to only partial lighting of the cathode. Not good but not always awful.

Now a circuit designer working with Nixie indicators likes to run the de-



**FIG. 1—COLD-CATHODE GLOW TUBE has a shaped cathode for each number and an anode of very fine wire. When viewed head on, a lighted cathode is seen clearly while unlighted cathodes and the anode are almost invisible.**

vices right in the middle of their normal operating range; the middle is 2.25 mA with the anode riding at about 155 volts. Then, if the supply voltage varies, but not too much, the tube will still operate satisfactorily.

Note in Fig. 2-a that the operating curves are straight but that the voltage drop across the tube increases as cathode current increases. Any specific tube, such as tube X or Y, will have a curve parallel to the high and low limits. Note in Fig. 2-b that if you extend the operating curves to the left until cathode current is reduced to zero, you intersect the voltage axis at about 123 volts for the low-limit line and at about 146 volts for the high limit. Individual tubes will vary between these limits. Thus you have to buck out anywhere from 123 to 146 volts before the tube conducts significantly.

The fact that the operating curve for a given tube is a straight line tells us the device is acting like a resistor—once it starts conducting. These characteristics are duplicated by the equivalent circuit of Fig. 2-c; a resistor in series with a perfect battery and a perfect diode. The circuit applies only to the normal operating region of the tube—that is, when it is conducting 1.5 to 3.0 mA. When the

tube is operated below 1.5 mA, the equivalent series resistance begins to increase and is nonlinear. The actual V-I curves also have a negative-resistance region when conduction begins.

Once the operating current and voltage have been set, the operating circuit can be designed. Fig. 3-a is a typical circuit that consists of a voltage source, a current-limiting resistor and one cathode of the indicator tube. Point A on the operating curve, Fig. 3-b, represents a low-voltage cathode being run at high current, while point B represents a high-voltage cathode running at low current. Drawing a load line through A and B and extending it to intersect the voltage axis gives minimum  $E_b$ , and associated  $R_L$ ; minimum  $E_b$  is 170 volts, and  $R_L$ —from the slope of the load line—is 8200 ohms. With these values, and since the operating point for any cathode is at the intersection of its operative curve and the load line, most cathodes will operate close to the optimum current of 2.25 mA, and only an occasional cathode will operate near A or B. But if  $E_b$  should sag to 160 volts, as shown, a cathode that normally operates at point B will now operate at point B<sub>1</sub>, or at a current of only about 0.75 mA. Partial glow.

If, on the other hand,  $E_b$  should

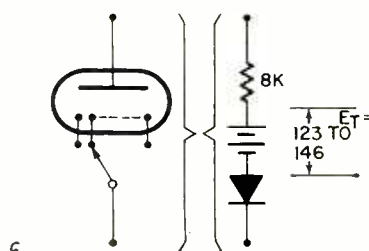
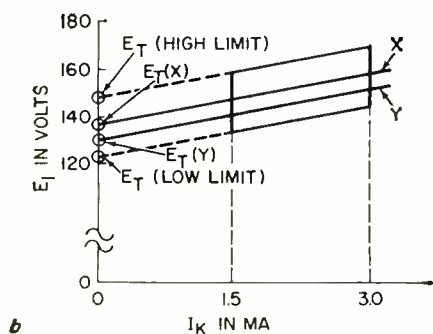
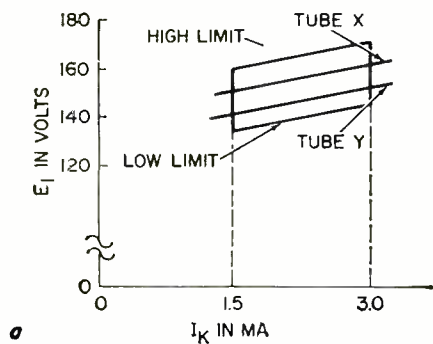


FIG. 2—The normal operating region is shown at a, tube equivalent voltage at b, equivalent circuit for one cathode at c.

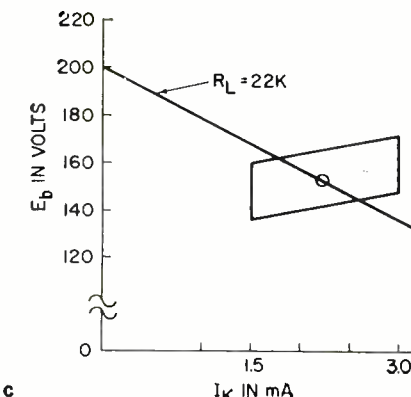
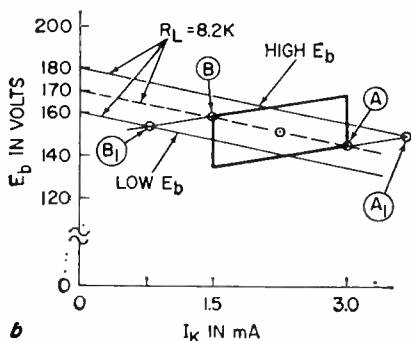
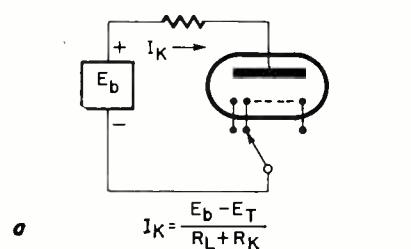
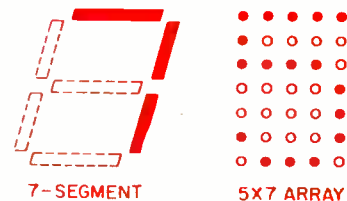


FIG. 3—ACTUAL CIRCUIT for operating a Nixie uses a load resistor to set the cathode current.

## OTHER KINDS OF READOUT

While cold-cathode tubes are presently the most popular readout tubes, they have many challengers. One of the limitations of the shaped cathode approach is the limit on the number of symbols you can put into one envelope. Ideally, you would like to put the whole alphabet—capitals and lower case—plus numbers 0 through 9, plus punctuation marks. With this capability you can have real communication from machine to man. But you can cram only so many cathodes into one envelope—16 is probably the maximum for good visibility.

A second major approach to the problem is to break the shapes of the numbers and letters into small parts and then to construct a character by energizing the correct segments. The seven-segment type shown here is one way to do this. With seven segments—each of which is a small elongated neon tube or other light emitting source—you can form all the numbers plus some of the capital letters. But put three 7-segment displays side by side and try to display, say, 8B8, or



B88. You can't do it because you can't distinguish between a B and an 8 with only seven segments. Only nine letters can be formed that will not be confused with numbers (What are they? For answer,\* see below).

Going beyond 7-segments is the 35-dot array—35 light-emitting diodes formed into a matrix 7 diodes high by 5 wide. With 35 dots you can form all the 64 characters of the ASCII code. In the future you can expect to see arrays of 7 x 9 and even larger.

Another approach is to use a miniature crt and write the symbols by moving the beam to form the shape desired. An advantage of this technique is that you can stretch the tube out and then write more than one symbol side by side. Once the message being generated by the machine starts to get complicated, large crts are used, or else a teletypewriter is used to print out messages. Large, complicated displays of this type, however, are a whole different world away from simple readout tubes.

\*(Answer: A+C+E+F+H+J+L+P+U)

rise to 180, a cathode that normally operates at point A will be shifted out to point A<sub>1</sub>, to a current of about 3.6 mA and into creeping glow.

To avoid this high sensitivity to changes in E<sub>b</sub>, many Nixies are operated with E<sub>b</sub> close to 200 volts rather than at 170 volts. Draw the load line, Fig 3-c, from the actual E<sub>b</sub> through the center (2.25 mA) of the operating curves. The slope of the line gives R<sub>L</sub> of 22,000 ohms. With these values, the circuit will tolerate a change in E<sub>b</sub> of about ± 5% (10 volts) without the load line drifting out of the operating region.

But R<sub>L</sub> should be set close to its calculated value. As R<sub>L</sub> changes, the slope of the load line changes, and this again can lead to either partial or creeping glow. Current flow for any set of conditions can be calculated from the equation given in Fig. 3-a.

### Partial glow

By now you may have decided that a Nixie is nothing more than a glorified neon indicator tube. You are partly right, but only because we've been talking about energizing just one cathode at a time and leaving the other cathodes open. Since the open cathodes can't draw any current, they can't act up very much.

Put a Nixie into a circuit, however, and you usually want to drive it with a transistor, not a rotary switch. The circuit shown in Fig. 4 is recommended by

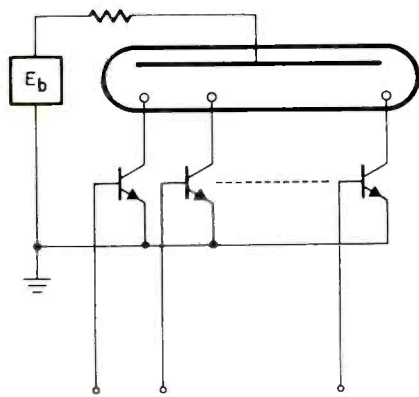


FIG. 4—TRANSISTORS are usually used to drive Nixie cathodes.

manufacturers of the indicators and uses an npn transistor for each cathode. When one of the transistors is turned on, it becomes a low resistance and grounds its associated cathode, turning it on. The other transistors are off and present a very high impedance to the flow of current from anode to cathode and thereby to ground.

Assume that the transistor for the cathode of numeral "1" is turned on, and "1" is lit. What is the voltage at the collectors of the off transistors—such as for numeral "0"?

If the transistors were perfect, they would act like infinite resistances and no cathode currents would flow unless the transistor was on. But transistors are not perfect and there is a leakage current from the off cathodes through the off transistors.

The magnitude of the off current is a function primarily of the leakage current characteristic of the transistor, while the voltage at the off cathodes is determined by the collector breakdown voltage of the transistor. What the circuit requires is a transistor with low leakage current and high collector breakdown voltage.

Extensive experiments have been carried out to determine what levels of leakage current and voltage can be tolerated before objectionable glow is generated by numerals that are supposed to be completely off. Figure 5 shows typical

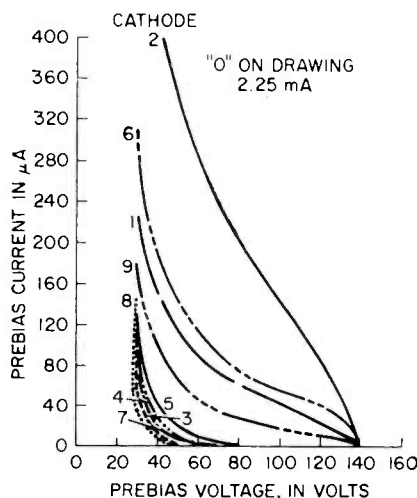


FIG. 5—INTERFERENCE between one cathode and another depends on how close the two are and how closely their shapes match.

leakage current flows through off cathodes as a function of cathode voltage, which is called the "prebias voltage". Numeral "0" is on, which means that its cathode is grounded (or has on equivalent prebias voltage of zero) and current through "0" cathode is 2.25 mA. Now look at the curve for cathode "2". When its prebias voltage is 140 volts, and if E<sub>b</sub> is 170, then the voltage available to "2" is 170-140 or 30 volts, and the current flow is way down around zero.

Let the voltage on "2" drop to 100 and the current rises to well over 100 μA. As the prebias voltage drops further, leakage current continues to increase until eventually "2" will start to turn on.

When you perform the same tests on cathode 6 ("0" still on) you get less leakage current but the shape of the curve is approximately the same. Why should you get a different current flow for "6" than for "2"? Look at the actual arrangement or stacking of the cathodes as indicated in Fig. 1. Cathode "2" is physically close to cathode "0". Further, the top of cathode 2 is the same shape as the top of 0: the result of nearness plus conformance of shape results in high leakage current for "2" when "0" is on—some of the action at "0" makes "2" nervous. But look at the curve for "3" when "0" is on; practically nothing. Now look where "3" is in the stacking—it's as far away from "0" as it can be and it's on the other side of the anode as well.

If you perform the same tests with the rest of the cathodes, you get similar curves. When "8" is on, it has more effect on 4 and 7 than on 0 and 1.

All right, you say, so you get a little leakage—who cares? We now go to the second set of experiments, which try to answer the question, "How much leakage current causes an objectionable glow from cathodes that are supposed to be off?"

Fig. 6 shows how some observers judged the effects of leakage. Again, cathode "0" is on and the others are off. Based on the leakage characteristics for

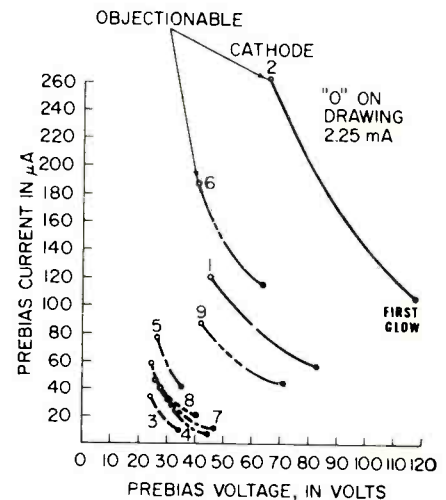


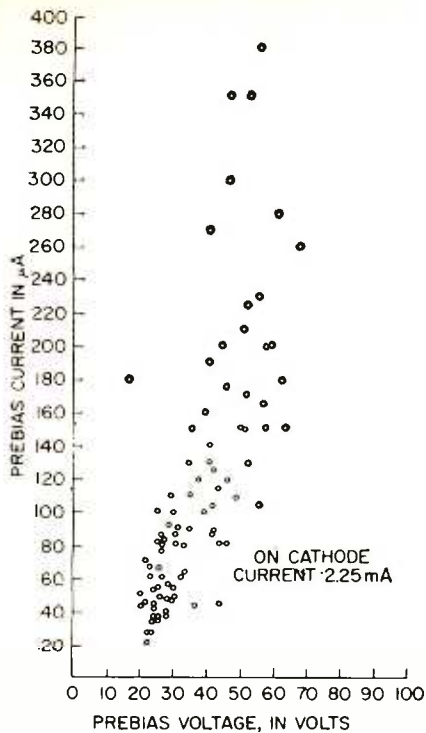
FIG. 6—BOTTOM POINTS for each cathode indicate first appearance of a glow. Top points show where glow becomes excessive.

"0" (Fig. 5), we know cathode "2" is going to bomb out first if anything does. Observers report that barely perceptible glow appears on "2" when the leakage is about 110 μA, while its associated prebias voltage is 120 V; when the prebias drops to 70 V, the leakage is about 250 μA and the glow on "2" is obvious and "probably objectionable".

But look at cathode "3". To get a glow at all you have to take the prebias down to 35 V—it's almost turned on. But as soon as "3" does start to leak, it really acts up—it only needs about 35 μA to become a clown.

Turn the 10 cathodes on one at a time and measure all other cathodes to find objectionable glow limits and you come up with 90 dots as shown in Fig. 7. According to this drawing you will never have a bad glow if you keep leakage current below 20 μA, or if you held the prebias at 70 volts and above. And if you can hold leakage below 2 μA, (at all operating temperatures), says Burroughs, you won't ever get a noticeable glow even for sensitive combinations (such as "0" on and 3 at prebias of 35). And for most tubes, 60 volts prebias—instead of 70—is good enough.

One situation which almost defies analysis is, "What happens when one cathode is on and two or more start glowing?" You can expect that two little glows (or three or four) may be worse than one little glow but probably better than one big glow. Play safe and keep the glows down.



**FIG. 7—OBJECTIONABLE GLOW** occurs for the 90 different combinations of one cathode on and other supposedly off.

### Ionizing peculiarities

Neon indicator tubes must be treated with due respect to the limitations of cold-cathode devices. Many of the limitations are not serious—that is, they are easily overcome—but they can cause a lot of tree-climbing or head-bashing-against-the-wall action if not understood.

One of the major variables of the neon indicator tube is turn-on time, which is the same as ionization time. Cold-cathode devices depend upon external radiation for initial ionization. You can apply rated voltage between anode and cathode and wait, but nothing will happen until a cosmic ray or an energetic particle from an atom undergoing radioactive decay strikes the cathode and starts the electrons flowing. Once started, the ionization is self-sustaining through the action of the electrons jumping around.

The starting incident does not need to be an energetic particle. Ordinary light—natural or man made, and bright

enough to allow easy viewing—provides enough energy at the cathode surface to insure ionization under most conditions. Ionization can also be made more certain by applying increased voltage across the tube (without exceeding ratings) or by applying the voltage fast rather than slow. In addition, ionization time is affected by how long the tube has been sitting around without being turned on. The longer it's been inactive the lazier it is.

Burroughs Corp. says that ionization time will almost always be less 100  $\mu$ sec in normal applications and with usual light levels. But the variations in the characteristics of cold-cathode tubes, plus the variations in local lighting and background radiation, are such that ionization time may be as short as 1  $\mu$ sec or as long as several seconds.

What happens when you want to use a Nixie in a coal mine in total darkness? In this case it may be more a question of what will not happen—the indicator may never turn on. But there's really no need for this type foul-up if it is known beforehand that the tube is going to be used in absolute darkness. The manufacturers have developed a special tube that contains a small amount of radioactive Krypton 85 gas, which is relatively inactive but emits a particle sufficiently often to cause the tube to turn on within 50 msec usually, and within 1 sec practically always.

### How to dim

Cold-cathode indicator tubes are bright enough for use in fairly strong light. Sometimes, however, the tubes are too bright—as in radar rooms and aircraft cockpits—and dimming methods are needed. Reducing the voltage across the tube may produce slight dimming but runs into the problem of failing to completely light some cathodes.

The simplest way to reduce brightness is to use an optical filter in front of the tube. If continuously variable brightness control is not needed, optical filters can work well. Polaroid filters are available, in fact, that reduce brightness and reflections at the same time.

If electrical control of brightness is needed, two techniques are available. In the first method a cathode is turned on for awhile, then off, then on again, etc. at a regular rate or frequency. If the fixed frequency is 50 Hz or higher, the tube appears to be on continuously, and

the apparent brightness is a function of on time to off time—the duty cycle. The maximum duty cycle is 1.000, or continuously on. The minimum duty cycle is determined essentially by the ionization time—100  $\mu$ sec for reliable operation—which gives an on-to-off ratio of 1 part in 200, or a duty cycle of 0.005 (or 0.5%).

The second way to control brightness also uses the concept of duty cycle but in this case the on-time of a cathode is fixed—again, 100  $\mu$ sec minimum—a the period between on-pulses is varied. If the on pulses arrive once every 100  $\mu$ sec (or whatever the on time is set to) the tube is on continuously, the duty cycle is 1, and brightness in maximum. If only 50 on-pulses per second, (minimum rate for flicker-free viewing) are applied, the duty cycle is 0.005, (with 100  $\mu$ sec on-time) and brightness is way down.

Both methods give the same results but the fixed frequency method causes less power dissipation—because less switching is required—in the drive circuits. Usually the on-pulses are applied via the anode. The tubes are often driven from a 200-volt supply and the anode voltage only has to be lowered to below 110 volts to turn the tube off. Anode control also eases the breakdown voltage requirements of the drive transistors in the cathode circuits.

Do you remember the story about the little girl who read a book about alligators, and when her teacher asked her how she liked it, said: "This book told me more about alligators than I wanted to know."

While more could be said about the cold-cathode indicator tube—and about its competitors who are fighting for a chance to be seen—we've about run out of space.

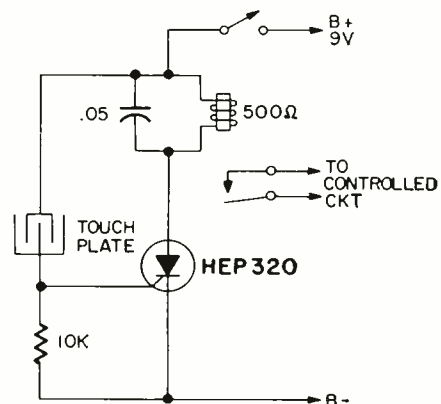
One recent development should be mentioned. The tubes are usually driven by combination decoding/driving circuits that figure out which cathode of a given tube is to be turned on. Since the decoding/driving circuits can account for 50% or more of the cost of a numerical display, efforts have been made to use one decoder/driver for more than one tube—that is, multiplexed operation. This has led to the development of high-current tubes that operate with from 5 to 15 mA and at somewhat higher voltage. The multiplex type tubes are not interchangeable with the regular type. R-E

## Touch Switch

This simple touch switch can turn on appliances, lamps, etc., with a finger touch. It features safe, low-voltage operation. The touch plate may be an etched circuit board as shown, or simply two copper tacks close enough that both can be touched simultaneously. The touch-plate circuit must be isolated from the ac line.

### PARTS LIST

- 1 HEP 320 or 2N5060 silicon controlled rectifier (SCR)
- 1 10,000 ohms, 1/2 watt, 10% resistor
- 1 0.5- $\mu$ F, 25-volt (or higher) capacitor
- 6 1.5-volt batteries (9 volts)
- 1 500-ohm relay
- 1 Touch plate





# 24 easy-to-build burglar alarms

These five burglar alarm circuits complete this series of articles. Just about every kind of alarm has been described

by R. M. MARSTON

IN THIS FINAL SECTION OF THE ALARM circuits article you will find fire or over-temperature alarms and frost or under-temperature alarms. They complete your circuit book and you should now have alarm circuits that provide almost any kind of protection you should desire.

In the alarm circuit of Fig. 10, the LDR can be any type that gives a resistance in the range 200 to 10,000 ohms when illuminated by the light beam. R1 should have a *maximum* value roughly *double* that of the LDR resistance under the above conditions and is used to set the circuit sensitivity at the required level.

## Temperature-operated alarms

Temperature-operated alarm systems can be used as automatic fire or overheat alarms, or as frost-warning or underheat alarms. They can be used to sound an alarm whenever a temperature goes above or below a precisely preset value.

The four practical alarm systems that follow use inexpensive negative-temperature-coefficient thermistors as their temperature-sensing elements. These devices act as resistors that have a value dictated by temperature; they present a high resistance at low temperatures, and a low resistance at high temperatures.

The four circuits have all been designed to work with thermistors that present a resistance of roughly 5000 ohms at the desired operating temperature. All circuits are highly versatile, however, and will operate perfectly well with any negative-temperature-coefficient thermistors that present a resistance in

the range 1000 to 20,000 ohms at the required temperature. Table I lists a few of the many thermistors that may be used in these circuits at different temperature levels.

Fig. 21 shows the practical circuit of a simple fire or over-temperature alarm. Here, TH<sub>1</sub> (the thermistor) is connected in the form of a bridge, together with R1-R2 and R3; Q1 is used as the bridge-balance detector and SCR driver. R1 is adjusted so that the bridge is slightly out of balance, with the voltage of the R1-TH<sub>1</sub> junction slightly lower than that of the R2-R3 junction, at temperatures just below the required operating temperature. Q1 is thus cut off under this condition, and passes negligible current into the SCR gate, so the alarm is inoperative.

When the temperature increases to the required trigger level, TH<sub>1</sub>'s resistance falls slightly and thus causes the voltage of the R1-TH<sub>1</sub> junction to fall as well. Under this condition Q1 turns on sufficiently to trigger the SCR, so the alarm turns on and self-latches. R1 can thus be adjusted so that the alarm turns on and self-latches when the temperature rises to any desired value within the operating range of the thermistor.

The circuit in Fig. 21 can be modified so that it acts as a frost or under-temperature alarm, which turns on when the temperature falls to a preset value, by simply transposing the TH<sub>1</sub> and R1 positions.

Fig. 22 shows an alternative version of the simple frost or under-temperature alarm. The circuit is very similar to that of Fig. 21, with TH<sub>1</sub> connected in the form of a bridge, and Q1 used as a balance detector. The circuit is set up by

first adjusting R1 so that approximately half the supply voltage appears on Q1 base at the required trigger temperature; R3 is then adjusted so that the alarm turns on when the temperature falls to the required trigger level.

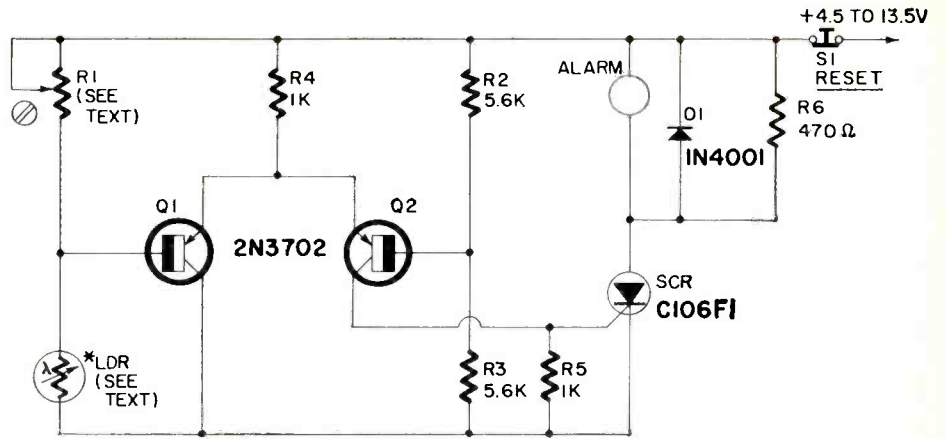
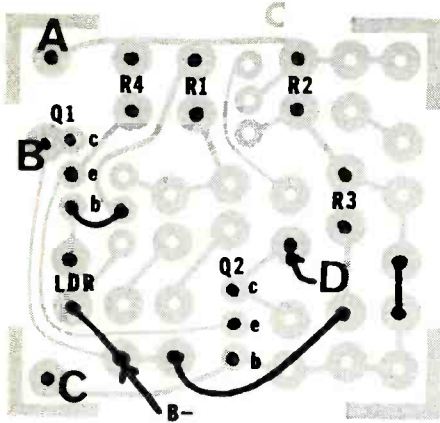
Figure 23 shows an alternative version of the fire or over-temperature alarm. The circuit is roughly similar to that of Fig. 22, since the thermistor is wired in the form of a bridge, and Q1 is used as a bridge-balance detector. In this circuit, however, Q1's output is amplified and inverted by Q2 before being applied to the SCR gate; the alarm thus turns on only when the temperature rises to the required level. The circuit is set up in a similar way to that in Fig. 22.

An interesting feature of the circuits in Figs. 22 and 23 is that they both employ identical thermistor and R1 voltage divider networks, but one circuit turns on when the temperature falls to a preset value, while the other turns on when the level rises to a preset value. These two circuits can thus be put together to form a combined over-temperature/under-temperature alarm. Figure 24 shows the practical circuit of such an alarm.

Here, Q1 and Q2 form the over-temperature sensing side of the circuit, and Q3 forms the under-temperature sensing side. In use, the circuit is set up as follows: First, set R2's slider to the positive supply line, and R3's slider to ground. Now adjust R1 to develop half the supply voltage on Q1 base at the normal or mid-temperature level. Now adjust R2 so that the alarm sounds when the temperature rises to the required high trigger level. Finally, adjust R3 so



# 20.

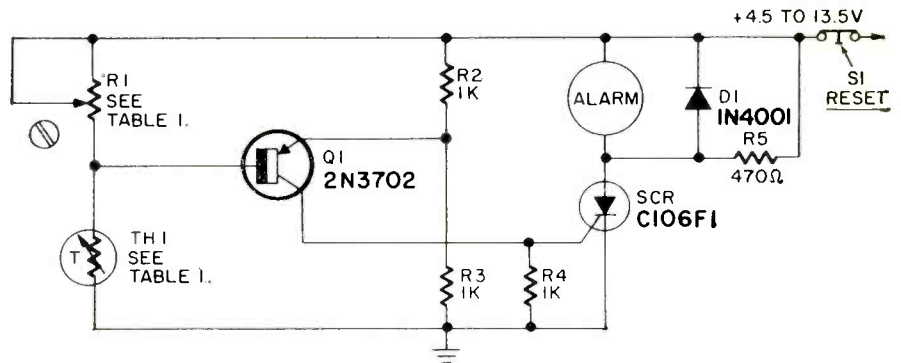
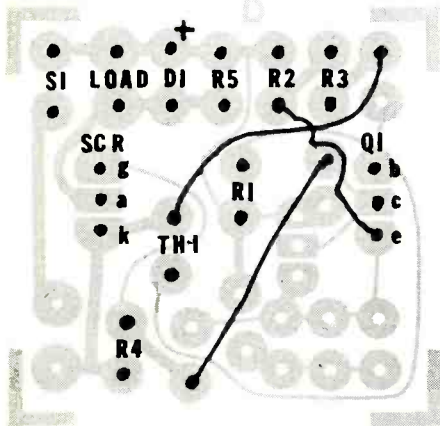


### PARTS LIST

R1—see text  
 R2, R3—5,600 ohms, 1/2 watt  
 R4, R5—1000 ohms, 1/2 watt  
 R6—470 ohms, 1/2 watt  
 D1—1N4001  
 LDR—see text

Q1, Q2—2N3702  
 SCR—C106F1  
 S1—spst normally closed  
 Alarm Device  
 Circuit board C and circuit board A  
 set up as in Fig. 5.

# 21.

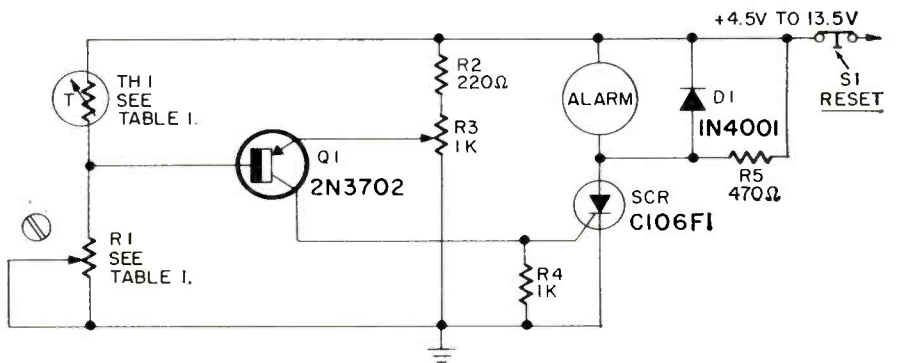
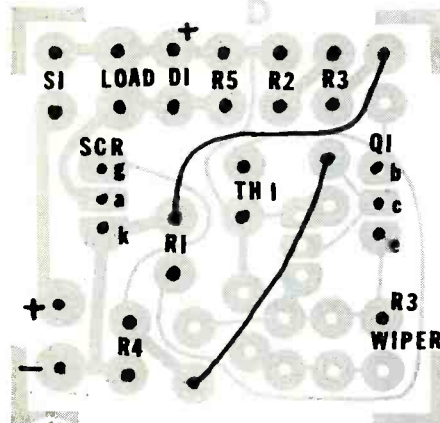


### PARTS LIST

R1—see table  
 R2, R3, R4—1000 ohms, 1/2 watt  
 R5—470 ohms, 1/2 watt  
 D1—1N4001  
 Q1—2N3702

SCR—C106F1  
 S1—spst normally closed  
 TH1—see table  
 Alarm device  
 Circuit board D

# 22.

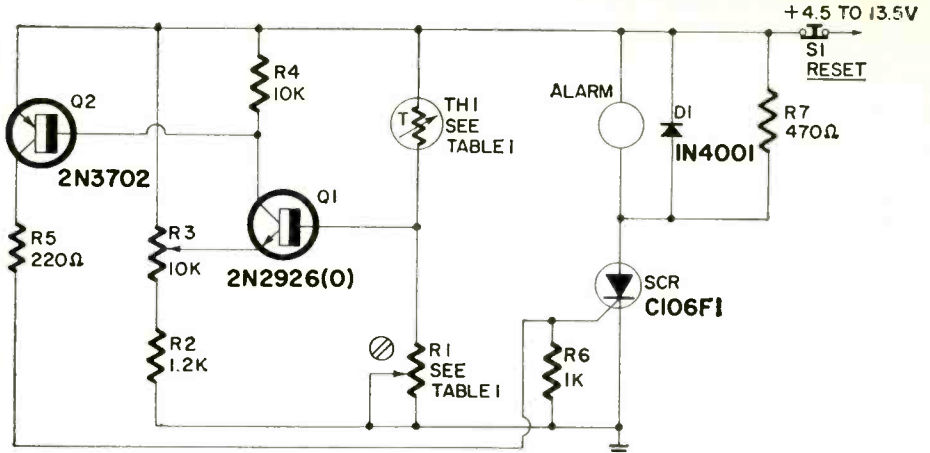
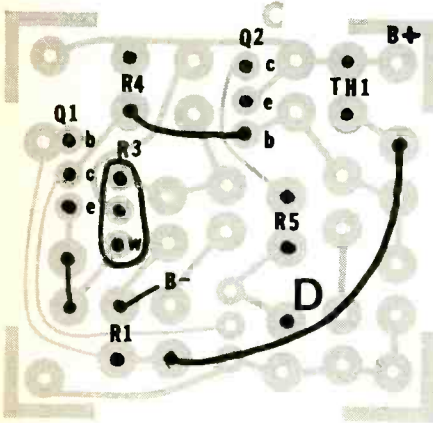


### PARTS LIST

R1—see table  
 R2—220 ohms, 1/2 watt  
 R3—potentiometer, 1000 ohms  
 R4—1000 ohms, 1/2 watt  
 D1—1N4001

Q1—2N3702  
 SCR—C106F1  
 S1—spst normally closed  
 Alarm device  
 Circuit Board D

# 23.

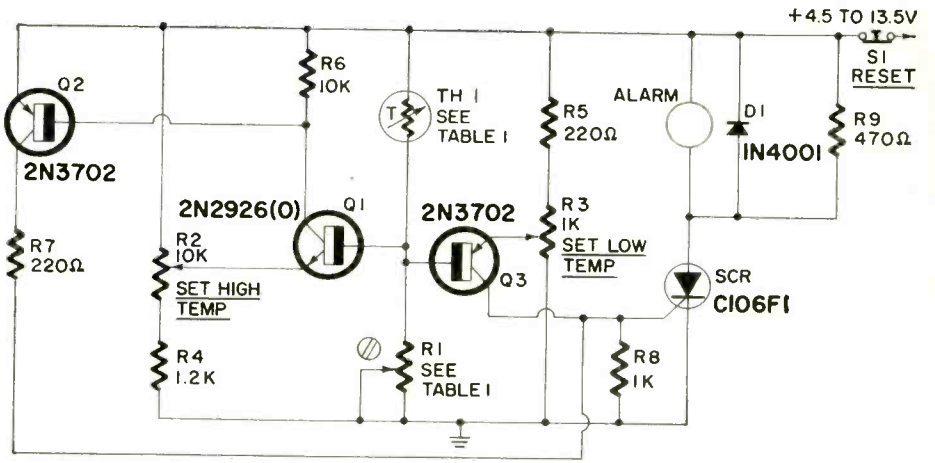
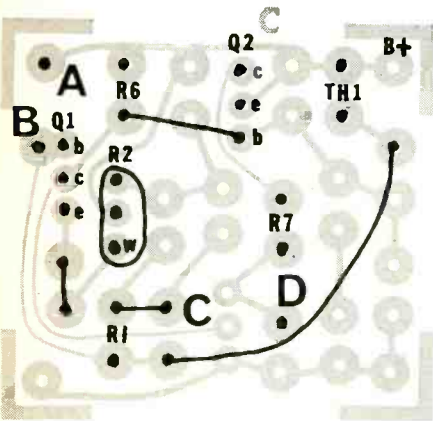


- PARTS LIST**  
 R1—see table  
 R2—1200 ohms  
 R3—potentiometer, 10,000 ohms  
 R4—10,000 ohms, 1/2 watt  
 R5—220 ohms, 1/2 watt

- R6—1000 ohms, 1/2 watt  
 R7—470 ohms, 1/2 watt  
 D1—1N4001  
 Q1—2N2926(0)  
 Q2—2N3702  
 SCR—C106F1

- S1—spst normally closed  
 TH1—see table  
 Alarm device  
 Circuit board C and circuit board A set up as in Fig. 5.

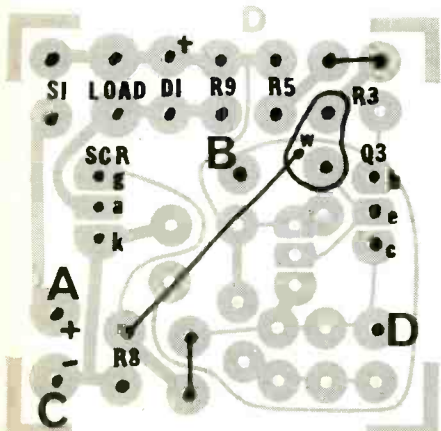
# 24.



- PARTS LIST**  
 R1—see table  
 R2—potentiometer, 10,000 ohms  
 R3—potentiometer, 1000 ohms  
 R4—1200 ohms, 1/2 watt  
 R5—220 ohms, 1/2 watt

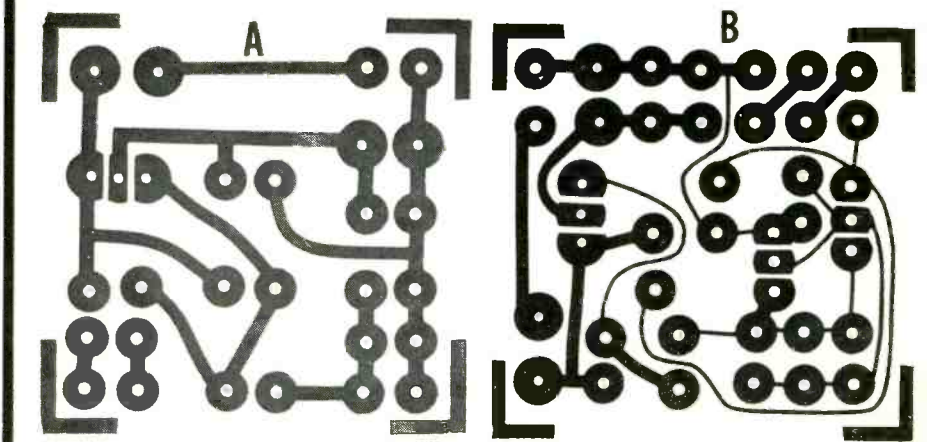
- R6—10,000 ohms, 1/2 watt  
 R7—220 ohms, 1/2 watt  
 R8—1000 ohms, 1/2 watt  
 R9—470 ohms, 1/2 watt  
 D1—1N4001  
 Q1—2N2926(0)

- Q2, Q3—2N3702  
 SCR—C106F1  
 S1—spst normally closed  
 TH1—see table  
 Alarm device  
 Circuit boards C and D arranged as shown



Full size pattern for circuit board A used in the 24 alarm circuits

Full size pattern for circuit board B used in the 24 alarm circuits



OPERATING TEMPERATURE RANGE	SUITABLE THERMISTOR TYPES	R1 VALUE
-40°C to -12°C	KD2107 (RCA).	10,000 ohms
-15°C to +10°C	KD2108 (RCA), or VA1066S (MULLARD).	25,000 ohms
+5°C to +25°C	KD2108 (RCA), or VA1066S (MULLARD).	10,000 ohms
+20°C to +50°C	KD2108 (RCA), or VA1066S (MULLARD).	5000 ohms
+40°C to +70°C	VA1055S (MULLARD).	10,000 ohms
+60°C to +105°C	VA1055S (MULLARD).	5000 ohms
+60°C to +85°C	VA1056S (MULLARD).	25,000 ohms
+80°C to +100°C	VA1056S (MULLARD).	10,000 ohms
+95°C to +130°C	VA1056S (MULLARD).	25,000 ohms
+90°C to +110°C	VA1067S (MULLARD).	10,000 ohms
+100°C to +140°C	VA1067S (MULLARD).	25,000 ohms
+100°C to +140°C	KD2109 (RCA).	5000 ohms

Note: The KD2107-9 thermistor types are available in the RCA experimenters kit, KD2110.

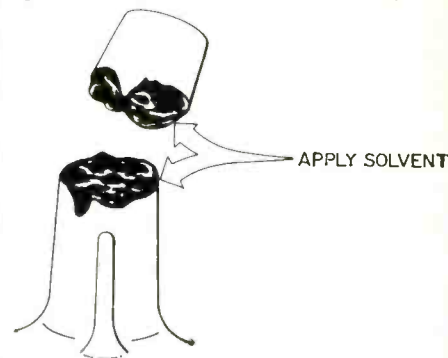
that the alarm sounds when the temperature falls to the required low level. The circuit is then ready for use.

The four temperature-operated alarms that we have looked at so far are all very useful circuits, but suffer from one slight snag. This snag is that, if the thermistor is placed remotely from the electronic circuitry (so that the thermistor and the circuitry operate at different temperature levels), the precise operating points of the circuits will be affected by variations in the operating temperature of the transistor circuitry. This is because the  $V_{be}$  characteristics of the Q1 (and Q3) bridge-balance detectors are temperature dependent. In practice, this may result in the trigger points of the circuits shifting by one or two degrees centigrade when the transistor circuitry is operated through the range 0°C to +30°C. These circuits are thus not suitable for use in precision applications, unless the circuits and thermistors are operated at the same temperatures. **R-E**

#### BROKEN PLASTICS

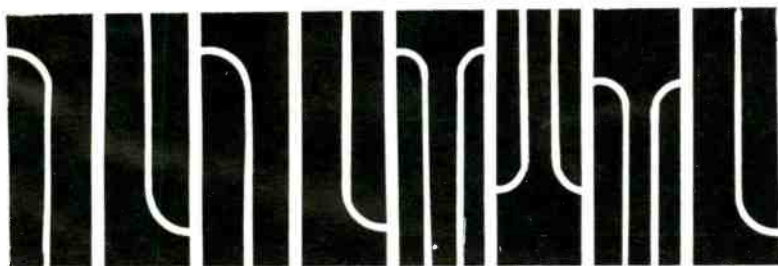
Plastic radio cabinets or knobs which are broken or cracked present a problem sometimes to a technician trying to do a first-class repair job. Of course there are glue products on the market—but who has the right glue at the right time? An amazingly simple solution I have found for making these last-minute repairs is GC Cement Solvent.

As a person might expect, one important thing to be taken into consideration before attempting to make plastic repairs is to know what kind of plastic is involved. Phenolics, such as Bakelite, are thermosetting types of plastic and will not be dissolved by ke-



tone solutions. Radio cabinets made from this material are not as popular today, however, as those of styrene, G.E. Lexan (a polycarbonate), the ethyl celluloses and the vinyls.

The drawing shows a broken portion of a printed-circuit type plastic mounting stud, popular in many cabinet styles. By merely applying a drop or two of solvent to the surface of each broken, chipped, or cracked corner, stud, or knob, allowing a few seconds for the sections to get tacky, and, applying pressure, you've got the job done.—George D. Philpott

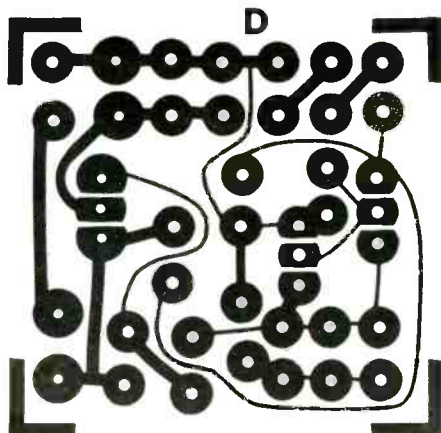
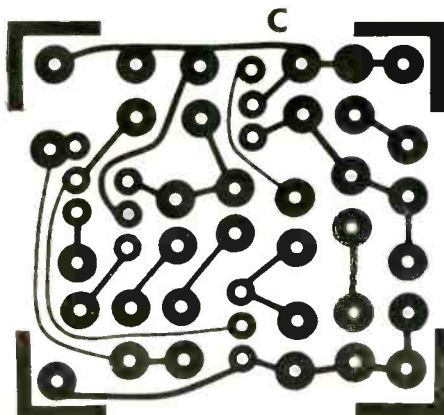


**COMPONENT MOUNTING STRIP.** Each strip contains 3 sections for diodes, capacitors or resistors; 1 transistor section and 1 SCR section.

The following alarm parts are available from Photolume Corp., 118 E 28 St., N.Y., N.Y.  
 Kit RE671-PC consisting of 1-panel of 4 alarm circuit boards; 1-panel of 3 component mounting strips; 100 plug-in-connectors . . . \$6.25 postpaid.  
 Kit RE671-T consisting of 1 SCR; 1 diode; 4 transistors (2 npn, 2 pnp) and 1 photocell . . . \$3.75 postpaid.

Full size pattern for circuit board C used in the 24 alarm circuits

Full size pattern for circuit board D used in the 24 alarm circuits



# all about resistors

Resistors are essential to proper operation and control of electronic gear.

Read about basic types and how they are used.

by FARL JACOB WATERS

THE FIRST COMPONENT YOU RUN INTO when studying electronics is the resistor. Learning electricity and electronics begins with Ohm's Law. It says that the ratio between the electromotive force, (voltage) and the current within a circuit is a constant value. So if voltage is increased from 100 to 200 volts the current also doubles from a possible 10 mA to 20 mA. The ratio  $E/I$  stays constant at 10,000 (100/0.010 or 200/0.020). And, since this ratio indicates the current developed within a circuit by a given voltage it is also a measure of the limiting factor—the resistance of that circuit.

In this article we are interested in components that introduce specified amounts of resistance into an electronic circuit. These components are called *resistors*. These devices do not store or hold electrons but do limit the quantity of electrons passing through a circuit. And when a current passes through a resistor the force—voltage—is diminished. Resistors make no distinction between alternating currents and direct currents and cause no phase shift between the alternating current variations and the alternating voltage variations.

## Resistor uses

As transistors have become popular as the controlling device in electronic circuits, the current limiting characteristic of resistors has become important. The controlling factor in a transistor's operation is the base current and the circuit must include a device to limit that current. A basic transistor circuit has a resistor,  $R_b$ , in series with supply voltage  $V_{bb}$ , and the base-emitter junction (Fig. 1). Since the forward biased base-

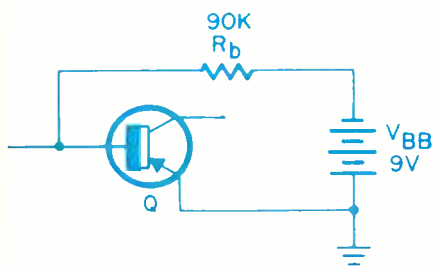


FIG. 1—TRANSISTOR BIAS RESISTOR ( $R_b$ ) holds base current to safe limits.

emitter junction has a very low resistance the normal 9V supply,  $V_{bb}$ , would cause a 250-mA base current if resistor  $R_b$  were not used. Such a base current would be excessive. With resistor  $R_b$ , about 90,000 ohms, in series with the supply voltage, base current is limited to an acceptable 0.1 mA.

Vacuum-tube heaters are often connected in series, directly across the 117-volt ac source. However, a circuit, that has eight tubes, each rated at 12.6 volts, should be fed only 100.8 volts (12.6 x 8). Thus, there is an extra 16.2 volts to be consumed by some other means. Fig. 2 shows resistor  $R_1$  used as a voltage



FIG. 2—LINE-DROPPING RESISTOR ( $R_1$ ) prevents heater-string overvoltage.

dropping device to reduce the 117 volts to the required 100.8 volts.

A third use of resistors is in voltage dividers. In parallel with a voltage source, the battery in Fig. 3, two resist-

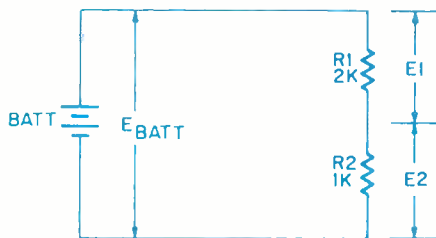


FIG. 3—VOLTAGE DROPS are in direct proportion to ratio of the resistances.

tors divide that voltage in direct proportion to the resistor values. That is; if  $R_1$  in Fig. 3 is 2000 ohms and  $R_2$  is 1000 ohms, the voltage across  $R_1$  is twice that across  $R_2$ .

$$E_1/E_2 = R_1/R_2$$

where  $E_1$  is the voltage across  $R_1$

$E_2$  is the voltage across  $R_2$

$$\text{and } E_1 + E_2 = E_{BATT}$$

where  $E_{BATT}$  is the total voltage of the battery.

In the early days of electronics, vacuum tube circuits were powered by

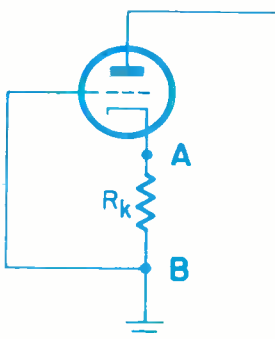


FIG. 4—CATHODE BIAS RESISTOR makes cathode more positive than grid.

three batteries—the A battery, the B battery, and the C battery. The C battery was a biasing battery that kept the tube's grid negative with respect to the filament. With progress the grid was placed at ground or zero potential and a resistor used between the cathode and ground potential (Fig. 4). Then with the normal movement of electrons from the plate through the voltage supply, cathode resistor  $R_k$ , and back to the cathode; the lower end of  $R_k$  (point B) is negative with respect to its upper end at point A. Since point B is the same as the grid; the grid is negative with respect to the cathode at point A and it is unnecessary to use the bias battery.

Another vacuum tube circuit permits the grid to become positive for brief intervals of time and to draw electrons. Found in class-C rf amplifier circuits, the positive grid draws current through the grid-leak resistor ( $R_{gl}$  in Fig. 5) and develops a bias voltage.

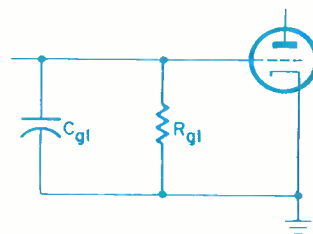


FIG. 5—GRID-LEAK BIAS. Positive drive pulses develop negative grid bias.

With gridleak capacitor  $C_{gl}$  becoming charged to a similar voltage value and then tending to discharge through resistor  $R_{gl}$ , this bias voltage remains comparatively constant.

During operation capacitors  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  of a power supply filter, Fig. 6, are

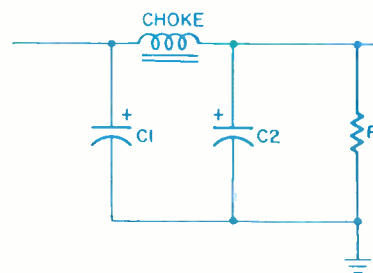
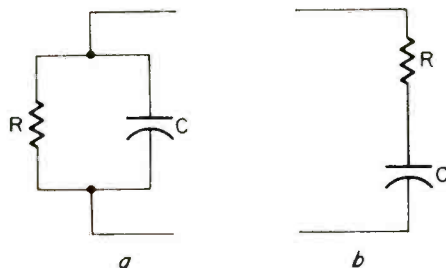


FIG. 6—BLEEDER RESISTOR ( $R$ ) stabilizes voltage and discharges  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ .

charged to a value that equals the output voltage. In most transistor equipment and home radio receivers that capacitor charge is not large enough to be very dangerous but similar circuits in television receivers and in transmitting

equipment can produce a fatal shock, even after the equipment has been turned off. This possibility is eliminated by placing resistor R (a high value) across filter capacitors C1 and C2.

The energy stored or accumulated within a capacitor or an inductor charging or discharging through a resistor can be used to measure time. In the circuit of Fig. 7-a any charge on capacitor C discharges through resistor R at a decreasing rate. After a time  $t$  equal to  $R \times C$  seconds the charge remaining on capacitor C equals 37% of its original level. Therefore; if one end of Fig. 7-a is



**FIG. 7—R-C TIMING CIRCUITS.** Parallel circuit (a) charges and series circuit (b) discharges to 63% in  $R \times C$  seconds.

connected to the grid of a vacuum tube and is negative enough to cut off the plate current, after time  $t$  or  $R \times C$  seconds the decreased charge on capacitor C can permit anode current to flow again. In this manner the R-C combination establishes the time during which the plate current is off. On the other hand, the voltage across capacitor C equals 63% of that voltage applied to the resistor and capacitor series combination (Fig. 7-b) after a period of time equal to  $R \times C$  seconds.

### Power dissipation

In mechanical terms power is defined as the rate at which energy or work is expended—ergs per second, joules per second, or watts.

$$\text{Power, } P = W/t$$

where  $W$  is the energy expended in  $t$  seconds. Work  $W$  also equals the product of force  $f$  and the distance  $s$  through which that force acts. Substituting known and absolute electrostatic values of force alters the power equation to:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Power, } P &= EI \\ &= I^2R \\ &= E^2/R \end{aligned}$$

where  $E$  is the voltage  
 $I$  is the current  
 $R$  is the resistance

Resistance is analogous to mechanical friction. And friction has the effect of adding mass to the object being moved. Overcoming friction, as in rubbing two sticks together, produces heat. Resistance is the same as friction to the movement of electrons. So the movement of electrons, a current, through a resistor also develops heat. Current through a resistor expends a major portion of its energy in overcoming the "friction." Just as rubbing of sticks can start a fire, heat produced within a resistor can burn that resistor and break

the current path. Of course, if the stick rubbing occurs over a great length of the stick's surface, the heat dissipates or leaves the stick before it can get hot enough to burn. Similarly, if the resistor has enough surface to dissipate the heat rapidly enough, the resistor will not burn.

Since both the dissipating surface area of a resistor and its resistance value are related to the length and the cross-sectional area, there must be a correlation between these dimensions. A resistor that has a cross-sectional area of one unit and a length of ten units that can dissipate 1.0 watt could dissipate 2.0 watts if either the length or the cross-section area is doubled. But if we double the cross-section the resistance drops to 1/2 of its original value. Inversely, the resistance value doubles if the length is doubled. We can double a resistor's dissipation by increasing both the cross-sectional area and the length by a factor of 1.414. Resistance and power dissipation depend on the resistor's physical dimensions.

Although normally operating electronic circuits are seldom thought to have surges of current, nearly all circuits are subjected to some surge currents. Most surge currents exist only until the various components become fully effective. For example; before a counter voltage is developed across the load impedance and biasing voltages are produced, the plate current of a vacuum tube circuit can be quite large. In other situations, component failures or high voltages can produce surge currents. It is common to multiply the expected power dissipation of a resistor by a *safety-factor*. A 10,000-ohm resistor carrying 10.0 mA, would be expected to dissipate 1.0 watt (10,000 x 0.0001). But with a safety-factor of 2 the resistor should be rated at 2 watts or better. Commonly a safety-factor of 2 is considered adequate; however, safety-factors may be as great as 5. Naturally a safety-factor of 5 is not going to be used if it will increase the cost of an electronic gadget from \$10 to \$12 or if its size would be substantially changed.

Although the voltages used with vacuum tube circuits are considerably larger than those used in transistor circuits the currents are rather small in either. In tube type voltage amplifiers the largest current, the cathode current, seldom exceeds 10 mA. Therefore, a resistor of 10,000 ohms would produce a dissipation of 1.0 watt ( $I^2R = 0.010^2 \times 10,000$ ). But closer to a practical value would be a cathode current of 5.0 mA and an expected dissipation of 1/4 watt. Transistor voltage-amplifier circuits commonly have collector and emitter currents of about 1.0 mA so resistors as large as 250,000 ohms have expected dissipations of only 1/4 watt.

Oscillators are designed as power amplifiers with outputs of 1 or 2 watts and transistor versions use resistors primarily as voltage dividers with expected dissipations of 1.0 watt. The currents found in pulse generator circuits are similar to those in voltage amplifiers while pulse amplifiers have currents much like power amplifiers. Switching circuits

are not often encountered by the average person but their currents can be quite large and require resistor dissipations of 10 watts or better.

In rectifier power supplies the resistors serve primarily as 'bleeders' carrying about 1/10 of the maximum output current. Dissipations required by bleeder resistors in some larger pieces of electronic equipment may be 5, 10, or even 50 watts. Bleeder resistors in the power supply section of broadcast transmitters have dissipation ratings up to 1000 watts or better.

### Resistor values

Just as clothing is made in only certain sizes, resistors are available only in specific values. Resistors are manufactured in the wide range of values shown in Table 1. In designing electronic circuits, resistor values are chosen from lists like that given in Table 1. If design calculations indicate that a resistor should be 6000 ohms the designer would choose either the 5600-ohm value or the 6200-ohm value. The choice must be based upon the effect that an increase or a decrease in resistance might have on other components or on the overall op-

TABLE 1  
RESISTOR VALUES

Ohms	Ohms	Ohms	Ohms
0.24	24	2400	240k
0.27	27	2700	270k
0.30	30	3000	300k
0.33	33	3300	330k
0.36	36	3600	360k
0.39	39	3900	390k
0.43	43	4300	430k
0.47	47	4700	470k
0.51	51	5100	510k
0.56	56	5600	560k
0.62	62	6200	620k
0.68	68	6800	680k
0.75	75	7500	750k
0.82	82	8200	820k
0.91	91	9100	910k
1.00	100	10k	1meg
1.1	110	11k	1.1meg
1.2	120	12k	1.2meg
1.3	130	13k	1.3meg
1.5	150	15k	1.5meg
1.6	160	16k	1.6meg
1.8	180	18k	1.8meg
2.0	200	20k	2.0meg
2.2	220	22k	2.2meg
2.4	240	24k	2.4meg
2.7	270	27k	2.7meg
3.0	300	30k	3.0meg
3.3	330	33k	3.3meg
3.6	360	36k	3.6meg
3.9	390	39k	3.9meg
4.3	430	43k	4.3meg
4.7	470	47k	4.7meg
5.1	510	51k	5.1meg
5.6	560	56k	5.6meg
6.2	620	62k	6.2meg
6.8	680	68k	6.8meg
7.5	750	75k	7.5meg
8.2	820	82k	8.2meg
9.1	910	91k	9.1meg
10.0	1000	100k	10meg
11	1100	110k	11meg
12	1200	120k	12meg
13	1300	130k	13meg
15	1500	150k	15meg
16	1600	160k	16meg
18	1800	180k	18meg
20	2000	200k	20meg
22	2200	220k	22meg

eration of the circuit. In many instances the choice becomes a matter of experimenting to determine which value gives greater amplification or less distortion; which value gives the largest output or the poorest efficiency, etc.

Resistors are manufactured to different tolerances. The actual or true value of a resistor is within a given percentage, or *tolerance*, of the value indicated on the unit. Common composition (carbon) resistors are manufactured to a 5% or 10% tolerance. A 6200-ohm resistor with a 10% tolerance may have a true value anywhere between 6820 ohms (10% above) and 5580 ohms (10% below). There are resistors that are manufactured to very close tolerances—within 1% or less—but they cost more. Most electronic circuits function well with 10% resistors.

As a matter of quicker and simpler identification of resistors and their values a system of color coding has been devised as shown in Fig. 8.

### Resistor types

There are two basic types of resistors—fixed and variable. Fixed resistors have only one value and are further classified with regard to material and construction. The most common and least expensive fixed resistor is the carbon resistor. Actually the resistance ma-

terial of these so-called 'carbon' resistors is a composition of different materials that has a higher resistivity than ordinary carbon or graphite. Fig. 9 shows

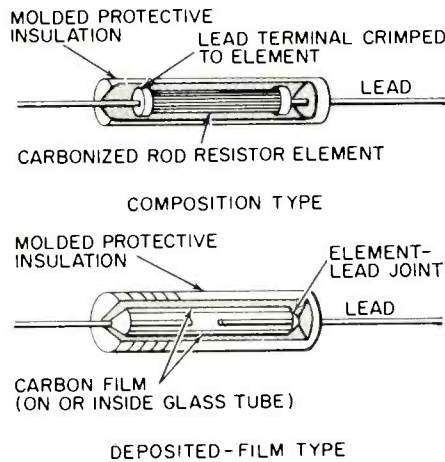


FIG. 9—CARBON RESISTORS. Composition and deposited-film types.

the construction of a modern 'carbon' resistor. The ratings of 'carbon' resistors range from 1/4 to 2 watts and from a few ohms to a few megohms.

Fig. 10 shows the basic construction of two types of fixed wire-wound resistors. They are made by winding a length of

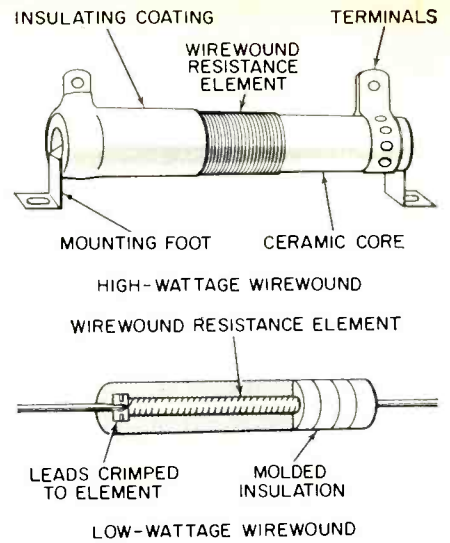


FIG. 10—WIREWOUND RESISTORS. Heat dissipation requires good air flow.

resistance wire onto a round porcelain form. Metal pieces are built into that porcelain form to serve as terminals. After winding the resistance wire onto that porcelain form an enamel containing powdered glass is baked on the unit to produce its vitreous enamel coating. Giving good mechanical protection and good heat dissipation this vitreous enamel is very smooth and usually brown in color.

Some small wattage wire-wound resistors are coated with a ceramic material (the same ceramic material being used for the core). An adjustable or fixed third terminal is sometimes provided on wire-wound resistors. With large dissipation ratings of up to 200 watts and resistance values from 1.0 to 100,000 ohms; wire-wound resistors serve as cathode resistors, voltage dividers in transistor power amplifiers, and bleeder resistors in rectifying power supplies. Ceramic wire-wound resistors, with their ratings printed on the grayish white colored body, have better insulation for high-voltage uses.

Precision resistors with tolerances within 1% of the value indicated on the unit are often *metalized* types. The resistive material is actually a film of metal or carbon deposited on a glass or other insulating core. Since this film is deposited by either electrolysis or spraying the thickness and resulting resistance can be very accurately controlled. Metalized type resistors usually look like carbon resistors and are often color coded in a similar way. However, these 'precision' metalized resistors (Fig. 9) cost 4 to 10 times more than 'carbon' resistors and are not used except where this precision is a must.

Just as it isn't practical to operate an automobile at a constant speed, it is not always practical to operate some electronic equipment at constant levels. Often it is desirable to change sound volume, television picture brightness, amplifier gain, etc. Variable resistors (potentiometers) are used to make such adjustments. Some adjustable resistors have wire-wound elements like those shown in Fig. 11. Others have com-

RESISTOR COLOR CODES			
COLOR	DIGIT	MULTIPLIER	TOLERANCE
BLACK	0	1	±20%
BROWN	1	10	±1%
RED	2	100	±2%
ORANGE	3	1000	±3%*
YELLOW	4	10000	GMV*
GREEN	5	100000	±5% (EIA alternate)
BLUE	6	1000000	±6%*
VIOLET	7	10000000	±12-1/2%*
GRAY	8	.01 (EIA alternate)	±30%*
WHITE	9	.1 (EIA alternate)	±10% (EIA alternate)
GOLD		.1 (JAN and EIA preferred)	±5% (JAN and EIA preferred)
SILVER		.01 (JAN and EIA preferred)	±10% (JAN and EIA preferred)
NO COLOR			±20%

\* GMV = guaranteed minimum value, or -0 + 100% tolerance.  
 ±3, 6, 12-1/2, and 30% are ASA 40, 20, 10, and 5 step tolerances.

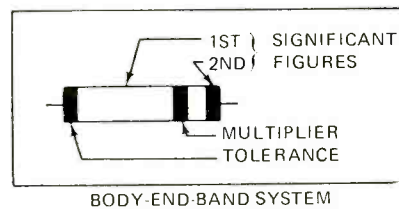
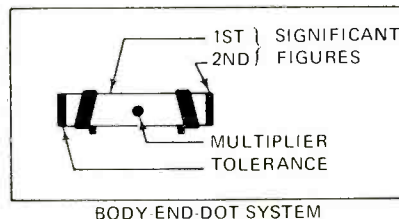
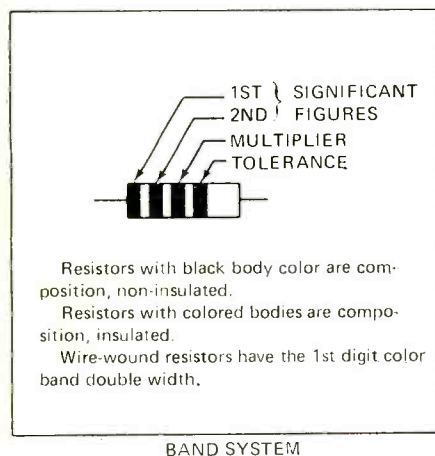
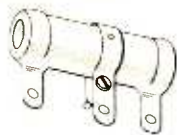
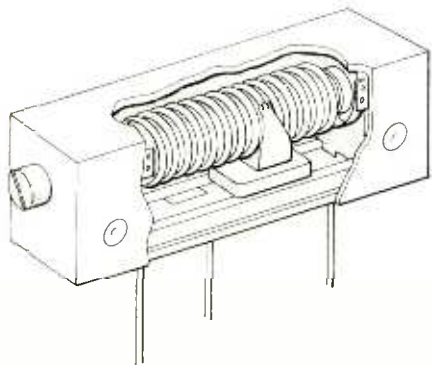


FIG. 8—RESISTOR COLOR CODING. Colored bands indicate value and tolerance.



HIGH-WATTAGE  
WIREWOUND  
ADJUSTABLE

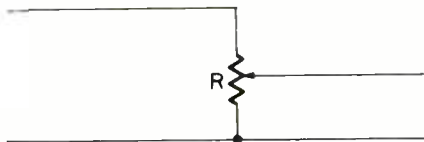


WIREWOUND  
TRIMMER  
POT

**FIG. 11—ADJUSTABLE WIREWOUNDS.**  
The trimmer is for PC board mounting.

position (carbon) elements. Doughnut shaped cores are used in wire-wound variable resistors. A circular groove in a bakelite base is used to form the composition type element. A variable contact rotates with an arm extended from a center shaft.

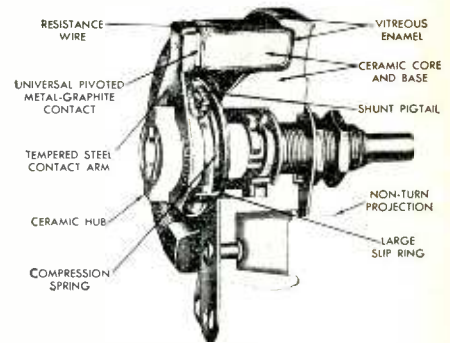
Most variable resistors are mounted with a nut on the threaded bushing surrounding the shaft. Variable resistors vary in size from 1.0 to 8 inches in



**FIG. 12—CARBON POTENTIOMETER** for most controls on hi-fi and TV sets.

diameter and up to 2 inches or better in thickness. With resistance values of from less than 1.0 ohm to several megohms, power dissipations extend from less than 1.0 watt to 500 watts.

In radios and sound equipment variable resistors are used primarily as voltage dividers (Fig. 12) to control volume, or as variable resistances to alter the gain or frequency response of an amplifier. In television receivers variable resistors are also used to control contrast, brightness, horizontal and vertical hold, linearity, hue, etc. (Fig. 13). Since most of these uses are in circuits with comparatively small current the composition



**FIG. 13—WIREWOUND POT or rheostat,** generally used for power control.

type is the most popular. However, to control individual loudspeakers the currents and the power dissipations exceed the limits of the composition variable resistors and wire-wound units must be used. Often these are ganged to make "L" and "T" pads. **R-E**

## Grid-Dip Meter Extension

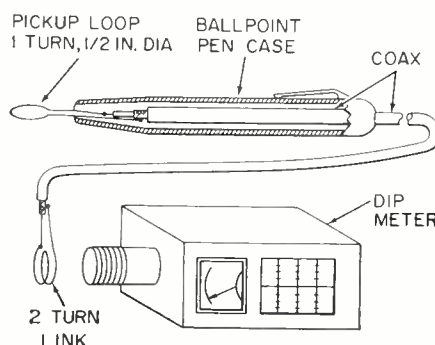
*Use an old ball-point pen to make a handy accessory to your grid-dip meter*

by W. P. TURNER

A grid dipper is a great piece of test equipment and should be available wherever rf equipment is to be designed, constructed, or serviced.

Probably the one most inconvenient feature of all grid-dip meters is its physical size. This holds true for the two-unit commercial models as well as the more common self-contained types. It is not so much that they are large but rather that the head will not always fit into the nooks and crannies which seem to be designed into most equipment. At lower frequencies the coil assembly is usually long enough to reach to within shouting distance of the desired circuit but as the frequency is increased the dipper coil shrinks to perhaps an inch protruding from the case. Try getting this even near a circuit buried 2 or 3 inches deep in a chassis and you will fully appreciate the magnitude of the problem.

There is a way of relieving the difficulty which requires neither a great deal of time or expense. It is only necessary to use some of the basic theory which each of us was required to know in order to get a ham license. Required are perhaps a 3-ft length of small coax (RG-174/U, 0.1" diameter), 6 inches of hookup wire and a ballpoint pen casing. The



innards of the pen are removed and the business end reamed slightly to accept the ends of a 1/2 inch diameter one-turn link of hookup wire. Inside the barrel of the pen the ends are soldered to the coax, insulated, and cemented in place. The remaining wire is formed into a 2 turn link which fits snugly on the coil form of your grid dipper. This link is soldered to the opposite end of the coax and secured. Shrinkable tubing is perfect to cover the joint.

The next time can't get the dipper's coil close to the circuit you want to check fear not. Merely slip the link over the coil form, place your probe so as to allow coupling into the desired circuit and proceed as usual. The only difference will be a more or less fixed load on the oscillator which doesn't effect its ability to indicate resonance. Best results are obtained with minimum coupling. **R-E**

# Sweep Alignment Speeds Troubleshooting

To fix FM or AM radios fast use sweep alignment.  
R-E's service editor shows how to do it right

by JACK DARR  
SERVICE EDITOR

THIS IS THE FIRST OF SEVERAL plain-language articles about all kinds of circuit alignment. In all except the most basic radio receivers, there are a number of circuits that must be tuned to precise frequencies. Since it is virtually impossible to construct tuned circuits that have exactly the desired amount of capacitance and inductance and, since tubes and transistors may add different amounts of stray inductance and capacitance, trimmer capacitors and variable inductances are used to compensate for small differences in the characteristics of each tuned circuit.

The process of adjusting the circuits to precise frequencies is called *alignment*. The results of alignment is a *response curve* that shows how the output of a circuit(s) varies with frequency.

The simplest curve is the bell-shaped response of a single tuned circuit or of a number of circuits tuned to the same frequency; as in the i.f.'s of an AM or FM receiver. The i.f. stages in a TV set often consist of a number of cascaded circuits, individually tuned to provide equal output over a band of frequencies while attenuating some adjacent frequencies by specific amounts. Not all response curves are bell-shaped. A discriminator used for FM audio detection is aligned to produce a symmetrical "S" while a discriminator in afc and aft circuits has a distorted-S response when correctly aligned. Some of the more common types of response curves are shown at the top of this page.

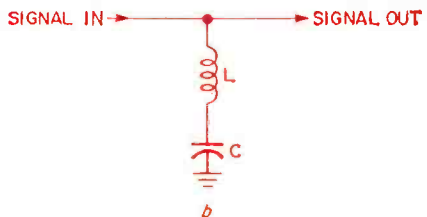
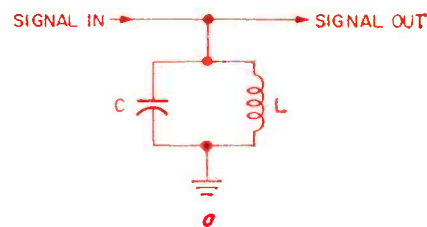
Alignment is simple. You don't have to know how a resonant (tuned) circuit works as long as you know how it *reacts*. (It helps to know how it works, of course.) But, if you know how these circuits react when they are working, and what they do when they're *not* working, you can test, repair and align them.

The "fault symptoms" are easy to recognize, with the proper tests. It is really as easy as ABC. So, let's begin, as usual, with

**A** Alignment involves *tuned circuits*. So, let's see how tuned circuits work. Each consists of inductance and capacitance. They're all resonant at *one* frequency. Even if you see only a coil, the capacitance is still

there; it's the capacitance between turns of the coil. Capacitors, too, will resonate with their own lead-inductance.

Figure 1-a shows a tuned circuit with a capacitor and inductor connected *in parallel* across a signal source. This is a *parallel resonant* circuit. If we feed in a band of frequencies only the resonant frequency will be passed at full amplitude; signals above and below resonance will be attenuated or removed entirely. In Fig. 1-b we have a *series-resonant* cir-

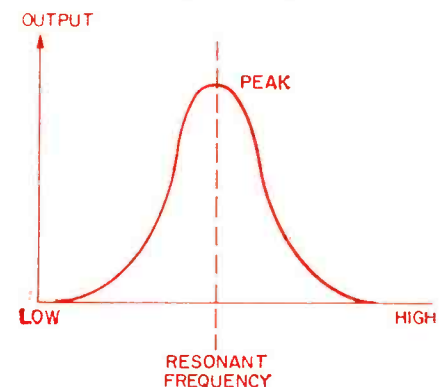


**FIG. 1-a—PARALLEL-RESONANT CIRCUIT passes the resonant frequency. b—SERIES-RESONANT CIRCUIT traps the resonant frequency.**

cuit—inductance and capacitance *in series* across the signal source. When this circuit is used in this manner, it *attenuates signals at its resonant frequency* and passes all others. The characteristics of series-resonant and parallel-resonant circuits are interchanged when they are inserted in *series* with the signal path. Now, a series-resonant circuit passes a signal at its resonant frequency and rejects all others; while a parallel-resonant circuit becomes a "trap", rejecting a signal at its frequency and passing all others. Thus, resonant circuits can be used alone, or in combination, to give us what we need—*selectivity*.

**B** That's how it works. Now, how can we *tell* if it's working properly? The easiest way is to feed in a signal at the resonant fre-

quency, then vary this signal above and below resonance. If we put a detector on the output, so that we can read the output signal voltage, we will get something that could be plotted on paper, and come out looking like Fig. 2. This is a



**FIG. 2—WAVEFORM AT OUTPUT of resonant circuit when a sweep-frequency signal is applied to its input.**

response curve. Below the right frequency, the signal is cut off; above the right frequency, it's cut off. Right at the *peak* frequency, it is amplified.

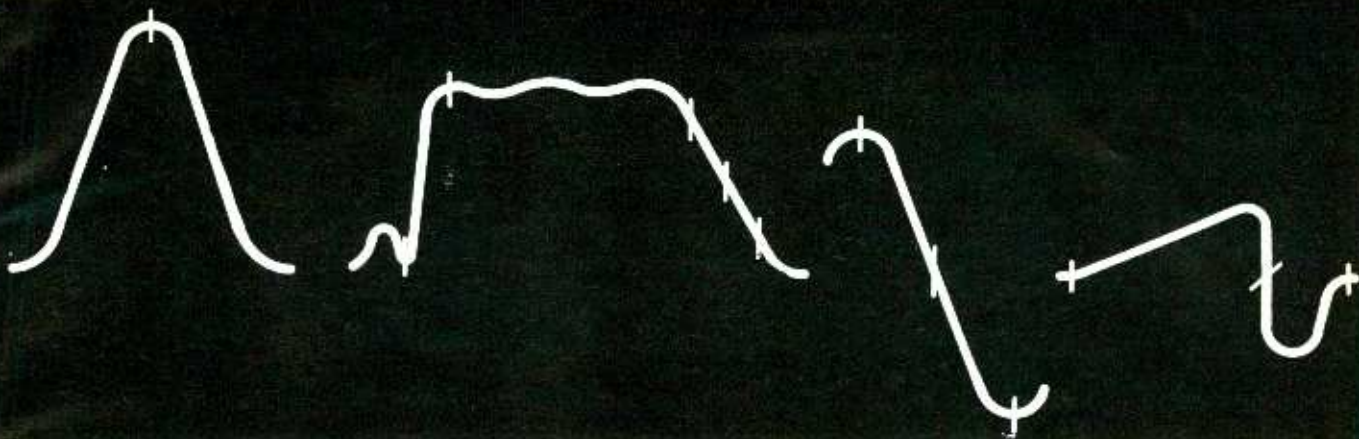
Now, here we go for the most important fact in 'B'. All circuits have a bell-shaped response curve like this (! If they don't, they're *not* working. This is called a *peak*; sometimes used as a noun, sometimes as a verb, but it means the bell-shaped curve is there when you sweep a resonant circuit.

Variations: If the circuit is fixed, and we vary the applied frequency, we get a bell-shaped curve. If we leave the frequency fixed, and vary the size of either the coil or capacitor, we get the same thing.

Remember this, the most important thing about it—this represents the *amplitude* of the output when the input signal frequency is varied back and forth *across* the resonant frequency. In other words, this is an "amplitude vs frequency" curve, and it shows a peak with a rounded top.

**C** Now, how do we get curves like this? More important, what good is it? How can we use it, in testing? This is where we get down to the real nitty-gritty!



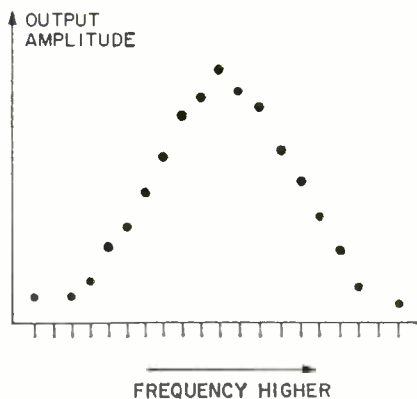


### Peaking or Sweeping

There are two ways of aligning a tuned circuit. One is by feeding in a signal, at the proper resonant frequency, and then tuning all coils or capacitors for *maximum* output. We connect an output indicator across the output of the circuit(s), and simply tune all adjustments for a peak. This is called *peaking*.

After you finish, you can draw the bell-shaped curve, if you want to. Just tune the signal generator below the resonant frequency until the output has fallen to zero. Now, start back up, moving the signal-generator dial say 1.0 kHz at a time. Log the amplitude of the output on a piece of graph paper. When you finish, you'll have something that looks like Fig. 3.

When you connect up all of the dots, you'll have the bell-shaped curve. Although you can't see it (yet) the design of the circuits will be such that simply peaking each adjustment will give you the right curve. This is actually done in radio receiver i.f. stages, and similar uses. Single-frequency alignment, like this is called peaking, because you simply adjust each stage for maximum



**FIG. 3—HOW TO DRAW A SWEEP CURVE using the conventional, non-sweep, signal generator you have on your bench.**

or peak response.

There's another way. If we feed in a signal which is being *varied* or swept back and forth across the resonant frequency, we can connect the output to a scope so that we can actually *see* the curve. The input to the resonant circuit is an FM signal, and the process is called sweeping the signal, because it sweeps back and forth across the the de-

sired frequency. More (MUCH more!) on this in just a minute. Let's finish up peaking methods first.

### AM radio alignment

To start with the simplest alignment of all, peaking the i.f.'s of an AM radio, all we need is a single-frequency rf signal generator, and the output indicator. If we use an AM-modulated rf signal, we can connect an ac voltmeter across the speaker voice coil and read the demodulated AM signal, or use the Well-Calibrated Ear to judge the loudness of the modulation heard from the speaker. A dc vtvm connected to the avc bus reads the avc voltage developed by the detector. This dc voltage is directly proportional to the amount of rf signal applied to the detector.

AM radios have only two sections to align; the fixed-frequency i.f. stages (Fig. 4) and the variable-tuned "front end"; meaning the rf, oscillator and mixer. The i.f. must be aligned first.

### I.f. alignment

The first step is to disable the oscillator by shorting the stator of the os-  
(continued on page 68)

## WARNING!

At this point, let's stop to get in a very important thing. never Never NEVER NEVER Try to make alignment adjustments on a DEAD set!! You must be able to get a signal through it first. This applies to ALL types of electronic equipment.

Remember this; if a set has been working, and suddenly quit, you have a bad part somewhere, NOT an alignment problem! They do not suddenly "jump" out of alignment, all by themselves. Find the bad part, replace it, then make sure that you can get a signal through to the output *before* you try any alignment adjustments. You can use your alignment equipment to make signal-tracing tests; the signal generator is a handy way of finding out how far the signal is getting through the circuits.

In a lot of cases, you'll find sets which have been, quite literally, "screwed up" by previous

"technicians" (???) They failed to find the real trouble, then got out their little screwdrivers and started turning everything in sight. Result, a set which now is so badly out of alignment that a signal can't get through!

When this happens, you begin by fixing the trouble. Then, start with the last tuned stage, for example the last i.f. transformer in a radio. Put an output indicator on it, although you can use a modulated signal and simply listen, for the time being. Get the last stage tuned up, roughly, then move the signal generator to the input of the stage ahead of it; tune this up, and keep on until you reach the antenna. After this, you can hook up an output indicator, and align all of the circuits for the proper overall response. This method applies to any type of electronic equipment using tuned circuits: radio, TV, etc.

In fact, I firmly believe that a minimum of 80% of the alignment work you will have to do will be from this cause! I have run into hundreds of them, some so badly off that they had no output at all. In these, you'd find things like trimmer capacitors screwed down so tightly that it was almost impossible to turn them. Someone had "found all of them little screws loose, and tightened 'em up!"

I have, on several occasions, checked TV sets that were ten and even fifteen years old, which I knew from personal experience had not been tampered with; checking the alignment of these sets showed that they were still practically perfect! Because of the design and construction of TV i.f.'s, etc, they seldom "get out of alignment" all by themselves. They have help! So, make sure the set is in good working order *before* realigning it.



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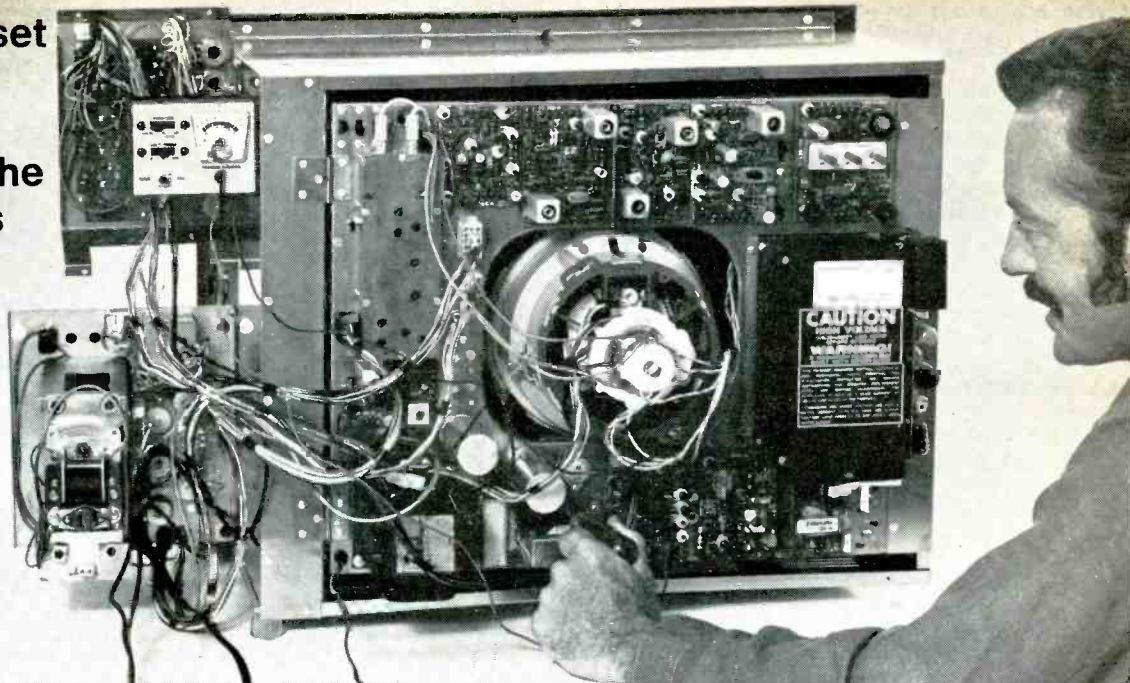
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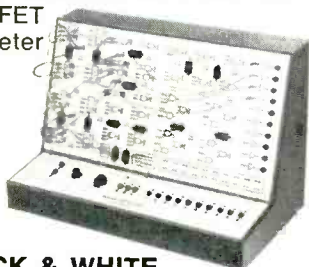
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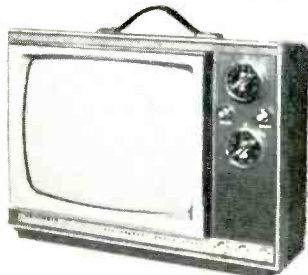
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**SWEEP ALIGNMENT**  
(continued from page 63)

cillator section of tuning gang to ground. Smaller radios usually have so little front-end selectivity that the i.f. signal can be fed directly to the antenna! It will get through to the mixer, and on through the i.f. stages. If it won't, couple the rf signal generator loosely to the mixer stage. Ordinarily, it will get through if the end of the signal-generator output cable is clipped to something close to the mixer input. You can hear the 400-Hz modulation in the speaker, and tell whether you're getting through or not.

After this, hook up the output indicator, and you're ready to go. Set the signal generator to the correct intermediate frequency. In most sets, this will probably be about 455 kHz, many car radios have the i.f. around 262 kHz. (Incidentally, car radios have excellent front-end selectivity and you'll have to feed your signal to the mixer!) To be sure, check the schematic diagram. This will usually show the i.f. used.

Adjust the rf output of the signal generator to show a *small* reading on the output indicator. Using too much signal input will cause the avc to reduce the gain, and this will actually flatten the normal peaks. If your meter-reading goes too high while tuning the i.f. stages, reduce the rf output of the signal generator; don't switch to a higher meter scale. This way, you will be sure that you're getting the sharpest peak in the tuning.

But, what if it doesn't peak?

Now, we come to the most important fault-reaction of all. As I said, this works in **all** tuned stages. Let's assume that we have three i.f. transformers,

each one double-tuned (both primary and secondary are tunable). When we tune up the first and third transformers, our reading rises to a peak, and drops off on either side. These transformers are good. They will "peak" (verb).

But! when we turn the secondary adjustment of the second i.f. transformer, it shows a peak; the primary adjustment doesn't. No matter where we turn the trimmer screw, the meter reading doesn't change. **Now** we've found something! This transformer is "flat", no peak. This shows that something is *wrong*.

Right at the moment, we don't know exactly *what*, but we do know that this transformer is *defective*. The resonating capacitor may be shorted or leaking; the winding may have corroded and developed a "high-resistance joint" (puts high resistance in series with the winding). It is not *open*, for if it were, we wouldn't get any signal through the transformer. An ohmmeter check of the bad winding will often show up the type of trouble. Zero resistance indicates a shorted resonating capacitor.

Next, make sure the B+ and avc bypass capacitors are ok. Check by bridging with a good one; if this clears up the trouble, the capacitor's open and must be replaced. If the bypass capacitors are ok, replace the transformer. After this, recheck the alignment. If the primary now shows a normal peak, fine!

**Oscillation when peaked**

There is one other fairly common trouble which shows up during alignment, but is not necessarily due to defective transformers, etc. Quite the opposite, in fact. The symptom of this is unmistakable: all transformers will peak, but when you reach the peak read-

ing on the meter, it suddenly jumps to a very high value; the meter often slams off-scale. *Detuning* the tuning adjustment will bring it back on-scale.

This is due to lack of bypassing at the "bottom" (B+ and avc ends) of the tuned circuits! The tuned stages are going into oscillation. They are actually *generating* a signal! This comes on through the last stages and shows up as a very high meter reading. The cause of this, as in any oscillation, is *feedback*. If the bypass or filter capacitors are open, some signal appears on to the dc supply lines, avc, etc. This signal gets into other stages, and causes oscillation.

Oscillation starts because your signal level is highest when the stages are peaked. When they are detuned, the signal is not great enough to cause the feedback. So, you can detune one stage, reducing the signal level, and get the signal on through; however, you'll find that none of them can actually be peaked as they should.

Cure: check filters and bypass capacitors by bridging. You'll find one or more that will make the oscillation stop. When you do, replace it. (In many small ac/dc tube radios, the output electrolytic filter capacitor serves as a "bypass" for all tuned stages. So, if this goes down in capacitance, the set will oscillate. Replace both filter capacitors.)

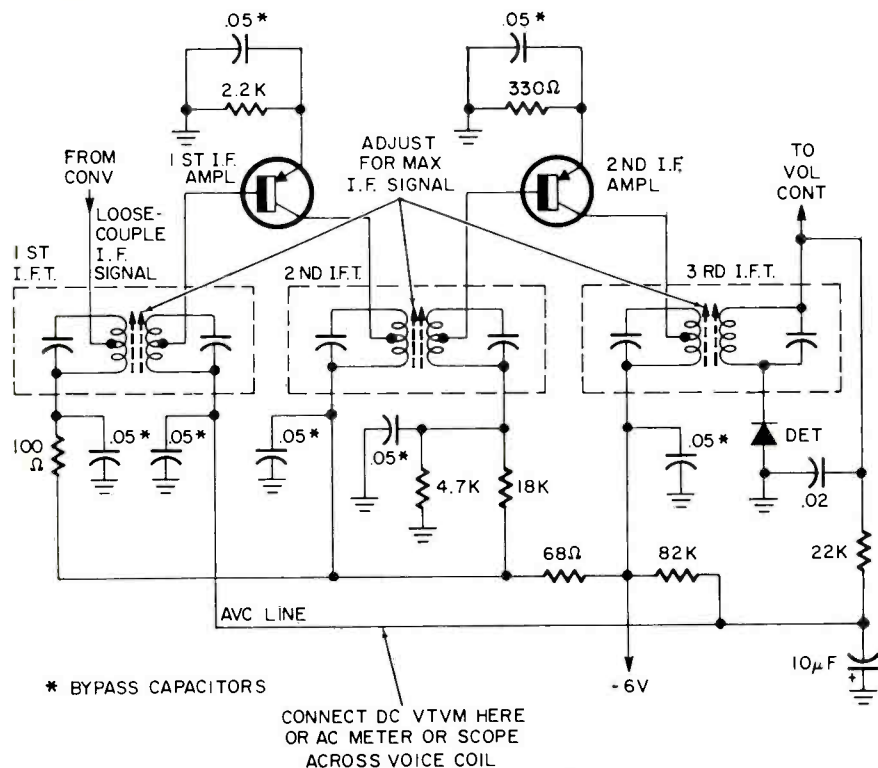
**Remember**, if you find a circuit that is supposed to peak, but won't, you've found the trouble. It does not matter whether this is a simple radio i.f., a TV i.f. transformer, a color bandpass transformer—any of them. Any tunable circuit which will **not** peak isn't working!

**AM radio front-end alignment**

After we've got the i.f.'s all tuned up, all there is left to do is align the front end. This includes the mixer, oscillator and rf stage, if any. (Scarce in small transistor portables; always used in car radios.) There are two types of adjustment made here. One is the same old peaking we've just done, and the other is similar, but for a different purpose. *Remove the oscillator shorting clip lead.*

The local oscillator of the radio must be set so the frequency of the stations tuned in matches the figures on the dial. When the pointer says "1,000 kHz", that's what you get. The converter or mixer input and the input to the rf amplifier (if any) must be tuned to the frequency of the desired station while the oscillator is (usually) tuned to a frequency equal to the desired signal *plus* the intermediate frequency. When tuning across any band, the tuned circuits must be adjusted to maintain a *constant difference* in frequency (equal to the i.f.) between the oscillator and other circuits. Since the oscillator tuning must *track* with the tuning of the mixer and antenna circuits, adjustment of these circuits is called *tracking*.

Tracking is a 3-step process. First, run the dial pointer all the way up and down the dial. At the low end, make sure that it stops exactly on the calibration  
(continued on page 82)



**FIG. 4—TYPICAL AM RADIOS** have two sections to align: fixed-frequency i.f. stages and variable-tuned front end.

# IC Power Supplies

## dual outputs with $\mu A723$ 's

Two more regulated-output supplies. These have dual outputs delivering positive and negative voltages

by WALTER G. JUNG

HERE IS THE FINAL SECTION OF OUR discussion of IC power supplies. It is completely concerned with dual-output supplies. Two circuits you can use are presented.

Now suppose we had a regulator that was the mirror image of our positive regulator. We could regulate negative leg voltages in the same manner as we've done for the positive voltage.

The big advantage to taking this approach is that it allows us to use a single transformer in a center-tapped bridge hookup, thereby saving a complete power transformer in some applications (see Fig. 1). We can make the negative regulator quite simple by slaving its output to the positive supply, forcing it to be equal and opposite. This means the negative output voltage will always be equal and *opposite* to the positive voltage. So by adjusting the positive potential we will be adjusting the negative one also, as it *tracks* the positive.

To see how this is done turn to Fig. 2, a dual ( $\pm$ ) 12-volt supply with a 100-mA output from both sides.

In understanding this regulator, it might be well to think a moment of what is desired of this negative voltage supply. We already have a good positive

12-volt supply using the  $\mu A723$ . This is the upper portion, basically the same as Fig. 1, page 49 of the July issue. What we would like is a negative voltage that is the mirror image of this one, or  $-12$  volts.

If we had a dc power amplifier which could supply a lot of current, we could feed it the  $+12$  volts and get out  $-12$  volts, couldn't we, the  $-12$  volts being supplied from an unregulated minus voltage. Well, what we have boils down to just about that. The  $\mu A709$  IC and pnp emitter follower Q1 form the power amplifier, and the  $+12$ -volt line is used as a signal input to the  $\mu A709$ . Recalling our illustration of a feedback amplifier (see *Radio-Electronics*, June, 1971, page 58), we recognize R4 as  $R_{in}$  and R5 as  $R_f$ . This is an inverting amplifier with

$$\text{a dc gain of } -1 \text{ as } \frac{R_f}{R_{in}} = \frac{10,000}{10,000} = 1$$

It regulates the  $-12$ -volt output by exactly reproducing the  $+12$ -volt output inverted. The unregulated input changes and ripple appearing across C5 (the negative supply's unregulated input) do not appear on the output because of the degeneration inherent to the IC and the extremely low output impedance provided by the 100% negative feedback.

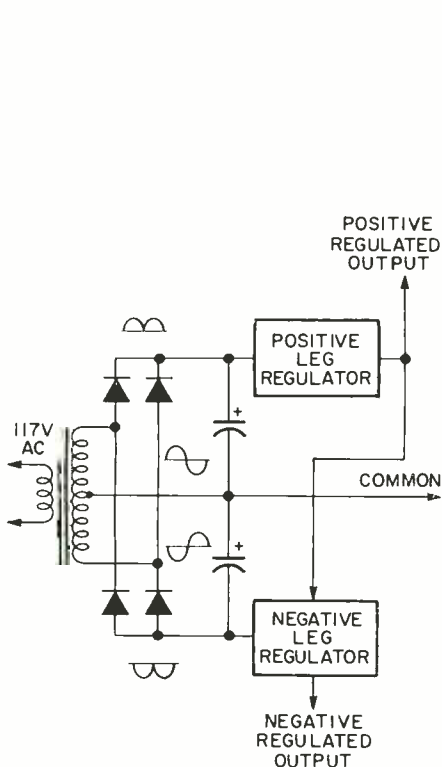


FIG. 1—DUAL-OUTPUT CIRCUITS take advantage of center-tapped power transformers. Both outputs track precisely.

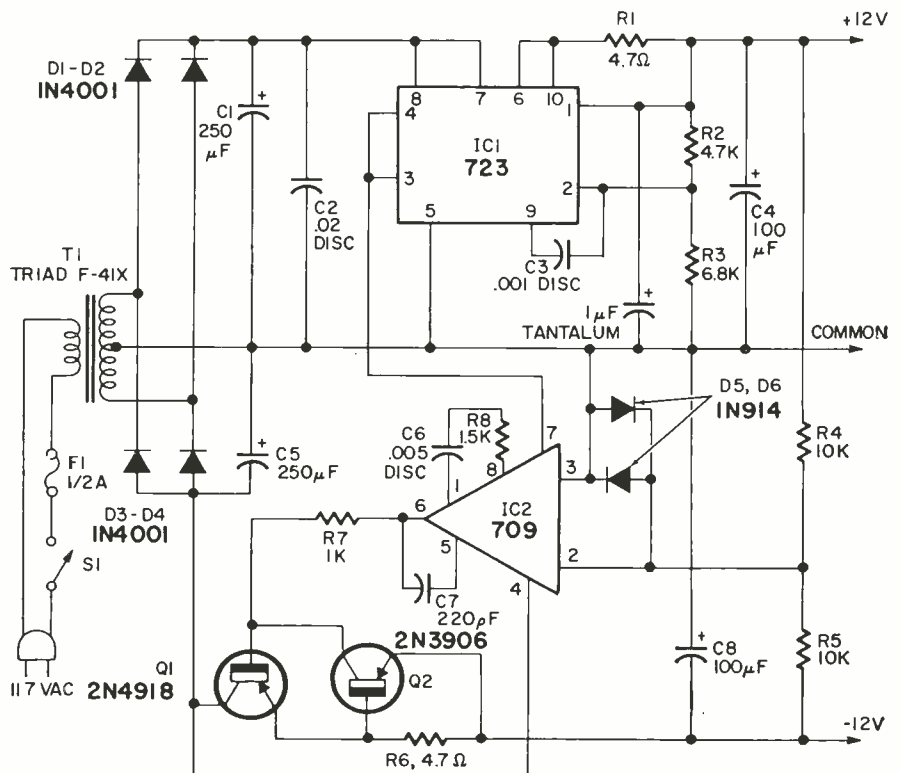
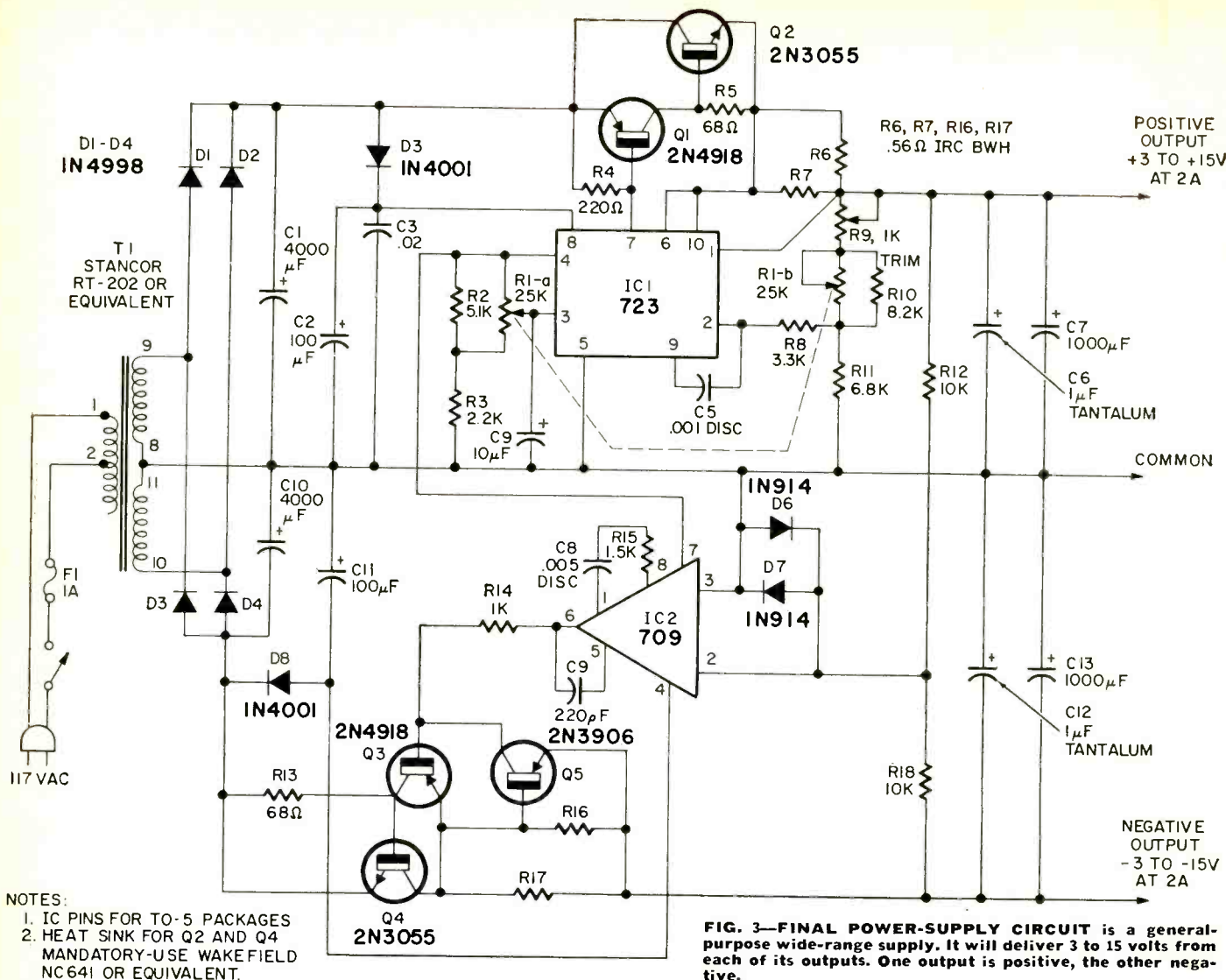


FIG. 2—DUAL 12-VOLT SUPPLY delivers 100 mA both positive and negative legs.

NOTES:

1. PIN NOS. FOR BOTH IC'S FOR TO-5 PACKAGE
2. USE CLIP-ON HEAT SINK (NF-207) ON IC1

FIG. 2—DUAL 12-VOLT SUPPLY delivers 100 mA both positive and negative legs.



Since this negative voltage regulator is really an amplifier amplifying whatever it is fed from the positive input, it logically follows that changes in the positive supply will appear equal and inverted on the negative supply. If you adjust the positive output from +12 to +10, the negative will move from -12 to -10, following or "tracking" the positive supply.

Another practical detail of the circuit is current limit transistor Q2—used to bias off the regulator under overload conditions. This transistor works like the scheme used in the  $\mu$ A723. When the output current passing through Q1 becomes higher than a predetermined limit, Q2 turns on and removes bias from Q1, limiting the output current and preventing damage. Additional protection for the input stage of the  $\mu$ A709 is provided by the back to back diodes (D5-D6) across its input terminals which limit excess voltage under overload conditions. The  $\mu$ A709 uses the standard frequency compensation networks (R8, C6, C7).

By using this idea of a tracking complementary regulator we've eliminated many of the components of a second regulator. We've saved a second power transformer and simplified the negative regulator. This particular cir-

cuit version ( $\pm 12$  volts 100 mA) is ideal for powering operational amplifiers circuits (using more 709's) which we'll be talking of later on.

As a finale for our power supply discussions on the  $\mu$ A723 IC we'll develop that general-purpose wide-range supply we mentioned earlier. This circuit is basically the same as the dual supply of Fig. 2, but has a variable voltage feature of 3 to 15 volts. In addition the current output of both legs is raised to 2 amperes. Since the voltage variation from 3 to 15 volts is something we have not covered as yet, we'll talk about that feature first, then the supply as a whole.

The schematic of this wide-range general-purpose supply is in Fig. 3, and as before we notice many similarities to the previous circuits. The  $\mu$ A723 upper portion is a 2-amp regulator similar to Fig. 1 in some respects. The main difference is in the voltage determining components. From our earlier circuits we recall that dividing the reference voltage of the  $\mu$ A723 gave us voltages lower than 7.15 volts, and scaling the output divider gave voltages greater than 7.15. But suppose we wanted a range of voltage from below 7.15 volts to well above, could we do this in a single circuit? The answer is yes and Fig. 3 is an example of such a hookup.

This circuit uses a combination of reference voltage division (R1-a-R3) and output scaling (R1-b-R11) to both create a variable reference voltage at pin 3 and scale this voltage up. R1-a and R1-b are a ganged pair of pots connected so that as the resistance of R1-b increases, R1-a moves towards pin 4's potential (7.15 volts). Assume for a moment that R1-a is at maximum and pin 3 has the full reference voltage of 7.15 volts on it. Then with the full resistance of R1-b in the circuit the output voltage will be determined just as we calculated in the July issue. It will be the voltage across R1-b + R9 plus the voltage across R3 (7.15 volts). The values of R1-b and R9 are chosen to give 15 volts out with 7.15 volts on pin 3, the maximum output. In addition, the resistance of R9 serves as trim control for fine adjustment.

As the wiper of R1-a moves towards R3, two things happen to lower the output voltage. The voltage at R1-a's arm will be less than 7.15 because of the division. And R1-b will be a smaller resistance also, so these two things lower the output. At the other extreme of rotation R1-b is shorted and R1-a-R3 is at 3 volts, the lower limit of the circuit. With this range of voltage adjustment of the positive regulator, it is easy to make the

(continued on page 94)

# R-E's SERVICE CLINIC

## afpc troubles in color sets

*Mysterious color-sync problems are often in the 3.58-MHz oscillator's control circuits*

By **JACK DARR**  
SERVICE EDITOR

MANY CASES OF "MYSTERIOUS" COLOR-sync trouble or even a loss of color, can be traced to obscure faults in the afpc. Spelled out, this is Automatic Frequency and Phase Control of the 3.58-MHz oscillator. Not really so obscure, of course, since there's no such thing as a fault which will not show you definite symptoms if you make the right tests, in the right places, with the right equipment!

Let's look at this circuit and see where these key test points are, what the normal reactions are; and most important, what the fault-reactions are. A typical afpc circuit is in the diagram. The burst is fed into a center-tapped transformer secondary winding. The signal is now 180° out of phase at each end of this winding. A diode is connected to each end, through small capacitors. The other ends of the diodes are tied together and a pair of matched resistors is connected across the diodes. The 3.58-MHz oscillator signal is fed to the junction of the diodes.

This is a simple phase-detector, and you get no long detailed explanation of how it works! You've been working with it for too many years. It's nothing but a plain old horizontal af Circuit.

If it's working, you get a balance between the voltages developed across the diodes and a zero dc voltage at the center-tap of the resistors, when the color (or picture) is locked in. If it isn't working, the dc voltage is off-zero and the control circuit pulls the oscillator *off-frequency* instead of locking it in! Notice the direct similarity between color out-of-sync and a picture out of horizontal sync. Diagonal lines just as before, but now the *picture* stays on and the *color* breaks up into diagonal lines or rainbows of red-green-blue.

### What we need

What do we have to make this work? First, burst. In this circuit, the burst comes from the burst-amplifier plate through an isolated primary winding. In others, it may come to one end of the center-tapped winding, with the other end grounded.

We must have a good stout burst signal in this winding, 180° out of phase at the ends, and that's all. The *amplitude* of this signal is important. Check the schematic to see what is normal for the one you're working on. Average values, at least 50 volts p-p and sometimes more, up to perhaps 100 volts p-p.

Second, we need the 3.58-MHz oscillator signal. This is taken off at the phase-shifted Z-demodulator tap of the

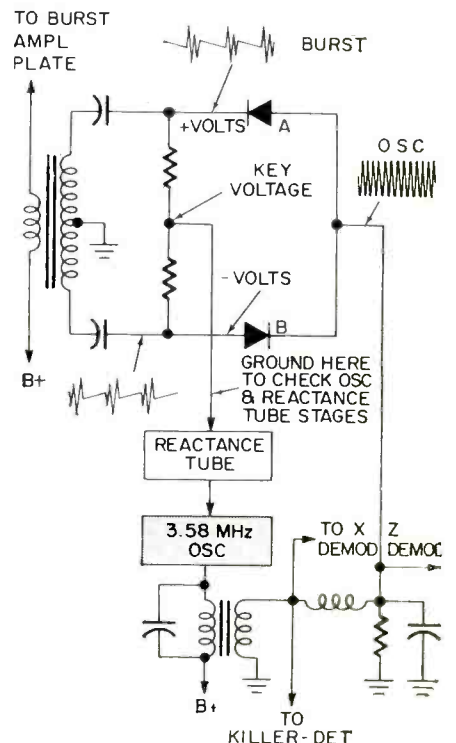
oscillator output coil in this one. It may come from other points in other circuits, but it's gotta be there. The presence or absence of either of these signals is easy to detect with a scope.

Right now all we need to know is "Are they there?" Never mind the phase for a while. There's an awfully simple way of telling whether it's in-phase or not. Just look at the picture!

### Quick-checks

The fastest way, and one of the easiest tests you can make, is to read the dc voltage developed across each diode with a color-bar signal on the set's antenna input. You can do this on a TV signal, but the bar-dot gives you a steady, controllable input signal. This must be read with a vtvm or tvvm. As you can see, the voltage will be positive, on the cathode of diode A, and negative on the anode of diode B. These voltages *must be equal and opposite!*

If they're not, the circuit won't balance. Your voltage at the key test point, the center-tap of the two resistors, will not be zero and the 3.58-MHz oscillator will be pulled off-frequency. In normal operation, this voltage is zero. If the oscillator drifts one way, the phase-detector develops a negative voltage and pulls it back. If it drifts in the other direction,



This column is for your service problems—TV, radio, audio or general and industrial electronics. We answer all questions individually by mail, free of charge, and the more interesting ones will be printed here.

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the detector develops a positive voltage and pulls it back.

### Why weak color-sync?

If you have weak color sync, check these voltages. You may find that your reactance-tube grid is reading about 2.0 volts positive or negative. If so, this is wrong! The chances are that someone has run a setup adjustment on the oscillator, and pulled the oscillator back to a point where it will make color, by main strength and awkwardness. This is something like driving a car with one front tire flat. You can hold it on the road, but you have to exert a steady pull on the wheel; and if you let go for a moment, POW! The set will have a tendency to lose color sync on scene changes, station changes, etc.

### Isolation tests

Since you have a servo-loop type of control system, you must break the loop and check one part at a time to check it reliably. Ground the grid of the reactance tube. This clamps it at zero voltage, or at the point where it ought to run. It also eliminates any afc action; the oscillator is free wheeling.

With a color-bar signal on the screen, tune the reactance coil in the reactance-tube plate circuit. This varies the frequency (and phase) of the oscillator. If you can get the normal reaction on this test, the oscillator is capable of running on-frequency. The normal reaction, as the reactance coil is tuned through its full range, is small and numerous rainbows to start with; getting fewer and larger as you approach the correct point; then gradually straightening up and momentarily locking on the right colors. (Third bar red, in the bar pattern.)

Going on in the same direction, it should fall out of sync again, making more and more rainbows. Some reactance coils will tune far enough to kill the 3.58-MHz oscillator or throw it so far out of phase that the color will drop out entirely.

Does this sound something like adjusting a horizontal oscillator with afc? It should! It's *exactly* the same method, substituting color rainbows for slanting lines in the picture!

### Diode tests

If the oscillator will set up and lock in momentarily, it's ok. If taking the ground off the reactance-tube grid makes the color fall out instead of locking tightly in, you've got diode problems. A voltage reading on the grid will probably show you a voltage quite a bit off zero.

Now, read the dc voltages on the diodes. These should be equal and opposite. This is easier to see on the grid test-point, since you can use a lower voltage scale, preferably a zero-center. (Incidentally, even if you do not have a zero-center scale on your vtvm, you can set the needle to center-scale or somewhere near center with the zero-adjust. Then you can see quite accurately whether the key voltage goes positive or negative.)

### Normal reaction

This key voltage should be zero. You should also be able to make it go positive or negative by adjusting the core of the reactance coil. The deviation should be the same on each side. For instance,  $\pm 6$  to 8 volts seems to be a good average range.

If you find this voltage will go from about  $-8$  volts up to  $-1$  volt, then turns around and goes back toward negative again, you almost certainly have unbalanced diodes. The fastest way to check this is to substitute a matched pair of replacement diodes. Use the factory replacements if possible. If both voltages now read the same *polarity*, turn it off and reverse one of the diodes!

### If new diodes won't help

If the replacement diodes won't make the voltage zero, try a new crystal. This is not common, but in a few cases the resonant frequency of the crystal will be off just enough to make it impossible to balance the circuit properly. If the oscillator frequency seems steady enough after it is adjusted, but the voltage is not correct and won't "cross zero," this would be the next thing.

All of the little capacitors in this circuit should be checked, of course. One that causes some odd problems is the feedback or neutralizing capacitor from the plate to grid of the reactance tube. In the set from which this was taken, this is a 3.9 pF, NPO. Any type can be used for testing, but for replacement, an exact duplicate must be used. The temperature-coefficient is very important; this one is an NPO, meaning zero drift in capacitance with temperature change.

### The killer detector

Another circuit, not shown here, is fed from the same transformer winding. This is the killer detector. It uses the same diodes, connected in the same way, with the pair of resistors, etc. However, this one is fed 3.58-MHz signal from a different point, at the X-demodulator takeoff. This is 90° (in this one) out of phase with the Z-demodulator takeoff.

This circuit is *intentionally* unbalanced, and it will develop a high negative voltage at the junction of the two resistors. It is used to signal the *presence of burst* in the incoming signal, and makes the color-killer open the color channel and let the signals through.

This is not as critical as the phase detector, of course, but it can cause trouble. If you have "no-color" problems, such as the killer cutting off the bandpass amplifier on color programs, check these diodes. If one of them should open, for example, it could upset the killer bias.

If you know what this thing does, and how it does it, it's not at all difficult to fix. Just pretend you're working on a plain old horizontal afc circuit! It'll be a lot easier.

### MULTIPLE SYMPTOMS

*I've got more symptoms in an old RCA KCS-113 than you can shake a stick*



at! The sound is garbled, there's no picture, and half of the screen is black; the left half, vertically! It would work for a while then go into this kind of trouble.—A.S., Miami, Fla.

Try bridging some of the filter capacitors. C121, the input filter, is a good "likely suspect." Multiple symptoms like this are usually caused by an open filter in the dc power supply, which is the only thing common to every stage in the set.

#### SUBSTITUTE FOR 6AD7

I need a 6AD7 tube for an old radio, and I can't even find it on the lists. Do you know of another type that will replace this thing? I'll change the socket if I have to.—T.W., Cupertino, Calif.

You'll have to! There's no direct replacement for the 6AD7 triode-pentode. However, a type 6BM8 looks as if it has almost the same characteristics. You'll have to use a 9-pin miniature socket. Connect just as the original was, plate to plate, etc.

#### REPLACEMENT FOR 3 WINDING IFT

I need a replacement i.f. transformer for a Magnavox CR-703 radio. Can't get one anywhere. Can you help?—D.G., Los Angeles, Calif.

Yep. Your original i.f. transformer has a tertiary winding. This is switched by the "AM-BROAD: AM-SHARP" selector switch, to provide a wider bandpass. To replace the transformer, you'll have to give up this feature.

A stock J. W. Miller 455-kHz i.f. transformer, No. 14-C1, is the proper replacement. It is an exact duplicate as far as mounting is concerned. Ignore the tertiary winding, and hook it up as a straight i.f. and it will work nicely.

#### PLUG IN TRANSISTORS?

Do you know of anyone who is making a TV set with all plug-in transistors?—T. W., Columbus, Ohio.

No.

#### HORIZONTAL OSCILLATOR PROBLEM

I'm having trouble with the horizontal oscillator in a Silvertone 5177 color chassis. I've checked all parts, and replaced the oscillator coil with a Miller 6349, which I was told is the correct replacement for the original Sears 10-88-5 coil. "Everything's ok, but it still won't work!"—T.N., Redondo Beach, Calif.

Someone told you a big fib! Check the connections of a Miller 6349 coil. This is an exact replacement for an RCA 112866 coil or something like it, but not for this one. While it is a Synchronguide coil, the connections are not correct. What you need is a Miller 6359 coil. See if it

won't work a little better. (Note: It did! Reader confirmed this later.)

#### SLOW STARTING COLOR, HEATH GR-227

The color in a Heath GR-227 color TV is "slow-starting". The picture comes on in the normal time, but there is no color for about 4 to 5 minutes, then Pow! Once it comes on, it stays.—M. C., Canada.

Lots of things. However, I'd try a new 6GH8 3.58-MHz oscillator tube first. I have seen a lot of tubes, back in the good old days, which checked good but wouldn't oscillate! 6A7's, etc. This has caused trouble even in modern sets. If the tube doesn't help, check plate resistors, etc.

#### NO PEDAL TONE

I have no pedal tones on a Hammond Model M organ. Others work fine, but no sound from the foot-pedals. What could cause this?—L. N., New Jersey.

In the early 'L' series, this was usually due to a bad 6BA96 Pedal amplifier tube. This is on the amplifier chassis, between the rectifier tube and the 6V6's. In the 'M' series, it's in the same place.

There are also a couple of added controls on the M's. Check the pedal cutoff control and the pedal keying contact. Also, the flexible wire to the pedal drawbar above the upper man-

ual. (Don't forget to check the 6BA6 tube and its voltages, too.)

#### COLOR SHIFT

I am getting an intermittent color shift in a Satchell-Carlson 3CL83. Blues change to green, and reds to purple, usually when the whole screen is mostly one color. I've tried exchanging the color-difference amplifier tubes, etc, without any luck. At times, it loses color entirely. Any ideas?—R. M., Washington.

This chassis uses a 6AL5 as the color-sync phase detector, in a straight "RCA circuit". I believe this tube could be causing the phase shift trouble. (If colors change, you're getting a phase-shift, and it is almost certain to be in the 3.58 MHz oscillator.) I have found many of them which would show "grid emission" on a tube tester capable of reading this quantity!

This reading, of course, is actually a slight leakage in the tube—probably mount contamination or something like that. In any case, it dictates trouble. Since any unbalance or leakage in the color-sync phase detector will cause a phase shift of the 3.58-MHz oscillator, this could be it. Try a new 6AL5, checked beforehand for leakage. Also check the 3.58-MHz output transformer for any sign of leakage in the phase-shifting capacitors, drift in the resistors, poor ground connections, etc **R-E**

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# NEW PRODUCTS

More information on new products is available from the manufacturers of items identified by a Reader Service number. Use the Reader Service Card on page 103 and circle the numbers of the new products on which you would like further information. Detach and mail the postage-paid card.

**HEAT GUN, model HG201**, with cone attachment provides TV service technicians with a tool for quickly locating and testing bad resistors, capacitors and coils. This flameless gun can also locate hairline cracks in PC boards. The tool eliminates the long delays for components to heat up for testing. A patented directional air diffuser which elim-



inates back pressure enables the cone attachment to concentrate heat in  $\frac{1}{8}$ " diameter. The heat gun weighs less than six pounds and is equipped with an adjustable removable stand that supports the gun in various positions.—Master Appliance Corp., 1745 Flett Ave., Racine, Wis. 53403.

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**TOOL CASE, TC100**, attache case kit for working tools. Designed for equipment of service technicians and field engineers. A 3-panel hinged tool holder is attached inside the lid, stands upright when case is opened, and can be removed. Straps and pockets hold up to 59 individual small tools, such as screw-



drivers. Compartments accommodate kits, test meters, parts boxes, and additional larger tools such as hack saws. Room for service manuals, etc. Can be purchased with a standard assortment of tools or custom-stocked to fit individual requirements.—Xcelite Inc., Orchard Park, N.Y. 14127.

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**DESOLDERING TOOL, DS-40**, removes soldered components from printed circuit boards or conventional circuits. Complete tool includes 40-watt power handle, desoldering head assembly with rubber vacuum bulb and tip with .063 opening, two-wire cord. May also be used to resolder new components in places where old ones have been removed. Hollow tip fits over wire leads



giving 360° contact. Replacement tips available in a variety of sizes. Also available in 3-wire models. \$14.50.—Weller, div. Cooper Industries, 100 Welco Road, Easton, Pa. 18042.

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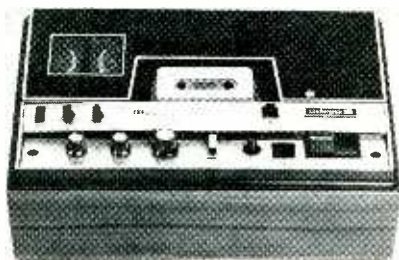
**AM-FM TUNER CARTRIDGES, models 30-3075 and 30-3076** for auto stereo tape players, slip into the cartridge loading slot of all auto 4- and 8-track tape cartridge players. The 30-3075 is powered by an internal 9-volt transistor-radio battery, connects to car's external radio antenna by an adapter which can be permanently attached. The 30-3076, a



multiplex tuner, has a mode selector switch, an indicator light, and a switch to adjust input circuitry for nearby and distant FM stations. Model 30-3075 is \$45.00; model 30-3076 is \$54.00.—GC Electronics, 400 South Wyman St., Rockford, Ill. 61101.

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**CASSETTE DECK RECORDER, Wol-lensak model 4760**, incorporates Dolby noise suppression circuitry and patented

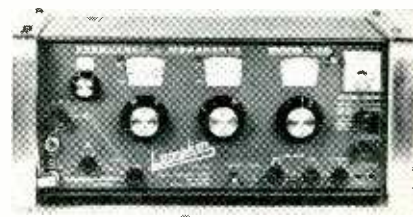


bi-peripheral drive system responsible for low wow and flutter characteristics. Frequency response 60–15 kHz. Other fea-

tures are end-of-tape guard to lift the pressure roller when the end of tape is reached or a jam occurs, dual calibrated illuminated VU meters, separate input level controls with master gain, regulated dc supply voltage. A microphone preamp accessory is available for \$20.00. The cassette deck is under \$300.00.—3M Company, St. Paul, Minn. 55101.

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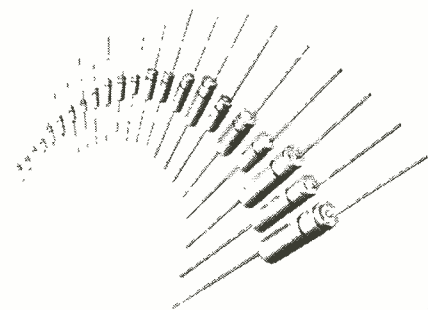
**DIGITAL FREQUENCY METER/SYNTHESIZER/SIGNAL GENERATOR, type 107A**. This solid-state unit operating from either 12 Vdc or 115 Vac weighs 22 lbs. Aimed primarily at the mobile-radio maintenance field, as a heterodyne frequency meter, the 107A will measure carrier frequencies of nearby transmitters, or signals picked up on a receiver, either AM, FM, TV, SSB, or CW. Coverage on FCC-assigned fre-



quencies is continuous from 10 kHz to above 500 MHz. Guaranteed accuracy in the field is better than 0.0001%. Readout is better than 0.00002%. As a synthesizer, any frequency from below 1,000 Hz to 9,999.9 kHz can be generated, in steps of 100 Hz, phase locked to the internal crystal standard.—Lampkin Laboratories, Inc., Dept. 233, 8400 Ninth Ave. N.W., Bradenton, Fla. 33505.

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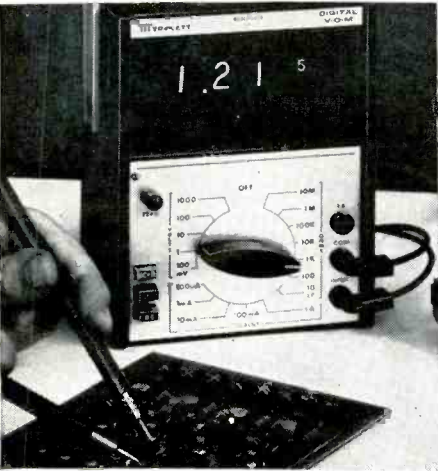
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foamline wire supplied. \$7.69 to \$20.41 price range of individual kits.—South River Metal Products Co., 377-379 Turnpike, South River, N.J. 08882.

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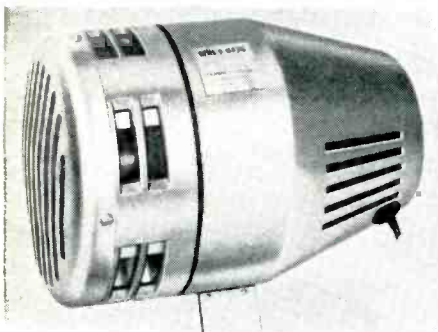
**DVOM, model 6028.** Lightweight, portable 2- $\frac{1}{2}$  digit dvom operates on 105-125 Vac, 60 Hz, 4 watts or optional battery pack. Unit has 10-ohm full-scale range; gives 10-megohm input resistance on all ac and dc volt ranges; full-proof 100% overrange, out-of-range and reverse polarity indications; a zero adjust control for low ohm resistance measurements



that can "zero out" lead resistance; overload protection; and frequency compensator on ac. Readout consists of 2 cold-cathode display tubes and 3 neon lamps indicating "0" and "5" half digits and a "1" over-range digit. \$275.00.—Triplet Corp., Dept. PR, Bluffton, Ohio 45817.

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**FM MONITOR RECEIVER, Duo-Scan,** covers low- and high-band vhf channels, and features dual-conversion circuitry



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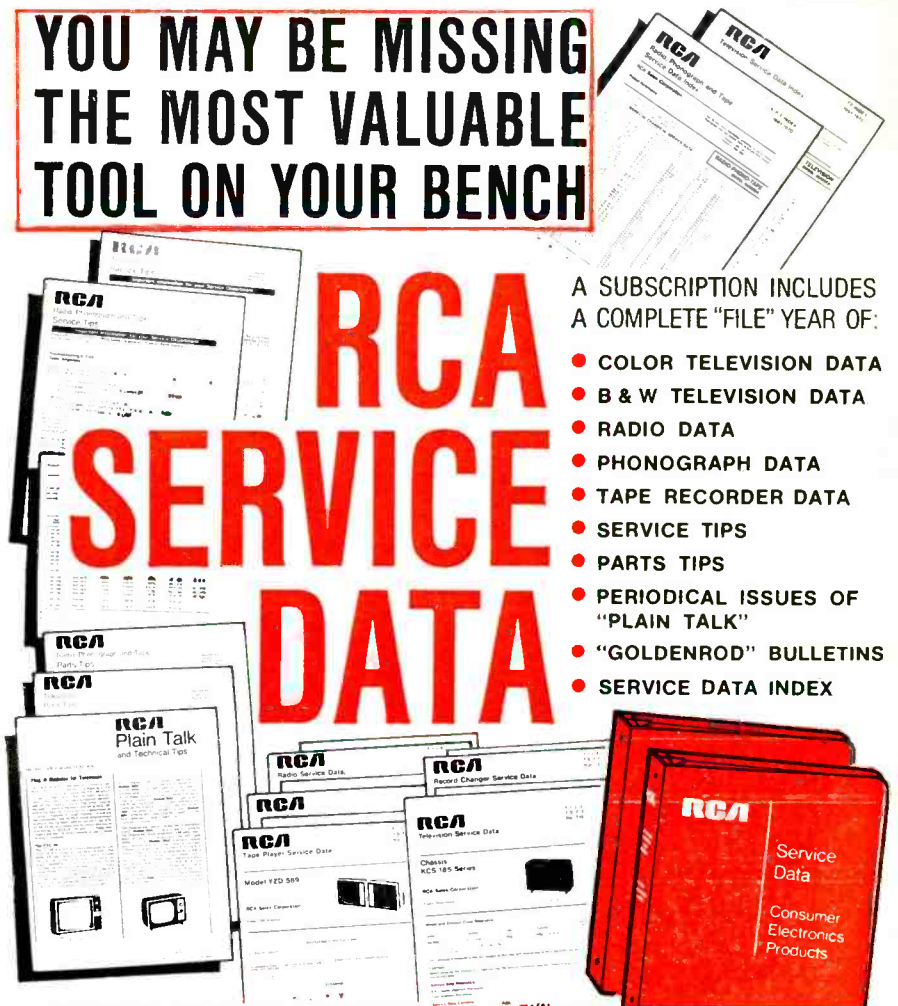
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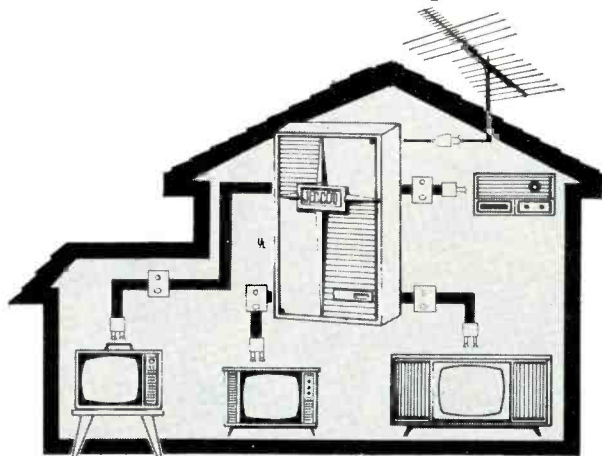
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... see page 33

George Flynn's description of how readout tubes work and some experiments you can conduct

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Walter Jung's IC Power Supplies. You'll find two dual-output fully regulated circuits ... see page 69

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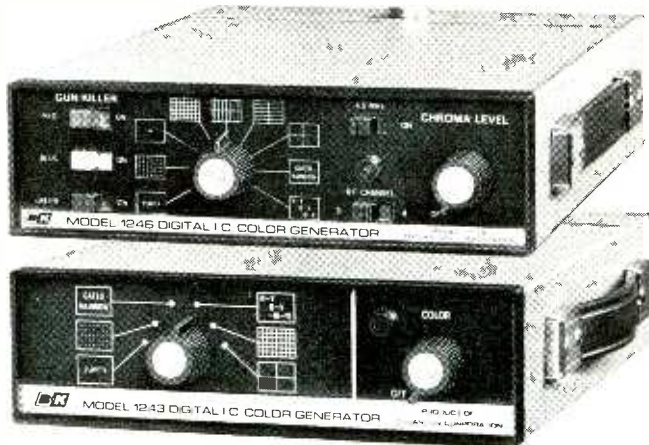


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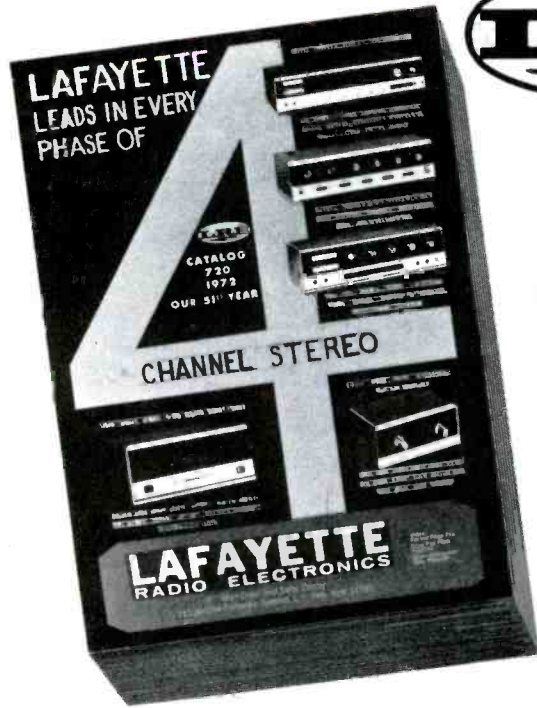
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also available. They show the direction of the antenna on all controls simultaneously. This type of rotator is a convenience where two or more TV receivers are to be used.

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When TV interference is a problem, it is often possible to reduce or eliminate the trouble with suitable interference filters or traps. A typical back-of-the-set filter is in Fig. 18. A filter that cuts off below 50 MHz, and also rejects from 110 to 170 MHz will often reduce interference from neon lights, ham radio, diathermy machines, and some other sources. Another type of trap, designed as a band-reject filter can reduce interference from strong local FM stations. Both fix-tuned and adjustable units are available. A typical tunable interference trap can be peaked up at desired point in the FM band, or can be adjusted to attenuate one, two, or three low-band TV channels. This feature is helpful when a powerful FM or TV transmitter is nearby. High-band TV channel traps are also available.

Although there is no sharp distinction between a filter and a trap, the filter generally has a comparatively broad frequency characteristic. A trap is basically designed as a series or parallel LC resonant circuit. On the other hand, a filter uses both series and parallel reactances, as in Fig. 19. From a practical viewpoint, the essential consideration is to load a filter correctly. For example,  $R_L$  could be specified at 300 ohms, or at 75 ohms. When a filter works into an incorrect value of load resistance, its frequency characteristic becomes distorted, and it operates improperly.

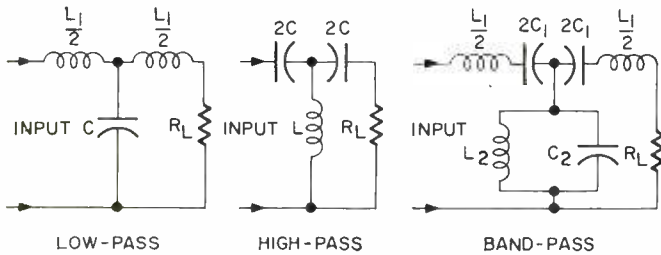


Fig. 19

Note in passing that there is also no sharp distinction between a filter and a booster, or preamplifier (Fig. 20). That is, if a bandpass filter configuration is supplemented by a transistor, the combination is termed a booster or a



Fig. 20

preamplifier. However, it is basically a filter with an insertion gain instead of a filter with insertion loss. A TV preamplifier operates as an interference filter inasmuch as signal frequencies below the vhf range are usually rejected. Similarly, a preamplifier designed for vhf application usually rejects uhf signals. (continued on page 88)

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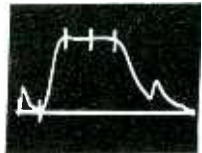
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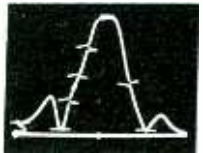
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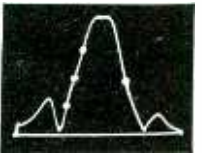
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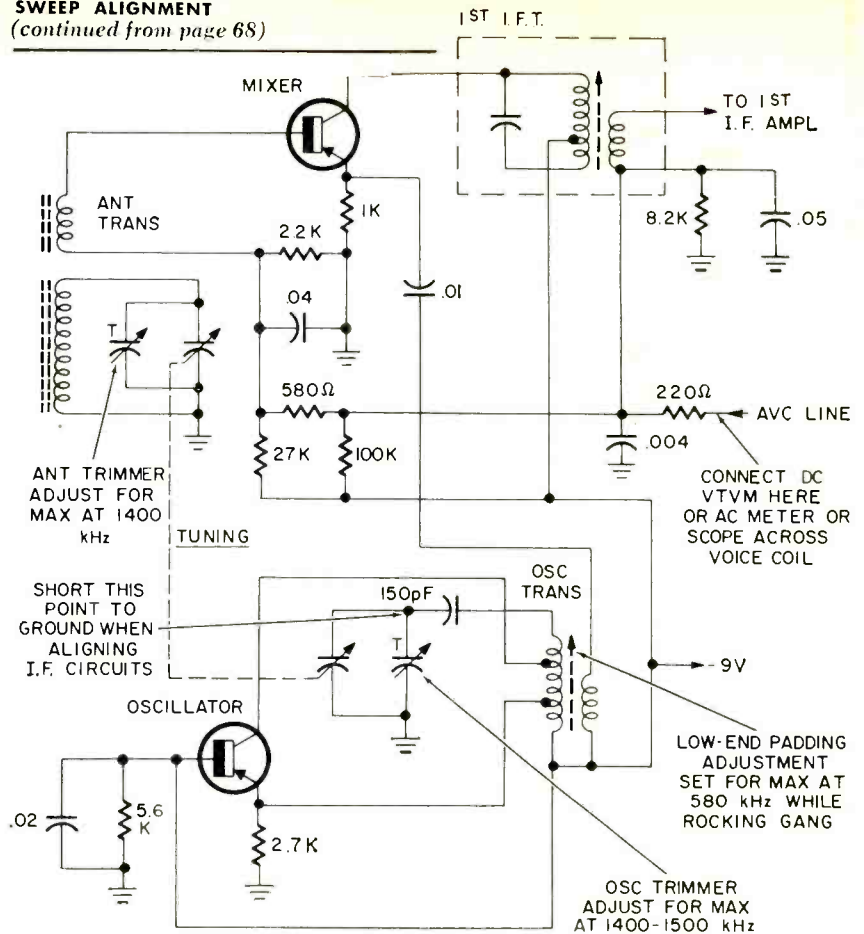
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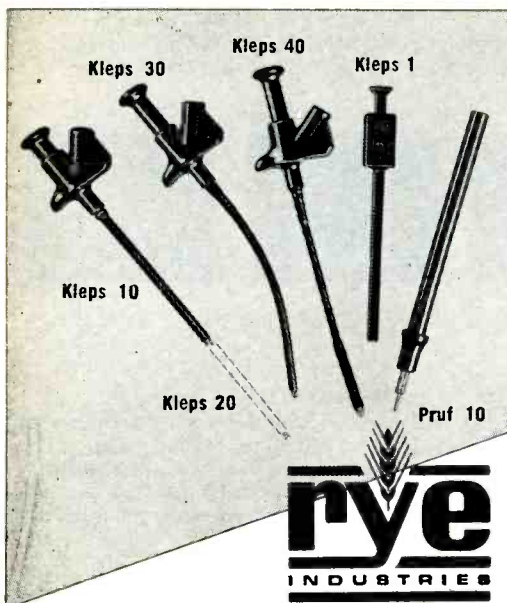
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**SWEEP ALIGNMENT**  
(continued from page 68)



**FIG. 5—TUNING UP THE FRONT END isn't hard when you know what to do. Basic adjustments are shown here.**

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tion mark, which is a little extra mark just past the lowest figure. The ganged capacitor should be completely closed. If this set uses variable-inductance tuning, the cores will be all the way inside the coils. If the pointer isn't exactly on the calibration mark, slide it along the dial cable until it is.

Now, we're ready to go. Tune the radio dial to a point near the high end. This is usually somewhere around 1,400 kHz, although the actual frequency isn't too important. 1,500 kHz is ok, too. Set the signal generator to the same frequency. If you do not hear the signal in the output, retune the radio until you do. If it comes in anywhere else, say at 1,300 kHz, the dial is out of calibration.

Leave the signal generator at 1400 kHz. Tune the radio dial to 1400 kHz. Now, locate the oscillator trimmer capacitor (Fig. 5). In sets with ganged capacitors, this will be a small variable capacitor on the *smallest* section of the gang. This is always the oscillator section; the other is the mixer, or rf. If this is a small radio, with a sealed-up tuning capacitor, as in some of the transistor types, look it up in the service data. (Not a bad idea in all cases.)

Check to see which way you need to turn this. If the pointer indicated 1300 kHz on the 1400 kHz signal, you have too *little* capacitance in the oscillator circuit. Turn the oscillator trim-

(continued on page 85)



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# NEW BOOKS

**HOW TO REPAIR SOLID-STATE IMPORTS**, by Paul Lawrence. Tab Books, Blue Ridge Summit, Pa. 17214. 160 pages, 8½ x 11 in. Leatherette, \$7.95, Paperbound, \$4.95.

This guidebook is a large, diversified collection of schematics and service data representing the most popular foreign-made home entertainment equipment, including radios, TV's, phonos, and tape recorders. The author begins with a general look at imports, and how they differ from domestic brands, as well as how to obtain parts and service data. The second chapter goes into basic circuit descriptions, audio, RF, IF, converters, detectors, TV, tape recorders, etc. Chapter three describes servicing tips that will help unbend the kinks which often get in the way. The author reveals many shortcuts—what to look for, where to find it, and how to fix it. There's also a chapter which offers help when a schematic isn't available. It contains numerous tips to help the service technician get a clear picture of what the circuit should and should not be doing.

**T.V. TECH AID, COLOR TELEVISION AND B&W TELEVISION, TIPS FOR TECHNICIANS**. Edward G. Gorman, Publisher, T.V. Tech Aid, P.O. Box 603, Kinks Park, N.Y. 11754. 150 pp., color manual; 115 pp., b&w manual; 8½" x 11". Soft cover, \$5.95 each.

The color manual recaps the troubles printed in the 1970 mailings of T.V. Tech Aid, and the black-and-white manual compiles troubles of a recurring nature. Outlines manufacturer, model, symptoms, possible causes, cure, with diagram of each individual problem. Index of symptoms makes these manuals handy reference works for all service technicians.

**ADVANCED ELECTRONIC INSTRUMENTS AND THEIR USE**, by Sol D. Prenskey. Hayden Book Co., 116 W. 14th St., New York, N.Y. 10011. 208 pages, 6 x 9 in. Hardcover, \$9.50, softcover, \$6.95.

Background in sophisticated, general purpose laboratory instruments currently used in industry and research. Covers major instrument groups used for sensing, measurement, or control monitoring. Basic electronic principles, practical applications, and specific examples of typical, representative instruments are discussed. Over 140 photos and diagrams for devices such as fentometers, frequency synthesizers, solid-state multimeters, including FET types, digital voltmeters, sampling and storage oscilloscopes, analog and digital computation elements, radiation survey meters. Text emphasizes standardization and calibration procedures.—*MCL*

**HANDBOOK OF ELECTRONIC TEST EQUIPMENT** by John D. Lenk. Prentice-Hall Inc., Englewood Cliffs, N. J. 07632. 6¼ x 9¼ in. 460 pages. Hardcover. \$15.00.

A detailed coverage of all types of electronic test equipment. Includes digital, microwave and laboratory test equipment. Presents basic principles and operating procedures and describes what test instruments are available, what they do and general calibration techniques—

**DICTIONARY OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**, by R. A. Bones. Philosophical Library, Inc., 15 E. 40th St., New York, N.Y., 10016. 5 x 7½", 200 pp. Hardcover, \$15.00.

Wide range of definitions, including many based on British Standards recommendations, supplemented by appendices including units and abbreviations, wavelengths and frequency bands, and signal reporting codes. Includes concise explanation of terms, diagrams and graphs. Basic text for students as well as engineers and technicians.—*ML*

**BASIC ELECTRON DEVICES** by E. George Griffith. Rinehart Press, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc., 383 Madison Ave., New York, N. Y. 10017. 6 x 9 in. 212 pages. Softcover. \$3.95.

A basic course on basic electronic devices. Provides a source of ready reference for electrical engineers, tech-

nicians and engineering assistants. Includes a presentation of the underlying physics of solid-state devices and transistor action. The majority of basic devices in use today are described, including several that are obsolete but still in common use.—*LS*

**ELEMENTARY COBOL PROGRAMMING, A STEP BY STEP APPROACH** by Gordon B. Davis and Charles R. Litecky. McGraw-Hill Book Co., 330 W. 42nd St., New York, N. Y. 10036. 8½ x 11 in. 164 pages plus worksheet section. Softcover \$5.95.

Written to allow the student to actively learn COBOL, this manual presents a series of examples in writing and executing a modular set of problems. The student is encouraged to learn on his own by self-testing quizzes and through the structuring of the problems. All major COBOL features are covered. **R-E**



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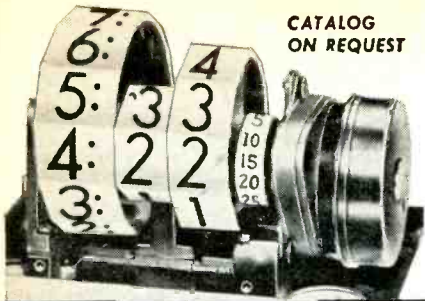
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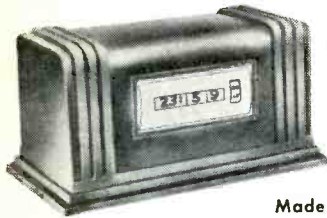
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4 Mfd. 450 V	6 for \$1.69
10 Mfd. 450 V	6 for \$1.98
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## RCA COND. CANS

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Circle 70 on reader service card

# DREAM

White space,  
layout complete the  
by JACK DARR

There's a saying about newspaper ads, with large areas of white space attracting more attention than crowding the whole thing with fine print. We can use the same principle, in avoiding crowding. How many shops have you seen where every inch of the bench (the working area) was covered with radios, TV sets and assorted electronic gradoo in various stages of disrepair? (You wouldn't happen to be standing in one right now, would you?) When a new job comes in, the technician has to push something aside to get room to set it down.

This is the Cardinal Sin in our business! I've seen it happen in a great many shops, including the one with my name over it, too many times. There's only one cure for this, and it is SELF DISCIPLINE! Figure out how many sets you can have on your bench at once; then DON'T bring another one in until you get one finished and moved out! My own bench, 20 feet long, proved by actual experiment to hold not more than two TV sets at the same time, for most efficient working.

With the bench jammed up like this, you're always reaching over something; you can't get to the test equipment; and, worst of all, you actually don't have the needed "elbow-room" to work most efficiently. So, up with the willpower; keep the bench as clear as possible, and you'll be amazed at the difference, not only in ease of working, but of total output of work for the day!

You'll notice that I did not indicate any place for parts-storage. You can make this up to suit yourself. However, here's one very useful hint: do NOT use any of the space on the bench itself for parts storage! Store parts on end walls, or on the wall opposite the bench; you can simply turn around and reach the part you need. On the bench, the chances are they will be covered up by the set you're working on, by some of the test equipment itself, etc. The extra room available will let you put up shelves, bins, cabinets, etc. to keep each class of parts instantly available, without them getting in the way of the actual diagnosis/repair operation.

Small but very helpful item: when you tear a set down for repair, put all of the small parts; knobs, bolts, etc., into a little box, and stick this inside the empty cabinet. They'll be there when you're ready to put it back together. If the set must be held for parts, slide the chassis back in the cabinet, and put the whole thing out in the Storage-In area. Put a scratch-paper tag on it "Waiting Fly-back", etc. The customer's name will also help in finding the thing faster.

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Most of the things we handle are big; TV sets, stereos, etc. So, use a sys-

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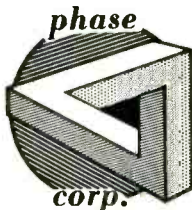
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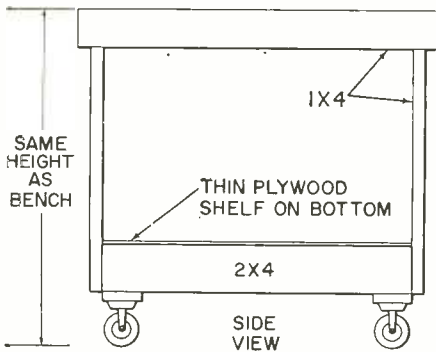
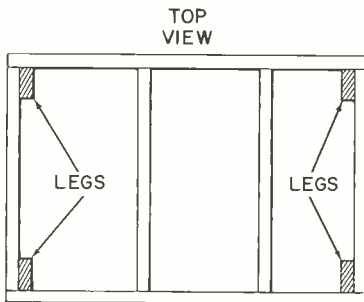
# WORKBENCH

mobility and equipment  
second part of this article

SERVICE EDITOR

tem that will make them easier to move. The best way I've found for this is carts, mounted on good-sized caster wheels. Make the overall height (don't forget to include the casters!) the same as your bench-top.

The tops are made with vertical "slats" of 1 x 4; this is for bracing, and also to give you access to the underside of a big chassis, to get the mounting bolts out without having to take it off the cart. Table-model TV sets can be "driven up" to the bench and slid off onto it, with very little effort. Big consoles can be set on the cart, balanced, and left there while the chassis is moved to the bench, connected with those extension cables.



The sets can be loaded directly from the truck onto the cart, which is then pushed into the Storage-In area. From there it's wheeled up to the bench, fixed, then wheeled back out into the Storage-Out area for reloading on the truck and delivery.

The total number of carts will depend on the amount of business you are doing! In my own one-man shop, I had six of them, and this came out pretty well. I could have used two more, in the rush seasons. If you find yourself having to move sets off the carts onto the floor, make up a couple more carts!

For that very important area where you have all the fun (the place where you get the money!) set aside a space for the book-keeping department; records, job-tickets, files, and so on. This can be outside of the shop-area proper, in an adjoining room. This depends on your floor layout.

## Test equipment layout

Now, we get to the most important area of all; the workbench, and the test equipment. The object of this is the same as all the rest; to get the equipment set up so that you can work in the most efficient way, with the least wasted time, and so on.

The basic principle of this is to get the test equipment divided into FUNCTIONAL GROUPS. The instruments that are used together should be together. For instance, one group could be TVM, parts testers, tube tester, transistor tester. Another could be sweep generator, bar-dot and scope, and so on. There will be a little "Overlap" of use, of course; you'll use the scope for both diagnosis and alignment. So, these really shouldn't be "fixed", but easily movable.

Probably the oldest layout in the world is a workbench, with a shelf above it for the best equipment. The unit under repair is below the test instruments. This is a good method, and is probably in use by more shops than any other. It is efficient, as long as the unit being repaired isn't too big! It's fine for small radios and TV's. However, for color TV and other big chassis, you may find that the thing covers up the test equipment!

So, we worked out a variation of this. Some of the equipment is placed on the shelf, and other units mounted on wheeled carts. These can be rolled to any position needed. Here again, we must group the cart equipment into functional groups. For instance, all

parts-testers could be on one cart, and all sweep equipment on another, and so on. These carts, too can be hand-made out of 1x4's, of any dimensions needed.

Every technician works just a little bit differently. So, it's very likely that none of these ideas will exactly suit your preferences. So change 'em! Use a combination of the different methods, and experiment until you find the one that is the best for you. Right now, I have some instruments on the shelf, and some on a cart. I'm planning some changes, too just as soon as I get through with this article. (All sweep-alignment equipment is going on a cart, with an "old but good" second-hand scope permanently connected up.) Try out different ways, and use the one that lets you get out the most work in the least time, with the least effort. Keep notes.

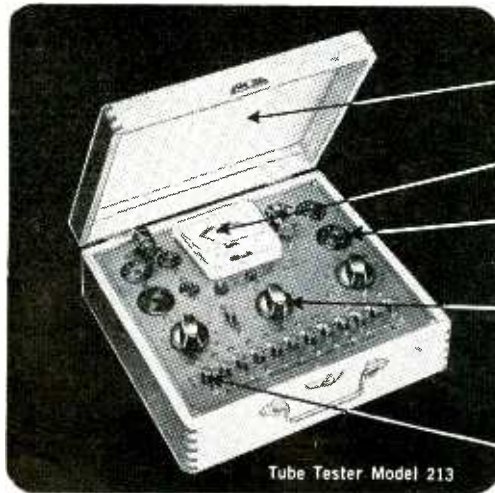
## Bench width

One small, but important factor, when you're building a workbench, is the depth (front-to-back measurement) of the "free space" that is the actual working area. My own bench is now too shallow, although it was fine 15 years ago when it was built! I made it 4 feet deep, but my shelf is 2 feet deep, and now I don't have enough depth to put color-TV chassis, etc., on it with perfect safety! I run a cart up to the edge to support the "overhang". (I have a feeling that the shelf is going to get cut back about a foot!) Most test equipment, with the exception of a scope, will

(continued on page 95)

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**SWEEP ALIGNMENT**  
(continued from page 82)

mer down, or in; add more capacitance until you hear the signal with the dial-pointer at the right place. *Actually, you usually don't have to even look; just move the trimmer a little either way, until you hear the signal then stop.*

This is, in a way, a peaking process. However, what the oscillator trimmer does is "walk" the peak back and forth along the radio dial. You won't lose any of the signal amplitude until you walk this peak far off frequency.

**Rf and mixer peaking**

Now, you've got the dial showing the right frequency. Next, align the rf and mixer stages for maximum gain or a peak, and you're done. The oscillator trimmer should not be moved any more. Find the rf or mixer trimmers, and adjust these for maximum meter reading. A good way of getting the test signal, for this part, is to put the signal-generator output cable on the bench, a couple of inches away from the loop antenna.

Once again, use the smallest test signal you can. To reduce the signal input, just push the signal generator cable a little farther away from the loop. The low signal lets you tune the rf/antenna trimmers for the sharpest peak.

**Low-end tracking**

In many of the older radios, and in the better grade receivers of today, espe-

cially short-wave and communications types, you will find a low-frequency adjustment for the oscillator. The really good ones will have low-end adjustments for the antenna, rf and mixer coils, too. In a lot of these, you'll find that the high end of the dial is tuned with "trimmers": small adjustable capacitors—and the low end is tuned by varying the inductance of the coil with an adjustable iron core. (Side note: a "variable" capacitor or coil is one that is tuned by a knob, or by hand. An "adjustable" trimmer or coil-core requires an alignment tool.)

When working with these more complex radios, be sure that you have the alignment instructions. These are absolutely necessary; you must know the location of each adjustment, and what frequency it is to be tuned to. In some of the more elaborate SW receivers, you may have 15 or 20 adjustments!

With these dual tuning adjustments, we can now get much better "tracking" over the entire dial. "Tracking" means that the dial-pointer indicates the correct frequency over the whole dial. In the smaller and cheaper radios, calibration is set at one point, and the dial is slightly off over all of the rest.

To make this adjustment, set the dial calibration, and tune up the rf/mixer/antenna at the high end first. Then, tune the radio and signal-generator to a frequency near the low end of the dial, and adjust the low-end tuning. Then, go back to the high end and recheck the calibration; since these adjustments interact to some extent, the high-end will be slightly off. You'll generally have to repeat these at least three times to get the best results.

In many radios, only the oscillator has a low-end adjustment; an adjustable iron core in the oscillator coil, for example. When you find one of these, you use a method known as "rocking" the dial, to get maximum results. Align the high end as before. Then, tune to the low end of the dial, and set the signal generator at a point about 50-100 kHz from the last figure (550 kHz, set at 600 kHz, for example).

Note the reading on the output meter. Now, turn the receiver dial in either direction, and watch the meter. If the reading goes up, adjust the core of the oscillator coil for maximum, then "rock" the dial again. Your rf/mixer coils are tuned to a slightly different frequency from the oscillator, at this end of the dial! So, you're actually moving the oscillator over to match them, since you can't tune them. Keep rocking the dial and watching the meter, until you note the meter reading starting to go down. When you see this, back up, and find the absolute maximum output meter reading you had; leave it set at that point. Now, go back up and recheck the calibration at the high end. You'll usually have to move the oscillator trimmer just a little bit, but the rf/mixer trimmers will probably be OK.

In a later article, we will do sweep alignment—a quicker and more exact method of aligning circuits in all types of radio and TV sets. **R-E**



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# COMING NEXT MONTH

## OCTOBER 1971

### HI-FI STEREO 4-CHANNEL

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#### ■ Build R-E's 4-Channel Stereo System

You'll see them on the cover and read how to build them inside. First there's a 4-channel power amplifier. It delivers 35 watts per channel . . . rms watts! And you build it with four new hybrid POWER IC'S (one per channel). Almost a one-evening project. Then there's a matching 4-channel preamp. It's also built with IC's—one IC for each pair of channels. The hardest part of building it is punching the holes in the chassis. Put them together and you're all set for exciting 4-channel sound.

#### ■ 4-Channel Adapters

A report on what's available now; what they do and how you will be using them tomorrow. Block diagrams show how to set up the equipment and illustrate effects you can expect to hear.

#### ■ Which Way 4-Channel

What's new; what's happening; what's next in the exciting new arena of solid sound. Take a guided tour around the next corner and get a sneak preview of future sound, now.

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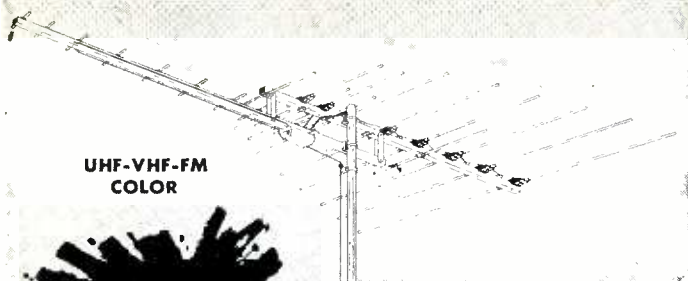
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## ANTENNA ACCESSORIES (continued from page 81)

### Flush-mounting outlets

TV/FM outlets like those in Fig. 21 provide convenient, permanent arrangements for connecting receivers to antenna downloads, multi-set couplers, booster couplers, or drop taps. In turn, portable receivers can be moved

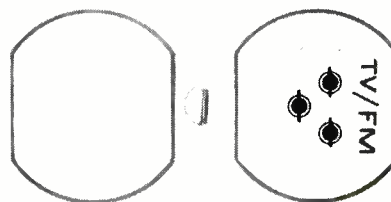


Fig. 21

from one room to another and quickly connected to the antenna system. Flush-mount models mate standard electrical boxes, or they may be mounted on plaster straps. If an antenna rotator is used, a five-pin rotor socket can be inserted below the three-pin TV/FM socket.

### Conclusion

TV antenna accessories represent a significant source of income for the technician, as well as ensuring optimum reception and providing a professional type of installation. This article provides a helpful introduction to the subject. Manufacturers can supply detailed data on their products, and are generally very cooperative when consulted on unusual installation problems.

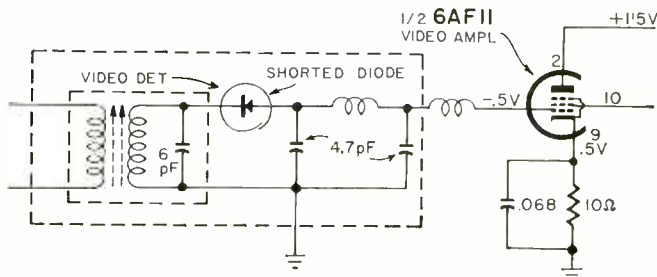
R-E

## SERVICE NOTE

### REPEATING PICTURE PROBLEM

A General Electric b/w model M782YMD came in with good sound and no picture. With the scope we found a video detector was shorted. Replacement of the video detector cured the no-picture problem.

Within ten days the same receiver came in with the same condition. Again we found a shorted video diode. A new one was installed. It lasted two days during a bench test. In this particular circuit very little voltage was applied



to the video diode. What was burning out the video diode?

The 6AF11 amplifier was checked in the tube tester. When rapped real hard, a short would momentarily occur between screen grid and grid terminals. This placed the screen voltage across the diode (see diagram). Replacement of the video amplifier and a new video diode finally cured the repeating no-picture problem.—Homer L. Davidson

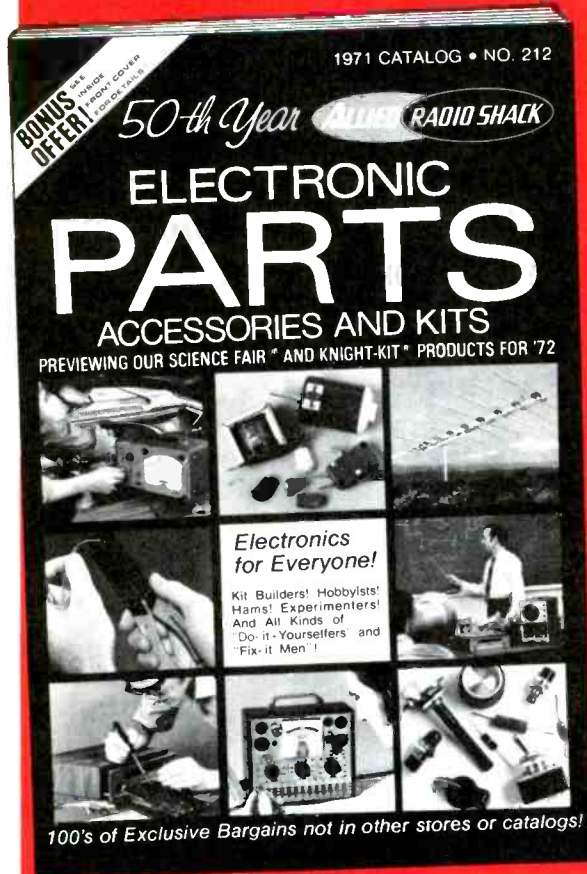
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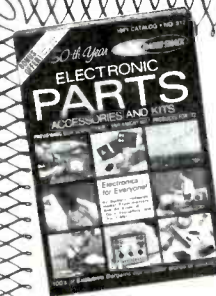
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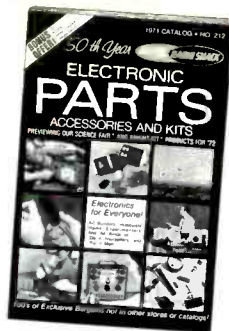


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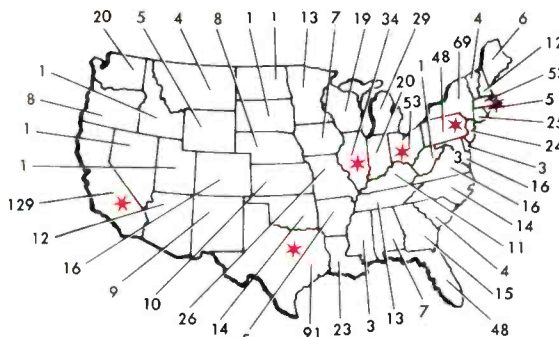
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# EQUIPMENT REPORT

TRIPLETT 990 INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE ANALYZER

For manufacturer's literature, circle No. 22 on Reader Service Card



THE TRIPLETT 990 INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE Analyzer is one of those outfits that can do almost anything. I had a lot of cornball similes for this, but decided against using them. Suffice it to say that I didn't find any standard test, and several unusual ones, that it would not make!

When I got it, I found a beautiful shiny "attaché case"; the inside is lined with very thick foam padding. Each part has its own slot, even the test leads. It should withstand a pretty high-G shock.

Right in the middle of it is the heart of the set; a special model of one of Triplett's vom's, a Model 900. This is a new version of the 630, with special scales for the new tests which can be made with this instrument. It has an automatic overload protector device; a very fast-acting relay, which trips a pop-up reset button on the panel. This latches open; you must push the RESET button to get it back in operation (being more careful next time!) Besides this, meter-protection diodes are shunted across the movement for bypassing possible transient spikes which could slam the needle before the relay can open. By the way, if you try to reset the protector, with the overload still connected, it won't go on. The overload must be removed first. So, this is pretty well fool-proof.

The basic vom has dc volts ranges of 0-2.5, 10, 50, 250, 1,000 and 5,000 volts; at 20,000 ohms per volt. Dc millivolts can be read on an 0-250 mV scale; for checking small thermocouples, etc. Ac volts ranges of 0-3, 10, 50, 250, 1,000 and 5,000 volts; at 5,000 ohms per volt are used.

For current tests, the Model 900 has a terrific range; from 100 microamperes to 100 amperes. Starting with an 0-100- $\mu$ A range, it goes to 0-10, 100, 1,000 dc mA, then to 0-10 amperes direct, and to 100 amperes using a special heavy-duty shunt furnished with the kit. If you need other ranges, shunts for 0-25 and 0-50 amperes dc can be used.

In all kinds of electrical and electronics maintenance work, ac current

readings are very important. This tells you how much power the unit is drawing, and tells you whether it is overloaded, underloaded or normal. The 990, with the Model 10 Clamp-on Ammeter Adapter, will read ac current over a wide range; from 0-6, 12, 30, 60, 120 and 300 amperes on the stock scales.

The Model 10 Clamp-On is attached to the vom by a long lead. This makes it much easier to use, since the clamp-on unit is no bigger than the palm of your hand. This must be clamped over only one wire in a circuit to read currents. For reading lower currents, like those drawn by small appliances, motors, etc., another adapter is used. This is the Model 101 "Line Separator". A plastic case has line-plug prongs, and three receptacles on the other end. The wires are separated, and a "hole" provided in the case for clamping on the Model 10. This is plugged into an outlet and the appliance under test plugged into the other end.

The center receptacle on the Model 101 is DIRECT, and you read on the 0-6 ampere scale of the vom. The other two outlets are DIVIDE BY 10 and DIVIDE BY 20; the original 0-6 ampere scale now reads 0-0.6 amperes or 0-0.12 amperes. Your "lowest readable deflection" on the meter is 0.04 amps which ought to be far enough down for anything!

The ohmmeter ranges of the 900 start with R x1 0-1,000 ohms, 4.4 ohm center-scale, and then to R x10, R x1k and R x100k, and "megohm scales" of 0-1 and 0-100 megohms; 2% accuracy.

Now for the fun; the accessories! With the Model 901 Tachometer Generator, you can read rotational speed in ranges of 0-500 and 0-5,000 rpm, on specially calibrated scales. The tach generator is a compact device looking like a tiny drill, with interchangeable soft rubber tips, cone and inverted-cone.

A dual-range thermometer is also provided. A temperature probe no larger than a standard test-prod is used. The end is held against the object whose temperature is to be checked. The temperature ranges from -50 to +100°F, and +40 to +300°F can be read, from solid surfaces, liquids, or in air. (I used this to check the case-temperature of a suspected power transistor!)

The "sound-man" and audio work was not forgotten, either. The 900 vom has an OUTPUT jack, with blocking capacitor, as well as a full set of dB scales, four of them from -20 to +11 dB, and up to +49 dB, across a 600-ohm line. The standard ac/dc voltage and current scales of the vom will handle anything found in receiver or transmitter test work, tube or solid-state.

A small but very comprehensive instruction booklet gives full details (and many safety precautions!) for making all of these tests. The Ingenious Engineer will undoubtedly find many other uses for this kit of instruments. R-E

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"Transistor Testing: What With?" by Jack Darr in the November 1969 issue was a fine article. However, reversing probes and holding the transistor can be a little awkward. Why not get the idea off the ground? Build an **OHMS TRANSISTOR CHECKER** that will make ohms checking a snap. The diagram in Fig. 1 indicates the simplicity of the

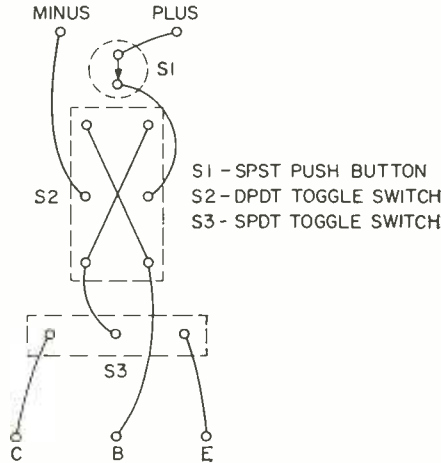


Fig. 1

ohmmeter connects to the plus and minus leads by a short lead with alligator clips. Connections are made quickly. The transistor is similarly connected to the checker's collector, base and emitter terminals.

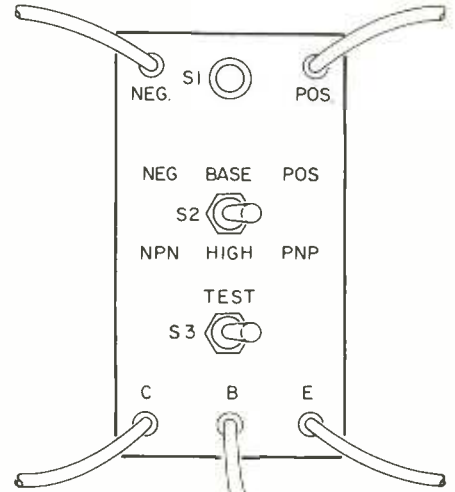


Fig. 2

Set the ohmmeter to the proper range and push switch S1. Move switch S2 either to left or right to obtain a high ohms reading. Now move

checker, Fig. 2 shows the panel. Your

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S3 to the left to test the base-collector junction. Move the switch to the right and test between the base and the emitter.

The transistor leakage factor is quickly obtained by moving S2 to the opposite side. Again S3 makes the test between the collector and emitter. A wide variation in readings between the test at the collector and emitter indicates a defective transistor.

The polarity of the voltage on the ohmmeter leads should be so that with S2 at the right (POS-PNP), a voltmeter with its plus lead to the base terminal and the negative to the emitter with switch 3 to the right you have a positive reading on the meter. The setting of S2 now lets you determine the sex of the transistor automatically.

Pnp or npn? Connect the transistor to the collector, base and emitter leads. If the HIGH reading comes with S2 set to NPN, the transistor is an npn. It is a pnp when the HIGH reading occurs with S2 set in the PNP position.—*H. Lindon Robinson*

### AIRGUN CLEANS CHASSIS

After 15 years of full-time television repair, I have found that one of the most unpleasant jobs is working in a blanket of dirt and dust inside the cabinet and chassis. This is an especially acute problem when you're try-



ing to trace every potentially burned resistor that is buried in dust, to say nothing of the shortened life of the equipment and the potential fire hazard.

The photo shows the air gun that I have used very successfully to clean all incoming television bench jobs. The unit can also be used in the home by taking the set outside to be cleaned. Often my customers have tried to use their vacuum cleaners to do this—sometimes damaging their sets in the process. (The air gun I use was purchased from the Carl Co. of Lisbon, Ohio, for \$49.)

I also use the air gun to wipe out high-voltage corona caused by moisture in color televisions.—*Thomas H. Davenport*

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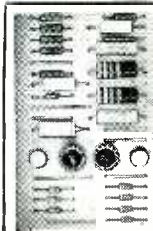
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negative side track. This done by making R12 and R18 equal.

The negative portion of the circuit is made up of IC2, Q3, Q4 and Q5. The 2-amp output rating is supplied by Q2 and Q4, a pair of 2N3055's. These two transistors need to be well heat-sinked so follow the recommendations. Other portions of the circuit are beefed up accordingly; a pair of large computer grade input filters (C1-C10), husky rectifiers (D1-D4) and 0.27-ohm current limit resistors in each leg. Extra filtering is on the output too, C7 and C13.

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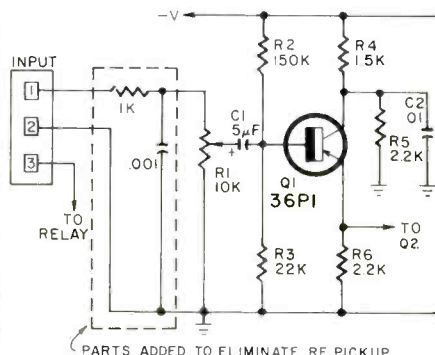
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# TECHNOTES

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in the long, unshielded cable which runs between the organ and the tone cabinet. It was then detected by the amplifier's input transistor. A simple rf filter was added as shown and it completely eliminated the problem. —Donald R. Hicke

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Cool-Amp is the trade name and is produced by The Cool-Amp Co., 8603 S. W. 17th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97219. —John J. Pirch

## ADMIRAL 4H12—NO SOUND OR PIX

No sound or picture on channels 7 through 13—or, in some cases, the station comes in on the next higher channel—may be due to a leaky C454. This capacitor 0.01-uF is located under the shield of the sound take-off coil (L403). —Admiral Service News Letter

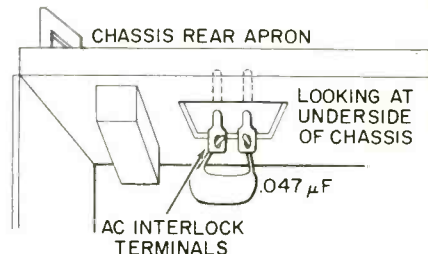
## AC LINE CAPACITOR

The RCA "G" series color TV receivers have a .047-µF filter capacitor connected across the ac line (wired directly across the ac interlock terminals). This capacitor can be checked or replaced in the home—using the following procedures:

1. Remove the rear cover and chassis retaining bolts. Slide the chassis slightly rearward to inspect the

capacitor. See diagram.

2. If the capacitor is an approved type—identified by its white color and stamped with the numbers



90097-221 or 1442487-221—no further action is necessary. Restore the chassis to normal operation.

3. If the capacitor is brown or reddish brown in color, it should be replaced with an approved type.

The RCA stock number of the approved capacitor is 111286. It is recommended that all service technicians carry this approved type capacitor when making housecalls on "G" series receivers. —RCA Television Service Bulletin

## EMERSON 31T53 AND 31T54

Some of these sets develop noisy tuning on FM. This is caused by a poor ground wiper contact in the tuning capacitor. This condition can be corrected by installing a separate wiper washer (part No. 985314) on the tuning capacitor shaft as follows:

1. Remove the chassis.
2. Remove tuning capacitor from the PC board and label all wires removed for easy replacement.
3. Remove two small screws on front of tuning capacitor and place the washer (part 985314) on shaft and secure with the two screws.

4. Reassemble tuner and replace chassis in cabinet. —Emerson Field Service Bulletin

## ZENITH 14Y33 CHASSIS

Complaint: Contrast, normal when set is first turned on, drops to a low level after 20-30 minutes of operation.

Remedy: Replace the 17JN6 horizontal output tube.

Cause: Tube develops gas or grid leakage, causing decrease in negative grid voltage which is used as a source of bias for the age circuit. It will be noted that the age control will not operate normally when this condition exists. —R.J. Turner

## INSTANT-ON, WON'T TURN OFF

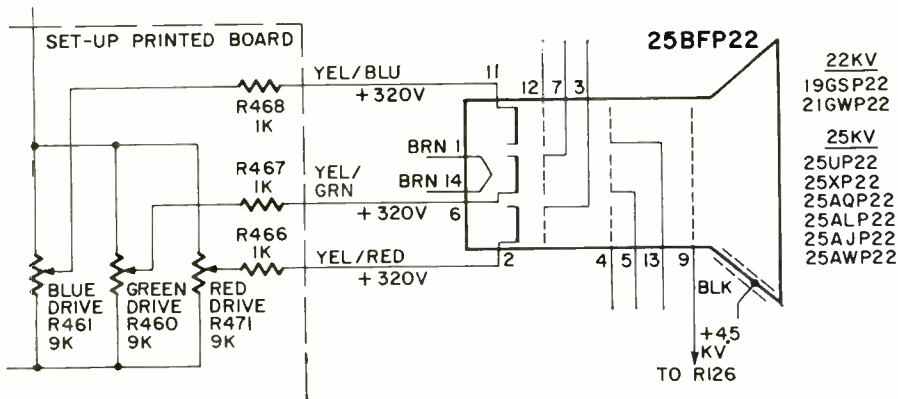
When the switch cannot be used to turn off sets with instant-on circuits, check the diode associated with this circuit. It may be shorted. —B. J. Brown **R-E**

# Red Drive Control Update

Simple modification adds red gun drive control; also changes gray-scale adjustment in G-E color TV

Beginning with the KE chassis serial number OT1G, a 9000-ohm RED DRIVE control (R471) was added to the set-up board. At the same time the GREEN DRIVE (R460) and BLUE DRIVE (R461) controls were changed to 9000 ohms each as shown in the diagram.

Control R471 was added to provide a drive control for the red gun in the new type 25BFP22 picture tube.



The three 9000-ohm controls in parallel present a 3000-ohm load to the video output tube; the same as was presented by the previous two 6000-ohm controls in parallel.

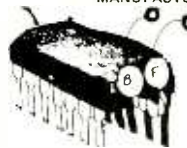
To make gray-scale drive control adjustments on KE chassis using picture tube types *other than* the 25BFP22, rotate the RED DRIVE con-

trol *fully clockwise* and leave in this position. Now make the usual gray-scale adjustments using the GREEN and BLUE DRIVE controls just as if the RED DRIVE control were not present.

To make gray-scale drive adjustments on KE chassis using the 25BFP22, rotate the GREEN DRIVE control *fully clockwise*. Advance the RED DRIVE control to produce a yellow background. If yellow cannot be at-

tained with the RED DRIVE control at its maximum clockwise position, then leave the red control at maximum clockwise and retard the GREEN DRIVE counterclockwise to produce yellow. **At the end of the gray-scale adjustment procedure, either the GREEN DRIVE or RED DRIVE control must be in its maximum clockwise position.** R-E

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7401	Quad 2 Input Open Collector NAND	7443	Excess 3 to Decimal Decoder
7402	Quad 2 Input NOR	7444	Excess 3 Gray to Decimal Decoder
7404	Hex Inverter	7475	Quad Bi Stable Latch
7405	Open Collector Hex Inverter	7480	Full Adder
7408	Quad 2 Input	7490	Decade Counter
7409	Quad 2 Input AND, Open Collector	7494	4 Bit Shift Register
7410	Triple 3 Input NAND	7495	4 Bit Right Left Shift Reg.
7411	Triple 3 Input AND	7496	5 Bit Shift Register
7420	Dual 4 Input NAND	74151	8 Bit Data Selector with Stroble
7421	Dual 4 Input AND		
7430	8 Input NAND		
7440	Dual 4 Input NAND Buffer		
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7493	4 Bit Binary Counter	7483	4 Bit Binary Full Adder
74180	8-Bit ODD EVEN Parity Generator/Checker	74145	BCD to Decimal Decoder Driver
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74122	One Shot		
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74193	Bi-Directional Counter 4 Bit Binary	2501	256 Bit MOS random access memory
74181	Arithmetic logic unit		

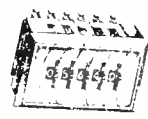
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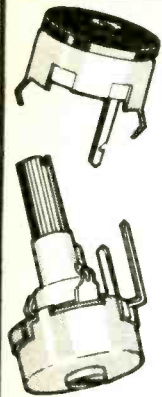
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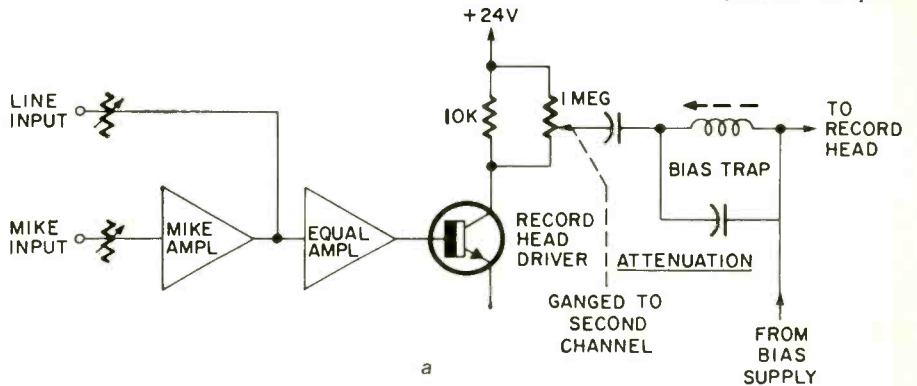
Circle 85 on reader service card

# NOTEWORTHY

## ATTENUATOR FOR SMOOTHER RECORDINGS

Very often, when making a tape recording from a tuner or a turntable, it is desirable to employ the level controls of the tape recorder to fade smoothly on and off the tape between selections, between records, or between announcements in the case of the tuner. A problem that arises when the recorder gain controls are so used is the fact that it is quite difficult to re-establish exactly the same record level as before the gain control was moved. This change of level on the tape, if audible, is a source of annoy-

ance and detracts considerably from the smoothness of the recording. This situation can also mar the finished recording by requiring an excessive amount of gain riding when the recorder is re-started if there is much difference between the peak amplitude of the previous selection and the current selection, as is often the case when recording from a tuner. Since it is not always convenient to place markings on the recorder level controls, especially when recordings are made from more than one source as in even mildly complex music systems, it becomes convenient to add an attenuation control that operates indepen-

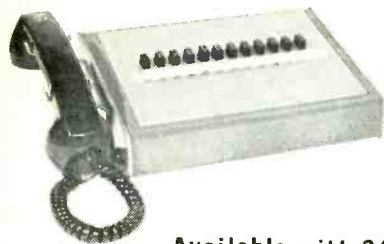


dently of the existing recorder level controls.

Such an auxiliary control should vary the gain of the recorder from zero to whatever levels have been set by the regular recorder controls while introducing a minimum of insertion loss and other undesirable effects. Figure 1-a illustrates an arrangement that has been successfully used for some time on a custom-built preamp that drives a modified tape deck for special-purpose recordings. The attenuation control is inserted between the record head and its driver, be it tube or transistor. Neither the taper nor the value of the pot is important so long as it is several times the resistance of the amplifier load resistor. Of course, in a stereo system, the two sections of the pot should be identical.

Figure 1-b shows how to insert an auxiliary level control externally if no room is available on the record preamp itself. Take care in choosing R1. It will introduce too much loss if it is of a lower resistance than the input impedance of the recorder, while it may tend to exhibit nonlinear frequency characteristics if it is made too large. The latter consideration will not normally present a problem as this control will usually be either fully on or fully off, but in the event that this situation becomes objectionable a small capacitor, C1 may be added as shown to im-

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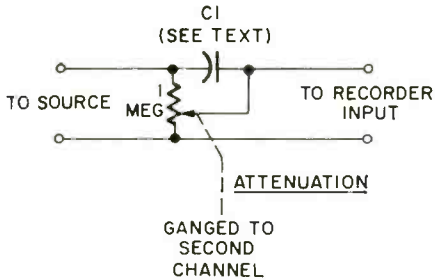
Circle 87 on reader service card



# CIRCUITS

prove the frequency linearity of the circuit. The exact value of C1 will vary with the impedance and cable lengths involved and is best found by experimentation. It will usually be on the order of a few hundred picofarads for most high-impedance circuits.

In operation, the ATTENUATION control is set to its minimum loss position (normally fully clockwise) and the record levels are set using the normal source and recorder gain controls. Thereafter, if the recording must be interrupted, smooth transitions are made using the ATTENUATION control only. The recorder gain controls are

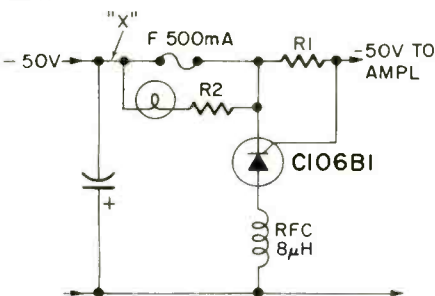


b

not disturbed unless the level of the program material changes. This arrangement has proven to be invaluable when making recordings off-the-air that include undesired commentary or commercials. This simple circuit, used with slow bias buildup to eliminate clicks when the tape is started, makes it almost impossible to tell when the tape has stopped to preclude recording unwanted material.—J. Chamkis

## AMPLIFIER PROTECTOR CIRCUIT

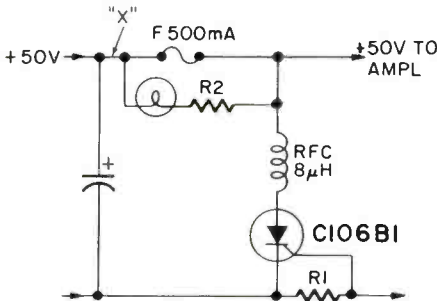
Some of the earlier solid-state power amplifiers lack circuitry to protect the power transistors against damage if the amplifier is overdriven or if its output terminals are shorted. This circuit, described by Mr. L. Paal in *Electronics Australia*, is placed between the power supply and the amplifier.



Resistor R1, in series with the supply, is selected so the voltage drop across it turns on the SCR when the current through it reaches an unsafe level. When conducting, the SCR ap-

pears as a partial short-circuit across the power supply and removes about 60% of the voltage from the amplifier in about 4  $\mu$ sec. The fuse blows in a few  $\mu$ sec and the lamp lights, indicating a short or overload.

The rf choke, made by winding 16 turns of No. 20 wire over a 1/4-inch form, limits the in-rush of current to a safe value. In a 50-volt supply, the resistance of a 500-mA fuse (around 1.5 to 2 ohms) limits the



short-circuit current through the SCR to around 35 amps, well within the maximum-surge-current rating of the C106BI. Insert a resistor of about 2 ohms at "X" for higher current supplies. Select a value for R2 to supply the correct voltage to the overload indicator lamp. **R-E**

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DEPT. RE-091 LINCOLN, NEBR. 68501



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## with Triad's latest Service Aid No. 5: "Fast Ways to Restore a Raster."

Here's an easy-to-read 8-page Service Aid which will get you to the heart of the trouble faster than any treatise of its type for professional TV servicemen. Uses a direct and comprehensive approach to horizontal and high voltage problems. Helps you find the trouble and tells you how to correct it. Has many service tips that will prevent call-backs. Includes valuable information on both color and black-and-white TV.

Write for your copy today — and also for Service Aid No. 4 on "Understanding Related Circuits — Multiple Trouble." Previous Service Aids (or PTM's) are either being revised or have been updated into No. 5. See your Triad Distributor for all your replacement transformer needs, and get the Triad Catalog & Replacement Guide while you're at it. Triad Distributor Division, 305 North Briant Street, Huntington, Ind. 46750.



**NEW TRIAD 1971/72 CATALOG AND REPLACEMENT GUIDE**

### DREAM WORKBENCH (continued from page 85)

sit safely on a 12-inch shelf. Mine works on the bench-top at present, under the shelf, but is going on a cart soon.

That about takes care of the serious business of designing a workshop for maximum efficiency: the Ideal Shop, or as close as we can get to it. There's one more thing we really need, though, (and I'm only about half-joking). This is a good big *junk-room!* If we have say 5,000 feet of floor space, we'll need 10,000 feet for the inevitable junk. Those good old sets that we won't throw away because "there are a lot of good parts in there that I might need some day!" Hi!

Offhand, I'd say that my own setup is about Ideal. I have an old building, 125 feet long and 25 feet wide. Shop and storage space account for about 50 feet of the overall length, and the rest is one monster junk-room! I wouldn't go so far as to say that I *never* throw anything away (That's my wife who says

that!). I will admit that while looking for something the other day, I found a Grebe Synchronphase radio (Circa 1925), a Majestic Model 20 radio (1928) and an RCA 630 TV set! Y'know, I'm gonna fix them one of these days, just as soon as I can get around to it! **R-E**



"Gee, Dad . . . vivid red . . . vivid orange . . . vivid purple . . ."

**PARTS! CORNELL TUBES!**  
 Send For CORNELL'S New Color Catalog 48 Pgs. New Items FREE  
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#### R-E ON FILM

Two sources of filmed back issues of RADIO-ELECTRONICS are now available. Please write the companies for further information. Microfilm editions are available from University Microfilms, A Xerox Company, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48106. Beginning with the January, 1969, issue, Microfiche editions are available from NCR Microcard Editions, Industrial Products Division, 901 26th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.

## INTEGRATED CIRCUITS / RECTIFIERS SEMICONDUCTORS / TRIACS

#### BCD COUNTER KIT consisting of:

- 1—PC Board 12707
- 2—7476 IC's
- 2—Silicon diodes
- 1—Set of instructions

When assembled by enclosed instructions, this kit will count pulses from 0-9 in BCD. These boards can be connected in series to count as high as desired. Example, two will count to 99, three to 999. **\$6.95**

**ER900 TRIGGER DIODES.** These bidirectional trigger diodes are one of the best and cheapest methods to trigger SCR's and triacs. 4/\$1.00

**LIGHT EMITTING DIODES (LED'S)**  
 Infra red .....\$1.50  
 Visible .....\$1.50  
 Photo detectors for each ..\$1.00

#### TRIACS

PRV	1A	10A	15A
100	.40	.70	1.00
200	.70	1.10	1.40
300	.90	1.35	1.80
400	1.10	1.60	2.20
500	1.50	2.00	2.60

#### NIXIE TUBES

Similar to Raytheon 8754 with socket & data sheet **\$4.75**

#### TTL IC SERIES

- 7441 BCD DECIMAL DECODER .....\$1.85
- 7474 DUAL FLIP FLOP ...\$.85
- 7475 QUAD BISTABLE LATCH .....\$1.70
- 7476 DUAL JK MASTER-SLAVE JK FLIP FLOP \$1.00
- 7490 DECADE COUNTER \$1.85
- 7492 DIVIDE BY TWELVE \$1.85
- 7493 4 BIT BINARY COUNTER .....\$1.85
- 7481 16 BIT MEMORY ELEMENT .....\$2.00

#### Silicon Power Rectifiers

PRV	3A	12A	30A
100	.09	.24	.40
200	.12	.28	.60
400	.16	.35	.90
600	.20	.50	1.10
800	.28	.70	1.40
1000	.35	.90	

Terms: FOB Cambridge, Mass. Send check or Money Order. Include Postage. Average Wt. per package 1/2 lb. No. C.O.D.'s. Minimum Order \$3.00

#### DECADE COUNTER KIT

CONSISTING OF:  
 1—NIXIE TUBE and SOCKET  
 1—7490 1—7475 1—7441  
 Specially priced at \$9.95

#### Controlled Avalanche or Epoxy Rectifiers 1 AMP.

PRV	PRV
100	.06
200	.07
400	.09
600	.11
800	.15
1000	.20

#### LINEAR CIRCUITS

709C operational Amp \$ .70  
 741 operational Amp \$1.00  
 SE 501 Video Amp \$1.00  
 723 Voltage regulator \$1.25

#### Silicon Control Rectifiers

PRV	3A	7A	20A	70A
50	.25	.28	.60	
100	.30	.38	.85	3.50
200	.50	.60	1.10	6.50
300	.60	.68	1.30	
400	.70	.75	1.50	9.50
500	.80	.85	1.70	
600	.90	1.20	1.90	11.00

TIS 43 General purpose Unijunctions \$ .50  
 2N3819 General purpose N-Channel FET'S \$ .45

Send for our latest catalog featuring Transistors and Rectifiers; 325 Elm St., Cambridge, Mass.

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 SEPTEMBER 1971

**SOLID TATE SALES**  
 Post Office Box 74D Somerville, Mass. 02143 Tel. (617) 547-4005

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for FUN, STUDY or PROFIT

**FREE GIANT CATALOG!**

### 3-CHANNEL COLOR ORGAN BARGAIN!

Create tremendous variety of unusual & beautiful lighting effects with this low-cost top-quality 1500-Watt unit (500 W. per channel). Compare with others selling for twice the price. Has pilot light, plus individual sensitivity controls and channel indicator lights. Can operate ten 150 W. "spots" or 200 Christmas lights. Uses reg. house current—attaches to audio source w/RCA-type phone plug. 5 1/4" x 6 3/4" x 2 1/2". 2 1/2 lbs. Thermal setting plastic case. 6 ft. cord. Including complete instructions.

**Stock No. 71.223EH ..... \$44.50 Ppd.**

### PSYCHEDELIC LIGHTING HANDBOOK

100 information packed pages! Fully explains latest in psychedelic lighting equipment, techniques, developments. Covers all facets of psychedelic light-show production including strobes, black lights, projectors, crystals, organic slides, mirrors, color organs, polarized color, light boxes, Music-Vision, etc. 8 1/2" x 11" looseleaf paper for 3 ring binder. Stock No. 9100EH ..... \$3.00 Ppd.

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Really terrific imported value. Loaded with big machine capabilities. 1st truly personal electronic calculator. Absolutely silent answers in milliseconds. Use it anywhere—AC/DC. Only 2 lbs., 6 3/4" high. Add, subtract, multiply, divide, perform mixed calculations. 8 digit entry & read-out w/16 digit cap. Auto. precise to the decimal. Features underflow, error correction. Keyboard roll over memory. Solid state reliability. modular constr. 1 year guar. for normal use.

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Nothing like it! Top-quality hand-held pump produces & maintains 25" of vacuum. Has instant release tab. 1 3/4" diam. stainless gauge (0-30"). 100's of uses—siphon noxious fluids, evacuate bell jars and castings, clean, retrieve, lift sterile objects, demonstrate Magdeburg hemispheres, bleed fuel lines, check leaks, etc. Lifts Lifter (2 1/2" diam. cup)—

40 lbs. with included "T" much more w/larger cup.

**Stock No. 71.301EH ..... \$12.00 Ppd.**  
**Stock No. 71.300EH (without gauge/lifter) ..... 5.50 Ppd.**

### BLACK-LIGHT MIGHTY MITES

Relatively small (12") fixtures give surprisingly bright blacklight. Mirror-finished reflector makes instant starting 8-watt, high-intensity bulb look like 40-watter. Up to 5,000 hours of safe, long-wave (3660A) black-light to really turn on parties, light & theatrical shows, psychedellic decors, holiday decorations. Shockproof end-caps remove for safe, easy replacement of bulb and starter. Stands upright or horizontal. Auto. case.

**Stock No. 71.274EH ..... \$14.95 Ppd.**  
**DELUXE OUTDOOR/INDOOR MODEL**  
**Stock No. 71.299EH ..... \$19.95 Ppd.**

### INVISIBLE BLACK-LIGHT SPRAY

You can't see it under normal light, but under black-light, wow! It gives an eerie bluish-white glow to hundreds of things you'll think of for startling luminous effects. Create party costumes, decorations. Spray hidden messages around. Use on plastic, glass, wood, metal, styrofoam, papier maché, even fresh flowers! Washes off with any dry-cleaning fluid. Net contents: 12 oz. (enough to cover a 7 ft. Christmas tree with plenty left over).

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**NEW! 4 1/2" ELECTRIC (4 1/2" x 5" x 9") ..... \$6.75 Ppd.**  
**NEW! ELECTRONIC DIGITAL COMPUTER KIT!**  
 Solve problems, play games, predict weather with this actual working model of giant electronic brains. Amazing new fun way to learn about computer programming. Logic, decimal, binary systems. Laws of Sets—even do your own programming after completing simplified 116 page instructive booklet. Includes step-by-step assembly diagrams. Circuit's easily changed. Readout from illuminated control panel. Req. 2 "D" batt. (not incl.). Best model we've seen for home, school, industry.

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Create spectacular psychedelic lighting effects with this genuine electronic strobe. Terrific for parties, special occasions, experiments—perfect for clubs, night clubs, dances, exhibitions. Adjust from 1 to 10 short-duration flashes per second—not a make-shift mechanical device. Amaze friends with mid-time music effects. Best party ice-breaker ever "freeze" the action and "unfreeze" your guests. Practical too—check action of moderate-speed machinery. Xenon lamp gives one million flashes. 6 3/4" diam. reflector. Uses reg. 110-120 volt A.C. current. Handsome solid walnut cabinet 9 1/2" x 8 1/2" x 1". Send for Bulletin 9875—describes other startlingly new unique lighting effects.

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### CHROMATIC "MACHINE-GUN" STROBE

Red, Green & Blue light barrage the eyeballs every 6 seconds with this low cost top-quality mechanical strobe that can run continuously without fear of burning up. Buzzing effect over 500 ft. sq. area. Created by rotating color wheel in front of 100W, 120V reflector floodlamp (incl.)—elements seem to flash on & off as colors fluctuate. Turns store window displays into flashing pulsating productions. Convection cooled. Rugged wrinkle finish metal case. Adjustable hanger bracket. Reg. house current.

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Terrific Buy! Top Quality! Terrific brilliant, sharp 4 1/2 ft. sq. image from 8" using up to 5" x 5" color. h&w illustrations. Details all original color proportions. Enlarge drawings, coins, maps, etc. Revolutionary peanut-size quartz Halogen lamp (50 hr. life) 200mm anastigmatic lens (f3.5, 8" P.L.) unique internal reflecting system give maximum brightness, entire field focus. Can be used upside down. Turbo-cooled. 3 1/2 ft. cord.

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8" DIAMETER—1 1/2" Thick	Stock No. 70.005EH	..... \$24.50
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Brand new Signal Corp. Model "T" 220 volt 1.5 hp. turning crank. Use in high impedance relays. Charge ground & bring up night crawlers for bait or study. 2 Alnico Magnets alone now worth more than original \$15 gov't cost.

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# ADVERTISING INDEX

RADIO-ELECTRONICS does not assume responsibility for any errors which may appear in the index below.

READER SERVICE CARD NO.	PAGE
18	Acoustic Research ..... 72
78	Allied Radio Shack ..... 89-90
68	Allied Radio Shack, Franchise Division 83
	APM Systems ..... 95
83	Audionics ..... 94
84	B & F Enterprises ..... 95
84	B & K (Division of Dynascan Corp.) .. 78
82	Brooks Radio & TV Corp. .... 92-93
1	Castle TV Tuner Service ..... Cover II
	Cleveland Institute of Electronics ..... 28-31, 87, 97
	Coletronics ..... 91
14	Cooper Industries ..... 24
	CREI, Division of the McGraw-Hill Continuing Education Co. .... 18-21
75	Delta Electronics ..... 87
15	Delta Products ..... 26
88	EDI, Electronic Distributor Industries . 97
77	EICO, Electronic Instrument Co. .... 85
	EMC, Electronic Measurement Corp. . . 88
4	Finney Co. .... 7
87	GNJ Electronics ..... 96
2	Grantham School of Engineering ..... 1
	GTE Sylvania Electronic Components 32
10	Heath Co. .... 17
79	Indiana Home Study Institute ..... 91
90	International Crystal ..... 102
62	Jerrold Electronics ..... 76
89	E.F. Johnson ..... 97
80	Judson Research ..... 92
3	Krylon ..... 5
65	Lafayette Radio Electronics ..... 79-80
66	Lectrotech ..... 81
81	Marsh Co. .... 93
67	National Camera ..... 82
	National Radio Institute ..... 8-11
	National Technical Schools ..... 64-67
86	Nelson-Hershfield Electronics ..... 96
21	Olson Electronics ..... 26
69	Pennwood Numechron ..... 84
71	Phase Corp. .... 84
6	Quam Nichols ..... 13
73	Quietrole ..... 86
7	Raytheon ..... 14
	RCA Electronic Components, Test Equipment Division ..... 77
	Tube Division ..... 25
	RCA Institutes ..... 46-49
	RCA Parts & Accessories ..... Cover IV
	RCA Sales Corp. .... 75
61	Rye Industries ..... 82
72	S & A Electronics ..... 88
16	Sams & Co., Howard W. .... 27
12	Sansui ..... 23
19	Schober Organ ..... 73
91	Shure Brothers ..... Cover III
8	Sony ..... 15
13	TDK Electronics ..... 24
74	Telematic ..... 86
9	Telex ..... 16
5	Toyo Radio ..... 12
17	Transtek ..... 72
70	TV Tech ..... 84
85	Workman Electronic Products ..... 96
11	Xcelite ..... 22
	<b>MARKET CENTER ..... 98-101</b>
	Cornell Electronics
93	Edmund Scientific Co.
	Lakeside Industries
	Music Associated
94	Polypaks
	Ramko Research
92	Solid State Sales
	Southwest Technical Products
	Surplus Center
	Sydmar
95	Triad Division, Litton Inds.
	<b>SCHOOL DIRECTORY ..... 101</b>
	Valparaiso Technical Institute

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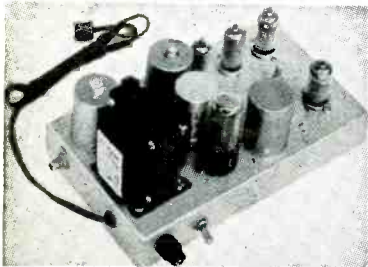
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Convert ANY FM TUNER to receive uninterrupted commercial free music being broadcast by many stations.



New three transistor plus "Phase locked loop" IC circuit gives you perfect reception. No tuned circuits, or critical adjustments. The 1 1/2" x 4" circuit board is powered from the tuner supply. +9 to 12 Volts DC @ 10 Ma. required.

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Kit only \$14.50 + post. & ins.  
Wired and tested \$25.00 + post. & ins.  
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\* Improves performance & sound \* Saves time  
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TR-200 transformer  
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(as described in  
POPULAR ELECTRONICS—Nov. 1966)

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- 10 709, 723, 741 "GOLD" TO-5 IC's no test 1.00
- 100 GE 1-AMP Silicon rect. to 1000 volts. 1.98
- 6 Dual in line 709, 741 w/sheet, no test. 1.00
- 4 2N4269 Nixie tube driver transistors. 1.00
- 1 PHOTO Electric FET 2N3370, P-Channel 1.00
- 5 1-AMP SCR KIT, 15V, 30V, 60V, 100V, 150V, \$1
- 5 Varactor diodes, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 pF 1.00
- 1 "PUT" Programmable unijunction 1.00
- 8 1 AMP 1000 PIV sil. rectifiers. 1.15
- 2 2N3370 FET, N channel TO-18, metal 1.00
- 2 2N2608 FET, P channel TO-18, metal 1.00
- 2 2N2646 Unijunction, plastic 1.00
- 2 2N3819 FET, N channel, plastic 1.00
- 5 ER-900 Trigger diodes, scr's, triacs 1.00
- 2 2N3277 FET, P channel, metal TO-5 1.00

## GIANT SALE ON NEW TTL TEXAS & NATIONAL ICs

Type	Description	Sale
<input type="checkbox"/> SN7400N	Quad NAND gate	\$4.45
<input type="checkbox"/> SN7401N	Open coll. out	.45
<input type="checkbox"/> SN7402N	Quad NOR gate	.45
<input type="checkbox"/> SN7420N	Triple 3 in. gate	.45
<input type="checkbox"/> SN7421N	Dual 4 in. gate	.45
<input type="checkbox"/> SN7430N	8 input gate	.45
<input type="checkbox"/> SN7440N	Dual 4 in. buffer	.45
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<input type="checkbox"/> SN7473N	Dual J-K flip flop	.88
<input type="checkbox"/> SN7474N	Dual J-K flip flop	.88
<input type="checkbox"/> SN7475N	Quad latch	.88
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Guaranteed! W/Spec Sheets! Any 3 — 10% Discount!

PIV	1Amp*	2Amp	3Amp	EPOXY SILICON RECTIFIERS
50	\$.05	\$.05	\$.08	
100	.06	.06	.12	
200	.07	.07	.15	
400	.09	.09	.22	
600	.12	.12	.28	
800	.15	.16	.39	
1000	.18	.22	.59	

PRV	S-Amp	PRV	S-Amp	Similar to RCA 40504
50	\$4.49	400	\$1.10	
100	.69	500	1.25	
200	.85	600	1.35	
300	.95			

	Infrared "LED"	Infrared "Flame"	Visible "LED"	Visible Sensor
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$.145	\$.88	1.45	.88

PRV	S-Amp	PRV	S-Amp	Similar to RCA 40504
50	\$4.49	400	\$1.10	
100	.69	500	1.25	
200	.85	600	1.35	
300	.95			

## COUNTING SYSTEM

Kit	Price
<input type="checkbox"/> 3-pc. Kit	\$4.95
<input type="checkbox"/> 4-pc. Kit	\$8.88

Kit	Price	723 VOLTAGE REGULATOR
<input type="checkbox"/> NIXIE TUBE BURROUGHS	\$4.50	\$1.50

Kit	Price	709 OP-AMP	741 OP-AMP*
3 for \$13.		75c	
Type B-5441, with decimals 0-9 wide angle numerals, 16 pins.		3 for \$2.00	3 for \$3.75

Kit	Price	6-AMP FULL WAVE RECTIFIERS
<input type="checkbox"/> Type B-5441, with decimals 0-9 wide angle numerals, 16 pins.		1.50
		3 for \$3.75

Kit	Price	15c CATALOG on Fiber Optics, 'IC's, Semi's, Parts
<input type="checkbox"/> 709 OP-AMP	75c	
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<input type="checkbox"/> TO-5 case		
<input type="checkbox"/> Flat pak		

Kit	Price	6-AMP FULL WAVE RECTIFIERS
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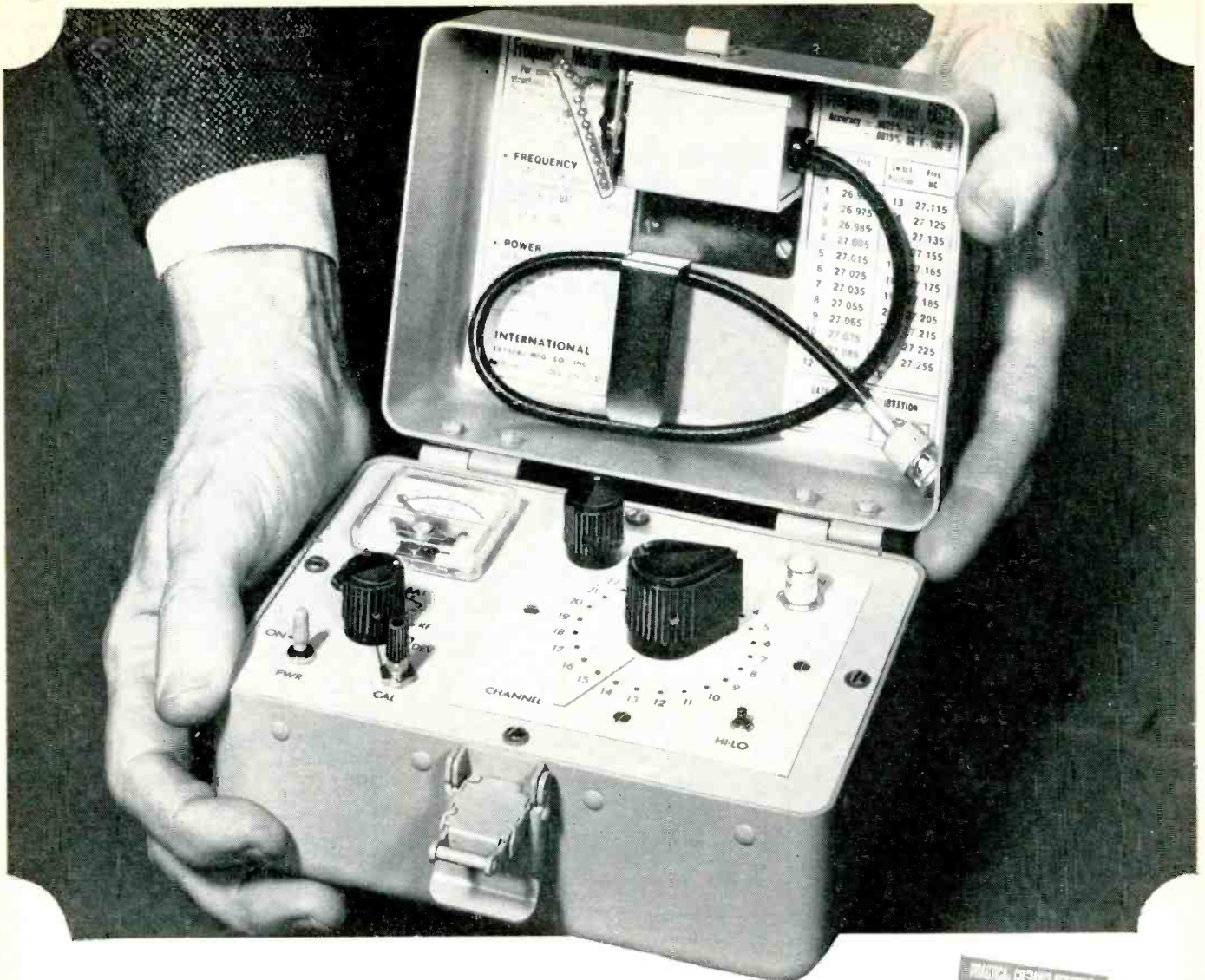
Kit	Price	15c CATALOG on Fiber Optics, 'IC's, Semi's, Parts
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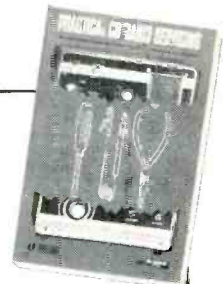
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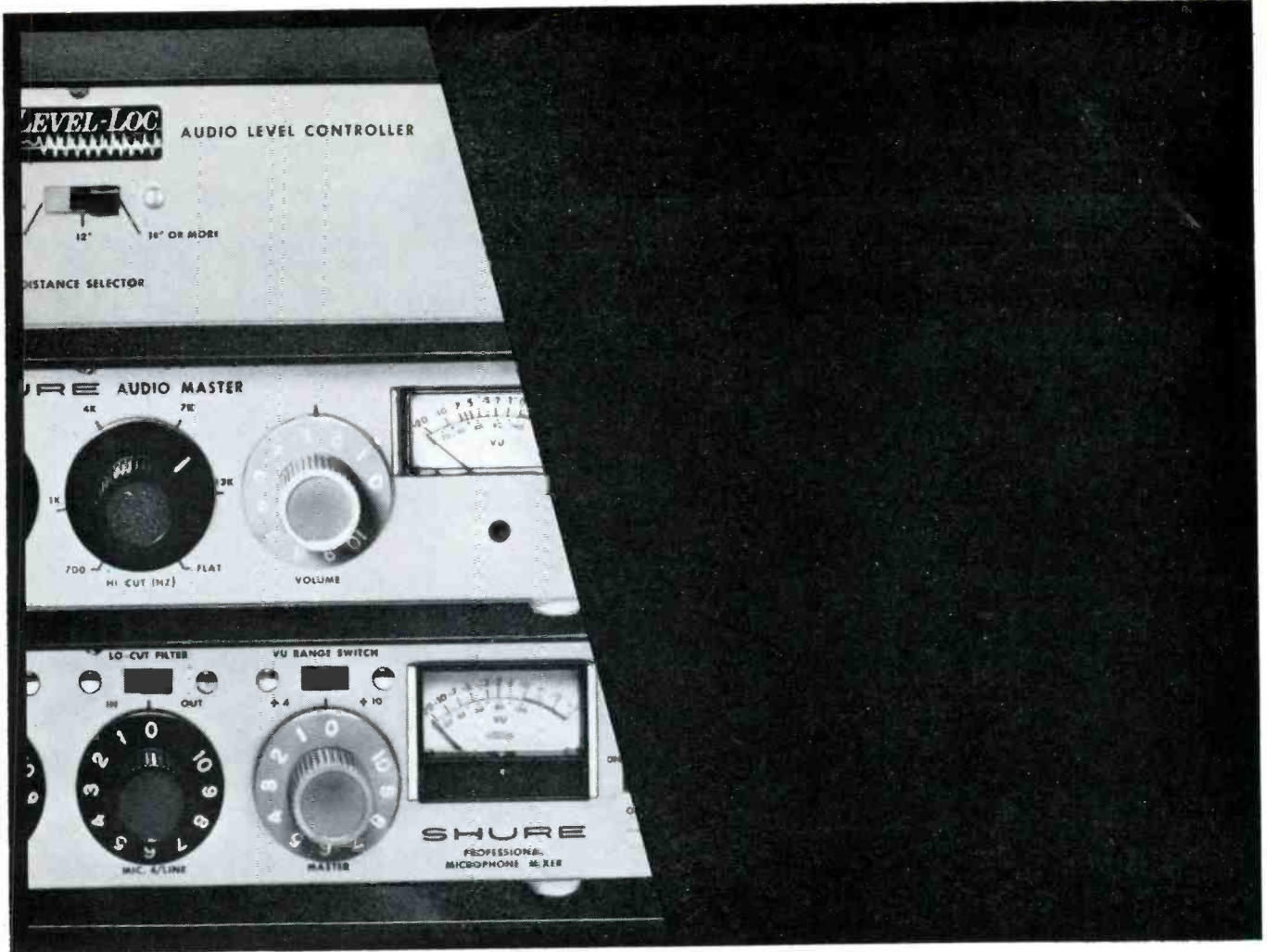
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