

Automatic switching for UHF converter

I recently built the UHF converter (EA April 1985). The procedure of changing from VHF to UHF (or vice-versa) involved three steps: change the channel on the TV, switch power to the converter, operate the bypass switch (by groping around the back of the converter). In order to simplify the procedure, I decided to replace the bypass switch with a 12V DPDT cradle relay (e.g., Dick Smith S7012) that would operate when the power switch in the converter was operated.

The bypass switch S2 was removed

and the relay was Araldited to the rear panel. The contacts were wired as for the switch (see circuit).

The relay coil was powered from the bottom section of the voltage tripler. Under load, the voltage across diode D1 is about 13V. The relay could have been powered from the 12V regulator; however as both voltage regulators would have to handle the extra 40mA, the power dissipation in both would be significantly increased.

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