# Whizbox

**This nifty one-evening project rewards you with the continental two-tone blee-bloop siren now being used by local emergency vehicles.**

by David Heiserman

**I**f you've had it with the nerve-racking screech of a typical electronic siren or wailer, but still want an effective alarm signal, try our ME Whizbox.

It produces the classic up-down continental-style blee-bloop siren sound now being used on local emergency vehicles. Using its built-in volume and tone controls, you can set the Whizbox to produce an alarm tailored for your specific installation.

Construction and parts layout are straightforward. If you have the room, you can even build it into your existing alarm detection unit. The Whizbox is powered by a four-cell battery pack, which lets you use it at remote locations.
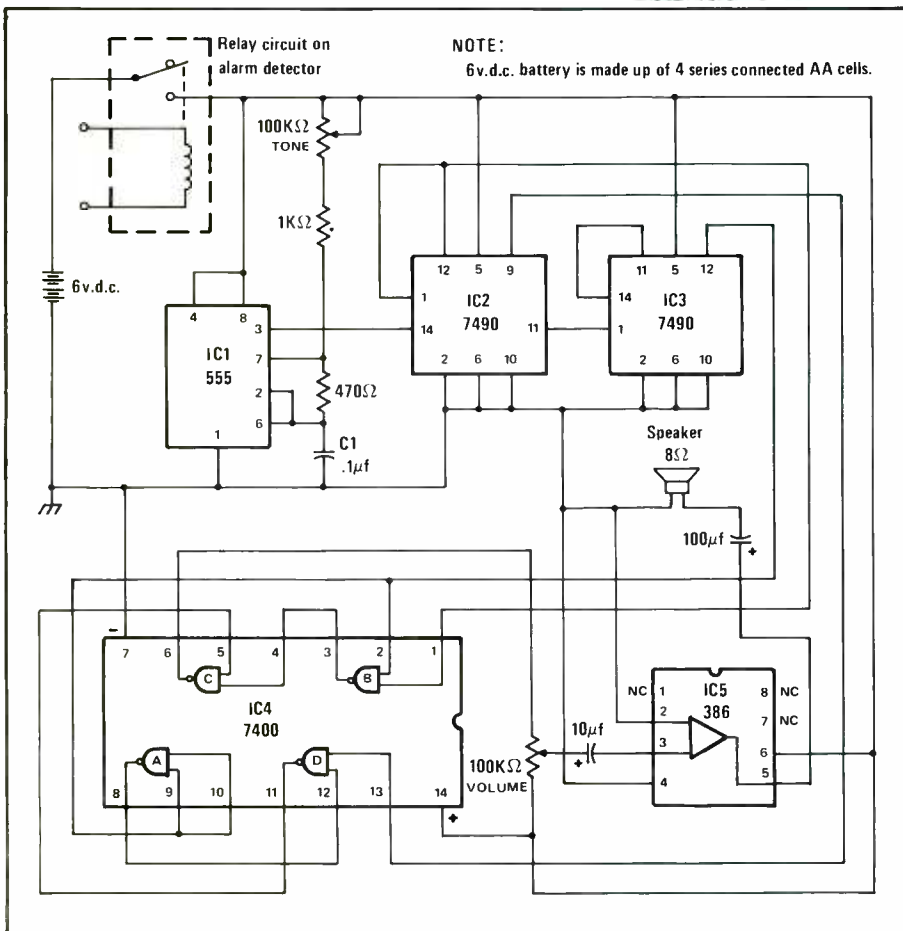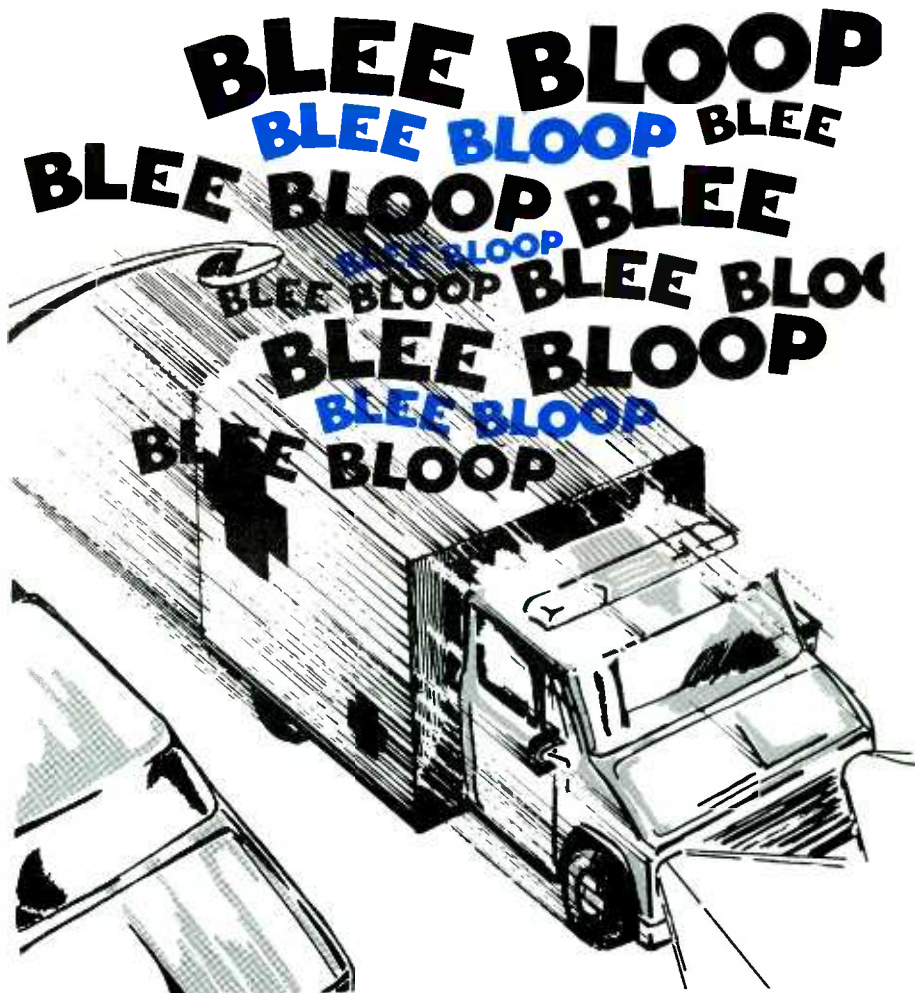
If you'd prefer, you can power it from the alarm detection power supply. However, because the circuit uses TTL integrated circuits, you must meet the exact five-volt TTL voltage rating. If you don't, the ICs will self-destruct.

As shown in the schematic diagram, power is applied to the Whizbox through the relay contacts of the alarm detection unit. You'll find two interesting detection circuits on page 50 of the February, 1978 issue of Modern Electronics. Although those circuits were designed to be powered with a nine-volt battery, they will work well on six volts, letting you power them from the same supply.

The Whizbox also can be used as a *portable* warning signal. Built into a small box and powered through a push-to-make momentary switch, it makes an excellent horn for your bicycle. It even can be blended into music to create an interesting two-tone *drone* sound.

If you're into designing printed circuits, you should find the Whizbox relatively easy to layout. The circuit is simple enough to be built on perfboard, though care will be needed not to short out the IC pins.

The built-in tone control varies both the pitch and the rate. The pitch increases as the rate increases. A built-in volume control lets you set the sound intensity to suit your application.

NOTE:
6v.d.c. battery is made up of 4 series connected AA cells.