REWINDING TRANSFORMERS

The article, "Rewinding Transformers", in your May 1983 issue caught my eye for two reasons. First, I had problems dismantling a large choke for a magnet project. Large power transformers or chokes are sometimes not only enameled but are also covered with globs of black, tarry material. After much sawing and prying at the laminations unsuccessfully, I was about to give up. My father informed me that the best way to deal with the problem was to burn the choke in a good fire. The next day, when the charcoal grill had cooled, I removed the choke and took the bolts from the laminations. It practically fell

apart in my hands.

The second reason I appreciated the article was because of the uses to which I'd put my laminations. All "E"-shaped laminations were varnished back together, and all "I" sections likewise. Mount the "E" on its back and wind 300 turns of #18 AWG Beldan enameled magnet wire around the center pole. Using that "E-I" magnet, and a few common electrical parts, you can demonstrate transformer action, a saturable reactor, resistance soldering, an electromagnet (about 1600 Gauss at center pole), AC synchronous motor, and a cute levitation trick (Lenz's law).

All those projects and more can be found in a book called *Projects in Basic Magnetism*, by John P. Shields, published by Howard W. Sams & Co., 1965. I strongly recommend it to anyone interested in applications of a versatile fundamental component in electronics. It might even make a good series for your magazine.
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SPEED-LIMIT LAWS

In the "Letters" department, **Radio-Electronics,** March 1983 issue, Mr. Kolasinski's conclusion is that because many or most drivers exceed a given speed limit, "... it is the intent of most drivers to break the speed-limit laws."

It just might be that those speeding drivers realize that life is very short, and that time spent while driving from point A to point B is wasted time. So, in speeding, they are trying to use their lives productively and efficiently by minimizing wasted time.