

FOR THE RADIO ENTHUSIAST...

Practical Wireless

JANUARY 1983

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DAIWA CN630	2M/70 Cross Pointers	71.00	(—)

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DL600	600W MAX 350MHz	29.95	(1.50)
WELZ CT300	1000W MAX 250MHz	44.00	(2.00)

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FC902	All Band A.T.U.	135.00	(1.50)
SP901	External Speaker	31.00	(1.50)
FT102	160-10m 9 Band Transceiver	725.00	(—)
FT707	8 Band Transceiver 200W Pep	569.00	(—)
FT707S	8 Band Transceiver 200W pep	485.00	(—)
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FC707	Matching A.T.U./Power Meter	85.00	(1.00)
MMB2	Mobile Mounting Bracket for FT707	16.10	(1.00)

FRG7

FRG7700	General Coverage Receiver	179.00	(—)
FRG7700	200KHz-30MHz Gen. Coverage Receiver	299.00	(—)

FRG7700M As above but with Memories

FR7700	Antenna Tuning Unit	37.00	(1.00)
FR7700	Active Antenna Unit	36.40	(1.00)

FT208R

FT208R	2M FM Synthesised Handheld	209.00	(—)
FT208R	70cm FM Synthesised Handheld	219.00	(—)

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NC7	Base Trickle Charger	26.88	(1.30)
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FT780R	70cm Synthesised Multimode (1.6MHz Shift)	459.00	(—)

FT290R

FT290R	2M Portable Multimode	249.00	(—)
FT290R	70cm Portable Multimode	299.00	(—)

MMB11

MMB11	Mobile Mounting Bracket	22.25	(1.00)
CSC1	Soft Carrying Case	3.45	(0.75)

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NC11C	240V AC Trickle Charger	8.00	(0.75)
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Nicads	2.2 AMP HR Nicads	2.50	(—)
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YH55	Headphones 8 ohm	9.90	(0.75)
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QTR24D	World Clock (Quartz)	28.00	(1.00)
YM24A	Speaker/Mic 20/70/208/708	16.85	(0.75)

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YD148	Stand Microphone/Dual IMP.	4 Pin Plug	21.10	(1.50)
YM38	As 34 but/up/down Scan Buttons		24.90	(1.50)

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Mult 700AX	2M FM Synthesised 25W Mobile	169.00	(—)
Mult 750E	2M Multimode Mobile	289.00	(—)
Expander	70cm Transverter for M750E	199.00	(—)

DRAE

Power Supplies					
4 AMP	27.95	(1.50)	12 AMP	69.00	(2.00)
6 AMP	44.95	(2.00)	24 AMP	99.00	(3.00)
VHF Wavemeter	130-450MHz			24.95	(—)

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Goods normally despatched within 24 hrs

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COMPACT SIZE AND LIGHT WEIGHT
Measures only 66 W x 168 H x 40 D mm with a weight of 540 grams including Ni-Cd battery pack.

LCD DIGITAL FREQUENCY READOUT

Easy to read in direct sunlight, or in the dark. Virtually no current drain (much less than LED's). Displays transmit and receive frequencies and memory channels. Display includes four "Arrow" indicators: "F LOCK" (Frequency Lock), "REV" (Repeater Reverse), "PROG. S" (Programmed Scan), "MS" (Memory Scan).

TEN-CHANNEL MEMORY

Nine memories may be operated in simplex mode, or with transmit frequency offset permitting access to repeaters.

LITHIUM BATTERY MEMORY BACK-UP

No loss of memory in case of complete discharge (or removal) of the Ni-Cd batteries. Current (approximately 1 microampere) to maintain memory supplied by built-in separate lithium battery, with estimated life of more than 5 years.

MEMORY SCAN

Scans only those channels (maximum 10) in which frequency data is stored. Stops on "Busy" channel, resumes scan automatically approximately 2 seconds after signal goes off, or when "MS" key is pressed. The "STOP" key or the PTT switch may be used to cancel the scan function. LCD displays memory channel number and "MS" arrow while memory scan is in use.

PROGRAMMABLE BAND SCAN

Scan bandwidth (lower and upper frequency limits) and scan steps of 5 kHz and larger (5, 10, 15, 20, 25 kHz, etc.) may be programmed. Scan automatically locks on busy channel and resumes approximately 2 seconds after signal goes off or when "PROG. S" key is pressed. "STOP" key or PTT switch cancels the scan function.

UP/DOWN MANUAL SCAN

UP/DOWN manual scan in 5 kHz steps.

FREQUENCY COVERAGE

Covers 430.00 - 439.995 MHz in 5 kHz steps.

TONE BURST SWITCH

The TONE BURST switch activates the 1,750 Hz repeater access tone oscillator.

TX OFFSET SWITCH

Selects simplex or repeater operation (operator pre-programmes repeater OFFSET MAX ± 9.995 MHz).

HI/LOW POWER SELECTION

HI/LOW power output switch allows operation at 1.5 W or, for extended battery life, 300 mW.

REVERSE OPERATION

"REV" switch shifts the receiver to the transmit frequency, and the transmitter to the receive frequency. Useful for checking signals on the input of a repeater, to determine if you are within simplex range.

AUTO/MANUAL SQUELCH

Selector switch on threshold control allows selection of automatic or manual squelch operation.

BATTERY INDICATOR

LED battery condition indicator flashes when battery charge level approaches nominal discharged battery potential.

TWO "LOCK" SWITCHES

"F. LOCK" switch prevents accidental loss of chosen frequency when in "LOCK" position. "TX. STOP" switch prevents accidental transmission if PTT switch is accidentally pressed in handling.

BNC ANTENNA TERMINAL

Allows antenna changeover to be quick and easy.

ACCESSORIES INCLUDED

- Flexible rubberized antenna with BNC connector.
- 400 mAH Ni-Cd battery pack.
- AC charger.
- Plug for external microphone and speaker.
- Hand strap.

"compatible"

the two metre & seventy centimetre
handhelds from
Trio.

TR2500 £207.00 inc VAT carr. £5.00
TR3500 £220.00 inc VAT carr. £5.00

PRICES AND SPECIFICATION SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

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Open monday to saturday, six days a week

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Now from Trio, the R2000 general coverage receiver. By taking all the superb features of the R1000 and combining them with the latest in microprocessor control Trio have, in one step, completely revised the standard by which short wave receivers are judged. Among the many features provided for the discerning listener are programmable scan, memory scan, memory retention of the mode set for a particular frequency and last, but not least, Trio have included an FM mode - why FM after all this time and our repeated comment that for a shortwave broadcast receiver FM is not really necessary. Take a look at the rear panel of the R2000: a socket marked VHF converter. Wouldn't it be superb if Trio produced a VHF converter covering from 118 to 174 MHz - then you would require FM, you would also require AM. Study the features and I am sure you will agree the Trio R2000 is the receiver for you.

Continuous Coverage from 150 KHz to 30 MHz

Use of an innovative up conversion digitally controlled PLL circuit provides maximum ease of operation and superb receiver performance. Front panel up/down band switches allow easy selection within the full coverage of the receiver. The VFO is continually tunable throughout the full 150 KHz-30 MHz range.

"memorable"
the new receiver from Trio

All Modes SSB, CW AM and FM

To give full listening potential USB LSB CW AM and FM are provided for easy selection by push buttons having adjacent led indicators.

Adjustable Tuning Rate

Tuning speed switches enable the tuning rate to be in either 50 Hz, 500 Hz or 5 KHz steps. A frequency lock switch is included to guard against accidental shift.

Ten Memories Store Frequency, Band and Mode Data

Each of the ten memories can be tuned by the VFO, thus operating as ten built in digital VFO's. The original memory frequency can be recalled by simply pressing the appropriate memory channel key. All information on frequency, band, and mode is stored in the selected memory. The "auto M" switch allows two types of memory storage: when the "auto M" switch is off, data is memorized by pressing the "M in" switch; when the "auto M" switch is on the frequency being used at that time is automatically memorized.

Memory Scan

Scans all memory channels or may be user programmed to scan specific channels. Frequency, band and mode are automatically selected in accordance with the memory channel being scanned.

Programmable Band Scan

Scans automatically within the programmed bandwidth. Memory channels 9 and 0 establish the scan limit frequencies. The hold switch interrupts the scanning process. However, the frequency may be adjusted using the tuning knob whilst in the scan hold position.

Lithium Battery Memory Back Up

Memory and VFO information is maintained by an internal lithium battery (estimated life, five years), a most important feature when moving the receiver from location to location.

Clock Display with Integral Timer

Two 24-hour quartz clocks are built-in to allow for programming two different time zones. An integral timer is provided for on and off switching of the receiver.

Three Built In Filters with Narrow/Wide Selector

In the AM mode 6 KHz wide or 2.7 KHz narrow may be selected. In the SSB mode 2.7 KHz is automatically selected. In the CW mode 2.7 KHz is again chosen and if the optional YG455C filter is installed then 500 Hz in the narrow position. In the FM mode 15 KHz bandwidth is automatically selected.

Other important features are: squelch on all modes, noise blanker, a large 4 inch front mounted speaker, tone control, RF attenuator, AGC switch, high and low impedance antenna terminals, optional 13.8 V DC operation, record jack and, of course, provision for a VHF converter. All in all, a truly remarkable receiver.

£370.00 inc VAT carr. £5.00



LOWE ELECTRONICS

Chesterfield Road, Matlock, Derbyshire. DE4 5LE.
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QRV? FER ICOM

The World's most popular portables
IC-2E £159. IC4E £199.inc.
and now the marine version

IC-M12 £199+VAT.



Nearly everybody has an IC-2E, the most popular amateur transceiver in the world, now there is the 70cm version which is every bit as good and takes the same accessories...

Fully synthesized – Covering 144-145.995 in 400 5KHz steps. (430-439.994E). **Power output** – 1.5W. **BNC antenna** output socket. **Send/Battery indicator**. **Frequency selection** – by thumbwheel switches, indicating the frequency. 5KHz switch-adds 5KHz to the indicated frequency. **Duplex Simplex switch** – gives simplex or plus 600KHz or minus 600KHz transmit (1.6MHz and listen input on 4E). **Hi-Low switch** – 1.5W or 150mW. **External microphone jack**. **External speaker jack**.

The IC-4E is revolutionising 70cm!

Multimode Mobiles

IC-290E £366. IC-490E £445.inc.



290E-144-146 MHz/490E-430-440 MHz. 10 W RF output on SSB, CW and FM. Standard and non-standard repeater shifts. 5 memories and priority channel.

Memory scan and band scan, controlled at front panel or microphone. Two VFO's. LED S-meter. 25KHz and 1KHz on FM – 1KHz and 100KHz tuning steps on SSB. Instant listen for repeaters.

IC-720A Possibly the best choice in HF. £883.inc.



One way of keeping up with rapidly advancing technology is to look at what the IC-720A offers in its BASIC form. How many of its competitors have two VFO's as standard, or a memory which can be recalled, even when on a different band to the one in use, and result in instant retuning AND BANDCHANGING of the transceiver? How many include really excellent general coverage receiver covering all the way from 100KHz to 30MHz? How many need no tuning or loading whatsoever? and take care of your PA, should you have a rotten antenna. How many have an automatic RIT which cancels itself when the main tuning dial is moved? How many will run full power out for long periods without overheating? How many have band data output to automatically change bands on a solid state linear AND an automatic antenna tuner unit?

The IC-720A may be just a little more expensive than some, but it's better than most! Make your choice an IC-720A.

IC-PS15 Mains PSU £99.

Tono RTTY and CW computers
7000E £500. 9000E £650.inc.



The TONO range of communication computers take a lot of beating when it comes to trying to read RTTY and CW in the noise. Others don't always quite make it!

Check the many facilities offered before you buy – especially look at the 9000E which also throws in a Word Processor. Previous ads have told you quite a lot about these products – but why not call us for further information and a brochure?

IC-730 The best for mobile or economy base station £586.inc.



iCOM's answer to your HF mobile problems – the IC-730. This new 80m–10m, 8 band transceiver offers 100W output on SSB, AM and CW. Outstanding receiver performance is achieved by an up-conversion system using a high IF of 39MHz offering excellent image and IF interference rejection, high sensitivity and above all, wide dynamic range. Built in Pass Band Shift allows you to continuously adjust the centre frequency of the IF pass band virtually eliminating close channel interference. Dual VFO's with 10Hz, 100Hz and 1kHz steps allows effortless tuning and what's more a memory is provided for one channel per hand. Further convenience circuits are provided such as Noise Blanker, Vox, CW Monitor APC and SWR Detector to name a few. A built in Speech Processor boosts talk power on transmit and a switchable RF Pre-Amp is a boon on today's crowded bands.

Great base stations
IC-251 £499. IC-451 £599.inc.



iCOM produce a perfect trio in the UHF base station range, ranging from 6 Meters through 2 Meters to 70 cms. Unfortunately you are not able to benefit from the 6m product in this country, but you CAN own the IC-251E for your 2 Meter station and the 451E for 70 cms. Mains or 12 volt supply. SSB, CW and FM.

Thanet Electronics
143 Reculver Road, Herne Bay,
Kent. Tel: (02273) 63859.
Barclaycard Visa
Same day despatch if possible.

QRV? FER ICOM

IC-R70, The very latest from Icom! £469.



Now that we have tried the R70, we believe that it is going to be a real winner.

The R-70 covers all modes (when the FM option is included), and uses 2 CPU-driven VFO's for split frequency working, and has 3 IF frequencies: 70MHz, 9MHz and 455KHz, with a dynamic range of 100dB.

Other R-70 features include: input switchability through a pre-amplifier, direct or via an attenuator, selectable tuning steps of 1KHz, 100Hz or 10Hz, adjustable IF bandwidth in 3 steps (455KHz). Noise limiter, switchable AGC, tunable notch filter, squelch on all modes, RIT, tone control. Tuning LED for FM (discriminator centre indicator). Recorder output, dimmer control.

The R-70 also has separate antenna sockets for LW-MW with automatic switching, and a large, front mounted loudspeaker with 5.8W output. The frequency stability for the 1st. hour is $\pm 50\text{Hz}$, sensitivity- SSB/CW/RTTY better than $0.32 \mu\text{V}$ for 12dB (S+N)/N, Am- $0.5\mu\text{V}$, FM better than 0.32 for 12dB Sinad. DC is optional on the R-70. It has a built-in mains supply.

The IC-R70 measures 286mm x 110mm x 276mm and weighs 7.4Kg., making it a very attractive package indeed. Are you ready for this truly excellent receiver? You must hear it, we know you will be impressed!

IC-25E, The Tiny Tiger

£239.inc.



Amazingly small, yet very sensitive.

Two VFO's, five memories, priority channel, full duplex and reverse, LED S-meter, 25KHz or 5KHz step tuning. Same multi-scanning functions as the 290 from mic or front panel. All in all the best 2M FM mobile ICOM have ever made.

Remember we also stock Yaesu, Jaybeam, Datong, Welz G-Whip, Western, TAL, Bearcat, RSGB Publications.

Agents (phone first - all evenings and weekends only, except Scotland).

Scotland - Jack GM8 GEC (031 665 2420)

Midlands - Tony G8AVH (021 329-2305)

North West - Gordon G3LEQ (0565 4040) Ansafone available)

Introducing the NEW IC-740. £699.



This latest transceiver contains all the most asked-for features, in the most advanced solidstate HF base station on the amateur market...performing to the delight of the most discerning operator.

Study the front panel controls of the ICOM IC-740. You will see that it has all of the functions to give maximum versatility to tailor the receiver and transmitter performance to each individual operator's requirements.

Features of the IC-740 receiver include a very effective variable width and continuously adjustable noise blanker, continuously adjustable speed AGC, adjustable IF shift and variable passband tuning built in. In addition, an adjustable notch filter for maximum receiver performance, along with switchable receiver preamp, and a selection of SSB and CW filters. Squelch on SSB Receive and all mode capability, including optional FM mode. Split frequency operation with two built-in VFO's for the serious DX'er.

The IC-740 allows maximum transmit flexibility with front panel adjustment of VOX gain and VOX delay along with ICOM's unique synthesized three speed tuning system and rock solid stability with electronic frequency lock. Maximum versatility with 2 VFO's built in as standard, plus 9 memories of frequency selection, one per band, including the new WARC bands.

With 10 independent receiver and 6 transmitter front panel adjustments, the IC-740 operator has full control of his station's operating requirements.

See and operate the versatile and full featured IC-740 at your authorized ICOM dealer.

Options include:

- FM Module
- Marker Module
- Electronic Keyer
- 2 - 9MHz IF Filters for CW
- 3 - 455MHz Filters for CW
- Internal AC Power Supply

Accessories.

- SM5 Desk Microphone
- UP/DWN Microphone
- Linear Amplifier
- Autobandswitching Mobile Antenna
- Headphones
- External Speaker
- Memory Backup Supply
- Automatic Antenna Tuner

Ask about the new range of CUE DEE antennas, the winners in recent tests!



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a cup of Brenda's coffee
when you do the deal...

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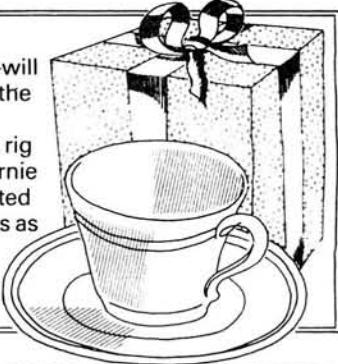


SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL FOR CHRISTMAS FROM BREND AND BERNIE

That way **you** can have the rig you want as your Christmas present...the peace will be kept at home...and you can even have a Brenda's cup of coffee any time you want!

Christmas, we are always told, is the season of good-will to all men. But now Brenda has decreed that it should be the season of good-will to the ladies as well.

So, if you have the nerve to spend £500 or more on a rig at either Acton or St Helens in the month of December, Bernie has agreed that the woman in your life should be presented with a beautiful 12-piece bone china coffee service from us as some sort of compensation.



TWO - AMAZING NEW RECEIVERS - BREAKTHROUGHS IN TECHNOLOGY AND PRICE

As sole UK importers we are proud to present two superb new scanning receivers—the AR-3000 for Air Band listening and the MK-4000 for Amateur and Public Service Band coverage—both with absolutely tremendous specifications and both priced at only £99.

AR-3000

Fully synthesized AM coverage of 110–139.995MHz in 10kc steps with 5kc option. Manual control or auto-scan. Integral speaker, all within super-compact dimensions of 120mm x 222mm x 44mm. 12v operation—ideal for mobile, portable or base station use.

MK-4000

FM coverage of 70–87.9875MHz and 140–175.9875MHz in 12.5kc steps on both bands. 8 memories with manual selection. Auto-scan of full frequency range or memories only. Lock-out facility. Built-in digital clock. 12v operation, making it suitable for base station or mobile use.

It's always been our policy to offer our customers the widest choice of amateur radio receivers and transmitters to be found under one roof anywhere in the UK **plus** the facility to try them out, one against the other, to find the one that's right for you.

Well, now we're doing the same with communication terminals for decoding RTTY, CW, ASCII and AMTOR. Where else will you find complete ranges of decoders by AEA, MICRDOT, MICROWAVE MODULES, TASCO—TELEREADER and TONO at prices starting from £175 for receive-only up to £700 for top-of-the-range receive-and-transmit equipment like the CWR-685 as illustrated?

One item you certainly won't find in many other places is the unique British-made ICS AMTOR decoder for which we have just been appointed the sole London retailers!



LICENSED CREDIT BROKERS * Ask for written quotation on HP terms. Also interest-free terms with 50% deposit.



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within the UK
mainland.



YAESU

FT 102	160-10M 9-Band Trans.	NEW	699.00
FC 102	Atu inc PEP Meter		189.00
FT-ONE	Gen. Coverage Trans.	NEW	1295.00
FT 790R	70cm all-mode portable	NEW	295.00
FT 101ZFM	160-10M 9-Band Transceiver		590.00
FT 101ZDFM	160-10M 9-Band Transceiver		665.00
DIGT 101Z	Digital unit		90.00
DCT 101Z	DC Adaptor		42.50
FV 101Z	Remote vfo		112.00
FT 902DM	9-Band AM/FM Transceiver		885.00
FC 902	9-Band atu, swr/pwr etc.		135.00
FTV 901R	Transverter fitted 2m module		285.00
430TV	70cm module for above		185.00
144TV	2m module for Transverter		100.00
70TV	4m module for Transverter		80.00
FV 901DM	Remote vfo for 901		260.00
SP 901	External speaker		31.00
FL 2100Z	9-Band 1200W linear		425.00
FT 107	9-Band 100W solid state		699.00
FT 107DMS	As above with memory		779.00
DMST 107	Memory unit		92.75
FV 107G	Remote VFO for above		98.50
SP 107G	External speaker		29.90
FC 107G	Aerial tuning unit		112.70
FP 107	230V AC power module		101.95
FP 107E	Cased PSU with speaker		113.00
FT 707	8-Band solid state 100W		545.00
FP 707	230 volts AC power supply		125.00
FC 707	Aerial tuner (unbalanced only)		85.00
MR 7	Metal rack for above		15.70
MMB 2	Mobile mounting bracket		16.00
FRG 7	0.5-30MHz receiver		199.00
FRG 7700	SSB/AM/FM recvr. dig. readout		299.00
MEM 7700	Memory unit for above		90.00

CONVERTERS FOR ABOVE

FRV 7700A	118-150MHz	69.75
FRV 7700B	50-60MHz & 118-150MHz	75.50
FRV 7700C	140-170MHz	65.95
FRV 7700D	70-80MHz & 118-150MHz	72.45
FRT 7700	Receiver aerial tuner	37.85
FF 5	LF filter for above	9.95
FT 480R	2m all-mode transceiver	365.00
FP 80A	230V AC power supply	63.00
FT 780R	70cm all-mode transceiver	449.00
FT 290RM	SPECIAL 2m all-mode portable with ARE mods	249.00
NC 11C	AC charger	8.00
CSI-1	Carrying Case	3.45
MMB-11	Mobile mounting bracket	22.25
FT 208R	2m synthesized portable FM	199.00
NC 9C	AC charger	8.00
FT 708R	70cm hand-held	209.00

TRIO-KENWOOD

TS 930	Gen. coverage trans.	NEW	999.00
TS 830S	160-10M transceiver 9 bands		650.00
AT 230	All-band ATU power meter		110.00
YK 88C	500Hz CW filter		29.60
YK 88CN	270 Hz CW filter		32.60
TS 530S	160-10M trans. 200W pep digital		489.00
TS 130S	8-band 200W pep		499.00
TS 130V	8-band 20W pep		445.00
AT 130	100W antenna tuner		79.00
TR 2300	2m FM synthesised portable		166.75
TR 2500	2m FM synthesised handheld		207.00
HC 10	Digital desk World		58.75
DM 801	Dip meter		60.00
TR 7730	New 25W FM transceiver		247.00
R 600	Gen. Coverage Receiver		199.00

ICOM

IC 740	Multimode H.F. trans.	NEW	649.00
ICR 70	New multimode receiver		469.00
IC 730	HF mobile transceiver 8-band		586.00
IC 720A	HF trans. and gen. cov. receiver		795.00
PS 15	Power supply for 720A		99.00
IC 251E	2m multimode base station		499.00
IC 25E	2m synth. compact 25W mobile		259.00
IC 290E	2m multimode mobile		366.00
IC 24G	2m FM mobile 10W		169.00
IC 2E	2m FM synthesised handheld		159.00
IC 4E	70cm handheld		199.00
IC L1/2/3	Soft cases		3.50
IC HM9	Speaker/microphone		12.00
IC CP1	Car charging lead		3.20
IC BP2	6V Nicad pack for IC 2E		22.00
IC BP3	9V Nicad pack for IC 2E		17.70
IC BP4	Empty case for 6 X AA Nicads		5.80
IC BP5	11.5V Nicad pack for IC 2E		30.50
IC DC1	12V adaptor pack for IC 2E		8.40

MICROWAVE MODULES

MMT 144/28	2m Transverter for HF Rig	109.95
MMT 432/28S	70cm Transverter for HF Rig	159.95
MMT 432/144R	70cm Transverter for 2m Rig	184.00
MMT 70/28	4m Transverter for HF Rig	115.00
MMT 1296/144	23cm Transverter for 2m Rig	184.00
MML 144/30LS	2m 30W lin. Amp (3W1/P)	69.95
MML 144/50S	2m 50W lin. Amp (10W1/P)	85.00
MML 144/100S	2m 100W lin. Amp (10W1/P)	139.95
MML 144/100LS	2m 100W linear (1/3W1/P)	159.95
MML 432/20	70cm 20W linear Amp (3W1/P)	85.00
MML 432/50	70cm 50W linear Amp	109.95
MML 432/100	70cm 10/100W linear Amp	228.65
MM 2001	RTTY to TV converter	189.00
MM 4000	RTTY transceiver	269.00
MM 4000KB	Ditto with Keyboard	299.00
MMC 50/28	6m converter to HF Rig	29.90
MMC 70/28	4m converter to HF Rig	29.90
MMC 114/28	2m converter to HF Rig	29.90
MMC 432/28S	7cm converter to HF Rig	37.90
MMC 432/144S	70cm converter to 2m Rig	37.90
MMC 435/600	70cm ATV converter	27.90
MMK 1296/144	23cm converter to 2m Rig	69.95
MMD 050 500	500MHz dig. frequency meter	75.00
MMD 600P	600MHz prescaler	29.90
MMDP 1	Frequency counter probe	14.90
MMA 28	10 meter pre amp	16.95
MMA 144V	2m RF switched pre amp	34.90
MMF 144	2m band pass filter	11.90
MMF 432	70cm band pass filter	11.90
MMS 1	The morse talker	115.00
MMS 2	Bldrs. Adv. morse trainer	169.00

DATONG

PC 1	Gen. Cov. Converter HF on 2m	137.42
VLF	Ver Low Frequency Converter	29.90
FL 1	Frequency Agile Converter	79.35
FL 2	Multi-mode Audio Filter	89.70
FL 3	FL 2 with Auto Notch	129.37
ASP	Auto R.F. Speech Clipper (Trio or Yaesu plug)	82.80-89.70
D 75	Manually controlled R.F. Speech clipper	56.35
RFC/M	R.F. Speech Clipper Module	29.90
D 70	Morse Tutor	56.35
AD 2700	Indoor Active Filter (inc. PSU)	54.05
AD 370	Outdoor Active Filter (inc. PSU)	71.30
MK	Keyboard morse sender	137.42

MOBILE SAFETY MICROPHONES

ADONIS AM 202S	Clip on	20.95
ADONIS AM 202F	S/neck + up/down btns.	30.00
ADONIS AM 202H	H/Band + up/down btns.	30.95

DRAE

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4 amp	27.95	6 amp	44.95
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VHF Wavemeter	130-450MHz		24.95
Morse Tutor			47.00

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All mode operation LSB, USB, CW, FSK, AM, *FM • 10 VFO system • FULL break-in on CW • audio peak filter • notch filter • variable bandwidth and IF shift • keyboard scanning and entry • RX dynamic range over 95dB! and NO band switch!!!

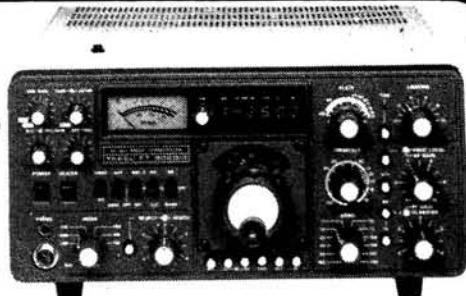
*OPTIONAL

FT-101ZD Mk III



YAESU's FT-101ZD WITH FM is the most popular HF rig on the market thanks to its very comprehensive specification and competitive price. Incorporates notch filter, audio peak filter, variable IF bandwidth plus many other features.

FT-902DM Competition grade HF transceiver



The YAESU world famous pace-setter with the acknowledged unbeatable reputation. 160 thru 10 metres including the new WARC bands. All-mode capability, SSB, CW, AM, FSK and FM transmit and receive. Teamed with the FTV-901R transverter coverage extends to 144 & 430MHz.

FT-707 All solid-state HF mobile transceiver



The definitive HF mobile rig, digital, variable IF bandwidth, 100 watts PEP SSB, AM, CW (pictured here with 12 channel memory VFO). Latest bands



FRG-7700 High performance communications receiver

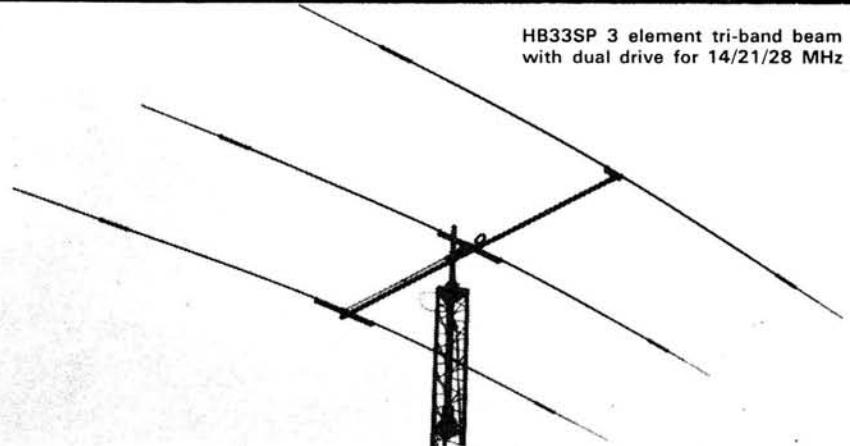
YAESU's top of the range receiver. All mode capability, USB, LSB, CW, AM and FM 12 memory channels with back up. Digital quartz clock feature with timer. Pictured here with matching FRT-7700 Antenna tuner and FRV-7700 VHF converter.

TET ANTENNA SYSTEMS

THE ANTENNA WITH THE DIFFERENCE

TET HF antennas are unique in that they employ dual driven elements with the following distinct advantages—

- Improved gain over conventional arrays.
- Broader bandwidth with lower SWR.
- Enhanced front to back ratio.
- Better matching into solid state transceivers without an A.T.U.
- High power handling capacity.



HB33SP 3 element tri-band beam with dual drive for 14/21/28 MHz

TET manufacture an exciting range of multi-element HF beams including superb monobanders plus HF verticals. Also there is a full range of VHF/UHF antennas most of which have multi-element drive or distinctive technical features.

Model	Description	incl. VAT	Carriage	YOUR LOCAL TET STOCKISTS
HB10F2T	2 Ele. Mono Band Beams for 10 Meter Band	50.75	2.75	Amateur Radio Exchange, 373 Uxbridge Road, Acton, London W3
HB10F3T	3 Ele. Mono Band Beams for 10 Meter Band	73.79	2.75	Amcomm Services, 194A Northolt Road, South Harrow, Middlesex
HB15F2T	2 Ele. Mono Band Beams for 15 Meter Band	57.21	2.75	Bredhurst Electronics, High Street, Handcross, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH17 6BW
HB15F3T	3 Ele. Mono Band Beams for 15 Meter Band	88.49	2.75	Stephens James Ltd., 47 Warrington Road, Leigh, Lancs. WN7 3EA
HB34D	4 Ele. Tri Band Beams for 10/15/20 Meter Band	202.69	5.87	Uppington Tele Radio, 12-14 Pennywell Road, Bristol BS5 0JT
HB23SP	2 Ele. Tri Band Beams for 10/15/20 Meter Band	128.80	2.75	
HB33SP	3 Ele. Tri Band Beams for 10/15/20 Meter Bands	189.23	4.60	
MV3BH	Vertical Antenna for 10/15/20 Meter Band	40.25	1.75	
MV4BH	Vertical Antenna for 10/15/20/40 Meter Band	49.50	1.75	
MV5BH	Vertical Antenna for 10/15/20/40/80 Meter Band	71.25	1.75	
MLA4	Loop Antenna for 10/15/40/80 Meter Band	105.60	2.10	

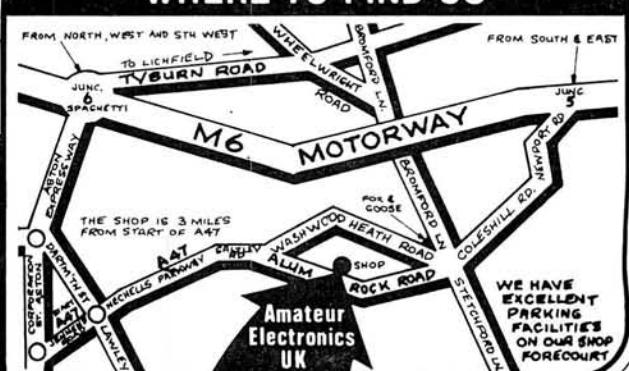
- Full range of VHF/UHF Beams now in stock — an S.A.E. for full details please

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*Option

FT102 £699

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FT980 P.O.A. FREE
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NEW



- ★ Rx: 150kHz-30MHz. Continuous general coverage.
- ★ Tx: 160-10m (9 bands) or 1.5-30MHz commercial.
- ★ All Modes: AM, CW, FM*, FSK, LSB, USB.
- ★ 10 VFO's!!! Any Tx-Rx split within coverage.
- ★ Two frequency selection ways, no bandswitch.
- ★ Main dial, velvet smooth, 10Hz resolution.
- ★ Inbuilt keyboard with up/down scanning.
- ★ Dedicated digital display for RIT offset.
- ★ Receiver dynamic range up to 100dB!!
- ★ SSB: Variable bandwidth and IF shift.
- ★ 300* or 600Hz*, 2,400 → 300Hz, 6kHz*, 12kHz*.
- ★ Audio peak and notch filter. FM squelch.
- ★ Advanced variable threshold noise blower.
- ★ 100W RF, key down capability, solid state.
- ★ Mains and 12VDC. Switch mode PSU built in.
- ★ RF processor. Auto mic gain control. VOX.
- ★ Last but not least full break-in on CW.
- ★ 1.8-3.5-7-10-14-18-21-24.5-28MHz.
- ★ All modes: LSB, USB, CW, AM‡, FM‡, (‡Option board).
- ★ Front end: extra high level, operates on 24V DC.
- ★ RF stage bypassable boosts dynamic range over 100 dB!
- ★ Variable bandwidth 2.7KHz→500Hz and IF Shift.
- ★ Fixed bandwidth filters, parallel or cascade configurations.
- ★ IF notch (455KHz) and independent audio peak.
- ★ Noise blower adjustable for pulse width.
- ★ External Rx and separate Rx antenna provisions.
- ★ Three 6146B in special configuration – 40 dB IMD!
- ★ Extra product detector for checking Tx IF signal.
- ★ Dual meter, peak hold ALC system.
- ★ Mic amp with tunable audio network.
- ★ SP102: Speaker, Hi and Lo AF filters, 12 responses!
- ★ FV102: VFO, 10Hz steps and readout, scanning, QSY.
- ★ FC102: ATU, 1.2KW, 20/200/1200 W FSD PEP, wire.
- ★ FAS-14R: 4 way remote waterproof antenna selector.

★ ALL MODE HF TRANSCEIVER

- ★ Rx 150KHz-830MHz
- ★ TX 160-10 met 9 bands + 3 × 500KHz Aux bands
- ★ All modes Am, CW, FM, LSB, USB, AFSK
- ★ IF shift + variable bandwidth 2.6KHz-300Hz
- ★ Inbuilt keyboard operation + Scanning
- ★ Switchable attenuator 10, 20, 30dB
- ★ Audio peak + notch filter -40dB
- ★ RF process or Auto mic gain control
- ★ 3rd order IMD -40dB at 100W PEP
- ★ AFSK shift 170, 425, 850Hz selectable
- ★ Multi channel memory + programmable scan limits
- ★ Optional computer interface available

★ SOME FACILITIES OPTIONAL

WIDE COVERAGE ALL MODE Rx; FRG7700 £299 inc.

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- ★ 30MHz down to 150kHz (and below).
- ★ 12 Channel memory option with fine tune.
- ★ SSB (LSB/USB), CW, AM, FM.
- ★ 2.7KHz, 6kHz, 12kHz, 15kHz, @ -6dB.
- ★ 3 Selectivities on Am, squelch on FM.
- ★ Up conversion, 48MHz first IF.
- ★ 1kHz digital, plus analogue, display.
- ★ Inbuilt quartz clock/timer.
- ★ No preselector, auto selected LPF's.
- ★ Advanced noise blower fitted.
- ★ Antenna 500Ω to 1.5MHz, 50Ω to 30MHz.
- ★ 20dB pad plus continuous attenuator.
- ★ Switchable A.G.C. Variable tone.



'7700 THE ONE WITH FM!

- ★ 110 and 240V ac, 12Vdc option.
- ★ Signal meter calibrated in "S" and SIMPO.
- ★ Acc: Tuners, Converters, LPF, Memory.
- ★ FRT7700; 150KHz-30MHz, Switch, etc.
- ★ FRV7700A; 118-130, 130-140, 140-150MHz.
- ★ FRV7700B; 118-130, 140-150, 50-59MHz.
- ★ FRV7700C; 140-150, 150-160, 160-170MHz.
- ★ FRV7700D; 118-130, 140-150, 70-80MHz.
- ★ FRV7700E; 118-130, 140-150, 150-160MHz.
- ★ FRV7700F; 118-130, 150-160, 170-180MHz.
- ★ FF5; 500kHz (for improved VLF reception).
- ★ MEMGR7700; 12 Channels (internal fitting).
- ★ FRA7700; Active Antenna.

TWO AND SEVENTY



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- ★ Multimode USB, LSB, FM, CW.
- ★ 100Hz backlit LCD Frequency display.
- ★ 10 memory channels '5 year' backup.
- ★ Any TX/Rx split with dual VFOs.
- ★ Up/Down tuning from microphone.
- ★ AF output 1W @ 10% THD.
- ★ Bandwidth 2.4kHz and 14kHz @ -6dB.
- ★ LED's; 'On Air', 'Busy'. m/c meter; S, PO.
- ★ 58(H) x 150(W) x 195(D) (1.3kg).

SMC2.2C	NiCad 2.2A/hr, "C"	TOS
SMC2.0C	NiCad 2.0A/hr "C"	2.35
SMC8C	Slow Charger (220mA)	8.80
MMB11	Mobile Mount	22.25
CSC1	Soft carrying case	3.45
FL2010	Linear Amplifier 2m 10W	64.40
FL7010	Linear Amplifier 70cms	99.65



FT290R P.O.A.

FREE
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2 or 70!

- ★ 144-146MHz (144-148) possible.
- ★ 2.5W PEP, 2.5W RMS/300mW out.
- ★ FM: 25kHz and 12.5kHz steps.
- ★ SSB: 1kHz and 100Hz steps.
- ★ ±600kHz repeater split 1750Hz burst.
- ★ Integral telescopic antenna.
- ★ Rx, 70mA, Tx; 800mA (FM maximum).

FT790R £295 inc.

EX-STOCK

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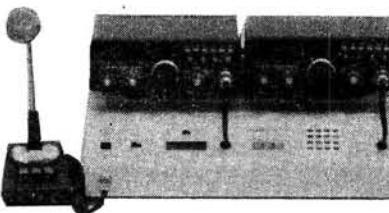
2 or 70!

- ★ 430-330MHz (440-450 alternative).
- ★ 1W PEP, 1W/250mW FM/CW out.
- ★ FM: 100kHz and 25kHz steps.
- ★ SSB: 1kHz and 100Hz steps.
- ★ 1.6MHz shift with input monitor,
- ★ 1750Hz burst.
- ★ Rx; 100mA/200mA. Tx; 750mA max.
- ★ BNC Mounting & flexi antenna.

FT480R £365

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& SECURICOR

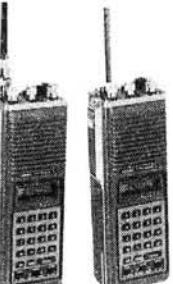
- ★ 144-146 MHz (143.5-148.5 possible).
- ★ ±600kHz standard repeater split.
- ★ Excellent dynamic range and sensitivity.
- ★ FM; 25, 12½, 1kHz steps.
- ★ SSB; 1,000, 100, 10Hz steps.



Ills. c/w SCI station
consol and YD 148 mic.

FT780R P.O.A.

FREE
DELIVERY



2 or 70!

FT208R £199

VAT @ 15%
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- ★ 144-146MHz (144-148 possible).
- ★ 12.5/25kHz synthesizer steps.
- ★ ±600kHz repeater split.
- ★ 2.5 or 0.3W RF output.
- ★ Rx; 20mA squelch 150mA max. AF.
- ★ Tx; 800mA at 2.5W RF.
- ★ 0.25µV for 12dB SINAD.

FT708R P.O.A.

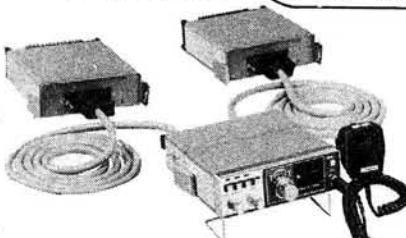
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DELIVERY

- ★ 430-440MHz (440-450 option).
- ★ 25kHz synthesizer steps.
- ★ ±7.6MHz EU split standard.
- ★ 1W or 100mW RF output.
- ★ Rx; 20mA squelch, 150mA (max AF).
- ★ Tx; 500mA at 1W RF.
- ★ 0.4µV for 12dB SINAD.

2 and/or 70!

FT720RV £245 inc.

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Ills. c/w S72 and
two E72S cables.

- ★ 144-146MHz (144-148MHz possible).
- ★ 12.5kHz synthesizer, 600kHz shift.
- ★ 0.3µV for 20dB quieting.
- ★ Rx 0.5 Tx RV 3.5A, RVH 6.5A.
- ★ 5.8(6.5)" D x 6" W x 2 (2.2)" D.

FT720RU £265 inc.

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FT230R P.O.A.

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DELIVERY

2 or 70!

- ★ 144-146MHz (extensions possible).
- ★ 25W RF output, 3W on low.
- ★ 25 and 12½kHz steps provided.
- ★ ±600kHz repeater split, 1750Hz burst.
- ★ Tx; 5A. Rx 300mA (standby).
- ★ UHF socket. IF's; 10.7 and 0.455MHz.

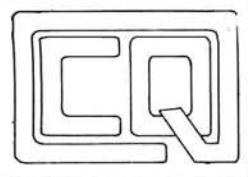
FT730R P.O.A.

FREE
DELIVERY

- ★ 430-434MHz (440-445MHz possible).
- ★ 10W RF output, 1W on low.
- ★ 25 and 100kHz steps provided.
- ★ ±1.6 MHz repeater split, 1750Hz burst.
- ★ Tx 3A, Rx 300mA (standby).
- ★ 'N' socket. IF's 46.255 and 0.455MHz.

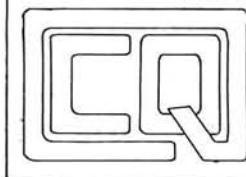
- ★ Four easy write-in memory channels.
- ★ Rx priority channel (auto check).
- ★ Scanning band/memory empty/busy.
- ★ Up/down tuning/scanning from mic.
- ★ Optically coupled tuning control.
- ★ Manual and automatic tone burst.
- ★ String LED's for 'S' and PO, 7 status LEDs.
- ★ 1½W of audio to internal/external speaker.
- ★ FT20 Control Head.
- ★ 3.3(4.3)" D x 6" W x 2 (2.2)" H.
- ★ S72 Switching box.
- ★ Pushbutton band change Auto steps/spits.
- E72S Extension cable, 2m long.
- E72L Extension cable, 4m long.
- MMB3 Mobile Mounting bracket for deck.

- ★ 150(W) x 50(H) x 176(D)mm.
- ★ Up/down, memory/band scanning.
- ★ Easy "write-in" memory channels.
- ★ Memory backup "5 year" lithium cell.
- ★ Ten memories with priority functions.
- ★ Supplied with scanning microphone.
- ★ Large illuminated "any angle" LCD display.
- ★ Display to 100's of Hz and special functions.
- ★ Two completely independent VFO's.
- ★ Operation between memory and "other" VFO.
- ★ Full reverse repeater function.
- ★ Manual and automatic tone burst.
- ★ Large "full sound" internal speaker.
- ★ Concentric volume and squelch controls.



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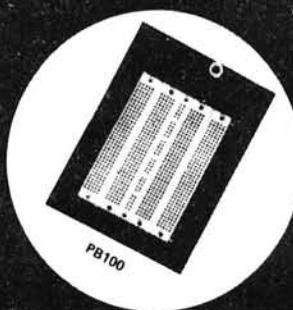
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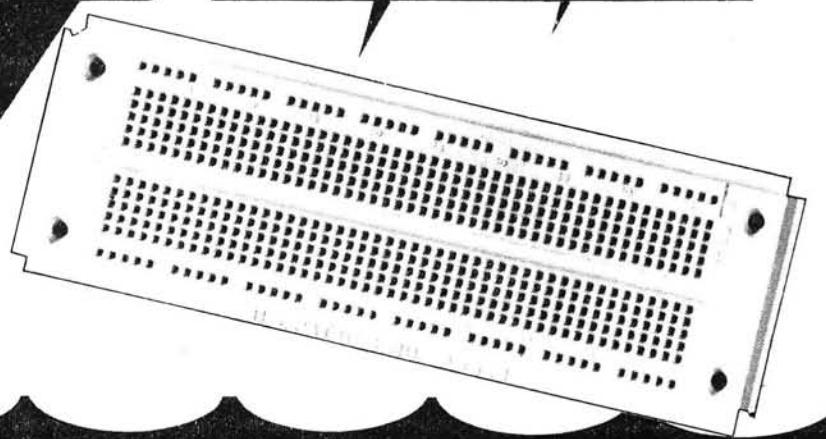
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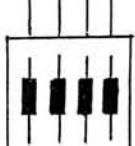
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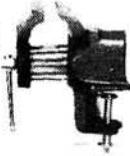


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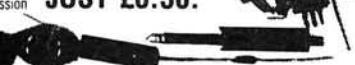
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comment...

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- Should you have a subscription problem — not receiving an issue, receiving two in the same month, etc. — don't call or write to the editorial office. Instead, write to Practical Wireless Subscriptions, Room 2613, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LS. They're closer to the demon computer than we are!
- Owing to the great volume of mail we receive from our more than 66 000 readers, we cannot help you modify a published design or provide circuit details for an idea you have.
- In most cases, we can't answer questions by phone and meet publishing deadlines at the same time. It's best to send a letter with a stamped, addressed envelope for a reply. No s.a.e. and it's likely to be just filed.

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- If you wish to contact one of our authors (other than *On The Air* columnists, whose addresses are given at the start of their column), send your query with an s.a.e. in an envelope addressed to the author c/o *Practical Wireless* at the Poole address (see page 1). We'll forward it. But don't expect him to act as your personal design consulting service, to perform prodigious research tasks, or to give you a short correspondence course on the subject he wrote about.
- If you're looking for a specific article from a past issue, before writing with your enquiry, refer to the annual index we publish in our December issues.

The above may sound familiar to some of the more well-read amongst you. I'd better confess to having based it largely on a piece by Arthur P. Salsberg in the May issue of the American magazine *Popular Electronics*, of which he is Editorial Director. They obviously get just the same sort of problems that we do, and he summed them up so well, I felt I could hardly better what he said. Hope you don't mind, Art!

If you're a budding author, and think you have something to say or a piece of equipment that will interest other radio enthusiasts, I'll always be pleased to hear from you. We've got an information sheet which tells you how to go about putting your article together for us, and one can be yours if you send an s.a.e. (sorry to keep on, but postage rates being what they are . . .).



services

QUERIES

While we will always try to assist readers in difficulties with a *Practical Wireless* project, we cannot offer advice on modifications to our designs, nor on commercial radio, TV or electronic equipment. Please address your letters to the **Editor**, "**Practical Wireless**", **Westover House, West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset BH15 1JG**, giving a clear description of the problem and enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope. Only one project per letter please.

Components for our projects are usually available from advertisers. For more difficult items, a source will be suggested in the "Buying Guide" box included in each constructional article.

PROJECT COST

The approximate cost quoted in each constructional article includes the box or case used for the prototype. For some projects the type of case may be critical; if so this will be mentioned in the Buying Guide.

CONSTRUCTION RATING

Each constructional project will in future be given a rating, to guide readers as to its complexity:

Beginner

A project that can be tackled by a beginner who is able to identify components and handle a soldering iron fairly competently. Generally this category will be used for simple projects, but sometimes for more complicated ones of wide appeal. In this case, construction and wiring will be dealt with in some detail.

Intermediate

A project likely to appeal to a wide range of constructors, and requiring only basic test equipment to complete any tests and adjustments. A fair degree of experience in building electronic or radio projects is assumed.

Advanced

A project likely to appeal to an experienced constructor, and often requiring access to workshop facilities and test equipment for construction, testing and alignment. Constructional information will generally be limited to the more critical aspects of the project. Definitely not recommended for a beginner to tackle on his own.

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Subscriptions are available to both home and overseas addresses at £13 per annum, from "**Practical Wireless**" Subscription Department, Room 2816, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS. Airmail rates for overseas subscriptions can be quoted on request.

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Turn to the following page for details of the *PW* Radio Users Insurance Scheme, exclusive to our readers.

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Practical Wireless Radio Users Insurance Scheme was devised by Registered Insurance Brokers B. A. LAYMOND & PARTNERS LIMITED following consultation with PRACTICAL WIRELESS to formulate an exclusive scheme designed to meet the needs and requirements of:

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PW1/83

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Post Code

Occupation	Age	Phone No. (Home)	(Work)
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I/We hereby apply to insure the equipment detailed below

COMPLETE IN BLOCK LETTERS	Manufacturer's Name	Model	Serial No.	Description of equipment to be insured e.g. Base station; Mobile; CB; etc.	VALUE £
1					
2					
3					
4					
5	Antennas (Aerials), s.w.r. meters, etc.				

Please continue list of equipment on a separate sheet if necessary

TOTAL SUM TO INSURE £

DECLARATION: I/We hereby declare that: 1. The sums insured represent the full replacement value of the equipment. 2. I/We have not* had insurance cancelled, declined, restricted, or other terms imposed in any way other than the normal Policy terms. 3. This proposal shall be the basis of the contract and that the contract will be on the Underwriters normal terms and conditions for All Risks and Legal Costs/Expenses cover unless otherwise agreed. 4. I/We have not* sustained any loss or damage to any radio communications equipment or been involved in litigation relating to use of radio equipment during the past three years, whether insured or not. 5. All the above statements made in connection with this proposal are true and no material information has been withheld. 6. I/We understand no liability shall attach until this proposal shall have been accepted by Laymond's and the premium paid in full and a Certificate issued.

* If you have, please give details on a separate sheet.

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DELAY IN ARRANGING COVER COULD COST YOU A GREAT DEAL OF MONEY. COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION AND POST WITH YOUR PREMIUM MADE PAYABLE TO "LAYMOND'S" NOW. ADDRESS TO: PRACTICAL WIRELESS (INSURANCE), B. A. LAYMOND & PARTNERS LTD., 562 NORTH CIRCULAR ROAD, LONDON NW2 7QZ. TELEPHONE: 01-452 6611.

A dummy load should be regarded as a precision component especially when used for determining the power output from the transmitter or estimating coaxial cable line loss in conjunction with a suitable r.f. power measuring instrument. A dummy load is also an asset when checking modulation level, etc. and avoids annoying others by carrying out such tests on an open antenna.

The two models described in these articles cover between them the amateur h.f. bands 1.8 to 30MHz and v.h.f./u.h.f. bands from 30 to 500MHz. Each can be used at different power ratings as indicated, either continuous or intermittent, and have a nominal d.c. resistance of 50 ohms ± 1 ohm under either of the operating conditions given.

Evolution of the Dummy Load

A line for the transmission of r.f. energy may be represented by an infinite number of incremental series inductances each shunted by a capacitor as shown in Fig. 1. The values of these reactances depend on the physical structure of the transmission line, but each one possesses a characteristic impedance given by $Z_0 = \sqrt{LC}$ and which, for a line with virtually no loss due to other causes, is purely resistive. As the r.f. waves travelling along the line see nothing but the resistance of the line and providing the line termination is also purely resistive — which it rarely is — there will be no reflection of power back along the line. However, if the length of the line is infinite, or nearly so, the power travelling down it would eventually be completely absorbed. In fact engineers did at one time use long lengths of unterminated transmission line as a dummy load. However, since an infinite line looks exactly like a pure resistance, the obvious procedure was to use an actual resistor as a load.

At first, solid rods of carbon were used and still are in some dummy loads on the market, but solid carbon rod has the disadvantage of changing value as the r.f. frequency is increased because the current flowing is concentrated on the surface. More recently special resistors have been made with film coatings whose thickness is between one hundredth and one thousandth of the skin penetration of r.f. current. The only problem remaining was to mount the resistors at the end of a line without introducing undesirable stray reactances which would cause power to be reflected to the transmitter output. At the same time it is essential to provide sufficient heat dissipation to allow the resistive load to accept low power for long periods or high

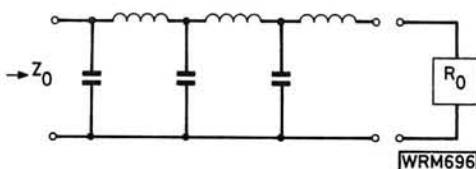
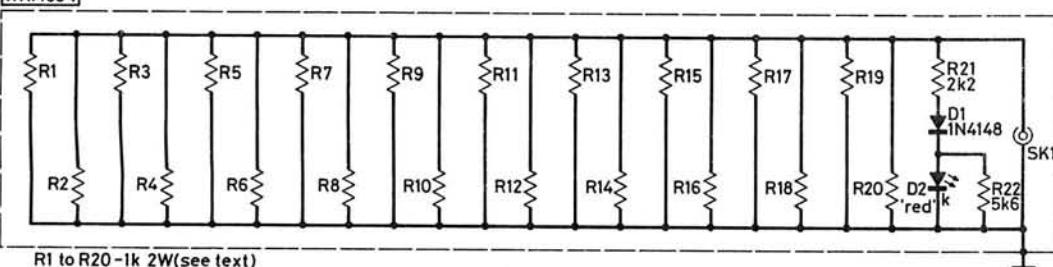


Fig. 1: Analogy of a transmission line

WRM694



R.F. Dummy Loads

PART 1

F.C.JUDD G2BCX

power for short periods. Dummy loads for professional use are also designed to have the above properties and can usually dissipate hundreds of watts continuously. They are of necessity extremely expensive.

It has been found, however, that many of the 50 ohm dummy loads available for amateur radio use have not only incorrect ohmic value but are incapable of dissipating even half the quoted rated power for periods of more than a few minutes. Not that this matters too much because measurement of power or cable loss etc. should take only a few seconds, thus preventing the resistive load from overheating and possibly even changing its value. The dummy loads described in these articles will dissipate rated power as quoted continuously but will accept much larger power levels for short periods without changing value by more than ± 1 ohm.

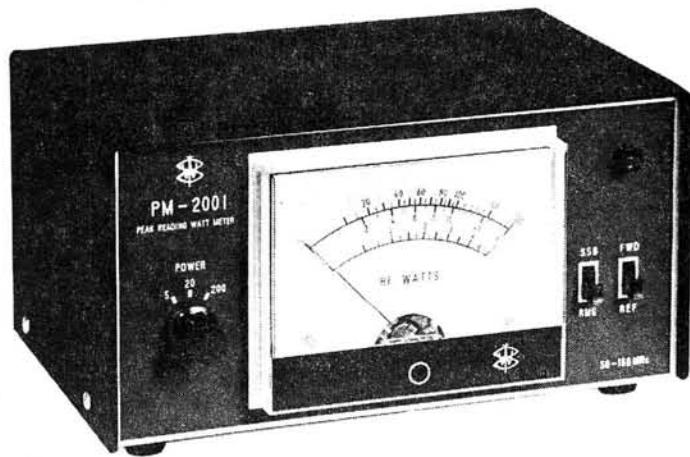
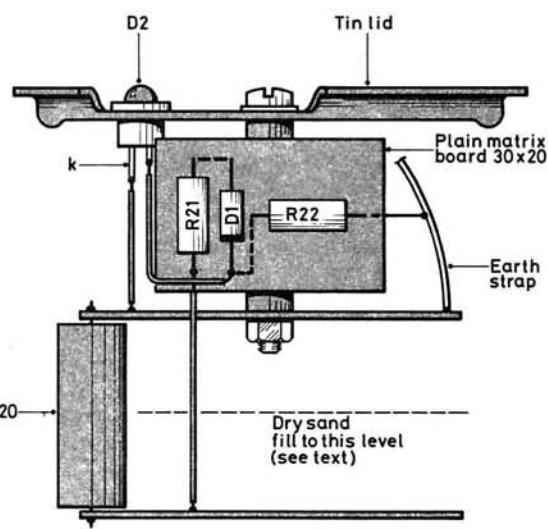
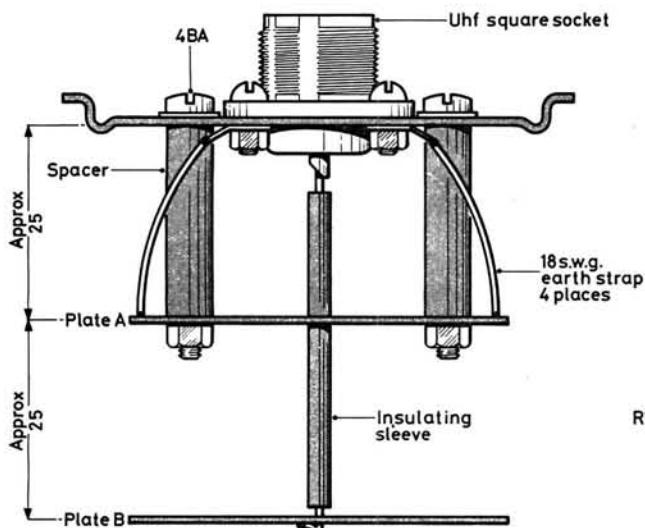
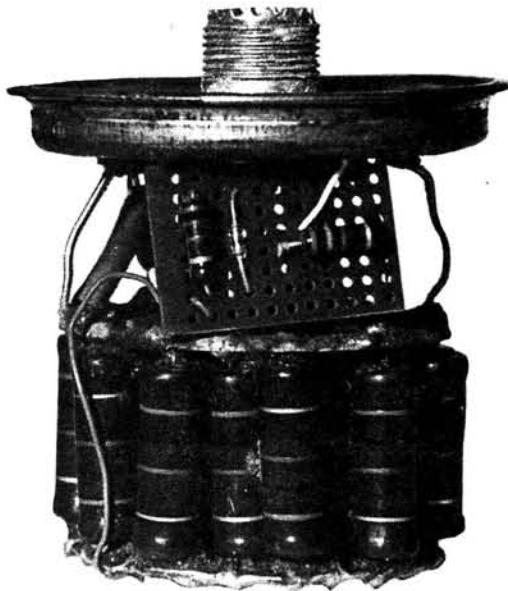
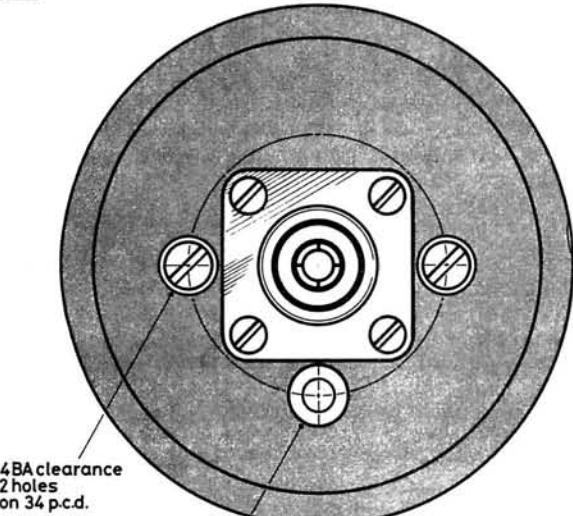


Fig. 2: Circuit of the 50 ohm dummy load. The Western Electronics PM2001 meter (above) handles 200W continuous r.f. power at frequencies up to 150MHz. It also indicates v.s.w.r.



All dims in mm.

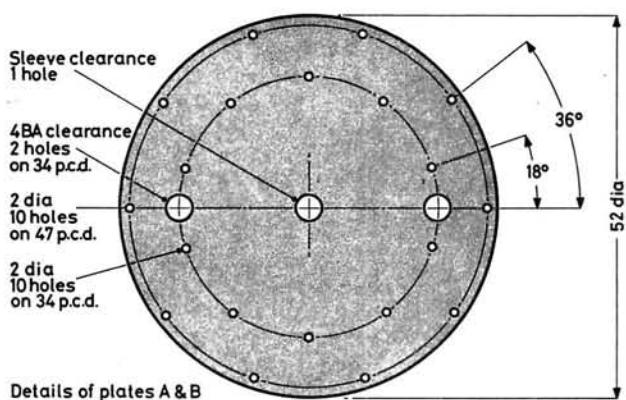


Fig. 3: Full constructional drawings of the 50 ohm, 30MHz dummy load. Any suitable tin with a press-in air-tight lid can be used to house the completed resistor assembly. The earthing straps between the SO239 socket fixing screws and the top plate (Plate A) are important and should not be omitted even if brass pillars are used between the lid and top plate

A 50 ohm HF Dummy Load

The circuit for this is shown in Fig. 2 and will cater for frequencies up to 30MHz with a self v.s.w.r. of 1 to 1. The power rating specifications are shown in Table 1.

The dummy load can be used for higher powers but only for very short periods (e.g. 30 seconds) especially at

high peak levels.

The h.f. bands dummy load is housed in a cylindrical can with a tight fitting lid (a syrup tin or similar) measuring about 90mm high and 75mm diameter. This model is dry sand cooled and details about this will be given later.

As the circuit shows there are 20 load resistors of high stability carbon film type each rated for 2 watts and all

★ components

Resistors

1W 5%
2·2kΩ 1 R21
5·6kΩ 1 R22

2W 5% carbon film
1kΩ 20 R1-R20

Semiconductors

Diodes
1N4148 1 D1
Red l.e.d. 1 D2

Miscellaneous

UHF socket SO239 (see text); 25mm long 4BA pillars (4); Tin can with lid (see text); Tinplate; Silver sand (see text).

connected in parallel. Each resistor has a value of 1000 ohms so the total value for parallel connection is $1000 \div 20 = 50$ ohms. The input is via an SO239 socket and the unit is equipped with an l.e.d. that indicates power present in the load. This will glow with a minimum power of 1 watt into the load but not exceed normal brilliance at high input power levels.

Table 1

	Power	Time	Can Temp.
Continuous power	50W	Indefinite	24°C
Carrier with white noise or speech and s.s.b. modulation	100W	5 min. max.	27°C
	200W	2 min. max.	27°C

Construction

The 20 resistors R1 to R20 are mounted between two circular plates made from ordinary thin tinplate as shown in Fig. 3. These are supported on the lid of the tin on 25mm long brass or plastics pillars. Each plate has a hole through the centre as shown to allow the lead from the socket connection to pass through to the lower plate. The SO239 socket is the square base type held to the lid of the can by four screws.

When this assembly is complete, four wire connections, one from each solder tag under the SO239 socket, are wired to the upper (earthed) circular plate with 18 s.w.g. tinned copper wire. The small circuit board carries the resistors R21 and R22 and the 1N4148 diode. It is held in position by the earthed wire from R22 to one of the main earth straps.

Sand

The can is filled to about half way up with fine grain dry silver sand such as is used for lawn dressing. It can be purchased from garden shops but do ensure absolute dryness by heating at low temperature in an oven for a short period. This sand is about as fine grained as sugar. When the resistor bank is inserted in the can it will need to be worked down so that the lower plate and bottom halves of the resistors are in contact with the sand.

Accuracy

It is unlikely that the d.c. resistance of the finished load will vary by more than 1 ohm from the 50 ohms being aimed for. Do not, however, rely on an ordinary ohmmeter for checking the final value. Few, if any, will read to that degree of accuracy. If the specified resistors are used there should be no problem in this respect. Exhaustive tests were carried out on the ohmic values of several assemblies of the dummy loads by comparison with a Bird Termaline r.f. coaxial 50 ohm load resistor and a Bird Thruline directional wattmeter.

RF Power Meters

It is of course essential to use a meter directly calibrated in r.f. power when measuring the power output from a transmitter. Ordinary cheap so-called power/v.s.w.r. reference type meters are of no use for this. Suitable direct reading power meters for the h.f. bands are the Daiwa CN620A which also gives direct power and v.s.w.r. readout without special reference adjustment. It will cater for power levels up to 1000 watts and frequencies up to 150MHz. For those who require to read peak power under s.s.b. conditions there is the Western Electronics PN2001 meter which caters for power levels up to 200 watts and frequencies up to 150MHz. This is a mains powered unit because of the internal active circuitry required to obtain peak power readout. It can also be used for obtaining a v.s.w.r. reading.

Meters suitable for frequencies up to 500MHz and higher will be dealt with in Part 2 which will also contain v.s.w.r. v percentage power loss conversion graphs, a meter inaccuracy correction graph, some notes on r.f. power expressed in dBW (dB Watts) as per the new amateur licence schedule requirements, and constructional details for a 50 ohm dummy load for use up to about 500MHz.

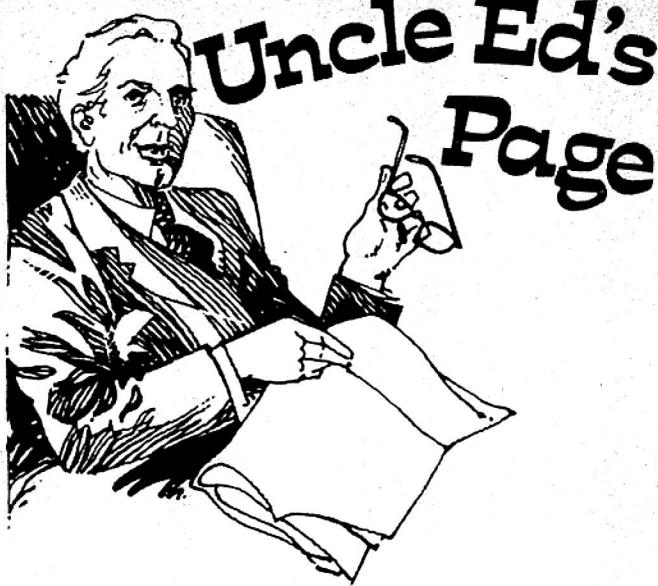
CONSTRUCTION RATING Beginner

BUYING GUIDE

All components are readily available from many of our regular advertisers. The SO239 socket must be a square flange type (RS Components 455-725 or similar). The silver sand can be obtained from a garden centre or seed merchants while a suitable tin is a well washed out syrup tin, small size of course.

APPROXIMATE COST

£3.50



Uncle Ed's Page

TRANSFORMERS—2

Last month, I asked you what would happen if you reversed the links between the two secondary windings in Fig. 6. In case you're not clear what I meant, look at Fig. 10. The answer to my question is (I hope) a blown fuse in the mains supply, otherwise a very overheated transformer.

Perhaps it will make it easier to understand if I substitute batteries for the secondary windings (Fig. 11), as the effect would be much the same. Redrawing this to leave out the wires going to the outside world, as in Fig. 12, should show you that what we have is a 24 volt battery ($12 + 12 = 24$) with a short-circuit across it. Result—BANG! Should you be silly enough to decide to prove this for yourself, tell your next-of-kin **not** to get in touch with me.

Suppose you had a transformer with two 12V 1A secondary windings and you wanted to connect them in parallel to give a 12V 2A output. You discover there are no phasing marks on the windings, how can you connect them safely? Well, Figs. 5 and 9 last month will give you the answer. All you need is an a.c. voltmeter. Connect the windings in **series** and put the meter across the two free ends. If it reads around 24V then the connections are like Fig. 5, but if it reads zero the connections are like Fig. 9. Either way, you've now got enough information to label the wires, either by putting a bit of tape on the two "in-phase" leads (or a spot of paint if the connections are on a tag-board). The tape or paint-spot is the equivalent of the black blob in Fig. 4. Parallel the windings by connecting the two tape-marked wires together, and the two unmarked wires together, and you'll be quite safe.

Sometimes you'll find a transformer with secondary windings of different voltages, for example 4V and 6V. You could connect these in series to produce 10V, or (by turning one of them round) to give 2V. It doesn't matter if they have different current ratings, the only thing is that you can't draw more current than the **lower** of the two ratings. What you mustn't do is to connect the windings in parallel, because there is always a net voltage difference (10V or 2V) whichever way round you connect them.

For the same reason, it's not a good idea to connect two secondary windings with the same nominal voltage but different current ratings in parallel, nor to connect the secondaries of two different transformers of the same voltage in parallel. The difference in the two voltages due to winding tolerances could be enough to cause overheating of the transformer(s). Modern transformers with two secondary

windings of the same rating are usually intended to be suitable for safe series or parallel operation of the secondaries, and are designed and tested with that requirement in mind.

In Fig. 13 (like Fig. 7 last month) although there are two secondary windings, they are connected at the centre so that only three wires come out. You can get transformers which are wound with one secondary but with a centre-tap brought out, like Fig. 14. In a catalogue or components list, this would be described as a 12–0–12V secondary. Now, you can use a transformer with two 12V secondaries to produce a 12–0–12V output, but you **can't** use one with a 12–0–12V secondary to produce two separate 12V outputs, because the windings are linked together inside the transformer.

Fig 10

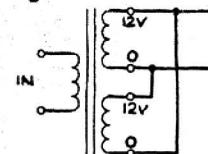


Fig 11

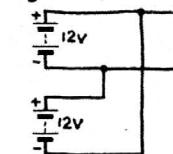


Fig 12

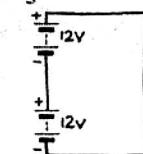


Fig 13

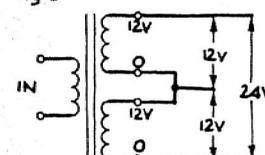


Fig 14

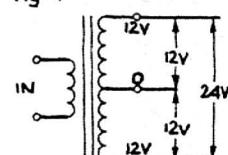


Fig 15

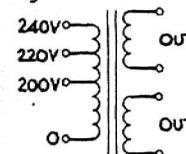
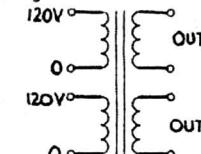


Fig 16



WRM705

I promised to talk about primary (input) winding arrangements. At one time something like that shown in Fig. 15 was common in the UK, to cope with the various supplies to be found in different parts of the country. Sometimes there was even a separate 10V primary which could be added in series with the main primary to match the transformer closely to supplies of 210, 230 or 250V as well. Since the UK mains voltage was standardised on 240V, these multi-tapped windings (which were obviously more expensive to produce) have largely disappeared. But with more international trade, the arrangement of Fig. 16 is often used. These primaries can be connected in series for 240V supplies, or in parallel for 120V supplies, using the same rules as for multiple secondaries. You might find these primaries tapped at 110V, to cope with countries having that as a standard.

Notice that the length of each winding as shown in the circuit diagram symbol for a transformer doesn't **necessarily** bear any relation to the voltage of that winding. It used to be so in the days of valved equipment, where the h.t. winding of perhaps 350V was drawn with many more loops or coils than the l.t. windings of 5 or 6.3V which fed the valve heaters. Nowadays, the length of the winding depends on how much space was available in that part of the drawing.

MORE NEXT MONTH



NEW

TWO METER Vertical Antenna Model G7-144

**7 dB
GAIN**
— compared to $\frac{1}{2}$ wave dipole

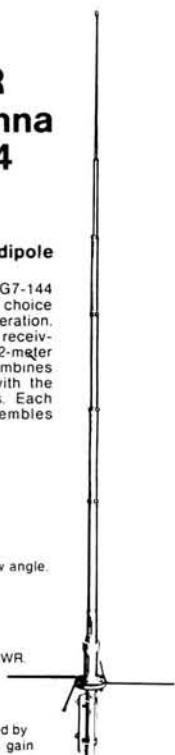
The superior performance of the G7-144 Master Gainer II makes it the ideal choice for fixed-station or repeater operation. The gain of 7 dB transmitting and receiving makes it the most powerful 2-meter antenna of its type. The G7-144 combines the latest antenna technology with the best weather-resistant materials. Each precision-built component assembles quickly and easily.

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7 dB gain over $\frac{1}{2}$ wave dipole.
Omnidirectional radiation pattern, low angle.
50 ohm feed impedance.
Field adjustable: 144-148 MHz.
SWR at resonance: less than 1.1:1 measured at antenna.
Bandwidth: 6 MHz for 2:1 or better SWR.
Power: One kilowatt FM.
Feed: Shunt with dc grounding.
Radiator: collinear shunt-fed. Triple $\frac{1}{2}$ -wave elements in series, separated by 2 phasing coils to produce maximum gain and extremely low angle of radiation.

Mechanical

Vertical element: 184" long, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " telescopic to 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ " O.D. Heat-treated high strength aluminum.
Radials: four, 20 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 4 $\frac{1}{8}$ " O.D. aluminum.
Connector: type N.
Wind load: 26 pounds at 100 mph.
Mounting: vertical support up to 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " O.D.
Shipping Weight: 100 lb.



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For bumper mounting — Fold is at roof line 27" above base. Shipping Weight: 2.3 lb.

Standard Hustler Resonators — Power Rating: 400 watts SSB

Model	Band
RM-10	10 meters
RM-11	10-15 Band
RM-15	15 meters
RM-20	20 meters
RM-40	40 meters
RM-75	75 meters
RM-80	80 meters

Super Hustler Resonators — Power Rating: Legal Limit SSB Supers have widest band-width

Model	Band
RM-10-S	10 meters
RM-11-S	10-15 Band
RM-15-S	15 meters
RM-20-S	20 meters
RM-40-S	40 meters
RM-75-S	75 meters
RM-80-S	80 meters

Resonator Impact Spring

Model RSS-2

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4-BTV	10-40m Trapped Vertical	98.90	D	UHT-1	140-500MHz whip coax	9.20	D	RM-80	80m Resonator	17.95	D
5-BTV	10-80m Trapped Vertical	125.00	D	27-TDX	CB Base Station Ant.	61.50	D	RM-80S	High Power version	35.65	D
G6-144B	2m Colinear 6db gain	88.55	D	MO-1	Mast (wing mounting)	21.85	D	BM-1	Bumper Mount	16.10	D
G7-144	2m Colinear 7db gain	129.95	D	MO-2	Mast (bumper mtg.)	21.85	D	C-29	St. Steel Spring	12.95	D
BBLM-144A	2m 5 8 whip mag. mt.	37.95	D	RM-10	10m Resonator	10.85	D	C-32	Chrome Ball Mount	8.28	A
BBLT-144A	2m 5 8 whip boot lip mt.	28.35	D	RM-10S	High Power version	16.10	D	HLM	Deluxe Boot mt/coax plug	16.79	A
CGT-144	2m Colinear boot mt coax	46.00	D	RM-11	27MHz Resonator	10.85	D	MM-1	Universal cowl mt.	10.00	B
HT-144	2m 5 8 whip speed mt.	27.60	D	RM-11S	15m Resonator	16.10	D	MM-3	ditto plus 17ft coax	16.79	B
SFM	2m 5 8 whip mag. mt coax	32.95	D	RM-15	High Power version	16.80	D	QD-1	Quick-disconnect	13.00	A
SF-2	2m 5 8 whip only	19.55	D	RM-15S	High Power version	14.72	D	RSS-2	Res. Impact Spring	6.30	B
SPS-144	2m 5 8 whip fast mt coax	21.85	D	RM-20	20m Resonator	20.00	D	SSM-1	Ball mt st.steel Spring	30.00	B
DCL	DISCONE coax plug	28.35	D	RM-20S	High Power version	16.79	D	SSM-2	Ball Mt. only (st.steel)	17.25	B
DCX	DISCONE only (40-700MHz)	18.98	D	RM-40	40m Resonator	23.00	D	SSM-3	H.duty Spring st.steel	16.97	B
CARRIAGE: A £1; B £2; D £5.00											

FIXED STATION FIVE BAND Vertical Antenna model 5-BTV

COVERS 10-15-20-40-AND 75 OR 80 METERS

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Fast, easy assembly for permanent or temporary installation and requires only one 50 ohm feedline.

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- Extra heavy duty aluminum mounting bracket with low loss - high strength insulators, stainless steel mounting hardware included
- Power capability - full legal limit on SSB
- Elevated mounting requires radials, not included

MOUNTING: Ground or tower mount with radials.

SPECIFICATIONS:

Length	25 1"
SWR at resonance	1.15 to 1 or better
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Mounting	Vertical support up to 1-3 1/4" O.D.
Shipping Weight	17 lbs

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- Lowest SWR - plus!
- Bandwidth at its broadest! SWR 1.6 to 1 at band edges

SPECIFICATIONS:

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Shipping Weight	15 lbs

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RADIO INTERFERENCE SUPPRESSION

E.A.RULE G3FEW

PART 3

In this, the final part of this short series on r.f.i., we shall be dealing with the problem as it relates to hi-fi equipment, although of course the same remedies can be applied to many other types of electronic equipment. Let it be said right now that there is almost nothing you can do at the transmitting end to cure r.f.i. on hi-fi equipment. Even f.m.

still causes problems and in practice actually makes the solution more difficult because you often can't hear anything to identify the cause, unlike s.s.b. or a.m. when the cause is only too obvious! Unless you have heard 50 plus 50 watts of hi-fi stereo s.s.b. in your living room you haven't lived!

START

Remove all interconnecting leads from the amplifier except the loudspeaker(s). Switch the amplifier on, keeping the volume control at minimum

1. No r.f.i. present. Turn the volume control up—if r.f.i. returns, pick-up is most likely on internal wiring or speaker leads. Consult manufacturer or go to line 2

2. Some r.f.i. present, possibly picked up on the speaker leads. Try a ferrite ring filter in each pair of leads and/or decoupling capacitors (see Fig. 13)

3. The r.f.i. clears. Most likely picked up on interconnecting leads and/or inputs. Proceed to line 8

4. The r.f.i. is still present, maybe slightly reduced. Possibly picked up on the mains lead. Try a mains filter, or a ferrite ring in the mains lead. Leave in any filters already fitted

5. The r.f.i. clears. Proceed to line 8

6. The r.f.i. is still present. Most likely picked up on internal wiring. Consult manufacturer

7. The r.f.i. clears. Proceed to line 8

9. The r.f.i. is present when the tuner is connected. On f.m. try a ferrite filter in the coaxial antenna downlead. On a.m. try a simple parallel tuned circuit in the antenna lead, tuned to the transmitter frequency

10. The r.f.i. is present on the disc input. Check earthing (see Fig. 12). Try a ferrite ring filter or decoupling capacitors (see Figs. 14, 15)

8. Turn volume control up. Connect each interconnecting lead in turn and check for r.f.i. If present on a particular lead, try ferrite filters or capacitors (see Figs. 12–15)

11. The r.f.i. is present on tape. Could be picked up on mains lead to recorder. Try ferrite ring or mains filter. If r.f.i. still present with mains disconnected, pick-up could be on internal wiring. Consult manufacturer for advice

Fig. 11: Hi-fi interference tracing chart. This chart is intended as a general guide only, and does not give all the possible combinations that can cause r.f.i. to be present in an audio system. Start with the basic amplifier and add the various other items one by one, checking each in turn. The effect of r.f.i. can range from mild audio distortion to full-power breakthrough of modulation

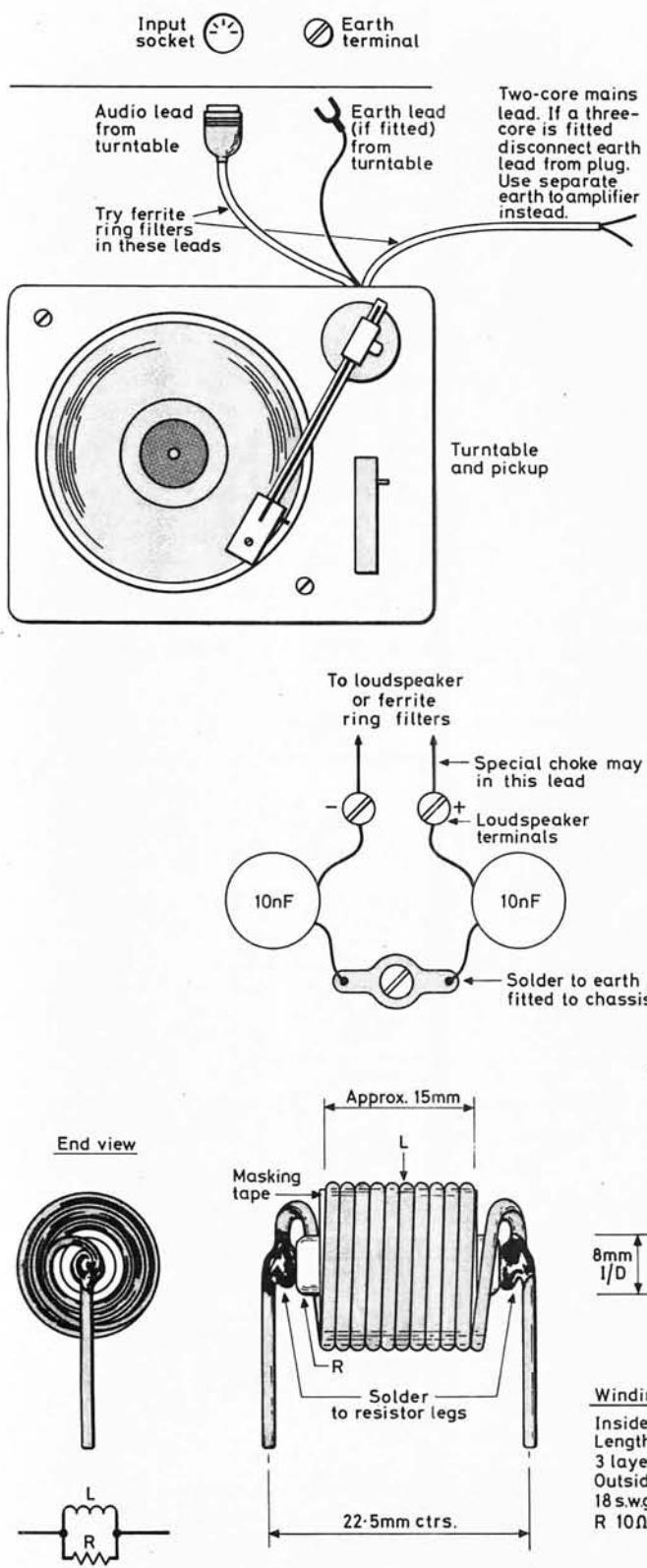


Fig. 12: Correct method of wiring a turntable to an amplifier to avoid r.f.i. Tape recorders, tuners, etc., should be wired in a similar way

You can be almost 100 per cent sure that the fault is in the audio equipment suffering from the r.f.i., but this does not mean you don't have to do anything about it. You have a moral responsibility to effect a cure providing the person suffering is willing to co-operate. Unless they are willing to co-operate you stand no chance of effecting a cure other than to stop transmitting, so it's worth repeating: "Do nothing that is likely to sour relationships with your neighbours". Most remedies can be applied externally to the hi-fi equipment and these should always be tried first. If you do find that internal modifications are required, let your neighbour choose a qualified engineer to do the work under your supervision, otherwise you may find that if you touch the internals of their pride and joy, you will be held responsible for every defect from then on. Much depends on your relationship with the neighbour but tread carefully. It is suggested that you pay for any external work and the owner of the audio equipment pays for any internal work, but again this will depend on the local situation.

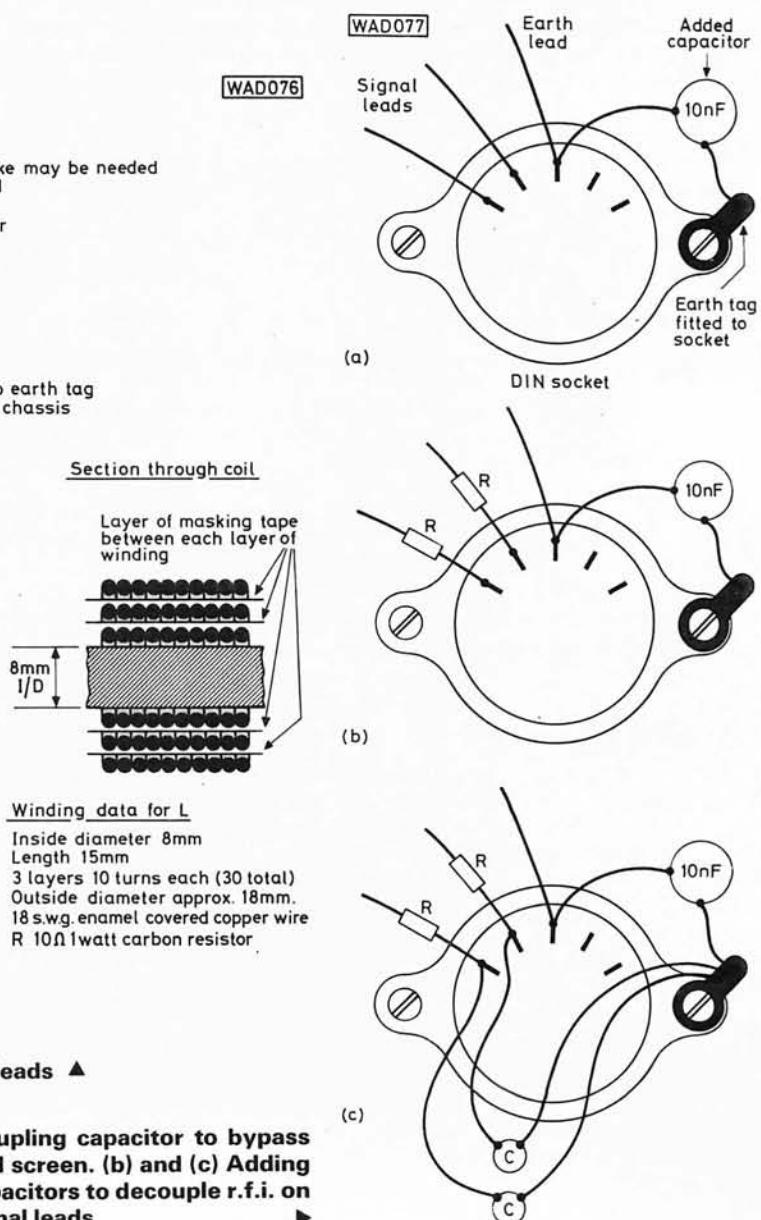


Fig. 13: Correct methods of filtering loudspeaker leads ▲

Fig. 14: (a) Adding a decoupling capacitor to bypass r.f.i. picked up on input lead screen. (b) and (c) Adding "stopper" resistors and capacitors to decouple r.f.i. on input signal leads ►

The chart shown in Fig. 11 is similar to the one given for receivers, but relates to the situation regarding r.f. getting into sensitive audio circuits.

One of the most common ways in which r.f.i. enters an audio system is via the disc (record deck) input. A turntable and pick-up with their wiring are shown in Fig. 12. Some manufacturers fit a wire link underneath the turntable, bonding the metal chassis to the audio earth return. This link should be removed and a separate earth connection run from the turntable chassis to the amplifier earth terminal, not the audio input earth.

It is important that there is only one actual earth connection between the various items making up the system. In general this will be via the audio leads, in which case any other additional earths can be removed if causing r.f.i. Each item (recorder, turntable, tuner, etc.) should be earthed to the main amplifier and **not** to a mains earth. Only the main amplifier should be connected to the mains earth.

Outputs and Inputs

Two methods of filtering loudspeaker leads are shown in Fig. 13. The capacitors, which should be disc ceramic type, should be fitted with the shortest leads practicable, at the speaker terminals or sockets on the amplifier. Some amplifiers may go unstable when capacitors are connected to the speaker terminals. In this case fit one of the chokes shown into the live (non-earth) lead to the amplifier speaker connectors.

Filtering of input sockets for tuners and tape or record decks should be tackled as shown in Fig. 14. If the input lead screen (pin 2 on DIN sockets) is not taken direct to chassis at the input connector, but goes instead via internal wiring, a 10nF disc ceramic capacitor should be added, as in Fig. 14(a), to decouple this connection from r.f.i.

In severe cases, the addition of "stopper" resistors (Fig. 14(b)) and/or capacitors (Fig. 14(c)) may help. For tape and tuner inputs, the resistors "R" may be 10k Ω , but for disc inputs 1k Ω should be suitable. The extra capacitors "C" must be of low value—100pF or less—otherwise the treble response of the amplifier will suffer.

The use of ferrite ring filters is mentioned for mains, loudspeaker, and f.m. antenna leads in Fig. 11. The method of winding the lead onto the ring is shown in Fig. 15(a). The filter should be fitted as close to the amplifier (or the tuner in the case of the f.m. antenna lead) as possible. The principle of operation of the ferrite ring filter for twin leads is shown in Fig. 15(b).

Stopping Detection

All the methods described are intended to stop the interfering radio frequency signal from getting into the amplifier. It will otherwise be "detected" by one of the stages (Fig. 16(a)), after which there is nothing you can do about it, as it will then be treated as a normal audio signal. You **MUST** prevent the r.f. getting into the amplifier in the first place. However, it is possible to prevent the "detection" process by making certain amplifier stages unsuitable for r.f. operation. Fitting a bypass capacitor (C) of 1nF to 4.7nF across the base/emitter junction of an audio amplifying stage transistor (Fig. 16(b)), will prevent it operating as a detector. In severe cases, a "stopper" resistor (R) of 100 Ω to 1k Ω may be added (Fig. 16(c)), but check for any effect this may have on audio reproduction. Normally, only the first stage in the main power amplifier section will need this treatment. Wire the extra components as close to the base/emitter leads as possible.

Fig. 15: (a) Winding a lead onto a ferrite ring to obtain r.f.i. filtering. **(b)** Principle of a twin-lead ferrite ring filter

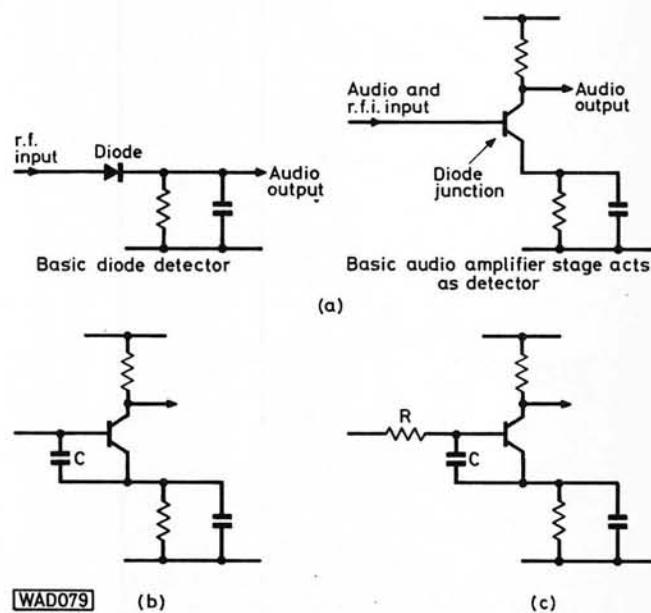
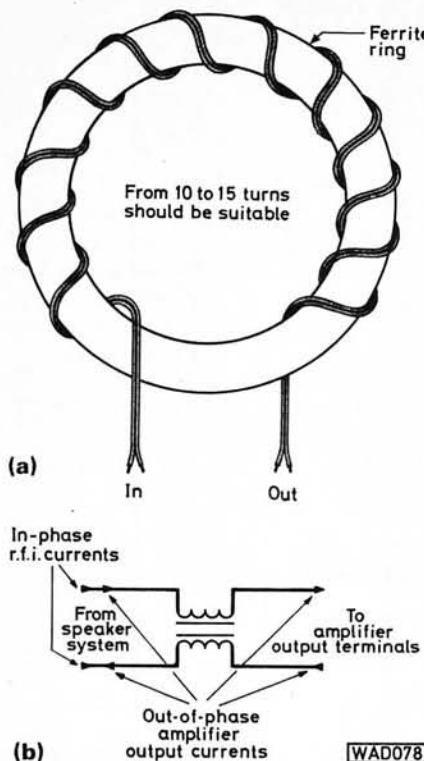


Fig. 16: (a) Similarity between a diode detector circuit and an audio amplifier stage. **(b)** and **(c)** Adding suppression components to prevent "detection" taking place

It has not been possible to cover all the aspects of r.f.i. in this short series but it is hoped that the basic ideas given will enable you to work out a solution. Remember that quite often more than one source may be causing the r.f.i. and several filters may be needed before a complete cure is achieved.

MODS

IMPORTANT—The ideas presented here are suggestions only, and as they are untried by this magazine, we cannot accept responsibility for any resultant damage, however caused. Before alterations are attempted, care should be taken to ensure that any guarantee is not invalidated, and it should also be borne in mind that modifications usually have an adverse effect on resale prices. In cases where specialist skills or equipment are needed, most dealers will undertake the work for a reasonable fee.

Roger Hall G8TNT(Sam)

No. 19

More mods for the FT-290R this month

Reset to 145MHz

This mod, by Dave Joyce G8MFE, was kindly supplied by SMC Ltd. It should prove very useful to blind operators as it resets the dial to 145MHz (UK versions; 147MHz USA) at the touch of a button and sounds a bleep to signal that it has reset. The first step is to remove the top and bottom covers. Then locate the hole in the case that is very near to the SO239 socket. It is covered on the outside by a stick-on aluminium label. Make a hole in this label and install a push-to-make, non-latching switch. Connect one side of this switch to ground and the other side to Pin 4 of J5003 which connects the keyboard unit to the control unit. A 1nF capacitor should also be connected from Pin 4 to ground for decoupling. Now replace the covers and dial up any frequency. Press the new button and the set should bleep and display 145.00 (147.00 USA).

Mic Gain

Tom G8HUU has sent in two very nice mods. The first allows the user to adjust the gain of the microphone amplifier which, in the FT-290, is normally running at full gain. Tom believes this to be the reason why so much extraneous noise is evident on f.m. transmissions when operating mobile on motorways or in noisy vehicles with this rig. Tom says that to overcome this problem it is essential to be able to reduce the microphone gain and not to be tempted to twiddle with the f.m. deviation control as this is best left alone, especially as it will not make any difference to the background noise. This is another relatively easy mod and the first step is to find chip Q2004. Then lift the earthy end of the 10 μ F Tantalum capacitor, C20, and re-connect it to earth via a 1k Ω preset pot. Putting this resistance in series reduces the decoupling effect of C20, increasing the amount of negative feedback to the input which in turn reduces the gain of the stage. For ease of adjustment, the pot is best fitted to the component side of the main board. There is a convenient earth pillar nearby. Adjustment should be carried out with a noise source in the background, Tom suggests a vacuum cleaner. Ask

several people for their opinion but beware of becoming involved with those strange amateurs who delight in giving false reports. It is also a good idea not to try to carry out these adjustments while mobile on a motorway, even though it might be a test of real life conditions!

Meter Mod

This mod was also supplied by Amateur Electronics UK Ltd., and it is for improving the performance of the output power meter. It should be noted that this meter cannot be used to tune the telescopic whip antenna, even though the meter deflection does vary with changes in the length of the whip. The radiation from this antenna is not necessarily at maximum when the meter is peaked. This mod ensures that the meter indications are relatively independent of the length of the antenna.

This mod is extremely easy to carry out as all that is involved is unsoldering one end of a capacitor (C2038 on the main unit) and re-soldering it in a slightly different position. Fig. 3 shows the original configuration of the circuit and Fig. 4 shows how the top end of C2038 has been moved from the end of L2010 and soldered to the track connecting L2009 to C2098. The readings on the meter should now be much more reliable.

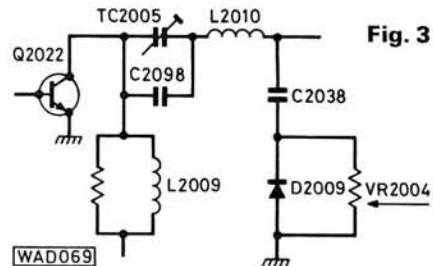


Fig. 3

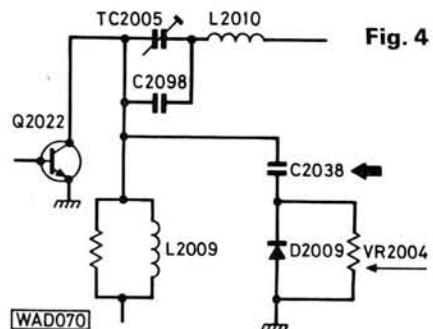


Fig. 4

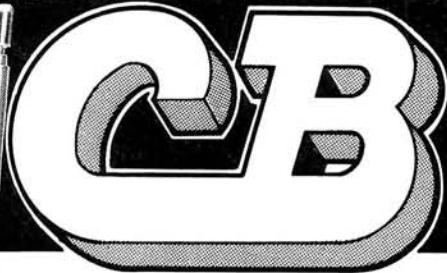
Squelch Mod

The effects of this mod are threefold:

1. A reduction in squelch hysteresis (the difference in level between the opening and closing points).
2. A speeding up of squelch operation which enables the scanner to work better, also reducing the squelch tail.
3. A reduction of hiss level when the squelch is closed. To carry out this mod, reduce C94 from 4.7 μ F to 1 μ F, increase R79 from 270k Ω to 330k Ω and then add Cx. This is a 10 μ F tantalum or sub-miniature electrolytic capacitor and it should be fitted from the leg of R78 (4.7k Ω) to the body of transistor T1007. This useful mod was again supplied by Nick G8MCQ.

The final set of mods for the FT-290R will appear next month

Tandy



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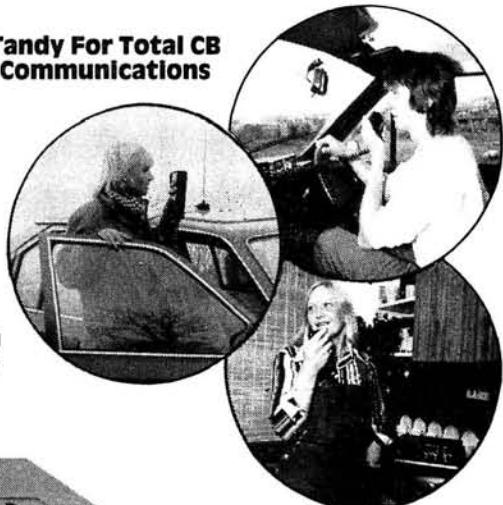
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Tony SMITH G4FAI

EM.....RAEM.....RAEM.....RAEM

Ernst Krenkel was a famous Russian radio amateur whose exploits in the 1930s are depicted on a commemorative QSL card used by many Russian amateur stations today. Some recipients of the card will know that he was an Arctic explorer/radio operator who played a vital part in a Polar rescue. Some may also know that he was honoured by the issue of a special postage stamp in 1973, that the Central Radio Club of the USSR is named after him and that he was allowed to use a special callsign unlike that of any other Russian amateur.

In July 1933 Krenkel was chief radio operator on the *SS Chelyuskin* under the command of Prof. Otto Schmidt who had special responsibility for opening up the shipping lanes through coastal waters north of Siberia. Unfortunately, like so many of her predecessors, the *Chelyuskin* became trapped in the Arctic ice and her plight eventually became world headlines. Ships have survived this ordeal before and to start with, at least, it was just a question of waiting through the winter until the thaw set in. On 13 February 1934, however, disaster struck. The ship was crushed by the ice-pack and sank in the Chukchi Sea off the north coast of Siberia. The survivors, some hundred men, women and children, fled to the ice with such supplies as they could take from the sinking ship. Krenkel's own personal QSL card illustrated here shows the dramatic scene.

For nearly two months, in Polar darkness, the survivors remained on an ice-floe with Krenkel's radio their only lifeline to the outside world. Fissures began to appear in the ice and desperate plans were made to send in Russian Air Force planes to effect a rescue, something which had never been attempted before in the Arctic region.

Three aircraft were used and the daring rescue attracted world-wide interest. On April 13 the last six people, plus eight dogs, were airlifted to the rescue base at Cape Vankarem, some 483km away. The Soviet Government instituted a new title on April 16, Hero of the Soviet Union, the highest personal award that could be made to

anyone, and the first recipients were the three young aviators who had rescued the *Chelyuskin* expedition.

For his part Ernst Krenkel was also awarded a high honour and was allowed to take the *Chelyuskin*'s call, RAEM, as his personal amateur callsign, a privilege which has never been bestowed on any other Russian operator. He had been trained as a wireless operator in 1920 and first worked amateur stations from the Arctic in 1927 when he was based in the northern island of Novaya Zemlya.

In January 1930, when based in Franz Josef Land, he established contact with Admiral Byrd's expedition in the Antarctic, on 7.4MHz (42m), using 250 watts. This was literally from one end of the globe to the other and was the first time such a contact had been achieved.

For some years after the *Chelyuskin* the idea had been debated of setting up a scientific station on a drifting ice-floe in the Arctic Ocean. The man charged with bringing this idea to reality was Otto Schmidt. A base station was set up on Rudolph Island, north of Franz Josef Land, and on 21 May 1937 the world was astounded to learn that an expedition had been landed at the North Pole by air. Four 4-engined aircraft equipped with ski-runners flew over 10 tonnes of supplies to the Pole. Schmidt, with a supporting party, stayed there for eleven days. They then departed with the aircraft leaving four men and a dog on the floating station. The leader was Ivan Papanin and other members were Peter Shirshov and Eugene Fedorov, both scientists, and Schmidt's old radio operator from the *Chelyuskin*, Ernst Krenkel.

The first activity on May 21 was the setting up of the expedition's wireless station and the initial signal was put out that day using the callsign UPOL, which was to become internationally famous in the months ahead. The main purpose of the expedition was to carry out a wide range of scientific observations as the floe drifted southwards and, of course, the radio's main purpose was to communicate all findings to base on Rudolph Island immediately they were available. Four weather reports were sent daily and all members of the party were commissioned to write and despatch articles on their experiences to various newspapers and magazines. All of this, coupled with personal traffic for each member, plus official business, kept Krenkel very busy. Yet, at various times he also managed to communicate with amateur operators in many countries.



RAEM was the call of S/S Cheluskin smashed by ice in the Polar sea in 1934. I was there the chief operator. Since then RAEM is my personal amateur call. Mail address: Ernst Krenkel, Chaplin street, 1/A, Moscow, USSR.

Г 313460 6/VI 1960 г. Типография ГЭИ. Москва, Шелковая наб., 10. Зак. 237.

The reverse of Krenkel's personal card

The first amateur contact was on June 24 when he worked a station in Aalesund, Norway, and he was then hopeful of soon establishing contact with amateurs from his own country. He had already announced that his own receiver, which he had lodged with the office of the journal Radiofront, would be presented to the first USSR station to work him on UPOL. In the meantime other amateurs worldwide were clamouring to make contact with him. On June 26 he worked stations in France, Brazil, Hawaii and the USA. By July 3 he had established contact with the USSR, and worked other amateurs in Norway, France, England, Ireland, Iceland and North America on that day. He also managed to work South Australia on September 7.

His transmitter power was only 20 watts, with an antenna that was 76 metres long, strung between two masts. His basic power supply came from accumulators which were charged by a wind generator. When there was no wind and the accumulators were flat there was a stand-by "bicycle" generator which took two men to operate, using hands and feet, so that on those occasions only the most essential messages were transmitted. There was also a stand-by petrol generator but this was rarely used because of the need to conserve fuel in case of a genuine emergency.

Much meteorological data was collected as the floe began its long drift to the south as the Soviets were very interested at the time in the proposed polar air route between Russia and the USA. During June the first flight took place between Moscow and Vancouver, passing very

close to the Polar station in the process. Less than a month later, in July, a world record non-stop, non-refuelling flight of 10 077km followed the same route and landed in San Jacinto, California, 62 hours after leaving Moscow. Then in August a polar flight went missing in the Arctic. The expedition was put on alert to prepare an airstrip on the ice in case it was needed by rescue aircraft, and Krenkel spent many long hours monitoring the aeronautical frequency in case help was required.

By early December they were nearly 1287km from the Pole and fast approaching the danger line of latitude 80°N. Here the floes begin to crumble and break up before sweeping down the east coast of Greenland. Cracks were beginning to appear and the party was preparing to move to find firmer ice if necessary. Conditions became appalling. In the darkness of the polar night there were violent blizzards, continual movement of the ice-pack, and heavy snow falls.

The radio antenna had to be re-erected several times in the teeth of fierce gales, and in the sub-zero conditions they had to repair the wind generator. On February 2 the camp had to be moved, together with all supplies, away from dangerous fissures threatening to split the site in two.

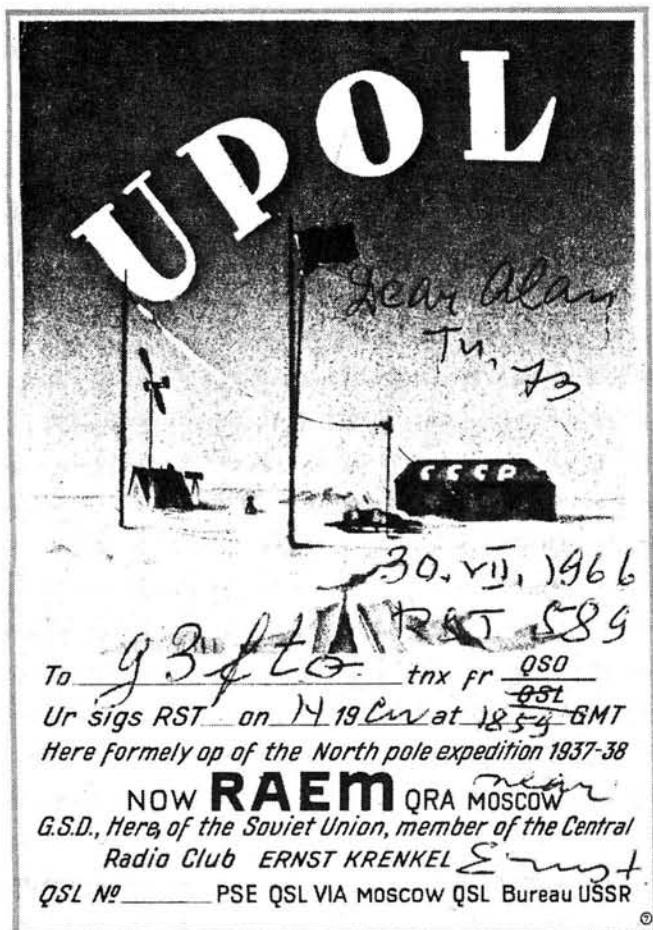
All this time meteorological, hydrological and other scientific observations continued to be made. Krenkel kept at his transmitter to ensure everything was recorded at Rudolph Island and to maintain contact with the ships now coming to their rescue through the icefields. At one point the radio equipment was mounted on a sledge and operated in the open air ready to be moved to safety at a moment's notice. To operate his telegraph key Krenkel had to use bare hands so he could only manage this for ten minutes at a time; the conditions under which he worked can be imagined. As they drifted further south contact with Rudolph Island became difficult and messages were then relayed through the approaching ships or through the Norwegian radio station on Jan Mayen Island.

They were finally rescued by the icebreakers Murmanetz and Taimyr in the face of many difficulties on 19 February 1938. The solid ice which had measured about two by four kilometres when they started, and on which four large aircraft had landed, now measured about thirty by ten metres. They had drifted 2510km and had arrived off the east coast of Greenland. All the scientific equipment was saved and before the transmitter was removed Krenkel sent a final message saying the North Pole station was being closed down in latitude 70° 54' N, longitude 19° 48' W.

It was all over, but it was not forgotten. The party returned in triumph to Moscow and all received important decorations and rewards for their success. Ernst Krenkel, Hero of the Soviet Union, was subsequently honoured by his country in several ways. He was an active operator on the amateur bands in the 1960s and many stations round the world must have received his original and unique QSL card which is shown here.

After a lifetime of remarkable achievement he died on 8 December 1971. He had been made President of the USSR Federation of Radio Sport in 1959, he was on the boards of the magazine of Radio and the publishing house Energiya and he was head of the All-Union Society of Philatelists. He achieved his final ambition when he commanded an Antarctic research expedition in 1968/9 which travelled 51 000km.

A gulf in the island of Komsomets is named after him as is a Polar Geophysical Laboratory and a Communication Polytechnic in Leningrad. He was one of a breed of men, found in all countries, for whom achievement is measured in terms of personal qualities of skill, courage and endurance. Amateur radio itself is honoured by having had such a man in its ranks.



Ernst Krenkel's own card confirming a contact with G3FTQ in 1966

NEWS NEWS NEWS

Passport to Amateur Radio Reprint

As promised last month, I can now confirm that the reprint of our very popular series *Passport to Amateur Radio* will be available at the beginning of January 1983.

The 88-page publication contains all the *Passport* series, plus a number of reprinted articles of particular interest to the aspiring Radio Amateur Examination candidate.

Costing only £1.50, which includes postage, the reprint will be available, at the beginning of January 1983, from: *IPC Magazines Ltd., Post Sales Department, Lavington House, 25 Lavington Street, London SE1 0PF.*

1.3GHz ATV Repeaters

The Microwave and Repeater Working Group committees of the RSGB are finalising the technical specifications for 1.3GHz ATV repeaters (six proposals are in the pipeline). It is our understanding that the specification will amount to a working compromise between groups wishing to build a.m. or f.m. units.

The proposal is to utilise the 1300–1325MHz sub-band and provide ATV repeaters with two separate channels. The separate channels would be designed so that the first would accept either a.m. or f.m. inputs and provide a.m. only out, the other channel would accept f.m. only in with f.m. only out. It is hoped that the power output would be the same as that for voice repeaters on the band.

Antennas would consist of Alford Slots—Big Wheels or steerable Yagi beams. Sites will be chosen to allow coverage of a town size area or to allow linking two areas of amateur population.

The proposed frequencies for the 1.3GHz ATV repeaters are for f.m. systems 1.318GHz output and 1.283GHz input, for a.m. systems 1.312GHz output and 1.277GHz input. Of the six proposals going to the HO, the mode breakdown is, GB3TV Luton on f.m., GB3VR Worthing on f.m., GB3UD Nr Stoke-on-Trent on f.m., GB3UT Bath on a.m. and GB3GV Leicester on a.m.

AMSAT News

UOSAT — OSCAR 9: Latest information confirms UOSAT is still firmly under control and has been interrogated to yield the following: 1: The spacecraft is spinning around its long (Z) axis about once every 10 seconds. This is a factor of 3 increase since April 1982. 2: Data has been dumped into the 1802 computer memory and no errors found. 3: The F100 computer is believed to have suspect CMOS elements resulting in an increase, since April, in its current consumption.

On Thursday 14 October the c.c.d. camera and imaging unit was tested using a picture dump. This was successful, but the results were degraded by the presence of terrestrial f.m. signals within the satellite sub-band. Note! Do not use the 144MHz sub-band 145.800 to 146.000MHz unless participating in a space experiment, and then only use the approved modes — s.s.b. or c.w.

Surrey University have since successfully carried out a spin down, spin up and a spin down and change of spin rate — all controls worked correctly. During the week ending 31 October 1982, Surrey hoped to slowly spin down the Z axis to about one revolution in every two minutes, at which point they will change the orientation from 90° to the orbit to the parallel plane prior to putting out the beam.

Phase IIIB: At the time of writing this report the Phase IIIB satellite, the next active transponder in the OSCAR series, is due for launch in early April 1983. Evaluation tests have been carried out to determine the effects of thermal variations on the r.f. package. The Eng. Beacon was radiating a signal on 145.9870MHz at 25°C and 145.9830MHz at 0°C. Under the same conditions, the General Beacon's radiated signals were 145.8100 and 145.8105MHz. Power output of the Mode B transponder is expected to be 50W p.e.p. An uplink frequency of 435.100MHz produced a downlink output of 145.903MHz at 25°C, shifting upwards by 3kHz at 0°C.

The Mode L transponder output is now reckoned to be 32W (d.c.) and much lower than expected. The weight of the vehicle has been reduced as a result of carrying less propellant for the

kick motor and will result in a final inclination of 63.4° and a perigee of between 230 and 235km.

Once again our thanks to Ron Broadbent G3AAJ for the information. Readers may be interested to know that the excellent AMSAT-UK booklet *Guide to OSCAR Operating* is once again available for only 84p, as is the recently introduced *Computer Handbook* which contains many space-related computing articles, priced £3.29 to non-members and £2.79 to members. Prices quoted include p&p.

These publications are obtainable from: *AMSAT-UK, 94 Herongate Road, London E12.*

Cornish Beacons Return

At 1600 on Saturday 16 October 1982 the resited Cornish beacon complex GB3CTC returned. Three beacons are now operational from the Hensbarrow Downs (XK46D) site and the operational frequencies are 70.030, 144.915 and 432.970MHz, all beaming NNE.

Output levels of the 70 and 144MHz beacons are approximately 50W e.r.p., using 3-element beams and 10W e.r.p. on 432MHz. The common mast is at 279m a.s.l. with the antennas mounted between 15 and 18m a.g.l. At the time of writing the 144MHz beacon was presenting a good signal at the East Dorset QTH of G8MCP but there was no sign of the 432MHz beacon.

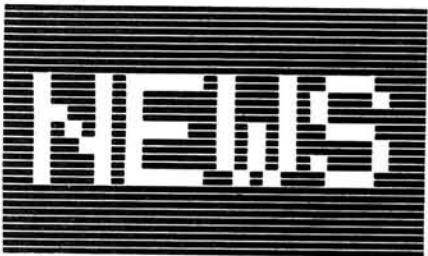
Our thanks for this information and congratulations on the considerable engineering work go to Bill Colclough G3XC. All reports would be welcomed by Bill, who is QTHR.

Morse Course

The Bradford and Ilkley Community College is intending to run a course to prepare students for the Post Office Morse Examination.

The one year course will commence on Wednesday 12 January 1983, and classes are on Wednesday evenings between 1900 and 2100 hours.

Before the starting date, prospective students should contact the Course Tutor, P. Nurse, at: *Bradford and Ilkley Community College, Division of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Great Horton Road, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD7 1AY.*



Short-course for May RAE

A short-course to prepare candidates for the May 1983 RAE has been arranged at the Arnold and Carlton College of Further Education in Nottingham.

The course, which is intended for students with some knowledge of the subject, is not really suitable for absolute beginners, will run for 13 weeks commencing on Thursday 24 February and the Course Tutor will be Alan Lake G4DVW.

Full details of enrolment etc. are available from: *The Arnold and Carlton CFE, Digby Avenue, Mapperley, Nottingham. Tel: (0602) 876503.*

Can Anyone Help?

A reader in the western area of Southampton, who is suffering from a progressive disease affecting the use of his hands, is looking for someone to help him in the rebuilding of a solid-state audio amplifier.

Anyone willing to assist please write to the Editor, who will pass your offer on. Thank you.

Gazetted Changes

We have yet to see a copy of it, but the *London Gazette* published, we believe, on 1 October 1982 the following revisions to the Amateur Class A and B licence conditions.

18.068 to 18.168MHz and 24.890 to 24.990MHz: Operation allowed on a non-interference secondary status. Primary use remains with fixed and land mobile services until they have been transferred to new frequencies, or until amateur primary status is achieved, which will not be later than 1 July 1989. Until then, and in the light of operating experience, the conditions of use may be altered, or the allocation withdrawn.

430 to 440MHz: The sub-band 431 to 432MHz will be allocated to p.m.r. in the London area. Although this sub-band has not been withdrawn at present, amateurs are asked voluntarily not to use it within 100km of central London. Amateur access to the com-

Repeater News

u.h.f.: It is understood from the RSGB-RWG that u.h.f. Phase 6 proposals, which have been awaiting clearance by the HO for 11 months (at November 1982) are now cleared, but operating frequencies are still to be considered by the appropriate inter-departmental committee. This secondary procedure has now been adopted as standard for all subsequent beacon and repeater proposals within shared bands.

A proposal has been received for repeaters in the Hendon district of London and Breckland in Norfolk—GB3AH on RB13.

The Hull u.h.f. repeater GB3HU is to be co-sited with the 144MHz repeater GB3HS, at the same time changing channel from RB10 to RB6.

v.h.f.: The final technical specifications for GB3SF, the Sheffield University based s.s.b. repeater project, are about to be submitted to the HO. PW hopes to feature a detailed report on this unique UK experimental device in the near future.

Food for Thought: Several would-be repeater groups now holding licences for 1.3GHz voice repeaters have failed to bring machines on-air. It would appear that aspiring groups in other locations are unable to obtain licences until the initial applicants have put their machines to the test. There is a danger that should the original licence holders not utilise the permission they have been granted, the licences will be withdrawn by the RSGB. This situation also applies to a number of long off-air 144MHz (2m) and 432MHz (70cm) repeaters in the London area.

plete 430 to 440MHz band is confirmed as being on a *secondary basis to all* other users.

2300 to 2450MHz: The sub-band 2300 to 2310MHz will be withdrawn and allocated for fixed (non-amateur) use. Beacons presently located in this sub-band may remain until 31 December 1983. This sub-band has also been withdrawn from amateur use in other European countries.

10.0 to 10.5GHz: Fixed and mobile services are to be introduced into the sub-band 10.25 to 10.40GHz as a result of the new Mercury microwave system. It is not being withdrawn from amateur use, but this may prove necessary if primary services suffer interference.

Above 40GHz: Four new bands have been allocated internationally as a result of WARC 79. Conditions for use will be the same as for the rest of the bands above 1GHz. The new bands are: 47.0 to 47.2GHz; 75.5 to

The RSGB has moved

Since moving into their Doughty Street premises in 1968, the RSGB has finally outgrown those offices and moved to a new HQ in Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, some 15 miles to the north of Doughty Street.

The move to the new HQ, which provides some three to four times the floor space of 35 Doughty Street, and follows a good deal of searching and long, protracted negotiation, should have been completed by 8 November 1982.

Full details of the Society's new HQ and services are: *RSGB, Alma House, Cranborne Road, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire EN6 3JW. Tel: (0707) 59015. Listen only to headline news service (0707) 59312. Members with news items for GB2RS, or the headline news service may now telephone into a dedicated answering machine which will be transcribed every day, (0707) 59260. The telex number remains unchanged, 25280.*

DXTV Newsletter

Cyril Willis of Ely, Cambridgeshire, intends producing a Newsletter specifically for the DXTV enthusiast.

The plan is to publish twelve issues a year, consisting of between four and eight A4 pages, which will contain DXTV news, logs, photographs etc., plus features on DXTV personalities.

For further details, by post, send an s.a.e. to: *Cyril Willis, 17 Main Street, Little Downham, Ely, Cambs. CB6 2ST. Tel: (0353) 87755.*

76.0GHz; 142 to 144GHz and 248 to 250GHz.

Acknowledgement is also made of the intention to issue 40 class A amateurs with *limited* experimental licences, to operate on a strict non-interference basis within the band 50 to 52MHz (conditions are as for 70MHz).

Our sources indicate that subject to this experimental phase being satisfactorily concluded and all interested parties being in agreement, a general allocation will be made to the UK amateur. This is unlikely to occur for at least two years and is subject to the final pronouncements by the HO in respect of the re-use of the vacated TV band. Now is the time to monitor and collect data about 50MHz—even if you are not able, at this time, to transmit, much valuable research data can be obtained. The RSGB have confirmed that the band *will* be available to class B licence holders.

PRODUCTION LINES

ALAN MARTIN G8ZPW

Want a Crunchproof Icom?

MuTek Ltd. announce a new addition to their range of products for the radio amateur. Entitled the RPCB251ub, it is a complete receiver front-end for the Icom IC-251 and IC-211 144MHz transceivers. The unit utilises advanced circuit design techniques to provide a combination of a low noise figure with superior dynamic performance.

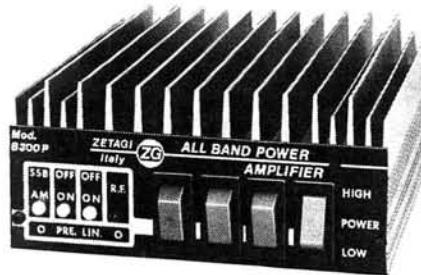
A low-loss nitrogen filled relay replaces the lossy diode antenna switching used by Icom. This is followed by a very low noise r.f. amplifier with a gain dimensioned to set the overall noise figure to a level at which externally generated noise becomes the limit to receiver sensitivity.

Image filtering is provided by a high-performance Tchebyshev bandpass filter. A properly terminated diode-ring switching mixer is followed by a high

dynamic range MOSFET amplifier using a combination of resistive and noiseless negative feedback techniques. This interfaces with a six-pole monolithic crystal filter which is followed by a MOSFET amplifier operating under a.g.c. control.

An input buffer for the local oscillator signal and an output buffer for an oscilloscope or spectrum analyser are also provided.

All the components are mounted on a high-quality plated-through-hole p.c.b. Complete step-by-step installation instructions are provided, whilst for those UK customers who do not wish to perform their own installation, a fitting service (at extra cost) has been negotiated. The all-inclusive price for the unit is £69.90 and is available, along with details of the installation service, from: MuTek Ltd, Bradworthy, Holsworthy, Devon EX22 7TU. Tel: (0409 24) 543.

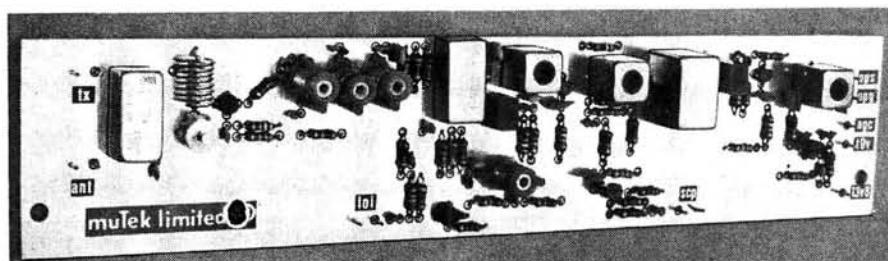


Mobile Linear Amplifiers

Telecomms, the exclusive UK distributors of Zetagi radio equipment, announce the availability of a new range of mobile linear amplifiers for the amateur radio market. The range comprises three linears, two specifically for the 144MHz band and a broadband linear amplifier for the h.f. bands.

First, the B40 VHF, a compact 30W mobile linear covering the 144MHz band, competitively priced at £32.07. Second, the B100 VHF, a high power version priced at £63.00. Finally, the B300 P, a very high power broadband h.f. linear amplifier, covering 3 to 30MHz with a power rating of 140 to 300W p.e.p. on s.s.b. Output power is switchable between high/low power positions and an input drive of approximately 20W p.e.p. is required to obtain the maximum power out. On receive the unit has a built-in broadband pre-amp with 25dB gain if required. The B300 P is priced at £119.00. All prices quoted include VAT but £2.00 p&p must be added.

All three units are available from: Telecomms, 189 London Road, North End, Portsmouth. Tel: (0705) 662145.



More on page 47

BENNY



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CT300	300/kw dummy load 250MHz PL259	43.00
CH20A	2 way coax switch, 1kw S0239	15.95
CH20N	2 way coax switch 1kw "N"	27.95
CT-03N	3w dummy load 1.3GHz "N"	24.95

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MK703	Squeeze paddle	10.00
MK705	Squeeze paddle on marble base	22.43
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CPB78	Power booster for C78 10 watts	67.50
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CX600N	DC - 1GHz 3 x 'N' type sockets	24.95

COAX SWITCHES

CT1	Toggle 2-in - 1-out 3 x S0239	253.00
CT2	Toggle 2-in - 1-out 2 x S0239 x PL259	129.95
TS120	Coax slide 2-in - 1-out 3 x S0239	198.95
SA450	Diecast box 3.5-500MHz 3 x S0239	218.50

DUMMY LOADS

DL30	30w DC - 150MHz with PL259 connector	79.35
T100	100w DC 500MHz with S0239 connector	218.00
T200	200w DC 500MHz with S0239 connector	218.00

BEARCAT SCANNING RECEIVERS

BC-100	16 channels (handheld)	253.00
BC-150 FB	10 channels	129.95
BC-220 FB	20 channels	198.95
BC-250 FB	50 channels	218.50
BC-24	THINSCAN 2 Band 4 Channel (handheld)	97.95
BC-46	THINSCAN. 4 Band 6 Channel (handheld)	96.60

ACCESSORIES FOR IC2E

ICBP3	Standard 9 Volt pack	20.00
ICBP2	7.2 volt high capacity	29.50
ICBP4	Empty case, will take 6 x 'AA' NiCads	6.95
ICBP5	11 volt pack for 2.5 watts output	39.50
ICDC1	9 volt regulator pack	9.75
ICBP1	Car charger lead with cigar plug	3.20
ICBP2S	Charger as supplied for BP3	4.25
ICBP3D	Desk type fast charger for all packs	59.00
ICML1	10 watt mobile booster	12.00
ICML2/3	Cases	59.00
HM8	Speaker/Microphone	12.00
IC30L	10 watt linear for IC-402	59.00
ICSM2	Desk Mic + Preamp 4 pin plug	29.00
ICSM5	Desk Mic + Preamp 8 pin plug	29.00
ICHM3	Hand Mic 215/202/402/240/211/701	12.00
ICHM10	Scan Mic 255/260/451	12.00

MICROWAVE MODULES

LINEAR AMPLIFIERS		Incl. Var Rate
MML28/100-S	10m 100 watt linear/preamp, switchable	129.95
MML70/40	4m 40 watt linear/preamp	77.00
MML70/100-S	4m 100 watt linear/preamp, switchable	139.95
MML144/30-LS	2m 30 watt linear/preamp, switchable	69.95
MML144/40	2m 40 watt linear/preamp	85.00
MML144/100-S	2m 100 watt (1 or 3 w/p) switchable	139.95
MML43/20	70cm 20 watt linear/preamp	85.00
MML43/50	70cm 50 watt linear/preamp	109.95
MML43/100	70cm 100 watt linear	228.65
MML129/10	23cm 10 watt linear	199.00

MICROPROCESSOR CONTROLLED PRODUCTS

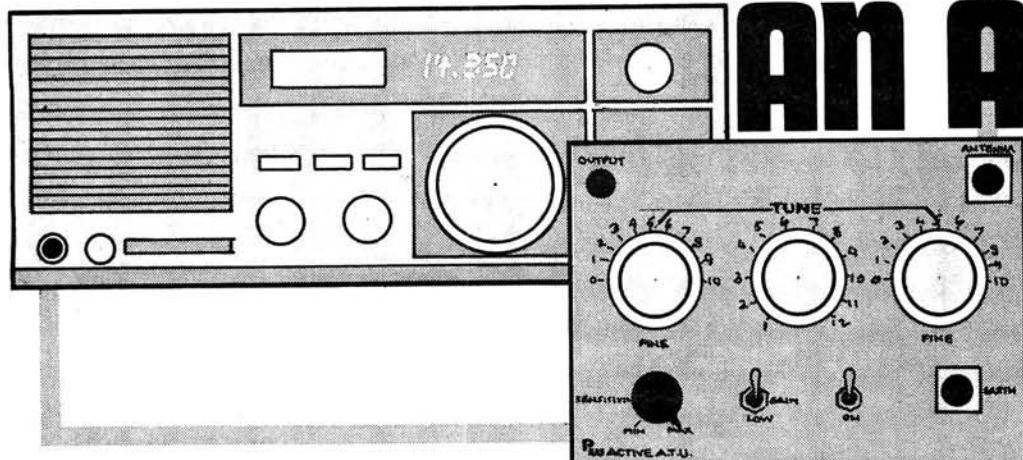
MM1000	ASC11 to Morse converter	69.95
MM1000KB	ASC11 to morse converter with keyboard	99.95
MM2001	RTTY to TV converter	189.00
MM4000	RTTY transceiver	269.00
MM4000KB	RTTY transceiver with keyboard	299.00
MMS1	The MORSETALKER - Speaking Morse tutor	115.00
MMS2	Advanced Morse Trainer	169.00

TRANVERTERS

IMT28/144	10m linear transverter, 2m input	109.95
IMT70/28	4m linear transverter, 10m input	119.95
IMT70/144	4m linear transverter, 2m input	119.95
IMT44/28	2m linear transverter, 10m input	109.95
IMT44/28-S	70cm linear transverter, 10m input	159.95
IMT44/144-R	70cm linear transverter, 2m input	184.00
IMT129/144	23cm linear transverter, 2m input	184.00

RECEIVE CONVERTERS

MMC27/mw	27MHz to medium wave converter	19.95
MMC28/144	10m to 2m up converter	29.90
MMC50/28	2m to 10m down converter	29.90
MMC70/28	4m to 10m down converter	29



AN ACTIVE A.T.U.

Ian Hickman

The unit described in this article is suitable for use over the approximate frequency range of 750kHz–25MHz, i.e. the greater part of both Medium and Short wavebands. A conventional antenna tuning unit (a.t.u.) enables almost any antenna, long or short, to be matched to a receiver, ensuring maximum transfer of r.f. energy from the antenna to the receiver's input stage.

An a.t.u. also supplies a modest amount of additional selectivity, helping to reduce cross modulation, intermodulation and blocking effects. However, effective matching and extra selectivity imply a compromise: an improvement in one resulting in less of the other and vice versa. The author therefore experimented by introducing a gain stage in the form of a broadband amplifier into the a.t.u.

Design Considerations

The basic amplifier circuit used is shown in Fig. 1 and is based on a design developed by RCA, using one of their uncommitted transistor arrays. Its performance is impressive—a gain of 49dB (about $\times 280$) and a 3dB bandwidth of 30MHz! Run from a 9V battery it consumes a modest 4.5mA and has a maximum output swing of a little over 5V peak to peak, or roughly 2V r.m.s. With so much gain available it is possible to couple it fairly lightly to the tuned circuit of the a.t.u., enabling the latter to run at a higher working Q and providing more selectivity than would normally be obtained. Indeed, as the amplifier can

only accept inputs of up to about 2V/280 (7mV r.m.s.), fairly light coupling is a must to prevent overloading with the consequent possibility of cross modulation, intermodulation, etc.

Besides being a useful add-on device for any receiver fitted with terminals for the attachment of an external antenna and earth, the Active a.t.u. was particularly designed to boost the sensitivity of a beginners' s.w. regenerative receiver. As this simple form of radio relies on the judicious application of reaction to obtain its selectivity, it is no good preceding it with so much gain that no reaction at all is required! A logarithmic potentiometer was therefore included at the output of the a.t.u., enabling its gain to be varied smoothly for maximum right down to zero. The coupling from the a.t.u. to the broadband amplifier is provided by a switched capacitive divider, which applies either a tenth (HI GAIN) or a hundredth (LO GAIN) of the signal voltage across C2 to the amplifier's input. The switching arrangement minimises any detuning of the a.t.u. controls when switching between HI and LO gain positions.

**CONSTRUCTION
RATING** Beginner

BUYING GUIDE

All components for this project are available from regular advertisers within PW

**APPROXIMATE
COST** £10.50

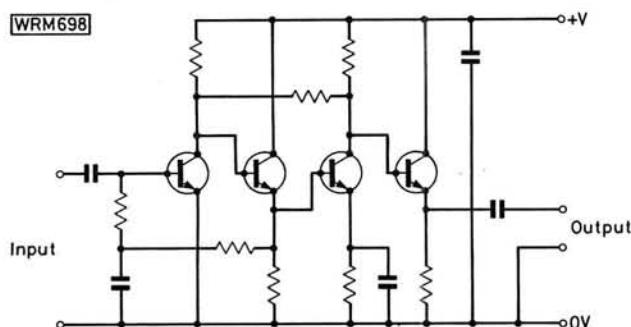
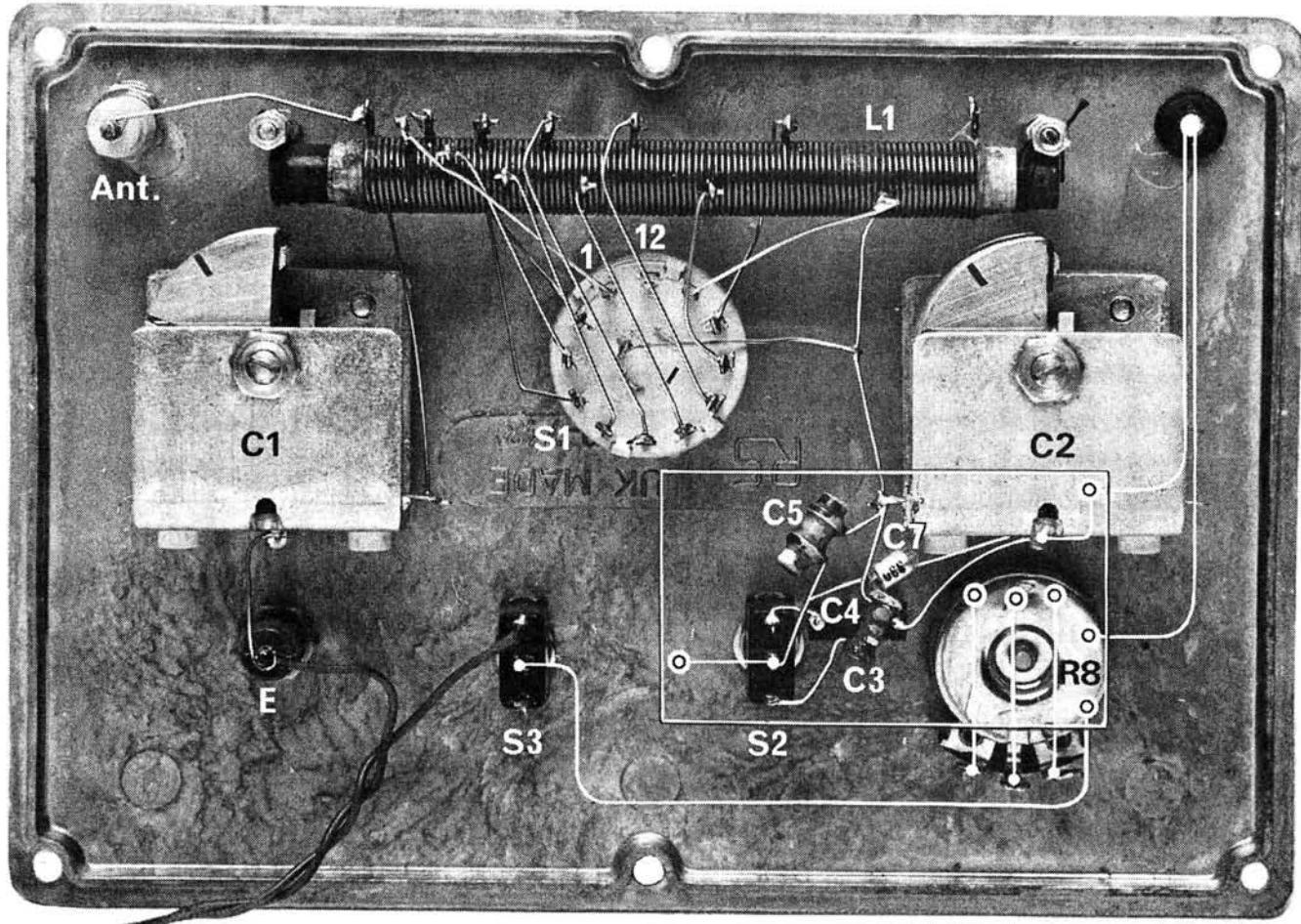


Fig. 1: Basic wideband gain-block



Veroboard mounted upsidedown

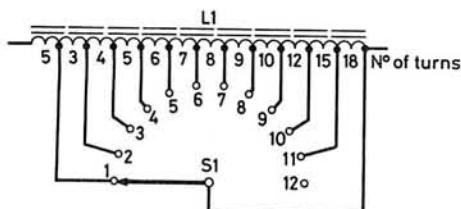


Fig. 2: (above) Details of inductor L1 and its selector switch

Fig. 3: (below) The complete circuit diagram of the active a.t.u.

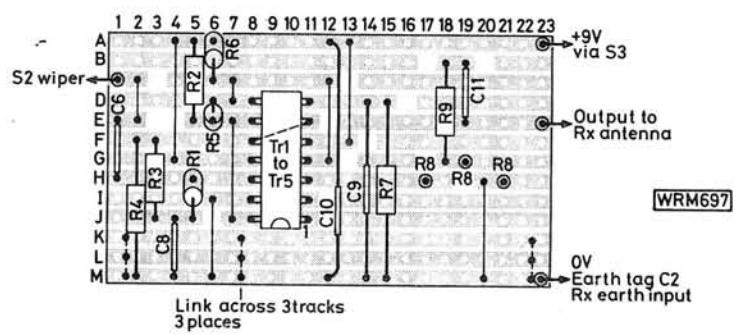
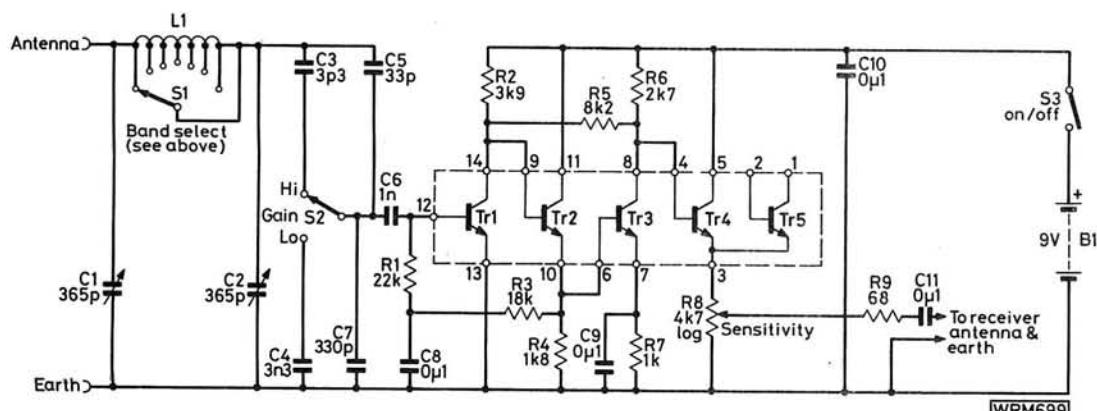


Fig. 4: Full-size layout details of the components of the a.t.u. The photograph shows the outline position of the Veroboard



★ components

Resistors

$\frac{1}{4}$ W 5% Carbon Film

68Ω	1	R9	3.9kΩ	1	R2
1kΩ	1	R7	8.2kΩ	1	R5
1.8kΩ	1	R4	18kΩ	1	R3
2.7kΩ	1	R6	22kΩ	1	R1

Potentiometer $\frac{1}{4}$ in shaft

4.7kΩ(Log) 1 R8

Capacitors

Disc Ceramic

3.3pF	1	C3	1nF	1	C6
33pF	1	C5	3.3nF	1	C4
330pF	1	C7	0.1μF	4	C8-11

Air-spaced variable

365pF 2 C1, 2

Semiconductors

CA 3046 (see text) 1 Tr 1-4

Miscellaneous

Rotary switch 1p12w (1); s.p.d.t. miniature toggle switch (1); s.p.s.t. miniature toggle switch (1); diecast aluminium box 171 x 121 x 106mm; 4mm round insulated sockets, yellow (1), green (1) with plugs; pointer knobs large (3), small (1); 0.1in Veroboard; battery terminals; Ferrite rod 8mm dia x 115mm.

Construction

The complete circuit diagram of the Active a.t.u. is shown in Fig. 3. Semiconductors Tr1 to 4 comprise four of the five transistors in the CA 3046 uncommitted transistor array. The unused fifth transistor is simply left unconnected. The CA 3045 and CA 3086 are other similar devices which could equally well be used; they all have exactly the same pin connections and more or less identical performances. Capacitor C6 was included as a d.c. block during development and testing of the amplifier alone. In the complete unit, the input is d.c. blocked by the capacitive divider associated with S2 anyway, so if desired C6 may be replaced by a wire link.

Figure 4 shows the track cutting details for the Veroboard and the associated component placement. A sleeved link on the back of the board connects pins 6 and 10 together. It is very important to note that some unused tracks are earthed, as indicated, and others are cut in two places. Unearthed, unused, tracks running right across the board would provide a capacitively coupled feedback path between the amplifier's input and output resulting in oscillation. With the track cutting and earthing arrangements shown the amplifier is completely stable under all conditions.

The Veroboard mounted amplifier is so light in weight that it was mounted onto R8 and S2 by short lengths of stiff wire; the photograph shows the general arrangement. Note the two earth connections from the board to C2.

Inductor L1 was wound on a 115mm length of 8mm diameter ferrite rod; the precise dimensions are not critical. However, there is no point in having the ferrite much longer than the winding as its purpose is simply to enable sufficient inductance to be obtained in a small volume. An earlier air wound coil provided insufficient inductance for tuning below about 3MHz. The ferrite rod does not of course pick up any signal, being enclosed in a screened diecast box.

The coil is wound over five turns of paper to space it off the rod; this construction reduces its self-capacitance and increases its Q. Ordinary paper may in time pick up damp and is therefore not recommended. Mounting tissue obtainable from any good photographic chemist would be ideal, as running a warm iron along it causes it to stick to itself and it will not pick up moisture. The author used greaseproof paper from the kitchen, being more readily available, the last turn being secured with a smear of beeswax. The wire should be self-fluxing 22 s.w.g. copper, the ends of the winding being held in place with a binding of cotton secured with more beeswax. Every so many turns a lug is formed in the wire to provide tappings, in accordance with the details shown in Fig. 2.

A 25W soldering iron is best for tinning the taps, as a small iron will take a very long time and may never make it at all. When completed, L1 is lashed to long 6BA screws behind the front panel and connected to S1, C1 and C2 as shown in the circuit diagram.

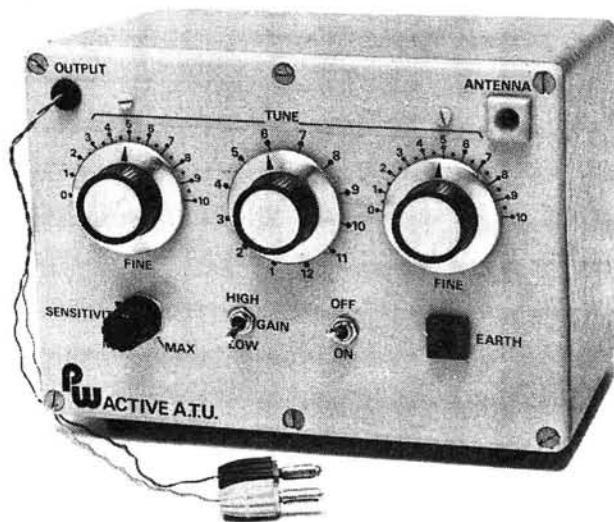
When construction is completed, connect a 9V battery—the author used a PP9, which fitted neatly into the box with a tin-plate retaining strap. The unit is almost ready for use. All that remains is to finish the box and panel and label the switches etc. as in the diagram. Simple numbered scales should be fitted to all rotary controls, so that the best settings can be recorded for each portion of the s.w. bands to be used.

Using the Active ATU

Connect the antenna and earth to the a.t.u. and the output to the receiver. A good earth is important, and for most purposes picking up the ring main earth via a 13A plug top is adequate, although in some cases this may couple mains-borne interference into the a.t.u., in which case a separate earth should be used.

No detailed guidance can be given for the settings of the rotary controls as they will depend both on the receiver used and the antenna. However, as a general guide, C1, C2 and S1 will need to be moved progressively more anti-clockwise as the frequency of reception rises.

With GAIN at HI and R8 about halfway an increase in background noise, usually accompanied by a station or two, will be heard for some setting of C1 and C2. The gain will be increased by improving the matching. This is done by rotating C1 slightly clockwise until the output falls and



continued on page 46 ►►►

PART 8

are the voltages correct?

ROGER LANCASTER

Solutions to last month's problem: The circuit is reproduced here in Fig. 8.1: Taking each transistor in turn, we find its immediate known power supply voltage and then calculate its base, emitter and collector voltages, in that order.

Transistor Tr1 base voltage is derived from the potential divider R1/R2, between the known potential of +3.25V and earth.

$$V_{b1} = \frac{5.6}{15.6} \times 3.25 = +1.17\text{V} \text{ (neglecting base current)}$$

Transistor Tr1 is therefore conducting as we would expect, since 1.17V would be its open-circuit base-emitter voltage. When it conducts, we assume 0.6V across its base/emitter junction, leaving an emitter potential of:

$$V_{e1} = +1.17 - 0.6 = +0.57\text{V}$$

Emitter current is therefore

$$\frac{V_{R3}}{R3} - \frac{0.57}{2.2} = 260\mu\text{A}$$

Assuming all of this is collector current also, 260μA flows through T2, R4 and T3 to the +3.25V point. The only voltage dropped will be across R4 and this will be:

$$V_{R4} = I_c \times R_4 = 0.26\text{mA} \times 0.1\text{k}\Omega = 0.026\text{V}$$

Thus the collector potential will be:

$$V_{c1} = +3.25 - 0.026 = +3.224\text{V}$$

The meter would not be accurate enough to enable a reading of the 0.004V, so we say $V_{c1} = +3.22\text{V}$.

Transistor Tr2 supply rail is +3.35V and its base potential divider is R5/R6. So:

$$V_{b2} = \frac{12}{45} \times 3.35 = +0.9\text{V}$$

$$V_{e2} = 0.9 - 0.6 = +0.3\text{V}$$

We don't need to bother about currents here, because there is no resistance between collector and +3.35V, so $V_{c2} = +3.35\text{V}$.

Transistor Tr3 base is at the same potential as Tr2 base, because there is no resistance in T4. So: $V_{b3} = +0.9\text{V}$, $V_{e3} = +0.3\text{V}$ and $V_{c3} = +3.35\text{V}$ by the same reasoning as for Tr2.

Transistor Tr4 is an audio amplifier like the one dealt with in Part 6 of this series.

$$V_{b4} = \frac{15}{42} \times 3.35 = +1.2\text{V}$$

$$V_{e4} = +1.2 - 0.6 = +0.6\text{V}$$

$$I_{e4} = \frac{0.6}{1} = 0.6\text{mA}$$

$$V_{R13} = 0.6 \times 1.8 = 1.08\text{V}$$

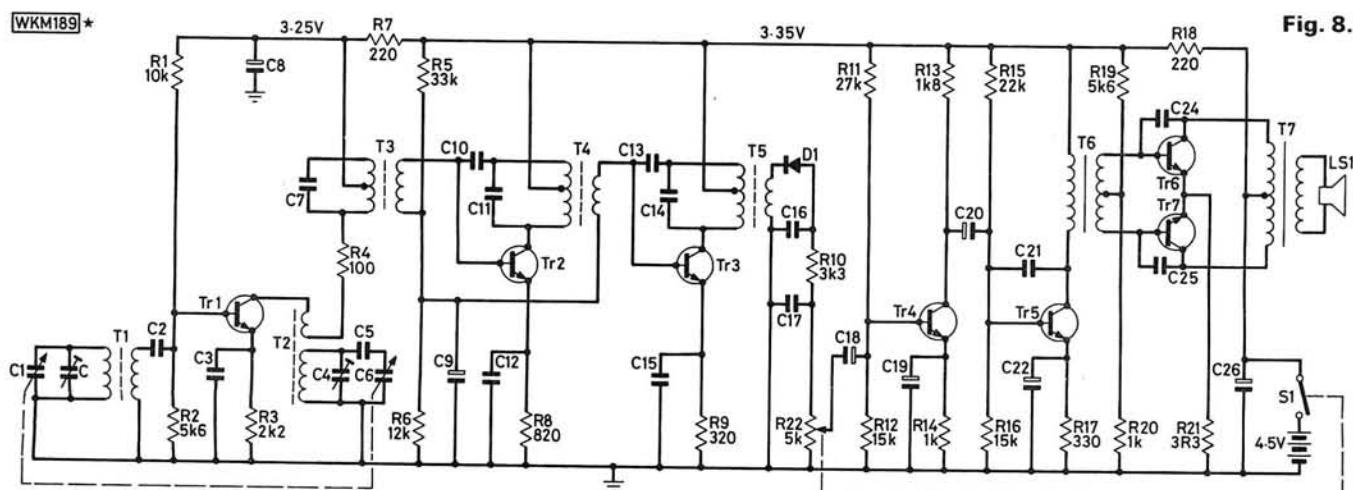
$$V_{c4} = +3.35 - 1.08 = +2.27\text{V}$$

Transistor Tr5 is similar but with no resistance in the collector line.

$$V_{b5} = \frac{15}{37} \times 3.35 = +1.36\text{V}$$

$$V_{e5} = +1.36 - 0.6 = +0.76\text{V}$$

$$V_{c5} = +3.35\text{V}$$



Transistors Tr6 and Tr7 voltages will be identical under no-signal conditions, since there is no resistance in T6 or T7 and the emitters are joined together.

$$V_{b6} = V_{b7} = \frac{1}{6.6} \times 3.35 = +0.5V$$

This is the open-circuit voltage for the base-emitter junctions, so there cannot be more than 0.5V across these junctions. There cannot be much less than 0.5V across them either, or they would not conduct. If they do not conduct, the open-circuit voltage of 0.5V will exist across them. So whichever way we look at it, assuming conduction or non-conduction, the emitter potentials will be around 0V, which means negligible current through R21 and therefore Tr6 and Tr7 are barely conducting, if at all. However, the slightest positive movement in a base potential by a signal voltage will make the corresponding transistor conduct. Collector voltages are both +4.5V because there is no voltage dropped across Tr7.

We have ignored base currents, so the voltages measured may differ slightly from those estimated.

The other question posed was: Why is 1.15V dropped across R18 and only 0.1V across R7? The only possible answer is that there is much more current flowing through R18 than through R7 (Ohm's Law: $V = IR$). This should be evident from the circuit. The only currents flowing through R7 are the collector current of Tr1 and the current through R1 and R2, whereas the current through R18 consists of the current through R7 plus the collector currents of Tr2–Tr5 plus the currents through potential dividers R5/R6, R11/R12 and R15/16.

In practice, of course, things are never as easy. For example, in a manufacturer's circuit diagram, the +3.35V and +3.25V points would probably not be quoted. We should see that current must flow through both R7 and R18, so these points must be less than +4.5V, but there is no easy way of estimating them. The only thing we can sensibly do is to measure them and, provided they appear reasonable, assume they are correct and proceed as before. We could guess at transistor currents and gains, but this would not be of much help. However, once we have established what these potentials actually are, even if they are not strictly as they should be, the voltage estimating procedure should work effectively. Then, when any fault has been located and rectified, these points can be re-measured if required.

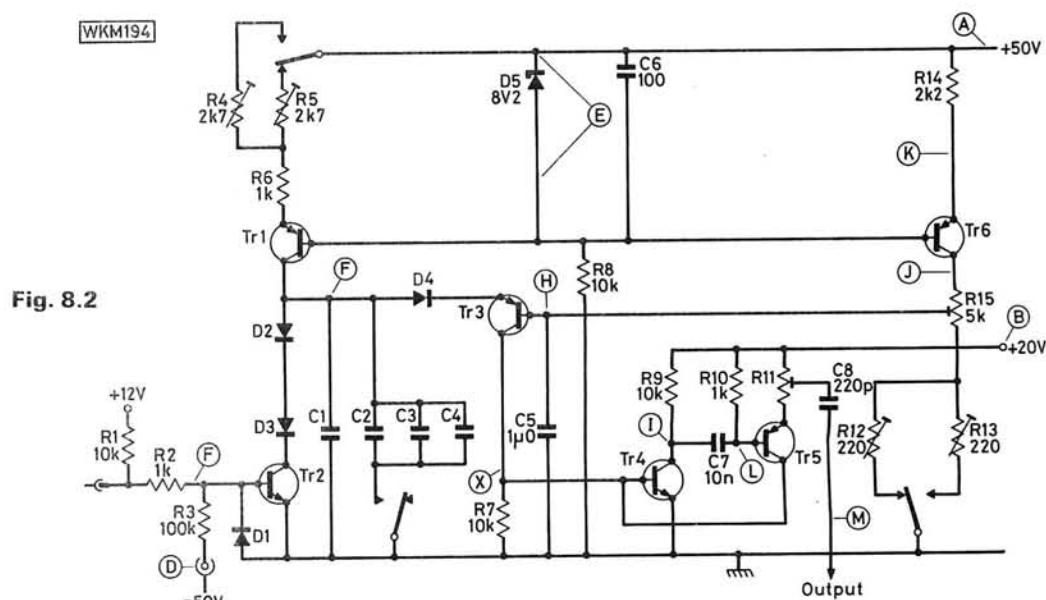
"But what is reasonable?" I hear you ask.

Well, transistors Tr1–5 inclusive are linear amplifiers (class A) so they should always be conducting, all their base potentials being somewhat greater than +0.6V. Suppose we measured +1.5V at the junction of R7 and R18 instead of +3.35V. The base potential of Tr2 would work out to $\frac{12}{45} \times 1.5 = +0.4V$. This means that Tr2 could not

conduct and this would be unreasonable, so the +1.5V is identified as an incorrect voltage and a first clue towards finding the fault. If the voltage measured at the same point was +4.5V, this would also be unreasonable, because it would mean no current flow through R18 to most of the circuit (e.g. a wiring break immediately to the left, circuit-wise, of R18). If the voltage measured was +3.8V this would be incorrect but we would have no way of knowing it. Nevertheless, we can use the known +3.8V in our voltage estimations and this should lead us ultimately to the fault. After repair of the fault we would find the voltage restored to +3.35V and all the other voltages in the circuit would re-adjust to their correct values.

Another snag that might arise is that you may not be able to reach a particular transistor connection with your meter prod, many printed circuit boards being very densely packed with components having very short leads. Don't give up too easily. Suppose you cannot place your prod on the base of Tr3 in Fig. 8.1. Perhaps instead you could reach the side of C13 which is not at +3.35V, or either end of T4 secondary, or T3 secondary, or the non-earthly end of R6, or the end of R5 which is not at +3.35V, or the positive plate of C9, or the side of C10 which is not at +3.35V: all these are points of access to the same d.c. potential.

The worst snag of all could be that you haven't got a circuit diagram of the equipment. This is a severe handicap to the methodical fault-finder. If you cannot lay your hands on a circuit you will have to draw it yourself by careful observation of the wiring connections. Go to each transistor in turn and trace the circuit from each electrode to the power supply rail, to earth and to the other transistor stages. Sketch in each component and all connections to it. Have an ohmmeter handy to verify connections, and it helps if you can hold up the p.c.b. so that light passes through it to reveal the connections on the side of



the board opposite to the components. Then check to see that all components on the board are included in your sketch. When you are sure you haven't missed out any component or connection, you will have before you something which looks like a road map of Greater London. Re-draw it more clearly, using a more familiar orientation, and then you can begin the real work.

You will need time and patience to do this, but you will probably be surprised to find that it takes less time than you thought it would. Of course, if by careful observation of the fault symptoms, you can narrow the area of the fault down to a particular stage or stages, then you need only construct that part of the circuit. If you do go to all this trouble, don't throw away the circuit after you have remedied the fault, but file it for possible future reference.

Some faults will not be shown up in the voltage readings, it must be remembered. Short-circuits associated with r.f. or i.f. tuned circuits, faults in the signal demodulator D1 and associated components and non-oscillation of the local oscillator will probably not reveal themselves in these readings. You will need to use signal tracing and/or signal generating techniques to track down such faults. If you have these facilities, however, you would be well advised to use them first anyway, to localise the fault to a particular stage before estimating and checking the voltages around the fault circuit.

We have now dealt with a complete and familiar circuit. But suppose we are faced with a total "foreigner"—the radar set on Daddy's yacht for example! Even with no knowledge of how the circuit works, we can still use the techniques described in this series to check the voltages.

Fig. 8.2 is the circuit of the variable range marker of a radar set (Marconi "Raymarc"). A radar engineer would localise the fault to one stage by oscilloscope measurements, then use his voltmeter. With no oscilloscope and in complete ignorance of how the circuit works, we shall have to estimate the voltages of the whole circuit and verify them by measurement.

First we would eliminate "signals", e.g. by disabling the transmitter of the radar, leaving the circuit in its resting, or quiescent, condition. We will set all variable resistors to their mid-positions.

Zener diode D5 is conducting in its reverse biased mode, since its cathode is at +50V and its anode is returned to earth via R8. The base currents of Tr1 and Tr6 will not contribute much to any voltage across R8 so the Zener's open-circuit voltage would be high and the device will therefore Zener at 8.2V. Thus, the bases of Tr1 and Tr6 will be at $+50 - 8.2 = +41.8$ V. Since they are *pnp* types with bases negative with respect to emitters (open-circuit voltages of 8.2V forward bias) they will conduct, resulting in their emitters being 0.6V more positive than their bases, i.e. $+41.8 + 0.6 = +42.4$ V. The paths for

their collector currents look obscure at this stage so we will leave their collector potentials for the moment.

The base potential of Tr2 is derived from potential divider R1/R2/R3 between +12V and -50V. The open-circuit base potential would therefore be derived as follows:

$$V_{R3} = \frac{100}{111} \times 62 = 56V$$

Therefore, potential at base (open-circuit) = $-50 + 56 = +6V$

The emitter of Tr2 is earthed, so Tr2, being an *n*p*n* type, is forward biased. There is no emitter resistor to limit this forward bias, however, as we have been used to seeing, so Tr2 will be conducting very heavily, as an "on" switch, hence its b-e potential will be about 0.8V and its c-e potential around the minimum of 0.1V (see Part 6). So Tr2's emitter will be **0V**, its base **+0.8V** and its collector **+0.1V**.

Transistor Tr2 c-e is therefore a virtual short-circuit and Tr1 collector current will flow through it and through diodes D2 and D3, developing 0.8V across each of the latter, since they are forward biased. So the potential at Tr1 collector is $0 + 0.1 + 0.8 + 0.8 = +1.7V$.

Transistor Tr6 collector current flows through a fairly large resistor, R15, developing a voltage across it. The slider of R15, then, is certain to be more positive than the +1.7V at Tr1 collector. This means that Tr3 (*pnp*) is reverse biased and will not conduct, and neither will D4. Transistor Tr3 emitter is therefore **0V** (floating).

We have now discovered that there is nothing complex about Tr6 collector line—it is a resistance of

$$Rx = R15 + \frac{1}{2}R12 = 5 + 0.11 = 5.11\text{k}\Omega$$

Transistor 116 emitter current is

$$\frac{50 - 42.4}{2.2} = \frac{7.6}{2.2} = 3.45\text{mA}$$

Therefore, $V_{Rx} = 3.45 \times 5.11 = 17.6V$, so Tr6 collector is at **+17.6V** and Tr3 base is at approximately half this, i.e. +8.8V (slider of R15 at mid-position).

Transistor Tr5 base and emitter are both returned to the same potential, i.e. +20V, so it has no forward bias and does not conduct. No current will flow in R10 or R11, so both base and emitter will be at **+20V**.

No current flows through R7 because both Tr3 and Tr5 are non-conducting. So the top end of R7 is at 0V, and this means Tr3 collector, Tr4 base and Tr5 collector are also all at 0V.

Transistor Tr4 emitter is earthed, so Tr4 has no forward bias and does not conduct. There is no current through R9 so Tr4 collector is at +20V.

Now we have estimated all the transistor electrode potentials, which are summarised in the table. It may seem strange that several transistors are non-conducting, but remember that we have deliberately induced "no-

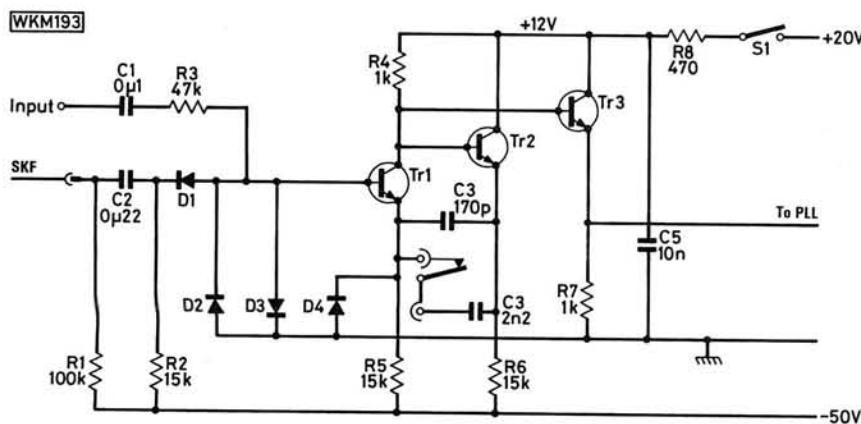


Fig. 8.3

continued on page 57 ►►►

AVOIDING MIXER/OSCILLATOR TRACKING PROBLEMS

Eric G. DUNCAN B.Sc. Ph.D.

The alignment of a conventional superhet receiver poses problems for the amateur constructor due to the need for efficient tracking between the mixer and local oscillator circuits. These problems can now be avoided with the advent of the digital frequency display.

Consider the design of a communications superhet receiver with r.f., mixer and local oscillator stages. The alternative approach in this case is to track the front end r.f. and mixer stages and allow the local oscillator stage to be adjusted separately, with the aid of the digital frequency display. This strategy is superior to the conventional approach in a number of respects. The fact that the r.f. and mixer stages are tracked, instead of the mixer and oscillator stages, allows the use of identical coils and symmetrical printed circuit layouts. Consequently, excellent tracking can readily be obtained throughout each band, even without the alignment aid of a signal generator. Trimming capacitors are not essential but their inclusion facilitates accurate alignment.

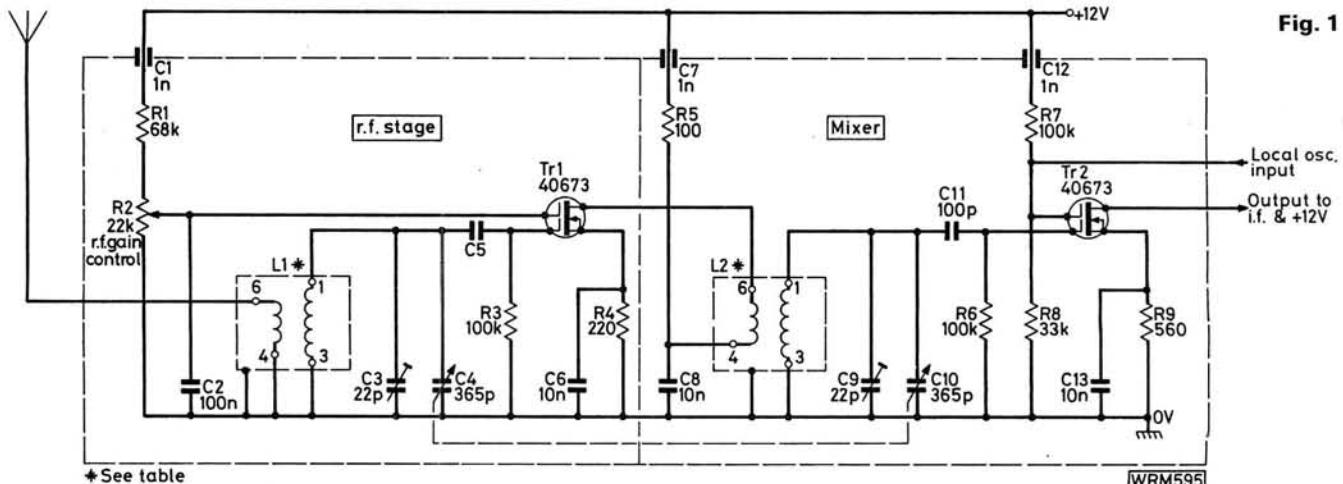
RF and Mixer Stages

The circuit diagram of Fig. 1 illustrates high performance r.f. and mixer circuits. The individual stages are defined by the dashed lines; components shown within must be in separate screened compartments with power supplied via feed-through decoupling capacitors.

The simplest constructional approach is to use p.c.b. material for the cabinet and screens in a double-deck arrangement, the upper deck housing the circuits described in this article. Mount the twin gang variable capacitor C4/C10 on the lower side of the upper deck and connect to the tuned circuits by means of equal lengths of thin coaxial cable. The use of screened cable is essential to avoid feedback problems and their screens provide the only earth connections desirable between the r.f. and mixer stages.

The approach to superhet design advocated by the author allows any i.f. frequency to be chosen. In the case of the conventional superhet mixer and oscillator, coils are supplied as matched items for specific i.f. frequencies. Generally these are only available to the amateur for i.f. frequencies of between 455 to 470kHz and 1.6MHz—not the ideal frequencies to use in the design of communications receivers!

When the local oscillator is tuned separately the i.f. frequency is set by the parameters of the i.f. strip and the frequency employed can be 455kHz, 1.6MHz or 10.7MHz, without any alteration to the r.f. and mixer stages. The constructor can choose at will, although to avoid image problems, the higher frequencies would be the best choice. Incidentally when using a low i.f. frequency an objectionable image can be excluded by tuning the local oscillator.



oscillator to the opposite side of the desired frequency, a facility not offered by the conventional superhet.

Local Oscillator

There remains the question of the local oscillator design, bearing in mind that the latter has to drive both the mixer stage and the digital frequency display.

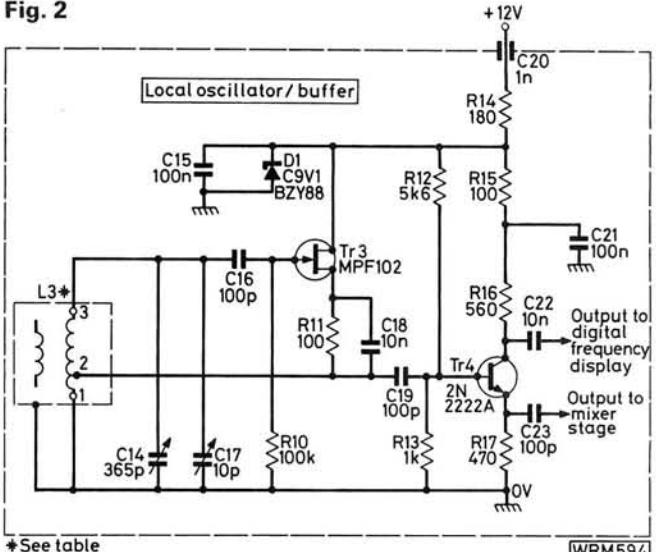
The circuit diagram of Fig. 2 illustrates an electron coupled oscillator and output buffer. The simple buffer stage is entirely adequate to prevent oscillator "pulling" and will drive digital frequency displays such as the Ambit DFM 7. This device is an ideal choice since it has offsets of 455kHz or 10.7MHz on s.w. and can also be used as a direct frequency counter providing a valuable aid in aligning a complicated receiver into which it is ultimately incorporated.

TABLE 1

	RF/MIXER L1/L2	LOCAL OSCILLATOR L3
MW	RW06A6408	YXB5 17065
SW1	154FN8A6438	KANK 3426
SW2	154FN8A6439	KANK 3337
SW3	KXNK 3767	KANK 3428

The oscillator module and its variable capacitors must be carefully screened in the manner previously described. It may prove necessary to connect the variable capacitors by means of screened cable to eliminate r.f. pick-up which can lead to serious oscillator instability at higher frequencies.

Fig. 2



*See table

WRM594

Multi-band Use

The circuits illustrated can easily be extended to multi-band operation using the recommended Toko coils. The symmetry of the printed circuit layout of the r.f. and mixer stages can be maintained for multi-band operation, provided each has a separate switch bank. A third switch bank would be used to control the local oscillator ranges. The Dialistat range of switches, available from Ambit International, are excellent in this application.

Constructors will find that the remaining stages of a communications receiver pose minor problems compared with those overcome by the procedures described in this article.

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THE WORLD OF QRP

A. SMITH G4FAI

A newcomer to amateur radio glancing through most magazines concerned with the hobby could be excused for thinking that to get on the air it was necessary to have very sophisticated, high-powered and expensive equipment.

This is not the case and there is a world-wide movement within amateur radio dedicated to using inexpensive, sometimes very simple and often home-built, low-powered equipment. This is the world of QRP—a world of challenge, where patience is a necessity rather than a virtue!

What is QRP?

The code QRP is used by radio amateurs to refer to low power operation. This has been adapted from the International Q code, where QRP? means "Shall I reduce power?" and QRP means "Reduce power".

The G-QRP Club in this country defines QRP as low power radio communication using five watts input or less. The QRP Amateur Radio Club International, in the USA, defines it as five watts output although for many years they called 100 watts QRP and 5 watts was QRPP, extra low power! The important thing is that the power levels are lower than those normally used, thus providing a challenge to try harder, and to use your equipment more skilfully, than other operators.

Many QRP stations operate with c.w. (Morse code) because, in a situation where every aspect has to be optimised to be successful, c.w. is the most effective mode of communication in the crowded h.f. bands. Telephony has its place however and there are QRP stations who operate almost exclusively on the microphone.

Construction

The sophistication of modern amateur radio tends to give the impression that home construction must be a thing of the past for all but the most talented, and much of

what is made today is usually ancillary equipment rather than the actual transmitters or receivers.

This is where the keen QRPer scores. There are many circuits and designs available for rigs capable of putting out a few watts of c.w. These circuits are not too difficult to make, don't make too much of a hole in the pocket, and give enormous satisfaction when they result in amateur contacts tens, hundreds or thousands of miles away. Of course all the ancillary equipment can be home-made as well. It is not necessary to use the heavy duty components specified for use with higher powers. There is plenty of scope for experiment, and circuitry can often be simplified.

G-QRP Club

The G-QRP Club is the largest QRP club in the world, although it was started in 1973 almost by accident. The Rev. George Dobbs G3RJV found he was working a number of other QRPers on 3.5MHz (40m). Whilst in contact with G2NJ he hit on the idea of bringing together the QRPers in the UK to exchange circuit ideas etc. He publicised the idea, about 30 people replied, and the club just grew from there. Membership is now world-wide and, at the time of writing, stands at over 1300.

The title for the club's journal—*SPRAT* (Small Powered Radio Amateur Transmission) was suggested as a joke but the name stuck. It is now a quarterly publication containing many circuits, technical hints and ideas for QRP projects, together with club news, award and contest information and other items of interest to QRP operators.

The club has a data sheet service, Morse training tapes, and awards scheme which culminates in a QRP Master's award, and a QSL bureau. A new venture, published in 1982, was a Circuit Handbook, which is literally "the best of SPRAT" and which is essential reading for all QRP enthusiasts.

On all amateur bands there are internationally known QRP frequencies and the club has regular activity periods each week, together with special activity weekends several

times a year, centred round these frequencies. A particularly successful event is the QRP Winter Sports which is held in the week after Christmas and which results in some fine contacts over quite remarkable distances. The high spot of the 1981 event was the performance of the Japanese station JA6VZB using five watts, who worked six European QRP stations in England, Scotland, Italy, Czechoslovakia, Sweden and Holland.

There were plenty of transatlantic contacts with both Canada and the USA. One station, member WB2RZU, in Long Island, worked GM3OXX in Edinburgh using only 500 milliwatts.

The club was particularly honoured to be asked by the Radio Society of Great Britain to provide the transmitting station for the RSGB h.f. Convention held near Oxford in June 1982. The main station was a Ten-Tec Argonaut 515, with five watts input, but home-constructed equipment was also used. The club mounted an exhibition of equipment made by members and there was considerable interest in the station and the exhibition throughout the convention.

World QRP Federation

A fairly recent development in QRP affairs has been the formation of the World QRP Federation, which was formed on the initiative of the G-QRP Club in September 1980 on the suggestion of Gus Taylor G8PG, Communications Manager of the club.

WQF has member organisations in all continents and in the short period it has been in existence it has revolutionised the world QRP scene. Regular contact has been maintained between all members so that major activities are publicised on a world-wide basis. Intercontinental two-way QRP communication is becoming more and more commonplace. Smaller and newer organisations are able to draw on the support and experience of the larger groups during their formative period and it is possible to get world agreement on matters of common interest, including the definition of QRP power levels, QRP frequencies for international working, and so on.

There is a considerable exchange of technical information and now there are international project years in the QRP field. The project for 1982 was for all member organisations to increase membership by at least 10 per cent and it looks as if that was more than achieved. This year's project will probably be a drive to increase the amount of home-construction and experimentation amongst QRP operators.

WQF is a remarkable achievement, demonstrating how groups of radio amateurs world-wide can work together in a common interest. In the process they are breaking down barriers and fostering international understanding and friendship. As Gus Taylor, now WQF Secretary, says,

Table 1
World QRP Federation Members

Club Name	Country
ARI QRP Club	Italy
DL AGCW	West Germany
EA8 QRP DX Club	Canary Islands
G-QRP Club	United Kingdom
Grupo QRP Do Brasil	South America
Michigan QRP Club	USA
JARL QRP Club	Japan
QRP ARCI	USA
VK QRPP CW Club	Australia
Benelux QRP Club	Netherlands & Belgium
QRP Klub YU3EOP	Yugoslavia

"this alone would be enough to justify the existence of WQF".

Operating Pleasure

It would be misleading to suggest that QRP operating consistently results in long distance contacts. That is not its objective. QRP is always a challenge, whether the other station is near or far. Conditions are rarely ideal, although sometimes the signal report received from the other station is quite surprising, and the satisfactory completion of a contact is always a pleasure. There is usually something interesting about a QRP transmission to a higher-powered station, that adds to the QSO, but the best of all is when the other station is also QRP. There is an immediate common bond, and a willingness to be patient and to persevere when other stations would give up in difficult conditions. This leads to a need to develop good operating skills and the ability to get the best from the transmitter, receiver and antenna system. The friendliness, courtesy, high operating standards, the difficulties to be overcome, the triumphs and the disappointments all bring back something from the earlier days of amateur radio, and for many this is the attraction of QRP.

Although many QRP contacts are made through c.w. there are stations who use telephony as well. There are, perhaps, not so many home constructed transmitters for this mode, but there are available commercially several transceivers designed specifically for low-power working, or having the facility to reduce power to QRP levels. Eminent amongst the former is the Ten-Tec Argonaut, much beloved by its owners, and giving five watts input on both c.w. and s.s.b. from 3.5–30MHz.

The G-QRP Club has a s.s.b. net but probably the best example of what can be done here is to be found in the QRP sections of the various international contests each year, when some quite staggering scores are built up from contacts around the world.

Antennas

QPers go to a lot of trouble to get an efficient transfer of power from the transmitter to the antenna. A beam would seem to be the obvious choice to ensure that all the transferred power went in the same direction. Yet, surprisingly, many QRP operators do not use beams at all, and the most popular antennas seem to be various arrangements of dipoles, ground-planes or long wires.

One operator who does use a beam, however, is Chris Page G4BUE, who spent many hours adjusting his four-element trap beam to get the best possible match on his favourite frequencies without the need for an s.w.r. bridge or a.t.u. in the feed line. He then dropped the input power of his Argonaut progressively from five watts to five milliwatts. At one watt he worked 51 countries, 500mW gave him 17, 150mW produced 7 and with 5mW he crossed the Atlantic on two occasions. Amongst all these were countries like Haiti, Iceland, Mauritania, Iran and Zimbabwe, which many operators rarely work with higher power!



The Argonaut 515 QRP transceiver

PRODUCTION LINES

ALAN MARTIN GBZPW

Firm Footed RAM for the ZX81

Recently introduced by Ground Control is a new 16K RAM pack for the ZX81. Using a unique design of a high-quality injection moulded plastics case, this RAM pack overcomes all of the wobble and disconnection problems experienced with most other RAM units. It is claimed that with the unit attached, the ZX81 can be shaken and the RAM pack will neither be dislodged nor lose data.

An optional extra in the 16K RAM pack (S) is a keyboard sounder fitted inside the case to enable faster entry of programs by providing an audible feedback whenever a key is pressed. It also helps to reduce eye strain, especially when the computer is used in fast mode, by reducing the number of times it is necessary to look at the screen. It



is hoped that soon a "Beep" program in machine code will be available with the (S) RAM pack.

The all-inclusive price for the 16K RAM pack is £19.95 and the (S) version £24.95. Both units are available from: *Ground Control, Alfreda Avenue, Hullbridge, Essex SS5 6LT. Tel: (0702) 230324.*

Red Hot from Yaesu

At the beginning of November, I thought I had completed my copy for this issue of PW, when a package arrives on my desk containing a photograph and spec. sheet from Yaesu, via SMC Ltd., of their very latest h.f. bands transceiver, the FT-980.

The FT-980 covers the frequency range 150kHz to 30MHz (160m to 10m) with transmit capability only on the amateur bands within the range, on receive the rig provides full general coverage.

Being an all-mode transceiver, reception and emission features are: I.s.b., u.s.b., c.w., a.m., f.m. and f.s.k. (frequency shift keying) for r.t.t.y. Nominally r.f. power out is 100W.

Other features include: carrier suppression better than 40dB at 40MHz; unwanted sideband suppression better than 60dB at 14MHz with 1kHz mod.; spurious radiation better than -40dB; receiver frequency response (s.s.b.) 200-2800Hz at 6dB down; 3rd order i.m.d. products better than -40dB at 100W p.e.p.; frequency stability ± 3 p.p.m. in the range 0-40°C; modulation, A3J balanced, A3 low level and F3 variable reactance; max. deviation (F3) ± 5 kHz; f.s.k. shift 170, 425 and 850Hz; mic. impedance 200-600Ω.

Sensitivity 0.25μV for better than 10dB S/N on s.s.b.; c.w.-N 0.16μV us-

ing optional filter XF8.9HC or 0.1μV with optional XF455.8; a.m.-W 1μV using optional XF8.9HA, and f.m. 0.4μV for better than 20dB S/N.

Selectivity defined at -6dB and -60dB points; s.s.b. 2.6kHz and 4kHz; c.w.-N 300Hz and 600Hz; c.w.-W 600Hz and 1.2kHz; a.m.-W 6kHz and 12kHz; a.m.-N 2.6kHz and 8kHz; f.s.k. 2.6kHz and 4kHz; f.m. 12kHz and 24kHz (with optional filters).

Comprehensive i.f. bandwidth and audio notch filter adjustment is provided, via a dual-concentric control, as standard.

Finally, image rejection ratio better than 70dB; i.f. rejection ratio better

British 934MHz CB Transceivers

Ever since the Home Office allocated the Citizens' Band radio frequencies, on 2 November 1981, activity on the 934MHz band has remained virtually nil.

During the past year, I have reported that one manufacturer is working on a 934MHz transceiver design, and is hoping to have units available soon. However, latest information reveals that Bee Ware Ltd., of Harrogate, intend launching two transceivers covering 934MHz, one for mobile operation and the other a base station, at the end of November 1982.

The transceivers' specifications will, of course, conform to the requirements of MPT. 1321, which briefly are: 20 channels at 50kHz spacing; modulation mode f.m. and 8W (± 2 dB) r.f. power out. The manufacturers estimate that the recommended retail price for the equipment will be approximately £200 for the mobile rig and £290 for the base station unit.

As soon as further product information and photographs are available, I will feature the units in *Production Lines*.

Bee Ware Ltd., Ripon Way, Ripon Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG1 2AU.

than 70dB; a.f. output 3W into 4Ω; a.f. output impedance 4-16Ω; power consumption, receive 72VA, transmit 530VA at 100W r.f. power out; powered by a.c. mains, connection is provided for a 12V d.c. supply.

Measuring 370 x 157 x 326mm, weight is 17kg and an interface unit for remote control via an NEC PC-8001 microcomputer is provided.

The FT-980 is estimated to cost in the region of £1100 and will, when stocks arrive, be available from: *South Midlands Communications Ltd., S.M. House, Osborne Road, Totton, Southampton, SO4 4DN. Tel: (0703 86) 7333.*



This month, we look at a collection of add-ons and accessories which have recently come on the market.

DAIWA AF-606K All-mode Active Filter

This little unit makes a very useful addition to a communications receiver lacking narrow bandwidth filters, especially for c.w. operation, as well as providing a tunable audio notch to deal with interfering carriers or c.w. when listening on 'phone.

The unit measures 62 x 150 x 150mm and requires an external d.c. supply of 12-15V at 200mA. The MODE switch offers the following options:

NOTCH: A 20dB notch, with a bandwidth adjustable (rear-panel preset) from 50-600Hz tunable over the range 0.3-3.0kHz.

SSB: Bottom limit set by a high-pass filter with a 500Hz -6dB point and 12dB per octave roll-off. Upper limit selectable from 2.5kHz, 2.0kHz and 1.5kHz (-10dB) with roll-off of 12, 24 and 36dB per octave respectively.

CW: The pièce-de-résistance, a phase-locked loop filter with an input range tunable from 0.5 to 1.2kHz, and a lock range of 70Hz.

When the tone frequency of the received c.w. signal and the free-running frequency of the p.l.l. tone decoder are the same, a locked signal output is generated which flashes the lock l.e.d. and keys an audio oscillator to reproduce the c.w. signal free of interference caused by noise or fading.

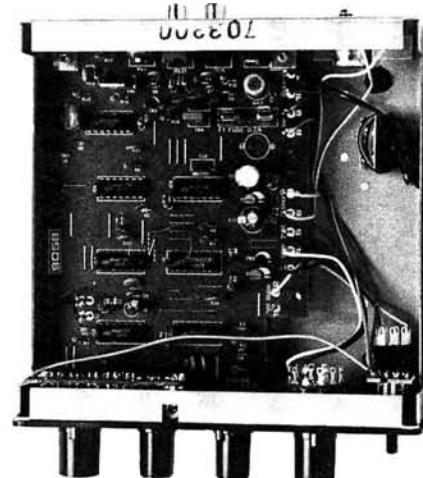
All the controls mentioned (except for notch bandwidth) are on the front panel, along with the ON/OFF switch, which bypasses the unit for audio in the OFF position, and a 'phone jack. Other items on the rear panel are p.l.l. audio oscillator pitch and volume controls, plus the d.c. supply jack and phono sockets for audio input and external 8Ω loudspeaker (an internal speaker is fitted too), with a maximum

output level of 1.7W. The audio input level required is a nominal 2V (0.5W in 8Ω) with a minimum of 1V for reliable p.l.l. operation, and a maximum of 4V. The unit uses a total of seven i.c.s (three of them quad op. amps) and one transistor.

Performance

On the bench, the unit met all its specifications except that the CW bandwidths were in fact 115, 90 and 85Hz respectively. The notch had a depth of at least 20dB when the WIDTH was set to minimum, giving a -3dB bandwidth of around 240Hz. This was a bit too narrow for easy tuning on the air. Going for a slightly wider bandwidth made operation less touchy and also increased the notch depth. Incidentally, the notch stays on in all positions of the MODE switch.

In the months I've had the unit on test, it's proved very useful. The combination of notch and variable bandwidth is great at sorting out a weak c.w. signal from a pile-up. The p.l.l. function requires slightly more signal input than you might otherwise use in a quiet shack—if the level is too low it tends to drop out on some Morse code elements. Tuning in this mode is very sharp, and I personally felt a bit "detached" from the incoming signal.



The instruction leaflet gives a full specification, connecting and operating instructions and a circuit diagram. A complete set of connectors is provided with the unit.

My only moan is the calibration of the three tuning controls. Each scale is graduated differently, and the PLL and CW BANDPASS controls follow a different law even though their frequency spans are identical.



The AF-606K is priced at £56.50 including VAT (plus £2.00 carriage) from **Lowe Electronics, Chesterfield Road, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 5LE, Telephone 0629 2817** to whom we offer our thanks for the loan of the review unit.

Geoff Arnold

DAIWA DK-210 Electronic Keyer

The DK-210 uses 4000-series c.m.o.s. to provide the options of SEMI-AUTO (electronic equivalent of a "bug" key), or full AUTO mode with iambic (dash/dot memory) facility, both with inbuilt sidetone.

The unit measures 62 x 150 x 150mm and can operate either on an internal 9V battery (type 6-F22/PP3) or from an external d.c. supply of 9-15V at 200mA.

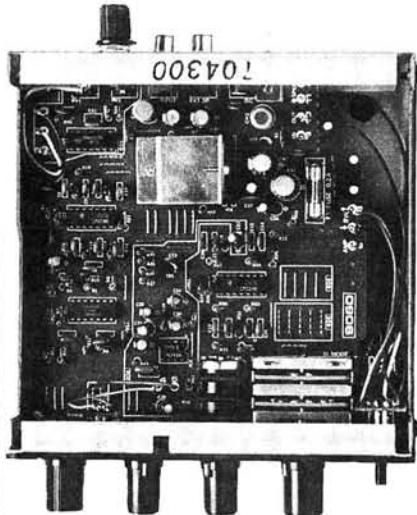


Operating speed is adjustable between approximately 8 and 50 w.p.m., and a WEIGHT control allows the dots and dashes to be lengthened relative to the spaces. Two keying outputs are provided (phono sockets), so that the DK-210 can control "direct" keying transmitters up to +300V 100mA, or "grid-block" keying transmitters up to -100V 10mA. The sidetone level to the internal loudspeaker can be adjusted by the front-panel VOLUME control. Its pitch is variable between 0.5 and 3kHz by means of a rear-panel preset potentiometer.

A "Speed" indicator using an l.e.d. readout shows the speed of code transmission in words per minute. There is an internal preset control to calibrate this indicator, but it wasn't possible to get an overall accuracy better than about 5 per cent across the range on the test sample.

The keyer works well and seems to have no particular idiosyncrasies. At the top end of the speed range, the

WEIGHT control will merge the dots or dashes into a continuous "mark" signal if turned up too far, but that's not unusual. The instruction leaflet provided gives comprehensive connection and



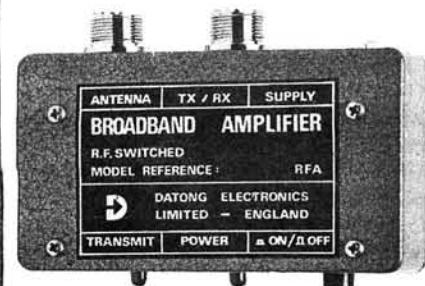
operating data, plus a circuit diagram. A full set of connectors comes with the unit.

The DK-210 is priced at £41.99 including VAT (plus £2.25 carriage) from **Lowe Electronics**, to whom we offer our thanks for the loan of the review unit.

Geoff Arnold

DATONG RFA Broadband Preamplifier

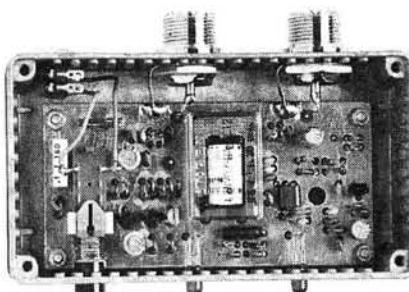
The Datong Model RFA broadband preamplifier provides a nominal 9dB gain over the range 5–200MHz, making it attractive for use with amateur, CB or v.h.f. mobile equipment, v.h.f.



scanners, or for long-distance v.h.f. TV or f.m. broadcast reception. An r.f.-activated bypass relay gives safe automatic operation with transceivers up to 30W carrier or 60W s.s.b. Hang-time of the r.f. switching can be selected for best operation on f.m. or s.s.b.

Heavy negative feedback around a very low-noise transistor gives an ability to handle unusually large signals without overload. The third-order intercept point is typically +20dBm and the noise figure typically better than 3dB.

The unit is fitted into a die-cast box measuring 31 x 113 x 62mm, having "UHF" SO239 input and output connectors, 3.5mm jack for the external 10/14V 40mA d.c. supply, push-button ON/OFF switch, and two l.e.d. indicators showing "power on" and "transmit". If the ON/OFF switch is left in the ON position, the unit can be switched by applying or removing the 12V nominal supply. It can therefore be fitted near the antenna and remotely controlled, though it is not suitable for external mounting. When the unit is OFF, the input and output connectors are directly connected by the relay. Total weight is 250g.



The review sample was tested on a rather ancient and "deaf" v.h.f. communications receiver, giving quite a worthwhile boost to performance, and also with an h.f. amateur bands transceiver. The extra gain was successful in lifting US f.m. repeaters around 29.6MHz out of the mush and turning them into readable signals. On the bench, gain was measured at 9dB with a ripple of less than 0.5dB up to just over 170MHz. At 190MHz gain was down by 0.5dB and at 200MHz by 1dB.

The Datong Model RFA is available price £33.92 including VAT, from **Datong Electronics Limited, Spence Mills, Bramley, Leeds, LS13 3HE, Telephone 0532 552461**, to whom we offer our thanks for the loan of the review unit, or from Datong stockists.

Geoff Arnold

SOAR FC-845 Digital Frequency Counter

Following on the heels of the FC-841 (reviewed in our August 1981 issue) comes this new instrument covering 5Hz to 160MHz. There are two frequency ranges—5Hz to 2MHz and 1MHz to 160MHz, and two gate times 0.01s and 1s, giving a resolution of 1Hz below 2MHz and 100Hz up to 160MHz.

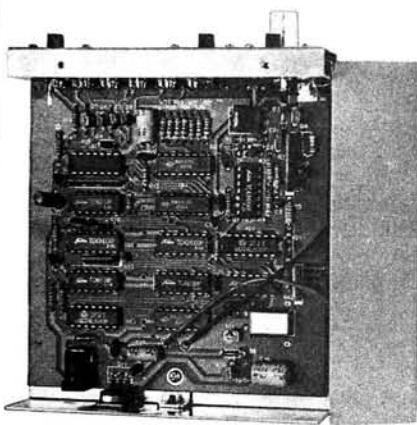
A 4½-digit, 7-segment l.e.d. display is used, so that for most accurate measurement of frequencies above 20kHz, you need to take two successive readings. The same principle was used in the FC-841, but for the benefit of those who haven't come across it before, it works like this. You want to measure the frequency of a transmitter operating on the 14MHz (20m) band, picking off a sample of the output in some way. Key down, and with the FC-845 switched to the HI frequency range and 0.01s gate time, the display reads "14.04". Go to the 1s gate time and the display now reads ".0375". The ".375" replaces the final "4" of the first reading, and the frequency is 14.0375MHz. An "overflow" indicator would have been flashing when you were taking the second reading, to remind you that you had, in effect, "lost" some digits off the left-hand end of the display. A couple of l.e.d.s show you which frequency range you're on, and these flash if the batteries are getting low. The decimal point on the display flashes in time with the counter gate.



Power is either from internal batteries (six R6/HP7 cells) or an external 7.5V d.c. supply at about 130mA maximum. A word of warning when using an external supply—the rear-panel input connector is a coaxial type, recessed inside the metal case. The sleeve of the connector is the positive, and the counter case is negative.

Should you use one of the long-reach plugs with a 14.3mm sleeve (as I did) the result is a "splat" and an unhappy p.s.u. if the plug waggles and touches the case. The maker's manual specifies a 9.5mm sleeve (short-reach) plug, and you should take heed!

The input connector is a BNC, the input impedance being approximately $150\text{k}\Omega/35\text{pF}$ on the LO range and $2.5\text{k}\Omega/15\text{pF}$ on the HI range. Sensitivity is specified as 35–50 mV on the LO range and 30–50mV on the HI range, needing more input towards the band edges in each case. These figures were all bettered very comfortably indeed on the bench, and the FC-845 also showed itself very tolerant of modulation, either a.m. or f.m., on the signal to be measured.



Accuracy, like that of the FC-841, was quite remarkable. The makers specify $\pm 50\text{p.p.m.}$ from 0–40°C, and importers Holdings of Blackburn reckon $\pm 3\text{p.p.m.}$ at room temperature. Checked against an ovened 1MHz standard over 24 hours in a room varying from 15° to 21°C, the readout varied by only 2Hz. The readout is not all that bright, and you'll need to find a shady corner, away from sunlight or a bench lamp.

The unit measures 36 x 111 x 125mm excluding controls, feet and tilt stand, and weighs 420g excluding batteries.

The Soar FC-845 with batteries and input lead costs £65.00 including VAT (post and packing £1.50), and a suitable mains p.s.u. is available for £5.50. Further details from **Holdings Photo-Audio Centre, Mincing Lane, Darwen Street, Blackburn, BB2 2AF, Telephone 0254 59595**, to whom we offer our thanks for the loan of the review sample.

Geoff Arnold

AEA MBA-RO CW/RTTY Reader

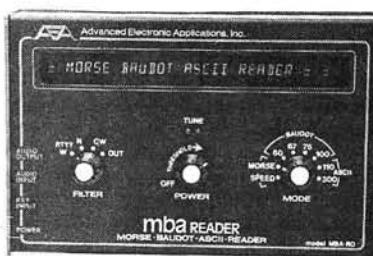
The MBA-RO, manufactured by Advanced Electronic Applications Inc., is one of the most recent arrivals among the ranks of devices for decoding and displaying telegraph signals in Morse, Baudot or ASCII codes. It uses a 32-character alphanumeric vacuum fluorescent display, with blue 14-segment characters 7.4mm high. The characters proceed from right to left across the screen during copy. A microprocessor plus 17 other i.c.s are used in the unit.

In the Morse mode, the MBA-RO will automatically track over a speed range 3–99w.p.m. either audio signals from a receiver output or else the output of a straight, "bug" or electronic key (for sending practice or monitoring). In the audio input circuit an 800Hz filter with 100Hz bandwidth gives added protection against interference, but this can be switched out if necessary. The speed of the Morse code signals fed into the unit can be indicated on the two right-hand characters of the display, this being a "by-product" of the speed tracking system, which measures the length of each dot and dash element, ignoring inter-character spaces, and updates only between words.

Both the audio and key inputs are on 3.5mm jacks, and a similar jack, labelled AUDIO OUTPUT and connected in parallel with the AUDIO INPUT, gives an easily accessible connection for monitor headphones.

In the Baudot mode, speeds of 60, 67, 75 and 100 w.p.m. can be selected, corresponding to Baud Rates of 45, 50, 56 and 75. Filters are provided for narrow shift (800Hz "mark", 970Hz "space"), commonly used for amateur operation, and wide shift (800Hz "mark", 1225Hz "space"), used commercially. In the ASCII mode, 110 and 300 Baud signals can be copied.

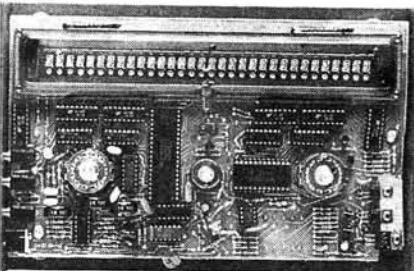
Tuning in all modes is aided by two



I.e.d. indicators. The THRESHOLD control on the reader is first adjusted so that both i.e.d.s are extinguished with no incoming signal. Then, the receiver tuning and audio level should be adjusted until both i.e.d.s flash in time with the signal for Morse, or so that one is continuously lit and the other flashes in time with the signal for RTTY modes.

Obviously, with 100Hz-wide filters, careful tuning and a stable receiver are called for, and some operating practice is needed for good results, particularly on RTTY. Incidentally, other RTTY shifts can be accommodated by setting the FILTER switch to the cw position and using the "mark" signal only, with reduced noise immunity.

No indication of the input signal level required is given in the manual, other than a comment that connecting the unit across a loudspeaker output may mean that the audio level to the speaker has to have attenuation introduced to give a comfortable listen-



ing level. I found that a nominal 400mV output from a receiver tape-recorder jack was not quite enough to give 100 per cent copy. Connecting the unit to a headphone output with 'phones in parallel required a deafening level for consistent decoding, and is not really a usable method.

The review unit was tested on the h.f. and v.h.f. bands with satisfactory results on all modes. It doesn't take too kindly to a sloppy fist on c.w., but then what automatic decoder does? It's a very stern critic if you practice your Morse by plugging in a key and sending to it! As well as the normal alphabet and numerals, it recognises 7 accented letters, 11 punctuation marks and 7 procedure signals among its Morse character set, and copes with 13 additional Teletype characters on RTTY.

The MBA-RO has all its components mounted on a single p.c.b. housed in a substantial two-part metal case measuring 48 x 224 x 150mm. It weighs around 0.9kg. Power requirements are 13V ($\pm 3\text{V}$) at 500mA d.c. The instruction manual tells you how to

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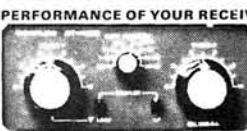
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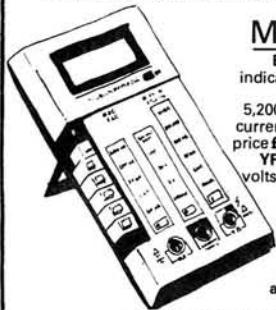
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connect up, check out and operate the unit, and includes a full circuit diagram.

The AEA MBA-RO is priced at £175 including VAT (post, packing and insurance £2.50) and is available from the importers, **ICS Electronics Ltd., PO Box 2, Arundel, West Sussex BN18 0NX, telephone 024 365 590**, to whom we offer our thanks for the loan of the review unit.

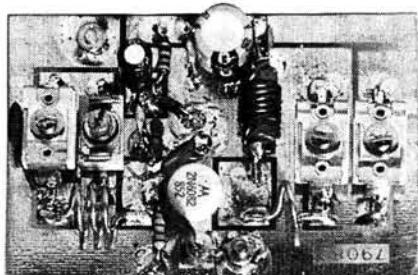
Geoff Arnold

SPECTRUM TPA-2A 144MHz Linear Amplifier

The Spectrum Communications 144MHz 25W linear amplifier offers the amateur a good quality p.a. at a reasonable price. The amplifier is available ready built or in kit form and the latter was tried as the subject of this Air Test.

The kit is complete except for a suitable case and input and output sockets. Construction is typical of v.h.f. techniques, all components being soldered onto pads on the top of the p.c.b. with the heat-sink block bolted to the underside. Components were of good quality and no difficulty was encountered with the construction.

The completed board was bolted into a diecast box using the two 6BA screws which also held the heat-sink block to the p.c.b. Heat-sink compound was used to ensure good thermal conductivity between the transistor and the block and the block and case.



The instructions were easily understood and included alignment procedures. Spectrum Communications offer an alignment service for those constructors who do not have the necessary test gear and the current charge for this is £2.50.

Alignment proved simple once the standing current had been correctly set

up. This entails lifting one end of the choke forming the collector load and measuring the current flowing with no input signal present. To adjust the current to lie within specified limits it is necessary to change one of the bias resistors. A preset would have made this easier but would have increased the cost of the kit of course.

With the bias set to give a standing current at the top end of the specified range the amplifier gave an output of 12.5W at 144MHz, 12W at 145MHz and 9.5W at 146MHz when driven from a Standard C58 with a nominal output of 1W. At these power levels the current drawn was 2A with the supply voltage set to 12.8V. The diecast box did not get too warm during prolonged testing into a dummy load and the transistor body also remained cool enough to touch (with the r.f. input removed of course). The amplifier did not significantly add to the i.m.d. products.

This kit, which is just one in Spectrum Communications' range covering pre-amps, toneburst, piptone and keytone modules, a range of modems and of course receive converters, offers a low-cost means of boosting the output power of 144MHz hand-holds such as the IC-2E and portables such as the Standard C58 and Yaesu FT290R.

The TPA-2A 25W linear amplifier costs £13.89 in kit form or £19.89 assembled (inc. VAT and p&p) from **Spectrum Communications, 10 High East Street, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1HS, Tel: Dorchester 62250** who we would like to thank for the review kit.

Dick Ganderton

Cambridge Superkit

This kit is designed for both beginners and the hobbyist to demonstrate practically the basis of digital electronics. The very well written instruction manual is backed up with the components needed to complete all the experiments. The kit is very compact and would fit into either a pocket or handbag and comes inside a plastics folder.

As the kit requires no soldering (all the circuits are constructed on EuroBreadBoard) it is very suitable for beginners. It also means that the projects can be constructed whilst on journeys, etc. As you work your way

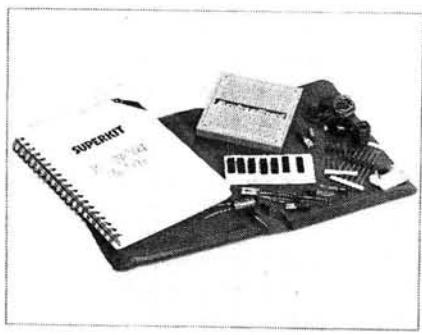
through the instruction manual it explains each topic and then asks questions to check you have understood the subject (the answers are provided in Chapter 7). There is even a Beginners' Appendix for those who have not done any electronics before.

Each section of the course teaches you about fault-finding in the circuits, it also contains other useful information such as how to improvise, soldering and about different i.c. families.

The instruction booklet suggests that you work through the course steadily, if you have trouble understanding a section read a little further into the manual then return to the difficult section, it should become clearer. If you are not a complete beginner then you can skip some of the simpler circuits, thus enabling each person to study and learn at their own speed.

The kit consists of 16 resistors, 3 electrolytic capacitors, 4 l.e.d.s, 7 integrated circuits, 1 four-pole two-way d.i.l. switch, EuroBreadBoard, 4 pieces of insulated solid core wire and battery connectors. The $4\frac{1}{2}$ V battery needed is not supplied with the kit.

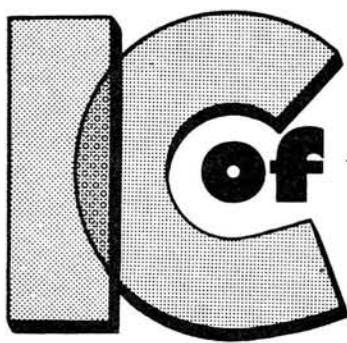
Other tools necessary are wire cutters/strippers, a pair of ordinary pliers and also a pair of tweezers often prove useful.



The Superkit proved most interesting to use as each section is very carefully explained to avoid confusion. All the questions asked at the end of each section seemed designed to help the learning process and not dishearten the student. The circuit experiments are easy to construct and provide very good learning blocks on which to build and increase your knowledge in Digital Electronics.

The Superkit is priced at £19.90 including post and packing and is available from **Cambridge Learning Ltd., Rivermill Lodge, St. Ives, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE17 4EP**, to whom we offer our thanks for the review kit.

Elaine Howard



IC of the month

Brian DANCE M Sc

Ferranti Electronics ZNA 234

Without instrumentation it is not that easy to set up a modern colour TV receiver to produce the best possible picture. Pattern generators of varying complexity have been marketed to facilitate this process but the recently introduced Ferranti Electronics ZNA 234 i.c. device enables a far simpler pattern generator to be constructed.

The ZNA 234

The ZNA 234 is a 16-pin dual-in-line monolithic device which can provide all of the waveforms necessary to produce cross-hatch, greyscale and dot test patterns from separate outputs, to facilitate receiver adjustments. The device can be used in circuits to provide test patterns suitable for use with receivers using either the standard European 625-line (CCIR) systems or the American 525-line (EIA) system. This article concentrates on its use for European 625-line applications.

Circuit requirements for the use of the device are quite simple; a 2.5MHz crystal resonator (2.52MHz for 525-line applications) is required, together with a few small resistors and capacitors. A 5V d.c. power supply is also needed, stabilised to within the normal t.t.l. limits of 4.75V to 5.25V and capable of providing the typical supply current of 135mA.

The ZNA 234 can easily be used to construct a small test unit which is very suitable for both the home experimenter and professional TV serviceman. It provides the mixed synchronisation and mixed video blanking timing signals which are required for the production of a screen display. The mixed outputs can be fed as a video signal directly into the video stage of the TV receiver under test, but the test signals can also be modulated onto a

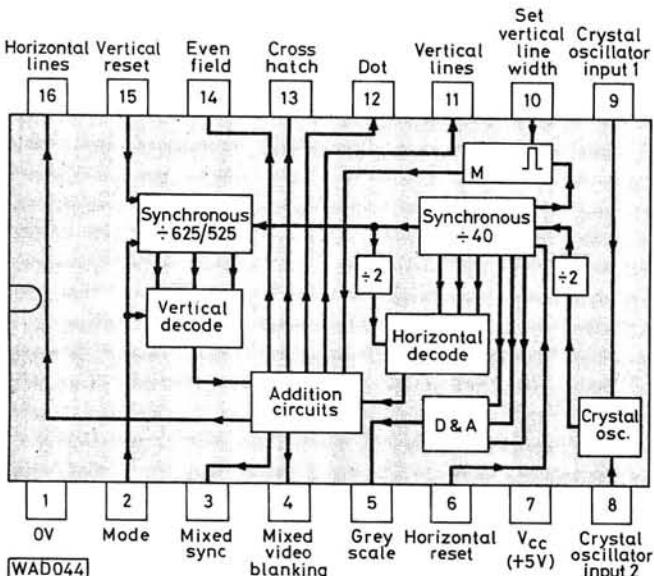


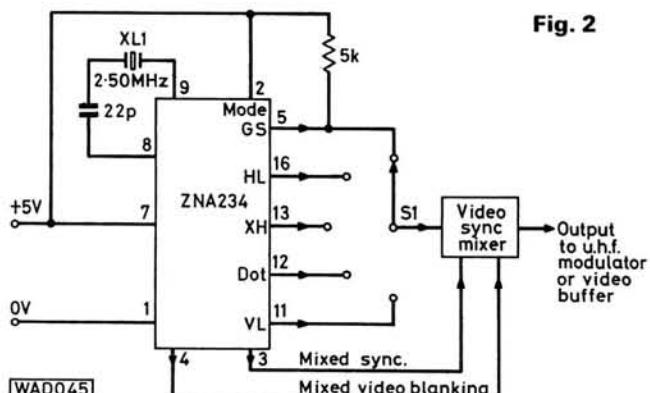
Fig. 1: Internal block diagram of the ZNA 234

v.h.f. or u.h.f. signal, which is then fed to the normal antenna socket of the receiver.

Internal Circuit

The internal circuitry of the ZNA 234 is very complex, and is shown in block form, with its external pin connections, in Fig. 1. The +5V d.c. supply is fed to pin 7; to avoid permanent damage the absolute maximum voltage at this pin is +7V. Pin 2 is coupled to pin 7 for 625-line operation, or to the zero volt line at pin 1 for 525-line operation.

The ZNA 234 may be used for 625-line operation in the basic type of circuit shown in Fig. 2. Switch S1 selects the



particular type of pattern required and feeds this signal either via a simple buffer stage to the receiver video circuit, or to a suitable modulator, producing a signal which can be fed into the TV antenna input.

Outputs

The horizontal line output at pin 16 consists of pulses of a duration equal to that of one picture line, occurring every 16 lines as shown in Fig. 3. This produces horizontal lines with a width of two lines on the screen, owing to interlacing of the image. This waveform produces 18 (15 for 525-line systems) visible horizontal lines, the other two in the pattern occurring during field blanking.

Vertical line output at pin 11 contains a series of pulses of nominal width 300ns, which occur at about 3μs intervals. These pulses occur in the same position in every line period, so a series of vertical lines is produced on the screen. Of the 20 vertical lines in the pulse repetition pattern, 16 are visible on the screen and the other four occur during line blanking times in both the 625- and the 525-line modes of operation.

Horizontal and vertical outputs are also fed to an internal AND gate so as to produce the dot output waveform at

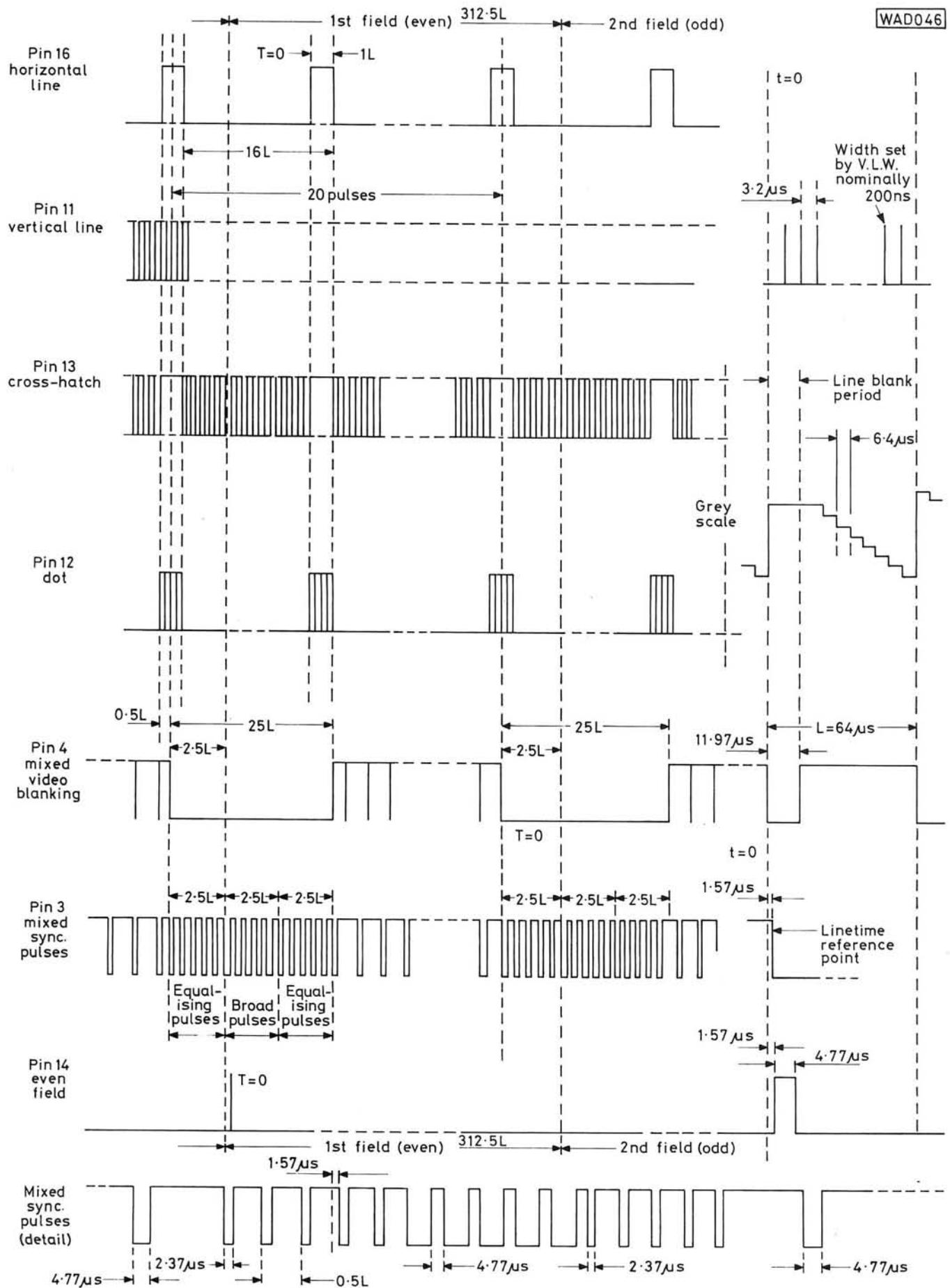
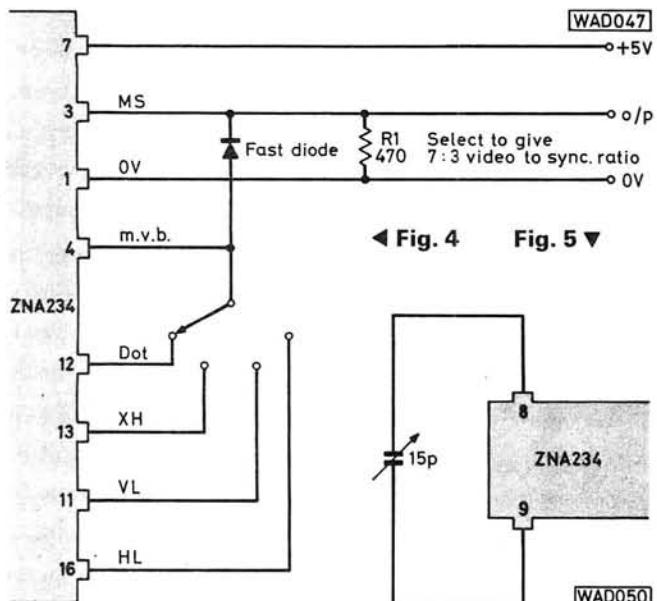


Fig. 3: Waveforms from the ZNA 234 in 625-line mode

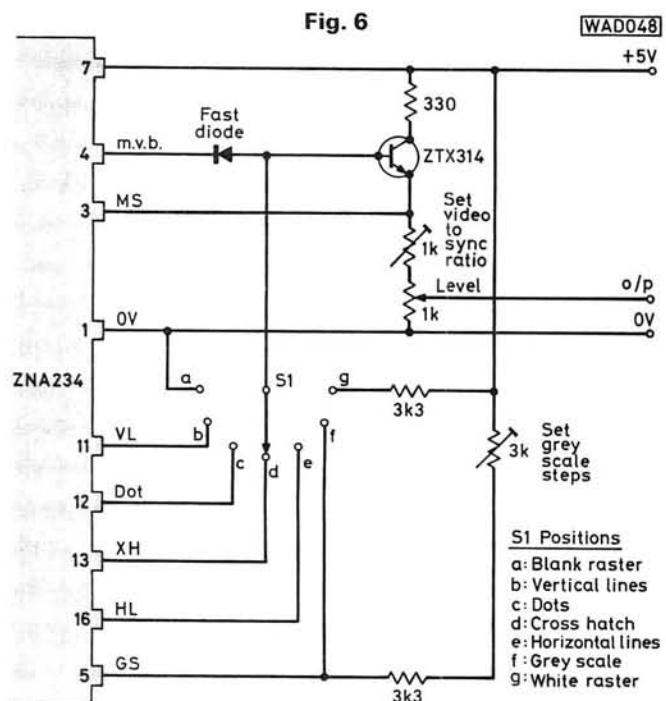


pin 12; it can be seen in Fig. 3 that the waveform at pin 12 is "high" only when the waveform at both pins 11 and 16 are also high.

Similarly, the horizontal and vertical outputs are also fed to an internal OR gate, so as to produce the cross-hatch waveform pattern at pin 13. The cross-hatch squares on a TV receiver with a 20in screen are approximately 25 x 17mm, corresponding to a 1.4:1 aspect ratio, assuming the 625-line system is being used.

It may be noted that the outputs at pins 3, 4, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 16 have internal $3.3\text{k}\Omega$ resistors up to the +5V line. If desired, extra resistors of value not less than $1\text{k}\Omega$ may be connected in parallel with these internal components to increase the edge speeds and hence the current which the outputs can supply.

Fig. 6



The greyscale output at pin 5 is formed by feeding signals from the "divide by 40" counter (see Fig. 1) to a digital-to-analogue converter. The latter is effectively a

switched current sink which provides eight equal current steps of approximately $60\mu\text{A}$ per step. This output may be employed with an external resistor of $5\text{k}\Omega$ to the +5V line, as shown in Fig. 2, so that eight voltage steps are produced at the greyscale output, of approximately 0.3V per step. The output has a saturation level of about +2V and requires an emitter follower buffer stage to match it into the video/synchronisation mixer block.

Video Sync Mixer

The circuit of Fig. 2 shows a video sync mixer merely as a circuit block. Ferranti Electronics suggest that the circuitry of Fig. 4 is probably the simplest possible technique for the video synchronisation mixer unit, but this does have the disadvantage that the greyscale output cannot be employed. The reason it cannot be used with the Fig. 4 system is that the d.c. output level of the greyscale output at pin 5 is different from that of the other video outputs.

The circuit of Fig. 6 is only a little more complex than that of Fig. 4 and does provide for the use of the greyscale output. Ferranti Electronics have, however, emphasised that these simple circuits, which have been found to work well in practice, are suggested as starting points only. Much more convenience in operation may be effected by constructors who are willing to design output circuits which are more satisfactory for their own application.

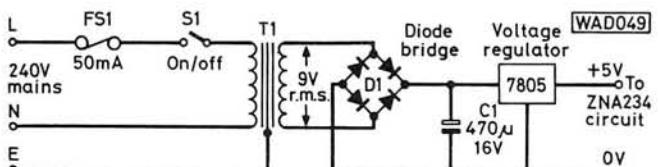


Fig. 7

Power Supply

It is generally most convenient to employ one of the industry standard 7805 types of i.c. regulator to provide the +5V d.c. supply required by the ZNA 234. An input from a small mains p.s.u., such as that shown in Fig. 7, is usually most convenient. The secondary voltage output from the transformer T1 is not at all critical, since it is only necessary to produce a voltage in the range 7V to 15V across the 7805. A transformer with a secondary output of 8 to 9V r.m.s. is convenient and the use of a transformer with a higher secondary voltage will merely increase the thermal dissipation in the 7805 device.

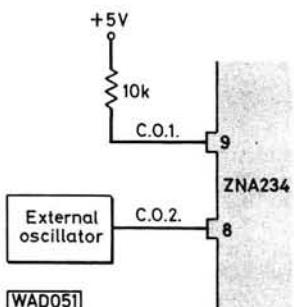
The writer has employed four series-connected nickel-cadmium cells to produce a suitable voltage for operating the ZNA 234. However, if this type of power supply is used, the cells should not be too small, as they have to supply a current of the order of 135mA. Unfortunately, high-capacity nickel-cadmium cells are quite expensive and have the additional disadvantage that, in the event of an accidental short circuit, a very large current can flow—perhaps even 100A! Cells of a nominal capacity of about 1.2Ah may be considered as a reasonable compromise for this application, but will require occasional recharging, even if the equipment is not used, since they lose an appreciable fraction of their charge in a month, especially if the temperature is not low. The use of such cells brings the advantage of complete portability.

Further Comments

If high stability is not required, the crystal and its series capacitor may be replaced with a 15pF variable trimmer capacitor as shown in Fig. 5.

Alternatively, an external oscillator may be employed to drive pin 8 of the ZNA 234, provided that its pulse width is between 150 and 250ns. In this case pin 9 should be connected via a $10k\Omega$ resistor to the +5V line, as shown in Fig. 8. A crystal is not required.

The width of the vertical lines can be varied somewhat if this should be required. When pin 10 is left unconnected, the line width is about 300ns, but if a CR time constant circuit is connected, as shown in Fig. 9, the pulse width may be varied from about 100ns to $1\mu s$. A wider pulse is produced by increasing R_V or C_V in Fig. 9.



◀ Fig. 8

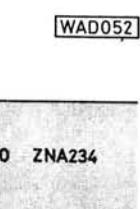


Fig. 9 ▲

It should be noted that if pin 10 is not used, any stray external capacitance connected to this pin, such as a longish lead or the track on a p.c.b., will affect the circuit operation. Ferranti Electronics therefore recommend that if pin 10 is to be left open circuit, no connection at all should be made to it.

If the horizontal and vertical reset connections at pins 6 and 15 are not required for use, they should be connected to the OV line at pin 1.

ARE THE VOLTAGES CORRECT? – 8

►►►continued from page 41

signal" conditions, and it is the "signals" that cause these transistors to conduct, as with Tr6 and Tr7 in the example Fig. 8.1.

Here are a couple of problems for you to puzzle over. Full solutions will be given in next month's issue.

No. 1: In the example of Fig. 8.2, a $20\,000\Omega/V$ meter was used on its 20V range to carry out measurements to verify the estimations. Transistor Tr3 emitter measured +1.2V and Tr4 collector measured +19.5V. Are these readings reasonable, or do they indicate a faulty component?

Transistor	Voltages with respect to earth (V)		
	e	b	c
Tr1	+42.4	+41.8	+1.7
Tr2	0	+0.8	+0.1
Tr3	0	+8.8	0
Tr4	0	0	+20.0
Tr5	+20.0	+20.0	0
Tr6	+42.4	+41.8	+17.6

No. 2: Estimate all transistor electrode potentials with respect to earth of the circuit of Fig. 8.3 (from Marconi "Raymarc" radar). "Signals" are eliminated by breaking the circuit at C1 and at SKF. PLL could be opened to prevent circuits on the other p.c.b.s from interfering with calculations. All diodes and transistors are silicon types. Switch S1 should be closed. (Hint: start with Tr1).

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Ohmmeter Testing of Semiconductors

It has been brought to my attention that my use of the phrase "direct ohms range" in connection with the testing of transistors and diodes (Parts 5 & 6) is inappropriate when applied to certain types of multimeter. The ohms range which one would naturally assume to be the "direct ohms range" in many cases is **not** the safest to use for such testing.

Hopefully, the meter manufacturer's operating instructions should indicate which is the safest range, but if not it can be determined by experiment with the aid of another (borrowed?) multimeter, as follows:

Connect your ohmmeter direct to the other meter switched to its d.c. voltage range and measure the output voltage on each of your ohmmeter's ranges. Don't forget, the "+" terminal of your ohmmeter should be connected to the "-" terminal of the other meter. Next, switch the other meter to its current range to measure the current which flows from your ohmmeter on each of its ohms ranges. Consider only those ranges indicating the **lowest voltage**: of these, the one which delivers the **lowest current** is the safest to use.

If you still doubt the safety of your semiconductors when under test by your meter, try using a resistor (say $5k\Omega$) in series with the meter—it is the **ratio** of reverse to forward resistance which matters, not the actual values of resistance measured.

I must apologise to readers for assuming that they would all possess the traditional (and expensive) type of meter. As I have pointed out elsewhere in this series, it is not necessary to own such a meter provided allowances are made.

on the air

Amateur Bands,

by Eric Dowdeswell G4AR

Reports to: Eric Dowdeswell G4AR
Silver Firs, Leatherhead Road,
Ashtead, Surrey KT21 2TW.
Logs by bands in alphabetical order.

The pattern of listening on the amateur bands has undergone quite a significant change over the last couple of decades. Before that a list of good DX heard represented many hours of concentrated searching and digging around the bands, all of which was invaluable experience against the day when the s.w.l. got a licence.

In the meantime many new and highly sophisticated receivers have come on to the market which has made the task a lot easier. The newcomer can send in a log of DX heard that looks more like a miniature DX callbook! Has this clever fellow really heard all this tantalising stuff, I ask myself. Regrettably, not always. There are now so many "nets" existing on the DX bands where rare stations congregate on one frequency at a specific time, that the s.w.l. has merely to sit on the frequency and list the calls he hears mentioned.

He may think, in all good faith, that he has really heard a particular DX station and since the callsign has been bandied about on the frequency it is all too easy for the imagination to take over. The current practice among some amateurs on the DX bands to make a "list" has brought a similar element of doubt into many so-called "QSOs" that they have had with DX stations.

Making a list does sound something like a bookmaker making his book but in this case the odds are all in favour of the punter. The DX operator is, or should be, in control of his operations when he comes on the air. If he is not then all is chaos as everyone calls at once, except for the clever ones who know when to call successfully. If the DX op. is inexperienced he will find that one station who is putting in a good signal to him will take control and ask those interested in working the DX to just give their calls which he lists. Eventually, and before the DX fades out, the control station will ask the first station on the list to go ahead and call the DX and exchange reports, while everyone else keeps quiet. What a hope!

The whole procedure is a fiddle, however, because the DX op. can hear the

control station quite well and thus knows the calls on the list. Often, of course, the third party can't even hear the DX let alone exchange reports, so the control station may not be averse to helping out here, thus enlarging his ego in the process! Many control stations do a good job of course but the fact remains that most of these "QSOs" would never have been made in the course of normal DX-chasing.

In the meantime, as I mentioned before, the listener is just sitting there logging the DX, often with that element of doubt in identification, but most do make a sincere effort to ensure that they have heard the station direct and copied the callsign. There seems little point in doing anything else. Receiving hundreds of logs every year it is very easy for me to spot the bad apples among the good.

Finally, if, as a listener, you must send a QSL card to a DX station then try to send it direct with reply postage and include some information that may be of some use to the distant op. He is probably working into Europe every day and doesn't need your card to confirm that fact. Compare his signal with those of others in his area around the same time, and you might get a reply. You can send the card via a bureau of course or to the DX station's QSL manager, but by the time you get a reply you will probably have got your own ticket!

General

First must come details of the fund-raising efforts by the Worked All Britain Awards group involving mobile stations activating WAB squares, which last year raised over £200 for the RAIBC. This year the "spoils" will be shared between the RAIBC and leukaemia research. The weekend of December 11/12 is the time with a hoped-for 2000 contacts mobile/fixed. Sponsors for the event are wanted, typical rates last year running between 1p and 5p per 20 contacts, so if you feel you'd like to help contact **Dave Brooks G4IAR**, 28 Avon Vale Road, Loughborough, Leics LE11 2AA with your offer. WAB nets will operate on 7060, 3760 and 1930kHz. Do it now!

December 19 is the BBC's 50th anniversary of the official start of the Empire Service, now more familiar as the World Service, following the original pioneering efforts of Gerald Marcuse G2NM. Between December 1 and 31 the BBC's Ariel Radio Group will be operating a number of stations on the h.f.

bands and on 144MHz (2m), mainly on s.s.b., with special QSL cards to follow.

The stations will be GB2BBC, GB3BBC and GB8BBC in Central London, GB4BBC at Caversham, near Reading, and G3BBC in West London. More from **K. H. J. Rainbow**, Hon. Sec. on 01-580 4468 ext. 5328.

Congrats to newly-licensed **Philip Harris** of Bewdley, Worcs now G6MSR but aiming for his G4, with plenty of code practice. His target is the h.f. bands on a tight budget, using a resurrected war-time No. 19 set with a lot of added gadgets, but I reckon a good i.f. filter is the prime requirement.

Another letter from **Ean Retief** ZS6UD with news of happenings in the South Atlantic, like **Peter Cook** ZD9BW now on with antennas 244m a.s.l., and **Lorna Lavarello** now ZD9YL, with request for cards via W4FRU or ZS2DK which is also the same for **Andy** ZD9BV. Lorna is just 18 years of age and a permanent resident. Seems radio restrictions in ZS-land have been largely dropped of late with new modes on the h.f. bands previously only allowed on u.h.f. The hoped-for higher power did not materialise because of worries about possible TV1/BC1, so 150W limit remains.

After noting a couple of instances where this column had brought readers together after a long time **Brian Collinge** 5N4BPC has written from Enugu. Following an article in *Radcom* Brian wrote to the author A. S. Chester as they had lived virtually next door to each other until 1939, then meeting again one day in 1946. Not the end of Brian's strange encounters, however. He QSO'd 9J2KO to find they were the same age and went to the same school in the mid-30's!

According to **Gordon Hunter** GM3ULP of the Clyde Valley DX Group the Four Points of Scotland Expedition in August was a very big success with thousands of contacts on the 7MHz (40m), 14MHz (20m) and 144MHz bands. Several certificates are now available to amateurs and s.w.l.s for expedition stations heard or worked. Details from Gordon at 12 Airbles Drive, Motherwell, Strathclyde, Scotland. QSLs are being handled through the RSGB Bureaux or direct with s.a.e.

DX Time

Good news from **Andy Durrant** of Colchester who has got over his bout of sickness and is joyfully back at work. The AR88 and 20m-long wire caught M1J, H44DX, EA8AFB, and VP8LP at Goose Green, obviously very popular in many logs, all on 14MHz, with 28MHz coming up with ZS51V, S79MC and 5Y4CM, otherwise 5Z4CM, with cards to Box 30514, Nairobi.

Regular contributor to the column a long time ago **Bernard Hughes** of Kidderminster, Worcs now writes in again to say he has collected an XYL and moved QTH to nearly 91m a.s.l. which is a vast improvement, with fields all round. Problem, seemingly, is what antenna to put up first! Poor chap! With the wife interested in amateur radio it looks like an

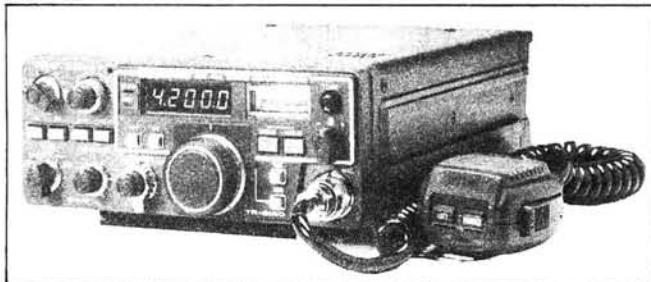


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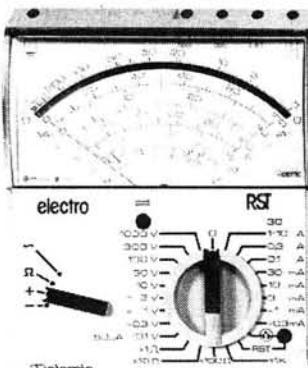
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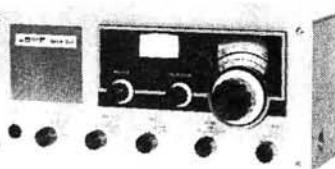
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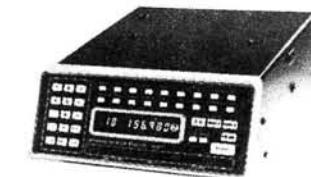
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Signature

RAE or two could not be far away. The Drake receiver has been re-activated with a bit of wire dangling from the gutter yet logging A71AA, JX1CY and UM8PAC on 7MHz, and then AH8A in US Samoa, AH3AC on Johnson Is, FH8CB on Mayotte Is, FROFLO on Reunion, J5HTL in Guinea-Bissau, not to mention V3TV in Belize and 5V7HL in Togo, for the 21MHz band. Why bother with a proper antenna!

In Saltburn-by-Sea, Cleveland, **Pat Cullen** is still getting bits and pieces together for his a.t.u. but doesn't seem to have done all that bad with HC1KF, HK5ASB, J8AJ, TA2KS, VP8ANT, VP8QP, VS5GA, ZX9A, ZD7CM, 4D9RG, 6W8DB and 6Y5AK all on 14MHz. A close look on 21MHz revealed CP8CB, C6AEY, DU1EFZ, HS1ALP, HR1SO, PJ8DFS, VQ9CI, VS5TH, VS6CT, VU9GI, YB0WR, 4D9RG, 8P6QM and 9V1VP.

Viv Doidge of Callington, Cornwall, keeps a close ear on the 28MHz, 21MHz and 14MHz bands with his FRG-7700 plus a.t.u. and a long wire although 7MHz and 3.5MHz (80m) came good at times. For instance 3.5MHz produced D44RB, ZL3AGO and ZL4AP while 7MHz put up C31YF, ZL4TG, 5T5TO, 8P6OR and 9L1PP. On 28MHz it was S79WHN, SV5FD on Rhodes, 6Y5EE and 9Y50JW, with 21MHz coming up with C53EK, J3AH, TR8JD, TU2HN, XT2BG, 9X5MH and 9Y4SR plus FP8HL, 5R8DL and JW5BX. Moving to 14MHz it was KH6AT, 5T5RR, 9L1MP, 9N1MM in Katmandu, C6ANU, KG4W, SU1ER, TU2JL, VP9GQ, 4S7WP and 5Y4ITU.

I don't know where he gets the time or energy from but **Dave Coggins** (Knutsford, Cheshire) is now in the process of building himself a small observatory! He also managed to construct the *PW* t.r.f. receiver in the September '81 issue, copying several VKs, ZL and a KL7. On the main rig, a Yaesu FRG-7700 and 7700 a.t.u. fed from a two-element delta loop beam on 28MHz and a long wire on the rest of the bands, he logged JA6XMM on 3.5MHz, then HL1EJ, VK7AZ, ZD7BW, rare ZL4PO/C on Chatham Island, ZP6EM, 6Y5IC and 8P6OR. The 28MHz band produced DU1RD, FH0FLO, VP8QC and 5H3BH. All the above on s.s.b. On c.w. on 1.8MHz only a couple of UAs were found but on the new 10MHz band it was a string of VKs.

Up in Whitehaven, Cumbria, **Paul Williams** has a Realistic DX100L and a long wire, with an a.t.u. in the offing. The l.f. bands are out due to local QRN but it does seem that I have talked him into having a go at the RAE in due course. All Paul's log this month is for c.w. operation so obviously it will be straight to the G4+3! On 21MHz he found just J41NA (where is that?) and 4S9AFI but many more on 14MHz with C30OH, CO1ML, FM7WD (QSL POB 879, Fort de France), FY7CG, HK0ZT, HP3ML, LU3ECJ/X (QSL POB 6, post code 9410, Ushuaia City, Tierra del Fuego),

T12PZ, VP2MM, XT2BG (CSL F2BS), 6Y5SG, 8P6J (QSL N6TR) and 9Y4VU.

Brian Patchett in Sheffield, which seems to be isolated from the rest of the amateur radio world, has found a suitable RAE course in nearby Rotherham after contacting a local G4 who turned out to be an instructor at the R'ham tech college! Now Brian gets a lift home after each session. You deserve the break OM after all your efforts. Seems the G4 is also sec. of the Sheffield ARC so let's hear from you OM. Brian's Grundig Satellit 1400 caught AX3KS in VK, FK8EK, FY7CH, TU2DP, VP9IX, ZL4JO and 6W8DY all on 14MHz and J41AN (again, could this be a special SV call for the recent games?), S79WH, VP5WJR, VQ0I on Chagos, 5H3DF, 5Y4ITU and 9J2VO.

With a DX100L and a short wire antenna **R. J. Squires** in Porthcawl, Mid Glam, stuck to 14MHz and came up with VP9GQ, VP8's APW, DF, GW and LP, then J3PQ and VP2VA. For many the 28MHz band has been opening up again, like **Archie Magrath** near Ramsgate in Kent, who logged VP2MDX, FY7BB and VQ9CI up there. On 21MHz M1V was heard and said QSL via M1Y! Then there were JW7FD, TR8JD and KG6RN.

So very happy indeed to hear from **Bill Rendell** of Feock, near Truro, in deepest Cornwall, who had not reported in for some time. He refers to the resurgence on 28MHz as being like the past peak of the sunspot cycle with much DX "umpteen dB over S9". The much-modified HRO, a.t.u., long wire and folded dipoles rewarded Bill with ZL4AV on 3.5MHz, VK9NS, VP8LP and ZD7AL (QSL Box 25, St Helena) on the 14MHz band. On 21MHz it was VP8ANT and 9X5SL. Then on 28MHz A92P, J6LLE, VP5RAC, VP9PG (QSL WB4MTE), plus YC2BFZ who wants cards to POB 45, Kudus, Java. Among other goodies on 28MHz were Z22JV, and 6W8AR with QSLs to DJ3AS or WB4LFM, depending upon where you live.

Jim Dunnott (Prestatyn) is now able to type the code at around 32 w.p.m. without too many errors. Nice! You should do well enough on Oct 30 at 12 w.p.m. OM. The 28MHz band is alive again but not much doing on 10MHz, with nil on 24MHz, not even a "G" since we got the band says Jim. His SRX30 found the following on 28, all on c.w.: FG7BE, J45OX, J40AA (QSL N2OO), OX3LK, VU9RYL (Asian Games), XT2AW (QSL KN1DPS), ZC4ZD who was G3JKS on his hols, Z21EM and 4X6DI. Likewise c.w. on 21 revealed DU6HM, FB8YJ on Kerguelen, FPOJA, FROFLO, FR0GGL/G not G-land but the Glorieuses Islands seemingly, J28DP and M1C, TU2IE, VP8ANT via POB 146, Cambridge, VU91OC, ZD9BZ, 5N8ARY, 5X5FS, 8P6MJ and 9V1VB with only one of interest on s.s.b. being P29MF. More c.w., on 14MHz this time with FY7YE, SV1NA/SV5, SV5QX/YL (where's that?), VP9DR, 9Q5VT and 9V1VP, with KL7Y and TR8DX on

s.s.b., the latter saying QSL to BP231, Libreville.

Apart from some VK's on 7MHz c.w. the only other worthwhile was 5N8ARY but we're not finished yet with Jim for he also fiddles with RTTY where, on 14MHz, he "saw" FC9UC, YV5ANE, 4D7RLC, 9M2GA, with JF3JIQ, PY2EUZ and WB2CJL on 21, ending with CN8AT, 5B4CV and 5N7HKR on 28.

Now needing only the code cert before getting on the air **John Hayes** in London N9 worked on three bands to log C53AR, S79HW, YB2BLI (QSL POB27, Yogyr) and Z21GN on 28MHz, XZ9B (QSL JA81XK), YB4AEB (QSL POB92, Jambi), 5N22ATT on 21MHz followed by JW1JW, VP2KK, VP8AEG, 8P6OL (QSL VE3AMJ) and 8R1RBF (QSL POB170932, Georgetown), all with his FRG-7700, FRT-7700 a.t.u. and long wire aided by a Datong FL2 audio filter.

After almost getting shipwrecked in the Firth of Forth trying to board the *USS America* to see if there were any hams aboard, our gallant RNARS member **Anne Edmondson** (alias BRS47285) had little time for DXing it seems. Her determination resulted in QSOs with no less than 15 s.w.l.s and licensed boids with more unseen. Back on dry land she also caught ON1XX/OH0 and IS0RZW on 3.5MHz s.s.b., with several JYs, LU6DWA and 9Y4VU on 14MHz, on her DX200.

Club Round-up

Aberdeen ARS Club room is at 35 Thistle Lane, Edinburgh at 7.30 every Friday, with lectures, raffles, instruction, junk sales and the like. Ring Stan GM4BKV on A'dean 691716 for latest info on the club's activities.

Acton, Brentford & Chiswick ARC G3IIU G3CCD takes his Icom 720A transceiver along to the Chiswick Town Hall, High Road, Chiswick, London W4 on Tuesday Dec 21 for a demo at 7.30. New members and visitors equally welcome. This from W. G. Dyer (wonder what his first names are?), 188 Gunnersbury Avenue, London W3.

Braintree & District ARS G4JXG G6BRH A nice welcome please for Lorraine Carter who has taken over the publicity sec's job. QTH is 33 Gurton Road, Coggeshall, Essex, from where Lorraine will try to answer questions about the club.

Carlisle & District ARS Every Monday at 7.30, White Quay Inn, Durdar, Carlisle. That's all I have, so try Paul Boyd G8RJA, 13 Stackbrae Road, Longtown, Cumbria who must know more, being the sec.

Chesham & District RS Every Wednesday at the Stable Loft, Bury Farm, Pednor Road, Chesham at . . . don't know, but imagine 7.30 can't be far out. Lots of infilling info from J. Alldridge G6LKS. 15 Whichcote Gardens, Chesham, Bucks, but Chesham 786935 will establish communication.

Doncaster Metropolitan Institute of Higher Education ARC G3UER It's no good, they'll have to get a shorter title! Newly-elected sec Brian Coupe G8GTG lives at 9 School Lane, Auckley, Doncaster, or D'caster 770663 and tells of RAE course, code classes, special lectures and outings, every Monday at 8 at the Gertrude Bell Hall, Church Street, Armthorpe, D'caster.

Echelford ARS G3UES The Hall, St Martins Court, Kingston Crescent, Ashford, Middx is where it all happens on the second Monday and last Thursday at 7.30 with everyone welcome on the club nets, Sunday 1000 clock time on 1930kHz or so and Weds 2000 on 144-575MHz f.m. On Dec 13 RSGB Regional Rep Pat Walker G8HMG talks about his task as an RR and will then answer questions. On Dec 30 Brian Coleman G4NNS will be very popular with his subject being microcomputers in AR! Excellent club newsletter keeps members abreast of club doings. Suggest you write or ring sec Anton Matthews G3VFB, 13a King Street, Twickenham, Middx, 01-892 2229.

Edgware & District RS G3ASR Meetings at 145 Orange Hill Road, Burnt Oak, Edgware, Middx second and fourth Thursdays at 8pm. Junk sale on Dec 9 with special event, a DF hunt with the Harrow mob, on Dec 12. Slow code from G3ASR on both 144MHz (2m) and Top Band and at meetings. Howard Drury G4HMD, 11 Batchworth Lane, Northwood, Middx, or N'wood 22776.

Farnborough & District RS Get together at the Railway Enthusiasts Club in Access Road, off Hawley Lane, F'boro which is quite near the M3 bridge it seems. Second and fourth Weds at 7.30 when on Dec 8 the Chairman will hold forth, while Dec 22 sees the Christmas social when the XYLs and YLs get a chance to see just what goes on at the club. Ivor Ireland G4BJQ, 118 Mychett Road, Mychett, near Camberley, Surrey, or F'boro 543036.

Glenrothes & District ARC GM4GRC From 26 members taking last RAE some 20 passed and three had Part 1 referrals. Not bad eh? Classes for RAE and code continue at Balwearie School in Kirkcaldy. Contact sec Gavin Lucas GM4EJI at the club at Provosts Land, Leslie, Fife, Scotland.

Goole Radio & Electronics Society. Welcome to another new group, meeting with a full programme of events on Tuesdays at 7.30 at Goole Junior Chamber, Boothferry Road, Goole, all in the club newsletter, from Richard Sugden G8IOH, 8 Kings Road, Swinefleet, Goole, N. Humber side. Nota bene Dec 7 and G4NLG talking on SSTV, Dec 14 is computer evening, Dec 21 all the Christmas festivities, back to normal on the 29th with a Christmas lecture. Should tell you now of natter-nite on Jan 4 and a talk on Interference on the 11th.

Halifax & District ARS This go-ahead club has produced a very useful fixture card for the wallet, running into September next year! Normally meetings of a

formal nature take place on the third Tuesday at 7.30 with committee meetings and natter-nites on the first Tuesdays, all at the Claremont Liberal Club, Belgrave Avenue, Claremont Road, Halifax. Dec 21 sees Dave G6COG chatting on Crime Prevention. Wonder if he is a very big COG in the wheel! You might like to know that on Jan 18 it's all about a RAYNET project, an emergency planning unit. So, it's PRO Phil Hey G4JHS, 79 Windermere Road, Bradford, W. Yorks for more info.

Ipswich RC G4IRC GB2IRC Usual impeccable news magazine *QUA* says all outside events this season have been very well attended. Back to the clubhouse which is in the Rose and Crown, 77 Norwich Road, Ipswich, Suffolk and detached from the bars, meetings second and last Wednesdays at 8. A questionnaire seeks to establish what members do, AR-wise, and what they'd like to do, so that the club's programmes may be adjusted accordingly. A useful feature of *QUA* is a listing of events of local clubs. To come is a talk on AR in the USA by G5EEP on Dec 8, but the club is closed on the 22nd but open again on the 29th with G6CRN on Classic Chassis Bashing! Hon Sec Jack Tootill G4IFF, 76 Fircroft Road, Ipswich waits to tell you more, or on (0473) 44047 if you prefer.

Leeds & District ARS G8WYR G4LAD Every Monday night at the Old Hall Golf Club, Woodhall Lane, Pudsey, Leeds. The almost 100 per cent pass rate in the last RAE has sparked off a Morse code class. Alex Alexander G6CJI, 22 Lichfield Road, Dewsbury, W. Yorks.

Lothians RS GM3HAM For those who may not know, the new venue is Drummond High School, Edinburgh on second and fourth Thurs at 7.30. RAE class at same QTH, same time, Wednesdays, but although it has been going since September may not be too late to join in. Ask E. Evans GM6JAG of 4 Burdiehouse Street, Edinburgh EH17 8EY or try 031-664 5403.

Maltby & District ARS Brand new and meeting Fridays at 7 in the Methodist Church Hall, Blyth Road, Maltby, and that's all I know. But Ian Abel G3ZHI, 52 Hollytree Avenue, Maltby, Rotherham, Yorks., will help out. He is on (0709) 814911.

Marconi RS Don't forget this new group formed at the Marconi company's HQ. Invites from local clubs to join in events, etc., greatly appreciated, says sec R. B. Purdy, The Grove, Warren Lane, Stanmore, Middx, and at 01-954 2311.

North Bristol ARC G4GCT At the Self-Help Enterprise, Braemar Crescent, Northville, Bristol every Friday at 7. A reminder a bit early of the AGM on Jan 28. Ted Bidmead G4EUV, 4 Pine Grove, Northville, Bristol.

North Wakefield RC Meets at Carr Gate Working Men's Club at 7.45 on Thursdays, says sec Steve Thompson G6ELC, 3 Harlington Court, Morley (0532) 536633. Dec 9 is club Christmas dinner at the Dam Inn and imagine mem-

bers know where that is, I don't! Until the New Year meetings will be informal natter-nites. A late note says Jan 6 will welcome G4DXA chatting on Interference, and get your names down now for the visit on the 13th to the Wakefield Power Station.

Radio Amateurs Technical Engineering Club A new one on me but seemingly has grown from formation a year and half ago to over 500 members in UK, Europe, N. and S. America, and Australia. It does qualify for this feature because it meets every Monday at 8 at the British Legion, Moor Lane, Woodford, Cheshire, with all welcome. *RATEC NEWS* is quite an effort with some 40 pages of technical construction articles of immense interest to any amateur, edited by G3VFP. Details of membership, etc., from Technical Editor N. Spear G6JQA, 58 Cheadle Road, Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire, or call 061-485 3506.

St. Helens & District ARC G4LCK G6LCK Every Thursday Conservative Rooms, Boundary Road, St. H from 7.45 with refreshments for the weary for a small charge. More from PRÖ Alan Manchester G6FJU, 67 King Edward Road, Dentons Green, St. Helens, Merseyside, also St. H 56889.

Salop ARS G3SRT Thursdays at the Albert Hotel, Smithfield Road, Shrewsbury at 8. Unusual chat by Don G3UQH on Dec 9 is on calibrating instruments for a.c., d.c. and r.f. measurements, then on the 16th it's Edwin G6AKE on maritime telecoms. Break on Dec 23 when Father Christmas joins a snack and natter-nite. Note for diary, Annual Dinner Dance Jan 21. If he's still in office after the AGM then Edwin Arnold G6AKE, 30 Leamore Crescent, Belle Vue, Shrewsbury is your man for enquiries, or S'bry 66969.

South Dorset RS It is the Wyke Regis Army Bridging Camp, Weymouth, at 7.30 on first Tuesdays. There is a club quiz on Dec 7 and a film show on Jan 4. More details available from sec G3ZGP R. Cridland on Upwey 2893, or Andrew Prior G6HEL, 3 Greenways, Dewlish, Dorchester, Dorset.

Southdown ARS G3WQK First Mondays at 7.30. The Chaseley Home for Disabled ex-Servicemen, Southcliff, Eastbourne, Sussex. A very interesting delta loop antenna features in the club newsletter, by G4FB. For more details you'll have to contact sec J. S. Pitt G6BGT, 73 Seaside Road, Eastbourne, also E'bourne 640727.

Stevenage & District ARS G3SAD G8SAD A bit of upheaval here as the club moves into new premises at "T.S. Andromeda," Shephall View, Bedwell, Stevenage, Herts, where it is first and third Tuesdays at 8. So it's Dec 7 and 21, and January 4 and 18, with details of the events taking place on those evenings from Les Mather G8OKI, 63 Woodhall Lane, Welwyn Garden City, Herts. Code classes are standard procedure before meetings according to the beautifully printed new newsletter. No need to worry about sea-sickness getting aboard

on the air

TS Andromeda, it is the Sea Cadet's HQ on the opposite side of the Fairlands Valley Lake, with maps for those who need them.

Stratford-upon-Avon & District ARC Second and fourth Mondays at 7.30 at the Control Tower, Bearley Radio Station, Bearley, near Stratford, with a talk-in on S22. It should be a chat on c.w. on Dec 13, but you can give it a miss on the 27th, needless to say. You should know now of the construction evening on Jan 10 and of the visit to BBC Pebble Mill on Jan 24. Lucky people! So far events are programmed into July next so David Boocock G8OVC can acquaint you with the details on S-upon-A 750584.

Swale ARC Recent AGM made some changes like new venue at Nina's, 43 High Street, Sittingbourne, Kent (cor!) and it's now every Monday evening at 7.30. Spring programme of events expected very soon as things settle down a bit. Latest news from Brian Hancock G4NPM, Leahurst, Augustine Road, Minster, Sheerness, also Minster 873147.

The Radio Society of Harrow G3EFX Friday meetings at the Harrow Arts Centre, High Road, Harrow Weald, Middx at 8, with club able to use bar and light refreshments facilities, so you can go there straight from the salt mine. DF hunt on Dec 12 on Top Band and maybe on 144MHz also, contact for this event is Chris G4JNZ on 01-868 2159. Imagine it's too late to tell you of the early Christmas dinner on Dec 2 but OK for the talk on Orienteering on the 10th, and another chat on Dec 17 at present subject-less. Add to this the informal and practical evenings, club projects and code classes which Chris Friel G4AUF, 17 Clitheroe Avenue, Harrow, Middx is waiting to tell you about.

Thornbury & District ARC The club has a new home at the White Horse at Groves End on the A38, and for those who worry about such things, it is possible to reach the club room without going through the bars. News of a "light-

hearted" 144MHz contest between the Bristol Channel clubs on Christmas Eve, lasting for a couple of hours. Can any contest be described thus! Unfortunately the club meets very early in the month so we've missed the Dec date but on Jan 5 a talk deals with making p.c.b.s and Feb 2 is all about RAYNET. In the absence of an Hon Sec the Hon Chairman Alan Jones G8AZT will answer your queries about the club. He's at 9 Queens Walk, Thornbury, near Bristol.

Thornton Cleveleys ARS G4ATH G6GMW Attractive new format to newly-named club magazine *TCARS Journal* an event overshadowed by death of club president Charles Mark Denny G6DN active in amateur radio in 1911. Club boasts of Pete G4BVW, his XYL Ruth G6KOD, plus sons Alan G6KOE and Robert G6KOF with Ruth likely to get her G4 ere long. All about the club from George Metcalfe G6VS, 4 Partridge Avenue, Cleveleys FY5 2HJ or much quicker on Cleveleys 823541. In case you'd like to cut along anyway it's the Leisure Centre, Victoria Road East, Thornton C, Blackpool, every Friday night but a new and more convenient venue is on the cards.

Torbay ARS G3NJA G8NJA HQ at Bath Lane, rear of 94 Belgrave Road, Torquay, every Friday at 7.30 for informal get-togethers, and business meetings and lectures on the last Saturday, at the same QTH. Members rather pleased that repeater GB3TR is now working successfully. Drop a line to Les Mays G2CWR, Atlantis, Clennon Avenue, Paignton, Devon.

Vale of White Horse ARS First Tuesday of the month is devoted to lectures and the like with third Tuesdays for ragchewing and anything informal. The RAE course has some 15 candidates hard at it, not all club members although it is hoped they will join in due course. The Dec event is the regular Social evening while in Jan there is a talk on repeaters. Much more detailed info from Alan Lovegreen G4FLX, 16 Church Lane,

Wallingford, Oxon, otherwise (0491) 37482.

Verulam ARC Normally the fourth Tuesday at 7.30 at the Charles Morris Memorial Hall, Tyttenhanger Green, near St Albans, Herts. More informally, at the RAFA HQ, New Kent Road, St Albans on the second Tuesday. Needless to say visitors and potential members are most welcome at either QTH. Now, NOTE, the club's AGM will be held on the THIRD Tuesday, December 21, at the RAFA HQ. Details of the club's activities from Peter Hildebrand G3VJO, Hobbits, 31 Crouch Hall Gardens, Redbourn, St Albans, or R'bourne 2761.

Wimbledon & District RS New sec Geoff Mellett G4MVS says club forgathers on the second and last Fridays at St John Ambulance HQ, 124 Kingston Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 at 8. Tea and biscuits are served at around 9. Nice! You might like to call into the Monday 9pm net on 144.875MHz. Geoff lives at 26 Paget Avenue, Sutton, Surrey, or call 01-644 8249.

Yeovil ARC G3CMH G8YEO Every Thursday at Building 101, Houndstone Camp, Yeovil, at 7.30. Some very attractive lectures on the way like An Investigation into Chordal Hop by G3MYM on Dec 9 and a.t.u.s by ditto on the 23rd. In between he also chairs a general discussion on AR on the 16th. Club projects include projects on chordal hop and "D" region absorption. Club membership now stands at a healthy 82. Sec is Don McLean G3NOF, 9 Cedar Grove, Yeovil, also (0935) 24956.

It is time to send you all my warmest greetings for Christmas and may it be a happy one for each and every reader of *PW*. It has been exciting to see the rapidly increasing number of ladies, some of whom have not only got their tickets but have taken a very active part in club activities, where they perform some very onerous duties behind the scenes. The OM with a YL or XYL also genuinely interested in AR is a very lucky man indeed! Happy Christmas!

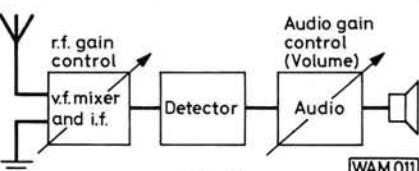


Fig. 1

right-hand box is the audio section where speech and music are amplified before being applied to the loudspeaker. The arrow through the audio box means that the gain can be adjusted and this is the job done by the volume control. Audio gain is another name for volume control.

The DX160 has an r.f. gain control. What does it do? It adjusts the gain (amplification) in that part of the receiver represented by the left hand block in Fig. 1. I remember being puzzled when I added an r.f. stage to my first receiver. Why two controls for receiver gain? Isn't one enough? Many DXers set the r.f. gain to

Medium Wave Broadcast Band DX

by Charles Molloy G8BUS
Reports to: Charles Molloy G8BUS
132 Segars Lane, Southport PR8 3JG.

It occurred to me recently, after changing the Vega 204 in my caravanette for a DX160, that I was following the same path that many of us go down when we start off in the hobby. We move from a simple, easy-to-operate receiver to more complicated, more sophisticated equipment. The Vega has four controls whose use is obvious. Tuning, wavechange, tone,

At the Controls

We will start with our old friend, the receiver block diagram (Fig. 1), which I have drawn in a different way this time. The left-hand box represents that part of the receiver which deals with the signal before demodulation and includes the r.f., mixer(s) and i.f. stages. The centre box represents the detector, where audio frequencies (modulation) are extracted from the carrier, which is now discarded. The

max and use the audio gain alone, a practice encouraged by some receiver handbooks and one which seems to say, well we don't really need the r.f. gain control anyway.

RF Gain Control

Tune round the band, with the r.f. gain at max and the audio gain set to give a comfortable signal at the loudspeaker. Find a fairly strong signal accompanied by interference and splash, which should not be difficult on the medium waves. Try backing off (reducing) the r.f. gain and see what happens. Overloading, if there is any, will be reduced and may be eliminated. If your strong signal has weaker QRM as a background then turn down the r.f. gain and compensate by turning up the audio gain. The QRM may disappear leaving a weaker but cleaner wanted station. You can in a similar fashion reduce adjacent channel interference if it is not too strong and the station you want to listen to is not too weak. I often use the receiver with the audio gain at max and the r.f. gain acting as the volume control.

The r.f. gain control is very useful not only on the medium waves but on some of the busy short wave bands as well. Above all, get the feel of this control. Find out what the adjustment of r.f. gain will and will not do for you. Next time we will have a look at r.f. attenuators and the receiver's own automatic gain control, usually abbreviated to a.g.c.

Loop Matching Amplifier

Martin Messias G4JCN has been experimenting with a loop differential matching amplifier (d.m.a.) which he built from the circuit which appeared in this column in the September 1980 issue. He first connected the d.m.a. in the conventional manner across the main winding of the loop, dispensing with the coupling winding. "I now had the problem of overloading with consequent spreading of strong signals onto adjacent channels, and I noticed that even with short leads the presence of the d.m.a. slightly modified the tuning range of the loop. I have since removed the d.m.a. from across the main winding and reinstated the coupling winding, and connected the d.m.a. between the output of the coupling winding and the receiver as shown in my diagram (Fig. 2). The result is highly sharp tuning Q —also overloading is considerably reduced and the (loop's) tuning range is in no way affected."

The object of both the coupling winding and the d.m.a. is to try to isolate the loop's main winding from the damp-

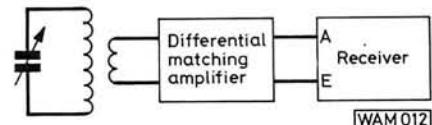


Fig. 2

ing effects of the receiver and the leads to it. It is clear from Martin's experiments that the d.m.a. on its own is not wholly successful in achieving this and the double isolation obtained by using coupling winding and d.m.a. in series is more successful. Paradoxically, the original idea of the d.m.a. was as a replacement for the coupling winding as it was felt that the latter when used alone in a conventional loop, would introduce losses. Martin's experience with overloading seems to bear this out. The amount of coupling between main and coupling windings would, I think, be important when isolation between the two is being considered and this may vary from loop to loop, depending on the method of construction. Has anyone else been experimenting with a d.m.a.? Many thanks to Martin for passing on the results of his tests.

had taken place over a period of time. It was not his receiver as a number of his friends were having the same trouble.

Although this problem is from the short waves it brings to mind a curious situation that I have been aware of for a number of years on the medium waves. It is the gradual disappearance of DX that at one time was conspicuous. La Voz del Rio Cauco in Cali Colombia on 820kHz comes to mind. At one time it was reported regularly in the UK and could almost be used as a pointer to propagation on that path. Now it is seldom heard. I could make a list of DX on the North American path, headed by CJCB in Sydney Nova Scotia on 1270kHz, which used to be heard frequently. It is hard to think of an explanation and probably there isn't a single one. I wonder though if we DXers are responsible for some of it. Regular reception reports from an unexpected direction may prompt the overhaul of directional antennas and the suppression of an unexpected lobe in that direction.

Readers' Letters

The lack of published information about commercial stations in Eire is commented on by **J. Howard** of St Helens. These stations come in well here in the NW of the country. The answer, I suppose, is that they are illegal, surprising as this may seem, for they can hardly be operating in a clandestine manner in that country.

Radio Wyvern, which covers Hereford and Worcester, is testing on 1530kHz and 954kHz writes **John Dennis Court** from Birmingham. He also sent me some information about the end of summertime. For most of Europe this occurred on September 26 and the effect on DXing in the UK was that European QRM subsided an hour earlier for the four week period until we too went onto wintertime. This occurs every year of course and it does give the DXer a chance to have a preview of winter DX on the band.

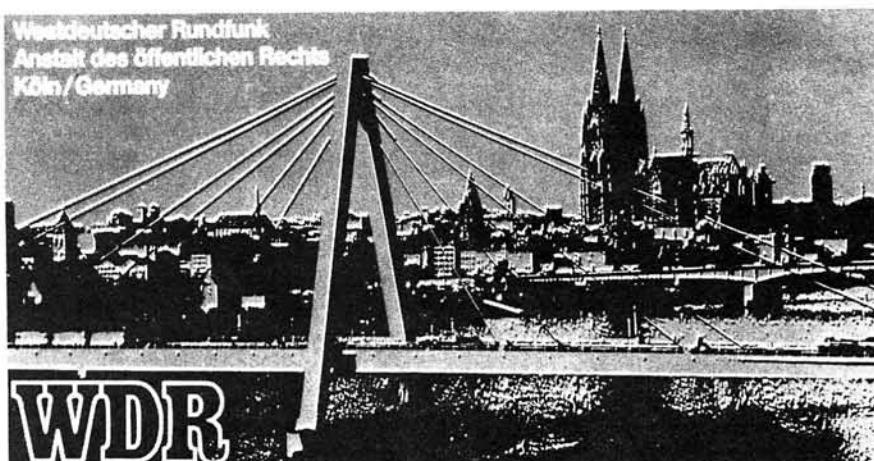
Reader **G. M. Christie** of Stromness in Orkney refers to my item about using an



Sticker from Deutschlandfunk
(supplied by Richard Hunt)

Absent Friends

I recently had an interesting letter from an Egyptian doctor living in Nigeria. As might be expected he is a regular listener to Radio Cairo and he was enquiring about the general decline in reception that



QSL Card from West Germany (supplied by Richard Hunt)

on the air

external antenna with a receiver not fitted with antenna sockets (September issue). He spends his working life at sea on the m.v. *Pole Star* which belongs to the Lighthouse Service and he says his receiving environment is about 99 per cent within the "tin box" type of enclosure referred to by me. His answer is a

15m vertical antenna fed by a lead of about the same length to a home-made a.t.u. and thence to a seven-turn coil of wire. "It sits between the carrying handle, when folded back, and the back cover of the receiver—right behind the ferrite rod. Sliding this coil, which is earthed, to a position giving optimum reading on the

"S" meter, provides the signal required. Twiddling the variable capacitors on the a.t.u. peaks everything up beautifully". The receiver is an Elizabethan Pathfinder which now provides excellent reception of IBA Radios Clyde on 1152kHz, Tay Perth on 1584, Tay Dundee on 1161 and Forth on 1548kHz.

Short Wave Broadcast Bands

by Charles Molloy G8BUS

Reports: as for medium wave DX,
but please keep separate.

A major problem facing listeners to the international broadcast bands is the lack of up-to-date information about programmes and frequencies. It does exist. It can be found in station programme schedules which are supplied free to listeners who write for it; in DX programmes which have to be listened to if you know when and where; in the bulletins of DX clubs which of course are normally read by members only. What is required is a publication aimed at the short wave programme listener, who may not be interested in DXing but who would like to know what is on the air at any time of the day and where to find it.

An international magazine called *Voice*s appeared during 1980 in an attempt to meet this need. Unfortunately it failed owing to lack of advertising support. It is sometimes suggested that I should, in this column, try to fill the gap but a quick look at the size of the task will show that it is not feasible in the space available. To my knowledge there are some ninety countries broadcasting regularly in English on the short waves. Even if one left out some of the more exotic such as Nepal, together with others that are not likely to be heard at programme value in the UK, there would still be a sizeable list to compile and update.

Broadcasting Seasons

The four "seasons" on the short waves start in March, May, September and November. Changes in propagation brought about by variations in the length of day in different parts of the world as the year progresses, lead to a move around the spectrum at the start of each season. This is followed by a period of adjustment when some of the less powerful broadcasters search for a spot where they may be heard.

Programme times can change. Many stations stick to UTC (GMT) throughout the year which means that their

programmes are an hour later by the clock, in summer. Others, Portugal for example, take account of summertime as observed in their country. The AWR broadcast from Sines on Sundays is on the air at 0830 UTC in summer but changes to 0930 at the end of September when Portugal, but not the UK, goes back to wintertime.

International Listening Guide

A West German DXer, Bernd Friedewald, has come up with an answer with his 24-page, A5-sized booklet called *International Listening Guide*. The ILG comes out four times a year and the English version will tell you what countries are broadcasting in English at any hour of the day or night. The frequencies used are listed as well.

The main listing is called The External Services in English. Starting at 0000 UTC it goes through the 24 hour period using abbreviations for days of the week, summer or winter, target area, programme structure, relay stations. In addition to the main listing there is an At a Glance section, a listing of DX programmes, a page on Home Services in English, two covering frequencies used in the general services of AFRTS, Radio Australia, BBC London, UN Radio, R Moscow, VOA. A final section covers World News and Commentaries at any hour of the day.

DSWCI TROPICAL BANDS SURVEY



Front cover of *Tropical Bands Survey*

The only criticism I have of the ILG is the two week delay in receiving it at the start of each season but as some of the information is not known much in advance, the delay is perhaps understandable. The ILG is obtainable from Bernd Friedewald, Merianstr 2, D-3588 Homberg, West Germany for £2 per annum. UK banknotes are acceptable.

Tropical Bands in Winter

The Tropical Bands 2.3MHz to 2.5MHz (120m), 3.2MHz to 3.4MHz (90m) and 4.75MHz to 5.06MHz (60m) are, as the name suggests, used for domestic broadcasting in tropical parts of the world. The high level of static makes the medium waves unattractive while large areas in sparsely populated areas can be covered by comparatively low power transmitters.

Propagation on all these bands is, superficially, similar to that on the medium waves. Stations can be heard in their target area day or night, but reception outside that target area depends on a path of darkness between transmitter and receiver. So if you want to DX on the tropical bands wait until it is dark.

At first sight it might appear that DXing on the tropical bands would be a winter only occupation. Not so. Summer is thought by many to be the best time for Latin American DX but of course you have to stay up until the small hours to hear it. Africa is there at any time of the year, the best time being around sunset and sunrise in the UK.

Asiatic DX

It is in winter that you will hear Asiatic DX since it is at that time of year that there is the required path of darkness. There are two listening periods. The first is in the afternoon when you should hear some DX before stations sign off for the night. Your target area is several time zones ahead so our afternoon is their bedtime. Start about an hour and a half before sunset. The sun is low in the sky here and most of the path eastwards will be in darkness. Look for Indonesia on 3.975MHz (Surabaya), 4.719MHz (Ujung Pandang), 4.764MHz (Medan), for Singapore on 5.052MHz before it signs off at 1600, for India on 3.205MHz (Lucknow), 4.76MHz (Simla), for Papua New Guinea on 4.89MHz (Port Moresby), Australia on 4.92MHz (Brisbane), China on 2.46MHz (Yunnan) 3.94MHz (Hubei), 4.865MHz (Gansu). The second reception period is at sign-on

time which starts at 2100UTC in China, 2200 in Indonesia, and from 2300 to midnight in India.

These stations are only a small selection of DX regularly heard each winter. *Tropical Bands Survey* is an up-to-date listing of stations, published annually in English by the Danish Short Wave Clubs International, DK-2670-Greve Strand, Denmark. It is available to non-members for 25DKr or 9 International Reply Coupons, which are obtainable from main post offices in the UK.

The Indonesian enthusiast is catered for by the 10-page booklet *DXing Indonesia* which is available free of charge from Media Network, Radio Netherlands, PO Box 222, Hilversum, Holland. Incidentally, the 6th edition of the Media Network Booklist is now out and can be obtained free of charge from the same address.

Readers' Letters

Readers will be interested to learn that Paul Hardy's search for a Sony ICF 5900 (October issue) has been successful. Paul is delighted with his new receiver which has already pulled in Radio WRNO on 11.965MHz, Radio Cuba in English on 11.93MHz, Radio RSA on 5.98MHz and Greece in English on 11.645MHz, all in the small hours between 0045 and 0200. 11MHz (25m) is an interesting band which is worth checking at any hour of the day and night.



Front cover of the *International Listening Guide*

"I thought you might be interested in DXing conditions at the bottom of Africa" writes sixteen-year-old **Vincent Stevens** from Bellville who is interested in Pacific stations. He mentions hearing the

Solomon Islands on 9.545 at 0630UTC, VLW9 in Wanneroo Western Australia on 9.61 at 1230 and VNG, the time signal station at Lyndhurst Australia, on 7.5MHz at 1530. The latter comes in quite well in the UK during the afternoon in winter. "A good catch for DXers around the World might be Capital Radio Transkei which broadcasts with 50kW on 3.93, 7.145, 9.765 and 11.75MHz" concludes Vincent.

"Greeting from beautiful British Columbia from an ex-Londoner" writes **John White** who goes on to say. "I picked up PW August 82 from a Vancouver magazine store the other day only to find you had arbitrarily moved the RCI antenna farm from Sackville to Moncton." Must have been thinking of CBA on 1070kHz which made that move several years ago! John goes on to mention the well-known *Whites Radio Log* (no relation). The publication rights have been acquired by D. L. Gabree who is currently working on a 1983 edition, "with a complete up-date of all US and Canadian frequencies by location and call letters for AM, FM and TV with expanded and updated short wave section". The new edition will be available from D. L. Gabree, #211-155 West 13th Street, North Vancouver, B.C. Canada V7M 1N5 for \$3.95 (Canadian) post paid.

Finally, *Waveguide*, the weekly BBC programme, is now broadcast on the World Service at 0915 on Mondays and 1735 on Wednesdays.

VHF Bands

by Ron Ham BRS15744

Reports to: Ron Ham BRS15744
Faraday, Greyfriars, Storrington,
Sussex RH20 4HE.

As 1982 draws to a close and we get ready for 1983, we can look back on a satisfactory year for all interests in amateur and broadcast radio, which, for the DXer, included openings on all bands from 28MHz (10m) to 10GHz (3cm). For the newcomer there has been the valuable experience of anomalous propagation caused by auroral, sporadic-E and tropospheric disturbances.

Solar

Cmdr Henry Hatfield, Sevenoaks, recorded a very large burst of solar radio noise on 136MHz at 1447 on September 19, and like me, recorded a minor noise storm, at both 136 and 143MHz, on the 27th and 28th and a few tiny bursts on the 29th and 30th and October 2. When possible, **Ted Waring**, Bristol, observed the sun with his optical equipment and counted 32 sunspots on September 22, 40 on the 29th, 8 on October 6 and 21 on the

10th. No doubt it was some form of activity associated with these sunspots, that caused the ionospheric disturbances, reported by the BBC World Service, during the early hours of September 22 and October 8 and the auroral manifestations in late September.

Aurora

Between 0656 and 0716 on September 22, **David Newman** G4GLT, Leicester, heard auroral signals from the 50MHz (6m) beacon GB3SIX with his beam pointing toward the north-east. At 0733 **Andrew "Jim" Lyon** G8LPY, Worthing, heard GM3WCS making several auroral contacts but was unable to raise him because Jim's TS700G, running "barefoot" was beaten to the QSOs by "bigger guns". At 1805 on the 26th, with my beam pointing north, I logged strong auroral reflected signals from 11 east-European broadcast stations between 48 and 68MHz.

The 28MHz Band

"Conditions are beginning to improve on 28MHz now" writes **Susan Beech** RS50969, Dollar, Scotland, who found October 4, "a good day for the Ws". "My

favourite band" writes **Norman Jennings** from Rye in Sussex and a bit further along the coast in Dover. **George Coulter** heard signals from 9K2BE Kuwait on September 29 and J3AH Grenada on October 1. During the RSGB 21/28MHz Phone contest on October 10 the Bournemouth Radio Society's station, operated by G4GTH, G4LFM and G4NXG, made around 365 contacts and scored over 27 000 points. "The contacts were coming thick and fast" said **Elaine Howard** G4LFM who was at the operating desk when they made 150 QSOs on 28MHz in 90 minutes. On the same day, St Dunstaner, **Bill Shea** G4AUJ, Brampton, using an FT-107, 2100Z linear and TA33J rotatable beam at 13m a.g.l., found the band wide open and worked stations in Ws 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 0 and many VE's, most at 58 and 59 plus. It is good to hear the DX on 28MHz again, I logged a few JAs on October 12, several VE's on the 9th and 12th and many Ws on the 4th, 5th, 9th and 12th.

28MHz Beacons

Both **John Coulter**, Winchester and **David Newman** reported hearing the beacon PY2AMI send "PWR 10W—AMERICANA-SAO PAULO-PSE QSL INFO 73". Like David, John heard

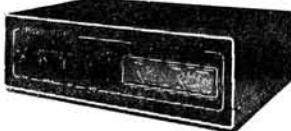
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a new beacon signal on 28.265MHz sending PY2EXD5W and assumes that the last figure and letter of the callsign refers to its transmitter power. **W. G. Kelly**, Belfast, one of our readers since the 1930s, now using a Bearcat 220FB receiver, also heard this signal and suggests that it is some form of experimental station. Between 0827 and 0913 on October 3, David Newman logged the New Zealand beacon ZL2MHF and along with Susan Beech, **Dave Coggins**, John Coulter, Henry Hatfield, Ted Waring and I, contributed to the list of beacons heard given in Fig. 1.

The 50MHz (6m) Band

Around 1300 on October 2, G. M. Pheasant G4BPY, heard the beacon signals from ZS6LN 50-099MHz and ZS6PW 50-030MHz and Steve Richardson G4JCC, Hayling Island, worked ZS6LN, cross-band 28/50MHz. Between 2002 and 2011 David Newman heard ZS6RAC calling CQ in Morse on 50-100MHz, but was unable to raise him on 28MHz. During a minor opening between 1532 and 1714 on October 6, David heard the beacon signals from ZS6LN and ZS6PW intermittently and writes, "There was a major 50MHz opening to South Africa on October 10 which lasted for just over 5 hours, from 1158, when the beacon ZS6PW was first heard, until 1707 when the beacon ZS3E 50-075MHz was last heard". Around 1400, David heard the 6W s.s.b. signal from ZS6LN at 599 from Pietersburg and later worked him cross-band along with stations near Luderitz Namibia, Pretoria, Johannesburg and Randburg. Steve Richardson also received strong signals from ZS3E and ZS6PW and made cross-band QSOs with ZR6ABF, ZR6AIG and ZS6LN, and between 1230 and 1410 on the 11th, he heard signals from the Gibraltar beacon ZB2VHF.

Microwaves

On September 14, John Tye G4BYV, Dereham, Norfolk, worked DB5KS on

3.456GHz, at 464km, which he thinks is a new DX record (congratulations anyway John) and writes, "most of the credit must go to Rolf DB5KS who uses home-made gear with 6W of s.s.b. and 2 MGF1400 GaAs f.e.t.s in his receiver". John's signal was also heard by DD3KL.

During a recent expedition to Trundle Hill, the old wartime radar site near Chichester, **Ron Allen** G2DSP (Fig. 2) tested out his new home-brew microwave gear and 144MHz (2m) talk-back equipment with **Terry Allen** G4ETU (Fig. 3). Both Ron and Terry are members of the Chichester and District Amateur Radio Club and are well known for their microwave work from this site.



Fig. 2: Ron Allen on Trundle Hill

BTTY

Over the past 2 years, **Peter Lincoln** BRS42979, Aldershot, using Eddystone 1570/3 and Tandy DX300 receivers and a Microwave Modules MM2000 RTTY converter, has received RTTY signals from over 70 countries, with 20 confirmed, including his best DX, CE3 and ZL2. Peter uses a 5-band vertical antenna for the h.f. bands and his shack records are kept on a Sharp MZ-80K computer, linked to a MZ80FB floppy disc drive and a MZ80P3 printer.

Between September 12 and October 10, Norman Jennings copied signals from FP8DF, JA9TX, UK3MAE, 4D2RLC and 9M2DW on 14MHz (20m), K0OAM, N4SR and YV1AOE on

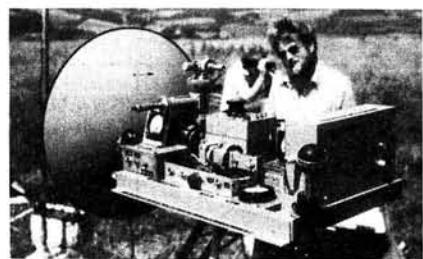


Fig. 3: Terry Allen with Ron's home-brew gear

21MHz (15m) WB8BDE on 28MHz (10m) and G4LJG on 144MHz (2m), which are the "pick of the bunch" from his RTTY log. Among the signals of special interest were 18AA and UT5RP who, on 14MHz on October 6, were sending 2 or 3 pages of DX news. During the period of this issue's report, September 19 to October 18, I logged signals from RTTY stations in 11 countries, C3, DL, EA, F, OE, OK, OZ, UA, VE, VK and Y3 on 14MHz and a very strong signal at 1402 on October 12, from 4N7NS on 28MHz. The best QSO I copied during the period was at 0928 on the 17th between DJ1UR and VK5XO.

Tropospheric

The atmospheric pressure, measured at my QTH, remained below 30.0in (1015mb) from September 19 to midday on the 30th when it crept just above 30.0 until 0800 on October 4. It fell to 29.6 (1002) on the 5th and remained below 29.8 (1009), reaching a low of 29.1 (985) on the 14th, until the end of this report on the 18th. In no way did this low pressure help v.h.f. propagation; however, on September 13, before the high pressure system moved away, Susan Beech heard EI1DK on 144MHz and signals through the repeaters in Belfast GB3NI R5, Cumbria GB3AS R1 and Moel-Y-Parc GR3MP R6.

Band II

Throughout the evening of September 14, **Simon Hamer**, Presteigne, heard very strong signals from broadcast stations in Belgium BRT-2 Egem, Genk and Schoten and RTB-3 Liège, Holland NOS 2/4 Wesselstein and NOS-1 Smilde and Germany NDR Aurich and Hamburg, SDR Heidelberg and Waldenburg and WDR Langenburg and Teutoborgenwald, plus AFN Stuttgart and BFBS Bielefeld and Langenburg in Band II. "Our new 'local', Radio Wyvern made a good start last Monday" writes Simon on October 10 and also reports hearing another new ILR station, Wiltshire Radio, on 96.4MHz. From Cheltenham, **John Williams** reports "almost perfect" reception from Radio Cymru on 96.8MHz, which he thinks is from Wenvoe, and hearing Radio Wyvern.

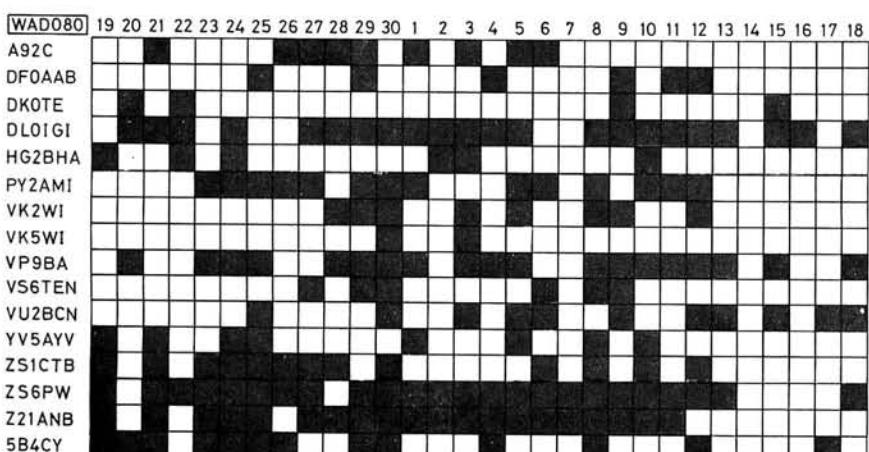


Fig. 1: Distribution of beacon signals

Radio Astronomy

In Lisburn, Northern Ireland, Colin Clements has built a "DICKE" type radio telescope, operating at 435MHz, using a Microwave Modules MMC/435/600 converter, installed with the antenna switching unit in a weather-proof box at the antenna (Fig. 4). The i.f. of 600MHz is fed by a 50Ω coaxial cable to the main receiver (Fig. 5) which comprises an RBM A633 TV tuner and A583 i.f. unit. The antenna (Fig. 4), a cylindrical paraboloid, is fixed to a meridian-transit mounting and Colin plans to make this, subject to weather, fully steerable by the new year. As well as studying radio noise from celestial sources, Colin is very interested in radio emissions from aurora and the "active" sun. Readers interested in this subject should write to Colin, enclosing an s.a.e., at 28 Edenvale Gardens, Lisburn, BT28 ZUT, Northern Ireland.

St Dunstaners in Brighton

About 20 members of the St Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society, gathered at Ian Fraser House, Ovingdean, on October 16/17 for one of their Radio Weekends. Members were operating with their special callsign, GB4STD and worked stations in Australia, Moscow and New Jersey on the h.f. bands with a Trio 130S and TA33 beam and local stations on 144MHz with an IC240 and colinear antenna. Around 1700 on the 16th, club secretary Ted John G3SEJ and guests from *Practical Wireless* listened to a QSO on 7MHz (40m) between GB2FMG, with YL operator Gwen and GB4PDS, both taking part in the JOTA weekend.



Fig. 4: Radio astronomy antenna built by Colin Clements

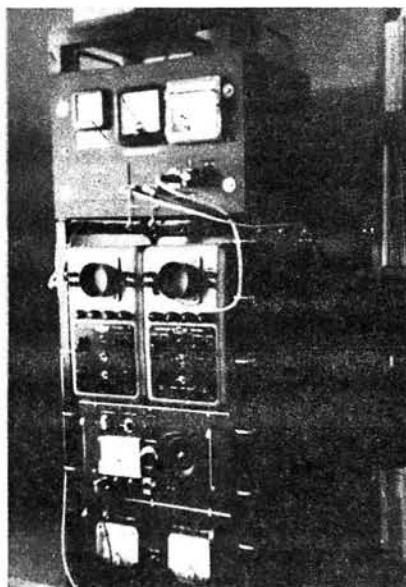


Fig. 5: 435MHz radio astronomy receiver built by Colin Clements

The Saturday afternoon guest speaker was Elaine Howard G4LFM, who spoke about her training as a ship's Radio Officer and how she and the 20 or so others who completed the 3-year course reached a minimum c.w. proficiency of over 20 w.p.m.

Elaine stressed that the major part of the RO's work is safety of life at sea and explained how the letters SOS in c.w. and the word MAYDAY on the RT were given absolute priority, and that a ship may steam for many days away from its normal course to answer a distress call. During the course, Elaine studied electronics and radar and was required to trace deliberately-induced faults on emergency, main station and radar equipment.

On Sunday morning, Tony Bailey G3WPO, Roy Bannister G4GPX and Joyce Bannister and Manuel Cruz G4IQG, the UK representative for blind amateurs in Spain, joined the meeting and Tony demonstrated an audio s.w.r. bridge

and talking frequency counter. Later, Ted John told me that he was impressed by the clarity of the speech and the accuracy of the "WPO" talking counter.

Among the members present were Ray Hazan who works in the PRO office and uses an American Vesa Braille machine which is like a computer but has a mechanical Braille display, and Alan Reynolds G3VRI who uses a talking calculator, clock and thermometer and says that a later device on sale will speak the day and date.

as Nick Foot G8MCQ and YL Michelle pushed the gear to and from the boat when they were involved with setting up a station on Brownsea Island in Poole harbour, for the 75th anniversary of the foundation of the Scout movement.

Aurora

Around 1700 on September 6, Sam Faulkner, Burton-on-Trent, received a caption from TVR Romania, Fig. 2, on Ch. R2, showing the geographical outline of the country. At this time Sam's beam was facing north-west and the picture was being reflected from the prevailing auroral display.

SSTV

Between September 15 and October 11, Richard Thurlow, March, Cambridge, made two-way QSOs with 21 stations for the first time, contributing

to a total of 8 in colour and 33 in monochrome including stations previously worked. The first timers ranged from Europe to the USA and the colour contacts were with G3NOX and G4IMO on 144MHz, W4 and W9 on 28MHz and DL, EA and I on 14MHz. Among the monochrome QSOs, which came from Asia, Europe, Japan, South Africa, Scandinavia and the USA, was one of our readers, ZS2AO.



Fig. 1: G8MCQ and Michelle with the expedition gear

Amateur Television

Setting up a portable station for a weekend event requires a lot of planning and voluntary effort, even more so if your particular group is going to operate on an island and there is a stretch of water to cross. Proof of this can be seen in Fig. 1

During the October SSTV contest, **Peter Lincoln**, Aldershot, received pictures from stations in 8 countries, DJ, F, FM7, IV3, LZ2, WA1, YO8 and YU2. Peter has been interested in Slow Scan Television for just over a year and with his WRAASE SC-140 SSTV Scan converter board, assembled into a home-brew module, he has logged pictures from most of Europe and his best DX so far is Argentina, Japan and the USA.

"From September 15 to October 12, I have been monitoring the calling channel 28.680MHz and enjoying video from stations in JA, LZ, VE, Ws 0-9, ZS2 and ZS6", writes Sam Faulkner. At 1705 on September 23 Sam received pictures of the operator and equipment of ZD8DZ while he was working K4KUG, and at 1015 on October 10, he saw the callsign JA2UJ amid tremendous QRM from central European s.s.b.



Fig. 2: Auroral picture from Romania received by Sam Faulkner

Sporadic-E

Although the 1982 sporadic-E season has finished, it is still worth keeping an eye on those favourite spots in Band I for short-lived events, which, if they only last for 30 minutes or so, can be very rewarding. Between Sept 19 and October 18, I have seen frequent bursts of test card from Budapest, Czechoslovakia, Poland and a cartoon film at 0910 on October 3 on Ch. R1. For the most of the afternoon of the 3rd, Sam Faulkner watched motor racing, tennis, noticias and weather from TVE Spain on Chs. E2 and E3.

Major Rana Roy had his share of sporadic-E DX in India and during the season, regularly receives test cards and pictures from the USSR in Band I and kindly sent a photograph (Fig. 3) of a

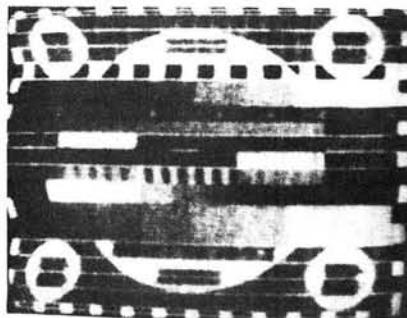


Fig. 3: Russian test card received in India by Major Rana Roy

Russian test card he received at 1500 on August 6.

Tropospheric

"The September openings were by far the best I have ever known since I started TV DXing" writes **Simon Hamer**, who sums up the feelings of many DXers including **George Garden**, Bracknell, Sam Faulkner and me. On September 3, Simon received strong pictures from the Dutch transmitter at Goes on Ch. 32 and his usual comprehensive report to NOS was acknowledged by the station's QSL card (Fig. 4). During the evenings of the 14th he received pictures from Belgium BRT-1 Egem on Ch. E43 and BRT-2 Egem on E46, Holland NOS-1 and 2 from Goes on Chs. E29 and 32, and Germany ZDF on E37 and "negative"



Fig. 4: Dutch QSL card sent to Simon Hamer



Fig. 5: Announcer from TF1 Lille

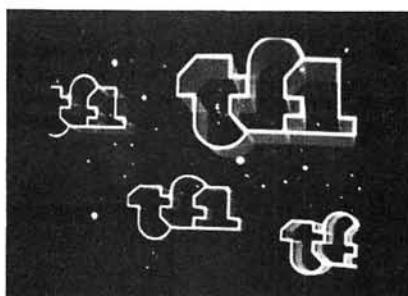


Fig. 6: French TV caption



Fig. 7: Advert seen on Dutch TV by David Girdlestone



Fig. 8: ZDF programme announcement

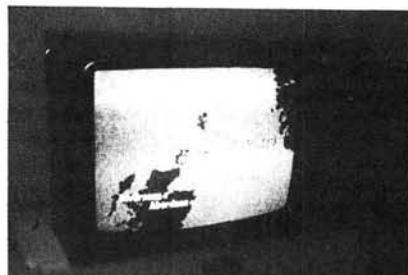


Fig. 9: Tyne Tees on Ch. 29 as seen in Bracknell

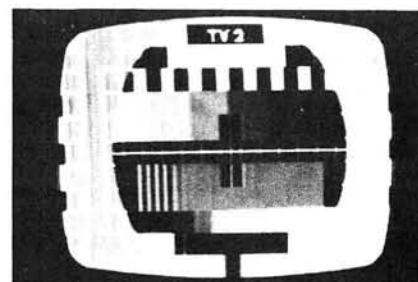


Fig. 10: Test card from Sweden on Ch. 32 received by Sam Faulkner

pictures from France TDF on Chs. 21, 27, 37, 39 and 40. **Nicholas Wythe**, Folkestone, is equipped to receive "positive" pictures from France (Figs. 5 and 6), showing that added enjoyment can be had with this facility on the DX receivers.

Between 1945 and 2045, Simon watched a news programme, *NOS Journal* from NOS-1 Roermond in Band III on Ch. E5 and saw adverts for Oil of Ulay, Amro Bank, Duracel Batteries, Oryza washing up liquid and National Panasonic video equipment. Later, Simon watched a Stravinsky concert from a Rotterdam hall. Among the Dutch adverts for British goods seen by David Girdlestone, Norwich, was one for Mars Bars, Fig. 7.

At 2300 on the 14th, George Garden, Bracknell, received strong colour pictures from Germany ZDF on Ch. 21 (Fig. 8) and between 1800 and 1930, colour pictures from Anglia TV Sudbury Ch. 41,

Central TV Waltham Ch. 61 and later, *News at Ten* from Tyne Tees TV Bilsdale on Ch. 29, (Fig. 9). "Band III conditions were also exciting on September 13" writes Sam Faulkner, who received pictures from Radio Telefis Eireann RTE-1 and 2 on Chs. H and J, a news programme caption Berche Montage on Ch. E10, a Scandinavian news programme on E5, the Dienstag Rundfunk caption from East-Germany DDR-1 on E6 and an exhibition of satellite TV equipment from Sweden SR on E9. On the 14th, u.h.f. signals from Sweden were very strong and Sam watched a film review programme from SR TV2 on Chs. 30, 31, 32, 41, 42, 48 and 49. "Chs. 30 and 32 were exceptional, a YL announcer gave the closing headlines, then a clock caption and a brief glimpse of TV2 test card, (Fig. 10) before all transmissions closed at 2130, 2330 Swedish time" writes Sam. He continues "During the fantastic conditions in mid-

September, many telephone calls were received at Central TV from bewildered viewers complaining of interference to their programmes and Central TV's news co-presenter, Anne Diamond, explained the reason for the problem and added "viewers in the east of our region may receive television from the Netherlands". They sure did Sam, and like many of us on the 14th, Sam logged many German captions such as ARD, DDR, NDR, WDR and the programmes *Antworten* on Ch. 35 and *Heute Journal* on Ch. 36.

At 1650 on September 13, Alan Beech, Dollar, received a test card on Ch. 29 from RTE-1 and at 1655 it was replaced by a clock with the station identification on it. "Nothing big showed up, apart from Border TV and Ulster TV until about 2000" writes Alan, who then received pictures from TSW at Caradon Hill Ch. 25, 400 miles away. "I hastily wrote to TSW and they replied, confirming it with a programme schedule."

swap spot

Have NEC digital transceiver 1.8-30MHz, u.s.b./l.s.b./a.m./c.w./f.s.k. Would part exchange either way for solid state base or mobile transceiver. G. Wilkinson, 114 Cleveland Road, High Barnes, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear. Tel: Sunderland 220935 (office hours).
P722

Have Vanden-Plas 4 litre R garaged past two years, spare engine, gearbox, many other spares. Would exchange for FT101ZD MkIII or Icom 211E or w.h.y. Tel: Blackpool (0253) 31040. J. M. Duxbury.
P737

Have Uniace 100 CB radio, Skipmaster 45000 base microphone, Wotpole base antenna with coaxial cable, s.w.r. meter with patch lead, also Texas TI-51-III calculator. Would exchange for FRG-7 receiver or similar. Michael Young, 64 Williamson Way, Rosehill, Oxford. Tel: 0865 770282 after 4.30pm.
P738

Have Vero p.c.b. assembly stand. Would exchange for good "Globe King" shortwave one valve receiver and coil set. D. T. Price. Tel: 0533 876459.
P745

Have Tasco 4½in reflector telescope, tripod, setting circles, mounting and all accessories including two eyepieces and Barlow lens. Would exchange for modern amateur radio receiver, transceiver or transmitter, preferably h.f. bands. Hewitt, Beaumaris, N. Wales. Tel: 0248 810535.
P746

Have 250 copies of Practical Wireless and 50 copies of Practical Television. Would exchange for 144MHz transceiver or w.h.y. for 144MHz. Tel: Fawley (Hampshire) 897338.
P758

Have HRO receiver, plus power pack and bandspread coils. Would exchange for photographic items, camera, lenses etc. R. Howard, 32 Windsor Road, Wrenthorpe, Wakefield, W. Yorks. Tel: 362772.
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P766

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P783

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	6x22	30-30	0.83	
	6x23	30-30	0.83	
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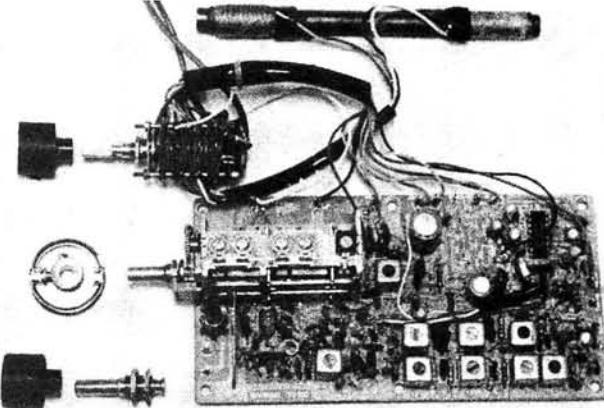
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CA98	0.70	PF183	0.80	PCF200	1.80	UF50	1.30	SA5	1.20	GSJ7	1.85	30F12	0.25
DT22	2.65	PF184	0.80	PCF201	1.65	UCH42	1.85	EM4M	1.50	GSJ7	0.95	30F14	1.25
DF96	0.70	PF184	0.80	PCF800	0.85	UCH81	0.75	GA8A	2.50	DL1GT	0.85	30L15	1.10
DH76	0.75	PF182	0.75	PCF801	1.75	UC82	0.95	AD4	3.40	DSN7GT	0.85	30L17	1.10
DL92	0.60	PF182	1.85	PCF802	0.85	UF41	1.30	AD5	1.00	DSN7GT	1.10	30P12	1.15
DY86/87	0.85	EH90	0.85	PCF803	2.45	UF80	0.85	DS05W	1.80	DS07	0.85	30P13	1.25
DY88/89	0.85	EL88	1.10	PCF808	0.70	UF89	0.70	DS05	0.85	DS07	1.45	30P14	0.80
ES54	14.80	EL32	1.80	PCF808	0.75	UL41	2.30	SA16	0.85	WS6GT	0.95	35L6GT	1.40
ER88C	1.80	PC200	1.35	UL84	0.85	UF80	0.85	DS05	0.85	DS07	0.85	35W4	0.80
ER88CC/01	3.10	EL37	4.40	PCU81	0.75	UM80	0.90	GA6V	0.85	4XWA4	2.10	35ZAGT	3.15
ER92C	1.20	EL81	2.45	PCU82	0.95	UM84	0.80	XA4XT	1.30	6X5GT	0.85	40KD6	3.15
ER10C	2.80	EL82	0.70	PCU84	0.90	UY72	0.70	XA4XG	1.30	6Y6G	0.85	50C5	1.15
ER18C	0.30	EL82	0.70	PCU84	0.85	UY72	0.70	EA6	0.55	6Z2	0.70	50B6BG	1.00
ER22C	0.85	EL88	0.85	PCU85/5	1.25	UY75	0.75	EF6	0.70	7J12	1.75	55B1	1.25
EA16	2.25	EL90	1.00	PO500/5	4.30	VR105/20	1.35	SG6GG	1.00	7Y4	1.25	75C1	1.70
EB80	0.80	EL91	4.20	PF1200	1.10	X66	0.95	JB6J	1.30	9D2	0.70	76	0.95
EB91	0.80	EL95	0.80	PO500/10	2.00	X61M	1.70	GD7A	0.85	9E6	2.90	78	0.95
EC83	1.15	EL504	1.70	PL36	1.25	XI4-6400A	0.85	BBR7	4.80	10C2	0.85	80	1.70
EC83C	0.70	EL504	0.50	PL36	0.80	PL36	0.80	BBR7	0.85	80W4	0.70	85	1.40
EF80	0.80	EL509	2.70	PL36	0.70	ZT59	1.80	BBR7	0.85	80W4	0.70	85P13	1.50
EF80B	0.80	EL509	2.70	PL36	0.70	ZT59	1.80	BBR7	0.85	80W4	0.70	85P13	2.55*
EF80S	0.80	EL802	1.70	PL36	0.80	ZT49	0.75	GC4	0.50	11E2	1.70	723A/B	1.90
EF88	0.80	EL802	1.70	PL36	0.80	ZT49	0.75	GC4	0.50	11E2	1.70	723A/B	1.25
EF88B	0.80	EL821	0.80	PL36	0.85	ZB80U	0.85	GC6	0.55	12A6	0.70	807	1.25
EF88C	0.80	EL821	0.80	PL36	0.85	ZB80U	0.85	GC6	0.55	12A6	0.70	813	1.40
EC52	0.85	EL822	0.95	PL504	1.45	ZB80U	1.00	CH6B	1.70	12A6	0.70	828	1.40
EC81	3.40	EM31	1.80	PL508	1.95	ZB80U	1.60	CL6	1.70	12A7	0.70	829B	1.40
EC92	0.85	EM80	0.85	PL509	2.00	ZB80T	2.45	CK8X	3.80	12A7U	0.80	832A	0.90
EC93	0.85	EM80	0.85	PL510	1.80	ZB80T	1.43	CK7S	1.15	12A7U	0.80	832B	0.90
EC94	0.85	EM84	0.85	PL510	1.80	ZB80T	1.43	CK7S	0.85	12A7X	0.85	835	0.85
EC95	0.85	EM84	0.85	PL510	1.80	ZB80T	1.43	CK7S	0.85	12A7X	0.85	835	0.85
EC98	0.85	EM85	1.30	PY33	0.70	IR5	0.80	GA6B	1.20	12B45	0.80	931A	1.20
EC98A	0.80	EPY51	0.85	PL36	0.70	IS4	0.45	FF6	1.60	12B65	1.25	954	0.80
EC98B	0.60	EPY81	0.85	PL800/80	0.85	IS5	0.45	FF6B	1.10	12B47	1.10	955	0.70
EC98C	1.70	EPY87	0.80	PL82	0.85	IT4	0.45	FF7	2.00	12C8	0.85	956	0.80
EC98D	0.85	EPY87	0.80	PL82	0.85	IT4	0.45	FF7B	0.85	12C8	0.85	957	0.85
EC98E	0.85	EPY88	0.80	PL82	0.85	IT4	0.45	FF7C	0.85	12C8	0.85	958	0.85
EC98F	0.85	EPY88	0.80	PL82	0.85	IT4	0.45	FF7D	0.85	12C8	0.85	959	0.85
EC98G	0.85	EPY88	0.80	PL82	0.85	IT4	0.45	FF7E	0.85	12C8	0.85	960	0.85
EC98H	0.85	EPY88	0.80	PL82	0.85	IT4	0.45	FF7F	0.85	12C8	0.85	961	0.85
EC98I	0.85	EPY88	0.80	PL82	0.85	IT4	0.45	FF80	0.85	12C8	0.85	962	0.85
EC98J	0.85	EPY88	0.80	PL82	0.85	IT4	0.45	FF81	0.85	12C8	0.85	963	0.85
EC98K	0.85	EPY88	0.80	PL82	0.85	IT4	0.45	FF82	0.85	12C8	0.85	964	0.85
EC98L	0.85	EPY88	0.80	PL82	0.85	IT4	0.45	FF83	0.85	12C8	0.85	965	0.85
EC98M	0.85	EPY88	0.80	PL82	0.85	IT4	0.45	FF84	0.85	12C8	0.85	966	0.85
EC98N	0.85	EPY88	0.80	PL82	0.85	IT4	0.45	FF85	0.85	12C8	0.85	967	0.85
EC98O	0.85	EPY88	0.80	PL82	0.85	IT4	0.45	FF86	0.85	12C8	0.85	968	0.85
EC98P	0.85	EPY88	0.80	PL82	0.85	IT4	0.45	FF87	0.85	12C8	0.85	969	0.85
EC98Q	0.85	EPY88	0.80	PL82	0.85	IT4	0.45	FF88	0.85	12C8	0.85	970	0.85
EC98R	0.85	EPY88	0.80	PL82	0.85	IT4	0.45	FF89	0.85	12C8	0.85	971	0.85
EC98S	0.85	EPY88	0.80	PL82	0.85	IT4	0.45	FF90	0.85	12C8	0.85	972	0.85
EC98T	0.85	EPY88	0.80	PL82	0.85	IT4	0.45	FF91	0.85	12C8	0.85	973	0.85
EC98U	0.85	EPY88	0.80	PL82	0.85	IT4	0.45	FF92	0.85	12C8	0.85	974	0.85
EC98V	0.85	EPY88	0.80	PL82	0.85	IT4	0.45	FF93	0.85	12C8	0.85	975	0.85
EC98W	0.85	EPY88	0.80	PL82	0.85	IT4	0.45	FF94	0.85	12C8	0.85	976	0.85
EC98X	0.85	EPY88	0.80	PL82	0.85	IT4	0.45	FF95	0.85	12C8	0.85	977	0.85
EC98Y	0.85	EPY88	0.80	PL82	0.85	IT4	0.45	FF96	0.85	12C8	0.85	978	0.85
EC98Z	0.85	EPY88	0.80	PL82	0.85	IT4	0.45	FF97	0.85	12C8	0.85	979	0.85
EC98A	0.85	EPY88	0.80	PL82	0.85	IT4	0.45	FF98	0.85	12C8	0.85	980	0.85
EC98B	0.85	EPY88	0.80	PL82	0.85	IT4	0.45	FF99	0.85	12C8	0.85	981	0.85
EC98C	0.85	EPY88	0.80	PL82	0.85	IT4	0.45	FF9A	0.85	12C8	0.85	982	0.85
EC98D	0.85	EPY88	0.80	PL82	0.85	IT4	0.45	FF9B	0.85	12C8	0.85	983	0.85
EC98E	0.85	EPY88	0.80	PL82	0.85	IT4	0.45	FF9C	0.85	12C8	0.85	984	0.85
EC98F	0.85	EPY88	0.80	PL82	0.85	IT4	0.45	FF9D	0.85	12C8	0.85	985	0.85
EC98G	0.85	EPY88	0.80	PL82	0.85	IT4	0.45	FF9E	0.85	12C8	0.85	986	0.85
EC98H	0.85	EPY88	0.80	PL82	0.85	IT4	0.45	FF9F	0.85	12C8	0.85	987	0.85
EC98I	0.85	EPY88	0.80	PL82	0.85	IT4	0.45	FF9G	0.85	12C8	0.85	988	0.85
EC98J	0.85	EPY88	0.80	PL82	0.85	IT4	0.45	FF9H	0.85	12C8	0.85	989	0.85
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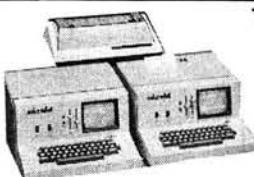
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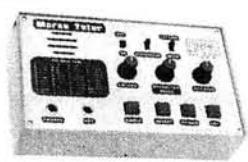
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ECC81	0.65	EL86	0.85	PC99	0.75	2C39 Ceramic		6J5GT	0.75	TA573	0.25	AF155	0.30	BT144	1.00
ECC82	0.55	EL90	0.82	PCF80	0.65	2C39 Ceramic		6J6	0.55	TA574	0.25	AF156	0.30	BT145	1.00
ECC82	1.10	EL90	0.82	PCF80	0.65	2C39 Ceramic		6J6	0.55	TA575	0.25	AF157	0.30	BT146	1.00
ECC83	0.65	EM80	0.70	PCF200	1.35	4CX250B		6J6K6	4.50	TA576	0.25	AF158	0.30	BT147	1.00
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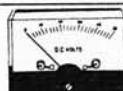
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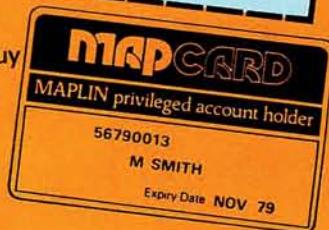
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