

R16-1-1

OLD RADIO SHOP
--Grant Manning,

Notes on Drake's SSR-1, AUTEK's QF-1, and the
Kenwood QR-666 receiver, and a bit more Barlow Wadley

Kenwoods new QR-666 receiver (\$289 at your local radio dealer) isn't bad at all until you get to the tuning dials! It is fully transistorised, and covers 170kHz to 30MHz in six bands, and is double conversion in the high SW band. It has a mechanical filter, and a selectivity "broad" - "sharp" switch, which puts a 455kHz ceramic filter in and out of the second IF amplifier transistor. This works quite well.

The receiver is quite good looking, and works well considering the price. The dials however are the old "guess where you are" type readout, with plus or minus 20kHz on BCB. Other than that, not bad...

The Barlow Wadley can be modified easily by using the above method of obtaining additional selectivity in the IF stages. The ceramic filters used in the Kenwood receiver fit the BW nicely, making it better and better. The filters cost around \$1.50 each, and are available from Kenwood-Trio.

NEW DRAKE RECEIVER SSR-1



As reported here first, Drake Co has come out with a new receiver, or they are in the process of, shall we say. It appears from what I've been able to glean (both second hand, and directly from Drake) it is a Japanese version of the Barlow Wadley XCR-30.

They have a "tentative" specification sheet out, but other than confirming via a block diagram that it is the same as the XCR-30, (except for they start out with a 10MHz xtal oscillator instead of a 1MHz as in the BW) it doesn't say much.

From what I've heard, the tuning isn't as nice as it could be, and it is quite a bit bigger than the BW. Price seems to be over \$300, but I've now heard several versions of that too! (They are all over \$300 though.) More as soon as I can get info.

ONE of the best go-fast DXing aids I've seen to date has to be the latest effort by AUTEK RESEARCH, namely a fully selective active audio filter.

This is something the DX scene has needed for a long time, and although not new, nobody ever bothered to make one. Being an audio filter it will remove a het from almost anything, even an old tape recording. It is probably an outgrowth of the "Q Box" which was a CW filter available a year or so ago, by the same company.

This one is far different. It can be used for AM, FM, SSB, to peak a signal, to notch it, remove TV buzz, cut down powerline hash etc. It can be used with any receiver, and on one like my R-390A, which has a fine IP, but no notch, really does a job. On the SPH-4, it gives you two notches, and if you dabble in SWBC, say around 60 meters, it sure cleans up the hets!

AUTEK has available two models. The QF-1, pictured below (I hope!) and the QF-2, which is designed to be built into a receiver. It runs \$32.95.

Model QF-1 only \$52.95

The finest available. 115 VAC, 50/60 Hz. 1 watt output for room-filling speaker volume, or plug in headphones. Everything supplied. Just plug into ANY receiver or transmitter headphone jack, or connect to speaker terminals if no jack. 8 IC OF AMPS plus 2 power transistors. Two circuit boards. Handsome metal cabinet. 5" x 4" x 3 1/2". 2 lbs.



I have used this box with all my receivers, including the Barlow, and at the recent SCADS meet really got some comments from veteran DXers. If you have no available notch, and don't have a good IF strip in what you now own, or, if you want one of the best DXing aids I've ever seen, buy yourself one of these for Christmas! More information, and spec sheets available from AUTEK for asking. Their address:

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