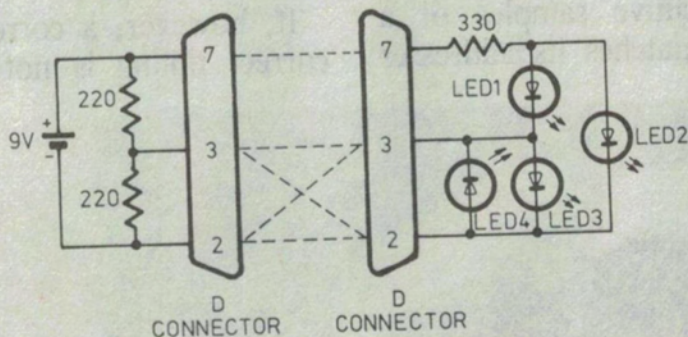


RS232 wiring tester

Working in a multi-storey laboratory with a central computer, I often have to connect various peripherals to RS232 lines remote from the computer. To minimise disruption to the system, I use the device shown in the circuit diagram to first test the lines.

The circuit tests the continuity and cross-over of lines 2, 3 and 7 before connecting the peripheral device, and consists of two parts which are connected to both ends of the line being used.

The driver unit comprises a voltage divider used to produce 9V on line 7 and 4.5V on line 3, relative to line 2. This section can be constructed in a D25 solder-tail plug and backshell, in-



cluding the connector for a 9V battery. I constructed a male and female version to accommodate all situations.

The indicator circuit was built on a small piece of veroboard and mounted inside a jiffy box. Four LEDs are used as indicators with a truth table on the front of the box to decode the status in-

dicated by the LEDs. This allows decoding of straight-through or null-modem configurations and any single wire failure in each.

Again, both a male and female D plug were attached to the indicator unit for versatility. Ken Machin,
Blackburn, Vic.

\$50