SWITCHING-AMP HAZARD

The power supply that Mr. Burbon has presented in his "Build A Switching Amplifier" article (**Popular Electronics**, April 1996) poses a potential hazard that was not mentioned. Because this is a non-isolated design with a floating ground, the possibility exists for dangerous voltages to be present on the exposed speaker wiring or the shield connection of the input cables in the event of a component failure.

The article contains a passing mention of line-voltage operation, but implies that once the enclosure is closed up, everything is okay. The only completely safe way to operate this circuit, in my opinion, is through an isolation transformer, which I highly recommend for all line-voltage powered projects.

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SWITCHING-AMP CORRECTIONS

I have discovered a few labeling errors in my article "Build a Switching Amplifier," which appeared in the April 1996 issue of **Popular Electronics**. The output of the power supply (Fig. 2) that reads "−51V" should read "0V." Likewise, the "−51V" connection in Fig. 1 that is labeled as going "To Power Supply" should be "0V."

In Fig. 1, the open-circle points for +12V and −12V are labeled correctly, but the +51V and −51V open-circle points should read "+25.5V" and "-25.5V," respectively. As a result, the +51V and −51V arrows connected to the MOSFETs should also read "+25.5V" and "−25.5V," respectively.

For those who already built the device, keep in mind that the above corrections do not affect the physical wiring of the amp. As long as the connections were made as shown in the schematic and parts-placement diagrams, the amplifier will work.

—*Rolando Burbon*