



transmitted, was excellent. I attribute this to two factors. The first is the VXO circuitry. The phase noise of the LO is obviously very low indeed combined with a complete absence of FMing of the suppressed carrier. The second aspect contributing to good audio can be attributed to the crystal filter characteristics. The passband is distinctly wider than the filter types normally associated with HF SSB gear. This results in a wider audio spectrum. The perceived quality of the transmissions has more in common with good, solid FM copy than with typical SSB reception. The same applies in receive providing that the originating station is capable of sending good quality audio in the first place.

It might be argued that slightly wider band transmissions are anti-social. However, while this may be true on HF, it hardly matters one way or the other on VHF and the results are certainly a lot more pleasant to listen to.

The noise blanker was not particularly effective. It went some way to reducing high level impulse noise but it certainly could not 'blank' it. Similarly, the AGC required a fairly strong signal present at the aerial

socket before this part of the circuitry started to operate.

In use

I operated the review unit from an external power supply for most of the time for reasons outlined earlier. One might think that the rather primitive tuning arrangements - a single 15mm knob rotating just half a turn - might make it difficult to use. Well, I suppose that it was a bit fiddly to tune accurately, but it was certainly possible. On the plus side, the half-turn rotation made it possible to scan the band very rapidly. Furthermore, if you think that 100kHz of coverage doesn't sound like much, then it should be pointed out that about 90 per cent of SSB contacts are made in this segment.

I didn't particularly like the latching PTT; why a latching variety was fitted, I shall never know. It was all too easy to leave the unit in transmit shortening even further the already inadequate battery life. However, these things aside, the unit was great fun to use and exhibited a performance comparable with gear costing around five times the price. I made numerous local

contacts using the MX-2 with just the helical aerial. '200mW can't be much use' I can hear people saying. But it can. I received a 5 by 2 report from a station some 20 miles distant using the set as a handtalkie in the kitchen while doing the washing up with the other.

Summary

Although it's a great little set which I personally love, it misses its role as a hand portable. Greater justice would be done by taking the guts out of the case supplied and transferring them to a much larger one. I would then fit a bank of crystals, possibly enough to cover the beacon (which I rather missed) and satellite sub-bands and fit a more sophisticated mechanical tuning mechanism. Having done that, I would add a decent PA strip to raise the power to the 10W level. That modification package, which would bring the total price tag to the £150 level, should provide a dedicated two metre SSB/CW transceiver capable of outperforming any multimode you care to name.