

# maxi display

With LEDs now available for a few tens of pence each it is possible to construct a 'giant' seven-segment display from discrete LEDs for the price one would normally pay for a medium sized integrated display.

This maxi-display uses 22 LEDs per digit (3 per segment plus decimal point) and incorporates a decoder. As can be seen from the circuit diagram this display incorporates the improved 6 and 9 format described elsewhere in this issue. No current-limiting resistors are included with the LEDs since about 4.5 V of the supply voltage is dropped due to the LEDs forward voltage and their own internal resistance is sufficient to limit the current from the remaining 0.5 V to a safe value. The supply voltage must not exceed 5 V, however, when the current per segment will be about 25mA. A double-sided p.c. board is used for the construction of this display with the decoder components mounted on one side and the LEDs on the other as shown in the accompanying diagrams.

