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# ATCBI-3 ATCRBS Blanker Modification

Leo J. Wapelhorst

**FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION**

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16. Abstract  <p>The construction of a temporary concrete mixing plant directly in front of the Atlantic City Airport Surveillance Radar (ASR)-4 radar/beacon site at an azimuth of approximately 103 degrees posed a potential problem for the secondary radar coverage area. The plant which will be approximately 60 feet high, will probably cause reflection problems. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Eastern Region personnel proposed a fix which would inhibit transmissions in a wedge at the approximate azimuth of the plant.</p> <p>A unit was designed by ATC-150, which used pretriggers, azimuth change pulses, and azimuth reference pulses as input. It produced signals which were interfaced to the Air Traffic Control Beacon Interrogator (ATCBI)-3 to inhibit the P1 pulse of the Air Traffic Control Radar Beacon System (ATCRBS) mode transmissions during a selectable wedge surrounding the reflector (concrete plant).</p>					
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During a runway construction project on runway 22 at the Atlantic City Airport, New Jersey, the contractor will erect a cement mixing plant. The plant (approximately 60 feet high and 36 feet wide) will be located at approximately 103 degrees, less than 1,000 feet from the Air Traffic Control Radar Beacon System (ATCRBS) antenna. It is anticipated that this obstruction will cause severe reflection problems for the Air Traffic Control Beacon Interrogator (ATCBI)/Automated Radar Terminal System (ARTS).

On July 1, 1985, a prototype ATCRBS BLANKER unit was checked out at the operational Atlantic City Airport radar site. It used pretriggers, azimuth change pulses, and azimuth reference pulses from the existing Airport Surveillance Radar (ASR)-4/ATCBI-3 equipment. The P1 pulse of both Mode A and Mode C was inhibited (during a selectable azimuth wedge) prior to the modulator of the ATCBI-3. Thus, no valid interrogations were made during this wedge (nominally 4.5 degrees) which could result in reflections from the area of the cement mixing plant. The blanked 4.5-degree wedge was located at approximately 100 degrees from the Atlantic City radar-site which extends out over the Atlantic Ocean.



## INTRODUCTION

On June 27, 1985, ACT-150 received a telephone call from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Eastern Regional Headquarters which asked if it was feasible to design and fabricate a unit which could inhibit the transmitter of the Air Traffic Control Beacon Interrogator (ATCBI)-3 for an azimuth wedge. Construction had begun on a concrete plant to be used in the resurfacing of runway 422 at the Atlantic City Airport. The location of this plant was approximately 750 feet from the Airport Surveillance Radar (ASR)-4 radar/beacon site at an azimuth of approximately 103 degrees.

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF SOLUTION

Figure 1. shows a block diagram of the Air Traffic Control Radar Beacon System (ATCRBS) BLANKER developed as a solution to the concrete plant constructed in front of the Atlantic City ASR-4/ATCBI-3 site. The blanker receives Azimuth Change Pulse (ACP's), Azimuth Range Pulse (ARP's), and beacon pretriggers from the ATCBI-3. The triggers synchronize a range counter which produces a range gate that encompasses the P1 pulse position of the next interrogation.

The azimuth data are used to synchronize an azimuth counter used to address a Programmable Read Only Memory (PROM). This PROM contains azimuth data in the area around the reflector. Switches allow the fine tuning of the azimuth wedge. Coincidence of the range and azimuth signals will cause the P1 (and also P2 since it is derived from P1) trigger of the following interrogation to be inhibited.

Error detection logic is included for sensing input signal errors. An output signal suitable for display on a Plan Position Indicator (PPI) is also included in order to display the wedge where interrogations are inhibited.

## DETAILED THEORY OF OPERATION

The schematics are shown in figure 2. (eight sheets). The destination sheet of signals leaving each sheet are enclosed in circles (LPUP goes to sheets 3 and 4). The inputs to the blanker are ACP's, ARP's, and beacon pretriggers. The blanker clock is provided by a 40 Megahertz (MHz) crystal oscillator U1 located at V44 (the Integrated Circuits (IC's) are identified by the location of pin 1 on the card). Counter U2 (T43) provides the clock output at R46 by counting down by a factor of eight.

The ACP and ARP interface is provided by U4 (E38). Threshold pots are C44 and G44, respectively. A power-up initialization signal is provided at J47 by U5 and the associated discrete components. J47 remains low after power is applied until capacitor K40 can charge via the 51K resistor at J42. This signal is used to initialize various flip-flops in the system.

## RANGE GATING

The pretrigger level at the input is approximately 60 volts. A second trigger of approximately 20 volts was thresholded out by L44. U22 (N43) and the gate of U3 provide a negative going pulse one clock wide at the lead edge of the pretrigger (LDRC). This signal is used to load the range counter comprised of U6 through U9. The counter is loaded with 65153 at the lead edge of pretrigger time. It will produce a "carry" 382 counts later (approximately 76 microseconds) as it counts at a 5 MHz rate. The "COUT" signal produced at M27 sets flip-flop U10 (K32) which enables the range gate counter comprised of U11 and U12 to count. It counts for a total of 128 clocks which gives a range gate duration of 25.6 microseconds. The carry produced at H18 enables flip-flop K32 to reset via K29. This range gate will encompass the position of the P1 pulse of the next interrogation whether it is Mode A or Mode C.

## AZIMUTH GATING

U13 (G35) and the two gates of U14 (E30) generate pulses which occur at the leading edge of the ACP's and ARP's. The azimuth counter is comprised of U18, U19, and U20 (see figure 2 - sheet 5). The ACP lead edge pulse "HACPLE" enables the azimuth counter to increment once per ACP. When the counter reaches a value of 4095, "L4095" is produced at G32. This signal goes to F35 (see figure 2 - sheet 6) where it is gated with P49 which is the ACP lead edge signal delayed one clock period via U22. The signal produced at F34 (SETWIN) goes to sheet 4 where it enables flip-flop U15 (D41) to set on the following clock. This "WINDOW" should encompass the ARP if the azimuth system is properly synchronized. Sheet 5 shows the ARP error detection logic. If the signal "WINDOW" is still high when the next ACP lead edge occurs (WINDOW is reset by the ARP lead edge), F28 will go low indicating that an ARP was missed. If an ARP occurs which is not in the "L4095" time slot of the azimuth counter, E27 will go low indicating the occurrence of an ARP outside the window. These signals are "OR'ed" at F25 producing a signal called "HARPER" which is sent to F32 (see figure 2 - sheet 6).

The ACP error detection logic is performed by shift register U21 (R36). Each time an ACP occurs, LACPLE clears the shift register. Each time a pretrigger occurs, a "one" is shifted to the right in the shift register. If the "one" arrives at R40, which would mean that three pretriggers occurred without an ACP, an azimuth error will be generated as a result of a missing ACP. This signal is "OR'ed" via U14 and applied to the flip-flop at P44. The "HAZER" signal is sent to driver U29 (A38) which drives the Azimuth Error Indicator.

The azimuth counter outputs (AZ-0 to AZ-11) are used as the address bits of PROM U23 (J12). All the addresses except those in the azimuth wedge are "high." Each output data bit is selectable via a switch on U24 (J1). The selected bits are "OR'ed" by U27 to form the azimuth kill wedge (LAZKILL). An azimuth kill indicator as well as a driver

providing the gate for display on a PPI are also connected to this point. The selection criteria are shown in the azimuth tables for several PROMS (see tables 1 through 5).

### OUTPUT INTERFACE

The range and azimuth gates are combined by open collector driver U28. Because of the high impedances involved with the interface to the vacuum tube circuitry of the ATCBI-3, U28 was installed inside the chassis of the ATCBI-3. The interface between the chip and the remainder of the blanker was handled at the input to the chip where it is at a Transistor-Transistor Logic (TTL) level.

Figure 3. shows a portion of the ATCBI-3 transmitter indicating the point of application of the blanker "kill wedge." When the range gate (LRANG) and the azimuth gate (LAZKILL) are coincident, the P1 pulse is inhibited. Outside the "kill wedge" the output transistor of U28 is off and has no effect on the P1 pulses generated by the blocking oscillator of the ATCBI-3. During the wedge, however, the B transistor is turned on and the energy developed by the blocking oscillator is shunted to ground rather than be allowed to form the P1 pulse.

Figure 4. shows the physical installation of the interface to the ATCBI-3. The output integrated circuit is designated IC-1 on this layout. It is, in reality, U28 shown on the schematics (figure 2 - sheet 8).

TABLE 1 - PROM 95

AZIMUTH	DEC. ADD	HEX. ADD	DATA	D7	D6	D5	D4	D3	D2	D1
DO										
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 95 deg..			FF	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
95 deg	1081	439	FE	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 96...			FE	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
96 deg	1092	444	FC	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 97...			FC	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
97 deg	1104	450	F9	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 98...			F9	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
98 deg	1115	45B	F3	1	1	1	1	0	0	1
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 99...			F3	1	1	1	1	0	0	1
99 deg	1126	466	E7	1	1	1	0	0	1	1
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 100...			E7	1	1	1	0	0	1	1
100 deg	1138	472	CF	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 101...			CF	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
101 deg	1149	47D	9F	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 102...			9F	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
102 deg	1161	489	3F	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 103...			3F	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
103 deg	1172	494	7F	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 104...			7F	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
104 deg	1183	49F	7F	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 360...			FF	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

TABLE 1 - PROM 95 (CONTINUED)

SWITCH NUMBER		FROM	TO
S1	ALL AZIMUTHS	95	97
S2	ALL AZIMUTHS	96	98
S3	ALL AZIMUTHS	97	99
S4	ALL AZIMUTHS	98	100
S5	ALL AZIMUTHS	99	101
S6	ALL AZIMUTHS	100	102
S7	ALL AZIMUTHS	101	103
S8	ALL AZIMUTHS	102	104

TABLE 2 - PROM 102

AZIMUTH	DEC. ADD	HEX. ADD	DATA	D7	D6	D5	D4	D3	D2	D1
00										
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 102 deg.			FF	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
102 deg	1161	489	FE	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 103...			FE	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
103 deg	1172	494	FC	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 104...			FC	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
104 deg	1183	49F	F9	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 105...			F9	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
105 deg	1195	4AB	F3	1	1	1	1	0	0	1
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 106...			F3	1	1	1	1	0	0	1
106 deg	1206	4B6	E7	1	1	1	0	0	1	1
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 107...			E7	1	1	1	0	0	1	1
107 deg	1217	4C1	CF	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 108...			CF	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
108 deg	1229	4CD	9F	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 109...			9F	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
109 deg	1240	4DB	3F	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 110...			3F	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
110 deg	1252	4E4	7F	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 111...			7F	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
111 deg	1263	4EF	7F	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 360...			FF	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

TABLE 2 - PROM 102 (CONTINUED)

SWITCH NUMBER		FROM	TO
S1	ALL AZIMUTHS	102	104
S2	ALL AZIMUTHS	103	105
S3	ALL AZIMUTHS	104	106
S4	ALL AZIMUTHS	105	107
S5	ALL AZIMUTHS	106	108
S6	ALL AZIMUTHS	107	109
S7	ALL AZIMUTHS	108	110
S8	ALL AZIMUTHS	109	111

TABLE 3 - PRGM 109

AZIMUTH	DEC. ADD	HEX. ADD	DATA	D7	D6	D5	D4	D3	D2	D1
DO										
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 109 deg.			FF	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
109 deg	1240	4D8	FE	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 110...			FE	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
110 deg	1252	4E4	FC	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 111...			FC	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
111 deg	1263	4EF	F9	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 112...			F9	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
112 deg	1274	4FA	F3	1	1	1	1	0	0	1
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 113...			F3	1	1	1	1	0	0	1
113 deg	1286	506	E7	1	1	1	0	0	1	1
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 114...			E7	1	1	1	0	0	1	1
114 deg	1297	511	CF	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 115...			CF	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
115 deg	1308	51C	9F	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 116...			9F	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
116 deg	1320	528	3F	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 117...			3F	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
117 deg	1331	533	7F	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 118...			7F	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
118 deg	1343	53F	7F	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 360...			FF	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

TABLE 3 - PROM 109 (CONTINUED)

SWITCH NUMBER		FROM	TO
S1	ALL AZIMUTHS	109	111
S2	ALL AZIMUTHS	110	112
S3	ALL AZIMUTHS	111	113
S4	ALL AZIMUTHS	112	114
S5	ALL AZIMUTHS	113	115
S6	ALL AZIMUTHS	114	116
S7	ALL AZIMUTHS	115	117
S8	ALL AZIMUTHS	116	118

TABLE 4 - PROM 116

AZIMUTH	DEC. ADD	HEX. ADD	DATA	D7	D6	D5	D4	D3	D2	D1
D0										
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 116 deg.			FF	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
116 deg	1320	528	FE	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 117...			FE	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
117 deg	1331	533	FC	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 118...			FC	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
118 deg	1343	53F	F9	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 119...			F9	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
119 deg	1354	54A	F3	1	1	1	1	0	0	1
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 120...			F3	1	1	1	1	0	0	1
120 deg	1365	555	E7	1	1	1	0	0	1	1
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 121...			E7	1	1	1	0	0	1	1
121 deg	1377	561	CF	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 122...			CF	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
122 deg	1388	56C	9F	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 123...			9F	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
123 deg	1399	577	3F	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 124...			3F	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
124 deg	1411	583	7F	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 125...			7F	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
125 deg	1422	58E	7F	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 360...			FF	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

TABLE 4 - PROM 116 (CONTINUED)

SWITCH NUMBER		FROM	TO
S1	ALL AZIMUTHS	116	118
S2	ALL AZIMUTHS	117	119
S3	ALL AZIMUTHS	118	120
S4	ALL AZIMUTHS	119	121
S5	ALL AZIMUTHS	120	122
S6	ALL AZIMUTHS	121	123
S7	ALL AZIMUTHS	122	124
S8	ALL AZIMUTHS	123	125

TABLE 5 - PROM 123

AZIMUTH	DEC. ADD	HEX. ADD	DATA	D7	D6	D5	D4	D3	D2	D1
00										
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 123 deg..			FF	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
123 deg	1399	577	FE	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 124...			FE	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
124 deg	1411	583	FC	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 125...			FC	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
125 deg	1422	58E	F9	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 126...			F9	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
126 deg	1434	59A	F3	1	1	1	1	0	0	1
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 127...			F3	1	1	1	1	0	0	1
127 deg	1445	5A5	E7	1	1	1	0	0	1	1
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 128...			E7	1	1	1	0	0	1	1
128 deg	1456	5B0	CF	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 129...			CF	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
129 deg	1468	5BC	9F	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 130...			9F	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
130 deg	1479	5C7	3F	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 131...			3F	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
131 deg	1490	5D2	7F	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 132...			7F	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
132 deg	1502	5DE	7F	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
ALL AZIMUTHS UNTIL 360...			FF	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

TABLE 5 - PROM 123 (CONTINUED)

SWITCH NUMBER		FROM	TO
S1	ALL AZIMUTHS	123	125
S2	ALL AZIMUTHS	124	126
S3	ALL AZIMUTHS	125	127
S4	ALL AZIMUTHS	126	128
S5	ALL AZIMUTHS	127	129
S6	ALL AZIMUTHS	128	130
S7	ALL AZIMUTHS	129	131
S8	ALL AZIMUTHS	130	132

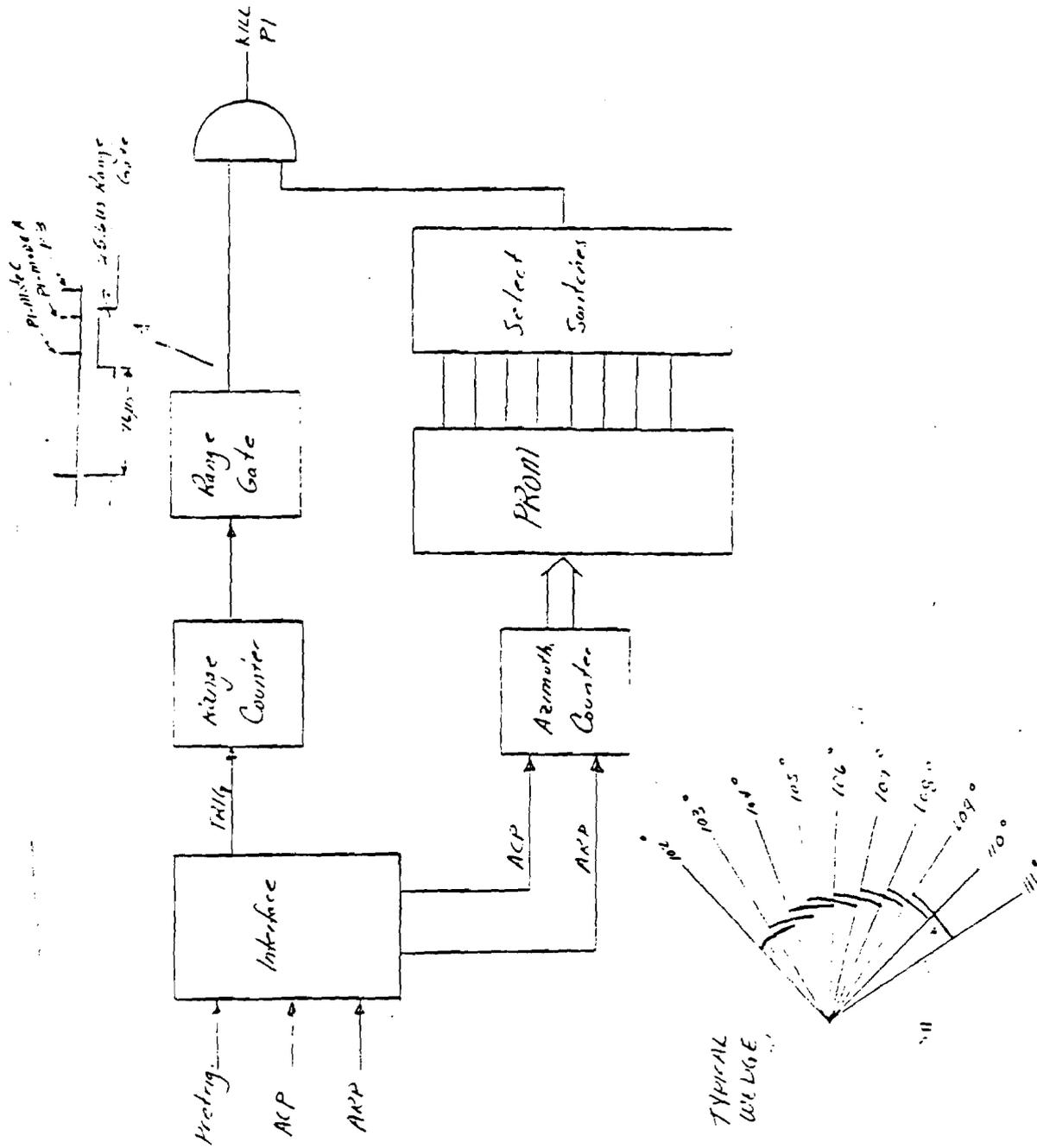


FIGURE 1. BLOCK DIAGRAM FOR ATCRBS BLANKER

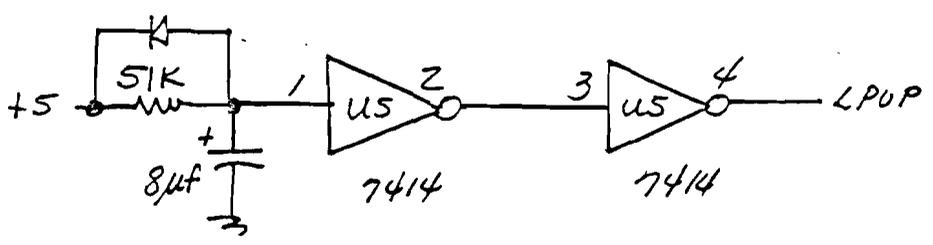
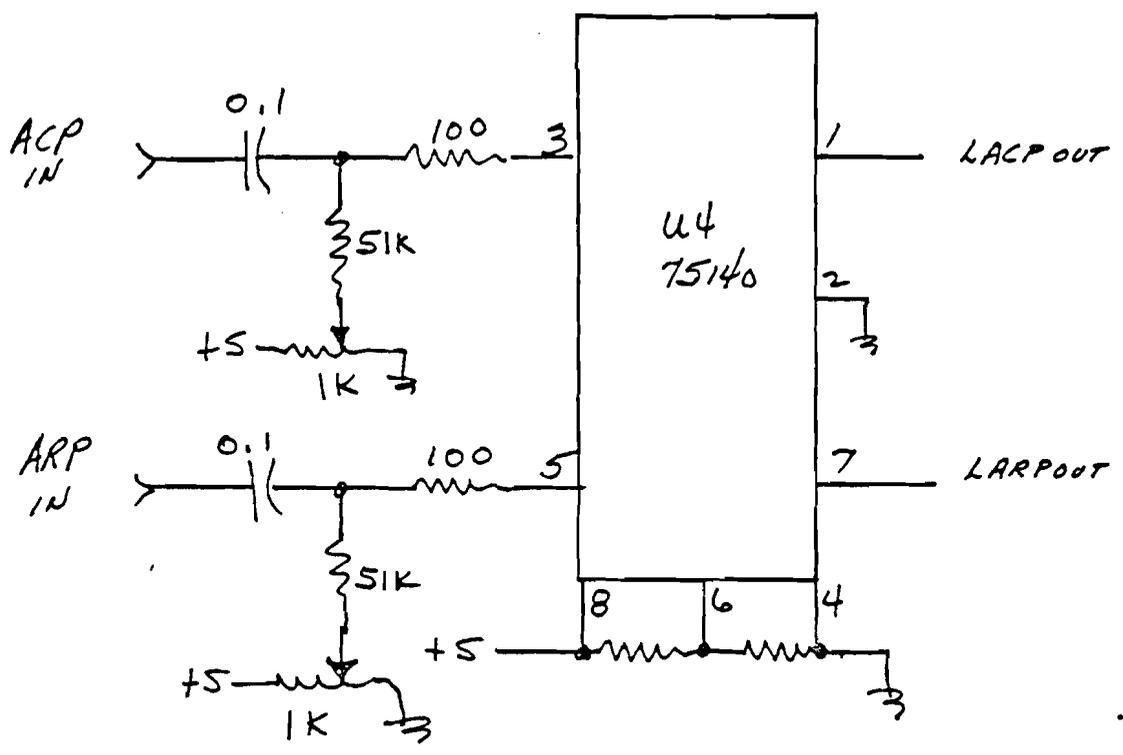
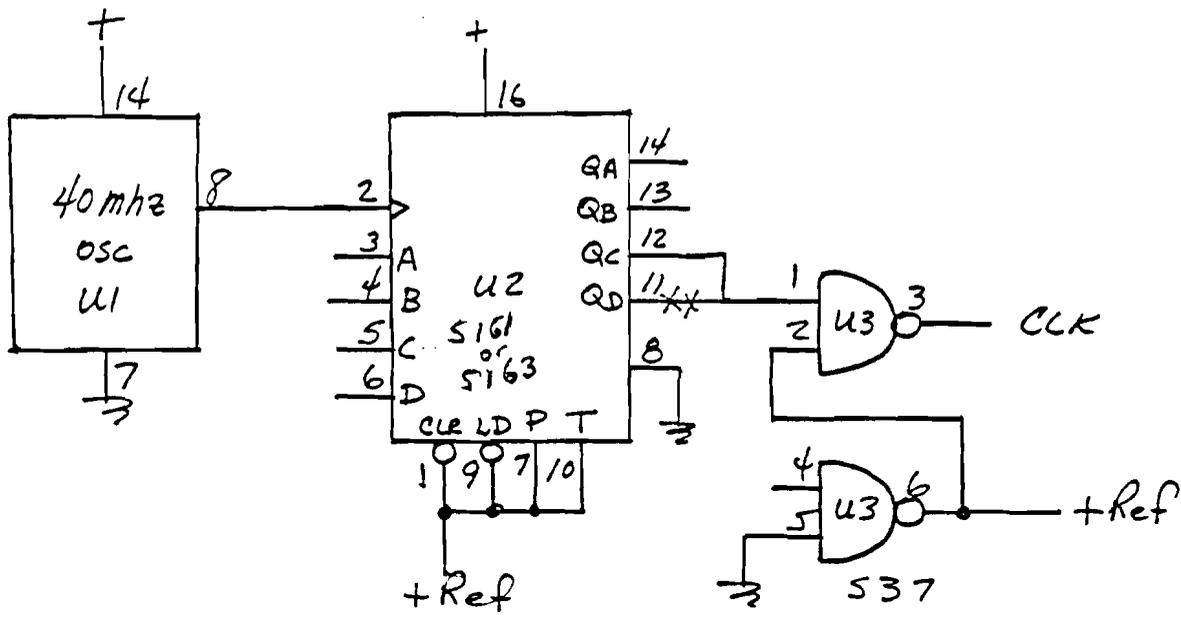


FIGURE 2. ATCRBS BLANKS SCHEMATICS (SHEET 1 OF 3)



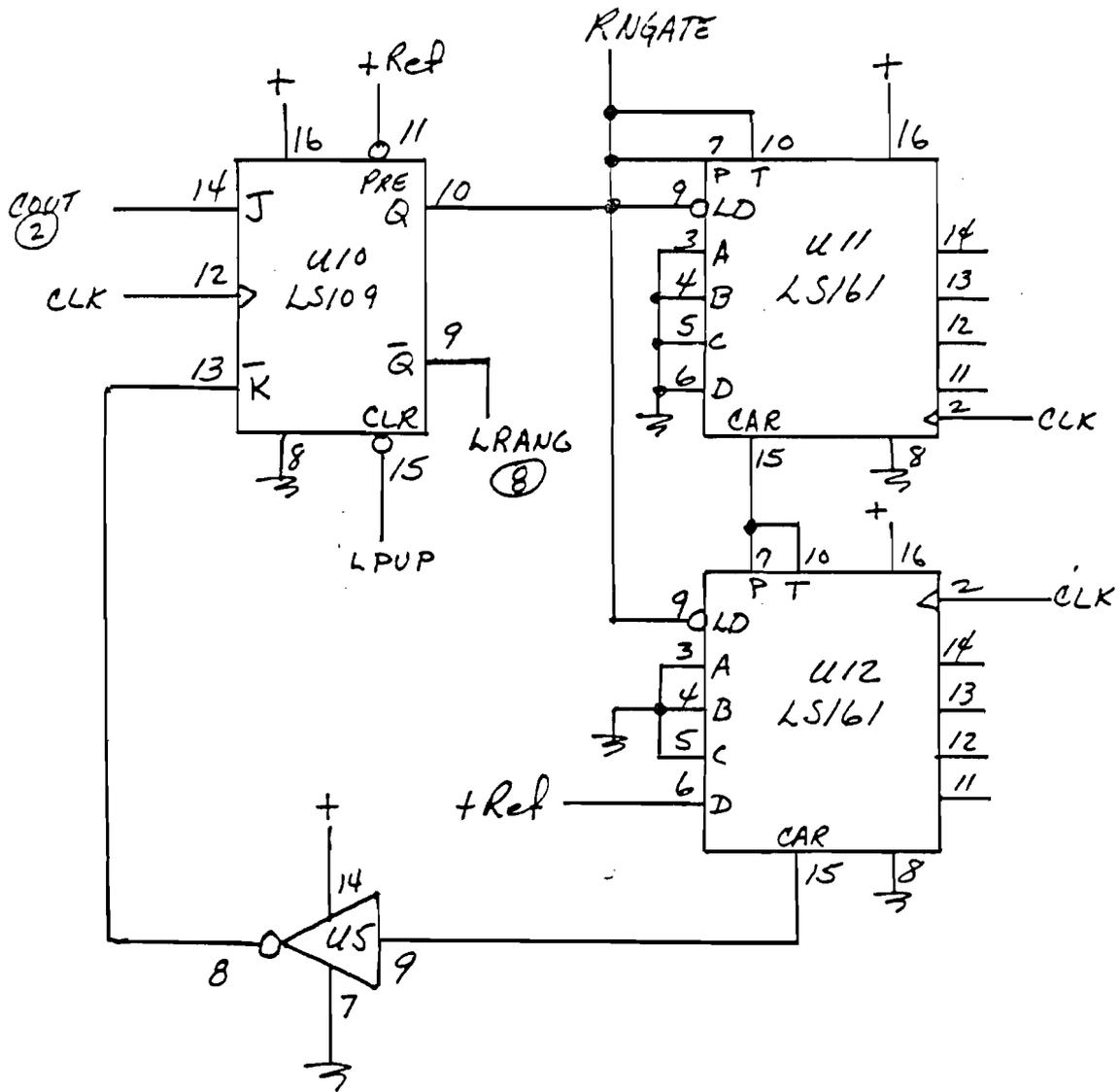


FIGURE 2. ATCRBS BLUNKER SCHEMATICS (SHEET 3 of 8)

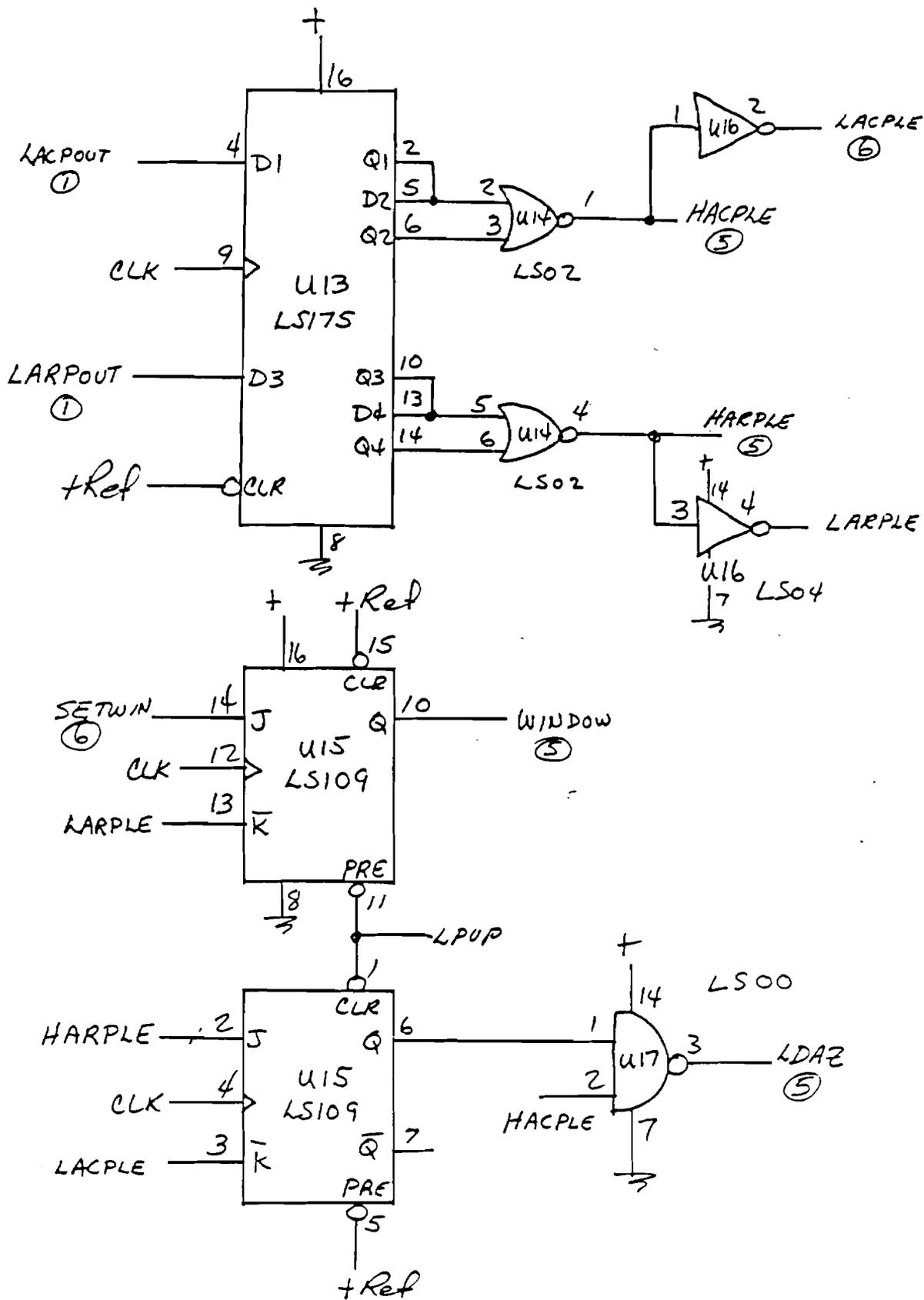
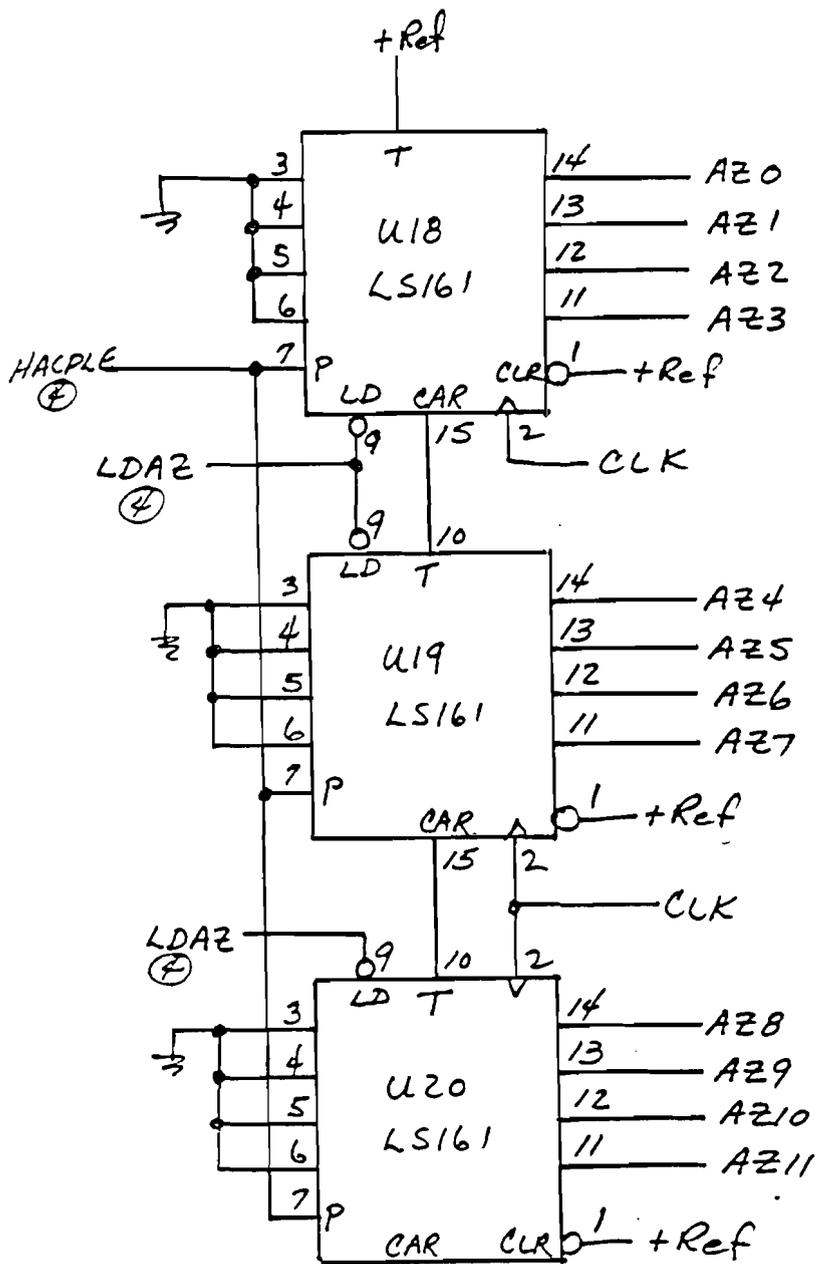


FIGURE 2. ATCRBS BLANKER SCHEMATICS (SHEET 4 of 8)



Pin 16 of all LS161's - 7  
 " 8 " " " " - 9

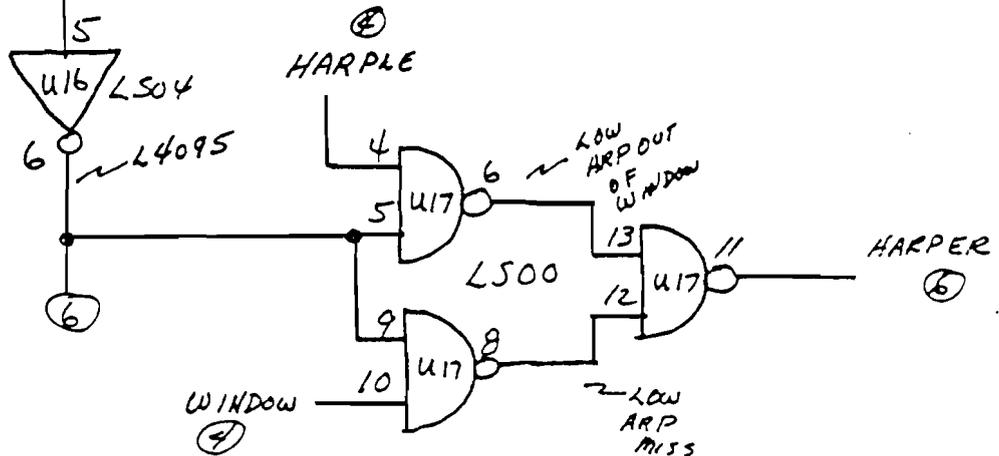


FIGURE 2. ATCRBS BLANKER SCHEMATICS (SHEET 5 of 8)

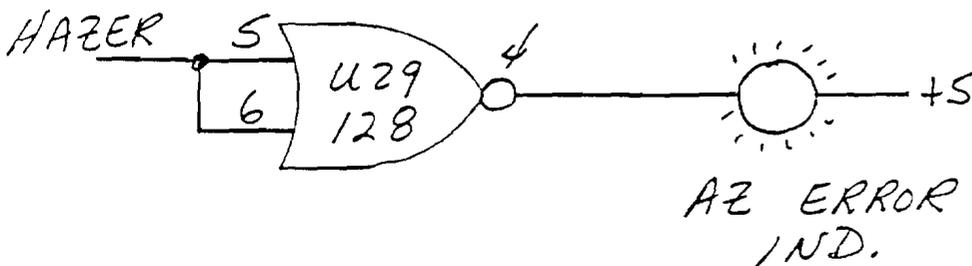
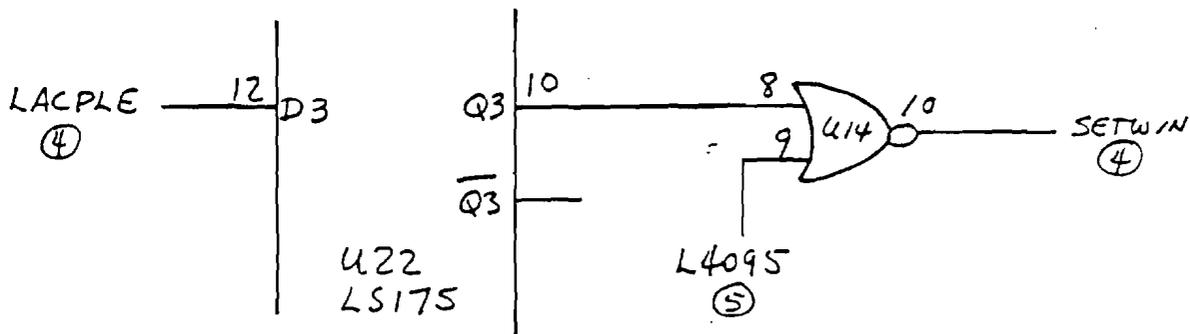
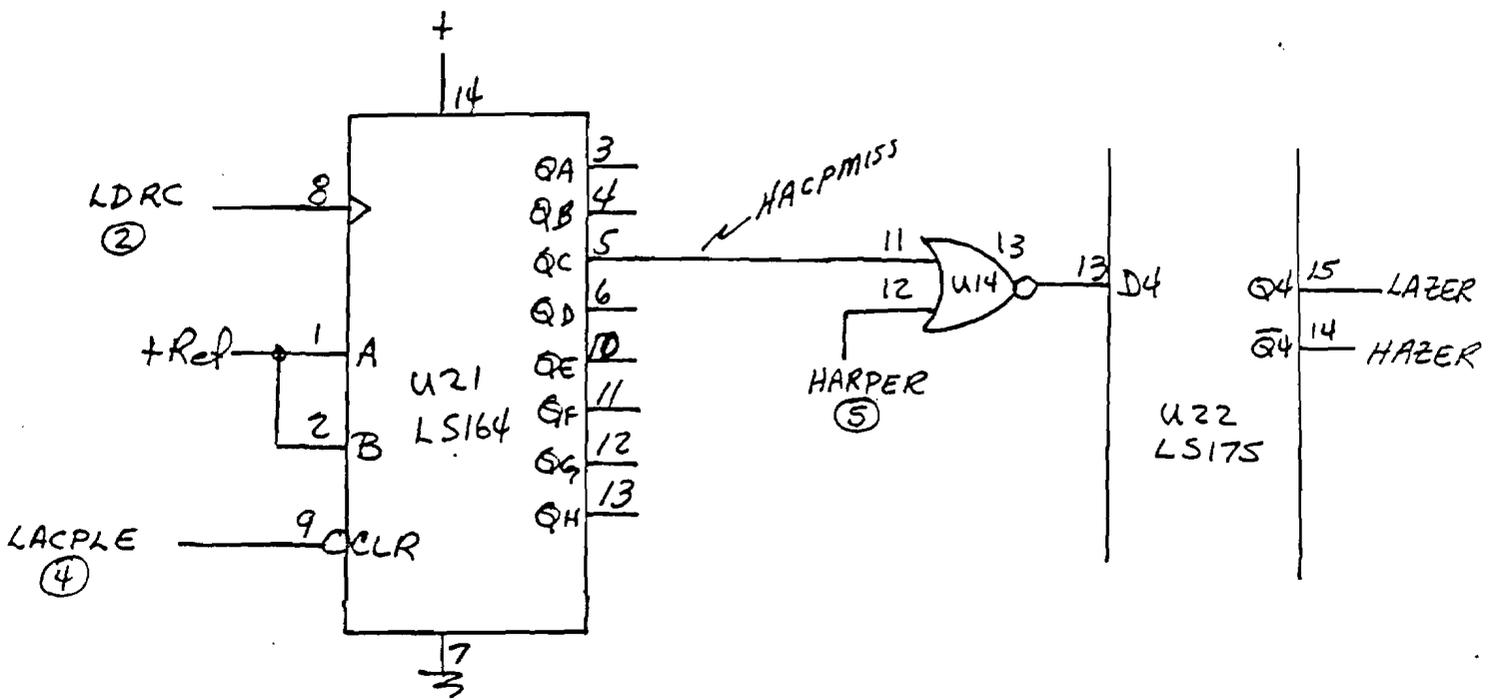


FIGURE 2. ATRBS BLANKER SCHEMATICS (SHEET 6 of 8)

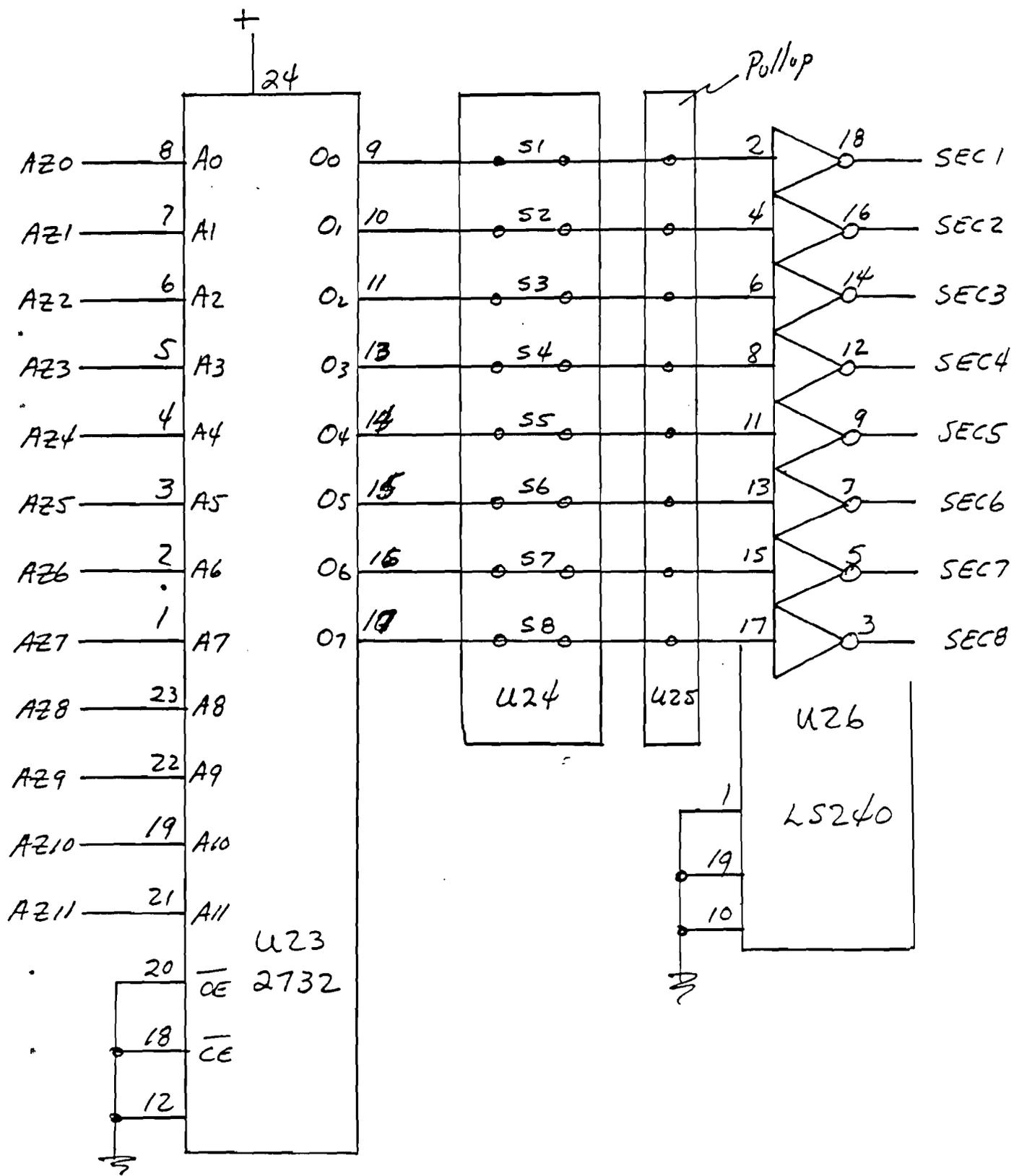


FIGURE 2. ATCRBS BLANKER SCHEMATICS (SHEET 7 of 8)

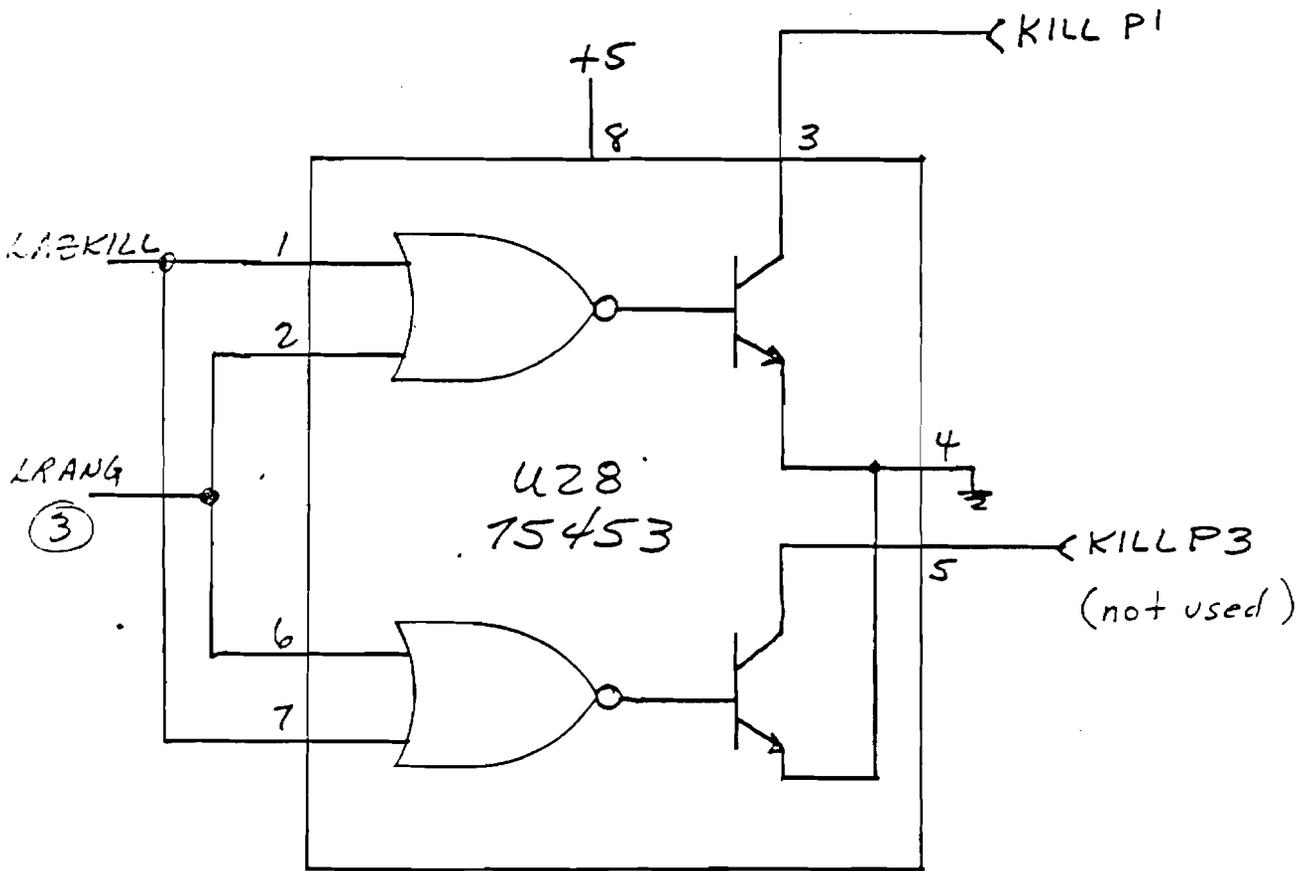
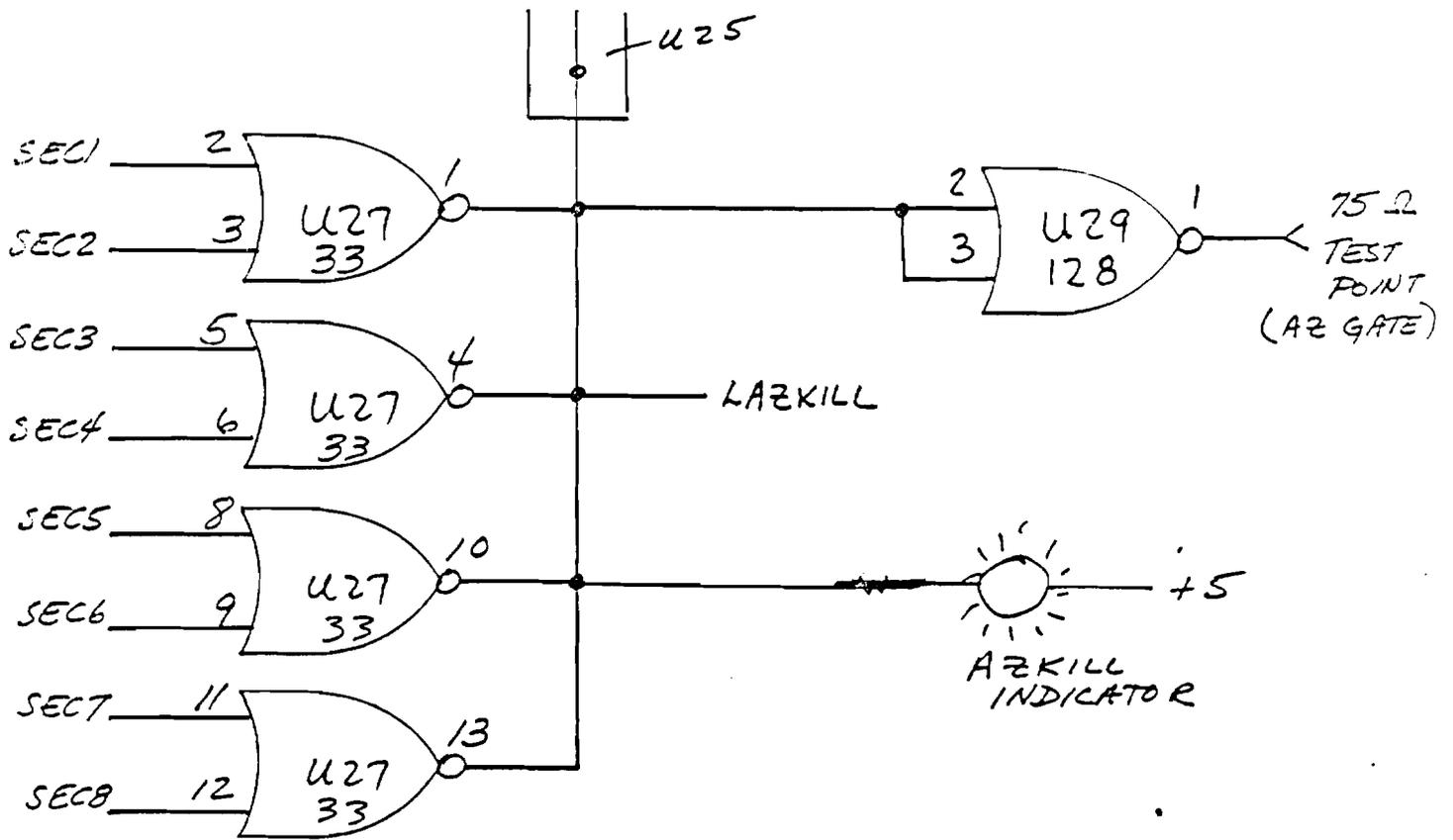


FIGURE 2. ATCRBS BLANNER SCHEMATICS (SHEET 8 of 8)

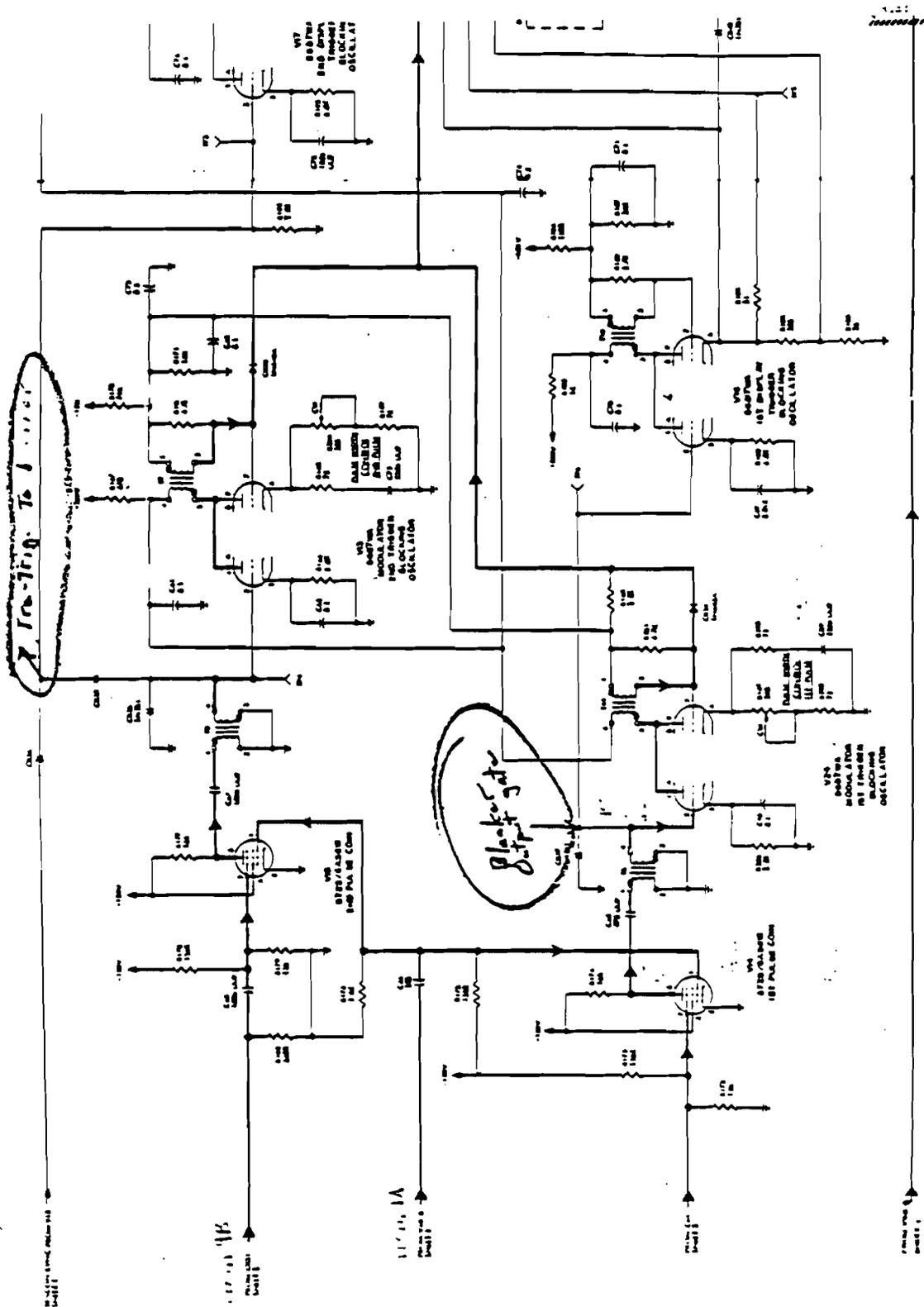


FIGURE 3. PARTIAL SCHEMATIC OF ATCBI-3 SHOWING INTERFACE POINTS

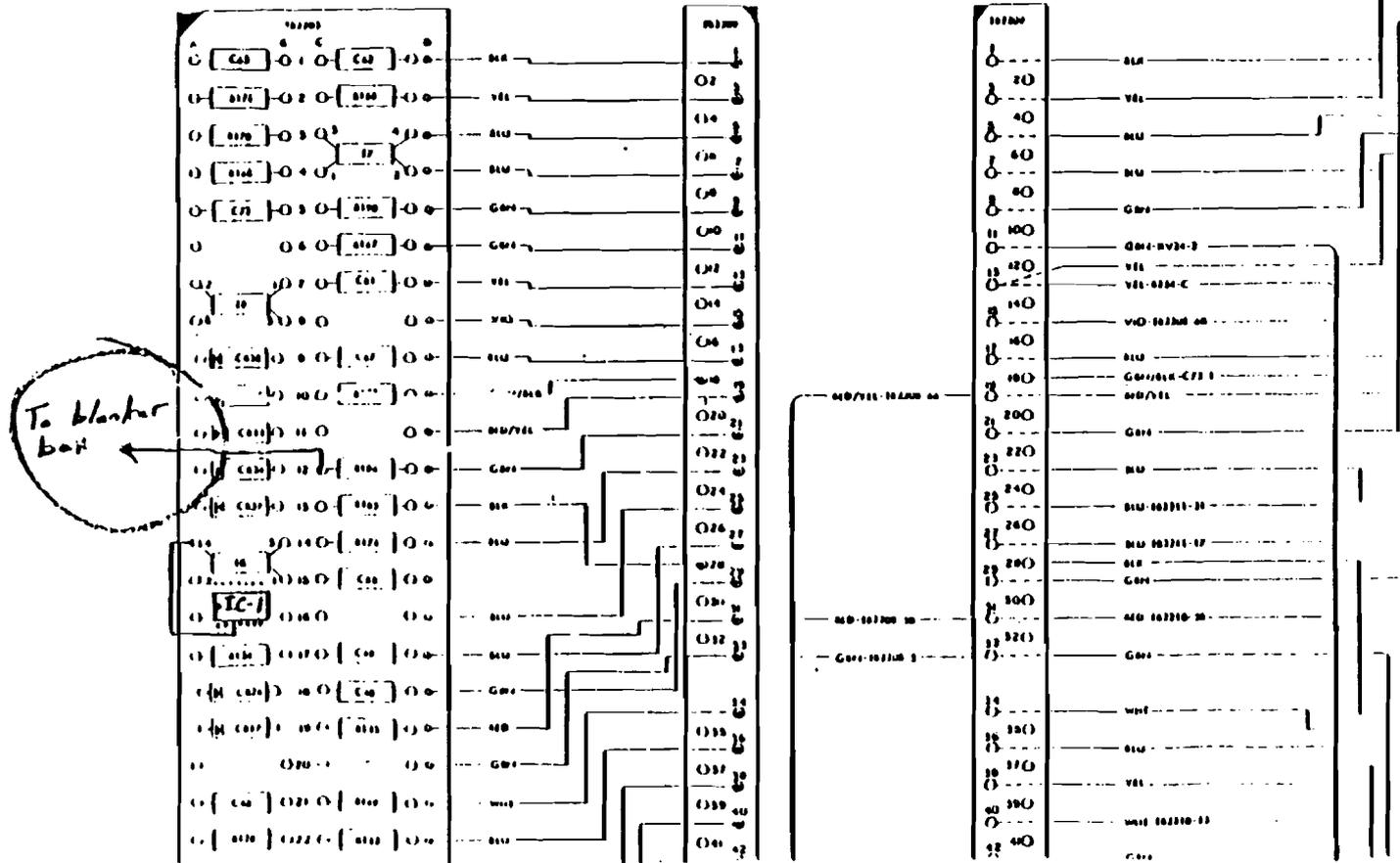


FIGURE 4. ATCBI-3 SCHEMATIC SHOWING PHYSICAL INTERFACE