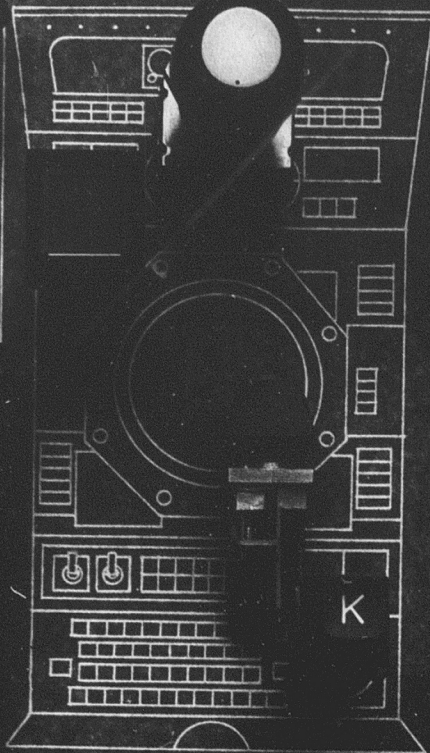




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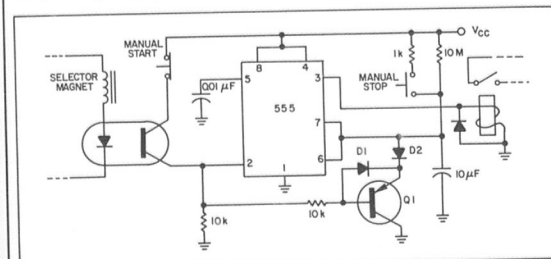
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ACROSS THE DESK

(continued from page 10)



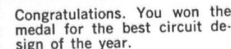
interruptions in the selector-magnet current. At the first interruption, the phototransistor in the optical coupler turns off, and pin 2 of the 555 falls to ground to start the timing cycle. Each interruption also turns on Q_1 , which discharges the timing capacitor and prevents the circuit from timing out until 110 seconds after the last data character. Diode D_1 protects the emitter junction of Q_1 from excessive reverse voltage, and D_2 prevents the capacitor from being

charged through D_1 .

Supply voltage should be between 5 and 15 V. Up to 200 mA, the circuit will deliver a volt or two less than the supply voltage to the relay coil. The relay can either switch the teleprinter motor directly if its contact ratings are adequate, or control a larger relay.

Craig R. Allen
Naval Electronics Laboratory
Center
Code 3400
San Diego, CA 92152

Misplaced Caption Dept.



Skip interference may be considerable by '78

In reference to your "Washington Report" concerning the sunspot effect on the Citizen's Band (ED No. 17, Aug. 16, 1976, p. 45): You are in error in indicating that the interference due to skip is not as bad as feared; the report is based on the assumption that we are at the peak of the sunspot cycle.

On the contrary, we are at the bottom of sunspot cycle 20 with the beginning of sunspot cycle 21 expected to take place some time next year. Its peak is expected to occur around 1982.

Therefore, in the next two to three years, considerable skip interference will be noticed, with complete worldwide interference two to three years before and after the peak—at which time communication in the 27-MHz CB band will be next to useless.

Joseph F. Mibelli, WA4JLX
Chief Electronics Engineer

Sorry. That's Hans Holbein the Younger's "Sir Thomas More," which hangs in the Frick Collection, New York City.

◀ CIRCLE NUMBER 180 for DATA
◀ CIRCLE NUMBER 236 for SALESMAN CALL