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**HEAD OFFICE,
EDITORIAL & ADVERTISING**
180 Bourke Road, Alexandria, NSW 2015
P.O. Box 227, Waterloo 2017.
Phone: (02) 693 6620
Fax number: (02) 693 2842 Telex: AA74488
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Letters to the editor

Bouquet?

Your magazine must be good. I have worked as a service technician for the past twelve years for a very large electronics company. Recently, I got involved in video recorders in my line of duty and came across a new principle, referred to as HQ. In my quest for technical knowledge, I discovered that one department of the company had the necessary information at one time, but had forgotten all about it. When I expressed my discontent to our national service support manager, saying that the information should have been passed on to the people doing the actual repair work, I received the reply: "Why don't you read Electronics Australia!"

My special thanks go to the service manager from JVC, a different company, who was kind enough and gave me the relevant technical information.

Manfred Walter VK2BZW,
Sydney, NSW.

Making PCBs

I have just finished reading the feature in the October edition named *Low Cost Techniques for Making Hobbyist PCB's*, and I am concerned about a few aspects of it.

In the section on cleaning the copper surface, the author suggests the use of methyl ethyl ketone (MEK) as a wash after water/Ajax wash up. MEK is a toxic solvent. (Schedule 5) and I believe that it is not a product for the hobbyist to have at home. It is a colourless liquid, slightly soluble in water and causes irritation to mucus membranes and eyes, it can cause lethargy and/or narcosis if absorbed in large amounts in air. In any case, after a thorough scrub clean with a detergent base powder cleaner using a nylon type pot scourer, washing under running water and drying with a lint free material (clean of course), a PCB really needs no further treatment.

I do not like the use of caustic soda as a developer or stripper either, for the same safety reasons as MEK. Even though it is a domestic type of product and is used quite casually more often as not, it is nasty.

On two different pages the catalogue number of the resist appears differently

and in both cases incorrectly. The numbers have been CPR and CPD (resist and developer, with a two-digit suffix to indicate the quantity), for a few years now.

It must be remembered that whilst most of the chemicals we use for printed circuit boards are seemingly safe, they *are* chemicals and good workshop practice is most important to gain the best from the products concerned and above all, the safety of the individual involved.

Our company can supply information sheets which should help, but please send a S.A.E. for a quick response.

Doug Rees (VK2YMD)
Circuit Components (A'Asia)
Bexley, NSW.

Vintage radios: info available

I have quite a few service manuals on radios from 1920 to the last valve radios of the 1960s. For the cost of postage, I'm happy to photocopy any relevant information to help readers who are trying to restore early models.

Many of the manuals were handed down to me by my senior technician, still working at the age of 73 and refusing to retire. He now repairs colour TVs and computers — quite a change from the radios on which he started out!

Hans Vanderstelt,
Hans Radio & TV Service,
147 Magellan Street,
Lismore NSW 2480.

Comment: Many thanks indeed for your offer, Hans and for sending details of the Airzone set to P.W. We also received information on the Airzone set from Mr R. Brown of North Haven, NSW, Mr J. Emery of Bullcreek, WA, Mr E. Gill of Toormina, NSW, Mr A.F. Pain of Belrose, NSW, and Mr R.W. Pearce of Renmark, SA. Thank you, one and all, for being so helpful.

Thanks from "P.W."

Thank you for passing on the letters you received in response to my letter published in the October issue, concerning specs on a 1937 Airzone radio receiver.

I would agree with you that the read-