



Memories and Synthesiser Functions

The 5800 has ten memories in all, with five for each of FM and SSB. I found the display very good when entering memories, a flashing led tells you if that memory is empty, and one is reminded of the mode by other leds. The only awkward part of memory entry and recall is that one has to step sequentially through all five memories to get to number five. The manual states that if the "RCL" (recall memory) button is kept depressed, then the unit steps through all the memories sequentially. However, I found this not be the case. A multi-way switch would have been nicer, but there is hardly room for that on the panel! The loud "bleep" which accompanies many function settings is useful for mobile operation especially. A very nice touch is that if one recalls a memory, it is possible to tune from that frequency using the dial.

Memory and frequency scanning on the 5800 are very versatile with the option of scanning all occupied memories of the selected mode or complete sections of the band (1MHz blocks for FM and either 1MHz or 100kHz blocks for SSB/CW). The type of scanning depends on the position of a three-way switch on the top panel indicating when, if at all, the rig is to stop scanning. The options are to stop on Busy, Vacant or Free channels. This last option means that it doesn't stop but continues the preselected scan taking no account of any signals present. The scan speed in this mode is slower than in any other mode and gives one ample time to listen for a familiar voice on the band! The "Fast" button doubles the speed of the scan and when scanning the memories for a "Busy" channel with this button depressed, it zooms through the frequencies at quite a rate.

Generally, the synthesiser functions on the 5800 are very useful and practice one can set up the rig to

send for itself quite happily, while one gets on with something useful (like working out all the mods. required to bring the set up to an ideal standard!).

Perhaps because of the use of LSI devices, the quoted current consumption on this rig is surprisingly low with 3.7A for 25W TX and 450mA for receive standby. This being the case, it should help give an extra hour or two of /P operation; always a useful point.

Summary

In conclusion, although there are many minor irritations present in the 5800, and it is hardly the best choice for mobile use, I feel that it is a nice rig to use containing some very useful functions and generally good RF design. There seem to be many modifications that one could think of and here problems could arise due to the internal layout. I wouldn't say that Standard have got it completely "right" but it's close. ●