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Improved snap-action switches abound. But switch load specs are still in the dark ages. High current and voltage ratings don't provide a safety factor for light
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## Exceptions are taken to pulse-gen reports

I want to thank you for the articles on instrumentation (ED No. 24, Nov. 22, 1974, pp. 40-145). It is interesting to see a broad picture of what the industry is doing today.

However, there are some errors regarding our field. On p. 77, Tom Coates of HP is reported to have said that most programmable pulse generators don't have programmable pulse width. Our Model 1012, as well as the generators of the other companies mentioned on that page, provide control of pulse width, as well as all other pertinent pulse parameters. I might further point out the next sentence, which reports the unavailability of programmable pulse generators with ASCII, is contradicted in the article starting on p. 90 .

On p. 92 there is a section on medium-priced pulse generators that do not have all the features, such as frequencies above 20 MHz , variable delay and de offset. The author then includes the Chronetics Models PG-10 and PG-11A as representatives of this group. While the price is right, both of these generators provide pulses at frequencies up to and including 50 MHz . Both have variable delay as well as variable pulse width, amplitude, single and double pulse, etc. And the PG-10 also offers dc offset.

On p. 95, we are omitted from the list of manufacturers who make programmable pulse generators. Our Model 1012 was one of the earliest generators to provide digital programming capable
of all functions and has been one of the most widely used instruments of this type in the field.

Nevertheless, on balance, we found the articles informative and hope that you will keep up the good work.

## Sid Gordon <br> President

Chronetics, Inc.
500 Nuber Ave.
Mount Vernon,. NY 10550

## Add W-J synthesizers to MW instrumentation

This letter is in response to the article in the Nov. 22, 1974, issue entitled "Microwave Instrumentation: It's a New World of Measurement at 1 GHz and Higher." Although you could not mention all companies that provide each type of microwave instruments, I feel that your omission of Wat-kins-Johnson in the discussion of microwave frequency synthesizers deserves a critical comment.

Watkins-Johnson has been a primary source of 1 -to- $12.4-\mathrm{GHz}$ and 1 -to- $18-\mathrm{GHz}$ synthesizers since 1971, with microwave synthesizer design and manufacture going back to 1966. The early standard multi-octave microwave synthesizers were members of the WJ1154 series.

Since early 1974, Watkins-Johnson has been advertising and delivering a new microwave synthesizer family called the WJ-1250 series. Available WJ-1250 configurations can cover any standard band within the $0.5-\mathrm{to}-18-\mathrm{GHz}$ range, the full $0.5-$ to $-18-\mathrm{GHz}$ range, or any combination in be-
(continued on pg. 12)

[^1]

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## ACROSS THE DESK <br> (continued from pg. 7)

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If your readers would like information about the WJ-1250, they may contact a W-J field sales office in their area or W-J Synthesizer Applications Engineering in Palo Alto at (415) 493-4141, Ext. 218.

Richard S. Napier Program Manager
WJ-1250 Product Line
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| Degree-radian conversion | yes | yes |
| Deg/rad mode selection | yes | yes |
| Decimal degrees - deg-min-sec | yes | yes |
| Polar-rectangular conversion | yes | yes |
| yx | yes | yes |
| ex | yes | yes |
| $10^{x}$ | yes | yes |
| $x^{2}$ | yes | yes |
| $\sqrt{\bar{x}}$ | yes | yes |
| $\sqrt[x]{y}$ | yes | no |
| $1 / \mathrm{x}$ | yes | yes |
| x! | yes | yes |
| Exchange $x$ with $y$ | yes | yes |
| Metric conversion constants | 13 | 3 |
| \% and $\Delta \%$ | yes | yes |
| Mean and standard deviation | yes | yes |
| Linear regression | yes | no |
| Trend line analysis | yes | no |
| Slope and intercept | yes | no |
| Store and recall | yes | yes |
| S to memory | yes | yes |
| Product to memory | yes | yes |
| Random number generator | yes | no |
| Automatic permutation | yes | no |
| Preprogrammed conversions | 20 | 7 |
| Digits accuracy | 13 | 10 |
| Algebraic notation (sum of products) | yes | no |
| Memory (other than stack) | 3 | 9 |
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## news scope

MARCH 1, 1975

## Semi laser pulser delivers 1000 W from 27-V battery

A new semiconductor laser pulser that is only 1.5 in . long is reported to deliver more than 1000 W of peak power from a $27-\mathrm{V}$ battery.

According to the developer, Adaptive Systems, Inc., Pompano Beach, FL, the pulser occupies less than 2 cubic inches of space and produces a 150 -ns-wide pulse that can deliver up to 100 A to a lowinductance load.

Weldon Vlasak, president of Adaptive Systems, says the repetition rates of the pulser have been limited to less than 10 kHz by the heating effects of the injection laser, even though the pulser operates at efficiency as high as $90 \%$. Cooling of the laser can increase the allowable repetition rate, he notes.

Until now the major problem with pulsing injection lasers has been the high self-inductance of the circuit path. Lasing is a function of drive current for the injection laser, and the self-inductance of the current path causes the current rise time to be slower than the voltage rise time.

The self-inductance in the new pulser has been reduced to less than 8 nH , Vlasak says, resulting in fast current rise times. Rise times as short as 5 ns have been measured, he reports.

To reduce the self-inductance, a special transistor array with short interconnecting leads had to be fabricated. It contains 40 transistor chips on a metal substrate that is $3 / 4$ of an inch in diameter. The total path length from the energy source-a storage capacitor-to the transistors in the array is less than a half inch.

Vlasak notes that at first a monolithic transistor array was used, but current hogging resulting from the ballast resistors in the monolithic device caused hot spots near
the emitters of the transistors and the failure of the monolithic array.

Because of that, the discrete-chip array was used. This approach, Vlasak says, makes it possible to move the emitter ballast resistors away from the transistors, so that current hogging doesn't occur.

Vlasak says the new pulser can be used with a semiconductor laser chip as a sunsight illuminator, a night-viewing aid or a short-range radar. A commercial product is not yet available.

Prototypes cost $\$ 1000$ each, but once production starts, Vlasak sees the cost dropping to about $\$ 300$.

## Laser printer transfers data to ordinary paper

A non-impact printer that uses the beam of a $4-W$ argon laser to transfer alphanumeries onto ordinary paper has been developed for the Army. The system, known as the Tactical Line Printer, transfers messages by a process in which the laser beam is scanned across a dye-coated plastic ribbon. The dye is literally blasted onto the paper.

Developed by RCA Advanced


Non-impact tactical line printer is examined by engineer at RCA's Advanced Technology Laboratories.

Technology Laboratories, Camden, NJ, the printer forms characters by a series of dots that are generated as the laser scans the dyecoated ribbon. The laser scan is produced by a rotating mirror. To produce a complete line of copy, the laser beam makes 19 scans across the paper.

Seven operating speeds are available. For serial input, they are 55, 110, 220 and 440 lines per minute, while for parallel input operation, 273,605 and 900 lines per minute can be obtained.

In operation the printer receives the digital data and decodes and stores them in a buffer memory, one line at a time. The buffered input is then restructured so that an electrical signal can be generated to drive the laser modulator and form the dot structure.

Use of the laser is expected to reduce the maintenance problems encountered with impact printers. And operating costs are reduced through the use of ordinary paper. The present system is a laboratory model developed for the Army Electronics Command at Ft. Monmouth, NJ.

## Conference to feature offshore drilling aids

For electronics companies that would like to get their feet wet in the increasingly busy and lucrative field of offshore drilling, a good, four-day opportunity is coming up: the Offshore Technology Conference, to be held May 5-8 in Houston, TX.

Billed as the largest and most comprehensive technical meeting and exhibition in the organization's seven-year history, the conference is expected to play host to 40,000 visitors. Last year's audience came from 90 countries.

There will be 280 technical papers at 45 sessions this year, and 2800 exhibits provided by 1200 offshore service, supply and manufacturing companies from 13 countries. Many exhibits will feature electronic systems or complexes that include electronics.

Technical sessions of direct interest to electronics engineers include "Offshore Operations-Drilling" (Honeywell will describe acoustic re-entry concepts for sub-
sea exploration, drilling and production) ; "Navigation" (satellite, acoustic and hydrospheric) ; "Pollution," "Bottom Surveys" (sidescan sonar, a portable underwater videorecorder, slant-range sonar) ; "Offshore Operations-Production" (Transworld Drilling Co. will describe "Shirtsleeves Beneath the Ocean Surface") ; and "Ocean Mining" (surveillance and survey systems).

## U.S. weighs cutbacks at WWV and WWVH

In response to Government efforts to reduce operating costs and to conserve energy, the National Bureau of Standard is considering alternatives to operating radio stations WWV and WWVH.

The stations have provided standard-frequency and time-signal broadcasts to many users for decades. Station WWV is at Fort Collins, CO, and WWVH near Kekaha, Kanai, HI.

The bureau is asking listeners to these stations to provide information via questionnaire to "help set priorities and guide decisionmaking processes."

Last year a $50 \%$ reduction in power output at 5,10 and 15 MHz was proposed by the bureau for WWVH. According to James Barnes, chief of the bureau's Time and Frequency Services Section, "We received so many objections to the proposal that we have decided to explore other possible means of cost and energy reductions."

Examples of possible changes, Barnes says, include eliminating some broadcast frequencies from WWV and WWVH or reducing transmitted power on some frequencies.

Users of these stations can get a postage-paid questionnaire by writing to the National Bureau of Standards, Time and Frequency Services Section, Boulder, CO, 80302. The deadline for returning the questionnaires is May 1.

## Computer keeps tabs on 20 engine test points

A computerized system for testing gasoline car and truck engines
automatically has 15 types of sensors that measure more than 20 engine parameters. The parameters include oil temperature and pressure, fuel-flow rate, throttle position, spark advance, engine rpm and torque.

The system, being built for the Ford Motor Co.'s Dynamometer Laboratory in Dearborn, MI, by Hamilton Test Systems, Windsor Locks, CT, is designed to operate four independent test cells simultaneously.

The system will substantially increase the speed of test-data acquisition at the Ford laboratory, which houses 70 test cells for evaluation of engines.

The Hamilton System will automatically regulate the operation of both dynamometers and engines while monitoring each test sequence. Data will be available for review on a video monitor and on a computer printout at a central operator's station.

## Fluorimeter detects lead in human blood

Lead poisoning, the killer that children ingest from paint chips and dust, can now be detected in one minute from a single drop of blood with a portable instrument developed by Bell Laboratories, Murry Hill, NJ.

Nomally tests for lead poisoning require a test tube full of blood and a long wait while it's analyzed in a medical laboratory. With the new instrument, a drop of blood is placed on a glass slide and inserted into a special fluorimeter, which measures the light emission, or fluorescence, of the blood when the sample is irradiated by a beam of blue light.

If excessive amounts of lead are present, the blood will give off red light of a specific frequency. The intensity of this red fluorescence, recorded on a digital meter, reveals the level of lead in the blood.

## Near real-time imagery from side-looking radar

Very high-resolution imagery25 line pairs at $36 \mathrm{Mb} / \mathrm{s}$-is reported from an airborne sensor in the Army's In-flight Data Trans-
mission systems (AIDATS).
Arthur Gandy, AIDATS program manager at the Northrop Electronics Div., Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA, says: "We can transmit imagery sensed by an APS-94D side-looking airborne radar to a ground mobile station for near-real-time processing."

Robert G. Cooper, project engineer at Northrop, explains that an outstanding feature of the system is its low bit-error rate. "While the spec was a maximum bit error rate of $10^{-3}$ at a range of 150 km ," he stresses, "we did 370 km and probably could have gone further."

The system contains a Ku-band transmitter on the aircraft with a 150-W TWT output amplifier. On the ground is a 7 - ft parabolic antenna ( 0.7 -degree beam width) cannected to a low-noise microwave receiver and an image-processing system.

The receiver has a tunnel diode preamplifier, and the over-all noise figure of the receiver front end is better than 7 dB . The receiver is a triple converter down to an i-f frequency of 13.7 MHz . This signal is sent to a quadra-phase demodulator and from there to a demultiplexer.

Finally the signal goes to a delta demodulator, and the output video is fed to a moving window display.

## UV erasable PROMs storing up to 8-k bits

After two years of relative inactivity, ultraviolet erasable PROMs are moving up to storage capacities of $4-\mathrm{k}$ and even $8-\mathrm{k}$ bits. Renewed interest in the erasable PROM area is a direct result of the increased use of microprocessors, semiconductor manufacturers note.

The 4-k unit, National Semiconductor's MM5204, is organized as a 512-by-8-bit array and features programming time of only 30 sec . Although it is twice as large as the popular 2-k device, the MM5204 reportedly uses one-third the power.

An $8-k$ erasable PROM, the 2708 from Intel, is scheduled for introduction in March. The chip design is similar to that of the 1702, a 2 -k device. Access time for the 2708 is said to be 500 ns .

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## Radiophones and precision gear make a splash at boat show

You'd never have known there was a recession going on outside New York City's Coliseum from Jan. 11 to 19. Record crowds spent $\$ 63$-million for the sleek boats and yachts on display and for the sophisticated electronic units to go with them. The occasion was the 65th National Boat Show, and attendance was up $15 \%$ over last year's.
Two trends were notable: radiotelephones are moving away from multiple-crystal oscillators toward frequency synthesizers controlled by a single crystal, thus offering cheaper, more compact units with more performance. And there are

John F. Mason<br>Associate Editor

more specialized precision instruments for the more sophisticated craft, such as racing sloops.

On the high-performance, lowprice side, a new vhf/FM radiotelephone called Seacom 55 was shown by Unimetrics, Inc., Plainview, NY. The unit provides crystal-controlled operation on a 55-channel, phased-locked-loop circuit for operation over the entire $156-157.5-\mathrm{MHz}$ marine band. With a choice of a $6-\mathrm{dB}$ or sailboat antenna, it's priced at $\$ 775$.

Receiver sensitivity is $0.5 \mu \mathrm{~V}$. Audio output is 4 W into a $4-\Omega$ load, at $10 \%$ distortion. The rf output of the transmitter is 25 W high power and 1 W low.

Emergency Beacon Corp., New Rochelle, NY, displayed its new $\$ 895$ synthesized vhf marine trans-
ceiver, which provides 67 channels plus four receive-only channels. As a safety feature, the unit automatically monitors the emergency channel, No. 16. An emergency battery pack for the EBC-RT-55M unit costs $\$ 199$ and a vhf marine direction finder $\$ 895$.

Several new, all-solid-state radiotelephones were shown by Konel Corp., South San Francisco. A vhf/ FM unit guarantees 25 W at full power, 12 channels (expandable to 24) and two weather channels.

Called the KR-28VN, the unit uses an offset frequency design that enables a receiver crystal to control the transmit frequency as well. This eliminates the need for a second crystal and a synthesizer.

The basic unit with 12 -channel capability costs $\$ 539$ plus $\$ 8$ per
channel. With remote switching, the basic price is $\$ 819$. The 24 channel set costs $\$ 599$, with the crystals extra. With remote switching, it sells for $\$ 889$.

Konel also showed a new ssb radiotelephone, the KR- 100 SB . The front of the unit is removable, so the set can be placed directly at the base of the antenna. This eliminates the need for an antenna coupler. The unit offers 17 simplex or 8 half-duplex channels.

The unit cost of the KR-100SB is $\$ 1495$. The dc power supply costs $\$ 200$ extra and the ac supply $\$ 350$. Each simplex A channel costs $\$ 40$ and each simplex B, $\$ 15$. A duplex channel costs $\$ 55$.

A vhf-FM radiotelephone was shown by ITT Decca Marine, New York City. Called the STR 24, the
unit uses one crystal and a frequency synthesizer to cover all channels and all modes of communication in the vhf range, including Channel 16. The unit costs $\$ 1475$.

Other new instruments include two all-solid-state depth recorders, which both record the voyage as one sails and give instant, flashing readings. The DC-1024 records depths to 180 feet and flashes depths to 240 . The DC-1048 records and flashes to twice these depths. The units were built by Sonar Radio Corp., Brooklyn, NY.

What is described as the "world's first" digital radio direction finder, the Heathkit MR-1010, offers half-inch-high digits. It covers 190 to 410 kHz plus 535 to 1605 kHz , and it operates from the ship's 12 V dc power or its own built-in bat-
tery. Heathkit products are manufactured by the Heath Co., Benton Harbor, MI.

Simrad, Inc., Armonk, NY, displayed its new Internav 204 loran-C navigation unit. Selling for $\$ 4850$, the $12-\mathrm{V}$ system offers automatic signal acquisition and automatic tracking of two lines of position at the same time.

Konel plans to bring out a manually operated A and C loran navigation unit that will cost about $\$ 1700$.

New radars shown included Raytheon Marine Co.'s Model 3900. The unit uses a four-foot slotted antenna that offers a data update rate of 30 rpm . Selectable ranges are from a half mile to 32 nm . The unit, which costs $\$ 5590$ complete, is being produced at Raytheon's plant in Manchester, NH. -

"World's first" digital radio-direc-tion-finder readout can be read in sunlight on this Heathkit MR-1010.


Vhf transceiver with 67 channels, plus four more for receive-only, costs $\$ 895$ and is made by Emergency Beacon Corp.



Vhf/FM radiotelephone covers all channels, including 16 with a single crystal. Priced at $\$ 1475$ by ITT Decca.

Seacom 55, by Unimetrics, provides 55 channels on a crystal-controlled, phase-locked loop.


Solid-state depth recorder, the DC1024 by Sonar Radio Corp., flashes and records readings to 480 feet.


Marine radar Model 3900, by Raytheon, uses a four-foot slotted antenna to provide high bearing resolution.

## The insecure computer problem: Ways sought to foil



Computers are insecure.
According to Lindsay L. Baird Jr., a computer security consultant for Advanced Computer Techniques in New York City, "there is no such thing as a totally secure computer."

About a year ago the Oregon Dept. of Motor Vehicles decided to share its IBM 360 computer with the students at Oregon State University. Shortly after the computer was made available, one student called up the computer from his remote terminal, gained access to the machine's operating system and took over control.

He sent a signal to the computer, telling it to ignore data coming from the control console in the computer center and to make his terminal the control console. The student then put the system into a supervisory state where no programs could be executed. He let the system stand then for three hours -just to prove a point.

He could have stolen a lot of

## Jules H. Gilder

Associate Editor
data or even erased the data completely from memory. He didn't. He merely wanted to demonstrate that computers are insecure.

To overcome the machine's basic flaws, researchers are seeking to protect both hardware and software.

Baird points to several things that contribute to an insecure com-
puter system. For one, there is always strong pressure on computer designers and operators to keep the system running. So, the security consultant says, systems are being designed to work but not necessarily to work securely.
"You tell me something that's sensitive and requires protection," Baird asserts, "and if the system


Rings of protection are a key element in Honeywell's Multics computer system. The rings help control shared access of files in the system.

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has a data-element dictionary, I can pull that item out of there any number of ways and never touch a protected file."

It's the bits and pieces that equal the sum, he explains. He notes that in the military, the worldwide inventory of certain munitions is a secret. But you can legitimately ask the computer what depots store these munitions, Baird contends, and you can ask how much the inventory at each depot weighs. That information is not protected, he says, because what is located at any one depot is not classified.
"I can sit at a terminal and ask a computer what depots have a certain item, and it will give me a list," he explains. "Then I can ask the computer how much is at depot A, depot B, etc. So now I've got the classified data, and I never touched a protected file."

Another way to get the same information, Baird says, is to ask what the dollar volume of the inventory is. With very few exceptions, money information is not classified by the military, he reports. After getting the total cost of inventory, it is only necessary to ask for the unit price and to do a little division.
"People just don't think when they design these systems," Baird says. "To make computers secure, you have to go back to basics."

While surreptitious penetration of computers is generally possible because of bugs or trap doors in the system's software, Baird points, out that both hardware and software are necessary to make a computer more secure.

## Hand identification used

Many pieces of hardware are being investigated for computer security, but only a few are commercially available at present. One is a hand-geometry identification and verification system designed by Identimation of Northvale, NJ.

According to Marvin Miller, president and chairman of Identimation the geometry of the human hand, like fingerprints, is unique to each person. When a hand is placed on a special Identimation console, the machine measures the hand's geometry, and these figures, along with an identification number, are recorded on a magnetical-


Magnetic cards can be used to control access to computer facilities.


Bank cash terminals, such as IBM's 3614, dispense money after a verified user inserts a cash card.
ly striped plastic identification card.
Whenever a person wants to use a computer terminal or to enter a restricted area in a computer center, he must insert his card into the reader and place his hand on top. If the measurements of the hand match those on the card, a minicomputer checks to see if the person is authorized to use the facilities.

According to Miller, the error rate of the standard Identimation system is less than one in 200 , and for high security requirements,

## They're tough to bug

Bugging a computer isn't easy, and as a result, it isn't often done. In general, the data in a computer are handled in parallel form. This speeds up the movement of the data and also causes problems for the wouldbe bug planter.

The reason is that to handle the 8 or 16 -bit words in computers, a hidden transmitter would have to handle between 8 and 16 individual channels. Bugs like that aren't easy to come by, and even if they were, they'd be difficult to hide and connect.

According to Donn Parker, a computer security researcher at the Stanford Research Institute, not many cases of computer bugging have been reported.
But it's not always necessary to hide a transmitter in a computer to get the data out. In one incident, a miniature receiver was planted in the machine by'a computer maintenance technician. The technician knew that the information he was interested in gathering would be in the computer on a certain day at a certain time. So he planted a receiver that would cause the computer to malfunction and go down. When this happened, the data-processing center called him in to fix the machine. While repairing the computer, he dumped all the information in memory onto a disc, and he walked out with all the data he wanted.
this can be increased to one in 2000.

## Magnetic cards also used

In addition to hand geometry, magnetically encoded striped cards are available. Their use, both for access control and cash transactions, is increasing, though they can be compromised. Two examples are the magnetically striped cards used in San Francisco's BART railroad system and the magnetically coded plastic credit cards used
(continued on page 30)

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Data encoders can be used to protect information transmitted over phone lines. The Secre / Data encoder from Com Tech offers a million code settings.


Hand geometry can be used to identify personnel using terminals.
in bank cash machines.
Many ways have been found to duplicate the BART cards, which normally are good for $\$ 20$ in train rides. The system subtracts the cost of each ride when the card is inserted into a terminal.

Some counterfeiters have taken a new BART card and transferred the magnetically coded data to regular recording tape, by placing the tape over the stripe and applying heat from an iron. They then pasted the duplicate tape onto an old BART card.

Robert Courtney, IBM's manager of data security and privacy, notes that changes in the system were made as soon as this counterfeiting technique was discovered. Now the system requires a strong magnetic

## The Schneider story: A quarter-million theft

Five years ago, Jerry Schneider, then a 19 -year-old engineering student in Los Angeles, used a computer to steal equipment from Pacific Telephone \& Telegraph. Before the law caught up with him three years later, he had stolen a quarter-million dollars worth of equipment.

It all started, Schneider told Electronic Design, when he saw a truck drop off a box of equipment that had a computergenerated label on it. "Could it be," he says he asked himself, "that a computer 'sent' this equipment?"

That sparked his imagination, and the young engineering student, who was studying computer programming at the time, decided to find out all he could about computer-ordering systems.

As a first step, Schneider says, he sent letters to IBM requesting information on ordering systems. Then posing as a journalist and later as a customer, he found out what kind of system the phone company had. It turned out that the system was a standard one that was available from IBM.
"After a while, I found myself becoming a whole library of knowledge on that system and how it worked," Schneider says.
"And as a challenge, I went out to see if I could get things delivered to a particular location."

Schneider says he picked up his Touch Tone telephone, dialed the correct phone number and ordered equipment simply by punching in the correct beep tones from his phone. He then picked up the ordered equipment and sold it through a dummy company.

Schneider was able to continue this operation for three years while the unpaid bills on his dummy account accumulated. Finally he was caught. How? He refused to give the truck driver he had hired $\$ 1$ an hour more, and the driver squealed, Schneider says.

Schneider was charged with stealing a quarter million worth of equipment, sentenced to 40 days in jail and put on probation. The sentence was light, he notes, because he subsequently cooperated with the phone company in eliminating the holes in its computer system.

He has since set up his own computer security consulting concern, Jerry Schneider \& Co. in Los Angeles. He now advises businesses on how to plug up loopholes in their computer systems.
field that is present only on the original card.

But that hasn't solved the problem; it only means that counterfeiters have to spend a little more money to buy recording equipment that can read and reproduce the stronger signal.

Bank cash cards pose a more serious problem. More money can be stolen.

Not too long ago Baird of Advanced Computer Techniques offered to do a survey for a large bank in New York to point out all of the weak points of its system. He would require no access to the computer center, and he guaranteed that no equipment would be damaged. He specified that whatever he used to defeat the system would be available to the average man on the street. The only thing he wanted stipulated was that the bank let
him keep half the money he could get from the machine.

Though he claimed that he could make the money machine dispense cash like a broken slot machine, the bank refused to take Baird up on his offer. His plan called for getting a group of "confederates" to apply for the cash card. After they got it, they were to phone the bank and indicate that they had never received it, or had lost it or wanted to cancel it. The number of the card would then go on the bank's hot list.

The practice of the bank that Baird had in mind was to keep the hot list in memory in its main computer but not in the back-up unit. So whenever the main computer was down for maintenance or other reasons, the backup computer would issue money to any money card,
(continued on page 32)

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even if it was invalid.
In addition when the main computer was down at this bank, the backup units were not interconnected, so that although individual cards might be limited as to the cash they could withdraw, larger withdrawals could be made if the card holder went to several machines in the system.

Manufacturers of cash-dispening machines insist that they are secure. IBM's Courtney contends that even if someone could duplicate the magnetic cards, they would be useless, because the user must enter a password at the same time, and that password is in memory.

According to Dave Branning, marketing training coordinator of Docutel in Dallas, TX, one of the largest manufacturers of cash terminals, the money machines are not easily compromised. The magnetic cards in the Docutel system have the password encoded on the stripe in scrambled form. And each time the card is read, the data are rescrambled. Only two people in the company have the key to the scrambling operation, he says.

Baird maintains that even though the encoded data are scrambled, with a dozen or so cards, a good mathematician and a digital computer can determine the scrambling algorithm without too much difficulty. It may take a little while but it can be done.

## Abuses discovered by accident

Over 300 cases of computerrelated crimes have been studied by Donn Parker, a researcher at the Stanford Research Institute, Menlo Park, CA. Almost all of them were discovered by accident.

According to Parker, the most vulnerable computers are those with some sort of teleprocessing capability. More people have access to this computer and there is more exposed hardware in the form of communications equipment, he explains. The problem is particularly bad in some of the new skyscrapers where all of the lines in the telephone junction boxes are identified with labels. This makes it easy for would-be wiretappers.

The more secure systems can protect against wiretapping by using data scramblers.

Carl Mangani, an owner of Com Tech Systems, Inc., in New York City, notes that his company's Secre/Data series of devices contain six thumbwheel switches that can provide up to a million scrambling codes. The data signal at the output of the encoder is electronically indistinguishable in waveshape and code format from the data signal supplied by the terminal. The output, however, is a random-like sequence of characters.

## Decentralization helps

Another hardware approach to increase computer security is the Multiplexed Information and Computing Service (Multics) system available from Honeywell Information Systems. Virtual memory is the key to the Multics system.

The memory is segmented logically so each segment is accessed by name and accessed directly. Each segment contains its own list of authorized users of the system. The system contains eight concentric rings, or areas of operation.
Such decentralization makes the Multics system a big step forward in computer security, but the software is still vulnerable. Trap doors in operating systems, placed there by systems programmers to ease design, must be removed.

According to SRI's Parker even though Multics "is supposed to be the most secure commercially available system today," an Air Force study team is compromising it regularly in a hunt for remedies.
The big problem with computer systems today is that there is no way to prove system integrity. It's easy to test a system to see if it does what it's supposed to, but how do you know it doesn't do something else that you don't know about? How can you prove that the system hardware performs only according to specifications and that there is no "Trojan horse" in there that will make it perform differently under some special conditions?

Concern over exactly what a system does is so great that the Air Force Special Weapons Center in New Mexico is now worried about the integrity of the software used for nuclear missile guidance. The service has requested statements from the industry for a study of the software. -





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Call your local POWER-ONE representative or our offices in Camarillo, California for a free, thirty day evaluation unit. Once you have compared POWER-ONE's features, reliability and performance with competitive units we are certain you will agree that POWER-ONE is NUMBER 1.

## WARRANTY 2 YEAR GUARANTEE

POWER-ONE will repair or replace any power supply of its manufacture that does not perform to published specifications as a result of defective materials or workmanship for a period of 2 years from date of original purchase. No other obligations or liabilities are implied or expressed. Returns must be frieght prepaid.

## POWER SUPPLY SELECTOR

| SINGLE <br> OUTPUT UNITS | 5 to 24 V @ 15 to 170 Watts <br> 1) $105-125$ VAC Input <br> 2) All with remote sense | P 4 \& 5 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2 to 28 V @ 6 to 170 Watts <br> 1) $115 / 230$ VAC Input <br> 2) Built-in OVP on 5 V Units | P 6 \& 7 |
|  | 5 to 28 V @ 125 to 280 Watts <br> 1) $115 / 230$ VAC Input <br> 2) Built-in OVP on 5 V Units | P 12 \& 13 |
| DUAL OUTPUT UNITS | $\pm 5$ to $\pm 15 \mathrm{~V} @ 24$ to 90 Watts <br> 1) $105-125$ or $115 / 230$ VAC Input Models <br> 2) Dual Tracking Models <br> 3) Built-in OVP on 5V Models | P 8 \& 9 |
| TRIPLE OUTPUT UNITS | 5 V and $\pm 12$ or $\pm 15 \mathrm{~V}$ @ 40 to 105 Watts <br> 1) $105-125$ or $115 / 230$ VAC Input Models <br> 2) Dual Tracking Models | P 10 \& 11 |
| OVERVOLTAGE PROTECTION | Adjustable (SCR) OVP Module <br> 1) $12 \mathrm{Amp} \& 24 \mathrm{Amp}$ Models | P 13 |
| SPECIALS | Modified Versions of Std Products | P 14 |
| CUSTOM DESIGNS | Custom-Designed Power Supplies to meet specific requirements | P 14 |
| REPRESENTATIVES \& DISTRIBUTORS | National Representatives \& Distributors listed for your convenience. | P 15 |

## SINGLE OUTPUT


$5 V-24 V$


## HI-VOL SINGLE OUTPUT


\$44.95-\$49.95

- 115/230 VAC INPUT
- OVP ON 5V OUTPUTS
- .05\% REGULATION
- POPULAR INDUSTRY SIZE
- FOLDBACK CURRENT LIMIT
- I.C. REGULATOR
- TWO HOUR BURN IN
- TWO YEAR WARRANTY

\$74.95-\$79.95

\$109.95-\$114.95


## SPECIFICATIONS

| AC Input: | $115 / 230 \mathrm{VAC} \pm 10 \%, 47-440 \mathrm{HZ}$ (Derate current $10 \%$ for 50 HZ operation) | ovP: <br> Remote Sensing: | Built-in on 5 V outputs at $6.2 \pm .4 \mathrm{VDC}$ <br> Provided on all D \& E models, open lead protection built-in |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DC Output: | See table, $\pm 5 \%$ output adjustment range minimum | Stability: | $\pm .3 \%$ for 24 hours after warm up |
| Line Regulation: | $\pm .05 \%$ for a $10 \%$ input change | Temperature Ratin | 0 to $50^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ full rated, derated linearly to $40 \%$ at $70^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ |
| Load Regulation: | $\pm .05 \%$ for a $50 \%$ load change | Temp. Coefficient: | $\pm .03 \% /{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ maximum |
| Output Ripple: | 2 to 15 V - 1.5 mv PK-PK, 0.4 mv RMS Maximum, 24 to 200 V -. $02 \%$ PK-PK, . $01 \%$ RMS Maximum | Efficiency: | 5 V units $45 \%$; 12 \& 15 V units $55 \%$; 20 \& 24 V units $60 \%$ |
| Transient Response: | $30 \mu$ seconds for $50 \%$ load change | Vibration: | Per Mil-Std-810B, Method 514, Procedure 1, curve AB to 50 HZ ). |
| Short Circuit \& Overload Protection: | Automatic current limit/foldback | Shock: | Per Mil-Std-810B, Method 516, Procedure V. |
|  |  |  |  |

## 2V-200V



## DUAL OUTPUT .1\% TRACKING ACCURACY



# HI-VOL DUAL OUTPUT 




## OVERVOLTAGE PROTECTION

Mounting holes are provided in all chassis for mounting an OVP-12 (PG 13). When used on $\pm 12$ or $\pm 15 \mathrm{~V}$ units, one OVP protects both outputs. On the HBB512 and HCC512, OVP is built in on the 5 V output, use an OVP-12 to protect $9-15$ volt output.

## TRIPLE OUTPUT .1\% TRACKING ACCURACY


\$69.95

- tracking regulator
- REMOTE SENSING
- .02\% REGULATION
- FOLDBACK CURRENT LIMIT

\$91.95

DBB

\$126.95

- IDEAL FOR OP AMPS + LOGIC
- I.C. REGULATOR
- TWO HOUR BURN IN
- TWO YEAR WARRANTY


## SPECIFICATIONS

AC Input:
DC Output:
Line Regulation:
Load Regulation:
Output Ripple:

Transient Response:
Short Circuit \&
Overload Protection:
Reverse Voltage
Protection:

105-125VAC, 47-440 HZ (Derate current $10 \%$ for 50 HZ operation)
See table, $\pm 5 \%$ output adjustment range minimum
$\pm .01 \%$ for a $10 \%$ input change
$\pm .02 \%$ for a $50 \%$ load change
1.5 mv PK-PK, 0.4 mv RMS maximum
$30 \mu$ seconds for $50 \%$ load change
Automatic current limit/foldback

Provided on output and pass element

Remote Sensing:
Tracking Accuracy:
Stability:
Temperature Rating:
Temp. Coefficient:
Efficiency:
Vibration:

Shock:

Provided, open lead protection built-in
$\pm .1 \%$ when balance is preset to
$\pm .01 \%$
$\pm .05 \%$ for 24 hours after warm up
0 to $50^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ full rated, derated linearly to $40 \%$ at $70^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$
$\pm .01 \% /{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ maximum, $.002 \%$ typical
5 V units $45 \%$; 12 \& 15 V units $55 \%$; 20 \& 24V units 60\%
Per Mil-Std-810B, Method 514,
Procedure 1, curve $A B$ to 50 HZ
Per Mil-Std-810B, Method 516,
Procedure V.

| MODEL | VOLTAGE <br> $\pm 5 \%$ | CURRENT <br> (AMPS) | CASE <br> SIZE | PRICE |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  |  |  |  | $\mathbf{1 . 9}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 - 2 4 9}$ |
| 5 VOLTS and $\pm 12$ VOLTS |  |  |  |  |  |
| BAA - 40W | $5 / 12 / 12$ | $3.0 / 1.0 / 1.0$ | BAA | $\$ 69.95$ | $\$ 56.00$ |
| CBB - 75W | $5 / 12 / 12$ | $6.0 / 1.7 / 1.7$ | CBB | 91.95 | 74.00 |
| DBB -105W | $5 / 12 / 12$ | $12.0 / 1.7 / 1.7$ | DBB | 126.95 | 102.00 |
| 5 VOLTS and $\pm 15$ VOLTS |  |  |  |  |  |
| BAA -40W | $5 / 15 / 15$ | $3.0 / 0.8 / 0.8$ | BAA | $\$ 69.95$ | $\$ 56.00$ |
| CBB $-75 W$ | $5 / 15 / 15$ | $6.0 / 1.5 / 1.5$ | CEB | 91.95 | 74.00 |
| DBB $-105 W$ | $5 / 15 / 15$ | $12.0 / 1.5 / 1.5$ | DBB | 126.95 | 102.00 |




## SPECIFICATIONS

| AC Input: | $115 / 230 \mathrm{VAC} \pm 10 \%, 47-440 \mathrm{HZ}$ <br> (Derate current $10 \%$ for 50 HZ <br> operation) |
| :--- | :--- |
| DC Output: | See table, $\pm 5 \%$ sutput adjustment <br> range minimum |
| Line Regulation: | $\pm .05 \%$ for a $10 \%$ input change |
| Load Regulation: | $\pm .05 \%$ for a $50 \%$ load change |
| Output Ripple: | 1.5 mv PK-PK, 0.4 mv RMS maximum |
| Transient Response: | $30 \mu$ seconds or $50 \%$ load change |
| Short Circuit \& | Automatic current limit/foldback |
| Overload Protection: | Arovided on 5 V outputs at 6.2 |
| Overvoltage <br> Protection: | P.4 VDC |


| Remote Sensing: | Provided on 5V, 12A output, open lead protection built-in. |
| :---: | :---: |
| Stability: | $\pm .3 \%$ for 24 hours after warm up |
| Temperature Rating: | 0 to $50^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ full rated, derated linearly to $40 \%$ at $70^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ |
| Temp. Coefficient: | $\pm .03 \% /{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ maximum |
| Efficiency: | 5 V units $45 \%$; 12 \& 15 V units $55 \%$; 20 \& 24 V units $60 \%$ |
| Vibration: | Per Mil-Std-810B, Method 514, Procedure 1, curve $A B$ (to 50 HZ ). |
| Shock: | Per Mil-Std-810B, Method 516, Procedure V. |

Provided on 5V, 12A output, open lead protection built-in.
$\pm .3 \%$ for 24 hours after warm up
0 to $50^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ full rated, derated linearly to $40 \%$ at $70^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$

5 V units $45 \%$; 12 \& 15 V units $55 \%$; 20 \& 24 V units $60 \%$
Per Mil-Std-810B, Method 514,
Per Mil-Std-810B, Method 516,
Procedure V.

| MODEL ${ }^{\text {a }}$ ( ${ }^{\text {VOLTAGE }}$ | CURRENT (AMPS) | CAS | PRICE |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 5 VOLTS and $\pm 12$ VOLTS  <br> HBAA -40 W $5 / 12 / 12$ <br> HCBB -75 W $5 / 12 / 12$ <br> HDBB -105 W $5 / 12 / 12$ | $\begin{array}{r} 3.0 / 1.0 / 1.0 \\ 6.0 / 1.7 / 1.7 \\ 12.0 / 1.7 / 1.7 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { BAA } \\ & \text { CB } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \$ 69.95 \\ 91.95 \\ 126.95 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \$ 56.00 \\ 74.00 \\ 102.00 \end{array}$ |
| 5 VOLTS and $\pm 15$ VOLTS  <br> HBAA -40 W $5 / 15 / 15$ <br> HCBB -75 W $5 / 15 / 15$ <br> HDBB -105 W $5 / 15 / 15$ | $\begin{array}{r} 3.0 / 0.8 / 0.8 \\ 6.0 / 1.5 / 1.5 \\ 12.0 / 1.5 / 1.5 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { BAA } \\ & \text { CBB } \\ & \text { DBB } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \$ 69.95 \\ 91.95 \\ 126.95 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \$ 56.00 \\ 74.00 \\ 102.00 \end{array}$ |
|  |  | OVERVOLTAGE PROTECTION <br> Mounting holes are provided for 2 OVP-12 modules. Use one module to protect $\pm 12$ or $\pm 15 \mathrm{~V}$ outputs and one module to protect 5 V outputs. <br> Note: OVP is built in on 5 V output HBAA, HCBB and HDBB. |  |  |

## SINGLE OUTPUT


$\$ 149.00$

G

$\$ 185.00$

- 115/230 VAC INPUT
- 53\%-66\% EFFICIENCY
- MASTER/SLAVE COMPATIBILITY
- REMOTE PROGRAM AND VOLTAGE ADJUST
- FOLDBACK CURRENT LIMITING
- REMOTE SENSING
- OVP ON 5V UNITS
- INHIBIT BUILT-IN
- TWO HOUR BURN IN
- TWO YEAR WARRANTY


## SPECIFICATIONS

| AC Input: | $115 / 230 \mathrm{VAC}+10 \%, 47-440 \mathrm{HZ}$ (Derate current 10\% for HZ operation) | Remote Sensing:Stability: | Provided, open lead protection built-in |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | $\pm .05 \%$ for 24 hours after warm up |
| DC Output: | See table, $\pm 5 \%$ output adjustment range minimum | Temperature Rating: | 0 to $50^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ full rated, derated linearly to $40 \%$ at $70^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ |
| Line Regulation: <br> Load Regulation: | $\pm .01 \%$ for a $10 \%$ input change <br> $\pm .01 \% \pm 1 \mathrm{mv}$ for a $50 \%$ load change | Temp. Coefficient: | $\pm .01 \% /{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ maximum, $.002 \% / \mathrm{oC}$ typical |
| Output Ripple: | 1.5 mv PK-PK, 0.2 mv RMS maximum | Efficiency: | 5 V units $52-54 \%$; 12 \& 15 V units $62-64 \% ; 24 \& 28 \mathrm{~V}$ units $64-66 \%$ |
| Transient Response: Short Circuit \& | $30 \mu$ seconds for $50 \%$ load change | Vibration: | Per Mil-Std-810B. Method 514, Procedure 1, curve $A B$ (to 50 HZ ). |
| Overload Protection: | Automatic current limit/foldback | Shock: | Per Mil-Std-810B, Method 516, Procedure V. |
| OVP. | $\pm .2 \mathrm{VDC}$ | Master/slave: | Any unit may be master or slave. One master will drive up to 5 slaves. |

## $5 \mathrm{~V}-28 \mathrm{~V}$ to 280 WATTS



## OVERVOLTAGE PROTECTION - SCR "CROWBAR" TYPE

OVP-12
1-9 $\quad \$ 7.95$

OVP-24
1-9 \$14.95

OVP-12:
Mounting holes are provided in all chassis for this add-on module which may be used on all outputs except " $E$ \& $F^{\prime \prime}$ cases. This module is adjustable from 6.4 to 36 V . When used on $\pm 12$ or $\pm 15$ dual output supply one OVP protects both outputs.

OVP-24:
Mounting holes are provided in E \& F cases for this module. Adjustment range 6.4 to 36VDC.


## SPECIALS

Any of our standard power supplies can be modified to meet special requirements. These requirements may be AC input variations, chassis modifications, special output voltages, varied current levels, etc. Consult your local representative or the factory for more information.


B12-1.7 S113
Changes: Meets U.L. Class 2 Transformer Requirements


CP 115
Unregulated 7A @6.0, 6.4 or 6.8VDC

## CUSTOM DESIGNS

POWER-ONE is an experienced manufacturer of custom power supplies. We excell at open frame multiple output DC power supplies, regulated or unregulated. Consult your local representative about a factory quote


CP 110
Input: $\quad 115 / 230 V A C \pm 10 \% 47-63 \mathrm{HZ}$
Output: -10VDC @2A, OVP @12V

+ 12VPC @ 0.1A
- 12VPC @ 0.1A
+ 80VDC @ .25A unregulated



## REGIONAL SALES OFFICES



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(13) DENCO

Norristown, Pa.
(215) 279-8146


531 Dawson Drive Camarillo, Calif. 93010

## Broad-foil lead increases p-i-n diode switch power

"It was wild. The diode was fine, but the package melted. It couldn't handle the required power of 600 W. So we decided to use unpackaged p-i-n diode chips and to design our own package around them."

That's the way Hugh R. Malone, a senior microwave engineer at Motorola's Government Electronics Div. in Scottsdale, AZ, describes the problem that led him and Michael L. Matson, another Motorola senior engineer, to a novel package. It contains a pair of microwave p-i-n diodes in parallel, connected to the outside through a broad strip of gold foil.

The application was a singlepole, 56 -throw p-i-n diode switch matrix to feed signals to a $4.6-\mathrm{GHz}$ cylindrical steerable beam antenna.
"Standard low parasitic packages," Malone notes, "have a Kovar lead which is unplated in the area of a glass feed-through. This lead cannot handle sufficient current at microwave frequencies to handle high power. Due to skin effect, the current density gets so high at 300 W and 4.6 GHz that the Kovar lead melts."

Since Kovar has 167 times the resistance of gold, the latter was selected for the new package. To reduce the current density, a 0.050 -in.-wide, 0.005 -in.-thick strip of


High-power dual p-i-n diodes are encased in novel packages to handle 600 W at 4.6 GHz . The diodes are mounted in a single-pole, seventhrow switch matrix with coaxial input and waveguide outputs. A singlepole, 56 -throw switch will have each of the seven outputs attached to a single-pole, eight-throw switch.
gold foil was used.
Tests were run with a single 0.5 $\mathrm{pF}, 0.5-\Omega$ diode in the new package. This diode switch could block 600 W but could not pass 600 W . A $0.25-\mathrm{pF}, 1.0-\Omega$ diode passed 600 W but could only hold off 200 W .
"It is easier to parallel two diode chips and maintain low thermal resistance than it is to series them," Malone points out. Therefore two $0.25-\mathrm{pF}, \quad 1.0-\Omega$ diode chips were paralleled in the new package.

The single strip of gold foil is attached at one end of the package to a plated beryllium copper substrate. From there, the strip loops over to the pair of diode chips sitting side by side. The strip touches both diodes to parallel them and then continues on to another beryllium copper substrate on the other side of the package. The strip of gold also provides a small amount of inductance in series with the diodes for impedance matching.

## Diodes should pass 1 kW

Higher power testing of the dual diodes has shown that the diode will pass 800 W and block 1000 W . Malone believes that the design can be used to pass at least 1000 W at 4.6 GHz and that it should be good at even higher frequencies.
"We are hoping to build test diodes in Ku-band [12.4 to 18 GHz ], using the same technique," Malone says.

With glass passivated chips from Microwave Associates, Burlington, MA, the dual diodes were tested over 4.0 to 5.2 GHz . Each diode has a 0.1 -to- $0.15-\mathrm{dB}$ loss and approximately 1.2 to $1.35: 1$ VSWR over that band. Net thermal resistance of the chips was less than 3 C/W at 25 C .

The mounting configuration of the ultimate switch matrix was to have a coaxial (type N) input and waveguide outputs. The diodes are mounted on a stripline circuit, with quarter-wave ground-plane spacing and Teflon-fiberglass dielectric. The characteristic impedance of the circuit is $50 \Omega$.

## Thin-Trim capacitors



2Tucked in the corner of this Pulsar Watch is a miniature capacitor which is used to trim the crystal. This Thin-Trim capacitor is one of our 9410 series, has an adjustment range of 7 to 45 pf ., and is $.200^{\prime \prime} \times .200^{\prime \prime} \times .050^{\prime \prime}$ thick. The Thin-Trim concept provides a variable device to replace fixed tuning techniques and cut-and-try methods of adjustment. Thin-Trim capacitors are available in a variety of lead configurations making them very easy to mount.

A smaller version of the 9410 is the 9402 series with a maximum capacitance value of 25 pf . These are perfect for applications in sub-miniature circuits such as ladies electronic wrist watches and phased array MIC's.

Johanson Manufacturing Corporation, Rockaway Valley Road., Boonton, N.J. 07005. Phone (201) 334-2676, TWX 710-987-8367.


When you've got to power noise sensitive logic,
what do you want for the job?


When your system draws a pulsating load current, what do you want for the job?


When your specs call for adjustable voltage, what do you want for the job?


When your programmed level must be accurately reproduced, when the current limit must be adjustable and square (not folded back), when you want a power supply that doesn't lose half its current rating at $+71^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (or at $-20^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ) . ..

## the power supply you want for your job is the




JQE Power Supplies are linear voltage stabilizers (not complex switching units). They can be adjusted or remotely programmed from true zero to maximum output with better than $0.01 \%$ linearity. They vary less than $0.0005 \%$ for $105-125 \mathrm{~V}$ a-c source changes and have such low output impedance that a zero to full load change influences the stabilized output by less than $0.005 \%$. Ripple and noise is well under 200 microvolts rms, 1 millivolt p-p.

31 JQE linear voltage stabilizers are manufactured in 4 sizes: 100 Watts, 250 Watts, 500 Watts and 1000 Watts in voltage ranges from $0-6 \mathrm{~V}$ to $0-150 \mathrm{~V}$. Metered bench and rack-panel style and unmetered modular form for the OEM. Adjustable overvoltage protection available.

If your job needs a linear voltage stabilizer, call Kepco for the details on the JQE, or write Dept. V-5


[^2]
# washington report 

## \$8.7-billion defense rise asked

Defense spending is in for tough sledding in the Administration's proposed $\$ 349.4$-billion budget for fiscal 1976. President Ford is asking for an increase of $\$ 8.7$-billion in actual outlays for defense-from $\$ 85.3$ billion in 1975 to $\$ 94$-billion-to strengthen strategic forces, upgrade tactical forces and expand naval shipbuilding. The Army would add three divisions by realignment.

Defense procurement would rise $\$ 1.8$-billion to $\$ 16.6$-billion. The longrange projection for defense spending is that it will increase $7.6 \%$ annually to $\$ 141.4$-billion in 1980 , at which time the total Federal budget is estimated at $\$ 477$-billion!

Navy procurement would rise to $\$ 7.5$-billion in the fiscal year beginning July 1-an increase of $\$ 447$-million. Air Force purchases would increase $\$ 727$-million to slightly over $\$ 6$-billion, and Army procurement would be up $\$ 508$-million to $\$ 2.75$-billion.

The new Energy Research and Development Administration, appearing for the first time in the budget, is scheduled to have a budget authority of $\$ 3.3$-billion. Its many programs would have outlays of $\$ 2.98$-billion in the new fiscal year, up nearly $\$ 600$-million.

## FCC revises its fee schedule

A recent Supreme Court decision has caused the Federal Communications Commission to revamp its fee schedule. The theory of operation in the past held that the intent of Congress was that the fees help make the agency self-sustaining. The Supreme Court rejected that concept; so on March 1 annual license, assignment and transfer fees will drop, while fees for processing will rise.

The commission reviewed the way it was charging, and under new guidelines, it will get $\$ 1.5$-million less from annual license fees and $\$ 900,000$ less from assignment and transfer fees. On the other hand, the FCC concluded that it was undercharging on the costs of processing renewal and transfer applications and applications for construction permits. So $\$ 4.5$-million more will be taken in annually.

## Shift in Federal R\&D priorities continues

A continuing change in the nation's research and development priorities is reflected in the fiscal 1976 budget. Since 1967, civilian R\&D obligations have grown $120 \%$, from $\$ 3.3$-billion to $\$ 7.3$-billion.

Total R\&D and related facilities outlays in the new budget are $\$ 21.7$ billion, an increase of $\$ 2.3$-billion. The obligations are up $15 \%$ over those
in the 1975 budget. Since 1967, space R\&D has decreased $38 \%$ ( $\$ 1.8-$ billion) and defense has grown $33 \%$ ( $\$ 2.8$-billion).

For the coming fiscal year, the Dept. of Defense R\&D budget authority will, if Congress agrees, rise to $\$ 10.6$-billion, of which $\$ 8.6$-billion will be development and $\$ 2$-billion for research. Air Force R\&D outlays are estimated at $\$ 3.75$-billion, up $\$ 397$-million. An increase of $\$ 350$-million over last year would give the Navy $\$ 3.3$-billion. The Army is allocated $\$ 2$-billion, a $\$ 158$-million hike, and defense agencies would spend $\$ 560$-million, a modest $\$ 53$-million increase.

Lasers, electron-device technology and night-vision technology are due to receive greater R\&D emphasis. NASA, which is slated to gain $\$ 2.6$ billion for R\&D, would only post a $\$ 270$-million increase despite rising costs. A total of $\$ 200$-million of this gain would be for the space-shuttle program.

## GAO would cut electronics in port plans

If penny-pinchers at the General Accounting Office have any influence, sophisticated electronic surveillance won't be installed in the Coast Guard's vessel traffic plans for six U.S. ports. The service has been developing traffic systems at San Francisco, Puget Sound, Houston-Galveston, New York, New Orleans and Valdez, Alaska. About $\$ 30$-million is to be spent.
The San Francisco and Puget Sound systems are operating, and the GAO says it would cost about $\$ 5$-million to construct each of the basic systems at New York, Houston-Galveston and New Orleans. Each is designed to prevent 72 accidents annually. The addition of radar and other electronic surveillance might prevent 30 more accidents annually, the GAO says, but the cost would be from $\$ 9.5$-million to $\$ 11.5$-million more and the Federal office questions if it's worth it.

The Coast Guard is considering the GAO report, but is likely to want to go for more sophistication. There are, on average, some 2800 vessel accidents annually, resulting in about $\$ 80$-million in damages.

Capital Capsules: The Energy Research and Development Administration, which came into being Jan. 19 with the demise of the Atomic Energy Commission, is looking for a permanent home. Its temporary home is in the Reporters Building, Seventh and D Sts., S.W., Washington, DC 20545. . . . The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, also new, is at the former Atomic Energy Commission office at 1717 H St., N.W., Washington, DC 20555. . . . Rumors that the Office of Telecommunications Policy in the White House was going to be abolished were soundly dispelled by the new budget submitted by the President. It's to have an outlay of $\$ 8.8$-million this coming fiscal year, an increase of $\$ 178,000$. . . The General Accounting Office has again criticized the Advisory Group of Electron Devices in the Dept. of Defense. In 1969 the GAO found the group's effectiveness impaired because other Government agencies do not participate and because in-house research projects are not reviewed. Recently the GAO took another look. It found little improvement. . . . The Navy's Electronic Systems Command is in the market for 25 microwave relay equipment sets for the Marine Corps. They're to be used for anti-air warfare operations. . . . Competitive contract sources are being sought by the Defense Communications Agency for the design, fabrication, installation and maintenance of a high-speed, packet-switched data network to augment the current Autodin system.

# New snap-in rockers with Cutler-Hammer reliability. 

Here's a completely new line of snap-ins, each engineered with the kind of solid dependability you expect in Cutler-Hammer Rockette ${ }^{\bullet}$ switches. Bright metal bezels, illuminated and non-illuminated, A-c and D-c capabilities up to 20 amps .

Sub-panel rockers in a variety of colors, rocker or paddle designs in standard, special, or proprietary models.

Switches snap in and stay in permanently. Speed up assembly time, cut costs.

Flush-mounted rockers in the same wide range of designeroriented colors and styles. One- and two-pole models.

Illuminated single-pole rockers. Choice of red, green, amber, white, or clear. Hot-stamped legends indicate switch functions.

For more information, call your Cutler-Hammer Sales Office or Switch Distributor.

# Designing with Microprocessors: A 2-hour home TV special April 15-18... 

This is your chance to get authoritative answers to questions about today's hottest design topic: microprocessors. Read TI's Microprocessor Handbook. Then watch our 2-hour TV lecture series right in your own home. You'll learn what the microprocessor revolution is all about and how it can affect your designs. Plus you'll get valuable reference information on the leading edge of the technology.

## Two hours of microprocessor

information... on your TV set.
Tune-in your television to two hours of microprocessor technical lectures presented by the Texas Instruments Learning Center, April 15-18. You'll see four half-hour ses-sions-one each morning, Tuesday through Friday-timed so they won't interfere with your regular work day:

## TUESDAY April 15: System

## architecture

A discussion of digital computer system architecture as a basis for understanding microprocessors. Evolution of microprocessors ... peripheral controllers... parallel processors... Direct Memory Access.
WEDNESDAY April 16: Microprocessor logic - what type?
Chip fabrication technologies are reviewed-including most MOS forms, TTL, Schottky TTL and the new Integrated Injection Logic ( $I^{2} L$ ) which has the density and power dissipation of MOS and the speed and driving capabilities of bipolar.
THURSDAY April 17: Potential applications for microprocessors.
Guidelines for using microprocessors, including both advantages and limitations for certain types of equipments. Shows how microprocessors can lower costs, shorten design cycles, improve performance and reliability in practical applications.
FRIDAY April 18: Using
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## editorial

## I'm sorry, sir, he's in conference

I finally got through to Owen Cooper. This was no mean accomplishment as he seems to spend most of his time at meetings. I called him one day to get some information about a new product his company had developed and learned that he was in conference. He later returned the call, but I was in conference.

We found ourselves working back and forth this way doing nothing more productive than enriching the telephone company. When I finally got to him, I asked if his conference had led to any decisions. "Hell, no," he said. "We never decide anything. We just have these
 interminable discussions about product philosophy and marketing philosophy. My boss just loves to chew up my time."

I think that's a dreadful waste. I've known Owen for many years and I know he's an extremely creative, extremely productive engineer. When a company immerses a guy like Owen in endless thrashing about in conferences, that's an unforgivable waste of a priceless resource. It's worse than throwing money away because you can always get more money. But once you've blown Owen's time, you can never get it back. It's gone.

Too many managers in our industry don't respect the time of the people working for them. They devour hours without making decisions. They call meetings without objectives. They seem to feel that profits come from meetings rather than actions. They hire people to get things done, then get in their way. These managers are the first to challenge their people, the first to demand, "Why isn't this project done? What have you been doing with your time?" And they won't accept the answer, "I've been spending my time meeting with you."

It's sad that many of these managers came from the ranks of engineering, where they should have learned discipline. Engineering is a hard taskmaster. It forces one to establish design objectives and to measure one's progress along the way. It demands of a person the ability to make choices and decisions. One would think that an engineering manager would be the best manager. Too often, he is as poor as a manager in any other field.

I've always admired Burt, a chief engineer at an instrumentation company. It seemed kind of nutty but he always kept a kitchen timer on his desk. Whenever he called a meeting, he announced the objectives of the meeting, set the timer, and demanded that the meeting end before the timer rang. Was it just luck that his engineers got a lot more done than the fellows at Owen's company?


George Rostiy
Editor-in-Chief


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The first productionproven CCD memory is now here.

Fairchild's CCD450 is a $1024 \times 9$ byte-serial memory - with built-in NMOS input and output transition circuitry.

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## WHICH WAY ISBES FORYOU?

The data acquisition problem is as simple as getting from point $A$ to point $B$. Just take the analog signals from your sensors and convert them.to digital signals for your computer to process.

The solution is not so simple. There are a lot of different ways to go. A lot of potential pitfalls to be avoided. A lot of trade-offs to be judged. Which way is best for your particular needs?

## Amplifier-per-channel vs. low-level multiplexers.

If you're not seriously concerned with performance, if the lowest possible price is your only criterion, low-level multiplexers make sense for you. If you're willing to invest a little more money, however, an amplifier-per-channel system offers significant performance advantages. A few of the benefits are signal isolation, lower noise, faster throughput, greater accuracy, continuous analog output, less crosstalk, overload protection, and low pass filtering.

## Amplifier-per-chànnel vs. instrumentation amplifiers.

If you have a real need to maintain constant manual control, and if price is no object, then instrumentation amplifiers are the way to go. On the other hand, if you're geared for computercontrol and don't mind saving a great deal of money, an amplifier-per-channel system is the only reasonable choice.

## The Neff 620 amplifier-per-channel data acquisition system vs. building your own.

If your engineers are analog-oriented and have a great deal of time on their hands, you might try to build your own system. Lots of luck. If such is not the case, the Neff 620 analog signal processor was designed and built especially for you.

The Neff 620 is a compact box that contains differential amplifiers (Neff invented the original one 18 years ago!), low pass active filters, high level FET multiplexer, programmable gain amplifier, analog-to-digital converter, and control logic. In short, everything you need to get from point $A$ to point $B$.

The Neff 620 is expandable all the way up to 2048 channels, popular minicomputer interfaces are designed and available, and the unit will not cost you more than about $\$ 200$ per channel.


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(213) 357-2281
 switches have been around for 40 years, you can still make mis-
takes when you buy them.
Manufacturers' specification writing hasn't kept pace with improvements in reliability and pricing.

For example, most catalogs and data sheets still rate switches only by maximum load current and voltage. At first glance, one might believe that maximum ratings are all that's necessary to specify switch performance, since a conservatively loaded switch would appear to operate with a high safety factor. But this is debatable.
Maximum ratings may be satisfactory to specify switches at intermediate-level loads $(0.25 \mathrm{~V}$ to 28 V dc and 50 to 100 mA ) and for high-level loads. ${ }^{1}$ For these loads, maximum ratings give the loads below which the contacts won't stick, weld, erode or do other unpleasant things.

But low-level and dry-circuit loads present other problems. Contacts that are perfectly satisfactory for intermediate and high-level loads, may have high contact resistance and provide noisy, erratic performance at low loads. Switch manufacturers rarely supply low-limit specifications. Circuit designers should be aware that most switches with only maximum ratings, also have a low, but unspecified limit.

## Low-limit ratings?

Thus Martin Gaber, chief executive officer of Chicago Switch, says he would like to see switch specs written with both low and high ratings. He suggests that typical specs might be as follows:

- Reliability range- 50 to 100 mA and 0.25 to 30 V .

[^3]- Load-resistive.
- Life 100,000 actuations under maximum load and 10 million under minimum.
- Initial contact resistance- $10 \mathrm{~m} \Omega$ max.
- End of life-in milliohms, as determined by application tolerances.
- Shelf life-in years.

Chicago Switch's catalog is one of the few that lists separate "low-energy" and "power range" versions for many of its switch lines. But still each type does not have high and low specs. So-called low-energy units usually have gold contacts and power-range types use silver.

Similarly, the Cherry Electrical Products cata$\log$ features a simplified contact-selection chart (see fig. p. 46) that shows the application range of its gold-alloy cross contacts. Maximums of only 30 V and 0.1 A are recommended for these contacts. Cherry advises the use of silver contacts above 30 V .

But J. P. Lockwood of Micro Switch in his "Applying Precision Switches-a Practical Guide" offers a contrary opinion. He writes: "Occasionally the suggestion is made that switches be provided with minimum voltage and current ratings. . . . This stems from the erroneous impression that a given switch will develop performance problems below specific levels of voltage and current. A clean switch usually can control micro-volt-microampere circuits without difficulty. There is no particular voltage or current levels at which problems begin, and there is no technically valid way to set minimum electrical ratings."

Lockwood contends that "if silver contacts are clean, there is no lower limit to the voltage and current that they will control reliably."

But it's hard to keep the silver clean. Silver tarnishes, forming oxides or sulfides all too easily. It tarnishes in unprotected atmospheres and even in hermetically sealed enclosures. Gold, however, is inert chemically. It doesn't form sulfides or oxides in unprotected atmosphere. And when sealed, gold contacts provide even more insurance for low-level performance.

However, high-purity gold contacts are susceptible to sticking. In addition gold and goldalloy materials ordinarily are not suitable for currents above about 0.5 A because of their relatively fast erosion rate. ${ }^{2}$

Mel Fink, applications engineer for Seacor Inc., warns that gold-plated brass contacts, which are popular with several manufacturers, should not be used, even momentarily, for applications that exceed 0.4 VA or 20 V dc maximum.
"In many instances," he notes, "when these specs are exceeded by a transient pulse, the gold
is burned off and only the brass base is left. The life, voltage and current capabilities of the brass are not defined. Thus the original spec of the switch no longer applies."

However, when the base metal is a silver alloy or other transfer and erosion-resistant material, gold plating over the base may not disappear where a contact is first subjected to high-level switching. The gold may combine with the base material to form an area that is suitable for lowlevel switching, according to one theory. Some applications, such as synchro systems and bridge circuits, require the contacts to carry a load from high to low or low to high levels. And such circuits can be successfully switched with gold-onsilver contacts.

In general, however, switch designers agree that contacts designed for low-level switches should not be used for high-level loads, and vice versa. Nor should switches carry mixed loads. In


A large variety of snap-action switches is available, as illustrated by this selection from Cherry's switch lines.

And actuators of every imaginable form increase the switch's versatility.


Micro Switch's V3 style is a venerable and widely duplicated housing configuration. Now Micro Switch announces an XL solid-state switch in a V3 shape.


CHERRY'S GUIDE FOR CONTACT SELECTION


GENERAL GUIDE ONLY. CONSULT FACTORY FOR SPECIFIC APPLICATIONS.
fact, many military specs state that contacts tested to high-level characteristics are not recommended for low-level applications.

## Classification by load types

In addition to the specification of switches by maximum electrical loads; manufacturers also list switches by the type of device controlled. Such devices include:

- Resistive-constant-valued resistance.
- Tungsten-lamp-characterized by a high initial current that tapers to a steady resistive load as the lamp attains operating temperature.
- Inductive-solenoids, transformers, motors


Snap-action pushbutton switches are made by many manufacturers. Dialight proudly displays part of its extensive line of illuminated and nonilluminated versions.
and other devices with coils in them. They often draw high in-rush currents when turned on. When turned off, the inductive loads can generate very high kickback voltages that can produce destructive ares across opening contacts.

- Capacitive-some motor starter circuits, power-supply filters and many electronic circuits that have substantial capacitance. A discharged capacitor is almost a short-circuit at the instant voltage is applied. Since contacts of low meltingpoint materials are easily welded together by such loads, refractory metals, such as tungsten, or platinum and its alloys, should be used.

Ac loads are more easily handled by switches than dc, because any arcs struck across opening contacts tend to self-extinguish when the ac goes through zero voltage. Thus the contacts can usually handle four to five times more rms current and voltage than dc.

## Contact resistance is complicated

The ideal switch would have infinite open resistance and zero closed resistance. In a practical snap switch, the snap of the mechanism can change the resistance across the switch's terminals from a few milliohms to over $100,000 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ in a few milliseconds-about as close to ideal as any switch can attain. The open-circuited resistance is, of course, determined by the leakage of the switch's insulating material. But don't confuse insulation resistance with dielectric strength.

The dielectric strength of an insulator is the highest electrical potential gradient that the material can withstand without breaking down. A new switch can easily have a resistance of $100,000 \mathrm{M} \Omega$ at normal operating voltages. But high voltages, usually in excess of 1000 V , can permanently damage the insulating material and allow a sudden increase in leakage current.

In addition to insulation leakage, an open


McGill compares the size of its subminiature 4900 series with the already tiny 4800 unit. McGill says the 4900 is the smallest available precision snap switch.


Many different superstructures attached to Cutler-Hammer's basic SS12 snap-action switch provide a flexible approach to pushbutton-switch design.
switch also has capacitance between its terminals. In high-frequency circuits, a switch's capacitance must be taken into account. Small snapaction switches may have between 1 and 10 pF . And the capacitance of the wiring to the switch also can easily reach or exceed these values.

But though the impedance of an open switch is easy to describe and understand, analysis of a switch's resistance when the contacts are closed is complicated.

Switch specifications often list a maximum "contact resistance." This is usually an erroneous use of the term. The value given, rarely clearly defined, is generally the resistance with closed contacts, measured at the switch's terminals. This resistance is more than just the resistance of the contacts. It also includes all the springs, joints and pivots that make up the conducting paths to and from the contacts. There is a vast difference between the characteristics of the resistance of the contacts and the rest of the switch's conducting parts. The resistance of the conductors to and from the contacts usually obey Ohm's Law, but the resistance of the contacts does not.

Studies of the behavior of contact resistance fill books. ${ }^{3}$ Contact resistance is affected by many variables. They include pressure between contacts, the current flowing through them, the type of contact material used, the condition of the contact surfaces and contaminants on the contacts. Thus test results are hard to repeat and difficult to interpret, and many often-conflicting theories abound to explain the discrepancies.

## Snap action gives superior performance

Most snap-action switches are essentially buttcontact switches with a "mouse-trap" mechanism to control the movement of the contacts. The
mechanism stores energy in a spring as the switch actuator is moved. In a precision snapaction switch, the mechanism "releases," at a precise point, and uses the stored energy to swiftly snap the contacts to their opposite position.

Without snap action, a simple butt switch-for example, a cheap bell switch-has many limitations and problems that are overcome in snap switches. The problems with simple butt switches include:

- contact "teasing," which can cause excess arcing, shortened switch life and improper circuit operation;
- slow contact separation, which results in bad arcing;
- poor repeatability of the contact make and break positions, because contact wear and spring fatigue directly change the contact operating points.
- limited versatility, because of inherent restrictions in the ways actuator motion and forces can be controlled.
- no wiping action, which allows rapid build up of contaminants and short switch life.
- loose tolerance, which confines the use of butt switches to only the simplest, least-demanding applications.

Precision snap-switch designs, however, allow precise specifications for each movement and force involved in the operation of the switch. These include (see illustration):

- pretravel-the distance the actuator travels from its initial, or "free," position to the operating point.
- overtravel limit-the position beyond which the switch can be damaged.
- release point-the position at which the contacts snap back to their initial position.
- differential-the displacement of the operate point from the release point.

Each motion or position is associated with a predictable, toleranced force. They include: operating force, release force, differential force (between operate and release) and a safe overtravel "bottoming" force. Tolerances of the movements and positions are in thousandths of an inch and forces in fractions of an ounce.

And many snap mechanisms also provide for a small wiping action during overtravel of the plunger.

There are many types of snap mechanisms. Some use flat springs, others coiled springs. Some break and then make two contact pairs; others only one contact pair.

In most snap switches the spring that snaps the contacts also carries the current; in others the spring carries no current. And, of course, each vendor argues the good points of his design.

But snap-action switches have one serious


Centralab's line of PC mounted snap-action switches comes in either toggle or rotary-action styles. One and two-pole versions are available.
drawback: The high contact transit speed increases contact bounce. When the moving contact strikes the stationary contact, a series of make-and-break bounces result until the energy is dissipated in heat.

## Snap-switch contacts bounce

For most power loads, bounce may not be a problem, other than some additional arcing and wearing of the contacts. But in fast-acting control circuits, even the fast relays-and certainly with solid-state logic-each bounce can be interpreted as a separate signal and thus provides false inputs.

Micro Switch states in its application book: "No attempt is made to control contact transit time or bounce characteristics during switch manufacture; in fact, they are only partially controllable. Furthermore, contact transit time and bounce are inherently variable. In practice, two successive actuations of a switch seldom produce the same transit time, bounce pattern or bounce duration, no matter how nearly constant the known variables are held."

Most other snap-action switch manufacturers are silent on this subject. Unless the designer can get the manufacturè to do something special to control bounce, he should expect nearly every off-the-shelf snap switch to produce bounce. The large variety of antibounce logic circuits available indicates that circuit designers are aware of the problem.

## Death of a switch: many causes

A switch's life depends upon many variables. For this reason, few manufacturers publish life


Snap-action modules with illuminated pushbuttons in Switchcraft's Push-Lite line can handle 8-A, $120-\mathrm{V}$-ac, noninductive loads, according to the manufacturer.
figures. Subtle variations in the switch and test conditions can have large effects on the life values.

But life is an important design consideration. If the manufacturer doesn't publish his figures, ask for them. Most reputable manufacturers have tons of data, but the engineer may have to do a bit of arm-twisting to get the facts. A manufacturer may even be persuaded to run a test under mutually agreed-upon conditions.

The use to which the switch is put determines many of the failure criteria. In a mechanically tight-tolerance application, the drift of the operation point of a precision snap-action switch might cause system failure. Or, in a high-impedance circuit, reduced insulation resistance may make the switch unfit. Some of the more obvious modes of failure include these:

- Contact welding. Tiny welds continually occur during the normal life of a switch. They are broken by the normal forces on the contacts and don't affect the switch's performance. But with high currents and advanced switch age, a weld may finally cause the contacts to stick permanently.
- Contact erosion. Arcing, wear and mechanical pounding gradually erode the contact metal. Contact gaps widen and fail to meet, or eroded metal deposits on insulating barriers and reduce insulation resistance to the failure point.
- Contact-material migration. The complex phenomena of switching involve tiny bridges of molten contact metal that can form a cone on one contact face and a corresponding crater on the other, until the contact gap shorts.
- Insulation failure. Aging of insulation material, heat, vibration and other hostile environmental factors can cause high leakage, loss of strength and cracking, and thus the destruction
of the switch.
- Mechanical failure. Any of the switch's mechanical members, such as pivots, springs and levers, may seize, fatigue or break. Sometimes a switch is rated by its mechanical life-without an electrical load. Such a figure is not very meaningful. A switch should be evaluated under conditions of actual use.

Fatigue of the spring is usually the limiting factor in a snap-action switch's mechanical life. Reduced overtravel or the use of external leaf or spring actuators to absorb overtravel can appreciably lengthen the snap-switch's life.

Of course, off-centered actuation of a switch, excessive forces, shock actuation, high-frequency switching and high temperatures can reduce a switch's mechanical life. Also, high altitudes increase the tendency to arcing and contact deterioration. Many varieties of sealed switches are available for high altitudes.

If the mechanical limits of the switch are respected, a well-designed snap switch will usually fail electrically before mechanical failure occurs. The published current and voltage rating of a switch represents only a single point on a switch's life-vs-electrical load curve. As might be expected, life increases as the voltage and current load are reduced (see typical life curves).

## Some switches have agency ratings

Many snap-switch manufacturers obtain approval for their lines from rating agencies, such as Underwriters' Laboratories (UL). In international markets, they may get an OK from the Canadian Standards Association (CSA), Verband Deutscher Elektronica (VDE) and the new International Commission on Rules for Approval of Electrical Equipment.

But be aware that an agency label can have many meanings. Because a switch carries a UL marking does not mean it meets approval for all applications under all circumstances. The agencies have many ratings or listings.

For example, UL has "special" and "generaluse" switch categories. Some switches have horsepower ratings; others don't. UL's " $L$ " rating refers to a switch's ability to handle tungsten lamps on dc, and " T " rating to its ac lamp capability. And there are a large variety of voltage, current and leakage and endurance tests in each category. The manufacturer's listed maximum rating may not correspond to UL or CSA approved values.

And some switches also receive "pilot duty" approval from UL. Pilot duty means that the switch can control a contactor, relay or other electromagnetic device, and special tests must be passed for high in-rush-current capacity and performance under inductive-loads.

A final word of caution: UL standards pri-


High contact pressure with minimum contact bounce is featured by Control Switch in its JR snap-action mechanisms. The series is available in a wide range of ratings, case styles and colors.


Contact wear is the primary limitation to the electrical life of a switch. This graph of Unimax's 2HB switch illustrates how life decreases with increased current and voltage and with lower power factor. The tests were made under atmospheric conditions with the switches operated 60 times a minute and with power on both the open and closed contacts.
marily cover safety from electrical shock and fire. A switch's reliability and life are not guaranteed by UL tests.

## The variety is endless

Snap-action switches are made in an endless variety of styles. They include pushbutton styles and plunger types with levers of every imaginable shape and size, and many cam-actuated versions.

The most versatile class of snap-action switches is the so-called precision switch. This class was pioneered by the Micro Switch Corp., now a division of Honeywell. The ideas incorporated in many of today's precision snap-action switches were described in a 1933 patent filed by Philip K. McGall, a mechanic with the then C. F. Burgess Laboratories in New York. The patent became the property of the Micro Switch Corp. in the late 1930s.

Today several companies, including Cherry, Unimax, McGill, Cutler-Hammer and Control Switch, manufacture competing precision switch
designs. Many of these companies' styles are interchangeable dimensionally and electrically.

One very popular style is Micro Switch's V3 switch, introduced in the mid-40s. Now at about 35 cents apiece, it's an "international standard," the company says.

Cutler-Hammer's SS12, McGill's 4600 series, Unimax's 2TM and Cherry's E22 to E34 series have practically the identical external dimensions of the V3, with similar electrical ratings and offerings of actuator styles. The internal details, however, differ.

A variety of actuator accessories is available for most precision switches. They come with short and long levers, rollers, specially shaped cams, toggle-switch or pushbutton-adapter assemblies and illuminated buttons.

To take advantage of the wide acceptance of the V3's case style, Micro Switch is now introducing a solid-state Hall-effect version, designated the XL. According to Francis L. Kafka, a spokesman for Micro Switch, the XL can switch low-energy circuits. And the ever-rising price of gold is of no concern in its design. With no contacts, there is no bounce problem, and dust and other contaminants can't affect performance. There are no misses at high speeds of operation and no dead breaks at low speeds. And repeatability of the operate, reset and differential movements is said to be much better than in the original V3.

Haydon Switch \& Instrument offers the 6214 hermetically sealed switch, which can withstand temperatures to 600 F and even 800 F in some applications.

And Chicago Switch has its new intermediateload CS 20-000-051 snap switch under test for life
expectancy. The switch sells for less than $\$ 1$. With six samples under a load of 0.1 mA at 6 V , one has failed after 325 million on-off operations, and five others are still going strong, the company says. An automotive version of this switch can handle 5 A at 14 V .

Traditional toggle switches, of course, represent an important category of snap-action switches. Companies such as Alco, Control Switch, Cutler-Hammer, JBT Instruments, Seacor and many others make them. Seacor's Series 5000 toggles are particularly rugged, its maker says, because of its pinned construction and solidsilver inlays for the contacts. Some versions use gold plating over the silver.

Centralab's entries in the snap-switch field include a miniature low-profile, one or two-pole snap switch with either toggle or rotary handles for PC-board mounting (Part No. 06-17631-19). But many toggle types are assembled from basic plunger precision snap switches and special toggle actuators.

An interesting example of a complex actuator for standard precision snap-switches is the line of rotary switches made by Precision Mechanism. Its CS-402 series provides externally adjustable cams for the snap switches.

Many snap switches are illuminated pushbutton varieties. Dialco features its 513 series, said to have a life of between 500,000 to 1 million operations. The series can handle 5 mA to 5 A , and many versions come with illuminated buttons. Switchcraft's Push-Lite illuminated units are available with switch modules that contain up to two form-C contacts, and they can handle up to 8 A at 124 V ac.

Compu-Lite has new "shorty" Series 849 and

## Need more information?

We wish to thank the companies that provided information for this report. The products cited in the report have been selected for their illustrative, or in some cases, unique qualities. However, manufacturers not mentioned in the report may offer similar products. Readers may wish to consult manufacturers listed here and Electronic Design's GOLD BOOK for further details.
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CTS Corp., 905 N.W. Blvd., Elkhart, IN 46514. (219) 293.
7511 Circle No. 413 Circle No. 413
Cutler-Hammer, 4201 N. 27th St., Milwaukee, WI 53216. (414) 442-7800. Circle No. 414

Dialight Corp., 203 Harrison PI., Brooklyn, NY 11237. (212) Eagle Electronic Manufacturing Co., 45-31 Court Sq., Long Island City, NY 11101. (212) 937-8000. Circle No. 416
Electro Mechanical Components, 1826 N. Floradale S., EI Monte, CA 91733. (213) 442-7180. Circle No. 417 Elmwood Sensors Inc., 1655 Elmwood Ave., Cranston, RI 02907. (401) 781-6500.

GC Electronics, 400 S . Wyman St., Rockford, IL 61101. (815) 968-9661. Circle No. 419 General Control Co., 1200 Soldiers Field Rd., Boston, MA
02134 . 617 ( $782-7440$. Hayden Switch \& Instrument, 1500 Meriden, Waterbury, CT 06705. (203) 756-7441. IEE/Schadow, Inc., 8081 Wallace Rd., Eden Prairie, MN 55343. (612) 944-1820. Circle No. 422

Illinois Tool Works, Licon Div., 6615 W. Irving Park Rd., Chicago, IL 60634. (312) 282-4040. Circle No. 423 Illuminated Products Inc., P.O. Box 4011, Anaheim, CA 92803.
Circle No. 424 . $535-6037$. Janco Corp., 3111 Winona Ave., Burbank, CA 91504. (213) 845-7473.


The inner details of snap-action mechanisms vary substantially among manufacturers, but case dimensions in many types are standardized.
852 illuminated pushbutton switches that are claimed to have the shortest behind-the-panel depth available today. These switches sell for less than $\$ 2$ in OEM quantities.

Nonilluminated one and two-legend actuators are featured by IEE/Schadow for its NE 15/F


Every position and movement of a snap-action switch's plunger has a name and definition.
pushbutton switches. Push the button, and the legend on the two-legend unit automatically changes-ON to OFF, or any other suitable pair of designations. Visibility is excellent in ambient light because of the highly reflective legends.

And many others also make snap-action pushbutton switches, including Molex, Control Switch and Jay-EL Products. You can find a style to suit almost any need, but look before you leap.

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Jay-EL Products, 1859 W. 169, Gardena, CA 90247. (213) 321-3260. Circle No. 426 JBT Instruments Inc., 424 Chapel St., New Haven, CT 06508. (203) 772-2220. Circle No. 427 Klockner Moeller Corp., 4 Strathmore Rd., Natick, MA 01760. (617) 655-1910. Circle No. 428
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(312) $824-1188$. Machine Components Corp., 53 Werman Ct., Plainview, NY 11803. (516) 694-7222. Master Specialties, 1640 Monrovia Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627. (714) 642-2427. Circle No. 431 McGill Manufacturing Co., N. Campbell St., Vaparaiso, IN 46383. (219) 462-2161. Circle No. 432

Micro Switch Div., Honeywell, 11 W . Spring St., Freeport, IL
60132 . $(815)$ 232-1122.
Molex Inc., 2222 Wellington Ct., Lisle, IL 60532. (312) 969. $4550 . \quad$ Circle No. 434
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# Join micros into intelligent networks <br> to perform dedicated tasks. Common-memory hardware and software pave the way to processor intercommunications. 

Distributed-intelligence systems can be built with the new generation of microcomputers. The computational and control capabilities allow each micro in the network to perform a dedicated task. The over-all network can provide hardware and software redundancy at an attractive pricecompared with a single large processor. Commonmemory software and hardware techniques provide one of the newest ways to handle the necessary intercommunication between subsystems.

Microcomputer sets that include CPU, memory and I/O adapters can be purchased for less than $\$ 30$. In a distributed-intelligence system, each of these units or processors has a dedicated function, typically I/O oriented (Fig. 1). Since the system is oriented towards maximum I/O throughput, processor cross-communication is held to a minimum.

## Join processors by $1 / 0$ ports

Each processor can be viewed as having two I/O ports: one associated with external system activity; the other, for information exchange with other system processors. In practice, both ports are part of the I/O section of a processor. Low-cost microcomputers such as the Intel 4040 are particularly adaptable to communications via their I/O ports.

Because of the rapid real-time response possible with this setup, the multiprocessor system can be designed for functions such as these:

- Control of a common interprocessor bus.
- Interrogation and preprocessing of remote sensors.
- Packing and unpacking of control information to and from remote locations.
- Minimization of intersystem cabling by concentration of information.
- Performing automatic calibration at remote location.
- Support of multipartition systems.
- Pipelining of arithmetic or algarithmic cal-

[^4]

1. Each processor of a distributed-intelligence system performs an assigned function. Emphasis tends to be on the input-output operations with microprocessors.

2. Multiprocessing systems also use multiple processors, but the processors share assignments rather than performing dedicated tasks.
culations in systems like FFT analyzers.

- Performing diagnostic monitoring.
- Control of security systems.

Distributed-intelligence systems differ from multiprocessing systems in the way that tasks are handled. Although both systems use multiple processors, the tasks assigned to a distributed system remain fixed. By contrast, in a multiprocessing environment, a continuous stream of assignments is fed to a single node and allowed to unburden the processors (Fig. 2). And the allocation of tasks is performed by complex algorithms present in the software operating system.

Each processor in a distributed-intelligence microcomputer system (DIMS) performs some combination of these four basic activity functions:

- Local input/output or hardware controller activity.
- Information concentration and temporary storage.
- Information processing.
- Remote input/output and communication. The table lists typical combinations found in a variety of applications.


## The different activities

The first activity, local functions, can be divided over several microcomputers or combined into one processor. The local interface may deal with a broad variety of contrasting I/O characteristics that includes: high-speed/low-speed; electromechanical/electronic; decimal/binary; analog/digital; interrupt/polled DMA; unformatted/formatted; human/machine; simple/complex, and single-cycle/multicycle.

The type of interface and the I/O reponsiveness of the microcomputer are factors in the organization of local I/O activity. (Evaluation of I/O responsiveness will be discussed in a future article.) One method is to assign a specific class of interface to each processor. For example, one processor can do all decimal interface operations; another can handle high-speed I/O. In this way the designer can choose the most suitable processor for each category. The Intel MCS-40 is suitable for low-speed I/O and man-machine interfaces. On the other hand, the Intel 3000, a bipolar unit, is a wise choice for high-speed applications or complex multiple-cycle interfaces. Many types of processors can be combined in a single DIMS.

Physical distribution of I/O should be considered. Placement of the processor near the source of the I/O reduces coupling costs and helps provide some isolation for each location. Some redundancy and simplified systems diagnostics are other benefits.

The second function, information concentration, improves efficiency-unlike the use of bytes or small records. Each data transfer requires less I/O software and the data are easier to handle. Any form of concentration, however, implies the use of storage.

Formatting of data is another aspect of information concentration. ASCII formatting of raw data for remote transmission to a host is one example. The numerical data can be packed into four bits per digit (a nibble) and two digits per byte. With this type of packing, memory usage is very efficient. Systems that process hexadecimal information make extensive use of packed data formats.

Typical applications for data concentration

## Functions performed by DIMS

| Local Input/ Output | 1 | 11 | III | IV | $\leftrightarrow$ | Remote Input/ Output |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Applications <br> 1. Modưlar instruments. <br> 2. Terminal (POS, data collection) system controller. <br> 3. Network of remote sensors, interpretation and communication to larger host computer. <br> 4. Modular data collection device with display. <br> 5. Scientific computer network or minicomputer emulation. <br> 6. General-purpose controller/processor applications. <br> 7. Multiprocessing system or dedicated support system. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Combinations used <br> 1. Local I/O (I) and processing (III). <br> 2. Local $1 / 0$ (I), concentration (II), and remote $1 / 0$ (IV). <br> 3. Local 1/O (I), processing (III), and remote I/O (IV). <br> 4. Local I/O (1), concentration (II). <br> 5. Local I/O (I), concentration (II), processing (III). <br> 6. Local 1/0 (I), concentration (II), processing (III), and remote I/O (IV). <br> 7. Remote I/O (IV), concentration (II) and/or processing (III). |  |  |  |  |  |  |


3. The master/slave system is an hierarchy in which slave processors communicate with one master. Polled or interrupt-driven systems tend to use radial busses (a); otherwise a common bus is the rule (b). Such systems emphasize high information transfer rates.
occur in line concentration for POS (point-ofsale) terminal devices, multiterminal key-to-tape and key-to-dise systems, and scientific data accumulators.

Information processing, the third activity, is a classic computer function. The processor accepts data, interprets it and outputs the final results. Typical activities include: information routing, arithmetic operations, and system diagnostics. The designer can split these tasks between processors to select the one best suited to each function. A single arithmetic processor with information routing split among several processors is quite common.

In larger systems, a separate processor can be used for system diagnostics. System testing can be performed during idle times at power-on or by an internal timer. Low cost ensures commercial acceptance. How low? The MCS-40, with 1 kbyte of program and a clock chip, sells for $\$ 29.95$ in quantity.

The fourth function, the remote-communications section of the system, disseminates information to destinations outside the system. These destinations can be another DIMS or a larger host computer. The communications link and message frequency determine the resources that should be dedicated. The communications function can be carried out either with a dedicated processor in the DIMS or combined with the concentration or processing activities.

Remote I/O considerations are as follows:

- Parallel or serial interface.


4. The master/master system affords a high degree of independence to each processor. Communications-based systems use individual links (a). Microprocessor-based systems are easy to design for common-memory message exchange (b).

- Single or multiple ports.
- Synchronous or asynchronous.
- Baud rate.
- Communication link.
- Information block size.
- Simplex, half-duplex or duplex.
- Dedicated or common bus.

The remote I/O interface can be treated just like any other I/O interface, in terms of activity-rate calculations.

## Two basic configurations

Processor organization or configuration depends to some extent on factors like these: number of I/O ports and their location; type of I/O ports and activity rate; type of processing required, and microcomputer cost-performance characteristics.

Two basic organizations used are master/ master and master/slave. Either organization (or any other) can perform the four basic DIMS functions.

The master/slave arrangement imposes a rigid hierarchy on subsystem components (Fig. 3). All slave processors communicate to a single master, which acts as either a concentrator or information switcher assigned to control the subsystems' communication activity. An instrument with several "plug-ins," all of which require the attention of the instrument mainframe, is a specific example. The mainframe is the master and the plugins are the slaves.


The master/slave DIMS lends itself well to systems where there is a high degree of information transfer and I/O (Fig. 4). Data-collection networks, instruments with intelligent plug-ins, POS terminal networks and certain process-control systems are only a few applications that exhibit the high information transfer and high I/O activity level. In these applications, the slave microcomputers pass the I/O to and from the master. There the data are concentrated and/or processed and sometimes forwarded for external communication. Information can be transferred from microcomputer to microcomputer, either directly via a common bus or radially with a dedicated bus. The information flow is usually directly between elements, rather than through the common-memory scheme that is associated more closely with a master/master system. When a slave requests the attention of the master, the master-at some point based on a prioritygrants the request. It then sets up the information route from the slave to the master or from the requesting slave to another destination slave.

The number of slave microcomputers per system is a function of the I/O capacity of the system and the distribution to maintain an efficient information throughput. Other considerations, such as the degree of physical integration desired and packaging cost of the microcomputer, are also relevant.
In a master/master system, communication between elements is less frequent and more formatted or refined than in a master/slave system.


NOTE: ALL PROCESSORS ARE INTEL MCS 40
5. For common-memory communication, a processor deposits a status indicator in the recipient's assigned mailbox. The recipient then removes the message (a). Bus priority logic locks out other processors once access is granted to one of them (b).

Communication between elements is predetermined by each master. Each master is more inclined to perform a higher degree of dedicated activity associated with a particular system entity. A master processor contacts the other processor or processors with which it needs to communicate. This communication can be direct or via a common memory. Access to the communication bus is on a priority basis, arbitrated by a common logic tree usually located within the common memory or at some central location (Fig. 5).
Master/master systems are now becoming more popular than master/slave. They can be used in multi-instrument test systems where a separate processor controls each instrument but passes results to a central processor for final summarization.

## Common-memory information transfer

Most commercially available microcomputers lend themselves to an arrangement where all information transfer proceeds through a common memory added to the I/O portion of the processor.

Each processor gains access to common memory by some fixed priority scheme to avoid bus conflicts. A processor that gains access to the common memory locks out all the principals. By depositing a status indication in the respective processor's mailbox, the sender indicates to which processor it wants to communicate a message. A "mailbox," or status, character, associated with
each processor, exists in common memory used for the communication. The communicating processor must either deposit the specific information in a fixed area of common memory or indicate the location and length of the message. If the information is destined for more than one processorsuch as in a broadcast mode of information ex-change-all the affected processors must be informed as to where the information can be obtained. The sender either deposits the location and length or duplicates the message in each processor message mailbox.

When the communicating processor has set up the transfer, it signals the other constituents that a transfer is to take place. This alert is best accomplished by use of a common on-system interrupt. This avoids the need for polling. Each subsystem interrogates its mailbox for status. A processor obtaining active status will fetch the information from the predetermined message mailbox or go to the location indicated by the status mailbox.

## Two DIMS configurations

A distributed-intelligence microcomputer system (DIMS) can be fabricated with the MCS-40, as shown by two possible configurations.

A two-processor, direct-communications system is implemented just by connecting the I/O ports of the MCS-40 together. Each processor generates an interrupt when it wants to communicate. Control status and data are derived from the I/O ports. The I/O ports can be either those of the 4308 ROM, 4207, 4209, or 4211 general-purpose I/O device, or the 4225 programmable I/O device. This technique can be used to transfer words of any length. The length should be selected to minimize cabling and interface costs.

If more than two systems are joined with this technique, a bus-arbitrator scheme must be implemented (Fig. 6). This will allow one processor to be designated as the source, or sender, device. The source device will then select its destination. The destination selection can be accomplished by use of either a hardware or software technique. The hardware technique requires that the source device interrupt selectively the processor or processors with which it wants to communicate. The software approach requires that the source processor interrupt all system processors in a broadcast mode. Simultaneously the source processor places a destination address on the common bus. This address is interrogated by all system processors and compared with an internal programmed address. The processor with a successful match is designated to receive the data.

For common-memory communications, a block of memory is designated common to all system processors. Information is transferred via this

6. Priority control enables direct communication for more than two processors. The source processor interrupts the selected processor by providing an address when given access to the bus by the priority control.
memory from processor to processor. This technique allows the source processor to load the common memory with the information and inform the destination processor of the message. The destination processor obtains the information without the attention of the source processor. Hence, the transfer is more asynchronous than that of the previous technique.

All subsystems are attached to a common memory bus that consists of ten bits of address, four bits of bidirectional data and two control lines (Fig. 7a). Anly one system is allowed to be active on the bus at any one time. Systems have access to the memory for a block transfer rather than a word transfer. Access to the memory is granted via fixed priority. Only when a system is given a bus grant will it attempt to access memory; all other systems are locked out. When a system is granted access to the bus, the 4265 will be removed from a floating output state to an active memory access state (Mode 0, Option 1). Information will be transferred.

The system granted will maintain the bus until the bus request is removed and a Clear Bus signal is generated. Limits on how long any one user can access the bus may be established. If a user hangs on to the bus past the limit, which indicates a failure, the system can be removed from the bus. This is accomplished with a reset that frees the bus. The reset does this by placing the 4265 into a floating mode. Hence other systems can access the memory. The Bus Priority Network prevents any higher priority devices from taking over the bus once it has been acquired.

The basic subsystem consists of a minimum of

7. A common memory bus serves all processors in this common-memory hookup (a). Each processor consists of five packs (b) that connect to the memory system and to
an Intel 4201 system block, a 4040 CPU, a 4308 ROM ( $1 \mathrm{k} \times 8$ ) with I/O, a 4002 RAM with outputs and a 4265 programmable I/O device (Fig. $7 \mathrm{~b})$. The 4265 is assigned as the common-memory interface. The 4002 output port is used to access the bus to provide interrupt activity.

The common memory consists of an array of $1024 \times 4$ bits, composed of four Intel 2111 RAMs. This memory is expandable with additional logic. All systems are attached to the memory on the common bus.

The Intel Priority Control Unit (8214) samples and holds the current request until it is cleared by a Bus Clear signal, which is generated by the bus-relinquishing subsystem. The bus request of the relinquishing subsystem must be reset prior to the Bus Clear (Fig. 7c).

When one processor wants to talk to another processor, it will first request access to the bus. Then it will load a status character in the mailbox associated with the processor to be communicated to. The communicating processor will place the message in a predetermined location in com-
priority logic (c). The priority logic locks out all other systems when one of them is granted access to the common memory.
mon memory. When common memory has been loaded, the communicating processor will generate an interrupt for a fixed length of time and relinquish the bus. All processors will eventually access the bus to check their mailboxes for status. The processor that finds an active status character will transfer the information to its local memory and extinguish the status character and relinquish the bus.

The scheme described above illustrates communication via a broadcast system interrupt to which all processors respond. With the addition of source and destination hardware, only the processor destined to receive the information need be interrupted.

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# 15 chrinel GuDS MDK. 

## Mo latchup.

## No evira resistors.

## Intersils new IH5060/5070.

The IH5060 multiplexer is a 16 channel plug-in replacement for the DG506 and HI-506A. The IH5070 is an 8 channel differential multiplexer, a plug-in replacement for the DG507 and HI-507A. Both new Intersil devices eliminate design headaches the others have.

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Figure 1. In other technologies, when either power supply is off (at ground), even momentarily, and there is an analog signal present, high current flows, causing latch up and possible destruction of the device.


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| NUMBER | TYPE | $\mathbf{R}_{\mathrm{ON}}$ |
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| DG 182 | Dual SPST | $75 \Omega$ |
| DG 184 | Dual DPST | $30 \Omega$ |
| DG 185 | Dual DPST | $75 \Omega$ |
| DG 187 | SPDT | $30 \Omega$ |
| DG 188 | SPDT | $75 \Omega$ |
| DG 190 | Dual SPDT | $30 \Omega$ |
| DG 191 | Dual SPDT | $75 \Omega$ |

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# Switching contacts causing problems? Look into the details of contact behavior. Maximum ratings don't tell what happens at your circuit's specific levels. 

The metallic contact in switches and relays is much abused. The way most specs are written by manufacturers, you might expect a contact with a maximum rating of $28 \mathrm{~V}, 5 \mathrm{~A}$ dc to perform superbly at 30 mV and 10 mA . Not so. You might be misled into thinking that tarnishresistant gold contacts, because they operate well at millivolt and milliamp levels should offer no problems at 28 V and 5 A . Wrong again. Gold erodes rapidly above about $0.5 \mathrm{~A} .{ }^{1}$

To apply switches and relays properly, users must understand how contacts conduct, the different modes of arcing, and material behavior under various electrical loads. Otherwise poor performance and short contact life are inevitable.

A first step in understanding the phenomena is to define the load levels that contacts carry. The available load energy-and hence the temperature of the contacts-ultimately determines the life of a pair of contacts. But, of course, other parameters such as contact material, spacing, size, speed of movement, and atmospheric pressure and cleanliness are involved.

Loads are usually referred to as dry, low, intermediate and high. Each can be defined in terms of the contact temperature. Let's look at them:

- Dry circuit-Frequently and erroneously used as a synonym for low level, to connote very-low-energy-level switching. ${ }^{1}$ More precisely, a dry circuit denotes switching in which the dry contacts do not make or break a load of any kind. Thus no are is drawn, and contact heating is minimal. Note, however, that there is no restriction in the definition on the amount of current carried by dry contacts. But because the current may be very low and contact operation is under zero-current switching, contacts-such as goldthat perform well under low-level loads must be used.
- Low level-Loading in which the energy at the contacts is insufficient to dissipate contact films or to change the contact geometry or chem-

[^5]

1. Material is transferred between contacts during switching. As the contacts separate and heat up, they first act as if they were carrying a low load, then an intermediate load and finally the full high-level load.
istry at the contact interface. There is no softening of the contact material. The softening-voltage limit for gold is about 0.08 V . Softening occurs when a temperature of roughly 100 C is generated. Current is conducted by a tunneling process. Dynamic contact resistance is usually about $30 \Omega$.

- Intermediate level-Energy levels that can raise the temperature of the contact material at the interface to soften and melt it.
- High level-Levels (also called power levels) at which contact material boils and produces long arcs, with heavy erosion of contact material.


## Examination of switching phenomena

What happens when a relatively large resistive load-say $28 \mathrm{~V} \mathrm{dc}, 5 \mathrm{~A}$-is switched with a pair

2. A family of arc-length curves for contacts helps establish the load limits for the intermediate/high-level load conditions. Voltage and current lines $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{m}}$ and $\mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{m}}$, determine the maximum values for the zero, or short-arc mode.
of gold contacts? As the contact-pair parts, material is transferred from one contact to the other. The sequence of events illustrates contact behavior through all energy levels.

In Fig. 1, the contacts part at the rate of 2.5 $\mathrm{cm} / \mathrm{s}$. During the first few microseconds, there is almost no contact material transfer, as if only a low-level load-source voltage of less than 0.1 V-is being switched, because the contacts have not yet had time to heat up. Later in the switching cycle, contact temperatures rise and conform in sequence to values that would be generated first by intermediate and then by high-level loads. The top part of Fig. 1 shows regions equivalent to the different source-voltage loads, together with the corresponding physical state of the contact interface.

For source voltages between 0.1 and 0.4 V
temperatures of 100 to 1063 C are generated and the contact interface softens. Still little material is transferred between contacts; the metal is only softened, not melted.

Softening enhances the process called "fritting," which produces minute quasimetallic contacts through tiny ruptures in any intervening contact film. In this voltage range, the electric field is then strong enough to force normal electron conduction across these metallic-contact interfaces. The over-all result of electron conduction is a much lower contact resistance-tens of milliohms instead of ohms-than at low sourcevoltage levels, where conduction is by the tunnel effect. In addition, the contact resistance tends to remain relatively constant over the life of the contacts, since transfer and erosion are minimal.

As the load energy region equivalent to 0.4 to 1.3 V is reached, the contact interface material melts and material, or "bridge," transfer occurs. A very small amount of material transfers from the anode to the cathode contact each time the contacts part. A crater forms on the anode and a pip on the cathode.

Bridge transfer produces two detrimental effects: sticking or locking of pip and crater, and degradation of dielectric strength across the open contact-because of a narrowed gap. However, below 1.3 V , the rate of material transfer is still quite small and long contact life is usually obtained.

For still greater loads-in the 1.3 to 15.0 V range-boiling of gold contact material occurs, because temperatures of over 2800 C are built up.

## Short arcs for intermediate loads

Arcs result from this intense heat at the contacts and consequent boiling of the material. Arc temperatures are typically about 3500 C .

When the source voltage exceeds approximately 1.3 V , but the load line does not intersect the contacts' VI (voltage-current) characteristic curve for the material's zero-arc length, a socalled short arc is formed at contact break (Fig. $2)$. The short arc, sometimes called a spark, is very small and nearly invisible.

The upper limit of the short-arc condition, or critical short arc, produces the maximum allowable rate of contact material transfer without causing significant erosion of the contacts to provide self-cleaning. Maintenance of this limit is most important with intermediate-level loads. Contact performance can be substantially altered after only a few operations if the load-line limit is exceeded, since at this critical point there is a tremendous increase in net anode-to-cathode material transfer for a small rise in source voltage.

The VI-characteristic hyberbola curve that constitutes the upper limit for the short-arc condition is the lowest curve in Fig. 2. This is the power-level curve for are lengths equal to zero. Only short arcing occurs over most of the area below and to the left of this curve. Thus, for gold, only a short arc is produced when the load is to the left of the asymptotic current line, $\mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{m}}$ (equal to 0.38 A dc or peak ac) regardless of the voltage, or when the source voltage is less than the $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{m}}$ line ( 15 V dc or peak ac) regardless of the current.

In addition, the load line drawn for 28 V and 1.4 A produces only a short arc, since it is also tangent to the limiting curve for short arcing. But because there is always a small amount of inductance in any resistive load circuit, the $28-\mathrm{V}$ and 0.5 -A load line is more realistic as a shortarc limiting value.

To illustrate that the term "short arc" really means a very short arc consider the relationship ${ }^{2}$

$$
\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{cr}}=\mathrm{T}+\mathrm{vt}_{\mathrm{m}},
$$

where $S_{\text {cr }}$ is the critical are length, $T$ is the thickness of the cathode layer across which the limiting source voltage appears, v is opening velocity of the contacts and $t_{m}$ is the time at which maximum cathodic material gain occurs after the contacts start to open (see Fig. 1).

Typical values are:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \mathrm{T}=5 \times 10^{-8} \mathrm{~m} \\
& \mathrm{v}=2.5 \times 10^{-2} \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{s}(\text { Fig. 1) } \\
& \mathrm{t}_{\mathrm{m}}=4 \times 10^{-8} \mathrm{~s}(\text { Fig. 1) }
\end{aligned}
$$

For these values, $\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{cr}}$ is about $15 \times 10^{-8} \mathrm{~m}$, or 5 microinches. This maximum short-arc length is extremely small.

The available energy at intermediate loads is sufficient to break down the initial volatile surface contaminants, which then combine with the contact material. Continuous build-up of this contaminated material results in high, erratic contact resistance.

The adverse effects are maximum when gold contacts switch between 0.1 and 0.5 A at 28 V dc. Also, the effects are aggravated when the switch or relay operates near its maximum rated temperature and in proximity to a second contact

3. A $25 \times$ magnified view of a pair of contacts (top) shows the results of arc material transfer, which forms a crater on the anode and a cone on the cathode contact. The bottom view shows material transfer to the cathode and accumulated contaminant deposits at $28 \mathrm{~V} \mathrm{dc}, 0.1 \mathrm{~A}$, or short-arc conditions.
that is switching a maximum rated load. Under these conditions, contact resistance may increase to as much as 1 to $3 \Omega$ after only 10,000 to 20,000 operations.

Gold is perhaps most suited to low-level load use. To ensure that gold contacts do not soften, and that they therefore operate in a truly lowlevel mode, test conditions are usually limited to approximately 30 mV dc , or peak ac, and about 10 mA . In general, test currents should be as low as possible within the capability of the monitoring equipment. And care should be exercised in testing so that stray inductances do not invalidate the test by creating appreciable peak voltages at a contact break.

Low-level tests are often used to detect particulate contamination of contacts. And in combination with the use of high and low temperature cycling, these tests also can determine the presence of moisture and other volatile contaminants in hermetically sealed relays.

## High-level loads produce long arcs

An increase in voltage and current to high, or power, levels ( 10 to 20 V ) produces long, or regular, arcs, intense boiling and supertempera-
tures in the order of 4000 C . This long are now starts reverse material transfer-from cathode to anode-and a very rapid loss of material to the surroundings.

Though the chart ends at $40 \mu \mathrm{~s}$, the high-level load of 28 V dc and 5 A produces an intense arc that persists for several milliseconds. During this interval, rapid erosion and pitting of the cathode takes place with the gradual formation of a cone on the anode and a crater on the cathode contact (Figs. 3 and 4).

The family of curves above the zero, or criti-cal-arc-length, curve (Fig. 2) represents highlevel, or power, switching conditions. For example, the load line shown for a $28-\mathrm{V}$ and 2 -A resistive load produces an arc $0.04-\mathrm{mm}$ long. The load line is tangent to the curve representing the $0.04-\mathrm{mm}$ value. The arc length for the $50-\mathrm{V}, 2$-A load is about 0.32 mm . Of course, inductive loads can produce high voltages on contact break. This results in longer, more intense arcs. Therefore, as the inductance increases the current rating of the contacts must be reduced.

The are length and intensity determines the rate of the contact material's dissipation to the surroundings. Some erosion is beneficial, because it produces self-cleaning and low, stable contact resistance. However, detrimental effects also eventually follow because of the gradual loss of contact pressure and wipe action. Also the dissipated material is deposited on insulators and causes a deterioration of their dielectric strength and resistance.

These undesirable effects can be minimized by the use of erosion and transfer-resistant materials such as silver-cadmium oxide, silver-mag-nesium-nickel, tungsten or silver-impregnated carbon (but not gold) as contact material for high-level loads. And the use of barrier structures in the insulator configuration can help block and absorb contact-material deposits.

However, when a transfer-resistant material like silver is coated with a substantial layer of gold, some recent experience indicates that both high and low levels can be handled. At low levels, the gold provides a proper set of contact interfaces. And at high levels, the gold may not disappear, but may combine with the base metal to form a gold enriched area, which should be suitable for subsequent low-level switching. But an intensive investigation into this area of highlow contact use is needed before firm data are available. $={ }^{-}$

[^6]
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## international technology

## Temp control improved in Gunn oscillators

Two new techniques for the temperature compensation of Gunn oscillators are reported to provide mechanical stability and reliability even under heavy vibration conditions. The techniques were developed at the Allen Clark Research Center of the Plessey Co. in England.

Temperature compensation is required because when Gunn diodes are used in microwave oscillator cavities, it is difficult to obtain frequency stability simply by use of low-expansion material in a high-Q cavity. Transient temperature changes produce a "chirp" of the rf pulse in these diode-driven oscillators.

The research center's first compensation technique uses an Invar reactive tuning stub that enters the cavity at a region of maximum rf field. Invar does not expand significantly with temperature,
but the stub is supported externally by a high-temperaturecoefficient material, such as Perspex. Expansion of the Perspex varies the amount the stub protruded into the cavity, thus retaining a stable frequency with temperature variation.

The second Clark technique compensates for large frequency changes, such as 100 MHz , over a $110-\mathrm{C}$ swing. It is suitable for use with multidiode cavities. The cavity is formed from special rectangular waveguide with sidewalls of metallized Perspex. The walls are free to expand inward as the temperature rises. These dimensional changes in the waveguide cross-section compensate for the effect of temperature change.

Experiments at 14 and 9.3 GHz , respectively, have confirmed the usefulness of the two methods of compensation, the Clark center says.

## Flat cable reduces channel interference

Interchannel interference in a multiconductor cable has been substantially reduced at high frequencies by construction of the cable from flat strips.

The flat-cable design, developed by the Dept. of Electrical Engineering at Eindhoven University in the Netherlands, places the conductors in the same plane between the ground shields (see figure for cross-sectional view).

The coupling between neighboring strips is small, and between nonadjacent strips it is negligible.


If the flat conductors are made as thick as the skin depth for the highest-frequency components of the signal, the cross-channel interference is reduced, the university reports.

Stored program control used for data switching

A new electronic Telex and dataswitching exchange that uses stored-program control has been introduced by the L. M. Ericsson Telephone Co. of Sweden. The exchange, developed jointly by the Swedish Telecommunications Administration and L.M. Ericsson, features a new computer intended also for use in Ericsson's exchanges.

The switching method is based on time-division-multiplex techniques, which drastically reduce space and power requirements. All vital parts in the exchange are redundant for maximum reliability. Many maintenance functions are carried out automatically.

The exchange offers subscribers a variety of advanced features, such as automatic multi-address calls, abbreviated dialing and keyboard selection. The first exchange of the new type has been ordered by the Swedish Telecommunications Administration for installation in Malmö and will be put into service in 1977.

## Schottkys prove stable in far-infrared ranges

Schottky diodes can be used as stable mixers for sources in the far-infrared ranges, according to experiments at the Universite Pierre et Marie Curie in Paris.

Detector performance was successfully checked in a setup using 100 gallium-arsenide Schottky diode elements with the following characteristics: $5-\mu \mathrm{m}$ diam, an $\mathrm{f}_{\mathrm{co}}$ in the region of 1000 GHz , capacity of 0.03 pF and resistance $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{s}}$ of $6 \Omega$. The 100 diodes were integrated on a single substrate. The output contact was a $7-\mu \mathrm{m}$ diam tungsten wire electrochemically tapered to a point.

Tests were carried out by directing the beams of two stabilized $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$ lasers onto an individual Schottky diode. The beat-frequency voltage was stable and was easily observable. $\mathrm{A} \mathrm{CO} \mathrm{C}_{2}$ laser infrared beam was focused onto the diode array, and the fundamental infrared energy was detected. Detector output of 1 V per watt of incident power was obtained.


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## Voltage-controlled music oscillator has linear control properties

A voltage-controlled oscillator for electronic music applications has a linear frequency-vs-control-voltage characteristic that passes through the origin (Fig. 1). The control-voltage range is standardized over 0 to 5 V .

For the circuit in Fig. 2, the frequency of the 8038 oscillator IC is given by

$$
\mathrm{f}=(1.5 / \mathrm{RC})\left[1 /\left(\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{co}}-\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{ef}}\right)\right]\left(\mathrm{V}_{2}-\mathrm{V}_{1}\right) .
$$

The 741 op amp is biased so that its output, $\mathrm{V}_{1}$, equals $V_{2}$ when $V_{c}$ is zero. The bias is set with resistor $\mathrm{R}_{3}$.

Since the op-amp output is unable to reach the value of $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{cc}}$, the value of $\mathrm{V}_{2}$ is obtained by a reduction of about 1.4 V from $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{cc}}$ to 13.6 V with two silicon-diode voltage drops. The minimum value of $V_{1}$, which corresponds to the maximum control voltage-and thus the maximum output frequency -is specified for the 8038 to be no less than twothirds of the total supply voltage. Two-thirds of the supply voltage of 30 V is 20 V . Thus $\mathrm{V}_{1}$ minimum is +5 V above ground, since the low end of the supply is -15 V . This value of $\mathrm{V}_{1}$ should correspond to the maximum $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{c}}=8 \mathrm{~V}$ to allow $60 \%$ overrange capability (Fig. 2). Therefore the full frequency-vs-voltage scale is set to 5 V by adjustment of the ratio

$$
\begin{aligned}
\mathrm{R}_{2} / \mathrm{R}_{1} & =\left[\mathrm{V}_{2}-\mathrm{V}_{1}(\min )\right] / \mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{c}}(\max ) \\
& =(13.6-5) / 8=1.075 .
\end{aligned}
$$

If you choose $R_{1}=82 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ and $\mathrm{R}_{2}=91 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ and substitute the values for the supply voltages, you get

$$
\mathrm{f}=(0.055 / \mathrm{RC}) \mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{c}} .
$$

The best linearity is obtained when R lies between $10 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ and $100 \mathrm{k} \Omega$. For the values in Fig. 2, $\mathrm{f}=6 \mathrm{kHz}$ for $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{c}}=5 \mathrm{~V}$. The supply voltages should be well-regulated to minimize the drift of the zero frequency point. This point must correspond to zero control volts to preserve the harmonic relationships in a musical scale. The circuit can be easily modified, by proper choice of $\mathrm{R}_{3}$, to provide frequency modulation about a nonzero center frequency.

Paul Berkowitz, Electronic Engineer, Vanguard Recording Society, 71 W. 23rd St., New York, NY 10010.

Circle No. 311


1. The frequency-vs-control-voltage characteristic for electronic music applications should be a slope that is proportional to the control voltage and that passes through the origin.

2. Voltage-controlled oscillator is adjusted to zero frequency for zero control voltage with resistor $R_{3}$.

# The 70-range circuit reader. 630-NA. 

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# Simple power-frequency meter built with only a few passive components 

A simple frequency meter for power-line frequencies ( 50 to 60 Hz ) can be built with only seven inexpensive passive components. It doesn't need a battery or any other power supply. Here's how it works.

Power-frequency sine waves are first converted to square waves by a $100-\mathrm{k} \Omega$ resistor and a $6.8-\mathrm{V}$ zener, type BZ148. The square wave is then "differentiated" by a $0.22-\mu \mathrm{F}$ capacitor. The average of the pulsed current that results is almost exactly proportional to frequency. This current, with the aid of rectifying diodes, is averaged and read by a $100-\mu \mathrm{A}$ meter. The meter's 0 -to- 100 scale indicates frequency directly over the range from 10 to 100 Hz with good accuracy.

Calibration is easy. An accurate, commercial $60-\mathrm{Hz}$ power line can be used as an input to adjust the calibration of the $5-\mathrm{k} \Omega$ potentiometer to read 60 on the meter's scale. The amplitude of
the square waves is stabilized by the zener. Therefore meter readings do not vary significantly with input voltage over a wide range. The circuit as shown reads correctly on the usual power-line voltages from about 110 V to 230 V .
M. C. Sharma, 5R-4, P.O. Charbatia Orissa, India.

Circle No. 312


A power-frequency meter uses a zener diode to form square waves from input sine waves. After calibration with the $5-\mathrm{k} \Omega$ potentiometer, the $100-\mu \mathrm{A}$ meter reads directly in hertz.

## Display inverter circuit eliminates upside-down readout problems

Using digital readout instruments to take measurements in hard-to-reach places may involve you in mild gymnastics: You could end up looking at the display upside-down (Fig. 1a). To avoid this, add "inverting circuitry" to the display (dotted box in Fig. 2). This will enable you to flip and reverse a four-digit display.

The typical multiplexing circuitry for a fourdigit LED display consists of $\mathrm{IC}_{1}, \mathrm{IC}_{2}, \mathrm{IC}_{3}, \mathrm{IC}_{4}$, $\mathrm{IC}_{5}$ and $\mathrm{IC}_{8}$. It must be modified with the addition of $\mathrm{IC}_{6}, \mathrm{IC}_{7}, \mathrm{IC}_{9}$ and $\mathrm{IC}_{10}$ and two switches, $\mathrm{S}_{1}$ and $\mathrm{S}_{2}$, if you want to invert the display. A four-digit display requires, of course, that all four digits be transposed and inverted (Fig. 1a).

The multiplexer is driven by an external clock signal, whose frequency is selected for flickerfree display. With $\mathrm{S}_{1}$ in the normal position, the display is strobed from left to right, and decoder outputs a through $g$ are fed to the corresponding inputs of the LED displays. When the inverted mode is selected, outputs a through $g$ are transposed (Fig. 1b), and the decimal point is shifted. The invert command also changes the scan direction to right-to-left.
V. Ramamoorthy and S. Murugesan, Indian Scientific Satellite Project, Peenya 562140, Bangalore, India. Circle No. 313

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## Regulated power source drives low-power devices

Small electronic devices that operate from a battery supply often need an inexpensive voltage regulator. It should be insensitive to large bat-tery-voltage variations, and it should consume little power. If the battery is, say, a $9-\mathrm{V}$ transistor type, a reasonable requirement would be that the regulated voltage be maintained even though the battery voltage drops from 9 to 6 V .

The regulator circuit in the figure provides these capabilities. It uses a National Semiconductor quad LM324, because its common-mode voltage range includes ground when it is operated from a single-ended supply and $\mathrm{V}^{-}$on a dual supply. Further, it combines a relatively high currentdrive capability with a low supply-current drain.

Instead of a zener, diode $D_{1}$ is used as the reference element; it is unnecessary to provide a start-up voltage. The amplifier input is a pnp current source of about 50 nA -sufficient to start the circuit's regenerative action.

Any voltage at the noninverting input of the amplifier, $V_{\mathrm{d}}$, is amplified to give an output voltage $V_{0}=(1+q) V_{\mathrm{d}}$, where the feedback ratio is $q=\left(R_{2}+R_{3}\right) / R_{1}$. The driving voltage for the diode is then $V_{o}$, and $R_{d}$ limits the current. A capacitor $\mathrm{C}_{1}$ may be inserted to reduce noise at the output. The output voltage, $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{o}}$, is determined by the operating characteristic of the diode.

To design a regulator circuit follow this procedure:

1. For a given $\mathrm{V}^{+}$and $\mathrm{V}_{\circ}<\mathrm{V}^{+}-1.5 \mathrm{~V}$, choose q so that $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{o}} /(1+\mathrm{q})=\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{d}}$ is in the range 0.4 to 0.7 V . With $\mathrm{V}^{+}=9 \mathrm{~V}, \mathrm{q}$ usually ranges from about 5 to 10 .
2. From the $\mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{d}}-\mathrm{vs}-\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{d}}$ characteristic curve of diode $\mathrm{D}_{1}$, find the diode current that corresponds to $V_{d}$. If we neglect bias current from the amplifier, the resistance of the current-limiting resistor is $R_{d}=q V_{\mathrm{d}} / I_{d}$.
3. To balance the amplifier input, as a start-


A regulator for battery-sourced devices uses little energy itself but can stabilize to $0.1 \%$ for battery or load variations: It can be built with only one amplifier of an LM324 quad.
ing point, let $\mathrm{R}_{1}=\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{d}} / \mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{d}}$. The output voltage can then be trimmed with $\mathrm{R}_{3}$. For example: Let $\mathrm{V}^{+}=$ 9 V and $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{o}}=5 \mathrm{~V} . \mathrm{D}_{1}$ is a 1 N 914 . Choose $\mathrm{q}=10$. Then $V_{d}=V_{o} /(1+q)=0.45 \mathrm{~V}$. For a 1 N 914 , when $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{d}}=0.45 \mathrm{~V}, \mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{d}}=50 \mu \mathrm{~A}$. Then $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{d}}=\mathrm{qV}_{\mathrm{d}} / \mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{d}}$ $=90 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ and $\mathrm{R}_{1}=\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{d}} / \mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{i}}=9 \mathrm{k} \Omega$. Choose standard values: $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{d}}=91 \mathrm{k} \Omega, \mathrm{R}_{1}=9.1 \mathrm{k} \Omega, \mathrm{R}_{2}=82 \mathrm{k} \Omega$ and $R_{3}=50 \mathrm{k} \Omega$. Finally fine-tune $V_{0}$ with $R_{3}$ to give the desired output voltage in the range $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{d}}<$ $\mathrm{V}_{\mathrm{o}}<\mathrm{V}^{+}-1.5 \mathrm{~V}$.

The $\mathrm{V}_{0}$ voltage-regulated output is stable to about $0.1 \%$ for battery variations. This corresponds to about $1-\mathrm{mV}$ change for $1-\mathrm{V}$ drop in $\mathrm{V}^{+}$. Load regulation is also about $0.1 \%$ for a load current of 10 mA . These regulation figures can be improved by use of a second amplifier of the quad as a voltage follower to drive the diode.

If temperature-compensation is needed, an ultra-low-current zener diode can be used as the reference element. Then the minimum voltage available from the source would be about 6.5 V , and a voltage-divider, voltage-follower, combination would be required to provide a lower voltage.

Marc Damashek, Research Engineer, Clarke School for the Deaf, Northampton, MA 01060.

Circle No. 314

## IFD Winner of October 25, 1974

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Pete Jorgensen, Magnetics Production Manager at Topaz, was asked recently why the performance of Topaz UltraIsolation Transformers is so exceptional. He answered by saying, "Because we have people who have been winding and shielding transformers for 10 years, and they do it unusually well."
Topaz Ultra-Isolation Transformers protect electronic equipment from noisy power lines and protect clean power lines from noise-generating equipment. The unique Topaz box shielding techniques and the meticulous care taken during manufacturing guarantee the effectiveness of Topaz transformers. Common-mode noise is attenuated by more than $1,000,000$ to 1 . Effective capacitance between windings is less than 0.0005 picofarads.
So if power line noise is your problem, write or phone. We'll prove that Topaz Ultra-Isolation Transformers will solve your problem. We guarantee it - or your money back.

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Topaz is also a major supplier of custom power conversion equipment. Contact us.

## NEW <br> PROGRAMMABLE TIME DELAY RELAYS

For R\&D, low volume \& production requirements.

Featuring CMOS digital circuitry; DPDT contacts-10 amps resistive; no "false". operation on delay on make function; competitive pricing; low inventory requirements.


Model TDP-1: Each unit easily field selected for delay on make or break; for 24VDC, 24VAC, or 120VAC; and for delay ranges of 0.3 to 10,3 to 80 , or 10 to 300 seconds-adjustable to min/max of each range.

Low cost conventional, adjustable and fixed, single mode timers also available.

for further information contact Hi-G, Inc./ Windsor Locks, СТ 06096 Area Code (203) 623-2481 see complete Hi-G line in EEM

INFORMATION RETRIEVAL NUMBER 43

## 75 OHM COAX SWITCHING

MICROWAVE CHANNEL PROTECTION, DELEGATE/ROUTING,RADIO DROP,CABLE AND ANTENNA SWITCHING FOR I.F.-R.F.


Trompeter Electronics has developed a NEW proprietary broadband switching relay. It is used in the manufacture of 75 OHM high frequency matrices and switches specifically designed for routing I.F. and R.F. signals where high isolation, high return loss and low VSWR are required.

The relays can be supplied in individual crosspoints so packaged that the user can change matrix configuration as needed or packaged in a fixed matrix for a specific function.

Trompeter Electronics, Inc. 8936 Comanche, Chatsworth, CA 91311 INFORMATION RETRIEVAL NUMBER 44

## 8-bit IC DAC settles fast and has adjustable threshold



Precision Monolithics, 1500 Space Park Dr., Santa Clara, CA 95050. (408) 246-9225. P\&A: See text.

Four monolithic, 8-bit, digital-to-analog converters not only settle to within $0.19 \%$ accuracy in 125 ns but have programmable threshold levels. The monoDAC-08 units made by Precision Monolithics, have a control pin that permits programming of the threshold voltage over a -10 to +13 V range.

These units can also handle any logic family that has logic swings within a -10 to 18 V range. Thus the converters are compatible with TTL, DTL, MOS, CMOS, HNIL and ECL and have full noise immunity. An input current of only $30 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ maximum ( $3 \mu \mathrm{~A}$ typical) allows interfacing to logic families that have low current capabilities.

The converters have two output pins, for the normal and complementary output signals, respectively. Thus either normal or inverted logic systems can be used. Both outputs have a high compliance that permits the output to
float -10 to +18 V from ground with no effect on circuit linearity. Thus, the DAC-08 can drive a load resistor to produce an output voltage without the usually needed op amp.

There are four versions of the DAC-08 available, each with different linearity specs. But all have guaranteed 8 -bit monotonicity. The prime commercial version, the DAC-08EZ, operates over the 0 -to-$70-\mathrm{C}$ range, settles in 85 ns typical (125 ns max) and has a $0.19 \%$ maximum linearity error $( \pm 0.5$ LSB over 0 to 70 C ).
The propagation delay for any bit, or for all bits changing at once, is 30 ns typical and 45 ns max. This delay time doesn't vary with either temperature or input current changes. The DAC-08EZ also has a low glitch-only 4 LSB at the major carry point.

Power requirements for any of the converters are flexible-both the $\mathrm{V}^{+}$and $\mathrm{V}^{-}$supplies can range from 4.5 to 18 V -and the power consumption is low. Typical current drain for a $2-\mathrm{mA}$ output is
only 2.5 mA from the $\mathrm{V}^{+}$supply and 6.5 mA from the $\mathrm{V}^{-}$-provided they are set at +5 and $-\mathbf{1 5} \mathrm{V}$, respectively. The total power consumption is only 110 mW and remains almost constant for any logic level input combination.

When purchased in 100-unit quantities, the DAC-08EZ costs $\$ 7.95$ and is housed in a 16 -pin, hermetic, ceramic DIP. The 08 CZ has 7 -bit linearity and costs $\$ 6.50$. An 8-bit MIL version, the 08 Z costs $\$ 12.95$ while another MIL unit, the 08 AZ , has 9 -bit linearity and costs $\$ 20$. All units have 8 -bit monotonicity and are available from stock.

CIRCLE NO. 307

## 99-key encoder clocks itself

Electronic Arrays Inc., 550 E. Middlefield Rd., Mountain View, CA 94043. (415) 964-4321. EA2000: $\$ 15$ (100); 6-8 wks.

A full four-mode 99-key encoder -the EA2000-generates its own clock signal on the chip. It is completely programmable, generating a 10-bit output word for each of the 99 keys and four modes. Onchip circuitry also provides N-key rollover and key-bounce protection. The EA2000 interfaces with keyboards without requiring diode isolation for each key. The device is fully TTL-compatible without external components, and requires only +5 and -12 V power supplies. The EA2000 comes in a $40-$ pin ceramic or silicone-molded DIP. A pre-programmed version, the EA2007, provides encoding for standard ASCII and EBCDIC keyboards.

CIRCLE NO. 308


## WITH BUILT-IN SERIES RESISTORS

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5428 W. 104th St., Los Angeles, Ca. 90045 (213) 641-1232

DATA PROCESSING
Buffered matrix printer has speed of $73 \mathrm{char} / \mathrm{s}$


Control Data, Box O, Minneapolis, MN 55440. (612) 853-4096. \$2350; see text.

A dot-matrix printer, the Model 9316 , offers speeds to 173 char/s, and up to 100 lines $/ \mathrm{min}$ (for a 45 char. line). In addition the unit can print one to five-part forms (1st line visible to operator) of any width between 4 to 16.75 -in. A line-buffer permits loading of up to 132 characters plus forms advance with asynchronous data. A ROM chip allows quick change of character sets-standard 64, optional 96 or 128 . The print ribbon is changeable in 30 s and a standard typewriter ribbon is usable. The 9316 conforms with U.S. Canadian and European Standards for safety and noise. Production began in February, '75 subsequent shipments are 90 days ARO.

CIRCLE NO. 309

## Stripped fast CPU poised for new logic design

Scientific Micro Systems, 520 Clyde Ave., Mountain View, CA 94043. (415) 964-5700. See text.

Strip a microcomputer of most arithmetic capability, cut the instruction set to eight commands, use bipolar LSI and what's the re-sult-a $300-\mathrm{ns}$ programmable controller called the MicroController. This control-oriented device replaces sequential logic and can even be part of the control system of a large CPU or the controller for a mass-storage peripheral. The 8 -bit processors are packaged on a PC board and range in price from $\$ 370$ to $\$ 1460$. An interface register provides up to $224 \mathrm{I} / \mathrm{O}$ points and 56 control signals to external devices. Program storage ranges from 512 to 4096 16-bit words.

CIRCLE NO. 310

Cassette system stores data and programs


Sykes Datatronics, 375 Orchard St., Rochester, NY 14606. (116) 458-8000. \$1500 (qty); 1 wk.

The Model 80 is a low-cost cassette system for minicomputers. The SYKES-tape is suited for program loading and sequential data logging. It includes off-the-shelf interfaces and software drivers for most popular minicomputers. The unit features a transfer rate of $9600 \mathrm{bit} / \mathrm{s}$, rewind speed of 120 $\mathrm{in} / \mathrm{s}$ and capacity of more than 30 (4k) programs per cassette ( 2.8 Mbits).

CIRCLE NO. 321

## Programmer-processor loads and tests pROMs



Macrodata Corp., 6203 Variel Ave., Woodland Hills, CA 91364. (213) 887-5550. $\$ 16,000$; 30 to 60 days.

Macrodata's MD-100 or MD-104 programmable microprocessor and Data I/O's Model III programmer, program and test pROMs with up to $2 \times 16$ organization. A paper tape input or standard pROM can be used. The bit pattern is loaded separately into the MD-100/104 RAM and the Data I/O memory. The programmer programs the pROM. The system then applies the write pulses to each pROM position and verifies the bit there. Control is automatically switched to the processor to perform functional tests.

CIRCLE NO. 322

## PLL module helps build dense storage systems



Correlation Industries, P.O. Box 751, La Canada, CA 91011. (213) 790-3189. \$165.

Packing densities in excess of $40 \mathrm{k} \mathrm{bpi} /$ track are promised by the Model 114 data synchronizer. A narrow-band phase-locked loop and coherently clocked sample data detector, the module accommodates RZ, NRZ-L, M, or S, BI-phase L, M, or S, or Miller-encoded recording formats. All tracks may be fully deskewed for simultaneous parallel playback. The synchronizer is tunable over a 2 to 1 data rate range by means of an analog control input. Units are available from $7.8 \mathrm{kbit} / \mathrm{s}$ to $8 \mathrm{Mbit} / \mathrm{s}$. Power requirements are $\pm 15 \mathrm{~V},+5 \mathrm{~V}$ at 1.4 W. The dimensions are $3 \times$ $2.5 \times 0.625-\mathrm{in}$.

## CIRCLE NO. 323

Acoustic coupler has automatic switchover


Tycom Systems Corp., 26 Just Rd., Fairfield, NJ 07006. (201) 2274141. See text: stock to 30 days.

The Model 920 originate-only acoustic coupler comes with its own IC-regulated power supply and is contained in a wood-grained cabinet. The unit operates at rates from 0 to 300 baud and automatically switches between data and acoustic operations. It can be used with any terminal that has EIA RS-232 connector and can switch from full to half duplex. A carrier detect light is standard on all units, and each comes with a direct access arrangement (DAA). The PC board sells for $\$ 99.50$; the encased unit is $\$ 199.50$.

CIRCLE NO. 324

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## STRIP CHART ADAPTER FOR X-Y RECORDER



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EUROPEAN OFFICE $\begin{aligned} & \text { Rochesterlaan } 68240 \text { Gistel Belgium } \\ & \text { Phone 059/27445- Telex Bausch } 19399\end{aligned}$

## Linear amp yields 1 W at 2.4 GHz



Microwave Power Devices, Inc., Adams Ct., Plainview, NY 11803. (516) 433-1400. 60-90 days.

The Model LWA 0824-1 solidstate amplifier provides class-A operation over the frequency range of 800 to 2400 MHz in one band. The amp outputs 1 W of linear power and 2 W of saturated power. Minimum gain is 27 dB and harmonics are at least -29 dB . Above 1400 MHz , harmonics drop to -50 dB . Input/output SWRs are $2: 1$ and the unit operates over the 0 -to-70-C temperature range.

CIRCLE NO. 325

## 1-GHz klystron outputs 37 kW

## Bell \& Howell Type 435 Polyfunctional Operator

Use this versatile analog operator for a wide range of applications in measurement and control as well as laboratory experiments and development projects. This miniature, hermetically sealed unit performs multiplication, division, squaring, square root and exponentation. With the use of external components, it can generate trig functions of sine, cosine, arc tangent, and vector algebra. Using log/ antilog techniques to perform all functions, the Type 435 Operator provides typical full scale accuracies of better than $\pm .25 \%$.

Write for 6-page brochure containing complete specifications.

## CONTROL PRODUCTS DIVISIOn

706 Bostwick Ave., Bridgeport. Conn. 06605 (203) 368-6751


ITT Electron Tube Div., 3100 Charlotte Ave., Box 100, Easton, PA 18042. (215) 252-7331.

A klystron amplifier tube, type F-2912, covers the frequency range between 960 and 1215 MHz with a power output of 37 kW minimum. The metal/ceramic tube is an electrostatically focused, mechanically tuned device that operates in the pulse mode at a duty factor of $2.5 \%$. Operating voltage is 24 kV at a peak beam current of 7.8 A . Maximum grid-cutoff voltage is -475 V and maximum rf drive power is 75 W . With a gaussian current pulse, the energy in each $500-\mathrm{kHz}$ band, centered $\pm 800 \mathrm{kHz}$ from the center frequency, is more than 45 dB down from the energy in the $500-\mathrm{kHz}$ band centered on the carrier frequency.

CIRCLE NO. 326

## Hf dipole handles four channels



Rohde \& Schwarz, Pressestelle, 8000 Munchen 80, Muhldorfstrabe 15, Germany.

A high-frequency dipole, the HK003, transmits signals up to 1 kW in power. The HK003 measures 10 m in length and it permits preprogramming of four channels in the frequency range of 2 to 30 MHz by the use of suitable reactive components.

CIRCLE NO. 327

## 10-kW amp permits continuous sweep

N.V. Philips' Gloeilampenfabrieken, Elcoma Div., P.O. Box 523, Eindhoven, the Netherlands.
A single-tube $10-\mathrm{kW}$ amplifier unit, type 40775 , can be tuned continuously over its entire frequency range of 87.5 to 108 MHfz . Only 70 W of input drive yields an output power of 11 kW . Thus a solidstate drive can be employed. A complete $10-\mathrm{kW}$ transmitter, using the 40775 , can be installed in one 19 -in. rack. The grounded-cathode 40775 is designed around the company's YL1470 power tetrode.

CIRCLE NO. 328

## Couplers span

 $0.2-\mathrm{to}-18-\mathrm{GHz}$ range

Norsal Industries, Inc., 34 Grand Blvd., Brentwood, NY 11717. (516) 231-4040. Stock to 8 wks.

A series of broadband directional couplers covering the ranges of 0.2 to $18 \mathrm{GHz}, 1$ to 12 GHz and 0.2 to 18 GHz provide coupling values of 10,16 and 20 dB . Most units have directivities exceeding 20 dB . All models are available with SMA and Type N connectors per MIL-C-39012, and all units have been qualified for MIL environments. Typically the new couplers measure $2 \times 11 / 16 \times$ 1/2-in.

CIRCLE NO. 329

# After all the noise the quiet logic of HiNIL 

 and 74 C cMOS you on the right track.May 10, 1869. Promontory,Utah. The rumble of wheels, the hiss of escaping steam, the shouts of the celebrating crowd filled the skies with a deafening roar when they drove the golden spike that joined the Central Pacific and Union Pacific Railroads.

But today, when you link Teledyne's high noise immunity logic, HiNIL, and our 74C CMOS together in your digital or analog/digital control designs, you'll no longer have to worry about spikes or noise. Teledyne invented HiNIL to meet the need for high noise immunity found in practically all digital systems. The success of this large and still growing family has made Teledyne a leading supplier of logic for high noise applications.

Just put HiNIL on input-output lines to block heavy noise transients and drive high current peripheral devices. And use CMOS in the middle to minimize power dissipation and increase speed and circuit density. The combination of HiNIL's guaranteed 3.5 V noise margin and 74 C 's low power dissipation lets them quiet almost any kind of system with high noise problems.

Our two logics interface directly, too. Standard 74C drives HiNIL directly and HiNIL drives more than 50 CMOS loads. Simply connect both to an inexpensive 12 or $15 \mathrm{~V} \pm 1 \mathrm{~V}$ power supply. You can even connect linear circuits to the


Optimum System Design Approach same supply for extra savings.

HiNIL eliminates the need for drivers because it sources up to 15 mA and sinks up to 65 mA . That's ample capability for display tubes, LEDs, lamps and relays.

And with HiNIL you save on filter capacitors, get the extra flexibility and economies of diode-expandable inputs, and have a choice of active or passive pullup and open collector outputs. There's plenty of board-shrinking MSI in both families, too.
So write or call Teledyne today to find out about our HiNIL and 74C CMOS lines. We'll show you how easy it is to block out all the noise and stay on the right track.

## A-TELEDYNE SEMICONDUCTOR

# A/d converter module keeps speed high but cuts cost by 50\% 



Datel Systems, 1020 Turnpike St., Canton, MA 02021. (617) 828-8000. $P \& A$ : See text.

Datel's ADC-EH12B 12-bit ana-log-to-digital converter halves the cost of high-speed conversion. The unit transforms an analog input signal into a 12 -bit digital word in $4 \mu \mathrm{~s}$ or less. And, it costs only $\$ 229$ in unit quantities.

Other outstanding features of the modular converter are its small size and its power consumption. The unit measures only $2 \times 4 \times$ 0.4 in.-about half the height of many competing converters. The
power requirement of only 2 W is also about half that of the competition. Both of these improvements are due to the company's use of complex ICs that replace some older, less efficient circuits.

The $a / d$ converter can operate either as a unipolar or bipolar unit, just by pin-strapping. Input ranges are 0 to 10 V or -5 to +5 V. For either input range the input has an impedance $4.4 \mathrm{k} \Omega$.

Only two trims are required to adjust the converter gain and offset. The gain tempo is a low 20 $\mathrm{ppm} /{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ max. Both serial and
parallel output data are available in either offset binary, 2's complement or straight binary, depending upon which input mode is selected.

Some competing units available include the ADC-1103 at $\$ 495$ from Analog Devices (Norwood, MA), the ADC-591-12A at $\$ 425$ from Hybrid Systems (Burlington, MA), the 4132 at $\$ 485$ from Teledyne Philbrick (Dedham, MA) and the MP2912A at $\$ 595$ from Analogic (Wakefield, MA).

All except the Analogic unit complete conversions in $3.5 \mu \mathrm{~s}$. Both the Datel and Analogic units require $4 \mu \mathrm{~s}$.

All four competing units require more power than the Datel, with Teledyne Philbrick the closest at 2.8 W .

Teledyne Philbrick, though, makes the smallest unit of the lot $-2 \times 4 \times 0.375 \mathrm{in}$.-an eighth of an inch thinner than the Datel converter. And the Analog Devices ADC-1103 has the best gain tempco -only $10 \mathrm{ppm} /{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ max.

Datel also has a lower-speed version of the ADC-EH12B, with conversion time of $8 \mu \mathrm{~s}$ for 12 bits. It costs $\$ 169$ in unit quantities.

The ADC-EH12B converters are offered for delivery in four weeks. Datel
Analog Devices Analogic
Hybrid Systems
Teledyne Philbrick

CIRCLE NO. 301
CIRCLE NO. 302
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CIRCLE NO. 305


## ANALOGY

ACE OUT THE COMPETITION WITH THEA-860 12-BIT DAC YOUR SUSTEM WONT NEED RIGGS FOR 100 NS CONVERSION SPEED AT O. $0125 \%$ LINEARITY SETTLES TO THE BOTTOM LINE IN LESS TIME THAN HOWARD CAN SAY "WOMANS LIB."


INCORPORATED (408) $244-0500$

1220 COLEMAN, SANTA CLARA CA. 95050

## Motor drives handle 1/8 to 1 hp units



Graham Transmissions Co., P.O. Box 160, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051. (414) 251-1100. \$120; stock.

The Min-Max series of permanent magnet motor drives are available in ratings from $1 / 8$ to 1 hp . Standard features include $4 \%$ regulation over a $30: 1$ speed range; maximum speed adjustment, adjustable torque limit, and a NEMA $41 / 12$ oil and dust resistant enclosure. The units are compact, less than 11 in . high and 4 in. square. While the Min-Max series drives are offered in complete basic packages (including 1800 rpm motors), the control unit itself is available for use with other permanent magnet $90-\mathrm{V}$ armature motors (with slight internal modification).

CIRCLE NO. 330

## High speed follower handles 300-V signals

ILC Data Device Corp., Airport International Plaza, Bohemia, NY 11716. (516) 567-5600. $\$ 250 ; 6$ to $8 w k$.

The high voltage, high speed, voltage follower, Model VF-666, is intended for deflection circuit buffering and other applications that require high voltage isolation. The Model VF-666 will track 300-V pkpk signals from de up through high frequencies with a unity gain accuracy of $\pm 0.01 \%$. Its input parameters include an input offset voltage of $\pm 1 \mathrm{mV}$, an input bias current of 100 pA and an input impedance of $10^{11} \Omega$. The amplifier slew rate is $50 \mathrm{~V} / \mu \mathrm{s}$ (min). The rated supply voltage is $\pm 175 \mathrm{~V}$ dc and the unit can supply $\pm 150 \mathrm{~V}$ at 3 mA . The VF666 is packaged in a $2 \times 3 \times 0.5$ in. case and is rated for operation from 0 to 70 C .


The amazing self-powered, self-contained, pocket-size Logic Monitor requires no adjustments or calibrations as it simultaneously displays static and dynamic logic states of DTL, TTL, HTL or CMOS DIP ICs. Now you can watch your signals work their way through counters, shift registers, timers, adders, flip-flops, decoders, even entire systems! High intensity LEDs turn on when lead voltages exceed the threshold ( 2 V ). No power supply is needed! The power-seeking gate network locates DIP supply leads and feeds them into the Logic Monitor. Forget about grounds, pin counting or sync polarity.

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Monitor to any DIP IC up to 16 pins. Precision plastic guides and a flexible plastic web" insure positive connections between non-corrosive nickel/silver contacts and the IC leads. Logic levels appear instantly on 16 large (. $125^{\prime \prime}$ dia.) high intensity LEDs. Logic "I" (high voltage)-LED ON. Logic "0" (low voltage or open circuit)-LED OFF.
Yes, now you can see your designs come alive. Order your fast, versatile, accurate, indispensable Logic Monitor today!
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## INSTRUMENTATION

Voltage $/ \Omega$ calibrator offers $30 \mathrm{ppm} /$ year


John Fluke Manufacturing Co., Inc., Box 7428, Seattle, WA 98133. (415) 323-2133. \$1995; stock to 45 days.

A portable ac-dc voltage and resistance calibrator especially designed for use with digital voltmeters, Model 515 A , offers a basic accuracy of 30 ppm per year over a wide temperature range of 18 to 28 C . Weighing only 13 lb . including the rechargeable battery pack (which provides up to 8 h off-line operation) the instrument is housed in a $3-1 / 2 \times 8-1 / 2 \times 16-\mathrm{in}$. case. Specs include de volts from 9 to $999 \mu \mathrm{~V}$ continuous with 0.2 $\mu \mathrm{V}$ resolution, 0 to 1.0 V in $0.1-\mathrm{V}$ steps, 0 to 10 V in $1-\mathrm{V}$ steps, and a precise $100-\mathrm{V}$ output. Ac voltage tests can be made at three frequencies, $400 \mathrm{~Hz}, 4 \mathrm{kHz}$ and 50 kHz .

CIRCLE NO. 332

## IC testers offer 100\% functional tests



Electromedics, 3295 Brookdale Dr., Santa Clara, CA 95052. (408) 2433119. Start at $\$ 550$.

Models 1000 and 1100 digital IC testers feature $100 \%$ functional testing of DTL, TTL, and CMOS devices. Programmable cards and simple go/no-go fault indicators eliminate operator training or error. High productivity is assured with less than $0.1-\mathrm{s}$ cycle times. Expandable options are available for 24 and 40 -pin devices. Model 1000 provides pass/fail testing while Model 1100 incorporates failure analysis indicators.

CIRCLE NO. 333

561 Hillgrove Avenue • LaGrange, Illinois 60525 (312) 354-1040


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## Semiconductor Division SCHAUER <br> Manufacturing Corp.

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Telephone: 513/791-3030

INFORMATION RETRIEVAL NUMBER 54


Siemens Corp., 186 Wood Ave., S., Iselin, NJ 08830. (201) 494-1000. Under \$1500; 60-90 days.

Log 38 tests PC boards ( 31 or 64 pins) and ICs (TTL, CMOS, LSI) with visual indication of static voltage conditions. The unit is equipped with a plug board which links the inputs of the boards under test to a word generator, and the outputs with a word indicator. This generates the required input bit sample. Selector sockets enable the operator to choose whether the indicator lamps should light up at ZERO or ONE.

CIRCLE NO. 334

## 6-channel recorder gives choice of modules



Incor Instrumentation, Inc., 144 Lamar St., West Babylon, NY 11703. (516) 643-7070. Basic 6channel, single speed: $\$ 2090$; stock to 4 whs.

This six-channel recorder, Series 3000 , offers over 10 types of standard plug-in modules that provide conditioning for: ac and de voltages for $1 \mu \mathrm{~V}$ to 50 V per division; thermocouple inputs, frequency-tovoltage, log conversion; and to power most types of strain, load and pressure transducers. Each plug-in module contains its own fused transformer input power supply to provide complete signal and fault isolation between recording channels. The recorders are thermal writing type and provide dc to 110 Hz response on $50-\mathrm{mm}$ wide analog channels.

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Other performance parameters are also high. Swr, for example, is unsurpassed and flatness is $\pm 1 \mathrm{~dB}$ over the full range.

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particular needs. Write today for General Catalog showing complete switch line. When you think switch...think STACOSWITCH and save!


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## DISCRETE SEMICONDUCTORS

## Laser diodes deliver up to 20 W at room temp



RCA, 415 S. Fifth St., Harrison, NJ 07029. (201) 485-3900. From $\$ 10$ (unit qty.) ; stock.

Ten GaAs single-diode injection lasers are designed for use in a variety of applications including intrusion alarms and industrial control equipment. These $10 \mathrm{de}-$ vices, designated as the SG2000 series, have minimum power outputs ranging from 1 to 20 W at peak drive currents of 10 to 100 A. The peak wavelength of spect:al radiant intensity at 27 C is 904 nanometers. The devices are supplied in coaxial OP-3 and OP-12 packages for simple mounting and good thermal dissipation capability.

CIRCLE NO. 336

## Transient suppressors have JEDEC registration



General Semiconductor Industries, P.O. Box 3078, Tempe, AZ 85281. (602) 968-3101. From $\$ 0.90$ ( $10,000-$ up) ; stock.

Two JEDEC registered TransZorb transient voltage suppressors are intended for 5-V IC logic protection. The 1 N5907 is a glass-tometal, hermetically sealed device for military applications, and the 1N5908 is a molded version for commercial use. Both devices have a high energy suppression capabili-ty- $15,000 \mathrm{~W}$ for $10 \mu \mathrm{~s}$ and 1500 W for 1 ms . The theoretical response time is less than $1 \times 10^{-12} \mathrm{~s}$.

CIRCLE NO. 337

## Npn power transistors handle up to 200 W

Kertron, 7516 Central Industrial Dr., Riviera Beach, FL 33404. (305) 848-9606. From $\$ 8.60$ (100up) ; stock.

The $2 \mathrm{~N} 6338,2 \mathrm{~N} 6339,2 \mathrm{~N} 6340$ and 2N6341 are npn power transistors housed in TO-3 packages. The devices feature high current gain at 10 A , with a minimum gain of 12 at $25-\mathrm{A}$ collector current. The transistors can dissipate 200 W with a case temperature of 25 C . The transistors have a turn-on time of less than 300 ns and fall-time of less than 250 ns . All devices in the family are rated from 100 to $150 \mathrm{~V} \mathrm{BV}_{\text {CEO }}$.

CIRCLE NO. 338

## High speed photodiodes made for optical guides



Texas Instruments, P.O. Box 5012, Dallas, TX 75222. (214) 238-3741. $\$ 40$ (471); \$175 (451); 3 wk.

Two high-speed diodes, the TIXL471 and 451, are designed for use in fiber optic applications. The GaAs diode light source and silicon avalanche photodiode can connect directly and self-align with Corning T-19H optical waveguide terminations. The TIXL471 infra-red-emitting diode is a domeshaped chip mounted in a threaded connector package. The 0.018 in. diameter chip is encapsulated in epoxy to provide a flat, clear window at the top of the case. Typical optical power coupled into the Corning T-19H optical waveguide is $15 \mu \mathrm{~W}$ at 150 mA drive current. The TIXL451 photodiode is housed in an anodized-aluminum threaded case filled with clear epoxy. Light (up to $8^{\circ}$ half angle) emitted from the attached fiber optic bundle will fall on the active area of the detector ( $4.5 \times 10^{-3} \mathrm{~cm}^{2}$ ). Designed for dc to microwave frequencies, the TIXL451 has a minimum photocurrent gain of 100 and a typical gain-bandwidth product of 80 GHz .

CIRCLE NO. 339

## Solid-state buzzer emits 76 dB of sound



Aristo-Craft Distinctive Miniatures, 314 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10001. (212) 279-9034. $\$ 1$ (OEM qty).

The new electronic SSB series of solid-state buzzers is only $15 / 16 \mathrm{in}$. in diameter, $11 / 16-\mathrm{in}$. high and flange mounted. Low-current drain makes the SSB suitable for transistorized circuitry. Two models are presently available. Model SSB No. 612 operates on 6 to 12 V dc at a maximum current of 15 to 30 mA , and the SSB No. 30 operates on 3 V de at a maximum current of 35 mA . The minimum sound-level output is 76 dB at 1 ft and its frequency is 400 Hz . The unit's temperature range is -10 to 55 C .

Neon 7-segment display provides high contrast


Industrial Electronic Engineers, Inc., 7720-40 Lemona Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91405. (213) 787-0311. $\$ 1.75$ to $\$ 2.35$ (unit qty); stock.

The IEE-Luna Series of sevensegment, neon-tube digital displays feature bright, amber and singleplane characters. The units are available in nominal $3 / 8-\mathrm{in}$. (NTD11), $1 / 2$-in. (NTD-21) and $5 / 8$ in. (NTD-31) sizes, and they provide a high-contrast, low-power display with $120^{\circ}$ viewing. Life expectancy is $100,000 \mathrm{~h}$. The tubes require only 0.6 mA per segment at 130 V dc and they operate over temperature range of -10 to 55 C .

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505 West Olive Avenue Sunnyvale, CA 94086 (408) 733-9080



Model: 6355 Mini-multimeter $\$ 279$

INFORMATION RETRIEVAL NUMBER 57


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## design aids

## LED driver selector guide

Organized as a four-unit matrix -common-anode and commoncathode rows, segment driver and digit-driver columns-a LED driver selection guide lets its user select, at a glance, precisely the LED driver needed. For each driver, the guide shows the number of outputs, the current capability per segment or digit and indicates whether or not the driver is decoded. National Semiconductor, 2900 Semiconductor Dr., Santa Clara, CA 95051

INQUIRE DIRECT

## Dielectric materials

Described in a dielectric materials selector chart are adhesives, casting and potting resins, conformal coating and varnish resins, electrically conductive resins and tooling resins. Formulated Resins.

CIRCLE NO. 342

## Displays

Mock-ups of planar gas discharge displays represented in actual size and color are printed on an $8-1 / 2 \times 11 \mathrm{in}$. adhesive-backed paper. Two character fonts (Series SP-350, $1 / 2$ in. and SP-330, 1/3in.) and two functions (clock and frequency) allow sampling two sizes and two configurations. Beckman Instruments, Helipot Div., Santa Ana, CA

CIRCLE NO. 343

## Silicon bridges

A cross-reference guide lists 12 of the company's silicon bridges and corresponding competitors' bridges, ranging in current from 1.5 to 25 A . General Instrument, Semiconductor Products Div.

CIRCLE NO. 344

## Zener wall chart

An updated zener diode wall chart covers low-cost commercial zeners to ultra-reliable military devices. Siemens.

## new literature



## Impulse generators

A 12-page, four-color brochure covers 19 standard impulse generators. Performance features and safety features are described, along with descriptions of nine types of optical equipment. Five of the units are illustrated, and schematic diagrams and scope traces support the discussions on operation and theory. A chart supplies major specifications for each model. Hipotronics, Brewster, NY

CIRCLE NO. 346

## Cartridge lamps

Two-pin cartridge lamps that insert easily from the front of the panel into matching holder assemblies are described in a 16-page catalog. Photographs, drawings and ordering information are included. Genisco Technology, Eldema Div., Compton, CA

CIRCLE NO. 347

## Instrument rental

A comprehensive listing of over 5000 instruments available for short or long-term lease; 100 nationwide sales/service centers; ancillary services such as measurement and testing, calibration and maintenance, terminal services and instrumentation repair and calibration are covered in a 50 -page catalog. General Electric, Quick-Rental Instruments, Schenectady, NY

CIRCLE NO. 348

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Mrd. under Tabet U. S. Patents 2,841,660, 2,971,066, 3,015,000, 2,956,131, 2,988,607.

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INFORMATION RETRIEVAL NUMBER 60

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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Number of manufacturers listed | 5,800 | 3,165 | 7,528 |
| Total number of products listed <br> Number of direct products listed <br> Number of cross-reference products listed | $\begin{aligned} & 4,267 \\ & 2,479 \\ & 1,788 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 3,235 \\ 2,250 \\ 985 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 4,799 \\ & 2,925 \\ & 1,874 \end{aligned}$ |
| Number of distributors listed in Distributors Directory - Alphabetic | 0 | 1,720 | 5,780 |
| Number of distributors listed in Distributors Directory - Geographic | 0 | 1,720 | 5,780 |
| Is complete mailing address given each time a company is listed in product directory? | No | No | Yes |
| Is telephone number given for each company listed in product directory? | No | No | Yes |
| Are distributors listed for each manufacturer? | No | Partial ${ }^{1}$ | Yes |
| Does manufacturers listing include FSCM numbers? | No | No | Yes |
| Does manufacturers listing include facsimile equipment by make and call number? | No | No | Yes |
| Total Circulation . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . | $30,017^{3}$ | 89,169 ${ }^{3}$ | Over 90,000 |
| Overseas Circulation ${ }^{2}$. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . | 1,339 ${ }^{3}$ | $0^{3}$ | 13,200 |
| Number of ad pages . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . | $590{ }^{4}$ | 2,752 | 2,820 |

# quick ads 

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## NEW LITERATURE



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Free Applications Booklet-"Group Delay Equalization In Communications Systems". This comprehensive manual, prepared by SEG's Equalizer Design Dept., features useful applications information as well as tutorial look at the design of equalizers and their functions. SEG Electronics Corp. 120-30 Jamaica Ave., Richmond Hill, N.Y. 11418 (212) 441-3200. INFORMATION RETRIEVAL NUMBER 611


Comstron's 1013 costs only \$1595. It's a 5 digit, 0.1 Hz to 13 MHz Frequency Synthesizer for bench \& systems applications. A metered, leveled output, up to 3 V RMS, with a precision output attenuator adjustable in 10db steps with continuous level control, low phase noise \& low harmonic distortion ensures signal purity. Comstron Corp, 120-30 Jamaica Ave, Richmond Hill, NY 11418 (212) 441-3200.

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## Projection displays

Series 1100 projection display product profile is a technical and applications catalog, enabling users to evaluate and/or specify this series of low-cost message displays and their companion driver/decoders. IEE, Van Nuys, CA

CIRCLE NO. 349

## Choppers and reed relays

Basic transformer-isolated and high-frequency choppers, microchoppers, chopper drivers, microreed, reed-power and light-isolated relays are featured in a 32-page catalog. Solid State Electronics, Sepulveda, CA

CIRCLE NO. 350

## Edge connectors

Printed-circuit receptacles (edge connectors) are presented in a catalog. Full specifications, illustrations, schematic drawings, as well as ordering information, are given for each series. U.S. Components, Bronx, NY

CIRCLE NO. 351

## Packaging cards and racks

Euro-Cards and Euro-Racks, a family of metric IC packaging cards and racks, are described in a four-page brochure. Cambridge Thermionic, Cambridge, MA

CIRCLE NO. 352

## A/d converters

Direct digital conversion of i-f signal frequencies using the Model 7110 a/d converter is detailed in a series of data sheets. Computer Labs, Greensboro, NC

CIRCLE NO. 353

## Materials test system

"Series 810 Materials Test Systems Catalog" describes features and capabilities of the system. MTS Systems Corp., Minneapolis, MN

CIRCLE NO. 354

## High-voltage power SCRs

Series $420 \mathrm{PA}, 470 \mathrm{PA}$ and $470-$ PB high-voltage power SCRs in a Hockey-Puk package are described in a data sheet. International Rectifier, El Segundo, CA

CIRCLE NO. 355

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