

the input circuitry, the supply to the IC or the IC itself.

Similarly, check the voltage at pin 4 of IC1. This should also be close to half supply. If not, one of the above mentioned faults must exist.

Assuming that IC1 checks OK, measure some voltages around the power amplifier. These should be in the vicinity of 3.4V at the collector of Q1, 4.7V at the base of Q3 and 4.5V at its emitter. The voltage at the base of Q4 should be about 3.7V. If all of these voltages appear to be correct, repeat the whole exercise for the other channel and then repeat with the plugs replaced.

If at any stage you measure a voltage which departs significantly from the above values, be sure to correct it before continuing the test.

Advice on buying a personal computer

I would like to make a few enquiries concerning home computers as I am considering obtaining one for myself. I have read your article in the June 1984 issue and other articles published on home computers. However, I feel I could use some expert advice as to the type of computer that would best suit my needs.

The computer I would like would need to be able to provide control of home appliances, personal programs, financial affairs and entertainment. My enquiries made at various stores and the types of computers were Commodore 64, Vic 20, Atari, Tandy TRS 80 and Dick Smith Cat. The various salesmen recommended their own computer and I found some parts unavailable. Several also did not have circuit diagrams available for study.

So as you can see I have a dilemma as to which computer is really best suited to my needs and the availability of parts. I would appreciate any advice you may be able to offer me. (G.K., St Agnes, SA).

● You are certainly not alone in your dilemma. All the machines you mention could probably be adapted to suit your needs but inevitably, you won't be fully aware of the possibilities until you have had some months of experience with a computer.

With that in mind, perhaps the best approach is to buy a very cheap machine such as the Dick Smith VZ200 or Tandy Model 100. This way you will only invest a small amount of money in a learning experience.

After buying and using a cheap machine for several months you may find that it has all the facilities you need.

No output from stereo simulator

I have built the stereo simulator, April 1983 but it is not working as planned. The input is from a Sanyo TV earphone mono socket and the outputs are connected to aux input of an amplifier. When on the only sound coming from the amp is a highly static version of the local radio station.

The voltages of the op amps are 12V at pin 7 and 6V at pin 6. The sound of the radio station is only heard when the input of the simulator is connected to the TV. (C.W., Warilla, NSW).

● The fact that the DC voltages in the circuit are correct indicates that both op amps are working. You probably have an open circuit in either the input or the output of the circuit. Check the board very carefully for hairline cracks or poor solder joints.

Notes & Errata

ELECTRONIC MULTIMETER (October 1984, 7/M/66): As presented, the circuit will not work properly when measuring AC current. The input coupling capacitor is far too small for this mode. The simplest solution is to short out S3a and omit the 0.1µF capacitor across it. This means that an external DC blocking capacitor will be needed if measuring AC voltages which are superimposed on DC.

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