# News Digest



#### **DUAL PROCESSOR MICRO**

New from Fairlight Instruments Pty. Ltd. is the Quasar family of microprocessor products. The major feature of the system is the dual CPU board, which carries two 6800s both operating on the same bus, but using opposite phases of the clock so that both run

## PHILIPS POST-GRAD OFFER

Each year Philips offer a number of scholarships to graduates of electrical engineering, physics or other related subjects, to study for a Master of Electronics Engineering at the Philips International Institute of Technological Studies in the Netherlands. The scholarships are for a period of one year beginning in January at a Philips manufacturing centre or research laboratory in Eindhoven. Course work involves lectures and experimental or design work in electronics and affiliated techniques. Financial assistance is offered and airfares to and from Europe will be paid by Philips. Applicants are drawn from all over the world but must be able to speak English and are normally under the age of 30. This is in line with Philips belief in assisting the younger talent to develop.

Applicants must possess a university degree or equivalent relevant to electronics engineering and illustrating a high level of achievement as only the very best will be chosen for this course. Applications close on September 1, 1977 and further information and application forms are available from Philips Research Manager in Australia, Dr. G. de V. Gipps at Philips Holdings Limited, P.O. Box 1138, North Sydney, N.S.W. 2060. at full speed. This gives a major increase in throughput, and powerful debugging facilities. A wide range of software is available, as well as advanced hardware, including floppy disk controller and graphics devices. Fairlight Instruments Pty. Ltd., 15 Boundary St., Rushcutters Bay, NSW 2011.

## MICRO COURSE

The Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, in conjunction with Technisearch Ltd., is holding a short course entitled "Using Microprocessors and Microcomputers", beginning on the 7th July. The lecturer is Dr. R.E. Hendtlass, of the RMIT Department of Applied Physics, and the course consists of seven two-hour lectures, an individual exercise and a workshop. The course material is slanted towards the professional engineer who will be engaged in developing systems and the fee of \$108.00 makes applications by interested amateurs unlikely. However, if you can get yourself sponsored by your employers, further information and enrolment forms may be obtained from: Mr. E.W. White, Manager, Continuing Education Unit, Technisearch Limited, RMIT, on (03)341-2532

#### **DICK SMITH CLOSES**

Due to the annual stock-take, Dick Smith Stores will be closed for a day, but the days have been staggered so that there is always only one Sydney store closed and the other two are open. The days to miss are: Gore Hill store, Thursday 30 June; Bankstown, Friday 1st July; York St., Saturday 2nd; Melbourne and Brisbane branches, Thursday afternoon, 30th June.

## QUADRAPHONIC CONFUSION

With the number of quadraphonic systems now available, and the amount of controversy over which is best, nobody is doing very well out of the situation. Of particular interest are the Nippon Columbia UD-4 system and the British NRDC's Ambisonic system. In view of the similarity between these systems, their principals have agreed to pool all patents and techniques into a system called 45J. Bear in mind though that UD4 and Ambisonics have not been heavily marketed so that when 45J is pushed into commercial production it will mean a fourth quad system to further the confusion.

Meanwhile, the BBC has put its considerable weight behind its own Matrix H system, and is already transmitting it, despite the fact that commercial decoders are not yet available. Where will it all end?

THE CASE FOR A DMM



Now available from Time Control Pty. Ltd. of 23 Warraba Road, North Narrabeen, NSW 2101, is this steel case which is ideal for containing that digital multimeter you've just finished building. It comes complete with a plain aluminium front panel and an aluminium handle is available as an extra. The cost is \$25 + p &p.

#### 2-WAYTV

In Columbus, Ohio, Warner Cable Corp. are trying an experiment in viewerresponse TV using a simple calculatortype keyboard which is polled by a computer located at the cable TV company's offices. The 30 channel service offers games, educational materials, and local programs that allow the subscribers to vote. Previous attempts at two-way TV have failed because of the economics of providing complex keyboards, but the simplified keyboard used in this scheme is much cheaper, and is made in Japan by Pioneer using a custom LSI chip.