

MM2001 RTTY Converter Review

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EIGHT, HI HI I HAD TROUBLE THINKING ABOUT THAT ONE, THE BIG MESSAGE IS THE FT-ONE THROUGH A TRANSVERTER, I ALSO HAVE 70 CMS MODULE. L I V MUST SAY IT IS NICE TO HEAR YOU ON THE RTTY AND I XAM PLEASE! TO BE YO.R FIRST CONTACT, I THINK IT WAS YOU WHO CALLED FOR PETER EARLIER ON. I THINK HE WILL BEON IN A SHORT WHILE.

One cannot help but notice that over the past few years RTTY has increased in popularity, especially among newly licensed amateurs on the 2m band. Basically there are three ways to 'get going' in this mode, all three requiring some form of terminal unit (TU) to convert the signal into two separate tones. The difference comes with the display device:

1. The old tried and tested teleprinter, of which the most popular tends to be the Creed models 7B and 7E. This method has the advantage that the hardware is fairly cheap and readily available. However, there are problems in that teleprinters are

very noisy and space consuming and therefore, this method is usually confined to the 'bottom of the garden' shack.

2. Microcomputer decoding and display, which is a most attractive method gaining in popularity over the past few years due to the availability of cheap 'personal' computers eg. ZX81, UK101, PET etc. As more and more of these machines find their way into the radio shack, amateurs are beginning to see their TU and some form of interface is available, all that is needed is a software package. This could be self-written (cost £0 but the time taken could be expensive!) or bought for many of the more popular machines.

Another offshoot of this method is the use of ASCII code rather than BAUDOT or AMTOR and experimentation with higher data rates than the usual 45.5 baud. (Incidentally, the term 'BAUDOT' or sometimes 'MURRAY' are normally used, but strictly speaking it should be 'CCITT No. 2' - I think I'll stick to BAUDOT!)

3. As a result of (2), many manufacturers are now producing self-contained microprocessor-controlled devices which contain the TU and software (usually in an EPROM). All that is needed to complete the station is a rig, a conventional TV (or a VDU for better results) and a power supply. This

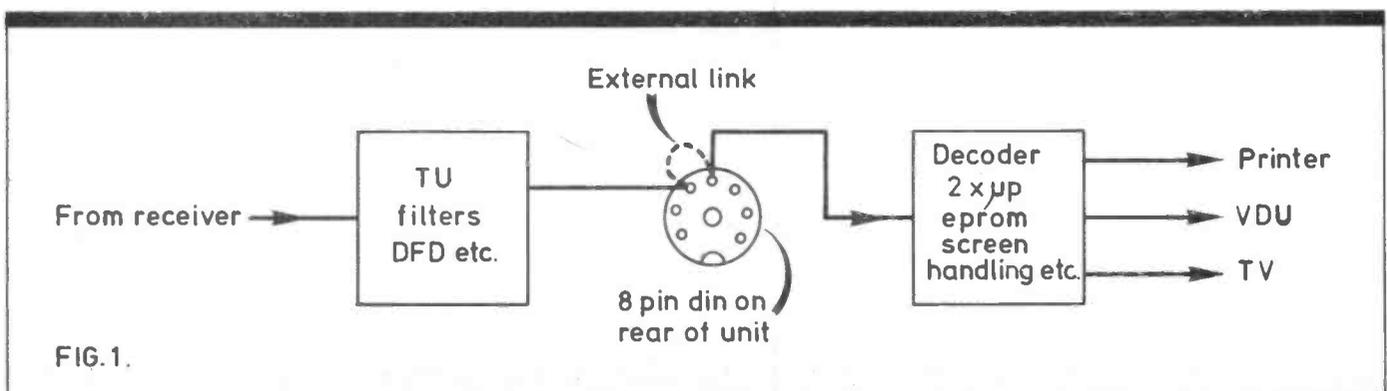


FIG. 1.