The Illustrated Dictionary of Electronics

Seventh Edition

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recording systems. It was once commonly used in manual telephone-switching applications.

patch up 1. To replace faulty or damaged parts in an electronic system with roughly appropriate surrogates to restore operation quickly (usually under emergency conditions). Also see DOCTOR. 2. To wire a circuit quickly using patch cords for preliminary test and evaluation.

patent 1. A document awarded by a government body, giving to an inventor the exclusive right to exploit an invention for a specified number of years. Formally called *letters patent*. 2. The monopoly granted by a document, as defined in 1.

path 1. The route over which current flows. 2. In radio and navigation, the imaginary line extending directly between transmitter and receiver (or target). 3. In a computer program, the logical order of instructions.

pathometer A form of lie detector that indicates changes in the electrical resistance of the human body.

pattern 1. An established sequence of steps in a process. 2. An arrangement of terms in a matrix. 3. The graphical representation of a varying quantity (e.g., an alternating-current wave pattern). 4. The image on the screen of an oscilloscope, or the record traced by an oscillograph. 5. The graphic polar representation of the radiation field of an antenna. 6. The arrangement of bits in a word or field.

pattern recognition In machine-vision systems, a method of identifying an object or decoding data according to geometric shape. Optical character recognition (OCR) is an example. The machine recognizes combinations of shapes, and deduces their meanings via a computer program.

pause editing In the editing of audio tape recordings, the use of a "pause" switch to temporarily stop the tape when necessary.

PAV Abbreviation of PHASE-ANGLE VOLTMETER.

pawl In a mechanical stepping device, as in a nonelectric clock, a device made to engage the sloping sprockets on a wheel to ensure shaft rotation in one direction only.

PAX Abbreviation of PRIVATE AUTOMATIC EXCHANGE.

pay-per-view Abbreviation, PPV. Television service in which each subscriber pays only for individually selected programs.

pay TV See SUBSCRIPTION TV.

Pb Symbol for LEAD.

P band A radio-frequency band extending from 225 to 390 MHz.

PBX Abbreviation of PRIVATE BRANCH EXCHANGE.

PC 1. Abbreviation of PERSONAL COMPUTER. 2. Abbreviation of PRINTED CIRCUIT. 3. Abbreviation of PHOTOCELL. 4. Abbreviation of POSITIVE COLUMN. 5. Abbreviation of POINT-CONTACT. 6. Abbreviation of PERCENT (also, pct.). 7. Abbreviation of PROGRAM COUNTER.

pc 1. Abbreviation of PICOCOULOMB. Also, pC (preferred). 2. Abbreviation of PICOCURIE. Also, pCi (preferred). 3. Abbreviation of PARSEC.

pC Abbreviation for PICOCOULOMB.

PCB Abbreviation of PRINTED-CIRCUIT BOARD.

PC board See PRINTED-CIRCUIT BOARD.

PC diode See POINT-CONTACT DIODE.

p-channel JFET See P-CHANNEL JUNCTION FIELD-EFFECT TRANSISTOR.

p-channel junction field-effect transistor Abbreviation, PFET. A junction-type FET in which the gate junction has been formed on a bar or die of p-type semiconductor material. Compare N-CHANNEL JUNCTION FIELD-EFFECT TRANSISTOR.

p-channel MOSFET A metal-oxide semiconductor field-effect transistor in which the channel is composed of p-type silicon. Also see DEPLETION-TYPE MOSFET, DEPLETION-ENHANCEMENT-TYPE MOSFET, and ENHANCEMENT-TYPE MOSFET.

pCi Symbol for PICOCURIE.

PCL Abbreviation of PRINTED-CIRCUIT LAMP.

PCM Abbreviation of PULSE-CODE MODULATION.

PCM-FM Pertaining to a carrier that is frequency modulated by information that is pulse-code modulated. Also see FREQUENCY MODULATION and PULSE-CODE MODULATION.

PCM-FM-FM Pertaining to a carrier that is frequency modulated by one or more subcarriers that are frequency modulated by information that is pulse-code modulated. Also see FREQUENCY MODULATION and PULSE-CODE MODULATION.

PCM level In a pulse-code-modulated signal, one of several different possible signal conditions.

PCM-PM Pulse-code modulation that is accomplished by varying the phase of the carrier wave.

PC relay See PRINTED-CIRCUIT RELAY.

PC transistor See POINT-CONTACT TRANSISTOR.

PD 1. Abbreviation of PLATE DISSIPATION. 2. Abbreviation of PULSE DURATION. 3. Abbreviation of PROXIMITY DETECTOR. 4. Abbreviation of POTENTIAL DIFFERENCE.

Pd Symbol for PALLADIUM.

PDA Abbreviation of *predicted drift angle*.

PDAS Abbreviation of *programmable data acquisition system*.

P display See PLAN POSITION INDICATOR.

PDM Abbreviation of PULSE-DURATION MODULATION.

PDM-FM Pertaining to a carrier that is frequency modulated by one or more subcarriers that are frequency modulated by pulses that are pulse-duration modulated. Also see FREQUENCY MODULATION and PULSE-DURATION MODULATION.