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Build TV Set (p. 61)

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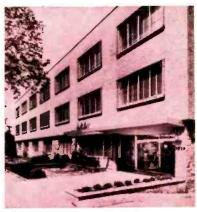
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A Message from J. Morrison Smith President National Radio Institute

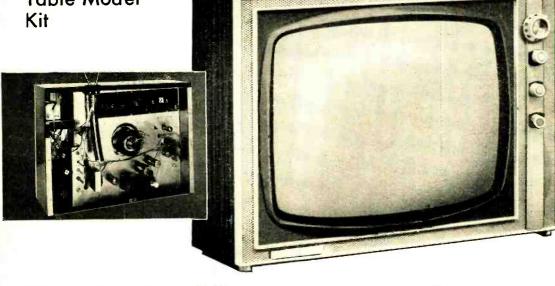
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POPULAR ELECTRONICS

VOLUME 17

JULY 1962

NUMBER 1



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This month's cover photo by Bruce Pendleton
''Custom 70'' TV Kit courtesy of Conar
Instruments; Bar Generator courtesy of
EICO Electronic Instrument Co., Inc.

Special Construction Feature Electronic Construction Projects The Fish Finder R. L. Winklepleck 57 Whistle Switch Martin J. Leff 63 Transformer for D.C. Ben Richards 67 Compactron Frequency Calibrator Herb S. Brier, W9EGQ 75 **Audio and High Fidelity** Hi-Fi Showcase 28 Slim-Line Speaker Kit 70 Amateur, CB, and SWL FCC Report Robert E. Tall One for the Road Howard F. Burgess, W5WGF Across the Ham Bands: SWL "Souvenir Hunters" and QSL Cards Herb S. Brier, W9EGQ 74 On the Citizens Band Dick Strippel, 2W1452 77 CB Sam Was Careful David Moore Short-Wave Monitor Certificate Application 82 **Electronic Features and New Developments** News Scope ... Tech-Lyte Kit First Aid for Printed Circuits. J. W. I. Cody 53 All About Conar TV Kit (Cover Story) Transistor Topics Lou Garner 71 Third Eye for Space Explorers **Departments** Coming Next Month Letter Tray 24 New Products 91 Electronics Datebook 95

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POP'tronics

NEWS SC PE

HOT NEWS—London's firefighters will be equipped with new-type portable radiotelephones that "speak only when spoken to." The specially designed VHF transceivers are being supplied to the London Fire Brigade by a Raytheon Company subsidiary. Unlike ordinary mobile radiotelephones, the new units incorporate analog computers. When a set is on "receive," it continuously sorts the various noises heard on ordinary two-way radios and silences the speaker until it hears a valid broadcast from another fire station or firefighter—eliminating the usual interference noises. The portable unit shown at left weighs only five pounds and command instructions can be easily heard above the noise at the scene of action.

POSTAGE STAMP STEREO—Electronic developments that are ushering in the space age will be adding exciting new wonders to the consumer market. One such item, a stereo amplifier the size of a postage stamp, was demonstrated by the Martin Company at the recent IRE Show in New York City. It is a member of a whole family of tiny electronic devices, tabbed "MARTEC" (for Martin Thin Films where space, weight, and reliability are prime considerations. So small indeed is a MARTEC computer circuit that it must be examined under a microscope (see photo).

TANKS A LITTLE—In a move to pare training costs, the U. S. Army has shrunk a battlefield, reduced maneuverable tanks to a fraction of their size, and brought miniature warfare to life in simulated combat. A mockup of 30 acres of terrain and radio-controlled miniature tanks—one of the micro monsters sports a turret TV camera—was built for the Army by General Dynamics/Electric Boat to 1/20th actual size. Costs of operating a real platoon of five tanks in actual training situations are conservatively estimated at over \$75 a mile, while the simulator costs only pennies to run. A student tank platoon leader directs the five tanks while viewing the TV picture transmitted by the lead tank. Instructors rate performance by listening to commands and observing platoon maneuvers and "battle" developments.

BEEP, BEEP, BOOP, BEEP! The world's first completely transistorized radio navigational beacon is now undergoing field trials at Mount McQuoid, the holding area for jet aircraft using Mascot Airport at Sydney, Australia. Developed by an ITT Australian affiliate, transistorized beacons are expected to serve an important function at many small and infrequently used airports that presently lack navigational aids due to high costs. Designed for isolated locations, these beacons can withstand all Australian climatic conditions—temperatures from 14° to 140° F and up to 100% relative humidity. Due to low power drain, a wind-driven generator can supply the power necessary to transmit omnidirectional Morse-code beacon signals.

(Continued on page 8)

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NEWS SC



Continued

A LIGHT MEAL—Frying pans become instruments of modern science as the young homemaker tries to cook eggs with the heat from two 300-watt spotlamps. She is successful with the conventional lamp aimed at the frying pan at the left, but not so with the other pan. Here, a new "Cool Beam" G.E. lamp has no effect on the egg. This revolutionary spotlamp is expected to be widely used in food, candy, and other stores where heat due to high-intensity lighting can cause damage to fresh meat, candy, and certain fabrics.



LAND-LOCKED ASTRONAUTS practice a moon flight in a simulated three-man lunar-probe spacecraft to help discover the effects that confinement and reduced physical activity will have on the spacecraft crew's ability to perform specified tasks. Three employees in the Martin Company's Space Systems Division recently "flew" the spacecraft simulator on a mission from earth, into lunar orbit, and back again. They were confined to the simulator for seven days, their only contact with "earth" being through a simulated radio communications system. As a result of the knowledge gained during this test, the spacecraft and associated equipment were modified to prepare for more extensive and more sophisticated research into simulated manned space flight.



RED TINSEL—At left is a sample of the metal foil which is being dropped in the Allied air corridors leading to Berlin in an attempt to jam radar communications of Western planes flying over East Germany. Commonly called "chaff," or sometimes "window," the pieces of metal foil are used as confusion reflectors. A few pounds of foil dropped at 50,000 feet will almost make a radar operator believe he is seeing the ghost of the "Hindenburg" returning to Berlin. Being very light, the chaff floats to the ground slowly, jamming radar signals for long intervals.



SCIENCE ON SKIS—Getting ready to carry scientific research to the ski trails, engineer William Johansen of the Stockholm Central Institute straps his new invention on the back of a skier. The lightweight portable apparatus is a cross between an electrocardiograph and an ultra-short-wave transmitter. It will detect and transmit the pulse beat of the skier in action to a special receiver which is tied into a computer and recorder. Small electrodes attached to the athlete's chest pick up heart beats much as the astronauts' electrodes do. This invention will be used in research connected with body activity measurements in various sports.

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CUBSTANTIAL revisions in the organization of the Federal Communications Commission—with some pointed toward the agency's administration of the citizens radio service—have been under active study by the Commission for some time.

Under contract from the Bureau of the Budget, a management consulting firm reviewed the agency's operations over a period of several months, and has submitted a number of recommendations for changes in the organization of the FCC staff. While it is up to the Commission itself to carry through on the recommendations—and some of the suggestions are not regarded

in a very favorable light at the agency—agreement on a number of the points raised is likely.

What does it mean for the CB service? The personnel assigned to administer the citizens service will be cut loose from some of their other responsibilities and allowed to devote more time and attention to the problems of the CB service, providing a more individual approach to CB problems.

Under the Hood. FCC engineers, and others associated with the mobile radio communications field, are paying increasing attention to efforts of mobile radio equipment manufacturers to reduce interference stemming from the electrical systems of the users' automobiles. The first breakthroughs have already occurred, and it is now possible for a CB'er or other mobile radio licensee to equip his car with such devices as low-radio-interference mechanical alternators, or fully electronic alternators or ignition systems.

License Fees. With virtually all interested parties having been heard from, there appears little doubt that the non-commercial two-way radio field has again escaped the formidable "filing fee" proposal of the FCC, which would have put the Commission in the position of charging money for the submission of an application, whether or



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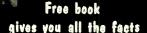
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FCC Report

(Continued from page 10)

not the application resulted in a license. This is one proposal you can expect to die quietly, at least in its present form, despite a great variance of feeling on the subject between the FCC Commissioners themselves, and between Congressional leaders.

Most numerous among the flood of comments opposing the "fee" suggestion were those from radio amateurs and public safety radio communications licensees and organizations, but all licensee types were heard from.

FCC "Forfeitures." At the time this column was written, it was an odds-on bet that Congress would pass, and President Kennedy would sign, new amendments to the Communications Act which would permit the FCC to slap \$100 fines on radio licensees violating 12 specific provisions of the agency's rules. The Commission was going ahead with its planning to put the program into effect as soon as possible after it became law.

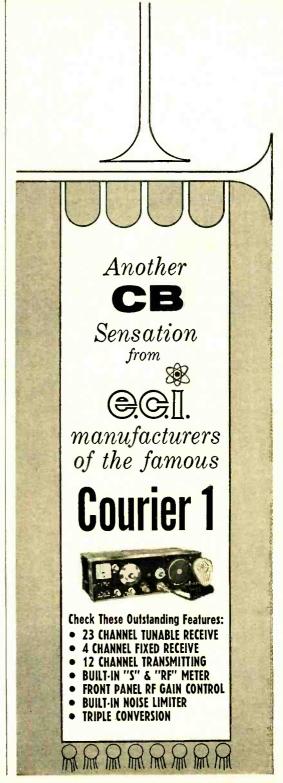
Officers of the Commission made it clear that they were not particularly "against" CB or other types of mobile radio licensees, and were not planning a full-blown crusade to crack down on insignificant or nonharmful infringements of the Commission's rules. But they expect to get a little more respect from CB marine, and other mobile radio operators due to the agency's new authority.

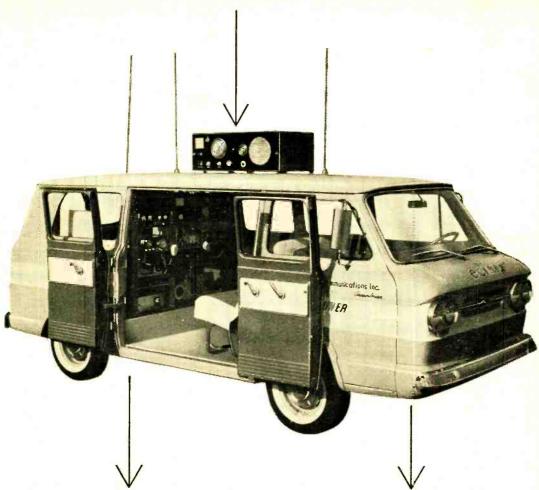
Also in the Congressional mill at the time this column was written was a Communications Act amendment permitting the Commission to stop requiring that applications, and other documents submitted to it, be subjected to "oath or affirmation" before filing. The measure was more than halfway to its goal as law. In asking Congress to make the change, the Commission said the present requirement that applications be notarized is an "unnecessary burden" on both the public and itself.

New CB Form. Citizens Band equipment salesmen and other interested "bulk" users of FCC citizens radio application forms (Form 505) have been advised by the Commission that a new, simplified version of the form will be available within a month or so-by early fall at the latestand will become effective as soon as it is

practicable.

Mandatory cutoff date for the use of the present Form 505 has not yet been established. Starting this fall, however, CB applicants will be cautioned to question their salesmen as to whether the older





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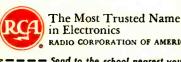
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FCC Report

(Continued from page 12)

forms are still effective, to prevent an unnecessary delay in the Commission's processing of their applications.

Under the new setup, equipment manufacturing firms will be permitted to print their own stock of the application forms, but the Commission warns that "care should be taken that the finished product is an exact duplicate, not only in text but also in dimensions and in paper stock and color." The agency recommends "photocopy reproduction.'

Rules Flap at FCC. Critics of the FCC's CB rules got an unexpected assist several months ago when one of the Commission's hearing examiners—a king of a "judge" in formal agency hearings—put the blast on the citizens service regulations, and, in effect, called several of the rule sections too vague to be enforceable.

There was little expectation that the examiner's views would go unchallenged by the FCC Safety & Special Radio Services Bureau, however, and it was doubtful that the examiner's decision—in a CB enforcement case—would have any appreciable immediate effect on the agency's administration of the service. Several of the CB rule sections scored by the examiner were already undergoing revisions at the staff level of the Commission.

CB'ers who do not think the citizens rules are clear in all cases would have been warmed by the examiner's conclusion that the CB rules leave "a good deal to be desired as an instrument of regulation." The examiner noted that he, as an experienced government attorney, doesn't have a "clear idea" of what several sections of the rules are expected to convey, and doesn't know how the average layman can be expected to understand them.

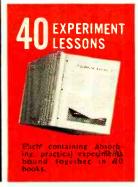
Particularly cited in his decision as being "deficiencies" was the use of such terms as "personal," "private," or "substantive" communications, which, he said, do not hold water from a legal point of view as they were construed by the FCC staff in the enforcement case.

CB Petition. In one of the latest formal moves seeking revisions in the citizens rules, the 14W Association of Seattle, Wash., has petitioned the FCC to exempt five consecutive frequencies at either the upper or lower extreme of the present Class D frequencies from several current CB restrictions. The purpose would be to put the "uncontrollable elements" in the CB service in a "specific segment of the band" and permit users conforming to the

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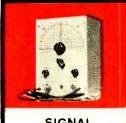
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FCC Report

(Continued from page 14)

intent of the citizens rules to operate with "minimum conflict."

The Seattle 14W Association declared that improper usage of the Class D service has reached such proportions that it "threatens to eclipse the worthwhile purposes for which the service was originated." The group said it feels that most people, "given the opportunity to both engage in their hobby without recourse to examination and also conform to regulations," would take advantage of the requested rule changes and shift their activity "to frequencies where both of these ends were afforded."

CB Speech. More than 2000 Class D citizens radio service licensees, gathering at the Morrison Hotel in Chicago several months ago, were advised by FCC Land Transportation Division Chief Ivan H. Loucks not to look for relaxations by the Commission on present power output or antenna height limitations in the Class D service, but to expect the issuance of some proposed rule changes soon.

Mr. Loucks, whose division administers the citizens service at the staff level of the Commission, said that the agency has "many of the present problems involving the citizens service under consideration, and that the present rules "are far from static" and have "definitely not been frozen in their present form."

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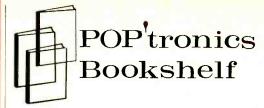
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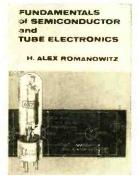


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What are the Different Classes of

What are the Different Classes of RadiotelePHONE licenses?

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RadiotelePHONE licenses?

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Which License Qualifies for Which Jobs?

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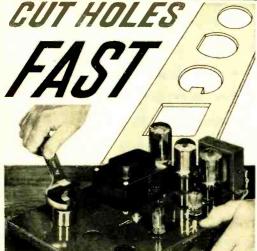
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GREENLEE TOOL CO. 6



Bookshelf

(Continued from page 18)

an application index (which cross-references hundreds of basic circuit possibilities against major types of applications), silicon-controlled rectifier selection charts, and a regular subject index.

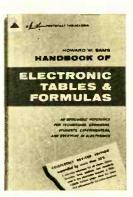
Published by the General Electric Co., Rectifier Components Dept., Auburn, N.Y. 352 pages. Soft cover. \$1.50.

HANDBOOK OF ELECTRONIC TABLES AND FORMULAS

by the Howard W. Sams Engineering Staff

This revised edition of the Handbook of Electronic Tables and Formulas includes

50% more information than the former one much of it suggested by readers of the first volume. The book is broken down into seven sections: "Electronics Formulas and Laws," "Constants and Standards," "Symbols and Codes," "Service and Installation Data,' "Design Data," "Mathematical Ta-



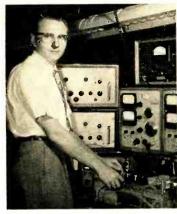
bles and Formulas," and "Miscellaneous Data." Thirty-five diversified tables are included. In addition, there is a six-page, full-color fold-out chart covering the latest FCC allocations for the entire frequency spectrum; the chart shows at a glance which services operate within given frequency bands and what frequencies are assigned for specific services.

Published by Howard W. Sams & Co., Inc., 1720 East 38th St., Indianapolis 6, Ind. 192 pages. Hard cover. \$3.95.

1926-38 RADIO DIAGRAMS

compiled by M. N. Beitman

This reprinted edition of Volume One in Supreme's series of radio manuals contains approximately 200 schematics from about 60 manufacturers. The book also includes servicing information and an alphabetical index of the sets covered. It should be of particular value to those enthusiasts who



RICHARD S. CONWAY (CREI grad 1960) is Supervisor, Electronic Test Department Wilcox Electric Co., Kansas City, Mo.



ROBERT T. BLANKS (CREI grad 1960) is Engineer, Research & Study Div., Vitro Labs., Division of Vitro Corp. of America, Silver Spring. Md.



MEARL MARTIN, Jr. (CREI grad 1956) is a Senior Engineer and Field Support Manager, Tektronix, Inc., Portland, Oregon.

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Shakespeare Co. Subsidiary, Columbia, S. C.

Bookshelf

(Continued from page 20)

have a continuing interest in repairing and restoring old receivers.

Published by Supreme Publications, 1760 Balsam Rd., Highland Park, Ill. 240 pages. Soft cover. \$2.50.

New Literature

A 12-page illustrated brochure, describing the principles and function of language laboratories, has recently been published by Edwards Company, Inc., Norwalk, Conn. The free booklet (No. D-102) details the Edwards language teaching equipment and includes an outline of the three basic systems for language laboratory operations.

The revised and enlarged edition of the "Allied Electronics Data Handbook" contains an up-to-date listing of the most commonly used tables, formulas, and reference material. New material in this 80-page handbook includes basic transistor formulas and symbols, transistor circuit configurations, a battery interchangeability guide, charts showing direct interchangeability between American and British tubes, and attenuator network formulas. All the reference material of the earlier editions has been retained. If you would like to have a copy, send 35 cents to Allied Radio Corp., 100 N. Western Ave., Chicago 80, Ill.

A new 8-page catalog for the "hobbyist" can be obtained free by writing to Wilson's of Cleveland, 6502 N.W. 16th St., P.O. Box 8995, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. It illustrates and describes various devices ranging from miniature electric motors to accessories and kits

"How To Make Quality Tape Recordings At Home" is a 16-page booklet directed at improving home recording techniques. A chart of playing times for all available tape thicknesses, reel sizes, and recording speeds is included. Send 10 cents to Triton Electronics, Inc., 62-05 30th Ave., Woodside 77, N. Y., for your copy.

A stereo/high fidelity brochure covering a variety of products is now available free of charge from Altec Lansing Corp., 1515 S. Manchester Ave., Anaheim, Calif. Featured in the brochure (#AL-1302-3) is the new 708A "Astro" stereo, AM-FM multiplex, tuner-amplifier—a complete stereo system packaged in a single chassis.

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575

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Ideal for Sportsmen — boating-fishing — camping

Now Lafayette has done it again. The world Famous HE-29 has been further improved. Packed with power, 10 handpicked transistors plus 1 diode extend the range of the He-29B up to two miles under average conditions ie., no intervening obstructions.

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Housed in a handsome black and chrome case. Supplied with leather carrying case w/Shoulder strap earphone, antenna, batteries and crystals for channel 10. Size: 6½x34x15%". Shpg. wt., 3 lbs.

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Set of 2 Net 78.88

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- Noise Filter (switchable)
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- Stereo Separation 30 db @ 400 cps

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 Ideal For Any Tuner With Multiplex Output Jack

Enjoy thrilling FM stereophonic sound from any recent La-fayette Tuner or any other quality wide-band FM or FM-AM tuner with multiplex jacks. Hear the full range of audio frequencies in all the realism and magnificence of stereo sound by simply adding this low-cost Lafayette Multiplex adapter Kit. Engineered for anyone to build and operate, the KT-220 is easily connected to your tuners.

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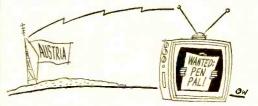
on, we changed L2 to 7 or 8 turns of #22 to on a 1/4" sluss three rays. Construction

its were cut somewhat by using the chassis

Address correspondence for this department to: Letters Editor, POPULAR ELECTRONICS One Park Avenue, New York 16, N. Y.

Pen Pal Wanted

■ I'm 21 years old, employed by the Austrian television system, and have been a subscriber to your magazine for several years. One of my



hobbies is short-wave communications, and I would like to get in touch with a "pen pal" having similar interests.

PETER PETROVICH Landstrasse 90/17 Vienna III, Austria

Correction Corrected

■ In the article "Short Wave for Beginners" (January 1962 issue), Hank Bennett tells us that Leopoldville is in the Congo and Brazzaville is in Katanga. Leonard Phelps, in his correction (April 1962 "Letters") says that Leopoldville is in Katanga and Brazzaville is in the Congo. Both statements are wrong (or only partly right). Actually, Brazzaville is the capital of the Congo Republic (formerly French Middle Congo); Leopoldville is the capital of the neighboring Republic of Congo (formerly Belgian Congo); Katanga (capital, Elisabethville) is one of the six provinces comprising the Republic of Congo.

STEWART WEST Union, N.J.

With at least four Congos to worry about here, it's no wonder that Messrs. Bennett and Phelps (and the "Letters" Editor) were confused. Thanks for finally clearing it all up, Stewart.

Mobile Multiplexer

■ Your article called "In-Car FM for MPL" (January 1962 issue) was quite interesting, and I determined to go ahead and install an FM radio in my car. Since the convertible already has two rear speakers (one on each side of the rear seat), I decided to add multiplex as well. I purchased a Knight Model KS-11 multiplex adapter kit and rewired the filaments for 12 volts. I also bought a

mobile plate supply, which handles both the receiver and the converter. The amplifier in the AM radio is used for the extra channel. I had previously installed provisions for disconnecting the AM



set's r.f. stages, because I use the radio as an auxiliary amplifier—feeding a speaker under the hood.

ALLAN L. STARR
Coral Gables, Fla.

Sounds like an intriguing installation, Allan, but it's too bad that you get only "mono" reception in the engine compartment.

Which Band for Police?

■ I'm planning to build equipment for tuning in police calls and other "public service" communications, and have been looking over the "Police Special Receiver" (July 1959 issue) and "The '10-8' De Luxe Converter" (January 1962 issue). What puzzles me is that the former tunes 30-50 mc., the latter 150.8-162 mc.; yet both are supposed to pick up police transmissions. Would I need both sets to get complete coverage?

Julius Siske Baltimore, Md.

Groups of frequencies in both the 30-50 mc. and 150.8-162 mc. bands are allocated for "public safety" use. This classification includes police, fire, and related services. If you're interested primarily in picking up a specific service in your neighborhood, check first to find out what frequencies are involved.

"Rat Runner"

■ I read Ken Gilmore's "Ultrasonics—Successes of Silent Sound" (December 1961 issue) with interest. One of the ultrasonic devices mentioned in the article was a unit designed to rid ware-



houses of rats. Could you tell me the name and address of the manufacturer so that I can write for more information?

JOHN CANNON Milwaukee, Wisc.

One manufacturer of such a "rat runner" is Dynamic Sound, Inc., 15235 Lorain Ave., Cleveland 11, Ohio.

Compactron VHF Receiver

■ I converted the "Compactron VHF Receiver" (September 1961 issue) to cover the 35-54 mc.

range with very good results. I used Ohmite Z-50 chokes for L1, L3, L5, and L6 and a Hammarlund HF-15 variable capacitor for C3. In addition, I made up a new coil (having 12 turns instead of 2) for L2 and dropped the supply voltage to about 150 volts by installing a 1200-ohm resistor in series with R9.

JIMMY SLAGLE Henrietta, Texas

■ I built the "Compactron VHF Receiver" but, not being able to obtain the Merit power transformer specified, I used a Stancor PS-8415 instead. The Stancor differs from the Merit in that the former's high-voltage winding has slightly lower voltage and current ratings and the filament winding has no center tap. I grounded one side of the Stancor's filament winding in place of a center tap, but made no other wiring changes. The set is an excellent performer and is in constant use.

Kerry S. Hauptli, WPE2FLA

Westfield, N. J.

P. E. Collection For Sale

■ I've subscribed to—and read—Popular Electronics ever since the first issue. However, since my P.E. collection is beginning to take up more room than I can afford to give it, I've decided to let the whole shebang go to the first reader who



sends me \$20.00. Every issue published to date is included, and there are duplications of the first few. No issues will be sold separately.

LAWRENCE CHURCHILL 314 N. 7th St. Watseka, Ill.

Okay, Larry—stand by for the avalanche, and we hope you're not mad at us.

HOW TO ORDER BACK ISSUES

Every month POPULAR ELECTRONICS receives many requests from readers who would like to know how to order back issues. Some readers want to obtain particular articles they have missed, while others want to complete their own back-issue files.

If you would like to order a specific issue of P.E., address your inquiry to:

Circulation Department POPULAR ELECTRONICS Ziff-Davis Publishing Co. 434 S. Wabash Ave. Chicago 5, III.

Enclose 35 cents for each copy of issues less than six months old, 40 cents for each copy of older issues. Be sure to state the month and year of the issue(s) you want. In the event a requested issue is no longer in stock, your money will be returned.



During a recent seven-month period, the Hallicrafters Company conducted a most unusual field test of its CB-3 citizens band transmitter. Through every conceivable condition of terrain, and weather, with almost completely continuous operation, the CB-3 was punished unmercifully and methodically . . . evaluated from every angle with the engineer's fine needle. Our purpose was not to prove something but to learn something. And in learning, to IMprove. Result: the new CB-3A "Littlefone"-solid and versatile expression of Hallicrafters' dedication to "THE NEW IDEAS IN COMMUNICATIONS.

EXTREME CONDITIONS WERE THE RULE

Early in July, 1961, test vehicles equipped with CB-3's were dispatched from Chicago northward into Wisconsin and Minnesota. A limited geographic area was picked, with no pre-planned route. Each short range destination was a "target of opportunity"-chosen to take advantage of the worst possible conditions as they occurred.

On D-day the temperature was 95°, and it ranged down to -20° before the test was completed. Identical and controlled transmission tests were conducted in both hilly and flat terrain, in cities and woodlands.

The CB-3 was operated on a continuous basis for periods ranging from four to twelve hours. More than 30,000 miles of mobile operation in the test vehicle were logged, plus unrecorded periods in trucks, boats-even an airplane.

TESTS WERE VARIED AND THOROUGH



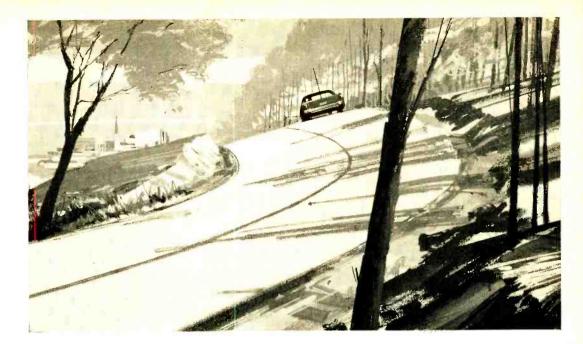
All tests were conducted on both an objective and competitive basis. At various times, standard equipment of the five most popular transceivers were employed in the same or directly comparable situations. Relative range, modulation, channel interference and heterodyne were measured.

Base units also were interchanged, and four different basic antenna systems rotated both in base and mobile installations. In all, more than 150 antenna installation modifications were made.

WHAT WE FOUND OUT

Range and speech quality were exceptional. The CB-3 under "normal" conditions (average of hilly and flat terrain, moderate weather conditions) produced 10-2 copy at 20 miles . . . up to 40 miles in the lake region of Wisconsin . . . as low as 8 miles in the lead and zinc mining regions southwest.

Average performance over the entire seven-month period was a minimum of 7% and a maximum of 12% greater range of intelligible speech than the five other units tested.



In the major metropolitan areas visited, some adjacentchannel interference was experienced on all units during peak traffic periods.

Reliability: in over 1,600 hours of operation, not a single major failure was experienced. Total parts replacement—two panel bulbs, one vibrator, two tubes. No visible deterioration of automotive electrical system, A microphone cord was broken due to carelessness.

Antennas: Major deterrent to good communications was observed to be faulty antenna installation throughout the test areas. Of more than 90 existing base stations co-operating in the tests, most were using improper or unmatched antennas. Range was increased (all brands, from a minimum of 50% to 70% with corrective measures.

General observations: Mechanical design and exclusive drop-down chassis construction of the CB-3 permitted far easier access for crystal changing and removal of unit for base use.

External S-meter was required during tests; observers with

technical background felt a need for S-meter provision in the CB-3.

Eight-channel flexibility and crystal controlled operation on both transmit and receive functions were distinctly superior to competitive systems, particularly in mobile and heavily populated areas.



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Easy to install in place
of removable panel.

Result—the new CB-3A with field-tested improvements!

- 8-channel, crystal-controlled convenience
- Maximum adjacent-channel rejection without loss of sensitivity through new type dual conversion.
- · Removable panels for S-meter, future accessories.
- Built-in accessory jack (external speaker, etc.)
- FCC Type-Accepted.

Transmitter: 100% modulation on positive peaks; output amp. adjustable for maximum legal input; matches 50 ohm antenna systems; series-tuned 2nd harmonic trap for excellent TV suppression.

Receiver: Dual conversion—adjacent channel rejection 40 db. minimum; sensitivity less than 1 microvolt for 10 db. signal to noise ratio; 6 kc. selectivity; electronic squelch operates on less than 6 db. change; audio output over 2 watts.

the new ideas
in communications
are born at . . .

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5th and Kostner Aves., Chicago 24, Illinois

July, 1962

A DOWN-TO-EARTH GUIDE TO

Modern Test Procedures



Alternate Test Methods • Cautions • Correct Instrument Usage • Readings • Connections and Control

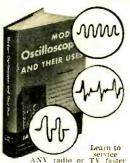
Settings • Test Techniques • Time-Saving Methods . . . and all the rest!

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age with a current meter, a voltameter, oblimeter, or via the bridge method—and so on.
Includes Current checks; measuring Power, Capacitance, Inductance, Resistance, Phase, Distortion, Modulation; testing Tubes and Semiconductors, Transmitters, AF and RF circuits; checking Sensitivity, Gain, Fidelity, Noise, etc. Shows which instruments to use and how to use them for troubleshooting and alignment of AM and FM radios, TV. Even includes industrial electronic measurements of Photocells; Strain, Pressure, Vibration, Temperature and Time measuring devices. Price only \$8.50. Use coupon today for 10-day free trial.

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Men who really know how to use oscilloscopes locate troubles faster, repair them more accurately-and this famous manual teaches you the methods they use. In short, MOD-ERN OSCILLOSCOPES AND THEIR USES get right down to earth in bringing you the complete "know how" the complete "know how" of using the handiest, most versatile instrument of them all!

Particular attention is paid to realignment procedures. Every detail of testing is ex-

plained from connecting the 'scope and setting its controls to adjusting components in the chassis being tested. Illustrated instructions teach you to analyze patterns. Even includes data on quantitative measurements (as used in color TV servicing) and use of 'scopes in industrial electronics and atomic work. 370 illustrations. Price \$8.75.

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A quick look at new products in the stereo/hi-fi field*

couple of speakers and a record changer are all it takes for a complete stereo system, once you've assembled Allied Radio's new KU-45 "Audio Center" kit. An AM/FM/FM-stereo tuner and a 32-watt stereo amplifier in a single "package," the KU-45 employs 20 tubes and offers a frequency response within 1 db from 30 to 16,000 cycles at its rated power. Even if you're not an experienced kit builder, there's no reason to shy away from the KU-45-it

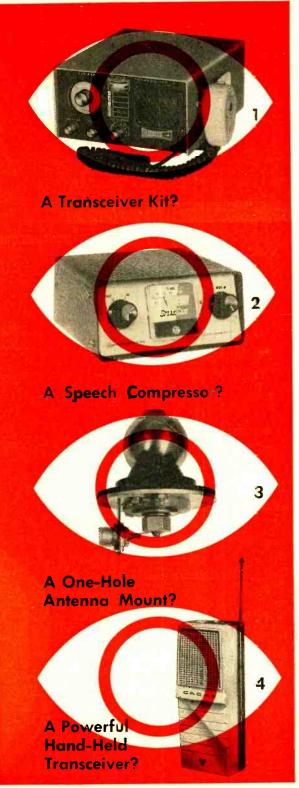


Allied KU-45 AM/FM tuner/amplifier

comes complete with a special pre-wired and pre-aligned FM "front assembly" along with all parts, tubes, wire, and solder (not to mention detailed, easy-to-follow instructions). Among its other features: a centerchannel output for a third stereo speaker; input facilities for a stereo record player as well as tape recorder inputs and outputs, dual-concentric, clutch-type bass and treble controls. The kit is priced at \$129.95; a special anodized case sells for \$7.95, and a simplified version without the FM-stereo circuitry is available for \$109.95. . . . First of a line of portable tape recorders from Citroen Electronics, the Model 660 is powered with a "cartridge" of six penlight batteries. A twospeed device, the 660 operates at both 1\% and 334 ips and is perfect for hi-fi applications requiring a general, all-round portable recorder. Available accessories include an a.c. adapter, a foot control, and an automobile cigarette lighter adapter; price of the 660 itself is \$149.95.

Dynaco has a multiplex (FM-stereo) adapter kit specifically designed to complement the company's FM-1 tuner. Complete-

*Write to the manufacturers listed at the end of this column for more data on products mentioned



LOOKING FOR SOMETHING NEW IN CB GEAR?

Get Comparative Statistics on ALL CB EQUIPMENT in the 2nd Annual CB Equipment Buyers Guide & Directory

AUGUST 1962 ISSUE of POPULAR ELECTRONICS

(on sale July 26)

PLUS: All of our usual features, construction projects, and departments

- I Daystrom Model DM-348
- 2 SpeakEasy
- 3 Webster
- 4 Cadre Model C-75

Showcase

(Continued from page 28)

ly automatic in operation, the FMX-3 adapter fits any of Dynaco's FM tuners and is wholly contained on the tuner chassis. In operation, a stereo broadcast automatically lights up the word "stereo" on the front panel, and a special filter network eliminates beats and whistles for perfect off-theair tape recording. The adapter kit is priced at \$29.95, while a complete FM-stereo tuner, factory-assembled and tested, sells for \$169.95. . . . An inexpensive "miniature" tape recorder may be a handy little "adjunct" to your stereo setup, but the 3" reel capacity of most of these units doesn't allow much playing time. In answer to this problem, Ferrodynamics is producing a 34" reel containing 600 feet of 1/2-mil Mylar tape. The result: up to one hour of playing time on a two-track, 3\\(^4\)-ips recording. As a bonus feature, the tape has a dry synthetic lubricant that eliminates squeal and reduces head wear. Suggested list price, \$1.79.

From Gotham Audio comes a unique audio equalizer that combines almost every conceivable function of frequency discrimination. Built around a single inductively tuned

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circuit, the EQ-1000 universal equalizer provides high-frequency boost and droop, lowfrequency boost and droop, high- and lowfrequency sharp cutoff, and band-pass and band-reject functions with slopes as high as 24 db per octave. Intended primarily for professional applications in the recording and broadcasting fields, it lists at \$1650.00. . . . The Model M1 multiplex (FM-stereo) adapter by Grommes comes fully wired and ready-to-go. Suitable for use with any highquality FM tuner, it is inserted between the tuner's multiplex output and your amplifier's "auxiliary" inputs. The M1 is priced at \$59.95, and a cover is available for \$5.00 more. . . . The newest line of magnetic tape on the market is put out by an old-timer in other fields-Eastman Kodak. A high-quality, exceptionally uniform recording tape, it's available on 3", 5", and 7" "Thread-Easy" reels in both 1- and 11/2-mil thicknesses. Each reel is packaged in a convenient one-piece box and protected by a dustproof polyethylene bag.

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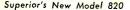
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Showcase

(Continued from page 30)

ates at 3\% and 7\% ips, and is equipped with jacks for both microphone and radio/phono inputs. Among its other features: a pause button, a vu meter, a fast-forward and a fast-rewind function. Operating from any 117-volt, 60-cycle a.c. line, the recorder measures a compact $6\frac{1}{2}$ " x $13\frac{1}{2}$ " x $10\frac{5}{8}$ " and sells for \$89.50. . . . Another new Lafayette product, the LT-78 stereo tuner, offers complete facilities for AM, FM, and FM-stereo reception. The superheterodyne AM circuit has three i.f. stages for high gain, and an 8000-cycle bandwidth for wide response; the FM circuitry features a 200kc. bandwidth, a Foster-Seeley discrimi-

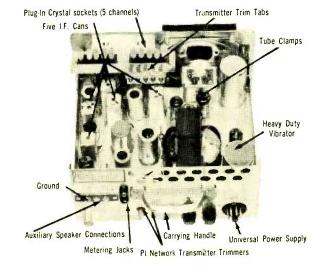


Lafayette LT-78 stereo tuner

nator, and variable a.f.c. There is also a rear-panel-mounted stereo dimension control, a front-panel noise filter switch, flywheel tuning, and a pilot light to indicate when the multiplex is switched on. Price? Again, a low \$89.50. . . . Designed for use with automatic turntables, Pickering's new U38/AT cartridge has some extremely impressive characteristics. For one thing, it combines the mu-metal shielding of the stereo "Fluxvalve" with a high output (10 mv.) for good signal-to-noise ratio. What's more, it tracks at pressures from 2 to 5 grams, provides a response within 2 db from 20 to 20,000 cycles, and offers a channel separation of 35 db. Supplied with universal mounting hardware, the cartridge carries a price tag of \$46.50.

An adapter for 10 1/2" reels that can give you up to 12 hours playing time per reel takes just three minutes to install. Made by Roberts Electronics, it fits the company's 990 four-track stereo recorder, 199D tape deck, and 191 and 192 professional recorders (although both the 191 and the 192 require a special motor for the adapter). Price, \$49.50. ... Two Robins Industries products are just the thing to help you take care of your tape heads. Packaged together in one "kit" are a two-ounce bottle of head cleaner with an applicator, and a two-ounce bottle (again with applicator) of lubricant for recording heads and tape guides. Price of the TK-6 kit, \$2.00.

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Showcase

(Continued from page 32)

to convert binding posts or other screw- or solder-type terminals on stereo/hi-fi equipment to "quick-connect" phono jacks, Switcheraft's No. 373 molded audio adapter will do just that. A two-conductor long-handle phono jack connected to a 3" length of stripped and tinned shielded cable, the 373 mates with standard Switcheraft and RCA-type phono plugs. . . . Seaching the band for FM stereo broadcasts? You'll find them quick as a wink with Scott's new Sonic-Monitor and Model 340 FM tuner/



Scott 340 FM tuner/amplifier

amplifier. The first Scott product to feature this new device, the Model 340 has an output of 60 watts, and provides inputs for tape recorder, phono cartridge, or auxiliary sources. A special filter makes for noisefree off-the-air stereo tape recordings, and an ultra-sensitive silver-plated "front end" provides an IHFM sensitivity of better than 2.5 µv. To locate an FM-stereo broadcast, all you do is switch the "Sonic Monitor" to "Monitor" and tune across the dial until you hear a "monitor" tone from your speaker. Switch the Sonic Monitor to "Listen," and there's your FM-stereo program! The unit incorporates a professional-type tuning meter, and a handsome accessory case is available. Price of the 340, \$379.95.

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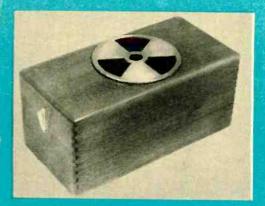
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By R. L. WINKLEPLECK

"MOST OF US in this country," warns a recent Federal Civil Defense Administration booklet, "live within fallout range of some target which it might be important for the enemy to destroy." "Fallout," of course, causes the residual radiation from a nuclear explosion. Consisting of particles of radioactive debris which have been carried into the upper air by the force of the blast, it drops to earth over a wide and only generally predictable area.

The "Radiation Fallout Monitor" described here provides a means for keeping track of the radiation level in your neighborhood. Using one of

RADIATION FALLOUT MONITOR







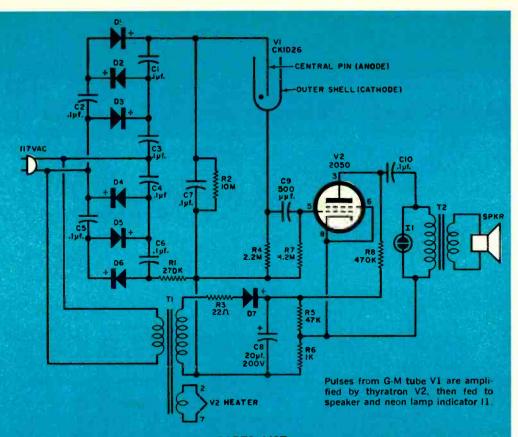
the least expensive Geiger-Mueller tubes available, the unit will give you a good idea of the natural radiation density—and any deviations will be immediately apparent. Using little current, it can be left operating continually to serve as a round-the-clock monitor.

This monitor, however, is to be considered only as an extra household precaution. The most reliable source of emergency information continues to be your local Civil Defense office. They'll know if the radiation from fallout has reached a dangerous level, and will advise you of the necessary protective measures to take.

About the Circuit. The approximately 800 volts required for the operation of the Geiger-Mueller tube (VI) is developed by a voltage-multiplier circuit consisting of diodes D1-D6 and capacitors C1-C6. Resistor R1 and capacitor C7 act as a filter network, and load resistor R2 tends to prevent excessive voltage fluctuation.

Don't attempt to check the supply voltage with a VOM, incidentally. You won't get a correct reading because even the high resistance of this instrument is enough to cause an overload. A VTVM with a high-voltage probe must be used.

The output of the supply is fed to V1 through current-limiting resistor R4. Ordinarily, this voltage is not enough to cause V1 to conduct. But when the glass

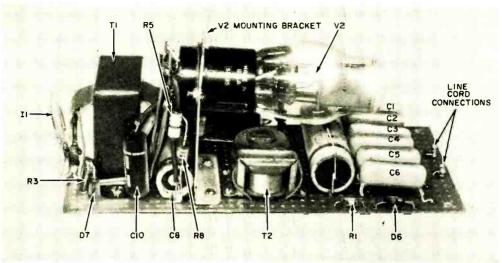


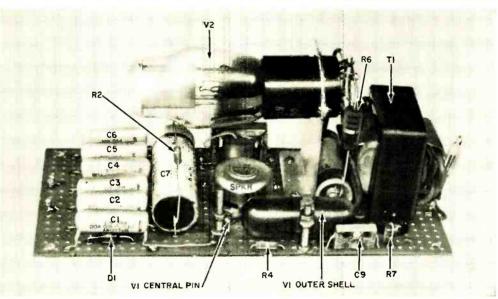
PARTS LIST R8-470,000 ohms, 1/2 watt, 5% SPKR-11/2" miniature speaker, 10-ohm voice C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C10-0.1-uf., 400-volt C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C10—0.1-µp., 400-volt paper capacitor C7—0.1-µl., 1000-volt paper capacitor C8—20-µl., 200-volt electrolytic capacitor C9—500-µµl. mica capacitor D1, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7—1N2070 diode (Texas Instruments) 11—NE2 neon lamp 11 270 000 phys. SPKR—11/3" miniature speaker, 10-ohm voice coil (Lafayette SK-61 or equivalent) T1—Power transformer; primary, 117 voits a.c.; secondaries, 125 voits @ 15 ma., 6.3 voits @ 0.6 amp. (Stancor PS-8415 or equivalent) T2—Miniature output transformer; primary, 2000 ohms; secondary, 8-10 ohms (Lafayette TR-03 or equivalent) 2000 ohms; secondary, 8-10 ohms (Lajayette TR-93 or equivalent) V1—CK1026 Geiger-Mueller tube (Raytheon) V2—2050 thyratron tube 1—3½" x 7½" section of perforated board Misc.—Wooden, plastic, or metal box, screen wire and scrap aluminum for speaker opening. -270,000 ohms -10 megohnts 22 ohms all 1/2-watt. 5% -2.2 megohms resistors unless -47,000 ohms, 1 watt -1000 ohms, 2 watts otherwise specified scrap Lucite for 11's window, hardware, etc. -1.2 megohms

wall of the tube is penetrated by a particle of gamma radiation, the halogen gas inside ionizes for an instant, allowing conduction. This causes a positive pulse of a few volts to appear across R4.

Thyratron tube V2 serves to amplify the pulse. Its plate is supplied with approximately 170 volts by a separate power supply consisting of transformer T1, diode D7, current-limiting resistor R3, and filter capacitor C8. The voltage is delivered to V2 through load resistor R8, and V2's cathode is biased about 4 volts positive with respect to its control grid by means of voltage-dividing resistors R5 and R6.

With no voltage across R4, the cathode bias prevents the thyratron from conducting. But when a radiation particle causes a positive pulse to appear across that resistor. V2's grid swings positive and conduction occurs. The instantane-





Views of both sides of the perforated board clearly show locations of the major components. Diodes D2, D3, D4, and D5, however, are mounted in the spaces between capacitors C1 and C6 and are not visible. The line connections are made via a pair of metal terminals inserted near C1 - C6.

ous voltage drop across R8, caused by the current drawn by the conducting thyratron, is fed through capacitor C10—ionizing neon lamp I1. This gives a visual indication of the presence of the particle and also induces a voltage in the secondary of output transformer T2, causing the speaker to click.

Thyratron V2 would normally continue to conduct, even when the pulse disappears from the control grid. However, the instantaneous voltage drop across R8

is large enough to reduce the plate voltage of the thyratron to the point where conduction cannot be maintained. Therefore, the tube cuts off, the load disappears from R8, and the plate voltage rises in readiness for the next pulse. This conduction/non-conduction cycle can be repeated a maximum of about 60 times per second.

Construction. The circuit is assembled on a $3\frac{1}{4}$ " x $7\frac{1}{4}$ " section of perforated board. All of the components are mounted

RADIATION FALLOUT MONITOR

on one side of the board and (in most cases) their leads are passed, through convenient perforations, to the other side. Here, the actual wiring is carried out; make all connections point to point and cover bare leads with spaghetti wherever necessary.

In some cases, the author ran component leads through brass eyelets installed on the board, rather than directly through the perforations. The eyelets make convenient junction points and, if all leads passing through are soldered in place, provide an extra-rigid mounting.

Thyratron V2 is mounted horizontally, its socket being installed on a homemade aluminum "L" bracket. The exact dimensions of the bracket are not important, but see that the socket is raised high enough above the circuit board so that V2 will clear all of the components.

The Geiger-Mueller tube (V1) is held in place by a spring clip mounted on a machine screw and nut which, in turn, are anchored to the board. This clip also serves as a contact to the outer shell, or cathode, of the tube. It's connected into the circuit via a solder lug installed under the screw head.

Tube V1's central pin, or anode, passes through a small hole drilled in another machine screw mounted near the tube. A second solder lug is similarly installed to connect the assembly into the circuit. Run a nut down the screw to make a secure electrical connection with the pin, but make it only finger-tight (this also applies to the nut holding the cathode clip). Excess pressure can easily ruin the tube.

The speaker specified in the Parts List is a bit larger than the one actually used by the author. It makes for a slightly tighter fit on the board, but has the advantage of being provided with its own mounting lugs, and it gives more volume as well. No great change in the relative

component positions shown in the photographs is required.

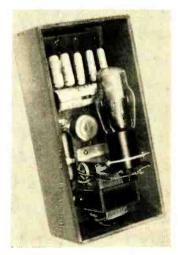
The author installed his completed circuit board in a wooden box which originally contained "Christmas" after-shave lotion. The speaker opening on top of the box was covered with black screen wire and decorated with the familiar radiation warning symbol (cut from a scrap of sheet aluminum). Flashes from the neon lamp are visible through a piece of Lucite glued into the end of the box near 11.

A set of rubber feet was installed on the box bottom—giving enough clearance for ventilating air to pass through several holes drilled there. An exit for the heated air is provided by the speaker opening.

The housing for the board isn't critical, of course, and you can adapt any metal, plastic, or wooden box which appeals to you. Just be sure to make adequate provisions for ventilation.

(Continued on page 100)

Author used shaving-lotion box (shown here with cover off) as a cabinet. Any similar container will serve if adequate ventilation is provided.

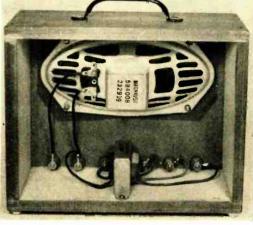


July, 1962



Designed for the serviceman, this Test Bench Squawk Box supplies for chassis under repair the missing audio circuit elements left behind in the customer's house.

The unit is as easy to assemble as it is to use. Rear view of author's model shows a Magnavox 4" x 8" PM speaker, output transformer, binding posts, connecting wiring.



TEST BENCH SQUAWK BOX

SERVICEMEN, professionals and amateurs alike, often work on television, hi-fi and radio chassis whose mating speakers are not on the test bench but miles away in the owners' cabinets. In most cases, the speakers are left behind because they are bulky, difficult to remove, and, once removed, prone to damage. Then how does one listen to the equipment being tested and repaired? It's easy, if you own a Test Bench Squawk Box. If you don't have one, an evening's time plus a few ducats for parts are all that is needed to assemble this audio aid.

The size and shape of the enclosure for the speaker are determined by the speaker size you plan to use. Standard auto replacement PM speakers are ideal; they range in size from 3" x 5" to 6" x 9", with a few odd-ball sizes thrown in. Assemble the enclosure using $\frac{1}{2}$ " hard-

wood for the sides, top and bottom, and ¼" fiberboard for the front. Cut out a port for the speaker, and then mount the speaker, six 5-way binding posts, and an audio output transformer so that the unit resembles the author's Squawk Box shown above. The transformer's output winding impedance should match the speaker's impedance, and the primary winding should be on the order of 5000 ohms center-tapped.

Interconnect the components following the schematic diagram shown on the unit in the photo at top, left; if you attach a similar schematic to the front panel of your Squawk Box, you will know at a glance how to connect the unit to a chassis. Then top off the construction by adding four rubber feet, a carrying handle, and—if you wish—a fiberboard back panel to close up the unit.

—Art Trauffer

SMOOTHER SHAVES

with Smoother Current

F YOUR TRUSTY electric shaver "groans" in the morning and can't quite seem to "get going," maybe it needs a little d.c. "stimulation." Many of the older a.c./d.c. shavers which creep on a.c. often purr delightfully when operated on d.c. What's the answer? Build this little plug-in a.c.-to-d.c. converter it'll take only an hour or so of your time and less than \$3.00 of your cash.

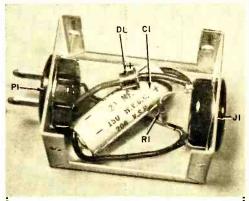
Start construction by cutting a 14"



hole in the center of each end of the utility box (it's easiest to use a chassis punch, but a circle cutter will also do the trick). Next, mount plug P1 in one hole, and jack J1 in the other, using the retainer rings supplied. This done, wire up the converter, following the schematic diagram and the photos at right. When wiring, be especially careful not to make any connections to the metal box itselfto prevent any possibility of an electric shock.

Your power converter is now ready to go. Simply plug your shaver into the converter, and the converter into a 117-volt a.c. outlet, and you'll shave with pleasure. It's best to unplug the converter when it's not in use, incidentally—someone might be tempted to insert a high-wattage or an a.c.-only appliance into it.

-Joseph R. Noonan



PARTS LIST

C1-20-µf., 150-w.v.d.c. electrolytic capacitor D1-750-ma., 200-PIV silicon diode (Lafayette Radio Type SP-197 or equivalent)

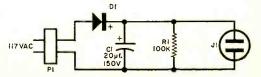
I1—2-pole female a.c. socket, retainer-ring mounting (Amphenol Type 61-F or equivalent)

nig (Amphenot Type of the equivalent)
P1—2-pole male a.c. plug, retainer-ring mounting (Amphenot Type of the equivalent)
R1—100,000-ohm, ½-watt resistor
1—234" x 23/8" x 15/8" aluminum utility box
(Bud CU-3000-A or equivalent) Misc.—Insulated hookup wire, spaghetti, solder

A.C. PLUG 13/16 DIA SILICON ELECTROLYTIC CAPACITOR RI CARBON RESISTOR

All the parts you'll need are shown here; the photo at the top of the page tells you how to mount them.

Wire the converter exactly as shown in diagram below. "Plus" of D1 must connect to "plus" of C1.







Auxiliary receiver tunes 122—144 mc., operates from any 12-volt car battery

S OME EXCITING LISTENING is to be had in the VHF regions—signals from airplanes en route, emergency operations at airports, Civil Air Patrol missions, even local hamfests lurk in these frequencies, literally waiting to be pulled in. Unfortunately, though, most of the VHF "events" seem to take place just when you don't have a VHF receiver handy!

Of course, the obvious way to be prepared for a "find" on the VHF airwaves is to carry a VHF receiver in your car at all times. There's nothing very original about this idea, and it may even sound somewhat impractical. But it is just what we would like to suggest: "One For The Road" . . . and only the road; a VHF receiver so small that it can get lost in the glove compartment and so inexpensive that you can toss it into the car and forget it until you need it!

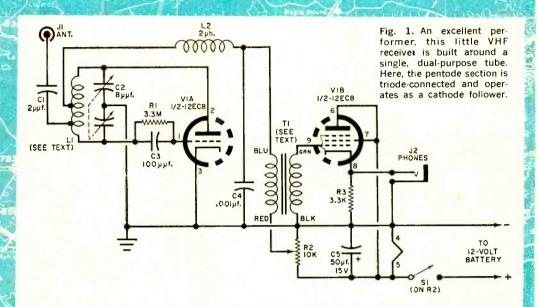
Although the unit shown here is the extreme in simplicity, it covers the 122-144 mc. range and is more than capable of satisfying the curiosity of the occa-

sional VHF "eavesdropper." In addition, it can do a creditable job as an auxiliary receiver in times of emergency.

Since it uses one of the tubes designed for "hybrid" car radios, the need for vibrators or high-voltage power supplies is eliminated—the only power required to operate this receiver is 12 volts d.c. Thus, not only are costs and circuit complications reduced, but installation is as quick as 1-2-3. In fact, all you have to do to install this receiver is plug it into your cigarette lighter!

About the Circuit. As you may have already noted, the 12EC8 tube in the set consists of a triode and a pentode in the same envelope. Fortunately, the tube's triode section will oscillate at frequencies up to 200 mc. or more with plate voltages as low as 6 volts! And the same characteristics that make it a good VHF oscillator also make it a good superregenerative detector.

A single tube in a superregenerative circuit can often equal a full-sized com-



PARTS LIST

C1—2-µµ], mica or ceramic capacitor
C2—8-µµ], midget variable capacitor, "butterfly"
type (E. F. Johnson 160-208 or equivalent) -100-uuf. mica capacitor

C3—100-μμ; mea capacitor C4—0.001-μβ, ceramic capacitor C5—50-μβ, 15-w.w.d.c. electrolytic capacitor I1—Banana jack

-Miniature phone jack, non-shorting type (insulated type required for circuit in Fig. 2) L1—Autenna coil (5 turns of #16 wire, ¾" in diameter, spaced ½" long, tapped at center and I turn from end)

L2-2-uh. r.f. choke or 24 turns of #30 enameled wire close-wound on and connected in parallel

with a 2-megohm, ½-watt resistor R1—3.3-megohm, ½-watt resistor R2—10,000-ohm miniature potentiometer, linear taper, with s.p.s.t. switch S1

R3—3300-ohm, $\frac{1}{2}$ -watt resistor S1—S.p.s.t. switch (on R2)

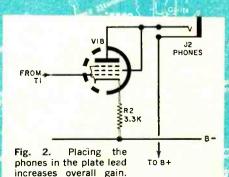
T1-Miniature interstage transformer, at least 1:3 turns ratio-see text

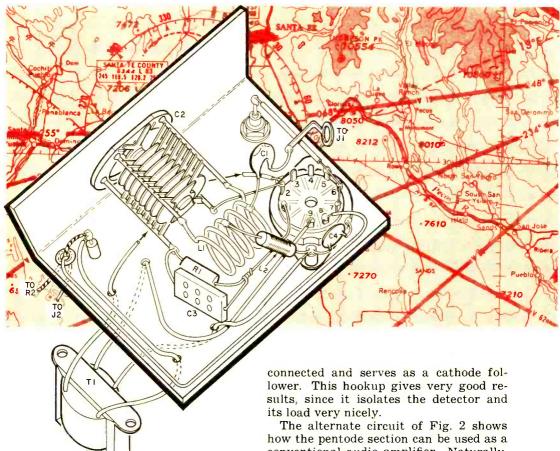
V1a/V1b—12EC8 tube 1—4" x 2" x 2¾" aluminum utility box (Bud CU-2115-A or equivalent)

Misc.—Mica-filled 9-pin socket for V1. telescoping antenna. scrap aluminum for shelf, wire, solder, earphones, etc.

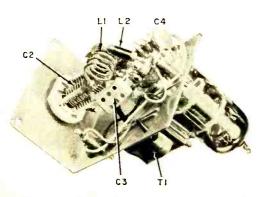
munications receiver in sensitivity. However, one of the unfortunate features of the "superregen" is its tendency to radiate interference on the channel being received. In this receiver, the power input To the detector is in the vicinity of 300 microwatts or less, so radiation should be of little concern.

With the triode section of the tube used as a detector, the pentode section is still available as a stage of audio amplification. However, in the circuit shown in Fig. 1, the pentode is triode-





An aluminum shelf (above), about $2^{1}/_{4}$ " deep x $1^{1}/_{8}$ " wide, holds most of the components, with tuning capacitor C2 mounted on the shelf's 1" lip. Holes in lip of shelf (below) must match those in front panel of case.

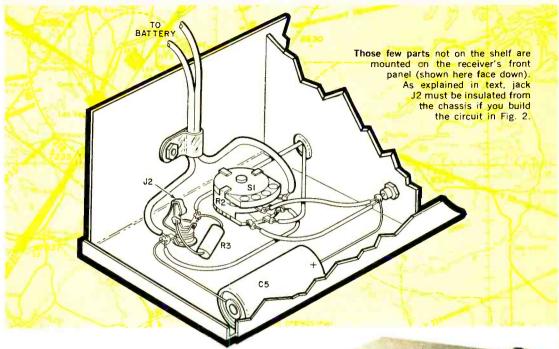


The alternate circuit of Fig. 2 shows how the pentode section can be used as a conventional audio amplifier. Naturally, this configuration has more gain than the previous circuit, but it does require that the output jack be insulated. However, the added voltage gain will be appreciated in many cases, especially if you intend to do most of your listening with headphones.

Construction. If full speaker volume is your goal, then your best bet is to build the circuit of Fig. 1 and feed its output into the audio section of your car radio. Alternatively, with the 4" x 2" x 234" case suggested, there's still room enough for the serious experimenter to include a power transistor to drive a speaker.

Several versions of the receiver have been built, and they have all worked—even with substitute parts and some pretty "haywire" hookups! With the construction and circuit as simple as they are, the photos and drawings should just about tell the complete story.

In the author's case, the small interstage transformer (T1) came from his



spare-parts box, but any miniature plateto-grid coupling transformer with a turns ratio of 1:3 or more will work (the Argonne Type AR-155 is a good choice). A standard size interstage transformer can be used with quite a saving in cost if the receiver is spread out on a larger chassis.

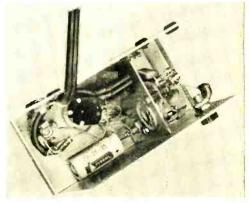
All of the parts except regeneration control R2 and capacitor C5 should be mounted on a small aluminum shelf. As long as you keep the leads from capacitor C2 to socket pins 1 and 2 as short as possible, placement of the other components isn't especially critical. For best results, however, coil L1 should be kept at least 14" away from such large parts as transformer T1 or the chassis itself.

Adjustment and Operation. After the receiver is wired, it can be tested by "clipping" it across a 12-volt car battery for a trial run—just make sure that the ground lead on the receiver is connected to the negative lead on the battery. Plug a pair of phones into the phone jack and advance the regeneration control until you hear the familiar smooth rushing sound of the superregenerative detector.

If the signals are strong enough, a 12" section of a telescoping antenna inside (Continued on page 96)



Completed receiver (above) needs only an earphone, an antenna, and a battery to operate. Note that the entire receiver is housed in front portion of the case (below).



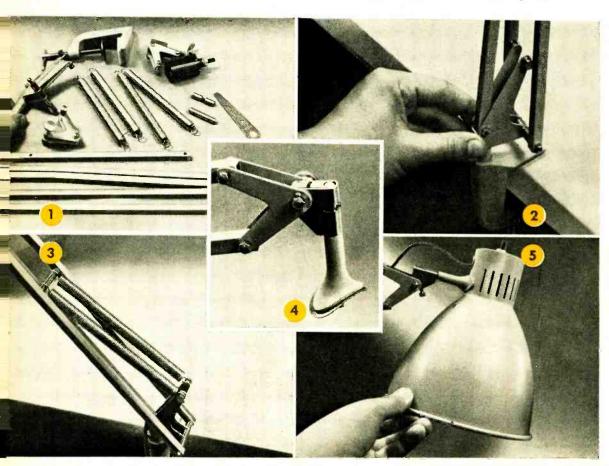
July, 1962



Proper lighting is frequently overlooked in the home electronics lab or workshop. Why strain your eyes peeking into dark corners when you can buy a kit for only \$9.95 and assemble a free-movement utility lamp? Sold by Zack Electronics, 1422 Market St., San Francisco 2, Calif., the "Tech-Lyte" kit was put together in the POP'tronics lab in just about 30 minutes.

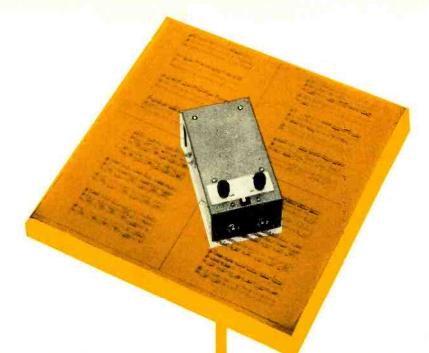
In Photo 1 are the unassembled parts as they arrive from the manufacturer. Photos 2 and 3 show how the base clamp and arms are mounted, as well as the counterbalancing springs which permit free lamp movement. A rod for the lamp shade (Photo 4) is attached to the neck assembly elbows which hold the other ends of the tubular arms together. The line cord to the lamp is carefully strung down the arms and around the elbows to prevent it being pinched or shorted out.

The lamp shade and socket (Photo 5) complete the assembly. Immediately available, the Tech-Lyte comes in grey, black, brown, or mist green.



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POPULAR ELECTRONICS



TRANSISTORIZED TREMOLO

... adds "color" to musical instruments

By A. E. DONKIN, W2EMF

GOT A MUSICIAN in the family? You can delight him (or her) and your friends by constructing this little electronic tremolo. Reasonably easy to build, it makes a perfect addition to an electric guitar. Add a suitable mike, and you can use it with almost any musical instrument.

Like other tremolos, this device produces a "throbbing" effect on the sound of an electric musical instrument which is played "through" it. Unlike some versions, however, this circuit is transistorized and battery-operated, with several resultant advantages.

For one thing, the number of components is reduced; and so, too, is the cost. In addition, the unit is small enough and light enough to be attached

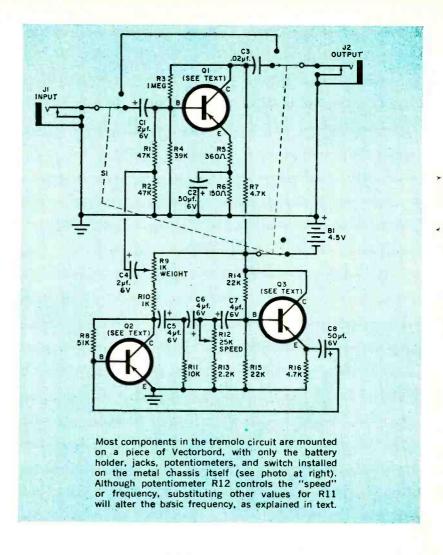
directly to the musical instrument; this means that it can be readily controlled by the musician himself. Finally, the battery power supply substantially reduces the possibility of hum in the amplifying system.

About the Circuit. The transistorized tremolo is connected between the output of an electric musical instrument and an audio amplifier. It functions by varying the amplitude of the electrical signal from the musical instrument at a rate of about 5 to 15 times per second.

In the circuit shown here, transistor Q1 is connected as an amplifier and is biased to draw very little collector current. To match the impedance of a mag-

netic instrument pickup, its input impedance has been increased by leaving





a portion of the emitter resistor unby-passed (R5).

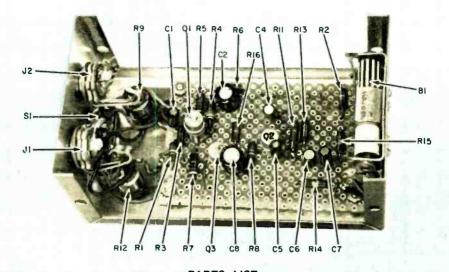
Since transistor Q1 is operated in the low-current region, its gain varies rapidly with changes in collector current. A low-frequency (5- to 15-cycle) signal is superimposed on the d.c. bias for this stage via resistors R1 and R2, causing the collector current (and hence the gain) to vary.

Transistors Q2 and Q3 operate as a phase shift oscillator to generate the 5-to 15-cycle signal. Transistor Q2 is a common-emitter amplifier supplying the phase shift network, and Q3 is an emitter follower to adjust impedances and provide positive feedback. The frequency of the phase shift oscillator is adjusted

by varying one "leg" of the phase shift network (potentiometer R12); the depth or "weight" is controlled by adjusting potentiometer R9.

Construction. Layout of the transistorized tremolo isn't critical, but it's still a good idea to follow the author's parts placement as nearly as possible. A $2\frac{7}{16}$ " x $3\frac{1}{2}$ " piece of Vectorbord facilitates mounting the smaller components, and Vector terminals can be used as tie-points where needed.

Potentiometers R9 and R12, jacks J1 and J2, switch S1, and the battery holder should be mounted in the utility box first, leaving as much room as possible for the Vectorbord assembly (be sure to allow enough clearance to insert and re-



PARTS LIST...... R9-1000-ohm miniature potentiometer, linear B1-4.5-volt battery (three Burgess Type 7 "slim" penlight cells in series or equivalent) C1, C4-2-\(\mu_1\), 6-w.v.d.c. miniature electrolytic taper R10-1000 ohms R11-10,000 ohms capacitor C2, C8-50-µf., 6-w.v.d.c. miniature electrolytic R12-25,000-ohm miniature potentiometer, lincapacitor car taper C3-0.02-\(\mu\)f. miniature paper capacitor C5, C6, C7-4-\(\mu\)f., 6-w.v.d.c. miniature electro-R13-2200 ohms R14, R15-22,000 ohms lytic capacitor 11, 12—Phone jack, shorting type -3-pole, double-throw slide switch (Lafavette 51-5-pote, audite-involved and surface surface. SW-94, with one section unused, or equivalent) 1-5\(\frac{1}{4}\)" x 3" x 2\(\frac{1}{8}\)" aluminum utility box (Bud CU-2106-A or equivalent) 01, Q2, Q3—Audio transistors, pnp type (La-jayette SP-239 or equivalent) R1. R2-47.000 ohms 3-Battery holders (Keystone Type 137 or equivalent) R3-1 megohm R4-39.000 ohms x 31/2" piece of Type 85G24EP Vector-R5-360 ohms, 5% All resistors hord Misc .- Type T28 Vector push-in terminals, mini-R6-150 ohms 1/2 watt, 10%. ature knobs for R9 and R12, wire, solder, hard-R7, R16-4700 ohms unless other R8-51,000 ohms. 5% wise noted ware, etc.

move the batteries). The Vectorbord should then be cut and drilled, after which the other components can be mounted.

Although the transistors in the author's model are of the "2 for 98 cents" variety, they function quite satisfactorily. For optimum results, the transistors should be interchanged in the circuit, and Q1 selected for lowest noise (Q2 and Q3 aren't particularly critical). If the transistors are installed in either sockets or Vector terminals, they can be "selected" after the Vectorbord assembly has been wired into the Minibox.

When wiring, be sure to "heat sink" the transistor leads with a pair of long-nose pliers. You may want to use the

same treatment for the electrolytic capacitors, just to be on the safe side; in addition, the polarities of the electrolytics must be observed.

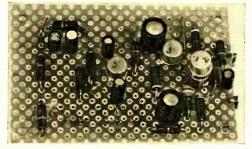
After the wiring is completed, the Vectorbord should be fastened to the top of the box with ¼" spacers, and the leads from it to the balance of the circuit soldered in place.

Check-Out and Operation. The unit is ready for testing. Install the batteries, again observing polarity, and turn the unit on. To check for oscillation of Q2 and Q3, simply measure the collector voltage of Q2 or the emitter voltage of Q3. A rapid fluctuation indicates that the oscillator is operating properly.

Now insert the tremolo between the

TREMOLO





Here's how the Vectorbord subassembly should look when it's ready to be installed in the chassis box.



Hooking up the transistorized tremolo is simplicity itself—just plug the electric guitar or other musical instrument into jack J1 on the tremolo and connect an audio amplifier and speaker to jack J2.

output from the musical instrument and the input to your amplifier, as shown. The "weight" control, R9, should be adjusted until a "throbbing" is noticeable in the amplifier output; don't advance the "weight" control too far or you may cause a "thumping" sound in the

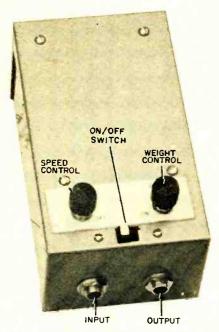
speaker. The "speed" control, R12, governs the rate of tremolo and should be adjusted to suit your taste.

If desired, the range of adjustment of the "speed" control can be modified by adding a resistor in parallel with R11, since reducing the effective value of R11 will increase the speed. In the author's model, R11 was paralleled with a 1000-ohm resistor for an effective value of about 900 ohms.

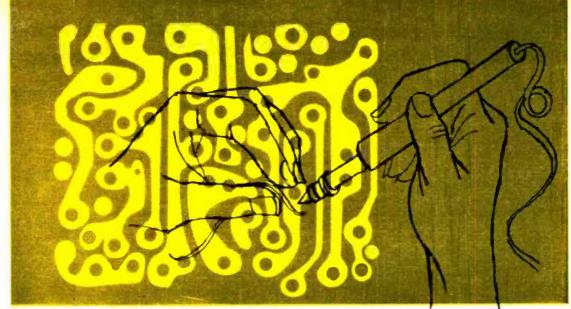
Possible Troubles and Cures. The simplicity of the circuit is some insurance against trouble. If the components and wiring seem to be okay, lack of oscillation may be due to low beta in Q2 or Q3, although the requirements for this portion of the circuit aren't very exacting.

"Thumping" can be reduced by experimenting with smaller values for capacitor C3. The final value for this component depends to some extent on the amplifier you happen to use, but don't reduce the capacitance too much or you'll cut out most of the low frequencies.

Since the amplifier stage (Q1) is operated at low collector current, the amplitude of the input signal is limited, and large signals will cause distortion. Even so, most guitar pickups won't overload Q1. But if distortion does occur, you should be able to correct it by reducing the output level of the instrument and increasing the gain of the amplifier accordingly.



The transistorized tremolo, all wired up and rarin' to go. See text for instructions on adjusting speed and weight controls.



First Aid for **PRINTED CIRCUITS**

Because they differ radically from conventional circuitry, printed boards require some specialized servicing techniques

By J. W. L CODY

Systems Operation, Heavy Military Electronics Dept., General Electric Co., Syracuse, N.Y.

DURING THE PAST DECADE OR SO, printed circuits have been perfected to an amazing degree. Today, practically all electronic equipment manufacturers use them in their products. In fact, the list of equipment containing printed boards is almost endless—television sets and radio receivers, timing units, hi-fi/stereo equipment, photocell devices, meters, computers, transmitters, strain gauges, motors, switches, automobile gauges, moisture detectors, and even musical instruments.

Like anything else, of course, the components used on printed-circuit boards can't last forever. But careful replacement of defective components by a skilled and experienced technician can restore a printed-circuit board to a "like-new" condition. Use of the procedures we're going to outline should serve to decrease the time con-

PRINTED CIRCUITS





sumed in servicing printed circuits and reduce the number of boards that have to be scrapped.

A Word About Tools. To repair printedcircuit boards successfully, it is absolutely essential to use the proper tools. To disregard this rule could mean considerable damage to, or even destruction of, the board under repair.

In checking and tracing circuits on printed boards, needle-tipped test prods should be used to penetrate the lacquer coating of the board.

A low-wattage soldering iron is a "must," since such an iron will furnish sufficient heat to melt solder reasonably fast and yet not produce excessive heat which might damage the board. An iron with a 25-watt element should be used for replacing components, and a desoldering kit for removing them.

The multiple component bar tip is used where components with clusters of connections in a line are to be removed; the circular tips are used for removing tube sockets, transformers, and other components which have a circular cluster of connections; the slotted tip is especially useful for removing solder and at the

An important tool: fluorescent lamp with built-in magnifier. This is Dazor's Model M-209.

Tools You'll Need to Repair Printed Circuits

Fluorescent light fixture with built-in magnifier Six-volt, 25-watt soldering iron, with transformer Low-heat desoldering iron kit, including several special tips (multiple component bar, slotted soldering aid, and various-sized circular tips)

Rosin core solder (60/40)

Diagonal cutters

Long-nose pliers

Curved long-nose pliers

Tweezers

Thin blade knife (to separate flat component contacts)
Needle-tipped test prods

Rosin lacquer

Lacquer solvent

Six-inch calipers (to identify points from one side of board to the other)

Soft brass wire brush



POPULAR ELECTRONICS

same time straightening bent lugs. The slotted tip also serves the purpose of "soldering" in portions of a board where space is especially limited; in this case, the slot should be carefully filled with solder and the solder transferred to the joint.

You'll find other useful tools listed in the box at left below.

Replacement Techniques. Where a resistor or other component with end leads is mounted parallel to the board (or even vertically, with one lead looped over and bent down to the board), replacement is a simple task.

For example, to replace a resistor, you just cut the old component in two with a pair of diagonal cutters, crush the ends so that portions of the old leads contained within the resistor body can be used for installing the new component, make loops in the leads still affixed to the board, join the loops with the leads of the new component, and solder the connection carefully. (Be sure to use as little heat as possible, since excessive heat can cause the printed wire to raise from the board).

If a component is mounted vertically,

clip the leads as close to the body as possible. Or, if the component is seated on the board, as in some circuits, clip the top lead and unsolder the bottom lead. Remove the bottom lead from the hole, then place one lead from the new component in the hole and solder it in place. Finally, join and solder the top lead to the clipped lead which was removed from the defective component.

A simple jig can be assembled by using two wooden blocks (their size will depend on the dimensions of the board to be repaired). With two ordinary, springtype clothespins mounted on each block, the defective board can then be clamped in the clothespins between the blocks and repaired. Pieces of felt cloth should be cemented to the upper and lower jaws of each of the clothespins to protect the board from damage.

In the event that any of the printed conductors have been broken, either by rough handling or a short circuit, they should be repaired. If the break is 1/16" or less in length, the copper should be cleaned carefully with solvent and solder flowed into the break to effectively "bridge" the gap. A small brass

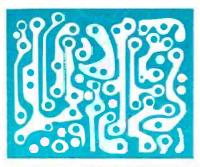
Safe desoldering of printed-circuit boards is one of the first steps in repairing them. The specialized components shown below are part of Ungar's Model 270 desoldering kit, and include a tip for components with "in-line" contacts (left), circular contacts (center), and wire leads (right).

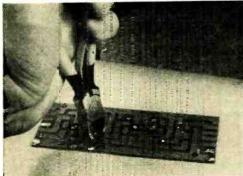




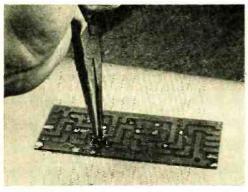


July, 1962

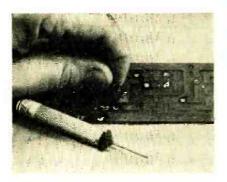




CUTTING. Replacing a resistor is easy if you do it right. First, cut it in half with side-cutting pliers.



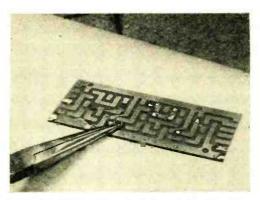
CRUSHING. Smash the rest of the resistor with a pair of pliers, and you're left with two bare leads.



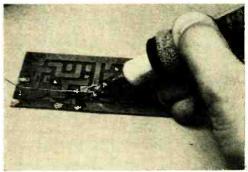
brush can often be used to advantage in cleaning the copper, incidentally.

Where the break is of greater magnitude, a wire "bridge" will be required. The ends of the copper conductor should be carefully cleaned with solvent and a brass brush. Then a piece of tinned #22 wire, long enough to bridge the break and provide a 1/4" lap at either end, should be laid in place. Solder the ends of the wire to the copper conductor, and the job is done.

From time to time, you'll no doubt run across cracked or even broken boards. Whether or not to repair these boards will depend on several conditions: (1) the severity of the break, (2) the availability of a replacement board, and (3) whether or not the equipment can be left (Continued on page 99)

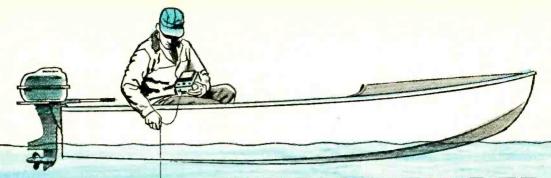


LOOPING. With a little practice, you can use longnose pliers to form a tiny loop at end of each lead.



SOLDERING. Pass the leads from the new component through the loops, then solder them in place.

For more professional-looking loops, you'll want to use one of the "pig-tail" tools now on the market. The one shown here is made by Twirl-Con.



THE FISH FINDER

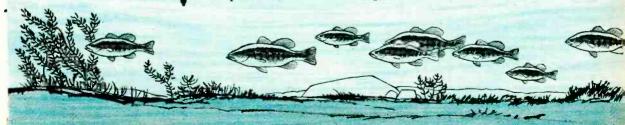
Pity the poor fish when anglers probe the depths with underwater thermometers

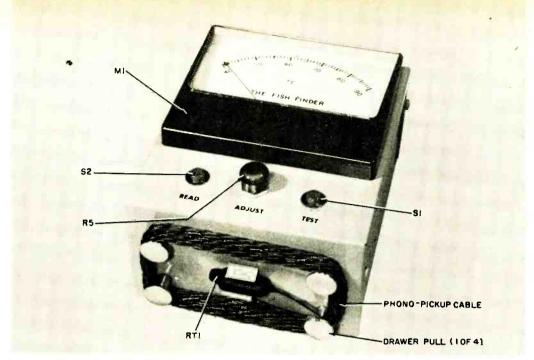
By R. L. WINKLEPLECK

NOT LONG ago, a "fishing nut" friend of mine dropped in with a problem. He needed an instrument, small enough to take on fishing trips, that would quickly and accurately read water temperature at various depths. When asked what he wanted with such a unit, he offered the following explanation.

Different kinds of fish, it seems, have different preferences for the temperature of the water in which they swim. And water temperature (especially the temperature of still or slowly flowing water) is apt to vary with depth. By measuring the temperature at the depth of each "catch," he hoped to work up charts showing the temperature preferences of various species of fish. With the charts, he could select his future catches by placing his hook at a depth having the proper temperature for the type of fish desired.

The author doesn't guarantee the soundness of this theory, but the unit he designed to do the measuring is described here. If you'd like to try your hand at "scientific" fishing, or if you have any other use for a portable, remote-reading, 40-90°F thermometer, you'll





Completed "Fish Finder" is neat. attractive, and professional-looking. For protection against corrosion, apply a couple of coats of paint to box before mounting components.

find it worth your while to take a few hours of your time and put together the "Fish Finder."

About the Circuit. Operation of the Fish Finder depends on a device called the "Thermistor," a resistor which varies inversely in value with the temperature. When the temperature goes up, the resistance of the Thermistor goes down—and vice-versa.

But for our purpose, the important thing about the change of the Thermistor's resistance with temperature is that it's large . . . large enough so that the resistances of switch contacts, long leads connecting the Thermistor to the indicating device, etc., can be ignored in com-

parison. And we can read the greatly changing resistance with relatively insensitive meters and without elaborate amplifying circuits.

The Thermistor used in the Fish Finder forms part of a Wheatstone bridge circuit (see schematic diagram). Two "arms" of the bridge are resistors R3 and R4; the other two are the Thermistor (RT1) and potentiometer R2. Assuming that the "Test" push-button (S1) is in the position shown (not depressed), the voltage from the battery appears (via "Read" push-button S2 and potentiometer R5) across the bridge between the junction of RT1 and R3 and that of R2 and R4.



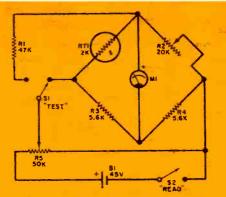
Notice, in this case, that R_3 and R_4 make up one voltage divider and RT1 and R_2 make up another. Since R_3 and R_4 have the same value, the voltage appearing at their junction is one-half the voltage impressed across the bridge. And, when R_2 is adjusted to the same value as RT1, the voltage at their junction is also one-half the voltage across the bridge. Therefore meter M1, which is connected across the two junctions, sees no voltage difference between its terminals and reads "Zero."

But if the temperature of RT1 should change, its resistance would change proportionally. This, of course, would alter the voltage at the junction of RT1 and R2. And, since the voltage at the R3-R4 junction remains the same, meter M1 now sees a potential difference and shows a reading. The magnitude of the reading is proportional to the temperature change at RT1, so M1 may be calibrated as a thermometer.

Potentiometer R2 determines which resistance value of RT1 will "balance" the bridge, giving a zero reading on M1. Hence, R2 controls the lower temperature limit of M1's calibration.

Potentiometer R5 adjusts the voltage input to the bridge. It has no effect on the meter reading while the bridge is in a balanced condition because there will be no voltage difference between the junction of RT1 and R2 and that of R3 and R4 whatever the voltage input. However, potentiometer R5 does determine how high the meter will read for a given degree of temperature change (or bridge imbalance). Therefore, it controls the upper temperature limit of M1's calibration.

"Test" switch S1 and resistor R1 are used to maintain a check on the battery voltage. When S1 is depressed, the arm of R5 is switched from the junction of



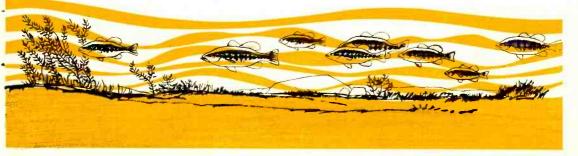
Thermistor (RT1 on schematic) is used as one leg of a Wheatstone bridge indicator.

PARTS LIST

B1--45-volt battery (Burgess XX30 or equivalent)
M1-0-1 ma. meter (Simpson Model 1329 or equivalent—see text)
R1-47,000-ohm, ½-watt resistor
R2-20,000-ohm potentiometer, linear taper
R3, R4-5600-ohm, ½-watt, 5% resistor
R5-50,000-ohm potentiometer linear taper
RT1-2000-ohm Thermistor (Veco 32D14*)
S1-S.p.d.t. push-button switch
S2-S.p.s.t. push-button switch
1-7" x 5" x 3" aluminum utility box (Bud CU-3008-A or equivalent)
1-4½" x 334" section of perforated board
25'-Phono pickup arm cable, vinyl insulated (Belden Type 8430 or equivalent)
Misc.--Foam plastic or rubber, plastic tube, solder, tool dip, connector for B1. drawer pulls, grommet, plywood, etc.

"Three dealers handling Veco products are: Electronics Center, 160 5th Ave. New York. N. Y. Electronics Supply, 11201 W. Pico Elvd., W. Los Angeles, Calif.: and Radio Shack Corp., 730 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, Mass.

R3 and RT1 to the free end of R1. This provides a reference reading on M1 which does not vary with temperature but is dependent only on the voltage of B1. (Though RT1 remains in the circuit when S1 is depressed, its effect on the



59

meter reading becomes negligible.) As the battery voltage decreases, the meter is brought back to the reference point by adjusting R5.

Construction. All of the components except Thermistor RT1 are housed in an aluminum utility box. A 6" x 5" x 3" box was used by the author, but the more common 7" x 5" x 3" size specified in the Parts List will do as well.

Locate switches S1 and S2, potentiometer R5, and meter M1 on the box's front panel. Resistors R1, R3, and R4, and potentiometer R2, are mounted on a $4\frac{1}{2}$ " x 33/4" piece of perforated board.

Meter M1's terminal posts are passed through two holes made in the board, and a solder lug, washer, and nut are installed on each post. The nuts and washers rigidly hold the board assembly in place, while the solder lugs provide a means of connecting the meter to the rest of the circuit.

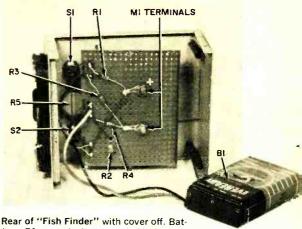
Battery B1 is wedged in between the board and the top of the box. A scrap of foam plastic or rubber glued underneath the battery provides further support, and sideways movement is restricted by a pair of hollow dowels slipped over the upper meter mounting screws.

Four small drawer pulls mounted on the bottom of the box serve as a rack on which the 25' Thermistor cable can be coiled when it is not in use. Since the drawer pulls which the author had on hand were fitted with wood screws, a 4½" x 2¼" piece of plywood was placed in the box bottom for them to "bite into."

Waterproofing. Both the Thermistor and the Thermistor-cable junction must be suitably waterproofed. In the model described here, RT1 was connected to the cable and slid into a plastic tube. The tube was then wrapped with wire solder (which acts both as a sinker and a heattransfer surface).

Next, the whole assembly was dipped several times in encapsulating compound -allowing each layer to dry before redipping—until a solid, waterproof surface was built up. The net result was a short cylinder about the diameter of a penlight cell. It is held in place on the bottom of the box by means of a battery clip.

An alternative waterproofing method



tery B1 mounts in space behind perforated board.

might be simply to put several coats of encapsulating compound on the bare Thermistor, and its leads, after attachment to the cable. This might provide better heat-transfer characteristics, but the finished assembly would be awkwardly shaped and more susceptible to accidental damage. Another disadvantage is that a separate weight would then have to be attached to sink the Thermistor.

Regardless of how you carry out the waterproofing, a good preparation to use for encapsulating is "Insl-X Tool Dip." It's manufactured by the Insl-X Co., Inc., Ossining, N. Y., and is available by mail from Allied Radio, 100 N. Western Ave., Chicago 80, Ill. (Cat. No. 42 N 400 for the 6-oz. size).

The free end of the Thermistor cable is fed into the box through a grommetlined hole in the bottom. To prevent moisture from leaking in, seal the grommet with household cement.

Calibration. The instrument was designed to cover a 40-90°F range (the most useful for the majority of fishing situations), but the upper and/or lower limit of this range may be shifted several degrees to suit individual tastes.

Begin the calibration by preparing a jar of water whose temperature has been set at exactly 40°F (or at the lower limit of the temperature range you desire) with an accurate thermometer. Remember that the larger the volume of water you use, the more stable the temperature

(Continued on page 97)



ALL ABOUT CONAR TV KIT

New kit manufacturer gets off to glowing start with TV receiver

Kit has built-in "rabbit ears" antenna. Boy and cart are extras not supplied with the kit.

COVER STORY

THERE'S something very exciting about assembling your own TV set. Maybe it's because everyone talks about building amplifiers, tuners, receivers, etc. Building a TV set is still held in awe. and many experimenters who wouldn't hesitate to dig into an amplifier just don't seem interested. Or are they? We believe that they are, but are reluctant to chance assembling something where the smallest error would be "obvious." Also, they may fail to consider that kit designs have come a long way in the past three or four years.

A prime example of how easy it is to assemble your own TV set is illustrated by the Conar "Custom 70" produced by Conar Instruments (division of National Radio Institute, Washington 16, D.C.). A 15-tube receiver (plus a 19AUP4 "pic" tube, as it is called), the Custom 70 is modern in circuit design and packaging. It is sold as a single kit for \$135.00 (including Federal tax), or under a "pay as you build" plan with four packages at \$36.00 each. We recommend the single package—once you've started, you're not likely to want to quit and wait for the delivery man.

The Custom 70 makes use of a printed circuit for the i.f. channels, a transformer power supply (no shock hazard), and a carefully prealigned TV tuner. All other wiring is point-to-point, and there's plenty of working room. You can expect to spend between 101/2 and 12 hours soldering in the various components.

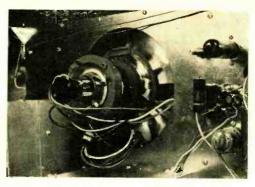
Mechanical assembly will probably consume between 31/2 and 41/2 hours. This includes unpacking, mounting sockets and tie points, mounting subchassis, and installing the pic tube and chassis in the cabinet.

Conar's instruction manual is most comprehensive and spells out each wirYoke assembly and centering rings in TV set are precision-manufactured. Connections to the picture tube go to plugs on the front of the chassis. "Pic" tube is aluminized and self-focusing.



We recommend that the builder take a felt marking pencil and identify the front and rear of the chassis, as well as the various controls. This will simplify the wiring and eliminate errors.

After 14 hours of assembly time, the first picture on our screen came as a pleasant surprise. Slight distortion on left side of the screen was removed by resetting the ringing coil slug.



ing step in detail. In fact, the only objection we had to the Custom 70 was that the instructions could have been more succinct. But then, when you have assembled this kit, you really feel you know your TV receiver backwards and forwards—something you can't say for a set you buy off the shelf.

One thing we feel should be emphasized is that the Custom 70 is "safe." The high-voltage supply is fully caged in a separate metal box and, once assembled, need never be touched. All other set voltages are of the order found in amplifiers and tuners. The transformer power supply is completely isolated from the a.c. line, reducing shock hazards; and once the pic tube is in the cabinet, it is grounded to the chassis with "Aquadag" strips.

At present-day prices, this kit will save you \$35 - \$50 over off-the-shelf prices. If that doesn't sound like much, once again may we say, "There's something very exciting about assembling your own TV set."

As many readers are no doubt aware, Transvision Electronics, Inc. (New Rochelle, N. Y.) also sells TV kits, and has been doing so for several years. The TV receivers come in a wide variety of screen sizes and price ranges, and a catalog is available from Transvision for the asking.



THE WHISTLE SWITCH

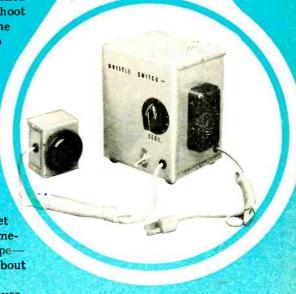
A vinch to build,
this whistle-operated relay
will turn electrical equipment
on or off from distances
up to 100 feet

By MARTIN J. LEFF

IN A LARGE mid-town Manhattan photo studio, the photographer had just finished posing his pretty model. "We're ready to shoot now," he said; "hold it while I switch on the lights." Expecting him to turn and walk to the distant wall switch, the model was understandably startled when he merely put his fingers to his lips and emitted a piercing whistle. But, in instant response to his signal, the great banks of lights overhead flicked on.

The photographer was using a variation of the "Whistle Switch." Responding to a whistle of the "puckered lips" variety, this unit will turn electrical equipment on or off from up to about 15 feet away. The range can be increased to about 50 feet by using a "lips and fingers" whistle, and mechanical whistles—such as the "police" type—will actuate the switch at distances up to about 100 feet.

Definitely more economical than the conven-





tional radio remote-control system, the Whistle Switch costs about \$30.00 to build. And the price will be reduced materially if you already have some of the parts on hand.

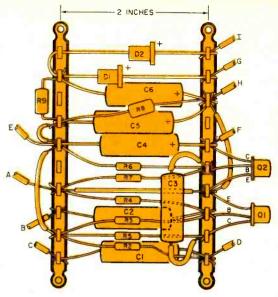
About the Circuit. The whistle command is picked up by the carbon microphone (MIC) and converted to an electrical pulse. Amplified by transistors Q1 and Q2, the pulse charges capacitor C4 (which is connected in Q2's collector circuit). Relay K1's coil, connected in parallel with capacitor C4, is then energized—and K1's contacts close, connecting the 117-volt line to the coil of latching relay K2.

With K2's coil energized, that relay's contacts switch from "off" to "on," or from "on" to "off," depending on which position they were originally in. Then, as soon as the whistle stops, capacitor C4 discharges, opening K1's contacts and denergizing K2. The contacts of K2, however, remain locked in whichever position they were switched to.

Since *K2*'s contacts control the line voltage to outlet *J1*, any device plugged into that outlet will be "whistle-controlled." One whistle will turn it on, the next will turn it off, etc.

The sensitivity of the Whistle Switch is governed by potentiometer R1, which acts as a mike gain control. Resistors R3/R4 and R6/R7 are voltage dividers, supplying bias for transistors Q1 and Q2, respectively. Coupling capacitors C1, C2, and C3 also act (in conjunction with R1, R4, and R7, respectively) as high-pass filters. The filtering action reduces the circuit's response to low-frequency noises (voices, etc.), while having no effect on the response to whistles.

Power for the Whistle Switch comes from the a.c. line via low-voltage transformer T1 and a rectifying and filtering circuit consisting of diodes D1 and D2, capacitors C5 and C6, and resistor R9. Resistor R8 is a bleeder for the power supply.



PARTS LIST

C1. C2, C3—0.1-µ1. 200-volt paper capacitor C4—2-µ1. 25-volt electrolytic capacitor C5. C6—50-µ1, 25-volt electrolytic capacitor D1. D2—SR-200 diode (Sylvania) 11—Surface-mounted duplex outlet (household type) K1—Sensitive relay; 2300-ohm, 4.6.-ma. coil (Sigma 11F-2300-G/SIL or equivalent—see lext) K2—Ratchet-impulse relay, 115-volt a.c. coil (Potter & Brumfield AP11A or equivalent—see text) MIC—Telephone-type carbon microphone cartridge—see lext Q1. Q2—2N631 transistor (Raytheon) R1—10,000-ohm, 2-watt potentiometer, linear taber

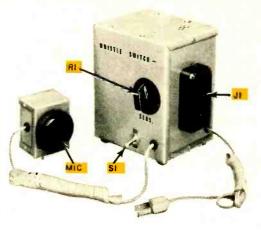
Construction. All of the components within the dotted box on the schematic diagram are mounted between two 10-lug (none grounded) terminal strips. Begin construction by temporarily screwing these two strips (parallel to each other and 2" apart) to a wooden board. Then wire the components to the strips as shown in the pictorial diagram of the assembly and in the schematic. Install a 6" lead at all points where a wire must run from the assembly to another part of the circuit. These points are lettered "A" through "I" in both the pictorial and schematic diagrams.

The completed terminal strip assembly is removed from the board and mounted under the top of a 6" x 5" x 4" aluminum

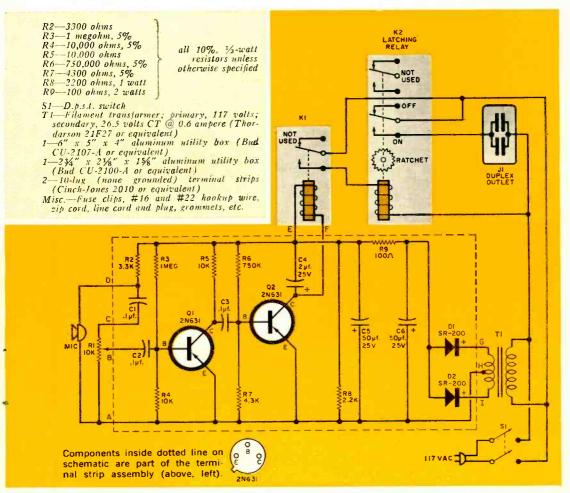
Begin construction by temporarily fastening the two terminal strips to a board. After wiring as shown at left, remove assembly from board and mount in utility box.

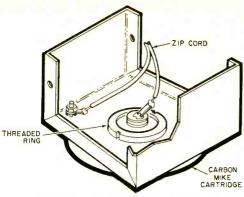
utility box (see photos). Transistors Q1 and Q2, as used in this circuit, are quite temperature-sensitive. Therefore, they are snapped into a couple of fuse clips (which act as heat sinks) fastened next to the terminal strip assembly.

Potentiometer R1, switch S1, and relay K1 are mounted on the front panel of the utility box. Since one side of the a.c. line will appear on the frame of relay K1, the latter must be insulated from ground. The author solved this problem by in-



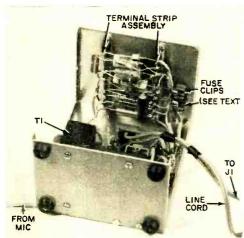
Completed Whistle Switch is shown above. Mike is in separate box to prevent pickup of relay noises.





Method of mounting mike on box will vary with type of cartridge employed. Author's installation (see text) is illustrated here.

stalling K1 on a small square of insulating material which, in turn, was fastened to the panel. If you prefer, you can use a Sigma 11F2-2300-G/SIL for K1 instead of the unit specified in the Parts List; the two relays are identical, except that the former is already mounted on an insulated base.



Mount transformer T1 and relay K2 on the bottom of the box. The transformer is located as far as possible from sensitive relay K1 so that K1 won't be affected by the transformer's magnetic field.

The relay specified for K2 in the Parts List was used primarily because the author happened to have it on hand. It has two sets of s.p.d.t. contacts. One of these was not employed in this application; the other was used as a s.p.s.t. switch. Any similar relay will work in this circuit as long as it has a 117-volt coil and at least one set of s.p.s.t. contacts.

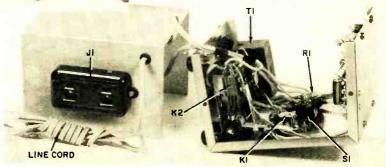
Outlet J1 is located on one of the sides of the box cover, and both its cord and the line cord enter the box through grommeted holes near the outlet. A similar hole at the bottom of the front panel accepts the cord from the microphone.

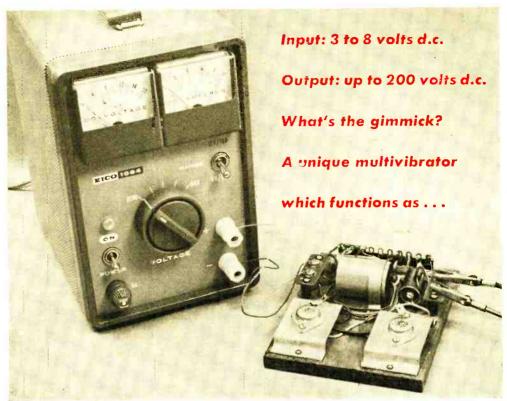
To prevent the microphone from picking up noise from relays K1 and K2, it is mounted in a separate utility box $(2\frac{3}{4}" \times 2^{1}8" \times 1^{5}8")$. A carbon mike, salvaged from a government-surplus handset, was used by the author. The threaded ring sealing the carbon chamber was removed and re-installed as a retaining ring to hold the microphone in place on the box's front panel (see drawing). If you use this method of installation, be careful not to spill any of the carbon granules while you have the ring unscrewed.

A 5' zip-cord cable is attached to the microphone and run out of the utility box through a grommeted hole. In the model shown, one lead of the mike cable was grounded to the box because the threaded retaining ring (automatically grounded) also serves as one of the mike contacts.

(Continued on page 98)

Positioning of terminal strip assembly can be seen in the photo above (note fuse clips used as heat sinks for Q1 and Q2). View at right shows wiring associated with cover.





A TRANSFORMER FOR D.C.

BY BEN RICHARDS

NE of the drawbacks of vibrator-type power supplies stems from the fact that they usually have fixed input and output voltages, which may or may not be satisfactory in emergency applications. Not so with such gadgets as the d.c.-to-d.c. inverter discussed here, however—it's no trouble at all for this little unit to deliver 135 volts of B+ from a 6-volt auto battery charger (for powering your CB rig, say), or $67\frac{1}{2}$ volts of B+ from a couple of flashlight batteries (for a portable radio).

Impossible as it may sound, this device actually "transforms" d.c. voltages. How? By changing the incoming d.c. to a.c., stepping it up in a transformer, and rectifying the output.

The circuit uses two transistors in con-

junction with a sharply saturating transformer. When power is applied, one transistor will always conduct a little more heavily than the other. Due to feedback within transformer T1, the first transistor tends to turn full "on" and the other transistor to turn full "off." This condition prevails until the transformer core saturates.

When the core saturates, the feedback voltage drops, and the field in the transformer core starts to collapse, causing the feedback voltage to change polarity and thus reverse the "on-off" condition of the transistors. This basic action keeps repeating. The a.c. generated in the collector winding is stepped up by transformer T1, then rectified in the fullwave bridge circuit (D1, D2, D3, D4);

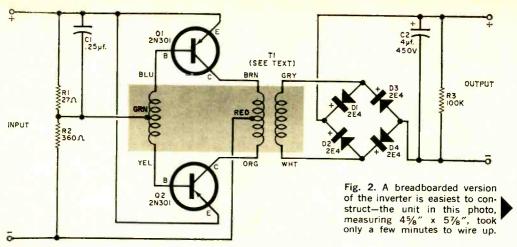


Fig. 1. Schematic diagram of inverter. See next page for circuit of optional hash filter.

PARTS LIST.....

C1—0.25-µ1., 200-volt paper capacitor
C2—4-µ1., 450-w.v.d.c. electrolytic capacitor
D1, D2, D3. D4—200-ma., 400-PlV silicon diode (International Rectifier Type 2E4 or equivalent)
Q1. Q2—2N301 transistor (RCA)
R1—27-ohm, 5%, ½-watt resistor
R2—360-ohm, 5%, ½-watt resistor
R3—100.000-ohm, 1-watt resistor
T1—Toroidal transformer (Milwaukee Electromagnetics Type PC005, available from Milwaukee Electromagnetics, P.O. Box 4476, Milwaukee, Wis., for \$4.95, postpaid)
Misc.—Terminal strips, wire, hardware, chassis, etc.

Parts for Hash Filter

C3. C4—100-µj., 15-w.v.d.c. electrolytic capacitor
C5—0.1-µj., 400-volt paper capacitor
L1—50 turns of #16 enameled wire, close-wound in two layers on ¾4"-0.D. insulated form
L2—2.5-µh., 125-ma. r.f. choke
Misc.—Shielded box. hardware, etc.

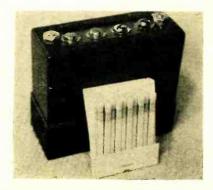
Regardless of how you assemble the inverter, be sure to mount the two transistors on separate aluminum or copper heat sinks at least 3 or 4 square inches in area. Since the cases of the transistors are connected to the collectors, mica insulators must be placed under the transistors if a metal chassis is used.

When wiring, pay particular attention to the polarity of the diodes and electrolytics as well as the color coding on transformer T1. Leads can be soldered directly to the pins of the transistors, but be sure to use a heat sink during soldering; gripping the pins with a pair of long-nose pliers close to the transistor body should do the trick.

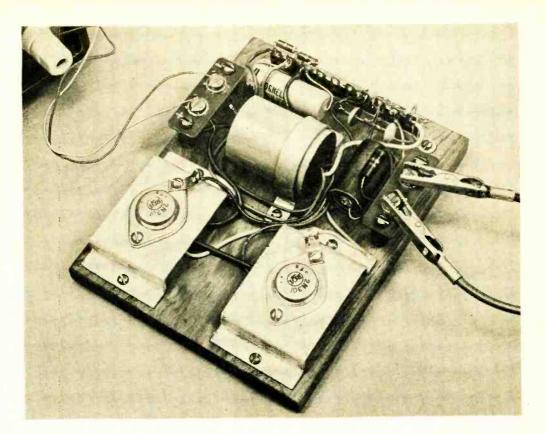
Hash Filter. If the inverter is to be used in communications circuits, the hash filter shown in Fig. 4 should be added.

capacitor C2 provides filtering, and resistor R3 acts as a bleeder.

Construction. The wiring is extremely simple and not at all critical in the "surefire" circuit shown in Fig. 1. Although Fig. 2 shows most of the connections for a "breadboard" construction, the type of mounting is pretty much up to you. For example, Fig. 3 pictures the circuit "packaged" into a unit approximately 3" x 3" x 1", with all components except the transistors "potted" in an epoxy resin.



POPULAR ELECTRONICS



In this case, both the inverter and the filter can be built in a metal box. The leads to the battery should be kept as short as is practical and should be placed well away from antennas and other "inputs."

If desired, the negative input lead can be grounded to the chassis; components C3, C4, and L1 can then be placed in the positive lead. Naturally, the polarity of both of the capacitors will have to be reversed.

Components L2 and C5 should be placed in the negative output lead and the positive output lead grounded to the chassis if a negative output voltage is desired. For a less stringent application, but one still requiring some hash filtering, C4, L2, and C5 can be omitted.

Testing and Use. Apply 3 volts to the input terminals, being careful to observe polarity (improper polarity can damage the transistors). If the output voltage (Continued on page 96)

Fig. 3. For a more professional appearance, the inverter can be housed in a wooden or metal box and suitably "potted."

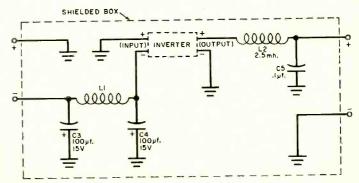
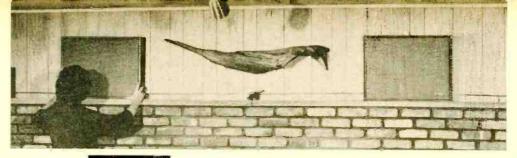


Fig. 4. This circuit shows an optional hash filter which may be required with r.f. circuits. See text for details.

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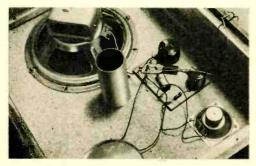


SLIM LINE SPEAKER KIT

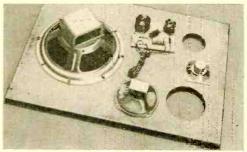
THE YOUNG LADY above has found a way to have stereo and make use of a fire-place mantle only 6" wide at the same time—her "hubby" just finished assembling a pair of KS-1 "Slim-Line" speaker kits. Selling for \$59.50, the KS-1 kit is a member of the new StrataKit line introduced by Fisher Radio Corporation (21-52 44th Drive, Long Island City, N. Y.)

Capable of producing a smooth, well-balanced sound extending from about 45 through 18,000 cycles, two KS-1 speaker kits can be put together in under two hours. Although they are sealed enclosures, the KS-1's make up a relatively high efficiency speaker system, requiring very little amplifier power output.

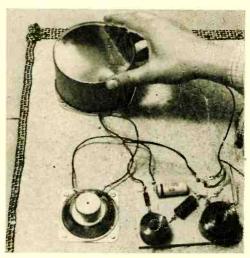
If the wife decides she doesn't like the speakers on the mantle, she can obtain special legs for the system from Fisher at \$2.50 a set.



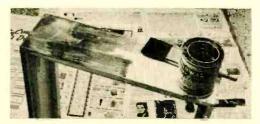
4 Cardboard tube in center is not a bass reflex port, but a means of rigidly separating the front and back boards.



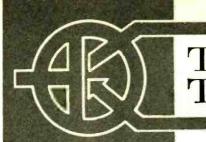
Each KS-1 "Slim-Line" kit contains 3 speakers and a prewired crossover network. The woofer arrives premounted.



2 Templates position holes for mounting tweeter and mid-range speaker. Housing prevents woofer/mid-range interference



Preassembled wood frame is stained or painted before mounting front baffle with speakers and grille cloth attached.



Transistor Topics

By LOU GARNER, Semiconductor Editor

PACK in October, 1961, we discussed the Transis-Tronics Model S-15 transistorized stereo amplifier. Since the weather was quite mild at that time, we didn't emphasize one advantage of transistorized over tube-operated hi-fi/stereo equipment—cooler operation—which is a natural result of the higher efficiency of solid-state circuitry coupled with the elimination of red-hot tube filaments and heaters.

At this season, however, with temperatures soaring into the 90's in many areas, cooler operation becomes an *important* advantage. "Music of a Summer Night" can be much more pleasant if natural summer heat isn't augmented by excessive heat from the equipment that's reproducing the music. In addition, lower operating temperatures mean longer-lived capacitors and other components.

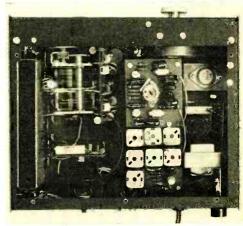
Today, a fully transistorized hi-fi/ stereo installation is practical, for the firm which introduced the Model S-15 stereo amplifier (Transis-Tronics, Inc., 1601 W. Olympic Blvd., Santa Monica, Calif.) is now producing a companion FM stereo multiplex tuner (see Fig. 1). With an audiophile net price of \$179.50, the instrument, Model FM-15MX, is the same size as the S-15, measuring approximately $3'' \times 10'' \times 8\frac{1}{2}''$. A clue to its cool operation is given by its rated power consumption of only 4 watts—less than one-tenth that of comparable tube-operated tuners!

Covering the FM broadcast band from 88 to 108 mc., the FM-15MX has a specified sensitivity of 1.8 μ v. for 20 db quieting, or 2.5 μ v. for 30 db quieting. Its i.f. bandwidth is 270 kc. at the -6 db points, while its frequency response is 20 to 20,000 cycles \pm 1 db. At 100% modulation, the tuner delivers an output of 1 volt, with the noise level down 66 db. A moderate output impedance is provided, permitting the use of shielded connecting cables up to 20 feet in length with little or no high-frequency roll-off.

A total of 20 transistors and 9 diodes is used in the complete tuner, with 8 transistors employed in the multiplex section. A built-in regulated power supply is provided, using a bridge rectifier,



Fig 1. Transis-Tronics' Model FM-15MX FM stereo tuner draws astoundingly little power from the a.c. line, thanks to its completely transistorized circuitry. A perfect match for the company's Model S-15 all-transistor stereo amplifier, the FM-15MX uses 20 transistors and 9 diodes, and features its own built-in regulated power supply.



a pair of transistors, and a zener diode. Other features include a tuned r.f. stage, automatic frequency control, interstation muting, a "local-distant" sensitivity con-

trol, and a tuning meter.

New Breadboard. Newcomers to electronics often are puzzled by the expression "breadboard." This is actually a throwback to the early days of radio, when both receivers and transmitters were assembled on wooden breadboard "chassis." Major components were held in place with wood screws, and wiring was by means of stiff, bare busbar. Today, the word "breadboard" refers to an experimental circuit assembled for test purposes, even if wired semi-permanently on a conventional metal chassis.

When "breadboarding" circuits using semiconductor devices, it's generally a good idea to try to minimize the number of times that a component must be soldered in place (excessive heat can ruin transistors and diodes). One useful technique is illustrated in Fig. 2—the use of coil spring connectors as terminal points. They are mounted as needed on a perforated board, with component connections made by simply slipping the leads between individual spring coils. No soldering is required, and parts and connections may be changed easily as often as necessary.

A basic kit for this type of circuit breadboarding has been introduced by the Sheatz Electrode Co. (6506 Ridge Dr., Washington 16, D.C.). The kit includes a 5" x 8" perforated board, 15 spring electrodes, 4 rubber feet, and a metal inserter. Individual kits sell for \$2.65, plus postage; additional kits, if ordered at the same time, are only \$1.65 each (plus postage).

Readers' Circuits. The selectivity of a tuned circuit depends primarily on the Q of the coil. An almost infinite number of L/C combinations will tune to a specific frequency, but only a limited number will have optimum Q's. Reader Don Stovicek (1190 E. 177th St., Cleveland 19, Ohio) decided to make use of optimum Q's in the design of a simple AM broadcast-band receiver.

As shown in Fig. 3, Don used a tapped coil (L1) as well as a conventional tuning capacitor (C2) in the receiver's tuned circuit. Thus, both inductance and capacitance can be adjusted when tun-

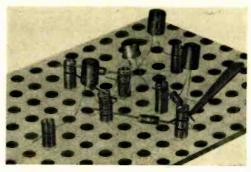


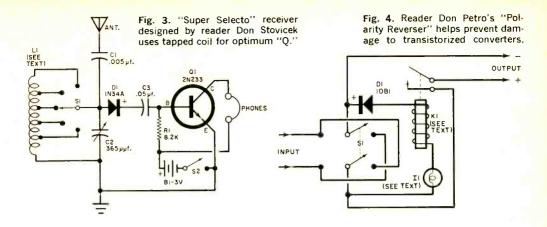
Fig. 2. Looking for an easy way to "breadboard" your semiconductor circuits? This is a typical circuit assembled from a Sheatz Electrode Co. kit.

ing to different stations, permitting the optimum Q to be obtained. Emphasizing this feature, Don dubbed his set the "Super Selecto."

In operation, r.f. signals picked up by the antenna are coupled through C1 to tuned circuit L1/C2, where the desired station is selected. The selected signal is detected by diode D1 and coupled through C3 to a common-emitter audio amplifier, Q1; transistor base bias is furnished through R1. After amplification by Q1, the audio signal drives the headphones used as Q1's collector load. Operating power is furnished by a 3-volt battery, B1, controlled by S2.

Except for the coil, all components are standard and readily available through regular parts suppliers. Capacitors C1 and C3 can be disc, ceramic, or tubular types; R1 is a 1/2-watt resistor; and C2 a familiar 365-µµf. tuning capacitor. Diode D1 is a 1N34 or 1N34A, and Q1 a 2N233 npn transistor. Switch S1 is a 5pole rotary switch, and S2 a s.p.s.t toggle or slide switch. Battery B1 is a 3-volt unit made up by connecting two penlight or flashlight cells in series. The coil, L1. consists of 175 turns of #28 enameled wire, close-wound on a 3/4" form, with taps at 50, 100, 125, and 150 turns. Standard, 2000-ohm headphones should be used.

The "Super Selecto" receiver can be assembled on a small plastic or metal chassis, depending on individual preferences. Neither layout nor lead dress should be critical, but care should be taken not to overheat the diode or transistor leads when these components are soldered in place.



In use, a short to moderately long antenna will be required, depending on the number of stations in your area and how much of a DX'er you are. Both S1 and C2 should be adjusted when tuning individual stations to obtain optimum sensitivity and selectivity.

Recognizing the increased popularity of transistorized power converters and the problems encountered when they are installed in different boats, automobiles, and other vehicles, reader Don Petro (Alder Flats, Alberta, Canada) developed the "Polarity Reverser" circuit illustrated in Fig. 4. Placed between a transistorized converter and the d.c. power source, the unit permits the d.c. polarity to be reversed easily. In addition, it protects the converter against possible damage which may be caused by the accidental application of improper d.c. polarity.

Standard parts are used throughout. Switch SI is a 15-amp. d.p.d.t. toggle switch with a center "off" position, DI is an International Rectifier Type 10B1 silicon diode, KI a Potter and Brumfield Type SP11 relay, and II a standard pilot lamp; the particular type of pilot lamp as well as the specific relay you use should be chosen on the basis of the d.c. source voltage.

The unit itself is assembled in a small Minibox and fitted with suitable input and output connectors, such as binding posts or heavy-duty screw terminals. Both sets of relay contacts are connected in parallel.

In use, the "output" terminals are connected to the power converter with indicated polarity and the "input" terminals to the power source. Switch S1 is switched first one way, then the other, until the pilot lamp lights, indicating that proper d.c. polarity has been obtained. The connecting leads should be of adequate size to handle the currents encountered with minimum voltage drop, of course.

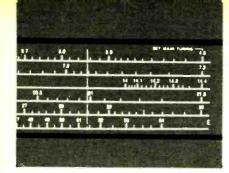
Product News. MED Electronics, Inc. (1200 First St., Alexandria, Va.) has just introduced a transistorized personal small arms detector. Worn by a detective or industrial security officer, it permits a suspect to be "frisked" without actual body contact and without his knowledge.

A new line of low-cost photoconductor devices has been introduced by Sylvania Electric Products, Inc. (730 Third Ave., New York 17, N. Y.). They consist of a cadmium sulphide cell on which "combshaped" electrodes have been deposited, and their spectral response closely approximates that of the human eye. These devices can be used in burglar alarms, industrial controls, garage-door openers, doorway annunciators, photographic equipment, etc.

Motorola, Inc. (5005 E. McDowell Rd., Phoenix, Ariz.) is now producing a series of eight germanium power transistors with junction temperature ratings of 110°C and maximum power dissipation ratings of 170 watts. Type numbers are 2N2075 through 2N2082, and specifications are available from the factory on request.

That about covers the semiconductor front for now. We'll be back next month with more info . . .

--Lou



Across the Ham Bands

By HERB S. BRIER, W9EGQ Amateur Radio Editor

SWL "SOUVENIR HUNTERS" AND QSL CARDS

W E hams all know the thrill of receiving a QSL card from a new state or country. It adds to our "Worked All States" or "DX Century Club" collections and serves as a memento of a pleasant radio chat. Short-wave listeners are equally happy to receive QSL cards in reply to their reception reports. Most of them, however, are not too satisfied with the low percentage of replies they get from hams.

To remedy the deficiency, a few socalled SWL's have revived an old trick. Their gimmick is to write to the hams whose names and call letters appear in our "News and Views" section—especially the "rare" ones—with the story: "I'm new at the SWL game. Please send me one of your QSL cards."

There is nothing particularly wrong with such requests from real beginners, if they are accompanied by return postage (most of them are not), and if the hams involved are willing to give away their QSL cards as souvenirs. But some of these "SWL" characters are real "sharpies." They aren't satisfied with a mere souvenir; they want a full-fledged confirmation, based upon their claim of having heard the ham's station "often" or at some indefinite time.

One Novice recently featured in "News and Views" received two fraudulent reports—one for 80 meters, and the other for 15 meters—from the same fellow. When the Novice demanded specific data on the alleged reception of his signals, he received a word-for-word copy of the item that had appeared in the "News and Views" section!

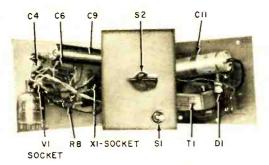
Probably the best thing a ham can do with such a report is to write across it: "Sorry, this report does not agree with my station log," and return it to the

····Novice Station of the Month······

Ronnie Blackwell, WN5AQG, Amarillo, Texas, sent in this prize-winning photo of himself and his rig. WN5AQG transmits CW on 80 meters with a Heathkit DX-40 and receives on a Hammarlund HQ-100; he also has a Heathkit Two-er transceiver. His 80-meter antenna is a half-wave dipole, and he feeds either a 10-element beam or a ground-plane vertical on "2." Ronnie will be awarded a one-year free subscription to P.E. for his photo. If you would

like to try for a similar award, send us a picture of your station—preferably showing you at the controls, and be sure to include with your entry some information about yourself, your equipment and your activities. You may be one of the lucky winners. Non-prize-winning photos will also be published as space permits. Entries should be sent to Herb S. Brier, Amateur Radio Editor, POPULAR ELECTRONICS, P.O. Box 678, Gary, Indiana.





Most of the circuitry in the compactron frequency calibrator is mounted on the two covers of an aluminum utility box. The 6D10 compactron (VI) has been removed from its socket and placed in lower corner of cover shown at far left.

sender (if he furnished return postage). Don't yell "Fraud!" unless it positively is one. An incorrect report could be the result of an error in copying a call letter.

SWL/QSL Bureau. Here's a more pleasant item for SWL's who like to earn the cards in their collections. Many SWL's (especially those with WPE numbers assigned to them by POPULAR ELECTRONICS—see page 82), who have sent reports to hams outside the United States, may have a foreign confirmation or two waiting for them at the SWL/QSL Bureau. This bureau is manned by LeRoy Waite, WPE2AK, 39 Hannum St., Ballston Spa, N. Y.

A retired mail carrier, Roy started the SWL/QSL Bureau when he heard that the American Radio Relay League was receiving many foreign QSL cards for U.S. and Canadian SWL's. The ARRL QSL Bureaus could not handle these cards, and they were being returned to their senders. As Roy's service becomes better known, he is gradually distributing more and more QSL cards from overseas hams to North American SWL's.

If you are an SWL and would like to receive any cards which may have come in for you, send Roy a business size (Post Office #8), stamped envelope, addressed to yourself, along with your request. Include your WPE identification, if you have one. If there are no cards for you at the bureau at the present time, Roy will keep your envelope on file and send you any that might arrive there in the future. But remember: no stamped envelope, no cards.

We would like to stress the fact that Roy does not handle outgoing SWL cards to overseas hams. Also, incoming cards from overseas SWL's to United States and Canadian hams are still being handled by the ARRL QSL Bureaus.

Missing DX Cards. While we're on the subject of bureaus, if you're a ham who has worked a DX station and not received a QSL, the chances are better than even that the missing card is waiting for you at the ARRL QSL Bureau for your call area. In the K9/WA9/W9 bureau alone, there are over 7000 unclaimed DX cards on file addressed to hams—hundreds of them for Novices.

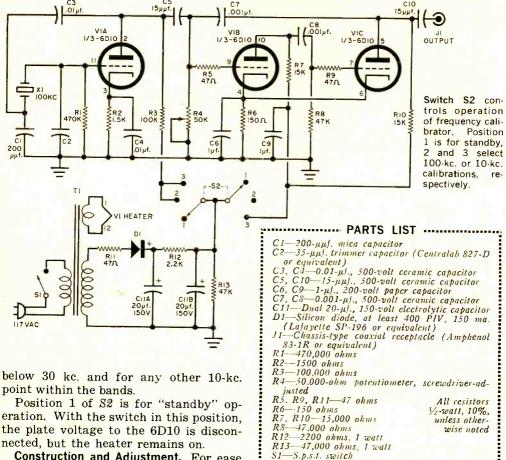
To pick up your DX cards from the bureau, print your call letters in the upper left-hand corner of a large envelope, address it to yourself, insert the envelope in another one, and send it to your call area QSL manager. His address is printed in most issues of QST and at the head of each U. S. and Canadian call area listing in the "Radio Amateur's Call Book Magazine."

COMPACTRON FREQUENCY CALIBRATOR

This crystal-controlled frequency calibrator is designed around one of the General Electric "compactron" tubes. The type used here, a 6D10, is equivalent to three 12AT7 triode units in a single envelope.

About the Circuit. In position 2 of switch S2, the calibrator produces marker signals, accurate within cycles, every 100 kc. across your receiver dial. The signals extend up to approximately 30 mc., thereby marking most amateur band edges and every 100 kc. within the bands.

In position 3 of S2, a multivibrator circuit modulates the basic 100-kc. signal to produce additional signals every 10 kc. across the receiver dial. This provides markers for the remaining band edges



Construction and Adjustment. For ease of construction, the calibrator circuitry is built on the top cover of a 3" x 4" x 5" aluminum utility box (Bud AU-1028 or equivalent), and the power supply on the bottom cover. Switches S1 and S2 are mounted on the front of the box itself; the output connector (J1) is installed on the rear. Be sure to make the leads interconnecting the components on the covers with those on the box long enough to permit wiring all connections

With the construction completed, connect output jack J1 to the antenna terminal of your receiver using a length of coaxial cable. Then tune the receiver to Station WWV on 2.5, 5, 10, or 15 mc., shut off the receiver BFO, and turn switch S2 to position 2. Capacitor C2 is now carefully adjusted for a "zero beat" (no whistle or growl from the speaker) between the calibrator signal and that of WWV. This must be done

before closing up the box.

during a period when WWV itself is not broadcasting a tone.

T1—Power transformer; primary, 117 volts; secondaries. 125 volts @ 15 ma., 6.3 volts @

0.6 ampere (Stancor PS-8415 or equivalent) V1-6D10 compactron (General Electric)

X1-100-kc. crystal (Bliley Type KV3 or equiv-

1-4" x 5" x 3" aluminum utility box (Bud AU-

1028 or equivalent)
Misc.—Sockets for V1 and X1, terminal stribs.

\$2-2-pole. 3-position rotary switch

alent)

solder lugs, wire, etc.

Next, locate two adjacent signals from the calibrator on the receiver dial, and turn switch \$2\$ to position 3. Finally, adjust resistor \$R4\$ until you hear exactly nine steady signals between the 100-kc. points you have just located on the dial. Care must be used in making this adjustment, or you may set the multivibrator to 12.5 kc.—or some other submultiple of 100 kc.—instead of to the desired 10 kc. (Continued on page 103)

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On the Citizens Band

with DICK STRIPPEL, 2W1452, CB Editor

COMMUNITY service, without a doubt, is one of the most valuable functions an organized group of CB'ers can perform. The Citizens Band lends itself to this function because of the simplicity of CB equipment and its ease of operation, plus the fact that anyone authorized by a licensee can operate a CB transmitter. We're quite happy to note that many of the CB clubs we've heard from during the past year are dedicated to providing emergency communications for local authorities.

A fine example of a community service group is the Winnebago County (Iowa) Emergency CB Net. Organized by Frank W. Arnold, 17W2153 (346 West G St., Forest City, Iowa), the net boasts 24 base station units (two operated on a 24-hour basis), 31 mobile units, and 8 hand-held portable units.

Since Frank has been active in the local fire department and American Red Cross for a number of years, it's only logical that the net works closely with these two organizations. In addition to the CB units in Winnebago County, the net maintains contact with five nearby counties in Iowa and two across the Minnesota state line.

Channel 2 is strictly an emergency channel in the area; police, fire, and ambulance units continually monitor this channel. At the other end of the spectrum, channel 22 is used for general net communications. When the net is activated, Frank, as net controller, monitors both channels 2 and 22, plus the local 75- and 10-meter ham emergency nets.

Our hats are off to the Winnebago County Emergency CB Net, and its net controller, for a top-notch job of organization.

Want a Rule Changed? Recently, we stated in this column that writing one's congressman to try to have some CB rules changed was like asking a local

politician to fix a traffic ticket. As a result, our mail was quite heavy with letters of protest. It might be a good idea to clarify this point.

While the U. S. Congress indeed makes laws, it had nothing at all to do with setting up the Citizens Band. Many years ago, Congress enacted the necessary statutes which empowered the Federal Communications Commission to administer all radio transmitting activity in the United States. As we have said before, it was the FCC that gave us our band, and it will be the FCC that will take it away if abuses warrant it.

If you feel that certain CB rules need changing, there is a very slim chance that your congressman will even try to do anything for you. The FCC is under the executive branch of the government, while Congress is the legislative branch. Chances are that your congressman will just acknowledge your letter and possibly inform you of the proper way to submit your ideas to the FCC.

Contrary to some opinions, the FCC is



Frank W. Arnold, 17W2153, net controller and organizer of the Winnebago County (lowa) Emergency CB Net, is shown holding one of the net's eight portable CB units. Frank's equipment includes three CB rigs, an FM monitor, and a ham-band receiver for the 75- and 10-meter emergency nets.

not a monstrous, impersonal, governmental bureau. It has, in the past, changed rules pertaining to various radio services. These changes have made some rules more lenient and some rules tougher. One of the main criteria the FCC employs is that the changes must be in the best interests of the majority of all users of the various radio services.

Each licensee should have a general knowledge of the procedures involved, and easy access to the regulations pertaining to an FCC petition. Obviously, since the majority must profit by any change, the FCC will only consider petitions which are drawn up in a logical and legal manner.

In this nation of ours, the government is for, by, and of the people, and we certainly want to keep it that way. But if we feel that we should change some of the rules, let's go about it in the proper way. If our suggestions carry enough weight, we can definitely expect them to be heard.

Jamborees. With the warm summer weather encouraging out-of-door activities, many CB organizations are planning appropriate get-togethers.

One of the biggest on the docket for this month is the Mobile Civil Emergency Unit National Jamboree at the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse, N. Y., on July 6, 7, and 8. There will be lots of equipment on hand to examine, as well as plenty of fun, amusement, prizes, good food, and—best of all—good companionship.

The MCEU is the only truly national CB club. If you're interested in joining it, or attending its jamboree, get in touch right away with Chuck Satterlee, National Secretary, MCEU, 1203 Butternut St., Syracuse 8, N. Y.

Base Station Transceiver. As this is being written, we're giving the new Tram Electronics TR-27 transceiver a real workout. This unit is quite large—almost 16" long and about 8" high. It's specifically designed for base station use.

Employing a 5763 transmitting-type tube as its final amplifier, the TR-27 puts out a healthy 3.5 watts into our lab-quality output meter, something we've seen only a few other units do. On "Receive," dial calibration is excellent, selectivity more than adequate, and the unit's ability to stay set to a tunable channel is superb. Its extreme sensitivity is due in large part to the use of three dual triodes as r.f. amplifier, first and second mixers, and local oscillators. The oscillators, incidentally, are voltage-regulated.

Operating is a snap with the "touch-totalk" Turner microphone supplied with the TR-27 and a completely adjustable noise limiter which really knocks out the stubborn ignition interference our location is plagued with. Six crystalcontrolled receive and transmit channels

(Continued on page 101)

CB Sam was careful

CB Sam was careful
not to imitate the gang.
They didn't know procedure
nor did they give a hang.
He'd always mark the frequency
and check if it was clear
Before he'd switch to transmit,
so he wouldn't interfere.

Sam kept his station orderly,
and spoke with poise and ease.
He frowned on working "DX,"
and refused to shoot the breeze.
But do not be deceived
by his "Net Control" type drawl:
This blemish-free CB'er
sends with a bootlegged call.

by David Moore



Hobnobbing with Harbaugh

I Was Just Looking!

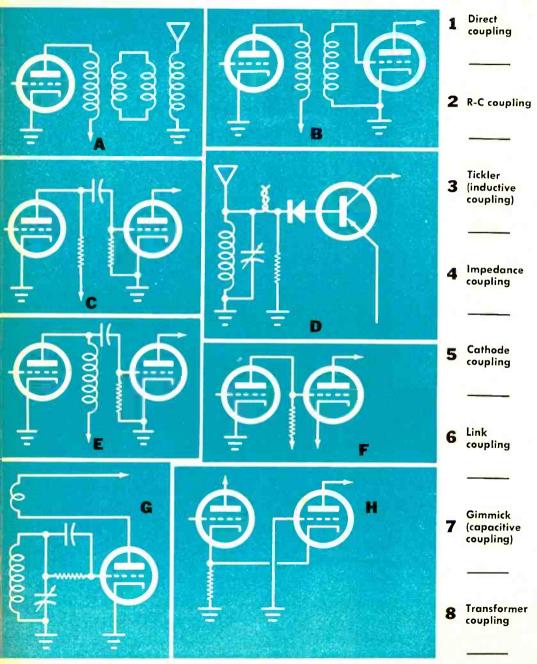


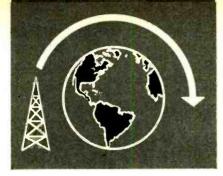


July, 1962

ELECTRONIC If you know your coupling circuits and terminology, you should be able COUPLING QUIZ By ROBERT P. BALIN

and terminology, you should be able to match the types of coupling listed numerically on the right with diagrams A through H below. Place your answers in the spaces provided, then turn to page 102 and find out how right (or how wrong!) you are.





Monthly Short-Wave Report

By HANK BENNETT, W2PNA/WPE2FT Short-Wave Editor

POP'TRONICS "MAILBAG"

OUR recent columns featuring typical questions from readers on the various phases of short-wave listening (July and November 1961 issues) have been so well received that we plan to continue to use a question-and-answer format occasionally. While it's true that most of our readers are already well versed in the SWL hobby, there are also many newcomers every month. And our purpose is to serve the beginner as well as the veteran DX'er. Accordingly, here are a few more of the questions most frequently pulled out of the POP'tronics "Mailbag."

- Q: Why don't you list schedules of stations within the continental United States in Short-Wave Report?
- A: We feel that listings of the more distant stations make better use of the

- space available to us each month. A very large percentage of our readers are in the United States, and virtually everyone can hear our own stateside stations with little or no trouble.
- Q: During periods of the year when Daylight Saving Time is observed in many areas, how should we show the times in our reports?
- A: This column is based on Eastern Standard Time. Your reports, for the sake of convenience in the preparation of this column, should always be made in EST.
- Q: Is it permissible to send reports to Iron Curtain countries?
- A: There's no law against sending reports to stations behind the Iron Curtain,

ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWSCASTS TO NORTH AMERICA

All of the stations listed here specifically beam transmissions to the USA that contain newscasts. The times of the newscasts may vary within the periods indicated; those which are broadcast fairly regularly at specific times are shown in parentheses.

COUNTRY	STATION	FREQUENCY (kc.)	TIMES (EST)
Belgium	Brussels	9705	0000
East Congo	Leopoldville	11,755	1700-1715 (1700)
England	London	15,420, 17,810	1130-1245 (1200)
Finland	Helsinki	15,190	0630
Italy	Rome	11,905, 9575	1930-1950, 2205-2225 (1930, 2 <mark>205</mark>)
Netherlands	Hilversum	11,730, 9590	1625-1720 (1630)
Portugal	Lisbon	6025, 6185	2100-2130, 2300-2330
Spain	Madrid	9360	2215-2300, 2315-0000, 0015-0100
Sweden	Stockholm	11,805	2215-2245
Switzerland	Berne	11,865, 9535, 6165	2030-2215, 2315-0000 (2030, 2215)
Turkey	Ankara .	9515	1815
USSR	Moscow	Numerous	2000-0100
West Germany	Cologne	9640, 9575, 6100	1900-2200, 2200-0100
,	B	6100, 9705	1715-1845
		6145, 9735	0000-0130
Yugoslavia	Belgrade	6100	1700-1715 (1700)



The listening post of Jon Louis Lenard, WPE9CSB, of Des Plaines, III., contains a Heath AR-3 receiver, and a Knight Span Master for standby use. Jon's antenna system consists of five dipoles. He has 37 countries logged, 29 verified.

nor is there any penalty for receiving verifications from them. However, you should watch out for possible propaganda which may follow in the mail; if it reaches you, it can be refused and returned to your local postmaster.

Q: Why do you give publicity to stations that place propaganda above entertainment?

- A: Normally we give little or no room to stations in that category. But frequency and/or schedule changes are newsworthy items, and we try to treat them accordingly.
- Q: Do all Russian stations verify?
- A: According to a recent letter from Radio Moscow, it is the only Russian station that verifies. However, we know definitely that R. Tashkent has verified many reports. And R. Kiev just recently sent a verie to a reader in New York City, stating that reports are welcome but that the R. Kiev programs are intended mainly for Ukrainians living outside of the Soviet Ukraine.
- Q: Why don't you list the receivers used by your many reporters? This might enable some of us to realize quickly whether or not we stand a chance of hearing any of those rare stations.
- A: We are considering doing so, but this could result in fewer listings. You fellows with the lower priced receivers

(Continued on page 104)

SHORT-WAVE MONITOR CERTIFICATE APPLICATION

To become a Short-Wave Monitor registered with POPULAR ELECTRONICS, just follow these simple directions:

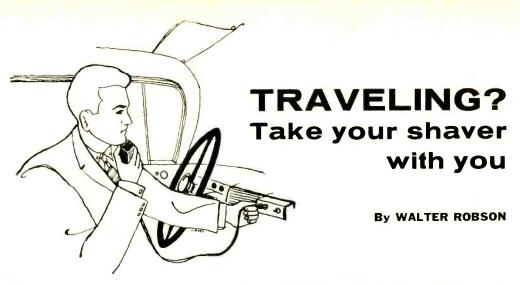
- 1 Fill out the form below. (You must be a short-wave listener presently active in the hobby to be eligible for a Short-Wave Certificate.)
- 2 Send us 10 cents in coin to cover the cost of the certificate as well as the handling and registration

costs. If you live outside the United States and cannot obtain U.S. coins, send either 15 cents in Canadian currency or two International Reply Coupons (IRC's).

3 Insert the application form, coins (or IRC's) and a stamped, self-addressed envelope in another envelope and mail it to:

Monitor Registration, POPULAR ELECTRONICS One Park Avenue, New York 16, N. Y.

(Please	e Print)		Ham Call-Area Prefix
Address		City	Zone Sfate
Receivers	Make		odel
	Moke	Mo	odel
Principal SW Bands Monitor	red		umber of QSL urds Received
Type of Anten	no Used		
Signature		Da	ite



F you're like most men who do a lot of traveling, you'd probably find it very convenient to be able to shave in your car from time to time. Nowadays, of course, this is fairly easy to arrangeif you want to spend the money. Electric shavers that plug into the cigarette lighter are available, as are converters to change the six or twelve volts from a car battery to the 117 volts necessary to operate a standard shaver.

But if your car is equipped with a tube-type radio, you probably already own a converter that will supply more than enough voltage to run your home shaver! You guessed it-it's the receiver's B-plus supply. All you have to do is tap it and drop the voltage to the correct value. Interested? Then read on.

Preparing the Receiver. First make sure that your set has a high-voltage "B" supply. Models which are transistorized, and some models using tubes, employ low-voltage supplies and are not suitable. The easiest way to check is to turn on the set and listen for the telltale hum of a vibrator. If you hear it, you've got a high-voltage supply.

Now remove the radio from the car and locate the rectifier tube. This is usually an 0Z4 "cold-cathode" type as shown in the schematic diagram, but you might also encounter heater-type tubes such as the 6X4. Having located the tube, unsolder and remove the lead (or leads) from its cathode terminal (pin 8 if it's an 0Z4, pin 7 if it's a 6X4). Install a 3-lug terminal strip (TS1) at

Wiring of shaver outlet box and connections between box and receiver are shown in diagram. Shaded areas indicate existing wiring in receiver power supply.

sistor S1-S.p.d.t. toggle switch SO1-Chassis-type a.c. socket (Amphenol 61-F1 or equivalent) TO PLATES TS1, TS2—3-lng terminal strip 1—2¾" x 2½" x 1½" aluminum utility box (Bud CU-3000-A or equivalent) & SCREENS RRFAK FROM Misc .- 3-conductor color-coded cable, grommets, VIBRATOR hardware, etc. TRANSFORMER CONDUCTOR CABLE RADIO RAZOR RECEIVER POWER SUPPLY OUTLET BOX

PARTS LIST

R1-1000-ohm, 10-watt, adjustable power re-

83

some convenient spot near the rectifier tube. The lead (or leads) just disconnected are wired to one lug, the second lug is connected to the rectifier's cathode pin, and the third is grounded. Do not solder any of the connections at this time.

Constructing an Outlet Box. The shaver outlet (SO1), together with a s.p.d.t. switch for transferring high voltage from the receiver to the outlet and viceversa, is housed in a small aluminum utility box. Also located in the box are voltage-dropping resistor R1 and 3-lug terminal strip TS2.

Mount these components and wire them according to the schematic. Then run one end of a short length of color-coded three-wire cable into the box through a grommet and connect it to TS2 as shown. Don't replace the box cover when wiring is complete; resistor R1 will have to be adjusted later.

Installation and Adjustment. Run the other end of the three-wire cable into the receiver through a convenient opening and wire it to TS1. If no opening exists, drill an appropriate hole and line it with a grommet.

The receiver, with the attached outlet box, is now placed in the car. Don't install the set in the dashboard until final checks are made, but temporarily connect the battery, antenna, and speaker wires. With switch S1 in the "Radio" position, turn on the receiver; it should operate normally.

With the receiver in operation, set the slider on R1 for maximum resistance, connect a d.c. voltmeter across SO1, and plug in your shaver. Caution: although no voltage appears across R1 or SO1 with switch S1 in the "Radio" position, be careful! You can still get a shock from the wiring associated with S1 or TS2.

Snap S1 to the "Razor" position, transferring the B-plus voltage to S01. If the voltage across S01 is less than 117, set S1 at "Radio" again and move R1's slider to a lower resistance position. Return S1 to "Razor" and once again read the voltage across S01. If it's still less than 117 volts, repeat the above procedure. Once you've adjusted the slider for a full 117 volts, the razor should operate—at its normal speed—whenever S1 is set at "Razor."

If all is well, replace the receiver in the dashboard and install the cover on the outlet box. Then mount the box in some convenient spot under the dash, and you'll have shaving power whenever you want it.

Third Eye for Space Explorers

The first astronaut to land on the moon may need an eye in the back of his head, and a new "Electrocular" headset (right) perfected by Hughes Aircraft may well provide it. The headset contains a miniature cathode-ray tube (A) to receive, say, a closed-circuit TV picture, as well as an internal mirror (B) to "bend" the image toward the viewing eyepiece (C). A microphone (D) for voice communications is optional. Since the monocle-type eye-

piece is a transparent mirror, the wearer can look through the image, when necessary, to concentrate on what is actually in





front of him. The apparent size of the image (up to eight feet in diameter) varies according to where he focuses his eyes. Many other applications are anticipated for the new device—it's being used by the pilot at left, for example, to receive pictured information from the control tower on air traffic and ground conditions.

The RIVER SNIFFER

JOHN T. FRYE

a Carl and Jerry Adventure

THIS IS the life," Carl sighed contentedly; "no lessons, no exams, no ROTC drills, no nothin'!" He and his friend, Jerry, were sprawled on their backs on the river bank staring upward through the sycamore leaves at a buzzard sail-planing in the cloudless summer sky above. Down at the edge of the water, two fishing rods rested in a couple of forked sticks.

Before Jerry could answer, a slight splashing from the river attracted his attention. Raising himself on one elbow so that he could get a better look, he exclaimed, "Hey, Carl, look at those fish on top

of the water!"

Two large bass were threshing about on the surface, obviously in their dying throes. Even as the boys watched, the splendid fish turned belly-up and floated quietly downstream; and, looking more closely, Carl and Jerry saw that the two were accompanied by other dead and dying fish of various sizes.

The throbbing of an outboard motor was heard downriver, and an aluminum boat carrying a young man dressed in a game warden's uniform came in sight around a bend in the stream. When he saw the boys, he ran the bow of the boat up on the bank, cut the motor,

and stepped out.

"That's a mighty sorry sight," he remarked, motioning toward the floating fish. "I'd certainly like to catch whoever keeps dumping that fish-killing stuff into the river."

"You mean it has happened before?" Carl queried.

"About once a week all spring, but not always on the same day or night. When someone calls in and reports dead fish, I get right on it; but I never know how far the fish float after dying. How-



ever, this is the farthest upstream I've found them, and some of those fish are still wiggling. This time, at least, the stuff must have entered the river from this bank and not too far upstream; but I've covered every foot of the river for five miles in either direction without finding a single likely source of pollution. If only I had some way of knowing just as soon as the stuff hit the river—even before the fish began to die—I'd stand a chance of tracing it. At least I could collect a strong enough sample for accurate analysis before the polluting substance was too greatly diluted."

Jerry was looking very interested. "You mean you need some kind of a robot to sample the river water continuously and give some sort of alarm when an unusual amount of destructive chemical floats past it?"

"Exactly, but I guess there's no such

gadget."

"Don't make book on it. I have an idea: if you'll take that glass jug lying in the weeds across to the other side of the river and fill it, my friend here and I will try to build such a robot for you. Electronics is our field. I can't promise anything, but you can give us your telephone number and we'll call you if we come up with something."

"Okay, what have I got to lose? But what do you want with the water?"

"We'll need a sample of normal, unpolluted river water to work with."

WHILE Bill Herber, the game warden, was collecting the water, Carl and Jerry reeled in their lines. A half hour later they were entering the coolness of their basement laboratory at Jerry's home, and Jerry went straight to a stack of papers resting on a shelf. He sorted through them until he found what he sought.

"Ah, here it is," he said. "I was sure I had saved the description of the River Robot Monitor that Mr. Edward J. Cleary, Executive Director of ORSANCO,

sent me.''

"Bully for you; so what is it?"

"It's a unit of a system of continuous automatic electronic river pollution monitors used by the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission to keep a continuous check on the Ohio River water. Eleven of these unattended robot devices are strung along the river. They constantly test the water for seven different variables: dissolved chloride, hydrogen ion, specific conductance, oxidation-reduction potential, temperature, and solar radiation. The various sensors feed their information into a telemeter transmitter at each location, and all the transmitters are connected by telephone wires to a telemeter receiver in Cincinnati. At regular intervals this receiver calls each monitor for a report. Signals received actuate a transcriber which automatically types the information on tabulation sheets for diagnosis of river conditions."

"So that's why you told Mr. Herber not to bet there wasn't a river robot monitor! We're not going to try to build

one of these robots, are we?"

"Hardly. They're quite complicated and cost a lot of money. But I'm hoping we can build a simple gadget based on a single sensing unit that will serve our purpose."

"How about the hydrogen ion measuring part? If I remember my chemistry, that's an indication of the acidity of a

solution."

"Either the acidity or alkalinity of the solution," Jerry corrected. "If you recall, the potential hydrogen ion concentration, or pH factor, is measured on a 0-14 scale, with 7 being the number associated with 'pure water.' Numbers going downward from 7 indicate increasingly acid solutions. Readings going upward from 7 indicate increasingly strong base solutions. Since the number is actually the negative logarithm of the hydrogen ion concentration, each pH unit represents a tenfold change in solution strength. Compared to a pH 5 solution, a pH 4 solution is ten times more acid, and a pH 3 solution is a hundred times more acid.

"One way to measure the pH of a solution," he continued, "is to add special organic indicators and observe the color change that results. A better method, in many respects, is to employ an electrometric device that translates the pH of the solution into a reading on a meter whose scale is marked off in pH units. That's the kind of pH indicator our chemistry prof at Parvoo University used in his lectures last year."

"Fine. All we have to do is build a pH meter and let the meter-deflecting

current also operate a sensitive relay that will sound an alarm."

"It's not that easy," Jerry demurred. "Until I read this pamphlet called 'The Development of pH Instrumentation' by A. O. Beckman of Beckman Instruments, Fullerton, California, I had a hazy notion a pH meter was a relatively simple gadget that employed either a current conducted through the solution or a voltage produced by galvanic action on electrodes immersed in the solution to deflect a meter. Actually the latter principle is the one employed, but both the electrode used and the indicating meter are very special types.

"Oxidizing of ordinary metallic electrodes immersed directly in the solution prohibits their use; so a special 'glass electrode' is employed. Picture an electrode surrounded by a low-resistance, non-oxidizing solution in a test tube that's immersed in a solution being tested. The test tube wall keeps the solution being tested from oxidizing the electrode, but a voltage appears across this glass membrane which is proportional to the difference in hydrogen ion concentration of the solution on either side. As you can guess, this glass electrode is an extremely high resistance device, and special

means are necessary to measure the voltage developed. In practice, a not-too-simple feedback amplifier translates this voltage into meter-deflecting current."

"Say no more; we'll not try to build a pH meter. Got any other ideas?"

"Yes. We know that the presence of acid greatly influences the conductivity of a solution. What say we build a simple bridge circuit in which two legs are fixed resistors, a third leg is the resistance appearing between two electrodes immersed in the river, and the fourth leg is a variable bridge-balancing resistor in series with a special temperature-sensitive resistor also in the water? We can drive the bridge with a few volts of a.c. produced by a simple transistorized chopper."

"Why the temperature-sensitive resistor and why the a.c.?" Carl wanted to know.

"D.c. would quickly polarize our electrodes and render them useless," Jerry replied. "Also, conductivity changes considerably with temperature, and we want our device to respond only to chemical change; so we must compensate the bridge for the effect of temperature change in the river water. A little battery-powered transistorized amplifier will



July, 1962

magnify any a.c. voltage resulting from bridge unbalance.

"This amplified output can be rectified with a diode," Jerry went on, "and used to drive a meter and a sensitive relay connected in series. An increase or decrease in the conductivity of the water flowing past the electrodes will unbalance the bridge and cause the relay contacts to close and the meter to read upscale. Closing of the contacts can sound an alarm."

"Sounds good; let's try it," Carl said, rubbing his hands impatiently.

LIKE most electronic devices, the "river sniffer," as the boys dubbed their brain child, was not nearly so easy to put into practice as it sounded in theory. They spent three full days building a really stable transistorized amplifier, finding the proper thermistor to keep the bridge balanced during a 20° temperature change in their jug of river water, and adjusting the sensitivity of the relay so that it remained open with the electrodes in a weak salt solution but closed when the solution was weakened with more water or strengthened with a little more salt. Finally, though, they were partially satisfied with the operation of their invention—a good technician is rarely completely satisfied—and they called Mr. Herber.

He drove them to a farmhouse where he kept his boat, about a quarter of a mile upstream from where they had met him. The river sniffer, housed in a weatherproof box, was installed on the river bank; and the sensing electrodes were placed well out in the current. Jerry carefully balanced the bridge with the aid of the indicating meter.

A bell was installed in the farmer's house and connected with a bell transformer and the contacts of the sniffer's relay so that the closing of the contacts would ring the bell. Then, after extracting a promise from the farmer to call Mr. Herber immediately if the bell rang, they left the robot to its sentry duty.

It was shortly after midnight that same night when Jerry's telephone rang.

"Hi," said the voice of Mr. Herber, "the farmer says that gadget of yours is ringing the bell off his wall. Want to go along and see what's up?"

"Sure," Jerry answered. "I'll get Carl,

and we'll be out front waiting for you."

It did not take long to reach the farm. The farmer, clad in his nightshirt, was sitting in his kitchen malevolently eying the clanging bell on the wall. Jerry disconnected it; the farmer went back to



bed; and the boys and the game warden walked down to the river sniffer.

"Wow!" Jerry exclaimed as he lifted the lid and glanced at the meter reading with the aid of his flashlight. "Something is really boosting the conductance. What say we take the sniffer with us in your boat and see if we can't run down the source of the pollution?"

IN A FEW MINUTES they were heading upstream. Jerry was in the bow with his sniffer; Carl was in the middle; and Bill Herber operated the outboard motor at the stern. As the boat moved to the middle of the river, the meter reading declined; but swinging back toward the bank pushed it higher than ever. It continued climbing slowly until they were about a quarter of a mile upstream; then suddenly it dropped to the bridge-null value.

"Back up," Jerry said; "we've run out of it."

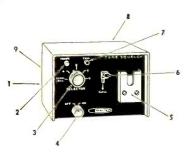
Mr. Herber reversed the boat's direction, and the meter reading shot upward. The game warden then maneuvered the boat under Jerry's direction until it became apparent the polluting substance was coming from beneath some low-hanging bushes growing on the bank. Suddenly he revved up the motor and headed straight for these bushes. As the boys ducked, branches scraped along the metal hull and the boat emerged in a shallow creek whose mouth had been concealed by a thin screen of willows.

"Better watch your propeller," Jerry warned as he peered over the side with

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(1) squeich time-delay control. (2) power indicator. (3) tone selector switch (4 tones plus "monitor all" position), (4) tone squeich "deleat" switch to normal operation (5) "lift-to-operatior "micropnone bracket. (6) "call" lever (7) "call" indicator. (8) external alarm contacts to signal received call. (9) input and outnut level controls.

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"No sweat," Mr. Herber replied. "This motor doesn't have a propeller. It operates on a jet principle and will run in four inches of water."

At this moment Jerry spied a trickle of water dribbling from a large tile set in the bank of the creek, and a little checking with the river sniffer confirmed that the water pollution was coming from this tile.

Bill Herber stepped out of the boat and motioned for the boys to follow him toward a large concrete building a short distance away. A light was shining from the windows and through the open door, and inside they found a young man busily pouring some liquids from carboys into a large vat.

When Mr. Herber explained the reason for their visit, the young man shook his head ruefully. "I'm afraid I'm the one you're looking for," he admitted. "The first of the year I started a little plating business here. I use sulphuric acid to clean the parts before putting them in the plating bath. About once a week I flush the dirty and weakened acid down that sewer that leads into the crick and mix up a new batch, as I'm doing now. I never thought about killing fish or causing any other trouble, and I can assure you it won't happen again."

"I'm sure it won't," Mr. Herber said kindly, "but I'll have to report it, and there's a fine for river pollution. I hope they go easy on you. Come on, boys; let's get back to town."

S the game warden drove Carl and A Jerry home, he declared, "I sure do appreciate what you fellows did for me. I don't know how to thank you. I wish I had brains enough to build something like that river sniffer of yours."

"We lucked out," Jerry said modestly. "Had it been something other than a strong acid that was killing the fish, the sniffer might not have worked so well. And as for paying us, how about showing us a spot where we really can catch some fish?"

"That I can do. Be ready with your rods and a can of stinkworms about four o'clock tomorrow afternoon, and I'll show you the best channel-cat fishing east of the Mississippi!"

Always say you saw it in-POPULAR ELECTRONICS



TRANSISTORIZED SIGNAL GENERATOR

The Model 36-564 lightweight signal generator produced by GC Electronics facili-

tates the repair of radio receivers and audio equipment. Designed for trouble-shooting by the signal-injection method, the 16-ounce transistorized unit feeds an approximately



400-cycle tone into r.f., i.f., or audio stages. An output volume control is provided, as well as two 18" test leads. The "ground" test lead is terminated in an insulated alligator clip, the "hot" lead in a thin test probe for maneuvering freely in crowded circuitry. Power for the two transistors (a 2N363 and a 2N483) is supplied by an internal, 6-volt battery. Price, \$9.95. (GC Electronics, Inc., 400 S. Wyman St., Rockford, Ill.)

CONTACT CLEANING KIT

"Contacare II," developed by Standard Kollsman, is a kit for cleaning and protecting the contacts of TV tuners. Included in

it is a bottle of non-flam-mable contact cleaning solution, a lint-free cloth to apply the solution, and a tube of non-evaporating lubricant. The lubricant is used



to protect the contacts as well as to lubricate the mechanical parts of the tuner. Also supplied in the compactly boxed kit is an instruction sheet outlining the recommended step-by-step procedure for tuner contact servicing. Price, \$1.25. (Standard Kollsman Industries, Inc., 2085 N. Hawthorne Ave., Melrose Park, Ill.)

"CORDLESS" AM RADIO KIT

The new Heathkit six-transistor "cordless" AM table radio is intended for either indoor or outdoor use. Known as Model GR-131, its leakproof "cathodic envelope" battery

pack provides 500 to 1000 hours of operation, and the push-pull output stage and 4" x 6" PM speaker make for "big set" tone quality. Other features



are a built-in ferrite rod antenna and a special "overload diode" for preventing distortion of signals from strong local stations. The set covers the standard broadcast band (535-1620 kc.) and is housed in an ivory and pastel-green plastic cabinet. Price, \$19.95 without battery; the battery pack (Model GRA-131-1) sells for \$1.10 extra. (Heath Co., Benton Harbor, Mich.)

SOUND FOR HOME MOVIES

Any silent home-movie projector becomes a sound projector with the help of an "Audio Sync" unit made by Concord Electronics. Narration, music, and sound effects can be

added to existing film, or sound can be recorded while shooting new film with any movie camera. Designed for use with the Concord Model 220 tape re-



corder, the device is simpler and less expensive than other methods of sound synchronization. The price of the "Audio Sync" is under \$30.00, while the companion tape recorder costs less than \$160.00. Write to the manufacturer for a free booklet explaining the system. (Concord Electronics Corp., 809 Cahuenga Boulevard, Los Angeles 38, Calif.)

CB NOISE SUPPRESSION KITS

Ignition and generator noise interfering with reception on mobile Citizens Band equipment can be suppressed with one of two new kits developed by Raytheon. And, by lowering the threshold of background noise, each will increase the effective range of the equipment. For ordinary interference problems, a "standard" kit provides generator and ignition-coil capacitors, distributor and spark-plug suppressors, and the neces-

Products

(Continued from page 91)

sary mounting hardware. The "de luxe" kit, providing a greater degree of noise reduction, includes everything in the standard kit plus two additional capacitors, an RC



network, and shielded generator wires. (See photo.) The standard kit retails for \$10.95, the de luxe kit for \$24.95. (Distributor Products Division, Raytheon Company, 411 Providence Turnpike, Westwood, Mass.)

SHORT-WAVE RADIO KIT

Youngsters learn the principles of transistor electronics while they assemble the



on voice, 5 microvolts on CW; a 12-to-1 ratio vernier tuning dial provides extra station selectivity. The kit comes complete with 35' of antenna, soldering iron, solder (a special low-melting point type for extra safety), short-wave log, broadcast-bard spectrum chart, and timetable of international broadcasts. Price, \$29.95. (General Electric, 4505 E. Genesee St., De Witt, N.Y.)

CIRCUIT BREADBOARDING SYSTEM

An electronic-circuit breadboarding system, known as "Pin Up," is available from Photographic Instruments. The system utilizes removable pins which are inserted in elastic grommets to make common contact with up to eight leads. A 6¾" x 13½" x 2" 16-gauge steel chassis, incorporating over 1000 perforations, provides flexibility in the locations of terminals and components.

Heavy components can be readily accommodated, and both top and underside wiring can be employed. The system's parts are available separately, but a kit (No. CX-500) for breadboarding the average 6-tube circuit sells for \$16.50. (Photographic Instruments Co., Inc., 1163 West Walnut St., Des Plaines, Ill.)

DEPTH SOUNDER KIT

One of a new line of electronic kits for marine enthusiasts, the Daystrom Model DM-234 depth sounder has a range of from 0 to 200 or more feet. Ideal for detecting

submerged obstacles, schools of fish, etc., the transistorized instrument operates from its own built-in battery supply or from the boat's 12-volt system.



The transducer connects to the indicating unit via a watertight coaxial connector and may be mounted through the hull, transom mounted (with a special accessory bracket), or temporarily outboarded. Like the other kits in the line, the Model DM-234 is designed for the "first time" builder. Priced at \$79.95 in kit form, it is also available factory-assembled (Model DMW-234) for \$119.95. Accessory mounting bracket, \$9.95. (Daystrom Products Corp., P.O. Box 167, St. Joseph, Mich.)

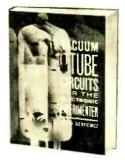
S.W. RECEIVER FOR HI-FI FANS

Said to be the first short-wave receiver designed for use with a hi-fi system, the National NC-105 is equipped with a tuner output jack. The set covers 550 kc. to 30 mc. in four bands and comes with a Q-multiplier, noise limiter, and BFO. Also featured are a bandspread scale, illuminated S-meter, earphone jack, and separate r.f. and audio gain controls. When not being



played through a hi-fi system, the NC-105 can be used with its own built-in speaker. Price: \$119.95 in metal case (illustrated); \$139.95 in walnut case. (National Radio Co., Inc., Dept. P, Melrose, Mass.)

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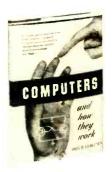
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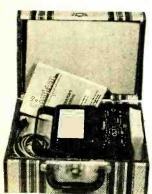
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July, 1962

Tips and Techniques

CARRYING CASE FOR TEST INSTRUMENTS

An excellent test instrument carrier can be improvised from an inexpensive cardboard



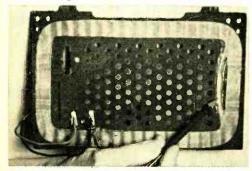
suitcase. These suitcases are available at most "5-and-10's" in a variety of sizes and need only be lined with appropriate padding. Foam rubber or plastic makes an ideal material for this purpose; just cut it to size with a scissors and

glue it to the top, bottom, and sides of the cardboard suitcase.

—H. Leeper

EASY ADJUSTMENT FOR REPLACEMENT LOOPS

Replacement loop antennas are usually supplied with extra turns so that they can be "trimmed down" to the proper inductance after installation. In cases where the inductance is just a bit too high, it's usually easier to spread the turns than to trim the



wire. Just melt the wax at one point on the loop and move the turns apart until the stations appear at the proper dial settings.

—Art Trauffer

SMALL ALLIGATOR CLIP CLEANS CORRODED TUBE PINS

Next time you're faced with the problem of cleaning corroded tube pins, try rubbing

them between the jaws of a small alligator clip. The narrow "nose" of the clip fits easily into tight corners, and the sharp, spring - loaded



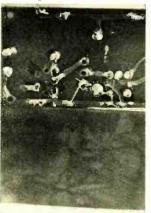
jaws have an excellent abrasive action. You'll find this a much faster and easier method than using sandpaper or a pocket knife.

—John A. Comstock

MINIATURE CHASSIS FROM DEFECTIVE PRINTED BOARD

A printed-circuit board that has been discarded because of an open circuit or some

other defect has by no means reached the end of its usefulness With the printed wiring and solder removed (see "before and after" photo), it makes a fine chassis for a piece of miniaturized equipment. You can remove the wiring with



printed-circuit etching solution and the solder can be melted off. The "stripped" board should then be cleaned up with a light sanding.

—H. L. Davidson

SPRAYING CONE MAKES SPEAKER MORE "BASSY"

Apply a few light coats of spray varnish or lacquer to the cone of a small speaker and

a more "bassy" sound will be produced. The spray treatment lowers the cone's resonant frequency and at the same time cuts down on its high-frequency response.



A greater ratio of bass to treble output is thus produced. Spraying also protects the cone from dampness, lengthening its life.

-Robert Hertzberg



AUG. 13-16

Pacific Energy Conversion Conference Fairmont Hotel, San Francisco, Calif.

AUG. 14-16

International Conference on Precision Electromagnetic Measurements
NBS Boulder Labs, Boulder, Colo.

AUG. 21-24

Western Electronics Show & Convention (WESCON)
Statler Hilton Hotel & Memorial Sports Arena, Los Angeles, Calif.

AUG. 31-SEPT. 9

World's Fair of Music and Sound McCormick Place, Chicago, III.

SEPT. 1-3

National ARRL Convention Memorial Coliseum, Portland, Oregon

SEPT. 19-20

Industrial Electronics Symposium Hotel Sheraton, Chicago, III.

OCT. 2-4

National Symposium on Space Electronics & Telemetry Fontainbleu Hotel, Miami Beach, Fla.

OCT. 7-12

American Institute of Electrical Engineers Fall General Meeting Pick-Congress Hotel, Chicago, III.

OCT. 8-10

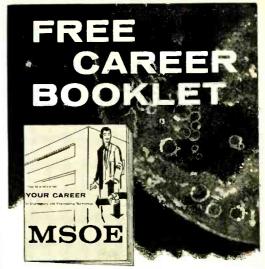
National Electronics Conference (NEC) McCormick Place, Chicago, III.

OCT. 15-19

Audio Engineering Society Fall Convention & Exhibit Barbizon-Plaza Hotel, New York, N. Y.

NOV. 28-DEC. 2

International Communications Fair New York Coliseum, New York, N. Y.



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One for the Road

(Continued from page 47)

your car should be sufficient. The same antenna will do for weaker signals if you hold the receiver out of a window, but for best results you should mount a good VHF antenna on the outside of your car.

Very little "trimming" or adjusting will be required, although in some cases it may be necessary to vary the location of the point where antenna coupling capacitor C1 is tapped onto the tuning coil in order to get the detector to oscillate. It's a good idea to make this connection at the grid end of the coil as a start. Then, if the detector refuses to oscillate even with the regeneration control at maximum, move the tap one turn closer to the center of the coil.

The ideal method of checking the frequency range covered by the receiver is to feed in signals of known frequencies from a signal generator. Lacking a signal generator, the range can be checked with an absorption-type wavemeter or a grid dip meter, since the detector is of the oscillating type. And, even if you don't have either of these instruments, it's always possible just to tune in "known" stations and use the dial settings as marker points. Some "squeezing" or "pulling" of the coil may be required in order to get the set to tune the intended range.

If speaker operation is desired, it should be an easy trick to feed the output of the circuit in Fig. 1 into the audio portion of your car radio, as mentioned earlier. Just be certain that you have a coupling capacitor at the input to the amplifier in order to keep the small amount of d.c. at the output jack from being fed into the audio amplifier.

Since a superregenerative detector also produces frequencies just above the audible range, an amplifier capable of passing these frequencies—a hi-fi unit, for example—may be inclined to "howl" when connected to the receiver. This noise can usually be stopped by placing a 0.01- μ f. capacitor across the output of the circuit in Fig. 1.

Ready to Go. However you use this little receiver, you'll find that it boasts

a sensitivity equal to that of units costing many times as much. On the other hand, the output of a single tube with less than a milliampere of plate current can't give more than medium headset volume when used by itself, so don't expect the impossible. As we said before, this is an auxiliary receiver—just "One For The Road."

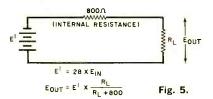
Transformer for D.C.

(Continued from page 69)

is approximately 80 volts with no load, the inverter is working properly.

Ohm's law can be used to relate power output, load resistance, and output voltage: $P=(E_{\rm out})^2/R$. Thus, if we have 130 volts out and a resistive load of 3000 ohms, the power output would be 5.63 watts. The maximum allowable load in watts is numerically equal to 1.4 $E_{\rm in}$ -2.1, and the load resistance drawing maximum allowable power will be approximately equal to $800 \times (E_{\rm in})^2/P - 1600$. For example, with 6 volts input, the maximum load is 6.3 watts, as provided by a resistor of approximately 3000 ohms. The input voltage may range from 3 to 8 volts.

The approximate output voltage for any input between 3 and 8 volts and any load resistance equal to or larger than that drawing maximum allowable power can be calculated using the simple formula and equivalent circuit shown in Fig. 5. With a 6-volt input and a 5000-ohm



load, for example, the output will be $28 \times 6 \times 5000/5800$, or about 145 volts, and the power output will be $(E_{\rm out})^2/R$, or approximately 4.2 watts.

A word of warning: this inverter can provide a nasty shock if you're not careful, so treat the output terminals with respect!

The Fish Finder

(Continued from page 60)

will remain. And, when adding hot or cold water to make adjustments, always mix well so that the temperature will be uniform throughout the liquid.

Now set potentiometer R5 at midrange and place RT1 in the water. Wait several seconds for the temperatures of the Thermistor and surrounding water to equalize, and depress S2. Then adjust potentiometer R2 so M1 reads "Zero."

Prepare another jar of water as above, but this time set the temperature at 90° F (or at the upper limit of the temperature range you desire). Place RT1 in the water and wait several seconds. Then depress S2 and adjust R5 for a reading of exactly full scale on M1.

If you have used both the specified meter and the temperature range employed by the author, this just about completes the calibration procedure. It is not really necessary to make up a new face for M1 as the author did; the meter, as supplied, has exactly 50 divisions, so each division represents one degree. Since the resistance change of RT1 is not exactly linear with respect to temperature, however, there will be a slight error around the mid scale of the meter (the 40° and 90° points, of course, remain accurate). For most purposes, this error is small enough to be ignored.

Should you use a different model meter (any 0-1 ma. unit will work) or temperature range, though, you might find it impossible to use the meter face supplied. In this case, after setting R2 and R5 as above, you must gradually vary the temperature of the water in your calibrating bath, marking each degree on the meter as indicated on your thermometer.

With the temperature adjustments taken care of, only one more step remains before the Fish Finder is ready for service. Just press S1 and S2 simultaneously (the temperature of RT1 makes no difference here) and note the meter



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reading. This is the battery voltage reference point (see below) and should be marked by a small dot on the meter face.

Using the Fish Finder. All you have to do is lower the Thermistor to the desired depth, wait a bit, and press \$2 to take a reading. Continuous readings may be taken by holding \$2 in the depressed position and slowly lowering \$T1\$ from the surface. Be sure you allow enough time for the temperature change to register at each level before you move on.

From time to time, depress \$1 and \$2 simultaneously and check to see that \$M1\$'s reading corresponds to the battery voltage reference point. If it does not, adjust \$R5\$ until it does. When \$R5\$ will no longer perform this adjustment, it's time to change the battery.

The Whistle Switch

(Continued from page 66)

Now run the mike cord and a heavy-duty line cord into the main box and complete the wiring. Trim each lead from the terminal strip assembly, as you come to it, to an appropriate length. Use #16 hookup wire for the leads running from S1 to J1 and the contacts of K2. Elsewhere, #22 wire may be used.

Operation. Plug the apparatus to be controlled into J1, plug the Whistle Switch into the line, and close S1. Set the microphone well away from the main unit. The sensitivity control (R1) should be adjusted so that the relays just respond to your whistle under actual operating conditions.

Because of manufacturing variations in the transistors, the sensitivity of your unit may vary from that of the author's model. If the sensitivity is too high (relays respond to extraneous noise regardless of the setting of R1), increase resistor R3 to 1.5 megohms. Should the sensitivity be too low (relays don't respond at all), try reducing R3 to 750,000 ohms.

The power-handling capacity of the Whistle Switch depends primarily on the rating of relay *K2*'s contacts. With the relay specified here, loads up to about 600 watts can be safely controlled.

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First Aid for Printed Circuits

(Continued from page 56)

in a "down" condition until a replacement board can be obtained.

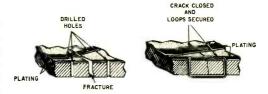
If you do decide to repair a cracked board, simply drill two small holes (1/16" or less in diameter) about ½" on either side of the crack. These holes will allow the insertion of a loop of wire to hold the cracked board together; naturally, the loop should be located where it will not interfere with the wiring of any of the components.

The cracked board should then be drawn tightly together and the loop secured. In some cases, you may want to make more than one loop, depending on the length of the crack as well as the precise amount of open board area you happen to have at your disposal.

After the loops have been secured, use the point of a sharp knife to form a slight channel along the course of the crack, then fill this channel with house-

hold or epoxy cement. When the cement has set, the board is again ready for use.

Summing Up. Although this discussion of printed-circuit repair is by no means exhaustive, it should help you understand some of the principles involved. For just as printed boards represent a distinctive type of wiring, so, too, they

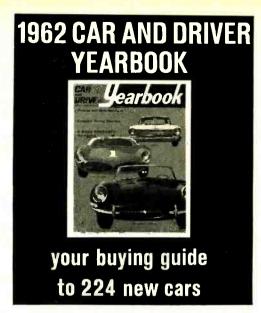


With one or two loops of fine wire and some cement, it's easy to repair cracked printed-circuit boards.

require a distinctive type of repair with a specialized approach.

Actually, an extensive survey has indicated that printed-circuit boards require far less servicing than circuits with conventional wiring. But when servicing is needed, the techniques outlined above should prove helpful.





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Radiation Fallout Monitor

(Continued from page 41)

Operation. First of all, remember that this is not a precision instrument. Nor will it respond to extremely high levels of radiation (about 60 counts per second, as mentioned earlier, is the maximum). For this reason, it's not suitable for use in locating areas of heavy contamination during emergencies. What it will do is provide an approximate indication of the normal level of background radiation in your area, giving positive evidence when the count varies excessively.

To operate the device, just plug it into the line. (No on-off switch is provided because the current drain is so low that the unit can be left running continually.) After the thyratron heater has warmed up, the instrument will begin to respond to background radiation. This activity will be sporadic—there may be no pulses for several seconds, then several at once.

To get an idea of the counts per minute at any given time, always make your observations over a period of several minutes and take an average. The author has measured rates ranging from a low of 30 counts per minute to a high (during a period of fallout from the Russian bomb tests) of over 100. In the P.E. editorial offices, as this article is being prepared for publication, the instrument registers about 15 counts per minute.

Small variations in the rate are not significant (they may be due, in part, to variations in line voltage). But if the radiation level begins to drive V2 at a frequency close to its maximum ability to respond, chances are that something unusual has occurred.

If you find your instrument counting at a very high frequency, don't be immediately concerned about radiation injury (even luminous watch dials, when placed close to V1, will produce quite high rates). You'd better check your radio, though, to see if there's anything going on. We hope that a radiation emergency situation will never arise, but if it does, remember that official information and instructions will be broadcast (via Conelrad) over 640 or 1240 kc. on your AM dial.

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On the Citizens Band

(Continued from page 78)

are available, in addition to full tunable coverage of all 23 channels.

Julian M. Sienkiewicz, 2W5115 (Managing Editor of POP'tronics), tied in his TR-27 with the "Gabble Killer" described in the April 1962 issue. The



base station (see photo) is the pride of his XYL, who reports no QRM to interfere with the hi-fi set.

Call-Sign Auto Licenses. Back in the April issue, we reported that there was an outside chance of CB'ers being able to obtain call-sign auto license plates, and that the state of Wisconsin had already approved several applications for these plates. This was a false rumor. The Wisconsin Motor Vehicle Department has since informed us that Wisconsin does not issue license plates with Citizens Band call-signs. The confusion was probably due to the fact that the state does issue plates incorporating amateur call letters, provided that the hams have the necessary receiving and transmitting equipment permanently installed in their

Club Notes. The 5-11 Radio Club of Pittsburgh (868 Glass Run Rd., Pittsburgh 36, Pa.) has celebrated its third anniversary. This organization gained national recognition and local promotion through a series of radio programs on station WYRE and a feature article in the Sunday Pittsburgh Press. . . . Jack Leach, Publicity Chairman of the 27 Meggers C.B. Club (1814 Beaconwood,

THE CLUB PAPER

Does your CB club want to start a newspaper? If you're not sure how to go about it, you'll be interested in a 56-page booklet entitled "The Club Paper" which tells the would-be editor exactly what to do. Written by Ralph Anderson, W3NL, who has been editor of a club newspaper himself for many years, it discusses duplicating methods, offset, preparation of copy, assembly, addressing and mailing methods and procedures, inexpensive do-it-yourself printing and photographic equipment. If you'd like a copy, send 50 cents (in coin or stamps-no checks) to cover handling costs to Ralph V. Anderson, W3NL, 2509 32nd St., S.E., Washington 20, D.C. The supply of copies available is limited, so don't delay.

South Euclid 21, Ohio) was the winner of the Browning Golden Base Station which was on display at the NCRL convention at Chicago recently. . . . Four members of the Qui-Co Citizens Radio League (1748 Centre Ave., Reading, Pa.) participated in a mock alert with the 9209th Air Force Reserve Recovery Squadron, providing back-up communications. . . . The CB Socialites, in Massachusetts, is a unique organization in that its primary purpose is strictly social. Perhaps this is the secret of its success. It does provide emergency mobile communications, and has been called upon in the past to do just that, but the club is best known for its outings, trips, and picnics. Contact Frank W. Marshall, 7 Newton Ave., Haverhill, Mass., if you're interested in joining.



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Coupling Quiz Answers

(Quiz on page 80)

- J F Direct coupling feeds the output from the plate of one stage directly to the grid of another. It is the only type of coupling that has a frequency response without lower limit.
- 2 C R-C coupling (for resistor-capacitor coupling) requires a coupling capacitor and a grid resistor in addition to the plate load resistor. It is the most popular type for voltage amplifiers, since the cost, size, and weight of the necessary components are very low, and frequency response is broad.
- 3 **G** A tickler winding on a coil makes use of inductive coupling to permit signals from the plate circuit to be fed back to the grid circuit.
- 4 **E** Impedance coupling provides a method of obtaining a high value of plate load impedance with a corresponding low d.c. voltage drop. The inductor has little d.c. resistance but a high reactance at the frequencies to be handled.
- 5 H Cathode-coupling results in a circuit which is essentially a cathode follower driving a grounded-grid amplifier. It provides a high degree of isolation between the input and output circuits.
- 6 A Link coupling is a variation of inductive coupling, since it effectively produces inductive coupling between two coils having no mutual inductance. Its chief use is in r.f. circuits.
- 7 D A gimmick consists of two insulated conductors twisted together to provide a capacitive coupling sufficient to pass a small amount of signal.
- 8 B Transformer coupling provides a low d.c. voltage drop as well as proper impedance matching. A highquality unit is required for good frequency response.

Across the Ham Bands

(Continued from page 76)

News and Views

Bob Read, WNØAGF, 103 Arcadian Ct., Mc-Pherson, Kansas, excites a 40-meter dipole antenna with a home-brew transmitter sporting a pair of 807's in the output stage. With a war-surplus BC-312 to do the receiving, Bob's 40-meter total is 41 states worked. He also works 2 meters with a Gonset IV Communicator, plus a surplus T-23 transmitter and a 2-meter converter in front of the BC-312. States are far apart in the west, so he has only two states worked on that band. . . . Bob Plechaty, K9CGD, 2427 Westover Ave., North Riverside, Ill., works both phone and CW on 2 meters. A home-built transmitter running 12 watts input to the 6360 final tube (featuring "controlled-carrier" modulation of his own design) drives a Hy-Gain 210, 10element beam in the attic. A Hallicrafters SX-101A, plus a home-built converter ahead of it, takes care of bringing the signals in. "Not many states worked, but a lot of swell

contacts" covers Bob's record. . . . James
John W. Laing, KN7PRS, 2540 E. Heatherbrae, Phoenix, Ariz., uses a good portion of the wide-open spaces in the west for his antenna farm; it contains a 3-element, widespace, 15-meter beam antenna, dipoles for 80 and 40 meters, and a 20-element beam for 2 meters, all 25' high. A Harvey-Wells T-90 transmitter handles the 15-, 40-, and 80meter bands, while a Johnson 6N2 and a home-built transceiver take care of 2 meters. A Hammarlund HQ-170 receiver, plus a "W7RVX" home-brew, 2-meter converter, does the receiving. Forty states and 11 countries make up John's brag list, but he's still waiting for QSL cards from some of them. His favorite bands are 15 and 2 meters. ... Sid Bondurant, WN5AIX, Box 215, Forest, Miss., envies those Novices with walls full of

them. His favorite bands are 15 and 2 meters. . . . Sid Bondurant, WN5AIX, Box 215, Forest, Miss., envies those Novices with walls full of QSL cards. His first seven months as a Novice were spent getting his equipment and then replacing burned-out components in it. But he worked Minnesota on his first CQ—not bad for 80 meters and an antenna 12'

ATTENTION WESTERN NOVICES!

The Northwest Slow Speed Net (NSN) meets every night except Sundays on 3700 kc. at 0500 GMT (9:00 p.m. PST). At least one member tunes the entire 80-meter Novice band for calls from "rock-bound" Novices who want to report into the net. All new members receive an attractive net QSL card, and a request accompanied by a stamped return envelope will bring a sheet explaining NSN operations. Address the request to: Jim Cassidy, K7IWD, 4224 S. E. View Acres Rd., Milwaukie 22, Oregon.

high. Watch him go now. Sid's transmitter is a Heathkit DX-35, and his receiver is a Hallicrafters S-20R.

Bob Stewart, WV2WIU, 1459 Lombardy Blvd., Bayshore, L. I., N. Y., says he works nights and hams all day—sometimes to the disgust of his wife. In five months on the air, this system has put 36 states and 11 countries into Bob's logbook. A Globe Chief 90A transmitter feeds his 40-meter dipole antenna on both 40 and 15 meters. Bob must like receivers; he has three of them—a Hammarlund HQ-140X, a Hallicrafters S-20R, and an RME 69. . . . Rog, KN1SPM, 62 Mark St., Springfield, Vermont, offers to sked any Novice who needs a Vermont contact. Better make the sked on 40 or 80 meters; his receiver doesn't work on 15 at



Walt Pinner, WN8BHK, Novi, Mich., uses homemade equipment except for the receiver, a Knight R-100, which he put together from a kit. Walt operates on 80 and 40 meters, has worked 36 states and Canada.

present. Rog's "monster" is a Globe Chief 90A feeding separate dipoles 50' high on each Novice band. The receiver is a National NC-109. Twenty-seven states and GI6YM, Northern Ireland, are what Rog talks about when asked "What have you worked?"

Bill Harding, WA6SMD, Box 424, Westwood, Calif., disagreed with my comments in the February column that fellows with an inexpensive receiver and an inefficient antenna often get better results on the lower frequency amateur bands than on 15 meters. Running 40 watts to his transmitter with one crystal and receiving on a "\$10.00 regenerative receiver," Bill reports working 11 states east of the Mississippi on 15 in three days. He didn't mention the type of antenna he was using. . . . Allen Jones, K9DZE, 211 S. Roeske, Michigan City, Ind., used a home-brew 25-watter during his Novice career. Now he has both a Heathkit DX-35 and a Globe Chief 90A transmitter to go with his General license. He uses the VFO described in our December 1961 column to drive them.

Let's hear from YOU for the next Across the Ham Bands. Send all mail for the column to: Herb S. Brier, W9EGQ, Amateur Radio Editor, POPULAR ELECTRONICS, P. O. Box 678, Gary, Indiana, 73.

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Short-Wave Report

(Continued from page 82)

can still log many of the rare stations by careful tuning and infinite patience.

- Q: Why not publish a list of "materials" that are available from the shortwave stations, such as leaflets on antenna tips, reception ideas, and the like?
- A: Unfortunately, we do not have such a list at hand. If you'll work one up, we'll be glad to include it in a future column.
- Q: In a recent column, you suggested that Swan Island might not be the actual location of *Radio America*, formerly known as *Radio Swan*. Exactly where is this station?
- A: We have no positive proof as to whether this station is or isn't on Swan Island, since we continue to receive conflicting reports. During the past week alone, one report stated in no uncertain terms that the station was on Swan Island, while another report—from an airline pilot equipped with a direction-finder—claimed that the station was aboard ship, apparently in an eastsoutheastward direction from Miami. In his letter, the pilot said that he had flown over the ship.

If you have any questions which you think might be of general interest, send them in. We'll try to answer them in a future POP'tronics "Mailbag."

Current Station Reports

The following is a résumé of current reports. At time of compilation all reports are as accurate as possible, but stations may change frequency and/or schedule with little or no advance notice. All times shown are Eastern Standard and the 24-hour system is used. Please send all reports to your Short-Wave Editor, P. O. Box 254, Haddonfield, N. J., in time to be in our hands by the eighth of each month. Be sure to include your WPE call letters.

Andorra—R. des Vallees d'Andorre, 6305 kc., is noted at times at 0104-0130 with variety music and a good signal.

Austria-The latest schedule for Vienna as

Always say you saw it in-POPULAR ELECTRONICS

read over the air is as follows: 21.475 kc. at 0500-0700; 17,865 kc. at 0800-1100; 17,765 kc. at 1100-1300; 15,305 kc. at 0300-0500; 11,785 kc. at 0300-1200; 9770 kc. at 0600-1200 and 1800-2300; 9610 kc. at 0100-0400; 9540 kc. at 1900-2300; 7245 kc. at 0900-1500; 7200 kc. at 0100-0900; and 6155 kc. at 2330-1700 and 1800-2000. Most of the programs are made up of music and the ID is usually given in Eng., Ger., and French. Reports go to Austrian Shortwave Service, Vienna 50, Austria.

Brazil-"Don't destroy your radio set yet," said a Ger. language advertisement in a Brazilian newspaper. It suggested that the readers tune to R. 9 de Julho, 9620 kc., for "Melodian de Ultramar" daily at 1900-2000 and "Klassiche Meistermusik" on Sundays

and holidays at 1300.

Ceylon-The Commercial Service continues to be noted at times on 15,265 kc. around 2030-2230 with Eng. news, records, and ads. Another outlet is 9560 kc., noted at 1030 with a soap commercial and "Musical Medicine" program in English. The Voice of America has opened up on 11,725 kc. at 0700-0800 in English.

Chile-R. Corporacion, Santiago, is heard on 15,150 kc. at 1830-1930 with sports, news at 1900, a play at 1910. This station was also heard at 0700 with news. All programs are

in Spanish.

CE1190, R. Cooperativa Vitalicia, Valparaiso, 11,900 kc., was noted with Coca-Cola

ads at 1855, news at 1900.

Colombia—HJGF, R. Bucaramanga, 4845 kc., has an Eng. program daily at 2200-2300. They verify with a pennant, letter, and some Colombian stamps.

Congo-A station reported on 10,690 kc. is R. Bukaru, according to Sweden Calling DXers. Reception time was given as 1300, with local time given as GMT plus 2½ hours.

Cuba-This appears to be the latest schedule from Havana: to North, Central, and South America in Sp. at 0600-1245 on 5990, 6017, 9765, and 15,340 kc., at 1600-0115 on 6017 and 9765 kc., at 1600-2200 on 5990 kc.,



Bill Rogers, WPE4DJQ, of Asheville, N.C., listens with a Knight Ocean Hopper and an Echophone receiver, aided by a 50' long-wire antenna. To date he has 18 countries logged, 10 of which are verified. Bill also holds the amateur call WN4EMB.



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July, 1962

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G. Schmeisser (GS), Lindenhurst, N. Y.
Neweden Calling DXers Bulletin

at 1600-1800 on 15,340 kc., at 1815-2245 on 11,760 kc., and at 2300-0115 on 6060 kc., Eng. at 2200-2330 and 0000-0100 on 5990 kc., Fr. at 2330-0000 on 5990 kc.; to Europe on 15.290 kc. at 1400-1445 in Fr. and to 1545 in English; to Mediterranean areas at 1300-1430 in Fr. and to 1545 in Sp. on 15,140 kc. (varies to 15,190 kc.) and in the 16-meter band, exact frequency not definite.

A new station with the call-sign CMKX is noted well at 1700-2300 on 5563 kc. in the midst of the aero channels.

Czechoslovakia—Prague has opened on 7438 kc. with uninterrupted Czech and classical music at 2000, then into Sp. at 2100. This is apparently a crude attempt to block R. Libertad on the same channel. Programs in Eng. are noted to N.A. at 2200-2300 and 0000-0100 on 5930, 7345, 9550, 9795, and 11,990 kc., and to New Zealand, Australia, Japan, and Far East areas at 1300-1355 on 11,725, 15,285, and 21,450 kc.

Egypt—Cairo is heard on 12,050 kc. at 1330-1400 in Persian beamed to the Middle East; on 11,745 kc. in Arabic at 2215-2230 (this is the Home Service); and on 17,750 kc. at 0830-0930 with Eng. news, talks, and native music

Fiji Islands—Suva will soon be testing the second 10-kw. xmtr on 4785 kc. This is to be used for Eng. programs. The first 10-kw. unit operates in Fijian on 4755 kc. and has been heard at 0230-0300 with native language and music.

Germany (West)—Here is the schedule for Die Deutsche Welle, Cologne: to Eastern N.A. at 1900-2200 on 6100, 9575, and 9640 kc., and at 1715-1845 on 6100 and 9605 kc.; to Western N.A. at 2200-0100 on 6100, 9575, and 9640 kc., and at 0000-0130 on 6145 and 9735

kc.; to Central America at 2045-2345 on 6145 and 9735 kc., and at 1900-2030 on 6145 and 9605 kc. A Persian service has been started at 0500-0525 on 17,845 kc. in parallel with 15,405 and 11,795 kc.

Italy—Rome has opened on 11,905 kc., dual to 9575 kc., and has dropped 6010 kc. for the 1930-1950 and 2205-2225 broadcasts to North America.

Japan-The latest schedule from Tokyo reads: to N.A. at 1930-2030 on 17,895, 15,390, and 15,135 kc.; to N.A. and L.A. at 2200-0000 on 15,235, 11,780, 11,705, and 9505 kc.; to Hawaii at 0030-0200 on 17,725 and 15,235 kc.; to Europe at 0115-0345 on 15,135 and 17,895 kc.; to Australia and New Zealand at 0430-0530 on 15,235 and 11,875 kc.; to Philippines and Indonesia at 0730-0930 on 11,780 and 15,135 kc.; to S.E. Asia at 0800-1100 on 9675 and 11,705 kc.; to South Asia at 1000-1130 on 9525 and 11,780 kc.; to Middle East and North Africa at 1145-1345 on 7195, 9525, and 11,780 kc.; to Africa at 1500-1600 on 9525 and 11,875 kc. The General Overseas Service is broadcast at 2000-2030, 2100-2130, 2200-2230, 2300-2330, and 0000-0030 on 15,105, 15,195, and 17,755 kc.; at 0100-0130, 0200-0230, 0300-0330, 0400-0430, and 0500-0530 on 11,725, 15,195, and 11,855 kc.; and at 0600-0630, 0700-0730, 0800-0830, 0900-0930, 1000-1030, and 1100-1130 on 11,725, 11,815, and 11,855 kc.

Kuwait—The present schedule for Kuwait Broadcasting and Television Service is 2130-0200 and 0400-1600 on 4967.5 kc. (10 kw.) and 0400-1600 on 15,150 kc. (50 kw.) in Arabic only. A letter from the station mentions the near-future beginning of test xmsns on 6055, 9520, and 15,150 kc. with announcements in "other than Arabic languages" — which should make ID easier.

Leeward Islands—A French-speaking station being reported on 830 kc. in the broadcast band during evening hours has been positively identified as Radio Curibe Nacional. St. Lucia. Their schedule reads 0600-0800 and 1000-2115, with Eng. given (and being reported) at 1500-1700. Verification is by letter and colorful travel folder. Do not confuse this station with R. Caribe, Santo Domingo, D. R., on 860 kc.

Liberia—ELWA, Monrovia, now operates on 9655 kc., dual to 11,825 kc., on Tuesdays at 2145 to North America. The former is a new frequency.

Luxembourg—The Station of the Stars is operated by Compagnie Luxembourgeoise de Telediffusion on 6090 kc. with 5 kw. at 1300-2100. Programs are almost entirely in Eng. and feature American records and many commercials. Reports go to R. Luxembourg. 38 Hertford St., London, W. 1, England.

Pakistan—Karachi has Eng. dictation news at 0835-0850 to the Middle East on 11,672 kc. A dual channel, though not heard, may be 21.590 kc.

Pitcairn Island—VR6AC has verified, giving the schedule as "around 2130" (EST) on 14,000 kc. Broadcasts are mostly religious in nature and intended for nearby islands.

Rumania—Bucharest is scheduled to N.A. at 2200-2230 and 2330-0000 on 15,380, 11,885, 11,810, 9570, 9510, 7195, and 6190 kc., and at 2030-2130 on all of these channels except 9570 kc. Other broadcasts areas include

SHORT-WAVE ABBREVIATIONS

Eng.—English
Fr.—French
Ger.—German
GMT—Greenwich Mean
Time
kc.—Kilocycles

kw - Kilowatts

L.A.—Latin America N.A.—North America R.—Radio s/off—Sign-off Sp.—Spanish xmsn—Transmission xmtr—Transmitter

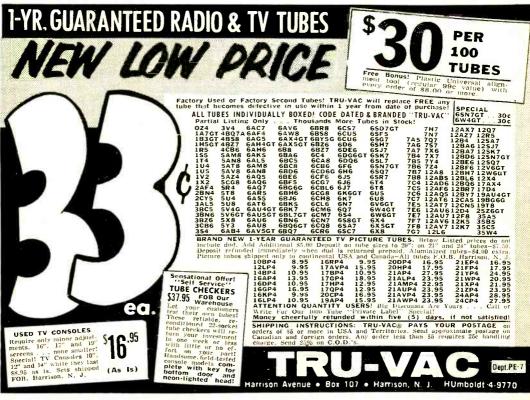
Europe at 1430-1500, 1600-1630, and 1730-1800 on 9510 and 7195 kc. (1430-1500 only on 9570, 7195. and 6190 kc.); the Near and Middle East at 1400-1430 on 9570, 7195, and 6190 kc.; Asia at 1000-1030 on 15,250 kc.; Africa at 1000-1030 on 15,380 and 11.810 kc.

Sarawak—Kuching has been noted at 0719-0815, with Eng. news at 0800, on 4950 kc. This is a poor signal and may be extremely difficult to copy.

South Africa—Springbok Radio, Paradys, has been heard on 3356 kc. from 2310 to 2330 s/off with recordings and commercials. The 15,275-kc. channel is tuned at 1221-1245 with news, music, science programs.

Spanish Guinea—R. Ecuatorial. Bata, 7847 kc.. has music and announcements from 1650 with s/off at 1707. Signal is generally poor but it gains towards s/off time.

Tonga Islands—Another very elusive broadcast-band station is ZCO, 1020 kc. Their schedule is 0100-0430 and 1300-1515 Monday through Saturday. There is a mailbag on the first Thursday of every month at 0345, and reports are eagerly welcomed. The address:



POPULAR ELECTRONICS

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Hank Bennett, Short-Wave Editor POPULAR ELECTRONICS P. O. Box 254 Haddonfield, N. J.

Make sure you include your WPE call letters with your report.

Mr. R. Geoff Hagget, Manager, The Tonga Broadcasting Commission, P. O. Box 36, Nuku'alofa, Tonga Islands.

Upper Volta—R. Ouagadougou, Haute-Volta, operates weekdays at 0100-0300, 0700-0830, and 1200-1700 (Sundays at 0300-1800) on 4815 kc. (25 kw.) and 7230 kc. (4 kw.) in Fr., Eng., and vernaculars. No mention was made of 11.630 kc., reportedly being tested.

USSR—R. Khabarovsk was noted on 6115 kc. at 0400 with a time signal and talk in Russian. This is dual to 7210 and 9377 kc., and both of these broadcasts were also heard.

Windward Islands—Grenada is noted at 1500-2115 on 3280 and 9815 kc.; also to 1300/close to England on 15,400 kc. The 3365-kc. outlet is not in use at present.

Clandestine — R. Espana Independiente (Spain-?) has been heard again on 6980 kc. (varies) from 1530 to 1830 s/off in Sp. with long talks.

R. Portugal Libero is on 11,672 kc. at 0915, interfering with R. Pakistan. This one reportedly moves to the 31-meter band, exact frequency not known, during late afternoons and/or evenings.

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GOVERNMENT Surplus Receivers, Transmitters, Snooper-scopes, Parabolic Reflectors, Picture Catalog 10¢. Meshna, Malden 48, Mass.

DIAGRAMS for repairing Radios \$1.00, Television \$2.00. Give make, model. Diagram Service, Box 672-PE, Hartford 1, Conn.

BEFORE You Buy Receiving Tubes or Hi-Fi Components send now for your giant Free Zalytron current catalog—featuring nationally known Zalytron First Quality TV-Radio Tubes, Hi-Fi Stereo Systems, Kits, Parts. etc. All priced to Save You Plenty—Why Pay More? Zalytron Tube Corp., 220 W. 42nd St., NYC.

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RUBBER Stamps personal or Business write. N. Albergo 121-18 Rockaway Bivd. South Ozone Park 20, N.Y. INVESTIGATORS, write for free brochure on latest subminiature electronic listening devices. Dept. 7A, Ace Electronics 11500 NW 7th Ave., Miami 50, Fla.

CB WPE QSL Cards, Finest Quality, Multicolor, 10¢ For Samples. Radio Press, Box 24, Pittstown, New Jersey. EMERGENCY Power Convert Auto Type Generator For 120V 60cy Output To 750W instructions \$2.50 Winding Kit Less Generator \$7.95. W. Houck, Box 8331, Orlando, Fla.

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SMALL set builder's big information catalog-25¢, refundable. Laboratories, 1131-L Valota, Redwood City, California

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PROFESSIONAL Electronic Projects—Organs, Timers, Computers, Industrial, etc. \$1 up. Catalog Free. Parks, Box 1665, Seattle 55, Washington.

TV tuners rebuilt \$9.95—Ninety day guarantee. Western Tuner Rebuilders, 4130 El Cajon Blvd., San Diego 5, California: 3040 West Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, California.

2 X 3 FCC warning decal against illegal use 35¢ each, 3/\$1.00. Code caller, (Q Bird), kit \$2.50, wired \$3.50. CB Products, Box 457, Encino, California.

Tuners-rebuilt or exchanged \$9.95. Most tuners ne runers—repuirt of exchanged \$9.95. Most tuners shipped same day received. Valley Tuner Service, 18530 Parthenia, Northridge. Calif.

POCKET sized, low impedance, square-wave generator. Variable Frequency, 200 to 4000 cycles. Build it yourself for \$9. Send \$1.00 and stamped envelope for schematic to, Ace, 11500-F NW 7th Ave., Miami 50. Florida.

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TELEPHONE extension in your car. Answer your home telephone by radio from your car. Complete diagrams and instructions \$2.00. C. Carrier Co., 5880 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood 28, Calif.

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