

$$U_{\text{MESSGERÄT}} = \underbrace{U_{\text{IN}} \cdot I_{\text{IN}}}_{N \sim} \cdot \frac{R_1 \cdot R_{3,4}^{\star})}{R_2 \cdot 2 U_{\text{T}}} \xrightarrow{26 \text{mV b. } 25^{\circ}}$$

$$\star) R_3 = R_4$$

$$R_7 : 0.5 \mu\text{m} \phi \text{ Cu} : \text{ca. } 15 \text{ cm}$$

## Four transistors measure rms power

Joseph L. Sousa, Sipex, Billerica, MA

The true-rms power circuit in Fig 1 measures true-rms power from dc to 10 kHz with the aid of your battery-powered voltmeter. The polarity of the circuit's output signal indicates the direction of power flow: a positive output indicates power consumed by the load and a negative output means power pumped back to the source.

The CA3096 transistor array forms the instantaneous product between load current and input supply voltage (Fig 1). The npn's work when the supply voltage is negative, and the pnp's work when the supply voltage is positive.  $R_2$  converts the supply voltage into the tail current for the differential pairs, and  $R_1$  converts the output load current into the input voltage for the differential pairs. The average of the instantaneous voltage-current product appears across  $R_3 \parallel C_1$  and  $R_4 \parallel C_2$  as the total rms power.

The values of  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$ , and  $R_4$  set the range sensitivity and keep the circuit operating in its linear-product region. For example, the voltage drops across  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  don't exceed  $\pm 400$  mV, which keeps the transistors' collectors from forward biasing. The drop across  $R_1$  is less than  $\pm 50$  mV.  $R_1$  can be either a precision, Kelvin-connected resistor or you can improvise  $R_1$  from a few inches of #20 wire calibrated with an

ammeter and a resistive load (that is, a 60W light bulb).

You should keep  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  in the circuit, even if you have an averaging meter, because the capacitors suppress output-voltage peaks that might have forward-biased the collectors. But if you really must save money, you can eliminate  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  and sacrifice about half the potential measurement range on ac measurements.

You must be wondering, by now, about the requirement for offset-voltage match and base-current match.  $R_5$  with  $R_6$ ,  $R_7$ , and  $R_8$  provide a dynamic output-null adjustment without the need for an offset-canceling dc voltage source.

This circuit has a  $\pm V_{BE}$  dead band around 0V input. This dead band contributes a small voltage error for a 110V ac input; tweaking  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$ , or  $R_4$  largely cancels this error out. The effect of the dead-band error on the load current is even less important because it happens a small percentage of the time—only at zero crossings—when the real component of the current is low anyway. But beware: below 10V ac, the crossover error may exceed 1%. EDN BBS /DI SIG #1202

EDN

To Vote For This Design, Circle No. 391

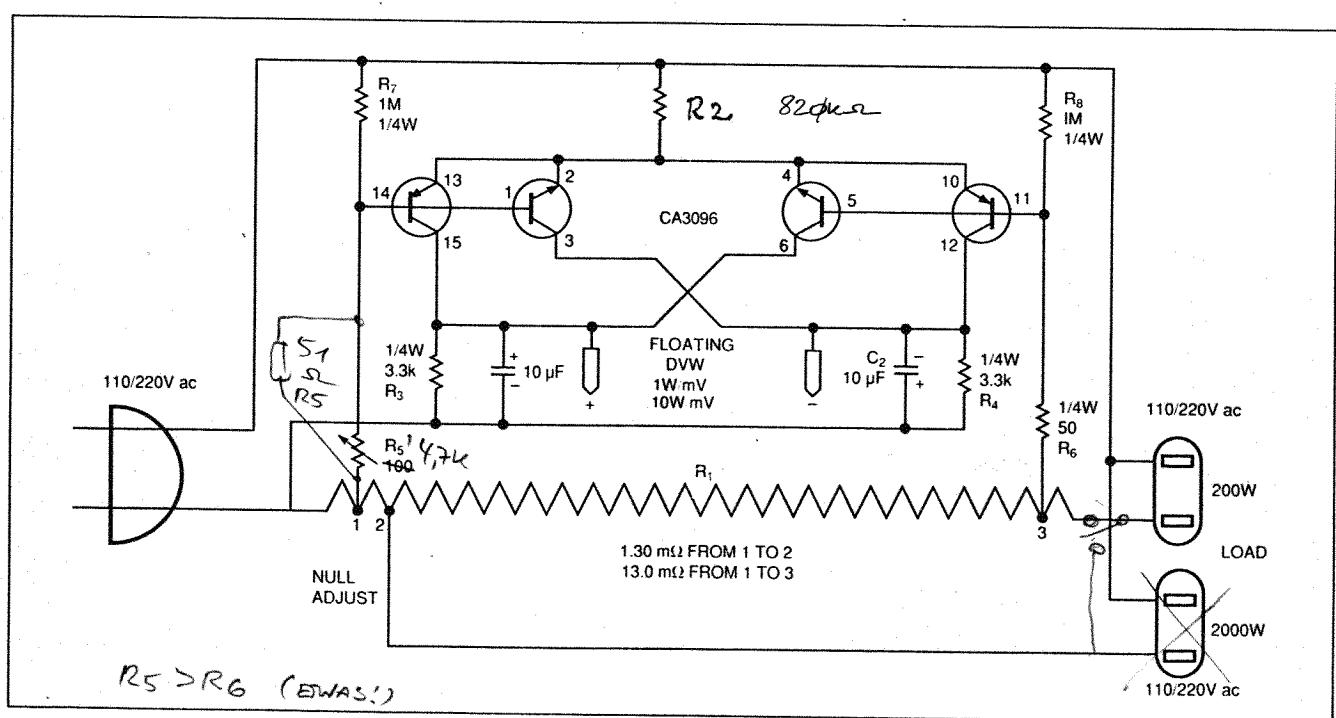
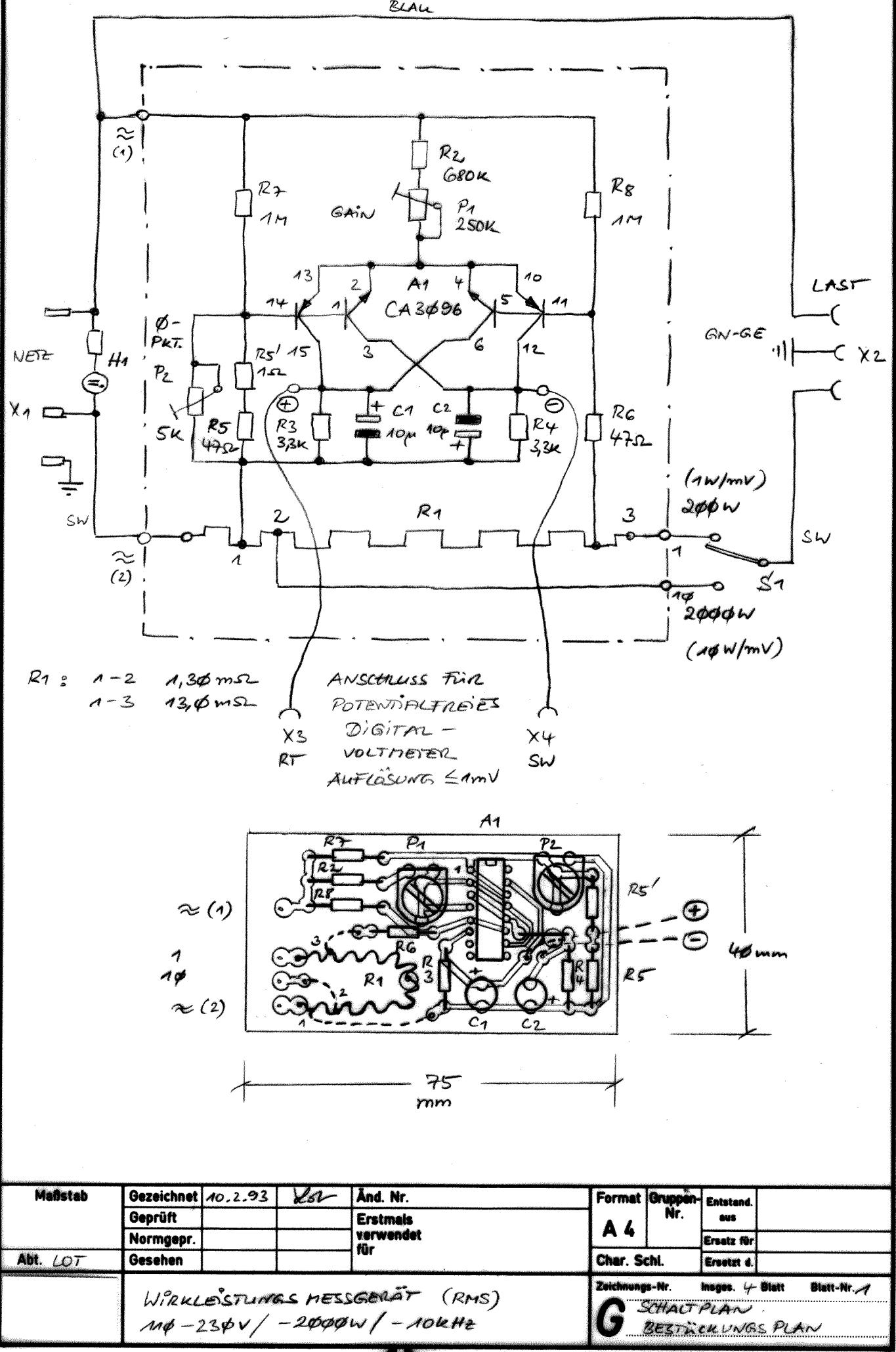


Fig 1—Your battery-powered voltmeter, a homemade, Kelvin-connected resistor, a quad transistor array, and a handful of other parts add up to a true-rms power meter.

# Correction

“Four transistors measure rms power,” by Joseph L Sousa in the January 7, 1993, issue of EDN, (pg 102), is missing the value for  $R_2$ .  $R_2$  is  $1\text{ M}\Omega$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}\text{W}$ .



Bemerkungen:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) R1 = Shunt aus Cu-Blankdraht 0.5mm Durchmesser; Länge ca. 20cm (siehe Abgleich). Shunt auf 5mm-Dorn aufwickeln und lt. Bestückungs-Plan einbauen</li> <li>2) R5 + R5' soll etwa R6 + 1 Ohm sein (siehe Abgleich)</li> <li>3) Einbau-Durchmesser 7mm</li> <li>4) andere Einbau-Maße! (unbekannt); Farbe: Völk.: schwarz glänzend; Conn.: weiß</li> <li>5) zum Verdrahten; Länge nach Bedarf</li> </ol>
Abgleich:	<p>Shunt R1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Draht an beiden Enden an Konstantstromquelle anschließen; Strom z.B. 2,00 A</li> <li>- isolierte Litze (dünn) an Ort 1 anlöten; hier (-) des mV-Meters anschließen</li> <li>- Ort 2 mit anderem Anschluss des mV-Meters suchen (bei o.g. Strom bei 2,6mV)</li> <li>- isolierte Litze (dick, Laststrom!) an diesem Ort 2 anlöten</li> <li>- abkühlen lassen; Spannung nachmessen: dabei mV-Meter an Litze anschließen und seinen 0-Pkt-Fehler berücksichtigen; ggf. Lötort korrigieren</li> <li>- Ort 3: wie Ort 2, jedoch bei o.g. Strom bei 26mV und dünne Litze</li> </ul>
Nullpunkt:	<p>- Gerät an Netz anschließen ohne Last; mV-Meter an X3/X4 anschließen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- P2 abgleichen, bis mV-Meter Null anzeigt (0-Pkt-Fehler berücksichtigen!)</li> <li>- Falls der Abgleich nicht möglich ist, ist R5' zu ändern: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* ist P2 am oberen Anschlag, R5' vergrößern</li> <li>* ist P2 im unteren Drittel, R5' verkleinern; ggf. R5 und R6 tauschen</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Gain:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- bekannte ohmsche Last anschließen; am besten 200/2000 W</li> <li>- P2 abgleichen, bis mV-Meter diese Last anzeigt (0-Pkt-Fehler berücksichtigen!)</li> </ul>
Quelle:	<p>EDN January 7, 1993, Page 102: EDN-Design Ideas: Four transistors measure rms power (Joseph L. Souza, Sipex, Billerica, MA)</p>
Beschriftung:	Maßstab 1:1

200 W      1 W/mV

2000 W      10 W/mV