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6



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 ADCOLA L. 646
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## *Additional Stock Bits <br> (illustrated) available

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| OC72 | $0 \cdot 13$ | Diodes |
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vimilar to $\overline{3 N 7 O 6 / 6 A / B, ~ B S Y 26-29, B 5 Y 95 A, ~ B C Y 70, ~ e t c . ~}$


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 \begin{tabular}{ll|ll|l}
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$16 / 450 \mathrm{~V}$ \& 15 D \& $1000 / 50 \mathrm{~V}$. \& 47 p \& $32+32 / 450 \mathrm{~V}$

 

$32 / 450 \mathrm{~V}$ \& 80 p \& $8+8 / 450 \mathrm{~V}$ \& 18 p \& $350+50 / 325 \mathrm{~V}$ <br>
$25 / 25 \mathrm{~V}$ \& 10 D \& $8+16 / 450 \mathrm{~V}$ \& 20 p \& $30+80 \mathrm{p}$

 $\begin{array}{lllll}50 / 25 \mathrm{~V} \\ 50 / 50 \mathrm{~V} . . & 10 \mathrm{p} & 16+16 / 450 \mathrm{~V} & 25 \mathrm{p} & 100+53+50 / 350 \mathrm{~V} 48 \mathrm{p}\end{array}$ 

$500 / 25 \mathrm{~V}$ \& 10 p \& $16+18 / 450 \mathrm{~V}$ <br>
1025 p <br>
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SHORT WAVE. SINOLE. 10pF 30p; 25pF SSD: 50pF 55p NEON PANEL IMDICATORS 250 A AC/DC Rec or Amber 20D RESISTORS, tw., \& w., $20 \% 10 ; 2$ w. 5p 10 ohms to 10 mes HIOH STABILITY. + w. $2 \% 10$ ohm to 1 neen., 10 p . HIOH $8 T A B I L I T Y . ~ W . ~$
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## SCOOP! METALTPLINTH AND Cut out ready tor Garrard or B.S.R. Will play with cover in positlon. Latest deaion. <br> Post 25p Antimagntlle. $12+\times 14+\times$ 7tin ALSO AVAILABLE IN SOLID MAHOGANY NATURAL POLISHED FINISH AT SAME PRICE


250-0-250 80 mA .6 .3 v. 4 smp. 250-0-200 $80 \mathrm{~mA} .8 \cdot 3$ v. 4 smp. ..................... 81.50

 MINIATURE 200 ष. $20 \mathrm{~mA}, 6.37 .1 \mathrm{s} 23 \times .23 \times 2 \mathrm{~m}$.
 MIMI-MAINE $20 \mathrm{v}, 100 \mathrm{~mA}$. If $\times 11 \times 1 \mathrm{in}$
 Dltto tapped rec. 1.4 .., $2,3,4,5.6 .3 \mathrm{~F} .1 \nmid \mathrm{fmp}$. GEKERAL PURPOSE LOW OLTAGE. Tapped Output at 2 amp. 3. 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 15, 18, 24 end 30 . 22.25
1 amp., $8,8,10,12,16,18,20,24,30,36,40,48,60,22.25$

5 smp. $8,8,10,12,16,18,20,84,30,38,10,48,60.48 .75$ AUTO TRAFSFORMERS 115 v , to 230 v , of 280 v . to 116 v 150w. $225 ; 500 \mathrm{w}$. $26 \cdot 25 ; 750 \mathrm{w}$. $210 ; 1000 \mathrm{w}$. 214.
CHARGER CHARGER TRANSFORMERS. IDDOt $200 / 250 \mathrm{v}$
 FULL WAVE BRIDGE CHARGER RECIFIERS

 E.M I. $13 \frac{1}{2} \times 8 \mathrm{Bn}$
LOUDSPEAKERS
wwh
 state 3 or 8 or 18 ohm Pont 15p With fiared tweeter cone and coramic $\begin{aligned} & \text { magnet. } 10 \text { watta. } \\ & \text { Bama rea. } 45-60 \mathrm{cpl} .\end{aligned}, 4275$ Flux 10,000 genes - Post 150


## IOW MINI-MODULE $£ 3.25$ LOUDSPEAKER KIT <br> Post 25D

Triple speaker aysiem combining on raady cot banie.
in. chiptoard 15 in. $\times 8 i$ in. Separate Bas. Middie and Troble loadipestery and crossover cendenser. The heave daty 5 in . Bass Woofer unit has a low resonance cone. The mid-Range nait is apecially dosigned to add drive to the middle reniater $s$ nd the iweeter recreater the top end of the mustes apectrum. Total rasponac 20-16.000 cps. Tall instructions for 8 ohm matchng. $18 \times 10 \times$ Bin. Modern dosign Fith $\& 5$ Post 25p

## ALL MODELS "BAKER SPEAKERS" IN STOCE

BAKER I 2in. MAJOR \&9


## 30-14.500 c.p.E., $12 i n$

 double cone, wooter and tweeter cone logether witb a BAEER coramic maxnet assembly beving s Guz deasity of 14,000 gatse and a tutal fux of 145.000 Maxwelts. Bas remonance 40 c.p.g. Reted 80 watte. Voice coils 3 or 8 or 18 ohma. Post Fres Module kitt, 80-17.000 c.p.b. mitb tweeter. crossover, $\left.\begin{aligned} & \text { butpe and } \\ & \text { inatructions. }\end{aligned} \right\rvert\, 1 / 50$BAKER "BIG-SOUND" SPEAEERS $\begin{array}{lll}12 \text { Jnch } \\ 25 \text { watt } & 12 \text { fuch } \\ 35 \text { watt } & \leq 9 \quad 15 \text { tach } \\ 80 \text { watt }\end{array} \leq 19$ 3 or 8 ur 15 ohm 8 or 8 og 15 ohm 8 or 15 ohm TEAE HI-PI EPEAKER CABINETS. Fluted wood front For 12 im . ur 10 in . dis. speaker $80 \times 12 \times 9 \mathrm{in}$. 29. Post 85 p


GOODMANS $6 \frac{1}{2}$ in. HI-FI WOOFER 8 ohm, 10 watt. Large ceramic marnet Special Cambrie cone rarround. Fregueacy Hit-Pi Enclosures Syatems. te. $\$ 4$


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 The movink coil diaphrarm givas a good radiation pattera to the higher frequencies Irom $1,000 \mathrm{cps}$ to $18,000 \mathrm{cps}$. Size 81 X $3 \ddagger \times 8$ in. deep. Ratina 10 watte. 3 ohm $3 \& \times$ gin. deep. Ratingor 15 obm models.
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Horn Tweeters 8-16ke/s, 10 W 8 nhm or 15 ohm 81.50 De Luxe Born Tweeteri \&-18 Kc/b, $15 \mathrm{~W}, 15 \mathrm{nhm}$ 23. TWO-WAY 3000 cpI CROSSOVERS 8 of 8 or 15 ohm 98 p . SPECIAL OFPER! $80 \mathrm{nhm}, 8$ in. $21 \mathrm{im} ; 85 \mathrm{obm}$. $2 \mathrm{in} . ; 3 \mathrm{gin}$
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COAEIAL PLUG 6p. PANEL SOCEETS 6p. LINE 18D. OUTLET SOXES, SURPACE OR PLUSH 2Sp.
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E.M.I. TAPE MOTORSPost 15p.
 Sise $31 \times 21 \times 21 \mathrm{n}$. (illatrated). $\leq 1 \cdot 25$ BALFOUR GRAM MOTORS
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Anyone from 9 yesth up can follow the step-by-step, easy an BC fally Hllustrated inNo moldering necemary. 76 statione logged on rod aerial in 30 min . Ransta, Alrica, U8A, 8 witserland, etc. Experience thrille of world wide news, sport, cants. Usen PPS battery. mise only $3^{\circ}$ I $41^{\circ}$ x 14' Only $22 \cdot 25+17 \mathrm{p}$ p. \& p. Kit locludes cabinet, merews, Indtructions, etc. (Parta arailable meparately).

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### 59.75 <br> CAN'T BLEEP AT NIGHT8! <br> 

IN THE NIGHT AND CANT GET OPF TO BLEEP. AGAIN F WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE GENTLY BOOTHED OFF TO EATIEPTING BLEEP BVERY NIGHTT Then build this ingenjous elect rotaic sleep inducer. It eww atopi by disedf so you don'l have to worty about th being on all nighl/ The londspeaker produces soothing audlobut ay time goes on the mound repeatedbecomea lear and lean-until they eventoally cease altogether, the effert if has ow people is amazingly very similar to hypnosis. A con. trol is provided for adjunting the length of times, etc., all tranalntor, can be built by athyone over 12 years of age in about two hours. No knowledge of electromes or radio hoeded. Extremely simple, eany-to-follow. tep-by-step, folly Hustrated instructionk moluded. No toderimg mereasary. Works of
 Kit includes caee, nnts, wire, screve et sEND \&2.75 + 25p p. \& ip. (parto avallable separataly).

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## Vary the strength of your lighting with a (IMM2:sivich



The DIMMASWITCH is an ateracsive and effic. lene dimmer unit which fies in place of the normal lighe swiech and is connected up in exactly she same way. The ivory mounsing plase of the DIMMASWITCH matches modern electric fittings. Two models are available, with the bright chrome knob controlling up so 300 w or 600 w of all lighes except fluorescents at mains volcages from 200-250 v, 50Hz. The DIMMASWITCH has built-in radio interference suppression:

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Everyday Electronics, April 1972

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CONTROL DRILI SPEEDS NEWIKWMODEL Rlectronlcally change： speed from epproxl－
mately 10 reva．to mately 10 reva．to martmum．Full power ot all speeds by ninger－tip parta，cane，everything and full Instructiona．al－60 plus 13p post and jnaurance．Minde up model and and p ．
MAINS OPERATED CONTACTOR $220 / 240 \mathrm{~T}$ ． 50 eycle solenpold ulth maninsted core so very circulte each rated at 10 ampe． Extremely well made by a German glectrical Company． Overall alae 2t $\times 2 \times 2 \mathrm{in}$ ． Ol each．


NEED A SPECIAL SWITCH？ Doable Leal Contect．Very alight preasure closes $\Rightarrow$ ech，both dos．Plestic panh od saltable for operating 5y each，45 doz．

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CAR AERIAL
－ith dashboard control ewitch－fully extendable to 40 in ．or fully retractable． Suitable for 12 v ．poatitve or negative earth．Bupplled complete with fitting lastructione and ready wired danbboer switch． 5.78 plan $25 p$ poot and ing．


TOGGLE SWITCH
3 amp．250v．with axlog ring 7ty each，75p dos． MICRO SWITCH
5 amp changeover contacts， 91 10 p ench or El 1.0 os dos．


## MINIATURE

WAFER SWITCHES
${ }_{3}^{2}$ pole，${ }^{2}$ way－ 4 pole，${ }^{3}$ way－ ${ }^{3}$ pole， 8 way－ 4 pole，${ }^{3}$ may－2 6 way－ 1 pole． 12 was．All at 100 each． 21.30 for ien，your aesortment．



## BLANKET SWITCH

Dooble pole ith neon let into side mo lominoun in dark． uoe with waterpoool sjement．ne plantic case 30 e ench．s beat model 40

CAR ELECTRIC Plug
Fits in plece of cigare tie lighter． Uueful methor for making a
 TREASURE TRACER Complete Kit（except wooden battenn）to numke the metal detector as the circult in Practica！ Wirelees Auruat troe．部管 plus 20 p post and ingurace．

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Mind Immersion Heater． 350. $300 / 240 \mathrm{v}$ ．Bonta full cup in sbont two minutes．Uee any wocket or
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Have at bedalde for lea，baby＇：food，etc． 81 －25，poot and losurance 14p．12v．car model aloo svaliable same price．Jus

SNAP ACTION SLIDE SWITCH Rated Ba．240v．Made by Arrow．Type vacuums，etc．Sp each， 10 for asp．

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For digital instrumente，connlery，timera，


## ＊ 12 way sus－miniature

 MULTI－CORE CABLET．0076 copper cores each core P．V．C．Inmulated and of difierent colour．P．V．C．covered overall and approx．3／16in．thict．Price 503 per yand


LIGHT CELL
Almoot zero reatetant in sun＊ light increacee to 10 K Ohms realo seaded． $81 z e$ approz． 1 in ．dia．by tin．zhick． Rated at 500 MW ．Wire ended． 43 y with chrcuit． Atso ORP 1211 ght cell 46 p ．

## THE FULL－FI STEREO SIX



The amplition
You $w i l l$ bersation of the mer You will be smazed to the fullneas of reprodoction and at the added qualitien your recorde or tuner will reproduce．Bullt mounting on plinth this amplifer uses an integrated soldd state circuitimith an oatput power of 6 whit R．M．8．eplit over the two channeis．The amplier is ical or mee wian gorma olume and tone controls also switching for Mono to Btereo，tuner or plek－ud． UNREPEATABLE PRICE Is 380 plus 200 poot and insurance．Bimulated teat cablinet $11 \cdot \mathrm{~s}$（poot free when crdered with chamis）．

## DISTRIEUTION PANELS

Juat Fhat jou need for wort bench or lab．
tandard 13 amp fused plage and on／ofi switch with neon warning lieht．Bupplied complete with 6 fett if tex cable．Whred up ready to wort． 28.8 plua $28 \mathrm{p} P$ ．


Imithe 84 hour 8 on／8 of Tise switote．Thle ts the popals－ model．tured in the Autowet and Morphy Richarde time ©0 cycle．Contacts awith up to 13 ampe．Price Aivis

## TANGENTIAL HEATER UNITS

Thla heater unit is the very latest type，moat efficient，aod quilet running．Is as atted in Hoover and blower heaters coating 215 and mope．We have a few ouly Comprisen motor，impelier， $2 \mathbb{F}$ ．element and 1tw，elernent allowing switchins ． 2 gnd $3 \leq W$ ．and with thermal safety cutout．Can be fitted into any metal bine
 2 kW ．Model as bove except 2 hllowate e． 50 Don＇t mise this．Control B－itch 55 s ．P．\＆P． 40 p ．

POCKET CIRCUIT TESTER
Teat continulty for any low reaistance chrcult，house wiring car eiectrics．Tente polarity of diodes and rectitiers．Also ldiea sop or 2 for soo post gatd．injector（circuit supplied）

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2，400ft of the Beat Marnetle Tape money can buy－users claim food reanlts with Video and cound．1in．Fide 31.00 plue 39p pont and inurratice，with cametic．I In wide $i 1.00$ plan 30 p pont and taith each plus a0p poat and inmorance．

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MULLARD I．F．AMPLIFIER
3 tranaistors， 10 tuned circuitn，Mulard Ref．No．LP L65289．Prequency not known but belleved to be around 405．Mounted on printed elreult


## RADIO STETHOSCOPE

Rasieat way to tault find－traces sifnal from werial
to eppeater－when signal etope you＇ve found the
tauit．Use it on Redlo，TV．
amplitar，maphing－eom－
plete Eat comprises two apecia．
ding probe tube and crystial
earpiece．$t$ in in tetho
extra poul and tns． 200 ． 75


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 in improved and even more effcient verulos（Proctioal

 for 6v，vehicies．A－At plue 20p．

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Theee are miniature relayn．sise approx． 1 hth inch hich $\times 11^{\prime \prime}$ wide $x$ \＆deep． 4 change over allver／gold contacts．Contact rating lamp 100 v D．C．Fitted with \＆plantic cover．Coil operate： approx． $200 \mathrm{Mr} \mathrm{D.C} .\mathrm{avalable} \mathrm{with} \mathrm{the} \mathrm{following} \mathrm{colle:-}$ 28 ohm for $1 \mathrm{v}-2.5 \mathrm{v} \quad 45 \mathrm{ohm}$ for $4 \mathrm{~F}-7.6 \mathrm{v} \quad 52 \mathrm{ohm}$ for $4.9 \mathrm{v}-6 \mathrm{v}$ 90 ohm for $5.5 \mathrm{v}-11.6 \mathrm{v} \quad 150 \mathrm{ohm}$ for $10 \mathrm{v}-15 \mathrm{v} \quad 580$ ohm for $17 \mathrm{v}-86 \mathrm{v}$ 1250 ohm for $27 \mathrm{v}-44 \mathrm{v} \quad 3500$ ohm for $31 \mathrm{v}-60 \mathrm{v} \quad 6800$ ohm for $27 \mathrm{v}-44 \mathrm{v}$ 75 each． 10 for 88.75 ．Aino one whith 16,800 ohm coll but thin han only 2 beavy duty change over gold contecte．Price $\mathbf{3} 1 \cdot 4$

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Usea 4 trangintors，and has an output of 750 mW into ohm apaskers．Input reitable for oryatal inic．or pletrop． 9 volt battery operated． 8 ire $2^{\circ}$ lonR $x$ it wid $\times 1^{-1}$ high．SPPCIAL 8NIP PRICE 00 pench .10 for 15.

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2in．equare full vialon for fuak moanting．Moving fron ingtroment．Ideal for charger．Price 45p each． 10 tor 9 ． 20.

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Verchoarl．We are now etocking thin in varlous alizen．Pricen followa：

|  |  |  | 0.1 |  | 0.15 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2f $\times$ 8\％ | ＊ |  | 820 | ． | 189 |
| $21 \times 5$ | ． |  | 815 | － | 88 |
| $31 \times 51$ | ． |  | 犋 | ． | 4t |
| 8 \％$\times 5$ | ． |  | 75 | ． | \％7 |
| $17 \times 21$ | $\cdots$ |  | 789 | ． | 57t |
| $17 \times 81$ |  |  | 100p | － | $7{ }^{\text {P }}$ |
| $17 \times 5$（plain） | $\cdots$ |  | － | ． | 750 |
| $17 \times 3 \frac{1}{\text {（plain）}}$ |  | ． | － | － | 884 |
| $17 \times 24$（plain） |  |  | － |  | 87\％ |
| $2 \mathrm{t} \times 5$（plain） |  |  | － |  | 174P |
| $21 \times 31$（plain） |  |  |  | ． | 15 |
| Pin intersection | －01 |  | 476 |  | 4719 |
| Bpos face cutter | ． |  | 8710 | ＊ | 87\％ |
| Plit 50 pine | ． | ， | 301 | ． | 30 |



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Wintare， $1^{\prime}$ long $\times$ approximately $\|^{\circ}$ dlameter． Wir make and break up to AA up to 800 V ． Price 11．5 each，ard dozen． $2^{\circ}$ long $x$ diameter．The will break currents of up to 1 A ，voltage up to 250 V ． Price 10 p each， 00 p per dozen．
Risk．Flat type，ge loog，jast over $H^{\prime \prime}$ thjck， Aettened out，io that it can be fitted into ： nmallins apace or a larger quantity may be packed Into syuare colepold．Rating 1A g00V．Price 80 each， 8 per dozen．
8mall ceramic magnetn to operate these reed wirches op each， 000 dozen．
iny hod Lolers．Solenoide on moulder bobbing thin magnetic ahselds－printed efrcuit of panel mounting，
R100．Coll Realatance Reel firtrehea Prier $\begin{array}{llll}71005 & 2 \mathrm{~K} & 1 \text { normally open } \\ 81916 & 6 \mathrm{~K} & 1 \text { nornaly open }\end{array}$ $05009 \mathrm{~K} \quad 1$ normailly cloped 78 050031500 \＆K ohms 1 normally open 62040 1500 \＆ 800 ohmi in normally open 58 normall open reeds ．lthis opolenold．Opertie on 600 mW ．Coil redetance $9 K$ ohma．Price 41－95 each．
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## वरुणास

# everyday electronics <br> PROJECTS ... THEORY 

## SELF SERVICE

The enthusiast who has more than a passing or casual interest in electronics will require a few items of test and measuring equipment. These will aid him when building projects, carrying out experiments, and fault finding. Such requirements are not lavish, and can be limited to about four or five items. Furthermore these can be reasonably simple in design, and can be built by the constructor himself, with real saving to his pocket.

Everyday Electronics will be publishing designs for such items of equipment, from time to time. And this month we make a start by including full details of a mains operated power supply unit.

## ON TAP

As we have already declared, many useful electronic devices and gadgets can be battery operated and if proof of this is required, look over the projects we have published to date.

Dry batteries have obvious advantages, but if a fair amount of practical work is intended, it will be found very convenient to have permanently on hand a d.c. supply that can be easily varied to give any output between zero and 16 volts. In other words, a "stand-in" for any of the commonly used batteries. So we recommend this power unit as an important acquisition for every constructor's workshop.

## PLUNGE IN

We hope some of the enthusiasm shown by our Memory Store writers has been infectious and that many others have, as a result, been encouraged to take the plunge for the first time.
The wife of one reminiscing scribe has indeed taken the plunge-with pen, not soldering iron though-and her cautionary tale is published for the benefit of other wives!

## WOMEN'S LIB

But in this enlightened age-equality of the sexes and all that-why should we assume electronics to be an exclusively male hobby?

In industry, the fair sex plays a prominent part in the manufacture of minute devices like transistors and other components; also in the wiring up and assembly of complete electronic equipments. Feminine touch and dexterity (and patience!) are assets in such operations.
There seems no logical reason why these attributes should not be channelled into a recreational activity as well. So perhaps the wife could be recruited as an assistant-or does the thought provoke cries of horror from hubby!
Seriously, there must be quite a number of women who are interested in electronics and who actively participate in this hobby of their own accord. We would like to hear from you, Iadies.


Our May issue will be published on Friday, April 21

EDITOR F. E. BENNETT - M. KENWARD - B. W. TERRELL B.Sc.
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## EASY TO CONSTRUCT SIMPLY EXPLAINED

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## Components

Resistor
R1 $1 \cdot 2 \mathrm{k} \Omega 2=10 \%, \frac{1}{4} \mathrm{~W}$ carbon
Variable Resistors
VR1 300S:
VR2 5ks2

All linear wirewound

## Diodes

D1-4 OA81 or equivalent germanium diode
D5 IN4148 or equivalent silicon diode

## Miscellaneous

ME1 100 /A to 1 mA edgwise level meter (see text)
S1 single pole single throw toggle switch
B1 9V Battery. PP3 type
Small Terry clip to hold battery, battery connector, pointer knobs, materials for case. connecting wire.

## CIRCUIT THEORY

The complete circuit diagram is shown in Fig. 1. Potentiometers VR1, 2 and 3 are all working in their true mode-as potential dividers. Let us assume that we will be running off a 10 volt supply line (in actual fact it does not matter what this voltage is in the final unit). The potential at the wiper of VR1 can be set between zero and 10 volts the value being in direct proportion to the degree of rotation of the wiper. By calibrating the knob of this potentiometer with numbers from 0 to 10 we were able to accurately set a voltage to represent the number in question (we call this voltage the "analogue" of the number).

Potentiometer VR2 takes the potential at the wiper of VR1 and in turn we can tap cff any proportion of this potential depending on how far we turn the control of VR2. If we connected a voltmeter between the wiper of VR2 and the common rail (Fig. 2) we could read the voltage


Fig. 2. Theoretical circuit to show the basic operation of the Simple Calculator.
that was left. Let us also calibrate the scale of VR2 with numbers 0 to $1 \cdot 0$ in $0 \cdot 1$ divisions. Set VR1 to five (the potential at its wiper would be 5 volts). Now set VR2 to 0.5 (i.e half way)-the potential read on the meter would be 2.5 volts. The circuit is actually multiplying 5 by 0.5 to give an answer 2.5 but of course the answer is shown as an analogue voltage. You could work out a similar state of affairs by setting the number 8 on VR1 with $0 \cdot 4$ on VR2; the answer would be shown as $3 \cdot 2 \mathrm{~V}$.

## FINAL DESIGN

Obviously for the system to be accurate if battery voltage must be stable and als at $\quad i$ sight it would appear that the supply . . e ought to be 10 V . The latter point is not sarily true because we could make a volts. which was arbitrarily calibrated in "numbe as opposed to real voltage levels. In practic however we need not worry about the battery voltage at all if we use a potentiometer (VR3 Fig. 1) to convert from the analogue voltage back to a number. This is done by having VR3 as a potential divider across the supply voltage. It is possible to set the wiper so that the potential produced by it exactly equals the potential at the wiper of VR2 and the answer is read off on the dial of VR3.


Fig. 1. Complete circuit diagram of the Simple Calculator.

We detect that the potentials at the two wipers are the same by detecting current flow. When there is no potential difference (i.e. potentials at $X$ and $Y$ are the same) no current will flow through the meter and diode circuitry. If that at VR2 is more positive then current will flow through DI, into the positive terminal of the meter and out through D2 (R1 is only there to protect the diodes from excessive current and D5 protects the meter movement). On the other hand if the wiper of VR3 was the more positive, current would flow the other way through D3 again into the positive terminal of the meter but out through D4.

Note that the meter will always read a positive current irrespective of the direction of current flow by virtue of the diode bridge. To find the answer to a multiplication all we have to do is adjust VR3 until the meter shows zero current flow and then read the proportion of rotation of VR3 off its dial.

## OPERATION

As with a slide rule you can use the instrument to multiply any magnitude of numbers but you must decide for yourself where the decimal place will occur in the answer. In practice you should always attempt to set the number whose first digit is closest to 10 on VR1, otherwise you might find that the potential of the answer may be less than one unit of calibration and hence difficult to read on the dial.
Because of the independence of the meter to direction of current flow the polarity of the supply is unimportant and because everything is measured in terms of degree of shaft rotation of potentiometers and VR3 is run off exactly the same voltage as VRI the actual value of the supply is unimportant. In practice it ought to be at least $4 \cdot 5$ volts to ensure sufficient current through the meter to enable one to identify an obvious zero, hence 9 volts will do. The prototype used a small PP3 type battery. Current drain is very small and if an on/off switch is provided the life of the battery ought ṇot to be much less than its shelf life.

## CONSTRUCTION

The potentiometers should be wirewound types and must be linear law. Note that VRI has a value of resistance very much less than VR2 or VR3 although the actual values do not have to be the same as the prototype you should keep this ratio of values about the same or greater i.e., VRI can be anything in the range 100 to 300 ohms while VR2 and VR3 can be 2 kilohms to 5 kilohms.

Diodes D1, 2, 3 and 4 must be germanium types to avoid a wide "dead band" on the meter and D5 must be a silicon type because it must not pass forward current until 500 mV is placed across it. Most edgewise level meters may be used for the meter; the sensitivity should be
between $100^{\mu} \mathrm{A}$ and $\operatorname{lmA}$; actual sensitivity controls the ease of detecting small variations from zero current. Resistor Rl can be in the range 500 ohm to 1.5 kilohm.

The layout and wiring of the unit is shown in Fig. 3. All wiring is self supporting and layout is not important; the only important things to watch for are the polarities of the diodes and the meter, and to which ends of the potentiometers wires are connected-this is vital otherwise calibration will be reversed! As previously stated the battery polarity is not important in this circuit.

## SCALE MARKING

Different types of potentiometer have different overall degrees of rotation and this must be determined for the types you have. Remember that there may be a dead portion of a few degrees at either end of the track. Use an ohm meter to determine the active degree of rotation you have and measure this using a pointer knob moving over a protractor. Once you have found this value (it should be between 260 degrees and 300 degrees, depending on the type of manufacture) divide it by 10 and then use a protractor to exactly mark off ten equal divisions round each potentiometer fixing (Fig. 4). These can be drawn in as radial lines over which a large pointer knob can move.

It cannot be over emphasised that this is the most critical part of the job if the instrument is to be at all accurate. Further subdivisions can be placed inbetween the major divisions if required.

The prototype used a piece of 14 gauge aluminium for the front panel (Fig. 5). Careful scrubbing with dry wire wool in a horizontal direction will produce a satin finịsh which can be

Fig. 4. Potentiometer control marking. This should be carried out as accurately as possible.


## Simple Calculator



Fig. 3. Layout and wiring of the Simple Calculator. Battery BI is mounted in a Terry clip fixed to the front panel.



View of the completed Simple Calculator showing the designations affixed to the front panel using Letraset.
immediately lacquered with aerosol polyurethane varnish. This provides a good finished surface which can be marked using Letraset. The surface can then be given a final coat of varnish to protect the lettering. A practical tip to ensure reasonable accuracy is to adjust the zero set of the meter (in simple level meters this may be inside the case) so that the needle is some way up the scale in its neutral position; this makes it easier to determine a zero current position.
A simple wooden case can be made to house the completed unit as shown in Fig. 5. The hole for the meter may differ according to the type of meter used.

## APPLICATION

The knobs of the prototype were labelled $A$, $B$ and $C$ as shown in Fig. 5. This way it is easy to give instructions on how to use the calculator. Set the two numbers to be multiplied together on $A$ and $B$ and then turn $C$ until minimum current is seen to flow through the meter; the answer can be read off dial C.

Reciprocals can be found by setting $C$ at 1 , next set the number whose reciprocal is required on B and turn A for zero current-the answer is shown on dial A. An extension of this enables one to carry out divisions where the answer must always be a decimal fraction less than unity. For example 2 divided by 3 . Set 2 on C and 3 on $B$ and turn A for zero current. The number displayed on A will be approximately $6 \cdot 6$ this means that the answer is $0 \cdot 66$.

If you wish you may subdivide the main divisions of the scale into ten finer units thus enabling better accuracy with two digit numbers. Obviously the larger the diameter of the scales the easier it is to work accurately, but there is a limit to the ultimate accuracy of the calculator. This is due to the linearity of the potentiometers and the ability of the meter to detect very small current near zero-the latter could be improved by using a more expensive $50 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ meter.
Cover picture: Blackboard and easel kindly loaned by $A$. W. Gamage Led., Holborn

## Ruminations By Sensor

## Time to Stare

So restrictions on TV broadcasting hours are to be removed. I'm all for freedom and removal of restrictions but 1 am very suspicious of this move. There is, already, much more than enough TV for me, I don't want to pay for any more, and if programme time is increased someone has to pay. We all know who foots the bill, like it or not, in the end. As I see it, commercial television companies will sieze the opportunity to sell more advertising time and will need to make programmes to fill in the slots between the advertisements. Inevitably, many of these new programmes must be in the "popular appeal" i.e. lowest common denominator class in order to capture the largest audience for the advertisements. So we are
unlikely to see anything different on our screens-just the mixture as before-but more of it.
The B.B.C. will want to compete with the commercial companies for the mass audience and must, therefore, increase its output of "popular" programmes; consequently, there will be a call for an increase in the licence fee. The cost of additional advertising on I.T.V. will be passed on to the consumer, by way of higher prices, resulting in a further increase in the cost of living. What will the viewer get out of it, more mush for morons?

## Unnatural Breaks

The other evening I felt in need of some relaxation and I tuned in to I.T.V. to watch Appointment with Fear. The Hammer Films spine-chiller looked quite promising but didn't stand a chance; three breaks for advertisements made sure that any feelings of terror that might have been aroused were quickly dispelled. Rhapsodies about beans, margarine and pet food are unlikely to chill the marrow-at
least, not in their currently presented form, and but for the advertisements I could have been in bed ten minutes earlier.
I can switch off, I can choose my programmes but I cannot choose the advertisements that will interrupt my viewing and, perhaps, spoil my carefully selected entertainment. The B.B.C. has recently stepped up the advertising of its own programmes. The programmes have not been interrupted, as yet, for the advertisements but I find them irritating, nevertheless.
What does it all add up to? In my opinion, the entertainment value of television viewing is declining. I may be getting old and crotchety and a bit neurotic, but I look back with nostalgia to the days when full length plays and documentary films were regular features of evening viewing. We complained, from time to time when old films were shown too frequently, but those were surely the great days of television. Somewhere along the way, standards have slipped; it seems such a shame-electronics deserves better than this.

ANUMBER of readers have written to us asking for advice when buying a test meter. Firstly let us say that we will be publishing a design for such a meter at some time-it will be a simple device, easy to construct and providing ranges that would be used most for testing our designs. For those who still want to buy a meter the following advice may be of some assistance.

Firstly most meters are only as good as the price tag, by this we mean that it is probably best to buy the best you can afford. A good meter properly used and carefully treated will last a lifetime and if you buy a good one 10 start with you will never regret it. How do you know the good ones from the bad? The ranges available and the ohms per volt are the best way to tell $(20,000$ ohms per volt or more is good).

You can ignore the dB range and the capacitance range, unless you really know what you are doing these are useless so do not buy a meter just because it has these two extra ranges. We would not advise anyone to buy a meter costing less than about $£ 3$-you could probably make one as good for less.

If you can find a 20,000 ohms per volt (on d.c. ranges) meter with the following ranges it will satisfy most requirements for transistorised equipment testing and servicing:

## D.C. Volts 0.500 volts in about 4 ranges

A.C. Volts 0.500 volts in about 3 ranges
D.C. Current 0.500 mA in about 3 ranges

## Resistance $0-5 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ in 2 or

3 ranges
You may find it difficult to obtain a 500 mA d.c. range on the less expensive meters, you could settle for a maximum of 250 mA .

The Normatest 2000 multi-range



If you want something really professional. for $£ 17 \cdot 50$ the Normatest 2000 multi-range test meter, that has recently been announced in this country, has 41 ranges, is 20,000 ohms per volt d.c. and 4,000 ohms per volt a.c. It covers the range $0-6 \mathrm{~A}$ d.c., 0 600 V d.c., 0.6 A a.c., $0-600 \mathrm{~V}$ a.c., $0-5 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ in 6 ranges and has a maximum error of $\pm 2.5$ per cent for the d.c. ranges. The meter can also be used to measure temperature (with the addition of a separate thermocouple) and gain -20 to +46 dB . The price includes a carrying case and test leads.

We hope this information will be of some assistance, now let's look at possible problems arising from this issue.

## Simple Calculator

You can hardly go wrong with the Simple Calculator construction, it will even work with the battery reversed! One point to watch is that you use germanium diodes for the bridge and a silicon diode for meter protection. The reasons for this are stated in the text. Almost any small meter will do and there are a number of 1 mA range ones available from many suppliers.

Incidentally a centre zero meter could have been used without the bridge but this could have added to the cost. Also the article explains the bridge principle so you can learn something from it, we try to be educational as well as practical!

The wirewound potentiometers can be any rating-you will see
from the photo's that one used in the prototype was much larger than the other two-this does not matter. Incidentally you will find it difficult to buy $\log$ wirewound pots as they are not available, so the ones you do buy may not be marked linear, if you see what we mean.

The knobs used on the prototype are home made and are not available, however there are plenty of fairly large pointer knobs that are available.

## Baby Alarm

The Newmarket PC2 amplifier module for the Baby Alarm is available from Home Radio and LST Components Ltd., incidentally L.S.T. are the distributors; prices may vary slightly its best to check first. Other than the module there should be very few buying problems.

As stated in the text the case used for the microphone does not have to be as large as it is and any small crystal microphone could be used. There are some available from suppliers for 60 p or less-both the miniature types and the plastic encased types; this is probably cheaper than buying an insert and a case. If you do buy a complete microphone you will need a line socket to connect the microphone lead to the screened lead that feeds the amplifier.

## Power Supply

The transformer used in the Power Supply Unit should be of reasonable size to fit the case design and a suitable 13.5 V secondary type is available from Henry's Radio Ltd. The meter used in the prototype is a 1 mA meter that has been calibrated 0.20 V by the author. This meter can be replaced by a 20 V f.s.d. meter that is available from G. W. Smith Ltd. Three things to note if you use the 20 V meter; it costs the same as the 1 mA meter, the two multiplier resistors R4 and R5 ( $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ each) are replaced by a wire link and, the only point against, the meter is not so versatile if you want to use it in any other equipment at a later date.

Almost any 50 p.i.v. (or greater) bridge rectifier that can pass about 200 mA will be suitable for the power supply or, as stated in the text it can be replaced by four individual rectifiers wired up in a bridge; this may be cheaper.


Ove of the most important developments in modern communications is the maynetic lape recorder: Now cäpable of recording, preserving and reproducirg high fidelity sound. Besides being a valuable instrument in manv scientific projects and daily commumication media, tape reccrders have become part of the everyday domestic somind system. Moderin developments, such as cassetles and more compact battery powered recorders have made taped raterial bery simple to handle, use and store.

## HISTORY

The "magnetic sound recorder". as i: was briginally known was lisst expounded in theory by Obe:lin Smith in 1888. Smith devised a machine which would apply metallic dusi to a cotton cord on which sound could then be recordec by a magnelic: induction process. The machine did not. however see the light of dey.

It was not until 1898 that the first practical magnetic recorder vas built. it used a steel wire as the recording media. This "wire" recorder was produced hy a Dane named Valdema Poulson. The recorder used a mechanical electrical meatus of recordingeand reproducing sound since, at that tims, no electronic means were available: the valve aad not been invented.

Sound was recorted trough a carbon ricro-
phone comected antio an electric circuit powered by a large dry battery. To replay the recorded sound a set of headphones was substituted for the carhon microphone.

Little more was heard about tape or magnetic recorders until the 1930s when Dr. Karl Stille developed an aledionic magnetic recorder. Dr. Stille used steel tape in his machine and similar machines were deweloped and used for a numberof years by the Br ish Broadcasting Corporation.

During the second World War the Allies made use of steel wire recorders while the Germans developed a plast $=$-based. metallic oxide coated tape; this was the forerunner of today's mag. netic tapes. The stecl wire medium is noiv virtually extirct. liut was used until quite recently in dictatiug machines.

## MAGNETIC TAPES

The modern uecording tape consists of a special plastic hase normally acetate or polyester with a coating of ferrcus oxide or similar metallic oxide. The partices of metallic oxide can be incuod by a magnetic field so that they possess a similar magerti= field. The magnetic impresston in these part cles can represent a certain solnd a d, until the tape is disturbed by additional stragnetic forces the recorded magnetic impression will rersain on the tape.

To apply the necassary force to magnetise the


Fig. 1. The basic method of creating a magnetic field on a recording tape.
oxide particles on the tape so that these represent a piece of music or speech we apply the theory of electromagnetism. Magnetism can be created by passing an electric current through a coil of wire, preferably wound around a soft iron core. In the case of a recording head for a tape recorder this core usually consists of a number of soft iron laminates. The amount of magnetism can be varied by the amount of current flowing through the coil. To change the sound waves into an electric current a microphone and an amplifier are used. Sound waves acting upon a microphone mechanism produce a very small electric current. The amplifier magnifies the current produced by the microphone and, in turn, passes it on to the recording head of the tape recorder. The recording head transforms the electric current into a magnetic force. As the sound source varies in frequency and volume so also does the current and the strength and frequency of the magnetic signal at the recording head, and hence on the tape (Fig. 1).

## RECORDING HEAD

The metal core of the recording head forms almost a complete circle, with the exception of a very small gap at the point where the tape will pass by it. The space created by the gap is closed by the ferrous oxide coating on the tape resting against the recording head, making a complete 360 degree magnetic field.

Thus the particles on the tape will acquire a magnetic impression or field similar to the signal being created by the current flowing through the coil. As the current varies, so does the magnetic field and, in turn, so does the magnetic impression on the ferrous oxide particles on the tape. During a recording the tape is passing the recording head at a constant speed. The impression of the magnetic particles on the tape is, therefore, a constant process.

## BIAS

Unfortunately although the above description is true, in transforming sound waves into magnetic patterns on a tape, a problem which is fundamental to magnetic recording was encountered. This problem had to be solved before magnetic recording could be considered really satisfactory.

It was found that, when a magnetising force is applied to ferrous material the degree of magnetisation produced and retained is not proportional to the applied magnetising force. Beginning from zero, the amount of magnetisation first tends to rise very slowly, then rises more rapidly, then tapers off again as the ferrous material becomes magnetically saturated.

This occurs for magnetisation in either direction, so that the overall curve of induced magnetic flux plotted against magnetising force is as shown in Fig. 2 (curve (a)). The diagram also illustrates what happens to a sine wave signal which is passed through such a recording system.

For clarity, the input is shown as a pure sine wave (curve (b)). When transformed into a magnetic pattern, then recovered for subsequent amplification, the kink in the centre of the magnetisation curve is found to have produced a kink in the signal waveform (curve (c)). The end result is very severe distortion in the reproduced sound.

To overcome this effect, it is necessary to apply a magnetic "bias" to the tape so that the signal does not, as it were, centre on the kinked part of the magnetism curve.

The earliest system of magnetic bias involves placing a magnet near the recording gap, or passing a direct current through the recording head, together with the signal to be recorded, which causes the signal to centre on one of the straight portions of the curve.

Fig. 2. Illustrating the distortion produced by recording without bias.



Fig. 3. High frequency bias recording system.
While a relatively simple method "d.c." or "permanent magnet" bias (as this system is called) tends to produce a recording with undue background noise. This is due largely to the fact that each discrete particle on the tape is magnetised in the same direction, so that the tiny pulses they produced are all additive and are heard as noise on playback.

## HIGH FREQUENCY BIAS

Nowadays, all but the most elementary recorder's use a system of high frequency bias. A special oscillator in the recorder produces a high frequency signal well above the limit of hearing. During recording, this high frequency bias signal is fed into the recording head, along with the input signal.

Because the bias signal is at a very much higher frequency than the sound signal, the head is responding to a powerful magnetising force, even during instants when the sound signal waveform is passing through zero. This modifies fundamentally the way in which the particles on the tape respond to the sound signal.

In fact, as far as the recording head is concerned, the input signal is a composite waveform as illustrated in Fig. 3. As the tape passes across the gap in the record head, each particle is subject to one or more complete cycles of high frequency energy and is displaced bodily somewhere along its magnetising curve by the simultaneous presence of the audio waveform.

What each particle retains in the way of remanent flux would take far more space to explain than is available here. The end result, when the tape is played back, is an output waveform which is substantially free from non linear distortion, as in Fig. 3.

Because the particles are not all uniformly
magnetised in one direction as with d.c. bias, they do not tend to generate additive noise pulses as they pass across the replay head. The background noise with high frequency bias is therefore much lower than with d.c. bias.

## ERASE SYSTEM

In most tape recorders, the high frequency oscillator incorporated to provide the bias is actually made to serve double duty. In a normal tape recorder the threading is arranged so that the tape passes over an "erase" head just before it reaches the record/play head. During replay the erase head is not in use. When a recording is being made, however, a strong signal from the high frequency oscillator is fed into the erase head, creating an intense high frequency magnetic field across the gap in its exposed surface.
The amplitude of this erase signal is made such that it magnetically saturates the particles on the tape in both directions as they pass across the erase gap. As they move out of the gap the magnetic cycling diminishes to zero and the particles are left with zero magnetisation. In other words erasure eliminates any previous recording so that the tape passes to the record head magnetically "clean".

## REPLAY

To reproduce sound from a recorded tape is basically a reversal of the procedure and techriques used in recording it without the need for the bias. Where a current flowing through a coil can create a magnetic field, so too can a magnetic field passed through a coil create a current.

The tape is played back by passing it across the playback head in the same direction and at the same speed as when the recording process took place. (It might be noted that many tape recorders use a single head for both recording and playback functions.)

As the tape passes the gap in the playback head the magnetic impression carried by the ferrous oxide particles is induced into the play-

A modern stereo tape recorder.



Fig. 4. Block diagrams of two basic tape recorder systems. Left-the system using separate record and replay heads. Right-the system using a single record/replay head.
back head. This magnetic field creates a current within the head and this current is fed into an amplifier and then to a loudspeaker.

The amplifier normally has a special frequency response to compensate for any changes in amplitude of the audio signal due to the record and replay process. Just as one head can be used for record and playback function. Block diagrams of two basic systems are shown in Fig. 4.

## TAPE TRANSPORT

The transport mechanism used in a tape recorder is an interesting and essential device. It moves the tape across the recording, playback and erase heads.

On very cheap machines tape movement is achieved merely by motorising the take-up spool, simple though this method may be, it is not very effective. The actual speed of the tape across the heads will vary according to the amount of the tape on the take-up reel. For this reason any tape recorded on a machine of this nature must be played back on the same machine. On another machine the sound would be distorted because of variation in the original tape speed across the heads.

The more usual method of transporting tape, is to have a driving shaft or capstan close to the heads. The tape is held in contact with the capstan by a pressurised idler (or pinch) wheel. The capstan is directly connected to a flywheel (to ensure a constant speed) which is usually belt driven from a central motor.

This motor, through the use of additional belts, also keeps the take-up spool functioning so tape does not spill once it leaves the driving capstan. There is normally a slipping clutch arrangement on the take-up spool. This allows the speed of the spool to vary according to the amount of tape on it so that it keeps pace with the capstan and does not apply too much tension to the tape as it leaves the capstan (Fig 5).

The supply spool is usually more or less free-
wheeling with just a little pressure on it to prevent it from unspooling tape when the driving capstan and take-up spool are stopped. Some tape recorders have two driving capstans -one at each end of the erase and record/ playback heads. This ensures a very high degree of accuracy in tape speed, which means more faithful reproduction of material recorded and played back.
Many modern tape recorders use three motors, one drives the capstan and is usually a synchronous motor which maintains a true speed constant to the mains frequency. The other two motors drive the take-up and supply reels. The operation of these two motors is governed by electro-magnetic switchgear to ensure the proper amount of tension on the reels so tape mishandling is eliminated.

## FAST WIND

Almost all modern tape recorders are able to wind on and rewind the tape at a fast speed. In either of these modes the tape transport is concerned with but one purpose-that of getting tape onto one reel or the other as quickly as possible. The tape is not required to perform any electronic duty and is therefore lifted free and clear of the heads and released from the driving capstan mechanism. This allows the un-

Fig. 5. Basic mechanical arrangement of a modern tape recorder.

hindered passage of tape in either direction at fast speed. The mechanism lifting the tape clear of the heads also serves to protect the heads. The rate of wear under rewind conditions would soon render the heads useless.
In the fast forward mode, power is applied to the take-up reel. In the rewind mode the supply reel is powered. There is usually a slight braking effect on the opposite reel to prevent tape spillage should the operator decide to stop the tape.

Additional to the transport mechanism are tape guides which ensure proper alignment of the tape as it passes across the heads. Pressure pads are used to make sure the tape is held against the heads during recording and playback so there is no air gap between them. Both of these items help to ensure good reproduction of sound.

## MULTI TRACK

Alignment of the tape across the heads is quite important particularly with the multi-track machines (two and four track). Originally tape recorders used just a single track, recorded across the full width of the tape. After playing such a tape it had to be rewound before it could be played again. The single track (which is confined to monaural recording) is used today for high fidelity requirements in professional and broadcast work.


FULL TRACK RECORDWG


Fig. 6. Various track arrangements. In the four track system gap 1 records tracks 1 and 4, and gap 2 records tracks 2 and 3.

The next advance was the half or two-track system. This means the recording and playback heads are only as wide as half the width of the tape (actually slightly less than half to allow for separation of the two tracks).
With the two-track system a tape could be played through one way, then turned over and played through again using the material on the second track. The two-track machine also opened the way for stereo tape recording using one track for each channel but only (as in the onetrack monaural system) capable of being played in one direction.


The underside view of a Brenell tape deck. This deck used three separate motors, one synchronous type for the capstan and the other two to drive each spool.

The four-track system solved the matter of letting one run a tape back and forth using stereo material. It also allows one to put a considerable amount of monaural material on a single reel of tape. This is done by ignoring the stereo mode completely and recording different monaural material on each of the four tracks (Fig. 6).

## TAPE SPEED

The amount of material which can be recorded on a given length of tape can also be varied by the speed of the tape past the heads. Standard speeds in common use today are $7^{1} 2,3^{3}{ }_{4}$ and $1^{7} 8$ inches per second (in/sec). Other speeds are also used, such as 15 and $30 \mathrm{in} / \mathrm{sec}$ for sound studios and broadcast use. The faster speed is used where the utmost in fidelity of sound is required. The slower speed is only practical for voice reproduction and is used on some dictation machines or for recording lectures where fidelity is less important than extended playing time.

However, more advanced electronics and higher precision heads-at greater cost, of course-can offset the loss of fidelity at low tape speeds. Most modern domestic tape recorders offer high fidelity at $7{ }^{1} 2 \mathrm{in} / \mathrm{sec}$ however, and this means reasonable tape costs for those building up their own libraries.
It should be realised, however, that the quality of the recorded material will not always match the quality of the original when taping from discs. And, of course, there is a variation in the ability of different tape recorders to duplicate the original fidelity of the sound.

As can be seen the modern recorder is a long way from the Poulson machine of the 1890s and with the introduction of electronic noise reduction systems and advances in the mechanical and tape aspects the tape recorder will go on advancing for some time.

arrangement can lead to domestic friction. Electronic equipment may be functional but it most certainly is not decorative, and all those trailing wires do have a nasty habit of getting entangled with the cleaner!
If he is messy with the solderingiron, try to get some newspaper between the carpet and the flying solder-it's hell trying to get blobs of the stuff out of the Axminster/Wilton. I have yet to solve the problem of getting it off of the wallpaper, although this can usefully provide an excuse for demanding a change of decor.

Of course, your husband's new hobby will have its fringe benefits. As he becomes more proficient, he will be able to make all sorts of useful gadgets for the home and car-or so 1 am told! Let's face it though, these marvels of science seldom seem to materi-

.. . don't use his soldering iron as a tin opener
. . . I have yet to solve the problem of getting it off the wallpaper

A few hints and tips for constructors' wives, passed on by the wife of last month's Memory Store author

## By JUNE BURN

alise. In my experience, electronic test equipment breeds only more electronic test equipment. Still, I don't really want an electrically heated loo seat, do you?

This can be an irritating hobby, but bear with it. Ask him what he's making (even if you don't understand one word of the answer), sympathise when it doesn't work (it never does at first), don't use his soldering iron as a tin opener, and your marriage will probably survive this new interest. After all, while he's immersed in his transistors and integrated circuits, he's not got his mind on other birds, neither is he in the local with the boys. Mind you, there have been times when I would have liked to get my hands on that chap with the boat (see last month). Well, how would you like solder all over your cooker?

. . . he's not got his mind on other birds.


THIS month we introduce a very important family of components called "semiconductors." Much has been written describing these devices and many people might wince if they looked at the background theory in detail. Nevertheless, in the practical sense they are fairly easy to understand and once you get the hang of their basic functions they are not so formidable.
In this series we shall limit ourselves to two types of semiconductor-the "diode" already mentioned in Teach-In Part 2, and the "transistor."

## N- AND P-TYPE DOPING

First of all a few words about semiconductors in general; if you have difficulty understanding the reasons why they work, do not worry-it is useful if you can, but not disastrous if you cannot.

They are usually made from the metals, germanium or silicon, which have the unusual property (for metals) of having very poor electrical conductivity in their pure states at room temperature. This is because the atoms are bonded together in a very precise manner and there are no "spare" electrons "floating about" as is the case of copper for example.

If we heat up the pure material we can "dislodge" a number of electrons and it will start to conduct electricity in the usual way. Alternatively, if we introduce an impurity into the metal (e.g., arsenic or phosphorus) we can distort the precise equilibrium so that an extra electron is available for conduction for every

Fig. 1. Schematic diagrams of a p-n junction (a) no voltage applied-not biased (b) reverse biased (c) forward biased.

(a)

impurity atom added-this is known as"doping." These extra electrons will be free to move about thus increasing the electrical conductivity. By "adding" electrons in this manner we say we are introducing "negative carriers" (of current) and the resultant material is called an "n-type" semiconductor.

We could have "doped" the material with boron which has the effect of absorbing an electron for every atom added. This leaves a "hole" where the electron should have been. As this also upsets the equilibrium an electric current can be made to pass, only this time because the holes move (from positive to negative). A material doped in this way is called "p type"; the p standing for "positive carriers."

In practice the level of doping is very low and typically is only a few parts per million.

Because we can artificially control the conductivity in this way the metals germanium and silicon are called semiconductors.

## P-N JUNCTION

Using modern techniques it is possible to bring together n - and p-type materials so that they are in perfect contact. At the interface between the two, the spare electrons in the n-type will cancel out the spare holes in the p-type, and a band is built up that is devoid of either positive or negative carriers.

At first you might think that this cancellation process would go on until all possible opposite pairs of carriers had cancelled out-but this is not so.

As the electrons move from the n-type material they deave it with a small positive charge. Likewise the holes moving from the ptype material will leave behind a slight negative charge. Eventually the negative charge in the p-type will start to repel any more electrons attempting to move across the interface and the cancellation process will stop at this point. The band of cancelled carriers is normally called the "depletion layer."

## the dIode

The semiconductor diode is simply a p -n junction. Let's see why it will only allow current to flow in one direction. The potential across the junction caused by the cancellation process is as if we had connected a battery between the p- and n-type materials with its negative terminal going to the p-type Fig. 1(a).
If we now connect a battery across the two materials (positive terminal to the n-type and negative terminal to the p-type), we will allow more cancellation to take place at the junction thus increasing its width Fig. 1(b); but because there are no free carriers in the depletion layer no current can flow across it.

In practice there are always a few carriers present (generated by other impurities or heat) and so there will be a minute current detectable


Three common diodes: (a) medium power rectifier, BY100 silicon (b) signal diode IN4148 silicon (c) signal diode OA91, glass encapsulated pointcontact germanium (Magnified $\times 2 \frac{1}{2}$ ).
-this we call "leakage current." If this leakage current is too great the junction becomes valueless. If, on the other hand, we had connected the battery in the opposite sense Fig. 1(c), the depletion layer would be destroyed when the voltage exceeded that of the "virtual" battery.

In the absence of the depletion layer (which was acting like an insulating barrier) current can flow virtually unlimited. When the battery was connected so no current flowed, the junction is said to be "reverse biased," but when current flows it is said to be "forward biased."

The voltage level of the virtual battery is rather important because it is quite noticeable in electronic circuits. For germanium it can be from 50 to 300 mV and 300 to 600 mV for silicon; variations are caused by changes of temperature.

## BREAKDOWN AND POWER DISSIPATION

If we reverse bias the junction and apply larger and larger voltages, eventually we reach a level when the depletion layer breaks down and conduction suddenly occurs. This level is called the "reverse breakdown voltage" and can destroy the junction. This can vary from one or two volts to thousands of volts depending on the way the junction was made. Usually this sets the limit which we must never exceed but in some cases (Zener diodes) practical use is made of this parameter.

When conducting in a forward direction the material shows a degree of electrical resistance (even though it is usually small) and consequently some power is dissipated; this generates
heat and a rise in temperature degrades the junction performance. We always have to set a maximum forward current to prevent this happening.

All diodes work on the same principle and the only variations are in the magnitudes of reverse voltage and forward current limits, while the quality is defined by the reverse leakage current.

Like all semiconductors, diodes are sensitive to heat and although they are reasonably tolerant you should avoid overheating them when soldering (see Teach-In Part 1). With glass encapsulations you should not bend the lead out wires too close to the seal otherwise you might orack the glass!

## DIODE TYPES

Diodes are identified by type numbers which are usually printed on the case. Regrettably one cannot identify any particular characteristic from this number and the only way to become familiar with these is to look them up in manufacturers' data sheets.

As there are thousands of different types of diodes made it is impossible to cover all possibilities in this series but by and large you will find that you can deal with most eventualities with either one of the following or similar types. OA91-a low voltage current germanium diode encapsulated in glass; 1N4148-this is very similar to the OA91 except that it is made from silicon; 1N4004-a reasonably high voltage ( 400 V ) medium current ( 1 A ) device made from silicon.

Because they are low voltage and current devices the OA91 and 1N4148 are sometimes
referred to as "signal diodes" while high voltage and medium to high current devices-such as the 1N4004 are called "rectifiers." The most important characteristics of these devices are given in Table 1.

## POLARITY AND TEST

The two terminations of the diode have names. If you refer to Fig. 2, the end to which the arrow


Fig. 2. The circuit symbol used for the diode showing the polarities. Current flow is out of the cathode.
head of its symbol is pointing is called the cathode and this is usually marked on the actual device with a band, spot, or a + sign. The other (unmarked) end is called the anode. If you



Fig. 3(a) (above). The circuit diagram for polarity test and demonstrating current flow in one direction only.

Fig. 3(b) (left). The circuit of Fig. 3(a) wired up on the Demo Deck.

Table 1: PARAMETERS OF SOME COMMON DIODES

| Type No. | Description | Max. reverse voltage (V) | Max. leakage current ( $\mu \mathrm{A}$ ) | Max. forward current |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| OA91 | Germanium point contact signal diode | 115 | $\begin{gathered} 275 \text { at } \\ 100 \mathrm{~V} \end{gathered}$ | 50 mA |
| IN4148 | Silicon planar diffused signal diode | 75 | $\begin{gathered} 0.025 \text { at } \\ 20 \mathrm{~V} \end{gathered}$ | 225 mA |
| IN914 | Silicon planar diffused signal diode, | 75 | $\begin{aligned} & 0.025 \mathrm{~V}^{\text {at }} \end{aligned}$ | 110 mA |
| AAl43 | Germanium gold bonded signal diode | 30 | $\begin{gathered} 20 \text { at } \\ 20 \mathrm{~V} \end{gathered}$ | 60 mA |
| OA200 | Silicon alloy diffused signal diode | 50 | $\begin{aligned} & 0.1 \text { at } \\ & 50 \mathrm{~V} \end{aligned}$ | 160 mA |
| ZSIOA | silicon alloy diffused signal diode | 60 | $\begin{aligned} & 0.05 \mathrm{at} \\ & 60 \mathrm{~V} \end{aligned}$ | 100 mA |
| IN4004 | Silicon planar diffused rectifier | 400 | $\begin{aligned} & 5 \mathrm{at} \\ & 400 \mathrm{~V} \end{aligned}$ | IA |

make the anode positive with respect to the cathode the diode is forward biased and will conduct. Try this for yourself using the Demo Deck (see Fig. 3), then reverse the diode to see that no current flows when it is reverse biased.

Use each of the three diodes to see that by and large they all exhibit the same effect. This is a simple test that can be used to see if a diode is working correctly.

## CHARACTERISTICS-FORWARD BIASED

diode "characteristic" curve. This is simply a curve or graph that shows the amount of current flowing through it for different applied voltages.

To prevent passing too much current through the diode we shall limit it with an external resistor R3 in series with the diode, see Fig. 3(a).

Use VR1 on the Demo Deck to make a potential divider to use as a variable voltage source, and a 10 kilohm resistor in series with the 1 mA meter to make a 10 V full-scale voltmeter.

Connect the diode D1 (OA91) as indicated in Figs. 4(a) and (b).

Prepare a table for recording the voltages at points $A$ and $B-V_{A}$ and $V_{B}$ respectively.

Starting at zero volts and working up in small increments, measure $V_{A}$ (crocodile olip at point A) and then $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{B}}$ (clip at point B) for each increment. Repeat the experiment with the silicon diode, IN4148.

It can be seen that the voltage across the diode is equal to $\left(V_{A}-V_{B}\right)$-multiply by 1000 to convert to mV .

Now the current flowing through the diode at each measurement is determined indirectly using the voltage seen across R3 and applying Ohm's law. In this case $\mathrm{l}=\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{B}} \div \mathrm{R} 3$. Since the



Fig. 4(a) (above). The circuit diagram for measuring the diode characteristics.

Fig. 4(b) (left). The circuit of Fig. 4(a) wired up on the Demo Deck.


Fig. 5. Forward and reverse characteristics for the OA91 (germanium) and IN4148 (silicon) diodes obtained using circuit of Fig. 4(a). The two curves would eventually become parallel straight lines if we were able to plot the characteristics to a higher voltage.
value of R 5 is 1 kilohm, the numerical value of $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{B}}$ (in volts) gives the current flowing, in mA.

Plotting graphs of current flowing against the applied voltage will give curves similar to those in Fig. 5.

It can be seen that for the germanium diode, OA91, there is a sudden change from passing little current to complete forward biasing at about 150 mV . For the silicon diode, 1 N 4148 , this change occurs at a much higher voltage, 500 mV .

This abrupt change or "knee" of the graph occurs when the voltage we are applying just exceeds the virtual battery across the junction of the diode.

## -REVERSE, BIASED

Although we do not have a high enough voltage available to cause reverse breakdown you can start to plot the reverse characteristics of these two diodes by reversing them in the circuit, i.e., cathode to the wiper of VRI and measuring current for different voltages exactly as before. Of course you should read zero current at all voltages. Leakage current will be present but will not show up because our measuring system is not sufficiently sensitive.

## TACHOMETER EXPERIMENT

We can demonstrate a very simple application of where two diodes can be used in a circuit. It is a very crude form of tachometer that will record on a meter the rate at which a contact is made to open and close. The circuit is shown in Fig. 6(a) and should be wired up on Demo Deck as shown in Fig. 6(b). You will only need one extra component-a $16 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ capacitor with a minimum working voltage of 12 V . Dl is the 0A91 and D2 the 1N4148 (another OA91 would work equally as well for the latter).



Fig. 6(a) (above). The circuit diagram for the Tachometer experiment.

Fig. 6(b) (left). The circuit of Fig. 6(a) wired up on the Demo Deck.


Photograph of the Demo Deck in use for measuring the characteristics of the IN4148 (silicon) diode.

## METHOD

To operate the circuit, momentarily connect the positive end of Cl to the +9 V supply and watch the meter, it will kick up a small amount and then slowly settle back towards zero. Now "dab" the wire on the +9 V terminal at a regular rate-say once a second-and notice that the meter starts to read higher and although there is a slight waver in the reading you can see an average current level. Now speed up the rate of making the contacts-the meter reads higher. Note that this circuit will only work for rates up to a few a second.

## THEORY

The circuit we are using is called a "diode pump" and works as follows: initially there is no charge on C2 so the meter reads zero. When you apply the positive lead to Cl a momentary charge current will flow through $\mathrm{Cl}, \mathrm{Dl}$ and C 2 which are all in series.

Because Cl has a small capacitance, it will charge up quickly-C2 only attaining a small charge-and the charge current stops (even though the wire is still connected to the battery).

Capacitor C2 does, however, charge up by a small finite amount and this causes the "kick" you see on the meter, but C 2 will then start to discharge slowly through the 10 kilohm resistance of the meter circuit.

When you disconnect the battery, Cl will discharge through R5 and D2.

During the charging part of the cycle, D2 was reverse biased because the potential at its cathode was predominantly more positive than the anode, but now the positive charge at the positive end of Cl is applied, through R 5 , to the anode and so it conducts this charge away at a rate limited by the value of R5.
The potential at the cathode of D2 thus falls to zero. Because C2 has a slight positive charge on it Dl now becomes reverse biased and pre-
vents C 2 discharging back through the circuit. If you re-apply the +9 V to Cl the charge part of the cycle starts again and the potential at C2 will either rise back to its previous level or go higher, depending on time between pulses.
The circuit gets its name "pump" because the two diodes work rather like the leather flap valve of an old-fashioned water pump that is pumping squirts of water into a bucket with a hole in the bottom.

The circuit given here is purely for demonstration purposes and cannot be used for many practical applications due to its inability to work at pulse rates greater than about three per sec (i.e., frequency of about 3 Hz ) but the principle is used very frequently particularly in equipment such as electronic car rev-counters.
Next month we shall deal with the principles of the transistor and armed with that information we shall be able to move on to make some simple circuits.

Now try the Test on page 333.

## TEACH-IN PART 5-ERRATA

We apologise for a technical error with regards to the capacitor colour coding system given in last month's Teach-In.
There are numerous capacitor colour coding systems in use and the one given last month refers to the very popular Mullard C280 series and should be amended as follows: the first three bands are correctly labelled, i.e., lst and 2nd digits and the multiplier. The fourth band gives the tolerance and is either black or white indicating $\pm 20$ and $\pm 10$ per cent respectively.

The fifth band indicates the working voltage, red 250 V , yellow 400 V .


THOSE who contemplate carrying out much experimental and constructional work with transistorised electronics will find that the use of batteries as a power supply can prove rather expensive.

A simple variable voltage power supply of the kind illustrated in this article will more than pay for itself in quite a short time and unlike batteries it doesn't run down. It will supply any voltage up to 16 V at a nominal maximum current of 100 mA and is fully protected against overload even to the extent of a direct short circuit across the output
At very low current drain i.e. in the region of 10 to 20 mA , the maximum voltage is about 17 V which is suitable for many $n p n$ silicon transistor audio pre-amplifiers for example, requiring between 16 and 18 V for operation.

## POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE EARTH

Either the positive or negative rails can be "earthed" according to the requirements of the circuit being supplied. It is only necessary to move switch S 2 to the appropriate position.

The meter always indicates the voltage at the output terminals i.e. the operating voltage being used. The a.c. ripple at any operating voltage and up to maximum nominal current drain is less than 0.5 mV .

At any steady continuous current drain the voltage variation at any setting is negligible.

## CIRCUIT DESCRIPTION

The complete circuit diagram is shown in Fig. 1 and is a fairly simple arrangement employing a small power transistor, TR1, to control the output voltage.

The transformer Tl steps down the mains voltage to 14 V a.c. (r.m.s.) and applies this to points X and Y on the "diode bridge" network. This arrangement of the diodes gives full-wave rectification across points A and B .

The reservoir capacitor Cl connected across the bridge "smoothes" the pulsating d.c. from the bridge producing a mean d.c. level of about 20 V with a small amount of "ripple" voltage. This is applied to the series combination of R1 and the Zener diode, D5. Capacitor C2 across



Fig. 1. The complete circuit diagram of the D.C. Power Supply Unit.

D5 helps to eliminate ripple voltage that may be present.
The Zener diode has the property of being able to supply a constant voltage over a wide range of current flow through it.

## Components....

```
Resistors
    R1 1k\Omega2 \pm1% tW hi-stab.
    R2 10\Omega2 10W wirewound
    R3 15k\Omega }\pm10% +W carbo
    R4 10k\Omega2 =1% tW hi-stab.
    R5 10k\Omega2 \pm1% \W hi-stab.
    SEE ?
Capacitors
    C1 2000\muF 25V elect.
    C2 500\muF 25V elect.
Diodes
D1-D4 BY164CS1 Bridge type rectifier (1 off)
                or if desired 1N4002 (4 off)
    D5 BZX61/C18 18V 1W Zener or any 18V
        400mW Zener
```

Transistors
TR1 AD162 germanium pno
Potentiometers
VR1 50k $\Omega$ linear carbon
Miscellaneous
T1 240 V primary 12 to 14 V 200 mA secondary
transformer.
ME1 0-1mA $75 \Omega$ internal resistance meter
S1 Mains switch slide type, D.P.S.T.
S2 Slide type switch, D.P.D.T.
LP1 Mains panel neon with built in resistor
2 insulated terminals (1 red, 1 black); 0.15 in
matrix perforated s.r.b.p. size $3 \frac{3}{4} \times 2$ tin.;
16 s.w.g. aluminium $3 \frac{1}{2} \times 2 \frac{1}{2} i n$. for heatsink;
control knob to suit VR1; aluminium angle
$\frac{3}{8} \times \frac{7}{t i n}$; various B.A. nuts and bolts for
fixing of panel components; aluminium for
building housing case or Universal chassis
parts-CU168 ( $7 \times 5 \mathrm{in}$.) 2 off, CU147 ( $7 \times 3 \mathrm{in}$.)
2 off, CU145 (5 x 3in.) 2 off.

The base-emitter voltage is the difference between the output voltage and the voltage supplied to the base of TR1 via VRl from the Zener diode (which is constant for any setting of VR1).

If the output voltage decreases (due to heavy load for example) so the base-emitter voltage increases, causing the output voltage to increase and in doing so causes the base-emitter voltage to decrease thereby decreasing the output voltage. Thus the circuit is self-compensating and the output voltage remains substantially constant for a wide range of output loads.
The supply rails can only be earthed by the switch S2 which connects either the positive or negative rail to common earth.

No part of the circuit, except the frame and core of the mains transformer, is directly connected to the panel and case, which is earthed.

## CONSTRUCTION

The prototype was constructed in a box made from Universal chassis parts with everything mounted on the front panel, but any size case
will do. The layout is not critical and may be modified to suit individual requirements. However it is essential that a heatsink be used to mount TRl otherwise damage will occur to TR1.

Most of the components are mounted on a piece of $0 \cdot 15$ in matrix perforated s.r.b.p. size $4 \times 2{ }_{4}{ }_{4} \mathrm{in}$. The layout of these components on the board is shown in Fig. 2.

Begin by wiring up the board as indicated, attaching all the flying leads and remembering to use a heat shunt when soldering the Zener diode, D5, in position.

The next thing to do is to make the mounting bracket for the component board and the heatsink, and cut and drill the front panel to the sizes given in Figs. 3 and 4.

When this is done, attach the remaining components including the transformer Tl , to the front panel in the positions indicated.

It is best next to attach TR1 to its heatsink making sure that TR1 is completely insulated from the heatsink by using the appropriate size mica washer and insulating bushes. Connection to the collector (which is the body of the transistor) is made via a solder tag under one of the securing bolts.

Now connect the transistor to the component board via the flying leads and then attach it to the front panel in the positions indicated.

Connect all the flying leads from the component board and the transformer to the panel mounted components and wire an R3, R4 and R5 as shown in Fig. 5. Connect a suitable length of mains lead to Sl as shown.

## THE METER

The resistors R4 and R5 are hi-stability types, and in series with the 1 mA full scale deflection meter convert it to a 20 V voltmeter.

Although the prototype was built with this kind of meter arrangement, it may be better to use one of the readily available 20 V voltmeters which costs the same as the $\operatorname{lmA}$ meter and need no calibration. The 20 V meter would


## D.C.POWER SUPPIY UNIT'

 Fig. 5. Shows the position.ing of all the components
in the aluminium case and
the flying lead connections
to the component board.
Ensure that TR1 is fully
insulated from the heatsink
by using a mica washer
and plastic bushes. Fig. 5. Shows the position.
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in the aluminium case and
the flying lead connections
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to the component board.
Ensure that TR1 is fully
insulated from the heatsink
by using a mica washer
and plastic bushes.



Fig. 2. The layout of the components on both sides of the board.
replace the $\operatorname{lmA}$ meter and the series resistors R4 and R5.

If however, a $\operatorname{lmA}$ f.s.d. meter is used as the voltmeter, it will be necessary to remove the meter scale and recalibrate it to read 0 to 20 volts.
This is done as follows: take off the meter cover and remove the meter scale by undoing the two retaining screws; gently slide the scale away from the meter. The original figures can be era-ed and new figures 0 -20 inscribed.

## USING THE UNIT

It is a simple matter setting up the power supply unit for a specific job and should be carried out as follows: attach the battery leads from the test project to the negative and positive insulated terminals on the unit panel. decide which lead is the earth lead and switch S2 (marked E on front panel) to the correct position.
Turn VR1 fully anticlockwise (zero volts) and then plug in to the mains and turn on switch Sl. Rotate VRl to give desired voltage level-this is indicated on the meter.
The completed power supply unit is protected against temporary short circuits by the inclusion of the high wattage resistor R2 which will dissipate any power due to overload, However do not leave the unit running with a short circuited output, but switch it off until the overload is removed.

A direct short circuit will instantly reduce the output volts to zero and this will be shown on the meter. The unit will comfortably supply up to 100 mA continuous at any voltage below 16 V and between 150 and 200 mA intermittent at 16 V .



Fig. 3. (above) The dimensions of the heatsink for TR1.
Fig. 4. (left) The dimensions of the front panel showing positions of holes and cut-outs for mounting the components.

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A simple design using a ready made amplifier module to simplify construction. Designed with the baby's safety in mind.

By A. Lester-Rands

Ne need to have the an-fi or TV sound duced to whisper level, just in case the baby should awake and voice its discomfort. The baby alarm described in this article will solve the problem of being able to heer cries of protest.
The circuit has been smplified to a great extent by using a teacy built main amplifier, but some constructiontal exercise can be obtained from building the microphone pre-amplifier and of course assembling the units within their respečtive boxes. The photographs show the original boxes that were used to house the amplifier and speaker, and the microphonc. These are plastic electrical connecting boxes obtainable from electrical fittings retailers and are available in a variety of sizes Choose a pair approximately the same dimensions as the originals which were about $41_{2}$ inches by $41_{2}$ inches by $3^{\frac{1}{2}}$ inches deep. These towes are generally white and do not laok out of place in most homes. The crystal microphone could be put
into a much smaller bjx or a standard crystal microphone in a plastic case could be used if desired.

THE CIRCUIT
The circuit is given in Fig. I and consists of a one transistor pre-armpl fier consisting, of TR1 which raises the sigal level from the microphone to a sufficient level to supcly the amplifier No attempt has been made to match the high impedance of the crysta: micropione to the amplifier input impedarce as this would cnly complicate the circuit; loss cue to mismatch is made up by: the ampl.fier gain antyway. The preamplifier is connecte1 to the Nowmarket PC2 amplifier, the circuit difgrar of which is shown in Fig. 1, via the volume cont:o. Vin1. The output from the $P C 2$ medale goes direct to the loudspeaker ${ }^{3}$ which may be axy iniature ( $2^{2}$ : to $32_{2}$ jnch) 15 -or 25 óhm mpeciarce type. A brief specificationt of the anjplisier is gisen in Table 1.

## Approximate cost of rcomponents £ 4.00 plus case

## CONSTRUCTION

The pre-amplifier is constructed on a small piece of plain circuit board as shown in Fig. 2 and this and the PC2 amplifier are bolted on one side of the amplifier case. The capacitors used in the prototype are printed circuit types with both wires at one end. This simplifies construction and provides a neater finished job, however, this type of capacitor does not have to be used. If the capacitors available are larger than those specified this will not matter as there is plenty of room for larger types on the component board. The finished board is a similar size to the PC2 amplifier and the two units are mounted together on one side of the case.

Operating voltage
Output
Input resistance
Input sensitivity
ImV for 50 mW output
Quiescent (no signal) current 10 mA

With a box the same size as the original, or larger, there should be ample space for a PP9 battery as well as the loudspeaker. The layout of the components on the front panel of the amplifier box is shown in Fig. 3 and the photographs but again this may be varied to suit the size of the box used. Note that two wander plug type sockets (SK1) for the microphone lead are mounted on the side of the case. A miniature jack or similar two-pin connection could be used instead but the earthed connection must be from the screening braid of the microphone cable (black socket to screen). The wiring between the various components mounted in the case is shown in Fig. 3.

All that remains is to mount the crystal microphone in its box (Fig. 4) and connect it to the sockets on the side. (A jack or two-pin connection could also be used here instead of wander

Fig. 1. Circuit diagram of the Baby Alarm. The part of the circuit enclosed by the dotted line box is the Newmarket PC2 amplifier module.


## Baby Alarm

Fig. 4. Microphone wiring for box mounting.


Fig. 2. (Above) Layout and wiring of the component mounting board.

Fig. 3. (Below) Interwiring of the amplifier box of the Baby Alarm.


## Components

Resistors

| R1 | $68 \mathrm{ks!}$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| R2 | $10 \mathrm{ks!}$ |
| R3 | $6.8 \mathrm{ks!}$ |
| R4 | $1 \mathrm{kS!}$ |
| R5 | $2 \cdot 2 \mathrm{ks}!$ |
| ! $W$ | $10 \%$ carbon |

## SHOP <br> TALIK

## Capacitors

C1 2.5./F elect. 12V
C2 $50 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ elect. 12 V
C3 $10 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ elect. 12 V
C4 $100 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ elect. 12V
Potentiometer
VR1 10k!? log. carbon
Transistor
TR1 NKT 274 germanium pnp
Miscellaneous
S1 Double-pole single-throw slide or toggle switch
B1 9V PP9 battery
PC2 Newmarket amplifier module
MIC1 Crystal microphone insert (any small type or complete microphone)
SKI, PLI wander plugs and sockets (2 red, 2 black of each)
LS1 Miniature $2 \frac{1}{2}$ in. to $3 \frac{1}{2}$ in. 15 or $25 \Omega$ loudspeaker
Screened lead (length as required), plain perforated 0.15 inch matrix Veroboard $2 \frac{1}{2} i n$. , $1 \frac{1}{2} i n .6 \mathrm{BA}$ fixings, connecting wire, plastic cases (see text), control knob.
plug sockets.) It does not matter which way round the leads to the microphone insert are connected. The screening cable should preferably be screened light-weight microphone cable. The baby alarm units may be permanently mounted if required or, the microphone may simply be placed a few feet away from the cot, the cable led to the living room and the amplifier connected up. The whole can be quickly gathered up and put away when it is not in use.

In operation the unit is quite sensitive and with the microphone even 6 feet away from a crying baby the sound from the loudspeaker at half to full volume setting will be as loud as if the baby were in the same room.

## SAFETY

The alarm is inherently safe due to its being battery operated. There is no d.c. present at the microphone end and hence even if the baby removes the leads and puts them in its mouth no harm can come of it, provided the plugs are securely fixed. The box used to house the microphone is also harmless to a baby and quite tough; if a complete microphone is used this should be taken into account when purchasing.


Due to the high impedance of the microphone the length of lead used to connect the two units should be kept as short as possible to avoid unnecessary noise or oscillation. The prototype was tested with a 15 yard length of screened lead and gave satisfactory results, suggesting that a reasonable increase on this length could be used without any major problems. To keep lead length within reason the wire could be fed from an upstairs room to a ground floor room via the windows instead of running it down a staircase. Routing the connecting wire parallel with mains wiring should also be avoided as this will induce hum in the circuit.

## CHECKING THE UNIT

The standing current consumed by the amplifier with no signals is approximately 10 mA so do not leave the unit running longer than is necessary. To test for operation, short circuit the microphone sockets and turn the volume control full on. A soft hiss should be heard from the loudspeaker. Flace the microphone in another room to prevent feedback, which will occur if the microphone is near the speaker, and check by getting someone to speak quietly into the microphone. A good signal should be obtained from the speaker.

The unit is now ready for use and can either be permanently installed or placed in position as necessary.


## Fifty years of British Broadcasting

FEifty years ago British broad casting was born in an exarmy hut near Chelmsford in Essex, when on February 14, 1922 a group of Marconi engineers began a series of regular experimental transmissions. Every Tuesday evening from a rigged-up transmitter, call sign 2MT Writtle, or more affectionately to its listeners, Two Emma Tock. They transmitted programmes whose original purpose was entirely technical. Shortly afterwards, in May, another transmitter, later to be even better known, was opened up by the company at Marconi House in the Strand in London. This was the famous 2LO station that provided the foundation from which the British Broadcasting Company grew after its formation on November 14 of the same year.
Two Emma Tock provided the first regular broadcast service in this country, and incidentally broadcasting's first audience, an audience which in its enthusiasm for the pioneering programmes, generated the original demand for public service broadcasting. The 2MT transmitter was set up for use in a series of experiments designed to "stablish the effective range of a wireless telephony transmitter. At the same time a number of radio amateurs were appearing, largely young ex-
servicemen who had learnt about radio during the 1914 -18 war, who had put together their own receiving sets, and who wanted transmissions to receive. Earlier experiments with entertainment had shown that there was a potential for wireless telephony outside official communication and navigation usage, but the official attitude had been discouraging.

2MT opened regular broadcasts officially on behalf of the amateurs who needed a source against which they could calibrate their receivers, and to begin with its programmes were not very much more interesting than early 1920 transmissions made before the government clamp-down, when W. T. Ditcham read from Bradshaw's railway timetable, but the enthusiasm and gaiety of the young Marconi engineers who ran it very soon turned it into a halfhour's entertainment in its own right.

The names of those men read like a roll-call of some of the great names in Broadcasting. In charge of the project was Captain P. P. Eckersley, who later went to the new British Broadcasting Company as its first Chief Engineer. It was his infectious and spontaneous humour which gave 2MT its unique flavour; he had a gift for ad-libbing that constantly alarmed those of a less adventurous disposition who worked with him. Others in the team were Noel Ashbridge, later Sir Noel, who was the BBC's first technical director, R. T. B. Wynn, a later Chief Engineer of the BBC
and B. N. MacLarty, who became Head of the BBC's Design and Installation team.

By contrast, Marconi's 2 LO station, granted its licence in May, began a rather staid existence, a happy coincidence for the pioneers of 2 MT , as it gave them an opportunity to provide skits and lampoons which were much appreciated by their listeners. 2 LO operated on conditions of restricted timing, at first even no music, and low power, beginning with 100 watts, later raised to $1{ }_{2} \mathrm{~kW}$.

By this time many wireless societies had been formed and more and more the demand for radio receivers was being felt. In the United States since 1919 "wireless" had become fashionable, but with no constitutional control of the use of wavelengths, chaos reigned in a commercially sponsored free-for-all. The British Government, seeking a way from the dilemma posed by popular demand on the one hand and a justifiable reluctance to allow free access to the air on the other, set up the Wireless Sub-Committee of the Imperial Communications Committee in April of 1922. After consideration, their recommendation to set up a single broadcasting company was accepted and in November 1922 the British Broadcasting Company was formed from six commercially interested companies with $£ 100,000$ share capital.

2MT Writtle continued to transmit until the following January. when it finally closed down.


## In-Store Watch-dog

ST Michatl now has an electronic watch-dog to help with quality control.

Marks \& Spencer's St Michael brandname has long been a byword for dependability and has recently been developing in the foods market. As part of their quality control effort in this sensitive area, Marks are using a GEC-Elliott instrument in their shops, to check that chilled and frozen goods are maintained at the optimum temperatures for freshness and quality.

The equipment consists of a portable temperature measuring and recording system. It enables
spot checks to be made at a moment's notice, or can operate continuously after the store has closed to record changes throughout the day, overnight or during the weekend. Although the company has supplied similar static
equipment for cold stores, warehouses and refrigerated ships, this is the first portable system for the retail trade. The system is trolley mounted, so that it can be moved from counter to counter, or store to store.


# electrovalue Electronic Component Specialists 

## THIS MONTH'S SELECTION OF POPULAR ITEMS from the electrovalue catalogue



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| $2{ }^{211805}$ | PNP |  | ${ }^{28} \mathrm{D}$ |
| 272848 | 8il. UJT | Onclilator, 8CR dificer | 470 |
| 211892a | NPN | Bmall sig. amp | $11 p$ |
| 8.88056 | NPN | High power | ${ }^{60 p}$ |
| 8182708 | PNP | Low power | 180 |
| 283704 | NPN | Low power | 180 |
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| AC128 | PNP | Low power | ${ }^{20 \%}$ |
| AD149 | PNP | Hish power | ${ }^{\text {sis }}$ |
| Ac176 | NPN | Low power | ${ }^{16 p}$ |
| - AD161 | NPN | Med. power | ${ }^{330}$ |
| - 010162 | PNP | Med, power | 36p |
| BC108 | 8i1. NPN | Small signal | 110 |
| 8 Cl 09 | NPN | Low noine | $12 p$ |
| BC188 | NPN | Small sigrial | ${ }^{100}$ |
| BC189 | NPN | Low bolue | 119 |
| BFios | NPN | EP amp. | 140 |
| ${ }^{\text {873 }} 51$ | NPN | Med. current | ${ }^{20 p}$ |
| OADO | Ger. diode | RF detector | ${ }^{60}$ |
| $0 \mathrm{AP1}$ | - ". | General | ${ }^{\text {sp }}$ |
| ED1 | , | Sulicon Rectinet 1 amp | ${ }^{10 \mathrm{p}}$ |
| W02 |  | Sllicon brldge 1 amp | ${ }^{60}$ |
| - Matcbed pair | AD161/AD162 |  | 60p |

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STEREO BALANCE CONTROLS
Log/Ankilog. IOK 47K IM
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In any combination of above values 60 p , with switch $\mathbf{7 2} \mathrm{p}$

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22 pr
100 pF
220 pF
470 pH
1000 pr
200 pF
4700pr

Polyeater MET
.01 m
0.02 mP
n .047 mF
1). 1 mF
0.22 mF
0.47 mF

1 mP

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NEON chrome bezel, round red NR/R, 24p; chrome bezel. round amber $N R / A$. $24 p$; chrome bezel, round clear NR/C 24p. Neon square red eype LS5C/P. $18 p \mathrm{~m}$ amber typ LSSC/A. IBp; ciear type LS5C/C, 18p. All
bove are for 240 V malns operation. Fila above are or 240 V mans operation. mont types: $6 \mathrm{~V}, 0.04 \mathrm{~A}$ square red type LS5C/A-6V, 30p: 6V 004A clear eype L55CIC-6V, 30pi 6V 0-94A green evpe LS5C/G-6V, 30pj12V0.04A L5SC/R-12V, 34p $28 V 004 \mathrm{~A}$ LSSC/R-28V, 45p.

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It is always fun to prove to yourself how much you know, hence we have devised this test at the half way point of Teach-In. Do not worry if you are unable to answer all the questions, it simply means that you have not taken in all the information we have given. We will publish full answers next month so do not write to us with your answers or queries.

We have tried to set the sort of questions that will probably come up when you are actually involved in sorting out practical designs. Ultimately you ought to be able to answer them all from memory of the principles involved.
(1) In an electric circuit do electrons flow from the positive to the negative terminal of the battery or vice versa?
(2) Which of the following abbreviations are used to describe the magnitude of current:
(a) $m V$, (b) $\mu A$, (c) $p F$, (d) $\mu \mathrm{F}$, (e) $A$, (f) $n V$, (g) $k \Omega$.
(3) What would you expect the potential difference across a 2.2 kilohm resistor to be if 0.01 amperes were flowing through it.
(4) We can make a voltmeter by putting a resistor in series with a sensitive ammeter. Does it matter if the resistor is connected between the positive terminal of the meter and the battery's positive terminal or between the respective negative terminals?
(5) What current do you think would be flowing through R1 in Fig. 1? If you put another resistor in parallel with R2 would the current through R1 increase or decrease?
(6) What would be the minimum power rating of devices you would use for R1, R2 and R3 shown in Fig. 2?
(7) What would be the maximum power dissipation of the potentiometer shown in Fig. 3?
(8) The colour codes on resistors are as follows: what are the ohmic values and tolerances?
(a) Yellow, Violet, Red, Silver.



## From Abroad

I have now had the first three issues of your publication and find it very interesting. They are on sale here exactly a month after publication, which seems a long time. Also it is difficult to get the required components as we only have one stockist in town. Is it possible to have a parcel of all components for a project sent direct from England?
I have made the Demo Deck and tried the experiments on page 151, January Everyday Electronics. According to your dia-grams the positive terminal of the meter is connected to the positive terminal of the battery. By doing this I find the needle shooting across the dial of the meter. However, by connecting the positive battery terminal to the resistors then to the meter positive terminal I get the correct readings.

If the current goes from positive to negative then surely the resistors should come before the meter, and if this is the case, then the positive sign on the diagrams should be on the other side of the battery. Please explain.

> D. A. Watson South Africa.

It would seem that you have inadvertantly connected your Demo Deck meter across the battery with no resistors in circuit. As the current flows around the whole circuit from positive to negative battery terminals and the resistors merely limit the flow it does not matter where in the circuit they are.

Thanks for a great new magazine, will be making most of your projects shown. Envy your low low prices. OC71 costs £3 here!!!! J. Koppard Wellington, N. Zealand.

At those prices it may be cheaper to buy from one of the British suppliers. Unfortunately we are unable to show the beautiful grass-skirted Tahitian girl on the front of the postcard from this reader!

## Constructive-Helpful!

As a regular subscriber to "big brother" Practical Electronics, permit me to add my quota of appreciation of particular features in the welcome appearance of the new member of the "practicals" family.
First, I note the very commend. able provision of space for readers' letters. The growth of such a feature can provide a fraternal, club-like air. Both constructive and controversial writers therein can be respectively helpful or entertaining.

Myself an octogenarian who has followed the present hobby since the first days of the crystal detector and early usage of the now archaic term "wireless", which many qualified speakers and writers still use, l would like here to submit a small specially chosen item appropriate to the purpose of the Teach-In feature. It is with reference to the definition of alternating current as frequently seen in text books and other sources of instruction in basic electricity.

The virtually stereotype explanation says, "a current which flows this way and then that." To the uninformed, the nature of such expression at once conveys a relatively slow change without a precise frequency as required for practical use.

Still, with newcomers and beginners in mind, I would like here to repeat my comment, earlier published in Practical Electronics, which deplored the continued proliferation of semiconductors listed by retailers.

With every sympathy and understanding of the advertisers' problems in this matter, a list of over one thousand code markings for the identity of the devices being offered will serve only those readers who already know precisely that which they require. They may at the same time be aware of the many equivalents given in a list. It follows therefore that the ordinary active amateur constructor is saved frustration only by the authors of the constructional projects stipulating not only the preferred type of device, but also where possible, other
alternatives, all of which point to the need for progressive enthusiasts to avail themselves of comprehensive data on solid-state products.

In good humour and intention, I now turn to the question of two essentially familiar componentsvariable resistors and capacitors. The more experienced followers of the electronics cult must have noticed that many suppliers who regardless of its specific use, persist in calling the former article a "volume control", while others continue to call the latter "condensors" or "condensers".

Lastly, for those who may not be aware, there is an excellently produced, colour illustrated, twenty-four page booklet issued by Joseph Lucas Ltd. under the title, "The Story of Semiconductors." Whether one knows it all or not, the lucid manner of presentation is a pleasure to read. To conclude, do 1 hear electronically simulated laughter at my laboured views?
P. Ashdown Cheshire.

No laughter from us! We hope our booklet in the next issue will help with transistor data.

## Commercial Equipment

I have followed with interest your magazine since the first issue and have found it most helpful and informative. Your Teach-In articles are an excellent idea, and in particular I would commend the Shop Talk articles. These fulfil the purpose of providing the newcomer with what he needs to know about component buying, something that other magazines seem to think he knows already.

However, there is one "gap" I think you could yet fill. Your projects at present are all on the same theme-construction of simple self-contained electronic devices.

No doubt many readers are interested in these, in particular the devices for cars such as the Auto Alert I would consider most useful since it is not easy to obtain proprietary devices at reasonable cost to serve the same purpose. But I would be interested to see some articles about ordinary household apparatus, and simple repairs and modifications to them. For instance: What common faults can one expect to develop in a radio set and how can one deal with them?

How can one suppress electrical apparatus that is causing interference. How to fit a socket to a television set to make tape



For several vears now you have been able to assemble your own high fidelity system to world beating standards using Sinclair modules. We have progressively improved these technically but hitherto the method of assembly at your end has remained the same - there has been no alternative to a soldering iron. Now for those who prefer not 10 solder, there is an alternative - Project 605
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| 2 N 404 | 2 | 2N3608 | 27\％ | 40344 | 27\％ | BCY42 | 15 | B9728 | 15\％ | NKT438 | \％ |
| 91596 |  | 2／53007 | 23t | 40347 | 576 | BCY4 | 15 | B8Y26 | 17\％ | NKT603 |  |
| 2N697 | 17． | 2N3702 | 11. | 40348 | 684 | BCY54 | 317 | BAY27 | 17\％ | NKT618P |  |
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| ${ }^{2 N 708}$ |  | 2N8706 |  | 40370 | 28 | 8CY70 |  | 88Y38 |  | NKT781 |  |
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| 251804 |  | ${ }^{2 N 3686 A}$ | \％ | ACE17 | 87 | BDY20 | 18.18 | ${ }^{\text {B／bw70 }}$ | $7_{7}$ | NETE0 |  |
| 911805 |  | ${ }^{21788588}$ | \％ | ACF18 |  | BDY38 | ${ }^{7} 1$ | C111 | 7 |  |  |
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| 2152145 | －7t | 2N4059 | 1 | AF115 | \％ | RF194 | 176 | GETE73 | 18 | 0028 | 875 |
| 312160 | 575 | 2N4060 | 12\％ | ${ }^{\text {AF116 }}$ | ， | BF19s | 10 | GET880 |  | ${ }^{\mathrm{OCz}}$ |  |
| ${ }^{2 N 2103}$ |  | ${ }^{2 N 4} 4061$ | 124 | AF117 | ${ }^{80}$ | ${ }_{\text {BFIP }}^{\text {BF }}$ |  | GETEA8 |  | OCzs |  |
| 2N2193A | 4t） | ${ }^{2 \mathrm{~N}} 4062$ | ${ }^{12} 8$ | AF118 ${ }_{\text {AFII }}$ | 80 | ${ }_{\text {BF197 }}$ | ${ }^{4} 8$ | ${ }_{\text {GETE90 }}$ | 8 | ${ }^{\text {OC35 }}$ |  |
| 212217 | 87p | 2154285 | 176 | AF124 | 21） | BF200 | 6 | GET3\％ | － | $0 \mathrm{OC4}$ |  |
| 212218 |  | 2N4289 | 17\％ | ${ }_{\text {AF125 }}$ |  | HF224 | 13. | GET997 |  | OC42 |  |
| $2 \mathrm{N2219}$ | 5 | 2N4287 | $17 \%$ | AF126 | － | ${ }^{\text {AFP225 }}$ | 15 | GET89 |  | 0 OCH |  |
| 312290 |  | 2N4288 | 17\％ | AF127 | $17 \%$ | BP 237 | \％ | ${ }^{1} 1400$ | 1.07 | OC4 |  |
| 912291 |  | 214289 | 17 | AF134 | 87 | ${ }^{\text {AF236 }}$ |  | MJ420 | A1．18 | OC70 |  |
| 218228 |  | 2N4290 | 17i | ${ }^{\text {AFlis }}$ | ctip | ${ }^{\text {BFP24 }}$ | 7 | ${ }^{M 12421}$ | 0.10 | $\mathrm{OCO}_{0} \mathrm{CO}$ |  |
| 9x\％270 | 67 | ${ }^{2 N} 4291$ | $17 \%$ | AF179 | $7{ }^{7}$ | BFW61 <br> BFX12 | 47 | MJ430 |  | ${ }_{0}^{0} \mathrm{OC7}$ |  |
| 250297 | ${ }^{305}$ | 2N4792 | ${ }^{12} 5$ | ${ }_{\text {AF1 }}^{\text {AF1 }}$（180 | 48 | ${ }_{\text {BFIT12 }}$ | 820 | MJ440 |  | ${ }_{0}^{0} \mathrm{OC7} 2$ | 18\％ |
| －112808 | $17 \%$ | 2N4303 | 68\％ |  | 480 | ${ }_{\text {BFX }}$ | d | ${ }^{\text {MJ }} 4881$ | ${ }^{11}$ | $0 \mathrm{OC7}$ |  |
| 2N2869A | $17+$ | 2N5028 | 87 | AF379 | 478 | BFX 30 | 80 | MJ490 | 1.00 | $0 \mathrm{C76}$ |  |
| 212410 | 410 | 2NS029 | 675 | $A^{4} 280$ | cto | BFX42 | 275 | MJ491 | 11.87 | $0 \times 77$ |  |
| 215243： | 的碞 | 2N6030 | 4010 | ${ }_{\text {AF211 }}$ | 219 | BFX4 | 37. | MJ1800 | 88.174 | 0 Cal |  |
| 392404 | 210 | 2N6172 | ${ }^{12}{ }^{\text {p }}$ | A8Y 26 | 80， | BFX ${ }^{68}$ | －76 | MJES40 |  | Ocas |  |
| $2 \times 2630$ | 20］ | 2N6174 | ${ }^{52} 9$ | A8Y27 | 975 | ${ }_{\text {BFX }}{ }_{\text {B }}$ |  | MJES20 |  | ${ }^{\mathrm{OCS}} 3$ |  |
| 252540 | 815 | 2 N 5175 | $52+8$ | A8Y28 | \％${ }^{7}$ | BFX8S | ${ }^{235}$ | MPF102 | $7{ }^{71}$ | ${ }_{0}^{0} \mathrm{Cl} 139$ |  |
| － $2 \times 2618$ |  | ${ }_{\text {2NS }}$ | P | ${ }_{\text {ABY }}^{\text {AB }}$ | \％ | ${ }_{\text {BFX }}{ }^{\text {BFI }} 8$ | 27 | MPF103 | 376 | OC140 |  |
| $2 \times 2646$ | cti | 2N6245 | 1 | A8Y50 | 25 | BFX88 | － | HPP104 | ${ }^{27}$ | OC170 |  |
| 2N2698 | 23t | 2NS246 | ct | A8Y51 | 285 | BFX89 | to | MPF105 | 87\％ | OC171 |  |
| 2 N 2711 | 4 | 2N6249 | ${ }^{47}$ | A8Y54 |  | BFI93A | 70 | MPPas638 | ${ }^{\text {dip }}$ | OC720 |  |
| 259712 |  | 2N6266 | 4． | A8Y86 | 231 | BFY 10 | 230 | NKT0013 | ${ }^{4} 7$ | 00002 |  |
| 2N2713 | \％ 7 | 2N6266 | 28 | AU103 | 81.15 | ${ }_{\text {BFY }}{ }^{\text {BFP1 }}$ | 48 | NKT124 | 4tp | OC202 |  |
| 2N2714 | 38 | 2N6267 |  | ${ }_{\text {A820 }}$ | 16 | ${ }_{\text {BFY17 }}$ |  | NETI | ${ }^{278}$ | 00204 |  |
| $2 \mathrm{2N2904}$ | \％ 2 | 2N6308 | 10 | BClos | 10 | BFY19 | 3 | NET128 | 27\％ | OC205 |  |
| 2192004A | 219 | 2N6307 | 775 | BC109 | 10） | BFY20 | 12 | NKT185 | 87\％ | OC207 |  |
| 2129005 | 779 | 2N ${ }^{\text {a } 5064}$ | 876 | ${ }^{\mathrm{BCl} 18}$ | ${ }^{15 \%}$ | $\mathrm{BFY}^{\text {BFP21 }}$ | 4 | NKT137 | 231 | OCP71 |  |
| 212905A | $40 \%$ | 2 N 5309 | cis | BC116 | ${ }_{15}^{150}$ | BFY 24 BFY25 |  |  |  | ORP12 |  |
| ${ }_{2}{ }^{2 N 2906}$ | \％） | 2N5310 | ${ }^{810}$ | ${ }_{\text {BC118 }}$ | ${ }_{10 \%}$ | ${ }_{\text {BFY }}{ }^{\text {BF }}$ |  | NKT ${ }^{\text {N12 }}$ |  | PS46A |  |
| ${ }^{2 N} 2 \mathrm{~N} 29007 \mathrm{c}$ | ${ }^{2}$ | ${ }_{\text {2Ns35s }}$ | 8710 | ${ }_{\text {BC121 }}^{\text {BC118 }}$ | 80 | ${ }_{\text {BFY }}{ }^{\text {BF }}$ | 8 | NETY13 | 10 | Tis34 |  |
| 231928 | 15 | 2N6356 | 210 | BC12？ | 200 | BFY 30 |  | NKT 214 | 10 | T1843 | 870 |
| 2N2924 | 150 | 2 N 5365 | ${ }^{61}$ | BC125 | 20 | BFY41 |  | NKT215 | 4 | T1844 | 10 |
| 232925 | 15 | 2N6366 | 88 | BC126 | 20p | BFY48 | 4 | NKT316 | 7t | T1845 | 11 |
| 2N2926 |  | 2 NS 2967 | ${ }^{571}$ | ${ }^{\text {BC1 }} 40$ | 275 | BFY50 | 20 | NKT217 | 4t | TIE4 | 11 |
| Green Yellow | ${ }^{14}$ | 286467 28005 | ${ }_{77} 7$ | －${ }_{\text {BC147 }}^{\text {BC1 }}$ | ${ }^{10 \%}$ | ${ }_{\text {BPYP51 }}^{\text {BPY }}$ |  | NKT219 | 80\％ | T1847 | 181 |
| Otang | $1 / 5$ | 28020 | 180 | BC149 | 18． | BFY53 | 171p | NKT224 | 明 | T1849 | 18 |
| 2N5011 | － | 28102 | 10 | BC132 | $17 \%$ | BFY56A | 57. | NKT325 | 415 | T1850 | 17 |
| 283014 | atb | 28108 | 0 | ${ }^{\text {BCl }}{ }^{\text {a }}$ |  | BFY75 |  | NKT239 |  | T1851 | 18 |
| ${ }_{2} \mathbf{2 1 5 0 5 3}$ | 1 | 28104 |  | ${ }_{8}^{8 C 158}$ | ${ }_{18}{ }^{18}$ | $\underset{\text { BFY76 }}{\substack{\text { BFY }}}$ | ${ }^{4}$ | NKT ${ }^{\text {NKT237 }}$ | 明 | T1862 | 18 |
| 2N3055 | 4 | ${ }_{28802}^{2801}$ | 0 | ${ }_{\text {BC160 }}$ | 0 | BFYPO | 97 | NKT240 | 171 | Tiseo |  |
| 2N3133 | 4 | ${ }^{28503}$ | 175 | ${ }_{8} \mathrm{BC1} 167$ | 110 | BFWb8 | 73 | NKT241 | 775 | T1861 |  |
| 2N3134 | 40 | 3N83 |  | 8C188B | 10 | BFW59 |  | NXT342 |  | T1802 | 7 |
| 2N3135 | 45 | 2N128 | \％ | Bciesc | 11 | BPW80 |  | NKT248 | $1{ }^{1}$ | T1P29A |  |
| 2N3136 | \＄8 | 2 N 140 | 77 | BC169B | ${ }_{18}^{11}$ | ${ }_{\text {BPX }}$ | 1. | NKT244 | 178 | TIP30A |  |
| ${ }_{2} \mathbf{2} 13891$ |  | 8N142 |  | ${ }_{\text {BC1 }}{ }_{\text {BC1 }}$ | 2\％ | BPY 10 | 21－45 | NKKT201 | 80 | TIPs2A | 7 |
| 2133901A |  | 8 N 143 | 076 | BC171 | 15 p | BRY39 | 87t | NKT282 | 10 | TIP3AA |  |
| 2 N 3392 | $17{ }^{\circ}$ | 81152 |  | ${ }^{\text {BCl7 }}$ | 15 | B8X19 | 17. | NKT264 |  |  |  |
| ${ }^{2 N 3893}$ | 1 | R．C．A． | 部 | BC175 | 290 | B8820 | 17\％ | NKT271 |  | TIP34A |  |
| 218394 | 15 | ${ }^{40050}$ |  | ${ }_{\text {BC1／2 }}$ | 10 | ${ }_{\text {Bgx }}{ }^{\text {Bg }}$ | 875 | NET272 |  | TIPSAA |  |
| 2N8402 |  | 40251 | ctip | ${ }_{\text {BC188 }}$ | 11. | ${ }_{\text {B81 }}{ }^{\text {B87 }}$ | 47 | NET276 |  |  |  |
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recordings from the sound channel? How does one acquire circuit diagrams and service sheets for radio sets etc?

Another point in the diagrams accompanying the projects, the dimensions in inches, quarters and eighths strike me as a bit archaic, in view of the fact that most of the electronics industry works in metric units. If you must use inches, could you not use decimal fractions, e.g. 2-7in.

Finally, I would like to record my appreciation of the excellent drawings, photographs and general layout of the magazine.

Wishing your magazine every success,

## M. D. McMahon Middlesbrough.

The subject of servicing, repair and alteration of commercial equipment is a vast one and often individual items must be described separately. Thus we cannot and will not be able to cover such subjects.

Taking your point about metric measurement, we feel that most readers would prefer to use the conventional system, but we are always pleased to receive com-ment-so what do other readers feel?

When I saw the title of your magazine on the bookstall Ifoolishly as it turned outassumed that it would contain some reference to "electronicflash", a piece of apparatus used by thousands of photographers both amateur and professional.

But nowhere in your pageseither editorial or advertisement -is there the slightest hint that such things as flash-guns exist. Of course your magazine is not the only offender. I wonder whether there is some conspiracy to keep circuit diagrams and maintenance of electronic flash systems out of reach of the public so that "repairers" can go on fleecing us.

As you undoubtedly know there is a tremendous sale on these relatively simple pieces of equipment. Consequently there must be many people like myself who use them and would welcome some details of construction and maintenance and the names of suppliers who could provide the necessary components.

I do not know whether my letter is useful as a contribution to your letters from readers page.
H. A. Williams

Swansea.
Designs for flash guns are within our scope but supply of the flash tubes is not so easy at present. We are not able to cover the design and maintenance of commercial flash guns.

## Capacitors

I have just completed my first circuit-your Snap Sequence In-dicator-and, guess what? It worked! Thanks mainly to your helpful Teach-In series.

As a complete beginner I have managed to understand what has been said so far, but then came Capacitors and there my enthusiasm cooled down a bit.

I am not mathematically. minded and think it would be helpful if you printed a few sums in full to show how to arrive at for example, $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$., as I am not sure how to change pF 's into $\mu \mathrm{F}$ 's etc. Also I have not seen nF on a capacitor but in my catalogue a lot of capacitors are shown in mF . Please advise me what this stands for as I can find no mention of same in your Teach-In series.

Please could you advise me whether metallised polyester capacitors are suitable for all applications where electrolytic capacitors are not specified.

I hope you may be able to consider this letter for your letter page as I am sure there are a lot of home-constructors who, like me, find looking for the right capacitor in a catalogue extremely difficult owing to the wide range of types, voltages, etc. available.

## B. Way <br> Isle of Wight.

Capacitors are usually designated in $\mu F, n F$ and $p F$, these are millionths of Farads $(\div 1,000,000)$ thousandths of millionths of Farads $(\div 1,000,000,000)$ and billionths of Farads $(\div 1,000,000,000,000)$. Thus to change from $p F$ to $\mu F$ divide by $1,000,000$; hence $10,000 \mathrm{pF}=$ $0 \cdot 01, M$. To change from $\quad$, $F$ to $p F$ multiply by $1,000,000$; hence $0 \cdot 15 \mu F=150,000 \mathrm{pF}$. The use of $n F$ is rather restricted and will probably be seldom encountered. If a manufacturer or supplier quotes $m F$ he means $\mu F$.

Metallised polyester types are suitable for all our projects unless specific types are given and providing the specified value is available.

## Q. and A.

As a follow up to D. Hill's letter in the February issue of Everyday Electronics, I wish to endorse his suggestion of a Question and Answers section. Readers' Letters and Shop Talk are most helpful, but with a Question and Answer section short and to the point, more information could be conveyed, e.g. your abbreviations section is a perfect example as, to a beginner such as myself, a quotation such as s.r.b.p. is double dutch.

Belated congratulations on your magazine, which through the Teach-In series gives a welcome lead-in to electronics.
W. McLintock

Londonderry, N. Ireland.
It seems that a number of readers would like such a page and we will be looking into the possibility of including this item in future.

## No Waa!

I am writing to you to see if you could possibly help me. In this montli's edition of Everyday Electronics, you featured a circuit for a Waa-Waa Pedal, which I have built, but unfortunately I cannot get it to function properly. Every time I. press the pedal down, all that happens is that I get a very slight increase in volume, and when I bring the pedal back, I get a slight decrease in volume.

I have checked the circuit that many times now that I am beginning to give up hope.

## R. Templeton

Melton Mowbray.
If you have checked out the circuit, paying special attention to transistor lead connections and capacitor polarities, and everything is correct, then we suggest that you experiment with the value of capacitor C2 (part of the filter network) as its value is critical.

If, for example, its value is too low due to a high tolerance figure, then the peak of the filter characteristic curve, Fig. 1 will be at too high a frequency-beyond or at the top end of the guitar upper scale.

Try increasing the value of C2 in small steps. This can be done by placing a capacitor across the one already in circuit. Capacitors in parallel are addilive.

## Astron

May I as a complete stranger to the world of electronics, congratulate you on your magazine Everyday Electronics. I have followed with interest your magazine from its conception, especially your Teach-In. I dared not experiment with anything you published in case I made a hash of it But after following your instructions on how to build the Astron radio I was honestly surprised with the results I achieved. James McFadden

Belfast.

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| F116 | 200 | BF179 | 32p | OC26 | 45p | IN4003 | 10p | 2N3703 | 110 |
| F117 | 20p | BFY50 | 22p | OC44 | 12p | IN4004 | 10p | 2N3707 | 13 p |
| BCl07 | 10p | BFYSI | 22p | OC45 | 120 | IN4005 | 12p | 2N3711 | 10p |
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2 N 29052N2905A2N2906\begin{tabular}{ll|l}
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2 N 4965 <br>
\hline $\mathbf{N} 2923$


$2 N 2923$ \& 15 D \& 2 N 5027 <br>
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2N2925 15D 2N50282 N 2925 S 150 2 N 5029

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$2 \mathrm{~N} \$ 403$ \& 28 \& $2 N 5$

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$2 N 3404$ \& 38 p \& $2 N B 366$ <br>
$2 N S 405$ \& 45 p \& 2 S <br>
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\end{tabular}



 25p HC119 $50 \mathrm{D}-\mathrm{BCl} 21$ \begin{tabular}{l|l}
60 p \& BC122 <br>
BC125

 

80 p \& BCl 25 <br>
BCI26

 

75 D \& BC126 <br>
82 D \& $\mathrm{BC134}$ <br>
35 \& HC1

 

32 D \& BC134 <br>
350 \& BC135

 

BC135 <br>
BC136 <br>
BC137
\end{tabular} BC136

BC137
BC138 BC138
RCl
RC1 BC140
BC141

BC147 | BC141 |
| :--- |
| BC147 |
| BC148 |
| BC1 | BC149

BC182
BC1


 \begin{tabular}{l|ll|ll}
159 \& BFX12 \& 229 \& NKT224 <br>
150 \& BFX13 \& 28 D \& NKT225 \& 20 D

 

15 p \& BFX13 \& 28 D \& NKT225 \& 28D <br>
30 D \& BFX29 \& 25 D \& NKT229 \& 80p
\end{tabular}




| $0 p$ | BFX 37 | $30 p$ | NKT238 | 28 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 50 | BFX44 | 870 | NKT240 | 27 |



| $25 p$ | BFX88 | $67 p$ | NKT241 | $27 p$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $18 p$ | BFX84 | $25 p$ | NKT242 | $20 p$ |
| $12 p$ | BFX85 | $80 p$ | NKT243 | $62 p$ |
| $15 p$ | BFX86 | $25 p$ | NKT244 | $17 p$ |
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| 150 | BFX87 | 25 p | NKT245 | 20 p |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 800 | BFX88 | 20 D | NKT261 | 80 p |






| 12 D | BFY18 | $25 p$ | NKT262 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| BFY19 | 25 D | NKT274 20 |  |
| 17 BFY | 21 | 20 | NKT275 | | 170 | BFY21 | $42 p$ | NKT275 | $20 p$ |
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| 20 DFPY | BF | 4D | NKT278 | $25 p$ |
| 20p | BFY29 | 40 p | NKT281 | 27 D |


| 20p | BFY29 |
| :--- | :--- |
| 15p | BYY |
| 10 |  |

 \begin{tabular}{l|l|ll}
Circuits \& FJH111 \& 70 D \& SN7440 20D <br>
FJH121 \& 25D \& BN744AN

 

CA3000 1800 \& FJH121 \& 25D \& EN7441AN <br>
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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| OB: | 45 p 2 | 2575 | 420 | exso |  |
| OZ4 | 80D 25 | ${ }_{25} 26$ | 85p | EM81 | 60p |
| $1 \mathrm{L4}$ | 20030 | 30 C 15 | 80 p | EM84 | 35 p |
| 125 | 40 D 30 | 30 Cl 7 | 90p | EM8s | 1.00 |
| 185 | 30 D 3 | 30 Cl 18 | 80D | EM87 | 70p |
| IT4 | $25 p 3$ | 30 F 5 | 85p | EYS 1 | 40p |
| 144 | 30p 3 | 30 FLl | 759 | EY8 | 400 |
| IUs | 60p 3 | 30 FL 12 | 120p | EY87 | P |
| 2 D 21 | 35 p 3 | $30 \mathrm{FL14}$ | 95 D | EZ40 |  |
| 304 | 50 p 3 | 30 LLS | 85 p | E241 | ${ }^{\text {D }}$ |
| 384 | 35 D 3 | 30 L 17 | 80 p | E280 | 87p |
| $3 \mathrm{SV}_{4}$ | 48p 3 | ${ }^{30} 12$ | 80 D | EZ81 |  |
| BR4 | 75 D 3 | 30 P 19 | 85 D | OZ32 | 48D |
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| 8/30L2 | 80. | 35 W 4 | 850 | PABC8 | 40p |
| $8 \mathrm{AC7}$ | 40 P | 3524 | 850 | PC86 |  |
| $8 \mathrm{AO7}$ | 40 | 3525 | 60p | PC88 | 607 |
| 6AK5 | 85 D | 50B5 | 50p | PC97 |  |
| 8AK6 | 60 D | 50C5 | 50p | PC900 | 48D |
| 6AL5 | 20 D | 80 | 650 | PCC84 |  |
| 6AM6 | 80 D | 85.4 | 60D | pceas | 400 |
| 6AQ3 | 33p | 807 |  | PCC88 | , |
| ${ }^{8186}$ | 40 p | 1825 | 60p | PCC89 | 500 |
| 6AT6 | 850 | 5763 |  | PCC188 | 50. |
| 6AU6 | 25p | 6148 | 180 | PCFPO | 80 D |
| 6AV6 | 50 | AZ31 |  | PCF82 |  |
| ${ }^{6 B A 6}$ | 250 | CY31 | 85D | PCF84 | 800 |
| ${ }^{68 E A}$ | 30 D | DAP91 | 80 p | PCP88 |  |
| 6BH6 | 760 | Dap'of | 45 | PCProo | 80 D |
| 6BJ8 | 50 p | DF91 | 220 | PCP801 |  |
| $6 \mathrm{BQ7A}$ | 40 D | DF96 | 45 | PCP803 | 50 |
| 6 BR 7 | 90 D | DK91 |  | PCFP05 |  |
| 6BR8 | 70D | DK92 | 850 | PCF80 | 70] |
| 6BW6 | 85 p | DK98 |  | PCP808 |  |
| 68W7 | ${ }^{80}{ }^{\text {D }}$ | DL92 | 350 | PCLA2 | 35D |
| ${ }^{61328}$ | 40 D | DL94 | 48p | PCL83 |  |
| ${ }_{604}$ | 330 | DL96 | 450 | PCL84 | 45p |
| 6CD6 | 125 D | DM70 | 40 p | PCL85 |  |
| ${ }^{6 C L} 8$ | 50 D | DY88 | 829 | PCLSA | 480 |
| scw | ${ }^{85}$ | DY87 | 33p | PFL20 |  |
| ${ }_{6} \mathrm{~F} 1$ | ${ }^{68}$ | E880C | 100 p | PLa6 | 85 p |
| ${ }^{6} \mathrm{FFGG}$ | 850 | E180F | 100p | PLS |  |
| ${ }_{6} 6{ }^{\text {P13 }}$ | 450 | EABC80 | 35D | PL82 | 5 D |
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| 8H8 | 170 | Ebr80 |  | PY32 |  |
| ${ }^{60} 4$ | 80 D | E8F83 | 100 | PY33 | 53D |
| $6 \mathrm{J5}$ | 250 | EBP89 | 32 p | PY80 |  |
| ${ }^{6 J 50}$ | 30 p | EbLel | 80D | PY81 | 800 |
| 8J6 | 20 p | EC88 |  | PY82 |  |
| 6 J 7 | 45 p | ECas | 80 D | PY83 | 38 p |
| 6K86 | 40 p | ECCA 0 |  | PY88 |  |
| 6L80T | 45 | ECC84 | 300 | PY800 | 40p |
| 6LD29 | 50 p | ECCss |  | PY80 |  |
| 607 | 40D | ECCA 8 | 40 D | U25 | 80 D |
| 8847 | 40 p | ECP80 |  | U28 |  |
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| 68.7 | 40p | ECFP8 |  | U52 |  |
| $68 \mathrm{K7}$ | 400 | ECH21 | 57. | U191 | 75D |
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| 12AT7 | 30 D | EP85 | 350 | UCH42 | 70p |
| 12AU7 | , | EP86 | 80. | UCH81 | 10D |
| $12 \mathrm{AX7}$ | 30 D | EFP9 | 28p | UCLA: | ${ }^{85}$ |
| l2AV6 | ${ }^{40}{ }^{\circ}$ | $\mathrm{EP91}^{\text {Pr }}$ | 30. | UCLA3 | ${ }^{60} \mathrm{D}$ |
| 12 BAB | 40 D | EP92 | 35p | UP41 | 60p |
|  | 400 | EF183 | 35 p | UF80 | ${ }^{85}$ |
| !2B67 | 45p | EF184 | 35p | UP88 | 40 p |
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| $20 \mathrm{D1}$ | 50 D | ELa34 | 50 p | ULS 1 | ${ }^{65}$ |
| $20 \mathrm{~F}^{2}$ | 65 D | EL33 | 21.25 | UL84 | 40 D |
| ${ }_{20 \mathrm{P} 1}^{20 \mathrm{~L}}$ | 21.10 | ELd | 80p | UY41 | 48p |
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for pasper tuning of e. Sensitlve fer. rite rod serial and
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or Bhort Waven.

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red grille. dial aml hiack' knobs with polished ruetal
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