

When dealing with air lift and drag, the author makes some remarks on orbital motion of satellites. In chapter 10, elements of propulsion are traced by just mentioning the principle of thrust. In the last section, the reader finds some words on the number of air molecules at ground level and a few data on the first man-made satellites and the mass ratio of rockets to overcome gravitational forces of the earth. A very detailed index of subjects is attached and some references for each section are given.

It is very difficult for the reviewer to find and specify a group of persons who may need this book, if we exclude the participants of that summer school. For them the book will certainly be very valuable as a record of the lectures they attended. Far more problems are mentioned than could have been considered with care and with success in a book of this size. One could say that less would have been more.

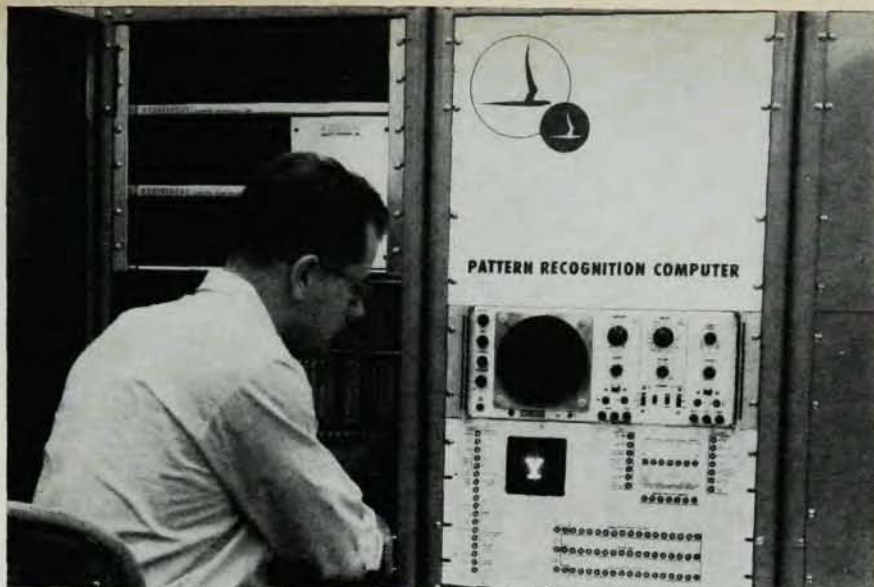
Elements of Acoustics. By J. Blitz. 136 pp. Butterworths, Washington, D. C., 1964. \$4.25.

Reviewed by Walter G. Mayer, Georgetown University.

About a year before the present little volume appeared, another book by the same author became available (*Fundamentals of Ultrasonics*, reviewed in *Physics Today*, April 1964, p. 72). Comparing these two books one notices that about one-half of the material contained in *Elements of Acoustics* was taken from the earlier book, in many instances verbatim with the same figures and formulas. These "repeated" sections deal with the fundamental concepts of sound propagation, velocity, absorption, and reflection.

The other half of the book treats in a simplified manner assorted topics related to hearing, noise, building acoustics, sound recording, and acoustic measurements.

This little book seems to be intended for readers with a casual interest in acoustics. The serious student may find the simplicity of representation refreshing—but he will have to go elsewhere for detailed answers to specific questions.



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Project engineer Les Pownall checks out the optical input channel of a new pattern recognition computer designed and nearing completion at Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory. Soon this computer will hasten solutions to problems which range from automatic target recognition to the reading of alpha-numeric characters.

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