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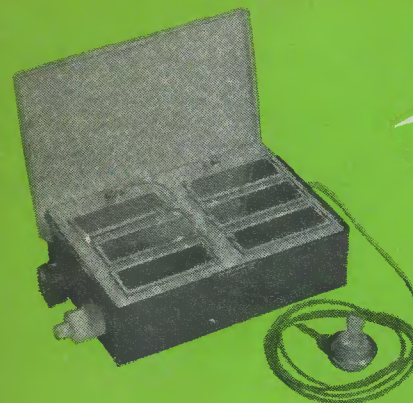
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1959

# The RADIO Constructor

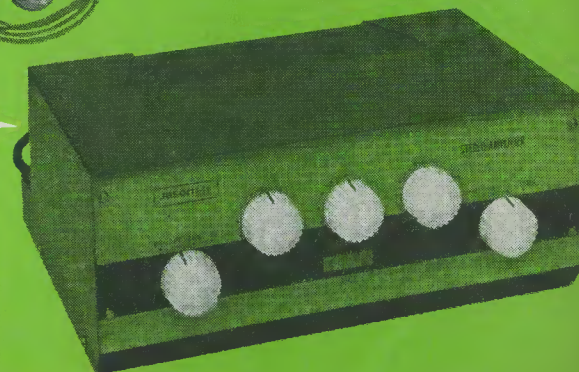


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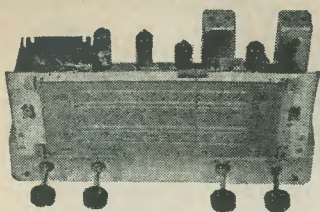
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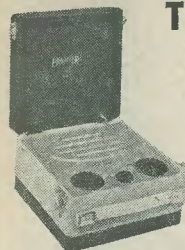
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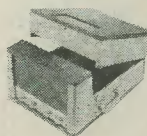
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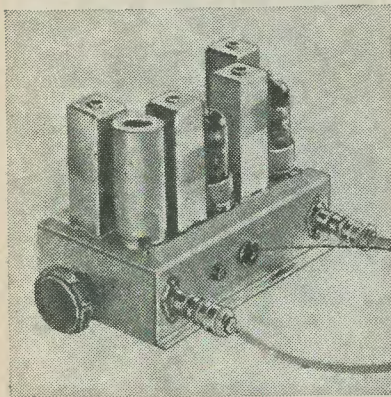


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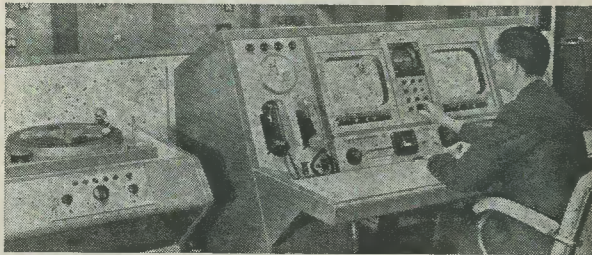
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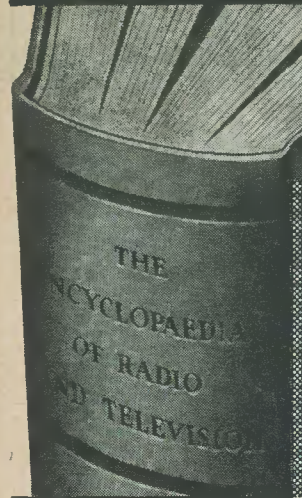
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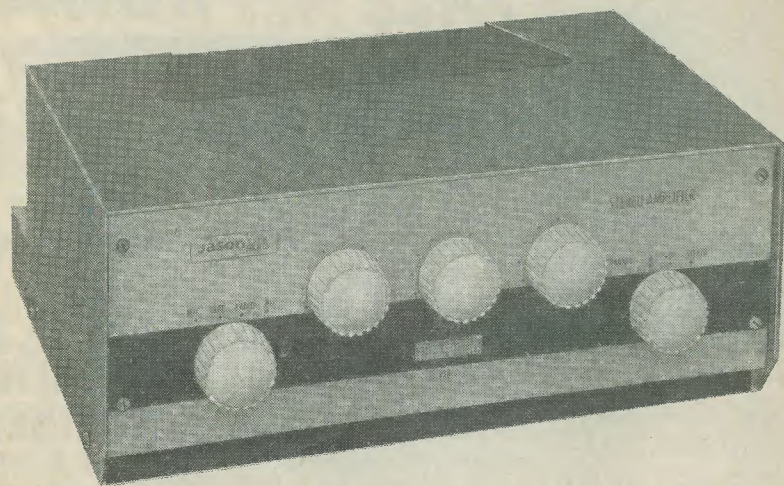
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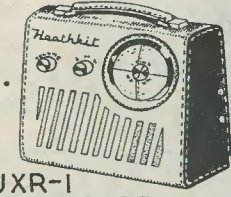
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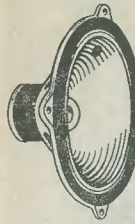
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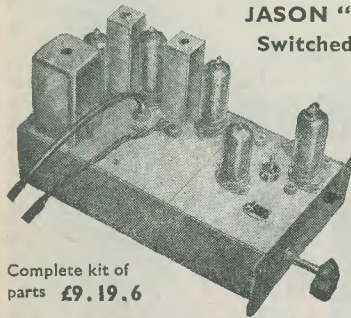
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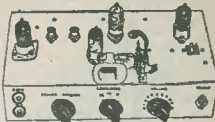


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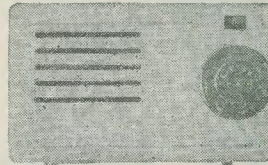
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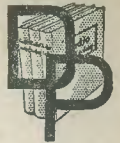
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Vol. 12 No. 7

FEBRUARY 1959

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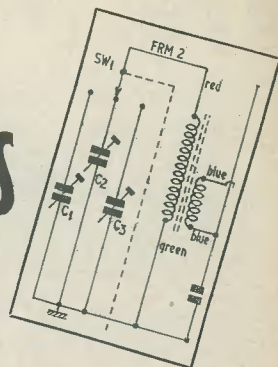
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## Suggested

## Circuits



## No. 99 A Versatile Valve Tester

The circuits presented in this series have been designed by G. A. FRENCH, specially for the enthusiast who needs only the circuit and essential relevant data

VERY USEFUL ACCESSORY IN THE AMATEUR or professional radio workshop is an instrument capable of testing valve characteristics. Whilst it is generally appreciated that a valve tester does not examine all the points which contribute to the successful functioning of a valve in any particular circuit, it can still provide a useful measure of its general serviceableness. Also, it can often indicate shortcomings which are not obvious when the valve is fitted to the circuit in which it is to be used.

If it is to have any value, a valve tester must be capable of checking at least one valve characteristic. A test for emission only (as was provided some years ago in the cheaper units available commercially) is of little practical use. The most easily checked characteristic is mutual conductance, this term defining the change in anode current which occurs for unit change in grid voltage, anode voltage remaining constant.

## The Circuit

This month's circuit is that of a valve tester which has been especially designed for construction by the amateur. A considerable economy has been provided by the use of a.c./d.c. techniques and by dispensing with a mains transformer having a large number of heater voltage tappings. Instead of the trans-

former, dropper resistors are employed, these catering for valves whose heater currents fall into one of the two divisions normally encountered in modern receivers and televisions. Also, batteries are employed both for grid voltages and for powering 1.4 volt filaments. The use of batteries represents an advantage due to the fact that a large number of components are obviated. In service, the life of the batteries used in the tester should be of the order of several years at least. Another feature of the tester is that it is capable of being expanded at any future date so that the range of valves to be tested may be increased.

In the form illustrated in the circuit the tester is capable of measuring the emission and mutual conductance of any valve, other than a diode, whose anode current does not exceed 50mA, and whose heater or filament requirements are 0.1 or 0.3 amps in current or 6.3 or 1.4 volts in potential. This range covers almost all valves currently employed in radio and television receivers, with the exception of some line output valves.

## Circuit Operation

The functioning of the valve tester is based on the provision of switching circuits by means of which any desired potential may be applied to any electrode of the valve under test. The anode current for two grid voltages

is then measured, whereupon it becomes possible to check mutual conductance and, of course, emission. (Although not specifically intended in the design, it is possible also to check forward current in diodes by the simple process of checking the current which flows for an arbitrarily chosen positive anode voltage.) Information concerning valve potentials, emission, and mutual conductance is available from the valve manufacturer's literature. If desired, a set of cards can be made up for the valves most likely to be handled, these providing the necessary testing information in an easily assimilable form.

The circuit illustrates three valveholders, these being B9A, B7G and international octal. The pins of these valveholders connect to the appropriately numbered wires which travel to Electrode Selector Switches S<sub>1</sub> to S<sub>9</sub>. Electrode selector switch S<sub>10</sub> is connected to a fly-lead fitted with a crocodile clip, this catering for top-cap terminals. Valveholders other than those shown may be fitted to the tester, their pins connecting to the correspondingly numbered wires and switches.

The purpose of switches S<sub>1</sub> to S<sub>10</sub> is to connect the particular electrodes to which they correspond to the desired potential. In the diagram S<sub>1</sub>, 2 and 3 only are shown wired up. This is for purposes of clarity. S<sub>4</sub> to S<sub>10</sub> are connected up in exactly the same manner as are S<sub>1</sub> to S<sub>3</sub>.

The circuits selected by S<sub>1</sub> to S<sub>10</sub> are as follows: "H.T. Anode," "H.T. Screen-Grid," "Heater," "Grid," "Chassis" and "Free." It would be of value at this stage to examine the circuitry which corresponds with each of these settings.

If, via the corresponding switch, the anode of a valve connects to "H.T. anode," direct connection is made from the anode to meter M<sub>1</sub>. This meter is a 0-10mA instrument and is intended to measure the anode current of the valve under test. Should the anode current be higher than 10mA, switch S<sub>12</sub> has to be set to the 0-50mA position, whereupon it connects the shunt resistor R<sub>1</sub> across the meter. The meter terminal remote from the anode next connects to the arm of S<sub>11</sub>. This switch couples the anode, if current is less than 10mA, to the slider of potentiometer R<sub>4</sub>. If anode current is greater than 10mA, connection is made to the slider of R<sub>5</sub>. If desired S<sub>11</sub> and S<sub>12</sub> may be ganged together. The reason for having two instead of one variable resistor for controlling anode voltage is that these enable economies to be made in the power supply section. A single potentiometer connected across the h.t. supply and capable of handling anode currents up to 50mA would require to be a high wattage unit which, apart from drawing

a heavy standing current, would be expensive and difficult to obtain. The two potentiometers R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> are standard wire-wound types. It will be noted that R<sub>4</sub> is connected across the h.t. supply, whereupon it is capable of offering an anode potential at any level between zero and full h.t. voltage. R<sub>5</sub>, on the other hand, is connected in series with the h.t. supply, with the result that it is employed mainly for taking up changes in h.t. voltage given during the mutual conductance check. This method of connection for R<sub>5</sub> assumes, reasonably enough, that all valves under test whose anode currents are greater than 10mA are capable of operating with anode voltages around 200.

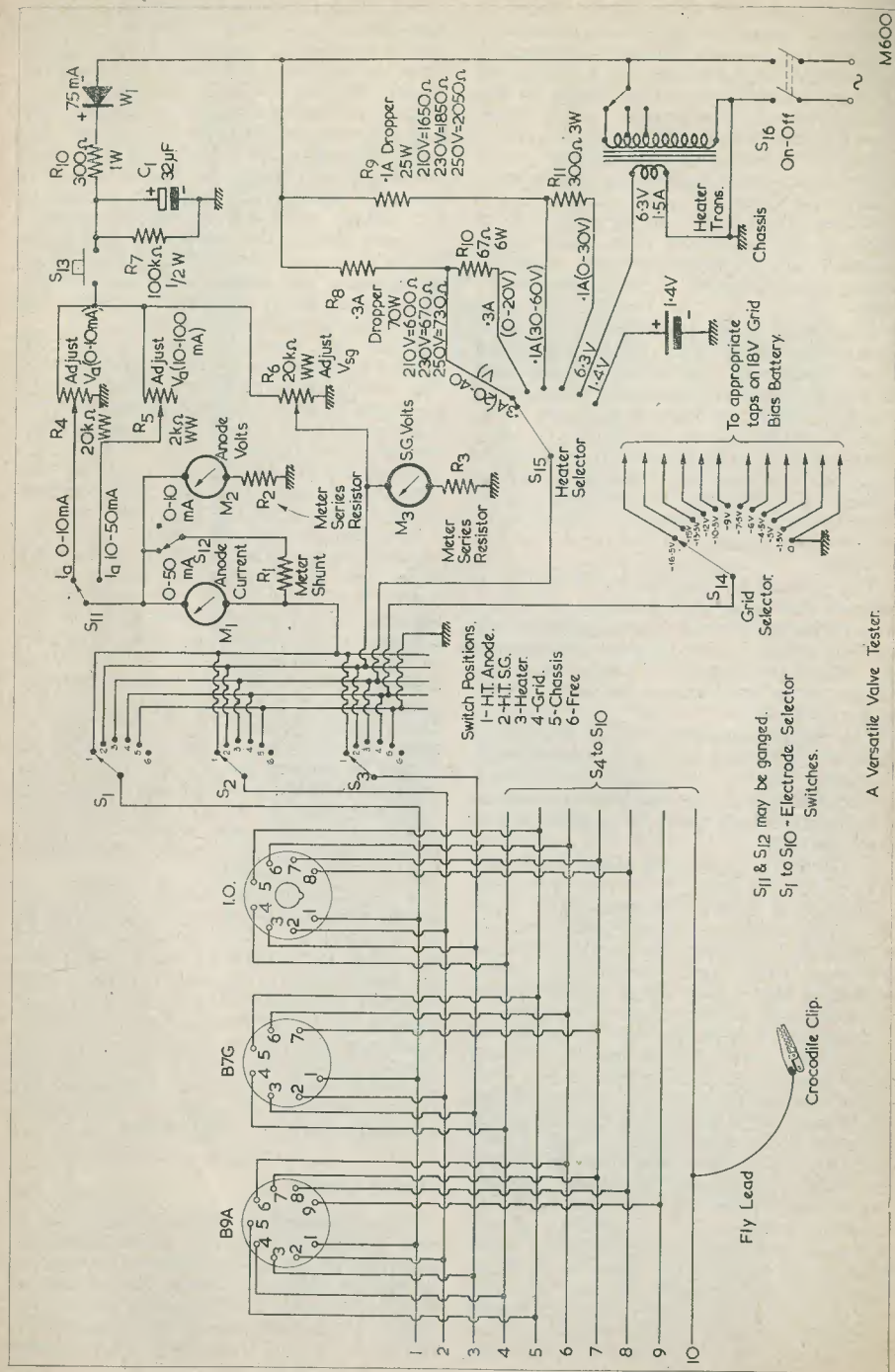
Meter M<sub>2</sub> measures the h.t. potential applied to the anode of the valve under test. The meter movement and series resistor employed here are left to the discretion of the constructor, who may wish to employ components already on hand. There is no necessity for the meter movement to be very sensitive, although its f.s.d. current should preferably not be greater than 10mA or so.

The next position on switches S<sub>1</sub> to S<sub>10</sub> causes the appropriate electrode of the valve under test to be connected to the "H.T. Screen Grid" circuit. In this instance the electrode is connected to the slider of R<sub>6</sub>, whereupon any positive potential from zero to full h.t. voltage, may be selected. Once again a voltmeter, M<sub>3</sub> with series resistor R<sub>3</sub>, measures the voltage applied to the valve. The remarks concerning the sensitivity of meter M<sub>2</sub> apply to this instrument also. It should be pointed out that the h.t. rectifier specified does not allow for more than a few milliamps drain in the M<sub>2</sub> and M<sub>3</sub> circuits. If insensitive meters are employed, it might be advisable to give a correspondingly higher rating to the h.t. rectifier.

The h.t. supply to both screen-grid and anode circuits of the tester are controlled by push-button S<sub>13</sub>. This button is depressed only when current and voltage measurements are being taken. The section of the tester which provides the h.t. voltage is given by rectifier W<sub>1</sub>, limiter resistor R<sub>10</sub> and reservoir condenser C<sub>1</sub>. The bleeder resistor R<sub>7</sub> ensures that the electrolytic condenser discharges when the equipment is switched off. As may be seen, this part of the tester is extremely simple and inexpensive.

## Heater Circuits

When an electrode selector switch is set to the "heater" position, the appropriate electrode of the valve under test is coupled to the arm of S<sub>15</sub>, the heater selector switch. S<sub>15</sub> then selects a suitable supply circuit. All supply circuits provide heater voltage with respect to chassis, whereupon it is necessary



for the heater pin of the valve under test which does not connect to S<sub>15</sub> to be connected to chassis.

The first setting of S<sub>15</sub> is intended for 0.3 amp valve heaters whose voltages lie between 20 and 40. The heater dropper R<sub>8</sub> then ensures that the required current flows. The second position of S<sub>15</sub> is intended for 0.3 amp heaters whose voltage is less than 20, resistor R<sub>10</sub> being inserted to accommodate the lower heater voltage. The same principle is employed in the third and fourth switch positions, these catering for 0.1 amp heaters having voltages between 30 and 60, and voltages less than 30. It was considered necessary to provide two voltage settings for 0.3 and 0.1 amp heaters when design values were initially worked out, because any attempt to employ a single dropper value for all heaters in each current division would result in excessive disparities for heaters having low and high voltages. The values required in R<sub>8</sub> and R<sub>9</sub> are shown for differing mains voltages.

The next heater selector position is intended for 6.3 volt valves. In this case the circuitry is very simple, the requisite voltage being provided by the secondary of a conventional heater transformer.

The final heater selector position is for 1.4 volt valves. In this case the source of supply is a single 1.4 volt cell. Apart from the points mentioned above, the use of a cell in this position offers the advantage of a d.c. supply for the filament of the valve under test. Emission and mutual conductance readings taken from a battery valve whose filament is heated by a.c. are sometimes liable to be a little misleading. The cell employed here can be of any type, although it might be preferable to use a unit of the type intended for electric bell systems. The life of such a cell would be very long indeed.

Returning to the electrode selector switches S<sub>1</sub> to S<sub>10</sub>, the next position to be considered is the "grid" setting. This causes the appropriate electrode to be connected to S<sub>14</sub>, the grid selector switch. S<sub>14</sub> connects to a series of negative voltages lying between the limits zero and 16.5 volts, and increasing in steps of 1.5 volts. The voltage source here is provided by an 18-volt grid bias battery (or by two 9-volt batteries in series) the switch contacts connecting directly to the individual battery taps. Since there is no current drain on the grid bias batteries their life in the tester should be equivalent to their shelf life. A minor anomaly concerning the batteries employed in the tester is that the grid bias cells are quoted as having potentials of 1.5 volts whilst the single cell for filament valves is quoted as having a potential of 1.4 volts. The reason for this difference is that it is conventional to assume that a dry cell has a

potential of 1.5 volts off load, and a potential centring around 1.4 volts on load.

The next setting of switches S<sub>1</sub> to S<sub>10</sub> causes the appropriate electrode to be coupled to "chassis." The chassis connection is employed for electrodes such as suppressor grids and cathodes, and for heater or filament terminals which are not connected to the heater selector switch.

The final electrode selector switch setting is designated "free." This setting is mainly intended for "internal connection" pins, which must not be connected to any external circuit.

### Operation

A description of operation of the valve tester will be more readily understood if an example with an actual valve is described. Such a valve could be type 6V6.

Reference to a valve manual gives all the information required for testing the 6V6. It is first of all necessary to set up switches S<sub>1</sub> to S<sub>10</sub>. Pin 1 of a 6V6 is "not connected," whereupon we may leave S<sub>1</sub> in the "free" position. Pin 2 is a heater pin, and so we may set S<sub>2</sub> to "heater." Pin 3 is anode, and we correspondingly set S<sub>3</sub> to "H.T. anode." Pin 4 is screen-grid, whereupon S<sub>4</sub> is set to "H.T. screen-grid." Pin 5 is control grid, and S<sub>5</sub> is therefore set to the "grid" position. Pin 6 is, in practice, "no pin," whereupon S<sub>6</sub> is left in the "free" position. Pin 7 is the second heater pin, so S<sub>7</sub> may be set to "chassis." Pin 8 is cathode (and beam plates), so S<sub>8</sub> may also be set to "chassis." S<sub>9</sub> and S<sub>10</sub> are not required and they may be left in the "free" position.

The next switches to set up are S<sub>11</sub>, S<sub>12</sub>. These should be set to the 0-50mA position. S<sub>15</sub> should next be set to 6.3 volts. R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> should be at the minimum voltage ends of their tracks.

The valve manual\* gives operating characteristics for a 6V6 at 180 volts anode and screen-grid potential and -8.5 volts grid bias. S<sub>14</sub> should, therefore, next be set to -9 volts, this being the tap nearest to the grid voltage specified. The 6V6 may now be plugged in. After the valve has warmed up S<sub>13</sub> is depressed and R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> are adjusted to give readings of 180 volts in M<sub>2</sub> and M<sub>3</sub>. The anode current quoted in the manual for -8.5 volts grid voltage is 29mA at 180 volts. The valve tester offers 9 volts, whereupon the anode current of good valves should centre at a figure slightly lower than 29mA. S<sub>13</sub> should next be released and S<sub>14</sub> set to -7.5 volts. S<sub>13</sub> should then be depressed again and the new anode current checked. If necessary R<sub>5</sub>, and possibly R<sub>6</sub>, may be slightly readjusted to return to the previous

\* The figures quoted here are obtained from the *Brimar Radio Valve and Teletube Manual No. 7*.

anode and screen-grid voltages of 180. The difference between the two anode current readings then represents the change in anode current given by a change in grid potential of 1.5 volts, and the mutual conductance may be quickly ascertained from this difference. If the change in anode current had been 6mA the mutual conductance would have been  $6 \times 1/1.5$  or 4 mA/volt. The mutual conductance quoted in the manual for the test potentials just detailed is 3.7mA/volt, and so a 6V6 showing 4mA/volt may be considered as being in good condition.

Two points arise from the above description of operation. One of these concerns the push button S<sub>13</sub>. The purpose of S<sub>13</sub> is to ensure that h.t. is applied to the valve only when a reading is desired. S<sub>13</sub> should not be kept depressed when S<sub>14</sub> is being adjusted or the valve under test may momentarily receive zero bias between switch contacts. The presence of S<sub>13</sub> helps also to ensure that h.t. is not accidentally applied during setting up.

The second point arising from the description of operation concerns R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub>. Due to the fact that it is undesirable to operate certain multi-electrode valves with low anode and high screen-grid potentials, R<sub>6</sub> should not be set to a high potential whilst R<sub>4</sub>, or R<sub>5</sub>, are at the low voltage ends of their tracks.

#### Warning

*Before concluding, it must be reiterated that, in order to reduce expense, the valve tester design employs a.c./d.c. techniques, and that it consequently has a chassis which is connected to one side of the mains. As a result the normal safety rules applicable to equipment with live chassis must be observed. In the case of this particular unit it would be advisable to house the components in a wooden cabinet and to ensure that the panel on which valve holders and switches are mounted is made of insulating material. Care should also be taken to avoid shock when testing metallised or "metal" valves in the unit.*

## Can Anyone Help?

Requests for information are inserted in this section free of charge, subject to space being available

**BC.348R Receiver.**—R. Brown, 7 Marlborough Street, Dunkirk, Nottingham, wishes to convert this set to a double superhet, and would be glad if any reader can lend or sell him the circuit of the original.

**1155 Receiver.**—R. Webb, 4 Frith Close, Glenfield, near Leicester, needs full alignment details, and does not mind cost.

**Ekco PB-199 Receiver.**—P. Bithell of 61 Banbury Road, Stratford-on-Avon asks if anyone can help him obtain a service sheet for this set, which was made in 1938.

**Electronic Organ.**—H. D. Cowin, Maclay Hall, 17 Park Terrace, Glasgow C.3, makes a plea for information concerning the construction of a 3-octave polyphonic pedal board and ancillary generating and amplifying equipment to augment an existing reed organ. The equipment must be reasonably cheap, if possible using surplus valves such as the ARP.12, and it would be to advantage to include several stops, basically 8ft and 16ft flutes and 8ft and 16ft diapasons.

**R.1471 Receiver.**—D. M. Rogers, 31/33 Nelson Street, Southport, Lancs., asks for information and the circuit on this receiver. Can anyone help?

**Broadcast Receiver type BV.613, cat. ZA.24798.**—R. H. W. Sherwood, Ridgeway House, A.E.R.E., Harwell, Berks, would like to borrow a circuit diagram of and any information on this Army medium wave receiver which works from a 6V d.c. supply.

**Ekco A.28 Receiver.**—P. McKendry, 62 Regina Road, Finsbury Park, London, N.4, wants to borrow, or preferably buy, the circuit diagram with component values and modification data for this mains receiver.

**H.M.V. 1824 and Sobell 121T T.V. Receivers.**—W. R. Pritchard, 4 Handside Close, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, would like to purchase service sheets for these televisions.

**Type 4 or 5 Valve Tester.**—R. J. Cooke, 17 Princes Gardens, Peterborough, Northants, would like to borrow the instruction book, postage gladly refunded.

**BC.342 Receiver.**—R. W. Roberts, 1 Parc-y-dre, Ruthin, Denbighshire, N. Wales, would like to borrow or buy the full manual, and is also prepared to lend or swap any of the first four volumes of Newnes *Radio and Television Servicing* in exchange.

**PCR.3 Receiver.**—T. C. Keogh, 11 Marlborough Parade, Hillingdon, Middlesex, requires the manual—all expenses paid.

**Viewmaster T.V. Receiver.**—W. H. Jarvis, 14 Manor Road, Barnet, Herts, wishes to obtain the circuit diagram, etc., for this television, and is willing to pay costs, etc.

**Columbia C.505 Televisor.**—D. Millard, 48 Queens Park Road, Harbourne, Birmingham, wishes to buy, hire or borrow a service sheet, or to obtain the resistor values for the video stage.

## IN YOUR WORKSHOP



This month Smithy the Serviceman discusses an unfamiliar cause of instability with his assistant Dick

A VERY COMMON TRICK EMPLOYED BY writers of fiction who wish to emphasise the qualities of their main characters consists of introducing a second personality with markedly contrasting traits. Thus, the plodding, bumbling Dr. Watson throws into sharper relief the temperamental and brilliant Holmes. This technique seems to be especially prevalent in those stories which concern themselves with crime: Sexton Blake had (or is it still has?) his Tinker, Dr. Fell his terrified secretary, Nero Wolfe his Archie Goodwin, and so on. Some characters, of course, are sufficiently strong to stand out on their own in one way (like Lord Peter Wimsey, Maigret and Ellery Queen) or the other (like Hank Jansen).

Smithy the Serviceman, who had never heard of Hank Jansen, and his assistant Dick, who had read every Hank Jansen story published, could not, however, be described as having strongly contrasting characters. Instead of being 180 degrees out of phase with each other, as it were, they were both fairly closely matched. In most of their common interests one of the pair might lead and the other might lag, but the difference between them would be a matter of degree only.

Perhaps the most noticeable dissimilarity between the two lay in their attitude to their work and to the world in general. Once immersed in the entrails of a chassis, Smithy was lost to his immediate surroundings; and it was only after he had successfully run down to earth the cause of the particular fault he

was investigating that he came back to reality—whereupon, for a few moments, he would gaze a little absent-mindedly at the workshop around him. Dick, on the other hand, had a lively curiosity about anything and everything and, whilst his work took up much of his interest, the keenness of that interest was no greater than his keenness in any other of his activities.

One cold and foggy winter afternoon found the pair hard at work at their respective benches. Smithy had before him a receiver which suffered from instability at low signal levels, whilst Dick was working on an a.c./d.c./battery portable.

#### Instability

After a while Smithy gave a sudden grunt of satisfaction. He applied his soldering iron to a joint on the chassis and carefully checked the result on the picture given by the receiver. He next pulled the aerial plug from the receiver input socket and checked the receiver on all channels. Whatever the setting of its contrast control, it showed up a clean raster with nothing more detrimental than the self-generated noise from its tuner input stage.

Smithy straightened up and leaned back a little.

"Ah," he remarked, with considerable satisfaction.

Dick, at the other side of the Workshop, pricked up his ears at once.

"You sound as though you've cleared a really difficult one," he remarked over his shoulder.

Smithy started a little as he realised he was being overheard.

"Well, it was a bit of a stinker," he admitted eventually. "Although I must say I've met worse."

"What was the trouble?"

"The set went unstable on weak signal levels," replied the Serviceman. "The customer who uses it gets a good Band I picture but his Band III signal is very weak. When Band III came to this district he found that he could just pick up I.T.A. with his Band I aerial, with the result that he decided to save his lolly by refusing to put up a Band III job. The fact that he's got a ghostly picture and his poor old set is straining its guts to bring the detergent ads up above noise level doesn't seem to have affected his decision at all. I often wonder why people pay the full price of a t.v. set and then spoil it by trying to save on the aerial."

"You're veering," grinned Dick.

"Am I?" said Smithy a little absently. "Well, perhaps I am. Anyway, the set I've just fixed coped O.K. with the situation until a few days ago. Then, all of a sudden, it went on strike and refused to become stable on Band III, although it still worked normally on Band I."

"What was the snag?"

"Oh, the thing you so often find when you chase an awkward fault around the chassis. Just a dry joint."

Smithy turned back to his bench, apparently under the impression that he had fully answered Dick's question.

"Yes," Dick asked plaintively, "but a dry joint where?"

"Where?" said Smithy. "Why, on the a.g.c. line, of course."

Catching sight of Dick's expression, which was almost agonised with unsatisfied curiosity, the Serviceman reluctantly realised that that he would have to impart further information.

"I suppose," he grumbled, "I won't get any peace until I give you the full story, so I'd better get it over and done with. After I got the faulty chassis into the Workshop and on to the bench I started to put it through its paces. In cases of instability of this nature you can almost always be certain that one or more stages in the tuner or i.f. strip are on the verge of going unstable even when the strong signal is available. In the absence of a strong signal the a.g.c. line of the receiver becomes less negative, the guilty stage, or stages, provides greater amplification, and the instability appears."

"In this instance I first of all quickly checked the receiver on both Band I and Band III signals and on the channels in between. On the channels where there was no signal the receiver made no bones about

being unstable. The raster showed up white straight away, this indicating that a fair amount of i.f., the result of oscillation in the unstable section of the receiver, was hitting the video detector. Both Band I and Band III pictures showed up O.K., but this was merely because our very superior Workshop aerials pick up a good signal. I decided that the next thing to do was to reproduce the set-up existing at the customer's house in which Band III signal level was very weak."

"How did you do that?" broke in Dick eagerly. "Did you bung a bit of gash wire into the centre connector of the aerial socket and rely on the small amount of pick-up you got off that?"

"I did not," replied Smithy, with quiet dignity, "bung a bit of gash wire into the aerial socket of the receiver. Instead, I put attenuators in series with the Band III aerial until signal strength was sufficiently low for the instability to appear. I had two reasons for doing this, one being that, with a snag which repeated itself as reliably as this one did, it was a quick method of getting the set ready for trouble-shooting. Anyway, having connected the set up in the aforementioned manner, I next decided to have a closer look at the chassis."

"What was the second reason for not using the bit of gash wire?" interrupted Dick. He had just commenced to smoke a cigarette and Smithy realised, with subconscious surprise, that he could not remember his assistant lighting it.

"I shall have to tell you that later on," replied Smithy, dismissing from his mind the apparent puzzle of Dick's cigarette. "Now, having got the set unstable, the next thing was to decide where the faulty component causing the instability was situated. My first action was to give the chassis a perfunctory butcher's to see if there was any obvious fault which could be readily seen. As I have been dinning into your unreceptive ears ever since you've been in the Workshop, the policy of spending a minute or two looking for obvious faults pays off excellent dividends."

"But I always do do that," protested Dick. "Do you?" queried Smithy. "What about that sound receiver you had yesterday? You spent half-an-hour on it before you tumbled to the fact that someone at the customer's home had swapped over the i.f. and frequency-changer valves."

"Ah, yes," said Dick, "but that was an exception. Who'd think of looking for valves in the wrong holders?"

"I would, for one," replied Smithy, "and so would any other service engineer who'd grown cynical with the years, as I have. Anyway, let's get back to that instability."

#### A.G.C. Line

"Now, my quick look around for the

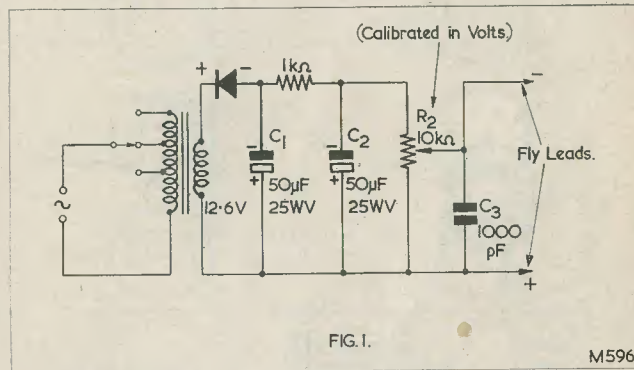
obvious," continued Smithy, "revealed nothing whatsoever, and so I had to search for something a little more hidden. I decided that I'd have a bash at seeing if I could isolate the trouble in either the i.f. strip or in the turret tuner. In this particular set a process like this was quite easy because the i.f. strip and tuner unit had a.g.c. lines which were fairly well separated from each other by a potential divider near the grid of the sync separator. So I first of all applied the trusty Workshop a.g.c. cheater<sup>1</sup> to the a.g.c. line going to the i.f. strip. With the cheater set to zero output volts the instability remained unchanged. As I put increased negative volts on the a.g.c. line the white raster on the screen merely got fainter and fainter, until it finally disappeared altogether at a negative voltage around 4 to 5. This was a very much greater a.g.c. bias than would occur under weak signal conditions and, so far as I could see, this check exonerated the i.f. strip altogether. Had the instability suddenly

decoupling condensers on the tuner a.g.c. line and, after removing the cheater, I at once checked these by shunting another across them. But I had no success. They were both entirely above suspicion."

"Hmm," remarked Dick, putting a second newly-lit cigarette to his lips, "it sounds as though you had an awkward one. At this stage, I'm afraid, I would have had terrible visions of digging my way into the tuner and seeing if there were any further a.g.c. decoupling components here which might have gone faulty."

"Once more," said the Serviceman, "exactly the same thought occurred to me. And I, also, had several unhappy moments pondering on it. However, a look at the circuit diagram of the set soon showed me that the only a.g.c. circuitry inside the tuner consisted of a leak to the cascode control grid and so I felt that there was not much risk of trouble here. I decided instead that there was something a little fishy on the a.g.c. line

Fig. 1. The "a.g.c. cheater" employed in the Workshop. The fly-leads connect to chassis and to the a.g.c. line under investigation, whereupon suitable voltages at a source impedance low enough to swamp out that existing in the receiver may be selected by R<sub>2</sub>. The rectifier in the cheater may be a germanium diode having a high turn-over voltage



disappeared as I turned the cheater potentiometer from zero to a low negative potential I would have definitely suspected the i.f. strip as being unstable. Anyway, the next thing I did was to re-set the cheater potentiometer to zero volts and connect its fly lead to the a.g.c. input tag of the tuner. Whereupon, to my surprise, the instability cleared up at once!"

"That's queer," said Dick. "Do you think the low impedance to chassis provided by the cheater output was bypassing a faulty a.g.c. decoupling condenser?"

"You're a very good boy," said Smithy approvingly, "because that is exactly what I did, at first, think. There were only two

itself and so I applied the valve-voltmeter between the tuner a.g.c. line and chassis."

"It's a good thing," remarked Dick, "that we've got such posh gear in our Workshop. I bet that quite a few of the people who write in to us every now and again don't have valve-voltmeters!"

"Perhaps not," grinned Smithy, "but I'll deal with other ways of diagnosing this fault in a moment. To return to the valve-voltmeter, I wasn't at all surprised when I found this told me that the a.g.c. line to the tuner was positive to chassis. But I was surprised to find that it was as much as some 2½ volts positive. The a.g.c. lines on quite a few t.v. sets go a little positive under low signal conditions, but it is very rare to find them going any higher than, at worst, one volt. At any event I assumed, rightly enough as it

<sup>1</sup> See Fig. 1. This device was originally described in "In Your Workshop," *The Radio Constructor*, April 1957.

has turned out, that the high positive a.g.c. voltage was causing the tuner to go unstable. "The excessive 'plusness' of the a.g.c. line made me turn once more to the circuit diagrams. In common with quite a few t.v. receivers there was a high value bleeder from the top end of the a.g.c. load to the h.t. line, its purpose being to ensure that weak signals do not cause too much negative a.g.c. Such a circuit almost always requires a clamp diode, and I suddenly fell in to the fact that the diode must have gone faulty. But in this circuit there just wasn't any diode! It wasn't until I ran my gnarled finger along the tuner a.g.c. line in the circuit that I ran it to ground."

"Where was it?" "It was in one of the valves in the i.f. strip," chuckled Smithy, "the geyser who designed the set had very neatly pinned the a.g.c. line to, of all things, the suppressor grid of one of the i.f. amplifiers!" (Fig. 2).

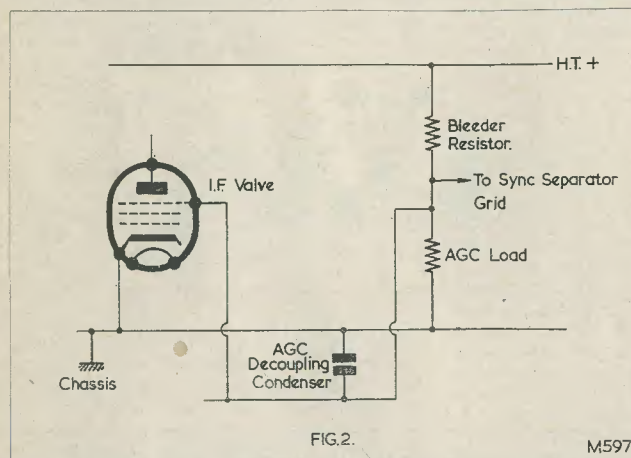


Fig. 2. It is common practice to couple the a.g.c. load resistor to the h.t. positive rail via a high value resistor. A clamp diode connected across the a.g.c. load then prevents the formation of a high positive voltage on the a.g.c. line. In this simplified circuit diagram the cathode and suppressor grid of an i.f. amplifier provide the clamp diode

"I don't get it," said Dick. "Well, it's simple enough," replied Smithy. "Provided that you don't mind a fairly high forward resistance, the suppressor grid and cathode of an i.f. valve make quite an effective diode. Such a diode is certainly good enough for an a.g.c. clamp. I need only add that, as soon as I saw this in the circuit, I immediately checked the connections in this part of the chassis. Whereupon, I found the proverbial cold joint on the suppressor grid valveholder tag."

#### Alternative Methods

"That's pretty interesting," remarked Dick. As if by magic a further freshly-lit cigarette

had appeared in his hand. "But there are still one or two points that are outstanding. For instance, how about detecting the snag without a valve-voltmeter?"

"That shouldn't be too hard," said Smithy, "although you would have to rely a little more on native intuition. If I hadn't had a valve-voltmeter I would have connected the output leads from the cheater the other way round so that its negative lead went to chassis, and would then have started taking the turret a.g.c. line slowly up from zero in the positive direction. If the instability had shown up when I had gone higher than 1 volt I would have expected, once more, a certain fishiness in the a.g.c. system."

"I see," commented Dick. "Now my next query goes back to something you mentioned earlier on. You said there were two reasons for not getting a low input signal at Band III by using an odd piece of wire as an aerial. One reason was that you wanted to have a

set of conditions similar to those in the customer's house, and one which would allow for easy trouble-shooting. What was the other reason?"

"Well, the other reason was that you occasionally get t.v. sets which go unstable if the aerial input circuit is not loaded by a proper aerial. I didn't want the risk of this occurring in the present instance as it might have given me misleading symptoms. I know that, theoretically, correct loading should presumably be given by connecting a quarter wavelength of wire to the centre connector of the aerial input socket, this resulting in something around 75 ohms aerial impedance when it is assumed that the chassis functions

as a counterpoise. In practice, though, the chassis doesn't always offer a good counterpoise and the impedance at the input socket may wander all over the place. Indeed, it is sometimes possible to promote instability by the use of a quarter wavelength of wire because the chassis, which may already have a few i.f. currents from decoupling points rumbling around its surface, is now forced to carry signal input currents as well. Instability of this nature is perhaps a little different from the case where instability results from an open aerial input circuit because it is more liable to occur on Channel I, where the signal input frequency is close to the intermediate frequency. Instability resulting from an open or incorrectly loaded aerial input circuit may occur at any channel on which the tuner feels like becoming temperamental."

that, if the set is to be used with a regular aerial, there's no point in doing this because the conditions of use automatically provide the cure. The second case of instability, wherein a single piece of wire is used as an aerial, can also be cured by the 300 to 400 ohm resistor. An alternative, and perhaps better, idea consists of connecting a yard or so of wire to the earthy side of the aerial input socket and let this act as the counterpoise. The counterpoise wire can usually be draped away somewhere out of harm's way. If the set is a portable with a single aerial rod similar instability troubles may occasionally arise, whereupon you might be able to effect a cure with the counterpoise wire, this being coiled up inside the cabinet. Taking care, of course, to ensure that the counterpoise is well insulated and is kept well away from live chassis parts."

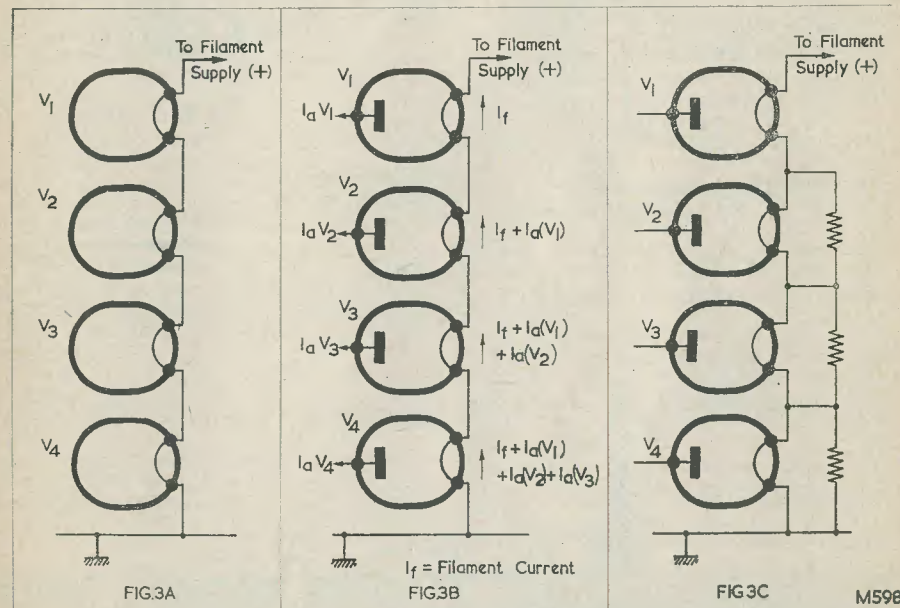


Fig. 3 (a) Filaments in a.c./d.c./battery receivers are normally connected in series. (b) As illustrated here, filaments lower down the chain have to carry the anode current of valves higher up. (c) The effect of the additional current may be counter-balanced by connecting resistors across each filament. In practice, designers usually manage to achieve sufficient protection with one or two strategically positioned resistors only

"Any cures?"

"For the case where instability occurs with the aerial circuit open," replied Smithy, "a useful cure consists of slapping a 300 to 400 ohm carbon resistor across the input to hold things down a bit. But you must remember

#### A.C./D.C./Battery Circuits

Smithy, obviously feeling that he had imparted all the instruction to his assistant that he was called upon to provide, turned back to his bench. But Dick was too swift for him.

"Smithy," he asked quickly, "I wonder if you can help me with this a.c./d.c./battery set I've got in for repair. It works perfectly well except for the fact that one of the valves seems to burn out every few months or so. I've checked over the chassis but I can't see anything out of the way."

"Well," said Smithy, frowning, "you couldn't have looked very far. Did you check the filament voltage of each bottle?"

more times do I have to tell you never to take anything for granted in the servicing game? Now, as you know, in an a.c./d.c./battery set all the filaments are connected in series like this." Smithy scribbled on a piece of paper. (Fig. 3 (a).) "If the current flowing through these filaments were only that given by the filament supply all would be well. But it ain't! This is because the valves pass not only filament current but anode current as

approach the negative end of the string. The filaments of the valves employed in a.c./d.c./battery sets are either 50 or 25mA types, and you need only a few extra milliamps, caused by anode currents higher up in the string, to give quite severe overloading lower down."

"I had never even realised that this trouble existed," commented Dick. "How do manufacturers overcome it?"

"By the simple process of shunting the filaments lower down the string with suitably valued resistors. Like this. (Fig. 3 (c).) These resistors carry the anode current of valves higher up and ensure that each filament passes its rated current. In practical receivers you may not find a single resistor across each filament as I've shown you, because the designers may have juggled things around such that, say, a single resistor across the bottom two filaments, or something of that order, gives sufficient protection. In your particular receiver I would suggest that you take a very close look at the resistor which is intended to protect the filament of the valve in question. It may have gone open or high.

"Incidentally, whilst on the subject of a.c./d.c./battery sets, I cannot offer too strong a warning to you to take care with them during servicing. Because of their very low filament currents, it's the easiest thing in the world to burn out all the valves by such things as accidentally applying a test prod to a wrong valveholder tag. It is, indeed, possible to burn out the valves even when all supplies are disconnected just by accidentally coupling a charged electrolytic across the filaments."

#### Cigarette Lighter

"O.K., Smithy," said Dick. "I'll take good care from now on."

Yet another lighted cigarette had appeared between his fingers. For the first time that morning, realisation of the mystery struggled

at last to the surface of Smithy's mind.

"Dash it all," he said, "I've just realised that you've been puffing away like a chimney for the last hour or so, and I've never yet seen you strike a match or use a cigarette lighter. How come?"

"Ah," said Dick. "I'm using my special Supervisor Baffling Cigarette Lighter.<sup>2</sup> This is designed especially for use in workshops and laboratories where, unlike you, the guv'nors are suspicious and old-fashioned."

"If," said Smithy, whose back was as impervious to "flannel" as a duck's to water, "you have got a red-hot bit of resistance wire secreted somewhere and burning up Workshop current, I shall withhold approval until I have carried out an inspection of said device. Proceed."

Dick looked a little pained.

"Well," he said, "it is a little like that, but the knobby thing about it is its disguise."

He indicated a chassis on which were mounted a transformer, a few valveholders with screening cans, some electrolytic condensers, and other small components. The chassis had the inconspicuous air that all such chassis have in Workshops.

"This chassis," said Dick, "is the disguise.

The transformer is an odd component having a 6.3 volt heater winding, and one of the valve cans is the lighter section. (Fig. 4.) An ingenious part of the design is that the element, when viewed from the top, looks just like the top spring of the valve can, thereby making the disguise even more impenetrable."

Smithy laughed out loud.

"Well, I've seen everything now," he chuckled. "But I must confess that your gadget has a certain Goon-like appeal. You can take an order from me for a second model right now!"

<sup>2</sup> This idea was contributed by reader T.A.N. of London.

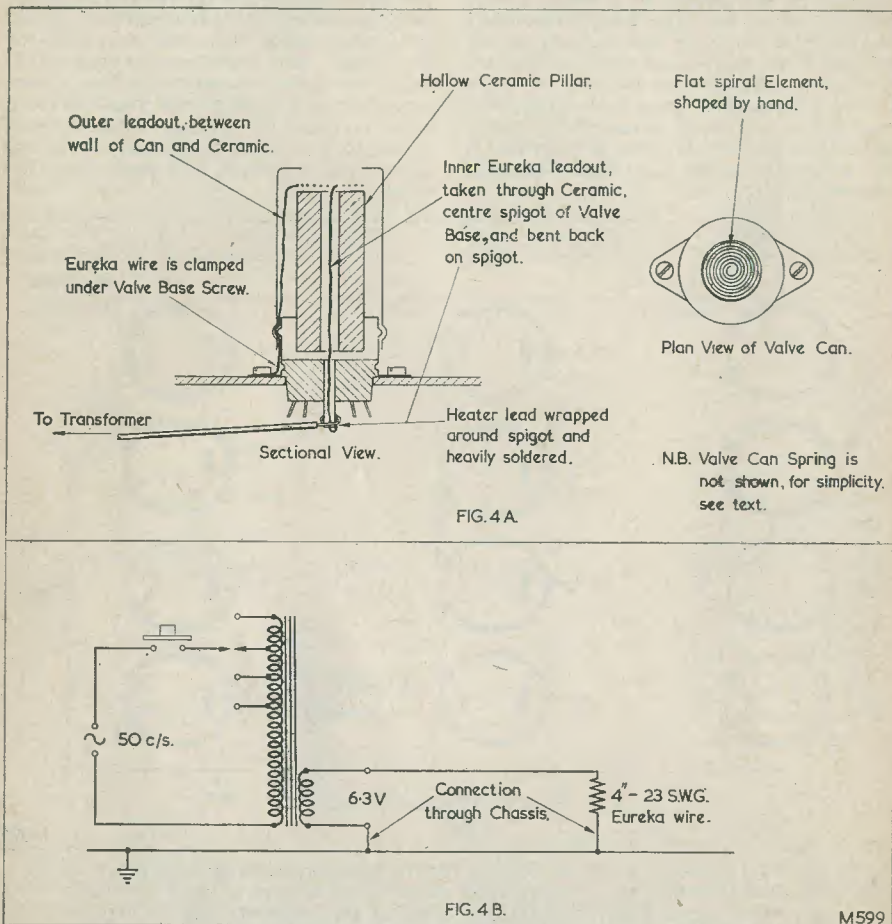


Fig. 4. Details of Dick's "disguised" cigarette lighter

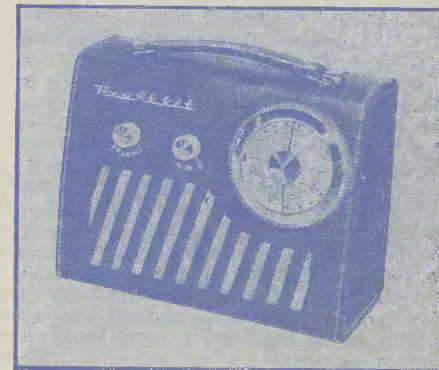
"No," admitted Dick, "but I checked across the whole string of filaments and the total voltage seemed O.K. After all, the same current has to pass through all the filaments, so why should it be only one of the valves which keeps burning out?"

"Oh dear," sighed Smithy. "How many

well. Indeed, apart from the top valve, the filament of each valve in the string has to pass the anode currents of the valves above. (Fig. 3 (b).) You can, of course, add screen-grid current to anode current where applicable. The result is that the current passed by the filaments gets progressively higher as you

## HEATHKIT 6-TRANSISTOR PORTABLE In Leather Case

The Heathkit UXR-1 Kit, illustrated here, has the latest type gold-plated printed circuit, giving high performance and making for ease of assembly. A novel point is the use of a solid leather case. Battery life is between 300 and 500 hours, with normal usage. Good quality reproduction is obtained through a special high flux wide-angle speaker; and both Medium and Long waves are covered, ensuring reliable reception of the Light programme throughout the country. Available from Daystrom Ltd., Gloucester, the kit is priced at 17 guineas including P.T.



# UNDERSTANDING TELEVISION

PART 14

By W. G. MORLEY

The fourteenth in a series of articles which, starting from first principles, describes the basic theory and practice of television

IN OUR CONSIDERATION OF THE TELEVISION receiver we have, to date, devoted our attention to the basic form of the television signal, and to the cathode ray tube. We then turned to the tuner unit which, nowadays, almost inevitably constitutes the first few stages of the receiver. The output of the tuner unit feeds into the i.f. amplifier, or "strip," of the receiver, and it is this which we shall next consider.

## The I.F. Signal

In any television system the signal picked up by the aerial consists of two modulated carriers, one of these being the vision carrier and the other the sound carrier. In Britain, both these carriers are amplitude modulated and, in consequence, have sideband frequencies which extend away from the carrier by distances up to the highest modulating frequency being handled. In the British system the highest modulating video frequency is 3 Mc/s, and this can result in the formation of sideband frequencies at spacings of 3 Mc/s on either side of the vision carrier. In practice, however, most of the frequencies on one side of the vision carrier are suppressed, with the consequence that the sidebands given by the video signal can be considered as lying mainly between the vision carrier and a frequency 3 Mc/s below it.<sup>1</sup> The sound carrier also has sidebands, these

extending on either side of the sound carrier up to the highest sound frequency handled. As the sound modulating frequencies are relatively very much lower than the carrier frequencies, the resultant sidebands occupy very little space and there is no point in suppressing these on one side of the carrier, as is the practice with the vision signal. Fig. 78 (a) illustrates the situation which appears in British television channels and shows the frequency range occupied by the vision sidebands. It will be noted that the sound carrier is 3.5 Mc/s below the vision carrier.

Also shown in Fig. 78 (a) is the sound carrier for the channel above that under consideration. With several exceptions, channel spacing in Britain is 5 Mc/s, with the result that the sound carrier for the higher channel is 5 Mc/s above the sound carrier of the channel under consideration, and is 1.5 Mc/s above its vision carrier. The exceptions just mentioned to 5 Mc/s spacing between channels appear on Channels 1 and 2 (which are spaced by 6.75 Mc/s), and also, of course, on Channels 5 and 6 (which are in separate Bands), and on Channel 13 (which is the highest channel in Band 3).

In the television tuner, before the i.f. strip,

<sup>1</sup> For a more detailed description of the British transmission characteristic, see "Understanding Television"—part 4; April 1958 issue.

the purpose of the oscillator and mixer section is to convert the incoming signal to frequencies which may be conveniently handled by the i.f. amplifier. In modern British receivers the intermediate frequency universally employed for the converted vision carrier is 34.65 Mc/s with the result that, whatever channel is being received, the oscillator is always adjusted to run at a frequency 34.65 Mc/s above the vision carrier of the channel selected.

The result of converting the signals of Fig. 78 (a) is illustrated in Fig. 78 (b). We know that the vision carrier is converted to an intermediate frequency of 34.65 Mc/s, and this is shown in the diagram. The converted sound carrier, which was previously 3.5 Mc/s below the vision carrier, now appears at 38.15 Mc/s, 3.5 Mc/s above the converted vision carrier. The reason for this transposition may be readily understood if it is remembered that the sound carrier is spaced further away from the oscillator than is the vision carrier, thereby giving a higher difference frequency. Also illustrated in Fig. 78 (b) are the single sideband of the vision carrier, this now appearing above its carrier, and the sound carrier of the adjacent channel, which now appears below the converted vision carrier at a frequency of 33.15 Mc/s. In Fig. 78 (b) the sections of the converted signal which constitute the *vision i.f.* and the *sound i.f.* are indicated.

## The I.F. Amplifier

Since the i.f. amplifier of the receiver has to handle sound and vision intermediate frequencies, it is necessary for these to be separated at some point so that they may be handled individually. A simplified method of doing this is illustrated in the block schematic diagram of Fig. 79. In this diagram the output of the tuner unit is applied to two tuned amplifiers, one handling the vision signal and the other the sound signal. The vision i.f. amplifier is tuned so that it passes frequencies within the range 34.65 to 37.65 Mc/s, whilst the sound i.f. amplifier employs relatively sharply tuned circuits tuned to 38.15 Mc/s. The output of the vision i.f. amplifier is connected to the *video detector* and, thence, via the *video amplifier* to the modulating electrode<sup>2</sup> of the cathode ray tube. At the same time the output of the sound i.f. amplifier is connected to the *sound detector* and thence, via the *audio or sound amplifier* to the loudspeaker. Thus, both vision and sound i.f. amplifiers handle their respective signals and cause these to be applied, separately, to the cathode ray tube and to the loudspeaker.

A rather more practical form of television i.f. amplifier is dealt with in Fig. 80. In Fig. 80 (a) the output of the tuner unit is applied to a common i.f. amplifier, this being

<sup>2</sup> Either the grid or the cathode. See "Understanding Television"—part 5; May 1958 issue.

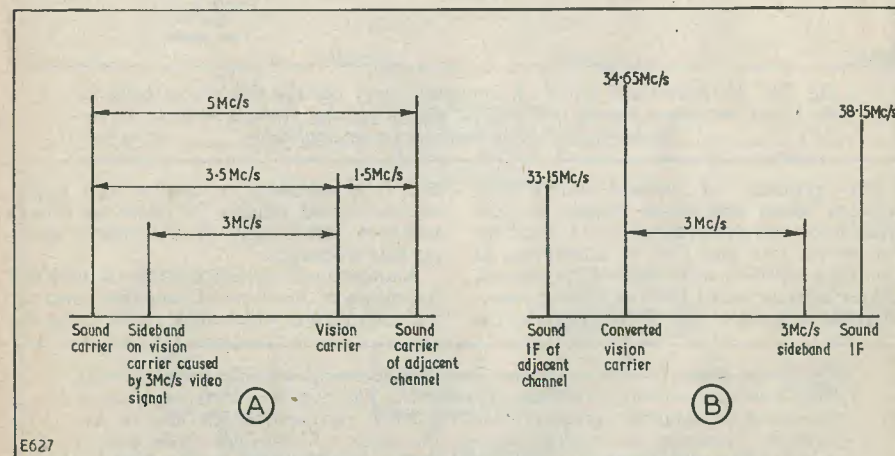


Fig. 78 (a) In a British television channel the vision information is largely contained in the range between the vision carrier and a frequency 3 Mc/s below it. The sound carrier is 3.5 Mc/s below the vision carrier. With a few exceptions, the sound carrier of the adjacent channel higher in frequency is 1.5 Mc/s above the vision carrier of the channel under consideration. (b) After conversion in the tuner unit the signal frequencies of (a) take up, in British receivers, the frequencies shown here

relatively flatly tuned and capable of amplifying signals within the range 38.15 to 34.65 Mc/s. Thus, both sound and vision i.f. signals receive amplification at this stage. The use of a common i.f. amplifier is customary in practical television receivers, and it usually employs a single valve.

After the common i.f. amplifier the signal is passed to the two separate i.f. amplifiers. The sound i.f. amplifier has relatively sharply tuned circuits, these being capable of amplifying the sound intermediate frequency and of preventing the vision intermediate frequency from reaching the sound detector at sufficient level to cause interference.

sort of response a simple tuned amplifier of this type could have and shows clearly the fact that the sound i.f. could reach the video detector at a sufficiently high level to cause interference unless some sort of special precaution was taken. This precaution consists, in practice, of fitting one or more rejector tuned circuits to the vision i.f. amplifier, these causing a sharp reduction in gain to occur at the frequencies to which they are tuned. Fig. 80 (b) illustrates a vision i.f. amplifier which has been fitted with *sound rejector* circuits tuned to 38.15 Mc/s and shows how the response is sharply modified at this frequency. In most vision i.f. ampli-

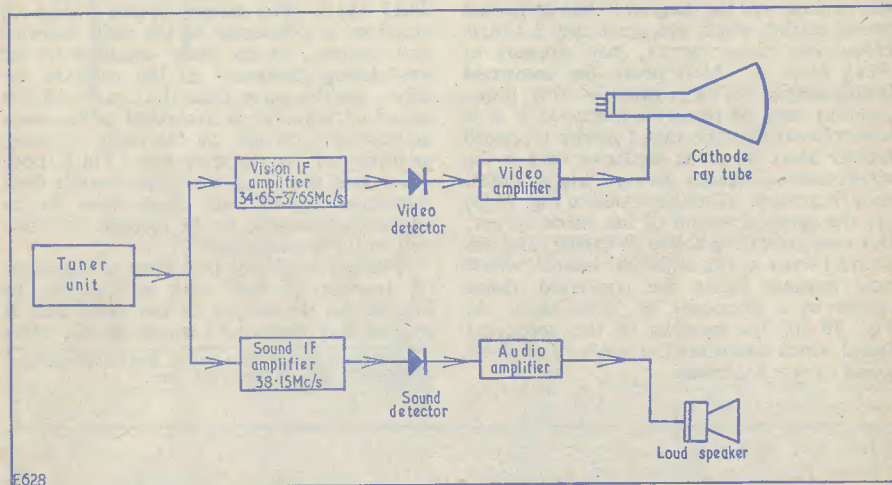


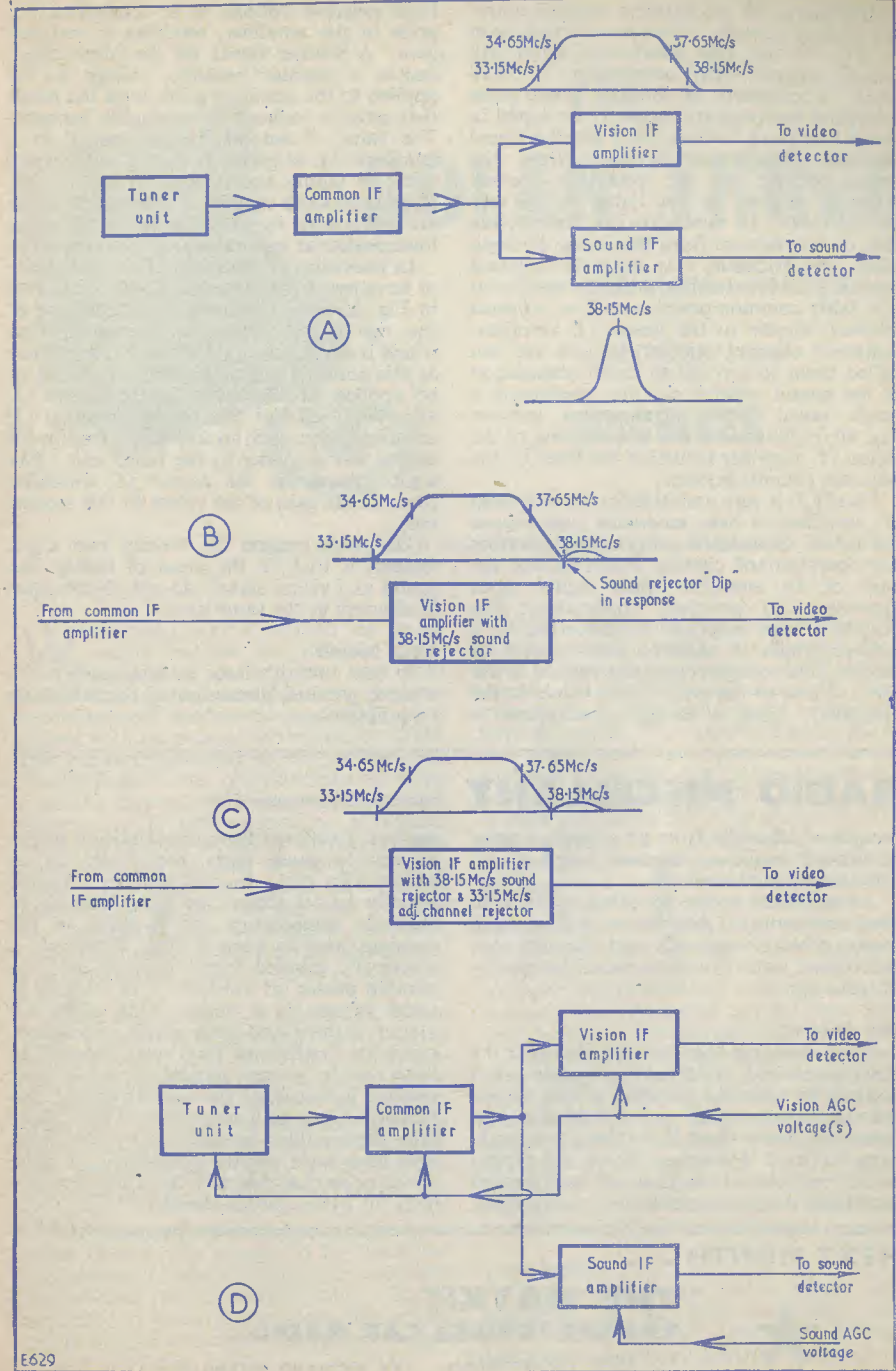
Fig. 79. The vision and sound i.f. amplifiers carry out the function of handling the vision and sound signals individually; and of passing them, separately, to the cathode ray tube or loudspeaker as applicable

The problem of mutual interference between sound and vision signals is more difficult to overcome in the vision i.f. amplifier due to the fact that this, in attempting to amplify a relatively wide band of frequencies, has to employ tuned circuits having somewhat flat responses. Fig. 80 (a) illustrates the

problem of mutual interference between sound and vision signals is more difficult to overcome in the vision i.f. amplifier due to the fact that this, in attempting to amplify a relatively wide band of frequencies, has to employ tuned circuits having somewhat flat responses. Fig. 80 (a) illustrates the

Another factor which is liable to influence the design of the vision i.f. amplifier concerns the interference which may result from the

Fig. 80 (a) Many television receivers have a common i.f. amplifier which handles both sound and vision intermediate frequencies. The relatively sharp response of the sound i.f. amplifier appears below the block representing this part of the receiver. Assuming no rejector circuits, the vision i.f. amplifier could have a response like that shown. (b) The addition of a sound rejector to the vision i.f. amplifier causes a sharp dip in response at 38.15 Mc/s. The slight rise in gain above 38.15 Mc/s illustrated in this diagram is not inevitable, although it occurs in many practical i.f. amplifiers. (c) A number of receivers have an adjacent channel rejector tuned to 33.15 Mc/s, causing thereby a reduction in response at this frequency. (d) The a.g.c. arrangement in a conventional receiver. It is customary to have more than one negative control voltage in the vision a.g.c. system, these applying different degrees of control to the various stages in the vision amplifier chain





sound carrier of the adjacent channel above the desired channel. As we have already seen in Fig. 78 (b), this interfering signal will usually appear, after conversion, at 33.15 Mc/s. Fortunately, in Britain, where most television receivers are tuned to the signal in Band 1 or Band 3 which offers greatest signal strength, interference resulting from the sound carrier of the relatively weaker adjacent channel is not liable to be very considerable. In most districts, indeed, the risk of interference from this cause is negligible. Nevertheless, it is desirable to guard against such interference, with the result that it is fairly common practice to fit an *adjacent channel rejector* to the vision i.f. amplifier. Adjacent channel rejector circuits are not called upon to provide as much attenuation as are sound rejector circuits, whereupon a single tuned circuit arrangement suffices. Fig. 80 (c) illustrates how the response of the vision i.f. amplifier is further modified by the adjacent channel rejector.

Finally, it is very desirable for the television i.f. amplifier to have *automatic gain control* (or a.g.c.). Automatic gain control describes the operation of circuits which reduce the gain of an amplifier when signal input increases. In practical applications, the output of the amplifier is converted to a voltage which is negative with respect to chassis, this voltage being then applied in the form of bias to the grids of the valves in the amplifier. Thus, a strong signal causes a

large negative voltage to be applied to the grids in the amplifier, resulting in reduced gain. A weaker signal, on the other hand, causes a smaller negative voltage to be applied to the amplifier grids, with the result that gain is reduced by a smaller amount. The value of automatic gain control in a television i.f. amplifier is that it reduces the effect of fading and it helps to ensure that strong and weak signals on different channels are reproduced by the cathode ray tube and loudspeaker at approximately the same level.

In television i.f. amplifiers it is customary to have two a.g.c. systems. These are shown in Fig. 80 (d). The more comprehensive of the two a.g.c. systems is, normally, that which is employed in the vision i.f. amplifier, as this not only causes the controlling bias to be applied to the valves in the vision i.f. amplifier itself but also to the common i.f. amplifier (when such an amplifier is employed) and to the amplifier in the tuner unit. The a.g.c. system in the sound i.f. amplifier controls the gain of the valves in this section only.

The main reason for having two a.g.c. systems is that, in the event of fading, the sound and vision signals do not always alter in strength at the same time.

#### Next Month

In next month's issue we shall commence a more detailed discussion of the television i.f. amplifier.

## RADIO MISCELLANY

*continued from page 529*

records which suffer from wow, surface noise or limited frequency response aren't cheap, however small the price."

All of which seems to bring us back to where we came in. Maybe, as in the case of many other things, it's not cheaper l.p. records we want, but more expensive ones—at less cost.

#### Dry Subject

Some time ago this column discussed the advantages and drawbacks of garden-shed workshops when the question of rust caused through condensation was considered. An interesting letter from R.J. (Slough) recently came to hand. He writes: "I am just experiencing my first winter in a self-built garden workshop and, apparently like many other

readers, I suffered from condensation severe enough to cause parts, tools, etc., to be coated with rust. In cold weather I kept a paraffin heater (convector type) burning to maintain temperature for working in the evenings and to keep it dry. However, a chemically minded friend pointed out that paraffin passes off nearly 90% of its bulk in water vapour as it burns. This might not matter if there had been ample ventilation, but with "walls" on four sides exposed to bitter winds, greater ventilation would have resulted in loss of all the warmth gained. So I changed over to a small electric fire. Since then the troubles brought on by condensation have been greatly diminished. I write in the hope that this may be of interest, and help, to other garden-shedders."

#### NEXT MONTH . . .



### THE MAYKIT TRANSISTORISED CAR RADIO

for 12V Operation BY RICHARD MYERS

# The SOLAR THREE

Miniature Transistor

Light-Operated

## RECEIVER



Designed by D. J. FRENCH, Grad.I.E.E., of Henry's Radio Ltd

WITH THE CURRENT ADVENT OF TRANSISTORS suitable for use in home-constructor designs, the ease with which truly miniature receivers may be built by the amateur has become continually more evident with the passage of the last few years. The receiver described in this article—the "Solar Three"—can be considered as being a worthy successor to previous miniaturised designs on its performance as a receiver alone. However, it differs markedly from earlier designs in one important aspect. Whilst the Solar Three gives an excellent performance purely from the receiver point of view, it has the further especial distinction of possessing no battery supplies whatsoever. The circuit is powered entirely by light energy.

Due to the fact that it is light operated, the Solar Three can be truthfully described as having running costs which are nil. Whenever it is decided to use the receiver all that is necessary is either to place it in daylight, whereupon all power is obtained from the energy radiated by the sun, or, in the evening, near an electric light bulb. In both cases, operating power is obtained completely free of charge.

The light-sensitive section of the receiver which causes light energy to be translated into electrical energy employs six selenium barrier-layer photo-electric cells. These, connected in series, provide operating potentials of up to 2 volts according to the strength of light available.

When checked in the London area the receiver proved capable of providing, from local transmissions, a volume level well in excess of that which the hearing-aid insert connected to its output circuit could comfortably handle. This occurred when the set was placed near a window on a dull and completely overcast day. When the receiver was placed on the windowsill it was necessary to close the plastic lid of its case so that the light striking the photo-cells could be reduced to that which resulted in comfortable listening level. Even then, volume on one of the local stations had to be reduced by turning the receiver such that its ferrite frame was in a position close to that of minimum sensitivity. At night time a more than adequate output level was available when the receiver was positioned several feet away from a 100 watt electric light bulb.

Apart from its fascinating ability to operate from light rays, the Solar Three adequately meets the normal requirements of a pocket transistor receiver in the personal class. It is completely self-contained, it is housed in a neat plastic case measuring 4½ x 3 x 1½ in, and it has its own ferrite frame aerial. As was mentioned above, its audio output is fed to a miniature hearing aid insert.

#### The Circuit

The circuit of the Solar Three takes advantage of the very successful reflex arrangement employed in the Minor-One and Major-Two receivers described recently in

this magazine.\* The basic circuitry of the two receivers then described has been modified somewhat to fit it for its present application, the major change being the

\* The Minor-One and Major-Two, Personal Transistor Receivers, by D. J. French, *The Radio Constructor*, October, 1958.

addition of a third transistor to provide added a.f. gain.

The complete circuit of the Solar Three is illustrated in Fig. 1. Commencing at the input-end of the circuit, the receiver functions in the following manner. Variable condenser C<sub>1</sub> tunes winding L<sub>1</sub> of the ferrite frame

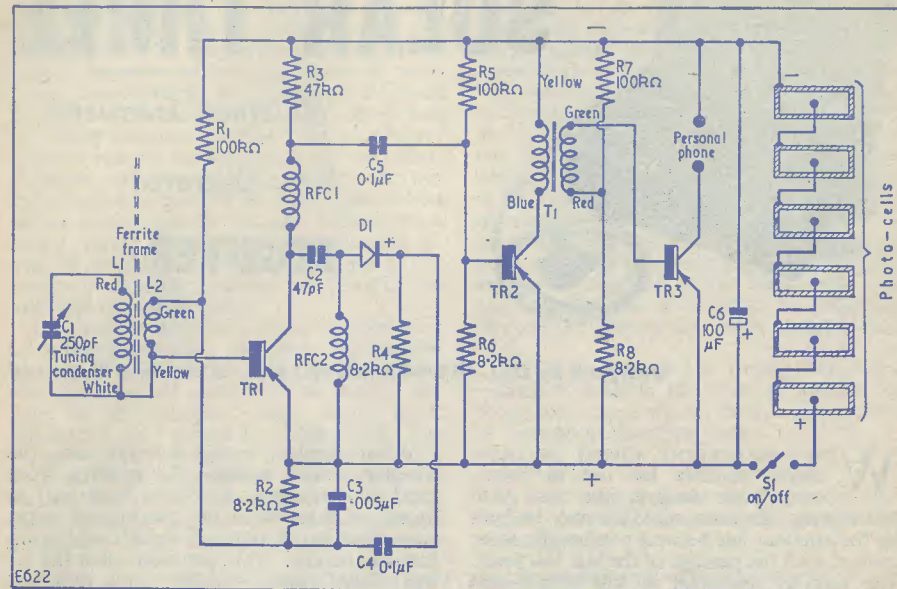


Fig. 1. The complete circuit of the Solar Three receiver

#### Components List

##### Resistors (all 1/4 watt)

- R<sub>1</sub> 100kΩ
- R<sub>2</sub> 8.2kΩ
- R<sub>3</sub> 4.7kΩ
- R<sub>4</sub> 8.2kΩ
- R<sub>5</sub> 100kΩ
- R<sub>6</sub> 8.2kΩ
- R<sub>7</sub> 100kΩ
- R<sub>8</sub> 8.2kΩ

##### Transistors

- TR<sub>1</sub> XA103, White Spot
- TR<sub>2</sub>, TR<sub>3</sub> XB104, Red Spot
- See text for alternatives

##### Photo-Cells

- 6 light cells 43mm x 17mm, Type B, with special solder (Henry's Radio Ltd.)

##### Inductors

- L<sub>1</sub>, L<sub>2</sub> Ferrite aerial, type M2 (Henry's Radio Ltd.)
- RFC<sub>1</sub> RFC<sub>2</sub> 1.55mH, High-Q (Henry's Radio Ltd.)
- T<sub>1</sub> Audio transformer 8 1/2:1, type D240 (Henry's Radio Ltd.)

##### Condensers

- C<sub>1</sub> 250pF variable miniature (Henry's Radio Ltd.)
- C<sub>2</sub> 47pF ceramic or silver-mica
- C<sub>3</sub> 0.005μF paper
- C<sub>4</sub>, C<sub>5</sub> 0.1μF 150V wkg paper
- C<sub>6</sub> 100μF 18V wkg electrolytic (Henry's Radio Ltd.)

##### Diode

- D<sub>1</sub> Germanium diode, OA70, GD3, GEX34, or similar

##### Sundries

- 1 Hearing aid insert, 400-1,000Ω impedance
- 3 Transistor holders (Henry's Radio Ltd.)
- 1 Chassis (component board), Solar Three type (Henry's Radio Ltd.)
- 1 Drilled case, Solar Three type (Henry's Radio Ltd.)
- 1 Photo-cell mounting plate (Henry's Radio Ltd.)
- 1 Push-button on-off switch

aerial, thereby selecting the signal required. A low impedance winding on the ferrite frame, L<sub>2</sub>, applies the selected signal to base and emitter of TR<sub>1</sub>, this transistor then functioning as an r.f. amplifier. The amplified r.f. signal at the collector of TR<sub>1</sub> becomes built up across RFC<sub>1</sub>, whereupon it is then applied, via C<sub>2</sub>, to the germanium diode D<sub>1</sub>. RFC<sub>2</sub> ensures that a d.c. return to the positive supply line is available at the "anode" terminal of the diode. The detected signal appears across R<sub>4</sub>, after which it is fed back, via C<sub>4</sub>, to the base of TR<sub>1</sub>.

TR<sub>1</sub> now carries out its secondary function of audio amplifier, whereupon it amplifies the detected a.f. signal applied to its base and emitter in conventional fashion. The collector connects, via RFC<sub>1</sub>, to the a.f. collector load, R<sub>3</sub>, after which it is passed via C<sub>5</sub> to TR<sub>2</sub> for amplification in normal manner. Due to the fact that transistor TR<sub>1</sub> carries out the dual functions of simultaneously amplifying r.f. and a.f. signals it can be described as operating in classic reflex fashion.

Before proceeding further, it would be interesting to devote a little more time to the functions carried out by some of the components in the TR<sub>1</sub> stage. This will not only assist in assessing the general operation of a very practicable transistor reflex circuit but it will also ensure that individual component functions are fully appreciated by the constructor. Typical of the double rôle played by components in reflex positions is that of condenser C<sub>3</sub>. At radio frequencies this condenser has a low impedance, with the result that the signal frequency voltage developed across coupling winding L<sub>2</sub> is effectively applied between base and emitter of TR<sub>1</sub>. At audio frequencies C<sub>3</sub> presents an impedance which is relatively high compared with the resistance of the diode load R<sub>4</sub>. In consequence it has very little bypassing effect on the a.f. fed to the base of TR<sub>1</sub> via condenser C<sub>4</sub>. Condenser C<sub>2</sub> and RFC<sub>2</sub> similarly function in two different manners. At r.f. C<sub>2</sub> has a low and RFC<sub>2</sub> a high impedance, whereupon r.f. at the collector of TR<sub>1</sub> is passed with little attenuation to diode D<sub>1</sub>. On the other hand C<sub>2</sub> has a high and RFC<sub>2</sub> a very low impedance to a.f., with the result that virtually none of the amplified a.f. appearing at the collector of TR<sub>1</sub> finds its way back into the detector circuit. Yet another component, RFC<sub>1</sub>, ensures that the two-way purpose of the circuit is fulfilled. At radio frequencies it has a high impedance thereby offering an adequate collector load for TR<sub>1</sub>. At audio frequencies it has a very low impedance, with the result that amplified a.f. may be built up across resistor R<sub>3</sub>.

Transistor TR<sub>2</sub> is a conventional a.f. amplifier which operates in an earthed emitter circuit. Its collector feeds into the

miniature coupling transformer T<sub>1</sub>, the secondary of which connects to the output transistor TR<sub>3</sub>. The collector of TR<sub>3</sub> feeds directly into the output headphone.

In all three stages, including the input reflex stage, bias for the transistors is obtained by a fixed potentiometer connected across the supply lines. The resistors concerned in providing bias are R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> for TR<sub>1</sub>; R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>6</sub> for TR<sub>2</sub>; and R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>8</sub> for TR<sub>3</sub>. The bias resistor values are the same at each stage.

Also shown in Fig. 1 are the six selenium photo-cells which provide the operating power for the receiver. These cells are connected in series, their output being fed, via switch S<sub>1</sub>, to the receiver circuits proper. A high-value electrolytic condenser, C<sub>6</sub>, ensures that the impedance of the power supply is kept to a negligibly low figure. The output given by the photo-cells varies according to the amount of light which falls on them, the maximum potential being of the order of 2 volts. Current consumption in the receiver is surprisingly low, it being approximately 1mA only at 2 volts.

The on-off switch shown in the diagram is not entirely necessary as there are, obviously, no batteries to conserve. However, it was decided to include the switch in order to avoid any deleterious effects which might be caused by the electrolytic condenser. The circuit does not include a volume control, because control of output may be obtained by the very simple process of shading the photo-cells or of turning the receiver so that the directional effect of the ferrite frame becomes apparent. Should it be decided to fit a volume control, however, such a component could consist of a 10kΩ potentiometer connected in place of R<sub>4</sub>, C<sub>4</sub> being connected to the slider.

#### The Transistors

The receiver may be constructed employing only those transistors which are specified in the parts list. However, the choice of transistor type is not excessively critical and the following information may be of assistance to readers who wish to employ alternatives.

TR<sub>1</sub> can be an XA103 type, as specified, or it can consist of any similar transistor having an alpha cut-off frequency greater than 2 Mc/s.

Transistors TR<sub>2</sub> and TR<sub>3</sub> may be XB104, as specified, or they may be Red Spot or any other low consumption audio type. Greater output will be made available if an XC101 is employed in the TR<sub>3</sub> position.

It is advisable to ensure that transistor lead-outs are not soldered directly into the circuit, as the compact layout of the receiver would necessitate soldering to shortened leads, with the consequent risk of overheating.

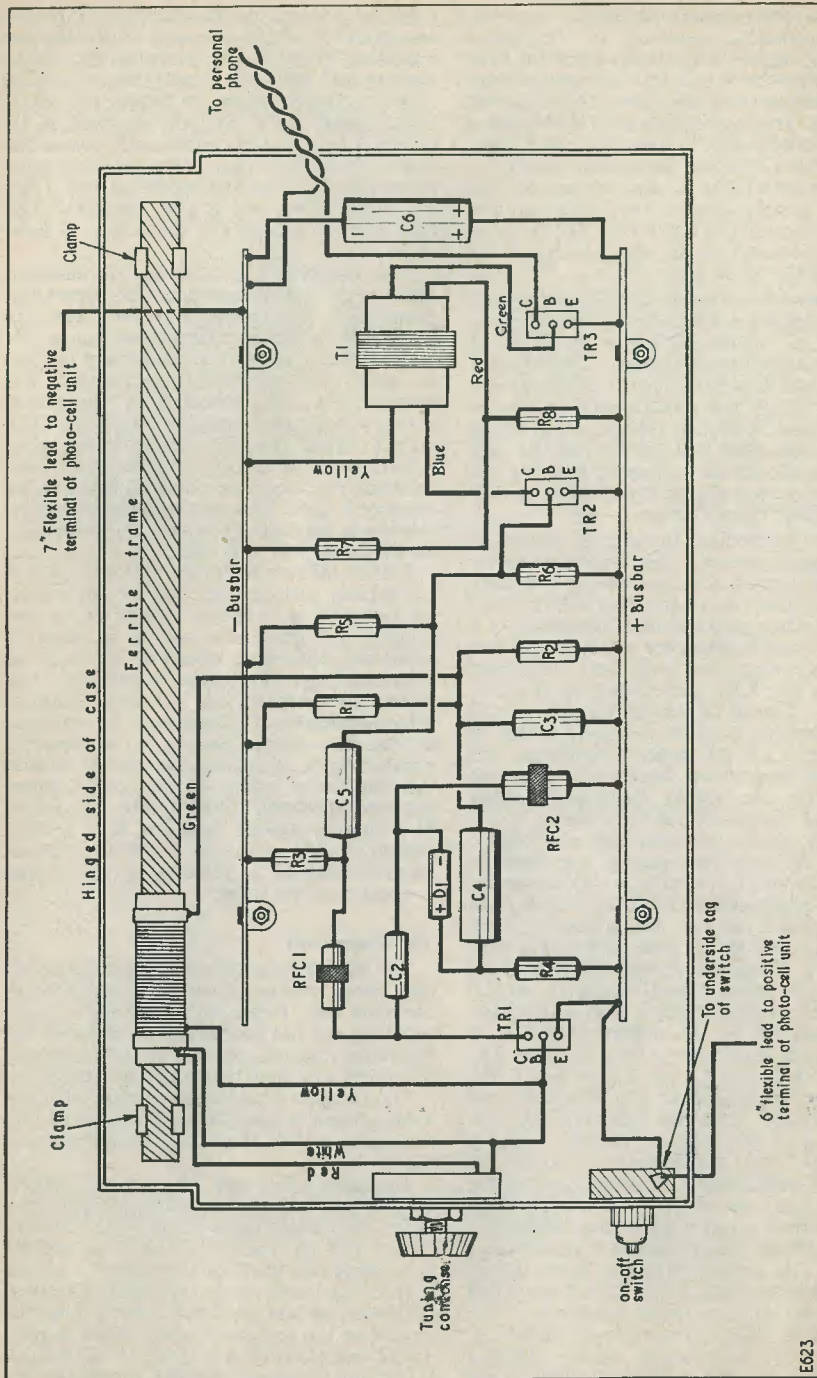
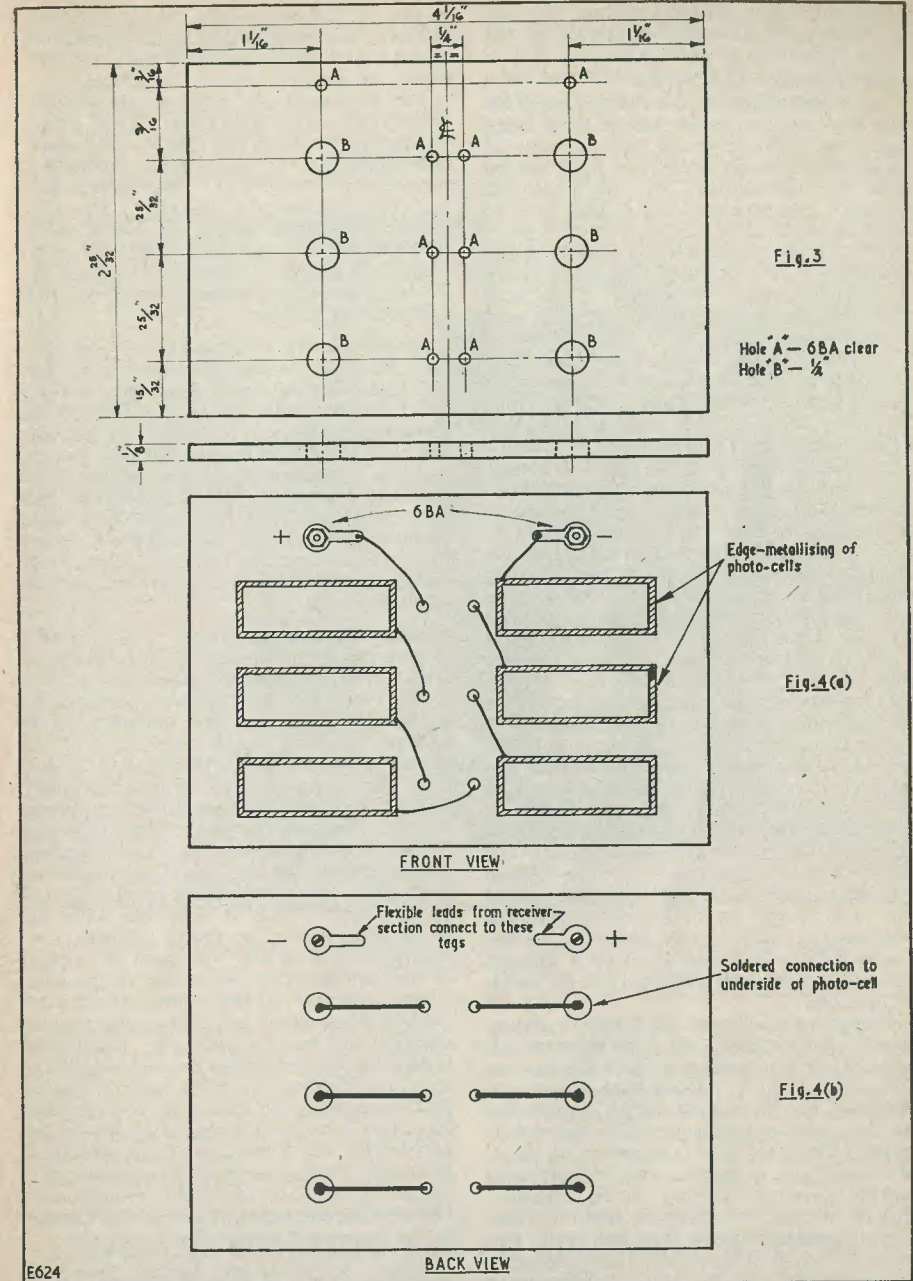


Fig. 2. Wiring layout of the receiver section. In order to simplify presentation this diagram illustrates the transistor holders without transistors plugged in

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Fig. 3. Drilling dimensions for the plate on which the photo-cells are mounted. The material is Paxolin. Fig. 4. Front and back views of the photo-cell unit, illustrating the wiring to the cells. Although not shown here, all leads should be sleeved

Instead, transistor holders should be used throughout, these being mounted in the wiring.

#### Receiver Section Construction

The construction of the Solar Three falls into two basic parts, the first of these being concerned with the wiring and assembly of the receiver circuits proper, and the second with the manufacture of the photo-cell section. The receiver circuit will first be dealt with.

The complete layout of the receiver section is shown in Fig. 2. A ready-drilled component board (or "chassis"), made of insulating material is available for this part of the receiver, and this board will already have ferrite frame clamps and solder tags riveted to it. The ferrite frame is fitted to its clamps in the manner shown in the diagram. However, it is advisable to make this component one of the last to be wired into circuit, due to the brittleness of the ferrite material. Two busbars, made of heavy gauge tinned copper wire, travel along most of the length of the component board, these being connected (via the on-off switch in the case of the positive busbar) to the two terminals of the photo-cell unit. Most of the receiver components are then soldered directly to these busbars. Due to the short wiring lengths which result from the compact layout, solder joints to component lead-outs remote from the busbars are sufficiently rigid to obviate the necessity for additional anchoring.

The component board fits snugly into the bottom of the plastic case specified for the receiver, one end fitting under the on-off switch and the tuning condenser. Mounting holes for these last two components are already drilled in the case as supplied. The flexible lead to the personal earphone is taken through a small hole at the opposite end of the case to the on-off switch and tuning condenser. To avoid any strain on internal connections it is advisable to tie a knot in this wire, or similarly anchor it, on the inside of the hole.

Especial care should be taken to ensure that the coloured lead-out wires from the a.f. transformer are connected up in the manner shown in Fig. 2. Equal care should be observed, also, in making correct connections to the various lead-outs from the ferrite frame. The electrolytic condenser  $C_6$  must, of course, be connected into circuit with correct polarity. During wiring attention should be paid to ensuring that no component projects higher upward than  $\frac{1}{8}$  in below the edge of the case. This precaution is necessary in order to allow sufficient space for the photo-cell unit when it is later fitted.

#### The Photo-Cell Section

The next part of the receiver to be constructed is the photo-cell section. Due to the

nature of the photo-cells, and before any assembly is commenced, it is most important to note carefully the precautionary measures which are detailed later in this article.

The photo-cell unit employs six separate photo-cells which are affixed to a drilled Paxolin plate. Each cell has two terminals, one consisting of a completely metallised surface and the other of a clear surface with metallising around the edge only. The completely metallised surface is the positive terminal of the photo-cell and the edge-metallised surface is the negative terminal. The edge-metallised surface is that which is presented to the light.

Before use, the photo-cell mounting plate must be drilled out as shown in Fig. 3. The six large holes in this diagram accept wires which are soldered to the positive (completely metallised) surface of the cells. The six cells are glued to the plate with Perspex cement, and are connected up in the manner illustrated in Fig. 4. It will be noted that two 6BA nuts and bolts along one edge hold solder tags on both sides of the plate. These tags provide anchors for the flexible leads which connect the photo-cell unit to the receiver proper.

Before proceeding further it is necessary to give the following important information about the photo-cells. Because of their nature these may be irreparably damaged by excessive heat, by corrosive materials, or by careless handling. As a result it is of the utmost consequence to treat the cells with care, this being especially true when solder joints are made to the metallised terminals. Firstly, the iron employed for soldering connections *must not* be kept on the surface of the metallising for too long a period. Secondly, the low-melting-point, special alloy, solder which is available with the photo-cells *must* be used. Thirdly, no additional flux of *any* type must be applied to the metallising or to the connecting wire. Fourthly, if any of the photo-cells is accidentally short-circuited during soldering or wiring it will become damaged. Fifthly and finally, the wire employed for soldering to the cells *must* be fuse wire. This last stipulation, that concerning the fuse wire, is a requirement laid down by the manufacturers of the photo-cells, and it must be strictly observed. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that failure to meet any of the five requirements just detailed can result in irreparable damage to the associated photo-cells.

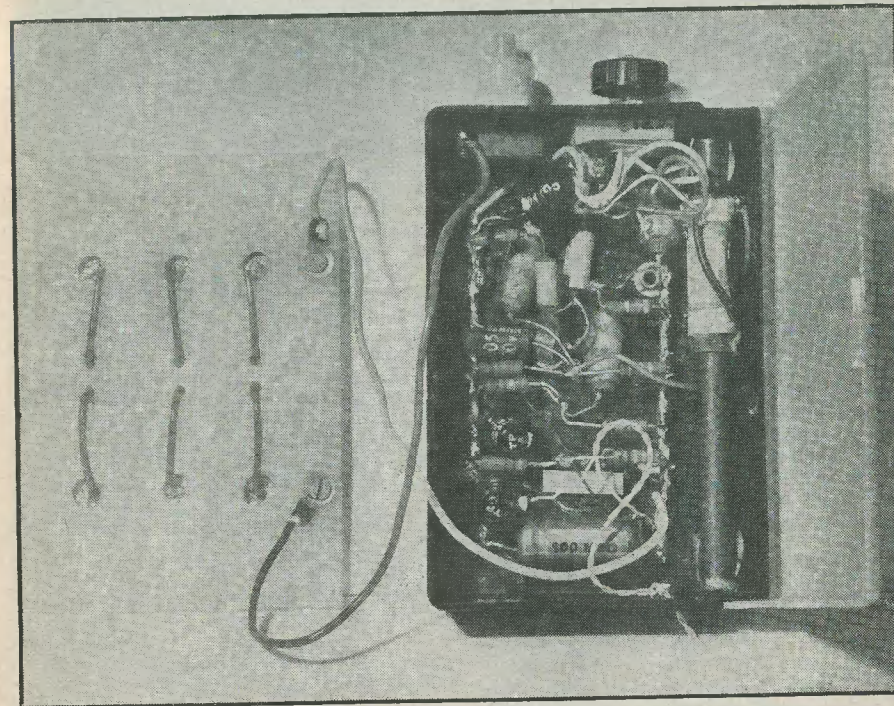
When the photo-cell section has been completed, the two anchoring lugs may be connected to the two flexible power leads shown in Fig. 2, taking especial care to ensure correct polarity. The photo-cell plate may then be fitted into the case above the receiver

section proper, whereupon the Solar Three is ready for operation.

#### Operation

In a simple circuit of this type no complicated lining-up procedure is needed and it is possible to check the receiver immediately after construction has been completed.

possible to tune in the desired local station with the aid of the tuning condenser. Final adjustments of volume may be carried out by rotating the receiver, so that the ferrite frame aerial is at varying angles to the oncoming signal, or by varying the light energy picked up by the photo-cells. If the receiver is



Showing arrangement of the Solar Three in cabinet, with the photocell panel removed for clarity

In order to test the receiver it is necessary for a source of light energy to be available. This may be provided by daylight or by electric light. In the case of the latter, adequate power should be available if the photo-cells are some two feet or so away from a 100 watt lamp.

After switching on the receiver it should be

operated in daylight it will very probably be found possible to achieve more than adequate output when the translucent lid of the case is closed, despite the fact that this significantly reduces the light energy reaching the cells. Experience with this fascinating receiver will soon make the owner familiar with its capabilities under differing light conditions.

## ENGLISH ELECTRIC VALVE COMPANY LIMITED

The company is holding a private exhibition at the Kensington Palace Hotel from 17th-21st March, both dates inclusive.

The display will consist of all that is modern in valve design technique in the world of radar, communication, transmitting,

broadcasting—both sound and vision—and instrumentation, together with new types of storage tubes.

English Electric will be delighted to welcome any readers who may wish to attend.

# Technical Forum

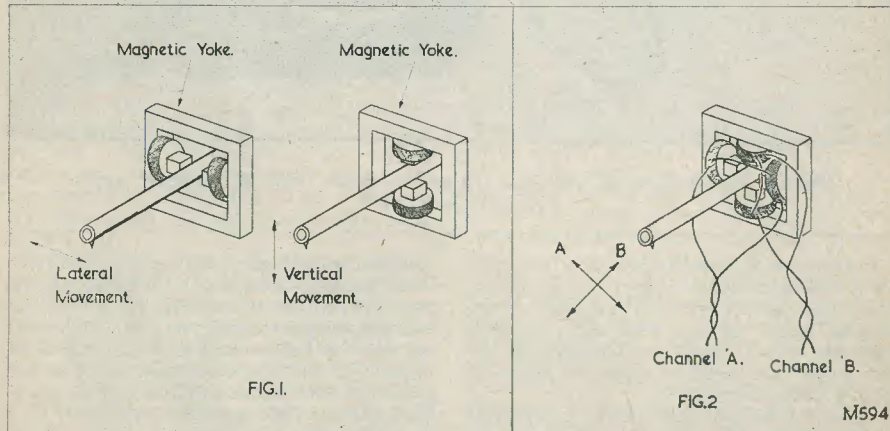
## Stereo Records

A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF INTEREST HAS been shown this year in the reproduction of stereophonic sound from gramophone records. This interest was further fired during the Radio Show by a large number of demonstrations by manufacturers of their reproducers. Aurally these demonstrations were very satisfactory but were marred, the writer recalls, by the very stuffy conditions of the small sound-proof rooms in which they were given.

to deal with the actual method by which the two sound channels are recorded in a single groove gramophone record of normal dimensions and appearance.

When searching for a dual channel system, the record companies had several requirements which the chosen system must fulfil, the most important of which are:

- (1) That it should be capable of being played with a single stylus pick-up. It is possible to visualise a scheme in which adjacent grooves in the disc are



However, any discomfort was purely physical and did not prevent the imagination being aroused by this new method of obtaining an additional dimension in sound recording. From recent articles in these pages, readers will have become familiar with the relative simplicity of the amplifiers used in stereophonic systems, so in this article we propose

- used to carry the separate channels but some care would be required in lowering the pick-up, which could easily become mal-adjusted.
- (2) It should be capable of giving a fidelity of reproduction similar to that obtained with the L.P.s of today.
- (3) It should be compatible in that a stereo

record could be played on a non-stereo reproducer and provide good monaurial listening. This is largely an economic necessity to obviate the need to distribute each recording on the two forms of disc, which would lead to an increase in the cost of both, and at the same time create stocking difficulties in the shops.

## Two Methods

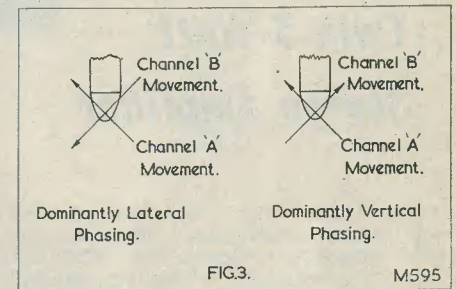
For a great many years now two systems of recording sound on discs in the form of physical deformation of its surface have been known. The two systems employ lateral modulation of the stylus as in the case of all modern records, or vertical modulation which is also referred to as the "hill and dale" arrangement. It is logical, therefore, that when the requirement arose for dual channel recording a scheme involving the use of both systems should be examined. However, as things have turned out, the solution was rather more complex than this; and to appreciate the reasons for this, it is worth examining the differences between the two techniques.

In the lateral method, the cutting stylus used when the master record is first made is caused to move from side to side in sympathy with the audio signal being recorded, the depth of the cut remaining unchanged. However, with the vertical system there is no lateral shift as the stylus moves only in the vertical plane, thus altering the depth of cut depending upon the modulating signal. Fig. 1 shows how the coils of an electromagnetic pick-up would be arranged to reproduce the two systems.

The original choice in favour of the lateral arrangement was made because of its greater freedom from distortion. The cause of distortion in the vertical system arises because when cutting the groove deeper in a master record more material has to be removed than when the stylus is raised by an equal amount. As the amount of energy expended by the cutting point is to a first approximation proportional to the amount of material removed, this gives rise to amplitude distortion which has a preponderance of second harmonic. The so-called 45/45 system of stereo recording was developed by the American Westrex Company, partly to overcome the disadvantage of vertical modulation, whilst at the same time offering other advantages. In the 45/45 system the two modulation axis, instead of being vertical and horizontal, are inclined at 45° to the vertical but they are still maintained at 90° to each other. The coil layout for an electromagnetic cutting head for the new system would be positioned as in Fig. 2. This arrangement makes the two channels identical

and provides a better degree of compatibility than is possible with the original scheme.

It may be argued that to divide the vertical components of the modulating signals equally between the two channels is simply dividing any distortion which may be present so that an equal amount appears on each channel. But in making such an assumption we would be accepting that any system employing vertical modulation is bound to be distorted. It is true that vertical recording was originally discarded in favour of the lateral method largely on the grounds of reduced distortion; but tests made more recently with modern cutting heads having a considerable amount of feedback have demonstrated that if any distortion should exist it is of negligible proportions.



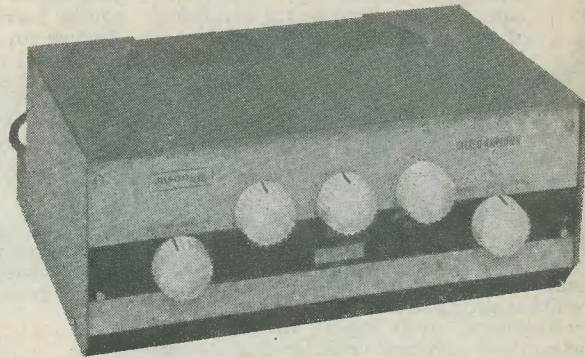
## Phasing

The relative phase of the two signals recorded on a stereo disc must be well defined because incorrect phasing can have a disturbing effect upon the low frequency performance of the reproducer. All recordings must therefore be made with an agreed phase relationship to avoid the listener having to reverse speaker leads from time to time as records are changed. Also, the agreed difference must be such that when a non-stereo record is played on a stereo equipment the correct phasing of the speaker is obtained. This is one of the important factors which govern the compatibility of the system. Let us consider for a moment the manner in which the needle of the pick-up moves in the combined groove of the stereo recording. It will be recalled that the two axis of movement are both at 45° to the surface of the record, so that there are two possible ways in which the movements may be phased. These are shown in Fig. 3 from which it will be seen that they can produce either a dominantly lateral movement or a dominantly vertical one. As the terms suggest, the first phasing method produces the most side-to-side shift on the needle whilst the second method provides a mainly vertical shift. The standard

*continued on page 527*

# The JASON JSA.2

## Twin 3-Watt Stereo Amplifier



By G. BLUNDELL

THIS ARTICLE DESCRIBES A TWIN 3-WATT stereo amplifier which gives adequate volume for home listening. While it is true that better quality results from push-pull stages, it is difficult to design a push-pull stage which gives less than 10 watts. Therefore if it is desired to make a low output amplifier which at the same time costs less, it is necessary to use a single-ended stage using, for example, the EL84. The volume obtainable from this amplifier is surprisingly, indeed uncomfortably, loud in a small room. The frequency extends down to 20 c/s, while the amplifier is capable of producing 3 watts down to 60 c/s. At the top end, 3 watts at 10 kc/s is easily obtained, though the frequency response, of course, extends further.

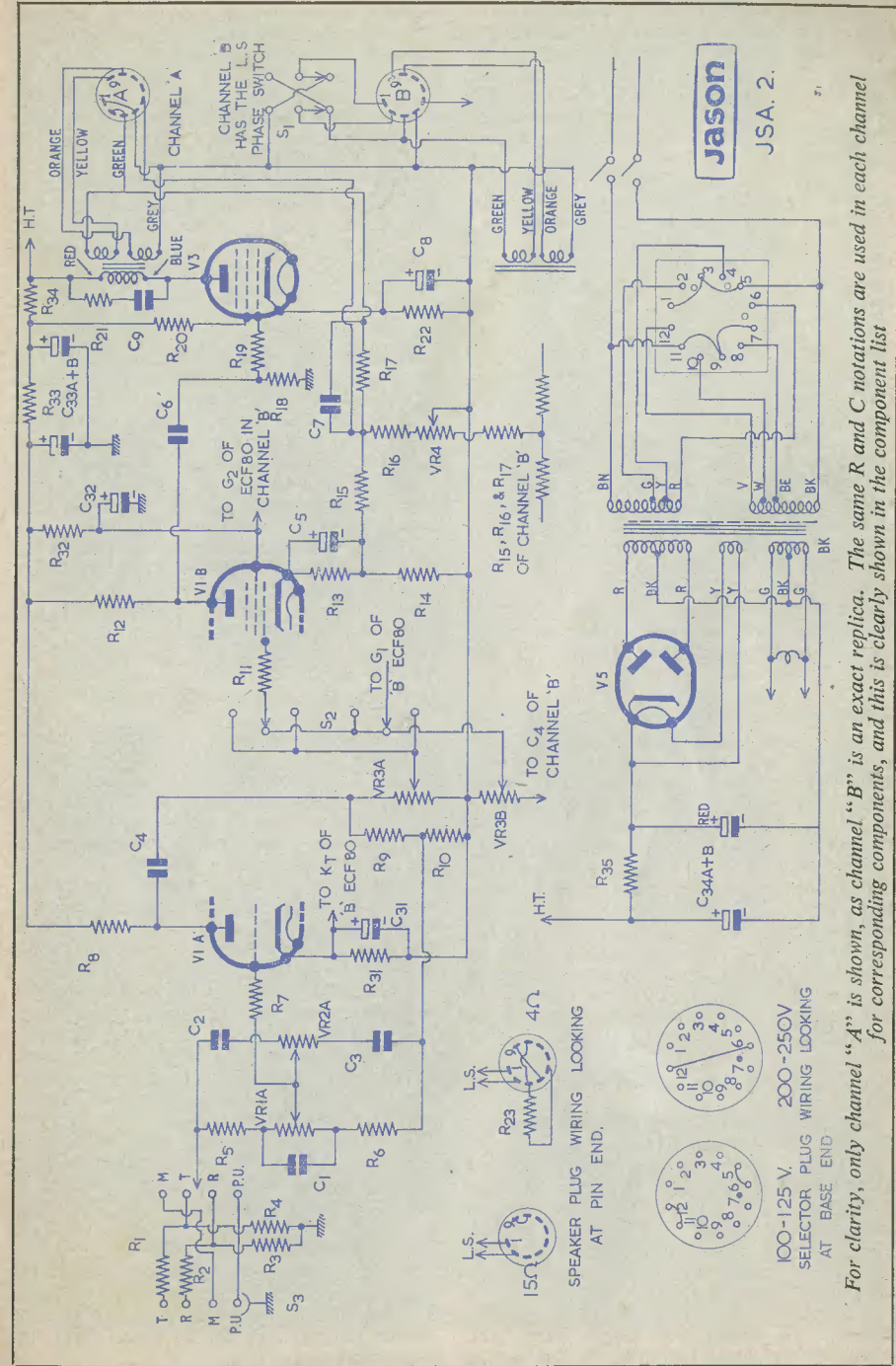
Although the output transformer is not large, the low frequency response is achieved through the use of a special grade of annealed iron. The secondary winding is split into two halves, and these are connected in series for 15Ω and in parallel for 4Ω speech coils. This method makes the external connections more complicated when changing impedance, and the extra feedback resistor R<sub>23</sub> must also be added. It is certainly easier to simply select different tapings on the winding, leaving the feedback always connected to the 15Ω tap; but the feedback no longer operates directly on speaker but through the medium of the transformer, which is the very item we are trying to control with the feedback. The series and parallel method used here results in the same performance on both 15Ω and 4Ω speakers, while the transformer remains

completely balanced whichever impedance is being used. Due to the use of negative feedback, the distortion is less than 1%.

### The Output Section

Two stages are used, comprising the pentode section of an ECF80 and an EL84. The ECF80 is primarily an r.f. valve and Mullard Ltd. do not offer any guarantees about its audio performance. However, when used at these high levels there is no danger from hum, and if the triode is used before the pentode in the circuit there is no danger of instability. The writer hopes soon to see a re-based version of this valve, and it is understood that Brimar are working on this. The present valve has the anode of the triode and the grid of the pentode adjacent to each other, which prevents the pentode section being followed by the triode. In all fairness it should again be stated that the valve was designed for r.f. purposes. However, a re-based version would offer numerous possibilities such as pentode amplifier, triode phase splitter followed by push-pull output.

Feedback is applied from the output transformer secondary to the cathode of the ECF80 (18dB). The stability of this circuit is good, though not so good as can be achieved in push-pull stages. Components R<sub>21</sub> and C<sub>9</sub> across the output transformer primary, and C<sub>7</sub> in the feedback loop, contribute towards this stability. If the output is examined when feeding in a 1 kc/s square wave, only a very small "ring" should be observed.



For clarity, only channel "A" is shown, as channel "B" is an exact replica. The same R and C notations are used in each channel for corresponding components, and this is clearly shown in the component list

The balance control operates on the feedback circuit to give a symmetrical change. The centre of the control is connected to chassis so that as the feedback in one amplifier is increased, the feedback in the other is decreased, giving a maximum difference of 5dB each way between the outputs.

The speaker phase switch reverses the speaker connections on channel "B" and simplifies the initial setting-up. The channel switch enables both amplifiers to be connected to either pre-amplifier at will, or each amplifier to be connected to its own pre-amplifier for stereo operation.

#### The Tone Control Stage

The triode section of the ECF80 contributes some gain but its main use is in the negative feedback tone control stages. A portion of the output is fed back from the junction of  $R_9$  and  $R_{10}$  to the grid circuit through two paths. The path  $C_3, VR_{2A}, C_2$  operates only at the high frequencies. The path through  $R_6$  operates to give overall negative feedback as well as selective negative feedback at the lower frequencies. The performance of this stage is quite good, and the centre positions of the linear controls will be found to give a flat response. 10dB lift and cut are achieved at 100 c/s and 10 kc/s respectively.

#### Constructional Notes

As can be seen from the point-to-point diagrams some use is made of tag panels, although many components are wired directly to their appropriate stages, such as  $R_{31}, C_{31}$ . The writer is in favour of this technique where the components are small. Neat wiring on tag panels inevitably makes the wiring longer. This can often increase hum pick-up, cause instability, or increase the cross-talk between channels in a stereo amplifier. In a compact amplifier such as this economy of space is essential, and careful thought must be given to the layout. For example, the mains transformer is on the opposite corner of the chassis to the input stages.  $C_{31}$  is mounted close to the input valves to avoid a loop which could pick up hum.

Note the presence of various grid stoppers,  $R_7, R_{11}, R_{19}$ , which must not be left out. All these valves have high amplification factors and will readily oscillate at high frequencies. The anode and grid circuits can form various kinds of oscillatory circuits such as tuned anode-tuned grid, or Colpitts. The grid and screen stoppers must be used to prevent this possibility.

First mount the tag panel with  $C_4$  and  $R_8$ , connect the appropriate length wires, and check the soldering carefully, as this part is

difficult to correct afterwards. Mount the valveholders, the potentiometers and the remainder of the components. Put in as many wires as possible before mounting the components on the tag panels. Mount the screened cable last of all as these wires tend to cover other components. Note the positioning of the anode wire of  $V_1$  which is taken through the chassis and back again. This is to prevent signal radiation from this wire being picked up in the input grid circuit of  $V_2$ . This can give rise to considerable cross-talk and is simply prevented by using the chassis as a shield.

#### Trouble Shooting

If there are no faulty components, and nothing is incorrectly wired, then clearly the amplifier will work immediately. Certainly most faults experienced will be due to wrong wiring and bad components. Check, therefore, very thoroughly. The voltage test table will show how the various stages are operating, although some variation may be expected due to valve and resistor tolerances.

Having checked the voltages, then in the absence of other equipment the amplifier may be checked aurally. Feed in a single-channel signal, radio or pick-up, into one channel. Move the switch into the stereo position and check the operation of the volume and tone controls. Inject the signal into the other channel and repeat the same checks.

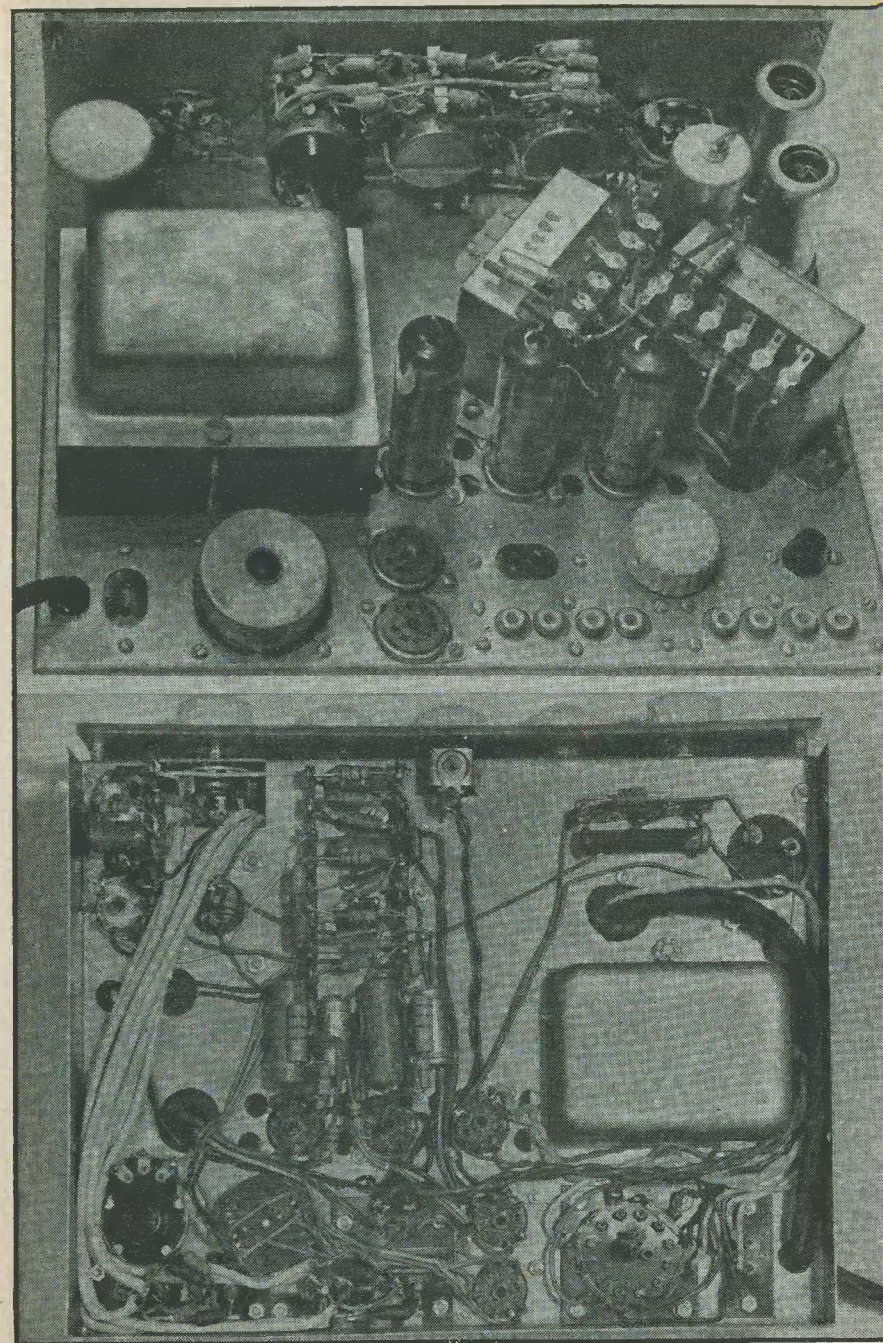
If an audio generator and oscilloscope are available, more exact testing is possible. Feed a 1 kc/s sine wave into the radio input. Connect an audio power meter to the output (or an a.c. voltmeter across a 15Ω load). Increase the output until distortion shows on the oscilloscope trace. The power output should then read 3.5 to 4 watts (or the a.c. voltage between 7.25 and 7.7 volts), and the input signal voltage should be 150 millivolts. The sensitivity on the pick-up position should be 50 mV for the same output.

Check the power output at various frequencies to establish the power output curve, and at 1W output the frequency response may be checked and should be flat from 60 c/s to 10 kc/s. Feed in a 1 kc/s square wave to check the stability—no undue ringing should be observed.

The tone controls may then be checked with the aid of the 1 kc/s square wave. Various waveforms should be observed as shown in the accompanying diagram.

#### Setting Up the Stereo Amplifier

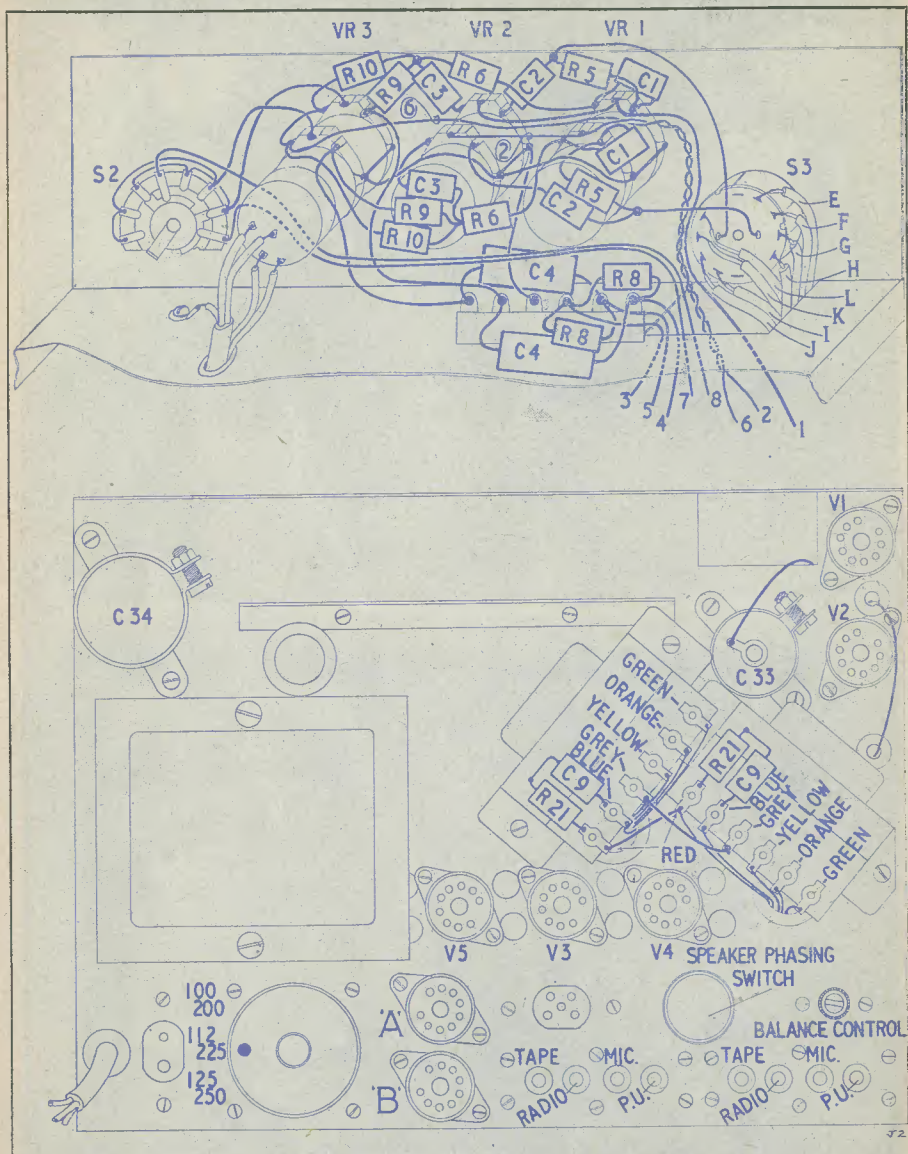
If the constructor cannot check the amplifier and pre-amplifier himself, Jason are prepared to give the usual tests, maximum power output, and square wave check for a nominal sum.



Above and below-chassis views of the Jason JSA.2

However, even though the units are satisfactory there still is the necessity of making the equipment function as desired, at home,

the room between 6 and 12 feet apart, with speakers pointing to the centre of the opposite side of the room. The best listening area



Above-chassis and panel controls point-to-point wiring

on stereo. This is not difficult providing the following tests are made carefully.

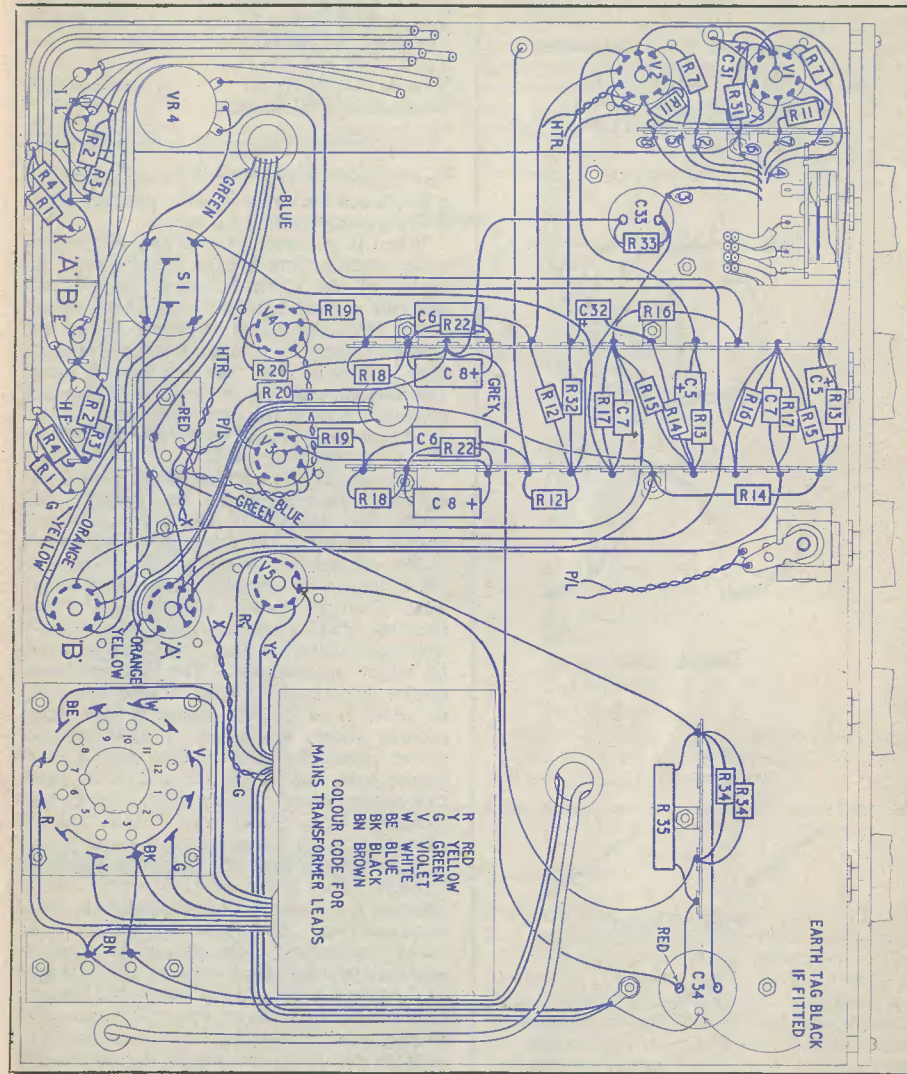
#### Speaker Positioning

Set the speakers in convenient corners of

should then be within a 30° angle of the speakers. The sound should not be reflected from the walls of the room, and in the writer's opinion the omni-directional kind

of tweeter is not very satisfactory. Better positions will be found later, when more listening experience is obtained, but this should enable reasonable results to be obtained.

functioning reasonably. Now, in the usual listening position, check that the sound appears to be coming from a small point exactly in the middle of the space between the speakers. Adjust the balance control to



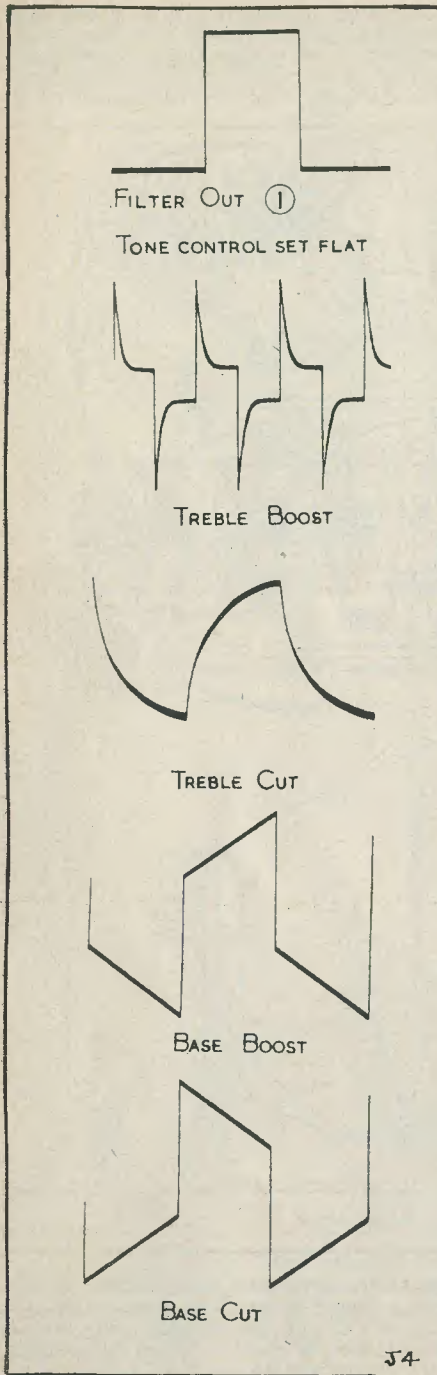
Point-to-point wiring below chassis

#### Speaker Phasing

Play a normal L.P. record with the stereophonic pick-up. Check by listening near each speaker that the levels are approximately the same and that each channel is

make the apparent source central. If this effect cannot be obtained, reverse the connections of one speaker only, and centring should then be possible. When the speakers are wrongly phased the sound appears to be





V <sub>k</sub> Rectifier	.. .. .	340
V C <sub>34A</sub>	.. .. .	330
V <sub>g2</sub> output valve C <sub>33B</sub>	.. .. .	260
V <sub>k</sub> output valve R <sub>22</sub> C <sub>8</sub>	.. .. .	8
V <sub>HT</sub> preamplifier C <sub>33A</sub>	.. .. .	205
V <sub>Anode</sub> ECF80 R <sub>12</sub> C <sub>6</sub>	.. .. .	90
V <sub>Cathode</sub> ECF80 R <sub>13</sub> C <sub>5</sub>	.. .. .	1
V <sub>g2</sub> ECF80 R <sub>32</sub> C <sub>32</sub>	.. .. .	44
V <sub>Anode</sub> ECF80 R <sub>8</sub> C <sub>4</sub>	.. .. .	50
V <sub>Cathode</sub> ECF80 R <sub>31</sub> C <sub>31</sub>	.. .. .	3

very nebulous. Try reversing the connections a few times until one is quite positive about which arrangement is correct.

When it is correct, the sound will appear to be coming from quite a small hole in the centre of the space between the speakers, and one should hardly be conscious of any sound from the actual speakers. If one can still hear the sound from the actual speakers, then it may be that they are too far apart. Try another position in the room. Gimmick records are good for these tests, such as that produced by *Gramophone Record Review Hi-Fi Test Record GRR1*.

Now on playing a stereophonic record, the full improvement should be realised. The sound will appear in depth, but also will gain in realism. The organ does not seem a likely subject for stereo, but in fact its reproduction is greatly aided by stereo. Also, it can be noticed by switching to each channel that a better band response is obtained; better, in fact, than can be heard on either one channel. The listener should not be discouraged if the first efforts are not as good as is hoped. Some of the stereo records which are being released are not above reproach; after all, the record companies have had to learn a great deal about this new medium. The sampler records now available from Decca and E.M.I. are extremely good and show what is possible.

A new effect may be noticed in the latest records. This is the effect of depth, which appears to be caused by the judicious use of reverberation. The fact that we normally listen "in stereo" helps us to discriminate what we want to hear against an undesired background noise. Many people will have a tape recording made in a normal room. The microphone cannot discriminate, and neither can the ear when the sound is played back through a single loudspeaker. Extraneous noises seem to be far more pronounced. Due to this effect it is necessary to make recordings in studios which are acoustically dead, and although the resultant sound is clear the effect is very flat. With the advent of stereo some of these background noises can be left in, without making the sound less clear, and the result is far more realistic. This is shown

very well in the E.M.I. swimming bath demonstration recording, or more usefully in the E.M.I. recording of the Beethoven Sixth Symphony conducted by Otto Klemperer. The effect of space and depth which is achieved in this record gives a pointer to the results we can expect in a year or so. Certainly the disc recording is not yet dead!

#### Stereo Sources

The disc is the only popular source of stereo available at the moment, and the Ronette turnover pick-up is a very good one to use. There are separate radio inputs, so

that this amplifier may be used with a stereo radio input. Separate tape inputs are also provided, but a stereo tape pre-amplifier would be required.

#### Compatibility of Records

It cannot be emphasised too strongly that many standard single channel pick-ups will cause damage to stereo records because the vertical stiffness of the pick-up movement is too great and permanent damage will be caused to the records. The opposite, however, is satisfactory, and a stereo pick-up can be used to play normal L.P. records.

#### Component List

R <sub>1</sub>	470kΩ H.S.	R <sub>34</sub>	5kΩ = 2 x 10kΩ in parallel C
R <sub>2</sub>	470kΩ H.S.	R <sub>35</sub>	120Ω 1W C
R <sub>3</sub>	150kΩ H.S.	C <sub>1</sub>	300pF
R <sub>4</sub>	150kΩ H.S.	C <sub>2</sub>	200pF ceramic
R <sub>5</sub>	270kΩ H.S.	C <sub>3</sub>	200pF
R <sub>6</sub>	270kΩ H.S.	C <sub>4</sub>	0.05μF 350VW
R <sub>7</sub>	1kΩ C	C <sub>5</sub>	100μF 6V
R <sub>8</sub>	47kΩ H.S.	C <sub>6</sub>	0.05μF 350VW
R <sub>9</sub>	270kΩ H.S.	C <sub>7</sub>	1,000pF 10%
R <sub>10</sub>	68kΩ H.S.	C <sub>8</sub>	25μF 25V
R <sub>11</sub>	1kΩ C	C <sub>9</sub>	0.001μF
R <sub>12</sub>	100kΩ H.S.	C <sub>31</sub>	100μF 6VW
R <sub>13</sub>	680Ω C	C <sub>32</sub>	5μF 50VW
R <sub>14</sub>	33Ω H.S.	C <sub>33</sub>	50 + 50μF 275VW
R <sub>15</sub>	100Ω H.S.	C <sub>34</sub>	32 + 32 350VW
R <sub>16</sub>	100Ω H.S.	VR <sub>1A&amp;B</sub>	1MΩ—1MΩ
R <sub>17</sub>	1kΩ H.S.	VR <sub>2A&amp;B</sub>	1MΩ—1MΩ
R <sub>18</sub>	470kΩ C	VR <sub>3A&amp;B</sub>	¼MΩ—¼MΩ
R <sub>19</sub>	1kΩ C	VR <sub>4</sub>	300Ω
R <sub>20</sub>	270Ω C	S <sub>1</sub>	2-pole 2-way
R <sub>21</sub>	4.7kΩ C	S <sub>2</sub>	2-pole 3-way
R <sub>22</sub>	220Ω 10% ¼W C	S <sub>3</sub>	2-pole 4-way
R <sub>23</sub>	1kΩ H.S.	Resistors R <sub>31</sub> —R <sub>35</sub> and Condensers C <sub>31</sub> —C <sub>34</sub> are common to both channels, but 2 off R <sub>1</sub> —R <sub>23</sub> , C <sub>1</sub> —C <sub>9</sub> are required.	
R <sub>31</sub>	680Ω C		
R <sub>32</sub>	270kΩ H.S.		
R <sub>33</sub>	10kΩ C		

## Technical Forum continued from page 519

now universally adopted is the first, in which in-phase signals fed to the two recording channels produce a dominantly lateral movement of the stylus; this is the phase which provides compatible operation permitting the playing of non-stereo recordings by means of a stereo pick-up. A further advantage of using greater lateral movement is that it permits of a larger dynamic range to be obtained; in other words, the difference between weak sound passages and the louder ones may be greater.

#### Summarising

The method finally adopted for the recording of two channels on a single groove of a gramophone record is the 45/45 system. By correctly choosing the phase of the two

channels, the system is largely compatible in that both stereo and non-stereo recordings may be played on a stereo equipment. The reverse is, however, only partly true. A stereo recording may be played on a standard monaural player and give very good results, but because the pick-up stylus has very little vertical compliance it will tend to plough out the vertical component on the recording. This may never be noticed whilst the record is played on the monaural amplifier, but it would most likely ruin the record for playing subsequently on a stereo reproducer. However, this minor disadvantage is small when compared with the advantages which this new form of disc recording technique makes available.

# radio miscellany

SOME TIME AGO, WHEN WRITING OF TIBET, I mentioned a book (not then published) by Robert Ford, who had operated from Chamdo under the amateur call-sign AC4RF. In 1957 it was published by Harrap & Co. Ltd. under the title "Captured in Tibet," and some twelve months later came out as a paper-back. During the period AC4RF was active, contacts with him were eagerly sought by amateurs all over the world if only for the sake of adding Zone 23 to their "worked" list. Those hoping to qualify for the American magazine-sponsored "Worked All Zones" certificate were, of course, the most eager. Zone 23 was, perhaps, the hardest of them all.

Many of those successful in working Bob Ford became worried after consulting their atlases as to whether Chamdo was situated in Tibet as claimed by Ford, or not. Their atlases definitely showed it as being in China. Hence quite a lot of argument ensued in amateur circles and AC4RF became one of the most talked about call-signs in the world.

The only other amateur station in Tibet was that of Reg Fox who, if I remember rightly, operated under the call AC4YN. Unfortunately, Fox was in poor health, and his appearances on the air became rare, so Bob Ford was something of an "exclusive." It was disconcerting, after many hours of patient searching, to have the fact that he was genuinely in Zone 23 open to doubt. As far as I can recall he rarely operated 'phone, which rather restricted short-wave listener interest.

The truth was, of course, that the area in which Chamdo was situated was between the years 1910-1918 annexed by and under the military occupation of China. In 1918 the Tibetans drove them out, but as they never bothered to publish maps, map-makers the world over copied those issued by the Chinese—and the Chinese never relinquished their claim despite its brevity! China, unlike Tibet, maintained diplomatic relations with other powers—hence the map-makers believed it to be correct and everybody else believed the map-makers!

While only brief passages of the book refer to amateur radio, his adventures make interesting reading. It is certainly worthy of special commendation if only because it is one of the few books in which all references to our hobby are correct in all details.

## Quickie

Many thanks to the kind readers who sent cards at Christmas—especially the Bedfast Amateurs. Our old friend (who missed out last year) again remembered me with his hardy annual of Ye Olde Worlde Snow-Covered Cottage upon which he draws a magnificent collection of t.v., rotary beam, long wire and ground-plane aerials. Another anonymous reader sent a similar card, adding that it was to soften my disappointment should the originator of this annual event again let me down. *His* Olde Worlde Cottage (standing next to a picturesque Olde Village Church) was signposted "Centre Tap Villa" and the aerials were added with silver metallic paint. This may have been an allusion to my recent references to printed circuits. It has me beaten—message and envelope printed in an obviously disguised hand, and postmarked "Heathfield," which further mystifies me as I cannot recall a 1958 correspondent from that part.

A third card in the same series was post-marked "Oxford." This delightful rural scene had cut-out aerials which jumped to attention as I opened the card. Instead of a picturesque church he gave Centre Tap Villa a jolly looking Olde Worlde Inn for a neighbour—and he added a line of footprints in the snow leading straight from my front door right into the four ale bar!

All very good fun which gave me a hearty laugh. I am now left wondering if I shall later be the recipient of a cardboard Easter egg with a printed circuit of a Geiger counter on the back.

## A New, New Look

Thinking of Geiger counters reminds me that following my recent remarks on protective clothing, I discover that *Lead News*

(publication of the Lead Development Association) includes some details of a new line in men's undies. A photograph of an apron is also reproduced. The material is a plastic product based on polyvinyl chloride and metallic lead powder. It is washable and has good draping qualities which make it aesthetically agreeable for curtaining material to give protection from scatter for users of X-ray apparatus, etc.

Another material for smaller area coverage (i.e. the protection of specific parts of the body against radiation effects) is made in the form of overlapping scales, as in a suit of Roman armour. The thickness of the lead scales is in the order of 0.25mm, but because of the overlap nearly 80% of the area is protected by two or more scales. As it can be bent, folded or shaped to body contours, it appears that with a little decorative colouring it would lend itself to natty suitings! Maybe life in those forward scatter zones we discussed won't be so dangerous after all when smart clothing in the form of zoot suits or teddy boy styles, made from lead scales, are available.

Has any enterprising reader bright ideas of setting up in the protective clothing dry cleaning business, with a small extra charge for radiation re-proofing?

nervous afflictions, not only bored me but began to irritate me. I turned more and more to the gramophone and soon found there is infinitely more lasting pleasure in good music well played than in the general run of t.v. programmes. I wish I had turned to serious music before, as I am anxious to widen the scope of my small collection of records but hardly know where to start. Having studied a full catalogue I am at a loss to know what titles and composers to choose from so many thousands. Titles alone mean nothing to me. I am also anxious to improve my speaker system and I shall be glad if you can also help me with any special recommendations."

I have written to him on the latter, suggesting a particular pair of matched speakers and a layout, but I am rather at a loss as to what to suggest in the way of records. A very high proportion of constructors, once they get interested in hi-fi, become music lovers. Personally I find few pleasures more satisfying than sitting in the comfort of my own drawing-room (preferably with lowered lights) and listening to my favourite composers on first-class equipment *without any distractions*. I gather from the experiences of others that the deep satisfaction found in good music is, for some reason, more easily

## Centre Tap talks about items of general interest

### Rising Brows

A nice letter comes from F.N. (Derby), who says that during 1958 this column proved to be his lucky star. He built the Jason f.m. unit largely because I praised it, and then added the Mullard 3-3 amplifier when I and several correspondents spoke highly of it. He was delighted with both the simplicity of construction, being comparatively a newcomer to our hobby, and the results. He then converted them into a radiogram. Almost simultaneously our quest for an ideal test-cum-pleasureable-listening record, triggered off by "Aberdonian," was getting really warm. As a consequence he bought several of the records recommended by correspondents, all of which have given him considerable pleasure. "Then," he goes on, "you wrote about the dreary pattern of the average t.v. programme. I, too, got fed up with the same old turns, same day, same time, week after week. Comedians who aren't funny and are unable to find new jokes more often than once in a twelvemonth, and crooners who make agonising sounds while jerking about as though they suffered from

acquired from your own radiogram than from the concert hall. Among our readers we have many music lovers. Will one of them, whose knowledge is deeper than my own, help F.N. in this quest? By the way, he asks that recommendations be classified "by type." By this I take it that he means classified as "melodic," "symphonic," "for acquired tastes only," etc.

### Further Last Word

As I half-suspected, G.A.N. (London Airport) was not allowed to have the final say about cheaper-than-standard long-play records. F.J. (Brixton, S.W.2) writes: "I admit I have only tried two of the discs of which he speaks so highly, but both have suffered from wow. My advice to readers is for them to keep their money in their pockets. I would add I am all in sympathy with any effort to reduce the excessive price of l.p. records. Two pounds odd is far too much. The manufacturing cost can surely be only two or three shillings—plus another sixpence or so for the colourful sleeves. But

*continued on page 510*



# JINGLEBELLS



## AMATEUR RADIOTELETYPE

Part I

By JIM HEPBURN, VE7KX

In the August 1957 issue of the R.S.G.B. *Bulletin*, there appeared a description of a versatile transmitter drive unit, which provided for Frequency Shift Keying. An editorial comment introducing this description included the remark: "Many of the advantages claimed for this system in commercial practice are, however, not of interest to amateurs, being concerned with high speed or teleprinter operation and diversity reception."

The following May there appeared in the correspondence columns of the *Bulletin* a letter from James T. Hepburn, VE7KX, taking the writer of the above comment to task for suggesting that teletype was not of interest to radio amateurs. He concluded his letter by pointing out that in Canada, the Advanced Amateur Radio Operators' Certificate (mandatory for phone operation below 27 Mc/s) includes questions on radio teletype.

Your Associate Editor, who has often wondered why teletype has not been encouraged by the R.S.G.B., wrote supporting VE7KX's letter. Following publication of this letter in the July *Bulletin*, he received several letters of encouragement from other British Radio Amateurs, and a letter from VE7KX thanking him for his support. Subsequent correspondence with the latter revealed that he had in fact submitted an article on teletype to the editor of the R.S.G.B. *Bulletin*, but had had it returned (quote) "as it is not the policy of this society to encourage the use of FSK."

Following a letter in the September 1958 *Bulletin* from GM3EFS, opposing amateur radio teletype, in which he suggested that the British Amateur Radio licence regulations prohibited teletype transmission, your Associate Editor wrote to the G.P.O. for clarification of the point. They replied that there was in fact no objection to its use provided such transmissions were confined to amateur bands in respect of which emission F<sub>1</sub> is authorised and that recognised international codes be used.

Having thus reassured ourselves on this point, we wrote to VE7KX for his articles, the first of which we have pleasure in publishing herewith. We feel that this is a subject of interest to many radio amateurs in this country and whilst the difficulty of obtaining equipment is very real, it may not be quite so great as at first appeared. But more of that subject later; here is the first of VE7KX's articles just as it came off his own teletypewriter.

THE USE OF PRINTING TELEGRAPH EQUIPMENT GOES BACK TO THE VERY BEGINNING OF ELECTRICAL TELEGRAPHY. SAMUEL MORSE'S ORIGINAL INVENTION EMPLOYED A MOVING PEN TO RECORD THE DOTS AND DASHES OF HIS CODE ON TO A MOVING STRIP OF PAPER TAPE. FOLLOWING MORSE INVENTORS FOR HALF A CENTURY STRUGGLED TO DEVELOP A MACHINE THAT WOULD RECORD TELEGRAPH SIGNALS IN WRITTEN OR LETTER FORM, BUT THEY WERE BEATEN BY THE MORSE CODE ITSELF. WHEN YOU CONSIDER THAT THE LETTER "J" IS THIRTEEN TIMES AS LONG AS THE LETTER "E" YOU WILL SEE THE MECHANICAL HEADACHES INVOLVED IN TRYING TO TRANSLATE THESE SIGNALS INTO ALPHABETICAL SIGNALS. IT WAS NOT UNTIL A FRENCHMAN NAMED BAUDOT CAME UP WITH A CODE IN WHICH THE LETTERS WERE ALL THE SAME LENGTH THAT TELEGRAPH PRINTERS BECAME PRACTICAL. MANY RADIO AMATEURS BELIEVE THAT A TELETYPE MACHINE WILL COPY C.W. SIGNALS; IT WILL NOT. IT USES THE BAUDOT CODE OR, AS IT IS NOW KNOWN, "INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH ALPHABET NO. 2."

A TELETYPE MACHINE CONSISTS OF A PRINTER AND A KEYBOARD BOTH DRIVEN BY A SINGLE CONSTANT SPEED MOTOR. MECHANICALLY IT IS A FEARSOME THING, CONSISTING OF SOME THREE THOUSAND PARTS, AND LIKE A CAMERA OR A WATCH IS BEST LEFT ALONE. ELECTRICALLY IT IS VERY SIMPLE, CONSISTING OF AN ELECTROMAGNET AND A S.P.S.T. SWITCH IN SERIES. THE MAGNET CONTROLS THE PRINTER AND THE SWITCH IS CONTROLLED BY THE KEYBOARD.

**SINGLE MACHINE OPERATION:** KNOWN AS "LOCAL LOOP." A CURRENT OF 30 MA D.C. FLOWING THROUGH THE MAGNET COIL AND KEYBOARD CONTACTS ALLOWS THE MACHINE TO OPERATE FROM ITS OWN KEYBOARD ON "LOCAL LOOP." A RESISTANCE OF 5 KΩ IS REQUIRED IN SERIES WITH THE LOCAL LOOP POWER SUPPLY OR ELSE THE MOVEMENT OF THE MAGNET ARMATURE WILL INDUCE SURGES IN THE LOCAL LOOP AND CAUSE DISTORTION.

**MULTI MACHINE OPERATION:** MACHINES ARE CONNECTED IN SERIES BY WIRE LINES. ONLY ONE POWER SUPPLY IS REQUIRED AND THE SAME MINIMUM CIRCUIT RESISTANCE IS REQUIRED.

**RTTY:** RADIOTELETYPE, AS FAR AS THE MACHINES ARE CONCERNED, IS THE SAME AS WIRE TELETYPE. RTTY, THEREFORE, IS A TECHNIQUE FOR CONVERTING WIRE OPERATION TO R.F. AND R.F. BACK TO WIRE. ALL TELETYPE OPERATES ON A MAKE-BREAK, ON-OFF, OR MARK-SPACE, WHICHEVER YOU CHOOSE TO CALL IT. A MOST OBVIOUS WAY, THEN, WOULD BE TO JUST KEY THE R.F. VIA THE KEYBOARD CONTACTS. AT THE RECEIVING END ALLOW THE OUTPUT OF THE RECEIVER TO ACTUATE A RELAY WHICH, IN TURN, WOULD KEY THE PRINTER "LOCAL LOOP." THIS SYSTEM IS BEING USED AT THE PRESENT TIME AND IS KNOWN AS "MAB" (MAKE AND BREAK) OPERATION. THIS SYSTEM HAS ONE BIG FAULT AND THAT IS THAT DURING THE BREAK, OFF, OR SPACE CONDITION THE SYSTEM IS WIDE OPEN TO NOISE AND INTERFERENCE WHICH MIGHT BE SEEN BY THE MACHINE AS A MARKING IMPULSE.

**AFSK:** AUDIO FREQUENCY SHIFT KEYING. HERE TWO AUDIO TONES ARE TRANSMITTED EITHER BY A.M. OR F.M. MODULATION OF THE R.F. CARRIER. ONE TONE REPRESENTS THE MARK CONDITION AND THE OTHER TONE THE SPACE CONDITION. AT THE RECEIVER THE TONES ARE SEPARATED BY FILTERS, RECTIFIED AND USED TO OPERATE A KEYS TUBE WHICH CONTROLS THE PRINTER MAGNET. IN AMATEUR OPERATION A TONE OF 2975 C/S IS USED FOR THE MARK SIGNAL AND A TONE OF 2125 C/S FOR THE SPACE SIGNAL; THIS IS SO THAT WE CAN ALL READ EACH OTHER! THIS SYSTEM IS VERY SUCCESSFUL FOR SHORT DISTANCES AND IS MAINLY USED ON TWO METRES, THOUGH IT IS ALSO LEGAL ON ELEVEN AND SIX METRES. (Bands depend on country—Ed.) PHASE DISTORTION AND FADING MAKE AFSK UNSUITABLE FOR LONG DISTANCE RTTY.

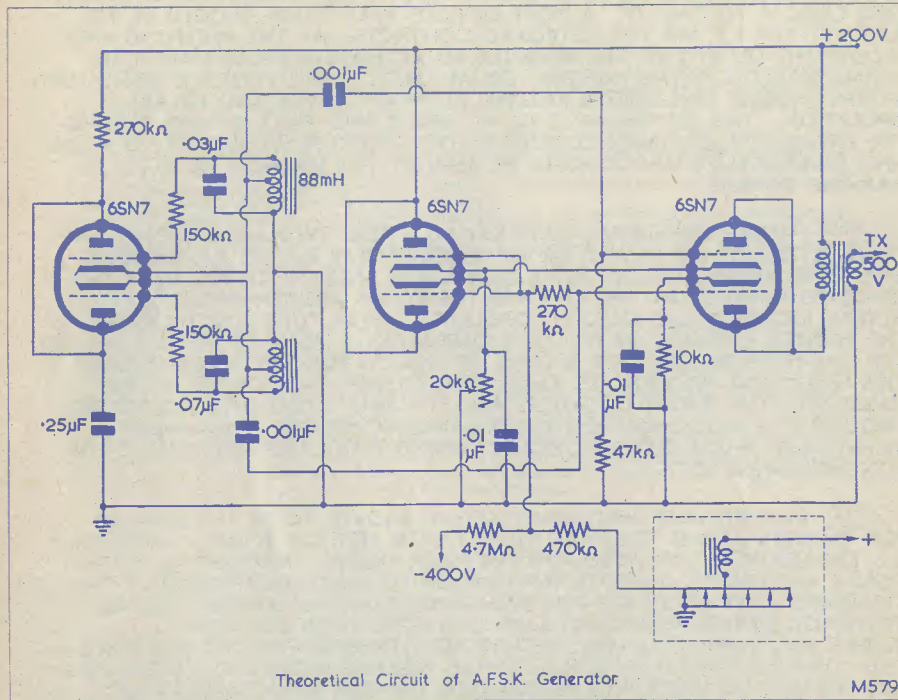
**FSK:** CARRIER SHIFT FREQUENCY KEYING PROVED TO BE THE ANSWER FOR DX RTTY AND IS THE MOST WIDELY USED METHOD TODAY. HERE AN R.F. CARRIER IS TRANSMITTED FOR THE MARK SIGNAL AND FOR THE SPACE SIGNAL WE "SHIFT" OR MOVE THE CARRIER TO ANOTHER FREQUENCY. A STANDARD SHIFT OF 850 C/S HAS BEEN ADOPTED AS MANY COMMERCIAL STATIONS USE THIS "SHIFT" AND WE CAN COPY THEM FOR MANY INTERESTING THINGS, AS WELL AS FOR ADJUSTMENTS, ETC. TO GENERATE THIS SHIFT IN OUR TRANSMITTER THE D.C. SIGNALS FROM THE "LOCAL LOOP" ARE FED INTO A REACTANCE MODULATOR ON OUR V.F.O. SAME AS FOR N.B.F.M. ASSUME THAT OUR TRANSMITTER IS ON 7140 KC/S TRANSMITTING A SPACE SIGNAL. IT WILL MOVE TO 7140.850 KC/S FOR THE MARK SIGNAL (WE HOPE!). TO RECEIVE THIS FSK WE SET THE B.F.O. ON THE RECEIVER TO OBTAIN A 2975 C/S AUDIO BEAT NOTE ON THE 7140 KC/S SIGNAL, AND WHEN THE SIGNAL SHIFTS TO 7140.850 KC/S THE AUDIO BEAT NOTE CHANGES TO 2125 C/S, PROVIDED WE HAVE SET OUR B.F.O. TO THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE RECEIVED SIGNAL! THESE TWO AUDIO NOTES FROM THE RECEIVER ARE FED INTO THE "CONVERTER," DESCRIBED IN THE AFSK SECTION ABOVE, THE SAME AS AN AFSK SIGNAL, TO KEY THE PRINTER MAGNET. THE FSK SIGNAL CAN ALSO BE CONVERTED AT THE RECEIVER I.F. FREQUENCY BY VERY SHARP FILTERS, BUT AMATEUR PRACTICE AT PRESENT IS TO USE THE AUDIO FREQUENCY "CONVERTER" SO THAT WE CAN COPY AFSK WITH THE SAME EQUIPMENT.

ON THE AIR, AMATEUR BAND RTTY WILL PUT THROUGH GOOD COPY WITH SIGNAL STRENGTHS THAT A REALLY GOOD C.W. OPERATOR CAN USE.

QRM DOES NOT BOTHER IT, BUT A FAST DX "FLUTTER" REALLY CHEWS IT UP! OUTSTANDING RTTY STATIONS SEEM TO PREFER VERTICAL GROUND PLANES FOR TRANSMITTING; AND GOOD RECEIVER A.V.C., PRODUCT DETECTION AND AUDIO CLIPPING ALL HELP AT THE RECEIVER END.

SUBSEQUENT ARTICLES WILL DESCRIBE THE BAUDOT CODE, THE TELETYPE MACHINE FUNCTIONING, A TYPICAL FSK KEYSER AND A SIMPLE THREE VALVE AFSK "CONVERTER."

**AN AFSK GENERATOR.** THE TRANSMISSION OF RADIOTELETYPE SIGNALS ON THE AMATEUR BANDS ON WHICH TONE MODULATION (A2) IS PERMITTED (ABOVE 50 MC/S IN CANADA) IS USUALLY ACCOMPLISHED BY MEANS OF TWO AUDIO TONES. THIS SYSTEM IS KNOWN AS AFSK (AUDIO FREQUENCY SHIFT KEYING).



ESTABLISHED AMATEUR PRACTICE IS TO USE AN AUDIO FREQUENCY OF 2975 C/S FOR THE "RESTING" OR "SPACE" FUNCTION FREQUENCY AND 2125 C/S FOR THE "SIGNAL" OR "MARK" FUNCTION FREQUENCY. THESE FREQUENCIES ARE WITHIN THE AUDIO PASS-BAND OF AMATEUR RECEIVERS AND ARE OUT OF HARMONIC RELATIONSHIP WITH POWER LINE AND OTHER RANDOM TONE FREQUENCIES ENCOUNTERED. THE "SHIFT" OR DIFFERENCE IN FREQUENCY IS 850 C/S WHICH IS AN ACCEPTED STANDARD SHIFT FREQUENCY.

THIS AFSK TONE SIGNAL CAN BE GENERATED IN AN AUDIO OSCILLATOR AND THE FREQUENCY ALTERED BY A SHUNT CONDENSER KEYED BY A RELAY OR DIODE KEYSER OPERATED BY THE TELETYPE MACHINE KEYBOARD CONTACTS. HOWEVER, KEYING AN OSCILLATOR USUALLY MEANS COMPROMISING ON STABILITY AND SIGNAL WAVE-SHAPE, AND THE UNIT DESCRIBED HERE WAS DEVELOPED TO INCORPORATE THE ADVANTAGES OF AN M.O.P.A. HOOK-UP.

THE CIRCUIT, AS SHOWN BY THE ACCOMPANYING DIAGRAM, CONSISTS OF A PAIR OF ELECTRON-COUPLED AUDIO OSCILLATORS GENERATING THE SPACE AND MARK SIGNAL FREQUENCIES CONTINUOUSLY, FOLLOWED BY A PAIR OF DIFFERENTIALLY-KEYED CLASS A AMPLIFIERS WITH COMMON OUTPUT. THE OSCILLATORS USE TWO 88MH TOROIDS AS HIGH "Q" INDUCTANCES IN THE FREQUENCY DETERMINING TANK CIRCUIT. THESE TOROIDS ARE KNOWN LOCALLY AS "LOAD-POT TOROIDS" AND ARE USED IN TELEPHONE LINE WORK FOR CABLE LOADING. THEY HAVE TWO WINDINGS FOR CONNECTION IN EACH SIDE OF A TELEPHONE LINE AND IN THIS APPLICATION THE COILS ARE CONNECTED IN SERIES FORMING A CENTRE-TAP USED FOR THE CATHODE CONNECTION. ALTERNATIVELY THE CENTRE-TAPPED 500Ω WINDING OF A MIDGET SPEAKER TRANSFORMER CAN BE USED AS THE TUNED INDUCTANCE, BUT CONDENSER VALUES WILL HAVE TO BE CHANGED FROM THOSE SHOWN.

THE OUTPUTS OF THE TWO OSCILLATORS ARE COUPLED TO THE GRIDS OF THE DIFFERENTIALLY-KEYED AMPLIFIERS; A LOWER VALUE OF GRID RESISTOR IS USED IN THE GRID OF THE SPACE AMPLIFIER TO REDUCE THE AUDIO DRIVING VOLTAGE TO GIVE EQUAL OUTPUT ON EACH FREQUENCY. TO AVOID OVERDRIVING THE AMPLIFIERS, THE ANODE VOLTAGE OF THE OSCILLATORS IS REDUCED TO TWENTY VOLTS BY THE 270 KΩ SERIES RESISTOR.

ON THE SPACE POSITION OF THE TELETYPE MACHINE THE KEYBOARD CONTACTS ARE CLOSED TO EARTH AND THE BIAS DIVIDER NETWORK SUPPLIES 50 VOLTS OF NEGATIVE BIAS TO THE GRIDS OF THE KEYSER VALVE AND TO THE GRID OF THE MARK AMPLIFIER, CUTTING OFF THE MARK SIGNAL WHILE THE SPACE SIGNAL GOES THROUGH THE SPACE AMPLIFIER VALVE. ON THE TRANSMISSION OF A CHARACTER ON THE TELETYPE KEYBOARD, THE KEYBOARD CONTACTS OPEN AND A POSITIVE VOLTAGE OF 50 VOLTS APPEARS ACROSS THESE CONTACTS FROM THE PRINTER MAGNET COIL CIRCUIT. THIS POSITIVE SIGNAL CHANGES THE GRID BIAS VOLTAGE TO SLIGHTLY POSITIVE, PERMITTING THE MARK AMPLIFIER TO CONDUCT AND PASS THE MARK SIGNAL. AT THE SAME TIME THE KEYSER TUBE CONDUCTS AND RAISES THE CATHODE VOLTAGE OF THE SPACE AMPLIFIER SUFFICIENTLY TO CUT OFF THE SPACE SIGNAL BY THE VOLTAGE DROP ACROSS THEIR COMMON CATHODE RESISTOR; THIS 25 KΩ VARIABLE RESISTOR IS ADJUSTED TO THE NECESSARY CUT-OFF VOLTAGE.

THE OUTPUT OF THIS GENERATOR IS FED INTO THE AUDIO CHANNEL OF ANY CONVENTIONAL AMATEUR PHONE TRANSMITTER; OR ALTERNATIVELY, IT CAN BE USED TO TEST A CONVERTER UNIT ON LOCAL COPY. A CONVERTER UNIT IN AMATEUR RADIOTELETYPE TERMINOLOGY IS A GADGET USED TO CONVERT AN AFSK SIGNAL BACK INTO D.C. PULSES TO OPERATE THE PRINTER SELECTOR MAGNET OF THE TELETYPE MACHINE. A SIMPLE THREE-VALVE CONVERTER UNIT WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF A SUBSEQUENT ARTICLE.

## STAINLESS STEEL POLISHING

The increasing use of stainless steel in plants manufactured for the chemical, pharmaceutical, food, brewery and dairy industries, and for fittings in motor-cars, caravans, ships and aircraft, and for domestic hardware of all kinds, lends importance to a novel and patented process known as "electro-polishing."

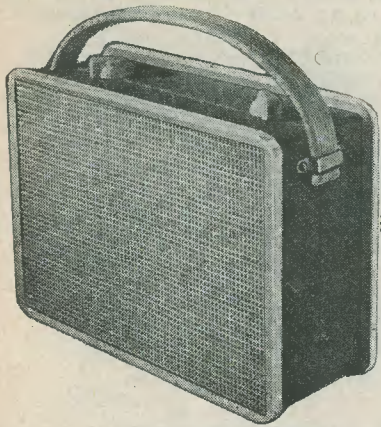
The stainless steel article to be polished is immersed in an electrolyte and a current is passed through it, using the article as the anode. Instead of depositing metal on the article, as in electro-plating, the process is reversed and about 0.0005in is removed electro-chemically and evenly from the stainless steel. A highly polished and chemically clean surface remains.

Besides being cheaper and quicker than mechanical polishing, electro-polishing has other advantages. Any inclusions in the stainless steel, which are sometimes unavoidably introduced during manufacture, are removed electro-chemically, instead of being added to, as they tend to be by mechanical polishing. The electro-

polished article is therefore particularly resistant to corrosion, which makes it suitable for components where chemical purity and hygiene are paramount. Secondly, complex assemblies, which would be inaccessible for mechanical polishing, can be readily electro-polished. This in turn frees design, because there is no need to avoid shapes which previously would be difficult or impossible to polish by any other method.

A wide variety of articles of all shapes and sizes has been successfully treated by this process, varying from stainless steel tanks of 2,000 gallons capacity to small parts of cathode-ray tubes and wireless valves; and work has been carried out for Kodak, I.C.I., and many other firms. There seems to be almost unlimited scope for electro-polishing stainless steel components and assemblies, not only for the sake of the finished appearance, but also to improve resistance to corrosion.

The process is done by Electropol Processing Ltd., Trading Estate, Farnham, Surrey.



# The New TRANSEVEN

## A 7-TRANSISTOR RECEIVER FOR THE HOME CONSTRUCTOR

described by JAMES S. KENT

### PART 2

#### Stage 3

In order to prevent damage to the transistors by heat from the soldering iron, do not shorten the wire connections. These wires should be covered with 1 mm. p.v.c. sleeving before soldering into position. When soldering the transistors, use the wiring pliers as a heat shunt in order to avoid possible heat damage.

Fit the r.f. transistor TR<sub>1</sub>, soldering the collector (spot) to pin 2 of the OT1, the base (centre wire) to eyelet 4 and the emitter to eyelet 3.

Fit the first i.f. transistor TR<sub>2</sub>, connecting the emitter to tag 3 of the OT1, collector (spot) to tag 2 of TT2, and the base (centre wire) to eyelet 5.

With the second i.f. transistor TR<sub>3</sub>, connect the emitter to tag 3 of the TT2, the collector (spot) to tag 2 of TT3 and the base (centre wire) to eyelet 6.

Dealing next with the first audio transistor, TR<sub>4</sub>, connect the emitter to eyelet 7, the base (centre wire) to eyelet 8 and the collector (spot) to eyelet 9.

Taking the second audio transistor TR<sub>5</sub>, solder the emitter to eyelet 10, the base (centre wire) to eyelet 11 and the collector (spot) to eyelet 12.

With TR<sub>7</sub>, one half of the push-pull output stage, connect the collector (spot) to eyelet 19, the base (centre wire) to eyelet 14 and the emitter to eyelet 17.

Fit the other half of the output stage, TR<sub>6</sub>, soldering the collector (spot) to eyelet

20, the base (centre wire) to eyelet 18 and the emitter to eyelet 17.

The next step is to cut the blue and black leads off the solder tags on the ferrite slab aerial FS2 and join the solder tags, from which these leads have been removed, together; first at the LW coil tags and then at the MW coil tags. Cut 3in off the paxolin fixing brackets of the FS2 aerial from that end furthest from the slab.

Thread the yellow and red leads through the hole 28 and the green and orange leads through hole 22. (See stage one diagram for location of hole 22.) Turn the FS2 aerial so that the coils are in the position shown in the stage 3 diagram (see Fig. 3) and then screw to the angle brackets at J and L, using 6BA screws and nuts through the centre of the solder tags on the paxolin brackets of the FS2. Following this, seal the coils of the FS2 to the ferrite slab with wax. The above completes stage 3.

#### Stage 4 (Drawing No. 1)

In the point-to-point drawings for this stage (Fig. 3), the trimmer blocks have been shown "flat" for purposes of clarity.

Solder C<sub>4</sub> (800pF)—this value required for the Light programme on the Long wave band—from point 12 on the wavechange switch to the solder tag on the screw at G. Join the solder tags, nearest to the paxolin panel, of TC<sub>5</sub>, TC<sub>6</sub>, TC<sub>7</sub> and TC<sub>8</sub> together and connect to the solder tag on the screw at H. Join the top terminal tags of TC<sub>1</sub>, TC<sub>2</sub>, TC<sub>3</sub> and TC<sub>4</sub>

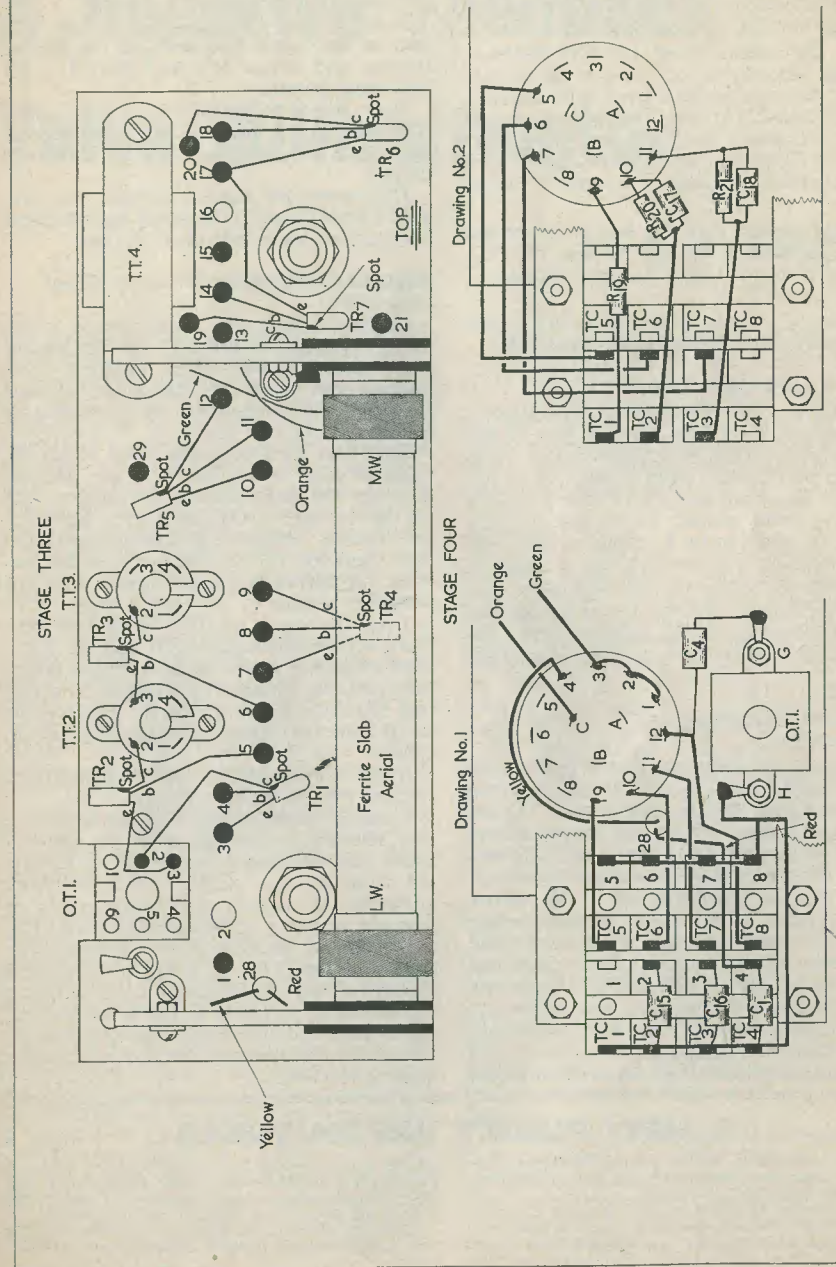


FIG. 3.  
Third and Fourth Stages of Construction.

together and connect to the solder tag on the screw at H.

Solder  $C_1$  (200pF)—for the Light programme on the LW band, from point 4 of  $TC_4$  to the top of  $TC_4$ . Connect the red lead from FS2, which we have previously brought through hole 28, to point 4 of  $TC_4$ .

Fix the yellow lead of FS2 (already through hole 28) to contact 4 on the switch. Solder the orange lead from FS2 (already through hole 22) to pole C on the wavechange switch. Connect the green lead from FS2 (via hole 22) to contact 3 of the switch. Now, join together contacts 1, 2 and 3 of the switch.

Solder contact 9 of the switch to the top of  $TC_5$ ; contact 10 to the top of  $TC_6$ ; contact 11 to the top of  $TC_7$  and contact 12 to the top of  $TC_8$ .

Solder  $C_{15}$  (see Table for value) across  $TC_2$  and  $C_{16}$  (again see Table) across  $TC_3$ .

#### Stage 4 (Drawing No. 2)

Solder  $R_{19}$  (value subject to experiment—see previous text) from contact 9 of switch to the top of  $TC_1$ ;  $R_{20}$  from contact 10 to the top of  $TC_2$ ;  $C_{17}$  from contact 10 to top of  $TC_2$ ;  $R_{21}$  from contact 11 to top of  $TC_3$  and  $C_{18}$  from contact 11 to top of  $TC_3$ . (Note: In addition to  $R_{19}$ , the values of all the foregoing components are subject to variations of value—see previous text.)

Lastly, connect the speaker and insert the battery plug into a  $7\frac{1}{2}$  volt battery. The completed receiver is now ready for alignment.

#### Alignment Instructions. (With Signal Generator)

Connect the signal generator lead to the emitter of  $TR_3$  (tag 3 of  $TT_2$ ) and feed in a 315 kc/s signal, adjusting the core of  $TT_3$  for maximum output. Move the generator lead to the emitter of  $TR_2$  (tag 3 of  $OT_1$ ) and adjust the core of  $TT_2$  for maximum output.

Connect the generator lead to the emitter of  $TR_1$  (eyelet 3) and adjust the bottom core of  $OT_1$  for maximum output. With the lead still connected to  $TR_1$ , give a final adjustment to the cores of  $TT_3$ ,  $TT_2$  and  $OT_1$  (bottom).

Switch to the LW position and adjust  $R_{17}$  (see circuit description), feed in a 200 kc/s signal from the generator and set  $TC_8$  to approximately 40pF, then adjust the top core

of  $OT_1$  for maximum output. Adjust  $TC_4$  also for maximum output.

Switch to the MW1 position, adjust  $R_{19}$  (see circuit description), feed in the signal frequency of the selected station, and adjust  $TC_5$  and  $TC_1$  for maximum output.

Switch to the MW2 position, adjust  $R_{20}$ , feed in the signal frequency of the desired station, and adjust  $TC_6$  and then  $TC_2$  for maximum output.

Next, switch to the MW3 position, adjust  $R_{21}$ , feed in the required signal frequency, and adjust  $TC_7$  and then  $TC_3$  for maximum output.

Disconnect the signal generator and give a final adjustment to the aerial and oscillator trimmers on each individual station.

#### Alignment Instructions (Without Signal Generator)

Connect a long wire aerial directly to the tuned windings of the FS2—to the orange lead when switched to a Medium wave position and to the red lead when switched to a Long wave position—and proceed as follows:

Switch to the LW position and adjust the value of  $R_{17}$ . Next, switch to the position covering the nearest local transmitter, and set the top core of  $OT_1$  level with the top of the former. Adjust the appropriate aerial and oscillator trimmers (see above instructions for identification of these), until the station is heard.

Tune the cores of  $TT_3$ ,  $TT_2$  and  $OT_1$  (bottom) for maximum aural output. Fit a 25pF capacitor in the aerial wire and repeat the core and trimmer adjustments as above but NOT the  $OT_1$  top core. Remove the aerial and repeat these adjustments as a final check.

By the same method, the remaining three stations may be tuned correctly.

It should be noted here that the receiver is very selective and consequently the required signal can very easily be missed by turning the trimmers too quickly. It is therefore advisable to tighten whichever oscillator trimmer is being adjusted ( $TC_5$ ,  $TC_6$ ,  $TC_7$  or  $TC_8$ ) and then turn the corresponding aerial trimmer ( $TC_1$ ,  $TC_2$ ,  $TC_3$  or  $TC_4$ ) right through its travel. Slacken off the oscillator trimmer approximately  $1/20$ th of a turn and again turn the aerial trimmer through its travel. Repeat this until the required station is being received.

## A NEW PLESSEY VHF/FM TUNER

A new addition to the wide range of radio components already manufactured by the Plessey Company Ltd. is the P.B.2 VHF/FM tuner.

This compact VHF/FM tuner is designed around a double triode valve, one section of which is used as an r.f. amplifier and the other as a self-oscillating mixer. The unit employs eddy-current tuning and is available

in two main versions, one having a tuning range of 87–101 Mc/s and the other having a range of 87/108 Mc/s. Consequently, tuners suitable for use in the U.K., Europe or North America can be supplied.

There are no oscillator drift problems with the unit and radiation is well within B.R.E.M.A. recommended limits.

# A Negative Feedback Valve Millivoltmeter

by G. K. Fairfield

IN DESIGNING AN INDICATING INSTRUMENT such as a valve-voltmeter for audio-frequency work, the main requirement will be that the output be independent of frequency over the range required. Secondly, stability of indication is essential—this must not vary whilst a series of readings are being taken. Absolute accuracy is of less importance as, for the main part, relative readings only are required and the results are plotted in decibel form. However, the methods used to obtain the first two requirements will usually mean that a high degree of absolute accuracy is realised.

The solution to these problems lies, of course, in the application of negative feedback to the amplifying circuit of the voltmeter. This has been incorporated in the circuit shown in Fig. 1. The first valve  $V_1$  provides the bulk of the loop gain and is directly coupled to a cathode-coupled pair of valves  $V_{2a}$ – $V_{2b}$ . This circuit has the ability to amplify without phase-inversion and is necessary to keep the phase relationships correct for the negative feedback taken from the output valve  $V_{3a}$ .

#### Negative Feedback Loop

Voltage feedback is used, the output being developed across a potential divider, formed by a crystal diode bridge circuit and a resistor  $R_5$  included in the cathode circuit of  $V_1$ . It is across this resistor that the fed-back potential is developed and, in order to extend the frequency range of the instrument, has been made to have an inductive component. This is achieved by winding approximately 12 turns of 38 s.w.g. Eureka resistance wire on a  $\frac{1}{4}$ in diameter former containing a dust core tuning slug. This core is adjusted during calibration to give the highest level frequency response, after the resistance value has been adjusted as described later in this article.

The bridge circuit which forms the upper arm of the potential divider consists of four GEX 45/1 germanium point-contact diodes, although almost any other four similar point-contact diodes will serve. The rectified output will appear across a 1mA moving-coil meter; this should have an internal resistance not greater than 1,000 $\Omega$ .

#### Anti-ripple Circuit

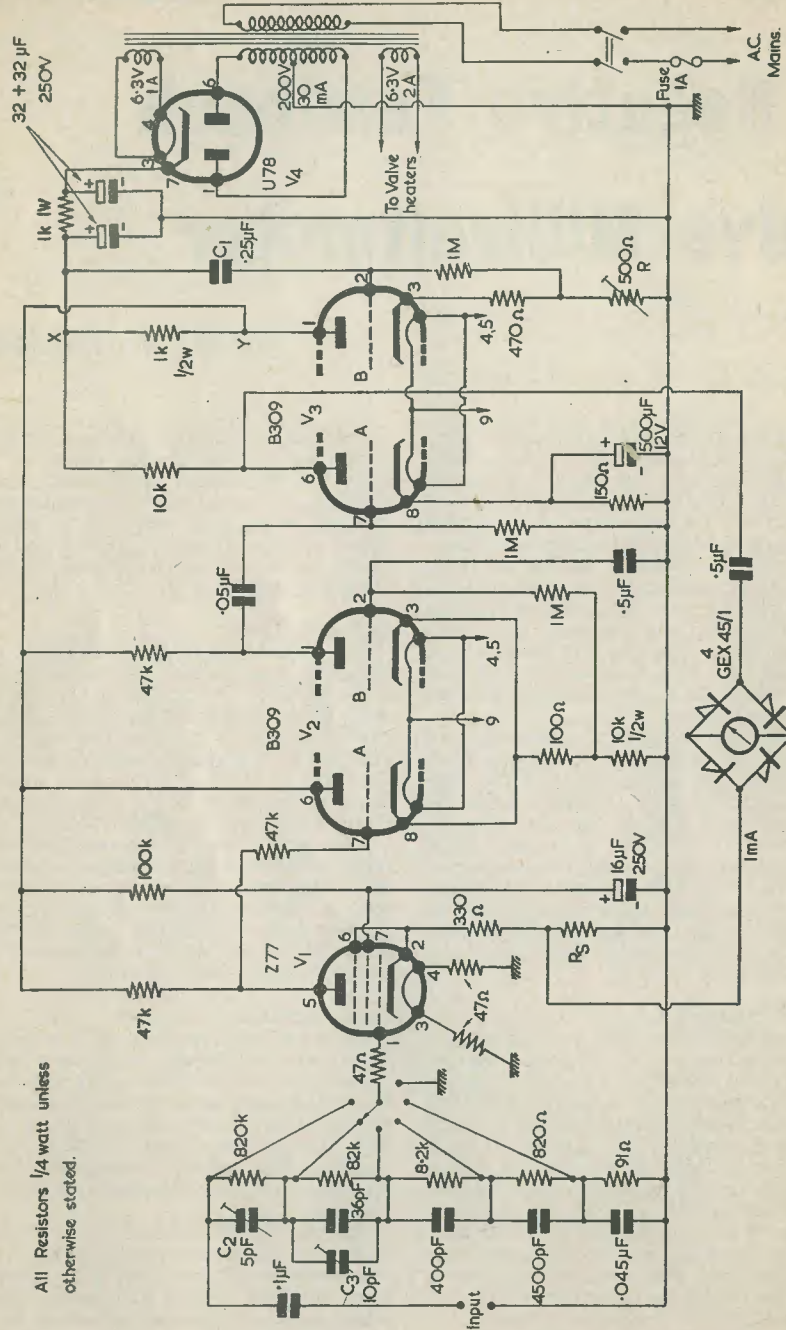
The second half of  $V_3$  is used as a hum reduction stage for the two earlier sections of the amplifier. No smoothing choke is used in the power supply and the ripple present at point X is applied to the grid of  $V_{3b}$  via  $C_1$ . The gain of this stage is adjusted by setting the value of  $R$  to give minimum ripple at point Y, the anode of  $V_{3b}$ , whence the h.t. supply for the earlier stages is taken.

Any ripple present in the amplifier will be rectified and show as a minimum reading on the meter when the input terminals are shorted. This should not be allowed to be greater than 2% of full scale deflection otherwise the readings at multiples of 50 c/s will be to some extent inaccurate.

#### Input Attenuator

The most sensitive range of the meter is 10mV r.m.s. for full scale deflection. Calibration may be made at 50 c/s using an accurate a.c. meter and a graduated wire-wound potentiometer of large diameter (see Fig. 2). With a known 10mV input to the meter the resistance value of  $R_5$  (number of turns) is carefully adjusted until full scale deflection is observed.

The attenuator can now be constructed. It is convenient to make this as a self-contained unit, the resistors and capacitors being grouped around the 6-way Yaxley switch used. Frequency correction is obtained by arranging a second potential



All Resistors 1/4 watt unless otherwise stated.

FIG. 1. Complete Circuit of Valve Millivoltmeter.

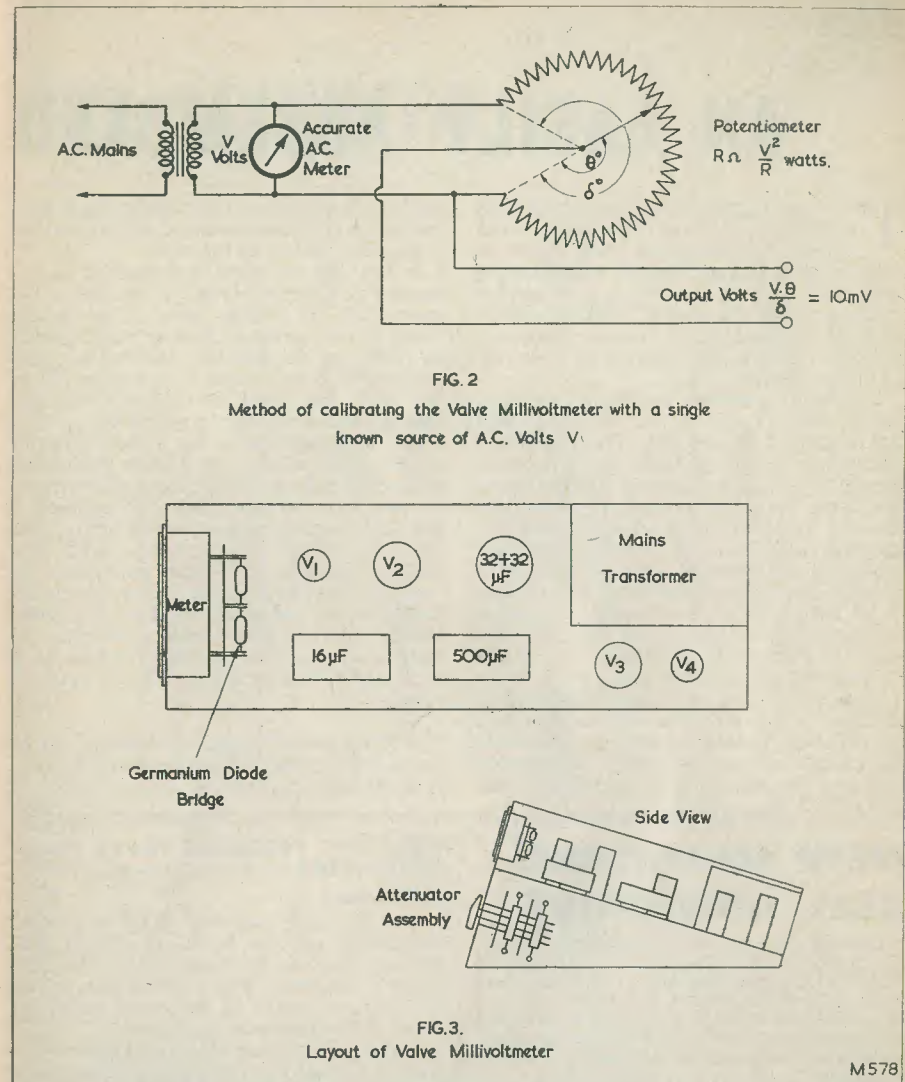


FIG. 2. Method of calibrating the Valve Millivoltmeter with a single known source of A.C. Volts  $V_1$ .

FIG. 3. Layout of Valve Millivoltmeter.

divider, this time a capacity one, in shunt with the purely resistive divider. With care the complete attenuator will then be independent of frequency up to a few megacycles. The resistors used should preferably be of  $\pm 5\%$  tolerance and carefully selected by measurement before insertion. However, it is often easier to adjust the resistance values of the completed attenuator *in situ* and this should be done, commencing with the largest value resistor to obtain, say, one-tenth of full-scale reading on the 100mV position for a known 10mV input. The 1V range can

next be tackled to give one-tenth full scale with 100mV input, and so on. It is sufficiently accurate to do this at 50 c/s as the linearity of the instrument will be good to at least 100 kc/s even without special adjustment of  $C_2$ ,  $C_3$  and  $R_s$ .

These latter adjustments should next be carried out using a calibrated signal generator, commencing as before, with  $R_s$  with the meter switched to the 10mV position, then  $C_2$  on the 100mV position, and finally  $C_3$  on the 1V range.

continued on page 540

# AN EASILY ASSEMBLED

THE PRE-SELECTOR DESCRIBED HERE WAS assembled in about two hours from components already to hand, chiefly in order to bring in some distant stations more easily and also to use up a few surplus components. It is a piece of apparatus which may interest some of the younger readers in particular, before they attempt to construct a full-size receiver.

The chassis measures 7in x 5in x 1½in deep, and was raised to 2in by means of hardwood blocks screwed at each end. This increase in height was made in order to give more clearance for the switch and potentiometer (the latter is actually used as a variable resistor, one end of the track being left unconnected). The coil, variable condenser (which in my case is one intended for a reaction control) and the mains transformer ("Cry Baby" type, Clyne Radio, or similar) are mounted on top of the chassis. The rectifier, electrolytic condenser and other components are mounted underneath.

To the back drop of the chassis is fixed an insulated socket strip for the aerial, also a coaxial socket to take the output lead. Inside the chassis are two 4-way tag strips; one supports the mains leads and earths the

electrolytic condenser unit, whilst the second carries the resistors associated with the anode and screen circuits of the valve.

In use, the pre-selector is coupled to the receiver and the aerial input is coupled to the room, loft, or outside aerial. The 4-pole 3-way switch, which is used as mains switch as well as pre-selector switch, is then positioned so that, although the valve heater is "on," the aerial is switched straight through to the receiver (position 2).

Any required station may now be tuned in on the main receiver, and then greatly increased in volume—with added selectivity—by switching the pre-selector to position 3 and adjusting the pre-selector tuning and gain controls. After some practice with this method, it will be found practicable to "search" for stations by operating simultaneously the pre-selector and main receiver tuning controls, thus enabling reception of stations so weak that the main receiver alone is unable to bring them above the background noise.

*NOTE: Output coaxial lead should not be connected to chassis of main receiver if latter is of the a.c./d.c. type.*

## NEW EDDYSTONE DIAL AND DRIVE

Stratton & Co. Ltd., Eddystone Works, Birmingham 31, have introduced a new geared slow-motion drive assembly which we have received for test and which we have no hesitation in recommending to all those readers interested in the construction of multi-band receivers, signal generators, audio oscillators and similar equipment.

The pointer has a horizontal travel of 7in over five scales intended for self-calibration. There is an additional scale which, in conjunction with a circular vernier scale marked in 100 divisions, enables the total travel to be divided by 500.

The movement is by cord drive to the pointer, and by pre-loaded gearing to the rotated component, a ratio of 110:1 being achieved. Fly-wheel loading ensures a smooth drive.

A diecast escutcheon, finished glossy black, Perspex window, knob, fixing screws and mounting template are provided.

The drive is suitable for mounting on metal or wood panels up to 7mm. (just over ¼in). The catalogue number is 898, and the retail price £2 18s. 0d.

## NEGATIVE FEEDBACK VALVE MILLIVOLTMETER—continued from page 539

### Performance

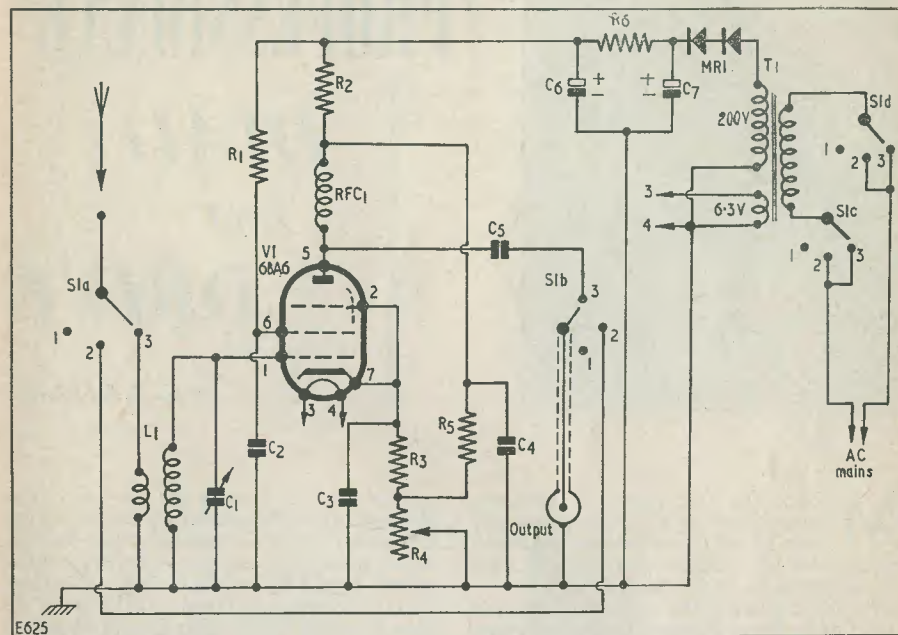
The frequency response of the completed instrument will be found to extend well outside the audio frequency range. With the writer's equipment this is linear from 20 c/s to 800 kc/s, rendering the meter useful for many radio frequency applications.

Stability is excellent and a long preliminary warm-up period is quite unnecessary. The accuracy, especially at the higher frequency end, is dependent on the care with which the attenuator is constructed, but on the most sensitive range this should be better than 3%.

### Layout

A suitable layout for the meter is shown in Fig. 3. The lead to the grid of V<sub>1</sub> from the attenuator should be kept as short as possible, and the heater leads twisted together and kept close to the underside of the chassis. The diode bridge circuit can best be mounted on a separate bakelite panel bolted to the rear of the meter.

# PRE-SELECTOR *by N. Fox*



### Component List

#### Resistors

- R<sub>1</sub> 47kΩ ½W
- R<sub>2</sub> 1.2kΩ ½W
- R<sub>3</sub> 47Ω ½W
- R<sub>4</sub> 5kΩ w.w. pot.
- R<sub>5</sub> 470kΩ ½W
- R<sub>6</sub> 10kΩ 1W

#### Condensers

- C<sub>1</sub> 500pF variable
- C<sub>2</sub> 0.01μF 350V
- C<sub>3</sub> 0.01μF 150V
- C<sub>4</sub> 0.01μF 350V
- C<sub>5</sub> 100pF mica
- C<sub>6</sub>, C<sub>7</sub> 8+8μF 350V electrolytic

#### Miscellaneous

- S<sub>1a-c</sub> 4-pole 3-way rotary
- MR<sub>1</sub> Brimar DRM1B
- V<sub>1</sub> Brimar 6BA6
- L<sub>1</sub> Aerial coil of suitable range
- T<sub>1</sub> Mains transformer, "Cry Baby" (Clyne Radio) or similar
- B7G valveholder and screening can
- Input and output sockets and plugs
- RFC<sub>1</sub> R.F. choke of suitable range to match L<sub>1</sub>
- Three knobs, chassis 7in x 5in x 2in, panel 7in x 5in, two 4-way tag strips, screws, nuts, wire, etc.

## BOOK REVIEW

**THE RADIO AMATEUR'S HANDBOOK.** Published by the American Radio Relay League. Obtainable from the Modern Book Co., 19-23 Praed Street, London, W.2. Price in U.K., 32s. 6d.

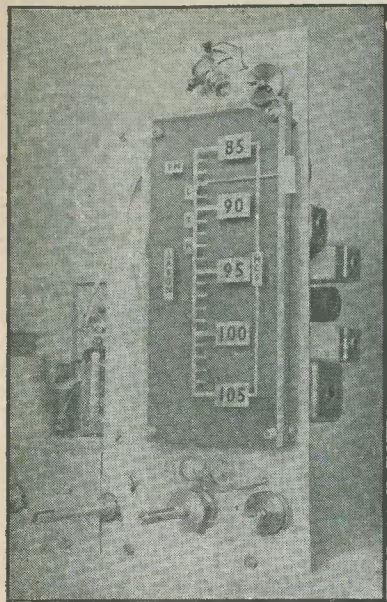
The 1958-35th edition—of this radio amateur's "bible" enables its readers to get right up to date on the latest in amateur radio techniques. For the first time, a section on teletype (RTTY) is included. The single sideband (SSB) section has been increased and

the application of such recent developments as transistors to amateur radio equipment is featured.

There is something in this volume for everybody, from the rawest tyro just learning morse and wanting to build a simple short-wave receiver, through elementary theory to the construction of one's first transmitter, up to the most modern SSB transmitters, VHF gear and aeriels. This is a "must" for every radio amateur and a copy of the new edition will prove to be one of the most consulted books in one's shack.

A.C.G.





★  
**“PROFESSIONAL”**  
**DIAL**  
*and*  
**DRIVE**

by **K. J. PALMER**

**M**ANY IS THE TIME WHEN AN AMATEUR, on constructing a radio receiver, has been placed in an awkward situation by the lack of a suitable dial that will meet his requirements and individual taste.

I was faced with this problem when constructing an f.m. radiogram for domestic use. Apart from fulfilling the need of good radio reception, it had also to be of good appearance, fit in with the existing furniture, and therefore have a professional finish.

In this particular instance it had to have a vertical dial of dimensions to fit in with the overall proportions and design of the set.

There seems to be a lack of vertical f.m. dials on the market at present, and in any case I doubt if the overall dimensions would have been to my requirements.

There was only one answer, make one!

After a pitiful attempt at painting a scale, I found the answer in the following way:

**Materials Required**

One piece of 18 s.w.g. sheet aluminium; four 1in 4BA screws; two pieces of Perspex; suitable transfers; one piece of Formica (cherry red; colour optional); one small length of brass tubing  $\frac{3}{8}$ in bore; suitable pulleys, drum and cord, etc. for the drive.

The aluminium sheet is cut and drilled to suit the existing chassis of the set and is used as the front panel and support for the dial and drive.

After deciding the size and position of the dial, its outside dimensions are marked off on the aluminium. Four holes are then marked off on the aluminium  $\frac{1}{8}$ in in from the edge at each corner of the dial outline. These are then drilled 4BA clearance. At this point all holes required for the drive should be made. The details and design of the drive I have left to the individual constructor because of the varied requirements and the operative length of the scale. In this particular assembly a 5in scale length and a double reduction pulley system was used.

After the aluminium is drilled, the two pieces of Perspex are next cut and filed to shape. Place one piece of Perspex on the aluminium and mark through the four holes on to the Perspex. Put the two pieces of Perspex together, square the edges, and without moving them drill the four holes, this time 4BA tapping size. Separate the Perspex, and in one piece open out the four holes to 4BA clearance, and in the other tap out the holes 4BA.

It is well to mention at this point that care must be taken not to damage the surface of the Perspex, therefore the protective paper should be left on until the last operation has been completed. It is also advisable to use aluminium or lead vice clamps.

The Formica is next cut to the same size as the Perspex, and the four holes marked off and drilled 4BA clearance, ensuring that

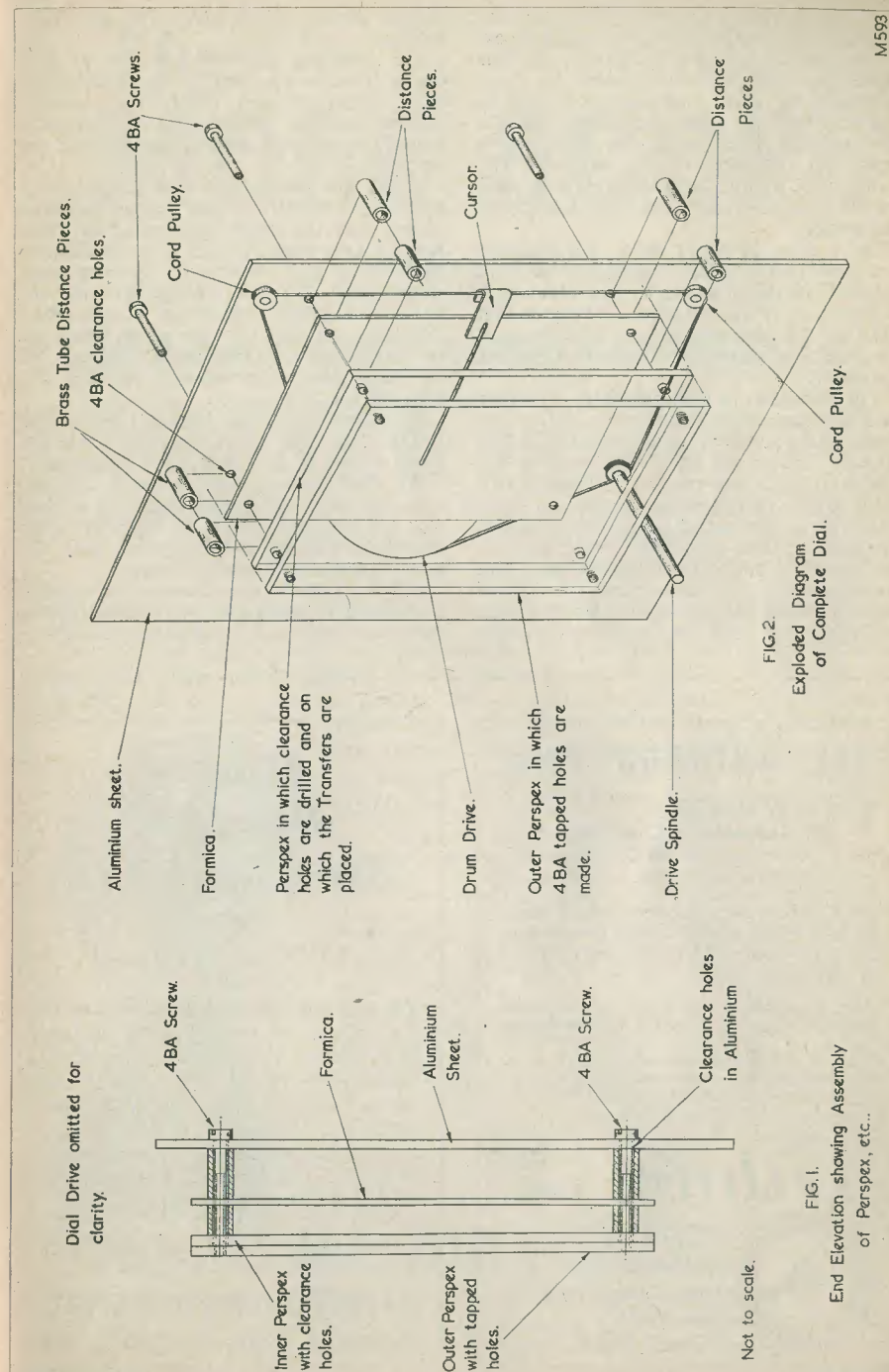


FIG. 2  
Exploded Diagram  
of Complete Dial.

FIG. 1.  
End Elevation showing Assembly  
of Perspex, etc.

M593

they are the same pitch as the holes previously drilled in the aluminium and Perspex.

Next cut the tubing into eight pieces; four pieces  $\frac{1}{2}$ in long, and four pieces  $\frac{1}{4}$ in long. Assemble the drive and scale as shown in Fig. 1. With a signal generator find the extreme ends of the scale, and mark with a pencil on the edge of the Perspex. The positions at 85 Mc/s and 105Mc/s were used for the scale described here. The dial is then dismantled.

On a piece of paper draw, full size, the scale and graduations, using the distance between the pencil marks as the total length of the scale. Place the piece of Perspex that has the 4BA clearance holes in it on top of the paper and align it to the scale drawn on the paper.

The transfers are next prepared. The type used are those that can be obtained in any model shop, and are normally used on model aircraft. These are used because they are simple to apply and require no varnish. To apply they are floated in a dish of warm water for a few seconds and then, sliding them off of their protective paper backing, are placed in position on the Perspex. The excess water is carefully blotted off. (Panel Signs transfers are suitable for this purpose. Sets PS3 (white) and PS4 (black) now include

station names, LW, MW, SW and FM.—Ed.)

On the scale described, a sheet of gold colour transfer was used for the graduations, black numerals and letters being superimposed on this. By using this method many variations of colour and design can be achieved.

When the transfers have been placed in position, the other piece of Perspex is placed on top and the whole is reassembled. (See Fig. 2.) Care must be taken to avoid trapping particles of dust between the Perspex when assembling. Do not attempt to glue the Perspex together, otherwise condensation will form between the two pieces when the set warms up. The infinitesimal air gap left between them when screwed together will prevent this.

The effect when assembled and illuminated is that the scale appears to be inside the Perspex, and is, of course, fully protected.

All that remains now is to fit the dial complete with the chassis into the cabinet that has an aperture cut in the front panel about  $\frac{1}{2}$ in shorter and narrower than the outside dimensions of the Perspex.

The final result is an inexpensive but professional dial that has been in continuous use for nine months and is still as good as new.

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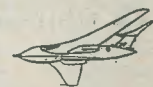
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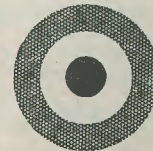
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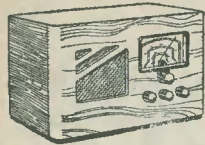
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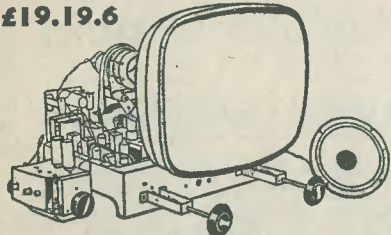
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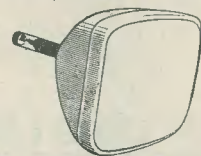
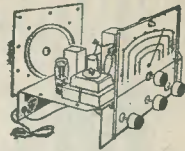
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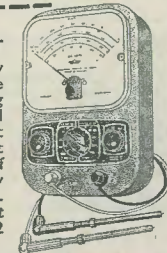
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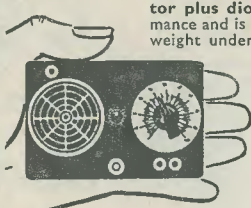
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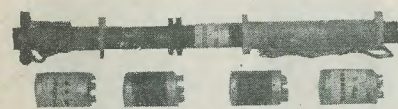
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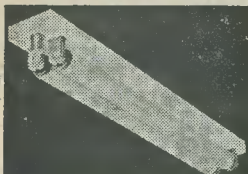
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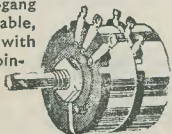
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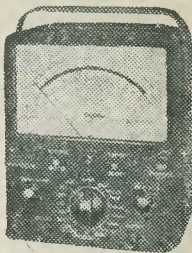
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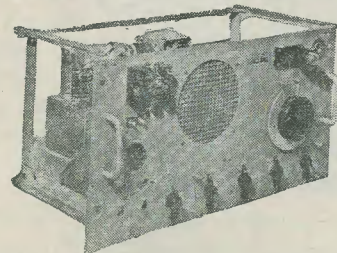


### A.C./D.C. Multimeter Kit

Ranges: D.C. volts 0-5, 0-50, 0-100, 0-500, 0-1,000. A.C. volts 0-5, 0-50, 0-100, 0-500, 0-1,000. D.C. milliamps 0-5, 0-100, 0-500. Ohms 0-50,000 with internal batteries; 0-500,000 with external batteries. Measures a.c./d.c. volts, d.c. current and ohms. All the essential parts including metal case, 2" moving coil meter, selected resistors, wire for shunts, range selector, switches, calibrated scale and full instructions. Price 19/6, plus 2/6 post and insurance.



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(as described in last issue)

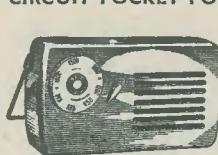
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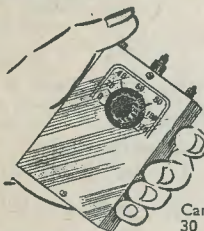
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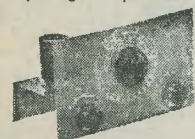
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- LATEST 4-SPEED BSR Player unit (Model TU9)** and "Full-Fi" pick-up, £4.12.6, carriage 3/6
- 2-VALVE AMPLIFIER** wired complete with speaker, etc., on mounting board, £3.5.0, carr. 2/6
- CONTEMPORARY STYLED LIGHT-WEIGHT CASE** in maroon and grey, size 14 1/2" x 11 1/2" x 6", £1.7.6, carriage 2/6

SPECIAL OFFER

**ALL 3 UNITS ONLY £9, Carriage 4/6**

We can only show a small selection from our vast stocks in this advert. Write now for full Bargain Lists, 3d.



## RADIO COMPONENT SPECIALISTS

70 Brigstock Road Thornton Heath Surrey

Telephone THO 2188

Terms: C.W.O. or C.O.D. Post and packing up to 1/6 7d., 1lb 1/1, 3lb 1/6, 5lb 2/-, 10lb 2/9

## RECORD PLAYER BARGAINS

New Reduced Prices

**SINGLE PLAYERS.** 4-speed BSR (TU9), 92/6; 4-speed **COLLARO JUNIOR**, £4.10.0; 4-speed **GARRARD (4S.P.)**, £7.15.0, carr. and ins. 3/6  
**AUTOCHANGERS.** 4-speed BSR (UA8), £6.19.6; 4-speed **COLLARO**, £7.19.6; 4-speed **GARRARD (RC121/4D/MkII)**: plug-in head, stereo adapted, 10 gns., carr. and ins. 4/6. All above units are latest 4-speed models, fitted lightweight crystal pick-up and twin sapphire styli. Complete and ready to use.

## FINEST SELECTION AVAILABLE ALL BRAND NEW AND GUARANTEED 80 OHM COAX CABLE

NOW ONLY 8d. YARD!

Highest Quality Cable, low-loss Polythene Aeraxial, semi-air spaced, feeder losses cut 50%. Standard 1/2" dia. Stranded core. Famous make.

20 yds 12/6, carr. 1/6 40 yds 20/-, carr. 2/-  
Coax Plugs 1/-, Coax Sockets 1/-, Couplers 1/3,  
Outlet Boxes 4/6, B1-B3 Xover Unit 7/6

## C.R.T. HEATER-ISOLATION TRANS.

New improved types—mains prim. 200/250V tapped. All isolation transformers now supplied with alternative no boost, plus 25%, and plus 50% boost taps at no extra cost, all in one transformer. 2V 2A type, 12/6; 6.3V 0.6A type, 12/6; 10.5V 0.3A type, 12/6; 13V 0.3A type, 12/6. P. and p. 1/6. Other voltages in course of production. Small size and tag terminated for easy fitting. P. and p. 1/6

## EMITAPE RECORDING TAPE

ALL NEW AND BOXED

	Type 88 (Stand.)	Type 99 (Long Play)
3"	175ft ... 7/-	250ft ... 9/-
5"	600ft ... 19/-	850ft ... 24/-
5 1/2"	850ft ... 24/6	1,200ft ... 31/6
7"	1,200ft ... 30/-	1,800ft ... 45/-

Spare Reels (unboxed). 7" metal 1/6, 7" plastic (EM) 3/6

## RE-GUNNED TV TUBES—GENUINE OFFER

New heater, cathode and gun assembly can now be fitted to your old tube, revacuumed and reconditioned virtually as new. Fully guaranteed to highest standards—as used by our own Service Department. 12" £8; 14" £8.10.0; 17" £10. We regret only Mullard and Mazda types at present. Delivery approximately 7 days. Carriage and insurance 12/6

## MIDGET TRANSISTOR TYPE ELECTROLYTICS.

T.C.C. 2µF, 4µF, 8µF 6V, 3/6; 6µF, 10µF, 16µF 3V, 3/6; 32µF 1 1/2V, 3/6, etc.

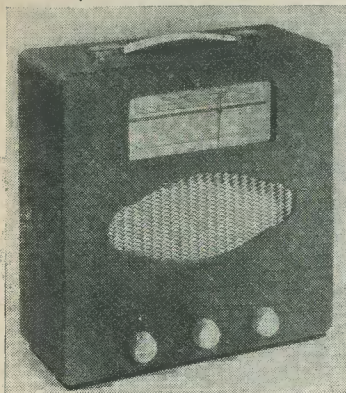
## VALVES—NEW BOXED—ALL GUARANTEED

1R5, 1T4, 7/6; 1S5, 1S4, 7/6; 3S4, 3V4, 8/-; 5Z4, 9/6; 6AT6, 8/6; 6K7, 6/6; 6K8, 8/6; 6Q7, 8/6; 6SN7, 8/6; 6V6, 7/6; 6X4, 7/6; 6X5, 7/6; 7C5, 9/-; 7Y4, 8/6; DAF96, 9/-; DF96, 9/-; DK96, 9/-; DL96, 9/-; 35L6, 10/6; EABC80, 9/6; EB91, 6/6; EBC41, 10/6; EBC33, 8/6; ECC84, 12/6; ECH42, 10/6; ECH81, 10/6; ECL80, 12/6; EF41, 10/6; EF80, 10/6; EF86, 14/6; EF91, 8/6; EY51, 12/6; EZ40, 8/6; EZ80, 8/6; MU14, 9/6; PCC84, 10/6; PCF80, 10/6; PCF82, 10/6; PCL83, 12/6; PL81, 14/6; PL82, 10/-; PL83, 11/6; PY80, 9/6; PY81, 9/6; PY82, 8/6; U25, 15/6; UY41, 8/6

**SPECIAL—1R5, 1T4, 1S5, 1S4 or 3S4 or 3V4 per set 27/6**

Hours 9 a.m.—6 p.m., 1 p.m. Wed.

## Compare this! "5-VALVE PORTABLE RADIO"



AC/DC portable radio—  
a well-known manufacturer's product, fully guaranteed and tested.

ONLY £7.12.6 pos 5/-

Portable polished wood cabinet ... .. 27/6 extra  
Super rexine portable cabinet ... .. 37/6 extra  
(As illustrated)

- ★ Built-in frame aerial
- ★ All Marconi valves
- ★ 7" x 4" elliptical speaker
- ★ Slow motion tuning
- ★ Two models available
- ★ Med., long, short and gram.
- ★ Med., short, short and gram.
- ★ Gramophone pick-up sockets
- ★ A complete and working unit
- ★ Ideal radiogram

Chassis size  
10" x  
10" x 4"

### RECORD PLAYERS

**Collaro Conquest.** The latest 4-speed autochanger with lightweight turnover crystal pick-up. Brand new and guaranteed  
£7.19.6 P.P. 4/6

**Collaro** 4-speed single player with latest turnover crystal pick-up. Brand new and guaranteed.  
£6.19.6 P.P. 3/6

**B.S.R. Monarch.** The latest version of this well-known 4-speed autochanger with turnover crystal pick-up  
£6.19.6 P.P. 4/-

**VIBRATOR PACKS.** Input 6V d.c. Output approx. 100V d.c. at 30mA, fully smoothed and r.f. filtered. Size 6½" x 5" x 2". Fitted with Mallory 629C vibrator. BRAND NEW. Boxed. 12/6

**PACKARD-BELL PRE-AMP.** Complete in screened case with 6SL7GT; 28D7 relay; leads, jack plug, etc. Handbook. Sealed in carton  
ONLY 12/6 P.P. 2/-

### RF UNITS

**TYPE 25** Switched. Tuning 30 to 40 Mc/s. includes 3 SP61s Carriage 2/6 10/-

**TYPE 26.** Variable tuning, 50 to 65 Mc/s. including 2 EF54s and EC52. Carr. 2/6 25/-  
(Circuits in stock for both types 9d.)

### SIX-TRANSISTOR POCKET-SUPERHET

- ★ Medium and Long wave
- ★ 6 selected transistors
- ★ Printed circuit
- ★ Internal ferrite aerial
- ★ 30 ohms speaker
- ★ Instruction booklet
- ★ Low consumption
- ★ Attractive plastic cabinet (red, blue and white colours)
- ★ 9V P.P.4 battery
- ★ Easy to build

All items supplied special inclusive price of

£9.19.6

P.P. 2/6

All components sold separately

Send for lists



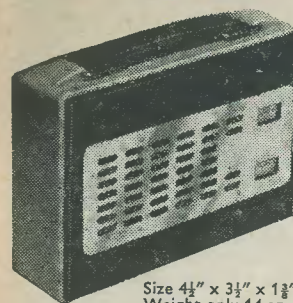
SEND 3d. STAMP FOR NEW TRANSISTOR COMPONENTS LIST; QUARTZ CRYSTAL LIST; VALVE LIST; TRANSISTOR RECEIVER CIRCUITS, ETC.

**HENRY'S RADIO LTD** • 5 HARROW ROAD • LONDON W2

Opposite Edgware Road Tube Station

(DEPT. RCF)

Telephone PADDington 1008/9



Size 4½" x 3½" x 1½"  
Weight only 14 oz.

## Special Offer! POCKET TRANSISTOR RADIO

- ★ 6-transistor Superhet
- ★ Medium and long wavebands
- ★ Push-pull output
- ★ Built-in ferrite aerial
- ★ Attractive moulded cabinet with gold trimmings
- ★ Printed circuit
- ★ Fully guaranteed

The product of a well-known British manufacturer: a receiver of the latest design using Mullard and Ediswan transistors.

List price 17 gns. OFFERED AT ONLY £10.10.0 incl. batteries  
NOT A DO-IT-YOURSELF—BUT A FULLY WORKING POCKET RADIO

This Portable 8-Transistor Superhet is tunable for both Medium and Long Waves and is comparable in performance to any equivalent commercial Transistor Set. Call and Hear Demonstration Model.

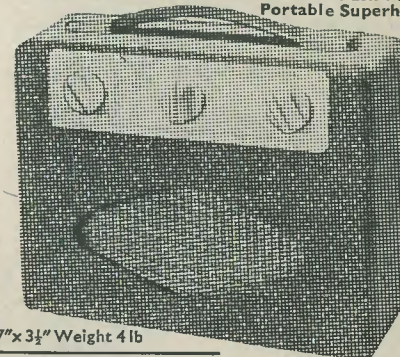
- ★ 8 EDISWAN Transistors
- ★ 250 Milliwatts output push-pull
- ★ All components identified
- ★ Medium and Long waves
- ★ Internal ferrite rod aerial
- ★ 7" x 4" elliptical speaker
- ★ Drilled chassis 8½" x 2½"
- ★ Point-to-point wiring and practical layout
- ★ Economical. Powered by 7½V battery
- ★ Highly sensitive
- ★ Attractive lightweight contemporary case. In various colours

Car Radio Conversion Components, 8/- extra  
A.V.C., 5/3 extra. 325mW version, 40/- extra

COMBINED  
PORTABLE/CAR  
RADIO  
Two sets for the price of one

We can supply all these items including cabinet for £11.10.0, P.P. 2/6. All parts sold separately.  
Circuit diagrams and shopping list free.

### "THE TRANSISTOR-8" Push-Pull Portable Superhet



Size 9"x7"x3½" Weight 4 lb

### NEW!

## SOLAR-THREE

- ★ No BATTERIES!
- ★ No running costs! Uses light cells
- ★ Three transistors
- ★ Built-in Ferrite aerial
- ★ No aerial or earth

Send for free components list

A pocket transistor receiver working from daylight!  
(See this issue)

### NEW TYPE TRANSISTORS — PRICE REDUCTIONS JUNCTION TYPE P.N.P.

EDISWAN XA104 6 Mc/s osc./mixer, r.f. amplifier 18/-  
EDISWAN XA103 4 Mc/s i.f. and r.f. amplifier ... 15/-  
EDISWAN XB104 1 Mc/s audio output and driver 10/-  
(A pair in push-pull will give up to 250mW audio output)  
Continental OC44 12 Mc/s osc./mixer, r.f. amp. ... 30/-  
Continental OC45 6 Mc/s i.f. and r.f. amp. ... 25/-  
Continental OC72 325mW in push-pull ... 20/-  
Red Spot 800 kc/s audio amplifier ... 7/6  
White Spot 2 to 5 Mc/s r.f. and i.f. amp. ... 12/6  
Green/Yellow 600 kc/s audio amplifier ... 7/6  
Red/Yellow 1.5 to 8 Mc/s r.f. and i.f. amp. ... 15/-

NEWMARKET POWER TRANSISTORS IN STOCK

Large range of sub-miniature transistor components in stock.  
Send for new free list

### MAJOR-2 (Two-transistor pocket receiver)

- ★ 4-stage reflex circuit
- ★ Variable tuning over medium waves
- ★ Highly sensitive
- ★ No aerial or earth
- ★ Economical
- ★ Drilled and mounted chassis
- ★ Size 4½" x 3" x 1½"
- ★ Internal ferrite aerial
- ★ Weight less than 4 oz
- ★ Complete layout diagram

All items can be supplied, including EDISWAN transistors, battery, case and personal phone, etc., for 72/6, post free. All components sold separately. Circuit and shopping list FREE. Call and Hear Demonstration Model.

### MINOR-1

- ★ Variable tuning on medium waves
- ★ 3-stage reflex circuit
- ★ Highly sensitive
- ★ Internal ferrite aerial
- ★ Drilled chassis
- ★ Long-life battery
- ★ Complete constructional details
- ★ Size 3" x 2" x ¾"

Total cost, including transistor, personal miniature phone, case, battery and complete circuit and layout diagrams, 52/6 post free. All components sold separately. Circuit and shopping list FREE.

**HENRY'S RADIO LTD** • 5 HARROW ROAD • LONDON W2

At junction of Edgware Road and Harrow Road

(DEPT. RCF)

Telephone PADDington 1008/9

### The TRANSIDYNE RECEIVER

(Page 119 Sept.)  
Complete Kit £11.19.6  
or less transistors £8.15.6  
FREE—Special printed circuit  
solder with each kit  
Only genuine Teletron parts  
Full details and price list 1/- post  
free

Heavy duty 500pF reaction condensers 3/-. Small solid dielectric variables, 0.0001µF 3/-; 0.0003µF 3/9; 0.0005µF 4/-. Resistors from 3d. each. Assd. carbon (many 5%) 25 for 3/11, 50 for 7/6. Hi-Stabs 10% 1/2 watt 6d.; 10% 1 watt 9d.; 1% 1/2 watt 2/-. Many odd values available at lower prices. Send requirements for quotation. Ajax Crystal Set complete, 14/6; L.W. 15/-. Case and chassis 5/9. Teletron HAX coil 3/-. REP Dual Wave Xtal Coil 2/6. Headphones, lightweight, 14/- and 16/-. Nuts, bolts, washers, tags. Well assorted: 25 1/-, 72 2/9, 144 5/-. Miniature Neons 1/10.

### TRANSMITTING KEYS

Heavy duty with 27 in twin rubber cable, fitted robust jack plug. Ideal also for Morse practice. The plug alone is worth the price! Limited number at 1/6 each

### Sensitive Transistor Receiver

(Page 298 Nov.)  
All parts now available for this excellent receiver.  
Complete Kit (less speaker) £5.3.0  
or less speaker and transistors £3.10.0  
(S.A.E. for price list)  
7" x 4" Speakers 22/6  
(Others available)

TRANSISTOR ITEMS. Electrolytics 8µF 6V, 16µF 12.5V, 32µF 3V, 5µF 12.5V, 5µF 40V, 2.5µF 40V, 1.6µF 6V, 2.5µF 6V. All 3/- each; 100µF 6V 3/-; Paper 0.01, 0.001, 0.002, 0.005µF, all 8d. each. Transistor Holders 1/- each, 6 for 5/9, 11/- doz. Ardente T.1065 transformers (page 911—July), 12/-. Subminiature Speakers 12" round, 27/-; 2" x 3" elliptical, 33/-. Sub-miniature Output Transformers, single-ended or p/p, 12/6. Volume Controls, button type (totally enclosed), 47k and 1MΩ, 2/6; preset skeleton type 5k, 2/6; spindle type, 1/2M, 1M, 2M, 4/3 (page 705—'R.C.' May). Ardente Deaf Aid Earpieces E.R.100, with cord and plug. Limited number at 13/9. Ardente Catalogue 6d. Transistors: Yellow/Red 15/-; White Spot 14/-; Yellow/Green 9/6; Red Spot 9/-

Multicore Solder 4d. yd, 19 ft reel 2/6, 11b reel 14/9. Fine gauge for printed circuits, 40 ft reel 2/6. Switches, s/p from 2/3, d/p from 3/6. Ferrite Rods 8" x 1/2" diam., 2/-. Mains neon indicators with built-in resistor. Domed top, chrome bezel, 1" long 1/2" diam. Opal, red, amber, 3/10; green 4/7.

We recommend the 'LITESOLD' soldering iron for all work and especially printed circuits. Mains or battery, 21/6 complete (state mains voltage)

CONNECTING WIRE p.v.c. 50ft coil, 5 colours, 1/9. Sleeving, 15 ft, assd. colours and thicknesses, 8d. Tinned Copper Wire 24 s.w.g., 15ft 8d. Combined pack (3 above items) 2/9

### EASY PRESELECTOR

(Page 460)  
Complete Kit £3.10.6  
(including one coil)  
Ranges available: 750/2200 m., 180/500 m., 60/220 m., 15/50 m., 10/30 m.  
Please state range required  
(Extra coils 3/- each)

QUOTATIONS gladly given (S.A.E. please)

## R. FAGELSTON (MAIL ORDER)

Please add Postage to above prices

46 HARDWICKE ROAD · LONDON N13

### ★ VALVES

### NEW TESTED AND GUARANTEED

1R5	7/6	6X4	7/6	DK91	7/6	EP92	5/6
1S5	7/6	6X5G	6/6	DK92	9/-	EL41	10/-
1T4	6/-	12AH8	9/6	DK96	9/-	EL84	9/6
3S4	7/6	12AT7	7/6	DL92	7/6	EL91	7/6
3V4	8/-	12AU7	7/6	DL94	8/-	EY51	10/6
5U4G	6/-	12AX7	9/6	DL96	9/-	EZ35	8/-
5Z4G	9/-	12K8GT	13/6	EB91	5/6	EZ40	8/-
6AM6	6/9	12K7GT	8/6	EB41	8/-	EZ80	8/-
6AL5	5/6	12Q7GT	7/6	EBF80	9/6	EZ81	8/6
6AT6	7/6	25A6G	10/6	ECC81	7/6	KT33C	9/6
6BA6	8/6	25L6GT	7/6	ECC82	7/6	PCF82	11/-
6BE6	7/6	35Z4GT	8/6	ECC83	7/6	PL82	10/6
6BR7	10/6	35L6GT	9/6	ECC84	8/6	PY81	8/-
6BW6	8/6	53KU	11/6	EFC82	11/-	PCC84	9/-
6J5G	5/6	807	6/9	ECH81	10/6	PCF80	9/6
6J7GT	8/6	5763	10/6	ECH42	10/-	U76	8/6
6K7G	2/6	DAF91	7/6	ECL80	12/6	UCB41	10/-
6K8G	7/6	DAF96	9/-	EF36	7/6	UCH42	9/-
6Q7GT	8/6	DF91	7/6	EF39	5/6	UF41	10/-
6SL7GT	8/6	DG96	9/-	EF41	9/-	UL41	9/6
6SN7GT	8/6	DH76	8/6	EF80	8/-	UY41	8/-
6V6G	7/6	DH77	7/6	EF91	6/9	W76	8/6

Matched Pairs. EL84, 23/-; 6V6G, 17/-; 6BW6, 18/-; KT33C, 19/6; KT66, 27/6; 807 14/6 pair

1R5, 1S5, 1T4, 3S4, 3V4, DAF91, DP91, DK91, DK92, DL92, DL94, any four, 27/6 per set

P.P. Op. Transformers. MR 3-15 ohms for EL84, 6V6, 6BW6, etc., 18/6; Op. Pen. 50mA, 5/6; 30mA, 4/6

Volume Controls. All values, long spindle. L/S 3/-, s.p. 4/-, d.p. 4/9, ext. spkr. control 3/-

W.W. Pots. Pre-set 3/-; 3W long spindle 5/6, s.p. 6/6

P.M. Speakers. 3 ohm. 5" 16/6, 6" 17/6, 8" 21/-, 10" 25/-, 12" 30/-, Bakers 12" 15 ohm 15W, 9/0

Coaxial Cable. 75 ohm 1/2" stranded, 8d. yd; semi-air spaced, 9d. yd; screen cable single and twin, 9d. yd

Coaxial Plugs 1/- each; Sockets 1/- each  
P. and P. 9d. to £1; 1/6 to £2; over £2 post free. C.O.D. 2/6

### R. COOPER G8BX

32 SOUTH END CROYDON SURREY CROYDON 9186

C.R.T. Isolation Transformers with nil, 25% and 50% boost, low capacity a.c. mains 200/250V for 2V 4V. 6.3V and 13V tubes. All 10/6 each

Valveholders. 4, 5, 7 pin English and U.S.A. B7G, B9A, 1.0 Mc. B8G, 9d. each; B7G, B9A with screening can, 1/6; B12A, 1/3 Aladdin formers 1/4" with core, 8d. each

Scotch Boy Recording Tape, 1,200ft reels, 27/- Jack Plugs, miniature standard, 3/-; Sockets 3/- 2-Gang Condensers, 0.0005 small size, 7/6

I.F. Transformers, 465 kc/s, small size, 7/6 pair Capacitors, small mica, 5% 1pF to 100pF, 8d.; 120pF to 1,000pF, 9d.; 1,000V wkg. .01, .0015, .0025, .004, .005, 1/- each

Crystal Diodes, G.E.C., 1/6 each Headphones, lightweight, 4,000 ohm, 16/6 pair Ceramic Capacitors, close tol. 500V for V.H.F., 9d.

Paper Capacitors, tubular, .01, 1,000V, 1/-; 0.1 to 0.5 500V, 10d.

Paper Blocks, 4µF, 1,000 wkg., 3/6 Rectifiers, contact cooled, 250V 50mA, 7/6; 85mA, 9/6

Reaction Condensers, .0001, .0003, .0005, 4/6 each Heater Trans. 200/240V, 6.3V, 1.5A, 7/6

Resistors, 1/2 and 1/4W, insulated, 4d. and 6d.; 1W, 8d. 6W W.W., 1/-; 10W, 2/-

Electrolytics. Wire ends. 25/25V, 1/6; 50/50V, 2/-; 12/50V, 9d.; 8/450V, 2/-; 16/450V, 2/9; 16/500V, 3/6; 32/450V, 4/-; 8+8/450V, 4/6; 8+16/450V, 4/6; can types: 16/450V, 3/6; 16+16/500V, 6/-; 32/500V, 6/6; 32/450V, 6/6; 20+20/450V, 4/6; 64+120/275V, 7/6

Wavechange Switches, midget: 1p 12W, 2p 6W, 3p 4W, 4p 3W, 4p 2W, long spindles, 4/6

Toggle Switches. QMB, s.p.s.t., 2/-; s.p.d.t., 3/3; d.p.s.t., 3/6; d.p.d.t., 4/-

Chokes, 80mA, 15H, 8/6; 100mA 10H, 10/6; 150mA 10H, 14/6

Solder, Multicore, 4d. yd; Sleeving 2mm, 3d. yd

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### PRIVATE

FOR SALE. De-Luxe R1155A with power pack, speaker, switched output stage, gram input, phone terminals, tuning meter and eye, b.f.o., extension speaker switching and tone control. Offers. Deliver South London or Surrey.—Ewell 7115, evenings.

AMATEUR CLEARING DEN. Meters, valves, transformers, etc., all bargains. Stamp for list.—24 Cornwallis Avenue, S.E.9 (FOO 3994).

FOR SALE. Grayshaw Signal Generator type SG50, 100 kc/s—80 Mc/s, and TV Pattern Generator, 37.5 Mc/s—85 Mc/s, £7 the two.—J. Wakefield, 26 Lancaster Road, Basingstoke, Hants.

GENUINE OFFERS. G.E.C. metal cone loudspeaker, £5. Beautiful walnut octagonal cabinet, 10 gns. Brand new Axiette speaker, £6. Garrard RC110 autochanger, £4. Mullard FM Tuner with power pack by Homelab, £10.—9 Brenda Crescent, Thornton, Liverpool 23.

FOR SALE. TBY-8 American Navy portable transmitter/receiver 28/30 Mc/s. Perfect, spare valves, phones, mike, vibrator 4V, Manual of American surplus. Gift, £5.—Otter, 144 Victoria Road, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Notts.

ASPEN 582 TAPE DECK. Built, with tape, hardly used, only £6 15s., o.n.o.—Folds, "Maidwin," Lye Hill, Breachwood Green, Hitchin, Herts.

LOOK! Multicoil packs, Long, Medium and Short Waves, 7s. each, post free. 465 kc/s intermediate frequency transformers, 4s. 6d. pair, post free. Hoover miniature trans, input 12 volts, output 310/365V at 30mA, 18s. each, post free. Send s.a.e. for more bargains to S. Young, 1 Berwick Road, London, E.17.

WANTED. Eddystone 706/W plug in coil.—S. McCrorie, 23 Newcastle Gardens, Whiteleigh, Plymouth, Devon.

SALE. Labgear Txing Coils, DSL/14; DSL/21, at 7s. 6d. each. Microphones, hand, No. 7 and No. 4A at 7s. 6d. each. Charging meters, 5—0.5 and 30—0.30 amp., at 5s. each. Eddystone Tx variable condenser, Type 831, 28—28pF, at 15s. Maxi-Q coils, chassis mtg., Range 1, white and yellow, at 2s. 6d. Morse key, Lionel Corp. "bug," at £1. Morse keys, on metal base, 3 1/2 in x 6 in. Neat job, 7s. 6d. G.E.C. xtal, 100 kc/s, 30s. Headset adaptors, high to low, at 5s. Pair R.F. meters, 0.3 amp. 2in sq., 10s. R.F. meter, 0—0.5 amp. 2in sq., at 5s. Ammeter d.c. 0—0.5 amp. 2in sq., at 10s. Volt meter, 2in sq., 0—20 at 5s. Battery testing volt meter, 12V/120V, 5s. Woden Mic transf. MT 101, at 15s. Labgear absorption wavemeter, 14 Mc/s, at 7s. 6d. Speaker in varnished wood cabinet, 12 x 12 x 6in., 15s. Rotary converter, 12V in; 285V, 60 mA out., 10s. Rotary converter, 12V in; 480V, 40mA out., 10s. 1/2 doz. assorted variable condensers, 7s. 6d. the lot.

SALE. Transformers, interstage audio, 10s. Postage and packing extra on all items.—East Keal, Romany Road, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft, Suffolk.

AUTOMATIC MORSE CODE SENDER for sale. Suitable for C.W. call sign sending, etc. Hand tape perforator and reel paper tape. 230V, a.c., variable speed, £5.—Box E.196.

continued on page 559

### NEW SURPLUS... BY RETURN

1A3	2/-	6L6M	10/6	803	20/-	EY51	12/6
1L4	5/-	6Q7G	7/6	830B	15/-	EY86	12/6
1R5	7/6	6Q7GT	9/6	866A	15/-	EZ40	8/6
1S5	7/-	6SA7M	7/6	959	5/-	EZ80	8/6
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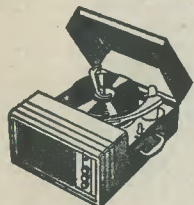
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