

MARCH 1985

Citizens' Band

Britain's Leading Communications Magazine

99p

ANSRCAN CB Are we a poor copy?

MISTER STICK ANTENNA We try it out LATEST 934!

New Commtel reviewed



GE Band



Inside this month

We've come a long way since the days of "10-4 Good Buddy" — have we? Sue Sharp looks at certain similarities between British and American CB.

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Contents

MARCH 1985	VOLUME 5 NUMBER 4
News and comment from the	
Back Chat	8
Q & A You ask, Alec answers	
Are We a Poor Copy?	t or wrong?
Rig Review	
Antenna Review Mister Stick on test	
Club News	ne40
"Gissanine, Jewkopi?" Setting the tone	
Mack Chat	17
Truckstop	
Lady Breakers	
Best of British	
Competition	
Twong	
Readers' Services Back numbers, binders and a	
Reference Section Product and price guide	

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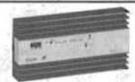
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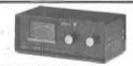
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NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF CB

FROM

OF

NEWS FROM THE WORLD

UPDATE

EDITORIAL

Firstly this month, I would like to thank the staff of Don Miller's Hot Bread Kitchen here in Hemel Hempstead for their magnificent custom-baked burger bun which adorns our front cover this month. The Uniace was pretty tasty too. This month, we take a

This month, we take a look at the long-awaited Commtel 934 rig. You will find the review a little longer than usual rig reviews, but for this we make no apologies. As production and availability of 934 rigs are not keeping pace with the growing interest in this frequency, we feel it is space well used.

Also in this issue, we take a look at how citizens band radio has fared in the States since its inception in the late 1940s — and ask if there are lessons to be learned.

We also 'fly the flag' and look at some of our own home-grown CB equipment currently available. A new antenna, the Mister Stick, comes up for review elsewhere' in these pages and there's lots more, including a competition in which 50 lucky entrants could each win a Thoro' Bred Z27 antenna — provided they have kept the January issue of Citizens Band. Curious? See inside for details.

Finally, my apologies to any readers who have sent in letters or queries and who have not yet received an answer. Our mailbag is bursting at the seams and it can take some time to research some of the answers. We shall endeavour to clear any backlog as soon as possible.

Eamonn Percival

What's Going On?

In the already small UHF CB market, it seems that two companies, for one reason or another, have decided to call it a day.

Reftec ceased trading

before Christmas without warning, leaving several customers in the dark about the whereabouts of the equipment they had ordered They call this new approach the "Good-Better-Best" policy and the range is divided into just three types: the "Good" and the "Better"



Exide's new range of dry batteries.

or had returned for work under warranty. We haven't been able to get exact details on what has happened (and we have to be careful - the legal penalties for saying that someone has gone out of business when they haven't can be frightening) so we simply don't know what arrangements concerning the winding up of the company have been made. Obviously, there are many anxious Reftec owners who are worried about their guarantee and the need for future servicing - we will let you know as soon as we have positive information.

Adam International, the importers of the Grandstand range (including the LA 83 transverter for 934MHz.) have also announced that they will no longer be distributing Grandstand equipment. Again, we don't know any more than this but it seems that both companies have reaped the results of making customers wait too long for too little — and paying too much for it.

So, at the moment, it leaves the Telecomms/ Cybernet rig and the Commtel with the field to themselves. Will we ever see more?

Power to the People

Exide recently launched a new, simplified range of dry batteries specially designed to help cut down confusion amongst battery buyers. are Exide's conventional zinc-carbon ranges, while the "Best" labal is reserved for their heavy-duty, long-life alkaline manganese range. Each of the three ranges is colour-coded for easy recognition: the "Good" is the Power range with blue wrappers; the "Better" is their High Power Plus range which is labelled red, and the "Best" is Exide's Gold range, packaged in gold.

New from British Telecom

"Curlew", a new, slimline, cordless phone with a nine number memory facility is the latest addition to British Telecom's range of plug-in telephones.

Curlew is one of the few approved cordless phones with a memory facility allowing users to access up to nine of their most commonly used numbers at the touch of a button or two.

Other features include press-button dialling, last number redial, volume control, audible pager, belt clip and built-in security code. It is now available in an ivory shade and retails at around £179.95.

The reassurance of quality and reliability for the consumer is particularly important in the case of cordless phones, explains Bill Morley, Sales Director for British Telecom's Consumer

Products Division.

Though one of the fastest growing sectors of the retail telephone market, cordless phones remain the subject of much consumer confusion. How and where they will oparate; exaggerated range claims made by some manufacturers and the possibility of unauthorised access by other cordless users are all topics of

concern," says Mr. Morley.
"With our two cordless
Inphone models," he adds.
"stockists are now in a
position to offer their
customers real choice as
well as that all-important
British Talecom reassurance

Club. It appears that the club sends out cigarette lighters as part of their package. Unfortunately for this reader, his lighter exploded! The lighter was about two-thirds used and was just sitting on a table at normal room temperature when the explosion occurred.

Luckily, no-one was hurt but it could have been very nasty. It may have been just a one-off "rogue" lighter, or other factors may have been involved, but any members of this club who have received lighters from Portugal would be well advised to be on their guard in case the whole batch was faulty.

The second of th

CURLEW, the latest cordless Inphone from British Telecom is one of the few approved models to feature a nine-number memory. Available in an attractive ivory colour, it retails et around £179.95 (rsp).

 all of which must point towards increased cordless sales."

Warning

We recently received a rather alarming letter from a reader who is a UK member of the Voz De Portugal DX

Gift of Hearing

The Sun Oak Breakers CB Club of Horsham deserve special congratulations for an event they recently organised. Two of their members, brothers Gary and Peter Heneghan, jogged and

cycled a total of 40 miles to raise £600 for special hearing equipment for a young deaf boy.

The brothers jogged from Horsham to Devil's Dyke in Brighton, and then cycled to Kithurst Hill. Storrington, to raise the cash for four year old Robert Bergin of Warnham.

A New Broom

Our thanks to Mr J. Gray of Swansea who sent us a couple of newspaper cuttings from a South Wales Evening Post, along with his own comment, "A new broom — a new sweep? Thank goodness!"

The first concerns the case of a lorry driver who was fined £10 for failing to have a license for his vehicle's CB rig. This was, surprisingly, the first case of its kind in South Wales.

The second cutting carried the headline "CB seizure threat in aeria's purge" and warned that thousands of CB operators in West Glamorgan are in danger of having their equipment seized by the Department of Trade and Industry because their aerials are above the legal limit. The story stated that DTI investigators have already seized hundreds of pounds worth of equipment after raiding homes in the Port Talbot area. One breaker had his £80 rg confiscated because he had a 16ft antenna on his roof. In most of the cases, the investigators only seized the rigs and left the illegal antennas on the roofs because they did not have the equipment with them to take them down.

Grey Beard's Gleanings

Hello there, it's me again. I would like to thank the many of you who have written to me since my QSL card was published. Ten out of ten for the detective work! So many of you have written in that to put all your names in my spot in the magazine would leave

no room for me (I don't care if you do think that is a

good idea)!

News for disabled CBers in the Portsmouth area: Organ Grinder has written in to tell me of a transport scheme called 'The Caring Bus'. Give a shout for Organ Grinder or Square Wheels for more information.

I have managed to track down some more goodies to test on your behalf but, what with one thing and another, I haven't completed my testing so you will have to wait until

next time!

I recently got myself a rubber stamp with my address on it. Very nice indeed, as was the price, especially as there is no limit to the size and number of lines. C D Jones is the man to contact at St Ivy. North Road, Queenborough, Kent ME11 5ET.

In answer to the many wheelchair jockeys who wonder how I manage to use the traction batteries to power my rig — I don't! I use a Westward PT2 which runs on its own in-built 12-volt battery, and the rig slots in between me and the side of my 'chair.

Has anyone tried a toploaded antenna on their 'chair, such as a Firestick or similar? If so, I would welcome hearing about it

please.

Does anyone know of a source of control knobs that have a "flat" end to them as opposed to the normal, small, round type? I would appreciate hearing from them as this type of knob is a boon to those of us who have arthritis or rheumatism.

Is there a dealer reading this who stocks the K40 microphone? Several CBers have asked me about it. I guess they must have been AM/SSB breakers or something! I can't remember why I let mine

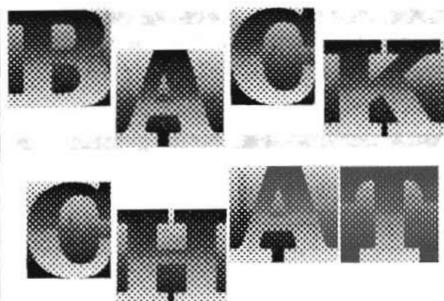
go!

Well, that's it for another month. Keep the letters pouring in. 73s to you all.

The Grey Beard



News and views from some of our readers



Better CB?

M. Evans from Shropshire is a shortwave fan . . .

letter "Bored?" Regarding the (December), the points he raises are 95% valid. It is natural that CB will attract wallies. They're also attracted to cars, discos, football and so on! The only way to get rid of them is to report them and keep on reporting them to the relevant authorities. Should the CEPT proposal be accepted, it would be the ideal time to separate the two types of breakers. FM could be for the local chats, SOS calls and the average user; SSB for the serious DXer, with a radio built to higher specifications (as the licensed radio amateur) and using the lower end of 27MHz.

I have been a shortwave ham band listener since 1966. The bands are getting more crowded now, but they operate closer together without "splattering" over everybody else. They use batter equipment, they are licensed and, if they use a transmitter out of alignment, they are told by other amateurs, or they get reported to the authorities.

authorities

It is natural that DXers should want to have contact with others as far away as possible. It's the possibility of these uncharted contacts that make radio so exciting!

DXers should be licensed, given a UK number, use upper or lower sideband, maximum output 100 watts and no limitation on antenna type or height. The local councils already enforce the laws on matters concerning antennas. Quite simple isn't it!

Down with Tests

Bob from Kent has other ideas on the same subject . . .

With regard to your December Back Chat letter "Bored?". I speak as a licensed radio amateur with a CB set "on the side". I find the idea of any test to qualify for a CB licence abhorrent. Years ago, it was put to me, by CBers who campaigned for its legalisation.

that its initial concept was that radio should be made available to anyone for "communications purposes". They were not interested in experimentation, as hams are, but simply wanted to be able to communicate with other anthusiasts, which I think is fair. If this urged some of them to broaden their horizons and become interested in amateur radio, then more power to their elbow.

Any kind of test will only encourage more unlicensed operation by those that aren't interested in studying. For one thing, having to pass a test might be seen as restricting the hobby to a "chosen few" — a criticism often levelled at us radio amateurs. I fully support CB being available to anyone who can afford a rig and a licence; it has much to recommend, if put to proper use, and should not become an elitist hobby.

In any case, it is naive to think that a test, of any kind, will rid the airwaves of wallies, for it is easy for anyone to purchase radio equipment with no questions asked. We have proved, in the amateur radio world, that this is done and we too are plagued with unlicensed, foul-mouthed wallies. Try suggesting to them that they ought to take a test and I can tell you their answer — but it's unprintable!

Customer Courtesy

Marshlander, who hails from the West Midlands, has some kind words for Lowe Electronics...

Thank goodness we still have one CB magazine left and I hope it will continue to flourish. The reason I say that is because those breakers who, for a variety of reasons, do not wish to join a club can still obtain valuable information and sensible guidance on the use of CB which, hopefully, will keep this fascinating hobby alive. If only all users of CB would follow your recommendations as to its use, then we would have a first-class means of communication and would not lose these breakers who disappear from the airwaves through frustration.

Now to the real reason for my letter. In the September issue of your magazine, the AR 20001 scanner was reviewed and, as this subject is of particular interest to me, I devoured the contents of this article with relish. It did not take much persuasion for me to telephone Lowe Electronics in the hope that I could obtain one of these units. Alas, the last one had been sold the previous day but the telephonist said that if I left my name and address I would be notified when further stocks became available and could place an order. Being a pessimist, I thought that that would be the last I'd hear of the matter. Not a bit of it - ten days later. I received a letter saying units were available.

Course was set for Matlock and, after taking in oxygen for the climb up to their establishment (it must be the highest place in Derbyshire), I entered the portals to see an Aladdin's cave of radio equipment. Now the bouquets: the staff could not have been more helpful, courteous or generous in the way that they answered my questions. I was given a comprehensive demonstration of the unit and when I had been given time to consider the purchase, my unit was unveiled and connected for a thorough test. My enquiries as to suitable antennas was given equal enthusiasm with the result that I now have in operation a superb piece of radio equipment and have many hours of enjoyment.



The AR 2001 (see above)

CB and the KGB?

Some observations on CB in Eastern Europe and some new ideas for frequency allocations from Des Walsh of County Cork...

Following a trip to Eastern Europe recently, I thought I would offer the following comments. Certainly, I would like to know about CB and other personal radio communications in other countries. What about an article on the scene in North America, Australia and other countries?

En route to East Germany (GDR), I did not see much evidence of C8 in use, either by private individuals or small businesses. We were advised before going that on no account was CB equipment to be taken into the socialist countries. Leaving West Berlin for Potsdam and other areas of East Germany we were asked, among other things, if we had "transmitting equipment" on board.

Throughout the GDR, I saw nothing that looked like aerials for CB frequencies but only saw high band (154-174MHz) radiotelephone aerials. mainly on police stations and cars (Volkspolitzei). Base aerials were of the ground plane variety, like an inverted Y. There are not many car owners in the GDR (ten years' wait to get onel) and the main type was of an old looking design, two-stroke Trabant', blue smoke producers and not very good at hill climbing! The only other aerials of note in the GDR were the television aerials which got bigger and higher the further we travelled from the coverage of the West German and West Berlin transmitters. Some houses in the south east GDR (Dresden etc) had six or seven large aerials on the rooftops, a mixture of Band 1 and 3 VHF and also UHF. The jungle of leads at the TV end must be a nightmare even by CB standards! In contrast, in the low countries (Belgium, Holland), one multiband aerial with amp and rotator did the work.

Over the border in Czechoslovakia. there did not seem to be any CB activity either. Again, just radiotelephone use by police, trains and other state services. Some of the fire brigades in small towns, I noticed, were using low frequencies, perhaps in the 30-40MHz region. The equipment was mainly of East German make i.e. RFT. While I did see some amateur radio aerials, I saw nothing which could have been construed to be for CB use. Again, the authorities discourage personal communications. During the trip I was on the lookout for radio magazines and the only one in Czechoslovakia was an amateur radio mag devoted solely to ham activities.

Our next route brought us into Hungary and I thought that, again, the socialist regime there would prohibit personal CB radio. However, in the first town over the border I was totally amazed to see not one but a large number of clearly identifiable CB base aerials, mainly of the large, groundplane type. They were mostly used by taxis, delivery trucks and the like, but some were definitely personal users. Throughout Hungary, even in the small, rural towns off the beaten track, CB was much in evidence. The mobile equipment was mostly the multimode type lots of President sets.

Again, I was on the lookout for radio magazines and found one Hungarian publication. It was similar to Practical Wireless but the aforementioned Czech magazine was also available, along with a couple of West German periodicals. For anyone holidaying in Hungary, I do not know if it would be possible to take CB equipment in — it would be advisable to check it out very carefully with the authorities beforehand! I would like to know, for instance, if CB is allowed in Yugoslavia but I doubt its existence in the rest of the eastern

bloc. I also wonder if there is CB in South Africa. The north-south radio path should allow propagation quite often (Radio RSA 25.790MHz is good most days, a couple of hours either side of midday) but I don't know anyone who has worked there.

Changing the subject now, back to some technicalities of CB. I have been checking out the difference in range locally using my amateur call on 10 metres FM with a full-sized dipole at 35ft AGL and 25 watts of power. Even in hilly areas around here, the range is reliable to 15-20 miles, something which would be difficult at VHF unless you were on a local hill. It is a pity for anyone wanting FM CB for local-only coverage that the skip the DXers so welcome tends to mar reception. It is difficult to get a range of mobile aerials in this country and I have found that the long glassfibre car aerials, when fed with 50 0hm cable, work as well as the shop-bought CB ones. The car aerials are about six feet long, but there are no restrictions on aerial types here! Ideally, for local effective CB. I would like to have seen frequencies in the region above 30MHz. and the higher the better to get more efficient aerials. Even now, frequencies in the 40-45MHz part of the spectrum could be allocated. Other than Channel 1 TV, there is nothing else in that part of the spectrum in these islands of which I am aware, or is there? Great big chunks of what was band 3 VHFTV are now available for two-way business radio - again, a small portion could be given to personal radio at much less cost to users than 934MHz. The cheapest VHF two-way radio is for marine VHF (156MHz) use, and it is a pity that any UHF sets we have seen so far cost a lot more than these marine frequency radios. Volume sales are needed to bring the price down to a realistic level and currently there is a chicken and egg situation with UHF. However, with Japan and some EEC countries possibly accepting a common standard, we will see better value UHF equipment on the market in the near future. At present, due to the low sunspot activity, 27 FM could be used for local coverage most of the time except for, perhaps, a few days on average each month when strong skip comes in.

I think that CB will have to be divided into two sectors. One for hobby DXing which would be on the 27MHz FCC frequencies and even expanded (as that part of the spectrum is not much use for any other communications) and a new VHF allocation made for CB service more popular with the public a local signal service with perhaps 100 channels, including a portion devoted to repeater usage. Built-in digital code identification would be a must, to trace any abusers and to stop such a service deteriorating like the present one in the city areas. The vast majority of people will not use CB for communications because of the inane messing that goes on in many areas at present. The inanities and weird noises ensures that any ordinary person hearing CB for the first time will steer clear



This month, Smart Alec answers questions on interference and antenna problems



Current Conditions

From Poole, in Dorsett, Will South is worried about siting his antenna....

Q We have recently moved into a new house and now live about 60 yards from a large electricity pylon. Will this large metal structure cause me any problems, either on transmit or receive? It adds a loud hum to Radio 1 on medium wave but not on FM.

Will the pylon affect the radiation pattern of my antenna, or absorb a large proportion of the transmitted signal and, with this in mind, should I stick with my trusted (omnidirectional) Sigma IV, or would a directional antenna minimise the effect of the pylon?

A You need have no fear that the electricity pylon will affect your rig in any way at all. At 60 yards distance, it is much further away than the wavelength of your signal and will, therefore, present no problem. Neither need you worry about any possible hum on your receiver, as FM is not subject to this form of interference, which commonly results from leakage across the crock insulators of the pylon, the effect of which can sometimes be seen on a wet night as a form of aura around the insulators.

Neither is there any need to throw out your omnidirectional antenna, with which you seem well pleased. Just put it up in the normal manner and forget about the pylon.

Computer Interference

Oh, how I sympathise with Mr. D. Scott, of Winslow, Bucks, who is having trouble using his rig and computer at the same time....

Q Can you advise me as to how to overcome the problem of computer interference? I find that when trying to use my CB at the same time that our computer is in use, a very strong signal completely over-rides the receiver.

A Unfortunately, Mr Scott, the answer to your problem depends entirely on the type of computer you own. Although you can do nothing to your CB rig to alleviate the problem, it may be possible to eradicate the interference at source by the addition of a few ferrite beads,

though their location will vary between different makes of computer. As you do not tell me which computer you have, I suggest that you contact the nearest service agents for the model in question, who should be able to carry out the necessary work for you. Alternatively you might like to consult the resident expert on one of the many computer magazines. I can highly recommend 'Computing Today International'.

S.A.

Burning the Chips

Nigel Green, Dragon Master, from Leeds has a recurring problem . . .

Q I recently purchased a DNT B40FM rig but, after using it for a couple of months, it started to overheat and lose power. Upon examination it was discovered that a chip had become faulty and I was given a replacement. Unfortunately the new one fared no better.

I could not get the SWR below 2.5 to 1 at first but, after a few hours work, it came down to 1.7 to 1, after which it kept going up and down and the rig kept "de-keying" as I transmitted. Any suggestions?

A From the information you offer, Nigel, I am most suspicious of your antenna system. Chips do occasionally fail for no apparent reason but your comment on SWR suggest the presence of a serious mis-match, which would account for both the poor performance and the "de-keying", as well as the recurring chip problem.

Check that your coaxial cable is not damaged at any point and that both the inner conductor and the outer braid are continuous. Also look at the connections. If there is any contact between the inner cable and even a single strand of the outer, a short circuit will occur. If the antenna and its accessories are all in good order you might check the antenna connections inside the rig. A poor contact at this point can cause all sorts of

problems.

European Unity

Down in Great Yarmouth, P. Burrage is considering a new antenna but wonders whether he should wait....

Problems should be sent to: CB Q&A, Citizens' Band, 1, Golden Square, London W1R 3AB Q I want a new antenna for my homebase but, as the frequencies are to be changed soon, I am worried. Will any antenna pick up both AM and FM and will I need to buy a new antenna to accommodate the new frequencies, or will a single antenna cover both sets of frequencies?

I use an indoor type and do not want to buy a new one, only to find that I must replace it after a short

time.

A It makes no difference what form of modulation is used. The antenna responds to all forms of transmission on the band for which it is tuned, though there would be no problem even if this were not the case since the new frequency allocation will be restricted to FM, in the same way as the present channels.

The lower the frequencies in use, the longer the antenna needs to be, but since the new European standard is only about 700kHz below the existing allocation, most of today's antennas will allow the slight adjustment needed and since most CB antennas, particularly the home-base ones, which tend to have fairly hefty radiating elements, will tune across a relatively broad band you should have little difficulty in using both sets of frequencies from a single antenna.

Coaxial Conundrum

Mr. D. Bruce from Mariborough. Wiltshire, is facing quite a big bill . . .

Q I have bought a pair of Maxcom 7Es and want to use one of them as a home base. I have bought a Blue Pole aerial but now learn that I will not be able to site it on my roof. The nearest alternative is a roof beside my house, but this would mean a cable run of 80 metres. I have asked a number of people about the various cables that ! could use, and no two people seem to agree. At one end of the spectrum, f am told that the cheapest cable I can find will only make a negligible difference, while another said that even the most expensive cable (95p per metre) will lose so much over the length that I will be left with about 1 watt at the mast!

I would be very grateful for your guidance on this. Having bought a Blue Pole, I am naturally keen to get the best from my equipment, and can ill afford to lose on range, given that I live in an isolated spot. What would you suggest as a best compromise? I don't mind losing a small amount of power, especially as I am told that the Blue Pole will, shall we say, give me a little power to spare anyway. I do not relish having to spend £76 on a cable.

A Firstly. Mr Bruce, I am inclined to disagree with those who suggest that you should buy the cheapest coax available, for a number of reasons. With coax, as with most other things, you get what you pay for and a good quality cable will last longer, leak less and cause less loss of power over a given distance.

Frequencies in the region of 27MHz

are far less susceptible to these types of loss than, for instance. VHF or UHF and so it is not necessary to buy the best cable on the market. Nevertheless, I would personally recommend the use of a good quality cable, such as RG8. Although this will be more expensive initially than the thinner alternatives, it will cost less than the 95p per metre that you have been recommended to spend, and should prove cheaper in the long run, since it will outlive the

cheap stuff.

When fixing a long run of cable such as you suggest, be careful to ensure that it is well supported along its entire length, as any significant weight on the end connections will eventually cause them to break.

Alternatively, you might like to consider siting the antenna on a pole, somewhat nearer to the house. I can't see any reason why it must go an a roof.



Dragon Master has SWR problems ...



Review

COMMTE



Pete Christie looks at the latest on the 934 scene

t long last the supply of rigs for the 934MHz band seems to be improving. We have just received a sample of the Commtel 934 rig to review. As with many of the UHF sets we have received. this was unfortunately an early prototype. Whilst we have been assured that it is representative in terms of the facilities and performance offered, it was immediately obvious that this particular set had certainly been well used and possibly abused! Whilst wecan well understand that suppliers are keen to have their new equipment publicised as soon as possible, it would be nice to receive a rig free from minor but irritating faults. We are after all trying to carry out reviews, not run a

free repair service . . .! The Commtel rig is of oriental origin and was obviously intended originally for the Japanese UHF CB band. It has been modified for operation on the European frequencies. This is not necessarily a bad thing in itself, as it is bound to lead to an increase in the variety of rigs available. All the Japanese rigs seem to have scanners built in as a standard feature. Perhaps a brief review of the differences between the Japanese UHF band and our own may help to explain some of the features of Japanese UHF rigs in general, and the Commtel in particular. It should be emphasised that the only written information we have received on the Japanese band was written in Japanese. The following is a summary of conversations we have had with several sources of information, and absolute

accuracy cannot be guaranteed. If

anyone out there has more details

please tell us!

The Japanese band is in the region of 903 to 905MHz. Power output is limited to about 5 watts. All the rigs automatically send their code number with each transmission. The method of operation is more like our cellular radio system than a CB system. To contact another station, it is necessary to know the code number of that station. This number is dialled in, like a telephone number, and transmitted automatically on the calling channel. If the station response, the two rigs automatically switch to a free channel and contact is established. It is unnecessary to know anything about channels or call signs. It does however effectively prevent the casual contacts that are the essence of conventional CB operation. Some kind of manual operation is possible, but details on the working of this are sketchy.

For operation in the UK, the Commtel rig has undergone a number of obvious changes. The change in frequency is easy and not significant. A change in the EPROM that controls the synthesizer plus some very slight retuning deals with that aspect. The auto calling and ident circuitry is disabled, and manual channel selection implemented. However, the surplus logic is put to good use providing a scanning function and 10 memories.

The Commtel rig is reasonably compact, measuring some 6¾" wide, 2" high and 9%" deep. Mounting is by means of a slide and screw arrangement similar to that found on the larger Midland 27MHz rigs. Also provided is a chrome wire stand to tilt the rig upwards slightly for home-based op-

eration.

On the front panel, the grill at the left conceals not the speaker, as might be expected, but a 'beeper'. This is the device that acknowledges various buttons and indicates the state of the scanner. At the lower centre are four push-buttons. Their functions are (from left to right): Down; Scan Stop; Memory and Up. Above the buttons is a window containing a variety of LED indicators. We'll return to those in a moment. Next to the right is a 12-key pad, and on the extreme right a six-pin locking ring mic connector. Above the mic connector are concentric volume/ off and squelch controls. The up and down channel selector push-buttons are repeated on the top of the small and neat microphone.

Returning to the LED panel, there are a number of indicators in this area. The central display contains a five digit green LED display. Normally only four digits are illuminated. The two on the right indicate the channel, and the two on the left the memory number. If the memory is not selected, these display 00. During transmission, the digits scroll, i.e. light up in sequence from left to right instead of all lighting simultaneously. The reason for this defies analysis, though presumably it is a hangover from the Japanese system. It certainly emphasises that you are transmitting, but can be rather irritating and confusing.

Above the channel indicator is a strip of rectangular LEDs. At the left is a green one indicating receive mode, and next to it a red transmit indicator. The remaining five are yellow and indicate received signal strength on receive, and modulation level on

At the bottom of the window is a strip of six green dot LEDs. These indicate (from left to right): Down; Transmit (again!); Receive (again!); Scan Stopped: Memory Selected, and finally Up. Some of these duplicate existing indicators, and presumably served some more useful function on the original Japanese application.

LUNCOVERED

The rear panel is dominated by the massive heatsink fins. The antenna connector is a standard BNC type. A two-pin polarised plug is used for power supply, and there is a standard 3.5mm jack socket for the connection of an external speaker.

The internal speaker is mounted on the top rear panel of the case.

Under The Covers

Internally, there is quite a lot of hardware to be found, as might be expected. No circuit diagrams were provided, so little detailed circuit analysis is possible. The circuit ry is contained on four main boards. There is a metal floor parallel with the bottom of the case which splits the case into two compartments. In the larger top section are three boards which appear to contain the audio and RF boards. Beneath the floor is a board which appears to contain all the logic functions for the synthesizer and scanning functions.

The RF circuitry appears to be split onto two boards. The smallest at the rear appears to contain the UHF section. Switching of the antenna between receive and transmit is done by relay. The receiver front end contains several helical filter stages to ensure good immunity from spurious responses. The RF output appears to be handled by a hefty IC. This is a plastic encapsulation boited to the heatsink on the

rear panel.

The larger front board appears to contain the two IF stages. The first IF is 58.1125MHz, and the second 455KHz. Immediately above the IF board is a much smaller board that appears to contain the audio stages, including

the modulator.

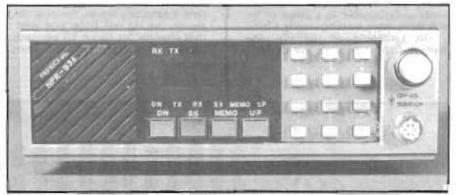
The bottom logic board has one IC clearly marked "UK" and appears to be the EPROM for the synthesizer. The idea of placing a metal floor between the logic and RF boards is, presumably, to minimise any interference from breaking into the sensitive RF stages.

The boards are constructed to an extremely high standard. Soldering is excellent and the layout neat. Unlike the Cybern et rig we recently reviewed. there is no use of surface-mounted components. All boards use conventional parts, which should make servicing relatively easy. We were pleasantly surprised to note the use of a very high quality, hermetically sealed. ceramic ladder filter in the 455KHz stages. This is quite a change from the cheap, plastic encapsulated types more commonly used, and seems to typify the approach to component selection used throughout the rig.

The boards are interconnected by a wiring loom. Small multi-pin connectors carry audio, power and logic signals, and miniature co-ax cables



The Commtel is very smart indeed, with more than a faint echo of its Far Eastern origins. The mic is on the right hand side — fufilling one of our constant moans about mic placements.



The grill doesn't hide the speaker, but a 'beeper' confirming switch operation.

and connectors handle the RF.

The audio and RF boards are screwed securely to the chassis. However, the logic board was merely pushed into an edge connector, with no positive location at all. This led to some problems, of which more anon.

Performance

As we have explained before, full technical tests are limited by the fact that most readily available test equipment runs out of steam at about 520MHz. However, we have managed to carry out some limited checks, and the results are included here. Kestrel Electronics, who supplied the review rig also supplied the test data supplied by the chief engineer of the original manufacturers. As a matter of interest, we include the manufacturers' figures in brackets after our own results.

We measured the power output as 4.2 watts (4.5 watts) and the deviation as 4KHz peak to peak (4.5KHz). These figures are well in spec, though the power output is well down on the 8

watts permitted.

Spurious emissions were disappointing. Related to the output power for this rig, all spurs should have been better than 70dB down. We measured 3 spurs below the carrier frequency in the VHF bands. One was only 20dB down, and the other two were only 30dB down. Also, the second and third harmonics were well up on what they should have been, and nowhere near the manufacturers' claim of 6.4nW and 32nW. However, as we said at the start of this article, this particular sample seemed to have been knocked about a bit. Any reasonably respectable antenna system would reduce the

spurious content radiated considerably, and it's unlikely to cause any problems

in practice.

Frequency accuracy was extremely good. According to our frequency counter the rig was within 10Hz of correct. That is within the limits of accuracy of our counter and better than the 280Hz claimed by the makers. However, current consumption was guite high on transmit. We measured it as nearly 3 amps. Certainly a normal 2 amp power supply is inadequate. Although the rig will work, the power output suffers, and the transmitted audio tends to get rhythmic noises on it from the scanning circuit. If you are intending to use this rig from home, the power supply must have a continuous rating of at least 3 amps, and preferably 5 amps.

On the Air

The instruction manual that comes with the rig is written in one of the best pieces of "Pidgin English" that we have seen for some time! We are informed that the rig is "christal" controlled, and that "it is important to install at suitable position for maintain high performance and last long period"! Whilst this is quite amusing, some or the instructions could well confuse a newcomer to the UHF C8 band. Many of the technical specifications are rendered totally meaningless by the distorted translation. If anyone can tell me what "Sprious Radiation ... 4.5, 4-43dBm others. f-36dBm means. I would be interested to hear from you! These kind of instructions may be OK for a cheap Hong Kong toy, but are totally unacceptable in a piece of hitech equipment costing nearly £500!

On switching on initially, the channel display displays five 8s for a

few moments accompanied by a long beep. This is followed by three short beeps, and the display clears to display the channel number. The logic board has a battery backup, and will remember memorised channels and the state at switch-off for up to a week with the power totally disconnected. Although it powers up with the scan stopped, it will be on the channel that was in use when the rig was last switched off. If the memory mode was in use at switch-off, it will power up in the same memory location as selected at switch-off.

Assuming the scan to be stopped, and the memory to be off, channels may be selected by counting up or down using either the front panel controls, or the repeated buttons on the mic. Full wrap around is employed, i.e. on counting up to 20, the count will automatically wrap-around to 1 and start again.

Alternatively, a channel may be selected directly by entering the channel number using the keypad, followed by the * button. Key pad entries are acknowledged by a beep for each key-press, and a double beep when the command is executed (*).

If the memory mode is selected, then one of ten memories can be selected. They are selected in an identical manner to the normal channel selection. The contents of a memory location can be altered by first selecting that memory location, and then entering the desired channel on the keypad, finishing with the 'ENT' key.

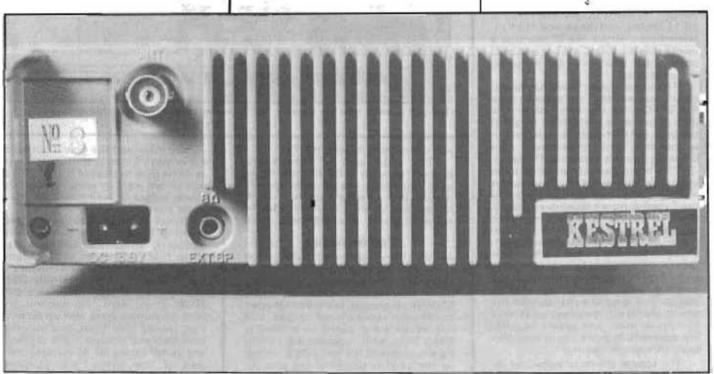
In the normal scan mode, the rig will scan automatically from 1 to 20, until it detects a signal. On detecting a signal, the rig will beep and wait on that channel for about 10 seconds. If no action is taken, it then emits a double beep and continues scanning. Scanning can be stopped either by pressing the SS button on the front panel, or by keying the transmitter momentarily. The rig will acknowledge with a beep.

Unlike many rigs with scanners, the scan stop function is independent of the squelch setting, and will continue quite happily even with the squelch fully open. This is fortunate, as the Commtel seems extremely sensitive to stray electrical noise. In the car, ignition crackle breaks through the squelch quite badly, despite heavy suppression in the power lines in our test vehicle. Although the crackle is somewhat irritating, at least it doesn't make the scanning hang up, as might have been expected.

The scanner can also be used in the memory mode, in which case it scans continuously through the ten memorised channels. The same channel can be stored in more than one memory. So if, for example, you want to continuously monitor channels 10 and 20, you could store channel 10 in locations 1, 3, 5 etc and channel 20 in 2, 4, 6 etc. The rig would then alternate between channels 10 and 20 at one-second intervals.

The scanner is not particularly fast, taking about 20 seconds to scan 20 channels.

In use, the Commtel proved to have a sensitive receiver, and to produce good quality audio, both transmitted and received. One slight pecularity of the rig is a slight time lag between pressing the PTT switch, and the rig actually transmitting. Presumably this pause is where the ID code would be transmitted in the Japanese version. Although only a minor quirk, this peculiarity can make it difficult to



The heatsink at the rear of the unit.

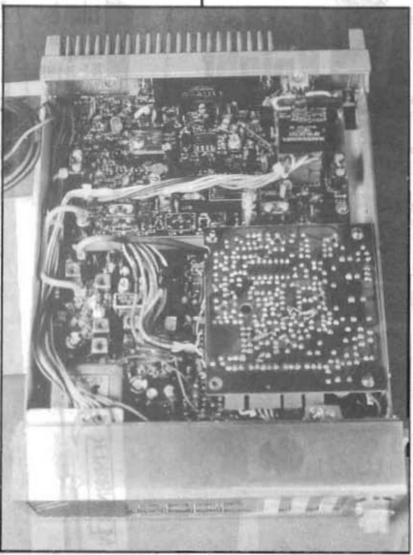
break into a fast moving QSOI

Initially, we experienced a number of difficulties with the Commtel. Operation of some of the features was extremely erratic. In particular, the modulation indicator produced a constant full scale reading. Also, the channel display, or rather bits of it, would randomly disappear, and the rig would beep and reset without warning! The first clue to the solution was that squeezing the case in various places would cure or aggravate the problem. It was at this point we discovered that the logic board was dropping out of its edge connector. The connector was

poor earthing. Squeezing the case made it work briefly. After a bit of poking around reseating connectors, it all started to work properly, and continued to do so throughout the review period.

As the UHF band is still relatively sparsely populated, the scan function is invaluable. As there is no common calling channel in use, it is possible to miss interesting contacts unless the whole band is continuously monitored.

We have mixed feelings about the use of BNC connectors for UHF rigs. Although ideal for mobile use, most home base installations require the



The 'brains' of the Commtel 934, showing the extremely high standard of construction.

so loose, that simply turning the rig over to put the case back on caused it to drop out again! It appears that the legs on which the board stands are meant to push into holes in the floor of the compartment. However, they were so far out of alignment as to prevent proper engagement. Eventually we were forced to stuff a piece of foam rubber into the case to hold the board in place, a crude but effective solution.

The peculiar response of the modulation meter also appeared to be due to use of thick cable, such as RG/8, to ensure adequate signal transfer on long cable runs. Standard BNC connectors will not take thick cable. Special BNC connectors are available for this application, but they tend to be expensive. Often a cheaper alternative is to use an 'N'-type connector on the cable, and an N to BNC adaptor to connect to the rig.

Once the initial bugs had been sorted out, the Commtel gave excellent service, aside from being rather sensitive to ignition crackle in the car. The receiver was extremely sensitive and easy on the ears. Some rigs, either UHF or 27MHz, can have very harsh audio which tends to be irritating to listen to. The Commtel did not suffer from this and was a pleasure to listen to for lengthy periods.

The squelch level tends to drift slightly as the rig warms up. If the squelch is set on its threshold when cold, it will start to crackle slightly after about ten minutes' operation. Also, despite the screening employed. the scanner logic does break through slightly into the RF stages. If the squelch is set accurately with the scanner off, a rhythmic whining crackle will occur when scanning starts. However, since the method of stopping the scanning is independent of the squelch level, the squelch can safely be set to quite a high level without fear of missing a signal. Even if it is set so high as to blot out the detected signal, the bleeper will indicate its presence.

Whilst the bleeper has some useful attributes, it is quite loud and is unaffected by the volume control. Some method of muting it when desired would have been appreciated.

The price of UHF SWR meters means that many people are without these useful instruments. It is therefore reassuring that the Commtel is fully protected against high SWR loads including open and short circuits. It is also protected against over-voltage and reverse polarity supplies. This is very reassuring as the Commtel does not have an isolated chassis, and is therefore unsuitable for use in vehicles with positive earth electrical systems.

In view of the unusual claims made for the SWR protection circuitry, we took the unusual step of testing it the hard way! The transmitter was left running into an open circuit for about ten minutes. The heatsink at the rear, which always runs warm, became too hot to touch comfortably, but the rig was otherwise unaffected, and performed quite normally once it had cooled down!

To summarise, the Commtel is an extremely pleasant rig to use. The performance is good, and it has a number of useful built-in extras. The boards are built to a very high standard. though we must express some reservations about interconnections. The electronic protection against faulty antennas and power supplies is excellent. The instruction manual is poor, especially in view of the very high price of this rig. The poor spurious emission performance we found, and the intermittent connection of the logic board appear to be unique to our wellworn test rig. However, the relative sensitivity to ignition crackle in receive is probably fundamental. Prospective purchasers intending mobile applications would be well advised to check out the rig in their vehicle before committing themselves

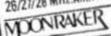
Finally, I would like to thank Kestral Electronics for the loan of the review rig, and stations PRB 01 (Epsom Downs) and GVB 01 (Maidenhead) for their co-operation and assistance during this review.

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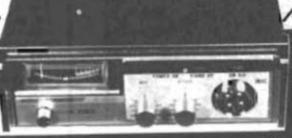
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Design



Mack remembers early 934 days and wonders what happened to mass eveballs

y now you may have realised that Reftec went into voluntary liquidation on the 29th of November 1984. The first time that I encountered a Reftec 934 rig was at a CB show way back in 1981. On the Reftec stand there was a mobile rig that seemed to be working, as a voice was heard coming from the speaker. Jeff Smith was wandering around the show with a portable version of a 934 rig (but no more was ever heard or seen of this).

Jeff Smith and his company gave us in this country the first taste of the 934 frequency, although it took a while to get the show on the road. I was not very impressed with the rigs produced for the amount of money one was expected to pay for them. But did we have any other choice? No. If you wanted a 934 rig you purchased a Reflec or nothing, although a few people did successfully build their own. The first Reftec that I was loaned worked. I could hear other stations and most times they could hear me because it was discovered that on this rig, after a short time in the transmit mode, it drifted off frequency. The permissable power out of the back of a 934 rig is eight watts but if you get more than five you are doing well, although Reftec never claimed that you would get eight watts. Lots of people were surprised how far one could get with just 21/2 watts, but these small problems were tolerable and the equipment was usable

When this first Reftec was returned I was sorry to see it go. I was later loaned the Grandstand transverter model 934 and, with its few disadvantages (mainly cost), I now believe that, performance-wise, it was better than the Reftec. I was beginning to enjoy the 934 frequency and its users when I had to return the Grandstand. So, I had no other option if I wanted to stay on the frequency had to spend my own money and buy a rig. Fortunately, with my connections and a bit of begging I managed to get one a little cheaper. Although this rig was new it had its faults which I learned to live with. These faults could be cured, so Mike Machin of Selectronics told me. Many of the Reftec owners had their moans and groans about their rigs but, as I said before, we had no choice and it gave us the opportunity to realise what the frequency is capable of. At last some of the other 934 rigs that we have been waiting for some time are now appearing on the scene. These so-called high-technology rigs do at least mean that one is getting more for one's money in the modern-type design and facilities, but I worry about the reliability of this equipment and what happens when things go wrong with these rigs. Can they be repaired and who will repair them if you can get the parts? As many of the Reftec owners know, it was difficult sometimes to get service from the Reftec works, but fortunately some of the better dealers are capable of maintaining Reflecs and the components are easily obtained.

Let me give you an example. I own a 2 metre rig and matching power amplifier or 'boots'. Well, one day the 'boots' went pop and stopped working; a module had



gone. To replace this module would cost £40, a new linear power amp of the same type costs £70, yet another make of not so high-tech linear I could get for £35. So, you can see it would be cheaper to buy this other linear rather than get the old high-tech one repaired. I did and took the innards out of the cheap one and put them into the old one's case and it still matches the other bits of equipment (who's a clever boy then!). Could we have the same problem with these new 934 rigs? My advice would be: if you are going to spend your money on one of these new rigs, make sure that any guarantee you get is worth more than the paper it is printed on

Some little while ago. I mentioned that it was difficult to obtain Uniace rigs in some areas. I had a letter from Cravenminster Ltd (the people that supply the Uniace rigs) and they tell me that they have no shortage of them. So, if you are looking to purchase a Uniace 100. 200, or the 300 base station, your local dealers can get them for you or, if you still have problems, you should write to Cravenminster Ltd and they will advise you where their rigs can be obtained. It is my belief that the Uniace rigs are the best 27MHz rigs on the market at the present time (I own two). With a few modifications such as filter changes, most channel bloodover can be eliminated. Second to the wally bleedover is a problem that has to be tolerated by us CB people who live in the cities and towns. I was recently told that a well-known make of 27MHz rig could be appearing on the market in a modified form with better receive sensitivity, and it's claimed it will reject adjacent channel interference from a range of less than 100 yards. This I must hear to believe and when I do I'll let you know.

Some time ago I mentioned details from the DTI's CB information sheets about the CEPT recommendations for the FM 27MHz channel changes. Some stories reaching my ears tell of people already fitting these old FCC channels on FM into their rigs. One well-known rig doctor who is making and fitting these conversion boards is choosy to whom he supplies this mod, as he claims that it would be nice to keep these channels clear of the

wallies for as long as possible.

Most hobbies and interests at one time or another during the year have shows, meets, or exhibitions. Even before CB became legal, CB eyeballs in the form of shows and rallys were organised around the country. Most of these that I attended were good fun and, in my view, successful, yet now, three years into legalisation, the big eyeballs are a thing of the past. Why, we may ask? The answer is simple; no profit for the dealers and manufacturers who would be needed to finance or sponsor these shows. They have very little new equipment to show or sell, and I know that to organise one of these big mass eyeballs costs lots of money and the display stands are expensive to hire. No dealer in his right mind would get involved, with the inevitable cash loss. Maybe CB has become yet just another household commodity such as the telephone or washing machine.



Morrisman teaches us to talk proper, like what he does

"GISSANI

here's a saying in the computer world represented by the acronym GIGO - Garbage In, Garbage Out, it could well be applied to CB, for no matter how much you spend on rigs, twigs, mikes and burners. if your speech is not clear, nothing that happens to it during transmission is going to make it clearer. A few minutes listening round the channels will show how many breakers are unreadable. not for any reasons connected with their equipment, but because they speak indistinctly. So let's examine speech, and check out a few essential

Speech consists of sounds, represented by letters. There are the vowels a, e, i, o and u. These are often grouped into diphthongs —ae, oi, ow, ou, au and so on. The consonants are all the non-vowel letters, and they represent the sounds that separate one vowel (or diphthong) from another. 'Y' has a dual role. In words like 'yes' it is a cosonant, but in 'boy' it forms part of the vowel sound.

There are two other important features of speech, not easily appreciated by conventional spelling. The first is the very common indefinite sound, found at the end of 'butter', as pronounced in most of England. The final 'r' is omitted, so that we say 'butta' to rhyme with 'Calcutta'. (A Scot would say butter, complete with r.) This indefinite 'a' will be represented by *. It occurs in many words. We do not, for example, usually say away, consonant, ocean, upon, microphone, strictly as they are spelled. Instead, we "way, cons"n"nt, oc"n, "pon, micr*phone, putting an indefinite sound in place of the vowels as spelled. This is neither right nor wrong — it's just the way most people speak. However, if we realise what we are doing, it becomes possible to remove and replace it with a more correct' sound if by so doing we make ourselves clearer. Moreover, the sound creeps into some places where we would not expect it, as we shall see later.

When a Glaswegian says 'butter' he certainly puts the 'r' on the end, but he probably leaves both t's out of the middle. What he puts there instead is a glottal stop, a checking of the air flow in the back of the throat. This is the second speech feature that cannot be represented by letters. Although well-known as part of Glasgow speech (though not all of Glasgow, I hasten to add before tartan-clad hordes from Clarkston attack me), the glottal stop is now common in all of southern England, especially in the Home

Counties, where a sort of London suburban speech seems to be taking over from the original Hertfordshire, Sussex, and other county dialects. The current advertising phrase 'Gotta lotta bottle' gives a good idea of the glottal stop in southern England.

Now for some experiments. Turn on the radio, and find some speech. Adjust the 'Tone' or other controls to minimise the bass and maximise the treble. Listen, then adjust in the reverse direction, i.e. maximum bass and minimum treble. Don't worry whether you like the sound — just ask yourself which provides the most understandable speech.

Unless there is something wrong with your set, or your ears (or your range of adjustment is limited), you will find that the 'all-bass-and-no treble' will be harder to follow. Why is this?

We have already noted that consonants separate vowels. However, many consonants consist of comparatively high frequencies. Emphasise the bass at the expense of the treble, and you end up with vowel sounds with nothing to separate them.

Next experiment. Put your finger and thumb each side of your Adam's apple (or, ladies, where it would be if . .) Make the sounds represented by the letters p and b, t and d, th and v. (Note: the sounds — not the names of the letters.)

You will note that in the second of each pair, it is possible to feel your vocal chords vibrate. Although the pairs are of related sounds, the second in each pair is a deeper sound. The first is called an 'unvoiced' sound, the second a 'voiced sound. Notice also which sounds require the use of the tongue, or the lips.

In all cases, the first in each of these three pairs requires a little more effort than the second. If you are tired, drunk, or lazy, the unvoiced sound tends to turn into the voiced equivalent.

Last experiment. Say the following diphthongs to yourself, several times, very slowly:

oo, ow, oi, ay

You will notice a tendency for them to split into two sounds:

"oo, ow", oy", ayee.

The indistinct sound gets into the first three, and ee joins the end of ay. Many of the English vowels' sounds are quite complicated. That is why Scots and Germans sound precise to us — their yowel sounds are simple.

We are now in a position to listen to a few breakers and analyse why their speech is often indistinct, even when their transmission is excellent. If your home base is handy, spend a few minutes listening. Then find a BBC

NE, JEWKOPI?"

announcer, and compare the two. What are the common faults among breakers?

First, comes mumbling. This consists of not using the lips and tongue when speaking, and results in (a) failure to separate one vowel sound from another, and (b) keeping the voice predominantly in low sounds, often by turning unvoiced into voiced sounds, and by dropping away at the end of sentences. It is particularly important not to lose the high frequency sounds on CB, as the design of the rig already eliminates some, in order to minimise bleed-over.

A typical mumbler would not, in saying 'minimum', make much difference between m and n, or u and i. He might leave out the n altogether. Whenever possible he would turn a vowel sound into the indefinite *. Where the Queen would say "My husband and i", the mumbler would say "Me yusb*n*n eve".

Second in the list of faults comes leaving out sounds. Final g's are discarded, i's and p's are replaced by glottal stops. Thus the breaker near me who calls for his friend Copper Kettle, actually says 'Co(pp)' Ke(tt)'w (d)o you co(p)y? Co(me) o(n).' You will notice that all the sounds in brackets are left out, and the 'le' at the end of 'kettle' is turned into the indefinite followed by 'w'. Turning 'I' into 'w' is common in south-east England, where breakers are 'on chann'w'. Listen to Mr Heath for examples of this. (Though not, to my knowledge, on channel yet!)

With those breakers whose speech is really bad, whole sounds are changed or shifted. We are all familiar with gerroff = get off; worral= wottal= what will, and with wanna, dunno, lemme and gimme, but has anyone copied Poi Snarra (Poisoned Arrow), or asked for a 10-36 and got 'Quarpar sen' as an answer? At the worst end of bad speech, farce creeps in. You will doubtless all recognise such well-known phrases as 'Washer andle', Jewkopi?, 'Gissanine' and 'Assafor'.

Lastly — and it is difficult to know whether to class it as a speech fault, for it often appears to be done deliberately and consciously — is the prolongation of single vowels into diphthongs, and diphthongs into even more complicated sound structures. Personally, I do not think this is anything that CB readers are likely to do. It is not so much a speech fault as a personality problem, causing the speaker to parody his own voice. One's instant reaction to the sound is to think "Why can't he (or she) talk properly?"

So where does all this leave us? After all, our voices, like our handwriting, are extensions of our personalities. If you are a wimp, uncertain in life, you probably will speak in a hesitant mumble. If you are an elderly, well-heeled, Roedean-trained lady, you'll probably be able to stop a waiter at thirty yards. Fortunately, most of you are neither of these, but (thank Heaven!) are normal reasonable people. With a little trouble, you can improve your voice, and your transmission.

First, what not to do. Do not try to abolish your natural voice — it's yours and you have a right to it. But use it confidently and clearly. Most regional accents are perfectly intelligible, even to outsiders. There are some, like heavy Scouse, Glasgow or Geordie, which seem to require an interpreter, but those who speak those dialects will probably be bi-lingual, anyway.

Don't try to 'talk posh'. There is no need to sound like a Conservative politician on the make. If you want a model of clear speech, listen to members of the Royal Family. Few of them have 'public school' accents. All speak naturally and clearly.

Don't rush. Assume (like royalty) that those listening will wait to hear what you are saying. Don't shout — you've got a CB, haven't you? And never try to talk like a refugee from 'The Dukes of Hazzard', especially if you already have a regional accent — you'll just sound like an idiot. And if you have an echo mike, use it carefully. Personally, I'm sick of hearing breakers who have their heads in electronic drainpipes.

So what should you do? For a start, listen to a tape-recording of yourself, Most of us have done this at some time or another, and it is usually slightly humiliating. (I sound like a rather bad

imitation of the late George Sanders.) Try to list your speech faults. Do you drop yourvoice at the end of sentences? Do you leave out letters, especially at the ends of words, or double t or p in the middle? Do you use a glottal stop? Do you voice unvoiced consonants (e.g. say sidi for city, budder for butter faver for father)? Do you rush, or hesitate, and um and er? Get a friend to listen to you on channel, or better still, record you from the CB so that you know what you sound like, remembering that it is your broadcast voice that matters.

When you think you know what you do wrong (and we all have some faults, try a few tongue twisters. These are (by definition) constructed of sounds that are difficult to pronounce. If you habitually speak with a glottal stop, then "Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers" is going to give you the sort of practice you need. If you usually clip the ends of words, try Round and round the rugged rock the ragged rascal ran', which will get the end of your tongue moving. If you have trouble with 'th', try 'The Leith police dismisseth us'. Relax, and speak easily, trying to sound all that should be sounded in each word, but no more. The rain in Spain falls mainly on the plain', 'How now, brown cow' and similar phrases are exercises used to teach clean vowel production, but if you follow them too rigidly you will end up wondering just what sound you are trying to get. Better to listen to people who have the same accents as yourself, and see what they do that makes them easier to understand than you are.

But whatever you do, stay yourself. An improved, clearer speaker perhaps, but yourself.



"Onnisarje - thassowiyorwayztawk!"



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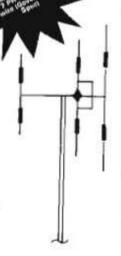
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Gismo thinks he might have found paradise — up the A34

ould you believe that big wheelers could deliberately reduce a lady breaker monitor to tears? I found it hard to believe at first, but I am told by quite a few famous lady breakers that this is true. An eyeball with a lady who I have been talking to since those glorious Aunty Mary days brought this to my attention. Since then, I have asked every other monitor who I know personally and who knows me by my voice (I mean, she recognises my voice before I introduce myself by handle).

In order to protect them from further abuse, I am not going to mention the handles of these ladies, and I don't hesitate to state that 99% of truckers do not abuse these ladies who do an excellent job for us big wheelers. Apparently, other truckers are quick to jump to the defence of monitors and have actually threatened to knock these sick big wheelers off the motorway. It seems the quickest way to stop them is to find out their handles. As soon as you try to locate their home-20 by their accents or by their handles, they just shut up.

The Perfect Cafe?

I haven't pushed big wheels as long as a lot of you (15 years), but I think I have found —as near as there is ever likely to be — the perfect cafe. I found myself running out of time just north of Birmingham and so looked at the Drivers magazine that we see by at night! I turned off at junction 11, following a map from an advert. On arrival, it was raining hard so I had an hours' kip. You know that feeling when you wake up? Urgh!

The truck park is enormous, the cafe is open from 6am until 7pm, and the car park ticket fee of £3 includes breakfast. So far, so good, but what about the food? No prizes from Egon Ronay, but it is very varied and very good. I am an awkward so-and-so and I don't eat any fried food unless it is the last resort. However, they soon came up with a cold meat and cooked veg dinner for me — plus a super sweet.

Now, what about the facilities? To start with, you have use of all the facilities, even if you are cabbing it: showers, baths, 60" TV, full-size snooker table, bar, darts and dominoes, three pubs within five minutes and — wait for it — a nightclub next door! Well, what more can I say? I approached the owner to see if I could get into the night club at a reduced rate, but he had already refused dozens of others as there was a Christmas party in progress and it was fully booked. After I chatted to him about the cafe etc, he let me in for nought! He has country & western every Monday night, but access to the nightclub is restricted sometimes, depending on what sort of do is on. I mean, if you were having your annual dinner and dance, would you like it if you were suddenly

swamped out by dozens of big wheelers? The standard of cleanliness is fantastic and facilities for sleepers is as good as a hotel — one bed to each room, and dozens of toilets, bathrooms and showers. Square-wheel it at the Kernel on the A34 near Bloxwich and see if you are as impressed as I was.

Truck Fest '85

I have received a 7-page circular from Live Promotions of Spalding, telling me about this year's Truck Fest at the Peterborough Showground on Easter Sunday and Monday (7th and 8th of April). Last year's was fantastic but this year's looks even better. Follow this lot: Best Kept Working Truck; Best Kept British Fleet; Best Custom Truck; Best Cab Interior; Best Paintwork; Britain's Fastest Dolly Tyer; Tri-axle Trailer Competition; Wheel-Changing Challenge; Wrecker of the Year; Driving Ability Competition; Best Vintage Truck; Transporter Race; Model Truck Competition; World Truck Pulling Competition; Supertruck Challenge Trophy.

Truckers' clubs will be given free space for a stall or whatever to promote their clubs, and celebrities will include Geoff Capes and Jim Bowen. You can camp the weekend if you wish, and the King of Truckers will be there with his fantastic Mack (Mr President's truck is worth about £1 00,000). There is also the possibility of a truck pull, using weighted trailers as they do in the States, but this is a big "if" at the moment. Ring Colin Ward on Spalding (0775) 68661/2 if you want further details. About 100,000 people visited last year, so there will be a few more this year as it gets better organised — or should I say more glamorous.

Romeo Tango DX Club Monitors

The Romeo Tangos are a CB club and have been on the air since August 1983. Some members are on the air each day to assist any mobile visiting the area — especially the truckers. Their aim is to get you into and out of Aylesbury as fast as possible. (Gismo doesn't like the sound of the "out" bit — do they mean they want to get rid of trucks?!!) Their direction service is going very well but there are gaps, as they are occasionally short of monitors on the 19. However, Ray, who is the Chairman of Romeo Tango and whose handle is Black Panther, is usually on channel 3 giving directions from 8am until 4pm Mondays to Fridays. Thanks for the info, Ray, we shall give you a shout when we are looking for the proverbial White Duckl

Keep the info coming on those all-important monitors. Mentioning them in this column is just a small way of saying "thank you" to them.

You've copied the best, now go copy the rest. 10-10.

Gismo.





David Shepherdson reports on new and established QSLers

MMUNICATION THE



reetings to all. This month I'd like to start off with some names and addresses of QSLers who have written in for a mention. If you would like to see your name here, then drop me a line with a card or two, enclosing return postage if you'd

like a reply.

First up is Robert (King Diamond) of the India Tango Group of Ipswich. By the way, this group is for loswich breakers only and is now almost 10 months old. A letter and cards from my old mate Malcolm Hall (Sputnik) or Sputnick as people keep spelling his handle, asking me to let all Delta Bravo (Derby) members know that the new venue of the DB Club is now the 102 Club, Friargate, in Derby. The Great Gonzo (Chris) drops me a line with a personalised Cutty Sark POMA FCC card and a few votes for the Club Poll. If you'd like to vote for your favourite clubs, then just send them to me, with the names of three UK Clubs, one Overseas and one that you would not recommend. At present, I'm just keeping a tally of the votes, but sometime soon, I'll stick an update in.

A colourful set of cards from Geoff (Reckless Rat) and family of Hull, worth a place in your collection, I feel. Thanks for the kind words Geoff, glad that you like the column. A near neighbour of mine, Peter (Renegade) of Otley QSLs with a set of personal 'Currie Rainbow cards as do Tony and Carole (FD 01 and 02) of Farnborough. The FDX Group now have a new club card available to members. For details, prices etc please send a SASE to Tony. The card is printed by C P Associates of Croydon and Tony recommends this firm as good value with excellent service. In last month's column I mentioned that there was another chain letter going on its way round. If you get a copy, please throw it away. These things are just another way of conning money out of people and are very upsetting to anyone who is either unwell or infirm. These things threaten so much if you "break the chain" and they can only be the product of a warped mind! This month I've another one! Not quite the usual type, but this one is posted in Ghana. If you had one, you, like myself, may have thought it was the only one. In that case, I've got news for you. It isn't! I've seen three of them, all with different handwriting, but signed by the same name (C. F. Hewton). This letter purports to in-troduce to you your "Lovely Son". I won't embarrass the club that's named in the letter as the source from which your name was found. I'd just like to remind you of another letter that came out of Ghana last year. This one introduced someone who wished to come to England to work and he hoped that you (the recipient of that letter) would help him to do this by forwarding money for his fare, find him a job and allow him to live with you. So, if you've had a letter like this, don't worry, you aren't the only one!

Also in last month's column, I mentioned a pirate card of Ken's (Sea Dragon 01) of Norfolk, Well, I'm happy to say this time that things have been sorted out and the 'pirate' has apologised to Ken and agreed not to use the copies again. This is better news than I was able to give last time. Remember, piracy is just a rip-off and really does damage our hobby. I know it isn't only a UK problem, but it has been worse here than overseas, so let's try to keep it out of QSLing as it can only build up ill-feeling towards the UK QSLing

Just a few more names, and then I'll run through a bit of club news. First here is Lillian (Blue Lagoon) of Plymouth who would like to correspond with any QSLer who wishes to write to her. From someone known only as Red Devil (RD 01) of Wales, a request that if anyone wants one of his cards, which are based on a bi-plane, to write enclosing a SASE.

A few cards from Paul (The Mongoose) and Neil (his Dad) of Southport who write in with some rather unusual, but very interesting cards. I'm glad to see you're a regular reader Paul, hope

you keep on being one! A colourful group card from Andy (Stingray) of Bordon who asks me to point out that his group (Charlie Kilo) is not a QSL Club, but a group of local breakers and QSLers who got together to share the cost of the PO Box and printing, but will QSL back if you wish to send one to him.

Dave (Leyland Man) of Bexleyheath sends a set of personal and club cards with details of a local breakers' club which has been collecting money for local charities including a wheelchair for the use of disabled people at a local shopping precinct and for a hospital scanner appeal. Well done. Our congratulations also go to Tim (Cosom) of Warwickshire. He has helped to organise some sponsored modulations and, with a couple of local DX and Breakers clubs, have managed to raise £310 towards the purchase of a minibus for the handicapped, and £460 for a local hospital towards cancer equipment. A big "well done" to all those concerned

A bit of club news now, starting off with the Sea Dragon of Norfolk. They have just sent me details of their new 1985 package. For a large SASE (18p. minimum stamp) and five signed and dated personal QSL cards, you get your SD No. XYL/M No. ID card(s). certificate(s), five club cards, stickers, presidents and members exchange QSLs, invites and tourist info. Also available from the club are fully mounted rubber stamps for £2.50, club cards (Currie 'Rainbow' series) at £2.50 per 100, and full-colour POMA cards at £5.00 per 100. Cash or postal order only will be accepted and prices

include postage in the UK.

News from the Original UK "Free" Postal QSL Club, the Zulu Whiskey of Brighouse now. One million dollars must be won! For five cards and a large SASE (18p min) you get your ZW No.

million dollars, Gordon isn't offering it, he would like to know where he can get a chance of it! So would I mate, so would II

Gordon has also sent me a copy of a letter he received asking for info on



D card, stickers, mini-certificate, swap cards, invites, presidents' cards etc. Also available are club stamps (£3). club cards (Currie 'Rainbow') at £2.50 per 100, or an offer price of £5 for the stamp and 100 Cards. Gordon has asked me to let you know that due to problems with the suppliers (six month-plus delivery times) he has regretfully had to drop the ZW patches. -shirts and pennants. Sorry all, but I

how to set up a club. Not a free one, but one which would charge for membership and, believe it or not, be called the Zulu Whiskeyl (This was so that this person could use Gordon's artwork and cards etc. without having to think of something for himself!) This sort of thing upsets a lot of clubs as, after all, the presidents (of most) have put a lot



QSL Addresses: Atlantic Breakers Club

Cutty Sark QSL Club

Famborough DX Group

Great British DX QSL Club

Romeo Delta X-Ray

Sea Dragen DX QSt Club

Toucan QSL Club

Zulu Whiskey Int OSL

Dragonrider QSI, Club

QSLer Addresses: Robert (King Diamond)

Malcolm (Sputnik) Hall

Chris (The Great Gonzo)

14 Priory Road, Bowden, Cheshire, Geoff (Reckless Rat) WA14 3BP. 47 Gurdon Road, Chariton.

P O Box 20. Farnborough, Hants. Tony & Carole (FD 1 & 2) London, SE7 7RP

P O Box 5. Consett. Co Durham, Lillian (Blue Lagoon) Red Devil (RD 01)

10 Wallace Street, Rutherglen, DHB BNG

P O Box 2, Sheringham, Norfolk, Paul (The Mangoose) P O Box 1500, Caracas 1010-A. NR26 STY

Venezuala, S. America. P O Box 14, Brighouse, West Yorkshire, HD6 2SE.

3 Tarn Villas, Cowpasture Road, likley, W. Yorks, LS29 8RH.

George (White Lancer) Gary (Black Knight)

Tim (Cosmo)

Harold (Groundsman)

Dave (Leyland Man)

LT. 20. P O Box 30, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP2 9UR. 75 Borrowfield Road, Spondon, 3 Seech Drive, Hothfield, Ashford, Clint (Knight Rider)

Kent, TN28 1DS

know the feeling of relying on a supplier who lets you down, I've recently changed my supplier of club stickers for a similar reason. As for the 17 Blaydes St. Haworth St. Hull, E. Yorks, HU6 7RE 37 May Lea Drive, Otley, W. Yorks, P O Box 20, Famborough, Hanta, 210 North Road West, Plymouth. Devon, PL1 5DE P O Box 35, Prestatyn, Clwyd. LL19 9YH. P O Box 27, Southport P O Box 13. Bordon, Hants, Bexley Breakers Club, P O Box 35. Bexleyheath, Kent 25 De Montfort Rd, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV5 1DE. P O Sox 9, Brighton, Sussex, YT 162, PO Box 374, Birmingham, BN2 5HA Hayes Playing Field, Redditch Rd. Kings Norton, Birmingham, B3B 41 Millwall Close, Gorton, Manchester, M18 BLL BLP

of time, money and effort into starting up their clubs and in keeping it running. It is not an easy thing to do, there are so many "clubs" in the UK now, that it is impossible to keep track of them. Each week I get letters saying "I have

started a QSL club, it costs £5 to join and you get. . ." and so on. Over 75% of these appear to be from someone a little bit too young to realise what is entailed in running a club. Many of these are written on a scrap of paper torn out of a school exercise book! No offence intended but might this not be because some of the clubs in the UK these days are well established and seem to be successful and therefore must be easy to run? This is not the case. The running of a successful QSL club takes a lot of time each day, a lot of money to set up and to cover costs and, from the style of some of these letters, I feel that many of these young people are just a little too young to be able to devote both the time and money required. So many of these clubs have started up and folded after a few weeks because the presidents have lost interest. A QSL club is not a quick way to make money, it usually loses it very quickly. Most of the established clubs are run as a hobby because the presidents are able to give them the time required and because they get great enjoyment from the club. In fact, I have heard of many European clubs which will have nothing to do with any UK QSL club, because of these short-lived clubs which do nothing for the hobby. If you are thinking of starting yet another QSL club, please do give it a lot of thought. It's not easy, and a good one will take hours of your days for a long time. Also, do we need any more? Any thoughts anyone? Okay, one UK club that has been



look package, and there will be a charge for this which will include membership, certificate, mounted stamp, etc. At the time of writing, the final details have not been worked out, but by the time you read this, the new

of Brighton's card has a superb Earlybird design, from Gary (Black Knight) comes a card to match George's, from Kings ton hails Harold (Groundsman) and from Manchester charges Clint (Knight Rider) with the last card of the month.

Coming up soon is the Cutty Sark POMA card swap meeting on the 13th and 14th of April. This two-day meet is being held at the Falcon Hotel, Ethelbert Road, Cliftonville, Margate. There is an admission fee of 25p per day with a disco on Saturday. If you an only get there for one day, then Saturday will be the best. Although it is billed as a POMA meet, all QSLers are welcome. For extra details, an SASE to Dave Bradshaw please.

The only other meeting I have details on at the present is the 1985 Easter QSL Convention which this year is being held in Stanley, Co Durham. Admission is free and many UK QSL clubs are expected to attend, the times and date are 11am to 4pm on Sunday 28th April and the venue is the Youth Centre in Stanley. This year, the event is being organised by the GBDQC and RDX clubs. Keep watching this spot for any late changes. Signposting from the Chester-le-Street/A1 turnoff.

If you would like a mention please drop me a line, either via the magazine or the Dragonrider Club address. If it's urgent, send it via the club as I'll get it quicker. If you'd like a reply, please do enclose return postage. It will help to ensure a reply from the massive bundles the postman staggers up with each day. If you have any info on forthcoming events, or want your club to get a mention, well, drop me a line and see what happens. One last thing, Jorgen Hansen of the Toucan Club of South America will be touring England soon and I hope to catch a few words with him then. This is Dragonrider one down and gone. Bye.

89 Derwent St. Blackhill, Consett, QSL Services: Co Durham, DH8 BLT The Studio, Ledbury Place, Curries (Printers) Croydon. P O Box 106, Canterbury, Kent, C P Associates (Printers) P O Box 9, Brighton, Sussex, POMA (UK Rep - Ray) CT1 3YN. 16 Bradenham Ave. Welling, Kent, Earlybird (QSL artist) BN2 5HA When writing to any QSL club or service, please always try to Dave Bradshaw (CS enclose return postage to assist with a speedy reply. When writing overseas, use a couple of IRCs from your local post office instead, and if sending money abroad, use registered postl

going now for quite a while and indeed is very highly thought of, both here and on the Continent, is the Cutty Sark QSL Club of London. Now, this club has recently taken the step of closing the club's "books" at 1000 members. This is so that the club's founders can write to some members who they have not heard of for a long time and check if they are still active QSLers. If these people have given up QSLing, then their membership will be revoked. Once this streamlining has been done, the club will be re-opened with a new-

look Cutty Sark Club will be back on the scene in full swing. An SASE to the club address will fetch full details and costs. News in from the Atlantic Breakers Club about their newsletter which is available to members for £2.50 per year including P+P. This also includes a regular spot by the Evil Buck Fuzby, and he don't pull no punches! Membership of this fine club costs £6 and 10 personal signed and dated cards. For this you receive your ABC No, certificate, ID card, rubber stamp, 10 club cards, club seals etc, with XYL/M free. George (White Lancer)

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The January 1985 issue of Citizens' Band carried an advertisement for the Thoro'Bred Z27 (page 41) which included a deliberate mistake. All you have to do is to spot the deliberate mistake and the first 50 correct answers out of the postbag will receive a voucher entitling them to collect a FREE 227 antenna from their local CB outlet. The name of your nearest stockist can be obtained from the importers and menufacturers: Pixtron UK Ltd., 10 Victoria Street, Newark, Nottinghamshire. (Telephone 0636 74688).

Competition Rules

- 1. The competition is open to all readers except employees of Argus Specialist Publications Ltd, their printers and distributors.
 - 2. All entries must be postmarked before 30th April 1985
 - 3. No correspondence will be entered into. The Editor's decision is final,





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Filly introduces her cousin to CB — with disastrous results

LADY BREAKERS

have had a terrible two weeks, quite nerve-wracking. I am still prostrate. I break out in a cold sweat whenever I think about it. I must not think about it. Every cloud has a silver lining, they say, but this was a positive thundercloud which had obviously crept out without the tailor noticing. Or, more likely, had flattened him in its rush to cast a dark shadow over my life.

It arrived in the form of my cousin Tobias. He descended upon us one foggy morning, or rather he descended upon me — my husband took one look out of the window and shot out of the back door with an overnight bag. He

hasn't been seen since.

Tobias is, in spite of his age (midthirties) a perpetual student. He sits all day in the students' union at his polytechnic, boring everyone within earshot with his reminiscences of the heady days of the 'sixties. He never quite made it into the 'seventies, let alone the eighties. He talks about weighty intellectual/philosophical/ humanistic matters, like the parallels between liberalism and Nihilism; really important, relevant things like that, People blench at his approach.

Anyway, he had taken it into his head to pay me a surprise visit, and I had little choice but to install him temporarily in the spare room. That evening, he broke off his soliloquy on something to do with existentialism— I was watching Dallas— to com-

ment on my base station.

"What's that thing?" he demanded.
"That's my CB radio, Toby," I said straining to hear what Sue Ellen was saying.

"I thought only Yank truck drivers used those things," he said, entertained, and went across to examine it. "How

do you switch it on?"

Reluctantly (JR was about to push Cliff off a 20-storey building). I showed him. Immediately, there was a voice to be heard, and as it happened, it was asking for me.

"Philadelphia Judd. Who on earth would pick a stupid name like that?" he exclaimed contemptuously.

"Er . . ." I said.

"I can't see what useful purpose these things serve," he went on, flicking through the channels. With great restraint, I refrained from asking him what useful purpose he thought he served. But the next day, out with me in my car ("do you have to drive a mini? Think of my image..."), he sat

listening to a discussion over the air, obviously dying to join in.

"Can you speak on that thing?" he asked. I picked up the mike and demonstrated. "Can I speak on it?" he demanded. Not realizing what I was about to unleash on an unsuspecting county. I handed him the mike and showed him how to use it, hoping he would suffer from mike fright. But not Tobias. He proceeded to spend the next fifteen minutes hogging the channel, steering the discussion into such rarefied and obscure paths that the air gradually fell uncannily silent. Minutes passed.

"Why doesn't anyons answer?" he asked, bewildered. "I've given them plenty of food for thought, surely." Too right you have, I thought. Then I suddenly realized, horrified, why noone was talking — Tobias still had his finger tight on the mike button.

"Gimme that!" I shrieked, snatching the mike away, and nearly driving straight into the back of a bus that had inconsiderately stopped right in front of me.

Women drivers!" he murmured, sotto voce. I cursed under my breath, and thanked my lucky stars that at least no-one would associate this pompous twit with Philadelphia Judd.

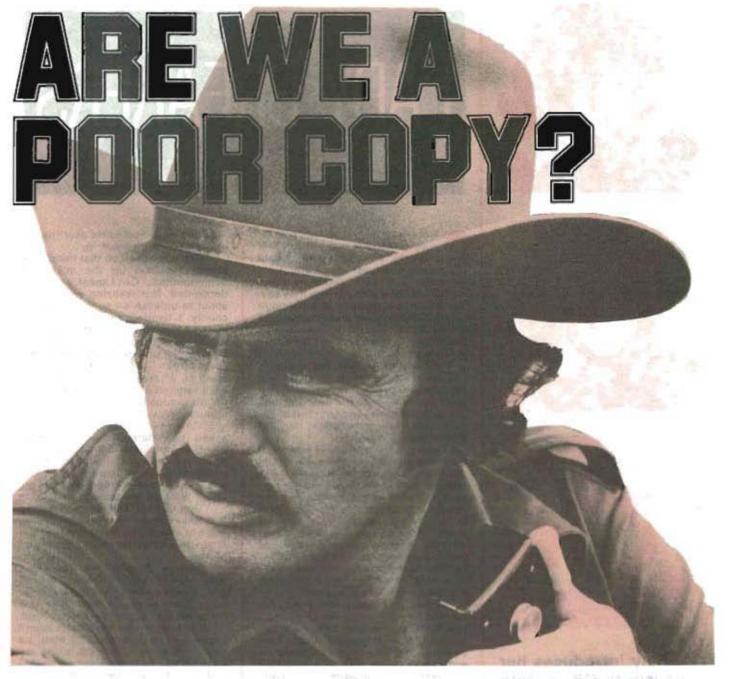
A few days after that (I still hadn't succeeded in getting rid of him), he had another try at the CB, using my base station. I walked in to hear the tail end of a heated conversation. Toby turned to me indignantly. "This stupid nerd — says he's the local vicar, huhl All goes to show, doesn't it, they should have disestablished the church years ago — the silly old fool doesn't know what he's talking about Honestly..."

"Toby", I said, "Put the mike down. Toby. You're still transmitting..."

And so it went on. Every time I left the room, he couldn't resist the temptation to lecture the local breakers on any topic that came into his head. Then one evil day, someone let out my real name on the air, and the cat was well and truly out of the bag when he made it his business to inform everyone (proudly) that he was my cousin...

Oh, the shame, the disgrace. I managed to get rid of him after that, but it's going to take more than his absence to get the locals to talk about anything else than my remarkable cousin. Even now, I don't dare to turn on the radio. I'm sure they're talking

about me ...



Sue Sharp looks at the differences — and similarities — between American and British CB

here was a time when anyone who knew anything about CB in this country regarded America with reverence. It was the birthplace of CB. it was /ega/, all the equipment currently (and illegally) in use came from there — America was some kind of CBers' paradise.

So much so that it was definitely the accepted custom to copy American CB traditions as much as possible. If you couldn't "10-4, good buddy" with the rest of them, then you didn't really belong. Woe betide anyone who suggested that all the slang was a bit pointless — how could it be pointless when Kris Kristofferson used it? The airwaves were thick with the twang of phoney accents and people who had never been nearer to the States than Heathrow Airport sounded as if they

had been pushing those big wheelers from Newark to Seattle all their lives. British breakers even began to look American. Peaked caps, quilted body warmer jackets covered in CB patches, cowboy boots . . .

CB was not only a hobby but a fantasy, a glimpse into a lifestyle that we could never really expect to emulate. It lasted for a couple of golden years before the channels (even in prelegalisation days) got too crowded and the British public were presented with a legal alternative.

Nowadays, most CBers would reject the Americanisms that us early CBers embraced with open arms. And that's no bad thing. We have, for better or worse, our own CB system with its own rules and traditions. British CB customs have grown and breakers are (and should be) concerned with getting the best from this system, not some romanticised version from across the Atlantic.

But there's no getting away from the fact that CB did start in America and that there have been many useful lessons to be learnt from its development. Many of the successes and failures of Citizens Band radio in this country can be traced back to the early American influences.

When CB was legalised in this country, all the pundits looked to the United States as both an example and test market. Mistake number one. An unexpected set of coincidences were responsible for the rapid growth of American CB. Petrol was very scarce as the Arabs tried to ransom the West, the speed limit was set at what the Americans regarded as a derisory 55 miles per hour, the trucker was gaining

a macho image as the cowboy of the road . . . all these led to CB becoming popular. A CB helped you find petrol. located the police waiting to jump on red-blooded Americans doing their civic duty by breaking that ridiculous speed limit, you could talk to truckers and the electronics revolution meant that CB radios were no longer cumbersome, unreliable pieces of equipment packed with valves or crystals.

None of this happened in Britain. There was a petrol crisis, but we could go at 70 m.p.h. Truckers were not knights of the road (at least, they weren't regarded as such), nobody, except the already converted, had really heard of CB - and if they had, they didn't think they wanted it anyway. All in all, this meant that some of the sums company sales directors were busily adding up just weren't accurate. If the population of Britain is a fifth of that of the States, then the demand for CB in Britain must be a fifth of that in the U.S. of A., right? Wrong. Too many sets were ordered, sales didn't reach the highs expected, equipment was jobbed out at rock bottom prices to get rid of it you know the rest of the story. But in many respects we still have more in common with our American CB counterparts than with Europe.

Equipment

A flick through the American CB magazines of the middle seventies will show the sort of equipment that was available. At this time, CB in America received a shot in the arm from the legalisation of a further 17 channels to add to the 23 already permitted. A 40channel set was the latest thing to have, with sideband and lots of knobs and dials, Lafavette, Cobra, Royce, Johnson, Gemtronics, Turner, Astatic, Handic, Telex, Antenna Specialists, Kris, Avanti, Mura, Hy Gain - all competing with large colour adverts for the customer's money. The number of sets and types of equipment on the shelves was almost incalculable as new models were introduced. Small, compact sets suitable for 'the ladies', marine sets for the sportsman, deluxe versions of other sets with a knob or two added.

In Britain, we had a similar situation. Sets were released on the market with a great hue and cry. But never with the same impact as America. Never the same number of sets and not followed by updated models. The fuss was over

almost before it began.

But now, the gap has closed. There are no new sets on the American market. Equipment got very cheap very quickly, something us Brits will recognise. Big chain stores didn't (and don't) want to know anymore. A few larger stores have CB equipment at heavily discounted prices - most don't bother with 'own brand' sets like they used to. The majority of CB equipment is sold through specialist CB shops, selling what equipment they can get their hands on, rather than what they actually want to sell. Specialist shops are quite few and far between — a look in the Yellow Pages for any large city will show perhaps two. These stores are busy as they are catering for a wide area, but it's very different from the days when even the neighbourhood procer had a few sets on the counter.

This, again, sounds very familiar to us. We have followed almost exactly the same pattern, but condensed into a much shorter space of time. Now we have to buy what is in the shop, rather than the set we would really choose. simply because it's not available any-

Magazines

In some ways, this is an area where Britain lead the field. At one time, I counted eleven different CB publications that were nationally distributed. America, even with its vast CBing population, neverreached those heights. What it did have though, were a few very well established magazines that had been dealing with CB, directly or indirectly since 1960 or so. S9 and CB Magazine were reputable, respected publications that covered all of America and were a real reflection of CB down to grassroots level.



The Dukes of Hazzard and their good ole CB have the edge on Eddie Yates - they offer a romantic view of CB which this country has never been able to copy. It's pretty juvenile stuff - but difficult to

At its peak, S9 had 180 pages, full of product reviews, new equipment, technical reports, personal stories, articles on SSB and skip, and cost \$2.00 - a bargain at the time.

Two years later, CB Magazine, S9's main rival, was at 76 pages, \$1.50 to hang on to the readers and beginning to diversify into scanners, radar warning devices, lots more personality stories to fill the pages and virtually no CBrelated product news at all. By the very early 1980s all national CB magazines in America were gone. All that remains is a newspaper type publication called CB Voice, a publication that reflects a lot of what is good about CB with clubs, charitable events and just plain good people filling the pages. A pleasure to read, but nothing approaching the type of CB magazines that were once available.

In Britain Citizens' Band is the only magazine holding the banner for CB at times against difficult odds. One left out of eleven.

Operation

The operators of American CB have always had a fascination for the British, even if it isn't quite so open recently. Garrulous, extrovert, with codes, slang and expertise dripping from their golden tongues, they have an almost professional image. The truth is a disappointment. Although some CBers are like this. America is plagued with the wallies, idiots and bucketmouths that we all lament. The channels are full of the same problems that we have to live with - often on a larger scale. Burners are a nuisance to us as our country is small, interference can be greater and it means that the channel is hogged unfairly. Imagine what it must be like for those who live near breakers who use 3,000 watts - and, in some cases, more. Not an infrequent case in America. Linear amplifiers, despite being illegal, can be widespread, and CB earns no more respect in America than it can over here. Operators can be abusive, downright obscene and completely illegal and. guess what, the FCC are rarely in a position to do anything about it. Like our own British government departments, they are undermanned, under financed and demoralised - dealing with thousands and thousands of lawbreakers is beyond their abilities.

In fact, in a neat turn of the tables, instead of the American public refusing to pay their licence fees like many British operators, the FCC in despair suggested discontinuing the American CB licence to let them off the hook. It met with some resistance from law abiding breakers who saw it as the final straw, but it is an indication of the impotence of the authorities to deal with the scale of the problem.

If there is one single reason for the respect that American CB has earned. it has been the emergency channel and the monitoring services. Organised, efficient and often with extensive facilities behind them, groups like REACT have handled many thousands of emergencies. But even as long ago as 1976, S9 was suggesting that perhaps the time had come for channel 9 to be 'dumped' and that some groups were 'self-impressed and arrogant'. There were claims that channel 9 had become a private communications channel for the 'in crowd' - criticisms that are familiar to British ears. As S9 said, the sacred cow was giving a sour taste. The influx of people into CB also brought breakers onto channel 9, looking for space not already bunged up with breakers. Sidebanders used channel 9, and the channels either side, leaving monitors furious. Bad feeling grew.

Because of the bad feeling and the

righteous attitude of some monitoring groups (and human nature being what it is and hoaxes growing) the respect that many of the official emergency services had for CB has gone. Most forces don't bother any more with monitoring channel 9. Some states are even reluctant to co-operate with REACT, as past experiences have left them somewhat embittered.

Clubs

At one time, no matter what continent you were on, you couldn't see CBers for their clubs. In America, as in Britain, the proliferation of clubs was rapid. A few were good, lots were only so-so, some were awful, dedicated to downing as much beer in as little time as possible.

British clubs, like their American counterparts, have been through a shakedown following the initial enthusiasm. This shaking down has seen clubs close and memberships drop. This has had beneficial results; the people now attending are interested, concerned about CB and eager to offer their services to the community. The

clubs may be fewer, but often they are achieving more. It is perhaps the club scene in the two countries that has the greatest similarities.

No more heroes

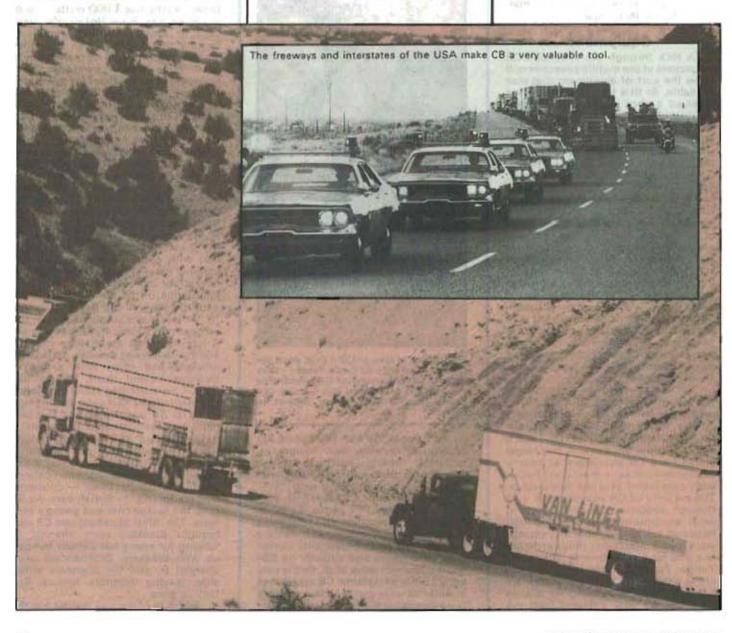
One thing that America had in abundance that we never managed to copy was CB heroes. Rubber Duck in Convoy (and friends), Smokey and the Bandit, the cult film Citizens Band plus too-many-to-mention TV shows that had CB saving the day, presented a favourable CB image.

In Britain, the best we can rustle up is Eddie Yates on Coronation Street — not the stuff that dreams are made off CB on the screen has been handled by Terry Scott, Dogfood Dan and the Camarthen Cowboy and the odd, usually unkind, passing reference.

This seems like a depressing catalogue of events and, for people who care about the future of communications (either here or in America), it is sed reading. What it does point out though, is that even the land of CB milk and honey has had exactly the same problems that we have. Overcrowding.

misuse, lack of effective control — all have plagued American CBers. The conclusion is that we aren't a poor copy — American CB was never as good as we dreamers like to remember and British CB probably isn't as bad as the pessimists like to think. The nature of the animal (i.e. man) has meant that the problems remain the same, even if they are separated by more than 3,000 miles.

The good news is that there is every chance that British CB will follow American CB into its next stage. There are thousands of CBers who care about CB, who enjoy it, both personally and on a community level CB Voice is full of stories about CBers doing good, organising fund raising, going to amborees and ignoring the reputation that CB has gained. There is even an upswing in CB's popularity in the States as people forget the worst excesses and realise, once again, what CB is all about. Almost everything that has happened to American CB has happened here - so there is no reason to think that CB won't still be going strong in this country 40 years after its introduction.



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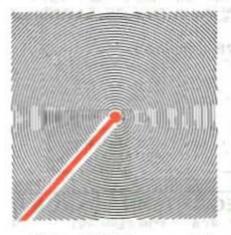
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Antenna MISTERSI Review MISTERSI



Brian Wright gets his hands on a brand new antenna

Ithough it is over three years since the introduction of UK CB, a vast amount of the mobile antennas still being sold in the UK are of foreign manufacture and intended for other frequencies. This usually means that these antannas require shortening, some quite considerably, to obtain a low SWR on UK FM. Whilst this does not affect the performance very much, it can be rather tedious as this often entails cutting the hard stainless whip several times then refitting and testing in order not to cut too much off and ruin the antenna. In the past, we have tested many UK manufactured an-tennas and most of these have required the minimum adjustment and have performed well. We were therefore very interested and keen this month to test the Mister Stick - a brand new design from Marksman Products Ltd of Milton Keynes.

"Useful information is included about tuning the antenna. . ."

The Mister Stick is a supplied package in the fairly standard polythene sleeve with a blue label over the open end printed in impressive gold lettering. Everything is supplied loose, even the three stainless grubscrews which are contained in a small bag along with the Allen key and the bottom fixing boss. A small instruction sheet is supplied which contains all the necessary information in the form of a diagram to show the method of assembly. Useful information is included about tuning the antenna, with a chart to show if the whip should be lengthened or shortened when readings are taken on channels 1 and 40 - always a source of confusion among breakers. Special emphasis is put on the fact that the length of the lower whip on this centre-loaded antenna should not be adjusted as this is already the correct length. One piece of information that is not included in these instructions and in most other manufacturers' instructions is what type of fitting the antenna should be mounted on. Whilst most breakers know that the standard mounts and antennas are normally % in UNF this could cause a little confusion to a new breaker.

Centre-loaded

The Mister Stick is a fairly standard looking centre-loaded antenna with one exception, in that all metal parts are stainless steel (apart from the coil windings) instead of the usual mixture of stainless whip and chromed brass fittings. The bottom fitting has a %in UNF thread and a knurled portion for finger tightening into the mount. The 3.5mm diameter whip slides into a hole in the bottom fitting and is secured with a stainless grubscrew, and the lower stainless boss of the coil assembly is secured in a similar manner to the top of this whip. The 130mm long coil is sleeved with an attractive blue shrunken sleeving with the words 'Mister Stick' printed vertically. The 3mm diameter top whip fits into another stainless boss at the top of the coil, and a black plastic tip is supplied to push onto the top of the whip. The total length of the coil assembly is 220 mm and the whole entenna is 1.19 metres. Total assembly takes only a few minutes.

"We were certainly in for a surprise. . ."

Although having a very low SWR ensures the maximum radiation of signal, in practice it is not normally too critical, within reason. However, Marksman Products, Ltd advised us that the Mister Stick will transmit a low signal and not receive very well if the SWR is fairly high, unlike many antennas that are not too critical on

SWR. The manufacturers claim an SWR of 1.2:1 or less and, indeed, when fitted to the vehicle, we had an SWR of 1.1:1 on channel 40 but around 1.4:1 on channel 1. After lifting the top whip slightly to lengthen it, we had an SWR of 1.1:1 or less across the whole band which was fairly impressive for an antenna of only 1.19 metres long.

Angle

The manufacturers claim that the Mister Stick transmits and receives at a very low angle and will reach where other antennas fail to reach. Whilst the Mister Stick is a good-looking, wellmade antenna and centre-loaded antennas generally transmit at a lower angle than base-loaded units, we could see no reason why this antenna should be any better than others of its type. We were certainly in for a surprise as can be seen from the test map pattern. The Mister Stick performed superbly and did, in fact, appear to reach into those normally bad locations. At a point on our test route where the vehicle passes down between two high banks in a densely wooded area at the outer limits of the route and good antennas give an S3 signal while less efficient ones fade away, the Mister Stick maintained an incredible S5 signal with slight fluctuations. The copy was good and clear at all times, even in this location. Reception was equally as good as transmission with signal readings virtually matching in both directions.

In conclusion, we consider the Mister Stick, with its all-stainless construction, to be a very well made, very high performance antenna. Priced at £17.50 including VAT, it is more expensive than most antennas of this type but considering the construction and performance, is good value.

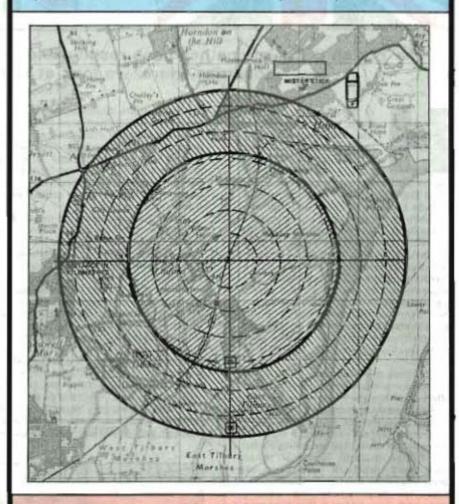
At this point, we normally consider an antenna that we have tested with a similar performance but there does not appear to be one. Our thanks to Marksman Products of Milton Keynes for supplying the test sample.

ANTENNA REVIEW DATA PANEL

SPECIFICATIONS

Model
Type
Length
Frequency Range
Max Power Handling
Impedance
Cable Supplied
Mounting Details
Supplier
Typical Price

MISTER STICK
CENTRE LOADED MOBILE
1.19 METRES
26-28MHz
WELL ABOVE LEGAL LIMIT
500hm
NONE
%UNF
MARKSMAN PRODUCTS LTD
£17.50 (incl. VAT)



REVIEW VERDICT

Performance XXXXX SWR Adjustment XXXX Construction XXXX Installation XXXX Instructions XXXX Value XXXX

We rate our samples on a scale of one to five. Five stars is the highest rating, three and four sters are average to good and one and two stars mean it's not doing so well.

The Tests

We have used our standard test procedure to assess the efficiency of this antenna. Just to bring new readers up to date this involves two tests: one static and one mobile. Our test sample is fitted to a stationary mobile and a second mobile follows a prearranged route that orbits the stationary test vehicle, sending and receiving signal reports at measured intervals. This is then repeated with the test antenna on the mobile test vehicle and the signals are sent and received between a stationary vehicle. A standard rig and antenna is used in all the tests. With the results obtained we are able to draw up the radiation pattern shown here. This is simplified to make the results more easily understood. The antenna is also subjected to a series of 'lab' tests to assess their durability, quality and construction, etc and finally we hand it over to a penel of CBers for comment.



BEST OF BRITISH

The British C.B. Service has been responsible for the growth of many home industries. Here, we look at some of them

er Majesty's Government, when announcing the introduction of a legal, British CB system, voiced its hopes that such a system (operating on a different mode and frequency band than most other systems) would provide a unique opportunity for British industry by presenting it with a market it was in an ideal opportunity to exploit.

Well, it's a good job we didn't hold our breath waiting for the big boys in communications to present us with a startling range of equipment and accessories, as we would be sorely dissappointed— not to say expired. It has been up to the smaller, more adventurous companies to design and manufacture a range of usually very high quality goods for the British market.

Leading the field in this has been the antenna manufacturers who have often outshone the foreign competition in both performance and value for money. Electronics firms have been the other great success with a range of accessories designed specifically for the British market. Many of these companies' products have been so good that they are now exporting — even to Italy, where it's usually reckoned they know a thing or two about CB equipment.

There haven't been many rig manufacturers, but the two that have stuck to their guns have come up with equipment of such good quality that ownership of such equipment is often the long term aim of many a dedicated CBer.

The Government's hopes that British companies would be able to develop a new market have not been realised in the way that they had intended. But perhaps it's just as well—the big boys earn enough profit anyway and it has been the small, often one-man, business that has been able to take advantage of a system without parallel and grow to meet its demands.

Here we present a selection of CB equipment that has been either designed or manufactured (or both) in this country, showing the Best of British.

Solid State Electronics (UK) Ltd are based in Southampton and manufacture a range of accessories, including the 10-2WP signal splitter which makes it possible to use a single antenna for the broadcast bands and CB simultaneously, eliminating the need to switch off a car radio before transmitting on CB.

SSE also produce a series of TVI-RFI supression filters which minimize interference to TV-FM radios from CB transmitters. The range includes a narrow band stop filter, a high pass filter and a low pass filter.

They also market an extension S-Meter which can be mounted on the dashboard of a vehicle and which has inbuilt Hi/Lo/Off illumination positions. When plugged in, it automatically disconnects the internal CB meter and the reading is transferred to the extension meter. The advantages, from the point of view of safety, are obvious with such a unit. It retails at £13.80.

Other-interesting items from SSE include their two-way switchable microphone extension, which enables

passenger and driver to use their own individual microphones and costs £10.95. Again, it's a safety product in that it removes the need for the mike to be passed back and forward between passenger and driver. Safety and protection from overvoltage conditions is provided in the form of the AF52 (£10.50) automatic overvoltage switch which automatically disconnects the output of the power supply from the equipment if a voltage of approximately 16 volts DC should occur at its input.

Armstrong Kirkwood Developments, based in north London, produce a range of CB accessories including the CB Vampire. This is a RF switched attenuator which offers users relief from bleedover or walkover from strong adjacent channel interference. It works on receive mode only, being automatically bypassed on transmit. It retails at £14,37.

AKD's Blackline Signal Booster gives a greater than six times increase in the strength of received signals. During transmission, the circuit is bypassed to ensure neither degredation to the transmit signal nor damage to

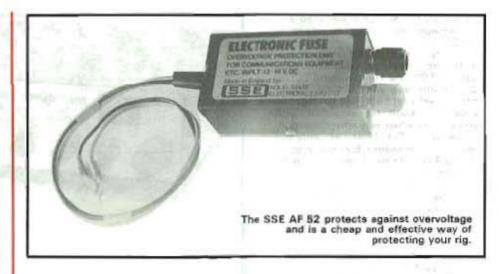


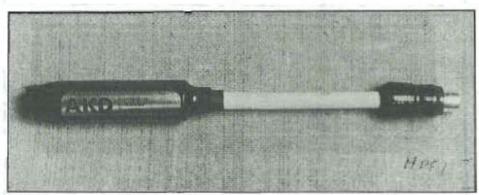
the unit. The booster sells for £14.37.

The BPF1 CB band pass filter minimises the radiation of "out of band" transmissions from a CB rig. Maximum through power is 10 watts and it retails

If you're being bothered by wallies, the AKD Precision Direction Finder may be just what you need. It is a hand-held direction finder capable of pinpointing aerial radiating transmissions in the 27MHz band. Supplied with a miniature aerial, it gives a range of about 50 metres. Since its introduction, it has enjoyed great success and is, in fact, used by British Telecom for tracing illegal transmissions. It costs £39,95

AKD also produce a comprehensive range of filters for eliminating interference to TVs, video recorders and other domestic audio/visual apparatus. They range in price from £6.30 to





High-pass filter from Armstrong Kirkwood Developments, one of the leading companies in filter design and manufacture.

Down in Devon, Westward Elec-tronics market the Westward PT2, which features a lightweight mains power pack, an internal battery charger and high capacity battery pack. This means the rig can operate as a home base, mobile and portable unit without the need for extra hardware. In the home base mode, its internal battery provides automatic standby so, if the mains should fail, the rig will continue to operate.

When using the rig as a mobile, it can be run on the battery pack which means less interference from the vehicle's electrical system. As a portable, the Westward can run for very long periods on its internal battery (the makers claim three working days, but our own Grey Beard reports up to 60 hours between charges). Selective calling can also be built in to the PT2 and optional extras include stainless steel whips, mag mounts and personalised leather carrying case.

Complete with mains pack, charger, battery pack, shoulder strap, mounting bracket, microphone, mains and 12v powers leads, the PT2 retails at £159.95 including VAT.

EMS Communications of Oxford are manufacturers of the Mercury 1040 transceiver, which is available in three different colours: black, gold or silver. It features superior adjacent channel rejection, three-crystal PLL design and a right-hand microphone socket. The rig costs £105 and an optional factoryfitted EMS FM noise limiter is available for an extra £25.

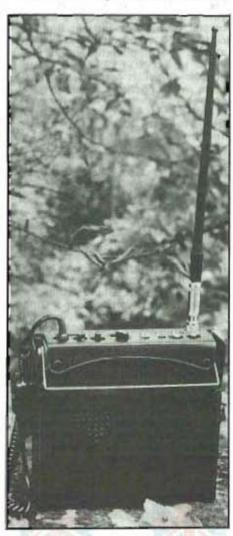
A portable version of the 1040 is also available, fitted with rechargeable batteries, rubber aerial, switched microphone/speaker and housed in a leather case. It is priced at£195, and a mains power supply and charger costs another £35.

The EMS Poseidon base unit costs £270, is fitted with their FM noise limiter as standard, operates on 240V mains or 12V DC, and has provision for selective calling on the front panel.

elecomms of Portsmouth distribute Zenith products, which are built in the UK. The Zenith speech processor boosts "talk power", increases range and clarifies speech. Used with your existing microphone, it can be operated as a power mike, speech processor, or simply switched out altogether, it works in any mode - AM, FM or SSB and retails at £34.95.

The Zenith ZX4 safety microphone allows safe transmit-receive switching from a knob on the gearstick and costs £25.B5, Also from Zenith, the R6 Regulated Voltage Reducer is designed for lorries and steps down the voltage from 24V to the 13.8V required to run CB rigs. It costs £17.75.

Telecomms also distributes the excellent Nevada range which includes the TC27RX RF pre-amplifier. This pre-amp features variable RF gain which can either boost or cut the signal, enabling the operator to reduce the worse effects of adjacent channel bleedover or to increase the gain for optimum reception of weak signals. It also features an LED indicator for the TX/RX which will indicate the presence of RF at the entenna, glowing brighter with increasing power. Additionally, the TC27 RX may be left in line without



The Westward PT2.

any DC power source connected and no damage will occur. It retails at £19.95.

The Nevada TC35 RF power amplifier for the 29MHz amateur band, also costs £19.95, the very powerful TC12L 12-element loop yagi 934MHz beam antenna sells for £49, and the Nevada range will soon be extended with products like a two-way antenna switch, a low pass TVI filter, an antenna matcher, a car radio/CB antenna splitter and 934MHz patch leads using 'N' connectors.

Also distributed through Telecomms is the Tarren Products range of power supplies, made in Wales. These include a 30VA version, a 70VA version and the 10AMP heavy duty power supply.

Gamma Aerial Products are based in the West Midlands and produce the GAP range of British-made antennas. The range includes base station antennas like the Avenger II, the Lofty II and the Skybreaker II plus the centre-loaded Firefly mobile antenna. The base station antennas feature their unique "Adjustacoil", which enables easy SWR adjustment without the need to alter the radiating length.

Freeman and Pardoe are another Midlands-based antenna company, whose products include the Thunderpole If home base antenna which includes three angled ground planes with cross-The Thunderpole III is of bracing. similar design, but features a centreloaded, helically wound coil, Both are rated at 500 watts and they each retail at £25. The Thunderstick mobile antenna, priced at £12.95, is a very popular model. It comprises a fibreglass whip encased in broad-band copper with pre-tuned SWR. It comes in a choice of five colours and has been tested to over 1000 watts RF power. The Invader 1.5, priced at £15, is particularly suitable for loft installation and will handle 250 watts. The company also produce a second ground plane set for the Thunderpole III to further improve its performance which retails at £15.

Les Wallen Manufacturing down in Kent manufacture a wide range of antennas to suit all applications. Their economy-minded Thunderbolt mobile handles 100 watts and has an overall length of just 32ft. The Super Thunderbolt measures 3ft, 8in, and handles 500 watts and is centre-loaded. Other ranges from Les Wallen include the original Modulator with a 14in. coil, a whip length of 50in, and a power handling capacity of 1,000 watts. The Super Modulator II is one of the most powerful centre-loaded antennas money can buy, it handles 1,000 watts with a typical VSWR of better than 1:1.2. One of the latest models from the Les Wallen stable is the Modulator Expert base-station antenna, which handles 1,000 watts of power and measures 14ft, overall.





Power from Tarren.





The Zenith speech processor boosts 'talk power'.







More news from clubs around the country



Bacon Breakers Club

Could you please give us a mention in your Club News? We were formed in 1981, soon after legalisation. Most of the time, we are raising money for our local hospital, and raised £500 for a bed for the hospital last year. This year, we bought a special bed and £400 worth of equipment for the hospital. During the summer, we organise day trips and camping weekends for the local children. Membership is free and all expenses are borne by the members. We also run a DX club (£2 per year and £2 for 100 QSL cards). Jimmy Cricket, PO Box 37. Hertford

Kinlochleven Highland Breakers Club

I would like to inform you that the Kinlochleven Highland Breakers Club has been formed up here. The club formed in January 1984 and takes in the Kinlochleven, Glencoe, Balahulish and Onich area. We are a small club only 10 members — and are a bit handicapped in that we are surrounded by mountains on three sides, but we somehow manage to get out, and all on legal equipment. As we are so few, we cannot monitor channel 9 but would advise anyone travelling through this area who need help or just want a copy to call on channel 18 between 8.30am and 6pm and channel 14 after 6pm.

We meet about once a month and anyone who would like to come along would be made more than welcome. If they would like to contact me, I will tell them of the date of the next meeting. Our callsign is Kilo Hotel and we are more than willing to provide copies and help up here if needed.

D. Alexander (Secretary)
School Lodge,
Kinlochleven,
Argyll,
Scotland

Allied Breakers Club

I have been reading your magazine since it first came out and so I thought I would drop you a line about our club. We meet in the Allied Breweries club in Mistley,

Essex on the second Thursday of every month.

We cover the southern half of East Anglia, mainly Suffolk and Essex, and visitors on holiday in the region are most welcome. Our meetings are both "CB news" and social and we also do quite a bit for charity. At the moment we have a fund going to buy a wheelchair for a young lad. We are also collecting used postage stamps for the RNL!.

We have a news channel (4) on Sunday evenings at 10pm and soon hope to have a DXing section with our own PO Box. Sea Witch (Chairlady), 233 Langer Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk

Yankee Tango DX Club

IP11 8EE

B26 1ST

Like many others, we are a newlyformed DX club. We now number 206 and meet every other Saturday at Yardley Old Church Hall in Birmingham. Disabled breakers are very welcome - and children too, and all new members can join our swap club. We have a club card, which can be bought on our club night, and we also have a swap club card, both of which are very reasonably priced. One final thing all decent breakers are welcome. Big John, Yankee Tango DX Club, PO Box 384, Birmingham,

Somerset Knights DX Club

Our club was formed in 1983 with aims to promote and encourage the proper use and understanding of CB radio, and to aid and encourage the disabled, along with international DX and QSLs.

We meet on the first Saturday of every month at the Bell Inn, Ash, near Martock, Somerset. In the coming year we are planning several events, some sponsored to raise money for charity.

As we would like to see our club grow, life membership will be available to female as well as male breakers. Details are available from our club secretary.

I would also like to take this opportunity on behalf of all the

members to thank Paul, landlord of the Somerset Inn, Yeovil, for making our club welcome during the past two years. Captain (SK61), PO Box 26, Yeovil. Somerset

Clacton Family Breakers Club

I am Windy Miller (Ted), a committee member of the Clacton Family Breakers Club of sunny Clacton-on-Sea. Essex. Since the club came into being three years ago, the majority of our activities have been planned to enable families to participate, and members' ages range up to 82.

Apart from the weekly club night, we organise various functions throughout the year such as "convoy" visits to shows, pantomimes and places of interest. Barbecues are very popular and the Christmas parties are always successful. The highlight to the year is the annual weekend trip to the Continent. An additional Continental trip last year was a visit to the bulb fields of Holland, and this proved to be very successful.

The club is able to accept a few more memberships and, as we have a PO Box number, we are interested in the exchange of QSL and eyeball cards with other clubs in the UK or, indeed, anywhere in the world. An SAE to the address below will start the ball rolling.

Highwayman (Chairman), Clacton Family Breakers Club, PO Box 23, Clacton on Sea.

Clacton-on-Sea Essex

Zone 18 Breakers Club

I am writing to let you know we have formed a 934 group at the Newcastle Forest Hall and the group is steadily growing. Membership is free but, should you wish to use our excellent PO Box number, the fee is £5 per year. We do not, at present, have any group meetings, but I am sure it will happen soon, as 934MHz is opening up in the Tyne & Wear area. Roger Dee down in Kent has been very helpful and offers full technical information about 934 rigs and the frequency itself.

If any 934 group would like to contact me. I would be very pleased indeed to help but must ask for a stamped addressed envelope. I would also like to thank Telecomms of Portsmouth for their help with information on the new Cybernet

Delta 1 set, and wish them well in the 934 frequency. W. Lancaster, PO Box 8, Forest Hall,

Forest Hall, Newcastle, Tyne and Wear, NE12 9DB

Sun Oak DX Club

We were formed in June 1983 to cater for local CBers. At present, we have over 200 members. Membership is open to any persons on payment of £2 per year or £4 for family membership (husband and wife plus under-15). Sun Oak DX Group, PO Box 55, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 3TG



CITIZENS' BAND CLUB : CLUB : DIRECTORY : REGISTRATION : FORM

(1:)
Citize	ns Band

CLUB NAME	
CHAIRMAN	
Secretary	
PR Contact	
Contact Address	
MEETING PLACE, DAY AND TIME	
to of members	
oultion in club	
ee/eub etc	Committee members only please)
Nease mark (*) information that may be publis	shed.



Letters

We are always pleased to receive letters from readers, but at times it is impossible to answer them all. We do try to get round to answering letters with an S.A.E. but this may take some

It is assumed that letters we receive are intended for publication unless they say otherwise. Letters for particular features like Back Chat, Q & A and Club News should have that marked on the envelope and the correspondents full name and address, although this will not be published if requested. Readers who are hoping for publicity for events and competitions should bear in mind that the magazine goes to press at least two weeks before the magazine appears

in the shops, and editorial copydates are usually a month before the 'press' date. Please remember this when sending any information

Writing for CB

We welcome readers' contributions. especially if they cover a new aspect of CB or are D.I.Y. projects. You may not be aware of how work should be presented - if in doubt write for advice!

Telephoning

It is very difficult to deal with telephone queries as most of our energy has to go into putting the magazine together. If you can deal with it by letter, please do.

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Price less than many mains only sets. See your dealer, or SAE for full details to: Westward Electronics, The Mill House, Tuckenhay, Totnes, Devon TQ9 7EL. Tel: 080423 335/370. Trade enquirles welcome.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Due to internal re-organization from the beginning of April 1985 BURY ELECTRONICS will no longer supply AUTO-SQUELCH modules direct to the public. However this product is now available from many CB shops throughout the country, (including fitting at a small additional charge) and BURY ELECTRONICS will be pleased to receive further trade enquiries. Excellent discounts are offered on orders of 5 or more modules and technical advice is always available.

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AKD

Armstrong Kirkwood Developments

10 Willow Green, Grahame Park Estate, Hendon NW9 5GP Tel: 01-205 4704

Range of Filters. Send SAE for details.

PDF-11M Precision Direction Finder



The AKD Precision Direction Finder is used by British Telecom to track down illegal CB users at close proximity. Many clubs have used these to find "Wallies". The PDF is designed to take over when you are too close to the station to use standard direction finding techniques. The unit is hand-held; comes complete with special miniature aerial and requires only a PP3 battery.

£35 — Usual £49.95 Prices inc. VAT & P&P.

Trade Enquiries Welcome

Proprietor: J. W. Armstrong

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The following issues of Citizens' Band are still available as back numbers. The cost of each magazine is £1.50. This includes packing and posting. Please allow 28 days for delivery.

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February 1985

Binders

To keep your copies of Citizen's Band neat and tidy, binders are available to hold 12 copies of the magazine. Each binder costs £5.00 and this price includes packing and postage.

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UK and BFPO £15.00 Overseas (excluding U.S.A.) £17.00

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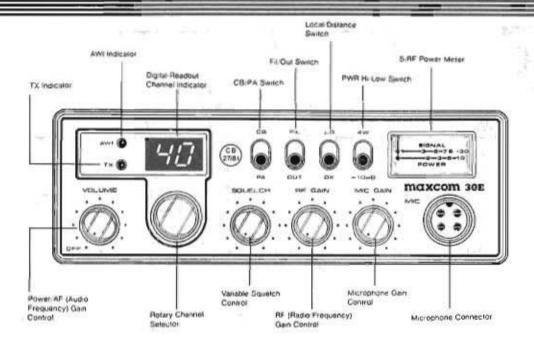
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izens'Band



A CB SET AND ITS CONTROLS

VOLUME

Sometimes called Audio Frequency Gam control. Usually combined with the "power on" switch. The volume control will only increase or decrease the loudness of the incoming signal — a won" after the strangth of it or affect the transmitted signal.

CHANNEL SELECTION

For choosing the channel you transmit and receive on.

CHANNEL INDICATOR
Displays, usually by LEDs, the channel you have selected. Some channel displays are of liquid crystal or fluorescent. The digits are normally bright red, green, orange or blue and visible in all but the most direct sunlight.

SQUELCH

The squelch centrol is used for quieting a diground has or the babble of distant signals. The control is turned slowly, usually to the right, until the background noise disappears. The squelch circuit flow only open to lot through a stronger signal than those you have quieted out. As soon as the stronger signal goes, the circuit closes. Care must be taken not to turn the squelch control up too far, as then only a very strong signal will open it.

SIGNAL/RE METER

On most state that is of the inviving mentle' type against an analogue background. Some sets do have a bar of LEDs that light up to show the strength of either the received signal or the transmission. It shows the release strength, not a reading in dB or Watts. These meters cannot be 100% accurate and different rigs will give stightly different readings for eignals of the same strength.

RF GAIN

his controls the reception sensitivity of the set. When decreased the set is less sensitive, and when increased the set is more sensitive to weaker signals. Reducing the gain helps prevent overloading when talking to someone with its very close.

Some sets, instead of having a suitable rotary control, have a flick two position switch marked local and distance. Full sensitivity is the distant position.

MIC. GAIN.

Adjusts the sensitivity of the inicrophone amplifier circuit and controls the audio from the microphone that is used to modulate the signal.

CB/PA SWITCH

This switch turns your CB set into a low public address amplifier, when an external speaker is fitted into the socker on the back of the rig. Anything said into the microphone is amplified and broadcast through the speaker and not transmitted from the antenna

TONE OR FILTER CONTROL

This can either be a rotary or flick switch. It controls the tonal quality of receivert signals in accordance with the users preference.

POWER ANTENNA

Reduces the transmitter power from 4Watts to 0.4Watts. The attenuator should be used if your antenna is mounted impre than 7 metres above the ground.

RX/TX INDICATORS

These light emitting diodes light up to show if you are receiving (RX) or transmitting (TX)

ANTENNA WARNING INDICATOR
This a warning indicator which is activated by trouble in the antenna system e.g. a bad mismatch or damage to the antenna or cable. You should stop transmitting if this lights up, and correct the problem.

Your set may also have the following controls ...

CHANNEL 9 SWITCH

This is an "over-ride switch that will immediately select channel 9 without using the channel selector to find it. It is fitted to save time in an emergency

DELTA TUNE This is not a common feature on British sets, where trequency and stability are closely specified it is a line tuning device for tuning in stations that are operating slightly oil frequency

DIMMER

Works on the same principle as a demessic light dimmer, and reduces the amount of illumination on displays and dists on the CB set. A lew sets have an automatic dimmer built in, which measuras the lighting level through a photo-electric cell and adjusts the illumination accordingly. ANL/NOISE BLANKER

suppressed it will not make any differen

The Automatic Noise Limiter or Noise Stanker is designed to reduce interference from a part is unation system by desemble and the receiver slightly. If the ignation current is already adequately

CHANNEL BUSY /FREE INDICATOR
This is usually a LEO that illuminates when a particular channel is in use or is free. This is gaiged by the amount of 'traffic' on the channel which has to be at a certain level before the indicator is activated. Sets have either a "free" or "busy" indicator, not both

REFERENCE

FM RIG CHECKLIST

27/81		RETAIL PRICE	000	SUPPLY VOLTAGE	SQUE	WB SWITTER	(Share	MINE GA	GAIN	F.Co.	TE ALL	TE LE	M. LO.	PA FAC.	Aum	SPEAL
NAME	MODEL	PRE	100	1 30 2	100	A.B	ANE	104	BF.	TONE	SAR	18	HILL	1 4	1 3	
AMSTRAD	C8901	£40	40	13.8VDC												
AUDIO LINE	341	£60	40	13.8VDC	•	100	100	•	•	•	•		•			
AUDIO LINE	340	£40	40	13.8VDC	•	4.72		•	o State	•			•			
AUDIO LINE	342	£115	40	13.8VDC	•		e78								- 85	
COLT	295	£49.99	40	13.8VDC			1.00				•		•		•	
COMMTEL	GT858	£30	40	13.8DVC		- 5	final		1							7
COMMTEL	GT688	£35	40	13.BDVC							•					ı
COMMTRON	CB40F	£70	40	13.8VDC	•						•		•			
COMMTRON	CXX	€69.95	40	13.8VDC									COL		•	
COMMUNICATORS	NI-440DX	150	40	13.8DVC												1
CYBERNET	BETA 1000	€70	40	13.8VDC				-	CHOOL S				•	-	•	
CYBERNET	BETA 2000	£85	40	13.8VDC	•		37		•		-	•	1300			d
CYBERNET	BETA 3000	£100	40	13.8VDC	•	-	0		•	•		•				i
DNT	M40FM SPECIAL	£100	40	13.8VDC	•				•		•		•		•	
FIDELITY	CB 1000M	£70	40	13.8VDC	•	-					•		•	000	•	i
IDELITY	CB 2000M	€90	40	13.8V0C	•			•		•	•					ĺ
IDELITY	20001 FM	£70	40	13.8VDC	•				•	•	•				•	f
GRANDSTAND	BLUEBIRD	£50	40	13.8VDC	•								•		•	Í
GRANDSTAND	HAWK	£30	40	13.8VDC			10 00		•		•		•		•	ĺ
GRANDSTAND	GEMINI	€60	40	13.8VDC	•	•			•		000	•	•			ĺ
GRANDSTAND	LA 83 934 MHz	£400	20	13.80VC											T.	ĺ
NTERCEPTOR	INTERCEPTOR	£80	40	13.8VDC	•				•	•						
NTERCEPTOR	TC400	£95	40	13.8VDC			•	•	•		•				•	
NTERCEPTOR	ONE HANDER	£100	40	13.8VDC	•			•	•	•		•			•	
IOHNSON	JOHNSON	£50	40	13.8VDC			- 150		•		•		•			Í
AKE	MANXMAN 850	£32.50	40	13.8VDC					1		•		•			ĺ
AKE	MANXMAN 950	£37.50	40	13.8VDC	•				•		•				•	ĺ
OWE	TX 40	£50	40	13.8VDC			0.07		•		•		•		•	ı
MAGPIE	AUTOSCAN 5000	£120	40	13.8VDC	•			•	•					•		ĺ
MAXCOM	4E	£50	40	13.8VDC	•								•		•	ĺ
MAXCOM	6E	£48	40	13.8VDC	•				•		•		110			ĺ
MAXCOM	20E	£50	40	13.8VDC	•		T G				•		•			1
MAXCOM	21E	£50	40	13.8VDC	•				TOO Y		•		•		201	ĺ
MAXCOM	16E	£40	40	13.8VDC	•		- in				•		•		•	j
MAXCOM	30E	£65	40	13.8VDC				•	•	•	•		•			ı
	- 1 - 10 - 10 - 10 - 10 - 10 - 10 - 10														1. 7	ĺ
	-	-		_			-			-					1	
	DESCRIPTION OF THE PERSON OF T		e la				20	-	200			_		-	1	
	Delegan Street				400		-		Sec		-		-		-1	
								7 - 1							B	
	Anna Maria		Ly B				7	S 1	150.7		Da K		BELLI			I



This listing includes most of the rigs available for FM CB. Some rigs are still not on the market, but may be picked up second-hand or may be found in old stock at some shops. The prices quoted are recommended retail prices or typical price — they may vary considerably from shop to shop and area to area.

RX INC	CH 9 C.	MIKE POC.	COMMENTS	ADDRESS	NAME
		SL	Report Feb '82	Advettred Consumer Electronics, 1-7 Garman Rd., London N17	AMSTRAD
•		SL		Taleconore, 189 London Rd. North End. Porsmouth	AUDIOLINE
			Report Feb '82		AUDIOLINE
•					AUDIO LINE
100		FL		K II & Co Ltd., 202 Chertham Hill Rd, Manchester	COLT
100		5L		Blobs, 198 Brooker Road, Waltham Abbey, Essex	COMMTEL
1005		BL	Dimmer Swisch Features		MMTEL
1000		FL		Ruger D. 931 Manafield Rd. Notts	COMMTRON
	-	FL		Trager of the residence of the state	COMMTHON
004		-	200 200 E		30
-		PL Di	Roger Seep Foaturs		Augenties
-	-	SL		Geotherns Loudigester Ltd., Downley Rd. Havent, Hants PDO 2NL	CYBERNET
•		FL	Report May '83		CYBERNET
•		FL	Report September '83		CYBERNET
	-	FL	Report July '82		DNT
	-	SL	Report December '81	Fidelity Radio Ltd., Victoria Rd. London NW10	FIDELITY
	:	FL	Report March '82		FIDELITY
	·		Report September '82	DECEMBER AND AN APPROXIMENT DECEMBER.	FIDELITY
		SL		Bas Wess Ltd Rigion Wey, Harrogata, N. Yorka	GRANDSTAND
-	-	SL			GRANDSTAND
	-	91			GRANDSTAND
- 15	_		Features combined with Blueblini (included)		GRANDSTAND
•		SL		Teleconnes, 195 London Rd, North End, Portsmouth	INTERCEPTOR
•		FL			INTERCEPTOR
•		FL			INTERCEPTOR
		PL	Great GT868 chassis	Ster Warehouse, Chelk Form Hd, London	JOHNSON
-		FL		Roser O, 831 Manafield Rd., Notingham NG5 3GF	LAKE
		FR	Report April '83		LAKE
•	-	FL	Report March '83	Lewe Electronics, Mattock, Dorbyshire	LOWE
	•	FL	Report November '82	Megpin Electronics, PO Box 35, Andover, Hants SP10 ZLG	MAGPIE
2	-	FL		AM House, SA Old's Approach, Tolpits Ln, Wastord, Herts	MAXCOM
-	•	FL.			MAXCOM
	:	FL			MAXCOM
-	•	FL			MAXCOM
- 1		FL	Name of the		MAXCOM
		FL	Report Jan '84		MAXCOM
13				DEN BESTER DEN BESTER DEN	

REFERENCE



27/81		AFFAUL PRICE	100	SUPPLY VOLT.	Souler	10 Sm	"WITCH	WINE CH	CAIN	We C	CONTROL	F METER	HILLO N.CO	TOOUTOUT	L 6
NAME	MODEL	REY	188	1 35	200	18	THE THE	/ Sully	1	TONE TO	SIRE	15	HILLO	1 4	13
MERCURY	10 40	N/A	40	13.8VDC									•		
MURPHY	DS-602	£25	40	13.8VDC								•		•	
MUSTANG	CB1000	£49,95	40	13.8VDC							•			•	•
MUSTANG	CB3000	£59,99	40	13,8VDC	•				•	•	•			•	
NATO	40M	£69.95	40	13.8VDC				•	•	•				•	•
NATO	2000	£189.95	40	13.8VDC	•	•	•		•	•	•		•	•	•
OSCAR	OSCAR I	£85	40	13.8VDC							•		•		•
OSCAR	OSCAR II	£49	40	13.8VDC	•						•				•
REFTEC	934	£300	20	13.8VDC							•				
ROTEL	RVC 220	£50	40	13.8VDC	•						•		•		
ROTEL	RVC 230	170	40	13,8VDC	•				•	•	•		•	•	
ROTEL	RVC 240	£90	40	13.8VDC	•			•	•	•	•		•	•	•
SIRTEL	SEARCHER	£40	40	13.8VDC	•						•				•
TANDY	TRC2001	£80	40	13.8VDC	•						•		•	•	•
TANDY	TRC2002	£70	40	13.8VDC	•						•		•		
TANDY	TRC2000	£100	40	13.8VDC	•			•	•		•		•		
TANDY	TRC1004	£79	40	12VDC	•								•		1
TANDY	TRC2003	£130	40	13.8VDC	•										•
UNIDEN	UNIACE 100	£69.95	40	13.8VDC	•										
UNIDEN	UNIACE 200	£89.95	40	13.8VDC	•			•	•	•	•				
WAGNER	9000	£59-95	40	13.8VDC	•				•	4	•	•		•	•
WAGNER	COMPACT 40	£25	40	13.8VDC	•										•
WESTERN	COMPACT 40	£34.50	40	13.8VDC	•						•		•		
WESTWARD	P.T.2	£169.95	40	13.8VDC 240V	•						•		•	•	



(1/81		W 11.	/	SUPPLY VOLTAGE	/	107	ANI ANI	MINE SWITCH	CAIN	AIN	S AF ME	S. A.F. LE	0 40	PA E.	Ex Solum
NAME	MODEL	RET AU	100	35	100	We Su	N.W	S Now	18 C. A.	100	15/	18.5	HI L	1 4	13
AUDIOLINE	345	£139.95	40	240VAC											
COMMTEL		£65	40	240/12V	•				-		•				-
DNT	840	£T8A	40	240VAC	•						•		•		
DNT	82740	£T8A	40	240VAC	•						•		•		9
DNT		£T8A	40	240VAC	•				•		•		•		
FIDELITY	CB 3000M	£125	40	240VAC	•						•		•		
GRANDSTAND	BASE	£220	40	240VAC	•				•		•				•
HAM INT	JUMBO	£254	40	240VAC					•		1000		Ŋ,	•	
HAM INT	CONCORDE	£164	40	240VAC					•		•		•		
HARVARD	11401	£149.95	40	240VAC	•		-	•	•		•			•	- 100
MIDLAND	76-200	£150	40	240VAC	•						•		•		•
REFTEC	66 934	£450	20	240V							•		•		
UNIDEN	UNIACE 300	£149.95	40	240VAC	•				•				•		•
WAGNER	BASE	£150	40	240VAC	•		•		•		•			•	•
WESTWARD	P.T.2	£159.95	40	240V/12V	•		2				•		•	•	•
					100										

MOBILES

	S 1000	2 / 12	~ / 1	0/3		
18	1	13	MINE	COUNTY	ADDRESSES	NAME
•	•		FR	Report July '83	E.M.S. Communications, Greek St. Wantage, Oven LAZS TAD	MERCURY
•	•		FL		Murphy Electronics, Wentry, Midds	MURPHY
•			FL		K.S. & Co Ltd. 202 Cheethers Hill Rd. M/cr.	MUSTANG
•		•	FL			MUSTANG
•	-		FL		Roger O, 831 Manelield Rd, Nottinghant NGS 30F	NATO
•	LEN		5L	Report January '83		NATO
	1		FL.	Cybernet 134 chassis rep. April '82	S.M.C. Runbridge St. Totton, Hance SO4 40P	OSCAR
			FL	Report Oct '83		OSCAR
•	-		FL		RF Teconoropy, Leyton Ave tod Est. Mildenhal, Suffeta	REFTEC
•			FL	Cybernet chassis	Hotel H. Ft. 2-4 Erica Rd. Stacey Bushet. Minus Kayons	ROTEL
			SL	Cybernet chassis		ROTEL
•			SL	Cybernet chassis		ROTEL
•			FL		The state of the s	SIRTEL
			SL	A	Taxes Way, Tolers Bridge St, Wallett Scatte	TANDY
•			SL			TANDY
•			SL	0.		TANDY
•			1			TANDY
			SL	Report Nov '82		TANDY
			SL	Report Sept '82	Craveminster Ltd. Unit R. Ind Est. Llandudno Junet. Gwynedd	UNIDEN
	•		FL	Report Feb '83		UNIDEN
	•		FL		Knight Communications Ltd. Link 19: Britania Est. Lasgrava Rd.	WAGNER
•	•		FL		Luton, Beds	WAGNER
٠	•		SL		Western Electronics, Fairfiald Est. Louth, Notis	WESTERN
			FL	Report Nov '83	Westweed Electronics, The MID House, Westward Tuckethay, Totres, Devon 088423-3346-370	WESTWARD

C Licent C Lice	BASE	S
3 3 9 2 2	ADDDECOES	

1	0	15	1	1	8/3		,
1	ONIX	84 IM	1000	MIN	Connec	ADDRESSES	NAME
	H	1				Triocommic Fortwealth and Globe, Essex	AUDIOLINE
7.5				FR	Report December '83. Also comes with telescopic antenna		COMMTEL
				FL	Review May 82		DNT
			•	FR	Report May '82		DNT
			•	SR	Report May '82		DNT
		- 6		FL		February Radio 148 , Victoria Rd. Limitae NW10	FIDELITY
		- 6		FL		Ber Wore Ltd., Rippor Way, Harrigate, N. Yorks	GRANDSTAND
	100			SL			HAM INT.
	100	漏	•	FL			HAM INT.
				FL			HARVARD
	113	31		FL		THE PARTY OF THE P	MIDLAND
	1	•		FR	See company for further features	RF Technology, Layron Ave. Ind. Est. Mildenhall, Suffalk	REFTEC
				FL	Reviewed August '83	Characteristic Lat. Unit S. Industrial Ext. Conductor Junction, Gwynodd	UNIDEN
				FL		Mangle Communications Ltd. Drie 15 Britains Est. Longrave Rd. Lyten LU3 18.3	WAGNER
				FL	Report Nov '83	Westword Electronics. The Mill House. Tuckenhoy. Totals. Dovon. Totals. Genn. 000423 336-370	WESTWARD

REFERENCE ==



		RETAIL PRICE	/	ELS VOUTAGE	15	Similar	H3 /	E GAIM	. /		MET	fo. 1	0/4/0	ACILITY	Spea
NAME	MODEL	RETAIL	NO. OF	Supply	SOWELCH	NB SW	ANE SU	MIKE	RF GAIN	TONE	S. AF.	S.AF LED	HILLO	PAFA	Ex Sp
DNT	HF 12/3	£47.55	3	BATTERIES							U			1.1	
DRAVRAH	WT44		40	BATTERES	•						200				
KAISER	CBX40	£80	40	BATTERY	•				Special Control				•		
MAXCOM	7E	£49.95	40	BATTERY	•								•		
MIDLAND	75-720	£59.95	40	12VDC	•		-		177				-		-
TANDY	TRC1001	£119		BATTERY	•		-				•		•		•
WESTWARD	PT2	£159.95	40	Int. Batt.	•						٠		•	•	•
			18 7												300

PHONE CHECKLIST

App	roved	phones	are	marked •
N	ARAE	=		MODE

Approved phones are marked •		w	VENC	/ 5	A.B.	RECHAR, 8				1/ \$	/
NAME	MODEL	PRICE	FREQUENC	PANGE	RECHAR	IN USE	INTER	AUTO DIA	EXTERNAL	SECURITY	HAMID
A PHONE	TP125	£80	49MHz., 1,6-1.8MHz	230m							
87	HAWX 0	£155	47MHz., 1.7NHz.	100m				•	7	•	
FIDELITY	WANDERER .	£170	47MHz., 1.7MHz	200m	•	•		•	•	•	100
FREEDOMPHONE	3500	£199	49MHz., 1.7MHz	200m	•	•	•		3		
HANDY PHONE	HP 1001	£199	49MHz., 35MHz		•	•	•	•	•	•	13300
MAXCALL		£116	49MHz., 1.7MHz	100m		•	•	•			
MAXCOM	MCP150A	£89	49MHz., 1.6-1.8MHz	800m				•			
MAXCOM	MCP 120	£70	49MHz., 1.7MHz	700ts	1	•		•	213		
MAXCOM		£99	49MHz., 1.7MHz	200m	•	•		•			Ba I
PACER	7800	£149	49MHz., 1.7MHz	500m	•	•	•	•			
SUPERFONE	CT600	£116	49MHz., 1.7MHz	100m	•	•	•		-15		
SUPERFONE	CT650	£199	49MHz., 1.7MHz	230m	•	•	•	•		•	
SUPERFONE	CT505	£299	49MHz., 70MHz	1Km	•	•	•	•	•	•	
							38				
							79.07			- 1	
					MA		1991				

PORTABLES MINE POSITION LIGHT CH 9 SWITCH NAME **ADDRESS** DNT Externel antenna facility Globe, 168 Brooker Road, Waltham Abbey, Esses **HARVARD** KAISER Telecomms, 189 Landon Rd. North End, Parksmouth MAXCOM A.T.M. AM House, SA Old's Approved. Talpita La, Walford Herts MIDLAND Plustronia Ltd., Hempstalls Ln. Newcastle under Lyme, Staffa. TANDY Tame Way, Tower Bridge St. Walself FL Report Nov '83 WESTWARD The Mill House, Tuckenhay, Totnes, Devon 080423 336/370

The range of telephones and communications accessories available to the consumer is increasing rapidly. Not all equipment is approved by British Telecom — so look for the tag with the green dot if you want 'BT Approved' accessories.

YBY	INC	PRIVACY	COMMENTS	CORDLESS PI	HON
STANDBY	BATT	PRIVA	COMM	ADDRESS	NAME
			Report Feb '84		A-PHONE
•			Report July '84	Local BT Sales Offices	
		•	Report July '83 BT Approved		FIDELITY
			Report May '83	Fidelity Ltd., Victoria Rd., Landon NW10	FREEDOMPHONE
-	9.11.19	•	Report Aug '83	Thans: Electronics Ltd., Reculver Rd., Ballings, Kent.	HANDY PHONE
			Report June '83		MAXCALL
	•		Report Oct '83	Manan Group, AM House, 3A Old's Approach. Tolpits Lis., Watford, Harts	MAXCOM
	• 5	•		Report May '84	
			Report May '83	62.00	MAXCOM
			Report May '83		PACER
	CHE	•	Report April '83	Superfore Communications, London NWZ	SUPERFONE
	Sign	•	Report April 183		SUPERFONE
•			Report April '83		SUPERFONE
	1				
-	GIAN				
-		_			
\neg	O DI				000
_	1000		EMSAS THE PARTY OF		
-	100	-			
	0/00				

ANTENNA CHECKLIST

The Citizens' Band Anter

Name

Lists antennas by name and model number and gives you, where possible, the name and address of the manufacturer or distributor.

Construction

The majority of home base antennas are made of aluminium and mobile antennas from stainless steel, but fibre glass can be

The D.T.I. specs for CB antennas are now more liberal than those originally in force, with the base loading restriction removed to permit any type of loading as long as the antenna is 1.65m in length (or less) and no more than 55mm in diameter. This revised checklist now includes the many new antennas released after this change of heart.

vised checklist now includes the many new itennas released after this change of heart.			CONSTRUCT	I E	POWE	1	LOADING	1	F RAMO	
NAME	ADDRESSES	MODEL	COM	LENGTH	MAX	TYPE	LOA	MOUNT	PRICE	
AERIAL SUPPLIES	Aerial Supplies (Reddicht Ltd. 6 Webser House, Bromsgrove Road, Reddich), Worse, 90527 62420/60107)	Silver Stat Silver Arrow Javelin Javelin Dipole	AL AL AL AL	1.6 1.6 1.64 1.64	100 500 500 500		BE00	Pole Pole Pole Pole	0==0	
ALLGON	Communications, 10 North Street, Strood, Kans.	Various	FG. SS AL	Verious	Various	B M	C B CW	Various	A-H	
ARMSTRONG	Stateside Trading Ltd. Audley Avenue. Newsport. Stropatore	SAM 10 SAM 20 TAK 10 TAK 20 MAG 10 MAG 10 BDY 20 PEC 20	\$\$ \$5 \$5 \$5 \$5 \$5 \$5 \$5 \$5 \$5 \$5 \$5 \$5 \$	1.04 1.08 1.08 1.06 1.04 1.06 1.06	1000 1000 1000 1000 1000 1000 1000 100	M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M	8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8	Surface Spring Surface Boot lip Spring Boot lip Mag. Spring Mag. Side Side Side Over & Quick Disconnact	********	
ARCHER	Tandy Corp. Tameway Tower, Bridge Street, Watsall, West Mids.	21-904	SS	0.6	50	M	n	%" thread	D	
AVANTI	CS Radio Centre Ltd., 337 Kensun Reed. Hurrow, Middinary	AV 241 AV 241T AV 241M AV 241MM	55 55 58 88	1.22 1.22 1.22 1.22		M M M	8 8	Stud Trunk Mag. Mag.	DEEG	
BANDIT	Teleconoma, 189 Lendon Road, North End. Purtamouth	B10 B15 B15 B20 B30 B30 B40 B40 B80 B80	\$5 \$5 \$5 \$5 \$5 \$5 \$5 \$5 \$5 \$5 \$5 \$5	1.42 0.61 1.22 1.42 1.42 1.42 1.42 1.42 1.42		85 85 85 85 85 85 85 85 85 85 85 85 85 8		Mag. Mag. Mag. Mirror Drill Thru Orlil Thru Various Various Various	G = = = = = D O D D	
BREMI UK LTD.	Unit 6, Inhage Pers. Holly Lane Industrial Estate, Atherstone, Warks	827S C27S H827S	55 55 AL	1.62 1.38 7.65	1000 1000 1000	M M B	BCT	%" thread %" thread Pols	COE	
CB SERVICES	97 Crab Lane, Herogete, North Yorks	Bultwhip Knuckleduster	SS	1.6 1.6	4 74	MB	8 8	Various	c	
COMMTEL	Near Third Orovs, Fangata, Peterborough	Rocket Shuttle Starlight Shuttle Star Signal searcher Messenger Signal keeper	85 FG 85 AL 88 85	1.5 1.5 1.5 1.5 1.5 1.5		MMBBBB	8 8 8 CW 8	% thread % thread % thread Clamp Pole Clamp Tripod	E P	
FREEMAN AND PARDOE	Tything Road, Arden Forest Ind. Est. Alcester. Warks	Inveder Thunderpole II Thunderpole III	AL AL A1	1.6 1.6 1.86	250 500 500	8 8	8 8 0	Pois Pois Pois	H-1	
GAMMA AERIAL PRODUCTS	Lys. West Midlands. (0384 891132/891474)	Skybreeker Avenger Lefry Skybreeker II Avenger II Lefry II Firefly	AL AL AL AL AL SS	1.5 1.6 1.6 1.65 1.65 1.65	The second			Pole Bracket Pole Bracket '5" shread	DCDEER	

REFERENCE

na Checklist will give you the following information:

used in some models. The list tells you what material the antenna is manufactured from.

Length
The legal maximum length
of an antenna is 1.65m,
base or mobile.

Maximum Power This is intended as a guide only, as the law only permits an effective radiated power of two watts. The power rating will give some indication of sturdiness. Figure refers to watts.

Type Indicates whether a mobile or base antenna,

Loading Indicates the type of electrical loading of the antenna; top, centre, bottom or continuously wound.

Mount

This gives some idea of the mount or type of mount appropriate for the antenna concerned. Home base antennas are usually pole

mounted, but can be house gutter mounted. Mobile antennas are either mag, mounted by a strong magnet, attached to the car gutter or boot lid edge whilst others are physically attached in the same way as a car radio antenna. Mobile antennas with \(\frac{3}{6} \)" thread usually will fit a range of mounts.

KEY Construction SS — Stainless Steel AL — Aluminium FG — Fibreglass Type B — Base M — Mobile	T — Top C— C — Centre 0 — B — Base E— CW — Continuously wound F— Price Bends G —	£5-£8-99 £10-£14-99 £15-£19-99 £20-£24-99 £25-£29-99 £30-£39-99 £40-plus	CONSTRUCTION	H.	MAX POWER		LOADING	MI .	RANGE
NAME	ADDRESSES	MODEL	CON	LENGTH	MAX	TYPE	LOA	MOUNT	PRICE
нам	Dials Wholesale. Unit 8. Block 2. Whitegate Indust. Eat., Bashgate, West Lothian	Balcoster DV27 OV27TW	AL FG FG	1.2 1.39 1.19	200 100 100	8 M M	C T	Bracket	0 8 8
HOT ROO	Stateside Trading Ltd. Audley Avenue, Newport.	FM UK	SS	1.27		м	8	%" Thrond	В
LES WALLEN MANF.	Pembroka Works, Ramagate Road, Sandwich,	Modulator LC M.O.X. Long M.D.X Short Mini M.D.X. Mini 27 Thunderbolt Saturn Exper	55 55 55 55 55 55 AL	1.65 2.00 1.65 1.10 1.40 0.83 1.00 1.00	1000 1900 1000 100 500 200 600 1000	M M M M M M M M B B	8 8 8 8 CC	%" Threed %" Threed %" Threed %" Threed %" Threed %" Threed Pole/well Pole/well	CCCBBBDF
R.W. BADLAND LTD.	Roetan Trading Estate, Providence Street, Lye, Stourbridge, West Midlands [Lye 3150/5051]	Rebei 1 Rebel II Rebel Reider Rebei Bullet Red Devil	SS SS SS SS SS	1.5 1.5 1.6 0.61 1.52	500 500 500 50 50	M M M M	8 B C B C W	%" Thread %" Thread %" Thread %" Thread %" Thread	
REVCO	Telecomess. 189 London Road, North End, Portsmouth.	Ravoo	SS	1.0	100	м	8	Various	8
\$MC	Rumbridge Street, Totton Street, Hants	Oscar CBA 11GP Oscar 11V11S11 Oscar 11CM Oughr 11CE Oscar 11NE Oscar 11SE Oscar 11ZE	55 98 55 68 55 55	1.5 1.2 1.2 1.5 1.5	SEL SE SELECTION	882222	8 8 8 8 8	Mag. Foldover Basa Pull up Foldover Base	FFDCCCB
TAGRA	CB Radio Centre, 337 Kenton Road, Middlesex.	T40	SS	1.4	500	М	В	Verious	E
THORO'BRED	Pixtron UK Ltd. 10 Victoria Street, Navock, Notts: (0636 74688 Telex: 377627)	Z 27 Z Mag 251 C 27 C Mag HQ	SS SS SS SS PVC	1.52 1.52 1.50 1.60 1.60 1.80	1700 1700 100 1700 1700 1700	M M M M	B B C C T	%" Thread 3" Die Magnet 5" Die Magnet %" Thread 5" Die Magnet Pole	всссов
VALOR	W.T.A. Electronics Ltd. 111 Cromer Road. Hellesdon, Norwich (0603 47694)	Warrior 650 Half Breed 520 Half Breed 510 Half Breed 510 Half Breed 500 Dial-a-Match 540 Dial-a-Match 530 Rubber Duck 300 Pro Am PLB 27 Road Hog 335 Road Hog 335 Road Hog 335 Road Hog 831 Road Hog 831 Road Hog 835 Road Hog 835 Road Hog 836 Black Magic 333 Black Magic 333 Black Magic 333 Black Magic 833	55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55	1.52 1.62 1.2 0.9 1.2 0.35 1.52 1.52 1.52 1.52 1.52 1.52 1.52 1.5	1500 1500 1500 1500 1500 100 25 25 290 1000 1000 1000 1000 1000 500 500 500 5	M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M M	C B B B B C B T T T T T T T T T T T T T	W Thread	000000000000000000000000000000000000000
WTA	W.T.A. Electronics Ltd. 111 Cromes Road, Hellesdon, Norwich. (0503 47894)	Wot Pole 1 Wot Pole II Wot Stick 1 Wot Stick II	AL AL SS SS	1.5 1.5 1.5 1.5	1000 1000 1000 1000	B M M	B B B	Pole Pole %" Thread %" Thread	E C A B
VAN ORDT	Knight Communications, Unit 19 Brittimia Estate, Leagrave Road,	Audio King	SS	1.5	2000	м	В	% Thread	G

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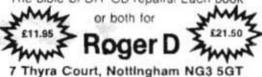
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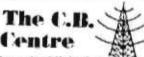
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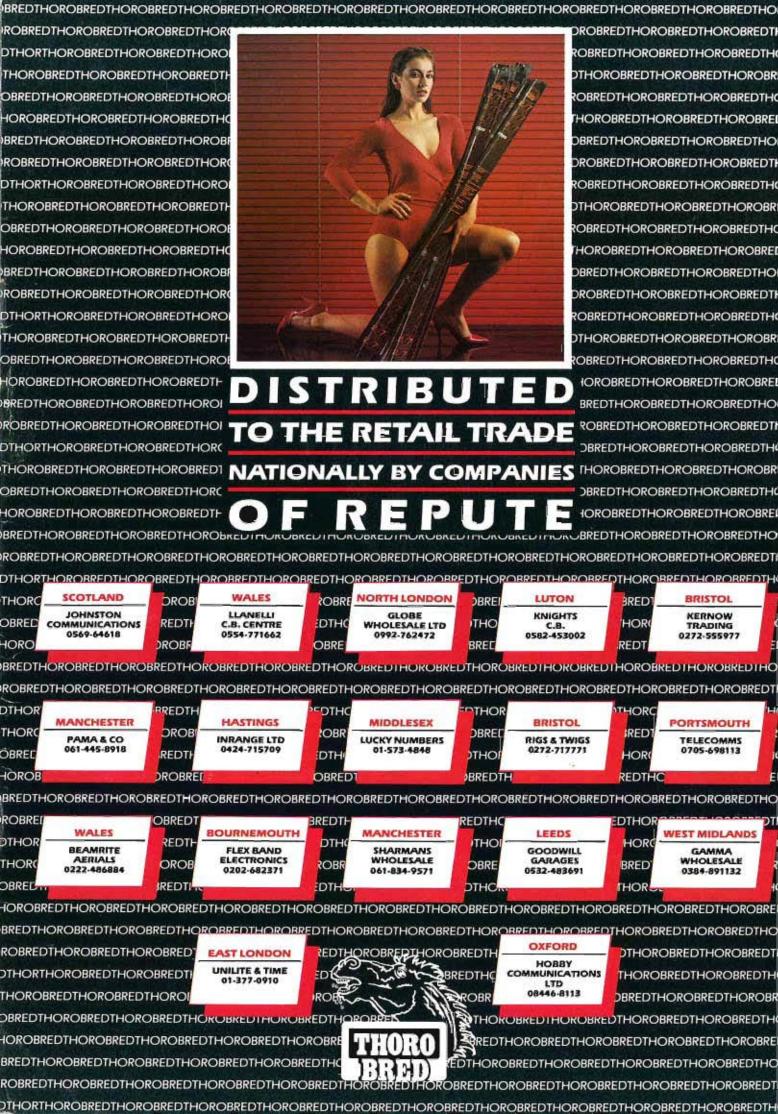
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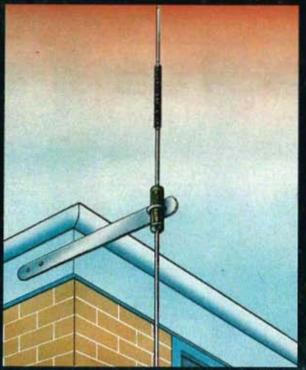
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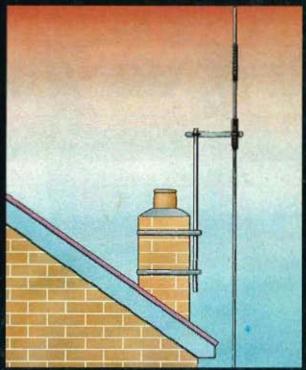
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