FOREWORD

Electronic design engineers are the true idea men of the electronic industries. They create ideas and use them in their designs, they stimulate ideas in other designers, and they borrow and adapt ideas from others. One could almost say they feed on and grow on ideas.

ELECTRONIC DESIGN has recognized this need and its editorial content has reflected this awareness. Each issue is literally a collection of useful ideas. In one section, however, special attention has been devoted to providing a forum for the exchange of ideas between readers—a section called "Ideas For Design." Here are presented clever, unique, ingenious, and often very simple ideas that readers have found useful, sometimes as parts of larger designs and sometimes as aids in measuring the parameters or testing the effectiveness of their designs. Many are quite simple "little" ideas, but experienced designers know that good little ideas make the good large design possible.

To encourage this exchange of ideas, ELECTRONIC DESIGN has been sponsoring an IFD Award program. Readers are asked to vote on the ideas they find most useful in the IFD section of ELECTRONIC DESIGN. Awards are made to the idea getting the most votes in an issue, and from the issue winners a grand prize of $1,000 is awarded for the best "Idea of the Year."

For the past four years, we have been selecting 100 of the best ideas and making them available in an annual booklet, arranged by category for the convenience of readers. Four volumes have appeared in this series, and now, in response to many requests we have combined these four volumes into a convenient, more durable book. The ideas have been rearranged under specific categories, making for a very handy reference book, suitable for a desk or library shelf.

It is difficult to categorize ideas for designers; they are often useable in situations not originally considered by the user (or the categorizer). Therefore, the reader may not agree with our choice, or worse still, he may miss a good idea because it did not appear under the category to which he felt it belonged. If the former be the case, we welcome comments and suggestions for arrangement of future volumes. To avoid the latter possibility, we suggest at least cursory perusal of all categories—you may be pleasantly surprised at what you find.

February 1964
New York

EDWARD E. GRAZDA

Editorial Director

ELECTRONIC DESIGN