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On the cover: The Digital Frequency Counter/Timer is fast becoming one of the industry's most utilitarian pieces of portable test gear. Our cover this month is artist Mario Rossetti's symbolic representation of our lead feature on counters.

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# IIDDUSTRY REPORT 

## Leader Shows New Products

Leader Instruments Corporation has announced the introduction of seven new products to its line of electronic test gear for 1979, including three new oscilloscopes and a 520 MHz frequency counter.

Unveiled for the first time during a special 25th anniversary reception for
members of the trade press in New York City, the units cover the spectrum of service industry requirements from home entertainment and consumer to industrial applications.

In addition, Leader announced it was holding the line on price increases on most of its 50 product types. Only two products, a high voltage meter/probe and a 20 Kohm per voit VOM were increased by $\$ 4$ each. The other two price changes, on communications test instruments, were reductions, a Leader spokesman said.

Noting results of the past year, Corporate Vice President William L. Brydia said a significant growth in sales was led

## NEW FROM LEADER

## The 30MHz Dual Trace Scope with Delay Line.



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by "a virtual doubling in demand for our oscilloscopes." He added the firm, which has been established in the United States for 10 years, is "running well ahead of our planned expansion rate for the third straight year."
Brydia also said work on the organization's new 10,000 square foot headquarters building at Hauppauge, N.Y., is progressing and occupancy is expected this June.

Among the newest of Leader's test gear shown at the press reception was its new portable 3 -inch, dual trace, 20Mhz scope. Designed for field or lab use, this AC/DC unit retails for $\$ 950$.
This instrument features 2 mV / division sensitivity, times five magnification and $.1 \mu \mathrm{~s} /$ division maximum sweep speed.

Also introduced was Leader's newest counter, the LDC-824S, 520 Mhz with sensitivity specified at 20 mV and temperature stability to one part per million. The unit has selectable gate time and frequency/period modes as well as 1 Megohm input impedance. Suggested retail on the 824 S is $\$ 550$.
Leader also showed two new low cost 10Mhz scopes, the LBO 13 and LBO 14, single and double trace units respectively. The LBO14, Leader reports, provides front panel $x$-y operation, channels 1 or 2 trigger selection, and alternate or chopped display modes. List prices are \$499 and \$649.
A new group of audio test instruments for both industrial and service applications was shown also. These units were the LAT 45 and LAT 47 attenuators for use in determining power levels and gain/loss characteristics in amplifiers and filters.
A new semi-conductor tester most applicable to industrial and service applications, the LTC-905 curve tracer, was displayed with a $\$ 200$ price tag.

The unit is designed with a sweep frequency of 120 Hz and sweep voltage selectable in eight steps from 10 to 100 volts

## Microwave Market to to Increase 21/2. Times by ' 87

Microwave equipment, defined as that operating at 1 GHz and above, will reach a dollar value of $\$ 2.9$ billion by 1987 , according to a study by Frost and Sullivan, Inc.

Microwave ovens are expected to be a major contributor to this growth at $\$ 643$ million. Produced by 32 manufacturers, the report states, microwave ovens have reached a market penetration of only 14 percent, which will climb to 20 percent by year end 1979 and 26 percent by year end 1980.

## Sony Exporting to Japan

Sony, the first Japanese electronics company to build manufacturing facilities in the U.S., has become the first <br> \section*{SYIVANAWILTEIYYOU <br> \section*{SYIVANAWILTEIYYOU WHATSWRONGWIT WHATSWRONGWIT rCAANDZENIIL.} rCAANDZENIIL.}


Now when an RCA or Zenith TV module breaks down you don't have to be nervous. Because Sylvania makes Chek-A-Board ${ }^{\circledR}$ module extension kits that let you pinpoint the problem without pulling the chassis. Once you know what's wrong, there's a Sylvania ECG ${ }^{\circledR}$ semiconductor to make it right.

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come is Sylvania. Your Sylvania distributor carries a complete line of test equipment, ECG semiconductors, picture tubes, and receiving tubes designed to make any brand work like it's brand new.

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SYLVATIA

to export a finished product back to Japan. Sony is exporting Betamax videocassettes to Japan from its plant in Dotham, AL, it was announced February 20 by Morton J. Fink, Senior Vice President. Fink stated the Dotham plant represents a $\$ 50$ million investment and is the largest videocassette facility in the world. Employment could reach 1,000 when the plant reaches full capacity, he stated.

## Porter Resigns NESDA Post; Administrator Hired

More changes have swept the offices of the National Electronic Service Dealer's Association (NESDA) as the organization continues to grapple with organiza-
tional and financial difficulties that helped spawn the birth of the upstart Electronic Technician's Association (see ET/D, Jan., Feb. '79).

In the latest move, Executive Director of 14 -months Charles Porter resigned his post and will not be replaced. Instead, NESDA officials have hired Marti McPherson, a professional administrator and former consultant in convention and meeting planning and public relations.

She will also serve as administrator of the International Society of Certified Electronic Technicians, according to NESDA President Bob Villont. "It does not matter how well we and our members do our jobs, if no one knows about it

## $75 \%$ OFF LIST ON ORIGINAL JAPANESE SEMICONDUCTORS

Why buy expensive American replacement semiconductors When you can buy Japanese semiconductors for much less.

but us," Villont said. "One prime project Miss McPherson faces . . . is developing a program to upgrade the image of servicing.'

Porter's resignation followed a special meeting of NESDA's Hourse of Representatives in San Diego. "The decision was difficult," Villont said, "but we appreciate his dedication and substantial contribution . . . and trust his judgement in this matter.

Porter said several former fiscal policies which placed NESDA in precarious financial and cash flow situations were, the confusion over ISCET and poor cash flow. Temporarily eliminating the executive vice president's salary should help "immeasurably" in the latter case, Porter said.
RCA Announces 145 SK Devices
RCA's solid state division reports the availability of 145 new SK types that will replace some 13,000 industry solid state devices.

According to the company, the new group consists of six rectifier/damper tube replacements; eight NPN transistors; eight PNP transistors; seven SCR/Triac devices; one matched diode set; one P-channel FET; two hybird power amplifier modules; 29 linear ICs, 16 digital ICs, and 60 zeners.

These additions, RCA reports, bring the RCA solid state replacement line to 900 devices that replace over 150,000 industry devices.

## After Market Autosound Products Sales to Reach \$1 Billion

Total sales of car radios, radio/tape players, speakers and accessories, in the after market are expected to reach $\$ 1$ billion for 1979 at the factory level, James J. Badaracco, Division Vice President and General Manager, RCA Distributor and Special Products Division, predicted. This is stated to be an approximate increase of $10 \%$ over last year. The market has doubled in size over the last five years and there is a steady increase in the number of cars ordered without factory sound systems. This number has increased from 19\% in 1974, to $32 \%$ in 1978

## Beckman Enters Test Gear Market

Beckman Instruments, a high technology company in microcircuitry, components, and medical instrumentation, has announced it is entering the electronic test equipment market with five entries in the liquid crystal digital multimeter field.

All units, two aimed at the electronic technician marketplace and three at the design engineer field, are currently available through Beckman's nationwide link of 75 OEM distributors or through recently added specialty and general line distributors.

According to John Blanke, product line marketing manager for the new


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$31 / 2$-digit line, the DMMs will be the first of a series of other types of test gear to eventually be designed and produced by Beckman. However, he would not comment on the specifics of future product introductions or their timing.

Blanke said Beckman has established the Instrumentation Products Department to develop and make the new DMMs. Based in Fullerton, Calif., the department is part of the company's Advanced Electro-Products Division (AEPD), which also includes Beckman's hybrid microcircuits and passive resistor network departments. Philip Strauss heads the newly created department.

Blanke said that Beckman is entering the test equipment market to fill a void which the company feels exists between widely divergent high and low end pricing strategies.

The five new Beckman units range in price from $\$ 100$ to $\$ 190$.

In addition, Blanke said, the company achieves an economic advantage because many of the components for test gear are already manufactured by Beckman. He pointed out these include the LCD display, trimmers, resistor networks, and even the custom designed LSI chip used to eliminate many of the discrete components in the new DMMs.

The new line of DMMs, which ET/D viewed during an interview with Beckman representatives in Chicago recently, carries several unique features.

The first, of course, is the custom designed LSI, CMOS, chip with a total power limit of $250 \mu \mathrm{~A}$. This chip contains the ac converter circuitry, a Bessel filter, the main A/D converter circuitry, all timing and control logic and the display drivers. It permits reduction of the number of discrete components to about 40, Beckman reports.

Additionally, according to Beckman, the combination of low power consumption and the LCD display allow the expected average battery life of one of these units to be in the neighborhood of 2,000 hours. That's from a typical 9 -volt "transistor" battery.

The final 200 hours of battery life, according to the firm, is indicated by a blinking decimal point in the display.

Finally, the new Beckman units are
designed to permit virtually instantaneous continunity checking, Blanke said. Called "Insta-Ohms," a small "ohms" symbol in the left hand corner of the display is activated instantaneously when continuity (or a short circuit) is detected, eliminating the time usually needed for a meter to range downward from the indicated display to "zero" ohms.

Typical of the new line is the TECH 310 model, priced at $\$ 130$. This unit features .25 per cent accuracy on five DC ranges ( 200 millivolts to 1500 volts) with an input impedance of 22 megohms. AC bandwidth is 10 Khz with measurements in five ranges on both current and voltage with a maximum of 2 amps AC.

The DC maximum is 10 amps.
According to Blanke, "While we are not prepared to discuss those products at this time," Beckman is now "investigating several other test instrument products where we may have a competitive advantage due to our engineering, manufacturing and distribution capabilities.

## RCA Introduces More Remotes

RCA has announced that for the first time it will offer remote control capabilities in everyone of its color television screen sizes.

According to RCA General Manager Jack Sauter, the industry can expect a "sharp" growth in the remote control section of the color TV industry. "With our new models featuring remote control, RCA expects to double its remote control sales this year," he said.

He added that the color industry will sell some 1.8 million remote units this year, largely due to replacement buyers and multiple set owners. "We estimate that these experienced buyers now account for more than 75 percent of the business," Sauter said.

The new RCA remote control models are included in nine XL-100 color chassis introduced to distributors in late February.

## Projection TV from Sony

Sony has announced the introduction of two separate home projection television systems which will retail in the $\$ 4,000$ area.

New from Sony is the KP 5000 and KP 7200, with 50-and-72-inch diagonal screen sizes respectively. According to Sony, eight-inch projection tubes in a two-lens system provide a bright, high resolution picture on washable screens.

The electronic tuning functions of both systems carry an integrated circuit memory for pre-setting channel frequencies and pre-set channels remain in the memory even if AC power is shut off. Additionally, Sony's remote control system is designed around the use of infrared light to prevent false triggering problems usually associated with uttrasonic transducer systems. \&тD


With state-of-the-art electronics being what it is, the once formidable barrier between "bench" test equipment and "field" test gear is rapidly disappearing. Not only in size, bulk, and weight, but in accuracy, dependability and ruggedness.

While all of the ramifications of this trend may not be clear, the fact is that it is here, it is real, and as far as I can tell, it will continue.

Certainly, the potential exists, however impractical it may seem from an economic standpoint, to fully equip a technician in the field for all of the sophisticated kinds of electronic tests heretofore reserved for the bench back at the shop.

The changing character of modern electronic test equipment; that is, its unceasing march toward portability is of such importance to the professional technician, that ET/D will be taking a closer look at this phenomenon in an upcoming issue in the very near future.
Meanwhile, our belief that we expect to find some very remarkable developments in the march toward miniaturization when we do look around at the industry as a whole, is only reinforced by some recent developments on the electronic test equipment home front of which we have recently become aware.

For instance, the combination of low power microcircuitry in conjunction with low power liquid crystal displays, now permits us the luxury of an average 2,000 hours of use from one 9 -volt battery, according to one brand new entrant into the digital multimeter field (Beckman, see Industry Report).

But, DMMs and counters have been portable for some time, so portability here is not really so surprising...anymore.

The symbol of the last bastion of bench top immobility, insofar as the TV service industry is concerned, is--and has been--the oscilloscope. Yet, even this barrier is now crumbling in the wake of the frontal assault presented by the advance of LSI technology and modern design theory.

Leader Instruments (see Industry Report), B \& K Precision, and Phillips now carry portable, battery operated 3 -inch oscilloscopes of varying capabilities. Meanwhile, Non-Linear Systems has out miniaturized everything to date with its $1 \frac{1}{4}$-inch dual trace unit.

As you can see, things aren't really getting bigger and better but smaller and better.

The whole point is, that with today's technology, we can-in the field--approach laboratory accuracy in our test gear. And that has got to be a big plus, when one considers the sophistication of the new technologies the technician of the future will encounter inside of all of the new consumer products being sold now to be serviced later.

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PHILIPS PLANS U.S. EXPANSION. Philips Test and Measuring Instruments has announced plans for a major U.S. expansion this year. According to V.P. and General Manager Albert Katz, Philips plans introductions of "low cost" oscilloscopes, counters, function generators, multimeters "and other instruments" during the coming months. What's most significant about the announcement, however, is the fact that Philips for the first time will be marketing through the electronic distributor network. According to Katz: "We are planning...exciting new product lines which Philips will be marketing in the United States and Canadian markets for the first time."

MAJOR SHOW CANCELLED. Lack of support from manufacturers has resulted in cancellation of the Institute of High Fidelity's second annual convention,-scheduled April 20-22 in St. Louis. IHF President Jerry Kalov, in a news release, said: "Manufacturers...are reassessing their budgets in the light of uncertain economic conditions and are unable to commit to the exposition." Last year's first convention was held in Atlanta. Plans are now underway for a 1980 exposition in Anaheim, California.

NESDA SETS PROGRAM THEME. "Meeting the Challenge of Change" is the theme for this year's National Electronics Service Convention August 13-18 in Tucson, Az. Sponsored jointly by NESDA and ISCET, this year's technical sessions are slated toward successfully handling and keeping pace with the rapidly advancing technology in electronics. NESDA also reports the convention will again host an all-day business management session.

ELECTRONICS IMPORTS RISE. Electronic Industries Association figures reveal that imports of most consumer electronics products increased in 1978 over the previous year. EIA statistics show total television imports rose 16.9 per cent last year with color television imports showing a 9.3 per cent gain to $2,538,696$. On a product by product basis, televisions, phonographs, record players, changers and turntables, tape recorder/players and auto tape players all showed import gains in 1978 compared with 1977.

VCR MARKET ON UPSWING. EIA figures also show the home video cassette recorder/player market is moving forward. Imports of these units in 1978 rose to 509,155 units, up 103.3 per cent over the 250, 450 imported in 1977. And February "sales to dealers" reported by the EIA showed 32,881 units sold, up 119.9 per cent over the 14,954 units sold in February of last year. For the first eight weeks of the year VCR sales amounted to 56,211 units, up 97.1 per cent.

ZENITH OFFERS NEW MODELS. Zenith has introduced three new l7-inch model color television receivers. Using the System 3 all modular chassis introduced previously for this model year, the new l7-inch models come with varying accessories such as Power Sentry and Color Sentry plus the 100 degree tri-focus in-line CRT.

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## Letters

HELP NEEDED
I am trying to find an address for the following company: CROMPTON Instruments, Elk Grove Village, IL. The letter I sent to them came back to me.
Paul Capito
Capitol Radio Service
637 W. 21st St.
Erie, PA 16502

We have an old spectrum chart you sent us several years ago with a subscription to ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN/ DEALER. We would like to obtain a new one. Also, we would like to obtain some kind of study manual on the theory, installation and maintenance of equipment for earth satellite television communications.
L. Powers

Powers TV \& Music Co.
129 N. 3rd St.
Okemah, OK 74859
EDITOR: The spectrum chart has been out of print for many years and there are no immediate plans to reprint it. Revision
would not be possible until after the ' 79 WARC, the frequency allocation conference which will take place later this year, in any case. We do not have a good reference on satellite television communications. Perhaps one of our readers could help.

I need information on the following test instrument. Preferably schematic and operating instructions. Flyback Tester Model FT100 by Teletest Instrument Corp. of New York.
S. M. Van Zant

Van's Radio \& TV Repair
14870 W. Clinton Ave.
Kerman, CA 93620

Does anyone have a duplicate TEKFAX 113 that I can obtain?
William L. Vogler
901 Maple Ave.
Washington, PA 15301

Needed-A schematic and deflection yoke for an Amcrest Television, Model 5P108.
Luba Service Co.
17 E. Mountain Rd.
Sparta, NJ 07811


I need instruction sheet and schematics on a Win-Tronix Dynamic Sweep Circuit Analyzer and an EICO R/C Bridge Model 950-A. Both need repair. Help! Roderick Wilson
101947
Emeryville, CA 94608
EDITOR: EICO should be able to help you on the 950-A R/C Bridge. When we contacted them, they said that they would supply information on any current instrument for a nominal price. The Win-Tronix unit is something elsehope one of our readers can help.

Would you please run the following in the letters column. I need an instruction and service manual for a R/C Bridge, PACO Model C-20, Paco Electronics Co., Inc. Will buy a copy or copy and return. Any help will be appreciated.
Harlan H. Reager
Reager Electronics Repair
1729 N. Seventh St.
Lebanon, PA 17042
I'm writing you to see if you can help me find a diagram with parts of an old Simpson Model 479 -FM sweep generator. Simpson does not seem to have it any longer.
Bernard Kustich
1521 North Salina St.
Syracuse, NY 13208

I need a power transformer for a PACO resistor/capacitor tester Model C-20. The numbers on the transformer are P18-168 and 682007. A new or used transformer would be okay.
Carlton Garner
Garner's TV Country
Rt. 2, Box 262G
Pensacola, FL 32506

Please list the following in your letters column. I need a schematic and any available service data for an AKAI Model X200D stereo tape deck. Will buy or copy and return.
Jo-Henry Pier
Hap's Services
Rt. 2, Box 451
Shreveport, LA 71129

NEEDED DESPERATELY
Switch and control assembly, AFC-chroma-tint-volume for a Zenith Model D4512-W2 (chassis 23DC14). Can't get it from Zenith.
Nielsen Electronics
Rt. 6 Box 137
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401 हा/D

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| Aluminum Electrolytic Tubular Capacitors | KE-11 | 61 | 27 |
| Epoxy-dipped Mylare Film Capacitors | KF-19 | 136 | 18 |
| Film-wrapped Mylar Tubular Capacitors | KF-33 | 36 | 18 |
| Polypropylene/Polycarbonate Film Capacitors | KF-34 | 44 | 18 |
| Miniature Axial-lead Mylar Capacitors | KF-35 | 72 | 27 |
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| Aluminum Electrolytic Tubular Capacitors | KE-23 | 30 | 30 |
| Dipped Tubular Radial-lead Film Capacitors | KF-32 | 139 | 33 |
| Flameproof Film Resistors, 1/4 Watt | KR-18 | 180 | 30 |
| Flameproof Film Resistors, 1/2 Watt | KR-19 | 180 | 30 |
| Flameproof Film Resistors, 1 \& 2 Watt | KR-20 | 90 | 30 |

## HINGED-LID CLEAR PLASTIC STORAGE CASES

| Terminals (Rings, Spades, Butts, Disconnects) | KST-1 | 80 | 12 |
| :--- | :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Terminals (Rings, Spades, Butts, Disconnects)* | KST-5 | 121 | 13 |
| Terminals (Butlets, Disconnects, Taps, Splices)* | KST-7 | 79 | 13 |
| Terminals (Butts, Rings, Spades, Disconnects) | KST-10 | 400 | 24 |
| * ${ }^{*}$ Klso |  |  |  |

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For detailed information and current prices, call or write Woody Boillat, Sprague Products Company, 65 Marshall St., North Adams, Mass. 01247.

# seRVICe seminhr 

## PANASONIC

Color TV Model CT218, 228, 318-Dark shaded area covering about half of the screen and a bright vertical line about $11 / 2$ inches wide in the center of the screen. Cause: Insufficient current through pincushion transformer. To remedy: Add 2200 ohm $1 / 2$ watt resistor in parallel with R752 (1200 ohm).


Black and White TV Models TR-233, 744, 802, 822, 832, 852, 862-Sound low or intermittent. Cause: Poor contact pins, connectors C1, C2, C3 (volume control to main board). Repair: Pull out, reshape, and clean terminals, clean mating pin on main board, lubricate ("Rucon 80").


RCA
Color TV Chassis CTC85, 89, 90, 92-Symptom check chart, for schematic, see TEKFAX this issue.

| SYMPTOM | PROBABLE CAUSE |
| :---: | :---: |
| Set inoperative | F203-main fuse open |
|  | RF201-fusible resistor open |
|  | C304-shorted |
| No raster | MDR module (regulator) |
|  | MDH module (horizontal) |
|  | 150 VDC interlock jumper in yoke plug |
|  | Start-up circuit: T201, C206, CR302, CR303, CR304, CR305 |
|  | Q401-horizontal output transistor |
|  | CR403-damper short |
|  | T401-primary winding open |
|  | SCR401-regulator and associated components |
| No raster- <br> High voltage normal <br> Sound normal | F401-kine heater supply fuse |
|  | PW600-kine bias circuit |
|  | CR406-210V recitifier (source) |
|  | MDD-kine driver module |
|  | MDL-luminance sync module |

## Now more than ever...



## New RCA SK Solid State Replacement Guide

- Largest RCA SK Replacement Guide to date.
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Set inoperative, momentar blast of sound when set is switched on

Poor contrast, poor AGC action, noisy picture or no videolsound

No control of contrast No video/sound ok No control of brightness

Distorted video Colored raster
Loss of set-up capabilites

No or weak color Distorted color

No control of color
No control of tint

No or weak vertical sync

RF401-fusible resistor screen supply

MDH-horizontal module MDR-regulator module SCR401-regulator

MCK-module
+22 V Source-(on MDL)

MDL-luminance/sync module MDD-kine driver module R4202-brightness control

PW600-kine bias circuit board
S301-service switch

MDC-chroma module
MDL-Huminance/sync module

MDG-vertical module MDL-luminance/sync module MCK-IF module Vertical hold control

No or insufficient vertical deflection

Vertical linearity poor

MDG-vertical module
CR404-40V (source)
R4206-vertical hold control
R19-height control
PW800 or convergence plug, P402

MDG—vertical module Deflection yoke and associated components

MDH—Horizontal module
MCK-IFIAFT module
MDL-luminance/sync module
MDR-regulator module
R4205-horizontal hold control

No weak or distorted sound MDS-sound module MCK-picture IF module R4201-volume control Speaker

MCK-picture IF/AFT module picture, loss of color, fine Tuner problem tuning drift

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So get the Beckman digital multimeter that performs and keeps on performing. No matter how tough the going gets. For information on the complete line and accessories, write or call your local distributor or the Advanced-Electro Products Division, Beckman Instruments, Inc., 2500 Harbor Boulevard, Fullerton, CA 92634, (714) 871-4848, ext. 3651.

# Portable counters 

## Gaining greater accuracy

Modern technology has now reached the point where accuracy thought unobtainable just a few short years ago, is now available in field test gear.

The increasing number of applications of electronics requiring in-the-field servicing has led to a growing demand for portable instruments. But often to achieve portability, some accuracy has had to be sacrificed. This has been particularly striking with portable counters and counter/timers.

The basic accuracy of such instruments is related to the accuracy of a crystal-oscillator timebase. Meaningful use of high-stability crystal oscillators requires a constant
Courtesy Philips Test \& Measuring Instruments, inc.
temperature. So the crystal oscillator should be mounted in an oven enclosure.

Stand-by operation of the oven-enclosed oscillator insures instantaneous high stability whenever the instrument is switched on. But this requires a lot of power-just not practicable for the battery operation necessary for field work.

However, the development of oven-contained crystal oscillators with extremely low power consumption-less than 1 watt-now permits the extension of the instantaneous high stability of laboratory instruments to field applications. Typical of such designs is the Philips PM 6610 series of counters.

Such high-stability timebases can therefore now be used with an internal battery pack. No warm-up time is
needed when changing locations because such counters have much higher stability than those containing a TCXO-temperature-compensated crystal oscillator. The battery provided in the PM 6610 series is sufficient for 24 hours of operation.

The oscillator is mounted inside the oven with the heating element-a transistor-and the oven control circuit as shown in Figure 1. The heating element is driven by an operational amplifier which detects the difference between a reference value set by two highly-accurate resistors in one leg of a resistance bridge and the level set by a third resistor and a thermistor in the second leg of the bridge.
All parts are mounted on a thin film inside the oven enclosure, and hybrid circuits are used to keep the unit as small as possible. Provision is made for external adjustment. \&T/D


Fig. 1-This simplified block diagram of a crystal oscillator oven in the Philips PM 6610 counter shows the oven control circuit, the transistor heating element, and the crystal mounting, inside the oven enclosure.


Fig. 2-A view of the operational amplifier, the heating element transistor and crystal assembly which is mounted inside of the enclosure.

# Digital frequency counters: 

The newest "essential instrument'

> Today's Modern LSI "chip" counters are as sophisticated and accurate as many lab counters just a few years ago. Yet they can produce chaotic readings for the uninitiated. In this article you'll learn the secret of their proper use.

By Bernard B. Daien

Recent technological advances have reduced the size and cost of digital frequency counters, while improving performance. As a result, even the smallest lab or shop can now afford this very useful instrument.

New circuitry has been adopted by electronic manufacturers, which requires the use of frequency counters, and some of the new techniques for servicing are useful even with older equipment. For example, phase locked loops are now used in the sweep portion of TV sets. Troubleshooting a phase locked loop without a frequency counter is working "blind."

This article explains the use of modern frequency counters. Just as the color bar generator became a common and essential instrument in color TV servicing, so the frequency counter is now the latest essential instrument, making life easier for the technician, and saving time and money for the shop owner.

## Highly versatile

Most technicians think of the frequency counter as a sort of "digital readout frequency meter," useful only


Fig. 1-A counter sensitivity chart showing the guaranteed and "typical" response. (Courtesy Sencore)
for checking the output frequency of transmitters, or oscillator frequency of a superheterodyne receiver. This is a very limited view of an extremely flexible and useful instrument. There are many money and time saving applications of a frequency counter. Here's an example: Most shops and labs have inexpensive general purpose signal generators, of limited accuracy and poor long term stability. A good "frequency meter" is accurate, stable, but fairly expensive, and usually slow in use. By using your low cost digital frequency counter to monitor the output frequency of your low cost signal generator, it can perform most of the functions of an expensive frequency meter. Together, they cost less than one good frequency meter, are more flexible, and will be used more often!

The frequency counter is useful in most types of service work, including TV. The horizontal sweep frequency may increase, and all voltages will read reasonably close to normal, except the high voltage, which may
virtually disappear, causing loss of raster. Without a raster there is no visual indication of a high sweep frequency, and most shop scopes do not have sufficient accuracy of sweep calibration to reliably indicate what the sweep "period" is. Note that we said "period," and not "frequency." If you think about it, you'll realize that scopes measure time, not frequency, and for each measurement, you will have to convert period to frequency, using the formula,
frequency $=\frac{1}{\text { period }}$. This gets to be a slow and error prone procedure. (Try obtaining the frequency of a wave whose period is 115 microseconds, for example!) The counter neatly solves this problem, by giving you a direct readout of the frequency ... no calculations, no errors ... and fast. In digital work a signal source called a "clock" is used to control the timing and sequencing of many operations. If clocking is erratic, the digital system goes berserk. It is difficult to determine some aspects of clocking with a scope, since any "skips" must


Fig. 2-Illustration of the hysterisis band and the count triggering points on a "clean" signal.


| SIGNAL CONNECTION SELECTOR GUIDE |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| SIGNAL SOURCE | 1 Meg Direct | $\begin{aligned} & 1 \text { Meg } \\ & \text { ISO } \end{aligned}$ | 50 hm Direat | $\begin{aligned} & 50 \mathrm{Ohm} \\ & \text { iso } \end{aligned}$ | 10:1 <br> Scope <br> Probe | PL207 <br> Pick-Up Loop | NE206 Noise Eliminator |
| FREOUENCY RANGE | $\begin{aligned} & 39 \mathrm{~Hz}- \\ & 230 \mathrm{MHz} \\ & \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 30 \mathrm{~Hz}- \\ & 230 \mathrm{MHz} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 100 \mathrm{KHz} \\ & 230 \mathrm{MHz} \end{aligned}$ |  | $30-\mathrm{Hz}-$ <br> 50 MHz |  | 30 Hz . <br> 10 MHz |
| Audio Clrcuits | - |  |  |  |  |  | - |
| CB Transmitter Outputs |  |  | - |  |  |  |  |
| Digital Square Wave Signals | - |  |  |  |  |  | - |
| Digital Pulses |  |  |  | - | - |  | - |
| IF Stages |  | - |  |  | - | - |  |
| RF Oscillators (transmit or receive) |  | - |  |  |  | - |  |
| Signal Tracing | - | - |  |  |  | - |  |
| UHF Transmitter Outputs |  |  |  |  |  | - |  |
| VHF Transmitter Oulputs (Under 12 Watts) |  |  | - |  |  |  |  |
| VHF Transmitter outputs (Over 12 Watts) |  |  |  |  |  | - |  |
| High Voltage Signals |  |  |  |  | - | - |  |
| moneo--tramomorn |  |  | - |  |  |  |  |

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Fig. 6-The Phillips' PM 6610 series of counters and counterftimers covers the range from 80 MHz to 1.3 GHz .


Fig. 9-Leader's 80 MHz , seven digit LDC-822 features period function and 10 MHz time base.


Fig. 11-The VIZ Model WD752A, with selectable automatic or manual gate time, and a light to indicate that the signal is within "readable" limits.


Fig. 7-Simpson's Model 7026 50 MHz counter goes to 512 MHz with prescaler, measuring frequency, period, ratio and time interval.


Fig. 8-Accurate from 5 Hz to 100 MHz , the Data Precision 5740 measures frequency, period, period average or totalized the period averages.
 -
permissible often decreases, thus a counter which can accommodate a 100 volt peak (ac plus dc) signal at 1 KHz may be derated to 25 volts peak at 10 MHz . And, besides noting that the input is "ac plus dc level" when calculating peak ... remember that modulated waves have a peak, at $100 \%$ modulation, which is twice the carrier level. Many technicians forget this little fact when checking the output of transmitters ... all goes well until someone whistles into the microphone!
To further complicate matters, there is also the factor of standing waves, when a transmitter is mismatched to the load via a transmission line. Often a standing wave ratio of two to one is tolerated as acceptable limits. This results in a still higher peak voltage ... and the combination of modulation
plus a high standing wave ratio can easily triple the calculated peak voltage, if one assumes the unmodulated carrier at a one to one standing wave ratio.

There is also the matter of transients, which occur in many circuits, due to switching, etc. Power inverters and converters are particularly prone to this. A good rule is to look at the waveform carefully with an oscilloscope before hooking up your counter. If the voltage is too high, use an attenuator as supplied, or as recommended, by the counter manufacturer. Remember that at high frequencies, a couple of resistors do not make a good attenuator.

## Use attenuators

High frequency attenuators that match the input of your counter can be easily
whipped up with a resistor or two, and a small variable trimmer capacitor, similar to the circuitry in a "Times 10 " scope probe. The exact values will vary with the input impedance of the counter, and therefore cannot be covered here, but with the aid of the counter specifications, and any attenuator technical text, the job can be simply and quickly done. An attenuator with several steps, such as $\mathrm{X} 2, \mathrm{X} 5, \mathrm{X} 10$, etc., is very handy, and increases the utility of the counter greatly.

## Know the signal

By now you have the idea that input voltage is not as simple a problem as it seems with solid state instruments in general. You will have to devote a little time and thought to what you are hooking into, if you expect reliable


Fig. 14-A dual channel counter|timer, Systron Donner's Model 6361A. Both channels are identical and capable of counting to 100 MHz .
 countertitimer capable of counting frequency to 100 MHz , period, pulse width, time between events, and logic timing, Hewlett-Packard 5314A.


Fig. 17-Sencore's FC51, 1000 MHz counter, can also count frequencies as low as 10 Hz with up to .01 Hz resolution.


Fig. 20-A counter capable of .01 MHz resolution with one second gate time at audio frequencies is the Ballantine 5720A.


Fig. 18-Ballatine's 5725C is a 225 MHz counter with four selectable gate times.


Fig. 21-The Phillips PN6620 series offers counting capability to 1000 MHz and time base stabilities to $5 \times 10^{-10}$ per 24 hours.


Fig. 16-Heath's Models $1 \mathrm{M}-4110$, and 1 M 4120 and 1 M 4130 count to 110 MHz , 250 MHz and 1000 MHz respectively.
 Precision's Model 1820 80Mhz counter also measures period and elapsed time and totalizes.


Fig. 22-Sabtronics Model 8100 100 MHz counter available in kit form only.
performance from your frequency counter. It is a fact that the technician who carefully checks and rechecks when setting a signal generator, will spend only a few seconds in setting up for a frequency counter reading!

It is good practice when checking the output frequency of a transmitter, to use a dummy load set-up. This is not only to meet Federal Communications Commission Rules and Regulations, but also to insure that you are not working with a very high voltage standing wave ratio. On an improperly terminated transmission line, the R.F. voltage can reach very high (arc-over) levels if the antenna system is defective.

In digital systems which use square wave pulses, often at very high frequencies, a similar problem can exist. In this case a high standing
wave ratio does not usually reach very high levels which can damage the counter ... but the reflected wave is delayed in time by the length of the connecting cabling ... and the combination of signals, and reflected signals, on improperly terminated lines, results in false counting. It is correct practice here to use short connecting cables, and proper resistive terminations, as you would with any transmission system.

## Extending the range

Many of the inexpensive counters can have their range extended by means of a "Prescaler," which is a form of frequency divider. If you already own a frequency counter, it is probable that you can add on one of several available prescalers to reach higher frequencies as needed. The
manufacturer of the counter, or the prescaler can advise you regarding compatability of their units. Thus you can start out with a 30 MHz unit for C.B., TV, and audio use, and add on a prescaler later for other uses.

Speaking of other uses, many audio uses exist for counters. The phase locked loops in electronic organs require counters for fast servicing .. and there is no surer way to tune an organ than with the counter. Since the counter does not require an audible output, it avoids the annoyance of audible tuning in busy shops.

## Counter calibration

Most counters use a stable crystal oscillator, which requires a periodic check, and possible adjustment. Some means is generally provided for this continued on page 51

# Buying replacement parts: 

Or, finding out what wholesale means

> Somebody's "wholesale" may be another man's "retail." Knowing your sources of supply and how many there are can sometimes save you big dollars.

By Joseph J. Carr, CET

As a retail businessman you probably think that you buy small parts wholesale, right? But it may surprise you to know that there is wholesale, then there is wholesale. If a business management consultant came into your business place this morning and offered to show you how to save 15 to 500 percent on some of your parts purchases, you would probably think he was a con man out to take your bank account for a one way ride. But he could be right! Few small business people realize that the national industrial electronics distributors frequently sell common electronic components at prices that are considerably lower than prices charged by local distributors geared to serving the TV shop industry.

Part of the price difference reflects the difference in services provided by the distributor. If you need same-day truck delivery on moments notice, or the ability to buy $\$ 3$ worth of widgits on account, then forget about the industrial distributor. The industrial distributor is not usually in a position to offer same day delivery, and in fact, may not have truck delivery at all. Most of these houses use either the U.S. Postal Service or U.P.S. The

| TABLE 1 |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Type | Specifications | Price Ea. (100s) | Price Ea. (1000s) |
| Servicer distributor |  |  |  |
| House Brand | 1000 piv, @ 1 amperes | \$0.62 | 0.62 |
| 1N4007 | 1000 piv, @ 1 amperes | \$0.48 | \$0.28 |
| Servicer distributor house brand | 1000 piv, @ 2.5 amperes | \$0.95 | \$0.88 |
| 1N5399 | 1000 piv, @ 1.5 amperes | \$0.54 | \$0.47 |
| 1N4001 | 100 piv, @ 1 amperes | \$0.19 | \$0.10 |
| 1.N4002 <br> (Signal diodes) | 200 piv, @ 1 amperes | \$0.20 | \$0.11 |
| 1N914 | (Silicon signal diodes |  |  |
| 1N4148 | to UHF region) | \$0.09 | \$0.08 |

Table 1 Comparison of quoted prices for several types of commonly used rectifier types. Note that servicer distributor "house brand" types were typically priced higher than those supplied through industrial/MRO distributors. The difference may be attributed to the level of service, i.e., same day delivery or over-the-counter pickup.
type of distributor who serves the service shop industry usually provides a walk-in showroom where bins and blister-pack offerings tempt the browser while they wait for a sales counter person. The industrial distributor on the other hand, may not have any walk-in facilities! Their location may be buried in a warehouse district, or industrial park, and they will do all of their business through telephones and outside salesmen. Most industrial electronic component sales are by catalog number, so a telephone will suffice. One major semiconductor wholesaler, who has locations all over the country, only allows will-call pick-ups between 11 AM - 12 Noon and 4 to 5 PM,
daily. The customer walks in to a small vestibule that is closed off from the main floor area by a partition and a teller's cage type of window. They may have only 60 sq . ft . in the walk-in area, but they consistently quote the lowest prices on standard semiconductors, provided that you order in quantity.

## Buy in quantity

There is another key word: quantity. An industrial wholesaler is not terribly interested in selling one of anything to anybody. They deal in bulk. If you are a good, consistent customer, and are hard up for a single example of an unusual (for you) component, then some of them will oblige you by giving
it away free as an "engineering sample." But don't expect that courtesy if you haven't been doing business with them regularly, or if you ask too often. But on an occasional basis they will cooperate.

There are only a dozen or so national distributors, and perhaps a couple of hundred regional houses. They are listed in the Yellow Pages (usually) under "Electronic Equipment and Supplies." Although there are many others, some of the most widely known are Wilshire Electronics, Hamilton-AVNET, Hall-Mark, Pioneer-Standard, Cramer, Schweber, Kierluff, and others. These companies have plants in many cities, and often advertise in other cities with either a local telephone number or an " 800 " number.
distributors is to know what you want.
It is not usually sufficient to call up and ask for a "0.001 $\mu \mathrm{f}$ disc @ 1000 WVDC." They will want a
manufacturer's part number. For most components such as resistors, capacitors, and fuses this is not too much trouble because most of these distributors issue catalogs, and will give you one free for the asking. These catalogs reproduce the component manufacturer's specification sheets. Although it is handy to have a small collection of catalogs from several houses, it is often the case that one is sufficient because of a lot of similarity in product lines.

When dealing with the industrial distributor for semiconductors, however, a little more cleverness is

## TABLE 2

| Type No. | Use | 1-99 per Ea. | Replacement line cost |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2N3904 | NPN AM rf/osc/audio | \$0.21 | \$1.25 |
| 2N3906 | PNP AM ri/osc/audio | \$0.19 | \$1.32 |
| 2N3053 | NPN audio driver, medium or low power audio output (TO-5 case) | \$0.50 | \$1.50 |
| 2N3055 | NPN high power audio output (TO-3 case) | \$0.80 | \$2.09 |
| 2N2222 | NPN audio/low power output/driver | \$0.25 | \$1.09 |
| TIP30/RCA | NPN power transistor (audio output) in "P-66" plastic case. Used in auto radio output stages | \$0.64 | \$1.70 |
| 2N5249 | (see TIP30 and RCA30) | \$0.48 | \$1.70 |

Table 2 The above table shows a comparison between the prices of one industrial supplier of semiconductors compared to the replacement line costs charged by the supply houses for original equipment manufacturers. Note disparities in pricing of up to $694 \%$ or almost sevenfold (for the 2N3906).

When asked whether they would deal with small service shops as customers (they won't deal with your customers!) all replied in the affirmative for COD and CWO (cash with order) provided that a minimum dollar order was placed. That minimum was typically around $\$ 20$, with the range being $\$ 10-\$ 30$. All but two of tweive that were asked also indicated that they would also deal on open account, or by purchase order with any firm that had a decent D\&B rating, or bank credit references. Although the minimum charge order was usually $\$ 20-\$ 35$.

## Be specific

The secret to dealing with industrial
required. Don't even bother using a set manufacturer's part number, or the part number used by a replacement semiconductor manufacturer. The industrial distributor won't know what they mean! Just because a distributor wholesales Motorola, RCA, or GE semiconductors doesn't mean that they know anything at all about the replacement lines offered by the same companies! Those are different departments. You must know the 1 N or 2 N number, or the special house-number (i.e. Motorola's MJEseries or RCA's five digit 40000series). The replacement lines are high priced because of the cross-reference guide, blister pack or box packaging, and "onesy-twosy"
distribution is costly. Note that you can often identify suitable replacements for these parts by looking for the $1 \mathrm{~N} / 2 \mathrm{~N}$ numbers that they replace, and then apply the theory that "things (nearly) equal to the same thing, are (probably) equal to each other." Some experimentation may prove necessary, but it is quite possible to come up with a few numbers.

## "Quality" costs more

Another point to "buying wholesale" is to not overbuy your specifications. Premium speced parts cost premium prices. Consider the matter of rectifiers, for example. Service shops often stock either 1000 piv @ 1 ampere or 2.5 ampere rectifiers for use in everything. On a day while this article was being researched a service shop oriented distributor quoted me a price of $\$ 62 / 100$ (i.e., $62 \not \subset$ each) for the 1 ampere model, while an industrial distributor quoted (on the same day, same city) a price of $\$ 48 / 100$ (i.e., 48 cents each) for 1N4007 rectifiers with the same ratings. In quantities of 1000 each, the industrial distributor could offer a price of $\$ 28 / 100$, or 28 cents each! Some shop owners question the wisdom of buying 100 rectifiers at a time, wondering if they would "ever use them," or how they could store them. Your own invoices will tell you how many are used, and it is a good bet that 100 would not be a year's or even six month's supply! Since most servicers store rectifiers in a drawer of a plastic parts cabinet, then it is no more difficult to store 100 or even 500 , then it is to store 10.

Table 1 shows the breakdown of prices for several types of rectifier. All prices were quoted in the same city on the same day. If you use the 2.5 ampere type for everything, then you are costing yourself money. The heavy current type is only justified on color TV chassis (and then not all of them!) and a few makes of audio equipment that boast medium to high power. But in applications where a lesser rectifier is usable, then some savings are possible.

Using lesser specs is not limited to the current rating. Notice the 1N4001 and 1N4002 types listed in Table 1. These are 1 ampere diodes which have 100 volt and 200 volt piv ratings, respectively. These rectifiers would suffice in equipment that uses 9 to 28 volt power supplies, and they cost only 20 cents each in 100s and 10 continued on 53

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# Buying from your distributor 

Service is the key

Your local distributor offers personal service with a broad line of products and can supply application information and alternative and equivalent products.

## By Jim Jordan*

By choice, a distributor representative carves out a geographic territory and nails himself to it. Then, he represents his knowledge of the territory as a major element of his services to his principals. This knowledge is a product which often improves with age. In due course he becomes completely familiar with customer companies, programs, policies and personnel. This is a potent advantage when compared to the factory man who will be transferred and replaced by another man who, despite all records and personal introduction, will have to learn the territory.

Territories too lean to support a factory man can be covered very well by a representative. It's obvious that a portfolio of lines, each too thin on its own, can add up to adequate business to support a representative.

Many distributor representatives maintain larger quarters and more complete offices to serve their customers than can be justified in a company sales office. Some provide services such as repair, calibration, etc., which a company office may not be equipped to provide. Others provide: direct mailing; collection and credit; application engineering; service, demonstration room and warehouse. Your representative can literally tailor make the services you require to meet your specific needs.

Aggressive men with a drive for


Jordan
independence and earnings proportionate to effort are attracted to this profession. Few "reps" are supported by principals until they mature. The representative has to sell if he wants to eat.
The jungle law of the survival of the fittest continues the selection process. Of course there are some mediocre
representatives ... but grade for grade, representatives are more successful salesmen. Some major manufacturers find this a potent argument for staying with the independent distributor representative system even at high sales volume.

The representative does not change jobs. Because of his tenure in his territory, he is well known by the customers-which lends stability to the relationship between the account and the factory. Reps make for solidarity.

Remember that the distributor representative is a full fledged businessman. While representing many lines of products, he is running his own business. He's become conversant with many business problems-many of which are quite similar to your own. His opinions and experiences may have value to you. Most of all, he is a marketing expert in his own backyard. He can be quite cogent about products, your markets and your methods. Business maturity is far more common among representatives than among factory salesmen. And the beauty of it is that the representative is usually begging to have his brains picked. ETD

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# Buying direct 

It can be cheaper!

> Buying direct from the manufacturer can give you access to complete stocks, and by eliminating a middle man, lower prices.

By John F. Dwinell

In discussing the merits of buying from a distributor or buying direct from the manufacturer, a small service shop owner must decide what are the most important priorities to his business. These priorities will be determined by the owner's objectives that he wishes to achieve in his business, and the means by which he plans to achieve them.

For instance, if the owner is doing the technical work himself, he may not be too concerned how fast the job is being finished. His pay is going to be determined by how profitable his shop is. So if his time can be spent in a more profitable way, then obviously he will spend his time where he can make the most money. If this is the case, then he can afford to have the torn down machine sit with its disassembled parts and wait for the parts that must be ordered. On the other hand, if he is hiring a technician to do the technical work, then time spent on each job is of the utmost importance. The technician's time becomes part of the owner's overhead, so the efficiency with which this technician can turn over jobs will directly affect how profitable the shop is.

If a torn down machine has to sit too long waiting for parts, then the owner is not getting paid for a job not complete, as well as taking up storage space. The longer he has to wait, the more space is being used for the torn down machines and the more technicians' time is invested in the work order. If the owner wishes to tie up more capital, he can stock spare parts to make his technicians' time more efficient, but this

[^0]
takes additional resources.
This is one of the many decisions an owner must make. These decisions are going to be partially determined by the service that his local suppliers can provide him, the cost of the spare parts that he wants to stock and the speed of delivery that his local supplier can provide. So one can see that the regional supplier plays a very important role in the decisions that any small service shop owner makes. The regional supplier, sometimes known as a distributor, is usually supplied directly from the manufacturer or from a super distributor who handles a large variety of products to supply the regional areas. A shop owner could not buy from these super distributors because they have to buy minimum quantities that are usually larger than he can use in a reasonable amount of time.

These regional suppliers (distributors) were originally set up by the manufacturers through a network of manufacturers' representatives. This particular form of distribution was used by the manufacturers because in the past there was not the technological advancements in data processing that there are today to process a large
number of orders with a small dollar volume that are generated by small service shops. These shops also found it difficult to communicate with manufacturers concerning problems of quality, price, deliveries and returns, etc. Manufacturers, especially small ones, usually did not maintain large and aggressive sales forces because their expertise was in manufacturing, not sales. They relied on the manufacturers' representatives to market their products. To allow this system to function, the manufacturers raised their prices to give the distributors a profit margin as well as the manufacturer's representative.

The purpose was to give personalized care to smaller accounts and to reduce the impact of large freight bills for heavy and bulky items. Not only would the distributor take care of these problems, but he also would give the small service shop owner personalized service because the distributor would have a sales force that would periodically call on small owners to take care of their orders and keep them informed of the newest products on the market. A distributor would also improve delivery time because the merchandise would be shipped from a regionally located warehouse instead of the manufacturer's warehouse.

A distributor also gives instant market penetration for the manufacturer's newest products because he has a sales force "pushing" the product. If, however, there were any problems with the quality, the distributor was at a disadvantage because he would have to go back to the manufacturer to get satisfaction. This could cause problems depending on the people involved.

The obvious result has been that the prices for the products are higher than necessary and the small service shop owner is at the mercy of these people if there is no other supplier. In effect, the consumer pays for the lack of sophistication of a system that was originated before the advent of the


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computer. This system has served the manufacturer well over the years and he is reluctant to change because he does not want to be bothered with the small billings or the hassle that would be involved to change over to a direct billing system.

However, another conclusion which might not be as obvious is that this form of distribution can be energy wasteful.
The whole system is based on personalized contact which requires gasoline and vehicles to accomplish. As the cost of fuel goes up, the distributor's overhead increases. So do the prices.

There is no question that this form of distribution has served the industry well for certain products which are conducive to this form of distribution. Yet, in other cases, the story is different.

With the advances in computer technology, toll free telephone numbers, United Parcel Service and increasing fuel costs, there is often a better-less expensive way-to deliver high quality products and services to small service shops.

This method is direct buying from the manufacturer.

With the revolution of miniaturization, the power of the computer is becoming more widely available to everyone. The computer can store the credit and buying history of a large number of customers at a relatively small cost, compared to the cost of doing it by hand. This enables one person to handle the accounts where, originally, many people were required. The computer can also do all of the necessary typing of invoices and automatically tabs inventory control and shipping for the manufacturer.

When the telephone company introduced the toll free number as an additional service, this enabled the manufacturer to communicate with the small service shop directly as to his needs. The telephone also becomes a "free" direct line for complaints or information on new products. Because the customer is not paying for the call, he is not so reluctant to use this method.

One potential disadvantage of buying direct from the manufacturer, is that deliveries tend to be slower because of problems with the Postal Service, United Parcel Service or trucking, to deliver the product. However, this delay can be minimized by using the toll free number. Also, the manufacturer can design his order entry system to process, fill and ship the order the same day.

If the direct customer is willing to learn how to use the catalog, the order placing usually goes smoothly, and he may use continued on page 54

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# A look at Hitachi 

## IC's and thick film modules

ET/D's first look at Hitachi reveals a chassis which is relying on integrated circuits to cut component count and cost and simultaneously produce better performance.*

By Walter H. Schwartz

The current Hitachi TV line consists of two chassis, one black and white, the SU chassis and one color, the NP8X.

## The SU chassis

The black and white SU chassis is used in a compact 12 inch set and uses 15 bipolar transistors and three integrated circuits. Signal processing, except for the tuners, uses integrated circuits while the sweep circuits and power supply use descrete transistors. Tuners are conventional wafer switch and capacitor tuned VHF and UHF, respectively. The first IC, an HA1144, functions as two stages of IF and an AGC processor. The second IC, and HA1167, has a third IF amplifier stage, a synchronous video detector, sync circuitry, and develops the AGC for the HA1144 to process. The third IC, an HA11224, contains all the audio circuitry except for the output stage.

Part of the HA11224 and some external circuitry form a phase shift FM detector (Fig. 1). The input is, of course, amplitude limited 4.5 MHz FM. When no deviation is present, the phase-shift is approximately $\pi / 2$. Any frequency deviation is converted to phase deviation. Current, through RL1 and RL2, from the constant current source 10 , is switched by the phase difference at

[^1]

Fig. 1-Phase-shift FM detector and frequency-phase response curve.

SW1 and SW2 producing an audio component in the voltage across RL1, which after passing through a low pass filter, is fed to the audio output stage-a discrete power transistor. The sweep systems are quite straight-forward. Output from the sync separator, part of the HA1167 IC, controls the vertical and horizontal oscillators. The vertical sweep uses five transistors, the horizontal sweep only two. The horizontal output transformer includes the high voltage rectifier in a single unit.

The SU chassis power supplies are: first, a regulated 100 volt supply derived from a half wave rectifier and the ac line, which supplies the horizontal oscillator and output, the vertical output, the audio output, the video output, and the CRT screen, and second, a scan derived 11.6 volt source, which supplies the rest of the set including the CRT heater. The 100 v supply has short circuit protection which shuts off the regulator pass transistor, if a short occurs on the B+ line.

Another interesting feature is the
sealed horizontal oscillator coil--there is no horizontal hold control or coil adjustment. Any component replacement in the horizontal oscillator circuit, resulting in off frequency operation, requires replacement of the coil, readjustment and then resealing.

## Color chassis, NP8X

Hitachi's present color chassis, the NP8X, is used in $12,13,15$, and 19 inch sets with little more than deflection yoke changes.

The NP8X uses four IC's to perform most of the low level functions and bipolar transistors for sweep, video, audio output and power supply regulators. Thick film modules are used in the power supply, the vertical sweep, and the high voltage hold down circuitry.

## Power supplies

The basic power supply for the NP8X chassis is half wave rectified line current, filtered and then regulated by a transistor in the negative line (Fig. 2). A thick film resistor in parallel with the


Fig. $2-$ The regulated +115 v power supply.


Fig. 3-Sync, and horizontal and vertical oscillator circuitry.
regulator transistor, Q401, carries much of the load current and a thermal fuse protects the supply against short circuits. The fuse is in series with the thick film resistor-not the regulator transistor which is protected by Q903, the current limiter. Abnormal load current through R911-913 is sensed by Q903, which tends to turn off Q901, preventing excessive current flow and consequent load or supply damage.

The voltage divider and voltage reference are a thick film module, CP901, which contains the divider resistors and reference zener diode. The +115 volt supply furnishes power to the audio output, the vertical output, and the horizontal oscillator and output.

The +200 v supply for the R, B and G output transistors, is obtained by adding a scan derived $85 v$ to the $+115 v$ supply. CRT screen voltage is rectified pulse taken directly from the horizontal output transistor collector.

The CRT heater is supplied from the horizontal output transformer and the $+12 v$ supply, which powers all of the low
level stages of the chassis, is also scan derived.

## Horizontal sweep

The NP8X sweep circuits use a new IC, the HA11235, IC 701, which contains the sync separator, sync amplifier, horizontal oscillator and AFC, vertical oscillator and drivers and the high voltage hold down circuit (Fig. 3).
Sync is applied to pin 15, processed and fed internally to the horizontal phase detector and via pin 16 to the vertical trigger input. The horizontal AFC uses a "sychronizing gate differential pulse width system." The horizontal pulse is compared to the reference pulse inside the IC and a voltage corresponding to the phase difference is produced during the horizontal synchronization period. This is applied to the horizontal oscillator pin 12 through an RC lowpass filter.
The horizontal oscillator is an RC oscillator controlled by components external to the IC. Its output is shaped to a square wave and emerges from pin 10 as horizontal signal for the horizontal

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[^2]driver transistor
The high voltage limiter also uses a thick film module. It senses an abnormally high flyback pulse and develops a proportional voltage to trigger an SCR in IC701 (the gate connection is pin 9). The SCR disables the horizontal oscillator. Power to IC701 is obtained from the +115 v supply through a dropping resistor and is regulated by a zener in the $I C$, giving it an independent 13.5 v supply.
Consequently, interruption of the sweep does not turn off the SCR and the set must be turned off long enough for the supply capacitors to discharge before the oscillator can start again. This independent source also allows the horizontal oscillator to operate without sweep and without any special startup circuit.

## Vertical sweep

Sync from pin 16 of IC701 is applied to the vertical sync input, pin 7, through an integrating network. The driver output is a sawtooth at pin 2 of IC701. Feedback from the yoke to pin 4 and the vertical size control eliminates the vertical linearity control.

The vertical output circuitry is contained on another thick film module. It is a new high efficiency system with, according to Hitachi, about one third the power consumption of the vertical output stage of their previous NP7X chassis. The output transistors require a much higher supply voltage during retrace than during scan. Therefore, a vertical output switch, Q601, is used to switch the vertical output between the +115 v and $+56 v$ supply lines at appropriate times (Fig. 4)

## Video IF

A new multi-function IC, the HA11238, provides the video IF amplifiers, video detector, AFT and AGC (Fig. 5). Signal from the tuner passes through a bandpass filter the output of which is balanced for the IC input, pins 5 and 6. The HA11238 supplies three stages of amplification before the signal is internally coupled to the synchronous detector.

## Synchronous video detector

The synchronous detector is a double balanced demodulator consisting of a differential amplifier and constant current source and two carrier operated switching pairs (Fig. 6).

The video IF signal is fed in balanced form to points a and b . Video carrier, filtered and limited, is fed to $c$ and $d$ and serves as a switching signal. When b and
d go positive and a and c negative, Q1 and Q4 turn on, Q2 and Q3 turn off, and the collector current of Q5 increases, causing the voltage across RL1 to increase, producing a negative going signal at g , and a positive at f .

Conversely, when $b$ and $d$ go negative, and a and c positive, Q 1 and Q 4 turn off and Q2 and Q3 turn on, and again, g goes negative, and $f$ positive. Filtered by distributed capacity, this is the detector continued on page 53


Fig. 4-The high efficiency vertical sweep power switching circuit and waveforms.


Fig. 5-Video IF IC.


Fig. 6-Synchronous detector-simplified schematic.
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# Triggered-sweep scope service tips 

How to use it right!


#### Abstract

The triggered-sweep oscilloscope is a most versatile instrument. Unfortunately many technicians do not understand its uses and even the experienced can learn new tricks.


## By Robert L. Goodman

Some of the information in this article was taken from my scope seminar slide presentations that have been given at various state service conventions this year. It is hoped that some of these tips will help you isolate and track down faults in electronic devices more rapidly.

While traveling to these conventions on my lectures, I have noted a tremendous interest on the service technicians part to acquire more knowledge about how to use the triggered-sweep oscilloscope.

There is a great quest for knowledge about how to use these sophisticated instruments, but a void of troubleshooting information about how to put them to work. Thus, the objective of this article is to hopefully fill some of that void.

There are now many triggered-sweep scopes on the market with most features the technician would require and at a reasonable cost. One such scope, shown in Fig. 1, is the dual-trace triggered-sweep model OS245A-Gould. This scope has a 10 MHz bandwidth dual vertical amplifier. Without a doubt, the triggered-sweep scope is the most powerful and versatile test instrument that the technician will ever own. Now let's put it to work!

## Spike or glitch locator

Here is a trick with the triggered-sweep scope that may help you locate an


Fig. 1-Photo of Gould, OS245A, dual-trace scope.
intermittent spike or pulse that at times may be found riding on the regulated dc voltage supplies in solid state equipment. For this testing technique you will need a scope that has a single sweep mode or a "one-shot" sweep mode. This feature will usually be found on a scope with a delaying time base of an " $A$ " delayed by " $B$ " time base generator.

The reason for using this technique is that these spikes are very narrow (may only be 10 or 20 nano-seconds in duration) which makes them difficult to see even on a wideband ( 30 to 50 MHz ) scope and they are usually random in nature. With this set-up you can use the ready light-which shows the one-shot has been armed-ior an indicator that the spike has occurred, even if you are not looking at the scope screen. Thus, the scope
becomes an automatic "glitch" monitor.
Set the scope up as follows to catch or "see" an intermittent spike that may occur on the regulated dc voltage power supply line. Obviously, this technique cannot be used on circuit lines that normally carry pulse signals.
To set-up the one-shot mode, depress the single sweep button as shown in (Fig. 2) photo. The "READY" light will now come on and the sweep is now armed. When a spike is detected in the vertical amplifier, the sweep will be triggered on for one single trace and the ready light will go off. Punch the single sweep button again and the ready light will come back on again, which indicates that the sweep has been re-armed. What we are doing is using the ready light as a visual monitor indicator, to let you


Fig. 2-Location of single-sweep and reset buttons.


Fig. 3-Delayed sweep scope, control locations.


Fig. 4-Block diagram of keyed AGC system.
know that a spike has occurred in the circuit under test. In this way, you do not have to watch the scope screen all of the time and can do other service work on the bench. Also, because the spike may be so narrow you may not see it on the scope, but you will know there has been some action when the single sweep mode has been fired.

You may have to try various time base generator settings, negative or positive slope (sync) and vertical amplifier gain levels in order to obtain the spike that will trigger on the single sweep trace. Some scopes will have a trigger level control that may have to be varied. The CRT intensity control level should also be adjusted for a bright trace as there will only be one sweep across the screen. Thus, the one shot sweep enables you to know a spike has occurred that you may not normally be able to see on the scope trace.

## Delayed sweep scope mode

As previously mentioned, most triggered-sweep scopes that have a
single-sweep feature (one-shot) also have the delayed-sweep functions. The controls, as we can see in the (Fig. 3) photo, will include "A" \& "B" time base generator controls, "A" main sweep, " $A$ " intensified by " $B$ ", " $B$ " delayed sweep and delay time control. The " $A$ " \& " $B$ " delay sweep modes can be used to look at digital logic pulses and any other complex waveforms that you must observe in great detail. This delayed sweep will stretch out digital pulses and Vits signals, located in the TV picture's vertical interval blanking bar, much better than an X10 expander mode.

We will now use some square-wave pulses to see how the delayed sweep control settings operate. The bottom trace (Fig. 5) is a normal pulse as you would see it using the " $A$ " time-base generator. Now the top trace was obtained by pushing the "A" intensified by " $B$ " time base generator. Note that two pulses are much brighter than the other pulses. These, of course, are the ones that are intensified. You may now rotate the
delay time control and the brightened portion will move smoothly across the display. The brightened portion represents the delayed sweep, and occurs according to the SEC/DIV. switch setting. The delayed sweep speed is independent of the main sweep speed, and may be set to any speed equal to or faster than the main " $A$ " time base sweep generator.

Now press the " $B$ " delayed sweep button-note top trace (Fig. 6)—and the intensified portion of the triggered waveform is now displayed across the entire scope screen. Another feature, when using the delayed sweep mode is that the trace does not have the jitter that usually occurs when you use the X10 magnified mode on the single time-base oscilloscope.

## Keyed AGC system

The only signal information (pulses) that does not change amplitude in the composite video signal is the horizontal sync pulse, unless the signal strength changes. This is fortunate, as the keying pulse can now be used to sample the horizontal sync pulse in order to develop a controlled-dc AGC voltage.

Refer to the block diagram of the keyed AGC system (Fig. 4). In the keyed AGC system, the control voltage is developed by the AGC amplifier tube. The control grid of this amplifier receives a composite video signal from the video detector. The plate of the amplifier has no dc plate voltage, but receives a narrow positive going pulse from the horizontal sweep pulse winding. The correct timing of these two signals is shown in Fig. 7. Now hold this information in your mind for future reference a little later in this article.

When there is not any circuit fault, the keying pulse and the horizontal sync pulse appear at the amplifier at


Fig. 5-Bottom trace is normal scope setting. Top trace is obtained with the " $A$ " sweep intensified by the " $B$ " time base generator.


Fig. 6-Top trace was obtained by pressing the " $B$ " delayed sweep button.


Fig. 7-Correct timing of the keyer pulse.


Fig. 8-Keying pulse delayed about 5 microseconds.


Fig. 9-Scope set-up to check out the keying pulse timing.
the same time. The amplifier conducts only when the horizontal keying pulse appears on the plate, and the AGC voltage developed is due to the sync pulse amplitude of the composite video signal and the dc bias on the control grid. Thus, any noise pulses which may occur on the video signal between sync pulses will not operate the AGC amplifier. The reason for this is because there is no keying pulse at the plate. In this way impulse noise signals will not affect the AGC output. Hence, the circuit is immune to noise pulses that may occur between horizontal sync pulses.

## AGC scope checks

The dual-trace scope may be used to check the AGC keying pulse and the horizontal sync for correct coincidence. This is an ideal instrument for comparing any two pulses or signal waveforms simultaneously.

To check out the keying pulse timing or phase, refer to the block
diagram (Fig. 4) again. Connect the " $A$ " channel scope probe to the control grid TP-1. This will give you the composite video signal. The " B " scope probe is then connected to the plate, TP-2. This is the point where the horizontal keying pulse is injected. The scope is set to the dual-trace alternate mode to 10 or 20 micro-seconds per divisions. The " $A$ " and " $B$ " scope signals have been superimposed in the (Fig. 7) dual-trace pattern to illustrate the correct pulse coincidence. You will note in the (Fig. 8) dual-trace photo the keying pulse is delayed about 5 micro-seconds. The keying pulse could be delayed for various reasons. Some reasons are coupling capacitor faults, defective pulse windings on the sweep transformer or trouble in the horizontal AFC oscillator control circuit state.

Horizontal sync and keying pulses that do not coincide may cause the TV picture to bend, weave or be overloaded due to an incorrect AGC
keying pulse. If the pulse is too wide, this can cause wrong AGC voltage to be developed due some video or 3.58 MHz burst information being amplified along with the sync pulse to be sampled. Thus, it may be worth your time to note or measure the width of the AGC keying pulse.

For proper phase comparison checks feed the "known standard pulse" into the scope's "A" vertical channel (in this case horizontal sync pulse from the TV station) which is contained in the composite video signal for a correct timing evaluation. If you should feed the horizontal sweep keying pulse into the "A" channel, this could be incorrect (wrong phase), thus giving you a false indication between the two waveforms in regard to timing.

Note that most scopes have the vertical " $A$ " or " 1 " channel selected for the internal trigger synchronizing of the trace. However, on some scopes you can switch the internal sync lock to either the " $A$ " or " $B$ " vertical amplifier scope channel. For these scopes make sure you feed the "known standard pulse" into the channel selected for the internal trigger sync signal source.

Note photo (Fig. 9) of the dual-trace scope set-up to check for correct keyed AGC pulse timing.

## AGC picture symptoms

Some AGC picture symptoms troubles are as follows:

- Weak, washed out picture
- Negative picture
- A very snowy picture
- No picture, with or without sound
- Very contrasty picture, with or without bending and rolling; poor picture with buzz in sound


## AGC line filtering checks

For proper set operation and good picture reproduction the AGC control


Fig. 10-Zenith 9-86-01 color module circuit
line must have a pure dc voltage. The AGC line requires filters ( $\mathrm{C} 1 \& \mathrm{C} 2$, Fig. 6) to smooth out the horizontal keying pulses that are applied to the plate of the AGC amplifier. If these AGC line filters become open the picture may bend and weave. When
you check the AGC line with the scope, you should see a smooth line as shown in the upper dual-trace scope photo in Fig. 11. If one or both of the AGC line filters would open, the scope would indicate some horizontal pulse hash as shown on the lower
scope trace of Fig. 11.
Chroma circuit phase checks
The dual-trace scope is a natural for solving some otherwise difficult chroma circuit problems. Should pulse phase timing be shifted in the chroma


Fig. 11-Bottom trace shows hash due to open AGC filter capacitors.


Fig. 12-Correctly aligned gating pulse.


Fig. 13-A mis-timed gating pulse due to an AFC circuit problem.


Fig. 14-Correct phase shift for 3.58 MHz CW signal.
system then the reproduced colors will not be correct and there may be color fade out or a complete loss of color. Thus, we will look at ways to check chroma burst and gating pulse timing, plus observe the 3.58 MHz CW signal phase used by the demodulator. A dual-trace triggered-sweep scope will give correct information when the relative phase (timing) of two waveforms must be known, or when the condition of two signals must be compared simultaneously.

## Locking in the sweep

Because many of the color processing circuits are keyed to the horizontal flyback pulse for timing and gating purposes, an accurate check of these pulses for timing and phase is imperative. The following information is given, should you choose to "lock-in" the scope waveform with an external sync pulse for these phase comparison checks. However, as noted elsewhere in this article you can use the internal scope sync-lock-in mode.
For accurate phase checks the "known standard pulse", in this case the horizontal sync pulse generated at the TV studio, should be fed into the scope's external sync jack for the proper reference signal. This pulse may be picked off at the output of the sync separator and should have an amplitude of from 5 to 10 volts peak-to-peak. Blanking pulses should not be used as most of these have a built-in delay. Horizontal sweep output pulses should not be used either as they have a long duration (very wide) and would cause measurement errors. Of course, the best reason not to use these sweep output pulses is they may have a timing error already due to a circuit malfunction. In fact, this circuit trouble may well be the reason you are using the dual-trace scope in order to locate a phase shift problem.


Fig. 15-Clip-on test pin adaptor for checking signals on an IC.

It would be a waste of time to make a phase shift check with an improperly timed pulse fed into the scope's external trigger jack. Thus, when the scope is locked in properly you will have an accurate "real-time" comparison of the pulse phase.

## Comparison checks

To illustrate some of these dual-trace scope techniques the Zenith 9-86-01 chroma module circuit shown in Fig. 10 will be utilized.

One scope comparison procedure is to check the timing of the horizontal gating pulse with the 3.58 MHz color burst. Various color picture symptoms will occur if the burst and gating pulses do not coincide.
To understand why this would happen we will take a brief look at the burst separator and color sync action. The first operation in the color sync process is to separate the burst from the composite video signal. This is the function of the burst separator. It could be tube type, transistor or within an IC. The separation of the burst is based on its time location within the transmitted signal. To achieve separation, an amplifier is used that is normally cut off, but is turned on by a
gating pulse from the horizontal sweep section only during the burst time. Thus, the output of this amplifier contains only the color burst information. This burst is fed to the AFC circuit for control of the 3.58 MHz CW oscillator. This CW reference signal, after being phase shifted, is fed to the chroma demodulators in order to develop the proper color signals for the CRT guns.

The first comparison procedure is to observe the timing of the gating pulse with regard to the color burst.
Referring to module circuit Fig. 10, the gating pulse is fed in at terminal W29. The gating pulse enters pin 4 of IC 1002 to be used for burst separation. For comparison on the dual-trace scope the color burst (composite video) is picked up by the " A " channel probe of the scope (use X10) at pin U12 of the module. The " $B$ " channel probe of the scope is connected to W29 of the module. With the time-base generator set at $10 \mu \mathrm{~s}$ per div. the color burst and gating pulse should be aligned as in the Fig. 12 dual-trace photo. At the same time check for correct shape (gating pulse width) and peak-to-peak amplitude.

Should timing of the horizontal


Fig. 16-Using a scope to troubleshoot a new Zenith $X$ chassis.


Fig. 18-Photo of ac current probe used with a scope.


Fig. 19-Horizontal yoke current waveform.


Fig. 17-Current probe clipped on a yoke lead.


Fig. 20-Current being fed into the convergence system.


Fig. 21-AC current found in the pincushion correction circuit. Note the bow-tie pattern.
gating pulse be "off" the color will fade out or change (intermittently) in various areas of the color picture. Should timing be way off there will be a complete loss of color. The mis-timed gating pulse shown in the Fig. 13 dual-trace photo was caused by a fault in the (AFC) horizontal phase detector stage. The gating pulse can occur too soon, as in this case, or be late. Perhaps leakage in a coupling capacitor, a noisy resistor or a faulty pulse coil winding could cause these same symptoms. Usually, in these cases, the gating pulse will appear to jitter back and forth on the scope trace.

For proper color demodulation the 3.58 MHz CW signal must be shifted from 90 to 120 degrees. The comparison of this phase shift is a natural task for the dual-trace scope. For this check connect the scope probes (use X10) to module terminals W25 and W27. Set the scope time-base generator to 100 ns per div. and then superimpose the two CW signals as shown in (Fig. 14) for an exact analysis. Note the 120 degree phase shift. This lets you test for any fault in the phase shift network and also for the amplitude of the CW
signal. The chroma signal enters at pin 2 of IC 1001 and is amplified within the "chip," and then exits at pin 3. The chroma signal is then coupled via capacitor C1009 to pin 4 of the IC for more amplification. After some more amplification the signal exits at pin 14 and is shaped by the chroma bandpass circuit and goes back into the "chip" at pin 13 for color demodulation. The scope can now be connected to these various check points to look at the chroma signal as it goes in and out various stages of the IC. When checking signals on the IC pins with any test instrument probes, use a clip-on test pin adaptor that is pictured in Fig. 15. A slip of a probe tip can quickly blow out an IC.

With many brands of color TV sets now going back to one large board (circuit panels) or larger modules you will need to get out the scope and bone up on circuit troubleshooting. Also, you may want to think about repairing some of the older modules and earn some extra $\$ \$ \$ \$$. The photo Fig. 16, illustrates how the new Zenith $X$ chassis ( $K$ models) can be swung out on the bench without using any extension cables and the scope being used for tracing signals on the
module circuit boards.

## Oscilloscope current probe

The service technician may want to consider using an ac current probe to check on some current waveforms. The ac current probe can be quickly clipped around an insulated wire (note current probe on yoke lead wire in Fig. 17) to check ac current without cutting into a lead wire or going to a test terminal. An ac current probe with its termination block is shown in Fig. 18.

A typical ac current oscilloscope waveform found in the horizontal yoke lead of a color set is shown in the Fig. 19 scope trace. Convergence and pincushion correction circuits may also be checked with the ac current scope probe. In Fig. 20 we see the horizontal current that is fed into the convergence circuit in order to correct the scan of the three electron beams. While in the Fig. 21 scope current waveform (note bow-tie pattern) is the ac current found in the pincushion correction circuit. Because most service information does not give the current scope waveforms you will need to look at a properly operating TV set and draw or photograph your own set of scope current waveforms. ET/D

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An "Annotated Directory of Parts and Services For Audio-Visual Equipment," has been produced by the Association of Audio-Visual Technicians and the EPIE Institute. This directory lists sources of parts and service information for more than 800 brands of AV equipment. It covers the equipment by brand name and lists sources of parts and companies that currently distribute various makes and models of AV equipment. The directory is. \$12 to members and $\$ 22$ to non-members from AAVT, POBox 9716, Denver, CO 80209.

Outdoor TV Antennas are the subject of three full-color wall charts from RCA. One covers the complete line of UHFVHF/FM, VHF/FM, UHF and FM antennas. The second covers UHF-VHF/FM and FM antennas and the third covers VHF/FM and FM antennas. The appropriate version is available for local market conditions. Contact your local RCA antenna distributor, or, RCA, Distributor and Special Products Division, Depford, NJ 08096, Attn: Sales Promotion Services.
"Electronic Games; Design, Programming, Troubleshooting," by Walter H. Buchsbaum and Robert Mauro, is a mid-level treatment, with a minimum of mathematics of those increasingly popular electronic games. It should contribute much more to the technicians understanding than service data alone can, since it goes into theory of video effects, sound effects, microprocessors and their programming and then considers their application to games. It explains design examples, the flow charts, software, programming necessary for a
typical game of blackjack. "Electronic Games" covers background information on commercial games and troubleshooting techniques for many of them. "Electronic Games," Buchsbaum and Maure, McGraw-Hill, hardbound $\$ 17.50$.
"How to Repair Movie \& Slide Projectors," TAB BOOKS No. 1011, by Robert Villastrigo, is a step by step guide to repairs on 8,16 , and 35 mm film strip, slide, overhead and opaque projectors and film viewers. It gives some general, and a great deal of specific, information on Kalart Victor, Bell and Howell, Elmo, Eastman, Leitz, Kodak, GAF, including those sold under other brand names, DuKane, Besler, AV Concepts, Califone and Prima projectors. Schematics of the electrical-electronic systems are presented along with information on replacing mechanical components. $\$ 12.95$ hardbound, $\$ 7.95$ paperback from TAB BOOKS, Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214.

Reconditioned Test Equipment is the subject of a new 64-page catalog published by Tucker Electronics Company. Instrument categories include amplifiers, analyzers, bridges, frequency measuring equipment, signal generators, laboratory standards, meters, oscilloscopes, recorders, RFI/EMI equipment and more. Over 1200 individual items are described and priced. All are reconditioned and calibrated to manufacturer's original specifications. Tucker also offers repair, calibration, and overhaul services for test equipment. Write: Tucker Electronics Company, PO Box 401060, Garland, TX 75040.

A new television signal distribution equipment catalog is now available from Blonder-Tongue Laboratories. The catalog covers everything necessary for CATV and MATV systems; antennas, amplifiers and preamplifiers, converters, audio and video modulators, filters, traps, outlets, splitters, connectors, coa-


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xial cable and test instruments. The catalog is avilable from your BlonderTongue distributor or Blonder-Tongue Laboratories Inc., One Jake Brown Rd., Old Bridge, NJ 08857.

## A winter parts, tools and service aids

 catalog has just been published by Ora Electronics. It reportedly features hundreds of original replacement parts such as IC's, transistors, capacitors and others used in Japanese and other Far-Eastern made equipment as well as tools and hardware needed in consumer electronics service. A free copy of the catalog is available from: ORA Electronics, 7235 Canby Ave., Reseda, CA 91335.Projector-Recorder Belt Corp. has announced their new 1979 catalog containing replacement belts for video tape recorders, audio cassettes, 8 -track players, and turntables. The catalog also contains updated cross-referenced information on over 4000 models of electronic entertainment equipment. Also featured is a complete line of aerosol chemicals, lubricants, adhesives, patch cords, needles, and record care accessories all at factory direct prices. Write or call toll free (1-800-558-9572) for your free copy of this valuable servicemen's aid and comprehensive cross reference


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A catalog of mobile communications antennas has recently been released by Decibel Products, Inc. Catalog M-101 covers a variety of UHF and VHF mobile antennas, parts and accessories and new developments for the 800 MHz band. Decibel Products also offers base station antenna diplexers, filters, combiners and other radio communication accessories. For information write to Decibel Products, Inc., 3184 Quebec, Dallas, TX 75247.

A new catalog of small tools and precision instruments for photographic and electronic repairs has just been published by National Camera, Inc. This 1979 catalog contains 64 pages of hand tools, kits and accessories, measuring instruments, electronic and camera test instruments, photo technical supplies, optics and other tools and supplies. For a free copy, write to National Camera, Inc., 2000 W. Union Ave., Englewood, CO 80110.

Flameproof resistors are the subject of a 10 -page brochure recently published by GTE Sy/vania. It lists the characteristics and construction features of Sylvania ECG flameproof resistors in onefourth, one-half, one and two watt sizes with resistances ranging from 1 ohm to 100 megohms, depending upon wattage. This brochure is available from Sylvania distributors or GTE Sylvania, 1025 Westminster Dr., Williamsport, PA 17701.

Original Japanese semiconductors are the subject of a catalog from MCM Audio, Inc. Covered is a large selection of transistors, integrated circuits, diodes, fuse type pilot lights, resistors, capacitors, replacement motors and other Japanese parts and a Japanese transistor subsubstitution manual. MCM states if they don't have the item you want, they will supply a guaranteed substitute or get an exact replacement. For a free copy write: MCM Audio, Inc., 634 Watervliet Ave., Dayton, OH 45420.

New/and used test instrument catalog No. 106 has just been issued by Lectronic Research Laboratories. This catalog lists 48 pages of test equipment and components including laboratory quality instruments and items such as vacuum and oil capacitors, timers, industrial tubes and relays. For a free copy write Lectronic Research Labs, Inc., Atlantic and Ferry Ave., Camden, NJ 08104. ETD

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It really isn't very long ago that carrying a full set of test instruments along on service calls required plenty of space in the service vehicle and strong arms and occasionally plenty of time while the pattern from your color bar generator settled down after coming in from a cold van. Solid state devices have shrunk instrument sizes and digital techniques


Hickok LX-303 DMM, the Model 1239 Color Bar Generator and the Model 215 Portable Semiconductor Tester. For more information circle Number 150 this issue.

## Hickok's Mini-Instruments

Small in size, but big at heart

By Walter H. Schwartz
have stabilized the pattern generator
The three instruments reviewed this month are Hickok's new LX-303 Digital Multimeter, and two Hickok instruments that have been available for some time, the pocket sized Model 215 Semiconductor Analyzer and the Model 239 Color Bar Generator. Each of these measures $33 / 8$ by $53 / 4$ by $17 / 8$ inches, weighs 12 oz or less, and is battery operated for completely portable use.

The LX-303 is a $31 / 2$ digit liquid crystal display instrument based on the Intersil ICL7106 integrated circuit. This allows a multimeter to be designed with a LCD readout device, an input divider (in the LX-303 a thick film unit), a few other resistors, capacitors, and diodes, and of course, the ICL7106.

Features of the LX-303 include,auto polarity, auto zero, and over range indication. DC ranges are $100 \mathrm{mV}, 1,10$, 100 , and 1000 volts; ac ranges are X 100 and X 1000 volts; ohms ranges are X100, X1K, X10K, X1Meg, and X10Meg. Actually, all of these ranges except the 1 KV ac will safely read to 1.999 times the appropriate multiplier.

Current ranges (dc) are from 10 nA to 100 mA full scale. Accuracy on most ranges is $\pm 0.5 \%, + \pm 0.5 \%$ of full scale.

The 100 mV dc range has an overload capability of 500 V . The other dc voltage ranges will withstand 1 KV . The ac ranges are rated at 600 V RMS, notwithstanding the X 1 KV multiplier. For extra protection and extended range on dc volts, a 90 megohm $\times 10$ probe extension may be slipped over the red test prod.

The LX-303 is apparently intended to be hand held. It fits the palm of the hand easily-at least, my hand- and can be range switched by the thumb. The red test lead must be moved when function is changed, reportedly to simplify switching and also to require a conscious effort on the part of the user to help avoid errors in function and range selection.

The test leads do not replace easily for storage in the instrument case, but store very easily in the accessory carrying case.

Accessories for the LX-303, in addition to the VP-10 probe and the CC-3 carrying case, are the RC-3 ac adapter, the VP-40, 40 KV dc probe, and the CS-1, a 10 ampere dc current shunt.

The Model 239 Color Bar Generator supplies nine different patterns for adjustment or troubleshooting color television receivers, including gated rainbow, lines, dots and cross hatch. RF output is front panel adjustable to channels 2,3 or 4. Chroma level is variable from 0 to about $150 \%$ of normal.

The circuit of the 239 uses a custom MOS IC designed by Hickok specifically for this instrument. It contains the equivalent of approximately 1000 transistors and performs all the digital logic to produce the various patterns. The 239 uses 2 other ICs and 5 transistors, including 3 in the power regulator. Power consumption is such that a pair of standard 9 V transistor batteries last about 30 hours of operation. An automatic shut off switch conserves the batteries when the cover is closed.

The 215 automatic semiconductor Analyzer also uses MOS ICs to very cleverly scan the connections to the transistor under test to determine which is which-it will identify the base-and then reads good or bad and PNP or NPN. No matter how a transistor is inserted in the socket or connected, it will determine the right test connections. It will test in circuit as long as shunting impedances are greater than 500 ohms at 1 KHz . It will test bipolar transistors, junction FETs, unijunction transistors, and diodes directly; it can test other devices continued on page 54


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## DEALER'S SHOWCASE



## AM-FM Scanner

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Electra Company has announced a new development in scanner technology that allows a single scanning monitor to receive not only public safety, marine, "ham", and other FM frequencies, but also the AM aircraft frequencies. The new Bearcat 220 scanner is reportedly the first scanning monitor which combines AM and FM reception capability. Six VHF and UHF FM Public Service bands plus the AM aircraft band are covered by this radio.

Crystal-less, pushbutton frequency entry is used in the Bearcat: ?0. Up to 20 frequencies can be in any sequence or mix of bands. A priority function is also provided, instantly alerting the listener when a call is made on the priority frequency programmed into the channel one position. Channels can also be activated in banks of ten, permitting the operator to "call up" a group of ten channels with one pushbutton.

Other features included in the Bearcat 220 are patented selective scan delay, scan speed selection, AC/DC operation, automatic and manual squelch, individual channel lockout, and direct access to any programmed channel without the need to manually step through channels. Electra Company's patented "track tuning" is used to provide optimum reception across entire frequency bands. The suggested retail price of the new Bearcat 220 scanner is $\$ 379.95$.

## Record and' Tape Care Products Circle No. 142 un Reader Inquiry Card

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Anti-static fluid within the tracking arm is fed to a special fiber cleaning pad and applied to the record automatically as it is played. According to the manufacturer, the result is better fidelity and longer wear because records stay cleaner. The reservoir in the tracking arm refills easily and holds up to a three-month supply of anti-static treatment fluid.

## Gas Sentry

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The 15-500 Home Gas Sentry, introduced by CG Electronics, reportedly warns of the presence of smoke and of the build up of gases, including butane, propane (LP-gas), methane and the products of combustion. A newly developed gas sensing element detects a higher than normal gas concentration before it reaches the dangerous level, where an explosion could occur or a person could be overcome by fumes. The suggested retail price is $\$ 32.95$.


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tainment, educational, and instructional programs.

Using a tiny laser light beam, the player relays images and sound from the videodisc to the TV screen. No needle or stylus ever touches the disc and a plastic coating on the disc protects it from fingerprints, dust, or surface scratches. Discrete audio channels permit stereophonic sound when the player is connected to a home stereo unit.

Other features of the player include stop action, slow motion, fast motion, and frame indexing. The player attaches to any home color or black and whiteTV. Suggested retail price for Magnavision is $\$ 695$.

## Two-Way Hand-Held

Circle No. 146 on Reader Inquiry Card
A new, reasonably priced, six channel two-way hand-held radio, designed for land mobile applications, is now available from Standard Communications Corp. of Carson, CA.

The 831L produces up to three watts RF output power. It requires 12 Vdc ( $\pm 20 \%$ ) for operation, supplied internally by a battery pack, or externally

through a jack on the side. A built-in light monitors the condition of the battery.

The 831 L is ruggedly built and is equipped with a high quality internal microphone and separate speaker located behind the front grille. A jack on top permits use of an external microphone.

## Economy AM CB

Circle No. 147 on Reader Inquiry Card
NDI's recently introduced AM, CB unit, the economy Model PC-102, offers appearance and essential performance features at a suggested price of $\$ 99.95$.

The frequency synthesized Model PC-102 provides 40 channel operation with single knob control and bright LED digital readout. Control functions include volume, adjustable squelch and an automatic noise limiter.

Operational monitors include a backlighted panel meter reading relative " $s$ " units on receive and power output on transmit. In addition, a green "RX" lamp shows receiver status and a red "TX" light serves as AM modulation indicator.
PA/Hailer operation is also available using auxiliary speaker. The set operates on 13.8 Vdc , positive or negative ground. ET/D

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# PRODUCTS 

TORX ${ }^{\circledR}$ Screwdriver

Circle No. 154 on Reader Inquiry Card
For those who have to disassemble automotive trim and dash components to remove or install auto radios, CB's and tape equipment, a new Vaco five-in-one screwdriver should be welcome. This

screwdriver has available interchangeable bits including those for the new TORX ${ }^{\circledR}$ drive system which has been adopted for 1979 for most American automobiles.


## Digital Multimeters

Circle No. 155 on Reader Inquiry Card
Beckman Instruments' two new $31 / 2$ digit portable multimeters-the TECH 300 and the TECH 310 -for technicians and hobbyists, feature two-year battery life, a special semiconductor test function, and reportedly, exceptional overload protection. The TECH 310 features a quick continuity test function allowing the user to check continuity with the speed and ease of an analog volt-ohm meter. The new multimeters are part of a complete line of multimeters recently introduced by Beckman.

## 20MHz Portable Scope

Circle No. 156 on Reader Inquiry Card
Leader Instruments has just introduced the Model LBO-308, a compact, dual trace, 3 inch, 20 MHz bandwidth, portable oscilloscope which can be operated from an optional rechargeable battery pack. Features of the LBO-308 are $2 \mathrm{mV} /$ div sensitivity sweep speed to $0.1 \mu \mathrm{sec} / \mathrm{div}$ with a X5 magnifier available, 17.5 nanosecond rise time and an eight by ten division display. Two direct/X10 probes are standard equipment, a carrying case and the battery pack are optional. The price is $\$ 950$ including a two year warranty.

## Digital Multimeter

Circle No. 157 on Reader Inquiry Card
Sinclair Radionics latest digital multimeter, the DM350 is a $31 / 2$ digit instrument

[^4]
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## TV Wall Brackets

Circle No. 158 on Reader Inquiry Card
A line of Appolo TV wall brackets for commercial and industrial users are available from Neosonic Corp. of America. These brackets are useful for hotels, hospitals, bars and clubs. They are designed to clamp the TV receiver without being screwed into the TV cabinet and are adjustable to any horizontal angle. The brackets are steel and black nylon and will support up to 154 pounds.

## DIGITAL COUNTERS

continued from page 21
adjustment, usually in the form of a small capacitive trimmer, or an inductive slug adjustment.
It is usually assumed that in order to use radio signals for calibration purposes, one must have a short wave receiver which can be tuned to a Bureau of Standards frequency broadcast station, or else one must ship the unit to a calibration service agency. This is not necessary.

A simple calibration procedure is as follows: using proper caution to avoid trouble with line connected chassis TV receivers, connect the counter to the output of a color TV's 3.58 MHz color oscillator. Take care to insure the use of color oscillator output, not burst amplifier output; remember burst is intermittent and serves to lock the oscillator to proper frequency. Make sure there is sufficient isolation between the counter and the oscillator to prevent a shift in frequency or phase (indicated by a shift in picture color). Make sure you are properly tuned to a local station which is locked to network color burst, and the set is properly color locked. The


Fig. 23-Racal-Dana's Model 9313 200 MHz counter has packaged the equivalent of over 5000 components on a single chip.
frequency of the color oscillator is 3.579545 MHz and is extremely accurate. In fact, the Bureau of Standards has published a bulletin on using color burst as a reference.

## Double check

If your counter does not agree with this frequency, you can adjust the calibration trimmer a very little bit, and see if the error increases or decreases. When you are moving in the right direction, continue a bit at a time, until the error is within acceptable limits. Do not overshoot on your adjustments, since you may have to take the retrace error out of the system before you start moving back, it is much easier to creep up on the

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right frequency and do it on the first attempt.

Replacement of parts often requires calibration, so it is essential to check out your counter after any repair involving the internal circuitry. Two counters not only insure having one handy at all times, but also provides the most inexpensive and convenient means of periodically checking your counter. Any time you suspect one counter of failing in accuracy you can check it against the other. It is most unlikely that both counters would develop identical errors at the same time. I also discovered that two counters are as useful as a dual trace oscilloscope. By varying one factor in a system it is possible to watch a resulting frequency variation, which in turn should affect another frequency, as for example, with voltage controlled oscillator circuits in control loops, or phase locked loops. This is very handy, and a real time saver. Sometimes it is the only practical way to diagnose a malfunctioning circuit.eTD

## BUYING REPLACEMENTS

continued from 23
cents each in 1000s. If you do a lot of service on radios, medium power audio equipment, phonographs, and other low power consumption products, then it may well pay to stock both high and low piv rectifiers. Just remember the rule for selecting the piv rating of a rectifier, it must be greater than $3 \times E^{\mathrm{rms}}$ or $2 \times E^{\mathrm{dC}}$ (in capacitor filtered supplies).

## Shop around

Many small shop owners complain about high parts prices, but do little to try and obtain a better deal. One chap will diagnose a shorted 0.047/600 WVDC mylar capacitor, and order just one! Another buys half-watt resistors in five packs at $12 \not \subset$ each. The same servicer-oriented distributor will also sell the same grade of resistor in lots of 50 per value (pre-bagged by TRW) for $6.3 \varnothing$ each. It takes the same plastic parts cabinet drawer to stock 5 as it does to stock 50 , so why not save?

Table 2 shows the relative replacement line and industrial 2 N -numbered prices for some popular transistors. Note that a considerable price difference exists, yet when you buy a 2 N 5249 to replace the output transistor in an auto radio, it is the same transistor that was used by the manufacturer! The price ratio is $3.5: 1$ !

Integrated circuits is another area where some savings are possible. A friend of mine was servicing a modular Hi-Fi that used a certain dual operational amplifier that is described as an audio, or stereo preamplifier. The equipment maker "wholesaled" the IC to servicers for $\$ 8$, but it turned out to be a common Motorola MC1303P, or Fairchild $\mu A 739$ (same device), which cost only $\$ 2.20$ in unit quantities and $\$ 1.78$ in 10 s . There are only a few semiconductor makers, and they all have limited product lines, especially in ICs. If you survey their databooks and spec sheets, or the $I C$ Master, it is often possible to identify the component specified by the set maker. Alternatively, you could also look in replacement guides for the LM-, $\mu \mathrm{A}, \mathrm{MC}-$, CA-, CD- or 74xx number that also crosses to the set makers IC. Chances are good that there will be only one or two.

Once you are convinced that buying in quantity on some items is justified, then don't just call up the distributor and order the parts. Do it by bid, that's what industrial customers do. Even if you are dealing with local, servicer-oriented distributors (who can also offer quantity discounts), send a
request for bid to several different distributors, and ask for quotations. In a few days or weeks the figures will come back, and you can decide who gets the order! Buy each part at the best price, even if it means splitting the order (remember the minimum order figure!) up between several houses. ETD

## HITACHI

continued from 33
output to the video amplifier.

## Video, AGC

The video is then amplified and output appears on pin 20. A 4.5 MHz trap takes off sound IF and the video returns to the HA11238 noise canceler, and the AGC circuits. RF AGC is available on pin 12. AFT is developed by applying the switching carrier coupled into L203, and the video IF carrier from the synchronous detector, to the AFT phase detector. AFT control voltage is available at pin 14. AFT center frequency is set by L203 adjustment.

The luminance and chroma are separated after emerging from the HA11238. The luminance channel consists of three discrete transistor



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stages of amplification, ultimately driving the emitters of the R, B, and G outputs.

## Chroma

A large 24 pin IC, a HA11580, contains the bandpass amplifier and demodulators, killer circuitry, ACC, and 3.5 MHz oscillator and AFPC.

A three axis demodulation system produces $B-Y, R-Y$, and $G-Y$ signals to be fed to the bases of the corresponding $B, R$, and $G$ output transistors.

## Audio

Another IC, an HA1124D, contains a $4.5 \mathrm{MHz} I F$, and $F M$ detector and an audio amplifier. Sound IF output from pin 20 of the video IF IC is fed through ceramic filter to the sound IF input of the HA1124D. Its output then drives the audio output stage.

## Miscellaneous notes

The various NP8X chassis are rated at less than 100 watts power consumption, depending on picture tube size and tuning option. The NP8X-52 uses varactor tuners and remote control. The NP8X-51 and L use wafer VHF and capacitor tuned UHF tuners.

The horizontal output transformer in the NP8X is of the integral high voltage rectifier type and has a built in focus divider and control. ETR

## BUYING DIRECT

continued from 28
the toll free number to discuss any problems which may arise.

An obvious distinct advantage to the customer of buying direct is that if there are any quality or delivery problems, the customer is able to go directly to the source without having to deal with an intermediary.

Perhaps the biggest advantage to buying direct, however, and this is
implicit in all of the preceding discussion, is that the price for both the repair parts and service aids are lower. There is less overhead in the forms of commissions, road expenses, and the like, and thus, the customer pays less for the parts he needs. These parts are generally as good or better than the original equipment part. The customer makes his living by selling the skill and labor for servicing the equipment properly and by marking up the replacement parts that he uses. Lower cost replacement parts that are just as good as the original, put more money in his pocket and keep costs low to his customers.

## TEST INSTRUMENT

## continued from 44

by the "diode present" method.
Power for the 215 is, again, 2 standard 9 volt transistor batteries, which should last for about 20 hours of operation. It also has an automatic switch operated when the cover is closed.

All three instruments were left outside in the Minnesota winter long enough to chill them thoroughly-about $-5^{\circ}$ F-the only one that showed any ill effects was the LX-303. Its LCD display took several minutes to respond again. This is common to all present LCD displays, no permanent damage results and the LX-303 accuracy did not seem to be affected; it was on the nose as soon as the display appeared. The Model 215 continues to check transistors at $-5^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$ and the Model 239's patterns were stable when connected to a TV set and did not change as the instrument returned to room temperature.

The price of the LX-303 is $\$ 74.95$, the carrying case is $\$ 7.50$ and the X 10 dc probe is $\$ 14.95$. The 239 Color Bar Generator is priced at $\$ 99$ and the 215 Semiconductor Analyzer is $\$ 109$. The only accessory for these is the nicad battery/recharger kit at \$27.50. ET/D



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