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type AG3019 for micro-groove
and 78 r.p.m Frequency respo $30-1500$ ats.
ifting and lowering device. Indirjdually balanced heavy turntable. Muting swith Indiridually balanced any amplifer or radio set. Complete with mon with plok-up 210.10 .0 . or 2 gns. deposit and 20 fortnightiy payments of $10 \%$. Avallable also with stereo bead diamond or sapphire stylus. Prices on request.

## The Taylor Meter Model 127A



A pocket size meter but with a big scale and a sensitivity of 20.000 Ohms per volt D.C.. thereiore an fdeal unit for bustily made and complete with leads and complete ranges as tollows:
D.C. current $50 \mathrm{micro-amps}$. to 1 Amp.
D.C. voltages $-0-1,000$ voit in seven ranges ( 25 KV . with external probs. optional extra. Volts A.C. -0.2 .500 in six tankes
Ohms- $0-20$ meg. Ohm in three ranges (self-controlled) Self-contsined, 141 n . movement. Price 810 or 10 ideposit and 23 fortpightly payments of $10 /$-. Non$5 \mathrm{~K}+5 \mathrm{~K}, 100 \mathrm{~K} \pm 100 \mathrm{~K}$, \& mes. $\& \& \mathrm{meg}$. 2 meg. $t 2$ meg.

Hi-Fi Snip Infinite Wall Baffle

## N10015

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Takes up no
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sults with only
10w-price 81 n .
speakerfit:
ting for tweeter. Only 45/- each. carriage and insurance $3 / 6$.

## 

## Crystal Mike by Acos



Model 39/1. this is Ideal tor tape or general amplifiers, complete with screened lead 39/6. plus $1 /$ - post.

## Chassis Assembly



Superhet Chassis. 3-waveband, coloured scale, scale pan, etc. Scale size 144 in . $x$ 3iin. Chassis size 15 in . $x$ lisin. $\underset{x}{ } \mathbf{2 i n}$. Price $9 / 6$. pius $1 / 6$ post.

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO BCHDEINE
Constructors parcel consisting of cabinet approx. size $41 \times 3 \frac{1}{2} \times 1 \mathrm{lin}$. with handle and embel illustrated lurnstrated. tuning condensers and easy to follow constructional data. Price 22/6 plus $2 / 6$ post and in surance. you can
build a pocket transistor set
as currently belng sold at 17 gns . We can supply all necessary parts at highly competiltive prices. Alternatively build your own circuit. Circuit diagram and constructional data supplied separately. 1/6.

Speaker Bargain


12in. Hi-fldelity loudspeaker. High flux. Permanent magnet type with standard 3 ohm speech coll. Will handle up to maker. Price $32 / 6$. plus $3 / 6$ post and insurance.
"Dim and Full" Switch Particularly userul for controlling photoflood lamps which have only a short life at full brilliance. This toggle switch has three positions: the first position puts two lamps in series at half brilliance for setting up, the second position is of and the operation shots. Also useful for operation shots. Also userul for etc. Price $3!9$ each, post 9 d . Círcuit dasram included.


Fluorescent Light Bargain Kit of parts comprising: choke, two lamp holders, starter holder and starter, 40 watt, 19/6, 80 watt, 23/6. Plus 2/- post and insurance.

## Components for Transistor Sets

 Sub-miniature Niectrolytis's. 1 mid $18 v ., 2.5 \mathrm{mid}$ Sub-miniature Electrolytiç. 1 Transistor ferrite lioul Acrial with medium and long wave colls with circuit. Price ${ }^{\%} / 8$.
Osciliator coil and set of $3 \mathrm{I}, \mathrm{F}$, transformers for transistor set with circuit. Price 23/6.
Mjupet 3in. P.M. Loulspeaker for transistor set. 3 ohm or 80 ohm coil. Price 18/6.
Winget :008 pF +176 pF two-gang Tuning Condenser with trimmers, : spindie drilled and tapped. Price $9 /-$ plus $1 /-$ post.
Push-null Output Transionmers, for transistors OC78, etc. Sub-mintature. Price 8/6, plus 1/- post. Push-puil input Transformer to mateh the above. Output Transformer. 8/6.
0.0005 mpd simgle Timing condenser. Solid dielectric $\frac{1}{2}$. spindle for transistor or crystal set. 3/9; ditto with spindle tapped 6 BA. $4 \%$ Transistors tested. Set of six for Superhet includes matched pair. Mullard ei.10.0. ditto unbranded $45 /$-; suitable as mixers, $9 / 8$ each. Suitable as I.F. amplifiers. 8/8: suitable for R.F. and Regen circuits. 6/6; matched pairs for Push-pull Output. $18 /$ - per pair. High gain for single ended output. $7 / 8$. Ordinary white spot. 3/9: red spot. 3/6.
Resisiors, miniature quarter watt type for transistor sets. All popular valves. brl. each.
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These are less valves but otherwise reasonably com-plete-1deal for sparesprices on condition-carriage 7/6.


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For use with the MULLARD 2 -valve pre-ampliffer with which undistorted power output of up to 10 watts is ob tained We supply speciririd componevis AND NEW MULLARD WALVES. including PARMERO MAINS ThAVYFORMER and choice of the latest Ulera-Linear PARMEKO or the PARTRIDGE Output Transformer. PRICE COMPLETE KIT (PAKAFEKO Output Trans.).
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Employing two EF86 valves, and designed to operate with the MULLARD MAIN AMIPIFILERS, but also per-
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(O, P or T PU)
(Acos Stereo/Mono PU)
£9.18. 8 £1.18. $9 \quad 12$ of 15/-
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$4 \times 10 \times 2 \mathrm{in} . .8 / 9$, post $1 / 9$.


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Morganite ganged potentfometers as specified for the Mullard 1 circuits. Lot/Anti-Log, $500 \mathrm{k} .1 \mathrm{meg} . .2 \mathrm{meg}$. Log/Log. 250 k . 1 meg., 2 meg. Lin/Lin. 500 k . 1 meg. All $10 / 6$ each. Denco Chassis for the Mullard circuits. All drilled with printed ront panel.
Three Valve Stereo Ampliffer $22^{\prime}$-. Seven watt Stereo Ampllner, 24 8. Stereo Pre-Amplifier, 24/6. £3.19.6. Both

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& \text { All components in stock for the Mullard Tape "C" Pre-Ampli- } \\
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ALL BRAND NEW STOCK-NOT SURPLUS MULLAM1B-Audio OC70. OC71, 14/-each; OC72Audio Output MAZDA-XB102. XB104. Audio. 10:- each; XC101 Audio


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| 1A3GT | 61－ | fATR | 71 | 6 KfGT | 6／6 | 747 | 10／6 | 12 K R | $12 / 6$ |  | 101－ | DF96 | $7 / 8$ | ECCR 5 | $8 / 8$ | EN31 16／－ | PCCR | 19\％ | U31 | $7 / 3$ | 89 |  |
| 1A7GT | 11／9 | 6AU6 | 719 | ${ }^{\text {fiN }}$ | $5 / 9$ | $7 \mathrm{B5}$ | $12 / 6$ | 1247 | $5 / 8$ | 50 | 9／3 | DH68 | 8／9 | FCF＇80 | 919 | EY51 | PCC89 | 18／9 | U33 | 13／－ |  |  |
| 1C5GT | 919 | $6 \mathrm{B7}$ | 9／6 | 6K7G | 2／3 | 786 | 9／6 | 1：SG7 | $6 \%$ | 53 KU | 10／6 | DH76 | 5／6 | ECF82 | $0 / 9$ | AMALL 819 | PCF80 | 7／6 | U35 | 8／9 |  |  |
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| ID6 | 919 | 6BA6 | 6／－ | 6K8 | 101－ | 7C5 | 7／6 | 12aK7 | 5／6 | 618 PT | 11／－ | DK32 | $11 \%$ | ECH35 | 916 | EZ35 6\％ | PCE． 82 | $8 / 6$ | L43 | 8／9 | UL46 | 919 |
| 1H50 | 919 | 6BE6 | 6／－ | 6K89 | 5／8 | $7 \mathrm{C6}$ | $7 / 8$ | 128N7 | 8／6 | 75 | $81-$ | DK91 | 6 H | ECH42 | $8 / 6$ | EZ40 3／8 | PCL83 | $11 / 6$ | U50 | $81-$ | UL84 | 19 |
| 1 L 4 | 3／6 | 6BG6G | 12／6 | 6 K 9 GI | 101－ | 7 E 7 | $9 / 6$ | 12Y4 | $9 / 5$ | 77 | $8 / 6$ | DK92 | $8 / 6$ | ECH81 | $8 / 8$ | EZ41 7／8 | PCLS 4 | 819 | U58 | $5 / 5$ | ПM80 |  |
| ILD 5 | 3／6 | 6 BH 6 | 6／－ | 6K25 | $7 / 6$ | 7 H 7 | 716. | 1497 | 1419 | 78 | 716 | DK96 | 719 | ECL80 | $7 / 6$ | EZ80 6／8 | PEN25 | $4 / 6$ | U76 | $5 / 6$ | U6 |  |
| 1LN5 | 4／6 | 6BJ8 | 61. | 6 L 1 | 12／6 | 7 K 7 | 8／－ | 19AQ5 | $7 / 6$ | 80 | 6／6 | DL33 | 819 | ECL 82 | $10 \%$ | EZ81 7\％ | PEN45 | 718 | U78 | $5 / 6$ | U | $2 / 8$ |
| JN5GT | $9 / 9$ | 6BR7 | 9／3 | 6L6 |  | 7Q7 | $9 / 6$ | 19846 | 5 | 83 | 9／6 | DL35 | $9 / 9$ | ECLR3 | 14／6 | GT1C $7 \%$ | PEN46 | 518 | U191 | 816 | J07 | ／6 |
| 1R5 | $8 /-$ | 6BW6 | 7／9 | $6 \mathrm{L6G}$ | 7／6 | $7 \mathrm{R7}$ | 1018 | 20D1 | $9 / 6$ | 90A 7 | $4 / 6$ | DL82 | 918 | EF22 | 12／－ | GZ32 8／8 | ${ }^{\text {PLJ3 }}$ | $8 / \mathrm{m}$ | U2：1 | 816 | LUR | \％． |
| 184 | $8 / 6$ | $6 \mathrm{BW7}$ | 8／6 | 6 L 7 | 9 O | 787 | 816 | 20 Fz 2 | $9 / 6$ | 11783 | 10／6 | DLal | 619 | EF36 | 3／3 | G734 12／6 | PL36 | 11／2 | U282 | 16. | YIS | \％ |
| 185 | 5.8 | 68 CB 8 | $5 / 8$ | 6L7G | $7 / 6$ | $7 \mathrm{V7}$ | 719 | $20 \mathrm{L1}$ | 18／6 | 195 BT | 16\％ | DL92 | 6／2． | EF39 | $4 / 8$ | GZ37 10／8 | PL38 | $14 / 6$ | T301 | 14／－ | UY21 | 11／6 |
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| 3 A 4 | 6 | 6 C 6 | $4 / 9$ | 6LD？ |  |  | 6 | 20Ps | 12／6 | 8074 | 519 | DLaf | 718 | EF41 | $8 / 6$ | HVR2 7／6 | PLS2 | $7 / 6$ | U32 | 12／6 | UY85 | \％ |
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| 3 CH | 713 | ficD6G | $1.8 / 8$ | 61．520 | $8 / 6$ | 1002 | 13.8 | 25ARG | 810 | 954 | 2／＊ | EAC91 | $4 / 8$ | EF50 | SA | KT38С $6 / 6$ | PMRn | 919 | U404 | 816 |  | $7 \%$ |
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| 38.4 | 61－ | 5D1 | $9{ }^{\text {9］．}}$ | ${ }_{6} \mathrm{Pl}$ | 14／－ | 10 Fl | $6 / 8$ | 25 LHGT | $81-$ | 956 | $2 / 9$ | EB34 | $1 / 6$ | EF54 | $3 / 8$ | $\begin{array}{ll}\text { KT44 } & \text { 9／6 }\end{array}$ | PYal | 8／8 | UABC | 819 |  |  |
| $8{ }^{3} 4$ | 7\％ | $8 \mathrm{D2}$ | 3／8 | 6P25 | 91. | $10 \mathrm{F9} 9$ | 10／3 | 25 Y 5 G | 9／－ | 5763 | $10=$ | EB41 | 71. | EF80 | $5 / 3$ | KT45 8／6 | PY32 | 10／6 | UAF42 | 9／－ |  | 5／6 |
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| 5 L 4 G 5 V 4 a | ${ }_{5}^{518} 8$ | 606 6F1 | 4／9 | 607 C 607 GT | 8／9 | 10 L 10 | $8 / 3$ | 257， | $81 /$ | 9002 | 4／9 | F．BC3 | 9\％ | EF86 | 1018 | $\begin{array}{ll}\text { KT63 } & \text { 8／8 }\end{array}$ | PY81 | 0／6 | UPC41 | $8 / 8$ | W76 | ／6 |
| $5 V 4 G$ $5 Y 3$ | 9／6 | 6F1 | $5 / 9$ | 647GT | 818 | 10L．${ }^{\text {L }} 12$ | $8 / 9$ | 2576 | 91 | 9003 | 4／－ | EBC38 | 5\％ | EF89 | $81-$ | $\begin{array}{ll}\text { KT86 } & 12 / 6\end{array}$ | PY82 | $6 / 9$ | U BC81 | 10\％ | W77 | $4 / 9$ |
| SY3GT | $8 / 6$ | ${ }_{6}^{6 F 664}$ | 3 | $6 R 7 G$ 6547 | 8 | 10P18 | 9／6 | 27 SU | 16／4 | ATP | $2 / 8$ | EBC41 | $8 / 6$ | EFP91 | $3 / 6$ | KT76 9／6 | P Y83 | 8\％ | UBF89 | 816 | W81 | \＄／8 |
| byta | 11／＊ | 6 F 12 | $3 / 6$ | 6SG7 | 5／88 | 10P18 | 876 | ${ }^{30} \mathrm{BeF}_{5}$ | $7 / 6$ | A38 | 16 | EBF゙SO | 719 816 | EF92 | 4／8 | KTS1 | R19 | 12／5 | BJ．21 | $14 / 8$ | X61M | 12／6 |
| $5 \mathrm{F4}$ | 11／－ | 6 F 18 | ${ }^{\text {P }}$ | 6 SH 7 | $4 / 6$ | $12 A B$ | 5／3 | 30 FL .1 | 816 | 865 | $4 / 9$ | EBF89 | $8 / 6$ | EK32 | 71 | KTW63 | R19 | 12／6 | C84 | 14／6 | $\times 63$ | ／8 |
| 5Z4G | 8／6 | 6F14 | 916 | 68J5 | $5 /-$ | 12 AH7 | 6／9 | 30 L 1 | $7 / 9$ | CRLS 1 | 21／ | EBL21 | 14／－ | E1．32 | $4 / 6$ | KTZ63 5／6 | －D ${ }^{\text {d }}$ | $91=$ | UCC85 | 8\％ | x 8 S | 11／＊ |
| $5 Z 4 G T$ | $11 /$ | $6{ }^{6} 15$ | 816 | 68K？ | $5 / 3$ | 12AHR | $8 / 8$ | 20 P 4 | $12 \cdot 6$ | CCH35 | 716 | EBL31 | $21 /$ | EL33 | 81－ | L63 2／9 | SP6 | 818 | UCF80 | 16／． | X 86 | 11／－ |
| 647 $8 A 97$ | 10／6 | $6{ }^{6} 18$ $6 \mathrm{~F}^{3} 3$ | 816 |  | $8 /-$ | 12AT6 | 7／9 | 30 P 12 | 81. | C133 | 18／－ | EC52 | 3／9 | EL35 | $8 / 6$ | LN162 7／8 | $\mathrm{SP}^{\text {SPS }}$ | 2／6 | DCE 21 | 14／6 | 区76M | $9 / 6$ |
| 6 6AsGT | 13／6 | 6F33 6 G | $8 / 8$ |  | 4／9 | 12AT7 | 5／9 $6 / 6$ | 30 Pl 8 30 PL | $7 / 9$ 1016 | CY31 | 9／8 | EC90 | $3 / 6$ $4 / 6$ | EL37 | 11／6 | $\begin{array}{ll}\text { LZ319 } & 7 / 8 \\ \text { MU14 } & 8 /=\end{array}$ | SP61 | 2／6 | UCE42 | 14／8 | X 78 | 14／6 |
| 6AB8 | 8／8 | 6H6 | 2／－ | 日SS\％ | 51 | 12AX 7 | $71-$ | 35LRGT | 9／－ | D77 | 318 | ECC31 | $9 / 6$ | EL41 | 8／6 | N37 11－ | ¢U21 | 44／6 | UCH81 | 8／6 | X 79 | $16 / 6$ |
| $6 \mathrm{AC7}$ | 4／3 | 6．15 | 413 | 6U4GT | $10 / 6$ | 12 BA 6 | $8 /$ | 3564 | $8 / 9$ | D152 | $6 / 6$ | ECC32 | $4 /-$ | EL42 | $8 / 6$ | $\begin{array}{ll}\text { N78 } & 15 /-\end{array}$ | T41 | 716 | UCL81 | 11／3 | Y 63 | $8 / 8$ |
| 6AG5 | $4 / 3$ | 8J5G | 219 | 8U50 | 8／3 | 12BE6 | $8 / 9$ | 35Z4GT | $5 / 6$ | DA30 | $12: 6$ | ECC33 | 4／9 | Eli．84 | 7／0 | N109 18\％ | TH300 | 12／8 | UCL83 | 18／6 | Z63 | 5／8 |
| 6AK5 | 819 | $6{ }^{6 J 5}$ | $4 /-$ | 6VfGT | 6／6 6／6 | 12 BL | $10 / 6$ $8 / 6$ | 35Z5GT | 816 | 490 | 2／6 | ECC34 | 91－ | EL91 | 419 | $\begin{array}{ll}\text { N1 } 18 & 10 / 6 \\ \text { P41 } & 4 / 6\end{array}$ | U14 | 8／－ | UF41 | 8／6 | 268 | $9 / 6$ |
| 6AL5 | $3 / 9$ | 6．J7 |  | 5X2 | 8／9 | 122E1 | 816 $12 / 6$ | 42 | 716 | DAC82 | 5／3 | ECC81 | $8 / 9$ | F．M84 | $9 / 3$ | $\begin{array}{ll}\text { P41 } & 4 / 6 \\ \text { P61 } & \text { 8／3 }\end{array}$ | U18 | 619 | UF42 | 679 | 277 | $8 / 8$ |
| 6AM5 | $4 / 6$ | 6J76 | 5／8 | BX4 | $5 / 6$ | 12．）jGT | $3 / 6$ | 43 | 716 | DAF96 | $7 / 9$ | ECCR＇ | 6／6 | EM83 | $8 / 3$ | PABC8011／\％ | U24 | 15\％ | UF80 | 91 | Z152 | 5／8 |
| AM6 | $8 / 6$ | 6J7GT | 718 | 6． 50 | $5 / 6$ | 12k7GT | 5／6 | 30C5 | 916 | DF3： | 818 | ECC83 | \％ | EMS4 | $9 / 8$ $9 / 9$ | PCC84 716 | （tax | 18／8 | UF85 | $01 /$ | Z719 | $5 / 3$ |

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# Practical Wireless 



YOL. XXXYI, No, 645, NOVEMBER, 1960


## OUR FREE BLUEPRINT

IAST month we announced the P.W. "Pocket Superhet" and on page 608 of this issue we present the first article on the receiver. The article is illustrated with large, clear, half-tone pictures which will be of great use when the receiver is being constructed. The free blueprint of the set contains large, clear diagrams-of the circuit, and above- and below-chassis wiring-and a list of parts required to build the receiver.
The circuit of the Pocket Superhet is designed to cover both medium and long waves; this provision, while introducing wavechange switching is essential for those readers living outside the reception areas of the medium wave Light Programme transmitters. The circuit used is for the most part conventional except that the coupling to the base of the first-transistor is by means of a coupling winding and tapping on the L.W. coil, thus avoiding the additional switching often used. The input, or mixer, stage is followed by two I.F. stages to achieve high sensitivity. A crystal diode is employed as the detector which feeds the driver stage. The output circuit is of the push-pull type and gives more than sufficient output for most purposes. An efficient AGC circuit is included in the design so that the large sensitivity is only used for weak stations.

The performance of the set is excellent and is comparable with many commercial designs. A prototype was exhibited at the Radio Show and was admired by many readers who visited our stand. The attractive plastic cabinet in which the receiver was housed gave rise to many favourable comments. It ensures that the completed set has a truly professional appearance. On page 638 of this issue, you will find details of a special gift offer. For only 6s. 6d. you will be able to purchase a case complete with a dial and a chrome-plated handle.

In this month's article, the principal constructional details are given, and with the aid of the blueprint, even those comparatively new to radio construction should find little difficulty in building the receiver. In the second article, next month, the procedure for testing the set will be described and complete information will be given on how to align the R.F. and I.F. sections.

We are sure that this design will prove very successful; therefore be sure to order next month's issue well in advance, for the demand for the second part of the article will be great. The demand for the plastic cases will also be great; be sure to order yours quickly.

## A FILM SHOW

ANOTHER film show has been arranged in collaboration with Mullard Ltd. It will be held at Caxton Hall, Westminster, and readers are invited to send for their free tickets which are now available from these offices. The films will be shown on Friday, January 13th, 1961, and the programme will begin at $7.30 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. When applying for tickets, enclose a stamped addressed envelope (at least $3 \frac{1}{2}$ ins. x 6 ins.). Mark your envelope "Caxton Hall" in the top left-hand corner.

Our next issue, dated December will be published on November 4th

# Round the World of Wireless 

## POTENTIAL AND CURRENT NEWS

Broadcast Receiving Licences THE following statement shows the approximate number of Broadcast Receiving Licences in force at the end of July, in respect of wireless receiving stations situated within the various Postal Regions of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.


Thailand Communications
TWO guests were received by Associated Electrical Industries during September, both from Thailand. They were Lt.Gen. Phachirn Nimibutr and Mr. Chamroon Vajrabhaye. Anticipating swift growth of Thai telecommunication systems, they chose to examine the research and manufacturing resources of Great Britain. Telephone exchange installations were inspected between visits to A.E.I. laboratories.

Thailand's public telephone systems are rapidly expanding. especially around the capital city. Bangkok. Already a $£ 500.000$ contract has been awarded to A.E.I. which will bring into operation another 10.500 telephone lines.

Picturesque Bangkok. and ten other Thai towns. will soon be able to boast of automatic telephone exchanges of a modern design that will clash boldly with the ancient temples of Siam.

## URSI Meeting

REPRESENTATIVES from
Russia and America ioined with delegates and observers from 27 countries at a general meeting of the International Scientific Radio Union (URS!) held recently in I.ondon. The press and television organisations were admitted to allow the puhlic to hear about some of the discussions on radio studies into space research. which was the subject of the meeting.


The illustration above shows the interior of the new factory at Borehanwood of Printed Circuits Ltd. This is a result of a programme of complete reorganisation started eighteen months ago.

## New Automatic Factory at Borehamwood

 EIGHTEEN months ago a programme of complete reorganisation of Printed Circuits Ltd. began. Included in this programme was the building of what is now one of the largest and most modern factories of its type in the world. Automatically printed circuits. industrial nameplates and instrument panels will be produced on two etching and anodising machines which are of a completely revolutionary design.Two years of research and development have gone into making this method of production unique. So new is this process that human handling has been eliminated throughout the whole operation. This factory has been completed in association with Millet Levens Ltd., of Borehamwood.

## Radio Hobbies Exhibition

FOR the amateur radio enthusiast, a noteworthy event of the autumn will be the International Radio Hobbies Exhibition at the Roval Horticultural Societv*s Old Hall. Westminster. Home-constructed equipment of all descriptions will be on show and will be demonstrated.

As usual the Radio Societv of Great Britain, which sponsors
this annual event. will award prizes for outstanding examples of completely amateur equipment.

Most of the commercial exhibits will be kits and components for the home constructor. rather than already assembled apparatus. The Radio Clubs of the Armed Forces will show the latest communications equipment issued to them as well as equipment built by themselves. Technical books and journals will be or sale.
The show. which takes place from Novemher 23 rd to 26 th. will he onen from 11 a.m. until 9 p.m. daily.

## Indian Pipeline Project

FOR Murphy Radio Ltd. a
£ $1,000,000$ contract with Oil India Private Ltd. has recently been secured. An, extensive V.H.F. radio network' is to be formed in North Eastern India. Starting at a point 100 miles south of the Nepal border. a radiophone link system will follow the route of the oil company's pipeline over 700 miles of terrain which was previously considered impossib'e and uneconomical to transverse with such means of communication. At intervals of about 30 miles along the castward-bound net-
work, Murphy radio stations will be installed to give a total of 36 communication channels along the pipeline route. These radio stations will be close to pumping houses so that oil-flow statistics as well as speech may be relayed easily along any one of these channels.

## Parametric Amplifier

RECENTLY developed by Marconi's for use with their range of 50 cm radar is a parametric amplifier. A fully coherent punp frequency is incorporated and the tube itself and its solenoid are manufactured by the English Electric Valve Co. (also of Chelmsford), Marconi associates within the English Electric Group of Companies.

## Aircraft Test Bed for Electric

## Equinment

AMIRAGE IV jet aircraft carried a Marconi Döppler navigator at twice the speed of sound recently, while testing this piece of equipment. The Génerale Aéronautique Marcel Dassault, who have recently ordered this type of navigating equipment, were testing its accuracy under conditions likely to be experienced in their aircraft.

## Student's Visit to Sweden

FOR 27-year-old post-graduate student John Beal, B.Sc., next month sees the beginning of an educational visit to Sweden. Sponsored by the journals. "British Communications and Electronics", "British Power Enginecring" and "Nucleat Engineering", he will visit various Swedish research establishments.

## Travelling Wave Tube

ACONTRACT worth 2 million dollars for the supply of Travelling Wave Tubes to The Radio Corporation of America has been awarded to Mullard Ltd. These tubes are intended for use in a new multi-channel radio communication system.

A travelling wave tube is a special type of electronic valve providing useful wide-band amplification at frequencies well beyond those at which conventional valves can function successfully. Mullard have extensive experience in the development of these and other special types of electronic tubes for communications systems.

The tubes to be supplied to R.C.A. were, in fact, developed by Mullard Research Labora-
tories and will be manufactured at the Companys Transmitting and Microwave Valve Plant at Waddon. Surrey. First shipments are expected to be made in May 1961.

## £250,000 Contract for

 Solartron OscilloscopesCONTR ACTS totalling $£ 250.000$ for the supply of Solartron Oscilloscopes to the Admiralty and Ministy of Aviation have been awarded to Solartron Laboratory Instruments. Lid.. a subsidiary of the Solartron Electronic Group Ltd., Farnborough. The oscilloscopes are the Solartron Double-Beam Oscilloscope Type CD. 711S.2. the Precision Measuring Oscilloscope Type CD. 643S.2, and the General Purpose Oscilloscope Type CD. 5235.2.
in recent years. Over 300 firms displayed their products at the 1960 exhibition occupying 500,000 sq. ft of space within the hall and extending into the foecourt to provide a spacious outdoor demonstration area.

Record numbers of visitors came to the 1960 show and placed orders amounting to millions of pounds. Overseas visitors, 45 per cent greater in number than on any previous occasions, came from 77 different countries.

## First Electronic Newspaper

A BEACONSFIELD man, 44-year-old Mr Cyril Gee, of Hogback Wood Road, recently made newspaper history.

He is the managing editor of Europe's first newspaper devoted


A parametric amplifter for use with their range of 50 cm radar has been developed by Marconi's. The above illustration shows the parametric amplifier tube and solenoid with associated baluns (balance-to-unbalance transformers) and coaxial lines.

## Mechanical Handling Exhibition

TIHE next Mechanical Handling Exhibition - the world's largest display of all classes of industrial labour-saving and ancillary equipment-is to be held at Earls Court. London, England, from 8 to 18 May, 1962.

It will be the eighth in the series of this biennial exhibition which started in 1948 . Its growth, both in influence and attendance, retlects the spectacular development of industrial mechanisation
to electronics-one of the world's fastest-growing industries.

Titled "Electronics Weekly", the new 24 -page newspaper was launched by Heywood and Company at a Savoy Hotel, London, reception on September 6.

Mr. Gee is well- known as founder-cditor of "British Communications and Electronics".

His new venture, "Electronics Weekly", will cover the scientific, technical, commercial. ecolinmic. financial and statisticad aspects of electronics.

# Radio Construction for the Beginner 

No. 2-A SIMPLE CRYSTAL RECEIVER

EVERY beginner should try to acquire, as soon as possible, a knowlcdge of the symbols used in the theoretical drawings of circuits. These are conventional signs which have evolved from pictures of the components, and save time and trouble in electrical diagrams and illustrations.

## Electrical Notation

All the symbols which should be menorised first by the beginner appear in Fig. 1(a) and this diagram should be carefully compared with Fig. 1(b), which is a practical form of the same circuit. This illustration shows the proposed layout of the parts as described in the first instalment of this article. It need not be followed too precisely: in fact, the receiver, like most circuits, will work in any sort of physical arrangement, provided the electrical connections are a true likeness of the original.

Fig. 1(b) does not show an actual aerial or earth, but this receiver, whose only source of power is the minute amount of current set up in the circuit by the transmitter many miles away, will only function with a good aerial and earth.


Fig. 1(b).-Practical layout of the circuit in Fig. 1(a), with the symbols corresponding to the parts indicated.

## The Aerial

A "good aerial" need only be a length of strong copper wire, preferably insulated, as long and as high as possible. The great majority of "crystal" receivers use a wire from the house


Iig. 1(a).-Circuit of the simple crystal receiver. windrw to sone high object (a pole, a tree or the top of another building). It is important that the a ire should not make clectrical contact with anything hetween it, far end and the point where it is coupled to the recciver. With modern plasticcovered wire, this warning may be safely ignored, but if bare wire is used for the aerial, the following simple precautions should be taken.

The far. end of the wire should not be tied dirently to its support. Instead, it should be
plastic sleeving should be slipped over it at any point of contact with walls, window frames, sills, etc.

## The Earth Line

The earth line consists of a length of stout copper wire leading, as directly as possible, from the receiver to the ground. It should be anchored there by soldering (or bolting tightly with a brass nut and bolt) to a fair-sized metal object. A copper rod or tuhe is ideal, but a large tin-can, filled with soil and buried completely works very well.

Beginners who cannot arrange an earth line of this sort need not despair. A stout copper wire led to the nearest cold water pipe will nearly always give a good earth connection, provided the bared end of the wire is tightly bound or clamped to clean metal. Any paint or corrosion can easily be removed with a file or coarse sandpaper from an inch or so of the pipe and contact may then be made satisfactorily. Provided the earth line is a good one. indoor aerials will sometimes work.

Assuming the reader has solved these problems and has also acquired a pair of high impedance headphones, the parts listed in the last instalment may now be mounted on the board.

## Mounting the Tuning Condenser

The variable or "tuning" condenser should be fixed to the panel by boring a hole, $\frac{1}{8}$ in. in diameter, in the centre of it. The threaded bear-
ing should then be passed through the panel and secured by the nut provided. A knob is fitted tightly to the spindle. If the reader is using an old air-spaced zondenser. he will have to make his own arrangements for fixing it somewhere on the board. The air-spaced type are generally considered superior in performance and for the beginner they have the added advantage of showing the opening and closing effect of the vancs. This is almost impossible to observe in the solid dielectric type.


Fig. $2(a) .-A$ modified circuit with tappings on
the coil.
For this receiver, six brass woodscrews and washers will be required in the construction. They should be set out as shown in Fig. 1(b), after the washers have been burnished on both faces with the "flour" grade glasspaper. Lengths of connecting wire are now measured as required and the last half-inch or so bared and curled clockwise round the screws beneath the washers. Provided the washer has been well burnished, this method of wiring results in a contact resistance of only a fraction of an ohm. If more than one wire is clamped at the same point the pressure is less and the resistance rises somewhat, but is still very small. If a screw fails to grip casily, a new place should be found for it immediately, as low pressures lead to hidden resistances and poor contacts.

The funing condenser used is provided with two small nuts to secure the ends of the wires. These should be tightened very firmly, using a pair of pliers if necessary.

The two terminals on the right of Fig. 1(b) are small hexagonal sockets, obtainable from a wellknown chain store. They will fit tightly into two $\frac{9}{68} \mathrm{in}$. holes drilled in the board. As $\frac{3}{64} \mathrm{in}$. is perhaps an awkward size of drill. the reader may care to use a fin. drill, then enlarge the hole slightly. The bared end of each connecting wire is passed through the slot in the threaded brass
tube and the plastic portion screwed down on to it. These sochets will accommodate any small wander plog, and if the headphones are not so equipped, a couple of these will have to be procured athd fitted.

The position of the various components should be clear enough from Fig. 1(b), the smaller ones being labelied as an additional help. It docs not matter which way round the crystal diode is mounted in this circuit, though in some circuits it is critical.

## Winding the Coil

All thatt remains to be done now is to wind the coil and fasten the aerial and earth leads to the two screws on the extreme left of the board. In order to save coil wire and space, and to guarantee a fair performance, the coil is wound on a ferrite core which may be any scrap of ferrite rod at least $1 \frac{1}{4} \mathrm{in}$. in length.

All the coils mentioned in this series will be " pile wound"; that is to say, the turns will be restricted to a small length of the core, in this case the middle half-inch of the piece of ferrite. A small piece of $\frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. wide adhesive cellophane tape is wrapped round the middle of the ferrite and will act ds a guide in winding the coil and none of the turns should be allowed to stray outside this band. Leaving six inches or so free to connect with, the coil wire is now wound on to the guide band, the first turn being trapped by the succeeding turns as soon as possible. After 15 turns, wound with an even tension, have been completed, a loop about three inches long should be twisted in the wire near the core, then winding recommenced. This loop is to form the aerial "tapping" as shown in Figs. 1(b) and 1(a). A further 45 turns ( 60 turns in all) are wound in the same way, then the coil wire is cut, leaving about 6 in. to spare. The windings are secured with another band of Sellotape wrapped on very tightly.

The enamel must now be removed from the ends of the three wires. This is best carried out by drawing the ends gently through a small piece of the "flour grade" glasspaper, folded with the rough surface inwards. When the ends of the three wires appear bright from all points of view they can be connected, the beginning of the coil going to


Fig. $2(b) .-T h e$ theoretical circuit corresponding to Fig. 2(a). the screw labelled (2) in the illustration. the end of the coil to (1) and the "tapping" loop to the aerial screw (top left).

## The Completed Set

When the aerial and earth leads have been connected, and the ends of the ferrite rod secured in the two small tool-clips previously listed, the receiver is complete. On plagging in the headphones and turning the tuning knob medium-wave stations should be heard.

The reader is now in a position to carry out a few experiments with the receiver. First, the total
number of turns can be altered. The number of turns chosen, namely 60 , is adequate for coverage of the medium waveband using a piece of ferrite $1 \frac{1}{2}$ in. long. As the length of the forrite rod increases, so the number of lurns needed becomes less, falling to about 45 turns by the time an 8 in. length is reached. By increasing the number of turns the average wavelength which can be received will lengthen roughly in proportion to the number of turns. An application of this rule is as follows:-

The centre of the medium waveband is about 280 m and the middle of the long waveband is about $1,376 \mathrm{~m}$, that is, about five times as large. So if 60 turns gives a correct medium waveband covering. then $5 \times 60=300$ turns will be about correct for a long waveband coil.

## A Multi-Band Receiver

A multi-band receiver can easily be consiructed by making a number of lappings on the coil, then shorting out" those which are not wanted for funing. Fig. 2(b) shows this in diagram form and Fig. 2(a) as a practical layout.


Fig. 3(a).-The modified receiver with tappings for both diodes and the aerial.
Four extra sockets are arranged as shown. the beginning of the coil going to screw (2) as before and the 15 th turn to the aerial in the form of a looped "tapping" as previously described. Other tappings go to the lower three sockets and the end of the coil to the unpermost socket of the row. This socket has a length of wire with a "free" plug attached, and is also joined by a wire to screw (1) as labelled. Different wavebands are selected by plagging into one of the four sockets.

As tuning condensers of the ordinarv sort tune over a range of rougnly $3: 1$ in wavelength. the tappings are best arranged by multiplying sucessively bv this number. For instance. if the first tapping chosen is 20 turns. then the second socket up should be connected to a 60 -turn tapping ( $20 \times 3$ ), the third up to a tapping at 180 turns
( $60 \times 3$ ), and the uppermost socket to the end of the coil at 540 turns ( $180 \times 3$ ).

Beginners can gain valuable experience by listening carefully on a number of wavebands in this way, especially after dark. A paper disc stuck on the panel behind the pointer knob can be used to mark the points at which various stations were heard. These can be inked in four colours, corresponding to four dificrently coloured sockets.

The aerial tapping has been given as 15 turns from the earth end (beginning of the coil), but this tapping is best determined by experiment. The choice of an acrial tapping will decide the loudness at which the station is heard (i.e., the receiver's sensitivity) and


Fig. $3(b)$ - Theoretical
circuit corresponding circuit corresponding to Fig. 3(a). the ability of the set to separate stations (i.e., its selectivity). For such an experment, a row of sockets is arranged as before, connected to various tappings on the coil. Into these sockets a "free" plug, on a length of wire from the aerial screw, is inserted. There is no reason why one single row of sockets should not be used for both plugs, and Figs. 3(a) and 3(b) show just such an arrangement, the tappings being shared by both the waveband plug and the aerial plug. Owing to the special form of these wander plugs, both may occupy the same socket at any moment, one plug fitting into the other, three deep.

In conclusion, the writer would like to point out that these experiments should be regarded as starting points. The next instalment will describe the construction of a one-transistor, dual-waveband receiver, using the same mechanical contact techniques.
(To be continued)

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CAMERA CASE PORTABLE



A SMALL, SENSITIVE SIX-TRANSISTOR SUPERHET<br>By F. N. Hart

I$\mathbf{N}$ order to accommodate a larger loudspeaker than those usually found in pocket transistor radios (and thereby obtain better quality reception), this set was designed to fit into a camera case made by a well-known British firm. It is Sin. wide $x$ $4 \frac{1}{2} i n$. deep $x$ $3 \frac{1}{2} i n$. front to back. It is made of an attractive plastic and has a shoulder strap.

The inside of the case has to be reinforced (except for the front) with cardboard stuck on with a contact adhesive.

## Preparing the Case

Two pieces of the case are cut out, above the press stud, to form an opening. so as not to impede the sound. The edges are then folded in and stuck with the adhesive.

The loudspeaker baffle is of $\frac{3}{16} \mathrm{in}$. three-ply. It is cut to the shape of speaker, leaving a "cross" of the wood in the middle so as to withstand pressure from the press button when the lid is closed. These apertures are covered with a piece


The completed receiver.
of thin "batfle" covering material to match the case. Drill and cut the baffle as in Fig. 3.

The top panel is of thin bakelite, fixed partly by an angle bracket to the chassis, and partly held by the tuning condenser, which is already drilled to take screws, both in front and in the bottom.

## The Chassis

The chassis is made of bakelite drilled so that threaded brass rods can hold the 'speaker rigidly $2 \frac{1}{3} \mathrm{in}$. from the chassis at the bottom. The top panel and chassis can be joined as soon as the components are assembled on them, but the loudspeaker and baffle should be left until all the wiring is completed except for the two leads from the output transformer.


Fig. 1.-The circuit diagram.


Fig. 2.-The top panel of the receiver.

The top panel (Fig. 2) is now cut and drilled, leaving a square space to the left, for the lid of the battery compartment. This is $1 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. square, and if the piece is cut out with a fine saw, it may be used as the lid, being held by a small brass hinge. The chassis and lid are drilled to take very small screws or rivets. The slot and screw-hole for the slider switch must now be drilled, counter-sinking all the screws on the panel so that they are hidden. At this point the panel may be covered with a coloured adhesive material.

Drill the slots to take the four lugs of the volume control switch, which are mounted by bending them over outwards from the centre. Make the hole for tuning condenser spindle.
are completely wired, but it is aeld by ace by an angle bracket, held by a screw through a spacing bush of insulating material. For this reason it is as well to remember its position when soldering the holders. For safety it is a good idea to put a dab of nail varnish or paint on the collector side of these holders to ensure that the transistors are not inserted the wrong way round.

Solder the earth position connections to the cans and the tuning condenser soldering lug on to its fixing screw and to the trimmer gang. It is most important that a very good earth is maintained. In fact to ensure stability, not only is a bus-bar from the can lugs on the back needed, to which all the earth ends of condensers and resistors are

## Mounting the Components

Now drill the chassis and cut a space in the front to allow room for the wave-change switch which is mounted on the top panel. Also cut the apertures for the six transistor holders and stick them in place with a quick drying adhesive. The oscillator and I.F. coils are the first to be put on the chassis, and then the tuning condenser is mounted taking care to see that the fixing hole in the front coincides with that on the panel.

It is advisable, from time to time during assembly, to attach the top panel to the chassis to see that components do not foul one another, and that holes coincide with their respective brackets, etc.

After seeing that the aerial will fit into its place on the holder, put it on one side until later. This holder is made from a piece of coil former or composition tube. It is packed with a grommet or a piece of rubber. The tube is held to the chassis by a small wood screw.


Above chassis wiring.


Fig. 3.-The loudspeaker panel.
fixed, but another earth line must be soldered to each can on the top side of the chassis.

The leads from $\mathrm{C} 2, \mathrm{C} 3, \mathrm{C} 7, \mathrm{C} 8, \mathrm{C} 13, \mathrm{C} 14$, pass through the chassis, and R3 and R9 are mounted vertically to save space. R18 has one lead passing through to join the emitters of transistors T5 and T6, the other end going to the trimmer earth lug. R6 is mounted on top of its blocking condenser C5 ( $2 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ ). The remaining resistors and condensers are mounted and soldered on the inside.

When the battery compartment (Fig. 5) is firmly stuck, the I.F. transformers can be mounted. They have at each end, a lug which should be pushed through slits cut in the cardboard and bent over. through slits cut in the cardboa
A four tag soldering bar should be stuck on to the bottom or secured with a short screw, taking care it does not protrude inside and interfere with easy insertion of the battery.

Solder the positive and negative wires first, as they should go flush against the chassis 10 leave room for leads to resistors and condensers, and solder the earth ends of these components. In the model, the earth ends of C4, C9, and C10 are soldered direct on to the bottom of the tuning condenser, but care must be taken to ensure a clean joint by scraping it well. Leads can be anchored where necessary by passing them through twice and soldering, when using the loudspeaker fret as chassis.

From time to time, when soldering, make sure that the loudspeaker on the baffle does not foul anything. As a precaution against any shorting, cover the metal part of the magnet case with Sellotape. Now mount and solder the padder.

## COMPONENTS LIST

Ferrite Rod 4in. Long. M. W. Coil FRM2 (Teletron).
L. W. Coil TL (Teletron).
$\mathbf{2 - g a n g}$ tuning condenser ( $\mathbf{3 6 5 \mathrm { pF } \text { ). }}$
2 Trimmer condensers ( $60+60 \mathrm{pF}$ ).
1 Padder condenser (200pF).
I Oscillator Coil P50/2.
2 I.F. Coils P50/2 (Weymouth).
1 3rd I.F. Coil P50/3.
1 Driver Transformer D131 (Ardente).
1 Output Class B Transformer DI32 (Ardente).
I Slider Switch D.P.-D.T. and holding screws.
Battery $9 \vee$ PP6 Clips.
Resistors and condensers as in circuit.
Transistors.
I Ediswan XAl04.
2 Mullard OC45.
1 Red Spot XB/04.
2 Matched XB104 or 2 matched OC72 Mullard.
I Diode OA70 Mullard.
I sub-miniature volume control (5k) with switch (hearing aid type).
Top panel mounting.
$3 \frac{1}{2}$ in. $3 \Omega$ loudspeaker (Elac).
Kodak camera case No. 912.
1 tuning knob.
22 s.w.g. wire, sleeving 4 colours.
Paxolin: $4 \frac{4}{2} \times 3 \frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{16}$ in. (for panel).
Paxolin: $4 \frac{18}{6} \times$ 3 $\times \frac{1}{16} \mathrm{in}$. (for chassis).
4 small single-hole brackets: $\frac{1}{4} i n$, wide and t in. each arm.
I piece $\frac{3}{16} \mathrm{in}$. three-ply $4 \frac{1}{2} \times 3$ in. for baffle.
Small brass hinge for battery compartment lid.
4 rivets or small screws for the hinge.
Adhesive plastic sheet.
Thin L.S. covering material ( $4 \frac{1}{\frac{1}{2}} \times 3 \frac{3 i n}{}$.).
2 brass threaded rods with brass nuts (8) $2 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. long. Sundry small screws and nuts.
I coil former or composition tube to fit ferrite rod at centre.
6 transistor holders.
| small 4 -tag soldering strip and 2 or 3 separata taga. Sellotape.


Fig. 4.-Above chassis layout.


## Fig 6.-Coil connections.

Resistors R4, R5, R7, R13, R19, and the positive end of the diode, are the last to be mounted and soldered. Insert the ferrite rod into the holder. Slip on the coils and solder the leads.

Solder on the battery leads. making sure that they are long enough to allow for the battery to be inserted after the clips have been put on. The surplus is tucked in under the lid.

## Testing

When the set is ready for testing, see that the loudspeaker and baffle fit neatly into position. Then remove the spacing rods leaving only the left-hand, front, angle-bracket, fixing screws holding the baffie to the panel. Now provided that enough lead is left loose from the output transformer after soldering, the loudspeaker can be moved freely.

Insert transistors into their holders, and ensure that the battery switch is off and the wave change switch on the medium wave. Now switch on.


Fig. 5.-The battery comparıment.

The coils are pre-set by the makers and should only need a slight adjustment when a station is heard. Turn the set, when the signal is powerful, to the position of weakest reception, thus preventing automatic gain control masking effects of adjustment.

Nornal trimming practice is used. moving the aerial coil to the strongest position on the lower frequencies, and adjusting the trimmers for the highest.


It there is any instability when the intermediate frequencies are in harmony, the neutralising chain C6. R8, C18 needs variation. The coil makers specify a resistance about $2 \cdot 7 \mathrm{k}$ between base of T2 and C6. but this was found to be unnecessary. Variation of the values of these resistors should clear up the instability. In the model. however, an extra heavy earth lead from the trimmer to the tuning c̄ondenser was needed.

## Long Wave Adjustment

The long-wave adjustment is easy, but if near a powerful medium wave transnitter, there may be some break through, on to the long wave band, and care should be taken that this is not being used for adjustment purposes.
When testing is finished, switch off and remove the battery. Fast=il the loudspeaker baffle to the remainder of the set and carefully insert into the case. Replace the battery and the set is ready for use.

# Selecting Output Trunsiormers 

CALCULATING THE TURNS RATIO

By J. Gray

FOR proper results, the output transformer used to couple the speaker to a receiver or amplifier should be of the correct type. Choosing a transformer for this purpose need not present any difficulty when the method of finding its ratio is known, as it is on this point that an error is most likely to be made.

Most loudspeakers have an impedance of only a few ohms, while the optimum load (or best anode impedance for a valve) is usually several thousand ohms. To obtain an impedance match from valve to speaker, a step-down transformer is therefore required. The primary, or large winding, is connected from anode to high tension positive, as in Fig. 1, and the secondary is wired to the speaker.

The transformer ratio can be found by dividing the optimum load of the valve by the speaker speech coll impedance, and finding the square root. That is:

$$
\text { Ratio }=\sqrt{ }\binom{\text { Optimum Load }}{\text { Speaker lmpedance }}: 1
$$

As an example, assume the optimum load for the output valve is $5,000 \Omega$, and the ratio to match a $2 \Omega$ speaker is to be found.

$$
\sqrt{ }\left(\frac{5,000}{2}\right): 1=\sqrt{ }(2,500): 1=50: 1
$$

The required ratio is thus $50: 1$.
The optimum loads to be used with various output valves are listed by the valve manufacturer. Speaker manufacturers also give the impedance of their speakers, and the correct transformer ratio can thus be worked out.

For all ordinary purposes, the ratio is not highly critical, and good results will be obtained with a transformer having a ratio fairly near that actually needed. But a very great departure from the correct ratio should be avoided, because the quality of reproduction will begin to fall.
The optimum load depends to some extent on the anode voltage, and is usually given for a typical

Fig. 1.-Single output

valve with speaker transformer.
voltage. To avoid the need for calculation, Table I (overleaf) may be used. This shows popular battery and mains output valves, the anode voltages at which they would most likely be used, and the optimum load and transformer ratio for 2 to $3 \Omega$ speakers and $15 \Omega$ speakers. It is thus only necessary to look up the ratio required for the valves listed in the table.

It will be observed that a possible cause of mismatching can arise if a $2 / 3 \Omega$ speaker is used instead of a $15 \Omega$ model. Very many speakers are of approxinately $2 / 3 \Omega$ impedance, but numerous models of other impedance are also made. It is thus wise to ascertain the speaker speech coil impedance, especially with miniature speakers, large "quality" units, or any other type of reproducer where the more usual $2 / 3 \Omega$ impedance may not be used.

## Push-Pull Circuits

When two valves are used in a push-pull circuit, a centre tapped transformer is required, as shown


Fig. 2.-Push-pull output and optional speaker tappings. in Fig 2. The optimum load impedance for the complete stage may then be given as from anode to anode. For example, if each valve, used alone, had an optimum load of $5,000 \Omega$, the anode - to-anode impedance, with the $15 \Omega$ valves working in the same way but together in push-pull, would be $10,000 \leq 2$. The total ratio of the transformer would thus be twice that of the circuit in Fig. 1, so that each valve would have the same load, with only onehalf of the primary.

With valves in pushpull, the actual load depends on operating conditions. It is thus wise to take the figure from the maker's data, and to choose the transformer to suit.

Some transformers have various tappings, so that a number of ratios can be selected. If so, choose the tags from the maker's instructions, or use those found to give best quality and volume. There may also be optional secondary connections, as shown in Fig. 2 In this case, those used should suit the speaker impedance.

## Current Carrying Capacity

With battery valves, an anode current of some 10 mA or so may not be exceeded, and the transformer primary may be wound with fine wire, especially wirh midget components. Such trans formers are not suitable for mains valves, where the anode current will often be some 30 to 60 mA , in average receivers and amplifiers. For mains valves, it is thus necessary to use a larger transformer, so that the primary can carry the current which must pass. Such transformers are listed as " mains output valve " transformers: or the actual current carrying capacity of the primary may be given. For average equipment, a transformer able to carry 60 mA will be large enough.

| Valve. | TABLE 1. OUTPUT TRANSFORMER RATIOS. |  |  | Ratio. |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Anode Voltage. <br> (V) | Optimum Load ( $\Omega$ ). | $2 / 3 \Omega$ | Ratio. | 15:2 |
| 3 V 4 | $\int^{90}$ | ${ }_{10,000}$ | speaker. 64:1 |  | speaker. |
| 3S4, 154 | $\left\{67 \frac{1}{2}\right.$ | 5.000 | 45:1 |  | 18:1 |
|  | \{ 90 | 8,000 | 58:1 |  | 23:1 |
| $\left.\begin{array}{c}\text { 6AQS. 6BW6, } 6 \mathrm{~V} 6, \\ 7 \mathrm{C} 5,9 \mathrm{BW6}, \\ 19 \mathrm{AQ5}\end{array}\right\}$ | 250 | 5,009 | 45:1 | - | 18:1 |
| 6F6 | 250 | 7,000 | 54:1 |  | 21:1 |
| 6 L 6 | 250 | 2,500 | -32:1 |  | 13:1 |
| 12A6 | 350 | 4,200 | - 42.1 |  | 17:1 |
| 25A6G | 180. | 8,000 4,000 | 58:1 |  | 23:1 |
| 25L6 $\mathbf{3 5 L 6}$ | 183 200 | $\mathbf{4 , 0 0 0}$ $\mathbf{3 , 0 0 0}$ | 40:1 |  | 16:1 |
|  | 200 | 4,500 | 43:1 |  | 17:1 |

With high-power amplifiers, or any equipment using very large output valves, currents of 100 mA or more may be encountered. It is then necessary to use a larger transformer to suit.

## Transformer Quality

With ordinary receivers and amplifiers of popular type, the relatively inexpensive transformers will be satisfactory. But with special equipment, such as "quality" amplifiers, a particular transformer may be specified. If so, it should be used if possible, because the more expensive type of transformer may have sectional windings, balanced construction, or other features intended to avoid phase shift or other limitations of small transformers. For the same reason, where a particular ratio or component is specified in a circuit employing negative feedback, this should be followed. If not, phase shift may result in some frequencies not being at 180 deg in the negative feedback loop. or the drop in effective output impedance, resulting from the feedback, may not be taken into account.

The ratios in Table I therefore apply to valves used in ordinary circuits of straightforward type, and with the valves wired for operation in the normal way-that is, as tetrodes or pentodes. If the valves are triode connected for any reason (screen grid and anode employed together as anode) then the optimum load will be reduced. A transformer of lower ratio would then be necessary.

## Transformer Connections

It is worth noting that the resistance reading which would be obtained with a D.C. meter does not show what the transformer impedance is. For example, a $5,000 \Omega$ transformer may have a D.C. resistance of only a few hundred ohms. depending on the gauge of wire with which it is wound. In the same way' a $2 / 3 \Omega$ secondary may have a D.C. resistance of only a fraction of an ohm.
D.C. readings will, however, allow primary and secondary to be correctly identified, if necessary. In the case of a surplus or unmarked transformer, such readings' will also allow the relative positions of taps or a centre-tap to be located.

## Hight Deck Communications System

AFLIGHT deck communications system designed to permit voice communication between a flight deck control centre of an aircraft-carrier and flight deck crews has been developed by the Telecommunications Division of The Plessey Company Ltd. on behalf of and in conjunction with the Admiralty. Normally. direct voice communication on the flight deck is impossible due to aircraft noise and to ear protectors that are worn by crew nembers.

This system enables the controller to transmit orders over a broadast channel at audio lrequencies. The signals are fed into a magnetic coupling loop encircling the flight deck of the aircraft carrier. Crew members carry a receiver that picks up the audio signals, amplifies and leeds them to an earphone built in the ear-protector.
Key members of the flight-deck crews are able to taik back to the control centre by means of a V.H.F. radio transmitter which is carried clipped to the receiver.
Fully transistorised, the miniature portable equipment is battery operated and protected by a nylon cover.

## Audio Broadcast Channel

The audio signal for the broadcast channel is selected from one of three input points: a local microphone, a remote microphone, or the talk-back chiannel.
After amplification by a microphone pre-amplifier, the audio signals are mixed with a signal which is used for AGC and the combined signal is fed to the power amplifier.
The receiver pick-up coil consists of a potted ferrite inductor whith receives the combined audio-frequency and AGC signals from the broadcast loop.
Alter amplification the audio signal is, separated in a low-pass filter and applied to the output stage which drives the headset.

## Talk Back Channel

Talk back from the crew to control is effected by means of a V.H.F. radio link. Key members of the crew each carry a transistorised transmitter which is mechanically joined to the broadcast channel reçeiver.

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# Six-Valve <br> Top-Band Tx 

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TRANSMITTER

By R. Dowling

(Continued from page 490 of the October issue)


The completed transmitter.

WHEN building the transmitter, it is first necessary to mark-out the chassis. In this connection, Fig. 4 shows the relative positions of the various large components. No attempt has been made to show the position of smali holes, etc., for two reasons: first, the constructor may not be using components of exactly the same size as the ones used by the writer, and, secondly, the precise positioning of most of the smaller componemts is not very critical.

As mentioned last month, it is suggested that
the power supply section be built first. Little difficulty should be encountered in making it function satisfactorily.

## Modulator

The writer next tackled the modulator section. Again, this is not a "difficult" circuit to build. The thing to remember when building up a multivalve circuit of this sort is to adopt a systematic approach. and to tick off on the circuit diagram each component as it is wired in. Let us therefore consider the wiring-up of each valve in detail.


Fig. 4.-The above-chassis layout. (The microphone socket is adjacent to the AF. gain control.)

The pre-amplifier (6BR7). All leads to the control grid of this valve must be as short as possible. The lead from the microphone socket to the control grid of this vaive must be as short as possible and it must be screened, the screening being earthed at both ends. The wiring to the screen-grid, suppressor-grid and cathode is less critical, but even so there is no point in making the leads longer than necessary. The heater leads should be of twisted flex, and neither lead should be earthed at the valve Finally, the anode wiring must again be kept very short and the lead to the audio gain control VRI screened at both ends.

The Phase-splitter (6SN7). The phase-splitter is a low-gain stage; its purpose is not one of amplification but of converting the single-phase output of the 6BR7 into two phases 180 deg apart which feed the push-pull 6V6's. Accordingly, the tendency of this valve to pick up hum is not nearly so great as that of the valve preceding it. Leads should nevertheless be no longer than necessary, especially to the two grids.

The Output valves (6V6's). Here again, the wiring is not specially critical; if it is carried out in accordance with the layout of Fig. 5 then no trouble should be experienced.

A very satisfactory method of assessing the performance of the modulator when completed is by means of a pair of high impedance headphones connected across the secondary of the modulation transformer. The match is obviously not going to be perfect (most high impedance headphones
having an impedance of about $2,000 \Omega$ ), but even so one can obtain a good impression of the general performance of the modulator in such respects as hum level, microphony, etc. It might be mentioned in passing that in the case of the actual modulator built up by the writer very little hum was apparent in headphones even with the gain turned up fully.

Finally, then we come to the R.F. section. Again, if a systematic approach is adopted the likelihood of wiring errors is considerably minimised.

The V.F.O. (6J5). Begin with the wiring of the grid-cathode section, which forms the actual


Fig. 6.-A simple modulation monitor.
oscillatory path in the Clapp oscillator. Heavy gauge wire must be used here; 18s.w.g. should be regarded as the minimum. Each length of wire should be only as long as absolutely necessary and should be quite rigid; only if precautions such as these are taken will satisfactory stability be


Fig. 5-Posittons of components on the underside of the chassis.
obtained from the V.F.O. It will be seen from Fig. 5 that the V.F.O. coil' and condenser are mounted some distance from the rest of the V.F.O.; the reason for this is two-fold: first, in order that the condenser might be brought out conveniently to the front of the transmitter, and, secondly, that the tuned circuit is thereby removed to some extent from heat-producing parts of the circuit.
The Power Amplifier (807). The output of the V.F.O. is conveyed to the control grid of the P.A. by means of $\mathrm{C} 8(100 \mathrm{pF})$. The cathode wiring of the 807 consists of the lead to the function switch S1, and the lead from the function switch to the 50 mA meter M1. The leads to the meter should be of twisted flex.
The anode and the screen-grid of the 807 are connected to the secondary of the modulation transformer: the anode via an R.F. choke and the screen-grid via a 22 k resistor. The output of the 807 is then taken through a 1000 pF capacitor C11 to the $\pi$-section output. The coil L2 should not be bolted directly against the chassis, since this will impair the Q ; in the original transmitter the coil was raised from the chassis by means of two small "feet" at either end.

## Operating Details

The main function control is the four-pole threeway switch S1; the three positions are labelled "net,"" receive" and transmit." In the "net" position the P.A. and the modulator are both switched off, so that it is possible to detect the note of the V.F.O. in the receiver. In this way. one can move frequency within the band without causing any interference to other stations because no carrier is being radiated.

Preliminary adjustment of the transmitter is best carried out with a dummy aerial connected across the output to earth. This can take the form of an $80 \Omega$ non-inductive resistor of 10 W rating.

It is first of all necessary to adjust the V.F.O. until it is operating within the correct frequency range; this is carried out as follows. Begin by setting the station receiver B.F.O. If the V.F.O. trimmer is now adjusted using an insulated tool it will be found possible to tune in the note of the oscillator. Once the approximate position of the trimmer has been determined in this way, it should be


Fig. 7.-The end-fed quarter-wave (a) and the centre-fed dipole (b) aerials are very suitable if space is available.


Underchassis wiring of the transmitter.
carefully readjusted until the band is comfortably covered by the swing of the main V.F.O. condenser.

Next, one can attempt to load the transmitter into the dummy acrial. First of all, switch the function switch to "transmit" and set both the $\pi$-section variable condensers to maximum capacity. If the anode tuning condenser C12 is now rotated a point will be found where the anode current of the 807 suddenly dips. At the same moment the current in the aerial will be seen to increase sharply. Let us suppose that the anode current dips down to 10 mA , and the anode voltage is 300 V . Now,

$$
P=E I
$$

$\therefore$ Power input $=300 \times(10 / 1,000)=3 W$.
However the G.P.O. allows a maximum input power of 10 W on this band; thus we can use the above expression to calculate the value of anode (or, more strictly speaking, cathode) current as measured by MI:

$$
\mathrm{P}=\mathrm{EI}
$$

$\therefore 10=[300 \times$ anode current $(\mathrm{mA})] / 1.000$.
$\because$ anode current $(\mathrm{mA})=33 \mathrm{~mA}=(10 / 300) \times$ 1.000 mA .

The problem is. therefore, to increase the value of the anode current at dip from 10 mA , say, up to about 33 mA . This is achieved quite simply by means of the acrial loading condenser, C13. Previously, we have kept this at maximum capa-
(Continued on page 634)

# Converting to Stereo 

## ADDING THE SECOND CHANNEL

By D. W. Easterling



The control unit and main amplifier.

THE equipment to be described was designed to provide at reasonable cost a second sound channel for an existing fairly expensive monaural hi-fi assembly. The original system consisted of a good quality crystal pick-up, feeding a comprehensive pre-amplifier/tone corrector unit, and main amplifier. For the reproduction of stereophonic recordings it was necessary to change the original monaural pick-up head for a suitable stereo type, and arrange the connections so that one signal (left) was fed through the original amplifier and loudspeaker chain, while the other signal (right) fed an additional second amplifier and loudspeaker system.

## Circuitry

Although there is no reason why the stereo head, and system in general, cannot be used for playing monaural microgroove records, the original head, together with its associated pre-amplifier was a comprehensive affair containing steep-cut filters, etc., suitable for all types of record, including the


Fig. 1.-Block diagram of the arrangement of the amplifiers.
early 78's; consequently it was desirable that both amplifier and loudspeaker chains might be fed together from the original head and pre-amplifier when required.

In the case of the record player concerned (Philips Type AG2009), stereo and monaural heads are plug-in types, and freely interchangeable. Referring to Fig. 1 it will be seen that when the stereo head is in use. the "left" signal feeds, via terminal (1), to the original amplifier chain; while the "right" signal feeds. via terminal (3). to the new control unit, and amplifier chain. Without any switch changing, the above system is also suitable for monaural microgroove records.

When it is desired to use the comprehensive facilities of the original head and pre-amplifier, for the simultaneous reproduction of monaural records through both channels, switch S1 in the new control unit is moved to position (m): thus deriving its input from the output of the original pre-amplifier. Both channels are now fully controlled by the original pre-amplifier, but in addition, the new channel is still controlled by the new control unit to facilitate tone and volume balance between each channel. It should be noted that when the monaural head is used, the input to terminal (3) becomes dead due to the internal shorting strip in the head.

## Amplifier Design

As crystal pick-ups usually have a greater output than magnetic types, an amplifier having only moderate gain may be employed.

It was found that in the interests of stability, low hum level. and ease of mounting in the cabinet, the control unit should be separate from the main amplifier. Details of the main amplifier are given first.

From Fig. 2 it will be seen that the amplifier circuit consists of a push-pull output stage driven by a single pentode voltage amplifier. Class A push-pull output enables a fairly small, and therefore a cheap output transformer to be used, while still maintaining a low value of distortion. Unlike most push-pull arrangements associated with sound reproducing equipment, it requires no special phase splitting valve stage or transformer.

## Operation

The input signal is fed to the grid of valve V1, where it is amplified and passed via C3 to the grid of the first push-pull valve (V2). The output of V 2 is developed across one half of the output



Fig. 4(b).-Underchassis lavout.
consisting of a full wave rectifier system with resistor-capacitor smoothing. If the obtainable H.T. voltage is greater than 300. an additional resistor between FI and R13 can be used with advantage. The mains transformer, besides providing a tapped H.T. supply to the rectifier, also supplies current for the amplifier valve heaters, and rectifier filament.


Fig. 5(a)-Drilling details of the control unit.
The control unit circuit, shown in Fig. 3, is simple. and contains three controls: selector Si. a single-pole changeover switch; VRi, volume control; and VR2, in conjunction with C1. acting as a simple "top cut" tone control. All are mounted in a metal box, and connected to the main amplifier by screened lead.

## Construction

The main amplifier is mounted on a "U"-shaped chassis. the original dimensions being $8 \mathrm{in} . \times 4 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. $\times 2 \mathrm{in}$. deep. The component layout is shown in

Figs. 4(a) and (b), but detailed dimensions are not given as these will vary according to the components used. Where the layout is varied, consideration should be given to keeping leads as short as possible. Incidentally, the mains switch ( S 1 in Fig. 2) was not fitted in the prototype. as this function is already provided in the original pre-amplifier.

Wiring is fairly straightforward. and should present no difficulties provided sufficient tags are available. The tagboard shown in Fig. 4(b) is very useful in this respect. For the prevention of hum it is best if the wirmg is earthed to the chassis at 'only one point: near the input socket. It is also best if the leads carrying A.C. (such as heater and transformer wiring)


Fig. S(b).-Control unit cover plate.
are twisted together. Earth and C6 connections to T 1 secondary should give minimum gain, and can be left until the first test run.
The metal box containing the control unit is made in two parts from thin aluminium sheet, or tinplate. Templates for each section are illustrated in Figs. 5(a) and (b). The main secticn holds the controls.
(Continued on page 614)


Fig 6.-Assembly of the control unit box.


Size： $11 \times 83 \times$ BlD．
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## V.H.F. Reception

WHEN the BBC first introduced its V.H.F. service, it was emphasised that the service was intended purely for local reception and that medium waves would still have to be used when long distance reception of other than local BBC programmes was required. However, it seems that the V.H.F. transmitters are more effective than was prophesied for 1 am continually hearing of instances of long distance reception of F.M. The other day, in fact, I was visiting friends in the Midlands and although about 120 miles from the transmitter, reception of Wrotham was possible without any complicated circuitry. The results obtained were very satisfictory and, of course, the fidelity of the programmes was far better than those transmitted from the local station. As many readers will know, the cables to the Wrotham transmitter are specially designed to reduce the loss in quality which normally occurs when long land-lines are used. The cables are said to give extremely good results up to about $10 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$ -a higher figure than is possible on the land-lines from, say, London to Manchester. Although it is hoped eventually to improve the land-lines linking the BBC in London to the other BBC centres, it will probably be some time before the standard compares with the results from Wrotham.

Considering that so much was claimed when V.H.F. first started, it often seems to me that the service falls short of the standard required. I admit that it has proved a reliable service where previously none existed or where there was overwhelming foreign interference; in many areas, V.H.F. gives results which could only be obtained by such a method of transmission, but now the service has become well established, it is surely time to improve the fidelity of the broadcasts, so that all programmes compare with the technical standard of a long-playing gramophone record. At present, so far as I can tell, the only transmissions which approach this standard are those from Wrotham, and then only when they are of local origin.

From my own point of view therefore, if I had to live away from Wrotham, I should certainly investigate the possibility of building a radio capable of receiving transmissions from this station. Provided that a very efficient aerial is employed, reception should be possible in many areas remote from the official service area.

## Our "Pocket Superhet"

By the time you read this, you will probably have examined your free copy of the blueprint of the P.W.
"Pocket Superhet" which has been given away free with each copy of this issue. Midget transistorised receivers are currently very popular and it was their growing popularity that prompted the design of this pocket-sized set. I have followed the development of the set from its inception and can vouch for its excellent performance. One of the features which I found particularly attractive was the plastic cabinet which adds to the "finish" of the completed receiver. This cabinet is the subject of a special gift offer and by using the coupon on page 638 of this issue, readers may obtain it for only 6 s . 6 d . If this cabinet is employed, no criticism will be made that the final result looks unprofessional. With the free blueprint, the construction of the receiver is made very easy and I am sure that many readers who would otherwise not attempt the construction will be able to proceed with confidence.

## Our "Olympic" TV Receiver

Many of you will no doubt know already that in the October issue of our companion journal Practical Television the first article appears on the construction of a television set. This design has taken several months to prepare and is definitely well worth building. The circuit contains several unusual features but to my mind, one of the most sensible of them is the careful attention to stability in the tuned circuits and timebases. This means that no adjustment is necessary to either "hold" control or to the Band III oscillator circuit-in fact, there is no "fine tuning" control. The October issue of Practical Television also contains a free blueprint of the wiring of the "Olympic".

## fridar, JANUARY 13th, 1961


(in collaboration with Mullard Led.)
CAXTON HALL, WESTMINSTER at 7-30 p.m.
Send for your free tickets now marking your envelope "Caxton Hall" in the top, left-hand corner and enclosing a stamped addressed envelope (at least 3 inin. $\times 6$ in.) for the tickets.

The films to be shown will be announced later, but, as in previous years, the programme will be arranged to appeal to all who are interested in radio.

The demand for tickets will be great; order yours NOW.


ALTHOUGH simple and economical in design and construction, this is a serviceable and efficient set for domestic use. The valves employed are of the modern, all glass, type but are available at present at less than 5 s. each. Despite its small size. there is room in the chassis for components of standard size and the constructor will be able to make use of such parts as he has available, provided only that they are suit-
able electronically.

## a Mibet T.R.F. Receiver

## SWITCHED TUNING FOR THE BEGINNER

By J. Smith

## Circuit

The circuit is given in Fig. 1. Switched tuning to receive three transmissions is employed, so saving the cost of a ganged capacitor tuning drive and scale; it also enables the best use to be made of the selectivity of the two tuned circuits because tracking errors are avoided and the selected transmissions can be tuned "spot on" in each crecuit. The selectivity obtainable is good enough to receive satisfactorily any transmission of reasonable strength, even after dark. Postage stamp trimmers of 50 pF capacity are used for tuning, with fixed capacitors as required in parallel.

## R.F. Stage

The R.F. amplifier. V1 is a high gain vari- $\mu$ pentode, EF92, and the gain of the stage is controlled by variation ot the cathode bias in the usual way. Variable resistor $V R$ is so connected that the aerial coil, LI is short-circuited when the control is at minimum, so enabling the volume to be reduced to zern. The mains switch is incorporated in this control.


Fig. 1.-T he circuit diagram.


Fig. 2(a).-Plan of the chassis.

## Detector

A high gain R.F. pentode. EF91, is used as a leaky grid detector and in the interests of quality, the grid leak and capacitor are 1.2 M and 47 pF respectively. The grid leak damps the tuned circuit somewhat hut the resultant loss of selectivity is recovered by reaction, applied via the postage stamp trimmer C15. The capacitor C20 provides a path to earth for R.F. currents in the anode circuit and R6 encourages them to take this route. The load resistor is R5, while R4 and C16 provide decoupling and additional smoothing.
Note that the screen of V 2 is decoupled to cathode to avoid the degeneration through the feedback resistor, R7, which would occur if the screen were decoupled to earth.

## Output Stage

The signal from V2 is transferred via C19 to the grid of V3 which is also an EF91. Although it is properly an R.F. amplifier, it functions well in this position and having only a modest current requirement of some 12 mA , it enables the
 power supply to be reduced in both bulk and cost. Of course, it cannot be expected to produce a large undistorted output but there is adequate volume for ordinary listening. For the usual $3!2$ speaker the

Fig. 2(b) - Aerial
trimmer bracket.
output transformer should have a ratio of 70 or $80: 1$ and a reasonably high primary inductance. The cathode bias resistor is $150 \Omega$ and it is essential that C21 should not be less than $50 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ if it is to have any worthwhile by-passing effect on such a low resistance.

## Negative Feedback

It will be seen that there are two negative feedback paths. One from the anode of V3, via C22, is at R.F. and provides heavy feedback to the cathode of V2. The EF91 is a very efficient amplifier of R.F. and this arrangement is necessary so that any R.F. signals reaching its grid from V 2 anode are reduced so as to be insignificant. The second feedback path from the secondary of the output transformer to V2 cathode, is at A.F.. It reduces the residual hum and improves the quality of reproduction; it also avoids having to include in V3 anode circuit the resistance/capacity network commonly used with pentode output valves to restrict output at the higher frequencies.

## Power Supply

The power requirement is $200 / 250 \mathrm{~V}$ at 20 mA and 63 V at 1 A , which can be supplied quite easily by a small mains transformer of the type used in television converters, etc. A contact-cooled rectifier is used and smoothing is provided by R11 in conjunction with C 23 and C 24 . The value of R11 must be such that the H.T. line voltage is not less than 170 and it may need to be adjusted according to the output obtainable from the transformer. If R 11 is reduced below 1.5 k , it will probably be desirable to increase the capacity of C 23 or C 24 or both to maintain good smoothing:


Fig. 3:-The underchassis wiring.
each may safely be doubled. As a guide. the prototype uses a transformer with a nominal 200 V secondary and on a 240 V supply, R11 is 2.3 k ( $2-4.7 \mathrm{k}$ resistors in parallel). The power consumption of the set on 240 V mains is less than 20 W .

## Operation

The acrial required will depend to some extent on local reception conditions but about 20 ft of


Fig. 4.-End clevation showing the R.F. grid wiring.
wire will usually be ample for good reception and a good signal/noise ratio. The tuning of the R.F. grid circuit is affiected by the aerial capacity in the ustal way and the trimmers should be adjusted finally with the set connected to the aerial with which it is to be used. An earth is not necessary but electrical inierference will be greatly reduced if the chassis is connected to mains earth at a three-pin outlet via a three-core fiexible mains lead. In good reception arcas. the set will give good results as a portable with about 4 ft of wire as an aertal. In this case. the full range of control of VR will probably not be required and some increase in sensitivity and selectivity may be obtained by omitting the connection between the botom of VR and the top of L1.

## Components

The coils may be any dual-range T.R.F pair and if the detector coil has a reaction winding, this mav be used if desired instead of the arrangement shown in Fig 1. The Q of the coils is not very important as the set relies for its sensitivity on the high gain of the valves. The tuning switch is a 2 -hank. 3 -pole. 3 -way Yaxley type and it must be modified slightlv by fitting a screen between the two wafers. The screen should be of light aluminium, $1 \frac{\mathrm{in}}{} \mathrm{in}$. square, having a $\frac{3}{x}$ in. hole in the centre for the switch spindle and two 4B.A. clearance holes to slat the switch bolts. Remove the outer wafer from the switch. fit the screen and then one or two washers on each bolt to provide a clearance between the screen and the outer wafer. which should then be replaced. All the resistors can be $\frac{1}{4}$ except RII (IW) and because the H.I. comes on through the metal
rectifier before the valves are warmed up and ready to receive it, all the capacitors, except C21, must be rated for not less than 350 V working.

## Construction

The receiver is easily and conveniently constructed on a chassis of $18 \mathrm{~s} . \mathrm{w} . \mathrm{g}$. aluminium, 9 in . x 4 in $\times 2$ in., a plan of which is given in Fig. 2(a). The cut-outs and fixing holes for the mains and output transformers and for the coils, are not shown in the plan as they will depend on the components used in each case. The layout is not at all important except that, to ensure stability, all the wiring and components in V1 grid circuit must be above the chassis and those in V2 grid circuit, below. Note that the lead from V1 grid passes through the chassis immedately it leaves the grid.


Fig. 5.-The speaker mounting board.
The wiring is shown in detail in Figs. 3 and 4. In these drawings, the wiring and components have been opened out for clarity so that some of the connections appear much longer than they really are; in construction, they should be made no longer than necessary. Tinned copper wire of $22 \mathrm{~s} . \mathrm{W} . \mathrm{g}$. is suitable for wiring and lengths of more than an inch or so should be covered with sleeving. A convenient order of assembly is, first to fit the valve holders, then transformer. smoothing capacitors and speaker in that order. The chassis can then be stood firmly upside down on the bench for wiring up. The Sin. speaker is fitted integral with the chassis as shown in the illustration, as this simplifies the construction of the cabinet. A piece of $\frac{1 i n}{}$. ply or hardboard, 9in. $x 7 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. is required as a mounting board, with cut-outs for speaker and pilot light as shown in Fig. 5. This is bolted to the front of the chassis at three points and unless the speaker is a light one, it must be supported by a stay or bracket at the rear so that it is quite firm. The capacitors, C4, 5, 6, 12, 13 and 14 may not all be required. They should be omitted when wiring up, the trimmers only being fitted.

## Switch Wiring

The wiring of the two wafers is identical. When the switch is fitted in the chassis, its connections
are not very accessible and it is well to solder some lengths of wire to the appropriate tags beforehand. Identification of the connections afterwards will be facilitated if wire or sleeving of several different colours is used.

## Teating

When the wiring is complete and before switch: ing on, a check should be made with a meter between the "hot" end of R11 and the chassis to see that there are no shorts in the H.T. circuits The set can then be switched on, the H.T. line voltage checked and the value of R11 adjusted if necessary. If with C15 at minimum, there is A.F. instability, the connections to the output trans: former primary should be reversed so that the feedback becomes negative.

(To be continued)

# Practical Wireless POCKET SUPERHET 

CONSTRUCTIONAL DETAILS OF OUR FREE BLUEPRINT RECEIVER

THE outside dimensions of this receiver are approximately $5 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. $\times 3 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. x $1 \frac{3}{4} \mathrm{in}$., so that it is of small size but not so extremely cramped that construction is abnormally difficult. A superhet circuit is used, tuning both long and medium waves, with a self-contained ferrite rod aerial. with this type of circuit quite a reasonable selection of stations can be received. Running costs are small. current consumption being about 7 mA with no signal. or at low volume, and rising to about 15 mA or so when receiving an average programme at normal volume.

## Operation

The circuit is shown in the blueprint, and brief details of its working may be of use to constructors who are not familiar with this type of receiver. The rod aerial has two tuned windings. the long wave section being shorted out, for medium wave reception. Coupling to the first transistor base is by means of a coupling winding and tapping on the L.W. coil, and this avoids the additional switching often used in this part of the circuit, when separate coupling windings are provided. The aerial windings are tuned by the 208 pF section of the gang condenser.
A single oscillator coil is used with the first transistor, a 180 pF fixed condenser being brought across the tuned section. for L.W. reception. By this means the single oscillator coil allows both M.W. and L.W. tuning.

The output from the first transistor, which operates as frequency changer, is amplified by two intermediate frequency stages. This provides a good measure of sensitivity. These two stages are neutralised by means of the two resistors and condensers wired to the I.F. transformers and base circuits.

## Detector

A crystal diode acts as detector. the audio output being developed across the 10 k potentiometer, which serves as volume control. Part of the rectified voltage is fed back as bias to the first I.F. stage. to provide a degree of automatic volume control.

The audio signal obtained from the slider of the volume control is applied to the first audio frequency transistor, which acts as driver for a pair of transistors in push-pull. This type of output stage is most economical in current drain. for the power obtained. and will give adequate output for the loudspeaker.

Most of the other resistors are associated with circuits which provide suitable emitter and base voltages for the transistors. and the values shown should be followed. The small capacity condensers. used in frequency changer and I.F. stages, are also fairly critical. and should not be modified. The larger condensers, however (that is, of $0.04 \mu \mathrm{~F}$
and larger), are used for by-pass purposes, and this means that the values are not critical. The values given are the lowest capacities that it is wise to employ. As a result, the actual condensers are small. But this does not mean that larger capacities may not be used, either because they are to hand, or can be more readily obtained. Provided they are of small size, $0.05 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ or $0.1 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ condensers will be satisfactory.

## Chassis Drilling

The chassis is ${ }^{\frac{1}{1}}$ in. thick or similar paxolin. 3 in . $x 5 \frac{1}{x}$ in. A piece about $2 \frac{1}{\frac{1}{2}} \mathrm{in}$. $\mathrm{x} \frac{13}{8}$ in. is cut out, to accommodate the speaker magnet in the position shown in the blueprint. A small piece, about $1 \frac{7}{8} \mathrm{in}$. $\frac{x}{5}$ in ., is required to carry the output transformer. The paxolin can be cut easily with a metal saw or any other saw with small teeth. It should be checked that the speaker will fit easily, and the paxolin may be filed a little to clear the cone surround, if this is necessary. The four corner holes of the speaker are then used as a guide to marking 6B.A. clearance holes on the paxolin. The tuning condenser should now be positioned. and a clearance hole drilled for the spindle and ball-bearing projection. Short bolts in the tapped front plate of the condenser secure it to the paxolin. Drilling positions for these bolts may most easily be marked by pressing a piece of paper upon the front

plate of the condenser. and using the indentations formed as drilling positions.

## Mounting the Volume Control

The volume control is mounted on a $\frac{1}{2}$ in. long 8B.A. countersunk headed bolt. so that it comes centrally in the aperture in the case. The aperture may need widening slightly, with a fine file. The volume control may also fit better if a slight indentation is cut in the case, to receive the bolt head. This must. of course be very shallow, to awoid penetrating the front of the case.
The volume control is spaced from the chassis by using extra nuts on the 8 B.A. bolt. as shown. The height of the control is adjusted. by this means. until it fits correctly in the aperture in the case. To prevent the body of the control rotating, a small projection passes through a hole in the metal strio. and this strip is bolted to the chassis by a short 8B.A. bolt. The bolts and metal strip. electrically common to the centre of the control. form the slider connection. so the nuts must not touch the battery leads or tags. or other metal parts.

Volume control connections are clearly shown. The strip is filed to clear the small tags. and thin flexible leads should be soldered to these before finally mounting the control. These lcads may be coloured for identification-red for battery positive, green for $0.01 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ condenser connection, and a hare wire for the condenser frame (or earth) circuit.

The chassis, with tuning condenser, volume control and speaker, should now be placed in the case. A 6B.A. clearance hole, for the wavechange switch operating level, must now be drilled through paxo'lin chassis and the front of the case. The drill should be kept vertical, so that the two holes will coincide. The hole is $1 \frac{5}{8} \mathrm{in}$, from the end of the chassis, and just sufficiently far from the edge of the wavechange switch wafer to clear the case.

$r$ may be clearly seen here.

## The Wavechange Switch

The wavechange switch operating spindle consists of a 6 B.A. bolt. $\frac{1}{4}$ in. long, with half its length filed flat so that it will pass inside the rotating section of the switch wafer. A nut should be placed on the bolt before filing. so that the threads can be cleared be removing the nut. A small operating lever. cut from brass. is drilled to take the bolt, and soldered to the bolt head. A 6B.A. washer is then put on the bolt, and this is threaded through the case. A further washer is added, and two half nuts. locked together. The lever must be small. and so positioned that it does not touch the tuning dial.
The switch can be set into three positions. but only two are required. To avoid a switch position which would give no reception. but leave the battery on. two tags are wired together. As a result, turning the switch lever fully one way or the other gives L.W. or M.W. reception, as required.

When it is found that the tuning condenser, colume control. wavechange switch and speaker fits correctiy, the chassis is remoyed from the case. The speaker. gang condenser. switch wafer. and volume control should also be set aside. so that they are not damaged while drilling the other holes.

## Oscillator Coil and 1.F. Transformers

The positions for the oscillator coil and I.F. transformers will be seen in the chassis diagrams on the blueprint. The oscillator coil has six pins, and six clearance holes are drilled for these. A red dot is placed between pins 1 and 6. Small holes are also needed for the can tags. After drilling for each transformer. and the oscillator coil, these parts should be set aside until the remaining drilling is finished. Each I.F. transformer has five pins. the space coming between pins 1 and 5 . Pins 4 are not used. but must not touch other leads, etc. A blue spot distinguishes the third I.F. transformer from the others, which are marked with white spots.
The driver transformer has two projecting lugs. One passes through a slot made by drilling smali holes close together, and the other clips round the edge of the chassis. The output transformer is mounted on its strip hy passing its lugs through holes. Notches need filing in this strip, to clear the speech coil tags of the speaker.

## Components and Wiring

The tuning condenser is holted in place, a tag under one bolt head forming the "frame" connection. The oscillator coil and I.F. transformers are inserted, and the tags of the screening cans bent out to hold them. One tag on each can is cut short. The others are left projecting slightly, and are all wired together, and to the earth line. The speaker is not fixed until other wiring is finished.

Note : All the diagrams - circuit. wiring, etc. associated with this receiver appear on the blueprint given away with this issue. Continual reference to the blueprint is essentia, when constructing the receiver and reading the text.

## Soldering

A soldering iron with a small bit is necessary for wiring up. The ends of many condensers and resistors have to be cut very short, and the iron should not be applied to any joint longer than is required to obtain a good connection. The transistors are only added as wiring progresses. and particular care is needed when soldering these, as prolonged heating may cause damage. Each transistor can have in. lengths of insulated sleeving threaded on collector and emitter leads before the leads are passed through the chassis. The base leads can be left bare here, but must be insulated on the other side of the chassis. No attempt is made to cut the leads from the transistors as short as possible. They should, in fact, be left fairly long, even where this means that the connection will form a loop. Exceptional care in soldering is not then required, but the iron should not be kept in contact with any transistor lead longer than three or four seconds. A good joint can usually be made in less than this. The same care is wise when connecting the OA81 diode. Long heating of condensers, resistors, transformer and coil pins should also be avoided.

## Rear of Chassis

The aerial is best left until other wiring has been carried out, and details are given later. The rod is to be mounted on the rear side of the chassis, however. This is done by taking two rubber grommets which are a push fit on the rod, and cutting two slots in pieces of paxolin sin. $x$ lin. to fit. Two small brackets are bolted to the paxolin pieces, and to the chassis. The rubber grommets, with the rod, may then be pushed into
the slots.
Two tags of the twin 60 pF trimmer are soldered to one bracket. as shown in the blueprint, this point going to the earth line. One trimmer is wired to the rear fixed plates tag of the gang condenser, as
shown, the 250 pF fixed condenser also being soldered to this tag. The other trimmer is taken to the wavechange switch, and "switch" tags of the rod windings, as also shown.
The $470 \Omega$ resistor is soldered directly across the $32 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ condenser, and the condenser leads pass straight down through small holes. With all the electrolytic condensers. the polarity shown must be observed. Where no other markings are given on the actual components. the plain end of the can is negative, and the lead at the ridged end of the can is positive.

It will be seen that some of the transistor connections pass directly to the driver and output transformer. These leads should be covered throughout their length with insulated sleeving. With the output transistors, both emitter leads pass together through a single hole, to the $5 \Omega$ resistor.

## The Front of the Chassis

Most of the small components are on the front side of the chassis. A little extra space has been left between components in the wiring diagram so that connections can be followed more easily.
Soldered joints to the oscillator coil and IIF. transformer pins should be made fairly quickly, so that heat will not loosen internal connections. The three fixed condensers, which appear in the circuit in parallel with the I.F. transformer primary windings, are included in the cans, ready connected.

A fairly thin gauge wire, with small diameter sleeving. will be most convenient for connections. About 1 yd of $26 \mathrm{~s} . \mathrm{w} . \mathrm{g}$. tinned copper wire, and 1 yd of 1 mm sleeving, will easily be sufficient for the receiver.

## Wiring

It is wise to wire one stage at a time, inserting the transistor as the stage is completed. If the


> This view of the receiver shows the chassis layout in some detail.
transistors are located as shown, emitter, base and collector leads will emerge at the front of the chassis in the positions shown in the blueprint. It may also be helpful to use coloured sleeving to identify these leads. It is essential that the emitter, base and collector leads do not touch each other. or other connections, and that they are correctly wired.

A check should be kept of resistor values. as the y are wired in. because a mistake may cause lack of results, or distortion. and prove difficult to remedy later.

Volume connections should be taken from the t.lueprint in the manner already described. As the control also contains an on/off switch. incorrect wiring here will prevent the set working.

Leads and parts must be kept clear of the four holes used to mount the speaker, and also the holes used to secure the chassis in the receiver case. All other parts are kept flat. near the chassis. as there is only about 9 mm clearance between chassis and case.

## Wavechange Switch

The wavechange switch wafer is mounted by passing small pieces of $18 \mathrm{~s} . \mathrm{w} . \mathrm{g}$. tinned copper wire through the two holes in it. and through matching holes in the chassis. A small loop of tinned wire is made round these $18 \mathrm{~s} . \mathrm{w} . \mathrm{g}$. wire pins, and a touch of solder used to hold each in place.

The single tag of the switch goes to the earth line at the other side of the switch. one tag goes to the 180 pF condenser. The other two tags this
side are joined, and wired to the 60 pF trimmer, and switch tags of the aerial.

The aerial is shown out of position in the blueprint. so that leads to it can be seen. With the Mediun wave section. the tags marked " $\mathbf{B}$ " and "Tap" go to the small winding of enamelled wire. This winding is connected to the tapping on the long wave section. This tapping is only a few turns from the earthed end of the L.W. section. so care is necessary to wire the L.W. winding correctly. The beginning of the M.W. tuned section is connected to the front fixed plates tag of the gang condenser. the end of this winding goes to the wavechange switch. trimmer, and "S" tag of the L.W. section. Bend the condenser tags flat after wiring to them.

## The Aerial

The aerial connections are best made with thin flex. so that the positions of the windings on the rod can be modified when aligning the receiver. When testing and aligning the set. hefore inserting it in its case. a small strip of paxolin can be used to manipulate the wavechange switch rotor. When the set is inserted in its case. the wavechange switch lever must be turned so that the flats on 6B.A bolt match the position of the rotor, or the chassis will not fit in the case.

## NEXT MONTH :

Testing and aligning the receiver

# Low Drift V.H.F. Receiver 

## MAKING A SUITABLE CABINET

By E. H. Berny
(Continued from page 518 of the October issue)


ACABINET of functional design and pleasing appearance in which to house the receiver together with a speaker up to 8 in . diameter may be made from $\frac{3}{8}$ in. 5 -ply wood having an oak, walnut or similar hardwood facing. Old television cabinets are a good source of supply. No complicated joinery is required and only simple tools are needed.

First, cut two pieces of wood each 13 in . $\times 7 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. for the top and bottom. In the bottom make six 1in. holes for ventilation as in Fig. 12. Next cut two pieces each 1 II . $\times 7 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. for the sides. Rebates, tin. deep, must be formed at the top and bottom of each side on the unfaced surface as follows. Draw a line parallel with and slightly more than $\frac{1}{8}$ in. frons the edge of the wood and fasten along it with a counle of panel pins, a wooden straight-edge


Fig. 12.-The bottom of the cabinet.
to act as a guide for the saw. Make a cut $\frac{1}{2}$. deep along the line with a tenon saw, taking care to keep the tool at right angles to the surface and close up against the straight-edge. Remove the unwanted wood with a chisel and finish off with No. 2 glasspaper. When all the rebates have been formed. assemble temporarily the top, bottom and sides, using three or four lin. panel pins driven half way home at each corner. Square up the assembly and secure it temporarily with a strip of wood fastened diagonally across the back so that it looks like Fig. 14.

## The Front

To mark out the front of the cabinet, place the assembly front down on the unfaced surface of a piece of plywood and mark round both the inside and outside. Cut the front very slightly larger than the outside rectangle so marked, so as to leave a little to spare for sanding down. The inside rectangle is the line along which a tin. deep rebate must be formed all round the edge by the method already described and when this has been done, the front should be a good push fit into the assembled portion of the cabinet If, as may happen, it is a little slack, there is no need to worry as the strength of the cabinet will not be greatly affected. The holes and cutouts should now be made. The speakes aperture is best cut by first making lin. holes in the four positions shown in Fig. 13. It is then a simple matter to remove the unwanted wood


Fig. 13.-The front of the cabinet.
with a pad saw or a coarse hacksaw blade held in a pad handle. Work from the faced surface of the wood so that the saw will not tear the facing. Finish off the edge of the aperture with glasspaper and give it a coat of matt black paint.

## Assembly

Dismantle the assembly, apply a coat of casein ghe to all mating surfaces and re-assemble, driving the panel pins right home. Glue alone will be sufficient to secure the front but the joint will have to be kept under pressure by means of weights till the glue is dry. The success of the whole operation up to this point depends chiefly on the accuracy with which the wood is cut and the rebates formed This is not difficult but requires a little time and care which will be well rewarded. It is important of course, to use a good glue.


Fig. 14.-The temporarv assembls of the top. bottom und sides of the cabinet.

## Finishing

Allow 24 hours for the glue to harden thoroughly, then punch in the panel pins so that the heads are below the surface: fill in the holes and any other blemishes with plastic wood of the same colour as that in which it is desired finally to polish the cabinet. When the filler is hard, give a good rub down with No. 2 glasspaper. removing surplus filler and any projections at the corners. Finish off with No. 0 glasspaper. The final result depends greatly on the preparation at this stage. so make sure no scratches or other blemishes remain. Wood dye of appropriate colour may now be rubbed in with a rag wad.

## Polishing

The best result is obtained by French polishing which, contrary to popular belief, is not at all difficult if done with one of the several polishes prepared and sold for amateur use. The constructor should follow carefully the instructions supplied with the polish. Alternatively, a very reasonable finish can be obtained by the application of clear varnish. Three or four coats will be required with a light rub down with No. 0 glasspaper between each. About 48 hours should be allowed for each coat to dry before rubbing down and the varnish should be applied and allowed to dry in a dustfree atmosphere.

Four $\frac{1}{2}$ in. rubber buffers should be fitted to the bottom of the cabinet to permit under-chassis ventilation and to prevent damage to any polished surface on which the receiver may stand.

## Heat Defector

It is desirable to fit a heat deflecting screen above R30 so that the rising current of air is carried away to the top rear of the cabinet. This prevents the top of the cabinet from warming up and improves


Fig. 15(a).-The heat deflector.
the interior ventilation. It may be made quite simply from a piece of 16 or 18 s.w.g. aluminium to the measurements given in Fig 15(a) and secured to the side of the cabinet with two small wood screws. Fig. 15(b) shows how it should be arranged.

## Fitting the Receiven

Glue a piece of Tygan or similar material over the speaker aperture. Cut a piece of $\frac{1}{s i n}$. plywood or hardboard to size and make a 7 in . aperture for the speaker as in Fig. 16. Secure the speaker over the aperture with two $4 \mathrm{~B} . \mathrm{A}$. countersunk bolts, nuts to the rear, in the positions shown. The assembly should now be mounted in the top of the cabinet so that wood screws in the two remaining securing holes of the speaker will pass through the $\frac{1}{8}$ in. ply into the cabinet front. The ply should then be further secured to the cabinet by a small wood screw at each corner. Fit in the bottom of the cabinet a piece of perforated zinc about 12 in . $x$ 7 in , to cover the ventilation holes. Slide the receiver into position and mark on the bottom of the cabinet by measurement the positions of the chassis flanges. Make holes through the bottom to receive 4B.A. bolts or self-tapping screws of about the same diameter; two at the
 mains transformer end and one at the other will suffice. Make corresponding holes in the ch ass is flanges. Solder temporarily a short length of insulated wire to the negative end of C 26 , and fit the receiver. Do not fit the securing bolts yet.

## Calibration

Fit the tuning knob, which should be about $1 \frac{1}{4}$ in. in diameter, connect an aerial and switch on. After 15 minutes, connect a meter or tuning indicator to C26, tune in each station in turn and make a mark on the tuning knob at top dead centre for each. The knob can then be taken to an engraver for permanent marking.
Fig. $15(b)$--Fitting the heat deflector. Remove the chassis from the cabinet, detach the temporary connection from C26, replace the chassis and insert the securing bolts.

## Cabinet Back

As the chassis is "dead" and there are no exposed voltages, the cabinet need not have a back. If one is needed, it may be of hin, ply or hardboard and can be secured to $\frac{1}{8}$ in. wooden fillets glued inside the cabinet. Holes should be made for ventilation at both top and bottom.


Fig. 16.-7 he speaker mounting board.

## CONVERTING TO STEREO

## (Continued from page 600)

Capacitor Cl is mounted between VR2 and an earthing tag secured by a 6B.A. nut and bolt. If tinplate is used, a directly soldered connection may be made. The remainder of the wiring is simple, and is completed by taking the screened lead for connection to the amplifier through the hole provided.

The cover plate is secured to the main section by six 6B.A. self-tapping screws, three on each end. Holes (bored with a number 43 drill) should be made, and the screws fitted, one at a time; so that the holes in each section properly match.

Correct inter-connection of the various units can be taken from Fig. 1. In addition, the new amplifier has to be supplied from the mains. The original amplifier has a mains outlet connecting to the gramophone motor; this supply being switched by a pre-amplifier control. The outlet is also now used to supply the second amplifier.
One last word of warning: While it is permissible to use the stereo head for playing monaural microgroove records, on no account use the mono head for stereo records, otherwise they will be seriously damaged.


Fig. 7.-Using the loudspeaker of a TV receiver for the second channel.

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COMPLETE CONSTRUCTIONAL INFORMATION

By V. E. Holley

(Continued from page 537, October issue)

T1HE mixer circuit uses very little power and a small mains transformer of the type used in television converters is suitable, and is the H.T. requirement is only two or three milliamps. a contact-cooled rectifier and simple smoothing are adequate.

The constructor should not be tempted to employ a double triode instead of the two pentodes. The inputs are at high impedance and if a high- $\mu$ valve is used, there wil! be high frequency attenuation owing to the Miller effect while a low $-\mu$ valve will not have sufficient gain.

## Construction

The unit is conveniently constructed on a small chassis of $16 \mathrm{~s} . \mathrm{w} . g$. aluminium to the measurements


Fig. 12.-Plan of the chassis of the mixer unit.

The completed equipment in its case.
given in Fig. 12. the two volume controls and the panel lamp being arranged to protrude through the motor board in the front right hand corner. The mains transformer is mounted separately some distance away to minimise hum pick-up. Care must be taken with the heater wiring for the same reason and pin 2 on each valve base should be earthed. It is inevitable that some hum will be introduced by the heaters but as it will be heard only at near maximum gain. which will never be required, it does not merit any further attention. Complete elimination can in any case only be obtained by operating the heaters from a source of D.C. which is a troublesome and unnecessary complication. The layout is shown in Fig. 13.

## Pick-up

High fidelity is not necessary for the reproduction of dance music and any inexpensive single player of the popular type will be suitable. Acceptable quality must nevertheless be maintained and the response of the pick-up must be examined to see what correction is necessary to compensate tor recording loss. If the pick-up is of a superior type having a level response and no internal compensation. the circuit of Fig. 14 mav be used. With the component values as shown. it provides full compensation at the rate of $6 \mathrm{~dB} /$ sctave helow about $250 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$. There will of course he a serious loss of output at middle and high frequencies. but this is easily put right by a turn of the volume control.

Most crystal pick-ups of the popular type have a rising output below about $400 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$ which provides some compensation. In such cases it will generally be satisfactory to add compensation at the rate of $3 \mathrm{~dB} /$ octave, which may be done with the same


Fig. 13.-Layout of the mixer unit.
circuit using component values $\mathrm{R} 1=0.32 \mathrm{M}, \mathrm{R} 2=$ 0.15 M and $\mathrm{C}=0.005 \mu \mathrm{~F}$. If the response of the pick-up is unknown, the best arrangenent must be found by trial and error, and in this connection the aim should be to make the load at middle and high frequencies approximately that recoinmended by the manufacturers. The reactance of $C$ being negligible, the required figure is given by the formula

$$
R 1+\left[\frac{R 2 \times R 3}{R 2+R 3}\right]
$$

## Housing the Player

If the constructor already has a portable record player it will be a simple matter to install the mixer unit within the case, the only requirement being that there should be a minimum clearance of 2 in . between the motor board and the botom of the case. Not much heat will be generated but it is destrable to ; rovide ventilation holes through the case and the motor board, those in the latter being positioned underneath the turntable out of sight.
If no portable player is available, a satisfactory turntable and pick-up can be obtained from surplus sources, and a case of professional appearance in which to house it can be made at the cost of a few shillings. No complicated joinery is required.

## Making a Case

Suitable material for the motor board is $\frac{1}{8} \mathrm{in}$. 5 -ply; for the sides of the case $\frac{1}{4}$ in. will serve,
and for the top and bottom $\frac{1}{8} \mathrm{in}$. is suitable. Unless the player is of unusual size or shape, the dimensions to be given may be followed exactly.
First prepare the motor board, $15 \mathrm{in} . \times 13 \mathrm{in}$. and cut out the holes required for the motor, pick-up, controls, etc. The motor should be mounted on the side of the board remote from the mixer unit in such a position that the centre of the cturntable is located at the point " $X$ " in Fig. ${ }^{15}$. The position of the pick-up relative to point " $X$ " will depend on the manufacturer's instructions, which should be followed exactly to ensure proper tracking.
Prepare next the front and back, each 15 in . $x$ $5 \frac{1}{2}$ in., and the two sides, which, if 4 in . wood is being used, will each be $13 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. $x 5 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. It is now advisable to make a trial assembly of the front, back and sides around the motor board to cheek the fit, securing them temporarily to each other and to the motor board with fin. panel pins. driven half-way home. The motor board should be positioned so that its lower surface is 2 l in . from the bottom of the assembly. When any nisfits have been rectified, a good resin glue should be applied to all mating surfaces and the pieces re-assembled, driving the panel pins right honic When the glue is dry, a stiffener, 13 in . $x 2$ tin. $x$ ${ }^{3} \mathrm{in}$., having a couple of 1 in . holes in it for ventilation and the passage of cables, should be pinned and glued below the motor board as shown in Fig. 15. This will increase the strength of the case considerably and will reduce vibration from the motor.

## Making the Lid

Next prepare the top of the case from $\frac{1}{5}$ in. ply and fit it permanently in position with glue and panel pins. The bottom should also be fitted now: it must be removable and should be secured with small brass screws to a $\frac{3}{8}$ in. square wood


Fig. 14.-Compensation circuit for the pick-up.
fillet glued around the inside of the case, $\frac{1}{8}$ in. from the bottom edge.
When all has been assembled draw a line round the ease $2 f i n$. from the top. and with a sharp tenon saw cut the case into two pieces along this line. The result is a box with a lid which is an exact fit. This operation requires some eare, and if the constructor is not confident of his skill with the saw, he should fit temporarily on each side of the line of cut a strip of plywood with a straight edge, leaving just enough room between the strips for the saw to enter. If the saw is then used horizontally and at right angles to the surface. a clean accurate cut will be made. Strips of wood about lin. wide and $\frac{1}{6}$. in thickness should now be glued round the inside of the case above the ruotor board so as to project into the lid, thus locating it firmly when closed.

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c18. 6. 0
C18. 9.
EI. 6.7
c10.10. 0
E1.3. 6
C16.13. I
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## External Connections

External access must be provided for the microphone input, the output to the amplifier and the mains connection, and it is an advantage if the case has a power socket from which the, supply for the amplifier can be taken. As with the main amplifier these fittings should be flush with the outside surface of the case. Flush mounting coaxial sockets are used for the input and output, the former being sited as close as possible to VRI. For the mains connection, the plug half of a 2 -pin 5 A flex connector is screwed to the underside of the motor board in such a position that the pins project into a hole cut in the rear of the case: this hole should be of such shape and size to admit the socket half of the same connector. The same kind of fitting can be used for the mains supply to the amplifier, but in this case the socket portion is secured to the motor board, projecting into a similar hole to a position flush with the oulside surface.

The leads from the pick-up

- are taken first to a small metal box under the motor board, in which is installed $R 1, R 2$ and $C$ of the compensation circuit (Fig. 14). The compensated signal is then taken through the motor board by a short screened lead terminating in a coaxial plug. The plug fits into the adjacent socket and the signal is then returned to the under side of the motor board and carried to VR2. A second microphone channel is thus obtainable when required by removing the plug and connecting a mike cable in its place. A switch is provided to cut out the gramophone motor when this arrangement is in use. The wiring of all the switches and fittings under the motor board is shown in Fig. 15.


## Finishing

Fittings on the outer surface of the case should now be removed and the heads of the panel pins punched below the surface. A small wire nail with the point sawn off makes a good punch. Fill all blemishes with plastic wood and when it is hard, give the case and lid a good rub down with No. 2 glass paper. The final finish can be obtained if desired by the application of wood dye and clear varnish. but a much more professional appearance will be achieved if the case is covered with material obtainable from a well-known chain store under the name of "leathercloth" in a variety of colours. About $1 \frac{1}{\frac{1}{2}}$ yd will be required. It should be secured to the case with resin glue, a thin coating being applied to both surfaces and the cloth then stretched tightly into position.
When the covering is dry, the input and output sockets can be replaced and a pair of surface mounting hinges fitted to attach the lid. A stay


Fig. 15.-Layout of the record player motor board.
is also required inside and a pair of clip fasteners at the front to secure the lid when closed. The corners of the case should be trimmed off and metal corner pieces fitted; eight will be needed. Two $\frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. ventilation holes should be made in the bottom, one beneath the motor and one under the valves, using a sharp centre bit so as to make a clean cut through the leather cloth. A carrying handle should be fitted to the front in such a position that the attachment screws pass into the edge of the motor board, so ensuring firm attachment and good balance. Finally, eight $\frac{1}{2} \mathrm{in}$. rubber buffers should be fitted. four on the bottom and four at the back so that the player may stand upon them horizontally and vertically.

## Operation

If the power supply for the main amplifier is taken from the socket on the player, the whole equipment will be under the control of the gramophone operator. The maximum overall gain is considerably more than can be used and the excess should be removed first by the application of maximum negative feedback and then by means of the volume control on the main amplifier. In this condition the equipment, will have a silent background, and it will be found possible to obtain the maximum designed output on either channel by operation of the controls on the player and without introducing hum or other undesirable effects. The two inputs can be mixed in controllable proportions and it is possible for instance to make announcements without entirely interrupting dance music and to fade gradually from one input to the other.

# Comprehensive Guitar Amplifier 

## A COMPLETE UNIT WITH TREMOLO, ETC.

By B. L. Phillips

## (Continued from page 511 of the October issue)

T1HE potentiometer mentioned last month in the feedback circuit of V1 varies the input to the buffer and is called the Vibrato or Tremolo Depth Control. The anode of this buffer is direct-coupled to the screen grid of the pentode EF86, whilst the guitar input is conventionally coupled to the grid. A very high value of cathode resistor is used on the EF86 to bias it towards cut-off, as in this condition the oscillator can easily modulate the guitar input.
output is fed through a high-pass filter which removes the oscillator output whilst allowing the modulated output to be fed to the pre-amplifiers. The pentode stage has only a little gain, and the input to this is approximately the same as the other inputs although some increases in volume may be noticeable when using the vibrato input. The volume control is placed after the filter with the other input controls. Wiring in the oscillator, buffer and mixer stage is not critical at


Thus, at the anode of the EF86, we have the modulated guitar output, plus the oscillator itself. If this were amplified, then the oscillator would appear in the output as an annoying "thump "! So the
all, but it is recommended that screened lead be used where indicated to avoid hum pick-up. The leads to the volume controls should be screened, (Continued on page 625)


Fig. 6.-Rear view of the pre-amplifier panel (the top of the panel is bent inwards, the bottom outwards, for mounting to the cabinet).

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Fig. 7.-Underchassis wiring of the pre-amp.

## (Continued from page 622)

and only one earth wire run from each control and jack.

To enable the vibrato to be switched on and off, a switch is employed to earth the buffer grid. This is in series with a closed circuit jack, so that an external foot switch can be used, if desired, from this jack on a screened coaxial lead. If this is used the switch on the amplifier is closed, putting the grid through to the foot switch. The "depth" control enables either deep, medium, or low, vibrato effects to be employed, and the "speed" control gives a range of roughly 4 to $10 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$ vibrato speed. The speed range may be altered by altering the 470 k resistor in series with the speed control to say 250 k , when it will be faster.

## Construction

Figs. 5 and 6 show the general layout of the pre-amplifier chassis. The main panel should not be less than 12 in . $x$ sin. and of $16 \mathrm{~s} . \mathrm{w.g}$. sleel, and bent as shown in Fig. 6. The panel will have an inclination of 45 deg so both top and bottom edges should be at as near to 45 deg with the panel face as possible. Four $\frac{1}{\text { in }}$. holes are drilled in each bent side for the cabinet mounting screws. The six volume control mounting holes should be spaced out equally to occupy the whole panel area. The three input jacks are mounted directly under the controls thev are connected to. which puts them under the sub-chassis. Connections between controls and jacks may be open wire, but short lengths of screened cable are preferred. The three

100k stoppers may be connected together above the sub-chassis, and a single screened lead fed from their junction to the grid of the ECC83

The sub-chassis supporting the valves and assoclated circuits is made from 16 s.w.g. metal, bent with two edges down $1 \frac{1}{5} \mathrm{in}$. of the front edges of the chassis being bent out to bolt to the panel. If the pilot light is fitted, a small hole made in the panel with a strip of red celluloid across it is required as the jewel". The lamp socket must be insulated from the panel, as the heater chain is only grounded at the main power-chassis end to reduce hum. A small piece of ebonite or paxolin will suffice. bolting the lamp holder to this with a well countersunk bolt. and then bolting the insulated support to the panel.
"Heater leads must be well twisted and kept away from the signal circuits as far as can be arranged. Fig. 7 gives a more detailed idea of how the preamplifier chassis is wired. and shows the majority of the connections.

## Cabine,

In Fig 8 is shown the cabinet used for the prototype. which was constructed out of 5-ply, screwed together. It can be covered in plastic material or rexine. The speaker fret material can be expanded metal of a heavy cloth. a narrow strip of wood screwed across the speaker opening gives added protection. It was found in the prototype that the pre-amplifier chassis could not be inserted in the cabinet with the valves in place. the glass pips just fouling the cabinet top. The valves can be easily

put into place after the chassis has been placed in the cabinet opening by leaving it protruding slightly at the front so the bases can be seen looking down on it from above. The valves are then pushed home by putting them up from below. The chassis front may be painted a dove grey and the notations for the controls written on with Indian ink. Then give the face a coat of clear varnish.

## Final Tests

With the equipment switched on, turn each volume control to zero with the vibrato switched off, and turn the tone control for maximum treble. Little hum, but some "hiss" should be heard from
the speaker. Adjust the negative feedback control until this noise level is such that it can be heard only $3-4 \mathrm{ft}$ from the set. If an electric guitar is available it may be connected to each input in turn and checked for volume. The vibrato may be switched on and this checked for depth and speed. Microphony may be evident with some valves in the pre-amplifier, and if this is found, then the offending valve (most likely the ECC83 amplifier) must be changed. New valves in good condition do not show this trouble. The equipment will handle high outputs without overloading, and, say, two guitars on chords and one melody are reproduced extremely clearly with few intermodulation troubles.

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## NEW PRODUCTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

## SAFARI PORTABLE RADIOGRAM

${ }^{r}$ I'HIS lightweight radiogram is powered by three 9 V batteries which make it completely portable. The Safari is a nine transistor model with a long and medium waveband radio section incorporated. It will accommodate all sizes of records on a four-speed auto-stop record player with a turnover cartridge and sapphire styli for 78 r.p.m. and long playing records. A combined volume and tone control, wavechange switch, radio/oft/ gram switch and tuning control are located on the front panel. The cabinet is covered with imitation leather and is available in two colours-red and natural and $\tan$ and natural. The price is 37 guineas and this model may be obtained from Dynatron Radio Lid., Maidenhead, Berks

## ELECTROLUBE POCKET DISPENSER

## A

 POCKET size "Pen" type dispenser which enables low resistance lubricant to be economically applied to otherwise inaccessible places has been introduced by Electrolube Ltd. A sharp pull on the fountain-pen type cap automatically releases a thin 3in. nylon "Snorkel" tube which

The Safari Portable, Radiogram.
sapacity values from 100 pF to $0 \cdot 11 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ steps so that exact capacitor values are available for determination of capacitor values in compensating networks, filters, etc. Precision 1 per cent silver-mica capacitors are employed for high accuracy. Switches are ceramic wafer types for minimum loss and feature smooth action. The price is $£ 9$ net. Beuldh Electronics, 138, Lewisham Way, New Cross, London, S.E.l4.

## REFLECTOGRAPH TAPE RECORDER

THIS tape recorder, Model A, has separate record and playback amplifiers providing continuous monitoring from the tape with provision for instant comparison between input signal and recorded signal. The recorder will take spools up to $8 \frac{1}{4}$ in. Further information on this model may be obtained from Multimusic Lid., Maylands Avenut. Hemel Hempstead, Herts.

## PUSH BUTTON CAR RADIO

PUSH button station selection and wavechange is the main feature of a new car radio introduced by Philips. Model 493VT uses four valves plus transistor output stage and tone control is continuously variable All connections are on flexible leads and an adjustable aerial trimmer is mounted externally in the aerial lead. Model 493 VI retails at 28 guineas and is manufactured
by Philips Electrical Lid., Century House, Shaftesbury Avenue, London W.C.2.

## PAM STEREOPHONIC RADIOGRAM

ONE of the new models from Pam (Radio \& Television) Lid. is the RG. 630 stereophonic radiogram. This has a three waveband VHF radio and four-speed stereo/mono record player complete in one cabinet. Two wide range loudspeakers are fitted on the swing doors which may be closed when not listening to stereo. Model 630 measures $21 \frac{3}{4} \mathrm{in}$. high plus 11 in . legs. 33 in . wide and $15 \frac{3}{7} \mathrm{in}$. deep with ample record storage space. The makers are Pam (Radio \& Television) Lid., 295, Regent Street, London W'I.

## NEW OSCILLOSCOPE

MODEL 33a is a new oscilloscope recently released by Taylor Electrical Instruments Ltd. This instrument has a hard time base having good synchronisation characteristics covering the wide range of frequencies from $2 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{s}$ to $100 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$ and can be operated either free running or triggered. Horizontal and vertical amplifiers with push-pull output are provided, the latter being of high gain with a frequency range extending from a few cycles per second to $60 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$. Further information on the oscilloscope, including the price, may be obtained from Taylor Electrical Instruments Ltd., Montrose Avenue, Slough.

## TWO NEW "STELLAPHONES"

TWO new tape recorders have been added to the range of "Stellaphone" recorders. They are the ST. 455 and the ST. 454 selling at 59 guineas and 37 guineas respectively. Both these models have four-track operation. Model ST. 455 is a three-speed recorder housed in a portable cabinet



The Taylor oscilloscope-Model 33a.
with a detachable lid. Model ST. 454 is a single speed instrument with push-button operation. Details of these tape recorders may be obtained from Stella Radio \& Television Co. Ltd., Astra Mouse, 121-123, Shaftesbury Avenue, London, W.C. 2

## SHURE TAPE HEADS

' T'APE Heads made by Shure Brothers Incorporated, Evanston, Illinois, U.S.A. are now available to manufacturers in the U.K.

The range includes the new 4 track Stereo Tape Head Model TR54A and Stereo Erase Head Model TE28A.

Full details and specifications can be obtained from the sole U.K. representative of Shure Brothers-Mr. J. W. Maunder-at 95, Hayes Lane, Beckenham, Kent.
"ONE-FIVE SPECIAL"
'IHE makers of '"Scotch', Brand Magnetic tapes have added their latest addition to the range-the "One-five Special". With 150 feet of plastic tape on a 3in. reel, the "Special" is ready for instant mailing in its own specially designed box, and is available to Retailers in a colourful counter display containing 12 reels. Fitting all popular recorders, the "One-five Special" gives 15 minutes playing time at $3 \frac{3}{3} \mathrm{in}$. $/ \mathrm{sec}$. Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Co. Lid., 3M House, Wigmore Street, London, W.I.

## CHECKiut thae BABGAINS



1. 2-TRANSISTOR POCKET RAD.O with MINIATURE SPEAKER. PRINTED CIRCDIT AND FERRITE ROD. Stze 3$\} \times 4 \geq$ fin. Tunavle over medintn and lony waves. Set of parta inoluding ivory coubured came, cransistors and aif necersary component. (ese bstiericg-avanabie any where an iod.
2. 3-TRANSISTOR POCKET HADIO with MINLATURE SPEAKER. Pres Germanlum Diode and Prinked Circuit. Bize $3 t \times 4 \times$ inn. Ferrite liod herial. Two Burface Barriet Transistore and one Audio.s Tuabioner medlum and long waves. To build yourselt 39/6, P. \& L/6. Circuit tlagram $1 / 8$, free with kit. Ali parts of thems 1 and 2 sold separately.
3. DOUBLE BEAM "SCORE" Ior D.O. and A.C. APPLICATIONS. A High gain, extremely mtable differential $\mathbf{Y}$-implifler ( $30 \mathrm{mV} / \mathrm{C} . \mathrm{M}$. ). Provide ample genoltivity wath A.C. of D.C. inpats. Espectally multable fur meazurements af cransistor operating sonditious where maintenance of b.C. leveis is of paramount fwportance. Push-puis $\mathbf{X}$ amplicer; Fiy-back suppression: Internah Tirue-base scan Waveloria avaiable for extornal use: puloe oubput avalable lot checkity TV line OiP Transforiners, etc. frovision fol externas \& and CHT Brightness Modulation. A.C. nains $200 / 2 \mathrm{JO} \mathrm{V}$. 219.19 .0 P. © 1 7 or 50 - depoat plus ? \& FULL 6 MON MOT A.C.ID.C. POCKET MULTI-METER KIT, Lin. moving soll meter, meale
 0-50, 0-100, $0-250,0-500$. Milliamps 0-10. ()-100. Ohms range 0-10,000. Front panei, range switch, wirewound pot (for ohms zero retting) toggle witch, reatetor and rectitier. 10/6, P. \& P. 1/6. Whing dithgan $1 / 0$, iree with sit.
4. CHANNRL TUNER. WII tume to all Band 1 and Band 11$]$ atations, Comptete With P.C.C. 84 and P.C.F. 80 valpee (in series) I.F. $16-19$ or $32-88$. Can be
 MAINS TRANSFORHERS. All with tapped pricmaries, 200.250 volts, $0-160$, 180,200 จ.. $60 \mathrm{mu}, 6.3$ จ. $2 \mathrm{amps}, 10 / 8$. $280-0-28080 \mathrm{~mA}, 8.3 \mathrm{~F}, 2 \mathrm{grap}$ 6.3 v. 1 amp, $10 / 6$. $350-0-350$ ₹, $70 \mathrm{~mA}, 6.3$ v. 1 amp, h.s $\geqslant .2 \mathrm{amp} .10 / 6$ $200-250$ จ. 70 mA .8 .8 v. $2 \mathrm{am} \mu$, $10 / 6$. P. \& P. 81
5. WOLSEY S-ELEMENT FOLDED DIPOLE I.T. V. Aerfal less mounttgg - bracket for extertial use, complete with 12 Yds of cosidal cable, 16/m 4-etement, 17/t. I. \& P. 3/6.
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Three miniaturt valven ahd Metal Rectitier. A.O. mains $200 / 200$. Inter oal modulation of 400 c.p.s. to a depth of 30 per cent: Modnatated or anmodalated R.P. output continuously Furiable low matpot indicator and mod. switch. varia
Accuraey $\pm 2$ per cent.
0. SIGNAL GENERATORA. Cash 84.19 .6 or $2 b /$ deposit and 4 monthly

 $230-250 \%$. Internsh modulation of $400 \mathrm{c.p} \mathrm{~s}$, to a depth of 90 per cent, modulated or unstodutated R.F. output continuonsly variable 100 milivolias C.N. and mod. switch variahte A.F, outpat and troving coil output metet. Accuracy $\pm 2$ per cent.
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12. 8-WATT PUSH-POLL AMPLIFIER COMPLETE WITR CRYSTAL MIKE
 0 vaiven. H.F, pen., 2 triodes. 2 ontput pens and recthen. For ase nith all rakee and type or meknusand mike. Neprative feed tack. Two mulits, coike and aram. and controls 101 same. Heparate contrais For Basp and Treble ilit. Response flat from 40 cycies to $15 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$. $\mathrm{t}^{2} \mathrm{dt}$ : dti down to $40 \mathrm{kol} / \mathrm{s}$. Outputs watta at 5 per cent totadigtortion. Noise level 40 dibubwn all bum. Output transformer "apped rof and 16 ohmp spieech coils. for
 94.19.6. P. P.
13. B.S.B. MONARCH UA8 FITH FULFI HEAD. 4-speen, playE 10 records. 181a., 10in., of 7in. at 16. 33, 43 or 78 r. $4 . \mathrm{mb}$. Inter tuxas 7 in., 10 in . und
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14. TRANEISTOR TESTER. For hoth I'.N.P. and N.P.N. tranastorg incor porht
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Iప. POSE-PULL OUTPUT STAGE inchive on tranmetots with upul and output trangormers to match 3 ohma sueech coil, anitable for use with the PUCKET RADIO. Kif of paita, micludian tranaisiors. 10/6. P. \& P. lif Wirlow diant 1/R thee with kit.
16. PORTABLE AMPLIEIER. On printed circoit tor A.C. Mant ru0r25 size 4 sit with tone and volmme oontrof. Valver: BCLR: and EZ80 38/6. P. \& P. 2/6.

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Plus germanium diode on printed circuit. size 3\& $\times 4 \times$ fin. incorporating territe rod aerial. Tunable over med. and long waves. Extremely simple to buidd. Can be built for $39 / 6$. Post 1/6. Circuit with parcel).


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IHEILIH THE "FAAsY SIX" 'IRANSISI'OR POIR'ABLF, Medium and Long wave, for Only \&g.15.0 p. \& p. 1/6. Instructions and circuit diagram 1/6 (free with parceb).


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For all L.P. and standard records. All components available separately.
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A large part of the cost of a radiogram relates to the cabinet (and purchase tax). Use an existing cabinet and replace the old unit with an Armstrong chassis or fit a chassis into a new cabinet or convenient bookshelves. In this way your expenditure goes wholly into the quality of reproduction.

[^0]AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF NOTTINGHAM
AMA Sec. E. C. Weatherall, 16 Aveberry Close, Clifton, Hon. Sec.: E
Nottingham.

September 22 nd saw the opening of a course of R.A.E. instruction for newcomers. The course is under the direction of A. Davis. G3LXL, and classes will continue to be held throughout the winter.

Future Events:
October 4th-Open Night.
October 25th-"The Panoramic Adaptor" by G3JWQ.

## AMATEUR RADIO MOBILE SOCIETY

Hon. Sec.: N. Fitch, 79 Murchison Road, London, E.10.
"Uncle Tom's party", an annual club event, took place this year at Bishop's Stortford. Hertfordshire, on August 28th.

Future Event:
November 12 th -Gala buffet and ball.

## CALCOT RADIO SOCIETY

Hon. Sec.: F. D. Mitchenall, 12 Glenwood Drive. Tilehurst, Reading.
During October two lectures were given for club members in St. Birinus' Church Hall. One was on transistor portable receivers by $S$. Woodward; and the other on transistor circuitry, by J. A. B. Dunn.

Future Event:
November 25 th-A lecture and demonstration on recording TV pictures on tapes will be given at St. Birinus' Church Hall. Calcot. Reading.
DERBY AND DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
Derby and District College of Art. Green Lane, Derby.
Hon. Sec.: F. C. Ward, 5 Uplands Avenue Littleover. Derby.
The estimated number of visitors who attended this vear's Mobile Rally was 1.000 . some 500 less than last year and it is thought that the unsettled weather was responsible for the reduced attendance.
At the time of closing the transmitters at 2.45 p.m. G3ERD/A on 160 m had contacted 41 mobiles and G3EEO/A on 2 m had worked seventeen.
A car park check at 3.15 p.m. provided a count of 215 cars, 65 of which had been equipped for mobile operation. The visitors $\log$ was closed at $3.30 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$, and showed a total of 461 which included 163 call signs among which was ON4GK Theodore Nissen from Antwerp who, incidentally was the lucky recipient of the major raffle prize, an Electric Washing Machine.
The Mobile Competition was of a novelty nature being based on an elimination comperition. The winner was F. James, G6NW, from Hayes. who carried off the other Washing Machine. The runner up was P. Hiil. G3NPU, of Eastbourne.

The main programme commenced at $2 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. but the Children's Sports were somewhat curtailed due to a shower of rain. The flying display was also postponed to 5.15 p.m. A new feature was a display of unarmed combat by members of the Derby Olympus Judo Club. this created quite an attraction.
The main hall was packed to capacity for the start of the Monster Junk Sale at $3.45 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. Business was brisk for the next 45 minutes whilst the Chairman, Tom Darn. G3FGY, auctioned the oddest variety of articles to the amusement of the crowd of well over 600 .

Raffle prizes were presented at 5 p.m. by the President's wife, Mrs. A. G. G. Melville, after which a 60 -minute Cartoon Film Show was screened for the juniors while parents refreshed themselves in the school Refectory where refreshments were in the hands of the Treasurer. Harry Shaw, assisted by members' families and friends.

Quite a lot of new friendships were made but some of the old faces were missing. Suggestions and criticisms will be welcomed by the Chairman of the Organising Committee, G3FGY.

## EXETER AMATEUR SOCIETY

Hon. Sec.: J. Duff. 70 Crantord Avenue, Litteham Cross. Exmouth, Devon.
New members are invited to attend club meetings in the cenrly acquired clnbroom al the Exeter Y.M.C.A. The club meets on the second Thursday of each month.
LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Hon. Sec.: H. James. G3MCN. 448 East Prescot Road, Knotty Ash, Liverpool 14.
During October the Society held its Annual General Meeting. Future Events:
October 11 th-G3MCN "Vacation in Holland." Illustrated by colour slides.

October 181 h -Open night.
October $25 \mathrm{th}-\mathrm{G} 3 \mathrm{HII}$ talk on "TV Studio Work".

MITCHAM AND DISTRICT RADIO SOCIETY
Hon. Sec.: M. Pharaoh, G3LCH. I Madeira Road, Mitcham. A lecture, by G3JJG, on Third Method Single Side-band tor the Amateur. was held on September 9th; and a lecture and demonstration on 23 cm equipment was given by G3FP on the 23 rd of the same month.
Future Events:
October 7th-Lecture on Colour Television by the BBC.
November 18th-Talk by Collins Radio Co.

## PLYMOUTH RADIO CLUB

PLYMOUTH RADIO CLUB $\mathbf{H o n}$ Sec.: R. Hooper, 2 Chestnut Road, Peverell, Plymouth. Devon.
The clubroom is again open for the Tuesday evening meetings. The aerial at the clubroom has been resited and it is hoped that more interesting contacts will result during the coming winter.

Future Event:
October 18th-Junk Sale.
STOKE-ON-TRENT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
Hon. Sec.: V. J. Reynolds. G3COY, 90 Prince's Road, Hartshill. Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire.
The Stoke-on-Trent A.R.S. has, in recent months, been on the air from several exhibitions and rallies. 1960 is the city's jubilee year. and for the period of the celebrations the special call-sign GBISOT has been used in place of the more familiar call of the sosiety (G3GBU).

The society's most recent event was "The Rally of Boats". This was in co-operation with the local boat club who staged their national boat rally. Several craft were fitted for FM operation.

## WELLINGBOROUGH RADIO CLUB.

Hon. Sec.: P. E. B. Butler. 88 Wellingborough Road, Rushden. Northamptonshire.
During the summer recess the club TX has been completely overhauled and G3KSC rebuilt the modulator.
Future Event:
November 3rd-Film night on British Railways.

## WEST MIDDLESEX TAPE RECORDING CLUB

Hon. Sec.: H. E. Saunders, 20 Nightingale Road, Hampton, Middlesex.
Middlesex. The meeting at St. George's Hall, Southall, on Thursday, August 25 th, was taken up with playing back the unedited tapes ol the visit to Whipsnade Zoo, and it was decided to play them again at Hampton on September 81 h , with a view to consolidating ail three efforts to make a leature tape in due course. Also, a further tape from Fred Gazelev concerning his scheme for the Blind, was played, and a recording made of the subsequent discussion.

The meeting felt that Fred could best be helped by individual offers of help such as dubbing. reading and technical assistance. as such help was liable to be required at short notice which rather ruled it out as a Club activity.

The next meeting was at the Railway Hotel. Station Road. Hainpton, at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday, Sepiember 8th, to listen to the Whipsnade tapes and make rude comments thereon, and the second meeting of the month was at the St. George's Hatl. Lancaster Road. Southall, at 8 p.m. on Thursday, September 22nter Road. Southall, at 8 p.m. on The entitled "The Bird-Watcher's Dilemma".

We seem to be standardised for a while in our meeting place. There will be two meetings per month until further notice. On the second Thursday of the month at the Railway Hotel, Station Road. Hampton, and on the fourth Thursday of the month at Si. George's Hall, Lancaster Road Southall. The Hampton meetings start at 7.30 p.m., and the Southall meetings start at $8 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$., and refresliments are provided.

We are attempting to obtain some specially written playlets or sketches suitable for recording, from a local atthor who has won several prizes for his material, and it is hoped to arrange future recording sessions for putting these on to tape.

Future Events:
October 13th-At the Railway Hotel, Station Road, Hampton, Brace Bargavel will be singing, with a pianist, and Members are invited to bring along their equipment to do some live recording of voice and piano.

October 27 th - $A$ visit from a leading tape-recorder manufacturer, for a demonstration.

November 10 th-Members are invited to bring along their home-made equipment and gadgets for the approbation of thers fellows.

# Short-wave Listeners' Log-3 

SHORT wave enthusiasts who can read Morse will usually find many interesting signals on any active band. In order to produce an audible tone from C.W. transmissions, the receiver beat frequency oscillator has to be operating, Receivers of other types than "conmmunications", may nol be fitted with a B.F.O. In this case a unit can be made by making a simple one-valve oscillator. Any small triode or H.F. pentode will serve. Current is drawn from the receiver, and the coil tunes to about the intermediate frequency of the receiver. The oscillator is coupled to the detector diode by a small capacity such as an insulated loop round the diode connection.

## Setting a B.F.O.

When initially setting a B.F.O., tune in a signal with it switched off. The B.F.O. frequency is adjustable with a small condenser (e.g. 25 pF ) and the audio tone produced will be the difference between receiver I.F. and B.F.O. frequency (e.g., for a $465 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$ I.F. tuning the B.F.O. to $466 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$ or $464 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$ would give $1 \mathrm{kc} / \mathrm{s}$, or 1000 cs . audio output).
With communications receivers having a crystal filter or single-signal circuit. the B.F.O. should be adjusted to the high frequency side of the I.F., so that the heterodyne image can fall in the crystal rejection notch. With simple T.R.F. receivers, C.W. Morse can be heard by bringing the detector into oscillation and tuning slightly to one side of the transmitter frequency.
If little proficiency in code reading has been gained, it is as well to choose the amateur bands. selecting slow, clear signals free from chirps and tails, and clearly keyed. The 80 m band will often
provide stable, clear local C.W. signals. On this band most messages heard will be in English.

## Amateur and Commercial Stations

When some speed in reading has been obtained. various commercial and similar stations may be selected. When $12 \mathrm{w} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. can be copied, it will be found that occasional snatches at 16,20 , or even more words per minute can be taken down. At this stage it may be found that a stable, cleanly keyed $16 \mathrm{w} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. commercial transmitter is easier to read than 10 or $12 \mathrm{w} . \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. from a chirpy, poorlykeyed amateur station. Unfortunately, many commercial signals will be in cipher, though some are in plain English.

The various stations previously listed generally continue to be well received at the times given. In many cases the English transmissions that are beamed towards this country are of excellent signal strength.

## The New Amateur Band

Attention to the fairly new 15 m amateur band is worth while for long range Dx. This band covers $21.0 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ to $21.45 \mathrm{Mc} / \mathrm{s}$ and in favourable conditions has a long skip distance. Very good reception has been obtained from the far east, west, and Africa.
When conditions are good, U.S.A. amateurs can sound almost like "locals" on the 15 m and 20 m bands. Many long distance commercial stations also employ frequencies in the neighbourhood of 19 m to $20 \mathrm{~m}, 16.75 \mathrm{~m}$ to 17 m , and 13.8 m to 14 m , and excellent reception of these is quite usual.

## Six-Valve Top-Band Tx

(Continued from page 597)
city: if we now slightly reduce its capacity. it will be found that the dip which occurs on rotation of the anode tuning condenser is less pronounced. It may be found. for example, that instead of the dip down to 10 mA which we had originally, the dip is now only to 15 mA (corresponding to a power input of $4 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~W}$ ). It will also be found that the aerial current indicated by M2 is now considerably greater. All we need do, therefore, to load up to 10W is gradually to reduce the value of the acrial tuning condenser until the dip produced by the anode tuning condenser is about 33 mA .
While we have the dummy aerial connected up it is interesting to determine the approximate efficiency of the P.A. stage. Let us suppose that the transmitter has been loaded up to 10 W , and that the aerial current meter M2 reads 250 mA (i.e. $\frac{1}{4} \mathrm{~A}$ ). Now,

$$
P=1^{2} R
$$

Power dissipated in $80 \Omega$ dummy load $=(1 / 4)^{2} \times 80 \mathrm{~W}$ $=(80 / 16) \mathrm{W}$ $=5 \mathrm{~W}$

Efficiency $=[$ Output power/Input power $\times 100] \%$ $=(5 / 10) \times 100$ per cent $=50$ per cent.
It is also well worthwhile at this stage to monitor the transmission. This can be carried out in a variety of ways; the one the writer prefers is shown in Fig. 6 . It is, in effect, an extremely simple crystal set which can be connected to the output of the transmitter. If the modulation seems satisfactory one can then proceed to remove the dummy aerial and plug in the aerial itself.

## Conclusion

As stated earlier in the article, the actual length of the aerial is not very critical from the point of view of loading up the transmitter. Those without very much garden space will find that a 66 ft wire, erected as high as possible, will give good results. If space is available, a quarter-wave endfed aerial is very satisfactory; it may be fed with $80 \Omega$ coax without introducing too great a mismatch. The aerial used by the writer is half-wave and end-fed. about 35 ft high at the highest point. In the space of about six months, over 30 counties of the British Isles have been contacted on phone.

| C．R．T．ISOLATION TRANSFORMER＇S TYPE A OPTIONAL $85 \%$ and $50 \%$ BOOST． |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  13.3 V ．MAINS INPUT． |  |  |  |
| TYPE AO HIGH QUALITY LOW CAPAC． ITY $10 / 15$ DF．OPTIONAL BOOST $5 \% ~ 5 \% ~ \% ~$ $76 \%$ MAINS INPUT． |  |  |  |
| T）PE IS MAINS，NPUT．MOLTI OUTPUT 2, 4．6．3，7．3． 10 and 13 VOLTS．BOOST $25 \%$ AND $50 \%$ ．LOW CAPACITY． |  |  |  |
| TRIMMERS．Ceramic． $30,30,70 \mathrm{pF}$. ． $9 \mathrm{C} ., 10 \mathrm{pF}$ ． <br>  RESTSTORS．Prelerred values． 10 ohme to 10 mes． <br>  high stability．wa．， $1 \%$ ，2／－．Preferted valuef． 10 $\Omega$ to 10 ares．bitto $5 \% 100 \Omega$ in 5 tuek． $8 d$ ． |  |  |  |
| $\left.\begin{array}{cc}5 \text { watt } \\ 10 \text { watt } \\ 106 \text { watt }\end{array}\right\} \quad$WIRE－WOUND RESISTORS <br> 25 ohins－ 10,000 ohniz$\quad\left\{\begin{array}{l}1 / 3 \\ 1 / 6 \\ 2 /-\end{array}\right.$ |  |  |  |
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O．P．TRANSF ORMERS．Heary Dutv 911 mA． $4 / 8$. Miniature， 3354 ．etc． $4 / 6$ ．Matiratio push－pul Pusb－Pult 10 w．15／6． 20 m 5 K of $8 \mathrm{~K}, 30$
 MAINS TRANSFORMERS： $200 / 250$ V．A．C． STANDARD， $250.0-25080 \mathrm{~mA} .6 .3$ tapped 4v．1 a．Rectufiet 6．3 F． 1 \＆． 5 v．
 MINATURE， 200 v 20 inA．R．2 v． 1 \＆．10／6
 SMLALL $520-0$－220， $50 \mathrm{~mA}, 6.3$ V． 3.5 A. STD． $250-0-254,65 \mathrm{~mA}$, ， 3.3 ₹． 3.5 HEATER TRANS， 6.3 v．ly am
Ditio t．apped sec． $2,4,4.3$ v．It ampl
Ditto，sec．n． 2 v．$\$$ amu．
ALADDIN FORMERS and iore，$\frac{1}{2}$ in－， 8 d ，：？in．，10d． OLADDIN FORMERS And FORMPRS 5937／8 and Cans TV1／2．sin．sq．y 2fin．and हiv．a 1 sin－2／－ea．．with sorek． SOLON Midget Iroti，200／10v，of $230,40 \mathrm{v}, 25 \mathrm{~s}$ ．，24／－ REMPLOY Inst：umen！Iron．火20／40 v． 25 w．． $17 / 6$ MAINS DROPPERS，3itı．$x 1^{\frac{1}{4} t i . ~ A d i, ~ t i d e r s . ~}$

 LOUDSPEAKER P．M． 3 OHM．5i1．Rola， $17 / 6$ Rin．Plesses．19／6．fin．x 4 in ．Rola， 18 im fitin．Rols 18／6．$x$ Sin．， $21 /=10 \times$ fin．27／6． 1 nin．linla， $80 /=$
 STENTORIAN HF1012．10in． 3 to 15 ohtn 10 w．， $951-$ 12in．Rake 15 watit Sin．BAKER FOAM SUSPENE1ON． 15 nhme，e8． CRYSTAL DIODE．C．E．C．，2i－．GEX34．4／－ HIGH RESISTANCE PHONES． 4,000 nhms． $15 \% 1$ Ir MLKE TRANSF． $50.1,3 / 9$ ea．： $100: 1$ ．Pot． $4 / 3$ tin TWIN GANG TUNING CONDENSERS．365 מF
 with trimmers． $9 /=$ ；lese trimmers， 8 i ：midget． $7 / 6$ SINGLE．$\quad 50 \mathrm{pF}, 2 / 6: 80 \mathrm{nF}, 100 \mathrm{pF}, 160 \mathrm{pF}, 7 /$ Solld dielectric $100,306,50 n$, nF $3 / 8$.
SPEAKER FRET．GOLD CLOTH． 17 in I $251 \mathrm{n} .1{ }^{5 / *}$ Shit．$\times 3$ in．， $10 \%$ ．Tyean． 4 ft 6 in ，wide， $10 \% \mathrm{f}$ $25 t$ 3in．wide．51．ft．Bamples B．A．E．

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| 1R5 | 716.6 K 8 G | 716 | EABC80 | 8／8 | － |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 185 | 766169 | 10／8 | ER91 | $61-$ | HABC80 |  |
| 174 | 8．－6N7M | 616 | E8C33 | $8 / 6$ |  | $12 / 6$ |
| 2 X 2 | 8．6 607G | \％18 | F，BC4 | 816 | HVR2A | 8／6 |
| 384 | 76 68A7 | 61－ | EBF＇80 | 10＇ | MU14 | 9／－ |
| 3 V 4 | 7166897 M | 816 | ECCH 4 | 916 | PCC84 | 916 |
| 5 U 4 | 76 69N7 | 616 | FCP8 | $8 / 6$ | PCPR0 | 6 |
| 5 Y 3 | ：16 6V60 | 616 | ECH42 | 10／6 | PCL82 | 6 |
| 5\％4 | $9186 \times 4$ | 716 | ECL8 2 | $10^{\prime} 6$ | PF．N25 | 616 |
| ¢AM6 | $51-9 \mathrm{~S} 5$ | $6 / 6$ | LV341 | 5／C | 11．8\％ | $10 / 6$ |
| 6B8 | $51612 \begin{aligned} & \text { 1277 }\end{aligned}$ | 8 － | 1FF4 | $9 / 6$ | J＇Y80 | 6 |
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|  | 9／6 12A ${ }^{\text {a }}$ 7 | $81-1$ | EF80 | $81-$ | $\mathrm{I}^{\text {Y Y }} 82$ | $7 / 6$ |
| （iBW6 | 9／6 12PE6 | $8 / 6$ | EF91 | $5 /-$ | S1P61 | 3／6 |
| TDi | 6／－12K | 6／6 | EJ？2 | 5／6 | U1u41 | 9／6 |
| 6F6G | 718124 | 8／6 | WLit | $51-$ | UCH42 | 916 |
| $6 \mathrm{H}_{6}$ | $31635 L 6$ | $9 / 8$ | FiL41 | 016 | UF41 | 916 |
| 6.55 | 5／6－35／44 | \％ | F1．84 | $8 / 6$ | UL41 | 916 |
| \＄． 515 | $5 / 8$ 40 | $9 / 6$ | FM81 | $9 / 6$ | 1 T 41 | $81-$ |
| 6， $\mathrm{T}_{6} \mathrm{O}$ | 8／6 807 | 518 | ki／44 ${ }^{\text {b }}$ | 716 | U22 | $81-$ |
| \＆KbCT | 8／6 9\％4 | $1 / 6$ | E\％80 | 216 | 「R105 | 816 |
| K－ | 硣 |  | FY！ |  | －R1．00 | 016 |



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 $(+1 \mathrm{pF}) 1.5 \mathrm{pF}$ ．to 47 pF ．，1／6．Dito $1 \% 50 \mathrm{pF}$ to 815 pF ．1／9： 1.000 pF ．to $\mathrm{K}, 000 \mathrm{pF}$ ．， $2 / \mathrm{m}$

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 By．Pye Radio．Data sheet sut plied． Wearite M800 I．F． $485 \mathrm{Ko} / \mathrm{s}, \quad 12 / 6$ par pall Weymorth Sid．I．F． $465 \mathrm{Ke} / \mathrm{h} .12 / 6$ per pair．
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$16 / 450 \mathrm{v} . \quad 3 /=8+81500 \mathrm{v} . \quad 5 /-32+32 / 350 \mathrm{v}$.
$16 / 500 \mathrm{v} .41-8+16 / 450 \mathrm{v} . \quad 8 / 982+32 / 450 \mathrm{v}$ ． $32 / 450 \mathrm{v} .3 / 98+1 / 6 / 500 \mathrm{v} . \quad 5 / 650+50 / 850 \mathrm{~F}$. $25 / 25 \mathrm{v} .1 / 916+16 / 450 \mathrm{p} .4 / 364+120 / 275 \mathrm{~F}$ ．$/ 1 / 8$ $\begin{array}{llllll}50 / 25 \mathrm{v} . & 2 /-16+18 / 500 \mathrm{v} . & 8 /-64+120 / 350 \mathrm{v} . & 11 / 6 \\ 50 / 50 \mathrm{v} . & 2 /- & 32+34 / 350 \mathrm{v} . & 4 / 6 & 100+200 / 275 \mathrm{v} . & 12 / 6\end{array}$ SELENIUM RECTIFIER． $300 \nabla$ ． 85 mA．， 718 CONTACT COOLED． 280 ． $00 \mathrm{~mA}, 7818$. COILS Wrarive P＇type．3／－each．Oemol Midgel 0 twpe adt．duet core trom 41 －．Ab rantee TELETRON．L M．T．R．P．，with rasction， $8 / 6$ ． FERRITE ROD AERLALS．M．W．8／8；M．E L． $18 / 6$ ． T．R．F．COLLE A／HF II DRAF，H．F．CHOKEA， $2 / 6$ FERRITE ROD AID．x fic dia． 26 ．

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> COMPLETE JASON F.ML KIT PMT1 25.0.0.
> COMPLETE JABMN

FOLL WAVE BRIDGE SELENIOM RECTIFIEA 2, or 12 v．14 atur．8／9： 2 a．，11／8：1a， $17 / 6$ 250 v fol charkitix at 2. f of 12 y ．， 1 t ampe．，16／6 25 amps．，17／6：$\frac{1}{2}$ ampen．22／S．COreus meloded VALVE and TV TUBE egaimalent wooks，P／6 TOGGLE SWITCHES．S．P．2／－．D．P．B／8，D．P．D．T．4） WAVECHANGE SWITCHES
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 Bd．B1zA．CR＇Г， $1 / 8$ ．Eny．and $\Delta$ mer． $4,6,6$ ，and Min，17－－OULDED MAR B7G with B7G，B8A，B8G，B9A，${ }^{\text {Ba，}}$ B7G with can， $1 / 6$ B9A with cal．1／9．CERAMIC HF50．B7G，B9A ma．．Oct．，lie．R／Cana．1779．B9A
ORYBTAL MIKE INSERT by ACOA，prectaon nusneered．Hze oniy 3 in ．$~ 9 / 161 \mathrm{n}$ ． $8 / 6$
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Whilst we are always pleased to assist readers with their echnical difficulties, we regret that we are unable to supply echnical difficulties, we reations for modifying commercial diagrams or provide instructions for modifying commercial or surplus equipment. We cannot supply alternative details for receivers described in these pages. WE CANNOT UNDERTAKE TO ANSWER QUERIES OVER THE TELEPHONE. If a postal reply is required a stamped and addressed envelope must be enclosed with the coupon from page ilii of cover.

## HI-FI SYSTEMS

SIR,-I would like to second Mr. A. Jenning's letter (P.W. July), and hope that you will be able to include some early articles on installing a $\mathrm{Hi}-\mathrm{Fi}$ system from scratch.-E. Tuner (Birmingham).

## MANUAL WANTED

S$\mathrm{R},-\mathrm{I}$ would like to know if any of your readers has a circuit diagram and/or manuals for the Ex WD. Tx/Rx W.S. 22?-A. Pinningion (Wirral, Cheshire).

## INFORMATION REQUIRED

SIR.-I wish to fit an " $S$ " meter to a communications receiver. If anyone can supply information about this. l would be very grateful.-R. McA. (Northern Ireland).

## BOOKS WANTED

SIR.-My letter appeared in the August edition of this magazine asking for information about the Hallicrafters S-20R receiver. I received a number of replies to this letter, and I thank everyone who sent me information.

One such person is an Indian living near Madras, a young man who although holding a Diploma in Radio Servicing and Maintenance, is unable to get a job. owing to the small number of jobs available in India in comparison to the great number of qualified people. While waiting for such a job, he spends his time trying to learn more about his subject by reading books and by corresponding with people of any age who are interested in Radio or Electronics of any kind.

Would anyone who would like to write to this person, or who would like to send some books or odd bits of radio "spares". please write to me enclosing s.a.e.-R. LeSter (Highgate).

## CONVERTING TO MAINS

SIR.-With the end of summer many constructors will no doubt be desirous of converting their battery-portable receivers into mains versions for winter at-home listening. I should certainly like to do this with mine but 1 am not certain of the procedure. Could any of your magazine readers or perhaps a contributor to your magazine help here?-J. Robinson (Buckinghamshire).

## TRANSISTORS

CIR,-The point I wish to press is this. Recently we have been entertained by Transistors $v$ Valves. This seems to be a most pointless argument. I have waited in vain for 12 months for a valve enthusiast to answer one question-why use valves? Most letters on the subject have proved pointless. People who compare amplified crystal sets to valve radios only betray their own ignorance while to those who say " a valve can heat up to great temperatures," l say why do you want hot valves? I don't In the last year I have handled 40 transistors and only damaged one electrically and three mechanically and I have made almost every error in the book.-D. Richardson (Edinburgh).

## ONE VALVER

SIR,-I was glancing through some of my past issues of the P.W. when l noticed a letter from W. H. M. Godwin. of Kenya, referring to a 1L4 triode one valver and its peculiarities in receiving far-off stations.
I too have a one valver battery set for use with headphones which hrings in LW and MW stations exceptionally clearly. The valve used is a 3 S 4 beam tetrode and only requires a small aerial as an earth upsets reception of Luxembourg.

You might think that this letter is a waste of time, but the oddity of my set is the battery it uses. The L.T. for the valve is a 2 V accumulator, the H.T. for the valve is, or should be. 90 V , but the circuit was designed for $22 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{~V}$. I find it works off a 1.5 V pen cell for H.T. with equal volume as that of a crystal set.

My receiver brings in Luxembourg. Home and Light programmes, etc., with clarity with a 1.5 V H.T. It also runs off a 2 V H.T. from the same supply as the valve heater.

I find that it sounds rather odd to be able to say " My valves run off a 2 V L.T. and 2 V H.T.".K. Hamley (Northants).

## TAPE CLUB

SIR,-I am interested in forming a Tape Club at Dartford and would like to hear from interested readers.

As a reader from No. 1, I have been very interested in Valves $v$ Transistors article; I think that at the moment neither has a majority of people favouring one or the other but in the next two to three years 1 am sure the transistor will take first place in about 90 per cent. of all equip-ment.-E. H. Foreman (Dartford).

## CROSS-OVER NETWORKS

SIR,-I was very interested by the comment of
Mr. James in the October issue on the subject of cross-over networks.

I disagree that these devices are either compli-
cated or expensive, and if Mr James cares to visit his local library he will find a host of information on the subject. Recently 1 tried an apparently similar circuit using an $8 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ condenser and the results were good, but were greatly enhanced by the addition of a small home-made choke.

Mr James will find that the loudspeakers have a great deal to do with cross-over, and a good bass speaker 8 in . in diameter or larger will make almost any cross-over sound much better, because good bass cannot be obtained with a smaller speaker.

Finally, the table of cross-over trequencies concerning different networks and speaker impedances can also be found at the library. -J. A. Baker (Doncaster).

## INTERFERENCE

SIR,-In your October issue Mr. Parsons commented on the interference on or near 208 m medium wave. I entirely agree and have great difficulty in pin-pointing this popular station.
In my opinion, and I am sure many people will agree, there should be a radio conference every five or seven years. Any new medium or long wave stations that want to come on the air should make arrangements at one of these conferences, and register them.
Soon we will have so many stations on medium wave that we will not be able to decipher any of them unless our receivers are made a great deal
better than they are now.- N. D. Rofe (Bawnboy, Eire).

## STEREOPHONIC SOUND

$\mathrm{S}^{I R}$,-In regard to Mr F . Barrington's letter, printed in the October issue may I say how misinformed he is about stereo records.
The majority of the latest mono extended play and long play records are also released in stereo thereby letting stereo enthusiasts take full advantage of their equipment.

I have just completed a 3 W stereophonic amplifier and find it gives excellent results. Also the acoustics of the room, in which the units are situated, did not impair with sound reproductions so much as to make me wish 1 had not constructed this piece of equipment.
From Mr. Barrington's letter I understand that he prefers modern records. Who wants these records in stereo anyway? The majority sound bad enough already, what would reproduction sound like in stereo!
If he wanted a good quality amplifier for these records he should not have used stereo but should have built a mono one instead. After all there has been a great number of well-designed circuits in Practical Wireless for gram amplifiers and I feel that Mr. Barrington should have thought about all aspects of sterco before he started.-M. L. How (Palmers Green).


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