

Letters to the Editor

Calibration of a Homebrew Noise Source (QST May, 1994)

My article, "A Calibrated Noise Source for Amateur Radio," in the May 1994 issue of *QST* described the theory, design and construction of two noise sources for the frequency ranges 0.5 to 500 MHz and 1.0 to 2500 MHz. That circuit used special noise generating diodes from the Noise/Com Company in Parsippany, New Jersey. The noise source is still viable project after all these years. For a few years after the article appeared, Noise/Com provided a lab calibration service to Amateurs and experimenters for an especially low cost, as arranged by Gary Simonyan, the Noise/Com CEO. Mr. Simonyan has since retired.

This service, at the low price, was discontinued because it was not considered viable for the Company. Recently, however, Noise/Com has decided to *resume* the special offer, on a trial basis, for a fee of \$100, as compared to the customary charge of \$600. This service is restricted to domestic customers, because of Customs complications that have been experienced for these projects by Noise/Com. Suitable noise diodes are also specially-priced for Amateurs and experimenters.

The Noise/Com calibration can subsequently be transferred with good accuracy to other homebrew units by Amateurs and experimenters who have the necessary lab equipment and skills.

Contact Noise/Com by phone or e-mail for this service, and to request an RMA (Return Merchandise Authorization) for the calibration. For the special amateur pricing offer, contact:

Al Sebolao, Sales Manager, Noise/Com
25 Eastmans Rd
Parsippany, NJ 07054
Phone: (973) 386-9696
E-mail: asebolao@wtt.bz

The *QST* article is on the 1990-1994 *QST* View CD ROM.¹ I can also e-mail a PDF copy of the article for those who don't have access to it. Contact me at w.sabin@mchsi.com. The noise source project was described in *The ARRL Handbook* for many years. Circuit boards are available from:

FAR CIRCUITS

18N640 Field Court, Dundee, Illinois 60118

¹1990-94 *QST* View, ARRL Order no. 5749. *QST* View CDs are available from your local ARRL dealer, or from the ARRL Bookstore. Telephone toll-free in the US 888-277-5289, or call 860-594-0355, fax 860-594-0303; www.arrl.org/shop; pubsales@arrl.org.

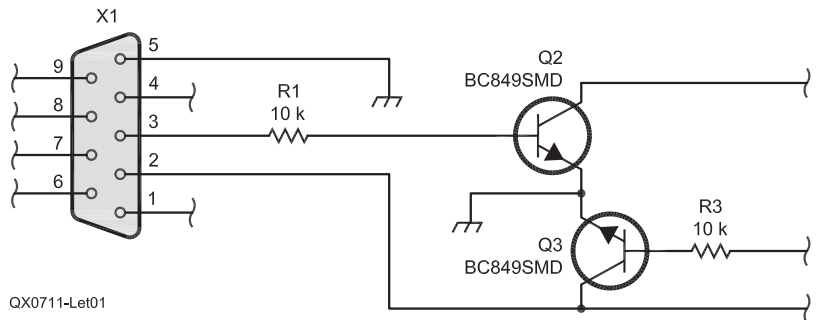


Figure 1 — In Figure 1 of "A DDS Based QRSS (and CW) Beacon," on page 25 of the Sep/Oct 2007 issue of *QEX*, the ground connection between the Q2 and Q3 emitters was omitted. This partial diagram shows the correction.

Phone: (847) 836-9148
E-mail: farcir@ais.net
Web: www.cl.ais.net/farcir

Circuit board template details are on the ARRL Web site. Search for "sabinns.pdf." A copy of this is also available from w.sabin@mchsi.com.

— 73, William E. Sabin WØIYH, 1400 Harold Dr SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52403; w.sabin@mchsi.com

Tech Notes (May/June 2007)

Dear Editor,

Congratulations to the Tech Notes article, "Electromagnetic Radiation: A brief Tutorial." This note, written by Doug Smith, was excellent. I am looking forward to more good presentations like this, and hopefully from Doug.

— 73, Ulrich Rohde, PhD, NIUL, 52 Hillcrest Dr, Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458; KA2WEU@aol.com

Dr. Rohde,

Thanks for the note. I am pleased that you enjoyed Doug's Tech Notes article. I also hope that he will submit other articles for publication.

— 73, Larry Wolfgang, WR1B, QEX Editor; lwolfgang@arrl.org

A DDS Based QRSS (and CW) Beacon (Sep/Oct 2007)

Hello Larry,

I received an e-mail from a *QEX* reader about a possible error in the schematic diagram of Figure 1 in my article; I verified that he is right, Q2 and Q3 emitters are missing the connection to ground.

— Best Regards, Matteo Campanella, IZ2EEQ, SS Dei Giovi, 41/A, Binasco, Italy 20082; iz3eeq@arrl.net

Hi Matteo,

Thanks for bringing this schematic error to our attention. Shown here as Figure 1 is a partial schematic of Figure 1 from the original article. We've added that missing ground connection. We apologize for the omission. — 73, Larry, WR1B

Empirical Outlook (Sep/Oct 2007)

Hi Larry,

You asked for feedback, so let me add two thoughts that were triggered by your "Empirical Outlook" and one of the Letters to the Editor in the Sep/Oct issue.

First, I say "Amen" to K9OSC's letter. From that letter, I conclude that he and I have very similar views of what we expect and what we receive from *QEX*. I believe that he and I may be representative examples of a target audience that should be considered when you are selecting articles for publication. Now, I do not expect all articles to be aimed at this group. But, if you see one that fits, think of us!

Second, based on your description, Letters to the Editor really deserves a new column name. If *QEX* is the "forum for communications experimenters," that section of the magazine is the heart of the forum! And, I think your comments about its use should be included at the top of that page, in every issue.

Finally, I liked Issue No. 244 and I am looking forward to Issue No. 245!

— 73, Larry Keith, KQ4BY, 231 Shenandoah Trail, Warner Robins, GA 31088; kq4by@arrl.net

Hi Larry,

Thank you very much for sharing your thoughts. My intention is to strive for a mix of more and less technical articles for

QEX. I have been talking with a number of potential authors about some of their work, and will continue to encourage them to write the articles they may have thought were not technical enough for *QEX*.

I'm not quite ready to change the focus of the Letters column, but I do believe there are some ways to incorporate those "letters" that share a particular concept or describe ongoing projects. At the moment, my thought is to use the Tech Notes column to collect and share those types of correspondence. This month's column came from just such a letter.

I am excited about the article line-up in this issue, and I hope you like it as much as the last one. We have more excellent material in store for the new year, and a few surprises that I hope you will enjoy.

— 73, Larry, WR1B

Turbo Delphi Explorer (Sep/Oct 2007)

Dear Editor,

I just received the Sep/Oct 2007 issue. The Delphi article on page 44 was most interesting. For those who are not familiar with Pascal, there is available a very good document describing the language. Marco Cantu, an author of tech books on software, has written a paper on Pascal that would be very helpful to Pascal beginners. This is available at www.marcocantu.com/epascal. You might want to look around his Web site, as he has written a number of books on Delphi.

— Bill Goodwin, WB8BER, 2295 Knotwood Dr, Holt, MI 48842; wb8ber@arrl.net

Larry,

Thanks for the forward. Bill directs others to a great site. Marco Cantu is very well known. Readers should also check out the following in Marco's Web page: Under Site Menu, try the "Code Repository" and "Essential Delphi" articles. There are lots of coding examples, many of which will work with "Explorer" unchanged. There is also a free e-book on the Delphi Pascal language (not specifically for "Explorer" but almost everything written there will apply just fine). There are many more Web sites that are useful to beginners and experts alike. Just Google "Delphi hints" or "Delphi programming." I Wish I had thought to include a reference in the original article to Marco's site and it was nice of Bill, WB8BER, to point it out.

— 73, Steve Gradijan, WB5KIA, 1902 Middle Glen Dr, Carrollton, TX 75007; steve_jg@msn.com

Using Gain-Probability Data to Compare Antenna Performances (QEX Sep/Oct 2007)

Dear Larry,

I read with interest the article "Using

Gain-Probability Data to Compare Antenna Performances" (*QEX* Sep/Oct 2007). I developed a similar approach to antenna evaluation back in 2000 (www.qsl.net/g3cwi/hfantenna.html). It is difficult to measure if the approach actually works in practice, but it does offer an interesting insight into the desirability of matching antennas to aspirations!

— Regards, Richard Newstead, G3CWI; g3cwi@btconnect.com

Dear Richard,

Thank you for your note, bringing your Web site to my attention. Indeed, your work is very similar to mine. In fact, if I had seen it earlier, it would have saved me a lot of work and research!

In many ways, your program is far superior to my spreadsheet approach to the problem, and that would have been my next step in the development of the idea. I think *QEX* readers will appreciate this addition to the concept.

Where you have included a weighted gain, I have considered probabilities of gain into certain regions. Both approaches are valuable and similar in results.

I am glad that someone else had the same idea. It gives credibility to the power of the approach and extends the state of the art. You obviously don't need convincing that this is a powerful approach to antenna performance comparisons.

Thank you for your good work.

— 73, Fred Glenn, K9SO, 320 Castlewood Ct, Palatine, IL 60067; k9so@arrl.net

An Unusual Vector Network Analyzer (Sep/Oct 2007)

Dear Readers,

As a number of you noticed, we had a layout glitch with Dr George Steber's article in the Sep/Oct issue. At the end of that article, on page 23, Note 7 was cut off before the end, and Notes 8 and 9 were omitted. We apologize for this omission. Printed here are all of the Notes for that article, for your complete reference.

Notes

¹cp.literature.agilent.com/litweb/pdf/5965-7917E.pdf

²www.national.com/appinfo/adc/files/ABCs_of_ADCs.pdf

³www.ar.com.au/~softmark/

⁴www.control-systems-principles.co.uk/whitepapers/frequency-response-analysis2.pdf

⁵www.k6mhe.com/n7ws/AN77-3.pdf. Caution, this is a 13 MB file.

⁶www.weinschel.com/PDFILES/PowerS&DFAQ.pdf

⁷cp.literature.agilent.com/litweb/

pdf/5950-3000.pdf

⁸www.ac6la.com/zplots.html

⁹[www.rohde-schwarz.com/www/downcent.nsf/ANFileByANNoForInternet/F7E4BCBA92015B8AC1256B490052825E/\\$file/1ez35_1e.pdf](http://www.rohde-schwarz.com/www/downcent.nsf/ANFileByANNoForInternet/F7E4BCBA92015B8AC1256B490052825E/$file/1ez35_1e.pdf)

— 73, Larry, WR1B

Tune SSB Automatically (Jan/Feb 1999)

Robert Dick called to update his contact information and ask that anyone with knowledge of any way his techniques were used in radios to please contact him. He wrote about this technique to automatically tune an SSB signal, but never implemented it himself. He has been told that a software defined radio may have been developed that used his technique or something similar, and is interested in hearing from anyone who actually used the method. He never attempted to patent the concept and has no financial interest, but would like to know that if the idea has ever been tried. If you have any knowledge of such use, please contact Robert Dick, 157 High St, Sanford, ME 04073; gr2rojrad@aol.com

— 73, Larry, WR1B

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