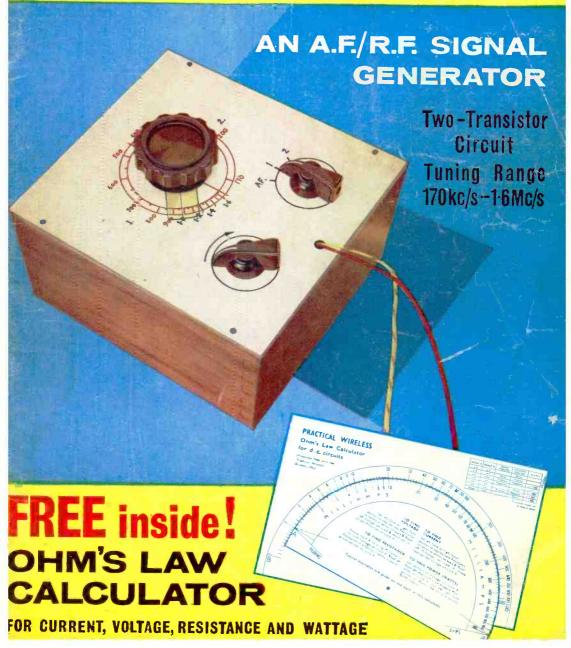
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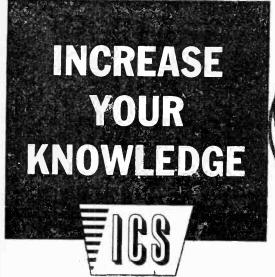
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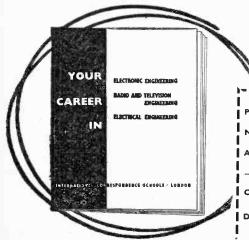
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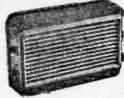
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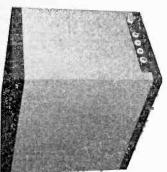


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A MULTI-PURPOSE HIGH FIDELITY, HIGH OUTPUT UNIT FOR VOCAL AND INSTRUMENTALIST GROUPS

Eminently suitable for bass guitar and all other musical instruments

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Two input sockets with associated controls allow mixing of "mike" and gram. as in A. 10. High sensitivity. Includes 5 valves, ECC33, ELA4, EL84, EL84,

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A complete set of parts for the construction of a stereophonic amplifier giving 5 watts high quality output on each channel (total 10 watts) sensitivity is 50 millivoits. Suitable for all crystal stereo heads. Ganged Bass and Treble Control give each of a children of the control give and part of the control give and contr

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PLUS



HI-FI (RYSTAL PICK-UP HEADS. (Cartridges.) Acos Standard replacement for Garrard, B.S.R. and Collaro, 16/9. Acos Stereo-Monaural 29/9. Ronette Stereo-Monaural 29/96. B.S.R. Stereo 39/9.

Stereo-Mondaria 29/9. Konette Stereo-Mondaria 29/8. B.S.R. Stereo 39/9. BRADMATIC RECORDING HEADS. High Impedance Record/Playback 22/2-Low Impedance Erase, 12/8. MARRIOTT RECORDING HEADS. High Impedance, Record/Playback 15/2-Low Impedance, Record/Playback 15/2-Low Impedance, Record/Playback 15/2-Low Impedance, Erase, 10/2-PICK-UP ARMS. Complete and with latest Acos/hi-fi Turnover Catrifice 29/11. CRYSTAL MICROPHONES, Hand type NP110 14/9. R.T.C. 19/9. Acos Mic 49 25/9. Acos Mic 45 29/9. Stick type Acos 39/13/9/9. BM3 with neck band and heavy table stand 59/9. Lapel type 35/9. COLLARO JUNIOR 4-speed Single Player Unit and Crystal Pick-up with hi-fi Turnover head. Only 25.19.6.
B.S.R. UA14 4-Sp'd AUTO-CHANGERS with hi-fi turnover head. 26.19.6. Carr. 4/6. GARRARD. AUTO-SLIM. 4-SPEED

GARRARD AUTO-SLIM 4-SPEED AUTO-CHANGER with high fidelity pick-up. Latest model. For 200-250 v. A.C. mains, £7.19.6. Carr. 4/6. GARRARD AT6 AUTO-SLIM DE-LUXE 4-SPEED AUTOCHANGERS. Tunnover GC8 head, for 200-250 v. A.C. mains, 11 gns.

mains, 11 gns.

Gl3A MINIATURE 2-3 WATT GRAM
AMPLIFIER. For use with any single
or auto-change unit. Output for 2-3 ohm
speaker. For 200-250 v. A.C. mains. Size
114 x 24 x 24in. Controls; vol. and Tone
with Switch. Only 59/8.
B.S.R. MONARDECK TAPEDECKS,
Speed 3jin. per sec. With high quality
recording heads. £6.19.6. Carr. 5/Cabinets to take Deck and amplifier 39/6.

SENSATIONAL STEREO OFFER

A complete set of parts (4 Gns.) to construct a good quality Stereo amplifier with an undistorted output total 6 watts. For A.C. mains input of 200-250. Sensitivity 130 m.v. Ganged Vol. and Tone Controls. Preset balance control. Full instructions and wiring diagrams supplied. Stereo Pick-up Head 19/9 extra with above only.

SOLDERING IRONS. 230-250 v. 30 watts. First quality. For Radio work. 18/9. Spare elements and bits

R.S.C. BATTERY CHARGING EQUIPMENT

All for A.C. Mains 200-250v., 50 c/s.



r A.C. Mains 200-250v., 50 c/s. Guaran
Assembled 4-5 amps
6/12 v.
Fitted Ammeter and variable charge rate selector. Also selector plug for 6 v. or 12 v.
Charging. Louvred steel Fitted Ammeter and variable charge rate selector. Also selector plug for 6 v. or 12 v. charging. Louvred steel case with stoved blue hammer inished. Fused and ready for use 69/9 output leads. Carr. 5/. Terns: Deposit 13/3 and 5 monthly payments 13/3 6/12 v. 3a., all facilities as above. Only 59/9, carr. 3/9.

hammer biue. Fused, ready for use with mains and output leads.

49/9 Carr. 6/12v. 1 amp. 27/9 Less meter.

Guaranteed 12 months. eed 12 months.

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CONSISTING Of Mains Transformer. F.W. Bridge, Metal
Rectifier, well ventiliated steel
case. Fuses. Fuse-holders.
Grommets, panels. Heavy Duty
Clips. circuit. Carr. 3/6 extra.
6 v. or 12 v. 1 amp. 29/9
6 v. or 12 v. 2 amps. inclusive of Ammeter. 35/9
6 v. or 12 v. 2 amps, inclusive of Ammeter. 45/9
6 v. or 12 v. 4 amps. 41/9
6 v rate selector 52/9

> CHARGER AMMETERS 1.5 a., 0-3 a., 0-4 a., 0-7 a., 0-1.5 a., 0-0 0-60 a., 8/9.

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250-0-250v. 100mA, 6.3v. 2a, 6.3v. 1a 121/9
250-0-250v. 100mA, 6.3v. 4a, 0-5-6.3v. 3a 25/9
250-0-250v. 100mA, 6.3v. 4a, 0-5-6.3v. 3a 25/9
300-0-300v. 100mA, 6.3v. 4a, 0-5-6.3v. 3a 26/9
350-0-350v. 100mA, 6.3v. 4a, 0-5-6.3v. 3a 26/9
350-0-350v. 100mA, 6.3v. 4a, 0-5-6.3v. 3a 29/9
425-0-425v. 200mA, 6.3v. 4a, 0-5-6.3v. 3a 29/9
425-0-425v. 200mA, 6.3v. 4a, 0-5-6.3v. 3a 29/9
425-0-425v. 000mA, 6.3v. 4a, 0-5-6.3v. 3a 29/9
425-0-425v. 000mA, 6.3v. 4a, 0-5-6.3v. 3a 29/9
425-0-425v. 000mA, 6.3v. 4a, 0-5-6.3v. 3a 27/11
300-0-300v. 100mA, 6.3v. 4a, 0-5-6.3v. 3a 27/11
300-0-300v. 100mA, 6.3v. 4a, 0-5-6.3v. 3a 27/11
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23, 16/9: 0-9-15 v. 5a, 19/9: 0-9-15 v. 6a,
23/9: 0-9-15 v. 8a, 28/9.
AUTO (Step up/Step down) TRANS.
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MICROPHONE TRANSFORMERS
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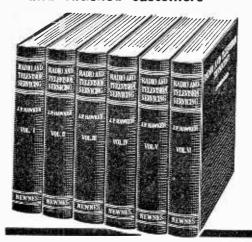
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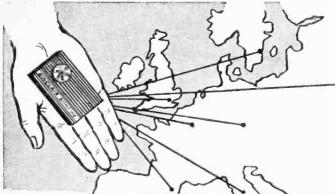
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150 pFd with in. spindle, 4/8 each, 75% 75 pFd with in. spindle, 4/8 each, 100 pFd with in. spindle, 3/6 each, 100 pFd pre-set, 2/- each, 50 pFd pre-set, 1/8 each, 4 Gans H.R.O. Variable 390 pFd, 12/8 each,

TYPE 68 TRANS/RECEIVER

3 to 5.2 Mc/s. Portable station with range up to 10 miles under good conditions. In very good condition, complete with valves hand mike and aerial rods. 70/- plus 8/6 carriage and packing. Require 150V. H.T. 3V. L.T. and 8V. G.B.

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In cast metal and ceramic .0002 Mid 6000V, working, 2/6 plus 1/6 P. & P. each.

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For testing quartz crystals of in. and in. pin spacing and B7G based crystals, 240V and 80V A.C. input including 0-100 micro-amps. 3in. scale meter. Indicator light and variable control. 19in. rack mounting but completely enclosed. AS NEW. £4.15.0 carr. paid.

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3-VALVE AUDIO AMPLIFIER, MODEL HA34



Designed for Hi Fi reproduction of records, A.C. Mains operation. Ready built on plated beavy gauge metal chessic, size 74 im. w. 4 im. d., x 4 im. h. Incorporates EC683, EL84, EZ80 valves, heavy duty double wourd mains transformer and output transformer matched transformer and output transformer mattered for 3 ohm speaker, separate Basa, Treble and volume controls. Negative feed back line. Peak output 44 watts. Front panel can be detached and leads extended for remote mounting of controls.

The HA34 has been specially designed for us and our quantity order enables us to offer them complete with knobs, \$4.5.0 P. & P. 4/-.

TWO VALVE AMPLIFIER similar to above but using ECL82 and EZ80, with tone and volume controls. Output 3 watts. PRICE 75/-. P. & P. 4/-.

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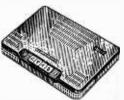
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Model 882 with BALANCE CONTROL 110/250 v. A.C. input. 5 wattundistorted output (10 watts nominal). Size 12 x 9 x 2in. Weight 9 ib. Complete with spec. and instructions. STILL ONLY \$5.19.6 Carr. 7/-.

FEW ONLY

STEREO AMPLIFIER

Incorporating 2 ECL82's and 1 EZ80, heavy duty double wound mains transformer. Output 4 watts per channel. Full tone and volume controls. Absolutely complete.

BARGAIN PRICE 89/6 P. & P. 5/-.

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Heavy 81in. metal turntable. Low flutter performance 200/250V shaded motor with tap at 45 V for amplifier valve filament if required. Turnover LP/78 head.

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Rize 7in. w. x 2½ in. d. x. 5½ in. h. 5½ f. P. à P. 16. 10 x 6in., 25f.,
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3 I.P. transformers, one oscillator coil, one driver transformer and wound Ferrite aerial (med., long and aerial coupling). 28/6 complete, post 1/-6 transistor printed circuit, board to match. 8/6, post 9d. Clicuit diagram 1/6 extra.

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Peak output in excess of 14 watts. • All standard British components. • Built on printed circuit panel, size 6 x 3in. • Generous size Driver and Output Transformers. • Output transcormers of Output transcormer tapped for 3 ohm and 15 ohn speakers. • Transistors (GET114 or 81 Mullard OC81D and matched pair of OC81 of 10). • 9 voit operation. • Everything supplied, wire, batteryclips, solder, etc. • Outpurebensive easy to follow instructions and circuit diagram 1/6 (Free with Kit). All parts sold separately.

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Two valve. UY85, UL84 O.P. trans., use with 80 volt tap off motor, 39/6. P.P. 2/6 on above. Dropper res. for fliaments if required.

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Secondary 250 v. at 75 mA 6.3 volts at 2 amps. 10/6 each. P. & P. 3/r.
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3 PUSH-BUTTON TRANSISTOR SWITCH, D.P .- D.T. Each

SWITCH 6/8 and 1/- P. & P.
ACOS GP85/1 T/O MONO CRYSTAL CARTRIDGE. Complete
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COLLARO STUDIO DECK £10.10.0 plus 5/6 carr, and ins. B.S.R. MONARDECK

(Single speed) 37in. per sec., simple control uses 57in. spools, £6.15.0 phis 5/6 carr. and ins. (Tapes extra on both).

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Oatmeal fabric for apker or cabinet or Red rexine for cabinet 54in. whise. 13/6 per yard length. (Minimum order). P. & P. 1/6.

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COMPLETE KITS OF PARTS

MULLARD 3-VALVE PRE-AMPLIFIER TONE CONTROL UNIT

Designed mainly for Mullard Range of Amplifiers, also suitable Range of Amplifiers requiring input up to 250mV. Incorporates 5 input Channels, including for Tape and Magnetic Pickups, Separate Bass and Treble controls, High pass filter 20 to 160 c/s. low pass filter

5-9 Kc/s. Totally enclosed in case size 111 x 41 x 41 x 4.

KITOFPARTS £10.0.0 ASSEMBLED & TESTED £13.13.0 (Carr. & Ins. 5/-)

MULLARD "5-10" MAIN AMPLIFIER



| AIN AMPLIFIER |
For use with MULLARD 2 or 3 valve preamplifiers with which an undistorted power output of up to 10 watts is obtained. SPECIFIED COMPONENTS AND MULLARD VALVES including PARMEKO MAINS TRANSFORMER and choice of PARMEKO or PARTRIDGE OUtput Transformer. COMPLETE KIT (Parmeko Output Trans). ASSEMBLED AND TESTED TRIDGE OUTPUT TRANS. \$1.60 extra.

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THE MULLARD 510/RC AMPLIFIER

The popular complete "5-10" incorporating Passive Control Unit providing up to 10 watts high quality reproduction with input of 600 mV. Specified components and new MULLARD VALVES. Includes PARMEKO MAINS TRANSFORMERS and choice of PARMEKO or PARTRIDGE Output Transformers. Surplus Power available for Tuner.

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A HIGH QUALITY AMPLIFIER DEVEL-OPED FROM THE VERY POPULAR 3-WATT MULLARD "3-3" DESIGN. KIT OF PARTS £2 R A £8.8.0

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Complete to the MULLARD specification
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A small Amplifier of genuine high quality performance. Incorporates MULLARD ECL86 Valve, separate BASS and TREBLE controls and produces up to 3 watts undistorted output. (Carr. & Ins. %). Kit of Parts £4.10.0 Assembled £6.0.0

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MIXING UNITS
Self powered Cathode follower output
two inputs for CRYSTAI



Incorporates two inputs for CRYSTAL PICK-UPS and a fourth for Radio or Tape.

KIT OF \$8.8.0 ASSEMBLED \$11.10.0 (Carr. & PARTS AND TESTED & Landon For Carr. & Landon Alternative Model I/L provid of ribbon mike £1.17.0 extra.

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We have the full range in stock. Prices range from £20.10.0. Full details are readily available.



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Employing two EF96 valves and designed to operate with the Mullard AMPLIFIERS but also perfectly suitable for other makes with input up to 250 mlV.

* Equalisation for the latest R.1.A.A. characteristics.

Input for Crystal Pick-ups and variable reluctance magnetic types.

types.

** Input (a) Direct from High Imp. Tape Head. (b) From a Tape Amplifier or Pre-Amplifier.

** Sensitive Microphone Channel. ** Wide range BASS and KTREBLE Controls.

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An attractively presented Unit incorporating MULLARD PER-MEABILITY TUNING HEART and corresponding Mullardvaive line-up. Very suitable to operate with our Mullard Amplifiers.

KIT OF PARTS

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MODEL CR3/S TAPE RECORDER

MODEL CR3/S incorporates the HF/TR3 Mk. II Tape the HF/TR3 Mk. II Tape
Amplifier (described below)
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Twin Track 3-speed Deck
operating at 11in, 3in, and
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with microphone and
1,200ft. tape.
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ASSEMBLED £43.0.0

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STEREO TAPE PRE-AMPLIFIER

with current TRUVOX,
BRENELL, or COLLARO
"STUDIO" \(\) and \(\) track Stereo Decks. Incorporates Ferroxcube Oscillator. 4 speed Equalisation Signal Level Meter and
separate Gain Controls. Includes separate Power Unit.

KIT OF \(\) \(\) \(\) \(\) Carr. \(\) \(\) ASSEMBLED \(\)

TAPE PRE-AMPLIFIER MULLARD Type "C"

Suitable for most & track, Mono Tape Decks. Incorporates Ferroxcube Push Pull Oscillator. Treble Inductor and 3-speed Equalisation. Includes Separate Power Unit.

KIT OF £14.0.0 ASSEMBLED £19.10.0 (Carr. & Ins. 7/6).



MULLARD TAPE AMPLIFIER

Based on Mullard's Type "A" design and suitable for most track Mono Tape Decks. Incorporates Ferroxcube Treble Inductor. Glison Output Transformer, and 3-speed Equalisation. Includes separate Power Unit. KIT OF £13.13.0 (Carr. & PARTS £13.13.0)



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STERN'S "ADD-A-DECK"

A self contained Unit consisting of Garrard Deck and matched Preamplifier on one chassis. Provides full tape recording facilities and replays through Pick Up Sockets of Standard Radio receiver or Amplifier.

PRICE includes come £18.18.0
plete Tape Magazine.

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COMBINED PRICE OFFERS!!!

Includes small charge for special testing and PRECISE MATCHING of the ASSEMBLED PRE-AMPLIFIER (or Amplifier) to TAPE DECK

 STP-1 (Kit) and "STUDIO" Deck
 £39.0.0 Assembled £46.0.0

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Deck TYPE "C" (Kit) and BRENELL £26.10.0 Assembled £33.0.0

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£43.0.0 Assembled £50.0.0

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£70.0.0Inc. HeadLiftTrans.

MULLARD "10+10" STEREO AMPLIFIER

A high fidelity design providing up to 10 watts (per channel). Superb repro-duction frequency response flat to within 3db from 3 c/s to 50 Kc/s at 50 mV Total Harmonic Distortion at 10 watts

Price (a) ASSEMBLED AM-PLIFIER (as illustrated) \$24.0.0

44.5

(b) KIT OF PARTS.

Built to the highest technical standards and presented strictly to MULLARD'S specification. Two specially designed GILSON ULTRALINEAR OUTPUT TRANSFORMERS with 20% taps are used. We can also supply the assembled MAIN AMPLIFIER only for operation with our DUAL CHANNEL PRE-AMPLIFIER: this provides a more versatile installation and is essential if a low output pick-up is to be used. When ordering specify loudspeaker impedance. (a) THE ASSEMBLED MAIN AMPLIFIER and ASSEMBLED MAIN AMPLIFIER and ASSEMBLED DUAL CHANNEL PRE-AMP.

£34.0.0

(b) KIT OF PARTS for both Units.....

£27.0.0 (Carr. & Ins. 10/6).

MULLARD DUAL-CHANNEL

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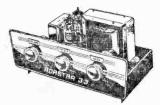
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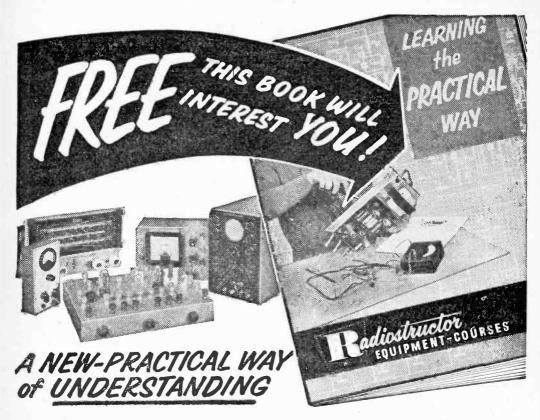
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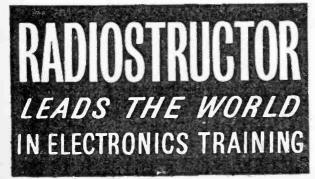
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Practical Wireless

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PREPARED! BE

T this time of year, as autumn approaches and the evenings draw in, most readers will be spending less time in outdoor pursuits and more on indoor activities. And in particular, thoughts of the impending constructional "season" will occupy a good many minds.

For whereas the majority of enthusiasts (quite rightly) enjoy as much of the outdoor life as our capricious climate allows during the summer months, the winter sees a peak in con-

structional activity that restores the average.

After a reduction of building projects for a month or two, most amateurs look forward keenly to this resurgence of activity which begins to gain impetus as the autumn leaves Many readers, of course, maintain a certain level of practical activity all through the year, but nevertheless there is something about the autumn and winter that presents an irresistible lure even to those who temporarily forsake practical work in the summer.

Perhaps it is the cosy atmosphere of the workshop, den or "shack", with the smell of flux on the soldering iron and the low hum of power packs. Perhaps it is because, shut off from the obtrusive world with the curtains drawn, one can get to work without external distractions and concentrate fully on the work in hand. Or maybe it is because the true enthusiast, though seemingly inert during the summer, has been quietly planning new ideas for equipment and now feels the time is ripe to put them to the test.

Whatever it is, one thing is certain: during the next few months much solder is going to flow, many holes are going to be drilled and many thousands of components are going to be wired into hundreds of different circuits.

hope, a large percentage of successes!

But despite the fact that this general pattern follows regularly, we wonder how many are really prepared for the approaching high level of activity. The facilities available to the radio amateur vary enormously from, literally, the kitchen table to the separate permanent workshop—with a wide assortment in between.

Yet whatever the enthusiast's personal circumstances, he would do well to ensure that he is fully prepared to embark on an extended period of constructional work. For instance, is the wiring in the workshop adequate and is it really safe? Have those important extra points been installed? tools in good shape? Are there any gaps in the tool kit? Is the spares box in reasonable order? Are the boxes of nuts, bolts, small components, etc., sorted and conveniently housed? In other words—are you ready for working at maximum efficiency and ease?

If somewhere along the line you get a negative answer, now is the time to put things right. Before the season really gets under way—when you will never find the time!

Our next issue dated November will be published on October 4th



NEWS AT HOME AND ABROAD

RADIO EXHIBITION IN AMSTERDAM

NINETEEN manufacturers will have exhibits on the official British stand at the International Exhibition of Radio, Television and Electronic Equipment (FIRATO) to be held in Amsterdam, Netherlands, from September 13th to 22nd

The stand, which will cover 2.600sq.ft, has been organised by the Board of Trade and the Audio Manufacturers' Group. A special demonstration room on the stand will enable visitors to judge the performance of British made tape recorders, record players, amplifiers, loudspeakers and radios, under the best acoustic conditions.

STEREOPHONIC TRANSMISSIONS

THE number of experimental stereophonic transmissions per week from the BBC's Wrotham Third Programme transmitter, has been increased recently from one to three. Test transmissions can now be received on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays on 91.3Mc/s.

A tone test transmission between 10.30a.m. and 11a.m. will be followed by a programme test transmission from 11.15a.m. to 11.45a.m. A tuning signal consisting of two tones of different pitch is transmitted for four minutes before the test transmissions.

A N order for a number of electronic aids for blind persons, which were described in these pages a few months ago and which rely on the difference of frequency between an ultrasonic beam of energy and its reflection from nearby objects to enable the blind user to "hear" obstacles ahead, has been received by

the manufacturers from the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services of the Department of Education for the State of Kentucky, U.S.A.

Ultra Electronics Limited, who produced the first of the aids for the preliminary evaluation tests, have also received an order for 50 units from St. Dunstan's.

H.F. Equipment for Ministry of Aviation

THE Ministry of Aviation has recently ordered a number of Marconi type D11 and D13 high-frequency mobile radio stations. The contract is valued at approximately £1,500,000.

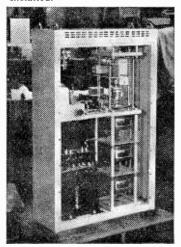
The type D11 transmitter/ receiver equipment is a mobile field communication unit providing the latest h.f. facilities, including s.s.b./i.s.b. telephony and f.s.k. telegraphy, with incorporated teleprinter. The output power of the transmitter is rated at 300-350W over the frequency range 2 — 21.999Mc/s. receiver is a high sta The stability independent side-band and telegraph equipment, crystal controlled and operating on the double superheterodyne principle.

The type D13 equipment operates over the same frequency range but with a transmitter power output rating of 1kW. It also differs from the D11 in that it employs two receivers (for dual diversity operation) instead of

REGULATORS FOR BBC

THE BBC's v.h.f. transmitting and radio link stations as well as television stations, require very stable voltage supplies, and recently at the Wimbledon works of Foster Transformers (a member of the Metal Industries Group) six new voltage regulators for various BBC stations have been undergoing extensive tests prior to delivery.

Each of the regulators has an output of 17kVA which is necessarily maintained stable for the transmitter and associated equipment it will be serving when installed.



One of the voltage regulators made by Foster Transformers for the BBC.

IMPROVED SOUND FOR ST. PAUL'S

A FTER extensive tests made by engineers from Standard Telephones and Cables Limited, the sound system of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, has undergone considerable alteration, designed to improve audibility to every part of the congregation.

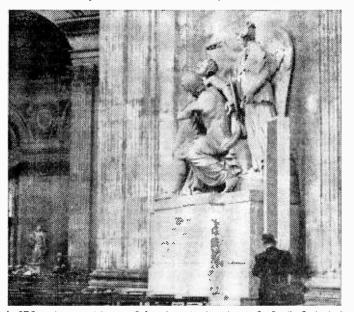
The Cathedral's architecture and size have posed special problems for the sound engineers involved on the operation, and in particular there is a problem of the time lapse of speech from the altar and pulpit areas, and along the length of the Nave. (It was found that sound took threetenths of a second to travel from the altar to the far end of the Nave.)

As it was decided to incorporate the Cathedral's existing system of loudspeakers in the new improvements, it was obvious that a delay mechanism would be necessary to co-ordinate sound arriving direct from the source and the sound delivered over the loudspeakers; which, in the normal course of events, would arrive almost immediately. Failure to compensate for this phenomenon would result in garbled speech reaching the distant parts of the congregation.

The method used by STC to give the necessary delay employs a magnetically loaded neoprene belt, stretched around a metal drum. In operation the drum is revolved at 80 revolutions per minute. Several magnetic heads are distributed at specific points around the drum and held in contact with it as it revolves. One of two of these heads, records speech on to the belt from either the altar or pulpit microphone. As the drum revolves, the recorded speech is carried to replay heads successively spaced further around the drum from the recording head; and from these the speech is carried to loudspeakers situated at various distances from the microphone. The time taken for the signal to travel round the drum from record to replay heads provides the necessary delay.

Finally as the recorded speech moves past the last replay head, an erase head removes the signal before once again the recording heads are reached at the end of one complete revolution of the

drum.



An STC engineer positions an 8 ft. column loudspeaker in St. Paul's Cathedral during recent accoustic tests.

SERVICING EXAMINATION

IT was announced recently that out of the 853 candidates who entered the final written examination for the Radio and Television Servicing Certificate of the City and Guilds of London Institute, 456 passed and thus qualified for the practical test to be held later this year.

Modernisation for East African Telephone Link

TEN years ago the Marconi Company installed a multichannel link between Nairobi, Mombasa, Tanga and Dar-es-Salaam in East Africa Now the East African Posts and Telecommunication and Administration has placed a contract with Marconi's to modernise the complete system which will result in improved performance and increased capacity for the telephone channels.

After modernisation there will be two radio paths over the whole link, carrying a total of 96 telephone channels, and auto-

matic change-over facilities will ensure that priority traffic is not interrupted by failure of either radio path.

Despite the increased capacity of the links, the original terminal and repeater stations will be used, some of which link distances of up to 97 miles.

Chairmen for B.V.A. and VASCA

TWO associations of valve manufacturers have recently elected their chairman for the forthcoming year. The British Radio Valve Manufacturers' Association (B.V.A.) has elected Mr. F. V. Green of Brimar Limited, and the Electronic Valve and Semiconductors Manufacturers' Association (VASCA) has elected Mr. A. J. Young of the English Electric Valve Company Limited.

A SIGNAL GENERATOR

transistorised . . . a.f. and modulated r.f. outputs . . . battery operated . . .

BY F. G. RAYER

THIS signal generator uses two transistors, and will provide either an audio frequency output or a modulated radio frequency output. The a.f. output can be used to check audio amplifiers, or the a.f. stages of a receiver. The r.f. output is tunable from about 1.6Mc/s to 170kc/s (approximately 190 to 1.800m) and can be used to test or align intermediate frequency amplifiers, or medium and long wavebands of a receiver. Harmonics of 200kc/s are audible to 10mc/s, while harmonics of 1Mc/s are audible to 30Mc/s, with a sensitive receiver. This allows frequency spotting through the short wave ranges of a receiver.

the short wave ranges of a receiver.

The generator operates from a 4.5V dry battery supply, and may be used for checking transistor sets, or mains or battery operated valve receivers.

The circuit is shown in Fig. 1. Tr1 is a radio frequency transistor, such as is commonly employed as a self-oscillating mixer in superhet receivers. Tr2 is an audio type; a yellow-green spot audio transistor was used by the author, but any small transistor in working order should be satisfactory.

T1 is a transistor coupling or driver transformer, with a ratio of about 1:2 or 1:1. The transformer

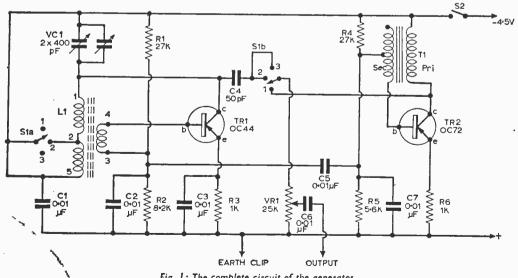
fitted was intended for push-pull, so one secondary lead is unused. If Tr 2 does not oscillate, connections to the primary of T1 should be reversed. With the switch S1 in position 1, the audio signal is taken to the output control potentiometer VR1, which allows volume to be kept down as required.

Tr1 is the r.f. oscillator. A two-gang 400pF or similar value tuning capacitor is used to obtain adequate coverage with only two bands.

With the switch S1 in position 2, the generator tunes from about 1.6Mc/s to 500kc/s (190 to 600m approximately). When the switch is in position 3, the coverage is approximately 500 to 170kc/s (600 to 1.800m approximately) and this includes most of the long wave band, in addition to 370kc/s and adjacent intermediate frequencies.

C5 provides coupling from the a.f. oscillator, which acts as modulator, so that the note can be heard on a receiver tuned to the same frequency as the generator.

Small transistor type components can be used throughout, except for C6, which must be a mica or other high voltage capacitor, in order to provide effective isolation from mains equipment.



Tuning Coil

This was wound as in Fig. 2, silk covered wire of 34s.w.g. being used throughout. The m.w. section consists of 50 turns wound side by side, between points 1 and 2, a layer of paper being placed over the rod. A space of about 1/5in. is left, and seven turns are wound side by side (leads 3 and 4). A narrow space (about 1/20in.) is left, and 100 turns are wound in a compact pile, for the l.w. section. The end of the m.w. winding is joined to the beginning of the l.w. winding (lead 2). The end of the l.w. winding is lead 5. Dabs of cement are used to hold windings and the ends secure, and all turns must be in the same direction.

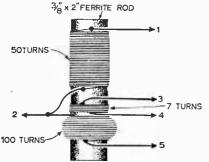


Fig. 2: Winding details of the tuning coil, LI.

In general, other coils should be satisfactory. However, some experiment may be needed. If coverage is too high in frequency (low in wavelength) additional turns are required; but if frequency coverage is too low, turns need removing. Air cored coils were found to work, but need many more turns. Some ready-made dual-wave coils could be expected to be satisfactory, though coverage might need modifying slightly, either by changing the core positions, or by altering the number of turns. With most coils, turns will need

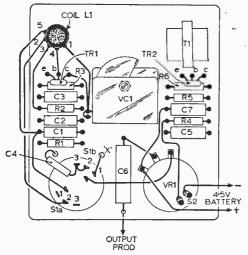


Fig. 3 (above) and Fig. 4 (right): Component layout and wiring diagrams.

removing, to reach about 500kc/s on the 1.w. band, with VC1 fully open.

Construction

A paxolin panel about 4in. $x + \frac{4}{3}$ in. is used, drilled as in Fig. 4. The ferrite rod (L1) is a push fit in a $\frac{1}{8}$ in. diameter hole, being held with cement. A $\frac{1}{16}$ in. drill will do well for all the small holes, with $\frac{1}{8}$ in. hole for the switch and potentiometer and a $\frac{1}{2}$ in. hole to clear the gang capacitor.

The components are mounted as in Fig. 3. Emitter, base and collector leads of Tr1 and Tr2 are inserted as shown and there is no need to cut these wires short. The transformer T1 is held by

its leads.

Three short 4B.A. bolts hold the gang capacitor. These must not penetrate sufficiently to short-circuit or damage the capacitor. The circuit requires a three-way, two-pole switch and, if a surplus switch with more contacts is fitted, unwanted tags are ignored.

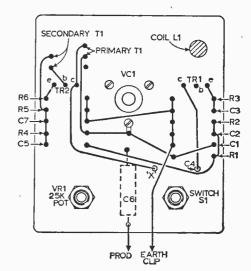
Fig. 4 shows wiring on the front of the panel between resistors and other parts. Any thin, insulated wire is satisfactory or thin tinned copper bare wire can be employed with 1mm sleeving.

The audio oscillator stage can be tested alone when wired. To do this connect phones from C6 to battery positive. If no tone is heard reverse the primary leads to T1 as mentioned.

Two short pieces of thin flex are provided for battery connections and there was found to be no advantage in using more than 4.5V. Consumption is between about 2mA and 6mA according to the actual transistors, so very small cells will do well. To avoid trouble from bad contact leads may be soldered to the cells. Three dry cells in series will provide 4.5V and the zinc case is negative.

Output Lead

A flexible lead from the positive line terminates in a clip which can be attached to the chassis or other earthed circuit of a receiver.



The output lead from C6 is fitted with an insulated prod so that the signal can be injected

into various parts of a circuit.

There is no chance of shocks when testing a battery operated transistor receiver. With battery operated valve sets the h.t. may be sufficient to cause a shock. In the case of mains receivers the usual care must be taken. The danger is particularly great with a set of the a.c./d.c. type or one drawing h.t. directly from the mains.

The Case

The case is made of thin wood approximately $4\frac{1}{4}$ in. x $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. x $2\frac{1}{4}$ in. deep internally. The panel is thin paxolin $4\frac{1}{4}$ in. x $5\frac{1}{4}$ in. if the case is of $\frac{1}{4}$ in. thick wood. Nuts on the switch and potentiometer secure the generator and panel together and scales are marked on the paxolin or on thin card placed over the paxolin. For tuning a fairly large knob is required and is fitted with a celluloid cursor marked with a line to permit reading against the scales.

To check the generator the a.f. output may be applied to a pair of phones or to an amplifier or receiver. To test for modulated r.f. output place the prod or lead near the aerial of a receiver. The audio tone should be heard when the receiver and generator are tuned to the same frequency.

Harmonics

The generator note will also be heard when the receiver is tuned to a multiple of the generator frequency. For example, if the generator is tuned to 200kc/s its note will be heard at 200, 400, 600, 800, 1,000, 1,200kc/s and so on. This fact is very useful both to calibrate the generator tuning scales and to furnish a signal for a short-wave receiver.

The correct tuning point will most easily be found when coupling between generator and receiver is low, and output small, so that the

received signal is not too strong.

Calibration

If a calibrated generator is available, set this to various frequencies, tune in the signal on a receiver, then tune the transistor generator to the

same frequency and mark its scale.

If no calibrated generator is to hand, calibration can first be at 200kc/s points. Find this fundamental point from the BBC Light Programme transmitter. Tune the generator to the same frequency and mark its long-wave scale. Then tune the receiver to a harmonic as mentioned. Leave the receiver tuning untouched and tune the generator until its fundamental is heard on the receiver. This can then be marked on the generator scale. Repeat the whole procedure until the scales are calibrated to 1.6Mc/s (1.600kc/s). Other calibration marks can be obtained by selecting other harmonics. For example, the third harmonic of the Light Programme (long waves) is 600kc/s (600kc/s is the second harmonic of 300kc/s) to obtain the 300kc/s point between 200 and 400kc/s. Proceeding in this way, sufficient calibration points can be secured.

Note that the tone is not heard if the generator is tuned to a multiple of the receiver frequency but only when the receiver frequency is a multiple of

COMPONENTS LIST

Resistors:

-3136	U13.		
RI	27kΩ	R4	$27k\Omega$
R2	8-2k 12	R5	5-6kΩ
R 3	lkΩ	R6	$Ik\Omega$

VR1 25kΩ potentiometer with s.p. switch (S2)

Capacitors:

C1 0.01μF paper C2 0.01μF paper C3 0.01μF paper C4 50pF ceramic

C5 0.01 µF paper

C6 0.01 µF mica, or paper 500V C7 0.01 µF paper VC1 400 + 400 pF 2-gang variable

Inductors:

LI H.F. coil (see text)

T1 Transistor coupling or driver transformer Switches:

SI 2-pole, 3-way miniature rotary

S2 s.p.s.t. (see VRI) Transistors:

Trl OC44 or similar r.f. or mixer type

Tr2 OC72 or similar a.f. type

Miscellaneous:

Two small pointer knobs. One $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter knob. Paxolin, wire, sleeving, clip and prod, etc. Ferrite rod for L2 (2in. $x \frac{3}{6}$ in.).

the generator frequency.

The signal generator may be used to test or align a receiver in the normal way. The following brief details will help indicate how this work is carried

Checking Audio Circuits

If a receiver or audio amplifier does not operate, a quick check of the audio stages can be made by utilising the a.f. output of the signal generator. An insulated test lead with prod is used to apply the a.f. output to various circuit points in turn, working backwards from the loudspeaker. When the point at which a fault arises is passed, reproduction will deteriorate or cease.

As an example the first test will show if the loudspeaker is working. The next test will indicate if the output transformer is in order and connected. The output valve or transistors are then brought into the portion of the circuit under test by injecting the signal at the control grid or base. The coupling capacitor or driver transformer can then be checked by removing the prod to the input side of this component. Earlier a.f. stages

are then taken in one by one.

This is a very rapid means of localising a fault. If such tests are carried out on a receiver or amplifier in good order this will show what to expect. When the a.f. signal is applied directly to a loudspeaker or output transformer and loudspeaker, volume is low. An earth return lead from generator to receiver chassis will be necessary when little or no amplification is available. To test a loudspeaker, output and earth leads must be taken to the speech coil. As one or more stages of amplification are introduced, by moving the output lead to grid or base, volume from the loudspeaker should increase considerably. The earth lead from generator to receiver is then often unnecessary.

If a fault is present in audio stages these tests will show where it arises. If the whole audio section of a receiver works satisfactorily this shows the defect is in earlier stages.

I.F. Testing, Alignment

If the receiver is already aligned, stage-by-stage tests of the intermediate frequency amplifier can be made in the same way as described for audio stages. However, the generator is tuned to provide a modulated radio frequency output corresponding to the receiver intermediate frequency. This is

done by tuning the generator for best output from the receiver.

The signal may be injected at the final IFT primary. If the audio section has tested satisfactorily and there is no output from the receiver, then the IFT or detector or wiring here must be suspected. If output is satisfactory the prod is moved back to take in the last i.f. valve or transistor, then the preceding IFT and so on. The whole i.f. amplifier may thus be quickly checked.

The strength of the signal injected into the receiver is adjusted as required in a similar manner to that already explained. When a stage or two of i.f. amplification has been introduced into the part of the circuit being tested, loose coupling between prod and receiver circuit will generally be sufficient. That is, the prod point only need be placed near the receiver lead or against the insulation of the lead.

Should the receiver be newly built, and not aligned, the generator should be tuned to the wanted frequency (often 470kc/s).

wanted frequency (often 470kc/s). This signal is injected at the last IFT and the IFT core is adjusted for best output from the receiver. The previous IFT is then taken in and adjusted, followed by any earlier IFTs present.

As capacity from the generator prod will slightly influence alignment, all the IFTs are given a final check to see if any slight readjustment is wanted. This is done with the generator coupled to the input (grid or base) of the mixer or frequency changer.

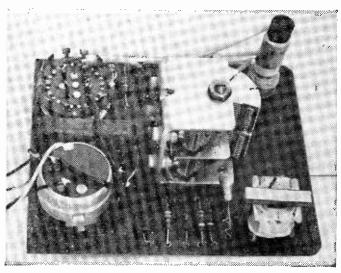
When i.f. or earlier stages are being tested the receiver volume control should be at maximum, but volume should be kept quite low by reducing the strength of the injected signal as described. This is to avoid the automatic volume control circuit of the receiver making accurate adjustment difficult.

If some form of output meter is preferred to adjustment by ear this is easily arranged. A 25mA, 50mA or other d.c. meter may be added in one battery lead of transistor sets having push-pull output. Alignment is then to secure maximum meter reading. An a.c. voltmeter with $0.5\mu F$ or other blocking capacitor in one lead can be used as an audio output meter. A d.c. meter can be used to measure the anode current of an i.f. stage

to which a.v.c. is applied, adjustments being to obtain minimum current. The meter should be at the h.t. side of the IFT primary with a bypass capacitor to chassis. Alternatively a high-resistance voltmeter may be used to measure the a.v.c. line voltage. Adjustments are directed towards securing an increased negative voltage with valve sets. With transistor receivers the a.v.c. line is positive.

Mixer, R.F. Stages

Tests in r.f. stages are as described, the generator being tuned to the same frequency as



The instrument completely wired up, ready for installing in its case.

the receiver. To trim such stages adjust the generator to a high frequency (low wavelength). To make adjustments to coil or aerial inductance tune the generator to a low frequency (high wavelength). It is usual to deal with the m.w. band first, followed by long waves.

Sufficient input should be obtained by placing the generator prod or lead near the receiver aerial socket or frame aerial or ferrite rod. If trimming is initially badly out a fairly strong signal (closer coupling) may be used, followed by more accurate trimming on a weaker input (looser coupling).

To secure agreement with a printed dial, trimming and inductance adjustments are made as described for various frequencies after checking that the dial or pointer is properly fitted to the tuning capacitor. If a dial is to read accurately throughout, the tuning capacitors, trimmers, coils or aerial and padders must all be of the specified values intended for use together.

With mains operated equipment, remember to take the usual care to avoid shocks. Receivers of the a.c./d.c. type or sets drawing h.t. directly from the mains may have dangerous mains voltages present on the chassis, etc., if fed from a reversible two-pin plug or adaptor or from a wrongly wired three-pin plug.

A Novel A.F. Amplifier-

BY E. A. PARKER

HIG. 1 is the circuit diagram of an amplifier which has been used for some time past in conjunction with a simple regenerative transistor receiver to provide loudspeaker output for a fairly large living-room. In fact the output was sufficient at times to make the provision of a volume control essential. The amplifier was found to be capable of driving loudspeakers of diameters of from 3in. to 8in. with equal efficiency and has been incorporated into a small portable t.r.f. receiver using a 3in. speaker.

Directly-coupled Output Stage

The main design considerations were that the amplifier should be easy to construct, economical to run and should require as few components as possible—this saved space and money. It was

Fig. 1: The circuit of the amplifier.

decided, therefore, that two of the transistors should be d.c. coupled. Now audio amplifiers capable of driving a loudspeaker are as often as not of the push-pull variety, requiring expensive push-pull driver and output transformers and matched transistors. So an attempt was made to construct a directly-coupled output stage.

As stated above, the final product of experiment

was the circuit of Fig. 1, which seems to provide a large current gain in addition to providing an output well in excess of 100mW.

Alternative Transistors

The transistors used were XB102s (or XB112s) for Tr1 and Tr2 and an XC101 (or XC111) for Tr3, the output transistor.

Although Ediswan transistors were used the Mullard OC71 and OC72 (Tr3) are equally suitable. The amplifier also works well with surplus transistors (red spots for Tr1 and Tr2 and green/yellow spots for Tr3) but if these are used the directly-coupled pair should be selected so as to have low leakage currents.

have low leakage currents.

The layout of the amplifier was not found to be critical and in view of this no constructional details

are given, but Fig. 2 indicates the orientations of the connecting leads of the transistors. One point to note is that the emitter bias of the output pair tends to be slightly more critical than does that of a conventional single-ended output stage, but the value of 100Ω for the resistor R5 in the emitter leads as shown in Fig. 1 will be found to be satisfactory in most cases. Depending on the individual transistors used, the optimum value of this resistor should be found to be within the range $50-500\Omega$.

The interstage transformer T1 may be replaced by an R—C coupling circuit if economy demands this; the collector load

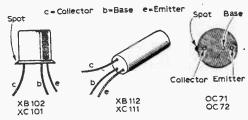


Fig. 2: Lead identification of types of transistors that can be used in this circuit.

should then be of the order of $4.7 k\Omega$ and the coupling capacitor should have a value of $8 \mu F$ with a minimum of 12V d.c. working voltage. A slight loss in stage gain will result with this arrangement.

Output Transformer

The output transformer T2 should be chosen so as to reflect a collector load of about $4.8k\Omega$ to Tr2 and Tr3. If this load be designated by Rc and the

-continued on page 504

COMPONENTS LIST

Resistors:

RI $100k\Omega$ R4 $10k\Omega$ R2 $1k\Omega$ R5 100Ω (see text)

R3 | 100kΩ

All 10%, $\frac{1}{4}$ W carbon. VRI 10k Ω potentiometer

Capacitors:

C1 8 μ F electrolytic 12V C2 8 -25μ F electrolytic 12V

Transformers:

T1 Interstage transformer; 4: 1 or 8: 1
T2 Output transformer (see text)

Transistors:

Tri, 2 XBI02, XBI12, OC71 or red spot Tr3 XCI01, XCI11, OC72 or green/yellow

spot

The PHOTOPHONE

By M. L. Michaelis

Experiments with light waves - a new interest for the amateur electronics enthusiast.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 427 OF THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE

ONTINUING the discussion from last month on radiation, it may be said that the intensity of an electromagnetic radiation is given by the electric or magnetic field intensities on the wave picture and by the average number of photons arriving in a given time on the "photon" picture. It is necessary to stipulate "average "rate of arrival of photons in the second case because the actual sequence of arrival of photons, in common with all particle radiations, is quite random, subject to purely statistical fluctuations over short periods. This phenomenon has already been discussed in detail in connection with the digital Geiger counter apparatus published in this journal in the February, 1962, and following issues. The methods of interpreting quantitative results when forced to use the particle way of looking at things, rather than the wave method, at the very high frequencies represented by atomic radiations have also been described in the named articles.

Visible light represents just about the reasonable borderline case where it is about equally convenient to treat it statistically as a random sequence of particles, called photons, or to treat it as a continuous wave electromagnetic radiation. Indeed some optical devices are most conveniently treated on a basis of photons, whereas others are more conveniently explained on a wave basis, it always being necessary to remember that the two treatments amount to the same thing, and thus the practical engineer designing equipment operating at visible light frequencies will use the method of approach offering the greater simplicity in a given

A final point should bear this out. We are normally accustomed to thinking of light as a wave radiation, which is indeed more often than not the most useful line of approach. However, the photophone unit described in this article is an excellent example of the manifestation of the "photon" particle properties of light if we look more closely.

The detailed action is best represented by a "photon-for-electron" picture. Each photon "photon-for-electron" picture. Each photon particle of the incident light actively reaching the cathode of the photocell ejects one electron contributing to the resulting anode current. Were the rate of arrival of photons absolutely steady, then the stream of electrons produced in the photocell would be quite steady for an unmodulated steady beam of incident light. An audio amplifier connected to P2 would register no a.c. signal. Upon trying this in practice, however, we find that this condition is only approximately true. If the gain of the audio amplifier is very high, or at least reasonably high (e.g. both stages of an ECC83, followed by an EL84 output stage), a powerful hiss will be heard as soon as a steady beam of light is shone into the photophone. This shows that there are random statistical fluctuations taking place in the rate of arrival of the photons, leaving only a constant long-term average. Exactly the same hiss is heard if a Geiger counter is subjected to strong atomic radiation, giving a high average counting rate. The true average frequency of arrival of atomic particles, which may in that case be in the region of 10kc/s, is not heard primarily, but rather the band of frequencies represented by, the random variation, leading to a raucous hiss.

The same effect is found, yet again, in the thermionic emission of electrons from a valve cathode. The average rate of emission of electrons, representing the total saturation cathode current of which the valve is capable, nevertheless contains the short-period random statistical fluctuations characteristic of all particle emissions and radiations in Nature. These statistical fluctuations of cathode emission give rise to the same characteristic hiss, responsible for the major portion of walve noise in sensitive input stages of amplifiers.

The same statistical laws apply for the absorption of particle radiation as for its emission, thus if several grids and anodes are receiving each a certain average portion of the total cathode current the exact momentary partition of current among the electrodes is subject to further random statistical fluctuation, giving further hiss. Thus, as will doubtless be familiar to many readers, multielectrode valves are more "noisy" than triodes.

Use of Valve Voltmeter

With the valve voltmeter circuit of Fig. 4 it is seen that, when using the universal probe shown, connected to P5, d.c. ranges of 5, 50 and 500V fs.d. are available.

The upper range is not useful for the Photophone, being intended for general usage of the valve voltmeter, but the lower two ranges are so intended. For this purpose P5 of the valve voltmeter is connected directly with P1 of the Photophone without any probe. The probe

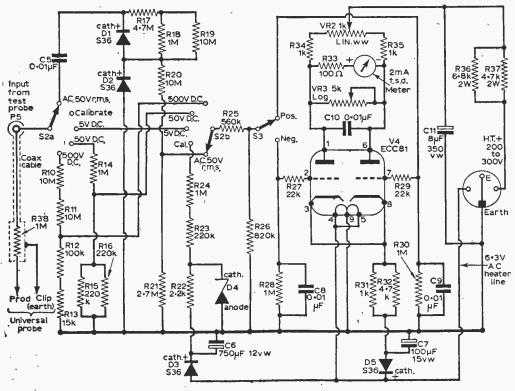


Fig. 4: A high quality valve-voltmeter circuit for use with the Photophone.

resistor R38 is missing under such circumstances so that the effective sensitivity is doubled, f.s.d. being obtained for 2.5 and 25V input respectively.

As the voltage calibrations on the meter for correspondence to readings with the universal probe are 5V or 50V f.s.d., and we have seen that an output of 0.5V per foot-candle is to be expected, the valve voltmeter readings on the existing voltage scales give foot-candles directly.

If, upon more accurate comparisons, corrections are found necessary to bring the voltage calibrations of the meter in Fig. 4 and the foot-candle values into true correspondence, various measures can be adopted. Within limits the values of R5 and/or R6 in the Photophone may be adjusted if only small corrections are required either way. If larger reductions are found to be needed, then suitable resistors may be included in series in the cable connecting P1 and P5.

Larger increases of sensitivity are best obtained by fitting a switch to select different values for R25 and R26 in the valve voltmeter when switching to "photometer" setting on this switch. Much greater overall sensitivity is easily obtainable by using a more sensitive meter. This can be fitted with a universal shunt for switching back to the 2mA f.s.d. sensitivity for normal use in the design of Fig. 4 or for multiplying the sensitivities of the incorporated voltage scales.

The Valve Voltmeter

It is not proposed to go too deeply into the principles of the circuit but merely to give sufficient information to enable the reasonably experienced reader to build the valve voltmeter.

The design is based on a simpler version which was published in the December, 1961, issue of PRACTICAL WIRELESS. This earlier design suffered to some degree in the matter of obtaining linearity up to full-scale deflection.

However, some further experiments have in the meantime been undertaken on this circuit, Fig. 4 showing the result. For the price of some appreciable increases in complexity, it was ultimately found possible to get good linearity to full-scale deflection for both positive and negative inputs, polarity-switching being undertaken by changing over between the two grids of V4 by means of S3.

The same 2mA meter was able to be retained and in fact virtually the same layout and design as published in December, 1961. Thus the same disposition of tagstrips was maintained and those readers who have already built the simpler instrument could very easily and quickly convert to the new comprehensive form.

Those building the unit new from scratch will find that the layout is not critical except for the need to mount the grid stoppers R27 and R29 very

close to the grids concerned and to connect nothing else directly to the grids. These grid stoppers were not required in the simpler circuit because this operated at much lower standing anode current, where parasitic oscillations were far less likely than in the present circuit.

In all other respects meticulous insulation, to avoid errors due to leakage in the high-impedance circuits, is far more important than any particular layout which may be chosen to suit individual requirements and available materials.

Methods of Cathode Bias

To get the present circuit to operate on negative inputs as well as positive ones, the operating point of the valve had to be shifted to higher current, at the same time retaining the relatively high cathode load to give proper coupling between the two sections. The only way of achieving this was to bias the cathodes down to a negative voltage, which was conveniently obtained at sufficient current capabilities by means of D5 and C7 from the heater line.

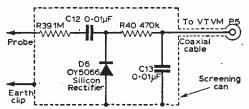


Fig. 5: An a.c. probe usable throughout audio, long wave, medium wave and short wave ranges, and able to tolerate all voltages present in normal receiver and amplifier circuitry. (See also table below).

Full scale deflection at 50c/s mains frequency input, using this probe in P5 of the prototype valve voltmeter (Fig. 4) represents:—

VTVM switched to: 50V r.m.s. a.c. range 5V d.c. range 50V d.c. range Sensitivities: Do not use here 15V r.m.s. 150V r.m.s.

500V d.c. range 500V r.m.s.

Notes: (1) The sensitivities given hold true up to about 100kc/s and down by factor six at 20Mc/s in the prototype. (2) On the 500V d.c. range do not exceed 250V r.m.s. input.

This, incidentally, is a most useful general method of biasing a cathode negative wherever this may be required in a circuit to enable the cathode-load resistor to be increased without choking back anode current. The converse of biasing a cathode more positive still than the voltage given anyway by virtue of anode current through the cathode load, is available by means of taking an additional high resistor from the cathode to h.t. positive, a measure capable of driving the valve even beyond cut-off in the resting state. This is, of course, never possible with a cathode load alone, for a cut-off valve takes no anode current and thus cannot produce bias across a cathode load, and thus could not be cut off, which contradiction proves the impossibility.

Trimming the Valve Voltmeter

The combination R31, R32, as in the earlier circuit, remain the crucial components for proper operation. Too low a value gives insufficient deflection sensitivity on the meter, too high a value severe non-linearity in the form of cramping near full scale. This might, however, be considered useful in the interests of opening up low readings and those readers taking this point of view could use an appropriately calibrated non-linear scale attached to the meter.

To reduce the actual current swing required in the valve for f.s.d. meter deflection, it is useful to ascertain that as little current as possible is normally shunted through VR3. For this purpose R25 and R26 are simultaneously adjusted in such

COMPONENTS LIST

	FOR VALVE VOLTMETER								
	sisto		D 24	0201-0					
	110	10MΩ	R26						
	XII.	IOMΩ	R27						
1 5	112	100kΩ	R28						
	113	l5kΩ	R29						
	114	$IM\Omega$		$IM\Omega$					
1 5	R15	220kΩ	R31	lkΩ					
F	116	220kΩ	R32	4·7kΩ					
F	117	4.7ΜΩ	R33	100Ω					
		$IM\Omega$		lkΩ					
	119	$IOM\Omega$	R35	lkΩ					
	20	$10M\Omega$	R36	6·8kΩ 2W 4·7kΩ 2W					
	121	$2.7M\Omega$	R37	4·7kΩ 2W					
	22	2·2kΩ	R38	$IM\Omega$					
	23	220kΩ							
	124	$IM\Omega$	R40	470kΩ					
	25	560kΩ							
	All carbon IW $\pm 20\%$ unless otherwise stated								
		tors:							
	Ć5	0.01μF paper 50							
	26	5 750μF electrolytic I2V							
	C7 100' F place plysic ISV								
	28	0.01 \mu F paper 50 0.01 \mu F paper 50 0.01 \mu F paper 50 8 \mu F electrolytic 0.01 \mu F paper 50	0V						
	:9	0.01μF paper 50	V 0						
	210	0·01μF paper 50	0 V						
	211	8μ F electrolytic	350V						
	12	0·01μF paper 50	0 V						
	213	0·01μF paper 50	0V						
		aneous:							
	4	ECC81 (noval ho	older)						
) 3	3 Diode Type \$36.	Inve	rse resistance $IOM\Omega$					
8	& D5 or better. Inverse voltage rating 350.								
		Capacity approx	. 10p	F or less. Forward					
1 -		current 20mA o	r mor	e.					
)4	5V Zener-diode							
1 -)6	Silicon mains	rectifi	er Type OY5066.					
				700. Current rating					
		unimportant.							
1 .	2	performance up							
۱ ،	2		amic	rotary switch; high					
Ι,	_	insulation							
	3			row toggle switch					
	VR2 IkΩ lin. carbon or wire-wound								
	VR3 5k Ω log. carbon								
	Meter 2mA f.s.d. moving-coil								
	5	Coaxial socket	,	C "					
I P	6		(as	on Grundig tape					
1		recorders)		. 14 1 1					
1		Chassis, casing,	wire,	solder, bolts, etc.					
			-						

a manner that the dividing ratio is altered, but the sum of R25 and R26 in parallel with 1MΩ remains equal to $1M\Omega$ —in order that the input voltage dividers to the left of S2b remain correct.

This adjustment of R25 and R26 is undertaken on the "calibrate" setting, with VR3 disconnected, until the meter only still reads very slightly high, final correction then being continuously available on VR3 when this is reconnected. This adjustment of R25 and R26 has already been carefully undertaken in arriving at the component values specified and these should be found satisfactory.

If trouble is experienced, readers should first check for low emission in V4 by substitution and also check that R25 and R26 are of the values

specified.

Further New Features

While modifying the original simple valve volt-meter circuit to a form ideal for use with the Photophone, other changes were made to improve its general usefulness, again at some additionalexpense and complication.

two grid circuits have been symmetrised and kept to normal impedance levels of around $1M\Omega$. This avoids trouble from zero point drifts due to electron impact grid current otherwise present in high-impedance grid circuits and also makes the zero point fall at virtually the same setting of VR2 on all ranges.

Furthermore the zero point now falls very close to the middle position of VR2 under all conditions and requires only very infrequent adjustment after an initial five to ten minutes' warming up. These advantages have been obtained at the price of one disadvantage over the original, namely a reduction of overall impedance presented as load across the voltage source being measured. However, a reasonable compromise has been struck.

The disposition of smoothing capacitors has been changed to give a quicker response and quicker return to zero and a high resistance has been removed to the probe head to prevent a.c. damping stopping, for example, oscillators functioning when d.c. potentials at electrodes are to be

measured.

Furthermore the whole aggregate around D1 and D2 has been incorporated to give a 50V r.m.s. f.s.d. range for a.c., usable at mains frequency only, without changing probes. The combination R17 to R19 should be adjusted until this scale reads correctly; it may be possible to select a single $5.6M\Omega$ resistor in place of these three. The new circuit uses a pair of diodes, D1 and D2, for achieving high inverse voltage rating, preventing damage even if the a.c. signal is superimposed on a d.c. voltage of some hundreds of volts, which is blocked at C5.

It is thus possible to measure the gain of amplifier stages with this instrument, using a 50c/s sinewave signal and comparing levels at grid and anode, without any need to be concerned with d.c. potentials which may or may not be present. Finally the work on this valve voltmeter was completed with the design of a special a.c. probe, for use at other frequencies, operating into the d.c. ranges. This rectifies at the probe head in the usual way so that high-frequency signals do not have to pass down the coaxial cable and get lost in the capacity thereof.

Experiment revealed the interesting fact that, although D6 is a silicon rectifier intended for mains power rectification, usable performance was possible at frequencies up to 20Mc/s. The high inverse voltage rating of the silicon dlode is a great advantage, so that this probe cannot be damaged by any normal h.t. voltages found in receivers and amplifiers. Otherwise it is of the conventional form already mentioned in the other publications.

Conclusion

It is hoped that this article has been successful in introducing the possibilities of optical frequencies for radio experiments as well as explaining some of the significances and aspects of various types of radiation in the light of modern science in a form which is surely of a more practical usefulness for the understanding of one's equipment than mere philosophical theory for which it might at first sight be mistaken.

Novel A.F. Amplifier

-continued from page 500

loudspeaker impedance by RL, then use a transformer of turns ratio $n = \frac{number}{number}$ of primary turns number of secondary turns where $n^2 = Rc$

The following table gives the value of n for three popular loudspeaker impedances. (Here, Rc $4.7k\Omega$.)

Loudspeaker impedance $(RL\Omega)$

Output transformer turns ratio (n:1)

40:1 25:1 35 10:1

The transformer used by the writer was abstracted from a defunct battery operated valve portable receiver—its physical size was small enough.

Additional Pre-amplifying Stages

Clearly the number of transistors preceding the output pair may be varied according to the number available and the final output required; three such transistors would overload the power output transistor Tr3 on loud passages of music if the amplifier is used with an average local station t.r.f. receiver. Only one was required in the writer's home town (Orpington, Kent) to provide ample listening volume on the Light Programme (247m) and the Home Service (330m) from a one-transistor regenerative receiver with a 5in. loudspeaker connected to the amplifier outputs.

The amplifier is powered by a PP7 (9V) battery which has a life of more than 70 hours when the

amplifier is run at full volume.

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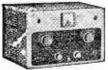
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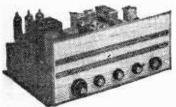
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WHARFEDALE SUPER 8/RS/DD "Strikes the right note"

SAYS DONALD ALDOUS

In a review of the Wharfedale Super 8/RS/DD in "Audio & Record Review", Donald Aldous reported as follows:—

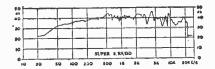


The latest Wharfedale Super 8/RS/DD speaker strikes the right note the moment it is removed from its box. It is beautifully made and finished and looks right.

The unit was tested in a corner enclosure approximately $l_{\frac{1}{2}}$ cu.ft. with the interior heavily lined with carpet felt and a vent of $l_{\frac{1}{2}}$ in. wide across the front at the bottom. The bass radiated with this enclosure was smooth and at an ideal level to give balance with the extended top response.

The music signals and tone bursts confirmed that the speaker is free from any obvious discoloration.

Summary—We agree entirely with the view of Gilbert Briggs expressed to us as "his humble opinion", that the Super B/RS/DD unit is easily the best 8in. model Wharfedale has ever produced. A stereo pair in small enclosures gives sound quality that will come as a revelation to any listeners wedded to massive enclosures, this can easily be matched to 2-5 ohms with the WMT1.



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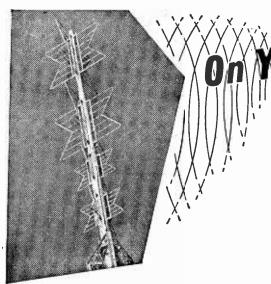
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By THERMION



T is unfortunately true that some amateur constructors (and not only "beginners" at that) fail to take sufficient pains with their soldering operations. Bad workmanship really does not pay, since much time and effort are often spent afterwards in tracking down obscure faults that have their origin in inadequately made connections. Even when satisfactory performance is obtained initially, there is always the danger of leads becoming disconnected later due to the shock or vibra-tion sustained under normal working conditions. This applies particularly to miniature receivers and to other electronic equipment of a portable

One of the cardinal rules of soldering is that a sound mechanical joint should be made before the solder is applied. (It is, of course, essential that the mating surfaces are perfectly clean and free from grease and such like.)

Joints, Various

Now, what constitutes a sound mechanical joint? Certainly it is not necessary to go to the lengths illustrated by some ex-government radio and electronic equipment. Most of my readers will have handled surplus equipment of one sort or another, and many of you will have had experience in stripping down various specimens for the sake of the components contained therein. I recall the tussles that occurred when trying to detach resistors and capacitors from groupboards-the difficulty arose because the manufacturers' wiremen. dutifully following the Ministry's directions, had tightly wrapped each component lead two or three times (if not more) round the tag prior to soldering. The problem was always whether to arm oneself with soldering iron and long-nosed pliers and attempt to acquire the desired component complete with its leads, or whether to take the simpler course and to seize the diagonal cutters and amputate!

While thorough-going wiring-up methods are justified with equipment required for military or similar purposes, they are not warranted (or indeed desirable) with more commonplace equipment. But, let me emphasise, guard against going to the other extreme of merely bringing the two surfaces into contact and relying on a generous blob of solder to do the rest. True, I admit, that this procedure can be quite effective with some miniature components where mechanical strain is negligible. Even so, I consider it advisable to make a self-supporting connection wherever this is at all possible. This is certainly no hard task, and the following suggested methods will usually suffice.

our Wavelength

Push the lead through the hole in the tag and, if it is a loose fit, bend the protruding portion just sufficiently to provide a locking effect, then cut off the surplus wire fairly close to the tag. With larger components it is sometimes necessary to make a full right-angled bend and to squeeze the end of the wire against the flat surface of the tag. Where the lead is not passed through a hole in the anchoring device, it should be hooked around the edge of the tag or terminal.

A Tape Teaser

One of the interesting uses to which magnetic tape recording is now being applied is the training of foreign language students in correct pronunciation. Recording systems known as 'Language Laboratories" allow a number of students to perform oral exercises simultaneously without causing interference.

The usual method of operation is like this: each student sits in a booth equipped with a special tape recorder and, via headphones, listens to speech pre-recorded by the tutor. This recording is divided into a number of fairly short passages, and each is followed by a pause of similar duration. At the end of each passage the student repeats this phrase or sentence into his microphone endeavouring to copy faithfully the pronunciation of the original.

Whenever he wishes, the student can rewind his recorder and set it to playback. He then hears once again the tutor's voice followed immediately by his own efforts at imitation. For further practice he resets to record and proceeds as before, his earlier efforts being erased in the process, as

The little problem I now leave you with is this: how is it contrived that the tutor's recording remains preserved throughout and cannot be erased by the student no matter how often he re-records his own voice in the gaps provided?

PERSONAL TRANSISTOR

A Simple Medium Wave Set Suitable for the Beginner

BY A. SYDENHAM

ONLY a comparatively small cash outlay is involved in the construction of the receiver to be described and little or no test equipment is required to bring it into use.

Quite often a newly constructed superhet fails to provide any kind of signal when first switched on due to severe misalignment, but this is not likely to occur here as only a single tuned circuit is used. This set can, if necessary, be built quite easily on the kitchen table and no risk of lethal mains shocks is likely since transistors are used, two being employed since this is about the minimum number capable of providing a decent signal in a pair of headphones.

The prototype has also been tested with a loudspeaker by substituting the primary of a ratio 8:1 transistor output transformer in place of the headphones and connecting a 3Ω loudspeaker unit to the secondary winding. If the surroundings are quiet, as in a bedroom, for example, programmes can be heard quite well.

The receiver is powered by a single 4.5V dry battery and the current consumption is so low (less than 1mA) that replacement is likely but rarely.

The frequency coverage is 600-1460kc/s (500-205m), this covering practically the whole of the medium waveband. If longwave reception is required this can be incorporated but has not been attempted in the prototype.

In common with all simple t.r.f. circuits arranged to work at their most sensitive point the receiver is likely to prove slightly temperamental at the first try-out and slight adjustments to certain of the components might be occasioned. This point has been taken care of in the layout, however, which if followed accurately will allow changes to be made very easily. The range of component tolerances and the pro-

duction spreads in the transistors, etc., cause discrepancies that cannot be disposed of cheaply.

The Circuit

In Fig. 1 it may be seen that the first transistor Tr1 is operated as a regenerative demodulator feeding a stage of audio amplification built around Tr2, high impedance headphones being inserted in the collector circuit of this transistor to enable the user to hear the selected programme.

The circuitry around Tr1 might be more easily understood by referring to Fig. 2, where a typical

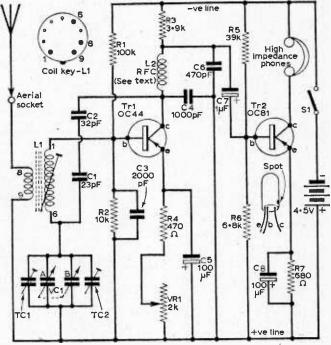


Fig. 1: The circuit.

valve oscillator circuit is shown. Here the external tuning of the coil L is effected by capacitors Cx and Cv. Sometimes no resistor is included in the cathode circuit, bias for the valve being derived entirely from current. This circuit is widely used, the triode usually being part of a frequency changer valve when Cx is often made one section of twin-gang tuning capacitor with Cy operating as a "padding" capacitance.

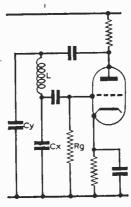


Fig. 2: A typical valve oscillator circuit.

Looking now at the circuitry around Tr1 (Fig. 1) the similarity will immediately be apparent and it will be appreciated that the transistor will oscillate if operating conditions are suitable.

By controlling the emitter current by means of a variable resistor bypassed by a capacitor, detection can occur if the transistor is not allowed to oscillate but instead is brought close to the point of the occurrence.

A suitable impedance match into the base of Tr1 can be effected by employing a capacitive potentiometer across the coil and using one section of it for tuning. Capacitors VC1 and C3 perform

COMPONENTS LIST Resistors: 100kΩ **R** 5 39kΩ RI R2 R6 6.8kΩ l0kΩ R7 680Ω R₃ 3-9kΩ 470Ω **R4** VRI 2kΩ wire-wound potentiometer Capacitors: 23pF mlca C2 C3 32pF mica 2,000pF ceramic 1,000pF mica C4 100µF electrolytic 6V C5 C6 470pF mica C7 IμF electrolytic 6V **C8** 100μF electrolytic 6V 208pF twin-gang variable (Jackson 'OO') VCI TCI trimmers—with VCI TC2 Switch: SI Toggle switch, on/off Inductors: M.W. coil (Denco Yellow dual purpose, LI range 2) L₂ R.F. choke (see text) Transistors: Trl **OC44** Tr2 OC81 Miscellaneous: Miniature 18-way tag board 4½in. x 1½in. (Radiospares). Battery 4-5V (Ever Ready 1289). High impedance headphones. Panel material, hard-

board, Aerial and phone sockets. Control knobs.

this function and are in effect identifiable with Cx and Cy respectively in Fig. 2.

Since these capacitors are connected across the coil in series the total value of capacitance available will always be less than that of the smaller of the two. This reduced capacitance effect will make itself most apparent at the low-frequency end of the band, i.e. where the vanes of C1 are most fully engaged, and if a suitable coil is not used for L1, only a section of the band will be receivable. Fortunately suitable coils are available from

the Denco miniature range.

A miniature Jackson "00" twin gang with sections paralleled (208+176pF) form a total value of 384pF, ignoring the trimmers, but this is reduced to about 330pF by C3 and is then suitable for use with the coil specified. When another coil designed to work with a 500pF tuning capacitor was tried in the circuit maximum low frequency coverage was reduced to 750kc/s.

Note that two capacitors-C1 and C2-are fitted between Tr1 collector and L1; this is not a safety

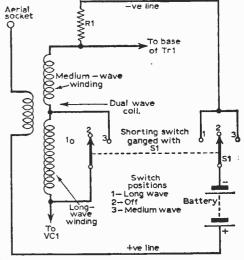


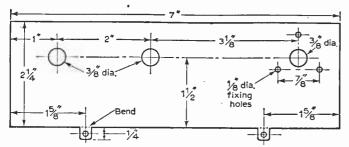
Fig. 3: The modified circuitry necessary to provide long wave coverage.

measure but an aid to obtaining good results on completion, since these items control the amount of positive feedback to a great extent.

The efficiency of the receiver largely depends upon the characteristics of Tr1 and this should be a good specimen; the use of a surplus type is not recommended.

The small r.f. choke of 3,000 µH inductance (L2) fitted in the collector circuit of Tr1, consists of the main winding of a dust-cored long-wave coil, the primary winding being removed and the coil former sawn off to the length of the core.

As mentioned earlier, inclusion of long waveband facilities can be provided either by fitting a separate coil from the Denco range (Range No. 1) or by using a miniature dual-waveband coil as shown in Fig. 3. The additional switching required can be incorporated with S1 by using a rotary A two-pole, three-way switch used as shown will allow the central position to be "off"



* Fig. 4: Dimensions of the control support panel.

with "medium" and "long" situated on either side. This makes accidentally leaving the receiver switched on less likely than in other arrangements, No extra panel control will be needed if this idea is followed.

Constructional Notes

The receiver is built around a miniature 18-way tag board to which is affixed a simple metal panel that carries the three controls. This assembly is finally located on a main hardboard panel to which simple sections are finally fitted to form a cabinet. A short throw-out type aerial is required and this, together with the headphones, is plugged into

sockets provided on one side. The completed receiver is $7\frac{1}{4}$ in. wide and 5 in. high and the front slopes backwards slightly, for the sides taper from 3 in. at the base to $2\frac{1}{4}$ in. at the top.

Preliminary work consists of constructing the metal control panel from support 16s.w.g. aluminium οг tinplate and details of this are given in Fig. 4. Prior to bolting this panel to the tag-board, one of the small holes running down the centre of the board must be enlarged with a circular file to \{\frac{1}{4}}in. diameter—as indicated in Fig. 6-to accept the coil mounting stem. The coil is locked in position by means of a polystyrene nut provided and this should only be twisted thumb tight, if pliers are used the stem will fracture.

Wiring Up

The remaining construction consists of mounting and wiring the various components to agree with the above and below plans shown in Figs. 5 and 6 respectively, leaving the transistors to one side until a good check has been made.

When satisfied that no mistakes have been made the leadout wires of the transistors may be sleeved and then passed through existing holes from above the board. These may then be soldered to the tags shown, using a heat shunt. The actual transistor shells should remain on top of the paxolin board as shown in the photographs and diagrams.

Black and red insulation should be used for the battery negative and positive leads respectively and it is not difficult to fashion a pair of sliding clips from thin tinplate to act as connectors soldered to the ends of the leads.

Testing

High impedance headphones should be connected before switching on and these should not

be removed whilst the set is working or Tr2 collector circuit will be broken. With VR1 set to approximately half travel and a short aerial connected the set may be switched on and C1 swung through its full range of rotation. If oscillations are heard all is well, but VR1 should be adjusted very quickly to just remove them, when little difficulty should be experienced in receiving transmissions. The quality should be crisp and will be surprisingly clear and alive. It will now be discovered that VR1 can be used as a volume control and should normally operate very smoothly indeed. Smoothness of operation will best be obtained from use of a wirewound component in

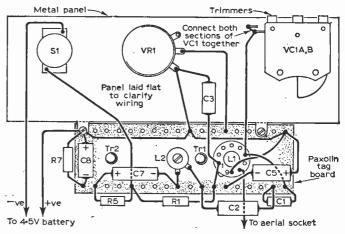
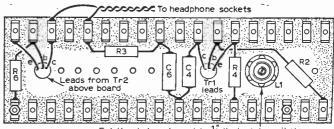


Fig. 5: Showing connections between the tag board and control panel. The tagboard has been drawn in the same plane as the panel for clarity.



Existing hole enlarged to 1/2 dia to take coil stem

Fig. 6: The reverse side of the tag board.

the VR1 position, but care should be taken not to advance the control excessively or the programme material will be supplanted by undesirable oscillation.

Final Adjustments

The next step lies in adjusting the waveband coverage. If no signal generator is available transmissions must be used and the various regional transmitters can most easily be recognised at such times as separate news bulletins are being radiated. After dark Radio Luxembourg might be heard when the vanes of VCI are almost fully disengaged. The coverage can be varied within limits by adjusting the core of L1 by means of the brass stem fitted and also by changing the trimmer positions.

Faults

If the receiver fails to oscillate at any setting of VR1 or VC1, either C1 or C2—hut not both together—may be temporarily short-circuited to increase feedback. Resistor R1 might need changing also if an indifferent transistor is in use and the value may be reduced to about $56k\Omega$. Noise may result in the form of a rushing sound if R1 is excessively reduced in value and $39k\Omega$ is about the limit.

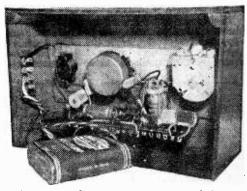
If on the other hand it is not possible to eliminate oscillations at any setting of VC1 or VR1, remove C2 and replace it with one of smaller value—say 10pF—and try again. Emitter resistor R4 can also be increased to, say, 680Ω or even 820Ω ,

this further limiting Tr1 current. The receiver should, of course, be switched off to make alterations.

Cabinet

Since negligible weight is involved it is possible to construct a simple cabinet from hardboard using a frame of \{\frac{1}{2}\text{in.}\ quadrant beading mitred at the corners to improve the frontal appearance. The dimensions of the case used for the prototype are shown in Fig. 7 the whole being held together with impact adhesive and small reinforcement strips.

With the aerial and phone sockets mounted on



A rear view of the receiver nearing completion.

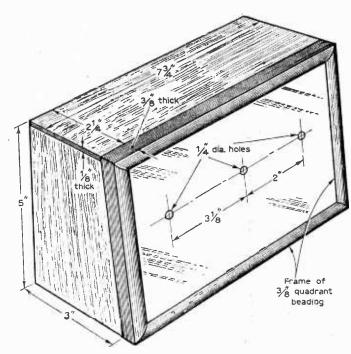


Fig. 7: The construction of a simple cabinet for the receiver.

one side, ample space exists for the battery which can if necessary lie flat on the cabinet base plate beneath the tag-board or stand at the rear. On completion the case may be lacquered or otherwise finished to suit individual tastes.

Conclusion

Although this simple little set can provide a great deal of constructional and listening enjoyment, it obviously has its limitations and cannot be expected to compare with the high sensitivity and selectivity of the superhet form, for, of course, it is not in the same price class.

The receiver can be used as a simple tuner to feed an existing audio amplifier by connecting a $4.7k\Omega$ resistor in place of the phones and taking the audio from between Tr2 collector (via a $0.1\mu\text{F}$ capacitor) and the positive line.

No such connection must be made under any circumstances to d.c. apparatus or to so called a.c. equipment that derives its h.t. direct from the mains supply or danger to life will result.

The EUPHON

A frequency selective unit for feeding two loudspeakers

By I. Kampel

THE unit about to be described is a simple and inexpensive means of obtaining a spacial effect in audio reproduction. With the addition of the two loudspeakers required, the total cost of the author's model was about two guineas only, and this included the cost of making the walnut cabinet.

Two loudspeakers are set up as for stereo, but instead of two channels, one loudspeaker handles the lower frequencies, while the other handles the higher frequencies. With the aid of the balance control an effect similar to stereo is achieved as the

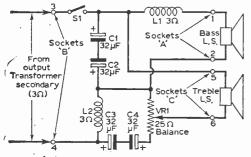


Fig. 1: The simple circuit of the Euphon.

higher pitched instruments come through on the tweeter and the bass instruments on the woofer.

The idea is based on the familiar divider network, used in modern audio equipment, but the original crossover circuit is not suitable when the speakers are separated as there will not be enough volume in the tweeter to give the required effect. The conventional divider network uses paper capacitors and extra components, whereas the Euphon uses ordinary electrolytics.

Fig. 1 shows the circuit. On the actual model there are single-type wander-plug sockets at the back of the cabinet, to plug in the bass and treble loudspeakers, and also sockets for the radio input. Numbers 1 to 6 indicate these sockets.

The circuit incorporates four identical electrolyctic capacitors coupled in pairs, can to can, this

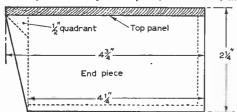


Fig. 2: An end view of the cabinet.

arrangement having the same effect as a single paper capacitor, though not the same value as used in the conventional divider network. The two coils are the most expensive items (7s. 6d. each) and are of 3Ω to match the output transformer. The potentiometer of 25Ω simply acts as a balance control between the two loudspeakers to obtain bass or treble emphasis, or a perfect balance as required.

Cabinet construction

The whole unit may be built into a cabinet $7\frac{1}{2}$ in. x $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. x $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. A small square of $\frac{1}{4}$ in. five-ply will be good enough for the first stages of construction. Fig. 2 shows an end elevation. The cross shaded triangle in Fig. 4 is a small length of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. quadrant. The two end pieces of Fig. 2 fit on to the sides of the $6\frac{3}{4}$ in. x $4\frac{1}{4}$ in. baseboard. However, the top, which is made to slide out, rests on the top of these two edges and hence is $\frac{1}{2}$ in. greater in

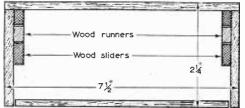


Fig. 3: This front elevation shows the wooden runners fitted to the sides.

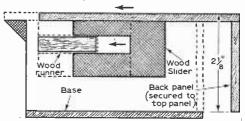


Fig. 4: How the top is slid into place along the runners and tops of the sides.

length. Fig. 3 shows this, the shaded portions being the ends.

Fig. 4 shows the method of sliding the top into place, the back being permanently joined. Crossed shading indicates the extra shaped pieces of ply fitted to the top panel to run next to the walls (also indicated by crossed shading in Fig. 3). The piece of oblong ply cut from the wood slider is fixed on to the inner wall of the cabinet to form the runner (see Fig. 4). Panel pins and glue will hold this construction firmly; however, the front panel should not be affixed yet, but be made to slide out freely.

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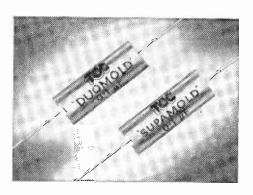
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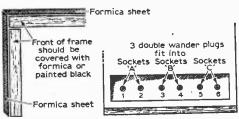


Fig. 5 (left): Showing the use of Formica to provide a suitable finish to the cabinet.

Fig. 6 (right): The three double wander-plug holders at the back of the cabinet.

To make a professional job of the cabinet Formica panels can be cut to cover the whole of the cabinet, excepting the base. Most "do-it-yourself" shops have a selection of cheap offcuts, and the author found in this way an offcut which had the appearance of expensively polished walnut. This costs only 1s.

Fit the Formica panels to the plywood case, seeing that the Formica sides are a little over \$\frac{1}{2}\$ in above the ply sides, so that these meet the Formica panel on the sliding lid. All edges of Formica should be bevelled (Fig. 5), so that they fit snugly together. Take care not to stick the lid in when fixing these. Also see that a length of Formica is fitted over the quadrant to be at top of front panel.

fitted over the quadrant to be at top of front panel.

The frame round the front panel may be painted black or surrounded with Formica. The

COMPONENT LIST

L1, L2 Divider network coils, 3Ω

(Denco) C1-C4 32μF, 450V

SI Toggle switch

Sockets A-C Double type mounted on small

paxolin strip

VRI 25Ω potentiometer

latter may be a little tricky however as allowance has to be made for the sliding lid. Fig. 6 shows the back of the cabinet and the three double wanderplug holders, which can be obtained on a small strip of Paxolin.

Components should be arranged in the cabinet after the potentiometer and toggle switch have been mounted on the front panel, and the front panel secured. As it is advisable to mount the coils at right angles, a small strip of ply will hold one coil in place leaving space for sliders to pass, whilst the other may be mounted straight on the reverse side of the front panel.

As the input and output sockets are mounted on the back which comes out with the lid, the wires going to these should be left a little (not too much)

long to allow for this.

The Euphon in use

A certain amount of care is necessary in the choice of loudspeakers. The h.f. loudspeaker should be small $(2\frac{1}{2}$ in.—6in.) and the l.f. one larger (8in.—12in.), both being matched at 3Ω . The author uses a 3in, and a 7in, with excellent results.

(8in.—12in.), both being matched at 3\Omega. The author uses a 3in. and a 7in. with excellent results. However, the most important point to stress is that it is absolutely essential to have a good bass cabinet. If the l.f. loudspeaker does not have this, results will most certainly be disappointing. Only a small cabinet is necessary for the tweeter, which may, of course, be fixed in a cabinet to match the woofer.

Set up the loudspeakers as for stereo, and sit between them adjusting balance. This system is mainly for music and has no application on speech only. Loudspeakers should be 6ft to 12ft apart, and connections should be reversed on one loudspeaker until, by judgment, the best arrangement is found.

It should be noted that when used to simply improve the reponse of an old radio, it might have very little effect. It will only reproduce the frequency ranges supplied to it, and if the receiver cuts off below 10kc/s, or before it reaches the higher notes, nothing will be gained by the use of this unit.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 461 OF THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE

PROBABLY the most useful piece of auxiliary equipment to be found in any normal oscilloscope is the timebase or sweep generator. This makes it possible to analyse a waveform on a linear time scale. The timebase details which follow enable the basic oscilloscope described last month to be extended to Instrument Type 2.

The Generator

The generator described here (see Fig. 10) consists of one valve (V5) connected as a "standard" Miller-integrator with transitron maintaining oscillator. As its output is not great enough to drive the spot the full width of the screen without assistance, an amplifier (V6) is used.

The amplifier is well above its job so that, at

The amplifier is well above its job so that, at high gain, it provides sufficient output for "expanded timebase" working; this makes it possible to enlarge a small part of the trace, chosen by the shift control, for closer examination. The load resistor of V5 takes the form of a potentiometer VR6 that serves as a "Sweep Amplitude" control.

Synchronisation

In practice it is impossible to freeze a waveform on the screen using a free-running timebase; it will always tend to slip one way or the other. To prevent this, part of the waveform can be taken, amplified and applied to the transitron oscillator, causing the timebase scan to lock on to the observed waveform. This is the function of V4, the sync amplifier.

In some circumstances it is desirable to lock the timebase on some other frequency (in frequency-comparison tests, for example), so the "sync" input comes from a panel socket. To save using a switch here, the internal synchronising supply

from the "Y" input is brought to this socket by a wander plug that can be transferred to a dummy socket when an external synchronising waveform is being used.

To avoid distorting the observed waveform, the minimum possible synchronising input must be used, so V4 is also equipped with a gain control, "Sweep sync" (VR5).

Timebase Frequency

· With this circuit, the sweep frequency can be varied from about 10c/s to about 30kc/s in six bands. Switching between bands is carried out with the aid of the "Y Selector" S3. In addition to selecting the band-setting capacitors for the

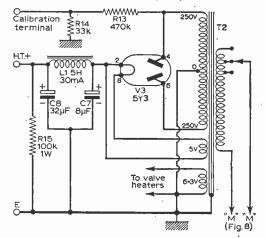


Fig. 9: The h.t. power supply for the timebase valves.

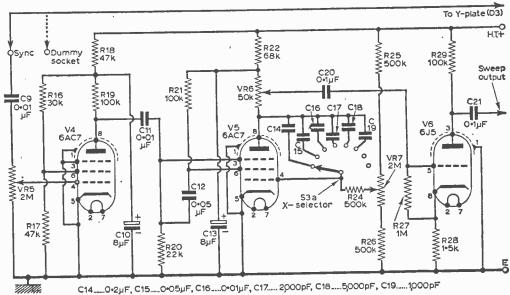
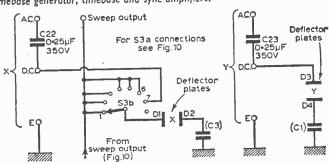


Fig. 10: Timebase generator, timebase and sync amplifiers.

sweep generator, S3 also decides whether the X plates will be fed from the timebase or from some external source via the "X" terminals on the panel.

For this reason, the switch has two wafers, the wiring to the second of these being given in Fig. 11. (If it is intended to build amplifiers into the oscilloscope. S3 will need three wafers; the wiring to the third is shown in Fig. 13.



\$3 positions......1 to 6 = timebase, 7=plates

Fig. 11: Selector switching (without amplifier).

Fine control of the sweep frequency is made possible by potentiometer VR7. Most people will find it easier to set up a waveform with this control if the slider moves positive as the control knob is turned clockwise.

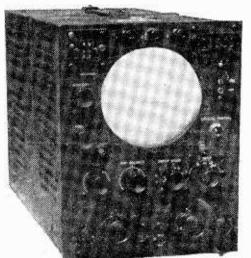
Power Supplies

A power pack is necessary to supply the timebase valves and a suitable circuit is suggested in Fig. 9. This power unit includes a circuit for providing a 50V peak-to-peak output for the calibration terminal.

Deflector Polarity

In the timebase generator, the working part of the sawtooth waveform is negative-going with

Left-The author's finished model.



COMPONENTS LIST **FOR INSTRUMENT TYPE 2** (timebase version Figs. 9, 10 and 11) Resistors:

R	13	470kΩ		R22	68kΩ
R	14	$33k\Omega$		R23	
R	15	100kΩ	W	R24	500k Ω
R	16	$30k\Omega$		R25	500k Ω
R	17	$47k\Omega$		R26	500kΩ
R	18	47k Ω		R27	$IM\Omega$
R	19	$100k\Omega$		R28	1 ·5kΩ
R	20	$22k\Omega$		R29	$100k\Omega$
- R	21	100kΩ			

All 10%, ½W carbon except where otherwise stated.

Variable Resistors:

VR5 $2M\Omega$ carbon potentiometer VR6 $50k\Omega$ carbon potentiometer VR7 $2M\Omega$ carbon potentiometer

Capacitors:

8μF electrolytic 350V **C**7 **C8** 32μF electrolytic 350V C9 0·01μF paper

C10 8 μF electrolytic 350V

CH 0.01μF paper C12 0.05μF paper

C13 8μF electrolytic 350V CI4

0·2μF paper 0.05μF paper 0.01μF paper Č15

C16 C17 2,000pF ceramic or mica

5,000pF ceramic or mica

CI8 1,000pF ceramic or mica

C20 $0 \cdot I \mu F$ paper $0 \cdot I \mu F$ paper

C21 0.25μF paper 350V

C22 C23 0.25µF paper 350V

Transformer:

T2 Mains (h.t.) transformer. Tapped primary. Secondaries: 250-0-250V 30mA; 5V 2A; 6-3V 3A

Inductor:

1.1 Smoothing choke 5H, 30mA

Switches:

2-pole 7-way wafer type rotary or 3-pole 8-way if Instruments Type 3 or 4 are to be built

Valves:

V3 5Y3 V5 6AC7 V4 6AC7 V6 6J5

respect to time. The waveform is then inverted by the amplifier before being fed to the plates.

In order to provide a timebase crossing the screen from left to right, a positive signal at the "X" terminal should deflect the spot to the right, i.e. precisely as described for the simple oscilloscope.

Sweep Generator Output

As will be seen from Fig. 11, the output of the timebase amplifier goes to a panel terminal. If a wobbulator is to be used with the oscilloscope, the sweep-frequency drive will be obtained from this terminal and not from "X a.c." which leads nowhere when the timebase is working.

INSTRUMENT TYPE 3

By adding a.c. amplifiers and associated switching, the development of the progressive oscilloscope can be taken a stage further. The details which follow, discuss the progression from Instrument type 2 to Instrument type 3.

Amplifiers

"A1" and "A2" are wideband a.c. amplifiers, identical to each other, each consisting of a triode voltage amplifier and a cathode follower. The circuit is given in Fig. 12. As double triodes are used in the circuit, two valves only are necessary.

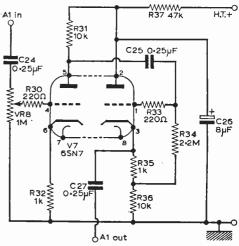


Fig. 12: The circuit of the AI amplifier—the A2 amplifier is identical.

COMPONENTS LIST FOR INSTRUMENT TYPE 3 (a.c. amplifier version Figs. 12 and 13)

Resistors: R30 220Ω R35 $lk\Omega$ R31 10kΩ IW R 36 10kΩ IW R32 $lk\Omega$ R37 47kΩ IW R33 220Ω 470kΩ I% R38 2MΩ 1% R34 2·2MΩ R39

 $\mathsf{IM}\Omega$ potentiometer VR8

All $\frac{1}{2}$ W, 10% except where stated. Capacitors:

C24 0.25µF C27 0-25µF C25 0.25µF C28 20pF C26 8μF electrolytic All 350V d.c.

TCI 3-30pF trimmer Valve:

V7 6SN7 Switches:

3-pole 8-way wafer type rotary S3

S4 3-pole 4-way if Instrument type 3 only is to be built. 4-pole 5-way if Instrument Type 4 is to be built

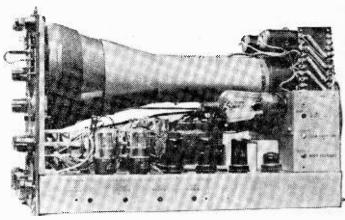
The only controls are the two

gain potentiometers.

The amplifiers should not be used at low levels of gain if highfrequency components are present in the signal, as the valve input capacitance will act with the potentiometer as a frequencyselective filter, distorting the waveform before it appears on the screen.

Switching Scheme

Fig. 13 shows the switching scheme for use with these amplifiers. Both the switches are of the rotary (wafer) type.



From For S3a positions output See Fig 10 (Fig 10) D1 DeflectorX 8 plates S3b S3c PA.C. A2 amplifier Out (C3) Terminals S3 positions 1-6=Timebases 7=Plates 8=A2

The oscilloscope in an advanced stage of construction.

Fig. 13: Selector switching (with amplifiers): a (left); "X" (sweep) selector: b (below); "Y" selector.

The first pole of the X-selector switch "S3" is used in the timebase generator to select the band-setting capacitors. The first six positions are concerned with the timebase and the connects the input seventh terminal directly to the deflector plate; only in the eighth position does the "A2" amplifier come into play on the X plates.

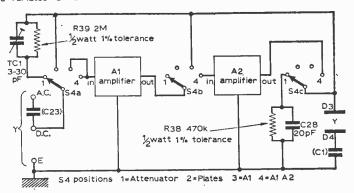
The input signal should be fed to the "X a.c." or "X d.c." terminals regardless of whether the selector switch is at "Plates" or "A2"; this saves a lot of

trouble in swopping-about wires.

The "Y Selector" switch "S4" offers a choice of four ways in which a signal can reach the plates from the Y terminals: attenuated, direct, amplified by one amplifier or amplified by both amplifiers in cascade.

The Attenuator

For good high-frequency performance, the trimmer capacitor shunting the upper arm of the attenuator should be set to balance out stray circuit capacitances. A square wave applied to the Y terminals will soon show up any faults in the frequency characteristic of this circuit.



If it is proposed later to build the trace-splitter circuit, this can be used for the purpose.

Rotary Switches

The information given in Table 3 (Sept. issue) requires amending as follows: Instruments 3 and 4: S3 should be 3-pole 8-way. Instrument 4: S4 should be 4-pole 5-way.

SERIES TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH



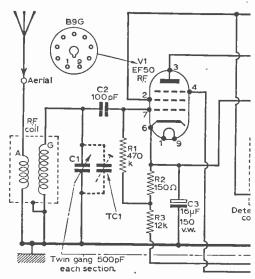


Fig. 1: Two-valve t.r.f.

HILE a v.h.f. tuner in most areas will provide the finest local radio input for high fidelity equipment, the quality of some medium-wave broadcasts justifies the addition of a small a.m. unit. Leaving local transmissions to the existing tuner, the new unit can be designed for a balance between sensitivity and fidelity to make the best of those Continental stations that reach the aerial relatively unblemished.

Superhet selectivity is undesirable because of bandwidth considerations; on the other hand the usual fidelity t.r.f. designs are too insensitive for any distant signals. The unit to be described, however, has a high sensitivity for a two-valve circuit and brings in the worthwhile transmissions with satisfactory quality.

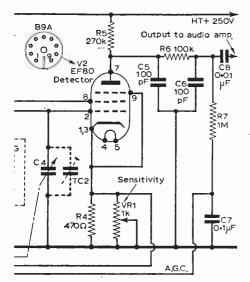
The Circuit

The circuit, Fig. 1, is based on principles developed by BBC engineers to enable automatic gain control to be applied to high-slope pentodes capable of much greater gain than the variable-mu types generally used for a.g.c. The advantage of this high gain is that the use of a second r.f. stage—a notoriously unstable arrangement—is avoided.

A.G.C. by grid injection is not practicable with high-slope pentodes but it is possible to control the mutual conductance—and hence the gain—by applying sufficient negative bias to the suppressor. This inhibits the arrival of electrons at the anode and compels many (all at full cut-off) to alight upon the screen, where they are unable to influence the external circuit. As a rather high

control potential is required, some d.c. amplification is necessary and this, fortunately, can be provided by the detector.

At this stage, as audio quality is one of the



vith amplified a.g.c.

objects, the question of detector distortion must be put into correct perspective. So far as background silence and audio bandwidth are concerned v.h.f. is supreme, but the harmonic distortion of the usual discriminator, at about 3%, is rather higher than that of some a.m. detectors. (I know of only one somewhat rare, though simple, f.m. discriminator that can maintain a truly distortionless performance.)

The figure is horrifying but complaints are few even among high fidelity enthusiasts and we can bear this in mind when balancing the interests of sensitivity and quality.

The distortionless a.m. detectors have less than unity gain and require some r.f. amplification even for local station reception. Additional r.f. amplification to improve the sensitivity is almost certain to bring distortion and instability to cancel all the advantages of such a detector. Better results are likely with a detector that can itself contribute enough gain to work well with the stable single r.f. stage.

Although an anode-bend detector may distort on occasional heavy modulation, its performance on average signal is good. With a high-slope pentode a gain of over 100 is possible and the stage is particularly suitable as a source of amplified a.g.c. potential. To avoid loss of d.c. gain through negative feedback in the cathode resistor R4 it must be kept small (a bypass capacitor would not prevent this feedback from reducing the gain of the d.c. component of the signal).

Nevertheless the resistor must still yield the correct bias and this is achieved by making it carry additional current to increase the voltage drop, the current being that of VI, which has the earthy end of its cathode network common with that of V2.

For a similar reason the screen of V2 derives a stable potential from the cathode of V1, which is raised rather high above earth to suit the a.g.c. conditions. The d.c. control potential from the anode of V2 is filtered by the network C5, R6, C6

to eliminate the r.f. content and passed via the a.f. filter C7, R7 to the suppressor of the r.f. valve.

It is, of course, a positive potential varying with the signal strength but must be negative with respect to the cathode of V1. It is for this reason that the $12k\Omega$ resistor R3 is included to raise the cathode. The normal potential difference for grid bias is picked off by returning the grid resistor R1 to the junction of R2, R3. The grid capacitor C2 is essential to block the d.c. path to earth through the tuning coil.

Choice of Valves

Choice of r.f. valve is governed by its suppressor grid base, for this must be short enough to lie within the range of available control voltage. My admittedly brief experiments seemed to indicate that the EF50 recommended by the originators of this a.g.c. system is more suitable than some newer types, but there is scope for the interested amateur to take the investigation further. As the veteran EF50 is readily obtainable as a surplus item at less than half a crown it is included in the present unit.

Although this valve seems large by today's standards, and other components used were by no means the smallest made, the tuner was built on a "bread board" measuring 6in. x 3\frac{1}{2}\text{in.} without crowding. The detector is an EF80 but type EF50 can be used for this stage, too.

Ordinary aerial and r.f. coils are suitable for a circuit such as this, in which knife-edge selectivity is undesirable, and it is not necessary to limit the constructor to one specific make. They should be canned because of the high gain of the circuit. The base connections of coils may not be the same as indicated in the point-to-point wiring diagram (Fig. 2) but this will necessitate only slight variation of the wiring layout.

The potentiometer in the detector cathode circuit is included to enable the a.g.c. operating conditions to be adjusted. Once set it can be forgotten, but experimenters who wish to exploit the full gain of the unit could mount this component on the front for use as a sensitivity control.

It is usual to power a small unit-such as this from an outlet in the main amplifier, and therefore no supply arrangements are included here. It is unlikely that the tuner will be granted the efficient aerial so often recommended for a good signal-to-noise ratio and it must be admitted that a really large one would bring selectivity troubles with the simple tuned circuits employed. In the Midlands the customary bit of wire—about 2yd dangling behind the tuner—brings in several Continental transmissions at good strength and quality.

Conventional chassis construction could be adopted but a "bread board" layout can be made compact, reliable and requires no metalwork.



Using available components rather than the smallest possible, the prototype was assembled on a piece of unmetallised laminated plastic 6in. x

34in. x 16in. thick.

The wiring was arranged as shown in the pointto-point diagram, Fig. 2. The potentiometer VR1 is under the panel and occupies more depth than is generally needed for bread board wiring, but this depth permits C3, C7 and C8 to be housed below to avoid increasing panel area.

The two-gang capacitor, canned coils, standard valveholders, aerial socket and audio output socket are all mounted on top and solder tags are fitted under their fixing screws to enable earth continuity wires to link them. Small trimmers should be fitted if there are none already present in the tuning capacitor.

Wiring-up

Begin wiring by soldering bare wire from tag to tag on the top side to form the earth links, remembering to include the frame of the tuning gang and the coil cans, which are not earthed automatically as in the case of metal chassis construction. Drill small holes at convenient points to enable short earth connections to be passed through to the underside and soldered to the appropriate tags on the valveholders, coils and potentiometer as shown in the diagram.

Next connect the heater wiring, which has been omitted from the diagram for clarity. As this will be taken from the main amplifier it will probably be a centre-tapped supply requiring an insulated twisted pair. For an unbalanced supply (one side earthed) run a single insulated wire to one heater tag on each valveholder and earth the other tag. No socket is fitted for power supply connections; instead the heater, h.t. and earth wires are led out as flexible leads ending at a plug to suit the outlet on the main amplifier.

Most of the circuit wiring is in 20 s.w.g. bare tinned copper wire "stitched" to the panel by passing it through small holes. Anchorage, where needed, is provided by passing wire twice through close pairs of holes and bonding solid by soldering.

At first glance the diagram may seem to show breaks in the coil-to-grid connections, but use is made of the tags provided on both sides of the fixed vanes in most tuning gangs so that the path to the grids is continuous across the vanes. Insulated wire is shown at points where the diagram might suggest contact in unwanted places but in practice these could be air-spaced and bare wire used.

The prototype has an epicyclic tuning drive, this being simple and reliable and free from the troubles so likely to occur with cord and pulley arrangements. As the interest is in only those transmissions that are received well it was decided that a ready-made dial printed with all stations from here to Tokyo would be of little benefit. The home-made one used instead has a limited number of stations marked to indicate three standards of reception quality.

Although it was intended to add the station

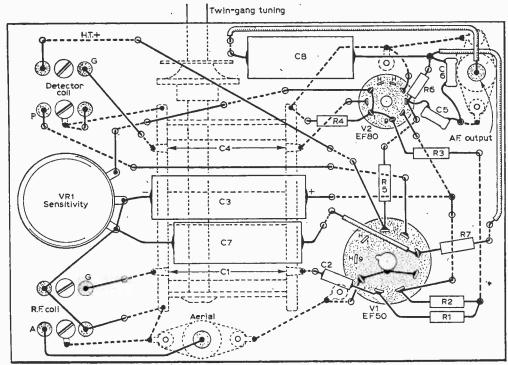


Fig. 2: Underside view of the "bread-board" wiring.

COMPONENT LIST

Capacitors:

C1, C4 2-gang 500 pF

C2, C5, C6 100pF C3 16µF e

16μF electrolytic 150V

C7 0·1μF Valves:

VI EF50

V2 EF80

names the users so quickly memorised the transmissions associated with the simple dash marks that even that refinement has been omitted! The usual dial lighting arrangements can be included if required.

Alignment of the tuned circuits follows the usual procedure for a t.r.f. tuner and can be done "by ear". The split-vane type of gang permits a useful correction for tracking error that might be evident at the ends of the band, but if overdone there is a risk of contact between fixed and moving vanes. In the conditions that have to be accepted

as normal for the medium-wave band nowadays, only a few of the receivable transmissions are acceptable as entertainment for the music lover.

When these have been logged the split vanes can be used to favour them. The potentiometer has "dead" and "live" positions at each end of the track. Set it at the live end and then adjust it until a weak signal just begins to fall in strength. A.G.C. will then be operative.

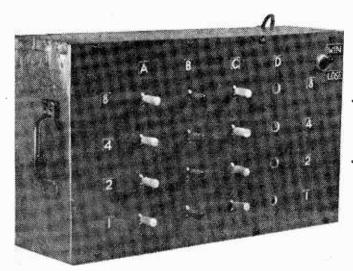
If you are more interested in quality than in logging the maximum number of stations it is worthwhile to reduce the sensitivity still further with this control to the point where the best signals are still comfortably received. This avoids overloading the detector and also keeps the unit free of the slight positive feedback that can degrade quality at the highest sensitivity levels

even though still clear of oscillation.

The quality obtainable is about the best that is likely from distant medium-wave stations but the unit cannot restore audio frequencies missing from the transmission nor adjust for the overmodulation that is evident in some broadcasts. Whistles can sometimes be handled by the filters and tone-control circuits of the high-fidelity equipment. However, it is generally possible to log a number of stations that can provide an agreeable standard of entertainment.



An unbeatable machine based on the game of Nim



AN ELECTRIC N I M MACHINE

By J. R. Stewart

IM is a game for two players. Starting with a number of matches, counters or other objects arranged in piles or rows, each player alternately draws as many matches as he chooses from one row only. Two variations of the game are possible; in one, the player who picks the last match wins the game, in the other, he loses. There is no limit to the number of counters in any one row, nor to the number of rows with which to begin the game, although recent TV programmes have made popular the game of "last match loser" with four piles containing 7, 5, 3 and 1 matches.

The Theory of Nim

The theory of this game has been completely worked out, and an elementary knowledge of it helps to understand the construction of the machine. To begin with, the operation of "last match wins" variation will be explained.

Briefly, any number can be written as the sum of some of the powers of 2, together with the number 1, i.e. using the numbers in the sequence 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, etc. For example, 9 = 8 + 1; 30 = 16 + 8 + 4 + 2. In representing any number by such a sum, none of the sequence numbers occurs more than once. This can be checked by noting that the sum of all the sequence numbers up to any point is always 1 less than the next number in the sequence; for example, 1 + 2 + 4 = 7, and the next sequence number is 8.

Calling the individuals Player and Opponent, it can be shown that in playing Nim, if the Player produces what we call a safe combination, the Opponent's move always upsets this arrangement, allowing the player to reset a safe combination when he draws in his turn. By safe combination we mean a set of numbers (the numbers of counters in each row) which will lead to a win for the Player. The secret of the game lies in

knowing the safe combinations, and how to produce them. For "last match wins" variation, the safe combinations are found as follows:

 Represent the number of counters in each row as the sum of the sequence numbers given above;

(2) Count the number of 1s, 2s, 4s, 8s, etc. which appear in the arrangement;

(3) A safe combination is one in which the numbers of each of the 1s, 2s, etc. is EVEN and the Player who sets up such a combination will win.

Take the familiar example of 7, 5, 3 and 1.

$$7 = 4 + 2 + 1$$

 $5 = 4$ + 1
 $3 = 2 + 1$

Reading vertically we see that the numbers o 1s, 2s, etc. are all even, hence this is a safecombination for the Player who set it up. When the Opponent draws, because he draws from on pile only, he must make some of the numbers of 1s 2s, etc. odd, since he can remove only one 1, 2 or 4. This makes the combination unsafe, and th Player has then only to even things up again to keep a winning line. Suppose the Opponen removes all the 7 counters from the first row. This then leaves

$$5 = 4$$
 + 1 $2 + 1$ 1

All the 1s, 2s and 4s are now odd. To even th arrangement, the 4 must go, so that the Playe must draw from the 5 row. The other rows ar even in 1s and odd in 2s. Thus if he leaves onl 2 counters in the 5 row, the combination will b safe, i.e.

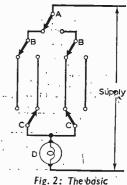
When the machine plays, the procedure is that it is "told" the numbers of counters in all but one of the rows. These numbers are given to it in the form of the sequence numbers 1, 2, 4, 8, etc. It then counts the numbers of 1s, 2s, etc. or rather it selects the cases in which these numbers are odd. This selection is then the number of counters which the machine decides to leave in the last row. Again, an example will make things simpler. Suppose three rows contain 9, 7 and 4 counters.

$$9 = 8$$
 $+ 1$ $7 = 4 + 2 + 1$ $4 = 4$

This is odd in 8s and 2s, so that the machine will elect to have 8 + 2 = 10 in the fourth row. making its own safe combination. If the opponent draws 5 from the 10 row, this leaves-

If the machine is again told the first three numbers, it will again select 10 for the last row, which is now impossible, since 10 cannot be left that the machine . refuses to play.

Thus when playing with 7, 5, 3 and 1, which we have seen is a safe combination, if we tell the machine 7, 5 and 3, it will reply 1; if we tell it 5, 3 and 1, it will reply 7 and so on. To .. sum up, the machine is unbeatable if it is allowed at the start of the game to select the number in one row, having been told the numbers in the



switching circuit.

If the opponent sets out the numbers in all the rows at the start, the machine will beat him if he sets an unsafe combination. If he sets a safe combination, the machine will refuse to draw from any pile; this could be called a drawn game.

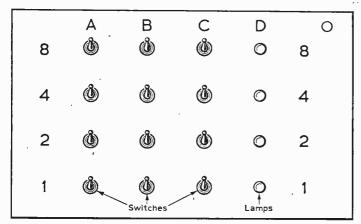


Fig. 1: The layout of the front panel.

if there are only 5 in the row. Looking at the last three, the combination is odd in 4s and 2s. Thus if the machine is told the numbers 7, 4 and 5, it will select 4 + 2 = 6 for the other row, i.e. it draws 3 from the 9 row, again making its own safe combination. The machine does not always draw from the row having the largest number of counters; if the rows contain 9, 8, 7 and 4 it will reduce this to 9, 8, 5 and 4.

With a four-row machine, there are four possible ways of selecting any three rows, i.e. there are four possible sets of numbers which can be told to the machine. One of these will always give a workable answer-workable in the sense that the number selected by the machine will be less than the number already in the remaining row. This applies provided that the combination is unsafe. If the combination is already safe, no matter what selection of three from four is made, the machine will always reply with the number already in the remaining row; in this sense we can say

Construction

Using four rows the machine requires to be told the numbers in three rows. This is done by throwing various switches. The reply which the machine makes is read off on small lamp bulbs. The 1s, 2s, etc. of the sequence numbers are com-pletely independent, and depending on the number of switches one uses, the machine can be made to cope with any given number in a row.

Calling the rows A, B, C and D, and designing for up to 15 in a row, we need (Fig. 1)
12 switches, and four lamps.
The number of counters in

rows A, B and C, are told to the machine by throwing the appropriate switches in each column; the lamps which light up in row D tell us how many counters to leave in that row Remembering that a safe combination has an even number of 1s, 2s, etc. and that the 1s, 2s, etc. are independent of each other we get the following set of rules which the switching circuit must give:

Reading horizontally along any row,
(1) None of the switches A, B or C, thrown must keep the lamp off;

(2) Any one of the switches A, B or C, thrown must bring the lamp on;

(3) Any two of the switches A, B or C, thrown must keep the lamp off;

(4) All three switches A, B and C, thrown must bring the lamp on.

In this way we always have an even number of (lamp + switches) in the ON position.

A switching circuit which will perform these operations is shown in Fig. 2. As drawn, all the switches are in the OFF position, and the arrowed

contact moves across to the "free" contact when the switch is thrown. Each switch and lamp has been marked to correspond with the row in which it is situated. If the connections are traced out, it will be seen that conditions 2 and 4 bring the lamp on, while conditions 1 and 3 provide no conducting path for the supply. From Fig. 2, the switches in row A require a single change-over contact; those in B and C a double change-over contact.

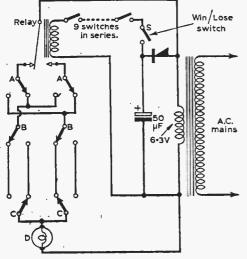


Fig. 3: The circuit of the bottom row of switches and power supply.

Toggle switches having a double change-over can be purchased; because the writer required a machine which would play both varations, and as "last match loses" needs an extra contact on nearly every switch, Post Office type key switches were used in the unit to be described. These have the added advantage that the handle, being longer than the toggle dolly, is more easily read to determine a given number.

Once again it should be emphasised that there are no connections between the horizontal rows of switches except that of a common supply line. A 3V dry battery can be used, together with 2.5V bulbs. One side of all the bulbs in D will be connected together to one side of the battery, while the other battery terminal, through an ON/OFF switch if desired, goes to the movable contact point of all the A switches.

Last Match Loses

The above is the simplest version of an unbeatable Nim player, playing last match wins. For those who want to play last match loses, or both variations, the circuit becomes more complicated. In playing last match loses the theory of the game is only slightly different. The same combinations as in last match wins are safe, until the game reaches the stage of only 1 or 0 in all the piles. Then an odd number of 1s is safe, while an even number is unsafe. A little reflection will show this to be true; if there are three singles matches left, the opponent who picks the first of these must also pick the last, thus losing the game.

We therefore require a circuit which is the same as in Fig. 2 for the top three rows, i.e. 8s,

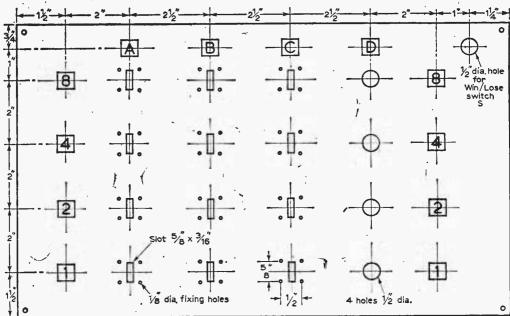


Fig. 4: Details of the front panel. The four holes for the keys are drilled in tin plate only, not in the cover.

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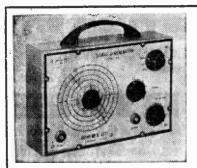
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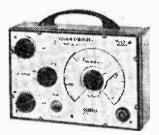
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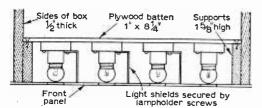


Fig. 5: Details for mounting the lamps.

4s and 2s, and which will reverse the lamp operation in the bottom row of 1s if, and only if, all the switches in the 8s, 4s and 2s, are in the OFF position. Fig. 3 shows the circuit for the bottom row of switches, and the power supply. A changeover contact on a relay is used to reverse the operation of the bottom row, the relay being controlled by the position of the keys in the 8s,

is and 2s. When the relay is off, is drawn. Fig. 3 gives the same conditions as Fig. 2. When the elay closes, the right-hand conact of switch A comes into operation, and we then get

- (1) None of A, B or C, hrown, lamp lights;
- (2) Any one of A. B or C. hrown, lamp off;
- (3) Any two of A, B or C, hrown, lamp lights;
- All three of A, B and C, hrown, lamp off.

These are the safe combinations last match loses educed to only one match in a ow.

The relay is controlled by switch and by nine contacts in series, me on each of the 8s, 4s and 2s witches. These contacts are losed when the switches are off; when any one of these switches is thrown, the relay is kept off. Switch S is brought out to the front panel; if it is open the relay remains off and the machine plays last match wins, if closed the machine will play last match

Convenience and price dictated the design of the power supply; batteries were discarded because of the trouble of replacement, and also because a rather higher voltage is usually needed for a relay than for the lamp bulbs, A search through the catalogues brought up a 6V operating relay with a change-over contact, and it was then decided to use a valve filament transformer together with 6V dynamo bulbs, each taking 0.3A. If it is felt that these may be overrun on 6.3V, and there is a tendency sometimes to be over-generous with filament voltages, particularly as the transformer is not working at full load—a 6.3V, 2A rating transformer is used—a length of

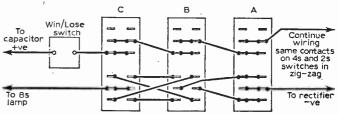


Fig. 7: The wiring of keys in 8s, 4s and 2s rows. The upper half of each key carries the relay control switch; the lower half controls the lamp in the D pile.

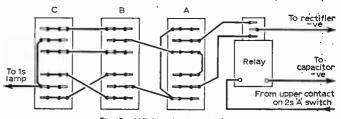


Fig. 8: Wiring the keys in Is row.

Lamps resistance wire can be incorporated in each lamp relay lead. The direct supply to the relay is obtained from a battery charger type half-wave rectifier, coil 50µF rating 6V, 1A charging a 50µF, 12V electrolytic. To win/Lose switch To 8s This gives an off load voltage of 8V, dropping to key C just under 6V when the relay comes in. No mains under switch has been used, the unit being on when it has been plugged in. This is permissible since it is unlikely that it will be left plugged in when not capacitor O To 4s key C in use. Rectifier Housing the Instrument 0 To keys A and relay contact

To 2s key C

To 1s key C

0

g. 6: Mounting and wiring of power supply and lamps.

16:3V

0

Transformer

The writer already had a wooden box with hinged lid, measuring 15½in. x 9½in. x 4in. deep.

and this was used to house the unit. Any other similar size will serve, the only critical dimension being the 4in. depth, as the keyswitches require this amount. Lid and base were removed, and a front panel 154in. x 9in. of tin plate was cut and

drilled as shown.

Two small wooden supports, 1in. x 15in. x 1in. were glued one on each side of the box opposite

-continued on page 537

THE HOME PRODUCTION OF

Printed Circuit Boards

DESCRIBED BY H. W. RUTT

PRODUCING printed circuit boards in a home workshop is not as difficult as it may sound. This type of circuitry is very convenient for miniature units, and it practically eliminates wiring

errors.

The first step, naturally enough, is to design the layout of the conductors on the circuit board. Until some practice is gained in designing these boards it will be found rather difficult. The only tips one can give are not to have the conductors spaced by less than him, and not to have the conductors narrower than him. It should also be remembered that the circuit will have to be painted out by hand, and so should not be impossibly complicated.

Drawing the Circuit

When the design has been finalized it should be drawn out on a piece of tough paper of the correct size. The copper-clad laminated plastic board is then cut to size, using a fine-bladed hacksaw, and cutting with the copper layer uppermost. When the board has been cut, its edges should be smoothed down with a fine-toothed file to remove the rough edge of the foil. The design is now transferred to the coppered side of the board by means of carbon paper.

The areas where the copper must remain are now painted with a black, cellulose paint, of the type sold by garages, and this is allowed plenty of time to dry. It is wise to check the painted areas for tiny holes in the paint caused by air bubbles, and to check the layout of the conductors against

the design.

Etching Process

The next step in producing the board is to etch away the exposed copper. The etching bath consists of a solution of ferric chloride with 1% by volume of dilute hydrochloric acid added. A 10% solution of ferric chloride may sometimes be

obtained from the chemist without waiting. How ever this 10% solution gives a rather slow etch and if one is prepared to wait a few days the chemist will usually be able to obtain, or make up the correct etching solution, which is a 30% solution of ferric chloride in water, with 1% of dilute hydrochloric acid (i.e. 30 gr of ferric chlorid made up to 100cc with distilled water and 1cc of dilute hydrochloric acid). This solution will no burn skin (though it should be quickly washed off however, it stains terribly, and old clothes should be worn when using it.

The board, with the design painted on it, i placed in a shallow tray of the type used by photo graphers, and just covered with the etching solution, which may be warmed to about 40°C; it mus not, however, be hot. The tray is now gentl rocked until all the exposed copper has dissolved When this has happened the board should be we

washed, and then allowed to dry.

When the board is dry the paint used to protect the conductors has to be removed. The best substance for this job is trichloroethylene, which made ordered from the chemist. It costs about 6s. fo a ½ litre jar. If one does use this substance, car should be taken not to inhale much of its vapour as it has harmful effects. It is possible that othe substances such as turps or petrol could be used to soften the paint, but if something like this is tried it should be checked (on an old piece of board that it does not damage the bakelite backing, cause the copper to peel off.

Whatever substance is used, the board should be allowed to soak in it until the protective paint is soft, and then it should be gently brushed off.

Drilling the Board

The final operation in preparing the board is t drill it. Each point where a hole is needed marked, but not centre punched; centre punchin can easily cause the backing to crack. A No. 5: slow spiral drill is used to make the holes for wirt which have to be soldered to the copper. The board must be drilled from the coppered side, to prevent the copper peeling off the board, and slow spiral drill is essential for this operation.

slow spiral drill is essential for this operation. The board itself is now finished, but severipoints should be observed when wiring it. Firstly all connections to the board should be mac quickly, or the heat may cause the copper couductor to peel off the bakelite backing. Secondly one should be very careful to solder in mult contact parts (such as IFT's) the right way round the first time—they can be very difficult indeed the remove if you do not get it correct. Thirdly a resistors, capacitors, etc., should be right unagainst the bakelite backing, for if they are many pressure on the component will tend to pethe copper off the board. When the board is conspletely wired up and tested the soldered side of the board may be varnished to protect it from consoin, but this tends to make servicing rather modifficult.

Any constructors wishing to make their ow printed circuit boards should have little difficult obtaining the chemicals or the copper-cla laminate board, and it is hoped that this article wi help to bring printed circuits out of the "oh, that much too difficult" class of construction.

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Bands, unwanted noise and mush is cut out.
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Variable Transformer

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HEN it is required to apply a fraction of the mains voltage to a given load, it is possible to use a resistive potential divider, but often the resistors will be bulky, and there may be problems of heat dissipation. If the supply is a.c., a variable voltage mains transformer is frequently more convenient; also, in addition to providing a ratio less than unity, the transformer can step up the voltage, which is beyond the scope of the resistive potential divider.

Commercial Equipment

Variable mains transformers are commercially available, and are known by various trade

names. They work on the principle of an autotransformer: a manual control determines the position of a tapping on a toroidal winding. It enables adjustments to be made in such small increments that the transformers are described as being infinitely variable. They can also be described as rather expensive.

The device discussed in this article uses a comparatively cheap battery-charging t former; and it is not infinitely variable. transincrements of voltage are however small enough for most purposes. A suitable transformer is the Douglas MT3. It has a 30V secondary, tapped at

12, 15, 20 and 24V. A fraction of the secondary voltage is added to, or subtracted from, the mains voltage. This gives a range of 60V. However the primary has tappings for 240, 220 and 200V. These enable us to use auto-transformer action and to obtain a wider range. When the tappings on the primary and on the secondary are fully used, the output can be varied from 155 to 308V, with the mains voltage at 225V.

The wiring is such that, if necessary, the secondary can be quickly disconnected from the primary; it is then available for supplying voltages less than 30V. A voltmeter is incorporated in the instrument, with a switch which provides a reading of the incoming mains, the outgoing mains, or the

low voltage secondary.

In Fig. 1, P1 and P2 represent voltage-adjusting panels of the type frequently associated with mains transformers. S1 and S2 are single-pole, 3-way switches. They are not ganged.

Principle of Operation

Let us first assume that the incoming mains voltage is 220V, and that the studs in the voltage-adjusting panels, P1 and P2, are both set to 220V. If switches S1 and S2 are both set to position A, the outgoing mains voltage is the same as the incoming. For simplicity, only one tapping is shown on the secondary. If S1 is set to A and S2 to B, the voltage AB may be added to the primary voltage. Then, if S1 is set to B, and S2 to A, the voltage AB is subtracted from the incoming mains

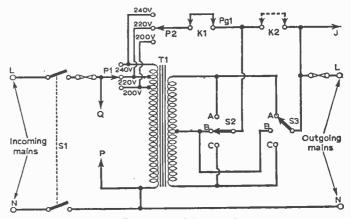


Fig. 11 The circuit of the transformer.

voltage. Thus, adjusting the secondary switches SI and S2 gives a range from 220+30V to 220-30V, i.e. from 250 to 190V.

Suppose we want a voltage higher than 250V. We shall continue to assume that the incoming mains voltage remains at 220V.

We screw the stud in P1 in the 200V position and that in P2 in the 240V position. The full secondary voltage is now more than 30V, and it can be added, by suitable operation of S1 and S2, to a voltage which is now. which is now greater than 220V, because of the auto-transformer action in the primary. It is on

this basis that the outgoing mains voltage can be stepped up to a value of the order of 300V.

If we want a voltage which is less than 190V, we screw the studs in P1 in the 240V position, and that in P2 in the 200V position. S1 and S2 are adjusted so that the secondary voltage subtracts from the primary voltage.

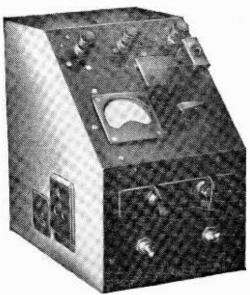
In the model made by the writer, sufficient variation was obtained for his purpose by adjusting switches S1 and S2 on the front of the instrument. The voltage-adjusting panels P1 and P2 were mounted at the back. If greater variation is frequently required, it may be more convenient to have P1 and P2 in the form of two single-pole,

3-way switches on the front.

The secondary voltage, as selected by switches S1 and S2, is taken to a 2-pin, 2A socket, K2. A 2-pin, 5A plug Pg1, with the pins connected by a short length of wire, connects the primary to the secondary. It fits into the socket K1. The 5A plug has a small paxolin panel associated with it so that when the plug is inserted in K1, the 2-pin, 2A, socket K2 is masked by the panel. It is thus impossible to insert a plug into the socket for the secondary, when the secondary is connected to the mains.

The Voltmeter

The writer used a meter scaled from 0 to 300, which had a full scale deflection of 5mA. A 5mA rectifier was used with it. The voltmeter had two ranges: 0-30V, for measuring the secondary voltage; and 0-300V for the incoming and outgoing mains voltage. The series resistors to be used with the meter depend on the full-scale deflection of the meter, and on the range. The following will show the method of calculating their values. The example relates to a 5mA meter used on the 300V range.



A view of the author's unit.

When a current with a mean value of 5mA flows through the meter giving full scale deflection, the maximum current in each half cycle is $5 \times \pi/2$ mA.

maximum current in each half cycle is $5 \times \pi/2$ mA. If the r.m.s. value of the voltage is 300V, the maximum voltage in each half cycle is $300 \times \sqrt{2}$. Thus the resistance in the circuit must be

$$\frac{300\sqrt{2}}{5/1,000\times\pi/2} = \frac{300,000}{5} \times \frac{1}{1\cdot11}$$
$$= 54,000\Omega.$$

For the 30V range the resistance of the circuit must be $5,400\Omega$. The resistance of the meter itself (and the rectifier) is negligible in comparison with these values. The voltmeter circuit is shown in

Fig. 2.

The terminals at the top of the instrument аге provided so that the 30V to the voltmeter can be used measure external voltages. Alternatively. the external voltage can be applied by inserting a plug into a socket situated between two of the terminals. (This socket is not the socket K2, which is masked by the paxolin panel.) The voltmeter range switch, S4 in Fig. 2, is next to the meter. Switches S1 and S2 have pointer-type knobs. Of the remaining two

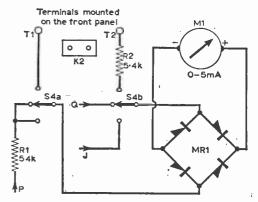


Fig. 21 The voltmeter circuit.

switches, one is the on/off switch S3; the other is not used in the final form of the instrument. The model is larger than is necessary for the facilities mentioned in this article; it includes a 12V, 2A rectifier, and a 3-pin, 2A socket, for the rectified voltage.

To measure the secondary voltage selected by switches S1 and S2, the socket K2 must be connected to two of the terminals at the top of the instrument.

Resistance and Capacitance Measurement

The provision of a link Pg1 to connect the primary to the secondary enables the instrument to be used for measuring resistance and capacitance. With the link Pg1 in position, the outgoing mains voltage is adjusted to the same value as the incoming mains voltage, V_1 . The resistor or capacitor to be tested is then connected in place of Pg1. The voltage V_2 , read when the voltmeter switch is thrown to the position for the outgoing mains, is then observed to be less than V_1 . The ratio V_1/V_2

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Wireless Servicing Manual W. T. COCKING, M.I.E.E.

WIRELESS SERVICING MANUAL has become the standard guide to repair, maintenance and adjustment of radio receivers. Brought fully up to date for this tenth edition, it includes a chapter or transistors and transistor sets. In practice transistor sets present similar problems to valve sets, and the policy has been to emphasise differences. chapters cover every aspect of radio receiver servicing, and an appendix provides much useful data The author is well known as former editor of Electronic Technology and present editor of Industria Electronics.

288 pp., $8\frac{3}{4}$ " x $5\frac{1}{2}$ ". 25s. net, by post 26s.

Published for "Wireless World"

ILIFFE BOOKS LTD

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and the value of the voltmeter resistor R1, enable the value of the resistor or capacitor under test to

If Rx is the value of the resistor which replaces Pgl it can be shown that

$$Rx = R^{1} \left(\frac{V_{1}}{V_{2}} \right) = R^{1} \left(\frac{V_{1} - V_{2}}{V_{2}} \right) \dots (1)$$

If Xc is the reactance of the capacitor which replaces Pgl, it can be shown that

$$Xc^{2}=R_{1}^{2}\left[\left(\frac{V_{1}}{V_{2}}\right)^{2}-1\right]$$
 (2)

If the frequency is 50c/s, we have

$$C = \frac{10^4}{314 \text{ R1}} \frac{V_2}{(V_1^2 - V_2^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}} \mu F \dots (3).$$

These expressions assume that when resistance is being measured, the component under test has no reactance, and when capacitance is being measured, the component has no resistance.

Alternatively, with the mains voltage at a value which is usual for a given site, various resistors of known value can be connected in place of the link Pg1. The corresponding values of V_2 are noted. A graph can be drawn relating Rx and V_2 . When an unknown resistor is connected, V2 is noted, and the corresponding value of Rx is read from the graph.

A similar graph can be constructed for capacitance.

Constant Output Voltage

The action of the variable transformer has been described in terms of deriving a variable voltage from a constant mains voltage. It may be worthwhile mentioning that it can also be used to give a constant output voltage when the input voltage varies. The equipment was orginally devised for this purpose. Soon after it was completed, the local supply company improved the stability of its mains voltage.

COMPONENTS LIST

Resistors:

RI 54k Ω

R2 5.4kΩ

Transformer:

TI Douglas MT3 with primary tapped at 240, 220 and 200V, and secondary tapped at 12, 15, 20, 24 and 30V.

Switches:

Si Double-pole, on-off

S2, S3 Single-pole, 6-way rotary

S4 Double-pole, 3-way rotary

Meter:

MI Moving coil with full scale deflection of 5mA, preferably scaled 0-300

Rectifier:

MRI Bridge type, full wave, 5mA

Sundries:

3-pin, 5A socket for outgoing mains.

Kİ 2-pin, 5A socket

K2 2-pin, 2A socket P1, P2 Voltage-adjusting panels

Pgl 2-pin, 5A plug with pins connected together

In fact, if any readers are troubled with a fluctuating mains voltage, it may be worth their while to make up a unit of this kind. When they have finished it, they are pretty sure to find that their supply has been improved. If however, the supply company reacts slowly, when the unit has been completed, and if some readers actually need to use the unit, they may like to know that operation is very simple: you switch on, turn the voltmeter switch to the position for the outgoing mains, and adjust S1 and S2 until you have the desired voltage. You then switch on the load.

Incidentally, with a secondary tapped at 12, 15, 20, 24 and 30V, the following increments are available: 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 15, 18, 24 and 30V.

These values can be obtained without using the voltage-adjusting panels. If these panels are used, fractions and multiplies of these values are available.

AN ELECTRIC NIM MACHINE

-continued from page 529

the line of lamp holes, to support a wooden plywood battens 81 in. x 1 in. on which were screwed the four M.E.S. lampholders. This brings the bulbs flush with the front panel holes. One of each of the lampholder fixing screws was used to anchor a lin. wide strip of tin plate which also extends to the front panel; this serves to shield the hole from the light of the bulbs adjacent to it. A similar batten of 1 in. thick wood, screwed to two supports 31 in. x lin. x in. supports the transformer, rectifier and condenser. The relay is screwed direct to the side of the box, counter-sinking the fixing bolts from the outside.

All wiring is done from the rear with the front panel screwed into position, the relay being mounted with its contacts forward, so that the soldered ends of these contacts are readily

accessible. The wiring diagrams assume that the keyswitches have a central OFF position and a down ON position, i.e. all the key contacts shown are above the centre line of the keys.

The keys drawn have four change-over contacts. arranged in two side-by-side banks. When off, the lower two of each trio of contacts are connected. and when switched on, the centre contact is lifted to connect with the top one. In the 1s keys, only two change-overs are needed on each switch, so that side-by-side contacts can be wired together. rather than leave one set unused. This serves as a precaution against a dirty contact on one set. On the 8s, 4s and 2s keys, another contact is needed to control the relay, and these connections have been drawn on the upper trio of contacts, again wiring the two side-by-side in parallel.

The unit was completed by cutting a cover of polished sheet (Formica was used by the writer. but paxolin will do equally well) to the same dimensions as the front panel, with lamp holes and slots only for the key handles.

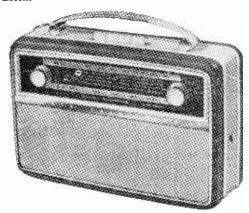


rade ews

Mains/Battery Receiver

FROM Ekco Radio and Television Ltd. comes a new transistor receiver, designed to operate either from the mains or from its own internal battery. The receiver has been named "Varsity" (model number MBT425) and it sells for 19 guineas.

The eight-transistor circuit covers medium and long waves and incorporates a transformerless output stage. The makers of the "Varsity" are Ekco Radio and Television Ltd., Southend-on-Sea, Essex.



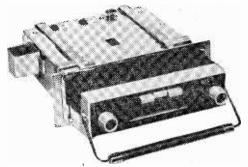
This 8-transistor portable is made by Ekco Radio and Television Ltd.

Dual-function Receiver

THE second transistor receiver made by the Ever Ready Co. (Great Britain) Ltd. to have the dual function of portable and car radio has just been announced. Called the "Sky Tourer", it has been designed to fit into a special container which is permanently installed in the vehicle and which, with the receiver inserted, automatically connects it to the car's power supply, external aerial and separate 6in. x 4in. loudspeaker.

When removed from the container the "Sky Tourer" operates as a normal transistor portable, using its own internal battery, aerial and speaker.

The set tunes over the long and medium wave bands and the six-transistor circuit provides 540mW output when used as a portable and 1W when used in the car. The price of this new receiver complete is £22 1s. and it is manufactured by the Ever Ready Co. (Great Britain) Ltd., Hercules Place, Holloway, London, N.7.



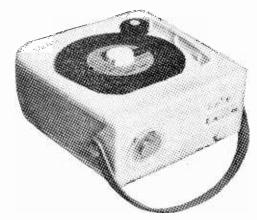
The "Sky Tourer" is a new dual-purpose receiver from Ever Ready.

Portable Radiogram

ONE of the most interesting pieces of radio merchandise to be handled recently by Denham and Morley Ltd. (U.K. distributors of imported electrical equipment) is a portable record player/transistor receiver called the "Swing-Along".

Along. The receiver section covers both medium and long waves and the record player will take 45r.p.m. records. The circuit employs six transits

tors and provides a maximum output of 750mW. The "Swing-Along" weighs only 6lb and is finished in cream and red. The agents for this German-made "radiogram" are Denham and Morley Ltd., Denmore House, 173-175 Cleveland Street, London, W1.



Denham and Morley Ltd. are the U.K. distributors for this German-made record player/receiver:



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The SKYROVER and SKYROVER DE LUXE covers the full Medium Waveband and Short Waveband 31-94 M, and also 4 separate switched bend-spread ranges, 13M, 16M, 19M and 25M, with Band Spread Tuning for accurate Station Selection. The coll pack and tuning heart is completely factory assembled, wired and tested. The remaining assembly can be completed in under three hours from our easy to follow, stage by stage instructions.
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Total £47. 8.6

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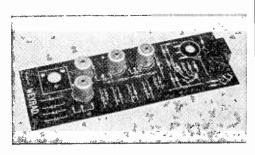
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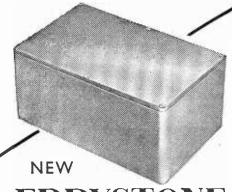


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techniques

PART 8 THE OSCILLOSCOPE CONTINUED

H. W. Hellyer

THE facility of "Trace Expansion" was mentioned in the preceding article (Part 7) of this series. While we pay a lot of attention, quite properly, to the sensitivity and bandwidth of the Y amplifier, and consider the provision of the X amplifier as a simple means of trace expansion, it is as well to remember that for several useful applications the X amplifier comes into play.

When two sinusoidal a.c. waveforms are applied to the X and Y inputs of the oscilloscope simultaneously, the pattern displayed will depend

to the X input, via a suitable attenuator for matching the two signals to be compared, and the frequency under test, say, the 300c/s output from an audio oscillator, a trace of six whole loops should be displayed when the two frequencies are Typical of this test technique is the display of Lissajous figures, and wobbulator waveforms. in step, ratio 6:1, as shown in Fig. 11(d). As can be seen from the display, when the number of loops touching an imaginary horizontal line is divided by the number of loops touching an imaginary vertical line, we have

the ratio of Y:X.



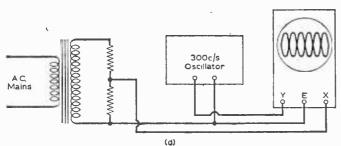


Fig. 11: Typical Lissajous figures: (a) fy = 2fx; (b) $fy = \frac{1}{2}fx$; (c) fy = 3/2fx; (d) fy = 6fx; using 50c/s mains.

on a number of factors. Principal among these are: relative amplitudes, frequencies and phase of the two waveforms. If the input to the X timebase is a known frequency, and that to the Y amplifier a variable frequency, then the display will form a number of loops, according to the ratio between them. For normal work, ratios of about 10:1 are the maximum practical, and there must be a definite, stable relationship for a still trace.

If the waveforms are not exact multiples of each other the patterns of loops will rotate on the screen. This may be very pretty but does not help us much, although it is possible to note the speed of rotation of the individual loops and calculate the frequency difference.

Involved Waveforms

Typical Lissajous figures, with the Y frequency twice the X frequency (a), half the X frequency

If the mains frequency is used as a "yard-rule"

(b) and a ratio of 3:2 (c) are shown in Fig. 11.

Interpretation of these figures is simple when the waveforms are exactly sinusoidal and the ratio a whole number, as in the cases stated above. Considerable experience is required to determine how many loops are displayed, let alone touching the imaginary axes. when the waveforms are distorted, the phase angle varying, and the ratio an odd figure. Take for example the drawings of actual oscillograms in Fig. 12. Drawings are used here as the difficulty of photographing the more erratic of these figures makes the outline indistinct, and for the purpose of our argument clarity is essential.

As we shall see in a moment (Phase Measurement), when the waveform X is equal to Y in frequency and the phase angle is 90°. and voltages equal, a circle is displayed. If the phase angle changes, the circle becomes an

ellipse, inclined according to the phase angle. Fig. 12 (b) and (c) shows the ellipse with sinusoidal inputs and again with a distorted waveform, such as given by the clipping of the X waveform shown in (d). Note that the first ellipse can be considered as one loop touching the horizontal and one the vertical line and thus fy = fx. But the severely distorted display also resolves to fy = fx, if a close look is given to the actual loop formation.

Going a little further, consider Fig 12(e) where the Y waveform is three times that of the X waveform (frequency). The phase angle has distorted the trace, but there are still three contact points on the horizontal line and one on the

vertical, as indicated.

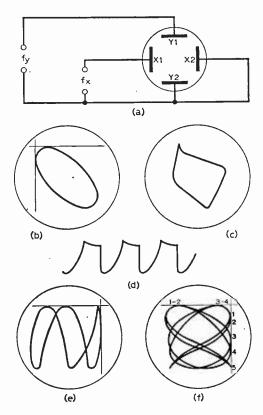


Fig. 12: Frequency comparison: (a) shows the basic connections; (b) ellipse formed when fy = fx — phase angle 90°; (c) distorted trace of (b) when input is non-sinusoidal; (d) X-waveform producing (c); (e) fy = 3fx, waveform distorted; and (f) fy: fx = 4: 5; note superimposed loops.

Even more complicated is Fig. 12(f), which indicates a ratio of fy:fx = 4.5, and where the superimposition of the loops can only be sorted out by careful tracing.

The point of the X amplifier can now be seen. If it is required to interpret a complicated display, and, moreover, one that may be moving all the while, it is desirable that the trace be expanded or contracted to readable limits.

The Circular Timebase

It is evident, from some of the traces of Fig. 12, that a large ratio of the two frequencies being compared would make interpretation extremely difficult. A method of comparing frequencies with a wide difference is to apply a circular timebase. This consists of a phase-splitting network, as in Fig. 13(a), producing a phase difference of 90° between points A and B.

To obtain this, R must equal the reactance of C, and so the frequency of the X signal must be

known. If the mains frequency is used, and C, for example is $0.1\mu\text{F}$, then $XC = \frac{10^6}{2\pi\text{fC}}\Omega$ which

is $\frac{10^7}{314}$ = 32,000 Ω , which must be the exact value of R.

The test frequency is applied between the deflector plate system and the final anode, thereby effectively varying the deflection sensitivity, so the circular timebase is modified into a succession of ripples. Each inward and outward excursion of the spot represents one multiple of fx, so that the trace shown in Fig. 13(b), having six such ripples, denotes an fz of $6 \times 50 = 300c/s$. If a double trace is obtained the frequency ratio is n/2, where n is the number of loops. Thus, Fig. 13(c) has nine loops and a double trace and the ratio is therefore 9/2, or 225c/s, where a 50c/s fx is used. Where a triple trace is obtained, the ratio is n/3, and so on.

Other methods of applying networks to produce an elliptical trace for easier counting of the loops, and of modulating the tube differently to produce a dotted trace, are employed for frequency comparison.

Phase Measurement

Of more practical use to the amateur and serviceman is the hook-up used to measure phase shift. This can be applied to an audio or r.f. amplifier, an LC filter or similar network, and proves handy in checking phase shift of an amplifier, particularly of negative feedback loops. Obviously, some care is needed, both in the methods of connection and in the observance of frequency limits, as the oscilloscope amplifiers themselves can introduce some phase shift.

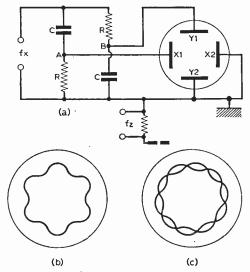
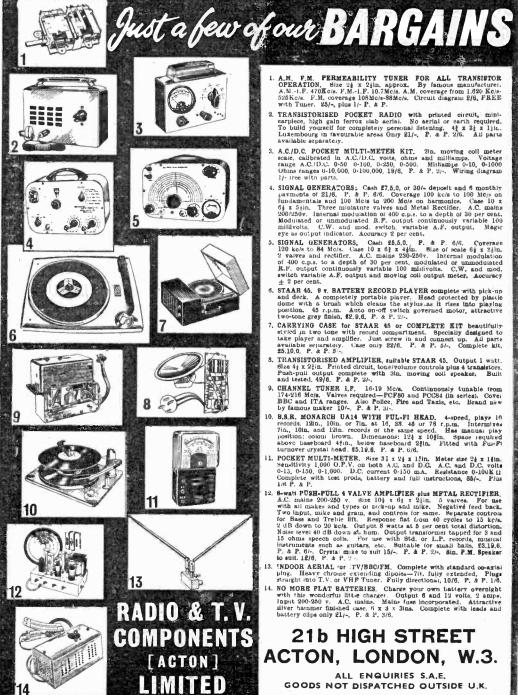


Fig. 13: Phase-splitting network for circular timebase; (b) fz = 6fx; (c) fz = 9/2fx — double trace.



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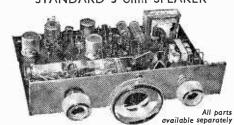
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In the set-up shown in Fig. 14(a), the signal applied to the amplifier input is also fed to the Y input of the scope, while the signal from the output of the amplifier goes to the X input, with a correct load resistor R to maintain matching, and a variable resistor X Def.

The procedure is to apply sufficient signal to drive the amplifier fully, but not to overload it, adjusting the Y amplifier gain of the scope to give about two-thirds deflection. If the Y input is now disconnected and the deflection potentiometer adjusted (timebase switched off), a similar horizontal deflection can be obtained. (If the oscilloscope has the internal X amplifier we discussed formerly, so much the better; the potentiometer can be dispensed with).

When the Y input is reconnected, an ellipse will be displayed, its size, shape and angle depending on the phase shift between input and output of the amplifier. A sample of the ellipses that are displayed for various principal angles are shown in Fig. 14(b). Note that in each case the shift controls are adjusted so that the ellipse sits centrally about the crossover line on the graticule.

Now, if a measurement is taken from the point where the upper limit of deflection is projected across to the vertical axis, to the horizontal axis,

calling this B; then another measurement from the point where the ellipse cuts the vertical axis, calling it A, we can calculate the phase angle from the formula Sin $\theta = A/B$.

It will be noted that only when the phase angle is zero (or 360°. which is the same thing in this case), or 180°, is there a straight, diagonal line. And when the phase angle is 90° the trace

displayed is a circle.

In practice, this also depends on matching the amplitudes of the signals, and will often require that the sensitivities of the oscilloscope amplifiers have to be known. Again, this is where the X amplifier becomes useful. Note also that a variation in the supply voltage can make a difference, and a flattening of the trace in opposite quadrants, as opposed to the formation of an ellipse, indicates the presence of harmonics in the base supply.

Use of a Graticule

Where an oscilloscope does not have a transparent graticule, it is essential that some form of visual indication of trace length is available. A graticule is easily made from a piece of transparent plastic, and one simple method of noting measurements is to mark the plastic where required with a soft chinagraph pencil, whose mark can easily be erased.

The foregoing is sufficient also to demonstrate the way a response curve is traced out. For further notes on alignment, the reader is referred to the companion articles to this series, entitled

"TV Alignment," which appeared in the May and June issues of Practical Television, and to Part 5 of this series.

The latter article, dealing with f.m. signal generators, with illustrations of some typical response curves, appeared in the July issue of PRACTICAL WIRELESS. Alignment of an a.m. receiver can be carried out in much the same way as described previously, with the difference that input settings and oscilloscope connections will be different. The Y input of the scope is connected to the detector load, via a screened lead. A convenient point for connection is often the top of the volume control.

Wobbulator Deviation Frequency

The deviation of the wobbulator must be slightly more than the passband characteristics of the tuned circuits of the receiver. Too small a deviation will restrict the response curve, too great a deviation will make the displayed curve too narrow for effective observation.

The deviation frequency is derived from the X sawtooth waveform, the wobbulator connected to the aerial and earth sockets of the set (or to the

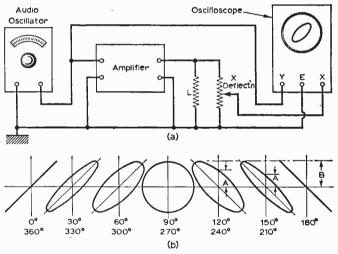


Fig. 14: Phase shift measurement: (a) typical hook-up; (b) phasedifference oscillograms.

output from the frequency changer if only the i.f. amplifiers are to be checked). The wobbulator is set to the central frequency either the nominal i.f. or the selected radio frequency, and the deviation about 20c/s, adjusted at the wobbulator. The X timebase is set for an adequate display, and the marker signal, if available, applied from a fixed r.f. oscillator—which can be a signal generator with the modulation switched off.

As previously described, many wobbulators have an inbuilt marker generator, often crystal-controlled. But even if this is absent, and the

-continued on Page 550



MATEUR RADIO MOBILE SOCIETY

Hon. Sec.: G3FPK, 79 Murchison Road, London, E.10. The extensive programme of events which made up the Torbay A.R.S. mobile rally, held on August 11th, was arranged by A.R.M.S.

member G3NBR.

The June/July issue of "Mobile News",—the A.R.M.S. journal—sets a new "high" in standards of amateur radio society publications by employing, for the first time, three colour printing for its front and rear covers.

COVENTRY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
Hon. Sec.: A. J. Wilkes, G3PQQ. 141 Overslade Crescent,

Coundon, Coventry, Warwickshire.

Of late, members of this Society have been anticipating a move. to new headquarters, affording better accommodation and lacilities, car parking space, etc.

August 12th was mobile night on the air, and on 26th August, 5PP gave a talk entitled "Mobile Operation".

DERBY AND DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Hon. Sec.: F. C. Ward, G2CVV, 5 Uplands Avenue, Littleover, Derby.

The programme for August began with a surplus sale held on the h. This was followed on the 14th by a meeting devoted to preparations for the Society's mobile rally which was held four days later at Rykneld School.

The last event to be held in August was a direction finding

practice run on the 28th. Another sale was held on September 4th, the first meeting of the month.

FLINTSHIRE RADIO SOCIETY

Hon. Sec.: A. Antley, Fairholme, Fairfield Avenue, Rhyl, Flintshire.

At the meeting on August 26th, L. W. Barnes (GW3PCZT) gave a lecture on "Single Sideband", which followed the usual slow morse practice and talk on "Simple Hints and Kinks".

NORTHERN HEIGHTS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Hon. Sec.: A. Robinson, G3MDW, Candy Cabin, Ogden, Halifax, Yorkshire.

Members of this Society manned another two demonstration stations during August; one on the 10th at the Halifax Agricultural Show and the other on the 17th at the Forest Cottage Community Centre Gala. August 14th was ragchew night and on the 28th, a number of members brought along their photographic slides to provide the evening's entertainment.

RADIO CLUB OF SCOTLAND

Hon. Sec.: A. Barnes, GM3LTB, 7 Southpark Terrace, Glasgow, W.2.

The constitution and financial affairs of this relatively young society are still rather involved, owing to the decision to operate the Glasgow section as a separate group within the RCS, and not as the "mother" body as had been the situation previously.

The Club's journal—"GM Magazine"—has undergone a change

in cover design with the latest issue.

READING AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Hon. Sec.: R. G. Nash, G3EJA, "Peacehaven", 9 Holybrook Road, Reading, Barkshire.

This Club reports increasing attendance figures for meetings. On August 25th another mobile picnic meeting was held at the Childe Beale Trust when members and their families enjoyed an informal afternoon outing.

At the last meeting for August, Dud Charman (G6CJ) gave a lecture and demonstration of aerials.

RODING BOYS SOCIETY: RADIO SECTION Hon. Sec.: R. T. Marchant, 154 Essex Road, Leyton, London, E.10.

The Society's annual field day was held successfully during August with the single transmitter operating on 160m.

SCARBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Hon. Sec.: P. B. Briscombe, G8KU, Scarborough, Yorkshire. "Roesacre", Irton,

Local short wave enthusiasts and visitors to Scarborough are invited to the meetings of this club which are held at 8 p.m. every Thursday at Chapman's Yard, Waterhouse Land, North Street, Scarborough. At the meeting for August 8th, "v.h.f. working" was under discussion.

An R.A.E. paper formed the topic for the meeting on August 15th and a week later "Servicing" was discussed.

STOCKPORT RADIO SOCIETY

Hon. Sec.: E. G. Houldsworth, G6NM, 52 Worsley Crescent, Stockport, Cheshire

Any potential members are invited to go along to meetings of this Society, which are held on alternate Wednesdays at 8 p.m. All meetings are at the Blossoms Hotel, Buxton Road, Stockport; the next being on September IIth.

STOKE-ON-TRENT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

K. H. Parkes, G3EHM, 28 Grove Road, Heron Cross, Stokeon-Trent, Staffordshire.

Recent events have included a talk on aerials and a demonstration of a transistorised electric organ. Decoration and renovation work is at present in progress at the

STOURBRIDGE AND DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Hon. Sec.: R. A. G. MacIntosh, 50 Field Lane, Oldswinford, Stourbridge, Worcestershire.

As it was not possible for the Society to meet at the usual rendezvous during August, members assembled at a local hotel

where a meeting was held.
WESSEX AMATEUR RADIO GROUP
Hon. Sec.: G. K. Fowle, 138 Surrey Road, Branksome, Poole, Dorset.

The only meeting for August was held on the 12th, when members heard a talk given by R. Weston.
G. J. Fowle's lecture of September 2nd was entitled "Building

Mains and Battery Operated Communication Receivers.

WEST KENT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

R. Trevite, 28 Delves Avenue, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

On August 25th members and their families were able to enjoy

picnic, arranged by the Society and held in the beautiful grounds of Sheffield Park.

R.S.G.B. Contests for September. V.H.F. National field Day (September 7th to 8th); D.F. National Final (September 15th) and Low Power Field Day (September 22nd).

COURSES OF INSTRUCTION

Below are listed a number of technical institutes which will be running radio and television courses this autumn. All courses begin in September (except where stated) and further details be obtained from the institute itself or from the address given. Allan Glens School, Montrose Street, Glasgow: radio theory, morse, G.P.O. regulations, aerials, etc., and a general radio course. Bradford Technical College: inquiries—Mr. D. M. Pratt, 30 Lyndale Road, Eldwick, Bingley, Yorkshire: R.A.E. and morse courses.

Brentford Evening Institute: inquiries—Evening Institute
Department, Education Offices, Town Hall, Chiswick, Department, Education Offices, Town Hall, Chiswick, London, W.4: radio amateurs' course, morse, radio and TV

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Carshalton College for Further Education: inquiries.—The Registrar, Carshalton College for Further Education, Nightingale Road, Carshalton, Surrey: if enough interest is shown radio theory and morse classes will be held.

Central Evening Institute, Lea Mason Centre, Bell Barn Road Rigningham: B.A.E. Courses.

Road, Birmingham: R.A.E. courses. Hendon College of Technology, The Burroughs, Hendon, London, N.W.4: short courses on digital computors, transistor circuit design (beginning October), microwaves, global com-munications (beginning October) and high fidelity sound reproduc-tion (beginning October), also a design course for electronic

engineers (beginning October).
Holloway L.C.C. Evening Institutes: inquiries—A. W. H.
Wennell, 145 Uxendon Hill, Wembley Park, Middlesex: R.A.E. and morse classes.

North End Evening Institute, Portsmouth: inquiries-The Secretary, Eastney Modern Boys' School, Reginald Road, Southsea, Hampshire: R.A.E. course.

Northwood Evening Institute, Potter Street, Northwood Hills, Middlesex: radio amateur examination, morse and practical courses.

Wembley Evening Institute, Copland School, High Road, Wembley, Middlesex: R.A.E. and morse classes.
Wesley Evening Institute: inquiries—"Jeanville", Brighton

Road, Addlestone, Weybridge, Surrey: radio and television

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The Practical Wireless

OHM'S LAW CALCULATOR

A time-saving aid for every enthusiast

By F. P. Rozee

HE relationship between voltage, current, resistance and power is of the utmost importance; a full understanding of the terms and the ability to manipulate them rapidly is the first essential of radio engineering. The relationship is known as Ohm's Law and the importance of this law to the engineer cannot be overstated.

As arithmetical operations are somewhat tedious and mental calculations are unreliable, a mechanical means of computing, with an accuracy better than the tolerance of practical components, becomes necessary.

The Ohm's Law Calculator presented with this month's issue of Practical Wireless has been designed by the author for readers of this publication. It will be found to be a valuable addition to the workshop and a useful companion to the Parallel Resistor Calculator presented with the April 1963 issue of Practical Wireless.

Ohm's Law, using the terms E, I and R, only holds good for d.c. circuits, but it can be used at low frequencies where the load is almost purely resistive.

A mains dropper resistor, although wire-wound and thus to some extent inductive, would, at 50c/s, behave more or less as if d.c. were being applied. Computations using the calculator may be made at mains frequency for any resistive loads such as fires, heaters, etc.

A word about filament lamps and valve heaters; these will have a very low resistance when cold, only at their working temperature will the resistance agree with the working voltage and current.

The range of voltage, resistance and current encountered in radio and television engineering is far greater than in most other branches of electrical work. Depending on the type of equipment, voltage may range from a few microvolts to several kilovolts, current from a few microamps to several

amps and resistance from an ohm or so to several megohms. It is necessary to cater for all of these possibilities and for this reason a range extension chart has been printed on the calculator.

The Two Scales

An inspection of the calculator shows that it consists of two scales. Scale "A" being the inner or slide and scale "B" the outer. Scale "A" is used for current only and is marked on a logarithmic scale from ImA to 1,000mA, this being the current range that is most likely to be encountered.

Scale "B" is used for resistance, voltage and power ratings. It is marked 1—1,000, and for voltages would be regarded as 1 to 1,000V. For resistance, using the left-hand pointer on scale "A", the fixed scale covers from 1 to 1,000k Ω , while with the right-hand pointer, the range is from 1 to 1,000 Ω .

For power rating, using the left-hand pointer, scale "B" covers from 1 to 1,000mW, and with the right-hand pointer from 1 to 1,000W. The whole of this latter range is not likely to be required, the largest resistor that would be used is probably a 60W component, where 200V are dropped in a 300mA heater chain. Power dissipations below 100mW are rarely of interest as a $\frac{1}{10}$ W is the smallest component normally available.

To Find Voltage or Current

Where the unknown value is that of either voltage or current, set the known resistance against the appropriate pointer. The unknown voltage is then revealed directly above the known current, or the unknown current directly below the known voltage.

Examples

Known values, 200Ω and 10mA. Set ohms pointer to 200, read 2V above 10mA.

Known values, $8k\Omega$ and 5mA. Set kilohms pointer to 8, read 40V above 5mA.

If it is found that with the appropriate pointer on the value of resistance, either the known voltage is not above some part of scale "A" or that the known current is not below some part of scale "B", it will be necessary to use the other pointer and refer to the range extension chart.

Examples

Known values, $50 k\Omega$ and 100 mA. Set the kilohms pointer to 50, it will be seen that 100 mA is not below any part of scale "B". Set the ohms pointer to 50. We now know that the ohms pointer must indicate in kilohms, the chart (under the column headed "ohms pointer") shows that this could be in association with either microamps and volts, or milliamps and kilovolts. As we have 100 mA, it must be then, that the figure 5 revealed above the 100 is kilovolts. Therefore $50 k\Omega$, 100 mA = 5 kV.

Known values, $2.5 M\Omega$ and 200μ A. The chart

shows that in association with microamp, megamp could either be set against the ohms pointer and the answer be in kilovolts, or megohm could be set against the kilohms pointer and the answer be in volts. As the first does not allow 200 to appear against scale "B", the second is used. Set kilohms pointer to 2.5 and 500 is revealed above 200. Therefore $2.5M\Omega$, $200\mu A = 500V$.

To Find Resistance

Where the unknown value is that of resistance, set the known current in scale "A" directly below the known voltage in scale "B" and read the resistance from whichever of the pointers is on scale "B". If this is the right-hand pointer the answer is in ohms and if the left-hand pointer, in kilohms.

Examples:

Known values, 8mA and 4V. Set 8 on scale A" against 4 on scale "B" and read 500Ω from the ohms pointer.

Known values, 3mA and 120V. Set 3 on scale "A" against 120 on scale "B" and read 40kΩ.

Should either or both of the known values not fall in the ranges 1-1,000mA or 1-1,000V, refer to the range extension chart, this is quite easy to

According to the top line of the chart, if scale "A" is used for microamps and scale "B" for microvolts, the resistance reading is in ohms and will be indicated by the kilohms pointer, and so on down the chart to amps and volts where the resistance in ohms is indicated by the kilohms pointer.

Should the ohms pointer be on the scale when microamps and microvolts are associated, or milliamps and millivolts, or amps and volts, the indication would be in thousandths of an ohm. When microamps and kilovolts are associated, the

kilohms pointer would indicate from 1.000M \Omega up, about equal to an open circuit.

To Find Power Rating

It is necessary to know both the voltage and the current in order to find the power dissipated in either watts or milliwatts (to accommodate the formulæ $P\!=\!E^z/R$ and $P\!=\!1^zR$ would require an extra sliding scale and make the calculator unduly complicated):

Should either voltage or current be the unknown value, finding this using the method described earlier, will take but a moment. The known voltage is set against the left-hand pointer and the power in milliwatts read directly above the known current. If the current is not below some part of scale "B" the power is in excess of 1W and it is necessary to set the right-hand pointer to the voltage, when the power in watts is read directly above the known current.

The extension chart includes a multiplying or dividing factor on certain ranges. Where no factor is shown the power dissipation is negligible.

Resistor Voltage Ratings

The reader is reminded that resistors have a maximum voltage rating. This is not troublesome on the lower resistance values. With a $100 k\Omega$ component 1.6 mA = 160 V which is approximately 1W, so 160V is the maximum that would be applied if the power rating were observed. However with a 5M\O component, the full \(\frac{1}{4}\text{W rating is}\) met by 1·1kV at 210µA, and 1·1kV is well above the voltage rating for a 1w carbon resistor.

The following figures will serve as a rough guide to the maximum voltages for carbon composition resistors: ½W-250V, 1W-800V, 2W-1-2kV. $\frac{1}{4}$ W-400V, $\frac{1}{2}$ W-600V,

Manufacturer's data should be consulted where possible as the construction, composition and certain techniques in production are among the factors that impose these limits.

TEST GEAR TECHNIQUES

-continued from page 545

provision of a connecting terminal for a marker is lacking, the marker signal can be loosely coupled to the wobbulator signal input lead.

Miscellaneous Points

There are one or two small points to be noted when using an oscilloscope for alignment. Inversion of the trace, vertically, while presenting no real problem, can be confusing. Simply reverse the Y input leads to invert the image. Horizontal reversal is rather more difficult to detect, and requires a frequency shift of the wohbulator input, to determine whether a rise or fall produces the correct lateral shift. Used in conjunction with the marker, this method soon becomes familiar to the operator.

As a final reminder—the response curve displayed is linear, with reference to amplitudeand due allowance must be made when comparing with a published curve, which may be drawn to a logarithmic (decibel) scale.

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0-250mA 2½in. round D.C. ...
0-250mA 2½in. round D.C. ...
0-500mA 2½in. round D.C. ...
0-20mps Thermo 2½in. round ...
0-4amps Thermo 2½in. round ...
0-20mps Thermo 2½in. round ...
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TWIN FEEDER. 300 ohm twin ribbon feeder, similar K25, 6d. per ye-d. K35B Telecon (round) 1/6 per yard. Post on above feeder and cable 1/6 any length.

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2 METRE BEAM 5 ELEMENT W.S. YAGI. Complete in box with 1-24in. mast head bracket. PRICE 49'-. P. & P. 3/6.
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Whilst we are always pleased to assist readers with their technical difficulties, we regret that we are unable to supply diagrams or provide instructions for modifying commercial or surplus equipment. We cannot supply alternative details or surplus equipment. We cannot supply alternative details for receivers described in these pages. WE CANNOT UNDERTAKE TO ANSWER QUERIES OVER THE TELE-PHONE. If a postal reply is required a stamped and addressed envelope must be enclosed with the coupon from page iii of the cover.

The Editor does not necessarily agree with the opinions expressed by his correspondents

EGG CRATE LINING

SIR.—Recently I was loaned a copy of July 1951 P.W. by a friend. In this issue is an article describing how to make use of papier mâché egg crates as a lining for loudspeaker cabinets of the

bass reflex or infinite baffle type.

Having a loudspeaker enclosure which suffered badly from cabinet resonance. I tried this idea and found that the quality of absorption and irregular surface of the egg crate lining allowed 10W of audio power to be fed into the loudspeaker, without the troublesome "booming" which had occurred previously. I should like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Simmons who wrote this most useful article.—R. W. Мотн (Tettenhall, Staffordshire).

LANGUAGE BARRIER

SIR,-I absolutely agree with Mr. Dhenau when he says in his letter (PRACTICAL WIRELESS, July) that Esperanto "would be an untold boon"

to wireless communication.

I should like to add that I too know from personal experience that it is much easier to understand and be understood by a foreigner using Esperanto than broken English. Quite apart from the obvious fact that it is a neutral language, one cannot fall into errors and ambiguities of speech. It is impossible to detect the nationality of a reasonably fluent Esperantist, and this surely helps to break down the barriers of language.-Miss E. Storey (Hexham, Northumberland).

NOVICE LICENCES

SIR,-For some months now I have followed carefully all the correspondence published in P.W. with regard to the licensing of individuals to operate transmitters, and I am convinced that the issue involved is far wider than the question of whether or not "novice licences" should be

As a member of a free and democratic society, I believe that every citizen of the U.K. should be able to look upon the use of the ether as his right as an individual and not as the privilege of the initiated few. To refuse anyone permission to use such a convenient method of communication in this day and age is not only narrow-minded but also dictatorial.

Of course there must always be limitations on power, frequency, etc., but such things are easily enforced and whereas only limited rights prove acceptable, the complete rejection of these rights is criminal.

No one would deny that, in view of the good name of amateur radio, established over the years, and in consideration of the pioneer work of early hams in "opening up" new bands, the privilege of working certain frequencies should remain exclusively theirs. However, that is no excuse for forbidding the man-in-the-street the use of part of the spectrum and, if we are to be logical about this, we cannot expect every individual to sit and pass a highly technical examination beforehand.— R. L. J. STEVENSON (Carlisle, Cumberland).

Sir,-I would be grateful if any reader could sell or loan me . . .

... a manual or any information on the G73 wavemeter.—F. Murdon, 13 Bridge Street, Risca, Newport, Monmouthshire.

... the manual of the Bendix RA-1B receiver.—M. J. LANG, 4 Lynton Road, Burnhamon-Sea, Somerset.

... the September 1961 issue of P.W.— R. D. SAXTON, 165 Gloucester Road, Patchway, Bristol.

. the handbook for the oscilloscope No. 11 (A.A. Predictor Mk. 1).—J. E. Griffin, 113 Gladys Avenue, North End, Portsmouth, Hamp-

R.1392D receiver. — W. Sмітн, 6 Salisbury Crescent, Blandford Forum, Dorset.

CORRESPONDENT WANTED

SIR,—As a regular reader of PRACTICAL WIRELESS and an enthusiast of amateur radio and television, I would like a correspondent in England of about my own age (16 years). I will answer all letters received .- Ron Swallow, Jnr., 1 Chauvel Street, North Ryde, Sydney, N.S.W., Australia.

BOOK REVIEW

RADIO AND LINE TRANSMISSION: VOLUME 2

By G. L. Danielson, M.Sc.(Tech.), B.Sc., A.M.I.E.E., and R. S. Walker, Grad.I.E.E., Grad.Brit.I.R.E.; published by Iliffe Books Limited.

295 pages, 224 diagrams, 51in. x 81in. Price 22s. 6d.

THE whole of the syllabus of the City and Guilds of London Technicians' Certificate examination in Radio and Line Transmission

B is covered by this volume.

Communications students preparing for this third year examination will find that the authors have catered for their requirements using the same well-defined style as in their first volume of this series. As readers of volume 1 will know, both authors are particularly qualified to write on this subject; Mr. Danielson is the Head and Mr. Walker a Lecturer of the Telecommunications Department of the Norwood Technical College.

The range of subjects dealt with is substantially the same as volume 1, but the treatment is deeper; where general introductory statements often sufficed in the earlier book, fuller explanations and mathematical proofs are now given. The text still continues to be mainly of a descriptive nature, and the standard of mathematics required is no higher

than ordinary level G.C.E.

For those not familiar with the syllabus of Radio and Line Transmission B it should perhaps be explained that it embraces both general principles and practical aspects of components employed in communications equipment.

CORRIGENDA

An Electric Timer

Referring to Fig. 1 (page 131 June issue), the batteries should be transposed: B1 (3V) feeds the buzzer (Z1) and lamp (LPI); B2 (22.5V) supplies the main circuit.

This article was written by D. Gibson and we apologise for misprinting the author's name.

Making Tin Plate Chassis

In Fig. 1 (page 73 May issue) tinplate of 16 or 28s.w.g. was specified in error for 26 or 28s.w.g. Bearing in mind the simple tools employed, the technique described in this article is applicable only to the thinner gauges of tinplate.

Double Conversion Communication; Receiver

(1) Referring to Fig. 2a (pages 50, 51 May 1963 issue). L6 should be redesignated "L6A" and the following item should be added to the components list (page 141 June 1963 issue): L6A 2nd oscillator coil (Repanco RO3).

On page 142 (last line but one) the reference to "second oscillator coil L5" should be amended to read "L6A"

(2) The correct type for V13 is VR150/30 (Brimar) or QS150/40 (G.E.C.).

Kenilworth Public Address Amplifier

In the components list (page 320 August 1963 issue) the resistors are described as 5W types; this was a misprint for \{\frac{1}{2}W.

JUST TO PUT YOU IN THE PICTURE

O a steadily increasing band of practical enthusiasts TV no longer signifies passive viewing of BBC or ITV programmes, but a branch of communications offering opportunities for experimental and creative work, just as sound radio has provided for many years past.

Television DX hunting, or the reception of distant TV stations, can be a fascinating hobby where one's knowledge of v.h.f. and u.h.f. propagation conditions, operating skill, location and-of course—a certain amount of luck! all contribute to the bag of stations received. A standard TV receiver can be modified for DX hunting without much difficulty—and there is at the moment a plentiful supply of secondhand receivers on the market at rock bottom prices. A commentary on DX TV now appears regularly in our companion journal Practical Television. This interesting feature lets you know what the other fellow has received and gives guidance on seasonal conditions, and transmitting frequencies and times of operation of the quarry.

Why not build your own TV camera? Starting in this month's Practical Television is a series of articles describing the construction of a closedcircuit TV camera suitable for use with any domestic TV receiver. This camera opens up all kinds of possibilities for home entertainment, as well as more serious applications in picture production. No prior knowledge of camera circuit technique is needed—everything essential is fully

explained in these articles.

Of course if you are a little more ambitious there is no reason why you should not build and operate your own TV station. Amateur TV transmissions are permitted on 70cm and on shorter wavelengths by licensed operators—and there is still an element of pioneering in the establishment of contact and the exchange of pictures with fellow hams on these ultra high frequencies. The background to TV ham activities will be discussed in the November issue of Practical Television and subsequent articles in this new series devoted to Amateur Television Transmission will provide full constructional details for a 70cm convertor, a complete receiver, a transmitter and a camera unit; aerials and ancilliary equipment for the TV ham's station will also be described.

So if you are looking for some further interest in the realm of electronics and communications to help occupy the long Winter evenings that loom ahead, may we suggest that you get into focus and start scanning the pages of Practical Television

right away!

Despite our opening paragraph Practical Television is not oblivious of the millions of broadcast viewers. In fact many of its pages are devoted regularly to the servicing and maintenance of domestic TV receivers. Commencing shortly will be a series describing an all-transistor dual-standard TV receiver for the home constructor.

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Set of three record. playback, erase. Only 29/6 set. P. & P. 9d.
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100µA		F.M.	D.C.	62/6	ľ	
1 mA		F.M.	D.C.	25/-	ľ	
30 mA	21"	F.M.	D.C.	12/6		
30/0/30 mA			D.C.	9/6		
350 mA		F.M.	D.C.	10/6		
15 amp.		F.M.	D.C.	39/6		
5/0/5 amp.		F.M.	D.C.	25/-		
300 v.		Proj.	A.C.	19/6		
300 v.		F.M.	A.C.	25/-		
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RACK MODEL. Good used condition

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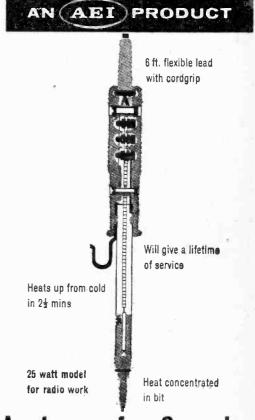
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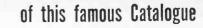
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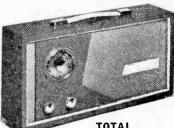
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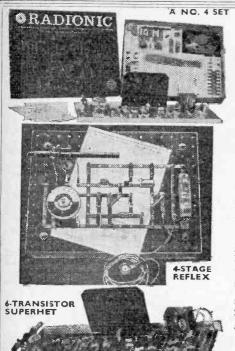
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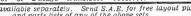


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Practical Wireless

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PRACTICAL WIRELESS, OCTOBER, 1963.

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