

Preface

Although we are surrounded by sophisticated computerised gadgets these days, there is still a fascination in putting together a few resistors, capacitors and the odd transistor to make a simple electronic circuit. It is really surprising how a handful of components can perform a useful function, and the satisfaction of having built it yourself is incalculable.

This book aims to provide a wide variety of radio and electronic projects, from something that will take a few minutes to a more ambitious weekend's worth. Various construction techniques are described, the simplest requiring no more than a small screwdriver, the most complex involving printed circuit boards.

Originally published by the Radio Society of Great Britain, the projects were all chosen to be useful and straightforward, with the emphasis on practicality. In most cases the workings of the circuit are described, and the projects are backed up by small tutorials on the components and concepts employed. In the 21st century it may seem strange that few of the published circuits use integrated circuits (chips). This is intentional as it is much easier to understand how the circuit works when using discrete components.

Anyone buying the *Radio and Electronics Cookbook* will find that it will lead to hours of enjoyment, some very useful and entertaining gadgets, and increased knowledge of how and why electronics circuits work, and a great sense of satisfaction. Beware, electronic construction is addictive!

WARNING: This book contains construction details of transmitters. It is illegal to operate a transmitter without the appropriate licence. Information on how to obtain an Amateur Radio Licence can be obtained from the Radiocommunications Agency, tel. 020 7211 0160.