# Stalking the Wild Simul-press!

by Chuck Olson, WB9KZY

Keyers such as the PK-2 require the user to press multiple buttons simultaneously to access certain features. Some people (like me) have some trouble timing these presses correctly.   The article has an easy hardware solution to this problem.   The ideas contained in this note were first mentioned in the 9/92 issue of QST in the Hints and Kinks column. The idea for combining the DPDT momentary switch usage with the diode matrix was originated by Fred, KT5X.

This first diagram shows this concept applied to the PK-2 keyer.
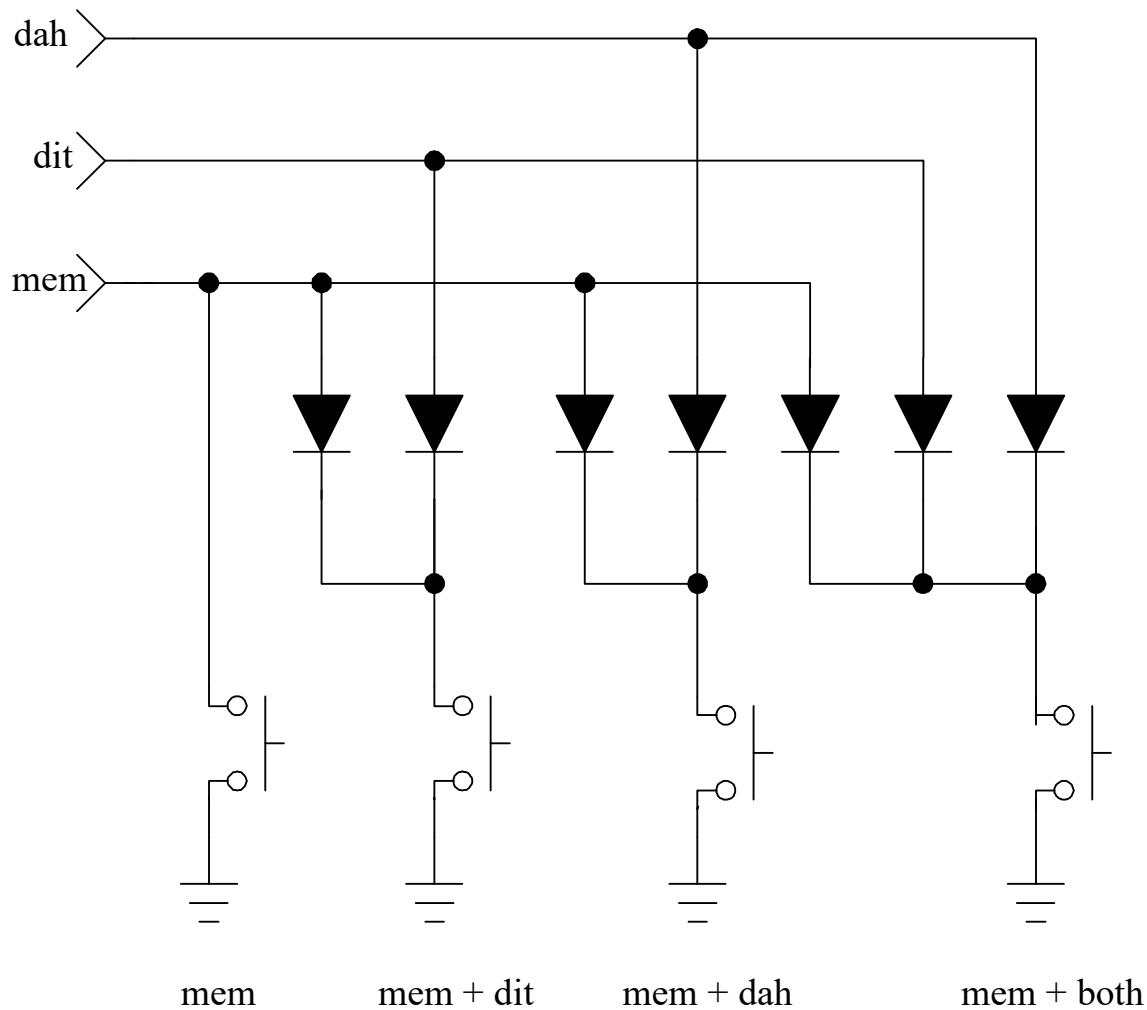
Four SPST momentary switches are used along with 7 1N914/1N4148 silicon switching diodes. The mem switch is still present - a simple switch closure to ground. The mem + dit switch uses two diodes connected so that when the switch is closed, both the mem

and dit keyer inputs will go low at the same time. When the switch is open (off) the diodes serve to block any interaction between the dit and mem data lines. This same concept is used to the mem + dah and mem + both switches.

This next diagram shows an interesting modification to the above concept. The only problem with having 4 seperate buttons is that 4 holes are needed and that the space for them may not exist in a small enclosure. If DPDT momentary switches - center off, are used in place of the SPST switches you'll only need to drill 2 holes in your keyer box:

dah

dit

mem   mem   mem + dit   mem + dah   mem + both
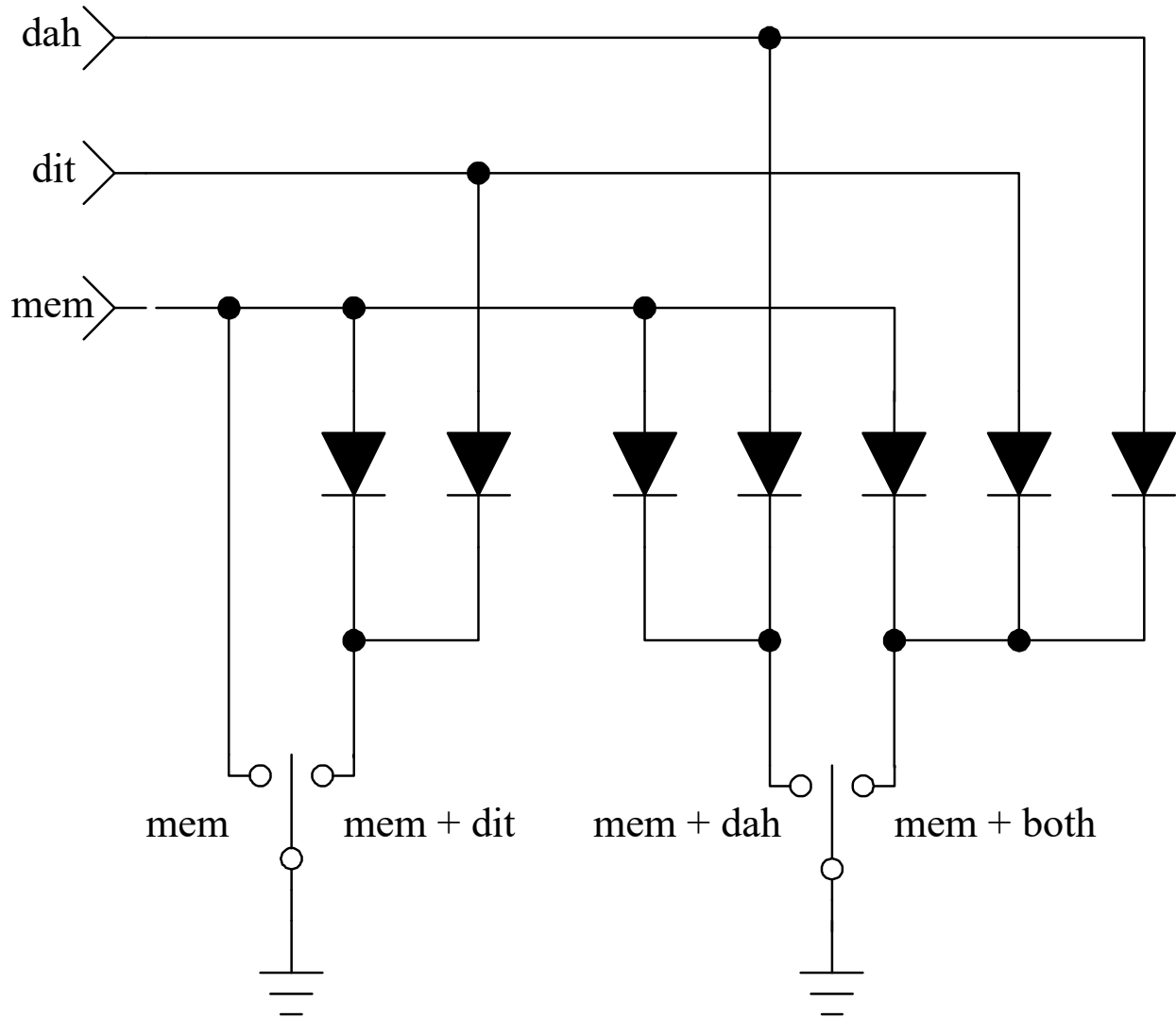
Best Regards,

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