

ETI-1524 Mousetrap

While this project is hardly likely to stem the plague currently sweeping the eastern states, it will certainly clean the rotten rodents out of the house.

There are some unusual com-

ponents in this project, but with a little resourcefulness, you should be able to locate them. The $2\mu 7/400$ V (250 Vac) capacitor needs to be mains-rated, metallised poly or mylar type. 'Greencaps' of this value and rating (or even 630 V) are available, though we specified a Siemens type B32231. These types of capacitor feature a self-healing action should a 'punch-through' occur in the dielectric between the 'plates', which consist of a very thin layer of metal deposited on the dielectric film which is then 'wound up' to make the capacitor. If the dielectric breaks down at a stress point, then the arc between the plates vaporises the metallisation (similar to what happens in a fuse) leaving a clear area around the dielectric punch-through, thus 'healing' the breakdown. The capacitor in this application is quite highly stressed, so it is essential to get one of the appropriate type. Apart from the Siemens type specified (try **Promark** for them), Elna greencaps (distributed by **Soanar**) may be used, or Roederstein MKP series (distributed by **Mayer Krieg**).

The MR856 fast recovery diode is not a common component with electronics retailers. However, it is a Motorola part, distributed by **VSI**. Ask your favourite supplier if he'll get some in.

The RCA-made SCR (Q3), the S2600M, is distributed by **AWA Microelectronics**. In Sydney, try **Semikron** in Burwood or **Geoff Wood Electronics** in Rozelle. The C122E (by G.E.) or TIC126E (by T.I.) may be substituted. All the other semiconductors are bog-standard everywhere, as they say.

The ferrite aerial rod used for the core of T2 is stocked by **Dick Smith** (cat. no. L-1401), amongst others. It's not really critical, providing you use something of similar dimensions.