

**MUSICOLOUR III:** I am at present contemplating building the Musicolour III as featured in your September 1976 issue and would like to ask a few questions about the design before I start.

The potentiometers specified are either "log" or "lin" types and I was wondering which had the most "linear" control of the sensitivity and brightness.

Could you also tell me how much current the unit draws so that I can obtain an appropriate transformer here in New Zealand? (To be perfectly honest I haven't asked for one listed in the article by name and number yet as judging from previous attempts at obtaining transformers in New Zealand the numbers don't mean much here.)

I would also appreciate it very much if you could tell me how to wind chokes and wire up a circuit for RF interference suppression, and whether it's worth making. (Would shielding the unit in steel help?)

Could you tell me how close this unit can be mounted to hifi gear while still avoiding picking up the noise.

Does the RF radiation only interfere with radio reception or can an amplifier pick it up directly?

Excluding the RF radiation, does the very action of the Musicolour (switching on and off lights) produce noticeable noises ("clicks") from a stereo system sharing a common mains power point (or even in the same house as) with the Musicolour.

I appreciate that you may not be able to give me any definitive answers to many of my questions, but any opinions that you could give would be appreciated. (I.K.B., Christchurch, NZ.)

● First of all, we should note that the Musicolour IV published in this issue supersedes the design you are contemplating building. The new design is more effective in its display as well as having four channels and chaser features. The type of potentiometer is not really critical since the level controls do not need to be varied often and there is plenty of latitude in the settings for a satisfactory display.

RF interference from the Musicolour should not cause any problems with your amplifier, but may affect radio reception depending on the relative positions of the antenna and the wiring to the lights.