

STEREO REMOTE CONTROL UNIT

THIS IDEA DESCRIBES A PASSIVE STEREO remote-control unit. Nothing is more aggravating than to relax for the evening in your favorite chair, intent on enjoying your stereo system—and then the telephone rings, or someone comes to the door. That requires you to get up, dash to the stereo to turn the volume down, and then dart to the phone or the door. The unit described here eliminates the problem. Merely turn the volume down on the control beside your armchair, then attend to the disturbance. The control also eliminates the constant getting up and down to raise the volume for your favorite programs. Another handy feature is the remote balance control that permits you to achieve perfect stereo sound, regardless of where you are situated in the listening area.

The remote-control unit takes advantage of the versatility of today's stereo components. It is connected between the preamplifier and power amplifier, or in the tape-monitor section—depending upon the configuration of your stereo system. The entire project can be built for about \$10.00.

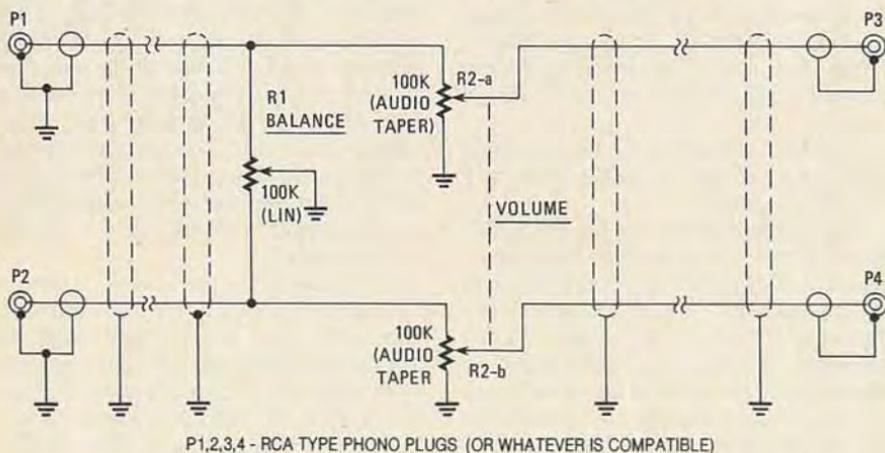
The connecting cables used were two shielded two-conductor cables tied together. That turned out to be a quite flexible and compact bundle. The cables used were 15 feet long, but they could be up to 30 feet long without producing any drastic sound degradation. Be sure to terminate the stereo end of the cables in the proper connections.

The enclosure used for the project is a $2\frac{1}{4} \times 4 \times 1\frac{1}{8}$ inch plastic utility box. The aluminum cover was brushed and aluminum knobs were used to match the stereo system.

The performance of the remote control unit turned out to be quite good. The crosstalk is -62dB at 1 kHz and -55dB at 20 kHz. The frequency response was totally unaffected for all practical purposes. Some experts claim that it is less detrimental to the sound quality of the system to extend the lead length between the preamplifier and power amplifier than it is to extend the speaker leads of the system.

That project has turned out to be an indispensable part of my stereo system and I am quite sure that it will be just as desirable for others, too, once they try it.—Dennis Eichenberg

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The complete schematic diagram of the project is shown in Fig. 1. Both of the potentiometers used in the project were found in a potentiometer assortment obtained from a mail order outfit, although similar types can be purchased almost anywhere. An alternative to the two potentiometers would be a joy-stick control wired with one side potentiometer used for each channel and the front or rear potentiometer to be used for the balance control.

