




Product:	Texas Instruments Single-Cell Buck Battery Charger	 
Description:	1.5A switch-mode battery charge management and system Power Path management device.	 Download Datasheet

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 Search results for: jenga

Pages: [1]

1 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread


« Message by Brumby on December 12, 2019, 02:23:17 am »

Quote

Quote

The limit for the currently negotiated and occupied space is 18RU (at a push). If someone throws up a rack between 16 and 18RU at price I can't ignore, I might just pull the trigger and see if I survive the fallout.

As it stands, I have the 12RU, the new 27RU as well as the two HUGE Compaq rack cabinets. I know I can fit it all into the garage without problem, it's just that I'll need to re-org it first. Not an appealing exercise - especially during the Aussie Summer.

Sounds like multiple-aspect **JENGA** disorder... quite an advanced case. We'll pray for you! (to have no injuries while you build the obviously necessary addition to your home) 

mnm

Before I started getting some success in acquiring rack housing, I'd asked a friend to keep an eye out.

Today I got an SMS asking if I wanted this:

~~(image to come)~~ Image is here:



I felt morally bound to say Yes. 🙄

Plans for extended doghouse are under way.

Reply Quote Notify

2 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread
 « Message by mneventh on December 11, 2019, 02:43:03 pm »

Quote from: BravoV on December 11, 2019, 05:54:27 am



That reminds me... I need to get this down off the mantle where it's been decorating the living room and put it on the bench. 🙄

Quote from: Brumby on December 11, 2019, 06:00:25 am

Quote from: beanflying on December 11, 2019, 03:40:22 am

Time to start building a bigger doghouse if you keep adding server racks to the gear



The limit for the currently negotiated and occupied space is 18RU (at a push). If someone throws up a rack between 16 and 18RU at price I can't ignore, I might just pull the trigger and see if I survive the fallout.

As it stands, I have the 12RU, the new 27RU as well as the two HUGE Compaq rack cabinets. I know I can fit it all into the garage without problem, it's just that I'll need to re-org it first. Not an appealing exercise - especially during the Aussie Summer.

Sounds like multiple-aspect **JENGA** disorder... quite an advanced case. We'll pray for you! (to have no injuries while you build the obviously necessary addition to your home)

mnem

hey med

Merry Christmas!

Reply Quote Notify

3 Test Equipment / Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread

« Message by bitseeker on January 16, 2017, 04:23:14 am »

About

This is the official TEA (Test Equipment Anonymous) house for everyone who has GAS (Gear Acquisition Syndrome). Share your stories of woe, trying to manage all the wonderful test gear you keep scoring. Maybe group therapy will cure you. Then, again, maybe not. Well, as long as you enjoy it, what's one more multimeter in the grand scheme of things?

Just remember that when you have too many, another one doesn't make the problem any worse.

TEA Around the Web

- The Official [TEA server on Discord](#): Live text & voice chat. "TEA Time" chat every Saturday @ 21:00 UTC (some sessions may be recorded as a podcast).
- TEA on [The Amp Hour podcast #470](#) @ ~15:30. "Ah, test gear. It's a sickness. You should join the Test Gear[sic] Anonymous thread on the EEVblog forum."

The Genesis of TEA

[https://www.eevblog.com/forum/testgear/test-equipment-anonymous-\(tea\)-group-therapy-thread/msg2199750/#msg2199750](https://www.eevblog.com/forum/testgear/test-equipment-anonymous-(tea)-group-therapy-thread/msg2199750/#msg2199750)

TEA Anthem

*"...Mirrors on the ceiling,
and pink champagne on ice.
Then she said,
'We are all just prisoners here; of our own device...'"*

(Hotel California video removed since YouTube keeps deleting them)

*"...'Relax' said the night man,
'We are programmed to receive.
You can check out any time you like,
But you can never leave...'"*

The ~~10~~ 11 Laws of TEA (and counting)

1. Test equipment (TE) will expand to fill all space available. And then some.
2. It's *never* "just a blown fuse."
3. That bodge *will* come back to bite you in the ass.
4. The availability of service documentation varies inversely with your current level of diagnostic frustration.
5. There's *always* more to fix than you first think.
6. Thou shalt use a probe prophylactic.
7. There is no substitute for exhaustive burn-in testing.
8. The TE you *have* on hand is never the TE you *need* to fix the TE you *want*.
9. Capacitors are Murphy's footsoldiers.
10. The adhesive used to apply a label is always stronger than the label itself.
11. Masochism is endemic, perhaps even mandatory.

TEA Songs

- [Welcome to the T E A forum](#)
- [Another Brick in the Wall \(of Test Equipment\)](#)

TEA Mascot

"...down the rabbit hole..."

**Post Icons**

This section contains icons that are used as awards, post categories, and the like. To use one, right click on the desired icon, copy its URL (a.k.a., image location) to the clipboard, then paste it at the beginning of your post using the image bbCode. (If you quote this post, you can see how it's done to display the icons in this section.)



Boat anchor warning: Indicates that the post is about big, heavy test equipment.



Drool!: Lusting after some test gear or envious of a fellow TEA member's recent score? This is your icon.



JAMMY GIT

Jammy Git award: Because nothing goes better with TEA than Jam & Biscuits, the "Jammy Git" award — our equivalent of a Daytime Emmy — is awarded to the holder of the latest, most egregiously "I got a steal of a deal" post in the TEA thread, with the more drama the better. It changes hands often, but there seem to be a few regular "repeat offenders." Be on the lookout. ([Larger 120x120 icon](#) for more drama!)

Points of Interest

Following is a growing index of posts within this thread that are noteworthy, interesting, TEA-inducing, or otherwise worthy of a look. If you have a nomination to be added, [PM me](#) or put it in a reply to this thread with the associated URL to the post of interest.

Test Equipment

- [A wall of HP Nixie tube test equipment \(and one that's a little different\)](#)
- [Fluke 8300A rack-mount Nixie multimeter teardown \(pristine!\)](#)
- [DIY equipment replacement handle \(good use of webbing\)](#)
- [DIY power meter probe \(save \\$\\$\\$\)](#)
- [Custom-machined enclosure for DPS5015 power supply \(so much aluminimum\)](#)
- [HP 6114A precision DC power supply repair](#)
- [Repairing an oscilloscope knob shaft via splice & solder](#)
- [Philips PM2421 Nixie multimeter teardown](#)
- [Advance Type 63A FM/AM signal generator](#)
- [Leader 17A signal generator teardown](#)
- [GW Instek GVT-417 teardown](#)
- [Tektronix 2465 teardown & instrument record with original factory sign-offs](#)
- [A peek inside a Tektronix 115 pulse generator](#)
- [Dumont 765H "Portascope" \(brochure/manual pics\)](#)
- [The collection of the admin for a Vintage Tek Facebook group](#)
- [Systron/Donner 7050 DMM](#)
- [Tektronix 576 and Heathkit IT-1121 curve tracers](#)
- [HP ET8036 and ET-6585 variacs](#)

- [Zenith variac teardown](#)
- [Metrix MX52 tear down](#)
- [QRP Labs QSX transceiver with built in SA and tracking generator](#)
- [HP test equipment wallpapers\[2\]](#)
- [HP 53132A with option 124 teardown](#)
- [HP 141S spectrum analyzer teardown](#)
- [Racal 9915 with 9442 OCXO teardown](#)
- [VK5RC's wall of Nixie gear powered up](#)
- [Keithley 610CR electrometer teardown](#)
- [HP 6227B dual DC power supply teardown](#)
- [HP 6209B 320V DC power supply teardown](#)
- [Racal SA535 teardown](#)
- [HP 400E teardown](#)
- [Solartron/Schlumberger 7150 Plus teardown](#)
- [Racal-Dana 9008A modulation meter](#)
- [Custom blower fabrication for Tek 2465](#)
- [HP 3310A innards](#)
- [Boeschert power supply for HP 53310A](#)
- [Tektronix 191 constant amplitude signal generator teardown, 2, 3, 4](#)
- [Marconi TF2015 signal generator teardown](#)
- [Philips PM2454 teardown](#)
- [Boonton 4300 power meter](#)
- [Solartron/Schlumberger 7150](#)
- [Solartron/Schlumberger A200 Nixie multimeter](#)
- [HP 6215A power supply innards](#)
- [Tektronix 2465 vs 2465B enclosures/panels](#)
- [Solartron/Schlumberger 7061 multimeter](#)
- [Tektronix 7904 oscilloscope](#)
- [Solartron/Schlumberger 7060 multimeter](#)
- [Solartron/Schlumberger 7045 multimeter](#)
- [Dumont 274-A Oscillograph \(a.k.a., oscilloscope\) \(manuals, more info\)](#)
- [Heath EU-80A voltage reference](#)
- [Solartron/Schlumberger 7050 multimeter](#)
- [Klein+Hummel Röhrenvoltmeter VTVMs: RV-12, RV 12 or RV-11](#)
- [Airflow Instrumentation LCA6000 Airflow meter](#)
- [ESI SV-194B Voltage Calibrator](#)
- [Heathkit OL-1 teardown](#)
- [Heathkit S-3 Electronic Switch](#)
- [Tektronix T932](#)
- [Fluke 1953A counter timer](#)
- [HP 3310B function generator](#)
- [Tektronix 191 constant amplitude signal generator](#)
- [Tektronix 485 oscilloscope](#)
- [Fluke 7260A frequency counter](#)
- [Fluke 1912A multi-counter cont'd](#)
- [Leader LTC-905 curve tracer](#)
- [Rohde & Schwarz VTVM, type URU 1080BN](#)
- [HP 5221A DIY internal crystal clock upgrade](#)
- [Dana 5330 digital voltmeter](#)
- [Heathkit V-7A VTVM](#)
- [HP K20-5280A reversible counter, with preset](#)
- [Substitute for HP 1820-0732 IC in HP K20-5280A](#)
- [HP 618B SHF signal generator](#)
- [HP HP 974a multimeter](#)
- [Meratronik V540 teardown](#)
- [Tektronix 106 square wave generator](#)
- [Tektronix 549 storage oscilloscope](#)
- [HP 200CD oscillator](#)
- [HP 4329A high resistance meter](#)
- [HP 3410A AC microvoltmeter teardown, 2, 3, 4, demo](#)
- [HP 8566B spectrum analyzer, documentation \(New old stock!\)](#)
- [DIY AC option for HP 204B oscillator](#)
- [Hantek 8022BL teardown](#)
- [Tektronix 535A restoration, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11](#)
- [Schlumberger 7081 precision voltmeter \(8.5 digits!\), 2](#)
- [ESI Dekapot DP311](#)
- [General Radio 1192-B counter](#)
- [HP 8920A communication analyzer](#)
- [Kikusui PMC350-0.2A power supply](#)
- [HP 3325A function generator](#)
- [HP 5334A universal counter \(OCXO upgrade\)](#)
- [Fluke/Philips PM6681 high-resolution programmable timer/counter/analyzer](#)
- [Agilent E8510A LAN/GPIB gateway](#)
- [Gertsch RatioTran RT-18R ratio transformer](#)

Electronics Miscellany

- [Dot-matrix LED character displays: 1](#)

- T12 soldering stations, irons, tips, and more (many posts of info) [1](#), [2](#)
- [Good, inexpensive PCB holder \(\\$12!\)](#)
- [When TEA and boating collide](#)
- [Best place/price for meter calibration in the UK](#)
- [Dim-bulb tester from miscellaneous parts](#)
- [The ultimate neat and tidy workshop/lab](#)
- [Test leads, patch cables, wires, connectors: \[1\]\(#\), \[2\]\(#\), \[3\]\(#\), \[4\]\(#\), \[5\]\(#\)](#)
- [Russian tunnel diodes and their characteristics](#)
- [Making modern Nixie tubes from scratch](#)
- [Making a wire element Pilotron](#)
- [med6753's 190 mV/1.9 V/19 V and 190 V DC references](#)
- [Inside a Cambridge ratio box](#)
- [Surplus Sales of Nebraska: All kinds of mains plugs and sockets including unusual ones used on old test equipment.](#)
- [Info on PH-163 \(oval, grounded\) power cords/sockets: \[Volex Cord.pdf \\(94 KB\\)\]\(#\), \[Alpha 543.pdf \\(95 KB\\)\]\(#\)](#)
- [Digital Museum of Plugs and Sockets](#)



- [Krylon Gloss Bahama Sea \(substitute paint for Tektronix blue\)](#)
- [Oscilloscope probe tests: part \[1\]\(#\), \[2\]\(#\), \[3\]\(#\), \[4\]\(#\)](#)
- [JRC \(Japan Radio Company\) NRD-353D communications receiver](#)
- [HP models and serial number prefixes: What they really mean](#)
- [Good RF/coaxial connector & adapter brands](#)
- [Some big vacuum tubes \(electron tubes, choobs, valves, etc.\): \[E 80 CC/6085\]\(#\), \[EF 12K\]\(#\), \[Siemens RS684\]\(#\), \[GU-81M\]\(#\)](#)
- [Thermo-ionic valves/tubes: \[Lighthouse 2C40\]\(#\), \[Gammatron VT-127A\]\(#\), \[RCA 6499\]\(#\)](#)
- [Radio/microwave tubes: \[JAN Sylvania 1625/VT-136\]\(#\), \[RCA JAN CRC-832A\]\(#\), \[Westinghouse WL-417\]\(#\), \[JAN GL-446A\]\(#\), \[JAN RCA 8025\]\(#\), and more](#)

Potpourri

- [The official and facetious "TEA 12-step \(at least\) program"](#)
- [Chestnuts roasting, TEA-style \(i.e., a Merry TEAmas poem\)](#)
- [Military aircraft/airshow \(mid-air closeups\)](#)
- [Shuttleworth evening air show \(May 19, 2018\) and North Weald Airfield \(May 20, 2018\)](#)
- [Tales of Cerebus: Part \[0.1\]\(#\), \[0.2\]\(#\), \[0.3\]\(#\), \[1\]\(#\), \[2\]\(#\), \[3\]\(#\), \[3.1/Epilogue\]\(#\) \(by \[mnementh\]\(#\) & \[Cerebus\]\(#\); inspired by \[this post\]\(#\)\)](#)
- [New York Airshow at Stewart Airport in Newburgh, NY](#)
- [A Dog's Diary vs. A Cat's Diary \(or A Brief Study of the Psychology of Cats & Dogs\)](#)

Glossary of Terms, Conditions, Causes, and Effects

A-C

- **ALDERAAN:** Accessible Location of Disused Equipment Ready And Available Now - A code word used when members of a TEA group wish to quickly and inconspicuously communicate interest in a viable source of gear, e.g., "I've just found a new Alderaan." To outsiders, the reference is dismissed as one related to the Star Wars franchise, a perception which is further reinforced with the fate of each Alderaan having strong similarities, namely, the scattering of all the constituent parts to leave nothing behind. These similarities and the use of actual names of the equipment allow for open discussion to be attributed to being more Star Wars banter by those unfamiliar with TEA and GAS.
- **Bait Theory:** The bait theory of equipment acquisition states that if you want something but can't find it, start collecting all of the parts, documents, etc., that you will need to repair and/or operate it. Somewhere out there, there is a broken device that "knows" that you have the parts to fix it and it will find its way to you.
- **BaSOwItSeF:** Bought a Second One with Intent to Sell the First - Usually occurs when you see a listing for an item that is cheaper, in better condition, newer, etc. than the one you already have. This act has been known to recur, resulting in more than two of the same item.
- **BCCS:** Burning Credit Card Syndrome - A precursor to DBA.
- **BDADD:** Bouncing Digit Attention Deficit Disorder - When you don't hear your wife/kids/boss calling your name because you're too busy watching those digits flip on a stack of such instruments and trying to figure out the pattern; or because you just noticed that two or more of them seem to be in sync. (see also: [FDDS](#), [FDDAS](#))
- **BISCUITS:** Bugs Include Sub-standard Capacitors & Unbelievably Inept Through-hole Soldering. "I just got this power supply from AliExpress, but found out it's BISCUITS."
- **BLIND:** Buying Low Is Never Detrimental - Unlike rose-colored glasses, going TEA BLIND when a good deal is on the table rarely works against you. Even if the purchase doesn't do what you hoped, it can fund the next, better piece of test equipment.
- **BNP:** Brand Name Psychosis - An obsession with test equipment from a particular manufacturer who is typically really expensive.
- **BOGUS:** Better Old Gear Upgrade Syndrome - Buying another of the same piece of used test equipment because it's in better condition than your current one.
- **BOT:** Boundaries Of Toleration. The limits of acceptability for the physical and/or financial impact of one's hobby - as defined by other members of the household.

- **BUSTED:** Bought Unnecessary Shitload of Test Equipment Devices



- CAF: Constant Acquisition Fatigue - Counteracts the effects of TEA, which can protect one from BCCS and DBA. The effects of CAF are usually temporary. Antonym: deCAF
- CAFE: Caught Again Finding Equipment - When your other half walks in and chastises you for being on eBay again having a COFFEE or, even worse, right in the middle of making a TEA!
- CAP: Costly Accessory Phobia - Counteracts the effects of TEA.
- CCC (or 3C): Calibrator Components Collector
- CCCP: Counter Cock-up Cover Protector or Counter Cock-up Cover Provider - i.e., this:

DONTSHORTYOURSHIT



ALWAYSUSEAPROBECONDOM

that prevents this:



- CCMHA: Cheap China Modules History Accumulator - The urge to document history of engineering progress on small cheap Chinese electronic modules.
- COFFEE: Continuous Observations For Future Electronics Equipment - The state when you just can't stop running searches on eBay because you just know that the piece of equipment that you don't yet know you *need* is going to be listed at any moment.

D-F

- DBA: Drained Bank Account
- DEEP: Duplicated Electronics Equipment Possession or Duplicated Endangered Equipment Possession - See also, DMM and TEST.
- DMM: Duplicate Meter Mania
- DMZ: De-Mobilized Zone - Wherein all manner of junk accumulates in precisely the perfect manner to produce a nigh-immovable obstruction between you and some object you desperately need
- DPI: Dimensional Perfection Impulse - The need to have all equipment possess or occupy the same vertical or horizontal dimension when stacking or arranging on shelves or in racks.
- DRAM: Dynamic RAM - A Random Access Management plan that is under constant change due to a consistently evolving inventory. This has a significant influence on the style of RAMBUS solutions implemented, where options such as adjustable shelving and rack mount feature strongly. (see also: RAM)
- EMI: Equipment Matching Impulse - This includes ESD and SMD, but covers a much wider and varied range. As well as these disorders, EMI also includes the desire to acquire equipment from a particular manufacturer and, in extreme cases, a particular range of equipment in order to get a matching 'set' (see also, TEST). Further, EMI encompasses the expansion of the definition of 'slot' to include any space that is vacant on the test bench - or that may become vacant through reorganization - especially when matching physical dimensions, width in particular, is a driving consideration (see also, DPI).
- Enheavyment: TEA-speak and ironic term for enlightenment as quantified by curb weight of latest acquisition(s). Also, qualified as inverse function thereof.
- EOTS: Early Onset TEA Syndrome - A form of the addiction that is severely debilitating to the wallet and budget, as it does not progressively get worse, but blossoms into full fruit from the first drool while looking through eBay. Some may feel that it is a congenital problem and not learned nor acquired.
- ESD: Empty Slot Disorder - Refers to mainframe types of test equipment that have slots for functional modules or cards. Any empty slot must be filled by acquiring modules or cards, which leads to ESI.
- ESI: eBay Search Inspiration or eBay Search Infection - Often caused by TEE, ESD, or looking at too many posts in the "Post your latest purchase" or "List your test equipment scores" threads.
- FDDAS: Flipping Digit Device Acquisition Syndrome - When your TEA evolves such that you are pathologically driven to collect test gear with excessive extra digits just to watch them as they demonstrate entropy. (see also: BDADD, FDSD)
- FDSD: Flipping Digit Distraction Syndrome - When the constant flipping of the last few digits on your 4+x and 1/2 digit instrument distract you from the work you're supposed to be doing with it. (see also: BDADD, FDDAS)
- FUSS: Future Usefulness Speculation Syndrome - The inability to part with or sell equipment and parts as a result of rationalization about potential projects, repairs, etc. for which it will one day be useful.

G-I

- GAS: Gear Acquisition Syndrome - Note that GAS could be misdiagnosed in cases of HUM.
- GPSDO: Generic Pathological Syndrome Desiring Oscilloscopes
- HFO: High Frequency Obsession - May be a mutation of TEA. The gear you own will never have enough frequency range driving you to buy faster scopes, better generators, faster spectrum analyzers, etc.
- ICBM: Immaculate Chassis, Board and Mechanisms - This is an associated condition to PFC and is an extension of it. As the title implies, this condition relates to all internal elements of a piece of equipment. It is most commonly acquired through the noble intention of inspecting the internals in order to identify issues, make repairs and perform preventive maintenance - but

for some, it is a slippery slope. For sufferers, the minimum standard tolerable will usually be that found in equipment as it rolled off the assembly line. However, some of those satisfied with this are conflicted when they encounter manufacturer issues - such as chassis rust. This condition is considered as serious when chrome, nickel or gold plating is found on mounting brackets or shielding panels and regular fastenings have been replaced with stainless steel bolts and domed nuts. (see also: PFC)

- IHEG: I Have Enough Gear - Those with TEA don't understand what this means. It seems to be associated with people who have had an inordinate amount of pressure from outsiders, such as spouse and family. From the scant reports available, it is rarely spoken and, if so, is done in hushed tones. The structure of the term is haphazard and all indications are that it is an alien import that has been forced into place.
- HUM: Hyperbolic Unboxing Mania - Someone with HUM shows quite often the same symptoms as GAS, and that can lead to the wrong assumption of the latter. One of the most typical signs of HUM is the creation of videos showing the unboxing of packages with electronics and test equipment. One study observed that watching those videos can have a negative impact on patients with GAS. Patients with HUM will usually acquire gear that often times doesn't satisfy their needs. HUM is often confused with SCM.
- IMD: Instrumentation Mania Disorder - When there aren't enough hours in the day to stop thinking about test equipment.

J-L

- **JENGA**: (1) Junk Engulfing Nearby Garage Areas - wherein all garage space is subject to a constantly moving and contested scrimmage line; (2) Junk Encroaching Nonpermissible General Areas - usually defined by other household members and their "need" to use nonessential spaces like living rooms, kitchens and bathrooms; (3) Junk Engulfing Nonvertical Geometric Areas - the inevitable spontaneous accumulation of all manner of tools and junk on any available table-like horizontal surface; (4) Junk Emigrating Non-Garage Areas - the inexplicable migration of entire stacks to other rooms, often discovered by other household members with a hand truck still underneath; (5) Junk Engulfing Nonhorizontal Growth Areas - the accumulation of box-shaped objects stacked from floor to ceiling, and the inevitable need to remove one object from the middle of the stack without all of it falling down on your head.
- LATTE: Last Addition To Test Equipment - When you promise yourself, your credit card, your bank balance and your other half that this *really* is the last TEA you will make. It's quite often immediately follows CAFE when you get caught just as you hit the commit to buy button and then you hastily promise LATTE to try and remedy a bad situation.
- LED: Lab Equipment Disorder
- LSUG: Lazy to Sell Unused Gear

M-O

- MEBB : Man-Eating Black Box (Alt Brown/Beige/Blue/Borked Box) - Sardonic nickname for all the huge pieces of stereo, home theater, speakers & test equipment that inevitably migrate to the "male-dominion" spaces of the household. Commonly used by offspring and/or SWMBO, particularly during type 2 **JENGA**-related ~~skirmishes~~ discussions.
- METH: Maintaining Endangered Test gear at Home
- MIP: Missing Instrument Psychosis - The belief that an instrument you do not already possess was owned by you at some former time, but was lost, stolen or disappeared. Hence, a replacement must be purchased to replace it.
- MIPS: Mouser Impulsive Purchasing Syndrome, Measuring Instrument Purchasing Syndrome - The former is an offshoot of TEA, which applies to excessive acquisition of electronics components; the latter is an associated activity of TEA.
- NEAT: Nested Equipment Astonishingly Tidy - When neat freaks catch TEA. see [msg1796336](https://www.eevblog.com/forum/search2/?p=1796336)
- NOS: Now On Sale or New Old Stock - A serious contributor to TEA.
- NSA: Nefarious Source Acquisition - Describes equipment and materials that have been obtained due to their history, previous ownership or use, in particular from government intelligence, military, aerospace or nuclear industries. Highly prized are those with a means of positive identification, such as customized front panel, enclosure, tag and/or markings. Functional capability is a bonus. Similar to POS, NSA is further down the rabbit hole, especially when it comes to being able to (or not able to) trace the chain of ownership. Sufferers of NSA (and POS) have a number of similarities in behaviour to those with EMI and material discussing EMI is useful in understanding NSA and POS.
- NTSC: Nixie Tube System Collector
- NUTS: No Unit To be Seen - The situation where you know you have a piece of test equipment but you can't find it. You've looked everywhere, you know you have it, you know it exists somewhere within a finite distance of where you are now, but you can't figure out where the dang thing is.
- OCD: Oscilloscope Compulsive Disorder - A family of disorders consisting of compulsive behaviors involving oscilloscopes, waveform monitors, and related display and measuring devices, including, but not limited to, repeated and enthusiastic acquisition, maintenance, or refurbishment of said equipment. (see also: ESD, ICBM, OSCAR, PFC)
- OCR: Obsessive Completeness Response - This insidious affliction starts out with an acquisition of test gear that is often found to be in excellent condition, even if beneath stickers, dirt and dust. The trigger is usually the desire to add a missing component, such as a lead, manual or carry case that would have been included in the original equipment purchase or from an optional accessory. Once this trigger has been initiated, sufferers continue with an irrepressible drive until there is nothing missing. Extreme cases have been known not to rest until original twist-ties, cable ties and mains plug protectors have been obtained.
- OSCAR: Oscilloscope Acquisition disorder - A malady that leads to the possession of way too many oscilloscopes.

P-R

- PETA: Preservation of Equipment Through Acquisition
- PETTE: People for the Ethical Treatment of Test Equipment
- PFC: Pristine Finish Compulsion - The need to ensure all elements of a piece of gear's external appearance are in at least as good condition as they would have been when originally packed by the manufacturer. All those afflicted with TEA usually have some degree of PFC as well. There is no known cure and the condition inevitably requires a regime to manage it. Sufferers cringe at the sight of mis-matched elements, such as a wrong coloured button or the wrong feet. They become anxious at the sight of stickers or sticker residue, especially on front panels and will take every effort to remove the same, without causing any damage to escutcheons, markings or any other vulnerable elements. Removal of any paint - even if only noticeable as a faint discolouring of a cleaning cloth, can cause nervous twitches and panic attacks. Smearing of any markings and/or manufacturer supplied labels will result in howls of anguish that are indistinguishable to those when repeatedly running a cheese grater up and down one's inner thigh. This malady is often limited to external finish - but can extend to internal elements, where it is more properly covered by the ICBM compulsion.

- POS: Previous Owner Syndrome - The need to collect and hoard based solely on who previously owned the equipment: aerospace, celebrity, historical significance, military, government, and the like. Highly prized are items that possess detailed notes of provenance, metal identification tags, or other means of direct identification. Also qualifying are probable origins as well as associated origins. Functionality is of course a bonus, as is knowing the actual history. (see also: NSA)
- RAID: Redundant Array of Instrumentation Devices - When just one piece of gear simply isn't enough. Of course, having three or more is better for cross-checking the validity of measurements. See also, DEEP, DMM and TEST.
- RAM: Random Access Management - The process of locating various pieces of test equipment in a manner so that they are quickly and easily accessible. This process can be applied to both equipment storage areas as well as the active work bench. Failure to implement a RAM protocol will result in equipment getting buried, requiring the moving of several other pieces of equipment to gain access to a specific item or, even worse, to prevent that specific item from being found. (see also: DRAM, RAMBUS, RAMDAC, SRAM, TETRIS)
- RAMBUS: Random Access Management - Building Useful Structures. An inevitable sub-activity of implementing a RAM policy. Applicable to both equipment storage and active work bench areas, this activity can include any number of sources for materials, including, but not limited to, Ikea, Craigslist, eBay, yard/garage/boot sales and hardware stores. Typically overengineered, the resultant structures are designed to safely support equipment for at least 150 years. These structures - especially ones on any workbench - are designed according to the RAMDAC requirements. (see also: RAM)
- RAMDAC: Random Access Management - Distribution, Access and Comfort. The process of designing the layout of a workbench to accommodate all the equipment desired and to have it placed in a functional manner where everything can be comfortably accessed. This process can become somewhat of a challenge in ordinary circumstances, but even more so if other factors - such as DPI, EMI or TEST - are involved. (see also: RAM)
- RIFA Madness - May refer to the state of the equipment or its owner when old RIFA capacitors suddenly let out copious amounts of pungent magic smoke. With some devices, this can occur even when the power switch is turned off. Beware!



- RRT: Reduced Rational Thinking - A common symptom of TEA. It is manifested when objective assessment of an item is impaired by inhibition suppressing factors coming into play. These factors include alcohol, the adrenaline response in discovering an auction ending within 60 seconds or (perhaps the most dangerous) convincing oneself that SWMBO wouldn't notice. This condition often results in increased risk of BOT transgressions and DBA. Attempts to address RRT usually have some short-term effects. Long-term effects are rare and there are no known cases of any cure.

S-V

- SAD: Shipping Anxiety Disorder - Unrest during the time when you order a piece of test equipment on eBay but the seller hasn't shipped it yet. Where you keep going back to your eBay account to see if it has shipped, even though you know they would email a notification that it had shipped. But you think that maybe somehow you missed the email or it got lost on the Internet somewhere. So you go back again to refresh the order page.
- SCM: Serial Collector Mania - We have all seen these poor souls torture themselves to try and acquire every HP signal generator, or every Tektronix spectrum analyzer. Soon they become incapable of functioning normally in the hobby as they are obsessed to have every last item in their target gear type. The extreme cases are truly sad. SCM destroys families and even communities. See [example](#).
- SCOPE: Serious & Chronic Obsession with Personal Electronics
- SECRET: Surreptitiously Enjoying Covertly Received Ebay Transactions
- SMD: Slot Mismatch Disorder - A variant of ESD where new modules or slots must be acquired to rectify the mismatched condition.
- SPEED: Systematic Preservation of Endangered Electronic Devices
- SQS: Shelf Queen Syndrome - Prized pieces of test equipment that are too good to use and instead sit on a shelf to be admired.
- SRAM: Static RAM - A Random Access Management plan that changes infrequently, if at all. This can be the result of a lazy attitude or the unfortunate situation where the equipment at hand remains unchanged. (see also: RAM)
- TEA: Test Equipment Anonymous, Test Equipment Addict, Test Equipment Addiction, or Test Equipment Acquisition (see also: TEAS)
- TEAnniversary: An anniversary of the founding of Test Equipment Anonymous: 2017 Jan 15 (PST)/Jan 16 (UTC).
- TEAS: Test Equipment Acquisition Syndrome (see also, TEA)
- TEASE: Test Equipment Acquisition, Score Extreme - The act of securing a significant collection of test gear singled handedly. This achievement is then compounded by then making interested parties wait before the detailed reveal.
- TEE: Test Equipment Enthusiast - A precursor to TEA. Also, Test Equipment Envy and Test Equipment Enabler - Some would say this is the sign of a true TEA member.
- TEO: Test Equipment Overload - When TEA really goes overboard.
- TESLA: Test Equipment Storage Location Anguish - The conundrum of where to put all the acquired boat-anchor test gear.
- TEST: Test Equipment Symmetry Transfixation - A personal idiosyncrasy desiring identical pieces or brands of test equipment to be side by side. If the afflicted person sees any equipment or brands in their lab that do not have a complementary unit, they will tend to be drawn to eBay or other sellers to find something to complete the perceived lack of symmetry. This affliction tends to develop gradually.
- TETRIS: Test Equipment Torment - Reorganization In Situ. The equivalent of changing spark plugs while driving down the highway, this is the high stress process of rearranging equipment - but being limited to doing so in the existing space. Any attempt to 'borrow' space in another area of the premises is met with threats of items found outside the boundaries of toleration will be immediately disposed of. Protests are met with references to some storage area that was temporarily borrowed 3 years ago - that you still occupy. (see also: RAM)
- TON: Temptations Of NOS (New Old Stock) or Temptations Of NIB (New In Box)
- TN: Time Nut - One who is obsessed with timing and time accuracy. A significant contributor to TEA.
- VMD: Version Match Disorder - When you are driven to have all the cards in the slots of a device to be the same firmware and revisions, irrespective of whether it really affects how the unit actually operates, and thus you now need extra frames to house the now mismatched card and housings.
- VN: Volt Nut (also voltnut) - One who is obsessed with measurements and measuring accuracy, precision and resolution. A significant contributor to TEA.

- Volt Mutt (also voltmutt) - The opposite of a volt nut; those who enjoy test equipment, but for whom "FLUKE SEZ BAM!!!" really is good enough.

W-Z

- WIFI: Whisker Intensive Fending Initiative - A typical response to distract those critical of TEA affected persons with images and/or stories of their animal friends. It is also used within TEA affected circles to redirect attention away from their addiction, while still feeling safe within that group of like minds.
- WWND: What Would Neo Do - A meme that refers to member [neo](#)'s penchant for snagging large lots of boat anchors at ham fests. So, the next time you're staring at some test equipment, stuck in an analysis paralysis loop about whether or not to get it, just whisper to yourself, "What would neo do?"



- YAGI: Yet Another Gain for Inventory - A term used to rationalise the typical consequences of GAS - especially when there is no immediate or prospective need for an item.
- YALBOA: Yet Another Low-Balled Offer Accepted - The cognitive dissonance that results when you are on the fence about a piece of test equipment being offered for sale and, after submitting what you feel to be a silly low offer just to feel satisfied that you did something about the situation, it gets accepted.

[/list]

[Reply](#) [Quote](#) [Notify](#)

4 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread

« Message by [beanflying](#) on August 01, 2019, 05:49:59 am »

It will be worth it in the end Mnem 😊 Test fitting of my new box to the bench. Shelf to the rear of the monitor needs to go elsewhere (bigger monitor in a month or two) and can where the current PC is mounted to the wall on brackets. TEA [Jenga](#) to follow 😊

Time to roast some beans on the old box for the last time.....



[Reply](#) [Quote](#) [Notify](#)

5 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread

« Message by [mmenth](#) on June 16, 2019, 08:23:08 pm »

Quote from: [VK5RC](#) on June 16, 2019, 11:54:01 am



The real problem with TEA is fitting the gear into the space available, spent the weekend, rebuilding a taller shelving unit, behind and incorporating the desk- on the north wall. Not finished yet - I want a split shelf - on the right side - so I have to get some nice aluminium angle. I am starting to rearrange the other shelves as well. A bit of a PITA - but I am not moving country!

That is some proper **JENGA** you've got going there! Well done! 🙌

Quote from: [bd139](#) on June 16, 2019, 12:16:53 pm

Quote from: [med6753](#) on June 16, 2019, 11:14:17 am

Quote from: [bd139](#) on June 16, 2019, 10:30:05 am

Well good job I didn't go to that ham fest as my youngest just kneed herself in the face doing ninja kicks and knocked a tooth out then proceeded to wipe blood over everything and the older two didn't even notice 🙄

Oh no! A primary or secondary tooth? 🤔


Primary (baby tooth here) fortunately although there was a bit of a panic working out if it was one or not. The oldest two were both glued to Netflix 🤔 As usually I was in the damn shower when this event occurred 🤔

That sounds like an entirely predictable **"But in my defense, I WAS left unsupervised..."** moment from over here. 😂

Quote from: bd139 on June 16, 2019, 01:39:30 pm

We are notorious crack smokers when it comes to the roundabouts 🤔

See How an Insane 7-Circle Roundabout Actually Works | WIRED



🤔 **Not only no, but HEYULL NO!!!**

Quote from: xrunner on June 16, 2019, 01:52:03 pm

We have a saying here that applies to stupid things people attempt to do - What did the redneck say right before he died?

"Hey - hold my beer and watch this!"



Yeah, Texas is the home of THAT school of driving. 🤔 And Drive-Thru Liquor Stores. 🤔

Quote from: med6753 on June 16, 2019, 07:25:04 pm

Uh-oh. 🤔 The Tek 7904 is giving me a warning. Power up today revealed "tick mode" for a few seconds then it powered up. Noticed that the CRT readout waving a bit like a flag in the breeze. Then it settled down. Looks like classic ripple. Quick check of power supplies revealed everyone healthy except +/- 15VDC. Reading +14.72V and -14.82V. Definitely on the low side. Time for a re-cap of the pre-regulator board. That will refresh the +5VDC and the +/-15VDC.

I'll say a prayer for you; that the "tzzzzt" Fairy stays far, far away. 🤔

mnem

Hey!!! don't come HERE, ya manky little git!!! 🤔

Reply Quote Notify

6 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread
« Message by mnementh on June 07, 2019, 01:04:59 am »

Quote from: med6753 on June 06, 2019, 09:24:16 pm

Quote from: No.Mad on June 06, 2019, 08:53:02 pm

Forgive me Father for I have sinned
Darkness put her painted claws in me again...

Hi, I'm Nomad and I buy tools and electronics for almost 6 years. I'm quite new to pack, but I think I had a TEA syndrome since I was 14yo. Thanks to grandpa who did teach me how to use a hammer and screwdriver I got into quality tools and tinkering. Since I moved a lot and started to earn good money, my collection grew. Lindstrom, Wera, Erem, Mitutoyo, you know, the good ones.

Then I started to work in R&D and it got worse. But seriously, a lot worse, I think I overdid it this time 🤔 As picture is worth thousand words, please see attached.

Fortunately, my Miss does not find it wrong. She is supportive and loving. And I am looking for AFG right now on EBay, because I just bought two HP 3478A and I don't have AFG.

Regards lads!

Welcome! We don't forgive here. We are fellow sinners. And proud of it. We love to see new faces and new stuff. So keep buying and come back often. 🙌



Welcome to the rabbit-hole! The never-ending taco truck is over there, and the leaning tower of **JENGA** is over there. Pull up a lawnchair and relax.

mnem



Reply Quote Notify

7 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread

« Message by mnementh on June 03, 2019, 04:05:34 pm »

Quote from: tggzzz on June 03, 2019, 08:20:10 am

Quote from: beanflying on June 03, 2019, 03:24:35 am



For your next print/shmbo gift 🙌 <https://www.thingiverse.com/thing:3250078>



I know someone that had the bad taste to make ponyprobe and minionprobe - but he redeems himself with some geek/TEA/GAS porn at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/anachrocomputer/albums>

I approve of his work, but only because he had the good taste to choose classic *Fluttershy* and Original *Kevin*. 😊 Thanks for the link... I can waste much valuable time there between skirmishes with the **JENGA** scattered from hell to breakfast about the house. 🙌

Quote from: bd139 on June 03, 2019, 10:53:29 am



I leave you with our welcome from the ground 🙌 This was mowed into Hatfield Heath on Stansted approach path. Also he's so welcome the Queen can't accommodate him in the palace despite having 775 rooms, 57 of them being guest suites 🙌

Thank you for bringing this morning's smile. 😊 I hope Ollie gets an award from Queen mum; he deserves it. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/teenager-mows-giant-message-into-lawn-for-donald-trump-a4157701.html> And good on Queen mum for refusing to have his noxious presence in her home. 🙌

Quote from: VK5RC on June 03, 2019, 12:36:17 pm

@mnem.dragon - Texas are just getting rid of red light cameras 'cause of the ? USD75 fine/?privacy. Down under in ahem,' glorious' South Australia it is a AUD\$405 fine and 3 demerit points (you can get 12 over a 3yr period b4 u lose licence). 🙌

Well, it's not that simple. The state constitution here is VERY explicit on how you can fine any citizen for any infraction; they HAVE TO catch you and ARREST you in person. They CANNOT write a ticket to a VEHICLE; it is not a person. They TRIED to do an end run around that by making it a "civil infraction" that wasn't so constrained by the law, which created massive exposure to all the gigacorporations operating chemical plants, fracking sites, and of course refineries; they've spent millions changing the laws to create "corporate personhood".

THAT COULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO STAND. 😊 So no... nothing so altruistic as actual concern over civil liberties. 🙌 It eventually boiled down to a simple business choice between collecting pocket change from the general population vs annoying their corporate overlords. 🙌

Quote from: Specmaster on June 03, 2019, 01:51:46 pm

Firstly with Porton Down, I think your taking a risk there....assuming he's a human,;-DD I think we are rapidly becoming the grumpy old men of the forum



Edit.**Actually PFI (PPP) was first introduced and used by the Conservatives under John Major in 1992, the Labour attacked it but subsequently went on to be heavy users of the scheme when they gained office in 1997 and it exploded from then on.**

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Private_finance_initiative 🤔

Not surprising; just as with Bush and NAFTA. Clinton has stated several times that signing it is his single great regret; he was brand new in office and made the mistake of thinking they would fix the huge, bleeding holes "in Committee". 🤔 I want to believe that, if only for my own sanity and hope for humanity... but it's hard once you see the floodgates of international corruption that single act opened up.

mnem

Follow. The. Money.

Reply Quote Notify

8 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread

« Message by **mnementh** on May 31, 2019, 12:28:55 pm »

Reading in the '90s about all the Corsairs and Mustangs that were sold off as scrap when they "downsized" MHV made me cringe. I understand that there was also a large lot of moonshot rocketry that was scrapped at the same time as well. 🤔



I felt the same way about the "Dukes of Hazzard" TV show too, though. I've always had a soft spot for the A & B-body Chryslers; built several of them. They destroyed between one and three 68-69 Chargers per episode; so somewhere around 250-350 total. They went through so many that the "General Lee" had AMC Ambassadors as "stand-ins" for later seasons. 🤔

Quote from: **wch** on May 31, 2019, 03:37:45 am

Quote from: **mnementh**



Yeah, good luck widdat. My entire living room is occupied with dozens of 55L storage bins strewn from hell to breakfast right now.

Both couches, even the kids' play table. 🤔 I'm trying to power through one major **JENGA** obstruction before both my kids are up my butt for the summer. 🤔

That is a serious amount of binning. How many will there be when you are done?

So far, approx \$350 worth. The final number remains as yet undisclosed. Even to myself. 🤔

mnem

Coffee NOW!!! Adulting later...

Reply Quote Notify

9 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread

« Message by **worsthorse** on May 31, 2019, 03:37:45 am »

Quote from: **med6753** on May 30, 2019, 11:21:58 pm



There is no cure. 🤔

Edit...I also have an entire walk-in closet full of parts and parts mules.

That's a pretty nice setup. Especially the walk in closet part. 😊

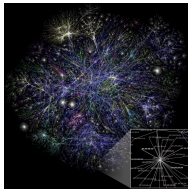
Quote from: mneventh on May 31, 2019, 12:20:45 am

Yup. That's the one I highlighted a few daze ago: [https://www.eevblog.com/forum/testgear/test-equipment-anonymous-\(tea\)-group-therapy-thread/msg2441703/#msg2441703](https://www.eevblog.com/forum/testgear/test-equipment-anonymous-(tea)-group-therapy-thread/msg2441703/#msg2441703)

Good to know **SOMEBELLY** wuz payin' atten-shun. 🤔

Yeah, it was more like subliminal suggestion because I wasn't *really* paying attention.

Quote



Telephony, RADAR Installations, CATV, Cellular, Marine Radio, ARPANET... 😊 Guys troubleshooting that shit up on a tower, boom truck or down in a manhole can't wait for it to stop raining. Some of those holes, it never stops. 🤔

Not sure why I didn't think of this myself. Yeesh. 🤔

Quote



breakfast right now.

Yeah, good luck widdat. My entire living room is occupied with dozens of 55L storage bins strewn from hell to

Both couches, even the kids' play table. 🤔 I'm trying to power through one major **JENGA** obstruction before both my kids are up my butt for the summer. 🤔

That is a serious amount of binning. How many will there be when you are done?

Reply Quote Notify

10 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread

« Message by mnementh on May 31, 2019, 12:20:45 am »

Quote from: wch on May 30, 2019, 09:46:25 pm

I didn't mean to win, honest! 🤔

So there was this TDR 1502 on ebay. All the bits were there, and it had a trace in the photo. There was a single bid, of nine bucks, and I thought, well let's buy a ticket and see what happens. I use a sniping service, so I set a bid of 24USD and forgot about it.



I won the damn thing for 22.51USD. So now I have three TDRs. Maybe it is time for me to add a rule the router firewall.

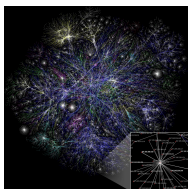
Yep. That's the one I highlighted a few daze ago: [https://www.eevblog.com/forum/testgear/test-equipment-anonymous-\(tea\)-group-therapy-thread/msg2441703/#msg2441703](https://www.eevblog.com/forum/testgear/test-equipment-anonymous-(tea)-group-therapy-thread/msg2441703/#msg2441703)

Good to know SOMEBELLY wuz payin' atten-shun. 🤔

Quote from: wch on May 30, 2019, 10:23:46 pm

TDRs are fun to play with. If the tunnel diodes on the 1502 aren't trashed, it will be a good buy. I can fix the two 1503s before deciding which to keep and which to sell to make space for some other **fetish object**. Or I could keep one of each to do both short and long cable tests. Not that I need to do that but you never know. 🤔

And why did they make them waterproof? They don't seem to be mil spec equipment otherwise.



Telephony, RADAR Installations, CATV, Cellular, Marine Radio, ARPANET... 🤔 Guys troubleshooting that shit up on a tower, boom truck or down in a manhole can't wait for it to stop raining. Some of those holes, it never stops. 🤔

Not sure how much underwater cabling they would expect to troubleshoot... but for sure you want a 'scope with focus divider voltage right behind the front panel to be immersion waterproof if you're going to use it in the rain or sea spray. 🤔🤔 **or worse.**

Quote from: Housedad on May 30, 2019, 10:53:43 pm

This idea of getting more and more test equipment all the time is really putting a cramp on the room I have available. I can see that I will have TESLA syndrome really bad in the future if this keeps up. The addition to TEA is powerful I don't know if I could ever overcome the withdrawal symptoms.

TESLA quickly resolves into **JENGA**. No problem. 🤔

Quote from: wch on May 30, 2019, 11:02:34 pm

Quote from: bd139 on May 30, 2019, 10:59:59 pm

I've taken to having a "tidy bench policy". I've got a 12 way block under the bench and only get gear out I need to do a specific job now.

Same thing here. I have several pieces of gear on the bench that I use all the time. If I need anything else, I set it up and when I am done, take it down and put it away. My work area is too small to do anything else.

EDIT: And lest I sound a bit too self-satisfied about how neat and tidy I am, I should mention that the floor on one side of the workroom is strewn with components I am sorting, inventorying, and bagging. It looks like a bomb went off in the middle of a digikey warehouse. 🤔



Yeah, good luck widdat. My entire living room is occupied with dozens of 55L storage bins strewn from hell to breakfast right now.

Both couches, even the kids' play table. 🤔 I'm trying to power through one major **JENGA** obstruction before both my kids are up my butt for the summer. 😬

mnem

RIDE THE WALRUS!!!

Reply Quote Notify

11 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread

« Message by mnementh on May 21, 2019, 03:50:42 pm »

Things that make you go "Hmmmmmm..."



↑ Currently sorting the contents of ONE small (approx 2 gallons volume) box from the **JENGA** in my garage and wondering:

"WHY THE EFF did I spend real MONEY on THIS?" ↓



mnem



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12 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread

« Message by mnementh on May 08, 2019, 03:25:01 am »

Quote from: Brumby on May 08, 2019, 02:00:03 am

Quote from: wch on May 07, 2019, 11:17:06 pm

I have a one tub rule: one of AC power cords, one of DC power supplies, one of air variable caps, one of USB/DIN/data cables, and so on. It forces me give something away before adding something when the tub is full. Or, of course, subdivide a tub so that the USB/DIN/data tub becomes three without breaking my one tub rule.



I have exactly the same rule - with one additional control: The allocated shelving space is constant. This results in a choice of what to discard in order to make room in any given container -OR- to identify which other n containers can be reorganised into $n-1$ to allow for the meiosis.

The alternative of adding extra shelf space comes under the heading of "major project" - and is treated appropriately.

I GENERALLY try to keep to a similar constraint. Except this move hosed me, when several of my tubs were inextricably **JENGA**'d; I just gave up and started new tubs. And you know how it is with LVDS, AC Power, Analog & Networking cables and power packs... as

soon as you let the universe know you have such a vacuum (by buying tubs for them) it rushes to fill that vacuum. 😂

mnem

hears the siren call of Hypnos and obeys

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13 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread

« Message by mnementh on May 04, 2019, 01:28:05 pm »

Quote from: Housedad on May 04, 2019, 08:02:53 am

Quote from: mnementh on May 04, 2019, 12:52:12 am

Same story here.

Garage has reached critical mass; it's fighting me with all it's got. If I can just power through a few more hot sticky afternoons, I'll make it to the downhill side; where I actually have enough room to work and get shit DONE.

Almost there. ALMOST.

mnem



My garage is my windmill. I attack it savagely and repeatedly, but it sits solomly, watching my meaningless frustrations with a grim humor, knowing full well that I will just undo my efforts with equal unwitting abandon.

This has been me for over a year; that's how long I've been hoeing out the house, planning on this move. Every time I make a dent, the space gets filled with something moved from another location. Every time I need to get to work in the garage, I usually have to start by hauling several hand-truckloads elsewhere.

I have been pretty much constantly fighting **The Battle of JENGA** for over a year, often with two or more aspects concurrently on different fronts:

Quote from: TEA Glossary

[J-L] **JENGA: JENGA** is a single term encompassing a constellation of disorderly disorders:

(1) Junk Engulfing Nearby Garage Areas - wherein all garage space is subject to a constantly moving and contested scrimmage line.

(2) Junk Encroaching Nonpermissible General Areas - Usually defined by other household members and their "need" to use nonessential spaces like living rooms, kitchens and bathrooms.

(3) Junk Engulfing Nonvertical Geometric Areas - the inevitable spontaneous accumulation of all manner of tools and junk on any available table-like horizontal surface.

(4) Junk Emigrating Non-Garage Areas - the inexplicable migration of entire stacks to other rooms, often discovered by other household members with a hand truck still underneath.

(5) Junk Engulfing Nonhorizontal Growth Areas - the accumulation of box-shaped objects stacked from floor to ceiling, and the inevitable need to remove one object from the middle of the stack without all of it falling down on your head.

So when I say I think I may have actually reached the tipping point (and not just in tipping fees 😊), it is a truly monumental change in status.

Not just "I can see it!" but rather "I am nearly THERE!!!" 🙌😊

To give you some idea: I not only reached my motorcycle that hasn't run in a decade, I was actually able to lay hands on it yesterday. And shockingly, I had absolutely no desire to stop and fondle it in any way; I just wanted to get to what was underneath it.

I call THAT real progress; on a number of fronts. 🙌😊

mnem

Suck THAT, hoarding instinct.

Reply Quote Notify

14 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread

« Message by mnementh on March 26, 2019, 10:15:18 pm »

Effing eBay...

So, after like 5 messages (10 total) back & forth, I finally get an offer of a \$10 refund on my [\\$58 Octa-core Processor](#) that arrived 5

days later than the "Fast & Free Guaranteed 4-Day shipping".

I was thinking 20%... which is like \$12... before I had to explain the same thing 3 times to 4 different people. But the part of me that didn't get to play with it over the weekend is still severely pissed and still feels hosed.

However... that part of me also REALLY wants to play with it, now that it has finally ARRIVED. 🤖

I'm just fucking exhausted; today has been a day of going around and around in circles and getting nothing accomplished because of that stupid car accident last week and the insurance and the adjuster and the collision center and the effing car rental not being able to all get their shit together.

What was supposed to be "Oh, we can do this any time; whenever it's convenient for you!" (Imagine that said several times in a voice so cheerful-chirpy you wanna strangle someone 😏) became a whole morning/afternoon of phone-tag & **Scheduling-Conflict Jenga** ultimately resulting in "We can schedule this for you tomorrow at 9:00 AM!"... when my wife decided this morning that TODAY was when she could trade vehicles with me. 🤦

So... back to my original misery... Whaddaya-all think? Take the money and run... go play with my new Octa-Core? Or is that just my exhaustion talking and I should hold out for more, considering the amount of BS involved?

mnem

And of course, she gave me the car dead on [E] 🚗

Reply Quote Notify

15 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread

« Message by bitseeker on March 19, 2019, 01:59:49 am »

Quote from: Specmaster on March 18, 2019, 01:35:53 pm

Quote from: mnementh on March 18, 2019, 01:31:13 pm

Quote from: beanflying on March 18, 2019, 07:55:50 am

Anyone not see their names here 🤖

The following users thanked this post: all_repair, TiN, videobruce, StuUK, hammy, xrunner, JoeO, AF6LJ, tautech, saposoft, zucca, RJFreeman, blueskull, Brumby, nugglix, sixtimesseven, gnavigator1007, jakeisprobably, mnementh, neo, Daruosha, AlanS, CalMachine, bjcuizon, frozenfrogz, Jacon, Electro Detective, cosenmarco, bd139, CNe7532294, beanflying, imo, Manuauto, tardsat, Kosmic, umbro, slbender, Oculus, Specmaster + the formally recalcitrant ones: **Oculus, Specmaster, Cerebus**

sigh *Miss your wit, ya cagey ol' reprobate. *Raises a glass of Apricot brandy to absent friends**

mnem

*toddles off to do battle with the **JENGA-fied Garage of Doom***

I second that, it was quite a jousting match between the pair of at time, and I loved the short comic strip you did 🤖

Yeah, good times. *joins in the glass raising*

Reply Quote Notify

16 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread

« Message by mnementh on March 18, 2019, 01:31:13 pm »

Quote from: beanflying on March 18, 2019, 07:55:50 am

Anyone not see their names here 🤖

The following users thanked this post: all_repair, TiN, videobruce, StuUK, hammy, xrunner, JoeO, AF6LJ, tautech, saposoft, zucca, RJFreeman, blueskull, Brumby, nugglix, sixtimesseven, gnavigator1007, jakeisprobably, mnementh, neo, Daruosha, AlanS, CalMachine, bjcuizon, frozenfrogz, Jacon, Electro Detective, cosenmarco, bd139, CNe7532294, beanflying, imo, Manuauto, tardsat, Kosmic, umbro, slbender, Oculus, Specmaster + the formally recalcitrant ones: **Oculus, Specmaster, Cerebus**

sigh *Miss your wit, ya cagey ol' reprobate. *Raises a glass of Apricot brandy to absent friends**

mnem

*toddles off to do battle with the **JENGA-fied Garage of Doom***

Reply Quote Notify

17 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread

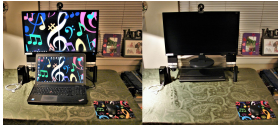
« Message by mnementh on January 11, 2019, 02:16:34 pm »

Quote from: Inverted18650 on January 11, 2019, 05:51:26 am

Quote from: mnementh on January 11, 2019, 04:11:01 am

Quote from: Specmaster on January 08, 2019, 04:31:34 pm

I Like it a lot, please post a photo to show how the screen aligns with the monitor as I'm not quite seeing it myself, the legs don't look long enough to me 🤔



Here's what it looks like deployed with Extended Desktop in over/under mode. the nice thing with Win10 is it allows you to actually place the monitors in their real relationship. If you have them centered like here, it scales your cursor hand-off points against that map. If you left justify, it'll scale the cursor hand-off for that map. Very organic.

Quote from: beanflying on January 10, 2019, 10:30:09 pm

Quote from: mnementh on January 10, 2019, 09:57:32 pm

Just a quick note on the way down during a most critical HALO jump:

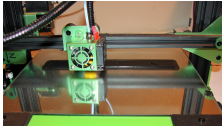
Printing...

mnem

Back to the SWMBO Xmas Laptop Deployment

Time to start 3DPA 🤖

Deployment successful, under budget and no collateral damage; making my way to the extraction point for debriefing with SWMBO. I believe I may get off KP duty with this one. 😊



Today's 3DP objectives not yet met; I keep having problems with lift-up, even with a full brim after scraping AND scrubbing with alcohol and fresh paper towels til it squeaks. I gave up and tried again with hairspray. We'll see.

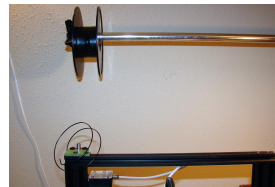
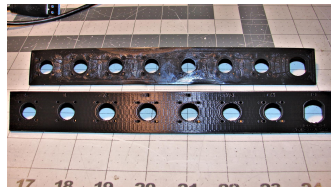
mnem

Toddling off to ded

Request for KP push denied. Use a heat gun to warm the bed adequately and as long as its clean, you wont need anything else. I used painters tape for along time, then saw the heat gun trick in a YT video. Next jump will be LALO so pack light and bring your fins, extraction will be 2.5k up the beach head.



Debrief with SWMBO was rousing success; I got VERY little sleep last night. I went from "KP until the end of time" to "SuperMan" in one fell swoop. 😊



Suggestions on secondary target duly noted... but be advised, bed is 120VAC HOT, and I track actual conditions on the ground with IR thermo before final commit on sortie. I called in heavy hair support as backup; unfriendlies have been neutralized with a minimum of overspray, and target has been acquired. 😊

It was a judgement call, and I made it. Same as I did estimating my remaining filament. 🤖

I may make one more mopup run this afternoon at 10 microns after I check and tighten all my rollers; see if I can get rid of that ghosting and make the legends a little more legible. Ghosting is VERY bad since I pulled drafting table away from wall because kids complained they couldn't sleep with it running a foot away from their bed. 🤖 Textbook BOT / Type 2 JENGA "local color" in this engagement. 🤖

mnem



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18 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread

« Message by mnementh on December 01, 2018, 04:57:56 am »

Sounds like a textbook case of TETRIS, with a little JENGA engagement as well... 🤪

mnem

"If it weren't for tangents, I'd have no place to go." ~ me

Reply Quote Notify

19 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread

« Message by Specmaster on November 02, 2018, 05:26:00 pm »

Quote from: mnementh on November 02, 2018, 05:18:44 pm

In Other News...



While hunting a cheap bedframe for separating my kids to their own rooms recently cleared of JENGA, I stumbled across this Circa 1980 **Canon L813 II** in the Good/Badwill for the princely sum of \$1.98. Sure, not a classic HP or Burroughs, but I'll tell you, at tax time a couple weeks ago I was WISHING for a little desktop 4-banger w/mem like this and all I had were my collection of pocket-format scientific and graphing calcs. I glommed onto it without hesitation just like I did my Fluke 189. 🤪

After wiping the whole thing down with 50% alcohol and an old towel, then scrubbing the keys with a toothbrush moistened in the same, it was looking pretty fair overall with just rotted battery foam and feet which died a black marshmallowy death decades ago.

A little silicone-came on a scrap of foam from my "Random Bits o' Plastic" bin, and a little more to lock down some Futaba servo grommets as replacements for the feet and I was ready to detail the top. A quick blast with my favorite [CRC 03040 Food-grade Silicone Spray](#) and all the keys were like-new silky smooth again, with the oversized [0] and [=] just a little rattly as they always are.

It's old enough to still have decent hard keys over silicone membrane and the action is medium-firm with no detent, but action is smooth and no flaky keys. Keys are overmolded in high relief such that you can feel the symbol under your fingertips, and the slightly rattly action is comfortingly familiar. Actually, that's the feeling of the whole thing; from the visibly low-mileage VFD to the slightly-red beige of the ABS shell, it's all comfortingly familiar. And that's just awesome to me. 🤪

It has algebraic logic with Float, AVG 0/2/4, and Force 2 decimal place logic, plus tabulation with Auto-Memory. While the VFD does have the combi-comma built in, unfortunately I couldn't find any way to enable the warm fuzzy old-fashioned thousands count; I guess that was something they omitted to modernize when they facelifted it for the **II** model revision.

Added bonus it is designed to run on NiCds, so I can be green with no "Dim Display Syndrome" or "5-Minute Functional Use Disorder". 🙌🙌

Anyhoo... This little arithmetic beast will be proudly stationed on my desk til doomsday; y'all can TRY and pry it from my cold dead claws! 😈

mnem

"Muahahahaha!!!"

I love calculators of that type and the green display is both restful and highly readable.

Reply Quote Notify

20 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread

« Message by mnementh on November 02, 2018, 05:18:44 pm »

In Other News...



While hunting a cheap bedframe for separating my kids to their own rooms recently cleared of **JENGA**, I stumbled across this Circa 1980 **Canon L813 II** in the Good/Badwill for the princely sum of \$1.98, all the main parts and no alkali crusties in the battery bay. Sure, not a classic HP or Burroughs, but I'll tell you, at tax time a couple weeks ago I was WISHING for a little desktop 4-banger w/mem like this and all I had were my collection of pocket-format scientific and graphing calcs. I glommed onto it without hesitation just like I did my Fluke 189. 🙌

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Anyhoo... This little arithmetic beast will now be proudly stationed on my desk til doomsday; y'all can TRY and pry it from my cold dead claws! 🙄

mnem

"Muahahahaha!!!"

Reply Quote Notify

21 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread

« Message by mnementh on November 02, 2018, 03:40:20 pm »

Quote from: Oculus on November 02, 2018, 05:36:19 am



I scored a Tek P6201 FET probe very cheap on ebay. It has it's case with only one compensating tip, a slip on spring tip, and an IC tip. I opened it up and examined the PCBs and there's no outward sign of any magic smoke escaping despite having an equipment deviation sticker, so I'm optimistic it might work (or can be made to work) once I have a power supply for these probes. I have another one on the way that is the complete kit. 🙄 and hopefully not 🙄

Oooh... that is an excellent specimen of Tektronix TEA with a delicious side of NSA right there... *drool* 🙄

Quote from: Brumby on November 02, 2018, 09:49:49 am

Quote from: mnementh on November 02, 2018, 02:03:57 am

Yeah... be careful. Had a neighbor got sued and ticketed for "Endangering the public safety" for a similar gag because some yo-yo bint knocking on doors for the HOA SWORE he tried to electrocute her. 🙄 He had to hire experts and defend himself and explain to a courtroom and a less-than-brilliant judge that it was a harmless vibrator, that there was ZERO electrocution potential involved.

I could say "party pooper" - but your point is well taken.

The truth of the matter is that I would likely get vetoed by SWMBO - if I were to dare suggest it. It is much safer to share such ideas within the confines of a group who can appreciate the potential.

Absolutely! This is the only proper place for such discussion! 🙄

Just as I can sit here and lovingly caress the little hand-rubbed oaken plaque with buttons labeled "**Intercom**", "**Trap Door**", "**Lasers**", "**Sharks**", and "**Laser Sharks**"... but I don't dare connect them to anything... or even post a picture. 🙄

Quote from: med6753 on November 02, 2018, 10:43:34 am

Well, this Rigol DM3058E DMM is defective right out of the box. The LCD display flashed once and then went dark. Both backlight and display. Looks like something blew in the power supply. I bought from Amazon and 3rd party seller Tequipment. Sent them an e-mail that it's defective and I want a replacement. We'll see what happens.

And then my coffeemaker overflowed this morning. 🙄 WTF! Not a good day so far. 🙄

Could it be something as stupid as being accidentally set to 220V? 🙄

Quote from: bd139 on November 02, 2018, 11:35:31 am

On the subject of DMMs a £20 8010A just landed in my lap this morning. Will test it later. Too busy now 🙄 Display looks good though for once.

Only 3.5 digits... but for 20 clams, how can you say no. 🙄

Quote from: med6753 on November 02, 2018, 02:33:23 pm



Landlord finally poured the slab in the 3 bay barn and I will be taking this bay for one of my cars. And how is this TEA related? I will also be able to install shelves and move the lumber, power tools, automotive stuff such as ramps out of the back bedroom walk in closet which will allow me to put the scope cart in there plus tons of room for more TEA! 🙄🙄

<https://youtu.be/3qYbVQu7YAAQ>

And so... it begins. The final epic battle with **JENGA** in all its 5 aspects, each more horrifying than the last... 🙄

mnem

Says a prayer to Ifni for med's soul

Reply Quote Notify

22 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread

« Message by **mnementh** on October 30, 2018, 05:25:16 pm »

Just teasing. Been fighting the battle of **JENGA** mountain. Scary what you find... 🤪

mnem

<https://youtu.be/aAT7u5ivGCA>

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23 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread

« Message by **mnementh** on October 28, 2018, 04:44:51 am »

I find myself drowning in **JENGA** at the moment... pretty much all aspects of the term are kicking my ass tag-team style.

Worst part is, I know it's going to get a lot worse before it gets better, as I've finally started disassembling **JENGA** in the garage to bring inside for triage and final judgement/disposition.

How the FU** did I accumulate 4 (yes FOUR) vacuum gauge/Bourdon tube manometers and not KNOW it? 🤪

mnem

"Of all the things I've lost; it's my mind I miss the most."

Reply Quote Notify

24 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread

« Message by **Brumby** on October 28, 2018, 01:31:51 am »

Quote from: **tggzzz** on October 27, 2018, 07:20:38 pm

Quote from: **g0mgx** on October 27, 2018, 04:21:07 pm

So today I need to officially join the ranks of TEA.

I just bought my number 8 vintage TEK 'scope (to go with the 7 I already have that I dont use). These vintage 'scopes look great next to the 3 digital 'scopes I have..... and the 3 spectrum analysers..... and the signal generators....

How do I make the first step in recovery?

Oh, that's easy. The first step is to admit the problem. The second step is to remove temptation and signal (to yourself) that you are on the road to recovery. That can be achieved either by culling the herd or by increasing the genetic diversity of the equipment.

If you have any problems with the latter, I'm not too far from Belper to offer help.

A somewhat self-serving, opportunistic offer. (Just jealous that I'm too far away to make it myself.)

The secret here is the definition of "recovery". There is only one that has any real meaning within this thread... **Recovery** is defined as the process of moving past any negative effects of TEA activities, allowing the progression to the next activity. These effects include - but are not limited to - BCCS, DBA, BOT, BUSTED, CAF, CAFE, CAP and, to a lesser extent, **JENGA**, RAM and TETRIS.

Welcome!

Reply Quote Notify

25 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread

« Message by **mnementh** on September 08, 2018, 04:27:40 am »

Quote from: **bd139** on September 07, 2018, 06:13:07 am

@mnem: you have thoroughly put me off 3d printing now 🤪

Been talking with some folks who know their stuff; the driver current rabbit-hole I went down the other day... was the answer/cause.

Y-axis shift in my case almost certainly caused by lack of proper adjustment therein; have found some recommended settings for the Tornado and the drivers I have that I've been able to corroborate with several sources.

The paradigm shift I was talking about was going to be moving the printer into another room; I've been emptying stuff out of my old office, then sorting it, then putting the sorted bins back in one corner. Things have gotten pretty chaotic in there. BUT... (butt?) if I get my butt in there and work on it for an afternoon, which I need to do but have been putting off for over a month, I'll have more

than enough room to set the printer up on one of my old drafting tables in there.

This is where the UPS comes in... the whole reason I set up on my bench was because of being able to plug into my monster UPS that the TV, cable modem & router, my PC etc are plugged into. I wanted to see if one of a smaller UPS I have would power it; but alas, while it does have sufficient current capacity, at high load (with bed & hotend heating) the output turns very ragged and makes the controller freak out.

So it's time for me to drop back & punt... Now I've got the driver current set, the printer is MUCH noisier. So it NEEDS to be out of the corner now. Guess my only solution now is going to be to live with a extension cord strung through to that room when I'm doing multi-day prints during storm season. 🙄

Quote from: bitseeker on September 07, 2018, 06:46:38 am

Yeah, "cart" wasn't the right word. Definitely don't want wheels on it. In any case, a more true-to-TEA solution would be to put the printer on top of a stack of



I had it on my bench for just that reason. I suppose I could go face the wall of **JENGA** in the garage and find enough old gear to stack it on; then it'd look like I made some progress on that front... 🐱

mnem

It is sometimes more important to appear to be making progress than to actually do so.

[Reply](#) [Quote](#) [Notify](#)

26 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread

« Message by **Specmaster** on August 30, 2018, 07:42:39 am »

Quote from: mnementh on August 30, 2018, 02:30:39 am

Quote from: Mr. Scram on August 30, 2018, 12:23:30 am

That lab in the background looks much too clean!

That, sir, is one of my walls of **JENGA**; which I am actually in process of dismantling "brick" by "brick". On the other side of that wall is the laundry and a 1982 Yamaha Maxim on a motorcycle lift. Before that sees the light of day, I shall have to mine through ~5 meters of said **JENGA**, then fight my way past a 2.4 Ecotec engine, the Wubb Club Big Box o' Fun[emoji769], gardening tools and recycle /trash bins. 🙄

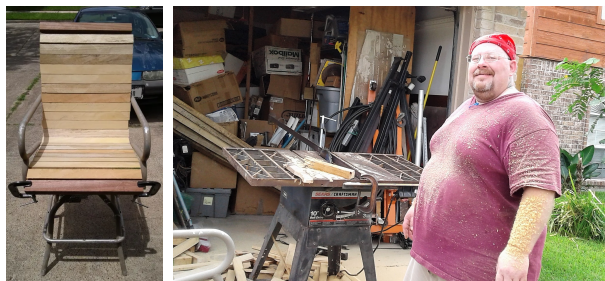
Quote from: Cerebus on August 30, 2018, 12:52:05 am

Quote from: mnementh on August 30, 2018, 12:16:45 am

I think I have that much stuck to my forearms... 🙄

I have a set of cocobolo guitar backs and sides. Cocobolo is very hard and very resinous wood. The wood arrives sawn and needs reducing to final thickness. Normally you'd just take a plane to it and be done. The cocobolo wouldn't play, my plane blunted in about five swipes and after quite a bit of plane fettling I had to take the ignominious route of just sanding it to thickness, about $\frac{1}{16}$ " off each face of each piece. The resulting sawdust was very fine and very sticky, even with a vacuum line directly on the sander I still ended up covered head to foot and I'm still finding cocobolo dust in the crevices of any tools I had out that day.

The battle was so exhausting that the wood went into the 'ongoing projects' pile and it really is about time that I dug it out and finished that guitar.



That pic was from my "recycled tropical hardwood for recycled patio chairs cut on a recycled table saw" project this spring. I got all the slats cut for two chairs, then the hot & humid weather hit.

I have a couple lengths of the darker wood I need to make foot rungs and armrests out of, and all the slats need to be routed with a 3/8" roundover, but I haven't built the "recycled wood and recycled routers" router table. I'll have another few weeks here soon when I COULD finish them; not sure if I'll have time with the current hoeing-out.

Alternately, I may just clamp a 4x4 to the deck and try routing them on my drill press... it is geared way high for metal, so might be just fast enough.

mnem

I believe I hear a bed calling my name...

Haha, I can keep you company there, I have a similar wall of **Jenga** in my garage to do battle with but not in the warm humid weather. I go out with the intention of being ruthless and skipping most of it. That never happens though because a lot of the stuff was my late mother's and apart from being either new and possibly useful or used useful added to sentimental so not much goes. [emoji53]

Reply Quote Notify

27 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread

« Message by **mnementh** on August 30, 2018, 02:30:39 am »

Quote from: **Mr. Scram** on August 30, 2018, 12:23:30 am

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Quote from: **Cerebus** on August 30, 2018, 12:52:05 am

Quote from: **mnementh** on August 30, 2018, 12:16:45 am

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mnem

I believe I hear a bed calling my name...

Reply Quote Notify

28 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread

« Message by **factory** on August 29, 2018, 08:06:56 pm »

Quote from: **bd139** on August 29, 2018, 06:33:43 pm

Boat anchor alert. Tektronix time mark generator UK pick up Christchurch

<https://rover.ebay.com/rover/0/0/0?mpre=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ebay.co.uk%2Fulk%2Fitm%2F283129809294>

Don't think I can afford to run that 🙄

Nice find, I missed out on the smaller version to that Tek TMG a few years ago, couldn't get into the surplus rally quick enough. Sadly that one's bit far away for me and I can't move at the moment in the shed, been having to use the Kitchen worktop as a

temporary bench recently followed by some **JENGA** to retrieve TED's.

David

Reply Quote Notify

29 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread

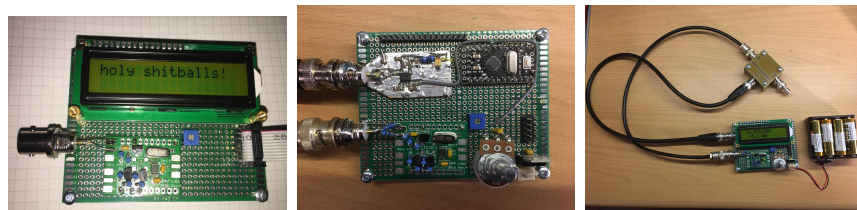
« Message by **mnementh** on August 14, 2018, 01:16:12 pm »

Quote from: bd139 on August 12, 2018, 09:55:13 pm

Ok had another "I'll be screwed if I'm paying for something" moment and made another piece of test gear. It's Sunday so this is a "was made from crap lying around" project. I need an antenna analyser as I can't take my TDS210 and DG1022Z out without an inverter and massive car battery which is just stupid.

VU2ESE knocked up a design called a sweeperino which is an arduino, synthesizer and power meter that allows you to fart a signal out and then measure returned power. Basically a scalar network analyser, with some caveats but meh. I happen to have the wrong synthesizer IC dev board lying around, an Si5351, a arduino pro mini, a shitty LCR meter I didn't like and a power meter I built ages ago as a prototype for another one. So frankensweeper it is.

Early win... arduino, LCD and synthesizer IC. The synthesizer IC, the Si5351 is pretty damn cool and will quite happily hit 200MHz. I used it for a bit as a 2m CW transmitter on 144MHz by plugging in an antenna directly into it and stepping frequency and walking around the house excitedly jumping around making whooping noises as it worked. Then I limped down the road and it was still readable after about 500m. Then my foot hurt so I went back home. I might use one with an LPF and simple PA to build a little morse beacon. Really cool little IC and costs bugger all. LCD salvaged from LCR meter (which was a piece of shite if there ever was one). New hello world (deadpool 2 reference)...



Further down the line it got the power sensor (recycled), a control pot and a 7805 so I can run it off a 12v SLA or an AA pack:

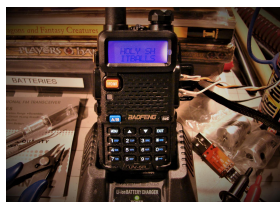
I think it took an hour to rip out all the shite code, fix the frequency conversion stuff, wire in the Si5351 library (properly) and calibrate the frequency. I still haven't done the power calibration as it's too late and I'm too tired now but it mostly works! Showing (nearly) a 6dB loss on the RLB which is correct as it's also known as a 6dB hybrid. Phew...

Now the only dick about it is as it's a clock gen IC rather than a DDS with niceties such as aliasing filters, it has harmonic spurs so you have to think carefully about what it's telling you. It's good enough to use with the RLB to tune up an antenna though.

Edit: credit to VU2ESE (Farhan of bitx and hfsignals fame) for the basic idea and half of the code.

Quote from: bd139 on August 14, 2018, 08:10:08 am

Quote from: mnementh on August 14, 2018, 04:56:21 am



In other News...

Ok had another "I'll be screwed if I'm paying for something" moment and made another adapter. It's Monday (I hate Mondays, so why not just pile on the misery) so this is a "was made from crap lying around" project. I need to get CHIRP going as my new Baofeng UV-5R from Banggood just arrived and otherwise I'd have to wait for the cable to show up too, which is just stupid.

Some (!)user on the qrz forums knocked up a diagram using an FTDI that allows you to fart a TTL signal out and read back from the radio. Basically a SERVO cable with some soldering, but meh. I happen to have a dozen or so FTDIs in different flavors from every flight controller you can imagine, and plugs off some shitty headphones I didn't like and a power adapter I set fire to "accidentally on purpose" because it was noisy as hell and was a piece of shit if I ever did see one. So frankenserial it is.

A little while and some love-nips from my MetCal later and I have what looks like it'll work. I double, then triple-check the pinout against the diagram, then plug it in the USB and make sure the signed drivers from SiLabs install. I get a VCOM on port 4, so I fire up CHIRP and try to read from the radio and... NOTHING. Go back and check the wiring yet AGAIN. Nope... it's right. At first I'm like "Did I grab a eukered FTDI?", but no... I make it a habit to smash ANY dead serial adapter to bits with a hammer (took great pleasure in doing that to a dozen or so clone ones back when SiLabs bricked them all) so I'm NEVER tempted to try and use it again.

The cynic in me says "You know this is info from the intard-net. How much you wanna bet..." but I'm already swapping TX and RX, so he shuts up.

Try it again and winner, winner, chicken dinner. We have comms! My inner cynic crosses his arms and grins smugly, but he knows to keep his mouth shut while I'm trying to figure out new software. Of course later he'll nag me to death until I fix that effed-up diagram...

Turns out CHIRP was written by marginally sane people who actually put things together sensibly; once I figured out how the memory slot offset thing worked, I had all the default US FRS, Marine & NOAA channels stacked up, then I poked around to see what else I could fuck up... and whaddayooKNOW! A tiny 7-char + 7-char splash message!

Did I really have ANY choice about what to put there?!?



mnm

Yes, this should feel uncomfortably familiar.

Splash message was the first thing I set up on mine 🤪

That's probably much better than the official serial cable as well which requires you to pretty much dry hump it in or it barely works 😞

I figured since I was copying your gag, I'd pretty much just lift your entire narrative style lock, stock & two smoking barrels. Whenever I read one of your posts like this one, I always hear it in my grandfather's deep, brown Arkansas drawl. Yes, that's a compliment; he was a master machinist during and after the war with a right devilish sense of humor. 🤪

Oh, yeah... once I got TX/RX right, it connects painlessly; those siamesed plugs always annoyed the hell outta me. They work fine on 1/4" phono plugs which have a millimeter or two of tolerance, but when you try to shrink them down and make them cheap, then they don't want to align right or make good connection. feh.

Quote from: Specmaster on August 14, 2018, 08:18:59 am

Ooh that smarts and it chaffs 🤪

(chafes?) Hells yeah! SHAVE 'EM DRY!!! 🤪

Quote from: med6753 on August 14, 2018, 09:32:22 am

Quote from: neo on August 14, 2018, 01:46:49 am

Just a quick question, if you lot were designing a bench for true boat anchors, as well as just a general work table, how much would you design it to hold without sagging?

Hypothetically for this question lets say that you got a barn full of wood in your back yard that needs used.

EDIT to add;

This is completely related, this is hypothetical table is for boat anchors!

Build it strong. My bench dimensions are 5 ft (152 cm) X 2 ft (61 cm). The top is 3/4 inch plywood topped with 1 inch (3/4 inch actual dimension) pine boards. It can safely support in excess of 200 pounds (90 kg) with ease. If I didn't have the upper shelf unit on it there would be plenty of room for the biggest boatanchor.



.....

When you say "strong" this is where I start. These are warehouse "pallet racks" and I've seen them used to hold up cars and trucks. As in multiple. They're available from 30" to 52" deep in standard sizes, and standard sizes start in 4' wide up to 12' wide. They are fully modular; you can add onto either end with just a set of rungs and another frame piece. You can often find them for scrap metal prices at liquidation auctions; otherwise pretty much any large city will have a ["warehouse supply"](#) with used ones for about 1/4- 1/8 the price of new, depending on how ugly you can put up with.

I've bought 8' x 6' x 30" deep units many times to build work benches; a 3-layer unit can usually be had used for \$200-400 used

from these guys. A little grinder abuse, some fresh paint and you're ready to lay down plywood. I've built similar from scratch, and truth is, the material costs more than you can buy these things for.

My "mobile bench" is one of these motorcycle lifts (I stole mine for \$125 when HFT was blowing out the air-powered models at a parking lot sale) with a piece of industrial countertop (think 1 1/2" plywood with 1/8" thick laminate) across it; I built it back in the day when I was doing repair work and projection TVs were still worth good money. I'd show you a pic, unfortunately right now has a motorcycle on it and is buried behind a moving wall of **JENGA**. 🤔 One of these days I'll unearth it again...

Quote from: nixiefreqq on August 14, 2018, 12:48:53 pm

Quote from: med6753 on August 14, 2018, 09:53:39 am

I think our official motto should be "Holy Shitballs!" 🤔 What say the group?

the exclamatory form is not bad....."Holy Shitballs!". but might we consider the interrogative....."Holy Shitballs?" the simple declarative IS kinda' piss weak....."holy shitballs."



mnem

Great... now I've got **"Holy Shitballs!"** sung to the tune of "Ride of the Valkyries" stuck in my head...

[Reply](#) [Quote](#) [Notify](#)

30 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread

« Message by **mnementh** on July 29, 2018, 05:54:07 pm »

Quote from: tggzzz on July 29, 2018, 01:53:44 pm

Today's hamfest wasn't as interesting as before; the only "interesting" items were some tasty switches - that I don't need.

Now, what should I do with them?

QUITE tasty.

Capacitor substitution boxes. One for electrolytics, one for ceramic disc and one for MLCCs. Make 'em all in shielded enclosure/enclosures.

Quote from: bd139 on July 29, 2018, 02:54:22 pm

Quote from: Specmaster on July 29, 2018, 02:28:15 pm

Interesting, there's plenty of happy users on YouTube and other forums, even ours and I don't think if I went for one that I'm ever likely to be firing up any TX close by let alone a 50 Watt one.

Its just that I could actually get a new one for not too much to replace the Hitachi (freeing up some space) and I'd get the benefit of a warranty in the UK and Amazon have them on prime.

It's worth saving up a little more and getting a DS1054Z if you're going to do that IMHO.

Also don't forget that Amazon's Prime warranty is virtually non existent if it is just "fulfilled by amazon"

Quote from: tggzzz on July 29, 2018, 02:38:07 pm

Quote from: t99222 on July 23, 2018, 02:58:07 pm

I saw someone exiting with what *might* have been a Philips EE "toy" set from the 1960s. I still have the manual, some of the springs, and a few transistors (AF116 etc).

The contact resistance is <1mOhm, which is right on the limit of any of my instruments and measurement technique.

Those EE sets were pretty good. AF116 is probably dead now. Damn tin whiskers ate a lot of them.



That is exactly what I learned when I went reasearching cheap DSOs a couple years ago; that while these were all cheap-ass 'scopes, there were distinct levels of "cheap-ass" and the DS1054Z was about as low as you could go and still be a usable tool for anything more than AF. At that level, it is considerably more bang for the buck than the Hantek offerings; hands-down.



I grew up with the 160-in-1; I was 12-ish or so and my mother and I saved up together for it (this was my childhood in McKeesport; we were very poor, and it was for reals a big "discretionary expenditure"); I remember building the "crystal" radio (okay, ge AM detector and crystal earphone) and all I could receive was evangelist radio and Howard Stern between ball games. Even at that tender age, I knew he was a putz. 😏

But I learned a lot from that box; like how easy it was to kill LEDs and transistors, and that resistors are our friends. 🤔 I later found a 75-in-1 (not a lot of difference between the two, really) at a neighbor's yard sale; spent two whole week's allowance on it and happily ignored the Px with its penny candy aisle for most of the next month replacing the missing bits. I later hacked the crystal earphones from both kits into a stereo set with RCA plugs so I could listen to mom's old 8-track deck in bed... 😊



Interesting that our conversation should go here at just this time; as I just uncovered a very special box from a protected spot under my motorcycle... *Cue flashiebackie sound effect*

Fast forward 30 years to when my wife was pregnant with our son; I stumbled across 2 of the later "Electronics Learning Lab" kits at a church sale. These were the last kit Forrest Mims had a hand in; and it was obvious that he had a bug up his arse to do something of value with that legacy. It's a much more capable kit in every way; with a proper (if small) breadboard kit and actual digital logic study work as well. They have been carefully stored away in a box through 3 moves, and I've "augmented" them with several randomly acquired "grab bags" and "learning kits" from Jameco and Acme. I'm hoping to add my collection of Mims' Engineer Notebooks and several random "Build-It" kits I know are in "the Mountains of JENGA" somewhere...

He is ALMOST old enough... ALMOST. *wibble*

Quote from: nixiefreq on July 29, 2018, 05:27:41 pm

Quote from: mnemeth on July 29, 2018, 03:14:43 am

Comparative analysis is a valid troubleshooting technique; one I've been guilty of more than a few times. As long as substitution doesn't become your only repair method, there's no shame in using it as a diagnostic tool.

Just because I'm capable of component-level repair doesn't make me feel obligated to do it that way every time; my time IS worth something, after all. If I can buy a working XYZ board on fleabay for \$20, how much diag time can I afford to spend on the original? Sure... figuring out the fault to repair and stow the original board for a spare is a good idea... if you have discretionary time; but I have a bin full of such boards from the Plasma Screen years that are little more than donors for heat sink material and Tesla coil projects now.

I'd definitely replace all 4 at once to be sure your rectifier array all have similar forward voltage drop. Or better yet, replace all 4 with a modern high-current rectifier in a TO-3PJ package.

But first, look for the flaky cap that probably caused the failure.

[Here's a thread on this power supply](#); it links to a hand-drawn schematic which I've attached below.

Hope that helps.

mnem
tzzzt

the diodes all checked out ok.

started pulling the caps and the 4 out front looked ok and measured ok.

pulled the 4 in the back and oooooops! now that there is the problem.

the black goo eating away at the traces cleaned up with isopropyl and the short went away.

surprised me that the leakers still tested ok with a one button chinese component tester. guess they did not need as much electrolyte as was originally in 'em?

new caps are on order.

thanks nmem!

without your push i'da been tempted to say "well if the easy ones to get out are ok, the harder ones to reach must be ok too."

Glad I could help! Good that it wasn't the diode array at all; means your repair should be relatively painless. Just gonna say... since you have the PSU out replace 'em all, not just the ones that test bad. The ones that test good will follow suit sooner rather than later. 🙌

Years of lurking on the BadCaps forums taught me one thing:

Electrolytic caps are the devil's footsoldiers, and they WILL hide their fallen from you. 10 caps in a row will test good; the last possible one, no 11, will be the one that brought it all crashing down in a hail of sparks and smoke. It's like they're the electronic manifestation of Murphy's Law. 🤖 Trust NO CAPACITOR. EVER. 🤖

mnem

"Murphy's a bitch; and she has puppies." - grand-dad

Reply Quote Notify

31 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread

« Message by mnementh on July 28, 2018, 02:27:00 am »

Quote from: tggzzz on July 27, 2018, 09:41:01 pm

Quote from: mnementh on July 27, 2018, 08:13:26 pm

In Other News...

My archaeological dig through the mountains of **JENGA** has yielded an interesting find; aside from having to follow my own advice to "Triage mercilessly" and dumping out an entire unit of drawers full of assorted electrolytics that I know are at least 20 years old (yes, I'm crying a little inside), I also unearthed a couple drawer units full of vintage semis. IIRC, these came from one of my first repair-shop gigs; I bought out the guy whose bench I took over and all of these were in his personal stores.

I did that with some old caps that I *never* liked. It was only later that I realised how much audiophools pay for Mullard mustard caps.

Yeah, nothing tasty like that. Just a proper boring old assortment of polarized radial electrolytics as one would stock to fix the average VCR, stereo receiver and CD player back in the day. Mostly Rubys, Nichis and a few Pannys mixed in for flavor; that's where the tears came from. I know how much it'll cost me to restock that assortment with similar quality today.

Quote from: bitseeker on July 27, 2018, 11:34:56 pm

Quote from: mnementh on July 27, 2018, 08:13:26 pm

I'm guessing '80-90s era, as I see a lot of **ECG** transistors sorted by ECG number in pairs and Sharp, Toshiba & Fujitsu audio & power amp chips as were commonly used in stereo amps and as motor drivers in VCRs.



Oh, hmmm. I've got a burned out Yamaha receiver in my queue. Haven't yet looked at what transistors it uses or if they're even the parts in question (just a guess that they are).

PM me with some part numbers. I'll take a quick sort and if I've got 'em, I'll drop 'em in an envelope. Pay It Forward, etc don'cha know. 📧

Quote from: Cerebus on July 28, 2018, 12:10:58 am

Quote from: Neomys Sapiens on July 27, 2018, 09:54:54 pm

I can't yet decide whether **'the mountains of JENGA'** remind me more of E.R.Burroughs or Lovecraft. But not a place to visit for the sane-minded, that's quite sure.

The cyclopean shelves of ancient databooks, the unnatural angles displaying on the curve tracer nestling among the tentacle-like test leads, the blinking LEDs on the data-link to the Arkham University Computer Centre...

Yup, it's got to be Lovecraft.

Not far from the truth; I know for a fact in there somewhere are my QUES and TCP/IP textbooks, and at least two issues of the ECG cross-reference. I almost knocked a motorcycle down on my head today while wrestling loose a box overflowing with dusty tomes full of eldritch lore... not even a slight exaggeration, I swear on my momma's scales! 🤪

mnem



This message approved by the Bureau of PreCambrian Defense.

[Reply](#) [Quote](#) [Notify](#)**32 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread**« Message by [Cerebus](#) on July 28, 2018, 12:10:58 am »**Quote from: Neomys Sapiens on July 27, 2018, 09:54:54 pm**

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Yup, it's got to be Lovecraft.

[Reply](#) [Quote](#) [Notify](#)**33 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread**« Message by [Neomys Sapiens](#) on July 27, 2018, 09:54:54 pm »

I can't yet decide whether 'the mountains of **JENGA**' remind me more of E.R.Burroughs or Lovecraft. But not a place to visit for the sane-minded, that's quite sure.

[Reply](#) [Quote](#) [Notify](#)**34 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread**« Message by [tggzzz](#) on July 27, 2018, 09:41:01 pm »**Quote from: mnementh on July 27, 2018, 08:13:26 pm***In Other News...*

My archaeological dig through the mountains of **JENGA** has yielded an interesting find; aside from having to follow my own advice to "Triage mercilessly" and dumping out an entire unit of drawers full of assorted electrolytics that I know are at least 20 years old (yes, I'm crying a little inside), I also unearthed a couple drawer units full of vintage semis. IIRC, these came from one of my first repair-shop gigs; I bought out the guy whose bench I took over and all of these were in his personal stores.

I did that with some old caps that I *never* liked. It was only later that I realised how much audiophools pay for Mullard mustard caps.

[Reply](#) [Quote](#) [Notify](#)**35 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread**« Message by [Berni](#) on July 27, 2018, 09:01:34 pm »

Yep its the unlucky HP 4135B that i ended up with.

You actually have to take the front panel apart this far in order to get the display module out of it. Only then can you get to the vector graphics board that is broken in mine. Figuring out how to get to it was a nightmare without the service manual.

Its gonna be a lovely bit of kit if i get it working. Its a 4 channel SMU that does up to +/- 100V and up to +/- 100mA. Its also capable of measuring currents on all channels down in to the femtoamps. In the end plotting all of this SMU goodness on a graph.

Quote from: mnementh on July 27, 2018, 08:13:26 pm*In Other News...*

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I'm guessing '80-90s era, as I see a lot of **ECG** transistors sorted by ECG number in pairs and Sharp, Toshiba & Fujitsu audio & power amp chips as were commonly used in stereo amps and as motor drivers in VCRs.

Anyways... these haven't seen the light of day since San Antonio and I haven't died for lack of their company, so time for them to go somewhere else. Any of you guys know anyone who's had luck moving large quantities of these kinds of semis? Maybe someone who'd like to buy them out or sell 'em for a percentage?

Ifni save me...

mnem
doggie paddling as hard as I can

Hey you never know when you might need a obscure transistor when fixing a piece of ancient gear. We all know how annoying it is to wait for a replacement part in the mail, if you can even source the part in the first place.

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36 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread

« Message by [mnementh](#) on July 27, 2018, 08:13:26 pm »

In Other News...

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Ifni save me...

mnem
doggie paddling as hard as I can

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37 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread

« Message by [mnementh](#) on July 14, 2018, 01:33:25 am »

Quote from: [pigrew](#) on July 13, 2018, 10:01:35 pm

My University is trashing a bunch of components, and random crap. It makes me sad, and I'm grabbing way too much stuff I'll never use. I'm an addict. I need help.

What are we supposed to do with hundreds of 74S logic ICs, X5S capacitors, AC transformers, and 5% carbon resistors? There doesn't seem to be much of a market anymore, but I do wish the young students would learn how to use this stuff.

I picked up a box of wire wrap sockets, EEPROM programmer, Hall effect current sensors, tantalums, triax cable, stepper motor controller, and 250 lbs of other stuff I'll rarely use.

Maybe I'll be able to give some of it back next semester for the design students to use...

(And how do I post anonymously?)



That's quite the haul... just be mindful that a lot of that old junk is just that; junk. Most non-ceramic caps have a finite lifespan, used or not; and carbon resistors not stored in sealed containers are also suspect, and anything that uses paper as a component like transformers and some controls. Do yourself a favor and triage everything ruthlessly RIGHT NOW, before you get attached to it. Otherwise you'll wind up like me; over 50, up against time for a move with a garage full of **JENGA** ([click to see TEA glossary](#)) you need to sort for the few dozen or so bits that are of actual value.

This stage is inevitable; and it happens before you know it. 🤔

Quote from: bitseeker on July 14, 2018, 01:01:57 am

Quote from: med6753 on July 14, 2018, 12:27:40 am

Quote from: Specmaster on July 14, 2018, 12:14:53 am

This document appears to be corrupted, my MS Office says it can't load it because its corrupted.

It's an Open Office document and MS Office should be able to handle it. Try opening it with something else.

Older MS Word might not support it. I tried it with Word 2013 and it loaded OK. You can install either Open Office or Libre Office. They're both free and support Open Document Format (.odf).

Yeah, Notepad can't handle much of anything. Open Document Format (e.g., .odf) and Office Open XML (e.g., .docx) files are compressed collections of XML files and require a compatible application for user-friendly viewing and editing.

Oh, FFS. 🤔 Here, have some .pdf

mnem
I am not my pants. No, I am not your pants either.

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38 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread

« Message by [mnementh](#) on July 09, 2018, 06:04:07 pm »

Quote from: Specmaster on July 09, 2018, 12:46:14 pm

Quote from: bd139 on July 09, 2018, 12:39:28 pm

That thing has its own ozone hole 🤔

Multimeter problem solved. Ordered a Brymen BM867S from Telonic for a respectable amount less than I would have paid for an 87V. Lets hope it doesn't suck 🤔

That's a good meter, Dave likes Brymen. [emoji106]

Hmmm... I'm not sure Brymen is what I consider to be a name brand... but [Greenlee does rebrand them](#) for sale over here. Looks like the main difference between it and the BM869S is the latter has 20A peak vs 15A for the *67, and the *69 can monitor two temps at once. That's for ~US\$70 more.

But of all the colors in the world to make their case from, they had to pick the same shade as the Horror Fraught **Little Red Box of Damifino**? SERIOUSLY? It makes me cringe just looking at it, and I have the same reaction to my AN8008... no matter how good a meter everybody says it is, my hand wavers every time I reach for it... 🤔

I suppose I could pay the extra dosh for Greenlee green... 🤔

Here's [an article with lots of pics of the insides](#), and [here's the calibration manual](#).

mnem
*Back to the **JENGA***

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39 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread

« Message by [mnementh](#) on July 09, 2018, 02:15:47 am »

Awresome!

I did this job on my daily driver 2465 about 10 years ago... It'll be good to revisit and maybe learn somethin'. I too did mine one cap at a time, even though I DO have the full original printed service manual. That weighty tome is some piece of work, particularly their service and troubleshooting flowcharts; a high-intensity course in high-precision analog electronics in its own right.

I might even order the parts and tackle the SMPS from the NASA 2465; although I do have tons of more pressing matters, it really does bother me having it sitting forlornly in the dark of the back of my closet... even if it is in there with several of its brothers.



mnem

*Currently going toe-to-toe with a garage full of **JENGA***

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40 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread

« Message by [Specmaster](#) on January 29, 2018, 10:16:03 pm »

Quote from: mnementh on January 28, 2018, 03:54:38 am

Quote from: Specmaster on January 27, 2018, 06:01:08 pm

Given that it would appear the seller of the T-Con board via Aliex is a bit suspect, I have now ordered another from another seller on Aliex who assures me that the board is the correct one and identical to the photo I sent so hope they are right and it arrives, cheaper as well.

As for the other one I opening up a dispute directly with Aliex I think, I'm fed up dealing with the seller directly as every-time I contact them I have a feeling of no confidence and it looks like I'm being lied to and have been all along I think.

There are a lot of vendors on AliEx and Taobao who are just listing stuff other vendors have and don't stock a damn thing themselves. When they get your money, they try to buy it from one of the vendors they knew had it for less; most of the time you never know except when that low seller sells out, or for some other reason the "going price" of the item is much higher than you paid and the vendor can't get it for you at your price. Then they play the stalling game/language barrier game/repeating the same questions over and over again game/demanding video-photo-documentation game while they try to find one to fill your order or just ignore you and let the system take the heat.

THOSE are the vendors that torque my turkey, because even if they get oodles of bad feedback, they'll just torch the account and be back with a new store name a week later.

Good you have one on the way; hope it really happens so no TETRIS or **JENGA** for you this week! 🙄

mnem

Toddles off to ded

I raised a dispute with AliEx today and they almost immediately agreed that it was abnormal shipping and behavior and decided in my favour and granted me a full refund which has already been processed and my replacement board from the other vendor is currently with the carrier according to the tracking info given.

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41 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread

« Message by [Specmaster](#) on January 28, 2018, 11:47:08 am »

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mnem
Toddles off to ded

Sounds like I've found one of those sellers, their not unique though, Amazon has some of those and of course eBay is full of them. Needs to be a way of stamping them out because it gives the wrong impression of the store front holder, Aliexpress who are trying to provide a good service.

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42 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread

« Message by [mnementh](#) on January 28, 2018, 03:54:38 am »

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mnem
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43 Test Equipment / Re: Test Equipment Anonymous (TEA) group therapy thread

« Message by [mnementh](#) on January 26, 2018, 07:17:46 pm »

Quote from: Brumby on January 25, 2018, 07:30:58 am

Quote from: jasonbrent on January 19, 2018, 01:03:07 am

In reading through the group therapy thread, I'm not sure that there is a term that appropriately covers the challenges of storing and accessing gear.

... I say this as I'm now on day 4.. or is 5.. of trying to fit computing, electronics, 3d printing, R/C, and music all in my office at one, accessible and "tidy".
... while waiting on a keithley 2015 to arrive and complicate things again. 🙄

Some suggestions....

RAM: Random Access Management. The process of locating various pieces of test equipment in a manner so that they are quickly and easily accessible. This process can be applied to both equipment storage areas as well as the active work bench. Failure to implement a RAM protocol will result in equipment getting buried, requiring the moving of several other pieces of equipment to gain access to a specific item or, even worse, to prevent that specific item from being found.

(SNIP)

TETRIS: Test Equipment Torment - Reorganization In Situ. The equivalent of changing spark plugs while driving down the highway, this is the high stress process of rearranging equipment - but being limited to doing so in the existing space. Any attempt to 'borrow' space in another area of the premises is met with threats of items found outside the boundaries of toleration will be immediately disposed of. Protests are met with references to some storage area that was temporarily borrowed 3 years ago - that you still occupy.

BOT: Boundaries Of Toleration. The limits of acceptability for the physical and/or financial impact of one's hobby - as defined by other members of the household.

The nature of my Electronics/RC Hobby workbench make it a perpetual **TETRIS** zone; I call it "Organized Chaos" while my wife calls it "A study in Surrealism". That is, when she does more than just give me that "Spock Raised Eyebrow" look. Similarly, the needs of Laundry & Storage space make my Wood-Metal-Welding Shop/Garage into a combination **JENGA: Junk Engulfing Nearby Garage Areas** (wherein all garage space is subject to a constantly moving and contested scrimmage line) and **DMZ: De-Mobilized Zone** (wherein all manner of junk accumulates in precisely the perfect manner to produce a nigh-immovable obstruction between you and some object you desperately need).

These three phenomena form a symbiotic **Quantum Entanglement**; whenever there is a decrease in one, the others increase to eliminate any net free space.

JENGA is not a simple single entity; it encompasses a constellation of several sub-phenomena:

JENGA: Junk Encroaching Nonpermissible General Areas (usually defined by other household members and their "need" to use nonessential spaces like living rooms, kitchens and bathrooms);

JENGA: Junk Engulfing Nonvertical Geometric Areas (the inevitable spontaneous accumulation of all manner of tools and junk on any available table-like horizontal surface);

JENGA: Junk Emigrating Non-Garage Areas (the inexplicable migration of entire stacks to other rooms, often discovered by other household members with a hand truck still underneath); and quite possibly the most relevant,

JENGA: Junk Engulfing Nonhorizontal Growth Areas (the accumulation of box-shaped objects stacked from floor to ceiling, and the inevitable need to remove one object from the middle of the stack without all of it falling down on your head).

Your discovery of the **BOT** phenomenon and my own observations of how it seems to ebb and flow in relation with the frequency and severity of localised **TETRIS** and **JENGA** outbreaks makes me suspect that it may also be part of this quantum entanglement; I think we as a group should make an empirical study and publish our findings.

We'll need a number of households and lots of time to document various types of outbreaks against the general **BOT** level in each household and cumulatively. This will require many data points collated against several timelines; possibly years of accumulated junk... err, data... to be absolutely sure. 🤔

Quote from: bd139 on January 25, 2018, 07:51:35 am

I've got so little RAM that I'm swapping all the time 🤔

I've found that my **RAM** appears to have become considerably more random of late; there appears to be a geometric progression over time. Interestingly, I have also noticed a similar aging effect in my own personal **Random Access Memory**; I suspect that there may be some relationship between the two, but so far, actual observation has been too random to document with any consistency. 🤔

Quote from: Specmaster on January 26, 2018, 12:36:30 am

Quote from: bd139 on January 25, 2018, 11:47:41 pm

Dicks! Can you shitpost some bad feedback?

Too bloody right I will, as you know I have the dammed thing on my bench preventing me from getting with much else, because I was under the impression that it was on its way. I've messaged them to find out what the hell is going on. Looks like I might be back at the drawing board on this one now.

Trouble is it's in mint condition overall and it seems a shame to have to junk it.

Sounds like you may need to commit some **TETRIS** and maybe a little **JENGA** to the garage, at least until you determine if that T-con is still available. 🤔

Seriously though... sucks that this project is turning into such a total charlie-foxtrot. 🤔

Quote from: tggzzz on January 26, 2018, 03:52:11 pm

Quote from: Specmaster on January 26, 2018, 10:52:39 am

Oh dear, thats sure is less than satisfactory, well if your still waiting fore it, where did they deliver to???

The delivery was to my house, within the time stated before sale. I have no cause for complaint, merely mild bewilderment.

I did check where Erlanager and Cincinatti are and, despite being in different states, they are only a few 10s of miles apart.

If I was young I would presume "they" knew what they were doing. As I get older, I realise the "cockup theory of history2 is more often the correct explanation than the "conspiracy theory of history".

Last week, I had 3 packages "delivered" by USPS the day after MLK Day in the middle of a freak freezing rainstorm we had here where half the city streets were closed down and every mailbox on my street was cased in 1/2" of ice; some like mine, with a "pickup" flag still up since Sunday.

Fortunately, the day after that, once everything had thawed, my packages mysteriously appeared in my box... but I was convinced

they'd been delivered to somebody else AGAIN 😞 until I heard folks talking on the radio about stuff being marked "Delivered" even though there was no way it could have happened.

mnem
Frosty

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