Field-Strength Meter

Q. I am an electronics experimenter and active CB'er. Can you show me a simple field-strength meter that I can use to evaluate antennas and different transmitters?

A. The "minimum-parts" field-strength meter shown here should do the job. The basic circuit is shown at the left and is used with high field strength. For more distant testing, add the de amplifier as shown. The coil consists of 12 turns of \$16 wire wound closely on a \$\%'' wood dowel and tapped at four turns. The antenna can be any telescopic type salvaged from an old portable radio or CB walkie-talkie Turning is by the small trimmer capacitor. The de amplifier version uses a zero set control for meter zero with no signal input.

