REACTION TIMER FOR TACHISTOSCOPE

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Tachistoscopes (T. Scope) are used by many studying language. The available models of T. Scope provide for the exposure of the stimuli for a known period of time in milliseconds. However, most models do not have provision of measuring Reaction Times. A Reaction Timer unit has been custom made at AIISH which can be used with T. Scopes. The following is a brief technical description of the Unit.

The Schematic block of the control circuit consists of (1) Control logic (2) Driver Unit (3) Subject Console (4) Status indicator (5) Timer Measurement Unit.

The control logic receives the signal from the experimentor and completes the loop, locks automatically and finally triggers the Tachistoscope lamp. It also simultaneously switches on the time measurement unit which starts the counting of time in milliseconds. The subject observing the display in the Tachistoscope has to react and give feedback by pressing the switches located near him. This signal cuts off the loop of control logic and thereby switches off the power supply to the Tachistoscope lamps. The timer stops counting as soon as this signal is received in control logic. The measured quantity of time is held on the display of the counter till it is reset. The status indicator, is to indicate the subject's response choice about the material exposed. This unit is incorporated in the control logic box.

The circuit is designed to work satisfactorily by providing inter locking wherever it is necessary. The circuit operates on 5 volts DC power supply, which will be tapped from the Tachistoscope control unit as the power consumed is very less by the reaction time unit.

The same circuit may be further modified for different channels depending on the Tachistoscope available.

The total cost of the developed unit is nominal and is around Rs.200/- (Rupees two hundred only) excluding the timer/counter. Any frequency/time counter locally available, for the laboratory purposes may be used for this.
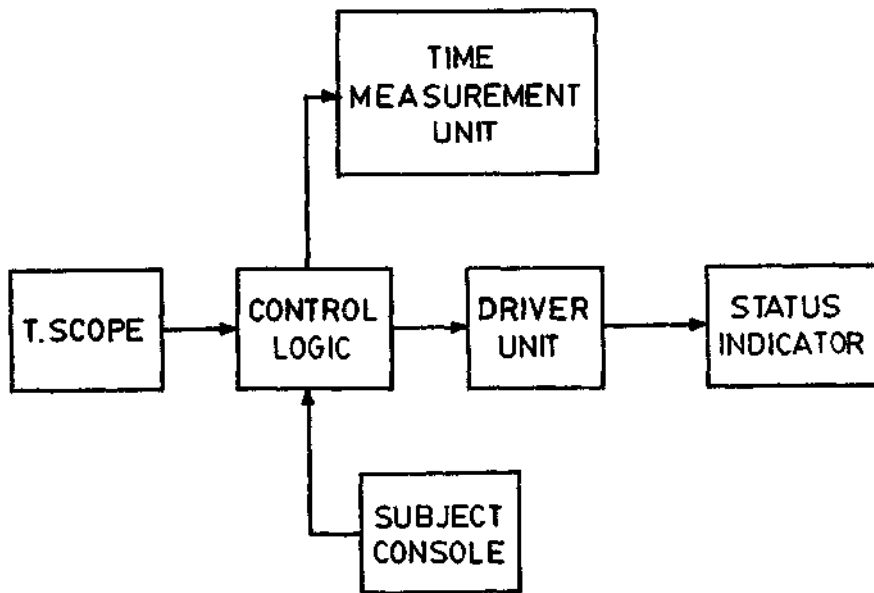
BLOCK SCHEME OF REACTION TIMER UNIT