Dear Yipl,

Please distribute this little gem of info immediately. "The National Security Agency monitors and records every trans-Atlantic telephone call." Source: Ramparts, Nov. '72. Also, "Of course, all trans-Atlantic and trans-Pacific Telephone calls to or from the U.S. are tapped."

I don't know if the NSA would pass info on to the FBL about phone phreaks, but its certainly conceivable that they may.

It seems ITT is pushing Astrofood to school kids through a subsidiary, Continental Baking.

I think we need to find out just how much ITT controls. If I get the time I'll go to MLPFEFs and check Standard & Poors to see if I can get the scope of operations of this giant. J.R., Atlanta, Ga.

Dear Yipl,

Just a note to give you a few comments on the August issue (No. 12).

First, the Red Box: you might note that it is also important to provide a contact and make the line connections which will ground the tip side of the line when you beep the box. When a coin is placed in a pay phone, the mechanism grounds the tip side for about 1 second; this is what gets you dial tone on a so-called pre-pay phone. Then, when dealing with the operator for longer calls, the beeps tell her that you've paid, but it will look a little funny if the equipment doesn't register the dropping of coins. Both are necessary for a realistic simulation. (The terms "tip" and "ring" (also "sleeve") come from the old manual switchboard days and describe the connections on a cord plug. These archaic terms are still used today: the tip side is the green wire and L1 if things are hooked up properly; the ring side of the line is the red wire and L2.)

Second: I have constructed several Blue Boxes using the Signetics NE 566 IC. I do not recommend it for several reasons: 1. It is designed to be a voltage-controlled oscillator and is very good in this role. 2. It is so damned voltage sensitive that it needs a very stable, rock solid battery supply. Even with a zener regulator after the battery, which is getting rather silly, it is no good because of 2. its temperature sensitivity. Using mylar caps and metal-film resistors I got an 8% variation between 35°F. and 90°F., which means you have to re-tune the thing all the time. Finally, diode variations lead to unreal differences between tones that should be the same frequency. Best Wishes, T.V., Calif.

Many telephone services at your fingertips simply require the correct number to perform for you. These New York numbers all work in areas of N.Y., and many out-of-city and out-of-state readers will find they work in their neighborhood. We'll publish Los Angeles and San Francisco numbers if we receive them soon.

AREA CODE 212

324-0707 Sweep tone at high level. When comparing an oscilloscope trace of this tone to another made at an earlier date, detection of taps is possible. No.O

HY9 9932 Silent line-Line will be held open while Tw1 off hook without making noise.

XXX-9980 Dial your prefix (first 3 digits) and 9980 and you will get a 6000 cycle tone. It has a slight tendency toward being permanent, unless the phone hook is hit twice.

958 These numbers, when dialed, read back the number you are on. Great in apartment basements for finding your line, or unused free lines waiting to be connected.

Prefix-9901 Verification. Sound like Telco employee or dial 0, ask for "260 official 0-1" and get the same without even paying a message unit. By the way, don't use 260, use your own prefix. When verifying operator comes on say, "Verify such and such please."

New Yorkers are up in arms against the Great Subway Ripoff. It seems people are buying the standard electrical knockout boxes at hardware stores, removing the knockouts, and then filing down the nitch where it was attached. Then they proceed to use them as tokens in turnstiles. It turns out that they work in turnstiles almost anywhere in N.Y. Exceptions are Penn Station. If the knockout falls through the mechanism, they follow it with a real token and walk right through. The 40¢ boxes contain 1/7 knockouts, each worth 50¢ when filed a bit. YIPL readers are urged to watch out for these people, as they wipe their fingerprints off the slugs when they drop them.

Readers who missed the Phirst International PHONE PHREAK CONVENTION will be able to read about it in the latest issue of Ramparts Magazine, and in Telephony, the magazine of the telephone industry. The Telephony article, though somewhat biased, plugged our address for company execs, advising them not to reveal identities when writing us. Cute, huh? Now we've got AT&T execs reading YIPL! However, we applaud Telephony on the ridiculous accuracy of their name, and salute their new readers with finger upheld!
MORE BOX PLANS

Correction—The 39K resistor used for setting the gain of the amplifier in last month’s issue is incorrect. It should be between 1K and 6K thousand ohms’ in value. Too large a value will cause a buzz in the amplifier.

Let’s clear up a few details in last month’s Blue Box construction plans. For those of you without a lot of test equipment, this might help you a bit.

1. The Twin T oscillator has maximum stability for oscillation is always the purest sine wave, but the oscillator is on the verge of turning off, so a slight distortion of the wave can and must be tolerated in this circuit. Tuning up to a couch tone phonograph frequencies is best. So don’t worry too much if the signal is fuzzy.

2. A square wave, generated by an on-off type of device such as a multivibrator, has a lot of harmonics, sounds harsh and is not as effective though often easier to make. A pure sine wave, from a Clapp oscillator, and from 2 touch tone phones, is the best waveshape for activating Western Electric’s brain.

3. Be sure to call only from pay phones, never from a home phone. This is necessary because all pay phones are equipped with a device to automatically route you to the proper international center.

The telephone earpiece has a dual diode connected across the terminals in never units, and if the signal level is too great the diodes absorb the peaks of the sine wave, thus causing the waveform to distort like this. Remove the diode before using.

DIALING OVERSEAS CALLS

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BACK ISSUES 50¢
1 - Extension phones, conference switches
2 - Blue Box Story and Abbie on ripoffs
3 - Telecommand story
4 - Pay Phone Issue
5 - Blue Box 2 - Now obsolete
6 - Blue Box 2 - How obsolete
7 - Tuning your organ
8 - 1972 Credit Card Code
9 - Super duper project (See issue 11)
10 - Receive free long distance calls
11 - Blue Box plans
12 - International calls (this issue)

FACT SHEETS 25¢
How not to get caught making credit card calls
Receiving free long distance calls

PLAYING A TUNE FOR A TELEPHONE NUMBER

Before you talk over some of the new Bell System long distance circuits, your operator presses keys like those shown above, one for each digit in the number of the telephone you are calling. Each key sends out a pair of tones, literally writing the number to music.

In the community you are calling, these tones activate the dial telephone system to give you the number you want. It is as if the operator reached across the country and dialed the number for you.

This system, one of the newest developments of Bell Telephone Laboratories, is already in use on hundreds of long distance lines radiating from Chicago, Cleveland, New York, Oakland, and Philadelphia, and between a number of other communities.

It will be extended steadily in other parts of the country—a growing example of the way Bell Telephone Laboratories are ever finding new ways to give you better, faster telephone service.

BELL TELEPHONE LABORATORIES
Exploring and inventing, discovering and perfecting, for continual improvements and innovations in telephone service.

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