NASA TECH BRIEF

Ames Research Center

Overlay Board for Control Consoles

The problem:

Shared use of one analog computer by several engineers is not only inconvenient but also results in great losses of time because of the need to relabel the control panel and reset the controls. The likelihood of erroneous settings is also increased by the necessity for frequent resettings.

The solution:

Provide each program with an individual overlay board that fits over the control panel, has cutouts for controls and indicators, and bears all appropriate labeling information. The board is easily set in position and can be removed with the changing computer assignments.

How it's done:

Each overlay consists of a thick wooden form covered with thermoplastic and machined to lie flat on the control panel with all controls and indicators exposed and easily accessible. It is positioned by any convenient means, such as guide pins, and held in place by magnets.

Labels made with a standard labeling machine that uses adhesive tape are prepared to conform to individual job needs, and are readily changed to keep a particular program current. Correct dial settings can be marked to minimize setup errors.

The overlay also functions as a physical guard against accidental changes in control settings.

Note:

Requests for additional information may be directed to:

Technology Utilization Officer
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Moffett Field, California 94035
Reference: TSP 72-10191

Patent status:

No patent action is contemplated by NASA.

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