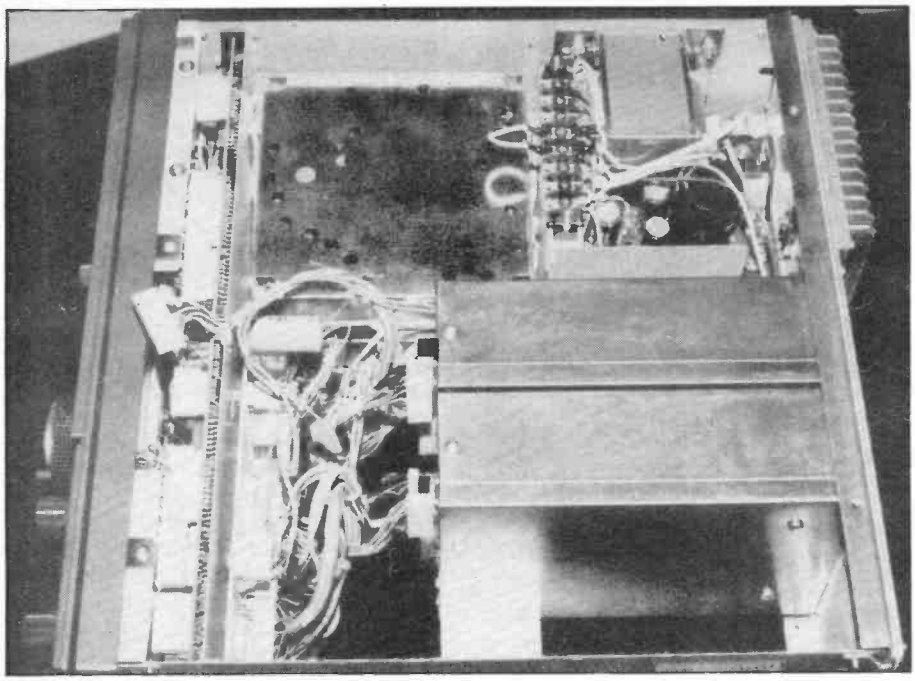


Top view of FT726R showing the general layout. The Motherboard is mounted vertically parallel to the front panel (LHS). PSU at top RHS.

got over this problem, which kept on occuring because my fingers are rather large, by inserting the frequency in use into a memory and then recalling it, followed by memory to VFO. At any time I could then re-establish frequency with VFO in a second or two. I feel that Yaesu should have had seperate memories on the VFO automatically switched on for each module. If you just shunt 1MHz within a band, incidentally, you do not lose the KHz frequency, and just the MHz changes.

The frequency readout can easily be read at a distance, and it is set back from the front panel slightly thus helping to reduce the effects of glare from the sun for example; however, if you move your head vertically off axis, it becomes difficult to read.

And There's More....

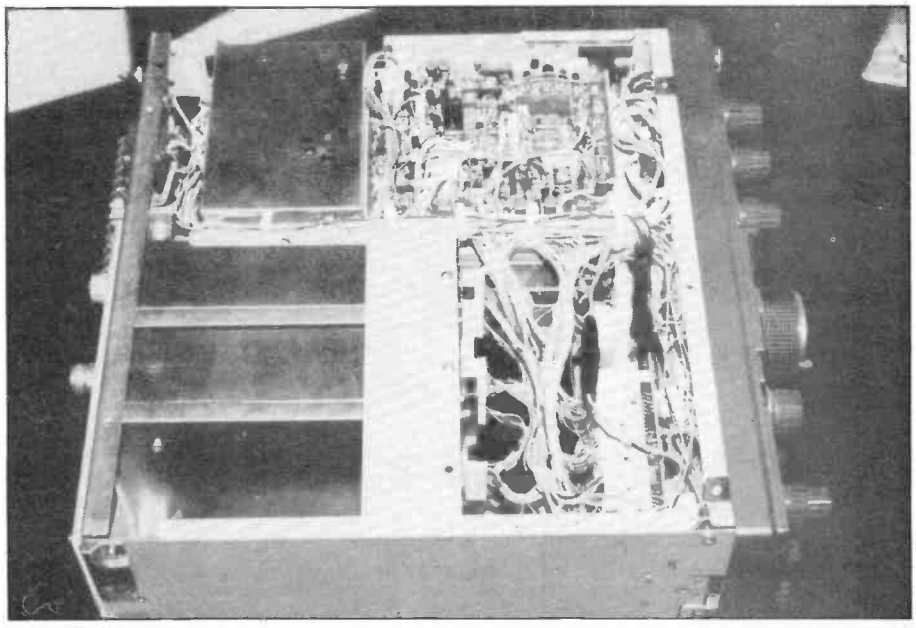
I do not want to bore the reader by detailing the facilities any further, so suffice it to say that it provides almost every requirement except preparing coffee (or beer), although one could possibly fix this too! But how did it all work out in practice?

I used the rig on and off for several weeks, and found the RF performance to be very good in almost all areas. On 2m for example, I found the VFO to be smooth and convenient for SSB/CW, but I preferred to use the channel click switch on 12.5 or 25KHZ spacings for FM; however, just occasionally I used the VFO for FM to cope with the very occasional station who insisted on using 10KHz offsets. Scanning worked superbly well either from the mic or rig, and in the pause mode it stopped for just about the right time for me to decide whether to stop it or not.

The facility for transferring from memory to VFO is marvellous, allowing you to return at an instant to a calling frequency, or beacon, and then VFO from it. RF input sensitivity was excellent on 6m, and good, but not outstanding, on 2m and 70cm. The RIFM performance was good on all three bands, and so an RF preamp external to the rig could be used quite frequently, provided that nobody was belting RF at me within very close range! Selectively on all modes was most certainly better than average, coping well with 12.5KHz spacing on FM for example, whilst the CW narrow optional filter was most useful, although I would have preferred a slightly flatter top and steeper skirts.

Transmitted audio was particularly good on all modes, but you will need to watch the position of the power control on SSB, for strange things seem to happen when this was advanced beyond the point where ALC is just beginning to act. A number of stations reported that not only was I producing audible clicks on transients up to 50KHz either side of the transmission on 2m, but there was a tendency to roughness on the channel. These transcient clicks could muck up somebody else's DX QSO. I had to reduce the power control to half way before the clicks virtually went, so clearly the module itself had too much gain. After correction, the PEP reading had only reduced by 0.5dB, so no significant peak power was lost.

Other 726 users that I contacted did not have this clicking problem, so presumably my 2m module was slightly faulty. I much prefer a power control which starts cutting back almost from the mo-



Bottom view of FT726R. VFO (in screened box) top LHS. Receive board top RHS. 2m and 70cm modules centre and lower LS.