

Auto Fan Improvement

• I find Mr. Caristi's article in your May 1987 issue, "Automatic Fan Control for Small Cars," most interesting. The author makes several worthy observations concerning the delicate load balancing act that is inherent with most small cars. I would like to offer an additional thought that might further extend the usefulness of his design.

Increasingly, manufacturers are equipping their air-conditioned models with a "second" or "supplementary" electric fan to assist with the additional load imposed by air conditioning. Such fans are often cycled by the cooling thermostat so that they run whenever the compressor is engaged. While this is desirable and necessary for city driving, the additional help is generally not needed at highway speeds or in mild temperatures.

If the additional fan were disabled when not needed, the electrical load on the engine could be considerably lessened. To that end, I would suggest that the cir-

cuit be constructed in the "relay version" with the contacts wired in series with the existing secondary air-conditioner condenser fan.

If the temperature and/or flow of ambient air is sufficient to keep the liquid line temperature down, then the fan would not operate. If the liquid temperature rose sufficiently to merit the additional air flow, then the fan would be engaged. This would seem a logical extension of this clever device that would bring its benefits to a wider range of vehicles. Keep up the good work!

Dr. James W. Trott, Jr.
Baton Rouge, LA

\$77.22 Per Chip

• Talk about a timely editorial! ("Electronic Surprises," Feb. '87). I needed 256K RAMs to upgrade my computer, so I ordered nine chips from a mail-order house. The invoice was for \$695.00!! That boils down to \$77.22 for each chip! Needless to say, the ICs and bill went back.

Outstanding magazine! Forrest Mims got me going five years ago because he stirred my interest, and now I'm going to college at night shooting for an electronic engineering degree. Keep it up guys.

Dave Hamilton
Toms River, NJ

Billing for the RAMs was obviously an error. Someone probably got \$695 worth of gear for peanuts. Our electronics experimenting guru, Forrest, has inspired many people like yourself to pursue electronics as a career.—Ed.

Wrong Number

In your May 1987 issue, "An Automatic Fan Control for Compact Cars" had inside Fig. 4 an asterisk with the explanation "Install jumper wire for Fig. 5 circuit only." There are only four figures in the article.

James Oken
Los Angeles, CA

Sorry for the typo. The circuit is shown in Fig. 3.—Ed.