## Performance-based assessments for semiconductor circuit competencies

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The purpose of these assessments is for instructors to accurately measure the learning of their electronics students, in a way that melds theoretical knowledge with hands-on application. In each assessment, students are asked to predict the behavior of a circuit from a schematic diagram and component values, then they build that circuit and measure its real behavior. If the behavior matches the predictions, the student then simulates the circuit on computer and presents the three sets of values to the instructor. If not, then the student then must correct the error(s) and once again compare measurements to predictions. Grades are based on the number of attempts required before all predictions match their respective measurements.

You will notice that no component values are given in this worksheet. The *instructor* chooses component values suitable for the students' parts collections, and ideally chooses different values for each student so that no two students are analyzing and building the exact same circuit. These component values may be hand-written on the assessment sheet, printed on a separate page, or incorporated into the document by editing the graphic image.

This is the procedure I envision for managing such assessments:

- 1. The instructor hands out individualized assessment sheets to each student.
- 2. Each student predicts their circuit's behavior at their desks using pencil, paper, and calculator (if appropriate).
- 3. Each student builds their circuit at their desk, under such conditions that it is impossible for them to verify their predictions using test equipment. Usually this will mean the use of a multimeter only (for measuring component values), but in some cases even the use of a multimeter would not be appropriate.
- 4. When ready, each student brings their predictions and completed circuit up to the instructor's desk, where any necessary test equipment is already set up to operate and test the circuit. There, the student sets up their circuit and takes measurements to compare with predictions.
- 5. If any measurement fails to match its corresponding prediction, the student goes back to their own desk with their circuit and their predictions in hand. There, the student tries to figure out where the error is and how to correct it.
- 6. Students repeat these steps as many times as necessary to achieve correlation between all predictions and measurements. The instructor's task is to count the number of attempts necessary to achieve this, which will become the basis for a percentage grade.
- 7. (OPTIONAL) As a final verification, each student simulates the same circuit on computer, using circuit simulation software (Spice, Multisim, etc.) and presenting the results to the instructor as a final pass/fail check.

These assessments more closely mimic real-world work conditions than traditional written exams:

- Students cannot pass such assessments only knowing circuit theory or only having hands-on construction and testing skills they must be proficient at both.
- Students do not receive the "authoritative answers" from the instructor. Rather, they learn to validate their answers through real circuit measurements.
- Just as on the job, the work isn't complete until all errors are corrected.
- Students must recognize and correct their own errors, rather than having someone else do it for them.
- Students must be fully prepared on exam days, bringing not only their calculator and notes, but also their tools, breadboard, and circuit components.

Instructors may elect to reveal the assessments before test day, and even use them as preparatory labwork and/or discussion questions. Remember that there is absolutely nothing wrong with "teaching to

the test" so long as the test is valid. Normally, it is bad to reveal test material in detail prior to test day, lest students merely memorize responses in advance. With performance-based assessments, however, there is no way to pass without truly understanding the subject(s).

 $\overline{\text{Question 1}}$ 

Competency: LED current limiting	Version:
Schematic	
V <sub>supply</sub> =	$R_{limit}$ $D_1$
Given conditions	
$V_{\text{supply}} = V_{\text{forward (LED)}} =$	$I_{forward(LED)} =$
Parameters	
Given $V_{supply} = \begin{bmatrix} & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & &$	Predicted Measured
Analysis  Show how you calculated the a	appropriate value for R <sub>limit</sub>
Draw the directions of both elections	on and conventional current
Suppose component fails  What will happen in the circuit?	open other shorted

 $\underline{\mathrm{file}\ 04075}$ 

Competency: Rectifying diode behave	rior	Version:
Schematic		
Forward-biased	Rev	verse-biased
$V_{\text{supply}}$ $\bigvee$ $D_1$	V <sub>supply</sub>	$R_1$ $D_1$
Given conditions		
$V_{\text{supply}}$ = (see multiple values giver	below)	
$R_1 =$		
Parameters Forward-biased		
Given	Predicted	Measured
$V_{\text{supply}} = $ $V_{R1}$		
$V_{D1}$		
Given	Predicted	Measured
$V_{\text{supply}} = $ $V_{R1}$		
$V_{D1}$		
Parameters Reverse-biased		
Given	Predicted	Measured
$V_{\text{supply}} = $ $V_{R1}$		
$V_{D1}$		
Given	Predicted	Measured
$V_{\text{supply}} = $ $V_{R1}$		
$V_{D1}$		

<u>file 01940</u>

Competency: Half-wave rectifier	Version:
Schematic	
Fuse 120 V / 12.6 V C.T. D <sub>1</sub>	$R_{load}$
Given conditions	
$V_{\text{secondary}} = (VAC RMS)$ $R_{lo}$	<sub>oad</sub> =
Parameters	
$\begin{array}{c cccc} & \text{Predicted} & \text{Measured} \\ & V_{load(DC)} & & & & & & & & & & \\ \end{array}$	ate only)
V <sub>ripple</sub>	
$ m f_{ripple}$	
Fault analysis  Suppose component fails shorted  What will happen in the circuit?	other

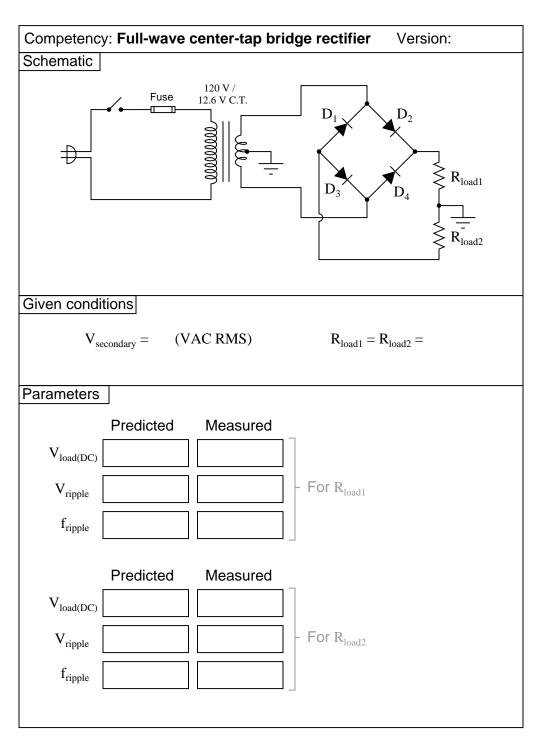
<u>file 01941</u>

Competency: Full-wave center-tap rectif	ier Version:
Schematic	
Fuse 12.6 V C.T.	$D_1$ $D_2$ $R_{load}$
Given conditions	
$V_{\text{secondary}} = (VAC RMS)$	$R_{load} =$
Parameters	
$\begin{array}{c c} & \text{Predicted} & \text{Measured} \\ \hline V_{load(DC)} & & & & \\ \hline V_{ripple} & & & & \\ \hline \end{array} \hspace{0.2cm} ( \text{A} )$	Approximate only)
$f_{ m ripple}$	
Suppose component   fails -	oen other

<u>file 01942</u>

Competency: Full-wa	ve bridge rectifier	Version:
Schematic		
		$D_1$ $D_2$ $D_3$ $D_4$ $R_{load}$
Given conditions		
$V_{\text{secondary}} =$	(VAC RMS)	$R_{load} =$
Parameters		
$\begin{array}{c c} & \text{Predicted} \\ V_{\text{load(DC)}} \\ \hline V_{\text{ripple}} \\ \hline f_{\text{ripple}} \\ \hline \end{array}$		roximate only)
Suppose component What will happen in t	SHORE	

<u>file 01943</u>



<u>file 01944</u>

Competency:	Full-wave re	ectifier circui	t	Version:
Description				
Design and build a full-wave rectifier circuit of any configuration desired. It simply needs to output DC when energized by an AC source (provided by the instructor).				
Given condition	ons			
V <sub>supply(AC)</sub>	=	$f_{supply} =$		
Schematic				
Parameters				
	Predicted	Measured		
$V_{ripple}$				
$f_{ripple}$				

<u>file 02296</u>

Competency: A	C-DC power supply	circuit	Version:
Description	,		
Build a "brute force" AC-DC power supply circuit, consisting of a step-down transformer, full-wave bridge rectifier, capacitive filter, and load resistor.			
Given condition	S		
$V_{supply} =$	$C_{\rm filter} =$	$R_{load} =$	
Schematic			
Parameters			
_	diated Magazirad		
	dicted Measured	7	
V <sub>out(DC)</sub>			
V <sub>out(ripple)</sub>			

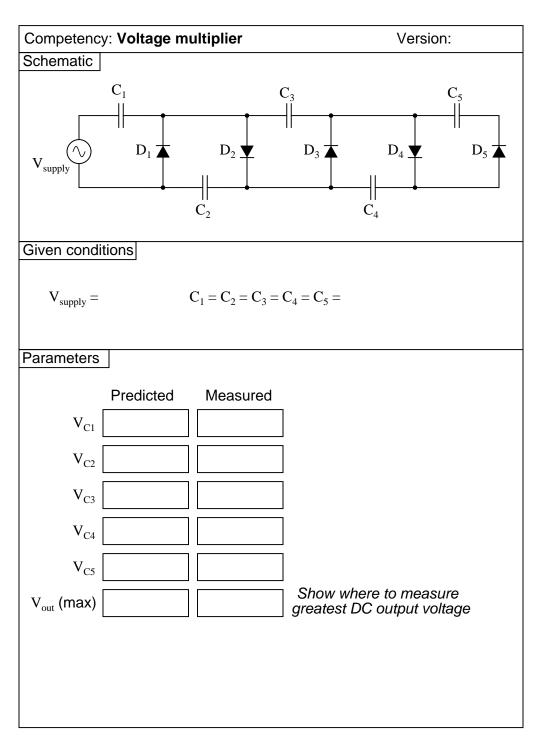
<u>file 01622</u>

Competency: Zener diode voltage regulator	Version:
Schematic	
V <sub>supply</sub>	$R_{load}$
Given conditions	
	$R_{series} =$
$V_{\text{supply}} = V_{\text{zener}} =$	$R_{load} =$
Parameters	
Predicted Measured  V <sub>load</sub> (nominal)  V <sub>supply</sub> (max)  V <sub>supply</sub> (min)	
Suppose component open  What will happen in the circuit?  open shorted	other

The  $V_{supply}$  (min) parameter is the minimum voltage setting that  $V_{supply}$  may be adjusted to with the regulator circuit maintaining constant load voltage at  $R_{load}$ .  $V_{supply}$  (max) is the maximum voltage that  $V_{supply}$  may be adjusted to without exceeding the zener diode's power rating.  $V_{load}$  (nominal) is simply the regulated voltage output of the circuit under normal conditions.

Competency:	Half-wave voltage doubler	Version:
Schematic		
	$V_{\text{supply}} \bigcirc D_1$	$V_{out}$ $C_2$
Given condition	ons	
V <sub>supply</sub> =	$C_1 = C_2 =$	V <sub>F</sub> (typical) =
Parameters		
$egin{array}{c} V_{C1} \ V_{C2} \ V_{out} \ \end{array}$	Predicted Measured	
Fault analysis	ope	en other
Suppose cor	mnonent   fails 🗀	orted
What will ha	ppen in the circuit?	

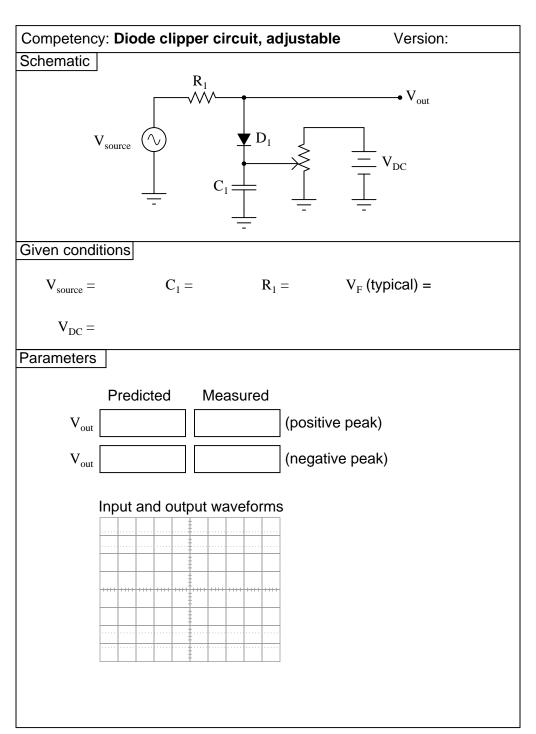
<u>file 01974</u>



<u>file 02012</u>

Competency: Diode clipper circuit	Version:
Schematic	
$V_{\text{supply}} \bigcirc D_1$	$lacksquare$ $V_{\mathrm{out}}$
Given conditions	
$V_{supply} = R_1 =$	$V_{F}$ (typical) =
Parameters	
Predicted Measured  V <sub>out</sub>	Input and output waveforms
Fault analysis	en other
Suppose component   Ifails -	orted

<u>file 01979</u>



<u>file 01986</u>

Competency: Zener diode clipper circu	ıit Version:
Schematic	
$V_{\text{supply}} \bigcirc P_1 $	→ V <sub>out</sub>
Given conditions	
$V_{\text{supply}} = R_1 = V_1$	$V_{\rm F}$ (typical) = $V_{\rm Z}$ =
Parameters	
Predicted Measured V <sub>out</sub>	Input and output waveforms
Suppose component   Ifails -	open other

<u>file 01980</u>

Competency: BJT terminal identification	Version:	
Description		
Identify the terminals (emitter, base, and collector) of a bipolar junction transistor using a multimeter. Then, compare your conclusions with information from a datasheet or cross-reference book.		
Given conditions		
Part number =		
Parameters		
Measured  V <sub>bias(BE)</sub> V <sub>bias(BC)</sub>		
Terminal identification (Draw your own sketch i shown is not approp		
Advertised Your conclusion  (Label)  (Label)		

<u>file 01921</u>

Competency: Current-sourcing BJT switch Version:		
Schematic		
$V_{ ext{supply}} = $ $R_{ ext{load}}$		
Given conditions		
$V_{supply} = R_{load} = \beta =$		
Parameters		
$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$		
Fault analysis		
Suppose component fails shorted		
What will happen in the circuit?		

<u>file 01931</u>

Competency: Current-sinking BJT switch	Version:	
Schematic		
V <sub>supply</sub> =	$R_{load}$ $Q_1$	
Given conditions		
$V_{ ext{supply}} = R_{ ext{load}} =$	$\beta =$	
Parameters		
Predicted Measured  I <sub>load</sub> I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	Calculated β P <sub>Q1</sub>	
Fault analysis	other	
Suppose component open other  Suppose component fails shorted  What will happen in the circuit?		

 $\underline{\mathrm{file}\ 01932}$ 

Competency:	BJT switch circuit	Version:
Description		
	Design and build a circuit that uses to turn on a bipolar junction transis then turns on a DC load such as a or small electric motor. The switch only carry enough current to active and must not carry the full load cu	stor, which I light bulb In must ate the BJT,
Given condition	ons	
$V_{ m supply} =$		
Schematic		
Parameters		
1	Measured	
$egin{array}{c} I_{ m load} & lacksquare & \ I_{ m switch} & lacksquare & \ \end{array}$	Is $I_{load} >> I_{switch}$ ?	
-switch		

 $\underline{\mathrm{file}\ 02319}$ 

Competency: Buffered zener diode voltage regulator Version:		
Schematic		
$V_{supply} = D_1$ $R_{load}$		
Given conditions		
$V_{ ext{supply}} = V_{ ext{zener}} = R_{ ext{series}} =$		
Parameters		
$V_{load} \ (nominal) \\ \hline \\ R_{load} \ (max) \\ \hline \\ R_{load} \ (min) \\ \hline \\ Be \ sure \ to \ calculate \ transistor \ power \ dissipation \ before \\ loading \ the \ circuit \ with \ R_{load} \ (min) \ and \ measuring \ V_{load}, \ to \\ ensure \ there \ will \ be \ no \ damage \ done \ to \ the \ circuit.$		
Fault analysis  Suppose component open other  What will happen in the circuit?		

The  $R_{load}$  (max) and  $R_{load}$  (min) parameters are the maximum and minimum resistance settings that  $R_{load}$  may be adjusted to with the regulator circuit maintaining constant load voltage.  $V_{load}$  (nominal) is simply the regulated voltage output of the circuit under normal conditions.  $\frac{\text{file }01945}{\text{file }01945}$ 

Competency: Darlington-buffered zener voltage regulator Version:		
Schematic		
$V_{\text{supply}} = D_1$ $R_{\text{load}}$		
Given conditions		
$ m V_{supply} =  m V_{zener} =  m R_{series} =  m$		
Parameters		
Predicted Measured		
V <sub>load</sub> (nominal)		
R <sub>load</sub> (max)		
$R_{load}$ (min) $\boxed{\hspace{1cm}}$ $While still regulating V_{load}$		
Be sure to calculate transistor power dissipation before		
loading the circuit with $R_{load}$ (min) and measuring $V_{load}$ , to ensure there will be no damage done to the circuit.		
Fault analysis		
Suppose component fails shorted other		
What will happen in the circuit?		

The  $R_{load}$  (max) and  $R_{load}$  (min) parameters are the maximum and minimum resistance settings that  $R_{load}$  may be adjusted to with the regulator circuit maintaining constant load voltage.  $V_{load}$  (nominal) is simply the regulated voltage output of the circuit under normal conditions.  $\frac{\text{file } 2010}{\text{file } 2010}$ 

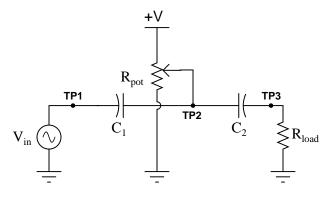
Competency: Current mirror	Version:	
Schematic	V <sub>CC</sub>	
$R_1 \gtrsim Q_1$	R <sub>load</sub>	
Given conditions		
$V_{CC} = R_1 =$	$R_{load}$ (max) =	
Parameters		
Predicted Measured		
I <sub>R1</sub>		
I <sub>load</sub>	(R <sub>load</sub> set to mid-value)	
R <sub>load(max)</sub>	(Maximum R with $I_{load}$ stable)	
R <sub>load(min)</sub>	(Minimum R with $I_{load}$ stable)	
Fault analysis	open Oother	
Suppose component open other shorted		
What will happen in the circuit?		

 $\underline{\mathrm{file}\ 01938}$ 

## Competency: Signal biasing/unbiasing network

Version:

Schematic



## Given conditions

$$V_{in} =$$

$$+V =$$

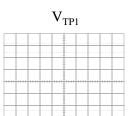
$$C_1 = C_2 =$$

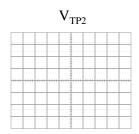
$$R_{load} =$$

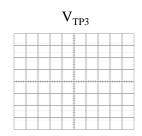
$$R_{\text{not}} =$$

Parameters

With potentiometer set to its \_\_\_\_% position:



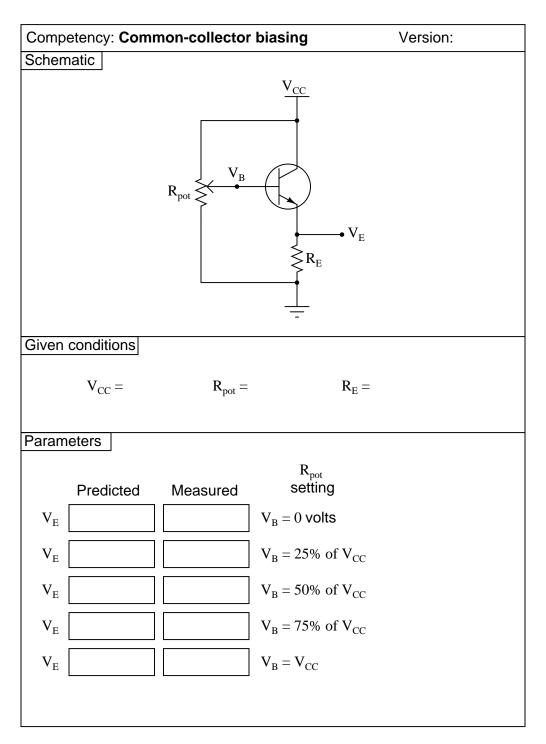




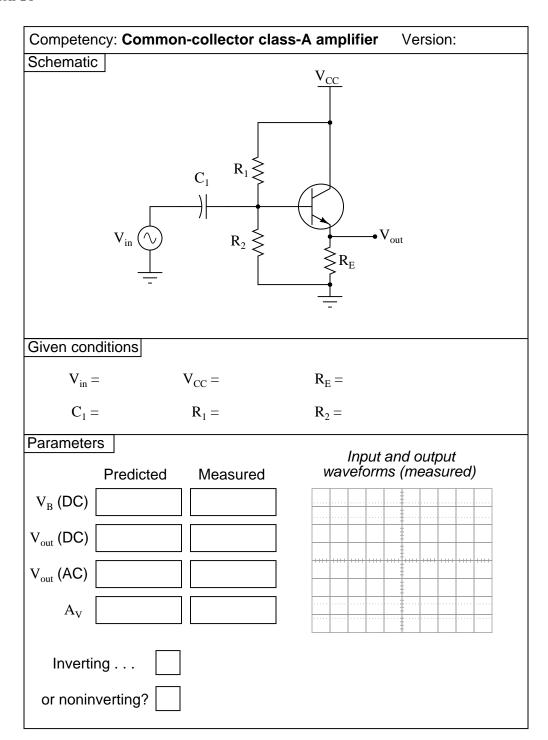
Explanation

What effect, if any, does the potentiometer position have on the voltage measured at each test point?

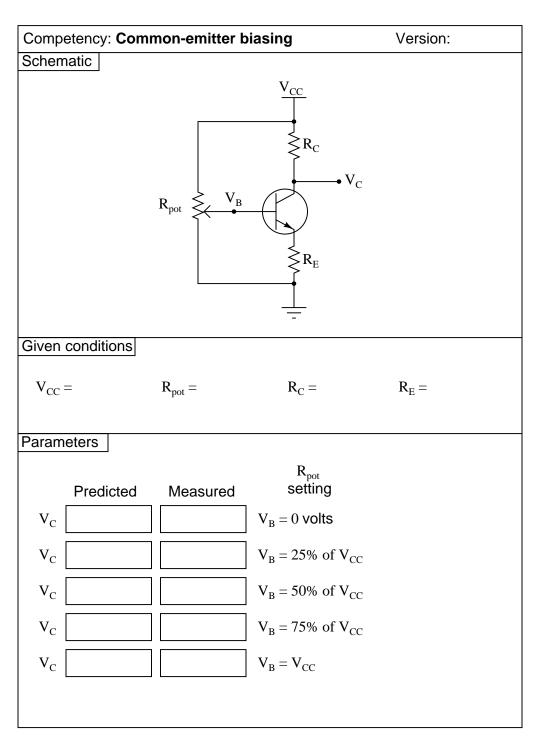
Explain how you could measure the effects of the potentiometer's position *without* using an oscilloscope.



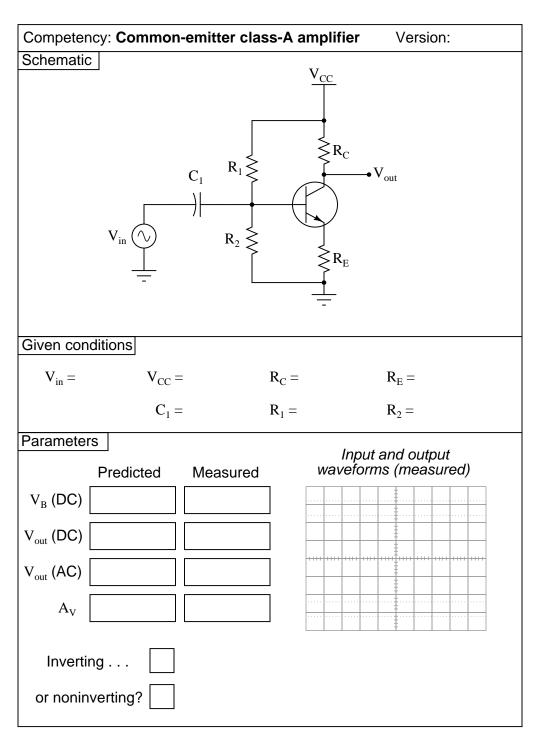
<u>file 01977</u>

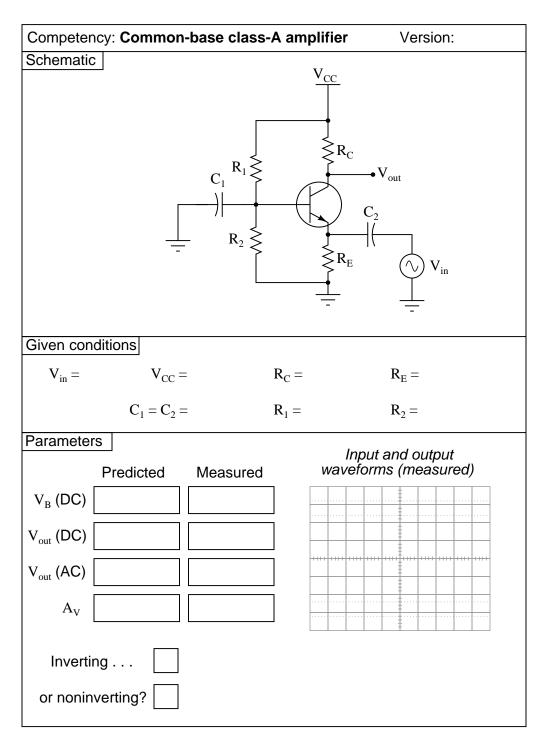


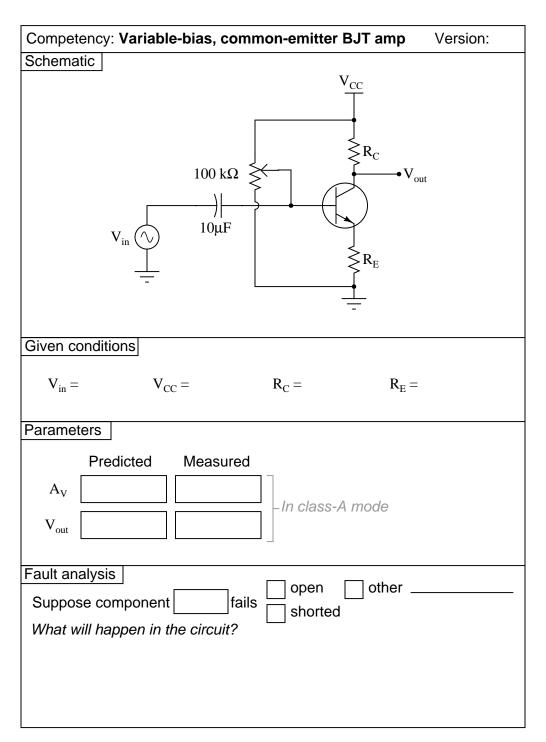
<u>file 01967</u>

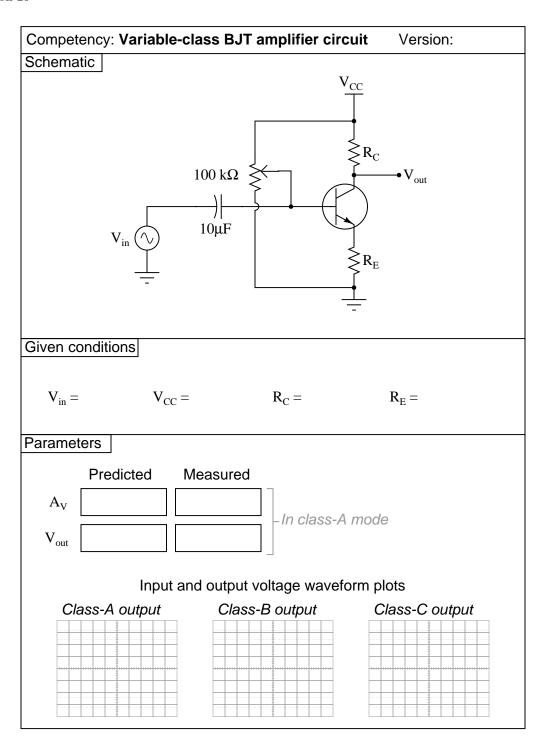


<u>file 01978</u>

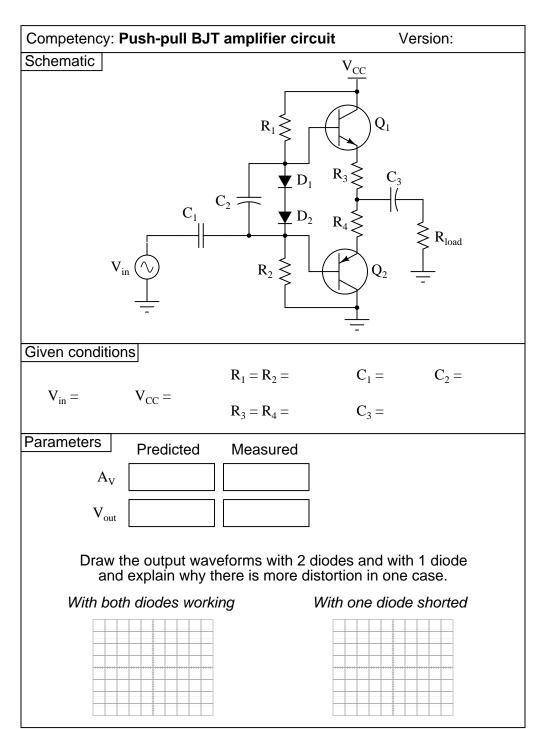


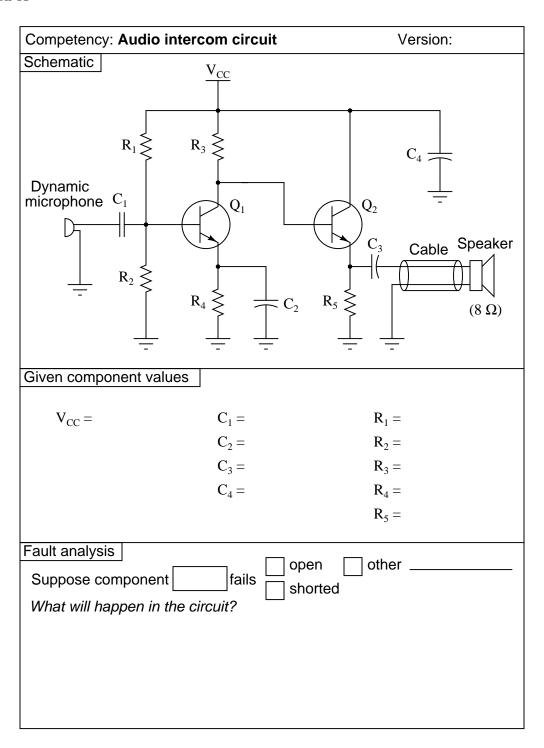




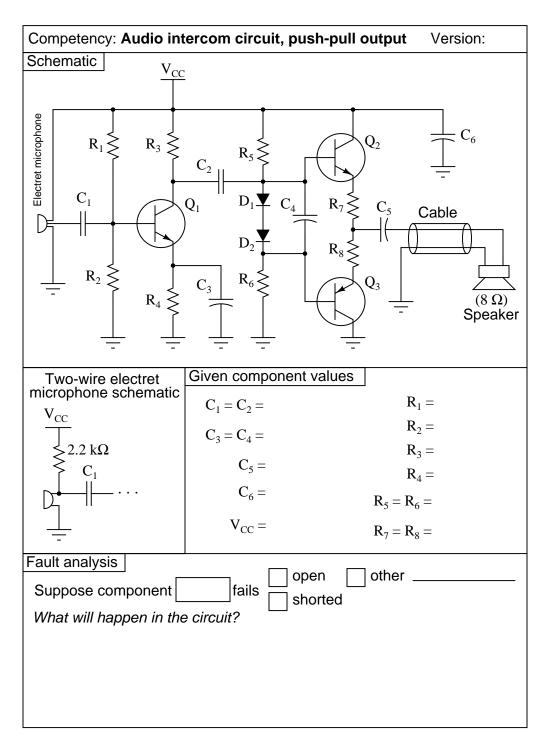


 $\underline{\mathrm{file}\ 01624}$ 





 $\underline{\mathrm{file}\ 01937}$ 



Competency: Class-A BJT amplifier w/specified gain Version:

Description

Design and build a class-A BJT amplifier circuit with a voltage gain  $(A_{\rm V})$  that is within tolerance of the gain specified.

You may use a potentiometer to adjust the biasing of the transistor, to make the design process easier.

Given conditions

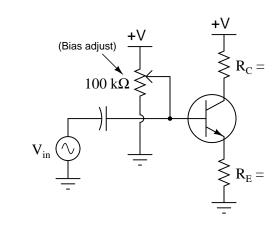
$$V_{in} =$$

$$+V =$$

$$A_V =$$

$$Tolerance_{A_v} =$$

Schematic



**Parameters** 

Measured

V<sub>in</sub>

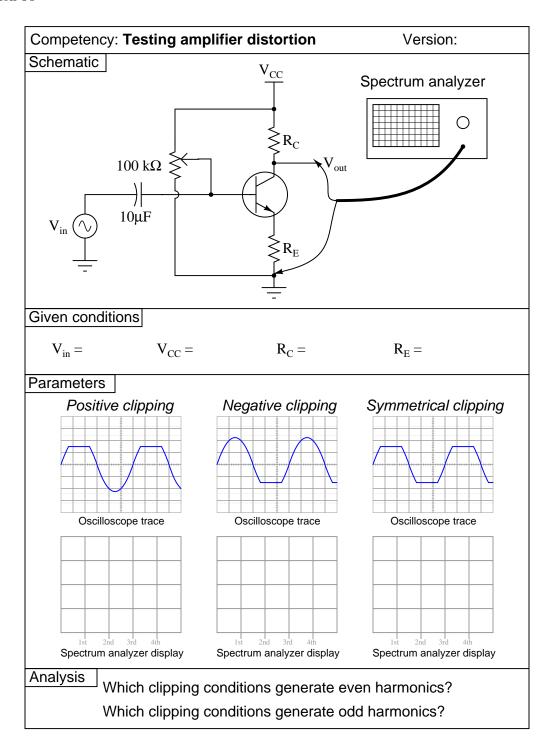
V<sub>out</sub>

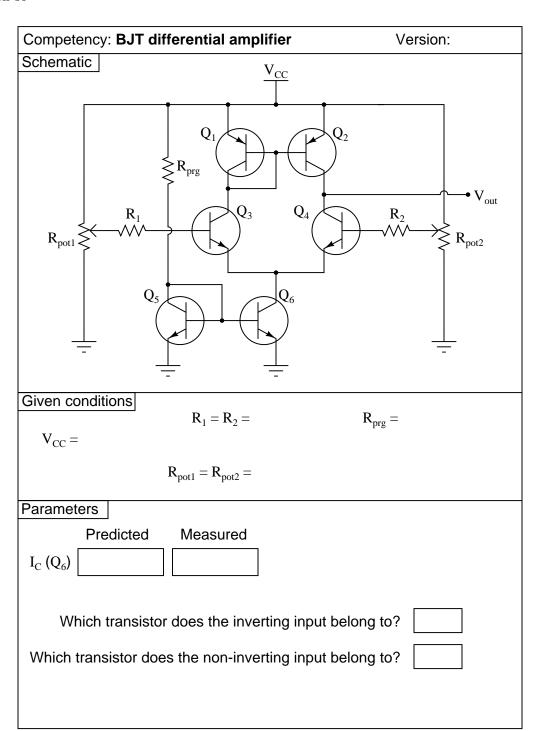
Calculated

A<sub>V</sub>

 $Error_{A_{v}}$ 

 $\frac{A_{V(actual)} - A_{V(ideal)}}{A_{V(ideal)}} \times 100\%$ 





 $\underline{\mathrm{file}\ 01997}$ 

Competenc	y: <b>JFET termi</b>	nal identification	Version:
Description			
	of a junction fi Then, compar	rminals (emitter, base eld-effect transistor use your conclusions we eet or cross-reference	sing a multimeter. ith information
Given condi	tions		
Part number =			
Parameters			
$ m V_{gate}$ -channel $ m V_{channel}$	Measured		
Terminal ide	entification	(Draw your own shown is not	
Advertis	sed Your	conclusion	

<u>file 01930</u>

Competency	: Current-sou	rcing JFET switc	ch Version:
Schematic			
	V <sub>supply</sub> =	R <sub>1</sub>	Q <sub>1</sub> LED $R_{dropping}$
Given condit	ions		
$V_{supply} =$	]	$R_1 =$	$R_{dropping} =$
Parameters			
I <sub>LED</sub> (max)	Predicted	Measured	
$ m V_{GS(off)}$	Advertised	Measured	Calculated P <sub>Q1</sub>
Schematic			ram showing what transistor fully <i>off</i> )

<u>file 01972</u>

Competency	/: Current-sinking JFET switch	Version:
Schematic		
	$V_{\text{supply}} {{=}} \stackrel{\text{Probe}}{{=}} \stackrel{R_1}{{\swarrow}}$	LED R <sub>dropping</sub> Q <sub>1</sub>
Given condit	tions	
$V_{supply} =$	$R_1 =$	$R_{dropping} =$
Parameters		
I <sub>LED</sub> (max)	Predicted Measured	
$V_{GS(off)}$	Advertised Measured	Calculated P <sub>Q1</sub>
Schematic	(Draw a schematic diagra is necessary to turn the tr	

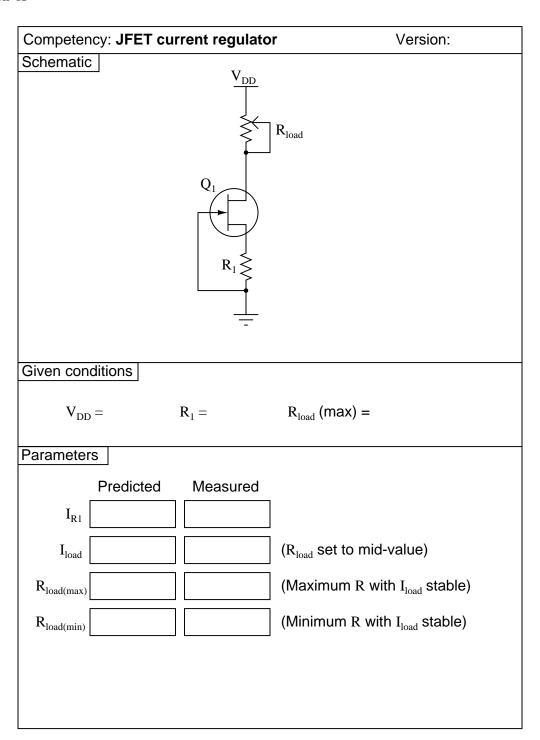
<u>file 01973</u>

Competency	: Current-sir	nking MOSFE	ET switch Version:	
Schematic				
	V <sub>supply</sub>	R <sub>bleed</sub>	LED R <sub>dropping</sub>	
Given condit	ions			
$V_{ m supply} =$		$R_{bleed} =$	$R_{dropping} =$	
Parameters				
$I_{ m LED}$	Predicted	Measured	Calculated $R_{\mathrm{DS(on)}}$	
${ m I}_{ m switch}$			P <sub>Q1</sub>	
Fault analysi	Fault analysis			
Suppose component open other shorted				
What will happen in the circuit?				

 $\underline{\mathrm{file}\ 02425}$ 

Competency:	MOSFET switch circuit	Version:
Description	Design and build a circuit that uses a switch to turn on an E-type MOSFET, which then turns on a DC load such as a light bulb or small electric motor. The switch must carry zero current, with the transistor carrying 100% of the load current.	
Given condition	ons	
$V_{supply} =$		
Schematic		
Parameters		
	Measured	
$I_{load}$	lo I	
I <sub>switch</sub>	Is $I_{\text{switch}} = 0 \text{ mA}$ ?	

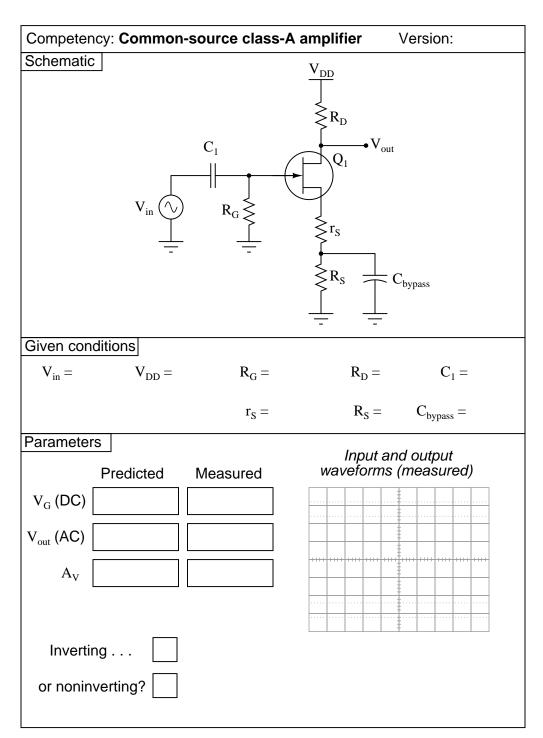
 $\underline{\mathrm{file}\ 02424}$ 



<u>file 01948</u>

Competency: Common-drain class-A an	nplifier Version:
Schematic	
$V_{in}$ $R_{G}$	$V_{DD}$ $Q_1$ $R_S$
Given conditions	
$V_{in} = V_{DD} = R_G =$	$R_S = C_1 =$
Parameters  Predicted Measured	Input and output waveforms (measured)
V <sub>G</sub> (DC)	
V <sub>out</sub> (AC)	
$A_{V}$	
Inverting  or noninverting?	

<u>file 01992</u>



Competency: Class-A JFET amplifier w/specified phase Version:			
Description			
Design and build a class-A JFET amplifier circuit with the phase (inverting or noninverting) specified.			
Given conditions			
$ m V_{in} =  m + V =  m$ Inverting			
Noninverting			
Schematic Show all component values!			
Parameters			
Does the amplifier invert the waveform or not?			

<u>file 03879</u>

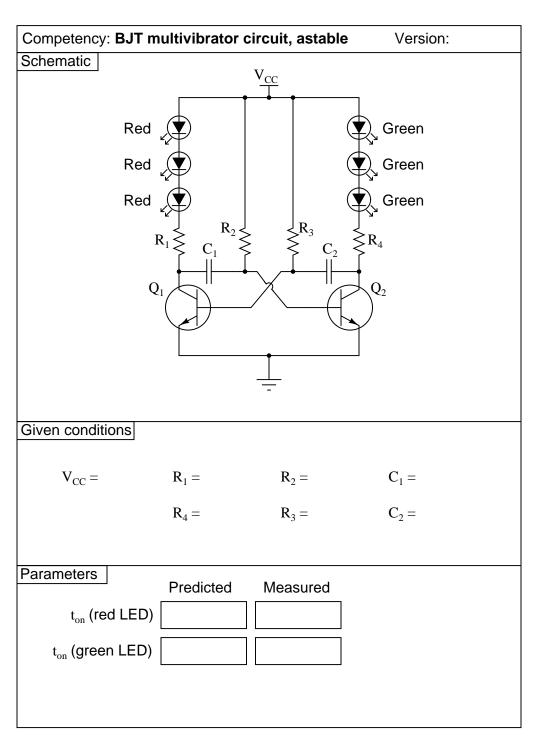
Competency: Class-A JFET amplifier w/specified gain Version:			
Description			
Design and build a class-A JFET amplifier circuit with a voltage gain $(A_{\nu})$ that is within tolerance of the gain specified.			
Given conditions			
$V_{ m in}$ = $+V$ = $A_{ m V}$ = ${\sf Tolerance}_{ m A_{ m V}}$ =			
Schematic Show all component values!			
Dovometors			
Parameters			
$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$			

<u>file 01936</u>

Competency: Class-A transistor amplifier w/specified phase			
Description			
Design and build a class-A transistor amplifier circuit with the phase (inverting or noninverting) specified.			
Given conditions			
$V_{\rm in}$ = $+V$ =			
Noninverting			
Schematic Show all component values!			
Parameters			
Does the amplifier invert the waveform or not?			

Competency: BJT multivibrator circuit, astable Version:			
Schematic			
$V_{CC}$ $R_1 \ge C_1$ $Q_1$ $Q_2$			
Given conditions			
$V_{CC} =$ $R_1 =$ $R_2 =$ $C_1 =$ $R_4 =$ $R_3 =$ $C_2 =$			
$R_4 = R_3 = C_2 =$			
Parameters			
Predicted Measured			
Duty Cycle (at Q <sub>1</sub> collector) Potentiometer turned fully clockwise			
(at Q <sub>1</sub> collector)			
Fault analysis			
open other			
Suppose component shorted			
What will happen in the circuit?			

<u>file 01939</u>



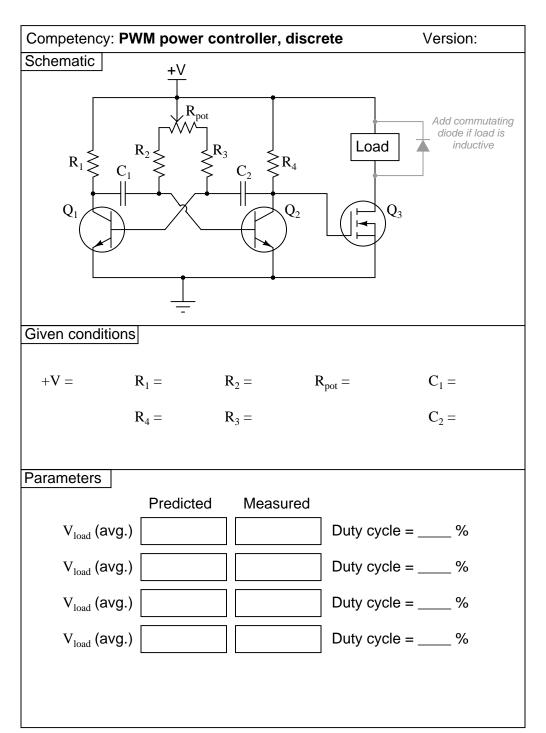
<u>file 01947</u>

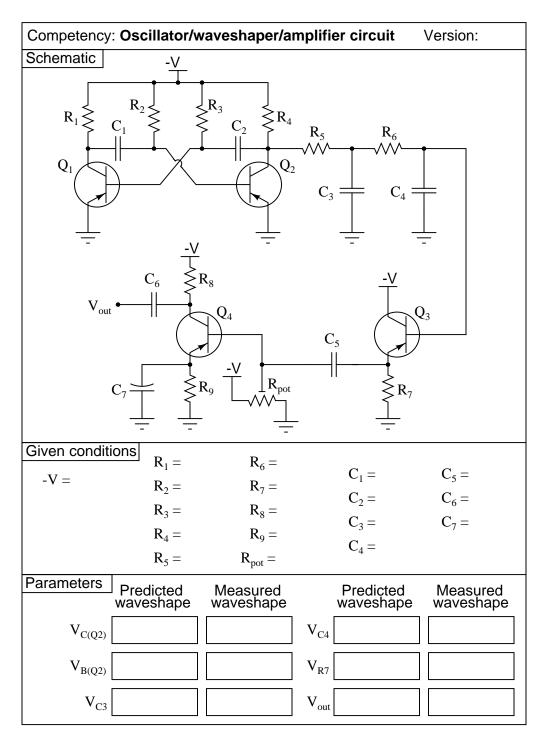
Competency: BJT multivibrator w/ variable duty cycle Version:			
Schematic			
V <sub>CC</sub>			
$R_1 \ge C_1$ $R_2 \ge R_3$ $C_2 \ge R_4$ $Q_1$ $Q_2$			
Given conditions			
$ m V_{CC} =  m R_1 =  m R_2 =  m R_{pot} =  m C_1 =  m$			
$ m R_4 =  m R_3 =  m C_2 =  m$			
Parameters			
Predicted Measured			
Duty Cycle (at Q <sub>1</sub> collector) Potentiometer turned fully clockwise			
Fault analysis			
Suppose component open other shorted  What will happen in the circuit?			
That im happoin in the enedic.			

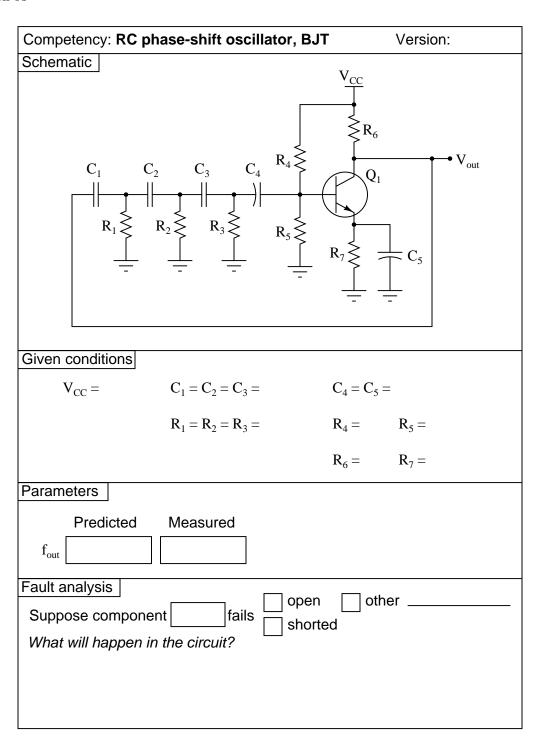
<u>file 01990</u>

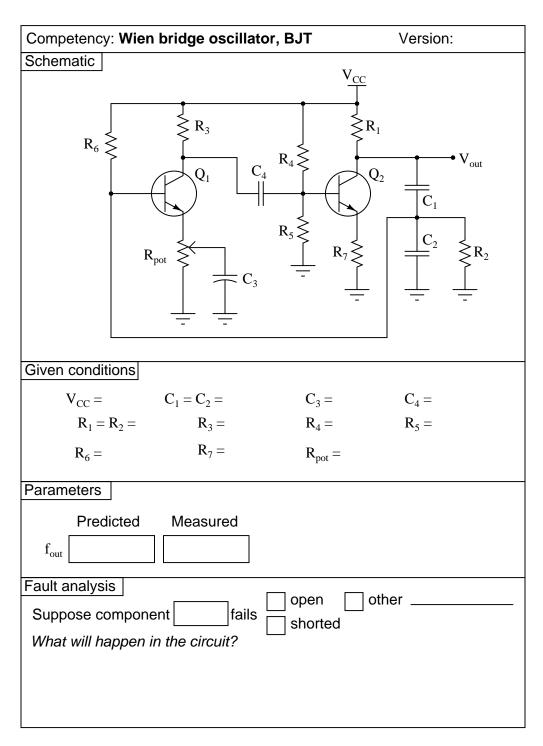
# Competency: BJT multivibrator w/ variable duty cycle Version: Schematic $V_{CC}$ Given conditions $R_1 = R_2 = R_{pot} =$ $V_{CC} =$ $R_4 = R_3 =$ Duty cycle (D) = Parameters Waveform at specified DMeasured **Duty Cycle** (at Q<sub>1</sub> collector)

<u>file 02607</u>









<u>file 01975</u>

Competency: Colp	itts oscillator, BJT	Version:
Schematic	$V_{CC}$ $R_1$ $C_3$ $L_1$	$V_{\text{out}}$ $C_1$ $C_2$
Given conditions		
V <sub>CC</sub> =		$L_1 = C_3 =$ $R_2 =$
Parameters		
Predicted Measured  f <sub>out</sub>		
Fault analysis  Suppose compone  What will happen i	ent fails	open

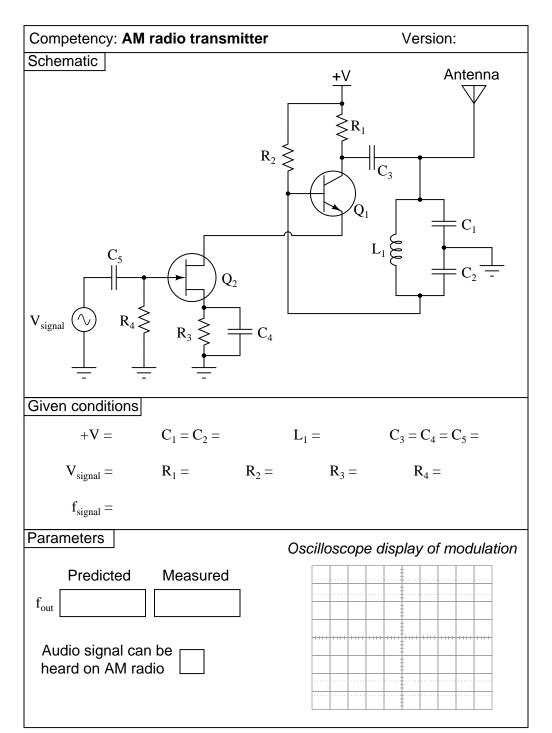
 $\underline{\mathrm{file}\ 01952}$ 

Competency: Hartley of	oscillator, serie	es-fed BJT Version:	
Schematic			
$C_2$	$R_1$ $Q_1$ $Q_1$ $Q_1$	Γ1 V <sub>out</sub>	
Given conditions			
V <sub>CC</sub> =	$C_1 =$	${ m L_{primary}} =$	
	$R_1 =$	$C_2 =$	
Parameters			
Predicted N	/leasured		
Fault analysis  Suppose component open other  Shorted  What will happen in the circuit?			

<u>file 01965</u>

Competency	: BJT oscillator w/spec	cified frequency	Version:
Description			
Design and build a BJT oscillator circuit to output a sine-wave AC voltage at a frequency within the specified tolerance.			
Given conditi	ons		
+V =	f =	$Tolerance_f =$	
Schematic	Show all component va	alues!	
Parameters			
Meas	sured Ca	alculated	
f	Error <sub>f</sub>	$\frac{I_{(actual)} - I_{(actual)}}{f}$	ideal) × 100%
		$f_{(ideal)}$	

<u>file 01949</u>



Competency: SCR terminal identification	Version:	
Description		
Identify the terminals (emitter, base, and collector) of a silicon-controlled rectifier using a multimeter. Then, compare your conclusions with information from a datasheet or cross-reference book.		
Given conditions		
Part number =		
Parameters		
Measured $V_{bias(GK)}$		
Terminal identification (Draw your own sket		
shown is not app	ropriate)	
Advertised Your conclusion		
(Label) (Label)		

<u>file 01922</u>

Competency: §	SCR latch ci	ircuit	Version:
Schematic			
	V <sub>supply</sub> =	SCR <sub>1</sub>	1tr
Given condition	ns		
$V_{supply} =$			
Parameters			
V <sub>motor</sub> (on)	redicted	Measured	

<u>file 01987</u>

Competency: SCR la	tch circuit		Version:
Description			
Design and build a circuit that uses a switch to turn on a Silicon-Controlled Rectifier so that it "latches" in the ON state, maintaining power to a DC load such as a lamp or small electric motor after the switch has been opened.			
Given conditions			
$V_{supply} =$			
Schematic			
Parameters			
Does the circuit <i>la</i>	Yes tch?	No	

 $\underline{\mathrm{file}\ 02345}$ 

# (Template)

Competency:	Version:
Schematic	
Given conditions	
Parameters	
Predicted Measured	

<u>file 01602</u>

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

#### Answer 2

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

#### Answer 3

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

#### Answer 4

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

#### Answer 5

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

#### Answer 6

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

#### Answer 7

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

#### Answer 8

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

#### Answer 9

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

#### Answer 10

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

# Answer 11

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

# Answer 12

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

#### Answer 13

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

#### Answer 14

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

#### Answer 15

Contrary to what you might think, the datasheet or cross-reference is not the "final authority" for checking your meter-based conclusions! I have seen datasheets and cross-reference manuals wrong more than once!

### Answer 16

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

#### Answer 18

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

#### Answer 19

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

#### Answer 20

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

#### Answer 21

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

#### Answer 22

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

#### Answer 23

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

#### Answer 24

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

#### Answer 25

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

#### Answer 26

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

#### Answer 27

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

#### Answer 28

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

#### Answer 29

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

#### Answer 30

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

#### Answer 31

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

#### Answer 32

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

#### Answer 33

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#### Answer 38

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#### Answer 39

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#### Answer 40

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#### Answer 41

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#### Answer 42

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#### Answer 43

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#### Answer 44

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#### Answer 45

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

#### Answer 46

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

#### Answer 47

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

#### Answer 48

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

# Answer 49

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

#### Answer 51

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

#### Answer 52

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

#### Answer 53

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#### Answer 54

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#### Answer 55

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#### Answer 56

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

### Answer 57

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#### Answer 58

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

#### Answer 59

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#### Answer 60

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

#### Answer 61

Use circuit simulation software to verify your predicted and measured parameter values.

#### Answer 62

Here, you would indicate where or how to obtain answers for the requested parameters, but not actually give the figures. My stock answer here is "use circuit simulation software" (Spice, Multisim, etc.).

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply any amount of DC voltage below 30 volts. Have students calculate the necessary current-limiting resistor for their LEDs based on measured values of  $V_{forward}$  for the LED (using a multimeter with a "diode-check" function). Let students research the typical forward current for their LED from an appropriate datasheet. Any LED should suffice for this activity.

An extension of this exercise is to incorporate troubleshooting questions. Whether using this exercise as a performance assessment or simply as a concept-building lab, you might want to follow up your students' results by asking them to predict the consequences of certain circuit faults.

#### Notes 2

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply any amount of DC voltage below 30 volts. Specify standard resistor values, all between 1 k $\Omega$  and 100 k $\Omega$  (1k5, 2k2, 2k7, 3k3, 4k7, 5k1, 6k8, 10k, 22k, 33k, 39k 47k, 68k, etc.). I recommend using one of the 1N400X series of rectifying diodes for their low cost and ruggedness.

An extension of this exercise is to incorporate troubleshooting questions. Whether using this exercise as a performance assessment or simply as a concept-building lab, you might want to follow up your students' results by asking them to predict the consequences of certain circuit faults.

#### Notes 3

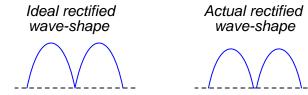
I recommend using 1N400X series rectifying diodes for all rectifier circuit designs. Make sure that the resistance value you specify for your load is not so low that the resistor's power dissipation is exceeded.

Watch out for harmonics in the power line voltage creating problems with RMS/peak voltage relationships. If this is a problem, try using a ferroresonant transformer to filter out some of the harmonic content. *Do not* try to use a sine-wave signal generator as an alternate source of AC power, because most signal generators have internal impedances that are much too high for such a task.

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It is difficult to precisely calculate the DC load voltage from a rectifier circuit such as this when the transformer secondary voltage is relatively low. The diodes' forward voltage drop essentially distorts the rectified waveform so that it is not quite the same as what you would expect a full-wave rectified waveform to be:



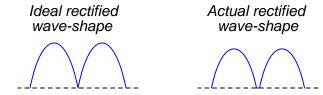
Accurate calculation of the actual rectified wave-shape's average voltage value requires integration of the half-sine peak over a period less than  $\pi$  radians, which may very well be beyond the capabilities of your students. This is why I request approximations only on this parameter.

One approximation that works fairly well is to take the AC RMS voltage (in this case, half of the secondary winding's output, since this is a center-tap design), convert it to *average* voltage (multiply by 0.9), and then subtract the forward junction voltage lost by the diode (0.7 volts typical for silicon).

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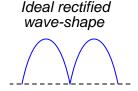
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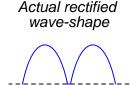
One approximation that works fairly well is to take the AC RMS voltage, convert it to *average* voltage (multiply by 0.9), and then subtract the total forward junction voltage lost by the diode (0.7 volts per diode typical for silicon, for a total of 1.4 volts).

I recommend using 1N400X series rectifying diodes for all rectifier circuit designs. Make sure that the resistance value you specify for your load is not so low that the resistor's power dissipation is exceeded.

Watch out for harmonics in the power line voltage creating problems with RMS/peak voltage relationships. If this is a problem, try using a ferroresonant transformer to filter out some of the harmonic content. *Do not* try to use a sine-wave signal generator as an alternate source of AC power, because most signal generators have internal impedances that are much too high for such a task.

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An extension of this exercise is to incorporate troubleshooting questions. Whether using this exercise as a performance assessment or simply as a concept-building lab, you might want to follow up your students' results by asking them to predict the consequences of certain circuit faults.

#### Notes 7

I recommend using 1N400X series rectifying diodes for all rectifier circuit designs. Make sure that the resistance value you specify for your load is not so low that the resistor's power dissipation is exceeded.

An extension of this exercise is to incorporate troubleshooting questions. Whether using this exercise as a performance assessment or simply as a concept-building lab, you might want to follow up your students' results by asking them to predict the consequences of certain circuit faults.

#### Notes 8

Use a Variac at the test bench to provide variable-voltage AC power for the students' power supply circuits.

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply any amount of DC voltage below 30 volts. Specify standard load resistor values, all between 1 k $\Omega$  and 100 k $\Omega$  (1k5, 2k2, 2k7, 3k3, 4k7, 5k1, 6k8, 10k, 22k, 33k, 39k 47k, 68k, etc.), and let the students determine the proper resistance values for their series dropping resistors.

I recommend specifying a series resistor value  $(R_{series})$  high enough that there will little danger in damaging the zener diode due to excessive supply voltage, but also low enough so that the normal operating current of the zener diode is great enough for it to drop its rated voltage. If  $R_{series}$  is too large, the zener diode's current will be too small, resulting in lower than expected voltage drop and poorer regulation (operating near the flatter end of the characteristic curve).

Values I have used with success are as follows:

- $R_{series} = 1 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_{load} = 10 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $V_{zener} = 5.1$  volts (diode part number 1N4733)
- $V_{supply} = 12 \text{ volts}$

Measuring the minimum supply voltage is a difficult thing to do, because students must look for a point where the output voltage begins to directly follow the input voltage (going down) instead of holding relatively stable. One interesting way to measure the rate of output voltage change is to set a DMM on the AC voltage setting, then use that to measure  $V_{load}$  as  $V_{supply}$  is decreased. While turning the voltage adjustment knob on  $V_{supply}$  at a steady rate, students will look for an increase in AC voltage (a greater rate of change) at  $V_{load}$ . Essentially, what students are looking for is the point where  $\frac{dV_{load}}{dV_{supply}}$  begins to increase.

An extension of this exercise is to incorporate troubleshooting questions. Whether using this exercise as a performance assessment or simply as a concept-building lab, you might want to follow up your students' results by asking them to predict the consequences of certain circuit faults.

### Notes 10

I've used 47  $\mu$ F electrolytic capacitors and 1N4001 diodes with good success on a 10 volt AC (RMS) power supply. I recommend that students measure their own diodes to determine typical forward voltage  $(V_F)$ .

Don't forget to mention the polarity sensitivity of these capacitors! Electrolytic capacitors can explode violently if reverse-connected!

### Notes 11

I've used  $0.47~\mu\text{F}$  capacitors and 1N4001 diodes with good success on a 10 volt AC (RMS) power supply. I recommend using low-capacity capacitors to minimize the amount of stored energy, since voltages in this circuit are potentially hazardous.

### Notes 12

Any diodes will work for this, so long as the source frequency is not too high. I recommend students set the volts/division controls on both channels to the exact same range, so that the slope of the clipped wave near zero-crossing may seen to be exactly the same as the slope of the input sine wave at the same points. This makes it absolutely clear that the output waveform is nothing more than the input waveform with the tops and bottoms cut off.

Any diodes will work for this, so long as the source frequency is not too high. I have had good success with the following values:

- $V_{source} = 4$  volts (peak)
- $f_{source} = 3 \text{ kHz}$
- $V_{DC} = 6$  volts
- $C_1 = 0.47 \ \mu \text{F}$
- $R_1 = 100 \text{ k}\Omega$
- Potentiometer =  $10 \text{ k}\Omega$ , linear
- $D_1 = \text{part number } 1\text{N}4004 \text{ (any } 1\text{N}400\text{x diode should work)}$

An extension of this exercise is to incorporate troubleshooting questions. Whether using this exercise as a performance assessment or simply as a concept-building lab, you might want to follow up your students' results by asking them to predict the consequences of certain circuit faults.

### Notes 14

Be sure to use zener diodes with reasonably low breakdown voltages, and specify the source voltage accordingly.

An extension of this exercise is to incorporate troubleshooting questions. Whether using this exercise as a performance assessment or simply as a concept-building lab, you might want to follow up your students' results by asking them to predict the consequences of certain circuit faults.

## Notes 15

Identification of BJT terminals is a very important skill for technicians to have. Most modern multimeters have a *diode check* feature which may be used to positively identify PN junction polarities, and this is what I recommend students use for identifying BJT terminals.

To make this a really good performance assessment, you might want to take several BJT's and scratch the identifying labels off, so students cannot refer to memory for pin identification (for instance, if they remember the pin assignments of a 2N2222 because they use it so often). Label these transistors with your own numbers ("1", "2", etc.) so you will know which is which, but not the students!

## Notes 16

Being able to design a circuit using a BJT as a switch is a valuable skill for technicians and engineers alike to have. The circuit shown in this question is not the only possibility, but it is the simplest.

Remind your students that the equation for calculating BJT power dissipation is as follows:

$$P_Q = I_C \left( V_{CE} + \frac{V_{BE}}{\beta} \right)$$

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An extension of this exercise is to incorporate troubleshooting questions. Whether using this exercise as a performance assessment or simply as a concept-building lab, you might want to follow up your students' results by asking them to predict the consequences of certain circuit faults.

## Notes 18

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An extension of this exercise is to incorporate troubleshooting questions. Whether using this exercise as a performance assessment or simply as a concept-building lab, you might want to follow up your students' results by asking them to predict the consequences of certain circuit faults.

## Notes 19

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply any amount of DC voltage below 30 volts.

I highly recommend specifying a large value for  $R_{series}$  and/or a high-wattage rated transistor and variable load resistor, so that students do not dissipate excessive power at either the transistor or the load as they test for  $R_{load}$  (min). Do not use a decade resistance box for  $R_{load}$  unless you have made sure its power dissipation will not be exceeded under any circuit condition!

An extension of this exercise is to incorporate troubleshooting questions. Whether using this exercise as a performance assessment or simply as a concept-building lab, you might want to follow up your students' results by asking them to predict the consequences of certain circuit faults.

## Notes 20

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply any amount of DC voltage below 30 volts.

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An extension of this exercise is to incorporate troubleshooting questions. Whether using this exercise as a performance assessment or simply as a concept-building lab, you might want to follow up your students' results by asking them to predict the consequences of certain circuit faults.

# Notes 21

I recommend a 47 k $\Omega$  resistor for  $R_1$  and a 100 k $\Omega$  potentiometer for  $R_{load}$ .

The purpose of this exercise is to get students to understand how AC signals are mixed with DC voltages ("biased") and also how these DC bias voltages are removed to leave just an AC signal. This is important to understand for the purpose of analyzing BJT amplifier circuits.

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply any amount of DC voltage below 30 volts. Specify standard resistor values, all between 1 k $\Omega$  and 100 k $\Omega$  (1k5, 2k2, 2k7, 3k3, 4k7, 5k1, 6k8, 10k, 22k, 33k, 39k 47k, 68k, etc.). Use a sine-wave function generator to supply an audio-frequency input signal.

An extension of this exercise is to incorporate troubleshooting questions. Whether using this exercise as a performance assessment or simply as a concept-building lab, you might want to follow up your students' results by asking them to predict the consequences of certain circuit faults.

### Notes 23

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply any amount of DC voltage below 30 volts. Specify standard resistor values, all between 1 k $\Omega$  and 100 k $\Omega$  (1k5, 2k2, 2k7, 3k3, 4k7, 5k1, 6k8, 10k, 22k, 33k, 39k 47k, 68k, etc.).

### Notes 24

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply any amount of DC voltage below 30 volts. Specify standard resistor values, all between 1 k $\Omega$  and 100 k $\Omega$  (1k5, 2k2, 2k7, 3k3, 4k7, 5k1, 6k8, 10k, 22k, 33k, 39k 47k, 68k, etc.). Use a sine-wave function generator to supply an audio-frequency input signal, and make sure its amplitude isn't set so high that the amplifier clips.

I have had good success using the following values:

- $V_{CC} = 9$  volts
- $V_{in} = 1$  volt RMS, audio frequency
- $R_1 = 10 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_2 = 10 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_E = 27 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $C_1 = 10 \ \mu \text{F}$

An extension of this exercise is to incorporate troubleshooting questions. Whether using this exercise as a performance assessment or simply as a concept-building lab, you might want to follow up your students' results by asking them to predict the consequences of certain circuit faults.

### Notes 25

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply any amount of DC voltage below 30 volts. Specify standard resistor values, all between 1 k $\Omega$  and 100 k $\Omega$  (1k5, 2k2, 2k7, 3k3, 4k7, 5k1, 6k8, 10k, 22k, 33k, 39k 47k, 68k, etc.).

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply any amount of DC voltage below 30 volts. Specify standard resistor values, all between 1 k $\Omega$  and 100 k $\Omega$  (1k5, 2k2, 2k7, 3k3, 4k7, 5k1, 6k8, 10k, 22k, 33k, 39k 47k, 68k, etc.). Use a sine-wave function generator to supply an audio-frequency input signal, and make sure its amplitude isn't set so high that the amplifier clips.

I have had good success using the following values:

- $V_{CC} = 9$  volts
- $V_{in}$  = audio-frequency signal, 0.5 volt peak-to-peak
- $R_1 = 220 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_2 = 27 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_C = 10 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_E = 1.5 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $C_1 = 10 \ \mu \text{F}$

An extension of this exercise is to incorporate troubleshooting questions. Whether using this exercise as a performance assessment or simply as a concept-building lab, you might want to follow up your students' results by asking them to predict the consequences of certain circuit faults.

## Notes 27

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply any amount of DC voltage below 30 volts. Specify standard resistor values, all between 1 k $\Omega$  and 100 k $\Omega$  (1k5, 2k2, 2k7, 3k3, 4k7, 5k1, 6k8, 10k, 22k, 33k, 39k 47k, 68k, etc.). Use a sine-wave function generator to supply an audio-frequency input signal, and make sure its amplitude isn't set so high that the amplifier clips.

The voltage gain of this amplifier configuration tends to be very high, approximately equal to  $\frac{R_C}{r_e'}$ . Your students will have to use fairly low input voltages to achieve class A operation with this amplifier circuit. I have had good success using the following values:

- $V_{CC} = 12$  volts
- $V_{in} = 20 \text{ mV}$  peak-to-peak, at 5 kHz
- $R_1 = 1 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_2 = 4.7 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_C = 100 \ \Omega$
- $R_E = 1 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $C_1 = 33 \ \mu \text{F}$

Your students will find the actual voltage gain deviates somewhat from predicted values with this circuit, largely because it is so dependent on the value of  $r'_e$ , and that parameter tends to be unpredictable.

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply any amount of DC voltage below 30 volts. Specify standard resistor values, all between 1 k $\Omega$  and 100 k $\Omega$  (1k5, 2k2, 2k7, 3k3, 4k7, 5k1, 6k8, 10k, 22k, 33k, 39k 47k, 68k, etc.). Use a sine-wave function generator to supply an audio-frequency input signal, about 0.5 volts AC (peak).

Resistor values I have found practical are 10 k $\Omega$  for  $R_C$  and 2.2 k $\Omega$  for  $R_E$ . This gives a voltage gain of 4.545, and quiescent current values that are well within the range of common small-signal transistors.

An important aspect of this performance assessment is that students know what to do with the potentiometer. It is their responsibility to configure the circuit so that it operates in Class-A mode, and to explain the importance of proper biasing.

An extension of this exercise is to incorporate troubleshooting questions. Whether using this exercise as a performance assessment or simply as a concept-building lab, you might want to follow up your students' results by asking them to predict the consequences of certain circuit faults.

### Notes 29

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply any amount of DC voltage below 30 volts. Specify standard resistor values, all between 1 k $\Omega$  and 100 k $\Omega$  (1k5, 2k2, 2k7, 3k3, 4k7, 5k1, 6k8, 10k, 22k, 33k, 39k 47k, 68k, etc.). Use a sine-wave function generator to supply an audio-frequency input signal, about 0.5 volts AC (peak).

Resistor values I have found practical are 10 k $\Omega$  for  $R_C$  and 2.2 k $\Omega$  for  $R_E$ . This gives a voltage gain of 4.545, and quiescent current values that are well within the range of common small-signal transistors.

An important aspect of this performance assessment is that students know what to do with the potentiometer. It is their responsibility to configure the circuit so that it operates in each mode (Class-A, Class-B, and Class-C).

An extension of this exercise is to incorporate troubleshooting questions. Whether using this exercise as a performance assessment or simply as a concept-building lab, you might want to follow up your students' results by asking them to predict the consequences of certain circuit faults.

### Notes 30

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply any amount of DC voltage below 30 volts. Specify standard resistor values, all between 1 k $\Omega$  and 100 k $\Omega$  (1k5, 2k2, 2k7, 3k3, 4k7, 5k1, 6k8, 10k, 22k, 33k, 39k 47k, 68k, etc.). Use a sine-wave function generator to supply an audio-frequency input signal, and make sure its amplitude isn't set so high that the amplifier clips.

I have had good success using the following values:

- $V_{CC} = 6$  volts
- $V_{in} = 1$  volt (peak)
- $R_1 = R_2 = 10 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_3 = R_4 = 10 \ \Omega$
- $C_1 = 0.47 \ \mu \text{F}$
- $C_2 = 10 \ \mu \text{F}$
- $C_3 = 47 \ \mu \text{F}$
- $D_1 = D_2 = \text{part number } 1\text{N}4001$
- $Q_1 = \text{part number } 2\text{N}2222$
- $Q_2 = \text{part number } 2\text{N}2907$

I've experienced good results using the following component values:

- $V_{CC} = 12$  volts
- $R_1 = 220 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_2 = 27 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_3 = 10 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_4 = 1.5 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_5 = 1 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $C_1 = 0.47 \ \mu \text{F}$
- $C_2 = 4.7 \ \mu \text{F}$
- $C_3 = 33 \ \mu \text{F}$
- $C_4 = 47 \ \mu \text{F}$
- $Q_1$  and  $Q_2 = 2N3403$

Students have a lot of fun connecting long lengths of cable between the output stage and the speaker, and using this circuit to talk (one-way, simplex communication) between rooms.

One thing I've noticed some students misunderstand in their study of electronic amplifier circuits is their practical purpose. So many textbooks emphasize abstract analysis with sinusoidal voltage sources and resistive loads that some of the real applications of amplifiers may be overlooked by some students. One student of mine in particular, when building this circuit, kept asking me, "so where does the signal generator connect to this amplifier?" He was so used to seeing signal generators connected to amplifier inputs in his textbook (and lab manual!) that he never realized you could use an amplifier circuit to amplify a real, practical audio signal!!! An extreme example, perhaps, but real nevertheless, and illustrative of the need for practical application in labwork.

In order for students to measure the voltage gain of this amplifier, they must apply a steady, sinusoidal signal to the input. The microphone and speaker are indeed practical, but the signals produced in such a circuit are too chaotic for students to measure with simple test equipment.

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply a DC voltage safely below the maximum rating of the electret microphone (typically 10 volts). Specify standard resistor values, all between 1 k $\Omega$  and 100 k $\Omega$  (1k5, 2k2, 2k7, 3k3, 4k7, 5k1, 6k8, 10k, 22k, 33k, 39k 47k, 68k, etc.). Use a sine-wave function generator to supply an audio-frequency input signal, and make sure its amplitude isn't set so high that the amplifier clips.

I have had good success using the following values:

- $V_{CC} = 6$  volts
- $R_1 = 68 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_2 = 33 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_3 = 4.7 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_4 = 1.5 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_5 = R_6 = 10 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_7 = R_8 = 10 \ \Omega$
- $C_1 = C_2 = 0.47 \ \mu \text{F}$
- $C_3 = \bar{C_4} = 47 \ \mu \text{F}$
- $C_5 = 1000 \ \mu \text{F}$
- $C_6 = 100 \ \mu \text{F}$
- $D_1 = D_2 = \text{part number } 1\text{N}4001$
- $Q_1 = \text{part number } 2\text{N}2222$
- $Q_2 = \text{part number } 2\text{N}2222$
- $Q_3 = \text{part number } 2\text{N}2907$

An extension of this exercise is to incorporate troubleshooting questions. Whether using this exercise as a performance assessment or simply as a concept-building lab, you might want to follow up your students' results by asking them to predict the consequences of certain circuit faults.

## Notes 33

Students are allowed to adjust the bias potentiometer to achieve class-A operation after calculating and inserting the resistance values  $R_C$  and  $R_E$ . However, they are not allowed to change either  $R_C$  or  $R_E$  once the circuit is powered and tested, lest they achieve the specified gain through trial-and-error!

A good percentage tolerance for gain is +/- 10%. The lower you set the target gain, the more accuracy you may expect out of your students' circuits. I usually select random values of voltage gain between 2 and 10, and I strongly recommend that students choose resistor values between 1 k $\Omega$  and 100 k $\Omega$ . Resistor values much lower than 1 k $\Omega$  lead to excessive quiescent currents, which may cause accuracy problems ( $r'_e$  drifting due to temperature effects).

An extension of this exercise is to incorporate troubleshooting questions. Whether using this exercise as a performance assessment or simply as a concept-building lab, you might want to follow up your students' results by asking them to predict the consequences of certain circuit faults.

## Notes 34

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply any amount of DC voltage below 30 volts. Specify standard resistor values, all between 1 k $\Omega$  and 100 k $\Omega$  (1k5, 2k2, 2k7, 3k3, 4k7, 5k1, 6k8, 10k, 22k, 33k, 39k 47k, 68k, etc.). Use a sine-wave function generator to supply an audio-frequency input signal.

If you lack a spectrum analyzer in your lab, fear not! There are free software packages in existence allowing you to use the audio input of a personal computer's sound card as a (limited) spectrum analyzer and oscilloscope! You may find some of these packages by searching on the Internet. One that I've used (2002) successfully in my own class is called WinScope.

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply any amount of DC voltage below 30 volts. Specify standard resistor values, all between 1 k $\Omega$  and 100 k $\Omega$  (1k5, 2k2, 2k7, 3k3, 4k7, 5k1, 6k8, 10k, 22k, 33k, 39k 47k, 68k, etc.).

I suggest using ordinary (general-purpose) signal transistors in this circuit, such as the 2N2222 and 2N3403 (NPN), and the 2N2907 and 2N3906 (PNP) models, operating with a  $V_{CC}$  of 12 volts. When constructed as shown, this circuit has sufficient gain to be used as a crude operational amplifier (connect the inverting input to the output through various feedback networks).

These values have worked well for me:

- $V_{CC} = 12$  volts
- $R_1 = 10 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_2 = 10 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_{prg} = 10 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_{pot1} = 10 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_{pot2} = 10 \text{ k}\Omega$

I recommend instructing students to set each potentiometer near its mid-position of travel, then slightly adjusting each one to see the sharp change in output voltage as one input voltage crosses the other. If students wish to monitor each of the input voltages to check for a condition of crossing, they should measure right at the transistor base terminals, not at the potentiometer wiper terminals, so as to not incur error resulting from current through protection resistors  $R_1$  or  $R_2$ .

An extension of this exercise is to incorporate troubleshooting questions. Whether using this exercise as a performance assessment or simply as a concept-building lab, you might want to follow up your students' results by asking them to predict the consequences of certain circuit faults.

### Notes 36

Identification of JFET terminals is a very important skill for technicians to have. Most modern multimeters have a *diode check* feature which may be used to positively identify PN junction polarities, and this is what I recommend students use for identifying JFET terminals.

To make this a really good performance assessment, you might want to take several JFET's and scratch the identifying labels off, so students cannot refer to memory for pin identification (for instance, if they remember the pin assignments of a J309 because they use it so often). Label these transistors with your own numbers ("1", "2", etc.) so you will know which is which, but not the students!

# Notes 37

I strongly recommend a value for R1 of 1 M $\Omega$  or more, to protect the JFET gate from overcurrent damage. The students will calculate their own dropping resistor value, based on the supply voltage and the LED ratings.

This exercise lends itself to experimentation with static electricity. The input impedance of an average JFET is so high that the LED may be made to turn on and off with just a touch of the probe wire to a charged object (such as a person).

Using only the components shown, students may not be able to get their JFETs to completely turn off. This is left for them as a challenge to figure out!

I expect students to be able to figure out how to calculate the transistor's power dissipation without being told what measurements to take!

I strongly recommend a value for R1 of 1 M $\Omega$  or more, to protect the JFET gate from overcurrent damage. The students will calculate their own dropping resistor value, based on the supply voltage and the LED ratings.

This exercise lends itself to experimentation with static electricity. The input impedance of an average JFET is so high that the LED may be made to turn on and off with just a touch of the probe wire to a charged object (such as a person).

Using only the components shown, students may not be able to get their JFETs to completely turn off. This is left for them as a challenge to figure out!

I expect students to be able to figure out how to calculate the transistor's power dissipation without being told what measurements to take!

### Notes 39

I recommend a value for R1 of 1 M $\Omega$  or more, to show that the bleed resistor need not be very conductive to do its job well. The students will calculate their own dropping resistor value, based on the supply voltage and the LED ratings.

Students predict the LED current (approximately 20 mA) and the switch current (0 mA), and then calculate the transistor's "on" channel resistance and power dissipation after taking additional measurements. I expect students to be able to figure out how to calculate both these parameters without being told what measurements to take!

### Notes 40

Being able to design a circuit using a MOSFET as a switch is a valuable skill for technicians and engineers alike to have.

An extension of this exercise is to incorporate troubleshooting questions. Whether using this exercise as a performance assessment or simply as a concept-building lab, you might want to follow up your students' results by asking them to predict the consequences of certain circuit faults.

## Notes 41

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply any amount of DC voltage below 30 volts. Specify standard resistor values, all between 1 k $\Omega$  and 100 k $\Omega$  (1k5, 2k2, 2k7, 3k3, 4k7, 5k1, 6k8, 10k, 22k, 33k, 39k 47k, 68k, etc.). Use a sine-wave function generator to supply an audio-frequency input signal, and make sure its amplitude isn't set so high that the amplifier clips.

I have had good success using the following values:

- $V_{DD} = 9$  volts
- $V_{in} = 1$  volt (peak), f = 2 kHz
- $R_G = 100 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_S = 10 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $C_1 = 0.47 \ \mu \text{F}$

Please note that the quiescent output voltage is impossible to precisely predict, as it depends on the particular characteristics of the JFET used ( $I_D$  versus  $V_{GS}$ ). The fact that this circuit uses self-biasing instead of voltage divider biasing makes the situation worse. Predicting quiescent gate voltage, however should be extremely easy (0 volts) if one understands how JFETs function.

An interesting parameter to explore in this circuit is the effect of the source resistor value on voltage gain. The theoretical voltage gain of a simple common-drain amplifier circuit is unity (1), but this may be approximated only with relatively large load resistor  $(R_S)$  values. Try substituting a 1 k $\Omega$  or less resistor for  $R_S$ , and notice what happens to the gain. Then, have your students explain why this happens!

An extension of this exercise is to incorporate troubleshooting questions. Whether using this exercise as a performance assessment or simply as a concept-building lab, you might want to follow up your students' results by asking them to predict the consequences of certain circuit faults.

### Notes 43

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply any amount of DC voltage below 30 volts. Specify standard resistor values, all between 1 k $\Omega$  and 100 k $\Omega$  (1k5, 2k2, 2k7, 3k3, 4k7, 5k1, 6k8, 10k, 22k, 33k, 39k 47k, 68k, etc.). Use a sine-wave function generator to supply an audio-frequency input signal, and make sure its amplitude isn't set so high that the amplifier clips.

I have had good success using the following values:

- $V_{DD} = 12$  volts
- $V_{in} = 0.5$  volt (peak-to-peak), f = 2 kHz
- $R_G = 100 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $r_S = 2.2 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_S = 10 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_D = 10 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $C_1 = 0.47 \ \mu \text{F}$
- $C_{bypass} = 10 \ \mu F$

Please note that the quiescent output voltage is impossible to precisely predict, as it depends on the particular characteristics of the JFET used  $(I_D \text{ versus } V_{GS})$ . The fact that this circuit uses self-biasing instead of voltage divider biasing makes the situation worse. Predicting quiescent gate voltage, however should be extremely easy (0 volts) if one understands how JFETs function.

All quiescent circuit values depend on  $V_{DD}$ , so if things aren't biased the way you would like, simply adjust the power supply voltage to suit.

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply any amount of DC voltage below 30 volts. Specify standard resistor values, all between 1 k $\Omega$  and 100 k $\Omega$  (1k5, 2k2, 2k7, 3k3, 4k7, 5k1, 6k8, 10k, 22k, 33k, 39k 47k, 68k, etc.). Use a sine-wave function generator to supply an audio-frequency input signal, and make sure its amplitude isn't set so high that the amplifier clips.

An extension of this exercise is to incorporate troubleshooting questions. Whether using this exercise as a performance assessment or simply as a concept-building lab, you might want to follow up your students' results by asking them to predict the consequences of certain circuit faults.

# Notes 45

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply any amount of DC voltage below 30 volts. Specify standard resistor values, all between 1 k $\Omega$  and 100 k $\Omega$  (1k5, 2k2, 2k7, 3k3, 4k7, 5k1, 6k8, 10k, 22k, 33k, 39k 47k, 68k, etc.). Use a sine-wave function generator to supply an audio-frequency input signal, and make sure its amplitude isn't set so high that the amplifier clips at the specified gain.

An extension of this exercise is to incorporate troubleshooting questions. Whether using this exercise as a performance assessment or simply as a concept-building lab, you might want to follow up your students' results by asking them to predict the consequences of certain circuit faults.

### Notes 46

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply any amount of DC voltage below 30 volts. Specify standard resistor values, all between 1 k $\Omega$  and 100 k $\Omega$  (1k5, 2k2, 2k7, 3k3, 4k7, 5k1, 6k8, 10k, 22k, 33k, 39k 47k, 68k, etc.). Use a sine-wave function generator to supply an audio-frequency input signal, and make sure its amplitude isn't set so high that the amplifier clips.

An extension of this exercise is to incorporate troubleshooting questions. Whether using this exercise as a performance assessment or simply as a concept-building lab, you might want to follow up your students' results by asking them to predict the consequences of certain circuit faults.

## Notes 47

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply any amount of DC voltage below 30 volts. Specify standard resistor values, all between 1 k $\Omega$  and 100 k $\Omega$  (1k5, 2k2, 2k7, 3k3, 4k7, 5k1, 6k8, 10k, 22k, 33k, 39k 47k, 68k, etc.).

This circuit produces nice, sharp-edged square wave signals at the transistor collector terminals when resistors  $R_1$  and  $R_4$  are substantially smaller than resistors  $R_2$  and  $R_3$ . This way,  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  dominate the capacitors' charging times, making calculation of duty cycle much more accurate. Component values I've used with success are 1 k $\Omega$  for  $R_1$  and  $R_4$ , 100 k $\Omega$  for  $R_2$  and  $R_3$ , and 0.1  $\mu$ F for  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ .

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply any amount of DC voltage below 30 volts. Specify standard resistor values, all between 1 k $\Omega$  and 100 k $\Omega$  (1k5, 2k2, 2k7, 3k3, 4k7, 5k1, 6k8, 10k, 22k, 33k, 39k 47k, 68k, etc.).

This circuit produces nice, sharp-edged square wave signals at the transistor collector terminals when resistors  $R_1$  and  $R_4$  are substantially smaller than resistors  $R_2$  and  $R_3$ . This way,  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  dominate the capacitors' charging times, making calculation of duty cycle much more accurate. Component values I've used with success are 470  $\Omega$  for  $R_1$  and  $R_4$ , 270 k $\Omega$  for  $R_2$  and  $R_3$ , 4.7  $\mu$ F for  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ , and 6 to 14 volts for  $V_{CC}$ . The frequency of this circuit does vary with supply voltage, so don't expect perfect agreement between predicted and measured values.

By the way, this circuit works very well for holiday flashing lights – decorate your lab room accordingly with student-built light flashers!

An extension of this exercise is to incorporate troubleshooting questions. Whether using this exercise as a performance assessment or simply as a concept-building lab, you might want to follow up your students' results by asking them to predict the consequences of certain circuit faults.

## Notes 49

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply any amount of DC voltage below 30 volts. Specify standard resistor values, all between 1 k $\Omega$  and 100 k $\Omega$  (1k5, 2k2, 2k7, 3k3, 4k7, 5k1, 6k8, 10k, 22k, 33k, 39k 47k, 68k, etc.).

This circuit produces nice, sharp-edged square wave signals at the transistor collector terminals when resistors  $R_1$  and  $R_4$  are substantially smaller than the combined resistance of resistors  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  and the respective potentiometer section resistances. This way,  $R_{pot}$ ,  $R_2$ , and  $R_3$  dominate the capacitors' charging times, making calculation of duty cycle much more accurate. Component values I've used with success are  $1 \text{ k}\Omega$  for  $R_1$  and  $R_4$ ,  $10 \text{ k}\Omega$  for  $R_2$  and  $R_3$ ,  $100 \text{ k}\Omega$  for  $R_{pot}$ , and  $0.001 \mu\text{F}$  for  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ .

An extension of this exercise is to incorporate troubleshooting questions. Whether using this exercise as a performance assessment or simply as a concept-building lab, you might want to follow up your students' results by asking them to predict the consequences of certain circuit faults.

### Notes 50

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply any amount of DC voltage below 30 volts. Specify standard resistor values, all between 1 k $\Omega$  and 100 k $\Omega$  (1k5, 2k2, 2k7, 3k3, 4k7, 5k1, 6k8, 10k, 22k, 33k, 39k 47k, 68k, etc.).

This circuit produces nice, sharp-edged square wave signals at the transistor collector terminals when resistors  $R_1$  and  $R_4$  are substantially smaller than the combined resistance of resistors  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  and the respective potentiometer section resistances. This way,  $R_{pot}$ ,  $R_2$ , and  $R_3$  dominate the capacitors' charging times, making calculation of duty cycle much more accurate. Component values I've used with success are  $1 \text{ k}\Omega$  for  $R_1$  and  $R_4$ ,  $10 \text{ k}\Omega$  for  $R_2$  and  $R_3$ ,  $100 \text{ k}\Omega$  for  $R_{pot}$ , and  $0.001 \text{ }\mu\text{F}$  for  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ .

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply any amount of DC voltage below 30 volts. Specify standard resistor values, all between 1 k $\Omega$  and 100 k $\Omega$  (1k5, 2k2, 2k7, 3k3, 4k7, 5k1, 6k8, 10k, 22k, 33k, 39k 47k, 68k, etc.).

This circuit produces nice, sharp-edged square wave signals at the transistor collector terminals when resistors  $R_1$  and  $R_4$  are substantially smaller than the combined resistance of resistors  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  and the respective potentiometer section resistances. This way,  $R_{pot}$ ,  $R_2$ , and  $R_3$  dominate the capacitors' charging times, making calculation of duty cycle much more accurate. Component values I've used with success are  $1 \text{ k}\Omega$  for  $R_1$  and  $R_4$ ,  $10 \text{ k}\Omega$  for  $R_2$  and  $R_3$ ,  $100 \text{ k}\Omega$  for  $R_{pot}$ , and  $0.001 \mu\text{F}$  for  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ . In my prototype circuit, I used 2N2222 bipolar transistors and an IRF510 power MOSFET.

Although small DC motors work well as demonstrative loads, their counter-EMF may wreak havoc with measurements of average load voltage. Purely resistive loads work best when comparing measured average load voltage against predicted average load voltage. Also, motors and other inductive loads may cause the MOSFET to switch incorrectly (or not switch at all!) unless a commutating diode is installed to limit the voltage induced by the collapsing magnetic field every time the transistor turns off.

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply any amount of DC voltage below 30 volts. Specify standard resistor values, all between 1 k $\Omega$  and 100 k $\Omega$  (1k5, 2k2, 2k7, 3k3, 4k7, 5k1, 6k8, 10k, 22k, 33k, 39k 47k, 68k, etc.).

This circuit demonstrates the use of passive integrators to convert a square wave into a pseudo-sine wave output. The multivibrator portion produces nice, sharp-edged square wave signals at the transistor collector terminals when resistors  $R_1$  and  $R_4$  are substantially smaller than resistors  $R_2$  and  $R_3$ . Component values I've used with success are 1 k $\Omega$  for  $R_1$  and  $R_4$ , 100 k $\Omega$  for  $R_2$  and  $R_3$ , and 0.001  $\mu$ F for  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ .

Resistors  $R_5$  and  $R_6$ , along with capacitors  $C_3$  and  $C_4$ , form a dual passive integrator network to re-shape the square-wave output of the multivibrator into a pseudo-sine wave. These components' values must be chosen according to the multivibrator frequency, so that the integration is realistic without the attenuation being excessive. Integrator component values that have worked well for the multivibrator components previously specified are 10 k $\Omega$  for  $R_5$  and  $R_6$ , and 0.1  $\mu$ F for  $C_3$  and  $C_4$ .

Transistor  $Q_3$  is just an emitter follower, placed there to give the amplifier section a high input impedance.  $Q_3$ 's emitter resistor value is not critical. I have used a 1 k $\Omega$  resistor for  $R_7$  with good success.

The last transistor  $(Q_4)$  is for voltage amplification. A "trimmer" style potentiometer (10 k $\Omega$  recommended for  $R_{pot}$ ) provides easy adjustment of biasing for different supply voltages. Using the potentiometer, I have operated this circuit on supply voltages ranging from -6 volts to -27 volts. Use a bypass capacitor  $(C_7)$  large enough that its reactance at the operating frequency is negligible (less than 1 ohm is good), such as 33  $\mu$ F. Resistor values I've used with success are 10 k $\Omega$  for  $R_8$  and 4.7 k $\Omega$  for  $R_9$ . Coupling capacitor values are not terribly important, so long as they present minimal reactance at the operating frequency. I have used 0.47  $\mu$ F for both  $C_5$  and  $C_6$  with good success.

You may find that the relatively high operating frequency of this circuit complicates matters with regard to parasitic capacitances. The fast rise and fall times of the strong square wave tend to couple easily to the sine-wave portions of the circuit, especially when the sine wave signal is so severely attenuated by the double integrators. One solution to this dilemma is to lower the operating frequency of the circuit, allowing a lower cutoff frequency for the double integrator (two-pole lowpass filter) section which in turn will improve the signal-to-noise ratio throughout. If you wish to try this, you may use these suggested component values:

- $R_1 = 1 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_2 = 100 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_3 = 100 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_4 = 1 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_5 = 100 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_6 = 100 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_7 = 1 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_8 = 10 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_9 = 4.7 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_{pot} = 10 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $C_1 = 0.047 \ \mu \text{F}$
- $C_2 = 0.047 \ \mu \text{F}$
- $C_3 = 0.1 \ \mu \text{F}$
- $C_4 = 0.047 \ \mu \text{F}$
- $C_5 = 1 \mu F$
- $C_6 = 1 \ \mu F$
- $C_7 = 33 \ \mu \text{F}$

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply any amount of DC voltage below 30 volts. Specify standard resistor values, all between 1 k $\Omega$  and 100 k $\Omega$  (1k5, 2k2, 2k7, 3k3, 4k7, 5k1, 6k8, 10k, 22k, 33k, 39k 47k, 68k, etc.).

I have had relatively good success with the following values:

- $V_{CC} = 9$  volts (from battery)
- $C_1$  through  $C_3 = 0.001 \ \mu F$
- $C_4$  and  $C_5 = 4.7 \ \mu F$
- $R_1$  through  $R_3 = 10 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_4 = 270 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_5 = 50 \text{ k}\Omega \text{ (two } 100 \text{ k}\Omega \text{ resistors in parallel)}$
- $R_6 = 12 \text{ k}\Omega$  (you might want to make this resistor variable so students can experiment with  $A_V$ )
- $R_7 = 1 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $Q_1 = \text{part number } 2\text{N}3403$

One of the problems with the RC phase-shift oscillator circuit design is the loading of the phase-shift network by the transistor's biasing network ( $R_4$  and  $R_5$ ), which will offset the predicted oscillation frequency from what you might expect from the RC network alone. While it is possible to account for all the factors in this circuit, it is not a simple task for students just beginning to understand how the circuit is supposed to work

I have also noticed that the frequency of this circuit is significantly reduced by the capacitance of any test leads connected to it. Beware of oscilloscope probe cables – the capacitance they add to the circuit will offset the oscillation frequency!

An extension of this exercise is to incorporate troubleshooting questions. Whether using this exercise as a performance assessment or simply as a concept-building lab, you might want to follow up your students' results by asking them to predict the consequences of certain circuit faults.

## Notes 54

Use a variable-voltage, regulated power supply to supply any amount of DC voltage below 30 volts. Specify standard resistor values, all between 1 k $\Omega$  and 100 k $\Omega$  (1k5, 2k2, 2k7, 3k3, 4k7, 5k1, 6k8, 10k, 22k, 33k, 39k 47k, 68k, etc.).

 $R_{pot}$  serves the purpose of providing variable AC gain in the first amplifier stage to meet the Barkhausen criterion.

I have had good success with the following values:

- $V_{CC} = 12$  volts
- $C_1$  and  $C_2 = 0.001 \ \mu F$
- $C_3 = 47 \ \mu \text{F}$
- $C_4 = 0.47 \ \mu \text{F}$
- $R_1$  and  $R_2 = 4.7 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_3 = 4.7 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_4 = 39 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_5 = 22 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_6 = 27 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_7 = 3.3 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_{pot} = 10 \text{ k}\Omega$ , linear
- $Q_1$  and  $Q_2$  = part number 2N2222

I have had great success with the following values:

- $V_{CC} = 7$  to 24 volts
- $C_1$  and  $C_2 = 0.22 \ \mu F$
- $C_3 = 0.47 \ \mu \text{F}$
- $L_1 = 100 \ \mu \text{H}$  (ferrite core RF choke)
- $R_1 = 22 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_2 = 1.5 \text{ M}\Omega$
- $Q_1 = \text{part number } 2\text{N}3403$

With these component values, the output waveform was quite clean and the frequency was very close to predicted:

$$f_{out} = \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{\frac{LC_1C_2}{C_1 + C_2}}}$$

You might want to quiz your students on the purpose of resistor  $R_2$ , since it usually only has to be present at power-up to initiate oscillation!

An extension of this exercise is to incorporate troubleshooting questions. Whether using this exercise as a performance assessment or simply as a concept-building lab, you might want to follow up your students' results by asking them to predict the consequences of certain circuit faults.

### Notes 56

I have had success with the following values:

- $V_{CC} = 12$  to 24 volts
- $C_1 = 0.47 \ \mu \text{F}$
- $C_2 = 0.47 \ \mu \text{F}$
- $T_1 = 1000:8 \Omega$  audio matching transformer (used as center-tap inductor)
- $R_1 = 1.5 \text{ M}\Omega$
- $Q_1 = \text{part number } 2\text{N}3403$

Capacitors  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  need not be equal value, since they serve entirely different purposes:  $C_1$  is the tank circuit capacitance, while  $C_2$  is merely a coupling capacitor. I just happened to be blessed with an abundance of 0.47  $\mu$ F capacitors when I prototyped this circuit, so I chose that value for both capacitors!

With these component values, the output waveform I measured was not very sinusoidal, but at least it was oscillating. The harmonic output of a Hartley oscillator is substantially greater than a Colpitts, primary because the two capacitors in the Colpitts design act as decoupling capacitances, shunting high-order harmonic signals to ground.

Of course, in order to predict the frequency of oscillation in this Hartley oscillator circuit, you must know the inductance of the audio transformer's primary winding!

You might want to quiz your students on the purpose of resistor  $R_1$ , since it usually only has to be present at power-up to initiate oscillation!

Students are free to choose any oscillator design that meets the criteria: sinusoidal output at a specified frequency.

An extension of this exercise is to incorporate troubleshooting questions. Whether using this exercise as a performance assessment or simply as a concept-building lab, you might want to follow up your students' results by asking them to predict the consequences of certain circuit faults.

Notes 58

I have had great success with the following values:

- $\bullet$  +V = 7 to 24 volts
- $C_1$  and  $C_2 = 0.001 \ \mu F$
- $C_3$ ,  $C_4$ , and  $C_5 = 0.47 \ \mu F$
- $L_1 = 100 \ \mu\text{H}$  (ferrite core RF choke)
- $R_1 = 22 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_2 = 1.5 \text{ M}\Omega$
- $R_3 = 6.8 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $R_4 = 100 \text{ k}\Omega$
- $Q_1 = \text{part number } 2\text{N}3403$
- $Q_2 = \text{part number MPF } 102$

With these component values, the carrier waveform was quite clean and the frequency was almost exactly 700 kHz:

$$f_{out} = \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{\frac{LC_1C_2}{C_1 + C_2}}}$$

Modulation isn't that great, due to the crude nature of the circuit, but it is certainly good enough to hear over an appropriately tuned AM radio. Setting  $V_{signal}$  and  $f_{signal}$  is a matter of experimentation, to achieve the desired degree of modulation and tone pitch.

An extension of this exercise is to incorporate troubleshooting questions. Whether using this exercise as a performance assessment or simply as a concept-building lab, you might want to follow up your students' results by asking them to predict the consequences of certain circuit faults.

Notes 59

Identification of SCR terminals is a very important skill for technicians to have. Most modern multimeters have a *diode check* feature which may be used to positively identify PN junction polarities, and this is what I recommend students use for identifying SCR terminals.

This exercise may be made even more interesting if students must differentiate between SCR's with sensitive gates versus SCR's without sensitive gates!

To make this a really good performance assessment, you might want to take several SCR's and scratch the identifying labels off, so students cannot refer to memory for pin identification. Label these thyristors with your own numbers ("1", "2", etc.) so *you* will know which is which, but not the students!

I have had good success using 12 volts DC for the supply voltage, an MCR8SN silicon-controlled rectifier, and a small brushless DC fan motor (80 mA running current) as the load. The MCR8SN is a "sensitive gate" SCR, which makes it easy to demonstrate static triggering (just *touch* the gate terminal with your finger to start the motor!). Some SCR's may be difficult to keep latched with low-current loads, so be sure to prototype your SCR/load combination before assigning part numbers to your students!

An extension of this exercise is to incorporate troubleshooting questions. Whether using this exercise as a performance assessment or simply as a concept-building lab, you might want to follow up your students' results by asking them to predict the consequences of certain circuit faults.

## Notes 61

An extension of this exercise is to incorporate troubleshooting questions. Whether using this exercise as a performance assessment or simply as a concept-building lab, you might want to follow up your students' results by asking them to predict the consequences of certain circuit faults.

## Notes 62

Any relevant notes for the assessment activity go here.