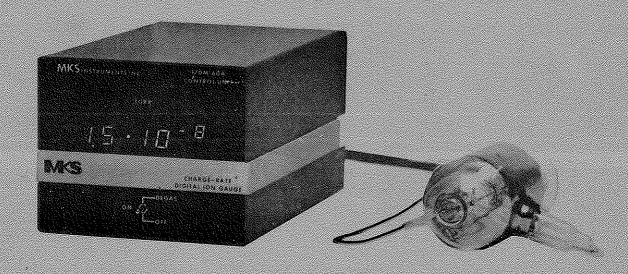
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INSTRUCTION MANUAL FOR 170M-60A CHARGE-RATE™ ION GAUGE PRESSURE/MEASUREMENT SYSTEM





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SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

MKS Instruments, the leader in high accuracy vacuum gauging since 1961, introduces the TYPE 170M-60A Ionization Gauge Control, to extend the useful range of MKS vacuum gauging capability to 1×10^{-9} Torr.

The MKS TYPE 170M-60A Charge-Rate ™ B/A Ion Gauge Control is a compact, general purpose hot filament, digital ion gauge control for use in vacuum systems, at pressures below 10⁻³ Torr.

Named for the unique patented technique* employed for measurement of ion current, the instrument has one continuous range of 10⁻⁹ to 10⁻³ Torr and presents pressure on a clear LED display and in BCD for remote readout.

Superior instrument performance is now made possible in two critical areas: instrument zero drift, range settling time and range tracking error are eliminated.

The simplified circuitry provides exceptional performance in high energy environments, such as particle accelerators, lasers, Van DeGraaff generators, sputtering, etc.

*U.S. Patent No. 4, 035, 720 issued July 12, 1977

The 170M-60A Charge-Rate* Ion Gauge+ is a completely automatic pressure indicating system which is small, simple, rugged, reliable, and accurate. It has no periodic adjustments or maintenance procedures. Its operation is controlled by one three-position switch on the front panel (OFF-ON-DEGAS) or, if the user wishes, remote (on/off) through a connector on the back panel which is standard on all units.

The instrument is protected against common forms of abuse such as over-pressure and short circuits and is specifically designed for permanent installations in laboratory and industrial environments.

'A trademark of MKS INSTRUMENTS, INC.

†U.S. Patent #4,035,720

Inside, it has two types of novel circuits+ using the Charge-Rate* technique; one that converts the Ion current into charge pulses, and a floating-point pulse counter with a digital display. Thus the instrument has only one continuous range from 10⁻⁹ to over 10⁻³ Torr. The emission current is automatically reduced at high pressures to maintain accuracy. These circuits are quite simple and compact.

The instrument is shown disassembled in Figure 1-1. It consists of a chassis assembly including transformers and power connector, a digital processor with display, an analog processor, a bottom cover with rubber feet, a top cover, a red acrylic front panel, and an escutcheon (gauge cable and power cable not shown). A typical display is shown in Figure 1-2. The front panel controls are shown in Figure 1-3.

1.2 Specifications

RANGE 10^{-9} to 10^{-3} Torr.

REPEATABILITY +3% ±1 L.S.D.

DISPLAY FORMAT X.X•10^{-x}.

MINIMUM READING 0.1•10⁻⁸ Torr.

DISPLAY UPDATE TIME

0.8 sec. except 2.8 sec in 10⁻⁸ range.

LOW PRESSURE VISUAL INDICATOR RATE 5 per second per 10⁻⁸ Torr (500 MHz per Torr).

GAUGE SENSITIVITY

10 Torr⁻¹ (for RG 75 or NRC 563, gauge tube).

OPTION

Adjustable sensitivity for gauges with other sensitivities. Range of adjustability: 5.0-50.0

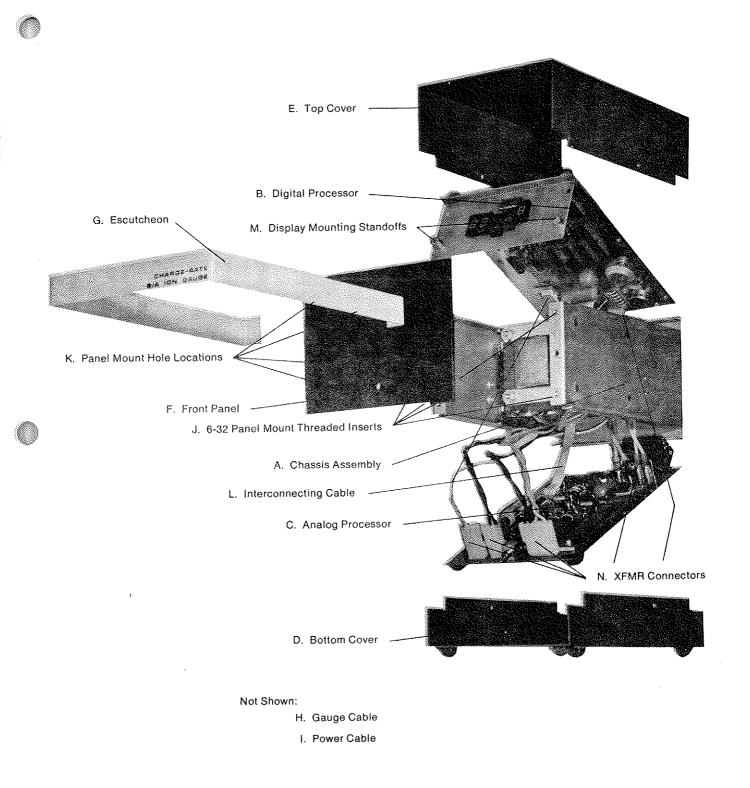


Figure 1-1 Exploded View, 170M-60A Ion Gauge

EMISSION CURRENT

9 ma below 10⁻⁶ Torr, decreasing to less than 0.5 ma at 10⁻³ Torr.

PROTECTION

Overpressure: above 10⁻³ Torr, air release, Filament: Short, Anode: Short.

DEGAS

60 watts nominal, resistance type. (EB degas optional)

LINE VOLTAGE

100-130 VAC 50/60 Hz, or 210-250 vac 50/60 Hz.

POWER CONSUMPTION

50 watts normal, 110 watts with resistance degas ON.

FUSE

3AG 1.5 Ampere Slo-Blo (MDL 1.5), on 115 vac models, 3/4A on 230 volt models.

SHIPPING WEIGHT

12 lbs. (5.5 kg).

DIMENSIONS

5¼"W x 4¼"H x 8½"D (133.35mm x 107.95mm x 215.9mm).

PANEL MOUNTING

170M-66 Panel Mount.

GAUGE CABLE

10 ft. (3m), 8-pin Jones plug (P308CCT)

POWER CORD

8' (2.4m).

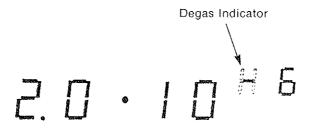


Figure 1-2 Typical Display

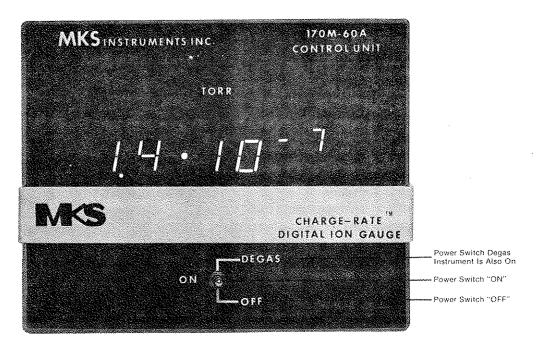
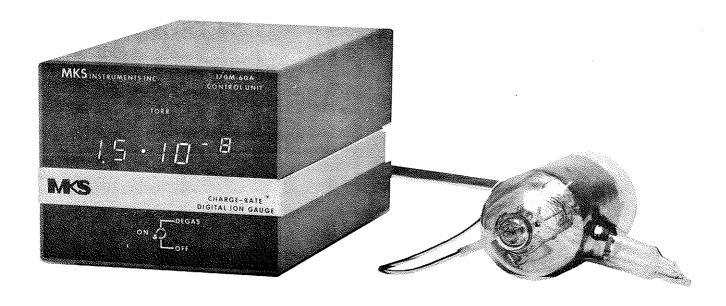


Figure 1-3 Front Panel Controls



CABINET STYLE

Figure 1-4 Cabinet, Rack Mount Styles

SECTION 2 INSTALLATION AND OPERATION

2.1 General

Installation of the gauge controller consists of obtaining a suitable Bayard Albert type gauge tube and mounting it, placing the instrument in some suitable location and/or panel mounting it, connecting the gauge to the instrument (standard cable provided is 10 ft.), and connecting the instrument to the 117-volt Ac line (8 ft. long cable). A diagram of the gauge tube connections appears on a label at the rear of the instrument (see Figure 2-1. User-provided cables should use a P-308-CCT 8-pin Jones Plug as indicated).

We ask that the user plan and execute this installation carefully and slowly. Cables should be kept away from hot spots, sharp edges and moving parts. Care in installating the instrument will result in longer troublefree operation.

2.2 Gauge Cable

To assure a reliable connection to the gauge tube, a custom designed connector is used (see Figure 2-2).

The wiring at the four-pin gauge connector is somewhat flexible to prevent stressing of the soft nickel or kovar gauge pins commonly used. The connector should always be handled by its body—never by pulling the wires.

Since the instrument is intended for permanent installations, security of the collector connection is emphasized over ease of removal. Therefore, it is recommended that the collector terminal be removed first when the cable is disconnected from the gauge tube. Otherwise when the main connector comes off, the sudden release may take up the collector wire slack and bend the collector pin.

The gauge cable is insulated with PVC and Mylar, so that it will be damaged if allowed to drape over diffusion pump heaters or roughing-pump belts. Careful installation promotes longer service life.

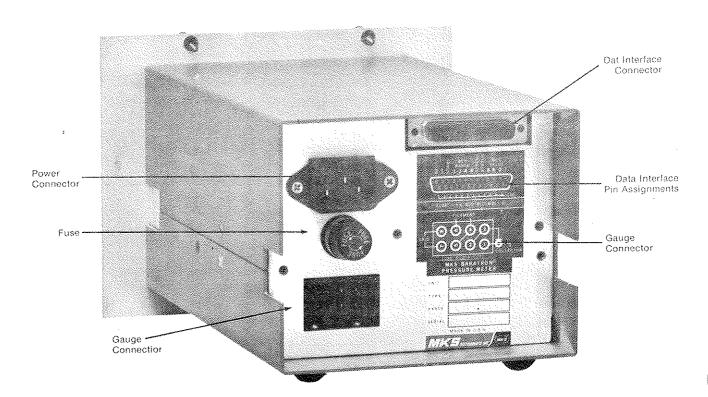


Figure 2-1 Rear Panel Connections

2.3 Panel Mounting

The instrument is easily mounted in a rack panel (Fig. 2-3) when ordered with a Type 170M-66 Panel Mount Kit. This kit converts a 170M-60A to a 2A 170 Series Module which can then be mounted into a 170-53 19" rack frame. A selection of blank panels to fill the gap in the 19" rack is available unless the spaces are already occupied by other MKS Baratron® Capacitance Manometers equipment or perhaps another 170M-60A Ion Gauge. Cabinets of various widths are available to accommodate the 170M-60A. See the 170 brochure for outline drawings.

2.4 Manual Operation

There is a single three-position switch on the front panel (see Figure 2-4). When the pressure at the gauge tube is below 10⁻³ Torr, turn the switch from OFF, which is the DOWN position, to ON, which is the MIDDLE position (see Figure 2-4). The gauge filament should light up and, after a short pause, a number should appear on the instrument front panel which corresponds to the gauge pressure (see Figure 2-4). To turn the gauge OFF, simply push the switch DOWN (see Figure 2-4). To DEGAS the gauge tube, push the switch to its UP or DEGAS position (see Figure 2-5). Two vertical lines on either side of the "-" sign will Flash, reminding the user that the DEGAS power is on (see Figure 2-5). DEGAS is normally applied with the gauge tube ON. That is, moving the switch to DEGAS turns on the gauge tube, so that it will monitor pressure during DEGAS unless some fault condition such as over-pressure has automatically turned the filament off.

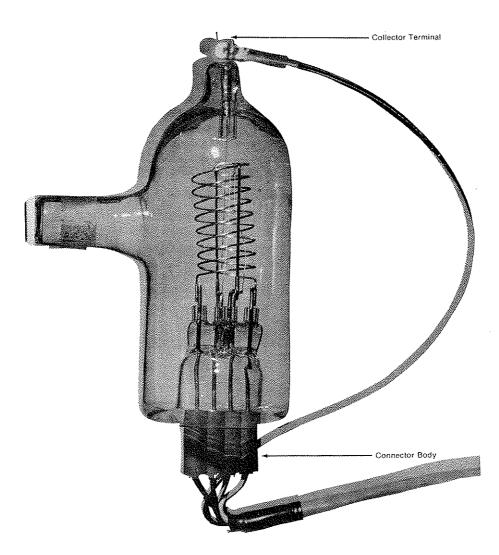


Figure 2-2 Gauge Tube Connections

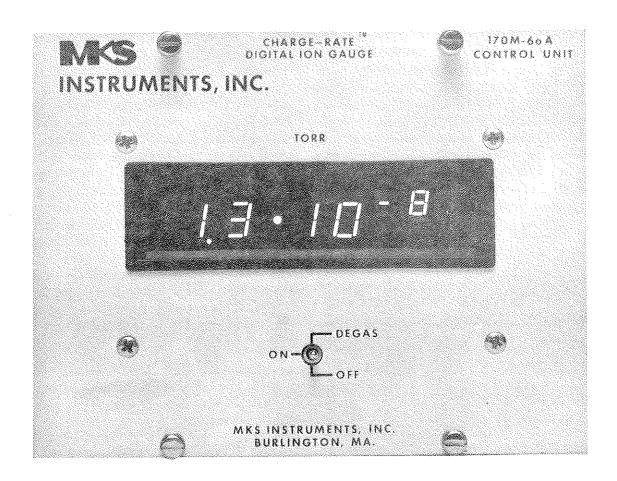


Figure 2-3 170M-60A Mounted on a 170M-66 Panel Mount Kit

2.5 Fault Conditions

If there are any characters lit on the front panel, the instrument is ON and has power. If the display shows "•" (no pressure) reading, the gauge tube filament has been turned off due to some fault condition (see Figure 2-6). If the fault is evident, correct it and restart the gauge by turning power OFF for a few seconds and trying it again. If the fault persists, examine the installation to determine what it is before trying again. There may be a discharge in the gauge tube, a shorted or open wire in the cable or a pressure higher than 10⁻³ Torr.

Serious faults may blow the fuse. After clearing the fault, replace the fuse only with the recommended type. Anything else will give either too much or too little protection.

If nothing lights up on the front panel with power applied and a good fuse, there is something wrong inside, and MKS should be notified. (Contact Customer Service Coordinator).

2.6 Remote Operation

At the rear of the unit is a 25-pin female Miniature "D" Data Interface Connector (see Figure 2-1). This connector carries parallel BCD data lines for the integer part and the exponent part of the display (the fractional digit is dropped). There is also a line carrying a short "data valid" STROBE pulse any part of which may be used for strobing data into another device. A STATUS line indicates whether the instrument is operating or not, but also carries short pulses whose frequency is proportional to the pressure which may be used to operate analog accessories. The START line is used to turn on or off remotely.

The logic outputs are all low true open collectors, so that when the instrument is switched off at the front panel power switch it will read all zeros and indicate that it's off. For flexibility of application, the 7406-type outputs all have sinking capabilities of 30 ma. low and voltage ratings of 30V high. The remote START/OFF requires 1.8 ma. low and

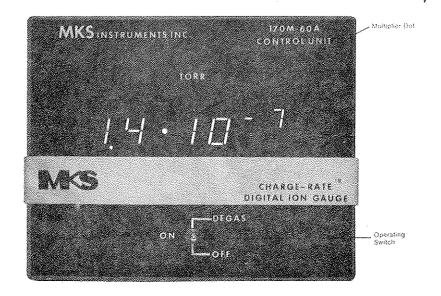


Figure 2-4 Typical Operating Display (1.4•10⁻⁷)

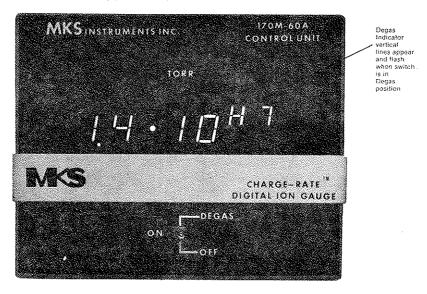


Figure 2-5 Typical Operating Display with Degas "ON"

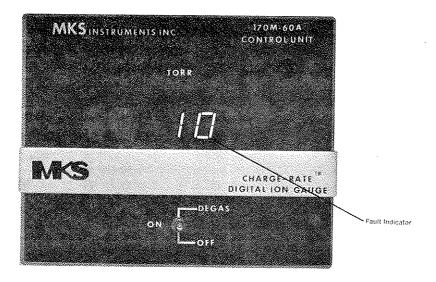


Figure 2-6 Fault Condition Display

2 to 30 volts high. High is START and low is OFF. Thus when the instrument remote START/OFF is operated by an uncommitted-collector driver or by normally open relay contacts in an auxiliary device, it will automatically revert to manual control if that device is turned off. All data inputs and outputs are compatible with CMOS, TTL, HTL, RTL and relay logic.

In addition to the above, +5 volts regulated and +8 volts unfiltered are available for operating other accessories. Each of the data lines is located opposite a ground bus pin for convenience. The pin assignments for the Data Interface Connector are given in the Specifications section and on the rear panel label.

2.7 Interfacing Information

Rear Panel Data Interface Connector: 25-pin female D-miniature (D25S).

Pin

Most Significant	Digit-			
pressure		BCD	LSB	<u>D1</u>
pressure				<u>D2</u>
pressure				<u>D4</u>
pressure			MSB	D8
	pressure pressure pressure	pressure pressure	pressure BCD pressure pressure	pressure BCD LSB pressure pressure

5:	Status indicates whether	er instrume	nt
	or gauge tube is opera	ting or .	
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6: Data Strobe, strobes data into other devices STROBE

7: Exponent Range I.D. BCD MSB X8

8: Exponent X4

9: Exponent X2 10: Exponent LSB X1

11: Remote Control used to turn on or off remotely START

12: +5V Regulated. Available for operating accessories

13: +8V Unregulated. Available for operating accessories

14-25: GND (case)

Data outputs 30V, 30ma uncommitted collectors, low true.

Remote START/STOP 4V, 1.8ma low, 2-30V high, internal pull-up.

LEGEND

BCD	Binary Coded Decimal
LSB	Least Significant Bit
MSB	Most Significant Bit
X	Exponent
Ð	Data Line
D	Complement

SECTION 3 THEORY OF OPERATION

3.1 General

The Charge-Rate* Ion Gauge uses a patented+ technique of measuring pressure which consists of two parts—converting the ion current-to-emission current ratio into frequency, and digitally counting that frequency in a compact and simple way in a floating-point counter.

3.2 Charge-Rate* Analog Processor

The ion current charge flow is permitted to charge a capacitor over a voltage excursion which is proportional to the emission current. The capacitor is then discharged, and allowed to charge again. The frequency of the discharge cycle is then strictly proportional to the ion current charge rate and inversely proportional to emission current. This ratio is the basis of pressure measurement in the Bayard-Alpert gauge tube, so we need only measure the frequency to obtain pressure, even if the emission current varies.

In addition to converting the charge rate to a pulse rate, the analog processor contains an emission regulator which senses the frequency (and therefor the pressure) and reduces the emission current at higher pressures in accordance with good vacuum practice. It also contains protection circuits to shut down the gauge tube if the filament or anode is shorted or if the pressure is too high. There are provisions for protecting the instrument from several other types of abuse, and a circuit for activating the DEGAS indicator.

A schematic of the analog processor is shown in the Appendix.

3.3 Digital Processor

The digital processor counts the frequency of the pulses coming from the analog procesor in floating-point numbers and displays the result on an LED display. It also converts

the DEGAS indication from the analog processor to a flashing display, presents numerical data to the data interface, and assures that a proper reading is ready before strobing data after turn-on.

The floating-point frequency count is made by permitting the pulses to be counted in a two-decade counter designated 0.0 to 9.9 in 100 steps of 0.1. At the start of a measurement cycle, the counter is monitored for a short time to see if a count of ten pulses (1.0) has been reached. If not, the exponent register is incremented and the monitoring time is increased to ten times as long as before. This continues until the measurement count reaches or exceeds 1.0. Then at the end of the next monitoring period the exponent is incremented but the count is stopped and the number in the counter and the exponent are displayed. Thus the count will be equal to the number of pulses per unit time, where the unit of time is an integral power of ten times a basic interval, and this power of ten is displayed as the exponent in the floatingpoint display. If the exponent -7 is reached without enough pulses to reach 1.0, the counter contents are simply displayed as-is after the period with a -8 exponent.

At very low pressures, the time between pulses can be quite long because of the very small ion current. To afford the user some ability to discern rapid changes in small pressures, the multiplier dot in the display (see Figure 2-4) is made to flash each time a pulse occurs. At pressures above 10⁻⁸ the flashes merge, so that most of the time they will not be in evidence. However, at about 10⁻⁸ and below, they can be seen and the rate of flashing corresponds to the pressure. Timing these with a stopwatch allows measurements down into the 10⁻¹⁰ range.

A schematic of the digital processor is shown in the appendix.

*A trademark of MSKS INSTRUMENTS, INC.

†U.S. Patent #4,035,720

SECTION 4 MAINTENANCE

4.1 General

This instrument can be kept clean and attractive by wiping it with a damp cloth occasionally. The gauge tube should also be kept clean to avoid surface leakage, especially near the collector terminal. The instrument is much better off when left alone, and other maintenance is not usually beneficial. The connectors function best when not disturbed.

4.2 Calibration

There is no provision for calibration, although a check on operation can be made with an MKS Gauge Tube Simulator Type 170M-81. This device plugs into the gauge cable connector on the back of the instrument

and simulates electronically a gauge tube operating at a selectable pressure values $(8.5\times1^{-x} \text{ X}=2 \text{ to } 8)$.

4.3 Repairs

Should any difficulties be encountered in the use of your instrument, it is recommended that you contact any authorized MKS sales office or home office for repair instructions.

If it is necessary to return the instrument to MKS for repair, it is desirable to have an ERA NO. _____ (Equipment Return Authorization Number) issued by MKS for identification purposes. Please call the MKS home office Customer Service Department to get an ERA NO. before you return the instrument.

SECTION 5 APPENDIX

Digital Proc. Parts List—PL106502-C

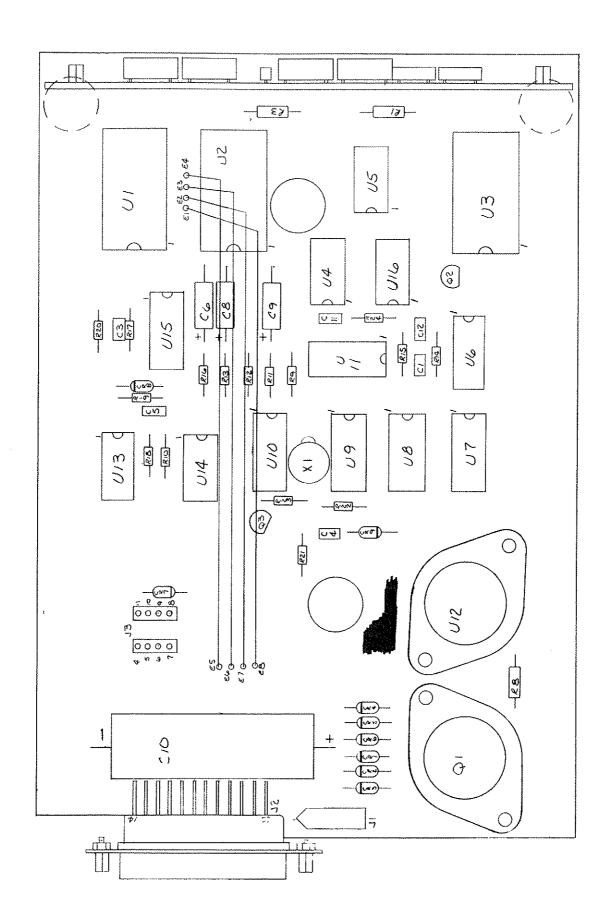
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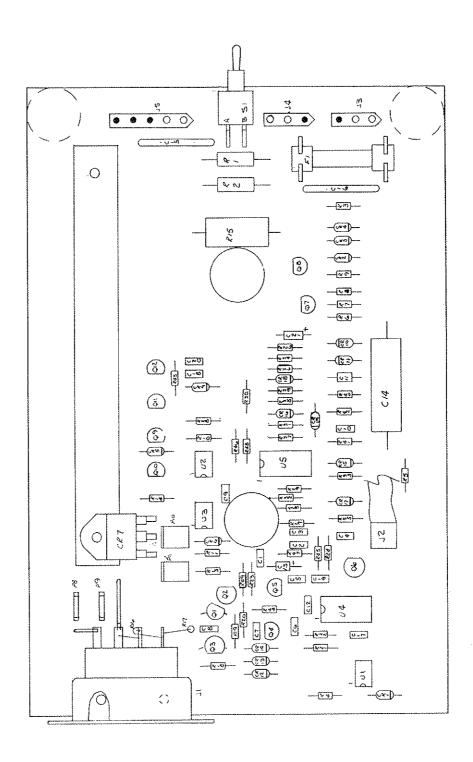
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Analog Proc. Parts List-PL106500-A

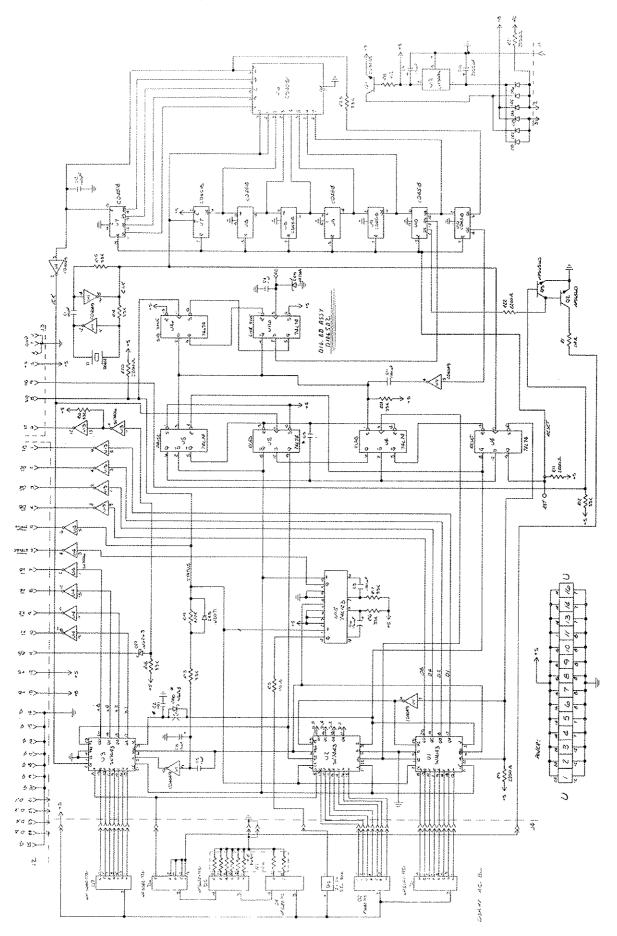


Digital P.C. Layout-D106502-A





Digital Proc. Schematic—D106524—C



Analog Proc. Schematic—D106521-A

