

R34-10F2

GRUNDIG AUTOSUPER WELTKLANG 3010A

By Paul Swearingen

As far as I am concerned, there are auto radios and there are auto radios, but for *M* *D*'ing there is the Grundig autosuper weltklang 3010 a, whatever that means. This compact-car receiver rivals much more expensive receivers with super selectivity and excellent sensitivity, great audio, and a bonus of mono FM and LW. Hooked to a 100' long-wire, it is as sensitive as my H₄-180, and although it will tune most of the LA splits heard in Kansas it is not quite as selective as the H₄-180 but more selective than the Realistic TRF (12-655).

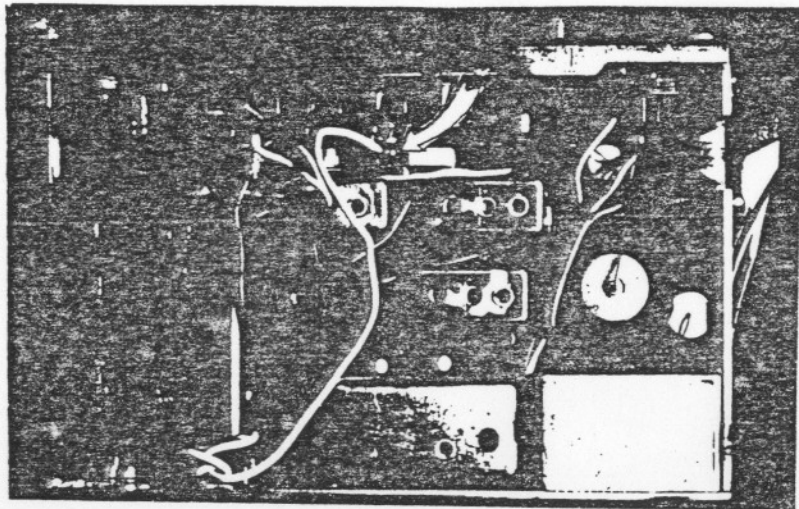
In the November-December, 1976, issue of Elementary Electronics, Gary McClellan described in detail how to convert auto radios for home use by adding a power supply, speaker, and cabinet. (The article was reprinted in the 1979 Radio Experimenter.) Coincidentally, the radio shown on the first page of the article appears to be very similar to my rx, although his apparently covers the full US FM spectrum and mine only tunes to 104.1. Three pushbuttons are used for switching from band to band, and a fourth button mutes the sound ... sort of a high-low tone switch.

I have no idea of where you can expect to find this radio or what you might expect to pay for it. Mine was part of the deal for a Fiat 550 Sport Coupe, but I found that the rx did not have enough power to overcome inherent road noise (part of it from a disintegrating muffler) and *RM* from the electrical system. So I yanked it and tossed it onto a shelf. One day, I decided to give it a try ... and discovered that it worked much better from a power supply and decent antenna than I had suspected.

Until I can find time to build a cabinet, I have it temporarily housed in an old Sears portable radio case, hooked to the speaker and antenna ... and the S-meter! I.e., by some trial-and-error testing with a VOM, I found a point that I can use to hook up an S-meter (see photo). The arrow points to the base of a resistor which exhibits a generous amount of lead so that I could attach a wire to it and run it to the - side of the meter. The - side leads to ground (the rx chassis). Be careful, of course, when you solder the wire to the resistor lead so that you don't end up frying the resistor or adjacent components.

I plan further to change power supplies, as the present one, intended for 12-volt walkie-talkies, causes too much hum when the radio is switched to FM. I will also add a better S-meter, antenna terminal, recording jack, earphone jack, etc.

In short, for very little expenditure, I plan to construct a radio which will become my own Super Radio!



The IGF D11W and the Realistic "Timekub" by Sheldon Remington

There is a digital portable for under \$100! The Sony ICF-D11W is an AM-FM portable about the size of the TRF, and contains an LCD clock/timer which also functions as a frequency display. Resolution is to 1 kHz on AM and 10 kHz on FM; tuning is conventional, not synthesized. An AC adapter is optional; the unit uses 2 D cells, and separate penlight cell for the display/clock.

Unfortunately, I don't have a Superadio or TRF to compare it with. My impression has been that it would need modification (Shotgun loop, sharp filters) to be really hot. Selectivity is adequate for domestics, but not for splits (except maybe HLAZ-1566). Sensitivity is so-so, not good enough to pull much in on 650/660 kHz, but it gets INE-521 fairly well. FM characteristics are likewise typical of modern portables (some overloading in urban areas). Audio quality is outstanding, partly due to a massive magnet on the speaker. There is a bit of backlash in the tuning; funny to see that on a digital radio.

I tried coupling it to a longwire (it has no external antenna connector) but spurs showed up. Probably with a Shotgun, it would be better for serious DXing. The ICF-D11W had a list price of \$200, but it has apparently been discontinued, and I bought mine for \$100 in San Francisco. Subsequently, I have seen them for \$90 at E.C. Wenger in Oakland. (ed note: Ben Peters has seen them for \$65 in Amsterdam. He likes his for listening and waking up to; perhaps not so much for DXing!).

The clock can be set for 24 hour or AM/PM, and it has stayed within a few seconds over the last 6 months. The frequency display is called up by a pushbutton, and it automatically reverts to clock mode after 30 seconds, a feature I could do without, hi.

The Realistic Timekub: This cute little box is for receiving WWV and WWVH; it does an outstanding job of it. The circuit is sophisticated for the price (\$35), featuring separate crystal oscillators for 5, 10 and 15 MHz (very stable), tight AGC, crisp audio, and a whip antenna. I get a lot of use out of it, keeping track of solar geomagnetic indices. Sensitivity is very high--I can often get a useable signal with the whip extended only a few inches.

Power is supplied by an internal 9-volt battery, which seems to last forever. It is very handy to just push 3 buttons, choosing the best, and hear the latest data. WWV reception can be useful in itself as a propagation indicator (aurora causes fluttery signals; high solar activity brings loud WWVH on 15 MHz etc.) Highly recommended.

THE REALISTIC MODEL 12-173B---A GREAT LITTLE POCKET RADIO
by Randy Tomer

After reading a favorable write-up on this radio in the July '81 IDXCSD bulletin, I decided to purchase one, since I was not satisfied with the two pocket portables that I already owned. I was quite pleasantly surprised, and although I'm not trying to pass this radio off as being as good as a Realistic TRF, it is clearly superior to all other radios of its type that I've tried.

Internal circuitry consists mainly of a mixer and two IF transistors, followed by an IC. Power is derived from four AA cells instead of the usual 9 volt rectangular battery or two AA cells found in radios of this type, so battery life is good and there's plenty of audio punch. Selectivity is very good for this type of radio. One of my selectivity tests is to see how well a radio can pull in KCRE-1310 (70 miles away) midday next to nearby KATA-1340. The 12-173B pulls in KCRE with ease, while my other pocket radios can't. (Even my FRG-7 has a hard time getting KCRE.) Audio is extremely crisp and clean sounding--almost FM-like in quality. When listening to distant stations at night, it seems to cope well with fading, so volume readjustments can be kept to a minimum, compared to similar radios.

The rotary type tuning dial is much larger than those in other pocket radios and calibration is fairly accurate, making station finding relatively easy. Drift is minimal. The radio has the usual mini-jack for phones or external speaker, plus an input jack for 6 volts DC, for battery elimination. I wish the 12-173B had a high/low or continuous tone control, but it doesn't. Tone on mine is on the high side, too high if you listen with stereo phones, but fine otherwise. Believe it or not, but this is the only pocket radio I've ever heard that music is actually enjoyable to listen to on!

So, for \$10.95, not a bad little radio at all! It does have some disadvantages that are common to all pocket radios. For one, sensitivity is not exactly in the TRF/Superadio class. For another, it suffers from shortwave bleedthrough--hams, RTTY, code and SWBC have all been heard on my 12-173B. One time I thought KEX was coming in awfully well for 1 PM local time, but I soon found out it was the VOA, loud and clear! Still, a nice radio for such a low price, and placing it near a tuneable loop clears up spurious problems when "critical" reception is desired.

