

Scientific break-throughs are almost becoming an everyday part of life in the enchanting world of semiconductor electronics. Yet virtually all of these break-throughs are encapsulated in plastic or metal cases that are in turn buried deeply inside a radio, TV, test unit, or a complex computer. Finally a semiconductor phenomena has been discovered whereby a visible light is produced at the anode-cathode junction (invisible infrared devices are also available). These devices are called Light Emitting Diodes (LED's) and it is fairly safe to assume that devices of this type will eventually replace many of the light sources that are in general use today (both filament – and gas-type bulbs).

There is both good news (advantages) as well as bad news (disadvantages) to the LED'S that are readily available today. First, the good news: LED's consume very little power, will operate with either dc or ac (square-wave or sine-wave), generate very little heat, have extremely fast turn-on/turn-off time (no time lag required for a filament to warm up or cool down), no high-voltage supply is required (LED's operate in the 2 volt area), are compatible with IC's, very high reliability, ultra long life (should operate a minimum of 10⁶ hours, or in excess of 100 years), are now available at realistic prices for the hobbyist experimenter. Now, the bad news: LED's are available only in red, green, and amber colors (it is anticipated that at some future date all colors plus white will be produced), light output is still limited to low-light applications, extreme care *must* be exercised during soldering (see SOLDERING CAUTION NOTE).



While the HEP HEK-6 kit contains the P2004 LED, any of the other HEP LED's can be used in the circuits presented in this brochure. Figure 1 shows the different case styles and physical sizes of the available HEP LED's.

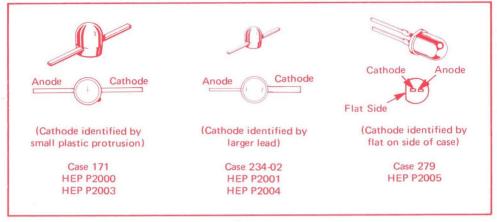




Figure 2 shows the typical voltage operating range of the HEP LED's.



Figure 2

Figure 3 present	ts the maximum	ratings for	each HEP	LED.
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HEP Type No.	Reverse Voltage VR (Volts)	Forward Current IF (mA)	Power Dissipation PD (mW)	Brightness fL (Typical)	Case
P2000	4.0	50	100	450	171
P2001	3.0	40	120	750	234-02
P2003	4.0	50	100	50	171
P2004	4.0	20	120	750	234-02
P2005	4.0	60	100	-	279

Figure 3

LED's operate at approximately 1.6 to 2.5 volts with a current not to exceed the maximum device rating. Application of too great a voltage and/or current can result in permanent dimming or burn-out of the LED. Until such time as thorough familiarity and experience are attained with using LED's it is recommended that the circuit components and design be optimized by using a resistor in place of the LED. Figure 4 shows a very simple method of testing and optimizing a typical circuit. By substituting a 39 Ω resistor in place of the LED and measuring the voltage drop across the resistor the proper value for the current-limiting resistor can be selected for any value of supply voltage. It should be noted that in most cases 15 to 20 mA will produce sufficient illumination for most purposes.

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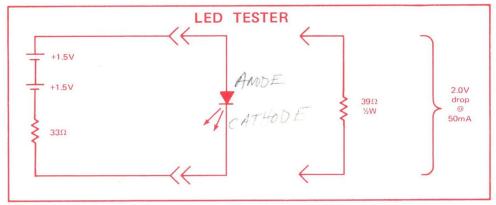
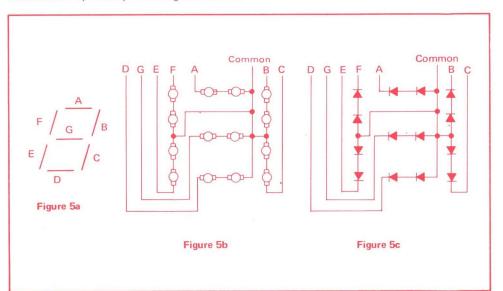


Figure 4

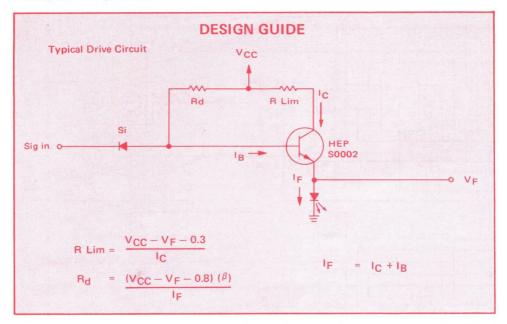
In the folowing pages several interesting as well as practical circuits are presented using the HEP LED's. Any of the HEP devices may be used in these circuits at the builders discretion. It should be borne in mind that these circuits are basically "idea-starters" and that the many and varied uses to which LED's can be adapted are extremely multitudinous.

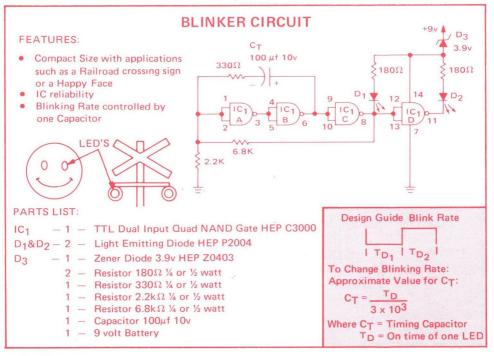
One of the most popular and useful items in present-day electronic hobbyexperimenter projects is the seven-segment readout. Figure 5 shows how a very practical seven-segment readout can be constructed using LED's. Note that the illustration is enlarged several times and that the final physical size and configuration is left up to the builder. Also note that the readout presented here uses 2 LED's connected in series to form each segment, however, any number of LED's may be used. Figure 5a shows the industry-standard alphabetical callouts for each segment. Figure 5b shows the actual layout and Figure 5c shows the schematic diagram. The circuit shown here uses the common-anode configuration, however the common-cathode configuration can be constructed by merely reversing the diodes.



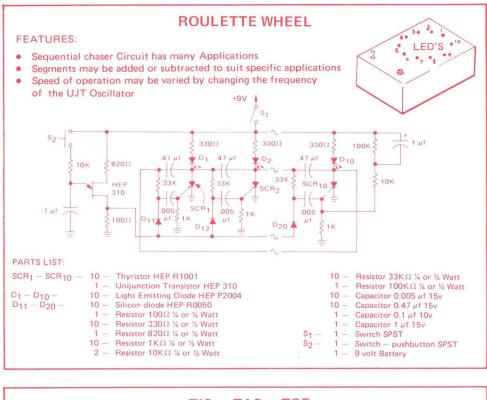
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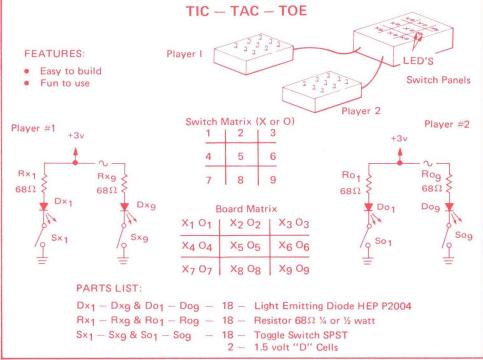
SOLDERING CAUTION NOTE – Since most LED's utilize a type of plastic case that is sensitive to heat it is imperative that a low-heat pencil-type soldering iron (20 watt, recommended) be used. Also, adequate heat-sinking should be provided between the LED and the solder point during the actual soldering process. Excessive heat can permanently destroy the LED junction.



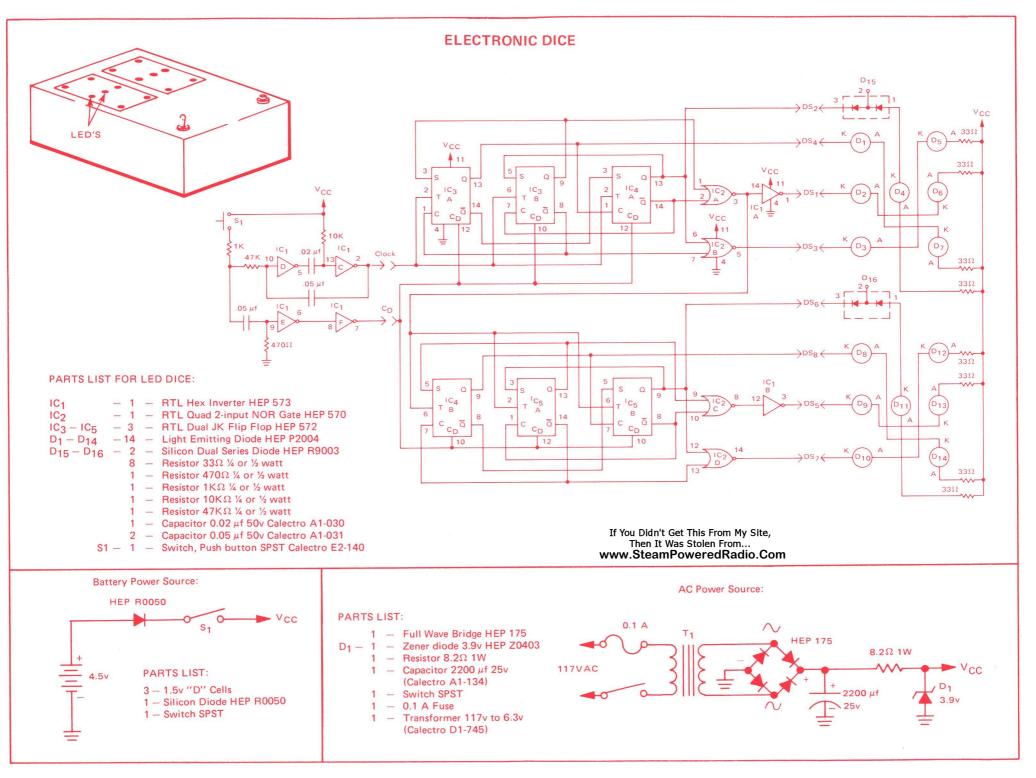


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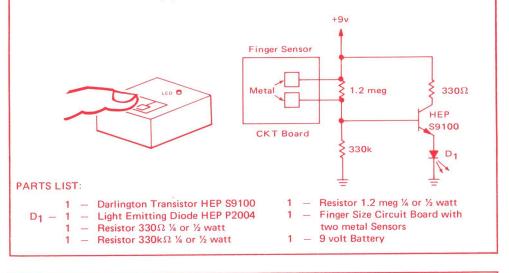
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SEX APPEAL INDICATOR

FEATURES:

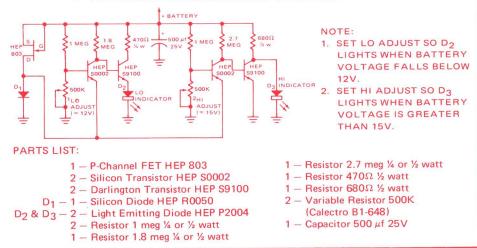
- Light and Compact
- Portable
- Negligible Battery drain when not in Operation



BATTERY VOLTAGE MONITOR

FEATURES:

- Indicates if battery voltage is too high, resulting from voltage regulator failure
- Indicates if battery voltage is too low, resulting from large current demands on the charging system
- Both Indicators are adjustable to cover various needs



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