

Trouble on the Line?

Q. We use a gas-powered 117-volt, 60-Hz generator in our summer cottage. However, digital clocks don't keep the correct time, turntables produce wow, and, generally, I suspect that our "60 Hz" is not 60 Hz. How can I find out?

A. Try this (limited) frequency measuring circuit. All diodes are ordinary silicon recti-

fiers. First, plug the circuit into the commercial 117-volt ac line, which is usually very close to 60 Hz. The circuit will respond to frequencies from 0 to 100 Hz on the 0 to 1 meter scale. Set the potentiometer so that the meter reads 0.6 mA (60 Hz). Now use the circuit on your cottage supply; and, if the reading isn't the same, make the necessary adjustments in the generator's speed. The circuit can also be used at home.

