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QST Issue: Aug 1967

Title: SB-200 Tip

Author: Kenneth Ray Fleming, WA0NLN

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MORE TIE TABS

IN reference to K1YSD's hint in QST for April 1967 on using tie tabs from bread wrappers, you'd have to eat an awful lot of bread to collect many of these ties. You can buy exactly similar stuff at any garden center. They're called "Tyems" and come in 6- to 12-inch lengths which can be cut up into shorter lengths with shears. They're used to tie plants to stakes and are very cheap. — WITS

IMPROVED BREAK-IN MONITORING

FIG. 3A is an abbreviated version of the circuit for full break-in operation shown on page 239 of the 1967 Handbook. If you inspect this circuit carefully, you will see that any change in the setting of the receiver gain control will also affect the monitor gain when the key is down. This can be distracting. When a strong station is tuned in, the receiver gain control will normally be turned down, causing a loss in monitor gain. The opposite also holds true: when a weak signal is being copied, the receiver gain will be increased, causing an equivalent rise in the strength of the monitored signal. If the circuit is modified as shown in Fig. 3B, the gain of the monitor will remain the same under all settings of the receiver gain control, a condition conducive to much more pleasant operation. Note, however, that the wires going to the two outer terminals to the receiver gain control must be reversed or the control will work backward. — K. J. Walton, W5MCI

SB-200 TIP

MY Heathkit SB-200 linear amplifier worked fine except for one thing: the meter illumination lamp generated enough heat to melt the meter's case. I remedied this situation by removing the lamp and taping it to the filter capacitors directly behind the meter. Of course, the hole had to be plugged to keep dust out. — Kenneth Ray Fleming, W10VLN

NYLON-LINE INSULATORS

THERE have been several articles in QST on "invisible" antennas of small wire and various ingenious supporting insulators. For several months this writer has used an 80-meter antenna of No. 28 wire with three-foot lengths of nylon fish-line leader as end insulators. This nylon line is more "invisible" and stronger than the 28-gauge wire. A square knot ties the two together, and the wire will break or need to be replaced, due to stretching, long before an insulator gives up. — Edgar L. Parkhurst, W6IY

ANOTHER SIMPLE CB CONVERSION

THERE is no need to purchase transmitting crystals when converting the Lafayette HE-20C and HE-90 CB transceivers to 10 meters. In each case, the transceiver's receiver oscillator operates 1650 kc. above the channel frequency. For 10-meter operation, just replace the receiver crystals with the transmitter crystals and vice versa and adjust the appropriate stages. — Donald E. Huber, WB2UKA

BATTERY CONNECTORS

A READY supply of battery connectors for the rectangular 9-volt batteries in common use can be had by removing the terminal end of discarded batteries of this type and wiring the connectors appropriately. Don't forget that the formerly positive terminal now goes to the negative contact of the battery, and vice versa. — J. Paul Alexander, K5LZT

Fig. 3—Circuit for full break-in operation, before (A) and after (B) modification for improved monitoring. R₁ is the receiver manual gain control, and R₂ is a 5000- or 10,000-ohm wire-wound control. K₁ is a s.p.d.t. keying relay.

