

CB

AN ARGUS SPECIALIST PUBLICATION

CITIZENS' BAND

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An introduction
to QSLing



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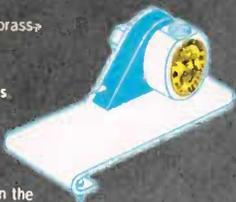
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CB

CITIZENS' BAND

CONTENTS



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Update

CB Bulletin Board, RAE classes, Ham lives on – and much more. **4**

Back Chat

Slag us off, insult us, or – as we would prefer – praise us to the hilt. **6**

Q&A

We take a look at readers' problems – and try and sort them out. **8**

Over the Air

Shepherd Man, as usual, has his ears to the ground. **10**

Lady Breakers

Filly fills us in on the latest tragedies from her neck of the woods. **13**

Marc's Out of Ten

Saul Wright checks out the latest receiver. **14**

QSL

David Shepherdson goes through his mailbag to check the latest QSLs. **17**

The Scots Connection

A look at the scene north of the border. **21**

Mobile Music

Some new bits and pieces for in-car entertainment. **26**

CB Pen Pals

Want to start QSLing? This is the place to begin. **32**

Taking the Mike

We take a close look at the various permutations of mike Connectors. **36**

Mass Eyeball

It seems that a good time was had by all up in Auchenlarie. **38**

UPDATE



Editorial

Yes, it's the silly season again. I have just received a chain letter, sent to me by a very worried reader, wondering what to do. If you are lucky enough *not* to have received one in the past, a chain letter is a nasty, evil note which states that, if you make a certain number of copies and mail them to your friends, then good fortune will come your way. If you fail to do this, according to these letters, then misfortune will grace you. This particular reader (whose name will not be disclosed, for obvious reasons) seems to think that her address was obtained via our QSL section - which is quite possible. The same thing happened about three years ago and I did now what

I did then, which was to tear it up and 'file it' in the waste paper bin - the best place for this sort of trash and, hopefully, ending part of the 'chain'. These letters are, at best, a joke and, at worst, a real worry to many people. As far as I know, there is no evidence to suggest that harm may befall you so my advice is to just tear them up upon receipt. If you are genuinely worried, having received one, then send it (them) to me by all means and I will take the necessary measures.

Right, that's the serious stuff over with for this month. I know I'm repeating myself here, but I feel it is an important issue. As we mentioned last month, it has come to our attention that there is an increasing amount of interference from radio paging on the new CEPT sets. We asked you to send us information on which channels and which areas are particularly problematic. A few have filtered through, but we would like to get as much info as possible in order to get a general overview of the situation.

Cameron Beval

CB Bulletin Board

And now, we devote a tiny space for one of our regular contributors, Paul Coxwell who would like to say:

"To those of you who regularly read my articles in 'Citizens' Band' it will probably come as no surprise to learn that I am also a computer programmer. There are no doubt many of you out there who also use computers, either at home or work and have access to some sort of electronic mail facilities.

I am planning to set-up a computer bulletin board toward the end of this year, with a special interest group on the board devoted to C.B. radio. As well as (hopefully) providing files of useful information for downloading

and a section of the board for your exchange news and views, I will also as system operator be available to answer any queries regarding C.B. or ready for any ideas you may have for future articles you'd like to see in the magazine etc. I hope that this section on the bulletin board may provide some useful interaction between you and your favourite C.B. magazine; it is you after all who keep the magazine going by letting us know what you want to read.

Any thoughts, ideas, threats etc. to the magazine, or direct to me on Telecom Gold Mailbox MAG 32001, or appropriate telex numbers (265451 or 265871 - MONREFG, quoting my mailbox number)."

New CB Outlet

S J Tonks recently announced that they are to open additional premises in the near future. A new £3 million truckstop is being built in the Midlands, located 300 metres from Junction 1 on the M5. Parking for around 400 trucks will be available with all the usual facilities including fuel, canteen, bar, telex and fax machines.

Steve Tonks will be operating a mobile CB sales/repair trailer on the lorry park itself, offering on-the-spot repairs and sales for drivers. Their main shop (53-55 Darlaston Road, Pleck, Walsall, West Midlands), which is just off Junction 9 on the M6, will remain to offer back-up service for local breakers. The mobile telephone number at the truckstop will be (0836) 718423.

Wine Run

Now, notice of an event which will pass through the county of Kent on its way to Paris on 15 September.

Organised by Coastal Communications and Dover ARC, the Great English Wine Run will, hopefully, raise a substantial amount of money for charity. The aim is to transport English wine from London to Paris in the most enjoyable and individual way!

The money raised will go to the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) and the Coastal team will be setting up an amateur radio station at one of the local vineyards and staying in contact with the team vehicle as it travels down to Paris, in addition to communicating on a global basis.

Further information can be obtained from the South East Kent (YMCA) Amateur Radio Club, Coastal

Communications, Castle Court, 31 Castle Street, Dover Kent CT16 1PT.

Help from REVCOM

REVCOM are a national voluntary community communications service, with teams all over the country.

They monitor the emergency channel 09 on citizens' band radio, provide safety communications at such events as marathons, carnivals, endurance horse rides, fete's, gala's etc, at which some teams are able to use private mobile radio's for secure communications.

More members are needed to enhance the teams they have, and to create new teams in new areas.

For further information contact: REVCOM, 3 May Road, Turvey, Bedford MK43 8DY.

Change of Address

Ken (*Beerman*) contacted us recently with important news of a change of address for the Blue Star DX QSL Club. They can now be contacted at PO Box 11, Cramlington, Northumberland NE22 9JW.

Indian Alpha Deltas

A new CB club recently opened in Ashton-Under-Lyne, aiming to raise money for equipment for handicapped and disabled.

The India Alpha Deltas meet every Wednesday night at 7pm at the Happy Shepherd, Bentinck Street, and everyone is made very welcome - even children! Their message is: "Why not come for a laugh, a game of bingo or just a chat?"

The club members recently held a 24-hour modulation on the 'Budgie Perch' in Glossop and raised £200 for the Oakdale School for

Handicapped Children in Ashton-Under-Lyne.

If anyone is interested in the club, they should contact Beryl (*Lady Blue Bird*) or Jean (*Mrs T*) at: The International Abled and Disabled CB Group, PO Box 15, Denton, Manchester M34 1TY.

RAE Classes

The Barking Radio and Electronics Society will be holding classes for both the radio amateurs' examination and the Morse test, beginning from September.

The RAE classes will take place on Mondays and the Morse classes on Tuesdays, starting at 7.30pm. Further details can be obtained from Mr P Greenor (course tutor) on 01-553 1172.

Ham International Lives On

It is pleasing to be able to report that the Ham International Radio Club not only lives on but continues to evolve under new ownership.

Vittorio G Civita (G1WVC) is now in charge, and all members of the club still actively interested should get in touch at the address below in order to update the membership list.

Vittorio will be able assisted by G7ALC and G1YPC. The club has asked us to publish the following open letter:

"The norm in life is change, and the Ham International Radio Club has changed ownership. Therefore, will all the members of the Ham International Radio Club, along with any other person interested in radio immediately get in touch with the new headquarters' address so that a list of active members may be drawn up and confirmed. The address is: Ham International Radio Club, PO Box 898, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1LZ.

The past is past, and let's hope that our new initiative will make the Club something to be respected and admired.

All replies will receive complete details, as well as the new strategy plan for the Club. Please include a SASE. Naturally, prospective new members are welcome to contact the Club directly."

RNLI Dry Land Regatta

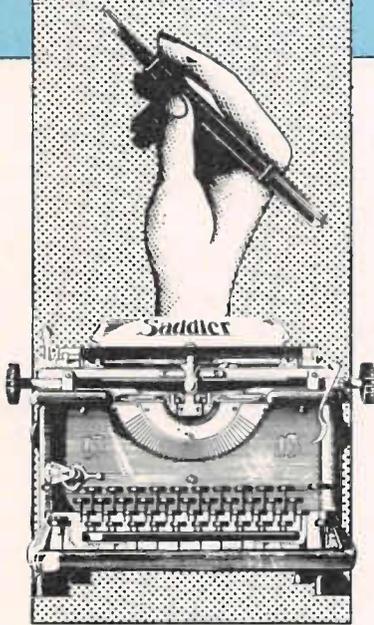
On Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th September 1988 The Lima Delta International DX Group are organising a 'Dry Land Regatta' which will take place at Coppersfields Football Ground, Ffynmongroyw, which is located off the A458 Flint to Prestatyn Road. All proceeds from this event are being donated to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

Events commence at 12 noon on both days and in addition to race entrants, there will also be space for clubs to take trade space and also an area set aside for car boot trading.

The racing is based on the Annual Henley-on-Todd Regatta held on a dry river bed in Australia. Being as the races are on dry land, the boats are bottomless and are supported around the waists of the competitors. Distance races will be held for boats of 2, 4 and 8 people and solo canoeists will race over an obstacle course.

The trophies will be awarded to the winning teams on 25th September at 4 pm, in addition there will be an award to the highest sponsored competitor or team. Sponsor forms and cheques/cash must be handed to Race Organisers on Saturday 24th September to enter this category.

The Group welcome any entries and can be contacted via: 20 Pen-y-Maes, Meliden, Prestatyn, Clwyd.



WALLIES STILL ABOUND

Wallies Still Abound

For God's sake, why can't the DTI get rid of the wallies once and for all? I am sorry to be so blunt, but we, in this area, are sick and tired of the stupidity and thoughtfulness of these subterranean creatures. Recently, the licence fee was increased from £10 to £12 and what do we get from it? OK, the RIS occasionally have their purges on various areas – but to what effect? They maybe nail the odd few with larger-than-allowed aerials but why can't they do something constructive about the nerds who use CB radio just to cause a nuisance i.e.

mike-keying and bucketmouthing?

It appears to me to be that, given that CB is meant to be 'open-channel radio', there is no-one who is interested in policing the system. I thought that was the idea of paying a licence fee – or maybe I am wrong? Please, Department of Trade and Industry, get your act together and clamp down on these misfits.

**R. Pettie,
Watford,
Herts.**

Perk Up, Parents

Why oh why do we still suffer abuse of the airwaves by young kids?

OK, it has always been a problem since CB arrived in this country, but surely by now you would think the parents would have realised exactly what is going on, because they were the ones to buy the rigs. I suppose the reason is that the parents originally bought the radios, got bored with the hobby and, rather than try to sell them, just gave them to their children to play with. This is, to my mind, clearly outrageous. Any parent has a duty to control his child's behaviour. Even more so when the kid in question is in the position to be able to actually *broadcast* obscenities. You know the usual swearwords they pick up at school and then try to 'educate' anyone who is listening!

I am a parent myself who uses CB but would not dream of letting my son loose with the rig until he is old enough to use it as it was originally intended. Come on you parents, sort your children out.

**D Ballantyne,
Warrington,
Cheshire**





CB Low-life?

I don't often find the need to write to your magazine these days, but I had to reply to a recent letter ("More Responsibility") by G1F6A of Accrington as it really made my blood boil.

He says that some of those on 27MHz FM have little or no interest in radio – a pretty silly statement as any person who had no interest wouldn't own one. As for little interest, well I didn't know that any regulations say you have to have a certain amount to use it.

No, I am not a bucketmouth, mike keyer or music player and do operate my 'chicken box' in the hope of making new friends and, where possible, being a friend to others, especially the ones who can't get out and about as I can. I too started with a £20 full set-up and still proudly use it in the wrapper, but it is legal and works just as well as a lot of the more expensive rigs do – and it hasn't turned me into a moron either.

The obscenities which the 'gentleman' referred to should not be blamed on young breakers as most of the young ones who join us most mornings on channel 7 are good breakers and operate quite legal set-ups. If he goes onto channel 19 (as he often does, using a burner which he says he is licensed for), he will find that the biggest

offenders are the so-called 'big-wheelers' who seem to have the foulest mouths of all and sit in lay-bys behind each other and go on their chosen channel, whether or not it is in use.

No, I'm not getting at big-wheelers as there are many great breakers out there on the road but, as with all aspects of the hobby, a few get the majority a bad name and we get a lot of truckers coming onto channel 7 to ask for directions as no-one wants to know them on 19. We always stop the network for a mobile and try to help them and make them welcome.

Why do these RAE operators think that we all want to take our ticket and join them? I've listened to them on their frequencies and know why a lot of them spend so much time on good old 27MHz so, to Mr Broadhurst, all I can say is that you are most welcome on our channels but please don't say that we are some sort of lower life-form if we don't want to join you and learn about things we have no interest in. Come on now, who's the sourpuss? Well done Martin of High Wycombe.

**Blunderbuss,
Accrington,
Lancs.**

CEPT – Not Yet!

I, for one, will not go out and spend good money on a new CEPT rig – at least not until the new band is made something like fully useable. At the moment, there are something like 17 channels that are used by some other people for data transmission and locator beacons, channel 2 being especially bad in the London and Essex area.

It seems to me that the authorities are great at devising regulations but lousy at giving us value for money. I would dearly love to comply with the regulations but do not see why I should shell out over £100 for a radio that cannot be used to its full capacity.

**Woodstock,
Ilford,
Essex**

A19 Truckers

As secretary and treasurer of the A19 Truckers Club, I am pleased to let you know that we have now organised the venue for our meetings. They are to be held at the County Arms pub (upstairs room), Northallerton, on the first Friday night of every month from 7.30pm.

The club is open to all HGV and PSV drivers and their friends. To join, the fees are £1.50 a year. Non-HGVs and PSVs are also welcome and the cost is £2 per year.

Anyone can contact the committee on CB and the committee is as follows:

Chairman (*Copper Top*, Northampton channel 19); Vice Chairman (*Snowman*, same channel); Secretary/Treasurer (*Babycham*, channel 19.05); *Daydreamer* (Bedale, channel 19.25); *Brandy Boy* (Thirsk, 19); *Silver Lady* (Darlington, channel 19.28).

**Babycham,
Northallerton,
North Yorkshire**



BUZZ BOX

Beetle Bother

Q I have a very old Volkswagen Beetle (1958) which I've fully restored to original showroom condition over the past couple of years. I want to keep the vehicle as near authentic as possible, and I also want to install a CB but there's a problem - early Beetles all had six-volt electrical systems and, as far as I'm aware, all CBs require a 12-volt supply.

Are there any CBs on the market that run from a six-volt supply or are there any gadgets that can "boost" my car's battery voltage up to 12 volts?

**D. Akinner
Canterbury**

A *It's not only a problem for would-be CBers, six-volt car radios are pretty thin on the ground as well, as far as we know there are no mobile rigs with a 6-volt supply line, though one or two hand-helds might work. We seem to remember back in the dim and distant past someone did manufacture what was effectively a "voltage doubler", specifically for this purpose, though we're pretty sure it's no longer available as the demand must be limited, to say the least. However, you might try getting in contact with the numerous Beetle owners clubs up and down the country - there's a regular enthusiasts magazine as well - it might be a good idea to advertise in one of them. However, make sure that these gizmos can supply to 4-8 amps that will be drawn by a rig and accessories.*

If this proves to be a dead end you could try fitting a second six-volt battery in series with the car's main battery - fully charged it will give you several hours' worth of use, though it will need to be regularly re-charged.

Buzz Box

Q As a regular reader of your magazine I wonder if you can offer me some assistance with a problem that I have with my mobile set-up. My car is a Volvo 340 DL hatchback, 1986 registration. The rig is an Audioline 341 and the antenna is a base-loaded design on a rear hatchback mounting bracket. The rig is mounted between the front seats, under the dashboard.

The problem is that on transmit (4-watts), the direction indicator will buzz loudly. This only happens, however, with the engine idling or with the ignition turned on - it does not happen when the car is above idling speed, or the ignition is turned off. I have tried everything to stop this happening.

I have tried different rigs; different antennae (including a DV27). I have

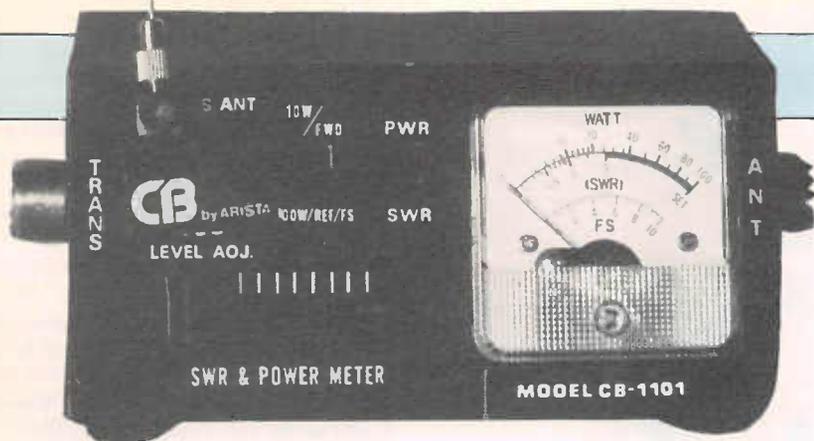
tried taking the power from five different sources, including the battery itself, all to no avail. I have also tried re-routing the antenna cable. The problem only manifests itself when the SWR is "dead-on" - this perhaps indicates that it is caused by radiation, rather than through the wiring system.

None of the other relays are affected; incidentally, the buzzing will stop when the indicators or hazard warning lights are operated.

I have been in touch with Volvo who are unable to help, and would therefore be eternally grateful if you have any ideas that will solve my dilemma.

**S. Mason
Halesowen
W. Midlands**





A Simple – buy a new car! In case that's inconvenient just now then here's a couple of ideas. From what you say it seems that your indicator module is indeed tuned to 27MHz or one of its harmonics and it's likely that the RF energy from the antenna is causing the coils inside to resonate – this in turn is making the contacts buzz – and that's the sound that you're hearing.

The first suggestion is to change the actual indicator module – it could be that it resonates at CB frequencies by pure chance, and that another one will be immune. A friendly Volvo dealer or agent might let you try one out, before parting with your cash. If Volvo really are fitting sub-miniature CB receivers inside their indicator modules then you'll have to try to alter its resonant frequency externally. The simplest method would

be to connect capacitors between the vehicle earth and the three "live" terminals – values between 10 to 100 pf (picofarad) should do the trick. These will appear as a "short-circuit" to the RF frequencies but will have no effect on the DC voltages present.

If the module is encased in plastic then an RF screen may help – just to check out this theory try wrapping a piece of aluminium foil around it, and connect the coil by a short piece of wire to the car body. If it's inside a metal can then try directly earthing the can to the body. In both cases be especially careful not to allow the wire or foil to short across any live contacts. If the problem still persists then the only other suggestion we have is to acoustically muffle the module – from what you've said it doesn't seem to be interfering with its operation.

Telescopic Troubles

Q I have a Realistic hand-held walkie-talkie which has given me faithful service for the past three years. The trouble is my son snapped the telescopic antenna while playing with it. I've been to my local Tandy store to try and get a replacement but they've said that they do not stock this type of aerial any more. I'm particularly concerned about getting the right one as I don't want to blow the rig's output stage. Have you got any suggestions?

**Harry Kempler
Dorchester**

A Generally speaking, the output stages of portable rigs are a lot better protected, and considerably more forgiving than their mobile and base-station counterparts. They have to be – the manufacturers cannot

Q I'm a keen amateur movie-maker and in the past year or so I've changed from cine to video. The results are not quite as good as film but they have the added advantage of having a soundtrack. Now to my question – the microphones fitted to video cameras are pretty awful and only really work close-to – hand-held mikes are OK but you need an assistant and it's difficult sometimes to keep them out of shot. What I would like to do is make use of wireless microphones but the ones I've seen so far are incredibly expensive – several hundred pounds even for a simple set-up. Could I therefore make use of CB, as a cheap wireless mike system. Possible with a pair of walkie-talkies – I could rig up a small mike and clip the unit to the subject's belt, or hide it in a pocket etc. What do you think – would it work?

**P. Haynes
London SW17**

A Good idea, but . . . Such a set-up would work as a short-range audio link but we can foresee a couple of problems. Firstly quality – the audio bandwidth of CB is very limited; OK for intelligible speech but it would sound rather like your subjects are talking down a telephone. Natural background noise would also be lost, and it would sound very unnatural. Secondly there's a very good chance that the link would be disrupted by other channel users and various forms of interference. Professional wireless mikes can be expensive but do shop around, there are several alternatives you might like to try, including something as simple as a baby alarm – there are quite a few wireless models available and sound quality is generally quite good.

rely on the user fully extending the antenna, so in most cases they are not accurately tuned. You didn't mention the exact model number but unless it's a very old model (they often had centre-load coils), it's probably a fairly ordinary six or eight section stainless-steel telescopic. They are fairly readily available from electronic component specialists but try and get one as near to the length of the original as possible, so make sure you measure it (fully extended) first. They are normally held in place by a single screw, at the base of the whip so you should be able to replace it yourself, provided you take the usual precautions.





OVER THE AIR

Whilst discussing the virtues of CB with some friends the other evening, we drifted into the realms of breakers who offer their services to marshall events and, in particular, those who may assist with events where they have had no formal training. To explain this better, I suppose that I had better give an example: There is a great deal of difference in helping at a local community event than, let's say, a national cycle event which is open to any member of the general public.

The main difference is that the first is usually held in a defined area and the second could take place over a wide area and on public roads. However, it would seem that with the latter comes the problem that some breakers are being approached by non-CB bodies through some CB organisations to assist, with the further inducement of large sums of money as a form of payment for their services.

This being so, some CBers are allowing themselves to be used to fill the commitment. But when do we stop and consider the risk involved to members of the public both taking part and spectators? Is it fair to possibly put people's lives at risk for the sake of a few bob? How would you feel if you were taking part in an event of this kind and you had an accident at a point where a marshall had no radio for contact in an emergency or didn't know what they were doing? Can you imagine how you would feel if you were taken to court and prosecuted over an accident and you found out that *you* are not covered by any type of insurance? One thing is certain, CB would suffer from the bad publicity. Headlines like: "CB MARSHALL CAUSES DEATH THROUGH NEGLECT".

I know a large number of organisations, groups, clubs and CBers who are very careful and selective in the events that they help with and who do a fantastic job. But one or two of this new breed are sacrificing others' reputations and good names to earn money, regardless of the effect it could have to CB or even its own members.

A friend of mine told me a funny story about a breaker who was so concerned about getting his rig stolen from his car that he decided to follow the advice given to him from another CBer. He arc-welded it under his dashboard – and then wondered why it wouldn't work . . .

Well done to the person who has put a little bit of thought behind the design of the Jesan KR200 mobile rig (27/81 UK FM). Unless I am mistaken, this must be the first ever mobile set with dials that are illuminated for use in the dark. So at last we have a set that you can use in the car etc., which offers us the chance to find the right dial. You never know, perhaps another company may decide to do the same on their sets. It would be nice.

Something else that is good value for the money has to be the "Type approved" DNT 4000 handheld (CEPT).

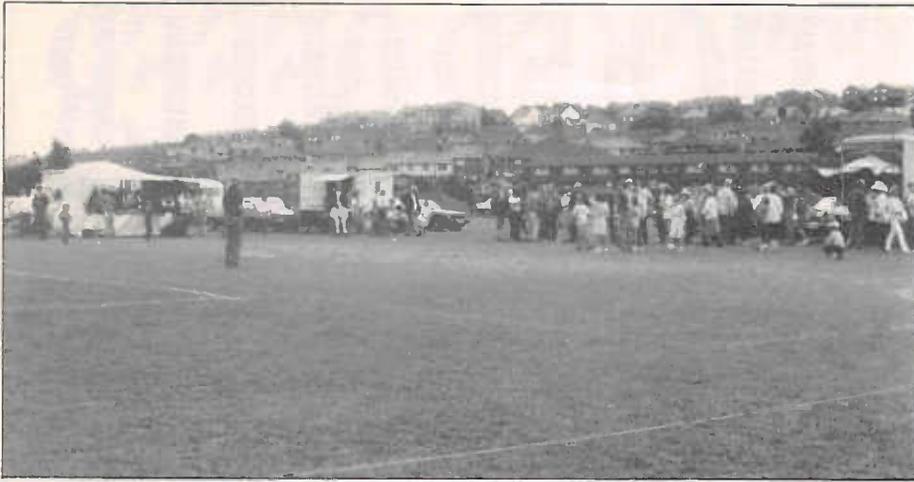
It is well priced and offers a 4 watt output. It has all the features of the old UK ones, except that it does not come with a carrying case. The ones I tried had a very good distance range – about two miles + and a very good audio. I was, however, concerned at the gaps around the PTT, which could be a problem if water gets inside or you have wet hands.

The Muddler (Dave) would like to hear from any CBers around the UK who would be interested in being part of an "Around The UK Copy". Dave's idea is to link up as many stations as possible on a given date. If you would like to know more or your club would be interested in helping out, please contact him through: Warminster Eagles DX Club, PO Box 13, Warminster, Wiltshire. (PS Dave drives a Skoda – hee-hee).

How many others out there have been enjoying the delights of the skip conditions over the past months? I suppose, like many others, I have enjoyed the chance to DX into other countries and chat to our CB counterparts. It does seem funny how the slight chance of long-distance copies sends some breakers mad – even into a frenzy. I followed one local breaker around the CEPT channels and listened to his call of: "CQ . . . CQ . . . CQDX . . . this station etc., etc., etc.," to the extent that he went straight over many contacts already made, and even other local stations already talking. The next day I asked him if he intended to QSL the stations and his reply was: "not bloody likely".

It does seem a shame to me that some breakers spend all day and night going for a DX copy, and then not QSLing. If you don't intend to QSL, why not just go for the copy and get a signal report, then move off to allow someone else to try? Never mind, I got him back with a contact to Bavaria at S-30+, R-5 through my DNT at 3½ watts and a ½-wave Silver Rod. That snookered him





as he didn't make it even with his 75 watts. Since then he has been very quiet.

On Thursday, 14th July this CBer (reporter?) found himself bundled through the door and into Centre Point in London for the launch of the LMRQAS (Land Mobile Radio Quality Assurance Scheme). I've never enjoyed wearing a tie – but there were free drinks afterwards, so away I went. People such as John Butcher, MP; Dr. Alan Whitehouse from the DTI, John Bailey from BSI, Cliff Dadson (Chairman of MRUA) and others were on hand to persuade businesses to aim for a better service and standard to the user of mobile radio equipment. The idea is that Britain has, at last, got its digit out and decided to lead Europe to provide such a service.

However, the road to this standard is long and hard. It is proposed that these British companies on completion receive a certificate based on BS 5750 which will prove that the customer will be assured of first-class work and maintenance backup. The first company to receive this certificate was Carlink Ltd., who are now BS 5750-registered. The company Chairman Philip Sumner says that his "technical staff are at last able to offer a service which is a credit to the industry". John Butcher, MP said that "this system is unique to the UK". It was also said by another speaker that DTI costings and figures show that the industry loses between £6 billion and £10 billion pounds per year through poor service and quality. This is around 25% to each company and, through QAS, the figure could drop to around 5%.

Dr. Alan Whitehouse (DTI) was asked where citizens' band radio fits into the plan of things with regard to MRU and this scheme. He said "CB is a part of the scenario and in the next few months it will, or should, start to apply to top CB-related goods. Phase 2 of the scheme should help the quality to the hobby-type user and it is in this area that they should now be looking for the future."

It would be a bonus to every CB user to know that the equipment that he/she

is buying is up to BS 5750 but will it affect the price? And if so, would it be worth it? One thing was made clear at the launch, that it was a hard-sell campaign backed by the DTI ready for 1992 and it could be one step further towards an extra kind of type approval.

It was also nice to see and chat to Barry Maxwell who, as you may well remember, left the DTI to work for another section. Well, you will be pleased to know that he has come back to head the RIS at Waterloo Bridge House and has taken over from Miss Gane. Barry is a great character and his return must be a great bonus for us.

I also managed to get hold of the DTI Code of Practice MPT 1367, which explains the requirements governing the installation and use of radio equipment. This should be a must for CBers and I hope that many of you will send off for a copy as it explains things like: Powers of the Radio Investigation Service and Police; Penalties and Offences under the WT Act 1949 and much more. Most of it is in plain English which should help a lot of breakers. Well done, DTI.

Whilst at the LMRQAS launch I managed to get to meet Mr. Peter Jassoy, who is with the RPA (Radio Paging Association). He assures me that he knew nothing about the interference we are suffering on CEPT, but that he would welcome any information from users. So get writing to this magazine with your list of channels lost to pagers – but please only the channels lost to pagers, not those where you have skip problems. As per the Editorial (September issue page 6), we want to hear from you so that we can compile a map of the UK consisting of areas of interference. Send these to "Paging Problems" c/o *Citizens' Band*.

My thanks to Dave (*Beachcaster*), Chairman of Mile Oak Breakers Club in Sussex, and his fellow members for a good day out at their Eyeball (17th July). Around 200+ people turned out to attend from as far away as Dorset and Warwickshire. Once again, I came away with a fistful of Eyeball/QSL cards. Included in these were: *Eccles, Wonder*

Woman, The Robroy, Medic One, Hound Dog, Concho, Coral, Camsetter, Scots Cavalier, Disco One, Mystery, Yellow Bear, Flower Lady and many more besides – thanks to everyone for the cards.

My thanks to Mike Charlie 117 (July magazine) for his observations and to Tin Can (July magazine) for his comments on the "good ol' AM days". I am sure that they have provided many readers with more than a few ideas. I have been sent an address of a firm that can supply "Back-Chat" or "Talk-Back" units. Although I have tried to find out more from the company concerned – they either can't find a postage stamp or my letter didn't arrive. Anyway, the information came from Black Tom who runs a special CB Radio Group in Sussex for the elderly and disabled – thanks to him for the information, and the best of luck with his Group. The company's name and address is: Chat-Back CB Centre, Easthill, Tuckingmill, Cambourne, Cornwall RT15 8QL. The person to write to is Mr Dave Prout.

To finish off for this month and by way of a change, I have been handed a compilation (with a difference) of the Phonetic Alphabet. To help you understand, I should point out that instead of thinking only of the phonetic word, with some of the following you may have to use the alphabetic letter only. Some may require an interpretation of either or have something in common. Anyway see how you get on . . .

A – Romeo (car)	Alpha
B – "Jolly Good" old man	Bravo
C – Brown	Charlie
D – Wave	Delta
E – Mike	Echo
F – Off	Foxtrot
G – GTI	Golf
H – B+B	Hotel
I – Lash	India
J – Cloth	Juliet
K – 2.205lb	Kilo
L – Of a fire	Lima
M – Keyer	Mike
N – December	November
O – Mobile twig	Oscar
P – An Italian father	Papa
Q – French Canadian City	Quebec
R – Juliet	Romeo
S – Ford (car)	Sierra
T – In Paris	Tango
U – Me	Uniform
V – W (car)	Victor
W – Bells	Whiskey
X – Negative	X-Ray
Y – A loud mouth	Yankee
Z – Warrior	Zulu

I am sure that many readers will have their own ideas for a Phonetic Alphabet so send them to me c/o *Cit' Band*. I am sure that the Editor will allow us to print one or two of the best. But please don't make them too rude, OK.

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I enclose my cheque value £..... (please insert total amount sent)
made payable to CB Reader Offers

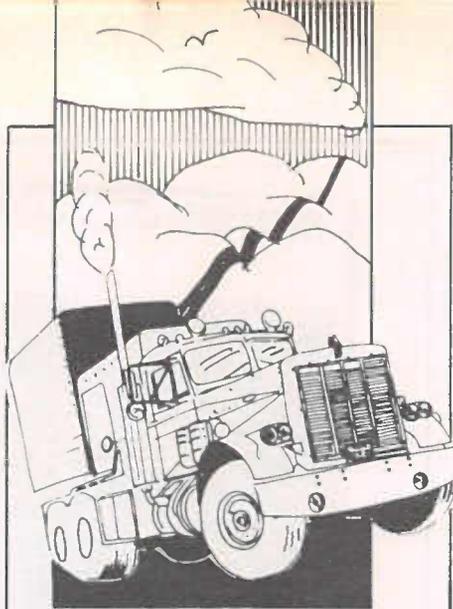
Signature..... Date.....

Name (Block letters please)

Address.....

Town Post Code.....

Please return with payment to CB Reader Offers, 9 Hall Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts ROC BO2



Truck Stop

Brandybird brings us up-to-date with more trucking information

Well, since I started moaning that no one ever wrote to me, my postbag has been overflowing. Unfortunately, I haven't had a lot of time to go on the rig lately, since a local company was daft enough to offer me a full time job! So my apologies to all of those who have been frantically calling me and not getting a reply. By the time I get home at night, I just want to crawl into bed. It's a big jump from staying in bed every day until 10.30 to having to get up at 6.00am six mornings a week. I think my age is beginning to catch up with me. Still I'm still just about finding the time to sit down at the word processor and type out a few lines, albeit sleepily...

Right, before I do anything else, I want to pass on a message... I received a request some time ago, for a mention towards the Amanda Embelton Appeal. Since then I have been corresponding regularly with the person involved. He has asked me to remember him to everyone who knows or remembers him - Bob Stoker alias *White Bandit*. Bob is away on his holidays at present, but will hopefully be back with us soon. He is a trucker from way back, who apparently remembers having any eyeball with me, many years ago in my misspent youth, on Corley Services M6. I've always said that 'once seen - never forgotten'. Poor bloke has been suffering nightmares ever since. Love to you anyway, Bob.

A mention for a couple of the rare 19 monitors. If you are in the Wells, Somerset area, put out a call for *Xanadu One (Dot)* and *Cheesecake (Liz)*. Both will help out any lost souls in their area. Dot can cover the A371, A37, A361, A39, B3139 and a lot of other main roads in that area (she must be a big lady if she can cover that much!) Cheesecake operates from Evercreech on the B3081, east of the A371 between Castle Carry and Shepton Mallet in Somerset. I'm also informed by Dot's husband, Richard, to warn you lads that in Wells, most of the factories and

businesses do not accept heavy loads after 4.30pm so if you're planning a drop around that area, make sure you have got your pyjamas with you. Richard (Heron) gave me a lot of other info about parking, banks etc. in Wells, which unfortunately there just isn't the space for, but thanks for sending the info, Richard.

Talk about international fame, I've received a lovely letter *all the way from Spain* from Jorge who is a trucker in that lovely sunny country. Hi Jorge. Greetings from this hopeless, wet hole. Thanks very much for taking the time to write - I didn't realise, that the magazine was read *that far afield*. Jorge would love to hear from anyone, male or female, especially truck lovers, who

would be willing to write to him to help improve his English. He attends a free School of Foreign Languages, but learned English whilst working here many years ago. Come on you lot, get your pens, shake off the dust and get writing. Jorge's handle is "Furgon" and his address is Furgon, SS6 45 Jorge, P.O. Box 2194, 116080 Valencia, Spain. If anyone sends him QSLs he will return. And Jorge... no I won't send you a photograph - I don't want you to have nightmares as well!

Another mention - this time from the Bravo Alpha Sierra Group of Liverpool, for George, (*Headlight*) who lives in Garston which is ideal for truckers coming in from the Runcorn-Widnes bridge (M56 North Cheshire motorway). George is a retired trucker and on the rig almost 24 hours a day. So there is someone else who would love to hear from you and help where possible if you are in his area.

Someone who did manage to get hold of me (not literally, you fools) is *Split Pin* from Kings Lynn, Nice to talk to you chuck. Also best wishes to *Blue Knight* (Richard) who spoke to my mum recently. He is from Campbelltown on the Mull of Kintyre and belongs to *the best club* (well, thats what he said!); Dunaverly Breakers Club... There is your mention.

Finally, my regards to all of those who I met, albeit very quickly, at the Mercia QSL Club Eyeball in Coventry. Unfortunately, I had several other things on that day, so couldn't spend as much time as I would have liked, but it was a smashing day. Those of you who didn't go don't know what you're missing. All credit goes to Tom (*Big Daddy*) and Chris (*Paper Lady*), of the Mike Quebecs for yet another fantastic day out.

That's it for another month. Don't stop writing; I love receiving your letters and I'm still waiting to see who is our furthest afield reader. Anything you want to mention - I will do my best to cover it. **Brandybird, P.O. Box 158, Coventry, CV6 6BD.**

MARCS OUT OF TEN

For the benefit of those eavesdroppers among you,
Saul Wright checks out the Marc II receiver



Sadly one of the commonest ways manufacturers let themselves and their products down is by supplying poorly-written instructions. Sometimes it's only a minor irritant — most of us could eventually work out how to use a new tin-opener or vacuum cleaner, for instance, without recourse to the manual, but we defy anyone to fathom out the complexities of a sophisticated, microprocessor-controlled scanning receiver when the so-called instructions consist of 19 pages of poorly-translated gibberish! That, in a word is the main drawback of the **Marc II** 'computer control professional receiver' (that's what they call it ...). It deserves better — especially for a product costing the best part of £400 (£396.00 to be exact).

The Marc II's frequency range is undoubtedly its most strong and most impressive feature — it offers continuous coverage in two bands, from 150kHz to 520MHz and 850MHz to 910MHz, in four modulation modes: *FM wide*, *FM narrow*, *AM* and *SSB/CW*. 20-preset frequencies can be memorised and scanned, either manually or automatically, and just for good measure, there's a built-in clock/timer to switch the receiver on and off. We would like to tell you even more but no detailed specifications or data are available; indeed, the only way of telling that it covers the 850-910 frequency band was by a loosely-inserted page in the instruction book — something tells us this is an afterthought. There may even be more facilities that we haven't discovered yet ...

Facilities

The Marc II has five tuning options, based around a PLL synthesiser system: these include direct frequency input via a numerical keyboard; manual tuning using a rotary dial; automatic scanning between pre-set frequency limits and manual or automatic scanning of the receiver's 20-channel memory.

Frequency adjustment can be varied in 1, 5, 10, or 100kHz steps over most of the bands; the manual dial tuning uses a *detented* rotary control (it clicks as it goes round). The rotary control has a coarse/fine setting ('fast' or 'slow'), which adjusts the amount of frequency change per 'click'. Direct input and automatic scanning systems rely on information (frequency, upper and lower limits, channel numbers etc) being entered into the tuner, using the keypad. Once set the tuner can be instructed to *search* or *scan* for transmissions. Both types of tuning rely on the squelch control setting a threshold — in the search mode tuning stops when a transmission is received — it only resumes when the signal falls below the squelch limit. In the scan mode the tuner stops at each transmission for five seconds, before resuming scanning.

Frequency is shown on an illuminated LCD panel, along with a simple signal-strength bar-graph display, memory channel, modulation mode and battery level. Here we find yet more confirmation that the 850-910 coverage is an afterthought — the 'extra' instructions explain that the display cannot show the actual frequency. Instead the user has to mentally *add 600* to what is displayed or

entered on the keypad, to get the correct frequency. For instance, to select 850MHz the numbers '250' have to be entered, and that is what will be displayed on the LCD. There's no front-panel indication that the receiver is on the high band, the only way of telling, in fact, is to look at the switch position on the rear panel.

A second LCD display is reserved for the clock/timer — this last facility neatly illustrates the shortcomings and inconsistencies of the instruction book — it takes four pages to explain battery insertion and the clock and its functions — roughly the same amount of space is devoted to the five complex tuning systems...

Controls

Most of the major controls are grouped together in four distinct areas on the front panel — two switches, ostensibly devoted to the antennas are sited on the back panel — as we've already mentioned one of these (*antenna attenuator*) doubles up as a band-selector for switching to 850MHz coverage — more evidence of this facility's late inclusion on the Marc II design.

Other important controls include a BFO (beat frequency oscillator) for SSB/CW operation; variable tone and volume sliders and a memory 'clear' button. The latter cancels all of the channel memories. An antenna sensitivity control (the manual refers to it as *sensitivity*) is fitted for use on frequencies below 26MHz. A 'lock' switch disables all of the main tuning controls thus preventing accidental mis-alignment.

Two telescopic aerials are provided, the longer for short-wave frequencies, the other for 'FM'. Once again the instruction book isn't much help and there's no indication at what point one antenna takes over from the other. Thankfully, there's provision for external antennas, though the choice of connector seems rather strange. A SO239 socket is used for a VHF/UHF aerial (the standard CB antenna

connector) and two screw terminals are used for an external short-wave antenna — this is contrary to normal practice.

There's no mention or suggestion either of the type/size/configuration of aerial to be used, just a couple of vague drawings.

Other sockets include a standard jack for headphones or an external speaker, and an unswitched 3.5mm jack for audio output, for connection to a tape recorder. Power for the Marc II can be supplied either by a set of six U-11 batteries or, from an external mains PSU. A suitable car-battery lead can also be used. A pair of 'AA' cells are used to provide power for the clock and channel memory. Sound output (there's no figure for the amplifier power) is handled by a 3/4in speaker.

In use

Disregarding the problems with the instruction book for a moment let's look at the receiver's general operation. The first hurdle is to ensure that it's set up for the tuning mode required, otherwise it will either stubbornly refuse to do anything, or else trundle off doing something completely unexpected. During our review it refused to even switch on a couple of times — assuming it, or the power supply, to be faulty we were about to start dismantling the Marc II when it suddenly came to life, for no apparent reason. It happened a second time — but fortunately the 'fault' was found and turned out to be nothing more sinister than the 'sleep' timer being accidentally activated.

Manual tuning is quite straightforward, though it takes a couple of button presses to get it into the correct mode — this needs a bit of trial and error as there's no indication on the LCD screen. Automatic scan or seek tuning is a little more involved but once the frequency setting has been entered it can be relied on to get on with the business of tuning. Equally straightforward is the channel memory setting and tuning — once you've got the hang of it, that is...

The awkwardly-located high-band switch and lack of indication of is a

nuisance — we hope the manufacturers will make this facility easier to use on future models.

The results

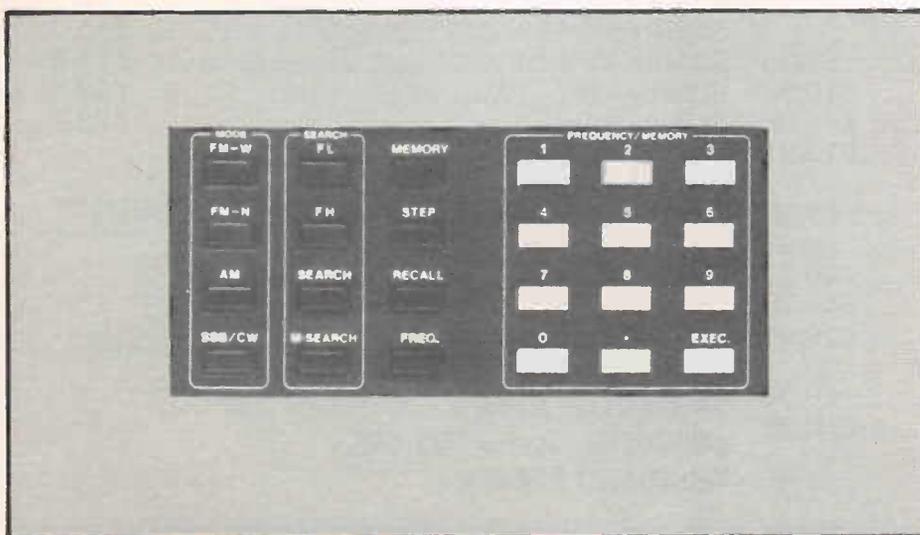
The two telescopic antennas are a limiting factor — the Marc II only really came to life when we connected up an external aerial. For the record we used a simple roof-mounted CB dipole for both FM and SW operation. Sensitivity and selectivity on the well-used short-wave bands is very good, not quite as good as a purpose-built rig, but that's to be expected. It can cope with transmissions on adjoining channels, provided they're not too strong, otherwise they will bleed together — the antenna sensitivity control isn't much to help. Selectivity on the Amateur bands (144MHz) was a little better but sensitivity was rather poorer than we had expected and an external antenna is essential, whereas the telescopic is okay for local CB work. Higher up the frequency bands, selectivity becomes less important as transmissions are spaced further apart. We confess that despite this receiver's ability to cover numerous 'sensitive' and restricted bands we heard no super-secret transmissions throughout our tests — even the old mobile telephone bands seemed stubbornly quiet.

The high band option unfortunately doesn't quite stretch to 934MHz CB so it's rather difficult to assess its performance without a known source of transmissions. There's plenty of other things going on, though, including cellular telephones, TV sound and two-way 'exotica' — we would almost certainly get into trouble telling you about them, so you'll just have to take our word for it, or get a Marc II for yourself.

Audio quality was generally very good, despite being optimised for noisy communications traffic it actually gave a quite good account of itself when receiving broadcast stations — thanks to the FM 'wide' option (which is mainly used for this purpose). Unfortunately this wasn't explained in the instruction book and we spent some time complaining about the quality of VHF transmissions, until we discovered the 'wide' mode.

Conclusion

Believe it or not, we really like the Marc II — it has a genuinely useful coverage of a vast chunk of the radio spectrum and facilities such as scan and channel memory put this receiver on a par with many other (more expensive) scanner designs. The negative points centre on the dreadful instruction book and somewhat 'tacked-on' high-band facility. Both points could and should be remedied — the instruction book in particular needs immediate attention and could transform the receiver's usefulness and, dare we say it, *user friendliness*, as it stands it may be regarded by some as downright hostile...



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COMMUNICATION THE

QSL WAY



More names and addresses from QSLers all over the world, courtesy of David Shepherdson

Once again it's time to remind everyone that the Post Office are increasing the cost of posting out QSL packages during

September! As I write this, I understand that the increases are from 13p to 14p for up to 60 grams second class, and from 18p to 19p for the same weight limits first class. Obviously heavier packages will go up even more, they always do!

Now, I recently received a letter from a QSLer who asked for the address of a club in the Isle of Man. Unfortunately it was one I have not heard off (yet) so I could only suggest an alternative IOM club, which may have been able to help. Mind you, it's so long since I heard of *that* club, it may have closed anyway. So I want to ask a little favour of any and all QSLers, and QSL clubs on the Isle of Man. If you would care to put pen to paper, and card, and drop me a line as soon as possible, I will do my best to include as many of you as is feasible in a future issue! The sooner you do this, the sooner I'll be able to fit you all in! In fact, if any QSLer or QSL club on the Isle of Wight would like to do the same, I'll do my best to include you in another future issue! A sort of special "Island Block Booking"!

With regard to any Islander Clubs who fancy this, please could you include an up-to-date application form, a club QSL card and a little info on the club, and of course, the address! I'll do my utmost to fit in all names etc I receive by, say, the end of November. It'll be into the New Year before I'll be able to manage this, but the sooner you write, the sooner I'll be able to start on it!

VIADUCT BREAKERS
QSL

73s 88s

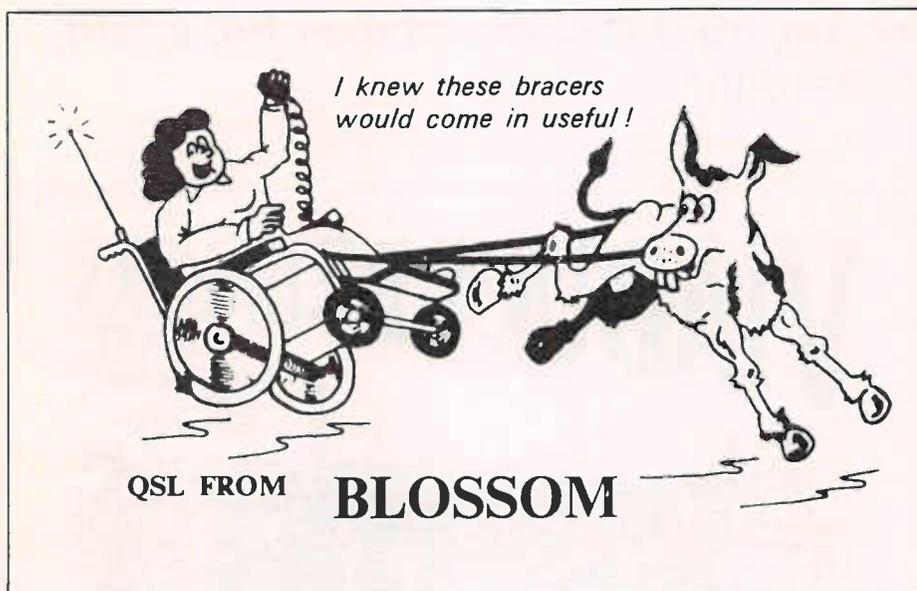
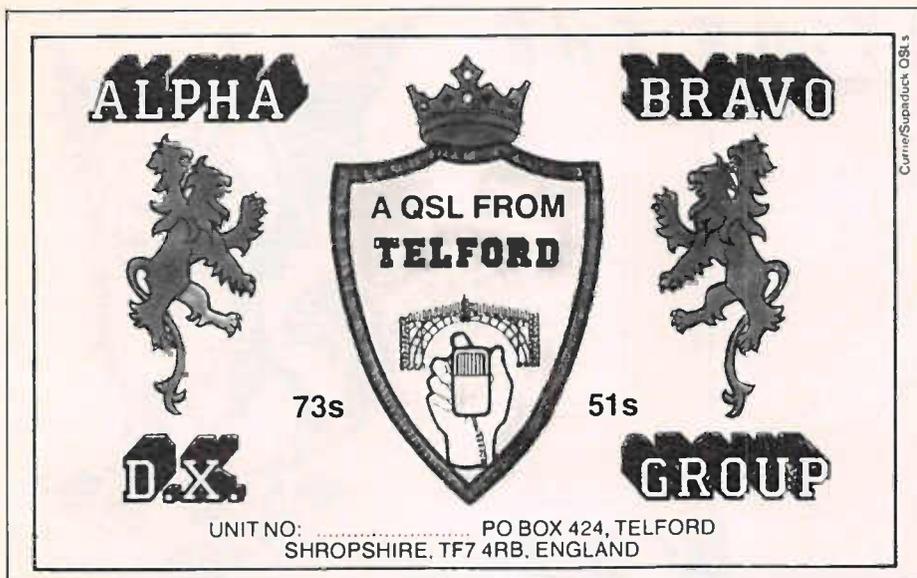
PO BOX 3 • STOCKPORT • CHESHIRE • SK3 9PP

If anyone wants to get in touch with the person who asked the question originally, then I'm sorry, but I can't actually read his address! The name is Chris (*Hedgehog*, YD 46), The Flat, Hazel Farm in what looks like "Milbang Sampford", Dorchester.

I would recommend that you send any requests, cards etc to me at my home address, not to the magazine in London; I've a better chance of getting it this way! Some of the people who have been in touch direct include Martin (*Flagship*) of Dundee and Brian (*Runabout*) of Northampton who both have new addresses which should be found in the list somewhere within these pages. I've also just heard from Paul (*Wolfman Jack*) of Derby that he is moving to the States and has decided to finish with

QSLing as he does not know when he will be returning to these shores. Have a great time Paul! I have a limited number of his cards) if anyone wishes one for their collection, also a limited number of cards from Bob Parker (*BP 01*) of Doncaster who also ceased to QSL some time ago. If anyone wishes either or both for their collection, please drop me a line with a 6 in. x 4 in. SASE for return, TNX.

A couple of clubs who have not been replying to their mail for a little time have written to me to ask me to pass on their apologies and to explain why this has been so. The first is the Forester's DX QSL Club of Gloucestershire. Mark says that he is sorry for the delay but he has been out of work for some little time but is now working again and getting caught



up but also asks if anyone is still waiting for a reply then could they please drop him a line and he'll get back to you. The other club that's been taking several months to get back to people is the Bravo Bravo International of Co. Down. Martin (*BB001*) has been away since Christmas at University and is now wading his way through the backlog of mail and the message is "he's working on it".

A few names and addresses now, taken from a very large pile of cards which have been building up for some time now. First up is that of Tony (*TD*) who sends out a very varied package including his own personal cards, club cards and invites and info leaflets on his home city of Birmingham. A right mixture of cards in from Don (*Sea Pigeon*) of Sheffield as indeed there is from Tom (*Green Forest*) of Telford. A whole mass of cards of various types in to from Blossom (*Doll*) of Walsall. She sends out and collects Poma, Black Rabbit, Hot Foils etc. and also includes cards from various friends so you can expect a tremendous selection of about six people's cards!

A few cards and some info in from John (*Quadman*) of Cumbria now. John informed me of an address for the Freightliner's Club which I was asking for info on earlier this year. I've since been told that the Freightliners and all clubs formerly run by Ian (*Conman*) have been taken over by Mark (*Earlybird*) of the Fire Birds, Hastings.

There is a new club in the Republic of Ireland; it is run by Kenneth (*DC 001*) and is called the Delta Charlie International DX Group. The DC stands for Direct Contact and it has an excellent Club QSL card. Membership costs £4 for which you receive your DC unit number, 25 club QSL cards, welcome letter, roster, application forms etc. Also, if you supply some stamps, use of the Club's PO Box too.

Some words in from Spain now, these came from the Antequera QSL DX Swap Club of Malaga. Membership costs £10 for the UK and should be accompanied by 10 of your personal QSL cards. When sending cash abroad it is always best to use Registered Post wherever possible in case of problems. For your £10 you receive your unit number, certificates. Spanish postage stamps and cards, club stamp, Q-Code, 10-Code, stickers, exchange QSLs, Spanish coins, roster, tourist info, bull fight poster, 12 club QSL cards etc.

A new club in Stockport has asked for a mention and this is the Viaduct Breakers DX Club. Joan (*Silver Dollar*) sent in the info, but unfortunately I do not have any info on how much membership costs nor what you would get, or even if membership is open to people outside of Stockport.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

October 1st – Sunrisers DX 3rd Eyeball at Home Farm Caravan Site, Edithmead, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset 10am 'til midnight. Eyeball 50p (10am 'til 5.30pm). Keith (1SR14), PO Box 7, Bridgwater.

October 7th – Breakaways CB 3rd All Midland Eyeball at Old Hall, Church Gresley, Burton-on-Trent. Entertainments, var, etc. Tickets £1, children/OAPs 75p. Breakaways, PO box 15, Swadlingcote, Burton-on-Trent, Staffs.

October 7th-9th – Solway Pirates Mass Eyeball at Southerness Holiday Village. Fully Booked! Book early for next year!

October 8th – Lichfield and District C&W night at Burntwood Institute, Rugeley Road, Burntwood 7.30pm until 11.45pm. Admission by ticket only (£1.25/£1 children). Les, 190 Chelmsley Road, Chelmsley Wood, Birmingham B37 7SR

October 8th-9th – Dover International Meeting at Dover Stage Hotel, Marine Parade, 10am-4pm and 8pm to midnight Saturday; 10am-wpm Sunday. Admission 50p per day. Contact: Star Rider, PO Box 112, St Leonard's-on-Sea, East Sussex.

For anyone who likes to join clubs in "different" or unique places, how about this one? It is the first Swappers Club in the Basque country with a slogan or "Peace of Earth, friendship all around". Its name is the Bidasoadi Swap Club which is taken from the river Bidasoa. Membership costs \$10 along with 10 personal QSL cards which should show your name and "all notes, but not the destination" (???). You should also send your surname, first name, personal name and Post Office Box number/ address. For this you should get your unit number, certificate, 10 club cards, 10 exchange QSLs and a listing in the club roster. I've no idea what the package is like but I was asked to pass on the info.

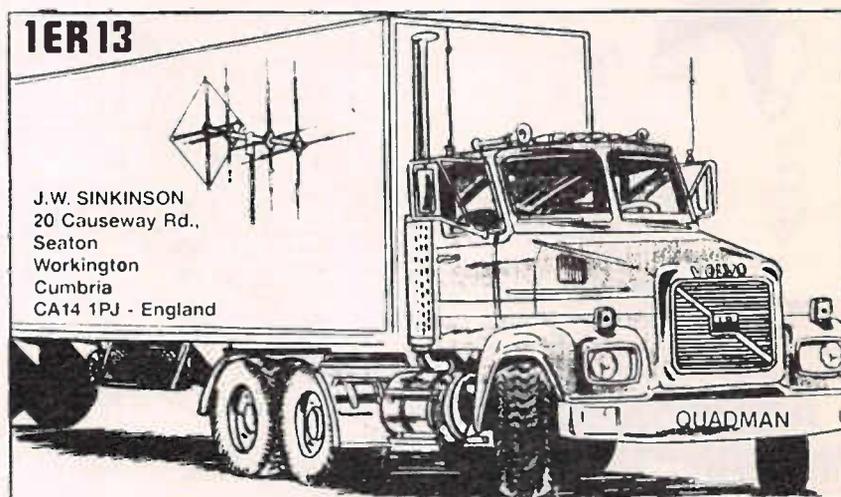
Just enough room to include a last few names here starting off with John (Painter) of Fife, followed by Fred (Lamplighter) of Burton on Trent, Fred (Trouble) of Dudley, Jeff (Silver Fox) of Gwent and Ted (Stones) of Maldon in Essex.

This month's Browse Through a Club's Package, which is merely a slightly more detailed look through a normal membership package and not a "Club of the Month" slot, concerns the package sent out by the RTI. This is the Radio Travellers International DX Group of London which was formed in August 1985 and costs £10 to join. For this sum you get your RTO unit number and ID card, 10 photocopied sheets of paper which range from the various letters of welcome to a newsheet and roster, frequency charts and country prefix lists. Not worth the £10 asking price you might think; however, this is not the full package! Included in the fee is a mounted club stamp, a number of club stickers, some postcards and 100 three colour gloss club QSL cards and use of the Club PO Box. The cards are done by Curries of Co. Durham. have a radio report on the reverse and, for those of you interested, are Collector Series Number 430. There is no further charge for those wishing to use the PO Box for mail, but a supply of postage stamps is required for forwarding of any mail received by the Club. Extras available from the Club include the QSL cards at £3 per 100 and the club stamp again at £3. For those wishing to join, you can pay by (UK) Postal Order or cheque made out to P. Compton send c/o the club.

A bit of bad news has just dropped through my letterbox I'm afraid. A little while ago I mentioned a great QSLer in Crawley. This was Reg (Pixie Ears), callsign AC 89. Unfortunately, Reg died just before his name was mentioned. I'm sure you will all join with me in sending condolences to his widow who is currently in Canada. Many of you have been sending cards to Reg via the

QSLer ADDRESSES

Martin (Flagship)	1 Finmore Place, Dundee, Scotland
Brian (Runabout)	MG 27, PO Box 19., Abindon, Oxon OS14 5TF
Tony (TD)	49 Northolt Tower, Yatesbury Avenue, Castlevale, Birmingham B35 6QB
Don (Sea Pigeon)	PO Box 244, Sheffield, S. Yorkshire S12 2DX
Tom (Great Forest)	PO Box 424, Telford, Shropshire TF7 4RB
Blossom (Doll)	17 Broad Way, High Heath, Pelsall, Walsall, WS4 1AW
John (Quadman)	20 Causeway Road, Seaton, Workington, Cumbria, CA14 1PJ
Joan (Silver Dollar)	VB17, PO Box 3, Stockport, Cheshire SK3 9PP
John (Painter)	PO Box 1, Kelty, Fife, KY4 0AU, Scotland
Fred (Lamplighter)	Forest Side, Stoney Ford, Barton-u-Needwood, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE13 8BW.
Fred (Trouble)	26 Malvern Crescent, Holly Hall, Dudley, West Midlands DY2 0RZ
Jeff (Silver Fox)	26 Nantcelyn Close, w. Pontnewydd, Cwmbran, Gwent, Suth Wales NP44 1HI
Ted (Stones)	MD 23, PO Box 387, Maldo, Essex CM9 7PQ



QSL CLUB ADDRESSES

Antequera QSL DX	PO Box 92, 29200 Antequera (Malaga), Spain
Bidasoadi Swap Klub	P.A. 290, IRUN 20300, Gipuzkpa, EUSKADI, (Spain).
Bravo Bravo Int' Club	27 Manse Road, Carrowdore, Co. Down BT22 2EZ, N. Ireland
Delta Charlie Int' DX	PO Box 2113, Dublin 12, Rep. of Ireland
Firebirds	54 Boyne Road, Hastings, East Sussex TN35 5NZ
Foresters DX SQL Club	Paynes Cottage, Popes Hill, Newnham, Gloucestershire GL14 1LD
Radio Travellers Int' Club	PO Box 558, London NW5 1HW
Viaduct Breakers DX Club	PO Box 3, Stockport, Cheshire SK3 9PP

When writing to any QSL club or firm, always include return postage to assist with their reply; it does help.

QSL SERVICES ADDRESSES

Club's PO Box, but the Club, rather than let people down, and in memory of Reg, is sending out return packages to those who have written.

That's it, out of room once more, if you want a mention then please drop me a line direct to 3 Tarn Villas, Cowpasture Road, Ilkley, West Yorkshire LS29 8RH. Any news of forthcoming events are always welcome, the sooner the better, and if you want a reply, then please don't forget an SASE or similar.

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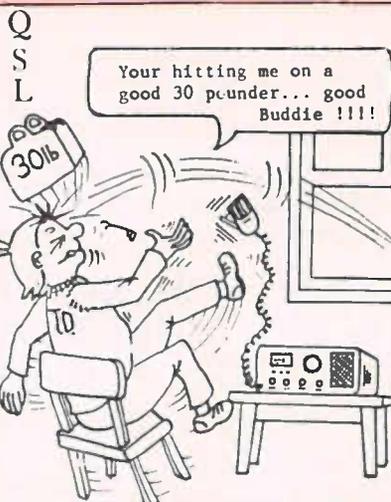
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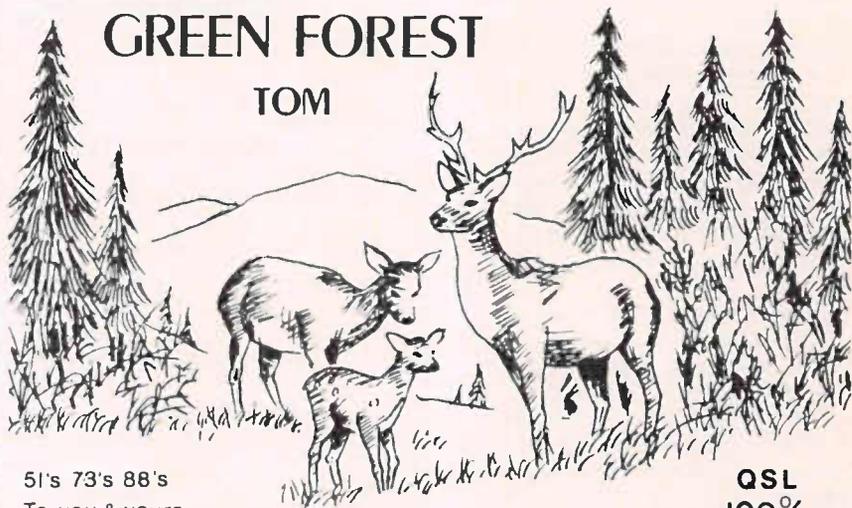
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The Scots Connection

Bunny looks at the latest
the Scottish scene



How time marches on, and I've just returned from the Mass Eyeball at Sutherland, in Dumfriesshire, run by the Solway Firth Pirates Club. The report will appear in a future issue. I also attended the Eyeball on Sunday, 19th June at Seamill, in Ayrshire. It was a glorious day, right from the start. With maw, paw and screaming kids all around, I set up the Scottish News sheet stand, using the side of Firefly's mobile as a display board. White Heather had set up the refreshment tent, and other trade stands included Clyde Coast SEARCH, BDX Print, and Des Currie had made the trip from Co. Durham to display his cards etc.

The Glasgow Gunslingers gave a shooting display, while others tried to win at the tombola. The more energetic guys played 5-a-side football, while the kids splashed about in the sea. White Heather would like to thank everyone who attended the Eyeball and everyone who helped. A letter has also been received from Mrs. Gilmour, mother of Lynn to whom the proceeds were given, thanking everyone.

A report recently arrived from the Viking Radio DX QSL Club in Lerwick, Shetland. Jim reports that in the past year, the club has helped with the British Heart Foundation, by entering a team in the contest to "hurl the haggis" which raised £105 by their efforts. By the end of the day, the Shetland Branch of the British Heart Foundation had raised a grand total of £1,500. The membership of the club now stands at 1,461 and CBers in Shetland have been receiving copies from Oban and South of Scotland, which is most unusual. The club is always looking for new members.

At a members' meeting held in the Union Hall, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire on June 8th, by a unanimous decision, the name of the local A.L.C. Radio Group was changed to K.L.C.C. Kilmarnock & Loudon Communication Charity. It was

also agreed that the new group dissociate themselves from the Blackburn & Lancashire Group of A.L.C. Anyone wishing more information on the new group, please contact Mr. and Mrs. Keatcher on (0563) 20609.

Scotland World Wide Club held a sponsored modulation from the top of Dunrod Hill, to raise funds for Inverclyde Voluntary Council. The club contacted the Guinness Book of Records to set a record of the number of confirmed copies received within a 36-hour period. Their copies were verified by an independent body, the Greenock Telegraph. Can your club group beat this record? Remember, though, you must have an independent member of the public with you. The record stands at 1,987 copies within a 36-hour period.

A CB Recipe Book is now available to all, at a cost of 40p, with all proceeds going to Guide Dogs for the Blind. Made up from recipes sent in by CBers, and published by B.D.X., PO Box 4, Coatbridge, Lanarkshire. Thanks to Mrs. McCulloch for editing it.

The Scottish Trucker Club have elected a new committee as follows: Chairman - Brown Baron; Vice-Chairman - Haybob; Secretary - Motormouse; Treasurer - Steel Trooper; Membership Sec - Casey; Door Secretary - Basil Brush; Shop - Growler; Raffle - Garden Flea & Painter.

They held their Driving Competition on May 29th and the overall champion was Rough Peter. The Club were at Kirckaldy on July 3rd for the Fife Firemen's Benevolent Day, at which they lost the tug-of-war for the first time in five years. They had a lot of fun though, especially in the raft race when they decided to "pirate" the other rafts in the fun section! On the serious side, they were raising sponsored money by pulling a 16-ton fire engine along a ½-mile course. Just as the legs were beginning to tire, the foremen received a 999 call, which resulted in a quick loosening of knots. On the 16th July, the Club were at

Knockhill Racing Circuit for the Supertruck event. The club had their own stand and had dumb-bell and darts competitions, as well as a comedian to keep the crowd entertained. The weather was very unkind, but it cleared up a bit on Sunday for the main event.

The Old Timers CB Club are holding a Mass Eyeball & Dance on the 15th October in Glencarse Village Hall (off the A85 road to Dundee) from 2pm. There will be various stalls, refreshments and trade stands. Entrance fee £1.50 for Eyeball; £1.50 to dance; or £2 to both. Children - half price. SAE to PO Box 36, Perth, for further details.

Are you looking for a CB News Sheet that can be recorded onto tape for the blind and partially sighted breakers? Well, the answer is The Scottish CB News Sheet. Available to all who use CB radio, sent to home or club addresses around Britain, and recorded onto cassette. For your copy, written version or cassette, send a first-class stamp, plus your name and address to The Scottish CB News Sheet, "Arnail", Patison, Neilston, Glasgow G78 3AT.

Just to let you know, the J.C.B. Club meets every Tuesday evening in the City Lights, Johnston, Renfrewshire from 8pm onwards. Why not come along and enjoy a game of pool, darts or dominoes, or enjoy a chat over a pint. The Club is on the lookout for new members, and have done away with a lot of old rules and regulations, so that everyone can have a say in the running of the club.

Last, but not least, Papillon from Peterhead, near Aberdeen, would like to know if any CBers in his area are interested in setting up a new club. There are finances for printing of club cards and invitations. If anyone is interested, please contact Jim at 34 Bruckley Court, Meethill, Peterhead, Aberdeen AB4 6UF enclosing an SAE.

Any correspondence for the Scots Connection should be sent to PO Box 337, Neilston, Glasgow G78 3JP.

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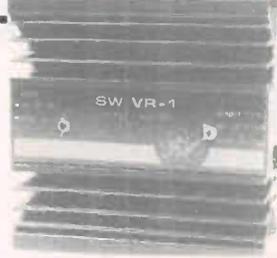


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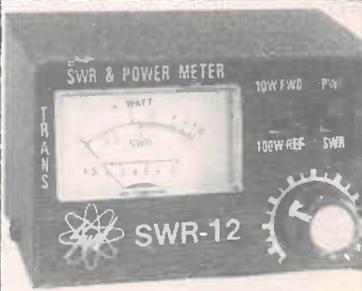
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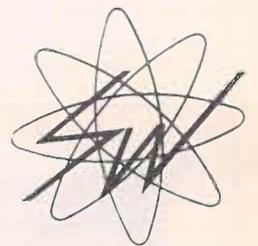
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SHARMAN'S WHOLESALE

Blaupunkt, audio wing of the multi-talented German company Bosch, have recently announced the addition of another two sophisticated radio-cassette units to their already very strong range of in-car equipment. The two sets are the Memphis SQR 88 and the Kingston SQR 48, priced at around £350 and £300 respectively. Both have auto-reverse tape mechanisms, tuners which embody some state-of-the-art electronics in the interests of performance and ease of use, and four-way outputs with inbuilt fader controls.

The Memphis, the more refined and powerful of the new pair, has a very full specification. Output from its integral amplifier is a claimed four × 22 watt (peak). Its tape deck has both B and C-type Dolby Noise reduction systems, automatic equalisation adjustment for differing tape formulations, and a

programme search facility, and it is controlled via "soft touch" buttons. The Memphis tuner section is a PLL (phase-lock loop) synthesiser type – as are virtually all the higher-quality designs nowadays – and utilises Blaupunkt's somewhat pretentiously-named but reputedly effective "Codem III reception concept" to provide a relatively clean signal even in heavily built-up or hill areas by eliminating undesirable multipath effects. It covers FM, MW and LW bands, with the capacity to store up to 20 stations (three × four FM, four MW, four LW) and offers a wide range of "user-friendly" convenience features, including preset scan as well as FM scan and manual/automatic seek in both directions.

The second unit, the Kingston, is very similar in concept to the Memphis. In effect, it's merely a slightly trimmed-down version of the same design, pitched at the next lower slot in

The only significant changes here are deletion of the Dolby C option and substitution of a manually selected "Metal" tape switch for the automatic equalisation. The Kingston's output is rated at a peak four × seven watts or two × 22 watts.

The Memphis and Kingston are each equipped with separate bass, treble, balance and fader controls and have pre-amp connections to facilitate coupling of additional amplification or equalisers, etc. A front-panel CD input socket is standard on the Memphis and optional on the Kingston.

A very important element in both the new sets is security. Rather than opting for the more straightforward thief-proofing measure of providing a pull-out mounting to make the equipment simple to take with you when you leave the car, Blaupunkt have chosen to do just about everything conceivable to make their units unusable by anyone else if and when purloined. The relative merits of



the market. It, too, has a three-waveband Codem III PLL tuner with manual and automatic up/down scan, FM auto-scan and a 20-preset station memory. All that's missing is the preset scan. The tape section has the same logic-programmed soft-touch controls, auto-reverse, programme search and Dolby B noise reduction.

the two approaches are endlessly debatable – a question of the effectiveness of prevention rather than cure (and personally, I tend to favour the certainty of the "take it with you" philosophy) – but there's no denying that Blaupunkt have done a very thorough job of making their 88 and 48 models unattractive targets for those miscreants

Mobile Music

TAKING THE MIKE MIKE MIKE

**Tango 21 attempts to
simplify the baffling
permutations of microphone
connections**

The following information and tables will enable you to wire any microphone to any of the transceivers listed. Most microphones utilise a four-wire system in their operation, even if a 5-pin connector is used. These four main functions are discussed below.

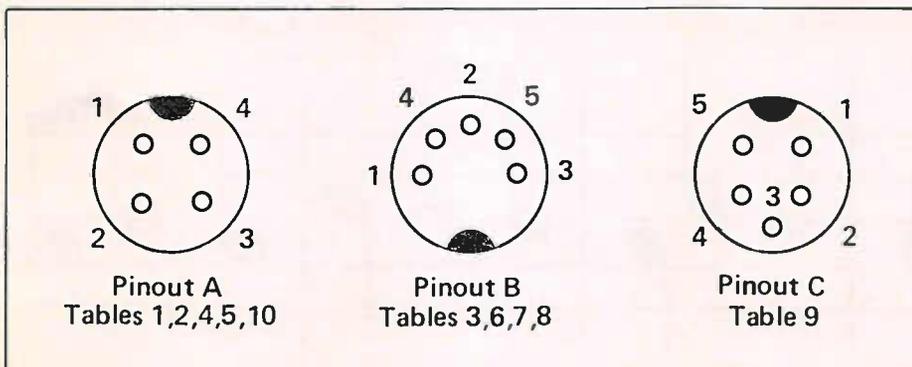
1) **SCREEN.** This is the copper braiding which is usually found wrapped around just one of the three remaining wires. The wire the screen is wrapped around is the **AUDIO** wire, and is there to stop the low-level signal from the microphone escaping and the rig from picking up hum and other electrical noises and interference. The **SCREEN** is also usually connected to the centre of the transmit/receive contact of the **PTT** (push-to-talk) switch.

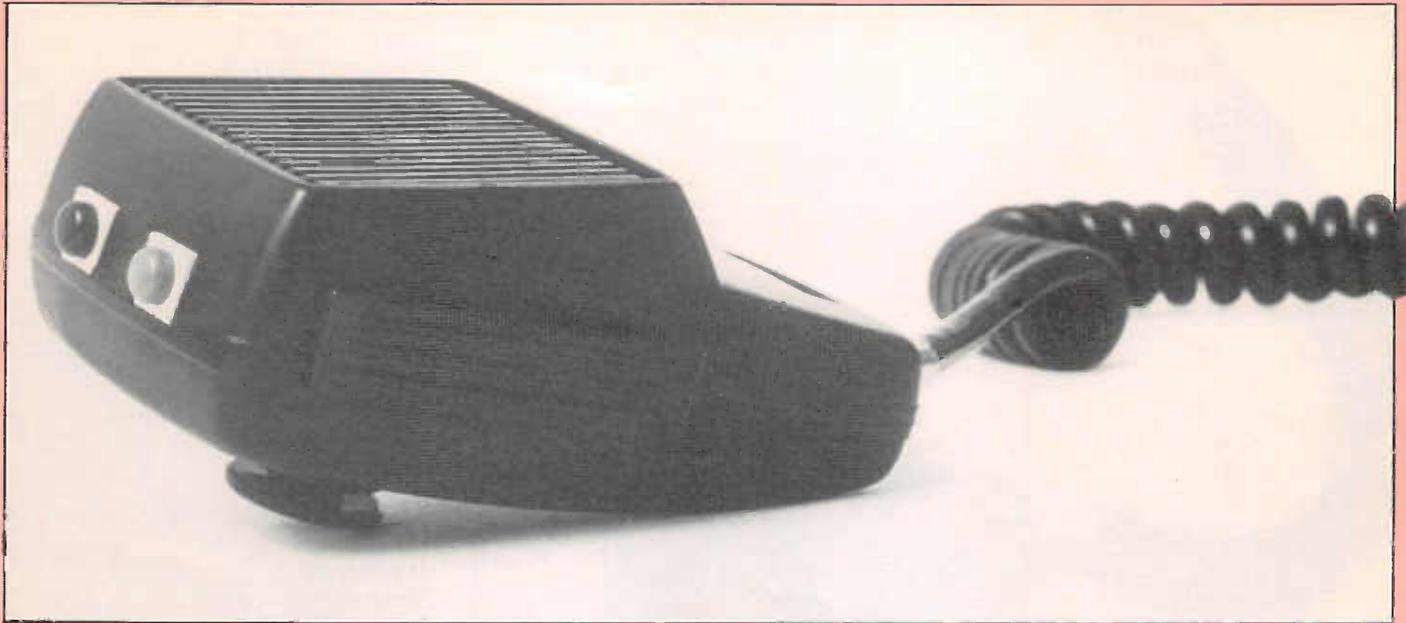
2) **AUDIO.** This is the wire, usually wrapped in the copper braiding of the **SCREEN** which carries the actual microphone signal, i.e. your voice into the transmitter. It is nearly always connected to the transmit switch on the microphone. The transmit switch has two functions, firstly to connect the actual microphone to the **AUDIO** wire on transmit, and secondly to switch the **SCREEN** or earth to either **RECEIVE** or **TRANSMIT** depending upon the mode you wish to select.

3) **TRANSMIT (TX)** The **TRANSMIT** wire is connected to the **PTT** switch so that upon pressing this switch into the **TRANSMIT** position, the **TRANSMIT** and the **SCREEN** are shorted together, therefore selecting the **TRANSMIT** mode on the rig.

4) **RECEIVE (RX)** The **RECEIVE** wire is connected to the **PTT** switch so that upon releasing this switch, i.e. its normal state, the **RECEIVE** and the **SCREEN** are shorted together, thereby selecting the **RECEIVE** mode.

Some transceivers do not require a **RECEIVE** connection because they use an electro-magnetic relay inside the rig which automatically returns to the receive position when the microphone **TRANSMIT** switch is released. Although at first sight this may seem an advantage, relay switching in the long term is usually less reliable than the more modern, and popular, electronic method of transmit/receive switching.





Interestingly enough, many current Private Mobile Radio (PMR) sets with which I work, use relay switching. The reason for this may well be to keep persons like myself in a job! Hardly a day goes by, at work, without me having to replace one of these relays.

One particular rig, the Shogun, has, on its fifth pin, a 12 volt output to enable you to power a speech processor microphone without the need for a battery. Why didn't other companies offer this facility, or are they all in the business of making batteries as well as CB sets!

The favourite connector of most CBers has to be the 4 pin Locking type of connector, wired as in pinout diagram 1, the Cybernet type of wiring system. My personal favourite, though, has to be the 5-pin DIN locking connector used on the "Realistic" range of equipment. The

replacement microphone which the Tandy stores sell has this connection already fitted to it, though it may be snipped off and the microphone re-terminated with a suitable connector for your rig, if you do not own one of the Realistic sets. In discussing this particular microphone, which Tandy's catalogue as 2101172, I have to mention that its construction differs from all the other units in so far as the way in which the actual PTT or TRANSMIT switch is mounted inside the casing. The two screws which hold the two halves of the case together pass right through the switch assembly making it surely the most sturdy CB type ordinary microphone on the market! I find that the plastic moulding which holds the switch in place in most other microphones tends to break, therefore rendering the whole microphone unit useless. This

moulding breakage problem, is another task I am asked to overcome every day in the busy PMR business in which I am employed. Out of all the microphones (other than the Realistic unit) the "Tect" seems to suffer mostly from this moulding breakage problem, and the "Altai" types seem to be in the "better than average" section of my personal microphone reliability list.

The comment "N/C" on my list of diagrams stands for 'No Connection' if you hadn't already guessed!

Although there is no standard colour code for replacement microphones the following is very often found:

Bare braid - SCREEN

Yellow - AUDIO

Red - TRANSMIT

Black - RECEIVE

I couldn't remember the colour code for the "Realistic" microphone 21-1172 mentioned above, but a quick trip to my local Tandy store managed to locate it, even if it meant unpacking a brand new unit out of the box. What shop managers have to put up with! I didn't even buy the unit!

Bare braid - SCREEN (or Shield as they call it)

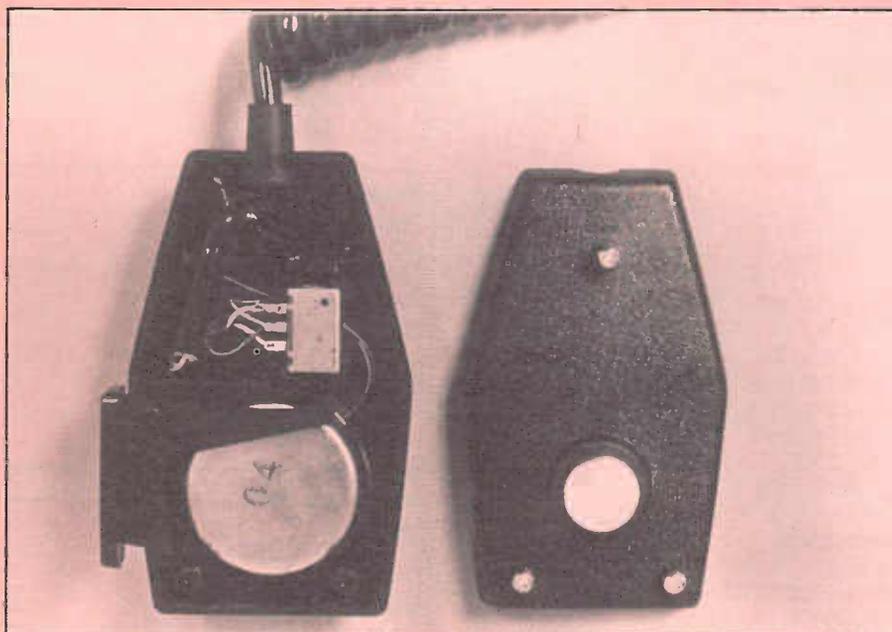
White - AUDIO

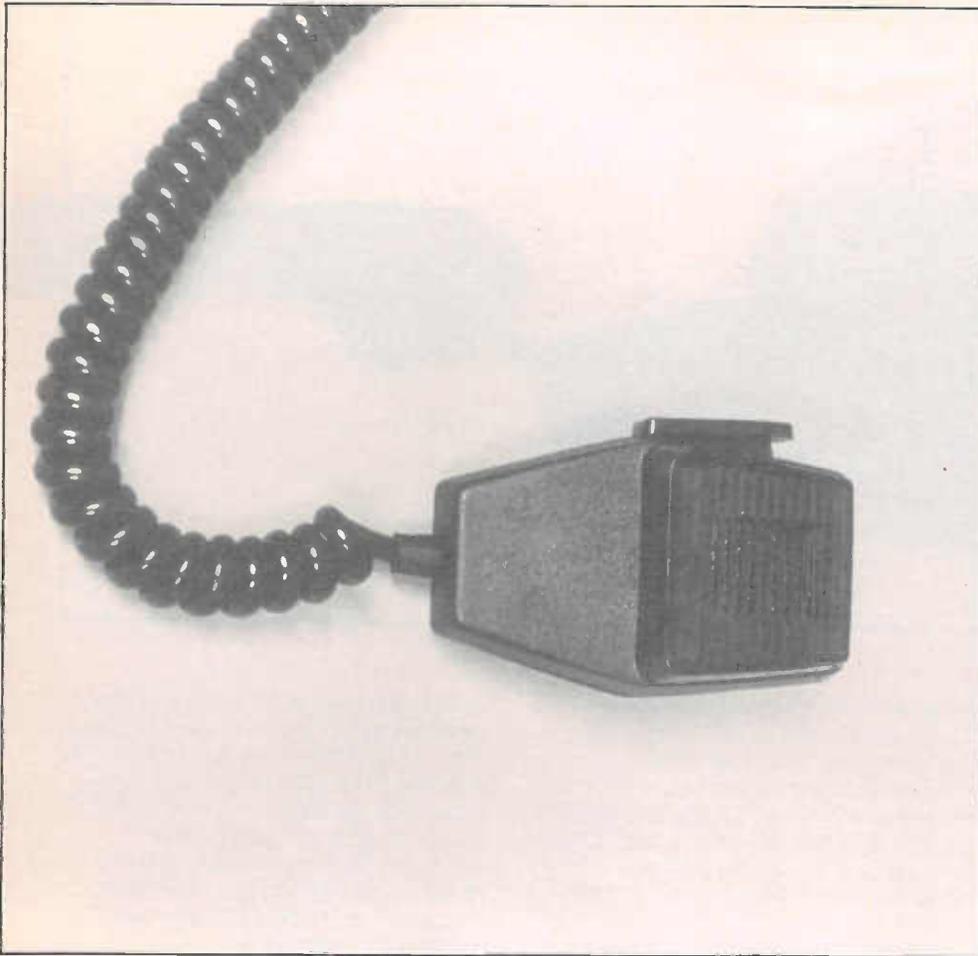
Red - TRANSMIT

Black - RECEIVE

Blue - UNUSED in most applications, but it is connected to the receive side of the microphone pole of the PTT switch, which all sounds very complicated but in reality it does give you a spare wire when one snaps in many years' time!

The ten different connection details are shown below, as are the plug connections, which are all shown from the solder side of the pins. In most cases, the microphone pins are numbered on the actual plug itself - but make sure that those numbers tally with my list as they can differ from maker to maker.





Fidelity CB2001FM	1
Ford Roadmaster 505	1
Grandstand Bluebird	8
Grandstand Gemini	8
Grandstand Hawk	1
Harrier CB	1
Harrier CBX	1
Harry Moss 325	1
Harvard 402MPA (H160)	1
Harvard H403 Good Buddy	1
Harvard 420M (H405)	1
Harvard H646	1
Icom ICB1050	1
JWR M2	1
Lake Manxman 850	5
Lame Manxman 950	5
LCL 2740	6
LCL Economy	6
LCL Enterprise	6
LOwe TX40	1
Maxcom 4E	3
Maxcom 6E	3
Maxcom Apollo 16E	3
Maxcom 20E	3
Maxcom 21E	4
Midland 2001	1
Midland 3001	1
Midland 4001	1
Murphy DS602	1
Mustang B1000	1
Mustang CB2000	1
Mustang CB3000	1
Radiomobile CB201	1
Radiomobile CB202	1
Realistic TRC2000	7
Realistic TRC2001	7
Realistic TRC2002	7
Realistic TRC2003 remote	Special

1	2
1 - AUDIO	1 - SCREEN
2 - SCREEN	2 - AUDIO
3 - RECEIVE	3 - TRANSMIT
4 - TRANSMIT	4 - RECEIVE
3	4
1 - AUDIO	1 - SCREEN
2 - TRANSMIT	2 - SCREEN
3 - SCREEN	3 - TRANSMIT
4 - SCREEN	4 - AUDIO
5 - RECEIVE	
5	6
1 - RECEIVE	1 - AUDIO
2 - TRANSMIT	2 - SCREEN
3 - AUDIO	3 - TRANSMIT
4 - SCREEN	4 - SCREEN
	5 - N/C
7	8
1 - SCREEN	1 - AUDIO
2 - N/C	2 - SCREEN
3 - TRANSMIT	3 - TRANSMIT
4 - AUDIO	4 - N/C
5 - RECEIVE	5 - RECEIVE
9	10
1 - AUDIO	1 - SCREEN
2 - SCREEN	2 - AUDIO
3 - TRANSMIT	3 - TRANSMIT
4 - RECEIVE	4 - N/C
5 - 12 VOLT FEED	

Make and Model	Pinout
Mobiles	
Academy CB501	5
Academy CB502	5
Alba CBM1	1
Amstrad CB900	1
Amstrad CB901	1
Audioline 340	2
Audioline 341	2
Audioline 34 remote	Special
Barracuda GT868	5
Barracuda HB940	1
Binatone Breakerphone	Special
Binatone Route 66	1
Binatone Speedway	1
Braemar PT40	1
Cheiza CB702	5
Cobra 21XFM	3
Colt 295	3
Commtron CB40F	3
Commтел GT858	5
Commтел GT868	5
Communicators NI440DX	1
Compact 40	1
Cosnam 1320	1
Cybernet Beta 1000	1
Cybernet Beta 2000	1
Cybernet Beta 3000	1
DNT M40	6
Domico Convoy 1	1
Eurosonic GT868 Euro II	5
Eurosonic Euro 2	1
Falcon FCB1281	1
Fidelity CB1000FM	5
Fidelity CB2000FM	1

Bases	
Atron CB5097	10
DNT B40FM	6
Fidelity 3000FM	5
Grandstand Base	10
Harvard H-404	1
Harvard H-407	1
Murphy CBH-1500	4
Realistic TRC3000	7
Wagner 506	10

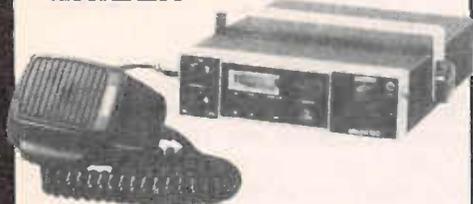
Handhelds	
Realistic TRC1001	7
Realistic TRC1005	7
Realistic TCR1007	7

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Chan/Freq 26.985 Mode FM	Station after so long.
Your Signal Report:-	Look forward to seeing
Strength 5 Radio 5	you in due course
QRM 1 QRN 2 QSB 1	
Wx	
Mobile / Home Base	
Rig Sharp 3500 SSB	
Ant Beam Mic Standard	
	From <i>David</i>
	<small>Printed by CQ Workshop, Peterborough. (0733) 46743</small>

a little later so don't worry about that just yet. If you intend to QSL with other QSL card collectors, you will need a card QSL, not a piece of photocopied paper from a local "copy shop". Mind you, those aren't cheap! Therefore I will ignore photocopy and "Home made" cards in general as they are so different it is impossible to make any comments on them which can apply to all. Please don't feel that I am running down "home-mades" as that is how so many people started QSLing. I myself did before moving onto a proper printed card. This was a few years back when there were very few printers willing or able to do QSL cards, or even knew what they were!

Anyway, whatever sort of style of QSL card you do decide on, the first thing is to settle on is your handle! If you've been in the "of' CB" then you can always use your existing CB handle. If you are coming into QSLing "cold", as it were, without a handle, then this is where you should start. What you pick as your handle is of course up to you,

"How do I get started in QSLing?" or "How do I join a QSL club?" or even "What does QSL stand for?"

These are just a few of the questions I get asked from time to time. In writing the main QSL column I never seem to have just enough room to fit in a "Beginner's Guide", so this is the result! A whole article for the beginner, and the established QSLer who may want a quick brush up!

So let's have a look at the questions; first, "What is a QSL card and what does QSL stand for?" Well, QSL is neither an abbreviation nor does it stand for anything such as ASP (Argus Specialist Publications) or RAC (Royal Automobile Club). It is, in fact, part of what is called the "Q-Code", a long list of 3-letter call codes taken from the internationally-recognised Q-Code listing. For example, a QSO is the actual conversation held over the air waves and a QSL is the written confirmation of that contact.

In the early days they were used almost exclusively by radio amateurs and these cards were plain and straightforward in that they simply recorded the date and time of the conversation, along with the strength and readability of the signals. Then a little info on the station sending the QSL card, and a few comments. (See Figure 1 for an example. QRM, QRN and QSB are references to static or other interference). The front of the card was usually reserved for the call letters of the station sending the card. Since then, the QSL card has been adopted by CB radio operators and has become a hobby all of its own. In the UK there are now many different firms who can supply you with almost any type of card to any possible design at a tremendous range of prices to suit all pockets. The purists will no

doubt disagree with a lot of what I say, but please remember, this article is about QSL card swapping and collecting as a hobby all of its own, not about the sending of a QSL after a QSO.

Pen Pals

Dragonrider One welcomes you to the world of QSLing – along with the perils and the pitfalls

So, "How do I get started in QSLing?" Contrary to popular belief, you don't actually need a radio! Obviously, if you intend to swap only with other radio users upon QSO (conversations, remember) then you will, but for the thousands of QSLers who swap and collect other cards through the post you don't, and it is you that this article is aimed at. How to start, that is one of the hardest parts of QSLing! First of all, you must accept that if you are going to be serious about the hobby, it is going to cost you! It is not a cheap hobby. Apart from the cost of your card, or cards, there is the postage required for each package you send out. I'll come back to what your QSL package should contain

though do try to make it as individual as possible. I know it is difficult to pick a handle which no one else has already but do give it some thought and don't rush into things. Ideas for your handle could come from your other hobbies, work, home, areas or family nickname even. Some handles suggest an illustration (for your card) more readily than others, but if you can't think of a design to go with your handle, or if you are as useless as I am at drawing, have a word with a printer about getting their artist to have a go at one of your behalf.

So, I'll assume that you now have your handle picked, and maybe a design for your card thought out. Now you should think about what sort of card you want to

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pick. There are many different types available to the QSLer, both new and established. The best way of finding out which sort is the one you want is to write to each of the printers mentioned within these magazines. There are usually a few addresses given in the QSL column, others advertise in the small ads at the back of each magazine. Write and ask them for a sample pack and price list, but don't forget to enclose a sensible-sized SASE for their reply! SASE? That's a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope. A good size for this purpose is about A5, and stamp it for about 100 grams, check at your local post office if you are unsure how much that is at present. Most printers give these sample packs free, but one exception is Raymac Design who charge £2 but include a £4 credit voucher against any future order of £18 or more.

A good idea for a new QSLer is perhaps to "test the water" with a single colour (of ink) on a plain card, just to see how things go, and to make sure you will enjoy QSLing. As I say, there are many different types of QSL card available from the various QSL printers here in the UK. Many of these specialist printers also have dedicated collectors and numbered series cards. Some of the types available include matt white card, coloured card, multi-coloured card, textured card, gloss card, hot-foil cards and even plastic card (Raymac). The cheapest is, of course, matt white card with one colour of ink. Then the sky is the limit, depending on what special effects you want. As I said, for a new QSLer, perhaps a single colour of ink on

a plain white card would be best to get yourself started in QSLing. After all, you may find that you don't have the time to spare or it is costing you more than you had expected.

Once you have decided on the design of your card you will have to decide who to get it made by. One very important point that I always try to stress is that when you have a QSL card made, no matter how or what sort it is, please do remember to have your name and return address put on it so that people can return their cards to you! The amount of cards I see without any address on, or with the address written on and all but unreadable! The return address should be put on each card you send out and be as clear as possible and should also include the country! Try to get this done by the printer, but if it is too late, then I recommend using a pre-printed label supply firm such as Vine Lodge of Boston. If your writing is as bad as mine you'll know what I mean! There are exceptions to this idea of having your address on every card, but this applies mainly to Collector Series cards; more on these later! After all, the whole idea of the hobby is to swop and collect other people's cards and if you don't have a proper card, you may find it very difficult to get some people to swop with you.

OK, prices! Well, I've three different firms' lists in front of me and they cover the full range of card types and prices. If you were to go for one printer's "Stock QSL" cards, these are ready printed to a set design with room for you to put your name and return address on, and cost as little as £2.50 per 100. The same printer can supply you with 1,000 personal QSL cards for as little as £17.50. Another printer will supply you with 500 personal QSL cards and 500 eyeball cards on "sandgrain embossed

artboard' for £21. Yet another firm can offer you hot foil QSL cards for as little as £7.50 per 100. Now, these hot foils are very special and are made using coloured foil put on your card by heat treatment, hence the name. The £7.50, by the way, is for cards with words only. If you wish a design on the front of the card, then the cost is £18.50 for the first 100, as this requires a special plate making, but reprints cost only £7 per 100. Full-colour cards range from £58 per 1,000 to £70-£80, again depending on which printer you use and what you want on your card.

I hope I haven't put you off by quoting all these prices, but don't forget, there's still the postage on each QSL you send out! Assuming I haven't, and that you now have sent off your design and payment to the printer of your choice, what do you do now? Wait! As I suggested earlier, do not rush into things, think it through. Once you have your QSL card, then you can start to really QSL. It's a bit pointless writing to clubs or QSLers asking to swop cards with them when you don't actually have any of your own yet!

After a little while, the postman knocks on your door and there it is, a parcel of QSL cards just waiting for you to get sending them out. So now what do you do? Well, the best way to start is to look at the regular QSL pages in this very magazine! I know, blowing my own trumpet, but it's right! Each month I include a selection of the names and cards of various QSLers who send me their cards. You could be there too, you know, if you send me one or two of your brand new cards! My address and "How to" is usually in each month's main QSL column. Also, a limited number of QSL clubs from around the world. For a new QSLer I would recommend that you start

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off "local" regarding clubs, and stick to British clubs at first, and get the hang of it before spreading your wings and sending off to join the overseas clubs.

Having opened your parcel of cards, how do you go about joining one, or more, of the many QSL clubs all over the UK? Basically you get a number of your personal cards together, usually between five and ten, sign and date them and send them with an application form and return postage or the required fee required. If you are joining without an application form, after seeing the club mentioned in the magazine, then say so, explain where you saw the club's name and details and ask for membership. If you prefer to use the club's own application form then write to the club and ask for one. But as with all requests for any information to any QSL club or service, please remember to include an SASE for their reply. If you don't send return postage when writing for info, don't complain if you don't get a reply! Most clubs are run for enjoyment and

Plus, of course, your request for membership; either an application form or letter. In return for this, you can normally expect to receive your club unit number, some forms for the club for you to pass on as your QSL, some exchange cards (known as "floaters") and a few forms for other clubs which the club you have just joined feels happy to recommend. Also there is usually some sort of welcome letter and a price list of what extras the club has to offer. In many cases there could also be an ID card and probably a few stickers thrown in for good measure, not forgetting some tourist info leaflets from the club's area. The fee-charging club usually has a similar package, but also includes a rubber stamp and certificate of some sort. Also, depending on the cost of membership, there could also be some club cards and perhaps even a club cloth patch. When joining any QSL club do please read the application form, it often gives information on how to join that club and what the club asks of you

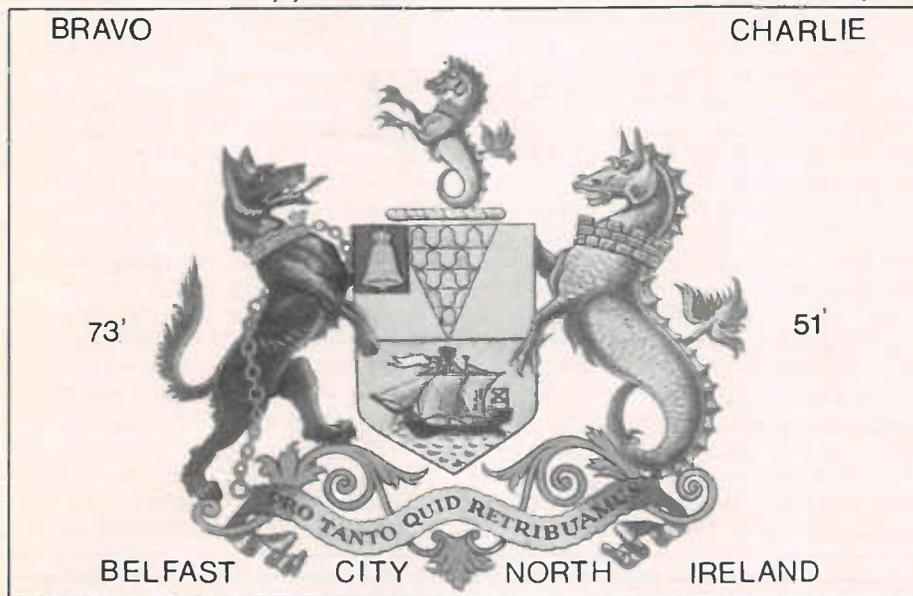


a couple of local interest leaflets. These are often available from your local Tourist Information office, or library.

When you get a little more established in QSLing, you will probably build up a supply of other people's floaters, you can put these in with your QSL package for other people to send their cards to. All this helps build up your QSL package into one that is a real pleasure to receive. One point to watch, however, is that the weight of the envelope does not exceed 60 grams, otherwise you should check it at your local post office because that is all that a single first or second class stamp will cover! Not a good impression to send out a QSL package only to have it arrive at its destination with postage due!

With a package from a fee-charging club, you will also probably have a number of club cards and a rubber stamp. After a while, you can build up quite a number of these stamps and can really cover the envelope with impressions of the club stamps you might have, and if you can remember them, write your unit number on as well! It is often appreciated by other members of the club in question to see how popular a club is. You can also tell just how popular a club is by the numbers in a club! Don't try to judge fee-charging clubs against any free membership ones, though, as you will find that there is no guide there. Some clubs now offer to have their cards personalised for you are various prices.

I hope I'm not confusing you by all this talk of the different types of cards, but, just in case I am, here's a brief explanation of these. The first is a straightforward blank club card. This is sold by the club as a standard card which helps advertise the club, raise



are financed out of the president's or founder's pockets!

One point here is that you should always use your own *personal* cards when joining any QSL club, and *not* a club's card! Club cards are used *with* your own cards, and should *never* be used instead of your own! So, you've picked the club, or clubs, you wish to join first. It (or they) may be free membership, or one which charges a fee to join. The main difference between a free membership club and the fee-charging clubs is the size of standard package and its contents. With the free clubs, you send your cards and a sensible-size SASE, the best size for this is about the same as an A5 sheet of paper stamped to between 100-150 grams. For the current postal rates, please check at your local post office.

when you apply, and even how to pay (where necessary).

So now you've got your first QSL club package and membership. What do you do now? Well, the cards you send to the club when you joined will go into the pile of members' floaters which will be passed on in due course to other new members. Those you have been sent as part of your club package are for you to send your cards to personally. By this, I mean that you now send one of your cards, dated, signed and with a brief, or long message. It's up to you, stating where you got their name or card from, and asking for card for your own collection make out to you. Your card, personalised to that person, should be accompanied by a few others of your own "floaters" made out to "QSL Friend", signed and dated and perhaps

funds for the club as it can continue to grow and will often have room for your own details to either be written on the reverse, or have a sticker put on somewhere. Then there is the personalised club card. Again, these are available via the club and there are two types of these. The first is available in small quantities which the club can arrange to have your own details, name, handle, unit number and address "over-printed" on the cards. Then there are the cards which are personalised at the printer's which, again, have all your details put on, but which is done when the cards are actually printed. The quantities for this type usually run at about 500-plus. The final main type is the personal card. This is the one that is yours, decided on, paid for and used only by you! This is the card that you should be using to QSL other QSLers and/or collectors with. By all means, use club cards as part of your QSL package, but always *with* your own card, never instead of them, please!

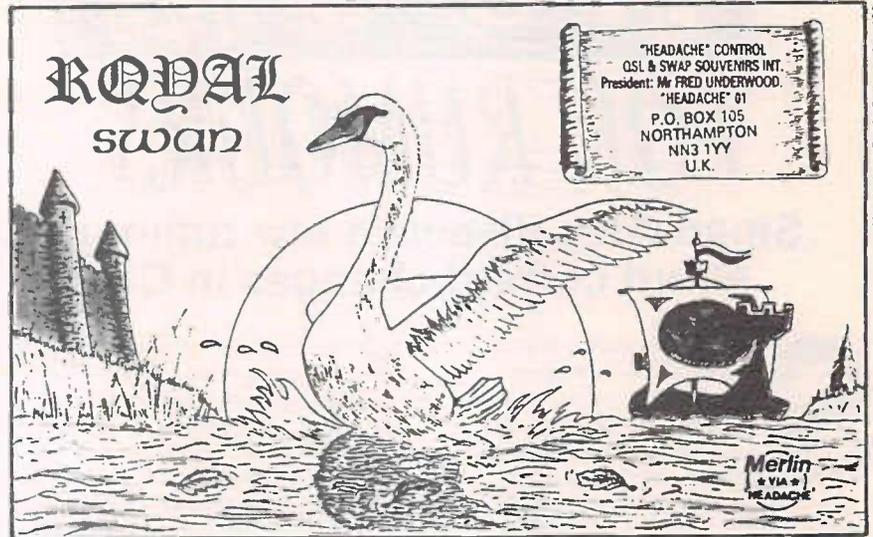
I said earlier that you should always have your address on your cards. Well, this is not always the case with what are classed "Collector Series Cards". These are in a class of their own and are collected as much for the fact that they are part of a series as for being QSL cards. There are often specialist clubs for each series, and the collectors have "needs lists" which show which card(s) they have, or "control" and which cards in the series they still want. When you get a card without an address, don't assume it's part of a series, it may just be that for some reason that when it was ordered, the QSLer neglected to tell the printer to put a return address on. Just how that QSLer expects to get any replies I don't know, do you? If it is a

"collector card" then look along the sides for a code number of some sort. If the card does have a number, but no address, it may have "Controlled by No. XXXX" which means that you'll have to find card No. XXXX to find out who to return your QSL to in an effort to swop with the holder! Difficult!

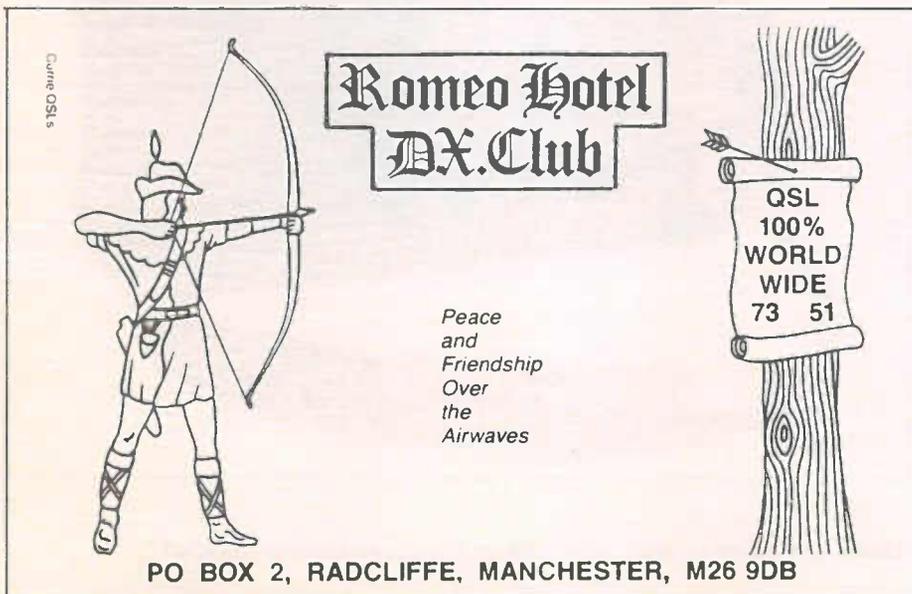
After a while you might decide that you feel confident enough to join a QSL club outside the UK. How can you pick which one, indeed from which country? When you join most UK clubs, you should receive as part of your club package a number of other clubs' application forms. These are a selection of the clubs that the club you have just joined has found to give good value and recommendable. The clubs' own application forms are for you to pass on

if you are happy with the club pack. In the *selection* of "Other Club Applications" you will probably find at least one club from outside the UK. To join one of these you will find that you have to send cash money as cheques, postal orders, etc., will not be accepted. Read the application form carefully, as some clubs will only accept US dollars or their own country's currency and not UK sterling. You should be able to get whichever currency required through your bank, but be prepared to pay extra! The case should be sent along with your application and cards which should show your *full* address. The safest way to send this is to place the notes between some of the cards and send it via Registered Post. This way, if the package gets lost in the post you should have some sort of come back by claiming.

This, I hope, will have given you a few guidelines on how to get started in QSLing, and how to send out a good QSL package. Once you have got yourself established in QSLing, you may decide to go for a second, or third card, the choice is entirely up to you! The main requirement is that you enjoy yourself in the hobby, and follow the spirit of QSLing wherever possible. If you receive five or six cards from one person, try to send an equal number back; that's called 1-4-1 QSLing. One last point, never copy someone else's card or design; that's piracy! And *never* photocopy a club or personal card and try to pass it off as your own as that can lay you open to legal proceedings as again this is piracy, which is just another word for theft! As I say, enjoy QSLing and collecting of QSL cards, you'll gain a lot of friends this way!



Headache - Currie Collector No. 466



ROOM FOR RUMOURS

Smart Alec dispels a few rumours about current changes in CB

So it's rumour time again. Every now and again they crop up and the silly season seems to be upon us again. They come in from all over the country, usually from somebody whose mate's aunt has a sister whose best friend is married to a guy who lives next door to the woman who cleans for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and so is privy to all the darkest secrets of the Milk Marketing Board, MI5 and, of course, the DTI. Let's take a quick look at just a few from the latest crop.

From the letters column of a recent edition of *Citizens' Band* I learn that we are soon to be allowed to use AM and SSB, as well as the now familiar FM; from any number of sources I am reliably informed that it will be illegal to use 934MHz after the end of this year, while the same reliable sources tell me that the government intends to phase out the original UK 27MHz frequencies within two years at the most and even if they don't, it will soon be impossible to buy a UK standard rig because the Japanese have stopped making the chip for them, and anyway there are hundreds of new services, all clamouring for that particular slice of the spectrum.

Now I keep my ear pretty close to the ground and I am always keen to learn something new, especially where CB is concerned, so I lap up such stories eagerly. I know I should know better. I know I will only end up disappointed when the latest tit-bit turns out to be nothing more than just another unfounded rumour. Nevertheless, I listen and, being a trusting fellow, I take it all in.

Like heck I do!

CB is all about communication, so it is easy to see how they spread but I would give a lot to discover just where these rumours originate. Perhaps they get them out of breakfast cereal packets? I suspect that many of them start because somebody has misunderstood what they have either read or heard, while others come from the fertile

imaginings of the 'I know something you don't' brigade, who are not adverse to embellishing the facts to improve their own image. In either case, the real pity is that the rumours soon take on the aura of fact and before long large numbers of breakers are treating them as gospel, usually without taking the trouble to check whether they are true. To make matters worse, many do not even believe the rumours are wrong when it is pointed out to them, preferring to believe the original rumour because they heard it on the air. If CB has such power, what can television do?

Let's examine the current crop of 'facts'. Take, for example, the recently published view of a breaker who was, to use his own words, "fed up with being pushed around by the DTI." He seems to believe that since other European

countries currently use SSB it will soon be legal in this country. From this, he appears to blame the DTI for having made him give up his SSB gear, then changing their minds and causing him to fork out for a new SSB rig. I strongly advise him not to bother. The DTI have repeatedly said that they will not even consider introducing either AM or SSB for use at 27MHz and they were quick to repeat this fact to us when we rang them to check on the latest rumour. *There is not an ounce of truth in the rumour that we are to be allowed to use either AM or SSB!*

If those who have fostered this belief would take the trouble to examine the official CEPT specification on which the pan-European system is to be based, they might notice that it calls for European standardisation on FM and makes no mention whatever of any other mode of transmission. Furthermore, only FM rigs can be granted the type approval without which their use will not be permitted. Yes, we know that some European administrations currently allow either AM, SSB or both and we freely admit that we do not know how, or even if they propose to outlaw them in the near future but it is worth bearing in mind that pretty soon it will not only be illegal to install or use an AM or SSB rig, it will also be illegal to sell, advertise or own one in this country.

What of the rumoured withdrawal of 934MHz at the end of the year? If this were true, I, for one, would be extremely



Above: the Albrecht 4002, designed for European standardisation?

worried on behalf of those who have invested heavily in what has proven to be a very effective band. However, as the Radiocommunications Division have been at great pains to point out, it is not true! What is true is that they are about to withdraw the technical specification to which 934MHz rigs were manufactured but this does not affect the user, only the manufacturers and importers, who will then have to rely on their existing stocks. The truth is that although it will no longer be possible to either manufacture or import 934MHz rigs it will still be legal to use them and you WILL be able to renew your present licence when it runs out. *There is not an ounce of truth in the rumour that 934MHz is being closed down at the end of this year, or next year, for that matter!*

What is true, as we have pointed out in recent months, is that the government, in common with a number of European administrations, is considering introducing a new style of service, to be called Short Range Radio, on the band 933 to 935MHz, but this certainly will not happen before, at the very earliest, 1990 and, even when it does, you will still be allowed to continue using your present 934MHz rig. Neither will the introduction of SRR, if and when it comes, automatically mean increased interference to existing CB users. The channel allocation proposed for SRR will put it in between the existing CB channels and, even if this were not the case, the fact that SSR rigs will be designed to operate only on a channel which is not already in use will mean that they will completely ignore any CB channel on which conversation is already taking place.

Never mind, perhaps there is a bit more truth in the rumours about the loss of the old 27MHz frequencies. After all, we have got the Eurochannels now, so perhaps we are about to lose the ones we started out on.

Afraid not! Although a review of the use of various parts of the spectrum, including the band from 27.5 to 27.9MHz, is due within the next couple of years, the government has not plans to reallocate any part of the 27MHz band to any other service and the DTI have assured us that no-one else has even shown any interest in this particular block of frequencies, which gives the lie to the suggestion that everybody and his dog is waiting to grab them off us.

A DTI spokesman recently told us; "There is always pressure on the spectrum and, just as CBers did in the late seventies, people are always asking us to make new allocations to them but, in general, there is very little demand for that part of the band below 30MHz."

Despite all rumours to the contrary, they continue to assure us that the 27MHz band will remain intact so long as it has a significant number of users.



Above: the Uniden 400 – probably the first CEPT rig in the UK.

Of course nothing is carved in stone and no-one can give a cast-iron guarantee that things will be the same in twenty years time but all the signs are that there is a good deal of life in the old dog yet. *There is not an ounce of truth in the rumour that the DTI wants to remove the top 40 channels within the next two years, or even within the foreseeable future!*

So perhaps they will get the manufacturers to do it for them? After all, if nobody makes the chip the rigs are based on then it won't be long before it's impossible to buy one anyway, and isn't that just as effective as removing them from our licences?

Wrong again! It is true that many of the rigs which have become household names over the past seven or eight years relied on a microprocessor made by the Japanese electronics giant, Sanyo. It is equally true that Sanyo have taken the commercial decision to discontinue manufacture of this particular chip. However, by far the largest manufacturer of CB gear in the world is the Uniden Corporation, whose rigs can be found in every country which has a CB facility, no matter what the standard might be. All Uniden rigs rely on a microprocessor made exclusively by Uniden themselves and, so far as we have been able to ascertain, Uniden have no plans to stop making the chips that drive their British rigs. *There is not an ounce of truth in the rumour that before long it will be impossible to buy a new rig to use on the top 40 channels!*

I first got involved with CB back in the mid-seventies, when CB itself was little more than a rumour and when what few breakers there were all relied on the twenty three channel rigs which the Americans had just de-legalised. (You could listen for days without hearing a single signal). In the years before

legalisation we were bombarded with rumours. Either someone claimed to know just when and in what form it was to become legal (They were invariably wrong), or someone else had proof positive that there was to be a massive crackdown and we were all to be busted (It never actually materialised but it sure added to the excitement). First it was to be 27MHz and then someone had incontrovertible evidence that we were to be offered twenty three, forty, or even eighty channels on some obscure frequency that nobody, let alone the government, had even considered. When they were not spreading rumours about legalisation these same prophets were busy trying to convince me that my telephone was being tapped, my mail intercepted and the colour of my socks logged in a file somewhere in the depths of who-knows-where. Others even assured me that all press and media discussion of CB had been banned by means of nothing less than a D Notice. The fact that I and others had recently taken part in two television programmes on the subject did nothing to deter them from this view, so who was I to argue?

In more than ten years little has changed. Rumours still abound and, unfortunately, there are still a large number of breakers prepared to believe as gospel absolutely anything they hear on the air. Perhaps they should bear in mind that Citizens' Band has regular direct contact with the DTI's Radiocommunications Division and that the first thing we do when we hear a new rumour is to check it out with them, no matter how unlikely we consider it to be. So, next time you hear that CB is about to be nationalised or even made compulsory, remember, if it were true we would be the first to tell you all about it. By the way, have you heard the one about . . . ?

Miss (Adult) Eyeball - Janet Flanagan



Tartan Lad and Highways



MASS EYEBALL

This annual and very popular event is the work of the Cree valley Breakers Club and it is held at the Gatehouse of Fleet, Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland. The club itself has been going for around seven years and although it is not an excessively large club, they do work very hard on this event and others. Over the years, they have managed to raise over £3,000 which they have donated to both local and national charities. The present committee members are: President (*The Duke*); Vice-President (*The Joiner*); Treasurer (*White Swan*) and Secretary (*Wanton Woman*). Although, they maintain that, because of the very friendly atmosphere, every club member is regarded as a committee member. However, for this event the main person in charge on behalf of the club is Murray (*Saltire*).

Crossing the "border" has never been a problem since the wall disappeared, and before too long you can find yourself taken in by the superb views across the Solway Firth and Wigtown Bay. Views that are even better as you

turn into the Auchenlarie Holiday Farm. It is set out in such a way as to allow every caravan a view out to sea and on occasions as far as the Isle of Man. The caravans themselves are very well equipped - including colour television and shower. Even the cost of electricity and gas are included in the price so, once you've paid your money to the club you haven't got to worry about finding 50ps for the meter. The site caters for most people's tastes and has its own shop, restaurant, machine arcade, two bars (one being the clubhouse) etc., and what's more - the natives are friendly!

Over the whole weekend, "The Smugglers Tryst Bar" plays a very important role in the fun and entertainment that takes place from Friday night until Sunday night, offering a different type of live musical entertainment for each evening.

From the outset, you could tell that those present were out to enjoy themselves, as by 9pm Friday a bevvvy of ladies had already debagged Rock-a-Jock on the dance floor. Leaving him to try to contain his "pride" under a broken trouser zip - and this was only Friday evening! As you would

expect to find with a Scottish Eyeball, even after the dancing had finished, you can always find a party to go to in one of the caravans.

By Saturday morning the two bars were being used to offer the breakers' trade stands including one from Superduck, Des Currie, Scottish CB News Sheet and The Monitor, whilst judging took place for Miss Junior Eyeball (won by Nicola Lowrey from Kendal). Then followed the adult breakers' competitions to win the darts and dominoes contest. Girvan Breakers won the Howard Hughes Trophy and the darts competition was won by Nitro Express and Jack High. Saturday night's guest spot was by Clem Allan, a Scottish singer/comedian and the man who also had the task of picking the Miss Eyeball contest. His eventual winner from the superb lineup was Janette Flannigan. By this time the Tryst was full to capacity with breakers and the bar staff all going flat out to serve the drinks. Some 300+ breakers had packed into the clubhouse bar from clubs such as Solway Pirates, Girvan Breakers, 2nd City Breakers, Sierra Tangos, Kendal & District Breakers, English Lakes DX, WB CB



Glamorous Granny line-up.

Club, Busy Bee CB Team, Delta Romeo International, NWCBC, MSGB and Tango Papa CB Club.

The high spot of the evening was The Glamorous Gran Contest. But this was no ordinary contest! The line-up of ladies had to go into the audience and retrieve certain items, including "a cluster of a man's chest hair", a man's shirt and a pair of men's trousers! All these items and more had to be bought to the stage within a specific time period and each time they came back, the last one back was disqualified. That was my cue to make a dash for the back of the hall and leave those at the front to suffer! The winner of this was judged to be Tartan Lass, who even managed to get the man's trousers on (back to front).

Sunday morning came and went, and it was just into the afternoon before most of the breakers had ventured out into daylight and down to the clubhouse for the Club's Quiz. For this, you had to enter a team of three and they competed against another team on general knowledge questions. The eventual winners were "Stooges" who fought off some very stiff competition. Although some breakers had decided to go home of Sunday afternoon, it still left at least 150 to enjoy the Country & Western Evening. For many, it was a chance to bring out the Stetsons for the final night of the Eyeball. Breakers such as: *King Prawn, Gonzo, Streetstalker, Evil Edna, Spark Plug, Winalot, Kennelmaid, Big H, Blue Rose, Midnight Sun, Pyro, Night Nurse, Crystal, Stockman, Sunray, Snap Happy, Big Anvil, Super Six, Red Diamond, Tapestry Man, Robin, Tartan Special, Tartan Terror, Laminator, Sea Farer, Cinderalla, Maid Marion, Firecracker* and, last but

not least, *White Heather and Bunny* (who cooked the grub). These breakers and many more besides made it a great weekend. My thanks to all those and those who I have failed to mention.

It was, as I have said before, a great weekend full of those things that make Scottish Eyeballs "special". The Cree Valley Breakers know how to look after people, and I know that a number of people have already put their names down for next year. So, for those of you who want to get away from it all next year and like a laugh, contact the club via: PO Box 1, Wigtown, Dumfries, Scotland DG8 9HA.

Glamorous Granny with Tartar Terror



A good time was had by all



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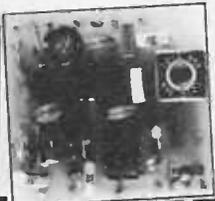
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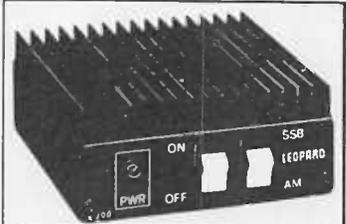
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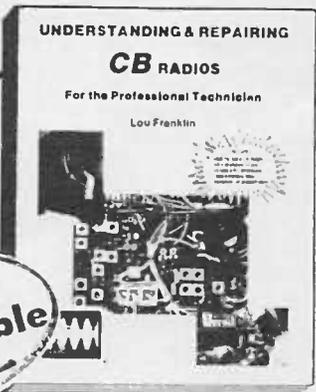
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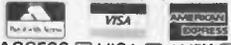
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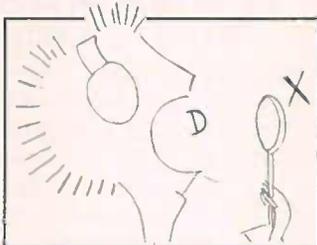
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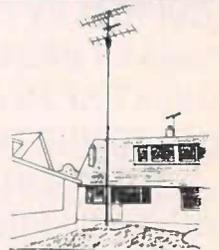
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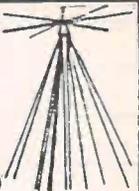
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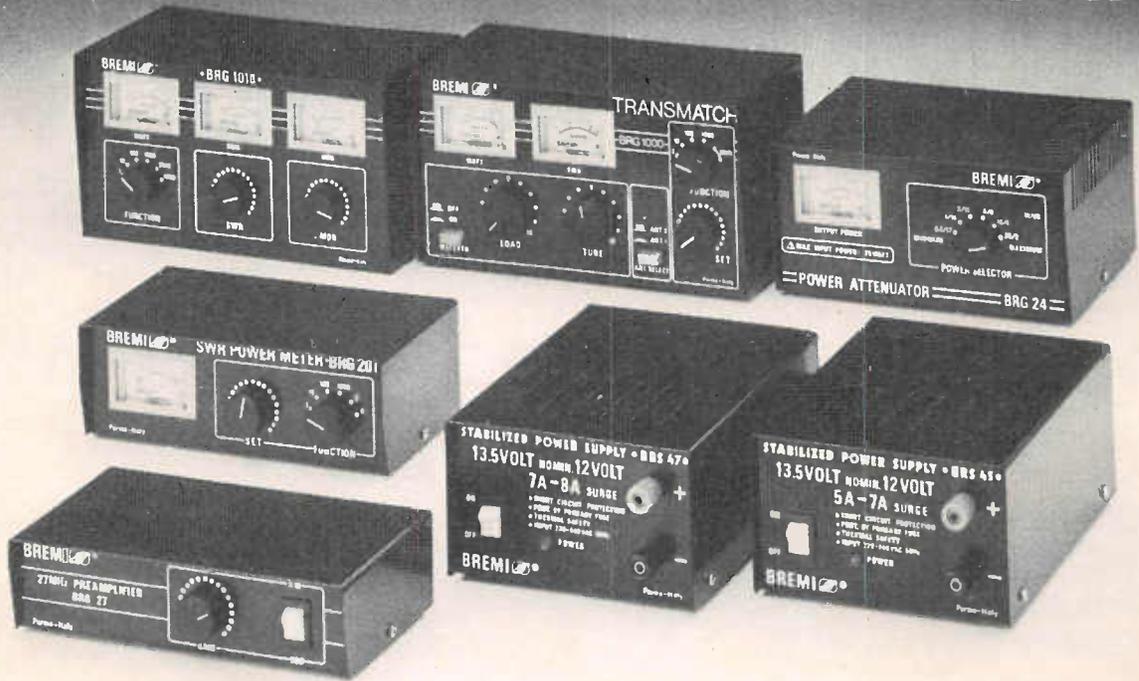
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