

# POPULAR ELEComics



He doesn't have a QSL so he sent you his social security number.



Watch it, Sammy—here comes the fuzz.



I think my mistake was sinking most of my money into the cabinet.



Instead of four 50-ohm resistors, I got'cha one 200-ohm. It was much cheaper.



# THE ELECTRONICS COUNTERMAN

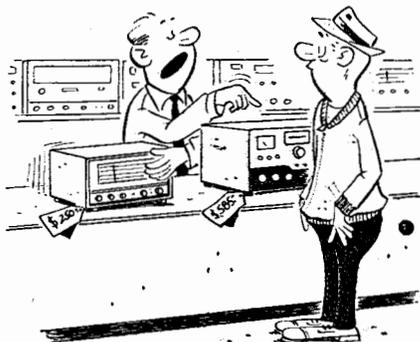
By WALT MILLER



"Pardon the sneeze, Harry—I must be catching cold—you say there's a short count in that resistor order?"



"I foolishly suggested he try it out first—that was three days ago."



"Nope, I can't sell it to you... a ham operator of your calibre deserves the quality and performance of this deluxe unit."



"We'll give you the best possible trade-in allowance on your old equipment—let's see, used copper wire is worth 30¢ a pound..."



"Would you like to use our installment plan or do you prefer to take the receiver with you?"



**I really don't think this is the way we should be deciding which of our designs is best for the project.**



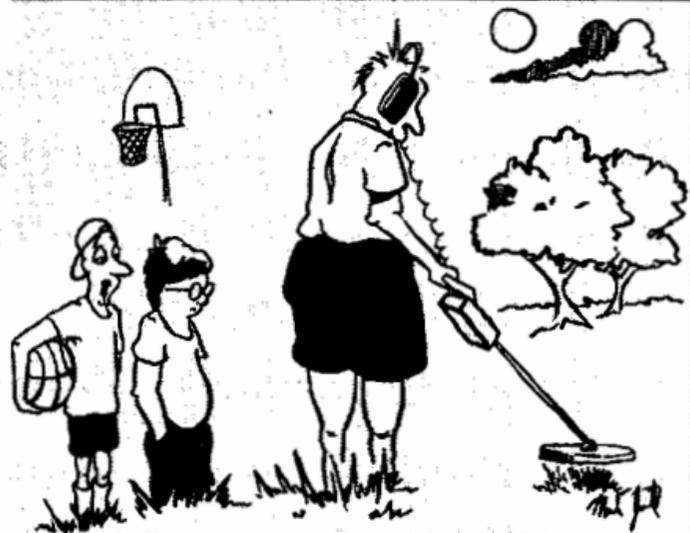
POPULAR ELECTRONICS

# PARTS TALK

...SILENT  
NIGHT...



JACK  
SCHMIDT



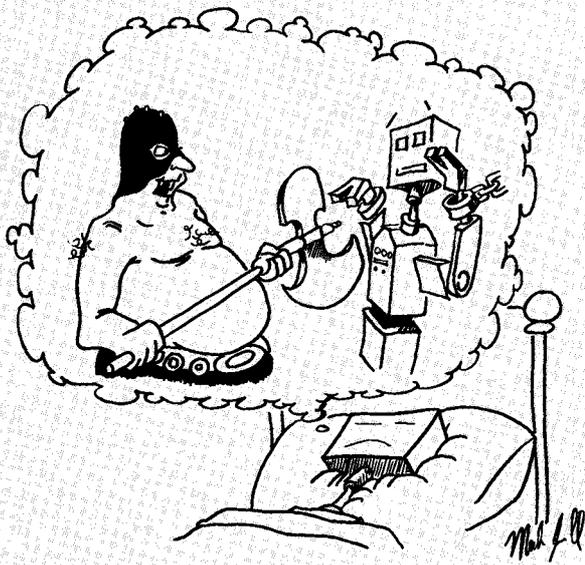
*He's listening to a radio station in China.*



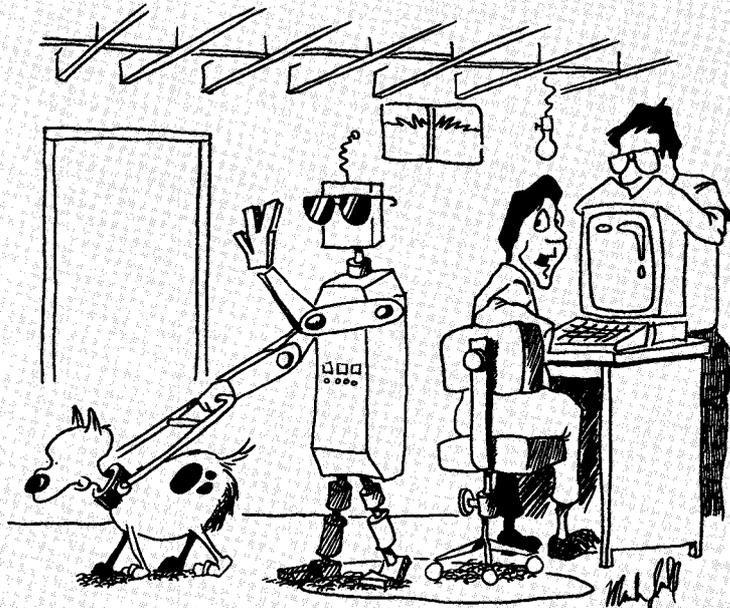
*It's a microphone.*



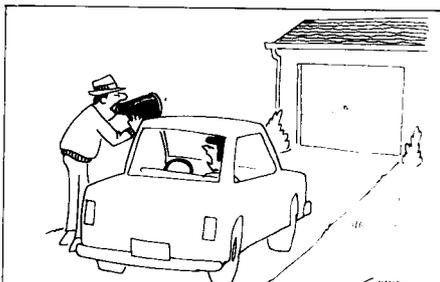
*64K! And you call yourself a man...*



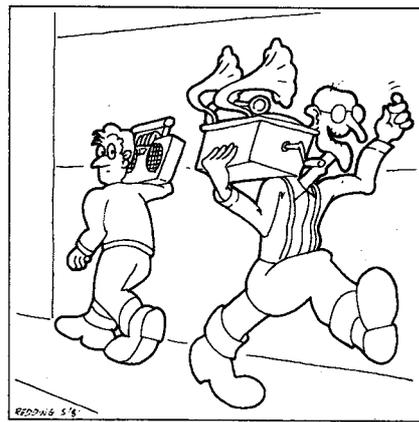
Where did you think robotic arms came from?



I haven't got the eyesight figured out yet



Now do you agree that a voice-actuated garage-door opener doesn't make much sense?





# THE 2012 STEALTH COMPUTER

by John Leonardson

MY JOB IS GREAT! I GET TO test the latest notebook computers and get *paid* for it. This little beauty from GUIs-R-Us incorporates the latest technology. It weighs only 12 ounces, thanks to the helium-chamber battery unit. Occasionally the back end floats up a bit, but adjusting the anti-flux weight button eliminates this problem.

The screen, of course, uses the latest double-helix crystal color array. Every color works fine except for a certain shade

of blue. As you remember, IBM sued several years ago and proved in court that using this blue was a trademark infringement. Now all computers use a virtual blue.

I recently tested the computer on an airplane trip. Since computers are officially *discouraged* from use during flight, I tested the new Stealth feature right away. The steward-person came up from behind and asked if I wanted some coffee. Sure enough, the unit's detection feature automatically sensed her approach and cloaked itself. I ordered the coffee, and she never knew I had my trusty 2012 computer hard at work before her nose.

Later in the flight I was working on a report using my favorite word processor, WordPerfect 9.1. Since they had not cured the cold yet, I pulled a tissue from one side of the 2012. It stored .4 Tissue Bytes (TB) in a variety of colors. The tissue felt soft and normal. My coffee had cooled off, which allowed me to test the new Coffee Cup Units (CCU) feature. A small electrode pulled from the unit's side had the coffee piping hot in seconds. The manufacturer claims that the 2012 has 12 CCUs built in.

Since mice and trackballs became obsolete a couple of years ago, I was anxious to test the new generation of GUIs, now called GEIs, which stands for Graphic Eye Interface. WordPerfect incorporates this technology. All the menus float down with an easy double-blink. A single-blink activates the features, including the Common-Sense



checker. Oops. The checker just warned me that not everyone knows what a GUI is. All the icons and menus used to be the interface between us and DOS. Some of you may not remember DOS, but it was once on all computers back when people had to type in commands.

Years ago, I had to worry about where to plug in my notebook modem. Now everyone

merely sends an enhanced infrared signal to the nearest satellite relay station. My report was due soon, so I sent the final copy from 50,000 feet up. A minute later, the 2012 signaled that the report had been received.

Now that I'm back home, I'll put this notebook through its final paces. Let's look at the old 8.1 version of WordPerfect. The Thought-Completer feature works with 90 percent accuracy. It learns my thought patterns and completes my words automatically, then makes a stab at finishing my sentences for me. It's uncanny! It has several styles you can select: business, general prose, fiction, poetic academic, bureaucratic and legal. Using the poetic mode, I dashed off an anniversary poem for my wife in half an hour.

The automatic save works great with the 2012. Every 20 minutes it saves the document—then hourly sends all updated files back to my home-based computer.

WordPerfect also indexes all my files for me, which completes a trend that started back in the 1990s. This works well, because the average desktop hard drive is about 100 gigabytes (billions of bytes) now. Even this little 2012 packs in a hefty 5 gig.

My only complaint is that the 2012 acts a little slow. It seems to practically crank along due to the relatively slow 320Mhz processor. GUIs-R-Us promises the next computer will speed up and come in designer colors. Why not order a 2012 and give it a try? ■



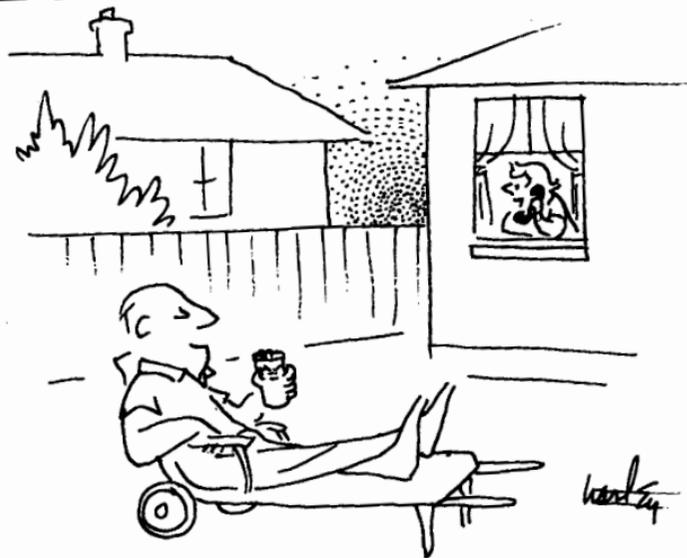
*Just what we've all been waiting for.  
Stereo static!*

FEBRUARY, 1966



*For a small extra fee I can manage to  
keep it until after baseball season is over.*

1972 • RADIO-ELECTRONICS 43



*"Harry's out in the back '.9144 metre' with his '30.48 centimetres' up having a .4732 litre."*

electron — August 1970



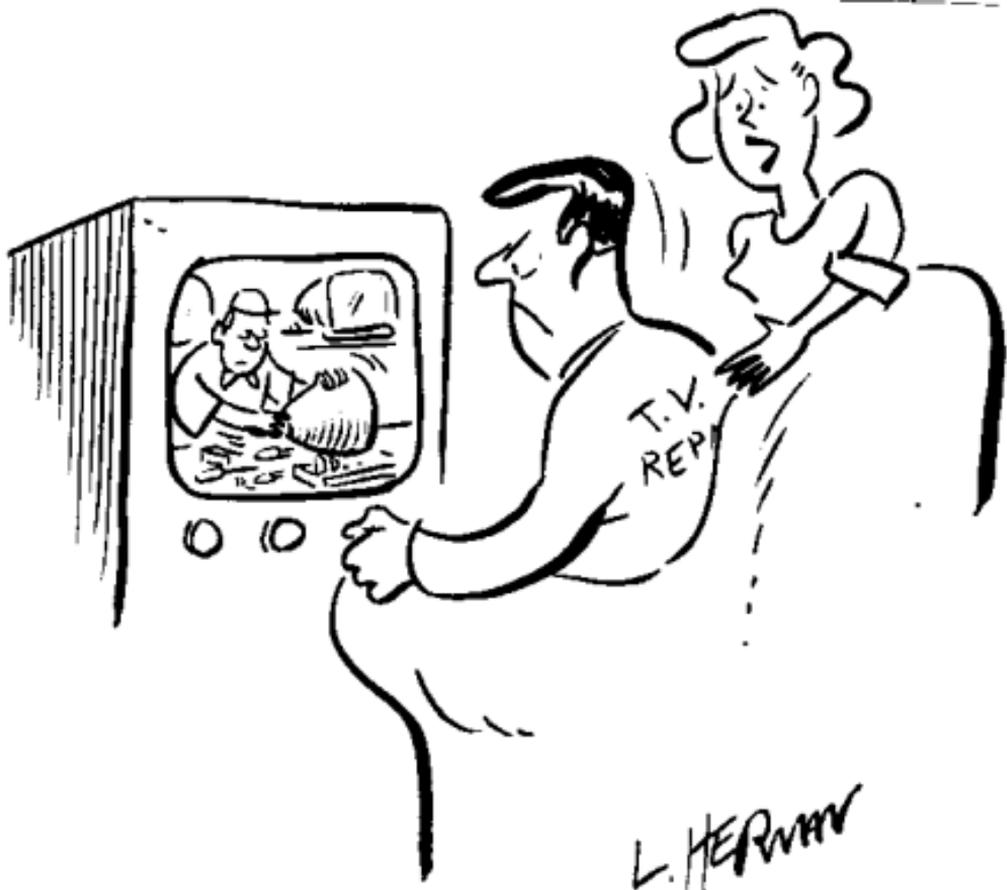
*"It's beginning to show some human characteristics—faulty reasoning, forgetfulness and repetition."*



**"Until I started getting the newsletter,  
I never knew what our company did."**

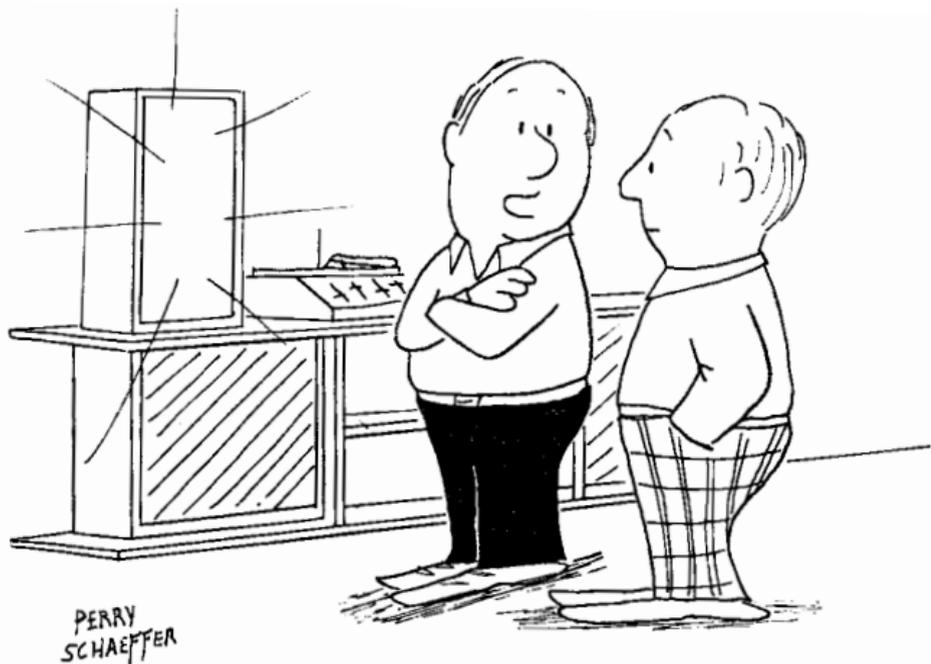


*He's trying to make a D.F. loop out of his.*



"Yes, Dear, he's doing it all wrong, but just try to enjoy the movie!"

**December. 1960**



*"Of course my audio color organ produces only black and white colors—I'm color blind."*