Notes & Errata

Wireless Rain Alarm, Circuit Notebook, June 2016: the type number for IC3, TL071, was left off the circuit diagram on page 84.

Combined Timer, Counter & Frequency Meter, Circuit Notebook, June 2016: in the circuit on page 87, pins 23 and 24 of IC1 are shown swapped. Also, the pot connected to pin 27 should be labelled VR3, not VR1.

Ask Silicon Chip

. . . continued from page 103

like that should have been a standard feature, given the cost of a replacement battery.

From what I have read, battery life in the Civic Hybrid from this era is not good. Luckily, the battery on this vehicle seems to be OK at the moment. I would like to keep it that way. Yes, it's simpler just to start the car once a month and run it at 2500 RPM until the batteries are back up to full charge but that's far from ideal and it would be easy to forget.

I did come across this item, which may be suitable: www.ebay.com/itm/2006-2011-Honda-Civic-Hybrid-Standard-Grid-Charger-IMA-Battery-Balancer-/351641475458 (P. H., via email).

- We have no experience nor expertise on the Honda Civic Hybrid. Designing a high-voltage charger for this vehicle would be a challenge, both in the actual power engineering involved and sorting out the complex safety interlocks which are bound to be part of the vehicle.

It would seem that if your proposed charger is going to be able to charge the battery in a reasonable time, its power rating will need to be very substantial, possibly in the region of to 1-2kVA.

You might gain some insight by referring to the article we did on the Toyota Prius in the February 2008 issue – see www.siliconchip.com.au/Issue/2008/February/How+To+Get+More+Than+100MPG+From+A+Toyota+Prius

That article showed how to add an extra Lithium battery to greatly increase its electric driving range and effective fuel economy but whether that is an economically viable proposition is open to debate.

Electronic fuse wanted

Have you ever published a project like an adjustable electronic circuit breaker for automotive use (12V DC)? Sometimes when trouble-shooting, I reckon such a thing would come in pretty handy. (M. K., via email).

- We haven't published an electronic fuse but it's worth thinking about.

A 12V light bulb could be used as a current limiter for some testing, especially if the current draw is not too high. The lamp rating to use depends on the current requirements of the circuit being tested. The lamp could be wired across a blown fuse and plugged in as the test fuse. SC

Next Issue

The September 2016 issue is due on sale in newsagents by Thursday 25th August. Expect postal delivery of subscription copies in Australia between August 25th and September 9th.