

channels. Where an unsmoothed h.t. supply is used it is recommended that the decoupling capacitor should be increased in value to 250μF.

Stability of output current setting. Some criticism has been voiced because there is no specific control over the output current value in the simplest form of this circuit, other than that due to the stability of the current gain of Tr_2 , whose performance determines this parameter. In order to meet this point (in anticipation) a circuit was described in the original article which allowed precise control over the operating 'quiescent' current without detriment to the performance of the amplifier.

However, measurements made on an amplifier without this addition have shown no significant change in operating current in somewhat over two years use, and there is also little measurable difference in current from a minute or so after switch-on to the end of a six-hour period of continuous use. In practice therefore, in temperate climates at least, the simplest form of the circuit is adequate in this respect. If any user cares to experiment with an alternative and somewhat more elegant form of quiescent-current control another regulation circuit is shown in Fig. 3. The transistor used as Tr_3 requires to be somewhat more massive than that used for Tr_2 since the mean collector current is twice that of Tr_2 and the maximum voltage and current occur simultaneously. The 2N2905A is just about adequate with a good heatsink, but a larger power device such as the 2N4919 is preferable.

Alternative transistor types. The amplifier has been built successfully with a wide variety of transistors, including fully complementary versions to operate from an existing negative h.t. line, and in one case two identical amplifiers have been made for use with the inputs in paraphase, in order to double the available output voltage swing. One constructor has, indeed, made a stereo 30W system using two such pairs of amplifiers plus input phase splitter, as shown in Fig. 4.

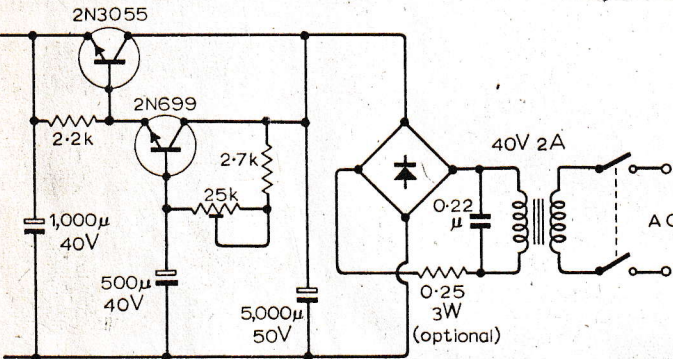


Fig. 2. Amended circuit of power supply for 15Ω systems.

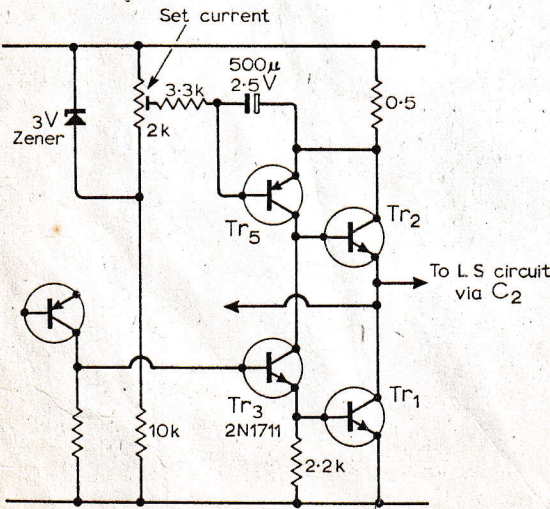


Fig. 3. Alternative method of quiescent-current control. R_1 , R_2 and C_1 in the original have been deleted. Tr_5 is 2N4919 on heatsink or alternative type.

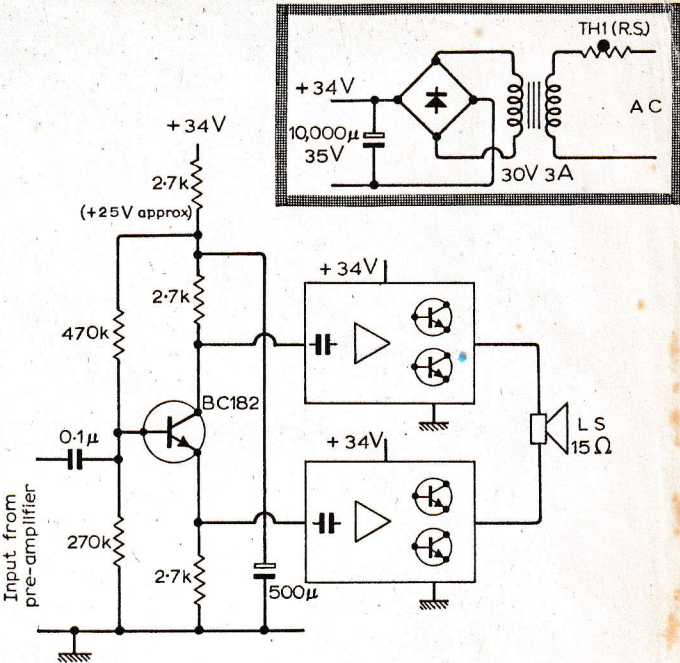


Fig. 4. Scheme for 30W class-A system. Two identical class-A amplifiers, each designed to give 15W into 8Ω (34V at 1.5A), are driven by a phase-splitter. the output capacitors have been removed.

However, one transistor change which is recommended is the use of a 2N1711 as Tr_3 . This has a high voltage capability equal to that of the 2N1613, and a current gain which is double that of either the 2N1613 or the 2N697. The use of the 2N1711 instead of the former types suggested for Tr_3 increases the feedback factor and approximately halves the typical distortion factor of the system (0.025% at 9W or 0.05% at full power) without detriment in other respects.

Also, a 2N1711 as Tr_3 allows the use of 2N3055 devices as Tr_1 and Tr_2 , with a final performance which is equal to that of the original specification below 100kHz. (The typical current gain of the 2N3055s is only half that normally found with the MJ480/1 output transistors, and their use was not originally recommended for this reason.)

Gain/frequency and power/frequency characteristics. These are, in fact, better than the curves published in April 1969. As mentioned in a letter to the editor published in October 1969, the h.f. fall-off shown was mainly due to an error in the measurement instrument. Although the performance at h.f. depends to some extent on the layout employed, the small signal voltage gain, with the component arrangement shown, is flat (within 1dB) to beyond 2MHz. This may be a snag in some cases because even a small feedback capacitance between output and input (as may happen, for example, if the output heatsinks are not earthed) may cause the amplifier to oscillate. A suitable circuit change to reduce the amplifier h.f. response to more normal levels was described in the letter above. This is not an essential modification—the author's own units are still exactly as described in April 1969.

The output power response of the unmodified amplifier is flat within 1dB to 200kHz.

The l.f. response shown in the original gain/frequency and power/frequency graphs was that determined for an earlier prototype of the amplifier. During the development of the circuit the values of some of the capacitors were increased to improve the l.f. performance, and by an oversight the graphs accompanying the article were not amended. In fact the gain and power graphs can be shown as 'flat' from 10Hz–200kHz. In this respect, and that of transient response, the class-A design is probably better than any circuit so far published. The i.m. distortion, at 10W output, (70Hz and 7kHz, 4:1) is less than 0.1%.

Miscellaneous. Surprise—and even alarm—has been caused to some constructors by the fact that the output transistors get hot