LETTERS

Overkill

• I have searched the world over looking for an 8-MHz 8237-2 DMA controller IC required for the "PC Express" project (May 1987). Please relieve my frustrations and give me a specific manufacturer's IC number and name. Or let me know if the IC required is really the 5-MHz 8237-5 that currently exists in my system.

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Sources for the 8-MHz 8237-2 made by NEC seem to have dried up. It was overkill anyway, advises the author, since the 5-MHz 8237-5 is working with a 5-MHz oscillator. His friend is using the 5-MHz DMA controller in a 10-MHz system and it works fine.—Ed.

A Small Gremlin

• It seems that a small gremlin appeared in Fig. 3 in my May 1987 article "Using Op Amps to Generate Signals." The oscillator will not work as shown. Either D1 or D2 must be inverted. If D1 is changed so that its cathode faces pin 7 of the amplifier, a positive-going sawtooth will be generated. Doing the same to D2 will invert the polarity of the ramp. The rest looks good.

Charles R. Fischer

When It Goes Bad

• I enjoyed the comments made in the January 1987 Editorial, "When it Goes Bad," regarding fixing personal electronic equipment.

Recently, I helped someone fix a full-featured Magnavox VCR. The color was out, though the picture was synchronized but looked dull. If I adjusted the TV tuner, I could get color but lost sound. In addition, when using the VCR's tuner, it would not lock onto the channel to which it was set. Instead, it scanned in and out of the channel as though the aft was oscillating.

I called the service center number given in the owners manual to request a service manual and was given another number to call. Calling that, I was greeted by an answering machine that was barely understandable. After two attempts, I was able to decipher yet another number to call, which reached a very courteous publications department. Within eight days, I had the service manual.

The color problem was the result of a faulty chrominance carrier, which was fixed by resoldering the 3.58-MHz crystal. The tuner problem wasn't so easy to fix. The tuner is controlled by one of two

(Continued on page 87)