

Fig. 25-1

Circuit Notes

Sensing circuit detects either steady or fluctuating air flows. The heart of the circuit is a Radio Shack piezo buzzer (P/N 273-060) and an LM324 quad op amp. (Red wire from the piezo element connects to capacitor C1, and the black wire to ground.) When a current of air hits the piezo element, a small signal is generated and is fed through C1 and R1 to the inverting input (pin 2) of one section of the LM324. That causes the output (pin 1) to go high. Resistor R3 adjusts sensitivity. The cir-

cuit can be made sensitive enough to detect the wave of a hand or the sensitivity can be set so low that blowing on the element hard will produce no output. Resistor R2 is used to adjust the level of the output voltage at pin 1. The detector circuit can be used in various control applications. For example, an SCR can be used to control 117-volt AC loads as shown in A. Also, an NPN transistor, such as a TIP29, can be used to control loads as shown in B.