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There are various alphanumeric display devices available to the electronics industry, but unfortunately their high cost places them outside the reach of most amateur constructors. However, one of our readers, Mr. P. Geist, has suggested that it is possible to use readily available seven-segment LED displays as alphanumeric indicators, and has proposed an alphabet using such displays.

As the display has seven segments, this means that $2^7 - 1$ or 127 unique symbols may be displayed. Since 10 of these are the digits 0 to 9 this leaves 117 from which to choose symbols for the letters of the alphabet, plus other useful symbols such as parentheses. Since the range of shapes available with seven segments is limited, some of the characters are

EH TS TS hoh

TE LooSS

seven segment ABC

necessarily rather stylised. Nevertheless they are unambiguous and are easily read after a little practice. After all, the figure 4 in a seven segment display is

stylised, yet this has gained wide acceptance, so there is no reason why the seven-segment alphabet should not prove popular.

^{a b c d e f g h i j k l}
a b c d E F G h T J H L
^{m n o p q r s t u v w x y z}
n n o P q R S t u v w x y z