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Volume 3-Number 1

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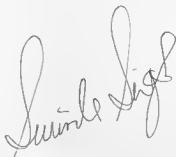
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THE NETHERLANDS 1984

news, views, people	1-18
the XR2206 In the function generator	1-20
Why this old IC is still the one to use for a new function generator. This article shows how we have capitalised on the XR2206's good points and negated its drawbacks to provide a simple, but very effective, new function generator.	
shorthand BASIC	1-23
Many computers provide a sort of shorthand to simplify and speed up the process of typing in BASIC programs. Here we provide the same facility for the Junior Computer and other 6502-based machines.	
function generator	1-26
Made-to-measure sine, square and triangle waves are very useful for testing circuits. This new function generator can provide them all but is neither expensive nor difficult to construct.	
time switch	1-32
Adds a touch of sophistication and user-friendliness to cheap battery chargers.	
cumulative index 1984	1-35
with a pencil point	1-38
Simple effective desoldering aid	
give your soldering tip a longer life	1-39
A modern economy circuit that may increase the life expectancy of your soldering tip	
computer-controlled slide fader	1-42
This circuit not only enables slide pictures to fade into each other on the screen but can also be used for controlling the gating angle of other electrical appliances	
7 watt IC audio amplifier	1-53
An economical high performance amplifier	
toroidal transformers	1-54
The article discusses the excellent electrical qualities and advantages of the toroidal transformer over the conventional types	
microprocessor-controlled frequency meter (part 0) ..	1-56
A look at the features of this sophisticated menu-driven frequency counter. The constructional details will be featured in next month's issue.	
7400-siren	1-68
light dimmer	1-58
market	1-59
appointments	1-61
switchboard	1-65
index of advertisers	1-70



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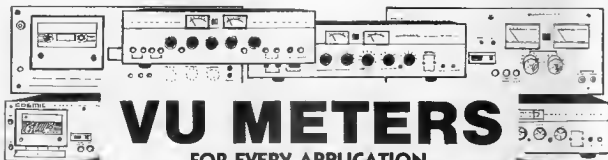
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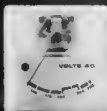
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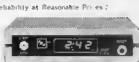
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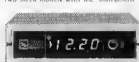
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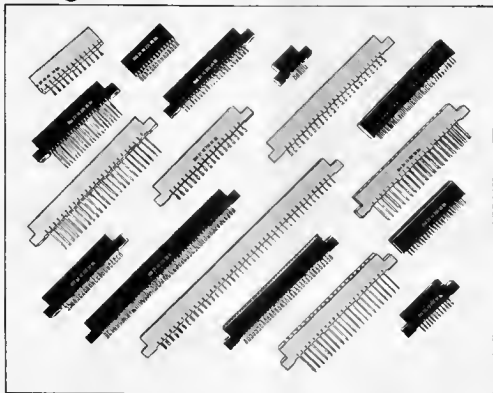
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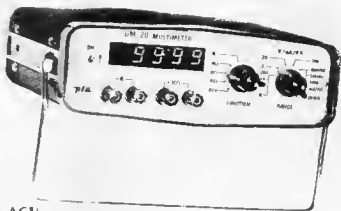
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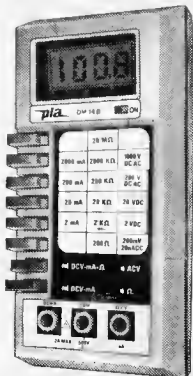
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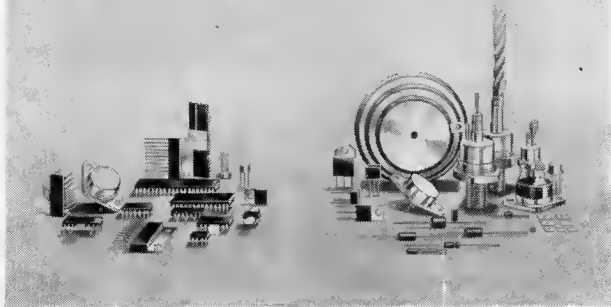
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the XR2206 in the function generator

If a special IC is used in a circuit it usually means that the number of components needed is greatly reduced. There is, after all, an extremely large number of semiconductors in one 'black box', sometimes even in exactly the right configuration for a particular application. This is the case with the XR2206 used in the function generator described elsewhere in this issue. What this does not mean, however, is that the design can be made in no time at all. There is a lot more to it than simply using an application found in the manufacturer's data book.

a few remarks
about the IC
and the design

Figure 1. This photo shows an XR2206 sinewave complete with the typical spikes.

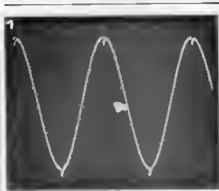
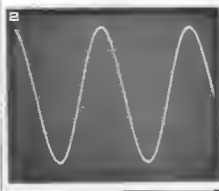


Figure 2. Again a sinewave provided by a 2206 but this one is generated by the Elektor function generator. The tops of the sine could actually be made a bit rounder. This would look better but would increase the distortion.



Function generators based on the almost legendary XR2206 usually have a few faults that are well known to users of this IC. There are dirty spikes on the peaks of the sine and triangle waves, these two waveforms become more and more similar to each other above 100 kHz and the amplitude decreases gradually then also, the frequency scale is not correct for asymmetrical waveforms (sawtooth and pulse waveforms), and the so-called sawtooth is more like an asymmetrical triangle. Apart from these points the IC works well...

One of the aims of the new function generator is to do away with these disadvantages. We must, however, first of all know the reason for the 'errors' before we can see how to solve them.

A better waveform

The difference between a normal XR2206-based function generator and the new Elektor design is shown by the two photographs of figures 1 and 2. These do not require any further comment. The diagrams in figures 3 and 4 show where this difference in the waveforms comes from. The standard layout is seen in figure 3, whereas figure 4 shows the basics of the new design. The heart of both is, of course, the same XR2206 whose internals are illustrated in figure 5. Where do those spikes on the sine and triangular waveforms come from? All the tests carried out suggest that the principal cause will be found in the circuitry connected to pins 13 and 14 (waveform adjust). Within the IC these two pins are connected to a differential amplifier that makes a sinewave from the triangular signal. Even a very slight capacitive load on pins 13 and 14 will cause spikes to appear in the signal, and this could be caused by even a short length of cable or by the tracks on the printed circuit board. The only solution for this is to keep all connections to pins 13 and 14 as short as possible, with extremely short copper tracks between the IC pins, the switch and the preset. This is the reason why the circuit of figure 4 uses a BS170 (V FET) for switching close to pin 14. Another cause of the spikes is the fact that the 2206 consists of a square wave and triangle generator followed by a triangle to sinewave converter. The square wave's sharp edges corrupt the other waveforms as well. If nothing is connected to the sinewave output (pin 11, which is linked to the collector of a switching transistor in the IC), or if it is short-circuited, the sinewave is completely 'clean'. As soon as a resistor is connected from pin 11 to the positive voltage supply line the spikes re-appear. A combination of square wave and (undistorted) sinewave in the same generator is only possible if the output voltage of the square wave at pin 11 is kept very small and this output is not loaded too heavily. In figure 4 pin 11 only has to drive transistor T2. The base current for the BSX20 is provided via resistor R15. If the internal transistor con-

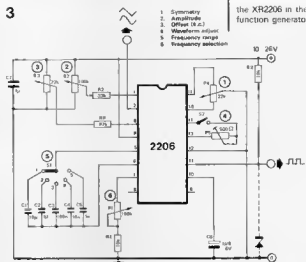
nected to pin 11 conducts it simply removes the base current of T2. The base-emitter junction of T2 prevents the output amplitude of pin 11 from rising above 0.6 V. The square wave at the collector of T2 still has a peak to peak value of 16 V, which is not very favourable for pin 11. The solution here is to short the output of T2 if a triangular or sine wave output is chosen. In this way the square wave is very effectively suppressed when it is not needed.

Optimal amplitude adjustment

The amplitude setting, by means of the AM input (pin 1) also appears to have quite an effect on the waveform. Cross-talk (for want of a better word) between the square wave and triangle/sine wave output (pin 2) will be reduced if a positive voltage is applied to the AM input. This is why pin 1 in figure 4 is at +4 V. At -4 V the output voltage would have been just as large but there would have been more likelihood of distortion.

The amplitude of the output voltage at pin 2 is effected by the resistance on pin 3 of the IC. To retain the same output amplitude when switching between sine and triangle the resistance at pin 3 must be about 2.7 times as high for a sine as for the triangular wave. Many 2206-based circuits simply switch the resistance at this pin but our experience shows that this is not to be recommended. Wires and tracks to the switch then make the circuit very

3



the XR2206 in the function generator

84125-3

sensitive to distortion and changing the resistance also changes the d.c. level at pin 2. This problem could be solved by duplicating P5 and P6 and then switching between these two branches. That is not what we have done, however. The amplitude and d.c. level are fixed for both waveforms with P5 and P6 and the amplitude correction needed is carried out at the output by means of voltage divider R23/R24. The impedance of this voltage divider could only be kept low by including an emitter follower (T3) before

Figure 3. This is the normal layout used with the 2206. Very few external components are used but the results achieved are not very good.

4

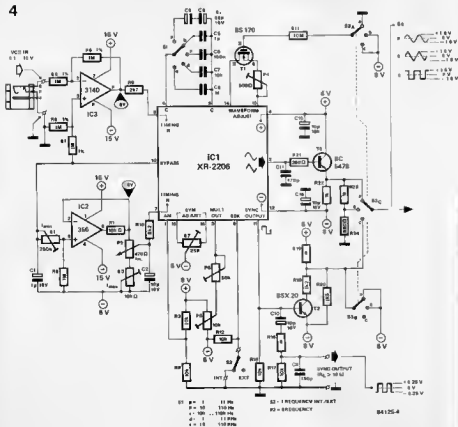


Figure 4. The Elektor function generator uses quite a few external components. Here it is seen without the output amplifier end power supply.

84125-4

Figure 5. This block diagram shows the insides of the XR2206. The actual oscillator in the IC (VCO) supplies triangle and square waveforms. The frequency can be set by means of pins 7 and 8 (these are used to define the charging and discharging currents for the capacitor connected between pins 5 and 6). A sine shaper forms a sine wave from the triangles. The amplitude (pins 1 and 3) can be changed using the multiplier. Adjustment points 16/15 and 14/13 are connected to the sine shaper.

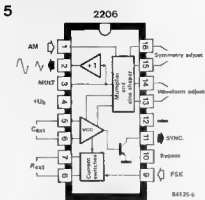
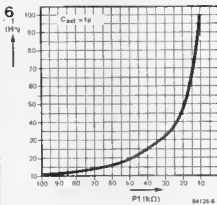


Figure 5. If the frequency is set by means of a potentiometer acting as a variable resistor the curve of frequency with respect to wiper position is far from linear. This gives a scale division that is not very user friendly.



it. A high-impedance voltage divider (such as 5k6/3k3) would, of course, do away with the need for the emitter follower but it would introduce more distortion and would make the circuit more sensitive to noise.

Frequency setting: linear and stable

The basic circuit of figure 3 uses a variable resistor (P1) to select the desired frequency. In this way the frequency is barely effected by changes in the supply voltage but the scale division is not very usable. The relationship between the resistance value (position of the wiper) and the frequency is shown in figure 6. A linear frequency scale is obtained if the voltage, rather than the resistance, at pin 7 is varied. This idea is implemented in figure 4. In this case P2 forms a voltage divider by means of which the (linear) wiper voltage is fed to R10. To prevent the frequency from being effected by variations in the supply voltage the potentiometer is connected not to the supply but to the output of a low-drift op-amp (IC2). This LF386 buffers the voltage present on pin 10 of the 2206; this pin actually provides an internal reference voltage from the IC. There are two advantages to using the reference voltage for P2: the frequency remains stable and the voltage across P2 cannot become higher than that at pin 7 (which is also connected to the reference voltage). The op-amp also 'decouples' presets P1 and P3. With this

arrangement the maximum frequency can be preset using P3 without effecting the minimum frequency already set with P1. The voltage from pin 10 is also used as a reference for external frequency settings via the VCO input. In this way the optimum frequency stability is achieved.

No compromise

The next point on the list is the 2206's ability to generate asymmetric waveforms. To do this the time constants for the sawtooth and pulse waveform must be switched. This is achieved by tying the FSK input (pin 9) to the square wave output (pin 11) so that the capacitor between pins 5 and 6 is charged by the current from pin 7 and discharged by the current from pin 8. This is by no means a perfect solution for a number of reasons. The difference between charge and discharge times cannot be made great enough so the sawtooth looks more like an asymmetrical triangle. The frequency scale of the potentiometer on pin 7 is no longer correct as this now determines only about half of the period duration; the rest depends on the resistance or current at pin 8. The external frequency control (via the VCO input) must have an extra switch. Finally, the square wave fed through the printed circuit board and switches from pin 11 to pin 12 corrupts the other waveforms. Our answer to these points is straightforward: it is better to have no asymmetrical signals than bad ones. Regarding the stability of waveforms and amplitude above 100 kHz there is also only one acceptable solution: the frequency range should not extend beyond 100 kHz. The power supply used is completely symmetrical. This enables it to work without decoupling capacitors and the square waveform is very good even at low frequency. All these 'improvements' on the 2206 are only possible if a double-sided printed circuit board is used. This is the only way that the critical tracks can be kept as short as possible and/or far enough from each other. This also enables the wiring between the board and switches, sockets, and potentiometers to be kept shorter and simpler. This sort of printed circuit board requires a lot of care in the design stage in order to find the best layout. In this way it is more than simply a way of interconnecting the components: it is an essential part of the circuit.

Conclusion

Even when a circuit is based on a special IC that contains almost exactly the layout required a lot of work is needed to finalise the design. No part of the project may be overlooked. We have designed the function generator carefully in order to allow the XR2206 to do its job as well as possible. What is also important is that we have not pushed the IC to its limits. Doing this could only have meant that the circuit would be full of compromises. ■

One of the less pleasant aspects of programming is having to spend hours just typing in a BASIC program. You arrive at line 8760 and have to type: P-O-K-E-P-T,-A-S-C-(-M-I-D-\$(X-\$(S,-1)-) . . . or something similar and wonder how secretaries can type the whole day long.

Fortunately there is a cure for this ailment. Shortened forms of the BASIC instructions can be used: for example O for POKE, C for ASC, M for MID\$ and so on. All that is needed to enable this shorthand to be used is a small machine code program intended for 6502-based systems, and the Junior Computer in particular. Then you can concentrate on your program instead of having to worry about the typing.



The purpose of the machine code program given here is to provide an abbreviation for a number of BASIC instructions (particularly the long ones, like RIGHT\$) so that they do not have to be typed out longhand every time. A single letter will be enough to identify an instruction if it is preceded by the ASCII code 1BHEX, in other words if the Escape key is first pressed. This indicates to the computer that the next character is not an ordinary one and should be treated as the abbreviation for an instruction. An R following an Escape would then give READ, and P would give PRINT. The first function of our routine is to filter the Escape code. The following character must be one of those that corresponds to an abbreviation. When this has been confirmed the program then outputs the complete instruction as if it had been typed in letter by letter via the keyboard.

Two look-up tables

The whole routine is relatively simple but it does make use of some rather clever vector manipulations. The flowchart shown in figure 1 should make it easier to understand. Clearly this 'program' is really only a subroutine and the user exits from it by means of an RTS command. The clever part consists of changing the return

address to our routine just before leaving it using the RTS instruction. But let's start at the beginning.

When BASIC is waiting for something from the user, or, to be exact, from the keyboard, it enters a wait loop that it only leaves when it receives the ASCII code for CR (carriage return). This character-receiving loop is where we enter the scene. In order to do this we must change one vector: the address of the reception routine (RECCHA, for example) is replaced by the address of the routine to which we want to send the processor, which in this case is the address of label SHHAND at E000HEX. In the Junior Computer and similar systems this change is done at the level of the DOS input/output distributor. This distributor is made up of two bytes, one for inputs (2321HEX) and the other for outputs (2322HEX). Each bit in these two bytes corresponds to a specific input or output routine (keyboard, RS232 output, Centronics output, memory, etc.), whose addresses are found in a look-up table (2301 . . . 231F). In this table we replace the address for the routine to receive a character from the keyboard with the address of the routine described in this article.

We are then at the cold start entry of figure 1. A character is first read from the keyboard and analysed. If it is not the code for the Escape key the routine stops

short-hand BASIC

short-hand BASIC

short-hand BASIC

allows BASIC programs to be typed two or three times as fast as normal

Figure 1. This flowchart shows how the abbreviation routine itself determines from which entry it is started. Its decision is based on whether the previous character received is the last in a chain corresponding to the abbreviated instruction.

ABS	B
AND	A
ASC	C
CHR\$	H
COS	S
DATA	D
DEF	@
DIM	1
DISK	K
END	Z
EXIT	X
EXP	†
FOR	F
GOSUB	.
GOTO	G
INPUT	I
INT	J
LEFT\$	B
LEN	3
LIST	L
LOG	0
MID\$	M
NEW	FF (0C)HEX
NEXT	N
NOT	—
PEEK	E
POKE	O
POS	LF (0A)HEX
PRINT	P
READ	R
REM	2
RESTORE	BS (0B)HEX
RETURN	,
RIGHT\$	9
RND	/
RUN	CR (0D)HEX
SGN	;
SIN	5
SPC	SP (20)HEX
SQR	O
STEP	S
STOP	W
STR\$	4
TAB	MT (09)HEX
TAN	7
THEN	T
TRAP	Y
USR	U
VAL	V

Table 1. The BASIC interpreter has itself a look-up table where it can find the reserved words corresponding to instructions. This table allows us to reconstitute the complete instructions from abbreviations.

immediately and the character is treated normally. If, on the other hand, the character in question is the Escape code the cursor starts flashing to indicate that the special abbreviation routine is in operation. The next character can either be the Escape code again, in which case the routine is stopped, or one of the abbrevi-

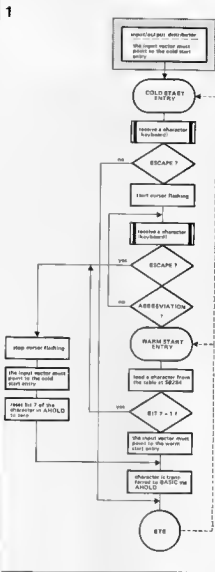
ations listed in the look-up table reproduced in the listing. The 6802's Y register serves as an index while this table is being referenced. Whenever the character received after the Escape corresponds to one of those in the table the processor can locate the complete instruction based on the contents of index register Y. All it has to do is seek it in another look-up table located in the BASIC interpreter starting at address 0284HEX. As we can see from table 1, all the instructions known to the interpreter are found there. In order to distinguish them from one another the ASCII code for the last character in each instruction has been changed. Its bit seven, which is normally '0', is set to '1' and then serves to indicate the end of an instruction. An example of this is seen at 0286HEX; this address should contain 44HEX (the 'D' in END) but it actually contains C4HEX.

Changing the vectors

Now we have arrived at the most interesting part of the program: the cold start entry. The processor then loads a character from the look-up table indexed by register Y and examines its bit 7. If it is logic low it is not the last character in the chain so there are more that must be loaded to complete the instruction. This explains the changing of the vector for the input distributor so that in order to receive the next character the processor returns to the warm (rather than cold) entry to our routine. As soon as the character received has been converted to BASIC (the character is stored in buffer AHOLD while the RTS instruction is carried out) we return to the abbreviation handling routine, this time by the warm start entry. A new character is then loaded from the look-up table. If its bit 7 is logic high this means that the instruction is now complete. The cursor flashing can now be stopped and then the input distributor vector is again changed so that it once again points at the cold start entry to our routine.

Before the last character (stored in AHOLD while the RTS instruction is being executed) is transferred to BASIC its bit 7 must be reset to zero. The whole abbreviation routine is carried out in a fraction of a second. The user presses the Escape key and then R, for example, and the word READ appears immediately on the screen.

The complete listing of this machine code routine is given in table 2. The outlines that are shown in the flowchart of figure 1 are easily picked out. There are still some things that should be said, however. As we have dealt with the working of this routine in some detail it should be quite easy to change it to suit any system other than the Junior Computer. The flashing cursor is just an 'accessory'; it could be replaced by another signal if you prefer. Note the absolute addresses: the input distributor (IOTABL), the buffer for the character that is being transferred (AHOLD), the



```

0280: 00 44 40 4E 45 4F C4 46 50 4E 45 43 30 34 44 41 .L..BK.PE.AEX.BA
0290: 54 C1 4F 4F 58 55 54 44 4F 52 45 41 04 4C 43 T.IMPULI.REALE
0300: 04 4F 54 0F 58 55 5E 4F C4 52 45 53 54 46 52 .RTI.ALI.1.WESTER
0310: 05 4F 4F 53 55 52 53 45 54 53 52 52 52 52 43 53 .AHOLD.ACTOR.RE.S
0320: 54 4F 04 4F 0E 45 44 4F 04 54 52 41 04 45 56 4F .TS.SLE.THE.EXI
0330: 04 44 4F 53 38 44 45 54 58 4F 48 58 52 4F 4F .SIS.DE.POK.POH
0340: 04 43 4F 04 4C 4F 53 04 43 4C 45 41 02 4F 45 .DHL.LS.ALEA.EA
0350: 0F 54 41 42 48 54 0F 44 0E 53 58 43 48 54 46 45 .LMB.T.F.SP.THE
0360: 0E 4F 4F 54 53 54 45 48 48 4F 4E 41 4F C1 40 .SLE.TE..JH..
0370: 4F 43 4E 80 8C 53 47 4E 4F 04 41 02 02 55 54 .S...IN.AB.SE
0380: 22 44 52 58 4F 03 53 51 52 4F 04 4C 4F C7 .PH.PI.SB.WALB
0390: 45 54 04 43 4F 03 53 4F 0E 54 41 0E 18 18 18 .DLO.DI.SI..T...P
0400: 45 45 48 45 0E 53 54 52 44 54 41 0E 41 53 53 .EAL.E.SPE.AMAG
0410: 48 54 44 0E 54 44 43 4F 44 54 44 43 4F 47 44 54 44 0E 08 .LEFT.SIEM.PA
0420: 4F 44 44 4E 0E C2 52 53 47 4F 04 14 C4 43 4F 04 14 .S.S.S.F.R
0430: 4F 43 53 03 42 82 44 04 28 4F 04 54 0E C3 04 0E C3 04 .S.O.S.O.J..L.L

```

0110: E000	ORG 8090	0300: E645 29 FF	W800: E5FF SET FOR NON-FLASHING CURSOR
0120: E001	SHORTHAND BASIC COMMANDS FOR JUNIOR COMPUTER	0310: E647 80 91 00	STA 0: PF FILE
0130: E002		0320: E649 A1 7F	LDX#0: DRAM A1 7F
0140: E003		0330: E64C 20 43 23	W#0: A#LDL STRIP 87
0150: E004	OPTIONAL FOR SUPERWORLD II AND CHALLENGER C/P	0340: E64F 80 43 23	STA A#LDL
0160: E005	FROM: "M1.00. INT 2000", JENK. J. NEWERS	0350: E672 A2 FF	LDX#0: WFF SHARD ADDRESS -#1 TO X
0170: E006		0360: E674 40 8E	LDX#0: WFF W#D Y-REGISTER
0180: E007		0370: E675 08 8E	INC STORE BRANCH ALWAYS
0190: E008	PETER THROMSSEN	0380:	
019A: E009		0390:	
01A0: E010	OS-60 INPUT DE SWITCH TABLE	039A:	SHORTHAND COMMAND TABLE
01B0: E011	UTOTAL 0 82381	0400:	
01C0: E012		0410: E670 5A	TABLE = ? 2 END
01D0: E013	OUT ADDRESSES	0420: E671 64	= F FOR
01E0: E014		0430: E673 4E	= ?# NEXT
01F0: E015	AR = 8 8088A CRT ADDRESS REGISTER	0440: E675 4E	= ?# DATA
0200: E016	PF FILE 0 AR +8; REGISTER FILE	0450: E67C 0F	= ?# INPUT
0210: E017	TOPS	0460: E67D 70	= ?# BURN
0220: E018		0470: E67E 52	= ?# READ
0230: E019		0480: E67F FF	= WFF
0240: E020	A#LDL 0 82343 ACCUMULATOR HOLD	0490: E680 47	= ?# BSTD
0250: E021	TOPSY 0 8090C TEMPORARY BUFFER	049A: E681 00	= ?# NOB
0260: E022		0500: E682 FF	= ?# NOB
0270: E023	EXTERNAL ROUTINES	0510: E683 8E	= ?#0 RESTORE
0280: E024		0520: E688 8E	= ?# A000B
0290: E025	RECCMA 1 W#EID RECEIVE CHARACTER FROM KEYBOARD	0530: E685 8E	= ?# RETURN
02A0: E026		0540: E68A 32	= ?# NOB
02B0: E027	LOOK-UP TABLES	0550: E68B 52	= ?# STOP
02C0: E028		0560: E688 0F	= WFF
02D0: E029	B#CDL 0 8E284 BASIC COMMAND LOOKUP TABLE	0570: E68D 0F	= WFF
02E0: E030		0580: E68E 5F	= ?# TRAP
02F0: E031		0590: E690 30	= ?# D311
0300: E032	!!! MAIN PROGRAM 143	05A0: E69C 40	= ?# A000B
0310: E033		05B0: E69D 40	= ?#0 DEF
0320: E034		05C0: E69E 4F	= ?# POKE
0330: E035		05D0: E69F 30	= ?# P#040
0340: E036	E000 29 10 FE SHARD JSR RECCMA GET CHARACTER FROM KEYBOARD	05E0: E699 0F	= WFF
0350: E037	0100 010	05F0: E69A 5F	= ?# LIST
0360: E038	0200 0205 FF 81 FLS FLOOR IF YES, BRANCH	0600: E69C 40	= ?# NOB
0370: E039	0300 0307 40 FLS IF NO, RETURN TO BASIC	0610: E69D 0F	= WFF
0380: E040	0400 040F 8E FLOOR LDAX#0	0620: E69E 30	= ?# NOB
0390: E041	0500 050A 0F 8E STA AR SELECT CURSOR CONTROL REGISTER	0630: E69F 81	= ?# NOB
0400: E042	0600 060D 40 8E LDA PF FILE	0640: E6A0 FF	= WFF
0410: E043	0700 0707 0F 40 ORX#0 800 SET 80 8E FOR FLASHING CURSOR	0650: E6A1 FF	= WFF
0420: E044	0800 0812 80 81 00 STA 0: PF FILE	0660: E6A2 70	= ?# BSTD
0430: E045	0900 0910 42 03 W#CTD, LDAX#0 LDR W#L, TABLE INDEX	0670: E6A3 54	= ?# NOB
0440: E046	0A00 0A17 70 10 FE JSR RECCMA GET SHORTHAND COMMAND FROM KEYBOARD	0680: E6A4 33	= ?# BSTD
0450: E047	0B00 0B1A 07 41 W#CDL#0 C#P#N 841	0690: E6A8 33	= ?# WFF
0460: E048	0C00 0C1C 78 80 BCC SEARCH BRANCH IF CHARACTER < a	0700: E6A9 81	= ?# AND
0470: E049	0D00 0D20 0F 70 C#P#N 470	0710: E6AE 81	= ?# WFF
0480: E050	0E00 0E28 00 82 BCC SEARCH BRANCH IF CHARACTER > z	0720: E6AF 0F	= WFF
0490: E051	0F00 0F22 29 0F W#D#N 80F LDR W#D, IN ACCU INTO CAPITAL	0730: E6B0 FF	= WFF
0500: E052	1000 1024 07 10 SEARCH C#P#N 410 IS IT ESCAPE?	0740: E6B1 FF	= ?# AND
0510: E053	1100 1126 78 20 BGC LASTON IF YES, RETURN TO BASIC	0750: E6B2 FF	= WFF
0520: E054	1200 1220 00 78 20 C#P#N TABLE CONTING NEXT TABLE	0760: E6B3 FF	= ?# WFF
0530: E055	1300 1300 00 85 BGC FOUND FOUND 17F HIGH BRANCH	0770: E6B4 FF	= WFF
0540: E056	1400 1402 0A BGC NEXT 1 87	0780: E6B4 FF	= WFF
0550: E057	1500 150E 10 F4 BPL SEARCH IF NOT FOUND, LOOP BACK	0790: E6B4 FF	= WFF
0560: E058	1600 1600 30 83 W#I #X#T#L NO MATCH? SQUARE AND GET NEW COMMAND	0800: E6B5 30	= ?# 10N
0570: E059	1700 1702 0E 04 FOUND INC INCREASE C#W#P#N#T#R	0810: E6B6 94	= ?# INT
0580: E060	1800 1802 80 FF W#I #X#T#L WFF 7 FOR 7 BRANCH IN BASIC COMMAND TABLE	0820: E6B7 42	= ?# AND
0590: E061	1900 1905 0A C#W#D#N 0C#Y# NEXT BASIC COMMAND	0830: E6B8 50	= ?# WFF
0600: E062	1A00 1A07 00 8E W#E#R #W#Y# ARRIVED AT CORRECT COMMAND BRANCH	0840: E6B9 FF	= WFF
0610: E063	1B00 1B04 08 0F W#I 0#Y# NOT YET ARRIVED? SKIP CURRENT COMMAND	0850: E6BA 84	= ?#0 POS
0620: E064	1C00 1C09 01 0A L#M#T B#C#D#N 0#W#E#T#1	0860: E6BB 51	= ?# WFF
0630: E065	1D00 1D0C 10 F0 BPL STRIP NEXT LOOP BACK	0870: E6BC 3F	= ?# W#D
0640: E066	1E00 1E0E 30 F3 W#I #W#D#N 0#E#T#1#T#Y# NEXT ONE	0880: E6BD 30	= ?# 100
0650: E067	1F00 1F0A 0E 80 W#M#Y# STY TOPSY W#M#Y#-REGISTER	0890: E6BE 5E	= ?# BCP
0660: E068	2000 2042 0C 8E W#E#T#O#D#1#Y#T#Y# RECALL Y-REGISTER	0900: E6BF 26	= ?# C05
0670: E069	2100 2104 08 03 W#I 0#N#D#R#E#S#T#E#R#C#W#P#N#T#R	0910: E6C0 20	= ?# 14N
0680: E070	2200 2207 0F 84 82 STY B#C#D#N GET ONE CHARACTER FROM COMMAND	0920: E6C1 32	= ?# 100
0690: E071	2300 230A 03 43 23 STA W#LDL HOLD CHARACTER FOR BASIC INPUT	0930: E6C1 11	= ?# WFF
0700: E072	2400 240E 30 8E 04E LASTON LAST W#D#N, FOUND? THEN BRANCH	0940: E6C1 45	= ?# RE#D#L
0710: E073	2500 250F 8E 8E STY TOPSY W#M#Y#-REGISTER	0950: E6C4 33	= ?# 10N
0720: E074	2600 2652 62 42 LD#X#A 842 SET#D#A#D#R#E#S#S#-#1#T#O#X	0960: E6C4 54	= ?# 575N
0730: E075	2700 2704 40 8D L#P#N#W#E#R W#D#Y#-REGISTER	0970: E6C5 32	= ?# 100
0740: E076	2800 2854 8E 43 23 50#B#C# STY 1 TOTAL ADDRESS ON X- AND Y-REGISTER TO	0980: E6C5 43	= ?# AND
0750: E077	2900 293F 8E 82 23 STY 1 TOTAL #01 BASIC INPUT VECTOR TABLE	0990: E6C6 00	= ?# C#P#N
0760: E078	2A00 2A0C 40 8E W#E#R #W#Y# RETURN TO BASIC	1000: E6C7 50	= ?# L#T#F#T
0770: E079	2B00 2B0E 40 8E W#M#Y# LASTON LDAX#0	1010: E6C8 40	= ?# B#D#B#T
0780: E080	2C00 2C00 00 80 STA AR SELECT CURSOR CONTROL REGISTER	1020: E6C9 40	= ?# R#10N
0790: E081	2D00 2D0D 80 01 00 LDA PF FILE	1030:	

keyboard reception routine (RECCHA) and the look-up table for the interpreter (BASCOS). These are not directly compatible with systems other than the Junior. There are also some absolute addresses at lines 750, 760, 880 and 890 of the listing. If the routine is placed at a different location to the one we have used these addresses must also be changed. Two things have to

be done in order to incorporate this routine in your system. First it must be loaded to memory (from a diskette). Next the input vector at 2301HEX must be changed so that it points to the start of our routine. If this starts at E000, as it does here, the vector will be DFFFHEX (= E000 - 1). In BASIC this gives POKE 8961,258; POKE 8962,233.

Table 2. This is the complete listing of the shorthand BASIC routine. Naturally the shorthand command table in the listing can be changed, it is essential, however, to retain the order of instructions to form here (i.e. END - FOR - NEXT etc.) but different abbreviations may be used. Note that the list of abbreviations and instructions given in the margin of the page opposite is sorted into alphabetical rather than logical order.



function generator

A function generator is without doubt an essential part of any serious electronics hobbyist's laboratory. It is indispensable wherever sine waves, triangle waves or square waves are needed. In the January 1978 issue of *Elektor* (UK) we published a design for a function generator and since then it has remained a very popular project. The new design we present here uses the same function generator IC as its predecessor: the XR2206 from Exar. We have, of course, taken note of the advances that the last seven years have brought so this new function generator is a great improvement over the old, being more sophisticated and more capable in many areas.

made-to-measure waveforms

Technical specifications

- **Frequency range:** 1 Hz ... 110 kHz, divided into five decades
- **External voltage controlled:** 0.1 ... 10 V on the VCO input gives a frequency range of 1 ... 100, input impedance is 1 M Ω
- **Waveforms:** sine, triangle, square
- **Harmonic distortion on the sine wave:** 0.5%
- **DC OUT:** all waveforms, amplitude 100 mV ... 10 Vpp, d.c. level adjustable from -5 V to +5 V, output impedance is 50 Ω , short-circuit protected
- **AC OUT:** all waveforms, amplitude 10 mV ... 1 Vpp, frequency range 0.1 Hz ... 110 kHz (-3 dB), output impedance is 600 Ω , short circuit protected
- **SYNC OUTPUT:** square wave, amplitude 500 mVpp, no d.c. voltage component present, output impedance is 1 k Ω , short circuit protected, shut-off impedance, > 10 k Ω

Although the 'simple function generator' described in January 1978 (UK issue) was (and is) a popular project, the time has come for it to be replaced. Over the years many things change and technology, in particular, has taken big steps forward. A new function generator would therefore seem to be in order. Furthermore, it will not have escaped our readers' attention that *Elektor* has been publishing a series of test instruments. Actually, it is not really

a series, but as we had quite a few lab instruments on our planning sheets we felt it would be worth while to put them all in the same cases to form a 'family'. It all started with the pulse generator and capacitance meter, now we add a function generator and next month it will be a frequency counter. What comes after that you will just have to wait and see.

A new function generator could be expected to have a completely new concept and be made with the latest ICs. That is what we thought as well but after searching for a replacement for the XR2206 we decided to remain faithful to this old IC. There are a number of reasons for this. First of all, the function generator must retain a fairly simple layout. The circuit must not become too expensive and it must not contain exotic ICs that are not freely available. A completely discrete circuit seemed too complicated to guarantee that every one built would work properly. A digital solution (with the waveform stored in an EPROM followed by a digital to analog converter) would be very up to date but would require expensive, difficult to find components. What it all comes down to is this: although ten years old, the XR2206 still seems the best IC to use as the heart of a new function generator.

Deciding to use the XR2206 in a new function generator does not mean falling back on an old design. We have used a number of clever (we are modest today, aren't we) solutions to overcome the well-known (infamous even) drawbacks of the 2206. How this is done is described elsewhere in this issue by the article 'the XR2206 in the function generator'.

What can it do?

The aim was clear: to develop a small, efficient function generator. Nobody wants a huge case covered in knobs and switches if they can have a good-quality basic instrument that is not completely shadowed by the (rather expensive) ready-made units that are available. As the technical specifications in the table here show, we think we have succeeded in this and even the front panel (figure 5) is quite attractive. The standard waveforms are available: sine, triangle and square. Price considerations mean that digital frequency setting and read-out have not been included. This is taken care of by a single knob, which, once calibrated, is accurate enough. It is always possible to connect a frequency meter to the generator to see exactly what frequency is selected. For normal use it is important to have a large output-voltage range with a variable offset level. The DC OUTput has a maximum amplitude of 10 Vpeak-peak at an output impedance of 50 Ω . The offset can be varied between -5 V and +3 V, which is of particular use where a square wave at TTL or CMOS level is needed. A separate output for audio use (AC OUT) is fitted with an output capacitor; its signal level can be set between 10 mV and 1 V (again peak-peak) and the output impedance is 600 Ω .

The signal is kept as clean as possible at higher frequencies by the use of a wide-band d.c.-coupled output amplifier. To be honest we must admit that the sine waveform is not completely free of distortion but this is an evil shared by almost all function generators. Distortion measurements on hi-fi equipment should be made with an actual sinewave generator (such as a Wien bridge oscillator). We have none the less done our best to make the sinewave as pure as possible. The result of our labour is shown in figure 1; the upper trace shows the waveform from the Elektor function generator while underneath this is the equivalent from a ready-made generator that is also based on the 2206. Clearly, 'our's' is the better waveform, with less than 0.5% harmonic distortion. Another important detail is the VCO input. This is used to provide a linear frequency control in a range of 1...100 (based on a d.c. voltage of 0.1...10 V). The circuit will only work optimally if the tracks on the printed circuit board and the wiring in general are kept short. For this reason the board we have designed is double-sided. This not only improves the quality of the waveform, it also makes construction easier.

The circuit

We will start with the simplest part of the circuit: the power supply. This has the usual configuration with centre-tapped mains transformer, bridge rectifier and a pair of voltage regulators (IC4 and IC5) to provide the symmetrical + and -15 V. The purpose of LED D9 is to indicate that the generator is switched on. The maximum supply voltage to the XR2206 is only 26 V, however, so + and -8 V are fed to pins 4 and 12 of IC1 respectively via zener diodes D7 and D8. Within the IC is a very stable voltage reference giving 3 V d.c. (relative to the negative supply line). This voltage, which is available at pin 10 of the IC, is decoupled by capacitor C1 and is used in this circuit as a reference for the frequency setting by means of P2. The reference is buffered by IC2 in order to reduce the load on it. This same reference voltage is also present at pin 7 of IC1. The frequency of the 2206 is directly proportional to the current flowing from this pin, which is determined by the voltage at the wiper of potentiometer P2. When the voltage here is high, 3 V for example, very little current flows so the frequency is at its minimum (f_{min}). The frequency is highest (f_{max}) if the voltage at the wiper is low (when the wiper is turned completely to the negative supply side). Note that all the voltages quoted here are relative to the negative supply line. The lower and upper limits of the frequency scale can be changed with presets P1 and P3. The FSK input, pin 9, of the IC is used to switch the frequency setting of the 2206 from pin 7 to pin 8. When S2 is switched to EXT potentiometer P2 no longer has any effect and it is the current from pin 8 that determines the frequency. This current depends on the control voltage across resistor R9, which is provided by the VCO input via IC3. The 3140 inverts the VCO voltage so that when it increases the frequency also increases. At the same time IC3 serves to ensure that the VCO voltage range corresponds to the range to which IC1 reacts. To do this the non-inverting input of IC3 is linked to the 3 V reference via voltage divider R6/R7. If the VCO input is not required this whole section can be omitted. This includes IC3, R5...R9 and S2. The connection for the common pole of S2 must then be

function generator

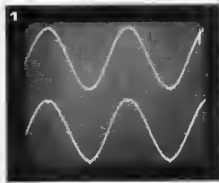


Figure 1. The sinewaves generated by the Elektor function generator (above) and a ready-made equivalent (below).

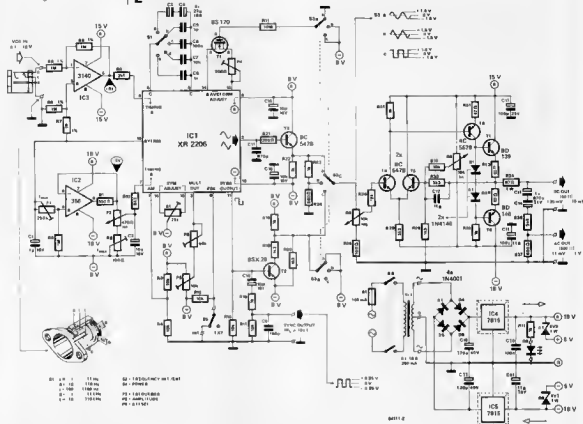


Figure 2. The circuit of the function generator consists of three basic sections: the generator based on IC1, the d.c.-coupled output amplifier (T4...T8) and the symmetrical supply (IC4 and IC5).

grounded. The actual frequency range of the generator is decided by capacitors C3...C8 and is switched by means of switch S1. Two electrolytics in series are used for the lowest range, giving the equivalent of a bipolar 11 μ F capacitor. A rather complex procedure is used for selecting the different waveforms, based on three-pole switch S3. A sine wave is produced when S3 is in position a. Part A of the switch then electronically inserts preset P4 between pins 13 and 14 (waveform adjust) via VMOFET T1. Part B shorts the output of T2 by connecting it to -8 V so that the square wave cannot distort the sine wave. Part C feeds the signal from IC1, after buffering by T3, to the output amplifier. Position b selects the triangular waveform. Section A now deselects the forming of a sine wave via the BS170, section B still disables the square wave and section C again feeds the signal to the output amplifier. One small change noted in this position is that the signal from IC1 (pin 2) travels via a voltage divider after T3. This is needed to keep the amplitudes of the sine and triangle the same at the output as the XR2206 gives the triangle a much greater amplitude than the sine. The square wave is selected when S3 is in position c. Again T1 is kept 'off' by means of part A. Section B allows the square wave, which is amplified by T2, to pass on via section C to the output amplifier.

The square wave is always available at the SYNC OUTPUT of IC1 (pin 11). Its amplitude is only 0.5 V_{pp} but it is a pure waveform. All d.c. components are blocked by capacitor C10. The symmetry of the waveform can be changed by means of preset P7 connected between pins 15 and 16. The amplitude of the signal output at pin 2 is set with preset P6 and its d.c. value is changed by means of preset P5. The AM input of the 2206 (pin 1) is fixed at +4 V d.c. by voltage divider R3/R4.

The output amplifier is completely discrete, consisting of a differential amplifier (T4 and T5), a driver (T6) and two power transistors (T7 and T8). The gain of this whole section is determined by the ratio R30 : R29, which works out at a little more than three times. A 15 pF capacitor, C12, is included to ensure frequency stability without affecting the amplifier's slew rate too much. The quiescent current of the output stage is set by diodes D1 and D2. The output current is limited by resistor R35, which also defines the impedance of the DC OUTPUT. The d.c. offset can be set with potentiometer P9. Output 'volume' is controlled by means of P8. A bipolar electrolytic, consisting of capacitors C13 and C14, is used for d.c. suppression. The output voltage is lowered by voltage divider R36/R37, whose values are chosen to give an impedance of 600 Ω .

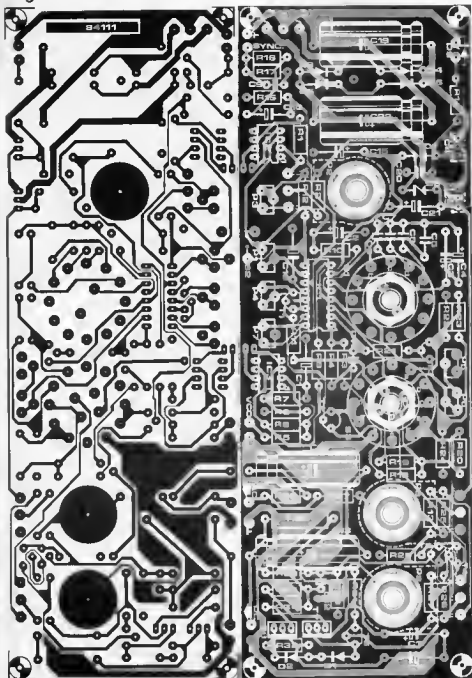


Figure 3. The printed circuit board for the function generator is double-sided, thus keeping wiring to a minimum and the connections to the board short. Both sides of this board are shown on the printed circuit board pages near the centre of this issue.

C5 = 1 μ (MKT)
 C6 = 100 n (MKT)
 C7 = 10 n (MKT)
 C8 = 1 n (MKT)
 C9 = 150 p
 C11 = 470 p
 C12 = 15 p
 C13, C14 = 470 μ /25 V
 C17, C18 = 100 μ /25 V
 C19, C22 = 220 μ /40 V
 C20 = 100 n

Semiconductors.

D1, D2 = 1N4148
 D3, D6 = 1N4001
 D7, D8 = 6V8/1 W zener
 D9 = LED, red
 T1 = BS170
 T2 = BSX20, 2N2369
 T3 T5 = BC5478
 T6 = BC557B
 T7 = BD139
 T8 = BD140
 IC1 = XR2206
 IC2 = LF356N
 IC3 = CA3140E
 IC4 = 7815
 IC5 = 7915

Switches:

S1 = double-pole 6-way rotary water switch
 S2 = miniature single-pole toggle switch
 S3 = 4-pole 3 way rotary water switch
 S4 = miniature double pole mains switch

Miscellaneous:

F1 = fuse, 100 mA
 Tr1 = mains transformer, 2 \times 18 V/250 mA
 3 off BNC sockets (screw mounting)
 1 off d.c. power socket for VCO input (see figures 2)
 ICorKit/Ambit
 Heatsink for IC4 and IC5

Parts list

Resistors

R1, R25 = 100 Ω
 R2 = 1 M
 R3, R4, R12, R13, R15, R17 = 10 k
 R5, R6, R7, R8 = 1 M, 1% metal film
 R9 = 2x7
 R10 = 8k2
 R11 = 10 M
 R14, R16, R19, R22, R23, R27, R32 = 1 k
 R18 = 1k2
 R20, R29 = 1k5

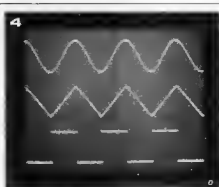
R21 = 390 Ω
 R24, R37 = 680 Ω
 R26 = 12 k
 R28, R30 = 3k3
 R31 = 47 Ω
 R33, R34 = 10 Ω
 R35 = 47 Ω /1 W
 R36 = 5k6
 P1 = 250 Ω preset (vertical type)
 P2 = 470 Ω wire-wound pot (with long spindle)
 P3 = 100 Ω preset (vertical type)
 P4 = 500 Ω preset (vertical type)

P5 = 10 k preset (vertical type)
 P6 = 50 k preset (vertical type)
 P7 = 25 k preset (vertical type)
 P8 = 10 k log. pot (long spindle)
 P9 = 10 k lin. pot. (long spindle)

Capacitors:

C1 = 1 μ /16 V
 C2, C10, C15, C16 = 10 μ /16 V
 C3, C4, C21 = 22 μ /25 V

Figure 4. These are the output signals that the function generator can provide: a sine, triangle and square wave (200 μ s/division horizontal, 1 V/division vertical).



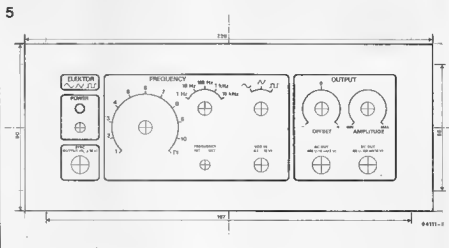
Take care in construction

Any test equipment, especially if it is home-made, must be trustworthy. This is only possible if it is constructed and calibrated very carefully so read the rest of this article before plugging in your soldering iron.

The printed circuit board designed for this project is double-sided but does not have through-plated holes. For this reason a number of components must be soldered at both sides of the board. In these cases there is a copper pad at each side. The parts in question are listed below and we suggest that these should be mounted first.

- One connection each for P1 and P7.
- One side of R2, R3, R4, R6, R7, R12, R15, R17, R20, R22, R24, R25, R28, R29, R37, and C20.
- The negative side of C1, C2, C15 and C19.
- The positive side of C17 and C21.
- The collector of T3 and T5.
- The emitter of T2.
- Both sides of C16, C18 and D8.
- Two connections each of P8, P9 and IC4.
- One connection of IC8, S2 and the DC OUTPUT.
- Finally, there are two pairs of connections through the board near both IC2 and IC3. These consist of four wires inserted in the appropriate holes and soldered at both sides.

Figure 5. This front panel gives the project an attractive finished appearance. Before sticking the foil to the Verobox's aluminium panel all the holes must be drilled.



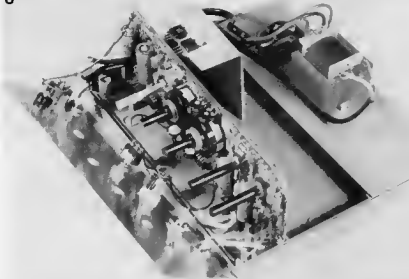
The connection points for the potentiometers (P2, P8 and P9), the sockets, the transformer and switch S2 can be fitted with soldering pins. Those for P2, P8, P9 and the transformer are fitted on the reverse side of the board, the others on the component side. Make sure that the 'collar' on the pins is not too wide or it may cause short circuits on the board. The MKT capacitors are mounted slightly above the board to prevent shorts. The potentiometers must also be mounted carefully so that they do not foul any other components.

The voltage regulators, IC4 and IC5, are placed on the reverse side of the board, with the metal mounting base facing P2. Each of these ICs must be fitted with a heatsink, or they may both be mounted on a piece of aluminium of about 60 x 100 mm (and 1.5 mm thick) as we have done. In either case the ICs must be electrically isolated from the heatsink(s). There are numerous different types of rotary wafer switches that could be used for this project. If the switches used have a movable detent so that only the number of ways needed can be switched it is advisable to use this.

As in our other 'test equipment series' projects the printed circuit board is dimensioned to fit snugly in a Verobox (number 075-01411D, 205 x 140 x 75 mm). The corners of the board must be filed a bit to make it fit perfectly into the slots provided in the case. The project is given a very attractive appearance by the self-adhesive front panel foil that should be stuck onto the case. The appropriate holes should be drilled beforehand. The 'power' LED and the VCO socket are stuck onto the back of the front panel using two-component adhesive. The photographs clearly show how all the hardware fits together. The fact that all the electronics fits onto a single printed circuit board greatly simplifies matters.

Calibration

Not all the presets are accessible after the



circuit has been fitted into the case so it is easier to calibrate them first. Connect the power transformer temporarily and before switching on set the presets as follows: Turn P6 fully right (maximum amplitude), all other pots and presets to mid-position, S2 closed, S3 set to square wave (c) and S1 to the 1...11 kHz range (d).

The power may now be applied. Connect a multimeter (with the most sensitive d.c. range selected) to the DC OUTPUT and set P9 so that the meter reads zero volts. Measure and note the peak to peak voltage of the square wave at this output with an oscilloscope.

The triangle wave is then selected with S3 (position b) and the peak to peak voltage is again measured. This value is trimmed with P6 until it is the same as that just measured for the square wave. At the same time the d.c. voltage at the output (seen on the multimeter) is set to zero volts with P6. Repeat this adjustment of P5 and P6 a few times until both amplitude and d.c. voltage are correct.

The sinewave is now selected by means of S3 (position a) and presets P4 and P7 are then used to reduce the distortion as much as possible. A distortion meter could be used for this but it is also possible to set it up 'by eye'. Turn P4 and P7 and see how they effect the waveform on the oscilloscope.

The final calibration involves setting the scale division. The front panel should be placed on the printed circuit board, taking care not to cause any short circuits, and a suitable knob is fitted onto P2. The knob should be fitted onto the spindle in such a way that the whole range of the scale can be scanned. Turn P2 until it points exactly towards '1' on the scale and then set the frequency to exactly 1 kHz with P1, measured with an oscilloscope or frequency meter. The knob is then turned to '10' and the frequency is set to 10 kHz by means of P3.

The other ranges are then automatically calibrated, as far as the tolerances of C3...C8 allow. If 5% capacitors are used the ranges are accurate to within 5%. An exception to this is C3 plus C4. The nominal value of the resultant capacitor is already 10% too large (as it is 11 μ F instead of 10 μ F) and the electrolytics have a tolerance of -10/+50%. Experimenting with different electrolytics should enable this lowest range to be made accurate. Perfectionists can also test the tolerance of the other capacitors (this is child's play using the Elektor capacitance meter). Furthermore cermet presets could be used for P1 and P3, and metal film resistors for R2, R9 and R10. A small frequency meter could also be made to give a direct read-out of the function generator's output. None of this is strictly necessary, however. The original intention was to make a straightforward test instrument and that is what this is without all the extras.

7

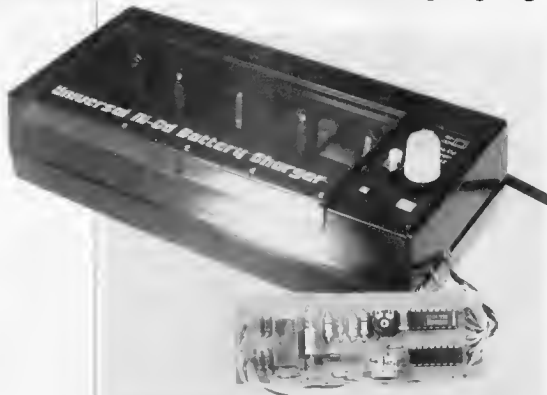


Figure 6. This is how the function generator is put together. Front panel, printed circuit board and back panel simply slide into grooves in the case (if the right Verobox is used). The switches, potentiometers and sockets are fitted to the front panel. Transformer and a fuse holder, and possibly a socket for the power, are mounted on the back panel.
N.B.: it is very important to mate the power switch well (and ideally the transformer connections also) as there is a danger of it touching C19 or C22.

Figure 7. In this photo the function generator is completely finished, except for the lid which still has to be put on the case. The mains cable travels via the printed circuit board to the power switch on the front panel. Both voltage regulators (on the reverse side of the board) are fixed onto a home-made heatsink. The wire-wound potentiometer for the frequency setting is located under the heatsink.

The usual inexpensive NiCd chargers available in electronics retail outlets are normally of Far Eastern origin, but that in itself is of little consequence. They often suffer the disadvantage, however, of not having a charging time control. You therefore have to keep an eye on the charging times and this may be done with an ordinary alarm clock. This is not the answer, however, if you want the charging to be done while you're away. In that case, you could not do much better than build the inexpensive time switch described here: it is so small that it can readily be fitted inside the housing of most chargers.

time switch . . .



for NiCd
chargers

The circuit diagram of a popular inexpensive NiCd charger is shown in figure 1. Here, the NiCd batteries are charged from half-wave rectified and transformed-down mains voltage. Four 1.5 V cells and one 9 V battery may be charged simultaneously; two of the four 1.5 V cells on the positive half cycle and the other two on the negative half cycle. The 10 ohm and 270 ohm resistors limit the charging currents to safe values. The LEDs (light-emitting diodes) indicate that the cell or battery is being charged. If one of them does not light, it indicates that (a) the battery or cell is not seated properly in the holder, or (b) that the battery or cell is defect and therefore not charging, or (c) that the LED is malfunctioning. The circuit diagram of the timer switch is

shown in figure 2: it consists essentially of ICs 1 and 2 and a relay. To prevent the transformer having to supply the charging current as well as the current to operate the relay, the relay does not draw current during the charging period. The quiescent current for the time switch amounts to only 200 μ A! The supply voltage for the circuit is obtained by full-wave rectification of the second of the three available transformer secondaries, and smoothing the pulsating direct voltage with C3. (The transformer is, of course, that already available in the charger). The timer clock frequency (36 Hz) is generated by oscillator R1/R2/P1/C1 and the relevant parts of IC1. Integrated circuit 1 also contains a divider chain of which here the :1024 branch (available at

pin 15) is used. The divided-down clock of 36/1024 Hz is further divided so that charging times of 1/2, 1, 2, 4, 8, and 16 hours are available, depending on the setting of switch S1.

After the set time has lapsed, a logic high appears at the wiper of S1 (terminal M). Transistor T1 is then switched on, and the relay, Rel, is actuated. The logic high signal also causes the oscillator to stop via DS.

When the relay is inactive, its contacts connect A to B (see also figure 1), and charging current can flow, when it is actuated, the connection A-B is broken, and no charging current can flow. It is, of course, not always convenient to keep plugging in and unplugging the mains supply to the charger, and yet it has to be possible to override the relay and

switch the charging current on again. For this purpose, spring-loaded RESET switch S2 has been provided.

Construction

If the time switch is constructed on the printed circuit board shown in figure 3, no special problems should arise. Be sure, however, to use the correct relay. Once the board is ready, a place should be found for it in the charger.

It should in virtually all instances be possible to mount switches S1 and S2 on the front panel of the charger. Make sure, however, that their terminals are accessible for soldering after installation. Connection between them and the printed circuit should be made in not too thin insulated stranded wire.

time switch.

1

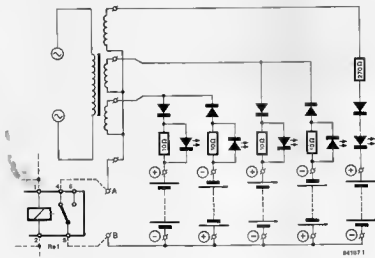


Figure 1. Circuit of a typical, popular NiCd battery charger. It allows the simultaneous charging of four 1.5 V cells (of various sizes) and one 9 V battery. The time switch is connected between points A and B.

2

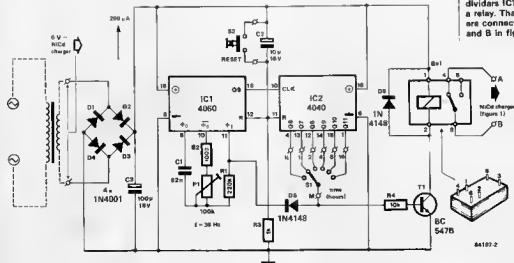


Figure 2. The circuit of the time switch consists essentially of binary dividers IC1 and IC2 and a relay. The relay contacts are connected to points A and B in figure 1.

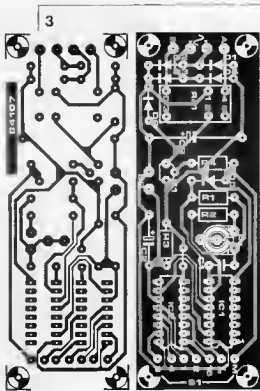


Figure 3. Component layout and track side of the printed circuit board.

Parts list

Resistors:

R1 = 220 k
R2 = 100 k
R3 = 1 k
R4 = 10 k
P1 = 100 k preset

Capacitors:

C1 = 82 n
C2 = 10 μ /16 V
C3 = 100 μ /16 V

Semiconductors:

D1...D4 = 1N4001
D5, D6 = 1N4148
T1 = BC 547B
IC1 = 4060
IC2 = 4040

Miscellaneous:

S1 = miniature single-pole
5-position rotary switch
S2 = miniature spring-
loaded push-button, push
to make
Re1 = miniature relay for
PCB mounting, single-pole
change-over, 6 V, 360 Ω
Printed circuit board 84107

Finally, the (earth) return line in the charger should be broken to provide points A and B; where this is done depends on the location of the time switch: the connections should be kept as short as possible.

Different chargers, of course, call for different considerations. It is also possible to give the time switch its own mains transformer with a 6 V_{rms} secondary, and house both in one case to form a universal time switch. Universal, because it is possible by altering the values of the oscillator components to change the frequency. Moreover, it is possible to change the divide factors by using different pins on IC1 and IC2 (see tables 1 and 2).

If, for instance, you replace S1 by a single pole, 12-way rotary switch, and connect outputs Q3...Q8 and Q11...Q13 of IC1 to a 10-way rotary switch, all sorts of possible divide factors are obtained. Even more possibilities arise when the internal oscillator of IC1 is replaced by an external clock generator, which should be connected to pin 11. The clock frequency should, however, not exceed 1 MHz. Calibration is simplicity itself. Set S1 to position '1/2' and ascertain with your wrist watch or other convenient clock whether the relay switches over after half an hour. The accuracy in the remaining positions of S1 may then be taken for granted. If necessary, P1 should be adjusted and the half hour check repeated. In most instances it is sufficient to simply set P1 to the centre of its travel.

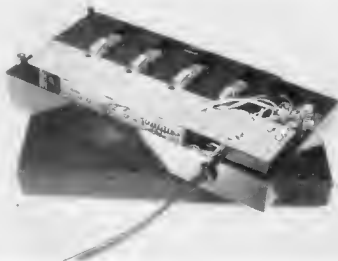
Good luck, and drop us a line if you have found another application of the time switch which you feel may be of interest to other readers.

Table 1. Divisors available in the 4040

Pin	Divisor
1	2 ¹² = 4096
15	2 ¹¹ = 2048
14	2 ¹⁰ = 1024
12	2 ⁹ = 512
13	2 ⁸ = 256
4	2 ⁷ = 128
2	2 ⁶ = 64
3	2 ⁵ = 32
5	2 ⁴ = 16
6	2 ³ = 8
7	2 ² = 4
9	2 ¹ = 2

Table 2. Divisors available in the 4060

Pin	Divisor
3	2 ¹⁴ = 16384
2	2 ¹³ = 8192
1	2 ¹² = 4096
15	2 ¹⁰ = 1024
13	2 ⁹ = 512
14	2 ⁸ = 256
6	2 ⁷ = 128
4	2 ⁶ = 64
5	2 ⁵ = 32
7	2 ⁴ = 16



ative index 1984 cumulative i

audio, video and sound generation

active crossover filter	10-22
amplification selector	8-88
analytical video display	6-29
audio preamp buffer	8-71
audio signal embellisher	2-28
audio sleuth at work	2-39
digital band-pass filter	8-42
dynamic pre-amplifier	11-50
guitar preamplifier	8-28
gyrophone	2-14
infra-red headphones: receiver	8-89
infra-red headphones: transmitter	8-84
metronome extension	5-43
mini crescendo	6-40
real-time analyser (part 1)	4-40
real-time analyser (part 2)	5-44
real-time analyser (part 3)	6-54
scratch and rumble filter	8-96
screen noise killer	8-74
70/90 watt amplifier	8-52
small high-power amplifier	8-34
stereo balance indicator	8-77
stereo doorbell	8-51
stereo noise suppressor	8-72
switch-on delay	8-90
sync separator	8-85
the story of valves	12-20
touch-pad potentiometer	8-28
valve amplifier	12-50
versatile audio peak meter	7-57
video colour inverter	11-22
video combiner	3-30
video sync box	3-54
voltage-controlled audio switch	8-40
video amplifier	1-30
disco phaser	1-40
sound generator	4-48

computers and microprocessors

address decoding	2-54
Basicode-2 for Junior plus VDU card	3-48
controlling the floppy-disk drive motor	5-22
CPU clock generator	8-77
daisywheel typewriter printer interface	7-32
data communication by telephone	10-18
digital cassette recorder	2-23
digital cassette recorder revisited	6-53
digital cassette recorder with the ZX81	10-29
direct-coupled modem	11-34
DIRPUT	10-40
elektterminal bell	8-76
EPROM copier	6-48
EPROM eraser	8-93
fast analog to digital converter	8-83
floppy expander	8-43
floppy tester	6-22
GET and GO	4-28
IDLIST	5-55
intelligent EPROM eraser	5-34
joystick interface	8-56
jump on reset	8-82
level indicator	8-32
lightpen	8-21
memory timing	3-35
merging BASIC programs	7-48
µP infra-red interface	8-33
mini signal cleaner	8-86

multi-channel analog to digital converter	8-64
parallel/serial converter	8-16
power switches for µPs	8-36
programming the 6845	11-28
RS232 analyser	8-61
RS232/Centronics converter	11-44
RS232/V24: the signals	12-39
RS423 interface	6-59
6502 bootstrap	8-97
6502 tracer	3-16
tape contents detector	5-58
the QL: first impressions	11-18
three-state indicator	8-86
triac control board	4-18
2716 versus 2708	8-32
twin RS232	8-34
2 x 2716 = 2732	8-84
UHF video and audio modulator	4-24
use your TV receiver as a monitor	12-42
Z80 EPROM programmer	2-50
Z80 CPU simulator	5-39
ZX81 cassette pulse cleaner	11-31
ZX extensions	7-22
dynamic RAM power supply	11-19
64 way 2 dimensional bus board	1-18
banking program	1-46

domestic

alarm timer	8-85
automatic cloakroom light	8-31
automatic reserve warning light	8-26
battery meter	11-42
blown fuse indicator	8-94
burglar deterrent	12-36
central-heating monitor	8-24
coffee temperature indicator	8-97
Elabynt	4-30
electronic mousetrap	8-68
energy-saving porch light	8-67
flashing telephone light	8-92
fridge alarm	8-19
from thermometer to thermostat	2-38
how accurate is your watch	2-16
kilowatt dimmer	8-30
lamp saver	10-48
musical doorbell	8-80
portable distress signal	7-18
programmable disco light display	3-21
rain indicator	8-35
single-button code lock	8-48
sonic deterrent	8-69
super-simple bell extension	8-96
telephone	12-48
telephone amplifier	10-56
how to recycle dry cell batteries	11-56
Frost warning device	1-37
LED ornaments	1-24
temperature reading on a multimeter	8-26
triac control board	4-18
twin doorbell	8-63
2N3055 sun switch	8-45
wind direction indicator	2-42

generators and oscillators

auto duty cycle	8-90
baud rate generator	8-20

Index 1984 cumulative index 1984

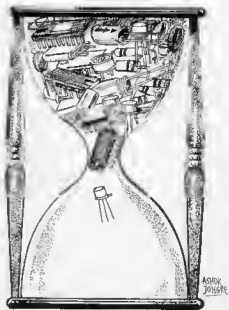
pulse generator	5 24	varistor protection circuits	4 37
pulse generator	8 37	World's smallest microcomputer (selektor) ..	5 16
sawtooth generator	8-89	circuit boards and soldering	12-24
Wien bridge oscillator	8 78	the BF 494	5-59
		NOVRAM data storage without batteries ..	1-48
HF			
balancing transformers	11-20	measuring end test equipment	
FM pocket radio	8 53	amplification selector	8-88
noise squelch	6-15	analytical video display	6-29
short-wave pocket radio	6-16	audible ohmmeter	8 95
time signal receiver	8-23	capacitance meter	3-42
VHF/AM air-band converter	8-54	combining 4017 counters	8-65
VHF converter	8-73	digILED	8 66
MF/HF USB marine receiver	1-18	digitester with a difference	3-32
		frequency meter	8-38
		from thermometer to thermostat	2-38
		hi-lo pulse rate discriminator	8-82
hobby end car		LC meter	8-30
alarm clock for cars	8 29	LED current sensor	8 75
automatic reserve warning light	8-26	level indicator	8-32
aviary illumination	6 36	PARSER	8-94
diesel tachometer	3-18	pulse generator	5-24
digital tachometer	10-35	pulse generator	8-37
echo sounder	7-50	real-time analyser (part 1)	4 40
fatigue tester	8-69	real-time analyser (part 2)	5-44
flash meter	10-30	real-time analyser (part 3)	6-54
guitar preamplifier	8-28	three-state TTL logic probe	8 88
'lights on' warning	8-78	transistor polarity tester	9-00
pace counter	8-17	VHF dipper	8-36
petrol saver	4-15	'window' LEDs	8 95
remote shutter release	8-42	signal injector	5-60
reversing buzzer	3-34	analog frequency meter	6-61
revolution counter	8-44	h-l logic tester	11-55
self-switching battery charger	8-45		
speed regulator for disco lights	8 16	miscellaneous	
stroboscope	8 70	aviary illumination	6-36
automatic battery charger	3-57	bird imitator	8 41
locomotive headlamp reverser	1-54	blown-fuse indicator	8 94
		economical motor driving circuit	8-98
informativa		electronic key-set	8 49
a look at EXOR and EXNOR gates	6 46	event counter	8-81
anodising aluminium	10 46	funny bird	8 62
audio sleuth at work	2 39	home-made low-cost wiring probe	2-52
chip select - L296, LM35, LM1833, MC34012, SN76488, SN76495, ZN412	3 52	lead-acid battery charger	7 39
chip select - MC146805G2, MC146818, TDA3800, XL486	5-56	one armed bandit	8 51
		maximum and minimum memory	7-57
data communication by telephone	10 18	photoelectronic relay	8-50
double-sided printed circuit boards	10 52	portable distress signal	7 18
first undersea fibre optic cable (selektor) ..	5-17	programmable crystal oscillator (applicator) ..	2 59
full-channel teltext gives fast access (selektor) ..	5 17	SCART adapter	10-42
future developments in ICs (selektor)	3-14	single chip colour decoder - the TDA1365 (applicator) ..	4 56
how many watts?	6 39	switch indicator	9 00
lasers: light sources with a future (selektor) ..	7 16	switching delay	8-18
mating logic families	3 38	triac control board	4-18
microelectronics promises better TV pictures (selektor) ..	5-16	universal active filter	2 36
new materials for optical memories (selektor) ..	12 18	valve simulator	8-20
optical memories	5 18	varistor protection circuits	4-37
programmable crystal oscillator (applicator) ..	2-59	versatile timer	8 22
readership survey results	12 14	voltage-controlled audio switch	8 40
RS423 interface	6-59	flashing badge	11-58
satellite TV (selektor)	4 15	universal NiCad charger	12 55
scene of science (selektor)	10-16		
A new memory IC from Mostek		music	
6116 + 2716 = 48202 (applicator)	10-54	disco drum	7-30
universal active filter	2-36	guitar preamplifier	8 28
using the pulse generator	5-32	musical doorbell	8-80

84 cumulative index 1984 cum

power supplies		frequency meter	
constant voltage source	3-49	(July/August 1984, page 8-38	10-74
dissipation limiter	8-49	how accurate is your watch?	
high-power op-amp supply	8-64	(January 1984, page 2-16	3-72
lead-acid battery charger	7-39	infocard 97	
linear opto-coupler	8-91	May 1984 1983)	2-65
low-power switching regulator	8-79	infocard 102	
microcomputer power supply	8-46	July 1984	9-14
microcomputer power supply protection	8-87	lamp saver	
NiCad charger	8-40	(September 1984, page 10-48	12-70
overvoltage protection	9-01	mating logic families	
power supply considerations	8-74	(February 1984, page 3-38	12-70
power supply for computers	8-55	maximum and minimum memory	
power supply monitor	8-27	(June 1984, page 7-37	10-74
switching power supply	6-24	merging BASIC programs	
transformerless mains power supply	8-70	(June 1984, page 7-48	9-14
variable a.c. power supply	5-52	musical doorbell	
PSUs on PCBs	7-42	(July/August 1984, page 8-80	11-74
bus extension	1-52	power controller for model railways	
symmetrical power supply	1-26	(November 1983, page 12-18	4-74
missing link		Prelude (part 3)	
analytical video display		(April 1983, page 5-34	4-74
(May 1984, page 6-29	7-74 9-14	programmable disco light display	
capacitance meter		(February 1984, page 3-21	6-74
(February 1984, page 3-42	6-74 10-74	pulse generator	
CPU card		(April 1984, page 5-24	6-74
(November 1983, page 12-24	9-14	VDU card	
daisywheel typewriter printer interface		(October 1983 page 10-38	12-70
(June 1984, page 7-32	10-74	musical doorbell	
digital cassette recorder		(Aug/Sept 1984 page 8.80 circuit 77	12-70
(January 1984, page 2-23	4-74	triac control board	
direct-coupled modem		(March 1984, page 4-18	6-74
(October 1984, page 11-34	12-70	universal active filter	
		(January 1984, page 2-36	10-74

elektor INDIA

**Wishes its
readers
a happy
new year!**



W. Schmidt

with a pencil point

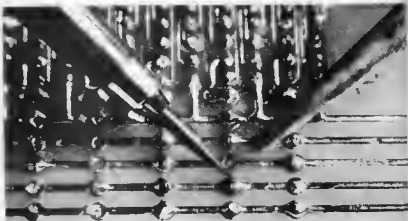
Many electronics enthusiasts look on solder removing as a loathsome job. This is especially true of printed circuit boards with narrowly-spaced conductors. Things which often happen when one is trying to desolder are:

- The solder forms bridges between the conductors.

- Blobs of solder drop off the board.

De-soldering tools or wicks are available commercially, but there is no need to lay out that kind of money. Any workshop toolbox should yield a really cheap device which will do the trick - a pencil. Propelling pencils with long leads of 2B or B hardness are particularly suitable (e.g. clutch pencils). To remove solder from a hole, the solder must be heated with a soldering iron until it melts (figure 1). The next step is to stick the pencil point in the hole, and take away the iron (figure 2). Where the pencil lead touches molten solder, the solder 'jumps' away, because of its surface tension, and the hole is cleared of solder (figure 3).

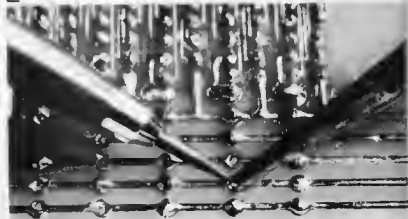
A similar method can be used for getting rid of bridges of solder between tracks. To do this, the pencil point is laid flat on the molten solder between the tracks.



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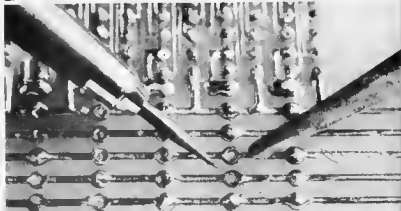
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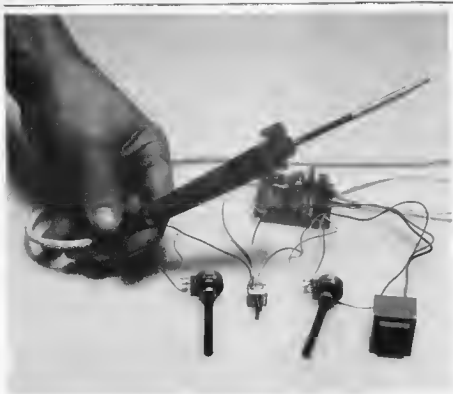


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3



'ung



give your soldering tip a longer life

The life expectancy of the tip of a soldering iron may be increased substantially by heating the iron to full capacity only during actual use. To accomplish this, the input power to the iron is reduced during the periods the iron is resting on its stand. This is achieved by using only one half of each cycle of the mains voltage during the rest period.

Heating of the iron during half cycles of the mains voltage only is effected by connecting a suitable diode in series with the "live" mains conductor as shown diagrammatically in figure 1. A suitable actual arrangement of this is shown in figure 2. When the iron is suspended at rest, the spring-loaded switch is open, and the diode passes only one half of each mains voltage cycle. When the iron is lifted for use, the draw spring causes the switch to be closed by the aluminium strip: the diode is then short-circuited and full mains power is applied once more to the iron.

The fuse in series with the diode protects it during the transient caused by the closing of the switch. The neon lamp indicates when only half power is being supplied to the iron.

This type of arrangement has the advantage that it is suitable for use with any

soldering iron, but it is almost twenty years old. Nowadays, pulse control instead of half-wave control is used.

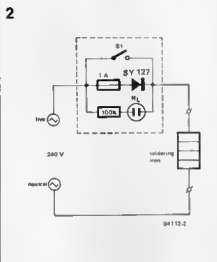
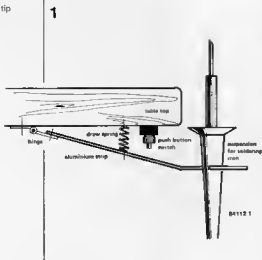
In pulse control, the soldering iron is heated for only 50...90 per cent of the time the mains is on. The relation of the control pulses (\bar{Q}) to time is shown diagrammatically in figure 3: at the top the mains voltage, 240 V/50 Hz, under this the clock pulses derived from the mains, then the \bar{Q} pulses which switch the heating element, next the voltage across time determining capacitor C2, and finally the part of the mains voltage actually used for heating.

Circuit description

The circuit of the soldering iron regulator, figure 4, is quite uncomplicated. In the following, the description is on the basis of figure 3.

with this
economy circuit

give your soldering tip
a longer life



Figures 1 & 2. The old solution to the problem of overheating soldering tips: (1) mechanical layout; (2) electrical connections.

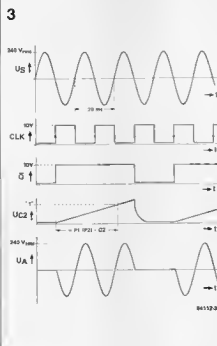


Figure 3. Waveform diagrams associated with the modern solution to the problem of overheating soldering tips.

The mains voltage, U_p , exists across terminals B. The circuit is closed via heating element A and power switch Tr1. The operating voltage for the control circuits is derived from a small transformer, Tr1, rectifier diode D1, and smoothing capacitor C1; it amounts to about 11 V.

The clock pulses are obtained as follows. First, the mains voltage is reduced to about 10 V_{rms} by voltage divider R1/R2. This voltage is then applied via current-limiting resistor R3 to the base of transistor T1. The transistor conducts during the positive half cycles of the applied voltage, which causes the voltage existing at the CLK input of bistable FF1 to be nullified. During the negative half cycles, diode D1 conducts, T1 is cut off, and the voltage at the CLK input of FF1 goes high again. All this happens at a frequency of 50 Hz. The bistable is set (Q logic low) at the rising edge of the clock signal. Capacitor C2 is then discharged via R5 and D3. The clock pulse will reset FF1 so that output Q goes logic high; the level at input D remains logic 0. Capacitor C2 is then charged via P1 or P2 and R5. The diagrams in figure 3 show that charging is completed before the next rising edge arrives at the CLK input. This edge sets the bistable afresh so that Q becomes logic low again.

The charging time depends on the setting of P1 or P2: the time constant is a minimum 6.7 ms (R5C2) and a maximum 417 ms (R5 + P1)C2 or (R5 + P2)C2. This means that Q may be switched at frequencies of 50...2.4 Hz, resulting in the supply of heating power between 50 and 95 per cent of the time. If the potentiometers are provided with end switches, it becomes possible to get heating power all the time. In our opinion, however, such switches are not necessarily a good thing, for although the consequent losses during use of the iron are negligible, they are not so during the rest periods.

The two potentiometers enable setting the heating power during the rest periods and the periods of use respectively. Switch S1 — which could be arranged as shown in figure 1 — selects either of the two states. The Q output signal of FF1 triggers the triac, Tr1, via transistor T2: the triac switches the soldering iron on and off. When T2 conducts, LED D4 lights, so that the blinking of this diode is a measure of the power being supplied to the iron: fast blinking means high average power, while a slow rate indicates low average power.

Construction

When printed circuit 84112 is used, the construction becomes almost child's play. Terminals A...D have been so arranged that two four-way spring-loaded terminals may be soldered to them: the four sets of connecting wires can then conveniently be clamped into them. The triac is a fully insulated type which means that none of its terminals is connected to the housing. The circuit is suitable for use with 240 V

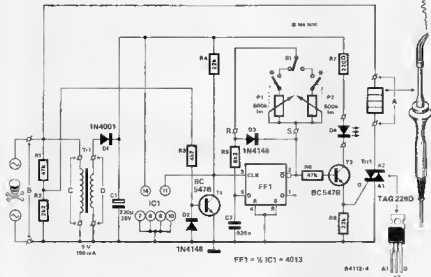


Figure 4. Circuit diagram of the economy unit.

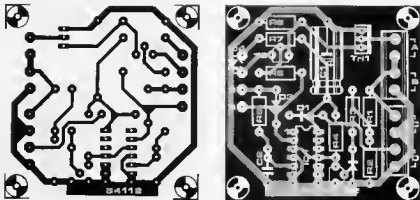


Figure 5. Printed circuit of the economy unit.

Parts list

Resistors:

- R1, R6 = 47 k
- R2 = 2k2
- R3 = 4k7
- R4, R6 = 22 k
- R5 = 8k2
- R7 = 220 Ω
- P1, P2 = 500 k linear potentiometer (if required, with end switch — see text)

Capacitors:

- C1 = 220 μ F 25 V
- C2 = 820 nF

Semiconductors:

- D1 = 1N4001
- D2, D3 = 1N4148
- D4 = LED
- T1, T2 = BC547B
- Tri1 = TAG 226 D
- IC1 = 4013

Miscellaneous:

- S1 = SPDT switch, if required push button type
- Tri1 = mains transformer, 9 V/100 mA secondary
- 2 four-pole spring-loaded terminals for PCB use
- Printed circuit board 84112

soldering irons of 15...1500 watts. It is also possible to control other resistive heating elements, such as immersion heaters, with the circuit. If, however, the circuit is used for the control of heating elements combined with a fan, such as hair driers or fan-forced heaters, it becomes necessary to connect a 220-ohm resistor in series with a 47 nF/400 V capacitor across the triac.

No calibration is required: it is only necessary to set one potentiometer for the required power during the rest periods, and the other for the required power during use. Inevitably, this means that some compromise between the two requirements has to be found as on the one hand

the power during the rest periods should not be so low that it takes too long for the iron to reach normal heat after being picked up for use, and on the other, that this power should not be so high that the tip of the iron overheats during the rest periods.

As already stated, switch S1 may be arranged as shown in figure 1.

■

The use of two slide projectors and this computer-controlled slide fader enables the pictures to fade into each other on the screen at a variety of speeds. The fader is a versatile circuit that can be used for a number of applications other than the control of slide projectors. It allows the gating angle of two devices, such as lamps or motors, to be arranged by computer: the angle may be increased or reduced automatically at up to sixty-three different speeds. Within a given program, the circuit also provides for the independent actuating of up to four relays. Moreover, it provides an eight-bit input for data from equipment connected to it.

computer-controlled slide fader . . .

. . . can also be used for phase gating other devices

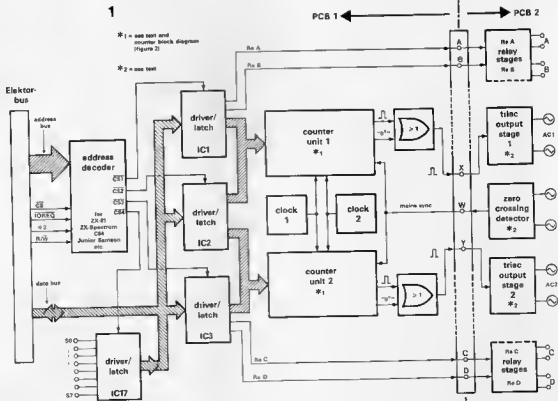
The circuit came into being from a desire to design an easy-to-use slide fader that could be controlled by a computer — any computer — and which would fade slides smoothly. This necessitated fixed address decoding and automatic control of the switch-on and fading of the projector lamps. Moreover, it was thought desirable for the projectors to be switched forward and backward independently of each other. To make this possible, it was found necessary for the circuit to be able to actuate four relays independently of one another. When all this had been incor-

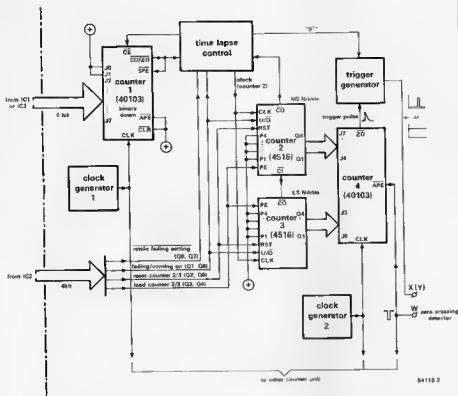
porated, we had an interface that was clearly also usable for purposes other than the control of slide projectors. It seemed therefore logical to add an eight-bit input port via which messages from equipment connected to the interface could be read.

Block diagrams

A schematic view of the complete circuit is shown in figure 1. The complete address bus, A0 . . . A15, and the required control bus connections are taken direct

Figure 1. This block diagram gives a clear view of the function of the complete circuit.





to the address decoder. Examples of the decoding with the ZX81, ZX Spectrum, Commodore C64, and the Junior (with extension bus) are given later in this article. The address decoder generates four CS signals which select eight-bit memory units: three output and one input. Writing into the output memories and reading the contents of the input memory takes place via the data bus.

The four relays are controlled via two lines of two output ports; all other lines of the output ports are used for the programming of the two counters. These counters, synchronized with the mains frequency by a zero crossing detector, are the real heart of the circuit in that they provide the desired phase shift and generate the trigger pulses for the triacs. A special output stage enables these triacs to fire very close to the zero crossing of the mains frequency.

The triac output stages are electrically isolated from the control stages by optocoupler. They have been arranged so that they may be connected to different a.c. supplies. The two supplies must, of course, be in phase or anti-phase.

The schematic in figure 2 shows the counters in more detail. It should be noted that the terms "fading", "coming on", and "fading speed" used in the following apply, strictly speaking, to lamps only: in the case of motors, these should be "reducing speed", "increasing speed", and "rate of reduction, or increase, of

speed" respectively. In proper technical terminology, we should have used "increasing, or decreasing, gating angle", but that might have become too confusing.

Counter 1 is loaded with the fading speed by the computer, and counts downwards. When counter position "0" is reached, a clock pulse is given to counters 2 and 3 via the time lapse control stage, while counter 1 is loaded again with the content of the memory unit (which makes it possible for the fading speed to be altered during fading or coming on). Counters 2 and 3, both type 4516, are connected in cascade and thus form a composite counter. The direction of counting is reversed via U/D. During the coming on period of the lamp, the counter is loaded by a pulse on PE with bit pattern 1111 1111, and switched to downward counting via U/D. During fading, counter 2/3 is reset to 0000 0000 by a pulse at RST, and switched to upward counting via U/D.

Counter 4 is triggered by the zero-crossing detector, loaded with the actual content of counter 2/3, and then counts downward from that content. As soon as counter position "0" has been reached, the \overline{ZD} (zero detect) output is actuated, and this causes the trigger generator to impart a pulse to the triac. At the same time, the clock output is disabled. On the next pulse from the zero crossing detector, this process repeats itself, and so on.

Figure 2. The counter units in figure 1 consist of three interconnected counters the function of which is represented in this diagram.

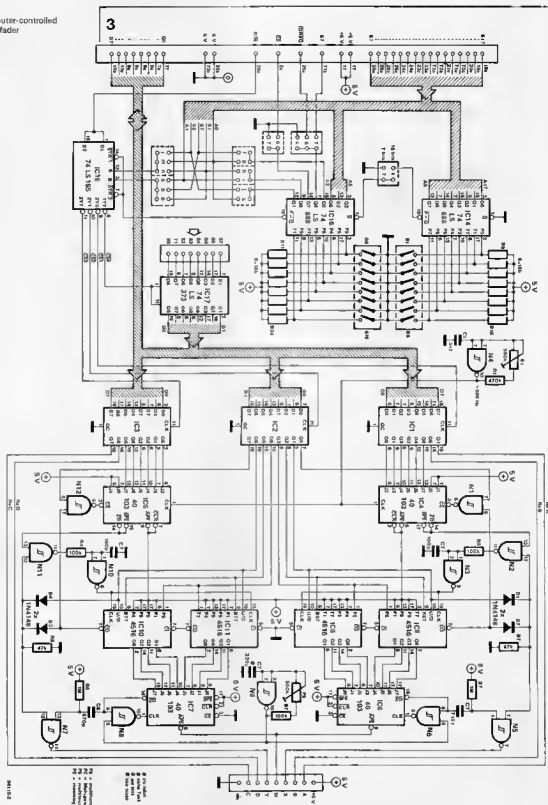
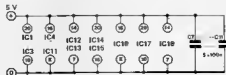
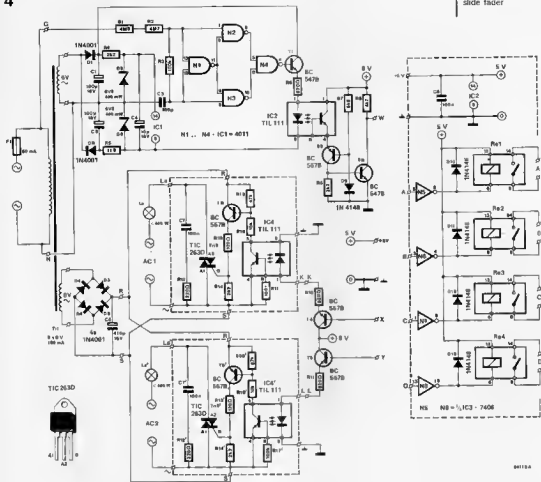


Figure 3. The control circuit connects the power circuit (figure 4) to the computer. The address decoder at the left enables the circuit to be connected to a wide variety of computers.



- IC1, IC2, IC3 - 74LS366 74HC374
 N1, N4 - IC12 - 4093
 N5, N8 - IC13 - 4093
 N9, N12 - IC18 - 4093



The content of counter 2/3 keeps on changing, of course, as this counter is clocked by counter 1.

Summarizing, counter 1 functions as programmable clock generator for counter 2/3, while the content of counter 2/3 is loaded into counter 4 to determine the phase gating angle. The time lapse control stage ensures that the lamp stays on after coming on, and remains out after fading, until a new program is used, and that at the onset of fading the lamp does not prematurely extinguish.

Circuit diagrams

The circuit of the control board is shown in figure 3, that of the triac board in figure 4. Starting with figure 3, the address decoder for the various computers will be discussed a little later on. Integrated circuit 17 is an input port which is actuated by CS4. The three output ports are formed by IC1...IC3: the number of the port corresponds with that of the IC. Outputs Q6 and Q7 of IC1 and IC3 serve to control the relays. Outputs Q8...Q5 of the same ICs are used for programming the fading

speeds of counter 1 and counter 2 respectively.

The arrangement of the remainder of the stages in figure 3 as compared with the block diagram of figure 2 is as follows (counter 2 in brackets):

counter 1 = IC4 (IC5);
 counter 2/3 = IC8/IC9 (IC10/IC11);
 counter 4 = IC6 (IC7);
 time lapse control = N1...N3, D1, D2, R2, R3, C2 (N10...N12, D3, D4, R4, R8, C4);
 trigger generator = NS, R5, C3 (N7, R8, C5);
 clock oscillator 1 = N4, R1, P1, C1;
 clock oscillator 2 = N9, R7, P2, C6.
 Control of counters 1 and 2 is provided by IC2: Q8...Q3 for the former and Q7...Q4 for the latter (the single port lines are shown in figure 2).
 Note that the 0° line in figure 2 becomes logic 0 when the desired gating angle is 0° (maximum power); the output of N5 (N7) is consequently logic 1 during the entire following half cycle.
 On the triac board shown in figure 4, D1, D2, D7, D8, C1, C2, C4, R4, and R5 form the power supply for the zero crossing detector. This detector itself consists of N1...N4, R1...R3, and C3, and drives

Figure 4. Apart from the triacs and associated components, the power circuit also contains the zero crossing detector and the four relays with their drivers. This board may be cut into parts.

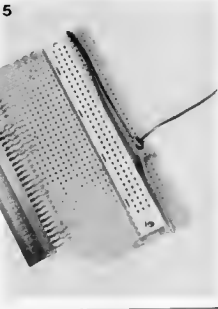
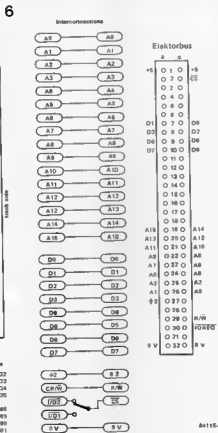
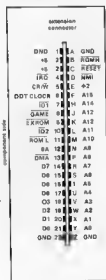


Figure 5. Photograph of the adapter which interfaces the control circuit with the relevant computer. Shown here is the adapter for use with the ZX Spectrum.



COMMOORE C64



I/O addresses

hex	dec
CS · I/O1	IC1 = 2 DE00 56832
	IC2 = 3 DE01 56833
	IC3 = 2 DE02 56834
	IC17 = 3 DE03 56835
CS · I/O2	IC1 = 3 DF00 57086
	IC2 = 3 DF01 57089
	IC3 = 3 DF02 57089
	IC17 = 3 DF03 57091

Figures 6, 7, and 8. The I/O addresses, the extension connector pin-out, the necessary interconnections to the elekto-bus, the state of the wire bridges, and the switch positions are shown here for use with... the Commodore C64 (figure 6)

opto-coupler IC2, which provides the required electrical isolation, via T1 and R6. The output signal of IC2 is shaped into a clean low-active pulse for the counters by T2, T3, R7...R9, and D9. The power supply for the two triac stages, which — like the counters — are identical, is formed by D3...D6 and C5. Opto-couplers IC4 and IC4' are driven by T4 (T5) and R10 (R11). The trigger pulse at the output of the opto-coupler is regenerated by T6 (T6') and R13...R17 (R13'...R17') and then applied to the gate of the triac. The triacs used are of medium heavy duty type TIC 263C, enabling lamps of up to 400 W (at 24 V) to be switched: maximum permissible current (with resistive loads) $I_{T(rms)} = 25$ A. The triacs are protected against spurious surge currents by C7 and R12 (C7' and R12'). When the triacs are used to switch 240 V lamps, a suppressor choke of 30...50 μ H should be connected in series with the lamps. The relays, controlled via gates N5...N8, are of the DIL type, and are protected by free-wheeling diodes D10...D13.

Completion of the two printed circuits shown in figures 9 and 10 is straightforward and is, of course, to some extent dependent upon the application of the circuit. The triac board may be suitably divided as shown in figure 10. In any case, the parts of the boards where mains voltage is present should be insulated by, for instance, a layer of glue applied with a glue gun.

Addressing

The address decoder consists of two 8-bit comparators type 74LS688 (IC14 and IC15), a 2-bit binary decoder and demultiplexer type 74LS155 (IC16), a number of wire bridges, a...s, and sixteen switches, S1...S16, contained in two 8-way DIL packages. The two 74LS688s compare the information set by the switches with the bit pattern at their inputs Q&. .Q7. If the two sets of data are identical, output $\bar{P} = \bar{Q}$ (pin 19) becomes logic low. The two ICs may be cascaded by closing wire bridge "r" to give a 16-bit comparator. If wire bridge "s" is closed, only IC15 is active (as 8-bit comparator). The output (pin 19) of IC15 provides the strobe signal for IC16. Two-bit information is applied to data inputs P and Q of IC16. Switch-over of the on-board data dividers is effected via the R/W line: if the line is logic high, and the information at P and Q "11", CS4 becomes active (writing); if the R/W line is logic low, CS1 is actuated when the information at P and Q is "00", CS2 when the information is "10", and CS3 when the information is "01". Tables 1 and 2 give the state of the wire bridges and switches respectively for use with the Junior computer. If the Extended Junior is used, the control board can be plugged direct into the extension bus. We have taken the Junior as an example for the addressing and will deal with the

switch positions	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
D01	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I/O2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1 = closed
0 = open

Table 1.

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s
elektorbus (Junior)	x	o	o	o	x	x	o	o	x	x	o	o	x	o	o	o	x	x	o

x = bridge closed
o = bridge open

computer-controlled slide fader

Table 1. State of the wire bridges when the Junior computer is used.

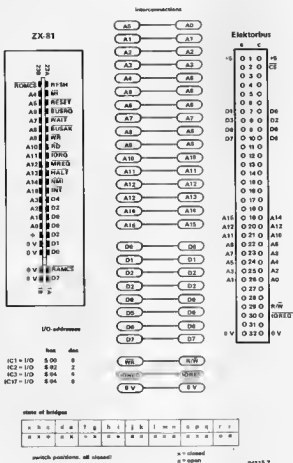
Table 2.

	Switch															
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
elektorbus (Junior)	x	x	x	o	o	o	x	o	o	o	o	o	x	x	o	o

x = switch closed
o = switch open

Table 2. Switch positions when the Junior computer is used.

7



other three computers further on. The two lowest-value address lines are connected to the data inputs of IC16 via bridges "m" and "q". Bridge "r" enables IC14 and IC15 to be combined into a 16-bit comparator. Address lines A2, A6, and A7 are connected to the comparator via bridges "f", "j", and "n" respectively. Inputs Q6 and Q7 of IC15 are connected to earth via bridges "c" and "e", which

necessitates the closing of switches S13 and S14. All this results in the decoding of CS1 by address E200 (decimal 57 856); CS2 by address E201 (decimal 57 857); CS3 by address E202 (decimal 57 858); CS4 by address E203 (decimal 57 859). A caution here: if, in the Junior, you have placed RAM in block E (addresses E000...EFFF), this RAM must be deselected to avoid double addressing.

... the ZX81 (figure 7)

fer board should then be interconnected. Finally, the adapter shown in figures 6, 7, and 8 may, of course, also be used to connect other Elektor bus boards to the respective computers.

Programming

The primary task of the programming is the writing of the data into IC2: this determines the operation of the two counters. The bit on data line D0 matches that at the IC output Q4, that on D1 matches that at Q1, and so on. The significance of the

- single bits is (counter 2 lines in brackets):
- D0 (D7): if this line is logic high, automatic fading is selected; if it is low, the prevailing fading state is retained;
 - D1 (D6): the state of this line determines whether the relevant lamp is coming on (logic 0) or fading (logic 1);
 - D2 (D5): if this line is logic high, composite counter 2/3 is reset;
 - D3 (D4): when this line is logic 1, composite counter 2/3 is loaded with bit pattern "1111 1111".

The slide control program contains the bit patterns of the only four practical

computer-controlled slide fader

Figure 9. The printer circuit board for the control circuit.

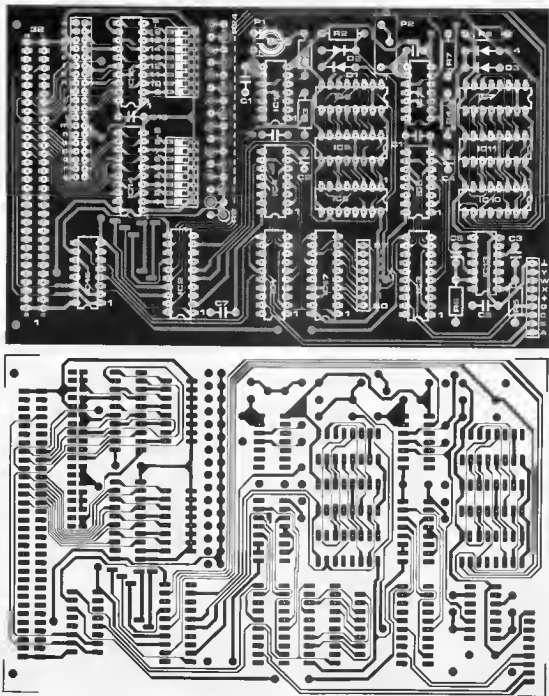


Figure 10. The printed circuit board for the power circuit. This board may be cut into parts which may then be fitted in the housing of the equipment being controlled (cut at dashed lines).

Parts list — control board

Resistors:

R1 = 470 k
R2, R8 = 47 k
R3, R4, R7 = 100 k
R5, R6 = 1 M
R9, R24 = 18 k
P1 = 500 k preset
P2 = 500 k preset,
multiturn

Capacitors:

C1 = 3n3
C2, C4 = 100 p
C3, C5 = 470 p
C6 = 220 p (see text)
C7...C11 = 100 n

Semiconductors:

D1...D4 = 1N4148
IC1...IC3 = 74LS364
(74HC374)
IC4...IC7 = 40103
IC8...IC11 = 4516
IC12, IC13, IC18 = 4053
IC14, IC15 = 74LS688
(74HC688)
IC16 = 74LS155
IC17 = 74LS373

Miscellaneous:

2 SPST octal DIL switches
64-way male connector
Miniature tag board with
two rows of 19 tags each
Miniature tag board with
one row of 17 tags
8 shorting plugs
Printed circuit board B4115-1

Table 3. Bit patterns of the only four practical operating states of each of the two lamps.

Table 3.

	D3 (D4)	D2 (D5)	D1 (D6)	D0 (D7)
on	0	1	0	1
off	1	0	0	1
coming on	0	0	0	1
fading	0	0	1	1

Table 4. The bit patterns under data words for programming the fading and coming on behaviour of the two lamps.

Table 4.

	D7	D6	D5	D4	D3	D2	D1	D0	dec.	hex
both lamps on	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	185	A5
A on, B off	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	149	95
A off, B on	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	189	A9
both lamps off	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	153	99
both lamps coming on	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	129	81
A off, B coming on	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	137	89
A on, B coming on	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	133	85
A coming on, B off	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	145	91
A coming on, B on	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	161	A1
both lamps fading	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	195	C3
A off, B fading	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	201	C9
A on, B fading	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	197	C5
A fading, B off	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	147	93
A fading, B on	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	163	A3
A fading, B coming on	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	131	83
A coming on, B fading	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	193	C1

operating states of each lamp: on, off, coming on, fading; these patterns are given in table 3. The complete circuit (that is, two lamps) therefore offers sixteen possible combinations which are listed in table 4. Our master programs have been so arranged that no confusion is likely to arise. If you design your own program, take care that it runs sensibly. You may, for instance, want to interrupt during fading, or reverse the direction during fading or coming on, or something similar. Such operations have not been catered for in our programs to keep them to a reasonable length.

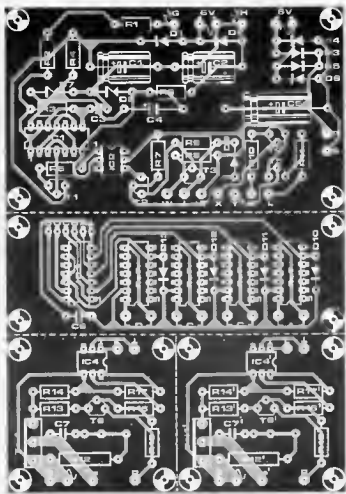
An example, using the Junior: it is required that lamp A comes on and that lamp B is and stays off. It is then necessary to write bit pattern 1001 0001 (= decimal 145) into IC2, address E201 (= decimal 57857). The instruction for this is:

POKE 57857, 145

In the case of the C64, this command would be:

POKE 57069, 145 or POKE 56833, 145

When programming the fading speed and actuation of the relays, bear in mind that these are arranged in one IC (IC4 or IC5). If the relays are not needed, matters are



computer-controlled
slide fader

Parts list — power board

Resistors:

R1, R2 = 4M7
 R3, R17, R17* = 100 k
 R4, R5, R8, R14, R14* = 2K2
 R6, R10, R11 = 820 Ω
 R7 = 5k6
 R8 = 4k7
 R12, R12* = 220 Ω (1 W for
 240 V supplies)
 R13, R13* = 120 Ω
 R15, R15* = 47 k
 R16, R16* = 10 k

Capacitors:

C1, C2 = 100 μ/16 V
 C3 = 100 p
 C4 = 10 μ/16 V
 C5 = 470 μ/16 V
 C6 = 100 n
 C7, C7* = 100 n (400 V
 rating for 240 V supplies)

Semiconductors:

D1...D6 = 1N4001
 D7, D8 = 6V8/400 mW
 D9...D13 = 1N4148
 T1 = T5 = BC 547B
 T6, T6* = BC 557B
 Tr1, Tr1* = TIC 263D
 IC1 = 4011
 IC2, IC4, IC4* = TIL 111
 IC3 = 7406

Miscellaneous:

Re1...Re4 = DIL relay,
 1 pole make, 5 V coil
 Tr1 = mains transformer,
 secondary 2 x 6 V/100 mA
 F1 = 50 mA fuse, delayed
 action
 Printed circuit board 84115-2

simple: you write with a POKE command a decimal number between 1 and 63 into IC1 (IC3). Examples:
 Junior computer, lamp A, medium fading speed:

POKE 57856, 31

C64, lamp B, maximum fading speed:

POKE 67090, 1

ZX Spectrum, lamp A, minimum fading speed:

OUT 65342, 63

As you see, the smaller the number, the higher the speed. Note, however, that the command

POKE nnnnn, 0

is not possible, because counter 1 — see figure 2 — then cannot operate.

The two highest-value bits are always logic 0 for decimal numbers between 0 and 63. Table 6 shows how the relays may be controlled: when it is required that relay A (IC1) or relay C (IC3) be actuated, a decimal number between 129 and 191 should be selected. The correct number is calculated by adding 128 to the value of the wanted fading speed. The instruction in the first of the above examples would then be:

POKE 57856, 159

If only relay B is to be actuated, add 64 to

Table 5.

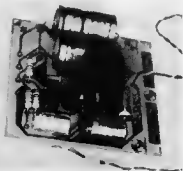
relay A (C) = bit 7	relay B (D) = bit 6	fading speed bit 5...bit 0	decimal range
0	0	x x x x x x	1...63
1	0	x x x x x x	129...191
0	1	x x x x x x	65...127
1	1	x x x x x x	193...255

the value of the required fading speed. If both B and D are to operate, add 192 to the value of the fading speed. In all cases, decimal numbers 0, 64, 128, and 192 are not permitted, because bits 0...5 are logic low so that the clock generator is disabled.

Table 6 shows a menu-controlled program for the Junior and C64 which enables the reading or programming of the collective functions of the circuit by entering code numbers. The program as printed is correct for the Junior; for the C64, line 2050 should be altered as shown in table 7. Lines 10...1900 are explained in the foregoing; the remainder of the lines arrange for the automatic control of the relays, so do not again program them! Tables 8 and 9 give a short sample pro-

Table 5. Bit patterns for the control of the relays.

7 watt IC audio amplifier



▶ The TBA 810 has been in production for several years, and by now the price has dropped to a very reasonable level. It has built in thermal and short-circuit protection circuits, so it should have a reasonable life expectancy.

Without any additional cooling, the IC can deliver 1 Watt into a 4 Ω load with a 6 V supply. With a sufficiently large cooling fin and a 16 V supply it can deliver up to 7 W into 4 Ω, the input

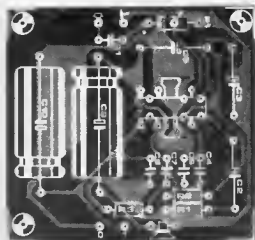
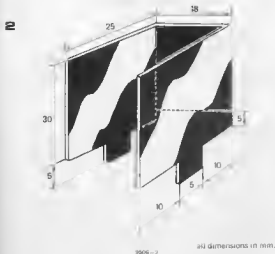
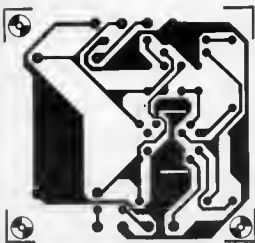
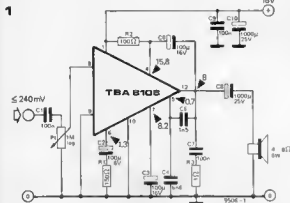
sensitivity in this case is 240 mV. If 8 Ω loudspeakers are used, the maximum output power is about half.

The input impedance is practically determined by P1 (1 M), so it is possible to connect a crystal cartridge direct to the input. If this high input impedance is not required, the value of P1 can be reduced.

There are two versions of the TBA810: the 'S' and the 'AS', with differently

shaped cooling fins. The additional fin shown in the drawing is suitable for the 'S' version, but it will need some slight modifications to fit the 'AS' type.

The frequency response is ± 3 dB from 40 Hz to 18 kHz. The voltages shown in the circuit were measured when the unit was powered with a 16 V power supply. Note that the pin numbers in the circuit do not take account of the cooling fin; the IC has a total of 12 pins.



toroidal transformer

the best transformers . . . around!

Ring core or toroidal transformers are becoming fashionable. This is beautiful? As their name implies, they are 'round' and low in profile, allowing the home constructor and manufacturer, to build highly compact circuits. This seems to be necessary in order to satiate the public's appetite for any equipment that looks like a permanent 'Weight-Watcher'. Seriously, they do have excellent 'electrical' qualities, and advantages over the conventional transformer, other than looks. Unfortunately good taste is always relatively expensive.

The toroidal transformer has a ring core formed by a tightly bound metal laminated band. Copper windings are simply placed on the core without the use of bobbins.

The wire is wound over the complete surface of the core and this considerably aids the dissipation of heat. Due to the round shape, there is good 'concentration' of the magnetic flux lines in the core, thereby reducing the 'stray' fields.

It requires less wire than the conventional transformer for the equivalent number of windings, thus reducing the ohmic resistance, and the chance of overheating. So far so good. But why is the ring core transformer in most cases more expensive to buy than the conventional type? After all, they use less copper wire, no bobbins etcetera! Good question. The answer is that they take a lot longer to manufacture than conventional transformers, and today more than ever, time is money.

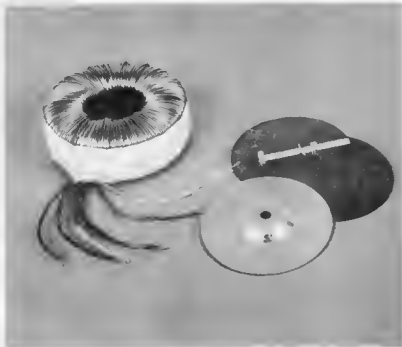
The core is formed as a complete ring without an air gap. It is made from a strip of high grade sheet steel, which is rolled up very tightly. The end of the strip is then welded, to prevent it unwinding. This form of construction helps to concentrate the lines of flux within the core and keeps losses to a minimum. An added advantage is its lack of buzz; due to the very tight 'laminations', which are completely enclosed by the winding. The result: an inbuilt disability for the production of noise.

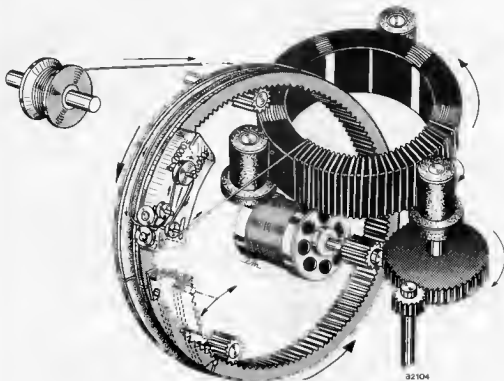
Main toroidal transformers are readily available in the 15 to 680 VA range, and up to 5000 VA types are supplied by some manufacturers. Most are available with two secondary windings, of between 6-80 V.

Winding toroidal transformers

The manufacture of toroidal transformers may present something of a question mark to the inquisitive reader. As in most things of this nature, the answer is quite simple; once you know how! Figure 1 illustrates, what, in simple terms, actually occurs.

The complete core is loaded onto a machine that is able to hold and rotate it. A ring, that is about three times the diameter of the core, is linked onto the core in much the same way as two links of a chain. This ring is called, not unreasonably, a shuttle and can also be rotated. While doing so, an amount of wire equalling one complete winding is fed onto it. And now we come to the 'trick' that makes it all so simple. The end of the wire is turned through 180° around a guide wheel on the shuttle, and held onto the outer edge of the core. The shuttle then reverses direction and lays the wire onto the core as one winding. The core is of course rotated slowly as this happens, so that the winding is evenly spread around it. Tension of the wire is easily





controlled. Mechanically this method is both simple and quick, and in fact takes just three minutes per winding.

The Lord of the Rings (Transformers)

The equivalent conventional transformer is in most cases 2 to 3 times heavier. The same ratio in size also holds true.

The ring core transformer's 'iron losses' (when compared with the 'standard' conventional type), are only 10%. The advantage of the ring type are clearly noticeable when comparing 'stray fields'.

In a no-load situation the conventional field is at a maximum and the ring core at a minimum. With an increasing load the 'stray field' of the conventional decreases and the ring core's field increases in strength.

No matter what the situation, the stray field of the ring core type is always considerably smaller. Therefore using a

toroidal transformer reduces the risk of unwanted noise being generated in any power supply circuit.

Quality costs money?

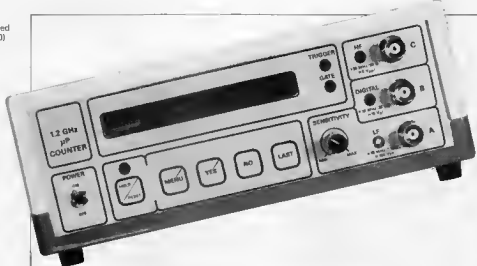
Toroidal transformers up to power ratings of 200 VA are more expensive to buy than conventional types. Above 200 VA and up to 500 VA this situation is reversed. A reasonably priced, compact, transformer above 200 VA is certainly useful, especially when building high power amplifiers.

Final remarks

Compared to the ordinary standard transformer, the high-grade core material of the toroidal type will cause a higher initial surge current; A slow-blow fuse on the primary winding is therefore necessary. A fuse having approximately double the value normally used with an equivalent conventional trans-

former should do the trick.

Even so, do not be alarmed if the whole neighbourhood is 'blacked out' the moment you switch on your new 2 x 50000...W amplifier (with multiple toroidal transformers). This is a normal occurrence!



microprocessor- controlled frequency meter (part 0)

Next month we will be publishing all the constructional details for a frequency meter. This is no ordinary meter, however, as it is small, very simple to use and at the same time quite easy to build yourself. All that is made possible by the microprocessor that controls the circuit. What exactly the microprocessor does you can find out in four weeks' time but just to whet your appetite have a look at the features listed here.

an introduction
to an
exceptional
project featured
next month.

Features

- microprocessor-controlled
- auto-ranging
- alphanumeric display (16 digit)
- simple to use with menu buttons
- frequency range: 0.01 Hz...1.2 GHz
- period time measurement: 10 ns...100 s
- pulse time measurement: 0.1 μ s...100 s
- pulse counter up to 1×10^7
- high degree of accuracy even given the short time needed for frequency measurements
- 6 or 7 digit accuracy may be selected

The circuit for the new Elektor frequency meter is very unusual and because of this it deserves special attention. Totally unlike any other d.i.y. frequency meter, it is, of course, part of our range of test instruments.

We will look at it in functional sections, starting with the most unusual part of the circuit: the frequency measuring section. 'Normal' frequency meters make use of a crystal-controlled time base supplying an exact measuring time of 1 second, for example. During this 'gate time' the number of incoming cycles of the signal that is being measured are counted (see

figure 1a). An accurate measurement is taken by using a measuring time long enough to enable a large number of cycles to be counted. Low frequency signals require a long measuring time but at high frequencies the time can be shorter. In 1 second only 10 cycles of a 10 Hz signal can be counted, for instance, so the read-out can only indicate a value of 10 plus or minus 1 Hz. If any figures are shown after the decimal point they are totally useless. In this case a measuring time of 10 s or longer is needed to give a reasonable degree of accuracy.

The new Elektor frequency meter uses a principle that is also used in modern professional instruments (see figure 1b). Once again a time base (providing a 10 MHz signal) and a counter are used. The signal to be measured goes first to a programmable divider. A microprocessor sets the division factor such that the counter is 'filled' as much as possible with pulses from the time base. This is exactly the opposite to the previous situation as in this case the gate time is supplied by the signal that is measured. The frequency of this signal is calculated by the microprocessor based on the division factor and the contents of the counter. The great

advantage of this method is that the instrument is always working at full accuracy and the measuring time is virtually constant, irrespective of the frequency measured. The microprocessor makes the calculations so fast that the user does not even have time to think about it.

An extra divider stage may be included to raise the upper limit of the frequency range from the standard 100 MHz to 1.2 GHz. The meter has three different inputs: one for analogue signals up to 10 MHz (with pre-settable sensitivity), one for digital signals up to 10 MHz and a high frequency input for signals above 10 MHz. The user can select a resolution of six or seven digits, giving average measuring times of 0.15 and 1.5 s respectively.

Using a microprocessor in this frequency meter also allows a number of other interesting features to be incorporated.

The method of calculation chosen means that automatic range changing is a simple matter. 'User friendliness' is also a feature of the meter. The alphanumeric display shows the user in plain language what options are available and selection is a matter of pressing the 'yes' or the 'no' button. Pressing another button calls up the menu (the instrument then shows what its modes of use are), there is a 'fast' button to recall the previous choice and the 'hold/reset' button is used to freeze or reset the display. The only 'normal' switch in this whole instrument is that for the main power. The various different possible modes that can be chosen are shown in figure 2, which surely requires no further comment.

We could carry on listing all the wonderful features of this new frequency meter but that is not really necessary. One thing we will say, however, is that in spite of having some very expensive test equipment in our labs at Elektor this

microprocessor-controlled frequency meter is probably the fastest and easiest to use. This is because hidden inside a mini case is a giant instrument. Can you afford to miss an offer like that?

microprocessor controlled frequency meter (part 0)

1a

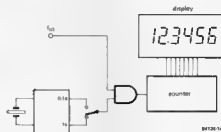


Figure 1a. This is the principle of operation generally used in frequency meters. During a crystal-controlled measuring time the cycles of the input signal are counted.

1b

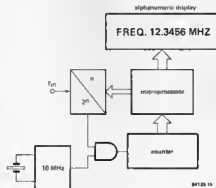


Figure 1b. The measuring time in the new Elektor frequency meter is provided by the input signal and the pulses provided by the time base are counted. A microprocessor calculates the frequency from the divider setting and the counter's contents.

2

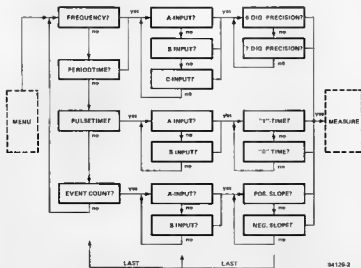


Figure 2. This is the frequency meter's menu. Any of these options can be selected using just two buttons. What could be simpler?

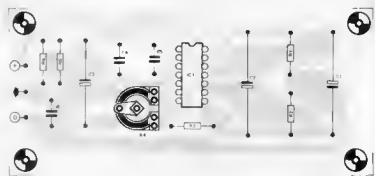
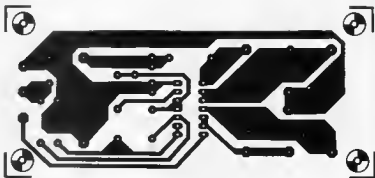
7400 siren

M. Mergel

The electronic siren described here is easy and cheap to build.

The circuit consists of two astable multivibrators, N1/N2 and N3/N4. The 0.2 Hz square-wave signal from the latter oscillator is integrated by R3 and C3; this voltage swings the frequency of the other AMV (N1/N2) up and down at 0.2 Hz.

The output level is about 2 V_{p-p}, sufficient to drive a power amplifier directly.



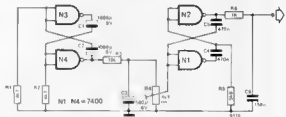
Parts list

Resistors:

- R1, R2 = 4k7
- R3 = 10 k
- R4 = preset potentiometer 4k7
- R5 = 5k6
- R6 = 1 k

- Capacitors:
 C1, C2 = 1000 μ 6 V
 C3 = 500 μ 6 V
 C4, C5 = 470 n
 C6 = 150 n

- Semiconductor:
 N1, N4 = 7400



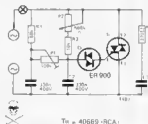
light dimmer

This simple triac dimmer can be used to control incandescent filament lamps up to 1500 W. The circuit operates on the phase-control principle. The main control is provided by P2. This determines the rate at which C2 charges and hence the point along the mains waveform at which the triac is triggered, which is when the triac is triggered. P1, in conjunction with R1 and C1 determines the minimum brightness level, or alternatively may be used as a fine brightness control. Interference suppression is provided by R2 and C3.

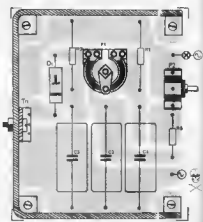
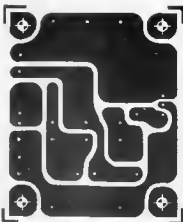
Construction

The printed circuit board is very compact and can easily be accommodated

inside the modern, square type of flush-mounting switch panel, or in a small box for portable applications. The following safety points should be noted. No part of the circuit should be accessible from the outside. The case should preferably be made of plastic or other insulating material, and fixing screws for the board should be nylon. If a metal case is used the board must be adequately insulated from it and the case should be earthed. The potentiometer should have a plastic spindle.



T1 = 40669 - R.C.A.



SOLDER PASTES

Electro Science Laboratories Inc USA have announced the availability of large particle pastes. These pastes make reflow soldering more reliable by inhibiting solder balls. As the solder paste flux melts before the alloy melts, very fine solder particles flow with it away from the main mass of alloy, and become isolated. Fine particle powders also have more surface area for oxidation that can form a barrier to the main solder mass. ESL's large particle solder pastes inhibit these causes of solder balls.



For further information, write to:

ERacks Corporation
C-314, Industrial Estate
Peenya, Bangalore 560 058

ULTRASONIC LEVEL INDICATORS

ELTRONICA have developed non-contact type ultrasonic level indicator/controller-Model VUL-8 which can sense level by ultrasonic waves. The material can be liquid, powder or in form of lumps. The level is measured instantaneously and hence even dynamic level indication and control is possible. Measurement is fairly independent of temperature up to 70°C. The digital display is directly calibrated in mm or cm and BCD outputs are provided for control or printout.



For further information, write to:

Eltronica
98, Kakyamankott Street,
Vetugambakkam, Madras 600 092

POCKET TRANSISTOR

Mini-Max one band pocket transistor radio set has been introduced by SAFARI Industries. The set is compact in construction and works on 3 volts using two pencil cells. It has an LED indicator for audio level indication.

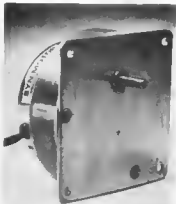


For further information, write to:

Safari Industries
11, Tribhuvan Road,
Bombay 400 004

GEARED SYNCHRONOUS MOTORS

VISHAL Electromag Industries have developed geared synchronous motors which are sturdy and compact. These motors can operate on 110V or 220/240V AC at 50Hz and consume 2.5 or 5 watts depending on the model. Output speeds are available from 1 Sec./Rev to 24Hrs./Rev. These motors are basically undrational and can be used directly for recorders, time-totalisers, time switches, timers, maximum demand meters, action displays, oscillating grids in air conditioners and fans etc. The motors can also be made available as reversible synchronous motors for potentiometers or servo voltage stabilisers.



For further information, write to:

Vishal Electromag Industries
D-202, Bonanza Industrial Estate, 2nd
floor Ashok Chakravarti Road,
Kandivli (East), Bombay 400 101

SINGLE PHASING PREVENTER

ALTEK SYSTEMS introduce the Reliance PLG—single phasing preventer cum water level guard unit. This unit is used for protecting the motors of submersible pumps from single phasing and dry running. The single phasing preventer operates by sensing the negative sequence voltage and the water level guard operates by sensing the conductivity. The unit is available with housing or in open form to suit the requirement of control panel manufacturers.



For further information, write to:

Attek Systems
Plot 168, Sector 27,
P C N T, Noida, Pune 411 044.

TEMPERATURE CONTROLLER

ESD-90/ESD-92 is the digital temperature indicator/controller introduced by Electronics Systems and Devices. A wide selection of measurement ranges is available to suit Thermocouple as well as RTDs. Large bright LEDs are used in the digital display of temperature being monitored. Ambient temperature compensation and thermocouple break protection are incorporated in the circuit. Input linearisation is also provided. The measurement is claimed to be unaffected by mechanical vibrations or mounting position of the instrument.



For further information, write to:

Electronics Systems and Devices
38-39/7, Hadapsar Industrial Estate,
Pune 411 013

T/C SCANNER

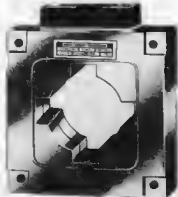
The WAHL Data Force dual micro-processor controlled 40-channel temperature scanner computes, automatically measures and linearises upto 40 thermocouples every 2.5 seconds. The input channels accept any standard thermocouple types and are linearised to 0.005°C. The unit has 4 multiplex cards, each having 10 T/C input channels, with interchannel isolation of 300 V DC. Temperature readings are displayed with the 0.01°C resolution and the accuracy is +0.2°C. Calculator functions such as weighted average, delta T, computed max/min, deviation, polynomial linearisation, cross channel computation etc. are also available.



For further information, write to:
Jost's Engineering Co. Ltd
60, Sir Phirozeshah Mehta Road,
Bombay 400 001.

CURRENT TRANSFORMER

MECO Instruments Pvt Ltd have added a DIN type plastic moulded current transformer in four different models. The metal of the moulded case is ABS and a cap is supplied for sealing the secondary terminals end to make the CT tamperproof. These can be mounted either on base plates or directly on bus-bars and are claimed to be unaffected by highly corrosive and dusty atmosphere.



For further information, write to:
Meco Instruments Pvt. Ltd
Bheret Industrial Estate
T J Road, Sewree, Bombay 400 015

CABLE BINDING

NOVOFLEX offers Spirap cable binding system which permits flexible

routing of Cable Harnesses while forming a neat, protective bundle. It twists on easily and quickly and allows lead-outs at any point. When Spirap is installed, it may be gapped for greater economy and flexibility or it may be butted tightly for maximum abrasion resistance, insulation protection and greater rigidity.



For further information, write to:
Novoflex Cable Care Systems
Post Box No. 9159, Calcutta 700 016.

MINI TOGGLE SWITCH

Switchcraft now offer a miniature D P D T toggle switch rated for 250V AC at 2A. This switch is suitable for use as ON-OFF switch for electrical and electronic instruments. It is housed in a deep drawn brass casing which protects the inside mechanism from dust and moisture. The switch has a transfer moulded base with terminals moulded in it. The contacts are silver plated. Dimensions behind the panel are 13 (L) x 12 (W) x 18.5 (H) mm.



For further information, write to:
Switchcraft
54/55 Crescent Mansion
Gamdevi Road, Bombay 400 007.

TUBE LIGHT INVERTER

SBAJ tube light inverters are specially designed for the Bue body builders. They are completely solid state in design and use ferrite core transformers, 40% more efficient than the old lamination type transformer designs. The inverters are compact in size and can be fitted directly on the tube light fixture in place of the choke.



For further information, write to:
Sbay Electronics
19, Mother Gift Building
Opp Novelty Cinema
Grant Road, Bombay 400 007

RAIL TESTER

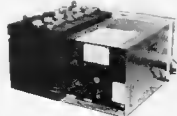
Vibronics Pvt. Ltd. have developed the ultrasonic rail tester equipment to meet the exacting standards set by RDSO. The equipment comprises of a portable flaw detector—model FD-301 A, with 5 sets of probes controlled through a junction box. The position of the probes can be raised or lowered as required. The applications consist of fatigue testing on rail head, testing of cracks on core bolt holes, cracks on web etc.



For further information, write to:
Vibronics Pvt. Ltd.
Mastrani Estate
Near Haveli Bridge
Kurla, Bombay 400 070.

UPS SYSTEM

JAYANT Electric & Radio Corpn have introduced an uninterruptible power supply system to overcome the problems of transients, brownouts and blackouts. Various models are available ranging from 200VA to 5KVA. The system is mounted on a trolley with a battery and incorporates automatic electronic switching, dual function voltage stabiliser, battery charger with automatic trickle and boost charging etc. Output is 230 V ± 5% AC, single phase sine or square wave. Input can be 12 V to 110 V DC depending on the required capacity. Frequency of operation is 50 Hz ± 1%.



For further information, write to:
Jayant Electric & Radio Corporation
5 B, Naigum X-Road
P.B. 7129
Wadala, Bombay 400 031

RUTONSHA-INTERNATIONAL RECTIFIER PRIVATE LIMITED RIR RECTIFIES YOUR RATINGS.

Today, Gujarat is poised to be the Silicon Valley of India. In anticipation of this development, RUTONSHA has set up International House at Haldi, near Baroda.

Pioneers of power electronics engineering in India, the Company's new plant will manufacture

HIGH POWER RECTIFIERS FOR:
Hydrogeneration, Cathodic Protection, Traction (Substation & Locomotive).

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SALES ENGINEERS — (Semi-conductor Devices/Equipment Graduates/Diploma Holders in Electrical/Electronics Engineering with a flair for sales and 4 to 6 years' experience in sales of Power Electronic equipment and Semi-conductor Devices. Candidates must have the capacity to effectively discuss with prospective clients techno-commercial aspects. Proven record of achieving order booking targets essential. Selected candidates may be posted at Bombay or Baroda.

SENIOR DEVELOPMENT/PRODUCTION ENGINEERS — (Semi-conductor Devices/Equipment Graduates in Electrical/Electronics Engineering with 6 to 8 years' experience in Design & Development/Production of Power Electronics and Rectifier equipment for Traction, Hydrogeneration and other multi-phase industrial applications. Thorough knowledge of circuitry is essential. Selected candidates will be posted at the Plants in Gujarat.

PRODUCTION MANAGERS — (Semi-conductor Devices/Equipment Graduates in Electronics Engineering with 10 to 12 years' experience in the production of Power Electronic and Rectifier equipment for Traction, Hydrogeneration and other multi-phase industrial applications and Semiconductor Devices. Candidate must have a thorough knowledge of circuitry, production methods, engineering practices, labour relations and other responsibilities associated with the running of an independent manufacturing unit. Ability to lead a motivated group of qualified engineers and workmen, with a view to achieving production targets, are considered very essential. Working knowledge of Gujarati is necessary

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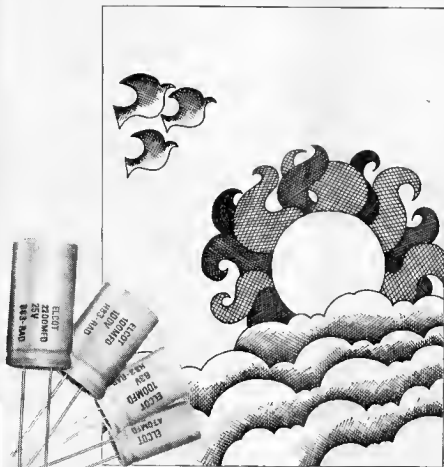
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