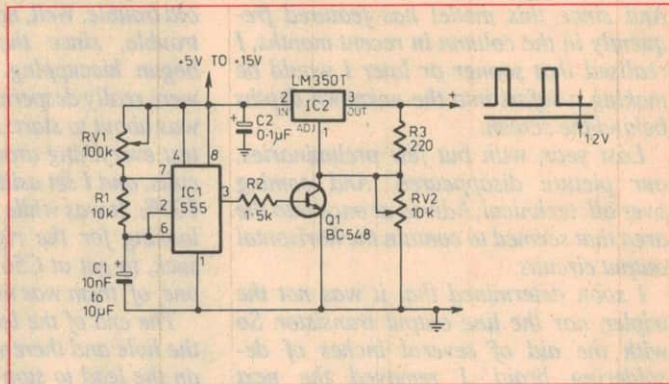


High current pulses

Since I'm always looking for a new way to obtain high-current pulses for flashing lamps and driving motors, I have recently been experimenting with ways to switch the output of the LM350T on and off. Since the output voltage of this chip is fully adjustable, a circuit which switches its output on and off provides a variable-amplitude power pulse generator.

The diagram shows one way to switch the LM350T (IC2) between its minimum output of about 1.2V and the voltage set by RV2. In operation, the 555 timer (IC1) forms an oscillator which turns transistor Q1 on and off. When Q1 is on, the output of IC2 falls to its minimum 1.2V level, as the voltage adjust terminal (ADJ) is shorted to ground through Q1's collector-emitter path. When Q1 is off, the LM350T functions normally.

Though this circuit has many applications, I've found it to be particularly effective as a flasher for incandescent lamps. Keep in mind other applications for the circuit. For example, it can deliver adjustable-rate pulses to a DC motor, thus serving as a speed con-



trol. It can also be connected to a large speaker and used as an attention-getting warning tone generator.

Charles Hill,
Suva, Fiji