Portable Sync Generator for TV Broadcasting

Miniaturized synchronizing pulse generator supplies standard RETMA signal at 4 volts negative peak to peak. Unit weighs only 20 lbs and is interchangeable with conventional television broadcast equipment. Built-in power supply is gas-tube regulated.

PORTABILITY AND SIMPLIFICATION of television broadcast studio equipment may be achieved by use of the synchronizing pulse generator to be described.

The generator furnishes standard RETMA synchronizing signals at 4 volts negative peak to peak across 75 ohms. It is housed in a briefcase-sized cabinet that also contains its regulated power supply. The photographs illustrate the tube and adjustment side of the chassis and the rear panel of the generator. Figure 1 is a functional block diagram and Fig. 2 is the complete schematic.

**Timer Section**

The master oscillator and the 7-5-5-3 divider chain incorporate five blocking oscillators each isolated by 1N51 germanium diodes. The timer generates the 31.5-ke and 60-eps trigger pulses to time the gates and multivibrators in the shaper section. All grid circuits in the timer section are connected through their respective time-constant controls to a +150-volt bus that serves as the afe line-lock path.

Tuned circuit $C_1 - L_1$ in the master-oscillator grid circuit is a resonant stabilizer for maximum frequency stability. Shock excitation of this resonant circuit by the grid-current pulse produces added potential at the desired resonant frequency resulting in a high degree of grid stability.

Point $J$ at the cathode of the master oscillator terminates at the rear-panel waveform selector switch providing a signal at the rear-panel switch point for scope observation. Points $A$, $B$, $C$ and $D$ in the grid circuits of the 7-5-5-3 divider provide the same function.

**Line-Lock**

The negative plate pulse and positive cathode pulses at $V_a$, are supplied to a balanced R-C network terminated in germanium diode clamps. The 6.3-volt 60-cycle reference from point $Y$ in the power supply is injected at the junction, also designated $Y$.

When the 60-pps final divider output is in phase with the 60-eps line voltage, the equal-amplitude pulses occur at the instant the sine-
wave reference is crossing its axis and the voltage appearing at the clamped grid of $V_a$ is zero.

If, however, the pulses occur early or late, the voltage rises or falls depending upon whether the positive or negative value of the a-c is clamped. Thus the pulses are caused to slide on the slopes of the sine-wave alternation until they coincide with the axis of the line voltage and the timer is locked with the line frequency.

Switch $S$, is open for the linelock position and $V_a$ serves as a d-c amplifier for the afc voltage fed to all grids of the timer section. Filter $C_a$, $R_a$ smoothes out current variations. The circuit comprising $R_a$, $C_a$ and $C_b$ provides a time-constant for afc action to prevent instability from too-rapid action. With $S$, closed, automatic frequency control action is removed.

Synthesis of the output pulses is best described with the aid of the waveform diagram, Fig. 3. Italicized letters in text refer to waveforms shown in Fig. 3. All multivibrators are of the driven type and must receive enabling voltage from associated gate tubes.

**Camera Drive**

Camera driving pulses are delivered only to the camera chains and slightly precede the composite sync signal for interconnecting cable delay. Positive 31.5-ke trigger pulses $A$ from $V_a$, cathode are fed to the horizontal-drive buffer amplifier $V_{a6}$ and appear as amplified negative triggers at the grid of $V_{a4}$, the divide-by-two multivibrator. This section is driven to cutoff and drives $V_{a6}$ into conduction.

This condition prevails in the absence of further triggering for an interval determined by the grid-potential adjustment and circuit time constant. Adjustment of $R_a$ determines, within limits, the potential and time-constant of $V_{a6}$ grid. With proper adjustment, alternate 31.5-ke pulses occur when $V_{a6}$ is cut off and have no effect. Thus only 15.75-ke pulses $B$ appear at the output. Different values of resistance and capacitance in the two grid sections result in asymmetrical pulses; the on time is less than the off time. Resistor $R_b$ adjusts the width to system standards, 1 to 1 times blanking width. The 1N68 clamps the pulses on the grid of the horizontal drive amplifier $V_a$ at 9 volts assuring flat-topped pulses in the plate circuit.

**Vertical Drive**

Positive 60-cycle pulses from $V_{a1}$ cathode amplified by $V_{a6}$ appear as negative triggers at the grid of the on section of the 9-line multivibrator, $V_a$. The number-of-equalizing-pulses control $R_a$, in the $V_{a6}$ grid circuit determines the gating-pulse width for the vertical-equalizing and sync interval and automatically sets the width of the vertical-drive pulse. The positive pulses from the plate of $V_{a6}$, applied to the grid of the vertical-drive amplifier $V_a$, appear as standard negative-polarity pulses $C$ at the plate.

**Horizontal Sync**

The horizontal-sync multivibrator $V_a$ is gated by the horizontal-sync gate $V_a$. The cathode of $V_{a6}$ is tied to the cathode resistor of $V_{a6}$. In the period between fields when $V_a$ is not triggered, $V_{a6}$ is cut off and the cathode potential is negative.

The grid of $V_{a6}$ receives delayed 31.5-ke trigger pulses from the delay line and 15.75-ke pulses from $V_{a6}$. Since the grid of $V_{a6}$ is biased to −108 volts by the regulated power supply, only the 31.5-ke $D$ triggers occurring at horizontal-pulse time are of sufficient ampli-
tude to rise above cutoff level. The resultant negative 15.75-kc trigger pulses applied to the on section of the horizontal-sync multivibrator \( V_n \) drive that section off and opposite section on. The narrow triggers are widened by the horizontal-sync control \( R_n \) to standard horizontal-sync width. The cathode output pulses \( E \) feed through a common 10,000-ohm resistor to the sync amplifier stage \( V_m \).

The horizontal sync multivibrator is gated off for the duration of the vertical interval. When the 9-line multivibrator \( V_n \) is triggered at the 60-cps field rate \( V_m \), is driven on with its cathode going positive. With the horizontal-sync gate \( V_m \), cathode also positive, the gate is closed at the start of the vertical interval. The gate remains closed for the 9-line duration of the vertical-sync interval.

**Vertical Sync**

When the 9-line multivibrator \( V_n \) is triggered by a 60-cycle pulse, the cathode potential of \( V_{n9} \) falls in the negative direction. This point is common to both \( V_m \), the 3-line gate multivibrator and the equalizing-pulse gate \( V_{m9} \). Since the cathode of \( V_m \) is now negative, the gate is on, \( F \). The delayed 31.5-kc trigger pulses on the grid of \( V_m \) are transferred as negative triggers to the grid of equalizing-pulse multivibrator \( V_m \). The on section of \( V_m \) is driven to cutoff and triggers the other section on. The narrow triggers are widened to standard equalizing-pulse width by the EQUALIZING-PULSE-WIDTH control \( R_n \). Cathode output pulses \( G \) are fed to the same common 10,000-ohm load resistor as the horizontal sync, and hence to the grid of sync amplifier \( V_m \).

At this point the first 3-line interval containing six equalizing pulses...
is ended. Equalizing-pulse multivibrator \( V_s \) is gated on, and the vertical-sync multivibrator \( V_u \) is gated on. This action involves four stages: the 3-line delay multivibrator \( V_{sa} \), the 3-line gate multivibrator \( V_{su} \), the vertical-sync gate \( V_{sa} \), and also the vertical-sync multivibrator \( V_u \).

The grid of the on section of 3-line delay multivibrator \( V_{sa} \) receives a 60-pps negative trigger simultaneously with that applied to the 9-line multivibrator \( V_{sa} \). With \( V_{sa} \) driven to cutoff, the positive pulse on the plate holds the negative terminal of the 1N63 diode too far positive to allow conduction, hence prevents interaction between \( V_a \) and \( V_{sa} \). During this time the cathode of \( V_{sa} \) (3-line gate multivibrator), being common to the cathode of the vertical-sync gate \( V_{sa} \), is of opposite polarity and gates off the vertical-sync multivibrator \( V_u \). This is the first 3-line interval of the total 9-line interval.

With proper adjustment of the VERTICAL-PULSE-DELAY control \( R_a \) in the \( V_{sa} \) grid circuit, \( V_{sa} \) returns to its non-driven state under control of its time-constant and grid potential. Tube \( V_{sa} \) returns to on, and the resultant negative plate pulse allows the 1N63 to conduct. The passed negative trigger drives multivibrator \( V_u \). The \( V_u \), cathode goes positive gating off \( V_{sa} \), the equalizing-pulse gate, and the \( V_{sa} \), cathode goes negative gating on \( V_{sa} \), the vertical sync gate.

Thus the equalizing pulses are shut off and vertical-sync pulses driven on. The 31.5-kc triggers on the grid of \( V_{sa} \) are passed as negative triggers to grid of the vertical-sync multivibrator \( V_u \). The VERTICAL-SYNC-WIDTH control \( R_a \) widens the narrow triggers to standard vertical-sync width and the cathode output pulses \( H \) are combined in the common load and passed to the grid of sync amplifier \( V_{sa} \).

With proper adjustment of the NUMBER-OF-VERTICAL-PULSES control \( R_a \), the 3-line gate multivibrator \( V_u \) returns to its non-driven state at the end of 3 lines. The cathodes reverse their polarities. The vertical-sync multivibrator \( V_u \) is gated off by \( V_{sa} \) gate and the equalizing-pulse multivibrator \( V_u \) is again gated on by gate \( V_{sa} \).

The 31.5-kc pulses on the grid of \( V_{sa} \) are amplified as negative triggers to grid of equalizing-pulse multivibrator \( V_u \) and the trailing six pulses are fed to sync amplifier \( V_{sa} \).

The 9-line multivibrator \( V_{sa} \) is returned to its non-driven state gating off all vertical stages, and restoring horizontal-sync gate \( V_{sa} \) to on until the next 60-cycle vertical pulse.

The composite sync appears at the grid of sync amplifier \( V_{sa} \) at positive polarity, is clamped at 9 volts by the 1N63 and the resultant clipped standard negative polarity composite sync \( I \) results at the output. Waveforms meet all RETMA specifications.

### Composite Blanking

The blanking pulses must slightly precede their respective sync pulses to establish front porch.

Horizontal blanking pulses are derived as follows: 31.5-kc triggers from the delay line together with 15.75-kc triggers from the divide-by-two multivibrator \( V_{sa} \) are applied to grid of the horizontal-blanking trigger tube \( V_{sa} \). Note that the 31.5-kc triggers are fed from a tap on the delay line allowing camera driving pulses to precede composite blanking but delaying composite sync from the start of blanking. Since \( V_{sa} \) grid is biased to about -108 volts, only those 31.5-kc triggers occurring at the time of the 15.75-kc pulses are of sufficient height to be passed as triggers for the horizontal-blanking multivibrator \( V_{sa} \). The cathode output pulses \( J \) are adjusted in width by the HORIZONTAL-BLANKING-WIDTH control \( R_a \) and are fed to the common load resistor \( R_a \), hence to the grid of blanking amplifier \( V_{sa} \).

For vertical blanking, 60-pps negative triggers from \( V_{sa} \) drive the vertical-blanking multivibrator \( V_{sa} \). The VERTICAL-BLANKING-WIDTH control \( R_a \) is adjusted for proper blanking width and the cathode output pulses are combined with horizontal-blanking pulses \( K \) in common load resistor \( R_a \) and passed to the grid of blanking amplifier \( V_{sa} \). The horizontal-blanking pulses occurring during the vertical interval and are clipped by the clamp action of the 1N63 diode in the \( V_{sa} \) grid circuit.

Since the amplitude of the pulses is much higher than 9 volts at this point, a flat-topped composite blanking signal results.

The standard negative-polarity blanking pulses at the plate of \( V_{sa} \) yield 4 volts peak to peak across 75 ohms at the output.

### Power Supply

The rectified voltage from the bridge-type selenium rectifier is gas-tube regulated providing -108, +9, +150 and +258 volts. The 60-pps lock-in circuit that provides acf voltage to hold the master oscillator precisely 525 times the power-line frequency derives its line-frequency reference from the filament winding at point \( Y \) through the phase control \( R_a \) and phase capacitor \( C \).

This phasing adjustment properly times the system with shutter-type film projectors by phasing the sync pulses relative to the shutter synchronous motor so that shutter opening occurs well within the interval of the vertical blanking pulse. Resistor \( R_a \) is adjusted in practice for elimination of blanking effects from any associated film chain.

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