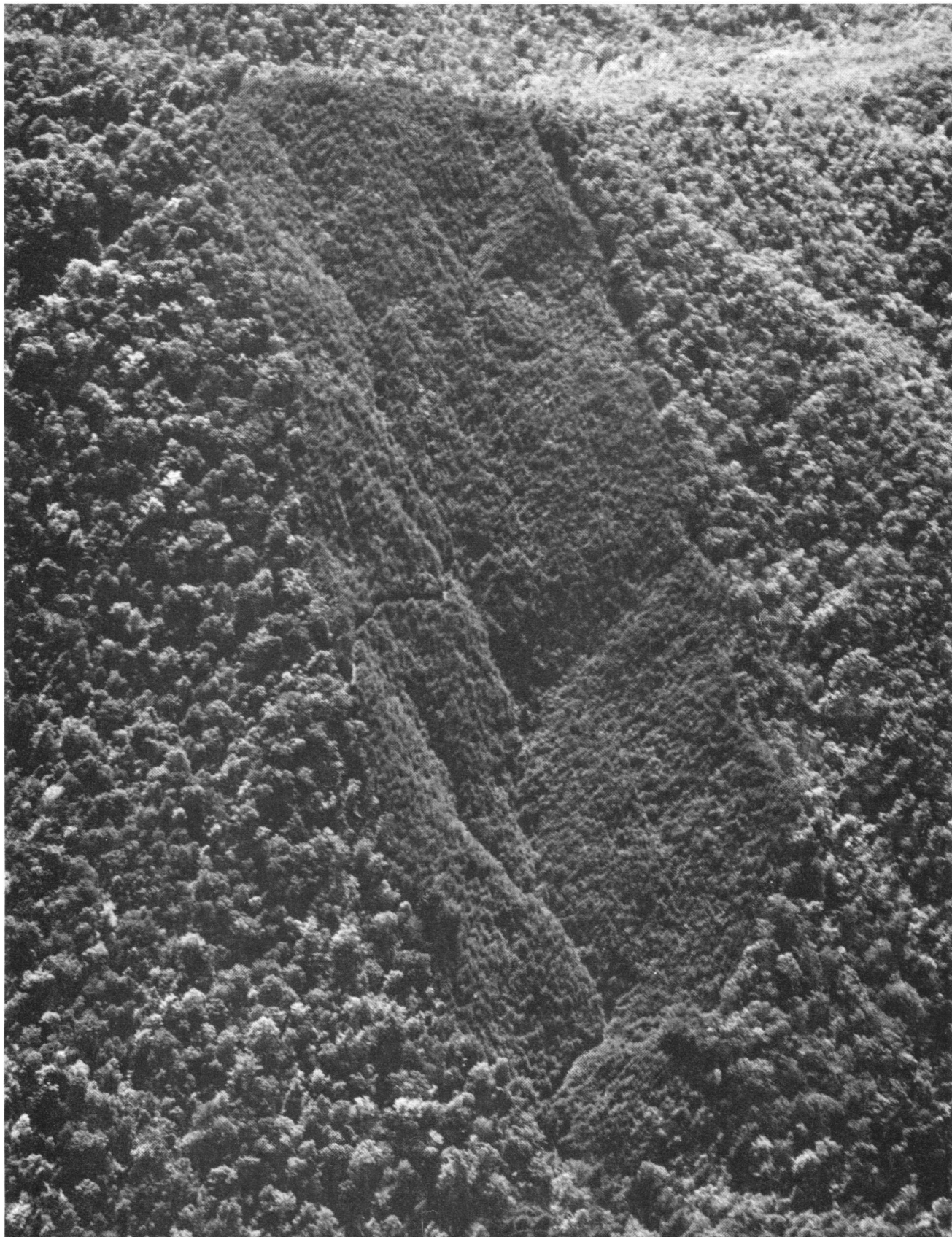


SCIENCE

6 September 1974

Vol. 185, No. 4154

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dull dull dull dull dull dull dull dull dull

Dullness is in the eye of the beholder. Soon he is sound asleep. Too bad, because it was an interesting subject. Unfortunate. Unfair.

To get even, you do it to others. Mumbling becomes a way of life. Mumble or be deemed flamboyant.

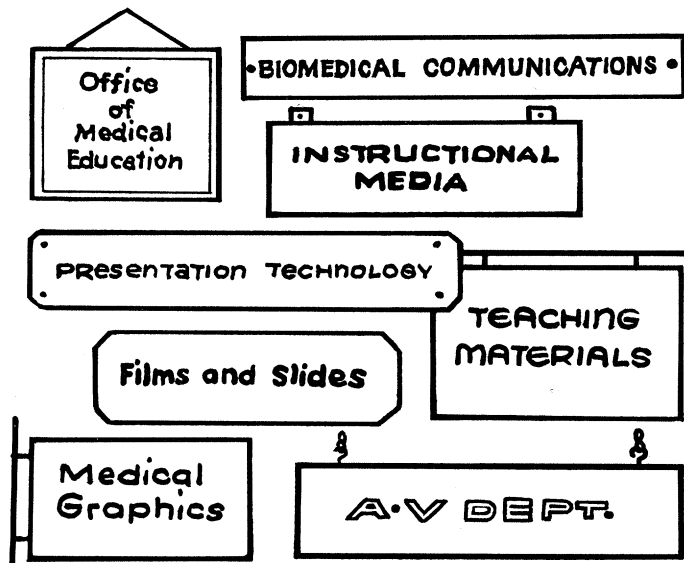
Flamboyance is to be shunned. Only content matters.

Most institutional environments now shelter departments that are in the business of packaging information for effective transmission across the mind/mind barrier. They know what will or won't work as a slide.

Fie upon them. Just indicate what pages from what notebooks, charts, and miscellaneous scraps of old graph paper you want photographed as slides and tell them to be quick about it. Tomorrow morning at the latest. Nothing fancy. Only content matters.

And so a merciful stupor engulfs all but the one person in the audience who doesn't face the impossible task of making anything out of the slides. Having discussed the data thoroughly with the speaker months ago, that person can hardly wait to wake them up by questioning the validity of the whole approach.

Perhaps higher education and intellectual enterprise in general might be better served if savants would more often go looking down strange corridors for some such sign as:



Such signs often lead to people who take as much pride in their competence as you do in yours.



6 September 1974

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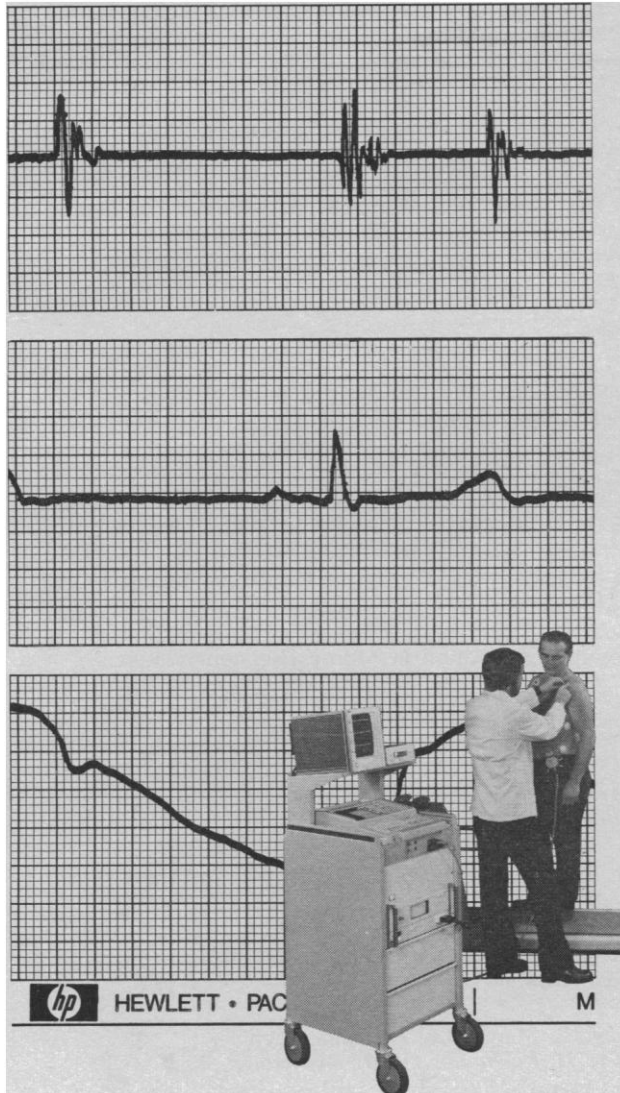
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COVER

Watershed (area of 13.4 hectares), one of two in the southern Appalachian Mountains that were experimentally converted from indigenous hardwoods to white pine. After only 15 years, streamflow from both pine-covered watersheds was substantially less than flow from watersheds covered with mature deciduous hardwoods similar to those shown adjacent to the pine. See page 857. [Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture]

The American Association for the Advancement of Science was founded in 1848 and incorporated in 1874. Its objects are to further the work of scientists, to facilitate cooperation among them, to improve the effectiveness of science in the promotion of human welfare, and to increase public understanding and appreciation of the importance and promise of the methods of science in human progress.



Heart Attack: a new test may help prevent it.

In June 1972, a jet aircraft crashed during take-off for no apparent reason. An autopsy of the 51-year-old pilot revealed the cause: he had suffered a heart attack due to atherosclerosis "so severe that it must have been developing for 30 years or more," according to the examining pathologist. Yet the pilot's annual cardiograms showed no evidence of cardiovascular disease.

This dramatic case is not exceptional: according to the American Heart Association, about 60 percent of adults with severe cardiovascular disease have normal "at rest" cardiograms.

The problem is not that the conventional electrocardiogram is wrong: the ECG is and has been for years an important test of the heart's condi-

tion in a resting state. The problem is that the conventional ECG cannot show early signs of coronary heart disease—constriction of the coronary arteries—that can become a serious hazard when heart and blood vessels are stressed and demands for oxygen-laden blood rise sharply.

What is needed, the majority of cardiologists now agree, is an accurate measure of cardiac performance and circulatory response both at rest and during exercise. There is also a growing consensus that the ECG is most informative when taken during an exercise routine that calls for maximal effort by the patient.

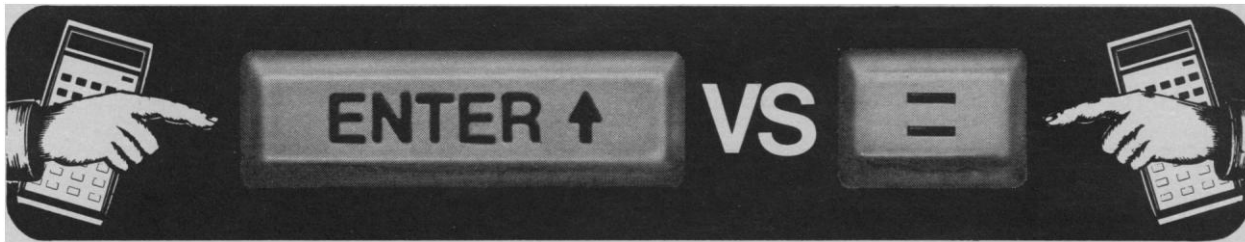
During a typical stress ECG, the physician continuously monitors heart action while you work out on a treadmill. He gradually increases your workload on a schedule that is precisely tailored to your age and condition.

By examining your stress ECG, the cardiologist can determine the condition of your coronary arteries. If he detects a depression in a critical segment of the cardiogram, he knows your coronary arteries are not supplying enough oxygen to support your heart muscle during stress; the amount of the depression gives him a sensitive measure of the degree of impairment in the arteries.

Many cardiologists agree that, properly administered, the stress ECG can detect early coronary disease and even latent stroke dangers. And stress testing is being used by an increasing number of cardiologists to prescribe specific exercise therapy for cardiac patients.

Aware of the increasing documentation of the diagnostic and prognostic value of ECG stress testing, our medical instrumentation specialists have designed a complete, mobile Exercise ECG System to facilitate and optimize the procedure in offices and hospital exercise laboratories. The new HP 1525A system includes an automatic 3-channel cardiograph that can record a complete 12-lead ECG in 10 seconds while the patient is exercising on a treadmill.

This system also incorporates a large, non-fading scope for continuous monitoring. Its flexible controls allow the cardiologist to keep a waveform on the scope for as long as 40 seconds; to observe PVC and other transient changes and permanently record them, just by flipping a switch; and to display a prestress ECG trace while continuously comparing it with a current stress ECG. The system also includes a heart rate meter and a number of valuable optional features: defibrillator, heart sound/pulse wave amplifier for noninvasive systolic time interval studies, and pushbutton selection of Frank leads or any three of the 12 classical leads for simultaneous display and recording.



HP pocket-sized calculators give you answers you can trust. (Why we chose to be different.)

Most pocket-sized calculators have an = key, and you can pick up one you've never seen before and solve a simple equation by entering values the way they're written and pressing = to see your answer.

Pick up one of our pocket-sized machines and you'll hunt in vain for the = key. Instead you'll see one that says ENTER and you'll wonder what to do with it.

To find out, you'll have to look in the Operating Manual. When you do, you may think, "Why did they go this route when they could have kept it simple?"

But as you work the examples in the manual and practice with your own problems, you'll find yourself thinking, "This is very easy, and I'm getting answers I can really trust."

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Trust because you see the result of each intermediate calculation displayed as you perform it, and you can check your progress and correct errors as you go. You can also go back and review stored numbers at any time.

When we started out to design a small, powerful scientific calculator several years ago, we assumed it would have an = key. It did, in the breadboard stage.

But along the way from breadboard to prototype, our designers realized that there was a better method which got around some of the severe limitations inherent in the "algebraic" approach.

These limitations start showing up as problems get more complicated and you have to spend a lot

of time figuring out how to put them into an algebraic calculator. "A plus B times C minus D divided by E equals" won't do it.

You find you must write down intermediate answers to re-enter later. You may work your way through a long equation and see an answer you know is wrong. Where did you goof?

Or you may get a wrong answer and think it's right. Disaster.

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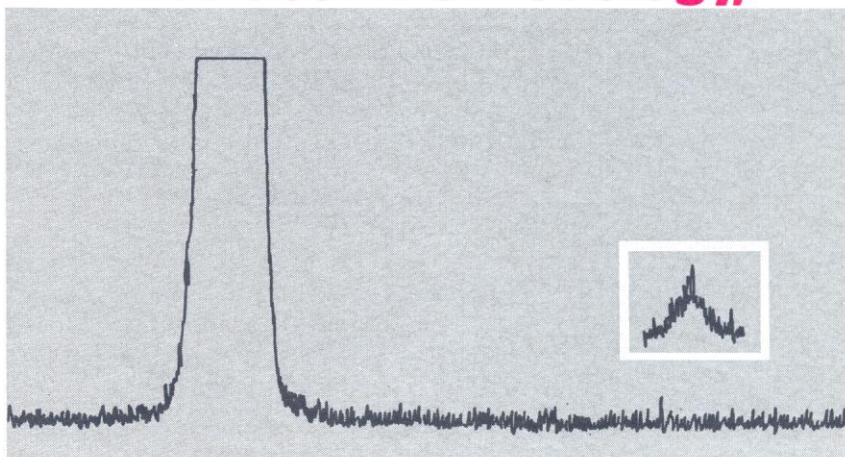
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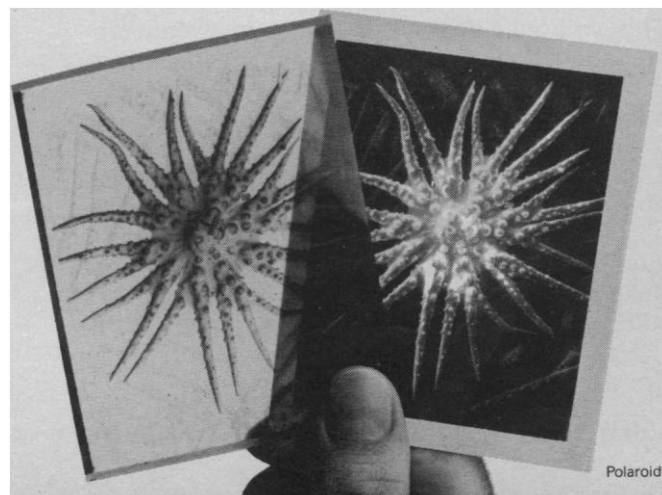
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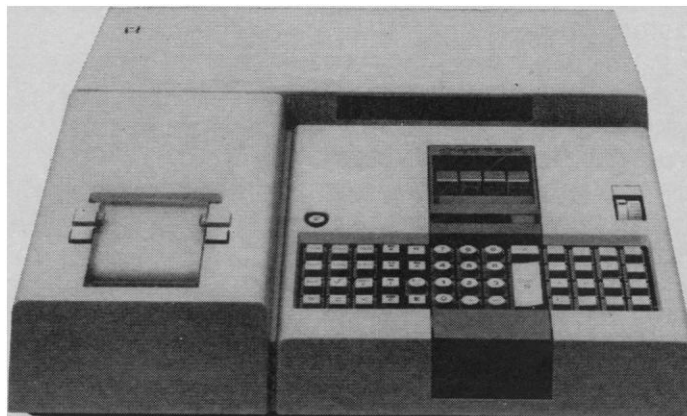
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The Humility Factor

There is a humbling lesson in the recent sharp decline in highway fatalities. Traffic accidents are a major social problem by any standard, and until recently more Americans died each year on the roads than in all the years of war in Southeast Asia, roughly 55,000 in 1970. The number of persons injured that same year ran to 5,100,000. The annual economic loss per seriously injured person in medical expenses, property damage, and lost earnings runs into the billions.

Over the years the problem was studied and a variety of efforts were launched to correct it. Some favored the educational approach, especially driver education classes and public persuasion campaigns ("the life you save may be your own"). Others subscribed to technological cures: redesign of the automobile (Ralph Nader argued that the cars were "unsafe at any speed," not the drivers) and redesign of the roads (railings, flexible signposts, and so on). Still others appealed to the long arm of the law, asking for stiffer penalties for traffic violators and mandatory use of seat belts. And yet another set of people pointed to alcohol as the major cause of fatal accidents and called for greater use of breath analyzers to get those driving while under the influence of liquor off the road. Each approach had its proponents, detractors, supportive data, and counterclaims. The number of traffic deaths continued to rise from 38,000 in 1960 to 49,000 in 1965 to 55,000 in 1970, while injuries went from 3,078,000 to 4,100,000 to 5,100,000 in the same years.

Then came the energy crisis, hardly designed by any traffic safety council, and the 55 mile an hour speed limit, introduced, oddly enough, not to save lives but to conserve energy. Since then the slaughter on the highways has been curtailed by more than 23 percent.

This is not the only social problem to be drastically affected by factors neither foreseen nor deliberately introduced for the purpose. The sharpest drop in the number of mental patients in state mental hospitals was caused not by any root change in the psychiatric treatment administered, but chiefly by the discovery of tranquilizers, which allow many patients to remain at home with little cost to the state. Thanks to tranquilizers, the number of people kept incarcerated in state mental hospitals fell from 535,540 in 1960 to 373,984 in 1969.

Finally, the problems of the major urban centers, such as housing, welfare, and busing, were to a very large degree created by an influx of millions of poor Americans from the countryside, especially the South. More than any program created by any major city council or state or federal agency, the recent cessation and partial reversal of this movement, including remigration to the South, may ameliorate conditions in the cities. (Between 1940 and 1970, 4.4 million blacks alone left the South. A recent study suggests that between 1970 and 1973 more blacks migrated to the South than from the South.)

The moral? Our capacity to engineer society is at a relatively early and primitive stage. The cliché "If we can put a man on the moon, we should be able to . . ." holds only as an aspiration for the farther future. For the near one, humility is of the essence. A scientific orientation to our societal problems is essential, but first of all in the sense of a rational, open-minded, empirical orientation, rather than one which relies on a priori beliefs and assumptions. The easy optimism that goes with the assumption that we can design a quick cure for most things that ail us is not called for. It results in an oversell of what science and technology can do for the highly intricate, societal world, whose dynamics we are only slowly learning to understand.—AMITAI ETZIONI, *Professor of Sociology, Columbia University, and Director, Center for Policy Research, Inc., 475 Riverside Drive, New York 10027*

Western Electric Reports:

Laser drilling. We do it with mirrors.

Thin-film circuit boards in high capacity telephone transmission systems often require hundreds of connections to power and ground sources.

Plated through-holes have proven an efficient way to make these connections. Coated with conducting material, they connect the circuitry carried on one side of a ceramic substrate with power and ground on the other side.

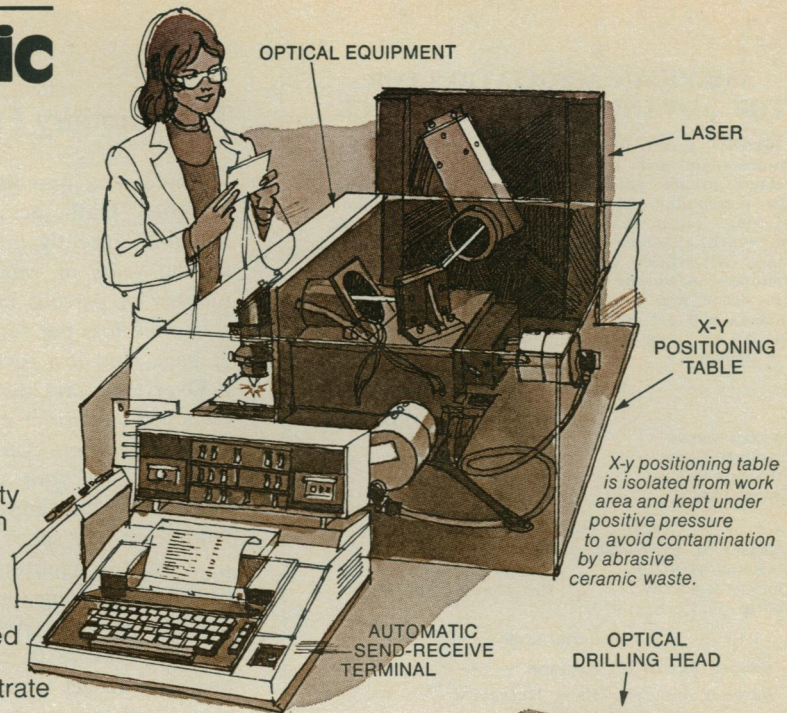
These holes could be punched in the ceramic before it is fired. But shrinkage during firing can move the positions of the holes.

And because of component density, the precise placement of each hole is critical. It can't be more than two mils off.

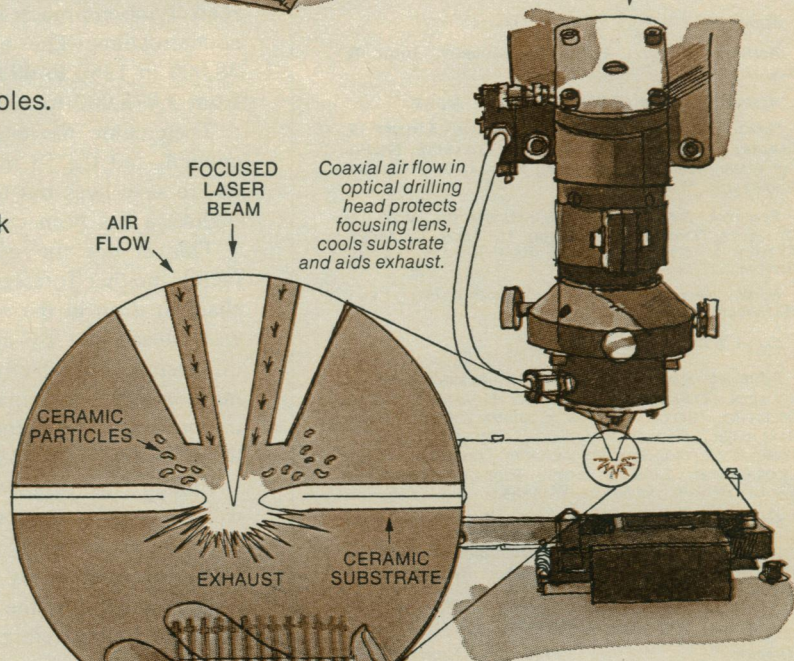
Engineers at Western Electric's Merrimack Valley Works in Massachusetts recently developed a high-speed method of drilling these holes *after firing* by using a conventional CO₂ laser.

A complex of mirrors on an x-y positioning table is shifted to play the laser beam across a stationary ceramic substrate in a predetermined pattern. The mirrors direct the beam from the laser head enclosure to the positioning table and manipulate it in the x-y axes. An optical drilling head coupled to the table focuses the beam onto the ceramic. The system is controlled by a mini computer coupled with an automatic send-receive terminal. Pattern storage on a cassette tape allows easy changeover and storage.

Benefit: Laser drilling of ceramic substrates after firing has greatly improved positioning accuracy of plated through-holes. And computer controlled laser drilling has doubled the production rate over conventional laser systems — up to five holes a second in closely spaced patterns.



X-y positioning table is isolated from work area and kept under positive pressure to avoid contamination by abrasive ceramic waste.



Laser drilled through-holes supply power and ground to active devices on completed hybrid integrated circuit.



Western Electric

We make things that bring people closer.