82 An integrated-circuit amplifier

Introduction

A simple audio-frequency amplifier is a very useful building-block in many more advanced electronic circuits. It is also a very useful piece of test equipment. To have one spare in the shack can be a life-saver at times.

Planning

Get into the habit of planning your project. How do you want it to look when it is finished. Do you want it in a box? Do you want it 'open-plan', with all the components on view?

The 'minimalist' approach to any project is simply a front panel and a baseboard, on to which all the components are fitted. In this case, the front panel would accommodate the loudspeaker, the volume control and the input and output jack sockets, and the baseboard would support the circuit board. Once you have decided these things, and know the size of the board, speaker and volume control, you can decided how big the panel and baseboard should be.

The amplifier

Instead of building the amplifier from discrete components (i.e. transistors), as was done in the project *An audio-frequency amplifier* (which you will find elsewhere in this book), we are going to use an integrated-circuit (IC) amplifier. External resistors and capacitors are still needed but, compared with the number of components *inside* the chip, these are very few indeed!

The IC we are going to use is the TBA820M. The circuit may look complicated, but with the use of a matrix circuit board it becomes quite simple. **Figure 1** shows the circuit diagram and **Figure 2** the layout on the board. The external connections to the PCB are shown in **Figure 3**.

To avoid having a separate switch to switch off the power supply when the amplifier is not being used, a volume control which incorporates a switch is used.

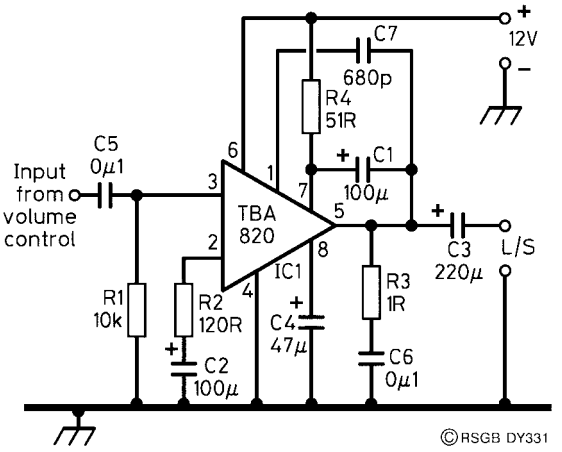

Figure 1 Audio amplifier, circuit diagram

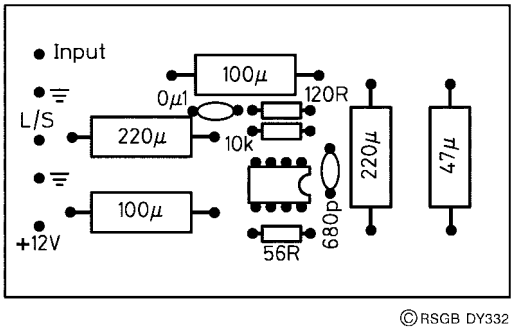

Figure 2 Audio amplifier, component layout

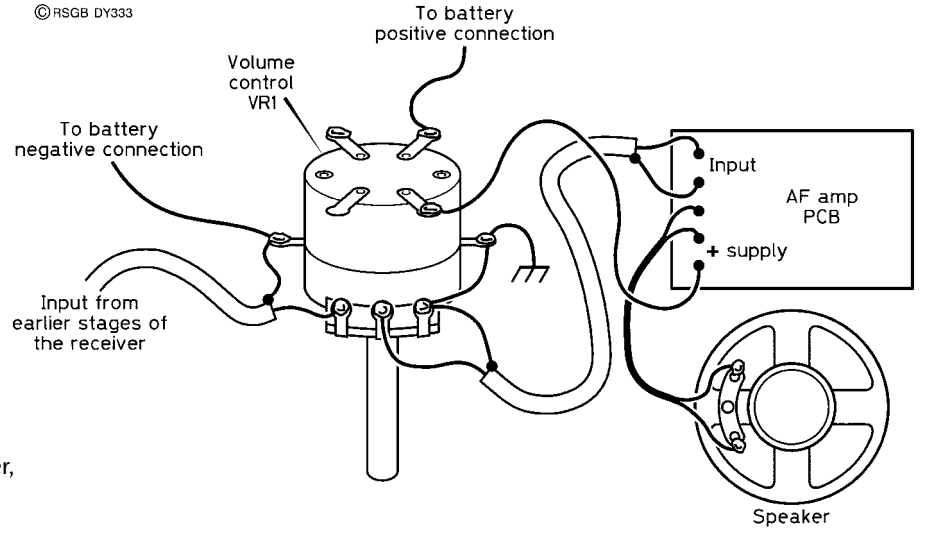

Figure 3 Connecting the circuit board to the speaker, volume control/switch and battery

What power supply?

If the amplifier is to be used only for short periods, as a test instrument, for example, then it can be run from a PP3 battery, which can be mounted on the baseboard. If you intend to use it often, then a connection to an external power supply is preferable. For this option, you may want to consider fixing two terminals to the baseboard for this connection.