

form is useful to monitors and TV sets. A good set of standards is shown in Fig. 1. The signal is dc coupled and always positive going. Sync tips are grounded and blacker than black. The normal open circuit black level is positive by one-half a volt, and the white level is two volts positive. In most TV camera systems, intermediate levels between the half volt black level and the two volt white level will be some shade of gray, proportionately brighter with increasing positive voltage. With most TV typewriter systems, only the three states of zero volts (sync), half a volt (black), and two volts (white dot) would be used. One possible exception would be an additional one volt dot level for a dim but still visible portion of a message or a single word.

The usual video source impedance is either 72 or 100 Ohms. Regardless of how far we travel with a composite video output, some sort of shielding is absolutely essential.

For short runs from board to board or inside equipment, tightly twisted conductors should be OK, as should properly guarded PC runs. Fully shielded cables should be used for interconnections between the TVT and the monitor or TV set, along with other long runs. As long as the total cable capacitance is less than 500 pF or so (this is around 18 feet of RG178-U

miniature coax), the receiving end of the cable need not be terminated in a 72 or 100 Ohm resistor. When terminated cable systems are in use for long line runs or multiple outputs, they should be arranged to deliver the signal levels of Fig. 1 at their output under termination. Generally, terminated cable systems should be avoided as they need extra in the way of drivers and supply power.

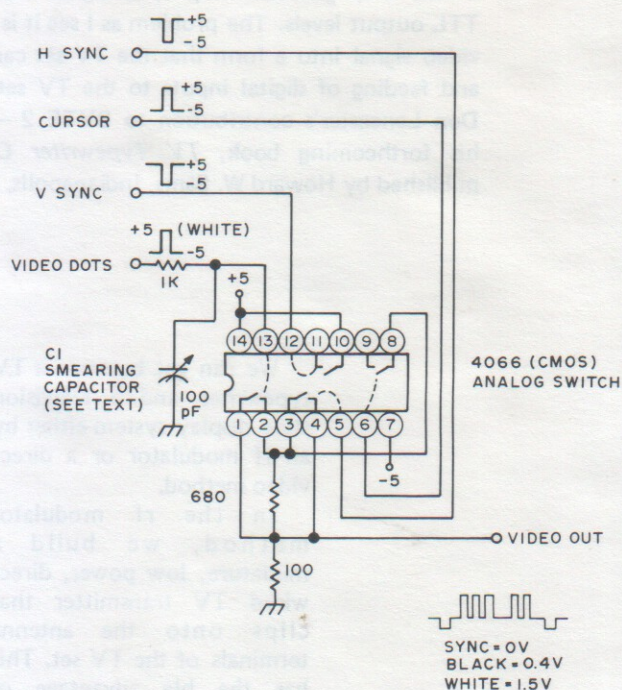
The exact width of the horizontal and vertical sync pulses isn't usually too important, so long as the shape and risetime of these pulses are independent of position control settings and power supply variations. One exception to this is when you're using a color receiver and a color display. Here, the horizontal sync pulse should be held closely to 5.1 microseconds, so the receiver's color burst sampling does in fact intercept a valid color burst. More on this later.

#### Intentional Smear

Fig. 2 shows us a typical composite video driver using a 4066 quad analog switch. It gives us a 100 Ohm output impedance and the proper signal levels. Capacitor C1 is used to purposely reduce the video rise and fall times. It is called a smearing capacitor.

Why would we want to further reduce the bandwidth and response of a TV system that's already hurting to begin with? In the case of a quality video monitor, we wouldn't. But if we're using an ordinary run-of-the-mill TV set, particularly one using rf entry, this capacitor can

Fig. 2. Analog switch combiner generates composite video.



very much improve the display legibility and contrast. Why?

Because we are interested in getting the most legible character of the highest contrast we can. This is not necessarily the one having the sharpest dot rise and fall times. Many things interact to determine the upper video response of a TV display. These include the tuner settings and the i-f response and alignment, the video detector response, video peaking, the sound trap setting, rf cable reflections, and a host of other responses. Many of these stages are underdamped and will ring if fed too sharp a risetime input, giving us a ghosted,

shabby, or washed out character. By reducing the video bandwidth going into the system, we can move the dot matrix energy lower in frequency, resulting in cleaner characters of higher contrast.

For most TV displays, intentional smearing will help the contrast, legibility, and overall appearance. The ultimate limit to this occurs when the dots overlap and become illegible. The