

*Modern  
Dictionary  
of Electronics*


**SIXTH EDITION**

**REVISED  
and UPDATED**

*Rudolf F. Graf*


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depth of penetration of electric currents into a conductor decreases as the frequency increases. 4. A characteristic of current in a conductor whereby as the frequency increases more and more current flows near the conductor surface and less at the center.

**skinner**—A wire brought out at the end of a cable prepared for soldering to a terminal.

**skinning**—Peeling the insulation from a wire.

**skin tracking**—Radar tracking of an object without the aid of a beacon or other signal device on board the object.

**skip**—1. A digital-computer instruction to proceed to the next instruction. 2. In a computer, a "blank" instruction. 3. To ignore one or more of the instructions in a sequence. 4. Term referring to propagation of radio signals over considerable distances due to reflection back to earth from the ionosphere.

**skip distance**—The distance separating two points on the earth between which radio waves are transmitted by reflection from the ionized layers of the ionosphere.

**skip fading**—Fading due to fluctuations of ionization density at the place in the ionosphere where the wave is reflected, which causes the skip distance to increase or decrease.

**skip-if-set instructions**—In computers, a class of instructions in which provision is made for examining particular logic conditions. Usually they are used in conjunction with a jump (branch) instruction. For example, a skip-if-word-register-ready instruction would allow the program to check for a ready condition of the word register and then permit the program to continue along one of two different paths, depending on the condition of the word register.

**skip keying**—The reduction of the radar pulse-repetition frequency to a submultiple of that normally used, to reduce the mutual interference between radars or to increase the length of the radar time base.

**skip zone**—Also called zone silence. A ring-shaped space or region within the transmission range wherein signals from a transmitter are not received. It is the distance between the farthest point reached by the ground wave and nearest point at which the refracted sky waves come back to earth.

**skirt selectivity**—A measure of the resolution capability of spectrum analyzer when displaying signals of unequal amplitude. A unit of measure would be the bandwidth at some level below the 6-dB-down points.

**sky error**—See Ionospheric Error.

**sky hook**—Amateur term for antenna.

**sky noise**—1. Noise produced by radio energy from stars. 2. Background micro-

wave radiation coming from deep space. It can be a noise source for dish antennas and sets a lower boundary for the possible noise temperature of any dish antenna of approximately 16 to 20 K.

**SKU**—Stockkeeping unit. Abbreviation used in many computer reports to define an individual stock item.

**sky wave**—See Ionospheric Wave and Indirect Wave.

**sky-wave correction**—In navigation, a correction for sky-wave propagation errors applied to measured positional data. The amount of the correction is established on the basis of an assumed position and on the height of the ionosphere.

**sky-wave station error**—In sky-wave-synchronized loran, the station-synchronization error due to the effect of the ionosphere on the synchronizing signal transmitted from one station to the other.

**sky-wave-synchronization loran**—A loran system in which the range is extended by using ionosphere-reflected signals for synchronizing the two ground stations.

**sky-wave transmission delay**—The longer time taken by a transmitted pulse when carried by sky waves reflected once from the E-layer, compared with the same pulse carried by ground waves.

**slab**—A relatively thick crystal from which blanks are cut.

**slab line**—A double-slotted coaxial line the outer shield of which has been unwrapped and extended to infinity in both directions so that the resulting configuration is a cylindrical conductor between two parallel conductors.

**slab wafer**—A slice of semiconductor material that has straight edges, as opposed to a conventional rounded wafer that has 21 percent less area than a square with comparable dimensions.

**slant range**—1. In radar, the line-of-sight distance from the measuring point to the target, particularly an aerial target. 2. Line-of-sight distance between two points not at the same elevation.

**slap-back**—An echo effect that is produced where the original signal reappears as distinct echoes that decay in level each time they appear. One way of creating slap-back is to feed the output signal from the play head back into the record head, at a slightly lower level. For example, if the sound "la" is originally fed to the recorder, then "la-la-la...la" will be heard, with each "la" slightly lower in level until the signal fades away.

**slave**—1. A component in a system that does not act independently, but only under the control of another similar component. 2. A device that follows an order given by a master remote control.