

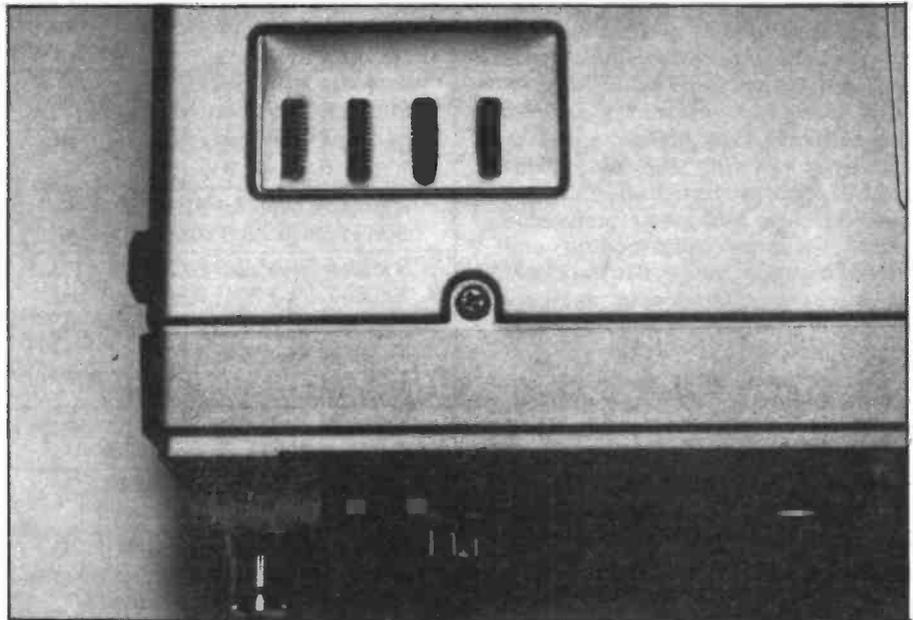
supplied, I cannot comment on their performance.

Memory function

Squelch action on SSB signals operated well, provided the signals were reasonably strong, and no problems were experienced with the RIT. Memorising frequencies and recalling them, particularly when I wanted to move the VFO either way from a memory frequency, operated superbly well. This facility is most useful, although I cannot see that there would be much use for punching in the memory channel button and operating exactly on a memory frequency without the facility for VFO'ing, unless you were using the FM option on fixed 10metre channels. Memory 8 will be useful here, for it allows the memorising of separate TX and RX frequencies for 10m repeater operation. The scanning, defined by memories 6 and 7, would probably be found when you want to scan relatively small frequency areas continuously, but I don't expect many would want to use the scanning for continuously monitoring large chunks of spectrum other than to leave the receiver running on a large section of 10 or 15M when the bands is closed to indicate the first signal that pops through after band opening.

What cost?

The VOX control worked satisfactorily on transmit, and the setting of gain, delay and anti-trip was very simple. One strange feature provided by the rig is the ability to transmit on one band and receive on another, which I suppose could be useful to the odd person, but certainly not to me. I cannot help but feel that despite the excellent general ergonomics of this rig, Trio have made it too complicated, and thus the



VOX and Scan controls mounted on top panel

price is higher than it need have been. I would have preferred, to have had FM plus the filter options in with the price, but some of the esoteric microprocessor functions perhaps available as options, but I do realise that this suggestion rather defeats the design idea. Let's put my suggestion another way, then, that Trio ought to release a rig with identical specifications, including FM, CW and SSB, but without general coverage receive, and microprocessor functions, which overall would be regarded as an inexpensive successor to the TS130, at a lower price than the present rig, which, with options, will be typically around £800. Even if the average user does not want to use FM on 10m, and most certainly not on any of the lower bands, he is very likely to use a transverter with the rig up to 2metres for example, and in this case it will be very simple to cope with

repeaters, although you would have to either whistle your way in, or use an external tone burst generator. We were not able to try the rig into a transverter because of inadequate instructions, and time, but if the transverter feed is similar to that from the TS830, the level would be very low.

Incidentally Microwave Modules transverters can be supplied with extra sensitivity to work with modern low transverter feed level outputs, although you may have to modify older models.

Feelings

To sum up my own feelings for the rig, I can report that I was impressed with its general performance, but would prefer something simpler for mobile use, but a little more comprehensive for fixed station use. Whilst Trio's provision of DIN

