

NEW PRODUCTS

FT290R preamp

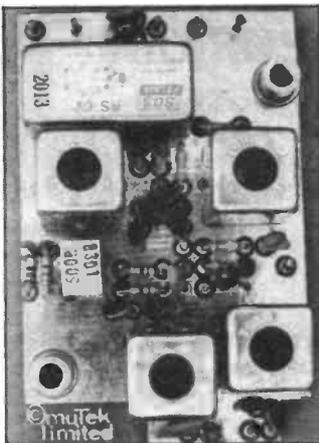
Mutek Ltd. is introducing a new 2m preamp specifically for the Yaesu FT290R transceiver. The SLNA 145sb Transceiver Optimised Pre-amplifier is intended to cure the FT290R's alleged deafness, and it has been designed to fit inside the transceiver.

Mutek claims it provides a sensitivity improvement sufficient to ensure that external noise is the limiting factor, while minimising dynamic noise degradation.

Other benefits claimed for the preamp are improved front-end selectivity, and an on-board nitrogen-filled changeover relay (to eliminate the losses in Yaesu's diode switching).

The provisional specification is: noise figure 1dB; gain variable 0-15dB; input third order intercept +2dBm; input 1dB compression -14dBm; 1dB bandwidth 4MHz; 20dB bandwidth 12MHz; relay power handling 40W (VSWR less than 2:1); size approx. 53x35x15mm.

The SLNA 145sb retails at £24.90 inc VAT. For further details contact Stephen Prior or Chris Bertram at Mutek Ltd., Bradworthy, Holsworthy, Devon EX22 7TU Tel 0409 24548



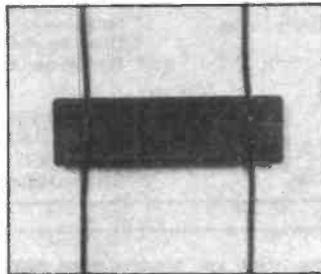
Feeder spacer

If you have found making open wire balanced feeders rather time consuming this product should be of interest. The G40GP Spacer is simply a bit of plastic that can be clipped on to a pair of wires to hold them 63mm (2½") apart.

The spacers are made out of ultra-violet stabilised co-polymer polypropylene, which means they shouldn't decay when exposed to the weather.

The characteristic impedance of feeders made with these spacers is normally in the 300-600 ohm range, depending on the gauge and insulation of the wires used.

The recommended retail price is £10 for a pack of 20 spacers. They are also available by post from the manufacturer at a cost of £10.99 inc. postage and packing. Orders/enquiries to G40GP Electronics, 116 Darlington Street East, Wigan, Lancs. Tel 0695 27948.



10MHz traps

KW-30 aerial traps allow trapped dipole coverage of the 10.1-10.15MHz amateur band. The manufacturer says that a high Q-factor is obtained by "optimum form factor on polystyrene".

The coil is designed to handle 2kW PEP and it weighs six ounces. It is 5.5" long by 1.8" diameter, and has a tensile strength of 800 lbs. An acrylic lacquer waterproof coating and all-aluminium hardware help to prevent corrosion.

A pair of KW-30 traps costs \$32. Further details from Emily Bostock, Microwave Filter Co., Inc., 6743 Kinne Street, East Syracuse, NY 13057, USA. Tel (0101) 315-437-3953.

Double balanced mixers

PM Electronic Services now carries two new types of double balanced mixer, the M-8 and M-18, made by R&K Laboratories, in place of the MD108 and SL1 formerly stocked. These plug-in, broadband mixers cover the 300kHz-500MHz range (down to

DC on the IF port) with input/output impedances of 50 ohms. They are housed in an 8 pin, 0.2 inch pin spacing package, and can be mounted either by plugging into miniature relay sockets with a 0.2 x 0.2 inch grid, or by soldering directly to the PCB.

The M-18 costs £7 inc. VAT. The M-8, which has hermetic sealing and more than 90dB of radiation shielding, costs £9 inc. VAT.

Further details from PM Electronic Services, 2 Alexander Drive, Heswall, Wirral, Merseyside L61 6XT. Tel 051-342 4443.

Specialist VHF aeriels

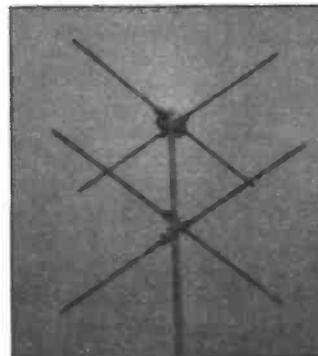
South West Aerial Systems is introducing a number of aeriels for the amateur VHF enthusiast, having previously been concerned mainly with long distance broadcast reception.

One of the new aeriels is a crossed dipole/reflector arrangement for satellite working on 2m (shown in photo).

Two other aeriels are designed for the experimental 50MHz band. The NBS2 is a two-element beam covering 50-52MHz at a nominal impedance of 50 ohms. The NBS4 covers the full 50-54MHz range. (75 ohm versions are also available.)

The claimed specification for these 50MHz arrays is: midband gain 4.7dBd; front/back ratio 8-9dB. The boom is 4' 9" long and 1" in diameter.

The 50MHz arrays cost £22.75 inc. VAT and Securicor delivery from South West Aerial Systems, 10 Old Boundary Road, Shaftesbury, North Dorset. Tel 0747 4370.



BOOK: VHF/UHF Manual



The RSGB's VHF/UHF Manual already has a reputation for being something of a 'bible'. This new fourth edition looks like boosting that belief. At twice the size of the earliest editions, this book is stuffed solid with 528 pages of invaluable information for the VHF/UHF experimenter.

As well as chapters on background and theory, there are many practical designs, often with a choice of technologies — for instance there are designs for valve, transistor and power-FET 144MHz transverters. Many of the designs have not been published before.

The chapter titles are: Historical perspectives; Propagation; Tuned circuits; Receivers; Transmitters; Integrated equipment; Filters; Antennas; Microwaves; Space communications; Test equipment. There is also an appendix with data such as colour codes for resistors and fixed ceramic/tantalum/polyester capacitors, charts showing the inductance of coils and graphs showing the characteristic impedance of PCB tracks on double sided boards.

This appendix also contains a wealth of data on coaxial cables, waveguides, coaxial connectors, PA valves, power transistors, double-balanced mixers, power FETs, broadband cascade amplifier modules and batteries. There are also tables of wire gauges, decibels against voltage/power ratio and dBm against voltage (for 50 ohm and 600 ohm systems), and a table of resistor values for 50 ohm T-attenuators.

The VHF/UHF Manual is available from the RSGB, Alma House, Cranborne Road, Potters Bar, Herts. EN6 3JW for £8.50 (£10.31 by post worldwide).

This book is excellent.