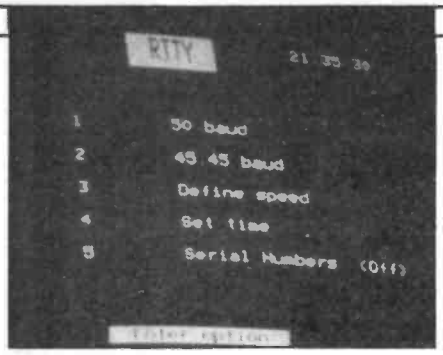


Fig.5. The menu that the program offers the user.

Fig.7. The ready-made unit that is self-contained and derives power from the computer.

(that is if you are wanting to transmit). As soon as the 'CTRL T' is pressed, a tone is generated inside the BBC computer, and this is applied to the microphone socket. Since you have switched in the VOX, the transmitter immediately goes over to transmit. Pressing the 'CTRL R' again brings you back to 'receive'.

All this sounds very long-winded, but I was on the air within 10 minutes of unpacking the unit, and it performed beautifully. The only extra one has to buy is the 20 way IDC cable, which Johnny can supply.

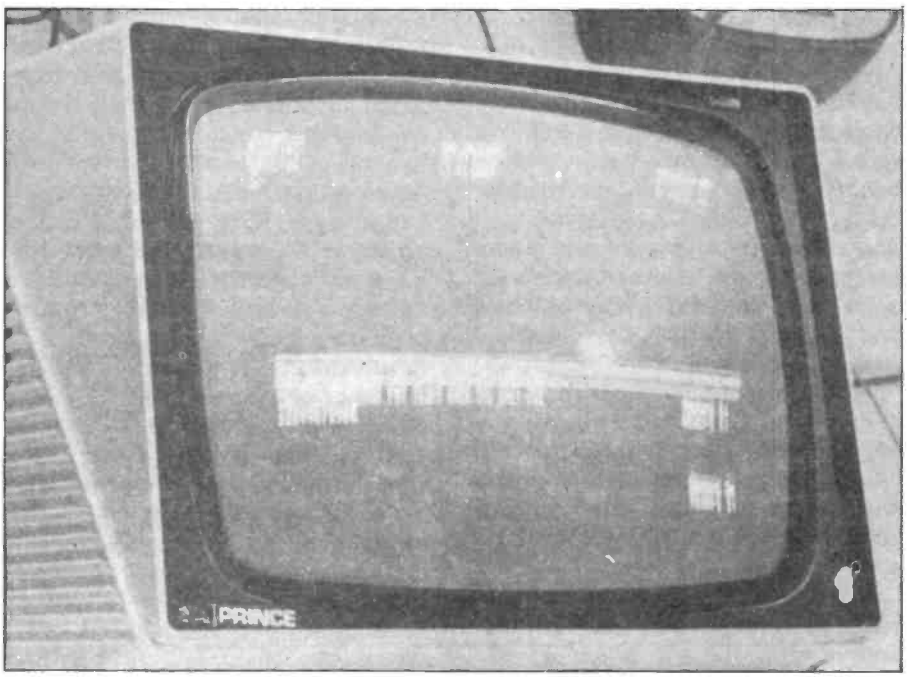
The simplicity of using VOX made the operation very easy, and the first contact I had was with UT5RP in Odessa on the 80 metre band at about 2100 hours, I am sure that you have probably heard the QRM in the evenings on 80 metres, so I think you will agree that since I was able to have the QSO (my report was 569), the efficiency of the unit was most satisfactory.

All in all, this little marvel is perfect for the RTTYer who doesn't want to build or have any extra connections with the mains, but wants the simplest and most efficient method of getting on the air in the RTTY mode.

Conclusions

The units and computer, using the program, have been in frequent use during the last four or five weeks, with no trouble in working RTTY stations, and no snags. RTTY interest is growing, and the G3LIV INTERFACE/MODEM used with the BBC computer is most certainly the 'up to date' method of working the mode. I consider both units to be value-for-money purchases, either in kit form or ready cased with only the connections to the computer and transceiver to make. The performance of the units is very satisfactory under QRM conditions, with the qualification always, *that care is taken in the tuning of the signal.* A further point to emphasise to those of you who decide to build your own interface is the careful alignment of the tuned circuits. It is really upon these two points that the successful operation of the units depends.

Fig.6. The split-screen display when the program is in use.



Final Update

As one of the three items under review in this article was the BBC model B computer, it might be constructive to comment on the way it worked with G3WHO's program. Coming, as I did, straight from a VIC-20 computer, the BASIC dialect was quite different, and took some getting used to, particularly the programmable keys. I found that it was necessary to prompt my memory by having the list of the various functions placed on top of the red function keys. But apart from that, which would not happen after I became familiar with it, I have nothing but praise for the BBC micro. I like the keyboard, and the manual has plenty of information. Since this is the model 'B', there is memory of 32K, which means that there is no need to think about an extra motherboard to take 'plug-in' RAM cartridges etc. The facilities which are available in the machine make it unnecessary to think about outboard gadgetry, and the sockets on the underside of the computer cover all types of data input/output.

I hope that the above has whetted the appetite of some of you to have a go at working this mode, and for those of you who decide to do so, welcome to the world of RTTY.

The author would like to thank Johnny Melvin, G3LIV and Mick Payne, G4ITX, of SP Electronics for the loan of their equipment and all the help they gave. In return, SP asked if we might mention that they have a dealership for the BBC computer and software, and that they stock various other computers, a range of radio equipment and all of Johnny's range of equipment, including the pre-programmed EPROM containing the G3WHO program; of course, I told them that we couldn't possibly give them such a mention!

John Melvin , 2 Salters Court, Gosforth, NEWCASTLE,
S P Electronics, 48 Linby Road, Hucknall, Notts. (0602 640377).