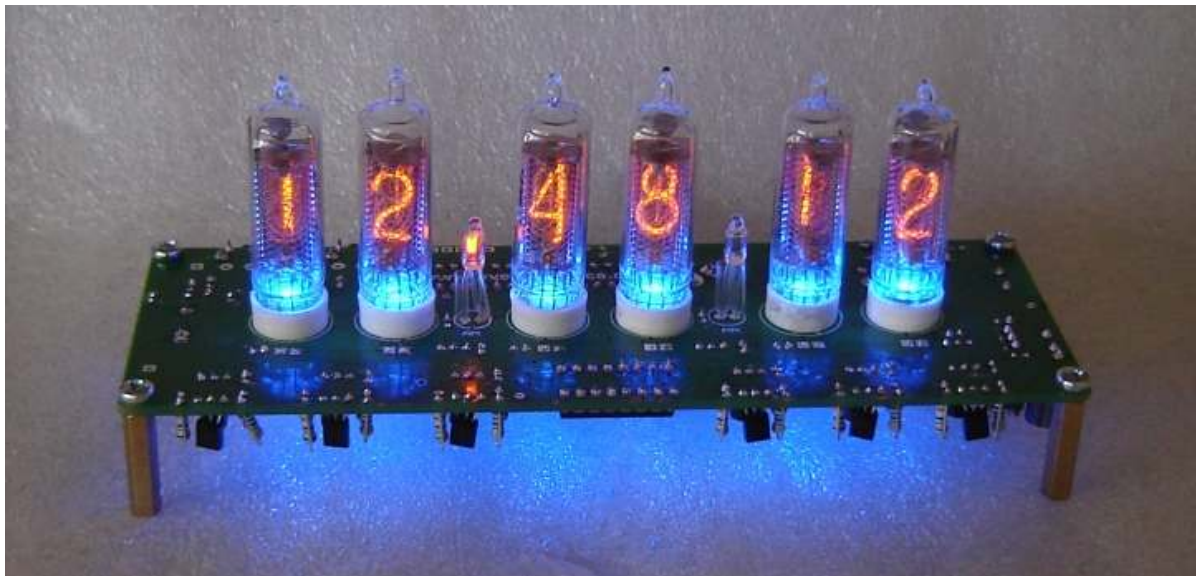


# Assembly Instructions And User Guide

## Nixie Clock Type 'SixNix'



## REVISION HISTORY

<b>Issue Number</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Reason for Issue</b>
6	20 March 2014	Removed WWVB Support
5	14 July 2012	New Board Issue - 19 July 12
4	1 Jan 2012	Added new fuse type
3	6 Sept 11	Added dimensioned drawing
2	5 Sept 11	Errors corrected
1	20 July 2011	New document

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 About the clock

Nixie clock type 'SixNix' is a compact design with all components and tubes mounted on a single PCB. The efficient use of board space is achieved by using a multiplex design to drive the display tubes. Only a single high-voltage binary-to-decimal decoder IC (74141) is required, and each tube is switched on in sequence very quickly to give the illusion that all the tubes are actually lit.

The clock is designed for tube type IN-16.

### 1.2 Clock Features

Nixie clock type 'SixNix' has the following features:

- Hours, Minutes and Seconds display
- 12 or 24 hour modes
- Date display in either DD.MM.YY or MM.DD.YY format
- Alarm, with programmable snooze period
- Programmable date display each minute
- Attractive LED tube lighting
- Uses a Quartz Crystal Oscillator as the timebase
- Optional DCF / MSF / GPS synchronisation with status indicator LED
- Supercapacitor backup. Keeps time during short power outages
- Simple time setting using two buttons
- Programmable leading zero blanking
- Five programmable neon colon settings (Flashing AM/PM indication, illuminated AM/PM indication, both flashing, both on, both off)
- Maintains time during setup mode, eg. When changing between Standard Time and Daylight Savings Time
- Seconds can be reset to zero to precisely the set time
- Programmable night mode - blanked or dimmed display to save tubes or prevent sleep disturbance
- Separate modes for colon neons during night mode
- Standard or fading change of digits
- 'Slot Machine' Cathode poisoning prevention routine
- All user preferences stored to non-volatile memory

### 1.3 SAFETY

**DANGER:** The clock pcb includes a switched-mode voltage booster circuit. This generates nominally 170 Volts DC, but is capable of generating up to 300 Volts before adjustment. Assembly may only be undertaken by individuals who are suitably qualified and experienced in electronics assembly, and are familiar with safe procedures for working with high voltages. If in doubt, refer to a suitably qualified engineer before proceeding.

**The voltages generated by this circuit can give a potentially LETHAL ELECTRIC SHOCK.**

DISCLAIMER: This product is supplied as a kit of parts, intended only for suitably qualified electronic engineers, who are suitably qualified and experienced in electronics assembly, and are familiar with safe procedures for working with high voltages. The supplier, his agents or associates accept no liability for any damage, injury or death arising from the use of this kit of parts.

This is not a finished product, and the person assembling the kit is responsible for ensuring that the finished product complies with any applicable local regulations governing electrical equipment, eg. UL, CE, VDE.

## 2. TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

### 2.1 Tools required to assemble the PCB.

The following tools will be required to assemble the PCB:

- Soldering iron with a small tip (1-2 mm)
- Wire cutters (TIP: A small pair of nail clippers works very well for this function)
- Wire strippers (TIP: A small pair of scissors is quite suitable)
- Multimeter for voltage tests and for identifying the resistors.
- Small flat screwdriver for adjusting the high voltage supply

### 2.2 Materials you will need.

Solder – lead / tin solder is preferred. Lead free solder, as now required to be used in commercial products in Europe, has a much higher melting point and can be very hard to work with.

Desoldering wick (braid) can be useful if you accidentally create solder bridges between adjacent solder joints.

### 2.3 Other items you will need

The clock kit does not include a power adapter. This is because the kit is sold to many countries around the world, each with very different household mains outlet socket types. It is more efficient for the user to buy a suitable adapter locally. This saves shipping a heavy adapter with the kit, and also the extra costs of managing stocks of many varied power adapters. If you are using a DCF or MSF receiver avoid cheap Chinese switching power supplies, as they can cause interference problems: an adapter with an earth connection will be needed.

The suitable type of power adapter can be obtained at very low cost. The following specification of adapter should be obtained and used with the kit:

*Output 12V DC regulated, minimum power output capability of 300 mA  
Output plug: 2.1mm pin, centre positive.*

A suitable adapter is shown below:



### 3. LIST OF COMPONENTS

#### 3.1 Table of components

Circuit Designation	Part Description
<b>Resistors</b>	
R1, R2	4.7K, ¼ Watt
R3	390K, ¼ Watt
R4, R5	4.7K, ¼ Watt
R6, R7	560R, ¼ Watt
R8	4.7K, ¼ Watt
R9, R10	560R, ¼ Watt
R11 – R24	4.7K, ¼ Watt
R25 - R32	390K, ¼ Watt
R33 – R35	560R, ¼ Watt
<b>Capacitors</b>	
C1	470uF 16-25V, Electrolytic
C2	100nF Ceramic
C3	1uF 250V Electrolytic
C4	15pF Ceramic
C5	33pF Ceramic
C6	0.1F
C7, C8	100nF Ceramic
<b>Transistors</b>	
Q1	IRFD220 MOSFET
Q2 – Q10	MPSA42 NPN
Q11 – Q16	MPSA92 NPN
Q17	MPSA42 NPN
<b>Diodes</b>	
D1 – D3	1N5819
D4	UF4004
D5	5mm Yellow LED
D6 – D8	1N4148
D9 – D14	3mm Blue LED
D15	5 mm Green LED
<b>Integrated Circuits</b>	
IC1	7805 5V voltage regulator
IC2	PIC16Fxxxx 8-bit microcontroller
IC3	74141 / K155ID1 Nixie driver
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
L1	100uH Radial Inductor
AM, PM	4mm wire ended neon lamp
SET, ADJ, ALARM	Miniature push button
IC Socket for IC2	28 Way IC socket for IC2
IC Socket for IC3	16 Way IC socket for IC3
J1	2.1mm PCB power socket
LS1	Piezo sounder
GPS/ RFT	3.5mm Jack socket
FUSE	500mA fuse
Insulation	Clear insulation for neons
X1	32.768KHz watch crystal

### 3.2 Parts list / Packing sheet

Part Description	Quantity
<b>Resistors</b>	
560R, ¼ Watt	7
4.7K, ¼ Watt	19
390K, ¼ Watt	9
<b>Capacitors</b>	
470uF, 16-25V, Electrolytic	1
1uF 250V, Electrolytic	1
100nF Ceramic	3
15pF Ceramic	1
33pF Ceramic	1
0.1F	1
<b>Transistors</b>	
IRFD220 MOSFET	1
MPSA92 PNP	6
MPSA42 NPN	10
<b>Diodes</b>	
1N5819	3
UF4004 fast recovery diode	1
1N4148	3
5mm Yellow LED	1
5mm Green LED	1
3mm Blue LED	6
<b>Integrated Circuits</b>	
7805 5V voltage regulator	1
PIC16Fxxxx 8-bit microcontroller	1
74141 / K155ID1 Nixie driver	1
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
100uH Radial inductor	1
4mm wire ended neon lamp	2
Miniature push button	3
28 Way IC socket for IC3	1
16 Way IC socket for IC2	1
3.5mm Jack socket	1
2.1mm PCB power socket	1
Piezo sounder	1
500mA fuse	1
6 cm clear insulation	1
32.768KHz watch crystal	1

It is recommended that the kit is checked against the list above, to ensure all parts are present before commencing assembly. Don't be alarmed if there are some extra components, as some component bags are shared between different kit types.

The resistors used in the kit are 1% tolerance metal film. They are marked with 4 coloured bands to identify the value. However it is sometimes unclear in which direction the bands should be read. Therefore, we recommend that the resistors be identified with a multimeter.

The fuse is a self-resetting type and can be confused for a resistor. This is what it looks like:





## 4. ASSEMBLY OF THE PCB

### 4.1 Low Voltage Power components:

**J1, FUSE,  
D1-D3 (1N5819)  
U1 (7805)  
C1 (470  $\mu$ F)  
C2 (100 nF)**

Start by installing D1-D3. Align the white band on the components with the band marked on the PCB.

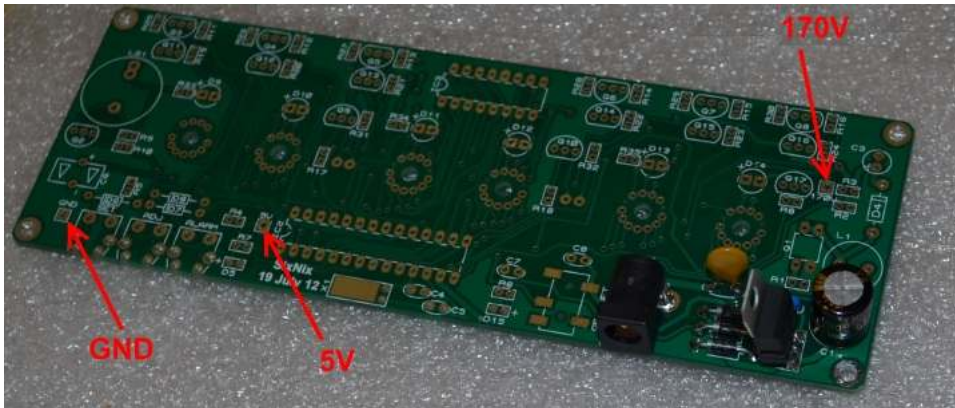
Continue to mount C1, C2, J1, U1 and FUSE.

Note that C1 is polarised. The longer lead goes in the hole marked (+). The PCB should now look like the picture below:



## 4.2 Testing Stage 1 Power Components.

Identify the test GND, 5V and 170V test points as shown below.



Plug in the power supply, and then test using a DC voltmeter: Touch the black probe on the GND test point and the red probe on the 5V test point. The voltage should measure between 5.1 and 5.3 Volts. If not, disconnect power and check your work. Do not proceed with the assembly until the error is corrected. Once the test is completed, disconnect the power.

### 4.3 High Voltage Generator components.

**R1, R2 (4.7 K $\Omega$ )**

**R3 (390 K $\Omega$ )**

**Q1 (IRFD220)**

**D4 (UF4004)**

**C3 (1  $\mu$ F)**

**L1 (100 $\mu$ H Inductor)**

**Socket for IC2**

Pay attention to mount D4 with the white band aligned with the PCB marking. Insert the 28 way IC socket into the PCB at the IC2 position, ensuring that the notch at one end is aligned with the corresponding marking on the PCB.

Resistors R1-R3, indeed all the resistors on the board need to be mounted upright to save space. The leads need to be formed as shown below. Bend the leads of each resistor as shown and solder into the correct position, making sure the component body is as close to the board as possible.



After installation of step 4.3 components, this is how the PCB should look. Note the orientation of MOSFET Q1:

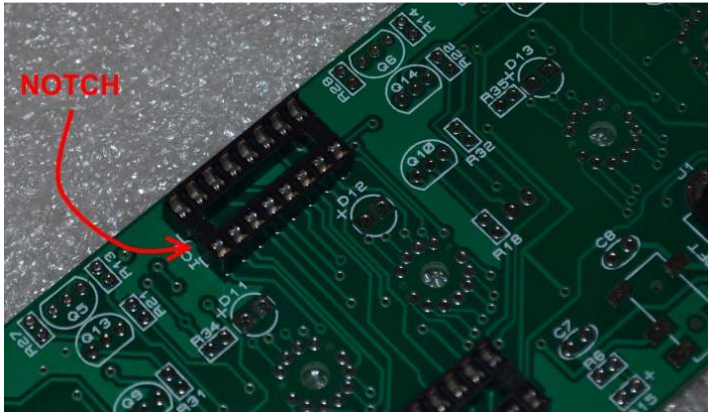


#### **4.4 High Voltage Generator Test.**

- Refer to the warnings on page 4
- Insert IC2 into its socket. Orient the notch on the IC with the notch on the IC socket and the PCB marking.
- Power up the PCB, and using the GND and 170V test points, measure the high voltage generated. It should be between 167 and 173V. Disconnect the power supply.
- Finally, remove IC2 from its socket and replace on its static-protective foam. It is best kept safe until needed for the tube tests later in the assembly.
- If you do not get this voltage, disconnect the power supply and check your work carefully. Do not proceed until you get the correct voltage at this stage.

#### 4.5 SOCKET FOR IC3

Align the notch on the IC socket with the corresponding PCB mark.  
See below:



#### 4.6 R11 - R24 (4.7 K $\Omega$ ) R25 - R32 (390 K $\Omega$ )

#### 4.7 X1 (32.768 KHz Crystal) C4 (15pF) C5 (33pF)

Do not solder the body of the crystal to the PCB, just lay it over the large rectangular pad.

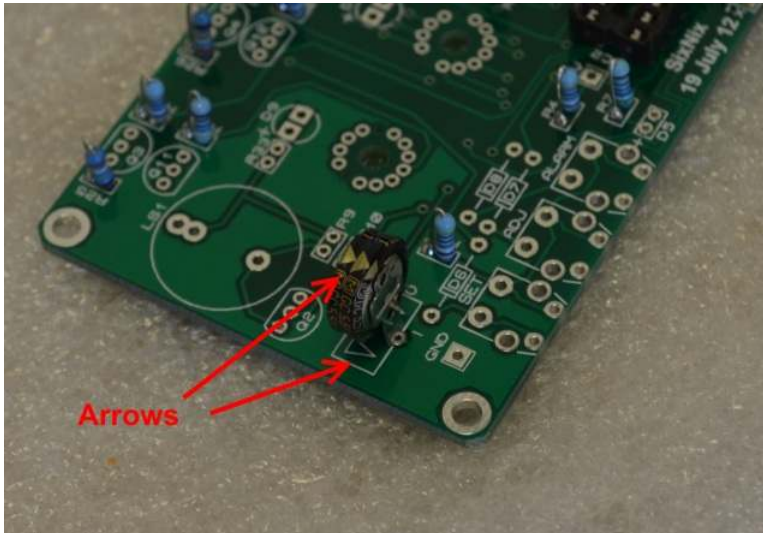


#### 4.8 R4, R5, R8 (4.7 K $\Omega$ ) R6, R7 (560 $\Omega$ ) R9, R10 (560 $\Omega$ )



#### 4.9 C6 (0.1F) C7, C8 (100nF)

C6 is a high capacity 'Super Capacitor', intended to keep the processor powered for short periods in the event of a main power failure. It is vital that it is placed in the correct orientation. See below. There are arrows on the component that need to be pointing the same way as the arrows on the PCB.



#### 4.10 D6- D8 (1N4148) GPS / RFT (3.5mm Jack socket)

To solder the GPS / RFT connector: First wet one pad on the PCB with solder. Then place the connector in position and re-touch the pad with the soldering iron. This will anchor the component and then you can solder the remaining pads.



#### 4.11 Q2 – Q10, Q17 (All MPSA42)

After placement of these 10 transistors, the board should look like this:



#### 4.12 Q11 – Q16 (All MPSA92)

After placement of these 6 transistors, the board should look like this:

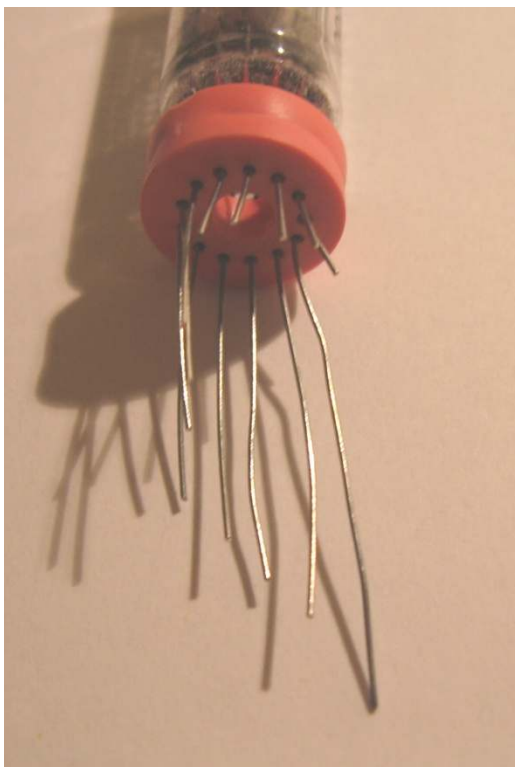


## 5. INSTALLING THE NIXIE TUBES

### 5.1 IN-16 Nixie Tubes.

To facilitate easy insertion of the flying leads into the small holes, it helps enormously to trim the flying leads with a pair of scissors as shown below. Start by identifying the anode lead at the back of the tube. It has a white coating where it enters the glass.

Then, working around the tube, cut each successive lead approx 2mm shorter than the previous one. This will allow you to feed each lead in in turn.



### **IMPORTANT:**

**If you will be installing the LED tube lights, now is the time to slip off the plastic spacer and drill a 4mm hole in the middle of the spacer, to 'let the light shine through'. Some tubes already have the hole moulded in which case you can omit this step.**



Identify the anode pads at each tube location. It is the rearmost pad. **PLACE THE TUBES ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE PCB TO THE COMPONENTS!!**

Now you can insert and solder in the tubes, starting at NX1, one at a time. Feed all the wires in progressively. It is not as hard as it seems at first. After soldering in, trim flying leads. After soldering in each tube, test the tube as follows:

Ensure the IC2 (PIC16F193x) and IC3 (K155ID1) are placed in their sockets, and remembering that 170V will be generated, power up the PCB. The tube should count repeatedly from 0 to 9. This tube test routine allows you to check each tube as it is placed, and if there are any tube or PCB shorts this will expose them as they happen. Because it is a multiplex design, any shorts between cathodes (even an internal tube defect), will show on ALL TUBES. So it would be very hard to diagnose a short after placing all tubes. Be sure to test each tube after placement, before moving on to solder in to the next tube.

**Do not proceed if you observe any of the following:**

- Tube does not light (check anode is soldered)
- Tube does not show all digits (check all leads are soldered)
- Tube shows one or more digits simultaneously (check for shorts between adjacent tube connections)

Once all tubes have been placed correctly, move to step 6.

## 6. MOUNTING THE REMAINING COMPONENTS

### 6.1 SET, ADJ, ALARM.

Push buttons SET, ADJ and ALARM can be mounted on either side of the PCB, depending on your case design. For the cases supplied by us, mount the switches on the component side of the PCB

### 6.2 AM, PM.

The 2 neons can now be mounted at a suitable height. Use small lengths of the clear insulation supplied on the leads to prevent shorts.

### 6.3 LS1 (Piezo Sounder)

There are two sets of holes for this component, as two different types may be supplied depending on component availability.

### 6.4 D5 (5mm Yellow LED) D15 (5mm Green LED)

Mount as shown below if you are using one of our cases. Ensure the longer lead goes in the hole marked (+):



Otherwise, if you will be using your own case, it may be mounted as you prefer.

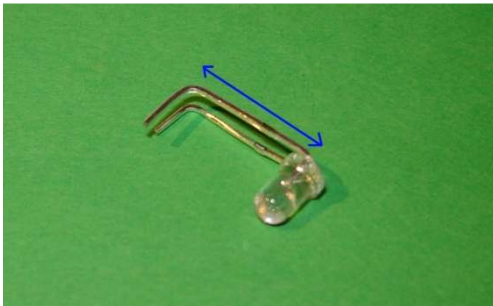
### 6.5 R33 - R35 (560 $\Omega$ )

## 6.6 D9 – D14 (3mm Blue LED).

You can substitute other colour 3mm LEDs if you wish.  
Bend the leads of each LED as shown below. Note that the longer (+) lead is on the top. This is important as the leads will be trimmed to the same length, so you need to be sure that you have the correct (longer) lead in the (+) hole.



Now bend again, appropriate to the spacing between the pads for the LED and the hole for the LED. Cut the leads to the same length:



The six LEDs may now be installed. Insert and solder on the COMPONENT side. Take care that the LED leads are well clear of the tube leads

## 7. HOW TO OPERATE THE CLOCK

The three buttons have the following functions:

SET: Exit tube test routine on cold power-up;

Show date;

Set: time, date;

Enter configuration menu;

ADJ: Adjust: time, date, alarm time, configuration parameters;

Manual DCF / MSF Synchronisation;

ALARM: Set alarm time; snooze; cancel snooze/alarm;

### *Entering configuration mode:*

The principal settings of the clock are stored in flash memory – your preferred configuration is stored even after powering off the clock for extended periods. To access the configuration mode press and hold the 'Set' button. After 2 seconds the seconds will become highlighted.

Continue holding the button a further 2 seconds until the clock displays in this format:

00-XX- 99. The '99' in the seconds digits tells you that you are in the configuration menu.

In configuration mode the hours digits display the current parameter being adjusted, and the minutes digits display the current value stored against the parameter.

For each parameter, and referring to the table below, scroll through the range of possible values by pressing the 'ADJ' button. When the desired value has been reached, move on to the next parameter by pressing the 'SET' button. When the last parameter has been set, pressing 'SET' one more time will revert the clock back to time display mode. The first parameter (0) cannot be changed as it is the software revision number. It will show for several seconds and then move to parameter 1.

In all correspondence on support issues, please quote the board type, revision date and software version.

Parameter	Description	Values
0	Software revision	30 = version 3.0, 31 = version 3.1 etc
1	12 / 24 Hr mode	0 - 12 Hr (default) 1 - 24 Hr
2	Date format	0 = MM.DD.YY (default) 1 = DD.MM.YY
3	Leading zero blanking eg. 01:54:32	0 - leading zero blanked (default) 1 - leading zero displayed
4	Night mode start hour	0 - 23
5	Night mode end hour	0 - 23
6	Night mode	0 - Tubes off (default) 1 - Dimmed display
7	Display mode	0 - standard change of digits(default) 1 - fading digits
8	Night mode override period (minutes)	0 - 50 (default 3) <sup>1</sup>
9	Snooze period	0 - 6 minutes (default) 1 - 9 minutes 2 - 12 minutes 3 - 15 minutes
10	Colon neons mode	0 - AM/PM Indication, flashing 1 - AM/PM Indication, illuminated 2 - Both flash (default) 3 - Both illuminated 4 - Both off
11	Colon neons during night dimmed mode <sup>2</sup>	0 - AM/PM Indication, flashing 1 - AM/PM Indication, illuminated 2 - Both flash 3 - Both illuminated (default) 4 - Both off
12	Radio time signal source	0 - No Radio Time source (default) <sup>3</sup> 1 - DCF 2 - Reserved 3 - MSF 4 - GPS
13	GPS Baud rate	0 - 4.8 Kbps (default) 1 - 9.6 Kbps 2 - 19.2 Kbps 3 - 38.4 Kbps
14	Radio time offset hours	0-13 (default 0) <sup>4</sup>
15	Radio time offset mins	0-45 (default 0) <sup>4</sup>
16	Radio time offset polarity	0 - minus time (default) 1 - plus time
17	Disable /Set DST in GPS mode	<i>GPS Sync Mode:</i> 0 - No DST offset 1 - 1 hour DST offset <sup>5</sup>
18	Auto date display each minute	0 - Off 1 - On (default) <sup>6</sup>
19	LED backlights	0 - Always off 1 - Always on 2 - On, and follows tube nightblinking (default)
20	Reserved - leave as 0	0

21	Reserved – leave as 0	0
22	Slots Mode <sup>7</sup>	0 – Slots disabled 1 – Slots every minute 2 – Slots every 10 minutes (default) 3 – Slots every hour 4 – Slots at midnight
23	RFT Sync Mode <sup>8</sup>	0 – DCF / MSF Sync once per day only as per parameter(24) 1 – DCF / MSF Sync every hour (default)
24	RFT Daily Sync Hour	0 – 23 (default 2)
25	RFT Seek Blanking	0 – Keep tubes lit for DCF / MSF seek 1 – Blank tubes for DCF / MSF seek (default)
26	Reserved – leave as 0	
27	Reserved – leave as 0	
28	Restore default settings	0 – Keep user settings 1 – Restore original default settings <sup>9</sup>

*Notes:*

1. Press 'SET' briefly during blanking to show time for prescribed period.
2. Night time neons mode is active when night mode is set to dim. During night time blanking the tubes AND neons are disabled.
3. Clock is fully functional without DCF / MSF / GPS synchronisation. Set time manually.
4. Enter your time zone offset from the synchronisation source.
5. In GPS Sync mode, this parameter is used to set DST. Set to '1' during DST.
6. Date will be displayed each minute between 50 and 55 seconds past the minute.
7. Visual effect / cathode poisoning prevention – all digits on all tubes are cycled for 10 seconds.
8. DCF /MSF synchronisation takes place on the hour. If no valid frame is received in 6 minutes, the clock reverts to normal operation.
9. Set this parameter to '1' to restore original default settings. Internal operations will then load all the original settings and restore the value to '0'

**Setting the Time and Date:**

From time display mode, press and hold 'SET' button for 2 seconds until the seconds digits are highlighted.

Press the 'ADJ' button to reset seconds to zero.

Briefly Press 'SET' again and the hours will be highlighted

Press the 'ADJ' button to set the minutes.

Briefly Press 'SET' again and the hours will be highlighted.

Press the 'ADJ' button to set the hours.

Proceed in this fashion to set the calendar: Year, Month and Day.

Finally, briefly Press 'SET' again to revert to normal clock operation.

**Showing Date:**

From time display mode, briefly press 'SET' button. Date will be shown for 5 seconds, then revert to time display.

**Auto Date Display:**

Setting parameter (18) to '1' will enable auto display of date between 50 and 55 seconds past each minute.

**Night Blanking Override:**

During programmed night blanking, the blanking may be overridden to see the time by briefly pressing the 'SET' button. Tubes will remain lit for the period defined in parameter (8).

**Manual RFT Call:**

In DCF / MSF modes, pressing 'ADJ' briefly during time display will initiate a manual time seek for maximum 6 minutes, or until a valid time frame is received.

**Setting Alarm:**

Press the 'ALARM' Button. The seconds digits show the on / off status of the alarm: 00 or 01 (off or on).

Set on / off status, then minutes followed by hours by using the 'ALARM' and 'ADJ' buttons. When set, the alarm LED will also light.

**Cancelling Alarm:**

Press 'ALARM' briefly to cancel alarm and enter snooze mode, or a longer press until the clock bleeps, to cancel snooze. Alarm remains set for the next day.

## 8. USING A RADIO FREQUENCY TIME RECEIVER OR GPS RECEIVER

The clock can automatically synchronise time from DCF (Europe) and MSF (UK) long wave time transmitters. The clock can also receive time from a GPS receiver that transmits information using NMEA-0183 protocol, using the \$GPRMC sentence.

### 8.1 Configuring for RFT or GPS Synchronisation.

- Set parameter 12:
  - 1: DCF
  - 2: not used
  - 3: MSF
  - 4: GPS
- If using GPS, set the baud rate in parameter (13). Our GPS Time Receiver supplied from June 2013 uses 9,600 bps baud rate.
- Set parameters 14 and 15 for the hours and minutes your time zone is offset from the synchronisation source. This is usually only whole hours. Examples:
  - UK is 1 hour offset from the time transmitted by the DCF transmitter
  - France has no offset from the time transmitted by the DCF transmitter
- Set parameter (16) to identify whether the offset is minus (0) or positive (1) of the time source.
- If using GPS, parameter (17) acts as a DST bit. Set to 1 during DST period, and 0 during standard time period.
- Set parameter (23) to select between hourly seek and daily seek in DCF / MSF modes.
- If you have selected daily seek, use parameter (24) to set the time of the daily seek in DCF / MSF modes.
- If you intend to place the RFT receiver module closer to the clock PCB than 6 ft / 2 metres, the clock will need to disable HV and switch off the tubes for time seek, otherwise the switch-mode power supply will prevent reception. Select blanking during time seek by setting parameter (25) to 1. Leave as 0 to keep tubes lit during time seek.



## 8.2 Connecting a Radio Time receiver

The clock has been designed for, and tested with our Radio Frequency Time (RFT) Receiver Modules. (available separately from PV Electronics).



**DCF Module:** For receiving time signals from transmitter at Frankfurt, Germany. Reception is possible within a 2000Km radius of Frankfurt.

**MSF Module:** For receiving time signals from the transmitter at Anthorn, UK. Reception is possible within the UK, Eire, Northern France, and Norway.

*Please note:*

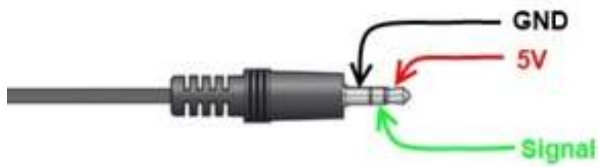
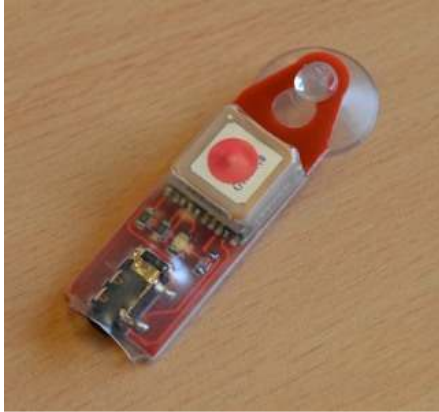
1. The long wave signals propagate further at night, so the clock is configured by default to synchronize at 2am.
2. Suitable Power Supplies: If using a switching power supply, it must have an earth connection. Cheap Chinese switching adapters cause too much interference and will not work. Alternatively use an old-fashioned transformer type AC to DC adapter.
3. The time signals are intended that a receiving clock may collect time data intermittently. The signal strength and fidelity is not like a 'TV Signal', where one can get a perfect signal any time at will.

### 8.3 Setting Up for First Reception.

1. Ensure the correct setting has been applied to Config 12:
  - 1 = DCF
  - 3 = MSF
2. For the first tests, ensure Config 25 is set to value 1, to make the HV converter switch off for synchronisation. This stops any noise created by the HV converter.
3. Set Config 14 - 17 for your location's time zone offset from the transmitter.
4. Connect the receiver, and place horizontally by a window, broadside on to the transmitter as far as is possible.
5. Wait until after dark, and preferable the early hours.
6. Command a manual seek, by pressing the middle 'Adj' button. The tubes should switch off. The LED on the receiver module will now not be affected by the HV converter, and after 15-30 seconds start to flash regularly, showing the one pulse per second data from the transmitter.  
If your Module's red LED does not start to flash regularly, go back and check 1-6. of this section. If the red LED does not flash regularly, you will not get synchronisation!
7. At the start of the minute, the clock should start collecting data, and if so it will start flashing the green LED rapidly. Look for any LED activity at the start of the minute, using a known time source as the reference.
8. After 60 seconds of gathering data, the clock will illuminate the green LED, set the time and switch the tubes back on.
9. Once the system has been seen to work correctly, you can experiment with the antenna in different locations, and it may be possible to have the tubes stay on for time synchronisation.
10. Many other electrical appliances such as TVs and mobile phones reception when in close proximity. Metal objects cause reception problems too Place and design your case so the antenna is as far away from the PCB as possible.

#### 8.4 Connecting a GPS receiver

The clock has been designed for, and tested with our Micro GPS Receiver (available separately from PV Electronics)



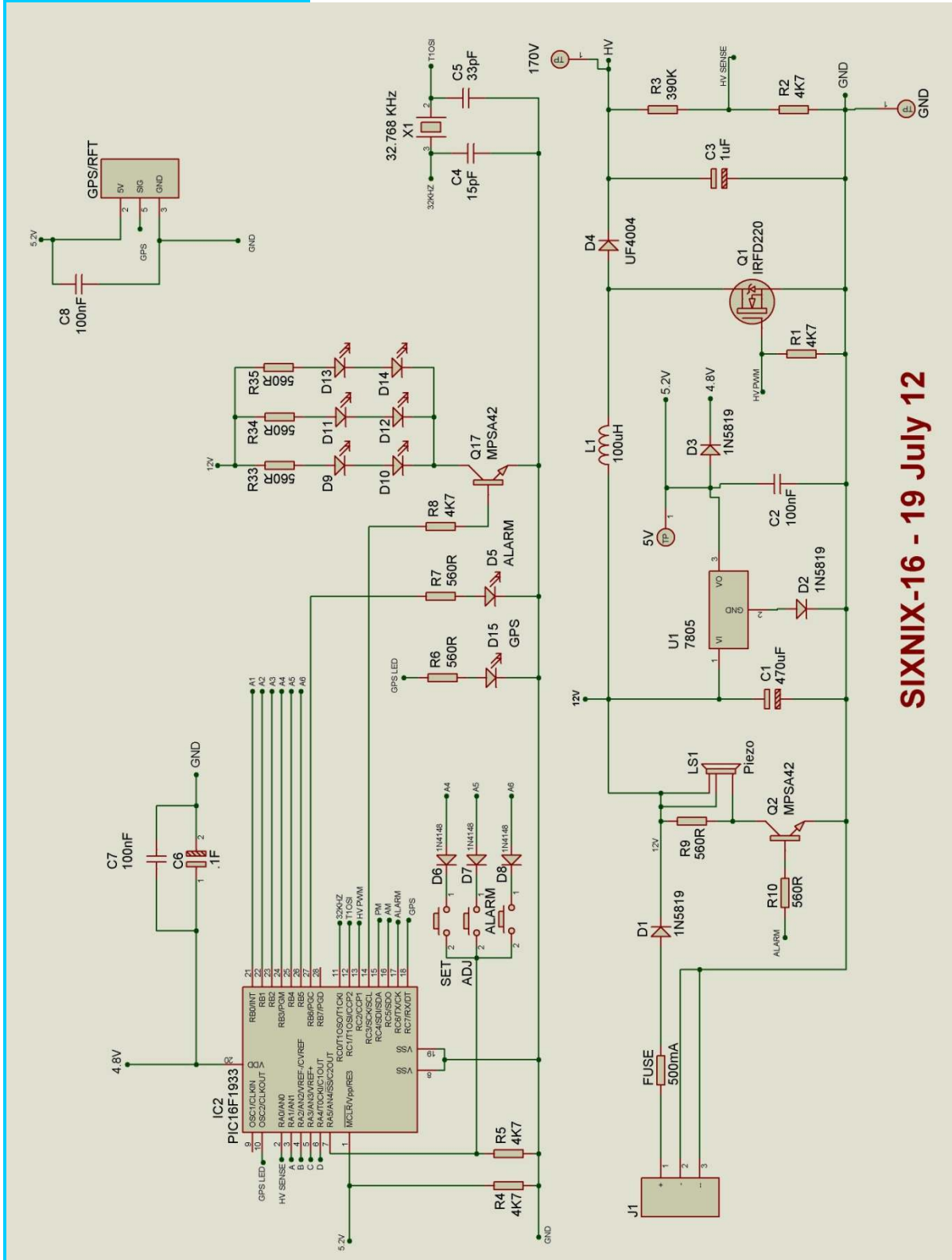
### 8.5 Function of the GPS / RFT indicator LED (D15):

- *No Radio Synchronisation source installed (parameter (12) = 0)*  
LED is permanently off
- *RFT or GPS Synchronisation enabled (parameter (12) = 1-4)*  
The LED will be ON if the clock has synchronised in the last two hours; slowly flashing if the last synchronisation was between 2 hours and 24 hours ago; and off if the last synchronisation is older than 24 hours.
- Whilst seeking DCF or MSF the LED will flash very briefly once per second. Additionally, the indicator will flash rapidly whilst the clock is actually receiving and processing a valid time frame.

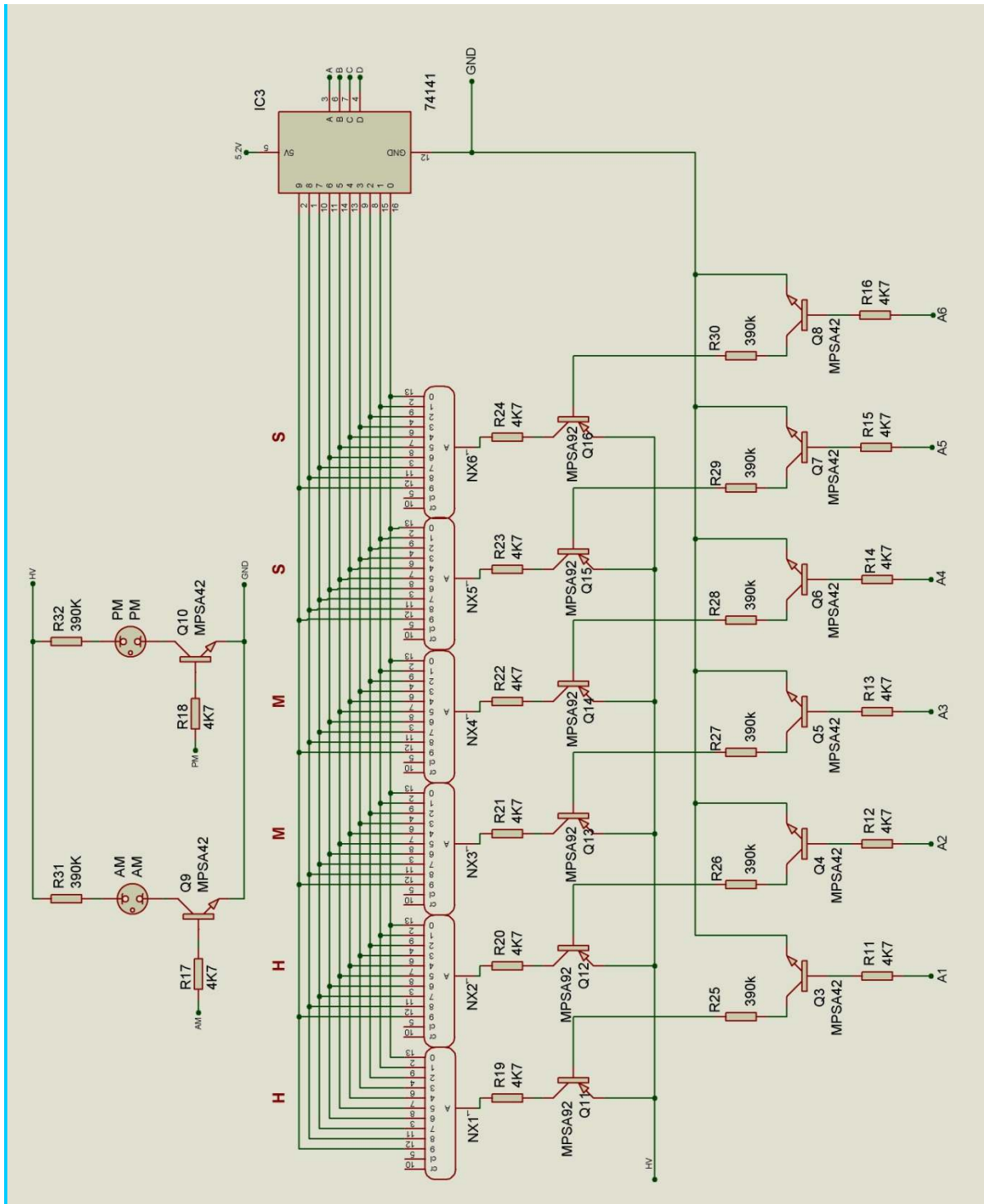
The function of the RFT indicator LED may be summarised in the table below:

<b>Radio Time Source</b>	<b>Seeking DCF/ MSF Frame</b>	<b>Aquiring DCF / MSF Frame</b>	<b>Sync &lt; 2 Hrs</b>	<b>Sync &gt;2 Hrs Sync &lt; 24 Hrs</b>	<b>Sync &gt; 24 Hrs</b>
None	-	-	Off	Off	Off
DCF / MSF	Brief flash each second	Fast Flash	On	Slow Flash	Off
GPS	-	-	On	Slow Flash	Off

## 9. CIRCUIT DIAGRAM



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## 10. DIMENSIONED DRAWING

