



mode and off you go. This facility is extremely useful and does save a lot of keypad punching.

All memory frequencies (and the last dial frequency) are supplied by a Lithium back-up battery so you can de-power the rig and not lose this information. Once or twice I did lose individual banks of memories for some reason; it appeared to be connected with the way the receiver was switched off and seemed to happen if you removed power direct from the 9600 without switching it off on the front panel first.

One of the reasons for having banks of ten memories is quite sensible. Over such a wide coverage, there are bound to be individual segments where a number of individual channels are of interest. For instance, if you are into WBFM DX, you will want to store a number of frequencies around 88 – 108MHz and be able to scan these without listening elsewhere at the same time. Again, you may have all the 2 metre repeaters of interest in another block.

It is possible to only scan selected parts of the spectrum by using any two adjacent memory

channels as frequency limits. Say you have 145.000MHz in channel 13 and 145.750MHz in channel 14. If you transfer memory channel 14 to the dial (14 followed by M-D), then start the scan, the rig will scan from 145.750 down to 145.000 in steps selected, then start over again. It is important that the lower frequency limit is in the lower of the two memory channels; if you had 600MHz in channel 13, the rig would scan from 145.750MHz, down to 60MHz, then jump to 905MHz then down to 600MHz before starting again – this can lead to some funny scans if you are not careful. If the scan is stopped, tuning with the main dial is still limited to this preset band, which can be useful. To escape from this preset band, another frequency has to be keyed into the dial.

Another feature common to many scanners, even the simple ones, is priority channel monitoring, where a specific frequency can be checked every 6 seconds while listening somewhere else. This only works for one dial frequency and the selected memory, and not, for instance, during scan mode.

There is one use for this receiver which will be of particular interest to DX fans and propagation watchers, especially if you have the computer interface and an A-D converter for the 'S' meter output. It is possible to monitor a bank of channels spread over the whole spectrum and continuously watch for appearance of DX signals (broadcast stations, beacons and such like). These can appear on a print out, together with time, frequency, strength etc and could be very useful in being first at the DX when it appears on, say, 50, 70, 144 or 432MHz.

Timing

Also incorporated in the receiver is a digital clock, selectable to appear on the display rather than the frequency. Although it doesn't affect the receiver reception, it disables further operations. The initial time is entered via the keypad in a similar manner to the frequency (24 hour format). Once in, it can be used simply as a clock, or with a bit more keypad operation, as an on/off timer and 'snooze' facility. Note that the battery back-up does