

The late Newt W1BCR in his shack.

been ineligible for war service due to some respiratory difficulty). After the war he had been presented with a gold pass giving him access to Navy Officers' messes all around the globe.

He asked the ham, a young sub-lieutenant, the name of his commanding

officer, which turned out to be an Admiral Bill Collins. "Get me Bill to the mike", Newt demanded. One could almost hear the poor fellow on the other end shake in his boots. No, he couldn't possibly disturb the Admiral, who was having dinner! So Newt said, "just tell him that uncle Newt

wants to talk to him". Two minutes later Admiral Bill Collins was on the mike!

After a little chat and the exchange of some pleasantries, he asked Newt to pass on some messages to his (the Admiral's) wife with details of his ETA home. After a ten minute chat, the Admiral returned to his dinner.

Talking to Newt of his early days in ham radio, it emerged that the origin of his oversize V-beam was a bet. Long before the war Newt said to a ham friend that one of these days he would talk to Australia, wherever that was, and his friend bet him that he couldn't. Newt, of course, eventually won the bet by constructing his enormous V-beam directed towards Australia. As old-timers will remember, he knew most Australian callsigns and names by heart.

Newt was a very lonely man and I guess that ham radio gave him the friends and human contacts that were missing from his life. I am happy to have been one of them.

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## Try This Use of IC-735 HF Transceiver for QRP Operation

Simon Buxton VK2EII\* describes a neat outboard unit to enable QRP operation.

Others may be interested in this simple project to use an IC-735 or IC-731 HF transceiver for QRP work, as it took a fair amount of investigation to find out what to do and then make it work.

These rigs normally operate with a power output in the range of 10 to 100 watts which is controlled by means of a slider on the front panel. There is also an internal switch which halves the power output. I had heard of these rigs being used for QRP and, after enquiries to ICOM Australia and other sources who could offer no help beyond what was in the manual, I was finally advised by ICOM support in the US via the Compuserve network, what to do.

They suggested using the external ALC connection on the ACC(2) socket at the rear of the set where a voltage from -4 to 0

volts would control output from zero to the power level set on the front panel. ACC(2) is a 7 pin socket used to connect to an automatic ATU (the 8 pin ACC(1) socket could also be used as it contains similar connections but note that the pins are different).

My first attempt at this, using only a potentiometer across an external battery, gave only full power or nothing. A later attempt got it right. The voltage controlling the power is very sensitive and on my IC-731, only a small change of 0.1 volt or so in the region of 1.5 volts changes the output from zero to the set amount.

The circuit is shown in Figure 1. A value of three volts seems adequate to supply the voltage (as polarity is reversed, the internal supply cannot readily be used), whilst the 12 k resistors allow the 5 k linear

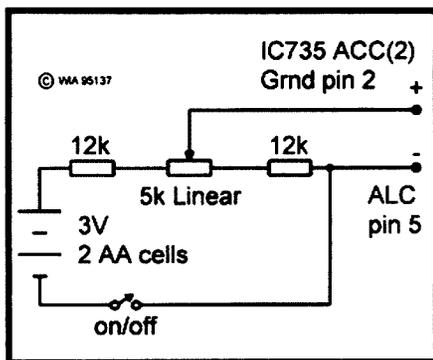


Figure 1 - Circuit of the outboard unit used to enable QRP operation of the IC-731 and IC-735 transceivers.

potentiometer to operate over only a small voltage range. You may need to experiment with the resistor values to ensure that the potentiometer covers the control range required for your rig.

This circuit allows smooth control of power from 0 to 10 watts, with the front panel setting at minimum power. The output power can be read from either the P/O range on the rig's meter or from an external SWR/PWR meter in the antenna lead.

The unit may be built into a small PCB box and left connected to the rear socket, switching it on as required.

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