

uncanny, and there was only a barely perceptible blocking, thus allowing very efficient duplex or satellite working.

You will certainly need a cold wet towel round your head when you are getting to know all the facilities, and after my lengthy perusal I needed a long think in order to find what was actually missing! The supplied microphone, of course, has PTT, which is duplicated on a socket on the rear panel, but no PTT MOX button is provided on the front panel, which is inconvenient for a long over. A desk mic is available which has a MOX button on it, but I was surprised to see that VOX is also missing from the rig; many will consider this a pity, although I personally do not like VOX. CW keying is semi 'break-in', however, and this worked well.

The only other serious omission that I found is that you cannot turn the AGC off. The rig has an odd little foible on SSB in that even with squelch at minimum, ie. off (squelch works on SSB and FM), the RF gain control will, when turn-

ed back beyond a certain point, causes squelch action which is very inconvenient when you want to peak up on a very strong signal or increase the receive dynamic range on such a signal.

Well Connected

Each band module on the back has its own individual antenna socket, SO239s for 6m and 2m, and an N for 70cm. Beside each socket is a standby 3.5mm jack for interconnecting linears so that the appropriate linear is selected for each band, the sockets applying a short circuit on TX and open RX, which is just how we want it for most linears. Other back panel sockets include a 3.5mm speaker jack, AF out on a phono socket (around 0.5V from 600 ohms from the top of the volume control, and therefore independent of the control setting), PTT on phono, CW 1/4" key back, 13.8V DC (chassis socket requiring a 4-pin plug). An IEC mains socket is complemented by its fuse and a large grounding post with wing nut.

Inside a well on the top are four

switches selecting scan for busy, manual or clear, scan stop or pause, tone squelch (optional accessory but of no interest in UK) and repeater toneburst on/off (unfortunately this also works on simplex, I don't mind this as you can switch it off, but some will find it irritating and might well forget that it is on when transferring to simplex). A lithium battery is provided internally for holding the memories when mains is unplugged and this facility is switchable.

Mere Niggles?

At this stage perhaps I should mention a few more niggles, but please realise that this is my opinion, though it is shared by one or two other 726 users.

When using VFO on say 2m, it is very easy to knock the band up or down buttons accidentally and when you step back again, you find that you have lost your frequency which requires you to find the station again. You can lock the rig on a frequency but then you cannot VFO from this lock position easily. I

