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QST Issue: Jun 2006

Title: Ultrasonic Arc Detector Update

Author: Jim Hanson, W1TRC

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Summer Meteor Scatter Contest — FSK441, sponsored by Radio Club "Golubinci" YT7GOL from 2000Z Jun 16-2000Z Jun 18. Frequencies: 144 MHz. Categories: SO and MO. Exchange: Call sign, report, final acknowledgment ("Roger"). QSO points: 1 pt/QSO. Score: QST pts × DXCC entities. For more information and changes for US station rules: solair.eunet.yu/~s.ilic/summer_msc.htm. Logs due Jul 10 to golmscont@ptt.yu.

Spanish Islands Contest — CW/SSB/RTTY, sponsored by the Diploma Islas Españolas (DIE), from 0600Z-1200Z Jun 18. Frequencies: 80-10 meters. Exchange: RST + DIE number or serial number. QSO points: Island stations 2 pts/QSO, otherwise 5 pts/QSO. For more information: www.ea5ol.net/die. Logs due 60 days after the contest to ea5aen@ea5ol.net or EA5AEN, PO Box 11055, Valencia, Spain.

June 24-25

ARRL Field Day — 1800Z Jun 24 to 2100Z Jun 25 (see May QST, p 105, or www.arrl.org/contests).

His Majesty King of Spain Contest—SSB, 1200Z Jun 24-1200Z Jun 25 (see May QST, p 100).

Here's a neat, low-power spin on the traditional Field Day activity.

QRP ARCI Milliwatt Field Day — 1800Z Jun 25-2100Z Jun 26. Follows ARRL Field Day rules; see www.qrparci.org/contest.htm for more information. **QST**

www.arrl.org/contests
www.ncjweb.com

Interested in finding out more about contesting and "how they do it"?

Try the free, biweekly e-mail newsletter *Contester's Rate Sheet* (www.arrl.org/contests) or the bimonthly magazine *National Contest Journal* (www.ncjweb.com).

Both are packed with the practical information you need for contesting success.

Strays

ULTRASONIC ARC DETECTOR UPDATE

◇Jim Hanson, W1TRC, author of "A Home-made Ultrasonic Arc Detector" [Apr 2006, pp 41-46], reports that PC boards for the project are available. FAR Circuits, www.farcircuits.net, is producing the 2 × 3 inch boards based on artwork developed by Tom Hammond, NØSS, and John Brosnahan, WØUN.

Jim reports that there has been quite a bit of interest in the detector. He notes that at least one ham, Roger Monroe, K7NTW, already has his detector working. He has been able to use it to pinpoint his first noise source on a pole about ¼ mile from his home that has been giving him problems on 15 meters.

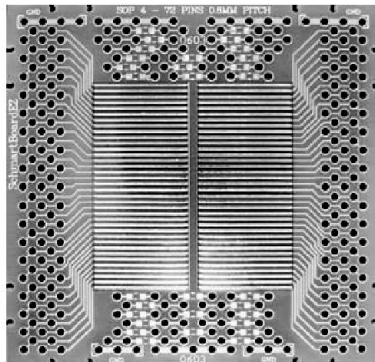
I would like to get in touch with...

◇anyone who has run power directly from the battery into the passenger compartment of a 2003 Toyota Sienna minivan. — *Terry Simonds, wb4fxd@mchsi.com* or 252-482-4335.

New Products

SCHMARTBOARD-EZ PROTOTYPING BOARD EASES SMD SOLDERING

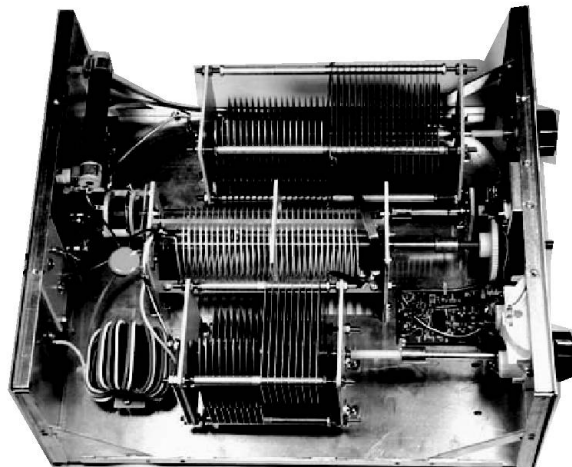
◇SchmartBoardEZ prototyping boards are specifically designed to make it easy to build projects that require hand soldering of surface mount components. The solder mask is higher than the pads, not lower, to create grooves for the legs of ICs or other components. This is said to allow for easy component placement. The bottom of each groove already contains solder, so no additional solder is needed. To solder the component in place, touch a fine tip soldering iron to the outside end of a groove and push the melted solder until it touches the chip's leg. The solder stays in the groove to avoid short circuits. A variety of available boards can accommodate different SMD component and case styles. Prices are in the \$5 to \$10 range, depending on board size and type. Visit www.schmartboard.com



for more information and a list of distributors, or to place an order.

MFJ-9982 HIGH POWER ANTENNA TUNER

◇MFJ's 9982 antenna tuner is rated to handle 2500 W continuous carrier output on all modes and on all HF bands, and to work with coax-fed antennas or balanced lines. The tuner is said to employ an edge-wound roller inductor, high current 1000 and 500 pF variable capacitors, and a balun made from four 2.5 inch cores and wound with 12 gauge Teflon wire. Other features include 6:1 reduction drives, a cross-needle SWR/power meter and a ceramic antenna switch for two coaxial cables, a balanced line and a dummy load. Price: \$699.95. To order or for your nearest dealer, call 800-647-1800 or see www.mfjenterprises.com.



IC-7000 MINI-MANUAL FROM NIFTY HAM ACCESSORIES

◇The IC-7000 Mini-Manual from Nifty Ham Accessories is a quick reference guide that covers control functions, programming and operating instructions for ICOM's IC-7000 transceiver. The Mini-Manual is 20 pages, and measures 4.5 × 8 inches. Pages are laminated and bound with a spiral wire binding so it lays flat. Price: \$20.85. For more information or to order, visit www.niftyaccessories.com.

