

NEWS BRIEFS

DICE Conversion

AN AGREEMENT, signed in February, gives Marconi Communication Systems Ltd. exclusive world-wide manufacturing and marketing rights of the Digital Intercontinental Conversion Equipment (DICE) developed by engineers of the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

The latest version of DICE can convert 525-line NTSC colour pictures, as used in the U.S.A. and Japan, into the 625-line PAL or SECAM pictures used in most other parts of the world, and vice-versa. DICE is, by a comfortable margin, the world's fastest computer.

Standards conversion is essential, not only for "live" relays via satellite, but also when programme material on video tape is exchanged between countries working to different television picture standards.

A number of different types of standards converters have been developed over the years, but IBA engineers were the first to develop a unit based on digital techniques to eliminate the need for careful alignment and adjustment and to provide conversion without perceptible picture impairment.

It is claimed that DICE solves the technically complex process of conversion between systems using 30 pictures a second, as in North America and Japan, and those using 25 pictures a second, as in Europe, entirely electronically and with negligible distortion and is capable of satisfying a global demand for high quality pictures by satellite. It also allows programme companies making television recordings for world-wide sale to offer high quality pictures no matter which standard was used during production.

Another Component Source?

ANOTHER American component distributor has decided to enter the U.K. market. Cramer Electronics of Newton, Mass., is one of the largest distributors of components in the U.S. They are "broad-line" distributors offering very wide range of components with particular emphasis on the less glamorous but vitally essential non-active components and hardware items, right down to the humble grommet.

The U.K. distribution centre to be set up in the London area will be under the control of David Griffin who has been appointed Managing Director of U.K. operations and also Marketing Manager/Europe for the Newton, Mass. (U.S.) based firm.

Although Cramer Electronics is an industrial distributor, the possibility of offering a "one-off" service to individuals is not entirely ruled out. David Griffin is aware of the needs of the constructor market and has indicated his willingness to examine this particular area.

Portable Heart Monitor

IN CLOSE co-operation with Danish doctors, Simonsen & Weel have developed a new portable, battery operated combined defibrillator/memory/scope. This unit is especially designed for the resuscitation of patients suffering from acute heart diseases.

The cardio-aid is very useful to on-the-spot ambulance staff. A feature of the unit is its capability to be linked to hospital staff from the ambulance by radio link. This enables the ECG, the heart activity of a patient in electrical form, to be sent to a qualified doctor at the hospital. The doctor can then instruct the ambulance staff, via the radio link, of any emergency treatment that needs to be carried out during the journey to the hospital.

POINTS ARISING

MARINE SPEEDOMETER (February 1975)

The last paragraph on page 121 should read: "Ranges of 0 to 10 and 0 to 20 knots are obtained by selecting either VR2 alone or VR3 and R17 in series to replace VR2. Selection can be by S1 (VR3, R17 and S1 are not shown) or S1 can be part of S2 which thus becomes a three-pole three-way switch with 'Range 1', 'Range 2' and 'off' positions."

The Zener diodes D1 and D2 in Figs. 1 and 3 should be reversed.

Further, the co-ax outer should be connected to the battery common line in Fig. 2.

P.E. MINISONIC (January 1975)

In Fig. 3.12 pin 4 of IC1, MIXER 2 should be shown connected to -9V line by means of connection at column 104, tenth strip down.

In Fig. 4.6, R14 should be disconnected from pin 6 and connected to TR5 emitter. Pins 2 and 6 should be bridged with a 100pF polystyrene capacitor.

GAS DETECTOR (September 1974)

Some readers have experienced trouble over the starting of oscillation after setting up has been carried out. It is suggested that the setting-up procedure be altered as follows.

Connect the "dummy" load as described but set VR1 to the fully anti-clockwise position and not the opposite as originally described. This places it in the position for producing the shortest mark-space ratio.

Now adjust VR1 till the load resistors are hot but not burning to the touch. Switch off and then on again to confirm the oscillator is indeed operating.

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	£		£		£		£
BC107	0.12	BC212L	0.13	2N3053	0.17	1N4001	0.07
BC108	0.11	BC214L	0.13	2N3055	0.50	1N4002	0.07
BC109	0.13	BCY70	0.17	2N3442	1.50	1N4148	0.05
BC182	0.11	BCY71	0.22	ZTX304	0.26	OA91	0.09
BC183	0.11	BCY72	0.13	ZTX504	0.35	709	0.38
BC184	0.11	BFY50	0.23	OC23	0.50	741	0.39
BC182L	0.11	BFY51	0.22	OC28	0.70	747	0.90
BC212	0.13	BSX20	0.22	OC35	0.60	SL301B	0.75
BC213	0.13	TIP41A	0.85	OC45	0.30	CA3046	0.75
BC214	0.13	TIP42A	0.95	OC170	0.25	NE555	0.85

7400	0.19	7420	0.20	7475	0.60	7492	0.70
7402	0.20	7430	0.20	7476	0.42	7493	0.67
7404	0.20	7472	0.34	7483	1.25	74107	0.45
7410	0.20	7473	0.48	7486	0.48	74121	0.51
7413	0.38	7474	0.42	7480	0.66	74141	1.00

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