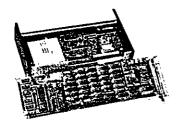
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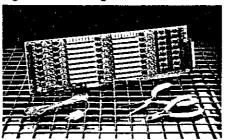
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> For further information, Circle VIP No 63

New Products: Data Acquisition & Control

Signal-conditioning board



The \$2495 TC-16 plugs into an XT slot and eliminates the need for external signal conditioning panels. The unit's 16 channels accept a variety of thermocouples (E, J, T, K, R, S and T types) for ranges of -35 to 450°C or -70 to 900°C and also features 1000V isolation, cold-junction compensation, thermocouple linearization, accuracy better than 1°C. The unit then feeds its analog signals to virtually any PC-based A/D board for digitization.

Onsite Instruments (Mt View, CA (415) 964-9800). Circle VIP No 104

Industrial Trackball

Because they don't require the desk space of a mouse, trackballs make popular pointing devices in industrial settings. Commercial units, though, can be easily damaged by direct impact, shock, chemicals or solvents. A \$295 version of the Mouse-trak trackball, though, uses a 5% glass-filled Xenoy thermoplastic-the same material used in bumpers on some automobiles-that resists chemicals and withstands high impacts. That plastic alloy along with added material on posts and supports creates a case that meets Mil-STD-167 for shipboard shock and vibration, and it's strong enough that you can drive a car over it with no ill effects. Further, a conformal coating over all electronics creates a watertight seal that allows the unit to operate normally in underwater tests. Finally, double shielding on the connecting cable not only holds down on EMI effects but also adds mechanical strength

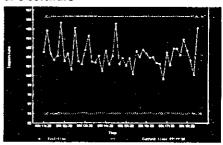
Itac Systems Inc (Garland, TX (214) 494-3073). Circle VIP No 105

EISA A/D cards

A family of analog input boards for the EISA bus supports 32-bit DMA, buffer chaining and onboard FIFO data buffering and thus achieves sustained rates at the units' full-rated bandwidth. Priced from \$2995 to \$3995, available models include: the AD-402, four channels with sampling at 2MHz/channel; the AD-205 with two channels at 5MHz each; and the AD-110, a single-channel 10-MHz board. All feature 12-bit resolution, and you can set the sampling rates of each channel individually. Included in the price is a turnkey program for continuous acquisition and storage at the maximum transfer rates plus a driver for integration into user applications.

Analog Digital Technology (Thousand Oaks, CA (805) 371-5761). Circle VIP No 106

SPC software



Consisting of an add-on package for National Instruments' Measure (which reads data from external interface hardware into Lotus 1-2-3), SPC Orchestra Real-Time Worksheet automatically updates statistical control charts based on information being acquired from RS232based field instrumentation. The \$595 add-on also recalculates statistical control limits without stopping the process; switches between a Shewhart range chart, Cusum chart or an X-bar chart with an on-screen button; and automatically archives data to disk at programmable time intervals. In terms of SPC functions, it calculates summary statistics such as the average and standard deviation of archived datafiles or the cumulative deviation from target. This parameter approximates the area between a process variable trend line and the target for that process. In addition, it generates Parteo charts, histograms and control charts for attributes (p, np, u and c).

DA Martin Software (Knoxville, TN (615) 675-6488). Circle VIP No 107

PERSONAL ENGINEERING AND INSTRUMENTATION NEWS

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ADVERTISING INVOICE (\$\sqrt{5}/1/91)

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SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

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