

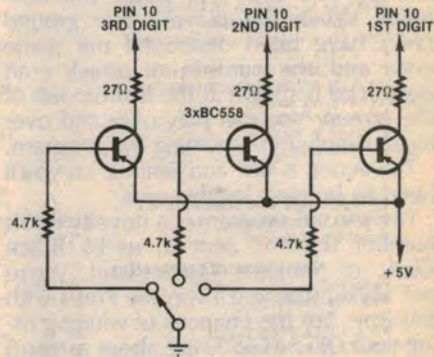
## Decimal points for the 200MHz Frequency Counter

A relatively simple modification enables illumination of decimal points in the 7-segment displays of the EA 200MHz Digital Frequency Counter, (published in August and September 1978) without creating any problems from random counting as may occur (due to hash) when simple switching from the +5 volt rail is attempted.

The change involves feeding (via series resistors) the decimal points (pins 10) of the displays from the collectors of three small-signal transistors, whose emitters are tied to the +5 volt power supply rail. Normally two of the transistor bases are floating, whilst the third base is returned to ground (via a 4.7k $\Omega$ ) resistor through the spare pole on range selector switch.

This turns the transistor "on", thus illuminating the appropriate decimal point. All resistor values have been chosen so as to give equal brightness with the other segments of the displays.

Assembly of the additional circuitry may be carried out on a small piece of matrix card or Veroboard, which can be located on the left-hand side of the instrument above the blank section of the printed circuit board. By using a long solder lug bent at 90°, and then at 90°, again; and attaching the tip to the Veroboard, the eye of the lug can be held under the head of the mounting screw at the left-hand front of the p.c.b. Unshielded hookup wire may be used to connect to the range switch as the leads



are at ground potential.  
N.P. Wilson,  
Stafford, Qld.