QUESTION

What do you suppose old Alex really said when he spilled the acid on himself? Could it be that History's first phone call was an obscene one? !

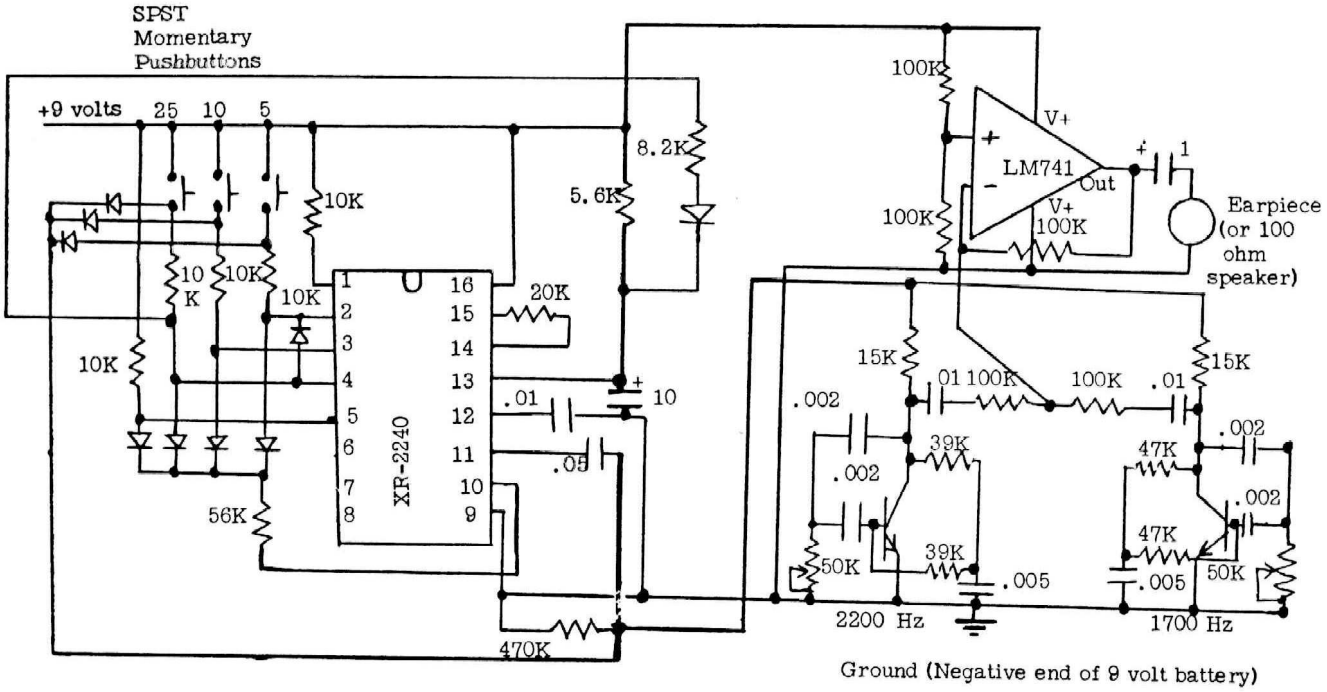
Agent 038

(If you didn't understand it, we will explain it in a future issue.)

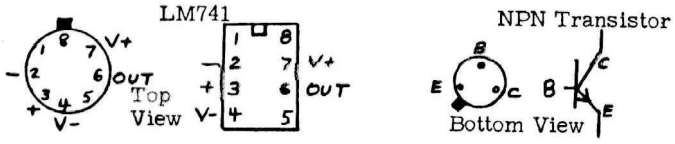
TAP

JUNE 1976 NO.36

ULTIMATE RED BOX by Al Bell



Ground (Negative end of 9 volt battery)



Resistors - 1/4 watt, 10%
Op-Amp - 741CV (National, Signetics, etc.)
Capacitors are in mfd. Values above .5 mfd are electrolytic, 15 volts or more. Observe proper polarity in these units.
Diodes - Small-signal silicon, 1N914, 1N4001, or equivalent.
Pots- 50K, small 10 or 20 turn trimpots.
Timer- XR-2240 made by Exar.
Pushbuttons - Small, momentary, s.p.s.t. Good units made by Alco, Grayhill and C&K.

This is the Ultra-new Red Box that uses the new Exar programmable counter-timer. This Red Box is different from all others in that it actually counts to 1, 2, or 5 as the case may be. The old versions, you may recall, would produce a time "window" that the user would adjust to allow the required number of pulses to fit in. This adjustment, if done carelessly, would allow 5 1/2 or 4 1/2 pulses on the 25¢ tone, for example. This circuit incorporates the new dual tones that are rapidly becoming the standard throughout the country, 1700 Hz and 2200 Hz.

The circuit is easy to build on perf-board, and cheap because the most expensive part, the XR-2240, costs under $3.00 at most mail-order electronics stores (the stores are listed in TAP Course B and Issue 29).
To tune the two oscillators, disconnect one at a time by removing one end of its 15K resistor, and then tune the other oscillator for its proper frequency with a frequency counter or any of the methods outlined in Issues 7, 12, or 16. Do the same for the other oscillator. Of course, determining the pitch of an oscillator that's gating on and off is not easy, so for tuning connect the top of the 15K resistor right to V+ and a constant tone will result. More information on calibrating frequency sources will be given in upcoming articles.
The circuit runs quite well on a standard 9 volt battery or the small 8.2 volt cells now becoming popular.
The speed at which the tones gate on and off is determined by the resistance to pin 13. In the schematic, the 5.6K resistor controls the 5¢ and 10¢ gating speed, while the 8.2K resistor determines the speed of the 25¢ tones. Of course, with this circuit the speeds can be changed and the number of pulses (1, 2 or 5) will remain exactly the same. Neat, huh?

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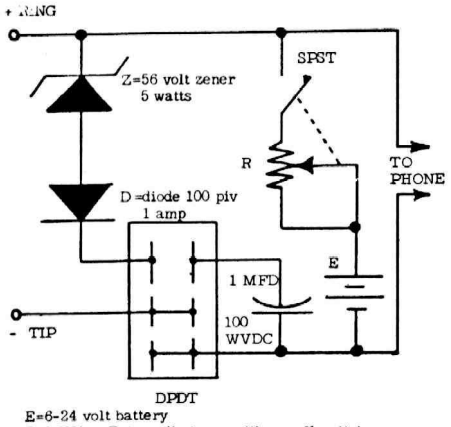
ODDS & ENDS by TOM EDISON

THE TAP T-SHIRTS ARE FINALLY HERE!!! The cost is $4. The TAP T-shirts are white with black TAP logo. We're only making a few so order right away. Make sure you are "HIP TO YIP" this summer at the Democratic National Convention! Please make all checks payable to TAP.

I received a request from a reader in West Virginia inquiring how to connect your own battery to my Automatic Black Box (See issue #33) for increased volume. I sent him a possible solution and he wrote back informing me that the circuit is working well:



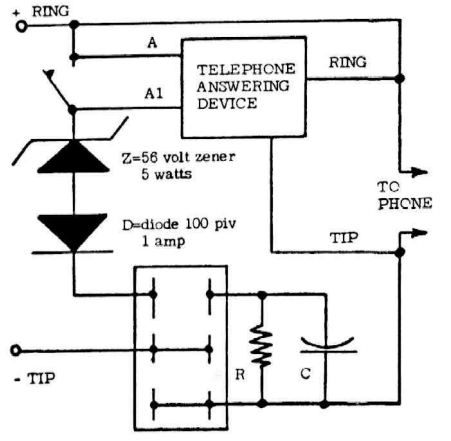
DPDT

E=6-24 volt battery

R=1 KOhm Pot, audio taper with on-off switch

The standard 10 K ohm resistor is NOT needed. The capacitor passes the audio but blocks the DC voltage which results in an "on-hook" condition. The 1 K ohm pot gives you a level control for YOUR voice.

And speaking of Black Box modifications here's a circuit sent in by a reader from Brooklyn, N. Y. on how to connect a phone answering device to the Auto Black Box:



DPDT

R=10 KOhm resistor, 1/2 watt

C=1 MFD capacitor, 100 wvDC

The device is connected between the two diodes but please note that only answering devices equipped with A & A1 terminals can be connected this way. Only the better machines have these terminals clearly marked. On the el cheapo equipment they are either not available or hidden. Check out the schematic diagram that usually comes with the answering device and you may be able to find these two unused terminals.

In my "Odds & Ends" last month I told how to use your MF Red Box but I failed to mention a very important point. You will recall that Pa Bell is now having operators check o determine if coins are being deposited so it is now necessary to redeposit a slug to reset the coin relay and get at least one real "beep" and then "beep" the balance with your Red Box. It is now more important than ever to have your Red Box on frequency. If the operator hears a tone difference she'll know you're boxing. Also, you should know if the pay phone you're using has the new MF tone generator set on one or two tones. It's doubtful if the operators know which pay phones are single tone and which are MF tones but if you use a new MF Red Box on a single tone pay phone the operator sure as hell will know you're boxing if you deposit a slug to get one real "official Bell" beep and then beep the balance with MF tones. To determine if the corner pay phone is single or MF tone have a friend call from the pay phone and Black Box the call. Now have him deposit coins. He won't hear anything because the earpiece is shorted but you will hear the beeps and can easily tell if they're single or MF tone. And because you're boxing the call he'll get all deposited coins back when he hangs up. Since you're actually testing the pay phone for an out of tune condition Pa Bell should be glad to foot the bill, don't you agree?

TELEPHONE ELECTRONICS LINE, better known as TEL, has lost its suit with PT&T and was forced to commit the unpardonable sin of turning over their mailing list to PT&T. (We don't intend TAP subscribers to suffer the same fate. Only one person has access to the mailing list. He and it are being wired to self-destruct in the case of attack) The Gestapo tactics of PT&T's insecurity department has included the mailing of a threat note telling all TEL subscribers to not only remove all "foreign" equipment from their phone but demanding that all back issues of TEL and related TEL publications be destroyed! They've got fuckin'balls! Asking to remove homemade equipment is one thing but demanding that printed information be destroyed just reeks of 1984, S-1, and Fahrenheit 451! While TEL left much to be desired and at best can only be considered an illegitimate offspring of TAP they are nevertheless to be applauded for printing information that apparently pissed off PT&T enough to take them to court. My own gut reaction to the tactics of PT&T can be sumed up in two words: Phuck you! For you customers "served" by PT&T may I suggest that you look to GT&E or some other independent telephone company for all your future business. And for all TEL subscribers who received PT&T's threat note, may I suggest that you either roll it up and smoke a joint in it or keep it handy in the smallest room in your house and put it to good use whenever you get the urge from Mother Nature.

Ever have Pa Bell charge you for a long distance call that you never made? This annoyance is due to the usual billing incompetence of Bell and due to a new breed of telephone linemen who are misusing that staple of the phone company, the lineman's test set. You know the one I'm talking about. The blue handset with the dial built into the earpiece and the special "roach" clips with center spikes for easy access to thick rubber insulated wires. Ever wonder what the hell they're doing on the pole for such a long time? They're calling their friends using your phone line. With his test set all he has to do is clip onto a pair of wires, wait for dial tone, and dial away. Bell is trying to keep this growing occurance under wraps but news of this abuse has leaked out.

Here's some more good news. Litton Industries has recently sued Pa Bell for $333 million in damages charging Bell of monopolizing the manufacture, distribution, sale-rental and leasing of terminal equipment. Good luck Litton!

And speaking about blasting Big Brother Bell, let me add my 2¢ worth. On March 18, 1976 the FCC, in one of the smartest decisions they've ever made, ruled that subscribers could legally own and connect terminal equipment to their phone lines. Basically this meant that you could buy and own a phone and hook it yourself to your phone line. Bell panicked at the thought of all the money they'd loose in equipment rentals. You cannot legally own Bell equipment and before you start screaming about all the different types of "Fun-Fones" currently being "sold" by Bell let me remind you that the only part of those phones that you really own is the plastic housing. Bell retains ownership to all the components including earpiece, mouthpiece, dial or touch tone pad, ringer, network, and all connecting cords. So if you want to spend $60 for a piece of plastic, go ahead!

For the first time people in authority are beginning to question the necessity of Bell's monopoly. Bell finally realizes that Washington and the public aren't going to be snowed by Bell bull shit any longer! Bell recently launched a three prong counter attack. First, pressure was put on Washington and the FCC by Bell's powerful lobby. Second, TELENEWS, Bell's propaganda handout inclosed with your phone bill, carried editorials denouncing the attack on its monopoly and warning that you will get worse service (if that's possible) and a higher phone bill if Bell has to compete with other companies. And third, Bell went to its stockholders and warned them that if they didn't get off their fat asses and write their Congressmen (who are probably too busy screwing their secretaries!) in support of any and all pro Bell legislation the dividends would be smaller than whale shit and would undoubtable force many stockholders to collect welfare. The results of this campaign have been moderately successful. The FCC ruling has been appealed and temporarily shelved. Bell is continuing to claim that its monopoly is necessary to maintain service. Bell also claims that it looses money on every private line phone and needs the revenues it gets from the rental of extra equipment to subsidise this loss. Bull shit! The majority of Bell customers have only one line so based on their own statement Bell should be broke. Not so! Bell's profit for 1976 is up 17.6% over last year. And as for Bell's claim that telephone equipment manufactured by independent companies is not compatible with Bell system equipment again I say bull shit! You can connect just about any telephone made after 1900 on to your phone line and it will work. And as for the independent companies making telephones, they are ALL better than anything made by Pa Bell. I have a candlestick-roaring twenty's phone that I bought from Lafayette Radio Electronics. It's made by a company in Italy and is far superior to the one made by Bell and what's more I own every piece of it, not just the plastic housing!

Another game the linemen like to play is listening to your conversations and because of the special "Monitor" switch which puts the test set in series with a 1 MFD capacitor there's no telltale click when the lineman connects his "roach" clips across your line. And even the Snoop Detector (See issue #29) will NOT indicate a "Monitor" snoop on your line due to the fact that the test set in the monitor position draws NO DC current. Why let just the lineman have all the fun? Lineman's test sets are legally available. Check with your independent phone dealer. Remember, your friends are only a "roach" clip away.

If this were the 1890's I would not be so anti-monopoly because manufacturing standards were crude and with the many independent telephone companies around at the time all making their own phones, standardized equipment would be difficult to obtain. But today, with the wealth of technology available, standardization of all telephone equipment regardless of manufacturers is no problem. When you want a 100 watt light bulb you don't care if it's made by GE, Westinghouse, Sylvania, or any other manufacturer because they're all compatible with one another. How dare Bell claim that only Western Electric can make "usable" phone equipment!!!

And speaking of Western Electric, what the hell are they doing spending my money advertising on "60 Minutes", which recently has had some excellent segments on acquiring false ID and ripping off the unemployment insurance game while living like a king in Florida. The purpose of TV advertising is to get you to buy the advertised product but since you cannot buy ANYTHING from Western Electric why are they spending money obtained by increasing my telephone bill? If they want to advertise, let Bell pay for it by robbing the stockholders pocket instead of the public's! And if the reduced dividend means that some of you rich capitalist bastards might actually have to work for your money, tough shit!!!

There has been much propaganda by Pa Bell recently on the need for their interface coupling device required to connect any non-Bell equipment to your phone line. As usual, Bell's argument is pure 100% bull shit! Your telephone does not generate any electricity. It uses power supplied by the local CO. The worst thing that can happen in electronics is a dead short. Do you know what would happen if you shorted your two phone lines together? You'd get a dial tone on the line! No sparks, flame, smoke or fireworks-just a dial tone! Wake up people! Don't believe ANYTHING Pa Bell says and don't be afraid to experiment with YOUR phone. Remember, playing with your phone is half the fun of having the damn thing in the first place!

I've been informed by readers that Ballantine Books, publishers of I'M SORRY, THE MONOPOLY YOU HAVE REACHED IS NOT IN SERVICE, are no longer in service themselves. I'm sorry to have whetted so many appetites for a book that's out of print. I'll try and make it up to you by recommending a better book next issue. My thanks to all TAP readers who wrote in to expose my goof. Smart asses!

Congratulations to all recent Jr. High, Sr. High, and college grads. Have a fun filled summer and remember, don't get caught! We'll see you in the Fall with our "Back To School" issue.

Back issues are 50¢ each, 40¢ each if you order a full set. See previous issues for list of feature articles.
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S-1 UPDATE

S.1 in Deep Trouble

S.1, the gargantuan and oppressive revision and recodification" of the Federal Criminal Code, is in serious trouble and it now appears that chances for passage this year are quite poor. Politics can be surprising, and some sudden moves of compromises are still possible, but it now appears that S.1 will not be muscled through even the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Among the compromises accepted by S.1's sponsors were a partial decriminalization of possession of small amounts of marijuana, repeal of the 1940 Smith Act, and cutbacks in the number of crimes for which wiretaps are authorized. In addition the sponsors dropped the so-called "Watergate Defense" which would have immunized government employees from prosecution if they thought they were acting on lawful orders from superiors. The provision making it a crime to divulge classified information would also have been dropped.

The key to success for opponents of S.1 was their insistence on having the entire bill returned to subcommittee to be rewritten from scratch, instead of dropping their objections after S.1 proponents made some compromises. This required perseverance, for some of the compromises were tempting, and most politicians, suckled on the necessity of compromise, had to fight their instincts.

The importance of stopping S.1 in its present form can be summarized briefly. Traditional American Constitutional theory holds that government, while necessary, is dangerous, and must be strictly limited and held in check by a Constitution. The philosophy behind S.1 is about the opposite.

A reading of S.1 with a philosophical eye leads to the conclusion that government is a constructive and benevolent force, and that government should have the authority and power needed to do what the agents of the government think best for the people. We need not concern ourselves too much about ambiguities in the law which could lead to abuses of power, because most government agents are sincere people who want what's best for the country and have the wisdom and training to do what's best.

Abridged from Libertarian Party News

This is no cause to relax. It'll probably be back next year, in a slightly less objectionable version.

ASK Mr. PHELPS

Q. My ex-husband has custody of our children and has an unlisted phone number. How can I find out his number?

A. There are several ways which I will describe, but first you'll have to bear with me for a few paragraphs.

You realize, I am sure, that you are asking me to show you how to violate someone else's privacy. It is most unfortunate that people get into such situations. If you had it all to do over again, knowing how it might end up, would you have had the children? I realize that it is too late for you, so the following is directed at everyone else out there, before they are caught in "The Baby Trap". Read this excellent book by Ellen Peck before you make a mistake you might regret for twenty years or more.

Why have children? There's a surplus of people so they're not needed; they're incredibly expensive and offer negligible return; they'll occupy all of your time; they won't thank you - you might even produce another Alexander Portnoy. The number of children being born with birth defects is significant (probably caused by all the chemicals we eat and breathe) so why play the game when the odds are so poor? You shoot craps with the DNA code, and if you lose, Big Brother says "Sorry, you are stuck with it".

As for parental urges, these can be satisfied by regular visits to friends with children. When you are satiated (fed up) with them, you can leave and revel in the fact that you can leave.

I want to make it perfectly clear (where have I heard that before?) that I do not condone your intended action and am describing the procedures only as an exercise. Just about all of the methods are illegal.

You haven't mentioned whether the subject lives in a house or an apartment, but the procedures are similar. Everyone should know one, or two, or more, enterprising Telco employees. It is a simple matter for him (or her) or even a skilled amateur to tap the phone and get the number from the operator. In the old days, before all operators (in this area, anyway) were TSPS operators ("Traffic Service Position System"), it was necessary to call a verification number. But now he simply dials the operator and says: "Operator, frameman (or switchman) testing. What number am I coming in on?" She has the number on a LED readout.

Another method (which is a Federal rap) would be to intercept his mail. If it remains in an accessible box all day, you could check it daily and steal his phone bill when it arrives. Or you might be able to see the number thru the envelope and not have to steal it. Unless you are on very good terms with his mailman (Maybe I should say "intimate terms"), he probably won't want to be an accessory, or it would be simple.

If you are acquainted with a burglar, he could do his thing and note the number on the phone while he's there.

The least esthetic possibility is the A. J. Weberman bit. You've never heard of A. J. ? Well, I don't think you've missed much. I heard him once on the radio and every other phrase was "Ya know?" He's sort of a modern archeologist who digs into celebrities' garbage and reports his discoveries. If you get to the subject's garbage regularly, just before it is picked up, you might find a discarded portion of a bill, unless he is the kind of person who saves all old bills.

I would suggest that you come to some sort of an arrangement with him, but I don't want to sound like Dear Abby.

IDIOT OF THE MONTH

SHAPE HALL

Frank B walking around with his chest stuck out to here. On December 15 an early Christmas gift in the form of an 8 lb. 4 oz. bundle of joy was delivered. They have named her Andrea Lorretta. This makes it the fifth child for the B 's, four girls and one boy.

20% of the Local's members are out of work, including this idiot, so he and his brood sow have another one! Remember that every Bowery bum and 8th Avenue hooker was once an innocent, newborn "bundle of joy". What went wrong?

FANTASIA is Back!

Or should be, on its annual visit, by the time you read this. If you've seen it, you understand my enthusiasm. If you've never seen it, DO IT!

Seeing it straight is like seeing it in black and white. I'm certainly not about to encourage anyone to break the law (who me?), but if you're planning on taking another trip, or are considering losing your psychopharmaceutical virginity, there are few better times and places that I can think of. Enjoy!

A BOY AND HIS DOG

is not a Walt Disney film. I read the novella by Harlan Ellison years ago and was delighted to see it appear as a movie. It is "an R rated, rather kinky tale of survival". I will not reveal the ending. Being familiar with it, I was able to savor the audience's reactions. Thank you, Harlan. Thank you for all of your stories.

FEA computer tapped in theft

BALTIMORE (AP) — A computer programmer, charged with what was described as the "white collar crime of the future," has been convicted of stealing classified information from the computer banks of the Federal Energy Administration.

The government said Bertram Seidlitz, 37, used a computer terminal attached to his telephone to tap the FEA central computer banks and extract 39 rolls of printouts containing the agency's top-secret computer program.

U.S. Atty. Jervis S. Finney said no computer-stored information was actually obtained from the computer banks of the Washington headquartered agency. But with the program, Seidlitz had free access to any FEA classified information, including sensitive data on offshore oil field leases and energy development plans.

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