



Instruction Manual
for
Oscilloscopes
Type CD518, CD568

Issue : Three

Mod. Ref : 518/50 568/36

THE SOLARTRON ELECTRONIC GROUP LTD

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1.3 Minimum trigger voltages required

- (1) Time-base delay inoperative:—
1v trigger pulse.
- (2) Time-base delay in use:—
2v trigger pulse.
- (3) Triggering from sine wave:—
5v r.m.s.

1.4 Time measurement

CD 568 Sinusoidal calibration waveforms are provided at 1 Mc/s, 100 kc/s and 10 kc/s. Accuracy $\pm 5\%$.

CD 518 A sinusoidal calibration waveform at 1 Mc/s or calibration pulses at 1 μ sec or 10 μ sec intervals may be selected. Accuracy $\pm 5\%$.

1.5 Power supplies

The Oscilloscope requires 230v r.m.s. at 50 c/s, and consumes approximately 100 watts.

1.6 Size and weight

The Oscilloscope is in one box, approximately 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ " \times 11" \times 20", and weighs 40 lb.

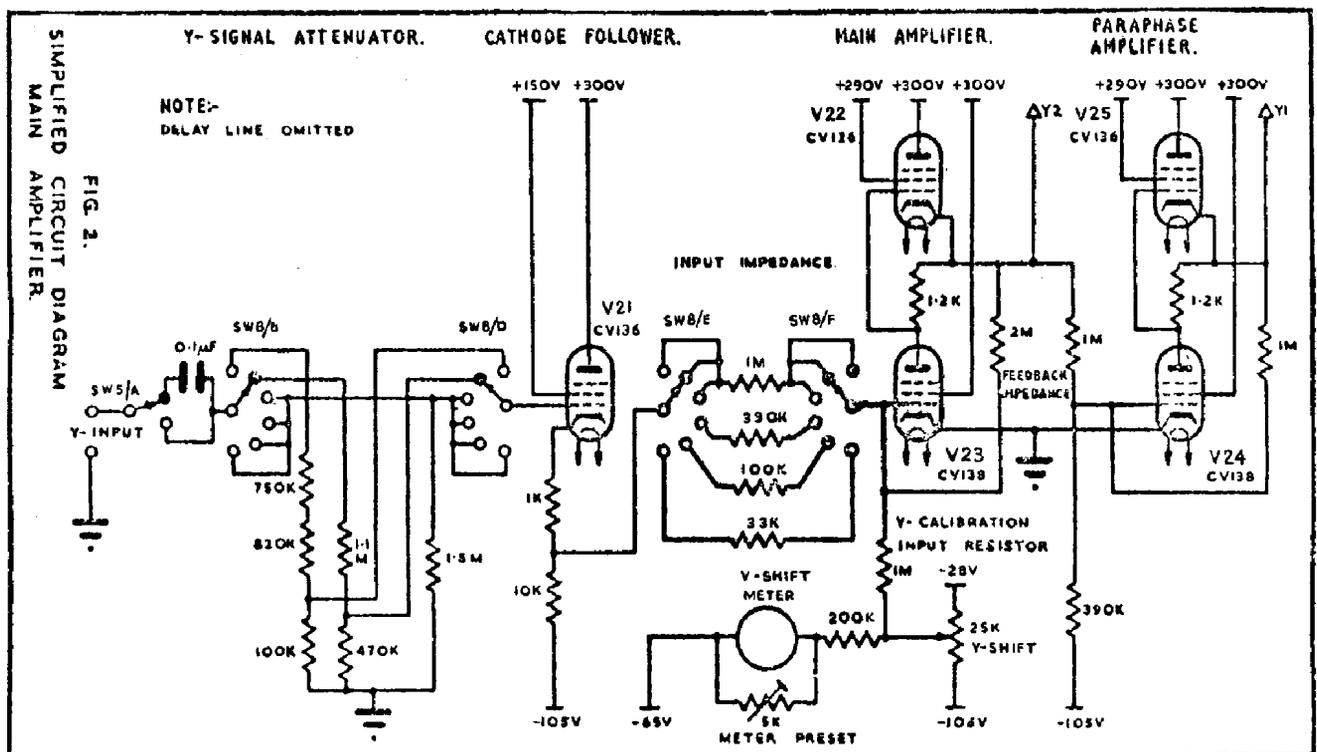
2. THE Y-PLATE AMPLIFIER

Reference should be made to the simplified circuit diagram, Fig. 2, and the complete circuit diagram, Fig. 8.

The Y-plate amplifier has 6 fixed gain positions enabling signals from 500v to 1v peak amplitude to be handled. On gain positions 1 and 2, for 500v and 100v Y-input signals, a capacity-corrected resistance attenuator precedes the cathode follower (V21), thereby limiting the maximum input signal to the cathode follower to 30v peak. On the other gain positions, the Y-input signal is less than 30v peak amplitude and is fed direct to the grid of the cathode follower which provides a low output impedance to drive the main amplifier

(V23 and V22). The main amplifier is of the anode follower type in which the feed back impedance (R96 and C57) remains fixed and the various gains are obtained by switching the input impedance (R91-94 and C51-56). The main amplifier is followed by a similar anode follower of unity gain which provides a paraphase signal enabling the Y-plates of the cathode-ray tube to be fed in push-pull.

The amplifiers differ from the conventional anode follower circuit by using a valve (V22) as the anode load instead of the usual fixed resistor. This modification has the advantage, when the amplifier has a capacity load on the output (such as is presented by the Y-plates),



of producing an improvement in the frequency response and a greater maximum rate of change of output voltage for a given power consumption. Briefly, the operation of the amplifier is analogous to that of a Class AB amplifier. If the input signal demands that the output voltage shall fall rapidly, the bottom valve (V23) discharges the load capacity on the output, while for a rapidly rising output voltage, the load capacity is charged by the top valve (V22). In the static condition the standing current of V22, V23 is 9 mA, but the current available to charge and discharge the capacity load on the output is approximately 25 mA—i.e., the maximum current V22 or V23 will pass when operating near zero grid bias. Thus for a given maximum rate of change of output voltage this type of amplifier effects a considerable economy in HT current compared with the usual amplifiers employing a fixed resistor as the anode load.

The calibrated Y-shift is obtained by injecting a D.C. voltage (which is measured by the Y-shift meter) into the amplifier by means of R97. On range 3 of the gain switch, the

Y-input signal and the Y-calibrating voltage are fed into the "virtual earth" of the amplifier by equal resistors (R91 and R97) so that the voltage measured at the slider of the Y-shift potentiometer (RV10) gives a direct calibration of the sensitivity of the amplifier. On the other gain positions, either the Y-signal input resistor is of a different value from that feeding the calibration voltage or the Y-signal is attenuated by the attenuator preceding the cathode follower so that the voltage measured by the Y-shift meter has to be multiplied by the appropriate scale factor. The Y-signal is slightly attenuated by the cathode follower and in order to keep the Y-calibration correct this is compensated by the adjustment of a preset variable resistor (RV9) which shunts the Y-shift meter.

The Y-signal can be delayed 0.6 μ S by a distributed delay line which is switched between the cathode follower and the input impedance of the main amplifier. Since the delay line is matched at both the input and output, it introduces 6 dB attenuation in the amplifier gain. The method of construction of this delay line is described in T.R.E. Memo. 807.

3. THE TIME-BASE CIRCUIT—TRIGGER SIGNAL AMPLIFIER, GATE CIRCUIT AND TIME-BASE DELAY

3.1 Reference should be made to the simplified circuit diagram, Figs. 3 and 4, and to the complete circuit diagram, Fig. 8.

3.2 Trigger signal amplifier

The trigger signal is fed into the left-hand grid of the double triode V2 which forms a long-tailed pair amplifier, and produces an amplified version of the trigger signal in push-pull at the anodes.

Switch SW1/A selects one of the anode waveforms of V2 and enables a negative pulse to be fed to the gate valve (V5) irrespective of the sign of the trigger input pulse. The gate valve produces a suitable pulse to trigger the time-base generator and rejects any input trigger pulses occurring during the period of the time-base sweep and fly-back.

Provision is also made to enable the time-base to be triggered by a sinusoidal input

signal. (See Fig. 4.) The trigger amplifier (V2) is changed into a cathode-coupled multivibrator by condenser-coupling a tap on the anode load of the left-hand valve to the grid of the right-hand valve. With no trigger input the multivibrator has a relaxation oscillation time of 50 mS. This circuit behaves as a regenerative squaring circuit and the injection of a sinusoidal trigger signal of amplitude greater than 5v r.m.s. causes the multivibrator to change state at the same frequency as the input signal, producing a pulse to drive the gate valve, and so trigger the time-base generator.

3.3 Gate circuit

The gate valve (V5) is a short suppressor base pentode, which, in the quiescent condition, is passing current through the primary of the differentiating pulse transformer (T1) in its anode circuit. On receiving a negative pulse

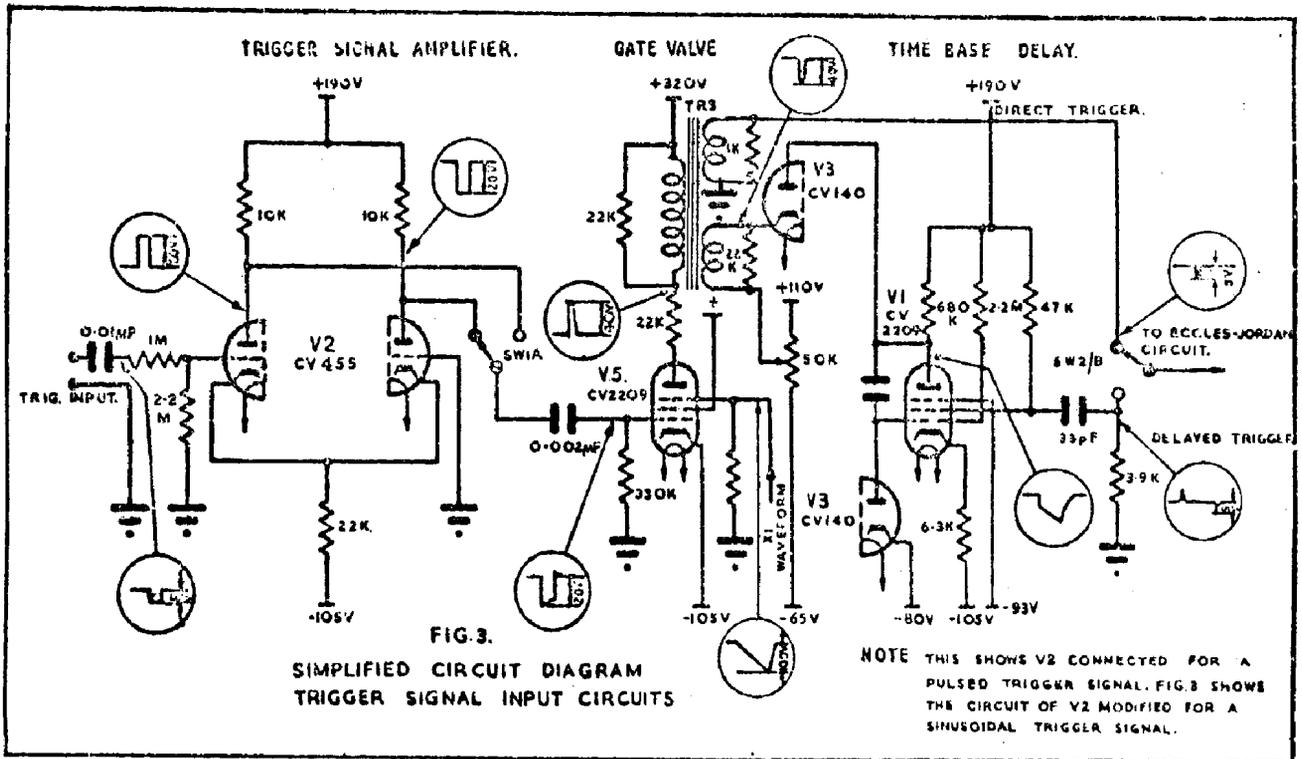


FIG. 3. SIMPLIFIED CIRCUIT DIAGRAM TRIGGER SIGNAL INPUT CIRCUITS

from the trigger amplifier the valve is cut off on the grid, creating a positive pulse at the anode, which is phase-inverted and differentiated by the transformer. The negative differentiated pulse is used to trigger the time-base generator. The negative-going saw-tooth waveform from the time-base generator is fed to the suppressor of the gate valve (V5) which maintains the gate

valve cut off, and prevents any succeeding trigger pulses being passed to the time-base generator until a time-base sweep and fly-back has been completed. This enables the time-base generator to be triggered satisfactorily when the period of the time-base is adjusted to be several times greater than the interval between trigger pulses.

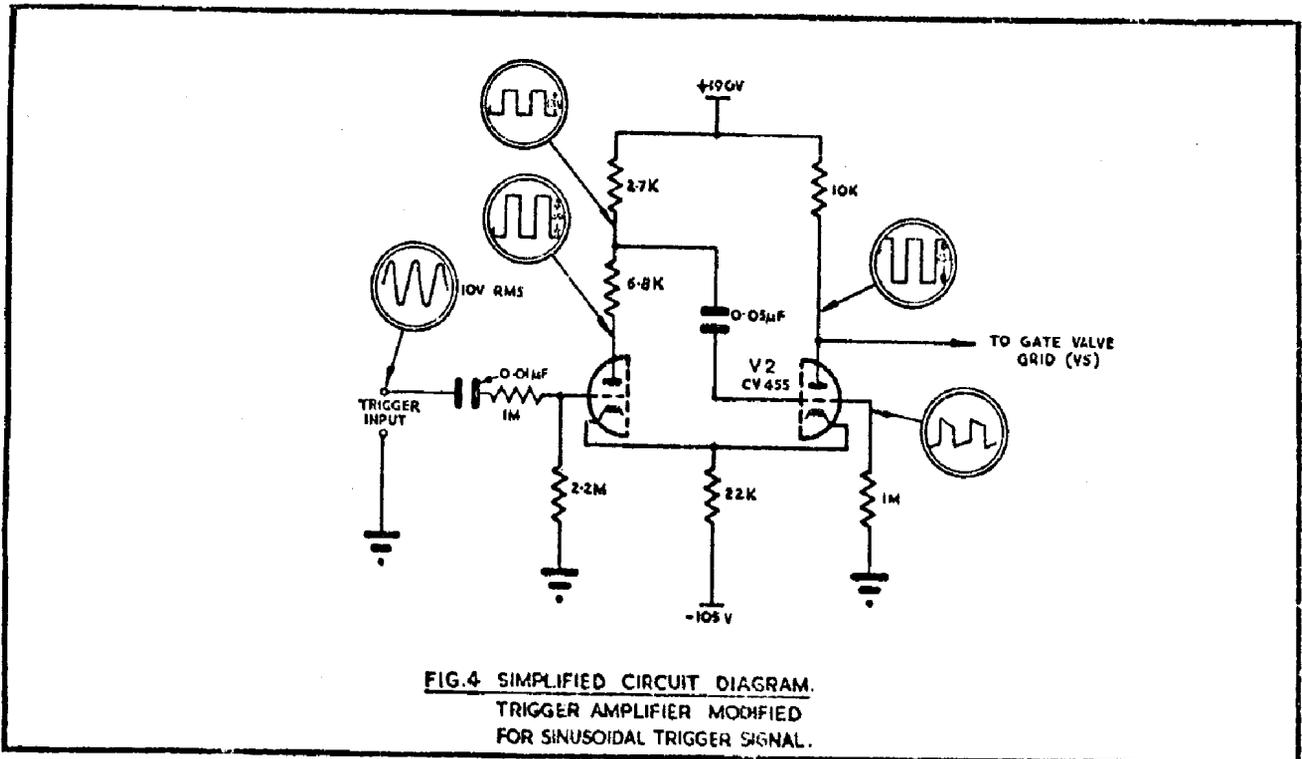


FIG. 4 SIMPLIFIED CIRCUIT DIAGRAM. TRIGGER AMPLIFIER MODIFIED FOR SINUSOIDAL TRIGGER SIGNAL.

3.4 The time-base delay

The time-base delay consists of a conventional Phantastron (Ref. 2) which is "anode triggered" by a negative pulse from a secondary winding on the pulse transformer (T1). A negative, delayed pulse to trigger the time-base generator is obtained by differen-

tiating the screen waveform of V1. The time-base delay is brought into operation by SW2/B. Three ranges of delay are provided by switching (SW2/A) the anode-to-grid condensers, and fine adjustment of the delay is obtained by controlling (by means of RV1) the voltage at which the anode run-down commences.

4. THE TIME-BASE CIRCUIT—TIME-BASE GENERATOR

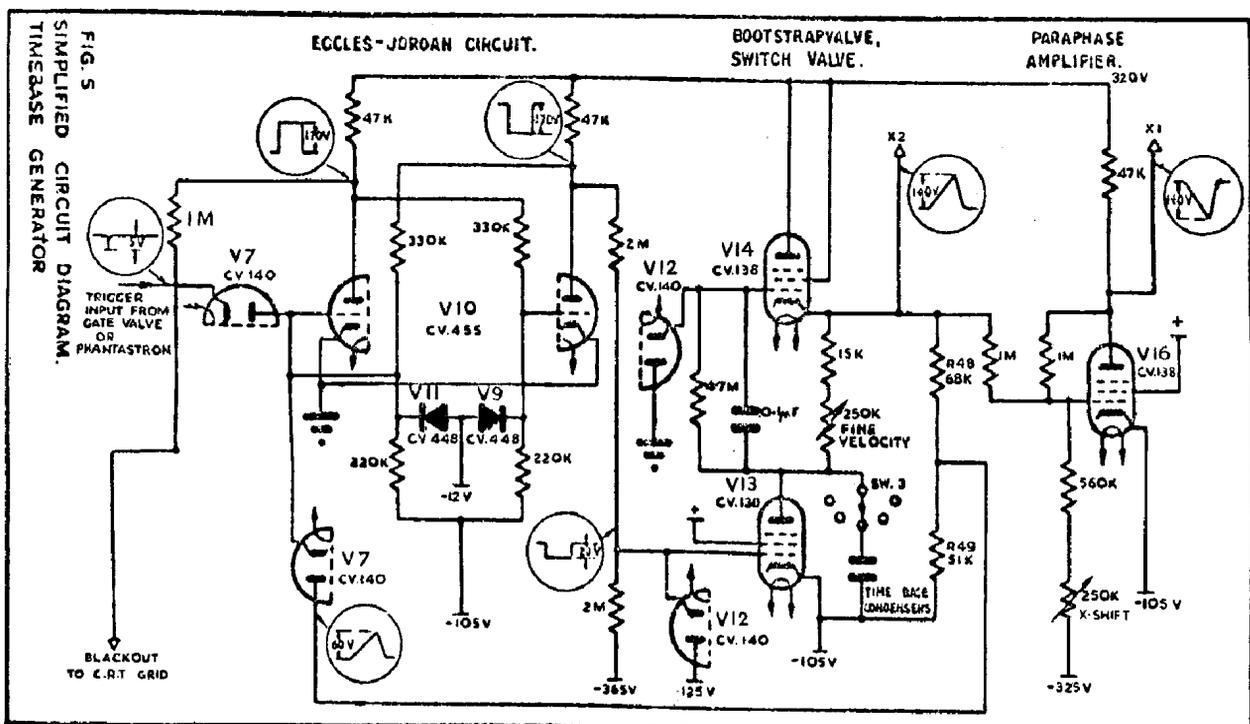
4.1 Reference should be made to the simplified circuit diagram, Fig 5, and to the complete circuit diagram, Fig. 8.

4.2 The time-base generator uses the bootstrap principle (Ref. 1). V14 produces an approximately constant current to charge the time-base range condensers (C23 to C26), and they are discharged by V13 which functions as a switch. The double triode (V10) is connected as an Eccles-Jordan trigger circuit and is used to control the switch valve (V13).

In the absence of a trigger signal, the left-hand grid of V10 is at earth potential; therefore, the right-hand triode (V10) is not conducting, and its anode is at approximately HT potential. This anode is D.C. coupled by a resistance potentiometer to the grid of the

switch valve (V13), and in the quiescent condition V13 is conducting and the time-base range condenser is discharged. The grid of the bootstrap valve (V14) is prevented from falling below earth potential by a diode (V12), and the magnitude of the cathode current can be controlled by the variable resistor (RV2) which provides a fine velocity control for the time-base generator.

On injecting a trigger signal, a negative pulse is fed into the left-hand grid of the Eccles-Jordan circuit (V10) via a diode (V7), causing it to change over so that the left-hand valve is cut off and the right-hand valve conducting. This change of state drives the grid of the switch valve (V13) negative, and the constant current produced by the bootstrap



valve (V14) flows into the time-base condenser, resulting in a linear voltage rise at the cathode of V14 which is fed to the X2 plate of the cathode ray tube.

The fly-back is initiated by feeding the X2 waveform via a resistance potentiometer (R48 and R49) through a diode (V7) to the left-hand grid of the Eccles-Jordan circuit. The voltage at the cathode of V14 continues to rise linearly until the voltage at the junction of R48 and R49 reaches a potential such that the left-hand triode of V10 begins to pass current again. This causes the Eccles-Jordan circuit to be

triggered back to its original state, the switch valve conducts, and the time-base condenser is discharged. The time-base generator is now back in the quiescent condition ready to be retriggered by the next input trigger pulse.

A paraphase version of the X2 waveform is obtained from a unity-gain anode follower (V16) enabling the X plates of the cathode ray tube to be fed in push-pull. X-shift is introduced by controlling the D.C. current fed into the "virtual earth" of the paraphase amplifier (V16) by means of the variable resistor RV4.

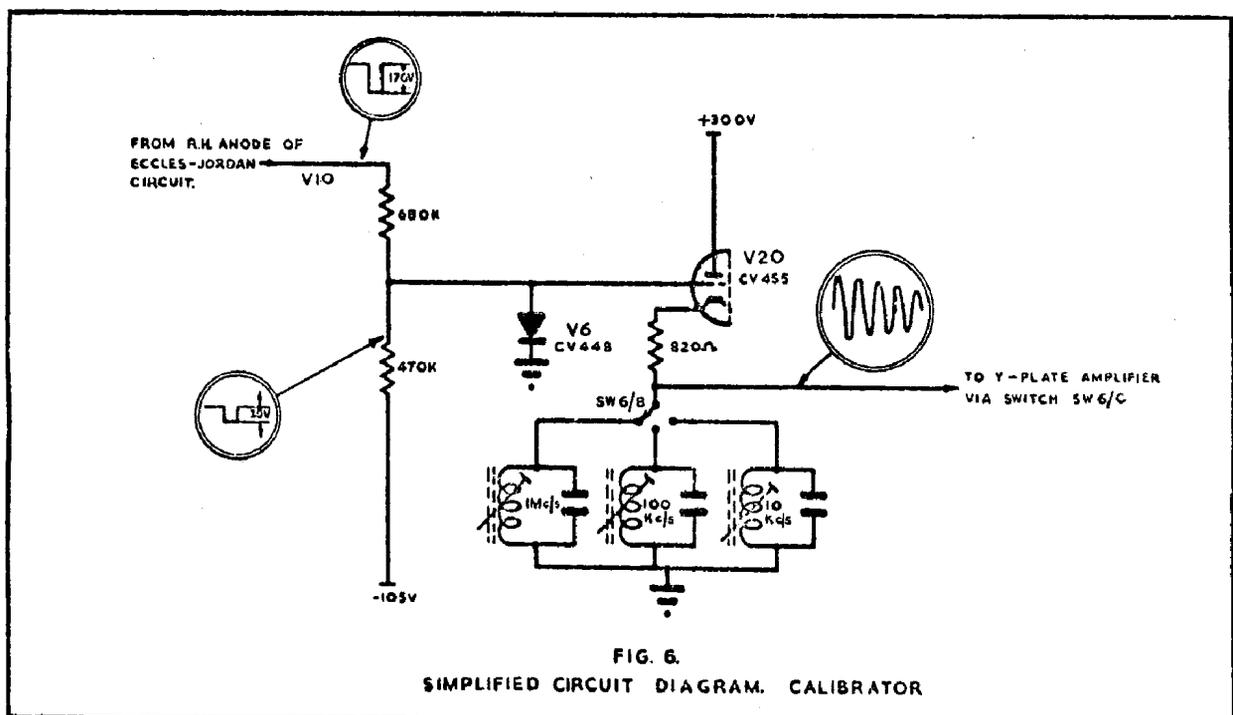
5. TIME CALIBRATOR

CD 568 only

5.1 Reference should be made to the simplified circuit diagram, Fig. 6, and the complete circuit diagram, Fig. 8.

5.2 The calibrator consists of a triode (V20) with a parallel-tuned circuit in the cathode. In the quiescent state, the grid is at earth and the cathode resistor (R76) is chosen so that a current of approximately 5 mA flows through the tuned circuit. The grid of the calibrator is

driven negative for the duration of the time-base sweep by a rectangular waveform, fed from the right-hand anode of the Eccles-Jordan circuit. During this time the energy stored in the cathode tuned circuit produces a damped sinusoidal oscillation at the resonant frequency of the tuned circuit, which is fed into the Y-plate amplifier via switch SW6/C. Three calibration frequencies are provided by switching the tuned circuit in the cathode.



CD 518 only

5.3. To measure the interval between a phenomena occurring during the time base delay period and a phenomena on the trace, markers must be generated from the occurrence of the trigger phenomena until the end of the time-base sweep. The marker oscillator must be stopped during the time-base flyback, in order to synchronise the markers to the oscilloscope trace. A block diagram of the time-base and marker generator system is given in Fig. 10; the block capital letters refer to the waveforms given in Fig. 11, circuit components are designated in accordance with the CD 518 circuit diagram (Drawing No. DC 518).

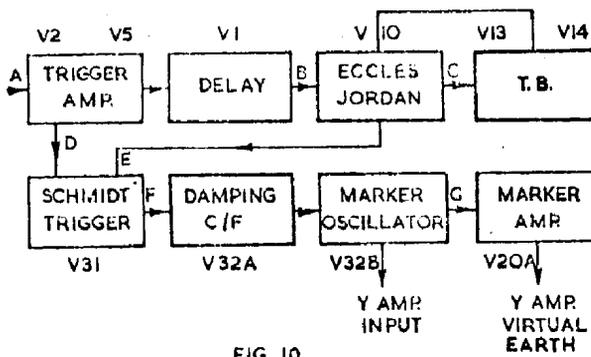


FIG. 10

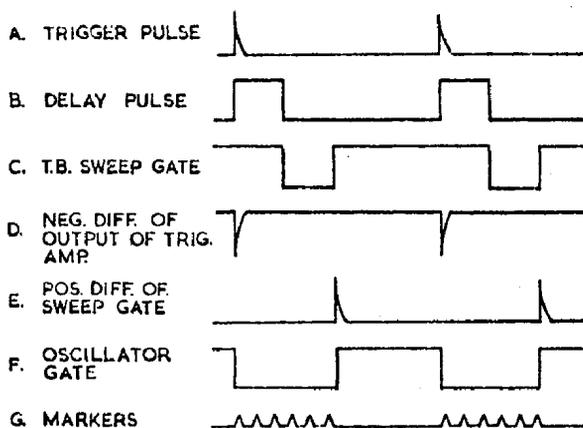


FIG. 11

5.4 Marker Generator and Damping Cathode Follower (V32-12AT7)

Half of a 12AT7 valve (V32A) is employed in a conventional tuned grid Class C oscillator circuit. Tuning is achieved by L8, C72 on the 10 μ Sec. position, and by L6, C71 on the 1 μ Sec. and 1 Mc/s \sim positions. When the time marker switch is set to 1 Mc/s \sim , the oscillator tank circuit is coupled via C84 to the Y-amplifier input, and C85 (39pF) is disconnected from the tank circuit to compensate for the Y-amplifier input capacitor. The oscillator can be tuned approximately $\pm 10\%$ of its nominal

frequency, by the adjustment of the cores of L6 and L8. The grid coupling capacitors C73, C74, are selected by a switch SW6D, to reduce the build-up time of the oscillator to a minimum, while maintaining Class C operation.

The left-hand section of V32 operates as a cathode follower, which is connected across the tuned circuit to quench the oscillator during the resting and flyback periods of the time base.

In order to synchronise the markers to the cathode ray tube trace, the valve is switched on and off by the waveform from the Schmidt trigger (V31).

5.5 Time-Marker Amplifier (V20A- $\frac{1}{2}$ 12AT7)

The time markers which are developed across R135 (47 Ω) in the cathode of the oscillator are applied to the grid of V20A. This stage, which operates as a Class A amplifier, also inverts the markers before they are injected into the Y-amplifier paraphase stage, via blocking capacitor C77, video coupling components R138, C78, and switch SW6E.

5.6 Oscillator Gate (V31-12AT7)

During the resting and fly back periods of the time base, the Schmidt trigger (V31) is in a condition where the anode current of the left-hand section of V31 is cut off. The potential at the grid of the damping cathode follower (V31B) is such that this valve conducts, placing a low impedance across the oscillator tank circuit.

When a trigger pulse is applied to the oscilloscope, the negative differential of the output waveform of the trigger amplifier (V2) cuts off the right-hand section of V31, thus reversing the state of the Schmidt trigger. The grid coupling network of the damping cathode follower is between the output of V31 and the -105V rail. This, plus the reversal of the trigger, is sufficient to cut off the damping cathode follower, allowing the marker generator to oscillate. Oscillation continues until the Eccles Jordan valve (V10) is reset by the time base, when the positive differential of the sweep gate returns the Schmidt trigger to its original state.

The diodes V29 and V30 suppress the negative differential of the sweep gate and the positive differential of the trigger waveform respectively. Resistors R119, R124 and R129 limit the potential variations caused by the build-up of tolerances.

6. H.T. POWER SUPPLIES

6.1 Reference should be made to the simplified circuit diagram, Fig. 7, and to the complete circuit diagram, Fig. 8.

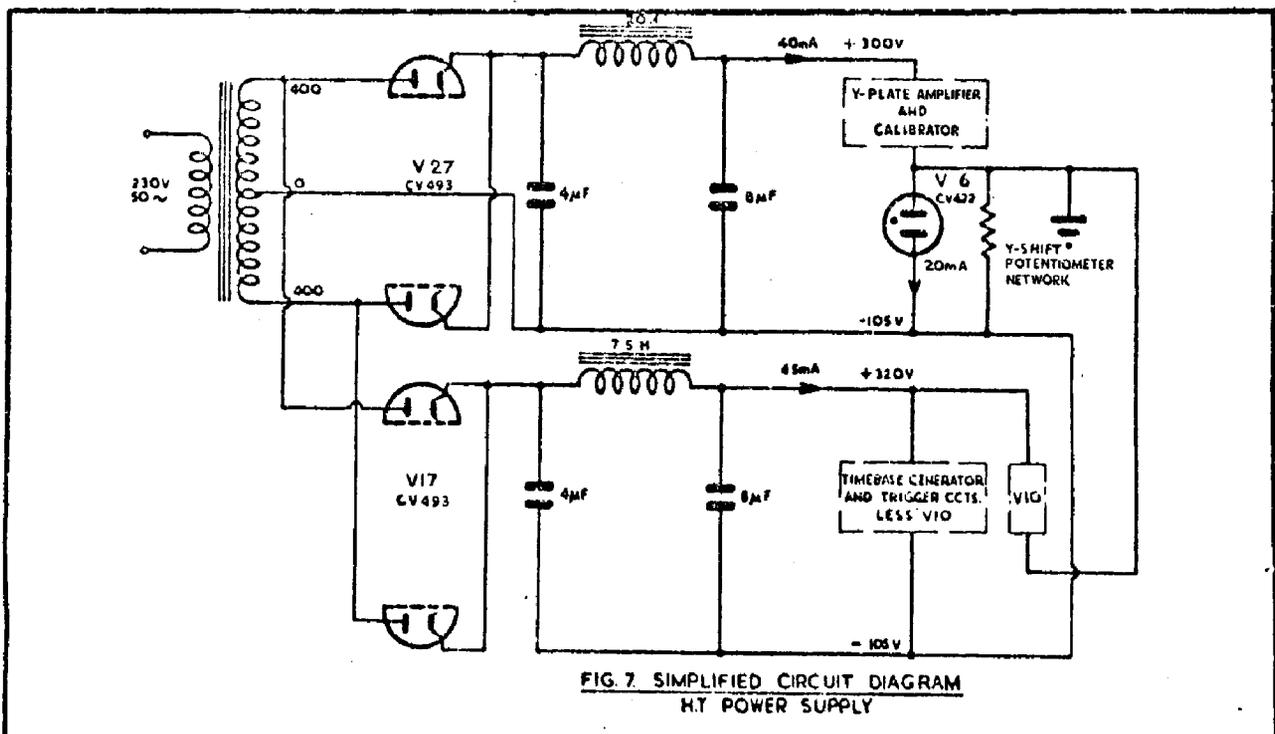
6.2 The Oscilloscope circuits require a stable -105v negative HT line, to simplify the circuit design and to obtain reliable operation, but are not critical with regard to the HT positive lines.

The main HT supply is unstabilised and consists of a common 400-0-400v r.m.s. secondary winding on the mains transformer (T2) supplying two separate full-wave rectifiers (V27 and V17). Each rectifier has its own condenser input filter, thus providing two HT lines. The time-base circuit, which takes a

fluctuating current and modulates the time-base HT line, especially when the time-base is operating at or near minimum velocity, is supplied from one HT line, and the Y-plate amplifier, which takes a steady current, is supplied from the other HT line. The steady current taken by the amplifier passes through a 105v neon (V26), the positive electrode of which is earthed, thus providing a stable -105v line.

A stable and smooth HT supply for the screen of the input cathode follower (V21) is provided by a shunt stabilising valve (V20).

The Oscilloscope will work satisfactorily on mains voltages which are $\pm 10\%$ of the nominal 50 c.p.s./ 230v r.m.s. input.



7. MECHANICAL CONSTRUCTION

The mechanical design of the Oscilloscope was undertaken by Mr. E. N. Shaw. As a result of Mr. Shaw's work, the accessibility of the components is very good and his careful attention to heat distribution has resulted in a reliable instrument. The principles and methods of construction used will be the subject of a future T.R.E. Memorandum.

8. REFERENCES

1. M.I.T. Radiation Laboratory, Volume 19, "Waveforms," Sec. 7, 8, p. 270.
2. Journal I.E.E., Vol. 93, Part IIIA, No. 7, 1946. "Ranging circuits, linear time-base generators and associated circuits." F. C. Williams and N. F. Moody, p. 1193, para. 5.1.

FAULT LOCATION CHART

SYMPTOM	POSSIBLE CAUSE	REMEDY
Complete failure.	Fuse open circuit. T3 primary winding open circuit.	Change the fuse. Check the continuity of T3. Check the wiring from the mains input socket to T3.
No spot or trace on the Cathode Ray Tube with the valve heaters lit.	No negative high tension. No extra high tension from V28. Fault in the "Y" system V21, V22, V23, V24, V25. Fault in the "X" system V13, V14.	Check the negative voltage rail (--105 volts). Check the extra high tension from V28 to the cathode ray tube. Measure the D.C. voltage at Pin 2 of V22 and V25. These should balance at approximately 135 volts to centralise the trace. If this condition is not correct there is a fault in the "Y" amplifier circuit. Switch to "Y" delay. If the trace returns to the screen the fault is in V21 or its circuitry. Operate the "Y" shift control. If the trace is just apparent at the top of the screen then the V24 circuit is faulty. If the trace appears at the bottom of the screen then V25 circuit is faulty. If the "Y" shift control is inoperative the V22 or V23 circuit is faulty. Change the valves or other components which are faulty. Monitor the sweep waveform at Pin 2 of V14. If there is no sweep waveform the fault is in V13, V14 circuit. Change the valves or other faulty components.
No time base under any operating conditions.	No trigger V2, V5, T1, V7, V10, V13, V14. C27 short circuit.	If there is no spot on the screen with the brilliance control turned to maximum the fault is probably in V13 V14 circuit as foregone. If the spot is visible on the left of the screen, switch to AC trigger and monitor the output from V2 on pin 1 of V5. Refer to the circuit diagram in the handbook for correct waveshape. If the input waveform to V5 is correct, monitor the input waveform on V10 pin 7. If this is correct, measure the voltage at pin 1 of V10. If this is high then V10 circuit is faulty. Check C27 for short circuit.
No signal at pin 1 of V5.	V2 or circuitry.	Change V2. Check the circuit potentials and components. Change faulty components.
No signal at V10 grid pin 7.	V5; V7; T1, or circuitry.	Change V5; V7. Check the continuity of T1 windings. Check the suppressor cut-off on V5.
Short time base on the left hand side of the screen. No time base on all delay switch positions.	V16 or circuitry. R24 open circuit. C8 short circuit. V1, V3; T1, or circuitry.	Change V16. Check the circuitry. Change the faulty component. Check the circuit voltages. Change the valves. Change any other faulty component.
No time base on any one delay switch position.	C6, C10, C7. SW2/A; SW2/B.	Check the relevant capacitor for the faulty range. Check the switch contacts and wiring on the faulty range switch position.
No "Y" presentation on the screen with vertical shift normal and the trace centred.	SW4; switched to external position. "Y" input attenuator switching C59 short circuit.	Turn switch 4 to Internal position. (SW4 is located at the rear of the unit.) Check the "Y" input attenuator and switching. Check C59 for short circuit.
No "Y" presentation on delay position.	Delay open circuit. R86 open circuit. C50 open circuit. SW7/B; SW7/c.	Measure the continuity of the delay line. Check R86 and C50. Check the switch contacts and wiring.

Solartron CD518 & CD568 Oscilloscope

SYMPTOM	POSSIBLE CAUSE	REMEDY
"Y" sensitivity high on any one range or poor response to square wave signal.	C44; 45; 51; 54; 56; 52 either short circuit or wrongly adjusted.	Check the relevant capacitor for the faulty range and change if necessary. Re-adjust capacitors for best square wave response at 10 Kc/s. For poor square wave response on all ranges first adjust C57 and C59 on the 30-volt range.
No "Y" presentation or reduced amplitude on any one sensitivity range.	SW8/A.C.E. or F. R70; 73; 91; 75 on 500-volt range. R72; 75; 91 on 100-volt range. R69; 91 on 30-volt range. R69; 92 on 10-volt range. R69; 93 on 3-volt range. R69; 94 on 1-volt range.	If unit is faulty on 30 volts; 100 volts and 500-volt ranges, check R91. If unit is faulty on 30 volt; 10-volt; 3-volt and 1-volt ranges, check R69. If unit is faulty on only one range, check the relevant resistors for the faulty range from the list in the "possible cause" column.
No calibration at any position of SW6. CD568 only.	V20; V6 or circuitry.	Change valve V20. Change crystal V6. Check the circuit voltages. Change faulty components.
No calibration on any one range. CD568 only.	Relevant capacitor or coil for the faulty range.	Check the relevant capacitor and coil. Change if necessary.
No calibration. CD 518 only.	V31; V32 or circuitry.	Change the valves. Check the circuit voltages and triggering waveforms. Change any other faulty component.
Uncontrollable excessive brilliance.	V18; V19.	Change valves.

TYPICAL D.C. VOLTAGES AT VALVE ELECTRODES

These D.C. voltages are provided for guidance only during fault finding and should not be taken as mandatory requirements. All measurements were taken with a Model 8 Avometer and with the oscilloscope in the following condition:--

Time Base Coarse	...	Switched to Position 1.
Trigger	...	Switched to A.C.
"Y" Input	...	Switched to A.C.
Sensitivity	...	30 Volts.
Calibration Switch	...	OFF.
Trigger Delay	...	OFF.

Valve	Pin No.	Voltage	Meter Range	Remarks
V1	1	-84	100	Variable with fine delay.
"	2	-83	100	
"	7	+5	25	95 with delay IN.
"	6	-110	250	
"	5	+115	250	
V2	2	Virtual earth	—	

Solartron CD518 & CD568 Oscilloscope

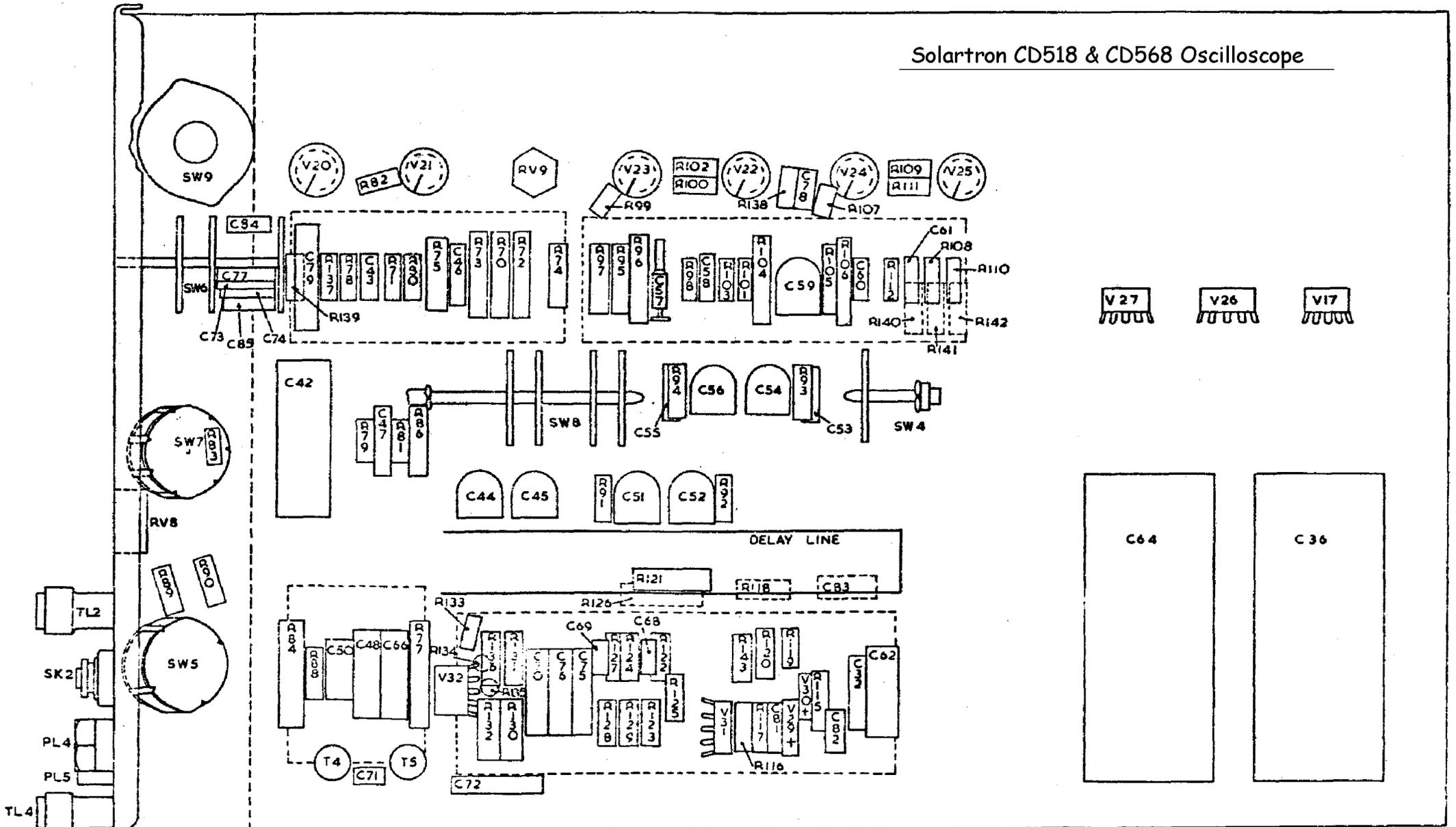
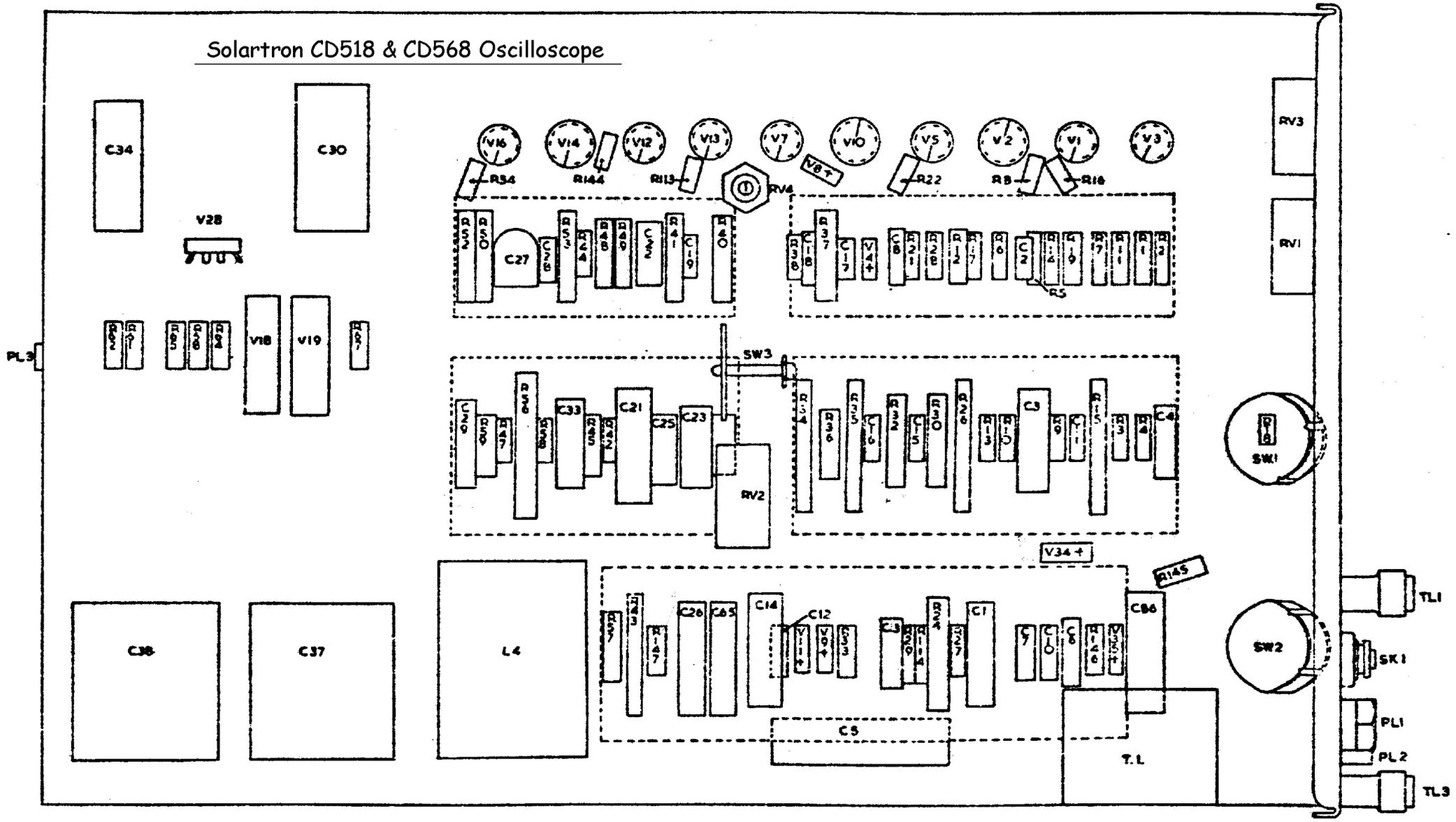
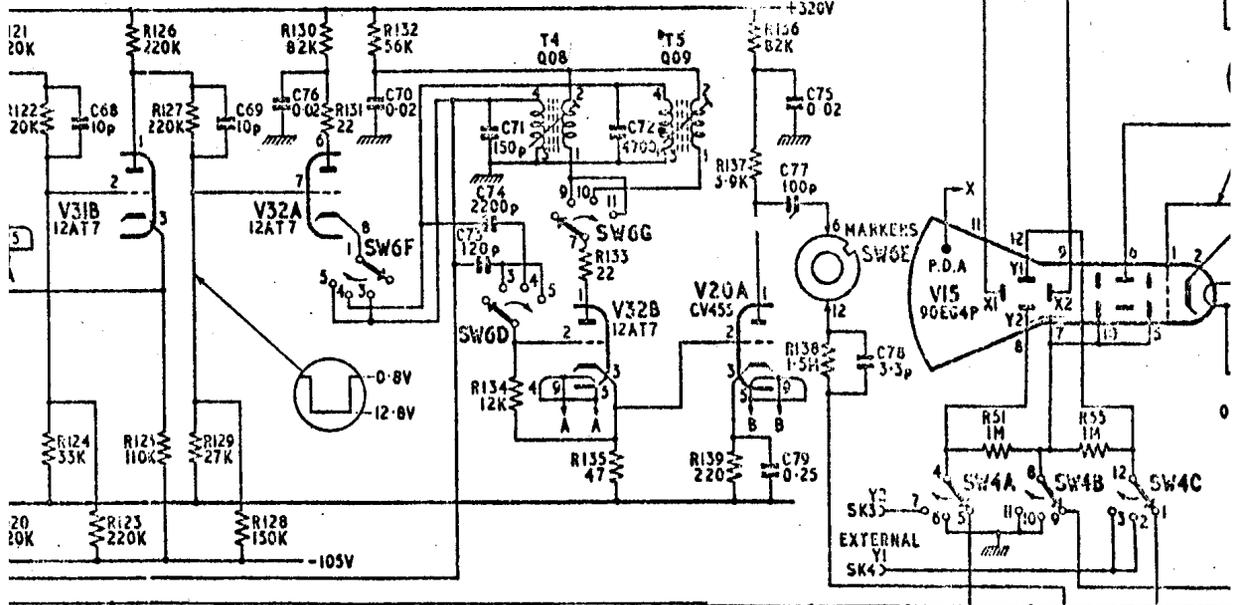
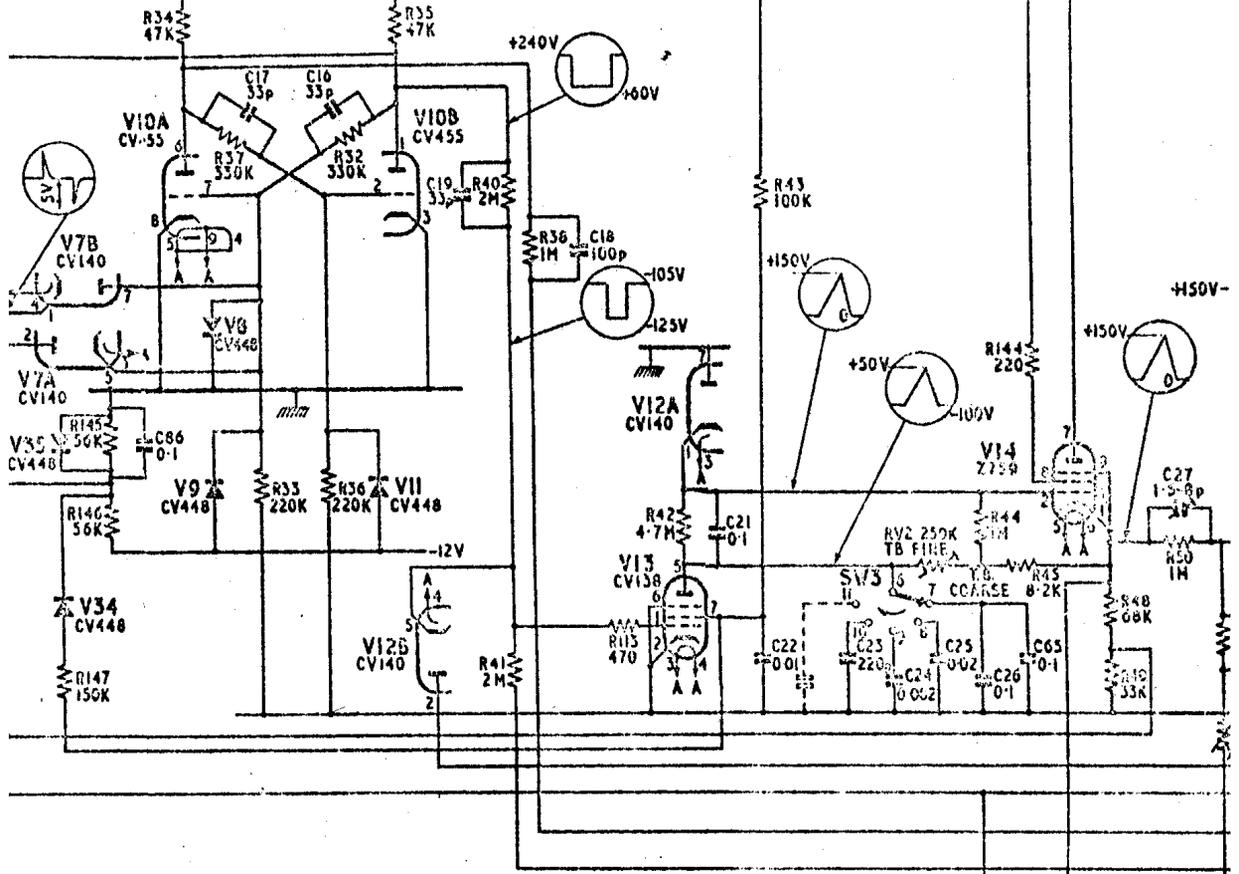


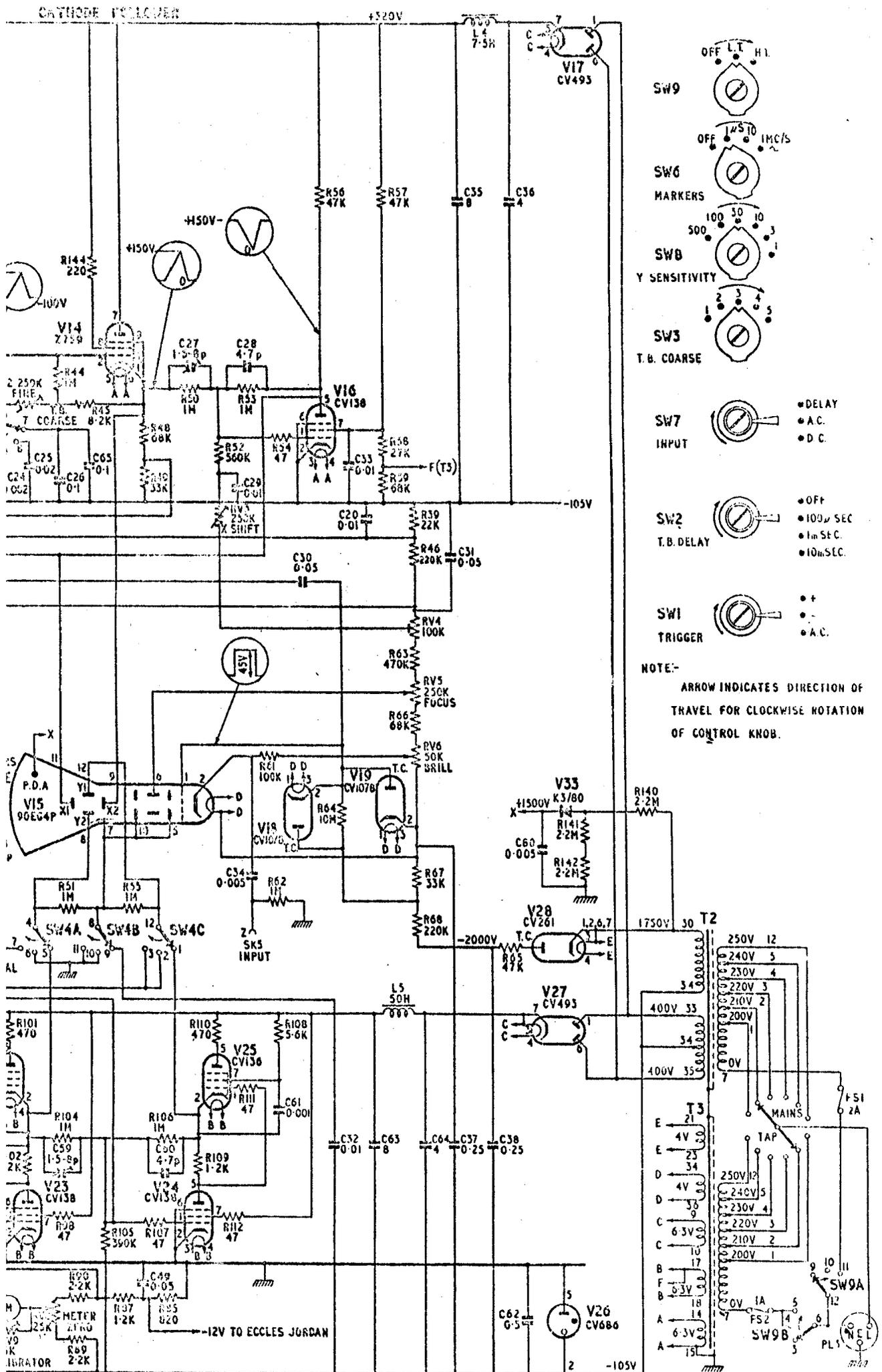
Fig. 12. Right hand side view. Component location.

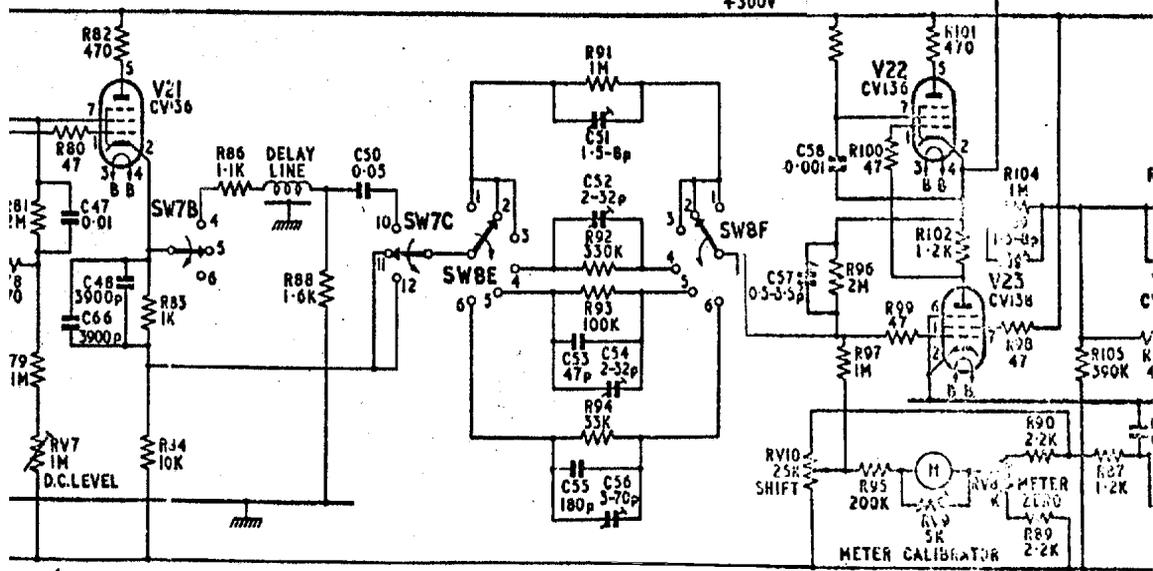
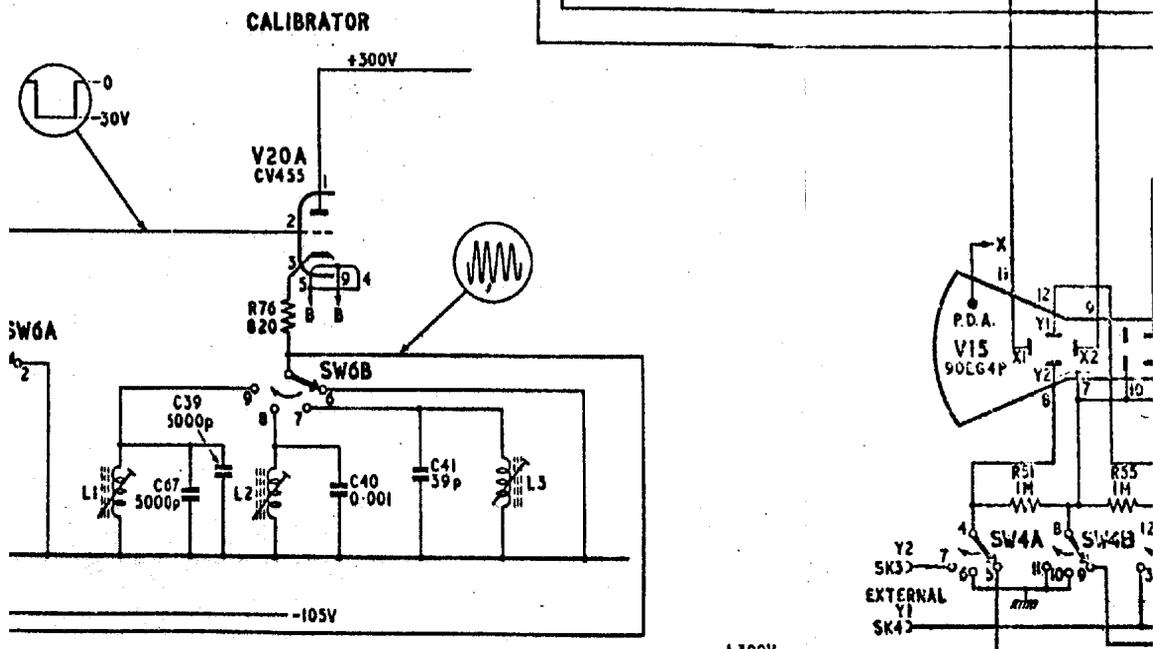
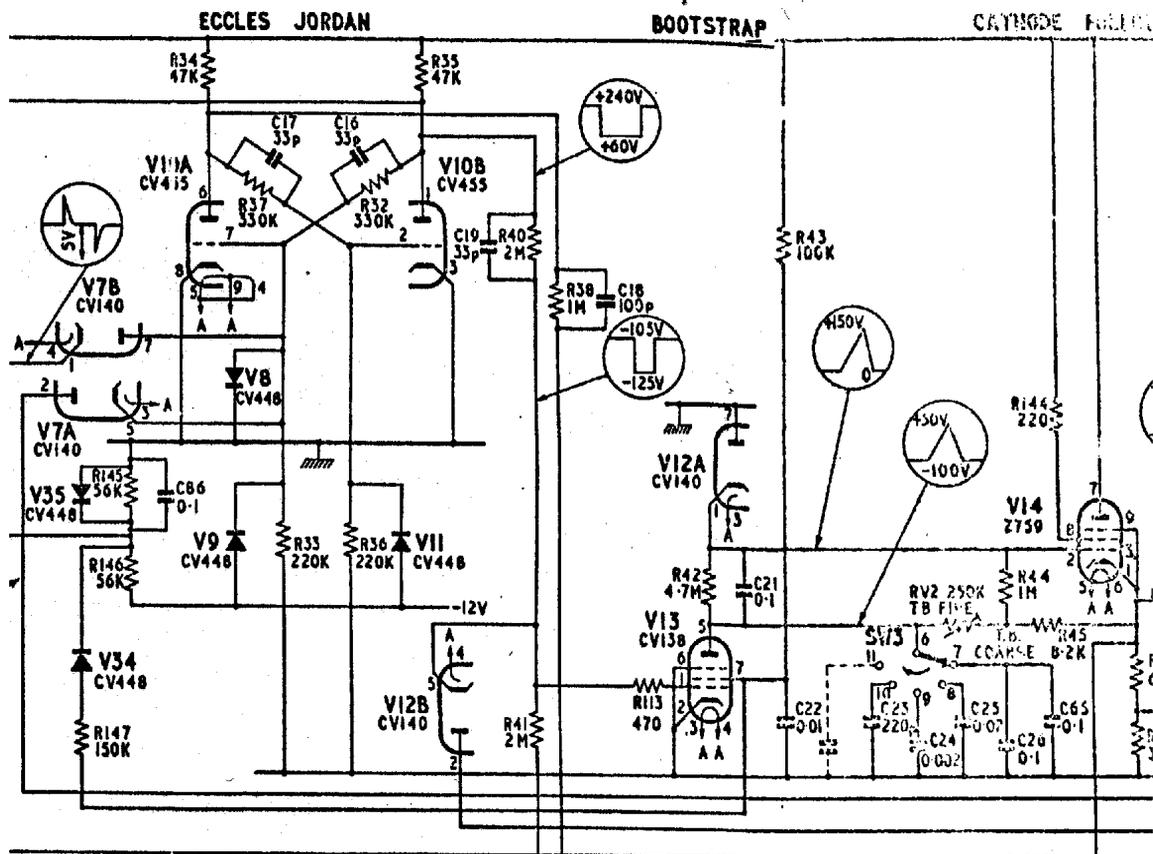
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ECCLES JORDAN BOOTSTRAP CATHODE FOLLOWER







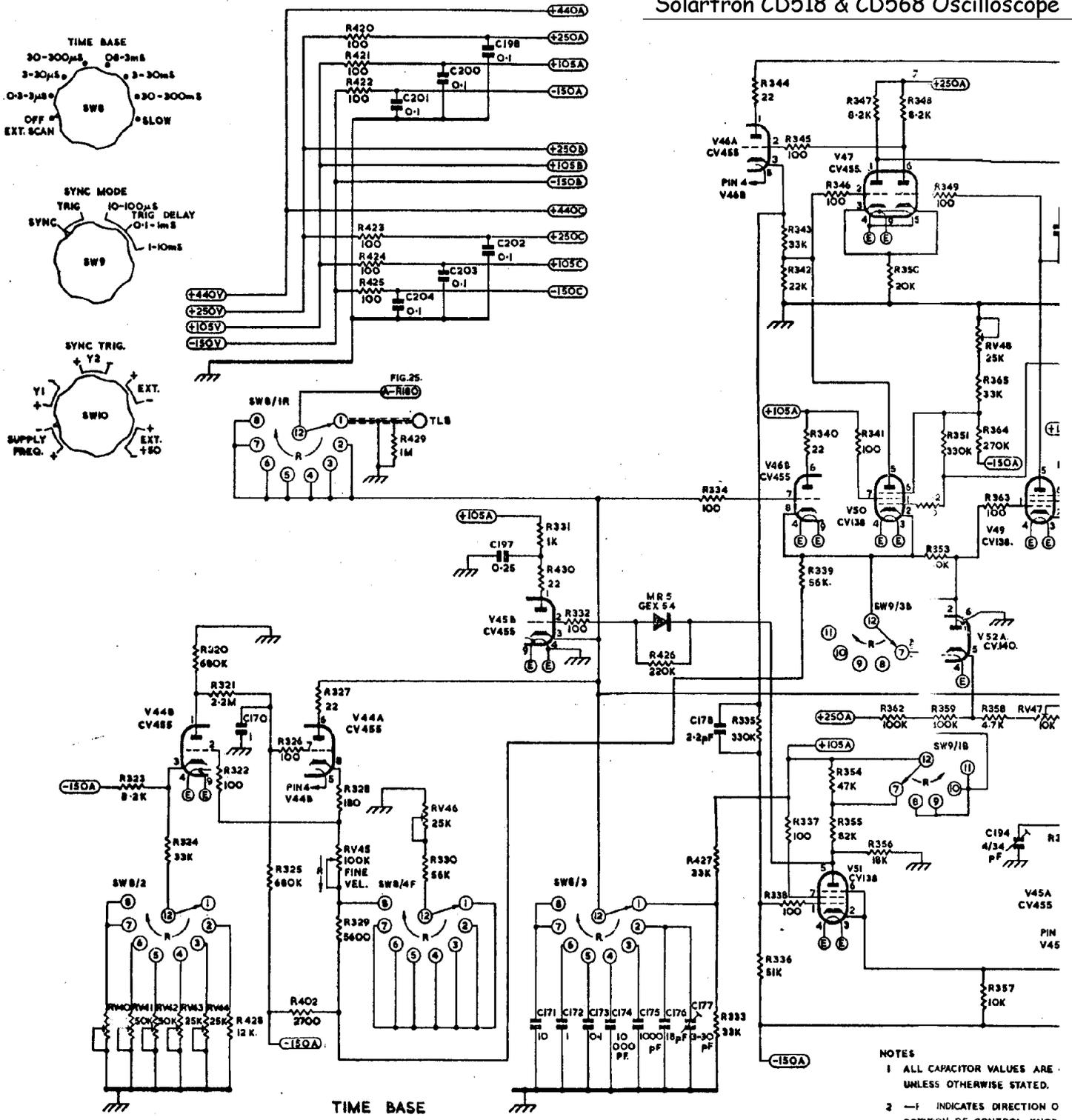


Fig. 24. Time base & Sync Amplifier Circuit Diagram

