See this space in last issue for the rules, terms and conditions. The Pet Peeve Contest is open until 9/30/95. Winners receive a PerCon Spectrum Lite FCC Database on CD-ROM. Meanwhile, we're happy to announce the first winner:

From: Ira Cooper, Lexington, KY:

There's not a lot I don't like about radio. However, some people in the radio clubs & nets (BBS, AOL, etc) give me pains. There are the know-it-alls (self proclaimed). But the people that get my ire are the "I can get that for $2 in Madagascar" types.

Let me elaborate. In the sell/trade sections of the BBS's someone will offer, for instance, a Pro-2006 for $325. Then there will be ten responses about how these aren't worth it. "You can still get them new in San Salvador for a goat head." Now these people aren't in the market for a 2006, or any radio for that matter. But they waste their time and my time putting these stupid comments on line.

I don't know if they think they are helping us, giving us a great tip, or trying to make the seller feel like a fool. My specific situation went like this. I bought a Pro-39 (brand new), did the cell mod, 12800 channel memory mod (using surface mount parts), added an on/off light switch (mini slider actuator on side of radio), and the signal strength S-meter mod. The meter was an external plug-in type and included with the radio. The hack jobs are very nice (if I may say so myself) and the radio maintains its original profile. OK, I decided since I have 9 radios I would offer this one for sale. I put it on AOL and Newsgroup sites. I paid $179 + tax. My asking price was $275, OBO.

I believe that the following changes should be made to your list:

- Item 12 (Hard Drive): A quick look in my local (NJ) Sunday paper revealed a shortage of 540Mb drives. The standard seems to be 730-850Mb and up. I believe the "newbie" will be confused since they

Le PET PEEVE

CONTEST WINNERS

(Still open til Sept 30, 1995)

ED: Wow, a good one, Ira! I can relate because I see it all the time, too. Some people are just persnickety and ornery, I guess. The computer network forums are just full of them, probably because it is so easy to pipe in with snide remarks and not get pated up side the chops for their time and trouble. Your pet peeve is a classic, so Cindy and I unanimously selected you to be the first winner. Thanks for your time and trouble.

Our next winner comes as a surprise to the submitter because mostly likely, he had no idea he was entering a contest. His critique is tantamount to a peeve and quite worthwhile, so a PerCon Spectrum Lite goes out to:

Name Withheld by Request: received Internet e-mail: Wednesday, September 06, 1995 5:28 PM

ED: No quibble on larger sized hard drives; it's just that the smallest hard drive one should get nowadays is 540-Mb. Most assuredly, the larger, the better. Now when it comes to modems, we might have to argue. The cost difference between old, now outdated 14.4-kbps modems and the new 28.8-kbps types is really zilch, if you consider the long term operating costs of 14.4-kbps (twice as much as 28.8-kbps)! You might save $50 initially, but at 15¢/min, that savings is eaten up after about 11hrs of long-distance time. A 28.8-kbps modem will return a profit for every minute thereafter. I think a 14.4-kbps modem (and slower) is a false economy now, at any price.
when a single line is printed. I am thinking of logging needs that are sometimes useful to the radioist. The CE-232 Interface offers such logging features, as do many other radio & electronic applications.

In any event, the dot matrix printer remains my choice for a minimum quality of printer, but the buyer is always free to elevate the specs, depending on budget and need.

Your input and slightly different ways of looking at things are appreciated, however, and I consider them valuable enough to offer the readers for a wider range of consideration.

SPEAKING OF COMPUTERS: WANT TO ROLL YOUR OWN?

Hey, are you guys 'n gals interested in building or upgrading your own computers? The time is right, and I can show you how to do it at great savings and immense satisfaction. But I don't want to bore or irritate too many people.

I have done a few and can attest to it being a little habit. If you'll just ignore him, he won't even realize they're there and we'll get to keep you. If he wakes up and realizes where we are, we'll have to go home sooner.

About the Government Printing Office in Atlanta...what I didn't tell you is that I've discovered I can drive around the block at least 47 times before he can decide what book to purchase and which one to save for next time. I didn't tell you about all the ugly words people use when I cruise by you know the Sheriff Department office on the way back from the dump
do you know the Sheriff Department didn't really care too much that he just wanted to measure the antennas on the back of their cars. Seems like they thought if they wanted him to know, they would have told him when they issued his driver's license several years ago.

We went to the Braves game a couple of weeks ago. His Pro 2006 and his frequency counter had to go along with us, along with his headphones so he could listen to "stuff". One of the girls from my office works in security; when she saw me and we started talking, he pulled out his frequency counter and began scanning her breast to see what frequency the Braves were transmitting on—Okay—it really was her radio next to her breast, but it sure looked a little flaky to me. If I hadn't been there and seen that, I'd...
admonition for my next book to focus my "...attention on more mods and a bit less attitude." <shudderdash & horsefeathers!>

In a word, I wonder what horse this dude rode in on and where it came from and where it's going. Any halfwit with a schematic and a screwdriver knows that hacking is an attitude.

The "US SCANNER NEWS" tore my first two books to shreds, telling their readers that my books were too technical and far over their heads. And in general, they have little good to say about anything or anyone outside their little circle of the world. My impression is that the "US SCANNER NEWS" takes it upon itself to decide for its readers what's good for them and what's not. This is a syndrome...a failure mode...to which many potentially fine writers and rags seem compelled to succumb. The "US SCANNER NEWS" failed to publish for lengthy periods over the last few years and actually went belly-up before being taken over by another publisher. It's no wonder! They should just say the right things about people and products and leave responsibility to the readers and consumers to render judgment.

Oh, don't get me wrong. Ripoff products and those that have little merit should not be whitewashed. You guys 'n gals know me...I don't whitewash. But then I don't go off on "attitudes" and tell other writers and companies how to attend to their business. I really try to avoid judgments and stick to the facts about products and services. Now I will rip a new exhaust tube on a person upon occasion, but I try to avoid mixing product and personnel reviews in the same breath, something "US SCANNER NEWS" might do well to ponder. Otherwise, I guess they can just eat my shorts.

Meanwhile, if you are looking for a new or "different" scanner magazine, drop a note of inquiry or call below. And, tell the pricks I sent ya and ask 'em who the hell wrote that review. Maybe they're sore at me 'cuz I never did 'em any favors. (Ok, favor done.) Besides, they have a few fine writers whom I consider friends and colleagues.

**ELECTRONIC EAVESDROPPING**

Continued? Well, yes. See last issue for the Super Snoop Microphone that I laid on ya. No, you're not supposed to do any eavesdropping with it, but there's more to the little sucker than just recording lectures and notes. Whatever your purpose, I have another slick little add-on for it...a powerful, easy amplifier!

**SUPER SNOOP AMPLIFIER**

What good's a Super Snoop Microphone if you can't hear anything? You don't always need or want a tape recorder, but you still might want to listen to something weird and far out. My Super Snoop Amplifier accepts input from the Super Snoop Microphone and amplifies the hell out of the weak audio, sufficient to drive a small speaker or an earphone with all the sound your ears can absorb. (And more.) And the sucker is cheap & easy to build, too. Together, the Super Snoop mic and amplifier will impress the hell out of you and your pals.

**Key Note** here is that the Super Snoop Amplifier (SSA) is capable of being built into a very tiny space, perhaps even smaller, depending on how creative and innovative you are. Just allow for easy access to the battery if you anticipate the need for quick changes at inopportune times.

**Technical:** The SSA can serve as a general purpose utility audio amplifier, too. If you build yours with convenient 8-pin phone jacks, then it can be compatible with almost any input/output needs and not be limited to use with last issue's Super Snoop Microphone; nor would it be limited to speaker-only or earphone-only applications. The SSA is a versatile tool around shop and shack.

**Construction:** The heart of the SSA is a small utility audio amplifier chip, available almost anywhere, from Radio Shack to generic parts houses. The LM-386 comes in many styles, but our focus will be on either the 8-pin DIP package like Radio Shack's, or an 8-pin SMT (surface mount) package like can be acquired from DigiKey and other suppliers. In worst cases, you can use the NTE/ECG 823 as a prime substitute.

The LM-386 is a powerful little chip that produces clean, low distortion sound at power levels under 1/8-watt. Its frequency response exceeds the 20 Hz - 20 KHz audio spectrum. Voltage gain goes to as high as 200 for a lot of amplification! This baby is so good that with the Super Snoop Microphone from last issue, you can easily hear crickets chirping in the night, even when your ears might not detect them! It will clearly detect a whisper across a quiet, large room!

In a word, the SSA can be built into a case smaller than a pack of cigarettes, and perhaps even smaller, depending on how creative and innovative you are. Just allow for easy access to the battery if you anticipate the need for quick changes at inopportune times.
have wondered whose breast he’d been “freaking” lately besides hers. He sat there all through that wonderful ballgame, didn’t say a word to me or the boys, listened to his radio, and had himself a time. I guess you could say that for him the Braves game was sort of like that romantic night under the moon I talked to you about last month—you know, where I got to sit there very close to him in the dark, late at night, right under the moon—and the repeater tower in downtown Douglasville—to try and pick up some new frequencies.

Well, time to close for now with a small explanation of how the scanner became the most important piece of equipment in my life. See, one day I happened to mention to my husband that I needed this little piece of metal, plastic, and components...and what a wonderful contribution this would be to our lives...and he totally misread me and brought me home a scanner.

Oh well, it’s not brain surgery. At least I’ll live.

**ULTIMATE SCANNER BOOK’S FIRST BAD REVIEW**

It just had to happen: my **ULTIMATE SCANNER** book got its first bad review. Surprisingly, it comes from a major publication instead of one of the small club newsletters that are more prone to tear things to pieces. The “**US SCANNER NEWS**” tears my new book to shreds in their September, 1995, issue. I could live with that, since (1) nothing’s perfect in this old world, and (2) you can’t please all the people all the time, no matter how good you are.

The “**US SCANNER NEWS**” took my first two books to task, too. Now if that doesn’t reek of peculiarity. I don’t know what does. The success and acclaim of my **SCANNER MODIFICATION HANDBOOKS** are legend. With that in mind, please consider my following reply:

The opening paragraphs of “**US SCANNER NEWS**” review of the **ULTIMATE SCANNER** set a general derogatory tone that is difficult to understand but comes quickly to the point, “Most of the actual modification projects in the Ultimate Scanner focuses toward the PRO-2004/5/6 and PRO-43. The only scanners that Cheek believes to warrant serious hacking attention...”

Let the record speak for itself. Are there other seriously hackable scanners? No.

Referring to an adaptation of Bruce Elving’s SCA modification that I presented, the author laments, “...although usable with any scanner which covers the FM Broadcast band, installation in scanners besides the 2004/5/6/2035 is unfortunately brushed aside.

Hogwash! How do you “brush aside” that which does not exist? Are there any other prominent scanners that have the FM Broadcast band and which might attract an interest in SCA? I mentioned the Regency Z60 and the PRO-2003, but geez, doode, hackers don’t own those rigs. They are ancient and of no mainline interest. And there aren’t any other FM Broadcast scanners of which I am aware. The mfrs/dsrs of AOR scanners don’t cooperate with me relative to needed technical data, so what else is there to “brush aside” fer Pete’s sake?

The author goes on to whine about the cellular mods I included for “about 2 dozen different models of scanners from both Radio Shack and Uniden. Only 4 of the cell mod descriptions are supported with illustrations, however. The bigger limitation here, of course is that none of these particular models of scanners are still available as new product.”

Good grief! Apparently that author doesn’t know that new scanners are not capable of cellular modifications! Furthermore, he must prefer picture books to well written prose. Here, you tell me if a picture is needed: **PRO-2006 cellular mod:** Lift top cover. Look behind the #3 key on the keyboard. Clip the exposed leads of both diodes. Replace cover. Operate as normal. If it could be explained that easily, I did not insert expensive, space consuming illustrations. (What’s this guy want?)

Then, referring to my award of Ultimate Scanner Status to the PRO-2004,5/6-2035, the author pontificates that I “may be more closely describing a BC-9000” He fails to note that the BC-9000 was not released at the time my manuscript went to the publisher. He has failed to peak inside one since then, to become intimately aware of what I mean about lots of sizzle and no steak, and not being able to extract blood from turnips.

He snivels about my positive comments on Radio Shack’s service manuals and ho-hum on Uniden’s. He ruminates that Uniden manuals are as good as Radio Shack’s. <Good grief>. Then he leaps up on the stump to narrate how he can “talk with a real live Radio Tech” from ICOM and AOR....and then drivels, “Try that with one Radio Shack.”

These latter statements go a long way to establishing that author’s credentials. After all, WHAT mfr’s tech support is going to talk with YOU or anyone about hacking and modifying their stuff? You’d get laughed off the phone, if you tried...and a perfectly good long distance phone call wasted. In short, the fellow exposes his backside where he states that Uniden service manuals are as good as Radio Shack’s, and that you can talk to Uniden’s and AOR’s tech support people. Methinks the poor fellow doesn’t understand what hacking and modifying are all about. **What do you think about Uniden Service Manuals?**

He shifts into 4th gear on what he calls errors where one is just that, but a couple more are only simplifications of highly technical matters that I did not want to trouble the readers with. I suppose that’s fair, taken all by itself....but it ain’t all by itself....there’s more.

The author gnashes his teeth over the neat spreadsheets I presented for calculating radio path distances and bearings, and for VHF-UHF propagation analysis. Clearly, he shows that he wants to be judge and jury for what material is to be given to radio hobbyists.

The “**US SCANNER NEWS**” review of my **ULTIMATE SCANNER** book rambles on with many snide remarks, on and off target, interspersed with an occasional nod of approval, and concludes with an
sequestered from the output components to prevent feedback. Ground connections should be kept short and organized. The SSA is so cheap and easy to build that you might want to do a larger, utility version first, on which to cut your teeth, so to speak. Later, you can whittle down a second one to a minuscule size for clandestine or surreptitious needs. The first version can be constructed from the Parts List below, while a refined, micro version can be made from equivalent surface mount components.

**VR-1 Note:** VR-1 can be a “normal” volume control with a knob or it can be a mini potentiometer even a micro trimmer potentiometer recessed into the case with a screwdriver access hole. I’ll leave the specifics up to you. The resistance value is the critical parameter here; not size unless you need a tiny unit.

**Operation:** Nothing to it. Plug your Super Snoop Microphone from last issue into the INPUT jack. Plug a small speaker or an earphone into the OUTPUT jack. Apply DC power of +6 to +14 volts (not critical) to the power lead. Adjust VR-1 for desired volume.

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**SSA PARTS LIST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Radio Shack #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C1</td>
<td>22-µF/16v tantalum</td>
<td>272-1437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C2</td>
<td>100-µF ceramic</td>
<td>272-123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C3</td>
<td>22-µF/16v tantalum</td>
<td>272-1437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C4</td>
<td>1-µF/35v tantalum</td>
<td>272-1434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C5</td>
<td>.05-µF ceramic</td>
<td>272-134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C6</td>
<td>220-µF/35v electrolytic</td>
<td>272-1019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C7</td>
<td>470-µF/35v electrolytic</td>
<td>272-1018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VR-1</td>
<td>100-kΩ trimmer</td>
<td>271-284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R1</td>
<td>10-Ω, 1/4-watt</td>
<td>271-1301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U1</td>
<td>LM-386 Audio IC</td>
<td>276-1731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J1-2</td>
<td>1/8” phone jack</td>
<td>274-251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc</td>
<td>Enclosure &amp; PC Assy</td>
<td>270-283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc</td>
<td>SPST On/Off Switch</td>
<td>275-645</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc</td>
<td>9-v Battery Holder</td>
<td>270-326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc</td>
<td>9-v Battery Snap</td>
<td>270-325</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All this said and done, suppose you don’t want to build your own Super Snoop Amplifier? Ok, **buy one ready-made**, probably the same damn thing, for $12 at Radio Shack. #277-1008. You can hardly beat it and spend less money at the same time. The ready-made model easily fits in a shirt pocket but might be larger than you want. So roll your own or buy one ready-made. Either one is very nice. Either amplifies weak signals.

Oh...you can stay strictly legal, too, and use the SSA as a cheap hearing aid...like I do. ☎️ It’s good for a multiplicity of purposes; legal and illegal. You pick.

**Wrap Up:** By the way: there are some slick things you may want to know about last issue’s Super Snoop Microphone and this issue’s Super Snoop Amplifier. For instance, you can mount the SS Mic at the focal point of a paraboloid dish for a “big ear” gizmo. Or fit an anechoic muffler tube around the SS Mic to make a highly directional unit. As it is designed, the SS Mic is rather omnidirectional, which is fine for some needs and not so great for others. The directivity of a microphone is a mechanical thing; not electrical, so make your own directional housing as needed.

**Things to come:** You might wonder what the SS Mic and SS Amp have to do with scanners. Well, I don’t want to give away the store just yet, but stay tuned, because we’re not done with the Super Snoop gadgets yet. The SS Mic and SS Amp are integral parts of a slick and wicked project that’ll knock your socks off. And that’s where we’ll get back into scanners and bring all this together. For now, just go along with me because each component that I’ll be introducing is good enough on its own for specific situations. Then, I’ll bring ‘em all together to amaze the hell outa you!

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**NEW PRO-2042**

**New 1000 channels, triple conversion circuit, advanced auto-store**

PRO-2042, Coverage to 1300 MHz and selectable N-FM/V-FM/MAX modes expand your listening—tune CB, HAM, TV sound, military aircraft. Triple conversion cuts image interference. Explore with rotary tuning, scan any combination of channels, search for new ones. Loaded with advanced features: Lockouts work in search mode. Auto-store loads active frequencies into specified memory banks while preventing duplications. Sound squelch stops arrows on unmodulated carriers. HyperScan™ high-speed scanning helps you follow 800-1000 MHz trunked radio systems. One-touch weather. RF attenuation (TSF) 20-466...499.99

Frequency Coverage: 25-720, 760-823.95, 890-955-969.95, 984-1005-1200 MHz. Power: UL listed AC operation or 12V-DC, operating external antenna (N.C.), microphone DC power; tape-out, external speaker, headphone. Includes: Detachable external antenna. Size: 3½” x 3½” x 7¾”.

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9/19/95 - 4:29 PM - The “World Scanner Report” © 1991-95; Volume 5, No 7; Page 5
The "World Scanner Report" © 1991-95; Volume 5, No 7; Page 6

FOR SALE
LIKE-NEW ~ NICELY MODIFIED
PRO-2035 & CE-232

I just can't afford to buy every new scanner that sneaks onto the market these days, but I have to have scanners in hand in order to develop mods and to give an intimate evaluation of them.

Accordingly, I'll sell my like-new Turbo-Whopper PRO-2035 to recoup funds to buy and hack the new PRO-2042. Here's what's in the package:

- PRO-2035 if new $450
- CE-232 Computer Interface, external in a metal box w/cable, disk, manual, assembled/tested if new $450
- LED S-Meter if new $100
- LED Center-Tune Mtr if new $80
- Data/Tone Squelch if new $100
- 16,000-Chan Extended Memory if new $100
- 16 Blocks, 1000-ch ea if new $250
- Extended Delay if new $150
- Auto Tape Rec Switch if new $70
- This PRO-2035 has received the best of care and attention and just might make the right TurboWhopper for some astute scavenger. The "new" cost of this ultra-fine scanner is $1610.96, but I will accept the best offer over $900 between now and September 30, 1995, or the first offer over $1300.96. If you want to make a serious offer, contact me by e-mail, postal mail, or Cindy by voice phone per the Reference Information on Page 1 of this issue. Payment by VISA/NC/cash, MO, or check; check held until bank clear.

RADIO SHACK CATALOG REVIEW
~ Continued ~

The 1996 Radio Shack Catalog sports the two new high-end handheld scanners, PRO-26 and PRO-60, that have been discussed here in the past, so they're not all that new. The PRO-26 appears to be the better of the two, and certainly costs more. Forget hacking either of these two for anything exciting.

If the new PRO-2042 follows the GRE design of the PRO-2035, it will prove to be a firmware enhanced PRO-2006, sans cellular bands. The firmware of the PRO-2035 was interesting and a step ahead of the rest of the pack, so the PRO-2042 probably follows suit. More later, when I get the Service Manual or if I can find a way to buy a PRO-2042.

If you know what's good for you and your wallet, steer clear of the rest of Radio Shack's scanners unless your budget has no possibility of affording the PRO-2042, PRO-26, or PRO-60.

One of the neatest things in the 1996 catalog is the return of "my" Event Counter Module, #277-302 (pg 130). Sally, crusty hackers may remember my Mod-30 Event Counter. Then a year after I published it, Radio Shack pulled it from the shelves. Now it's back...sort of. I think it has to be special ordered, but what the heck? Page 130 sports a handful of other interesting LCD modules, including a low cost panel-mount voltmeter/ammeter.

Page 125 sports a $99 oscilloscope! Well, it's a probe with an LCD display of some sort, and software to run it as a 20-MHz oscilloscope. I can't imagine the LCD display being worth a boat, but the PC adapter and software ought to make this puppy a bargain for most 20 MHz scope needs. Nothing else new in the test equipment department, but another mention is deserved for the PC-Interface Multimeter with 20 MHz frequency counter, #22-168. We've reviewed this one in the past. Their Bench meter 22-175 remains a good buy.

On pg 120 is a one-hand soldering pencil with a gizmo to keep solder while you work. Neat idea, but I don't like the tip on the damn thing.

A neat coax cable stripping tool is offered for $7 on page 118. Good for RG-6 and RG-59 cables only.

A new shortwave receiver, the DX-394 appears on page 44, but at $400, I dunno. Radio Shack has never been renowned for their SWL gear. This one has all the earmarks of sizzle without steak. Caution advised. The portable DX-392 looks decent, but at $250, I dunno about that one, either.

New ham and business radios and related equipment appears on pp 41-43.

PRO-39 S-METER
From: Ira Cooper

Bill, R-264 is where I pull DC power for an LED S-Meter mod in the PRO-39. Let me know if this is kosher. It seems to be working so far. I've added your LED S-Meter, MOD-26, to the PRO-39 using surface mount LEDs. Its pretty damn cool. I cut a 1/8" x 1/8" vertical slot in the front of the case approx. 1/4" above the center of the word "KEYLOCK". My S-Meter consists of 6 green and 4 red LED's. Unfortunately the yellow LEDs looked just like the green (maybe they sent the wrong ones) so I used green and red. The LM-3914 is on the top board upper left corner; it will lay on its back. The precision pot lays to the right about 1/8" away on another blank spot on the board. The whole component section is built almost entirely between the legs of the LM-3914. The brightness pot was used to adjust brilliance, ohms measured, then removed and replaced with a resistor of the measured value. Its tight but I love it.

ED Comment: The proper DC power pickup point is on the switched side of the On/Off switch. This could also be at the junction of R264 & R265, same difference.

Here's a clue for you...about saving battery power. Keep in mind, depending on the setting of the LED brilliance, that current per LED can go to 25-ma or more. If you're monitoring fairly strong signals, then 3-10 lit LEDs will drain your batteries in short order! But there is a remedy, thanks to a little known feature of the LM-3914 chip. It has a setting for either bar-graph or spot mode! Bar-graph is where all LEDs up to the highest one are lit at the same time, whereas in spot mode, only the single highest active LED is lit. This represents a considerable savings of power, and increased operating time!

Note how in MOD-26, Pin 9 is tied to a + voltage point? Lift that connection so the JF signal is converted by the detector to a voltage point? Lift that connection so the D-202, same to the highest one are lit at the same time, whereas in spot mode, only the single highest active LED is lit. This represents a considerable savings of power, and increased operating time!

For those not in the know, a simple detector circuit is needed to generate an output to an S-Meter device. That detector is shown as follows:

In the PRO-39, Point A of the detector goes to the cathode of D-202 at the output of T-203, the last I.F. transformer. The fully amplified 455-KHz IF signal is converted by the detector to
a DC voltage proportional to the strength of the I.F. signal. Point C of the detector feeds the DC signal to the S-Meter of choice. Point B at either end is simply ground. Ira Cooper, the submitter of this excellent mod, chose the LED S-Meter MOD-26 from Vol-2 of my Scanner Modification Handbook. Mr. Cooper went on to build his LED S-Meter into the PRO-39, an excellent idea.

You may prefer the easier and safer method of an external S-Meter that can be disconnected from the scanner as desired. If this is the case, build the detector into a small box as possible and connect Point A to the cathode of D-202. Install a small phone jack in the side of the scanner’s case. Connect Point C of the detector to the center lug of the phone jack. Connect Point B to scanner ground at one end and to the shell of the phone jack at the other end.

Then build the S-Meter of choice in a metal box or other enclosure with a short cable terminated in a phone plug to mate with the phone jack on the scanner.

Your S-Meter can be the LED type like MOD-26 in my SMH-Vol 2, or it can be the analog type described as MOD-25 in the same book. If you don’t have that book, you can get the needed information from a back issue of the WSR (V3N3P5). In fact, that issue offers a very detailed S-Meter mod for the PRO-43, the details of which are precisely applicable for the PRO-39, except as noted herein.

Ira Cooper now explains how he adapted my MOD-26 to a surface-mount LED S-meter for his PRO-39 as shown in the remainder of this article: 

Ira Cooper goes on to say......

I used a copper strip with sticky back (From RS.... part# unknown) and the LED common side. This made it easy to line up the ten
PET PEEVE CONTEST
MORE WINNERS!

From: Tony Thornton, Mize, MS
Received: US Mail.

Hi Bill & Cindy: I need one of those Percon CD rom’s, so here’s my attempt…..

My favorite gripe is on the hobby is the press and their coverage and sometimes lack of coverage on our hobby. (The various rags that have some scanner coverage or only scanner coverage, I don’t read the others) They all seem to make a huge attempt to stay away from stories that are even a little controversial. (Read Interesting) I have not seen one mention anywhere of Laura Quarniello’s two-facing of our hobby in “Police” Magazine. Only on the Internet Newsgroups could you find these types of stories.

This only backs up your position of computers and our hobby, you must own one! I think these rags could make better attempts to cover different subjects each month. If you read one, you’ve read them all. Even the tech articles in some seem to be sometimes almost the same from one to the next. I won’t ramble on, you get the idea, most of these magazines are all the same. I enjoy the WSR a great deal. The almost totally technical format is exactly what I like. Thanks ✞

ED: Little do some of you guys know how thoroughly politics is embedded in all avenues of Life, including Hobby Radio. The hobby radio press is not really THE press, for one thing. Almost all, including the WSR, are side ventures of companies just trying to make a living. Most play the political role to the hilt. The WSR tries not to......but I can tell you right up front, we pay a price! Also, we cannot subsist on press revenue alone. ©

Radio Shack’s logo just dropped down to the level of its products with this latest “improvement”! (With exception of scanners, of course.) PS...I bet that Radio Shack still keeps me on their mailing list.(Here’s my entry for your “Pet Peve” contest. Now that summer is over, we grouchies can come out of the woodwork again.....)

ED: Radio Shack plays Super Politics. Now, Computer City and Incredible Universe ©

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THE NEW RADIO SHACK “LOGO”

From: Paul Longo, Stamford, CT
Received: US Mail.

Who came up with this thing, anyway–some third-grader using his father’s PC, or an artistically-challenged graphics wannabe? I mean, c’mon – a red letter “R” sitting at the edge of a red circle??? That’s REALLY sophisticated! Is this the creative pinnacle of a multi-billion-dollar international company? The new logo HAS to be an “inside” design job – you know, the president’s son wanted to show off his new “computer skills” to Dad, who then made sure that Sonny’s “artwork” would grace every Radio Shack publication and advertisement in the world! It CAN’T be that they actually PAID for this sorry excuse for a graphics product!

And – while we’re on the subject – how about the new ("type-face" to you non-artsy-fartsy WSR readers) that the words “Radio Shack” are now set in? It’s about as exciting as Helvetica. In fact, it LOOKS like Helvetica! There must be a hundred thousand fonts on the graphics market, and Radio Shack picks the most boring one! (At least the font they used prior to this one looked modern and futuristic, more in keeping with the image of an electronics company. The new font reminds me of a headline in a cheap supermarket tabloid...)

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DEADLINE FOR CONTEST THIS MONTH IS 9/30/95 – SEE PAGE 1
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Pet Peeve Contest Extended to 9/30/95 — Some Pet Peeve Winners Announced!
Want to build your own computer? — Article: “Sneakers” by Janet Cravens
Cheek’s Response to USSN’s bad review of The Ultimate Scanner
Electronic Eavesdropping – continued: Super Snoop Amplifier
PRO-2042 replaces PRO-2035 – Review of Radio Shack’s 1996 Catalog
LED S-Meter for the PRO-39 – For sale: a Turbowhopper PRO-2035
More Pet Peeve Winners
CE-232 Scanner/Computer Interface goes on sale: see loose insert

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