

Features

12 The Magic Of Water Desalination

The driest continent on Earth is about to get much more drinking water from the sea, thanks to new desalination plants. Here's a look at how they work – by Geoff Graham

20 Review: Two Low-Cost DVD Recorders

Thinking of retiring that ancient VCR and getting a DVD recorder? Here's a look at two low-cost units: the Tevion DD1018 & the AWA DR711 – by Barrie Smith

78 CeBIT: What's New At Australia's Largest IT Show?

There's lots to see at CeBIT. We took a stroll around the displays to bring you this report – by Ross Tester

Projects To Build

26 Lead-Acid Battery Zapper & Desulphator Mk.3

Rejuvenate old lead-acid batteries by zapping them with high-voltage pulses to dissolve the lead-sulphate crystals on their plates. It works with 6V, 12V & 24V batteries & is easy to build – by Jim Rowe

38 Hand-Held Metal Locator

Compact unit is ideal for finding steel frames & studs, steel bracing & nails in plaster walls. And it can discriminate between ferrous and non-ferrous metals – by John Clarke

58 Multi-Function Active Filter Module

Versatile design is ideal for use as an active crossover in loudspeaker systems but has other uses as well. It can be configured as a low-pass filter, as a high-pass filter or as a bandpass filter using on-board jumpers – by John Clarke

80 High-Current, High-Voltage Battery Capacity Meter, Pt.2

This month, we guide you through the once-only setup and calibration procedure. We also tell you how to use it – by Mauro Grassi

Special Columns

70 Circuit Notebook

(1) RF Preamplifier For World-Band Receivers; (2) Signal Inverter Runs From 5V Rail; (3) Simple Water Spillage Alarm; (4) Accurate Timer Locked To 50Hz Mains Supply; (5) Enhanced Software For The Appliance Energy Meter

44 Serviceman's Log

Car electronics: a whole new ballgame – by the Serviceman

89 Vintage Radio

The Lyric 8-Valve Console From The 1920s – by Rodney Champness