



Letters to the editor

Marine supplier

In reference to your Marine Electronics feature, *Electronics Afloat*, we wish to inform you that Ansett Technologies also supply the following:

Weather Fax, Sat NAV, Depth Sounders, Emergency Beacons, Auto Pilots and Instruments.

The above was not shown in the table of suppliers. We would be most grateful if something could be done to remedy this.

R.J. Degreyte,
Regional Manager,
Ansett Technologies,
Marrickville, NSW.

Comment: Sorry for the inadvertent omission — I hope this corrects it!

Ferric chloride stain removal

Congratulations to Ian Page for the article "Low cost techniques for making hobbyist PCBs" (October 1987). The article showed an extremely handy way of producing PCBs.

At the end of the article, Ian says that ferric chloride is one of the most permanent stains he has come across. I agree with this statement, but have found a very effective way of removing these stains.

After remembering my science test last year, the Fein FeCl_3 is a metal. I then remembered a product called Rustiban, which removes rust stains. I conducted a little experiment and found it worked. Rustiban will remove rust stains (ferric chloride) from silks, wools, cottons, nylons and rayons. The directions say firstly wet stained material, then shake a few drops of Rustiban onto the stain. Rub these drops in with a cotton bud (not a finger!!) until stain has gone. Wash out thoroughly with clean water, and finally with soap and water.

It is important to note, however, that Rustiban is a highly corrosive and poisonous (S6) product, and contact with skin, or breathing in the vapour is extremely dangerous. Contact with the eyes can cause blindness. Rustiban contains about 10% Hydrofluoric acid. It is not suitable for use on metals or khaki dyed material.

I bought the 50ml bottle at a local

Soul Pattinson chemist for around \$7. It may be possible to buy it from other places as well, such as other chemists or chemical stores. The address for contacting the company which appears on the bottle is:

Fleischmann Chemical Co.,
Parsons Knob Road, Nambour
MS2078, Queensland 4560

The bottle was bought some time ago, so I am unsure if the address is still correct. Hope it solves some stains problems for you; it certainly has for me.

Michael Dobbins, Kotara, NSW.

Comment: Thanks for the helpful advice, Michael. I don't know which sounds more nasty — the ferric chloride or the stain remover!

TV colour

As a one time Kodak and one time CSIRO physicist, I have read with interest your article "TV Colour Revisited" (Forum, November 1987).

It seems to me that two points should be made:

1. Photographic and electronic systems do not reproduce colour. They produce a pleasing rendition of the scene. A Kodak advertisement of 1967 made this point rather neatly, with regard to the use of colour photography in science: "It frightens us to see how some scientific workers use colour photography. We have too much stake in it to let them go unwarned of where they are misplacing their confidence. That we are reputable and trustworthy they know, and they surmise that we claim our various systems of colour photography record, retain, and precisely reproduce all the colours of the real world. *We make no such claim nor does any other reputable photographic manufacturer.*"

2. There is no simple relationship between the quality of the light reflected from a point in a scene and the colour perceived by the eye. The eye has an extraordinary (and not understood) capacity to perceive colour accurately even though the relationship between the primary colours of the incident light can vary be a factor of three or more, as happens with daylight under various conditions.

It appears that the eye processes each