

FEATURES

8 Electronic Noses Smell A Big Future

Don't sniff. – electronic noses have a big future, from checking your morning coffee to sniffing out explosives. And they're here now – by Peter Holtham

14 Logging Your Every Driving Moment

Some airbag controllers do more than just trigger the airbags; they also log your speed and a range of other driving actions – by Julian Edgar

85 PC Board Design Tutorial, Pt.2

The basics of component placement and routing, plus a few tips to make your boards look good – by David L. Jones

PROJECTS TO BUILD

24 A 12AX7 Valve Audio Preamp

And we swore we'd never do another valve audio project. Who was it that said "bottles" were dead? – by Jim Rowe

41 Our Best LED Torch . . . Ever!

It's based on a Luxeon Star/O 1W ultrabright LED, runs off two "D" cells and blasts our previous LED torches into the weeds! – by John Clarke

62 Smart Radio Modem For Microcontrollers

This low-cost project will enable your Picaxe, Stamp or other microcontroller to communicate without wires – by Nenad Stojadinovic

74 The PICAXE, Pt.8: The 18X Series

You've guessed it: the Picaxe 08 chip has several big brothers. Here's a look at the "18A" version, along with a simple temperature sensor – by Stan Swan

78 A Programmable PIC-Powered Timer

This PIC-based timer can be set for any period from one second up to 680 days and even (theoretically) up to nearly 60 years – by Trent Jackson

SPECIAL COLUMNS

36 Serviceman's Log

The JVC TV set that whistled – by the TV Serviceman

71 Circuit Notebook

(1) Making The Flexitimer Cycle On And Off; (2) Low Battery Indicator; (3) A Simple 9-Way Cable Identifier; (4) Clipping Indicator For Audio Amplifiers; (5) 8V DV Supply With Overvoltage Protection; (6) Cheap Switchmode DC-DC Converter

90 Vintage Radio

The 1953 4-Vaive Precedent Mantel Receiver – by Rodney Champness