

The Worst of Marcia Swampfelder

It seems I have this sometime associate by the name of **Marcia Swampfelder** who tended to appear only in the April issues of the magazines I wrote columns for. So, as my answer to the ever diminishing number of requests, I thought I'd gather some of Marcia's better **Q&A** stuff here.

More details on Marcia can be found in my **Unauthorized Autobiography**. As before, I should categorically deny the ugly rumor that many of the individuals and companies in Marcia's work bear a suspicious resemblance to the names of Arizona fire lookout towers. On which much of Marcia's work was authored.

Marcia first showed up in the April 1977 and the April 1978 **Popular Electronics** and more recent issues of **Modern Electronics**. I've also added more recent items.

Some Marcia projects that do not quite fit a **Q&A** format can be found elsewhere on **my website**. These include her **Szechwan Hostess Twinkies**, **Poison Ivy in a Spray Can**, the **Schizo Badges**, and **Mitzi's Yuppy Fare**. Plus her only slightly bogus **How to scam a student paper** and yet another of her **Mass Teleportation** products.

Because of its 4X cloning feature, Marcia reports current teleport production going exclusively to the importers of specialty herbs and spices. Where they eliminate all of those long delays at customs and allow users to set their own international currency exchange rates.

The insider secrets of just how Marcia created the tapioca pudding scene in the film noir cross-genre classic **Godzilla versus the Night Nurses** remain under strict NDA.

Marcia's water soluble swimsuits have become a very real product of ours that is being snarfed up by quilters, felters, magicians, and boatbuilders. These are fully guaranteed to fully dissolve in warm water. And we do pride ourselves in being the web's preeminent supplier. Both on **eBay** and our **Bargain pages**.

A special section of my **Guru Archive Reprints** has been set aside for Marcia's unique contributions.

Let's see. **3,7 Dimethylpentadecan-2-ol Propionate** is the sex pheromone of the pine sawfly. You'll normally use this stuff in picoliter quantities. Two liters should attract every horny male pine sawfly from a 100 mile radius.

Because they needed image rework, I've left the combined Apple II reset protector and miniature guillotine off, as well as the laterally anamorphic floppy disk that worked in both 5-1/4 and 8 inch drives. Finally, any AN-WBL-XXX **mil spec device** would have to be part of the military's underwater pigeon searchlight control program.

But let's let Marcia tell it instead...

Q: Should car stereo speakers be pointed to the rear for more thrust or up for more traction?

A: That depends on your particular driving conditions. On long trips, the 20% to 30% improvement in gas mileage you might get with all your speakers pointing to the rear is certainly worthwhile. On the other hand, if you drive on snow or ice, the extra traction of speakers pointing upward gives you added control. Be sure to watch the volume when you do this. Recent tests show that extra loud rock music can delaminate radial tires. Speakers pointing forward can also assist in braking if they are tilted properly.

Q: I found an apparently brand new and unused 1934 Majestic "Mighty Monarch of the Air" AM radio in the hayloft of an old barn, and still in its original factory carton. But, after I carefully reformed all of the wet electrolytics, it did appear to work perfectly, except for a tiny detail. All it gets is 1934 music. Why?

A: This is a beautiful example of the time lapse or **Ohaco Retrograde**, as named after the historian Doctor Chevelon Ohaco, who has long been using factory-fresh 1942 surplus command receivers to reconstruct World War II battles.

A lot of people using this effect may prefer to keep their receivers as they are, rather than resetting them for more recent program material. If you really want to update, you can add a **time lapse compensator** such as the **Springer Labs** TLC-995.

You will usually plug the time lapse compensator module between the second detector valve and the grid leak of the first audio triode.

The compensators can be tapped for various amounts of update, so if you are a "golden oldies" fan, you can simply select a tap or two closer to the input. Full instructions are provided with the compensator.

One tip-be extremely careful **never** to select any tap that exceeds your time difference between the exact date of manufacture and the date the unit was originally unpacked and powered!

Q: With recent environmental changes, what is the main factor preventing dramatic sea level rises?

A: The sponges. Those latest estimates from the **Bigelow Institute** reveal that sea levels would rise by 1473 feet if it were not for the sponges holding all the excess water.

Q. I have a Colcord XW15 4-channel amplifier. The louder I play it, the longer it gets. It has just totaled a fourteenth century Ming vase by pushing it off the end of the bookshelf. Is this normal?

A: Colcord has a policy of using as many interchangeable parts as they can on their audio and small appliance lines.

The output transformer in the XW15 is made from a special high-nickel alloy core. They were thus able to provide a **magnetostriction effect** far higher than usual. This way, the same component that is used as an output transformer on the XW15 doubles as their drive motor on the orange juicer, and the power nutcracker impulsor.

Your instruction manual should clearly warn you not to put anything within 6 cm (about 2-1/8") of the right side of the amplifier. Two other solutions to your problem are to buy the companion clip-on juicer and self-pour snout, or else put things on your bookshelf only while the unit is at **maximum** volume. This way, it should move **away** from other things on the shelf as volume is lowered.

Q: I built a pair of your mass teleporters from Volume XXXVII, pages 2048-2073 of the International Journal of Mass Transference and Teleportation. They seem to work just fine, but just after I teleported my girlfriend to Petaluma, she claims she is newly three inches shorter and lefthanded. But she complains a lot anyway. What gives?

A: The original paper cautions you to **never** apply the anamorphic settings when teleporting any live cargo! Try making a copy of your girlfriend using the clone backup feature. Then teleport your original girlfriend back, leaving horizontal polarity set to negative, but resetting the vertical gain to +1.04. Or to get a new height she is happy with.

Then, you reset the teleportation terminals to their 1:1 normal mode, and send her on back to Petaluma. Finally, transfer your backup copy girlfriend to archival storage. Or sell her on **eBay**.

Q: What is the secret to evaluating pseudoscience?

A: Being able to rapidly draw the distinction between useful adjuncts to porcine whole body cleanliness from **total hogwash**.

Q: Are there really any special problems when you use MOS integrated circuits?

A: MOS IC's and transistors do have extremely high input impedances. Early versions of these devices were extra easy to destroy by static electricity. Scuffing across a carpet or using a styrofoam block could ruin them.

Most MOS IC's today have very good input and output protection methods. However, one thing that never gets mentioned in all their MOS literature is the extreme MOS geomagnetic sensitivity. They can only get used on the north side of your circuits. They are thus unsuitable for portable equipment unless a compass and clear alignment marks are provided.

Q: What is a ZPE phase nutator?

A: The military has recently been rethinking their entire WBL program, and bunches of AN/WBL54-D/U's have newly flooded the surplus market. There seems to be some interest

in these since they can reduce your electric utility power bills by over 98%. In normal use, the power utility input is used only as a phase and amplitude reference. The actual ZPE energy gets extracted from the internuance space fabric. Your power utility also benefits as their peaking demands and harmonic content are greatly reduced.

Your usual setup is to go to the main synchrodyne panel and connect X243 and X244 to the line and Z157 and Z194 to your load. Jumper J479 to J480 . And be sure to turn off the primary lateral immanance switch.

AN/WBL54-D/U's are usually available through **Monte Vista Surplus** for \$23.50 plus shipping. This can be a good buy since there are 35 pounds of silver in the slip rings. Full schematics are found in MIL-TFD-41.

Q: What is a MacDonald computer interface?

A: Dr. Jerome F. MacDonald is the senior member of a design team which has long been working for the Dairy Science division of the US Department of Agriculture. They have come up with a communications input-output (I/O) and interchange code for computers and terminals.

The coding is simple, effective, and quite easy to use. It is becoming an industry standard. In fact, this code now has an **Electronics Industries Evaluationary** (EIE) status and should shortly go international. Thus, the old MacDonald farm interface is now an EIE I/O.

Q: As I drive around town, I have to keep fine-tuning my AM car radio. Why is this, and how do I fix it?

Q: The problem is caused by the **Doppler effect**. As you drive towards a station, you intercept the rf cycles earlier in each cycle, and the frequency goes up. Sit still or drive at right angles to the station and you get a normal frequency. Drive away and you see each cycle later in time. Which is why constant retuning may be needed.

To get around this problem, you use a phase-locked-loop tracking circuit. It is simpler to arrange your driving so you always travel a circular path from your favorite station.

By the way, this is the real reason those loop thruways were built around many cities. It also explains why traffic on them is heaviest during the most popular programs.

Q: My kid brother claims he is possessed by demons and apparently is serious about it because he has just morphed his civics teacher into a frog. Is there any electronic cure I can try?

A: The question of whether high school civics teachers should be morphed into frogs is complex, with both sides raising many valid points. Your brother's cure is simple: Most any hex inverter should work. Try the 7404 (TTL), the MC789 (RTL), or the 4049 (CMOS).

Q: I've been wanting to get into TTL or "Tee Squared Ell" integrated circuits. But I do not own a tee square. What do you suggest?

A: Offhand, we'd recommend hang gliding, decoupage, or possibly aquaculture.

Q: How is bulk hydrogen produced?

A: Electrolysis is wildly inappropriate for bulk hydrogen energy production because of its staggering **loss of exergy**. Instead, virtually all commercial bulk **hydrogen** to date is done through the reformation of methane.

But the methane really has to want to reform.

Q: What is the "in-situ" solar cell process?

A: That is the big breakthrough in solar cell design that drops the cost of solar power to \$9 per kilowatt. Actually, the **in-situ** (or "in place") technique is stunningly simple.

Instead of refining the silicon and then building cells, you build the cells first and then refine the silicon. The process generates a cell from ordinary beach sand (silicon dioxide). After your cell fabrication, the sand is chemically treated.

The reaction drives off the oxygen, leaving an almost pure polycrystalline silicon. Most conveniently, any remaining impurities rearrange themselves to create uniformly doped series connected pn junctions through a little understood process called **Barfoot Layering**.

For each centimeter of cell thickness, you will get several hundred series pn junctions or about 120 volts dc under normal sunlight. The thickness of the panel determines the voltage and the area the current. The current densities are typically four amperes per square meter.

You can easily build a 100 watt cell on your own. Simply take any ordinary metal cookie sheet, cover it uniformly with a one centimeter thick layer of beach sand, and cover that with a piece of screening for the front collector and add a protective glass cover. Clamp everything with large rubber bands or bungee cords.

For your chemical refinement, remove the glass cover and spray using two liters of **3,7 Dimethylpentadecan-2-ol Propionate** available from larger chemical supply houses.

An ordinary window cleaner bottle makes a handy spray source. Reaction time is four hours. Since the reaction is photoisotropic, it should only get done under magenta safelight. Such as a **Portal Industries** JJ-668 source.

Your front terminal is positive and the greatest output will be obtained when the panel is pointed due south at an elevation of your latitude plus ten degrees.

A grouping of panels can be wired in parallel for grid-free power.

Q: Are there any known reasons for getting a patent?

A: There is at least some anecdotal evidence that getting a patent and framing it on the east wall of your lab or office will substantially reduce the severity of walrus attacks.

Recent double blind Nebraska research has proven this. There are now enough framed patents on enough Nebraska east facing walls that not one major walrus attack has been reported. Effective, isn't it? More **Patent Help** here.

Q: Where can I get the left mounting bracket for a Gentry-Heber PLX-20 combination home laser fusion power source and psychedelic lighting center?

A: Between the energy crunch and the unique lighting fad, the demand for these 5 kilowatt home units has been incredible. Especially after the writeup found in **Personal Power Quarterly** (vol 4XII, No 4 p 167-185.)

The main problem with the bracket is that Gentry-Heber is going through a metrication program so that export units will use the same parts as their standard model. They estimate another six months to work out the backlog.

Meanwhile, several readers have reported working out suitable substitutes using ordinary railroad ties. But be sure there is at least ten centimeters or four inches of clearance between the bracket and the Deuterium return line.

Q: Is two-point or four-point barbed wire better for connecting speakers? Are the claims that four point barb definitively quantifies the transient interphase gribient dynamosity worth the extra expense?

A: The Barbie and Barbie Doll proponents tend to feel that two point is better for Barry Manilow and four point for Metallica. Either way, oxygen free wire is a must. Studies have shown that 4-point exhibits corona effects over 100 watts, while 2-point only loses half as many electronics.

Both 2-point and 4-point do tend to raise the pitch of the music because they are sharp. To compensate, connect a length of flat ribbon cable in parallel. The excess pitch sharpening can also be mitigated by flattening each point with a hammer blow.

Certain researchers now claim that grebient dynamosity (especially its transcendental interphase manifestation) is unaffected by even integer testing. With the sole exception of mundancily fortuitous positive shift economics. A few mathematicians have verified this with their $2+2=4$ rule that seems valid except for very large values of two.

Proponents feel that 4-point gives better soundstaging, reduced midrange granularity, and better bass speed.

There is a possibility of group delay, because the intended purpose of barbed wire is to inherently delay groups of people or animals.