

Popular Electronics®

WORLD'S LARGEST-SELLING ELECTRONICS MAGAZINE

JUNE 1980/95¢

First Look! RCA's New XL-100 Color TV

"Space Battle" Computer Program

Repel Small Animals with Harmless Pulses

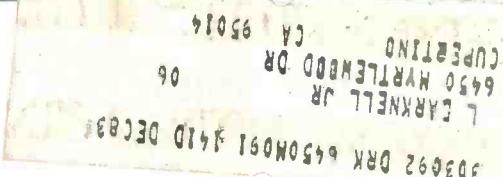
Home Video Recorders Come of Age!

- How they work
- How to buy
- What's coming up



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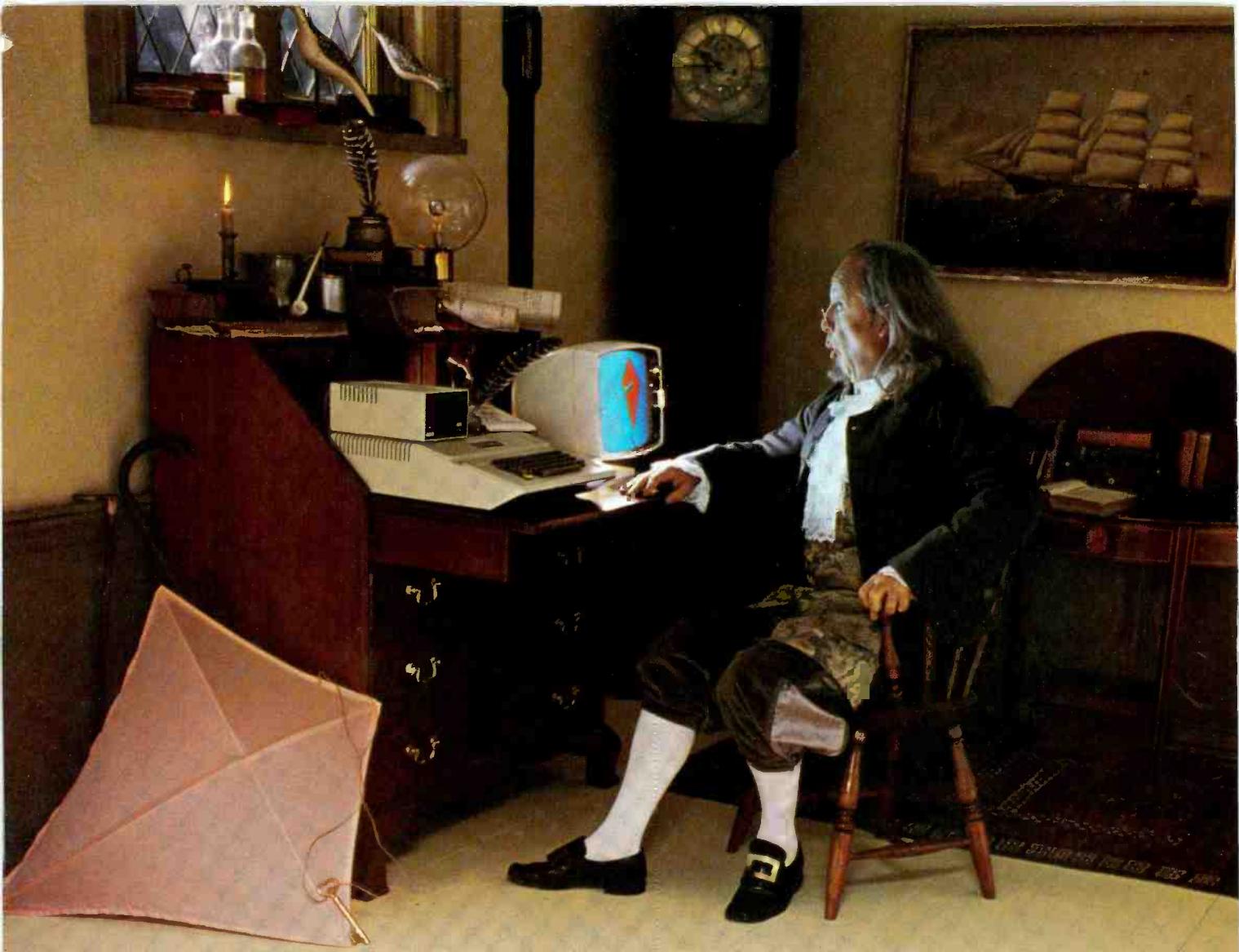
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The "Source" and
File-Sharing Systems

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Popular Electronics



What kind of man owns his own computer?

Rather revolutionary, the whole idea of owning your own computer? Not if you're a diplomat, printer, scientist, inventor... or a kite designer, too. Today there's Apple Computer. It's designed to be a *personal* computer. To uncomplicate your life. And make you more effective.

It's a wise man who owns an Apple.

If your time means money, Apple can help you make more of it. In an age of specialists, the most successful specialists stay away from uncreative drudgery. That's where Apple comes in.

Apple is a real computer, right to the core. So just like big computers, it manages data, crunches numbers, keeps records, processes your information and prints reports. You concentrate on what you do best. And let Apple do the rest. Apple makes that easy with three programming languages—including Pascal—that let you be your own software expert.

Apple, the computer worth not waiting for.

Time waiting for access to your company's big mainframe is time wasted. What you need in your department—

on your desk—is a computer that answers only to you...

Apple Computer. It's less expensive than timesharing.

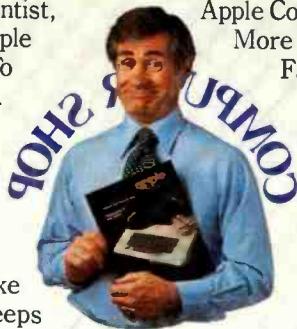
More dependable than distributed processing.

Far more flexible than centralized EDP. And, at less than \$2500 (as shown), downright affordable.

Visit your local computer store.

You can join the personal computer revolution by visiting the Apple dealer in your neighborhood. We'll give you his name when you call our toll free number (800) 538-9696. In California, (800) 662-9238.

Apple Computer, 10260
Bandley Drive,
Cupertino,
CA 95014.





Olivetti Break-through

The world's smallest electronic printer will never run out of paper, ink or batteries thanks to Olivetti, JS&A and some incredible new technology.



The new pocket-sized Olivetti calculator slides open to unveil one of the most advanced printing heads ever developed.

It's a major breakthrough. That calculator shown above is the most advanced printing calculator in the world.

SLIP TOP PRINTER

The new Olivetti Logos 9 is only 1" x 2½" x 4½" — smaller than many cigarette packages. It has a full 12-digit liquid crystal display with add mode and full-floating or fixed position decimal.

To turn the unit into a printer, you simply slide up the top of the unit to expose the world's smallest and one of the most precise printing heads. The printing head prints letters and numbers, identifies each entry and even clearly separates groups of three whole numbers for easy readability.

PLENTY MORE

If its size and printing head are breakthroughs, so is its paper system. The paper is loaded in special cartridges with enough paper per cartridge for 1300 entries. All you do is simply pop a cartridge into the bottom of the unit each time you change rolls. It's the most convenient way ever designed to change a roll of paper for a printing calculator.

But if you're like most Americans, you'd be concerned about paper supply. Where do you get those special cartridges, and how do you know if you can get them years from now?

That's where JS&A comes in. A 32-roll supply—all you'll ever need for three full years—is only \$16. That's enough paper for 41,000 entries or approximately 52 line entries each working day for three full years.

But even more important, within one year stationery stores will stock the cartridges, and we predict that the Olivetti cartridge will become a standard in the industry.

NO INK CARTRIDGES

The paper is a new type that looks exactly like conventional paper. But the paper, when struck, leaves a clear sharp image without the use of ink. So there's no messy cartridge required and no space needed to store one. You'll never need ink again.

The rechargeable batteries last for 8,000 lines when you use just the printer and 80 hours using just the liquid crystal display. The batteries can be recharged 500 times, so theoretically the batteries should last for 300 rolls of paper, or more than nine times the life of your paper supply. The batteries can also be easily replaced.

POWERFUL COMPUTER

The features looked great. The world's smallest size, the paper roll convenience, the no-ink system, the battery life and the large 12-digit liquid crystal display were enough to convince us, but would the new Olivetti be considered a toy? Then we learned about its computational power and features which we feel are better than many of the most professional full-featured printing calculators.

Speed It's the world's fastest small printer with a speed of 2.1 lines per second. The unit also has a buffer so if you enter data faster than the unit, it will still print out each entry.

Memories The Logos 9 has two separate memories. One is an accumulating memory, and the other is a fully independent memory. And the display and printer indicate which memory is on the paper tape.

Printing Head The totally new printing head is a semi-alpha numeric system which labels all entries with letters to indicate the entry. For example LP is list price and CNT means item count.

Clock The unit is so complete, Olivetti even threw in a digital clock function. Your unit will display accurate time when the 12-digit display is not in use.

Gross Margin It automatically computes everything from gross margins to discounts and retail pricing. You just enter your percentage mark-ups in its memory, and it will automatically compute the results while retaining the formula and percentage in memory.

Plus More It has automatic round off, letting you select which figure to round off to. You can add a column of figures and then average your calculations automatically. The full-information liquid crystal display will tell you everything from when you're in the printer mode to whether you have something in memory and in which memory.

The technological breakthroughs in the Logos 9 were possible because Olivetti was able to eliminate the many interface components between the integrated circuit and the printing head. This was all made possible because Olivetti designed the entire system, not just a few of the components as is the case with most calculators.

So there it was. Great features, great convenience and great value for only \$89.95 complete with batteries, charger and 90-day limited warranty. For \$16 more, you can get 32

cartridges—all the paper you'll ever need for three years or for \$10 more you can get 16 cartridges. So impressed are we with the Olivetti Logos 9 that we are making the following offer:

FREE TRIAL OFFER

We urge you to test the Olivetti Logos 9 now. Order one for our 30-day no obligation trial. See the clear and easy-to-read paper tape and display. Use it as a pocket calculator, and carry it in your briefcase wherever you go. Experience the convenience of always having a printing calculator there whenever you need a permanent record of your transactions.

After 30-days of actual use, decide if you want to keep it. If you do you'll own the smallest, most advanced and convenient pocket printing calculator in the world. If for any reason you're not completely satisfied, simply return your unit within 30-days for a prompt and courteous refund, including your \$2.50 postage and handling. You can't lose.

Olivetti selected JS&A to exclusively introduce this exciting new product. With its solid-state design and high quality printing mechanism, the Olivetti should not require service. But if service is ever required, Olivetti maintains a convenient service-by-mail center as close as your mailbox.

To order your unit for our trial, simply send your money order or personal check for \$89.95 plus \$2.50 for postage and handling (personal check orders, allow 20 days to clear our bank) to the address below, or credit card buyers may call our toll-free number below. Add \$16 for 32 paper cartridges or \$10 for 16 cartridges. (Illinois residents please add 6% sales tax.)

Who would have imagined a printing calculator this small and this convenient with this much computational power just a few months ago? The Olivetti Logos 9 deserves your test. Order one at no obligation, today.

JS&A PRODUCTS THAT THINK®

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The easiest, least expensive way to generate spectacular multi-color graphics, sharp two-color alphanumerics: Your computer, a color tv set and the Percom Electric Crayon™.

Add the Electric Crayon™ to your system and your keyboard becomes a palette, the tv screen your medium.

You dab and stroke using one-key commands to create dazzling full-color drawings, eye-catching charts and diagrams.

Or you run any of innumerable programs. Your own BASIC language programs that generate dynamic pyrotechnic images, laugh-provoking animations.

From a combined alphanumerics-semographics mode to a high resolution 256- by 192-element full graphics mode, the microprocessor-controlled Electric Crayon™ is capable of generating 10 distinctly different display modes.

Colors are brilliant and true, and up to eight are available depending on the mode.

As shipped, the Electric Crayon™ interfaces a TRS-80* computer. It may be easily

adapted for interfacing to any computer or to an ordinary parallel ASCII keyboard.

But that's not all

The Electric Crayon is not just a color graphics generator/controller.

It is also a complete self-contained control computer. With built-in provision for 1K-byte of on-board program RAM, an EPROM chip for extending EGOSTM, its on-board ROM graphics OS, and a dual bidirectional eight-bit port — over and above the computer/keyboard port — for peripherals. The applications are endless.

Shipped with EGOSTM, 1K-byte of display memory and a comprehensive user's manual that includes an assembly language listing of EGOSTM and listings of BASIC demo programs, the Electric Crayon™ costs only \$249.95.

Options include:

- LEVEL II BASIC color graphics programs on minidiskette: \$17.95.
- A 34-conductor ribbon cable to interconnect the Electric Crayon™ to a TRS-80*: \$24.95.
- RAM chips for adding refresh memory for higher density graphics modes: \$29.95 per K-byte.
- Electric Crayon™ Sketchpad, a sketching grid of proportioned picture elements (pixels) in a tv aspect ratio. For 128 x 192 or 256 x 192 graphics modes. 11-inch by 17-inch, 25-sheet pads: \$3.95 per pad.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: the video circuitry of the Electric Crayon™ provides direct drive input to a video monitor or modified tv set. An internal up-modulator for rf antenna input may be constructed by adding inexpensive components to the existing video circuitry.

Prices and specifications subject to change without notice.

TM = trademark of Percom Data Company, Inc.

* = trademark of Tandy Radio Shack Corporation which has no relationship to Percom Data Company.

Get into computer color graphics the easy, low-cost way with a Percom Electric Crayon™. Available at Percom dealers nationwide. Call toll-free, **1-800-527-1592**, for the address of your nearest dealer, or to order direct if there is no Percom dealer in your area.

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**About the cover:**

The photo exemplifies why VCRs, featured in this issue, have become so popular. One can buy prerecorded movies such as Warner Bros.' SUPERMAN for playback on TV or make your own home movies by adding a video camera. A portable VCR system, such as Panasonic's PV-3100 VHS, shown, adds on-the-go outdoor versatility.

(SUPERMAN is a trademark of DC Comics Inc.)

Cover photo by Don Carroll

JOE MESICS
Publisher

ARTHUR P. SALSBERG
Editorial Director

HAROLD A. RODGERS
Executive Editor

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CARMEN ROBLES
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Contributing Editors
Carl Warren, Lee Felsenstein
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Editorial and Executive Offices

One Park Avenue, New York, New York 10016

212-725-3500

Joseph E. Mesics

Publisher (725-3568)

Richard F. Govatski

Advertising Manager (725-3939)

Bonnie B. Kaiser

Eastern Adv. Mgr., (725-3580)

Midwestern Office

Ted Welch

Suite 1400, 180 N. Michigan Ave.,

Chicago, IL 60601 (312-346-2600)

Western Office

3460 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90054

213-387-2100

Western Representative: Norm Schindler

Jon Marshall

7050 Owensmouth Ave., #209

Canoga Park, CA 91303 (213-999-1414)

Japan: James Yagi, Oji Palace Aoyama;

6-25, Minami Aoyama, 6 Chome, Minato-Ku,

Tokyo, 407-1930/6821, 582-2851

ZIFF-DAVIS PUBLISHING COMPANY

Philip B. Korsant, President

Furman Hebb, Executive Vice President

Phillip T. Heffernan, Sr. Vice President

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Editorial

New Video Test Reports

A long, long time ago, most people with a serious interest in electronics were aware of which television receivers had superior circuit designs and, as a consequence, produced the best video pictures in given reception areas. Since the advent of color television and solid-state circuitry, this knowledge has seemingly passed us by. Starting with this issue, POPULAR ELECTRONICS will change all this.

PE will now regularly feature a thorough evaluation of a video product—a color TV receiver, video cassette recorder, TV camera, or video disc player. Moreover, most models examined will be *previews!* That is, the home entertainment model reported upon will be the latest one, just barely reaching the dealers' shelves when the test report is published.

As a consequence, PE readers, who are major buyers of these "high ticket" products as a result of their generally high income bracket and affinity for things electronic, will be able to make judicious buying judgments. I'm sure, too, that you'll be pleased to be able to finally respond with confidence to all your relatives, friends and neighbors who continually ask you for recommendations on which model to buy. Now you will indeed be the fully rounded local expert on entertainment electronics.

Color television receivers, including projection TV, will become increasingly more important in our lives for both entertainment and education, of course. As you know, TV has already become the central component for a variety of new products and services: video cassette machines, electronic video games, personal computers, and cable TV programs. Coming up fast, too, are video discs, interactive two-way TV, and improved TV sound. Given the rising cost of automobile gasoline, restaurant prices, etc., it's expected that more and more people will chart an in-the-home entertainment course, which must include video and audio. The combined market for video cassette recorders and video disc players alone will reach \$4.2 billion in 1985, predicts Ken Ingram, Magnavox's Marketing Veep.

Stan Prentiss, a well-known TV receiver consultant, will be putting all the video products through their paces in his lab every month. He's authored 36 books on electronic equipment and hundreds of magazine articles.

Joining us this month, too, as a regular contributor is Carl Warren, who'll be handling the "Computer Bits" column every month. Carl was formerly chief editor of *Interface Age* magazine, and is currently Western editor for *EDN*, a professional electronic engineering magazine. For the latter, he covers microcomputers and peripherals, ferreting out new developments in these areas. Therefore, he'll be on the road for the greater part of his working week, where his technical reportorial expertise will provide PE readers with fast-breaking information in the small-computer field as well as practical-use computer tips.

Art Salsberg

POPULAR ELECTRONICS

The home computer you thought was years away is here.



C8P DF \$2,895

Ohio Scientific's top of the line personal computer, the C8P DF. This system incorporates the most advanced technology now available in standard configurations and add-on options. The C8P DF has full capabilities as a personal computer, a small business computer, a home monitoring security system and an advanced process controller.

Personal Computer Features

The C8P DF features ultra-fast program execution. The standard model is twice as fast as other personal computers such as the Apple II and PET. The computer system is available with a GT option which nearly doubles the speed again, making it comparable to high end mini-computer systems. High speed execution makes elaborate video animation possible as well as other I/O functions which until now, have not been possible. The C8P DF features Ohio Scientific's 32 x 64 character display with graphics and gaming elements for an effective resolution of 256 x 512 points and up to 16 colors. Other features for personal use include a programmable tone generator from 200 to 20KHz and an 8 bit companding digital to analog converter for music and voice output, 2-8 axis joystick interfaces, and 2-10 key pad interfaces. Hundreds of personal applications, games and educational software packages are currently available for use with the C8P DF.

Business Applications

The C8P DF utilizes full size 8" floppy disks and is compatible with Ohio Scientific's advanced small business operating system, OS-65U and two types of information management systems, OS-MDMS and OS-DMS.

The computer system comes standard with a high-speed printer interface and a modem interface. It features a full 53-key ASCII keyboard as well as 2048 character display with upper and lower case for business and word processing applications.

Home Control

The C8P DF has the most advanced home monitoring and control capabilities ever offered in a computer system. It incorporates a real time clock and a unique FOREGROUND/BACKGROUND operating system which allows the computer to function with normal BASIC programs at the same time it is monitoring external devices. The C8P DF comes standard with an AC remote control interface which allows it to control a wide range of AC appliances and lights remotely without wiring and an interface for home security systems which monitors fire, intrusion, car theft, water levels and freezer temperature, all without messy wiring. In addition, the C8P DF can accept Ohio Scientific's Votrax voice I/O board and/or Ohio Scientific's new universal telephone interface (UTI). The telephone interface connects the computer to any touch-tone or rotary dial telephone line. The computer system is able to answer calls, initiate calls and communicate via touch-tone signals, voice output or 300 baud modem signals. It can accept and decode touch-tone signals, 300 baud modem signals and record incoming voice messages. These features collectively give the C8P DF capabilities to monitor and control home functions with almost human-like capabilities.

Process Controller

The C8P DF incorporates a real time clock, FOREGROUND/BACKGROUND operation and 16 parallel I/O lines. Additionally a universal

accessory BUS connector is accessible at the back of the computer to plug in additional 48 lines of parallel I/O and/or a complete analog signal I/O board with A/D and D/A and multiplexers.

Clearly, the C8P DF beats all existing small computers in conventional specifications plus it has capabilities far beyond any other computer system on the market today.

C8P DF is an 8-slot mainframe class computer with 32K static RAM, dual 8" floppies, and several open slots for expansion.

C8P \$950

Or get started with a C8P with cassette interface, 8K BASIC-in-ROM which includes most of the features of the C8P DF except the real time clock, 16 parallel I/O lines, home security interface and accessory BUS. It comes with 8K static RAM and Ohio Scientific's ultra-fast 8K BASIC-in-ROM. It can be expanded to a C8P DF later. Base price \$950. Virtually all the programs available on disk are also available for the C8P cassette system on audio cassette.

Computers come with keyboards and floppies where specified. Other equipment shown is optional.

For literature and the name of your local dealer, CALL 1-800-321-6850 TOLL FREE.

OHIO SCIENTIFIC

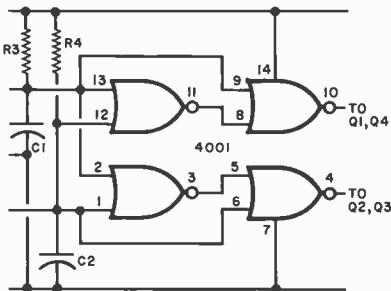
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Letters

Sundial Improvement

In the "Solar-Powered Sundial" (March 1980), it is possible for the NiCad batteries to be damaged when light sensors are fully illuminated and all four FETs are turned on. In this case, the FETs form a low-resistance path, effectively shorting the solar cells and the battery.

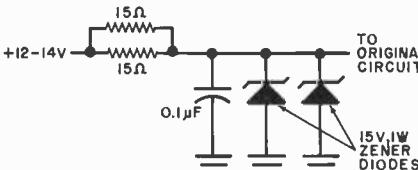


Here is a simple circuit I propose as a substitute. It replaces the CD4069 hex inverter

with a CD4001 quad 2-input NOR gate connected in what is essentially an exclusive-OR function. In this case, the voltage applied to the FETs is low when both light sensors are fully illuminated or both are dark. The FET bridge functions normally when there is a difference in illumination on the light sensors.—D. O. Shelton, Virginia Beach, VA 23460.

Testing the Econometer

In the "Automotive Econometer" (February 1980), in describing the preliminary checkout procedure, the SNS (sense) point should be grounded through a 1000-ohm resistor, not a jumper wire, to test the effects of



rotating R3. Also, those who want to add transient suppression to the project can add the circuit shown here between the positive supply and the remainder of the circuit.—S. Wynman, Brooklyn, NY.

Relays Still in Use

I was pleased to see the article by Al Sydor entitled "An Experimenter's Guide to Relay Control" in the February 1980 issue

of your fine publication. Relays may be old, but they continue to find use in many pieces of equipment today.—Mark W. Persons, Brainerd, MN.

Darkroom Sentinel Rectifier

For the "Photo Darkroom Sink Sentinel" (February 1980), I find that the rectifier specified (Radio Shack #276-1626) has been discontinued. Can you recommend a substitute?—W. E. Bunting, California, MD.

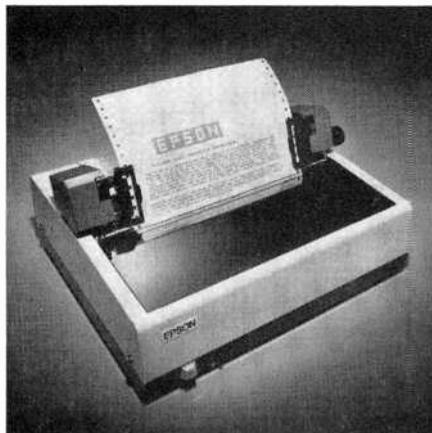
You can use any full-wave bridge rectifier rated for about 1 A, 50 PIV, such as Radio Shack's No. 276-1161.—Ed.

Out of Tune

In "Build a Hand-Held LED Spectrum Analyzer" (September 1979), in Fig. 1, R31 should be R1; in Fig. 3, on IC8C, pins 8 and 9 should be interchanged and on IC5, the pin between 4 and 10 should be 7 not 9; in Fig. 6, at upper right, connected to R81 and R82, should be C33 not C34 and in the center, connected to Q11 and R88, should be R83 not R81.

In "Electronic Scorekeeper for Recreation Rooms" (October 1979), in Fig. 1, on the left sides of IC3 and IC5, the pins from top to bottom should read 2, 1, 6, 7 instead of 6, 2, 1, 7.

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The incredible reliability of our TX-80 is one reason nobody makes more printers than Epson. Here's the other: you can get one for about \$710. Write to us. We'll tell you where.

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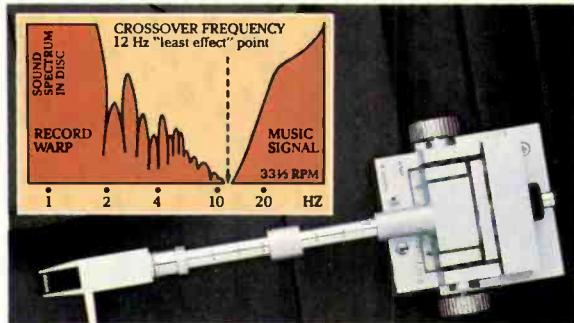
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Yamaha's new PX-2, the flagship of a remarkable new series of turntables from Yamaha, is destined to become the new standard of the audio industry. It is a masterpiece in the art of music reproduction. Totally in a class by itself.



One of the major performance advancements on the PX-2 is Yamaha's unique optimum mass straight tonearm assembly. This design concept is Yamaha's direct challenge to the industry trend of low-mass tonearms. Among the most significant benefits of optimum mass is that it specifically addresses two of the most critical elements of music signal tonal quality—tonearm resonant frequency characteristics and high trackability with a wide range of cartridges. Tonearm mass is such a critical element in sound reproduction (especially in the low and high frequency ranges) that Yamaha has designed this optimum mass tonearm to insure its resonance frequency is at the "least effect" point. (See graph.) As a further benefit, the vast majority of available cartridges can be effectively

matched with the Yamaha tonearm. Even MC types.

But the optimum mass tonearm is only one factor that puts the PX-2 in a class by itself. There's much more. Like an extraordinary 80dB S/N ratio, with incredibly accurate tangential tracking—constantly monitored by an opto-electronic sensor. The PX-2 is also a study in durability with its solid, anti-resonant monolithic diecast aluminum base. And the combined effect of the hefty platter and the heavy-duty DC motor depresses wow and flutter to below 0.01%.

Yet with all this performance, the PX-2 is deceptively easy to operate. All the microprocessor-activated controls are easily accessible—without lifting the dustcover.

The balance of the turntables in our new line (the P-750,

P-550, P-450 and P-350) all incorporate this same optimum mass tonearm philosophy. Each will set new standards for performance per dollar invested.

Visit your local Yamaha Audio Specialty Dealer for a personal test of our remarkable

PX-2 and the other superb turntables in our new series. You'll hear music that's truly in a class by itself.

For more information write us at Yamaha, Audio Division, P.O. Box 6600, Buena Park, CA 90622.

*Yamaha cartridges shown (MC-IX and MC-7) on both models are optional.



 **YAMAHA**

NRI will train you at home to be an electronics professional in the growing world of communications.

Learn to service, repair, and install everything from microwave antennas to two-way radios...from radar sets to TV transmitters.

TV Tape Recorders



TV Broadcasting



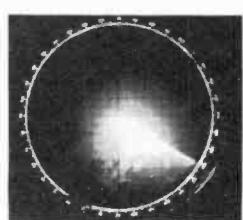
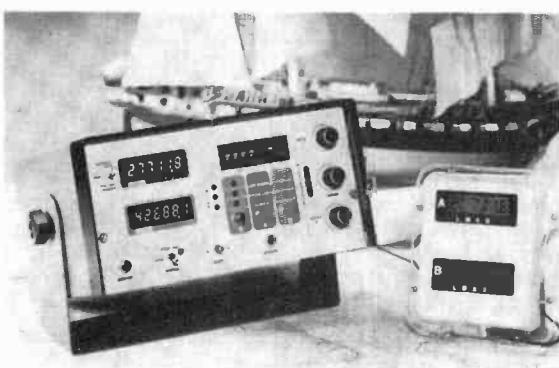
Antenna Systems

Marine Communications



Aviation Communications & Navigation Systems

Direction Finders, Loran



Radar



No other home-study course gives you such complete, professional training in so many fields of communication. No other gives you the actual bench training with kits and demonstration units specially designed for learning. Only NRI gives you the thorough preparation and training you need to achieve professional competence in the wide world of communications.

Learn at Home in Your Spare Time

Learn at your own pace, right in your own home. There's no need to quit your job or tie up your evenings



Mobile Radio

with night classes. No time or gas wasted traveling to school...NRI brings it all to you. You learn with NRI-pioneered "bite-size" lessons and proven, practical "power-on" training.

Build Your Own 2-Meter, Digitally Synthesized VHF Transceiver or 40-Channel CB

NRI training is "hands-on" training. You get honest bench experience as you build and test this industrial-quality two-way radio and power supply. You reinforce theory lessons as you induce and correct faults, study individual circuits and learn how they interface with others. Or, at your option, you can train with a full forty-channel mobile CB and base-station power supply converter.

You also build and keep for use in your work a transistorized volt-ohm



CB Radio

meter and digital CMOS frequency counter. NRI even gives you special lessons to get your Amateur License so



you can go on the air with your VHF transceiver.

FCC License or Full Refund

In all, you get 48 lessons, 9 special reference texts, and 10 training kits...the training you need to become a professional. And NRI includes training for the required FCC radiotelephone license examination. You pass or *your tuition will be refunded in full*. This money-back agreement is valid for six months after the completion of your course.

Free Catalog, No Salesman Will Call

NRI's free, 100-page full-color catalog shows all the equipment you get, describes each lesson and kit in detail, tells more about the many specialized fields we train you for. It includes all facts on other interesting areas like TV and audio servicing or digital computer electronics. Mail the postage-paid card and see how we can make you a pro.

If the card has been removed, write to:



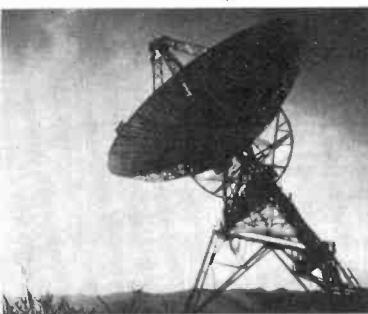
NRI Schools
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Washington, D.C. 20016



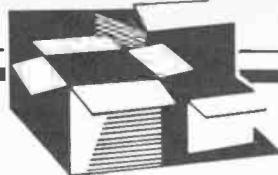
Aircraft Guidance & Landing Systems



AM & FM Broadcasting



Microwave Relay



New Products

Additional information on new products covered in this section is available from the manufacturers. Either circle the item's code number on the Free Information Card or write to the manufacturer at the address given.

Cassette Deck Tracks Recording Time



The Beocord 8000, the first Bang & Olufsen cassette deck to incorporate a microprocessor, features the ability to plot tape usage in minutes and seconds of recording time and relate tape length to the duration of a recorded piece. In addition, if the processor is given a location in time, the machine automatically winds to the corresponding point on the tape and stops. An automatic memory makes it possible to return to the last starting point by pressing a *return* button. An illuminated display allows the processor to communicate with the user. Performance specifications for this two-headed (record/play and erase) deck include: wow and flutter less than 0.1%, frequency response 30 to 16,000 Hz, ± 2.5 dB (metal and chrome tapes), and S/N ratio better than 68 dB (metal tape and Dolby noise reduction). \$895.

CIRCLE NO. 88 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

Digital Delay System



The Koss K/4DS Digital Delay System delays and processes the signals from a stereo program source and feeds them to an additional pair of loudspeakers, generally placed to the rear of the listening space, to simulate natural reverberation. The system is designed for minimum com-

Intellivision Home Computer



This system from Mattel Electronics consists of a Master Component, a 16-bit processor sophisticated game player that features both color video and audio output, and a Keyboard Component that can be coupled together to form a complete home computer. The Master Component con-

tains memory (RAM and ROM) and I/O ports. It also interfaces a pair of 12-button hand-held controllers, each having four player-action keys and a control disc for precise movement of on-screen objects. Video display is 160 horizontal by 192 vertical elements and 24 lines of 40 alphanumeric characters in 16 colors. The Keyboard Component features a 60-key typewriter-like keyboard and a digital cassette system. Combined, the pair holds 16K of RAM (10-bit words) and the memory can be expanded to 1000 8K pages. Two parallel I/O ports allow access to the bus. Over 20 cartridges for the Master Component and eight cassettes for the Keyboard Component are available. A microphone is supplied for audio input.

CIRCLE NO. 91 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

Updated Model 260 VOM



Simpson Electric Company's venerable Model 260 volt-ohm-milliammeter has been updated and is now available as Model 260-7. It features recessed insulated panel connectors to reduce shock hazard, a doubly fused protection network, and a transit mode to protect the meter movement during transport. The 260-7 measures both ac and dc voltage, direct current, resistance, dB and the ac

component of a mixture of ac and dc in 27 ranges and with a dc sensitivity of 20,000 ohms per volt. A varistor protects the taut-band meter movement. Options include mirror scale, relay overload protection, and roll top case. Accessories include temperature, low-power ohms and high-voltage probes. \$103.

CIRCLE NO. 92 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

Morse Code Teacher



The MFJ Enterprises MFJ-410 Professor Morse is a random Morse code generator and keyer. It sends either alphabetic only or alphanumeric characters and punctuation marks. The random code is sent in random length groups and never repeats itself. Speed is continuously adjustable from five to 50 wpm. Operation is from a 12-volt dc source from an ac adapter provided. \$152.95. Address: MFJ Enterprises, Inc., Box 494, Mississippi, MS 39762.

Graphics Printer

The Silentype thermal printer enables an Apple II computer to print anything that can be displayed on the CRT monitor, including graphics, according to the manufacturer. Using a 7-dot printing element to produce a 5×7 dot matrix, it prints up to 80 characters per line on $8\frac{1}{2}$ "-wide thermal paper. Resolution is 60 dots per linear inch (3600 dots per square inch), and speed is 240 dot-columns per second.

plexity of operation and offers the user the choice of four basic rooms "sizes" and the level at which the processed signals are delivered to the rear speakers. In addition, an equalizer switch can either attenuate or boost the low bass. The unit includes its own power amplifiers, rated at 15 watts per channel into 8-ohm loads, plus a separate set of headphone amplifiers. A non-locking button defeats the system temporarily for comparison purposes.

CIRCLE NO. 89 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

a \$5 3 way shower massage?

Try 10 DAK high energy 90 minute cassettes risk free for only \$2.19 each and get a pulsating \$29 value shower massage for only \$5.



It's your choice. Think about the kind of music you like. You don't want to think about cassettes jamming, loss of high frequency response or tape hiss.

DAK manufactures a cassette that you can really forget about. Great sound, and no problems. And, for only \$5 we hope you will think a lot about your new pulsating 3 way shower massage.

YOUR TIME IS PRECIOUS

Imagine yourself just finishing recording the second side of a 90 minute cassette and horrors, the cassette jams. Tape is wound around the capstan, your recorder may be damaged and you've just wasted 90 minutes of your time and perhaps lost a great recording off FM.

MOLYSULFIDE

DAK manufactures enough tape for over one million cassettes per month. We developed polyester slip sheets, inside the cassette, with raised spring loaded ridges to guide each layer of tape as it winds. We coat them with a unique formulation of graphite and a new chemical called molysulfide.

Molysulfide reduces friction several times better than graphite and allows the tape to move more freely within the cassette.

Hi frequency protection! Friction within the cassette causes the build up of static electricity, (much as scuffing your shoes on a carpet in dry weather), which can erase high notes. Molysulfide reduces friction which is a very important consideration for often played tapes.

MAXELL IS BETTER

Yes, honestly, if you own a \$1000 cassette deck like a Nakamichi, the frequency responses of Maxell UDXL or TDK SA are superior and you just might be able to hear the difference.

DAK ML has a frequency response that is flat from 40hz to 14,500hz ± 3 db

Virtually all cassette decks priced under \$600 are flat ± 3 db from 40hz

to about 12,500hz, so we have over 2000hz to spare, and you'll probably never hear the difference.

No apology. We feel that we have equaled or exceeded the mechanical reliability of virtually all cassettes and offer one of the best frequency responses in the industry. Maxell UDXL is truly the Rolls Royce of the industry, and DAK is comparable to the 100% US made Cadillac or Corvette!

Price. DAK manufactures the tape we sell. You avoid paying the wholesaler and retailer profits. While Maxell UDXL 90s may sell for \$3.50 to \$4.50 each at retail, DAK ML90s sell factory direct to you for only \$2.19 each complete with deluxe boxes and index insert cards.

A 3 WAY \$5 SHOWER MASSAGE?

You'll be living in luxury. This powerful 3 way shower massage will massage and relax your tired muscles. You can use its powerful massaging action directly from its standard wall mount, or hold it in your hand and direct the spray exactly where you want it.

The shower massage has a three position power control: 1) it has a normal full spray like a shower head, 2) a combination of normal spray and gentle massaging action, and 3) full massage to relax your total body.

It comes off the wall. This hand held shower massage has a nearly 5 foot flexible chrome plated hose that allows you freedom of movement. You can direct the spray from any angle or height that you desire. To remove the hand unit from its wall mount, simply lift and turn. It's easy for all family members.

EASY INSTALLATION

No plumber, no problems. Simply unscrew your old shower head, and screw in this deluxe massage. The wall mount is incorporated into the main unit and requires no installation. This fine shower massage even has its own built in filter.

er screen, and there is no maintenance required. Just relax and enjoy.

The hand unit is approximately 9 inches long, and the massage section is 3 inches in diameter.

DAK TAKES A RISK

Obviously giving away quality shower massages is not going to make DAK rich. We are betting that you will buy our cassettes again, and we are putting our money where our mouth is!

Customers like you are very valuable in the form of future business. We anticipate receiving over 6000 orders and 4500 repeat customers from this ad to add to our list of over 70,000 actives.

TRY DAK ML90 CASSETTES FREE

Try these high energy cassettes on your own recorder without obligation for 30 days. If you aren't 100% satisfied for any reason, simply return the tapes and shower massage for a full refund.

To order your 10 DAK ML 90 minute high energy cassettes at \$2.19 each and the \$29 value shower massage with your credit card, simply call the toll free number below, or send your check for \$21.90 plus \$5 for the shower massage and \$3 for postage & handling for each group of 10 cassettes to DAK.

(CA residents please add 6% sales tax)

DAK unconditionally guarantees all DAK cassettes for one year against any defects in material or workmanship.

Why not order an extra group of 10 DAK ML90 cassettes for yourself or a friend? We will add one free ML90 cassette to each extra 10 you buy and of course you can buy one \$29 value massage for \$5 with each group you buy.

DAK
INDUSTRIES
INCORPORATED

Call TOLL-FREE (800) 423-2636
In California Call (213) 984-1559
10845 Vanowen St., North Hollywood, CA 91605

new products

The interface card contains 2K of firmware that enables setting left and right margins, line spacing, length of paper ad-



vance, selection of eight intensities, uni- or bi-directional printing, printing of either of two high-resolution pages and normal or inverse printing modes. The printer is powered by the Apple II. \$595.

CIRCLE NO. 93 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

Studio Monitor Speaker

Cerwin Vega's Studio Monitor loudspeaker system is designed to be used in a bi-amplified configuration. It employs a horn-loaded high-frequency driver mounted within the voice coil of a 12-inch midrange driver and a separate woofer cabinet using an 18-inch driver. The mid-range and tweeter are positioned to minimize phase distortion and are isolated by a special acoustic shield designed to prevent interaction and IM distortion. The bass section, said to be capable of producing audible output at 26 Hz, is rated to handle up to 500 watts. Controlled dispersion allows listeners positioned several feet apart to hear identical sounds. A complementary high-pass filter/bass equalizer is a part of the package.

CIRCLE NO. 94 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

CRT Enhancement Filter

The Polaroid CP-70 circular polarization contrast enhancement filter attaches easily to the bezel around the cathode-ray-tube display screen by means of self-adhe-

Semiautomatic Turntable



The Luxman Model PD-264 turntable features, in addition to semiautomatic operation, direct drive, a straight tonearm with low mass, and front-panel controls. Designed to handle cartridges weighing from 4-11 grams and tracking at up to 3 grams/stylus force, the unit has rated wow and flutter of 0.035% (wrms) and S/N ratio of at least 60 dB (IEC-B). It offers speeds of 33 and 45 rpm, both said to be adjustable through 6%. Additional features include a stroboscope, antiskate adjustment, and detachable dust cover, as well as controls for tonearm elevation and stylus height. \$225.

CIRCLE NO. 96 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

sive brackets. Reflection problems are thereby reduced and display contrast enhanced to reduce operator eye fatigue. Unlike conventional absorption filters that simply reduce glare, circular polarization filters can discriminate against reflections. Complete kits are priced from \$26 for a formed, nonglare, plastic filter. Laminated-glass, antireflection filters that can be adjusted to lighting conditions are priced from \$68. Prices vary by the size of the display screen.

CIRCLE NO. 95 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

Computer-to-Electric Interface



The ESCON interface made by iPEX International is said to fit any IBM Selectric typewriter (Model 72 or 82), without

modification. Installation requires about six hours of work with ordinary hand tools. All necessary hardware is included. Several models are offered to allow use with most small computers such as the PET and TRS-80. Models compatible with RS-232, S-100, IEEE 488, and Centronics hardware are also available. A special model can be supplied for the Remington SR-101 typewriter. \$595.

CIRCLE NO. 97 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

Wireless Vehicle Security System

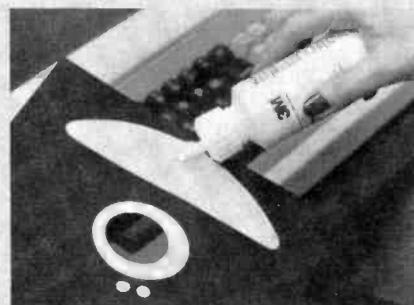


Radio Shack's Archer Mobile Alert warns you of tampering with or an attempted theft of your vehicle by means of a radio transmitter and a pocket-sized receiver. The system includes two electronic sensors and can be expanded to include additional sensors and optional switches. Its dash-mounted transmitter feeds the vehicle's existing broadcast-band or CB antenna. When triggered, it transmits a coded signal that "beeps" the pocket receiver. Range is said to be up to one-half mile (0.8 km). The transmitter section draws power from a 12-volt, negative-ground source, while the pocket receiver uses two AA batteries. Use of the system requires an FCC CB license. \$99.95.

CIRCLE NO. 98 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

(continued on page 16)

Diskette Head Cleaner



Scotch Head Cleaning Diskettes use a unique wet-and-dry method by which a proprietary cleaning solution is applied to the porous cleaning fabric in the diskette envelope. The cleaning diskette is then run in a normal manner for 30 seconds. Two-sided systems may be cleaned using the same approach. Each kit contains sufficient materials for 30 cleanings. Two sizes are available, Scotch 7400 for 8-inch diskettes and Scotch 7440 for 5½-inch types. \$30.

CIRCLE NO. 84 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

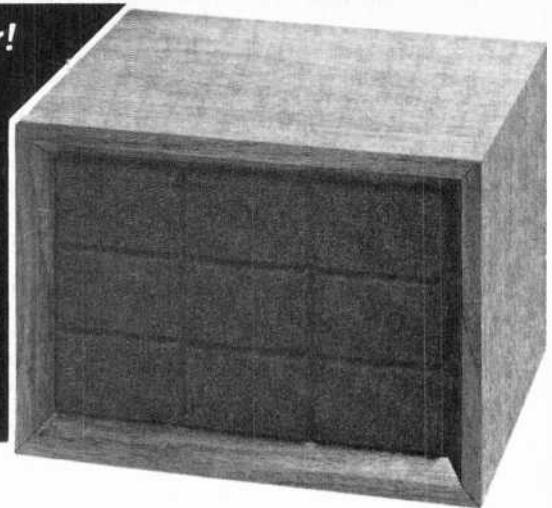
Not Just Another Limited Area Motion Detector!

guardex™

Protects Every Square Inch Of Your Building

Turns On Lights Automatically

Powerful Electronic Siren



Low Cost Computerized Burglar Alarm System Home - Office - Business

NO INSTALLATION

Just plug the Guardex 8000 alarm system in, make several simple control adjustments to suit your particular building and it works! There are no other wires to run. This totally self-contained burglar alarm can completely seal off every square inch of the surface of your building. It protects doors, windows, and what most alarms miss...your roof, walls and floors.

HOW CAN ONE SMALL COMPUTER PROTECT MY WHOLE BUILDING?

Guardex 8000 Alarm System works on the principle of audio discrimination. This, put simply, is the process of electronically separating normal everyday sounds, such as voices, telephones, etc. from break-in type noises such as breaking glass, prying metal, or forcing a door open. The Guardex 8000 protects one story homes and offices up to 2000 square feet and open commercial buildings up to 10,000 square feet. The Guardex 9300 with wireless remote sensor capability is available for multi-story homes and offices or single story with more than 2000 square feet. Call the factory for more detailed information.

TURNS ON LIGHTS AUTOMATICALLY

When the first break-in type sound is detected, the system will instantly turn on lights, radio, or other electronic equipment that you have plugged into the back of the alarm. These lights or other equipment will remain on for a period of five minutes, then automatically turn off.

POWERFUL ELECTRONIC SIREN

The Guardex 8000 alarm is equipped with a loud built-in siren. If during the five minute period the lights or other electronic equipment has been activated, a second break-in sound is detected, (it can be only a second or two after the first break-in sound) the built-in siren will start blasting for 90 seconds. At the end of approximately 90 seconds the siren will shut off and the alarm listens again. If another break-in sound is heard, the siren will come on for another 90 seconds. If no other break-in sound is detected, the siren will stay off and at the end of the five minute period the lights will shut off and the alarm instantly resets.



The rear control panel contains two standard AC plug receptacles for a table lamp, spot lights, radio, etc.; terminals for connecting optional outside siren and back-up battery (not included); entry delay time control and sensitivity control.

The Guardex 8000 Alarm System is walnut grained and disguised to look like a small stereo speaker (6 1/4" x 9 3/4" x 8") and weighs less than 6 1/2 pounds.

EXIT AND ENTRY DELAY

The Guardex 8000 alarm has a built-in exit delay allowing you approximately one minute to lock up and leave the building before the alarm is armed. When you enter your building you may find that just your normal entering sounds activate the siren. You may delay it from starting for up to 30 seconds by turning up the siren entry delay control.

BATTERY BACK-UP

Burglars rarely cut power. However, to give you total protection from a burglar and possible power failure, our alarm has provisions for a battery back-up. (Batteries not included). 12 volt lantern batteries are available at most hardware stores.

THE BURGLARY PROBLEM

The F.B.I. statistics show that at the present rate, one out of every four Americans are going to be burglarized. That is not a very pleasant fact, but it is true. You have a greater chance of being burglarized than being a victim of a fire or automobile accident. The time is now to help protect yourself and your valuables with a Guardex 8000 alarm system.

OUTSIDE SIREN

The Guardex 8000 alarm is equipped with a loud, built-in siren, but if you desire an additional siren to mount outside or in an area away from the main alarm, they are available with 50 feet of wire for \$24.95. (Connecting terminals are provided on the back of the alarm).

30 DAY NO RISK TRIAL

This is your opportunity to purchase an alarm system directly from the factory for only \$199.95. Try it in your home or business for thirty days without risking one cent. Put our Guardex 8000 alarm to your own test. See for yourself! It will protect every window and door from break-in. If you are not completely satisfied, return the alarm within 30 days for a complete refund. To order your Guardex 8000 alarm, CALL TOLL FREE to charge your credit card or send your check to Guardian Electronics, Inc. in the amount of \$199.95. If you want the optional outside siren, add \$24.94. (California residents add 6% sales tax.)

(If you require more information, call during California business hours, Monday - Friday)

Dealer Inquiries Invited

CALL TOLL FREE
(800) 423-5499

California residents:
(213) 889-1414 collect.

**GE GUARDIAN
ELECTRONICS, INC.**

31133 Via Colinas, Dept. PE.

Westlake Village, Calif. 91361



new products

President VHF-FM Marine Transceiver



American Radio Corporation's President Marine Electronics Division introduces its

A special offer on new Mesa Subwoofers for cars—



Mesa 5 1/4" Round Flush Mount Bass Booster

Now \$41.95 PAIR

Mesa subwoofers—or “Bass Boosters”—are added to your present car stereo system—they don’t replace your old speakers. It works this way: a separate crossover network contains a low cut filter. The high and midrange tones come through your existing (satellite) speakers. Lows come out through the Bass Booster. The result is superb stereo separation and more and lower bass than you’ll get with any conventional set of car stereo speakers.

Available in two sizes—5 1/4" round flush mount kit (power handling capacity 10-30 watts RMS/channel; frequency response 42-200Hz).

And the 6"x 9" rear ledge mount

OK, SEND ME:

- kits of Mesa 5 1/4" bass boosters @ \$41.95 ea.
- kits of Mesa 6"x 9" bass boosters @ \$44.95 ea.

Include \$3.25 for shipping & handling. Illinois residents add 6% sales tax.

My check or money order for \$_____ is enclosed, made payable to:
MBR Corporation, 2940 Malmo Drive, Arlington Heights, IL 60005.

Charge my: Master Charge Visa Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Signature _____

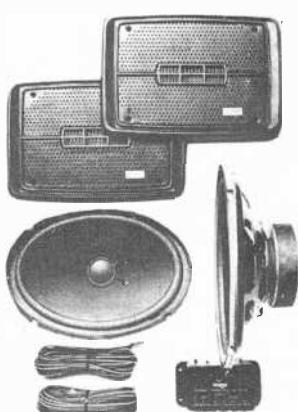
I understand I may return the bass booster intact within 30 days for a full refund if not completely satisfied.

CIRCLE NO. 44 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

Model 511, one of a series of vhf/FM marine transceivers. The President Model 511 is a 50-channel synthesized transceiver whose coverage includes one Canadian and three U.S. weather channels. Channel tuning is displayed on a variable-brightness, seven-segment LED readout. A CH16 pushbutton switch permits quick access to the distress/calling frequency, overriding the master rotary channel-selector switch. A second pushbutton switch chooses either 1 watt or 25 watts of output power. A protective circuit shuts down the transmitter output if the antenna is disconnected or damaged. To inhibit corrosion,

the transceiver is housed in a plastic enclosure. \$479.95.

CIRCLE NO. 99 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD



Mesa 6x9" Rear Ledge Mount Bass Booster

Now \$44.95 PAIR

kit (power handling 10-45 watts RMS/channel; frequency response 37-200Hz).

Both are compatible with any set of full range car stereo or mini speakers.

Each kit contains:

- 2 1/4" or 6" x 9" stereo subwoofer speakers with grills
- separate crossover network with low cut filter for bass separation
- 30 feet of cable and complete mounting instructions and templates for easy installation.

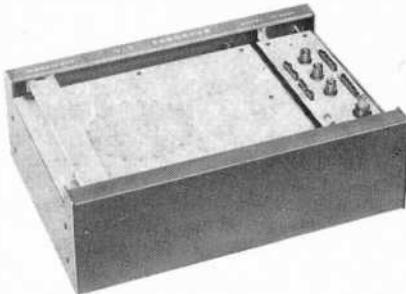
Both with 5-year limited warranty.
30-day money back guarantee* if not completely satisfied.

Act today. Charge it if you prefer.

Vehicle Computer Fits Most Models

The Zemco driving computer is easily installed on almost any vehicle (except those with diesel or fuel-injected engines). Among the 28 functions it provides are current or average mph, fuel used and distance travelled since fill-up, and fuel remaining and distance-to-go until empty. The computer also forms a calibrated speedometer, a crystal-controlled clock, and will show both current and elapsed time. All measurements can be displayed in English or metric. An error display and display dimming for night use are also provided. \$120. Address: Zemco Inc., 12907 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon, CA 94583.

X-Y Chart Recorder Kit



The Heath IR-5207 Chart Recorder kit claims accuracy of 0.5% full scale, and dead band and nonlinearity error less than 0.25% of full scale. Front panel input filters with pushbutton controls allow tailoring of response to each application. Features include calibrated 1-, 10-, 100-mV and 1-volt per inch ranges, integral paper holdown in either horizontal or vertical modes, zero control that allows the pen to be placed anywhere on chart with zero input on both coordinates, electric pen lift, calibrated X and Y sweep, and remote capability. It uses standard 8 1/2" by 11" paper. \$479.95.

CIRCLE NO. 90 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

Microprocessor Power-Line Isolation

The possibilities of a microcomputer system developing unexplained crashes, memory losses and program glitches due to power-line spikes, surges, etc. are claimed to be lessened by use of the Model ISO-3 Super Isolator, from Electronic Specialists. It provides three individually dual-pi filtered 3-prong ac sockets. The isolator can accommodate 1875 W, with each socket rated at 1000 W. \$79.95.

CIRCLE NO. 100 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

NOW AVAILABLE!

WATT WIZARD™

POWER FACTOR CONTROLLER CUTS THE COST OF RUNNING ELECTRIC APPLIANCES BY AS MUCH AS 50% -- AND YOU CAN EVEN SEE THE SAVINGS!

For over a year now, in magazines and newspapers the world over, there have been enthusiastic write-ups on a remarkable new device that can cut your electric bill while helping the U.S. save huge quantities of fuel.

"The NASA/Nola power saver," wrote a *Popular Science* senior editor, "was developed by Frank Nola at NASA's George C. Marshall Flight Center as an offshoot of a program to reduce power consumption in spacecraft motors. Nola calls it a PFC — power-factor controller. I prefer to call it a power saver, however, because that's what it does."

NASA TESTED IT

According to Clyde S. Jones of NASA, "The device has been tested at Marshall Center on over 40 types of motors, with power savings ranging up to 60%, depending on the loading. The motors tested were both single-phase and three-phase, ranging from $\frac{1}{2}$ H.P. to 5 H.P. Most motors will show up to 40-to-50% savings when running lightly loaded or unloaded, and some will show 5-to-7% savings at rated load."

NASA's Technical Support Package showed the test results and noted that "The Power Factor Controller applies to induction type electric motors — the most commonly used type in all major home appliances and the most commonly used by industry."

HOW IT SAVES POWER

Popular Electronics explained it this way: "AC induction motors characteristically run at a nearly constant speed that's fixed by power-line frequency and independent of load and supply voltage. When heavily loaded, the motor draws line current that is nearly in phase with the applied voltage... Under light load conditions, the motor develops less torque by allowing more lag between the voltage and current. This reduces the power factor while leaving the current essentially the same in magnitude.

"Though the low power factor means that conversion of electricity to mechanical power is small, the large current causes considerable (heat) losses in the supply lines and motor windings. This is what reduces efficiency.

"To minimize this waste, Nola's device monitors the motor's power factor and, when it detects light load conditions, it reduces the supply voltage... The current, now more nearly in phase with the voltage, therefore does as much useful work as before, but it and the voltage are smaller, resulting in a net savings of electric power."

THE SAVINGS CAN ADD UP

Like everything else, the cost of electric power keeps going up. Not only is the basic rate you pay going up, the power companies have now added on a "fuel adjustment" charge to help pay for running their generators. In 1980, 1981 and beyond, you'll pay more and more for the privilege of running your electric appliances.

National Aeronautics
and Space Administration
Patent No. 4,052,648



MERCURY 1980©

Right now, the typical consumer pays about \$8 per month to operate a 16.5 cu. ft. frost-free freezer... \$10 to run a 17.5 cu. ft. frost-free refrigerator... \$8.25 for an attic fan operating 12 hours a day... and about \$60 for an air conditioner used during summer months. It's not hard to figure out what you're paying per year just to run one of these appliances. And in many parts of the country, the cost is even higher.

That's why Nola's power saver can soon pay for itself, then start reducing your electric bills — the amount of savings, of course, depending on which appliance(s) you use it with.

There's just one catch. Until now, the device has not been available — except for industrial models prices at \$80 or more.

INTRODUCING THE WATT WIZARD

Cynex, an American manufacturer of electrical and electronic products and a prime contractor for the U.S. Government, has been licensed by NASA to manufacture Frank Nola's power saver. Cynex calls it the Watt Wizard.

"The Watt Wizard," says Ray Beauchea, the firm's Marketing Director, "regulates the voltage fed into an induction motor, reducing or boosting power as required, when loads go up or down. Simply stated, it makes motors run more efficiently, especially when idling. It reduces motor heat, affording longer motor life and reducing the amount of air conditioning required for cooling (rooms) in summer months. It saves electric power, because kilowatt hours are greatly reduced. And it causes the motor to run quieter."

SIMPLE TO USE

Cynex makes several models of the Watt Wizard (all with solid state design), including the 110 V AC plug-in model we're offering. It's for single phase fractional H.P. motors (less than 1 H.P.) which is the type used in most made-for-the-home freezers, refrigerators, window and attic fans, swimming pool pumps, furnace fans, vacuum cleaners, sewing machines, power drills, etc.

Simply plug the Watt Wizard into any electric outlet, then plug the appliance into the Watt Wizard. There's no wiring required. Unlike some competitor's models (if and when available), the appliance does not have to be turned on before being plugged into the power saver. You can leave the appliance — whether on or off — plugged into the Watt Wizard all the time. Or you can move the Watt Wizard to various locations, depending on which appliance is being used. (Better yet, order several Watt Wizards.)

OTHER MODELS AVAILABLE

Air conditioners, washers and dryers require wire-in model. If you lack mechanical skill, you probably need an electrician to install it. We also offer it in 220 VAC single or three-phase.

ADVANCE FEATURES

The Watt Wizard also includes two more unique features. It's fused, so if you accidentally overload the device, it won't burn out. Just change the fuse, which is available at any auto supply store.

And the Watt Wizard features an LED readout, so you can actually tell, at any moment, exactly how much power you're saving — 10%, 20%, 30%, 40% or 50%.

There's a "Power On" light, too. And the Watt Wizard comes with the manufacturer's 1-year limited warranty.

LOW COST — AND A TAX CREDIT

We're offering the Watt Wizard for only \$39.95, with immediate delivery. Want two? Then it's just \$37.95 each. Or splurge and get three at \$34.95 each. Wire-in models for heavy duty motors are \$6 more for each unit. Add just \$2.50 postage/handling for each order (not each unit).

And next year, when you fill out your tax return, you can deduct a full 15% energy tax credit — for additional savings.

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Try the Watt Wizard for up to 30 days. If not completely satisfied, return it (insured) for a full refund.

The sooner you send for the Watt Wizard, the more you can save on your electric bills. To order, send your check or money order to the address below. Or charge it to your Visa, MasterCharge, American Express or Carte Blanche credit card. If using your charge card, you can also order via our toll-free phone number:

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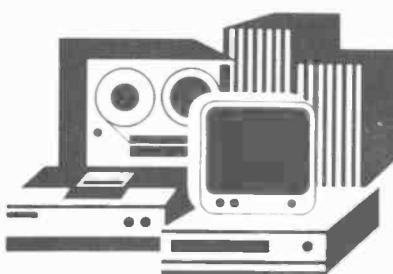
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audio



Entertainment Electronics

**By Harold A. Rodgers
Executive Editor**

The Pursuit of Realism

CONVENTIONAL wisdom has it that someday audio technology will advance to the point at which we will be able to sit in our chosen listening environments, flip a switch, and treat our ears to the sound of music indistinguishable from that heard in the concert hall. After all, we need only play impeccably recorded program material—which may be looming on the horizon in the form of digital discs—through speakers designed for optimum dispersion and imaging and minimum distortion, using electronics from which all traces of TIM, SID, and other alphabetic nasties have been rigorously removed, to be home free. Frankly, I'd hate to have to fund the research and development program that would be needed to realize this technological miracle, all the more because close examination will show that it is more a pipe dream than anything realizable.

The Glitch Overlooked. One of the malign influences that stand to dash the hopes of the faithful is the ancient antagonist noise. Not noise in the recording or the circuitry used to reproduce it, but ambient noise in the playback environment. Circuit design is capable of producing amplifiers with S/N well in excess of 100 dB, and, while the present state of the art in digital hardware limits the best recordings that can be made to 96 dB or so of dynamic range, it is quite reasonable to suppose that digital recording systems capable of resolution beyond 16 bits could be developed. But wide dynamic range avails nothing if the lowest 10 or 20 dB of it are masked by room noise, and overriding such noise by brute force can be shown to produce "colorations" probably equal to or greater than those fussed over by some amplifier critics. Ironically, especially for those who look down their noses at mobile stereo on account of the hostile environment in which it must function, home surroundings are not totally friendly to audio even compared with those of the car; they are only less hostile.

A "Thought Experiment." For the sake of argument, let's assume that we have a playback system that is perfect in all respects—frequency response flat from dc to light, zero distortion, infinite S/N ratio, etc. Let's say further that it is reproducing a composition that has a dynamic range of 90 dB. If the recording environ-

ment had an ambient noise level of 30 dB SPL—which is very quiet—the level of the music, if it is to exceed that of the noise at all times, must range from just beyond that to a bit over 120 dB SPL. This upper level approaches the threshold of pain for most individuals, and it seems reasonable to speculate that this factor, rather than the limited power of acoustic instruments, sets the upper boundary on dynamic range.

Now, when we play this recording back through our perfect system, we will have to play it loud enough to override the ambient noise in the listening environment. If we were fortunate enough to have a listening room as quiet as the super-quiet recording studio that has been postulated, the playback level would only go up by 3 dB, which might be tolerable. But typical residences are far noisier than that, a range of 45 to 50 dB SPL being more common. Under these circumstances we will have to play the music 10 to 15 dB louder than it was recorded in order to overcome the room noise.

As the original levels may have well approached the threshold of pain at their loudest, this additional level boost could make listening to the louder passages quite uncomfortable. And even if that can be tolerated, the elevated level will lead human loudness response to distort the subjective frequency balance. In addition, there is reason to believe that the nonlinear processing that the ear itself performs is level-dependent in a way that makes the same spectrum sound a little different when it is louder. Thus, while the reproduced sound may well preserve the musical values of the recorded original, it seems that the very process of playback in a nonideal environment is enough to change it somewhat. The fact that many, if not most people live in relatively densely populated areas adds social barriers against realistic reproduction of wide dynamic range, too. Few apartment dwellers can get away with playing music at levels in excess of 100 to 110 dB for very long, and even suburbs pose similar, if looser, restraints. And what happens if our neighbors want to hear realistic dynamics too? What does that do to the ambient noise levels in our apartments? The irony is compounded by the fact that the hours when ambient noise tends to be at a minimum are just those times when acoustic leakage of someone else's loud Wagner or

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CIRCLE NO. 46 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

Stravinsky; or "Blood, Sweat, and Tears" will prove to be most annoying.

Can We Use 90 dB of Dynamic Range? I think the answer to that is—sometimes, but certainly not always. What then will we do with our fancy, purely digital recordings at times when either the laws of acoustics or the laws of the land decree that we may not enjoy their full potential. I can't say for certain, but I suspect that the preamp/control centers (or whatever) used in the music systems of the future will contain compressors or other means of restraining dynamic range that proves excessive..

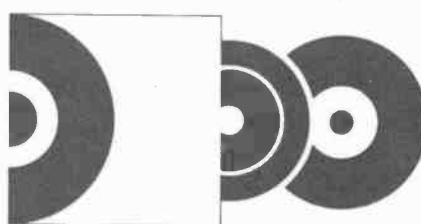
The Brighter Side. Fortunately, if we are concerned with enjoying recorded music, rather than trying to fool ourselves into thinking that we hear a live performance, the outlook is far brighter. The processor in the middle of our heads that works on the signals from our ears has some very sophisticated tricks in its repertoire. For one thing, since the hearing sense can identify and ignore components of noise under some conditions, it is not always necessary that the music completely override noise in order to be heard. As an example, a listener might hear a soft string chord, as at the end of a movement, and not notice at all that a clock is ticking at a level slightly above that of the music. Of course, subliminal awareness of the ticking provides instant confirmation that "this is not a concert." Nonetheless, unless the noise gets very loud, the listener can probably still enjoy the music.

Another factor worth considering is that we all, presumably, really know where we are, at least most of the time,

and the effort of sustaining the illusion of the concert hall may actually distract us from the music itself. Consider a musical composition in which a sound similar to that of a telephone bell is used. When the sound occurs, most of us will probably direct our attention to the telephone to determine if it is really ringing or not—if we happen to be listening to a recording at home. At a live performance, expecting no messages, most people will interpret the sound differently and never even think of the telephone.

It is high time, in my view, that we accept recorded music for what it is—a medium related to but distinct from live music and certainly not limited to the imitation of live music. If we regard the two as equal in this sense, it is easy to see that they have different strengths and weaknesses and that a situation appropriate for one might be hard pressed to accommodate the other. Perhaps even more important, we could stop asking the impossible of our reproduction equipment, quash the indictments accusing it of imagined faults, and enjoy it more fully.

Having made what I hope is a reasonable case for abandoning concert-hall realism as the *sine qua non* for home reproduction, I'll do a quick stutter step and a head fake and tell you that it is possible under laboratory conditions. In fact, it can be done well enough to allow the acoustics of concert halls to be compared. The joker in the deck, however, is that the playback must be done in an anechoic chamber. Furthermore, if odd effects due to infiltration of extraneous sounds are to be avoided, elaborate soundproofing is also required. But, as we will see next month, the idea has interesting ramifications. ◇



Audiophile Recordings

BIZET: *Carmen, Suites No. 1 & 2*; GRIEG: *Suite from Peer Gynt, Op. 55, 46*. St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Leonard Slatkin. Telarc Digital 10048. Technically, there is little to say about this disc other than to acknowledge its excellence. Surfaces are quiet, the stereo image neatly fills the space between the speakers while projecting a good sense of depth, and a sense of space and ambience pervades it all. Slatkin and the orchestra do a good, professional job that manages to sound inspired every now and then. What is missing, for these ears, is solid, musical substance. With just a few exceptions,

the classical offerings on specialty discs have been curtain raisers. How about something meaty, like a Beethoven Symphony, or the Brahms Requiem, or some Bartok String Quartets?

TIP OF THE WEISBERG. Tim Weisberg and his band, Nautilus NR7. Like the Telarc release preceding this disc was mastered by means of the Soundstream digital recording process, and, similarly, its sound is well-nigh impeccable. But rather than using few mikes and doing whatever is necessary to authentically portray instruments in a performance environment, this release unabashedly takes the path of virtuoso studio engineering. Actually, this becomes a part of the album's charm, for while there is no pretense of a natural sound, what one hears is tastefully done and very enjoyable. The liner notes make much of the idea that this is a rock group, not a jazz group. Yet, its esthetic has shed some of the Dionysiac aspect of rock and taken on some of the cool, Apollonian approach found in some jazz. On the other hand, the music really isn't jazz, either. We may have to settle for calling it unique.

AIR ALIVE



Attractive Air Alive unit measures only 4½" x 4" x 1¾" and cleans a 20' x 15' x 8' room in up to 15 minutes.

Little-understood particles, called negative ions, are said to be nature's best air cleaners. They attach themselves to dust, smoke, pollen or anything else floating in the air, and cause it to fall harmlessly to the ground. Now there is growing proof that negative ions may affect your moods, health and sense of well being.

THE ION CONTROVERSY

For the past 20 years, scientists and scholars - world wide have been studying the effects of electronically charged particles in the air called negative ions.

Russian scientists have recently proven that the presence of ions in the air is essential to animal life. Research conducted at the University of California has shown that plant growth is stunted when the ion content in the air is decreased.

Some researchers claim there's evidence that negative ions can relieve allergic ailments and headaches, help control virus, retard the growth of bacteria, increase mental alertness and energy, reduce pain, tension, fatigue and depression and produce sound sleep.

Interestingly, while the number of those who believe that negative ions do, in fact, produce these benefits, has grown, the number of doubters has decreased over the years.

THE ION IMBALANCE

The air is made up of molecules that contain either a majority of electrons, making them negative particles, or a majority of protons, making them positive particles.

Although nature produces a nearly equal number of positive and negative ions, there are a number of reasons why we are surrounded by an over abundance of protons: air pollution depletes the number of negative ions in the air, the static charge from synthetic fibers produces positive ions and natural earth radiation, that would normally produce negative ions, is retarded by concrete and asphalt covering the land.

In effect, we are breathing air that nature never intended us to breathe ... air that has been depleted of negative ions. What is needed is a way to correct this ion imbalance.

NATURE'S AIR CLEANERS

There is almost no disagreement among scientists that negative ions are unmatched in their ability to cleanse the air of impurities. This is how they do it: negative ions attach themselves to dust, smoke and pollen, neutralize them and cause

them to fall harmlessly from the air.

Engineers and doctors have recently recognized this benefit and have begun to take advantage of it. Many now use commercial units that emit negative ions and effectively destroy odors and pollutants in the air.

It has only been during the last year that technology has developed an affordable consumer model. These units were first introduced in Europe where there is a high level of interest in the benefits of negative ions.

Now we are introducing one of the first consumer units to be sold in this country!

ONE OF THE FIRST UNITS UNDER \$100

When we were offered the opportunity to introduce Air Alive to the American market, we jumped at the chance! Why? Because it's one of the first consumer models in this country to be sold for under \$100. And because it's manufactured by Western Systems, Inc., a pioneer in the ion generation field.

MOST COMPACT UNIT ON THE MARKET TODAY

Air Alive measures only 4½" x 4" x 1¾" and puts out 3 trillion negative ions per second per cubic centimeter. That's as many or more than larger, more expensive units now on the market. It is so powerful that it cleans a 15' x 20' x 8' room in up to 15 minutes. Air Alive brings you more cleansing power in its compact size.

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Air Alive is an all solid state unit ... it has no moving parts. The unit is so trouble free that it is warranted by Western Systems, Inc. for two full years, in the unlikely event that anything should go wrong.



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Just for trying the Air Alive unit, we are offering a 160 page book entitled "The Ion Effect".

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It is yours at no additional charge. It's yours to keep even if you should return the Air Alive unit during our 30 day trial period. "The Ion Effect" traces one man's 10 year effort to discover the truth about the effects of ions. Judge for yourself the benefits of negative ions.

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Now Western Systems, Inc. brings something new to the American market that Europeans have used for years ... an optional auto adapter that allows you to use your Air Alive home model in your car, truck, van or RV. Hardware included for mounting under your dashboard and adapter plugs into your cigarette lighter.

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We believe Air Alive to be the most compact negative ion generator on the market today. It will destroy the dust, smoke, pollen and odors in the air in your home, office or car.

And we want you to decide for yourself whether or not you can benefit from the effects scientists are claiming that negative ions can have on your health and sense of well being.

We offer you a 30 day, no risk trial period on every Air Alive unit you order. If during that time you decide the Air Alive unit does not meet your expectations, for any reason, you can return it for a prompt refund of the purchase price.

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PE 3



Audio Equipment Reviews

by Julian D. Hirsch

AKG Model K-340 Electrostat- Dynamic Headphones

An electrostatic driver and dynamic driver in tandem cover the audio range

MODEL K-340, the newest stereo headphone from AKG, incorporates some of the unique design features of the earlier Model K-240, and in addition uses an electrostatic driver and a dynamic driver in a "two-way" configuration. A circumaural headphone whose soft urethane-filled ear cushions surround the wearer's ears, the K-340 does not press tightly on the head. Its light weight of 13.5 ounces (385 grams) makes it comfortable to wear for extended periods. The 9.8-ft (3-m) coiled cord is terminated with a three-conductor molded plug. Suggested retail price is \$189.00.

General Description. Although some of the sonic limitations associated with headphone listening are fundamental, AKG engineers found that the sense of

realism could be enhanced by the use of a "comb filter." This is because resonance and diffraction in the outer ear and ear canal convert a "flat" frequency response just outside a person's ears to a response with numerous notches across the frequency spectrum. Wearing headphones changes the resonance conditions in the ears, diminishing the comb effect greatly.

In the K-340, AKG employs six circular passive diaphragms around the driven cone, separating the volume in front of the cone from the rear volume in the earpiece. At low frequencies, the passive diaphragms are acoustically opaque, causing the driver to operate effectively in a small sealed enclosure for full bass response.

At about 200 Hz, where the enclosure resonance would tend to introduce a response peak, the passive diaphragms be-

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The price? Only \$79.95. That's a price breakthrough because no other company can offer you a unit with higher ion output or better quality than the Ion Fountain™, even at triple our price.

HOW CAN WE DO IT?

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WHAT ARE IONS?

Ions are electrically charged atoms in the air with either a positive or negative charge. The sun and cosmic rays as well as lightning and fast-moving water (like waterfalls, surf) generate trillions of negative ions every day. The more negatively ionized the air, the fresher and more alive it is. Air pollution, artificially controlled climates (with air conditioning and heating) and electronic equipment all produce excess positive ions, depriving the air of these small negative air ions and creating dead "stuffy" air.

WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

Our rapid-growth technology, which sometimes takes its toll on the quality of our air, has also come up with the solution. Following Nature's model of the thunderstorm which uses a high electrical charge to purify, revitalize and stimulate the air, the UTP Air Energizer has been developed imitating this process. Both the thunderstorm and the Air Energizer fill the air with negative ions, restoring the natural electrical balance to the polluted, energy-depleted air. But the Ion Fountain can be used indoors in the home, office, workshop, laboratory, etc., keeping a fresh supply of ionized oxygen available night and day. This new breakthrough in fresh air control is not a cover-up

which masks or deodorizes. The unit actually removes the dust, smoke, bacteria and pollen particles from the air by attaching ions to them and causing them to sink to the earth where they can be vacuumed up rather than inhaled. At the same time ions electrically stimulate the energy-stripped air.

YOUR CHOICE OF TWO TOP-QUALITY UNITS!

There's only one unit that's better than the Ion Fountain. That's our own Executive System Four™. It sells for \$159. It has an even higher ion output. Plus! Our special Dial-An-Ion feature allows you to adjust the ion output anywhere from low to high. Not everyone knows that the need for ions varies. A large smoky room will require higher output than a small room. And some people want fewer ions while sleeping than while working. The new Executive System Four is our answer to this need for output flexibility.

FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW The Ion Fountain™—System Five

Ion density: 430,000 ions per cm³/sec. at 1 meter. 1.55 million ions per cm³ at 50 cms.

Use: Large room or office—9000 cu. ft.

Warranty: 1 year

Output voltage: 15KV

Ozone: Less than 2 parts per billion

Dimensions: 5 3/8" x 4 1/4" x 2 3/8"

Executive System Four™

Ion density: Low to maximum of 540,000 ions per cm³ at 1 meter. 1.6 x 10⁶ ions per cm³ at 50 cms.

Output voltage: 15KV

Ozone: Less than 2 parts per billion

Dimensions: 11" x 5" x 4"

Use: Large room or office 10,000 cu. ft.

Warranty: 1 year

If the Executive System Four is better, why did we bring out the Ion Fountain? Not everybody is willing to pay \$159 for an air ionizing unit, no matter how good it is. Just like not everyone drives Rolls Royces. Most drive less expensive cars. The Executive System Four is for the person who wants the

absolute best quality and doesn't mind paying a little extra to get it. If you want highest ion output, flexibility, and a beautiful oak paneled case, buy the Executive System Four.

If you want something at half the price of the Executive System Four, but still better than any other units costing up to \$250, buy the Ion Fountain.

HOW TO GET ONE

To place your order now just send a check for \$79.95 plus \$3 shipping for the Ion Fountain. Or send \$159 plus \$4 shipping for the Executive System Four. Tell us your full street address as we cannot ship to Post Office boxes. (California residents add 6% sales tax.)

Our unit is dependable and trouble-free, but if by rare chance any problems occur our service-by-mail center sends off your unit within 24 hours of receipt or sends a replacement so you are not without fresh air and can enjoy your dust-free environment. And each Air Energizer is backed by a full one-year limited warranty.

HOW TO GET ONE FAST

Credit card holders can call our toll-free number below. Order a unit now and if you are not satisfied with its effects within 10 days simply return it for a full cash refund. Order your Air Energizer today.

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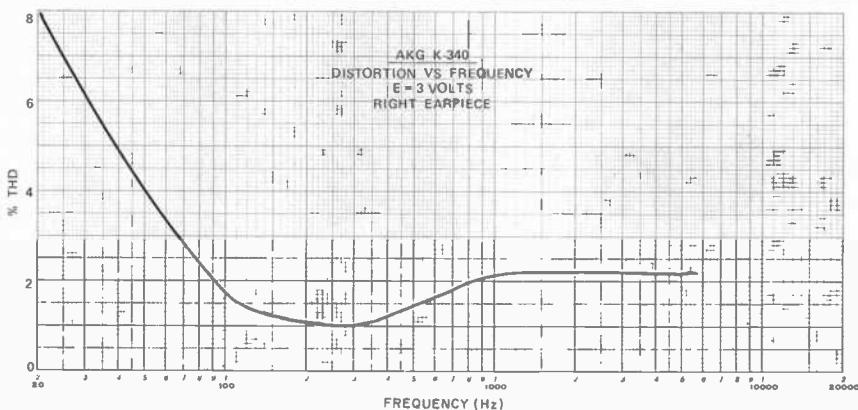
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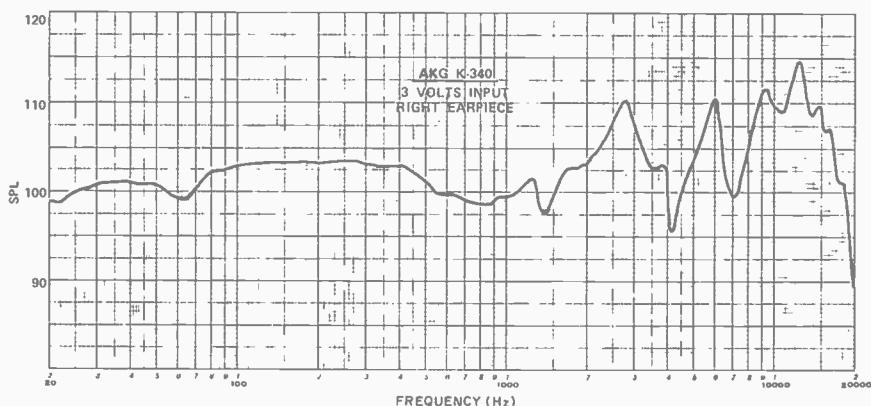
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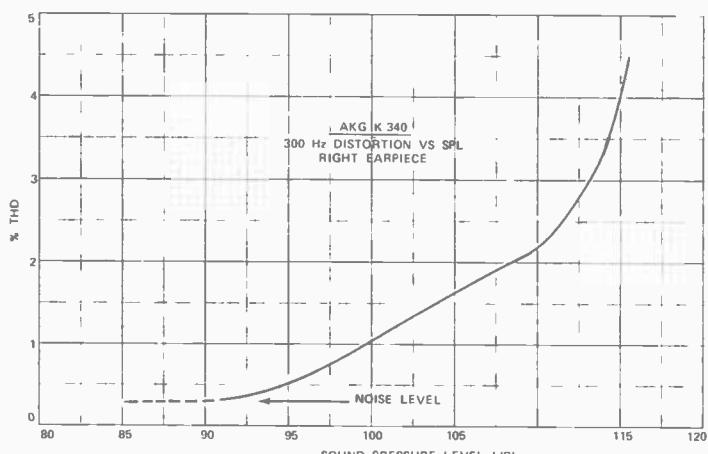
Percent total harmonic distortion versus frequency for right earpiece.



Acoustic output averaged 101.5 dB up to about 2000 Hz.

gin to become acoustically transparent. This expands the volume of the cavity and smooths out the midbass response. Flat bass and midrange output is achieved without recourse to a tight pressure seal on the wearer's head. At high frequencies, the passive diaphragms and the acoustic resistance elements behind them, introduce a comb filter effect that partially replaces the one suppressed by the presence of the phones.

To this point the design is basically similar to that of the K-240 phone still carried in the AKG line. The novelty of the K-340 lies in the use of an additional, electrostatic driver to extend and flatten its high-frequency response. Electrostatic headphones are reputed to offer clear and natural high-frequency reproduction, but their limited low-frequency output prevents them from generating high volume levels without distortion.



Harmonic distortion at 300 Hz versus SPL.

In the K-340, a dynamic transducer handles all frequencies up to about 4000 Hz, above which there is a 6-dB-per-octave crossover to an electrostatic transducer. A permanently polarized "electret" mounted concentrically with the dynamic driver provides the necessary electric field.

Each earpiece contains a miniature impedance-matching transformer, as well as a crossover network. Nominal impedance is about 400 ohms, suitable for connection to any amplifier headphone jack output.

Total sensitivity of the AKG K-340 is 0.63 volt (1 milliwatt) for an output SPL of 94 dB. Its IHF sensitivity rating at 5 volts input (63 milliwatts) is 112 dB SPL. The maximum rated continuous input per channel is 9 volts (200 milliwatts), corresponding to an SPL of 117 dB.

The K-340 phones have a dual bow metal bail that supports the earpieces and has self-adjusting slide fittings for the wide, soft padded band that actually contacts the wearer's head.

Laboratory Measurements. Measured on a slightly modified ANSI headphone coupler, the AKG K-340 had an overall frequency response remarkably like that of the much more expensive, fully electrostatic phones that serve as a calibration standard for our test setup. The high-frequency irregularities in the response curve are due as much to the coupler characteristics as to the headphones and may well represent the intended comb-filter effect. From 2000 Hz down, the K-340 had the flat, smooth response that we have previously measured only from a few of the finest headphones (most costing far more than the K-340).

If the higher frequencies are averaged, there appears to be a slight upward tilt to the response curve, with the maximum at 13,000 Hz about 8 to 10 dB higher than the low and midrange level. As the microphone we use for headphone measurements has its diaphragm resonance at that frequency and its response falls off rapidly at higher frequencies, the high-frequency response measurements probably reflect the microphone and coupler characteristics more than those of the headphone. This is typical of headphone measurements using a coupler.

Acoustic output of the phones averaged about 101.5 dB SPL up to about 2000 Hz with a 3-volt drive level. Impedance was slightly higher than 400 ohms from 20 to 4000 Hz, rising to a maximum of about 800 ohms at 12,000 Hz. Harmonic distortion was measured at 300 Hz, so that its components would fall in the flat response range of the phones. For an acoustic output of 90 dB (quite loud) the distortion was less than the system noise level (about 0.3%). It increased to 1.1% at 100 dB, 2.2% at 110 dB, and 4.5% at 114 dB. With a constant 3-volt input, distortion was 8% at 20 Hz, decreasing to 4% at 90 Hz and about 1% between 150 and 400 Hz. Measured distortion rose slightly to about 2%, at higher frequencies (1000 to 2000 Hz).

Heart Computer

Your heart can tell you three things that can help you live longer and stay healthier. The rest is up to you.

JS&A has never offered a pulse meter. And for good reason.

If you've ever used one, you'll quickly discover that your heart does not beat like a clock. It's irregular. It might beat at 40 beats per minute for one instant and at 120 the next. Since most pulse meters measure each beat as it occurs, you never feel confident that you're getting a very good reading.

We also considered size. Each pulse meter we examined was large or cumbersome and awkward to carry or store.

WE WAITED

We waited a few years. In the meantime, we discovered three ways your heart (through your pulse) helps you monitor your health.

Pulse Rate Your pulse rate can tell you if you are getting enough oxygen throughout your body. A high pulse rate indicates that your heart must pump faster to supply that oxygen and may indicate poor physical condition.

Target Zone Your pulse can tell you if your heart is beating fast enough during exercise. There's an area called the "Target Zone." Below this level, you're not exercising hard enough to do your heart or respiratory system any good. Above this level, you can be dangerously over-exerting yourself.

Cardiac Recovery Time The time it takes for your pulse rate to return to normal after you've exercised is the real measure of whether or not your exercise program is doing you any good. This time can be as healthy as one minute or as poor as several minutes.

The three things we learned convinced us that the ideal pulse meter must have the following features:

1. It must measure a series of heart beats and simultaneously compute the average to avoid the strange readings from irregular heart beats.

2. It must be small enough to use while exercising.

3. It should have a timing capability to determine the Cardiac Recovery Time.

It wasn't until a small Utah medical electronic instrument company created what we feel not only provides the capabilities listed above, but excels in other areas too.

FITS ON FINGER

The unit is called the Pulsetach, and it fits right over your finger. It weighs less than an ounce and can be worn easily during most exercise programs.

The large liquid crystal display can easily be seen in normal room lighting or in bright sunlight, and because liquid crystal displays consume very little power, the readily-available watch batteries will last for years. The Pulsetach automatically turns itself off in five minutes if you forget.

The heart of the system is a powerful micro-

computer CMOS semi-conductor integrated circuit that will take up to 4 pulse beats, compute an average pulse rate, and then flash that rate on the liquid crystal display.

FINGERTIP SCANNER

The sensor consists of a Gallium Arsenide infrared light-emitting diode which scans your fingertip hundreds of times a second to determine your pulse rate. This new system is one of the most accurate and is also used in sophisticated hospital systems.

The unit also contains a quartz-controlled timing circuit which will accurately time either your exercise period or your Cardiac Recovery Time. And you can switch back and forth between the pulse and chronograph mode while you are exercising.

We realize that the Pulsetach sounds like a very sophisticated unit. And it is. But as sophisticated as it is internally, it's an extremely easy unit to operate. There are just two buttons to press which operate the pulse reading and the chronograph timing circuit. A third button engages the audio circuit.



The Pulsetach system fits comfortably on your finger while it monitors your heart and determines your Cardiac Recovery Time.

HEAR YOUR PULSE

The audio circuit simply beeps every time your pulse beeps. This feature lets you monitor your pulse by hearing it as you run or exercise and it can be shut off by pressing the button a second time. The timing circuit is quartz-controlled and extremely accurate.

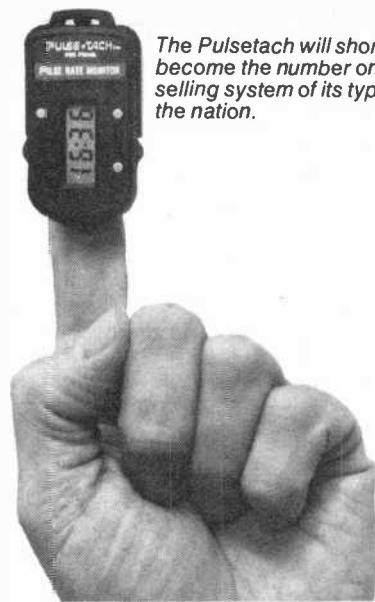
The Pulsetach not only has combined all of the most advanced technology in an extremely small size, but it costs less than many other systems lacking its advanced features.

The Pulsetach can be used for joggers, athletes, all forms of exercise and even cardiac recovery patients, as it operates quite effectively with pacemakers.

REAL WORKOUT

We suggest you order a Pulsetach for our 30-day no-obligation trial. When you receive your unit, give it a real workout. Notice how simple it is to operate and how easily you

The Pulsetach will shortly become the number one selling system of its type in the nation.



can read your pulse rate. Use it to stay in your Target Zone and to determine and then improve your Cardiac Recovery Time.

Monitor your Cardiac Recovery Time. Determine your Target Zone and see if you're really exercising in that area. Then use the Pulsetach to watch those important signs slowly improve thanks to the accuracy and information you get from the unit.

By knowing the important factors that help you monitor your health, you'll feel better, exercise more effectively, and many doctors feel you'll live longer.

TWO UNITS AVAILABLE

To order your Pulsetach pulse meter, send your check for \$119.95 plus \$2.50 postage and handling (Illinois residents add 6% sales tax) to the address below. (Allow 20 days for personal checks to clear.) Credit card buyers may call our toll-free number below.

You can also order the more expensive hospital unit that averages 16 beats and has all the features including the small size of the previous unit. It costs \$169.95.

We'll send your Pulsetach pulse meter complete with 90-day limited warranty and instructions which include information on determining your Target Zone, Cardiac Recovery Time and other helpful information.

Then after your test, if you're not fully convinced that the Pulsetach is the best unit of its kind, the most convenient, and the greatest value, return it within 30 days for a prompt and courteous refund including the \$2.50 charge for postage and handling. You can't lose.

Your Pulsetach is totally solid-state so service should never be required, but if it is, the manufacturer has a national service-by-mail facility backing each unit. JS&A is America's largest single source of space-age products—further assurance that your Pulsetach is backed by a substantial company.

We've waited an awful long time to jump into the pulse monitoring field. But what a great entry. Order your Pulsetach at no obligation today.

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However, those readings are compromised by the fact that the distortion products fall in the region of irregular frequency response.

User Comment. Despite their size, AKG K-340 phones are very light and comfortable to wear. The large ear cushions distribute their pressure over a large area of the head, and the headband can hardly be felt. Adjustment of the earpiece positions is one of the most convenient we have found.

The sound of the phones is both smooth and notably wide in their frequency coverage. Compared to our electrostatic refer-

ence phones, they sound very slightly bright (the average output above 8000 Hz or so is higher by as much as 8 dB). This can sometimes be heard as a slight accentuation of record hiss or FM background hiss, but it does not produce a significant coloration of music.

Playing as loud as a 120-watt amplifier could drive them—far louder than we would normally use—the phones sounded clean and never as though they were being pushed to their limits. Their high sensitivity and impedance makes it possible to drive them to reasonable levels from tape recorder or preamplifier outputs.

As to whether the special construction of the K-340 gives a sound more "natu-

ral" than that of conventional phones, we must defer judgment. In our experience, no headphone duplicates the loudspeaker listening experience, or vice versa, although the two can be made similar by signal processing. We can say that the response of the K-340 is at least as wide and smooth as that of any dynamic phone we have used, and it has much of the high-frequency clarity usually associated only with electrostatic phones. It plays without harshness or distortion at levels louder than most listeners could tolerate and is one of the most comfortable circumaural phones we have used. AKG has realized its stated design objectives very well.

CIRCLE NO. 101 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD



Sansui G-5700 AM/FM Stereo Receiver

Slide-rule dial and digital readout for easy tuning

THE Sansui G-5700 AM/FM stereo receiver features a dc-coupled power amplifier and hybrid tuning display that combines conventional AM/FM dial with a four-digit fluorescent readout from a frequency counter. FM tuning accuracy is assured by a digital quartz-lock control system. Instead of the moving-pointer meters often used to indicate tuning and output power parameters, the G-5700 has solid-state displays for FM tuning accuracy, AM and FM signal strengths, and audio power output into 8-ohm loads.

The Sansui G-5700 carries an FTC rating of 75 watts per channel into 8-ohm loads from 20 to 20,000 Hz with no more than 0.03% total harmonic distortion (THD). It is furnished in a rosewood veneer wooden cabinet with overall dimensions of 18 1/4" wide X 16" deep X 7" high (46.5 X 40.5 X 17.7 cm). It weighs 30.4 pounds (13.8 kg). Suggested retail price is \$630.

General Description. Although the power amplifiers of the Sansui G-5700 are

direct-coupled from input to output, the tone-control amplifiers and phono preamplifiers are capacitively coupled at their inputs and outputs. The amplifiers (and speakers) are protected by a circuit that senses dc across the outputs or excessive current delivered to the load. Either condition makes a fast-acting relay disconnect the output loads.

The upper part of the silver-colored satin-finish front panel of the G-5700 is a dial window, with long, clearly visible dial scales and a traveling pointer. Above the scales are the solid-state displays mentioned earlier. Though some of them operate in somewhat unorthodox ways, all read clearly and are easy to interpret. There is a green SAFELY OPERATE light showing that the protective system has connected the speakers, after an initial turn-on delay. If the protective system is tripped, the receiver is silenced and the light goes out. Power must then be shut off for a few seconds and reapplied to get it going again.

On the input selector there are positions

for TAPE/AUX, PHONO, FM AUTO, DOLBY FM DE-EMPHASIS, and AM. The MIC MIXING feature channels the output of a single (mono) microphone equally to both audio outputs, independent of the main volume control setting. However, the microphone signal does not appear at the tape recording outputs. The DOLBY FM DE-EMPHASIS mode changes the usual 75-microsecond de-emphasis time constant to the 25 microseconds required by Dolby decoding. The G-5700 does not have a built-in Dolby decoder.

The output transistors and their heat sinks are completely enclosed within the receiver cabinet, with cooling air passing by convection through slots in the top, rear, and bottom of the receiver enclosure. On the rear apron there are insulated spring connectors for the two sets of speakers, phono jacks for the signal inputs and the tape recorder connections, and binding posts for the antenna inputs. (There is also a hinged and pivoted AM ferrite rod antenna.) One of the two ac convenience outlets is switched.

(Continued on page 29)

The Imagination Machine™



The only computer with color, sound, user programmability and expandability at \$599.

A built-in, dual-track cassette tape deck with 1500 baud rate, for APF's digitally recorded, "saturated" tape programs. A built-in sound synthesizer. And two, built-in, game style controllers, with joystick and numeric keypads.

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is also expandable. Just add our "Building Block", an optional, four-port expansion device, and you can hook up a printer, telephone modem, and additional memory cartridge or mini-floppy disk drive.

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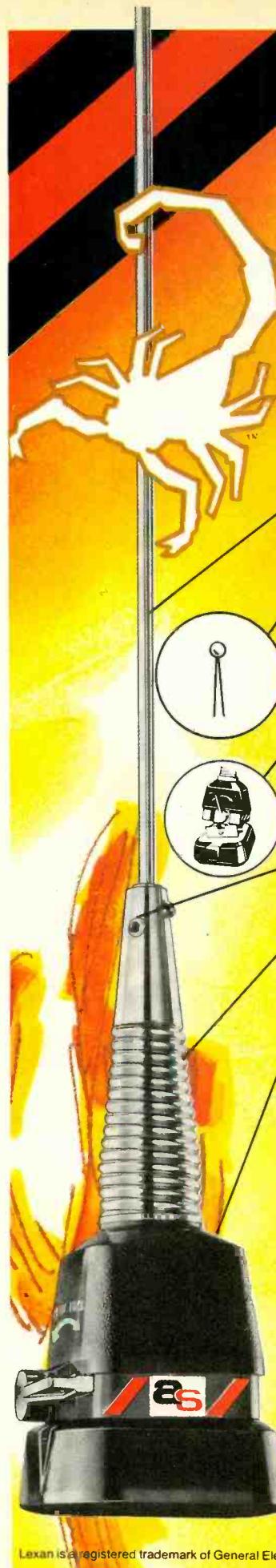
\$599. Manufacturer's suggested retail price.

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All the facts you should know
about CB antenna reliability and
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Precision machine ground tapered whip has less air resistance and less pattern distortion due to whip bending. Highest quality 17-7 PH stainless steel can be bent full circle and still snap back to perfect vertical!

True static ball tip for continuous dissipation of wind static build up and less noise! Also protects garage doors from nicks of unprotected whip tips. Safer, too.

Full 60-Inch radiator surface for maximum range. Optimum length for non-critical tuning — use without fine tuning at 1.5 to 1 or better VSWR from channels 1 to 40!

Antenna Specialists' LEVERLOK™ quick release. Firm, positive electrical and mechanical connection, instant disconnect, with the twist of a lever.

Top grade silver mico transmitting capacitor for consistently lower VSWR under extremes of humidity and temperature.

Dual fine tuning set screws prevent detuning due to road and wind vibration. Assures positive electrical continuity, too, for reliable performance.

Stainless steel shock spring absorbs blows from branches and garage doors. Drastically reduces breakage of coil and mount common with untapered whips without shock spring.

Genuine G.E. Lexan® housing with tensile and compressive strength of 16,000 lbs. per square inch at temperature extremes from -200°F to +320°F! Unmatched ability to withstand punishing abuse.

Silver-plated phosphorous bronze spring contacts. The superior high frequency efficiency of pure silver. Plus spring contacts that will assure positive continuity after years of daily removal and re-installation!

Guaranteed satisfaction with 5-year limited warranty PLUS lifetime coil burnout warranty.

\$39.95 suggested retail price for demonstratively superior quality and performance.

No whip taper.

No static ball.

57-Inch radiator surface.

Quarter turn quick release.

Ordinary ceramic transmitting capacitor.

Single fine tuning set screw.

No shock spring.

Less expensive plastic housing.

Semi-rigid, chrome-plated steel contacts.

12-month warranty limit.

\$42.50 suggested retail price.

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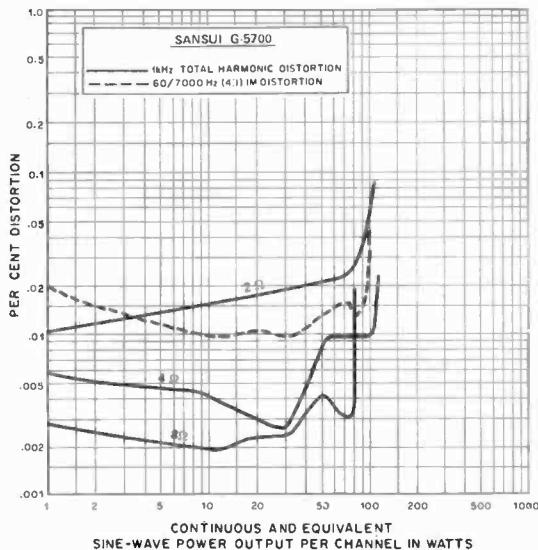


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1000-Hz THD,
both channels driven,
left measured and
IM distortion into
8-ohm load.

Laboratory Measurements. During preconditioning and high-power operation, the exterior of the cabinet became only moderately warm. Driving 8-ohm loads at 1000 Hz, the output clipped at 91 watts per channel, corresponding to an IHF Clipping Headroom rating of 0.8 dB. The receiver is not power rated for other load impedances, but its outputs clipped at 119 and 115 watts per channel, respectively, with 4-ohm and 2-ohm loads.

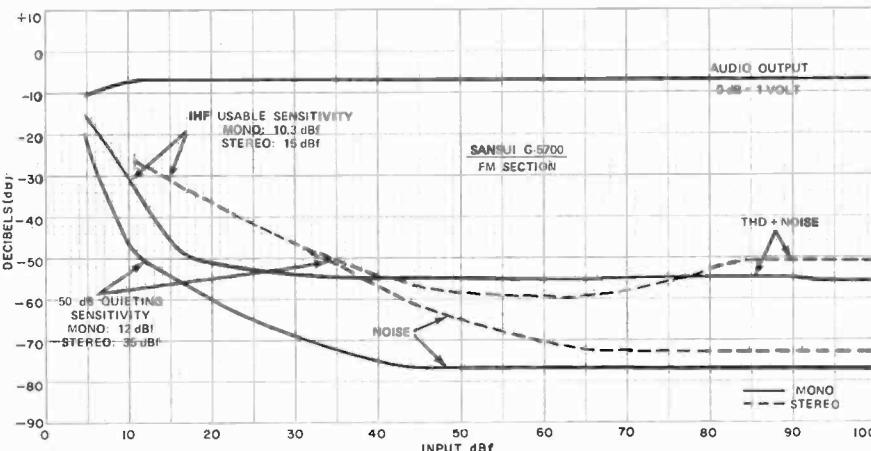
At 8 ohms, the 1000-Hz distortion was extremely low, reading 0.0032% at the rated 75 watts output, and only 0.02% at 85 watts, just before clipping. IM distortion was between 0.01 and 0.02% from 1 watt to more than 90 watts output. With 4-ohm loads, the 1000-Hz THD measured 0.025% as power reached 110 watts. Even with 2-ohm loads, distortion measured only 0.071% at 100 watts.

IHF Dynamic Headroom was 2.8 dB, somewhat better than average. Dynamic power into 4- and 2-ohm loads was the

same as the continuous clipping output power, indicating that this was limited by the maximum available output current. The protective circuit did not trip at this level.

At rated power, half power, and one-tenth power, the distortion was 0.15% worst-case, and typically much better than that. The power output indicators read high by as much as several hundred percent, a fault we would expect, however, to have little practical consequence.

To reach reference power output of 1 watt, an input level of 17 millivolts (mV) was required at the TAPE/AUX input, or 0.27 mV at the PHONO input. The corresponding A-weighted S/N ratios were 78 and 76 dB. Mic sensitivity was 0.75 mV, with a 74-dB S/N. The phono overload limit at 1000 Hz was 260 mV; and at 20 and 20,000 Hz, the respective overload inputs (referred to the 1000-Hz gain) were 249 and 97 mV. The microphone input overload point was very high at 400 mV.



Noise and sensitivity curves for the FM section of the tuner.

Phono input impedance was 49 kilohms in parallel with 150 picofarads.

Sansui specifies the rise time and slew rate of the power-amplifier section as 1.4 microseconds and 56 volts per microsecond. As there is no access to the power-amplifier inputs, we measured through the AUX inputs. Rise time was 4 microseconds and the slew rate 22 volts/microsecond, both very adequate for this power rating. IHF Slew Factor exceeded our measurement limit of 25.

Tone control characteristics were typical of most amplifiers we have tested, with a variable bass turnover frequency and a hinged treble response. Loudness compensation boosted both low and high frequencies, and the subsonic filter, down 3 dB at 20 Hz, began to roll the bass response off slightly as high as 60 Hz. Flat within 0.5 dB overall from 30 to 20,000 Hz, and down 1 dB at 20 Hz, RIAA phono equalization was unaffected by most phono cartridges. We found some high-frequency roll-off when driving the phono input through a relatively high-inductance cartridge, but we suspect this was due to the effect of the preamplifier input capacitance on the cartridge. Microphone preamplifier response was flat within ± 0.5 dB from 100 to 20,000 Hz, rising to $+3$ dB at 50 Hz before dropping to -3 dB at 34 Hz.

FM tuner performance was excellent. IHF Usable Sensitivity was 10.3 dBf ($1.8 \mu\text{V}$) in mono and 15 dBf ($3 \mu\text{V}$) in stereo, while the more meaningful 50-dB quieting point was reached with 12 dBf ($2.2 \mu\text{V}$) input in mono, and 35 dBf ($30 \mu\text{V}$) in stereo. Ultimate distortion, at 65 dBf ($1000 \mu\text{V}$), was 0.19% in mono and 0.12% in stereo, with respective S/N readings of 76 and 71.5 dB. The signal level indicators came on at inputs from 14 to 38 dBf (2.8 to $40 \mu\text{V}$).

Stereo FM frequency response was ± 0.7 dB from 50 to 15,000 Hz, and down 1.6 dB at 30 Hz. Channel separation was reasonably uniform with frequency, measuring about 35 dB through the midrange, 33 dB at 30 Hz, and 26 dB at 15,000 Hz. Capture ratio was 1.6 dB at 65 dBf, and 1.4 dB at 45 dBf ($100 \mu\text{V}$), with corresponding AM rejection measurements of 67 and 60 dB. Image rejection was 50 dB. Alternate-channel selectivity was highly asymmetrical about the center-tuned frequency, reading 49 dB on one side and 79 dB on the other. Adjacent-channel selectivity readings were much closer and averaged 5.2 dB.

Muting and quartz-lock thresholds were identical at 13 dBf ($2.4 \mu\text{V}$). There was no distinct stereo threshold, but the stereo light flickered at levels under 11 dBf ($2 \mu\text{V}$). Leakage of the 19-kHz pilot carrier leakage into the audio was -60 dB, and hum level was -69 dB. The AM tuner frequency response was down 6 dB at 200 and 3700 Hz.

User Comment. The Sansui G-5700 handled with gratifying smoothness. FM

tuning was notably quiet and free of transient noises, and the quartz-lock indication, along with unmuting of the audio, did not occur until a station was tuned in precisely. We found that the quartz-lock system produced very close to minimum distortion. Although at some signal levels an improvement could be made by adjusting the signal-generator frequency (touching the tuning knob disabled the

quartz lock), the reduction in distortion had no audible significance.

Except for its image rejection, which is borderline for its price class, just about every characteristic of the G-5700 was excellent. Though lacking a few amenities, such as two-way tape dubbing, separate preamplifier outputs and power-amplifier inputs, and selectable tone-control turnover frequencies, the Sansui G-5700 coun-

ters with a power amplifier whose unusually large current capacity lets it drive difficult speaker loads without distortion or protective shutdown. (The protective circuits, incidentally, are very effective.) If its balance of features suits your needs, the G-5700 receiver represents a highly functional, tastefully styled package at an attractive price.

CIRCLE NO. 102 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD



Onkyo A-7090 Integrated Stereo Amplifier

A rugged, high-current output stage with a "Super-Servo" circuit for dc stability

THE Onkyo A-7090 integrated amplifier is rated to deliver 110 watts per channel to 8-ohm loads from 20 to 20,000 Hz with no more than 0.018% total harmonic distortion (THD). It features Onkyo's "Super Servo" circuit, a secondary negative feedback loop in the power amplifier that reduces its gain at infrasonic frequencies without affecting the audio range. Also included in the unit is a head amplifier for moving-coil cartridges as well as the usual phono preamplifier. The

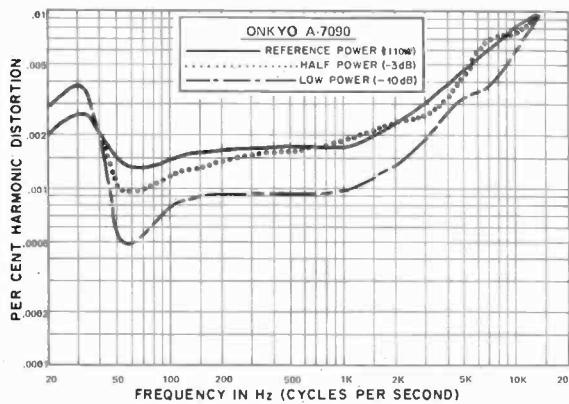
A-7090 is 16½" wide × 16¾" deep × 6⅛" high (41.8 × 41 × 15.5 cm) and weighs about 40 pounds (18 kg). Its suggested retail price is \$700.

General Description. The Onkyo A-7090 is dc coupled through its power amplifier section. Onkyo engineers felt that full amplifier gain down to zero frequency (dc) might promote damage due to infrasonic transients, yet they were unwilling to use large capacitors either in the feed-

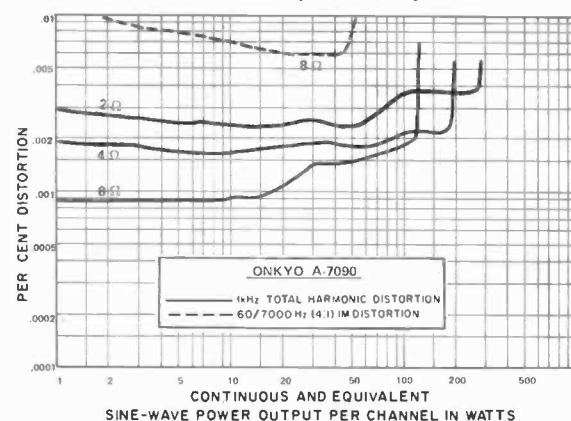
back loop or output lines to roll off response.

The solution lay in the use of a second feedback path, with additional gain provided by an operational amplifier. This introduces a much higher feedback factor from about 1 Hz downward, reducing the gain at 6 dB per octave. This "Super Servo" circuit also maintains zero dc potential across the speakers.

The Onkyo A-7090 has a comprehensive protection system with four criteria



Distortion with 8-ohm load for three power levels.



1000-Hz THD, both channels driven, right measured.

for its operation. A relay disconnects the load if: (1) less than five seconds has elapsed after power-on (for protection from start-up transients); (2) excessive output current is drawn; (3) dc appears across the load; (4) the output-transistor heat sinks get too hot.

The amplifier is finished in satin silver, with the upper part of its panel dominated by a window surrounding the LED power display. Calibrations are at 1, 3, 9, 18, 35, 70, 110, and 120 watts (based on 8-ohm loads). Buttons below the display increase its sensitivity by a factor of 10 or 100 (10 or 20 dB), so that a power output as low as 10 milliwatts will light the first LED.

Functions provided in the A-7090 include SUBSONIC and HIGH filters, as well as tape REC SELECTOR (for taping from the SOURCE or dubbing from either of two tape decks to the other), MUTING, LOUDNESS, and EPS (external processor switch). The last allows connections of an add-on signal processor such as an equalizer or a noise reducer into the signal path much as would "pre out/main in" jacks with removable jumper links. A headphone output is also provided.

The tone controls (BASS and TREBLE) have 21 detented positions with a center OFF setting. BASS turnover frequencies of 125 or 400 Hz and treble turnover frequencies of 2 or 8 kHz are switch selectable, or the tone controls can be bypassed entirely.

The remaining controls comprise a MODE knob, for STEREO, REVERSE stereo, or MONO operation, a MONITOR knob that connects the amplifier to the playback from either tape deck or to the selected program source, and a SELECTOR switch capable of choosing between MC (moving coil cartridge), PHONO 2, PHONO 1, TUNER, and AUX.

The rear apron of the A-7090 contains the various signal input and output jacks, plus six pairs of insulated binding post speaker terminals. Front-panel switching allows any (or none) of these pairs of speakers to be connected in any combination desired. There are two ac line fuses and three ac convenience outlets, one of them unswitched.

Laboratory Measurements. The preconditioning period at one third of rated power did not make the amplifier unduly warm, but the subsequent high-power testing left it quite hot above the output transistor heat sinks. In normal operation, it runs cool.

The outputs clipped at 130 watts per channel when driving 8-ohm loads at 1000 Hz (IHF Clipping Headroom = 0.7 dB). The A-7090 is not rated for operation into 4- and 2-ohm loads, but the respective clipping power outputs were 192 and 250 watts per channel. Exceptional current delivering capacity was demonstrated in dynamic output measurements with the 20-millisecond tone burst specified in the IHF test standard. Clipping power output with this signal was 170 watts into 8

ohms, 300 watts into 4 ohms, and 400 watts into 2 ohms. IHF Dynamic Headroom rating (8 ohms) was 1.9 dB.

Harmonic distortion of the Onkyo A-7090 was close to unmeasurable. For 8-ohm loads at 1000 Hz, the distortion was 0.001% or less from 0.1 watt to about 20 watts output, reaching 0.0019% at 110 watts and 0.06% at 120 watts. IM distortion was 0.04% at 0.1 watt output, about 0.006% from 10 to 40 watts and 0.015% at 120 watts.

Performance with lower load impedances was equally impressive. Driving 4 ohms, the amplifier produced about 0.002% THD from 1 to 180 watts, reaching 0.0035% at 190 watts. The 2-ohm distortion was below 0.003% up to nearly 100 watts, 0.0038% at 200 watts, and 0.06% at the 250-watt clipping level.

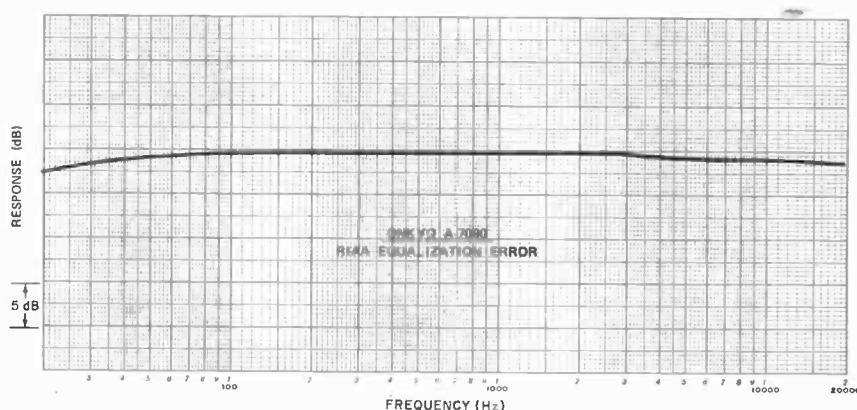
When we drove 8-ohm loads at frequencies from 20 to 20,000 Hz the distortion was always well within the amplifier's ratings. The worst measurement we got was 0.01% at 20,000 Hz.

The power indicator lights read typically within 5% of the actual power outputs, showing unusual accuracy. A high-level input of 14 millivolts or a phono input of 0.19 mV drove the amplifier to a reference 1-watt output, and the S/N for both inputs (A-weighted) was 75 dB referred to 1 watt. Phono input overload was at 300 mV at 1,000 Hz, and at equivalent levels at 20 and 20,000 Hz. Phono input

clipping was at 170 mV at 1,000 Hz. The SUBSONIC filter had negligible effect in the audible range (it was down about 1 dB at 20 Hz) and the HIGH filter response was down 3 dB at 5000 Hz with a 12-dB-per-octave slope above that. These filters are rated to have 12-dB-per-octave slopes with cut-off frequencies of 15 Hz and 6000 Hz, respectively. RIAA phono equalization was accurate within +0, -1 dB from 35 to 20,000 Hz and down 2 dB at 20 Hz. The response changed by only about +1 dB at 20,000 Hz when measured through the inductance of a typical phono cartridge.

User Comment. Although we were unable to check the action of the Super Servo circuit per se, the performance of the Onkyo A-7090 as an audio amplifier left little to be desired. It is as clean an amplifier as one can find, and its power output will be more than sufficient for most home music systems.

Impressive as the A-7090 is in this respect, there are a few other amplifiers that can do about as well. What sets the A-7090 apart, in our view, is its control and operating features. Its tone controls and filters, for example, are exceptionally useful. Also, it has an input for a moving-coil cartridge and two for fixed-coil pickups as well. It is a pity that selectable terminating resistances and/or capacitances for at



RIAA phono equalization curve for the amplifier.

impedance was 51,000 ohms in parallel with 170 picofarads. The MC input was not tested, but it is rated at ten times the gain of the regular phono inputs, with a 40-ohm input impedance.

Rise time and slew rate measurements were made through the AUX input. The slew rate was very good at 50 volts per microsecond; rise time was 4 microseconds. IHF Slew Factor exceeded our measurement limit of 25.

By virtue of their switchable and well chosen turnover frequencies, the tone controls were able to produce exceptionally diverse curves. The loudness compensation boosted both low and high frequen-

least one of the moving-magnet inputs were not provided, but even so, the A-7090 is a phonophile's amplifier. In addition, it is able to accommodate two tape decks and a signal-processing accessory.

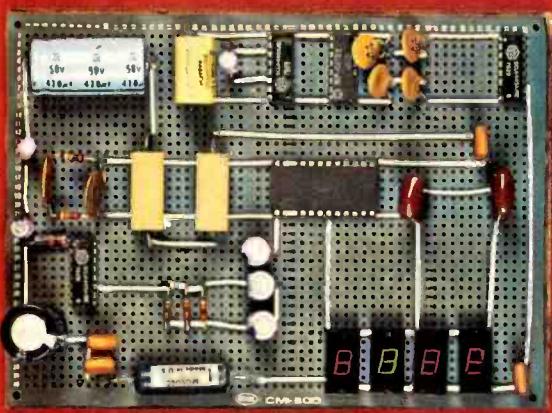
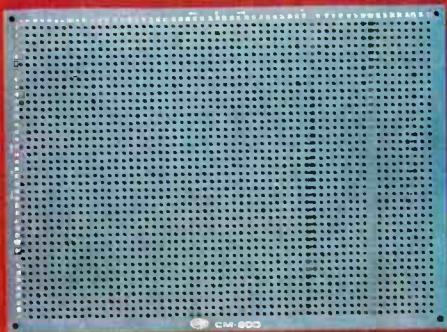
This is not a temperamental unit, and it operates easily (and safely) into very low load impedances at huge dynamic power levels. Its ability to drive two pairs of 4-ohm speakers is a rarity.

The Onkyo A-7090 is not inexpensive, but it is a lot of amplifier in every respect. We could find no significant fault with its design or performance; on the contrary, we found it most impressive.

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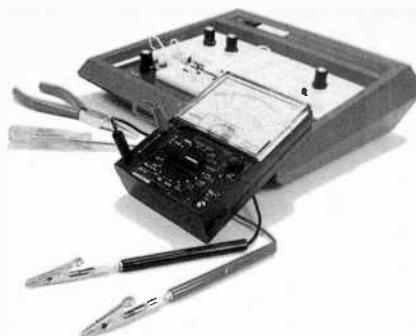
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5600A-Wired	\$199.95								
5612Kit	\$199.95	50Hz-1.2 GHz	Proportional Oven 2 PPM 10° - 40° C	10-25mv	10-15mv	15-50mv	9	*115 VAC or 8.2-14.5 VDC	3 1/4" x 9 1/2" x 9"
5612 Wired	\$239.95								
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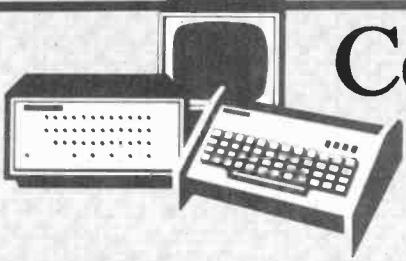
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Computer Bits

By Carl Warren

Time-Sharing Systems

IT now can be said that personal computers have truly "grown up." The reason? They can access and use large databases and have, in addition, the facilities of electronic mail.

Low-cost time-sharing offering these capabilities exists now and has been available for almost a year. Specifically, Telecomputing Corporation of America's (TCA) "Source" network and CompuServe's "MicroNet" system have made this feasible. Both systems are outgrowths of commercial concerns, but at lower costs during off-prime-time hours. The two systems make use of commercial computer networks (Tymnet and Telenet). CompuServe has its own proprietary network at lower cost and higher efficiency; but in certain cities, it utilizes the Tymnet network. Either one of the timesharing systems for the personal computer user can be of major benefit, since they both offer the following features:

- Access to several major data bases including the New York and American stock exchanges.
- Ability to send messages to other users either privately, or to all users at one time.
- Ability to correspond on-line with another user for "real time" message switching. This is a major feature with the Source, but of less importance to the MicroNet people.
- Availability of several high-level languages. Both systems offer BASIC, Pascal, Fortran, assembly language and a variety of other command languages.
- Access virtually from anywhere in the United States. However, there are some things to watch out for, which will be discussed later.
- Relative low cost when compared with commercial systems costs and what it would take to develop similar data bases.

Choosing a Time-sharing Network. This decision can be as important as the one you made when buying your first personal computer. Although both the Source and MicroNet are similar in several respects, they do differ in what they offer in terms of cost, functions offered, user software, and user interaction in the form of download capabilities.

The Source requires a \$100 one-time charge as a subscription fee. This fee covers initial costs of signing on to the system and gives you the necessary access numbers, password, and a 48-page loose-leaf notebook that covers fundamentals of us-

ing the system. Once you are on the system, the basic charge is \$2.75 per hour of connect time based on one-minute intervals. There is no charge for computer time or System Resource Units (SRUs). The connect time is based on nonprime-time hours of 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. local time, weekends and certain holidays. Charges during prime hours are calculated at the rate of \$15 per hour. This rate also applies to building programs that require more than 64K of user memory. However, large, over 64K, Source-Written programs can be used at the \$2.75 per hour rate, according to company officials.

The Source network is built around Prime minicomputers and, as a consequence, software that is available reflects functions associated with the Prime system. TCA does offer complete sets of documentation for the different languages at prices ranging from \$5 to \$20.

The MicroNet service, on the other hand, is a time-sharing system built around a cluster of ten Digital Equipment Corporation PDP 10s. Therefore, all software offered is DEC quality and compatible with most micro-based software. (A number of system software writers for microcomputers used DEC as a model.)

Furthermore, the MicroNet service has a different pricing structure than the Source. Its subscription fee is a surprisingly low \$9.00 one-time charge. As with the Source, this brings you the access number and password which you define and can change yourself at anytime, and an extremely well prepared 71-page user's manual covering all essentials of the system. Also provided with the manual are short update sheets that describe new features added and not yet incorporated into the manual. The manual is of central importance from a user's standpoint, of course. This one is typeset, making it easier on the eyes, and presents necessary commands in a tutorial format.

Everything that is in the manual is du-

plicated on the system. So the user can always obtain data on how to use a specific function by either asking for it or simply typing HELP. Connect time for MicroNet is \$5.00 per hour timed at one-minute intervals, during the nonprime-time hours of 6 p.m. to 5 a.m. No provisions have yet been made for prime-time operation.

Like the Source, users' guides are available for a fee. However, MicroNet has extended the philosophy a bit and is offering a number of documents via the net. And all it costs is the connect time. According to John Meier, the MicroNet marketing manager, as time goes by and various copyright clearances are received, more documents will be available directly through the system.

Getting the Most Out of a Networking System. This is a matter of prime importance since dollars are involved. One complaint has been that, even though both systems offer connect service through telephone ports around the country, the cost really adds up. For example, I live in a suburb of Los Angeles. The direct private network number for MicroNet is a Los Angeles number which costs 16 cents for the first minute of use and 10 cents for every minute or partial minute thereafter during peak hours—before 5 p.m. After 5 p.m. the cost is 30% less, but still significant. In some areas, this can represent a fair amount of dollars. What you might want to do is use the Tymnet system, which costs an additional \$4.00 an hour on MicroNet, but would in most cases still represent a saving. For the Source, the Tymnet and Telenet charges are part of the \$2.75 per hour connect time. A great deal of care must be taken to check your local phone book to get the area code for the phone number you are calling and to see if any toll charges exist.

Based on the foregoing, it would appear that a major disparity exists in the pricing structures used by the two systems, when in fact they are almost equal! The equality does not come from the direct pricing, but in the method of charging for various services. The Source makes an extra charge for anything over 64K. MicroNet allows you up to 128K at no extra charge and gives free storage, while the Source charges 3.3 cents per block (2048 characters) of storage per month.

The Equipment Required. To get on a system, you may need only a terminal with a modem or a full-blown microcom-

The Model TC 3002, originate/answer acoustic coupled modem, from Tek-Com, provides a build-in direct-access connector and virtually noise-free coupling.



puter system may be required. A number of manufacturers such as Apple, Heath and Radio Shack offer modems and have communication software available to assist in transferring and manipulating data between the network and small system. Whatever you plan to do, a good modem is imperative! Many such devices are on the market and offer different capabilities and price ranges. The Tek-Com TC 3002 coupler pictured here as an example is a heavy-duty model that's made for the commercial world. The originate/answer coupler is priced at \$265. Couplers made

especially for home computer users are generally about \$65 to \$70 less.

Available Software. To make a microsystem emulate a terminal and provide uplink/downlink functions, there are a number of packages available. On the MicroNet system, there is executive software for the Apple and Radio Shack TRS-80 that performs this function. They even provide a loader to allow downloading of the executive into your system for future use. All at no cost.

Gerry Kabelman, at the Heath users

group (HUG), called to tell me about a new piece of software they are making available to perform system communication. The package, called MCS, is written for the Heath H8 and H89 computer systems and sells for \$18 direct from HUG.

Lifeboat Associates also has a communication package called BSTAM that is for any CP/M system, including Heath and Radio Shack TRS-80 systems with modified versions of CP/M. This package sells for \$150.

MORE INFORMATION

Additional information about products discussed in this column can be obtained by contacting the companies:

Compuserve (MicroNet)
Personal Computing Division
5000 Arlington Centre Blvd.
Columbus, OH 43220
614-457-8600

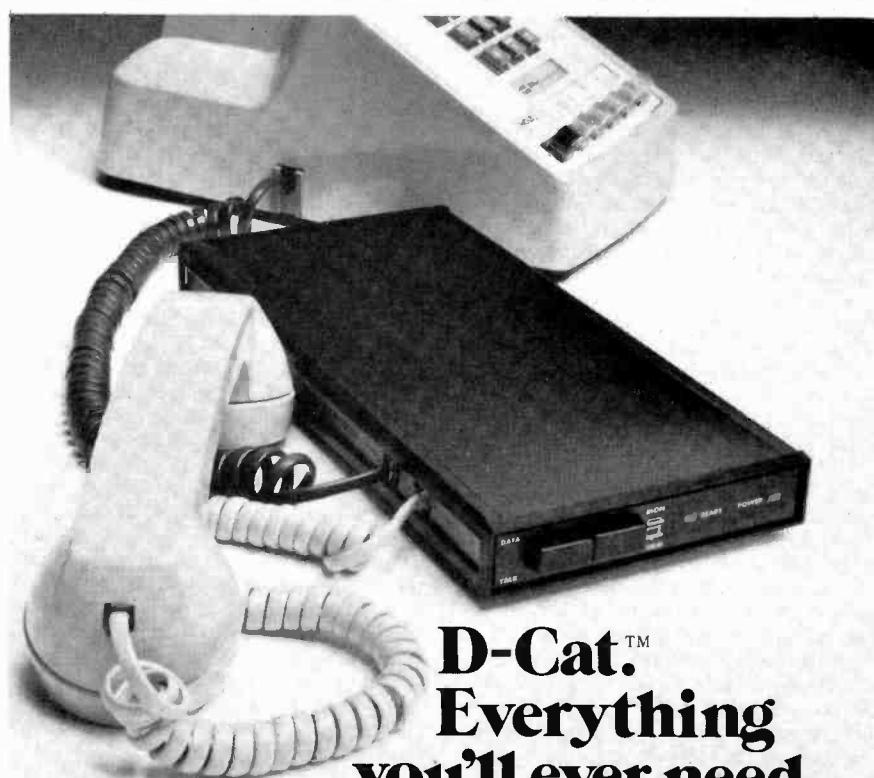
Heath Users Group (HUG)
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Lifeboat Associates
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McLean, VA 22102
800-336-3330

Tek-Com
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Conclusion. To get the best value dollar-wise from these time-sharing networks, both companies, TCA and Compuserve, recommend that users with microcomputer systems prepare as much of the work as they can offline, then use the network to either pass information into users' files or gather updated data, such as stock information. This way, minimum time can be spent on the network and excessive connect costs are avoided. ◇



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Plug in the GIANT BOARD to record and play back programs, edit and debug programs, communicate with remote devices and make things happen in the outside world. Add Kluge (prototyping) Board and you can use ELF II to solve special problems such as operating a complex alarm system or controlling a printing press. Add 4K RAM Boards to write longer programs, store more information and solve more sophisticated problems.

ELF II add-ons already include the ELF II Light Pen and the amazing ELF-BUG Monitor—two extremely recent breakthroughs that have not yet been duplicated by any other manufacturer.

The ELF-BUG Monitor lets you debug programs with lightning speed because the key to debugging is to know what's inside the registers of the microprocessor. And, with the ELF-BUG Monitor, instead of single stepping through your programs, you can now display the entire contents of the registers on your TV screen. You find out immediately what's going on and can make any necessary changes.

The incredible ELF II Light Pen lets you write or draw anything you want on a TV screen with just a wave of the "magic wand." Netronics has also introduced the ELF II Color Graphics & Music System—more breakthroughs that ELF II owners were the first to enjoy!

ELF II Tiny BASIC

Ultimately, ELF II understands only machine language—the fundamental coding required by all computers. But, to simplify your relationship with ELF II, we've introduced an ELF II Tiny BASIC that makes communicating with ELF II a breeze.

Now Available! Text Editor, Assembler, Disassembler And A New Video Display Board!

The Text Editor gives you word processing ability and the ability to edit programs or text while it is displayed on your video monitor. Lines and characters may be quickly inserted, deleted or changed. Add a printer and ELF II can type letters for you—error free—plus print names and addresses from your mailing list!

ELF II's Assembler translates assembly language programs into hexidecimal machine code for ELF II use. The Assembler features mnemonic abbreviations rather than numerics so that the instructions on your programs are easier to read—this is a big help in catching errors.

ELF II's Disassembler takes machine code programs and produces assembly language source listings. This helps you understand the programs you are working with...and improve them when required.

The new ELF II Video Display Board lets you generate a sharp, professional 32 or 64 character by 16 line upper and lower case display on your TV screen or video monitor—dramatically improving your unexpanded \$99.95 ELF II. When you get into longer programs, the Video Display Board is a real blessing!

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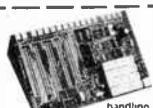
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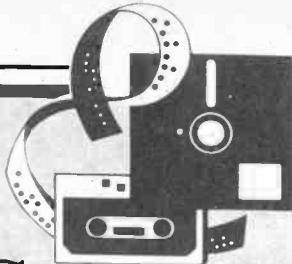
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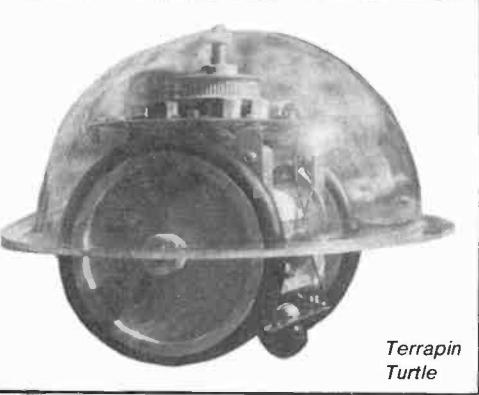
Computer Sources

By Leslie Solomon
Technical Director

Hardware

A Turtle Robot. With the introduction of the microprocessor and microcomputer, the art of robotics took on a new meaning. Assuming a reasonably good knowledge of electronics and mechanics, a determined person could build his own robot. Some of these have been described in the various journals, demonstrated at computer shows, and even shown on network TV news. However, they are still very complex, requiring the mating of electronic and mechanical knowhow. Building a homebrew robot requires too much time to collect or design the various mechanical elements; too much difficult software has to be written and debugged.

Now, we have an answer—the Terrapin Turtle, available as a \$400 kit and designed by Dan Hillis of MIT's Artificial Intelligence Lab. The robot is 7" in diameter and 5" high. It can move at 6" per second, rotate at 120° per second, and make noises via its built-in speaker. The Terrapin has blinking LED "eyes," uses its clear plastic shell as a touch sensor for all four sides, and can be equipped with a



Terrapin Turtle

pen to draw specified designs on a smooth surface.

A 10-foot flexible cable connects the turtle to any digital computer via a standard parallel interface. Power requirement is 12 to 18 volts dc at one ampere. Data requirement is 8 bits in, 4 bits out at TTL level.

The Turtle can "map" a room by using its touch sensor dome to "feel out" the walls and storing the two-dimensional measurements in the host computer's memory. The same technique can be used

to run a maze, and store its features in memory.

The eight bits control right and left drive motors, the LED "eyes," a pen, the horn, and the tones fed to the horn. The four dome touch sensors send four bits back to the computer to indicate contact and direction.

For those that find assembly language programming a chore, Terrapin provides a detailed explanation of how to use BASIC to control the Turtle. The well-written manual explains everything in detail. Address: Terrapin Inc., #205, 678 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02139 (Tel: 617-482-1033).

S-100 and 9900 CPU System.

When the S-100 bus is combined with a 16-bit TI 9900 CPU, you get either a high-end personal computer or a small-business/research type. Two systems are available and both feature 32K of RAM and two 8" floppy disks. They come with DOS, BASIC, word processor, editor, assembler, linker and other utilities. The scientific version (\$4495) uses PASCAL and a floating-point package. The business version (\$4895) uses extended BASIC, General Ledger, Accounts Payable and Receivable and Payroll. A Network Operating System for multi-users is available, as is support for hard disk. Address: Interface Technology of Maryland, Box 745, College Park, MD 20740.

Apple APU. The Model 7811B Arithmetic Processor Unit is intended to increase the execution speed of Applesoft II programs and the number of math functions available. The system employs an AMD9511 APU and plugs into one of the Apple expansion slots. The CCSOFT interpreter is loaded from the diskette provided, and the system is ready to go. The CCSOFT interpreter is identical to Applesoft, except that CCSOFT sends arithmetic functions to the APU for fast execution. Additional functions include ASIN(x), ACOS(x), LOG10(x), SINH(x), COSH(x), TANH(x), INVERSE(x) and PI. Address: California Computer Systems, 250 Caribbean Dr., Sunnyvale, CA 94086 (Tel: 408-734-5811).

TRS-80 CLOAD Helper. The Data Dubber connects between a cassette player and the TRS-80 and reduces the critical "window" in which data can be received to make the volume setting less critical. It uses an IC to reduce noise, volume variations, static and distortions by regenerating the original CSAVE data pulses. The device can also be connected between two cassette players to duplicate a tape. \$39.95. Address: The Peripheral People, Box 524, Mercer Island, WA 98040.

Real-Time Analyzer. The VTU02 for the TRS-80 and the AIB232 for the Apple divide the audio spectrum from 20 Hz to 20 kHz into 31 third-octave bands, and display these bands with the relative am-

plitudes on the computer CRT. The units can be used for measuring sound and noise levels, optimizing the equalization of a hi-fi or PA system, checking the frequency response of audio components and for speech and sound pattern recognition. The Apple unit features a color display. Data can be stored and compared with past or future data. Access is via BASIC programs provided. VTU02 (TRS-80) is \$595, AIB232 (Apple) is \$545. Address: Eventide Clockworks, Inc., 265 W. 54th St., New York, NY 10019 (Telephone: 212-581-9290).

Sorcerer Serial I/O. The Sorcerer Parallel-to-Serial Interface makes any RS232 or 20-mA printer look like a Centronics parallel line printer to the Sorcerer. It uses the I/O drivers already in the system, and features X-ON, X-OFF, and Data Terminal Ready handshaking. It will operate at any of 16 standard baud rates. \$119.95. Address: Mark Longley, 2403 De La Cruz Boulevard, Santa Clara, CA 95050.

Software

Apple Worksheet. The VisiCalc program for the Apple forms an electronic worksheet having 63 columns and 254 rows. At the juncture of any row and column, any digits or words can be typed. The display scrolls as required. When a calculation is required, the formula is typed in and the program automatically performs all arithmetic functions, net present values, and transcendental functions. If any data is changed (the "what if?" function), the worksheet displays the new results. VisiCalc can be used by managers to plan budgets, compare actual results to forecast, and modify projections; by financial analysts to determine rate-of-return under varying assumptions; by accountants to develop statements and pro formas; by tax accountants to compute the effects of alternatives; and by engineers and scientists on calculations requiring transcendental functions, scientific notation and 11-digit accuracy. Requires 32K and disk. Address: Personal Software Inc., 592 Weddell Drive, Sunnyvale, CA 94086 (Tel: 408-745-7841).

"Eliza" for TRS-80. Eliza, an exercise in the simulation of artificial intelligence, is now available for a TRS-80 Level II with 16K of RAM. The program interacts with the user in an almost human fashion, and appears to have an understanding of what is being discussed. The cassette also includes Talking Eliza that permits Eliza to communicate via a TRS-80 Voice Synthesizer. \$14.95 at Radio Shack Computer Centers and stores.

1802 Assembler/Editor. Operating with the North Star disk system, the ASMB-1802 may be used to develop assembly language programs for the 1802 on a host Z80/8080 system. Programs are off-loaded to target processor for test. The

computers

complete 1802 instruction set is supported as well as pseudo-operations for conditional assembly, data and string definitions and multiple-location counter program developments. On diskette for \$75. Address: Allen Ashley, 395 Sierra Madre Villa, Pasadena, CA 91107 (Tel: 213-793-5748).

Apple Word Processor. "Easywriter" is an 80-column word processor that features global search and replace, underlining, bidirectional printing and file appending. This word processor uses the Sup'R'Terminal hardware board to generate the Apple video display text. "Easymailer" is a form-letter module that automatically inserts information from a name and address file, or user definable file, into an Easywriter text file. "Easymover" automatically dials the destination telephone number, connects to the computer and moves Easywriter text out, and saves the transmitted text on disk. Address: Unlimited Software, 793 Vincente St., Berkeley, CA 94707 (Tel: 415-525-4046).

Goodies. Captain Cosmo's Whizbang is a collection of software and hardware tips for the 1802. It includes two paper tape operating systems, a Morse-code keyboard/keyer, an animated video robot face program, a video scratchpad program, and several smaller programs. Hardware includes RAM expansion, EPROM card, paper tape interface, I/O ports, memory address display, and others. \$5. Address: Jeff Dunteemann, 301 Susquehanna Rd., Rochester, NY 14618 (Tel: 716-473-2986).

TRS-80 FORTRAN. Radio Shack's Model I TRS-80 FORTRAN is in a compiler form for fast execution. The user can write programs in FORTRAN using EDIT-80 to store lines for compilation. The editor includes interline and interline editing, find, substitute, and page formatting commands. EDIT-80 also permits reading and editing BASIC files. The package is supplied in a three-ring binder with two program diskettes and includes a FORTRAN users manual, compiler (F80), FORTRAN-80 reference manual, LINK-80 (L80) with manual, EDIT-80 and manual, and FORTRAN subroutine library (FORLIB/REL). Requirements are Level II and 16K of RAM, expansion interface with 16K of RAM, and at least one disk drive. \$99.95 at Radio Shack Computer Centers and stores.

String/File Handling. The STRING/80 Bit is a collection of string and file handling routines for CP/M. The routines are relocatable and use Microsoft FORTRAN convention of register handling. Features include chain or pass control by calling the program name. CP/M calls, kill, rename a file, directory search, reset and disk drive assignments are supported. Several FORTRAN programs and source codes are included. Software includes source code for utility library and all demos. \$95 on 5- or 8-inch CP/M compatible soft-sectored diskette. Address: Key Bits Inc., Box 592293, Miami, FL 33159.

Space Shuttle. Landing simulator program uses the high-resolution mode of an Apple II, requires 48K of RAM, and is written in Applesoft and assembly language. It is an "out-of-the-window" view with text display of flight data, ejection, landing gear, runway stripes, warnings, wheel/speed brakes, etc. Modelled after a real Nasa Shuttle Mission Simulator, it contains everything but roll motion. The 10-page instruction manual also has a brief introduction to gliding flight. Cassette is \$15; diskette is \$21. Address: Harvey's Space Ship Repair, Box 3478, Univ. Park, Las Cruces, NM 88003 (Tel: 505-522-1482).

TRS-80 Duplex ASCII Terminal. The TERM80 allows a TRS-80 computer to be used as a full duplex ASCII terminal. It features all RS232 options via the keyboard. In addition, terminal characteristics may be changed/checked at any time even on line; operation is true full duplex with upper and lower case; all keys auto-repeat after 1.5 seconds; received data may be echoed on a printer; and an optional handshake ensures no character loss over 1200 baud. Diskette is \$24.95. Address: Percom Data Co., 211 N. Kirby, Garland, TX 75042 (Tel: 800-527-1592).

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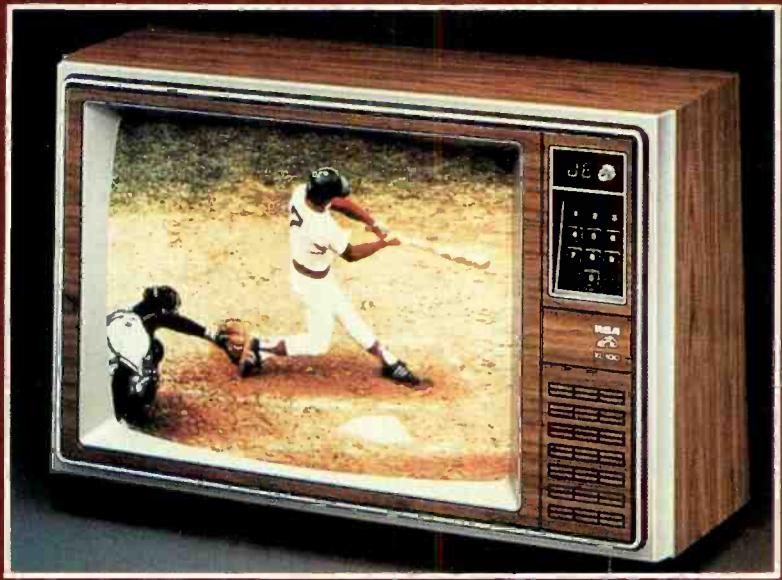
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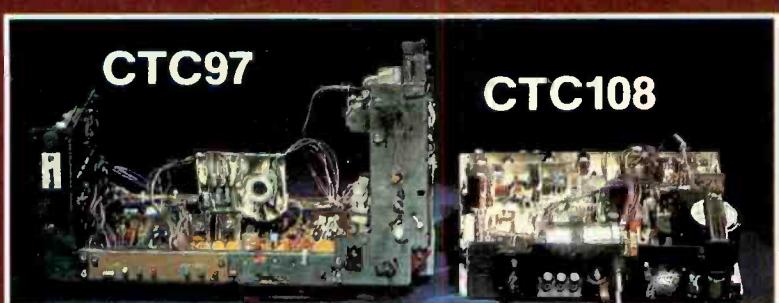
CIRCLE NO. 33 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD



THE new 1980-81 XL-100 color-TV chassis introduced only recently by RCA's Consumer Products Division emphasizes new technology, reduced parts count, and lower power consumption. New technology includes SAW (surface acoustic wave) filters and more sophisticated ICs, including one that processes most luminance and chroma functions. A few discrete transistors are used in these chassis, mainly in the power supply, sweep circuits, and final picture-tube drivers. The entire circuit assembly fits on a single "planar" printed-circuit board that measures 121 sq in.

Three chassis are included in this totally new line of moderately priced color receivers—13" CTC 107, 17" and 19" CTC 108, and 25" CTC 109. The only notable difference among the three is a few extra turns on the flyback trans-

Popular Electronics Tests *New RCA XL-100 Color TV Chassis*



Use of integrated circuits in the CTC 108 chassis results in a total of 76 fewer parts than in the older CTC 97 chassis.

former of the CTC 109 console series to obtain additionally high voltage for the larger picture tube. Therefore, the following description (for the CTC 108 chassis) generally includes the salient features of all receivers in the new line.

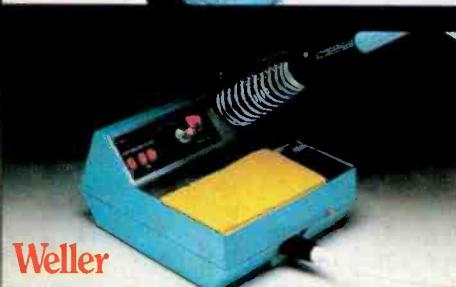
The 19" Table Model FER450, with a suggested retail price in the area of \$400, is the one that this preview report is based on. It will likely be in retail stores at this time or shortly thereafter. It features a 10-button channel-selector keypad, with LED digital readout for any vhf or uhf channel.

General Description. The chassis combines video i-f and final amplifiers, automatic gain control (agc), automatic frequency control (afc), and synchronous video detection circuits into a single IC. A second IC houses the complete

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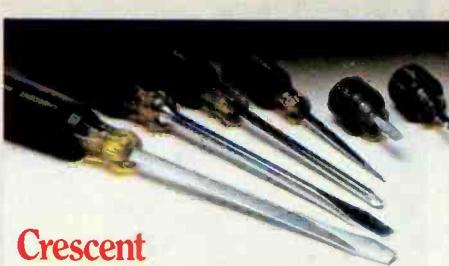
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CIRCLE NO. 17 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

XL-100 chassis

audio system, while a third large-scale integration (LSI) chip performs *all* chroma and luminance processing. Furthermore it has SAW filters, which are being used more frequently in TV receivers because of considerably simplified input circuits and the better selectivity they make possible due to sharper passband skirts. Here are highlights on circuit operation in this new chassis.

The tuning system is a carryover from last year and features a 10-button frequency-synthesized manual-scan tuning arrangement with combined uhf/vhf tuners and SELECT/LOCK switch for complete channel access in any area. The keyboard connects to a frequency-synthesizer (*U1*), operational-amplifier (*U2*), and LED display driver (*U3*). There is also a prescaler for *U1* and an MST005 tuner module that connects to a CABLE/NORMAL switch on the rear of the receiver for 11 CATV channels A-2 through I (uhf displayed channels as 31, 35, 39, 43, 47, 51, 55, 59, 63, 67, and

71), called the midband cable channels. Sound and picture keyboard changes are instantaneous.

When a signal reaches the photoetched input electrodes of a SAW filter (SF 301 in the RCA chassis), a surface wave is generated. This deforms the internal lithium-niobate material and creates "waves" similar to those made when a stone is dropped into a still pond. When these waves encounter the output, a reverse piezoelectric effect restores the electrical signal. Length and spacing of electrodes in the SAW device determine frequency characteristics.

The SAW filter used in the new XL-100 offers excellent response between the 41.25-MHz sound carriers and the 47.25-MHz lower adjacent-channel sound carrier trap. (See Fig. 1.) Color begins at 41.25 MHz, color suppressed subcarrier at 42.17 MHz, and video carrier at 45.75 MHz. This single device actually determines the overall i-f passband response.

Following the SAW filter and its discrete preamplifier are the i-f, aft, agc, & video detector circuits, contained in one multifunction IC (Fig. 2). This IC, the RCA TA7607, requires only a few external components: a tunable aft crossover between pins 7 and 10, and a similar LC circuit between pins 8 and 9 for the synchronous detector. Other than the 47.25-MHz sound trap preceding the SAW filter, there are only six tuned circuits following the tuner that require adjustment.

Three amplifiers, all agc controlled, and another amplifier that supplies push-pull aft outputs for the tuners make up the i-f section. With its crossover LC tuning, the aft detector produces a dc voltage for tuner oscillator corrections within some 30 to 50 kHz.

Any undue noise through the video amplifier is normally shunted to ground by the noise inverter, which traditionally removes sync and agc momentarily until annoying microsecond-duration im-

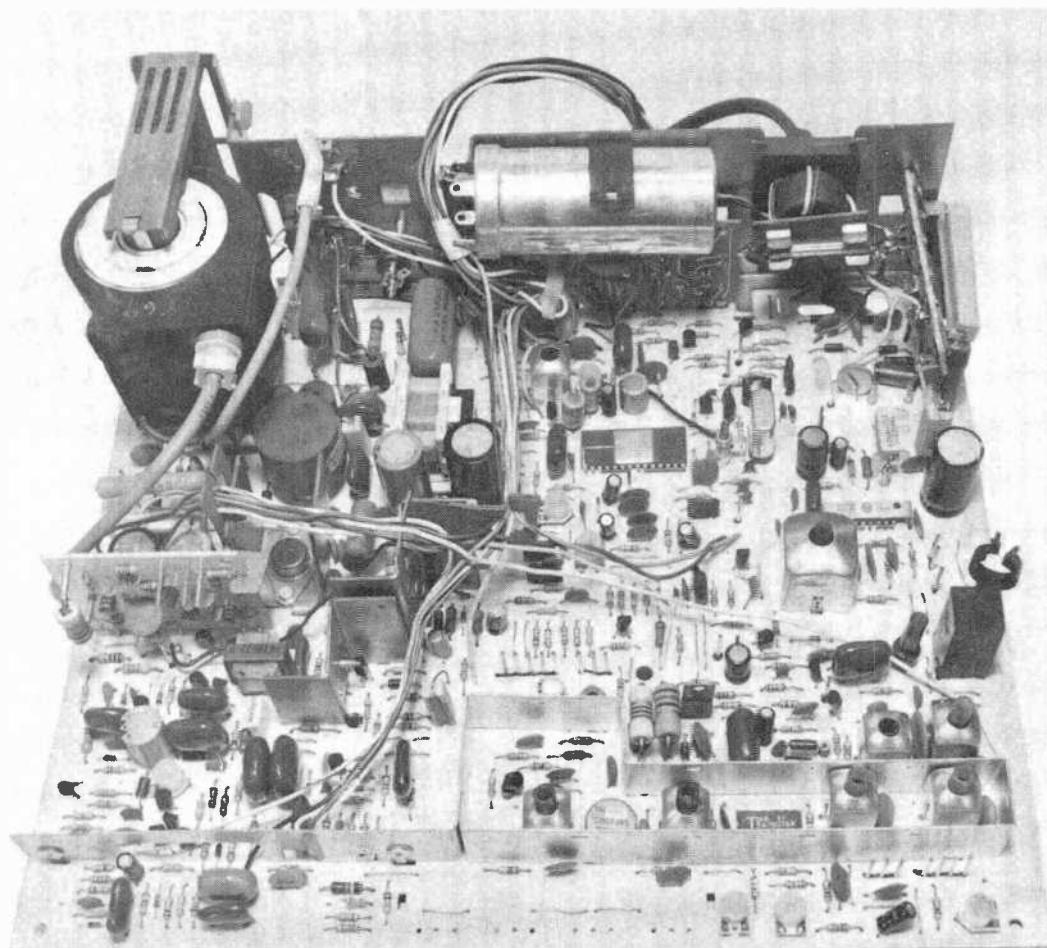


Photo shows that all receiver components, except for a few discrete parts, are mounted on a single pc board.

XL-100 chassis

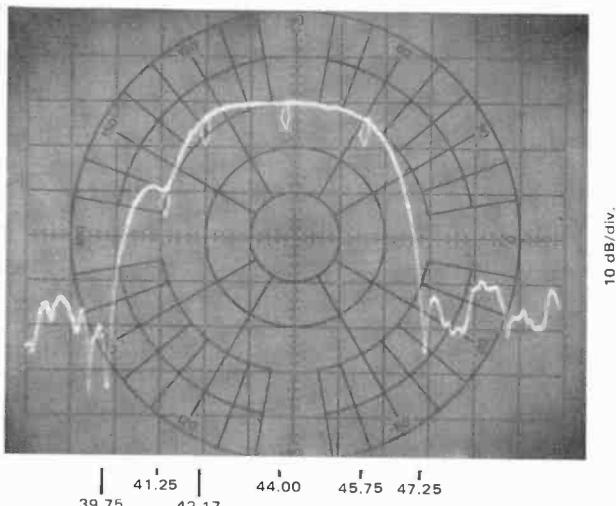


Fig. 1. Scope trace shows how response of SAW filter determines bandpass for all of TV chassis.

Fig. 2. Entire i-f, aft, agc, and video detector functions are contained on a single monolithic IC.

CHASSIS MODEL CTC 108 LABORATORY DATA

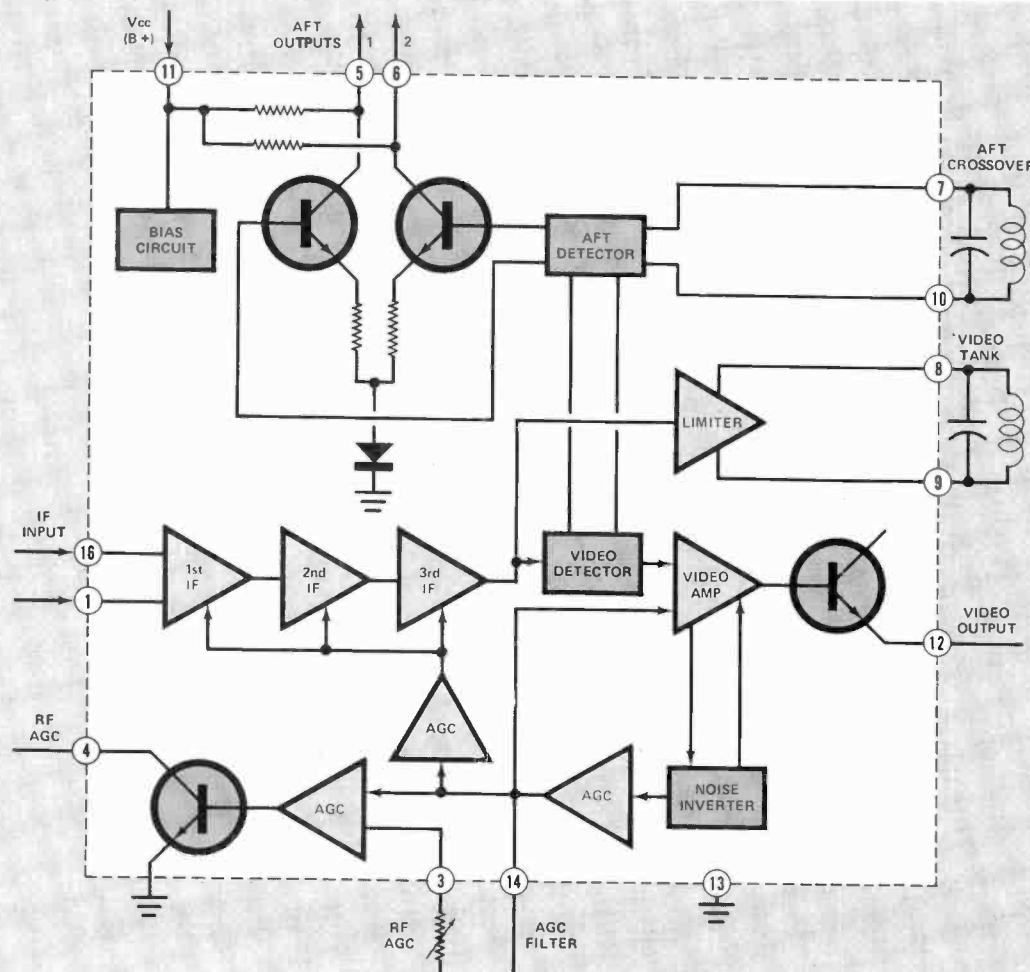
Parameter	Measurement
Tuner sensitivity (min. signal for noise-free picture):	VHF (Ch. 3) -70 dBm UHF (Ch. 40) -65 dBm
Voltage regulation (line varied from 105 to 130 V):	Low voltage: 118.5 to 120.7 V High voltage: 24.5 to 26.5 kV
Horizontal overscan:	15% (adjustable)
Video detection:	4 MHz
Video bandpass at CRT:	3.5 MHz
S/N at CRT:	45 dB
Convergence (measured with crosshatch generator):	Greater than 90%
Power consumption (with incoming signal):	75 watts

pulses have passed. A dc adjustment sets the bias so r-f agc doesn't operate until the i-f's are almost at saturation.

Sound i-f and audio-output IC U201 is an RCA CA3134 that can deliver up to 3 watts through a capacitor into a 32-ohm speaker (Fig. 3). Some features of

this IC are current limiting and thermal shutdown, low quiescent current, excellent 50-dB AM rejection, -3-dB sensitivity of 200 μ V, differential peak detection, and electronic control of volume. Gain is controlled by feedback and dc bias applied to the internal amplifiers.

(Text continued on page 50.)



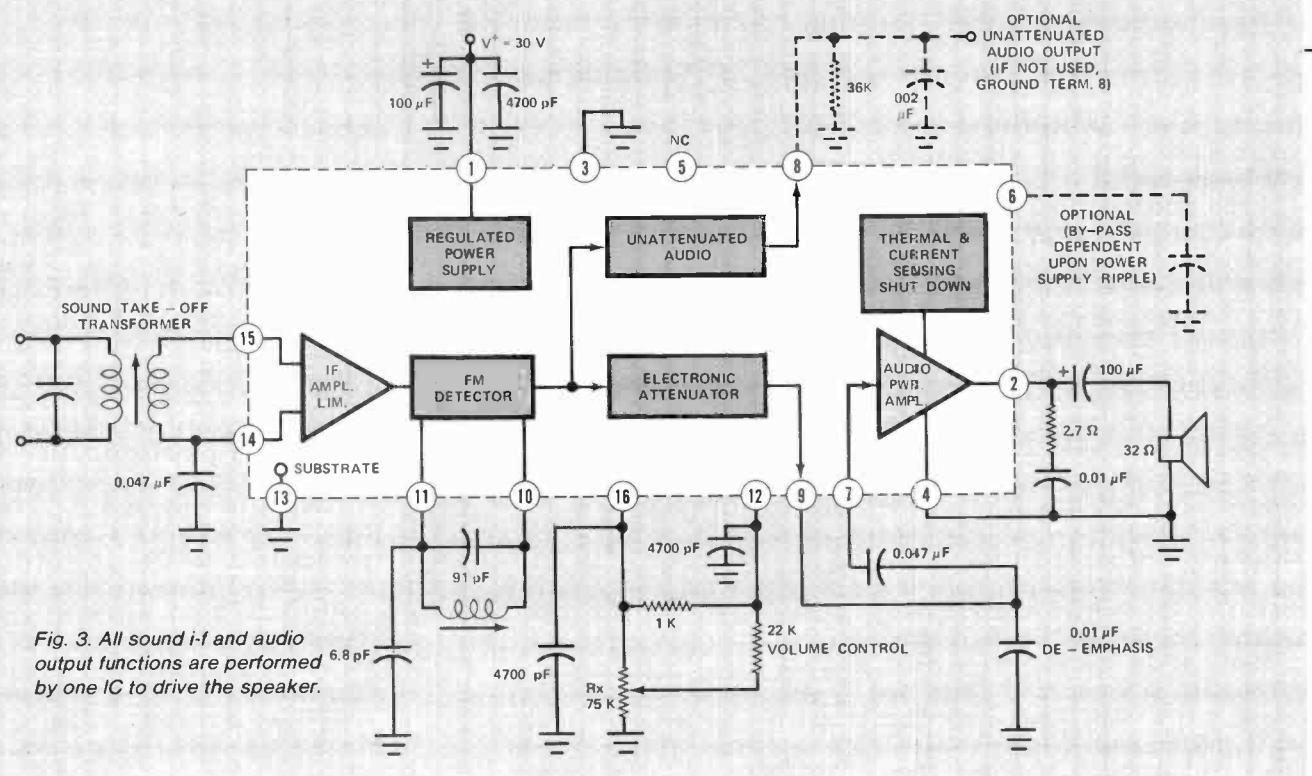
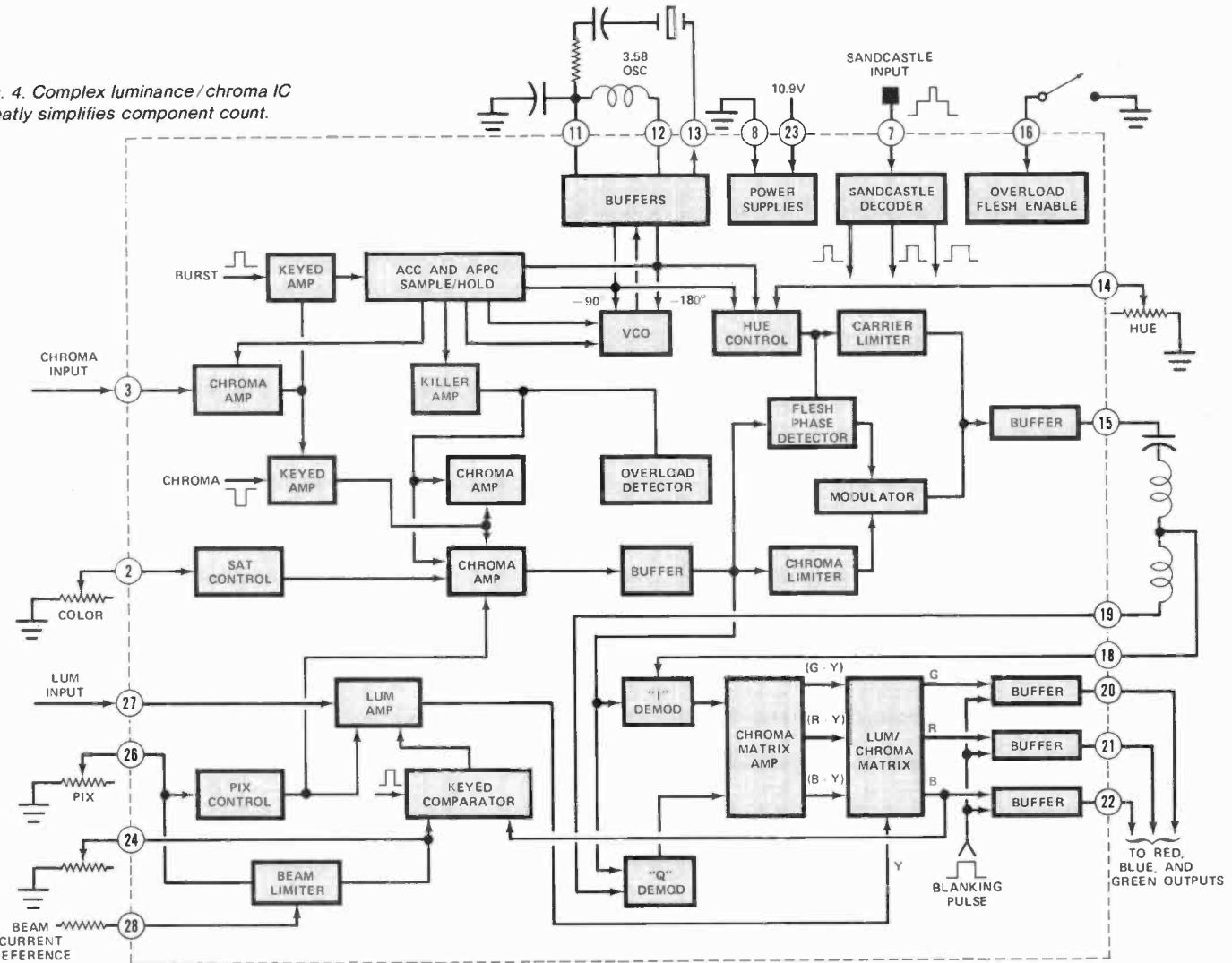


Fig. 4. Complex luminance/chroma IC greatly simplifies component count.



XL-100 chassis

The recovered audio can be delivered unattenuated (pin 8) or electronically attenuated (pin 9).

Audio signals at pin 9 of U201 are coupled through a $0.047-\mu\text{F}$ capacitor, de-emphasized by another capacitor, and fed to the internal audio amplifier via pin 7. Audio output from pin 2 is routed to onboard Darlington power output stages that are current-limited or/and shut down by separate shunt transistors.

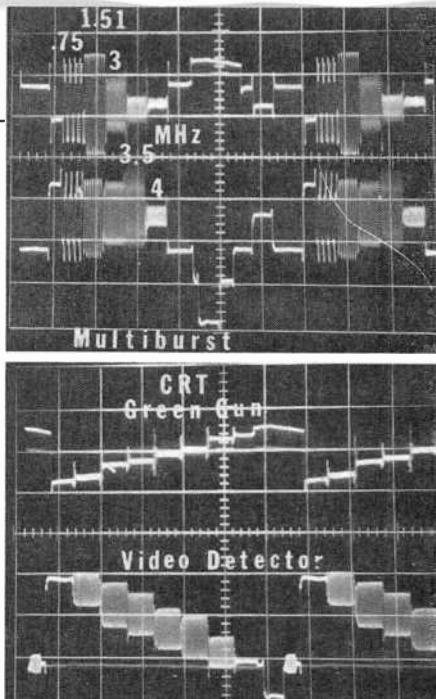
A complex 28-pin LSI device (shown in block-diagram form in Fig. 4) processes all luminance and chroma, after delay-line and burst keyer inputs, to provide signals for the final red, green, and blue amplifier stages before the cathode ray tube. The chroma portion is last year's CA3151 device, which appears in both the CTC 99 and CTC 101 chassis.

Burst and chroma, peaked and band-pass-limited to the usual 1 MHz, are routed to the first chroma amplifier, which delivers signals to both chroma and burst pulse-keyer amplifiers. Here, color killer, automatic color control (acc), and automatic phase control detectors (afpc) receive color burst that is detected and applied to sample-and-hold circuits. Burst amplitude is also sampled by the acc amplifier, which establishes gain correction for the first chroma amplifier. In the absence of color, the killer amplifier biases the second chroma amplifiers off. An external potentiometer offers manual phase shifting for these and the hue control stages, whose signals then proceed to the flesh phase detector, carrier limiter, and buffer.

Flesh-tone phase correction through the buffer is also aided by the flesh detector. Chroma from the second Amp is buffered and limited. Both signals then enter a modulator, where output increases or decreases according to the signal phase. The result is chroma signals constantly amplitude-modulated by flesh-tone-corrected information from the flesh phase detector. Flesh-tone correction cannot be defeated.

The luminance portion is considerably less involved than chroma, but there are interesting circuits here too. Delayed and 3.58-MHz-chroma-trapped video is amplified and gain-controlled by both Pix-ganged brightness and chroma control, as well as the brightness-beam current limiter connected between high voltage resupply and the flyback transformer. Feedback from the blue output amplifier and beam current are sampled in the keyed comparator, and automatic limiting occurs in the luma amplifier.

The horizontal circuits use discrete transistors, and even include the perennial pair of automatic phase control diodes with 15,734-Hz broadcast sync



In top photo, upper trace is multiburst at CRT showing usable 3.5-MHz information; lower trace shows 4 MHz at video detector. In lower photo, top trace is typical staircase with some transients at CRT's green cathode. Lower trace shows excellent reproduction of color bars at video detector.

input and integrated flyback feedback. However, since the horizontal oscillator has improved noise immunity, pull-in range is greater than heretofore possible, and there is no age gating pulse drain. Hence, there is little necessity for operator manipulation, and the dc bias for horizontal frequency is controlled by a factory-set potentiometer.

Afc diodes and a dc level, preset at the factory, control the switching rate of the horizontal oscillator. This consists of two transistors in parallel with collectors connected together and emitters sharing a common resistor. The first half of this circuit rate-modulates the second, which is inverted and switched by a separate pair of feedback transistors, locking the horizontal switch portion to its nominal 15,734-Hz color repetition rate. The usual transistor driver, its current transformer, single-stage horizontal output, and damper diode efficiently do the rest.

Half-wave rectifiers in series with flyback secondary taps furnish various operating voltages for the remainder of the receiver, as is usual. Stacked diodes among the upper flyback windings deliver dc anode voltage to the cathode ray tube. A three-transistor and diode X-ray/overcurrent shutdown circuit samples regulated B+ and high voltage. If either is excessive or too much current is drawn, it biases the horizontal driver into continuous conduction, shutting down the high voltage, flyback-diode generated dc voltages, and the receiver.

Operating power in addition to that sourced from the flyback originates

from a bridge rectifier connected directly to both sides of the ac line, which places this chassis about 30 volts above ground. A single $600-\mu\text{F}$ capacitor supplies ripple filtering for the fairly complex B+ regulator. In stabilizing the raw 150-volt output, regulator action reduces it to 33 volts for the supply's regulator-error, control-amplifier, and oscillator circuits (this is a switching power supply). The oscillator feeds the primary of the coupling and driving transformer. An SCR in the secondary of the transformer delivers current and regulated B+ to the primary winding of the flyback, the collector of the horizontal output transistor, and line and load regulating auxiliary flyback operating voltages.

Regulated B+ is compared with the 33-volt reference zener potential at its emitter by the regulator-error amplifier. High B+ makes the SCR deliver less current and reduces B+ output; subnormal B+ causes the reverse action.

Comments. Although the actual circuitry is quite elaborate, this is a very compact and sparsely populated chassis. All components are soldered into place on the single pc board, however, which makes service in the home extremely difficult, if not impossible. On the other hand, as reliability should prove very high, servicing might not be much of a problem.

High- and low-voltage regulation are exceptional, assuring better-than-average performance under fluctuating power conditions. (See Laboratory Data Table.) Automatic gain control (agc), though not ultra-effective, should serve well in most areas. Overall video bandpass is very good indeed and, coupled with very good tuner sensitivity and even better CRT signal-to-noise ratio, ensures crisp picture quality. While there is some horizontal overscan in the picture (common in color receivers), a width control can be adjusted to minimize it. Like other low-power chassis, this one is not isolated from the power line, so an isolation transformer should be used if, for any reason, servicing is required.

This receiver obviously has a number of points to recommend it. It is sensitive enough (assuming a good antenna is used) to pull in signals in most areas. If you live in an area served by cable TV, the midband channels (in addition to A-1 and A-2 for those odd areas) would be a distinct asset. Clearly, this new chassis offers high performance in its moderate price class. Anyone in the market for a color-TV receiver in these inflation-ridden times would do well to consider it.

— Stan Prentiss



VIDEO CASSETTE RECORDERS:

Rising of Stars Home Entertainment

BY IVAN BERGER

THE more you know about what goes on inside home video cassette recorders, the more you'll marvel at how little they cost, all things considered. But a price that is relatively small for the technology involved can still loom large in the household budget. And when suggested retail prices range from \$735 (for Sears' Model 5305) to \$1775 (for Magnavox's 8273), it pays to know just what you're getting for the extra money so that you'll be able to make good value judgments. Let's start by looking at some of the technology that makes VCRs "high ticket" machines.

How VCRs Work. Audio tape recorders are hard pressed to handle signals up to 20,000 Hz, but home video recorders handle signals well above 2 MHz—and at slower tape speeds than used by audio cassette recorders. This might seem paradoxical since any user of a multi-speed audio recorder can confirm that the faster the tape-to-head speed, the higher the frequencies you can record. Furthermore, higher speeds gobble up tape and thereby increase recording costs. Home VCRs solve this problem much as professional video recorders always have: they feed tape slowly, for economy's

My new home, portable video recorder. Panasonic calls it Omnidivision. I call it "Reggievision."

"This Panasonic portable Omnidivision™ VHS™ video tape recorder is like an all-star team. The PV-3100 recorder with its optional programmable tuner/timer (PV-A35P) lets you record up to 6 hours of TV at home and 8 different shows over 14 days when you're making a road trip.

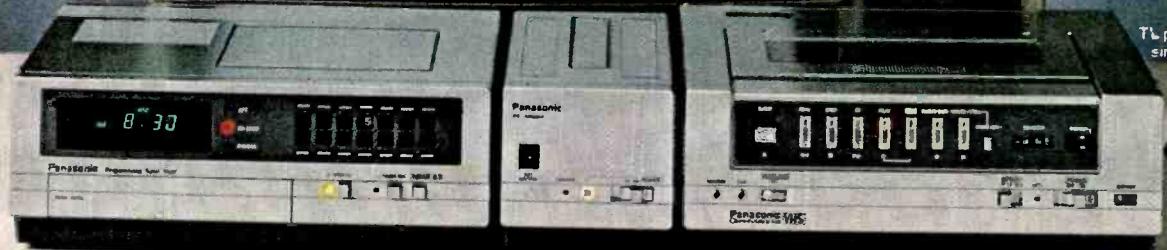
"When there's nothing good on TV, make your own shows—either indoors or outdoors—by adding a Panasonic PK-700 color-sound camera. And look at these major league features: A motorized 6-to-1 zoom lens, automatic exposure control, color balance and a telescoping condenser mike.

"The portable recorder comes complete with a Panaloid™ rechargeable battery, so you can shoot for up to 1 hour. And for an extra hour of taping, there's an

optional battery pack. There's also an optional car-battery adapter. (The Panasonic portable video recorder has almost as many options as my contract.)

"And this Omnidivision ought to win the MVP (Most Valuable Panasonic) award with its special features that let you freeze any frame. Or advance slowly frame by frame and see every detail of the action. With all this going for it, just one more touch would make it perfect—a name with a certain inimitable style and grace. Which is, of course, why I call it 'Reggievision.'

Panasonic.
just slightly ahead of our time.



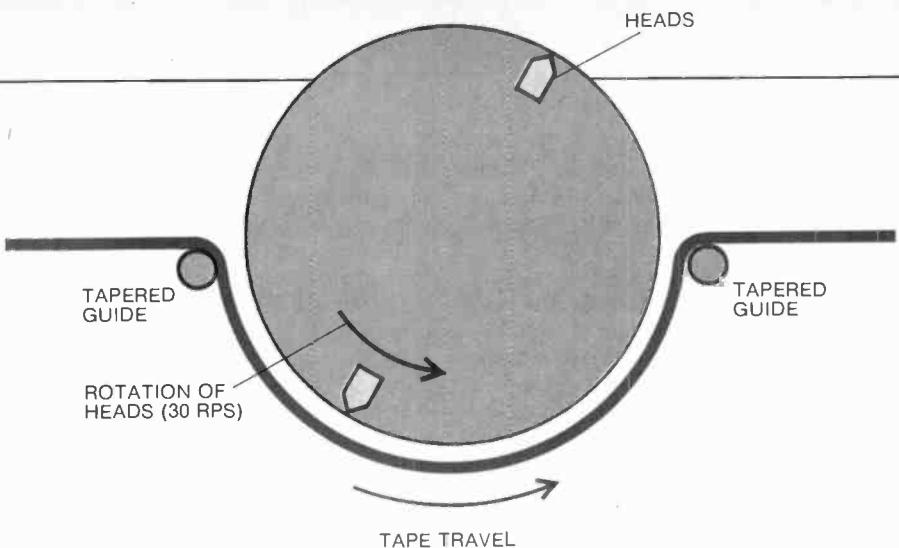
TV picture simulated.

video recorders

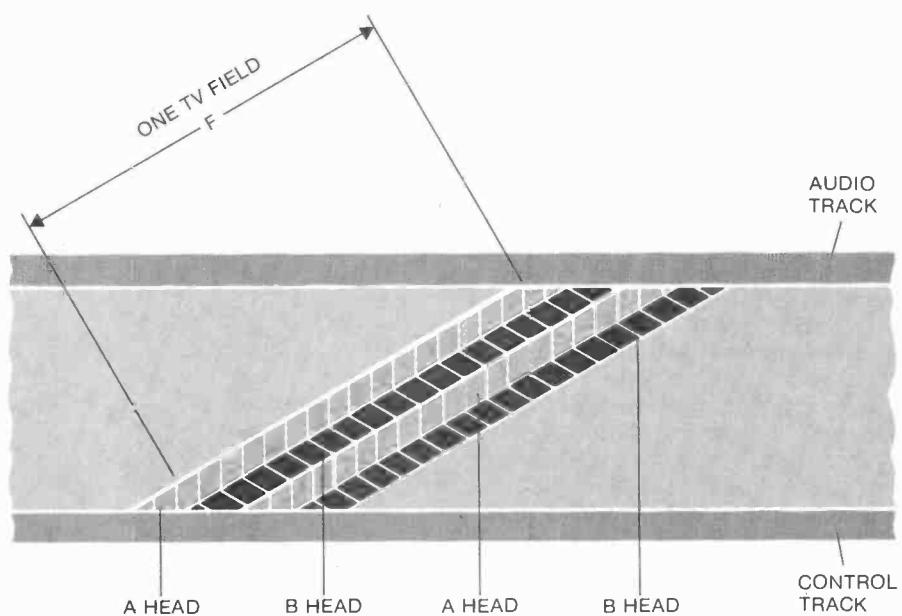
sake, while sweeping the heads across the tape at the high speeds needed to achieve video frequencies. This system, used in both VHS- and Beta-format recorders, is called "helical scan." The heads are mounted on a wheel which spins them diagonally across the tape so that the path followed by each head is a portion of a helix.

In reality there are two heads on the drum, spaced 180° apart. A pair of heads is used because a video picture is made up of alternating "fields" of lines—the odd lines in one field and the even ones in the other—which are interlaced to make a complete "frame" on the picture tube's screen. In the U.S., a frame has 525 lines, and 60 fields appear each second. Each sweep of a single head across the tape therefore records one complete field of 262½ horizontal lines. The switchover between heads occurs in the brief interval between fields and should not be visible on the screen. The tape wraps halfway around the drum so that the two heads contact the tape alternately. (On some new VHS-format decks, there are actually four heads, though only two are used at any given moment.) Obviously, there is a tape head synchronization challenge here. Some other technical problems are created because recorded tracks on the tape are packed close together for high recording density. This saves tape, but adds crosstalk and noise problems. Here's how they're solved.

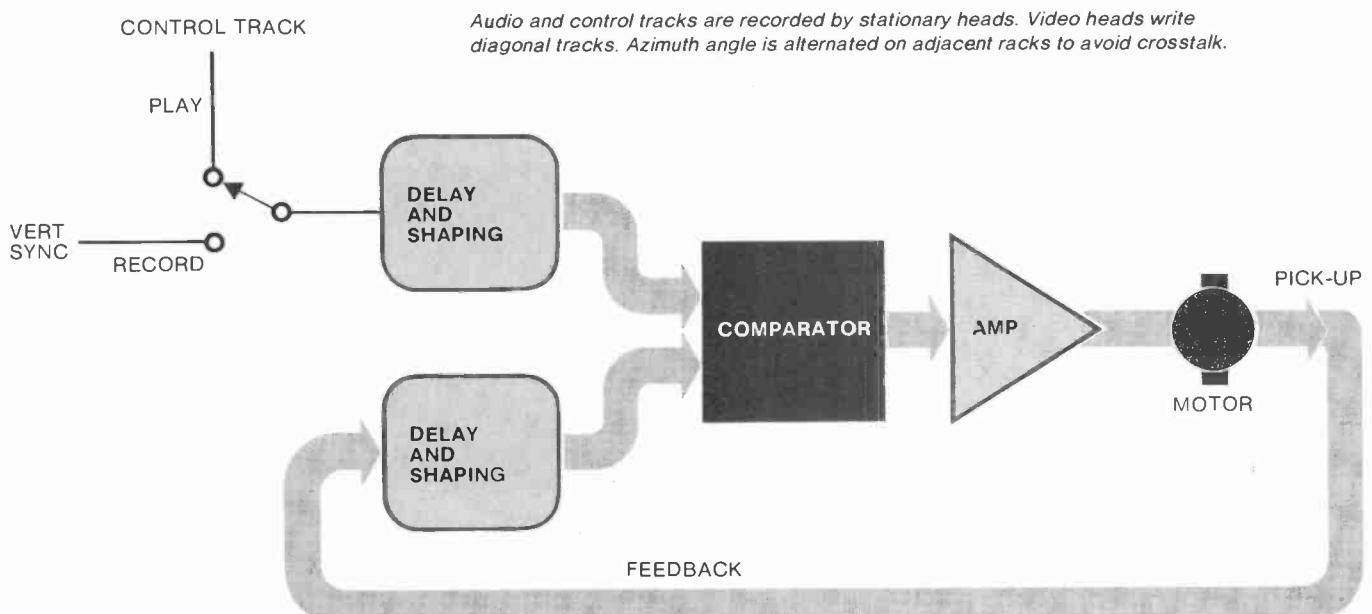
Crosstalk is alleviated by a technique called "azimuth recording." Head gaps are not at right angles to the track, as in audio recorders, but are tilted a few de-



In half-wrap helical scan format, tape is wrapped around rotating head drum so that second head begins to write as first head finishes.



Audio and control tracks are recorded by stationary heads. Video heads write diagonal tracks. Azimuth angle is alternated on adjacent tracks to avoid crosstalk.



Vertical sync signal on control track is used with feedback system that causes video heads to scan correct tracks.

video recorders

grees (6° for VHS recorders, 7° for Beta decks). The two heads incline in opposite directions, leaving crosstalk signals from adjacent tracks 12° or 14° out of alignment to the head contacting the tape. At video frequencies, the purposeful "misalignment" greatly attenuates crosstalk. At lower frequencies, such as those used by the chroma signal, azimuth differences are not enough to reduce crosstalk sufficiently, so adjacent tracks are recorded in opposite phase, permitting cancellation of undesired signals in playback.

It's equally vital that each head line up with the correct track during playback. To ensure this, the recorded tapes also carry a track of vertical sync pulses (60 Hz) that control the head-drum's servo motor. A separate, stationary "control" tape head is employed for this purpose. Moreover, a fine-tuning control is incorporated for user adjustment of tracking accuracy.

Narrow tracks and slow speeds exacerbate noise and dropout problems, which appear as short streaks on a TV picture. To handle noise, high-frequency pre-emphasis is added to the luminance or brightness signal during recording, but reduced when the signal is strong enough to override the noise. For dropout compensation, decks contain delay lines that store one line of video, ready for substitution in the event a line is dropped. Substituting another line is not noticeable since a few sequential lines contain almost the same information.

Beta vs VHS. Beta and VHS tape formats are similar in their basic technology. The main differences between them are in the size of the cassette (the VHS version is larger and holds more tape) and in the way the tape is wrapped around the head drum.

Beta-format decks have a single, swinging arm that draws the tape out of the cassette and wraps it around the drum and the stationary audio, control-track and erase heads, in a rather complex path. VHS decks pull the tape out with two parallel arms providing tension between it and the head drum. The VHS "M-load" system (so-called because of the shape of its tape-path) is slightly quicker, but the tape must be released from this path before fast-forward or rewind. Therefore, while a Beta machine can go directly from play into rewind or fast-forward, a VHS deck requires a few seconds for the tape to unload from the heads before proceeding—and wait again for the tape to reload before you resume play. VHS counters with the advantage of longer recording time (currently 6 hours maximum to Beta's 5),

and slightly greater popularity (60% of the market to Beta's 40%). In practical terms, greater popularity may make VHS tapes and commercially recorded software slightly easier to find, and you may locate a few more friends to swap tapes with if you choose VHS.

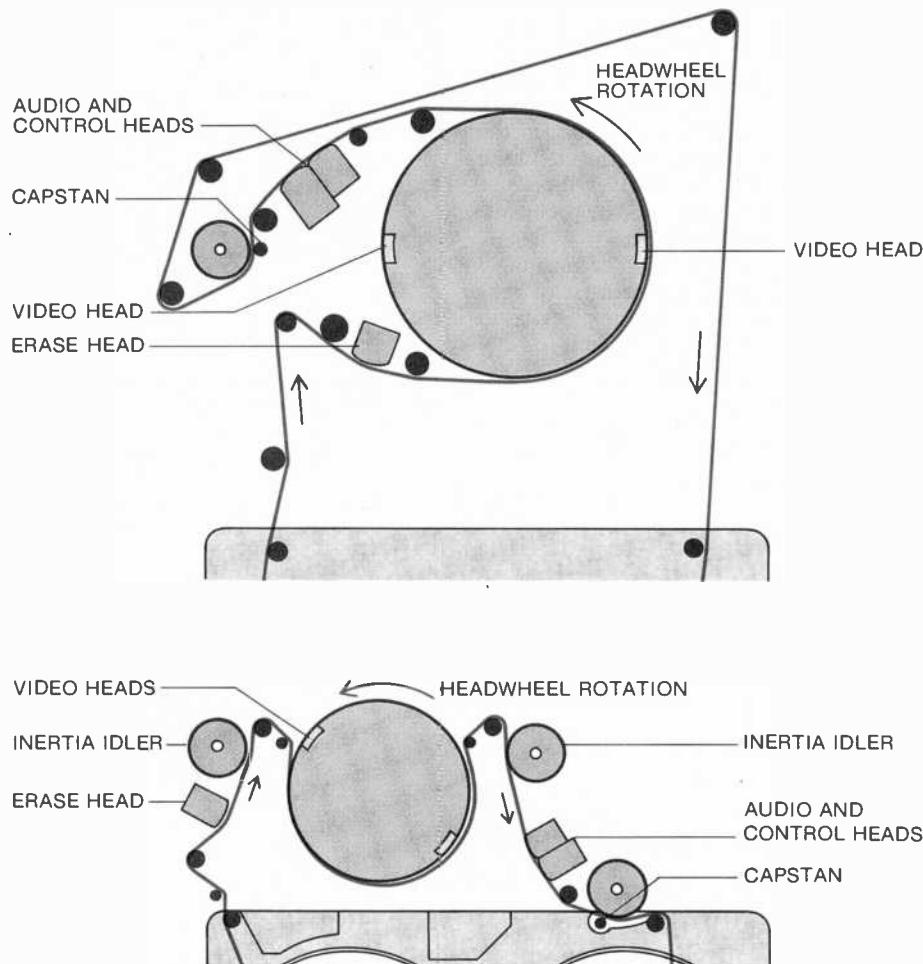
Times, Speeds, and Operating Features. Most Beta and VHS decks now offer the user a choice of two or three recording speeds: slower speeds to use less tape while sacrificing some picture quality, or higher speeds to attain better picture quality at the expense of using more of the tape. (The difference in quality is not always obvious, however; some machines seem to record equally well—or equally badly—at normal and low speed, a point you will want to check when you are shopping for your recorder.)

Most Beta decks offer two recording

speeds ($\times 1$ and $\times 2$) giving maximum recording times of 3 hours, 20 minutes or 5 hours, respectively, with L-830 tape (3 or 4½ hours on the more readily available L-750). Few, if any current decks can record at the original Beta speed (1½ hours maximum on L-750 tape), but most Sony models can still play it back. All of today's two-speed Beta decks can record both the long-playing Beta speed ($\times 2$) and the extra-long-play speed ($\times 3$). Approximately one-third of all current Beta decks play only the $\times 2$ speed.

VHS decks have as many as three recording speeds, for recording capacities of 2, 4, or 6 hours. However, nearly half the decks on the market have only one or two speeds. Of these, the most common (and probably the oldest) models are those offering the 2-hour and 4-hour speeds while JVC, MGA, Mitsubishi, and Sharp have 2-hour/6-hour

VCR formats



One of principal differences between Beta (top) and VHS (bottom) formats is the way the tape is wrapped around the head drum.

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video recorders

models. JVC also has some 2-hour-only models, and Akai's Activideo portable records only in the 4-hour mode.

As with most VCR features, it's hard to pin down what extra speeds cost you. The more speeds, the more other features the deck is likely to have. Oddly enough, the average price of 1-speed VHS decks (about \$1200) is slightly higher than the average for 2/4 hour models (about \$1150), while the average prices of 2/6-hour and 2/4/6-hour VHS decks are both about \$1350. In Beta decks, however, single-speed operation will probably save you about \$200 over two-speed, though you'll find some other features missing, too. Beta $\times 2$ decks average about \$1050, $\times 2/\times 3$ decks about \$1250. Note, also, that different areas have different discount structures, so the foregoing may not always hold true.

Then there are "extra" playback speeds on some new VHS and Beta decks: still-frame, frame-by-frame advance, slow-motion, fast-motion, and high-speed scanning. Of these, the high-speed scan function will probably be most often used. With it, you can see where you are on the tape as you fast-forward or rewind your way through it. (Some video decks call this feature Cue and Review.) Tape speed may be a bit less in this fast-search mode than in normal fast-forward or rewind, though not necessarily by much. (Mitsubishi, for

example, has fast-search at $15\times$ normal speed, and Sony's BetaScan is $13\times$.) But finding what you want is usually quicker, as you needn't switch to "play" to check the tape.

Not all decks with visible search can scan the tape in both directions. Fast-playback speed, usually about 3 times normal, is also available on some decks. This can be used to speed up commercial breaks when playing back off-the-air tapes (especially if you can trigger fast play by remote control), or to home in on a program segment that the faster visible-search feature might overshoot.

Still-frame, which lets you watch any single frame as a still picture or, in some cases, advance through the tape one frame at a time, is found on more and more home decks. If this feature is important to you, check for freedom from "noise bars" (bands of "snow") across the picture. Some decks have variable-speed slow motion (often adjustable all the way down to still-frame), while others offer variable speedup.

As features usually come in packages, it's hard to pin down exactly what any one costs. But in general, freeze-frame is the easiest feature to find, and is very prevalent among decks in the \$1000-\$1500 range. Fast playback, though nearly as common, comes only in slightly more expensive decks—\$1125-\$1525. Fast visible search, the least expensive of these special-speed features, is avail-

able in \$1000-\$1350 decks, while slow motion is common in the \$1200-\$1500 range. Variable-speed playback is available on \$1125-\$1400 decks, including many with slow motion.

Secondary Features. All VCRs have tape counters that help the user fast-wind to any desired location on the tape—provided he's noted down the counter number and remembered to reset the counter to zero at the beginning of the tape. Quite a few also have memory rewind that stops tape rewind (or fast-forward) at the point when the counter resets to zero.

Some VCRs automatically put a cue signal on the tape at any point where recording is begun, and come to a halt from fast-winding when any of those cue signals is reached. If you record 12 half-hour shows on a 6-hour tape, you can fast-wind directly to the start of each of them. If you recorded two shows in a row on the same channel, though, the tape would only stop at the start of the first show. I've encountered this on Panasonic, Quasar and RCA VCRs, all made by Matsushita, and it may exist on other brands.

Sharp's VC-6800 has APLD (Auto Program Locate Device), an interesting variant on this idea that can record up to 99 cue tones on the tape, wherever you want them. To reach any given cue, you punch in its number and start fast-wind-

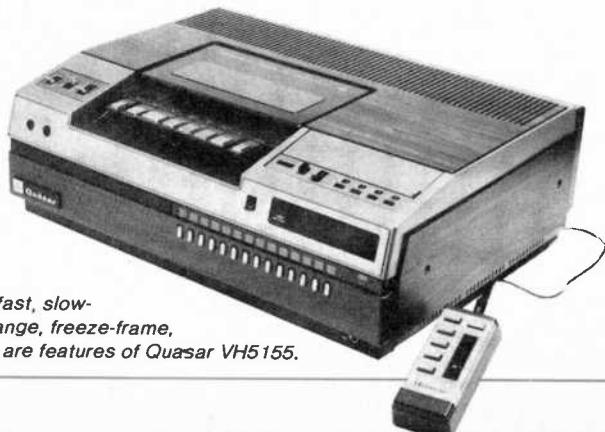
home VCR sampler



Sony SL-5600 has visual fast-search and can record up to four different programs over a 14-day period.



Microprocessor-controlled Sharp VC-6700 can fast-wind to any tape location programmed on its 10-key pad.



Remote-controlled fast, slow-motion, channel change, freeze-frame, and frame advance are features of Quasar VH5155.

ing toward it. The tape will automatically stop at the correct point. Alternatively, you can key in a tape-counter number and have fast-wind stop automatically when it is reached. These features appear to be unique to this \$1295 deck, for the moment.

VCRs have long had built-in tuners and timers to let them tape programs off the air, even when unattended. Only the portables, which have tuner/timer units as accessories, lack these features.

Tuners now tend to fall into two classes. First is the old standby mechanical system, with one detented knob for tuning vhf channels and a second for uhf. Typically, these are found in decks costing from about \$750 to \$1350. Next is electronic tuning, with direct, single-touch selection of any desired station, usually via 12 or 14 pushbuttons, each of which can be tuned to any channel. Such tuning generally adds about \$100 to the price, though other features are sometimes included as well. Make sure, however, that there are enough buttons to cover all the channels on the air or cable in your area.

A VCR's built-in tuner has its obvious applications: taping one program while you watch another or, with the timer, taping *in absentia*. But it can have other uses, too. A VCR with remote channel switching can make that function available to a TV receiver that lacks it. And in some cases, especially with older TV sets, the VCR may have the more sensitive tuner. The reverse, of course, is also possible.

Timers are also getting more sophisticated. While those of older machines and today's less expensive models could only record a single program, those of today's "programmable" models can tape anywhere from 3 to 7 programs per week, switching channels automatically (thanks to electronic tuners) and turning the tape off between shows. Sony and Zenith have models that can operate over a 2-week period. Most programmable sets (including the 2-week models) can be set for up to 4 programs. Prices of such sets fall mostly into the \$1000-\$1500 range. Toshiba's two programmables (around \$1300) can only store three programs. Decks that can store 5 programs (Sanyo's VCR-5500), 6 programs (JVC's HR-6700U and Mitsubishi's HS-300U) or even 7 programs (Sharp's VC-6800) cover a narrower price-range (\$1300-\$1500) than the 4-program models, but average only about \$30 more. Long-term programming is a great asset with low tape speeds and long recording times.

Programmable timers can be rather formidable to operate, though. Howev-

er, more experience on the part of designers is leading to better human engineering. An example is the change from arbitrary day numbering (e.g., today is "Day 0") to the use of day names. And a few VCRs have battery back-up to ensure they'll stay programmed during brief power interruptions.

Shooting on Location. A growing number of owners of VCRs are moving them from their sedentary positions next to the TV sets to mobile operation (with cameras) in the production of home "tapes." Portables are getting lighter (under 12 pounds, with batteries, for some current models) and may get lighter yet (the Funai, for example, will weigh 9.5 pounds). Currently, portables deliver an hour or more of recording time per battery charge.

Portable video equipment costs—and weighs—more than comparable home movie gear. But video offers lower operating cost. Tape costs far less than film and processing, even if you don't reuse it! And instant-playback via the TV set is more convenient than using a projec-

tor and screen that must be stored and set up for each use.

If a portable tickles your fancy, pay attention to such factors as battery life and how easily the controls can be operated when the recorder is hanging from your shoulder. If you'll be shooting major projects, look for one whose batteries can be recharged externally—that way you can recharge a spare while using up the charge in the other.

Cameras offer a wide choice of options: optical viewfinders are less expensive, lighter and draw no current from the battery. But electronic viewfinders—miniature black-and-white TV screens—show exactly how the taped image will look and allow focus or exposure inaccuracies to be corrected. Electronic finders can also be pressed into service as playback monitors.

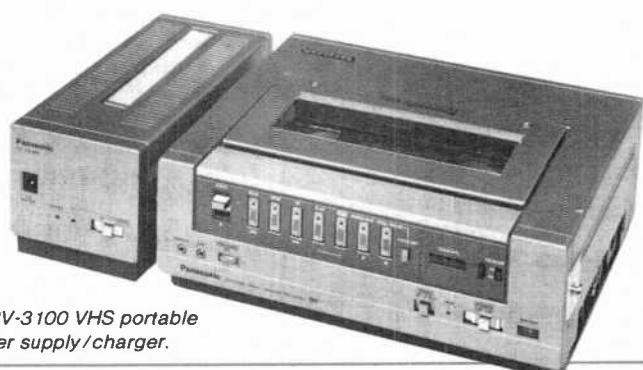
Zoom and power-zoom lenses can add special effects and make it easier to frame your subject. But they, too, add cost, weight, and, in the case of power zooms, some added battery drain.

Check also to see how easily your camera can be set to match the color of

portable VCR sampler



Typical portable setup has recorder, tuner-timer and color camera, as in this Akai Activideo system.



Panasonic PV-3100 VHS portable with ac power supply/charger.

the light by which you're shooting. (Daylight is comparatively blue, incandescent light comparatively red.) Many color cameras have built-in, calibrated compensation systems to match the light precisely, while others have color filters to do the same job more cheaply—and less accurately.

Portables are modular systems, consisting of recorder, battery, camera, charger, and tuner/timer (usually combined with a charger). You can use them in several combinations, so they're

Do We Need Disc and Tape?

By this time next year, we may be flooded with video formats: Beta (two speeds), VHS (three speeds), the BASF and Toshiba LVRs, the Funai, and perhaps even the Philips system—plus three disc systems. One of those disc systems, the MCA/Philips laser-scanned system, is already on sale in seven U.S. cities (perhaps more, by the time you read this). Magnavox, which first offered this disc to the public, is about to be joined by Universal-Pioneer (already selling players to industrial markets).

Meanwhile, RCA has promised national distribution of its Selecta-Vision disc system by early 1981, and Matsushita (parent of Panasonic and Quasar) has announced plans to introduce the VHD disc system developed by affiliate JVC. Neither disc system is compatible with the other—nor with the Magnavision disc.

Why disc and tape? For the same reasons that we have both in audio. Tape systems can record, disc systems can't. On the other hand, discs offer much less expensive duplication, plus instant access to any part of the recording.

Discs have been touted as the low-cost alternative to tape for those who want to play commercially recorded programs. Both players and discs, it's been predicted, will be less costly than VCRs and video cassettes. But VCR prices and tape consumption have been coming down, while prices of the Magnavision disc player and discs (so far the only ones available) have been creeping up. LVR systems, with fewer parts and faster tape duplication, could wind up costing less than disc players and recordings.

usually priced separately. When shopping, be sure you know what the quoted price includes. You'll find that, even without a camera, a portable system will cost more than an equivalent, single-unit, stay-at-home VCR—about \$1200-\$1300 without tuner/timer, about \$1350-\$1800 with (Akai's Activideo is an exception, at \$1125 with tuner/timer). So far, the only programmable portable seems to be J. C. Penney's. The basic recorder costs \$1075 in its 2/4/6-hour version (\$975 for 2/4-hour recording), with a choice of battery charger (\$115), dual-dial mechanical tuner (\$249), electronic tuner/timer (\$295), or programmable 4-program/7-day tuner/timer (\$389). However, Panasonic will shortly offer programming for its new 3000-series portables, and Quasar may soon as well.

Four-head VHS Decks. Some of the new, 6-hour VHS decks have four heads: one pair for the 2-hour speed and the other for the 6-hour and (on 3-speed decks) 4-hour speeds. Each pair of heads makes tracks of different widths, maybe even four dissimilar ones. The reason is that slow-speed recording requires thinner diagonal tracks, with heads to match. However, using such heads for 2-hour recording would sacrifice signal-to-noise ratio. In addition, narrow-track 2-hour tapes would play back very noisily on wide-track, 2-hour heads, which pick up noise on each side of the recorded track. With one wide-gap and one narrow-gap head pair, there's no problem.

Even the two members of each pair may have dissimilar track widths—at least on those decks which have such special effects as still-framing. (On Panasonic's 3-speed, still-framing decks, for example, the 2-hour heads are 70 and 90 microns wide; the slow-speed heads are 26 and 31 microns.) Using asymmetrical tracks offsets the noise bars inherent in still-frame operation, so that they can be made to occur outside the visible portions of the frame. On decks without still-framing, heads are symmetrical.

Up the Price List. What does your money buy in VCRs? The first \$700 to \$1000 (suggested retail price) brings basic technology: a recorder, mechanical tuner/timer, and probably a pause control and memory rewind.

At higher prices, you'll get more recording time (which may pay for itself in tape economy) and programmability, which makes that longer recording time more useful. You'll get aids in locating programs or program segments, and such extras as fast-motion, slow-motion, freeze-frame or frame-by-frame ad-

vance—which you may or may not need. Features like these are sold as packages, like new-car options, which makes it hard to assign costs precisely.

Your local dealer's reputation is worth considering, too. Some are more cooperative in handling service and other problems than others. (Unfortunately, but predictably, the dealers with the biggest discounts tend to be the least helpful after the sale.) Manufacturers' warranties almost all cover a full year on parts, and 90 days on labor. However,

Stepping-Stone to Digital Sound

Digital sound recording requires tremendous bandwidth—by audio standards, though, that bandwidth is nothing special. PCM adapters are already available (from Optonica, Sanyo, Sharp, Sony and Toshiba, so far) to make and play back digital recordings on home VCRs. But these adapters cost far more than the VCRs do. Cost (and the infrequency with which home recordists really need to record something with about 85 dB of dynamic range) limit their sales largely to professional markets. And so far, only one digital recording is available on home VCR tape: Ry Cooder's *Bop Till You Drop*, now available with Sanyo's PCM adapter.

If the video disc catches on, though, it could prove the perfect medium for digital sound at home. The format and its convenience are already familiar to audiophiles, and playback-only equipment should cost far less than record/play gear will. So far, Matsushita's VHD system seems likeliest to engender a matching audio disc system. Prototypes of that audio disc (called AHD) have already been shown, as have prototypes of players to handle both the video and audio discs. Philips has shown a prototype audio disc that uses the same laser technology as its video disc system, but requires a separate player. On the other hand, the Philips Compact Disc, only 4½ inches in diameter, could lead to in-dash players for car sound, or possibly even portables. RCA (surprisingly for one of the world's largest record companies) has said nothing about a possible digital audio disc based on Selectavision . . . at least, not yet.

there are some exceptions. Sony's is a bit shorter (90 days for parts and labor), while longer warranties are offered by Curtis Mathes (4 years parts, 90 days labor), MGA Mitsubishi (1 year/6 months), Sanyo and Sears (both 1 year on parts and labor).

The VCR designers' goal has been to make their products as easy to use as audio cassette decks—and, perhaps, as popular. With refinements now offered, they're beginning to approach that goal. VCR sound quality, though, is lagging far behind. Audio tracks are narrow (and about to get narrower, with the coming introduction of stereo sound), and tape speeds are slow (no current home video format runs at even half of audio cassette speed). Consequently, frequency response rarely exceeds 12,500 Hz, if it goes that high, and signal-to-noise ratios run to around 40 or 45 dB. (Dolby is coming, though.) This will suffice for much of what TV sound has to offer, but it cannot capture the medium at its best on those occasions when the networks and PBS broadcast music with the full fidelity they're capable of transmitting (up to 15 kilohertz).

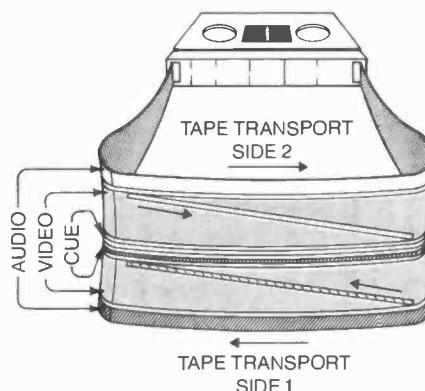
Some Future Formats. Beta and VHS recorders have a lot in common. Their tape cassettes are dual-hub designs, a bit like audio cassettes, but large

specifications of VCR formats

Tape Format	Tape Speed (ips)	Tape Consumption (sq ft/hr)	Cassette Size (in.) (mm)	Maximum Tape Time (hr)
Standard				
Beta I	1.57 ¹	19.7	6.1 X 3.8 X 1 156 X 96 X 25	1.7
Beta II	0.79	9.8	same as Beta I	3.3
Beta III	0.53	6.4	same as Beta I	5
VHS SP	1.31	16.4	7.4 X 4.1 X 1 188 X 104 X 25	2
VHS LP	0.66	8.2	same as VHS SP	4
VHS EP	0.44	5.5	same as VHS SP	6
Nonstandard				
Akai VT-350 ²	2.75	34.3	6.0 X 3.9 X 1 151 X 98 X 23	1/2
BASF LVR	157.4	17.2	4.5 X 4.2 X .67 114 X 106 X 17	3
Funai CVC	n.a.	n.a.	4.2 X 2.7 X .5 106 X 68 X 12	1/2
Toshiba LVR	216.5	18.4	n.a.	2
Philips 2000	0.96	6.0	7.2 X 4.4 X 1 183 X 110.5 X 26	8

Notes:

1. Recorders for this speed no longer made, though some current decks can play it.
2. Black and white only.



Among new formats for the future are the Philips Video 2000 system shown diagrammatically at left. Half-inch wide tapes are recorded like audio cassettes with two tracks running in flipover format. The Toshiba LVR, above, uses an endless loop cartridge with a direct capstan drive at its center. It has 2 hours of recording time.

enough to hold half-inch tape, and greater lengths of it. (The VHS cassette is larger and holds more than the Beta.) Unlike audio cassettes, however, VHS and Beta cassettes only play in one direction, and have protective lids over the tape (the lids open automatically when the cassette is loaded).

Video 2000, a new system now being sold in Europe by Philips, also uses tapes one-half inch wide, but they are recorded in a dual-track, flipover format

like the audio cassette's. In addition to servo control of the head drum, the Video 2000 has its heads mounted on piezoelectric crystals that can be electrically adjusted to "fine-tune" head positions so they'll precisely match the track. This allows higher track density and better tape economy. It also ensures perfect tracking of tapes recorded on other decks. A "cue" track on the tape can be used to help locate specific portions of the recording. Tape speed is higher than

in VHS or Beta, improving audio; but economy is served too, since only half the tape is used in each pass.

Grundig (which helped develop the system) and Siemens have also adopted it, and Blaupunkt (which has shown prototypes of a similar, but incompatible system) may do so as well. Magnavox (now owned by Philips) may possibly bring the Video 2000 into the U.S.

Totally unlike any of these systems are two new ones due this year from

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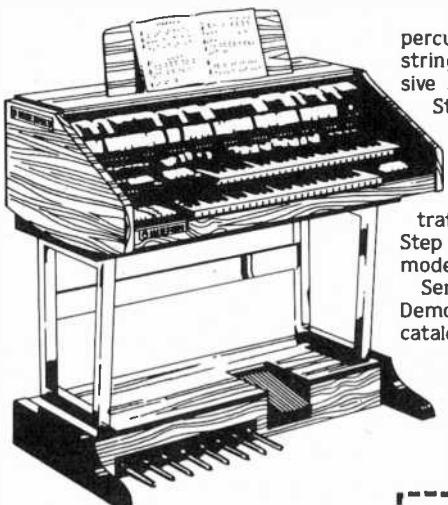
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video recorders

Toshiba and BASF. Neither system has a revolving head drum. Instead, they move the tape rapidly past a fixed head. To get reasonable recording times, both systems also use multiple tracks (300 for Toshiba, 72 for BASF).

Both systems also bear the same initials: LVR. But from that point on, all similarities (even what the initials stand for) cease. Toshiba's Longitudinal Video Recorder uses an endless loop of tape, running at 5.5 meters (18 feet) per second; the 135-meter loop runs through the recorder in only 24.6 seconds on each track. With 300 tracks, the total recording time is two hours.

In BASF's case, "LVR" stands for Linear Video Recorder. This system does not use an endless loop, but instead reverses at the end of each of its 72 tracks. With a tape length of 600 meters (1968 feet) and a speed of 4 meters (13.1 feet) per second, each track lasts 150 seconds, or two-and-one-half minutes. Track-switching time is a bit longer than Toshiba's (100 as opposed to 28 ms), but occurs only about one-sixth as often. While Toshiba's tape will measure the standard half inch (13 mm), BASF's will only be 8 mm wide.

Both systems have advantages over helical-scan systems: mechanisms can be simpler (Toshiba claims a one-third saving in parts), and cost lower (Toshiba hints at recorders for about \$500, and playback-only machines for about \$300). Access to any part of the tape is quicker, too: Toshiba cites a maximum access time of 8.4 seconds to get from the first to the last track of its LVR, with 33 seconds the worst possible access time to any point on the tape. Both also open the possibility of cheaper commercially recorded cassettes. Tape costs will be low and duplicators will be able to make copies in far less time than required for helical-scan tapes.

BASF's LVR, already sold in Europe, will be built in a California plant now in operation, and should be on the market soon. Toshiba's will probably be available late this year. Toshiba also hopes to have the ultimate video portable—a camera with recorder built in—in about 2 years. As BASF's cassette is even smaller, they're likely to come out with a similar product.

But the smallest tape cassette is probably Funai's. Its CVC (Compact Video Cassette) system records for 30 minutes, and uses quarter-inch tape, so its cassette is only about one-fourth the BASF cassette's size, and its player is about the size and weight of a large portable audio cassette recorder. Technicolor may import it into the U.S. Other than that it's a helical-scan system, few details have yet been released. ◇



PLAY "SPACE BATTLE" ON YOUR VIDEO MONITOR

Here's an exciting visual game program for computers using an RCA COSMAC 1802 CPU

BY DONALD R. SCHROYER

THIS program for 1802-based systems equipped with an 1861 video display, puts you and your opponent in command of a pair of space vehicles. The ships move in accordance with commands entered via the hex keypad, and fire their weapons via a pair of pushbutton switches tied to input lines EF3 and EF4. When a player has scored eight hits against his opponent, the losing ship

is displayed as destroyed. At the end of the game, the score is displayed. About 2K of memory is required.

The Program. This consists of an initialization routine, six subroutines, the main program, six data pointers and six data locations. These are shown in Tables I through IX.

The Input and Movement subroutine

shown in Table I inputs data via the hex keypad. Depressing keys 0, 4, 8, or C results in movement of the left ship. Keys 0 and 4 move the ship downward with 0 causing motion at twice the speed of key 4. Keys 8 and C move the left ship up with the rate of movement doubled when key C is depressed. Keys 1, 5, 9, or D freeze the left ship where it is.

Keys 3, 7, B, or F operate the right

space battle

ship in a like manner. Keys 2, 6, A, or E freeze the right ship. If your system has a hex display, the last two movements will be displayed.

In operation, movement of the two ships is accomplished by changing R(7) the left ship position pointer, and R(8) the right ship position pointer. The ships are moved up by subtracting 08 from the pertinent position pointer. Downward motion is performed by adding 08 to the pointers. To double the speed, 10 is added or subtracted. The subroutine tests the last position of each ship to assure that neither moves out of the screen's display area.

The Load Counter R(5) subroutine of Table II replicates the data pointed to by R(3) at the display location pointed to by R(7). The data pointed to by R(3) forms the silhouette of the left ship. The silhouette of the right ship, pointed to by R(4) is loaded into the display area pointed to by R(8).

The Left Fire Counter R(A) subroutine of Table III tests the switch wired to EF4. If this line is low, the data flag is set and R(9) is called, otherwise the main program continues. The Right Fire Counter R(B) subroutine of Table IV tests EF3 in the same manner.

The Weapons Counter R(9) subroutine of Table V is brought into play only when called by subroutines R(A) or R(B). When entered, the Weapons subroutine tests the data flag and fires either the left or right ship's weapon as appropriate. The weapons of both ships cannot be fired simultaneously, and this is compensated for in the main program. The Weapons subroutine also tests each firing to see if a hit has been scored. If so, the score stored in R(E).1 is incremented by adding 10 for a left hit and 01 for a right hit. Register R(E).1 stores the left score in the high four bits and the right score in the low four bits. The Weapons subroutine tests to see if either score is equal to eight. If so, the game ends with the score displayed, otherwise the program continues.

The Interrupt Counter R(1) shown in Table VI displays a two-page segment of memory in a 64 x 64 format. This display area is from 0400 to 05FF.

Table VII, Main Counter R(F), is a sequence of calls to the various subroutines. Since the Weapons subroutine cannot simultaneously fire both ship's weapons, the left and right fire subroutines alternate. Once the program is running, the alternation gives each player roughly an even chance of firing first if both fire switches are operated simultaneously. The main program inserts a delay routine between each call to R(C) and R(5) to slow the ship's movements for easier control.

TABLE I—INPUT AND MOVEMENT COUNTER R(C)

```

0200 DF
0201 F8 06 B6 A6 E6
0206 6C FA F0 AE
020A FA 20 32 0F 16 16
0210 8E F6 F6 F6 F6 56
0216 F8 06 A6
0219 72 FA 0F AD
021D FA 02 32 22 16
0222 8D 56 F8 06 A6 8D 56
0229 8E F4 56 64
022D F0 32 55
0230 F0 FB 03 32 69
0235 F0 FB 0C 32 7D
023A F0 FB 0F 32 91
023F F0 FB 04 32 A5
0244 F0 FB 07 32 B9
0249 F0 FB 08 33 CD
024E F0 FB 0B 32 E1
0253 30 F3
0255 97 FB 05 3A 5F
025A 87 FC 58 33 F3
025F 87 FC 10 A7
0263 97 7C 00 B7
0267 30 F3
0269 98 FB 05 3A 73
026E 88 FC 51 33 F3
0273 88 FC 10 A8
0277 98 7C 00 B8 30 F3
027D 97 FB 05 32 87
0282 97 FB 03 32 F3
0287 87 FF 10 A7
028B 97 7F 00 B7 30 F3
0291 98 FB 05 32 9B
0296 98 FB 03 32 F3
029B 88 FF 10 A8
029F 98 7F 00 B8 30 F3
02A5 97 FB 05 3A AF
02AA 87 FC 50 33 F3
02AF 87 FC 08 A7
02B3 97 7C 00 B7 30 F3
02B9 98 FB 05 3A C3
02BE 88 FC 49 33 F3
02C3 88 FC 08 A8
02C7 98 7C 00 B8 30 F3
02CD 97 FB 05 32 D7
02D2 97 FB 03 32 F3
02D7 87 FF 08 A7
02DB 97 7F 00 B7 30 F3
02E1 98 FB 05 32 EB
02E6 98 FB 03 32 F3
02EB 88 FF 08 A8
02EF 98 7F 00 B8
02F3 86 FB 07 3A FB
02F8 16 30 2D
02FB E2 30 00

```

TABLE II—LOAD COUNTER R(5)

```

014F DF
0150 83 A6 93 B6
0154 F8 00 AE
0157 97 73 87 52
015B 46 57 1E
015E 8E FB OA
0161 32 6D
0163 87 FC 08 A7
0167 97 7C 00 B7
016B 30 5B
016D 72 A7 F0 B7
0171 84 A6 94 B6
0175 F8 00 AE
0178 98 73 88 52
017C 46 58 1E
017F 8E FB OA
0182 32 8E
0184 88 FC 08 A8
0188 98 7C 00 B8
018C 30 7C
018E 72 A8 F0 B8
0192 30 4F

```

TABLE III—LEFT FIRE COUNTER R(A)

```

0194 DF
0195 3F 94 F8 01 F6
019A D9 30 F1 00 00

```

TABLE IV—RIGHT FIRE COUNTER R(B)

```

019F DF
01A0 3E 9F F8 00 F6
01A5 D9 30 F6 00 00
01F0 DF 3F 94 30 F0
01F5 DF 3E 9F 30 F5

```

Fig. 1. To implement the space battle program, the circuit shown here must be duplicated, with one attached to EF3 and the other connected to EF4.

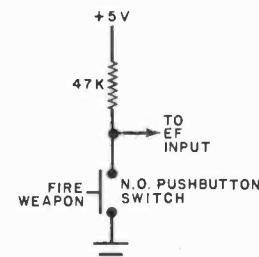


TABLE V—WEAPONS COUNTER R(9)

```

0300 DF
0301 7A 7B
0303 33 07
0305 30 79
0307 87 FC 19 A6 97 7C 00 B6
030F 96 73 86 52 F8 00 AE E6
0317 F8 FF 56 16 1E
031C 8E FB 06 3A 17
0321 F8 FF F2 E2 3A 2C
0327 F8 FF 56 30 5C 22
032D 94 73 84 73
0331 F8 10 A4 F8 06 B4
0337 F8 00 AE 98 73 88 52
033E 44 58 1E 8E FB 0A
0344 32 50
0346 88 FC 08 A8 98 7C 00 B8
034E 30 3E 9E FC 10 BE
0354 72 A8 72 B8 72 A4 72 B4
035C 72 A6 F0 B6 F8 00 AD BD
0364 1D 9D FB 01 3A 64
036A F8 00 AE F8 00 56 16 1E
0372 8E FB 07 3A 6D 30 E8
0379 88 FC 27 A6 98 7C 00 B6
0381 96 73 86 52 F8 00 AE E6
0389 F8 FF 73 1E 8E FB 06
0390 3A 89
0392 F8 FF F2 E2 3A 9D
0398 F8 FF 56 30 CD 22
039E 93 73 83 73
03A2 F8 10 A3 F8 06 B3
03A8 F8 00 AE 97 73 87 52
03AF 43 57 1E 8E FB 0A 32 C1
03B7 87 FC 08 A7 97 7C 00 B7
03BF 30 AF 9E FC 01 BE
03C5 72 A7 72 B7
03C9 72 A3 72 B3
03CD 72 A6 F0 B6
03D1 F8 00 AD BD 1D
03D6 9D FB 01 3A D5
03DB F8 00 AE
03DE F8 00 56 26 1E
03E3 8E FB 07 3A DE
03E8 9E FA 88 32 00
03ED C0 01 C0

```

TABLE VI—INTERRUPT COUNTER R(1)

```

01CE 72 70
01D0 C4 22 78 22 52
01D5 F8 04 B0 F8 00 A0
01DB C4 C4 E2
01DE 80 E2 20 A0 E2
01E3 3C DE
01E5 80 E2 20 A0 E2
01EA 34 E5 30 CE

```

TABLE VII—MAIN COUNTER R(F)

```

0650 3F 50 37 52 D5 DC
0656 F8 00 AD BD 1D
065B 9D FB 02 3A 5A
0660 D5 DA DB DC
0664 F8 00 AD BD 1D
0669 9D FB 02 3A 68
066E D5 DB DA
0671 30 55

```

TABLE VIII—INITIALIZATION

```

0100 71 00
0102 F8 06 B2 BD BF
0107 F8 05 B7
010A F8 04 B8
010D F8 03 B9
0110 F8 02 BC
0113 F8 01 B1 B3 B4 B5 B6
011A BA BB A9 AC
011E F8 D0 A1 F8 3F A2
0124 F8 AA A3 F8 B4 A4
012A F8 50 A5 AF
012E F8 CC A6
0131 F8 C0 A7
0134 F8 07 A8 AD
0138 F8 95 AA F8 A0 AB
013E F8 00 BE
0141 F8 01 5D 1D
0145 F8 02 5D
0148 E6 69 E0
014B 70 2F

```

TABLE IX—DATA POINTERS

Left Ship
01AA 00 00 F2 F7 24
01AF 28 78 38 00 00
Alternate (see text)
01AA 00 00 18 FF 3C
01AF 18 3C FF 00 00
Right Ship
01B4 00 00 06 FF CE
01B9 86 0F 0F 00 00
Alternate (see text)
01B4 00 00 03 3F 7F
01B9 D4 3E 3E 00 00
Blast
0610 28 04 50 99 4E
0615 39 88 34 45 A2
End of Program
01C0 F8 06 A6 B6 E6
01C5 9E 56 64 26 30 C9
Display Area
0400 - 05FF; 00 loaded in display
; memory locations

Note: A cassette tape of the program for Space Battle is available from Donald R. Schroyer, 209 Brinker St., Latrobe, PA 15650, for \$10.00.

JUNE 1980

In addition to the mentioned pointers, register R(6) serves as a temporary pointer to save and increment other pointers. The stack pointer is R(2) with the stack starting at 063F.

Memory location 0607 contains the current move instruction for the left ship, while 0608 contains the same data for the right ship. At Initialization (Table VIII), the contents of these two locations are 01 and 02, respectively. As stated earlier, R(E).1 holds the current score and is loaded with 00 on initialization. R(E).0 is an index counter used in loading the ship silhouettes and firing the weapons. R(D) is used to load 0607 and 0608 and for delays encountered in the main program.

Table IX contains the remainder of the program. Both the left and right ship are illustrated. Location 0610 to 0619 contains the blast that occurs after every hit and the debris of the destroyed ship. If the ship is moving fast enough at the time of a hit, debris is shown scattered in its wake.

Hardware. The only hardware connection required is a pair of circuits similar to that shown in Fig. 1, with one connected to EF3 and the other to EF4. These are the weapon firing switches.

Playing the Game. Load the program from Tables I through IX, making sure that the correct code is placed at the correct addresses. Since the 1802 starts running at address 0000, key in C0 01 00 starting at address 0000. Save the program on cassette if you have this provision.

To begin the game, reset and run the computer, then depress and release the INPUT switch on an ELF II, or bring the EF4 line low then high. The two ships will appear in opposite diagonal corners.

The left ship cannot move until the right player has made a move. Once the right player has moved, the left ship will move according to the keypad data last entered. To fire the weapon, depress the appropriate FIRE WEAPON pushbutton switch. When the program is restarted after eight hits, each ship can be moved across the screen to remove "ghosts".

Program Changes. If you desire another look for the spaceships, try the alternate versions shown in Table IX. You can even design your own ships using graph paper. Make the first and last two bytes 00 or the ships will leave a trail as they move.

The winning score can be 1,2,4 or 8 as determined by address 03EA. To change ship speeds, locations 065D and 066A can be loaded with higher numbers to slow the ships down. If you desire more speed, use 01 or NOP's.

IF dogs and other small animals wreak havoc with your flowerbeds, or small "varmints" strew the contents of your trash cans over the area, this project is for you.

The Varmint Zapper described here uses a single strand of bare wire to create an "electric" fence. This wire is fed with a sequence of digitally programmed high-voltage pulses to create a penetrating but harmless electrical shock to anything making contact with the bare wire. You can also attach the wire to your garbage can (insulated from ground) or any other metallic enclosure that you want to protect.

Circuit Operation. The operation of the circuit, shown in Fig. 1, is similar to

that of the capacitor-discharge ignition systems used in many vehicles.

The 117-volt ac developed across 1:1 isolation transformer *T*₁ is half-wave rectified by *D*₃ and charges *C*₆ via the primary of TV flyback transformer *T*₂. The primary should be electrically separated from the high-voltage secondary.

When electronic switch *SCR*₁, connected across the *C*₆-*T*₂ network, is on, it forms a short circuit across the network. Then, *C*₆ rapidly discharges through the transformer primary. The sudden change in current flow produces a high voltage at the secondary of *T*₂. In a typical installation, about 15 or 16 kV will be developed. It is this voltage that is applied between the bare wire fence and ground.

by Fritz Mueller

**Delivers a penetrating yet
harmless electric shock
to intruding animals**

Digitally Programmed Varmint Zapper



The C_6-T_2 network forms a resonant circuit. When it bursts into oscillation, the first half cycle of reverse voltage back biases the SCR, thus opening the electronic switch. The positive-going transient is bypassed via D_4 . Capacitor C_5 , damped by the low value of R_9 , attenuates any r-f transients generated by the sudden turn-off of D_4 . Neon lamp NE_1 glows to indicate the presence of the high dc voltage across the C_6-T_2 network. Resistor R_{10} provides current limiting for NE_1 .

The 10-volt dc required by binary counter IC_1 is developed by dropping resistor R_1 , rectifier D_1 , and filter capacitor C_1 . It is maintained at 10 volts by zener diode D_5 . Further filtering is added by R_2 and C_2 .

The clock pulses to be counted by IC_1 are developed from the half-wave rectified line voltage from D_2 . Noise is reduced by filter R_3 and C_3 before the pulses are applied to the IC.

The SCR is triggered into conduction by the positive-going pulses generated across R_8 each time unijunction transistor Q_2 fires. This occurs when C_4 , charged toward the 10-volt line via R_6 , reaches the UJT trigger level. When Q_1 , connected across C_4 , conducts, the trigger pulses are inhibited. Transistor Q_1 is kept in conduction during each positive half of the supply by bias across R_4 . During the negative half cycles, Q_1 is not biased by R_4 . Binary counter IC_1 is continuously counting line pulses applied to pin 1. Its outputs are connected

so that four of its stages provide positive-going pulses through diodes D_6 through D_9 and R_5 to turn Q_1 on and off during the negative half cycles. This results in a rapid sequence of four SCR turn-on pulses followed by a 1.5-second space. The sequence is then repeated.

Each individual shock exceeds about 50 mA for a very short time, and currents of such intensity produce effects best described as "bite" or "sting." What renders the shock harmless without losing effectiveness is timing. Small, nervous animals will be instantly swayed by the first shock. The 2-second program is aimed to impress larger, more stubborn creatures. After the first four shocks, the varmint has time to move away from the unpleasant sensation.

(Continued on page 66)



varmint zapper

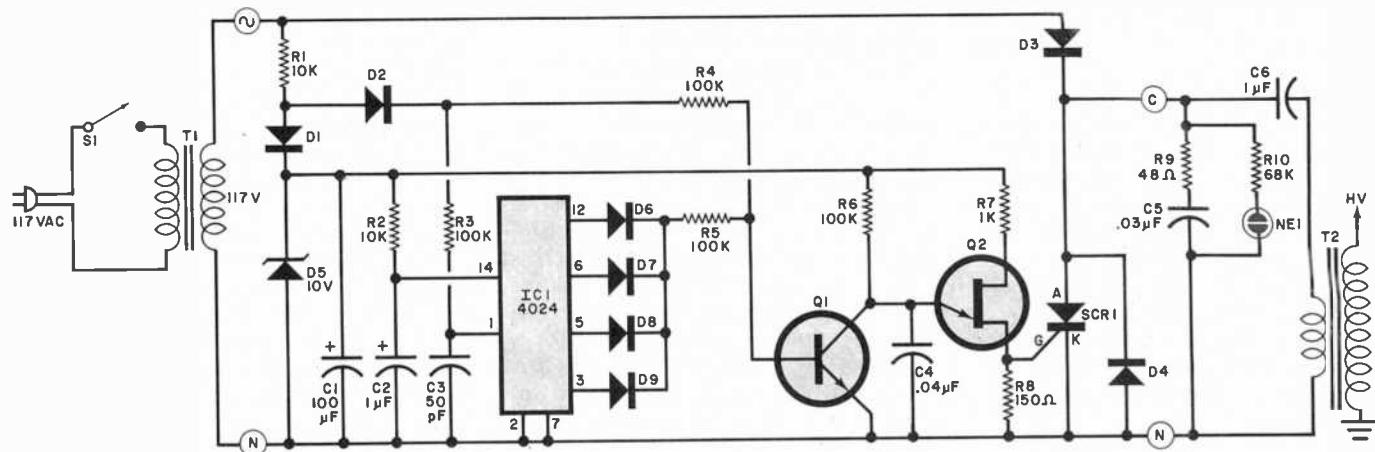


Fig. 1. Digital pulses from IC1 cause SCR1 to discharge C6 through primary of T2 to produce high voltage. Circled letters and symbol refer to foil pattern.

PARTS LIST

C1—100- μ F, 10-volt electrolytic
C2—1- μ F, 10-volt tantalum
C3—50-pF disc
C4—0.04- μ F disc
C5—0.03- μ F disc
C6—1- μ F, 200-volt paper
D1,D2,D3,D4—200-volt PIV rectifier
(1N4001 or similar)
D5—10-volt zener
D6,D7,D8,D9—1N914

IC1—4024 CMOS binary counter
NE1—Neon lamp assembly
Q1—General-purpose npn silicon transistor
Q2—Any UJT
R1—10,000-ohm, 1/4-watt resistor
R2—10,000-ohm, 1/4-watt resistor
R3,R4,R5,R6—100,000-ohm, 1/4-watt resistor
R7—1000-ohm, 1/4-watt resistor

R8—150-ohm, 1/4-watt resistor
R9—48-ohm, 1/4-watt resistor
R10—68,000-ohm, 1/4-watt resistor
S1—Spst switch
SCR1—200-PIV, 1-ampere SCR
T1—117:117-volt isolation transformer
T2—TV flyback transformer (see text)
Misc.—Suitable enclosure, high-voltage feedthrough, press-on type, bare wire for fence, insulators, mounting hardware.

former and the associated off-board components.

Power switch *S1* and the neon lamp assembly can be mounted on the front side, while the high-voltage lead from *T2* is coupled to a high-voltage feedthrough located on the top of the enclosure. Place a "HIGH VOLTAGE" warning at the feedthrough.

Use. The fence can be formed from a length of bare wire (#17 galvanized steel is recommended) strung between insulators. Plastic rods, or small plastic or glass bottles affixed to wood stakes, can be used as a substitute. Make sure that no part of the bare wire "fence" touches, or comes close to, the actual ground.

To use the fence, connect the bottom end of the *T2* secondary to a good earth ground, then connect the fence to the high-voltage feedthrough. When the power is turned on, the neon lamp should glow indicating the presence of the operating dc voltage across the *C6-T2* network. If the fence is contacted, the neon lamp will blink on and off with each pulse.

The electrified fence can be installed so as to surround the area you want kept free from marauding animals, or, you can connect it directly to an insulated garbage can or other metallic container or enclosure. ◇

Construction. The circuit can be assembled on a small pc board using the foil pattern shown in Fig. 2. It can also be wire-wrapped using conventional techniques. Note that *C5*, *C6*, *R9*, *R10*, the neon lamp, and both transformers are not mounted on the board.

The output transformer, *T2*, can be salvaged from a discarded small-screen TV receiver. You must be able to locate the two primary leads (between 2 and 8 ohms dc resistance), and both sides of

the high-voltage winding, one end of which is the CRT anode connector.

The use of a very high-voltage flyback transformer is not recommended. Corona discharge and possible flashover at the fence insulators may make the system inoperative after a short while. However, you can try using an automotive ignition coil.

Select an enclosure capable of holding the small pc board, the selected flyback transformer, the line isolation trans-

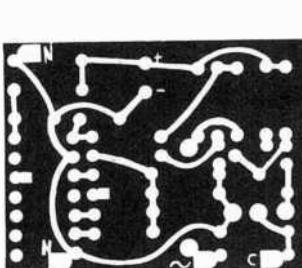
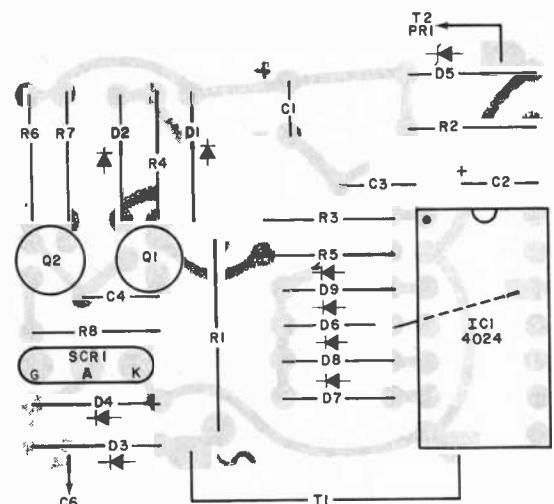


Fig. 2. Actual-size foil pattern for the printed-circuit board is shown below. Component installation diagram at left.



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- MOS-40 36-40 CMOS SAFE INSERTER

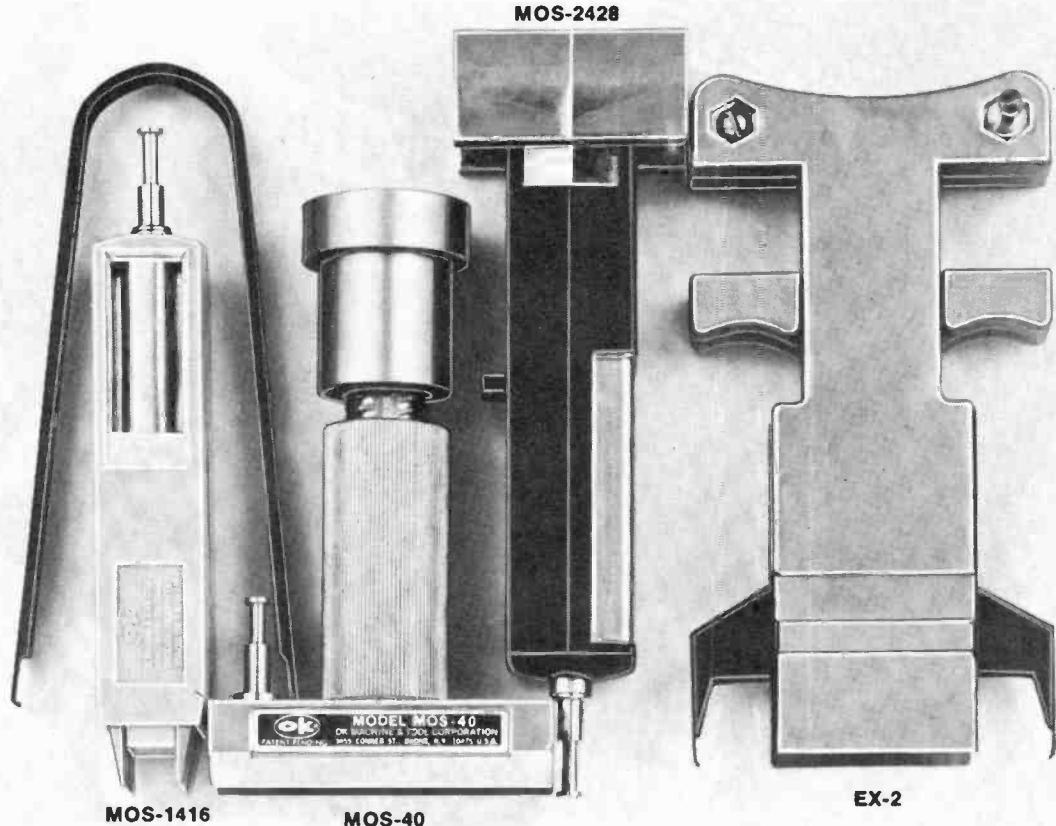


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CIRCLE NO. 42 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

A LOW-COST 16-LED LOGIC MONITOR

BY TOM KRONENWETTER

Checks all signals on an IC simultaneously

USING single-LED logic probes is the most common way to check the logic operation of a digital IC. This is fine as long as all you want to know is whether a particular pin is high or low or is switching between these two states. But most logic circuits require that correct timing be maintained between a number of signals from the same IC. This is something that a single-LED probe cannot test.

The logic monitor described in this article allows *all* of the pins of an IC to be examined simultaneously, which means that timing can be observed. The monitor reads out via 16 LEDs, each connected via a high-input resistance driver to a pin of the IC. Interconnection between the monitor and the IC is through a length of ribbon cable terminated to a clip that clamps on to the IC.

The project can be constructed for 8-,

14- or 16-pin DIP packages. If desired, it can be expanded to handle 40-pin devices. The monitor is powered from the circuit under test. Operating characteristics are given in Table I.

Basic Circuit. As shown in Fig. 1, the basic circuit consists of a relatively high-input resistance (100,000 ohms) Darlington transistor driving a LED. Resistor R_2 ensures that when the input is logic 0 (low), the transistor will be cut off and the LED will remain dark. This circuit is duplicated for each required pin connection. Current-limiting resistor R_3 is common to all LEDs.

Construction. In constructing the logic monitor, a solderless breadboard (see photo) is used. In this breadboard, the five holes across each row are interconnected inside the plastic housing.

Start assembly in one corner of board. Skip two holes and install a LED in third and fourth holes with the LED cathode in hole 4 as shown in Fig. 2. Install the transistor in the second column with the collector lead in the same row as the LED cathode, the base lead in the fifth row hole and the emitter lead in the sixth row hole. The cathode of the LED is thus connected to the transistor collector internally.

Cut one lead of a pair of 100,000-ohm resistors to 0.7" and the other lead to 0.3". Each of these resistors will be mounted vertically. Insert the short lead of R_2 into the second hole past the LED, then bend the longer lead over and insert it into the hole adjacent to the LED. Thus R_2 is connected between the base and emitter of Q_1 . Insert the long lead of the remaining resistor into the hole above the base of Q_1 so

logic monitor

that it connects to the base of $Q1$. The short upper lead of this resistor will be connected to the cable later on.

If you are making a 16-pin arrangement, follow the above assembly procedure seven more times to produce eight LEDs on one side. If you are making a 14-pin array, then only seven LEDs are needed.

To complete the assembly, start the component installation at the diagonally opposite corner (no hole spaces), and work up the other side. Resistor $R3$ is installed in a hole near the last LED.

Cut 32 one-inch long jumpers from #22-gauge solid insulated wire and strip 0.3" of insulation from each end. Sixteen of these jumpers are used to interconnect the 16 ground points to form a common bus. The remaining jumpers are used to couple the anodes of all the

LEDs into a common bus. This bus is then connected to $R3$.

At this time, each LED must be identified as to pin number. Make up some small stick-on labels, each identified in numerical sequence from 1 to 16, and affix one to the top of each transistor. The sequence should be 1 through 8 from top to bottom on the left side, and 9 through 16 from bottom to top on the right side.

The final step is wiring the 1.5-foot ribbon cable from the clamp-on connector to the breadboard. Lay the connector down with its color-coded side facing up. Using Fig. 3 as a guide, from the tip of the brown conductor at one edge of the cable, measure a diagonal 3-inches long to the blue conductor on the opposite side of the cable. Use masking tape to mark this diagonal. Cut the ribbon cable

with scissors along the upper edge of the masking tape. Separate the leads to a length of about one-inch, then strip about 0.2" of insulation from each lead. Tin each lead and form into small closed loops so that they will fit over the ends of the leads at the top of each $R1$.

Place the prepared end of the cable in the center of the breadboard, rainbow side up. Connect the second shortest lead (green) to the short lead of the $R1$ for the first LED. This corresponds to pin 1 of the connector. The shortest lead (blue) is connected to the $R1$ associated with the sixteenth LED. Using the cable color-code chart shown in Table II, connect the remainder of the ribbon-cable leads to their respective $R1$'s.

When all the connections are completed, fold the ribbon cable over on itself, slightly above the breadboard,

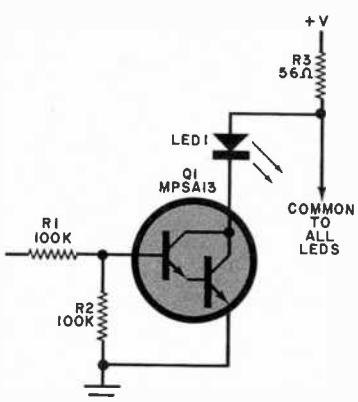


Fig. 1. Basic circuit consists of a Darlington transistor driving a LED.

PARTS LIST

- LED1—Red LED (FLV-117 or similar, 16 required)
- Q1—MPSA13 Darlington transistor (16 required)
- R1,R2—100,000-ohm, 1/4-watt resistor (32 required)
- R3—56-ohm, 1/4-watt resistor
- Misc.—Solderless breadboard (AP Products Model 234), 16-pin clamp-on logic clip with cable (AP Products Model LC 160), small tie wrap, #22 AWG wire, labels.

TABLE I—
OPERATING CHARACTERISTICS

Input impedance:	100,000 ohms
Logic threshold:	2.2 volts dc
Operating voltage range:	4 to 15 volts dc
Maximum current drain:	200 mA

TABLE II—
CABLE COLOR CODE

Pin	Color
1	Green
2	Orange
3	Brown
4	White
5	Purple
6	Green
7	Orange
8	Brown
9	Red
10	Yellow
11	Blue
12	Gray
13	Black
14	Red
15	Yellow
16	Blue

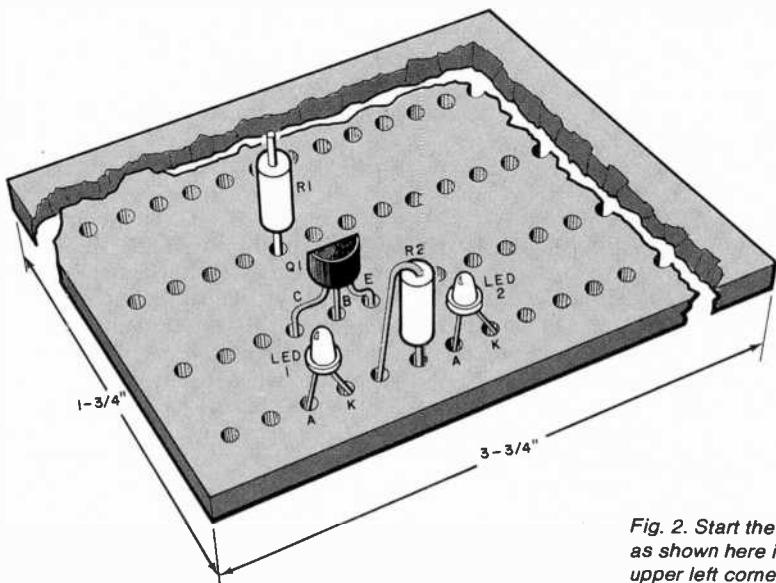


Fig. 2. Start the assembly as shown here in the upper left corner of board.

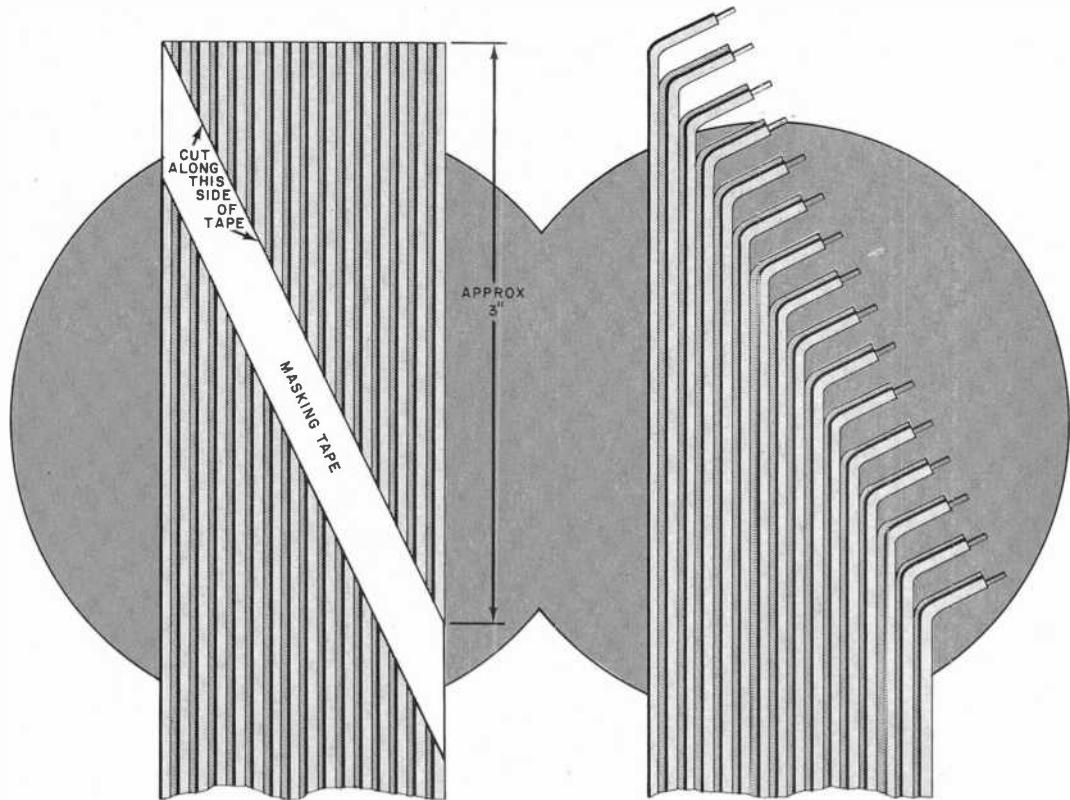


Fig. 3. The 16-lead ribbon cable is prepared as shown here with the leads cut diagonally so that they can be connected easily to circuits on the board.

and use a tie wrap to act as a strain relief for the cable.

Most 16-pin DIP packages use pin 16 as the dc source and pin 8 as ground. If you want to follow this convention, jumper input 16 (blue) to the common LED bus, and input 8 (brown) to the common ground bus. This means that the sixteenth LED will always glow and the eighth LED always remain dark.

Some digital IC's, the 7490 as an example, use pin 5 as the dc input and pin 10 as the ground. In this case, the circuit shown in Fig. 4A may be used. Here, two silicon diodes are used to pick off the dc voltage from either the pin-16 or pin-5 inputs for application to the common dc bus. A separate ground lead can be connected between the monitor common-ground bus and the ground of the circuit under test. It is also possible to keep each input isolated from either dc or ground, and use a separate lead connected between the monitor dc bus and the 5 volts of the circuit under test as shown in Fig. 4B. In this latter case, all the LEDs will be active. The human eye can distinguish flashing of the LEDs at rates up to about 15 Hz. Above that frequency the LEDs will appear to be constantly "on." ◇

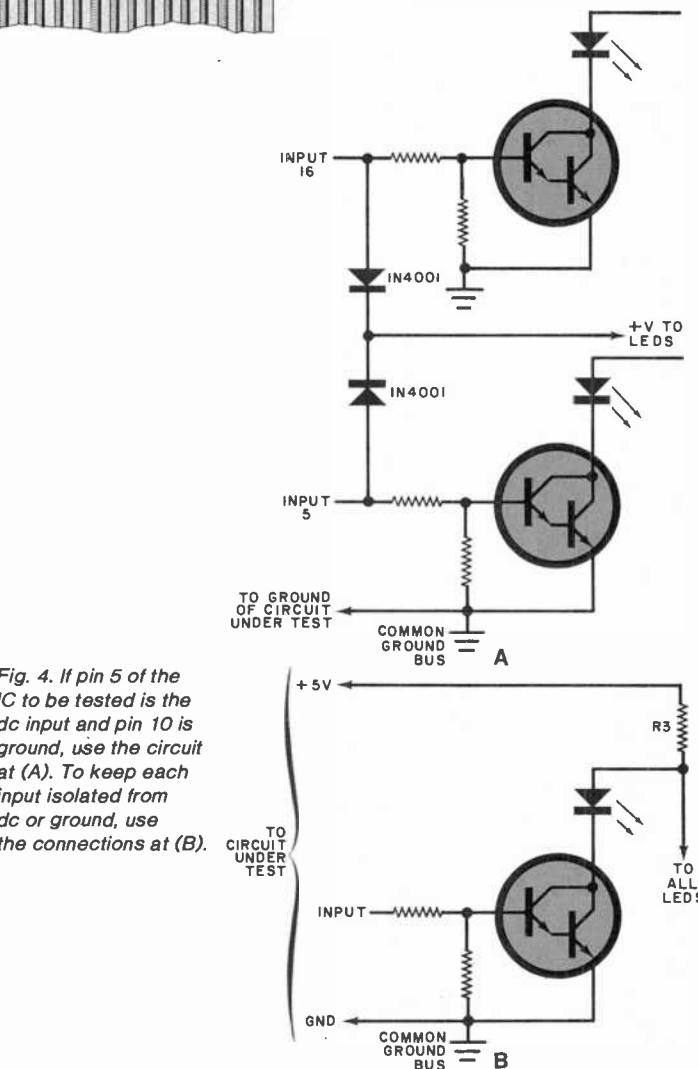


Fig. 4. If pin 5 of the IC to be tested is the dc input and pin 10 is ground, use the circuit at (A). To keep each input isolated from dc or ground, use the connections at (B).



**build a
WAH-WAH
PEDAL
for
special
musical
effects**

*Liven up your music
with this easily operated
low-cost add-on circuit*

BY FRED PUCCETTI

“WAH-WAH” is one of several interesting effects used by electric guitarists to “spice up” the sounds generated by their instruments. This effect, named in imitation of its sound, is commonly employed by synthesists and electric pianists as well. It is achieved by sweeping the center frequency of a bandpass filter while the output of the instrument is fed through it. Typically, the filter is controlled by means of a foot pedal.

Presented here is a Wah-Wah pedal designed with the performing artist in mind. It employs a high-performance quad operational amplifier and a battery power source, making it well-suited to stage or studio work. Parts count is low, so the Wah-Wah Pedal is easy to build. A kit including a rugged foot-pedal mechanism is available for \$55.

About the Circuit. The Wah-Wah pedal is shown schematically in Fig. 1. Signals from the instrument being played are presented to input jack *J1A*, one portion of a three-conductor, double closed-circuit, 1/4-inch (6.3-mm) phone jack. The input signals drive a second-order, two-pole active bandpass filter

comprising operational amplifiers *IC1A*, *IC1B*, *IC1C*, and their associated passive components. The center frequency of this filter can be varied by means of potentiometer *R7*.

When this potentiometer is adjusted for minimum resistance, the center frequency of the filter is approximately 2500 Hz. When the potentiometer's effective resistance is increased to its maximum value of 500,000 ohms, the filter's center frequency decreases to approximately 1050 Hz. These filter responses are shown in Fig. 2, a photo of the CRT traces generated by a spectrum analyzer. The analyzer was driven by a signal generator with the project inserted in series between the generator and the analyzer, and the project's frequency-control potentiometer (*R7*) was alternately set to provide for minimum and maximum resistance.

The upper and lower limits of the range over which the active bandpass filter's center frequency can be swept are determined by the stages comprising *IC1A* and *IC1B* and their associated passive components. Inverting amplifier *IC1C* provides a slight amount of voltage gain so that signals appearing at

output jack *J2* are at a suitable level. That sets this project apart from older, discrete Wah-Wah designs that did not compensate for any insertion loss introduced by the bandpass filter. An additional benefit provided by *IC1C* is buffering, which prevents the load from interacting with the filter and affecting its frequency response.

The remaining op amp, *IC1D*, is not used. In accord with good design practice, its inputs are grounded. Power for the circuit is provided by a bipolar supply consisting of two 9-volt batteries in series. Diodes *D1* and *D2* protect against the inadvertent application of reverse supply voltages. Tantalum capacitors *C3* and *C4* function as power-supply bypassing components. Note that there is no separate power switch. This is because the switching contacts of *J1B* (part of input jack *J1*) automatically connect the battery supply to the rest of the project whenever the instrument patch cord is inserted into *J1*. The only switch in the project is *S1*, a heavy-duty, push-on/push-off switch activated by the foot-pedal mechanism. It either bypasses signals around the Wah-Wah circuit or inserts it into the signal path.

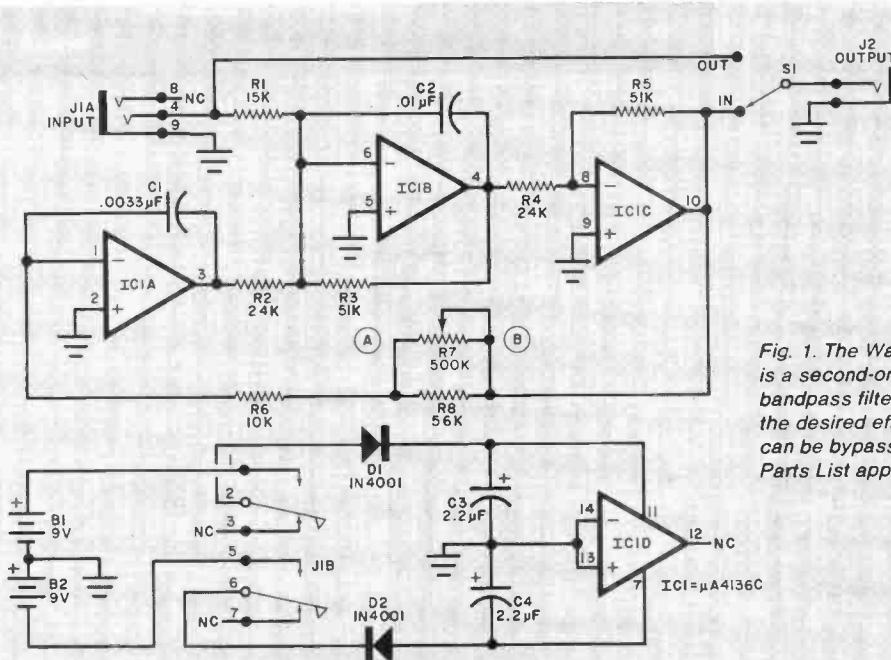


Fig. 1. The Wah-Wah Pedal circuit is a second-order, two-pole active bandpass filter that provides the desired effect. The filter can be bypassed by means of *S1*. Parts List appears on next page.

wah-wah pedal

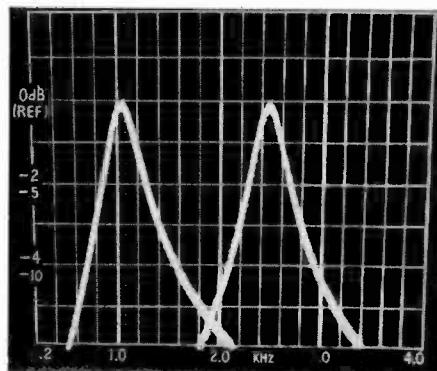


Fig. 2. Bandpass filter's frequency response when the foot pedal is fully up (left) and down (right).

PARTS LIST

- B1, B2—9-volt transistor battery
- C1—0.0033- μ F, 5%-tolerance polystyrene
- C2—0.01- μ F, 5%-tolerance polystyrene
- C3,C4—2.2- μ F, 16-volt tantalum
- D1,D2—1N4001
- IC1— μ A4136C quad operational amplifier or equivalent
- J1—Three-conductor, double closed-circuit $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch (6.3-mm) phone jack (Radio Shack No. 274-277 or equivalent)
- J2—Monaural, open-circuit $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch (6.3-mm) phone jack
- The following are $\frac{1}{4}$ -watt, 5%-tolerance, fixed carbon-composition resistors, unless specified otherwise.
- R1—15,000 ohms
- R2,R4—24,000 ohms
- R3,R5—51,000 ohms
- R6—10,000 ohms
- R7—500,000-ohm, linear-taper potentiometer (see text and note below)
- R8—56,000 ohms (see text)
- S1—Spdt, heavy-duty, push-on/push-off switch (Alcoswitch MPG-106D or equiv.)
- Misc.—Foot-pedal potentiometer drive mechanism and enclosure (DeArmond Model 1600 or equivalent), printed-circuit or perforated board, IC socket or Molex Soldercons (if desired), battery holder, battery clips, hookup wire, solder, hardware, etc.

Note—The following is available from PAIA Electronics, Inc., Box 14359, Oklahoma City, OK 73114: complete kit of parts including IC1 and passive components, etched and drilled printed-circuit board, DeArmond Model 1600 foot pedal (which includes 500,000-ohm potentiometer R7), switch S1 and jacks, No. 1230K, for \$54.95, plus \$3.00 postage and handling (U.S.). Also available separately: DeArmond Model 1600 foot pedal (which includes 500,000-ohm potentiometer R7) only, No. 1230PED, for \$39.95 plus \$3.00 postage and handling (U.S.); etched and drilled printed-circuit board only, No. 1230PCB, for \$7.95 postpaid (U.S.). Oklahoma residents, add state sales tax.

Construction. The Wah-Wah circuit is simple, so either printed-circuit or point-to-point wiring techniques can be employed to reproduce it. The full-size etching and drilling guide for a suitable printed-circuit board appears in Fig. 3 together with the corresponding full size component placement guide.

Use of a socket or Molex Soldercons with IC1 will simplify replacement of that component should it later become defective. Be sure to observe polarities and pin basing when mounting the IC, diodes, and tantalum capacitors on the circuit board. Employ the minimum amount of heat and solder consistent with the formation of good connections. When all components have been mounted on the board, examine your work for solder bridges, cold solder joints, etc.

A number of components (B1, B2, J1, J2, R7 and S1) are not mounted on the circuit board. Rather, they are secured to the enclosure associated with the foot-pedal mechanism that drives potentiometer R7. This makes for a compact, con-

venient package. You can either construct an enclosure and foot-pedal mechanism from scratch or use a commercial product that has been specially designed for musical applications. The author recommends the DeArmond Model 1600 foot-pedal assembly, which contains a 500,000-ohm potentiometer and a worm-gear mechanism to drive the potentiometer. This is the foot pedal that he used in the construction of his prototype.

Figure 4 is a bottom view of the prototype with its bottom cover removed to show the worm-gear drive, the potentiometer, circuit board and other components mounted in the foot-pedal enclosure. A hole has been drilled along the long axis of the enclosure near the top below the pedal to accommodate bypass switch S1. This heavy-duty, push-on/push-off switch required a large mounting hole. Extreme care was taken when drilling this hole so that the rubber-topped metal pedal plate was not damaged by the drill bit. Figure 5 is a side view showing how S1 was mounted so

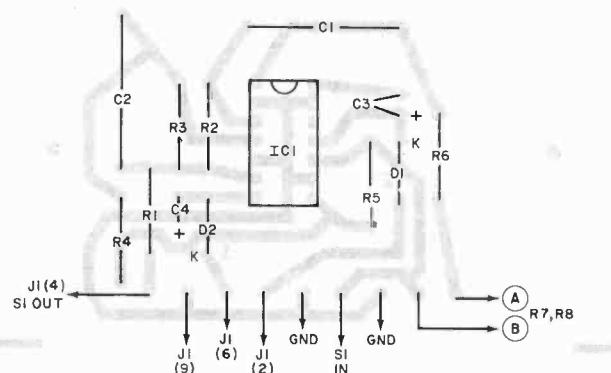
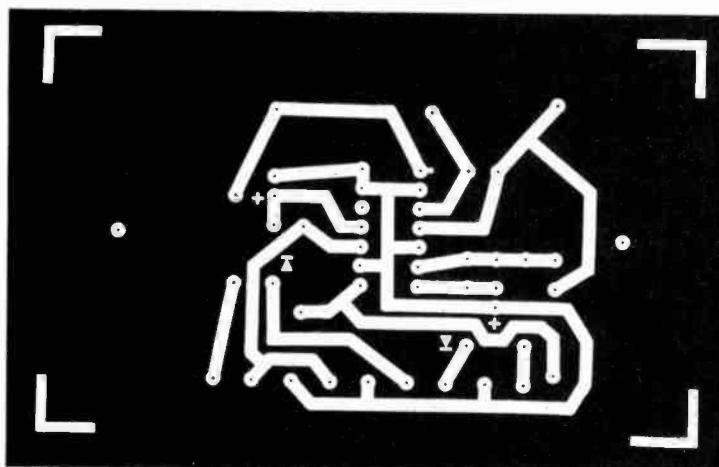


Fig. 3. Full-size etching and drilling guide (above) with corresponding parts placement guide below.

that it could be actuated by a full depression of the foot pedal.

The DeArmond Model 1600 foot pedal includes two monaural, open-circuit phone jacks. Its output jack (labelled AMPLIFIER) can be used as *J2*, but the input jack (INSTRUMENT) should be removed and replaced with a three-conductor, double closed-circuit 1/4-inch (6.3-mm) phone jack. This jack will fit in the space formerly occupied by the monaural, open-circuit input jack and will function as *J1*.

To mount the circuit board in the foot-pedal enclosure, a hole must be drilled in each of the mounting studs on the underside of the enclosure. Drill these holes $\frac{3}{16}$ " (4.8 mm) deep, taking care not to penetrate all the way through the enclosure. If a tap-set drill is available, it can be used to tap out the holes to the appropriate tap size. In the prototype, 10-32 tap-set holes were drilled and tapped to accommodate the screws that were used to hold the printed-circuit board in place. Spacers were inserted between the circuit board and the mounting studs to ensure that there is sufficient clearance for the board. If a tap-set drill is not available, holes should be drilled $\frac{3}{16}$ " (4.8 mm) deep using a No. 35 drill, and the board secured to the mounting studs using 6-32 self-tapping screws and circuit board standoffs.

Figure 4 shows how the battery holder that retains the two 9-volt batteries is mounted in the foot-pedal enclosure. It is secured in place using one of the two

retaining screws of the worm-gear assembly. The photograph also shows how the circuit board, switch, jacks, batteries, and potentiometer are interconnected using battery clips and hookup wire. A close inspection of the photo reveals the installation of a fixed resistor (*R8*) across the 500,000-ohm potentiometer. It is placed in parallel with potentiometer *R7* to reduce the maximum effective resistance of the potentiometer, which is built into the DeArmond Model 1600 foot pedal, to 50,000 ohms. If a home-brew or some other foot pedal is used, *R8* can be omitted and a 50,000-ohm linear-taper potentiometer installed as *R7*. Note that the center lug (the wiper) of the potentiometer and the lug furthest away from the input and output jacks should be connected together.

Checkout and Use. Install fresh 9-volt transistor batteries in the holder and attach the battery clips to them. Then plug one end of a patch cord into the output jack of an electric guitar or similar signal source and the other end into jack *J1*. Use a second patch cord to route signals from output jack *J2* to the input jack of an instrument amplifier. Strike a note or chord and listen to the output of the amplifier while you pump the foot pedal up and down. If you hear no variation in timbre, depress the foot pedal fully until you hear the click of *S1*. Then repeat the process by striking a note or chord and rapidly pumping the foot pedal up and down. You should

then hear the output of the guitar modified by the "wah-wah" sound.

Back the pedal off to its fully up position by pressing down with your heel and strike a chord. Bass notes should predominate over treble notes in the output of the amplifier. Next, move the pedal to its (almost) fully down position by applying pressure with your toes. Do not press the pedal with so much force that *S1* latches into its OUT position. Then strike the same chord that was struck previously and monitor the output of the amplifier. You should hear a predominance of treble notes over bass notes. If the opposite response is heard, potentiometer *R7* has been reverse-wired and the leads running to it from the circuit board should be transposed.

You can combine the Wah-Wah pedal with other signal processors, such as a fuzz-box, sustain, and a flanger, to create your own special sounds. Experiment with each of the signal processors you have to determine how much of any one effect should be added to the sound of your instrument at any given time. Keep in mind that too much of any sound effect can disturb your audience and that too little of it can bore them. The best bet is to apply judicious amounts of the sound effects available to you in a sequence dictated by your interpretation of the music you are going to play. This will not only entertain your audience, but also leave in their minds the impression that you are truly a creative musician. ◇

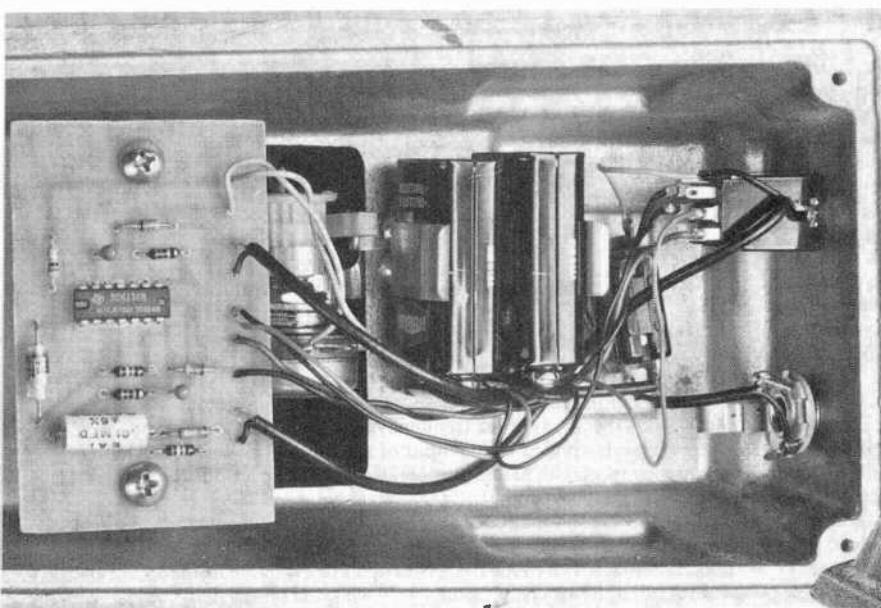
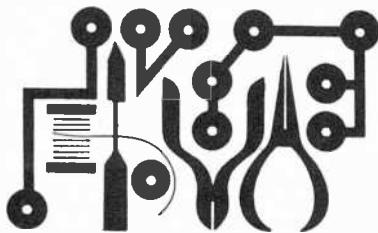


Fig. 4. Bottom view of prototype shows how the pc board and other components fit inside the foot-pedal enclosure.



Fig. 5. View of pedal showing how switch *S1* was mounted.

Experimenter's Corner



By Forest M. Mims

Optical Fiber Communications (Part 2)

IN this second of a two-part primer on optical fiber communications, we'll experiment with several transmitter and receiver circuits suitable for communicating through optical fibers and free space. If this fascinating form of communications appeals to you, be sure to review Part 1 before designing your own optical link. You might also refer to last month's Project of the Month, because the simple amplitude-modulated light-wave transmitter and receiver presented there are ideal for fiber links. You'll then be well prepared to try the circuits shown in this column.

I have built and tested all these circuits. Nevertheless, I suggest that you assemble versions on solderless breadboards before making permanent units. This will allow you to make gain and modulation adjustments and to perform preliminary operating tests to determine whether or not a particular circuit is suitable for your application.

Selecting Emitters and Detectors. Double-heterostructure injection lasers generate higher power levels over greater bandwidths than light-emitting diodes, but their high cost rules out their use for all but the most affluent experimenters. Fortunately for the rest of us, LEDs provide enough power for fiber links of a kilometer or more. GaAs:Si LEDs are very powerful, but the 940-nm wavelength they radiate is readily absorbed by most fibers. Therefore, GaAs (900 nm), GaAlS (780 to 900 nm) and even common GaAsP (650 nm) red LEDs are better choices.

Among the devices that are suitable detectors are phototransistors, solar cells, PIN photodiodes and even LEDs. Phototransistors are excellent for low-bandwidth links, but they must be shielded from ambient light. PIN photodiodes are the best choice for high-bandwidth applications. For 2-way communications over a single fiber, use a LED as a dual-function emitter/detector.

Operating Tips. Some of the circuits we'll be using employ operational amplifiers with large feedback resistances to provide very high gain. These circuits will probably oscillate violently (at least mine did) unless you take the following precautions. Connect a 0.1- μ F disc ceramic capacitor directly across the power-supply pins of the op amp. The capacitor should have short leads. Avoid long component leads and interconnection wires. Use miniature shielded cable (Radio Shack 278-752 or similar) to connect components such as detectors and microphones to the input of an op amp if the distance involved is more than a few centimeters. *Never* use an earphone to monitor the output of an untested receiver! If the circuit oscillates, the resulting sound pressure level can quite easily exceed the threshold of pain.

PFM Transmitter. Transmitting voice and other analog information as a stream of light pulses rather than an amplitude- (intensity-) modulated continuous light carrier offers several important advantages. Perhaps the most important is noise immunity. Unlike the signal transmitted by an AM light-wave system, all bursts of light in a pulsed system have the same amplitude. This means a threshold circuit can be connected to the receiver to automatically block noise pulses having an amplitude smaller than that of the information-carrying pulses.

Another important advantage is the fact that most LEDs and certain types of injection lasers emit far more power when driven by brief current pulses than when operated more or less continuously as in an AM system. Other advantages of pulse communications include increased bandwidth, reduced (continuous) operating power

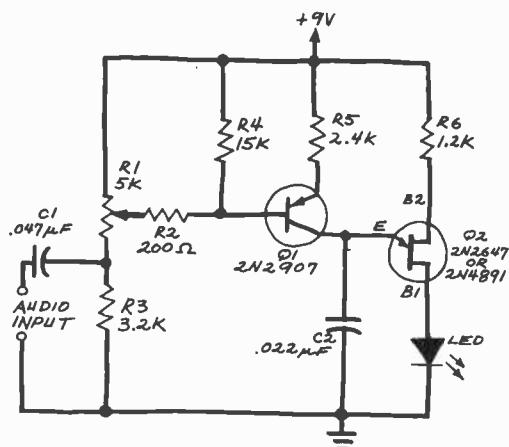


Fig. 1. Simple unijunction transistor PFM transmitter.

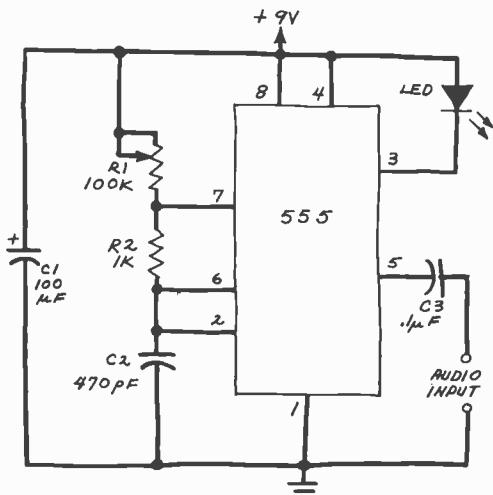


Fig. 2. A light-wave transmitter designed around a 555.

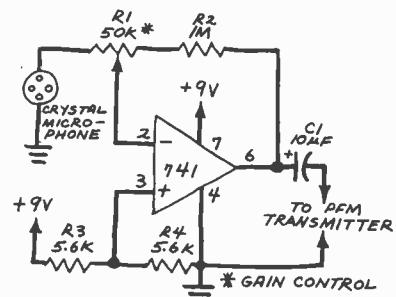


Fig. 3. Microphone preamplifier for PFM transmitter.

and interesting data encryption and multiplexing possibilities.

A pulse frequency-modulated (PFM) transmitter is fairly simple. In quiescent operation, the circuit produces a continuous stream of pulses at a specified center frequency, usually above the audio range. Audio signals applied to the input of the modulator cause the center frequency to vary in direct proportion to both the amplitude and frequency of the input signal.

Figure 1 is the schematic diagram of a simple unijunction-transistor PFM transmitter I first described in this column in May 1976. (Back issues of POPULAR ELECTRONICS are available at many libraries.) Although this circuit works very well, the pulses delivered to the LED do not have enough duration and amplitude for maximum optical power generation.

Figure 2 is an even simpler circuit designed around a 555 timer IC. This modulator delivers more current to the LED. When powered by an 8-volt rechargeable battery, the peak current as measured across a 1-ohm resistor in series with the LED is 320 milliam-

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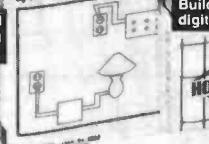
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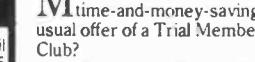
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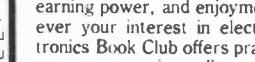
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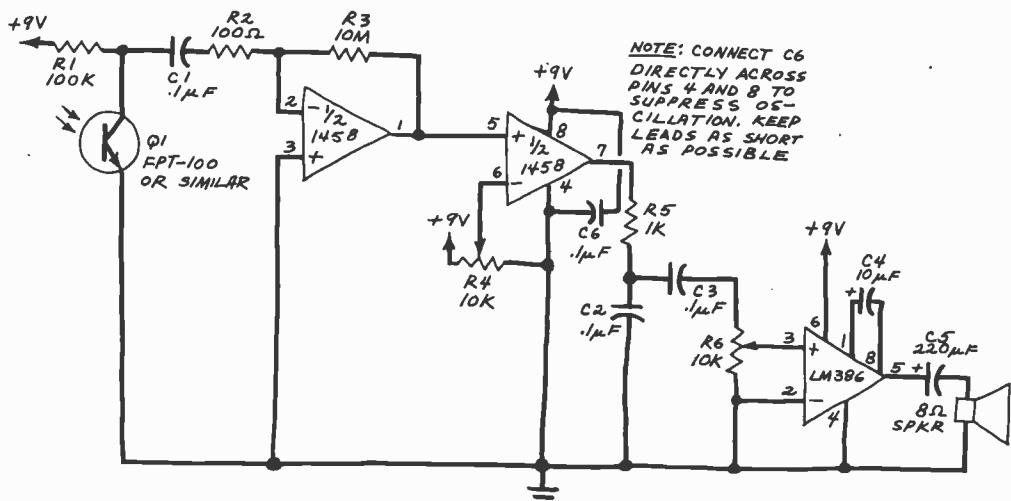


Fig. 4. A PFM receiver with a threshold detector and demodulator added.

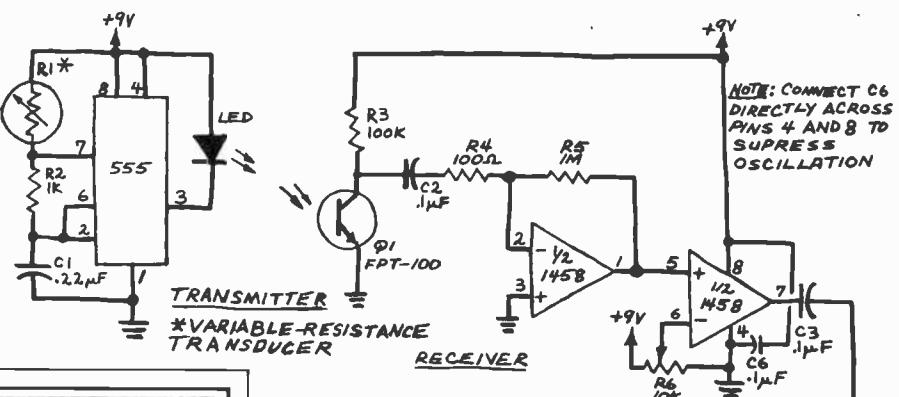


Fig. 5. An analog light-wave transmission system using a 555 astable oscillator transmitter with a receiver similar to that shown in Fig. 4.

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The circuit uses a 555 IC. The input frequency is applied to pin 2. Pin 1 is connected to ground through R7 (5k). Pin 3 is connected to ground through R8 (5k). Pin 4 is connected to ground through R9 (10k). Pin 5 is connected to ground through R10 (5k). Pin 6 is connected to ground through C4 (.1μF). Pin 7 is connected to ground through C5 (.22μF). Pin 8 is connected to ground through R11 (10k). The output voltage is measured across R11 (10k).

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peres. This is from three to six times the maximum allowable LED current in an amplitude-modulated continuous-carrier light-wave system.

The pulse duration is a brief 400 nanoseconds. This keeps both the duty cycle of the LED and average power consumption of the circuit very low, but reduces the effectiveness of a phototransistor detector because its response time is slower than that of a PIN photodiode.

For best results, R1 should be adjusted to give a center frequency between 20 and 30 kHz. You don't need a frequency counter to make this adjustment. You can monitor a suitable light-wave receiver (see below) while adjusting R1 for optimum sound quality.

Initial tests and adjustments are simplified if you connect the output of a transistor radio (via its earphone jack) to the input of the modulator. The modulator works best when the amplitude of the input is 2 to 4 volts peak-to-peak. For voice operation, connect any standard audio amplifier to the modulator's input. Figure 3 is the schematic of a microphone preamplifier that I like to use.

(Continued on page 80)

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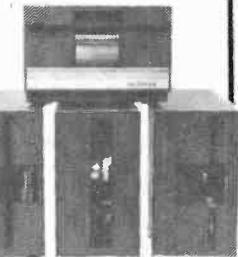
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PFM Receiver. You can receive signals from a PFM transmitter with any light-wave receiver if the center frequency of the transmitter is higher than approximately 15 kHz. For best results, however, a threshold detector and demodulator should be added as shown in Fig. 4.

Note how this circuit uses one half of an MC1458 (other dual op amps can also be used) as a preamplifier and the second half as a comparator or threshold detector. Demodulation (actually, integration) of the transmitted intelligence is provided by R_5 and C_2 . The recovered audio is then amplified by the LM386 power amplifier. Potentiometer R_6 controls the signal level at the input of the LM386 and is therefore used as a gain control.

Potentiometer R_4 permits adjustment of the comparator. Standard dual op amps such as the MC1458, however, may have insufficient bandwidth for the threshold circuit to work properly. In such cases, the narrow incoming pulses from the transmitter are stretched by the preamp and detector stages until they merge to form an amplitude- rather than pulse-modulated signal. You can obtain true threshold detection by using selected 1458's or using the LF353 or another of the better-quality dual op amps. For optimum results, you might prefer to use individual op amps rather than a dual IC to prevent inadvertent triggering of the comparator at very high preamp gain levels.

Once the receiver is working, you can reduce the gain of the preamp by increasing the value of R_2 . And you can change the values of R_5 and C_2 to alter the tone response.

Use care when tinkering with the receiver, because inadvertently touching a lead might produce an ear-splitting squeal from the speaker. To protect your ears, you can insert a few hundred ohms of series resistance between C_5 and the speaker, at least until the receiver is ready to be buttoned up and there is no chance of inadvertently touching off a spasm of shrieks and whoops.

Analog Data Transmission System. In the October and November 1979 installments of this column, we experimented with voltage-to-frequency converters and an analog light-wave data-transmission system designed around a pair of 9400 V/F chips. The LM331 V/F converter can also be used in this application. Since those columns appeared, V/F chips have become more widely available. Nevertheless, I have long wanted to design an analog light-wave transmission system around the even more widely available 555 timer chip. Figure 5 is the realization of that desire.

The transmitter is a basic astable oscillator that supplies current pulses to a LED. Resistance R_1 , which controls the pulse rate, can be a cadmium-sulfide photoresistor (for light sensing), a thermistor (for temperature sensing), a strain gauge (for pressure sensing) or some other variable-resistance transducer. It can even be a FET if remote monitoring of a voltage is desired.

The front end of the receiver is essentially identical to the preamp and threshold detector stages shown in Fig. 4. The 555 and its associated components form a frequency-to-voltage converter. Output monitoring is provided by a 0-to-1-mA meter movement.

This circuit works best over a 0-to-360-Hz frequency range (1 mA = 360 Hz), but this can be extended by altering the values of R_9 and C_5 . The threshold potentiometer (R_6) requires careful adjustment, particularly if slow op amps are used. Potentiometer R_{11} permits calibration of the output meter.

The receiver's front-end phototransistor must not be exposed to ambient light if the system is to operate properly. LEDs and PIN photodiodes, which can also be used as detectors, are less susceptible to the deleterious effects of ambient light.

Going Further. For more information about optical-fiber communications, see W.S. Boyle's excellent article "Light-Wave Communications" in the August 1977 issue of *Scientific American*. A good general introductory book is *Light-Beam Communications* (F. Mims, Howard W. Sams, 1975), and a more technical text is *Fundamentals of Optical Fiber Communications* (edited by M.K. Barnoski, Academic Press, 1976). You can keep abreast of the latest developments in this field and get the names and addresses of fiber manufacturers by reading such trade magazines as *Laser Focus* and *Electro-Optical Systems Design*. All these and many other publications on light-wave communications are available at well-stocked libraries. ◇

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Amateur Radio

By Karl T. Thurber, Jr., W8FX/4

Hamfests Are Fun!

IF YOU are a beginner in amateur radio, one of the best ways to get "maximum exposure" to all aspects of this fascinating hobby is to hop aboard the hamfest circuit. A hamfest is a distant cousin of the CB jamboree and coffee-break. All year round, but especially from the earliest days of spring through the start of the football season, hams from all over set up, participate in, and travel to hamfests and other "eyeball" meetings with fellow hobbyists, manufacturers' representatives, and equipment dealers.

A hamfest, as its name implies, is a grand meeting of radio amateurs. The term covers a lot of ground. For example, there are hamfests that are strictly horse-trading swap meets and flea markets. These are usually sponsored by small, local clubs for their own members and nearby hams. The main activity at such a hamfest is the purchase, swapping and selling of components and equipment. Usually held in a school cafeteria, parking lot or other convenient location, this type of ham event often includes an old-time radio auction and a bid table, where the bidding is written rather than verbal.

Attending such a hamfest can be a good way to find used equipment at a low price or a rare but indispensable component for a new project. If you're a rank beginner, it's probably best to have a more experienced ham accompany you. The multitude of "nameless" equipment and strange-looking components may prove frustrating without some expert guidance. Nevertheless, the public (including prospective amateurs) is always welcome at these get-togethers and is free to browse and shop among the vendors and individual hams displaying their communications, computing and test equipment as well as such specialized ham wares as name badges and tags, QSL cards, and so forth.

Something For Everyone. Most hamfests are more than just swap meets, however. They frequently include educational activities such as technical seminars. Discussions on such topics as Novice operating procedures, contest operations, DXing, antennas, radioteletype, slow-scan television, vhf operations, emergency communications, traffic-handling, and amateur applications for microprocessors predominate. Usually, a member of the club sponsoring the hamfest who is a leader in that particular aspect of ham radio chairs the seminar. Needless to say, sitting through a few of these sessions is a good way to broaden one's knowledge of radio in a hurry. They are often the vehicle by which the latest advances are introduced to the ham audience.

Most of the smaller hamfests cater to amateurs exclusively. However, the larger ones—especially those two-day, weekend events—cater to the entire family because hams are more likely to travel a good distance with their families if there will be entertainment for them too. Thus, spouses' and children's events are increasingly popular. Typical activities for nonhams include bingo, musical entertainment, tours of local historic sites and attractions, shopping excursions, cartoon and magic shows, and special drawings for door prizes.

Almost all hamfests are well attended by dealers and manufacturers' representatives who want to build up clientele and display their products. This is especially true at the larger hamfests, where high-volume dealers and name-brand manufacturers display their

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				25-250 MHz	250-450 MHz	450 MHz-1GHz		12 MHz	60 MHz	MAX. FREQ.				
7010 + 7010.1	145.00 225.00	600 MHz	9	5-20 mV	10-30 mV	20-40 mV to 600 MHz	1-10 mV	(3).1.1.10 SEC	.1Hz	1 Hz	10 Hz 600 MHz	1 PPM 0.1 PPM	10 MHz	YES OPTION \$25.
8010 + 8010.1	325.00 405.00	1 GHz	9	1-10 mV	5-20 mV	10-25 mV	1-10 mV	(E).01-20 SEC	1 Hz	1 Hz	10 Hz 1 GHz	1 PPM 0.1 PPM	10 MHz	YES STD

* Has precision 0.1 PPM TCXO time base.

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newest gear. This type of hamfest is great if you're in the market for a new radio because it's possible to compare specifications and get that "hands-on feel" of the competing equipment that you're considering for purchase. Some manufacturers even set up complete on-the-air stations, allowing you to operate their gear as you would your own ham shack. (Remember to bring along your license!)

Don't be surprised if you become "hooked" on the spot by a particularly fine piece of equipment that you're able to inspect and try out. If you find yourself sold on the gear, you'll find that it's often possible to buy the equipment at a substantial discount.

either directly from the manufacturer or from a dealer. You'll save on shipping costs and sometimes even sales tax as well.

Contests of every description are popular hamfest activities. These include QSL card design contests, Morse code sending and receiving proficiency matches, homebrew-equipment construction competitions, and even humorous events such as "left-foot CW sending" contests. Some hamfests award door prizes to the oldest and youngest hams present, the most-recently-licensed ham, the ham that's traveled the farthest to attend, and the largest all-ham family in attendance at the hamfest.

Reflecting the upsurge in interest in com-

puters and microprocessors, most hamfests include a healthy display of computer equipment and software alongside familiar amateur gear, and many hamfests are really combination ham and computer events. Don't be surprised to see sophisticated computer interfaces that allow one to send and receive Morse code automatically, displaying the characters sent (by means of a keyboard) and received on the computer's video display, not to mention equipment that does the same for RTTY signals. Indeed, some of the more computer-oriented meetings have become more "computer events" than actual hamfests!

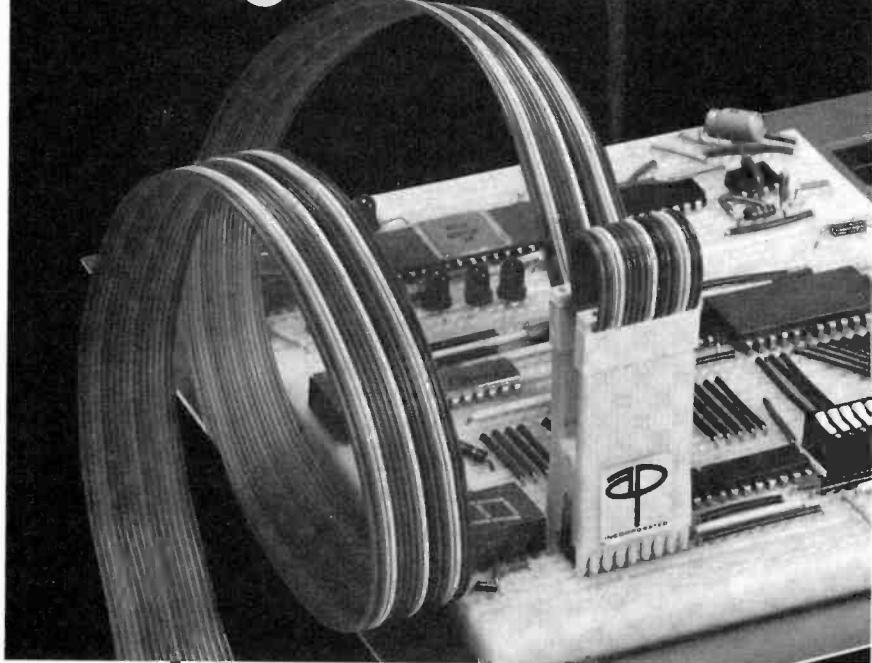
The Big Times. At the top of the hamfest tree are the major amateur conventions. These are usually sponsored by or in some way affiliated with the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the national association of radio amateurs. ARRL conventions are conducted on division and state levels, and a national convention is held each year, in different cities on a rotating basis. These events are a cross between less-formal hamfests and formal business conventions. Most regular hamfest activities are present, although swapping and horse-trading usually take a back seat to technical seminars and manufacturers' displays. The most significant difference is that business meetings, membership sessions and the election of officers can be held. Normally, these affairs run two or three days.

Last year's national ARRL convention was held in July at the Baton Rouge Centroplex, a first-class civic center, auditorium and convention complex on the bank of the Mississippi River. The national convention's activities are representative of most of the larger ham conventions, so it's worthwhile to mention some of the activities included. There were more than 25 technical and operating forums, spouses' and children's tours, a hospitality suite for the spouses, breakfast and luncheon meetings, a formal banquet, an FCC question-and-answer session, ARRL membership and directors' meetings, and even church services—conducted by ham clergymen, of course. A very special feature was the Saturday-midnight mystical initiation of amateurs into the "Royal Order of the Wouff Hong," a semisecret, fraternal amateur association dating back to at least 1923 and dedicated to the memory of the League's founder, the late Hiram Percy Maxim. Capping the closing day's activities for hams who felt themselves particularly lucky were the main prize drawings—a feature popular at all of the larger hamfests and at a number of the smaller ones as well.

Hamfest Locations. Where are all of these social activities held? Just about everywhere that hams live! Some of the larger and more famous events are the Dayton, Birmingham, Atlanta, SAROC (Nevada), and Jackson's Mill Hamfests. Most ARRL divisions and state groups sponsor annual events, and the 1980 annual ARRL convention will be held in Seattle.

Attending hamfests, swap meets and amateur radio conventions is an excellent way to get a single-dose "maximum exposure" to all aspects of ham radio. And, if your own radio club doesn't sponsor such an event, try to get one going. Remember—hamfests are fun! ◇

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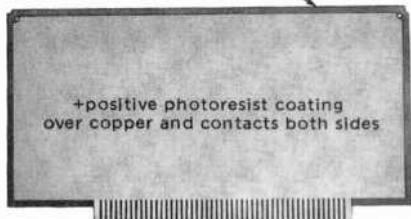
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(Level "A" makes a perfect OEM controller for industrial applications and is available in a special Hex Version which can be programmed using the Netronics Hex Keypad/Display.)

PC Board: glass epoxy, plated through holes with solder mask

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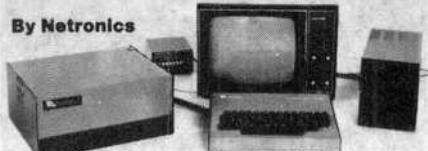
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Hex Keypad/Display

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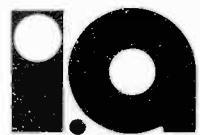
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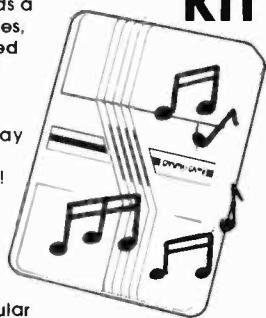
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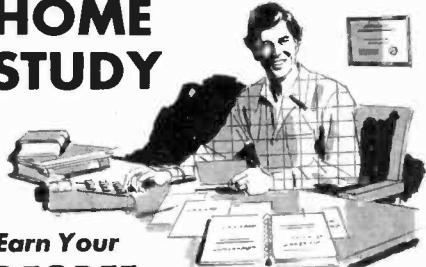
CIRCLE NO. 62 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

8:30-9:25 p.m.	0130-0225	R. Bucharest	C 11940, 11840, 11735, 9690, 9570, 5990
8:30-9:30 p.m.	0130-0230	R. Japan	C 21640, 17825, 17725, 15235
8:45-9:15 p.m.	0145-0215	Swiss R. International	B 15305, 11715, 9725, 6135
9:00-9:15 p.m.	0200-0215	R. Japan	C 17755
9:00-9:25 p.m.	0200-0225	Kol Israel	A 15582, 15105, 11637, 9815
9:00-9:25 p.m.	0200-0225	R. Warsaw	C 15120, 11815, 9525, 7270, 7145, 6135, 6095
9:00-9:30 p.m.	0200-0230	R. Canada International	A 11940, 9655, 5960
9:00-9:30 p.m.	0200-0230	R. Norway	B 11870, 11860, 9610 (Mon only)
9:00-9:30 p.m.	0200-0230	R. Budapest	B 17710, 15220, 11910, 9835, 9585, 6105
9:00-9:50 p.m.	0200-0250	R. RSA	B 17770, 15265 t, 15155, 11900
9:00-9:55 p.m.	0200-0255	R. Peking	B 17680, 15600, 15120
9:00-10:05 p.m.	0200-0305	TIFC, Costa Rica	C 9645, 5055
9:00-10:30 p.m.	0200-0330	R. Cairo	B 12050, 9475
9:00-11:00 p.m.	0200-0400	R. Moscow	A 12030, 11770, 11750, 11720, 9700, 9665, 9600, 9530
9:00-11:30 p.m.	0200-0430	AFRTS-Washington	A 21570, 17765, 9755, 6030
9:00-12:00 p.m.	0200-0500	WYFR, Family R.	A 11740
9:30-9:45 p.m.	0230-0245	R. Pakistan	C 21590, 17830
9:30-9:45 p.m.	0230-0245	UN Radio	A 15240, 6035 (Sat. only)
9:30-9:55 p.m.	0230-0255	R. Tirana	B 9750, 7120
9:30-10:00 p.m.	0230-0300	R. Lebanon	D 11785 t
9:30-10:00 p.m.	0230-0300	R. Sweden	C 11705, 9695
9:30-10:15 p.m.	0230-0315	R. Berlin International	C 11975, 9730
9:30-10:25 p.m.	0230-0325	R. Nederland	A 9590, 6165
9:30-10:30 p.m.	0230-0330	BBC	A 11750, 9580, 9410, 7325, 6175, 6120, 5975
9:30-12:00 p.m.	0230-0500	HCJB, Ecuador	A 15250 t, 11915, 9745
10:00-10:15 p.m.	0300-0315	R. Japan	C 17755
10:00-10:15 p.m.	0300-0315	R. Budapest	B 17710, 15220, 11910, 9835, 9585, 6105 (Wed. & Fri.) (Mon. to 0330)
10:00-10:25 p.m.	0300-0325	R. Warsaw	C 15120, 11815, 9525, 7270, 7145, 6135, 6095
10:00-10:30 p.m.	0300-0330	R. Canada International	A 11940, 11845, 9655, 9535, 5960
10:00-10:30 p.m.	0300-0330	R. Portugal	B 11925, 6025 (Mon-0320)
10:00-10:30 p.m.	0300-0330	R. Kiev	B 11830, 11735, 9800
10:00-10:30 p.m.	0300-0330	R. Australia	C 15260 (Fri.)
10:00-10:50 p.m.	0300-0350	V. of Free China	C 17890, 15270, 11825
10:00-10:55 p.m.	0300-0355	R. Prague	B 11990, 9740, 9540, 7345, 5930
10:00-11:00 p.m.	0300-0355	R. Peking	B 17680, 15300, 15120, 12055
10:00-11:00 p.m.	0300-0400	RAE, Argentina	C 9690 (Tue-Sat)
10:00-11:00 p.m.	0300-0400	RadioBras, Brazil	C 15290 t
10:00-11:15 p.m.	0300-0415	R. Baghdad	C 11935
10:00-11:26 p.m.	0300-0426	R. RSA	B 15325 (irregular)
10:00-11:30 p.m.	0300-0430	R. Cultural, Guatemala	B 11900, 9585, 7270, 5980, 4990
10:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m.	0300-0600	HRVC, Honduras	B 3300 (Mon. 0030)-
10:00 p.m.-2:30 a.m.	0300-0730	VOA	B 4820
10:30-10:55 p.m.	0330-0355	R. Tirana	A 17865, 15240, 9670, 5995
10:30-10:55 p.m.	0330-0355	Austrian Radio	B 7300, 6200
10:30-11:00 p.m.	0330-0400	R. Australia	C 9770, 5945
10:30-11:15 p.m.	0330-0415	R. Berlin International	B 21680, 17890, 17870, 17795, 17725
10:30-11:45 p.m.	0330-0445	BBC	B 11975, 11890, 5955
10:30-11:00 p.m.	0330-0440	R. Finland	A 9410, 6175, 5975
10:30-12:00 p.m.	0330-0500	R. Tanzania	C 11755, 9760
10:30 p.m.-1:00 a.m.	0330-0600	R. Habana Cuba	D 15435
10:40-10:47 p.m.	0340-0347	V. of Greece	A 11760, 11725
10:50-11:10 p.m.	0350-0410	RAI, Italy	B 11730, 9650, 9515
10:51-10:58 p.m.	0351-0358	V. of Yerevan	C 21561, 17795, 15330
11:00-11:15 p.m.	0400-0415	R. Japan	C 17870, 15405, 15180
11:00-11:30 p.m.	0400-0430	R. Bucharest	(Sun, Wed, Thu, Sat)
11:00-11:30 p.m.	0400-0430	R. Canada International	C 17755
11:00-11:30 p.m.	0400-0430	R. Norway	C 11940, 11840, 11735,
11:00-11:30 p.m.	0400-0430	R. Mozambique	9690, 9570, 5990
11:00-11:45 p.m.	0400-0445	R. Korea	A 11845, 9655, 9535, 5960
11:00-11:55 p.m.	0400-0455	R. Peking	B 11860, 9645 (Mon only)
11:00-12:00 p.m.	0400-0500	R. Australia	C 4855, 3265
11:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m.	0400-0600	R. Moscow	C 15570, 11820
11:00 p.m.-3:00 a.m.	0400-0800	R. Moscow	B 17680, 15300, 15120, 12055
11:00 p.m.-5:00 a.m.	0400-1000	V. of Cuba	B 17755, 17725, 15320, 15240, 15160
11:05-11:50 p.m.	0405-0450	FEBA, Seychelles	B 12030, 11790, 11770, 9610, 9530
11:30-11:55 p.m.	0430-0455	Austrian R.	B 11715, 15305 or 9725
11:30-12:00 p.m.	0430-0500	Swiss R. International	B 11750 t
11:30-12:00 p.m.	0430-0500	R. Sofia	C 7290, 5055 t
11:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m.	0430-0630	TWR, Swiziland	A 15330, 9755, 6030
11:30 p.m.-2:00 a.m.	0430-0700	AFRTS-Washington	C 6190 or 6210
11:45-12:00 p.m.	0445-0500	Vatican R.	A 15070, 9510, 6175, 5975
11:45 p.m.-12:45 a.m.	0445-0545	BBC	C 15119, 15185, 7255
11:55 p.m.-1:00 a.m.	0455-0600	V. of Nigeria	B 21555, 15582, 15105, 11638
12:00-12:15 a.m.	0500-0515	Kol Israel	C 15270
12:00-12:15 a.m.	0500-0515	R. Japan	B 11925, 6185, (Mon-0520)
12:00-12:30 a.m.	0500-0530	R. Portugal	C 21680, 17890, 17870, 17725, 15240
12:00-1:00 a.m.	0500-0600	R. Australia	B 9745, 6095, 11915
12:00-2:00 a.m.	0500-0700	HCJB, Ecuador	C 21545 t
12:00-3:00 a.m.	0500-0800	R. Kuwait	B 11880, 9630
12:15-1:15 a.m.	0515-0615	Spanish Foreign R.	A 15070, 9510, 6175, 5975

12:22-12:30 a.m.	0522-0530	UN Radio
12:30-12:50 a.m.	0530-0550	V. of Germany
12:30-1:25 a.m.	0530-0625	R. Nederland
12:45-1:00 a.m.	0545-0600	UN Radio
12:45-2:30 a.m.	0545-0730	BBC
1:00-1:15 a.m.	0600-0615	R. Japan
1:00-1:30 a.m.	0600-0630	V. of Germany
1:00-1:30 a.m.	0600-0630	R. Norway
1:00-1:30 a.m.	0600-0630	R. Australia
1:00-2:00 a.m.	0600-0700	RAE, Argentina
1:00-2:00 a.m.	0600-0700	R. RSA
1:15-1:30 a.m.	0615-0630	R. Canada International
1:25-3:00 a.m.	0625-0800	TWR, Monte Carlo
1:25-3:55 a.m.	0625-0855	V. of Malaysia
1:30-2:00 a.m.	0630-0700	R. Australia
1:30-2:00 a.m.	0630-0700	Radio Warsaw
1:45-2:00 a.m.	0645-0700	R. Canada International
1:57-4:55 a.m.	0657-0955	V. of Philippines
2:00-2:15 a.m.	0700-0715	R. Japan
2:00-2:30 a.m.	0700-0730	Swiss Radio Int.
2:00-3:00 a.m.	0700-0800	Xandir Malta
2:00-3:00 a.m.	0700-0800	V. of Vietnam
2:00-4:00 a.m.	0700-0900	R. Australia
2:07-2:15 a.m.	0707-0715	UN Radio
2:30-2:45 a.m.	0730-0745	UN Radio
2:30-3:25 a.m.	0730-0825	R. Nederland
2:30-4:00 a.m.	0730-0900	BBC
2:30-7:15 a.m.	0730-1215	R. New Zealand
2:55 a.m.-fade	0755-	Action Radio, Guyana
3:00-3:15 a.m.	0800-0815	R. Japan
3:30-4:25 a.m.	0830-0925	R. Nederland
3:30-5:00 a.m.	0830-1000	FEBC, Philippines

Experiencing
Notes:
 1. Times in first column are CDT. For ADT add 2 hours, EDT, add 1 hour, MST, subtract 1 hour PDT, subtract 2 hours DST.
 2. Quality: A-strong signal and very reliable reception; B-regular reception; C-occasional reception under favorable conditions; D-fairly weak. These ratings are for stations in the central U.S.A. European stations are more reliable than general American stations. Stations in South America, Asia, Africa, and Pacific areas are more reliably received in western North America. North American stations are received well except in areas too close to the transmitter sites.
 3. The information in the listing is correct to press time. However, frequencies and schedules are constantly changing. Turn to "DX Guide" on R. Canada International for late changes. Sunday at 1807, 1915 (in Europe); 2010, GMT Monday at 0117 and 0417.
 4. R=Radio, V=Voice
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A	9540, 6055 (Sat)
A	11905, 11705, 9650, 9545, 6185, 6100, 5960
B	9715, 6165
A	9540, 6055 (Sat)
B	15070, 11955, 11860, 9640, 9510, 6175
C	15270
C	17875, 15275, 11905, 11765, 9700
B	21655, (Mon only)
C	21680, 21525, 17870, 17725, 17755, 15240, 15160
C	9690 (Tue-Sat.)
C	21535, 17780, 15220
B	11960, 11825, 9760, 9590, 6140 (Mon-Fri)
B	9485, (Sun. to 1000)
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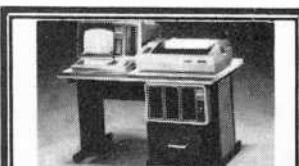
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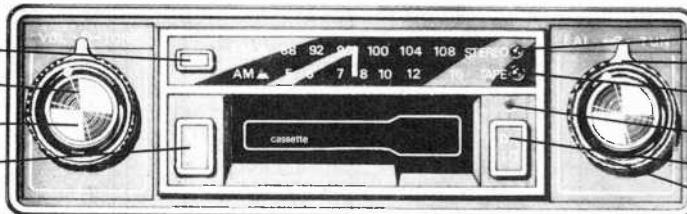
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Hallcrafters model CR-3000 AM-FM stereo/multi-band SW receiver. Schematic and manual needed. Rick Rodriguez, 670 N. Ridge, Lombard, IL 60148.

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Tennelec MCP 1 scanner. Need operation manual and schematic. Robert Heine, 2428 So. Glendale, Apt. 204, Wichita, KS 67210.

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RCA model SRT-301 pushbutton tape recorder. Need schematic and service manual (Same 224). Donald P. Seyler, 827 Mitman Dr., Fairborn, OH 45324.

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Central Electronics model B "Sideband Slicer" multiphase Q-multiplier. Schematic and operating instructions needed. R. I. Garber, 3535 Greenbrier Blvd., Apt. 34A, Ann Arbor, MI 48105.

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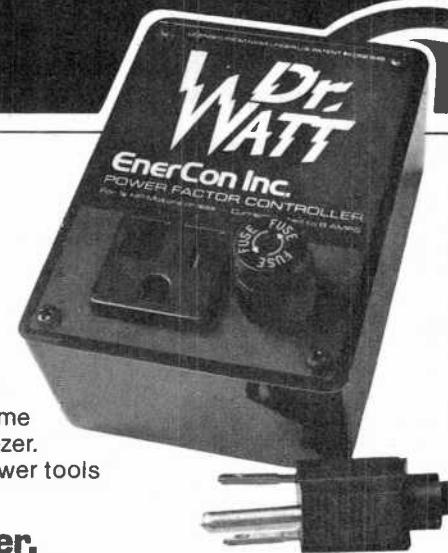
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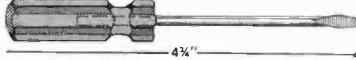
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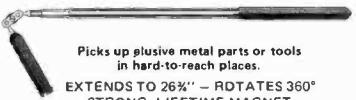
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MINIATURE SCREWDRIVER



RUGGED CONSTRUCTION
1000's OF USES - 1/8" TIP 2/\$1.00

MAGNETIC RETRIEVER TOOL



MRT-2281 \$3.95

ESC CONTINENTAL SPECIALTIES

LOGIC PROBE KIT



SPECIFICATIONS

Input Impedance: 300,000 Ohms.

Thresholds: "Lo" 30%Vcc -- "Hi" 70%Vcc

Maximum Speed: 300.nsec., 1.5MHz

Input Protection: ±50VDC continuous 117VAC for 15 sec.

Power: 30mA @5V - 40mA @ 15V - 25V max. reverse voltage protected; 36" cable with color coded clips included.

Operating Temp.: 0-50°C.

Dimensions: 5.8L x 1.0W x 0.7D in.

(147 x 25 x 18mm)

Weight: 30 oz. (85 gm)

LPK-1 \$21.95/Kit

Proto Clips

14-PIN CLIP	PC-14	\$ 4.50
16-PIN CLIP	PC-16	\$ 4.75
24-PIN CLIP	PC-24	\$10.00
40-PIN CLIP	PC-40	\$16.00

Proto Boards

PB-6	\$17.95
PB-100	19.95
PB-101	22.95
PB-102	26.95
PB-103	44.95
PB-104	55.95
PB-203	99.95
PB-203A	155.00
PB-203A-Kit	131.00

Jumbo 6-Digit Clock Kit

• Four .60" ht. and two .30" ht. common anode displays
• Uses MM5314 clock chip
• Switches for hours, minutes and hold functions
• Hours easily viewable to 30 feet
• Simulated walnut case
• 115VAC operation
• 12 or 24 hour operation
• Includes all components, case and wall transformer
• Size: 6 1/4" x 3 1/8" x 1 1/4"

JE747 \$29.95

- Bright .300 ht. comm. cathode display
- Uses MM5314 clock chip
- Switches for hours, minutes and hold functions
- Hours easily viewable to 20 ft.
- Simulated walnut case
- 115 VAC operation
- 12 or 24 hr. operation
- Incl. all components, case & wall transformer
- Size: 6 1/4" x 3 1/8" x 1 1/4"

JE701 \$19.95

6-Digit Clock Kit \$19.95

Regulated Power Supply
Uses LM309K. Heat sink provided. PC board construction. Provides a solid 1 amp @ 5 volts. Can supply up to +5V, +9V and +12V with JE205 Adapter. Includes components, hardware and instructions. Size: 3 1/4" x 5" x 2" H

JE200 \$14.95

ADAPTER BOARD
—Adapts to JE200—
+5V, +9V and +12V

DC/DC converter with +5V input. Toroidal hi-speed switching XMFR. Short-circuit protection. PC board construction. Piggy-back to JE 200 board. Size: 3 1/4" x 2" x 9/16" H

JE205 \$12.95

FRONT VIEW INSIDE REAR VIEW

FR

DIGITAL MULTIMETERS

Sinclair PDM35 Reg. \$69.95 \$49.95
 Hickok LX303 Reg. \$69.95 \$69.50
BK PRECISION
 3½-Digit Portable DMM Model 2800

Portable Oscilloscopes
 15 MHz Dual Trace Triggered Miniscope Model MS-215
 15 MHz Triggered Miniscope Model MS-15 Reg. \$319.00 \$269.95

30 MHz Dual Trace Triggered Miniscope Model MS-230 Reg. \$559.00 \$479.95

CSC
 Logic Probe
 • Compact circuit powered
 Detects pulses as short as 50 µsec • TTL/HTL/CMOS compatibility
 \$44.95 Model LP-1

RC Circuit Box
 • 36 resistors (15Ω to 10 MΩ) • 18 capacitors (100 pF to 0.22 µF)
 Reg. \$49.95 includes test leads
 \$42. VIZ Model WC 412A

Chess Challenger 7 Reg. \$110.00 Model BBC
 \$79.95

MURAPHONE Cordless Telephone System Reg. \$69.95 \$74.95

GTE Flip-Phone® Reg. \$39.95 \$37.95

HICKOK Digital CB In-Line Tester Reg. \$399.00 \$169.95 Model 388

Attache Style Tool Case Model TC100/ST Reg. \$471.95 \$279.95

Service Master Tool Kit Model 99-SM Reg. \$69.95 \$47.50

Proto Preassembled Boards Model PB-104
 Fully assembled breadboard contains four QT-597 sockets, seven QT-598 bus strips and four 5-way binding posts
 \$49.95

Magnifier Lamp Precision ground and polished magnification lens Model MG10A
 \$49.95

Weller® Controlled Output Soldering Station Model WTCPN Reg. \$77.00 \$49.95

Portable VOM Multitester Model VM520
 • 20 Hz to 100 MHz range • LED display
 • Fully automatic \$127.50

100 MHz 8-Digit Counter Model MAX100
 • 20 Hz to 100 MHz range • LED display
 • Fully automatic \$127.50

CSC Logic Monitor Model LM-1 Works with DTL, HTL, TTL, CMOS & 16' LED display
 • Automatically displays static and dynamic logic
 • Model 1500 \$249.95
 • Model 1400 \$199.95

BK PRECISION Portable Digital Capacitance Meter Model 820
 • Measures capacitance from 0.1pf to 1 Farad
 • Resolves to 0.1pf • 10 ranges for accuracy and resolution • 4 digit easy-to-read LED display • 0.5% accuracy

CSC 3½-Digit 0.1% Digital Capacitance Meter Model 3001
 • 9 ranges from 1999 pF to 199.9 µF
 • 0.1% of reading accuracy \$190.00 Reg. \$149.95

DIGITAL MULTIMETER Simpson 461
 Complete with nickel-cadmium batteries, AC charger/adaptor, test leads
 \$149.95

BSR X-10 Remote Control for Lights & Appliances
 • 4 PC Standard Starter Kit • One (1) Standard Command Console • Two (2) Lamp Modules • One (1) Appliance Unit
 • 5 PC Ultrasonic Starter Kit • One (1) Deluxe Ultrasonic Command Console • One (1) Hand Held Remote Unit • Two (2) Lamp Modules • One (1) Appliance Unit
 • Lamp Module: \$14.50 Standard Command Console: \$36.00
 • Appliance Modules: \$14.50 Ultrasonic Command Console: \$59.95
 • Wall Switch Modules: \$14.50 with Hand Held Remote

BK PRECISION 30 MHz Portable Frequency Counter Reg. \$130.00 \$65.00 Model 1827

CSC 6" x 9" 3-Way Speaker
 • 20 oz. ceramic magnet
 Model BP2000-69TR
 \$14.95 ea.

Telephone Answering
 • Model 1500 \$249.95
 • Model 1400 \$199.95

WAHL ISOTIP Cordless Soldering Iron
 • Model 7800
 \$29.95

Thermal-Spat Model 8000 Circuit Tester \$29.95

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 8-Track Tape Player with AM/FM/MPX Radio Model C-777
 \$52.50

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In-Dash Car Stereos
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Cassette Tape Player with AM/FM/MPX Radio Model CAS-888
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NEW! S-100 DUAL PROCESSOR CPU BOARD Introductory prices: \$385 unkit, \$495 assm, \$595 CSC

An 8088 CPU gives true 16 bit power with a standard 8 bit S-100 bus, while an additional 8085 CPU gives compatibility with CP/M and the vast library of software developed for the 8080. Finally — a CPU board that is downward compatible with existing software, upward compatible with hardware and software not yet developed, accesses 16 Megabytes of memory, meets all IEEE S-100 bus specifications, runs 8085 and 8086 code in your existing mainframe as well as Microsoft 8086 BASIC and Sorcim PASCAL/M™, and runs at 5 MHz for speed as well as power. The Dual Processor Board is built to the same stringent standards that have established our leadership in S-100 system components... and starting June 1st, you'll be able to plug it into your mainframe to experience computing power that, until now, you could only dream about.

Available June

TERMS: Cal res add tax. Allow 5% for shipping, excess refunded. VISA®/Mastercharge® call our 24 hour order desk at (415) 562-0636. COD OK with street address for UPS. Prices subject to change without notice.

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2-80A CPU Board	\$225 unkit, \$295 assm, \$395 CSC
8085 CPU Board	\$235 unkit, \$325 assm, \$425 CSC
Godbout Computer Enclosure	\$289 Desktop, \$329 rack mount
8K Econoram IIA static RAM	\$169 unkit, \$189 assm, \$239 CSC
16K Econoram XIV static RAM	\$299 unkit, \$349 assm, \$429 CSC
32K Econoram X-32 static RAM	\$599 unkit, \$689 assm, \$789 CSC

NEW! S-100 SPECTRUM COLOR GRAPHICS BOARD

Introductory prices: \$339 unkit, \$399 assm, \$449 CSC

Includes 8K of IEEE-compatible static RAM; full duplex bidirectional parallel I/O port for interfacing with keyboards, joysticks, and similar parallel peripherals; and a 6847-based graphics generator capable of displaying all 64 ASCII characters. Put these all together, and you've got 10 modes of operation — from alphanumeric/semi-graphics in 8 colors to ultra-dense 256 x 192 full graphics. With 75 Ohm RS-170 line output and video output for use with FCC approved video modulators. Need graphics software? Sublogic's 2D Universal Graphics Interpreter (normally \$35) is yours for \$25 with the purchase of any Spectrum board. Don't settle for B&W or stripped-down color boards — go for the full Spectrum of performance. Available June

SPECIAL PRICE! TRS-80* -I or -II MEMORY EXPANSION CHIP SET: \$69 !!

We've done it again... 8 low power, 250 ns 16K dynamic RAMs at a trendsetting price. Don't be impressed with fancy packaging or four color ads; our chip set gives all the performance you want at a price you can afford. Offer good while supplies last. Add \$3 for TRS-80 compatible DIP shunts and complete installation instructions.

*TRS-80 is a trademark of the Tandy Corporation.

12 Slot Motherboard	\$129 unkit, \$169 assm
19 Slot Motherboard	\$174 unkit, \$214 assm
25 Interfacer II/O Board	\$199 unkit, \$249 assm, \$324 CSC
3P PLUS S Interfacer II/O Board	\$199 unkit, \$249 assm, \$324 CSC
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CIRCLE NO. 30 ON FREE INFORMATION CARD

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Expandable to 256 x 192 high resolution color graphics. 6847 with all display modes computer controlled. Memory mapped. 1K RAM expandable to 6K. S-100 bus 1802, 8080, 8085, Z80 etc. Delivery January '80.

1802 16K Dynamic RAM Kit \$149.00

Expandable to 32K. Hidden refresh w/clocks up to 4 MHz w/o wait states. Addl. 16K RAM \$63

Quest Super Basic

Quest, the leader in inexpensive 1802 systems announces another first. Quest is the first company worldwide to ship a full size Basic for 1802 systems. A complete function Super Basic by Ron Cenker including floating point capability with scientific notation (number range $\pm 17E^{30}$), 32 bit integer ± 2 billion; Multi dim arrays; String arrays; String manipulation; Cassette I/O, Save and load, Basic, Data and machine language programs; and over 75 Statements, Functions and Operators.

Easily adaptable on most 1802 systems. Requires 12K RAM minimum for Basic and user programs. Cassette version in stock now. ROM versions coming soon with exchange privilege

EII II Adapter Kit \$24.95

Plugs into EII providing Super Elf 44 and 50 pin plus S-100 bus expansion. (With Super Expansion). High and low address displays, state and mode LED's optional \$18.00.

Gremlin Color Video Kit \$69.95

32 x 16 alpha/numerics and graphics; up to 8 colors with 6847 chip; 1K RAM at \$100. Plugs into Super Elf 44 pin bus. No high res. graphics.

allowing some credit for cassette version. New improved version with improved speed and accuracy now avail. Source list for I/O now incl.

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Tom Pittman's 1802 Tiny Basic Source Listing now available. Find out how Tom Pittman wrote Tiny Basic and how to get the most out of it. Never offered before.

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7405N	23 LM20T-15	1.35	CD4030	1.45	251B	6.30
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7414N	70 LM20T-15	1.33	CD4040	1.35	MME320	3.00
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7424N	.58 LM20T-15	1.35	CD4046	.45	IC SOCKET	2.50
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7426N	.74 LM20T-12	1.35	CD4050	.50	100 Pin Edge	2.75
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74L500 TTL	LM3905	1.75	CD4120	1.00	MC68026	2.00
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74L522N	.45 LM2175	.60	CD4175	1.35	7214	3.95
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74L560N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L561N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L562N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L563N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L564N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L565N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L566N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
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74L588N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L589N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
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74L591N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L592N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L593N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L594N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L595N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L596N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L597N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L598N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L599N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L600N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L601N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L602N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L603N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L604N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L605N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L606N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L607N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L608N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L609N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L610N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L611N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L612N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L613N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L614N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L615N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L616N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L617N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L618N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L619N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L620N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L621N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L622N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L623N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L624N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L625N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L626N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L627N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L628N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
74L629N	.100 A to D CONVERTER	.45	CD4221	.80	RS232	2.50
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• Double contact points

• YOUR CHOICE - TIN OR GOLD*

(*Minimum of 15 microinch gold tail on gold sockets)

• TEAMS INSTRUMENTS

TIN INLAY SOLDER TAIL
Series #1 Min. 200 Microinches Tin

Part No.	Description	1	10	100
C5510	16 pin solder tail, tin	10	50	196
C5511	16 pin solder tail, tin	17	153	14.00
C5512	16 pin solder tail, tin	20	76	16.00
C5513	16 pin solder tail, tin	22	118	20.00
C5520	20 pin solder tail, tin	25	2.71	20.00
C5521	20 pin solder tail, tin	28	1.00	20.00
C5524	24 pin solder tail, tin	30	2.63	24.00
C5525	24 pin solder tail, tin	35	3.11	24.00
C5528	28 pin solder tail, tin	35	4.84	24.00
C5540	40 pin solder tail, tin	40	8.10	24.00

GOLD INLAY SOLDER TAIL
Series #1 Min. 50 Microinches Gold Inlay

Part No.	Description	1	10	100
C5510	16 pin solder tail, gold	28	2.00	18.00
C5511	16 pin solder tail, gold	37	2.81	25.00
C5512	16 pin solder tail, gold	38	3.79	25.00
C5520	20 pin solder tail, gold	47	4.73	33.00
C5521	20 pin solder tail, gold	47	4.16	37.00
C5524	24 pin solder tail, gold	50	5.22	37.00
C5525	24 pin solder tail, gold	54	6.84	43.00
C5528	28 pin solder tail, gold	63	8.53	50.00
C5540	40 pin solder tail, gold	80	10.00	72.00

WIRE WRAP DIP SOCKETS

- Standard profile
- Universal mounting and packaging capabilities
- Contacts accommodate .015" through .030" wire
- Wire wrap posts held to true position of .013" providing a tight grip on .020" wire for efficient automatic wire placement
- YOUR CHOICE - TIN OR GOLD*
- (*Minimum of 15 microinches gold tail on gold sockets)
- TEAMS INSTRUMENTS QUALITY

TIN PLATED WIRE WRAP
Series #1 Min. 200 Microinches Tin

Part No.	Description	1	10	100
E1010	8 pin wrap, tin	32	2.93	26.00
E1011	10 pin wrap, tin	32	3.00	26.00
E1012	12 pin wrap, tin	47	3.18	40.00
E1013	14 pin wrap, tin	50	3.40	40.00
E1014	16 pin wrap, tin	50	3.76	40.00
E1015	18 pin wrap, tin	50	4.00	40.00
E1016	20 pin wrap, tin	50	4.35	40.00
E1017	22 pin wrap, tin	50	4.70	40.00
E1018	24 pin wrap, tin	50	5.00	40.00
E1019	26 pin wrap, tin	50	5.30	40.00
E1020	28 pin wrap, tin	50	5.60	40.00
E1021	30 pin wrap, tin	50	5.90	40.00
E1022	32 pin wrap, tin	50	6.20	40.00
E1023	34 pin wrap, tin	50	6.50	40.00
E1024	36 pin wrap, tin	50	6.80	40.00
E1025	38 pin wrap, tin	50	7.10	40.00
E1026	40 pin wrap, tin	50	7.40	40.00

GOLD PLATED WIRE WRAP
Series #1 Min. 200 Microinches Gold

Part No.	Description	1	10	100
E1010	8 pin wrap, gold	49	4.15	100
E1011	10 pin wrap, gold	82	7.45	64.95
E1012	12 pin wrap, gold	82	8.00	64.95
E1013	14 pin wrap, gold	82	8.55	64.40
E1014	16 pin wrap, gold	90	10.35	111.00
E1015	18 pin wrap, gold	90	10.85	111.00
E1016	20 pin wrap, gold	90	11.30	111.00
E1017	22 pin wrap, gold	90	11.75	115.40
E1018	24 pin wrap, gold	90	12.25	115.40
E1019	26 pin wrap, gold	90	12.70	115.40
E1020	28 pin wrap, gold	90	13.15	115.40
E1021	30 pin wrap, gold	90	13.60	115.40
E1022	32 pin wrap, gold	90	14.05	115.40
E1023	34 pin wrap, gold	90	14.50	115.40
E1024	36 pin wrap, gold	90	14.95	115.40
E1025	38 pin wrap, gold	90	15.40	115.40
E1026	40 pin wrap, gold	90	15.80	115.40

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ES/C	8.70/M	38.20/S	25.00/P	50.50/A
16	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS GOLD
EDGEBOARD CONNECTORS

Solder Tail Solder Eye

Wire Wrap

RELIABLE, COST-EFFICIENT CONTACT DESIGN

* 50 mils of gold on the solder tail microinches gold tail over a nickel diffusion barrier

* Copper-nickel alloy C 725 alloy

* Bifurcated contact points

* Preformed, contoured spring design

* Individual contacts are user-selectable

* Gold tail is designed to fit the pin holes to center measurement allowed by the distance separating the two pin rows

H4 SERIES .100" X .200" EDGEBOARD CONNECTORS

Pin Count: 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 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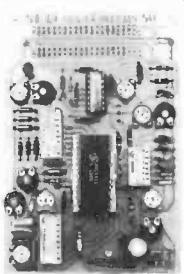
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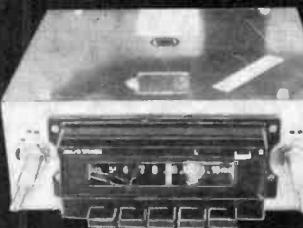
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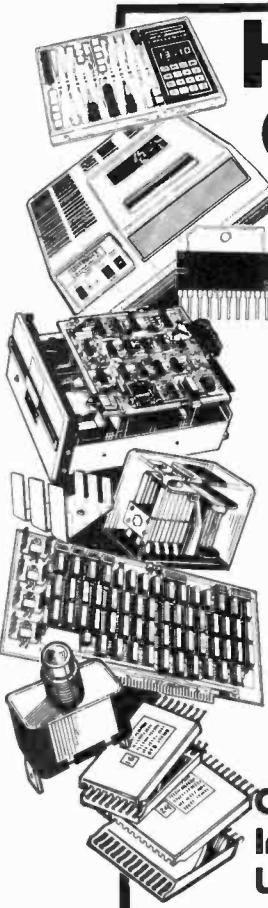
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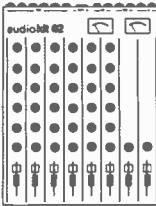
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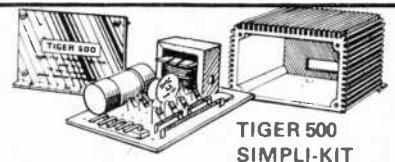
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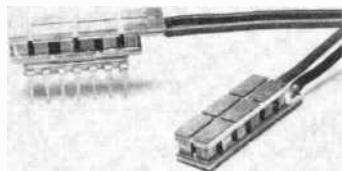
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ELECTRONICS WORLD

Personal Electronics News

MAGNAVOX EXPANDS VIDEODISC PLAYER DISTRIBUTION by adding five new market areas to its three established regions in Atlanta, Seattle, and Dallas. U.S. consumers will now be able to buy the optical laser-beam-scan system in Phoenix, Pittsburgh, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Cleveland, and Buffalo, says Magnavox. By the end of 1980, the company expects to expand distribution of the videodisc players to all major markets, covering 65% of all TV households in the U.S. The videodisc player can be used with any TV receiver and has output jacks for home audio systems when discs are encoded in stereo.

UPGRADED RCA COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITES will be launched in 1981 by RCA American Communications if FCC approval is obtained. The new SATCOM III (the original was lost on Dec. 10, 1979) is for cable TV purposes. A second satellite, SATCOM IV, is intended to provide in-orbit restoration for failed transponders on other satellites. The new satellites are supposed to include on-board replacement amplifiers and associated switching matrices.



THERMOELECTRIC COOLING OF DIP ICs permits more circuitry on a chip when a new, small (0.3 x 0.9 in.) module introduced by Cambion Thermionic Corp., Cambridge, MA is sandwiched between IC and heat sink. Using a small dc power input, the cooler can pump up to 3.5 watts of heat from an 8-, 14-, 16-, or 18-lead IC. The process can also be reversed if it is necessary to regulate the temperature of an IC when the ambient is in the range of $\pm 60^{\circ}\text{C}$.

A \$37-BILLION CONSUMER ELECTRONICS MARKET has been predicted for 1985 by Business Communications Co., Inc., which valued the market at \$15.3 billion in 1979, up 12% over 1978. Home entertainment (audio, video, antennas, and cable-TV services) will continue to dominate consumer electronics sales, but its market share will decrease as the personal electronics and personal computer sectors gain momentum. The company predicts also that, before 1990, dollar volume in secondary video equipment will exceed that of color television receivers.

INDUSTRIAL ROBOTS WILL SWEEP THE MARKET following a 15-year period of "slow and painful" growth, reports International Resource Development. Encouraged by the success of sales in 1979, manufacturers are making the 1980 robot more adaptive to abnormal, as well as expected and prescribed, circumstances. And, if the report's predictions hold true, heuristic robots and those with reproductive capabilities may soon be found outside of science fiction. Manufacturers expected to be in the forefront of the robot explosion will be Unimation, Cincinnati Milacron, Texas Instruments, and Digital Equipment Corp.

DIGITAL AUDIO PCM TAPE RECORDING offering from Sanyo is a Beta-format videocassette of Ry Cooder's "Bop Til You Drop" for \$25. It's available from dealers who sell the Sanyo Plus 10 digital audio adaptor. The latter converts any VCR into a digital audio recorder and carries a suggested retail price of \$3995.95. The Cooder videocassette is said to be the first time an album recorded digitally has been made commercially available in the PCM format. Using PCM (pulse code modulation) techniques eliminates any background noise.

ATARI PERSONAL COMPUTER SERVICE facilities are reported available in approximately 20 service centers located nationwide and operated by Control Data Corporation. A variety of services for Atari 400 and 800 Systems, including warranty repair, safety and engineering changes, equipment upgrades and annual service contracts, is available.

COLOR-TV PRODUCTION IN CHINA got a boost when China National Technical Import Corp. signed a contract with Nissho-Iwai Co., Ltd. and Victor Co. of Japan, Ltd. to obtain five-million dollars worth of TV assembly and production facilities for Tianjin Radio, a government-run enterprise. With the new facilities, an annual production capacity of 150,000 sets is planned, with a possible increase to 300,000 sets soon.



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