Remote controller sets universal motor's speed

by Hari Herscovici Cordis Corp., Miami, Fla.

The speed of an ac-dc motor is easily set with this circuit. Millivolt-level input voltages drive its variable-speed control amplifier through an optocoupler that is isolated from the rest of the circuit to permit its use in remotely controlled applications.

Control signals in the range of 0 to 3 volts are applied to the optoisolator (GE H11F2) as shown (a). The resistance between the drain and source of the device's

field-effect transistor varies with input voltage V_{in}, and so the gain of the 741 operational amplifier, which amplifies the rectified 60-hertz power-line input, is controlled accordingly.

When the instantaneous output of the op amp is greater than the motor's counter electromotive-force voltage, diode D₂ conducts and thus the silicon controlled rectifier is switched on. Power is thereby applied to the motor. The greater the difference between the op amp's output and the counter emf voltage at any instant, which indicates motor speed is lower than programmed, the earlier in the cycle the trigger pulse to the SCR occurs.

Diode D₁ and resistors R₁ and R₂ have been selected so that the circuit will withstand a reverse voltage of 200 v. If a transformer-based input circuit (b) is substituted, however, it is only necessary for D₁ to have a reverse-breakdown value of 20 v.

er input (b) permits the employment of components that need

withstand only a fraction of the power-line voltage.

