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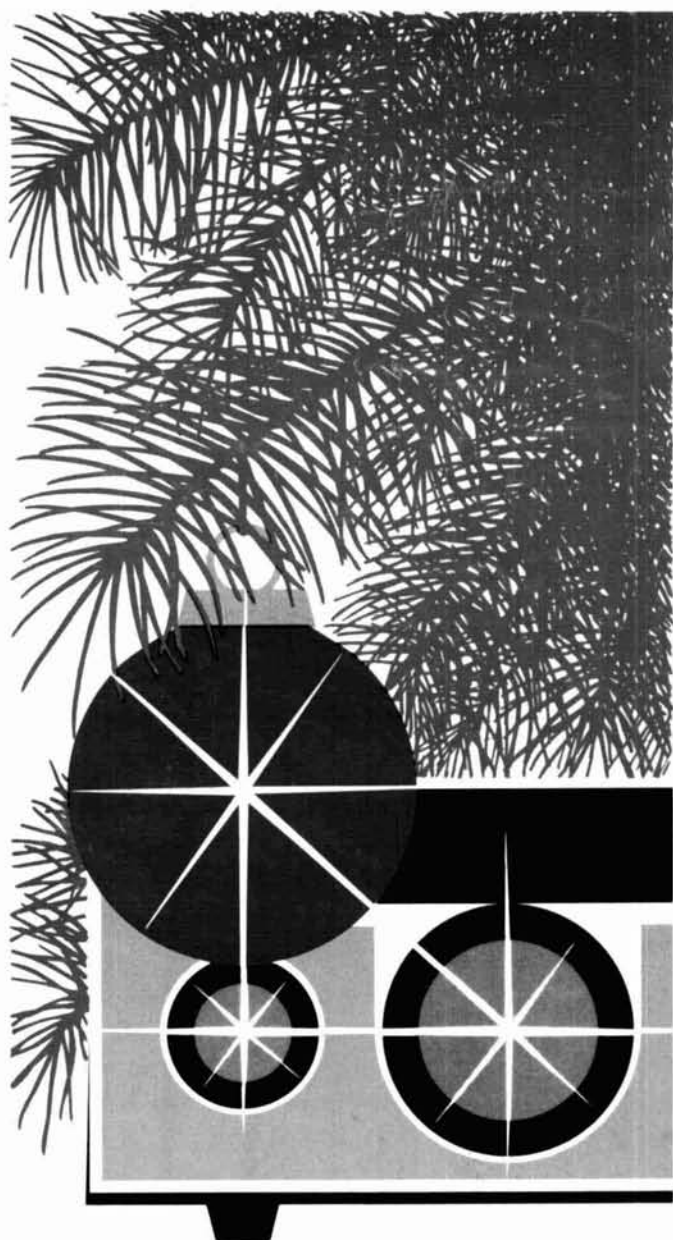
# ham radio

magazine



## DECEMBER 1977

- receiver problems and cures 10
- crystal filter converter 20
- rf wattmeter 38
- active bandpass filters 49
- phase-locked receiving converter 58
- 10-year cumulative index 130





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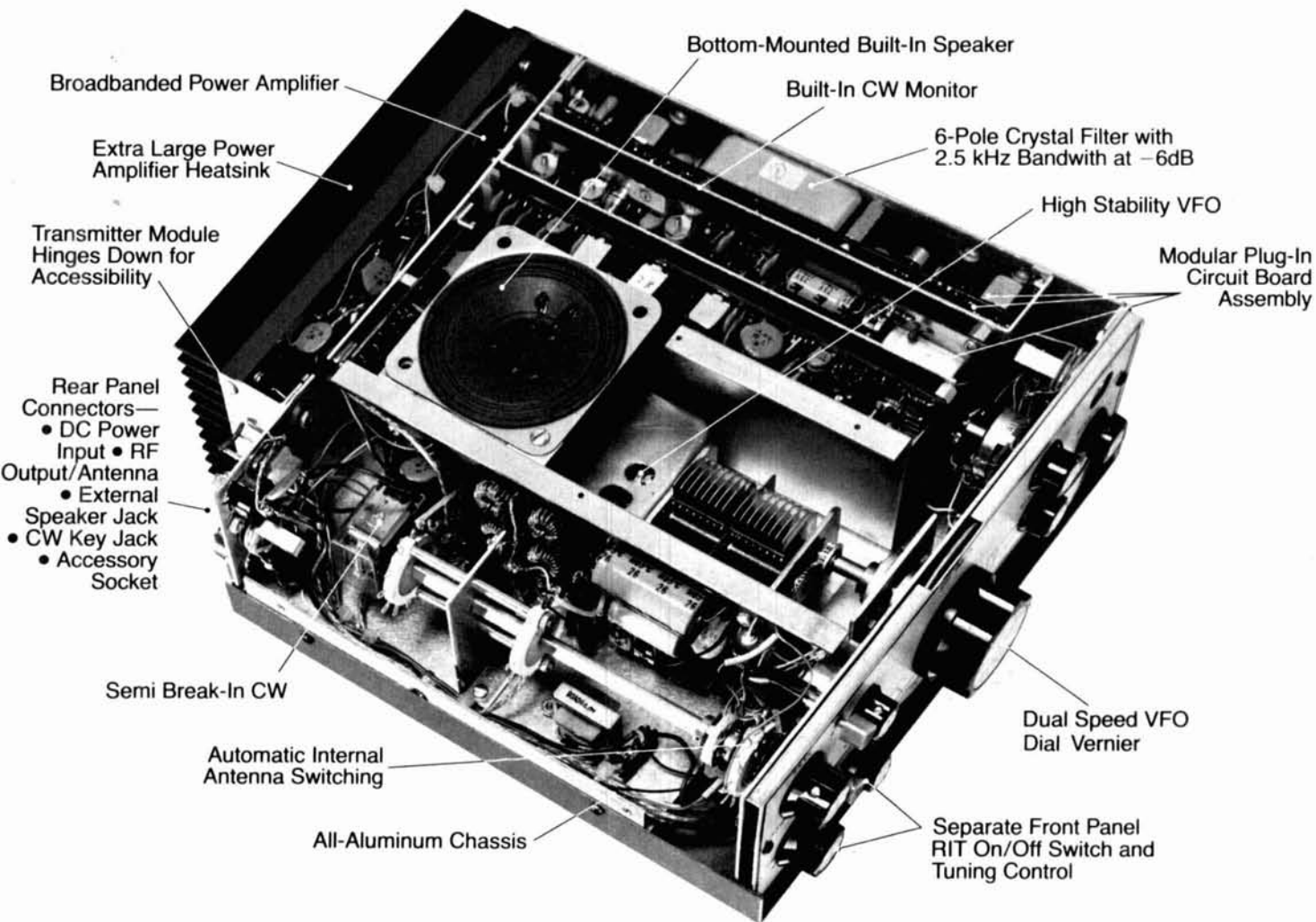
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# ham radio

magazine

DECEMBER 1977

volume 10, number 12

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ham radio magazine  
is published monthly by  
Communications Technology, Inc  
Greenville, New Hampshire 03048  
Telephone: 603-878-1441

**subscription rates**

U. S. and Canada: one year, \$12.00  
two years, \$22.00  
three years, \$30.00

Europe, Japan, Africa:  
(via Air Forwarding Service)  
one year, \$25.00  
two years, \$45.00

North America, South America, Australia  
and Asia (except Japan):  
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listed on page 113

Microfilm copies  
are available from  
University Microfilms, International  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106  
Order publication number 3076

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from ham radio are available to the  
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919 Walnut Street, 8th Floor  
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Second-class postage  
paid at Greenville, N. H. 03048  
and at additional mailing offices  
Publication number 23340



## contents

**10 problems and cures for  
present day receivers**

J. Robert Sherwood, WB0JGP  
George B. Heidelman, K8RRH

**20 i-f filter converter**

Howard J. Sartori, W5DA

**26 how to choose TTL sub-series**

Ian MacFarlane, WA1SNG

**30 500-watt power supply**

Chu Chung Lo, WA6PEC

**35 voice-operated gate**

Henry D. Olson, W6GXN

**38 low-power rf wattmeter**

James H. Bowen, WA4ZRP

**45 drift-correction circuit for  
free-running oscillators**

Klass Spaargaren, PA0KSB

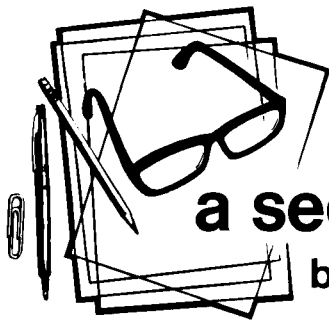
**49 active bandpass filters**

Terry A. Conboy, WB6GRZ

**58 phase-locked receiving converter**

Keith H. Sueker, W3VF

- |                              |                          |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>4 a second look</b>       | <b>72 ham notebook</b>   |
| <b>150 advertisers index</b> | <b>84 new products</b>   |
| <b>130 cumulative index</b>  | <b>6 presstop</b>        |
| <b>113 flea market</b>       | <b>68 short circuits</b> |
| <b>124 ham mart</b>          |                          |



## a second look

by Jim Fisk

**During the holiday season** it's customary to take stock, to look back over the past year, and to make our resolutions for the next — resolutions, no doubt, which will be forgotten by the time the snow melts from the landscape and the trees begin to show their buds. The long winter nights are also a good time to plan that new antenna system or to dream about some new station equipment. With the snow swirling up to the window sills and the cold winds howling down from the north, perhaps it's a good idea to take some time to think about where amateur radio has been, and where it's going.

With the World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC) of 1979 now less than two years away, I can't help wondering what our amateur bands will look like in the 1980s. Will amateurs be given some of the additional high-frequency bands requested by the WARC planning committees, will the width of the amateur bands be pared down, or will we lose much or all of our high-frequency allocations? Nobody will know the answer to that until the final votes are tallied in 1979, but I suspect it will fall somewhere between the two extremes.

There are some who would have you believe there will be *no* high-frequency amateur bands after 1980, and very little vhf spectrum either, but I'm more optimistic than that. Optimism, unfortunately, leads to apathy and that, my friends, is our worst enemy. Perhaps it's best to prepare for the worst and approach WARC '79 with cautious optimism.

It must be remembered that the last international conference which had much effect on the high-frequency spectrum was held in 1947 when the United States and our Allies had considerable influence on the 50 member countries of the United Nations. Radio amateurs were highly regarded by our government for the part they played in war-time communications — not as amateurs, but because they provided a pool of trained technicians and communicators. To a lesser extent the same thing was true in Britain and the Soviet Union. Radio Amateurs were also the backbone of the communication networks set up by the resistance movement in Europe, and of the coast watchers in the South Pacific.

Governments which had severely curtailed amateur radio before the war now recognized its great potential as a national resource. Amateur radio was no longer considered a nuisance to be tolerated, but an activity which should be encouraged. Part of that encouragement was a new, exclusive 15-meter band. Old timers will hasten to point out that bits were shaved off the top ends of 10 and 20 meters, and 160 meters was dominated by Loran, but most amateurs agreed that 15 meters more than made up for the losses.

By the time the next ITU conference on high-frequency allocations was convened in 1959, the United States' sphere of influence had decreased and it looked like amateur radio was in serious trouble; the foreign broadcasters wanted big chunks of 40 and 80 as well as portions of 20 and it was uncertain if we could rally enough votes to save amateur radio. Fortunately some of the nations who weren't particularly friendly toward the United States but supported amateur radio came to the rescue, with the result that the amateur bands in the Western Hemisphere came through unscathed (amateurs in other parts of the world lost 50 kHz of shared space on 40 meters).

In general, the United States and other governments which were supportive of amateur radio in 1959 still are, but in the 20 years since that last conference the balance of power has changed; the emerging nations are now in the majority and they are not altogether in favor of amateur radio — a few ban it outright. Many of these nations have few amateurs, so to them the amateur bands represent wasted space — space they feel should be allocated to a radio service that better serves their national interest. These are the same countries which often oppose the policies of the rich western nations simply because it's in the vogue to do so.

Nevertheless, there's still hope, because many of the questions to be asked at WARC '79 will be answered on the basis of their scientific merits. There's bound to be a certain amount of political arm twisting, but if the delegates from the emerging nations can be made to see the value of an amateur radio service to the technological development of their nation, perhaps they can be persuaded to vote in favor of increased amateur spectrum.

**Jim Fisk, W1HR**  
editor-in-chief



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WEIGHT  
TRANSMITTER  
TX OUTPUT  
CARRIER SUPPRESSION

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SSB (A3J), CW (A1)  
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ARRL'S "CODE OF ETHICS" has been challenged in a formal written complaint filed with the Federal Trade Commission's Bureau of Competition.

Specific Complaints are that the Code will violate anti-trust laws by restraining trade, constitutes a "deceptive practice" as defined by the FTC, violates the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution, and that vendors who sign the ARRL pledge will become accessories after the fact in the above violations.

FCC'S DROPPING OF DOCKET 19759, the proposal that the 220-MHz Amateur band provide a home for a new CB service, doesn't mean that the band won't still become the new CB home. It does remove the immediate threat to the band, however, and many opinions have it that the longer the decision on where CB should go is delayed, the less likely 220 becomes a choice.

In Announcing Its Termination of Docket 19759 the Commission pointed out that so many changes in related circumstances have occurred since several thousand comments were filed on it back in 1973, those comments were now obsolete. However, the question of a new CB band and where to put it is still very much alive, and 220 will undoubtedly be one of the options when the Commission considers the issue again in a future rulemaking.

A PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION of the FCC's Report and Order on repeater deregulation (Docket 21033, Presstop, November), is being prepared by the ARRL. In it three issues will be emphasized: restoration of the WR-prefixed callsigns for repeaters, restoration of repeater licenses, and the need for formal consideration of the needs of the so-called "weak signal" vhf/uhf operations.

Plenty Of Support for the League position appears likely, as many repeater groups already oppose the dropping of repeater callsigns and licenses. In addition, reservations over the repeater sub-band expansion and even the proposed new bandplan for 144.5 - 144.5 MHz is starting to build among FM users as well as various SWOT and other VHF/UHF user groups.

AMATEUR LICENSING IRREGULARITIES will receive a full-fledged investigation run by an FCC Administrative Law Judge. The decision to go all-out on such a probe was reached at a closed meeting of the Commission, when information was presented that some Amateurs had apparently paid for the issuance or upgrading of their licenses or for special callsigns; that some of the same abuses may have occurred without payment; and that some Amateur callsigns have been issued inconsistent with normal FCC procedures.

ARTHUR C. CLARK, the noted science-fiction writer, was made an honorary AMSAT member in ceremonies attended by most of the AMSAT brass — Clark's honor came in recognition of his predictions of communications satellites and synchronous satellites in a 1945 Wireless World article.

1978 Orbital Prediction Booklets for OSCAR 7 only will be available shortly from Skip Reymann, W6PAJ, Box 374, San Dimas, California 91773. They're free to AMSAT Life members who request them; \$3 to AMSAT Annual members and \$5 to non-members — be sure to include AMSAT membership number and an self-addressed label with orders.

OSCAR 7's Mode Schedule will be changed effective January 1 to two days in Mode B for every day in Mode A, and the new schedule will be shown in W6PAJ's orbital calendar coming out in December. Ample Mode A operations will be provided by the Russian's "RS" spacecraft and AO-D, and OSCAR 7 is considerably more sensitive in Mode B than it is in Mode A.

A New Satellite Bandplan is also going into effect January 1 which will place CW only on the bottom third of the satellite downlink, mixed CW/SSB in the center third, and SSB only operation on the top third — the reverse of current practice.

OSCAR 6's Fifth Birthday was October 15, but revival efforts from VE3SAT failed to bring any response from it. RIP.

The Amateur Space Program made the Congressional Record in October when K7UGA lauded it during a Senate discussion of Sputnik's 20th anniversary.

THOSE PACIFIC AND CARIBBEAN prefix changes may not be as drastic as originally announced. FCC's news release announcing the change has now been "cancelled," and while it appears that prefix changes will still be made they'll be done in such a way that the resulting callsigns should identify the individual islands or island groups (Presstop, November).

FCC'S "GAG" ON DISCUSSIONS of current matters will remain in place as a result of the Supreme Court's decision not to review the Court of Appeals decision in the "Home Box Office" case (Presstop, June).

WESTINGHOUSE SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH is open to any high school student in the United States and Puerto Rico who'll graduate before October 1, 1978. Teachers who have an outstanding student who'd qualify for one of the many scholarships and awards must request entry materials from Science Service, 1719 N. Street, Washington, D.C. 20036 — entries are due by December 17, 1977.



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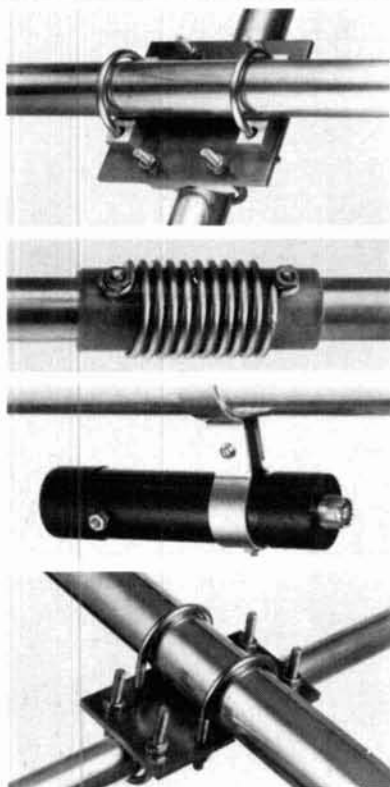
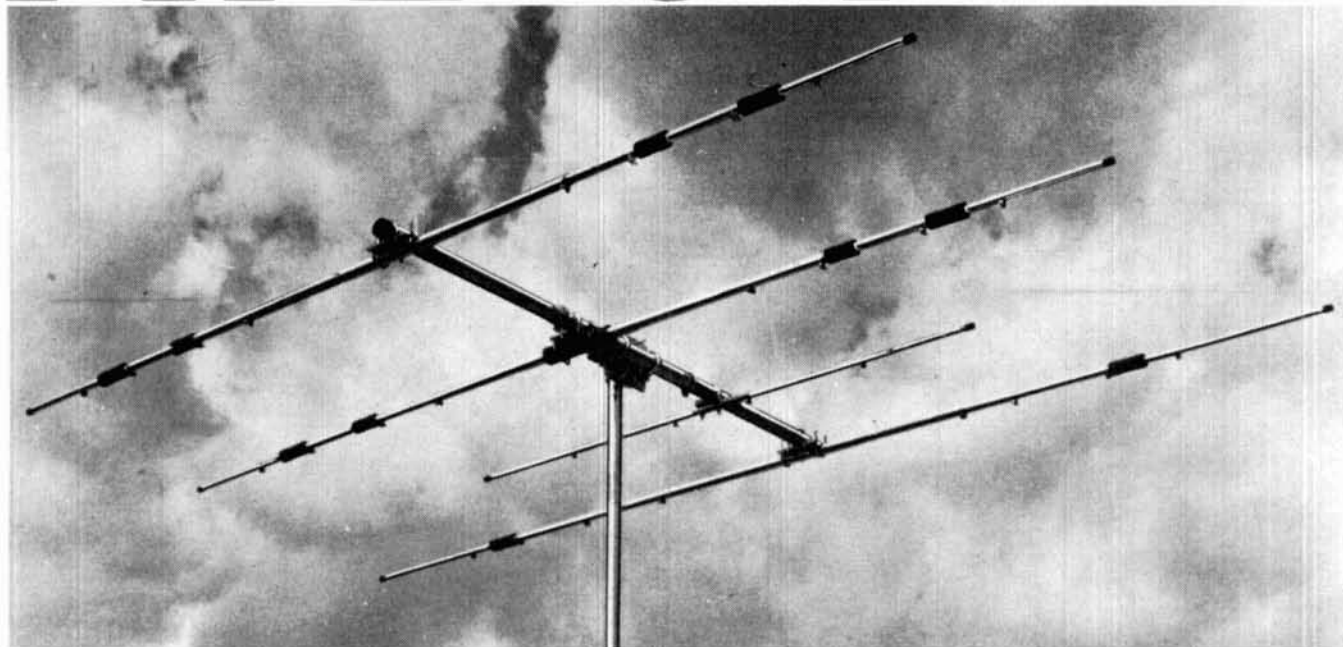
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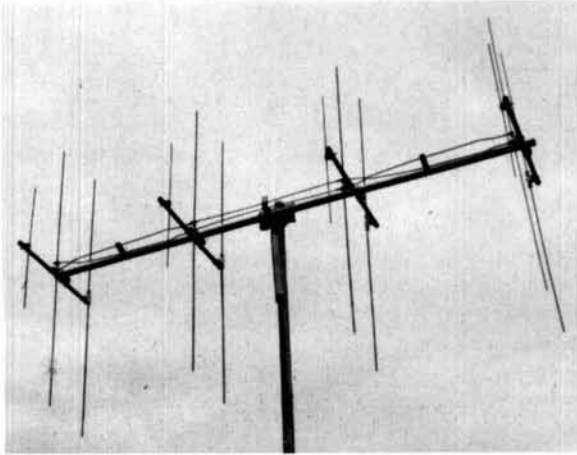


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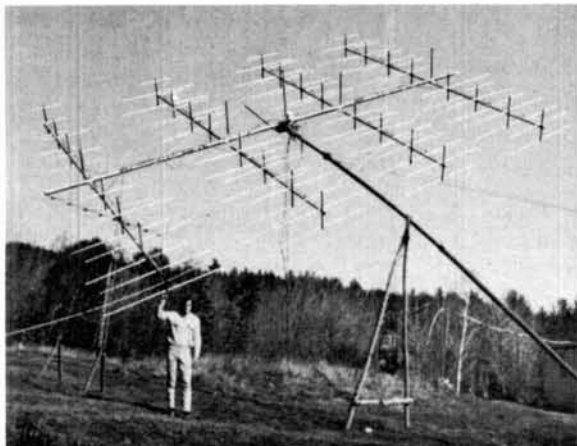
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# VHF DX



## SSB/CW —

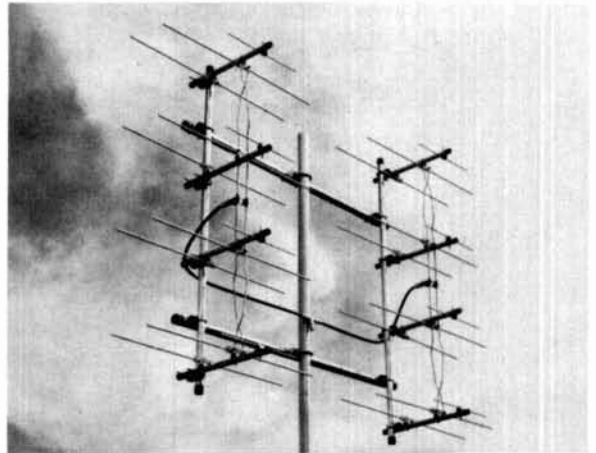
Discover reliability in long-haul communications with VHF SSB and CW. The Cush Craft DX-Array also gives low angle, high gain performance for many exotic propagation modes — tropo, aurora, sporadic-E, and meteor scatter. Horizontally polarized DX-Arrays may be used singly or combined in pairs (twice Effective Radiated Power) or quads (4 x ERP). Each DXK stacking kit is complete with stacking frame and phasing harness (vertical mast not supplied). This year has seen some spectacular VHF band openings — Don't miss the next one!



Dave Olean, K1WHS, with his 160 Element DX-Array and Polar Mount EME System

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## EME —

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# present-day receivers

## — some problems and cures

Some thoughts on  
and cures  
for problems  
encountered in  
modern amateur  
communications receivers

The modern-day communications receiver is going through a continuous evolution that has brought about significant improvement in certain operating features. Among these are greatly improved frequency stability and setability, better selectivity, a slow and consistent tuning rate from band to band, and a wide-range automatic gain control system that functions on CW and single sideband. At the same time, unfortunately, the design philosophies which have made the above advances possible have also reduced the typical receiver's ability to simultaneously handle weak desired and strong undesired signals. This absolute reduction in receiver dynamic range has occurred at the same time the number of high-power signals on the amateur bands has been increasing.

Insufficient dynamic range in a receiver can result in one or more stages being over-driven into nonlinearity by undesired strong signals. The result is internally-generated intermodulation distortion (IMD) products. These undesired products can occur in any mode of operation, but are easiest to identify on CW. Two CW signals which are overdriving a receiver will

generate IMD products, but only when both stations are transmitting simultaneously. In the extreme situation, not only may IMD occur, but one signal alone can block, deaden, or desensitize the receiver.

In a pileup or contest situation, many strong CW stations can cause serious receiver overload, intermodulating with each other, and resulting in multiple phantom signals; it will appear as if several operators are randomly tapping their keys, or that you are listening to the Novice band with a diode detector without a BFO.

Two or more ssb signals with the correct frequency relationship can also intermodulate with each other and result in IMD products on top of the station you are listening to. The interference, however, will be unintelligible. IMD can also occur from a single ssb station on an adjacent channel as the individual speech frequencies mix with their own harmonics. Generally speaking, transmitted IMD from an rf power amplifier will be worse than that internally generated in the receiver, with the result that the transmitted IMD may cover up a receiver's shortcomings. An operator may never be certain whether the unintelligible signals he hears are being generated within his receiver, or coming from the outside — there is enough rf interference to contend with without the receiver creating its own!

The improvements mentioned in the first paragraph have been generally obtained by using a double- or triple-conversion scheme, plus a non-bandswitched master oscillator (PTO or VFO). Depending on the design technique, the first i-f may have a bandwidth of as much as 500 kHz, as in the Heath SB-104, or as narrow as 6 kHz in the Drake R-4B. Assuming that most of a receiver's selectivity occurs at the second intermediate frequency, you might think that the wider the bandwidth of the first i-f, the greater the chance of picking up more strong signals which could overload the second mixer. Of greater importance than this bandwidth, however, is the *net gain* between the antenna and the mixer that drives the narrow crystal or mechanical filter.

The Collins R-390A, for example, has three mixers and two separate gain stages ahead of its mechanical

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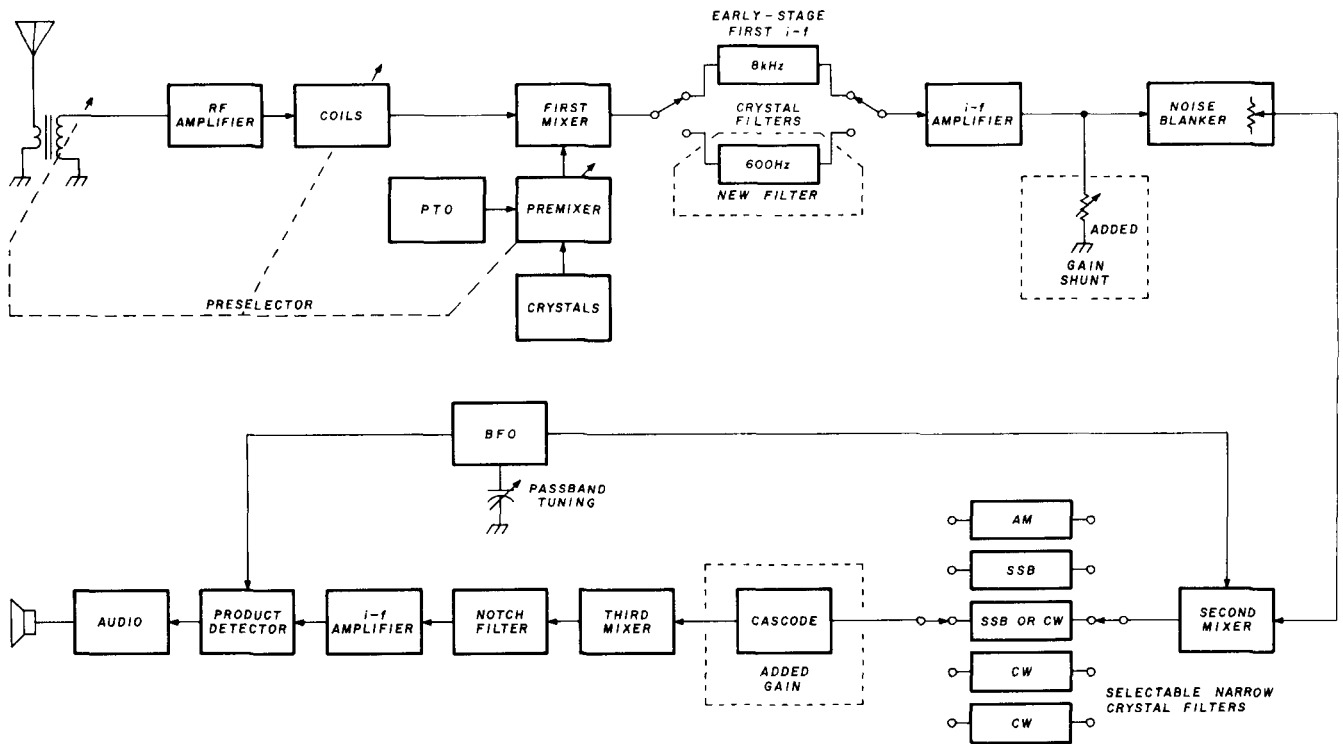


fig. 1. Block diagram of the Drake R4C receiver showing the gain redistribution. A shunt across the first i-f amplifier will reduce its gain the same amount as is added after the narrow i-f filters.

filters; it also has a set of elaborate, mechanically-tracked tuned circuits which have high  $Q$  and high insertion loss. Thus the net gain from the antenna to the major selectivity-determining elements is low enough to maintain good dynamic range.

Another receiver, the Heath SB-303, has a 500-

kHz wide first i-f *window*, but unlike the R-390A, it has little selectivity ahead of its narrow filters and too much gain. This results in higher susceptibility to overload from strong signals anywhere in the band, which then cause undesired IMD products to be generated within the receiver.

At the opposite end of the bandwidth scale is the Drake R-4C with its 8-kHz wide first i-f filter at 5645 kHz. This four-pole crystal filter does an excellent job of keeping most of the undesired signals in the band from passing on to a second high-gain mixer. However, any undesired strong signals that *do* pass through this 8-kHz *window* can proceed to the second mixer with disastrous results. The net gain from the antenna to the narrow second i-f crystal filter can be as high as 50 dB when a desired weak signal (S1) is being received; this puts an impossible demand on the i-f stages, since the 1-dB compression point of the second mixer output has occurred with any signal 30 dB over S9. An undesired signal, outside the narrow selectivity but inside the first i-f *window*, that is S9+40 dB (-33 dBm or 5 mV across the 50-ohm antenna input) for example, would have to be linearly amplified to a level of +17 dBm (1.58 volts across the 50-ohm narrow-filter input) and then be rejected by the filter. To supply this power level to the filter, the high-impedance plate of the second mixer would have to linearly swing more than 40 volts to yield a signal that is as great as 15

One topic that has received considerable attention by amateurs in recent years has been that of receiver performance and design. Many approaches have been covered, from the initial design of the "super receiver" to modification of existing equipment; but to the person with just a casual interest, the reasons behind some designs may not be readily apparent. In fact, the problems themselves may not be noticeable to the ordinary amateur. This article is another in a continuing series that shows you how to recognize the problems in typical modern receivers; in addition, it discusses modifications applied to one receiver and the motives behind these changes.

Of major importance is the reason for the modification. The intent of this article is *not* to prove that one particular receiver is superior to another for whimsical reasons, but to realistically and fairly compare different receivers by presenting test results on comparable circuits. On the basis of the test results, design changes were made in one receiver in an attempt to improve overall performance. You will notice while reading the article that the results are given in very specific terms; this will help you to better understand the basics of receiver performance standards. With this knowledge, *you* will be able to judge the merits of the different receivers on the market and choose one according to your own needs.

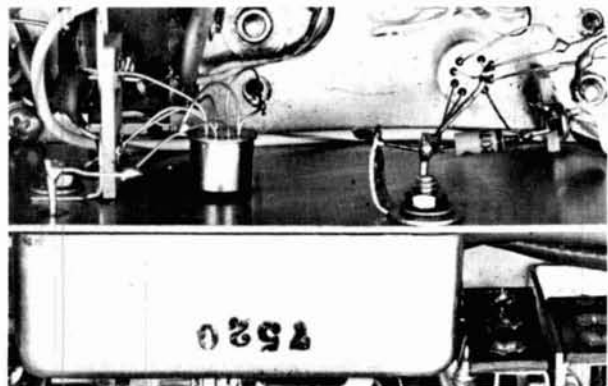
Editor

volts rms; even if this level could be produced in a low noise mixer, which is highly unlikely, the filter could be damaged.

What actually results when there are two undesired signals at S9 + 40 dB with the correct frequency relationship, over loading the second mixer, is a spurious third-order IMD signal that is greater than S9 in strength. This would certainly be strong enough to obliterate the desired weak signal!

One possible reason why such net-gain design errors are overlooked is our present method of testing receiver dynamic range. This subject has received considerable attention lately in *ham radio*<sup>1,2,3</sup> and *QST*.<sup>4</sup> An increasingly popular method of testing for dynamic range has been developed by Wes Hayward, W7ZOI, and is used by the ARRL.<sup>5</sup> Basically, it consists of applying two *well-isolated*, equal-strength signals, 20-kHz apart, to a receiver's input and then adjusting their level so that the undesired third-order IMD products generated within the receiver are just equal to the noise floor of the receiver. The difference in level between the noise floor and the test signals gives the receiver's dynamic range. The higher the receiver's dynamic range, the better it can handle both desired weak and undesired strong signals at the same time.

The choice of 20-kHz spacing for the two test signals is arbitrary and in many cases satisfactory. In a receiver which has all its significant selectivity far



Installation of the 600-Hertz first i-f filter. The filter is installed on a vertical shield near the original 8-kHz filter. The devices with 8 leads are TO-5 size relays that are used to select the appropriate filter.

down the i-f chain, this signal spacing is relatively unimportant. If the early-stage bandwidth is narrower than the test signal spacing, however, its selectivity will partially or completely reject one or both of the test signals, resulting in a highly inflated dynamic range reading. We feel these measurements should cover worst-case conditions since real-life interference on the amateur bands may be spaced less than 20 kHz.

Third-order IMD products, with 20-kHz spacing, will occur 20 kHz below the low frequency test signal and 20 kHz above the high frequency test signal. When the receiver is tuned to a third-order internally-generated spurious IMD signal, the test signals are 20 and 40 kHz up or down the band. The 25-kHz-wide crystal filter in the first i-f of the Signal-One transceiver, to name just one example, will greatly attenuate the test signals before they can reach the following stages. Thus, 20-kHz spacing will test only the front end and first mixer. What is needed is spacing narrow enough so that both test signals can pass through any selectivity prior to the narrow filter. We feel a spacing of 2 kHz will satisfy this requirement, and at the same time be wide enough so the narrow filter will adequately reject the test signals when the receiver is tuned to an IMD product.\*

The Drake R-4C, with its 8-kHz-wide first i-f filter, shows an inflated 20-kHz dynamic range of 83 dB. This reading has remained quite consistent over several receivers, including one we tested at the ARRL laboratory.† When the test signals are placed 2 kHz apart, however, so they *both* pass through the 8-kHz filter, the dynamic range drops to around 58 dB.

### improving receiver performance

There are three ways to improve a receiver's dynamic range. If the second mixer cannot handle the required level, one option is to replace it with a mixer that will do the job. Unfortunately, as WB4ZNV discovered,<sup>6</sup> the process of replacing an active mixer with the superior passive double-balanced mixer is a laborious task, even if it does improve the receiver's overload characteristics. Oscillator injection levels and impedances are usually not compatible with existing circuitry.

Another remedy is to redistribute the gain in the receiver, reducing it ahead of the overloaded stage and building it up again after the narrow filter. A third method is to insert more early-stage selectivity into the receiver so strong interfering signals are not as likely to get past the first mixer. We chose to inves-

\*When performing a 2-kHz IMD test, one very important factor must be taken into consideration: the noise sidebands of the signal generators. General test equipment, oscillators, or VFOs are more than adequate for testing, until a receiver's dynamic range nears 100 dB. At this point it will be impossible to accurately measure true receiver IMD products if the signal generators are producing excessive low-level spurs and noise. At this time there are only two or three generators that have the necessary sideband suppression; one manufactured by Hewlett-Packard and another by Rohde and Schwartz.

†The ARRL laboratory uses a pair of AN/URM-25 signal generators to perform IMD tests. A 2-kHz IMD test produced results within 2 dB of those obtained by the authors while using the high quality, low-noise sideband Rohde and Schwarz XUA signal generator.

tigate the latter two options, using our own R-4Cs.

The initial gain redistribution began with a 20-dB reduction of the signal level as seen by the second mixer. This gain loss was then restored after the narrow filters at the high-impedance grid of the third mixer. The original amplifier used a single jfet plus a step-up transformer to provide the necessary gain, but the circuit suffered from instability problems and noise. It was then decided to relocate the added gain outboard from the receiver and insert it at a convenient 50-ohm point, the output of the switchable second i-f crystal filters (see **fig. 1**).

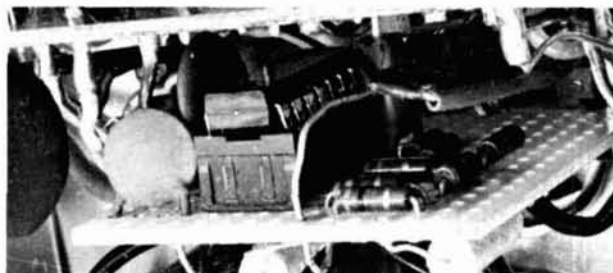
A cascode jfet amplifier, with 50-ohm input and output impedances (**fig. 2**), was built and inserted into the i-f chain just prior to T-6. The coax cable that connects T-6 and the mode switch was lifted at the switch end; two lengths of miniature coax (RG-174/U) were then run out through a slot in the rear of the receiver. The first length is connected to the lugs on the mode-switch wafer, while the second is spliced into the cable that feeds the transformer.

This amplifier can possibly be located inside the receiver. Regardless of its location, it should be mounted in a metal box or other well-shielded enclosure. Two toroidal transformers provide the necessary impedance changes, their associated trimmer capacitors forming resonant circuits. While both trimmers can simply be peaked for maximum signal, the input may be fine-tuned for the best compromise signal-to-noise ratio among the switchable narrow filters. (The 2N5950 and 2N5953 jfets may be purchased from G. R. Whitehouse Company, Amherst, New Hampshire 03031).

We found the best way to attenuate the signal level into the second mixer was to swamp the output of the first i-f amplifier Q1 (V3/6BZ6 in early receivers). A miniature 5000-ohm multi-turn trimmer, from noise blanker socket pin 4 to ground, made a convenient way to adjust this level. Simply adjust the trimmer to drop the calibrator signal 20 dB on the S-meter; then adjust the gain pot on the cascode amplifier to restore the S-meter to its previous level. On certain receivers it may be necessary to peak T-6 to obtain 20 dB of gain from the cascode amplifier; always readjust both cascode trimmers after making a gain change.

If the noise blanker is installed in the receiver, significant IMD products can occur in its stages, too. Due to noise limitations, however, the blanker cannot be starved a full 20 dB. Instead, after replacing blanker resistor R1 with a 0.001  $\mu$ F disc capacitor, reduce the gain to the blanker about 12 dB, and then turn down the blanker output pot 8 dB to achieve the 20 dB reduction at the second mixer. Alternately, the gain of blanker transistor Q2 can be decreased by reducing its emitter resistor bypass capacitor, rather than readjusting the blanker output pot.

Take care not to use too much cascode amplifier or blanker gain; otherwise amplified 5645-kHz oscillator leakage can degrade system performance. With the antenna disconnected and the top and bottom covers of the receiver in place, make sure the S-meter does not kick upward more than one-quarter S-unit when the passband tuning is slowly turned through its range. In some receivers it may be necessary to jumper the cable-braid ground point of the Q4 oscillator board with a short clip lead to the shield tray on which the blanker board rests to reduce this oscillator leakage to an acceptable level. It might also be necessary to insulate the frame of the rear carrier-oscillator jack from the chassis ground.



The new product detector is installed next to the audio transformer and behind the variable capacitor used for passband tuning. The entire assembly is mounted on a 1-3/4 x 1-5/8 inch (4.5x4.1cm) board.

Also, if the cascode amplifier breaks into oscillation when the mode switch is between detent positions, reverse the leads of a high impedance winding of one of the toroids.

Proper operation of the gain redistribution circuits provided greatly reduced susceptibility to IMD overload problems on both CW and ssb, as was visibly demonstrated with strong nearby DX contest signals; yet the receiver was still able to meet its sensitivity specification. Agc attack distortion was also reduced somewhat. Dynamic range improved from 58 dB to around 70 dB, while using our 2-kHz spacing test method.

### i-f filters

As an additional CW remedy we chose to increase the selectivity (possibly on a switchable basis) following the output of the first mixer; the bandwidth is presently determined by an 8-kHz wide four-pole crystal filter. This bandwidth is needed on phone to pass an upper and/or lower sideband signal. A bandwidth of at least this magnitude is also required to pass undistorted noise pulses to the blanker. A noise blanker's usefulness, however, is marginal at best with one or more strong nearby signals, due to its agc greatly increasing the blanking threshold, or possible false triggering. Thus, the need for narrowing first i-f selectivity ahead of the noise blanker,

which reduces blanker effectiveness, occurs under conditions which are usually unfavorable to blanking in the first place.

Circumstances could occur where blanking would be necessary at all times, such as when you suffer from a continuous very high level of blankable noise. In these cases, the 8-kHz first i-f filter must remain ahead of the blanker. Then a properly-terminated narrow filter could be inserted just *after* the blanker, but before the second mixer. The signal path can be switched between the narrow filter and an attenuator equal to its loss. While the chance of second mixer overload is greatly reduced with this arrangement, there is no such narrow bandwidth IMD protection for the blanker; this limits the receiver's potential dynamic range considerably below what is otherwise obtainable. It is therefore mandatory to use the cascade gain redistribution system with this special, optional filter arrangement. With this arrangement close-in dynamic range will be in the high 70s.

We decided that the first i-f CW selectivity should be equal to the widest desirable under contest conditions. We then designed a new 600-Hz six-pole filter, keeping in mind package size limitations and insertion loss requirements. We've also developed a miniature relay system which allows instant interchange of our internally-mounted, CW-bandwidth, first i-f filter with the existing 8-kHz phone unit.

The project of minimizing overload in the R-4C was now complete and totally successful. When measured using our worst-case 2-kHz test method, the receiver's dynamic range jumped from an original unacceptable 58 dB to a final excellent 85 dB. This value ranks with the best of the commercially-available amateur gear on the market today, and

should be more than adequate for most practical situations. As a side note, a similar arrangement of first i-f filter switching can be used on ssb by inserting a set of 2.6 or 2.3-kHz phone filters in the first i-f for improved phone selectivity.

### simple receiver testing

While we made use of a considerable amount of test equipment during this project to measure dynamic range, you can make comparative tests using only a crystal calibrator and transmitter vfo, *loosely* coupled into the receiver. Comparative noise floor measurements, with no antenna connected, can be made by measuring the preselector noise peak (above later stage noise) with an ac voltmeter connected to the audio output line.

When making gain redistribution or selectivity changes, adjust the receiver to maintain its original net gain by measuring the calibrator level on some specific frequency. We use 7.2 MHz as our reference frequency. Here the calibrator level should read about 15 to 20 dB over S9 with nothing connected to the antenna input. (Don't readjust the S-meter sensitivity pot.) Two strong test signals, accurately set to a specific S-meter level, will produce a repeatable reference IMD that can also be measured on the S-meter. As improvements are made the IMD, read on the S-meter, will drop. We made our 2-kHz tests at S9 + 40 dB, and ended up reducing the IMD from greater than S9 to less than S3.

### filter rejection

The 600-Hz first i-f filter, in addition to greatly reducing the chance of overload, had the extra benefit of eliminating the annoying signal leakage around the narrow second i-f filters. This problem of not being able to realize the ultimate rejection capabilities of a well-designed filter is one that plagues all equipment that, to our knowledge, is presently on the market. It is really quite difficult to even design a test fixture to correctly measure the ultimate rejection of a filter. Obtaining adequate ultimate attenuation, which should be in excess of 100 dB for an eight-pole filter in a receiver or transceiver, requires tedious attention to detail. Current ground loops and stray capacitive coupling are the main problems that must be eliminated. We have had many frustrated amateurs ask us to provide a filter for their receiver or transceiver which would not leak like the factory installed units. Unfortunately, some of the limitations were in the receiver and not the filter. Although replacing or adding to an existing *late* narrow filter can often considerably improve skirt selectivity, the only way to eliminate the last traces of these leakage problems, in existing popular receivers, is to add a filter earlier in the set with a

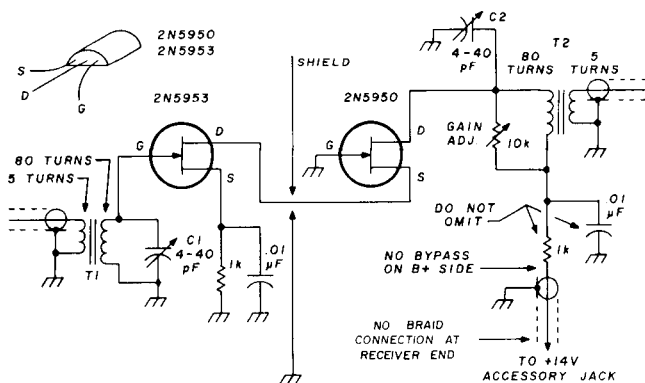


fig. 2. Schematic diagram of the cascode amplifier used for the gain redistribution. There is only one ground return on the circuit, through the input coax cable. The braid on the output coax cable goes to the primary of T6 which is not grounded at that point. T1 and T2 are wound on Micrometals T-50-2 toroidal cores. The high-impedance windings are 80 turns of no. 30 AWG (0.25mm) while the low-impedance windings are 5 turns of no. 24 AWG (0.5mm).



bandwidth closer to that of the main filter. The early filter should preferably be on a different frequency from the later one, such as in the R-4C or 2B.

We tested one all-solid-state American transceiver that had so much leakage around the CW filter that a 2-kHz dynamic range test could barely be made. The IMD was masked by the test signal leakage until special audio filtering was employed.

While discussing filters, we would like to emphasize the importance of a great variety of bandwidths being available to the operator. Most of the equipment on the market has just one standard phone bandwidth, with one CW filter available as an option, and when installed it must be used at all

with this trade-off, there is an additional insertion loss of 5 to 7 dB compared to the phone filter, and relatively poor skirt selectivity.

As a minimum, the receiver net gain should be designed around the lossiest filter, with the losses of the other filters increased to that constant level. Another school of thought suggests that the noise integrated by each of the filters should be the same, requiring increasing gain (or decreasing insertion loss) as narrower filters are selected. To our knowledge, no amateur equipment manufacturer is currently keeping the integrated noise constant, and only the R-4C provides for constant insertion loss with narrow bandwidth filters.

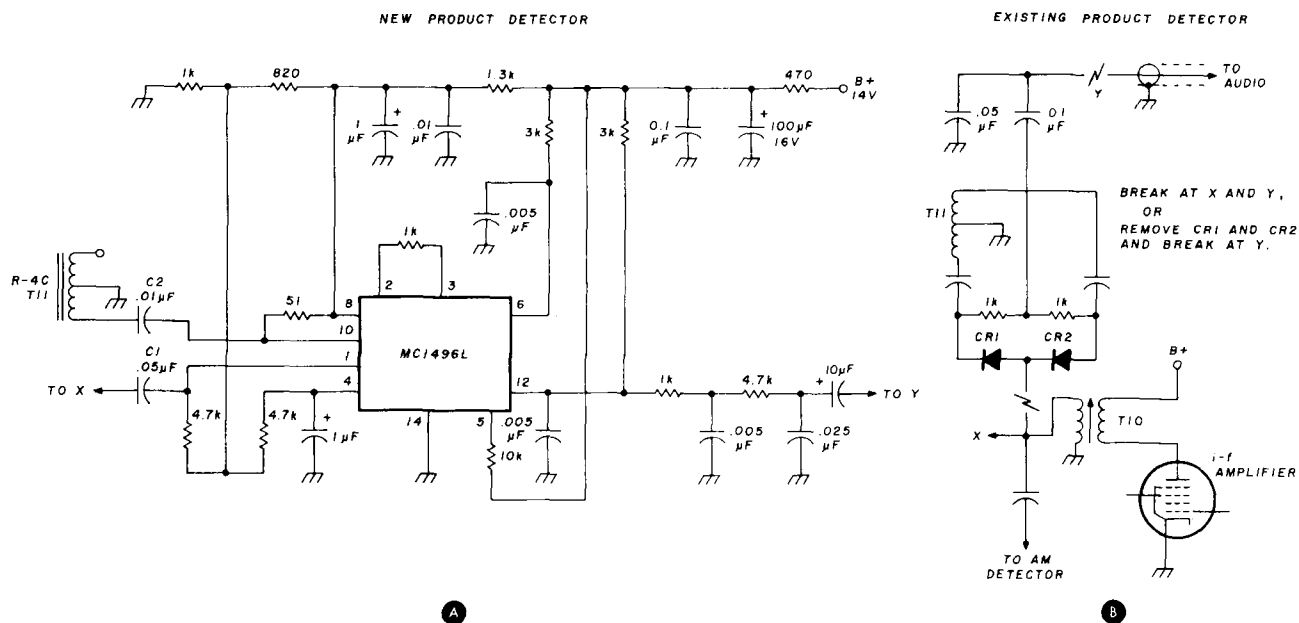


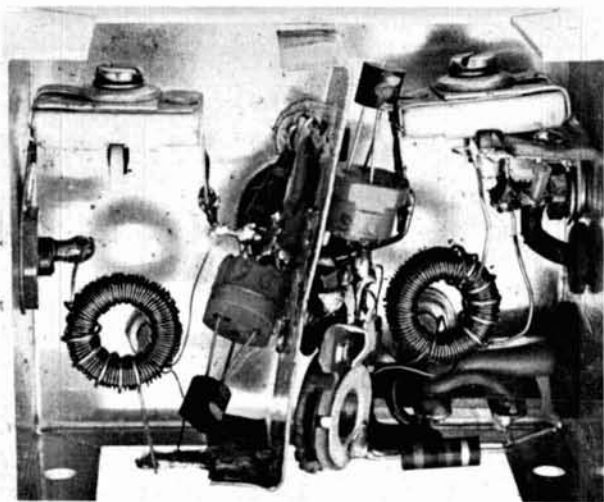
fig. 3. The MC1496L can be used as a product detector as shown in A. The IC plus associated components are mounted on a small circuit board which is installed next to the audio transformer in the receiver. C1 and C2 are critical values and should not be substituted. For smaller size, the 1- $\mu$ F capacitors may be tantalum. B shows the interconnections between the detector and the receiver.

times for that mode. Many of the imported rigs are examples of these limitations. The Yaesu FT-101B has only a six-pole 600-Hz filter, and the Kenwood TS-820 is limited to only a six-pole 500-Hz unit.

By today's standards a six-pole 500-Hz filter is quite broad and has a poor shape factor. One possible reason for offering only these filters is that the design of the equipment was based on the use of an ssb filter having an insertion loss of only 2 to 4 dB. Unless a manufacturer employs special technology in building, say, an eight-pole 350-Hz filter that is more advanced than required for a phone filter, the insertion loss will rise to an unacceptable 14 to 16 dB. It is quite undesirable to have the signal drop 12 dB when the CW filter is used; a compromise is made, and the six-pole filters mentioned above are offered. Even

We have noted with interest the comments from some of our Japanese and German filter customers about American rigs such as the R-4C and T-4XC. The cost of these units in their home countries, due to import duties, is 30 to 50 per cent higher than here in the United States, but the discriminating foreign amateur is willing to pay that premium partly because of the excellent filters which are available. Compared with the typical filter in the average set, the Drake eight-pole 250-Hz and the Sherwood eight-pole 125-Hz CW filters are valuable assets. Similarly, an optional 1500 to 1800-Hz ssb filter\* can make the dif-

\*Drake also offers the FL1500, a 1500-Hz filter. Though publicized as an RTTY filter, it provides exceptional performance, especially under difficult phone contest conditions. Editor.



Cascode amplifier used for gain redistribution is installed in a small enclosure. The shield must be in place between the stages of the amplifier.

ference in being able to hold a contact under heavy interference and contest conditions.

It takes some practice to become proficient at using a narrow i-f filter, just as in learning to tune with the wide-skirted audio filters. But during crowded band conditions a 250-Hz filter can often be too broad! One CW operator used the 125-Hz filter in his R-4C almost exclusively during the hectic 160-meter contests.

The entire line of filters for the R-4C is excellent and can be adapted to any receiver or transceiver. A construction article in the 1977 ARRL *Handbook*<sup>7</sup> describes a method of adding bandpass tuning to a receiver lacking this feature. This circuit uses 455-kHz filters and is inserted in the receiver i-f chain by converting down to 455 kHz and back up again. This basic idea can be used with any pair of filter and receiver intermediate frequencies.

You could convert from 3395 kHz up to 5695 kHz and back down again, for example, or down from 9 and up again. As the difference between the two i-f frequencies becomes smaller, the difficulty of the conversion process increases. A Drake R-4B owner who wishes to add R-4C filters to his receiver has to cope with a conversion frequency difference of only 50 kHz. Howard Sartori, W5DA, has developed a circuit for use in his R-4B which can be adapted to any i-f by simply changing one crystal oscillator. It has been used on intermediate frequencies as low as 50 kHz and as high as 30 MHz with excellent results. His circuit is described on page 20 of this issue of *ham radio*. One precaution, when adapting the *Handbook* circuit or W5DA's i-f converter to a transceiver: make sure the transmitted signal does not have to pass through the added filters. Otherwise, with use of the two narrowest filters (the FL-250 and CF-125/8), the

transmitter carrier offset frequency adjustment would become quite critical, and keying on the transmitted signal could be too soft.

The Kenwood TS-820, which we have in the lab, has a noise floor and dynamic range in the ssb mode that is virtually identical to that of the Drake R-4C. Both units perform very well on phone; when you want to dig out a weak CW signal on a quiet band, however, the R-4C is significantly better. The R-4C's gain remains constant when a CW filter is switched in, but the TS-820's drops off 5 to 6 dB. Even if a weak received signal is above the noise floor, this gain reduction increases the agc threshold to the point where it may become necessary to manually ride the gain control. The Yaesu FT-101B we tested had a dynamic range, at any test signal spacing, as bad as the unmodified R-4C when measured with the *worst-case* 2-kHz test method. The bulk of the problems in the FT-101B were caused by a bipolar transistor in the noise blanker which was being over-driven.

A receiver's maximum net gain from the antenna to the detector can change significantly from band to band without having much effect on the measured sensitivity. Two sets with similar signal requirements for a given signal-to-noise ratio can have vastly different capabilities in handling weak, fluctuating signals, especially on the 10- and 15-meter bands. As the net gain falls off, more and more signals will fall below the agc threshold. The R-4C, for instance, holds a much more consistent net gain from 80 to 10 meters than the TR-4C. The TS-820 increases the net gain on 10 meters compared to 20 and 15 by changing a capacitive tap on the rf amplifier drain. Its gain, however, is too high on 160 meters, resulting in a higher susceptibility to overload by broadcast stations. When connected to a nearly self-resonant 160-meter vertical antenna at our lab in Denver, the TS-820 grossly overloads with the eighteen local broadcast stations, developing more than 1 volt across its antenna input. Without the 20-dB rf attenuator switched in, the 160-meter band is nothing but a solid mass of S9 + 30 dB IMD products.

The TS-820's front end is not selective enough to cope with this admittedly unusual receiving situation. On 1.8 MHz, the preselector attenuates signals that are 100 kHz off frequency by 18 dB. In comparison, the R-4C attenuates these same signals by 38 dB. On 3.6 MHz, the TS-820's front end is down 8 dB at 100 kHz off frequency, the TR-4C by 12 dB, and the R-4C by 24 dB. When tested on 10 meters, the 500-kHz attenuation is 8 dB on the TS-820, 8 dB on the TR-4C, and 15 dB on the R-4C.

One way to eliminate the need for a sharp preselector is to use an up-conversion scheme, with the first i-f above 40 MHz. The input may only need a

bandpass filter that rejects signals below 1.8 and above 30 MHz. Then image signals would fall above 80 MHz and be virtually eliminated by the bandpass filter. The first mixer must have a much greater signal-handling capability than in present receivers, however, because it would see all stations between 1.8 and 30 MHz. Two strong local signals, one on 14 and the other on 21 MHz, could produce a 7-MHz IMD product.

The R-4C and the TS-820 show a 20-kHz test-signal-spacing dynamic range in the ssb mode of about 80 dB when tested on 20 meters. At this frequency, the preselectors do not significantly enter into the dynamic range test, since they will not attenuate the test signals more than 1 dB. This is not the case on 160 meters, especially with the R-4C. Here, its high-Q front end attenuates the 20-kHz signals enough to raise the dynamic range by 12 dB. On the other hand, some receivers have too much gain on 80 and 160 meters which, even with sharp preselectors, could yield a dynamic range no better (or even worse) than on 20 meters.

While the 20-kHz dynamic range of the R-4C improves on the lower frequencies because of its preselector, the 2-kHz dynamic range measurement remains quite constant at just under 60 dB. Similarly, it is consistently above 83 dB with the 600-Hz first i-f filter that cures its *window* overload problem. The TS-820 does not have this *window* problem since it is a single-conversion design and has no overloadable stages between the wide noise blanker filter and its narrow filter. Any improvement in dynamic range with increasing frequency separation of the test signals can only be attributed to its preselector.

A detailed review of the TS-820 in *CQ-DL*,<sup>8</sup> far more comprehensive than anything published in this country, showed a 6-dB improvement in dynamic range as the test signal spacing was increased from 2 to 50 kHz. It is interesting to note that *CQ-DL* also feels that a close-in 2-kHz spacing is necessary for proper evaluation.\*

The Atlas 210X, without its noise blanker operational, has a better than average dynamic range of about 90 dB, which would be even better if its double-balanced mixer were properly terminated above the i-f frequency.<sup>2</sup> This could be accomplished with the use of a diplexer, as described by Wes Hayward,<sup>4</sup> or with a power jfet, as related by Ulrich Rohde.<sup>2,3</sup> There is one limitation in the 210X that cannot be easily remedied, however; its potential strong-signal handling capabilities cannot be fully realized due to its noisy conversion oscillator. Since this oscillator has noise sidebands that are only 65 dB down 10 kHz on each side of its center frequency, all

\*A recent independent measurement by DJ2LR showed the intercept point of the TS820 to be -12 dBm.

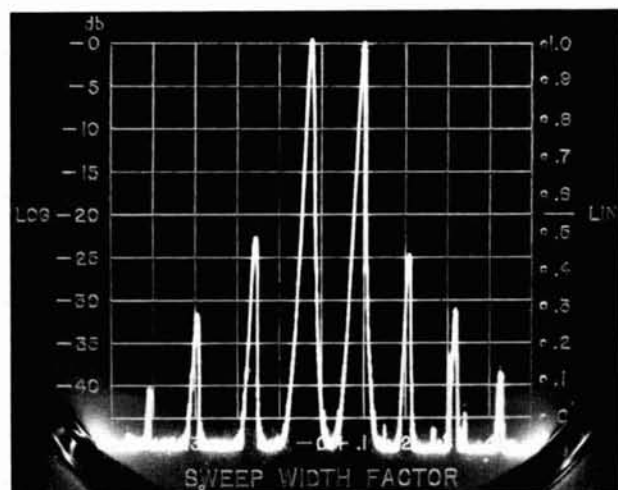
the signals passing through the mixer will take on similar noise sidebands. Consider a strong station near a desired signal that is weaker in amplitude. Reciprocal mixing of oscillator noise can cause noise sidebands to be transferred to the strong nearby station and cause interference to the desired signal. Thus, even if the i-f filter's ultimate rejection is actually realized in the receiver circuitry, which is doubtful in practice, this high level of rejection can be negated by wide-band mixer noise. So while it takes two strong signals to cause IMD which can interfere with weak signal reception, a noisy oscillator and one strong signal can cause the same unfortunate results.<sup>9</sup>

The noise blanker in the Atlas 210X also degrades its dynamic range, diminishing the advantage of the double-balanced passive mixer. The 210X transceivers we tested had a dynamic range of between 73 and 81 dB, depending on the band selected. When the blanker was turned on, these numbers dropped by 3 dB.

There is little reason for a noise blanker to include additional gain stages which can degrade receiver performance. The TS-820 has only a 4-diode balanced blanker gate in its i-f chain; therefore, it does not reduce the overload capability or significantly increase the noise floor. Alternately, a balanced mixer or push-pull i-f stage can be gated for noise blanking; this requires no additional gain stages in the signal path.

## product detectors

Another area that could use additional work is that of the product detector. As the name implies, its output should be the product of the two input signals. If



IMD generated at the output of the R-4C second mixer by two 5 mV signals at the antenna input. The signal spacing was 2 kHz. The receiver was tuned so that the narrow second i-f filter was positioned away from any test signals or IMD products. Therefore, with no signal reaching the AGC, the receiver gain is at maximum and the S meter reads S1.

BFO injection is removed, output should go to zero. If this is not the case, as in the Heath HW series, envelope detection is also occurring, which causes audio distortion. On the other hand, the 6GX6 product detector in the Drake R-4, TR-4, and TR-4C, and the 6BE6 in the Drake 2A and 2B, works very well.

Other extraneous outputs can occur even if the detector is acting solely as a product mixer. A detector should be a double-balanced, or other arrangement, which provides good isolation between input and output. The two-diode detector in the R-4B and R-4C is not a double-balanced design and allows the detected audio to leak back and envelope modulate the last i-f stage. This resultant signal is detected in the agc, which then tries to follow it at an audio rate, especially (but not only) when the faster time constants are in use. This audio output sounds slightly distorted, and is noticeable on ssb as well as CW. In addition, BFO injection is marginal, causing additional distortion on AGC attack.

We decided to replace the product detectors in our R-4C receivers, but wanted to use a device that was compatible with the existing drive and impedance levels. The MC1496L active double-balanced mixer looked like a good choice, and with minor circuit changes from the data sheet, was installed in the receiver. The modulation of the i-f by the detected audio was eliminated, resulting in cleaner sounding audio. AGC attack distortion was further reduced.

The MC1496's main drawback is its high number of associated components. Eleven 1/4-watt resistors, nine capacitors, and the IC had to be squeezed on a 1-3/4 by 1-5/8 inch (4.5x4.1cm) board which was nestled between the audio output transformer and the adjacent PC board (see **fig. 3**). All R-4C owners, whether they change product detectors or not, should add a 0.0015  $\mu$ F capacitor across R83 in the audio amplifier. This corrects a phase error in the feedback circuit, and eliminates an undesirable peak in the audio frequency response which accentuates harmonic distortion. The Kenwood TS-820 and the Atlas 210X both use a double-balanced diode product detector that works quite well, and needs considerably fewer parts, but they are low-impedance devices not easily adapted to some circuitry.

## conclusions

We have discussed several popular receivers and noted some of their strengths and weaknesses. Some problems can be corrected in the field, while others go beyond the scope of a weekend project. We've also investigated two ways to improve a receiver's susceptibility to overload, so that it can better handle today's high-level rf environment: redistributing the gain and increasing the early-stage

selectivity with an additional filter. The importance of having a wide choice of adequate narrow filter selectivity, without leakage, was also mentioned. While most of our circuit changes have been applied to one specific popular receiver, the Drake R-4C, the ideas can be extended to other sets. A method of checking a receiver's overload capabilities which requires no test equipment was also described. Thus receiver changes can be evaluated as to their effect on dynamic range.

The real key to how a receiver performs is its net gain distribution, particularly in relation to the location of selectivity determining elements. A receiver must have a great deal of gain from its antenna to the speaker to be able to receive weak signals. But if too much gain is placed ahead of a narrow filter, the receiver is bound to overload and generate interference of its own.

How a receiver will perform in real-life situations can be determined in the lab, but only if it is tested in a manner that approximates the real world. We feel that the present 20-kHz signal-spacing method can be quite misleading, and should be augmented with our 2-kHz test procedure. If the two readings are significantly different, then further investigation is warranted.

As we stated at the beginning of this article, receivers have improved in many ways, especially over the past 15 years; at the same time, dynamic range has diminished. Amateur radio operators should be demanding excellence in this critical parameter. Improvements in receiver versatility need not reduce system performance, as we have so often observed. Potential problems can be eliminated in new equipment by state-of-the-art design or by retrofitting existing receivers. All that will be lost is some internally-generated rf interference!

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ham radio





# an up/down filter converter — matches any bandpass filter to any receiver i-f

Design and construction  
of an up/down converter  
that will interface  
any crystal filter  
with any receiver i-f.  
A design example  
shows how to add  
a 125-Hz filter  
to the Drake R-4B

**Ultimate receiver performance** is viewed by most amateurs as a moving target, with increasing cost just one factor that keeps the target out of reach. New inventions and techniques are constantly being announced by the fast-moving electronics industry; yesterday's dream of an ideal receiver becomes history long before the final receiver payment is due. Giant strides in IC technology have made receivers comfortable and easy to use through the addition of synthesizers, diode switches, and frequency counters. However, most *real* receiver performance improvements, in terms of signal-handling capability and selectivity, are still to be made. The name of the game is picking the weak signal out of the in-

terference caused by many nearby strong signals. Then receiver performance specifications such as third-order intercept point, dynamic range, receiver desensitization, and mixer overload suddenly come to mind.

One goal of modern high-frequency receiver design is to process the desired signal through the narrowest available filter, with the smallest number of active components. Maintaining a credible noise figure, however, tends to legislate against throwing out all of the active front-end components except the mixer.\* While giant strides have been made in semiconductor development, filter technology has been advancing rapidly, too.

This article will discuss the use of available crystal filters and will show you how to easily add high-performance filters to receivers without facing the frustrations of mixer design — frequency conversion, loss of sensitivity, and degradation of dynamic range.

## filter characteristics

A complete line of filters optimized at the same center frequency for CW, RTTY, ssb, and a-m, particularly the i-f in your receiver, is hard to find at a price you can afford, especially from a single manufacturer. Many receivers place the ultimate selectivity (that filter which passes the information bandwidth, such as a 2.4 kHz ssb filter) in the second i-f stage, or further down the active component chain than is desirable.

Frequently a receiver manufacturer does not offer filters which are optimized for RTTY or CW. If you find a filter with the desired response characteristics, chances are that it won't match the receiver i-f.

If you look to filter manufacturers who specialize in only crystal filters, you'll find that, within the past year or two, excellent crystal filters have become available that will optimize filtering for any mode of radio communications. The first stumbling block is the wide variety of filter center frequencies, typically

\*Recent developments in solid-state mixer design actually permit the omission of all active stages prior to the mixer. It is now possible to obtain a mixer noise figure of 10 dB or less on the high-frequency bands. This will be sufficient for all but the most demanding reception requirements, such as OSCAR 7, Mode A on 10 meters.

Editor

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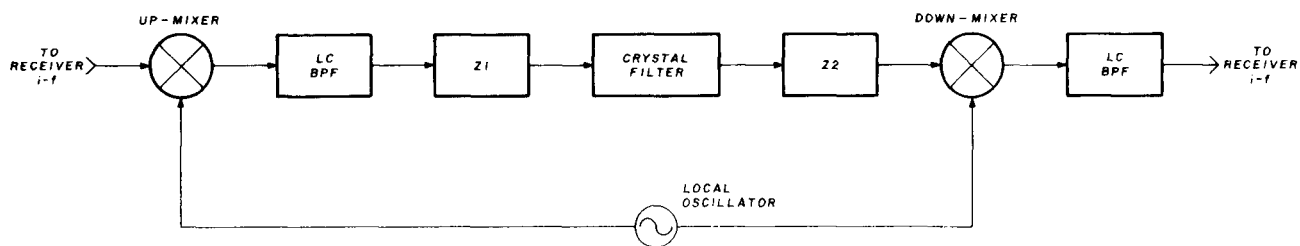


fig. 1. Block diagram of the up/down frequency converter for adding an additional filter to a receiver. Z1 and Z2 represent the impedance matching networks necessary to interface the mixers and filter.

in the range from 5 to 11 MHz. Rarely does one manufacturer produce a complete line of filters, optimized for the information bandwidth of each of the operating modes used by amateurs.

Cost has been a major factor in the past, but crystal filter production techniques have vastly improved and costs have turned downward. To put cost into perspective, and to consider the effects of inflation, excellent 8-pole crystal filters, with signal rejection floors below 100 dB, are now available for about the same price level as 4- and 6-pole crystal filters were about 5-10 years ago.

Describing a crystal filter by its shape factor, normally defined as the ratio of the 6-dB to 60-dB bandwidths, doesn't tell the whole story. This measure of squareness is typically 1.7 to 2.2 for a good quality ssb filter, the slope of the response curve in a simple filter is determined by the characteristics of the crystals. For a 2.4 kHz ssb filter with a shape factor of 1.75, for example, the attenuation/ $\Delta$  frequency of

the filter slope would be 54 dB/900 Hz. When narrower filters were designed, the bandwidth between corners was reduced but the slope remained essentially the same; a 500 Hz filter had a shape factor greater than 4.0. In fact, the bandwidth of the slope itself on one side of the ssb filter was wider than the 60 dB bandwidth of an optimized CW filter!

Eventually new fabrication techniques, such as mounting all crystals on the same header, permitted development of high-performance crystal filters. In some filters the entire passband may move as much as 2 Hz/ $^{\circ}$ F, but this is not objectionable when the entire filter shape moves. To further illustrate the tremendous achievements in crystal filter technology that have occurred during the past several years, consider the 125-Hz CW filter now on the market. At one time, not too many years ago, 125-Hz crystal filters were a novelty of the laboratory. Today CW filters with 125-Hz bandwidths and shape factors of 2.5 are available for approximately \$125.

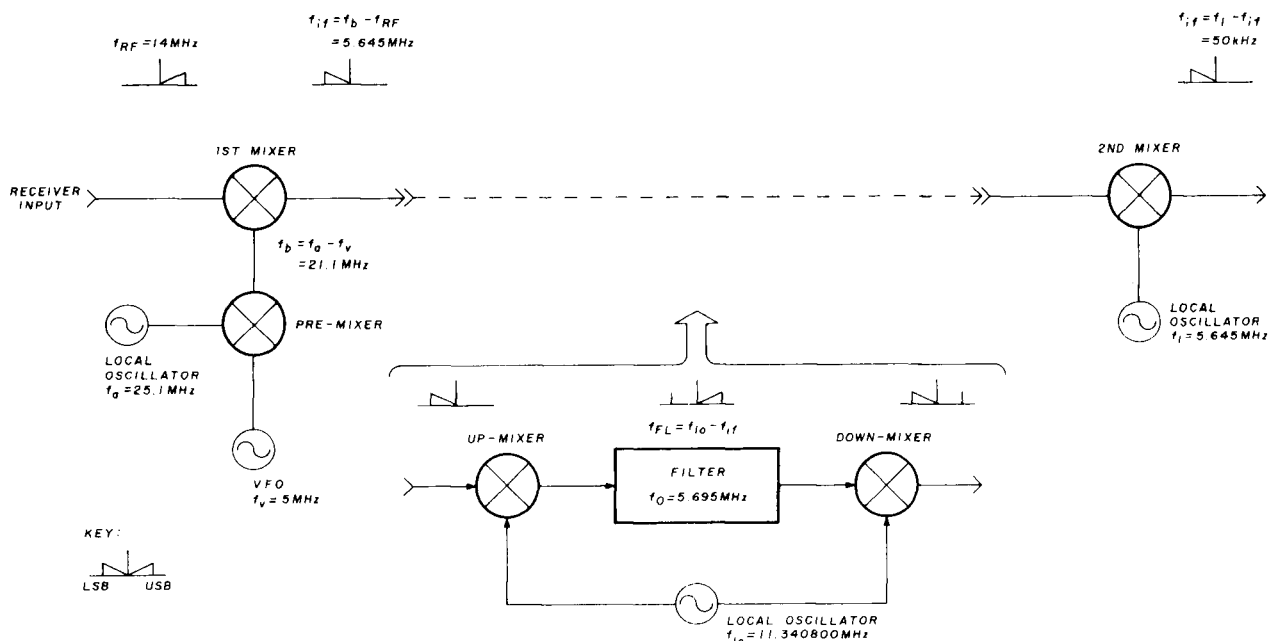


fig. 2. Block diagram of the Drake R-4B showing the receiver frequency conversion scheme. The conversion is necessary for the additional filter inserted between the first and second mixer. This diagram can be used to check for any sideband inversion.

By using the newer 8-pole crystal filters, receiver performance can be improved in the following ways:

1. Filters are optimized for the information bandwidth.
2. Signal-to-noise ratios are improved.
3. Filters placed as close to the front end as possible improve dynamic range.

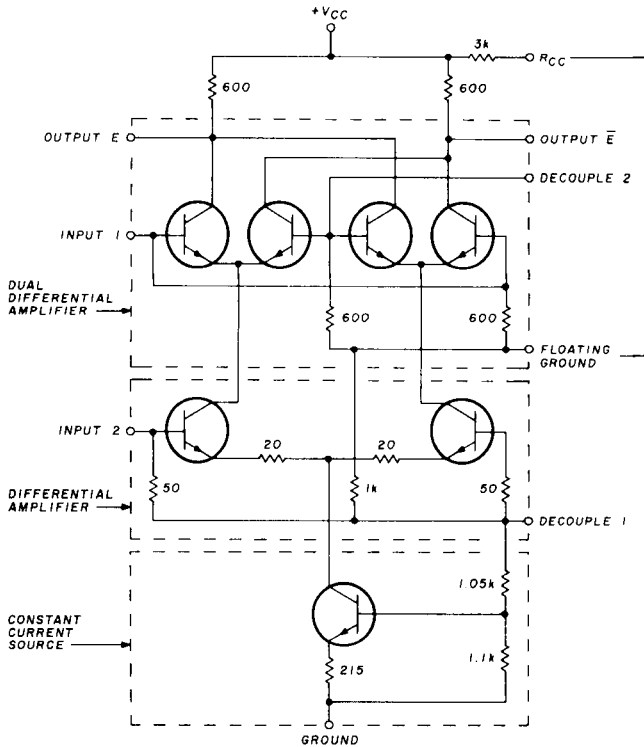


fig. 3. A representative schematic diagram of the Texas Instruments TL442 doubly balanced mixer IC. Input 1 has an input impedance of 600 ohms, while input 2 is 50 ohms. The output can be connected for 600 or 1200 ohms output impedance, depending whether the supply voltage is connected to +V<sub>CC</sub> or OUTPUT E.

4. Cascading with an existing filter to achieve better filter skirt and out-of-band performance.

When you optimize filters, you not only reduce susceptibility to interference — you also reduce listener fatigue. Improved signal-to-noise ratios are particularly noticeable on the low bands for several reasons. First, if only an ssb filter is available for CW, when a 125-Hz bandwidth filter is switched into the circuit, the bandwidth improvement ratio will be  $10 \log 2400/125$  or 12.8 dB. Even if a 500-Hz CW filter were available, a 125-Hz filter would improve the signal-to-noise ratio by 6 dB. In addition, by the very nature of impulse and static noise, the filter will prevent overloading the following stages; this means that the signal-handling ability of the receiver has been improved.

Some receivers have a nominal 2- or 4-pole filter in

the first i-f, and the final selectivity in the second or last i-f stage. Obtaining all the needed selectivity at one i-f is difficult, however, because of signal radiation and leakage (even with the best shielding). By placing a high-performance crystal filter in the first i-f, overload of the second mixer can be greatly reduced. Further, spreading the selectivity over several stages is an excellent way to improve ultimate signal rejection.

Since the crystal filter you want to use will probably not agree with your receiver i-f, to say nothing of the input and output impedances, a convenient method is required to interface additional filters. Many receivers have a simple general purpose filter in the first i-f with an output impedance of 500 to 1000 ohms. This is an ideal place to add an outboard crystal filter.

Designing a conversion scheme can be a complicated process; consider all the variables. Fig. 1 shows a block diagram of the general approach for heterodyning the first i-f signal up or down to a high-performance crystal filter, and then heterodyning back to the receiver. The first mixer (up converter) can easily overload; the down-mixer is not nearly as susceptible to overload. In addition, the local oscillator can act as a source of spurious radiation for birdies in the amateur bands. Since only one local oscillator is generally used for the two mixers, it may serve as the leakage path for the signal around the filter. Or, the local oscillator signal could feed through the down-mixer into the next i-f stage. And consider the fact that since almost all commercial crystal filters are in the 5 to 11 MHz frequency range, the receiver i-f and the crystal filter frequency should be very close.

Having both the receiver i-f,  $f_{if}$ , and the filter,  $f_{FL}$ , at nearly the same frequency is probably the leading cause for abandoning the project. Mixers not only mix; they can amplify. Therefore, if  $f_{if}$  cannot be filtered out by the LC bandpass filter (BPF) at the output of the up-mixer, overload may eventually become a problem because both signals could be substantially amplified. To make matters worse, the conversion process usually results in some loss of desired signal; as much as 30 or 40 dB difference between the two mixer output signals,  $f_{if}$  and  $f_{FL}$ , is not uncommon. As a result, the filter signal rejection floor is greatly diminished. If the two frequencies are within several hundred kilohertz, the isolation of  $f_{FL}$  by the bandpass filter may be as big a task as manufacturing the high-performance crystal filter in the first place.

Finally, the filter must be very carefully matched to the up-mixer output and the down-mixer input. These matching networks are shown in fig. 1 as Z1 and Z2.

Selecting a frequency conversion scheme should be done with care. Fig. 2 shows the first i-f signal, filter i-f, and local oscillator frequencies. It is well to consider the particular sideband, too, since sideband reversal may not be desirable. Fig. 2A shows the complete receiver conversion scheme, with the Drake R-4B used as an example. The sideband slope diagrams show the relative sideband with respect to the incoming rf signal.

Fig. 2B shows how the up/down filter converter is integrated into the receiver's first i-f. Using the filter's center frequency, the required local oscillator frequency can be determined from  $f_{LO} = f_{FL} \pm f_{if}$ . The Sherwood Engineering CF-125/8\* CW filter center frequency is 5695.0 kHz. Assuming an 800-Hz tone, the incoming frequency,  $f_{if}$ , would be  $5645.0 + 0.8 = 5645.8$  kHz; the local oscillator frequency would be  $5695.0 + 5645.8 = 11340.8$  kHz (or  $5695.0 - 5645.8 = 49.2$  kHz). The 11340.8 kHz frequency is, fortunately, not in any amateur band; but the 49.2-kHz local oscillator signal would fall within the passband of the receiver's second i-f! Therefore, 11340.8 kHz will be used as the local-oscillator frequency.

### solving the problems

The close proximity of the receiver's first i-f and the crystal filter frequencies was the toughest prob-

\*Sherwood Engineering, 1268 South Ogden Street, Denver, Colorado 80210.

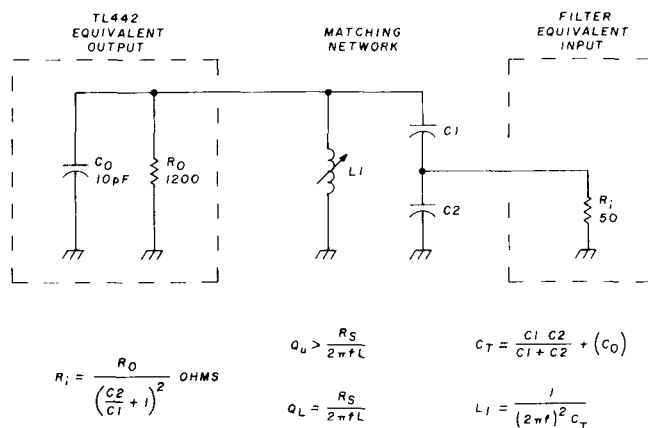


fig. 4. The capacitive tap-down network is used to match the up-mixer to the crystal filter. It can also be used to match a high-impedance first i-f stage to the 600-ohm input of the TL442 mixer IC.

lem to solve. Convenience and easy-to-do were words which guided this design project for more than six months. Building the LC filter at the output of the up-mixer, shown in fig. 1, however, was anything but easy. Combining it with the impedance matching network, Z1, was complicated and certainly not repeatable without diligent tuning. Doubly balanced mixers were considered, but many of them required large numbers of external components and even null adjustments.

Finally, a doubly balanced mixer IC was found that provides internal preset nulls in excess of 30 dB, for

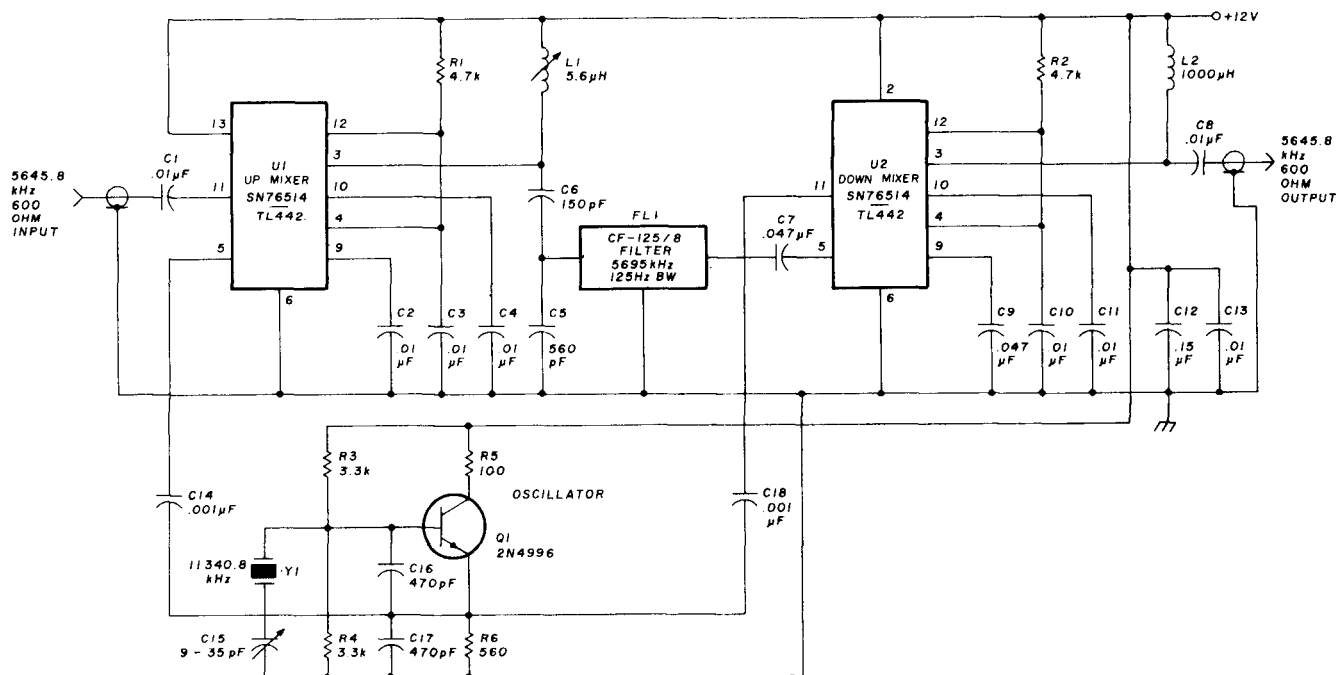


fig. 5. Schematic diagram of the up/down converter. All resistors are 1/4 watt, 10 per cent. The TL442 pin-out is shown for the dual in-line package. The active devices can be obtained from Texas Instruments Supply, 6000 Denton Drive, Dallas, Texas 75235.



both the input and the local oscillator signal. Fig. 3 shows a diagram of the Texas Instruments TL442 (old designation SN76514). This circuit was designed specifically for radio receiver applications. Its features include

1. Flat frequency response to 100 MHz; with tuning usable to 300 MHz,  $C_i = 3\text{-}5\text{ pF}$ ;  $C_o = 10\text{ pF}$
2. 50 and 600 ohms input impedances and 600/1200-output impedance
3. Factory-tuned null adjustments for both signal and local oscillator
4. Single- or double-ended voltage source
5. Differential amplifier with large signal-handling capability
6. Low-level local oscillator requirement
7. Noise figure of approximately 6 dB
8. Typical conversion gain of 14 dB

In the TL442 IC, uhf transistor chips are matched and the resistors are etch-trimmed in the manufacturing process to achieve balance. The IC actually consists of two cross-coupled differential amplifiers whose emitters are driven by a third differential amplifier. A constant-current source is connected to the third differential amplifier emitter. This device works best with 250 mV local-oscillator injection, and performs without significant overloading, up to about 300 mV of rf signal. Hence, the signal-handling characteristics of the TL442 are as good as or better than most vacuum-tube converters in current receiver designs.

An excellent description of the TL442 is also available from Texas Instruments.<sup>1</sup> Cost of the doubly balanced mixer is \$2.40, an excellent trade-off when you consider that no external components are required. With more than 30 dB separation between the desired  $f_{FL}$  signal and the nearby  $f_{if}$  signal, the re-

mainder of the high-performance crystal filter converter design is downhill.

Impedance matching, or the lack of it, is a big benefit of using the TL442. The fixed 600/1200-ohm output required no LC network, and only the most simple matching circuit to match the 50-ohm crystal filter. Going from the filter to the down-mixer does not require matching when using the 50-ohm input of the mixer! With isolation between the local oscillator and the output port of more than 30 dB, the local oscillator signal will have only minimal impact upon the receiver, and will provide more than 60-dB protection against signal leakage across the filter.

The gain/loss in the conversion process is also worth planning. The Sherwood CF-125/8 filter has a typical loss of 9 dB (maximum 11 dB). Another factor is the bandwidth reduction loss from 2.4 kHz to 125 Hz, which was shown to be about 13 dB. I like background noise to remain constant rather than to keep the signal strength constant when switching between the two filters; the noise floor is always a ready reference and a 13 dB drop in the noise floor is a noticeable deadening of the receiver! If the TL442 is connected for a 1200-ohm output impedance, about three S-units of excess gain can be provided to slightly more than account for loss of background noise due to bandwidth reduction.

Designing the matching network, from the TL442's 1200-ohm output impedance to the CF-125/8 crystal filter's 50-ohm input impedance, is based upon the capacitive tap-down network shown in fig. 4. The IC output impedance is 1200 ohms in parallel with 10 pF of source capacitance. L1 is used to resonate this 10 pF and the series connected tap-down capacitors, C1 and C2. Fig. 4 shows the relationships between the network components and the termination parameters. As discussed before, one of the advantages of the TL442 is that the crystal filter will directly match the 50-ohm input of the second TL442 mixer.

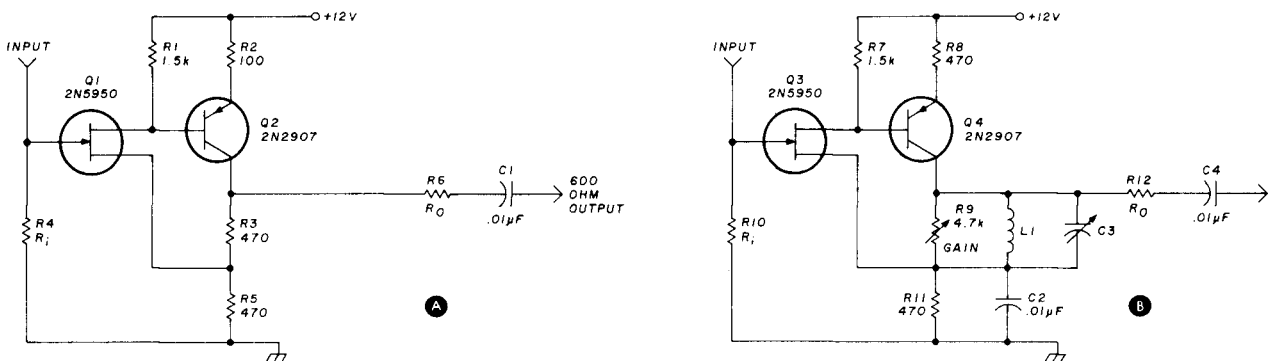


fig. 6. The 1:1 line isolation amplifier is shown in A, while the amplifier with the variable ratio is shown in B. This design is capable of handling large signals with low cross-modulation.

All that's needed to complete the converter are three semiconductor devices and one tuned circuit. **Fig. 5** shows the schematic. Both mixer ICs are configured in the same manner. Rf ground potentials are carefully bypassed with monolithic capacitors using short leads. The TL442 outputs are single ended, and the impedance is raised to about 1200 ohms by applying the supply voltage to pin 13. The constant-current source resistor network derives its voltage from the 3k resistor connected from pin 12 to pin 4; an additional 4.7k resistor is connected to pin 4 to increase gain. At the signal input, the 600-ohm input

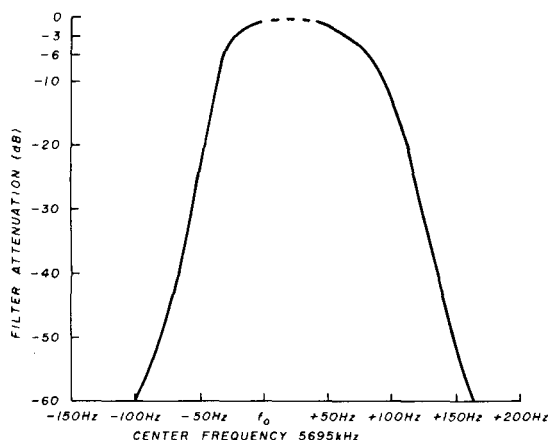


fig. 7. Frequency response of the Sherwood Engineering CF-125/8 crystal filter.

(pin 11) is used for the receiver first i-f signal because matching to 600 ohms is convenient.

The local oscillator was carefully designed to provide as much decoupling from the supply voltage as possible and also to provide a very low output impedance. A T-pad attenuator between the two mixers further decreases the possibility of signal leakage from the signal input through the input mixer, oscillator, and through the output mixer.

The capacitive tap-down network from the up-mixer, U1, to the crystal filter, FL1, is composed of L1, C6, and C5. Depending upon the *Q* of L1, and any other filter impedance, C5 and C6 can be adjusted to give the proper ratio for a good filter match. This occurs at or near maximum signal strength without objectionable ripple in the passband or out-of-band ripples.

Retune L1 each time C5 or C6 are changed; the adjustment is straightforward and noncritical. C15 provides a fine-tuning adjustment for the crystal.

### line amplifiers

When the output impedance of the receiver's first i-f is greater than one or two thousand ohms, a matching circuit will be required. Again, the

capacitance tap-down network will work well for ratios of 24:1 or more. Further, there is sufficient gain in the TL442 IC mixers to recover a few dB of circuit loss. When excessive loss is encountered, a line amplifier (**fig. 6**) will help recover gain, or match extremely high-impedance circuits to low-impedance circuits. This circuit features several S-units of gain while exhibiting very large signal-handling capabilities with low cross-modulation distortion. The output impedance is 1200 ohms, untuned, and should be easy to match to the second-mixer circuit in any receiver.

### construction

The whole system was built on a double-sided printed circuit board that fits over the pins on the CF-125/8 crystal filter. The filter is securely grounded to the back plane of the printed-circuit board to reduce signal leakage around the filter. A piece of double-stick *Scotch* mounting tape was used to attach the entire up/down crystal filter converter assembly to an unused panel inside the receiver. One word of caution: always place a metal shield between the input wafer and the output wafer of the crystal filter switch to minimize signal leakage.

### results

True single-signal reception with the CF-125/8 crystal filter in tandem with an ssb filter is most gratifying. **Fig. 7** shows the frequency response of the CF-125/8 crystal filter by itself. Other crystal filters give equally impressive results. My R4-B receiver is equipped with a 1:1 line amplifier which drives the Drake ssb filters from the 2-crystal filter in the first i-f stage. The output from the ssb filter drives the line driver (adjusted to make up the 6 dB filter loss) and then the second mixer. The up/down crystal filter converter is switched in between the ssb filter and the second line amplifier. The tandem combination of filters does not ring, and 40 word-per-minute CW copy is possible. The noise and static effects that were so bothersome when a 125-Hz audio filter (shape factor 3) was used are now annoyances of the past.

If you are lucky enough to find crystal filters that are on the same frequency as your receiver's first i-f, all that is needed is a line isolation amplifier to buffer the filter, a matching network, and a line amplifier to make up the gain of the return signal.

### reference

1. *Balanced Mixer Application Note*, Section 6.6 SN76514/TL442, Linear Circuits Application Department, Mail Station 964, Dallas, Texas 75222.

ham radio

# how to select TTL sub-series ICs for different digital designs

The popular TTL family  
of digital ICs  
is widely used  
in amateur applications,  
but low-power, high-speed,  
and Schottky TTL  
have been largely neglected —  
here's how to select  
the best TTL sub-series  
for your own designs

Through the years, as the 7400 series of ICs has become the mainstay of TTL logic designers, more and more devices have been added to the family. In the last few years, both Fairchild Semiconductor and Texas Instruments have increased their commitment to the market by introducing expanded lines of high speed, low power, and Schottky-clamped devices. At the same time, extensive use of foreign production facilities has allowed a 50 per cent drop in prices, which distributors are now beginning to pass along to the consumer. Where does that leave you when you decide to build that new keyer or frequency counter? Consider the popular 7400 quadruple 2-input NAND gate, for example. There are five versions: the 7400, 74H00, 74L00, 74LS00, and 74S00. Which version is best suited for your purposes? What advantages does one version have over another?

Actually, each 7400 sub-series (H, L, LS, and S) has clear cut strengths and weaknesses which make the choice a lot easier than it may appear. The two major differences between each sub-series are speed (maximum operating frequency) and power consumption. In general, to gain speed, power consumption must be increased. This speed-power trade-off would probably settle the matter because you would pick the lowest power version that meets the required speed and stop right there, but a third factor comes into play: cost. To either increase speed or decrease power, the cost at least doubles over that of the standard (and the least expensive) version. A good rule of thumb is to use these special devices *only* when the standard 7400-series chips can't do the job.

## performance comparison

Let's go back to the 7400 quad 2-input NAND gate and look at the differences between each version and set down some general characteristics for each sub-series.

The 7400 typically operates from dc to 35 MHz, as will the remainder of the 7400 series. This is a *typical* specification and does not hold true in devices of higher complexity such as the Texas Instruments SN74144, which contains a BCD counter, a four-bit latch, and a BCD to seven-segment decoder-driver. The SN74144 is intended to be a one-chip replacement for the popular SN7490A counter, SN7475 latch, and SN7447 decoder-driver combination. Because of the high component density in the SN74144 (an equivalent of 86 gates on one chip), however, the typical counting frequency only extends to 18 MHz. Some of the earlier devices were equally slow. There was a time, not too long ago, when it was sometimes necessary to go through a handful of 7490 counters before you could find one that would work to 30 MHz. Therefore, it's wise to buy only devices with current date codes, unless the application isn't critical. Problems shouldn't pop up with any major suppliers, like those who advertise in *ham radio*, because the turnover is too high for 1973 chips to be still floating around in the open market.

Digressing a moment, the date code is a three- or four-digit number standardized by the EIA (Electronic

By Ian MacFarlane, WA1SNG, 102 Columbus Avenue, Greenfield, Massachusetts 01301

Industries Association). It is stamped on every integrated circuit, usually, but not always, after inspection. Contrary to what you might think, you can get an untested IC with all the same markings as a first-rate unit. If the number has four digits, the first two represent the year of manufacture, such as 75, and the next two stand for the calendar week, such as 38, which would mean the thirty-eighth week of 1975 (the third week in September). If the number has three digits, the first is the year of manufacture (in the example above, the year would be cropped to 5), and the last two digits refer to the calendar week.

The typical low power 74L00 version will operate to 3 MHz, making it somewhat slower than the CMOS family. Every other sub-series is faster than the original type. Below is a list in terms of *typical* speed:

74L	3 MHz
74LS	45 MHz
74H	50 MHz
74S	125 MHz

These figures represent the highest typical clock rate for flip-flops. Once again, remember that each device must be considered on a one-by-one basis where speed is concerned, with the higher-density units having lower maximum frequencies than their less complicated brothers.

Power consumption is often compared using the power dissipation per gate for each series. This information is given in **table 1**, along with all other comparative figures, but in this case it is based on the average supply current, per gate, assuming a 50

the SN7490A, SN74L90 combination, and 13.15 for the SN7473, SN74L73 flip-flop pair. The average supply current values for the remainder of the devices are: 4.5 mA for the 74H00, 0.4 mA for the 74LS00, and 3.75 mA for the 74S00. Thus, if the 7400 is used to establish the standard unit of power consumption (2 mA = 1 unit), then the relative standings are 0.1, 0.2, 1.9, and 2.3 for the L, LS, S, and H sub-series, respectively.

### selecting a sub-series

There are three variables that must be considered when choosing the proper series: price, speed, and power. In general, the first and deciding requirement is that the chip will work up to the desired frequency. It is possible to approach the choice from a power consumption standpoint, but if power conservation is critical, it would be a good idea to see what can be done with a very low power series like the RCA CD4000 COS/MOS family. On a cost-effective basis the low-power 74L00 series is not as good as the COS/MOS family, which has a much lower power-cost product; COS/MOS will also work at higher frequencies (5 MHz for counters, 10 MHz for gates and flip-flops).

This brings us to the method for selecting the best sub-series once the speed requirements have been fulfilled: the *power-cost product*. Since both cost and power are to be minimized, it is easier to multiply the two figures together and deal with one variable instead of two. The lower the power-cost product, the more performance you get for your

**table 1. Comparison of the various TTL sub-series showing clock, rate, power dissipation, propagation delay, relative cost, and power-cost product**

series	maximum flip-flop clock rate	power dissipation per gate	gate propagation delay time	average cost increase over standard series	power-cost product
74L00	3 MHz	1 mW	33 ns	3.1	0.62
7400	35 MHz	10 mW	10 ns	1.0	2.00
74LS00	45 MHz	2 mW	9.5 ns	1.4	0.57
74H00	50 MHz	22 mW	6 ns	1.9	8.49
74S00	125 MHz	19 mW	3 ns	3.4	13.07

per cent duty cycle. The average supply current data is readily available for individual devices, whereas power dissipation is generalized for all gates in the series. The difference in consumption will hold true, when comparing more complicated devices, so long as it is treated as an approximate ratio. In other words, if the average supply current for one gate of a 7400 is 2 mA, and the average supply current, per gate, of a 74L00 is 0.2 mA, then it is fair to say that *any* standard 7400 series device will require approximately ten times the amount of power than an L-series unit does. In practice, the actual ratio may be more or less.

To take several cases, the power ratio is 7.25 for

money. In practice, the product is calculated by multiplying the average current per gate (in mA) for the series, by the average increase in price of the series over that of the standard 7400 series (given as a multiple, such as 3.1 times cost). Data is provided in **table 1**. This is a method for standardizing the selection process, or a mathematical replacement for common sense.

As an example of how to use the chart, suppose you are planning to build a 10-MHz frequency standard. The 10-MHz specification puts everything in the running except the L series. If cost effectiveness is the object, a look at the lowest power-cost product reveals that the LS series is your best bet. Sheer

low cost, providing that a husky power supply is available, would be provided by a switch to the standard series. Not all device selections are that simple.

Let's assume you are designing a frequency counter. The goal is to build a model capable of counting to the highest frequency and requiring the least possible power, and using only the TTL series (no CMOS or ECL integrated circuits); price is no object. In case the design goal will not be met by using only one 7400 sub-series, the lowest power version having the necessary speed will be selected. Excess speed margins, when not needed, will be sacrificed for power conservation. Starting with the 10 MHz oscillator, choose a 7400. The 74LS00 and other sub-series chips have a reputation for not performing well in oscillator service. A key to this problem is the different biasing requirements for each sub-series. It is impossible to just simply remove a 7400 from an oscillator circuit and plug in a 74LS00 without changing external resistor values. There are many proven oscillator circuits based on the 7400, but little published information about biasing for oscillator service, so sticking to the well trodden path will assure success.

The first divider must be able to toggle up to 10

build a higher current power supply than to purchase twenty-five special ICs at three times the cost of their standard TTL equivalents.

## TTL sub-series compatibility

One of the original design objectives for the different TTL sub-series was compatibility. All have the same maximum supply voltage rating of 7 volts, except for the L series, which is 8 volts. This gives plenty of leeway above the typical 5.0 V supply voltage, which is common to all sub-series. Operating temperature range extends from 0 to 70°C (32 to 158°F). The maximum input voltage for the L series is 7 volts, with 5.5 volts as the limit for all others. Because of these similarities, mixing devices from different sub-series will produce no problems so long as fan-out limits are observed.

Fan-out (the number of inputs a single output can drive) is figured only on the basis of outputs driving inputs from the same sub-series. The standard fan-out is 10 loads, except for the L and LS series, where it is 20. Mixing of devices is permitted as long as the output can source (provide) or sink (absorb) the *total* current to or from all inputs.

The high- and low-state input requirements are shown in **table 2** along with output sink capabilities.

**table 2. Input and output data for the various TTL sub-series. Note that the L series had two different standard inputs; assume highest input current when calculating output requirements. Negative signs represent current flow out of terminal**

series	input current (high state)	input current (low state)	maximum output sink current	maximum output source current
74L00	10/20 $\mu$ A	-0.18/ -0.8 mA	3.6 mA	-200 $\mu$ A
7400	40 $\mu$ A	-1.6 mA	16 mA	-400 $\mu$ A
74LS00	20 $\mu$ A	-0.4 mA	8 mA	-400 $\mu$ A
74H00	50 $\mu$ A	-2.0 mA	20 mA	-500 $\mu$ A
74S00	50 $\mu$ A	-2.0 mA	20 mA	-1000 $\mu$ A

MHz; a 74LS90 will require the lowest power. All remaining dividers operate at 1 MHz or below, making the 74L90 the best bet. The counter control circuitry, which generates the count enable, strobe, and reset pulses functions at a very low rate, since most counters can make no more than 10,000 counts per second, so L-series devices can be used. The gate must pass the highest counted frequency, as must the first decade counter, and this application calls for Schottky ICs such as a 74S00 for the gate, and a 74S196 for the first counter. The second decade counter must be LS to count up to 12.5 MHz, but the remaining counters may be L versions. Latches and decoder drivers can also be chosen from the L series.

It is important to note that no standard series TTL logic was used in this circuit. Only when performance can be sacrificed in favor of price is standard TTL a wise choice. Price is almost always important, which explains my rule of thumb which suggests that the standard series be used exclusively, except when it just won't do the job. It's less expensive to

From these figures it's easy to check to see whether a particular output can handle its loads. Just add up the low-state currents for all loads (inputs), and then check that the totals fall within the maximum sink limit for the output. The negative values of input current represent a flow out of the terminal, back into the output. If the output can sink the required current, it will always be able to source enough current for the loads.

## conclusion

While the use of standard and LS series TTL ICs has certainly caught on for amateur projects, the H, L, and S series have been largely neglected. As so often happens with new products, this is due more to insufficient information than it is to a lack of applications. It is hoped that this article has provided enough information to generate more interest in using the various TTL sub-series ICs in future designs.

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## the dragon one supply

This article describes a power supply system that delivers a whopping 500 watts of clean, regulated power. The regulation is better than 1 per cent from no load to full load, with a ripple voltage of less than 10 mV peak-to-peak. Safety features such as current limiting, overvoltage shutdown, and short-circuit protection are all built in. Optimum regulator efficiency is approximately 65 per cent at an output of 450 watts.

Fig. 1 shows the regulated-power supply schematic. Transformer T1 steps down the line voltage to 22 volts, which is rectified by full-wave bridge rectifier CR1. Filtering is by C1, which is a computer-grade electrolytic capacitor having a capacitance of 18,000  $\mu$ F. R1 discharges C1 after the power supply is turned off.

Regulation is provided by U1, the popular 723 regulator IC. The 12-15-volt voltage adjustment is by R4. C5 ensures oscillation-free operation of regulator

By C. C. Lo, WA6PEC, 5414 Barrett Avenue,  
El Cerrito, California 94530

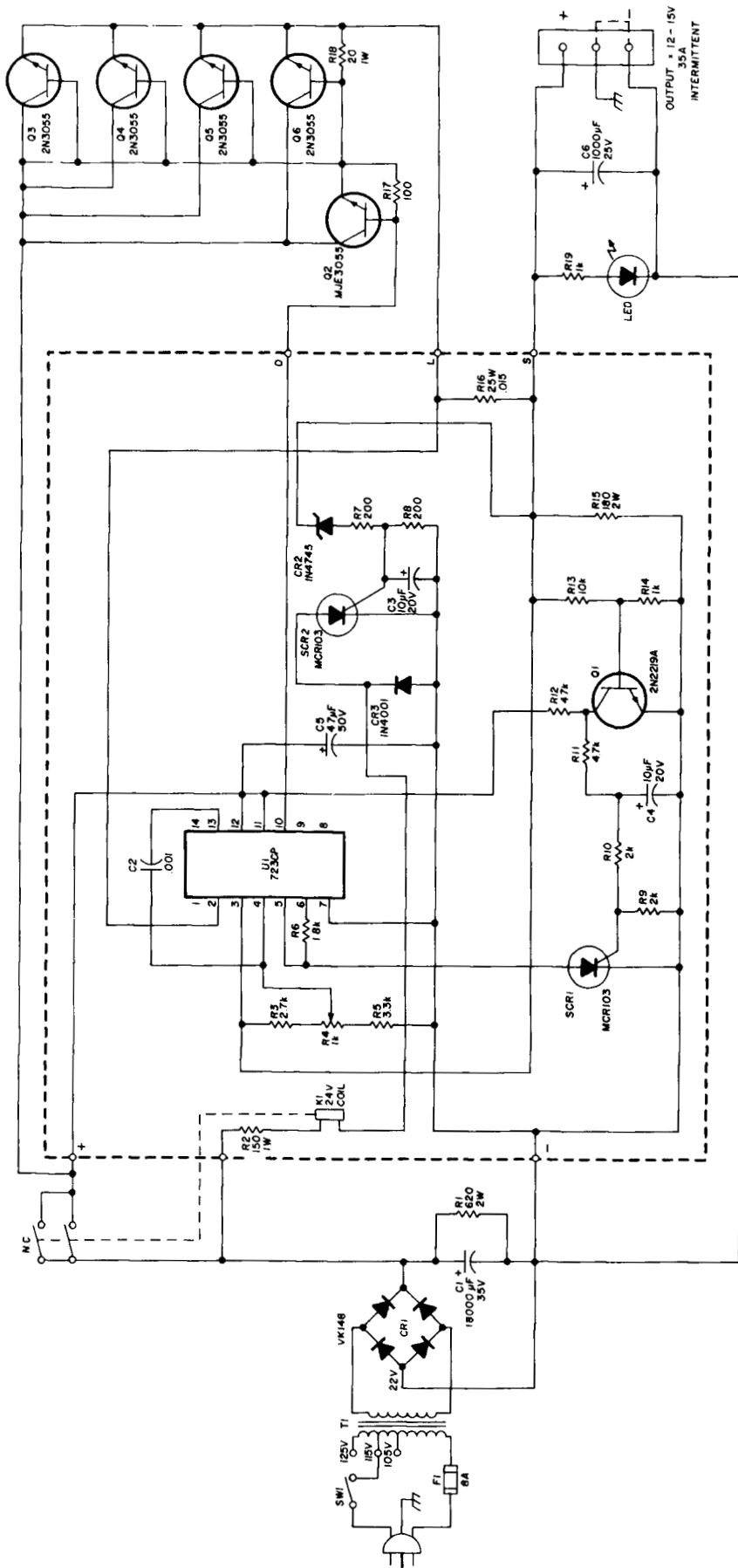


fig. 1. Power-supply schematic. All resistors, unless otherwise marked, are 1/2 watt, 10 per cent.

table 1. Parts list for the 500-watt regulated supply.

CR2	16V zener 1W, 1N4745 or equivalent	K1	relay 24V coil dpdt, contacts rated at 10A 125V each
CR3	diode 50V 1A	U1	723 regulator DIP package
LED	red light-emitting diode	SCR1, SCR2	MCR103 or equivalent (50V 200µA gate current)
T1	transformer Lotronics T2230	F1	fuse holder and 8A fuse
CR1	bridge rectifier Varo VK148 or equivalent	SW1	toggle switch dpst on-off
C1	electrolytic capacitor - 18,000 µF, 35V		Miscellaneous wire, screws, washers, terminal block, line cord.
	Printed circuit board Lotronics PC72350		The following parts are available from Lotronics, Box 975, El Cerrito, California 94530:
	Heat sinks		Items 1-9
	10" x 6" (254x152mm) Lotronics H10-6, one piece		Dragon One major component kit - \$129.50
	4" x 6" (102x152mm) Lotronics H4-6, two pieces		Dragon One complete component kit - \$169.50
R16	resistor 15 milliohm Lotronics R15M		Dragon One assembled and tested - \$209.50
Chassis	7" x 8" x 10" (178x203x254mm) steel box		For all above add \$10 for shipping, insurance, and handling. California residents add 6 per cent tax. Instructions included.

723. U1 output drives Q2, an MJE3055, which in turn, drives Q3-Q6, 2N3055s. Current sensing is by R16, a special 15-milliohm resistor. The two output terminals are isolated from chassis ground. Grounding is achieved by connecting the positive or negative output terminal to the ground terminal with a jumper. A light-emitting diode indicates the presence of dc output voltage. R3, R4, and R5 make up the output voltage sensing divider; the voltage control signal is connected to U1 inverting input.

To protect the power supply from burning itself up in case of excessive load current, the short-circuit shutoff is done in conjunction with the current limiting provided by the regulator through R16. As load current exceeds 35 amps, the output voltage starts to drop. When the voltage drops below 8 volts, Q1 turns off and SCR1 turns on, pulling the regulator noninverting input close to ground potential, thus turning off the output power. This condition remains until the power supply is turned off and SCR1 unlatches.

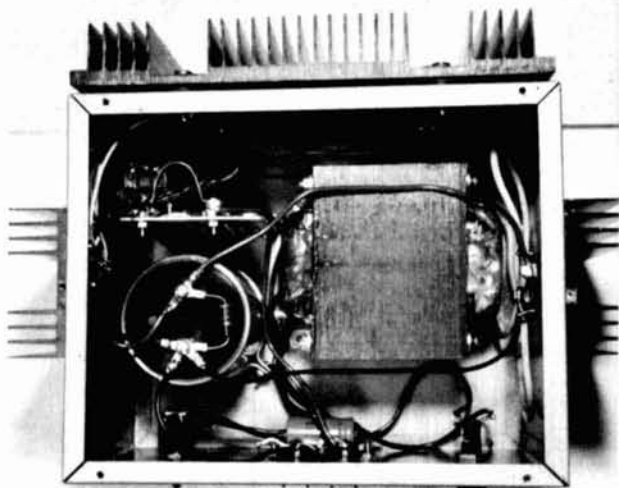
Overvoltage shutdown is designed into the system to protect your expensive transceivers and linear amplifiers. If anything should happen to the regulator or any of the series transistors, chances are one of these devices will short out, putting the full voltage across C1 at the output. This could be disastrous to transceivers and amplifiers. Relay K1, together with CR2 and SCR2 ensure that this will not happen, even if all the pass transistors and regulator are shorted. As the voltage exceeds 16 volts, CR2 starts to conduct, supplying gate current to SCR2, which turns on and activates K1. In doing so, the main dc supply is cut off and will remain off for as long as the power is on and the defect has not been corrected. This special feature is valuable and its additional cost is well justified, although the overvoltage shutdown feature may never be needed in the lifetime of the power supply.

### construction

All components are packaged in a 7 x 8 x 10-inch (178x203x254mm) steel chassis box. Three heatsinks are used (photo).

All components shown inside the dotted line in the schematic diagram are mounted on the printed circuit board. Since this circuit is a high-current power source, no. 12 (2.1mm) wire should be used for all high-current paths. However, no. 16 (1.3mm) wire can be used for interconnections from the two relay contacts, which are wired in parallel to the individual transistor collector and from the individual emitter to point L or R16. R19 and C6 are mounted behind the output terminal block. Holes are punched on the top and bottom panels for ventilation purpose.

Output voltage can be adjusted between 12-15 volts dc. Load current is rated at 35 amps intermittent, and 22 amps continuous duty. For prolonged operation at high current and low output voltage (below 13 volts), a small external fan is recommended for cooling the heat sinks. However, the power supply can deliver 22 amps continuously without forced-air cooling if ambient temperature is below 77°F (25°C). The temperature of the pass bank tran-



Underchassis view of the power supply. Three heatsinks are used. The heatsink mounted on the rear of the chassis box is isolated from chassis ground. The four 2N3055s (Q3 - Q6) are mounted directly on the heatsink. The heatsink on the right-hand side is for bridge rectifier CR1; the other heatsink is for Q2. Heatsink compound was used for mounting Q2 - Q6.

sistor under this condition stabilizes at around 221°F (105°C). With a 25-30 cfm (7 x 10<sup>5</sup> - 8 x 10<sup>5</sup> cm<sup>3</sup>/minute) fan blowing at the rectifier and the transistor heatsinks, the transistor heatsink temperature stabilizes at 122°F (50°C) with 30 amps continuous load current operation for one hour. Regulation is below 1 per cent from no load to full load (35 amps). The taps on transformer T1 are for optimum efficiency operation. It's obvious that if the line voltage is high, the unregulated dc voltage will also be high, making the voltage drop across the pass bank transistor high. That means higher power dissipation and lower system efficiency. Hence, if the input line voltage is connected to the proper tap, an optimum system efficiency is achieved.

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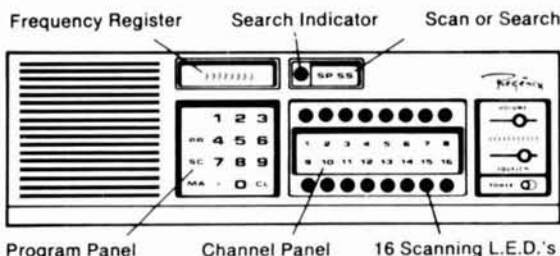
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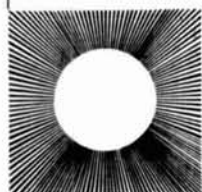
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# voice-operated gate to replace voice-operated relays for carbon microphones

Presenting a circuit  
using four ICs  
plus a couple  
of transistors and diodes  
to replace the old  
voice-operated relays  
in ssb transceivers

**VOR** is an acronym for what is often called the "voice-operated-relay" or "squawk-to-talk" circuit, as used in many modern ssb and fm transceivers. "Voice-operated-relay" was an adequate description when tubes and relay circuitry were used, but it's rather unusual to find such relays in today's all-solid-state designs. And so now we have the Voice Operated Gate, or VOG.

The VOG described here used four ICs plus a couple of transistors and diodes to accomplish pre-amplification, bandpass filtering, and audio gating. A logic output also comes out of the VOG (choice of 1 or 0 for *gate-on*), to serve as a turn-on signal for other sections of the system being voice controlled.

Incorporated in the VOG is a lowpass and highpass filter pair providing the equivalent of a 300-3000 Hz bandpass filter with 40 dB per decade rolloff at each edge. These filters are of the active type, built around operational amplifiers. Only the audio passing through the filters can actuate the gate (and thereby pass through the VOG); this helps to discriminate against ambient noise.

## VOG circuit

A diagram of the VOG is shown in **fig. 1**. The first section is a microphone preamp with an fet constant-current source for a carbon microphone. The carbon microphone is a variable resistance, so the injection of a constant-current into it causes the voltage across it to be representative of the variations in resistance of the microphone. The op amp that forms

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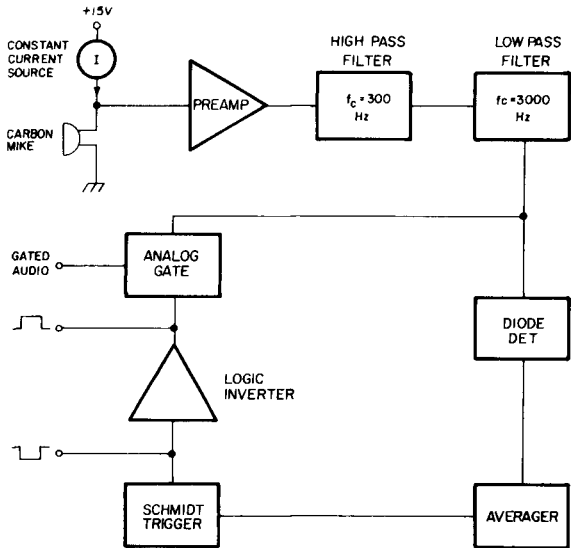


fig. 1. Voice-operated-gate (VOG) circuit block diagram. The circuit is a replacement for the old voice-operated relay systems prevalent in many modern ssb and fm transceivers.

the microphone preamp has a voltage gain of 100, which provides a voltage output of about 3 volts rms for usual carbon microphones during average close-talking use.

Following the microphone preamp is the highpass active filter followed by the lowpass active filter, each consisting of one section of the same quad op amp (U1) that's used as the preamp (see fig. 2). The last section of U1 is used as an active diode detector CR1, CR2, in which the op amp linearizes the detector. The diode detector is arranged to furnish the negative polarity of rectified audio.

The rectified audio from CR1, CR2 is then averaged by U2. Since the averager (U2) is also an inverter, the negative rectified audio is inverted and averaged to become a smoothed, long, positive pulse of the duration of the audio burst originally delivered by the microphone. This positive pulse is processed by U3, a Schmitt trigger, which sharpens the pulse leading and trailing edges and makes it

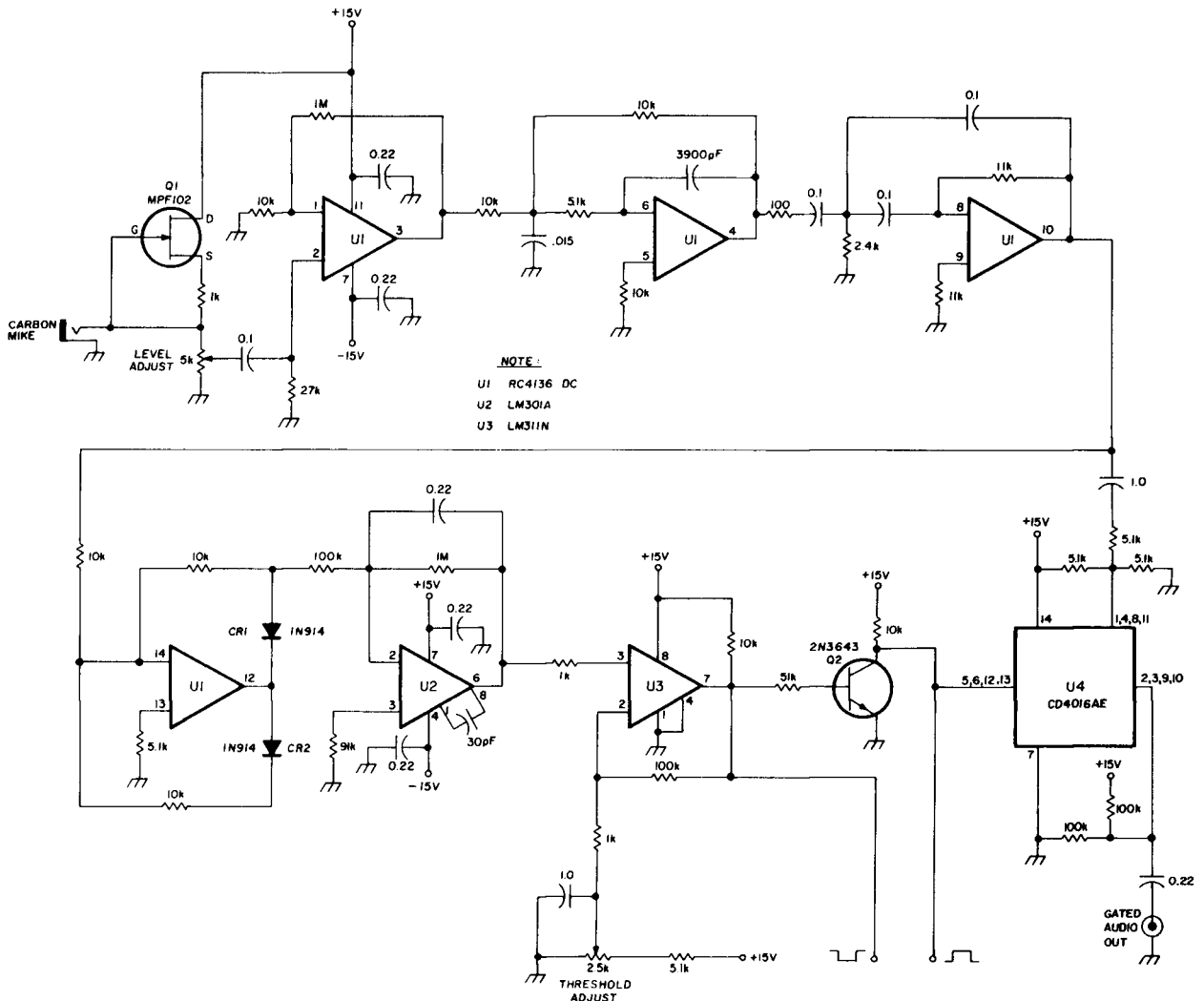


fig. 2. Schematic showing the carbon microphone preamp, bandpass filter, and voice-operated gate (VOG). Note that U1 is the equivalent of four  $\mu$ A741 op amps and could be replaced by four such ICs.

CMOS-logic compatible. The Schmitt trigger also inverts the pulse and adds an effect called hysteresis. That is, U3 output (pin 7) will go from 1 to 0 at an input level (set by the threshold-adjust pot) of say, 2 volts. U3 output will not return from 0 to 1 until the input voltage has dropped substantially below 2 volts. This hysteresis action prevents noise on the audio and minor voice level wavering from causing a chopping effect.

After the Schmitt trigger comes Q2, a simple transistor inverter, which inverts the audio-derived pulse to provide the proper polarity to turn on analog gate U4 when an audio signal is present. The inverter output and the Schmitt trigger output provide both 0 to 1 and 1 to 0 logic-level outputs, which can be used to actuate the turn-on function of the transmitter. Both polarities are handy, because this unit may be used with a number of transmitter designs.

The analog gate, U4, is a member of the RCA CD4000 CMOS logic family, which makes it much less expensive than some of the hybrid analog gates on the market. U4 consists of four analog gates. Since we need only one, all four sections have been wired in parallel. The CD4016 doesn't tolerate very large ac voltages without distortion, so the (filtered) audio input is attenuated at a ratio of 3:1 by a voltage divider at the analog input.

### adjustment and testing

Setup of the VOG is simple. Connect it to a carbon microphone and a  $\pm 15$ -volt supply. Connect a scope or ac VTVM to U1 pin 3 of U1. Talk into the microphone and adjust the LEVEL pot (fig. 2) until about 3 volts rms is seen, then adjust the THRESHOLD pot until about +2 volts is seen at its wiper arm. Connecting a scope or ac VTVM to the output should now show a pulse of audio when speaking into the microphone. A dc voltmeter at U3 pin 7 should jump from +15V for "no talking" to near zero for "talking". The same dc voltmeter at the Q2 collector should react in the opposite way: near zero for "no talking" and +15 volts for "talking."

### closing remarks

This VOG circuit was originally designed to replace one of the special-purpose ICs made by a large linear IC manufacturer. It surpasses the device it replaces in every way.

Note that U1 is the equivalent of four  $\mu A741$  op amps and could be replaced by four such ICs. Also, two  $\mu A747$ s (dual  $\mu A741$  op amps) or two MC1458s could also be used. U2 is best left as an LM301A, since the requirement here is for low input bias currents. When using other-than-called-for ICs, however, pin changes will have to be made.

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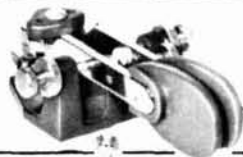
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# accurate low power rf wattmeter

## for high frequency and vhf measurements

How to build an  
accurate low-power wattmeter  
that measures  
up to 10 mW  
from 1 to 500 MHz —  
it uses small lamps  
as barretters

**A pair of subminiature lamps** used as an rf power detector make up the heart of a simple but accurate rf power meter, which can be calibrated directly from dc measurements. The instrument described in this article can be used to accurately measure rf power from 10 mW down to about 0.2  $\mu$ W, over a frequency range from 1 MHz to 500 MHz. Its high sensitivity makes it useful for a host of purposes including antenna gain measurements, local oscillator measurements, and vswr or filter response measurements in conjunction with low-power signal generators. Its maximum power capability can be extended to any level through the use of external calibrated attenuators or directional couplers. In

addition, homebrew attenuators and directional couplers can themselves be calibrated using the power meter.

The rf power detecting element in the wattmeter consists of a pair of incandescent lamps used as barretters. Barretters have been used for many years in commercial wattmeters and have been discussed in several previous articles.<sup>1,2</sup>

A barretter is a wire element whose resistance increases with temperature. Suppose a barretter is heated to a specific resistance (say 50 ohms) by a variable power source whose level is known. As long as the total power dissipated and the ambient temperature remain constant, the barretter resistance will remain at 50 ohms. Now suppose the barretter is also heated with power from a separate source (an rf generator in this case) whose level is unknown. The resistance of the barretter will increase. If the power supplied from the known source is then reduced until the barretter resistance returns to 50 ohms, the amount of power reduction from the known source will equal the power supplied by the unknown source. The unknown power level is thus measured by metering the decrease in the known power source.

The known power source can be adjusted automatically to maintain constant barretter resistance by using a bridge circuit in a closed loop with an amplifier. In many commercial microwave power meters the closed loop forms a self-balancing audio oscillator so that the known power source is an ac signal (in combination with some dc which is also applied). The oscillator technique has the advantage of eliminating dc offset drift errors in the balancing and metering circuits. In the power meter described here, however, the known power source is pure dc. The dc approach was chosen for ease of calibration and testing, for circuit simplicity, and to allow a wide rf frequency range. (The relatively large rf coupling capacitor required for low-frequency response would introduce excess phase shift and upset the balance

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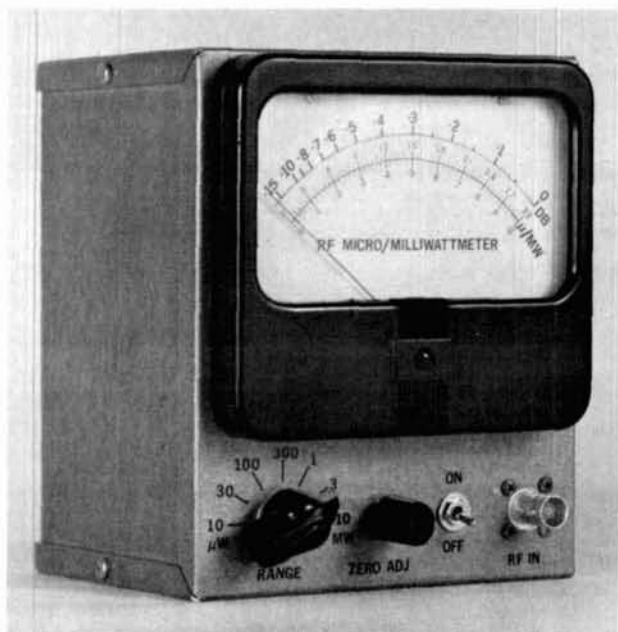


in an ac balanced bridge, depending on the low-frequency impedance of the rf source.)

### circuit description

The circuit diagram of the rf wattmeter is shown in **fig. 1**. The design philosophy was to explore what useful sensitivity could be achieved in a simple circuit without the use of special low-drift components or special schemes for drift compensation. The experimenter who wishes to build his own version of the wattmeter is encouraged to try his hand at improvements.

The incandescent lamps, I1 and I2, used in the rf sensor are subminiature T-3/4 types obtained at a hamfest flea market. The lamps have wire leads and the glass envelopes are 0.187 inch (5mm) long by 0.094 inch (2.5mm) in diameter. Their dc characteristics indicate they are similar to Chicago Miniature types CM2, CM30, or CM3102. **Fig. 2** shows the measured current-voltage (I-V) characteristic of one of the lamps. Note the non-linear nature of the plotted data which indicates changing lamp resistance. This general characteristic is typical of all incandescent lamps with tungsten filaments. **Fig. 3** shows the same data plotted as dc resistance,  $V/I$ , versus power dissipated,  $VI$ . At rf frequencies, the resistance of the lamp during any rf cycle remains constant and equal to the dc resistance because one rf cycle is much shorter than the minimum thermal response time of the lamp filament (skin effect does not appear to seriously alter the resistance of the small diameter, high resistivity filament over the frequency range of interest).



The author's completed power meter.

In order to simultaneously feed dc and rf to the lamps over a wide bandwidth, the lamps are connected in series for dc and in parallel for rf. Chip capacitors C1 and C2 perform the functions of rf coupling and bypassing, respectively, with low impedance over a wide frequency range. If chip capacitors are not available, small ceramic disks with zero lead length may be used. For good uhf measurement accuracy, construction of the rf sensor must be based on good uhf construction practices, with emphasis on minimizing parasitic inductances by keeping all leads short. The rf paths through C1, either lamp, and C2 to ground must be as short as possible.

The rf sensor is built on a small piece of double-clad glass-epoxy printed-circuit board 1/16 inch (1.5mm) thick as shown in the photograph. Both sides of the board were soldered directly to the rear of a BNC connector, with the connector center pin soldered to a pad approximately 0.105 inch (2.5mm) wide. This pad forms a 50-ohm microstrip transmission line leading to chip capacitor C1. One lead of both I1 and I2 is soldered to a small pad connected to the other end of C1. A small hole is drilled through the board at the ground lead of I2 so this lead can be soldered to the ground plane on both sides of the board. The opposite lead of I1 is soldered to the pad in the upper right hand corner in the photo. A dc feed wire is also soldered to this pad and chip capacitor C2 is soldered from the point of attachment of I1 across a gap to the ground plane.

On the ground side of C2, another hole is drilled through the board and a wire is soldered through this hole to form a direct connection to the ground plane on the back of the board. The use of small filament lamps with low parasitic inductance, and this method of construction ensure good performance into the uhf portion of the spectrum. (**Warning:** chip capacitor ends must be soldered quickly with minimum heat; otherwise tin-lead solder will rapidly leach away the metallization from the ends of the capacitors.)

The layout of the remaining dc portion of the wattmeter circuit is not particularly critical and was built on a Vector DIP padboard mounted on the meter terminals. The unit is housed in a 4 x 5 x 6 inch (10.2 x 12.7 x 15.2cm) minibox.

The lamps are operated at sufficient dc current to bring their series resistance to 200 ohms. If the lamps are reasonably well matched, the resistance of each lamp will be about 100 ohms, making the parallel rf resistance equal to 50 ohms. If two lamps identical to the one plotted in **fig. 3** are used, each will dissipate about 7 mW at a resistance of 100 ohms, for a total dissipated power of 14 mW. Thus, 14mW is the maximum rf power which can be measured in a 50-

ohm system with two such lamps. A highest scale of 10 mW was therefore chosen for the wattmeter. Random drift establishes a practical limit of  $10 \mu\text{W}$  for the most sensitive scale.

To maintain their series resistance at 200 ohms, the lamps are operated in a bridge circuit consisting of R1, R2, R3, and the rf sensor. For best accuracy, R1, R2, and R3 should all be selected to be as close as possible to 200 ohms with R1 and R2 selected for best match, and R3 selected closest to 200 ohms.

The voltage difference between the two legs of the bridge is sensed and amplified by U1, a  $\mu\text{A}741$  or similar type op-amp IC. The capacitors in the feedback loop of U1 form an integrator for very high dc gain and good stability. The output of U1 passes through diode CR1 to transistor Q1, the bridge current driver. Q1 is connected as an emitter follower, and supplies the necessary current to bring the bridge to a balanced condition. The 10k resistor across Q1 feeds a small residual positive bias to the bridge to ensure that the bridge will always come to balance with a positive potential, even though U1 may initially turn on with a negative output. Diode CR1 prevents emitter-base breakdown of Q1 if U1 turns on with a negative output.

Following turn-on, the output of U1 will quickly

become positive in response to the residual positive bias on the bridge. The voltage at the output of U1 will continue to increase until enough current flows through the rf sensor to bring its resistance to 200 ohms, at which point equilibrium is achieved. In practice, the bridge comes to balance within a second or two of turn-on, with some overshoot due to the thermal lag of the lamps.

The equilibrium voltage at the top of the bridge,  $V_B$ , (3.50 volts in the unit shown) is fed to the metering circuit made up of U2A, U2B, and associated components. Range switch S2A selects one of the calibration resistors, R4 through R10. A method for calculating the values of these resistors is covered in the calibration section.

Op-amp U2A compares the voltage selected by S2A to a reference voltage established at pin 3 of its input. Since the full-scale voltage change in  $V_B$  is only 1.1 mV for the  $10 \mu\text{W}$  scale, the reference voltage supply must be extremely stable and minutely variable. To establish a stable reference voltage, fet Q2 is connected as a constant-current source feeding zener diode, CR2. Any fet having an  $I_{DSS}$  of 3 mA or more could be used for Q2. Alternatively, a 5-volt, three-terminal regulator IC could probably be used instead of Q2 and CR2.

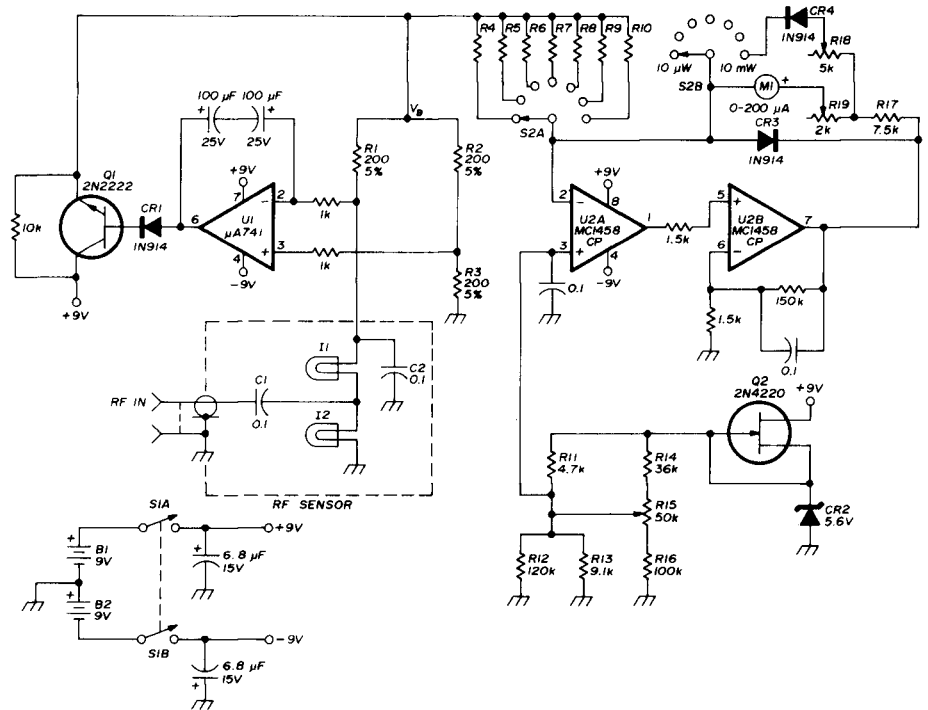


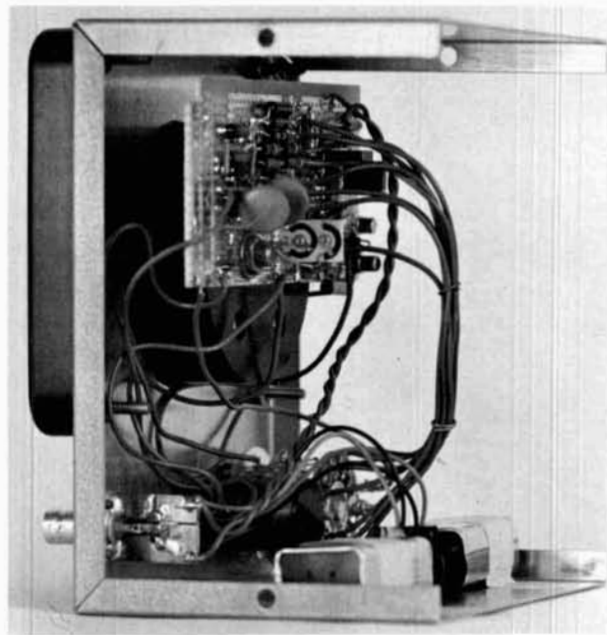
fig. 1. Schematic diagram of the rf wattmeter for 1 to 500 MHz. Fixed-value capacitors are disk ceramic except as noted; polarized capacitors are electrolytic or tantalum; resistors are  $\frac{1}{4}$  or  $\frac{1}{2}$  watt carbon composition types.

- C1, C2 0.1  $\mu\text{F}$  chip capacitor or miniature leadless ceramic discap
- I1, I2 subminiature T-3/4 incandescent lamp (Chicago Miniature type CM2, CM30, or CM3102)
- J1 BNC jack, flange mount
- R15 miniature 50k 10-turn pot

- R18 5k trimmer
- R19 2k trimmer
- R4-R10 (see table 1 of text)
- S1 dpst toggle switch
- S2 2-pole, 7-position rotary wafer switch

Resistor network R11 through R16 divides the zener voltage down to the value required to match  $V_B$ . To get the required voltage resolution with a reasonable adjustment range, a miniature 10-turn pot was used at R15. If a 10-turn pot is not available, then both a coarse and a fine adjust pot must be used. Resistors R11 through R14 and R16 reduce the adjustment range of R15; this increases resolution. Resistors R11 through R13 are chosen to establish a reference voltage close to  $V_B$  with the wiper of R15 disconnected. Resistors R11 through R13 also serve to maintain a fairly low impedance for the reference voltage. Resistors R14 and R16 are selected to reduce the adjustment range of R15, and to establish a residual voltage close to  $V_B$  on the wiper of R15 when the wiper is set at mid-range.

Since the specified minimum open-loop gain of a single  $\mu A741$  op amp is marginally low for proper operation of the metering circuit, two op amps are con-



Interior of the rf power wattmeter. All active circuits are installed on the perf board mounted on the meter terminals. The two incandescent lamps are mounted on the small section of printed-circuit board soldered to the BNC jack (lower left).

nected in cascade. Op amp U2B supplies an additional gain of 100 to the open-loop gain of U2A. A dual op amp, the MC1458CP, was used for U2A and U2B, though two  $\mu A741$ s could have been used or a quad 741 could have been used for the entire unit.

The meter, M1, is connected in the feedback path of U2. Meter M1 is a 200  $\mu A$  meter removed from an old vacuum-tube voltmeter. The action of U2 is to supply enough current through the feedback path to maintain the voltage at pin 2 of U2A equal to the

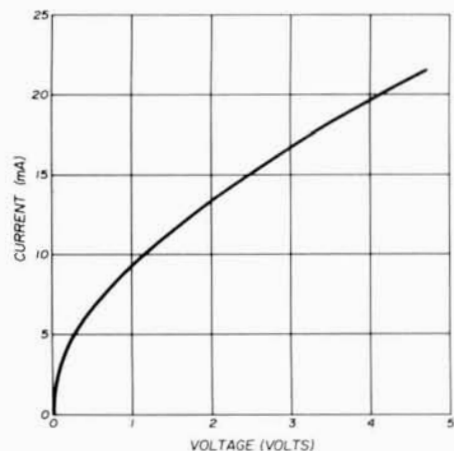


fig. 2. Current-voltage (I-V) characteristic of an incandescent lamp of the type used in the rf power meter.

reference voltage at pin 3. Since the current flowing in pin 2 of U2A is negligible, the current in the feedback circuit continues through the calibration resistor,  $R_{CAL}$ , selected by S2A. This current has no effect on  $V_B$  because it is automatically compensated for by U1. By Ohm's law, the feedback current is equal to  $\Delta V/R_{CAL}$ , where  $\Delta V$  is the difference between the reference voltage and  $V_B$ . On all scales except the 10 mW scale, all feedback current normally passes through meter M1. Diode CR3 conducts when the feedback current is negative, preventing M1 from pinning hard in the negative direction when the circuit is negatively unbalanced. Resistor R17 prevents M1 from being severely overloaded in the positive direction when the circuit is unbalanced positively. Resistor R17 is selected so that M1 reaches full scale somewhat before the output of U2B saturates in the positive direction. Resistor R18 and diode CR4 shunt some feedback current past M1 on the high end of the 10 mW scale to linearize the reading.

To allow portable operation, the unit is powered by two 9-volt batteries. Battery voltage sag following turn-on contributes some additional drift to the circuit. The miniature transistor radio batteries shown in the photograph sagged excessively and have been replaced by larger 9-volt batteries (Eveready 246). For enhanced stability, somewhat higher battery voltage could be used followed by electronic regulators to 9 or 12 volts. If it is desired to power the unit from the ac line, regulated dc supplies are a must.

The value of calibration resistance,  $R_{CAL}$ , for any scale is determined by calculating  $\Delta V$ , the change in  $V_B$  for a given applied rf power level. The total dc power dissipated in the bridge is given by  $V_B^2$  divided by 200 ohms, the series-parallel combination bridge resistance. Since each leg of the bridge has

equal resistance, the dc power dissipated in the rf sensor is 1/4 the total dc power dissipated in the bridge. The rf power applied to the sensor,  $P_{rf}$ , is equal to the difference in dc power dissipated in the sensor with no rf applied and the dc power dissipated in the sensor with rf applied, as expressed by

$$P_{rf} = \frac{1}{4} \frac{V_{BE}^2}{200} - \frac{1}{4} \frac{(V_{BE} - \Delta V)^2}{200} \quad (1)$$

where  $V_{BE}$  is the equilibrium voltage at the top of the bridge with no rf applied and  $\Delta V$  is the change in



Construction of the rf sensor showing the two incandescent lamps and chip capacitors C1, C2. Components are mounted on a small section of double-clad PC board which is soldered to the rear flange of the BNC connector.

bridge voltage following application of rf. Solving the above equation algebraically for  $\Delta V$  results in the following solution:

$$\Delta V = V_{BE} - \sqrt{V_{BE}^2 - 800P_{rf}} \quad (2)$$

A given desired full-scale rf power is used in eq. 2 to determine a corresponding  $\Delta V$ . The required value

table 1. Calculated values for calibration resistors for the rf power meter ( $V_{BE} = 3.5$  volts,  $I_{FS} = 200 \mu A$ ).

$P_{rf}$	$\Delta V$	$R_{CAL}$
10 $\mu W$	1.143 mV	R4 = 5.715 ohms
30 $\mu W$	3.430 mV	R5 = 17.15 ohms
100 $\mu W$	11.450 mV	R6 = 57.25 ohms
300 $\mu W$	34.460 mV	R7 = 172.30 ohms
1 mW	116.200 mV	R8 = 581.10 ohms
3 mW	361.500 mV	R9 = 1808.00 ohms
10 mW	1.438 V	7192 ohms (see text)

of  $R_{CAL}$  for proper full-scale reading is determined by dividing  $\Delta V$  by  $I_{FS}$ , the full-scale value of meter current. Table 1 shows the calculated values for the meter shown. Similar calculations should be made when duplicating the wattmeter, using the measured values of  $V_{BE}$  and  $I_{FS}$ .

The equation for  $\Delta V$  is the equation of a parabola. Thus, the meter current varies parabolically instead of linearly with rf power. On the low-power scales, however, the voltage varies over such a small sector of the parabola that for all practical purposes it is linear. On the highest scale, the deviation from linear becomes significant, and is such that when the meter is calibrated for an accurate full-scale reading, the indicated power will be less than the actual applied power at levels below full scale. Table 1 shows that a resistance value of 7192 ohms is needed for proper full-scale calibration of the meter on the 10 mW scale. For accurate calibration near the bottom of the 10 mW scale, a resistance 1000 times the value of the calibration resistor for the 10  $\mu W$  scale, or 5715 ohms, would be required. Therefore, without some form of compensation, readings made near the bottom of the 10 mW scale will be only 79 per cent of the actual value, or 1 dB low.

To avoid lettering a special nonlinear 10 mW scale on the meter face, I used a compensation network. A compromise value of the calibration resistor R10 was selected at about 6000 ohms to reduce the error at the low end of the 10 mW scale. On the same scale, switch S2B connects the series combination of CR4 and R18 across M1 and R19. Toward the high end of the 10 mW scale, CR4 begins to conduct, shunting the excess current past M1. Variable resistor R18 determines the amount of current shunted away from M1, and variable resistor R19 determines the point at which diode CR4 begins conducting.

Before adjusting R18 and R19, an accurate voltmeter is connected from the top of the bridge (at  $V_B$ ) to the reference voltage at pin 3 of U2A to read  $\Delta V$ . A value of  $\Delta V$  corresponding to a full-scale reading of 10 mW (1.438 volt in the meter shown) is artificially established by adjusting the reference voltage level. Then R18 is adjusted for a full-scale

reading of the power meter. A  $\Delta V$  corresponding to a reading of 6 mW (0.7705 volt in the meter shown) is then set and R19 is adjusted for a reading of 6 mW.

Since these two adjustments interact, they should be repeated several times until the meter reads both 10 mW and 6 mW. Linearization is now complete and the meter should be found to be quite accurate at all power levels.

The adjustment of R19 has no effect on the calibration of the other scales, provided the output of U2B is not at saturation for full-scale deflection of

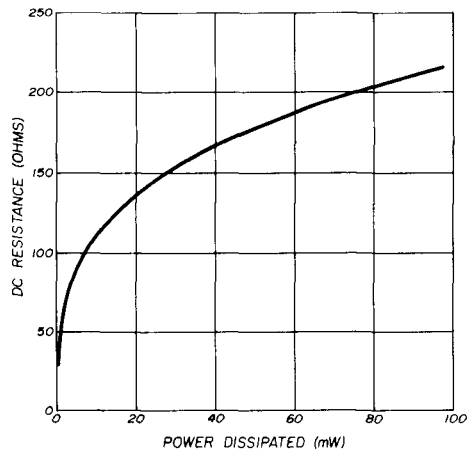


fig. 3. Plot of lamp resistance vs power dissipated in the lamp.

M1. Since the nonlinearity on the 3 mW scale is such that readings on the low end of this scale are only 5 per cent low ( $-0.23$  dB), no linearization was deemed necessary for this and lower scales.

For most accurate results, the values of  $R_{CAL}$  used for the lower scales should be as close to the calculated values as possible. Junk box resistors within a per cent or two of the desired values were selected using a digital ohmmeter. Where a proper value could not be found, a series or parallel combination was used.

The dB scale was added to the meter face so power could be read directly in dBm (dB with respect to a milliwatt) and so that losses and gains could be read out directly in dB. The scale position corresponding to each dB mark is given by

$$P = \frac{1}{\text{antilog}_{10}(0.1X)} \quad (3)$$

where  $P$  is the relative scale position (with 1 = full scale) and  $X$  is the number of dB below full scale.

### procedure for use

Following turn-on, the meter is allowed to stabilize and the desired scale is selected. In the meter shown,

stabilization is almost immediate on the higher power scales; several minutes are required on the  $10 \mu\text{W}$  scale before warm-up drift ceases. Once the meter has sufficiently stabilized, the zero adjust pot, R15, is adjusted for zero reading. The rf power is then applied and readings are made. Provided the lamps are not burned out, the meter will not be damaged by exceeding the maximum power for the scale selected. Since the lamps can safely dissipate 200 mW, a considerable margin of safety exists. Random drift is significant on the  $10 \mu\text{W}$  scale; thus the meter zero should be checked between readings for greatest accuracy when using that scale.

### measured performance

Following calibration as described, the rf wattmeter was connected through one foot (30cm) of RG-58/U coaxial cable to the calibrated output of a Wavetek 3001 rf generator. Over the frequency range from 1 to 500 MHz, the generator power setting agreed to within 0.3 dB of the wattmeter reading at full scale on all wattmeter scales. The good agreement cannot be taken as a claim for wattmeter accuracy, however, because the specified worst-case generator power error on the most accurate power range is only 1.25 dB.

At 432 MHz, the input swr of the wattmeter was measured at 1.6:1. When measuring power from a 50-ohm source at 432 MHz, the resulting reading is calculated to be 0.24 dB low, due to reflected power. If the impedance of the source is adjusted to conjugately match the load presented by the wattmeter and interconnecting low-loss cable, this source of error is eliminated. On lower frequencies, the swr and resulting mismatch loss are expected to be even less because the parasitic reactance of the lamps and fixtures will be lower.

The wattmeter sees nearly constant use in testing rf circuits and devices of all types. Used directly, or with attenuators, it measures gains and losses. Used with directional couplers, hybrids, or rf bridges, it measures reflected power, return loss, and standing wave ratio. Since the lamps are a high temperature 50-ohm load, the wattmeter is also used as a noise generator for receiver rf amplifier tuneup and testing. In the few months since its construction, the wattmeter has become a virtually indispensable addition to my test bench.

### references

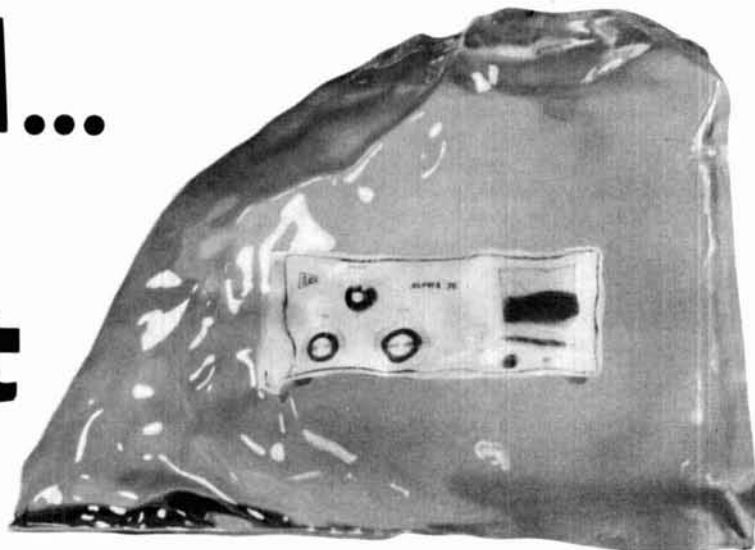
1. Robert S. Stein, W6NBI, "How to Use the Lab-Type Rf Power Meter," *ham radio*, April, 1977, page 44.
2. Bruce Clark, K6JYO, "RF Power Detecting Devices," *ham radio*, June, 1970, page 28.

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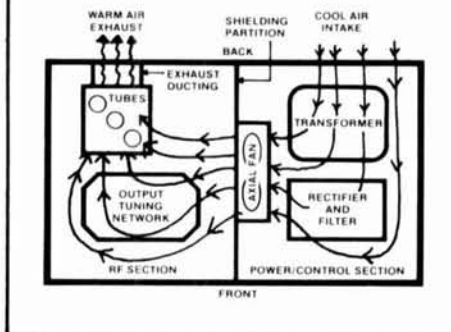
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# drift-correction circuit

## for free-running oscillators

If you're bothered  
by warmup drift  
in your transceiver,  
here's a circuit  
that provides  
automatic compensation  
and uses  
readily available components

**The principle of drift** correction of an oscillator can be used in receivers or transmitters to compensate for warmup drift. The principle can also be used in new designs using simple free-running oscillators instead of the more complex types that use heterodyne mixing or phase-locked loops.

The idea is simple and straightforward. It can be best explained if you consider the operation of a frequency counter in which an oscillator frequency is measured. If the counter gate time is one second, and if sufficient displays are present, a 14-MHz signal could be displayed as 14.012.345 MHz. If, after the next measuring period, the least-significant digit changes from 5 to 7, for example, the oscillator frequency will have drifted 2 Hz high during that period. To counteract the drift, you could manually tune the oscillator back to its original frequency after each measurement. But there's a better way — read on.

In the system described here, oscillator drift is compensated automatically. Only the last digit of the counter display is inspected after a measurement period. It is checked if the number is above or below a fixed value (5 in the example above). For values of 6, 7, 8, or 9, a voltage on a varicap in the oscillator reduces the frequency; for values of 0, 1, 2, 3, and 4, the reverse action occurs.

From this simple example it can be seen that:

1. The oscillator frequency always varies at a slow rate around a fixed value.
2. Stable points occur within 10 Hz from each other over the vfo tuning range.
3. Drift and short-term stability of the oscillator must be within limits. In the example cited, the drift must not exceed a few Hertz per second, otherwise the circuit can't compensate for the drift.
4. The automatic correction should be *very light*. If, after one correction period, the frequency overshoots too much, the remedy is worse than without the system.

For proper operation the correction-circuit time constant must be rather long (but also short enough to counteract the "natural" drift). Because of the long time constant, tuning feels quite normal. After a manual frequency adjustment, the frequency will creep to its nearest "stable" point (actually an unstable point) and will remain there. Because these points are closely spaced you don't notice the operation of the system by listening to a CW or ssb signal.

Note that, for correct operation of the system, the time base frequency doesn't have to be exactly 1 Hz, but the time base must be very stable. Thus the time base must be derived from a crystal oscillator. Counting can be in binary instead of binary-coded decimal format.

### circuit description

The circuit is shown in **fig. 1**. Only one stage of a counter is required. A 74LS93 binary counter (U1) counts the oscillator frequency that is to be stabilized. This stage is preceded by a 2N709 transistor

**By Klaas Spaargaren, PA0KSB, Ruischenstein 29, Amstelveen, Holland**

(Q1) to obtain sufficient sensitivity. About 100 mV of input signal is required.

After each counting period, the value of the 2<sup>3</sup> output (Q<sub>c</sub>, pin 8, of U1) is stored in a D-type flip-flop, U2, (half of a CD4013) at the rising edge of the time base signal. The flip-flop output drives an integrator (U3) up or down, which in turn drives a varicap in the oscillator to correct the frequency.

The time base frequency that actually determines system stability is derived by dividing the frequency of a crystal oscillator. A 1-MHz crystal oscillates with one input gate of a CD4060, (U4), which also contains 14 binary dividers. In combination with a CD4020, (U5), these two circuits divide the 1-MHz frequency by 2<sup>18</sup> to about 3.81 Hz, so the stabilization points are spaced at 3.81 times 8 Hz, or 30.5 Hz.

I found that FT241 crystals between 400 and 500 kHz oscillate very well in this circuit. The total dividing factor should be 2<sup>17</sup> in that case, which can be obtained by using output pin 2 of U4 instead of pin 3, as shown in fig. 1.

The counter counts almost continuously. Just after the transfer of the state of the Q<sub>c</sub> output to the D-type flip-flop (U2), a short reset pulse is generated by the other half of the flip-flop (U6). To achieve this action, the clock input signal of U6 is delayed by R1C1. After the Q output is set, the flip-flop resets itself because the Q output is connected through R2C2 to its own reset input. The resulting positive-going pulse is about 0.5 microsecond duration (line 3, fig. 2). This pulse resets the 74LS93 counter to zero which starts counting again immediately thereafter.

Worth mentioning is the long time constant of the integrator, which is formed by R3 and C3 (fig. 1). Capacitor C3 must be a low-leakage type, not an

electrolytic. A polystyrene or polycarbonate type will do.

The switches labeled UP and DOWN (fig. 1) serve a dual purpose. First, after circuit switch-on, the integrator output can be brought into its range manually; but also, small frequency variations can be made by pushing the UP or DOWN button. So a push-button-controlled fine tuning is obtained, which is convenient if, for example, a CW signal slowly drifts out of a narrow CW-filter passband. (With this system installed you can be sure it's the other station that drifts.)

The CA3140, a very convenient operational amplifier, is used because of its high fet input impedance. The integrator output signal can be monitored on a meter to verify that it's still within its operating range. The action of the varicap in the oscillator must be such that a 10-volt output variation of the integrator shifts the frequency about 3 kHz.

### construction

The circuit was built onto a piece of Vero board and installed in my CW transceiver. A double-balanced diode mixer is used in my rig, so a high-level oscillator signal was available.

The UP and DOWN pushbuttons were mounted on the transceiver front panel. The control signal was monitored in a particular position of the transceiver meter switch.

Several prototype circuits were built using different construction methods, such as mounting all components on a copper-clad board with the ICs in sockets, but mounted upside down so that the socket pins could be wired directly. All these prototype circuits worked well, so the layout shown shouldn't be too critical. Just make sure that you avoid long wires between the ICs.

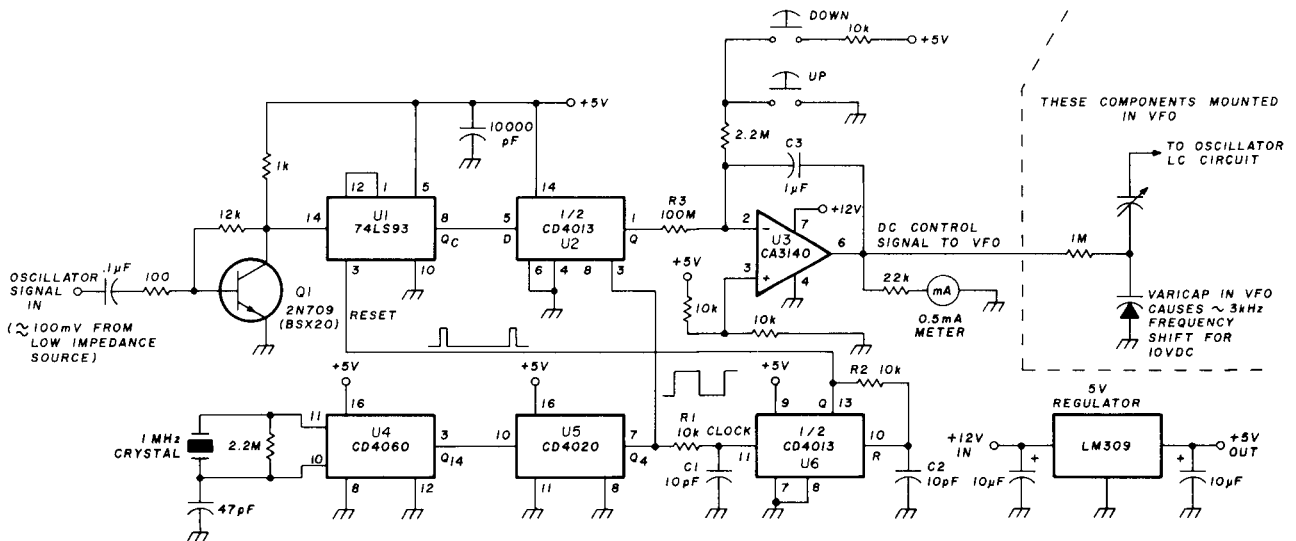


fig. 1. Circuit for vfo stabilization.

The circuit shown has been used for quite some time in my transceiver, which has a free-running oscillator on all bands. The highest frequency is 21 MHz, but the circuit has been used experimentally with oscillators operating to 40 MHz.

Within one minute after switch-on, the transceiver has crystal-quality stability on all bands. The 30-Hz frequency spacing between stabilization points is more than adequate for CW and ssb work. Also, during transmission, with about 200 watts to the anten-

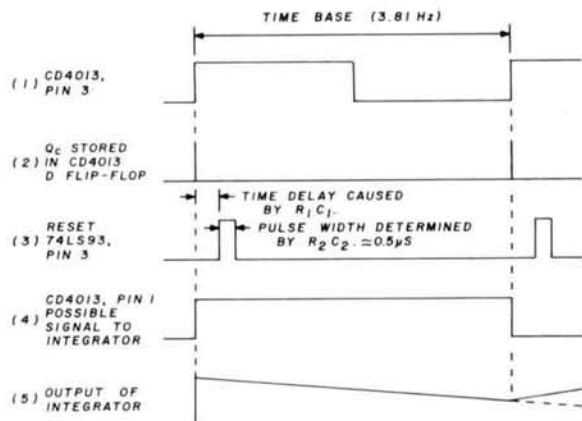


fig. 2. Timing sequency of signals in the circuit of fig. 1. The time base is 3.8 Hz.

na, a jump to another stabilization point has never occurred.

A kind of proportional control system was tried instead of the constant-speed system described above. In this system, the corrective action depended on the offset value. Although the control could be measured (to be more effective), I believe this idea is really not worth the more complex electronic circuitry. Reason: with both systems a vfo becomes virtually drift-free, and both systems are not noticed during operation.

## conclusion

The system described here doesn't turn a bad vfo into a good one but helps to make a good one even better. Especially where a low-noise oscillator is important, as for local oscillators in high dynamic-range front ends for receivers to obtain low reciprocal mixing, I believe this technique could be applied successfully at least for hf-band applications.

Synthesized oscillators appear to be noisier than good free-running types so if this system is used in combination with a digital frequency read out, on a well-designed, free-running oscillator, a much simpler system results than is possible with fully synthesized oscillators, giving at least the same or better results.

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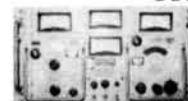
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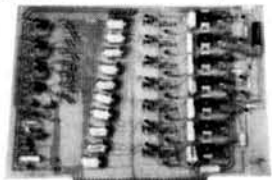
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# active bandpass filters —

## some staggering thoughts

Here's a rundown  
on stagger-tuned filters  
using op amps  
as active devices —  
great idea for many  
amateur applications

**Applications for active bandpass filters** in the audio-frequency range can be found in every part of amateur radio. Audio selectivity for CW, speech processing for ssb, tone-detector filters for RTTY, and control-tone separation for fm repeaters are only a few of the uses. In this article you'll learn an easy way to design and build stagger-tuned operational-amplifier active filters to fit your requirements. All you need is one of the readily available hand-held scientific calculators (or some other method for calculating square roots and logarithms).

Perhaps you've seen other types of active filters or filter designs using LC components. Why use stagger-tuned filters, and why use active filters? It's easy to build very narrowband audio filters by cascading, one after another, several identical simple filter sections. This may be adequate for some tasks but can often leave a lot to be desired in terms of transient response (*ringing*), peaked or *narrow-nosed* amplitude response, and poor skirt selectivity (*shape factor*). Conventional circuits using inductors can

give excellent performance if well designed, which is often done with complex computer-aided design programs. But inductors are often large and hard to tune. Many amateurs have been discouraged by the need to add or remove turns from the 88-mH toroidal inductors common in RTTY use.

### features

The filters described here offer many advantages. They give amplitude response with flat or slightly rippled characteristics in-band. Out of band, they have excellent skirt selectivity and a shape factor that improves directly as more filter sections are added. As a bonus, the transient response is usually much better than narrow-nosed filters. Best of all, each stage can be tuned separately with no measurable interaction or detuning of the other stages — this is a real plus for experimenters.

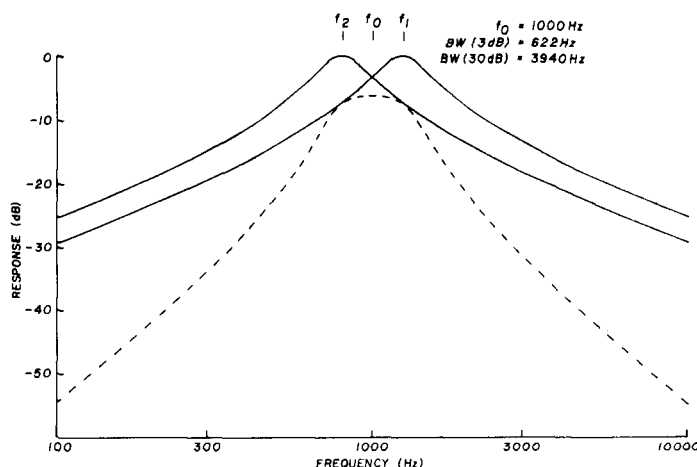


fig. 1. Typical stagger-tuned response. By choosing the correct peak frequency,  $f_n$ , and  $Q$  for each stage we get the response shown.

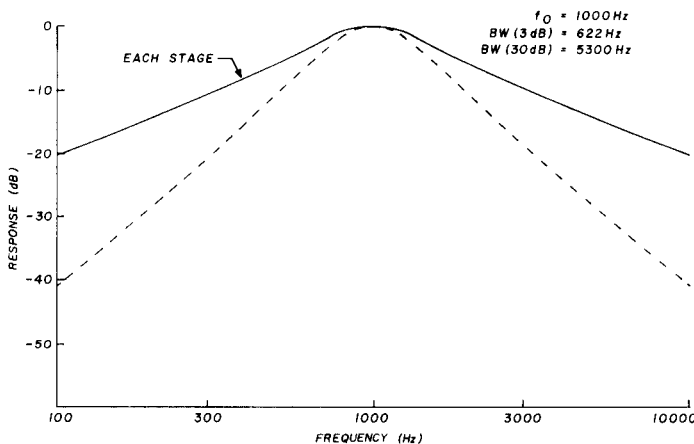
Now the bad news (which isn't really too hard to take). Stagger tuning requires that each stage provide enough gain so that the sum of the stage gains is *greater than that of the overall filter*. This is because of *staggering loss*, of which you'll see more shortly. With op amp ICs and their large open-loop (no feedback applied) gain, this parameter turns out to be of little concern. Another problem is that if one

By Terry A. Conboy, WB6GRZ, 1231 Crestview Drive, San Carlos, California 94070

of the stages is out of tune, the filter response can be poorer than in designs that purposely introduce interaction between filter sections, as in most LC designs or in *leapfrog* active filters, which are much more difficult to design.

### description

The stagger-tuned filter is made of two or more stages, each having a different peak frequency,  $f_n$ , with an associated  $Q$  (which *may* be the same as the  $Q$  of *one* of the other stages), and a certain amount of gain,  $G$ . The sum, in dB, of the gains versus frequency can be arranged to give a flat response over the band of interest. **Fig. 1** shows how this happens. In the area between the two peaks one response rises as the other falls. By choosing the right  $f_n$  and  $Q$  for each stage, we get the response shown. Note that, at the center frequency of the overall response  $f_0$  (where the stages have equal loss), the net loss is *twice* as much (in dB). This is the stagger loss,  $S$ , which must be made up by the sum of the individual stage gains to give unity gain overall. Compare **figs. 1** and **2**. **Fig. 2** shows a two-stage nonstaggered or "synchronously tuned" filter response with the same 3-dB bandwidth. Note the poorer skirts and the much rounder passband.

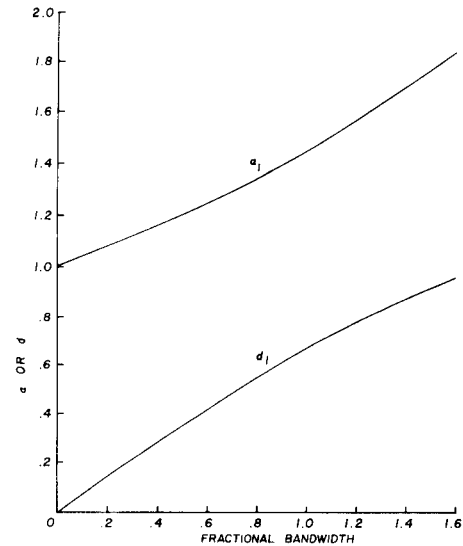


**fig. 2.** Response of a two-stage synchronously tuned filter (compare with the response in **fig. 1**).

In the stagger-tuned filter, the shape of each stage response is of the classic single-resonator shape (the same as that generated by a single parallel LC circuit with a shunt resistance to define the  $Q$ ). The amplitude response is defined mathematically (for those of you itching to use your HP-25) as follows:

$$\frac{V_{out}}{V_{in}} = -10 \log_{10} \left[ 1 + Q^2 \left( \frac{f}{f_n} - \frac{f_n}{f} \right)^2 \right] \quad (1)$$

**Eq. 1** is of interest only and is not necessary for



**fig. 3.** A two-stage Butterworth filter showing  $\alpha$  or  $d$  as functions of fractional bandwidth,  $\delta$ .

designing a filter. It can be used for analysis, however. You can find the response of each stage then add all responses together to find the overall filter response. One thing that's important to note is that the curve has *geometric symmetry*. All this means is that if the upper (x) dB-down point is two times the center frequency, then the lower (x) dB point will be at one-half  $f_n$ . This relationship is expressed by

$$f_n = \sqrt{f_L f_H} \quad (2)$$

where  $f_L$  is a frequency below  $f_n$  with the same attenuation as  $f_H$ , which is higher than  $f_n$ . Note that  $f_n$  is *not* the arithmetic average of  $f_L$  and  $f_H$ . The resultant overall filter response will exhibit the same type of symmetry as the stages of which it is composed. So **eq. 2** holds for the complete filter, where  $n$  is zero.

**Design procedure.** In designing the filter, the first thing is to decide what type of filter is wanted. The Butterworth, or maximally flat filter, provides the flattest passband and a good skirt shape. The Chebychev or equal-ripple filter gives ripples in the passband (1 dB in the designs to follow), but in turn, it has very rapid cutoff of the band. Many other filter types are in use, but these two will serve you well.

Next you must determine how many stages you want. This requirement is determined by the required shape factor, with the other consideration being how much circuitry you want to build. High  $Q$ s and more precise tuning of the stages are also requirements of the higher-performance designs.

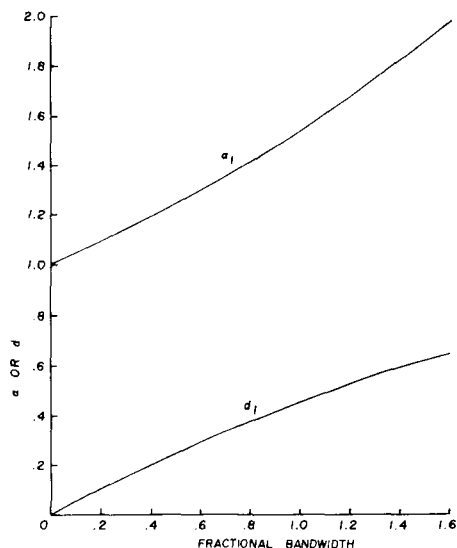
**Shape factor.** To refresh your memory, shape



**table 1. Shape factors for Butterworth and Chebychev filter designs.**

number of stages	butterworth		1-dB chebychev	
	3/30 dB	6/60 dB	3/30 dB	6/60 dB
1	31.60	577.00	31.60	577.0
2	5.62	24.00	4.70	20.8
3	3.16	8.33	2.30	6.6
4	2.37	4.90	1.75	3.5
5	1.99	3.57	1.60	2.5
6	1.78	2.89	1.30	2.0

factor (also called *selectivity ratio*) is the ratio of bandwidth at a higher attenuation to the bandwidth at a lower attenuation. Most common is the 6 - 60-dB



**fig. 4. Three-stage Butterworth filter showing  $\alpha$  or  $d$  versus fractional bandwidth,  $\delta$ .**

shape factor. **Table 1** shows this shape factor versus the number of stages for Butterworth and 1-dB-ripple Chebychev filters. Also given is the 3 - 30-dB shape factor.

After deciding the type and complexity of the filter, specify the lower 3-dB point,  $f_L(3 \text{ dB})$ , and the

**table 2. Approximations for fractional bandwidth,  $\delta$ , equal to or less than 0.3 for Butterworth and Chebychev active filters.**

Butterworth	
two-stage	
$\alpha_1 = 1 + 0.365\delta$	$d_1 = 0.707\delta$
three-stage	
$\alpha_1 = 1 + 0.450\delta$	$d_1 = 0.500\delta$
four-stage	
$\alpha_1 = 1 + 0.485\delta$	$d_1 = 0.380\delta$
$\alpha_3 = 1 + 0.195\delta$	$d_3 = 0.920\delta$
Chebychev (1-dB ripple)	
two-stage	
$\alpha_1 = 1 + 0.365\delta$	$d_1 = 0.433\delta$
three-stage	
$\alpha_1 = 1 + 0.450\delta$	$d_1 = 0.220\delta$

upper 3-dB point,  $f_H(3 \text{ dB})$ . Then use **eq. 2** to find  $f_0$ . Next find  $\delta$ , the fractional bandwidth.

$$\delta = \frac{(f_H - f_L)}{f_0} \quad (3)$$

This parameter,  $\delta$ , is the main design factor. It's used to find tuning data for each stage. Refer to **figs. 3, 4, or 5** for Butterworth filters of two, three, or four stages respectively. For a 1-dB Chebychev filter of

**table 3. Design equations for two-, three-, and four-stage filters. Parameter  $\alpha$  is the ratio of resonant to filter center frequency.**

for two-stage filters

$$\begin{aligned} f_1 &= (f_0)(\alpha_1) & f_2 &= f_0/\alpha_1 \\ Q_1 &= 1/d_1 & Q_2 &= 1/d_1 \\ G_1 &= G_2 = (S + G_0)/2 \end{aligned}$$

for three-stage filters

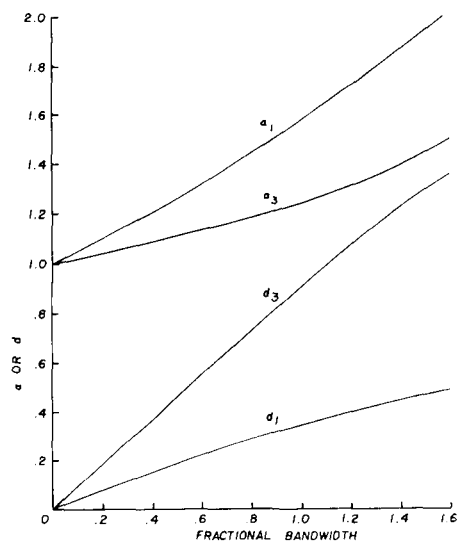
$$\begin{aligned} f_1 &= (f_0)(\alpha_1) & f_2 &= f_0 & f_3 &= f_0/\alpha_1 \\ Q_1 &= 1/d_1 & Q_2 &= 1/\delta & Q_3 &= 1/d_1 \\ G_1 &= G_2 = G_3 = (S + G_0)/3 \end{aligned}$$

for four-stage filters

$$\begin{aligned} f_1 &= (f_0)(\alpha_1) & f_2 &= (f_0)(\alpha_3) & f_3 &= f_0/\alpha_3 & f_4 &= f_0/\alpha_1 \\ Q_1 &= 1/d_1 & Q_2 &= 1/d_3 & Q_3 &= 1/d_3 & Q_4 &= 1/d_1 \\ G_1 &= G_2 = G_3 = G_4 = (S + G_0)/4 \end{aligned}$$

two or three stages, see **fig. 6** or **7** respectively. From the appropriate figure, obtain  $\alpha_1$  and  $d_1$  (and  $\alpha_3$  and  $d_3$  for a four stage Butterworth). If your filter has a  $\delta \leq 0.3$ , **table 2** offers approximations for  $\alpha$  and  $d$ , which usually give better accuracy than reading from the graph. Decide what overall gain,  $G_0$ , in dB you want from the filter, then use **table 3** to find the tuning frequency, the  $Q$ , and the gain for each stage.

It's a good idea to organize the stages as given, with the highest-frequency stage first. (This mini-



**fig. 5. Four-stage Butterworth, with  $\alpha$  or  $d$  as functions of fractional bandwidth,  $\delta$ .**

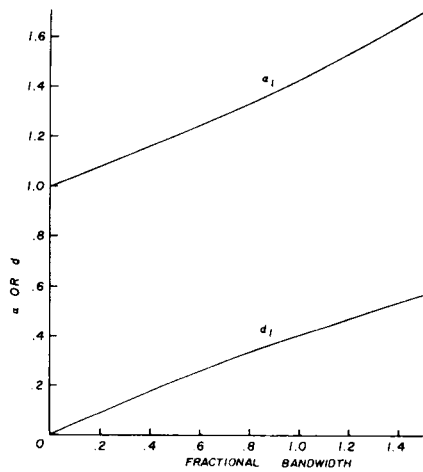


fig. 6. A Chebyshev two-stage filter (1-dB ripple) showing  $\alpha$  or  $d$  as functions of fractional bandwidth,  $\delta$ .

mizes harmonic distortion for the overall filter.) The higher-frequency stages have the lowest open-loop gain, which means that feedback will be less effective in reducing the distortion in these circuits than in the lower-frequency stages. Putting the low-frequency stages last gives maximum attenuation to any harmonics generated by the higher frequency stages.

**Multiple-feedback circuit.** Now that you know what the stages must do, the only thing remaining is to design circuits with the required  $f_n$ ,  $Q$ , and  $G$ . For stages with low  $Q$  (less than 10), the multiple feedback (MFB) circuit in fig. 9 performs well. Almost any op amp will work here, but depending on its bandwidth, limitations exist on maximum  $Q$  and maximum  $f_n$ .

The upper limit on  $Q$  for the MFB circuit is given by the smaller of

$$Q_{max} \cong \sqrt{f_T / (5f_n)}, \quad (4)$$

$$Q_{max} \cong 10$$

where  $f_T$  is the frequency at which the op-amp gain equals zero dB (unity gain). The frequency,  $f_n$ , should be limited to about 1 per cent of  $f_T$  (10 kHz for a 1-MHz  $f_T$  amplifier, such as the type 741).

These restrictions minimize the effects of amplifier gain on  $f_n$  and  $Q$ , which ensures accurate calculation of these parameters and freedom from drift because of amplifier gain changes with temperature.

The component values in the MFB circuit can be found easily. Choose convenient value of capacitor,  $C$ . The resistors are:

$$R3 = \frac{Q}{\pi f_n C} \quad (5)$$

$$R1 = \frac{R3}{2 \cdot 10^{G/20}} \quad (6)$$

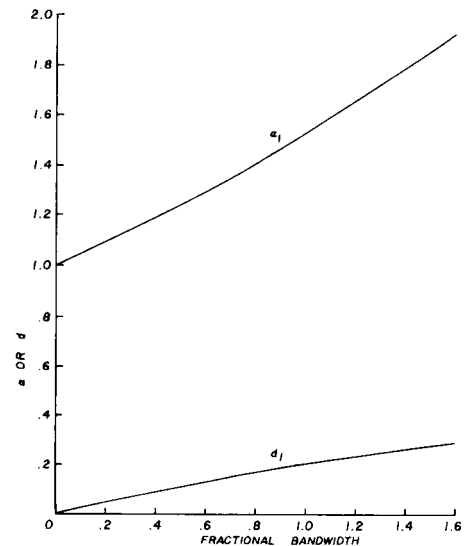


fig. 7. Chebyshev filter with three stages (1-dB ripple) showing  $\alpha$  or  $d$  versus fractional bandwidth,  $\delta$ .

$$R2 = \frac{1}{[(2\pi f_n C)^2 R3 - (1/R)]} \quad (7)$$

Note that  $[10^{G/20}]$  equals  $\text{antilog}_{10}(G/20)$ , where  $G$  is the gain, as described previously.

**State-variable design.** The limitations of the MFB circuit require that a higher-performance circuit be used in some cases. The state-variable circuit in fig. 10 can do some amazing things. It can provide very high  $Q$ s (over 100) and is hard to beat for stability and lack of sensitivity to passive component drift. However, it does take two more op amps and four more resistors than the MFB design.

There are several degrees of freedom in this design. Choose  $C$ ,  $R2$ , and  $R4$  for convenience.\* The remaining resistors are found from

$$R1 = R2 Q / (10^{G/20}) \quad (8)$$

$$R3 = \frac{1 - \frac{f_n}{f_T}}{2\pi f_n C} \quad (9)$$

$$R5 = \frac{R4}{\left[ \frac{2Q + (10^{G/20})}{1 + \frac{4Q + (10^{G/20})}{\frac{f_T}{f_n}}} \right]^{-1}} \quad (10)$$

\*A "convenient" capacitor is one as small as possible that doesn't require overly large resistors. Choosing resistors too much above 100k (for 741s or similar op amps) can lead to excessive dc offsets because of input-bias currents. Fet input op amps have extremely small bias currents and will tolerate resistors in the tens of megohms.

For the MFB circuit, capacitors with about 10 kilohms of reactance are in the ballpark. For instance, at 1500 Hz, a 0.01  $\mu\text{F}$  capacitor is suitable. In the state-variable circuit, capacitors of about 100k ohms of reactance can be used, such as 0.001  $\mu\text{F}$  at 1500 Hz. A reasonable value for  $R_2$  or  $R_4$  is between 10k - 100k.

Both circuits can be impedance-scaled if the calculations of component values reveal one or more values that are out of the desirable range. This means that all resistor values may be changed so long as all change by the *same ratio*, and the capacitors change by the *reciprocal* of that ratio. For example, if you find a 300k resistor where you'd like to have 100k, you can change it by making all the resistors one-third of their original value and by making the capacitors three times as large. In the state-variable circuit,  $R_4$  and  $R_5$  may be changed independently of the other resistors so long as the ratio  $R_4:R_5$  is constant.

### design example

The design procedure is used to create an input prefilter for an RTTY demodulator (TU). We'll

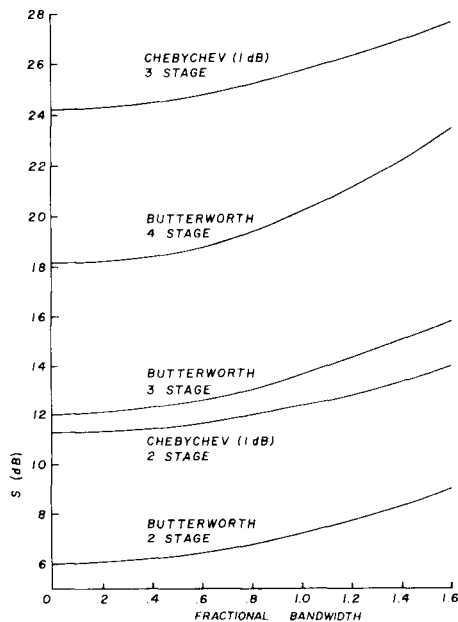


fig. 8. Loss due to staggering,  $S$ , as functions of fractional bandwidth,  $\delta$ , for various active filters.

choose an overall gain of 30 dB to provide adequate drive to the limiter from normal speaker signal levels. To give flat response in-band and reasonable delay distortion (associated with the transient response), we'll choose a Butterworth design. For good selectivity a four-stage configuration will be used. For 170-Hz shift and 45.45 Baud (standard 60 wpm), the

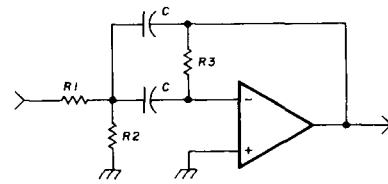


fig. 9. Schematic showing the MFB, or multiple-feedback circuit.

$CCIR$  formula shows the bandwidth to be 246 Hz. To allow for tuning error and drift, a 300-Hz bandwidth at the 3-dB points will be used. The mark frequency is 2125 Hz; the space frequency is 2295 Hz. Thus the passband should be from  $f_L = 2060$  Hz to  $f_H = 2360$  Hz. Eq. 2 gives

$$f_o = \sqrt{(2060)(2360)} = 2205 \text{ Hz}$$

From eq. 3 we obtain the fractional bandwidth

$$\delta = \frac{(2360 - 2060)}{2205} = 0.1361$$

Since  $\delta$  is less than 0.3, use the approximations in table 2.

$$\alpha_1 = 1 + (0.485)(0.1361) = 1.066$$

$$d_1 = (0.38)(0.1361) = 0.0517$$

$$\alpha_3 = 1 + (0.195)(0.1361) = 1.0265$$

$$d_3 = (0.92)(0.1361) = 0.1252$$

From fig. 8 the loss due to staggering,  $S$ , = 18.2 dB and from table 3 we have

$$f_1 = (2205)(1.066) = 2351 \text{ Hz} \quad Q_1 = 1/0.0517 = 19.3$$

$$f_2 = (2205)(1.0265) = 2263 \text{ Hz} \quad Q_2 = 1/0.1252 = 8.0$$

$$f_3 = 2200/1.0265 = 2148 \text{ Hz} \quad Q_3 = 1/0.1252 = 8.0$$

$$f_4 = 2205/1.066 = 2068 \text{ Hz} \quad Q_4 = 1/0.0517 = 19.3$$

and  $G = (18.2 + 30)/4 = 12.05$  dB (per stage).

It's apparent that the state-variable circuit must be used for the first and fourth stages ( $Q > \text{than } 10$ ). At 2351 Hz a 741-type op amp is capable of

$$Q_{max} \approx \sqrt{\frac{10^6}{5(2351)}} = 9.2$$

Since the second and third stages have  $Q$ s less than this, the MFB circuit is usable.

Let the capacitors in the state-variable stages be 0.001  $\mu\text{F}$  and the capacitors in the MFB stages be 0.01  $\mu\text{F}$ . Let  $R_2$  and  $R_4$  be 100k in stages 1 and 4. From eqs. 8, 9, and 10 we obtain the values for the first state-variable stage:

$$R_1 = (100k)(19.3/10^{12.05/20}) = 482k$$

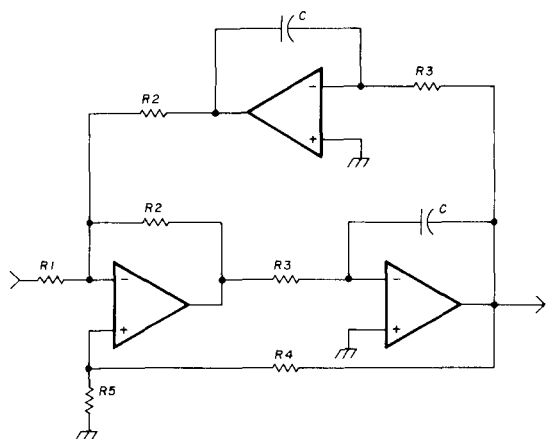


fig. 10. Schematic of the state-variable stage.

$$R3 = \frac{1 - \left[ \frac{2351}{10^6} \right]}{(2\pi)(2351)(10^{-9})} = 67.54k$$

$$R5 = \left[ \frac{10^5}{(2)(19.3 + 10^{12.05/20})} \right] \left[ \frac{(4)(19.3 + 10^{12.05/20})}{10^6} - 1 \right] = 2686 \text{ ohms}$$

Similarly, for stage four, we find

$$\begin{aligned} R1 &= 482k \text{ ohms} \\ R3 &= 76.8k \text{ ohms} \\ R5 &= 2626 \text{ ohms} \end{aligned}$$

Now for stage two, using eqs. 5, 6, and 7,

$$R3 = 8/\pi(2263)(0.01 \times 10^{-6}) = 112.5k \text{ ohms}$$

$$R1 = 112.5k/(2)(10^{12.05/20}) = 14.05k \text{ ohms}$$

$$R2 = \frac{1}{[2\pi(2263)(0.01 \times 10^{-6})]^2 [112.5k - \left(\frac{1}{14.05k}\right)]} = 439.6 \text{ ohms}$$

And in the same fashion, for stage three, we have

$$\begin{aligned} R3 &= 118.6k \text{ ohms} \\ R1 &= 14.8k \text{ ohms} \\ R2 &= 462.9k \text{ ohms} \end{aligned}$$

## construction

The filter was constructed using two MC3303 quad op amps. Combinations of one per cent resistors were used to give the calculated values within 0.5 per cent or less, nominally. Polystyrene capacitors, 1 per cent tolerance, were used in all sections.

The measured response of the filter before tuning is shown in figs. 11 and 12. The calculated response which is given for comparison, was generated using eq. 1 for each stage and then adding the four responses.

Normally, filter sections will need trimming for frequency and/or  $Q$ . In many low  $Q$  filters ( $\delta \approx 0.3$ ), 5-per cent tolerance resistors will give quite satisfactory results without trimming. The only penalty may be slight center frequency error and perhaps a small amount of skew in the passband frequency response.

For the narrowband filters, and especially those with three or four stages, an audio generator, ac voltmeter, and frequency counter will help in trimming each stage independently to the required parameters. In the state-variable circuit, adjust both  $R3$  values to set the center frequency, then use  $R5$  to fix the  $Q$ . Remember  $Q$  is the 3-dB bandwidth divided by  $f_n$ . For an MFB stage, adjust  $R3$  to give the desired 3-dB bandwidth. Then adjust  $R2$  to set  $f_n$ . Varying  $R2$  has virtually no effect on the bandwidth, which means the  $Q$  changes at the same rate as  $f_n$ . After tuning the RTTY demodulator input filter, the overall response was essentially indistinguishable from the calculated response.

## components

Generally, components should be the best you can get. Metal-film resistors and polystyrene or mylar capacitors are hard to beat, but may be *overkill*. Stay away from capacitors designed for bypass or coupling use; their tolerance is poor, as is their stability. Carbon resistors are usually adequate in all but the narrowest filters. For op amps, 741s are suitable (as are the 1458 dual versions and the quads like the

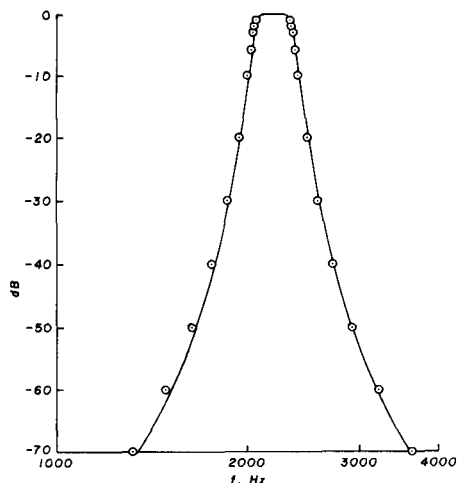


fig. 11. Response as a function of frequency for an RTTY input filter. Solid line: calculated; dots: measured data before tuning.

3303), when used within the limitations given above. The LM318 op amp gives much greater freedom from  $Q$  drift (in the state-variable circuit) and  $f_n$  drift (in the MFB circuit). Some of the new wideband fet-input op amps, such as the LF356, should be excellent performers. When external frequency compensation is required, use the values specified for unity gain amplifiers.

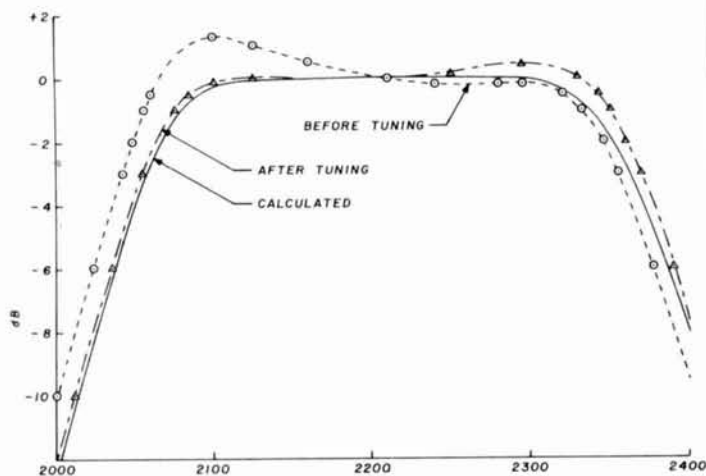


fig. 12. Passband response of an RTTY input filter.

When interfacing active filters, take care that the source impedance driving the filter is very low, i.e., less than 1 per cent of  $R_1$  in either circuit. Another op amp or a voltage follower provides an excellent driver. If the requirement for a low impedance can't be met, deduct the source resistance from the value of  $R_1$  in the first stage.

You've seen an easy-to-use method for designing stagger-tuned active filters to your own needs, and have learned to avoid some of the possible pitfalls. Now you can replace that filter you borrowed from someone else's circuit that never did work exactly the way you wanted.

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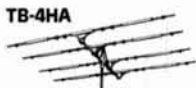
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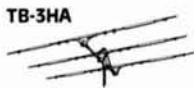
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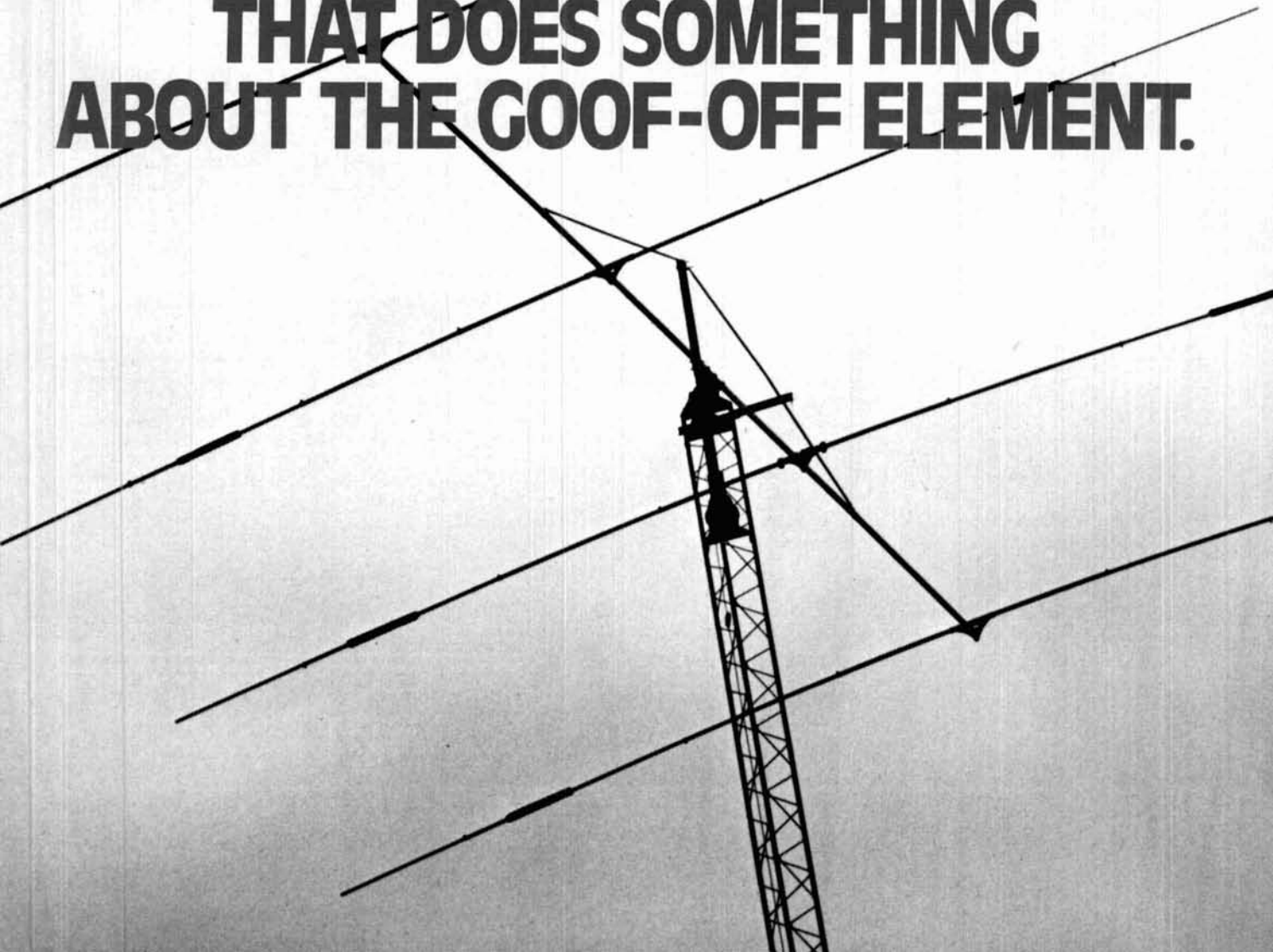
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Circuit details and  
construction information  
for a converter  
that receives signals  
between 0-28 MHz  
when used with  
a receiver that tunes  
from 28 to 29 MHz

**Over the years** many amateurs have traded their old, general-coverage receivers for shiny new "ham-band-only" models. We've gained in stability, sensitivity, selectivity, dial accuracy, and many other attributes; but we've lost on frequency coverage. Except for a few narrow windows to the outside world, we can listen only to each other. Those with interests outside the amateur bands have had to use a second receiver (frequently an old general-coverage job) and put up with drift, bulk, and lack of accurate calibration. The *XPL Converter*, described here, is designed to work with a modern receiver to give the best of both worlds — extremely broad frequency coverage together with crystal stability and calibration accuracy. The converter receives all frequencies between 0 and 28 MHz when used with a receiver tuning 28 to 29 MHz. Construction is simple, straightforward, and inexpensive thanks to integrated circuits.

## description

The *XPL Converter* consists of a wide-range tuned input circuit, 60 kHz to 28 MHz; a local oscillator with injection frequency switch-selectable in 1-MHz steps from 29 to 56 MHz; and a mixer circuit with output 28 to 29 MHz feeding the receiver as a tunable

i-f amplifier. A block diagram is shown in **fig. 1**. Local oscillator output is taken from a vfo (vco), which is phase locked to a 100-kHz reference oscillator through a counter chain preset by thumbwheel switches for band selection. The various sections are described in more detail later.

An example may help clarify the frequency conversion technique employed in the *XPL*. If the vco is set at, say, 38 MHz, the tunable i-f range of 28 to 29 MHz will allow reception of signals from  $38-29=9$  MHz to  $38-28=10$  MHz. A 9330-kHz signal in this range would be received at  $38-9.33=28.67$  MHz. The receiver tunes *backwards*, in that the low-frequency end of each range will be received at 29 MHz and the high end at 28 MHz. This turns out to be only a minor operating annoyance, however. Low-side injection could be used for forward tuning but only at the sacrifice of tuning range at the upper end.

The vco is phase locked to the reference crystal, so the local oscillator is of crystal quality as far as accuracy and stability are concerned. Any input frequency can be precisely located and will be stable within the accuracy and stability of the receiver on the 10-meter range. For most modern receivers, this means 1-2 kHz accuracy and a few hundred hertz drift on warmup. What a difference from the old general-coverage boat anchors!

## input circuitry

Input-circuit details are shown in **fig. 2**. A single-tuned circuit provides input selectivity for the *XPL*. Six switch positions cover 60-150 kHz, 150-450 kHz, 450-1400 kHz, 1.4-4.5 MHz, 4.5-10 MHz, and 10-30 MHz. The four high-frequency ranges use a commercially available coil set having high-impedance balanced antenna windings. On the two low-frequency ranges pi-section single-ended input circuits are used with rf chokes for the inductors. Tuning is by a miniature broadcast superhet variable capacitor having a total capacitance of about 560 pF with the two sections in parallel.

Two input traps are used: a balanced lowpass filter to eliminate TV/fm pickup and a series-resonant

**By Keith H. Sueker, W3VF**, 110 Garlow Drive,  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15235

trap to eliminate overload from any one broadcast station. Additional suppression measures may be required in unusual situations.

There's no need to conform to the input circuit shown. In fact, the antenna tuning section from a scrapped general-coverage receiver could be used to

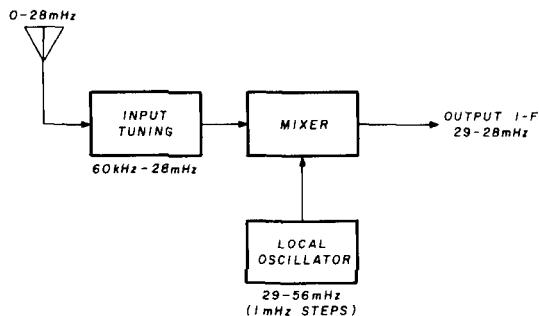


fig. 1. Block diagram of the XPL converter.

handle the high-frequency end of the range. The low end can be extended with larger inductors, but the tuning range for each band will be quite limited because of distributed capacitance in the coils. Two additional coils, however, will allow tuning to about 15 kHz.

### local-oscillator system

The heart of XPL is the local oscillator. This circuit consists of a voltage-controlled oscillator (vco), programmable divider chain, crystal-reference oscillator, and phase comparator. A block diagram is shown in fig. 3.

Phase-locked-loop operation has been well described in the literature, but a quick review may be worthwhile. A phase-locked loop is a feedback control system that measures the phase difference between two frequency sources and generates an error voltage that changes the frequency of one frequency source until the two sources are in phase synchronism. For continuing phase errors, the phase detector will function on frequency difference and steer the system into phase lock.

Two basic systems can be used to generate a selectable series of integrally related frequencies. If the phase comparator is sensitive to reference-oscillator harmonics, the controlled oscillator can be directly locked to a selected harmonic by first tuning it manually to a nearby frequency, then allowing the phase detector to lock up. This is the system used in several commercial receivers. The only objection from a construction point of view is that it requires a manually variable oscillator with dial calibration sufficient to resolve adjacent harmonics. A lock indication is also useful in identifying the proper harmonic.

A more direct way of generating the integrally

related frequencies is to divide the controlled-oscillator frequency by programmable digital dividers before phase comparison to the reference frequency. If the oscillator frequency is divided by, say, 24 before the comparison is made, the effect is to lock the oscillator to the 24th harmonic of the reference frequency. In XPL, a fixed divide-by-ten and two programmable divide-by-n counters are used to enable lock from the 290th harmonic to the 560th harmonic of the 100-kHz reference frequency in steps of 1 MHz.

### oscillator and phase comparator

Fig. 4 is the schematic for the reference oscillator and phase comparator. A 7400 quad NAND gate is used with a 100-kHz crystal to generate the reference frequency. There's no special merit to this scheme other than simplicity, and any convenient oscillator circuit could be used so long as it provides TTL output levels. In the circuit shown, the 0.0047  $\mu$ F capacitor at the input to the last gate was necessary to eliminate a double-pulsed output to the phase comparator.

A Motorola MC4044P phase-lock chip was chosen because it offers TTL logic, a nonharmonic-sensitive

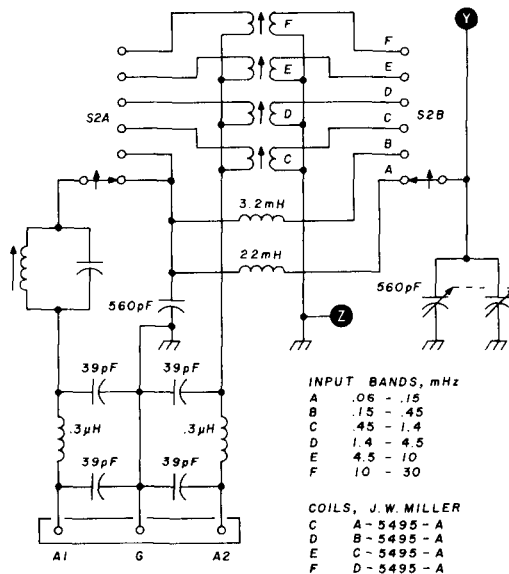


fig. 2. Input-circuit schematic.

comparator, and some internal auxiliary transistors. Also, its use in synthesizers has been described in recent articles.

Output from the MC4044P is buffered by an external 2N5457 fet follower and the internal emitter followers. The comparator has unity gain from the phase detector to the output. An active filter is backed up by two poles of rolloff for loop stability and high 100-kHz ripple attenuation. The reference

oscillator and phase comparator are supplied from an on-board regulator that provides both isolation and filtering.

### voltage-controlled oscillator

The voltage-controlled oscillator in the XPL (fig. 5) uses a Motorola MC1648L ECL chip designed for this service. Spectral purity requirements preclude a voltage-controlled multivibrator, so this chip was used with an external high-Q toroidal inductor and a Motorola MV1401 variable-capacitance diode or varicap. Since ECL has a very low logic swing, an

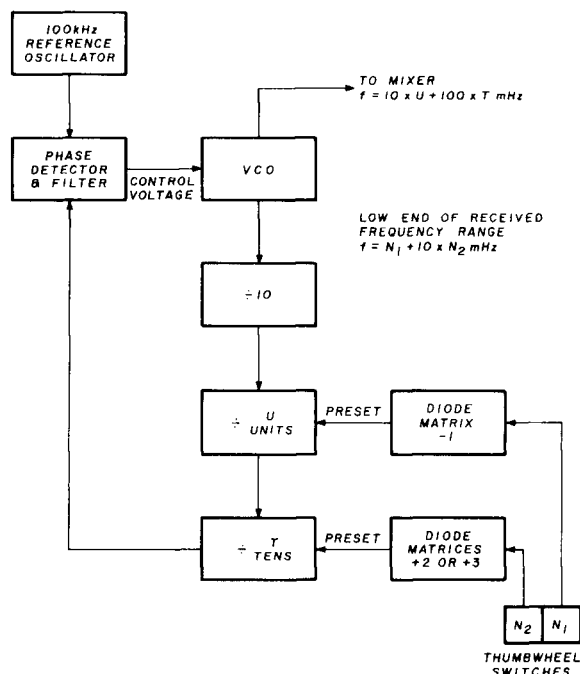


fig. 3. Local-oscillator block diagram.

output translator, 2N4403, is used to regenerate the TTL signal level. At this point you might ask whether the ECL chip is worth the effort. The answer is a qualified "Yes," since it functions from a two-terminal tank circuit and eliminates the need for fussing with feedback in a transistor oscillator.

The MV1401 varicap is rather expensive (in the \$9.00 range), but it has a guaranteed 3:1 tuning range and high Q. This application requires only a 2:1 range, but allowances for temperature variation component tolerances, and other considerations make it necessary to have some overrange. Less-expensive limited-range diodes could be used, but they would require changing fixed capacitors to cover the tuning range for the vco. The inductor is a T-25 mix 6 toroid with four turns of no. 22-28 AWG (0.6-0.3mm) enameled wire.

An output to the mixer is taken directly from the 50 ohm vco output at pin 3. For the TTL counters,

however, the swing is wrong. The sum of one diode drop and a base-emitter drop from the 5-volt-supply rail places the 2N4403 base voltage in the ECL logic voltage range. The 2N4403 collector voltage swings from 0.5V to about 3.5V to drive the counter. A 22-ohm base-emitter resistor aids junction recovery and cleans up the output waveform.

The entire vco section is quite susceptible to hum and modulation disturbances. For this reason, a separate voltage regulator is again used. The vco should be located well away from transformer fields or ac power wiring.

### programmable counters and translators

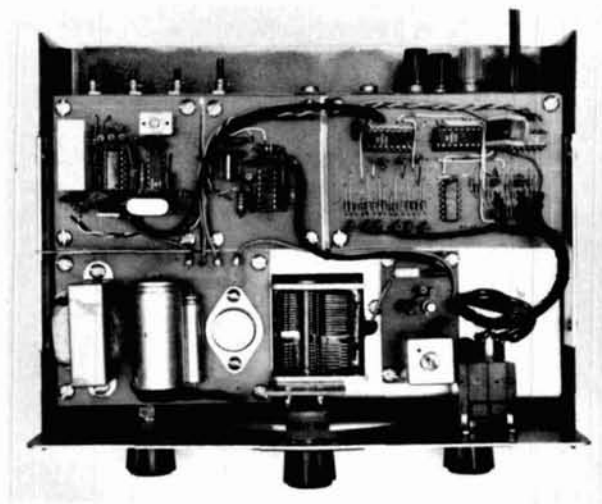
This circuit is shown in fig. 6. Before getting into counter details, a related matter must be considered. The count set into the preset counters must always be 29 (MHz) higher than the bottom end of the input tuning range, so that the switches can read input range directly. This requirement leads to the necessity of translating switch settings to the counters. Table 1 summarizes the required relationships. If decimal switches are used, the offset of minus 1 in the units digit can be provided by simply rewiring into the decimal-to-BCD diode matrix, as shown in fig. 6. Note, for example, that a switch indication of 4 is translated to BCD 1 + 2 = 3, which is 4 minus the required one unit. The 390-ohm resistors establish a TTL logic zero for open-switch positions.

The tens digit is somewhat more messy. Switch indications must be translated up by 3 *except* when the units position is zero, which requires an up-translation of only 2. Thus, 00 goes to 29, 01 goes to 30, 10 goes to 39, 11 goes to 40, and so on. Since a zero-units digit is translated to a 9 in the output, the presence of this 9 can be used to change the tens digit to an output lower by one integer.

Two sections of a 7400 quad NAND are used to accomplish this magic. A decimal-to-BCD diode matrix with an offset of +3 is used in conjunction with a second matrix with offset of +2. The proper matrix

table 1. Relationship between switch settings and counters.

input range	switch readings		counter presets	
	ten	units	ten	units
0-1	0	0	2	9
1-2	0	1	3	0
2-3	0	2	3	1
9-10	0	9	3	8
10-11	1	0	3	9
11-12	1	1	4	0
12-13	1	2	4	1
19-20	1	9	4	8
20-21	2	0	4	9
21-22	2	1	5	0
27-28	2	7	5	6



Looking down on the XPL converter. Components and wiring are shown on top of the chassis.

is chosen by clamping diodes from the two 7400 outputs. If a units 9 is present, the 9 bus is high and the 9 bus is low. Under this condition, the +3 matrix diodes are clamped low, and the +2 matrix diodes are released. For units digits other than 9, the situation is reversed.

Those familiar with counter techniques may immediately conclude that this is the long way around the barn, and so it is. A simpler solution to the translation would be to use a precounter set to 29 to delay activation of the programmable counters until the first 29 counts have passed. However, this requires two more counter chips, involves a clock gate, and is more difficult to troubleshoot if problems develop. The approach shown was devised with the less-experienced builder in mind, since troubleshooting of the diode matrices can be done with a vtvm.

Returning now to the counters, a high-speed 74196/8290 is used as a divide-by-10 prescaler to get the signal into TTL frequency range. This unit has a typical toggle frequency of 75 MHz and handles the 56-MHz maximum input with little effort. The programmable counters, 74192s, are preset by their respective diode matrices. Both are operated in the countdown mode and are cascaded and loaded through the borrow outputs.

Counter operation is as follows: The  $C_0$  output of the 74196/8290, pin 2, goes high once every ten input pulses from the vco. Each output pulse causes the units 74192 to count down by one count. When the count reaches zero, the borrow output goes low between pulses and causes the tens 74192 to count down by one count. It, too, generates a borrow pulse after reaching zero, and it is this pulse that's used to reset the system. The borrow pulse from the tens counter is used to load the preset number into each counter.

As an example of operation, suppose the thumb-wheel switches are set to 08 (8-9 MHz range). The units counter will be preset to a count of 7 (8-1) and the tens counter to 3 (0+3). Following a reset pulse, the units counter will count down one count every ten vco cycles and first generate a borrow pulse after 70 vco cycles.

After this first 70 cycles from the reset pulse, the counter will again generate a borrow pulse every 100 vco cycles. Each of these borrow pulses causes the tens counter to count down by one count from its preset of 3 and to generate its own borrow pulse after 70 + 100 + 100 + 100 vco cycles. The tens counter borrow and reset pulse thus occurs 370 vco cycles after the first reset and then immediately resets the counters again.

The tens counter borrow output frequency is equal

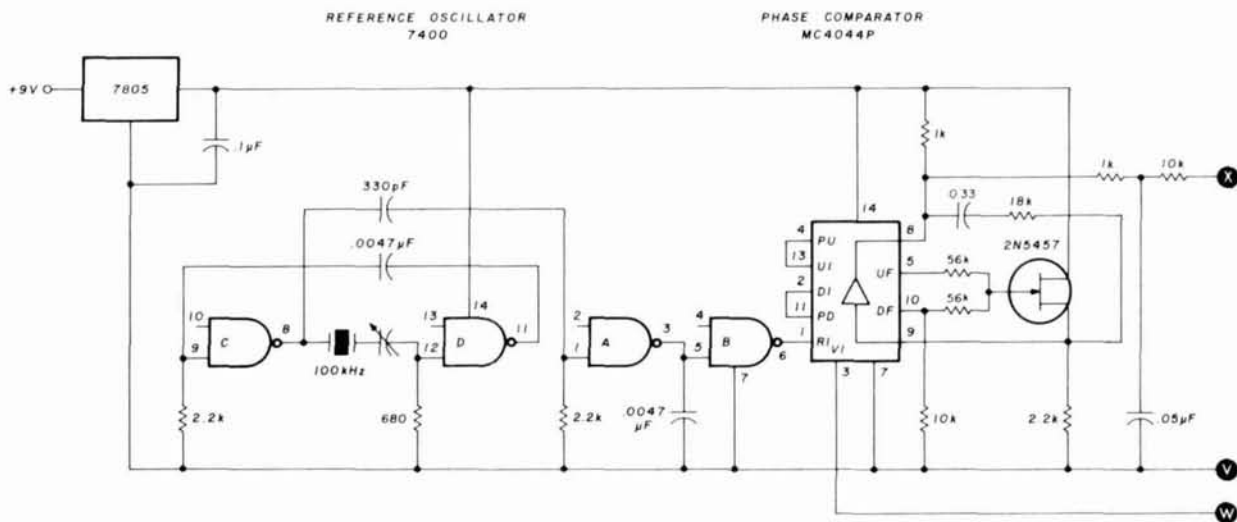


fig. 4. Reference oscillator and phase-comparator schematic.

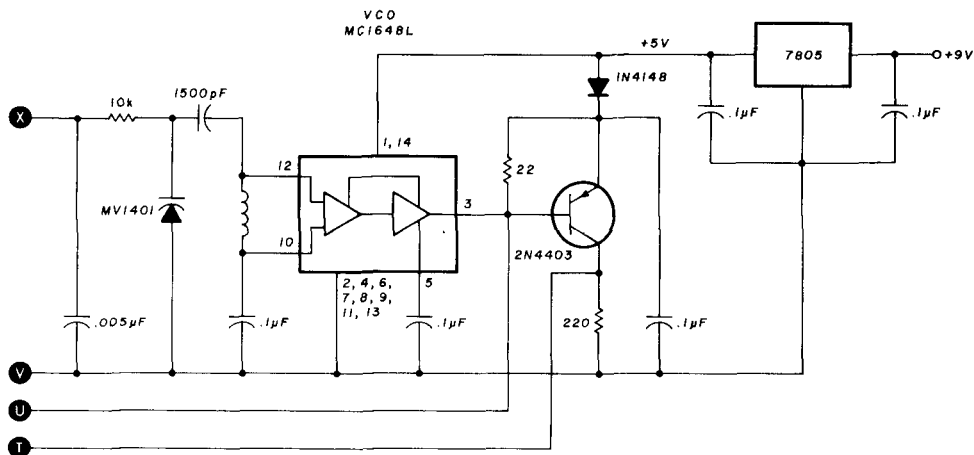


fig. 5. Voltage-controlled oscillator schematic.

to the vco frequency divided by  $(10 \times U + 100 \times T)$ , where U and T are the units and tens presets respectively (7 and 3 in our example).

The tens-counter borrow output is also used to feed the phase comparator so that the vco frequency is locked to  $10 \times 7 + 100 \times 3 = 370$  times the reference frequency of 100 kHz. The vco is thus locked at 37 MHz, which is the required local-oscillator injection frequency for receiving 8 MHz with a 29-MHz i-f.

Resistor values shown for the diode matrices are fairly critical. Germanium diodes would provide more margin, but the circuit works well as shown. If the same nominal values are used, no problems should be experienced. Power for the counters and translators is provided by still another 5-volt regulator. This system draws several hundred milliamperes and may need a regulator heat sink.

## mixer

A dual-gate, diode-protected mosfet is used for the mixer (fig. 7). The 40673 has good intermodulation characteristics and is simple to use. Output from the drain is taken through an output transformer, broadly resonant at 28.5 MHz, which provides a low impedance output to the receiver. This stage is powered directly from the 9-volt power supply, since decoupling is not a problem. An output switch pole allows the receiver input to be connected to the converter or to a high-frequency antenna. A second pole is used to ground the high-frequency antenna to minimize pickup when the *XPL Converter* is in use.

## power supply

All operating power for the *XPL* is derived from a 12-volt transformer and bridge rectifier at about 10 volts (fig. 8). A 2N3055 is used as an active filter to reduce ripple. This transistor is much larger than required, but it's cheap, readily available, and needs no

heatsink. If the 9-volt rail is not reasonably clean, the received signal may be hum modulated. Ac input is switched by a third pole of the IN-OUT switch, and a pair of  $0.02 \mu\text{F}$  capacitors are used for line bypassing. Note that these capacitors should have 600-volt ratings.

## construction

Each circuit section was built on a separate printed-circuit board for easy testing and debugging. There's no real need to do this, however, and a single PC board might be easier to handle mechanically. The layout shown is also more compact than necessary. The entire unit could be built on perf board if generous ground conductors are used.

Coax cable should not be used for interconnecting circuits except for the vco output to the mixer, mixer output to the receiver, and input from the hf antenna. Other leads should be run in twisted pairs of no. 22-26 (0.6-0.4mm) hookup wire to minimize shunt capacitive loading on the TTL gates and to reduce inductive pickup in the phase-comparator circuitry. Coax cable should not be used in the input circuit, since the high capacitance of this cable could appreciably decrease the tuning range.

The 28.5-MHz output coil was a junk-box relic of unknown parentage. Any coil with a turns ratio of about 5:1 with a slug capable of resonating at 28.5 MHz will do. An inductance of about  $3 \mu\text{H}$  is required.

Most of the parts for the *XPL* are available from surplus houses or other *ham radio* and *QST* advertisers. The MC4044P, MC1648L, and MV1401, however, will probably have to be ordered from a franchised Motorola distributor. Total cost is about \$20 for these items.

The individual regulators were Motorola types, but various National LM-series are equally satisfactory and widely available. The 2N4403 transistor can be



replaced with almost any high-frequency pnp transistor. Similarly, the 2N5457 can be replaced by other N-channel jfet devices, such as the MPF102 series.

All signal diodes should be 1N4148/1N914 or similar silicon computer diodes. As mentioned earlier, germanium diodes can be used in the diode matrices if desired. Power diodes are low voltage, plastic-lead-mounted types.

Capacitors can be ceramic units except for the antenna input capacitor (560 pF) and the vco 1500-pF capacitors which should be of low-loss polystyrene or mica construction.

The entire counter and phase-lock system could be designed around CMOS circuitry except for the vco and the prescaler. CMOS chips are not widely available in surplus outlets but are rather inexpensive when purchased new. Power supply current could be considerably reduced by shifting to CMOS, and the diode translators could be run at a much higher impedance level.

### adjustments and troubleshooting

The power supply forms a logical first item if the XPL is built in steps. Output voltage must be at least

#### TRANSLATORS

#### DIVIDERS

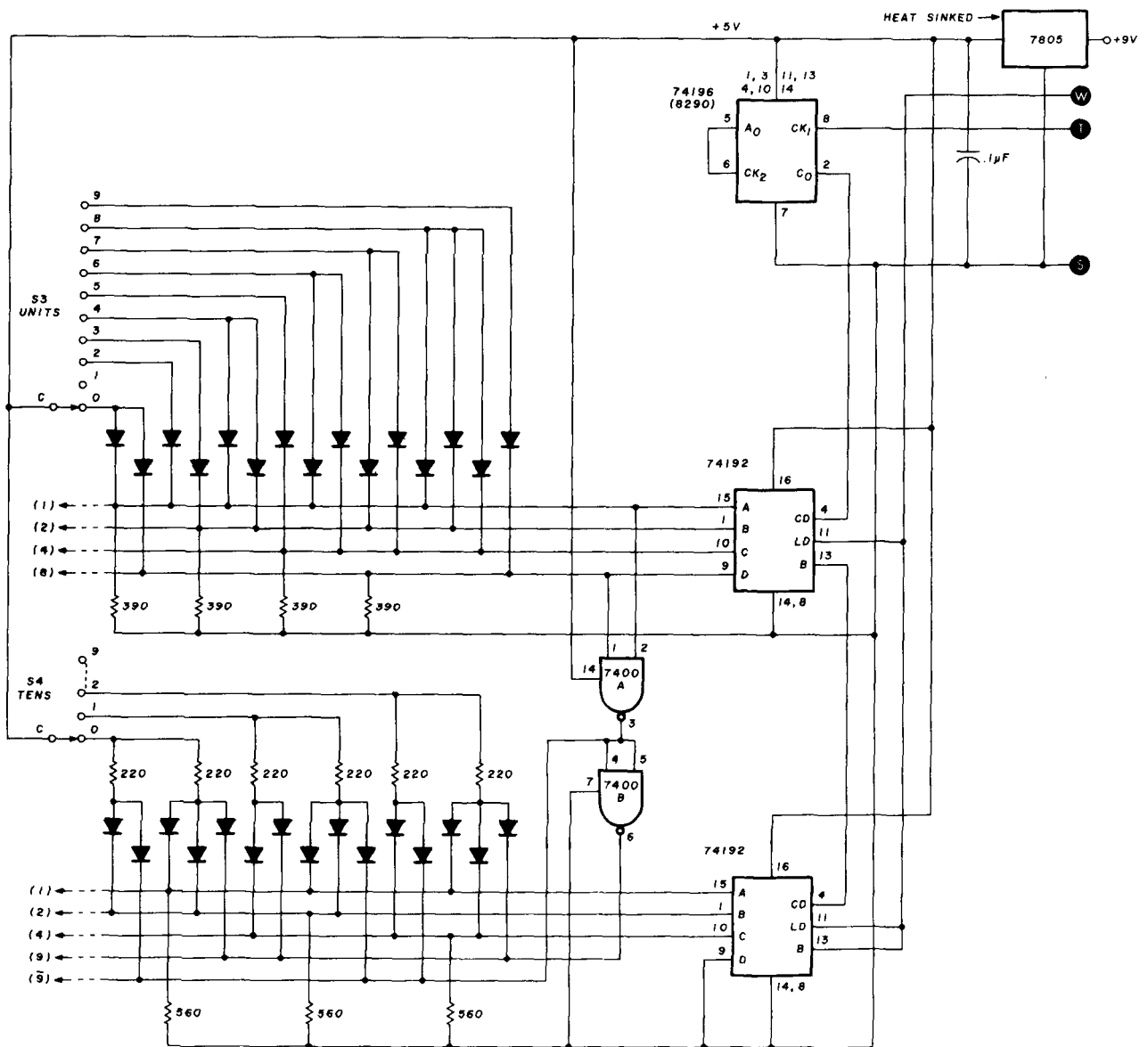


fig. 6. Schematic of the XPL programmable counters and translators.

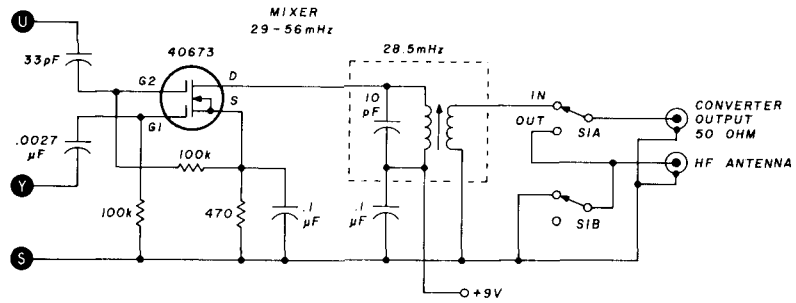


fig. 7. Mixer schematic.

7 volts to allow the individual regulators their required 2-volt input margin over 5-volt regulated output voltage. Frequency calibration of the reference oscillator can be done by zero beating with WWV or with WCFL, Chicago, on 1000 kHz. The vco should be checked for range by coupling a grid-dip oscillator to the toroidal coil. An input of 0.5 to 3.5-volts positive, derived from a separate source, should drive the vco from 25 to 60 MHz or so. If the frequency range is off, toroid turns may be trimmed or the 1500-pF capacitor value changed to suit. Input-coil slugs should be adjusted to allow coverage of all input frequencies with a bit of overlap.

Operation of the translators can be checked with a vtm. Logic zero must be 0.8 volt or less, and logic 1 must be 2.4 volts or more — standard TTL levels. Preset counter operation can be checked with a triggered oscilloscope and a low capacitance (10X) probe. The 74196 output pulses will be visible on most inexpensive scopes.

## operation

For best results, a good antenna system should be used with the XPL. One of the best is an 80-meter inverted V or dipole with open-wire feeders. Except for those few frequencies at which the antenna happens to be an odd number of quarter wavelengths long, its impedance will be quite high. Thus, the high capacitance of a grounded coax antenna feeder would result in serious signal attenuation. A simple long-wire antenna can be used if the end is brought directly to the XPL input terminals. If a separate

antenna system isn't available, any ungrounded antenna feeder system can be used by connecting either lead to the **A1** antenna terminal. Terminal **A2** should be grounded for single ended inputs.

The input circuit should be calibrated at least roughly so you can be sure the desired signal is being peaked. The input circuit provides the only rejection for 10-meter signals present on the antenna. Above about 15 MHz, this rejection may be inadequate to prevent strong 10-meter signals from coming directly through the mixer to the i-f. A resonant trap or a loosely coupled input circuit can be added if this problem proves troublesome. A balanced mixer would reduce the feedthrough, but the added complication seemed unnecessary. I suggest this as an alternative approach for those interested in experimentation.

## final remarks

The XPL Converter has been fun to use. Broadcast stations pop up exactly where they are supposed to be. The *Selected Cities Weather Summary*, broadcast from Miami on RTTY has been interesting to print and peruse. WWV is available on all frequencies for calibration or a check on propagation conditions.

Aviation weather and general information is broadcast on the local low-frequency range station. Every international shortwave band can be received. International air-route traffic control from Miami and New York can also be monitored. And, near the top end, you can even listen to CB operations.

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2. K. W. Robbins, W1KNI, "Six Meter Frequency Synthesizer," *ham radio*, March, 1974, page 26.
3. P. J. Bertini, K1ZJH, and R. Van Hooft, WB2MBI, "A Practical Approach to Two Meter Frequency Synthesis," Part 1, *QST*, June, 1973, page 31; Part 2, *QST*, July, 1973, page 34.
4. *Motorola Application Notes AN-535, AN-533, and AN-564*, Motorola, Inc., Technical Information Center, P. O. Box 20912, Phoenix, Arizona 85036.

ham radio

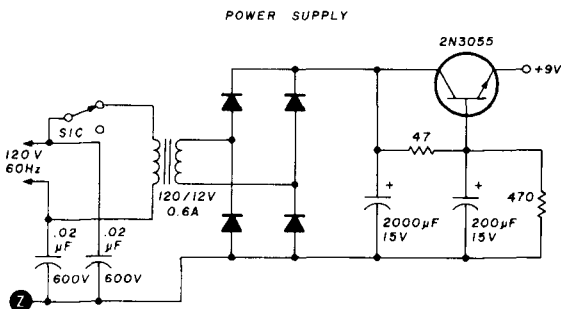


fig. 8. Power-supply schematic.

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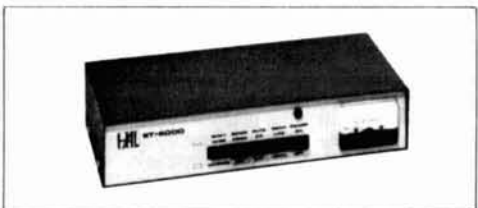
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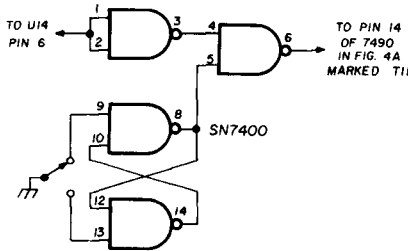
# short circuit

## RTTY time/date printout

An important point was missed in **table 1** of the RTTY printout article which appeared in June, 1976, *ham radio*. Pin 4 of U15 should not be grounded but should have the appropriate BCD information for the tens of minutes digit.

As shown, the ten, minutes digit will only display up to 39 minutes instead of 59 minutes. In **fig. 4A**, pins 6 and 7 of the 7490s must be grounded; otherwise the circuit will only print the 19th as the date.

Advancing the date by moving the clock is a very tedious process. Over-shooting will mean doing the entire thirty days over again. The diagram below shows a circuit that will permit



you to advance the date by one day with the flip of the switch. When the date resets at the end of the month, flipping the switch will advance the clock to 01, much easier than advancing the digital clock a complete 24-hour period. Note that this advance circuit is designed to work with a low input so the date advance must be done before 2000 hours.

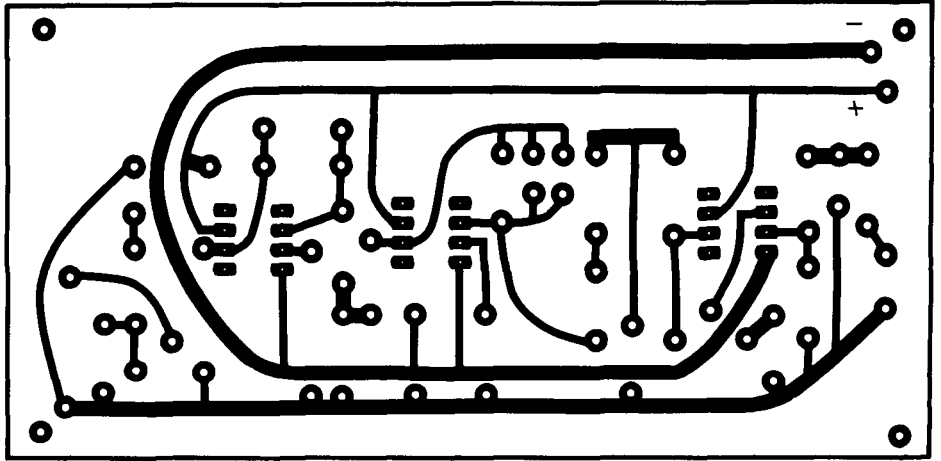
## pi network design and analysis

Eq. 8 in the pi network design article, September, 1977, *ham radio*, should not have the radical sign on the right hand side of the expression; it should read

$$R1 \text{ (at minimum point of } X_{C1} \text{ curve)} = R_{1B} = \frac{2X_L^2}{R_2} \quad (8)$$

Also, eq. 12 should read as follows:

$$X_L = (R1 + R2) \frac{Q_o^2 + \sqrt{Q_o^2 - (Q_o^2 + 4) \left( \frac{R2 - R1}{R1 + R2} \right)^2}}{Q_o^2 + 4} \quad (12)$$



## direct output synthesizer for two meters

In **fig. 4** of the direct output synthesizer in August, 1977, *ham radio*, the lines connected to pins 10 and 8 of U3C have been transposed. For correct operation, pin 10 is connected to the pin 9s of the 74161s, and pin 8 of U3C is connected to pin 1 of U2B. On U1, pin 2 is the input from U3D and pin 1 should be connected to the junction of the 100 and 360 ohm resistors. U1 may exhibit some temperature and voltage sensitivity at times causing the divide-by-21 function to become a divide-by-22. This problem can be cured by either of two methods: putting a 330 pF capacitor from pin 2 of U1 to ground or replacing U3 with a 74L00 instead of the 7400. U8 is a 7483, not a 7473. In **fig. 6**, the 0.1 μF capacitor connected to pin 2 of U18 should be a 0.01 μF disc capacitor. Also, the 40k-ohm resistor on the output of U18B should be 10k.

## serial converter for 8-level teleprinters

The serial converter in August, 1977, *ham radio*, uses a 74121 for U16, not a 7474.

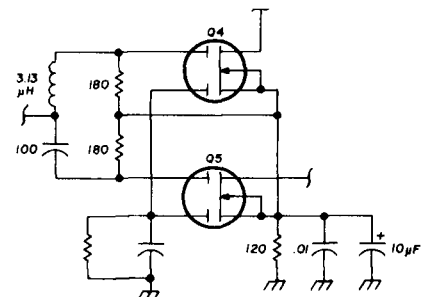
## audio frequency speech processing

The circuit board layout for the audio speech processor in August, 1977, *ham radio* was missing several connections. The diagram above shows the correct circuit board layout. The output is taken from the center of R13 and not as shown in **fig. 5** in the article. The numbering for the pins of the ICs in the schematic diagram should be changed to correspond with the 8-pin mini DIPs used on the finished board.

fig. 3	change to
5	3
4	2
6	4
10	6
11	7

## phasing-type single-signal detector

In **fig. 2**, page 72 of October, 1976, *ham radio*, the two 180-ohm resistors should be connected between gate 2 and the source of the dual-gate mosfet as shown below. Also, gate number 1 is not connected to the source.





## spectrum analyzer

There are several errors in the spectrum analyzer construction article which appeared in the June, 1977, issue. The 75.1 ohm resistor in the rf attenuator should be 71.5 ohms; the six 69.1 ohm resistors should be 61.9 ohms (fig. 10). The i-f attenuator should have three, *not two*, 20 dB sections (like the rf attenuator).

The mixer diodes used by the author are Hewlett-Packard part number 5082-2900; most any hot-carrier diodes should work if they are all the same type.

The crystal in the second local oscillator is 150 MHz  $\pm$  2 MHz; the crystal in the third local oscillator is 39.3  $\pm$  1 MHz. The 10k resistor associated with CR401 should go to switch S601A, the 250 kHz position; the same for the 10k resistor associated with the second crystal filter, Y401 (fig. 11). The 2.4k resistor in series with CR402 should go to switch S601A, the 10 kHz position. The coil located near CR403, and the switch contacts near R402, are parts of the same relay.

Large size Xerox copies of the top and bottom chassis photographs are available from *ham radio*, and will be sent to interested readers upon receipt of a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

## reducing IMD in high-frequency receivers

The 3-dB pad between the local oscillator input and the balanced mixer, in fig. 6 on page 30 of the March, 1977, issue of *ham radio*, should have the values transposed (the series resistor should be 18 ohms, the shunt resistor 300 ohms.)

## bandspreading techniques for resonant circuits

In eq. 19 on page 49 of the February, 1977, issue of *ham radio*, the term  $C_r$  should not be included under the radical sign. The equation should read:

$$C_p = \frac{\sqrt{C_q + C_r^2}}{2V} - C_r$$



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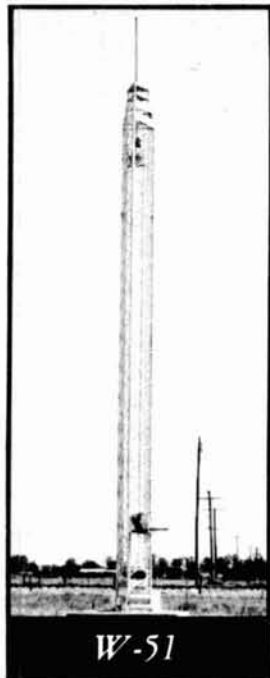
**2 METER**

**220 MHz**

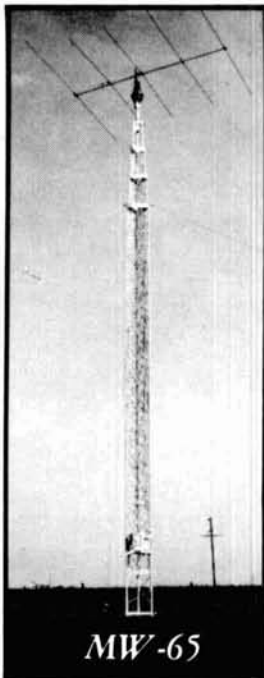
**6 METER**

**440 MHz**

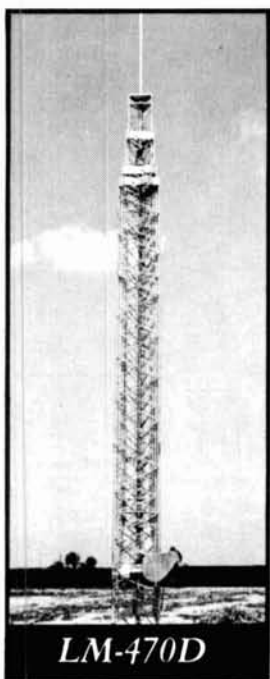
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*at basic prices!*



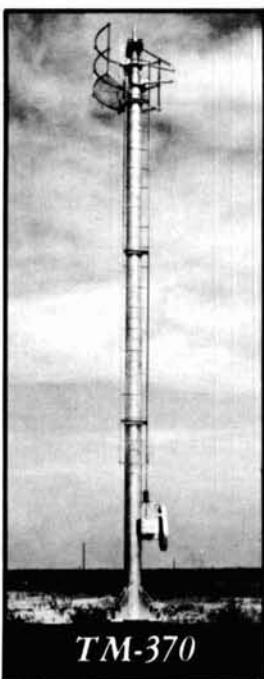
**W-51**



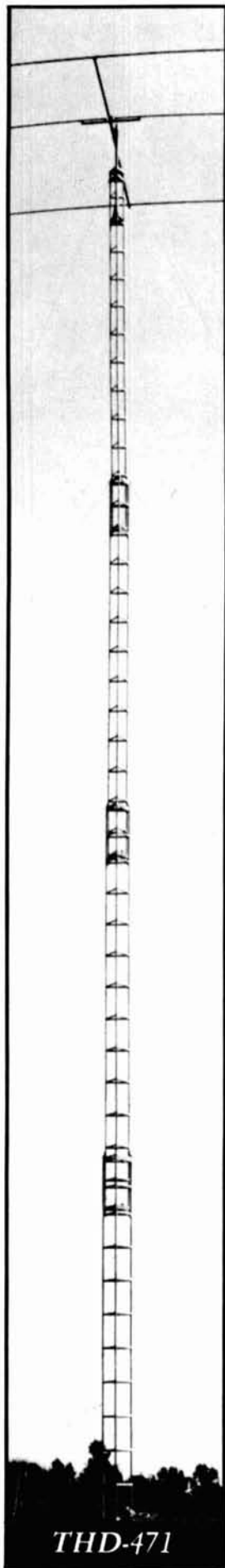
**MW-65**



**LM-470D**



**TM-370**



**THD-471**

Now you can afford the best! Free-standing or guyed, Tri-Ex Towers stress quality. All towers are hot dipped galvanized *after* fabrication for longer life. Each series is specifically engineered to HAM operator requirements.

**W Series**

An aerodynamic tower designed to hold 9 square feet in a 50 mph wind. Six models at different heights.

**MW Series**

Self-supporting when attached at first section — will hold normal Tri-Band beam. Six models.

**LM Series**

A 'W' brace motorized tower. Holds large antenna loads up to 70 feet high. Super buy.

**TM Series**

Features tubular construction for really big antenna loads. Up to 100 feet. Free-standing, with motors to raise and lower.

**THD Series**

Very popular. Low Cost. Holds Tri-Band antennas. Eight models — all support 7 square feet of antenna at full height in 70 mph winds. Guyed.

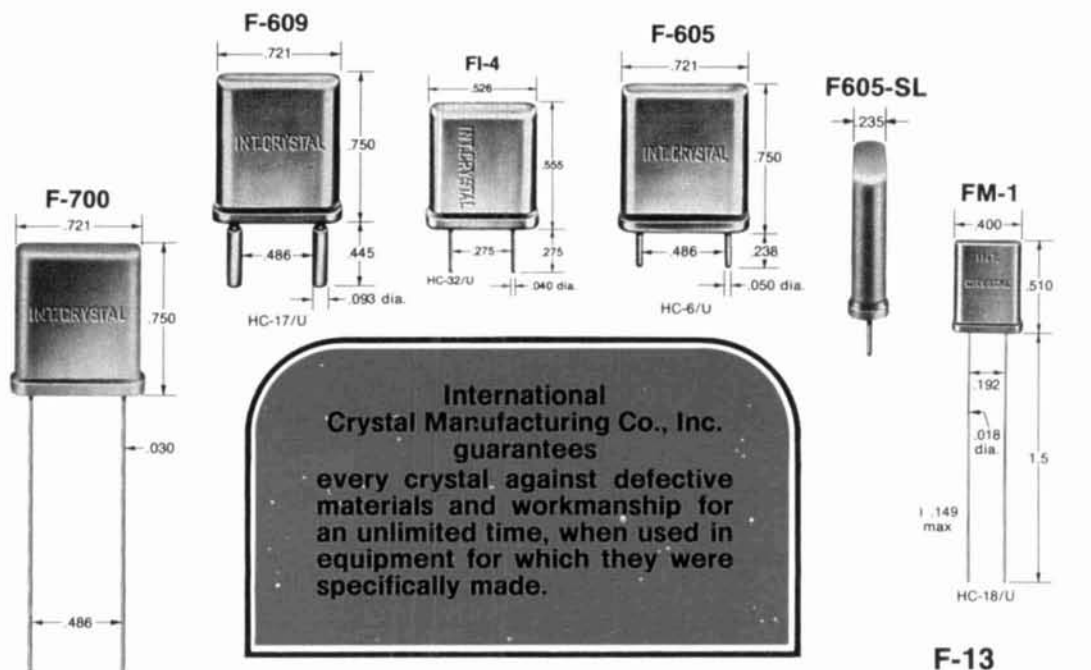
Start with Top-of-the-Line Tri-Ex Towers. At basic prices. Write today, for your best buy.



# WHERE RELIABILITY & ACCURACY COUNT

## INTERNATIONAL CRYSTALS 70 KHz to 160 MHz

### HOLDER TYPES



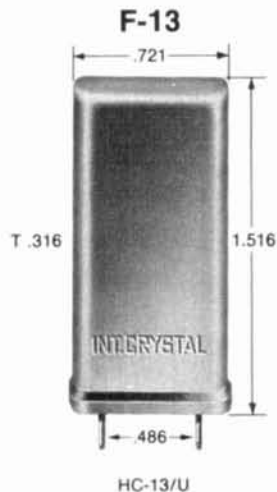
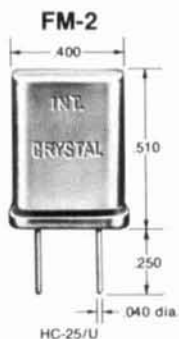
**International  
Crystal Manufacturing Co., Inc.  
guarantees  
every crystal against defective  
materials and workmanship for  
an unlimited time, when used in  
equipment for which they were  
specifically made.**

### CRYSTAL TYPES

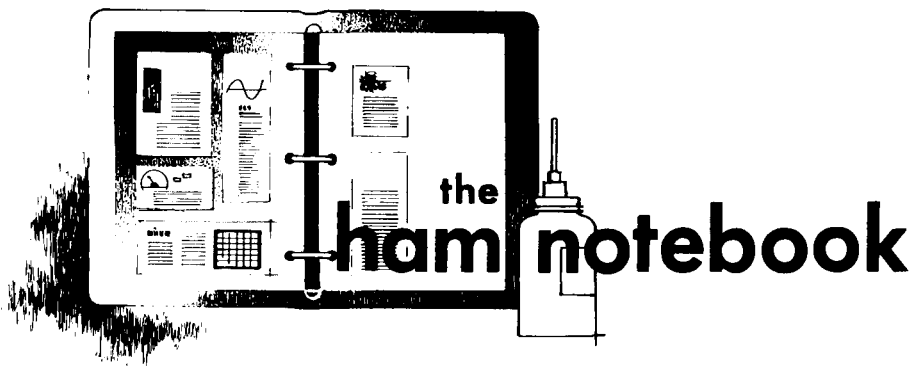
- (GP) for "General Purpose" applications
- (CS) for "Commercial" equipment
- (HA) for "High Accuracy" close temperature tolerance requirements

International Crystals are available from 70 KHz to 160 MHz in a wide variety of holders.

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**INTERNATIONAL CRYSTAL MFG. CO., INC.**  
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## simple formula for microstrip impedance

In many amateur vhf and uhf applications strip transmission lines etched on printed-circuit board are used for impedance matching and as components in tuned resonant circuits. Although several methods are available for calculating the characteristic impedance of microstrip transmission line, the formula derived by Sobol<sup>1</sup> is the most popular. It has been widely publicized in Motorola Semiconductor's application notes and appeared recently in *QST*<sup>2</sup>. Sobol's equation:

$$Z_o = \frac{120\pi h}{\sqrt{\epsilon_r} w (1 + 1.735\epsilon_r^{-0.0724} w/h^{-0.836})}$$

where  $w$  is strip width,  $h$  is the dielectric thickness, and  $\epsilon_r$  is the relative dielectric constant of the substrate.

Sobol's equation gives  $Z_o$  as a function of microstrip geometry, but in practical applications you usually need to know what size microstrip is required for a given impedance. Since the equation can't be solved directly for  $w/h$ , an interactive trial-and-error solution is necessary. This can be done rather quickly with a high-speed computer, but an iterative solution with a programmable calculator such as the HP-25 may require a minute or more — an iterative solu-

tion with a non-programmable calculator is impractical.

Some time ago N6TX (ex WA6UAM) sent me an iterative HP-25 program for Sobol's microstrip

then be refined with the HP-25 program. My first step was to rewrite Sobol's equation as

$$Z_o = \frac{120\pi}{\sqrt{\epsilon_r} \frac{w}{h}} \left[ \frac{1}{1 + 1.735 \epsilon_r^{-0.0724} w/h^{-0.836}} \right]$$

By inspection, to a first approximation  $Z_o$  is equal to the first term on the right-hand side of the equal sign; the term inside the parenthesis is a modification  $\epsilon_r$  term which is a function of both  $\epsilon_r$  and  $w/h$ . Designating the

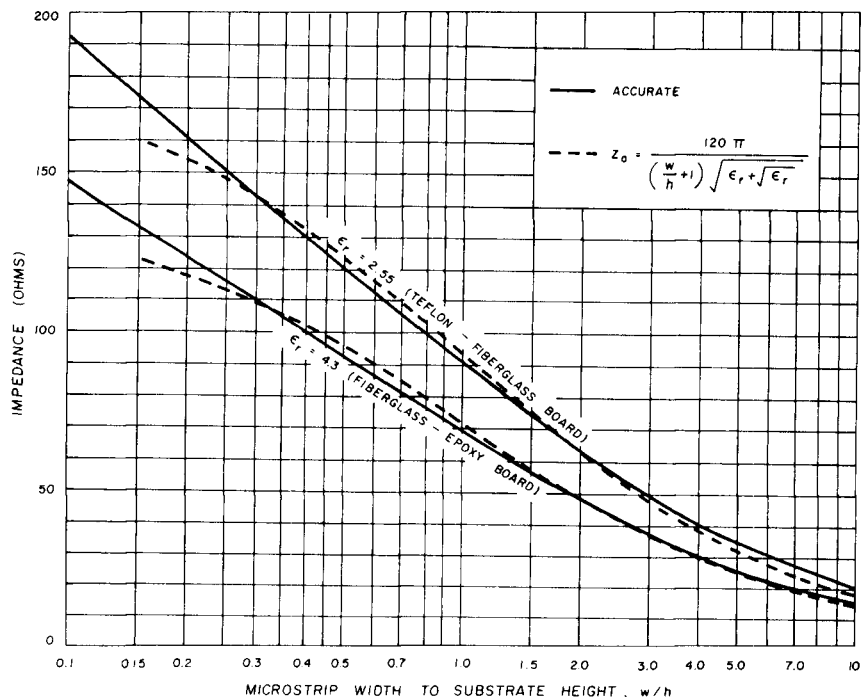


fig. 1. Microstrip impedance calculated with simple formulas developed by W1HR (dashed lines), as compared to actual impedance (solid line). For  $\epsilon_r > 4$ , accuracy is very good for  $w/h > 0.2$ .

equation which provided acceptable accuracy for most design work. This program begins at  $w/h=1$  and iterates out to the required value. Therefore, for low and high values of  $Z_o$  a solution requires considerable calculation time. To reduce calculation time I decided to see if I could develop a simple equation for an approximate value of  $w/h$  which could

quantity  $(1.735\epsilon_r^{-0.0724}w/h^{-0.836})$  as  $K$ , eq. 1 was rewritten as

$$\frac{120\pi}{Z_o \sqrt{\epsilon_r}} = \frac{w}{h} (1 + K) = \frac{w}{h} + K \cdot \frac{w}{h}$$

All that remained was to find a value for  $K \cdot w/h$  which satisfied varying values of  $\epsilon_r$  and  $w/h$ . After calculating several tables of values, it was ap-

1. H. Sobol, "Extending IC Technology to Microwave Equipment," *Electronics*, March 20, 1967, page 112.  
2. R. Olsen, N6NR, "Designing Solid-State RF Power Circuits," *QST*, September, 1977, page 15.

parent that  $K \cdot w/h = 1$  would give the desired results. Substituting and rearranging terms yielded the expression

$$\frac{w}{h} \approx \frac{120\pi}{Z_o \sqrt{\epsilon_r}} - 1 \quad (3)$$

When this equation was plotted on graph paper and compared to a graph of Sobol's equation, the similarity was much closer than I expected — the curve had essentially the correct shape, but all values were slightly larger than those given by Sobol's formula. This was the desired result; rewriting the HP-25 program around eq. 3 considerably reduced calculation time.

Later it occurred to me that it might be possible to further factor eq. 3 to obtain a more accurate formula for microstrip impedance. After calculating numerous tables of  $Z_o$  vs  $w/h$  and  $\epsilon_r$ , and inspecting the values, I found that the impedance of microstrip etched on a substrate with  $\epsilon_r > 4.0$  could be approximated within a few per cent by the following equations:

$$\frac{w}{h} \approx \frac{120\pi}{Z_o \sqrt{\epsilon_r + \sqrt{\epsilon_r}}} - 1 \quad (4)$$

$$Z_o \approx \frac{120\pi}{\left(\frac{w}{h} + 1\right) \sqrt{\epsilon_r + \sqrt{\epsilon_r}}} \quad (5)$$

For microstrip etched on glass-epoxy circuit board ( $\epsilon_r = 4.8$ ), these equations can be reduced to

$$\frac{w}{h} \approx \frac{142.6}{Z_o} - 1 \quad Z_o \approx \frac{142.6}{\frac{w}{h} + 1}$$

For Teflon-fiberglass circuit board ( $\epsilon_r = 2.55$ ) the simplified expressions are

$$\frac{w}{h} \approx \frac{185.1}{Z_o} - 1 \quad Z_o \approx \frac{185.1}{\frac{w}{h} + 1}$$

The dielectric constant of Teflon-fiberglass is below the value recommended for these equations, but accuracy is still acceptable for many applications.

These formulas can be solved quickly by hand (or with a simple four-function calculator), and should be a big help to amateurs who want to design their own microstrip circuits. They can also be used to determine the approximate impedance of circuit traces for digital logic boards (for best results the  $V_{CC}$  and ground lines for TTL should have low impedance).

The accuracy of these simplified equations is surprisingly good. As shown in fig. 1, for  $w/h > 0.2$ , the simplified formulas are within a few per cent of the impedance calculated with more accurate equations; this covers the microstrip impedance range most commonly used in radio communications work. With fiberglass-epoxy board the formulas are within about 1 ohm of the exact expression for all values of  $Z_o$  below 60 ohms. The values for Teflon-fiberglass board are somewhat less accurate, but are still acceptable for most amateur work.

James R. Fisk, W1HR

## improved (vfo) stability for the Atlas 180

Early versions of the Atlas 180 transceiver have exhibited poor vfo stability with a varying dc supply voltage. In some cases, the vfo will actually be frequency modulated at

dc input voltages below 13 volts. Atlas owners can check for this condition by listening to a signal or the calibrator beat note and adjusting the dc supply from about 11.5 volts to 14.5 volts. A 500-milliampere supply is more than ample to operate the receiver. The test can also be made in the car by first setting up the beat note with the engine off and then starting the engine. After a few moments the battery system will come up to full-charge voltage of 14.5 volts. Any change in pitch during this time indicates poor vfo power supply regulation. The units in which this is most likely to occur are those which use a 10-volt regulator circuit consisting of a transistor with a 10-volt Zener on the base.

The solution to the problem is to remove the 27-ohm decoupling resistor (R401 in my Atlas 180) on the vfo board (PC-400), and replace it with a 78L08ACP low-power 8-volt regulator. The wire that previously connected to the 10-volt bus is then reconnected to the 13-volt bus. After making this change, retuning is unnecessary for dc inputs of 11.5 volts to 14.5 volts, and there are no reports of frequency modulation when operating mobile without the engine running. There is no other noticeable change in the operation of the vfo due to the 8-volt rather than 10-volt supply.

Dave Sargent, K6KLO

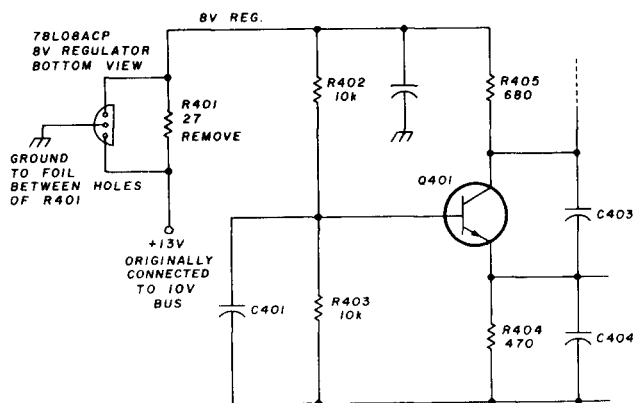


fig. 1. Modification to the Atlas 180 vfo power supply to prevent any frequency modulation due to voltage changes. The 78L08ACP voltage regulator is used to prevent voltage changes. It is fed from the normal 12.6-volt dc supply.



# KENWOOD

...pacesetter in amateur radio

# TS-520S

AND DG-5 DIGITAL FREQUENCY DISPLAY



The TS-520S combines all of the fine, field-proven characteristics of the original TS-520 together with many of the ideas and suggestions for improvement from amateurs worldwide.

#### FULL COVERAGE TRANSCEIVER

The TS-520S provides full coverage on all amateur bands from 1.8 to 29.7 MHz. Kenwood gives you 160 meter capability, WWV on 15.000 MHz., and an auxiliary band position for maximum flexibility. And with the addition of the TV-506 transverter, your TS-520S can cover 160 meters to 6 meters on SSB and CW.

#### DIGITAL DISPLAY DG-5 (option)

The Kenwood DG-5 provides easy, accurate readout of your operating frequency while transmitting and receiving.

#### OUTSTANDING RECEIVER SENSITIVITY AND MINIMUM CROSS MODULATION

The TS-520S incorporates a 3SK35 dual gate MOSFET for outstanding cross modulation and spurious response characteristics. The 3SK35 has a low noise figure (3.5 dB typ.) and high gain (18 dB typ.) for excellent sensitivity.

#### NEW IMPROVED SPEECH PROCESSOR

An audio compression amplifier gives you extra punch in the pile

ups and when the going gets rough.

#### VERNIER TUNING FOR FINAL PLATE CONTROL

A vernier tuning mechanism allows easy and accurate adjustment of the plate control during tune-up.

#### FINAL AMPLIFIER

The TS-520S is completely solid state except for the driver (12B-Y7A) and the final tubes. Rather than substitute TV sweep tubes as final amplifier tubes in a state of the art amateur transceiver,



Kenwood has employed two husky S-2001A (equivalent to 6146B) tubes. These rugged, time-proven tubes are known for their long life and superb linearity.

#### HIGHLY EFFECTIVE NOISE BLANKER

An effective noise blanking circuit developed by Kenwood that virtually eliminates ignition noise is built into the TS-520S.

#### RF ATTENUATOR

The TS-520S has a built-in 20 dB attenuator that can be activated by a push button switch conveniently located on the front panel.

#### PROVISION FOR EXTERNAL RECEIVER

A special jack on the rear panel of the TS-520S provides receiver signals to an external receiver for increased station versatility. A switch on the rear panel determines the signal path... the receiver in the TS-820 or any external receiver.

#### STYLING BY REMOTE VFO

The VFO-520 remote VFO matches the styling of the TS-520S and provides maximum operating flexibility on the band selected on your TS-520S.

The TS-520S is completely self-contained with a rugged AC power supply built-in. The addition of the DS-1A DC-DC converter (optional) allows for mobile operation of the TS-520S.

#### CONVENIENT RCA PHONO JACKS

The TS-520S has 2 convenient RCA phono jacks on the rear panel for PHONE PATCH IN and PHONE PATCH OUT.

#### CW FILTER (OPTIONAL)

The CW-520-500 Hz filter can be easily installed and will provide improved operation on CW.

#### AGC CIRCUIT

The AGC circuit has 3 positions (OFF, FAST, SLOW) to enable the TS-520S to be operated in the optimum condition at all times whether operating CW or SSB.

The TS-520S retains all of the features of the original TS-520 that made it tops in its class: RIT control • 8-pole crystal filter • Built-in 25 KHz calibrator • Front panel carrier level control • Semi-break-in CW with sidetone • VOX/PTT/MOX • TUNE position for low power tune up • Built-in speaker • Built-in Cooling Fan • Provisions for 4 fixed frequency channels • Heater switch.

## TS-520 Specifications

Amateur Bands: 160-10 meters plus WWV (receive only)  
 Modes: USB, LSB, CW  
 Antenna Impedance: 50-75 Ohms  
 Frequency Stability: Within  $\pm 1$  kHz during one hour after one minute of warm-up, and within 100 Hz during any 30 minute period thereafter  
 Tubes & Semiconductors:  
 Tubes ..... 3 (S2001A x 2, 12BY7A)  
 Transistors ..... 52  
 FETs ..... 19  
 Diodes ..... 101  
 Power Requirements: 120/220 V AC, 50/60 Hz, 13.8 V DC (with optional DS-1A)  
 Power Consumption: Transmit: 280 Watts Receive: 26 Watts (with heater off)  
 Dimension: 333(13 1/4) W x 153 (6-0) H x 335(13-13/16) D mm(inch)  
 Weight: 16.0 kg(35.2 lbs)

#### TRANSMITTER

RF Input Power: SSB: 200 Watts PEP CW: 160 Watts DC  
 Carrier Suppression: Better than -40 dB  
 Sideband Suppression: Better than -50 dB  
 Spurious Radiation: Better than -40 dB  
 Microphone Impedance: 50k Ohms  
 AF Response: 400 to 2,600 Hz

#### RECEIVER

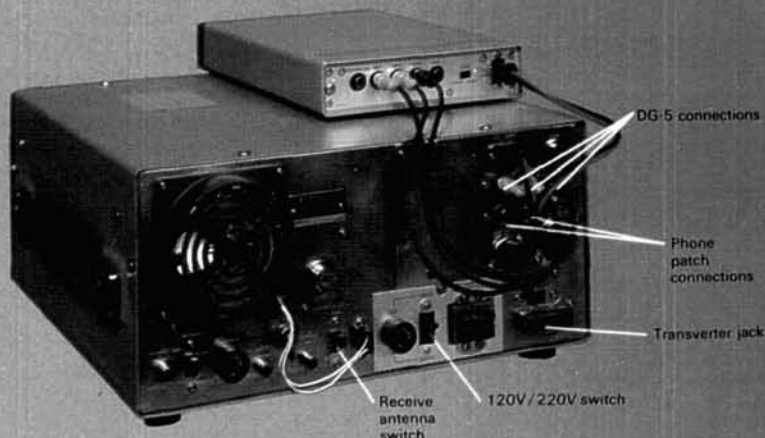
Sensitivity: 0.25  $\mu$ V for 10 dB (S+N)/N  
 Selectivity: SSB: 2.4 kHz/-6 dB, 4.4 kHz/-60 dB  
 Selectivity: CW: 0.5 kHz/-6 dB, 1.5 kHz/-60 dB (with optional CW-520 filter)  
 Image Ratio: Better than 50 dB  
 IF Rejection: Better than 50 dB  
 AF Output Power: 1.0 Watt (8 Ohm load, with less than 10% distortion)

AF Output Impedance: 4 to 16 Ohms

#### DG-5

##### SPECIFICATIONS

Measuring Range: 100 Hz to 40 MHz  
 Input Impedance: 5 k Ohms  
 Gate Time: 0.1 Sec.  
 Input Sensitivity: 100 Hz to 40 MHz... 200 mV rms or over, 10 kHz to 10 MHz... 50 mV or over  
 Measuring Accuracy: Internal time base accuracy  $\pm 0.1$  count  
 Time Base: 10 MHz  
 Operating Temperature: -10° to 50° C/14° to 122° F  
 Power Requirement: Supplied from TS-520S or 12 to 16 VDC (nominal 13.8 VDC)  
 Dimensions: 167(6-9/16) W x 43(1-11/16) H x 268(10-9/16) D mm(inch)  
 Weight: 1.3 kg(2.9 lbs)



## DG-5

The luxury of digital readout is available on the TS-520S by connecting the DG-5 readout (option). More than just the average readout circuit, this readout reads the carrier, VFO, and heterodyne frequencies to give you your exact frequency. This handsomely-styled accessory can be set almost anywhere in your shack for easy-to-read operation... or set it on the dashboard during mobile operation for safety and convenience. Six bold digits display your operating frequency while you transmit and receive. Complete with DH (display hold) switch for frequency memory and 2 position intensity selector. The DG-5 can also be used as a normal frequency counter up to 40 MHz at the touch of a switch (input cable provided).  
 NOTE: TS-520 owners can use the DG-5 with a DK-520 adapter kit.

# KENWOOD

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# TS-820S

## WITH DIGITAL FREQUENCY DISPLAY

We told you that the TS-820 would be best. In little more than a year our promise has become a fact. Now, in response to hundreds of requests from amateurs, Kenwood offers the TS-820S\*... the same superb transceiver, but with the digital readout factory installed. As an owner of this beautiful rig, you will have at your fingertips the combination of controls and features that even under the toughest operating conditions make the TS-820S the Pacesetter that it is.

Following are a few of the TS-820S' many exciting features.

**PLL** • The TS-820S employs the latest phase lock loop circuitry. The single conversion receiver section performance offers superb protection against unwanted cross-modulation. And now PLL allows the frequency to remain the same when switching sidebands (USB, LSB, CW) and eliminates having to recalibrate each time.

**DIGITAL READOUT** • The digital counter display is employed as an integral part of the VFO readout system. Counter mixes the carrier VFO, and first heterodyne frequencies to give *exact* frequency. Figures the frequency down to 10 Hz and digital display

reads out to 100 Hz. Both receive and transmit frequencies are displayed in easy to read, Kenwood Blue digits.

**SPEECH PROCESSOR** • An RF circuit provides quick time constant compression using a true RF compressor as opposed to an AF clipper. Amount of compression is adjustable to the desired level by a convenient front panel control.

**IF SHIFT** • The IF SHIFT control varies the IF passband without changing the receive frequency. Enables the operator to eliminate unwanted signals by moving them out of the passband of the receiver. This feature alone makes the TS-820S a pacesetter.

\*The TS-820 and DG-1 are still available separately.

# TS-600



Experience the excitement of 6 meters. The TS-600 all mode transceiver lets you experience the fun of 6 meter band openings.

This 10 watt, solid state rig covers 50.0-54.0 MHz. The VFO tunes the band in 1 MHz segments. It also

has provisions for fixed frequency operation on NETS or to listen for beacons. State of the art features such as an effective noise blanker and the RIT (Receiver Incremental Tuning) circuit make the TS-600 another Kenwood "Pacesetter".



## TV-506

An easy way to get on the 6 meter band with your TS-520/520S, TS-820/820S and most other transceivers. Simply plug it in and you're on... full band coverage with 10 watts output on SSB and CW.



# TR-8300

Experience the luxury of 450 MHz at an economical price.

The TR-8300 offers high quality and superb performance as a result of many years of improving VHF/UHF design techniques. The trans-

ceiver is capable of F<sub>3</sub> emission on 23 crystal-controlled channels (3 supplied). The transmitter output is 10 watts.

The TR-8300 incorporates a 5 section helical resonator and a

two-pole crystal filter in the IF section of the receiver for improved intermodulation characteristics. Receiver sensitivity, spurious response, and temperature characteristics are excellent.

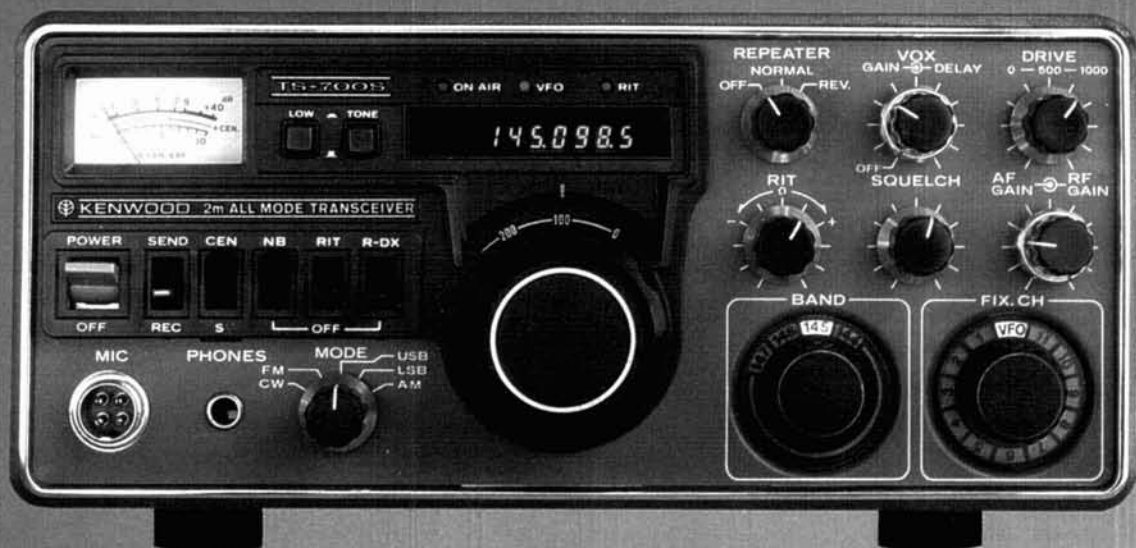


# KENWOOD

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# TS-700S

WITH DIGITAL FREQUENCY DISPLAY



Check out the new "built-ins": digital readout, receiver pre-amp, VOX, semi-break in, and CW sidetone! Of course, it's still all mode, 144-148 MHz and VFO controlled.

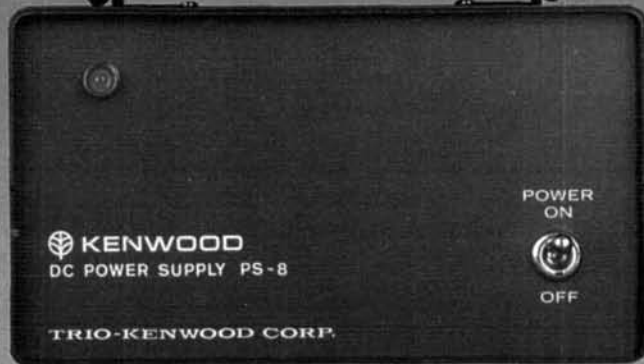
Features: Digital readout with "Kenwood Blue" digits • High gain receiver pre-amp • 1 watt lower power switch • Built in VOX • Semi-break in on CW • CW sidetone • Operates all modes: SSB (upper & lower), FM, AM and CW • Completely solid state circuitry provides stable, long lasting, trouble-free operation • AC and DC capability (operate from your car, boat, or as a base station through its built-in power supply) • 4 MHz band coverage (144 to 148 MHz) • Automatically switches transmit frequency 600 KHz for repeater operation. Simply dial in your receive frequency and the radio does the rest... simplex, repeater, reverse • Or accomplish the same by plugging a single crystal into one of the 11 crystal positions for your favorite channel • Transmit/Receive capability on 44 channels with 11 crystals.



## VFO-700S

Handsomely styled and a perfect companion to the TS-700S. This unit provides you with the extra versatility and the luxury of having a second VFO in your shack. Great for split frequency operation and for tuning off frequency to check the band. The function switch

on the VFO-700S selects the VFO in use and the appropriate frequency is displayed on the digital readout in the TS-700S. In addition a momentary contact "frequency check" switch allows you to spot check the frequency of the VFO not in use.



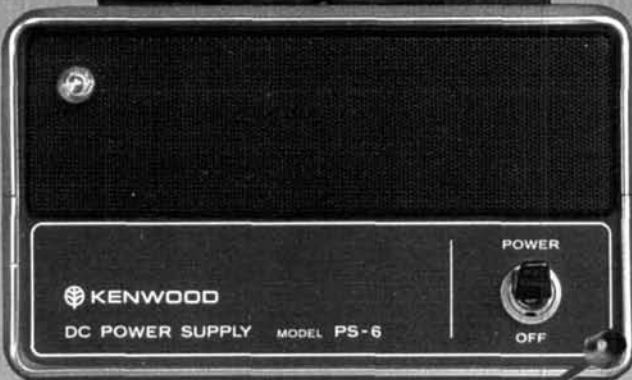
# TR-7400A

Features Kenwood's unique Continuous Tone Coded Squelch system, 4 MHz band coverage, 25 watt output and fully synthesized 800 channel operation. This compact package gives you the kind of performance specifications you've always wanted in a 2-meter amateur rig.

Outstanding sensitivity, large-sized helical resonators with High Q to minimize undesirable out-of-band interference, and give a 2-pole 10.7 MHz monolithic crystal filter combine to give your TR-7400A outstanding receiver performance. Intermodulation characteristics (Better than 66dB), spurious (Better than -60dB), image rejection (Better than -70dB), and a versatile squelch system make the TR-7400A tops in its class.

Shown with the PS-8 power supply

(Active filters and Tone Burst Modules optional)



# TR-7500

This 100 channel PLL synthesized 146-148 MHz transceiver comes with 88 pre-programmed channels for use on all standard repeater frequencies (as per ARRL Band Plan) and most simplex channels. For added flexibility, there are 6 diode-programmable switch positions. The 15 KHz shift function makes these 6 positions into 12 channels. 10 watt output,  $\pm 600$  KHz offset and LED digital frequency display are just a few of the many fine features of the TR-7500. The PS-6 is the handsomely styled, matching power supply for the TR-7500. Its 3.5 amp current capacity and built-in speaker make it the perfect companion for home use of the TR-7500.



# TR-2200A

The high performance portable 2-meter FM transceiver. 146-148 MHz, 12 channels (6 supplied), 2 watts or 400 mW RF output. Everything you need is included: Ni-Cad battery pack, charger, carrying case and microphone.

# KENWOOD

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Kenwood developed the T-599D transmitter and R-599D receiver for the most discriminating amateur.

The R-599D is the most complete receiver ever offered. It is entirely solid-state, superbly reliable and compact. It covers the full amateur band, 10 through 160 meters, CW, LSB, USB, AM and FM.

The T-599D is solid-state with the exception of only three tubes, has built-in power supply and full metering. It operates CW, LSB, USB and AM and, of course, is a perfect match to the R-599D receiver.

If you have never considered the advantages of operating a receiver/transmitter combination... maybe you should.

Because of the larger number of controls and dual VFOs the combination offers flexibility impossible to duplicate with a transceiver.

Compare the specs of the R-599D and the T-599D with any other brand. Remember, the R-599D is all solid state (and includes four filters). Your choice will obviously be the Kenwood.



## R-599D

## T-599D

# R-300

Dependable operation, superior specifications and excellent features make the R-300 an unexcelled value for the shortwave listener. It offers full band coverage with a frequency range of 170 KHz to 30.0 MHz • Receives AM, SSB and CW • Features large, easy to read drum dials with fast smooth dial action • Band spread is calibrated for the 10 foreign broadcast bands, easily tuned with the use of a built-in 500 KHz calibrator • Automatic noise limiter • 3-way power supply system (AC/Batteries/External DC) ... take it anywhere • Automatically switches to battery power in the event of AC power failure.







*Fine equipment that belongs in every well equipped station*

#### HF LINES

##### 820 Series

- TS-820S... TS-820 with Digital Installed
- TS-820... 10-160 M Deluxe Transceiver
- DG-1... Digital Frequency Display for TS-820
- VFO-820... Deluxe Remote VFO for TS-820/820S
- CW-820... 500 Hz CW Filter for TS-820/820S
- DS-1A... DC-DC Converter for 520/820 Series

##### 520 Series

- TS-520S... 160-10 M Transceiver
- DG-5... Digital Frequency Display for TS-520 Series
- VFO-520... Remote VFO for TS-520 and TS-520S
- SP-520... External Speaker for 520/820 Series
- CW-520... 500 Hz CW Filter for TS-520/520S
- DK-520... Digital Adaptor Kit for TS-520

##### 599D Series

- R-599D... 160-10 M Solid State Receiver
- T-599D... 80-10 M Matching Transmitter
- S-599... External Speaker for 599D Series

- CC-29A... 2 Meter Converter for R-599D
- CC-69... 6 Meter Converter for R-599D
- FM-599A... FM Filter for R-599D

#### SHORT WAVE LISTENING

- R-300 General Coverage SWL Receiver

#### VHF LINES

- TS-600... 6 M All Mode Transceiver
- TS-700S... 2 M All Mode Digital Transceiver
- VFO-700S... Remote VFO for TS-700S
- SP-70... Matching Speaker for TS-600/700 Series
- TR-2200A... 2 M Portable FM Transceiver
- TR-7400A... 2 M Synthesized Deluxe FM Transceiver

- TR-7500... 100 Channel Synthesized 2 M FM Transceiver
- TR-8300... 70 CM FM Transceiver (450 MHz)
- TV-506... 6 M Transverter for 520/820/599 Series

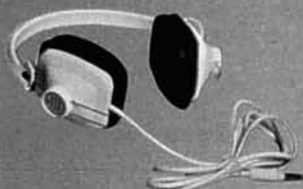
#### POPULAR STATION ACCESSORIES

- HS-4... Headphone Set
- MB-1A... Mounting Bracket for TR-2200A
- MC-50... Desk Microphone
- PS-5... Power Supply for TR-8300
- PS-6... Power Supply for TR-7500
- PS-8... Power Supply for TR-7400A
- VOX-3... VOX for TS-600/700A

Trio-Kenwood stocks a complete line of replacement parts, accessories, and manuals for all Kenwood models.

#### MORE ACCESSORIES:

Description	Model #	For use with
Rubber Helical Antenna	RA-1	TR-2200A
Telescoping Whip Antenna	T90-0082-05	TR-2200A
Ni-Cad Battery Pack (set)	PB-15	TR-2200A
4 Pin Mic. Connector	E07-0403-05	All Models
Active Filter Elements	See Service Manual	TR-7400A
Tone Burst Modules	See Service Manual	TS-700A; TR-7400A
AC Cables	Specify Model	All Models
DC Cables	Specify Model	All Models



The Kenwood HS-4 headphone set adds versatility to any Kenwood station. For extended periods of wear, the HS-4 is comfortably padded and is completely adjustable. The frequency response of the HS-4 is tailored specifically for amateur communication use. (300 to 3000 Hz, 8 ohms).



The MC-50 dynamic microphone has been designed expressly for amateur radio operation as a splendid addition to any Kenwood shack. Complete with PTT and LOCK switches, and a microphone plug for instant hook-up to any Kenwood rig. Easily converted to high or low impedance. (600 or 50k ohm).

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**KENWOOD**  
... pioneer in amateur radio



# QSA 599

Amateur Radio Center  
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(602)833-8051



## 1.1 GHZ Portable Counter

PROFESSIONAL QUALITY BUT AFFORDABLE!

### Specifications

No Pre-Scaler Needed  
Calibrated to .0002%  
Rechargeable Ni-Cd Pack Built In  
Weight: 2 lb. 1 oz. Size: 4"x4.15"x7"  
Front Panel FAA Approved Lettering  
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Price: \$599.95 postpaid

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New with Guarantee

3-400Z	\$67.00	4CX250B	\$43.00
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7289	\$56.50	8874	\$116.00
8873	\$116.00	8877	\$260.00

## HY-GAIN

TH6DX	\$249.95	5 element, 2m	\$16.95
TH3MK3	\$199.95	14 element, 2m	\$27.95
Hy Tower	\$279.95	14RMQ	\$28.95
18AVT/WB	\$97.00	14AVQ/WB	\$67.00

## WILSON

1402SM	2.5W Handheld, 2m	\$212.00
1405SM	1W/5W Handheld, 2m	\$279.00
4502SM	1W/1.8W Handheld, 70cm	\$349.00
WR-500	Rotor	\$149.95
SY-1	Deluxe Triband Beam	\$259.95

## USED EQUIPMENT

AM-479/GR serial number 1, 5KW Amplifier; with MD-135/GR & 4 new 4-1000A's	\$3400.00*
Ballantine 300HS/2 VTVM calibrated	\$75.00*
Ballantine 300HS/2 VTVM uncalibrated	\$35.00*
Kay Mega-Sweep Model 111A	\$175.00*
Antenna Tuner TN-339/GR	\$85.00*
Transmitter T-368A/URT	\$185.00*
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MORE! Write for free list.

\* Allow for shipping charges.

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- Enjoy Morse Code copy on your TV screen
- Displays letters, numbers, and punctuation
- 16 lines of 32 characters per page
- 2 page display with Recall feature
- Automatic scrolling
- Automatic or Manual speed control
- Copy Morse Code from 6-60 WPM
- Easily connects between receiver and TV set

ONLY \$350



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- Lambic keying, dot, dash memories
- Dual keyed outputs
- Operates on 120 VAC or 12 VDC

ONLY \$169.95

### CMOS KEYS, ASSEMBLED PCB ONLY \$24.95

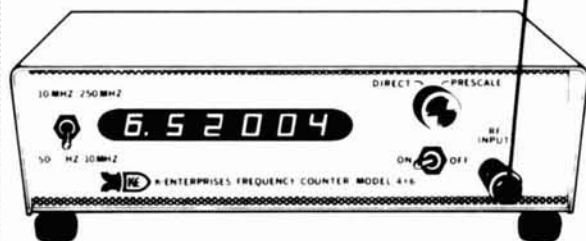
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# NEW products

For literature on any of the new products, use our *Check-Off* service on page 150.

## crystal filters

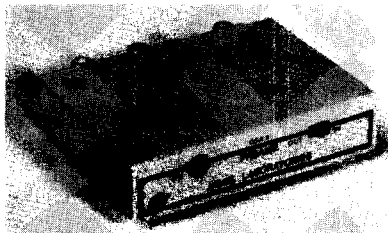
Sherwood Engineering has announced two new additions to their crystal filter line. As complements to the CF-600/6, the new CF-2.6K/8 or CF-2.3K/8 crystal filter sets will replace the normal 8-kHz wide first i-f filter in the Drake R-4C. Each set has two filters, USB and LSB, that must be switched for the correct sideband. The individual filters are 8-pole crystal-ladder filters.

The CF-2.6K/8 is a set of ssb-bandwidth filters that are approximately 200 Hz wider than the normal second i-f phone filter. This allows a limited amount of passband tuning, while still reducing the second i-f bandwidth from 32 kHz, at -60 dB, to approximately 4 kHz. The other phone filter pair is the CF-2.3K/8, which is slightly narrower (100 Hz nominally) than the second i-f filter. Having the new filter sharper than the normal filter produces the equivalent of a 2 to 2.1 kHz filter, with 16 poles distributed over two frequencies. The passband tuning is then used to align the center frequencies, of the two filters, for proper cascading. This narrow combination offers the ultimate in phone selectivity. The bandwidth using the CF-2.6K/8, with the normal phone filter, is 2.3 kHz, at -6 dB, and 3.1 kHz at -60 dB; the bandwidth for the CF-2.3K/8 is 2.1 kHz and 2.9 kHz, at the 6 and 60 dB points. The additional advantages gained by dis-

tributing selectivity over two i-f frequencies are: virtual elimination of the chance of overloading the second mixer, and elimination of off-frequency signals that leak around the normal second i-f filter.

In addition to offering the basic filters, Sherwood Engineering also sells switching kits for the first i-f filters. The simplest arrangement is for the operator who wants to switch only between the two ssb bandwidth filters (CF-2.3K/8 or CF-2.6K/8). Custom-designed kits are also available to permit switching of all first i-f filters, 8 kHz, 2.6/2.3 kHz, or 600 Hz. Prices for the new filters are \$120. The basic switching kit is \$29.00 with the cost increasing approximately \$25.00 per additional filter switched. Exact price quotes are given based on an individual's needs. For more information, contact Sherwood Engineering, Incorporated, 1268 South Ogden Street, Denver, Colorado 80210.

## two-meter preamplifier



A new two-meter preamp has been introduced by Janel Labs. This preamp is specially designed to improve the sensitivity of transceivers and includes bypass circuitry for carrying transmit power through the unit. The preamp has a low noise figure, which gives excellent sensitivity for weak signals. An adjustable delay circuit (similar to that used in VOX circuits) allows for its use on all modes - f-m, ssb, am and CW.

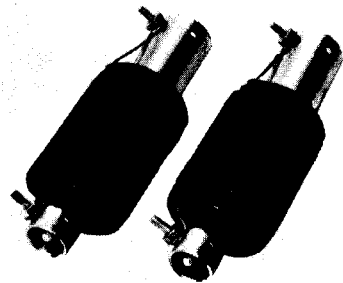
The gain of the QSA 5 has been optimized for transceivers. It has a 15-dB gain level, which is sufficient to improve the sensitivity as much as practical but low enough to avoid creating overload problems.

A front-panel switch on the QSA 5

disables the preamp from the antenna line. This switch allows you to reduce gain on local signals and also allows experimentation on weak signals. A LED pilot light indicates when the preamp is in the line. This same LED also indicates when transmit power is being sensed.

The QSA 5 preamp is available from Janel Laboratories, 3312 S.E. Van Buren Blvd., Corvallis, Oregon 97330. The QSA 5 is available from stock at \$39.95 plus postage. A full one-year warranty is provided. Specifications are available upon request.

## multiband antenna coils (40 through 10 meters)



Microwave Filter Company announces a set of antenna coils that will convert an amateur antenna from a single-frequency band of limited operation to operation on all amateur hf bands (40-10 meters).

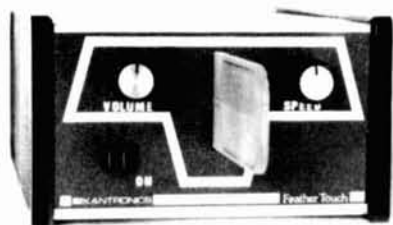
Known as Reyco antenna coils, they are designed to shorten the overall physical length of an original single-frequency-band antenna. Model numbers are KW-40, 20, 15, and 10. Used in pairs, the model KW-40 coils will give flexibility of operation on all five hf amateur bands. Ideal performance is obtained by using all four coil pairs (KW-40 through KW-10).

In today's crowded apartment and suburban communities, the shortened antenna using Reyco multiband coils provides flexibility in minimum space. For additional information, write Microwave Filter Company, 6743 Kinne Street, East Syracuse, New York 13057.

# All in the family.

## Feather Touch Keyer

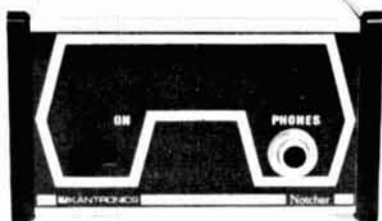
\$69.95



No moving parts! The **Kantronics Feather Touch Keyer** responds to the lightest touch. No more slapping or slushing! No moving parts also means the end of adjusting and readjusting before each QSO.

The **Feather Touch** sends self completing dots and dashes, adjustable from 7½ WPM, and gives you a great fist on the air. Attractive design and compact size make the **Feather Touch** a professional addition to the sharpest ham station. Design features keep the keyer from creeping away as you send.

This **battery powered** unit is great for portable use or home operation with the aid of any DC power supply from 5-15 volts. Pick up a motionless keyer today!



## Notcher CW Filter \$34.95

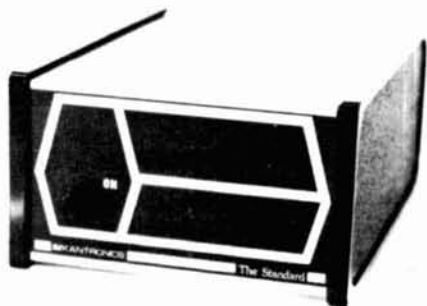
Make your CW receiver selectivity razor sharp with the **Kantronics Notcher Audio CW Filter**. This filter makes sense out of the biggest pileups! The **Notcher** funnels down to 150 Hz @ -3dB to separate signals that appeared to be on top of each other before.

Your **Notcher** will operate portable with a 9 volt internal battery, or from your 5-15 volt DC power supply.

**Designed to look sharp too, the Notcher** is one in a growing family of **Kantronics** quality products. Our quality is more than skin deep. One look inside will tell you the **Notcher** is built to perform!

## The Standard Frequency Calibrator

\$39.95



**Kantronics** frequency calibrator is **The Standard**. Advanced CMOS circuitry checks your frequency with crystal controlled accuracy. Zero-beat your transceiver to **The Standard** at 50 KHz intervals.

No direct connections are needed, the unit transmits to your receiver. Internal jumpers adjust **The Standard** for a choice of 25 KHz, 50 KHz or 100 KHz intervals.

**Powered by battery for portable operation, or 5-15 volt DC power supply. The Standard** is a handsome station accessory that looks sharp, inside and out.

Be confident of your frequency.

## Magnetic Mount



The **Kantronics Mobile 2 Antenna** offers a reasonable alternative to the high priced VHF antenna! The **Mobile 2** is a high-quality, quarter-wavelength antenna that is quickly installed.

Choose between **magnetic or trunk mounting** bases. Both include 18 feet of RG-58/U coax cable and standard PL-259 connector. Specify 147 MHz or 220 MHz whip and coil assembly.

**All these features . . . for a low, low price!**



## Trunk Mount

The **Kantronics Code Speed-Building Kit** offers perfect **computer generated** code. Code is sent to exact Morse specifications as used by the FCC. Choose 5, 7½, 10, 13, 16 or 20 words per minute tapes. Oscillator and brass key included.



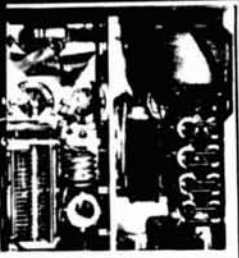
## KANTRONICS The Lightweight Champs.

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Address		
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Card No.	Expires	
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Anywhere in U.S.  
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## Features:

Custom computer grade commercial components, capacitors, and tube sockets manufactured especially for high power use—heavy duty 10Kw silver plated ceramic band switches • Silver plated copper tubing tank coil • Huge 4" easy to read meters—measure plate current, high voltage, grid current, and relative RF output • Continuous duty power supply built in • State of the art zener diode standby and operating bias provides reduced idling current and greater output efficiency • Built in hum free DC heavy duty antenna change-over relays • AC input 110V or 220V AC, 50-60Hz • Tuned input circuits • ALC-rear panel connections for ALC output to exciter and for relay control • Double internal shielding of all RF enclosures • Heavy duty chassis and cabinet construction and much, much more.

- Full band coverage 160-10 meters including mars.
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- All major HV and other circuit components mounted on single G-10 glass plug in board. Have a service problem? (Very unlikely) Just unplug board and send to us.
- Heavy duty commercial grade quality and construction second to no other unit at any price!
- Weight: 90 lbs. Size: 9 1/2" (h) x 16" (w) x 15 3/4" (d).

## HOLIDAY INTRODUCTORY SPECIAL!

### New! Sigma Model AF250L Deviation/Modulation Meter

Fully Certifiable for Commercial Use

#### Features:

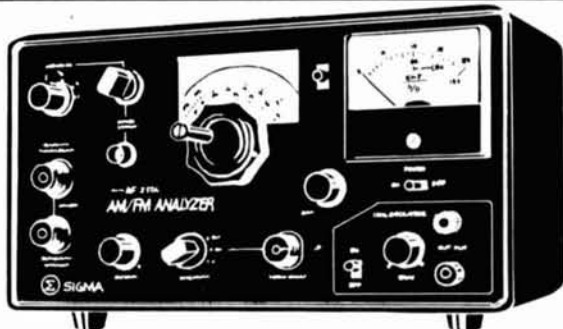
Extremely stable local oscillator for easy measurement of HF, VHF, and UHF bands employing negative feedback to insure extremely high stability • Easy to read, accurate linear scale • Direct off the air signal measurement capability.

#### Specifications:

Frequency: 1.8MHZ-520MHZ/3 range select (A, B, C, EXT). A range: 26.5 MHZ-40MHZ, B range: 48MHZ-60MHZ, C range: 140MHZ-156MHZ, EXT. range: 1.8MHZ-520MHZ (Need Signal Generator) • Generous overranges • Input level: (1) Through type input level: 1W-200W (RF Input Terminal) (2) Direct input level: More than 80db/50ohm impedance • Amplitude modulation degree: 0-100% • Frequency deviation: 0-20KHZ • Accuracy: +/-3% of full scale • Intermediate frequency: 10.7MHZ • Local input frequency (EXT Range) • Measuring frequency +/-10.7MHZ • RF Attenuator: 0-60db variable • Audio signal oscillator: (1) Audio Frequency—1,000HZ (1 KHZ), (2) Output level—More than 1V RMS • Power Source: AC117V • Dimensions: H-5 1/2" (140mm), W-10 1/4" (260mm), D-7 1/4" (184mm) • Weight: 7 lbs.

HOLIDAY SALE

**\$169**



### SIGMA RF-2000 SWR & POWER METER



Cal PWR Scales 200W-2000W Freq Range 3.5-150 MHz. Please do not confuse the RF2000 with similar appearing lower priced units. RF2000 is an individually calibrated professional quality instrument. Unequaled at many times the price. Size 7" (w) x 2 1/3" (d).

**\$29**

Introductory Price

### SPECIAL SCANNER SALE

FOR KENWOOD TR-7400A



14 Channel Programmable  
reg \$109 — **\$65**



FMSC-1 reg \$169 — **\$99**  
7400 Scanner II Reg \$189—\$119

FMSC-1 Scanner for KDK FM 144 and 7400 Scanner II for Trio-Kenwood TR-7400A. • Full scan 146 and 147 MHz consecutively or 1 MHz, or any MHz range • Scan rate: 1 MHz/2 seconds (adjustable) • Controls: Scan/Hold, Latch/Delay, 600 KHz offset (off, up, down), program 1 MHz • Simple installation.



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FMT-1 Touch Tone Pad .....	\$59
FMT-2 Touch Tone Pad with 10 Number Programmable Memory .....	\$99
FMTD-1 Private Call Decoder for use with and Programmed by Any Touch Tone Pad .....	\$75
SC-12A Audible Tone Encoder Decoder .....	\$65
FMSC-1 Scanner-Random Any Range .....	\$99
MARS-CAP Option Kit - Any Frequency, Any Split .....	\$12
FMOF-1 Offset Option Kit - 2 Extra Positions, Crystals Required ..	\$10

FMOF-2 1 MHz Offset Option Kit (No Crystals to Buy) .....	\$10
FMT-1 Sub Audible Tone (100 Hz-Adjustable 67-203 Hz) .....	\$15
Owners Manual (Extra) .....	\$5
FM 2015R Accessories:	
FMPS-4R Regulated AC PS .....	\$49
FMFC-1 Microphone with Built-in Touch Tone Pad .....	\$49
MARS-CAP* Option Kit - Any Frequency, Any Split .....	\$6
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Service Manual .....	\$2.00
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NEW!!! Touch Tone pad completely wired and ready to plug in—\$69.00



Our Price **\$289**

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51.00-53.995 MHz. 600 channels  
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- MULTIPLE FREQUENCY OFFSETS
- ELECTRONIC AUTO TUNING - TRANSMIT AND RECEIVE
- INTERNAL MULTIPURPOSE TONE OSCILLATOR
- RIT
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Regulated AC/PS  
Model FMPS-4R... \$49.00



FMMS-1 Microphone with Built-in Touch Tone Pad.

- LED indicator
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- only 3-3/4" x 2"

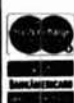
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- **FREQUENCY RANGE:** Receive and Transmit: 144.00 to 148.995 MHz, 5KHz steps (1000 channels) INCLUDING NEW BAND 144.5-145.5MHz + MARS-CAP.\*
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features which are found in only the most sophisticated and expensive aircraft and commercial transceivers.

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- **MULTI-PURPOSE METER:** Triple Function Meter Provides Discriminator Meter, "S" Reading on receive and Power Out on Transmit.
- **RECEIVE:** Better than .25uv sensitivity, 15 POLE FILTER as well as monolithic crystal filter and AUTOMATIC TUNED LC circuits provide superior skirt selectivity - COMPARE!
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- **OTHER FEATURES:** Dynamic Microphone, Built In Speaker, mobile mount, external 5 pin accessory jack, speaker jack, and much, much more. Size 2 1/2 x 7 x 7 1/2. All cords, plugs, fuses, microphone hanger, etc. included. Weight 5 lbs.

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First in the world with an all solid state 2 meter FM transceiver.



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Plug it in like a key and send perfectly timed Morse code as easily as typing a letter. Sidetone and buffer register make it simple to send at the speed you select.

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The TS-820 is the rig that is the talk of the Ham Bands. Too many built-in features to list here. What a rig and only \$830.00 ppd. in U.S.A. Many accessories are also available to increase your operating pleasure and station versatility.



TS-820S  
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Super 2-meter operating capability is yours with this ultimate design. Operates all modes: SSB (upper & lower), FM, AM and CW. 4 MHz coverage (144 to 148 MHz). The combination of this unit's many exciting features with the quality & reliability that is inherent in Kenwood equipment is yours for only \$599.00 ppd. in U.S.A.



TS-700A  
2M TRANSCEIVER

Guess which transceiver has made the Kenwood name near and dear to Amateur operators, probably more than any other piece of equipment? That's right, the TS-520. Reliability is the name of this rig in capital letters. 80 thru 10 meters with many, many built-in features for only \$629.00 ppd. in U.S.A.



TS-520S  
80-10M TRANSCEIVER

This brand new mobile transceiver (TR-7400A) with the astonishing price tag is causing quite a commotion. Two meters with 25W or 10W output (selectable), digital read-out, 144 through 148 MHz and 800 channels are some of the features that make this such a great buy at \$399.00 ppd. in U.S.A.



TR-7400A  
2M MOBILE TRANSCEIVER

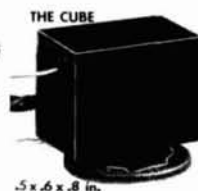
Send SASE NOW for detailed info on these systems as well as on many other fine lines. Or, better still, visit our store Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. thru 5:00 p.m. The Amateurs at Klaus Radio are here to assist you in the selection of the optimum unit to fulfill your needs.

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- Excellent stability



THE CUBE  
.5 x .6 x .8 in.

Price \$19.95

Freq. set at factory \$5.00 extra

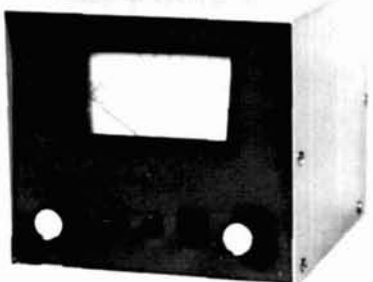
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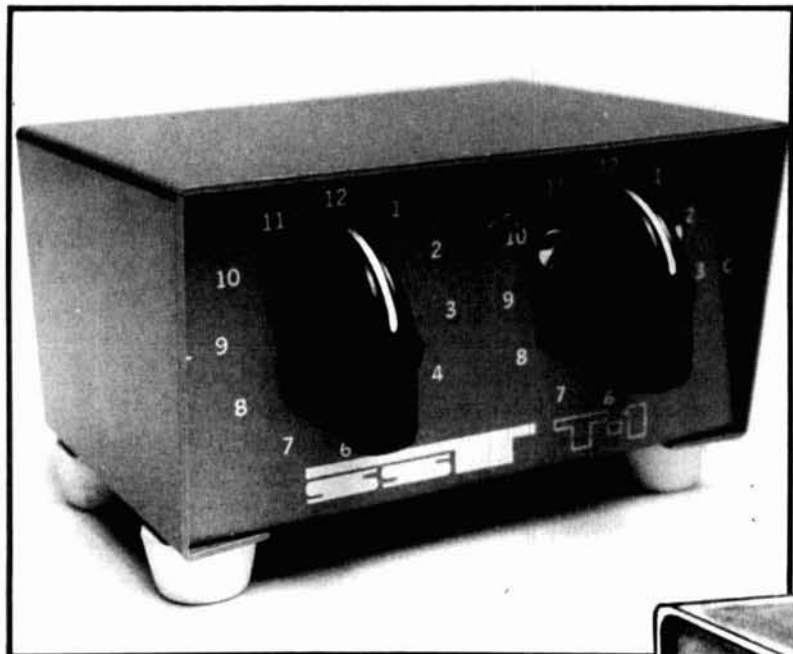
AUTOBRÄK reduces the inherent problem of damaged rotator components due to instant brake engagement. AUTOBRÄK allows the antenna array to come to a coasting stop before brake engagement, thereby reducing stress on rotator components.

Other features include Zener regulated meter circuitry, adjustable brake delay, and handsome up-to-date styling compatible to most Ham gear. Cabinet measures 6" X 7 1/2" X 7 1/4"

Price \$39.95. Shipping and handling \$1.75 in U.S. Illinois residents add 5% sales tax.

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All band operation (160-10 meters) with any random length of wire. 200 watt **output** power capability—will work with virtually any transceiver. Ideal for portable or home operation. Great for apartments and hotel rooms—simply run a wire inside, out a window, or anyplace available. Toroid inductor for small size: 4-1/4" X 2-3/8" X 3." Built-in neon tune-up indicator. SO-239 connector. Attractive bronze finished enclosure.

only **\$29.95**

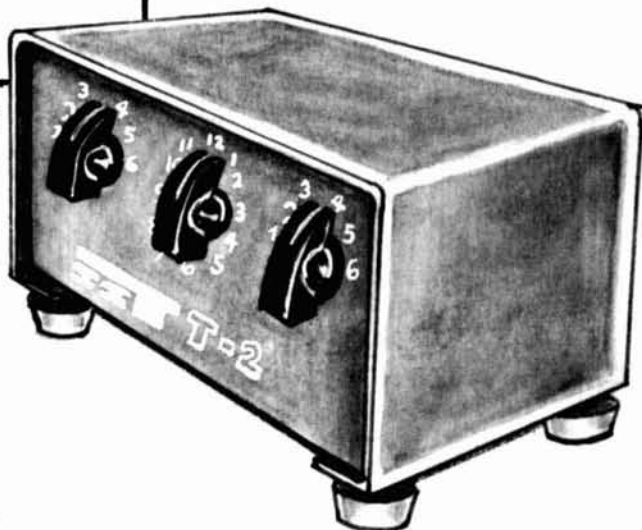
## sst t-2 ULTRA TUNER

Tunes out SWR on any coax fed antenna as well as random wires. Works great on all bands (160-10 meters) with any transceiver running up to 200 watts power output.

Increases usable bandwidth of any antenna. Tunes out SWR on mobile whips from inside your car.

Uses toroid inductor and specially made capacitors for small size: 5 1/4" x 2 1/4" x 2 1/2." Rugged, yet compact. Attractive bronze finished enclosure. SO-239 coax connectors are used for transmitter input and coax fed antennas. Convenient binding posts are provided for random wire and ground connections.

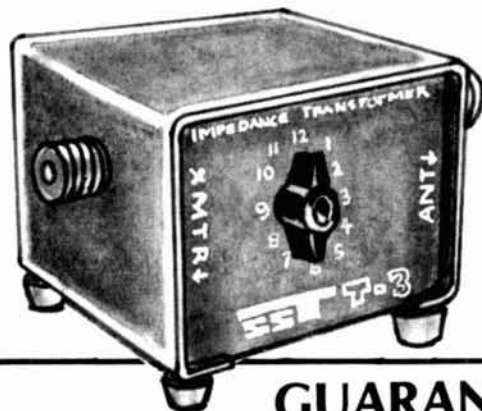
only **\$49.95**



## sst t-3 IMPEDANCE TRANSFORMER

Matches 52 ohm coax to the lower impedance of a mobile whip or vertical. 12 position switch with taps spread between 3 and 52 ohms. Broadband from 1-30 MHz. Will work with virtually any transceiver—300 watt output power capability. SO-239 connectors. Toroid inductor for small size: 2-3/4" X 2" X 2-1/4." Attractive bronze finish.

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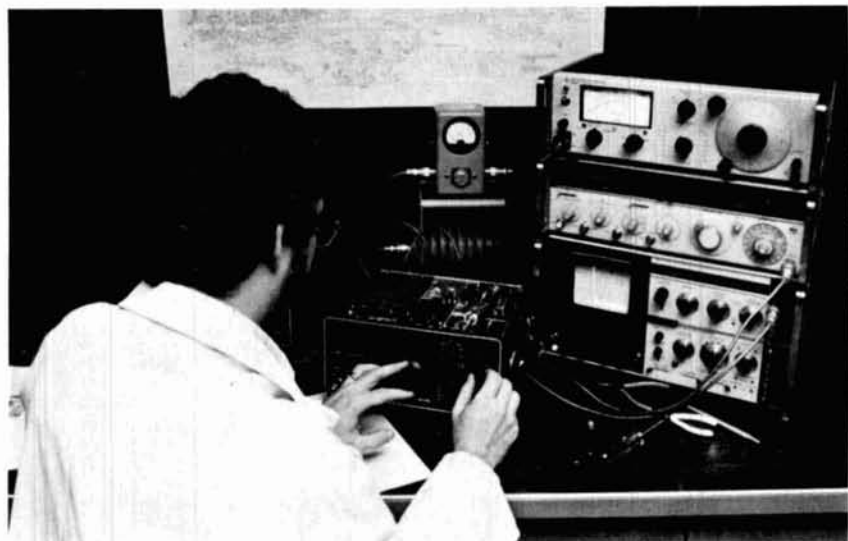
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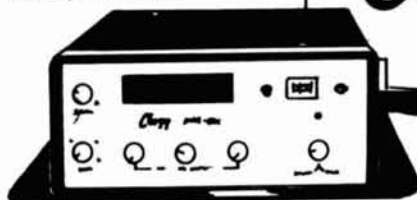


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## TEST EQUIPMENT

All equipment listed is operational and unconditionally guaranteed. Money back if not satisfied — equipment being returned must be shipped prepaid. Include check or money order with order. Prices listed are FOB Monroe.

BOONTON 190A Q mtr 30 200MHz	..... \$425
FLUKE 803B Diff ac-dc vtm	..... 295
GR916A RF Imp bridge 420kHz 60MHz	..... 325
GR 1001A LF sig gen 5kHz 50mHz	..... 385
HP120B 450kHz gen pur scope	..... 215
HP160B (USM105) 15mHz scope with reg horiz, dual trace vert plugs	..... 375
HP166B (Mil) Delay sweep for above	..... 130
HP170A (USM140) 30mHz scope with reg horiz, dual trace vert plugs	..... 475
HP175A 50mHz scope with reg horiz, dual trace vert plugs	..... 565
HP185A Sampling scope to 1 GHz 186B xstr rise time plug	..... 585
HP202B LF Osc 5Hz 50kHz 10v out	..... 75
HP205AG Lab audio gen .02 20kHz	..... 195
HP212A Pulse gen .06 5kHz PRR	..... 65
HP524D Freq counter basic range 10Hz 10mHz extends w plug ins	..... 195
HP540B Trans osc to 12.4GHz for use w HP524 type counters	..... 145
HP616 Sig gen 1.8 4GHz FM CW	..... 365
HP686 Sweep gen 8.2-12.4GHz sweep range 4.4mHz 4.4GHz	..... 495
HP803A VHF Ant bridge 50 500mHz	..... 135
HP2801A Prec dig thermometer 80 to 250 deg Cels with 1 osc. less sensors	..... 1295
Tek181 Time mark scope calib	..... 55
Tek190 Sig gen (const ampl) 50mHz	..... 125
Tek 545 (mil vers by Hickok/Lavoie) 33MHz gen pur scope less plugin	..... 495
Tek565 Dual beam 10mHz scope less plug-ins (3 series)	..... 625
Tek585 80MHz gen pur scope less plugin	..... 645

For complete list of all test equipment send stamped, self-addressed envelope

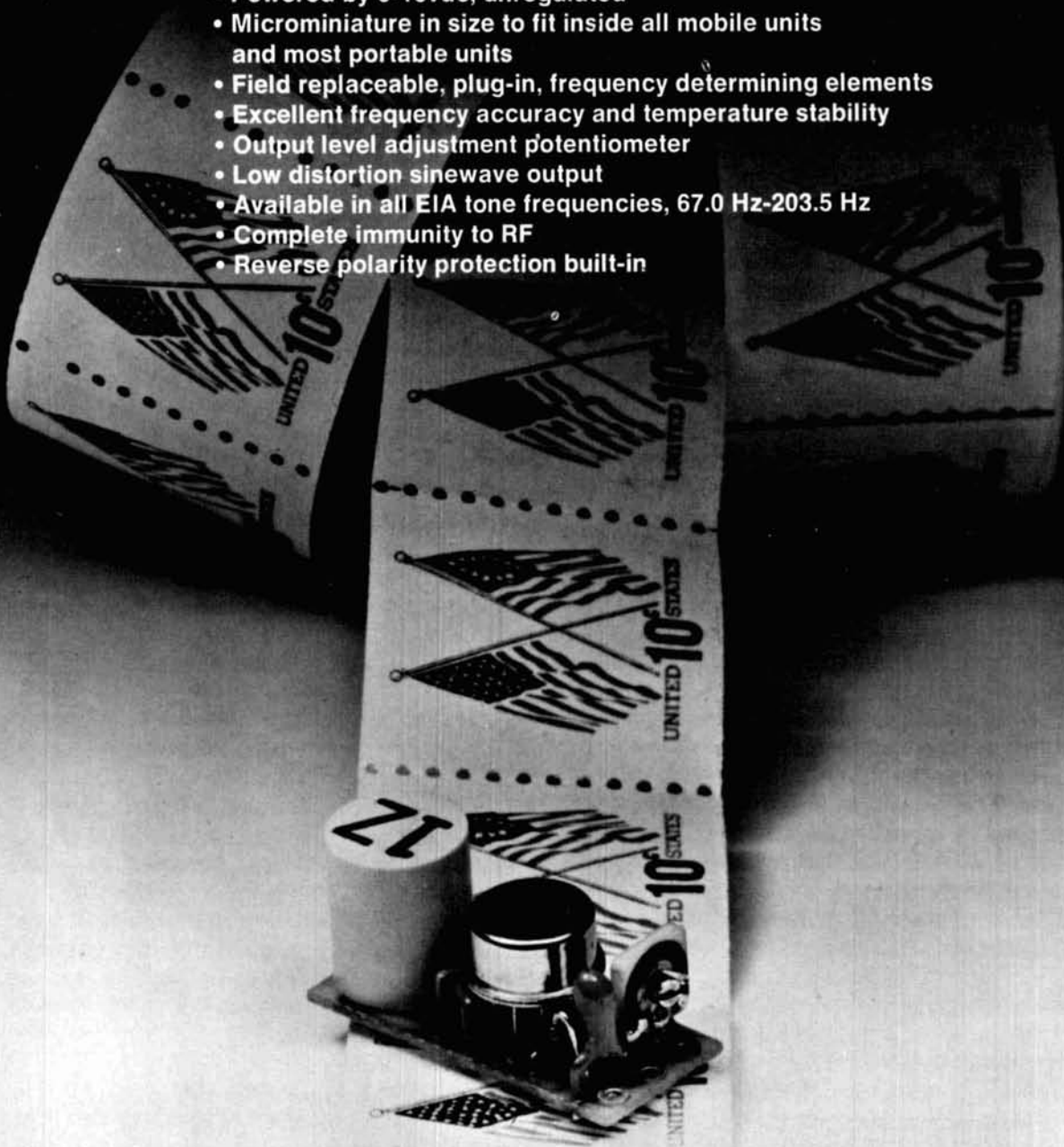
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Specializing in used test equipment.

# ME-3 microminiature tone encoder

Compatible with all sub-audible tone systems such as: Private Line, Channel Guard, Quiet Channel, etc.

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**\$29.95 each**

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K-1 FIELD REPLACEABLE,  
PLUG-IN, FREQUENCY  
DETERMINING ELEMENTS

**\$3.00 each**

## OLD TESTAMENT

**H**erefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel (which means God with us)."

Isaiah 7:14 740-687 BC

**B**ut thou Bethlehem, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, from you shall come forth one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from old, from ancient days.

Micah 5:2 740 BC

## NEW TESTAMENT

"... the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee, to a virgin betrothed to Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary... The angel said to her "Do not be afraid Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus."

Luke 1:27-31 70-90 AD

**K**ing Herod was troubled and inquired where the Christ was to be born. They told him in Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet (Micah).

Matthew 2:4-5 60-70 AD

Historical evidence clearly points to Jesus as the man God, who fulfills the literal prophecies of Isaiah and Micah within 800 years. The same God who chose the Virgin Mary to bear Jesus and who chose Bethlehem for the birthplace reveals himself in holy scripture today. We thank him for the birth of Christ this Christmas,

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**GLB ELECTRONICS**  
1952 Clinton St., Buffalo, N. Y. 14206





# The Touch.

**It's the best value available in scanners.**



### Searching Receiver

Touch SP, then enter the starting frequency of your choice. The Touch will search up through the action radio channels in the search band until it hears an active call. You'll probably discover "live" frequencies you never before knew existed.

### Priority Receiver

Touch 2., then sit back. Any call coming in over the frequency you choose for channel one will automatically override calls on other channels. You'll never miss a call on your favorite frequency.

### Search or Scan

Touch SS to Search the unknown. Touch SC to scan the known. You can either search through all bands for unknown frequencies, or listen to the stored frequencies you've selected for the sixteen scanning channels. There's so much versatility, and it's all at the tip of your finger.

### Scanning Receiver

Touch PR, then enter the frequency you want as you watch it appear on the L.E.D. display. Next, touch the channel number you wish to use. Then touch SC, the scanning lights will begin the search for action.

Model ACT-T-16K

Frequency Range:

Lo VHF .. 30-50 MHz  
Hi VHF .. 146-174MHz  
UHF .. 440-512MHz

Sensitivity

(20 DB quieting)  
Lo VHF ..... 0.5  $\mu$  V  
Hi VHF ..... 0.6  $\mu$  V  
UHF ..... 0.7  $\mu$  V

Selectivity

$\pm$  7 KHz (min.) @ 6 DB  
 $\pm$  15 KHz (max.) @ 60 DB

Squelch: (threshold)

Lo VHF ..... 0.4  $\mu$  V  
Hi VHF ..... 0.5  $\mu$  V  
UHF ..... 0.6  $\mu$  V

Search Scan Range: (max)

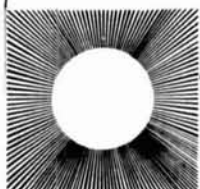
Lo VHF 4000 channels  
Hi VHF 5600 channels  
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# SYSTEM ONE

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**SYSTEM ONE**  
**FOR 20, 15 and 10 METERS**  
 Monoband performance  
 with 4 elements on 20 meters  
 on a 26' boom.

THE SY 1000 TRIBANDER  
 ANTENNA IS SHOWN HERE  
 WITH THE WR 500 ROTOR  
 AND SST-64 CRANK-UP  
 TOWER @ 50 FT.  
 (Guy System not shown)

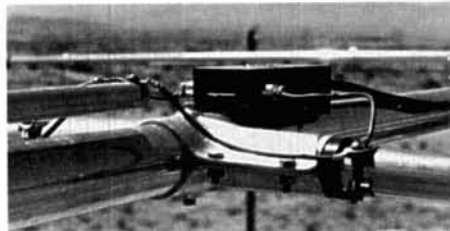
The new standard of performance for Tribanders is the Wilson System One!!! A DX'er's delight operating 20 meters on a full 26' boom with 4 elements, 4 operational elements on 20-15-10, plus separate reflector element on 10 meters for correct monoband spacing. Featured are the large diameter High-Q Traps, Beta matching system, heavy duty Taper Swaged Elements, rugged Boom to Element mounting . . . and value priced at \$259.95. Additional features: • 10 dB Gain • 20-25 dB Front-to-Back Ratio • SWR less than 1.5 to 1 on all bands.

### MODEL SY-1 SPECIFICATIONS:

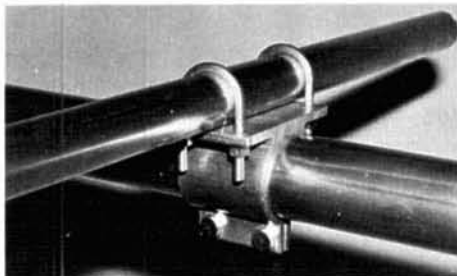
Matching Method:	Beta	F/B Ratio	20-25 dB	Mast Diameter	2" O.D.
Band MHz:	14-21-28	Boom Length	26'	Boom Diameter	2" O.D.
Maximum Power Input:	Legal Limit		(2" O.D.)	Surface Area	7.3 sq. ft.
Gain	10 dB	No. of Elements	5	Windload Area	146 lbs.
VSWR (at Resonance)	1.5 to 1	Longest Element	26' 7"	Shipping Weight	50 lbs.
Impedance	50 ohms	Turning Radius	18' 6"		



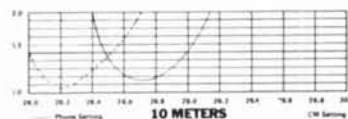
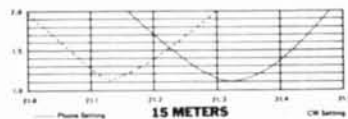
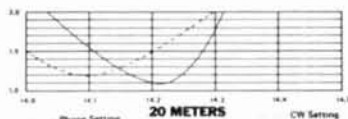
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MAXIMUM POWER CAPACITY



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XF902	9001.5 kHz	LSB	\$4.00
XF903	8999.0 kHz	BFO	\$4.00
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F-06	Hc25/u	Socket P.C. Board	.50

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COMPATIBLE WITH OUR LOW  
POWER TRANSVERTERS.

10W DRIVE, 50Ω IN/OUT

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UPS Shipping at Cost

### 432 MHz SSB TRANSVERTERS

Use your HF Transceiver on the 432 MHz band with the addition of the MM432 linear Transverter. The MM432 operates on all modes; SSB, CW, AM, FM. It contains BOTH the linear transmit up-converter and the receive down-converter. An internal PIN diode T/R connects to your Transceiver T/R line. The MM432 is FT101 and similar HF rig compatible. Add the 70/MBM48 MULTIBEAM and operate direct into OSCAR 7 mode B. Write for application note.

#### Specifications:

Output Power	10 W PEP
Drive, 10 meters	1/2 W max
Receiver N.F.	3.0 dB typ
Receiver gain	30 dB typ
Prime Power	12 V D.C.
Shipping:	\$3.50



MM432-28 MK4	\$229.95	MM432-144	\$199.95
MM432-50	\$249.95	FM440-128	\$154.95
MM432-ATV	\$259.95	QM432-144	\$154.95
MM432-144	\$319.95		

### VARACTOR TRIPLERS

The low cost, easy way to operate on the 432 MHz and 1296 MHz bands. For OSCAR 7, mode B, drive the MMv432 family varactor tripler with your 2 meter transmitter. The wideband varactor triplers cover the full 2M/432 band without retuning.

NO power supply required for varactor triplers; efficiency approximately 50%. Three models available at 432, two at 1296.

Model	Max Drive	
MMv432	30 W	\$65.95
MMv432M	50 W	79.95
MMv432H	70 W	125.50
MMv1296	20 W	77.50
MMv1296H	35 W	99.95
Shipping \$2.50		



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Pre-Selector Filters	Amplifiers	SSB Transverters
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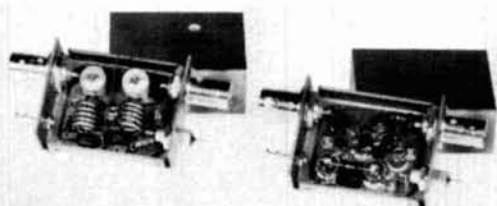


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### PREAMPS from LUNAR

Originally developed by Chip Angle N6CA, the "Anglelinear" receiving preamplifiers meet the most demanding needs where low noise figure is important.



Model	Noise Figure	Gain	Bandwidth		List Price
			3 dB	10 dB	
28N	1.25	15	1.3	4	34.95
28W	1.25	10	2.6	7	34.95
50	1.5	12	2.5	5	34.95
144N	1.5	12	2.5	8	34.95
144W	1.5	11	5	15	34.95
222	2.0	11	6	18	34.95
432-2	1.6	15	150	400	39.95
E432-3	1.0 ± .1	11	180	325	125.00
450-2	1.7	15	150	400	39.95
490-2	1.7	15	150	400	44.95

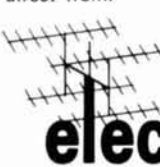
BNC Connectors standard, except E432-3 SMA only. Others, specify RCA Phono, TNC, etc.

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RX28C W/T	same as above-wired & tested	104.95	
RX50C Kit	30-60 MHz rcvr w/2 pole 10.7 MHz crystal filter	59.95	
RX50C W/T	same as above-wired & tested	104.95	
RX144C Kit	140-170 MHz rcvr w/2 pole 10.7 MHz crystal filter	69.95	
RX144C W/T	same as above-wired & tested	114.95	
RX220C Kit	210-240 MHz rcvr w/2 pole 10.7 MHz crystal filter	69.95	
RX220C W/T	same as above-wired & tested	114.95	
RX432C Kit	432 MHz rcvr w/2 pole 10.7 MHz crystal filter	79.95	
RX432C W/T	same as above-wired & tested	124.95	
RXCF	accessory filter for above receiver kits gives 70 dB adjacent channel rejection	8.50	
RF28 Kit	10 mtr RF front end 10.7 MHz out	12.50	
RF50 Kit	6 mtr RF front end 10.7 MHz out	12.50	
RF144D Kit	2 mtr RF front end 10.7 MHz out	17.50	
RF220D Kit	220 MHz RF front end 10.7 MHz out	17.50	
RF432 Kit	432 MHz RF front end 10.7 MHz out	27.50	
IF 10.7F Kit	10.7 MHz IF module includes 2 pole crystal filter	27.50	
FM455 Kit	455 kHz IF stage plus FM detector audio and squelch board	17.50	
AS2 Kit	audio and squelch board	15.00	

## RECEIVERS



		TRANSMITTERS	
TX50	transmitter exciter, 1 watt, 6 mtr.	39.95	
TX50 W/T	same as above-wired & tested	59.95	
TX144B Kit	transmitter exciter-1 watt-2 mtrs	29.95	
TX144B W/T	same as above-wired & tested	49.95	
TX220B Kit	transmitter exciter-1 watt-220 MHz	29.95	
TX220B W/T	same as above-wired & tested	49.95	
TX432B Kit	transmitter exciter 432 MHz	39.95	
TX432B W/T	same as above-wired & tested	59.95	
TX150 Kit	300 milliwatt, 2 mtr transmitter	19.95	
TX150 W/T	same as above-wired & tested	29.95	

## TRANSMITTERS



		POWER AMPLIFIERS	
PA2501H Kit	2 mtr power amp-kit 1w in-25w out with solid state switching, case, connectors	59.95	
PA2501H W/T	same as above-wired & tested	74.95	
PA4010H Kit	2 mtr power amp-10w in-40w out-relay switching	59.95	
PA4010H W/T	same as above-wired & tested	74.95	
PA50/25 Kit	6 mtr power amp, 1w in, 25w out, less case, connectors & switching	49.95	
PA50/25 W/T	same as above, wired & tested	69.95	
PA144/15 Kit	2 mtr power amp-1w in-15w out-less case, connectors and switching	39.95	
PA144/25 Kit	same as PA144/15 kit but 25w	49.95	
PA220/15 Kit	similar to PA144/15 for 220 MHz	39.95	
PA432/10 Kit	power amp-similar to PA144/15 except 10w and 432 MHz	49.95	
PA140/10 W/T	10w in-140w out-2 mtr amp	179.95	
PA140/30 W/T	30w in-140w out-2 mtr amp	159.95	
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Model	BAND	Power Input	Power Output
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BLC 2/70	144 MHz	2W	70W
BLC 10/150	144 MHz	10W	150W
BLC 30/150	144 MHz	30W	150W
BLD 2/60	220 MHz	2W	60W
BLD 10/60	220 MHz	10W	60W
BLD 10/120	220 MHz	10W	120W
BLE 10/40	420 MHz	10W	40W
BLE 2/40	420 MHz	2W	40W
BLE 30/80	420 MHz	30W	80W
BLE 10/80	420 MHz	10W	80W

## POWER AMPLIFIERS



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PS3A Kit	12 volt-power supply regulator card with fold-back current limiting	8.95	
PS3012 W/T	new commercial duty 30 amp 12 VDC regulated power supply w/case, w/fold-back current limiting and overvoltage protection	239.95	

## POWER SUPPLIES



		REPEATERS	
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RPT50	repeater-6 meter, wired & tested	695.95	
RPT144 Kit	repeater-2 mtr-15w-complete (less crystals)	465.95	
RPT220 Kit	repeater-220 MHz-15w-complete (less crystals)	465.95	
RPT432 Kit	repeater-10 watt-432 MHz (less crystals)	515.95	
RPT144 W/T	repeater-15 watt-2 mtr.	695.95	
RPT220 W/T	repeater-15 watt-220 MHz.	695.95	
RPT432 W/T	repeater-10 watt-432 MHz.	749.95	
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DPLA220	220 MHz duplexer, wired and tuned to frequency	379.95	
DPLA432	rack mount duplexer	319.95	
DSC-U	double shielded duplexer cables with PL259 connectors (pr.)	25.00	
DSC-N	same as above with type N connectors (pr.)	25.00	

## REPEATERS



		TRANSCIEVERS	
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TRX144 Kit	same as above, but 2 mtr & 15w out	219.95	
TRX220 Kit	same as above except for 220 MHz	219.95	
TRX432 Kit	same as above except 10 watt and 432MHz	254.95	
TRC-1	transceiver case only	19.95	
TRC-2	transceiver case and accessories	39.95	

## TRANSCIEVERS



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SYN II W/T	same as above-wired & tested	239.95	
MO-1 Kit	Mars/cap offset optional	2.50	
TO-1 Kit	18 MHz optional tripler	2.50	

## SYNTHESIZERS



		WALKIE-TALKIES	
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## WALKIE-TALKIES



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CWID	wired and tested, not programmed	54.95
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MIC I	2,000 ohm dynamic mike with P.T.T. and coil cord	12.95
TS1 W/T	tone squelch decoder	59.95
TS1 W/T	installed in repeater, including interface accessories	89.95
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TD3 W/T	same as above-wired & tested	39.95
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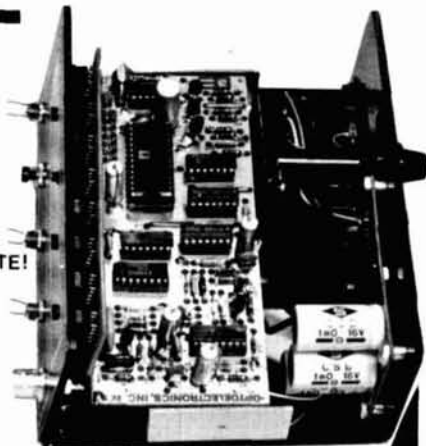
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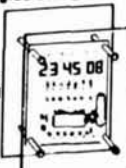
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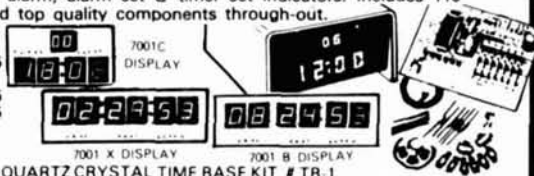
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And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call His name Jesus. Luke 1: 30,31 KJV

Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee; therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. Luke 1: 34,35 KJV

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7 KJV

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16 KJV

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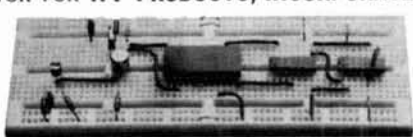
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**COMPLETE KIT \$149.00**

**HAL-300A** 7-DIGIT COUNTER WITH FREQUENCY RANGE OF ZERO TO 300 MHz. FEATURES TWO INPUTS: ONE FOR LOW FREQUENCY AND ONE FOR HIGH FREQUENCY; AUTOMATIC ZERO SUPPRESSION. TIME BASE IS 1.0 SEC OR .1 SEC GATE WITH OPTIONAL 10 SEC GATE AVAILABLE. ACCURACY ± .001%, UTILIZES 10-MHz CRYSTAL 5 PPM.

**COMPLETE KIT \$124.00**

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Model 201 price (5 200 MHz) ..... \$29.95  
201-350 MHz ..... \$34.95

### EXTRA LOW NOISE

Excellent for weather satellite reception and recommended by Dr. Ralph E. Taggart in his Weather Satellite Handbook. Less than 2 dB noise figure and approximately 17 dB gain. Uses a low noise J-FET in a common source neutralized circuit. Available factory tuned to your choice of frequency from 135 MHz to 250 MHz. Bandwidth approximately 4 MHz. Supplied in a 2-1/4" x 1-1/8" x 1-3/8" die cast aluminum weather-proof case with a filter for powering it through the antenna. Requires 12 VDC @ 5 mA. Choice of VHF, type "N", or BNC receptacles.



Model 102 PRICE ..... \$36.95

### UHF

3 TO 5 dB MAX. N.F.  
20 dB MIN. POWER GAIN  
Uses 2 of T1's low noise J-FETS in our special circuit board design which gives a minimum of 20 dB power gain at 450 MHz. Stability is such that you can have mismatched loads without it oscillating and you can retune (using the capped openings in the case) over a 15-20 MHz range simply by peaking the maximum signal. Available tuned to the frequency of your choice between 300-550 MHz. 4-3/8" x 1-7/8" x 1-3/8" aluminum case with power switch and your choice of BNC or RCA receptacles. Requires 12 VDC @ 10mA.



Model 202 price ..... \$34.95

## CONVERTERS

### 2 METERS

This converter has a minimum of 20 dB gain and a noise figure of 2.5-3.0 dB which assures you of a sensitivity of .1 microvolt or better. The circuit uses a dual-gate MOSFET R.F. stage and a dual-gate MOSFET mixer (thereby giving you a minimum of cross-modulation products), 6 tuned circuits, a bipolar oscillator and .005% crystal. Covers 144-146 MHz at 28-30 MHz output with one crystal included and 146-148 MHz at 28-30 MHz with an extra crystal (available for \$6.00 more). The glass epoxy circuit board is enclosed in a 16 gauge aluminum case measuring 3-1/2" x 2-1/4" x 1-1/4" with your choice of either BNC or RCA receptacles. Also included is a power and antenna switch. Requires 12 VDC @ 15 mA. The converter is also available at other input and output frequencies. Call us for prices. PRICE: Model C-144-A available from stock at \$39.95 with one crystal. Additional crystal \$6.00 extra.



### HF & VHF

40 dB GAIN 2.5-3.0  
N.F. 150MHz

2 RF stages with transient protected dual-gate MOSFETS give this converter the high gain and low noise you need for receiving very weak signals. The mixer stage is also a dual-gate MOSFET as it greatly reduces spurious mixing products — some by as much as 100 dB over that obtained with bipolar mixers. A



bipolar oscillator using 3rd or 5th overtone plug-in crystals is followed by a harmonic bandpass filter, and where necessary an additional amplifier is used to assure the correct amount of drive to the mixer. Available in your choice of input frequencies from 5-350 MHz and with any output you choose within this range. The usable bandwidth is approximately 3% of the input frequency with a maximum of 4 MHz. Wider bandwidths are available on special order. Although any frequency combination is possible (including converting up) best results are obtained if you choose an output frequency not more than 1/3 nor less than 1/20 of the input frequency. Enclosed in a 4-3/8" x 3" x 1-1/4" aluminum case with power and antenna transfer switch and your choice of BNC or RCA receptacles. Requires 12 VDC @ 25 mA.  
Model 407A price:  
5-200 MHz ..... \$54.95  
201-350 MHz ..... \$59.95  
Prices include .005% crystal. Additional crystals \$8.95 ea.

### UHF

20 dB MIN. GAIN  
3 TO 5dB MAX. N.F.

This model is similar in appearance to our Model 407A but uses 2 low noise J-FETS in our specially designed RF stage which is tuned with high-Q miniature trimmers. The mixer is a special dual-gate MOSFET made by RCA to meet our requirements. The oscillator uses 5th overtone



crystals to reduce spurious responses and make possible fewer multipliers in the oscillator chain which uses 1200 MHz bipolars for maximum efficiency. Available with your choice of input frequencies from 300-550 MHz and output frequencies from 14-220 MHz. Usable bandwidth is about 1% of the input frequency but can be easily returned to cover more. Requires 12 VDC @ 30 mA.  
Model 408 price ..... \$59.95  
.005% crystal included.

## VHF RECEIVER

11 crystal controlled channels. Available in your choice of frequencies from 135-250 MHz in any one segment from 1-4 MHz wide. I.F. bandwidth (channel selectivity) (available in your choice of  $\pm 7.5$  kHz or  $\pm 15$  kHz. 8-pole quartz filter and a 4-pole ceramic filter gives more than 80 dB rejection at 2X channel bandwidth. Phase locked loop detector. Frequency trimmers for each crystal. .2 to .3 microvolt for 20 dB quieting. Dual-gate MOSFETS and integrated circuits. Self contained speaker and external speaker jack. Mobile mount and tilt stand.  
Aluminum case, 6" x 7" x 1-3/8".  
Model FMR 260-PL price:  
135-180 MHz ..... \$149.95  
181-250 MHz ..... \$159.95  
Price includes one .001% crystal. Additional crystals \$8.95 ea. This receiver is recommended in Dr. Taggart's Weather Satellite Handbook.



## SYNTHESIZERS

### FOR ALL TRANSCIEVERS

The STR series synthesizers are available for any transceiver operating from 20 MHz to 475 MHz that uses crystals in the 5 to 85 MHz range. It has a thumbwheel dial calibrated for your operating frequency plus a selectable transmit offset of plus or minus 600 kHz, plus or minus 1 MHz, and 2 spare offsets that you can add later. Frequency accuracy is .0005% and spurious outputs are 60 to 70 dB down. To process your order we must have the crystal formula of your transmit and receive crystals. If your transceiver uses 1 crystal for both transmitting and receiving (like the Motorola Metrum 11), you can use our receive synthesizer described to the right. Maximum tuning range per synthesizer is 10 MHz above 100 MHz and proportionally less at lower frequencies. Dial increments are in 1 kHz steps from 5 to 30 MHz and 5 kHz steps above.



Model STR synthesizer price:  
5-150 MHz ..... \$259.95  
151-475 MHz ..... \$279.95

### FOR VHF RECEIVERS

This synthesizer has 8000 channels and can tune a continuous 40 MHz segment of your choice from 110-180 MHz in 5 kHz steps. This will satisfy most of your requirements in the VHF range and can save you hundreds of dollars in crystals plus a lot of time. Stock units are programmed for receivers with the crystal formula  $F_c = F_s - 10.7$  divided by 3 but we can program it to almost any other IF at no additional cost at the time of your order. It is supplied with an interface for plugging in to your existing crystal socket. Requires 12 VDC @ 1/2 amp which is easily obtainable from a low cost power supply. The synthesizer has 4 voltage regulators therefore the power supply need not be regulated. Phase noise is not detectable as the VCO is coarse tuned by a DAC thereby easing the requirements of the phase locked loop. Not affected by vibrations encountered in mobile use. Enclosed in an 8" x 3-7/8" x 1-1/2" aluminum case and supplied with a combination tilt stand/mobile mounting bracket.



Price: Model SR 140D-05 ..... \$179.95

NOTE: We can make any synthesizer from audio to 475 MHz. Call us for prices.

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**BY MAIL:** Send your order to Vanguard Labs, 196-23 Jamaica Avenue, Hollis, NY 11423 and include remittance by postal money order, cashiers check or certified check. Personal checks are also accepted, but banks now require 3 weeks for checks to clear, therefore this will delay your order. Include sales tax if you reside in New York State.

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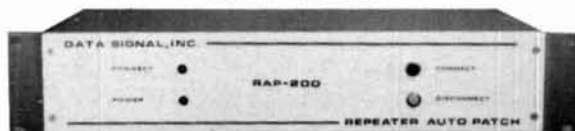
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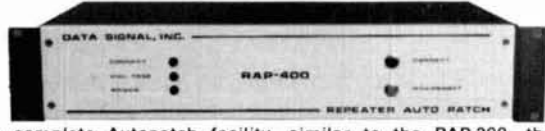


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RAP-400

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The Data Signal TTP Series of keyboard encoders is used to generate the standard 12 or 16 DTMF digits. The encoders provide fully automatic transmitter keying and feature a delayed Transmit Ready light, an interdigit timer, and a built-in audio monitor. Features also include all solid-state, crystal-controlled, digitally-synthesized tones and an optional internal mount Automatic Number Identifier (ANI).

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\$59.00  
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\*Touch-Tone is a registered trade name of AT&T.

### SME



### SUB-MINIATURE TOUCH TONE ENCODERS

MODEL SME — Smallest available Touch Tone Encoder. Thin, only .05" thick, keyboard mounts directly to front of hand-held portable, while sub-miniature tone module fits inside. This keyboard allows use of battery chargers. Price \$34.50, with your choice of keyboards.

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MODEL DTM — Completely self-contained miniature encoder for hand-held portables. Only 5/16" thick. Three wire connection. Automatic PTT keying optional. With your choice of keyboards. Price: DTM - \$49.50, DTM-PTT - \$59.50.

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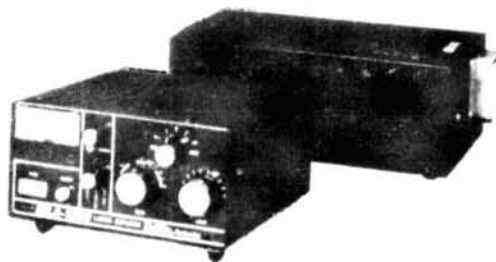
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# We have DenTron's New MLA-1200

The MLA 1200 is a compact KW designed to fill the gap between your barefoot transceiver or transmitter and a full power 2 KW amplifier. A single 8875 external-anode ceramic/metal triode, (the same revolutionary tubes that power the MLA 2500) yields 1200 Watts PEP SSB and 1000 Watts DC CW with as little as 70 Watts drive. (An automatic swamping circuit prevents damage to the final if more than 100 Watts drive is applied to the MLA 1200.) There are scores of features common to both the MLA-1200 and MLA 2500, like forced-air cooling, all-steel chassis construction with tight fitting black wrinkle finish cabinetry, a plug-in PC board for metering, ALC, and mandatory warm-up timing. The MLA 1200 is the same size as our Super Tuner (just 10" W x 6 1/4" H x 10" D), and weighs only 10 pounds! Twin outboard power supplies are available for AC or DC operation, with the MLA-1200's low filament current drain characteristics allowing for standard 6 foot cabling between units. Both supplies are constructed of high quality, high current components, and are designed for a lifetime of trouble-free operation.

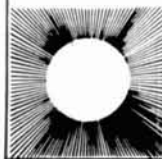


MLA-1200 - \$399.50

AC-1200 - \$159.50 DC-1200 - \$199.50

- 80 thru 10 meters
- 1200 Watts PEP input on SSB
- 1000 Watts DC input on CW, RTTY, or SSTV
- Forced Air Cooling System

- AC or DC Outboard Power Supplies (AC-1200, DC-1200)
- EIMAC 8875 external-anode ceramic/metal triode operating in grounded grid



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The KR50 is versatile. Dit and dah memories are provided for full iambic (squeeze) keying. Either dit or dah, or both, may be turned off for operation as a conventional type keyer. Self-completing characters at all times.

A convenient "Straight key" is built-in for QRS sending or tune-up. Also an internal side-tone and 115VAC/12VDC operation is provided.

The KR50 is designed to have a permanent place in your shack for the years, perhaps decades, ahead. An investment in the enjoyment of CW.

PRICE \$110.00

### KR20-A

Paddle has unique principle with excellent feel for rhythmic CW. Characters are self-completing. Bit weighting is optimized for normal speeds. Manual key button conveniently located for hand sending. Side tone signal. Reed relay. Plug-in circuit boards. 115VAC or 6 to 14 VDC. HWD 2 1/2" X 4 1/2" X 8 1/4", WT. 2 1/2 lbs.

PRICE \$69.50

### KR5-A

Similar to the KR20A but without monitor signal and AC power supply. A great value. For 6-14 VDC operation. Size HWD 2" X 4" X 6". Weight: 1 1/2 lbs.

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### KR1-A

This is the paddle mechanism used in the KR50. Requires 6-14 VDC for adjustable electromagnetic paddle return force. Adjustable contact spacing. For iambic or conventional keyers. "Straight key" button. Housed in an attractive metal case with cream front panel, walnut vinyl top. Size: 2" X 4" X 6", WT. 1 1/2 lbs.

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### KR2-A

The paddle used in the KR20A. Single paddle for non-iambic keyers. "Straight key" button conveniently located, cream aluminum case with walnut vinyl top. Size: 2" X 4" X 6", Weight: 1 1/2 lb.

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1N4001	100425	8643	8750	74151?
1N4002	20110	8877	23900	Quantity:
	100525	7400	Quantity:	Linear TC
1N4003	20130	7400	10150	301AH
	100570	7402	10150	301DP
1N4004	20150	7402	10150	309A
	100590	7404	10160	34015
1N4005	20160	7407	10250	34016
	100690	7408	10170	34018
1N4006	20180	7410	10150	34019
	100760	7414	10620	340115
1N4007	20190	7425	10250	340118
	100850	7430	10250	340124
2N3055	2185	7432	10300	NE555A
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- CT-50 WT, 60 MHz counter, wired and tested ..... 159.95
- CT-600, 600 MHz prescaler option for CT-50, add ..... 29.95

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- Sensitivity: less than 25 mv.
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- Calendar shows mo/day
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- 12/24 Hour Format
- Snooze button
- 7001 chip does all!

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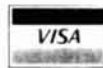
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14 PIN IC. COMPLETE FM SOUND SUB SYSTEM USES MINIMUM EXTERNAL COMPONENTS. COMPLETE SPECS AND APPLICATIONS INFORMATION.

House # - 5/\$1.00

## General Purpose NPN

2N3569 Fairchild Vceo = 60V Hfe to 300. 800MW power. epoxy TO-5. Limited Qty!

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## Wideband AMP IC, High Gain

100Khz to over 20Mhz. Good for IF's and low frequency Complete Specs!

CA3011 50¢ each

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Ribbon Cable No. 28 wire with a woven binder for easy separation. Super flexibility! Compare our price!

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VOLTAGE REGULATOR IC  
Versatile 500ma regulator is adjustable with a single external resistor from 3 to 30 volts. Provisions for current limit and remote shutdown. Complete specs and application notes are included. \$1.25 each or 10/\$10. External series pass will provide currents to 20 amps.

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SPECIAL A very good assortment of 3/32", 1/8", 3/16", 1/4" and 7/16" heatshrink tubing 12 6" lengths for .75 Assorted colors

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Four closely matched 1N914 type diodes for balanced bridge or modulator circuits. One set - \$1.00

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RF POWER TRANSISTOR

Just what you've been looking for: 10 Watts with 13.5VDC supply. Frequencies to 300 MHZ. Limited Quantity!

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Single digit pre-settable up or down BCD counter with 7 segment decoded output/driver has internal latch. Requires +12, & +24VDC. Build counters, timers, etc. Complete specs. 24 Pin IC 4/\$5.00

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Just in case you have spent the last six months in Siberia, we will tell you one more time that BULLET has the ONLY Completely Electronic Grandfather Clock Kit in the world that has all the below listed features. The biggest problem we have is to try and describe how unique and fascinating this clock really is! The Swinging LED Pendulum and Matching Tick-tock sound are available only on our clock. In addition the electronic chime notes each hour (ie: 3 times for 3 o'clock). Housed in the optional SOLID HARDWOOD CASE, the unit makes a beautiful addition to any room as well as a great gift.

- \* 1/2" 4 digit LED readout
- \* Adjustable Tone & Duration on Chime
- \* AM/PM indicator
- \* Simulated swinging pendulum uses LEDs
- \* All CMOS construction
- \* All electronics, switches and transformer inc.
- \* Quality plated PC boards (2) 6.5" x 4.5"

**MG-01 \$39.95**

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A low cost, no frills, heavy duty power supply. Designed for use and abuse!

12V @ 15A CONTINUOUS Less Case, meters & jacks

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- 15 amp 11.5 to 14.5V
- All parts supplied including heavy duty transformer
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\$39.95

LIPS SHIPPING PAID!

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Quality 3 1/2" Meters for PS-14 (0-25A; 0-15 VDC) Individually Packaged. Not Surplus \$12.50/set

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Prevents cheap insurance for your expensive equipment. Trip voltage is adjustable from 3 to 30 volts. Overvoltage instantly fires a 25A SCR and shuts the output to protect equipment. Should be used on units that are fused. Directly compatible with the PS 12 and PS 14. All electronics supplied. Drilled and plated PC board. (Order OVP 1)

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The smallest and best priced mobile clock kit on the market. Designed to be a mobile clock from the ground up. There has been no compromise on quality.

### FEATURES

- \* Quartz crystal timebase
- \* Tapped & zener noise & overvoltage protection.
- \* Magnified .15"; 6 digit LED readout
- \* Complete with presettable 24 hr. alarm
- \* 9-14 VDC @ 40 to 50 ma.
- \* Readouts can be suppressed
- \* EASY, QUICK ASSEMBLY
- \* All components required included (you supply the speaker)
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- \* Readout board: 2.3/8" x .75"

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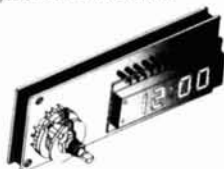
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Nothing else to buy! Can be panel mounted. Great for Vans & RV's!

We designed this to be a SUPER CLOCK with ALL the features you want. Quality double sided PC boards make assembly easy. Mobile (12VDC) or home (12VAC)

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- \* 28/30/31 day calendar displays automatically or manually
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## RCA "POCKET" VOM

1000 ohms per volt. Model WV-539A. Features 1% precision, movements diode protected against burnout. Measures DC volts, 0-15-150-1000; AC volts, 0-15-150-1000; DC current, 0-150mA; resistance X1000. Sensitivity 1000 ohms/volt. AC-DC. Uses penlite cell, not included. Size 2 1/2" x 3 1/2" x 1 3/4". 5 ozs. Cat. No. 12H3921

**\$8.88**

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4D Matrix for 2 & 4 speaker systems • Wall/Console • Contemporary design black and chrome front panel

### The Philharmonic

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No. 12H3933

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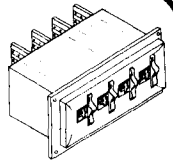
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**TELETYPE FOR SALE:** Model 28ASR's, KSR's, typing repeaters, and TD's. New and used parts available including cabinets, tables, mod kits, gears and gearshifts. Paper, ribbons, and supplies. Some 8-level Model 33 and 35 equipment available. Send SASE for complete list and prices. K9WJB, Lawrence R. Pfleger, 2141 N. 52nd St., Milwaukee, WI 53208.

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**KEYER** Micro-T0 MKII PC boards, parts. K3CU(W), 5414 Old Branch, Washington, DC 20031.

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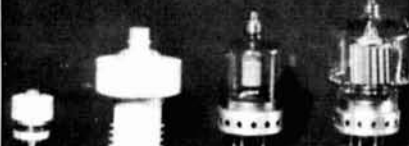
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**THE ANNUAL FORT WAYNE WINTER HAMFEST** is at Shiloh Hall, North of Fort Wayne, on January 22 from 8 AM until 4 PM local time. Early parking is available and 28/88 and 52/52 will be monitored. This yearly event is sponsored by the Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society (AC/ARTS). Admission is \$2.00 at the door. Table space is available at \$1.50 per half table (about 4 feet). For information or table reservations (held until 9:30 AM) write: Hamfest Chairman, AC/ARTS, P.O. Box 342, Fort Wayne, IN. 46801.

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4019	.60
4020	.85
4021	1.35
4022	.95
4023	.25
4024	.75
4025	.35
4026	1.95
4027	.50
4028	.95
4030	.35
4033	1.50
4034	2.45
4035	1.25
4040	1.35
4041	.69
4042	.95
4043	.95
4044	.95
4046	1.75
4049	.70
4050	.50
4066	.95
4069	.40
4071	.35
4081	.70
4082	.45

7400	.15
7401	.15
7402	.20
7403	.20
7404	.15
7405	.25
7406	.35
7407	.55
7408	.25
7409	.15
7410	.10
7411	.25
7412	.30
7413	.45
7414	1.10
7416	.25
7417	.40
7420	.15
7426	.30
7427	.45
7430	.15
7432	.30
7437	.35
7438	.35
7440	.25
7441	1.15
7442	.45
7443	.85
7444	.45
7445	.65
7446	.95
7447	.95
7448	.70
7450	.25
7451	.25
7453	.20
7454	.25
7460	.40
7470	.45
7472	.40

7473	.25
7474	.35
7475	.35
7476	.30
7480	.55
7481	.75
7483	.95
7485	.95
7486	.30
7489	1.35
7490	.55
7491	.95
7492	.95
7493	.40
7494	1.25
7495	.60
7496	.80
74100	1.85
74107	.35
74121	.35
74122	.55
74123	.55
74125	.45
74126	.35
74132	1.35
74141	1.00
74150	.85
74151	.75
74153	.95
74154	1.05
74156	.95
74157	.65
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75491	.50
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74H08	.35
74H10	.35
74H11	.25
74H15	.30
74H20	.30
74H21	.25
74H22	.40
74H30	.25
74H40	.25
74H50	.25
74H51	.25
74H52	.15
74H53J	.25
74H55	.25

74H72	.55
74H101	.75
74H103	.75
74H106	.95
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74L75	.55
74L93	.55
74L123	.55
74S00	.55
74S02	.55
74S03	.30
74S04	.35
74S05	.35
74S08	.35
74S10	.35
74S11	.35
74S20	.35
74S40	.25
74S50	.25
74S51	.45
74S64	.25
74S74	.40
74S112	.90
74S114	1.30

74S133	.45
74S140	.75
74S151	.35
74S153	.35
74S157	.80
74S158	.35
74S194	1.05
74S257 (8123)	.25
74LS00	.35
74LS01	.35
74LS02	.35
74LS04	.35
74LS05	.45
74LS08	.35
74LS09	.35
74LS10	.35
74LS11	.35
74LS20	.35
74LS21	.25
74LS22	.25
74LS32	.40
74LS37	.35
74LS40	.45
74LS42	1.10
74LS51	.50
74LS74	.65
74LS86	.65
74LS90	.95
74LS93	.95
74LS107	.85
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LM320T15	1.65
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LM340T15	1.00
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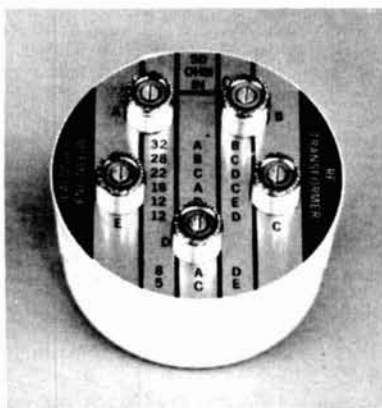
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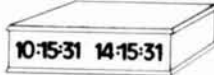
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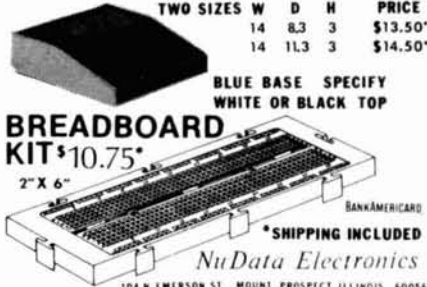
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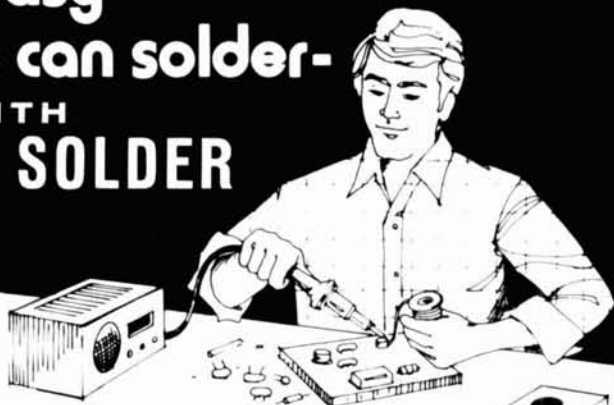
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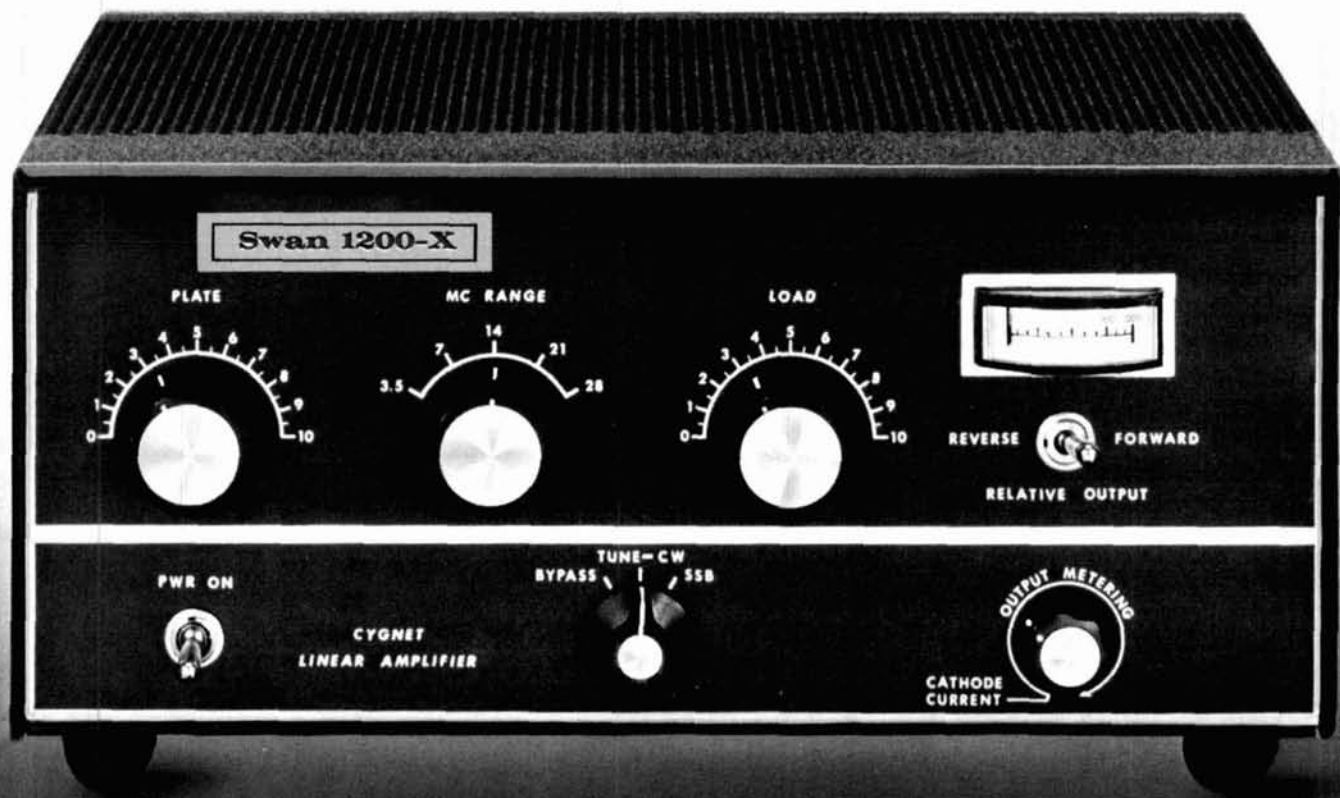


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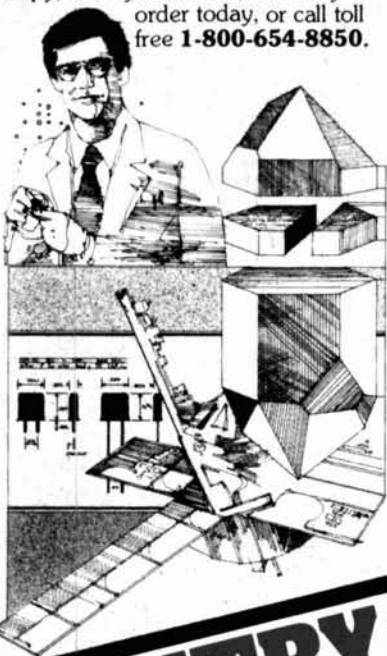


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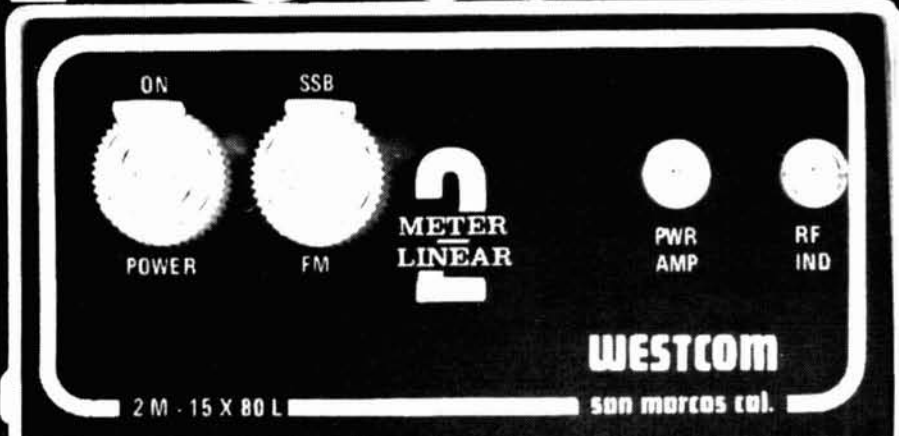
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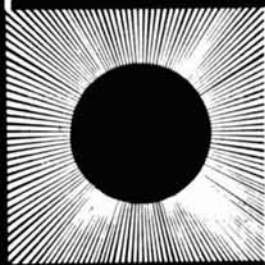
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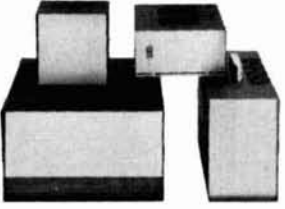
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**AA	4x3.71x3.3	No	79	5.83		
B	5.11x4.3x3.34	No	132	6.37		
**BB	9x2.12x3.18	No	76	6.97		
**BC	5x2.34x3.78	—	—	7.23		
**BS	6.15x4.28x3.78	—	—	13.33		
C	7.14x3.58x3.34	Yes	200	9.40		
**CC	8x2.12x4.14	—	—	8.55		
**CD	8x2.12x8	Yes	270	11.80		
E	6.10x3.15x3.21x1.18	Yes	250	10.33		
F	7.12x4.12x1.10	Yes	5.75	12.53		
G	10.11x4.3x1.6x1.9	Yes	5.00	12.53		
HA	5.18x5.12x4	No	150	9.11		
J	5x3.12x5.94	No	138	9.68		
K	4.34x7.38x1.1	Yes	4.75	18.21		
L	11.18x6.18x1.2x3.4	Yes	8.50	25.30		
M	11.18x6.18x1.6x3.4	Yes	9.80	30.34		
**MM	3.38x1.12x1.3x1.3	w/bracket	—	6.28		
NA	12.14x5.12x8.34	—	—	28.80		
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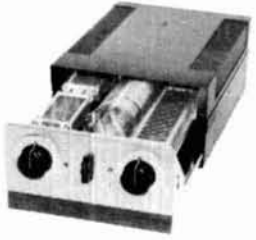
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# ham radio cumulative index

## 1968-1977

### antennas and transmission lines

#### general

Antenna control, automatic azimuth/elevation for satellite communications  
WA3HLT p. 26, Jan 75  
Correction p. 58, Dec 75

Antenna dimension (HN)  
WA9JMY p. 66, Jun 70

Antennas and capture area  
K6MIO p. 42, Nov 69

Antenna and control-link calculations for repeater licensing  
W7PUG p. 58, Nov 73  
Short circuit p. 59, Dec 73

Antenna and feedline facts and fallacies  
W5JJ p. 24, May 73

Antenna design, programmable calculator simplifies (HN)  
W3DVO p. 70, May 74

Antenna gain (letter)  
W3AFM p. 62, May 76

Antenna gain, measuring  
K6JYO p. 26, Jul 69

Antenna switching, solid-state  
W2EEY p. 30, Nov 68

Antenna wire, low-cost copper (HN)  
W2EUQ p. 73, Feb 77

Anti-QRM methods  
W3FQJ p. 50, May 71

Bridge for antenna measurements, simple  
W2CTK p. 34, Sep 70

Cubical quad measurements  
W4YM p. 42, Jan 69

Dipole center insulator (HN)  
WA1ABP p. 69, May 69

Diversity receiving system  
W2EEY p. 12, Dec 71

Dummy load and rf wattmeter, low-power  
W2OLU p. 56, Apr 70

Dummy loads, experimental  
W8YFB p. 36, Sep 68

Dummy load, low-power vhf  
WB9DNF p. 40, Sep 73

Effective radiated power (HN)  
VE7CB p. 72, May 73

Feedpoint impedance characteristics of practical antennas  
W5JJ p. 50, Dec 73

Filters, low-pass, for 10 and 15  
W2EEY p. 42, Jan 72

Gain vs antenna height, calculating  
WB8IFM p. 54, Nov 73

GDO, new uses for  
K2ZSQ p. 48, Dec 68

Gin pole, simple lever for raising masts  
WA2ANU p. 72, May 77

Ground screen, alternative to radials  
WBØJGP p. 22, May 77

Grounding, safer (letter)  
WA5KTC p. 59, May 72

Ground rods (letter)  
W7FS p. 66, May 71

Ground systems, vertical antenna  
W7LR p. 30, May 74

Headings, beam antenna  
W6FFC p. 64, Apr 71

Hook, line 'n sinker (HN)  
WA4NED p. 76, Sep 68

Horizontal or vertical (HN)  
W7IV p. 62, Jun 72

Impedance measurements, nonresonant antenna  
W7CSD p. 46, Apr 74

Insulators, homemade antenna (HN)  
W7ZC p. 70, May 73

Isotropic source and practical antennas  
K6FD p. 32, May 70

Lightning protection (C&T)  
W1DTY p. 50, Jun 76

Line-of-sight distance, calculating  
WB5CBC p. 56, Nov 76

Measurement techniques for antennas and transmission lines  
W4OQ p. 36, May 74

Measuring antenna gain  
K6JYO p. 26, Jul 69

Mobile mount, rigid (HN)  
VE7ABK p. 69, Jan 73

Power in reflected waves  
Woods p. 49, Oct 71

Reflected power, some reflections on  
VE3AAZ p. 44, May 70

Reflectometers  
K1YZW p. 65, Dec 69

Rf current probe (HN)  
W6HPH p. 76, Oct 68

Rf power meter, low-level  
W5WGF p. 58, Oct 72

Sampling network, rf — the milli-trap  
W6QJW p. 34, Jan 73

Smith chart, how to use  
W1DTY p. 16, Nov 70  
Correction p. 76, Dec 71

Standing-wave ratios, importance of  
W2HB p. 26, Jul 73  
Correction (letter) p. 67, May 74

Time-domain reflectometry, practical experimenter's approach  
WAØPIA p. 22, May 71

T-R switch  
K3KMO p. 61, Apr 69

Voltage-probe antenna  
W1DTY p. 20, Oct 70

#### high-frequency antennas

All band antenna portable (HN)  
W2INS p. 68, Jun 70

All-band phased-vertical  
WA7GXO p. 32, May 72

Antenna, 3.5 MHz, for a small lot  
W6AGX p. 28, May 73

Antenna potpourri  
W3FQJ p. 54, May 72

Antenna systems for 80 and 40 meters  
K6KA p. 55, Feb 70

Army loop antenna — revisited  
W3FQJ p. 59, Sep 71  
Added notes p. 64, Jan 72

Beam antenna, improved triangular shaped  
W6DL p. 20, May 70

Beam for ten meters, economical  
W1FPF p. 54, Mar 70

Beverage antenna  
W3FQJ p. 67, Dec 71

Big beam for 10 meters  
VE1TG p. 32, Mar 68

Bobtail curtain array  
W8YFB p. 81, May 77

Bobtail curtain array, forty-meter  
VE1TG p. 58, Jul 69

Coaxial dipole antenna, analysis of  
W2DU p. 46, Aug 76

Coaxial dipole, multiband (HN)  
W4BDK p. 71, May 73

Collinear, six-element, for  
WØYBF p. 22, May 76

Compact antennas for 20 meters  
W4ROS p. 38, May 71

Converted-vee, 80 and 40 meter  
W6JKR p. 18, Dec 69

Corner-fed loop, low frequency  
ZL1BN p. 30, Apr 76  
Installation modified p. 41, Feb 77

Cubical quad antenna design parameters  
K6OPZ p. 55, Aug 70

Cubical-quad antennas, mechanical design of  
VE3II p. 44, Oct 74

Cubical-quad antennas, unusual  
W1DTY p. 6, May 70

Cubical quad, improved low-profile, three band  
W1HXU p. 25, May 76

Cubical quad, three-band  
W1HXU p. 22, Jul 75

Curtain antenna. (HN)  
W4ATE p. 66, May 72

Dipole, all-band tuned  
ZS6BT p. 22, Oct 72

Dipole antennas on non-harmonic frequencies (HN)  
W2CTK p. 72, Mar 69

Dipole beam  
W3FQJ p. 56, Jun 74

Dipole pairs, low SWR  
W6FPO p. 42, Oct 72

Dipole sloping inverted-vee  
W6NIF p. 48, Feb 69

Double bi-square array  
W6FFF p. 32, May 71

Dual-band antennas, compact  
W6SAI p. 18, Mar 70

DX antenna, single-element  
W6FHM p. 52, Dec 72

Performance (letter)  
p. 65, Oct 73

Folded mini-monopole antenna  
W6SAI p. 32, May 68

Four-band wire antenna  
W3FQJ p. 53, Aug 75

Ground-plane antenna: history and development  
K2FF p. 26, Jan 77

Ground-plane, multiband (HN)  
JA1QIY p. 62, May 71

Groundplane, three-band  
LA1EI p. 6, May 72  
Correction p. 91, Dec 72  
Footnote (letter) p. 65, Oct 72

High-frequency amateur antennas  
W2WLR p. 28, Apr 69

High-frequency diversity antennas  
W2WLR p. 28, Oct 69

Horizontal-antenna gain at selected vertical radiation angles  
W7LR p. 54, Feb 76

Horizontal antennas, optimum height for  
W7LR p. 40, Jun 74

Horizontal antennas, vertical radiation patterns  
WA9RQY p. 58, May 74

Inverted-vee antenna (letter)  
WB6AQF p. 66, May 71

Inverted-vee antenna, modified  
W2KTW p. 40, Oct 71

Inverted-vee installation, improved low-band (HN)  
W9KNI p. 68, May 76

Inverted V or delta loop, how to add to tower  
K4DJC p. 32, Jul 76

Large vertical, 160 and 80 meters  
W7IV p. 8, May 75

Log-periodic antenna, 14, 21 and 28 MHz  
W4AEO p. 18, Aug 73

Log-periodic antennas, 7-MHz  
W4AEO p. 16, May 73

Log-periodic antennas, feed system for  
W4AEO p. 30, Oct 74

Log periodic antennas, graphical design method for  
W4AEO p. 14, May 75

Log-periodic antennas, vertical monopole, 3.5 and 7.0 MHz  
W4AEO p. 44, Sep 73

Log-periodic beams, improved (letter)  
W4AEO p. 74, May 75

Log-periodic beam, 15 and 20 meters  
W4AEO p. 6, May 74

Log periodic feeds (letter)  
W4AEO p. 66, May 74

Log-periodic, three-band  
W4AEO p. 28, Sep 72

Longwire antenna, new design  
K4EF p. 10, May 77

Long-wire multiband antenna  
W3FQJ p. 28, Nov 69

Loop antennas  
W4OQ p. 18, Dec 76

Loop receiving antenna  
W2IMB p. 66, May 75  
Correction p. 58, Dec 75

Loop-yagi antennas  
VK2ZTB p. 30, May 76

Low-mounted antennas  
W3FQJ p. 66, May 73

Mobile antenna, helically wound  
ZE6JP p. 40, Dec 72

Mono-loop antenna (HN)  
WB8W p. 70, Sep 69

Multiband dipoles for portable use  
W6SAI p. 12, May 70

Phased array, design your own  
K1AON p. 78, May 77

Phased array, electrically-controlled  
W5TRS p. 52, May 75

Phased vertical array, fine tuning  
W4FXE p. 46, May 77

Phased vertical array, four-element  
W8HXR p. 24, May 75

Quad antenna, multiband  
DJ4VM p. 41, Aug 69

Receiving antennas  
K6ZGQ p. 56, May 70

Satellite antenna, simple (HN)  
W6PXY p. 59, Feb 75

Selective antenna system minimizes unwanted signals  
W5TRS p. 28, May 76

Shunt-feed systems for grounded vertical radiators, how to design  
W4OQ p. 34, May 75

Simple antennas for 40 and 80 W5RUB	p. 16, Dec 72
Simple 1-, 2- and 3-band antennas W9EQG	p. 54, Jul 68
Sloping dipoles W5RUB	p. 19, Dec 72
Performance (letter)	p. 76, May 73
Small-loop antennas W4YOT	p. 36, May 72
Stub bandswitched antennas W2EZY	p. 50, Jul 69
Suitcase antenna, high-frequency VK5BI	p. 61, May 73
Tailoring your antenna, how to KH6HDM	p. 34, May 73
Telephone-wire antenna (HN) K9TBD	p. 70, May 76
Three-band ground plane W6HPH	p. 32, Oct 68
Triangle antennas W3FQJ	p. 56, Aug 71
Triangle antennas W6KIW	p. 58, May 72
Triangle antennas (letter) K4ZZV	p. 72, Nov 71
Triangle beams W3FQJ	p. 70, Dec 71
Tuning aid for the sightless (HN) W6VX	p. 83, Sep 76
Unidirectional antenna for the low-frequency bands GW3NJY	p. 61, Jan 70
Vertical antenna radiation patterns W7LR	p. 50, Apr 74
Vertical antenna, low-band W4IYB	p. 70, Jul 72
Vertical antenna, three-band W9BQE	p. 44, May 74
Vertical antennas, improving performance of K6FD	p. 54, Dec 74
Vertical antennas, performance characteristics W7LR	p. 34, Mar 74
Vertical beam antenna, 80 meter VE1TG	p. 26, May 70
Vertical dipole, gamma-loop-fed W6SAI	p. 19, May 72
Vertical for 80 meters, top-loaded W2MB	p. 20, Sep 71
Vertical radiators W4OQ	p. 16, Apr 73
Vertical, top-loaded 80 meter VE1TG	p. 48, Jun 69
Vertical-tower antenna system W4OQ	p. 56, May 73
Whips and loops as apartment antennas W2EZY	p. 80, Mar 68
Windom antenna, four-band W4VUO	p. 62, Jan 74
Correction (letter)	p. 74, Sep 74
Zapp antenna, extended W6QVI	p. 48, Dec 73
ZL special antenna, understanding the W6GKT	p. 38, May 76
3.5-MHz phased horizontal array K4JC	p. 56, May 77
7-MHz short vertical antenna W8TYX	p. 60, Jun 77
160-meter loop, receiving K6HTM	p. 46, May 74
160-meter vertical, shortened (HN) W6VX	p. 72, May 76
160 meters with 40-meter vertical W2IMB	p. 34, Oct 72

## vhf antennas

Antennas for satellite communications, simple K4GSX	p. 24, May 74
Circularly-polarized ground-plane antenna for satellite communications K4GSX	p. 28, Dec 74
Collinear antenna for two meters, nine-element W6RJO	p. 12, May 72
Collinear antenna (letter) W6SAI	p. 70, Oct 71
Collinear array for two meters, 4-element WB6KGF	p. 6, May 71
Collinear antenna, four element 440-MHz WA6HTP	p. 38, May 73
Collinear, six meter K4ERO	p. 59, Nov 69
Converting low-band mobile antenna to 144-MHz (HN) K7ARR	p. 90, May 77
Corner reflector antenna, 432 MHz WA2FSQ	p. 24, Nov 71
Cubical quad, economy six-meter W6DOR	p. 50, Apr 69
Feed horn, cylindrical, for parabolic reflectors WA9HUV	p. 16, May 76
Ground plane, 2-meter, 0.7 wavelength W3WZA	p. 40, Mar 69
Ground plane, portable vhf (HN) K9DHD	p. 71, May 73
J-pole antenna for 6-meters K4SDY	p. 48, Aug 68

Log-periodic, yagi beam K6RIL, W6SAI	p. 8, Jul 69
Correction	p. 68, Feb 70
Magnet-mount antenna, portable (HN) WB2YYU	p. 67, May 76
Matching techniques for vhf/uhf antennas W1JAA	p. 50, Jul 76
Microwave antenna, Low-cost K6HIJ	p. 52, Nov 69
Mobile antenna, magnet-mount W1HCI	p. 54, Sep 75
Mobile antenna, six-meter (HN) W4PSJ	p. 77, Oct 70
Mobile antennas, vhf, comparison of W4MNV	p. 52, May 77
Moonbounce antenna, practical 144-MHz K6HCP	p. 52, May 70
Oscar antenna, mobile (HN) W6OAL	p. 67, May 76
Parabolic reflector antennas VK3ATN	p. 12, May 74
Parabolic reflector element spacing WA9HUV	p. 28, May 75
Parabolic reflector gain W2TQK	p. 50, Jul 75
Parabolic reflectors, finding the focal length (HN) WA4WDL	p. 57, Mar 74
Parabolic reflector, 16-foot homebrew WB6IOM	p. 8, Aug 69
Quad-yagi arrays, 432- and 1296-MHz W3AED	p. 20, May 73
Short circuit	p. 58, Dec 73
Simple antennas, 144-MHz WA3NFW	p. 30, May 73
Switch, antenna for 2 meters, solid-state K2ZSQ	p. 48, May 69
Two-meter antenna, simple (HN) W6BLZ	p. 78, Aug 68
Two-meter fm antenna (HN) WB6KYE	p. 64, May 71
Two-meter mobile antennas W6BLZ	p. 76, May 68
Vertical antennas, truth about $\frac{1}{2}$ -wavelength KØDOK	p. 48, May 74
Added note (letter)	p. 54, Jan 75
Vhf antenna switching without relays (HN) K2ZSQ	p. 76, Sep 68
Whip, 5/8-wave, 144 MHz (HN) VE3DDD	p. 70, Apr 73
Yagi antennas, how to design W1JR	p. 22, Aug 77
Yagi, 1296-MHz W2CQH	p. 24, May 72
7-MHz attic antenna (HN) W2ISL	p. 68, May 76
10-GHz dielectric antenna (HN) WA4WDL	p. 80, May 75
144-MHz vertical, $\frac{1}{2}$ -wavelength K6KLO	p. 40, Jul 74
144-MHz antenna, $\frac{1}{2}$ -wavelength built from CB mobile whip (HN) WB4WSU	p. 67, Jun 74
144-MHz colinear uses PVC pipe mast (HN) K8LLZ	p. 66, May 76
144-MHz mobile antenna (HN) W2EUQ	p. 80, Mar 77
144-MHz vertical mobile antennas, $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ wavelength, test data on W2LTJ, W2CQH	p. 46, May 76
144-MHz, $\frac{1}{2}$ -wavelength vertical W1RHN	p. 50, Mar 76
144-MHz, $\frac{1}{2}$ -wavelength, vertical antenna for mobile K4LPQ	p. 42, May 76
432-MHz high-gain Yagi K6HCP	p. 46, Jan 76
Comments, WØPW	p. 63, May 76
432-MHz OSCAR antenna (HN) W1JAA	p. 58, Jul 75
1296-MHz Yagi array W3AED	p. 40, May 75

## matching and tuning

Antenna coupler for three-band beams ZS6BT	p. 42, May 72
Antenna coupler, six-meter K1RAK	p. 44, Jul 71
Antenna impedance transformer for receivers (HN) W6NIF	p. 70, Jan 70
Antenna instrumentation, simple, (repair bench) K4IPV	p. 71, Jul 77
Antenna matcher, one-man W4SD	p. 24, Jun 71
Antenna tuner adjustment (HN) WA4MTH	p. 53, Dec 75
Antenna tuner, automatic WAØAQC	p. 36, Nov 72
Antenna tuner, medium-power toroidal WB2ZSH	p. 58, Jan 74
Antenna tuner for optimum power transfer W2WLR	p. 28, May 70
Antenna tuners W3FQJ	p. 58, Dec 72
Antenna tuning units W3FQJ	p. 58, Jan 73

Balun, adjustable for yagi antennas W6SAI	p. 14, May 71
Balun, Simplified (HN) WAØKCC	p. 73, Oct 69
Baluns, wideband bridge W6SAI, WA6BAN	p. 28, Dec 68
Broadband Antenna Baluns W6SAI	p. 6, Jun 68
Couplers, random-length antenna W2EZY	p. 32, Jan 70
Dummy loads W4MB	p. 40, Mar 76
Feeding and matching techniques for vhf/uhf antennas W1JAA	p. 54, May 76
Gamma-match capacitor, remotely controlled K2BT	p. 74, May 75
Gamma-matching networks, how to design W7ITB	p. 46, May 73
Impedance bridge, low-cost RX WB7YB	p. 6, May 73
Impedance-matching baluns, open-wire W6MUR	p. 46, Nov 73
Impedance-matching systems, designing W7CSD	p. 58, Jul 73
Loads, affect of mismatched transmitter W5JJ	p. 60, Sep 69
Matching, antenna, two-band with stubs W6MUR	p. 18, Oct 73
Matching system, two-capacitor W6MUR	p. 58, Sep 73
Measuring complex impedance with swr bridge WB4KSS	p. 46, May 75
Mobile transmitter, loading W4YB	p. 46, May 72
Noise bridge, antenna WB2EGZ	p. 18, Dec 70
Noise bridge, antenna (HN) K8EEG	p. 71, May 74
Noise bridge for impedance measurements YA1GJM	p. 62, Jan 73
Added notes	p. 66, May 74; p. 60, Mar 75
Phase meter, rf VE2AYU, Korth	p. 28, Apr 73
Quadrifilar toroid (HN) W9LL	p. 52, Dec 75
Stub-switched, stub-matched antennas W2EZY	p. 34, Jan 69
Swr alarm circuits W2EZY	p. 73, Apr 70
Swr bridge WB2ZSH	p. 55, Oct 71
Swr bridge and power meter, integrated W6DOB	p. 40, May 70
Swr bridge readings (HN) W6FPO	p. 63, Aug 73
Swr indicator, aural, for the visually handicapped K6HTM	p. 52, May 76
Swr meter W6VSV	p. 6, Oct 70
Swr meter, improving (HN) W5NPD	p. 68, May 76
Transmatch, five-to-one W7IV	p. 54, May 74
Transmission lines, grid dipping (HN) W2DLU	p. 72, Feb 71
Transmission lines, uhf WA2VTR	p. 36, May 71
Uhf coax connectors (HN) WØLCP	p. 70, Sep 72

## towers and rotators

Antenna and rotator preventive maintenance WA1ABP	p. 66, Jan 69
Antenna and tower restrictions W7IV	p. 24, Jan 76
Antenna mast, build your own tilt-over W6KRT	p. 42, Feb 70
Correction	p. 76, Sep 70
Az-el antenna mount for satellite communications W2LX	p. 34, Mar 75
Cornell-Dubilier rotators (HN) K6KA	p. 82, May 75
Ham-M modifications (HN) W2TQK	p. 72, May 76
Ham-M rotator automatic position control WB6GNM	p. 42, May 77
Keeping your beam, tips for W6BLZ	p. 50, Aug 68
Pipe antenna masts, design data for W3MR	p. 52, Sep 74
Added design notes (letter)	p. 75, May 75
Rotator, AR-22, fixing a sticky WA1ABP	p. 34, Jun 71
Rotator for medium-sized beams K2BT	p. 48, May 76
Rotator, T-45, Improvement (HN) WAØVAM	p. 64, Sep 71
Stress analysis of antenna systems W2FZJ	p. 23, Oct 71
Telescoping tv masts (HN) WAØKCC	p. 57, Feb 73
Tilt-over tower base, low-cost WA1ABP	p. 86, Apr 68
Tilt-over tower uses extension ladder W5TRS	p. 71, May 75

Tower guying (HN) K9MM	p. 98, Nov 77
Tower, homemade tilt-over WA3EWH	p. 28, May 71
Tower, wind-protected crank-up (HN)	p. 74, Oct 69
Towers and rotators K6KA	p. 34, May 76
Wind loading on towers and antenna structures, how to calculate K4KJ	p. 16, Aug 74
Added note	p. 56, Jul 75

## transmission lines

Antenna-transmission line analog, part 1 W6UYH	p. 52, Apr 77
Antenna-transmission line analog, part 2 W6UYH	p. 29, May 77
Balun, coaxial WAØRDX	p. 26, May 77
Coax cable dehumidifier K4RJ	p. 26, Sep 73
Coax connectors, repairing broken WØHKF	p. 66, Jun 70
Coaxial cable (C&T) W1DTY	p. 50, Jun 76
Coaxial cable, checking (letter) W2OLU	p. 68, May 71
Coaxial cable connectors (HN) WA1ABP	p. 71, Mar 69
Coaxial-cable fittings, type-F K2MDO	p. 44, May 71
Coaxial cable supports (HN) W2GA	p. 56, Jun 68
Coaxial cable, what you know about W9ISB	p. 30, Sep 68
Coaxial connectors can generate rfi W1DTY	p. 48, Jun 76
Coaxial feedthrough panel (HN) W3URE	p. 70, Apr 69
Coaxial-line loss, measuring with reflectometer W2VCI	p. 50, May 72
Coax, Low-cost (HN) K6BIJ	p. 74, Oct 69
Coaxial transmission lines, underground WØFCH	p. 38, May 70
Impedance transformer, non-synchronous (HN) W5TRS	p. 66, Sep 75
Comments, W3DVO	p. 63, May 76
Open-wire feedthrough insulator (HN) W4RNL	p. 79, May 75
Remote switching multiband antennas G3LTZ	p. 68, May 77
Single feedline for multiple antennas K2ISP	p. 58, May 71
Solenoid rotary switches W2EY	p. 36, Apr 68
Transmission line calculations, using your pocket calculator for W5TRS	p. 40, Nov 76
Tuner, receiver (HN) WA7KRE	p. 72, Mar 69
Tuner, wall-to-wall antenna (HN) W2OUX	p. 56, Dec 70
UHF microstrip swr bridge W4CGC	p. 22, Dec 72
VSWR indicator, computing WB9CYY	p. 58, Jan 77
short circuit	p. 94, May 77

## audio

Audio agc principles and practice WA5SNZ	p. 28, Jun 71
Audio amplifier and squelch circuit W6AJF	p. 36, Aug 68
Audio CW filter W7DI	p. 54, Nov 71
Audio filter, tunable, for weak-signal communications K6HCP	p. 28, Nov 75
Audio filters, aligning (HN) W4ATE	p. 72, Aug 72
Audio filters, inexpensive W8YFB	p. 24, Aug 72
Audio filter mod (HN) K6HIL	p. 60, Jan 72
Audio mixer (HN) W6KNE	p. 66, Nov 76
Audio module, a complete K4DHC	p. 18, Jun 73
Audio-oscillator module, Cordover WB2GQY	p. 44, Mar 71
Correction	p. 80, Dec 71
Audio-power integrated circuits W3FQJ	p. 64, Jan 76
Audio transducer (HN) WA1OPN	p. 59, Jul 75
Binaural CW reception, synthesizer for W6NRW	p. 46, Nov 75
Comment	p. 77, Feb 77
Compressor, dual channel W2EY	p. 40, Jul 68

Distortion and splatter K5LLJ	p. 44, Dec 70
Dynamic microphones (C&T) W1DTY	p. 46, Jun 76
Filter for CW, tunable audio WA1JSM	p. 34, Aug 70
Filter-frequency translator for cw reception, integrated audio W2EY	p. 24, Jun 70
Filter, lowpass audio, simple OD5CG	p. 54, Jan 74
Filter, simple audio W4NVK	p. 44, Oct 70
Filter, tunable peak-notch audio W2EY	p. 22, Mar 70
Filter, variable bandpass audio W3AEX	p. 36, Apr 70
Gain control IC for audio signal processing Jung	p. 47, Jul 77
Hang agc circuit for ssb and CW W1ERJ	p. 50, Sep 72
Headphone cords (HN) W2OLU	p. 62, Nov 75
Headphones, lightweight K6KA	p. 34, Sep 68
Impedance match, microphone (HN) W5JJ	p. 67, Sep 73
Increased flexibility for the MFJ Enterprises CW filters K3NEZ	p. 58, Dec 76
Intercom, simple (HN) W4AYV	p. 66, Jul 72
Microphone preamplifier with agc Bryant	p. 28, Nov 71
Microphone, using Shure 401A with the Drake TR-4 (HN) G3XOM	p. 68, Sep 73
Microphones, muting (HN) W6IL	p. 63, Nov 75
Notch filter, tunable RC WA5SNZ	p. 16, Sep 75
Comment	p. 78, Apr 77
Oscillator, audio, IC W6GXN	p. 50, Feb 73
Oscillator-monitor, solid-state audio WA1JSM	p. 48, Sep 70
Phone patch W8GRG	p. 20, Jul 71
Pre-emphasis for ssb transmitters OH2CD	p. 38, Feb 72
RC active filters using op amps W4IYB	p. 54, Oct 76
Receivers, better audio for K7GCO	p. 74, Apr 77
Rf clipper for the Collins S-line K6JYO	p. 18, Aug 71
Rf speech processor, ssb W2MB	p. 18, Sep 73
Speaker-driver module, IC WA2GCF	p. 24, Sep 72
Speech amplifiers, curing distortion Allen	p. 42, Aug 70
Speech clipper, IC K6HTM	p. 18, Feb 73
Added notes (letter)	p. 64, Oct 73
Speech clippers, rf G6XN	p. 26, Nov; p. 12, Dec 72
Added notes	p. 58, Aug 73; p. 72, Sep 74
Speech clipping in single-sideband equipment K1YZW	p. 22, Feb 71
Speech clipping (letter) W3EJD	p. 72, Jul 72
Speech compressor (HN) Novotny	p. 70, Feb 76
Speech processing W1DTY	p. 60, Jun 68
Speech processing, principles of ZL1BN	p. 28, Feb 75
Added notes	p. 75, May 75; p. 64, Nov 75
Speech processing technique, split audio band W1DTY	p. 30, Jun 76
Speech processor, audio-frequency K3PDW	p. 48, Aug 77
Short circuit	p. 68, Dec 77
Speech processor for ssb, simple K6PHT	p. 22, Apr 70
Speech processor, IC VK9GN	p. 31, Dec 71
Speech processor, logarithmic WA3FIY	p. 38, Jan 70
Squelch, audio-actuated K4MOG	p. 52, Apr 72
Synthesizer-filter, binaural W6NRW	p. 52, Nov 76
Tape head cleaners (letter) K4MSG	p. 62, May 72
Tape head cleaning (letter) Buchanan	p. 67, Oct 72
Voice-operated gate for carbon microphones W6GXN	p. 35, Dec 77

## commercial equipment

Alliance rotator improvement (HN) K6JVE	p. 68, May 72
Alliance T-45 rotator Improvement (HN) WAØVAM	p. 64, Sep 71

CDR AR-22 rotator, fixing a sticky WA1ABP	p. 34, Jun 71
Clegg 27B, S-meter for (HN) WA2YUD	p. 61, Nov 74
Collins KWM-2/KWM-2A modifications (HN) W6SAI	p. 80, Aug 76
Collins KWM2 transceivers, improved reliability (HN) W6SAI	p. 81, Jun 77
Collins R390 rf transformers, repairing (HN) WA2SUT	p. 81, Aug 76
Collins receivers, 300-Hz crystal filter for W1DTY	p. 58, Sep 75
Collins S-line, improved frequency readout for the W1GFC	p. 53, Jun 76
Collins S-line power supply mod (HN) W6IL	p. 61, Jul 74
Collins S-line receivers, improved selectivity W6FR	p. 36, Jun 76
Collins S-line, reducing warm-up drift W6VFR	p. 46, Jun 75
Collins S-line, rf clipper for K6JYO	p. 18, Aug 71
Correction	p. 80, Dec 71
Collins S-line spinner knob (HN) W6VFR	p. 69, Apr 72
Collins S-line, syllabic vox system for WØIP	p. 29, Oct 77
Collins S-line transceiver mod (HN) W6VFR	p. 71, Nov 72
Collins 32S-series ALC meter improvement (HN) W6FR	p. 100, Nov 77
Collins 32S-3 audio (HN) K6KA	p. 64, Oct 71
Collins 32S-1 CW modification (HN) W1DTY	p. 82, Dec 69
Correction	p. 76, Sep 70
Collins 51J PTO restoration W6SAI	p. 36, Dec 69
Collins 70E12 PTO repair (HN) W6BIH	p. 72, Feb 77
Collins 70K-2 PTO, correcting mechanical backlash (HN) K9WEH	p. 58, Feb 75
Collins 75A4 avc mod (letter) W9KNI	p. 63, Sep 75
Collins 75A4 hints (HN) W6VFR	p. 68, Apr 72
Collins 75A4, increased selectivity for (HN) W1DTY	p. 62, Nov 75
Collins 75A-4 modifications (HN) W4SD	p. 67, Jan 71
Collins 75A4 noise limiter W1DTY	p. 43, Apr 76
Collins 75A4 PTO, making it perform like new W3AFM	p. 24, Dec 74
Collins 75A-4 receiver, improving overload response in W6ZO	p. 42, Apr 70
Short circuit	p. 76, Sep 70
Collins 75S frequency synthesizer W6NBI	p. 8, Dec 75
Short circuit	p. 85, Oct 76
Collins 75S-series crystal adapter (HN) K1KXA	p. 72, Feb 77
Collins R-388(51J), inter-band calibration stability (HN) W5OZF	p. 95, Sep 77
Collins R390A, improving the product detector W7DI	p. 12, Jul 74
Collins R390A modifications WA2SUT	p. 58, Nov 75
Collins R392, improved ssb reception with (HN) VE3LF	p. 88, Jul 77
Comdel speech processor, increasing the versatility of (HN) W6SAI	p. 67, Mar 71
Cornell-Dubilier rotators (HN) K6KA	p. 82, May 75
Drake gear, simple tune-up (HN) W7DIM	p. 79, Jan 77
Drake R-4 receiver frequency synthesizer for W6NBI	p. 6, Aug 72
Modification (letter)	p. 74, Sep 74
Drake R-4C, electronic bandpass tuning in Horner	p. 58, Oct 73
Drake TR-4, using the Shure 401A microphone with (HN) G3XOM	p. 68, Sep 73
Drake W-4 directional wattmeter W1DTY	p. 86, Mar 68
Elmac chirp and drift (HN) W5OZF	p. 68, Jun 70
EX crystal and oscillator WB2EGZ	p. 60, Apr 68
Galaxy feedback (HN) WA5TFK	p. 71, Jan 70
Genave transceivers, S-meter for (HN) K9OXX	p. 80, Mar 77
Hallcrafters HT-37, increased sideband suppression W3CM	p. 48, Nov 69
Ham-M modification (HN) W2TQK	p. 72, May 76
Ham-M rotator automatic position control WB6GNM	p. 42, May 77



Hammarlund HQ215, adding 160-meter coverage		Icom IC-230, adding splinter channels (HN)	p. 82, Sep 76	BNC connectors, mounting (HN)	p. 70, Jan 70
W2GKH	p. 32, Jan 72	WA10XJ		W9KXJ	
Heath CA1, ten-minute timer from (HN)		ICs, drilling template for (HN)	p. 78, Mar 77	Capacitors, custom, how to make	p. 36, Feb 77
K8HZ	p. 74, Jul 68	WA4WDL, WB4LJM		WBØESV	
Heath HG-10B vfo, independent keying of (HN)		James Research oscillator/monitor	p. 91, Mar 68	Capacitors, oil-filled (HN)	p. 66, Dec 72
K4BRR	p. 67, Sep 70	W1D7Y		W2OLU	
Heath HM-2102 wattmeter, better balancing (HN)		James Research permaflex key	p. 73, Dec 68	Center insulator, dipole	p. 69, May 69
VE6RF	p. 56, Jan 75	W1D7Y		WA1ABP	
Heath HM 2102 vhf wattmeter, high power calibration for (HN)		Kenwood TS-520 CW filter modification (HN)	p. 21, Nov 75	Circuit boards with terminal inserts (HN)	p. 61, Nov 75
W9TKR	p. 70, Feb 76	W7ZZ		W3KBM	
Heath HM-2102 wattmeter mods (letter)		Kenwood TS-520, TVI cure for (HN)	p. 78, Jan 77	Coaxial cable connectors (HN)	p. 71, Mar 69
K3VNR	p. 64, Sep 75	W3FUN		WA1ABP	
Heath HO-10 as RTTY monitor scope (HN)		Knight-kit inverter/charger review	p. 64, Apr 69	Coax connectors, repairing broken (HN)	p. 66, Jun 70
K9HVV	p. 70, Sep 74	W1D7Y		WØHKF	
Heath HW-7 mods, keying and receiver blanking (HN)		Knight-kit two-meter transceiver	p. 62, Jun 70	Coax relay coils, another use (HN)	p. 72, Aug 69
WA5KPG	p. 60, Dec 74	W1D7Y		KØVQY	
Heath HW-12 on MARS (HN)		Mini-mitter II	p. 72, Dec 71	Coils, self-supporting	p. 42, Jul 77
K8AUH	p. 63, Sep 71	W6SLQ		Anderson	
Heath HW-16 keying (HN)		Mini-mitter II modifications (HN)	p. 64, Apr 76	Cold galvanizing compound (HN)	p. 70, Sep 72
W7DI	p. 57, Dec 73	K1ETU		W5LNF	
Heath HW-16, low-impedance headphones for (HN)		Motorola channel elements	p. 32, Dec 72	Color coding parts (HN)	p. 58, Feb 72
WN8WJR	p. 88, Jul 77	WB4NEX		WA7BPO	
Heath HW16, vfo operations for		Motorola Dispatcher, converting to 12 volts	p. 26, Jul 72	Component marking (HN)	p. 66, Nov 71
WB6MZN	p. 54, Mar 73	WB6HXU		W1JE	
Short circuit	p. 58, Dec 73	Short circuit	p. 64, Mar 74	Deburring holes (HN)	p. 75, Jul 68
Heath HW-17A, perking up (HN)		Motorola fm receiver mods (HN)	p. 60, Aug 71	W2DXH	
Heath HW-17 modifications (HN)		VE4RE		Drill guide (HN)	p. 68, Oct 71
WA5PWX	p. 66, Mar 71	Motorola P-33 series, improving	p. 34, Feb 71	W5BVF	
Heath HW-100, HW-101, grid-current monitor for		WB2AEB		Drilling aluminum (HN)	p. 67, Sep 75
K4MFR	p. 46, Feb 73	Motorola receivers, op-amp relay for	p. 16, Jul 73	W6IL	
Heath HW-100 incremental tuning (HN)		W6GDO		Enclosures, homemade custom	p. 50, Jul 74
K1GUU	p. 67, Jun 69	Motorola voice commander, improving	p. 70, Oct 70	W4YUU	
Heath HW-100, the new		WØDKU		Etch tank (HN)	p. 79, Jan 77
W1NLB	p. 64, Sep 68	Motrac Receivers (letter)	p. 69, Jul 71	W3HUC	
Heath HW-100 tuning knob, loose (HN)		Qement circular slide rule	p. 62, Apr 68	Exploding diodes (HN)	p. 57, Dec 73
VE3EPY	p. 68, Jun 71	W2DXH		VE3FEZ	
Heath HW-101, using with a separate receiver (HN)		Regency HR transceivers, signal-peaking indicator and generator for (HN)	p. 68, Jun 76	Ferrite beads	p. 48, Oct 70
WA1MKP	p. 63, Oct 73	W8HVG		W5JJ	
Heath HW-202, adding private-line		Regency HR-2, narrowbanding	p. 44, Dec 73	Files, cleaning (HN)	p. 66, Jun 74
WA8AWJ	p. 53, Jun 74	WABTMP		Walton	
Heath HW-202, another look at the fm channel scanner for		Regency HR-212, channel scanner for	p. 28, Mar 75	Ferrite beads, how to use	p. 34, Mar 73
K7PYS	p. 68, Mar 76	WØSJK		K1ORV	
Heath HW-202 lamp replacement (HN)		R-392 receiver mods (HN)	p. 65, Apr 76	Filter chokes, unmarked	p. 60, Nov 68
W5UNF	p. 83, Sep 76	KH6FOX		WØKMF	
Heath IM-11 vtmv, convert to IC voltmeter		SBE linear implifier tips (HN)	p. 71, Mar 69	Grommet shock mount (HN)	p. 77, Oct 68
K6VCI	p. 42, Dec 74	WA6DCW		VE3BUE	
Heath intrusion alarm (HN)		SB301/401, improved sidetone operation	p. 73, Oct 69	Grounding (HN)	p. 67, Jun 69
Rossman	p. 81, Jun 77	W1WLZ		W9KXJ	
Heath SB-100, using an outboard receiver with (HN)		Signal One review	p. 56, May 69	Heat sinks, homemade (HN)	p. 69, Sep 70
K4GMR	p. 68, Feb 70	W1NLB		WAØWOZ	
Heath SB-102 headphone operation (HN)		Spurious causes (HN)	p. 66, Jan 74	Homebrew art	p. 56, Jun 69
K1KXA	p. 87, Oct 77	K6KA		WØPEM	
Heath SB102 modifications (HN)		Standard 826M, more power from (HN)	p. 68, Apr 75	Hot etching (HN)	p. 66, Jan 73
W2CNQ	p. 58, Jun 75	WB6KVF		K8EKG	
Heath SB-102 modifications (HN)		Swan television interference: an effective remedy	p. 46, Apr 71	Hot wire stripper (HN)	p. 67, Nov 71
W2CNQ	p. 79, Mar 77	W2OUX		W8DWT	
Heath SB-102, rf speech processor for		Swan 120, converting to two meters	p. 8, May 68	IC holders (HN)	p. 80, Aug 76
W6IVI	p. 38, Jun 75	K6RIL		W3HUC	
Heath SB-102, receiver incremental tuning for (HN)		Swan 250 Carrier suppression (HN)	p. 79, Oct 76	IC lead former (HN)	p. 67, Jan 74
K1KXA	p. 81, Aug 76	WB8LGA		W5ICV	
Heath SB-102, WWV on (HN)		Swan 350 CW monitor (HN)	p. 63, Jun 72	Indicator circuit, LED	p. 60, Apr 77
K1KXA	p. 78, Jan 77	K1KXA		WB6AFT	
Heath SB-200 amplifier, modifying for the 8873 zero-bias triode		Correction (letter)	p. 77, May 73	Inductance, toroidal coil (HN)	p. 26, Sep 75
W6UOV	p. 32, Jan 71	Swan 350, receiver incremental tuning (HN)	p. 64, Jul 71	W3WLX	
Heath SB-200 amplifier, six-meter conversion		K1KXA		Inductors, graphical aid for winding	p. 41, Apr 77
K1RAK	p. 38, Nov 71	Swan 350 and 400, RTTY operation (HN)	p. 67, Aug 69	W7POG	
Heath SB200 CW modification		WØ2MIC		Industrial cartridge fuses, using (HN)	p. 76, Sep 68
K6YB	p. 99, Nov 77	Swan 250, update your (HN)	p. 84, Dec 69	VE3BUE	
Heath SB-300, RTTY with		K8ZHZ		Magnetic fields and the 7360 (HN)	p. 66, Sep 73
W2ARZ	p. 76, Jul 68	Telefax transceiver conversion	p. 16, Apr 74	W7DI	
Heath SB-303, 10-MHz coverage for (HN)		KØQMR		Metric conversions for screw and wire sizes	p. 67, Sep 75
W1JE	p. 61, Feb 74	Ten-Tec Argonaut, accessory package for	p. 26, Apr 74	W1D7Y	
Heath SB-400 and SB-401, improving alc response in (HN)		W7BBX		Miniature sockets (HN)	p. 84, Dec 69
WA9FDQ	p. 71, Jan 70	Ten-Tec KR-20 keyer, stabilization of (HN)	p. 69, Jul 76	Lawyer	
Heath SB-610 as RTTY monitor scope (HN)		W3CRG		Minibox, cutting down to size (HN)	p. 57, Mar 74
K9HVV	p. 70, Sep 74	Ten-Tec RX10 communicators receiver	p. 63, Jun 71	Mobile installation, putting together	p. 36, Aug 69
Heath SB-650 using with other receivers		W1NLB		WØFCH	
K2BYM	p. 40, Jun 73	T150A frequency stability (HN)	p. 70, Apr 69	Mobile mount bracket (HN)	p. 70, Feb 70
Heath SB receivers, RTTY reception with (HN)		WB2MCP		W4NJF	
K9HVV	p. 64, Oct 71	Yaesu sideband switching (HN)	p. 56, Dec 73	Modular converter, 144-MHz	p. 64, Oct 70
Heath SB-series crystal control and narrow shift RTTY with (HN)		W2MUU		W6UOV	
WA4VYL	p. 54, Jun 73	Yaesu spurious signals (HN)	p. 69, Dec 71	Neutralizing tip (HN)	p. 69, Dec 72
Heathkit SB-series equipment, heterodyne crystal switching (HN)		K6KA		ZE6JP	
K1KXA	p. 78, Mar 77	Units affected (letter)	p. 67, Oct 73	Noisy fans (HN)	p. 70, Nov 72
Heath ten-minute timer		Yaesu FT101 clarifier (letter)	p. 55, Nov 75	Correction (letter)	p. 67, Oct 73
K6KA	p. 75, Dec 71	K1NUN		Nuvisor heat sinks (HN)	p. 57, Dec 73
Heathkit Sixer, spot switch (HN)		<b>construction techniques</b>		WAØKKC	
WA6FNR	p. 84, Dec 69	AC line cords (letter)		Parasitic suppressor (HN)	p. 80, Apr 70
Heathkit, noise limiter for (HN)		W6EG	p. 80, Dec 71	WA9JMY	
W7CKH	p. 67, Mar 71	A dab of paint, a drop of wax (HN)	p. 78, Aug 68	Printed-circuit boards, cleaning (HN)	p. 66, Mar 71
Heathkit HW202, fm channel scanner for		VE3BUE		W5BVF	
W7BZ	p. 41, Feb 75	Aluminum's new face	p. 60, May 68	Printed-circuit boards, how to clean	p. 56, Sep 76
ICOM-22A wiring change (HN)		W4BRS		K2PMA	
K1KXA	p. 73, Feb 77	Aluminum tubing, clamping (HN)	p. 78, May 75	Printed-circuit boards, how to make	p. 58, Apr 73
		WA9HUV		K4EEU	
		Antenna insulators, homemade (HN)	p. 70, May 73	Printed-circuit boards, low-cost	p. 44, Aug 71
		W7ZC		W6CMQ	
		APC trimmer, adding shaft to (HN)	p. 68, Jul 69	Printed-circuit boards, low-cost	p. 16, Jan 75
		W1ETT		W8YFB	
		Blower-to-chassis adapter (HN)	p. 73, Feb 71	Printed-circuit boards, practical photofabrication of	p. 6, Sep 71
		K6JYO		Hutchinson	
				Printed-circuit labels (HN)	p. 76, Oct 70
				WA4WDK	
				Printed-circuit standards (HN)	p. 58, Apr 74
				W6JVE	

Printed-circuit tool (HN)	
W2GZ	p. 74, May 73
Printed circuits without printing	
W4ZG	p. 62, Nov 70
Professional look, for that	
VE3GFN	p. 74, Mar 68
Punching aluminum panels (HN)	
W7DIM	p. 57, Jun 68
Rack and panel construction	
W7OE	p. 48, Jun 68
Rack construction, a new approach	
K1EUJ	p. 36, Mar 70
Rectifier terminal strip (HN)	
W5PKK	p. 80, Apr 70
Restoring panel lettering (HN)	
W8CL	p. 69, Jan 73
Screwdriver, adjustment (HN)	
WAØKGS	p. 66, Jan 71
Silver plating (letters)	
WAØAGD	p. 94, Nov 77
Silver plating for the amateur	
W4KAE	p. 62, Dec 68
Silver plating made easy	
WA9HUV	p. 42, Feb 77
Small parts tray (HN)	
W2GA	p. 58, Jun 68
Solder dispenser, simple (HN)	
W2KID	p. 76, Sep 68
Soldering aluminum (HN)	
ZE6JP	p. 67, May 72
Soldering fluxes (HN)	
K3HNP	p. 57, Jun 68
Soldering tip (HN)	
Lawyer	p. 68, Feb 70
Soldering tip cleaner (HN)	
W3HUC	p. 79, Oct 76
Soldering tips	
WA4MTH	p. 15, May 76
Thumbwheel switch modification (HN)	
VE3DGX	p. 56, Mar 74
Tilt your rig (HN)	
WA4NED	p. 58, Jun 68
Toroids, plug-in (HN)	
K8EEG	p. 60, Jan 72
Transfer letters (HN)	
WA2TGL	p. 78, Oct 76
Transformers, repairing	
W6NIF	p. 66, Mar 69
Trimmers (HN)	
W5LHG	p. 76, Nov 69
Uhf coax connectors (HN)	
WØLCP	p. 70, Sep 72
Uhf hardware (HN)	
W6CMQ	p. 76, Oct 70
Underwriter's knot (HN)	
W1DITY	p. 69, May 69
Vectorbord tool (HN)	
WA1KWJ	p. 70, Apr 72
Volume controls, noisy, temporary fix (HN)	
W9JUV	p. 62, Aug 74
Watercooling the 2C39	
K6MYC	p. 30, Jun 69
Wiring and grounding	
W1EZT	p. 44, Jun 69
Workbench, electronic	
W1EZT	p. 50, Oct 70

## features and fiction

Alarm, burglar-proof (HN)	
Eisenbrandt	p. 56, Dec 75
Binding 1970 issues of ham radio (HN)	
W1DHZ	p. 72, Feb 71
Brass pounding on wheels	
K6QD	p. 58, Mar 75
Dynistor, the	
W6GXN	p. 49, Apr 68
Catalina wireless, 1902	
W6BLZ	p. 32, Apr 70
Early wireless stations	
W6BLZ	p. 64, Oct 68
Electronic bugging	
K2ZSQ	p. 70, Jun 68
Fire protection in the ham shack	
Darr	p. 54, Jan 71
First wireless in Alaska	
W6BLZ	p. 48, Apr 73
Ham Radio sweepstakes winners, 1972	
W1NLB	p. 58, Jul 72
Ham Radio sweepstakes winners, 1973	
W1NLB	p. 68, Jul 73
Ham Radio sweepstakes winners, 1975	
W1NLB	p. 54, Jul 75
How to be DX	
W4NXD	p. 58, Aug 68
Nostalgia with a vengeance	
W6HDM	p. 28, Apr 72
Photographic illustrations	
WA4GNW	p. 72, Dec 69
QSL return, statistics on	
W6BIUH	p. 50, Dec 68
Reminiscences of old-time radio	
K4NW	p. 40, Apr 71
Secret society, the	
W4NXD	p. 82, May 68
Ten commandments for technicians	
	p. 58, Oct 76

Use your old magazines	
Foster	p. 52, Jan 70
What is it?	
WA1ABP	p. 84, May 68
Wireless Point Loma	
W6BLZ	p. 54, Apr 69
1929-1941, the Golden years of amateur radio	
W6SAI	p. 34, Apr 76
1979 world administrative radio conference	
W6APW	p. 48, Feb 76

## fm and repeaters

Amateur vhf fm operation	
W6AYZ	p. 36, Jun 68
Antenna and control-link calculations for repeater licensing	
W7PUG	p. 58, Nov 73
Short circuit	p. 59, Dec 73
Antennas, simple, for two-meter fm	
WA3NFW	p. 30, May 73
Antenna, two-meter fm (HN)	
W6BKYE	p. 64, May 71
Antenna, 1/2-wavelength, two-meter	
K6KLO	p. 40, Jul 74
Antenna, 1/2 wavelength two-meter, build from CB mobile whips (HN)	
WB4WSU	p. 67, Jun 74
Audio-amplifier and squelch unit	
W6AJF	p. 36, Aug 68
Automatically controlled access to open repeaters	
W8GRG	p. 22, Mar 74
Autopatch system for vhf fm repeaters	
W8GRG	p. 32, Jul 74
Base station, two-meter fm	
W9JTQ	p. 22, Aug 73
Carrier-operated relay	
KØPHF, WAØUZO	p. 58, Nov 72
Carrier-operated relay and call monitor	
VE4RE	p. 22, Jun 71
Cavity filter, 144-MHz	
W1SNN	p. 22, Dec 73
Channel scanner	
W2FFP	p. 29, Aug 71
Channels, three from two (HN)	
VE7ABK	p. 68, Jun 71
Charger, fet-controlled for nicad batteries	
WAØJYK	p. 46, Aug 75
Collinear antenna for two meters, nine-element	
W6RJO	p. 12, May 72
Collinear array for two meters, 4-element	
WB6KGF	p. 6, May 71
Continuous tuning for fm converters (HN)	
W1DHZ	p. 54, Dec 70
Control head, customizing	
VE7ABK	p. 28, Apr 71
Converting low-band mobile antenna to 144 MHz (HN)	
K7ARR	p. 90, May 77
Decoder, control function	
WA9FTH	p. 66, Mar 77
Detectors, fm, survey of	
W6GXN	p. 22, Jun 76
Deviation measurement (letter)	
K5ZBA	p. 68, May 71
Deviation measurements	
W3FQJ	p. 52, Feb 72
Deviation meter (HN)	
VE7ABK	p. 58, Dec 70
Digital touch-tone encoder for vhf fm	
W7FBF	p. 28, Apr 75
Discriminator, quartz crystal	
WAØJYK	p. 67, Oct 75
Distortion in fm systems	
W5JJ	p. 26, Aug 69
Encoder, combined digital and burst	
K8AUH	p. 48, Aug 69
European vhf-fm repeaters	
SM4GL	p. 80, Sep 76
Filter, 455-kHz for fm	
WAØJYK	p. 22, Mar 72
Fm demodulator, TTL	
W3FQJ	p. 66, Nov 72
Fm receiver frequency control (letter)	
W3AFN	p. 65, Apr 71
Fm techniques and practices for vhf amateurs	
W6SAI	p. 8, Sep 69
Short circuit	p. 79, Jun 70
Fm transmitter, solid-state two-meter	
W6AJF	p. 14, Jul 71
Fm transmitter, Sonobaby, 2 meter	
WAØUZO	p. 8, Oct 71
Short Circuit	p. 96, Dec 71
Crystal deck for Sonobaby	p. 26, Oct 72
Frequency meter, two-meter fm	
W4JAZ	p. 40, Jan 71
Short circuit	p. 72, Apr 71
Frequency synthesizer, inexpensive all-channel, for two-meter fm	
WØOA	p. 50, Aug 73
Correction (letter)	p. 65, Jun 74
Frequency-synthesizer, one-crystal for two-meter fm	
WØMV	p. 30, Sep 73
Frequency synthesizer, for two-meter fm	
WB4FPK	p. 34, Jul 73

Frequency synthesizer sidebands, filter reduces (HN)	
K1PCT	p. 80, Jun 77
Heath HD-1928 Micoder for low-impedance operation (HN)	
Johnson	p. 95, Dec 77
IC-230 modification (HN)	
W8PEY	p. 80, Mar 77
Identifier, programmable repeater	
W6AYZ	p. 18, Apr 69
Short circuit	p. 76, Jul 69
I-f system, multimode	
WA2IKL	p. 39, Sep 71
Indicator, sensitive rf	
WB9DNI	p. 38, Apr 73
Interface problems, fm equipment (HN)	
W9DPY	p. 58, Jun 75
Interference, scanning receiver (HN)	
K2YAH	p. 70, Sep 72
Logic oscillator for multi-channel crystal control	
W1SNN	p. 46, Jun 73
Magnet mount antenna, portable (HN)	
WB2YYU	p. 67, May 76
Mobile antenna, magnet-mount	
W1HCI	p. 54, Sep 75
Mobile antennas, vhf, comparison of	
W4MNV	p. 52, May 77
Mobile operation with the Touch-Tone pad	
WØLPQ	p. 58, Aug 72
Correction	p. 90, Dec 72
Modification (letter)	p. 72, Apr 73
Mobile rig, protecting from theft (C&T)	
W1DITY	p. 42, Apr 76
Modulation standards for vhf fm	
W6TEE	p. 16, Jun 70
Monitor receivers, two-meter fm	
WB5EMI	p. 34, Apr 74
Motorola channel elements	
WB4NEX	p. 32, Dec 72
Motorola fm receiver mods (HN)	
VE4RE	p. 60, Aug 71
Motorola P-33 series, improving the	
WB2AEB	p. 34, Feb 71
Motorola voice commander, improving	
WØDKU	p. 70, Oct 70
Motrac Receivers (letter)	
K5ZBA	p. 69, Jul 71
Multimode transceivers, fm-ing on uhf (HN)	
W6SAI	p. 98, Nov 77
Narrow-band fm system, using ICs in	
W6AJF	p. 30, Oct 68
Phase-locked loop, tunable, 28 and 50 MHz	
W1KNI	p. 40, Jan 73
Phase modulation principles and techniques	
VE2BEN	p. 28, Jul 75
Correction	p. 59, Dec 75
Power amplifier, rf 220-MHz fm	
K7JUE	p. 6, Sep 73
Power amplifier, rf, 144 MHz	
Hatchett	p. 6, Dec 73
Power amplifier, rf, 144-MHz fm	
W4CGC	p. 6, Apr 73
Power amplifier, two-meter fm, 10-watt	
W1DITY	p. 67, Jan 74
Power supply, regulated ac for mobile fm equipment	
W8TMP	p. 28, Jun 73
Preamplifier, two-meter	
WA2GCF	p. 25, Mar 72
Preamplifier, two meter	
W8BBB	p. 36, Jun 74
Private call system for vhf fm	
WA6TTY	p. 62, Sep 77
Private-line, adding to Heath HW-202	
W8AWJ	p. 53, Jun 74
Push-to-talk for Styleline telephones	
W1DRP	p. 18, Dec 71
Receiver alignment techniques, vhf fm	
K4IPV	p. 14, Aug 75
Receiver for six and two meters, multichannel fm	
W1SNN	p. 54, Feb 74
Receiver for two meter, fm	
W9SEK	p. 22, Sep 70
Short circuit	p. 72, Apr 71
Receiver isolation, fm repeater (HN)	
W1DITY	p. 54, Dec 70
Receiver, modular fm communications	
K8AUH	p. 32, Jun 69
Correction	p. 71, Jan 70
Receiver, modular, for two-meter fm	
WA2GBF	p. 42, Feb 72
Added notes	p. 73, Jul 72
Receiver performance, comparison of	
VE7ABK	p. 68, Aug 72
Receiver performance of vacuum-tube vhf-fm equipment, how to improve	
W6GGV	p. 52, Oct 76
Receiver, tunable vhf fm	
K8AUH	p. 34, Nov 71
Receiver, vhf fm	
WA2GCF	p. 6, Nov 72
Receiver, vhf fm	
WA2GCF	p. 8, Nov 75
Receiver, vhf fm (letter)	
K8IHQ	p. 76, May 73

Relay, operational-amplifier, for Motorola receivers	
W6GDO	p. 16, Jul 73
Remote base, an alternative to repeaters	
WA6LBV, WA6FVC	p. 32, Apr 77
Repeater control with simple timers	
W2FPP	p. 46, Sep 72
Correction	p. 91, Dec 72
Repeater decoder, multi-function	
WA6TBC	p. 24, Jan 73
Repeater installation	
W2FPP	p. 24, Jun 73
Repeater kerchunk eliminator	
WB6GTM	p. 70, Oct 77
Repeater linking, carrier-operated relay for KØPHF	
KØPHF	p. 57, Jul 76
Repeater problems	
VE7ABK	p. 38, Mar 71
Repeater, receiving system degradation	
K5ZBA	p. 36, May 69
Repeater transmitter, improving	
W6GDO	p. 24, Oct 69
Repeater shack temperature, remote checking	
ZL2AMJ	p. 84, Sep 77
Repeaters, single-frequency fm	
W2FPP	p. 40, Nov 73
Reset timer, automatic	
W5ZHV	p. 54, Oct 74
Satellite receivers for repeaters	
WA4YAK	p. 64, Oct 75
Scanner, two-channel, for repeater monitoring	
W8GRG	p. 48, Oct 76
Scanner, vhf receiver	
K2LZG	p. 22, Feb 73
Scanning receiver, improved for vhf fm	
WA2GCF	p. 26, Nov 74
Scanning receiver modifications, vhf fm	
WA5WOU	p. 60, Feb 74
Scanning receivers for two-meter fm	
K4IPV	p. 28, Aug 74
Sequential encoder, mobile fm	
W3JJU	p. 34, Sep 71
Sequential switching for Touch-Tone repeater control	
W8GRG	p. 22, Jun 71
Single-frequency conversion, vhf/uhf	
W3FQJ	p. 62, Apr 75
Single-sideband fm, introduction to	
W3EJD	p. 10, Jan 77
S-meter, audible, for repeaters	
ZL2AMJ	p. 49, Mar 77
S-meter for Clegg 27B (HN)	
WA2YUD	p. 61, Nov 74
Squelch-audio amplifier for fm receivers	
WB4WSU	p. 68, Sep 74
Squelch circuit, another (HN)	
WB4WSU	p. 78, Oct 76
Squelch circuits for transistor radios	
WB4WSU	p. 36, Dec 75
Synthesized channel scanning	
WAØUZO	p. 68, Mar 77
Synthesized two-meter fm transceiver	
W1CMR, K1IJZ	p. 10, Jan 76
Letter, W5GQV	p. 78, Sep 76
Telephone controller, automatic for your repeater	
KØPHF, WAØUZO	p. 44, Nov 74
Telephone controller for remote repeater operation	
KØPHF, WAØUZO	p. 50, Jan 76
Precautions (letters)	p. 79, Apr 77
Test set for Motorola radios	
KØBKD	p. 12, Nov 73
Short circuit	p. 58, Dec 73
Added note (letter)	p. 64, Jun 74
Time-out warning indicator for fm repeater users	
K3NEZ	p. 62, Jun 76
Timer, simple (HN)	
W3CIX	p. 58, Mar 73
Tone-burst generator (HN)	
K4COF	p. 58, Mar 73
Tone-burst generator for repeater accessing	
WA5KPG	p. 68, Sep 77
Tone-burst keyer for fm repeaters	
W8GRG	p. 36, Jan 72
Tone encoder and secondary frequency oscillator (HN)	
K8AUH	p. 66, Jun 69
Tone encoder, universal for vhf fm	
W6FUB	p. 17, Jul 75
Correction	p. 58, Dec 75
Tone generator, IC	
Ahrens	p. 70, Feb 77
Touch-tone circuit, mobile	
K7QWR	p. 50, Mar 73
Touch-tone decoder, multi-function	
KØPHF, WAØUZO	p. 14, Oct 73
Touch-tone decoder, three-digit	
W6AYZ	p. 37, Dec 74
Circuit board for	p. 62, Sep 75
Touch-Tone encoder	
W3HB	p. 41, Aug 77
Touch-tone, hand-held	
K7YAM	p. 44, Sep 75
Touch-tone handset, converting slim-line	
K2YAH	p. 23, Jun 75

Transceiver for two-meter fm, compact	
W6AOI	p. 36, Jan 74
Transmitter for two meters, phase-modulated	
W6AIF	p. 18, Feb 70
Transmitter, two-meter fm	
W9SEK	p. 6, Apr 72
Tunable receiver modification for vhf fm	
WB6VKY	p. 40, Oct 74
Two-meter synthesizer, direct output	
WB2CPA	p. 10, Aug 77
Short circuit	p. 68, Dec 77
Up/down repeater-mode circuit for two-meter synthesizers, 600 kHz	
WB4PHO	p. 40, Jan 77
Short circuit	p. 94, May 77
Vertical antennas, truth about 3/8-wavelength	
KØDOK	p. 48, May 74
Added note (letter)	p. 54, Jan 75
Weather monitor receiver, retune to two-meter fm (HN)	
W3WTO	p. 56, Jan 75
Whip, 5/8-wave, 144 MHz (HN)	
VE3DDD	p. 70, Apr 73
144-MHz digital synthesizers, readout display	
WB4TZE	p. 47, Jul 76
144-MHz fm exciter, high performance	
WA2GCF	p. 10, Aug 76
144-MHz mobile antenna (HN)	
W2EUQ	p. 80, Mar 77
144-MHz vertical mobile antennas, 1/4 and 3/8 wavelength, test data on	
W2LJT, W2CQH	p. 46, May 76
144-MHz, 3/8-wavelength vertical antenna	
W1RHN	p. 50, Mar 76
144-MHz, 3/8-wavelength, vertical antenna for mobile	
K4LPQ	p. 42, May 76
220 MHz frequency synthesizer	
W6GXN	p. 8, Dec 74
450-MHz preamplifier and converter	
WA2GCF	p. 40, Jul 75

## integrated circuits

Amateur uses of the MC1530 IC	
W2EY	p. 42, May 68
Amplifiers, broadband IC	
W6GXN	p. 36, Jun 73
Applications, potpourri of IC	
W1DTY, Thorpe	p. 8, May 69
Audio-power ICs	
W3FQJ	p. 64, Jan 76
Balanced modulator, an integrated-circuit	
K7QWR	p. 6, Sep 70
Cmos logic circuits	
W3FQJ	p. 50, Jun 75
Counter gating sources	
K6KA	p. 48, Nov 70
Counter reset generator (HN)	
W3KBM	p. 68, Jan 73
C <sup>3</sup> L logic circuit	
W1DTY	p. 4, Mar 75
Digital counters (letter)	
W1GNG	p. 76, May 73
Digital ICs, part I	
W3FQJ	p. 41, Mar 72
Digital ICs, part II	
W3FQJ	p. 58, Apr 72
Correction	p. 66, Nov 72
Digital mixers	
WB8IFM	p. 42, Dec 73
Digital multivibrators	
W3FQJ	p. 42, Jun 72
Digital oscillators and dividers	
W3FQJ	p. 62, Aug 72
Digital readout station accessory, part I	
K6KA	p. 6, Feb 72
Digital station accessory, part II	
K6KA	p. 50, Mar 72
Digital station accessory, part III	
K6KA	p. 36, Apr 72
Divide-by-n counters, high-speed	
W1OOP	p. 36, Mar 76
Electronic counter dials, IC	
K6KA	p. 44, Sep 70
Electronic keyer, cosmos IC	
WB2DFA	p. 6, Jun 74
Short circuit	p. 62, Dec 74
Emitter-coupled logic	
W3FQJ	p. 62, Sep 72
Flip-flops	
W3FQJ	p. 60, Jul 72
Flop-flip, using (HN)	
W3KBM	p. 60, Feb 72
Function generator, IC	
W1DTY	p. 40, Aug 71
Function generator, IC	
K4DHC	p. 22, Jun 74
Gain control IC for audio signal processing	
Jung	p. 47, Jul 77
IC power (HN)	
W3KBM	p. 68, Apr 72
IC-regulated power supply for ICs	
W6GXN	p. 28, Mar 68
IC tester, TTL	
WA4LCO	p. 66, Aug 76

Integrated circuits, part I	
W3FQJ	p. 40, Jun 71
Integrated circuits, part II	
W3FQJ	p. 58, Jul 71
Integrated circuits, part III	
W3FQJ	p. 50, Aug 71
I <sup>2</sup> L logic circuits	
W1DTY	p. 4, Nov 75
Logic families, IC	
W6GXN	p. 26, Jan 74
Logic monitor (HN)	
WA5SAF	p. 70, Apr 72
Correction	p. 91, Dec 72
Logic test probe	
VE6RF	p. 53, Dec 73
Logic test probe (HN)	
Rossmann	p. 56, Feb 73
Short circuit	p. 58, Dec 73
Low-cost linear ICs	
WA7KRE	p. 20, Oct 69
Missent ID	
K6KA	p. 25, Apr 76
Modular modules	
W9SEK	p. 63, Aug 70
Motorola MC1530 IC, amateur uses for	
W2EY	p. 42, May 68
Multi-function integrated circuits	
W3FQJ	p. 46, Oct 72
National LM373, using in ssb transceiver	
W5BAA	p. 32, Nov 73
Op amp (741) circuit design	
W5SSNZ	p. 26, Apr 76
Operational amplifiers	
WB2EGZ	p. 6, Nov 69
Phase-locked loops, IC	
W3FQJ	p. 54, Sep 71
Phase-locked loops, IC, experiments with	
W3FQJ	p. 58, Oct 71
Plessey SL600-series ICs, how to use	
G8FNT	p. 26, Feb 73
Removing ICs (HN)	
W6NIF	p. 71, Aug 70
Seven-segment readouts, multiplexed	
W5NPD	p. 37, Jul 75
Ssb detector, IC (HN)	
K4ODS	p. 67, Dec 72
Correction (letter)	p. 72, Apr 73
Ssb equipment, using TTL ICs in	
G4ADJ	p. 18, Nov 75
Surplus ICs (HN)	
W4AYV	p. 68, Jul 70
Sync generator, IC, for ATV	
WØKGI	p. 34, Jul 75
Transceiver, 9-MHz ssb, IC	
G3ZVC	p. 34, Aug 74
Circuit change (letter)	p. 62, Sep 75
TTL sub-series ICs, how to select	
WA1SNG	p. 26, Dec 77
U/ART, how it works	
Titus	p. 58, Feb 76
Using ICs in a nbfm system	
W6AJF	p. 30, Oct 68
Using ICs with single-polarity power supplies	
W2EY	p. 35, Sep 69
Using integrated circuits (HN)	
W9KXJ	p. 69, May 69
Voltage regulators	
W6GXN	p. 31, Mar 77
Voltage regulators, IC	
W7FLC	p. 22, Oct 70
Voltage-regulator ICs, adjustable	
WB9KEY	p. 36, Aug 75
Voltage-regulator ICs, three-terminal	
WB5EMI	p. 26, Dec 73
Added note (letter)	p. 73, Sep 74
Vtvm, convert to an IC voltmeter	
K6VC1	p. 42, Dec 74

## keying and control

Accu-Mill, keyboard interface for the Accu-Keyer	
WN9QVY	p. 26, Sep 76
ASCII-to-Morse code translator	
Morley, Scharon	p. 41, Dec 76
Automatic beeper for station control	
WA6URN	p. 38, Sep 76
Break-in circuit, CW	
W8SYK	p. 40, Jan 72
Break-in control system, IC (HN)	
W9ZTK	p. 68, Sep 70
Bug, solid-state	
K2FV	p. 50, Jun 73
Carrier-operated relay	
KØPHF, WAØUZO	p. 58, Nov 72
Cmos keying circuits (HN)	
WB2DFA	p. 57, Jan 75
Contest keyer (HN)	
K2UBC	p. 79, Apr 70
Contest keyer, programmable	
W7BBX	p. 10, Apr 76
CW reception, enhancing through a simulated-stereo technique	
WA1MKP	p. 61, Oct 74
CW regenerator for interference-free communications	
Leward, WB2EAX	p. 54, Apr 74

CW sidetone (C&T)	
W1D7Y	p. 51, Jun 76
Differential keying circuit	
W41YB	p. 60, Aug 76
Electronic hand keyer	
K5TCK	p. 36, Jun 71
Electronic keyer, cosmos IC	
WB2DFA	p. 6, Jun 74
Short circuit	p. 62, Dec 74
Electronic keyer, IC	
VE7BFK	p. 32, Nov 69
Electronic keyer notes (HN)	
ZLIBN	p. 74, Dec 71
Electronic keyer package, compact	
W4ATE	p. 50, Nov 73
Electronic keyer with random-access memory	
WB9FHC	p. 6, Oct 73
Corrections (letter)	p. 58, Dec 74
	p. 57, Jun 75
	p. 76, Feb 77
Improvements (letter)	p. 62, Mar 75
Increased flexibility (HN)	
Electronic keyer, 8043 IC	
W6GXN	p. 8, Apr 75
Electronic keyers, simple IC	
WA5TRS	p. 38, Mar 73
Grid-block keying, simple (HN)	
WA4DHU	p. 78, Apr 70
Improving transmitter keying	
K6KA	p. 44, Jun 76
Key and vox clicks (HN)	
K6KA	p. 74, Aug 72
Keyboard electronic keyer, the code mill	
W6CAB	p. 38, Nov 74
Keying, paddle, Siamese	
WA5KPG	p. 45, Jan 75
Keyer modification (HN)	
W9KNI	p. 80, Aug 76
Comments	p. 94, Nov 77
Keyer mods, micro-TO	
DJ9RP	p. 68, Jul 76
Keyer paddle, portable	
WA5KPG	p. 52, Feb 77
Keying the Heath HG-10B vfo (HN)	
K4BRR	p. 67, Sep 70
Latch circuit, dc	
WØLPQ	p. 42, Aug 75
Correction	p. 58, Dec 75
Memo-key	
WA7SCB	p. 58, Jun 72
Memory accessory, programmable for electronic keyers	
WA9LUD	p. 24, Aug 75
Mini-paddle	
K6RIL	p. 46, Feb 69
Morse generator, keyboard	
W7CUU	p. 36, Apr 75
Morse sounder, radio controlled (HN)	
K6QEQ	p. 66, Oct 71
Oscillators, electronic keyer	
WA6JNJ	p. 44, Jun 70
Paddle, electronic keyer (HN)	
KL7EVD	p. 68, Sep 72
Paddle, homebrew keyer	
W3NK	p. 43, May 69
Push-to-talk for Styleline telephones	
W1DRP	p. 18, Dec 71
RAM keyer update	
K3NEZ	p. 60, Jan 76
Relay activator (HN)	
K6KA	p. 62, Sep 71
Relays, surplus (HN)	
W2OLU	p. 70, Jul 70
Relay, transistor replaces (HN)	
W3NK	p. 72, Jan 70
Relays, undervoltage (HN)	
W2OLU	p. 64, Mar 71
Remote keying your transmitter (HN)	
WA3HOU	p. 74, Oct 69
Reset timer, automatic	
W5ZHV	p. 54, Oct 74
Sequential switching (HN)	
W5OSF	p. 63, Oct 72
Solenoid rotary switches	
W2EEY	p. 36, Apr 68
Station control center	
W7OE	p. 26, Apr 68
Step-start circuit, high-voltage (HN)	
W6VFR	p. 64, Sep 71
Suppression networks, arc (HN)	
WA5EKA	p. 70, Jul 73
Time base, calibrated electronic keyer	
W1PLJ	p. 39, Aug 75
Timer, ten-minute (HN)	
DJ9RP	p. 66, Nov 76
Transistor switching for electronic keyers (HN)	
W3QBO	p. 66, Jun 74
Transmit/receive switch PIN diode	
W9KHC	p. 10, May 76
Transmitter switching, solid-state	
W2EEY	p. 44, Jun 68
Typewriter-type electronic keys, further automation for	
W6PRO	p. 26, Mar 70
Vox and mox systems for ssb	
Belt	p. 24, Oct 68
Vox, IC	
W2EEY	p. 50, Mar 69

Vox keying (HN)	
VE7IG	p. 83, Dec 69
Vox, versatile	
W9KIT	p. 50, Jul 71
Short circuit	p. 96, Dec 71

## measurements and test equipment

Absorption measurements, using your signal generator for	
W2OUX	p. 79, Oct 76
Ac current monitor (letter)	
WB5MAP	p. 61, Mar 75
Ac power-line monitor	
W2OLU	p. 46, Aug 71
AFSK generator, crystal-controlled	
K7BVT	p. 13, Jul 72
AFSK generator, phase-locked loop	
K7ZOF	p. 27, Mar 73
Amateur frequency measurements	
K6KA	p. 53, Oct 68
A-m modulation monitor, vhf (HN)	
K7UNL	p. 67, Jul 71
Antenna gain, measuring	
K6JYO	p. 26, Jul 69
Antenna matcher	
W4SD	p. 24, Jun 71
Antenna and transmission line measurement techniques	
W4OQ	p. 36, May 74
Base step generator	
WB4YDZ	p. 44, Jul 76
Beta master, the	
K8ERV	p. 18, Aug 68
Bridge for antenna measurements, simple	
W2CTK	p. 34, Sep 70
Bridge, noise, for impedance measurements	
YA1GJM	p. 62, Jan 73
Added notes	p. 66, May 74; p. 60, Mar 75
Bridge, rf noise	
WB2EGZ	p. 18, Dec 70
Calibrating ac scales on the vtvm, icvm and fet voltmeter	
W7KQ	p. 48, Sep 76
Calibrators and counters	
K6KA	p. 41, Nov 68
Calibrator, plug-in IC	
K6KA	p. 22, Mar 69
Capacitance meter, digital	
K4DHC	p. 20, Feb 74
Capacitance meter, direct-reading	
ZL2AUE	p. 46, Apr 70
Capacitance meter, direct-reading	
W6MUR	p. 48, Aug 72
Short circuit	p. 64, Mar 74
Capacitance meter, direct-reading	
WA5SNZ	p. 32, Apr 75
Added note	p. 31, Oct 75
Capacitance meter, direct reading, for electrolytics	
W9DJZ	p. 14, Oct 71
Coaxial cable, checking (letter)	
W2OLU	p. 68, May 71
Coaxial-line loss, measuring with a reflectometer	
W2VCI	p. 50, May 72
Continuity bleper for circuit tracing	
G3SBA	p. 67, Jul 77
Converter, mosfet, for receiver instrumentation	
WA9ZMT	p. 62, Jan 71
Counter, compact frequency	
K4EEU	p. 16, Jul 70
Short circuit	p. 72, Dec 70
Counter, digital frequency	
K4EEU	p. 8, Dec 68
Counter gating sources	
K6KA	p. 48, Nov 70
Counter readouts, switching (HN)	
K6KA	p. 66, Jun 71
Counter reset generator (HN)	
W3KBM	p. 68, Jan 73
Counters: a solution to the readout problem	
WAØGOZ	p. 66, Jan 70
CRT intensifier for RTTY	
K4VFA	p. 18, Jul 71
Crystal checker	
W6GXN	p. 46, Feb 72
Crystal test oscillator and signal generator	
K4EEU	p. 46, Mar 73
Crystal-controlled frequency markers (HN)	
WA4WDK	p. 64, Sep 71
Cubical quad measurements	
W4YM	p. 42, Jan 69
Curve master, the	
K8ERV	p. 40, Mar 68
Decade standards, economical (HN)	
W4ATE	p. 66, Jun 71
Digital counters (letter)	
W1GGN	p. 76, May 73
Digital readout station accessory, part I	
K6KA	p. 6, Feb 72

Digital station accessory, part II	
K6KA	p. 50, Mar 72
Digital station accessory, part III	
K6KA	p. 36, Apr 72
Diode tester	
W6DOB	p. 46, Jan 77
Dipper without plug-in coils	
W6BLZ	p. 64, May 68
Dummy load and rf wattmeter, low-power	
W2OLU	p. 56, Apr 70
Dummy load low-power vhf	
WB9DNI	p. 40, Sep 73
Dummy loads	
W4MB	p. 40, Mar 76
Dummy loads, experimental	
W8YFB	p. 36, Sep 68
Dynamic transistor tester (HN)	
VE7ABK	p. 65, Oct 71
Electrolytic capacitors, measurement of (HN)	
W2NA	p. 70, Feb 71
Fm deviation measurement (letter)	
K5ZBA	p. 68, May 71
Fm deviation measurements	
W3FQJ	p. 52, Feb 72
Fm frequency meter, two-meter	
W4JAZ	p. 40, Jan 71
Short circuit	p. 72, Apr 71
Frequencies, counted (HN)	
K6KA	p. 62, Aug 74
Frequency calibrator, general coverage	
W5UQS	p. 28, Dec 71
Frequency calibrator, how to design	
W3AEX	p. 54, Jul 71
Frequency counter, CMOS	
W2OKO	p. 22, Feb 77
Short circuit	p. 94, May 77
Frequency counter, how to improve the accuracy of	
W1RF	p. 26, Oct 77
Frequency counter, 50 MHz, 6 digit	
WB2DFA	p. 18, Jan 76
Comment	p. 79, Apr 77
Frequency-marker standard using cmos	
W41YB	p. 44, Aug 77
Frequency measurement of received signals	
W4AAD	p. 38, Oct 73
Frequency measurement, vhf, with hf receiver and scaler (HN)	
W3LB	p. 90, May 77
Frequency meter, crystal controlled (HN)	
W5JSN	p. 71, Sep 69
Frequency scaler, divide-by-ten	
K4EEU	p. 26, Aug 70
Short circuit	p. 72, Apr 71
Frequency scaler, divide-by-ten	
W6PBC	p. 41, Sep 72
Correction	p. 90, Dec 72
Added comments (letter)	p. 64, Nov 73
Pre-scaler, improvements for	
W6PBC	p. 30, Oct 73
Frequency scaler, uhf (11C90)	
WB9KEY	p. 50, Dec 75
Frequency scaler, 500-MHz	
W6URH	p. 32, Jun 75
Frequency scalars, 1200-MHz	
WB9KEY	p. 38, Feb 75
Frequency-shift meter, RTTY	
VK3ZNV	p. 33, Jun 70
Frequency standard (HN)	
WA7JIK	p. 69, Sep 72
Frequency standard, universal	
K4EEU	p. 40, Feb 74
Short circuit	p. 72, May 74
Frequency synthesizer, high-frequency	
K2BLA	p. 16, Oct 72
Function generator, IC	
W1D7Y	p. 40, Aug 71
Function generator, IC	
K4DHC	p. 22, Jun 74
Function/units indicator using LED displays	
KØFOP	p. 58, Mar 77
Gate-dip meter	
W3WLX	p. 42, Jun 77
Gdo, new use for	
K2ZSQ	p. 48, Dec 68
Grid current measurement in grounded-grid amplifiers	
W6SAI	p. 64, Aug 68
Grid-dip oscillator, solid-state conversion of	
W6AJZ	p. 20, Jun 70
Harmonic generator (HN)	
W5GDQ	p. 76, Oct 70
I-f alignment generator 455-kHz	
WA5SNZ	p. 50, Feb 74
I-f sweep generator	
K4DHC	p. 10, Sep 73
Impedance bridge (HN)	
W6KZK	p. 67, Feb 70
Impedance bridge, low-cost RX	
W8YFB	p. 6, May 73
Impedance bridge, simple	
WA9QJP	p. 40, Apr 68
Impedance, measuring with swr bridge	
WB4KSS	p. 46, May 75
Impulse generator, pulse-snap diode	
Siegal, Turner	p. 29, Oct 72
Instrumentation and the ham	
VE3GFN	p. 28, Jul 68





<b>Bandpass filter design</b>		<b>Frequency synthesizers, how to design</b>		<b>Neutralizing small-signal amplifiers</b>	
K4KJ	p. 36, Dec 73	DJ2LR	p. 10, Jul 76	WA4WDK	p. 40, Sep 70
<b>Bandpass filters for 50 and 144 MHz, etched</b>		Short circuit	p. 85, Oct 76	<b>Noise figure, meaning of</b>	
W5KHT	p. 6, Feb 71	<b>Gamma-matching networks, how to design</b>		K6MIO	p. 26, Mar 69
<b>Bandpass filters, single-pole</b>		W7ITB	p. 46, May 73	<b>Operational amplifiers</b>	
W6HPH	p. 51, Sep 69	<b>Glass semiconductors</b>		WB2EGZ	p. 6, Nov 69
<b>Bandpass filters, top-coupled</b>		W1EZT	p. 54, Jul 69	<b>Phase detector, harmonic</b>	
Anderson	p. 34, Jun 77	<b>Graphical network solutions</b>		W5TRS	p. 40, Aug 74
<b>Bandspreeding techniques for resonant circuits</b>		WINCK, W2CTK	p. 26, Dec 69	<b>Phase-locked loops, IC</b>	
Anderson	p. 46, Feb 77	<b>Gridded tubes, vhf-uhf effects</b>		W3FQJ	p. 54, Sep 71
Short circuits	p. 69, Dec 77	W6UOV	p. 8, Jan 69	<b>Phase-locked loops, IC, experiments with</b>	
<b>Basic electronic units</b>		<b>Grounding and wiring</b>		W3FQJ	p. 58, Oct 71
W2DXH	p. 18, Oct 68	W1EZT	p. 44, Jun 69	<b>Phase-shift networks, design criteria for</b>	
<b>Batteries, selecting for portable equipment</b>		Ground plow		G3NRW	p. 34, Jun 70
WB@AIK	p. 40, Aug 73	W1EZT	p. 64, May 70	<b>Pi and pi-L networks</b>	
<b>Bipolar-fet amplifiers</b>		<b>Harmonic generator, crystal-controlled</b>		W6SAI	p. 36, Nov 68
W6HDM	p. 16, Feb 76	W1KNI	p. 66, Nov 77	<b>Pi network design</b>	
Comments, Worcester	p. 76, Sep 76	<b>Harmonic output, how to predict</b>		W6FFC	p. 6, Sep 72
<b>Broadband amplifier, bipolar</b>		Utne	p. 34, Nov 74	<b>Pi network design and analysis</b>	
WB4KSS	p. 58, Apr 75	<b>Heatsink problems, how to solve</b>		W2HB	p. 30, Sep 77
<b>Broadband amplifier uses mospower fet</b>		W5SSNZ	p. 46, Jan 74	Short circuit	p. 68, Dec 77
Oxner	p. 32, Dec 76	<b>Hybrids and couplers, hf</b>		<b>Pi network inductors (letter)</b>	
<b>Broadband amplifier, wide-range</b>		W2CTK	p. 57, Jul 70	W7IV	p. 78, Dec 72
W6GXN	p. 40, Apr 74	Short circuit	p. 72, Dec 70	<b>Pi networks, series-tuned</b>	
<b>Bypassing, rf, at uhf</b>		<b>Hydroelectric station, amateur</b>		W2EGH	p. 42, Oct 71
WB6BHI	p. 50, Jan 72	K6WX	p. 50, Sep 77	<b>Power amplifiers, high-efficiency rf</b>	
<b>Calculator-aided circuit analysis</b>		<b>Impedance-matching systems, designing</b>		WB8LQK	p. 8, Oct 74
Anderson	p. 38, Oct 77	W7CSD	p. 58, Jul 73	<b>Power dividers and hybrids</b>	
<b>Calculator, hand-held electronic, its function and use</b>		<b>Inductors, how to use ferrite and powdered-iron for</b>		W1DAX	p. 30, Aug 72
W4MB	p. 18, Aug 76	W6GXN	p. 15, Apr 71	<b>Power supplies, survey of solid-state</b>	
<b>Calculator, hand-held electronic, solving problems with it</b>		Correction	p. 63, May 72	W6GXN	p. 25, Feb 70
W4MB	p. 34, Sep 76	<b>Infrared communications (letter)</b>		<b>Power, voltage and impedance nomograph</b>	
<b>Capacitors, oil-filled (HN)</b>		K2OAW	p. 65, Jan 72	W2TQK	p. 32, Apr 71
W2OLU	p. 66, Dec 72	<b>Injection lasers (letter)</b>		<b>Printed-circuit boards, photofabrication of</b>	
<b>Clock, 24-hour digital</b>		Mims	p. 64, Apr 71	Hutchinson	p. 6, Sep 71
K4ALS	p. 51, Apr 70	<b>Injection lasers, high power</b>		<b>Programmable calculator simplifies antenna design (HN)</b>	
Short circuit	p. 76, Sep 70	Mims	p. 28, Sep 71	W3DVO	p. 70, May 74
<b>Coil-winding data, vhf and uhf</b>		<b>Integrated circuits, part I</b>		<b>Programmable calculators, using</b>	
K3SVC	p. 6, Apr 71	W3FQJ	p. 40, Jun 71	W3DVO	p. 40, Mar 75
<b>Communications receivers, designing for strong-signal performance</b>		<b>Integrated circuits, part II</b>		<b>Proportional temperature control for crystal ovens</b>	
Moore	p. 6, Feb 73	W3FQJ	p. 58, Jul 71	VESFP	p. 44, Jan 70
<b>Computer-aided circuit analysis</b>		<b>Integrated circuits, part III</b>		<b>Pulse-duration modulation</b>	
K1ORV	p. 30, Aug 70	W3FQJ	p. 50, Aug 71	W3FQJ	p. 65, Nov 72
<b>Contact bounce eliminators (letters)</b>		<b>Interference, hi-fi (HN)</b>		<b>Q factor, understanding</b>	
W7IV	p. 94, Nov 77	K6KA	p. 63, Mar 75	W5JJ	p. 16, Dec 74
<b>Converting vacuum tube equipment to solid-state</b>		<b>Interference, rf</b>		<b>QRP operation</b>	
W2EEY	p. 30, Aug 68	W1DTY	p. 12, Dec 70	W7OE	p. 36, Dec 68
<b>Converting wavelength to inches (HN)</b>		<b>Interference, rf (letter)</b>		<b>Radiation hazard, rf</b>	
W6SXC	p. 56, Jun 68	G3LLL	p. 65, Nov 75	W1DTY	p. 4, Sep 75
<b>Current flow?, which way does</b>		<b>Interference, rf</b>		Correction	p. 59, Dec 75
W2DXH	p. 34, Jul 68	WA3NFW	p. 30, Mar 73	<b>Radio communications links</b>	
<b>Digital clock, low-cost</b>		<b>Interference, rf, coaxial connectors can generate</b>		W1EZT	p. 44, Oct 69
WA6DYW	p. 26, Feb 76	W1DTY	p. 48, Jun 76	<b>Radio observatory, vhf</b>	
<b>Digital mixer, introduction</b>		<b>Interference, rf, its cause and cure</b>		Ham	p. 44, Jul 74
WB8IFM	p. 42, Dec 73	G3LLL	p. 26, Jun 75	<b>Radio-frequency interference</b>	
<b>Digital readout system, simplified</b>		<b>Intermittent voice operation of power tubes</b>		WA3NFW	p. 30, Mar 73
W6OIS	p. 42, Mar 74	W6SAI	p. 24, Jan 71	<b>Radiotelegraph translator and transcriber</b>	
<b>Double-balanced mixers</b>		<b>Isotropic source and practical antennas</b>		W7CUU, K7KFA	p. 8, Nov 71
W1DTY	p. 48, Mar 68	K6FD	p. 32, May 70	<b>Eliminating the matrix</b>	
<b>Double-balanced modulator, broadband</b>		<b>Laser communications</b>		KH6AP	p. 60, May 72
WA6NCT	p. 8, Mar 70	W4KAE	p. 28, Nov 70	<b>Ramp generators</b>	
<b>Earth currents (HN)</b>		<b>LC circuit calculations</b>		W6GXN	p. 56, Dec 68
W7OUI	p. 80, Apr 70	W2OUX	p. 68, Feb 77	<b>Rating tubes for linear amplifier service</b>	
<b>Effective radiated power (HN)</b>		<b>LED experiments</b>		W6UOV, W6SAI	p. 50, Mar 71
VE7CB	p. 72, May 73	W4KAE	p. 6, Jun 70	<b>Reactance problems, nomograph for</b>	
<b>Electrical units: their derivation and history</b>		<b>Lighthouse tubes for uhf</b>		W6NIF	p. 51, Sep 70
WB6EYV	p. 30, Aug 76	W6UOV	p. 27, Jun 69	<b>Resistor performance at high frequencies</b>	
<b>Ferrite beads</b>		<b>Local-oscillator waveform effects on spurious mixer responses</b>		K1ORV	p. 36, Oct 71
W5JJ	p. 48, Oct 70	Robinson, Smith	p. 44, Jun 74	<b>Resistors, frequency sensitive (HN)</b>	
<b>Ferrite beads, how to use</b>		<b>Lowpass filters for solid-state linear amplifiers</b>		W8YFB	p. 54, Dec 70
K1ORV	p. 34, Mar 73	WA@JYK	p. 38, Mar 74	<b>Resistors, frequency sensitive (letter)</b>	
<b>Fet biasing</b>		Short circuit	p. 62, Dec 74	W5UHV	p. 68, Jul 71
W3FQJ	p. 61, Nov 72	<b>L-networks, how to design</b>		<b>RF amplifier, wideband</b>	
<b>Filter preamplifiers for 50 and 144 MHz, etched</b>		W7LR	p. 26, Feb 74	WB4KSS	p. 58, Apr 75
W5KHT	p. 6, Feb 71	Short circuit	p. 62, Dec 74	<b>RF autotransformers, wideband</b>	
<b>Filters, active for direct-conversion receivers</b>		<b>Lunar-path nomograph</b>		K4KJ	p. 10, Nov 76
W7ZOI	p. 12, Apr 74	WA6NCT	p. 28, Oct 70	<b>Rf power-detecting devices</b>	
<b>Fire extinguishers (letter)</b>		<b>Marine installations, amateur, on small boats</b>		K6JYO	p. 28, Jun 70
W5PGG	p. 68, Jul 71	W3MR	p. 44, Aug 74	<b>Rf power transistors, how to use</b>	
<b>Fire protection</b>		<b>Matching techniques, broadband, for transistor rf amplifiers</b>		WA7KRE	p. 8, Jan 70
Darr	p. 54, Jan 71	WA7WHZ	p. 30, Jan 77	<b>Rf interference, suppression in telephones</b>	
<b>Fire protection (letter)</b>		<b>Microprocessors, introduction to</b>		K6LDZ	p. 79, Mar 77
K7QCM	p. 62, Aug 71	WB4HYJ, Rony, Titus	p. 32, Dec 75	<b>Safety circuit, pushbutton switch (HN)</b>	
<b>Fm techniques</b>		<b>Microwave rf generators, solid-state</b>		K3RFF, WA1FHB	p. 73, Feb 77
W6SAI	p. 8, Sep 69	W1HR	p. 10, Apr 77	<b>Safety in the ham shack</b>	
Short circuit	p. 79, Jun 70	<b>Microwaves, getting started in</b>		Darr, James	p. 44, Mar 69
<b>Frequency counter as a synthesizer</b>		Roubal	p. 53, Jun 72	<b>Satellite communications, first step to</b>	
DJ2LR	p. 44, Sep 77	<b>Microwaves, Introduction</b>		K1MTA	p. 52, Nov 72
<b>Freon danger (letter)</b>		W1CBY	p. 20, Jan 72	<b>Added notes (letter)</b>	
WA5RTB	p. 63, May 72	<b>Mini-mobile</b>		K6ZGQ	p. 73, Apr 73
<b>Frequency multipliers</b>		K9UQN	p. 58, Aug 71	<b>Satellite signal polarization</b>	
W6GXN	p. 6, Aug 71	<b>Mismatched transmitter loads, affect of</b>		KH6IJ	p. 6, Dec 72
<b>Frequency multipliers, transistor</b>		W5JJ	p. 60, Sep 69	<b>Signal detection and communication in the presence of white noise</b>	
W6AJF	p. 49, Jun 70	<b>Mnemonics</b>		WB6IOM	p. 16, Feb 69
<b>Frequency synchronization for scatter-mode propagation</b>		W6NIF	p. 69, Dec 69	<b>Silver/silicone grease (HN)</b>	
K2OVS	p. 26, Sep 71	<b>More electronic units</b>		W6DDB	p. 63, May 71
<b>Frequency synthesis</b>		W1EZT	p. 56, Nov 68	<b>Simple formula for microstrip impedance (HN)</b>	
WA5SKM	p. 42, Dec 69	<b>Multi-function integrated circuits</b>		W1HR	p. 72, Dec 77
<b>Frequency synthesizer, high-frequency</b>		W3FQJ	p. 46, Oct 72	<b>Single-tuned interstage networks, designing</b>	
K2BLA	p. 16, Oct 72	<b>Network, the ladder</b>		W6ZGQ	p. 59, Oct 68
<b>Frequency synthesizer sidebands, filter reduces (HN)</b>		W2CHO	p. 48, Dec 76	<b>Smith chart, how to use</b>	
K1PCT	p. 80, Jun 77	<b>Networks, transmitter matching</b>		W1DTY	p. 16, Nov 70
		W6FFC	p. 6, Jan 73	Correction	p. 76, Dec 71
				<b>Solar activity, aspects of</b>	
				K3CHP	p. 21, Jun 68
				<b>Solar energy</b>	
				W3FQJ	p. 54, Jul 74

Speech clippers, rf, performance of	G6XN	p. 26, Nov 72
Square roots, finding (HN)	K9DHD	p. 67, Sep 73
Increased accuracy (letter)		p. 55, Mar 74
Staircase generator (C&T)	W1DITY	p. 52, Jun 76
Standing-wave ratios, importance of	W2HB	p. 26, Jul 73
Correction (letter)		p. 67, May 74
Stress analysis of antenna systems	W2FZJ	p. 23, Oct 71
Synthesizer design (letters)	WB2CPA	p. 94, Nov 77
Temperature sensor, remote (HN)	WA1NJG	p. 72, Feb 77
Tetrodes, external-anode	W6SAI	p. 23, Jun 69
Thermoelectric power supplies	K1AJE	p. 48, Sep 68
Thermometer, electronic	VK3ZNV	p. 30, Apr 70
Three-phase motors (HN)	W6HPH	p. 79, Aug 68
Thyristors, introduction to	WA7KRE	p. 54, Oct 70
Toroidal coil inductance (HN)	W3WLX	p. 26, Sep 75
Toroid coils, 88-mH (HN)	WA1NJG	p. 70, Jun 76
Toroids, calculating inductance of	WB9FHC	p. 50, Feb 72
Toroids, plug-in (HN)	K8EEG	p. 60, Jan 72
Transistor amplifiers, tabulated characteristics of	W5JJ	p. 30, Mar 71
Trig functions on a pocket calculator	W9ZTK	p. 60, Nov 75
Tube shields (HN)	W9KNI	p. 69, Jul 76
Tuning, Current-controlled	K2ZSQ	p. 38, Jan 69
TV sweep tubes in linear service, full-blast operation of	W6SAI, W6OUV	p. 9, Apr 68
Vacuum-tube amplifiers, tabulated characteristics of	W5JJ	p. 30, Mar 71
Warning lights, increasing reliability of	W3NK	p. 40, Feb 70
White noise diodes, selecting (HN)	W6DOB	p. 65, Apr 76
Wind direction indicator, digital	W6GXN	p. 14, Sep 68
Wind generators	W3FQJ	p. 24, Jul 76
Wind loading on towers and antenna structures, how to calculate	K4KJ	p. 16, Aug 74
Added note		p. 56, Jul 75
Y parameters, using in rf amplifier design	WAØTCU	p. 46, Jul 72
24-hour clock, digital	WB6AFT	p. 44, Mar 77

## novice reading

Ac power line monitor	W2OLU	p. 46, Aug 71
Amplifiers, tube and transistor, tabulated characteristics of	W5JJ	p. 30, Mar 71
Antenna, bobtail curtain for 40 meters	VE1TG	p. 58, Jul 69
Antenna, bow tie for 80 meters	W9VMQ	p. 56, May 75
Antenna, converted vee for 80 and 40	W6JKR	p. 18, Dec 69
Antenna couplers, simple	W2EEY	p. 32, Jan 70
Antenna ground system installation	W1EZX	p. 64, May 70
Antenna, long wire, multiband	W3FQJ	p. 28, Nov 69
Antenna, multiband phased vertical	WA7GXO	p. 33, May 72
Antenna systems for 40 and 80 meters	K6KA	p. 55, Feb 70
Antenna, top-loaded 80-meter vertical	VE1TG	p. 48, Jun 69
Antenna tuning units	W3FQJ	p. 58, Dec 72, p. 58, Jan 73
Antenna, unidirectional for 40 meters	GW3NJY	p. 61, Jan 70
Antenna, 80-meter vertical	VE1TG	p. 26, May 70
Antenna, 80 meters, for small lot	W6AGX	p. 28, May 73
Antennas, dipole	KH6HDM	p. 60, Nov 75
Antennas, for apartment dwellers	W2EEY	p. 80, Mar 68
Antennas, low elevation	W3FQJ	p. 66, May 73
Antennas, QRM reducing receiving types	W3FQJ	p. 54, May 71

Antennas, simple dual-band	W6SAI	p. 18, Mar 70
Antennas, simple for 80 and 40 meters	W5RUB	p. 16, Dec 72
Antennas, simple multiband	W9EGQ	p. 54, Jul 68
Audio agc principles and practice	W4SSNZ	p. 28, Jun 71
Audio filter, tunable	WA1JSM	p. 34, Aug 70
Audio filters, inexpensive	W8YFB	p. 24, Aug 72
Audio module, solid-state receiver	K4DHC	p. 18, Jun 73
Batteries, selecting for portable equipment	WBØAIK	p. 40, Aug 73
Battery power	W3FQJ	p. 56, Aug 74, p. 57, Oct 74
Coaxial cable, what you should know about it	W9ISB	p. 30, Sep 68
Current flow	W1EZX	p. 34, Jul 68
COSMOS integrated circuits	W3FQJ	p. 50, Jun 75
CW audio filter, simple	W7DI	p. 54, Nov 71
CW audio filter, simplest	W4VNK	p. 44, Oct 70
CW monitor, simple	WA9OHR	p. 65, Jan 71
CW reception, improved through simulated stereo	WA1MKP	p. 53, Oct 74
CW transceiver, low-power for 40 meters	W7BBX	p. 16, Jul 74
Detectors, CW and ssb	Belt	p. 3, Nov 68
Detectors, regenerative	W8YFB	p. 61, Mar 70
Diode detectors	W6GXN	p. 28, Jan 76
Dipoles, multiband for portable use	W6SAI	p. 12, May 70
Dummy load and rf wattmeter	W2OLU	p. 56, Apr 70
Electronic units, basic	W1EZX	p. 18, Oct 68, p. 56, Nov 68
Feedpoint impedance characteristics of practical antennas	W5JJ	p. 50, Dec 73
Filter, tunable for audio selectivity	W2EEY	p. 22, Mar 70
Filters, single sideband	Belt	p. 40, Aug 68
Fire protection in the ham shack	Darr	p. 54, Jan 71
Frequency spotter, crystal controlled	W5JJ	p. 36, Nov 70
ICs, basics of	W3FQJ	p. 40, Jun 71, p. 58, Jul 71
ICs, digital, basics	W3FQJ	p. 41, Mar 72, p. 58, Apr 72
ICs, digital flip-flops	W3FQJ	p. 60, Jul 72
ICs, digital multivibrators	W3FQJ	p. 42, Jun 72
ICs, digital, oscillators and dividers	W3FQJ	p. 62, Aug 72
Interference, hi-fi	G3LLL	p. 26, Jun 75
Interference, radio frequency	WA3NFW	p. 30, Mar 73
Man-made interference, how to find	W1DITY	p. 12, Dec 70
Meters, how to use	W4PSJ	p. 48, Sep 75
Morse code, speed standards for	VE2ZK	p. 58, Apr 73
Mosfet circuits	W3FQJ	p. 50, Feb 75
Power amplifiers, linear, basics of	Belt	p. 16, Apr 68
Preamplifier, 21 MHz	W4SSNZ	p. 20, Apr 72
Printed-circuit boards, how to make your own	K4EEU	p. 58, Apr 73
Printed-circuit boards, low cost	W8YFB	p. 16, Jan 75
Q factor, understanding	W5JJ	p. 16, Dec 74
Radio communications links, basics of	W1EZX	p. 44, Oct 69
Receiver frequency calibrator	W5UQS	p. 28, Dec 71
Receiver, novice, for 40 and 80	Thorpe	p. 66, Aug 68
Receiver, regenerative for WWV	W4SSNZ	p. 42, Apr 73
Receivers, direct-conversion	W3FQJ	p. 59, Nov 71
Rectifiers, improved half-wave	Bailey	p. 34, Oct 73
Safety in the ham shack	Darr	p. 44, Mar 69
Semiconductors, charge flow in	WB6BIH	p. 50, Apr 71
Semiconductor diodes, evaluating	W5JJ	p. 52, Dec 71
Single sideband, beginners guide to	Belt	p. 66, Mar 68

S-meters, circuits for	K6SDX	p. 20, Mar 75
Speaker intelligibility, improving	WA5RAQ	p. 53, Aug 70
Ssb signals, how they are generated	Belt	p. 24, May 68
Swr bridge	WB2ZSH	p. 55, Oct 71
Towers and rotators	K6KA	p. 34, May 76
Transistor power dissipation, how to determine	WN9CGW	p. 56, Jun 71
Transistor tester, simple	WA6NIL	p. 48, Jul 68
Transmitter keying, improving	K6KA	p. 44, Jun 76
Transmitter, low-power, 80-meter	W3FQJ	p. 50, Aug 75
Transmitter, multiband low power with vfo	K8EEG	p. 39, Jul 72
Transmitter power levels	W4SSNZ	p. 62, Apr 71
Transmitter, transistor for 40 meter	W6BLZ	p. 44, Jul 68
Transmitters, low-power 7-MHz	W7OE	p. 3, Dec 68
Troubleshooting, basic	James	p. 54, Jan 76
Troubleshooting by voltage measurements	James	p. 64, Feb 76
Troubleshooting, resistance measurements	James	p. 58, Apr 76
Troubleshooting, thinking your way through	Allen	p. 58, Feb 71
Tuneup, off-the-air	W4MB	p. 40, Mar 76
Underground coaxial transmission line, how to install	WØFCH	p. 38, May 70
Vertical antennas, improving efficiency	K6FD	p. 54, Dec 74
Vfo for 40 and 80 meters	W3QBO	p. 36, Aug 70
Vfo, stable solid-state	K4BGF	p. 8, Dec 71
Wiring and grounding	W1EZX	p. 44, Jun 69
Workbench, electronics	W1EZX	p. 50, Oct 70

## operating

Beam antenna headings	W6FFC	p. 64, Apr 71
Code practice stations (letter)	WB4LXJ	p. 75, Dec 72
Code practice — the rf way	WA4NEB	p. 65, Aug 68
Code practice (HN)	W2OUX	p. 74, May 73
Computers and ham radio	W5TOM	p. 60, Mar 69
CW monitor	W2EEY	p. 46, Aug 69
CW monitor and code-practice oscillator	K6RIL	p. 46, Apr 68
CW monitor, simple	WA9OHR	p. 65, Jan 71
CW transceiver operation with transmit-receive offset	W1DAX	p. 56, Sep 70
DXCC check list, simple	W2CNQ	p. 55, Jun 73
Fluorescent light, portable (HN)	K8BYO	p. 62, Oct 73
Great-circle charts (HN)	K6KA	p. 62, Oct 73
How to be DX	W4NXD	p. 58, Aug 68
Identification timer (HN)	K9UQN	p. 60, Nov 74
Magazines, use your old	Foster	p. 52, Jan 70
Morse code, speed standards for	VE2ZK	p. 68, Apr 73
Added note (letter)		p. 68, Jan 74
Protective material, plastic (HN)	W6BKK	p. 58, Dec 70
QSL return, statistics on	WB6IUH	p. 60, Dec 68
Replays, instant (HN)	W6DNS	p. 67, Feb 70
Sideband location (HN)	K6KA	p. 62, Aug 73
Spurious signals (HN)	K6KA	p. 61, Nov 74
Tuning with ssb gear	WØKD	p. 40, Oct 70
Zulu time (HN)	K6KA	p. 58, Mar 73

## oscillators

AFSK oscillator, solid-state	WA4FGY	p. 28, Oct 68
------------------------------	--------	---------------

Audio oscillator, NE566 IC  
W1EZT p. 36, Jan 75

Blocking oscillators  
W6GXN p. 45, Apr 69

Clock oscillator, TTL (HN)  
W9ZTK p. 56, Dec 73

Crystal oscillator, frequency adjustment of  
W9ZTK p. 42, Aug 72

Crystal oscillator, high stability  
W6TNS p. 36, Oct 74

Crystal oscillator, miniature  
W6DOR p. 68, Dec 68

Crystal oscillators  
W6GXN p. 33, Jul 69

Crystal oscillator, simple (HN)  
W2OUX p. 98, Nov 77

Crystal oscillators, stable  
DJ2LR p. 34, Jun 75  
Correction p. 67, Sep 75

Crystal oscillators, survey of  
VK2ZTB p. 10, Mar 76

Crystal oven, simple (HN)  
Mathieson p. 66, Apr 76

Crystal switching (HN)  
K6LZM p. 70, Mar 69

Crystal test oscillator and signal generator  
K4EEU p. 46, Mar 73

Crystals, overtone (HN)  
G8ABR p. 72, Aug 72

Drift-correction circuit for free running oscillators  
PAØKSB p. 45, Dec 77

Goral oscillator notes (HN)  
K5QIN p. 66, Apr 76

Hex inverter vxo circuit  
W2LTJ p. 50, Apr 75

Local oscillator, phase locked  
VE5FP p. 6, Mar 71

Monitoring oscillator  
W2JIO p. 36, Dec 72

Multiple band master-frequency oscillator  
K6SDX p. 50, Nov 75

Multivibrator, crystal-controlled  
WN2MQY p. 65, Jul 71

Oscillator, audio, IC  
W6GXN p. 50, Feb 73

Oscillator, electronic keyer  
WA6JNJ p. 44, Jun 70

Oscillator, Franklin (HN)  
W5JJ p. 61, Jan 72

Oscillator, frequency measuring  
W6IEL p. 16, Apr 72  
Added notes p. 90, Dec 72

Oscillator, gated (HN)  
WB9KEY p. 59, Jul 75

Oscillator-monitor, audio  
WA1JSM p. 48, Sep 70

Oscillator, phase-locked  
VE5FP p. 6, Mar 71

Oscillator, two-tone, for ssb testing  
W6GXN p. 11, Apr 72

Oscillators (HN)  
W1DTY p. 68, Nov 69

Oscillators, cure for cranky (HN)  
W8YFB p. 55, Dec 70

Oscillators, repairing  
Allen p. 69, Mar 70

Oscillators, resistance-capacitance  
W6GXN p. 18, Jul 72

Oscillators, ssb  
Belt p. 26, Jun 68

Overtone oscillator (HN)  
W5UQS p. 77, Oct 68

Quadrature-phased local oscillator (letter)  
K6ZX p. 62, Sep 75

Quartz crystals (letter)  
WB2EGZ p. 74, Dec 72

Stable vfo (C&T)  
W1DTY p. 51, Jun 76

TTL crystal oscillators (HN)  
WØJVA p. 60, Aug 75

Vco, crystal-controlled  
WB6IDM p. 58, Oct 69

Versatile audio oscillator (HN)  
W7BBX p. 72, Jan 76

Vfo buffer amplifier (HN)  
W3QBO p. 66, Jul 71

Vfo design, stable  
W1CER p. 10, Jun 76

Vfo, digital readout  
WB8IFM p. 14, Jan 73

Vfo for solid-state transmitters  
W3QBO p. 36, Aug 70

Vfo, high stability  
W8YFB p. 14, Mar 69

Vfo, high-stability, vhf  
OH2CD p. 27, Jan 72

Vfo, multiband fet  
K8EEG p. 39, Jul 72

Vfo, stable  
K4BGF p. 8, Dec 71

Vfo, stable transistor  
W1DTY p. 14, Jun 68  
Short circuit p. 34, Aug 68

Vfo transistors (HN)  
W1OOP p. 74, Nov 69

Vxo design, practical  
K6BIJ p. 22, Aug 70

455-kHz bfo, transistorized  
W6BLZ, K5GXR p. 12, Jul 68

## power supplies

Ac current monitor (letter)  
WB5MAP p. 61, Mar 75

Ac power supply, regulated, for mobile fm equipment  
WA8TMP p. 28, Jun 73

All-mode-protected power supply  
K2PMA p. 74, Oct 77

Arc suppression networks (HN)  
WA5EKA p. 70, Jul 73

Batteries, selecting for portable equipment  
WAØAIK p. 40, Aug 73

Battery drain, auxiliary, guard for (HN)  
W1DTY p. 74, Oct 74

Battery power  
W3FQJ p. 56, Aug 74

Charger, fet-controlled, for nicad batteries  
WAØJYK p. 46, Aug 75

Converter, 12 to 6 volt (C&T)  
W1DTY p. 42, Apr 76

Current limiting (HN)  
WØLPQ p. 70, Dec 72

Current limiting (letter)  
K5MKO p. 66, Oct 73

Dc-dc converter, low-power  
W5MLY p. 54, Mar 75

Dc power supply, regulated (C&T)  
W1DTY p. 51, Jun 76

Diodes for power supplies, choosing  
W6BLZ p. 38, Jul 68

Diode surge protection (HN)  
WA7LUJ p. 65, Mar 72  
Added note p. 77, Aug 72

Dry-cell life  
W1DTY p. 41, Apr 76

Dual-voltage power supply (HN)  
W1OOP p. 71, Apr 69  
Short circuit p. 80, Aug 69

Dual-voltage power supply (HN)  
W5JJ p. 68, Nov 71

Filament transformers, miniature  
Bailey p. 66, Sep 74

High-power trouble shooting  
Allen p. 52, Aug 68

IC power (HN)  
W3KBM p. 68, Apr 72

IC regulated power supply  
W2FBW p. 50, Nov 70

IC regulated power supply  
W9SEK p. 51, Dec 70

IC regulated power supply for ICs  
W6GXN p. 28, Mar 68  
Short circuit p. 80, May 68

Klystrons, reflex power for (HN)  
W6BPK p. 71, Jul 73

Line transient protection (HN)  
W1DTY p. 75, Jul 68

Line-voltage monitor (HN)  
W8YFK p. 66, Jan 74  
Current monitor mod (letter) p. 61, Mar 75

Load protection, scr (HN)  
W5OZF p. 62, Oct 72

Low-value voltage source (HN)  
WA5EKA p. 66, Nov 71

Low-voltage supply with short-circuit protection  
WB2EGZ p. 22, Apr 68

Low-voltage supply (HN)  
WB2EGZ p. 57, Jun 68

Low voltage, variable bench power supply (weekender)  
W6NBI p. 58, Mar 76

Meter safety (HN)  
W6VFR p. 68, Jul 72

Mobile power supplies, troubleshooting  
Allen p. 56, Jun 70

Mobile power supply (HN)  
WN8DJV p. 79, Apr 70

Mobile supply, low-cost (HN)  
W4GEG p. 69, Jul 70

Motorola Dispatcher, converting to 12 volts  
WB6HXU p. 26, Jul 72

Nicad battery care (HN)  
W1DHz p. 71, Feb 76

Operational power supply  
WA2IKL p. 8, Apr 70

Overvoltage protection (HN)  
W1AAZ p. 64, Apr 76

Pilot-lamp life (HN)  
W2OLU p. 71, Jul 73

Polarity inverter, medium current  
Laughlin p. 26, Nov 73

Power supplies for single sideband  
Belt p. 38, Feb 69

Power-supply hum (HN)  
W8YFB p. 64, May 71

Power supply, improved (HN)  
W4ATE p. 72, Feb 72

Power supply, precision  
W7SK p. 26, Jul 71

Power supply protection for your solid-state circuits  
W5JJ p. 36, Jan 70

Power supply troubleshooting (repair bench)  
K4IPV p. 78, Sep 77

Precision voltage supply for phase-locked terminal unit (HN)  
WA6TLA p. 60, Jul 74

Protection for solid-state power supplies (HN)  
W3NK p. 66, Sep 70

Rectifier, half-wave, improved  
Bailey p. 34, Oct 73

Regulated power supplies, how to design  
K5VKQ p. 58, Sep 77

Regulated power supply, 500-watt  
WA6PEC p. 30, Dec 77

Regulated solid-state high-voltage power supply  
W6GXN p. 40, Jan 75  
Short circuit p. 69, Apr 75

Regulated 5-volt supply (HN)  
W6UNF p. 67, Jan 73

SCR-regulated power supplies  
W4GOC p. 52, Jul 70

Selenium rectifiers, replacing  
W1DTY p. 41, Apr 76

Servicing power supplies  
W6GXN p. 44, Nov 76

Solar energy  
W3FQJ p. 54, Jul 74

Solar power  
W3FQJ p. 52, Nov 74

Solar power source, 36-volt  
W3FQJ p. 54, Jan 77

Step-start circuit, high-voltage (HN)  
W6VFR p. 64, Sep 71

Storage-battery QRP power  
W3FQJ p. 64, Oct 74

Super regulator, the MPC1000  
W3HUC p. 52, Sep 76

Survey of solid-state power supplies  
W6GXN p. 25, Feb 70  
Short circuit p. 76, Sep 70

Thermoelectric power supplies  
K1AJE p. 48, Sep 68

Transformers, high-voltage, repairing  
W6NIF p. 66, Mar 69

Transformer shorts  
W6BLZ p. 36, Jul 68

Transformers, miniature (HN)  
W4ATE p. 67, Jul 72

Transient eliminator (C&T)  
W1DTY p. 52, Jun 76

Transients, reducing  
W5JJ p. 50, Jan 73

Variable power supply for transistor work  
WA4MTH p. 68, Mar 76

Vibrator replacement, solid-state (HN)  
K8RAY p. 70, Aug 72

Voltage regulators, IC  
W7FLC p. 22, Oct 70

Voltage regulator ICs, adjustable  
WB9KEY p. 36, Aug 75

Voltage-regulator ICs, three-terminal  
WB5EMI p. 26, Dec 73  
Added note (letter) p. 73, Sep 74

Voltage regulators, boosting bargain (HN)  
WA7VVC p. 90, May 77

Voltage regulators, IC  
W6GXN p. 31, Mar 77

Voltage safety valve  
W2UJVF p. 78, Oct 76

Wind generators  
W3FQJ p. 50, Jan 75

Zener diodes (HN)  
K3DPJ p. 79, Aug 68

## propagation

Artificial radio aurora, scattering characteristics of  
WB6KAP p. 18, Nov 74

Echoes, long delay  
WB6KAP p. 61, May 69

Ionospheric E-layer  
WB6KAP p. 58, Aug 69

Ionospheric science, short history of  
WB6KAP p. 58, Jun 69

Long-distance high frequency communications  
WB6KAP p. 80, Jul 68

Maximum usable frequency, predicting  
WB6KAP p. 70, Sep 68

Quiet sun, the  
WB6KAP p. 76, Dec 68

Scatter-mode propagation, frequency synchronization for  
K2OVS p. 26, Sep 71

Solar cycle 20, vhf'er's view of  
WA5IYX p. 46, Dec 74

Sunspot numbers  
WB6KAP p. 63, Jul 69

Sunspot numbers, smoothed  
WB6KAP p. 72, Nov 68

Sunspots and solar activity  
WB6KAP p. 60, Jan 69

Tropospheric-duct vhf communications  
WB6KAP p. 68, Oct 69

6-meter sporadic-E openings, predicting  
 WA9RAQ p. 38, Oct 72  
 Added note (letter) p. 69, Jan 74

## receivers and converters

### general

Antenna impedance transformer for receivers (HN)  
 W6NIF p. 70, Jan 70  
 Antenna tuner, miniature receiver (HN)  
 WA7KRE p. 72, Mar 69  
 Anti-QRM methods  
 W3FQJ p. 50, May 71  
 Attenuation pads, receiving (letter)  
 KØHNQ p. 69, Jan 74  
 Audio agc amplifier  
 WA5SNZ p. 32, Dec 73  
 Audio agc principles and practice  
 WA5SNZ p. 28, Jun 71  
 Audio amplifier and squelch circuit  
 W6AJF p. 36, Aug 68  
 Audio filter for CW, tunable  
 WA1JSM p. 34, Aug 70  
 Audio filter-frequency translator for CW reception  
 W2EEY p. 24, Jun 70  
 Audio filter mod (HN)  
 K6HIU p. 60, Jan 72  
 Audio filter, simple  
 W4NVK p. 44, Oct 70  
 Audio filters, CW (letter)  
 6Y5SR p. 56, Jun 75  
 Audio filters for ssb and CW reception.  
 K6SDX p. 18, Nov 76  
 Audio-filters, inexpensive  
 W8YFB p. 24, Aug 72  
 Audio filter, tunable peak-notch  
 W2EEY p. 22, Mar 70  
 Audio filter, variable bandpass  
 W3AEX p. 36, Apr 70  
 Audio, improved for receivers  
 K7GCO p. 74, Apr 77  
 Audio module, complete  
 K4DHC p. 18, Jun 73  
 Bandspreading techniques for resonant circuits  
 Anderson p. 46, Feb 77  
 Short circuits p. 69, Dec 77  
 Batteries, how to select for portable equipment  
 WAØAIK p. 40, Aug 73  
 Bfo multiplexer for a multimode detector  
 WA3YGJ p. 52, Oct 75  
 Calibrator crystals (HN)  
 K6KA p. 66, Nov 71  
 Calibrator, plug-in frequency  
 K6KA p. 22, Mar 69  
 Calibrator, simple frequency-divider using mos ICs  
 W6GXN p. 30, Aug 69  
 Communications receivers, design ideas for  
 Moore p. 12, Jun 74  
 Communications receivers, designing for strong-signal performance  
 Moore p. 6, Feb 73  
 Converting a vacuum-tube receiver to solid-state  
 W1OOP p. 26, Feb 69  
 Counter dials, electronic  
 K6KA p. 44, Sep 70  
 Crystal-filter design, practical  
 PY2PEC p. 34, Nov 76  
 CW filter, adding (HN)  
 W2OUX p. 66, Sep 73  
 CW monitor, simple  
 WA9OHR p. 65, Jan 71  
 CW processor for communications receivers  
 W6NRW p. 17, Oct 71  
 CW reception, enhancing through a simulated-stereo technique  
 WA1MKP p. 61, Oct 74  
 CW reception, noise reduction for  
 W2ELV p. 52, Sep 73  
 CW regenerator for interference-free communications  
 Leward, Libenschek p. 54, Apr 74  
 CW selectivity with crystal bandpassing  
 W2EEY p. 52, Jun 69  
 CW transceiver operation with transmit-receive offset  
 W1DAX p. 56, Sep 70  
 Detector, reciprocating  
 W1SNN p. 32, Mar 72  
 Added notes p. 54, Mar 74; p. 76, May 75  
 Detector, single-signal phasing type  
 WB9CYY p. 71, Oct 76  
 Short circuit p. 68, Dec 77  
 Detector, superregenerative, optimizing  
 Ring p. 32, Jul 72  
 Detectors, fm, survey of  
 W6GXN p. 22, Jun 76  
 Detectors, ssb  
 Belt p. 22, Nov 68

Digital frequency display  
 WB2NYK p. 26, Sep 76  
 Diode detectors  
 W6GXN p. 28, Jan 76  
 Comments p. 77, Feb 77  
 Diversity receiving system  
 W2EEY p. 12, Dec 71  
 Double-balanced mixer, active, high-dynamic range  
 DJ2LR p. 90, Nov 77  
 Filter alignment  
 W7UC p. 61, Aug 75  
 Filter, vari-Q  
 W1SNN p. 62, Sep 73  
 Frequency calibrator, how to design  
 W3AEX p. 54, Jul 71  
 Frequency calibrator, receiver  
 W5UQS p. 28, Dec 71  
 Frequency-marker standard using cmos  
 W4IYB p. 44, Aug 77  
 Frequency measurement of received signals  
 W4AAD p. 38, Oct 73  
 Frequency spotter, general coverage  
 W5JJ p. 36, Nov 70  
 Frequency standard (HN)  
 WA7JIK p. 69, Sep 72  
 Frequency standard, universal  
 K4EEU p. 40, Feb 74  
 Short circuit p. 72, May 74  
 Hang agc circuit for ssb and CW  
 W1ERJ p. 50, Sep 72  
 Headphone cords (HN)  
 W2OLU p. 62, Nov 75  
 I-f amplifier design  
 DJ2LR p. 10, Mar 77  
 Short circuit p. 94, May 77  
 I-f cathode jack  
 W6HPH p. 28, Sep 68  
 I-f detector receiver module  
 K6SDX p. 34, Aug 76  
 I-f system, multimode  
 WA2IKL p. 39, Sep 71  
 Image suppression (HN)  
 W6NIF p. 68, Dec 72  
 Intelligibility of communications receivers, improving  
 WA5RAQ p. 53, Aug 70  
 Interference, electric fence  
 K6KA p. 68, Jul 72  
 Interference, hi-fi (HN)  
 K6KA p. 63, Mar 75  
 Interference, rf  
 W1DTY p. 12, Dec 70  
 Interference, rf  
 WA3NFW p. 30, Mar 73  
 Interference, rf, its cause and cure  
 G3LLL p. 26, Jun 75  
 Intermodulation distortion, reducing in high-frequency receivers  
 WB4ZNV p. 26, Mar 77  
 Short circuit p. 69, Dec 77  
 Local oscillator, phase-locked  
 VE5FP p. 6, Mar 71  
 Local-oscillator waveform effects on spurious mixer responses  
 Robinson, Smith p. 44, Jun 74  
 Mixer, crystal  
 W2LJT p. 38, Nov 75  
 Monitor receiver modification (HN)  
 W2CNO p. 72, Feb 76  
 Noise blanker  
 K4DHC p. 38, Feb 73  
 Noise blanker design  
 K7CVT p. 26, Nov 77  
 Noise blanker, hot-carrier diode  
 W4KAE p. 16, Oct 69  
 Short circuit p. 76, Sep 70  
 Noise blanker, IC  
 W2EEY p. 52, May 69  
 Short circuit p. 79, Jun 70  
 Noise effects in receiving systems  
 DJ2LR p. 34, Nov 77  
 Noise figure, the real meaning of  
 K6MIO p. 26, Mar 69  
 Panoramic reception, simple  
 W2EEY p. 14, Oct 68  
 Phase-shift networks, design criteria  
 G3NRW p. 34, Jun 70  
 Preamplifier, wideband  
 W1AAZ p. 60, Oct 76  
 Product detector, hot-carrier diode  
 VE3GFN p. 12, Oct 69  
 Radio-direction finder  
 W6JTT p. 38, Mar 70  
 Radio-frequency interference  
 WA3NFW p. 30, Mar 73  
 Radiotelegraph translator and transcriber  
 W7CUU, K7KFA p. 8, Nov 71  
 Eliminating the matrix  
 KH6AP p. 60, May 72  
 Receiver impedance matching (HN)  
 WØZFN p. 79, Aug 68  
 Receiver spurious response  
 Anderson p. 82, Nov 77  
 Receivers — some problems and cures  
 WBØJGP, K8RRH p. 10, Dec 77

Receiving RTTY, automatic frequency control for  
 W5NPO p. 50, Sep 71  
 Reciprocating detector as fm discriminator  
 W1SNN p. 18, Mar 73  
 Reciprocating-detector converter  
 W1SNN p. 58, Sep 74  
 Resurrecting old receivers  
 K4IPV p. 52, Dec 76  
 Rf amplifiers for communications receivers  
 Moore p. 42, Sep 74  
 Rf amplifiers, isolating parallel currents in  
 G3IPV p. 40, Feb 77  
 Rf amplifier, wideband  
 WB4KSS p. 58, Apr 75  
 S-meter readings (HN)  
 W1DTY p. 56, Jun 68  
 Selectivity and gain control, improved  
 VE3GFN p. 71, Nov 77  
 Selectivity, receiver (letter)  
 K4ZZV p. 68, Jan 74  
 Sensitivity, noise figure and dynamic range  
 W1DTY p. 8, Oct 75  
 Signals, how many does a receiver see?  
 DJ2LR p. 58, Jun 77  
 Comments p. 101, Sep 77  
 S meters, solid-state  
 K6SDX p. 20, Mar 75  
 Spectrum analyzer, four channel  
 W9IA p. 6, Oct 72  
 Squelch, audio-actuated  
 K4MOG p. 52, Apr 72  
 Ssb signals, monitoring  
 W6VFR p. 36, Mar 72  
 Superregenerative detector, optimizing  
 Ring p. 32, Jul 72  
 Superregenerative receiver, improved  
 JA1BHG p. 48, Dec 70  
 Threshold-gate/limiter for CW reception  
 W2ELV p. 46, Jan 72  
 Added notes (letter)  
 W2ELV p. 59, May 72  
 Troubleshooting the dead receiver  
 K4IPV p. 56, Jun 76  
 Vlf converter (HN)  
 W3CPU p. 69, Jul 76  
 Weak signal reception in CW receivers  
 ZS6BT p. 44, Nov 71  
 WWV receiver, five-frequency  
 W6GXN p. 36, Jul 76

### high-frequency receivers

Bandpass filters for receiver preselectors  
 W7ZOI p. 18, Feb 75  
 Bandpass tuning, electronic, in the Drake R-4C  
 Horner p. 58, Oct 73  
 BC-603 tank receiver, updating the  
 WA6IAK p. 52, May 68  
 BC-1206 for 7 MHz, converted  
 W4FIN p. 30, Oct 70  
 Short circuit p. 72, Apr 71  
 Collins 75A4 hints (HN)  
 W6VFR p. 68, Apr 72  
 Collins 75A-4 modifications (HN)  
 W4SD p. 67, Jan 71  
 Communications receiver, five band  
 K6SDX p. 6, Jun 72  
 Communications receiver for 80 meters, IC  
 VE3ELP p. 6, Jul 71  
 Communications receiver, micropower  
 WB9FHC p. 30, Jun 73  
 Short circuit p. 58, Dec 73  
 Communications receivers, miniature design ideas for  
 K4DHC p. 18, Apr 76  
 Communications receiver, miniaturized  
 K4DHC p. 24, Sep 74  
 Communications receiver, optimum design for  
 DJ2LR p. 10, Oct 76  
 Communications receiver, solid-state  
 I5TDJ p. 32, Oct 75  
 Correction p. 59, Dec 75  
 Companion receiver, all-mode  
 W1SNN p. 18, Mar 73  
 Converter, hf, solid-state  
 VE3GFN p. 32, Feb 72  
 Converter, tuned very low-frequency  
 OH2KT p. 49, Nov 74  
 Converter, very low frequency receiving  
 W2IMB p. 24, Nov 76  
 Crystal-controlled phase-locked converter  
 W3VF p. 58, Dec 77  
 Direct-conversion receivers  
 W3FQJ p. 59, Nov 71  
 Direct-conversion receivers  
 PAØSE p. 44, Nov 77  
 Direct-conversion receivers, improved selectivity  
 K6BIJ p. 32, Apr 72  
 Direct-conversion receivers, simple active filters for  
 W7ZOI p. 12, Apr 74  
 Double-conversion hf receiver with mechanical frequency readout  
 Perolo p. 26, Oct 76

ESSA weather receiver  
W6GXN p. 36, May 68

Fet converter, bandswitching, for  
40, 20, 15 and 10 (VE3GFN)  
postscript p. 6, Jul 68  
p. 68, May 69

Fet converter for 10 to 40 meters, second-  
generation  
VE3GFN p. 28, Jan 70  
Short circuit p. 79, Jun 70

Frequency synthesizer for the Drake R-4  
W6NBI p. 6, Aug 72  
Modification (letter) p. 74, Sep 74

General coverage communications receiver  
W6URH p. 10, Nov 77

Gonset converter, solid-state modification of  
Schuler p. 58, Sep 69

Hammarlund HQ215, adding 160-meter  
coverage  
W2GHK p. 32, Jan 72

Heath SB-650 frequency display, using  
with other receivers  
K2BYM p. 40, Jun 73

High dynamic range receiver input stages  
DJ2LR p. 26, Oct 75

High-frequency DX receiver  
WB2ZVU p. 10, Dec 76

Incremental tuning to your  
transceiver, adding  
VE3GFN p. 66, Feb 71

Monitoring oscillator  
W2JIO p. 36, Dec 72

Multiband high-frequency converter  
K6SDX p. 32, Oct 76

Outboard receiver with a transceiver  
W1DITY p. 12, Sep 68

Outboard receiver with the SB-100,  
using an (HN)  
K4GMR p. 68, Feb 70

Overload response in the Collins 75A-4  
receiver, improving  
W6ZO p. 42, Apr 70  
Short circuit p. 76, Sep 70

Phasing-type ssb receiver  
WAØJYK p. 6, Aug 73  
Short circuit p. 58, Dec 73  
Added note (letter) p. 63, Jun 74

Preamplifier, emitter-tuned, 21 MHz  
WA5SNZ p. 20, Apr 72

Preamplifier, low-noise high-gain transistor  
W2EY p. 66, Feb 69

Preselector, general-coverage (HN)  
W5OZF p. 75, Oct 70

Q5er, solid-state  
W5TKP p. 20, Aug 69

Receiver incremental tuning for the  
Swan 350 (HN)  
K1KXA p. 64, Jul 71

Receiver, reciprocating detector  
W1SNN p. 44, Nov 72  
Correction (letter) p. 77, Dec 72

Receiver, versatile solid-state  
W1PLJ p. 10, Jul 70

Receiving RTTY with Heath SB receivers (HN)  
K9HVW p. 64, Oct 71

Rf amplifiers, selective  
K6BIJ p. 58, Feb 72

Regenerative detectors and a wideband  
amplifier for experimenters  
W8YFB p. 61, Mar 70

RTTY monitor receiver  
K4EEU p. 27, Dec 72

RTTY receiver-demodulator for net  
operation  
VE7BRK p. 42, Feb 73

RTTY with SB-300  
W2ARZ p. 76, Jul 68

Swan 350 CW monitor (HN)  
K1KXA p. 63, Jun 72

Transceiver selectivity improved (HN)  
VE3BWD p. 74, Oct 70

Tuner overload, eliminating (HN)  
VE3GFN p. 66, Jan 73  
Attenuators for (letter) p. 69, Jan 74

Two-band novice superhet  
Thorpe p. 66, Aug 68

Weather receiver, low-frequency  
W6GXN p. 36, Oct 68

WWV receiver  
Hudor, Jr. p. 28, Feb 77

WWV receiver, fixed-tuned  
W6GXN p. 24, Nov 69

WWV receiver, regenerative  
WA5SNZ p. 42, Apr 73

WWV receiver, simple (HN)  
WA3JBN p. 68, Jul 70  
Short circuit p. 72, Dec 70

WWV receiver, simple (HN)  
WA3JBN p. 55, Dec 70

WWV-WVVH, amateur applications for  
W3FQJ p. 53, Jan 72

455-kHz bfo, transistorized  
W6BLZ, K5GXR p. 12, Jul 68

20-meter receiver with digital readout, part 1  
K6SDX p. 48, Oct 77

20-meter receiver with digital readout, part 2  
K6SDX p. 56, Nov 77

160-meter receiver, simple  
W6FPO p. 44, Nov 70

1.9 MHz receiver  
W3TNO p. 6, Dec 69

7-MHz direct-conversion receiver  
WØYBF p. 16, Jan 77

7-MHz ssb receiver and transmitter, simple  
VE3GSD p. 6, Mar 74  
Short circuit p. 62, Dec 74

28-MHz superregen receiver  
K2ZSQ p. 70, Nov 68

## vhf receivers and converters

Converters for six and two meters, mosfet  
WB2EGZ p. 41, Feb 71  
Short circuit p. 96, Dec 71

Cooled preamplifier for vhf-uhf  
WAØRDX p. 36, Jul 72

Fet converters for 50, 144, 220 and  
432 MHz  
W6AJF p. 20, Mar 68

Filter-preamplifiers for 50 and 144 MHz  
etched  
W5KNT p. 6, Feb 71

Fm channel scanner  
W2FPP p. 29, Aug 71

Fm communications receiver, modular  
K8AUH p. 32, Jun 69  
Correction p. 71, Jan 70

Fm receiver frequency control (letter)  
W3AFN p. 65, Apr 71

Fm receiver performance, comparison of  
VE7ABK p. 68, Aug 72

Fm receiver, multichannel for six and two  
W1SNN p. 54, Feb 74

Fm receiver, tunable vhf  
K8AUH p. 34, Nov 71

Fm receiver, uhf  
WA2GCF p. 6, Nov 72

Fm repeaters, receiving system  
degradation in  
K5ZBA p. 36, May 69

HW-17A, perking up (HN)  
WB2EGZ p. 70, Aug 70

Improving vhf/uhf receivers  
W1JAA p. 44, Mar 76

Interdigital preamplifier and comb-line  
bandpass filter for vhf and uhf  
W5KHT p. 6, Aug 70

Interference, scanning receiver (HN)  
K2YAH p. 70, Sep 72

Monitor receivers, two-meter fm  
WB5EMI p. 34, Apr 74

Overload problems with vhf converters,  
solving  
W1OOP p. 53, Jan 73

Receiver alignment techniques, vhf fm  
K4IPV p. 14, Aug 75

Receiver, modular two-meter fm  
WA2GFB p. 42, Feb 72

Receiver, vhf fm  
WA2GCF p. 8, Nov 75

Receiving converter, vhf four-band  
W3TQM p. 64, Oct 76

Scanning receiver for vhf fm, improved  
WA2GCF p. 26, Nov 74

Scanning receiver modifications,  
vhf fm (HN)  
WA5WOU p. 60, Feb 74

Scanning receivers for two-meter fm  
K4IPV p. 28, Aug 74

Six-meter converter, improved  
K1BQT p. 50, Aug 70

Six-meter mosfet converter  
WB2EGZ p. 22, Jun 68  
Short circuit p. 34, Aug 68

Squelch-audio amplifier for fm receivers  
WB4WSU p. 68, Sep 74

Ssb mini-tuner  
K1BQT p. 16, Oct 70

Terminator, 50-ohm for vhf converters  
WA6UAM p. 26, Feb 77

Two-meter converter, 1.5 dB NF  
WA6SXC p. 14, Jul 68

Two-meter mosfet converter  
WB2EGZ p. 22, Aug 68  
Neutralizing p. 77, Oct 68

Two-meter preamp, MM5000  
W4KAE p. 49, Oct 68

Vhf converter performance,  
optimizing (HN)  
K2FSQ p. 18, Jul 68

Vhf fm receiver (letter)  
K8IHQ p. 76, May 73

Vhf receiver scanner  
K2LZG p. 22, Feb 73

Vhf superregenerative receiver, low-voltage  
WA5SNZ p. 22, Jul 73  
Short circuit p. 64, Mar 74

28-30 MHz preamplifier for satellite  
reception  
W1JAA p. 48, Oct 75

50-MHz preamplifier, improved  
WA2GCF p. 46, Jan 73

144-MHz converter (HN)  
KØVQY p. 71, Aug 70

144-MHz converter (letter)  
WØLER p. 71, Oct 71

144 MHz converter, hot-carrier diode  
K8CJU p. 6, Oct 69

144-MHz converter, modular  
W6UOV p. 64, Oct 70

144 MHz converters, choosing fets for (HN)  
K6JYO p. 70, Aug 69

144-MHz preamp, low-noise  
W1DITY p. 40, Apr 76

144-MHz preamp, super (HN)  
K6HCP p. 72, Oct 69

144-MHz preamplifier, Improved  
WA2GCF p. 25, Mar 72  
Added notes p. 73, Jul 72

220-MHz mosfet converter  
WB2EGZ p. 28, Jan 69  
Short circuit p. 76, Jul 69

432-MHz converter, low-noise  
K6JC p. 34, Oct 70

432-MHz fet converter, low noise  
WA6SXC p. 18, May 68

432 MHz preamp (HN)  
W1DITY p. 66, Aug 69

432 MHz preamplifier and converter  
WA2GCF p. 40, Jul 75

1296-MHz converter, solid-state  
VK4ZT p. 6, Nov 70

1296 MHz, double-balanced mixers for  
WA6UAM p. 8, Jul 75

1296-MHz preamplifier  
WA6UAM p. 42, Oct 75

1296-MHz preamplifier, low-noise  
WA2VTR p. 50, Jun 71  
Added note (letter) p. 65, Jan 72

2340-MHz converter, solid-state  
K2JNG, WA2LTM, WA2VTR p. 16, Mar 72

2304-MHz preamplifier, solid-state  
WA2VTR p. 20, Aug 72

## receivers and converters, test and troubleshooting

Receiver alignment  
Allen p. 64, Jun 68

Rf and i-f amplifiers, troubleshooting  
Allen p. 60, Sep 70

Signal injection in ham receivers  
Allen p. 72, May 68

Signal tracing in ham receivers  
Allen p. 52, Apr 68

Weak-signal source, variable-output  
K6JYO p. 36, Sep 71

Weak-signal source, 144 and 432 MHz  
K6JC p. 58, Mar 70

Weak-signal source, 432 and 1296 MHz  
K6RIL p. 20, Sep 68

## RTTY

AFSK, digital  
WA4VOS p. 22, Mar 77  
Short circuit p. 94, May 77

AFSK generator (HN)  
F8KI p. 69, Jul 76

AFSK generator and demodulator  
WB9ATW p. 26, Sep 77

AFSK generator, crystal-controlled  
K7BVT p. 13, Jul 72

AFSK generator, crystal-controlled  
W6LLO p. 14, Dec 73  
Sluggish oscillator (letter) p. 59, Dec 74

AFSK oscillators, solid-state  
WA4FGY p. 28, Oct 68

Audio-frequency keyer, simple  
W2LTJ p. 56, Aug 75

Audio-frequency shift keyer  
KH6FMT p. 45, Sep 76

Audio-frequency shift keyer, simple (C&T)  
W1DITY p. 43, Apr 76

Audio-shift keyer, continuous-phase  
VE3CTP p. 10, Oct 73  
Short circuit p. 64, Mar 74

Automatic frequency control for receiving RTTY  
W5NPO p. 50, Sep 71  
Added note (letter) p. 66, Jan 72

Autostart, digital RTTY  
K4EEU p. 6, Jun 73

Autostart monitor receiver  
K4EED p. 37, Dec 72

CRT intensifier for RTTY  
K4VFA p. 18, Jul 71

Carriage return, adding to the automatic  
line-feed generator (HN)  
K4EEU p. 71, Sep 74

Coherent frequency-shift keying, need for  
K3WJQ p. 30, Jun 74  
Added notes (letter) p. 58, Nov 74

Crystal test oscillator and signal generator  
K4EEU p. 46, Mar 73

CW memory for RTTY identification  
W6LLO p. 6, Jan 74

DT-500 demodulator  
K9HVW, K4OAH, WB4KUR p. 24, Mar 76  
Short circuit p. 85, Oct 76



DT-600 demodulator	
K9HWV, K4OAH, WB4KUR	p. 8, Feb 76
Letter, K5GZR	p. 78, Sep 76
Short circuit	p. 85, Oct 76
Electronic speed conversion for RTTY teleprinters	
WA6JYJ	p. 36, Dec 71
Printed circuit for	p. 54, Oct 72
Frequency-shift meter, RTTY	
VK3ZNV	p. 53, Jun 70
Line-end indicator, IC	
W2OKO	p. 22, Nov 75
Line feed, automatic for RTTY	
K4EEU	p. 20, Jan 73
Mainline ST-5 autostart and antispace	
K2YAH	p. 46, Dec 72
Mainline ST-5 RTTY demodulator	
W6FFC	p. 14, Sep 70
Short circuit	p. 72, Dec 70
Mainline ST-6 RTTY demodulator	
W6FFC	p. 6, Jan 71
Short circuit	p. 72, Apr 71
Mainline ST-6 RTTY demodulator, more uses for (letter)	
W6FFC	p. 69, Jul 71
Mainline ST-6 RTTY demodulator, troubleshooting	
W6FFC	p. 50, Feb 71
Message generator, random access memory	
RTTY	
K4EEU	p. 8, Jan 75
Message generator, RTTY	
W6OXF, W8KCQ	p. 30, Feb 74
Monitor scope, phase-shift	
W3CIX	p. 36, Aug 72
Monitor scope, RTTY, Heath	
HO-10 and SB-610 as (HN)	
K9HWV	p. 70, Sep 74
Monitor scope, RTTY, solid-state	
WB2MPZ	p. 33, Oct 71
Performance and signal-to-noise ratio of low-frequency shift RTTY	
K6SR	p. 62, Dec 76
Phase-locked loop AFSK generator	
K7ZOF	p. 27, Mar 73
Phase-locked loop RTTY terminal unit	
W4FQM	p. 8, Jan 72
Correction	p. 60, May 72
Power supply for	p. 60, Jul 74
Optimization of the phase-locked terminal unit	p. 22, Sep 75
Update, W4AYV	p. 16, Aug 76
Precise tuning with ssb gear	
WØKD	p. 40, Oct 70
Printed circuit for RTTY speed converter	
W7POG	p. 54, Oct 72
RAM RTTY message generator, increasing capacity of (HN)	
F2ES	p. 86, Oct 77
Receiver-demodulator for RTTY net operation	
VE7BRK	p. 42, Feb 73
Ribbon re-inkers	
W6FFC	p. 30, Jun 72
RTTY converter, miniature IC	
K9MRL	p. 40, May 69
Short circuit	p. 80, Aug 69
RTTY distortion: causes and cures	
WB6IMP	p. 36, Sep 72
RTTY for the blind (letter)	
VE7BRK	p. 76, Aug 72
RTTY, introduction to	
K6JFP	p. 38, Jun 69
RTTY line-length indicator (HN)	
W2UVF	p. 62, Nov 73
RTTY reception with Heath SB receivers (HN)	
K9HWV	p. 64, Oct 71
RTTY with the SB-300	
W2ARZ	p. 76, Jul 68
Serial converter for 8-level teleprinters	
VE3CTP	p. 67, Aug 77
Short circuit	p. 68, Dec 77
Signal Generator, RTTY	
W7ZTC	p. 23, Mar 71
Short circuit	p. 96, Dec 71
Simple circuit replaces jack patch panel	
K4STE	p. 25, Apr 76
Speed control, electronic, for RTTY	
W3VF	p. 50, Aug 74
ST-5 keys polar relay (HN)	
WØLPD	p. 72, May 74
Swan 350 and 400 equipment on RTTY (HN)	
WB2MIC	p. 67, Aug 69
Synchrophase afsk oscillator	
W6FOO	p. 30, Dec 70
Synchrophase RTTY reception	
W6FOO	p. 38, Nov 70
Tape editor	
W3EAG	p. 32, Jun 77
Teleprinters, new look in	
W6JTT	p. 38, Jul 70
Terminal unit, phase-locked loop	
W4FQM	p. 8, Jan 72
Correction	p. 60, May 72
Terminal unit, phase-locked loop	
W4AYV	p. 36, Feb 75
Terminal unit, variable-shift RTTY	
W3VF	p. 16, Nov 73
Test generator, RTTY (HN)	
W3EAG	p. 67, Jan 73

Test generator, RTTY (HN)	
W3EAG	p. 59, Mar 73
Test-message generator, RTTY	
K9GSC, K9PKQ	p. 30, Nov 76
Time/date printout	
WØLZT	p. 18, Jun 76
Short circuit	p. 68, Dec 77
Voltage supply, precision for phase-locked terminal unit (HN)	
W6ATLA	p. 60, Jul 74

## satellites

Amateur radio in space, bibliography	
W6OLO	p. 60, Aug 68
Addenda	p. 77, Oct 68
Antenna control, automatic azimuth/elevation for satellite communications	
WA3HLT	p. 26, Jan 75
Correction	p. 58, Dec 75
Antenna, simple satellite (HN)	
W6APXY	p. 59, Feb 75
Antennas, simple, for satellite communications	
K4GSX	p. 24, May 74
Az-el antenna mount for satellite communications	
W2LX	p. 34, Mar 75
Circularly-polarized ground-plane antenna for satellite communications	
K4GSX	p. 28, Dec 74
Communications, first step to satellite	
K1MTA	p. 52, Nov 72
Added notes (letter)	p. 73, Apr 73
Future of the amateur satellite service	
K2UBC	p. 32, Aug 77
Medical data relay via Oscar	
K7RGE	p. 67, Apr 77
Oscar antenna (C&T)	
W1DITY	p. 50, Jun 76
Oscar antenna, mobile (HN)	
W6OAL	p. 67, May 76
Oscar tracking program, HP-65 calculator (letters)	
WA3THD	p. 71, Jan 76
Oscar 7, communications techniques for	
G3ZCZ	p. 6, Apr 74
Picture transmission, recording satellite	
W6CCN	p. 6, Nov 68
Signal polarization, satellite	
KH6IJ	p. 6, Dec 72
Tracking the OSCAR satellites	
Harmon, WA6UAP	p. 18, Sep 77
28-30 MHz preamplifier for satellite reception	
W1JAA	p. 48, Oct 75
432-MHz OSCAR antenna (HN)	
W1JAA	p. 58, Jul 75

## semiconductors

Antenna switch for meters, solid-state	
K2ZSQ	p. 48, May 69
Avalanche transistor circuits	
W4NVK	p. 22, Dec 70
Beta master, the	
K8ERV	p. 18, Aug 68
Charge flow in semiconductors	
WB6BIH	p. 50, Apr 71
Converting a vacuum-tube receiver to solid-state	
W1OOP	p. 26, Feb 69
Short circuit	p. 76, Jul 69
Converting vacuum tube equipment to solid-state	
W2EEY	p. 30, Aug 68
Curve master, the	
K8ERV	p. 40, Mar 68
Diodes, evaluating	
W5JJ	p. 52, Dec 71
Dynamic transistor tester (HN)	
VE7ABK	p. 65, Oct 71
European semiconductor numbering system (C&T)	
W1DITY	p. 42, Apr 76
Fet bias problems simplified	
WAS5NZ	p. 50, Mar 74
Fet biasing	
W3FQJ	p. 61, Nov 72
Fetrons, solid-state replacements for tubes	
W1DITY	p. 4, Aug 72
Added notes	p. 66, Oct 73; p. 62, Jun 74
Frequency multipliers	
W6GXN	p. 6, Aug 71
Frequency multipliers, transistor	
W6AJF	p. 49, Jun 70
Glass semiconductors	
W1EZT	p. 54, Jul 69
Grid-dip oscillator, solid-state conversion of	
W6AJZ	p. 20, Jun 70
Heatsink problems, how to solve transistor	
WAS5NZ	p. 46, Jan 74
Impulse generator, snap diode	
Segal, Turner	p. 29, Oct 72
Injection lasers, high power	
Mims	p. 28, Sep 71

Injection lasers (letter)	
Mims	p. 64, Apr 71
Linear power amplifier, high power solid-state	
Chambers	p. 6, Aug 74
Linear transistor amplifier	
W3FQJ	p. 59, Sep 71
Long-tail transistor biasing	
W2DXH	p. 64, Apr 68
Matching techniques, broadband, for transistor rf amplifiers	
WA7WHZ	p. 30, Jan 77
Microwave amplifier design, solid state	
WA6UAM	p. 40, Oct 76
Mobile converter, solid-state modification of	
Schuler	p. 58, Sep 69
Mosfet circuits	
W3FQJ	p. 50, Feb 75
Mosfet transistors (HN)	
WB2EGZ	p. 72, Aug 69
Motorola fets (letter)	
W1CER	p. 64, Apr 71
Motorola MPS transistors (HN)	
W2DXH	p. 42, Apr 68
Neutralizing small-signal amplifiers	
WA4WDK	p. 40, Sep 70
Noise, zener-diode (HN)	
VE7ABK	p. 59, Jun 75
Parasitic oscillations in high-power transistor rf amplifiers	
WØKGI	p. 54, Sep 70
Pentode replacement (HN)	
W1DITY	p. 70, Feb 70
Power dissipation ratings of transistors	
WN9CGW	p. 56, Jun 71
Power fets	
W3FQJ	p. 34, Apr 71
Power transistors, paralleling (HN)	
WA5EKA	p. 62, Jan 72
Relay, transistor replaces (HN)	
W3NK	p. 72, Jan 70
Replace the unijunction transistor	
K9VXL	p. 58, Apr 68
Rf power detecting devices	
K6JYO	p. 28, Jun 70
Rf power transistors, how to use	
WA7KRE	p. 8, Jan 70
Snap diode impulse generator	
Slegal, Turner	p. 29, Oct 72
Surplus transistors, identifying	
W2FPP	p. 38, Dec 70
Thyristors, introduction to	
WA7KRE	p. 54, Oct 70
Transconductance tester for field-effect transistors	
W6NBI	p. 44, Sep 71
Transistor amplifiers, tabulated characteristics of	
W5JJ	p. 30, Mar 71
Transistor and diode tester	
ZL2AMJ	p. 65, Nov 70
Transistor breakdown voltages	
WA5EKA	p. 44, Feb 75
Transistors for vhf transmitters (HN)	
W1OOP	p. 74, Sep 69
Transistor storage (HN)	
K8ERV	p. 58, Jun 68
Transistor tester	
WA6NIL	p. 48, Jul 68
Transistor tester for leakage and gain	
W4BRS	p. 68, May 68
Transistor testing	
Allen	p. 62, Jul 70
Transistor-tube talk (HN)	
WA4NED	p. 25, Jun 68
Trapatt diodes (letter)	
WA7NLA	p. 72, Apr 72
Troubleshooting around fets	
Allen	p. 42, Oct 68
Troubleshooting transistor ham gear	
Allen	p. 64, Jul 68
Vfo transistors (HN)	
W1OOP	p. 74, Nov 69
Y parameters in rf design, using	
WAØTCU	p. 46, Jul 72
Zener diodes (HN)	
K3DPJ	p. 79, Aug 68
Zener tester, Low voltage (HN)	
K3DPJ	p. 72, Nov 69

## single sideband

Balanced modulator, integrated-circuit	
K7QWR	p. 6, Sep 70
Balanced modulators, dual fet	
W3FQJ	p. 63, Oct 71
Communications receiver, phasing-type	
WAØJYK	p. 6, Aug 73
Converting a-m power amplifiers to ssb service	
WA4GNW	p. 55, Sep 68
Converting the Swan 120 to two meters	
K6RIL	p. 8, May 68
Detectors, ssb	
Belt	p. 22, Nov 68

Detector, ssb, IC (HN) K4ODS p. 67, Dec 72 Correction p. 72, Apr 73	Speech process, logarithmic WA3FIY p. 38, Jan 70	Sync generator for black-and-white K4EEU p. 79, Jul 77
Double-balanced mixers W1DTY p. 48, Mar 68	Speech processor, ssb VK9GN p. 31, Dec 71	Sync generator, IC, for ATV W0KGI p. 34, Jul 75
Double-balanced modulator, broadband WA6NCT p. 8, Mar 70	Speech splatter on single sideband W4MB p. 28, Sep 75	Synch generator, sstv (letter) W1IA p. 73, Apr 73
Electronic bias switching for linear amplifiers W6VFR p. 50, Mar 75	Ssb exciter, 5-band K1UKX p. 10, Mar 68	Television DX WA9RAQ p. 30, Aug 73
Filters, single-sideband Belt p. 40, Aug 68	Ssb generator, phasing-type W7CMJ p. 22, Apr 73 Added comments (letter) p. 65, Nov 73	Test generator, sstv K4EEU p. 6, Jul 73
Filters, ssb (HN) K6KA p. 63, Nov 73	Ssb generator, 9-MHz W9KIT p. 6, Dec 70	Vestigial sideband microtransmitter for amateur television WA6UAM p. 20, Feb 76 Short circuit p. 94, May 77
Frequency dividers for ssb W7BZ p. 24, Dec 71	Ssb transceiver, IC, for 80 meters VE3GSD p. 48, Apr 76	50 years of television W1DTY, K4TWJ p. 36, Feb 76 Letter, WA6JFP p. 77, Sep 76
Frequency translation in ssb transmitters Belt p. 22, Sep 68	Switching and linear amplification W3FQJ p. 61, Oct 71	
Generating ssb signals with suppressed carriers Belt p. 24, May 68	Syllabic vox system for Drake equipment W6RM p. 24, Aug 76	
Guide to single sideband, a beginner's Belt p. 66, Mar 68	Transceiver, miniature 7-MHz W7BBX p. 16, Jul 74	
Hang agc circuit for ssb and CW W1ERJ p. 50, Sep 72	Transceiver, single-band ssb W1DTY p. 8, Jun 69	
Intermittent voice operation of power tubes W6SAI p. 24, Jan 71	Transceiver, ssb, IC G3ZVC p. 34, Aug 74 Circuit change (letter) p. 62, Sep 75	
Intermodulation-distortion measurements on ssb transmitters W6VFR p. 34, Sep 74	Transceiver, ssb, using LM373 IC W5BAA p. 32, Nov 73	
Linear amplifier, five-band conduction- cooled W9KIT p. 6, Jul 72	Transceiver, 3.5-MHz ssb VE6ABX p. 6, Mar 73	
Linear amplifier, five-band kilowatt W4OQ p. 14, Jan 74 Improved operation (letter) p. 59, Dec 74	Transmitter alignment Allen p. 62, Oct 69	
Linear amplifier, homebrew five-band W7IV p. 30, Mar 70	Transmitter and receiver for 40 meters, ssb VE3GSD p. 6, Mar 74 Short circuit p. 62, Dec 74	
Linear amplifier performance, improving W4PSJ p. 68, Oct 71	Transmitter, phasing-type ssb WA0JYK p. 8, Jun 75	
Linear amplifier, 100-watt W6WR p. 28, Dec 75	Transmitting mixers, 6 and 2 meters K2ISP p. 8, Apr 69	
Linear, five-band hf W7DI p. 6, Mar 72	Transverter, 6-meter K8DOC, K8TVP p. 44, Dec 68	
Linear for 80-10 meters, high-power W6HHN p. 56, Apr 71 Short circuit p. 96, Dec 71	Trapezoidal monitor scope VE3CUS p. 22, Dec 69	
Linearity meter for ssb amplifiers W4MB p. 40, Jun 76	TTL ICs, using in ssb equipment G4ADJ p. 18, Nov 75	
Linear power amplifiers Belt p. 16, Apr 68	Tuning up ssb transmitters Allen p. 62, Nov 69	
Linears, three bands with two (HN) W4NJF p. 70, Nov 69	TV sweep tubes in linear service, full-blast operation of W6SAI, W6UOV p. 9, Apr 68	
Minituner, ssb K1BQT p. 16, Oct 70	Two-tone oscillator for ssb testing W6GXN p. 11, Apr 72	
Modifying the Heath SB-200 amplifier for the new 8873 zero-bias triode W6UOV p. 32, Jan 71	Vacuum tubes, using odd-ball types in linear amplifier service W5JJ p. 58, Sep 72	
Oscillators, ssb Belt p. 26, Jun 68	Vhf, uhf transverter, input source for (HN) F8MK p. 69, Sep 70	
Peak envelope power, how to measure W5JJ p. 32, Nov 74	Vox and mox systems for ssb Belt p. 24, Oct 68	
Phase-shift networks, design criteria for G3NRW p. 34, Jun 70	Vox, versatile W9KIT p. 50, Jul 71 Short circuit p. 96, Dec 71	
Phase-shift ssb generators Belt p. 20, Jul 68	3-500Z in amateur service, the W6SAI p. 56, Mar 68	
Power supplies for ssb Belt p. 38, Feb 69	144-MHz linear, 2kW W6UOV, W6ZO, K6DC p. 26, Apr 70	
Precise tuning with ssb gear W0KD p. 40, Oct 70	144-MHz low-drive kilowatt linear W6HHN p. 26, Jul 70	
Pre-emphasis for ssb transmitters OH2CD p. 38, Feb 72	144-MHz transverter, the TR-144 K1RAK p. 24, Feb 72	
Rating tubes for linear amplifier service W6UOV, W6SAI p. 50, Mar 71	432 MHz rf power amplifier K6JC p. 40, Apr 70	
Rf clipper for the Collins S-line K6JYO p. 18, Aug 71 Letter p. 68, Dec 71	432-MHz ssb converter K6JC p. 48, Jan 70 Short circuit p. 79, Jun 70	
Rf speech processor, ssb W2MB p. 18, Sep 73	432-MHz ssb, practical approach to WA2FSQ p. 6, Jun 71	
Sideband location (HN) K6KA p. 62, Aug 73	1296-MHz ssb transceiver WA6UAM p. 8, Sep 74	
Solid-state circuits for ssb Belt p. 18, Jan 69		
Solid-state transmitting converter for 144-MHz ssb W6NB1 p. 6, Feb 74 Short circuit p. 62, Dec 74		
Speech clipper, IC K6HTM p. 18, Feb 73 Added notes (letter) p. 64, Oct 73		
Speech clipper, rf, construction G6XN p. 12, Dec 72		
Speech clippers, rf, performance of G6XN p. 26, Nov 72 Added notes p. 58, Aug 73; p. 72, Sep 74		
Speech clipping K6KA p. 24, Apr 69		
Speech clipping in single-sideband equipment K1YZW p. 22, Feb 71		
Speech processing W1DTY p. 60, Jun 68		
Speech processing, principles of ZL1BN p. 28, Feb 75 Added notes p. 75, May 75; p. 64, Nov 75		
Speech processor for ssb K6PHT p. 22, Apr 70		
	<b>television</b>	
	Call sign generator WB2CPA p. 34, Feb 77	
	Camera and monitor, sstv VE3EGO, Watson p. 38, Apr 69	
	Caption device for SSTV G3LTZ p. 61, Jul 77	
	Color tv, slow-scan W4UMF, WB8DQT p. 59, Dec 69	
	Computer, processing, sstv pictures W4UMF p. 30, Jul 70	
	Fast-scan camera converter for sstv WA9UHV p. 22, Jul 74	
	Fast-to slow-scan conversion, tv W3EFG, W3YZC p. 32, Jul 71	
	Frequency-selective and sensitivity- controlled sstv preamp DK1BF p. 36, Nov 75	
	Interlaced sync generator for ATV camera control WA8RMC p. 10, Sep 77	
	Slow-scan television WA2EMC p. 52, Dec 69	
	Slow-to-fast-scan television converters, an introduction K4TWJ p. 44, Aug 76	
		Amplitude modulation, a different approach WA5SNZ p. 50, Feb 70
		Batteries, how to select for portable equipment WA0AIK p. 40, Aug 73
		Blower maintenance (HN) W6NIF p. 71, Feb 71
		Blower-to-chassis adapter (HN) K6JYO p. 73, Feb 71
		Converting a-m power amplifiers to ssb service WA4GNW p. 55, Sep 68
		Efficiency of linear power amplifiers, how to compare W5JJ p. 64, Jul 73
		Electronic bias switching for linear amplifiers W6VFR p. 50, Mar 75
		Fail-safe timer, transmitter (HN) K9HVV p. 72, Oct 74
		Filter converter, an up/down W5DA p. 20, Dec 77
		Filters, ssb (HN) K6KA p. 63, Nov 73
		Frequency multipliers W6GXN p. 6, Aug 71
		Frequency translation in ssb Transmitters Belt p. 22, Sep 68
		Grid-current measurement in grounded-grid amplifiers W6SAI p. 64, Aug 68
		Intermittent voice operation of power tubes W6SAI p. 24, Jan 71
		Key and vox clicks (HN) K6KA p. 74, Aug 72
		Linear power amplifiers Belt p. 16, Apr 68
		Lowpass filters for solid-state linear amplifiers WA0JYK p. 38, Mar 74 Short circuit p. 62, Dec 74
		Matching techniques, broadband, for transistor rf amplifiers WA7WHZ p. 30, Jan 77
		Multiple tubes in parallel grounding grid (HN) W7CSD p. 60, Aug 71
		National NCX-500 modification for 15 meters (HN) WA1KY0 p. 87, Oct 77
		Networks, transmitter matching W6FFC p. 6, Jan 73
		Neutralizing tip (HN) ZE6JP p. 69, Dec 72
		Parasitic oscillations in high-power transistor rf amplifiers W0KGI p. 54, Sep 70
		Parasitic suppressor (HN) WA9JMY p. 80, Apr 70
		Pi and Pi-L networks W6SAI p. 36, Nov 68
		Pi network design aid W6NIF p. 62, May 74 Correction (letter) p. 58, Dec 74
		Pi-network design, high-frequency power amplifier W6FFC p. 6, Sep 72
		Pi-network inductors (letter) W7IV p. 78, Dec 72
		Pi networks, series tuned W2EGH p. 42, Oct 71
		Power attenuator, all-band 10-dB K1CCL p. 68, Apr 70
		Power fets W3FQJ p. 34, Apr 71
		Power tube open filament pins (HN) W9KNI p. 69, Apr 75
		Pre-emphasis for ssb transmitters OH2CD p. 38, Feb 72
		Relay activator (HN) K6KA p. 62, Sep 71
		Rf power amplifiers, high-efficiency WB8LQK p. 8, Oct 74

Rf power transistors, how to use WA7KRE	p. 8, Jan 70
Screen clamp, solid-state W0LRW	p. 44, Sep 68
Sstv reporting system WB6ZYE	p. 78, Sep 76
Step-start circuit, high-voltage (HN) W6VFR	p. 64, Sep 71
Swr alarm circuits W2EYY	p. 73, Apr 70
Temperature alarms for high-power amplifiers W2EYY	p. 48, Jul 70
Transmitter power levels, some observations regarding WA5SNZ	p. 62, Apr 71
Transmitter, remote keying (HN) WA3H DU	p. 74, Oct 69
Transmitter switching, solid-state W2EYY	p. 44, Jun 68
Transmitter-tuning unit for the blind W9NTP	p. 60, Jun 71
TV sweep tubes in linear service, full-blast operation of W6SAI, W6UOV	p. 9, Apr 68
Vacuum tubes, using odd-ball types in linear amplifiers W5JJ	p. 58, Sep 72
Vfo, digital readout WB8IFM	p. 14, Jan 73

## high-frequency transmitters

ART-13, Modifying for noiseless CW (HN) K5GKN	p. 68, Aug 69
CW transceiver for 40 and 80 meters W3NNL, K3O1D	p. 14, Jul 69
CW transceiver for 40 and 80 meters, improved W3NNL	p. 18, Jul 77
CW transceiver, low-power 20-meter W7ZO1	p. 8, Nov 74
CW transmitter, half-watt K0VQY	p. 69, Nov 69
Driver and final for 40 and 80 meters, solid-state W3QBO	p. 20, Feb 72
Electronic bias switch for negatively-biased power amplifiers WA5KPG	p. 27, Nov 76
Field-effect transistor transmitters K2BLA	p. 30, Feb 71
Filters, low-pass for 10 and 15 meters W2EYY	p. 42, Jan 72
Five-band transmitter, hf, solid-state I5TDJ	p. 24, Apr 77
Frequency synthesizer, high frequency K2BLA	p. 16, Oct 72
Grounded-grid 2 kW PEP amplifier, high frequency W6SAI	p. 6, Feb 69
Heath HW-101 transceiver, using with a separate receiver (HN) WA1MKP	p. 63, Oct 73
Linear amplifier, five-band W7IV	p. 30, Mar 70
Linear amplifier, five-band conduction-cooled W9KIT	p. 6, Jul 72
Linear amplifier performance, improving W4PSJ	p. 68, Oct 71
Linear amplifier, 100-watt W6WR	p. 28, Dec 75
Linear, five-band hf W7DI	p. 6, Mar 72
Linear, five-band kilowatt W4OQ	p. 14, Jan 74
Improved operation (letter) W4OQ	p. 59, Dec 74
Linear for 80-10 meters, high-power W6HHN	p. 56, Apr 71
Short circuit W6HHN	p. 96, Dec 71
Linear power amplifier, high-power solid-state Chambers	p. 6, Aug 74
Linears, three bands with two (HN) W4NJF	p. 70, Nov 69
Low-frequency transmitter, solid-state W4KAE	p. 16, Nov 68
Lowpass filter, high-frequency W2OLU	p. 24, Mar 75
Short circuit W2OLU	p. 59, Jun 75
Modifying the Heath SB-200 amplifier for the new 8873 zero-bias triode W6UOV	p. 32, Jan 71
Phase-locked loop, 28 MHz W1KNI	p. 40, Jan 73
QRP fet transmitter, 80-meter W3FQJ	p. 50, Aug 75
Ssb exciter, 5-band K1UKX	p. 10, Mar 68
Ssb transceiver, miniature 7-MHz W7BBX	p. 16, Jul 74
Ssb transceiver using LM373 IC W5BAA	p. 32, Nov 73
Ssb transceiver, 9-MHz, IC G3ZVC	p. 34, Aug 74
Circuit change (letter) G3ZVC	p. 62, Sep 75
Ssb transmitter and receiver, 40 meters	

VE3GSD Short circuit	p. 6, Mar 74
Ssb transmitter, phasing type WA0JYK	p. 62, Dec 74
Tank circuit, inductively-tuned high-frequency W6SAI	p. 8, Jun 75
Transceiver, single-band ssb W1DTY	p. 6, Jul 70
Transceiver, 3.5-MHz ssb VE6ABX	p. 8, Jun 69
Transmitter, five-band, CW and ssb WN3WTG	p. 6, Mar 73
Transmitter, low-power W6NIF	p. 34, Jan 77
Transmitters, QRP W7OE	p. 26, Dec 70
Transmitter, universal flea-power K2ZSQ	p. 36, Dec 68
Transverter, high-level hf K4ERO	p. 58, Apr 69
Wideband linear amplifier, 4 watt VE5FP	p. 68, Jul 68
3-400Z, 3-500Z filament circuits, notes on K9WEH	p. 42, Jan 76
3-500Z in amateur service, the W6SAI	p. 66, Apr 76
7-MHz QRP CW transmitter WA4MTH	p. 56, Mar 68
14-MHz vfo transmitter, solid-state W3QBO	p. 26, Dec 76
28-MHz transmitter, solid-state K2ZSQ	p. 6, Nov 73
40-meters, transistor rig for W6BLZ, K5GXR	p. 10, Jul 68
160-meters, 500-watt power amplifier W2BP	p. 44, Jul 68
	p. 8, Aug 75

## vhf and uhf transmitters

Converting the Swan 120 to two meters K6RIL	p. 8, May 68
Fm repeater transmitter, improving W6GDO	p. 24, Oct 69
Linear for 2 meters W4KAE	p. 47, Jan 69
Linear for 1296 MHz, high-power WB6IOM	p. 8, Aug 68
Phase-locked loop, 50 MHz W1KNI	p. 40, Jan 73
Transistors for vhf transmitters (HN) W1OOP	p. 74, Sep 69
Transmitter, flea power K2ZSQ	p. 58, Apr 69
Transmitting mixers for 6 and 2 meters K2ISP	p. 8, Apr 69
Transverter for 6 meters WA9IGU	p. 44, Jul 69
Tunnel diode phone rig, 6-meter (HN) K2ZSQ	p. 74, Jul 68
Vhf linear, 2kW, design data for W6UOV	p. 6, Mar 69
50-MHz kilowatt, inductively tuned K1DPP	p. 8, Sep 75
50-MHz linear amplifier K1RAK	p. 38, Nov 71
50-MHz linear amplifier, 2-kW W6UOV	p. 16, Feb 71
50-MHz linear, inductively tuned W6SAI	p. 6, Jul 70
50-MHz transmitter, solid-state WB2EGZ	p. 6, Oct 68
50-MHz transverter K1RAK	p. 12, Mar 71
50/144-MHz multimode transmitter K2ISP	p. 28, Sep 70
144-MHz fm transmitter W9SEK	p. 6, Apr 72
144-MHz fm transmitter, solid-state W6AJF	p. 14, Jul 71
144-MHz fm transmitter, Sonobaby WA0JZO	p. 8, Oct 71
Short circuit WA0JZO	p. 96, Dec 71
Crystal deck for WA0JZO	p. 26, Oct 72
144-MHz low-drive kilowatt linear W6HHN	p. 26, Jul 70
144-MHz low-power solid-state transmitter K0VQY	p. 52, Mar 70
144-MHz phase-modulated transmitter W6AJF	p. 18, Feb 70
144-MHz power amplifier, high performance W6UOV	p. 22, Aug 71
144-MHz power amplifier, 10-watt solid-state W1DTY	p. 67, Jan 74
144-MHz rf power amplifiers, solid state W4CGC	p. 6, Apr 73
144-MHz transmitting converter, solid-state ssb W6NBI	p. 6, Feb 74
Short circuit W6NBI	p. 62, Dec 74
144-MHz transceiver, a-m K1AOB	p. 55, Dec 71
144-MHz two-kilowatt linear W6UOV, W6ZO, K6DC	p. 26, Apr 70
144- and 432- stripline amplifier/triplier K2RIW	p. 6, Feb 70
220-MHz exciter WB6DJV	p. 50, Nov 71

220-MHz power amplifier W6UOV	p. 44, Dec 71
220-MHz, rf power amplifier for WB6DJV	p. 44, Jan 71
220-MHz rf power amplifier, vhf fm K7JUE	p. 6, Sep 73
432-MHz amplifier, 2-kW W6DAI, W6NLZ	p. 6, Sep 68
432-MHz exciter, solid-state W1OOP	p. 38, Oct 69
432-MHz rf power amplifier K6JC	p. 40, Apr 70
432-MHz solid-state linear amplifier WB6QXF	p. 30, Aug 75
432-MHz ssb converter K6JC	p. 48, Jan 70
Short circuit K6JC	p. 79, Jun 70
432-MHz 100-watt solid-state power amplifier WA7CNP	p. 36, Sep 75
1296-MHz frequency tripler K4SUM, W4API	p. 40, Sep 69
1296-MHz power amplifier W2COH, W2CCY, W2OJ, W1MU	p. 43, Mar 70
2304-MHz power amplifier WA9HUV	p. 8, Feb 75

## transmitters and power amplifiers, test and troubleshooting

Aligning vhf transmitters Allen	p. 58, Sep 68
Ssb transmitter alignment Allen	p. 62, Oct 69
Transverter, 6-meter K8DOC, K8TVP	p. 44, Dec 68
Tuning up ssb transmitters Allen	p. 62, Nov 69

## troubleshooting

Analyzing wrong dc voltages Allen	p. 54, Feb 69
Audio distortion, curing in speech amplifiers Allen	p. 42, Aug 70
Basic troubleshooting James	p. 54, Jan 76
Dc-dc converters, curing trouble in Allen	p. 56, Jun 70
Fets, troubleshooting around Allen	p. 42, Oct 68
High-voltage troubleshooting Allen	p. 52, Aug 68
Logic circuits, troubleshooting W8GRG	p. 56, Feb 77
Mobile power supplies, troubleshooting Allen	p. 56, Jun 70
Ohmmeter troubleshooting Allen	p. 52, Jan 69
Oscillators, repairing Allen	p. 69, Mar 70
Oscillator troubleshooting (repair bench) K4IPV	p. 54, Mar 77
Oscilloscope, putting to work Allen	p. 64, Sep 69
Oscilloscope, troubleshooting amateur gear with Allen	p. 52, Aug 69
Power supply, troubleshooting K4IPV	p. 78, Sep 77
Receiver alignment Allen	p. 64, Jun 68
Receiver alignment techniques, vhf fm K4IPV	p. 14, Aug 75
Receivers, troubleshooting the dead K4IPV	p. 56, Jun 76
Resistance measurement, troubleshooting by Allen	p. 62, Nov 68
Resistance measurement, troubleshooting by James	p. 58, Apr 76
Rf and if amplifiers, troubleshooting Allen	p. 60, Sep 70
Signal injection testing in receivers Allen	p. 72, May 68
Signal tracing in amateur receivers Allen	p. 52, Apr 68
Speech amplifiers, curing distortion Allen	p. 42, Aug 70
Ssb transmitter alignment Allen	p. 62, Oct 69
Sweep generator, how to use Allen	p. 60, Apr 70
Transistor amateur gear, troubleshooting Allen	p. 64, Jul 68
Transistor circuits, troubleshooting K4IPV	p. 60, Sep 76
Transistor testing Allen	p. 62, Jul 70
Tuning up ssb transmitters Allen	p. 62, Nov 69
Vhf transmitters, aligning Allen	p. 58, Sep 68

Voltage troubleshooting  
James p. 64, Feb 76

## vhf and microwave general

Amateur vhf fm operation  
W6AYZ p. 36, Jun 68

Artificial radio aurora, vhf  
scattering characteristics  
WB6KAP p. 18, Nov 74

A-m modulation monitor (HN)  
K7UNL p. 67, Jul 71

APX-6 transponder, notes on  
W6OSA p. 32, Apr 68

Band change from six to two meters, quick  
KØYQY p. 64, Feb 70

Bandpass filters, single-pole  
W6HPH p. 51, Sep 69

Bandpass filters, 25 to 2500 MHz  
K6RIL p. 46, Sep 69

Bypassing, rf, at vhf  
WB6BHI p. 50, Jan 72

Cavity filter, 144-MHz  
WISNN p. 22, Dec 73  
Short circuit p. 64, Mar 74

Coaxial filter, vhf  
W6SAI p. 36, Aug 71

Coaxial-line resonators (HN)  
WA7KRE p. 82, Apr 70

Coil-winding data, practical vhf and uhf  
K3SVC p. 6, Apr 71

Crystal mount, untuned  
W1DTY p. 68, Jun 68

Effective radiated power (HN)  
VE7CB p. 72, May 73

Frequency multipliers  
W6GXN p. 6, Aug 71

Frequency multipliers, transistor  
W6AJF p. 49, Jun 70

Frequency scaler, 500-MHz  
W6URH p. 32, Jun 75

Frequency scalars, 1200-MHz  
WB9KEY p. 38, Feb 75

Frequency synchronization for  
scatter-mode propagation  
K2OVS p. 26, Sep 71

Frequency synthesizer, 220 MHz  
W6GXN p. 8, Dec 74

Gridded tubes, vhf/uhf effects in  
W6UOV p. 8, Jan 69

Harmonic generator (HN)  
W5GDQ p. 76, Oct 70

Impedance bridge (HN)  
W6KZK p. 67, Feb 70

Improving vhf/uhf receivers  
W1JAA p. 44, Mar 76

Indicator, sensitive rf  
WB9DNI p. 38, Apr 73

Klystron cooler, waveguide (HN)  
WA4WDL p. 74, Oct 74

Lunar-path nomograph  
WA6NCT p. 28, Oct 70

Microwave communications, amateur  
standards for  
K6HIJ p. 54, Sep 69

Microwave frequency doubler  
WA4WDL p. 69, Mar 76

Microwave hybrids and couplers for  
amateur use  
W2CTK p. 57, Jul 70  
Short circuit p. 72, Dec 70

Microwave marker generator, 3cm  
band (HN)  
WA4WDL p. 69, Jun 76

Microwave rf generators, solid-state  
W1HR p. 10, Apr 77

Microwaves, getting started in  
Roubal p. 53, Jun 72

Microwaves, introduction to  
W1CBBY p. 20, Jan 72

Microwave solid-state amplifier design  
WA6UAM p. 40, Oct 76  
Comment, VK3TK, WA6UAM p. 98, Sep 77

Moonbounce to Australia  
W1DTY p. 85, Apr 68

Noise figure, meaning of  
K6MIO p. 26, Mar 69

Noise figure measurements, vhf  
WB6NMT p. 36, Jun 72

Noise generators, using (HN)  
K2ZSQ p. 79, Aug 68

Phase-locked loop, tunable 50 MHz  
W1KNI p. 40, Jan 73

Polplexer design  
K6MBL p. 40, Mar 77

Power dividers and hybrids  
W1DAX p. 30, Aug 72

Proportional temperature control for crystal  
ovens  
VE5FP p. 44, Jan 70

Radio observatory, vhf  
Ham p. 44, Jul 74

Reflex klystrons, pogo stick for (HN)  
W6BPK p. 71, Jul 73

Rf power-detecting devices  
K6JYO p. 28, Jun 70

Satellite communications  
K1TMA p. 52, Nov 72  
Added notes (letter) p. 73, Apr 73

Satellite signal polarization  
KH6IJ p. 6, Dec 72

Solar cycle 20, vhf'er's view of  
WA5IYX p. 46, Dec 74

Spectrum analyzer, microwave  
WA6UAM p. 54, Aug 77

Tank circuits, design of vhf  
K7UNL p. 56, Nov 70

Uhf dummy load, 150-watt  
WB6QXF p. 30, Sep 76

Uhf hardware (HN)  
W6CMQ p. 76, Oct 70

Vfo, high-stability vhf  
OH2CD p. 27, Jan 72

Vhf beacons  
K6EDX p. 52, Oct 69

Vhf beacons  
W3FQJ p. 66, Dec 71

Vhf circuits, eliminating parallel  
currents (HN)  
G3IPV p. 91, May 77

50-MHz bandpass filter  
W4EKO p. 70, Aug 76

50-MHz frequency synthesizer  
W1KNI p. 26, Mar 74

144-MHz fm frequency meter  
W4JAZ p. 40, Jan 71  
Short circuit p. 72, Apr 71

144-MHz frequency synthesizer  
WB4FPK p. 34, Jul 73

144-MHz frequency-synthesizer, one-  
crystal  
WØKMW p. 30, Sep 73

220-MHz frequency synthesizer  
W6GXN p. 8, Dec 74

432-MHz ssb, practical approach to  
WA2FSQ p. 6, Jun 71

1296-MHz microstripline bandpass  
filters  
WA6UAM p. 46, Dec 75

2304-MHz stripline bandpass filter  
WA4WDL, WB4LJM p. 50, Apr 77

40-GHz record  
K7PMY p. 70, Dec 68

## vhf and microwave antennas

Circularly-polarized ground-plane  
antenna for satellite communications  
K4GSX p. 28, Dec 74

Feed horn, cylindrical, for parabolic  
reflectors  
WA9HUV p. 16, May 76

Feeding and matching techniques for  
vhf/uhf antennas  
W1JAA p. 54, May 76

Ground plane, portable vhf (HN)  
K9DHD p. 71, May 73

Log-periodic yagi beam antenna  
K6RIL, W6SAI p. 8, Jul 69  
Correction p. 68, Feb 70

Matching techniques for vhf/uhf antennas  
W1JAA p. 50, Jul 76

Microstrip swr bridge, vhf and uhf  
W4CGC p. 22, Dec 72

Microwave antenna, low-cost  
K6HIJ p. 52, Nov 69

Parabolic reflector antennas  
VK3ATN p. 12, May 74

Parabolic reflector element spacing  
WA9HUV p. 28, May 75

Parabolic reflector gain  
W2TQK p. 50, Jul 75

Parabolic reflector, 16-foot homebrew  
WB6IOM p. 8, Aug 69

Parabolic reflectors, finding  
focal length of (HN)  
WA4WDL p. 57, Mar 74

Swr meter  
W6VSV p. 6, Oct 70

Transmission lines, uhf  
WA2VTR p. 36, May 71

Two-meter antenna, simple (HN)  
W6BLZ p. 78, Aug 68

Two-meter mobile antennas  
W6BLZ p. 76, May 68

Vhf antenna switching without relays (HN)  
K2ZSQ p. 77, Sep 68

10 GHz, broadband antenna  
WA4WDL, WB4LJM p. 40, May 77

10 GHz dielectric antenna (HN)  
WA4WDL p. 80, May 75

50-MHz antenna coupler  
K1RAK p. 44, Jul 71

50-MHz collinear beam  
K4ERO p. 59, Nov 69

50-MHz cubical quad, economy  
W6DOR p. 50, Apr 69

50-MHz J-pole antenna  
K4SDY p. 48, Aug 68

50-MHz mobile antenna (HN)  
W4PSJ p. 77, Oct 70

144-MHz antenna, 5/8 wave vertical  
K6KLO p. 40, Jul 74

144-MHz antenna, 5/8-wave vertical,  
build from CB mobile whips  
WB4WSU p. 67, Jun 74

144-MHz antennas, simple  
WA3NFW p. 30, May 73

144-MHz antenna switch, solid-state  
K2ZSQ p. 48, May 69

144-MHz collinear antenna  
W6RJO p. 12, May 72

144-MHz collinear uses PVC pipe mast (HN)  
K8LLZ p. 66, May 76

144-MHz four-element collinear array  
WB6KGF p. 6, May 71

144-MHz ground plane antenna, 0.7  
wavelength  
W3WZA p. 40, Mar 69

144-MHz moonbounce antenna  
K6HCP p. 52, May 70

144-MHz whip, 5/8-wave (HN)  
VE3DDD p. 70, Apr 73

432-MHz corner reflector antenna  
WA2FSQ p. 24, Nov 71

432-MHz high-gain Yagi  
K6HCP p. 46, Jan 76  
Comments, WØPW p. 63, May 76

432-MHz OSCAR antenna (HN)  
W1JAA p. 58, Jul 75

432- and 1296-MHz quad-yagi arrays  
W3AED p. 20, May 73  
Short circuit p. 58, Dec 73

440-MHz collinear antenna, four-element  
WA6HTP p. 38, May 73

1296-MHz Yagi  
W2CQH p. 24, May 72

1296-MHz Yagi array  
W3AED p. 40, May 75

## vhf and microwave receivers and converters

Audio filter, tunable, for weak-signal  
communications  
K6HCP p. 28, Nov 75

Calculating preamplifier gain from  
noise-figure measurements  
N6TX p. 30, Nov 77

Cooled preamplifier for vhf-uhf reception  
WAØRDX p. 36, Jul 72

Double-balanced mixers, circuit packaging for  
WA6UAM p. 41, Sep 77

Fet converters for 50, 144, 220 and  
432 MHz  
W6AJF p. 20, Mar 68

Interdigital preamplifier and comb-line  
bandpass filter for vhf and uhf  
W6KHT p. 6, Aug 70

Microwave amplifier design, solid state  
WA6UAM p. 40, Oct 76

Noise figure, sensitivity and dynamic range  
W1DTY p. 8, Oct 75

Noise figure, vhf, estimating  
WA9HUV p. 42, Jun 75

Overload problems with vhf converters,  
solving  
W1OOP p. 53, Jan 73

Receiver scanner, vhf  
K2LZG p. 22, Feb 73

Receiver, superregenerative, for vhf  
WA5SNZ p. 22, Jul 73

Signal detection and communication  
in the presence of white noise  
WB6IOM p. 16, Feb 69

Signal generator for two and six meters  
WB8OIK p. 54, Nov 69

Single-frequency conversion, vhf/uhf  
W3FQJ p. 62, Apr 75

Vhf converter performance,  
optimizing (HN)  
K2ZSQ p. 18, Jul 68

Weak-signal source, stable, variable output  
K6JYO p. 36, Sep 71

Weak-signal source, 144 and 432 MHz  
K6JC p. 58, Mar 70

Weak-signal source, 432 and 1296 MHz  
K6RIL p. 20, Sep 68

10 GHz hybrid-tee mixer  
G3NRT p. 34, Oct 77

28-30 MHz low-noise preamp  
W1JAA p. 48, Oct 75

50-MHz deluxe mosfet converter  
WB2EGZ p. 41, Feb 71

50-MHz etched-inductance bandpass filters  
and filter-preamplifiers  
W5KHT p. 6, Feb 71

50-MHz mosfet converter  
WB2EGZ p. 22, Jun 68  
Short circuit p. 34, Aug 68

50-MHz preamplifier, improved  
WA2GCF p. 46, Jan 73

144-MHz converter (HN)  
KØVQY p. 71, Aug 70

144-MHz converter, high dynamic range  
DJ2LR p. 55, Jul 77

144-MHz converter, 1.5 dB noise figure  
WA6SXC p. 14, Jul 68

144-MHz converters, choosing fets (HN)  
K6JYO p. 70, Aug 69

144-MHz deluxe mosfet converter WB2EGZ Short circuit Letter, WOLER	p. 41, Feb 71 p. 96, Dec 71 p. 71, Oct 71
144-MHz etched-inductance bandpass filters and filter-preamplifiers W5KHT	p. 6, Feb 71
144-MHz fm receiver W9SEK	p. 22, Sep 70
144-MHz fm receiver WA2GBF Added notes	p. 42, Feb 72 p. 73, Jul 72
144-MHz fm receiver WA2GCF	p. 6, Nov 72
144-MHz preamplifier, improved WA2GCF	p. 25, Mar 72
144-MHz preamplifier, low noise W8BBB	p. 36, Jun 74
144-MHz preamp, low-noise W1D7Y	p. 40, Apr 76
144-MHz preamp, super (HN) K6HCP	p. 72, Oct 69
144-MHz preamp, MM5000 W4KAE	p. 49, Oct 68
144-MHz transverter using power fets WB6BPI	p. 10, Sep 76
220-MHz mosfet converter WB2EGZ Short circuit	p. 28, Jan 69 p. 76, Jul 69
432-MHz converter, low-noise K6JC	p. 34, Oct 70
432-MHz fet converter, low-noise WA6SXC	p. 18, May 68
432-MHz fet preamp (HN) W1D7Y	p. 66, Aug 69
432-MHz preamplifier and converter WA2GCF	p. 40, Jul 75
432-MHz preamplifier, ultra low-noise W1JAA	p. 8, Mar 75
1296-MHz converter, solid state VK4ZT	p. 6, Nov 70
1296-MHz, double-balanced mixers for WA6UAM	p. 8, Jul 75
1296-MHz noise generator W3BSV	p. 46, Aug 73
1296-MHz preamplifier WA6UAM	p. 42, Oct 75
1296-MHz preamplifier, low-noise transistor WA2VTR Added note (letter)	p. 50, Jun 71 p. 65, Jan 72
1296-MHz preamplifiers, microstripline WA6UAM Comments, W2DU	p. 12, Apr 75 p. 68, Jan 76
1296-MHz ssb transceiver WA6UAM	p. 8, Sep 74
1296-MHz rat-race balanced mixer WA6UAM	p. 33, Jul 77
2304-MHz balanced mixer WA2ZZF	p. 58, Oct 75
2304-MHz converter, solid-state K2JNG, WA2LTM, WA2VTR	p. 16, Mar 72
2304-MHz preamplifier, solid-state WA2VTR	p. 20, Aug 72
2304-MHz preamplifiers, narrow-band solid-state WA9HUV	p. 6, Jul 74

## vhf and microwave transmitters

Aligning vhf transmitters Allen	p. 58, Sep 68
Converting the Swan 120 to two meters K6RIL	p. 8, May 68
External anode tetrodes W6SAI	p. 23, Jun 60
Inductively-tuned tank circuit W6SAI	p. 6, Jul 70
Lighthouse tubes for uhf W6UOV	p. 27, Jun 69
Pi networks, series-tuned W2EGH	p. 42, Oct 71
Ssb input source for vhf, uhf transverters (HN) F8MK	p. 69, Sep 70
Transistors for vhf transmitters (HN) W1OOP	p. 74, Sep 69
Vhf linear, 2 kW, design data for W6UOV	p. 7, Mar 69
Water-cooled 2C39 (HN) WA9RPB	p. 94, Sep 77
2C39, water cooling K6MYC	p. 30, Jun 69
50-MHz customized transverter K1RAK	p. 12, Mar 71
50-MHz heterodyne transmitting mixer K2ISP Correction	p. 8, Apr 69 p. 76, Sep 70
50-MHz kilowatt, inductively-tuned K1DPP	p. 8, Sep 75

50-MHz 2 kW linear amplifier W6UOV	p. 16, Feb 71
50-MHz linear amplifier K1RAK	p. 38, Nov 71
50-MHz multimode transmitter K2ISP	p. 28, Sep 70
50-MHz transmitter, solid-state WB2EGZ	p. 6, Oct 68
50-MHz transverter K8DOC, K8TVP	p. 44, Dec 68
50-MHz transverter WA9IGU	p. 44, Jul 69
50-MHz tunnel-diode phone rig K2ZSQ	p. 74, Jul 68
144-MHz fm transceiver, compact W6AOI	p. 36, Jan 74
144-MHz fm transmitter W6AJF	p. 14, Jul 71
144-MHz fm transmitter W9SEK	p. 6, Apr 72
144-MHz fm transmitter, Sonobaby WA0UZO Crystal deck for Sonobaby	p. 8, Oct 72 p. 26, Oct 72
144-MHz heterodyne transmitting mixers K2ISP Correction	p. 8, Apr 69 p. 76, Sep 70
144-MHz linear W4KAE	p. 47, Jan 69
144-MHz linear, 2kW, design data for W6UOV	p. 7, Mar 69
144-MHz low-drive kilowatt linear W6HHN	p. 26, Jul 70
144-MHz multimode transmitter K2ISP	p. 28, Sep 70
144-MHz phase-modulated transmitter W6AJF	p. 18, Feb 70
144-MHz power amplifier, high performance W6UOV	p. 22, Aug 71
144-MHz power amplifiers, fm W4CGC	p. 6, Apr 73
144-MHz power amplifier, 10-watt solid-state (HN) W1D7Y	p. 67, Jan 74 p. 6, Dec 73
144-MHz power amplifier, 80-watt, Hatchett	p. 6, Dec 73
144-MHz stripline kilowatt W2GN	p. 10, Oct 77
144-MHz transceiver, a-m K1AOB	p. 55, Dec 71
144-MHz transmitting converter, solid-state ssb W6NBI Short circuit	p. 6, Feb 74 p. 62, Dec 74
144-MHz transverter K1RAK	p. 24, Feb 72
144-MHz two-kilowatt linear W6UOV, W6ZO, K6DC	p. 26, Apr 70
144- and 432-MHz stripline amplifier/tripler K2RIW	p. 6, Feb 70
220-MHz exciter WB6DJV	p. 50, Nov 71
220-MHz power amplifier W6UOV	p. 44, Dec 71
220-MHz rf power amplifier WB6DJV	p. 44, Jan 71
220-MHz rf power amplifier, fm K7JUE	p. 6, Sep 73
432-MHz amplifier, 2-kW W6SAI, W6NLZ	p. 6, Sep 68
432-MHz exciter, solid-state W1OOP	p. 38, Oct 69
432-MHz power amplifier using stripline techniques W3HMU	p. 10, Jun 77
432-MHz rf power amplifier K6JC	p. 40, Apr 70
432-MHz solid-state linear amplifier WB6QXF	p. 30, Aug 75
432-MHz ssb converter K6JC Short circuit	p. 48, Jan 70 p. 79, Jun 70
432-MHz ssb, practical approach WA2FSQ	p. 6, Jun 71
432-MHz stripline tripler K2RIW	p. 6, Feb 70
432-MHz 100-watt solid-state power amplifier WA7CNP	p. 36, Sep 75
1152- to 2304-MHz power doubler WA9HUV	p. 40, Dec 75
1270-MHz video-modulated power amplifier W9ZIH	p. 67, Jun 77
1296-MHz frequency tripler K4SUM, W4API	p. 40, Sep 69
1296-MHz linear, high-power WB6IOM Short circuit	p. 8, Aug 68 p. 54, Nov 68
1296-MHz power amplifier W2COH, W2CCY, W2OJ, W1IMU	p. 43, Mar 70
1296-MHz ssb transceiver WA6UAM	p. 8, Sep 74
1296-MHz transverter K6ZMW	p. 10, Jul 77
2304-MHz power amplifier WA9HUV	p. 8, Feb 75

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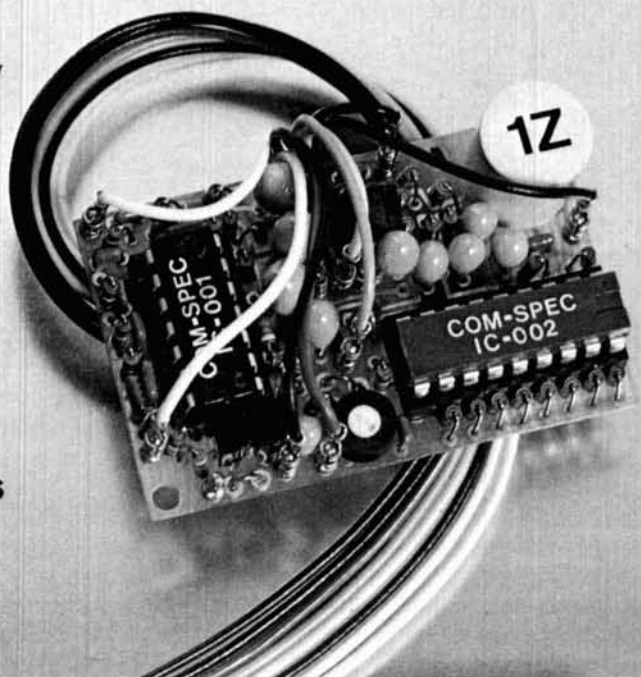
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## INDEX

ABC _____ 571	Janel _____ 068
AGL _____ 558	Jones _____ 626
ALDA _____ 625	K-Enterprises _____ 071
ATV * _____	KE Elect. _____ 072
Aldelco _____ 347	Kampp _____ 613
Aluma _____ 589	Kantronics _____ 605
Am. Whole _____	Kenwood * _____
Elect. _____ 003	Kester Solder * _____
Ameco _____ 331	Klaus _____ 430
Amsat _____ 220	Lafayette _____ 598
Apollo _____ 011	Little Giant _____ 011
Artistic Label _____ 326	Long's _____ 468
Astral _____ 639	Lunar _____ 577
Atlas _____ 198	Lyle _____ 373
Atronics _____ 382	MFJ _____ 082
Bauman _____ 017	Madison * _____
Budwig _____ 233	Magnus _____ 578
Bullet _____ 328	Masters _____ 555
CFP _____ 022	Matric _____ 084
CW Elect. _____ 533	Microwave Filter _____ 637
Clegg _____ 027	NuData _____ 455
Clegg _____ 465	Optoelectronics _____ 352
Comm. Elect. _____ 489	Orlando Hamcation * _____
Comm. Spec. _____ 330	Palomar _____ 093
Crystal Banking _____ 573	Partridge _____ 439
Cushcraft _____ 035	Pipo _____ 481
Cygnus-Quasar _____ 549	Poly Paks _____ 096
DGM _____ 458	Prime _____ 627
DX Eng. _____ 222	QSA 599 _____ 638
Dames Comm. _____ 551	RF Power _____
Dames _____ 324	Comp. _____ 542
Data Signal _____ 270	RF Power Labs _____ 602
Dave * _____	Callbook _____ 100
Davis Elect. _____ 332	Radio World * _____
Dentron _____ 259	Ramsey _____ 442
Disc-Cap _____ 449	Regency _____ 102
Drake _____ 039	SST _____ 375
E. T. O. * _____	SAROC * _____
Elect. Distr. _____ 044	Sentry _____ 600
Elect. Equip. _____	Sherwood _____ 435
Bank _____ 288	Solid State Time _____ 636
Electospace _____ 407	Space _____ 107
Erickson _____ 047	Spectronics _____ 191
Excel _____ 535	Spectrum Int. _____ 108
GLB _____ 552	Swan _____ 111
Gem Quad _____ 295	TPL _____ 240
Gray * _____ 055	Ten-Tec _____
Gregory * _____ 635	Tri-Ex _____ 116
Gull Elect. _____ 057	Tristao _____ 118
Hal-Tronix _____ 254	Tropical Hamboree * _____
Ham Center _____ 491	VHF Engineering _____ 121
Ham Radio Pub. _____ 150	Vanguard * _____
Hamtronics _____ 246	Varian _____ 043
Heath _____ 060	Vines _____ 614
Henry _____ 062	Webster Comm. _____ 423
Hufco _____ 403	Weinschenker _____ 122
Icom _____ 065	Westcom _____ 510
Int. Circuits _____ 518	Western Elect. * _____
Int. Crystal _____ 066	Whitehouse _____ 378
James _____ 333	Wilson _____ 123
Jan _____ 067	Yaesu _____ 127

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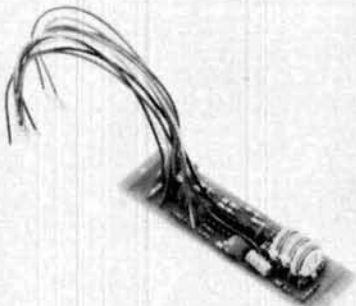
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# Advertisers iNdex

ABC Communications _____	149
AGL Electronics _____	150
ALDA Communications _____	1
ATV Research _____	118
Aldelco _____	118
Aluma Tower Co. _____	86, 87
Amateur Wholesale Electronics _____	129
Ameco Equipment Co. _____	123
Amsat _____	128
Apollo Products _____	128
Artistic Label _____	106
Astral Electronics _____	19
Atlas Radio _____	88
Atronics _____	116
R. H. Bauman Sales Co. _____	110
Budwig Mfg. Co. _____	111
Bullet _____	98
CFP Communications _____	102
CW Electronics Sales Co. _____	90
Clegg _____	126
Clegg Electronics _____	122
Communications Electronics _____	91, 149
Communications Specialists _____	94
Crystal Banking Service _____	8, 9
Cushcraft _____	126
Cygnus-Quasar _____	82
DGM Engineering _____	94
DX Engineering _____	129
Dames Communications Systems _____	116
Dames, Ted _____	106
Data Signal, Inc. _____	128
Dave _____	104, 110
Davis Electronics _____	7, 65, 92
Dentron Radio Company _____	47
Disc-Cap _____	29, 126
Drake Co., R. L. _____	44
Ehrhorn Technological Operations _____	129
Electronic Distributors _____	114
Electronic Equipment Bank _____	148
Electospace _____	110
Erickson Communications _____	122
Excel Circuits _____	92
GLB _____	100
Gem Quad _____	90
Gray Electronics _____	96
Gregory Electronics _____	113
Gull Electronics _____	66, 67
Hal Communications Corp. _____	101
Hal-Tronix _____	37, 94
Ham Radio Center _____	83, 98, 102
Ham Radio Publications _____	151
Hamtronics, Inc. _____	33
Health Company _____	Cover II, 122
Henry Radio Stores _____	148
Hufco _____	5
Icom _____	117
Integrated Circuits Unlimited _____	71
International Crystal _____	115
James Electronics _____	114
Jan Crystals _____	104
Jones, Marlin P. & Assoc. _____	82
K-Enterprises _____	104
KE Electronics _____	88
Kampp Electronics, Inc. _____	85
Kantronics _____	74-81
Kenwood Communications, Inc. _____	120
Kester Solder _____	86
Klaus Radio, Inc. _____	100
Lafayette Radio Electronics _____	128
Little Giant Antenna Labs _____	152
Long's Electronics _____	55, 96
Lunar Electronics _____	88
Lyle Products _____	2
MFJ Enterprises _____	128
Madison Electronic Supply _____	108
Magnus Electronics Corp. _____	92
Masters Communications _____	100
Matric _____	118
NuData Electronics _____	99
Optoelectronics _____	109
Orlando Hamcation _____	116, 118, 120
Palomar Engineers _____	120
Partridge (HR) Electronics _____	120
Pipo Communications _____	92
Poly Paks _____	112
Prime Electronics _____	116
QSA 599 Amateur Radio Center _____	82
RF Power Components _____	118
RF Power Labs _____	110
Radio Amateur Callbook _____	94, 148
Radio World _____	120
Ramsey Electronics _____	107
Regency Electronics _____	69
SST Electronics _____	89
SAROC _____	119
Sentry Manufacturing _____	122
Sherwood Engineering _____	108, 129
Solid State Time _____	147
Space Electronics _____	122
Spectronics _____	48
Spectrum International _____	96
Swan Electronics _____	56, 57, 121
TPL Communications _____	102
Ten-Tec _____	106, 129
Tri-Ex Tower Corp. _____	70
Tristao Tower Co. _____	108
Tropical Hamboree _____	127
VHF Engineering, Div. of Brownian _____	97
Vanguard Labs _____	103
Varian, Eimac Division _____	Cover IV
Vines, James K. _____	90
Webster Communications _____	114
Weinschenker _____	120
Westcom _____	34, 93, 106, 127
Western Electronics _____	126
G. R. Whitehouse & Co. _____	90
Wilson Electronics _____	95
Yaesu Electronics Corp. _____	Cover III



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C145	145-147	28-30
C146	146-148	28-30
C220	p/o 220-230	28-30
Special	Other rf & i-f ranges are available on special request	

MODEL	RF RANGE (MHZ)	IF RANGE
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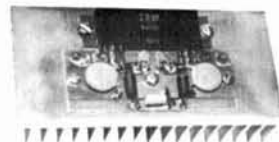
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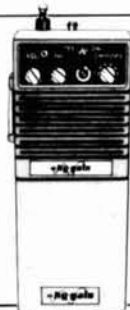
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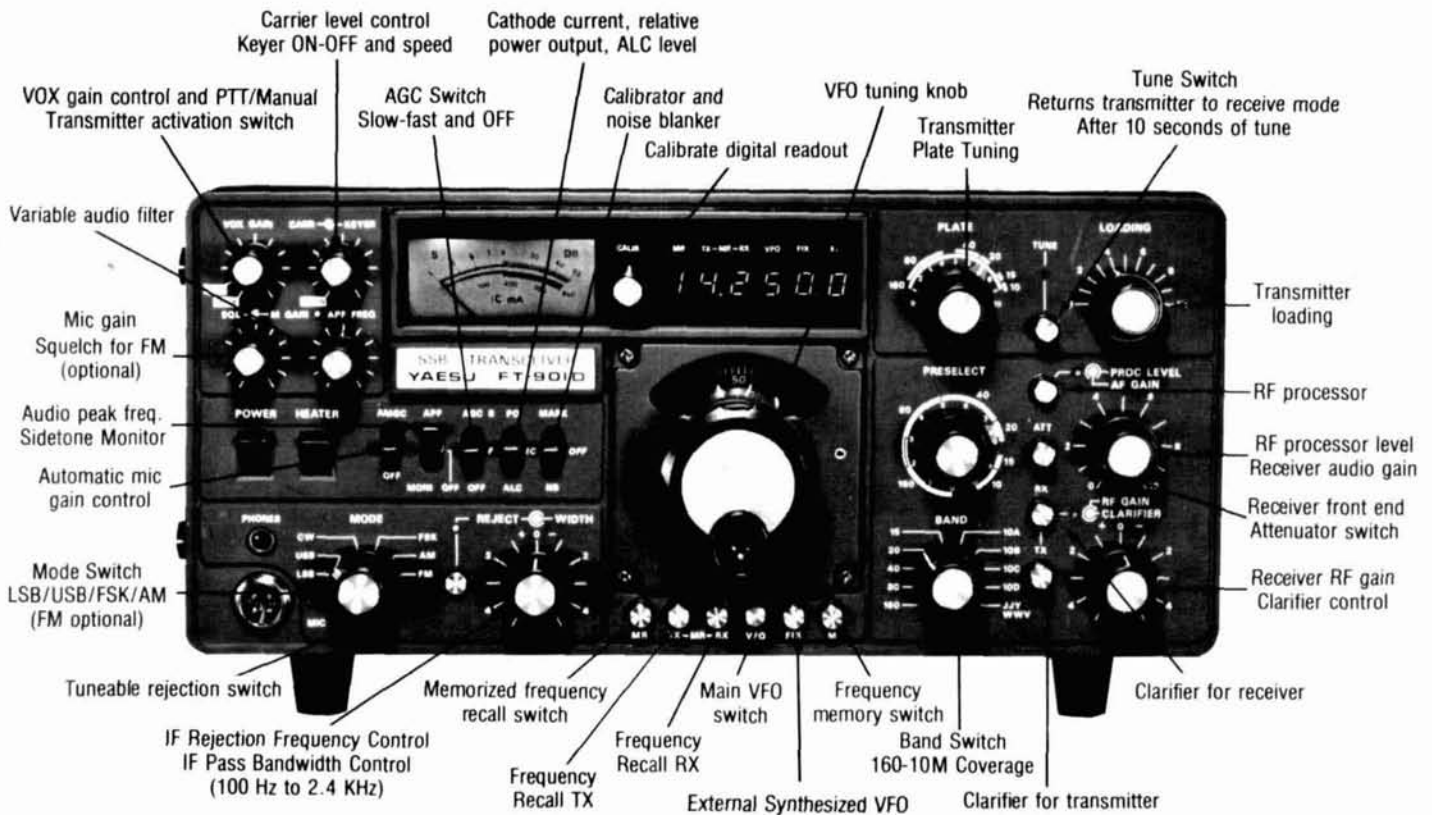


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