

# 73 Tests the Eicocraft Code Oscillator



Here's the way the kit comes.

Eico is well known for its excellent electronic kits. I've built a number of them, including a stereo amplifier and 460 scope, and found them very satisfactory. Their new transceiver kit has received a lot of attention, and many hams have bought, built and used them.

A new Eico venture is a line of inexpensive kits for the hobbyist and experimenter. You'll see these kits in many electronics stores around the country. Among the Eicocraft kits are a fire alarm, intercom, burglar alarm, light flasher, siren, metronome, tremolo, audio power amplifier and ac power supply. They range in price from \$2.50 up, but not very far.

We received an Eicocraft code practice oscillator kit for test, and decided that the fairest test would be to have a person with no knowledge of electronics build the kit. Looking around the office for a suitable person, my eyes fell on the cute 18-year old girl who helps out in our subscription department. Judy agreed to try the kit, and she took it home to work on. I later heard that she'd had some problems, mostly with her husband, who wanted to build the kit,

but she finished the kit and it worked properly. Here are some of Judy's comments:

It wasn't too difficult to assemble the solid state electronic code oscillator. The instructions were quite easy to follow. Most parts were simple to identify and position, however, some were poorly labeled. With the use of both the diagrams and the assembly procedures, I eventually figured each one out.

Being quite unmechanically inclined, I found soldering to be the most difficult phase of the project. Just anybody certainly couldn't use a soldering iron without some basic instructions or some samples to practice on in order to avoid ruining the kit. The instruction sheet seemed to be lacking here.

I also had some problems with connections to the board from the speaker, key and battery since I didn't know how to strip wire. However, I did get the wire stripped after a few tries. Then I connected them all up and pushed the key. It worked!

And a few other notes. The parts were all of good quality and the oscillator worked fine and emitted a loud, clear tone. I'm sure that any budding electronics hobbyist would enjoy this kit and many of the others in the line.

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Judy working on the Eicocraft code oscillator.