

THE UK'S BEST SELLING MAGAZINE FOR AMATEUR RADIO ENTHUSIASTS

practical Wireless

AUGUST 1993 £1.90

ANTENNA SPECIAL ISSUE

Build

A Lightweight 9-Element
144MHz Beam

And

A DX Vertical Antenna For
3.5MHz

Reviewed

The Icom IC-2iE 144MHz Hand-Held
Transceiver

The Man Behind The Antenna

Radio Personality Louis Varney G5RV

Plus

Bits & Bytes - The Computer In Your
Shack, Valve & Vintage And Lots More!



FREE

INSIDE THIS BUMPER ISSUE
48 Page Greenweld Electronics
Summer Sale Catalogue

SMC

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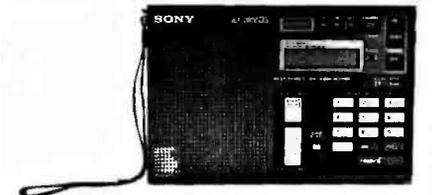


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Practical Wireless looks into
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DIAMOND

CP-6 £279

- Power: 200W
- Impedance: 50 Ohms
- VSWR: Less than 1.5:1
- Length: 4.6m
- Radials: 1.8m approx.
- Weight: 4.9kg
- Wind Rating: 90mph
- Mast Fixing: 1.5"-2.25"
- Socket: SO-239

The ideal base station aerial for all those with restricted space. It comes absolutely complete including rigid radials. The low angle radiation of the CP-6 makes it superb for DX working. Easily adjusted, it provides very low VSWR thanks to the matching section which also reduces static. Ruggedly built, it comes with all the necessary clamps for immediate erection.

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- EP-300** High quality earclip pieces as supplied to the police. Zero fatigue.....£13.95
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REVEX W-160 £49.95



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- Power/VSWR
- 15/60W FSD
- Cast Alloy • SO-239

Revex make superb Power Meters for industry. Designed for the Amateur market, the W-160 is ideal for mobile or portable use. Very compact and very accurate.

Kenwood HF

NEW! TS-50 £Phone

The amazing 100W mobile rig. No bigger than many 2m FM boxes it give you all hf bands. 1.8-30MHz plus 500kHz-30MHz receive! SSB/CW/FM/AM. Memories, Dual VFO, Scan, Noise Blanker etc.



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Using our EL-40XC coils you can operate the half size version on 80 metres without affecting its performance on the other bands. The length is increased by only a few feet but as this added length of wire may be dropped vertically at the end, the overall length remains the same. 80-10m in 66ft of space! Coils £19.95 per pair.

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IC-737	£295	£100
IC-279	£257	£86.50
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TS-790E	£359	£120
R-5000	£198	£66.75
FT-990	£479	£160
FT-990DC	£430	£143.25
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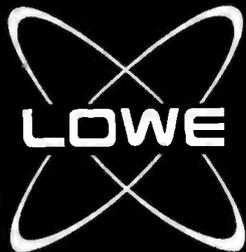
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Tx	144-146MHz 430-440MHz
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Steps	5, 10, 12.5, 20, 25kHz
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Quite how Kenwood have squeezed so much into such a tiny package, I can only marvel at. They haven't, however, skimmed on performance: All modes, gen. cov. RX, 0.25µV sensitivity on ssb, a dynamic range of 105dB and a full 100W output.

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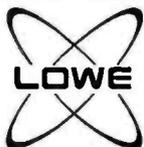
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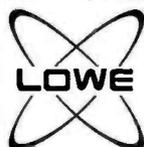
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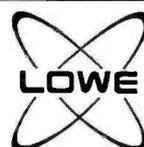
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Dave G4KFN at
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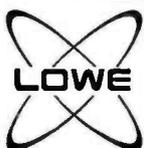


Tony G4CYE at
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Bristol
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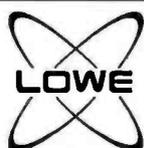


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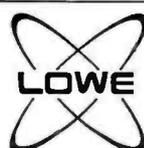
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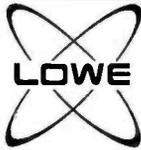
Tony G4NBS at
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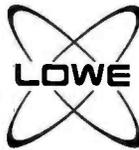
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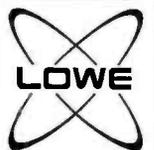
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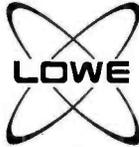
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Once again Kantronics assert themselves as leaders in the world of digital communications. The ever-popular **KAM** has been fully upgraded to meet the demands of the latest digital modes. The new **KAM Plus** will become the standard by which all the others are judged, and the new facilities now include:

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- **PACTOR now fitted as standard (V6.1)**
- **Enhanced CW operation – dot/dash weighting, Farnsworth spacing, tone transmission, and programmable CW filter bandwidth and centre frequency**
- **Programmable mark and space tones**
- **Extended RTTY and AMTOR character sets**

The **KAM Plus** should be available about now, but you don't need to throw away the old one! Simply buy the new **KAM Expansion Board** to upgrade to

all the new features. Both still run with Hostmaster software, now available for the PC, C64 and the Macintosh.

The **KPC3** continues to be the world's most popular VHF TNC. Designed to be user friendly (even to new Packeteers!), this amazing TNC delivers high performance in a very small package. It's less than half the size of its nearest rival but manages to pack in many more features.

The **KPC3** features an improved DualLevel™ command set that gives new users just 23 commands (all most people will ever need!) that get you up and running but with the full 130 plus commands available in Expert mode for those wishing to exploit the full potential of Packet.

The power consumption is so low it can be run from a PP3 battery, ideal for portable operation and Raynet use. Runs on 6–25V.

Additional features include Kantronics PBBS with reverse forwarding, message header editing, a mail waiting led, remote sysop access and Kantronics KA-Node. Kiss mode and Kantronics Hostmode are also included for TCP/IP compatibility and advanced operation. If that's not enough, it also decodes WEEFAX with appropriate software.

Hostmaster software expandable RAM and Real Time Clock are a few of the options.

FULL DATASHEETS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Some people still regard Packet as a difficult mode to operate (probably when they see their friends TNC manuals! Don't worry, it's a lot easier than you think! We'll also help you out by providing an RS232 lead, a lead to your radio and some free terminal and fax software to get you on the air with the minimum of fuss and delay. Ask for your **FREE Packet Package** when buying a TNC at any of our branches. Don't forget our Branch Managers if you need help in setting up – many of them have been doing this for years and will happily help you out.

Specialist help available at our **Maidstone, Cambridge, Cumbernauld and Matlock branches.**

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Alan Hooker

Radio Communications



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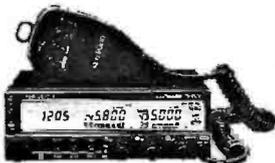
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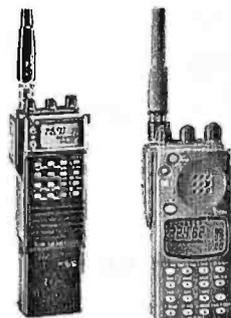
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IC765 IC729 IC737



IC3230H • IC2410H • ICR7100
IC229H • IC228H • IC28H



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IC2SE • IC2GE
IC24E • IC2E

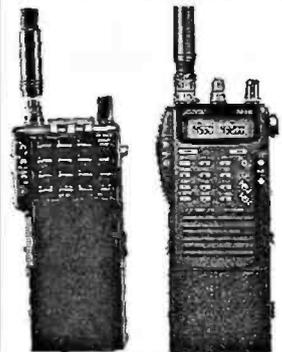
ALINCO



DR599E

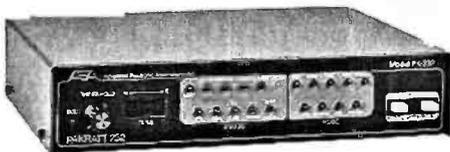


DR119E • DR1200E



DJF1E • DJ180
• DJ580E

PACKET



AEA PK232 • PK88 • AEA-FAX



THE 'RIG SAVER'

SLIMLINE ■

Allows you to safely mount your hand-held or mobile radio where you can see the controls

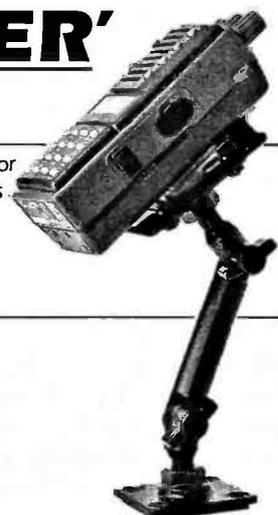
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- Mounts any single flat surface.
- Adaptable to any vehicle or station use.

Construction made of high quality aluminium.

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Summer is here, and we're rapidly approaching the peak of the rally season. The trouble is, there seems to be an overwhelming choice of rallies to attend!

Personally, I've always enjoyed a good rally, and I'm often able to find components for projects. Mind you, there always seems to be a mad scrum at most rallies, and even being a tall person doesn't help at some locations.

Recently, I have had several readers write to me complaining about the crowded conditions at rallies. Most of the complaints have also mentioned the costs involved, and that they don't seem to enjoy the average rally.

So, just what do we require from a rally? Is it the chance to meet old friends, buy bargains or just have a day out with an amateur radio theme? To answer to my own question, I really feel that your replies will be as varied as radio amateurs are in their own interests.

But, looking back at mobile rallies of 20 years or so ago, I feel that we've lost a great deal. In those days, in addition to trade stands a rally was still an ideal opportunity to meet old friends, make new ones and compare your mobile installation with others.

Keylines



Despite my enjoyment of the bargain-hunting aspect of the average rally, I think that there's definitely something missing from many events. All is not lost though, because we can do something about it and make the most of the day in the same way the QRP Conventions are doing so effectively.

Memories of mobile rallies from the early 1960s and 1970s came flooding back when I attended the 1993 Yeovil QRP Convention. There were talks, demonstrations and excellent lectures, plus excellent trade stands. And it was the same at the Rochdale Mini QRP Convention in October last year - I thoroughly enjoyed myself.

So, perhaps it's time to look back and breathe new life into your local mobile rally. After all, it should be an enjoyable time for everyone, whether they're buying, chatting, or just coming for a day out. Let's see a few more of those 'Best Mobile Installation' and 'Longest Distance Travelled' competitions and specialised talks again. Make **your** rally a day to remember!

Rob Mannion G3XFD

WORDSEARCH

X	E	A	K	R	A	C	S	H	S	I	H	F	N	D
F	Q	U	K	K	I	N	Q	T	B	F	B	R	J	D
L	Q	T	V	B	A	H	N	W	A	E	W	G	C	Q
I	Y	D	M	K	U	P	V	E	L	N	P	A	K	X
Z	S	O	X	M	R	R	F	O	T	U	D	D	M	V
C	H	L	S	Y	A	I	P	L	X	N	S	I	U	I
R	M	I	O	T	I	O	D	G	V	A	A	Y	N	T
R	Y	O	I	P	N	E	H	N	D	A	N	U	Z	G
W	E	O	D	O	E	J	K	L	A	C	R	Y	L	V
F	K	S	M	N	D	R	T	F	Z	O	W	C	F	V
E	E	Q	Y	I	I	L	A	C	I	T	R	E	V	Y
V	U	E	P	L	A	W	J	F	U	G	P	Q	J	B
A	V	O	D	C	A	L	D	C	U	A	T	X	R	N
W	L	E	H	E	Q	N	E	E	K	V	U	Y	E	V
E	B	E	U	I	R	K	A	S	U	H	Z	T	T	S

Words To Find

- | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|
| ● Analyser | ● Ratio | ● Antenna |
| ● Wave | ● Rhombic | ● Windom |
| ● Dipole | ● Vertical | ● Standing |
| ● Feeder | ● Monopole | ● Sloper |

Wordsearch rules: Twelve different words have been hidden in the letter grid. They have been printed across (forwards or backwards), up and down, diagonally, but they are always in a straight line without odd letters in between. You can use the letters in the grid more than once for different words. Once you have found all 12 words, mark them on the grid and send it, along with your name and address (photocopies accepted with the corner flash) to our editorial address, marked 'Competition Corner' Wordsearch August '93.

Name.....
 Address.....

First Prize

A year's subscription to *Practical Wireless* or a £20 book voucher.

Second Prize

Six month subscription or £10 book voucher

Subscription Voucher

Send your entry (photocopies acceptable with corner coupon) to: Competition Corner, Wordsearch Competition, August '93, PW Publishing Ltd., Arrowsmith Court, Station Approach, Broadstone, Dorset BH18 8PW. Editor's decision on the winner is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Entries to reach us by Friday 20 August 1993.

Receiving You



Send your letters to the editorial offices in Broadstone. They must be original, and not duplicated in any other magazine. We reserve the right to edit or shorten any letter. The views expressed in letters are not necessarily those of *Practical Wireless*. The Star Letter will receive a voucher worth £10 to spend on items from our Book or other services offered by *Practical Wireless*. All other letters will receive a £5 voucher.

Bouquets not Brickbats

Dear Sir

We hear all too often of criticisms of retail dealers but to a lesser extent those who give service well above the norm tend to blush unseen.

Through your pages I would like to express my appreciation of Siskin Electronics for their help freely given on a number of occasions. The first (some time ago) was rewiring for me one of the very small plugs from my computer into my packet TNC that had come adrift and which due to poor eyesight, I could not do myself. I telephoned explaining the situation and Siskin were all too willing to rewire it for me completely without charge, which they did for me by return of post.

After a recent change of computer they sent me two disks to suit my new computer, also free of charge and did not even ask for postage. I also ordered a specially wired Centronics lead by FAX at 2pm one afternoon and it arrived first class post the next morning! I have also telephoned them on several occasions over the past fortnight for information on setting up my new computer for packet and much helpful advice has been given to me on each occasion, even though they did not supply my computer.

I feel such helpfulness, that carried no pecuniary advantage to Siskin other than a very satisfied customer, should not go unnoticed.

M. P. Squance G3HTB
Bournemouth

★★★★ Star Letter ★★★★★

Rig Prices

Dear Sir

I am currently a Novice and am SHOCKED at the prices of rigs. For instance, in the May edition of *PW*, an Alinco DR-599E 144/430MHz was £699.95! And yet on the opposite page, there was a same make and specification hand-held for £499.95. Surely the hand-held would be more expensive as there are more things to cram into a smaller space?

But why, oh why, are 144/430MHz rigs so expensive, I mean for a Kenwood rig you are paying up to £800!

What us Novices want is not CTCSS or d.t.m.f. but a fool-proof, low power rig (most of them come with an amp, no use to us Novices, our max power is 3 watts!). If we are to attract newcomers to the hobby, we must make sure they have a rig to operate for I am sure many of them, faced with the daunting task of buying a rig, are frightened away.

Tom Girdler
Loughborough

Receiver Project

Dear Sir

Thank you for continuing with my favourite magazine, I've read *PW* for many years, I can't quite remember Mr Camm but almost.

I read C. D. Barnard's letter, in the April *PW*, with interest, I also recollect that particular old receiver project, and would enjoy an updated version. I think that you should make another free gift of the trimmer tools that everyone remembers, but has lost.

On the point of the no code licence, I just can't imagine life without it. As a valid and viable method of communication, we all know c.w. can reach the parts others can't, so why drop it?

A. P. Holden 2E1BJC
Ipswich

A Change of Program

Dear Sir

I thought that you would be interested to know that quite a few errors have come out in the published program 'Basic Program for Morse in the May *PW*.

Subroutine 120-170. This would have been better in capitals to distinguish between L's and ones, in any case several of the codes were incorrect.

The other corrections are as follows:

280 & 560	Change all FLAG1 into FLAG2
310	Change second equals into plus signs
400 & 440.	Change pound to cross-hatch sign
510	Flag = 1 not minus 1
540	Change third & forth FLAG1 into FLAG2
590	Should be: PLAY S\$ + SYM\$ (NN): RETURN

The subroutine 120-170 is a bit of a typists nightmare and does not achieve the correct spacing of one dot between dots and dashes. I enclose a version in which the data is simply a Morse code entry and that also gives the correct spacing. As you would expect, it does sound better. With this version line number 310 must read MLT instead of MST.

G. Tulley
North Wembley

(Ed: If readers send an s.a.e. marked Morse Program to the Editorial Offices, we will dispatch a copy of Mr Tulley's program).

Spread Spectrum

Dear Sir

I was interested to read in Phil Cadman's 'Spreading The Spectrum' article that he was unaware of the experimental transmission of direct sequence spread spectrum signals I have carried out.

The Radiocommunications Agency have permitted me to experiment with spread spectrum since July 1988 under a special authorisation under the terms of my amateur radio licence.

The first UK spread spectrum amateur transmission on 435MHz occurred on 19 January

1992 after considerable research, design and bench testing. This achievement was reported in the RSGB magazine *RADIO COMMUNICATION 'Technical Topics'* section March 1992.

A more advanced direct sequence system using digital voice modulation is under development and field tests are

planned for this summer.

I hope this information may indicate that the Radiocommunications Agency has a positive approach to the use of advanced modulation techniques and that the UK is not too far behind the US in technical developments.

James Vincent G1PVZ
Yeovil

Illegal 'Phones

Dear Sir

Something caught my eye in the May PW.

The reply from the RA about interference from illegal cordless 'phones is the complete opposite to my understanding of radio law. Was the spokesman sufficiently knowledgeable, or has it all been changed? Sale of non-licensable radio equipment is not illegal and cannot be stopped apart from some very specific exceptional cases (such as illegal CB sets that amateurs wish to convert to 28MHz). The RA therefore is unlikely to have the right to remove illegal 'phones at the point of sale. However, transmission of non-approved frequency is an offence under the 1949 Act and this is, as I understand it, therefore the only legal sanction that the RA can bring to bear.

Also, isn't broadcasting the primary user within it's h.f. allocations? Does this also afford it protected status?

Lastly, 'phones on illegal frequencies are hardly likely to be type approved (with a 'green circle' emblem) for connection to the public switched telephone network. Anyone using one is thus infringing this other piece of legislation, too! I'm sure the problem can be stamped out if willingness is there.

**G. Manning G4GLM
Edgware**

Lifetime Subscription

Dear Sir

Having won a lifetime subscription to *Practical Wireless* at the Dayton Hamvention 1992, I would like to thank all of you for an informative magazine.

After I have thoroughly read the issues, I intend to donate the issues as they arrive to the Dayton Amateur Radio Association for the benefit of all the club

Too Late

Dear Sir

For many years I have enjoyed scanning the airways in search of interesting transmissions. However, a pattern is evolving in my shack that the higher the technology used, i.e. 'black box' receivers, audio filters, data decoders, v.d.u.s and scanner controllers, etc., the longer it takes to actually tune to a signal.

Many times I have set up my data decoder, tuned my receiver to give the required audio and, you've guessed, the signal stops. I wait, but to no avail! This not only happens to data but to R/T also. I've heard so many "....listening out's" or "standing by's"!

I should therefore like to promulgate G.I.R.L. or Garnett's Inverse Reception Law stating that there is an inverse relationship between the complexity of the receiving equipment and the duration of transmission of a given signal, given that signal being '5 x 9' and the final 'over' illustrated by:

$$-t = 1/\text{£} \times V$$

Where a £ = cost in whole £

V = No. of equipment items requiring manual control

t = duration of remaining transmission

I trust that this letter is taken in the spirit of jest. It in no way reflects upon the quality of my equipment, I just should have turned on earlier.

**John Garnett
Truro**

members. I particularly like the constructional articles and whilst my skills at designing circuits are limited, I find I wield a pretty fair soldering iron and have built several kits with good success. I am also finding the current series of articles on QSOs in Foreign Languages very interesting. Too often we expect everyone to speak our native tongue. I believe some conversation no matter how poorly pronounced in the language of those on the other end of the QSO helps make friends. After all isn't that what what Amateur Radio is all about?

Once again thank you for the subscription and who knows maybe one of these days I can arrange a visit to "Jolly Old England".

**Larry Apple N8MYQ
USA**

Non-Activity on 430MHz

Dear Sir

I am a licensed Novice and I am very concerned about the activity on the 430MHz band, or perhaps more to the point

the lack of it. Perhaps that's why we were allocated part of it, so we can't disturb the high power v.h.f. users on 144MHz. Isn't it about time we were allocated a part of this band?

In recent weeks I have made no contacts, which is a little disturbing as I visited the London Amateur Radio & Computer Show and parted with some hard earned cash on a new rig. At first I thought it was not working! Maybe I am sitting in a radio black hole.

If there are any amateurs out there please use 430MHz and give us novices a chance. If you do hear that distressed voice begging for contacts please reply to me.
**David Childs 2E1BJS
Southampton.**

Pirate Radio

Dear Sir

Whilst listening to GB3SN last week, I noticed a pirate radio station operating. When another station asked him where he got his radio, he replied that he had bought it recently. In the interests of preventing pirate radio stations operating, I think that when you are buying a transmitter you should have to produce identification and your validation document at the time of purchase. Anybody who fails to produce the necessary documents should not be allowed to purchase transmitters.

Lawrence Jeffries G7OAR, Bransgore

Yet Another Contest!

Dear Sir

I remember the first time, as a short wave listener, that I heard a contest in operation. As I listened, I thought, 'Great Idea! Must have a go when I am licensed'.

As the years rolled by, the number of contests grew from a handful to the present day 127 in the 'contest' year. Nothing could be calculated better to kill the joys of Amateur Radio. When the weekend arrives, most amateurs think about looking for something interesting and exciting, this being the only time most of them have for amateur radio. Switch on and what is heard? 'Contest, QRZ contest-you're 5/9 336' or something like that! The band is bedlam, there are stations over stations over stations, and nowhere to work what I call 'sensible' radio. Call a contest worker and you are always '5-9'.... try him next day and the reply is 'I am sorry old man but I do not read your signal, you are only 3 by 5!'.

What is the point of so many contests? Can anyone give me a convincing explanation? Does it really add to the self-learning of the radio amateur? Have they all given up normal conversation to go bananas for 24, sometimes 48 hours? I have been licensed for quite some time now, and as far as I can ascertain through countless contacts world-wide, the number of amateurs interested in contests is less than 20% of the amateur population. So, why not restrict all contests to 20% of whatever band they hold the contest on? Or perhaps the operating time could be reduced to 20% of what is now used? Or restrict the contests to one band at a time? Or perhaps stop them altogether? There is nothing worse than the QRM from stations working contests, for 'as sure as eggs is eggs', they will have your frequency if you are not in the contest! And when I tried to demonstrate, this weekend to an interested listener what amateur radio is all about, the comment was, "Oh! So that's what you do all day?" (Sheer bewilderment!).

So come on, contest organisers, get your acts together for a couple of big ones, and cut out all the in-between superfluous stuff, so that we can get on with sensible talk about real amateur radio. I am not alone in wondering whether or not to pay for next year's licence, certainly not to listen to perpetual contest rubbish! Or perhaps the answer is to allocate a 'Contest Band' where amateurs who are bored with ordinary communication can go and talk to a thousand amateurs in one day! and every day of the week, if they so desire. In my opinion, contests are a drag and a killjoy.

**D. Bedford
Stratford-upon-Avon**

Newsdesk '93

Special Event Station GB4ATC

The Air Training Corps will be operating a h.f. and 144MHz special event station - callsign **GB4ATC** from July 20-31. The station will be operational between 1100 and 2200 for the duration of the 1993 Royal Tournament, Earls Court.

There will be air cadets on hand to pass and receive messages. There will also be a demonstration station operated by the cadets using their allocated ATC frequencies, v.h.f. and h.f. will be in use.

For further details please contact **Malcolm Wood: Tel. 071-438 6053 daytime or 081-363 0727 evenings.**

Summer Constructors' Catalogue

Cirkit have just published the Summer 1993 edition of their Electronic Constructors' Catalogue. This 224-page edition includes 25 product sections and over 4000 product lines. As well as new products, a section on low cost alarms, scanning receivers and accessories, the latest Velleman kits and plenty of new components are included. The catalogue costs £1.90 and is available from most larger newsagents or direct from **Cirkit Distribution Ltd., Park Lane, Broxbourne, Herts EN10 7NQ. Tel: (0992) 441306.**



Proposed Repeater For South Hampshire

A steering group has been set up to try and put a 430MHz repeater on air to provide 'blanket' portable, mobile and base coverage of Southampton, Eastleigh and Chandlers Ford.

The group comprising of **G4MYS, G4HCL** and **G0AFF** have requested a provisional callsign of **GB3EA** (Eastleigh), with channel RB8 proposed. Further information and comprehensive coverage maps are available from **South Hampshire Repeater Steering Group, PO Box 73, Eastleigh, Hampshire SO5 5WG.**

Apology

We apologise to Martin Lynch for the similarity in typesetting style between his advertisement and that of Photo Acoustics Ltd, which also appeared in the July issue of *Practical Wireless*.

Martin would like to point out that there is no connection between himself and Photo Acoustics.

Practical Wireless apologises to its advertisers and readers for any confusion or inconvenience caused by this.

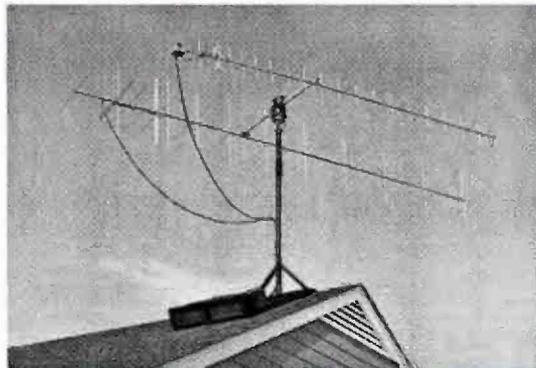
New Style Antenna Mounting

American company G & P Engineering have announced a new-style antenna mounting system called the 'N-PAM'.

Designed with American-style roofs in mind, this unit will mount on a house roof without the need to drill holes and is mountable on roofs with flat to 45° pitch.

The basic system includes single or dual tray units with a 50mm mast that is 914mm in height, and is suitable for use with a tri-band/v.h.f./u.h.f. system. Other options include a 1524 or 2134mm mast. The 2134mm mast allows for the use of the largest Oscar antenna system or stacked Yagis.

There are two factors which determine the size of the antennas that can be mounted on the unit and these are:



antenna square footage wind load and 100 year wind speed chart.

The mounts are made of steel and are primed and painted with a black epoxy paint to blend with most roof tile colours.

Further details and a brochure are available from **G & P Engineering, 4943 Finch Court, Stephens City, VA 22655, USA. Tel: 010-703 8695 116.**

Guide to English Language Short Wave Broadcasts

The International Short Wave League have recently published their summer edition of *The Guide to English Language Short Wave Broadcasts*. The guide is comprehensive, practical and clear with the information presented in time order. (GMT/UTC) with

aligning programme time periods; country and station names; frequencies, and programme details such as news, features, sport, religious and World Service transmissions. All frequencies are given in kHz.

The guide which is in the form of a booklet is available for £1

or 2 IRCs from **International Shortwave League, 10 Clyde Crescent, Wharton, Winsford, Cheshire CW7 3LA** or from ISWL stands at rallies.



Lithium Cells

The Middlesex-based company Saft Nife has recently expanded its LS High Energy lithium range with the introduction of two new high-capacity, vented cells.

The LS14250 (half AA) and the LS14500 (AA) offer up to 20% more energy density at moderate and low rates.

Based on lithium thionyl chloride electrochemistry, the cells operate on a voltage of 3.5V (1mA at 20°C). The LS14500 nominal capacities exceed 2Ah and the LS14250 exceeds 0.9Ah. Both are fitted with a safety vent and a glass-to-metal seal as well as being TIG welded for complete sealing and to prevent leakage when used in harsh operating conditions.

The LS range will operate in temperatures ranging from -55°C to +85°C and is available as single cells or as customised battery packs, complete with diodes and fuses to protect against short circuits, overloads, over discharge and recharging.

The high energy, high voltage, light weight, reliability and safety of these cells can make them useful for electronic devices requiring long storage and operating life. Further details on these cells is available from **Saft Nife Ltd., Station Road, Hampton, Middlesex TW12 2BY. Tel. 081-979 7755.**



Converter Modules

Advanced Power Conversion Ltd. based in Hampshire, have recently introduced a new range of single and triple 200W output d.c. to d.c. converter modules, known as the APC 200 Series. Integrated magnetics and surface mount technology help to achieve exceptional power density and reliability. They say the power topology is a unique current fed, push-pull converter operating at a fixed frequency of 500kHz in the current mode.

The 200 Series is available in three input voltage ranges and can be used in parallel, series output configurations or stand alone units. They have an operating temperature of -20° to +105°C and can be p.c.b. or chassis mounted.

Each module has output short circuit protection, input transient voltage suppression and latched thermal and over voltage shut-down, making them useful in electronic, process, communications and manufacturing industries.

Further details from **Advanced Power Conversion Ltd., Unit B5, Armstrong Mall, Armstrong Mall, Southwood Summit Centre, Farnborough, Hants GU14 0NR. Tel: (0252) 371036.**

Newsdesk '93

Last Chance

Are you considering taking out or renewing a subscription to *Practical Wireless*? If you're quick you still have one last chance to subscribe at the old rates.

Despite the recent cover price increase we have been able to keep the subscription prices at the old rates of: £21 (UK), £23 (Europe), \$45 (USA) & £25 (Rest of World). However, as from 12 August 1993 these rates will be increasing, so don't lose out, take advantage of this money saving offer and subscribe today.

RAE Class

Midland ARS will be running RAE and Morse classes for the Autumn. Starting on September 15 they run until May 1994. The classes will be held at 60 Regent Place, off Caroline Street, Hockley, Birmingham, 7.30pm and are aimed at beginners. Further details from **John Crane GOLAI. Tel: 021-628 7632.**

Student's Tool Kit

Maplin Electronics have added a new 15-Piece Student's Tool Kit to their range of tools. Suitable for use in schools, colleges and by electronics hobbyists, the kit includes a 25W soldering iron with two interchangeable bits (flat and pointed), a detachable hook and small fold-up stand, desoldering tool, a supply of solder and a pot of flux.

For use on p.c.b. designs, a 'helping hands', a 'scraper' and a wire wrap tool are included and well as two crosspoint and two standard screwdrivers, a pair of pliers, wire cutters and a pair of tweezers.

The tools are housed in a smart carrying case with preformed sockets to help hold the tools in place.

This tool kit is available for £14.95 from **Maplin Electronics, PO Box 3, Rayleigh, Essex SS6 8LR. Tel: (0702) 554161.**



G3XJS Not G3XJJ

The editorial team sends its apologies to Peter Barville G3XJS, whose call sign we changed on the front cover of the July issue of *Practical Wireless*.

A slip of the editorial keyboard caused Peter to become G3XJJ instead of G3XJS. So, Peter, we hope you will accept our apologies for this slip up. We did get it right on the both the contents page and the article itself.

Trowbridge & District ARC

The Trowbridge and District ARC will be using the **GX2BQY/P** special event station call sign as part of the West Wiltshire '93 Trade and Commerce Exhibition on July 22 & 24. The station will be operational on h.f. and v.h.f. and will be sponsored to help raise money for the Wiltshire Air Ambulance Appeal.

When you're satisfied We're delighted!

DEAR MR. LYNCH,
 JUST WRITING TO THANK YOU FOR THE COURTESY
 SHOWN ME DURING MY RECENT VISIT TO YOUR
 NORTHFIELD STORE.
 BEING A NOVICE DX'er FROM THE STATES,
 I WAS CURIOUS TO LEARN THE VARIOUS TYPES
 OF EQUIPMENT USED BY THE ENGLISH TO CHANGE
 THESE ELUSIVE SIGNALS.
 KNOWING THAT YOU WERE WITH US
 A FEW DAYS AGO, I WAS OFFERING A WELCOME
 TO MY AERON-BORN WIFE.
 YOUR WARMTH AND SINCERITY WAS MUCH
 APPRECIATED AND I WISH YOU CONTINUED
 SUCCESS.

VERY TRULY YOURS,
 Brian E. Lockyer

Ref: MUTEK Front-end modification Kit.

Just to confirm my recent comments to you by telephone in regard to the
 I found the performance of the YAESU FT 736R to be very much improved
 after the modification, the receiver performance is now superb, as you
 have done the modification work myself and because of this, although I am not
 an expert, I was pleasantly surprised to find that the rig still worked
 perfectly. Many thanks for an excellent modification.

Dear Martin,
 S/H Yaesu FT26R, No. 1G064780, ML3971.
 Invoice No. 09705, 16/2/93.

This rig arrived back home this morning after
 a very long wait, and this is simply to thank you for your
 excellent service and friendly staff.

Yours sincerely,
 J.A. Burt

To Martin
 From Bob LEASK G4EEO.

Rig arrived safely - well packed - I'm impressed
 Thanks for your help

Dear Martin and Staff,
 I write to express my thanks and appreciation for
 the prompt attention I have recently received from you with regard to
 the fault on my FT-767GX, having regard to your busy week end at the
 Rally the ten days taken to locate the problem and effect a repair was,
 in my opinion, admirable.

Yours Faithfully,
 Len Lockyer. G4VRI

Martin Lynch
 286 Northfield Avenue,
 Ealing,
 London,
 W5 4UB

PLEASE FIND ENCL
 FOR £74.9- FOR AN ICOM
 THE R2000 IS OK. LOOKING
 THE ICOM SOON. THANKS
 HELPFUL ADVISE AND SAYING
 YOURS,
 DE G7 KMQ.
 C. MARTIN

Isn't it time YOU Up

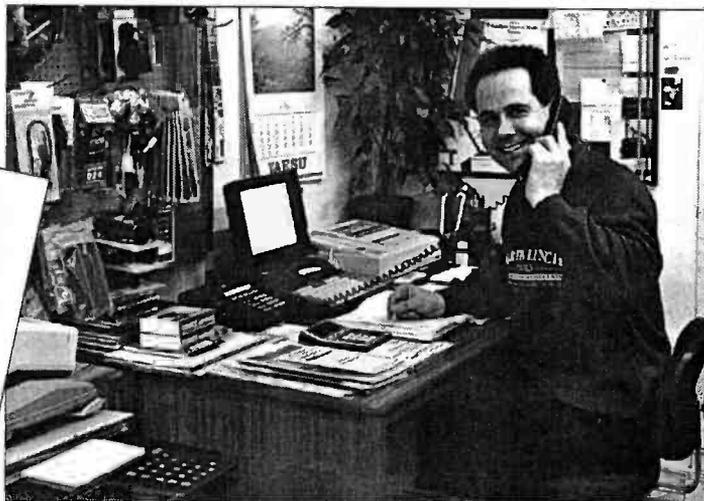
286 NORTHFIELD AVENUE, EALING, LONDON W5 4UB

tisfied...

MARTIN LYNCH

G4HKS

THE AMATEUR RADIO EXCHANGE CENTRE



Martin Lynch started in Amateur Radio twenty four years ago and has been selling equipment for almost as long. Other companies may try and copy his ideas but they never emulate his dedication to customers. He does not offer day trips around service departments, which is probably why his turn-around & servicing

rates are the best in the U.K. A team of devoted enthusiasts offer advice based on experience, six days a week, under one roof. **MARTIN LYNCH.**

Just an up-to-date & successful business with traditional values.

Martin Lynch

Eating

That Icom Power lead

many thanks for lead - it arrived this morning I knew I could count on you!
When I get bored with this rig I'll be back to you for a bigger one!!

Martin G70CV

Dear Martin,

Please find enclosed a cheque for £19 in payment for a second hand YU-2 Vox headset (£15+£4). It was sent to me 29th after a telephone call.

none' service. I know I'll get a better service from you! Once again thank
C. Lile

bove kit.
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promp

LOSED UNID
729 AND HERE
FORWARD TO RIZEVING
LOT FOR ALL YOUR
ME SOME CASH.

ut Lynch to the test?

Tel: 081 566 1120 FAX: 081 566 1207



Club News

Please send in all of your 'Club News' items to Donna Vincent at the editorial offices in Broadstone.

Antrim

Carrickfergus AG. Tuesdays, 7pm. Downshire Community School, Downshire Road, Carrickfergus. July 31 - Special Event Station at The Castle Green. **Gavin on (0232) 835650.**

Bedfordshire

Shefford & DARS. Thursdays, 8pm. Church Hall, Amptill Road, Shefford, Bedfordshire. July 8 - BBQ, 15th - Mobile DF Hunt. **Paul G1GSN on (0462) 700618.**

Berkshire

Maidenhead & DARC. The Red Cross Hall, The Crescent, Maidenhead, 7.45pm. August 1 - McMichael Rally, 5th - BBQ at Max G7DXCs QTH. **Neil G8XYN on (0628) 25952.**

Newbury & DARS. Wednesdays, 7.30pm. Bucklebury Memorial Hall. July 28 - Computers In Amateur Radio.

Reading & DARC. 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 8pm. The Woodley Pavilion, Woodford Park, Haddon Drive, Woodley, Reading. July 8 - RSGB Evening, Talk by Peter Chadwick G3RZP RSGB President, 22nd - DX Packet Cluster System. Provisional G3WGV, August 1 - Support McMichael Rally, 12th - HF SSB Contest And Club Members Discussion. **Nick Challacombe GOLGG on (0734) 722489.**

Buckinghamshire

Milton Keynes & DARS. 2nd Mondays. North Bucks Youth Sports Hall, Haversham Road, Wolverton, Milton Keynes. July 12 - Servicing And Amateur Radio Equipment by Castle Electronics, August 9 - RAYNET by G4NUG. **Julian Winson G3FGB on (0908) 611005.**

Cheshire

Mid-Cheshire ARS. Cotebrook Village Hall, Cotebrook, nr. Northwich, Cheshire. July 14 - Activity/On-Air Night, 21st - Microwaves by Mike G3PFR, 28th -

Club BBQ at Cotebrook. August 4 - Equipment Night. **Mike Baguley G7LQD on (0606) 331210.**

Stockport RS. 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7.45pm. Room 14, Dialstone Centre, Lisburne Lane, Offerton, Stockport, Cheshire. July 14 - Basic Research by Keith Twort G8CHY, 28th - Talk by Castle Electronics, August 11 - What Your Mother Never Told You About Multi-Tracking Recording by Howard Gregory. **Jim France G3KAF on 061-439 4952.**

Clwyd

Wrexham ARS. Maesgwyn Community Centre, Maesgwyn Road, Wrexham. July 20 - Field Evening, August 3 - Equipment Testing Evening. **Ian Wright GW1MVL on (0978) 845858.**

Derbyshire

Buxton Radio Amateurs. Lee Wood Hotel, Buxton, 8pm. July 13 - JOTA Discussion, 27th - Bring & Buy Sale, August 10 - Aerial Topics. **Derek Carson G4IHO on (0298) 25506.**

Derby & DARS. Wednesdays, 7.30pm. 119 Green Lane, Derby. July 14 - BBQ, Drum Hill Scout Camp, Little Easton, 21st - 144MHz Direction Finding Practice - Allestree Park, 28th - Technical Talk, August 4 - Rally Preparation Evening. **Hayley Winfield 2E1AJJ on (0773) 856904.**

Devon

Appledore & DARC (Devon). 3rd Mondays, 7.30pm. Appledore Football Clubroom. July 19 - Social Evening & Treasure Hunt. **Reg Lyddon G4ETJ, QTHR on (0237) 477301.**

Axe Vale ARC. 1st Fridays, 7.30pm. 'New Commercial', Trinity Square, Axminster, Devon. **Pat Cross G0GHH on (0297) 33756.**

Exeter ARS. 2nd Mondays, 8pm. The Community Centre, St Davids Hill, Exeter. July 12 - Engineering For Hams by Baz G0FGE, August 9th - EARs BBQ. **B. L. Bolt. (0392) 214204.**

Torbay ARS. Fridays, 7.30pm. ECC Social Club, Highweek, Newton Abbot. July 16 - HF DXing by Bob Whelan G3PJT. **W. Hipwell G3HTX on (0803) 526762.**

Down

Bangor & DARS. 1st Fridays, 8pm. Winston Hotel, Queens Parade, Bangor, Co. Down. **Des Buckley GI3HCP on (0247) 460251.**

East Sussex

Crowborough & DARS. Thursdays, 8pm. Plough & Horses, Crowborough. July 22 - Visit To Bredhurst For Equipment Testing. **Michael Smith G6UUU on (0892) 661807.**

Essex

Bishop's Stortford ARS. 3rd Mondays, 8pm. British Legion Club, Windhill, Bishops Stortford. July 21 - Briefing For The VHF Field Day, 19th - Quartz Crystals by M. Cracknell. **John Dudeney on (0799) 550313.**

Chelmsford ARS. 1st Tuesdays, 7.30pm. Marconi College, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford, Essex. July 25 - Colchester Radio & Computer Rally, August 3 - Gliding by Brian G3CVL. **Roy & Ela Martyr G3PMX & G6HKM on (0245) 360545.**

Greater London

Acton, Brentford & Chiswick ARC. 3rd Tuesdays, 7.30pm. Chiswick Town Hall, Heathfield Terrace, London W4. July 20 - Post, Lower Power Field Day. **Colm Mulvany G0JRY on 081-749 9972.**

Crystal Palace & DRC. 3rd Saturdays, 8pm. All Saints Parish Rooms, Beulah Hill, London SE19 (opposite junction Grange Road). July 17 - Family Day Out To The Imperial War Museum at Duxford, Cambridge. **Wilf Taylor G3DSC on 081-699 5732 or Bob Burns G300U on (0737) 552170.**

Edgware & DRS. Watling Community Centre, 145 Orange Hill Road, Burnt Oak, 8pm. July 8 - Antenna Systems & Discussion by John Plested G4GYS, 22nd - Morse Training Evening. **Howard Drury G4HMD on (0923) 822776.**
Greater Manchester

Manchester & DARS. Tuesdays, 7pm. Simpson Memorial Community Association, Moston Lane, Manchester. Free RAE courses & Morse tuition for members. **Barrie Langfield G3IOA on 061-681 5406.**

Tameside ARS. 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 7.30pm. ATC Camp, Moorcroft Street, Droylsden, Tameside. **A. N. Laughlan G1YCM, 8 Kempton Close, Droylsden, Tameside, Manchester M35 7LJ.**

Gwynedd

Dragon ARC. 1st & 3rd Mondays, 7.30pm. Four Crosses Hotel, Menai Bridge. July 19 - Mr Donald Roberts GW0GHG Talks About His Adventures On A Recent Trip To New Zealand, 24th & 25th - GB2CPC Rare Breeds Event at Penrhyn Castle, August 2 - An Evening Of Amateur Radio Videos. **Tony Rees GW0FMQ on (0248) 600963.**

Hampshire

Basingstoke ARC. 1st Mondays, 7.30pm. Forest Ring Community Centre, Sycamore Way, Winklebury, Basingstoke. July 25 - 144MHz Direction Finding Competition OS175 Fox: Dave G4NIP, August 2 - Commercial Satellite Communications by Jim G4BEZ. **(0256) 25517.**

Itchen Valley RC. 2nd & 4th Fridays, 7.30pm. Scout Hut, Brickfield Lane, Chandlers Ford. July 9 - HF Propagation Part II, Predictions & Forecasting from Nigel Gerdes G7CAW. **Les Kennard G3ABA on (0703) 732997.**

The Three Counties ARC. Every other Wednesday, 8pm. Railway Hotel, Liphook Hampshire. July 10 & 11 - Field Radio & BBQ Weekend, location the White Horse Public House field at Priors Dean, August 4 - Computer Night. **Kevin Roche G8GOS on (0420) 83091.**

Winchester ARC. 3rd Fridays, 7.30pm. Red Cross Centre, Durngate House. July 16 - John Lepper G3JHL, August 20 - Social Evening With A Focus. **Peter Simpkins G3MCL on (0962) 865814.**

Hereford & Worcester

Bromsgrove ARS. 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 8pm. Lickey End Social Club, Alcester Road, Burcot, Bromsgrove. July 13 - 144MHz DF Hunt, 27th - Technical Topics, August 10 - Safety In The Shack. **Mr D. Edwards G4ZWR on (0527) 546075.**

Vale of Evesham RAC. August 8 - The Annual Treasure Hunt, meet at Evesham Post Office. **Alasdair on (0386) 41508.**

Hertfordshire

Dacorum AR & TS. 1st (informal) & 3rd (formal) Tuesdays, 8pm. The Heath Park, Cotteswells, Hemel Hempstead. July 20 - Talk On VHF DF Hunting by S. White G3ZVV. **Dennis Boast G1AKX on (0442) 259620.**

Hoddesdon RC. Alternate Thursdays, 8pm. Conservative Club, Rye Road, Hoddesdon, Herts. July 8 - Social Evening, 22nd - Detection by Pat Brolan G1NPU. **Roy G4UNL on 081-804 5643.**

Stevenage & DARS. Tuesdays, 7.30pm. Stevenage Day Centre, Chells Way, Stevenage. July 13 - The Novice Course by Robert 2E1ARU, 20th - Satellites, The Conversion Of The BSB Dishes & Decoders by Rob G2BKZ, 27th - RAYNET by Gary G0ETA. **Neil Ravilious 2E1ASZ on (0438) 350882.**

Humberside

Goole R & ES. Fridays, 7.30pm. West Park Pavilion, West Park, Goole, last Fridays at the 'Black Swan Inn', Asselby. July 9 - Logfill, 16th - RSGB Video, 23rd - Planning Evening, 30th - Social Evening, August 6 - On Air Evening, 13th - Junk Sale. **Steve Price G8VHL on (0405) 769130.**

Kent

Bromley & DARS. 3rd Tuesdays, 7.30pm. The Victory Social Club, Kechill Gardens, Hayes, Kent. July 20 - 144MHz DF Hunt. **Alan G7GBH on 081-777 0420**
Medway AR & TS. Fridays. Tunbury

Hall, Catkin Close, Tunbury Avenue, Walderslade, Chatham, Kent. Visitors & new members welcome. July 23 - DX Quiz. **Mrs Gloria Ackerley G70VI, 40 Linwood Avenue, Strood, Rochester, Kent ME2 3TR. Tel: (0634) 710023.**

Sevenoaks & DARS. July 19 - Radio Control Of Models by Mr. Weston. **The Secretary, c/o Sevenoaks District Council, Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1HG.**

South East Kent ARC. Wednesdays. Dover YMCA, Leyburne Road, Dover. July 14 - DF Preparations & Mods by G3ROD, 21st - Natter Night/Committee Meeting, 28th - Fox Hunt. **Mick Bowers G7NOR on (0304) 825030.**

Lancashire

Hesketh ARC. Every other Tuesday. Birkdale, Southport. July 20 - Temperature Measurement, August 3 - Electrostatics. **Bernie G7DEM on (0704) 63344.**

Leicestershire

Charnwood ARCC. 1st & 3rd Sundays. The Albion, Loughborough. July 11 - Club AM Day & BBQ, 18th - VHF Night On Air at Albion, August 1 - 20M Night On Air at Albion. **Phil on (0509) 232927.**

Lincolnshire

Grantham RC. 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 8pm. Kontak Sports & Social Club, Barrowby Road, Grantham. July 20 - Training Guide Dogs by G3IWC, August 3 - The Secret War by Henry G4MHB. **John Kirton G8WWJ on (0476) 65743.**

Merseyside

Liverpool & DARS. Tuesdays, 8pm. Churchill Club, Church Road, Wavertree, Liverpool. July 13 - GX3AHD On The Air, 20th - L&DARS 80th Birthday, Old Timers' Night, 27th - Surplus Sale. **Ian Mant G4WWX on 051-722 1178.**

Wirral & DARC. Irby Cricket Club, Mill Hill Road, Irby, Wirral, 8pm. July 14 - Bells & Whistles for PMR by Andy G7HUD, 21st - D&W, The Lighthouse, Wallasey, 28th - Revenge DF Hunt, start 8pm Heswall Lay-by, August 4 - D&W, The Twelfth Man, Greasby. **Paul Robinson G0JZP on 051-648 5892.**

Norfolk

Dereham ARC. 2nd Thursdays, 8pm. St. Johns Ambulance Hall, Yaxham Road, Dereham. July 8 - Night On The Air at Joe's G7MPO, August 12 - BBQ & Informal. **Mark Taylor G0LGI on (0362) 691099.**

Nottinghamshire

Mansfield ARS. 2nd Mondays, 7.30pm. Polish Catholic Club, off Windmill Lane, Woodhouse Road,

Mansfield. July 12 - Talk by Weatherman John Bound. **Mary GONZA on (0623) 755288.**

Nottingham ARC. Thursdays, 7.30pm. Sherwood Community Centre, Mansfield Road, Nottingham. July 8 - Forum, 15th - Foxhunt No 4/Activity, 22nd - Junk Sale, 29th Construction/Activity, August 5 - Visit from Castle Electronics. **Ian Miller G4JAE on (0602) 232604.**

South Notts ARC. Highbank Community Centre, Farnborough Road, Clifton Estate, Nottingham, or Fairham Community College, Farnborough Road, Clifton Estate. July 9 - Talk-in on S22/SWR Facts and Fallacies by Ron Disney G0HNZ, 11th - Third Fox Hunt, 16th - On Air, HF & VHF, 23rd - Construction at Fairham College, 25th - 4th Fox Hunt, 30th - Talk-in on S22/Open Forum - Members Only, Planning for Club Field Day & BBQ, 31st - Club Field Day & BBQ - Day 1, August 1 - Club Field Day & BBQ - Day 2, 6th - Talk-in on S22/Mobile HF Aerials and Mobile Fast Scan TV by Barry G0LCU. **Julie Brown G0SOC, PO Box 4, Nottingham NG11 9DE.**

Oxfordshire

Prudential ARS is open to all employees & ex-employees of the Prudential companies. **David Dyer G4DNX at 'Highbank Cottage', Underhill, Moulsoford, Oxon OX10 9JH.**

Scotland

Banff & DARC. 1st & 3rd Fridays. Banff Castle, Castle Street, Banff, Aberdeenshire AB45 1DL. July 16 - Fox Hunt & Fun Night, 30th - Preparations For Castle Gala Day. **Martin Andrew GM6VXB on (03465) 82061.**

Somerset

Yeovil ARC. Thursdays. Red Cross HQ, Grove Avenue, Yeovil, Somerset. July 8 - Simple Milliwatt Phone Transmitters by G3MYM, 15th - 144MHz Direction Finding by G3ICD, 22nd - Further Ideas on The Yeovil Rig by G3PCJ, 29th - Natter Night and Committee Meeting, August 5 - Operating And Controlling Nets by G0NMM, 12th - Activities for Amateur Radio Clubs by G3MYM. **Cedric White G4JBL on (0258) 73845.**

South Glamorgan

Barry ARS. Thursdays. Sully Sports Pavilion, Burnham Avenue, Sully. **Ann MacKay GW0SQT, QTHR.**

South Yorkshire

Barnsley & DARC. Mondays 7.30pm. Radio club room & shack, at the rear of the Darton Hotel, Station Road, Darton, Barnsley. July 19 - Contests & Awards by John G4RCG, 22nd - Special Event Station at Darton High School, 26th - On The Air Night with GB4AXR, August 8 - Radio Astronomy by Malcolm G8RWN, 9th

- On The Air Night with GB4AXR. **J. P. Caledon-Scott G4LRS on (0226) 203448.**

Suffolk

Felixstowe & DARS. June 19 - Walton Hobby Faire, Demonstration Station, July 19 - Visit to Suffolk Ambulance HQ, Bramford, Ipswich, August 2 - Amateur Television In Suffolk by Sam Jewell G4DDK. **Paul Whiting G4YQC on (0394) 273507.**

Leiston ARC. 1st Tuesdays, 8pm. Sizewell Visitors Centre, Sizewell Power Station. August 3 - Construction Night. **Bob Simmons G0HSI on (0986) 874800.**

Sudbury & DARC. 1st Tuesdays, 8pm. Five Bells Inn, Great Cornard, Sudbury, Suffolk. August 3 - The Grid Dip Oscillator by Tony Harman G8LTY. **Colin Muddimer G0PAO on (0787) 77004.**

Surrey

Coulsdon ATS. 2nd Mondays, 7.45pm. St. Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Road, Purley, Surrey. July 12 - Inter Club Team Quiz Night, all local clubs invited to join in teams of four. **Andy Briers G0KZT on (0737) 557198.**

Guildford & DRS. 2nd & 4th Fridays. Guildford Model Engineers HQ, Stoke Park, Guildford, Surrey, 8pm. Visitors always welcome. **M. W. Marshall G0RXX on (0932) 344351.**

Surrey RCC. 'Terra Nova' The Waldrons, Waddon, Croyden, Surrey. July 19 - Natter Night. **Berni G8TB on 081-660 7517.**

Sutton & Cheam RS. 3rd Thursdays, 7.30pm. Sutton United Football Club, The Borough Sports Ground, Gander Green Lane, Sutton, Surrey. Natter Nights - 1st Thursdays. July 17 - BBQ at G30LX, 'PalFREYS', Picquets Way, Banstead, 24th - 144MHz Low Power Contest, 25th - 432 MHz Low Power Contest. **John Puttock G0BWW, 53 Alexandra Avenue, Sutton SM1 2PA.**

The Kingston & DARS. 3rd Wednesdays, 8pm. Alfriston, 3 Berrylands Road, Surrey KT5 8RB. July 21 - DXCC by Roger Burton G3ZLQP. **Ray Fuller on 081-398 1128.**

Wimbledon & DARS. 2nd & last Fridays. St. Andrews Church Hall, Herbert Road, Wimbledon SW19. July 9 - Book Fair, 30th - Annual Camp Briefing. **Chris Frost G0KEB on 081-397 0427.**

Warwickshire

Mid-Warwickshire ARS. 2nd & 4th Tuesdays. July 13 - PMR Presentation by Castle Electronics, 27th - Fox Hunt, 7pm start. Horizontal FM on 143.350. **Don Darkes G8HRI on (0926) 424465.**

Stratford-Upon-Avon & DRS. 2nd & 4th Mondays, 7.30pm. Home Guard Club, Main Road, Tiddington,

Stratford-Upon-Avon, Warwickshire. July 26 - Construction Contest. **Alan Beasley G0CXJ on (0608) 82495.**

West Midlands

Midland ARS. Unit 22, 60 Regent Place, off Caroline Street, Birmingham B1 3NJ. Wednesdays - RAE classes. Thursdays - Natter Nights. 2nd & 4th Mondays - PC Night. Last Fridays - Atari Night. **John Crane G0LAI on 021-628 7632 evenings.**

West Bromwich Central RC. Sundays, 7.30pm. The Sandwell Public House, High Street, West Bromwich. **Ian Leitch G0PAI on 021-561 2884.**

West Sussex

Crawley ARC. Wednesdays, 8pm & Sundays 10.30am. Hut 18, Tilgate Forest Recreational Centre, Tilgate, Crawley, Sussex. July 9 - UFO Lecture by Arthur Tomlinson. **P. Cheyney G0PVK, 11 Southgate Drive, Southgate, Crawley, Sussex RH106EE.**

West Yorkshire

Denby Dale & DARS. Pie Hall, Denby Dale, nr. Huddersfield, 8pm. **Ivan Lee, Clayton Lodge, Sunnyside, Edgerton, Huddersfield HD3 3AD.**

Halifax & DARS. 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 7.30pm. August 17 - Old And New Equipment by Jim G4MH. **David Moss G0DLM on (0422) 202306.**

Keighley ARS. The Ingrow Cricket Club, Ingrow, Keighley, 8pm. July 15 Night On The Air by GX7KRC, 22nd - Natter Night, 29th - Alignment Evening G3TQA, August 5 - Natter Night, 12th - Naylor Bros Car Restoration Visit. **Kathy Conlon G0RLO on (0274) 496222.**

Wakefield & DRS. Tuesdays, 8pm. First Floor Rooms, Ossett Community Centre, Prospect Road, Ossett. July 13 - VLF/Cave Radio, 20th - Construction Evening, 27th - Treasure Hunt. G4BLT Rick Sterry. **Roy Harvey (G0TBY), 12 Hillcrest, Altofts. Normanton. Yorks WF6 2NT.**

Wiltshire

Trowbridge & DARC. 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 8pm. Southwick Village Hall, 8pm. July 21 - Natter Night, August 4 - Family Picnic. **Ian G0GRI on (0225) 864698.**

Donna says "send in some funny club photos or anecdotes to liven up this page... really good ones will end up in print and make your club famous!"

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- 1000 memory channels
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Each set is supplied with all accessories including: UK Charger, NiCad Batteries, Earphone, Telescopic Antenna, Original Yupiteru English Manual..... **PRICE £449**



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- Receives 8 to 1300 MHz 100kHz-1300MHz (at reduced sensitivity)
- 200 Memory channels
- Rotary or keypad freq. control
- AM/FM/WFM
- Large display with strength meter

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Still our most popular handheld scanner.

- 500kHz-1300MHz
- 1000 Memory channels
- AM/FM/WFM Modes
- Sensitive Receiver
- Supplied with all accessories & UK charger..... **£299**



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A mobile version of the HP2000 handheld but with added features.

- ★ Tape recorder voice activated switching
- ★ Audio squelch
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Mobile version of the 7000 c/w mains adaptor. Especially sensitive @ UHF. Recommended..... **£389.00**

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Our most popular base scanner. Latest updated version. (100kHz-2036MHz) **£899**



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New software for IBM/clones. Gives logging, monitoring and control of AR3000..... **£59.95**

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Covers 500kHz-1300MHz receiving NFM/WFM/AM and SSB. Supplied with a large selection of accessories including:-

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Yaesu FRG100 HF receiver

A superb new radio covering 50kHz to 30MHz - our top selling general coverage receiver..... **£559**



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FT1000 200w Top/Line in HF.....	£3475.00
FT990 All Mode Gen. Coverage HF.....	£2250.00
FT757GX2 Good reliable HF.....	£1089.00
FT767GX HF + VHF/UHF modules.....	£1660.00
FT650 Tri-Bander HF 6/10/12m.....	£1200.00
FRG8800 Digital S/Wave Receiver.....	£610.00
FRG9600m 60-950MHz Scan rec.....	£585.00
FT290R2 2m M/Mode Portable.....	£516.00
FT690R2 6m M/Mode Portable.....	£505.00
FT790R2 70cm M/Mode Portable.....	£610.00
FT5200 2m/70cm Dual band mobile.....	£657.00
FT26 2m FM Handheld.....	£272.00
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Yaesu Accessories

G-400 Bell type Rotator.....	£187.00
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- ★ Selectable AGC
- ★ Passband Tuning
- ★ Timer Function
- ★ RS232 Interface
- ★ Built-in Pre-Amp
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Options

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Full W/Slop Manual.....	£29.95
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Kenwood Radio

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TS-690S Mobile HF & 6m.....	£1400.00
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TM-732E 2m/70cm Twin Mobile.....	£629.00
TR-751E THE BEST 2m M/Mode.....	£705.00
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TS-790E Tri-Band Base 2/70/Op. 23cm.....	£1690.00

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Built-in Compressor..... **£99.95**

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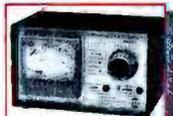
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- Trio R1000 Short wave digital RX **£325**
- Yaesu FT-902DM HF TX, v.g.c. **£625**
- Adonis 308 Desk mic (boxed) **£65**
- Icom R100 Mobile scanning RX **£425**
- Tokyo HT-120 20m mobile TX/RX **£245**
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Richard Newton
GORSN tests one of
the smallest
hand-helds, the
Icom IC-2iE.

The ICOM IC-2iE 144MHz Hand-Held



The Icom IC-2iE is a small v.h.f. hand-held transceiver, covering 144-146MHz inclusive. It is supplied with a 7.2V/400mAh rechargeable battery pack, a battery charger, a helical antenna, carry strap, belt clip, instruction manual and circuit diagrams.

The radio is finished in grey plastics, and is quite simple in appearance. There is a BNC connector on the top of the radio, next a dual rotary control for the volume and squelch. There is also a rotary switch for changing frequency, that has secondary uses when setting up certain functions.

On the front of the radio is a large window for the black on grey liquid crystal display, this can be back lit by a very efficient green light.

The frequency read-out, and those of other major functions, are clear and easy to see. However, some of the other indicators are quite tiny and operators who have impaired eyesight may find difficulty in reading these. A clock is also included on the display.

Also on the front panel is the S button, this has many functions, but it's primary use is to control the scan facilities. There is a **monitor** or **squelch** defeat button, the **VFO/Memory** control button and the button that controls the light.

The main **Power** button is also situated on the front panel, it is considerably proud of the body of

the radio. I found that on several occasions when I was carrying the IC-2iE in my pocket or a holdall that it would turn itself on.

The **Function** and **PTT** controls are found on the left-hand side panel as you look at the radio. The right-hand side panel sports the external power supply socket and the sockets for the speaker/mic extensions.

All controls are well labelled and easy to use. However, the aesthetic design of the radio, which seems to be put forward as one of the selling features, does not favour left-handed people at all, I am sorry to say.

The slightly rounded shape of the radio's case lends itself wonderfully to right-handed operation, thus rendering left-handed operation clumsy and frustrating. This is not 'sour grapes' as I am right-handed myself.

The radio is not only small but very light. Using the well-recognised Salter Staffordshire kitchen scales I am able to say that the IC-2iE with supplied battery pack, helical antenna, carry strap and belt clip weighs approximately 255g!

It was the battery pack that surprised me most. It is very light and compact, fitting into the bottom of the radio as a cartridge. It is released by a small catch on the rear of the radio.

Impressions

My impression is that the radio is almost too small. I accept that it depends on the size of one's hand, but the radio seemed to get lost in mine.

Having said this, of course, this radio will fit in almost any pocket or handbag. But be careful, it is so light you may forget it is there and I don't suppose a 'number 5' wash is going to be of much benefit!

Before I go onto how this little radio works, I will briefly mention something that niggled me.

Most manufacturers reserve listing the selling points of their equipment to adverts, posters and leaflets, however on this occasion Icom have printed these details on the front of the IC-2iE, not on a piece of removable plastic, but indelibly on the front panel in white print.

I found this tacky to say the least. This would motivate me to purchase a carry case at my earliest convenience. Perhaps there is method in the madness after all.

The instruction manual was well set out and easy to understand.

The Icom IC-2iE can be used in two very different ways, in an **Easy** mode and a **Multi-Function** mode. The **Multi-Function** mode in turn has three different settings, but more about that later.

The radio is supplied in **Easy** mode. In this mode it offers ten memories and very few functions. You can scan the memories, the entire bandwidth or a programmed bandwidth of your choice.

In the **Easy** mode functions such as the back light and scan pause are pre-set and therefore can not be changed. It also has no duplex or offset facility at all. To set repeater offsets you have to

Review

momentarily go into **Multi-Function** mode and save the relevant repeater frequency with offset in a memory. I found this rather tedious.

Second Manual

If you purchase a IC-2iE you should be supplied with a second manual free of charge, entitled *Tech-talk*. I would suggest you ask for *Tech-talk* if you are not offered it as it is this manual that really shows what this little radio can do.

Tech-talk comes in the form of two, A2 sheets of paper printed on both sides. It is relatively easy to understand and gives good step-by-step instructions.

When in **Multi-Function** mode you can choose from three sub-modes. **All** gives you access to all the functions, **Sel** allows you to select which functions you want and **Auto** means that the radio will give you access to functions as and when it thinks you are ready! I jest not, it is true.

When you have chosen which **Multi-Function** mode is for you, you can start exploring the radio as now you have many more facilities to play with. I would suggest that you select the **All** mode.

These are some of the functions you can enjoy in the **Multi-Function** mode. 100 memories, split frequency operation with variable off-set, d.t.m.f. tone, paging, CTCSS squelch control and a power on/power off timer.

The operator can now set the parameters of certain facilities and functions. For example the l.c.d. contrast can be adjusted. The back light can be set to stay on when activated or turn off after a five second delay. The scan facilities can be set to stop and remain on a busy frequency or merely pause for five or ten seconds. CTCSS is also available as an optional extra.

Be warned, when you return to the **Easy** mode, all parameters are reset to their default values. Memories 10 to 99 can not be accessed, although the information in them will be retained and will still be there when you return to the **Multi-Function** mode.

Memories will hold all the usual information, frequency, off-set and the like. I found setting the memories very easy indeed.

In all modes, the radio keeps you up-to-date with what it and you are doing by short messages that appear in the liquid crystal display. This and the easy to understand manuals make the IC-2iE a joy to use. Perhaps the best way to use this radio is to spend a few days using it in the **Easy** mode, and then, when you have found your feet go to the **Multi-Function** mode and stick with that.

Being able to set the radio up to your own specifications appealed to me, I did find the IC-2iE to be a very versatile and user-friendly radio.

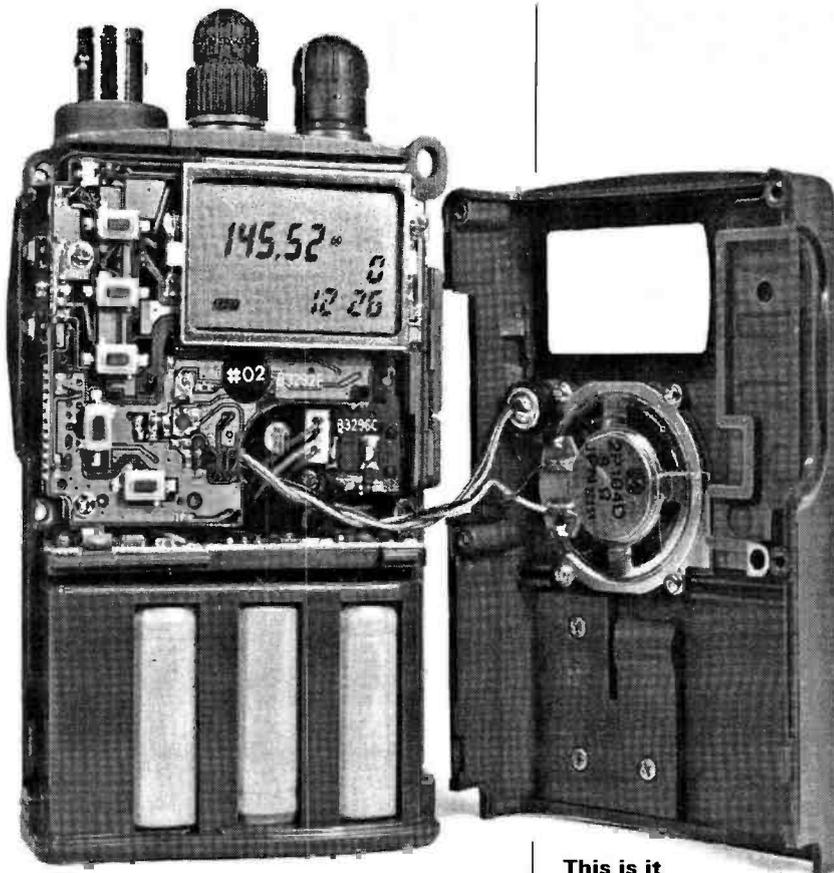
On transmit the radio has a variable output in f.m. mode. With the supplied battery pack the range is 20mW, 500mW or 1W. Using a 13.8V supply this changes slightly to 20mW, 500mW, 2.5W or 5W.

I could not fault this little radio, the 1W of r.f. and the helical antenna gave me great service, accessing the local repeater from various locations with only 500mW. The tone burst is activated by depressing the p.t.t. twice in rapid succession.

I received excellent reports on the transmitted audio and could find no fault with the audio quality on receive. The sensitivity on receive was superb.

In conclusion the Icom IC-2iE is a versatile, easy to use radio. It is not quite big or heavy enough for my liking, but this is a matter of style and has no bearing on how well the radio works.

In fact, the radio performs very well indeed, and proved to be a very capable and enjoyable companion. If the u.h.f. version, the IC-4iE is as good as its v.h.f. sibling I would say it could be an



**This is it
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ideal radio for the novice licensee.

My thanks go to Icom (UK) Ltd., Sea Street, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 8LD. Tel: (0227) 741741 for the loan of the review model, which is available from them for £295 inc. VAT. PW

Specifications

General

Frequency Coverage	144-146MHz
Memory Channels	10 plus 2 scan edge channels
Default Tuning Step	25kHz
Usable Temperature Range	-10°C to +60°C
External DC Power Supply	6 to 16V d.c.
Current Drain at 13.8V	TX 1.4A/100mA RX 150/16mA
Frequency Stability	±10p.p.m.
Dimensions	58(w) x 91(h) x 30(d)mm
Weight	260g

Transmitter

Output Power at 13.8V	5W/2.5W/ 500mW/20mW
Modulation System	Variable reactance frequency modulation
Spurious Emissions	<-60dB/<-40dB
Maximum Frequency	
Deviation	±5kHz
Microphone Impedance	2kΩ±

Receiver

Receive System	Double-conversion superhet
Intermediate Frequencies	30.85MHz & 455kHz
Sensitivity	<0.18µV for 12dB SINAD
Selectivity	>15kHz/-6dB, <30kHz/-6dB
Spurious Response	
Rejection Ratio	>60dB
Audio Output Power at 13.8V	>200mW at 10% t.h.d.
Audio Output Impedance	8Ω

Bill Mooney G3VZU continues with the construction and testing of this double sideband, suppressed carrier transmitter.

The Bourbon QRP Transmitter Part 2

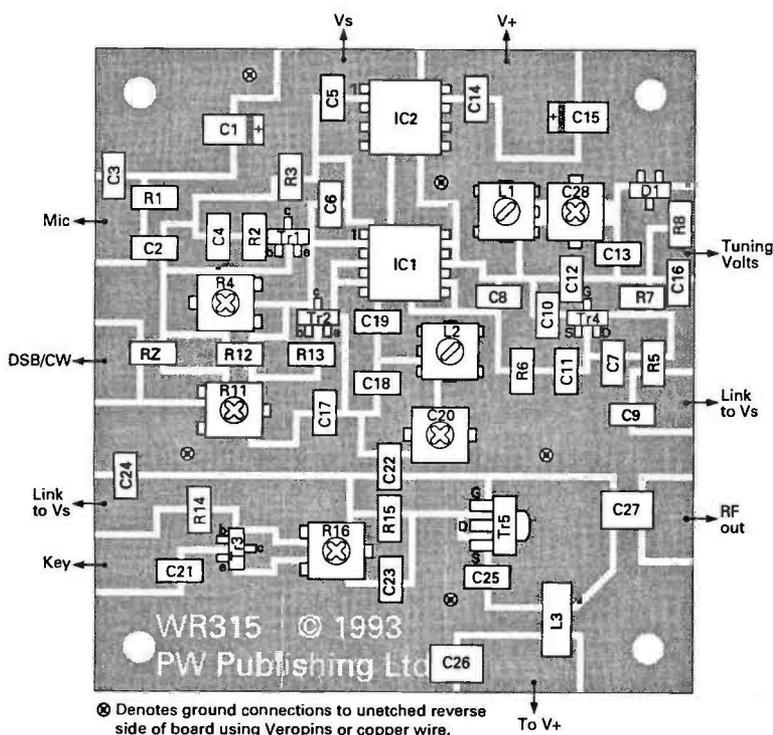
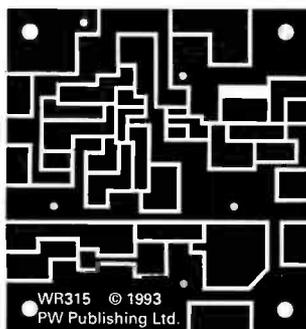
The circuit used in the PW Bourbon represents a useful application of the NE602 i.c., but just as interesting in this case is the method of construction.

The circuit was designed from the outset with surface mount implementation in mind and all prototyping was done with s.m.d. techniques. The p.c.b. track pattern for the Bourbon transmitter is shown in Fig. 2 and you will immediately notice how simple it is, even for such a moderately complex circuit. The component positions are also given in Fig. 2.

The use of surface mount devices makes it possible for this circuit to be completed on a p.c.b. measuring 40 by 43mm, without any attempt to go for maximum component density, and using only one side of the board for components. Double-sided laminate is used, the unetched side acting as a ground plane for improved r.f. stability.

In this design, 1206 size chip capacitors and resistors are used. The 1206 devices are highly recommended for naked eye work and hand soldering. Users quickly get accustomed to working at these dimensions. The resistors are marked with a 3-digit code, where the first two digits represent the ohmic value and the last digit the multiplier of the number of zeros. For example 272 is 2700Ω or 2.7kΩ. It is just possible to read the code on the 1206

Fig.2: The full size track pattern, with the overlay at twice size. Component Rz is a 0Ω resistor or linking component.



resistors in good light, but a magnifier makes it easier and eliminates errors. A hand magnifier is also a good investment for checking the quality of soldering.

The smaller 0805 chips are now becoming more popular, but are not recommended for the beginner.

The p.c.b. should be made from standard 1.5mm double-sided laminate, any favoured technique may be used. A simple method that will give adequate results is to make two photocopies of Fig. 2 on the type of acetate used for overhead projectors, turning the master through 90° for the second copy to cancel copier unevenness. Cut out the copies and sandwich them in register. This may now be used to produce a p.c.b. from ultra violet sensitive p.c.b. in the normal way.

The corner mounting bolt holes should be drilled before cleaning the p.c.b. prior to population. Similarly, drill the holes for connection to the ground plane at this stage using a 1mm drill. A coating of clear solder-through lacquer will maintain the beauty of the p.c.b. and another coating after construction will improve stability.

Alternatively, a ready-made p.c.b., WR315, is available from the PW PCB Service, Badger Boards, 87 Blackberry Lane, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield B74 4JF. Tel: 021-253 9326.

The use of an s.m.d. assembly jig is highly recommended for soldering surface mount devices. The jig will hold each chip in place so that it can be soldered correctly, which means applying the solder and iron to the joint at the same time. Without the jig it is difficult to produce a neat looking p.c.b. with all the chips neatly aligned, - the surface tension of the solder and the light weight of the components conspire against this.

Component Order

Use a fine, 26s.w.g., low melting point solder and a fine-tipped iron. When you come to populate the p.c.b. there are one or two tight spots. The inductor, L1, should be soldered in place before C28 and similarly L2 before C20. The Toko 5CD coils have five pins, two of which are active, but all should be soldered to ground except the hot end of the coil - Pin 1 or 3. Also solder the can to the ground plane at each side. Removing these coils is a bit tricky, but it's best done with a hot air blower or desoldering braid.

The tinned copper wire or Veropin connections to the rear ground plane should be left almost until last so that the p.c.b. remains flat in the jig. The position and number of these connections are not critical, but at least those shown should be placed. Both f.e.t.s should be soldered in place last of all.

The order of placing the other components is not important, but it may be found useful to solder the i.c.s in place and perhaps the tantalum capacitors at an early stage. These will act as reference points and make it easier to locate other component positions. Do use tantalum capacitors, they are smaller and are about twice as efficient as aluminium types for the same value. In most applications a 33µF tantalum capacitor can replace a 47 or 68µF aluminium one. Be careful to observe their correct polarity as reverse connection will destroy them! The output m.o.s.f.e.t. Tr5, goes on a small area of p.c.b. about 6.5mm square, which is its heatsink.

The simplest use of this device is as a straight transmitter with a mechanical change-over switch for receive/transmit. The wiring is shown in Fig. 3. A prototype was set up in this way and it fits comfortably into a diecast box. Phono sockets are excellent for the

connections and are widely used in such QRP projects.

The p.c.b. makes an ideal companion for an NE602-based receiver that fits on a similarly small p.c.b. In this case, the local oscillator output may be taken from Pin 7 of IC1 (TX or RX) for full transceiver operation. Some constructors may prefer a mechanical capacitor for the main frequency control thus making best use of the excellent temperature characteristics of the COG dielectric chip capacitors and the Toko 5CD coil.

In this case, the Varicap function could be demoted to that of an r.i.t. control by reducing the value of C13. In Fig. 3 the diode, D2, clamps the gate of the output device to the ground in the receiver position. Many other arrangements are possible as the Bourbon is intended mainly as a functional module to be incorporated in larger projects.

Getting It Going

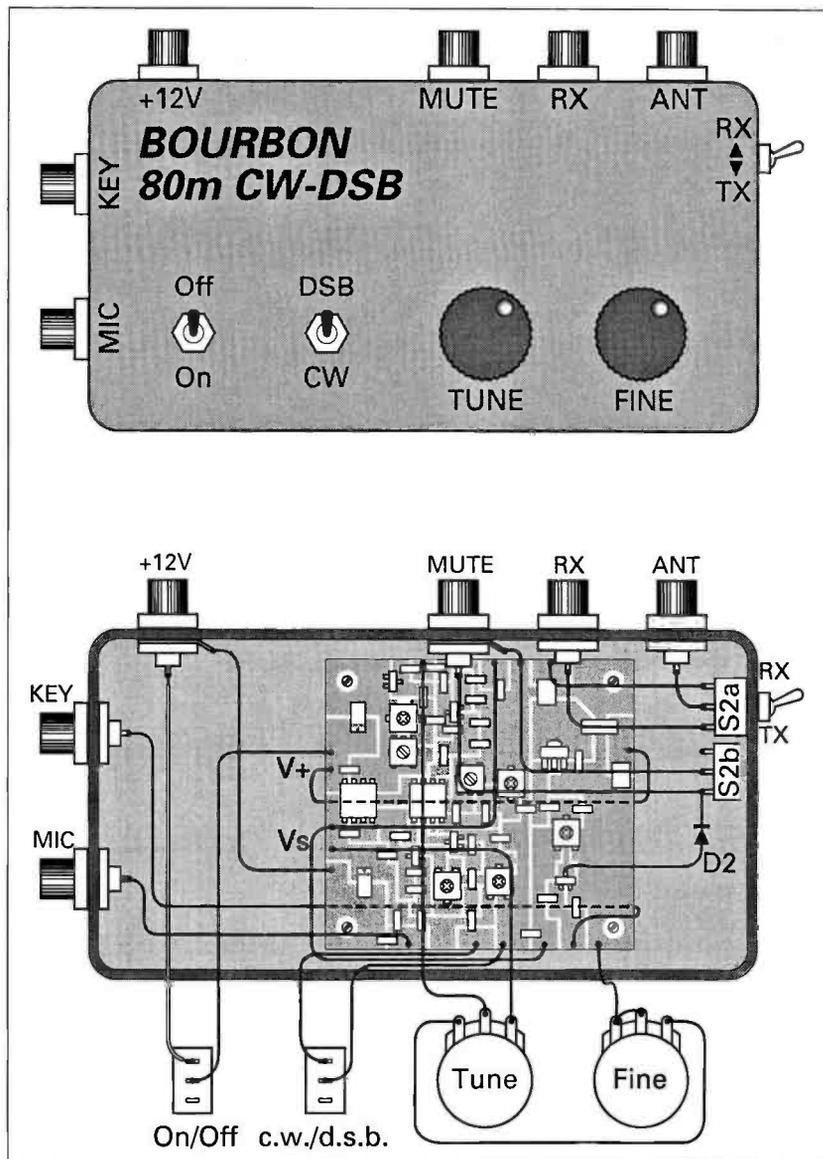
It is always advisable at this stage to double check everything before applying power. To test the circuit you will need at least a calibrated receiver to set the v.f.o. on frequency and a multi-meter, preferably high impedance. The keyer, v.f.o. and p.a. need links to the appropriate supply lines, V+ or Vs. This is useful for isolating parts of the circuit during testing. The slider of R16 must be set towards the lower end of its track - at the top end the stabilised voltage supply is applied directly to the collector! With the key plugged in and 'up' apply power from a 12V current limited power supply. In this position, Tr5 gate will be clamped to zero volts and the device turned off. The current drain with Tr5 off should be 8-10mA.

First set the v.f.o. by using the receiver to listen to the output. The r.f. voltage at Pin 6 should be about 1V peak-to-peak. Frequency coverage is set by adjusting L1 and C28. A small length of wire connected to the receiver input and placed close to the oscillator will make the process easier. If you re using a frequency meter don't over-couple it as it may 'pull' the oscillator frequency. A frequency meter is best used on the output around Tr5.

Check the a.f. amplifier next. For this you will need to plug a microphone into SK1. The voltage on Tr1 collector should be about 2.5V. Set R4 to give 0.1V on the emitter of Tr1 to start with, it can be adjusted for correct gain or minimum distortion later. A 'scope on IC1 Pin 1 will show if clipping is taking place due to excessive microphone output - small electret microphone can give 1V peak-to-peak. At this stage it will be convenient to set L2 to resonance to check that the mixer is doing its stuff. Place the receiver pick-up wire near the gate of Tr5 and tune in the residual carrier. With S1 in the d.s.b. position (Tr2 off), adjust the coupling to get a signal of about S3 on the meter or audibly. Speaking into the microphone should produce the familiar d.s.b. signal if the mixer is working. Adjust L2 and C20 for maximum recovered d.s.b. When all is OK, this should peak up to S9 + 20 or more.

Now check the c.w. function. Adjust R11 until the voltage on the slider is about 1.5V. Switch S1 to the c.w. position (R12 connected to Vs) and adjust R11 to get the same c.w. level as the peak d.s.b. (It will be possible to drive the output a little harder in c.w. mode if needed.) In the c.w. mode, L2 may now be readjusted for maximum mid-band output. To check the output stage it is important to connect a 50Ω dummy load to SK4 - a 47Ω resistor will do fine for this. Switch S1 to d.s.b. mode with no audio input in order to set the bias current. With the key 'down' adjust R16 to get a total consumption of, say, 50mA putting it in low-power Class AB and an acceptability high gain part of its characteristic curve.

The key should switch this on and off nicely and it should be possible to 'talk' the current up to about 80mA with the microphone. Switching to c.w. generates about 100mA of drain current. It is perfectly in order to run with less bias to keep Tr5 dissipation down, especially when



using the unit as a linear amplifier driver.

You may want to squeeze out the last bit of power as a barefoot transmitter, but watch that Tr5 does not get too hot as it will cause the frequency to drift due to D1 heating. Any receiver worth its salt should be able to get enough stray signal for netting from the v.f.o. but a stronger netting signal results if the module is in the c.w. mode. The bias on IC1 Pin 2 can be optimised for minimum residual carrier.

You should now be on the air, but on 3.5MHz you will be competing with some high power stuff and it can be a noisy band in the day time. The 'milliwatter' cannot pick and choose and must play a waiting game. Late night operation can be very rewarding but in any case a good antenna is essential. The small effort in putting together a 3W follow-on linear will be very useful and this power can be handled with s.m.d. techniques also. **PW**

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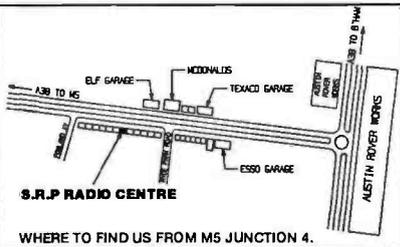
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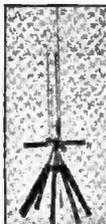
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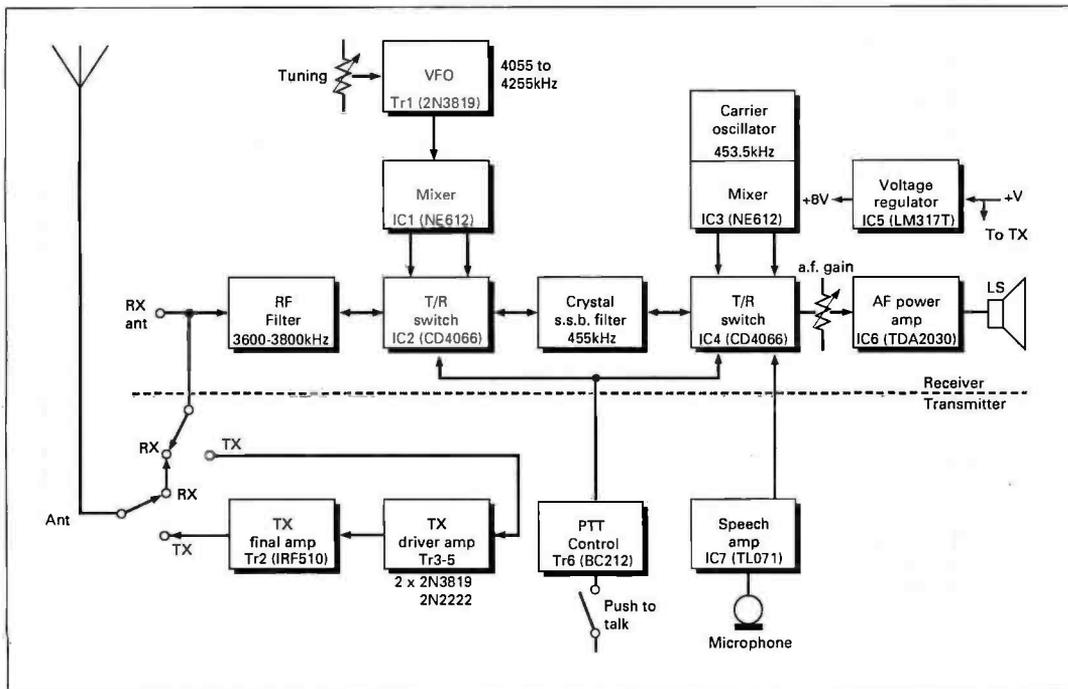
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The Tiny Tim 3.5MHz Transceiver

Part 2

Construction

This month Tim Walford G3PCJ describes how to link the transmitter into the receiver he showed you last month.



Just to make life easier, the block diagram has been reproduced again. As you can see there is no separate s.s.b. generator for the transmitter, instead the signal flow through the receiver is reversed and fed to the transmitter r.f. amplifier. This is achieved primarily by the transmission gates, which act as switches between the r.f. and i.f. filter and the two mixer i.c.s. The input and output impedances of the NE612, IC1 & 2, are each 1.5k Ω . That is sufficiently close to the 2k Ω impedance of the i.f. filter to allow it to be connected to either the mixer input or output as required for transmission or reception. Relays could be used to do this, but transmission gates are cheaper, smaller, neater, more reliable and have negligible power consumption!

The speech amplifier, IC7, will work with practically any type of microphone. Output from the speech amplifier is fed to the product detector IC3 that acts as a balanced modulator on transmit. It generates the double sideband carrier at 453.3kHz. After going back through the transmission gate, IC4, the i.f. filter removes the unwanted sideband from the signal. The single sideband signal then goes to the r.f. mixer, IC1, via IC2. The mixer, IC1, converts the frequency up to 3.5MHz. The r.f. filter, comprising T1, L3, C27, C28, C29 and C30, removes the unwanted mixer image (as it also does on receive). The transmission gates are controlled by the two signals on points D and E.

Resistor R10 keeps line E high (at +8V) on receive whether or not the transmitter parts are fitted. On receive, line D is low at 0V via resistor R9. On transmit, both lines change so that line E is low and line D high.

The p.t.t. switch, which grounds the p.t.t. line, turns on Tr6 thus energising the two relays used for changing over the transmitter output and changing lines D and E. The transmitter signal leaves the r.f. filter at a high impedance point requiring the use of an f.e.t., Tr5, as the next stage. This operates in the common source mode. Its drain load is the 10k Ω Drive Level pre-set, R27, that allows the r.f. gain to be adjusted so that clipping does not occur in the final

r.f. amplifier.

A 1mH r.f. choke is used in parallel with the pre-set resistor R27 to keep the drain d.c. voltage at +8V. This choke has to be of very good quality (high Q at 3.7MHz) in order to reduce the potential (and required) gain. Again an f.e.t., Tr4, is required to act as a buffer to drive the next stage, Tr3, which is an emitter follower. It is used to give a very low impedance drive to the output f.e.t. gate to overcome its high capacitance.

To achieve 10 to 12W p.e.p. on 12V supplies, Tr2, the IRF510 output stage, needs a drain impedance of 12.5 Ω . I wanted a tuned output stage with a Q of 12, so that output low pass filters would not be required. The solution adopted is an LC network. It needs high voltage capacitors that, luckily, come with a 1% tolerance, so there is a very good chance that the output inductance, L4, will have the right number of turns on it first time!

The mic gain control, R32, in the speech amplifier is advanced to the point where signal clipping occurs in the output of the r.f. mixer, IC1. This provides r.f. speech compression or higher 'talk power'. The troublesome harmonics this produces are safely removed by the bandpass r.f. filter following the mixer. The drive control is used to make certain r.f. clipping does not occur in the final output stage. Clipping in this stage usually causes splatter and a 'wide' transmitted signal that cannot be cleaned up.

The maximum output power increases as the square of the supply voltage, so if your d.c. supply can produce say 20V, then you will be able to obtain about 25W p.e.p. Bear in mind, that to get this higher output power, you will need to increase the r.f. drive to the final stages as well as using a 20V supply. Supply voltages up to 25V can be tolerated, but transmitter output power is really limited by the heat dissipation of Tr2 - 18 to 20V is a sensible upper limit after you have got it going and checked it out on 12V.

Due to factors beyond our control, we were not able to describe building the project in this part. But we will do so in the next part of the Tiny Tim Transceiver.

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The Palomar PK-44 Keyer



Christopher Page G4BUE, has tried out an interesting electronic keyer from the USA and shares his thoughts on an interesting c.w. accessory.

Whenever a new keyer comes onto the market I start wondering if it's better than the MFJ-4843C Grandmaster Keyer that I use for general day-to-day operating. So when I had the opportunity to try the Palomar PK-44 electronic keyer at home for a few weeks, I took it.

The first thing that impresses you when you open the box, is the quality of the packaging. Additionally, everything you need to get the equipment working is included, in this case two standard jack plugs.

Operator's Manual

I regret that I cannot be so complimentary about the operator's manual. The 'manual', (and I call it that because that is what Palomar call it), consists of a folded sheet of double A4 low quality paper.

It's poorly printed only the two inside pages contain any useful information and one of those is taken up with the circuit diagram!

The Keyer Itself

Like all Palomar products I've seen, the keyer is very well constructed. It's contained in an attractive black case with a grey front panel, which matches several other Palomar products. A PP3 9V battery is connected in a spring holder on the rear panel. I wasn't sure if I liked the positioning of the battery when I first saw it. However, once the battery was fitted and the unit placed in its operating position, it didn't bother me. It's also easy to replace!

There's no off switch on the PK-44, but with the key paddles open the battery should last its full shelf life. This makes the keyer ideal for Field Day and portable operations.

Connections for a key and the transmitter are provided on the rear panel in the form of a standard jack plug. Units produced for the European export market are fitted with standard 6.3mm jack sockets, whereas those produced for the domestic USA market are fitted with the smaller ones used there.

The front panel contains the speed, volume, weight and pitch controls as well as a tune/auto/semi control. With the switch in the 'auto' position the keyer is fully automatic. The keyer is fully iambic, and when the dash paddles are held together alternating dots and dashes are sent. Dots and dashes are self-completing.

The keyer has a dot memory to prevent lost dots. If a dot is called for too soon (e.g. before a space is over), the keyer remembers this and inserts a dot at the proper time. A dash memory works in a similar way for dashes.

With the switch in the 'semi' position, the keyer is semi-automatic in that dots are made automatically but dashes have to be made manually, like a bug key.

When the switch is in the 'tune' position the relay contacts remain closed for the transmitter tuning.

The volume and pitch controls are for the built-in loudspeaker. I didn't use these, as I preferred to use the sidetone of my TS-930 transceiver.

The circuit of the keyer is designed around the Curtis 8044 chip. Apart from the front panel controls, there are very few other components.

The PK-44 manual claims that most modern transmitters can be keyed without difficulty. Despite this, some transmitters may present a heavy inductive or capacitive load and may cause the keyer relay to stick. If relay problems occur, you should disconnect the transmitter and make a string of dots to try and free the contacts. You can then put a resistor, (1k Ω or as large as possible whilst still keying the transmitter properly), in series with the keyer lead.

I didn't experience any difficulty using the keyer with either my TS-930 or TS-440. There were no problems either on an older Drake TR6 (50MHz rig), using grid block keying.

Setting the keyer up is quite straight forward and I found the internal loudspeaker useful for setting the weight control prior to actually trying it on the air.

Weight Setting

I found it best to keep the weight setting on the 50:50 position. This was regardless of whether I was sending slow c.w. for QRP QSOs or high speed during contests.

I would have liked to have had the facility of decreasing the weight control below the 50:50 fully counter-clockwise position for high speed c.w. QSOs. This is where an over-emphasised short dot can give your signal some individuality and therefore an advantage in contests.

The keyer itself is a pleasure to use. The controls have a nice feel to them, are smooth and easy to operate and I had no difficulty in correctly sending at high speeds.

I find that if a keyer or a paddle is not designed or adjusted properly, an extra dot gets inserted between the '4' and the 'B' of my callsign. The Palomar PK-44 passed this test even at the maximum speed, which is probably somewhere around 60w.p.m. and much too fast for me to send general c.w.!

The relay contacts in the keyer are designed for 1A or in the words of the distributors, "to work with anything and never breakdown". Whilst this is very satisfying, the price paid for this facility is for the relay to be a little noisy.

Overall Impression

My overall impression of the PK-44 keyer is that it's a very well manufactured product that sends good Morse. It's very relaxing to use, and due to its design is unlikely to suffer from many (if any) breakdowns.

My thanks for the loan of the Palomar PK-44 go to Bredhurst Electronics Ltd., High Street, Handcross, West Sussex, RH17 6BW. Tel: (0444) 400786; who are the UK distributors and can supply the Palomar PK-44 at £89.95 inc. VAT plus £3 P&P. PW

Review

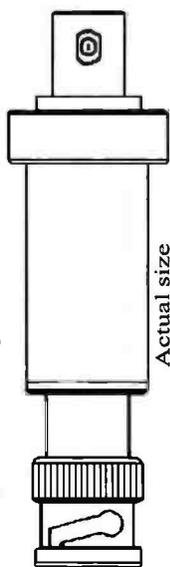
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As this issue is the PW 'Antenna Special' it seems very appropriate to feature an antenna 'personality'. Louis Varney G5RV certainly fits into that category, and Rob Mannion G3XFD didn't want to miss the chance of meeting the inventor of the famous 'G5RV' antenna!

RADIO PERSONALITY

LOUIS VARNEY G5RV

The G5RV story goes back a long way, so I was fascinated to hear it direct from Louis himself. It all seems to have started in the early 1920s.

Louis told me: "In 1922, when I was 11 years old, I became a Boy Scout and one of the first things I did was to obtain my 'Signaller Badge', because the Morse Code fascinated me. At the same time, I made my first crystal detector wireless set and was soon listening to amateurs on 440 metres.

I joined the RSGB and became BRS102. In 1927, my old friend Jack Hum G5UM, who was also a BRS at that time, and I had exchanged correspondence about obtaining an 'Artificial Aerial' transmitting licence. This was in order to experiment with oscillating crystals. Not quartz, but the normal receiving zincite, bornite, galena, carborundum and other types coaxed into oscillation by the judicious application of a suitable d.c. polarising voltage! This idea was born as a result of an article published in *Amateur Wireless*, August 9 1924.

Both Jack and I obtained the covered permits. His call was 2AJI and mine was 2ARV. In 1928 we both graduated to 'full' licences. Jack became G5UM and I became G5RV.

My main interest was always in antennas and feeder systems. I tried most types and I can still remember my very first QSO, which was on 45 metres c.w. with EAR16!

I joined the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company at Chelmsford, Essex in 1930. I was 19 years old, and was employed as a Technical Assistant, later graduating to Engineer.

PRESENTED TO MARCONI

During my apprenticeship I, along with several other fellow TAs was presented to Guglielmo Marconi, during one of his periodical visits of inspection to the Marconi Works.

In the mid-1930s Mr A. W. Ladner (co-author with C. R. Stoner of *Short Wave Wireless Communication* in 1932) selected

me to be his Assistant at the Marconi College in Chelmsford, of which he was Principal. Many of our students were technicians sent to us by clients all over the world, and some were also radio amateurs.

At school I had always been an enthusiastic scholar of French and Spanish. In 1955, the Marconi Company was looking for an engineer fluent in Spanish to be appointed as its Latin American and Caribbean Technical and Commercial Representative resident in Caracas, Venezuela, for three years.

I was selected, and lived there until August 1958. My duties required frequent visits to the Latin American countries and to all the major islands of the Caribbean. I was able to obtain amateur radio licences and permission to operate as a guest operator, in many South and Central American countries and Caribbean islands.

In 1960 I was invited to join the firm of Consulting Engineers, Preece, Cardew and Rider. The partners were looking for a French-speaking, qualified radio engineer, to work near Paris for three years on a v.h.f., u.h.f. and microwave radio network extending from Norway to Eastern Turkey. I accepted and subsequently, my career as a Consulting Engineer in Telecommunications took me all over the world.

I was VK9LV while working in Papua New Guinea for two years, with frequent visits to the VK2, 3, 4 and 5 districts. Island hopping took me to many more rare places, among them YJ8RV in what was then the New Hebrides and FOORV in Tahiti. The 14, 21 and 28MHz bands seemed to explode wherever I called CQ DX!

Stopping off in Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil I added more call signs to my collection, including CX5RV. I still use it every European winter when, with my wife Nélide, I spend four months in the sun at Piriapolis on the coast.

I have been a keen horse rider since my youth. So, living for four to five months every year in Uruguay for the past 17 years, I hired a 'Gaucho' (cowboy) horse. But, perhaps of more interest, I sometimes operated as 'CX5RV/Horseback Mobile' for QSOs with local CXs!

I keep a permanent station in Piriapolis with my trusty TS-520, and a full size G5RV antenna (of course!). My favourite operating mode has always been c.w., but I occasionally use s.s.b.

During our last two visits I kept a daily c.w. sked on 21.021MHz c.w., with my old friend Bert G2FIX near Salisbury. We never failed to make contact, even on the few days when conditions to Europe were poor! After this sked, which only lasts for about 10 to 15 minutes, I always call CQ UK and listen carefully for replies.

OCTOBER FALL

In late October 1992, I had the misfortune to fall 4m to the ground while pruning the upper branches of one of our large apple trees here in Sussex, when the ladder slipped! Luckily, no bones were broken, but I had bad bruising and slight concussion. We had to cancel our trip to Uruguay, but hope to go this November.

I am sometimes asked when I designed and made the G5RV antenna. Actually, it was when we got our licences back in 1946 after the Second World War. But I did not write an article about it for several years, partly because I was very busy with other work.

I have always been fascinated by the Morse code. When the First Class (c.w.) Operators Club was re-formed in 1946, I was a Founder Member (FOCT) together with nine others. I was elected President of the club for 1984.

I still enjoy h.f. experimental work on antennas and feeder systems. But, apart from my life-long interest in radio, both amateur and professional, I have three other hobbies: cooking, linguistics and oil painting.

During the three years I lived and worked in France, I learned *haute cuisine* while helping at weekends in a superb restaurant. It was owned and run by my dear friends Rene F3NM and his wife Germaine in Beauvais. I also learned Chinese and Indian Cooking!

Working in so many countries gave me unique opportunities to learn Italian and Portuguese and even to obtain a working knowledge of Pidgin English, used in Papua New Guinea. My wife, Nélide, is from Uruguay and her native language is Spanish, but she also speaks the same group of languages, so we have no communication problems!"

And, thanks to Louis Varney G5RV's antenna design...radio amateurs don't have many problems communicating either. I've no doubt that everyone will join me in wishing G5RV continuing good health - and that he avoids climbing and falling from apple trees!

G3XFD

Louis Varney G5RV



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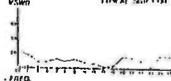
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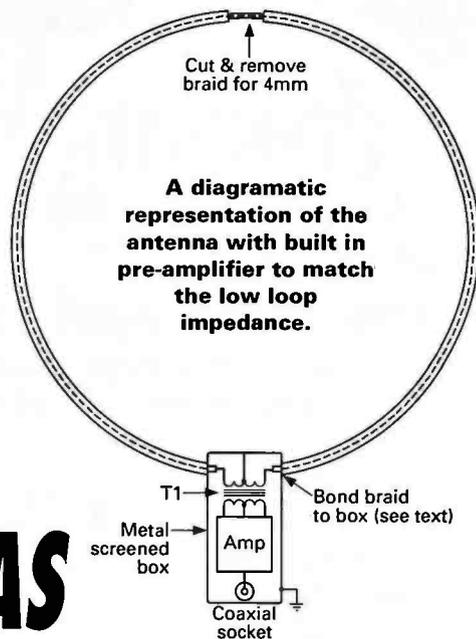
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Having been a dedicated, maniacal loop antenna designer and experimenter for many years, Richard Q. Marris G2BZQ describes a pre-amplifier kit* for use between coaxial loops and shows how the range can be extended to cover the m.w. and 1.8-3.5MHz bands.

WIDE-BAND VLF/LF/MF AMPLIFIERS & COAXIAL LOOP ANTENNAS



Back in 1987, I read a write-up describing the H-86 pre-amplifier kit circuit by Ralph Burhans. The H-86 is a 10-400kHz kit for use as a pre-amplifier between coaxial loops and receivers. The kit then cost \$25.

It was even more interesting to me, because many years ago, at this QTH, experiments were conducted along similar lines using two valve (r.f. pentode with cathode follower) pre-amplifier, plus power unit, that used a large multi-tapped output audio transformer, to match the loop to the amplifier input. It was highly successful for v.l.f., l.w., m.w. reception, apart from the fact that it weighed as much as the accompanying receiver!

There is the GOOD and the BAD about using an untuned coaxial screened loop, with a wide-band pre-amplifier. The GOOD is that no tuning is involved, and one loop covers the whole frequency range. The BAD is that the loop and amplifier are wide-band/untuned giving a near certainty of signal breakthrough from a local high power station or one of its harmonics.

The advantage of a coaxial shielded loop, is that the ambient noise is considerably lower than any other receive antenna type. Also it is directional thus eliminating or reducing QRM/QRN by simple rotation.

The interesting thing about the H-86 was the use of a miniature 1:5 turns ratio audio transformers (primary and

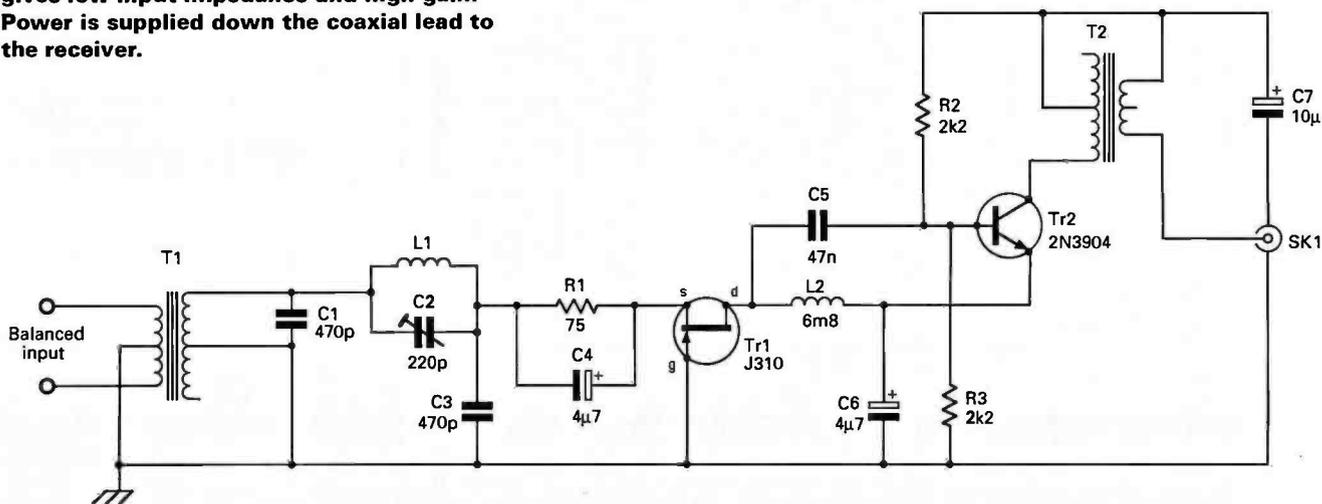
secondary centre tapped) as input and output matching transformers. The balanced input circuit T1 covers inputs of about 1 to 10Ω impedance, and the loop is connected across the low impedance winding. Half of the other winding (P) is connected to a two-stage amplifier using a J310 and 2N3904.

The other half, of this winding marked AUX can be used to connect a signal generator or for an auxiliary long wire antenna if required. A similar type output transformer is used to connect the amplifier to the 50/70Ω receiver input via coaxial feedline. The amplifier gain was said to be 30-35dB.

In the circuit, capacitors C1 and C3 provide a low pass filter with about 400kHz roll off; and L1 and C2 are a wave trap to filter any interfering local signal (or harmonic). Two or more such wave traps could be fitted in series if more than one signal is breaking through. The L1 and C2 combination will obviously have to be resonated at the frequency of the offending signal or harmonic.

Ralph Burhans said that for use on medium wave or the 1.8-3.5MHz bands, T1 and T2 could be replaced with home-brew transformers using a few turns of wire on Amidon FT50-75 cores. It seems that in this case, the values of C1 and C3 in the low pass filters would have to be reduced or eliminated.

An f.e.t./bipolar cascode amplifier circuit gives low input impedance and high gain. Power is supplied down the coaxial lead to the receiver.



For the convenience of interested readers, a sketch is shown of a suggested coaxial shielded loop, which has been used here in the past, together with suggested amplifier mounting position in a base metal box.

The loop could be anything between 1 and 3m diameter, depending on space available. At the summit of the loop about 4mm of the copper shielding braid is removed, with the inner insulated conductor left intact. The bottom of the loop is secured to a metal box containing the amplifier. The loop copper braiding should be bonded to the box, and the inner conductor going through the holes to T1. The mechanically ambitious could manufacture the loop using copper tubing and the rod! Mere mortals should note that it has been found here, that if a largish diameter coaxial feedline cable, such as UR67 is used, then with 1m diameter, it will only require one vertical wood support, whereas a larger diameter will require a more elaborate wooden framework. The simplest way to bond the loop to the box has found to be to use PL259 plugs at each cable end, and 2 x SO259 chassis sockets at the box.

There seems to be no obvious reason why this technique (amplifier/loop) should not be adapted to the h.f. bands using carefully designed input/output transformers.

* Ralph Burhans of Burhans Electronics,
161 Grosvenor St, St Athens, Ohio 45701, USA.

PW

FURTHER READING

'VLF Up-Converter' by Adrian Knott G6KSN
pp 38-40, *PW* February 1993 (back issue £2.00 or
reprint 85p inc. P&P).

'The *PW* VLF Converter' by Mike Rowe G8JVE
p28 onwards, *PW* November 1986 (reprint 85p inc.
P&P).

'The Largest Antenna In The World' by Brian Dance
pp 40-41 *PW* September 1983 (reprint 85p inc. P&P).

Jeorg Klingenfuss publishes several books on
the stations that use the v.l.f. bands. Look for
Guide To Facsimile Station (£18.00 plus £1.00 P&P
UK or £1.75 P&P overseas), and *Guide To Utility
Stations* (£24.00 plus £1.00 P&P UK or £1.75 P&P
overseas).

An order form to order any of the above items is
available on the Book Services pages.

There is a group of people who would like to
use the v.l.f. band for communication purposes in
Caving research and rescue. For more details
contact Cave Radio and Electronics Group, c/o
Davis Gibson, 21 Well House Drive, Leeds LS8 4BX.
Tel: (0532) 481218.

Radio Diary

*Practical Wireless & Short Wave Magazine in attendance.

***July 10:** The Cornish Rally will be held at Penair
School, Truro. **Barrie Thomas G0NRR** on (0872)
862046.

July 11: Galway Experimenters Club will be holding its
Annual Radio & Computer Rally at Newtownshere,
Galway. Doors open at 12 noon, large trade show,
Bring & Buy, free parking & refreshments available.
Talk-in on S22. **E1701B** on 091-53592.

July 11: The Sussex Amateur Radio & Computer Fair
will be held at Brighton Racecourse. Doors open at
10.30am to 4pm. Trade stands, Bring & Buy, picnic
area, refreshments & car parking. Free Bus service to
Brighton Sea Front. (0273) 501100

July 25: Colchester Radio & Computer Rally (including
Car Boot Sale), St. Helena School, Sheepen Road,
Colchester. **Frank G3FIJ** on (0206) 851189.

July 25: Norfolk Amateur Radio Club & Hewett School
Radio & Electronics Group will be holding their rally
at the Hewett School, Hall Road, Norwich. Doors
open 10am. Admission £1 adults,
OAPs/disabled/children 50p. Free parking. Trade
stands, Bring & Buy, displays. **Sheila G0KWP** on
(0603) 618810.

August 1: The 10th McMichael Rally & Car Boot Sale
will be held at the Haymill Youth & Community Centre,
Burnham Lane, Slough (nr. Burnham Railway Station).
Doors open 10.30am, admission is £1.50. Car boot sale
is £6 per pitch on the day. Free parking on site & talk-
in on S22. **Neil G0SVN** on (0628) 25952.

August 8: Derby Mobile Rally will take place at the
Littleover Community School, Pastures Hill, Littleover,
Derby. Usual attractions, including the famous
monster junk sale. It is hoped to provide improved
facilities for disabled visitors in 1993. **Martin
Shardlow G3SZJ** on (0332) 556875.

***August 8:** Flight Refuelling ARS Hamfest will take
place at the Flight Refuelling Sports Ground, Merley,
Wimborne, Dorset. Doors open 10am to 5pm. Usual
mix of traders, Bring & Buy, craft exhibitors, Car Boot
Sale & field events. Overnight camping facilities
available for Saturday 7th. Talk-in on S22. **Richard
Hogan G4VCQ** on (0202) 691021.

August 8: The Third Wirral Amateur Radio &
Computing Rally will be held at the Masonic Hall,
Manor Road, Wallasey. Doors open 11am. D. G.
Clifford on 051-639 5922 or **D. Roberts** on 061-476
3076.

August 29: Castle Hall Computer, Electronics & Radio
Rally will be held at Castle Hall Exhibition Centre,
Stalybridge, Cheshire. Doors open at 11am to 4pm
(10.30 for disabled visitors). Over 200 stalls, Bring &
Buy, refreshments available. Talk-in on S22. **Enquiries**
to 061-681 0569.

August 30: Coleraine & District ARG Radio Rally &
Bring & Buy will be held in The Golf Links Hotel,
Portrush. From 12 noon to 5.50pm. Traders welcome
free of charge, food & refreshments available.
Admission £1. Talk-in S22. **Raymond G14MFM** on
(0266) 558230.

August 30: Huntingdonshire Amateur Radio Society
will be holding their Annual Bank Holiday Monday
Rally at St Germain Street, Huntingdon (easy to find,
drive around the ring road until you find us!). Doors
open at 10am, admission £1, free car parking. Talk-in
on S22. **David Leech G7DIU** on (0480) 431333.

September 5: Milton Keynes & DARS will be holding
their 7th Annual Radio Boot Sale at Cranfield Airfield,
Cranfield, Beds. **Ray G1LRU** on (0908) 660798.

September 5: Vange Amateur Radio Society Annual
Rally will be held at the Laindon Community Centre,
Laindon High Road/Aston Road, Laindon, Basildon,
Essex. Doors open from 10.30am. Admission 75p.
Trade stands, Bring & Buy, raffle, refreshments, car
parking. Talk-in on S22. Sign-posted approach roads.
Mike Musgrave G4NVT on (0268) 543025.

***September 11:** The Scottish Amateur Radio
Convention will be held in Cardonald College, 690
Mosspark Drive, Glasgow G52. Full trade show,
lecture theatres, Bring & Buy, Morse tests, bar &
restaurant. Free parking. Talk-in on S22. **Tom Hughes
GM3EDZ** on 041-882 5753.

***September 12:** Lincoln SWC Hamfest will be held at
Lincolnshire Showground & Exhibition Centre, four
miles north of Lincoln on A15 Lincoln/Scunthorpe
Road. Doors open 10.30am. Usual trade stands, Bring
& Buy, refreshments, licensed bar. Lots of attractions
for whole family. Admission £1 by lucky programme,
free parking, caravans welcome by arrangement.
Talk-in on S22. **Denis G1XZG** on (0522) 684214.

September 12: The BARTG Rally will be held at
Sandown Exhibition Centre, Esher, Surrey. Bring &
Buy, refreshments, many exhibitor & special interest
groups. Doors open 10.30am to 5pm. Admission,
adults £1.50 & OAPs £1, under 14s free if
accompanied by an adult. Well sign-posted. **Peter
Nicol** on 021-453 2676.

September 18: The Annual Isle of Wight Wireless
Rally will be held at the National CEM Wireless
Museum, Arretton Manor, Nr. Newport, Isle of Wight.
Doors open at 11am. Bring & Buy, refreshments,
covered accommodation if wet. Free admission for
all, including traders, free parking. Talk-in on S20 by
G310W. **Douglas G3KPO** on (0983) 567665.

September 26: The Harlow & District Amateur Radio
Society will be holding its 35th Annual Amateur Radio
Rally & Computer Show at Harlow Town Sports
Centre, off Fifth Avenue Harlow (easy access off M11
Junction 7, A414 follow the signposted route). Doors
open at 10.30am. Admission £1, OAPs & children 50p.
Varied selection of traders, Bring & Buy, free parking
at & near to the site. Disabled parking & lifts
available. **Mike G7BNF** on (0850) 487863.

October 10: The Computercations 1993 Amateur
Radio & Computer Rally will be held at Hillhead
Campsite, Kingswear Road, Brixham, Devon. Trade
stands for computer & radio, Bring & Buy, raffle,
refreshments. Unlimited free parking with overnight
camping available. Talk-in on S22. **Bill Trezise G6ZRM**
on (0803) 522216.

***November 6 & 7:** The Seventh North Wales Radio &
Electronics Show will be held at the Aberconwy
Conference Centre, Llandudno. Doors open at 10am
on both days. Admission £1, children under 14, 50p. **B.
Mee G7WEXH** on (0745) 591704.

December 5: Leeds & District Amateur Radio Society
will be holding its rally at Allerton High School, King
Lane, Leeds. Four large main halls, talk-in on S22,
catering facilities. **Richard Tillotson G7HUE** on (0532)
552344 or FAX (0532) 393856.

*If you're travelling long
distances to rallies, it could be
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number to check all is well,
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Look out for the three peaks logo of this company at rallies. If you can't see the logo, look out for the biggest magnetic loops in the hall, as they are suppliers of magnetic loop antennas, a.t.u.s, and the Variable Frequency Antenna. The latest product from AA&A is the ALC-1 Automatic Loop Controller which can control any d.c. motorised magnetic loop antenna at the touch of a button (prices available on request). They can also supply, through Nevada Communications, 189 London Road, North End, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO2 9AE. Tel: (0705) 662145, capacitors and roller coasters for making your own a.t.u.

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If DX commercial radio/television is your interest then this is for you. Aerial Techniques are suppliers of TV/f.m. DXing equipment including high gain TV antennas for all v.h.f. and u.h.f. bands, mast head amplifiers, signal measuring equipment, up-converters, satellite equipment, rotators and general antenna hardware. A 34-page catalogue is available for £1.

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Readers of *Practical Wireless* may already know of Altron for their tubular masts and lattice towers, but they also manufacture a compact four-band mini-beam antenna. The AQ6-20 'Spacesaver' antenna which covers 14, 21, 28 and 50MHz, could be the answer for your small garden. Send a large s.s.a.e. (with a 36p stamp on it) to the above address for a copy of their catalogue.

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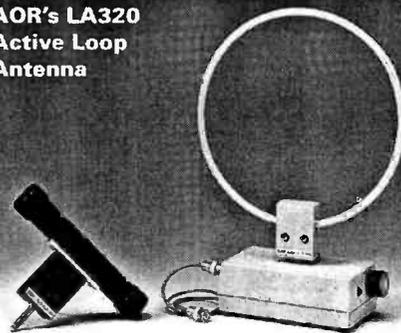
Amdat provide a range of computer software for amateur radio. YAGICAD, written by Paul McMahon VK3DIP, is one of their programs. It an easy to use, simplified version of those described in *PW* May 1993 and is limited to modelling free-space Yagi antennas. The results are displayed as E or H polar diagrams or frequency swept F/B, gain and impedance graphs. This program is excellent value at only £3.50 plus P&P.

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DA3000 16-element discone antenna, 25 to 2000MHz.
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BARENCO,

27 Park Road,
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Barenco may be found at many rallies selling cables and accessories, rotators and hardware plus other products. Barenco manufacture much of the hardware they supply.

BRICOMM,

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Tel: or FAX: 021-747 5077.

This company can supply you with a catalogue of all the items of mounting hardware and cables they sell. Send an A5-sized s.s.a.e. When you find what you need in the catalogue, they can take it to a rally near you for collection, saving you the postage.

BREDHURST ELECTRONICS LTD.,

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Handcross,
West Sussex RH17 6BW.
Tel: (0444) 400786/400124 or FAX: (0444) 400604.

Bredhurst are the sole importers of the patented GAP Elevated Launch technology h.f. vertical multi-band antennas from the USA. The Challenger DX-VI has full bandwidth on 7, 14, 21, 28, 50 and 144MHz and 130kHz on 3.5MHz. The Voyager DX-IV has full bandwidth on 3.5, 7 and 14MHz and 90kHz bandwidth on 1.8MHz.

CIRKIT DISTRIBUTION LTD.,

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Cirkit are well-known for mail order, and their catalogue is available in many newsagents. They can supply capacitors, coils, roller coasters, turns counters and cable for making your own antennas. Alternatively, you can purchase one of their finished antennas.

C.M. HOWES COMMUNICATIONS,

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Tel: (0327) 60178.

Three active receiver antennas are available in the Howes Kits range. The Howes AA2 covers the long, medium and short wave bands. The Howes A44 covers from 25 to 1300MHz and is a neat alternative to the discone antenna. The Howes AB118 is

optimised for v.h.f. airband reception from 118 to 137MHz.

The Howes CTU30 is an a.t.u. for the listener or for QRP transmissions up to 30W. A choice of two optional hardware packs are available, one of which can take an s.w.r. bridge kit and an r.f. operated side tone kit.

DATONG ELECTRONICS LTD,

Clayton Wood Close,
West Park,
Leeds LS16 6QE.

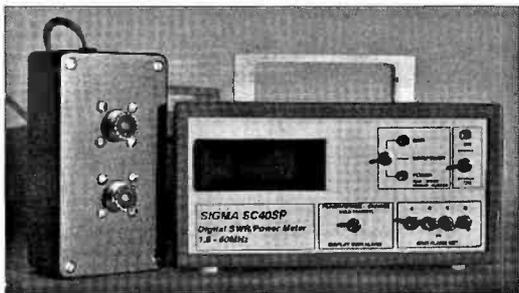
Tel: (0532) 744822 or FAX: (0503) 742872.

For the short wave listener Datong Electronics offer the AD270/370 range of compact active antennas. These antennas give similar receive performance to large conventional antenna systems yet are only three metres long. The frequency range is from 200kHz to 30MHz.

The AD270 uses two wire elements and is designed for indoor use. The AD370 has two 1.5 metre stainless steel taper elements for outside use.

A head unit of both antennas contains an amplifier and matching system.

EASTERN COMMUNICATIONS,



Cavendish House,
Happisburgh,
Norfolk NR12 0RU.

Tel: (0692) 650077 or FAX: (0692) 650925.

Eastern Communications are the European distributors of Sigma Communications Products. The Sigma SC40SP covers from 1.6 to 60MHz. Peak or average s.w.r. or power are monitored. If the s.w.r. reading exceeds a set point an alarm sounds.

GAREX ELECTRONICS,

Station Yard,
South Brent,
South Devon TQ10 9AL.

Tel: (0364) 72770 or FAX: (0364) 72007.

A range of v.h.f./u.h.f. antennas are available from their associate company REVCO. The mobile antennas come in three mounting systems, Permanent, Temporary and Glassmount.

Antennas bases can be supplied for permanent installations requiring a hole being drilled in the vehicle. The temporary mount uses boot-lip, gutter, roof-rack or magmounting. Popularised by the cellular industry, glassmounts are convenient, neat and easily transferable.

Antennas are available for the following v.h.f./u.h.f. bands:

27-29MHz	144-146MHz
50-52MHz	430-440MHz
70MHz	

An interesting foldable, portable Slim Jim (Jimp) antenna is also available.



The isoloop 10-30HF

ICS ELECTRONICS LTD.,

Unit V,
Rudford Industrial Estate,
Ford Arundel,
West Sussex BN18 0BD.

Tel: (0903) 731101 or FAX: (0903) 731105.

ICS import Advanced Electronics Applications Inc (AEA) equipment from the USA. Among these antenna products is the IsoLoop 10-30 HF. This antenna is only 890mm in diameter and covers 10 to 30MHz. AEA also have the IsoPole range of broad band v.h.f. antennas for 144 and 440MHz. These verticals have a 10 and 22MHz bandwidth, respectively, and a gain of 3dBd.

JANDEK,

6 Fellows Avenue,
Kingswinford,
West Midlands DY6 9ET.

Tel: (0384) 288900.

Derrick Pearson G3ZOM, produces a range of kits for the radio amateur. For the antenna experimenter there is the JD021 HF Dip Oscillator, described Antenna Workshop, PW June 1993. For measuring impedance (resistance and reactance) the JD031 noise bridge, should be available very soon.

LAKE ELECTRONICS,



7 Middleton Close,
Nuthall,
Nottingham NG16 1BX.

Tel: (0602) 382509.

Already well-known for his range of QRP transceiver kits Alan Lake G4DVW also produces a range of antenna tuning units, s.w.r. meters and a power meter. These items can be supplied as a kit or ready made. The TU2 was reviewed by George Dobbs G3RVJ in SWM November 1989. The TUA1 QRP s.w.r. bridge was reviewed in PW November 1992.

LOWE ELECTRONICS LTD.,

Chesterfield Road,
Matlock,
Derbyshire DE4 5LE.

Tel: (0629) 580800 or FAX: (0629) 580020.

Lowe Electronics is an importer of a whole range of antenna and associated equipment as follows:

Butternut antennas from the USA, including verticals HF6V and HF2V and the well-known HF5B Butterfly beam. Tonna v.h.f./u.h.f. antennas (if you want to see how an antenna brochure should be produced send for Tonna info). The Hokushin range of antennas from Japan are available along with the Emotator range of antenna rotators.

A wide range of UK antennas such as Jaybeam and Cushcraft are also stocked as well as a Static Wick Discharger AS1. This device, when fitted to the element of an antenna, is claimed to reduce static discharge noise by several dB even under normal weather conditions. Send a s.a.e. for info on the AS1 and article 'Electrostatic Receiver Noise: Causes and Prevention'.

MAPLIN ELECTRONICS,

PO Box 3,
Rayleigh,
Essex SS6 8LR.

Tel: (0702) 554161.

Maplin Electronics' 1993 catalogue, is available through many newsagents for £2.95. It contains many pages of antennas, fixing brackets, other hardware, cables and coaxial switches. The catalogue also contains many other radio and electronic

ANTENNAS

The Tu1 a.t.u.
produced by Lake
Electronics.

products, including s.w.r./power meters, active antennas and tuners.

NEVADA COMMUNICATIONS,

189 London Road,
North End,
Portsmouth,
Hampshire PO2 9AE.

Tel: (0705) 662145 or FAX (0705) 690626.

Already well-known for radio equipment, Nevada also stock an extensive range of antennas for transmitting and receiving. They can supply a wide range of Scanmaster products including the Scanmaster Magnetic Mobile, Scanmaster Discone and the soon to be released range of Scanmaster v.h.f. mobile antennas. A catalogue dealing with these and their other products is available for £2 from the above address.

PDSL,

Winscombe House,
Beacon Road,
Crowborough,
Essex TN6 1UL.

Tel: (0892) 663298 or FAX (0892) 667473.

The PDSL (Public Domain and Shareware Library) can supply from their extensive library, many programs to run on IBM PC or compatible computers. Among these programs are: 'Wire' and 'Yagimax' version 3. Both programs can help you to improve your antenna set-up and you can also use the propagation predictor programs. A catalogue is available from PDSL at the above address.

PRIVATE MOBILE RADIO LTD.,

Industrial Estate,
Gwaelod-Y-Garth
Cardiff CF4 8JN.

Tel: (0222) 810999.

PMR stock a comprehensive range of antenna products from several manufacturers including, Cushcraft, Diamond, Comet, Tonna, Jaybeam, Yaesu and Icom. For further details on their products contact, PMR direct.

Q-TEK,

R. Benham-Holman G2DYM,
Cobhamden,
Uplowman,
Tiverton,
Devon EX16 7PH.

Tel: (0398) 6215.

This company are suppliers of resin-encapsulated, pre-tuned dipole traps for the 3.5 - 28MHz bands. They also manufacture and supply the G2DYM Aerial Matching Unit. Send an A4 s.s.a.e. (36p stamp) to G2DYM direct for more information about the products.

RF ENGINEERING,

Woefully Lake House,
Sherbourne,
Gloucestershire GL7 5AN.

Tel: (0451) 844237 or FAX (0451) 844253.

Gloucestershire-based RF Engineering are distributors of Barker & Williamson products from America. These antenna and associated items are designed and built to a very high standard. The company supplies silver-plated air-wound coils and high flash-over rated capacitors, suitable for a.t.u. use. They also produce a suitcase-sized antenna for the h.f. bands. Other products available include a range of economically priced baluns for most applications including G5RV antennas from the American company Communication Devices, a range of commercial quality static discharge electro-magnetic pulse shunts from Signal Systems in the USA. A catalogue is available by sending in an A5 sized s.s.a.e. (with a 36p stamp) to the above address.

SANDPIPER COMMUNICATIONS,

Unit 5,
Enterprise House,
Cwmbach,

Aberdare,

Mid Glamorgan CF44 0TU.

Tel: (0685) 870425 or FAX (0685) 876104.

This company is a manufacturer of antennas for all bands and situations. They are particularly well-known for their rally attendance. Their range of antennas is growing all the time, but they can supply an up-to-date catalogue on receipt of an A4 sized (36p stamp) s.s.a.e. to the above address.

SOUTH MIDLANDS COMMUNICATIONS LTD.,

S M House,
School Close,
Chandlers Ford Industrial Estate,
Eastleigh,
Hampshire SO5 3BY.

Tel: (0703) 255111 or FAX (0703) 263507.

Although best known for their Yaesu amateur radio equipment, SMC are active throughout the world in the communications and antenna field. The company supplies commercial masts, towers and hardware in conjunction with a design service. They have recently acquired Jaybeam Amateur and will continue to provide the high level level of technical spares and sales support under the banner JB Antennas. In the amateur radio context, SMC has many years of antenna expertise to offer, backed by a large choice of specialised hardware, including the famous Strumech Versatower.

SPECIALIST ANTENNA SYSTEMS LTD.

Trefonen,
Oswestry,
Shropshire SY10 9DY.

Tel: (0691) 670440 or FAX: (0691) 670282.

Antennas from 3.5MHz to 2.3GHz, that's what SAS say they provide. On h.f. there are verticals from Cushcraft, such as the R5, R7 and AP8 and the DX88 and the 14AVQ from Hy-Gain. Rotatable antennas range from the D3W rotatable WARC multi-band dipole from Cushcraft to the monster TH7DX 14, 21, 28MHz, 7-element beam from Hy-Gain.

SAS also import the Gem Quad. This quad uses special construction glass fibre supports which combine lightness and strength. There are 2, 3 and 4-element versions for 14, 21 & 28MHz with optional elements for 18 and 24MHz. Look out for the 'Mini-Quad', available soon.

VHF antennas range from the Mirage/KLM 6m 5dB vertical to the M2 Enterprises 1296MHz 35-element beam.

Send a (large) s.s.a.e. for full details.

S.R.W. COMMUNICATIONS LTD.,

Astrid House,
The Green,
Swinton,
Malton,
N. Yorks YO17 0SN.

Tel: (0653) 697513.

More usually known for the SRW Kilowatt Loudenboomer linear amplifier for the h.f. bands, SRW also supply the G3TPW CobWebb antenna. This small (about 3.5m diagonal) antenna covers the 14, 18, 21, 24 and 28MHz bands. As it's horizontally polarised and omni-directional, no rotator is required. The price of this is still only £149 (£8 P&P). Soon to be added to the SRW range of products is the Spider antenna for 10, 7, 3.5 and 1.8MHz (price available on request), and the CobWebb beam antenna for 14, 18, 21, 24 and 28MHz for approx £600. Contact S.R.W. for more details.

TENNAMAST (SCOTLAND),

Mains Road,
Beith,
Ayrshire KA15 2HT.

Tel: (0505) 53824.

If you fancy a mast, but thought they were expensive, then the Adapt-A-Mast from Tennamast starting at £150, may just be the thing you're looking for. This is the latest in a long line of masts and towers to come from this company (the Adapt-A-Mast was reviewed in *PW* November 1992). For further details on their products, contact Tennamast at the above address. PW



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IC728



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TS850

KENWOOD

TS450/690

TS450 HF

TS690 HF+6M

Accessories

PS31 PSU (SSB only)

PS53 PSU (Full Duty Cycle)

SP23 Ext. Speaker

AT450 Int. Auto ATU

Kenwood TS850

PS52 PSU (Full Duty)

SP31 Ext. Speaker

AT850 in Auto ATU

MC60A Desk Mic

VHF/UHF MOBILES

Yaesu FT212RH 2m, 45 watt

Yaesu FT2400RH New 2m, 50 watt

Yaesu FT5200R 2m/70cm, Full Cross Band



FT5200R



IC3230H

ICOM IC229E/H

IC229E 2m, 25 watt

IC229H 50 watt

ICOM IC3230H 2m/70cm FM, 45/35 Watt

ICOM IC2410E/H 2/70cm FM, Dual Watch



TM241E

Kenwood

TM241E 2m, 50 Watt

TM702 2/70cm, 25W

HANDHELD

TM732 2/70cm

Yaesu FT415 2m HH inc. battery pack charger

(FT 815 70cm)

Coming Soon

Yaesu FT530 New 2m/70 Dualband Handy

Yaesu Accessories

EDC5 DC adapt Noise filter

EDC6 DC lead 26/76/415/815

MH12A2B Speaker Mic

MH18A2B Mini speaker Mic

CS05/152 (FT415/815) Carry Cases

NC42 Desk top charger

Icom ICW2 The 2/70 Dualbander

Icom IC25RE 2m + Wideband RX

ICOM Accessories

CP13 Cigar Lighter Cable

HM65 Speaker Mic

HS60 Headset/Voxor PTT

OPC288 DC lead

LC71/72/73 W2/SRE Carry Cases

Kenwood TH28 2m Handy

(TH28 70cm)

Kenwood TH78 Dual band Handy

Kenwood Accessories

AG2W DC lead

SMC32 Speaker mic

SMC33 Speaker mic multijunction

HMC2 Headset/Boom Mic

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— VISA AND ACCESS WELCOME —



Ron Stone GW3YDX describes an effective vertical antenna for the 3.5MHz band

A DX VERTICAL ANTENNA FOR 3.5MHZ

In my constant search for a good antenna for DX working, I had tried almost everything, delta loops, high dipoles, full and half slopers, all giving reasonable performances. But none of them seemed to match the results achieved by those using big verticals on the 3.5MHz band.

In the past I'd avoided verticals out of pure sloth. The thought of ploughing in miles of radials had always put me off. But, in an unusual fit of enthusiasm, I got out the spade to dig a hole for the ground post for a vertical, and to slit the soil for a system of radials.

To judge the effectiveness of the new antenna, comparisons were made with a delta loop for 3.5MHz. As I was uncertain about the eventual results, the vertical had to be a low budget exercise, and its cost was not to exceed £50.

In the end because all the materials, except for the ground post, were to hand, the project cost just £1. This sum was the cost of a suitable piece of steel section for the post from Gerald Potter's scrapyards at Welshpool.

FULL SIZED

A full size $\lambda/4$ vertical for 3.5MHz is over 21m high, needing at least two sets of guy wires. Although there are no neighbour problems at my location, the XYL said that only one set of guys was acceptable. So a design about 16m high seemed the limit.

Experiments with physically short antennas had shown that a mixture of capacity hat and inductive loading seemed to give the best results. This method seems to retain bandwidth whilst physically reducing the size of the structure to make it easier to handle.

The design, basically sketched out in Fig. 1, was experimentally evolved. The capacity hat is formed, above the loading coil, by steel wire sections in the three guying ropes. They are electrically connected to the antenna just above the coil, about 10m from the ground. The three guys fitted have held the antenna up for six months, through winter gales with no problems.

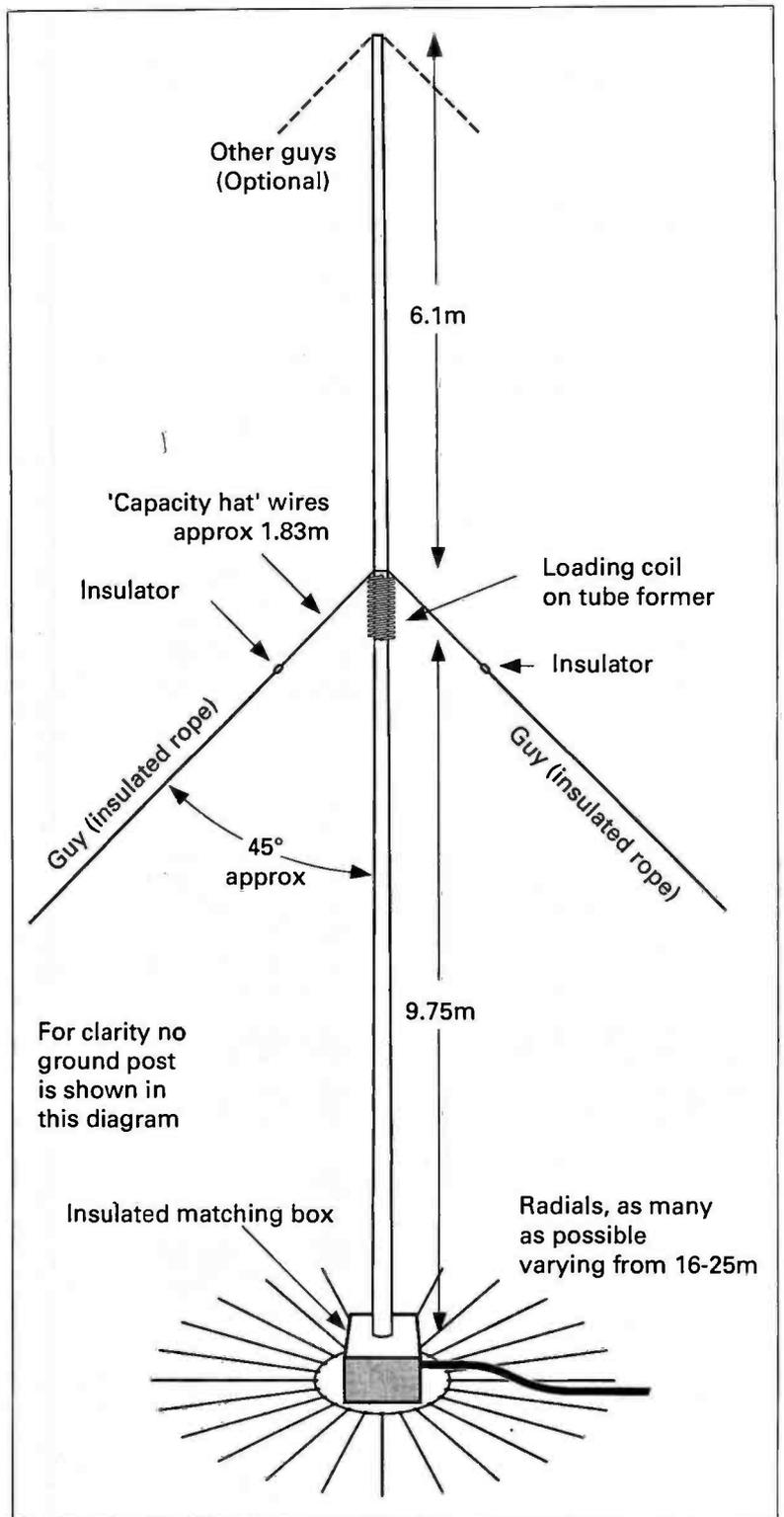


Fig.1: A simple drawing of the antenna. Each of the two vertical sections is made up of two or more telescoping section of aluminium tubing.

Construction of the antenna should pose few difficulties. The ground post was a 2.5m length of T-section steel with a wall thickness of about 6mm. Almost anything will do provided that it is wide enough at the top to take 2 1/4in exhaust clamps. The post was drilled to suit the clamps, and was hammered into the 1m deep hole, until the drilled holes at the midpoint were about 100mm, or so, above ground level.

The bottom of the vertical radiator proper was made up of two interlocked sections of tubing. A length (4.5m) of scaffold tubing with a 6m length of alloy tube (1.25in with a 16s.w.g. wall). This is a snug fit into the scaffold tube.

A 450mm length of 28mm glass fibre tube (3mm wall) becomes the joiner, for the two metal sections, and former for the loading coil. This section of tubing overlaps by about 180mm at each join to give both stability and strength.

Above this section of glass fibre tubing is a short (1m) length of 1 1/4in tubing with a 2m length of 1in tube. The top section (2.5m) of this part is from 3/4in alloy tubing

LOADING COIL

The loading coil consists of 50 turns of enamelled heavy copper wire wound on the central portion of the glass fibre former. All sections were secured with stainless steel hose clamps or self-tapping screws as required. With the capacity hat guys attached, the antenna was raised to the vertical position and secured to the ground post with the exhaust clamps. Place a brick under the bottom of the radiator to stop it from touching the ground. The guys ropes are then loosely tied, while the radiator is insulated from the ground post.

BASE INSULATION

The insulators for the base of the radiator are made from 100mm long pieces of 75mm diameter pvc drainpipe, slit lengthwise and folded around the scaffold tube under the exhaust clamps. As these are tightened the pvc tube will overlap. This insulation method is quite good enough because it is a low voltage point. The supporting brick can now be removed, and the guys tightened.

RADIAL SYSTEM

The type of wire used for the radial system is not critical. Thin wire is suitable, because the ground current will be shared between all the wires of the radial system. The length of the radials is not very critical, although the longer the better. However, it is better to have many short radials than just a few long ones.

In my design, 40 radials were laid down, varying from 16-25m in length. Burying the radial wires deep down is a myth, running along the the surface will do. In my installation they are buried 70-100mm deep, as there are animals on the land. To bury radials in the ground, make a slit with a spade and just push the radial wire in, using an old screwdriver with a 'V' shaped notch cut into the end of the blade. All the radials are brought together at a common soldered point and waterproofed with a rubber glue.

MATCHING

The next step is of course to fit the matching network/feedline to the radiator and radial system. When checked the antenna and full system of radials, was resonant at about 3.2MHz. To match the antenna to the coaxial feedline all that was required was a variable capacitor to tune out the excess inductive reactance at the desired operating frequency. As the capacitor is

present at a low voltage point, a receiving type is quite up to the job, even at 1kW p.e.p.

I use c.w. mostly, but now and then I have a foray onto s.s.b. Such excursions never last for long because of the awful QRM I find there. To make tuning easier, a relay controlled from the shack, introduces a second capacitor to suit each part of the band. There is a slight amount of residual v.s.w.r. using a single capacitor. Perhaps a slightly better match would have been obtained with an L-match network. The v.s.w.r. with the full radial system is less than 1.5:1 on both parts of the band.

An old ice cream box is used to house the tuning network, and is just big enough for the simple capacitor and relay circuit shown.

COMPARISONS

As far as the comparisons with the delta loop were concerned, as an experiment, it was decided to put the radials down in 'instalments' and to test it at each stage. Initially only four 18m radials and a single 1m earth spike were used. After a week of testing the general conclusion was that the vertical was on average one S-unit worse than the delta loop. The 'break even' point occurred with 16 radials. The two antennas were then giving roughly the same results with DX, but the vertical responded less to European signals, in itself quite a benefit.

Continuing to fit 40 radials, my back was giving me S9+ 'time-to-stop' signals, and reports were one to two S-points better than the with the delta loop. Considering the 27m top-height of the latter antenna, it is a very rewarding result.

Please don't forget to check with your planning department for the local rules and regulations about masts (and towers).

PW

HOW MUCH

Depends on metal available.

HOW DIFFICULT

Mechanical planning and building skills needed.

SHOPPING LIST

The antenna was made from 'scrap' aluminium tubing that I had available. But in general you will need various length of slide-fit aluminium tube of 1.5, 1.25, 1 and 3/4in (and possibly smaller diameters). A 400-500mm length of g.r.p. tubing will be needed to form the joiner/coil former (if this is other than the 1.125in diameter tubing that I used, you will have to experiment with the number of turns in the coil). You will need at least one 300-500pF tuning capacitor to tune the systems to resonance.

If you don't have any aluminium tubing of the right sizes to hand, consult the *Yellow Pages* directory for your local non-ferrous metal suppliers (usually under 'Aluminium Suppliers' label).

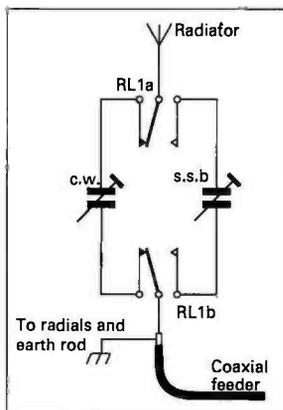


Fig. 2: Separate tuning capacitors and tune the vertical to each section of the band.

Tony Martin G4XBY, describes how he built a 9-element beam antenna

A Lightweight 9-Element Beam For 144MHz

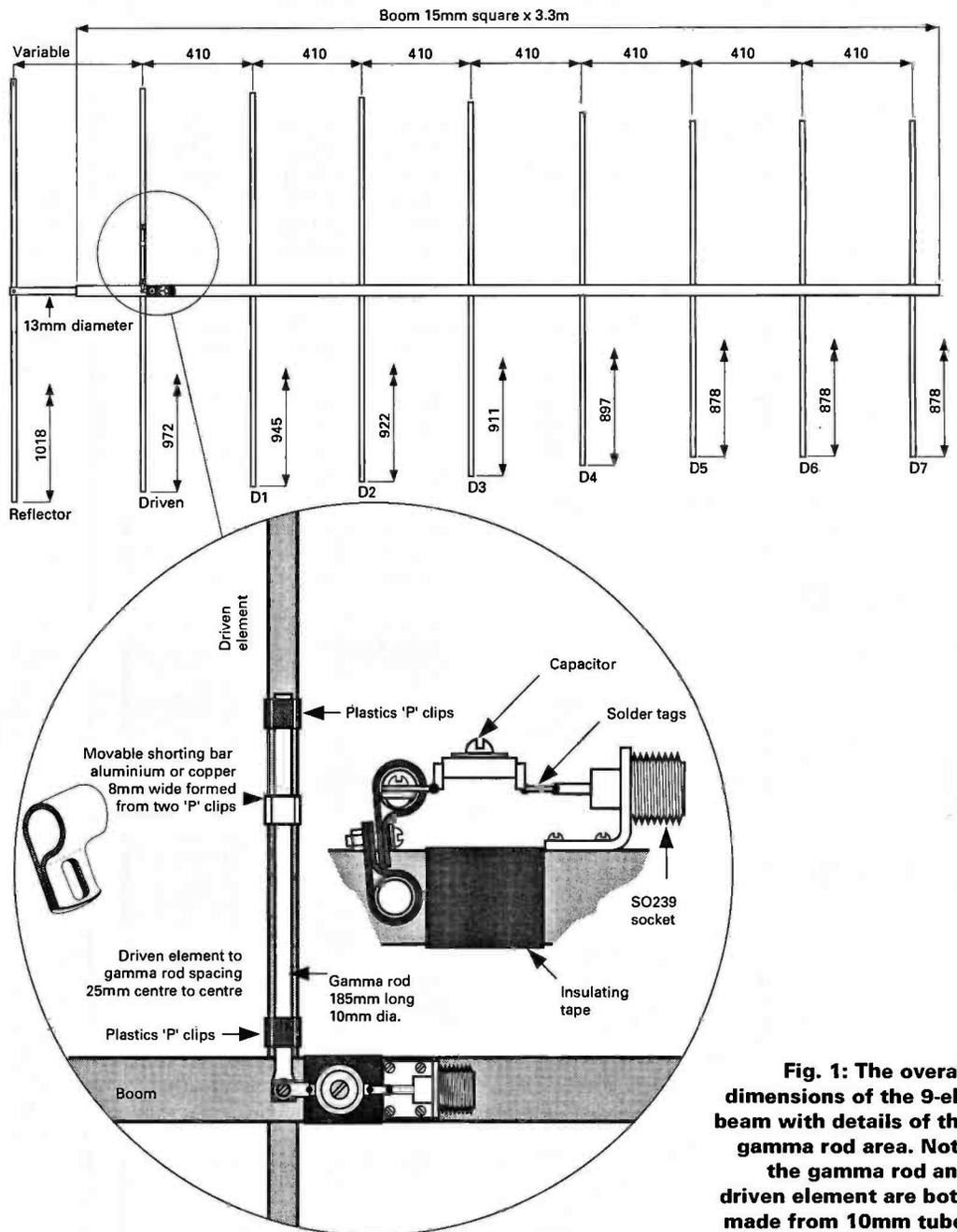


Fig. 1: The overall dimensions of the 9-element beam with details of the gamma rod area. Note the gamma rod and driven element are both made from 10mm tube.

Having found the s.s.b. section of 144MHz after a four year spell of h.f. working, I decided that I would design and build a beam antenna rather than buy a commercially produced one. The antenna was to be attached to a chimney stack and so the assembly had to be as light as possible.

The antenna project cost me about £16 to build and requires only those few tools, usually available in the handyman's toolkit. These tools should include a (power) drill, hacksaw, screwdriver, files, pliers and a hammer. A selection of drill bits up to 10mm is needed, and of course a vice and a tape measure.

Materials

Look at the diagram Fig. 1. The antenna boom is made from a piece of 15mm square box section aluminium. This type of boom material is often used for TV antennas. You will need a piece 3.3m long.

You will also need two lengths of 10mm tubing for the driven and reflector elements, as well as seven lengths of 6mm tubing for the directors. In addition you will need a 300mm length of 13mm diameter round tubing which should be a 'push fit' into the end of the box section boom. More about this later.

On the antenna, the coaxial feed is via a gamma match system using a heavy duty ceramic variable capacitor (4-110pF) bought for 25 pence at a rally.

Method

Mark out the position of the elements on the boom, making all measurements from one end. Begin by marking out the position of the front element about 20mm back from one end of the boom. Making sure that each point is on the centre line of the boom, mark out the other seven element positions at 410mm intervals.

Mark each position on the opposite side of the boom, taking care to keep the marks as accurate as possible. When all the director positions have been marked on the boom they should be drilled out using a 6mm drill bit. A drill on a bench stand make getting the holes in the correct place very easy.

Change the bit to 10mm and carefully drill the holes out for the driven element. If you do not have a drill stand, drill these holes from one side, taking care not to let the drill penetrate the other side of the metal boom. Turn the boom over and drill the second side. In both cases, keep the drill at right angles to the boom when drilling.

From the 6mm diameter rod, mark and cut each of the director elements to the lengths shown. Carefully remove any burrs with the file and mark the exact centre of each element (by cutting a nick with the saw).

On the bottom of the boom mark and drill holes for the self-tapping screws that will hold the elements in place. These holes should be drilled to suit the self-tapping screws you use. Using 10mm diameter rod, mark and cut the driven and reflector elements. Fit the driven element into the boom as above. When the elements are temporarily in the boom they should fit snugly, so the locking screw will hold the element solidly in the boom.

Hold each element tightly in position on the boom, drill through the centre point of each element with a 2mm drill. Secure each element with a self-tapping screw of about 10 - 12mm long. This last operation is best done with the boom either held in a vice or you could carry this operation out on a large flat floor. If any of the elements are slightly out of alignment, they can be carefully teased until they align.

Turning now to the reflector element. It is easier if this is fitted into the 13mm diameter tubing as shown in Fig. 2, rather than trying to drill a 10mm hole in the round section of the boom. Carefully flatten the centre section of the element and make two slots in the 13mm tube so that the element is a tight fit. Carefully align the exact centre of the element with the drilled holes and fit the locking screw.

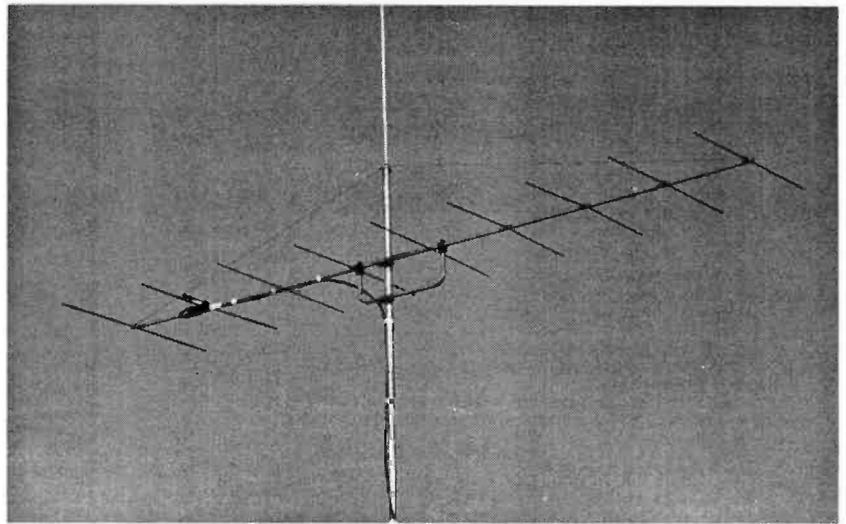
Adjustment

Start with the reflector in the nominal position, 432mm behind the driven elements. Set the antenna up over a large flat area, and as high as possible, but so that you can still get to it to make adjustments. Adjust the gamma match section to give a low v.s.w.r.

Trimming the antenna for maximum forward gain is simple. Using low transmitter power, and a dipole field strength unit[‡], move the reflector slowly back and forth. Note the position which gives the highest field strength. Then, using self-tapping screws (top and bottom of the boom), secure the sliding rod in the boom.

If you intend to trim for maximum front-to-back ratio then the antenna has to be swung round to measure the back lobe power at each setting before fixing the sliding rod in the boom.

The antenna is now ready for use.



Shopping List

How Difficult?
How Much?

Beginner
about £16

To build the lightweight beam antenna you will need the following parts:
One length 3.3m x 15mm square box section aluminium. Three lengths of 10mm aluminium tubing, and seven lengths of 6mm aluminium tubing, all slightly longer than the dimensions shown in Fig. 1. You will also need one 300mm length of 13mm aluminium tubing.

One good quality variable capacitor 4-60pF.

Four plastics cable clamps 9.5mm (Electromail 543-377), a strip of soft copper 100 x 10mm x 1-2mm thick, Plastics box approx 100 x 80 x 60mm, one TV antenna mast clamp 15mm box section to 37mm round (or to suit your mast diameter).

Table 1 Element diameters and lengths

Three elements are made from 10mm diameter rod/tubing

Element	Length (mm)
Reflector	1018
Driven	972
Gamma Rod	185

The directors are all made from 6mm round rod/tubing

Element	Length (mm)
D1	945
D2	922
D3	911
D4	897
D5	878
D6	878
D7	878

When buying the various lengths ask for them few millimetres longer than the lengths given, so that you can cut them accurately to size.

Further reading

[‡] 'A Dipole Field Strength Meter' by D. J. Smillie GM4DJS, p36 *PW* February 1993. The back issue is available at £2 including P&P, from the Post Sales Department.

Electromail, PO Box 33, Corby Northants NN17 9EL. Tel: (0536) 204555

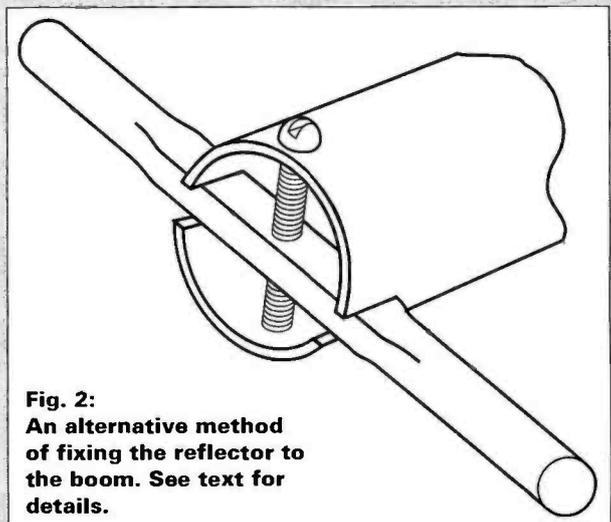


Fig. 2:
An alternative method of fixing the reflector to the boom. See text for details.

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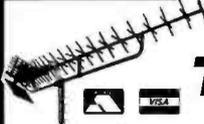
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The above items are also available with assembled PCB modules, and as basic electronics kits without the hardware.

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	Kit	Assembled PCB
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DFD4 Add-on Digital Read-out for superhet radios	£49.90	£69.90
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CV100 Adds Medium & Shortwave to VHF scanners	£27.50	£39.90
ST2 Morse Side-tone or practice oscillator	£9.80	£15.90
XM1 Crystal Calibrator for frequency checking	£16.90	£22.90

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CTX 40 or 80M Band versions very popular QRP TX	£15.50	£22.90
MTX20 20M 10W CW TX - work the World!	£29.90	£39.90
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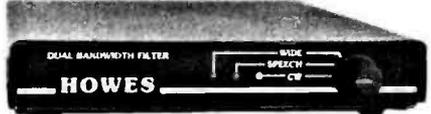
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Mail Order to: **Eydon, Daventry, Northants NN11 6PT**
 Tel: **0327 60178**



- AA4 ACTIVE ANTENNA FOR SCANNERS**
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 AB118 Kit: **£18.80** Assembled PCB modules: **£25.90**

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PLEASE ADD **£1.50 P&P** for kits or **£4.00 P&P** if ordering hardware.

HOWES KITS contain good quality printed circuit boards with screen printed parts locations, full, clear instructions and all board mounted components. Sales, constructional and technical advice are available by phone during office hours. Please send an SAE for our free catalogue and specific product data sheets. We have lots more kits in the range! Delivery is normally within seven days.

73 from Dave G4KQH, Technical Manager.

Antenna Workshop

*This month in Antenna Workshop
Peter Dodd G3LDO reviews one antenna and
two antenna accessories*



The MJF-249 HF/VHF SWR Meter

The MJF-249 is the latest in a range of s.w.r. (standing wave ratio) analysers produced by MFJ. The MFJ-247, h.f. only edition, with frequency counter, was reviewed in the September 1992 issue of *PW*. With the MFJ-249, the frequency range has been extended to 170MHz.

As you may be aware, the traditional way of measuring s.w.r. is to use an s.w.r. bridge, energised by a minimum of 20W using the station transmitter. Furthermore, a conventional s.w.r. meter must be calibrated by setting the forward reading before taking the reflected reading - the actual s.w.r. figure.

The MFJ analyser is a complete instrument and does not need a transmitter. It is

automatically calibrated, so the s.w.r. reading can be read directly without calibration. I experiment with antennas quite a lot and I found this instrument a lot more useful than I thought it would be.

Usually, when I construct a new antenna and make the first s.w.r. measurements, I often find that the s.w.r. value is high within the amateur band, with a hint that the s.w.r. will

probably be low somewhere outside the band.

While it would be useful to be able to look at the s.w.r. outside the band, using a conventional set-up it would contravene the licence regulations because of the transmitted power required to measure the s.w.r.

I felt that I ought to check the MFJ-249 output power. I used a 100mW r.f. meter and the needle hardly moved off the stop. I then borrowed a sensitive 10mW meter and the output read less than 3mW, which is probably less power than a transistorised dip oscillator would couple into an antenna while measuring resonance. I then felt quite happy about using this instrument to measure s.w.r. anywhere in the h.f./v.h.f. spectrum.

In a very short time I have found the MFJ-249 to be a very useful and I have used it to:

- 1: Set the resonant counterpoises on the Diamond CP-6 h.f. vertical antenna, described in this review. I also used it to investigate how different types of mounting affected the CP-6.
- 2: Confirm the feed-point matching of a multi-band triangular antenna I am designing, over the whole h.f. spectrum.
- 3: Calibrate the station antenna matching unit on all bands.
- 4: Measure the s.w.r. of the Barker & Williamson BWD (B&W) 1.8-30 reference antenna over the whole h.f. range. If you look at the review of this antenna in the February edition of *PW*, Fig. 6 page 50, you will see that my s.w.r. measurements were restricted to the amateur radio bands because I didn't have an instrument like the MFJ-249.

This instrument covers 1.8 to 170MHz in six bands. The frequency counter enables the s.w.r. through the whole of the h.f./v.h.f. range to be measured at precise frequencies. Additionally, the frequency

counter can be used in its own right for frequency measurement.

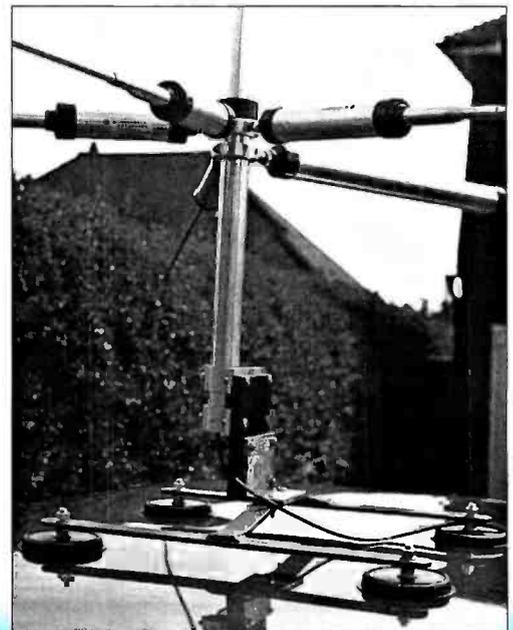
The price of the MJF-249 is £229 (£3 P&P) from Waters & Stanton Electronics, 22 Main Road, Hockley, Essex SS5 4QS. Tel: (0702) 206835. This may seem a rather high price to measure s.w.r. conveniently, but if you consider that it is also a frequency counter with a liquid crystal display, it puts the value into proper perspective.

Diamond CP-6 HF Vertical Antenna

The Diamond CP-6 HF Vertical antenna is a new derivative of the earlier CP-4 and CP-5. It is a 5- or 6-band system comprising a vertical radiator and five or six individual counterpoise elements, one for each band, so the antenna does not require a separate counterpoise system. There are only three traps in the vertical element; one of them is a dual unit. The maximum power rating is 200W p.e.p.

The vertical element is pre-tuned to the centre of each band

The H frame magmount from Tennamast



and the final resonant frequency adjustment is carried out on the counterpoise elements. The instructions are partly in Japanese, although the assembly diagram does give sufficient information to assemble the antenna. A separate sheet of general advice is supplied by the importers, Waters & Stanton.

Assembly of the antenna is fairly straightforward, but it is important to read all the instructions before commencing. One of the most important points is the location of the antenna. I didn't read the instructions in enough depth and missed the essential point regarding antenna location.

I mounted the Diamond on my fold-over mast so that it was vertical when the main mast was folded over. When the antenna is installed this way, the mass of metalwork takes over as the counterpoise and the tuneable ones on the antenna itself are ineffective. The antenna still worked but it wasn't possible to adjust the resonant point.

Normally, the antenna must be installed on a pole at least a metre long. However, having said that, it is possible to mount the antenna close to a metal structure if the base is insulated from the structure.

The conditions were rather poor during the period I tested this antenna on the air. Nevertheless, a number of comparative test results were obtained.

The reference antenna was the B&W 1.8-30 broadband dipole reviewed in the February *PW*. It is installed in an inverted V configuration, with the apex of the inverted V 10 metres high.

DX stations were contacted on all bands except 50MHz (6m); I don't have any equipment for that band. The openings on 28MHz (10m) were mostly confined to Sporadic-E. These signals were very strong

on the Diamond and were, on average, half an S-point up on the B&W 1.8-30.

I think this antenna is ideal for someone who has little or no garden to put up a conventional dipole or even a larger vertical with radials. It could also be useful for portable work or be used from a caravan when on holiday. It is 4.5 metres long so, I don't think it has any more visual impact than a CB antenna. The radial element lengths are approximately 1.8 metres.

The price of the Diamond CP-6 is £279 (£6 P&P) from Waters & Stanton Electronics, 22 Main Road, Hockley, Essex SS5 4QS. Tel: (0702) 206835.

Magnetic Clamp

Modern cars are not very user friendly to the h.f. mobile radio operator.

There is very little room to put the rig, and no bumpers suitable for mounting the antenna. If you are a dedicated h.f. mobile operator then, of course, you can fix a special antenna mount as described in the March 1993 edition of 'Antenna Workshop'.

If you don't want to drill holes in your car then you could use a magmount. Many magmounts wouldn't hold a $5\lambda/8$ 144MHz vertical at speed let alone a 3.5MHz loaded whip.

Tennamast have come up with a solution. It comprises an H frame with four very powerful magnets that will hold any h.f. mobile antenna to a metal roof of a car.

The magmount comes as a kit, with the complete frame, magnet cups, magnets and nuts and bolts. The frame is finished with a red lead type primer; you

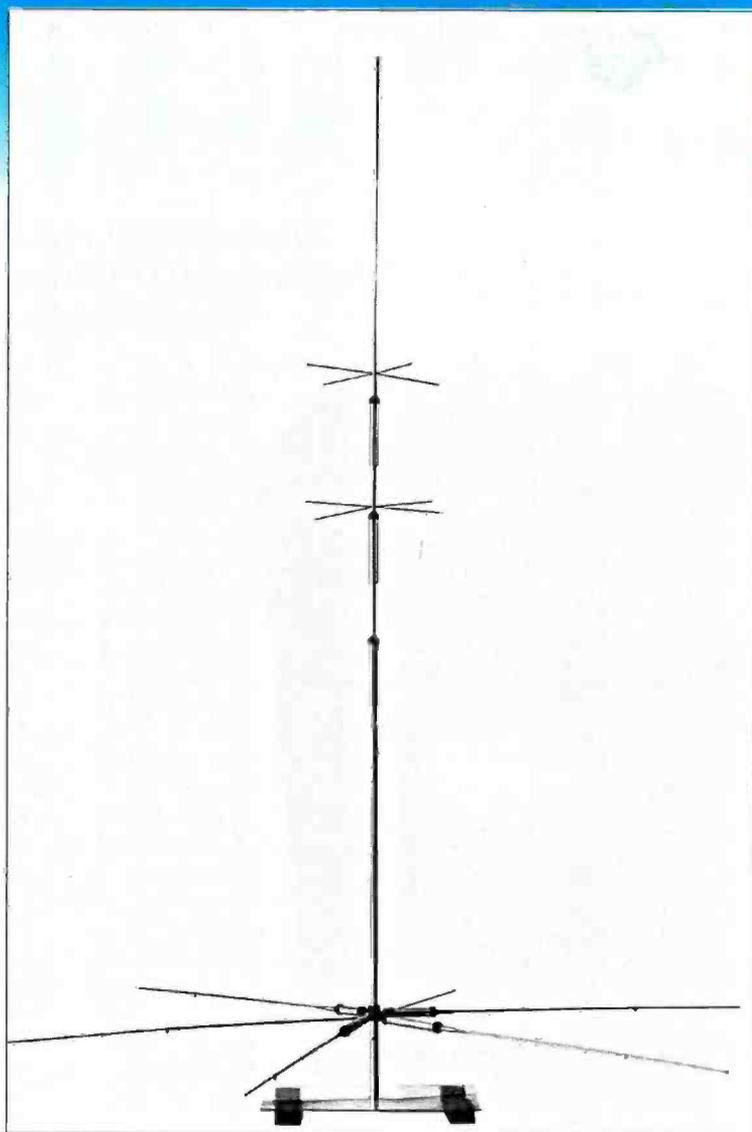
then finish it in the colour of your choice. I left mine as it was, because it already matched the colour of my car (no it isn't rusty, it is just painted that colour). All you have to do is fix the magnets to the frame with the nuts and bolts provided. A plastics disc and a rubber boot are used to cover each of the four magnets to protect the surface of the car.

This magmount really clings to the roof like a limpet. It poses problems of getting it on to the roof and then getting it off again. The best method is to lower it on to the roof of the car at an angle so that the two magnets furthest from you come in contact with the car. When you have decided that the position is right then lower the

side of the frame closest to you. If you have to move or remove the magmount then you will have to lift the frame nearest to you to pry magnets from the roof of the car.

What is the largest antenna the clamp will support? I tried mounting the Diamond CP-6 HF, described earlier, on my car roof, which is much larger than any mobile antenna. While is impractical to drive with an antenna like this on the car it can still be used for that contradiction in terms, 'fixed mobile'.

My thanks go to Tennamast (Scotland), 81 Mains Road, Beith, Ayrshire KA15 2HT. Tel: (05055) 3824 for the review magmount, which costs £25 (£5 P&P).



The Diamond CP-6 HF Vertical Antenna.

BOOK REVIEWS

THE ARRL ANTENNA COMPENDIUM (Volume 3)

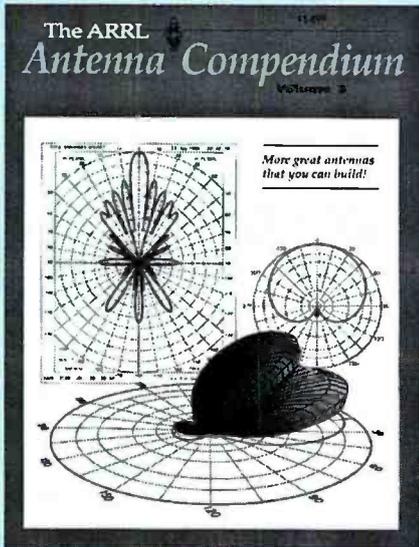
Editor Gerald L. (Jerry) Hall K1TD

Published by The American Radio Relay League

236 pages, 208 x 276mm, £9.50. Available from PW Book Service, (£1.00 P&P UK, £1.75 P&P overseas).

ISBN 0-87259-401-7.

Here's a wonderful selection of forty antenna related projects for the enthusiast. The book avoids the mundane and introduces a range of fascinating new antenna designs. Each of the projects is extremely well documented with full supporting theory, where appropriate. The range of designs is excellent and includes such diverse topics as a d.f. unit through to a 16- x 14-element 432MHz e.m.e. array! There is also a



strong accent on the use of computer modelling to design and refine antenna systems. A number of computer programs are listed in the book and a disk is available from the ARRL for those without the patience to enter the programs themselves. In addition to the antenna designs, there are a number of technical features covering test and measurement, impedance matching and propagation.

BEAM ANTENNA HANDBOOK

by William I. Orr, W6SAI and Stuart D. Cowan, W2LX

Published by Radio Publications Inc.

268 pages, 134 x 213mm, £7.50. Available from the PW Book Service, (£1.00 P&P UK, £1.75 P&P overseas).

ISBN 0-933616-10-4.

Most keen h.f. operators long for the ultimate beam antenna to pull in that elusive DX station or cut through a 14MHz pile-up. The *Beam Antenna Handbook* has been designed to provide a practical guide for the operator who wants to build his or her own system. Complex formulae have been minimised by the use of computer aided design parameters. This results in the extensive use of tables for antennas dimensions. All the measurements are given in both imperial and metric units so old and young alike should be happy! Being of American origin it's not surprising to find that there are one or two massive antenna systems included. One of the illustrations shows a 6-element 14MHz beam being lowered onto a tower by a tethered hot air balloon! However, the bulk of the book concentrates on good designs that can be built by anyone with moderate mechanical skills.

THE RADIO AMATEUR ANTENNA HANDBOOK

by William I. Orr, W6SAI and Stuart D. Cowan, W2LX

Published by Radio Amateur Callbook

187 pages, 137 x 214mm, £7.50. Available from the PW Book Service, (£1.00 P&P UK, £1.75 P&P overseas).

ISBN 0-8230-8706-9.

Following the down-to-earth practical style of the other books from Orr and Cowan, *The Radio Amateur Antenna Handbook* encompasses all aspects of antennas. The coverage starts with a sound introduction to some of the antenna basics with a particular accent on DX antennas. Throughout the book the use of complex formulae is kept to a minimum to ease understanding. In addition to full coverage of a wide range of antenna types, a full chapter is dedicated to performance and the s.w.r. meter. This chapter goes a long way to clarifying many of the myths surrounding antenna performance. There is even a chapter dedicated to towers and rotators which contains lots of sound advice.

ALL ABOUT VERTICAL ANTENNAS

by William I. Orr, W6SAI and Stuart D. Cowan, W2LX

Published by Radio Amateur Callbook

191 pages, 137 x 214mm, £7.50. Available from the PW Book Service, (£1.00 P&P UK, £1.75 P&P overseas).

ISBN 0-8230-8710-7.

This wonderfully practical book leads the reader carefully through the construction of a wide range of vertical antennas. This is very much a book for those that want to build antennas as opposed to just learning the theory. Whilst the first couple of chapters explain the operation and the importance of a good ground system, the book moves swiftly into useful antenna designs. Although the accent is on h.f. antenna systems, there are a few designs for v.h.f. systems. *All About Vertical Antennas* makes excellent use of diagrams and photographs to illustrate the constructional techniques. For most of the designs, the formulae has been reduced to close approximations and look-up tables. This makes it very easy for the reader to adapt the designs for other frequencies.

PRACTICAL ANTENNA HANDBOOK

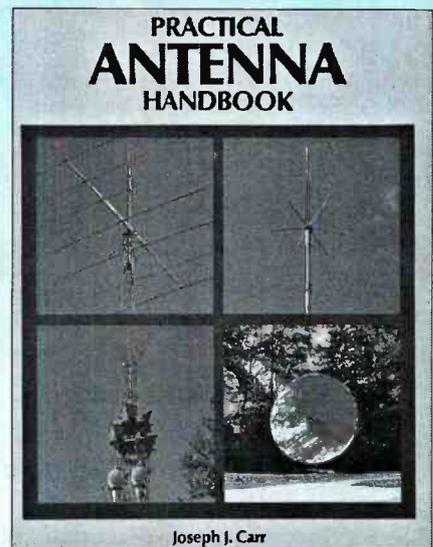
by Joseph J. Carr

published by TAB Books

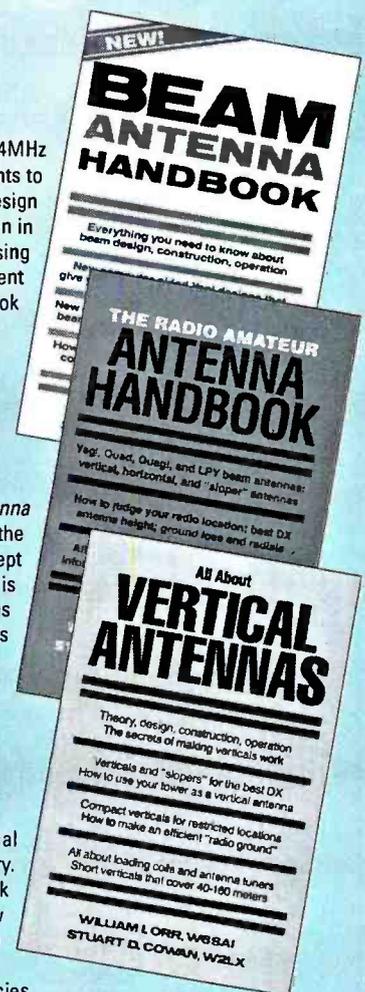
439 pages, 188 x 233mm, £20.95. Available from PW Book Service, (£1.00 P&P UK, £1.75 P&P overseas).

ISBN 0-8306-9270-3.

This comprehensive book aims to equip the experimenter to be able to design, build and modify antennas with confidence. The range covered extends from h.f. right through to microwave frequencies. The first section of the book provides a comprehensive tutorial on the theory of antenna operation. In this section, a strong emphasis is placed on the importance of the Smith chart and there are lots of examples of how to use it. The book makes progress through the various antenna systems at a good pace, giving the reader a sound introduction to the basics. The book packs in a remarkable number of antenna designs, each with the formula required to build practical examples. The final chapters provide some useful reference material, including a number of BASIC computer programs to help with antenna design and use.



Joseph J. Carr



The Computer
in Your Shack

BITS & BYTES

This month, Peter Hunter GOGSZ poses a question to readers, and then looks at interesting CD-ROMs with some very interesting software.

Welcome to the column that's aimed at helping you get the best out of amateur radio with your computer. This month, I'm starting with a request from Steve VK3CAX. He's got an 'old' BBCB, and uses KERMIT (a comms program) for packet radio.

If you have ANY software for the BBC model B (especially a packet program) then Steve will be glad to hear from you. You can contact him via packet: VK3CAX @ VK3IBM.VIC.AUS.OC or via me.

Control Program

The TRANSCAN is a PC-based computer control program for the ICOM 7100

receiver. I don't have an IC-7100, so if you want more information contact Mike Ward of MIDAC SYSTEMS, 33 Cannon Leys, Galleywood, Chelmsford, Essex. CM2 8PB, tel: (0245) 74554.

Next, there's Kentrol For Windows. This is a KENwood control program that lets you 'drive' your Kenwood from within Windows.

The Kentrol program for Windows is shareware, written by Brian Gilhuly VE3BGB. You can contact Brian direct at: 490 Concord Avenue, Toronto, ON, M6H 2P8, Canada or send me a formatted (PC) 3.5in disk, plus return postage, etc. for a trial copy.



Fig. 1: The Mitsumi CD-ROM drive kit.

technology, I've been taking an interest in CD-ROM (Compact Disc - Read Only Memory) drives and software. This technology has been beyond the pocket of the enthusiast, until, that is, the introduction of the Mitsumi CRMC-LU005S.

The Mitsumi CRMC-LU005S is a 'budget priced' internal CD-ROM drive, and Fig.1 shows what you get for your money. The Interface is built onto a standard 16-bit card, and plugs into a vacant 16-bit (ISA) slot.

The drive is fitted into any free 5.25in half-height horizontal drive bay. Fitting takes about 15 minutes work in all, installing the software is easy and takes about five minutes, making a total 20 minutes from unpacking to using. The photograph, Fig.2, shows the drive fitted and Fig.3 shows a CD-ROM disk being inserted.

There is a headphone socket and volume control on the front panel, and the interface card has two speaker sockets. It can also be connected to a sound card.

I plugged a pair of amplified speakers into the front headphone socket, this worked extremely well. The CRMC-LU005S is compatible with standard music CDs, so you can listen to Mozart whilst 'playing' packet!

Lots Of ROMS

You may be wondering 'What about CD-ROMs?'

Well, there are already lots of these ROMs available, and the list is growing fast. In fact, PDSL has recently put almost their entire library onto ONE CD-ROM, called the Libris Britannia, pictured in Fig.4.

The Libris Britannia disc contains over 2000 volumes of a 'standard' 360K floppy. A total of 650 MEGABYTES of software!

Of special interest to radio amateur's will be the 'Ham Radio' ROM in Fig.3. This CD contains over 200Mbyte of ONLY amateur radio related software.

The Mitsumi drive is available from ADD (UK) Ltd. Braehead, Stonehaven, Scotland, AB3 2XJ, tel: (0569) 63003. Current price is £189 including P&P plus VAT, and this includes two CDs full of shareware.

Libris Britannia is from: PDSL, Winscombe House, Beacon Rd, Crowborough, Sussex, tel: (0892) 663298. Price is £49, inclusive of P&P, plus VAT.

The Ham Radio software v 3.0 from UNICA Ltd., tel: 061-429 0241 and ask for their catalogue. Ham Radio costs £19 including P&P, plus VAT.

And that's about it for this month. Keep writing, I'm looking forward to your letters, 73 de Peter GOGSZ. QTHR or @ GB7LDI. Tel/FAX: (0603) 748338 or to 2 Mayes Close, Bowthorpe, Norwich, Norfolk NR5 9AR.

E N D

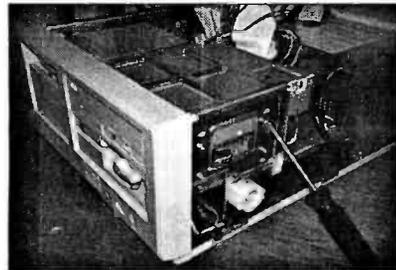


Fig. 2: The CD-ROM drive fitted in to Peter Hunter's computer.



Fig. 3: The CD-ROM drive's 'door' open with disc in place.



Fig. 4: The Libris Britannia CD-ROM disc from PDSL (see text).

A Question

Now, I've got a question for 'Bits & Bytes' readers! As Windows has been around for some time now, just where is all the amateur radio software for Windows?."

Firstly, I should say that there are some first class programs available. The LAN-LINK, SHACKLOG and SUPER-DUPER software is proof of that. So how about some versions for Windows? Let's be hearing from you, I'm eager to try your programs!

Compact Disc Memory

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4 1/2" 240 VOLT AC MAINS FANS @ £4.95 Pair (P. & P. £1.50).
ASTEC TUNER TYPE UM1181 No. info @ £4.95.
200MHz DUAL GATE MOS FET BF981 @ 35p each, 4 for £1.20.
MULLARD DC171 @ 95p, 4 for £3.40.
R.F. POWER TRANSISTORS PT9788 2 to 30MHz 24 volt 20 watt SSB matched pair £12.95.
AIRSPACED VARIABLE CAPACITORS with X spindle each end 365 + 365 + 365pf @ £4.95, 75pf @ £4.95, 100pf @ £4.95.
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GaAs FETS Black Spot 18GHz @ £1.85, Red Spot 24 GHz @ £2.30, Out of Spec. 18GHz GaAs FETS @ 3 for £2.00.
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Ron Ham opens the *PW* vintage wireless shop once again to look at your letters, fault finding problems and restoring military equipment.

Valve &

This month I'm starting off with an interesting letter: "I've collected a fair number of radios over the years and my interest is in restoring them to full working order," so wrote **Doug Howat** (Bristol). He added: "To be fair, I do the electrics and someone else does the woodwork."

That sounds a very good arrangement to me Doug, each to his own expertise! However, Doug asks, "what do other people **DO** with them after they've been restored?" Apparently, Doug once mounted an exhibition at a local building society, but after setting up the display he was totally exhausted. I'm not a bit surprised Doug! Joan and I had our fair share of that before I found a permanent home for my collection.

To put on the show, Doug delivered four car loads of sets. He had to carry them down two flights of stairs, load and unload them from his car and hump them up another flight of stairs at the society end. Of course he was exhausted, he shifted at least half a ton of gear!

On Display

I think that vintage wireless sets, restored or not, should go on display somewhere for people to see. After all, they are an important part of the technical and social history of this century. Just think, what would life have been like without wireless?

In the early 1970s, I was writing

for *Communications International* and *Electronics Weekly*. In 1975, *CI* had a stand at a Telecommunications Exhibition in Brighton. As it was on the South-coast and near to the anniversary of 'D-day' (June 6th), the Editor wanted a small display of wartime sets on the stand, photographed in **Fig. 1**.

The display in the photograph included, (left to right) the R1155/T1154, HRO, WS18 and 19, and, behind the '19', a transmitter (SK-2), **Fig. 2**, and receiver (EK). **Fig. 3**, from a German bomber. We had no idea what was to come from this three day exhibition to reward our 'humping' and organising.

Firstly, the sets caused great interest among the service, ex-service and civilian visitors alike. Secondly, a report and a picture about it appeared in *The Financial Times* and later, a half page and picture was devoted to my whole collection in *The Times* newspaper.

Finally and what always pleases me most, the exhibition gave great pleasure to a lot of people. Former soldiers and airmen shared memories of how they used this gear in anger, and there were times when the *CI* stand had a fascinated audience.

Storrington Library

During the 1970s we demonstrated some early Marconi equipment to the local press. In 1976 we installed an



Fig. 1: Wartime sets as displayed on the 1975 *Communications International* stand.

exhibition in Storrington library, about communications and covering two world-wars. The librarian backed it up with books on the subject and three local papers, plus BBC Radio Brighton, gave it good coverage.

The County Librarian requested the display to be moved to the libraries in Pulborough and Steyning. Then, Horsham and Worthing museums each had the entire collection, in a dedicated exhibition room, for about five weeks. Later, a selection, **Fig. 4**, went to the Cornwall Aircraft Park in Helston for six months before I donated it all to The Amberley Chalk Pits Museum, where it can be seen to this day.

In The Loft

After each exhibition, press report or broadcast there came offers of more goodies, as people were reminded that granny's old set was still in the

loft. However, it's impossible to keep all that's offered, although there were times when an item was so rare that it could not be refused.

For instance, one day a chap spotted me, stopped his car and offered me 'the old telly in the back'. I was as pleased to have it as he was to unload it, because this large highly polished cabinet was a 1936 Marconi television with a viewing mirror in the lid!

I arrived home one day and found an immaculate Gec-O-Phone, No. 2, crystal set on my coal bunker with a note saying "dump this if you don't want it". Both of these sets can now be seen in the Amberley museum.

So, ask at your local public library, museum, technical college or school to see if they would like a display on a temporary or permanent basis. Remember, that vintage set that you have lovingly restored has an educational value.

Perhaps more than half a century has elapsed since your vintage set was manufactured, packed, despatched and distributed through the wholesale and/or retail trade. When sold, it no doubt had pride of place in a living room and was someone's main source of news and entertainment.

Cape Town Ferguson

During a trip around the second-hand shops in Cape Town, South African reader **Nick Price** found a domestic set, model 361XL, made by Ferguson, **Fig. 5**. Perhaps you too can remember their hoarding advert readers. They featured a thoughtful looking gent, in an armchair, saying "Fine sets these Fergusons".

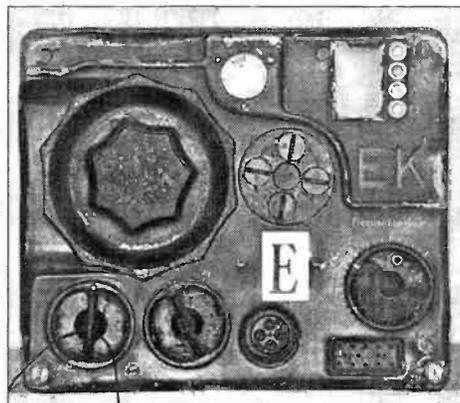


Fig. 3: The FK receiver from a German bomber.

Fig. 2: The Sk-2 transmitter.

Vintage

By Ron Ham

This set looks fine Nick, but I can't find any reference to it in the volumes of *Radio And Television Servicing*. I've handled many sets of this typically British style, but judging by the eight wave-bands on the dial, it was most likely an export only model.

Problem is readers, Nick can't locate a wave-change switch knob to complete his renovation. So, if anyone can help, please drop him a line at 67 Bordeaux, PO Box 609, Kuils River 7580, Cape Town, South Africa.

The B40 Receiver

Do you have an ex-Navy 'B40' communications receiver for sale, or know the whereabouts of one? If so, please contact Mr. I. Simpson, 132 Park Rd, Portadown, Craigavon, County Armagh, Northern Ireland, BT62 1BH.

Mr Simpson says, "I get great satisfaction from restoring ex-military equipment to their former glory". I agree with him, because we'll never see the like of that technology again.

Apart from its weight, my main memories of the B40 are the chain driven dial mechanism and the massive great turret tuner. I think it was made in the late forties/early fifties to replace the Navy's h.f. receiver known as the CR100. There was also a look-alike, the 'B41', which worked in the v.l.f. part of the spectrum.

Although it's many years since I repaired a 'B40', I remember that there were calibration 'spots' at various points on each wave-band on the dial. I believe, at these points, the operator can switch on the internal crystal calibrator and adjust the 'spot', mechanically, to the crystal tone with a lever on the 'lighthouse' type dial.

Hallicrafters Equipment

My thanks go to A. F. Sephton (Shepherds Bush) for telling me that manuals for Hallicrafters equipment can be obtained from Ardc Electronics, PO Box 95, Dept Q,

Berwyn, Illinois, 60402, USA.

Hallicrafters enthusiast, Brook Verral (London) is progressing with rebuilding a Super Skyrider (SX28). He bought a complete (photocopied) manual from the Vintage Wireless Company in Mangotsfield, Bristol. If you're working on an SX28, write with an s.a.e. to: 17 Hadley Hall, Lynwood Grove, Winchmore Hill, London, N21 3JP.

Thanks to the kindness of Tony Harwood G4HHZ (Chandlers Ford, Hampshire) and Richard Williams (Deddington, Oxfordshire), Graham Canning and myself now have a circuit and manual for the Hallicrafters S20 and S20R.

Incidentally, among the vintage receivers that Tony G4HHZ has in regular use are an Eddystone 'All World 2' and 'All World 4', Hallicrafters SX24 and SX28 and a Peto Scott t.r.f. receiver.

Philco Receiver

"I was recently given a Philco Model 582 receiver," so S. Jones (Handsworth) tells me. It wasn't working, but he traced the fault to a 0.2µF capacitor, associated with the tone control circuit. This had shorted and, consequently, 'fried' the control.

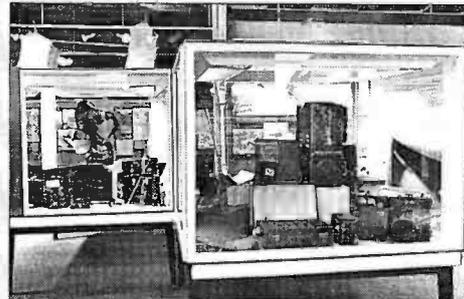
He then found problems with reception. The short wave band is okay, but, apart from BBC Radio 4 on the long wave, nothing else can be heard on this or the medium wave band. Mr Jones wonders if a large antenna would solve the problem.

I don't think a large antenna would help. A set that insensitive, especially with today's strong broadcast signals, can't be working efficiently.

Unfortunately, Mr Jones receiver's trouble could be almost anywhere. So I'll try to help by thinking aloud!

You say the short wave band is working OK, so that rules out the i.f., detector and audio stages. One strong signal (BBC Radio 4) on the long wave, coupled with a working short wave, suggests that the frequency changer stage is working. My thoughts keep turning toward the local oscillator and it's alignment on these two bands.

Fig. 4: Early Marconi equipment on display at the Cornwall Aircraft Park, Helston.



If the signal from the l.o. was above, instead of below, or vice versa, of the frequency of the incoming signal then such symptoms could appear. Depending on the design, the frequency of the l.o. in a superhet, could be the amount of the i.f. either side of the incoming signal.

Now, let's suppose a capacitor in the oscillator stage was open or short circuit, or the trimmers were wrongly set and a weaker oscillator signal was coming out. Then it's likely that only the strongest signal, like BBC Radio 4, would get through the system. You really need a signal generator to prove faults of this type. Make sure that the wave-change switch contacts are clean and engaging properly and if a local/distant switch is fitted see that it's set correctly.

The 19 Set

"Where and what should I look for". That was the question from Mark Sutton (Mansfield, Nottinghamshire) who wants to add an ex-army WS19 to his collection of valved equipment.

Briefly Mark, there were two general types of 19 set which were often described as the British and the Canadian versions. Both were designed for use in armoured-cars and tanks.

The Canadian version was built in secret, and shipped to the UK ready for use during the Allied invasion of Europe which began in on June 6, 1944. The dials on the Canadian set were scribed in both English and Russian. This model, I think it was the Mark III, was fitted with a 'B' set which was a small low-power v.h.f. transceiver working around 235MHz.

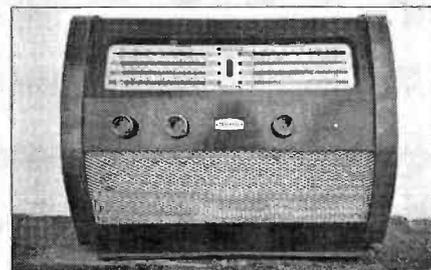
A WS19 set is large and heavy and requires a great deal of power to drive it. Throughout the 1950s these sets, complete with rotary transformer power unit, antenna variometer, large multiway screened connecting leads and the user accessories were sold for a few £s. But now, 50 years later, they are collectors items and are fetching high prices.

If you do find one complete in original condition, apart from a good clean up, personally, that's how I would leave it. By now most, if not all, the small capacitors would need replacing and, no doubt, many of the resistors would have changed value.

You could replace this lot with new parts and clear some other faults resulting from damp storage. But what's left, is certainly not an example of some manufactured in the Second World War. So, think carefully before you spend that hard-earned cash.

Cheerio for now, and I'm looking forward to opening the V&V 'wireless shop' next time. But you can write to me any time at: 'Faraday', Greyfriars, Storrington, West Sussex RH20 4HE.

Fig. 5: Nick Price's Ferguson 361XL



This month, Paul Essery GW3KFE starts off with a useful tip, brings you the latest up-date on h.f. bands activities, and provides some sound advice on the way.

Report

S
BANDS
B
H F

Some people love DX nets, while others think they are the utter pits. I'm neutral. I generally prefer to raise the stuff for myself.

However, if you join a net and abide by the rules, you can often gain a better idea of how your own signal compares with the locals. If they all get 5-9 reports and you get 5-4, in a DX net either: Something is wrong with the rig, or you're under a handicap.

In the latter case, you alone can say whether you can mitigate the handicap, or must live with it. Of course, you must average out over several sessions for a reliable results. Looking back now, band conditions have been up and down. But the sunspot count is definitely lower and summer conditions don't help!

As regards contests the 'close season' is on us for the 'big 'uns'. But never forget that it's these big contests that can fill up the gaps in your countries score.

John G3BDQ noted my call isn't in the current **UK Call Book**. Last year, it took about three months for SSL at Bristol to sort themselves out, so for that time I was on the print-out as not renewed.

Eventually this was resolved. However, this year I received no reminder, so sent off a photocopy of my validation document, letter and cheque recorded delivery to SSL. A week later the lot came back having been received opened and returned by a different company! You just can't win!

New Antenna

Still with John G3BDQ, I hear that he's been playing around with a new all-band antenna design for 1.8 to 28MHz using a 27m top only. On 1.8MHz it shows marked promise, and on 21MHz shows two S-points gain over a rotary dipole.

A GJ worked on 28MHz sums conditions there up (!),

while 21MHz was quite poor to the west, but yielded an all-time new one by way of V85BJ in Brunei. There were VKs on 14MHz, and JA and 3B8FG on 18MHz. John G3BDQ, is in Hastings by the way.

Between ill-health and gardening, not to mention summer static, **G2HKU** hasn't been too active. Ted runs an Omni-V and QRP from an IC-721S; outside he has G5RV and HF6 antennas.

The IC-721S and G5RV gobbled-up ZA1Z, while a switch to the Omni-V yielded BV4CT, Y19CW and VS6WV. His 18MHz activity netted National Library Day celebrations with 7Q7XX, VB1YX and JM6NOR. On 21MHz and HF6 antenna HL4CIS on the Omni-V and 9H3JR on the Icom rig were hooked. As for 28MHz, a turn-up for the book was 4L1WL who turned out to be in Tbilisi! All, of course, were worked on c.w.

It's over to Yeovil now, to **Don McLean G3NOF**. Don is a sideband specialist, and has beams at a decent height covering 14, 18, 21, 24 and 28MHz and a wire for the rest. Indoors there's a Kenwood TS-950S and a Drake linear.

On 28MHz the band opened to give 9G1AA, while Africa, N America and Asia were also noted. Don's 24MHz operations produced Navassa W51JU/KP1, and on 21MHz 9G1AA again and 18MHz was notable for V73C (ex-V73CT) noted around mid-morning with signals from the N Pole direction.

On 14MHz the Kingman Reef group, N9NS/KH5K brought a little joy. However, on 7MHz W3LPL and 3.5MHz PY0FM were not to be sneezed at.

Lower Power

Conditions, says **Leighton Smart GW0LBI** one of our lower power operators, have been very up-and-down. However, his best for the month had to be JH5PHC raised with 5W of c.w. on 14MHz, into a sloping dipole, for a RST599 report.



Contributor Don McLean G3NOF uses a Kenwood TS-950S.

Leighton likes 1.8MHz, and here he managed 1K4DCS (3W), DJ1KG (2W), F6BWO (2W), HB0/DL6SDVV/P (5W, phone); all in the evening. Finally, another shift, back to 14MHz and K3IZT who passed a 57 report on the 5W of s.s.b. from Leighton's rig.

Bits and Bobs

Now it's 'bits and bobs' time. Towards the end of May is the schedule for a possible Spratly expedition. The May 27 arrival date was quoted to me on May 23.

I would not normally mention an expedition that will be history by the time you read the column. But I feel that for amateur radio to insert a DX expedition into an area that is an admitted flashpoint, with China, Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia, Philippines and Brunei is asking for it when we know all these countries save Brunei have troops in the archipelago.

Last time someone tried for Spratly, people were killed. What is to happen this time? Incidentally, Fedor Koniukhov R0L/MM, who at the time of writing is heading for Bouvet, proposes to follow up with a Spratly visit. Have all these operators taken leave of their senses?

Rather more solid is the news of an upcoming Mellish Reef VK9M operation slated for middle to late September and eight days on the reef.

If you've been looking for Bouvet you may have hooked UA90BA operating as 3Y/R0L around the end of

June. But this is hardly the best time of year to attempt a landing.

I've heard that 404 cards may now be submitted for Bosnia credit with DXCC. Also with Bosnia, the new T9 prefix seemingly spells the end of the validity of the 404 prefix. Just what those two statements will mean in the real world is anyone's guess!

The proposed 5A expedition, **G4DYO** has some information that explains the high costs of this Romeo Stepanenko operation. And the information makes quite clear it is a serious attempt.

A big one now! Between July 15-18, YW5LT, will celebrate the anniversary of the Venezuelan Navy from Los Testigos Island.

Yasawa group, in the Iota Contest, will be represented by 3D2RF, who will be there July 21-27, following up as T26RF July 28 to August 3. If you work them, cards go to WB6RZK, Robert Ferrero Jr. 5Z4JD is F2JD until December; only 18MHz of the new bands is permitted; operation c.w., sideband, and satellites.

Deadlines

That's it for this time. Deadlines as always, and send your reports to **287 Heol-y-Coleg, Vaynor, Newtown, Powys, Wales, SY16 1RA**, to reach me by the middle of the month. Till then, Good Hunting.

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TRANSVERTERS for 1mW 10 metres drive, including buffer board, otherwise as above. Types TRC2-10b, TRC4-10b, TRC6-10b. **PCB KIT £64.25, PCB BUILT £100, BOX KIT £85.75, BOX BUILT £132.**

TRANSVERTERS from 2 metres for 4, 6 or 10 metres, 0.5W output. Includes interface to accept 0.5-5W drive. Types TRC4-2i (built only). TRC6-2i, TRC10-2i. New larger box to include linear. **PCB KIT £64.25, PCB BUILT £100, BOX KIT £85.75, BOX BUILT £132.**

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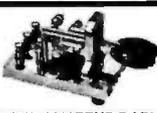
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Scene

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This month, Pat Gowen G3IOR has some good news on the progress of AMSAT Phase-III-D and OSCAR-13's new schedule.

Much planning and thought has been going into the coming Phase-III-D satellite, with meetings between the designers and builders from the US, Canada, Germany and Japan. The AMSAT Engineering Vice President W4FAB announced that the revised design has been "proceeding nicely".

A great deal of W4FAB's own effort has been spent on structural and thermal analysis. This has led to design confirmation of the three point separation support mount and the cylindrical launch adaptor, in which the spacecraft rides into space.

The layout and routing of heat pipes needed to cool the sunlit side of the spacecraft and remove heat from the high power transmitter modules is also resolved. An engineering model should be available by mid-summer, followed by the fabrication of the flight spaceframe, completed by spring '94.

Overall Design

The overall design of the Phase-III-D satellite is now a hexagonal cylinder 2.240m across the points, 1.12m sided, 675mm high structure weighing 400kg. Two of the faces will accommodate about half the spacecraft's compliment of solar cells, with the rest mounted on two deployable panels.

Solar panels will cover two of the flat side surfaces, and the panels will unfold using a double hinge mechanism. The total span with these panels when deployed will be some 6.450m.

The satellite will be carried by the Ariane-5 launcher inside a large cylinder, and the spacecraft will be ejected from it. The relative size compared with OSCAR-13, an average-sized person, and a microsat, can be seen in Fig. 1.

The high gain antennas, originally planned to be on the spacecraft's underside, have now been relocated to the top motor nozzle side of the spacecraft. Computer modelling has shown that

heat from the nozzle is not expected to present a significant problem.

The change permits the antennas to project farther above the surface, making it possible to use more conventional designs. For example, 'S' and 'C' bands will now share a single dish with a dual band feed.

The dish can be contrasted with the flat patch arrays that would have been required in the original location, the side opposite the nozzle. The 435MHz antenna however, will continue to use a six patch array surrounding the motor nozzle.

Stan Wood WA4NFY, Bob Stilwell and several John Hopkins University students are those principally working on the Phase-III-D antennas. For 145MHz, three half wave dipoles are planned. However, 29MHz antennas will use whips to form a 2-ele beam.

Estimated gains for the various bands provided are 29MHz 4dBi, 145MHz 8.4dBi, 435MHz 13dBi, 1.2GHz 15.5dBi, 2.4GHz 17dBi, 5.6GHz 19dBi and 10GHz 20dBi.

Control Computers

Peter Gulzow DB2OS has provided information on the data handling and satellite control computers on Phase-III-D, along with the local area network (LAN) that connects them to the various on-board systems.

The LAN employs two busses, one running at 100 to 200 Kilobits per second, the other at about 1 megabits per second. The high speed LAN will handle the data, the other will take care of control functions. **Keith Baker KB1SF**, proposes to provide a more formalised scheduling structure using a commercial software package with interface documentation much like that used on OSCARs 10 and 13.

Miki Nakayama JR1SWB and the JAMSAT group are providing cameras. Two earth-looking cameras, plus another with a longer focal length unit looking out into space are proposed.

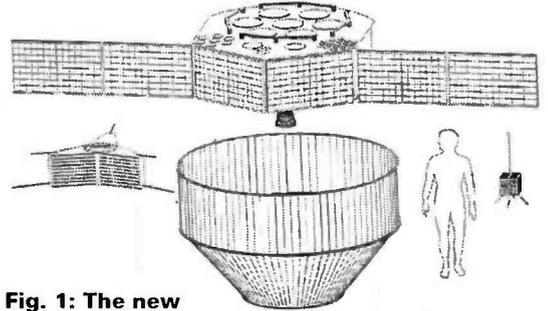


Fig. 1: The new shape of Phase-111-D, compared with its predecessors and an average builder.

Satellite Frequencies

At the Phase-III-D transponder meeting in Bavaria, the following frequencies were chosen for the coming satellite:

Downlink frequencies (Satellite-to-Earth)

- 1: 10.451000 - 10.451500GHz
- 2: 2400.500 - 2400.900MHz
- 3: 436.000 - 436.400MHz
- 4: 29.310/29.320/29.330/29.340/29.350MHz with one of these frequencies selected by the control station.

Uplink frequencies (Earth-to-Satellite)

- 1: (A) 1269.000-1269.500MHz, (B) 1269.500 - 1270.000MHz
- 2: (A): 435.200 - 435.700MHz, (B) 436.000 - 436.500MHz
- 3: 145.800 - 145.975MHz

All the bands listed, except for 29MHz, are planned to be switched in a matrix to allow any configuration of operational modes. Minor last minute changes or additions are still possible, depending on the transponder builders.

Tom Clark W3IWI, has suggested using a central oscillator to control all receivers and transmitters. The correction would be applied to the output to remove the effect of changing Doppler shift as the satellite traverses its orbit.

Tom pointed out that unless something is done, Doppler shift will be particularly troublesome at 10GHz. His concept also calls for the central oscillator to be referenced to GPS to provide a very accurate frequency source. Tom says that from the high elliptical orbit which Phase III-D will use, it should be quite possible use the GPS concept, in addition to optical sensors, for attitude determination.

Karl Meinzer DJ4ZC reports that the 430MHz transmitter is expected to be built in Germany. Offers for the 145MHz, 2.4GHz and 5.6GHz transmitters have yet to materialise.

As for the funding of Phase III-D, AMSAT National organisations world-wide have set up sources to help pay the costs of the new satellite. Any contributions are gratefully received. In the UK send to **AMSAT-UK, London, E12 5EQ.**

OSCAR-13 Multi-Mode

James Miller G3RUH and his fellow controllers have had to change the 1993 schedule for OSCAR-13. The problem has been bought about by the sudden demise of OSCAR-13's L Mode transmitter so limiting transponder operations to the remaining S and B Modes. On the proviso that the sun-angle and battery charge permits, Mode S can now assume the times previously assigned to Mode JL. It is anticipated that in the third quarter of 1993, the S Mode exclusive period will be longer, Mode SB will be invoked for some hours, and the S Beacon well exercised. At the time of writing, no firm new schedule has been made, as the variables of the new power demand ratio have yet to be found.

Recent rare DX worked via OSCAR-13 includes A22BW, 9M2FL, N8GHU/HH5, YB1CS, FR5DN, XX9AJ and JG1RMB/JD1. Have you any to add to this, or any interesting findings! Cheerio until next time.

E N D

Report

VHF

David Butler G4ASR presents his monthly look at what's going on in the world of v.h.f. starting off with a look at propagation conditions.

The v.h.f. bands during May were pretty uninspiring. Although there were periods when the bands were 'up' and many tropo contacts could be made. The best days were between May 11-12 and May 23-26. The preferred paths seemed to be north-east towards Scandinavia and north-south within the UK.

Derrick Dance GM4CXP (IO85) worked a number of OZ stations on the 144MHz band. On May 12 he also heard the OZ1UHF beacon on 432.955MHz.

During the same evening the station of **G0CQD** (IO94) worked LA0GH (JO38), LA2PHA (JO38), OZ1BUR (JO46) and OZ4VV (JO46). All worked on the 144MHz band.

The period between May 24-25 was particularly good. And **GM0ILB** (IP90), **GM4AFF** (IO87), **GM4CXM/P** (IO76) were heard making many QSOs into central England.

Aurora Propagation

Very little auroral propagation was recorded during May. A number of stations around the UK reported openings on May 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 17 and 28, but most were weak events. Nearly all of the events occurred late in the evening between 2200-0200UTC. **Ray James GM4CXM** heard the OY6VHF beacon (144.885MHz) at 2345UTC on May 7. At 0018UTC Ray worked OY9JD (IP62) on the 144MHz band. He then heard LA3NGA (JO49) and LA5SAA (JO29).

An opening to Sweden was reported on May 10, but because of the late hour not many UK stations were active. As I've mentioned before, it's recommended that you listen out for the GB3LER (144.965MHz) and SK4MPI (144.960MHz) beacons. However, if you want a little bit more warning it's useful to monitor various Band I TV transmitters.

I have 48.240MHz, 48.250MHz, 48.253MHz, 49.740MHz and 53.757MHz

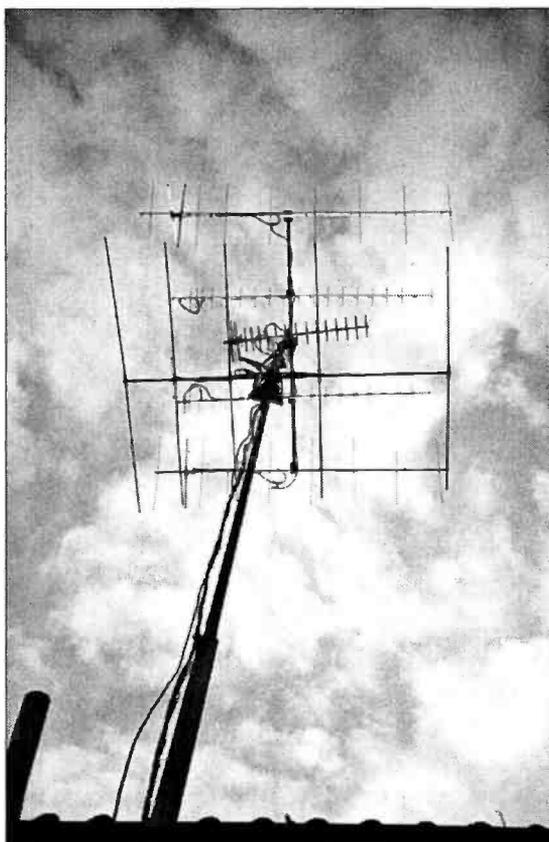


Fig. 1: An antenna tree with branches for 50, 144 and 430 MHz.

stored in the memory of my Kenwood TS-690S. As soon as there's a whiff of an aurora, they burst into life. They're also useful for monitoring the meteor and Sp-E activity.

First Sporadic-E

Well it happened just like I said it would, with the first 144MHz Sp-E opening this year, which occurred on May 12. This is quite early in the season, but none the less not unexpected. It was a surprise however, that the distant end was SV1, SV3, SV4, SV5, SV8 and SV9! That's three DXCC countries, Greece (SV), Dodecanese (SV5) and Crete (SV9).

A report from **Ken G4IGO** (IO80) says it began with an opening from the south coast to southern Italy and Sicily between 1210-1232UTC. Later, between 1551-1605UTC G4IGO worked SV9ANJ (KM25) followed by an SV1 (KM18) between 1633-1650UTC.

Around 1800UTC, I heard an enormous pile-up on 144.300MHz, the s.s.b. calling frequency. Unfortunately my QTH (IO81) wasn't in the right location for this opening. However many stations in south-east England including G3IMV, G3KEQ, G4RGK and G6HKM were heard calling and working the Greek stations.

Tony Wayland G7HJW, reports that at 1800UTC he was working many Italians on the 50MHz band. Out of curiosity he moved up to 144MHz, to see if there was any activity and was very surprised to hear the band open to southern Italy. Following a quick s.s.b. contact with IK7UXY (JN70), Tony decided to tune around for the real DX. The first station to be found was SV3KH (KM07) with a pile-up of stations from DL, F, ON and HB9 calling him. Although SV3KH didn't seem to be hearing the UK stations very well Tony persevered,

and was pleased to contact him on the third call.

The station at G1HJW consists of an FT-726R, a 100W amplifier and 2 x 9-element crossed Yagis configured for circular polarisation. The photograph, Fig. 1, shows the 144MHz antennas, the 5-element 50MHz Yagi and 2 x 19-element crossed Yagis for the 430MHz band.

Tony found that an elevation of 10° produced the strongest signals from SV3KH. Has anyone else noticed this effect?

Locator Map

If you look at the locator map shown in Fig. 2, you'll see that the opening just reached into southern England. Stations located in Belgium, northern France, Switzerland and southern Germany were more favourably located for the opening into Greece.

At the QTH of **Marcel FE1DQK** (JN18), the opening started at 1600UTC and continued for an hour. Between 1603-1643UTC he made s.s.b. contacts with SV1AB, SV1OH, SV1RK, SV1UM, SV1VS, SV1WE, SV4LD and SV5ANJ. Because of QRM from a very local amateur, Marcel moved to the f.m. portion of the band (145.500MHz). Between 1700-1701UTC f.m. contacts were made SV1LD and SV1SN. Signals were very strong, and it's interesting to note that the SV stations were using simple antennas with vertical polarisation.

The conditions in southern Germany were equally superb. **Robert Trentz DL5GAC** (JN47) worked an SV1, an SV3 and five SV9s (!) between 1646-1752UTC. He runs 350W into 4 x 15-element Cue-Dee Yagis.

The opening at the QTH of **Robert HB9JAW** (JN46) occurred between 1525-1820UTC. He had been logged into the DX Cluster, and noticed many 'spots' for 50MHz stations to the south-east.

Pointing his 144MHz beam south-east and tuning the receiver to 144.300MHz, Robert immediately found SV9ANJ (KM25). He was 50dB over S-9! Following the contact a 4X1 station, possibly 4X1IF, called HB9JAW.

Regrettably, the huge pile-up on 144.300MHz didn't allow the contact to be made. As some compensation, further SV-stations were contacted in eight locator squares. At 1820UTC a contact was made with an Italian station only 924km away. This indicates that the maximum usable frequency (m.u.f.) was approaching 200MHz or so.

Although I've concentrated on the path to the south-east, the Sp-E 'cloud' also supported communications in other directions. I've included in the diagram, Fig. 2, alternative paths which were open at the same time. These were based on reports from F6DRO (JN03) who worked LZ and YU between 1548-1800UTC and PE1LAU (JO33) who contacted stations in I and IT9 between 1614-1830UTC.

The station of OE3KLU (JN88) reported s.s.b. contacts with 9H1, 9H5 (Gozo) and IT9 around 1600UTC. Charley made the contacts with 25W and an indoor 4-element vertical Yagi. Another Austrian, OE1DMB, using 25W and a 1m long car antenna (!) also worked stations in 9H1 and IT9.

Finally, I've received a report from Bob LZ2BE who contacted TK5EP (Corsica) and EA3BVS. He also heard 19 Spanish stations between 1520-1700UTC on packet radiol

These reports prove what's been said many times. If the band is open, and you're located in the right place a QRP station will be as competitive as a mega-station. And in many cases may do even better!

On June 22, I made 103 s.s.b. contacts in 100 minutes with stations in 9 countries. These included 60 x YU, 17 x I, 12 x OE, 5 x DL, 4 x SP, 2 x HG, LZ, SV and YO. On the following day c.w. contacts were made into Russia with RA3LW and UC2CBZ. Note the predominance of stations to the south-east.

The 50MHz Band

During May, the main propagation mode to effect the 50MHz band was Sp-E. However, I'll concentrate on

the new countries QRV and the real DX that was worked.

The station of UC2AA (K033) was first reported into the UK on May 9. But it wasn't until 0926UTC on May 13 when G4UPS claimed the first 50MHz QSO with UC2.

The only legal operator in Andorra is C31HK (JN02) and he was noted many times during the month operating on 50.203MHz. In common with the French allocation, he's not permitted to operate below 50.200MHz.

On May 27 between 1615-1730UTC, both EV8A and EV9A were putting in good signals from the Belarus Republic.

The only real DX to be found, was on May 12 when ZS6WB, Z23JO, 7Q7CM and 7Q7JL appeared on the band between 1555-1920UTC. Unfortunately, many European stations were operating within the DX window 50.110-50.130MHz and causing much QRM.

Other stations worked during May and worth looking out for included CN8CC, CN8HB, CN8ST, CT3FT, EH6ET, EH6IF, EH6VQ, EH9IB, ES1CW, ES5QA, ES6QB, OY3JE and 4X1MH.

As I've already mentioned you'll now be hearing signals from all over Europe, sometimes all at the same time! If you're really clued up you should be searching for the real DX from other continents such as Africa, Asia, South America and North America.

In last year's log book I noted contacts during July with many stations including CN, EH9, OD, TA, VE, W, ZC4, 4X4, 5B4 and 9K2. Don't forget to look out for mixed-mode propagation such as Sp-E extending into the trans-equatorial (t.e.p.) path.

Typically, contacts can be expected with stations in Southern Africa and South America. You can also expect the transatlantic path to open up via multi-hop Sp-E during July. The peak time to monitor for this propagation is between 2100-2300UTC. You may find it useful to listen on the 28MHz band for strong US stations.

Meteor Scatter

I've been 'reliably' informed that this year's Perseids meteor shower will produce spectacular results! The shower is associated with the comet Swift-Tuttle which recently had its closest approach with the earth.

It has been suggested that debris in the wake of the comet may enhance the

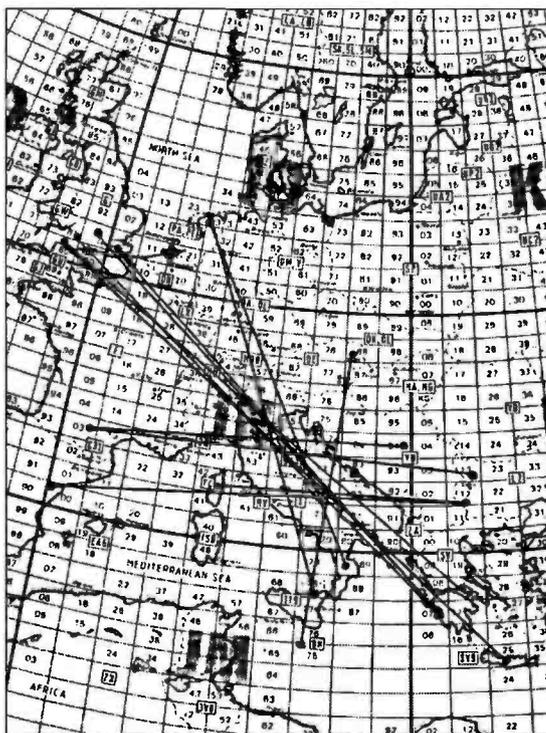


Fig. 2: Sporadic-E paths during May just reached into southern England.

meteor rate tremendously. Predictions indicate that the shower may be at its best between 1800UTC on August 11 and 0600UTC on August 12.

The only way to test this theory is to be on the v.h.f. bands in a few weeks time. Let me know what results you had!

Expeditions

Members of the St. Petersburg Radio Club UZ1AWT will again be QRV from UA1. They'll operate from Primorsk (KP40) with the call sign RU1A. Most activity will be at the weekends between June 5 to July 31. QSL via KC1WY if you do manage to work them.

Last month I briefly mentioned that GM4CXP had signed up for the Lithuanian expedition LY93BDX. Although not primarily a v.h.f. expedition, it's expected that equipment for the 50MHz and 144MHz bands will be available.

The multi-national group will operate from locator KO05 between July 24 to August 4. Derrick is also planning to operate portable as LY/GM4CXP on the 144MHz band with an IC202E (s.s.b./c.w.).

Jerry G4SEU and Roger G4WND will operate from locator IO78 during the Perseids meteor shower. They'll be active on the 50MHz and 70MHz bands between August 11-12 and use the callsigns GM4SEU/P and GM4WND/P.

The operating schedule for random operation on both days is 0900-1300UTC

on 70.170MHz s.s.b., and 1700-2000 on 50.370MHz s.s.b. The time between 2000-2130UTC is devoted to crossband operation.

They will transmit on 70.170MHz and receive on 50.370MHz. Between 2200-0100UTC they'll be on 70.170MHz for further s.s.b. random operation. One minute periods will be used with breaks every 15 seconds.

The GM end will transmit first period. For clarity this means (for example) 1200-1201, 1202-1203, etc. Another way of expressing this is to say GM will be transmitting during 'even' periods, 00, 02, etc.

The group will also be QRV on 14.345MHz, 7.048MHz (0800UTC) and 3.748MHz (0830UTC) to arrange schedules. Alternatively you can telephone G4WND (prior to August 5) on (0827) 894464.

Stock Photographs

My stock of photographs is getting rather low. Pictures of your shack, antennas or any v.h.f. activity are especially welcome. Other pictorial items such as QSL cards, awards, certificates, etc. are also required. They will all be returned to you!

Please send your news to me at Yew Tree Cottage, Lower Maescoed, Herefordshire, HR2 0HP or via packet radio @ GB7MAD or the DX Cluster system.

E N D

Panorama

PACKET

Roger J. Cooke, G3LDI describes the new AEA PK-900 data controller, before discussing band-plans and channel spacing.

The new multi-mode controller from AEA is between the tried and tested PK232 and the new DSP (Digital Signal Processing) units. In fact the only difference is that the PK-900 has no DSP, neither does it have a satellite modem included. You can see, in the top photograph, that it's totally different to the PK232. It has a large, back-lit l.c.d. read-out, making important status and mode information easy to see. It also includes a 20-segment tuning indicator with selectable tuning functions.

All modes are covered, including grey-scale FAX, and TDM (a type of frequency-sharing AMTOR). Optional plug-ins for 9600 baud and PACTOR are available. The basic price, depending on exchange rates, is expected to be £499.95. The add-ons, such as (if you can afford it) the DSP-2232 are also available from ICS Electronics in Arundel, Sussex.

I've not covered DSP in my column as yet, but hope to do so in the near future. When I do, I hope to have some more detailed information regarding the products available.

Local Sysops Meeting

The East Anglian Data Group (EADG), held a meeting in Thetford recently and one subject discussed was the situation on 430MHz. Information from the DCC was read out at the meeting and a brief summary is produced here as there seems to be quite a bit of confusion and lots of conflicting views.

430MHz Sub-bands

There are four sub-bands: A (430.625, 430.650, and 430.675MHz) B (432.625, 432.650, and 432.675MHz) C (433.625, 433.650, and 433.675MHz)

D (439.825, 439.850, 439.875, 439.925, and 439.975MHz) Bands A and D are for inter node/BBS linking, simplex and duplex, with no user access. Bands B and C are for user access, BBS access, DX cluster, and TCPIP.

In addition there are two wide-band channels, 430.725 and 430.775MHz, making 16 spot frequencies in the 430MHz band.

Main station address unattended operation, is in sub-bands B and C (allowed from the 1 April 1993). But BBSs can only operate unattended on the frequency on their NOV, which at present limits them to 432.675MHz.

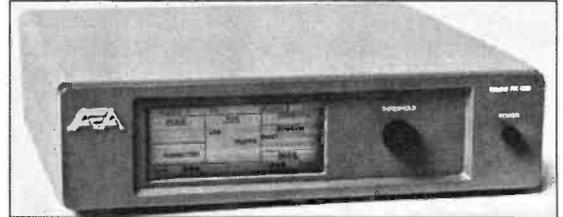
We hope to be able to use one spot frequency per sub-band per BBS in the near future. The delay is due to a mis-print in the agreement with the RA. Unattended operation other than in sub-bands B and C needs site clearance from the RA.

The DCC have negotiated long and hard with the RA for these changes, and finally they have agreed to our requests. We are also negotiating to issue NOV for remote sites as well in an effort to try to speed up the remote site clearances, which at present take an age to clear. My thanks to Tom Lilley, G1YAA, Secretary of the DCC for this information.

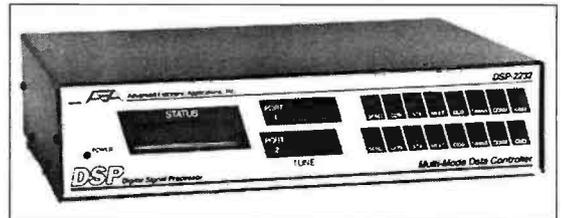
PACTOR Revisited

A plea, from Roy Philpott DJ00W, for publicity(?) was sent to me via PW. Quite a lot of detail about PACTOR has been published in past issues of PW, and I understand that activity on the h.f. bands is on the increase. Add-on units for the PK-232 and KAM are now available. Also a dedicated PACTOR unit is available from Siskin Electronics and costs around £250.

PACTOR overcomes the



The new AEA PK900 Data Controller available for about £500 depending on the configuration you want.



Roger asks, "Can you afford this superb multi-mode Controller from AEA?"

problems that AMTOR suffered from. Look at some of the messages on the Packet network that have come in from an AMTOR link and you will see some occasional errors. PACTOR is more tolerant of poor conditions, polar paths, and has the additional advantages of using the full ASCII character set and a transmission speed automatically adjusted according to the quality of the radio link.

The throughput speed can vary from 100 to over 300baud, using a 16-bit CRC (Cyclic Redundancy Check) for error detection. In the latest software, the maximum communication distance has been improved to over 40,000km. This has been achieved by increasing the total cycle time to 1.4 seconds, leaving a much longer window for receiving.

Terminal programs are available for most computers, so look on 14.079MHz and join the ever-increasing PACTOR group. Who knows, this might be the replacement for packet for h.f. traffic handling!

Channel Spacing

We all know what this

means! It is obvious what will finally happen, but the time scale is the problem.

There is a mixture of 25 and 12.5kHz spaced gear around at present, so the change will have to be gradual. We decided to try to encourage amateurs to change by having access to a packet clinic, where they can have their equipment checked for deviation, adjusted and finely tuned.

We decided to aim for a date of 1 May 1994 for the change, with the added advantage that another six months would be added to that before the change became permanent. This would give time for everybody to change their gear, deviation or whatever, and still be able to communicate comfortably.

We are doing our best to conserve what limited bands space we have by changing to 12.5kHz channel spacing.

Talking about space, it's beaten me again! More packet group details please! 73 and happy packeting de Roger, G3LDI @ GB7LDI QTHR Tel: (0508) 70278.

E N D

Round-up

BROADCAST

It's summer time again, and many of us are disappearing on holiday, and some will be lucky enough to be travelling overseas. But does this mean being cut off from the real world, denied access to news, sports results or the Top 40? No, it certainly does not (unless, of course, you are trying to escape from the depressing nature of the daily news and the performance of the English cricket team).

Portable short wave receivers are readily available, and at prices to suit all pockets and tastes. If you simply want to listen to the powerful signals of the BBC World Service, or other major international radio stations, then all you will need is a small set. Perhaps along the lines of the seven or eight-band pocket sized radios produced by Sony and Grundig, or those imported by the Roberts company. You could kit yourself out for somewhere between £40 and £70, and not be charged for excess baggage if you are flying.

But if you like listening to more exotic stations you'll probably need something more sophisticated. Digital readout is a must, for precise identification of frequencies, and a b.f.o., or better still, selectable upper and lower sideband, will prove invaluable.

Digital tuning radios cost more than traditional analogue (or dial and pointer) sets. However, you'll benefit from more accurate tuning, without frequency drift and the ability to resolve s.s.b. And s.s.b. means you can tune in to radio amateurs.

I've used a Panasonic RF-B65. This is a digital set with b.f.o., and covers 1.6 to 30MHz. It performed rather well, and although it costs around £150, probably represents good value for money. An alternative choice might be the smaller brother of the RF-B65, the RF-B45, which also has

b.f.o., is a touch smaller and retails at around £135.

Sony make the ICF-SW7600 (around £160) which is compact - no larger than a standard paper back book and has b.f.o., memories and stereo f.m. Another Sony, the SW55, (at £250) has switchable s.s.b. and synchronous detection and lots of memories, whilst the larger SW77, for £350, has 162 memories and all the features found on the SW55.

When travelling, it's worth taking wire to extend the antenna, via the external antenna socket of the set. Drape the wire out of the hotel window, and reception will probably improve dramatically. Don't forget to DX the medium wave bands. If you are in East Africa, for example, All India Radio is likely to be heard on medium wave.

In The News

Many people have to travel for their jobs, and some that have been in the news lately are peace keeping troops who are active in the former Yugoslavia, Somalia and Cambodia. Some of the contingents come from Australia, and the Australian Armed Forces Radio broadcast programmes directly to the troops overseas.

Until recently, special programmes were transmitted over Radio Australia's facilities, but now the Electronic Media Unit of the Armed Forces has taken over the transmitting of programmes. It uses 40kW s.s.b. transmitters and beams programmes to Somalia and towards Cambodia. The current schedule is, to Somalia: 0300 on 19037.5kHz, 0900 on 25322.5kHz, and 1400 on 13508.5kHz; and to Cambodia: 0300 on 23678.5, at 0900 on 20418.5kHz and 1200 on 12070.5kHz.

In a recent interview on Radio Netherlands' *Media*

This month Peter tells you how to keep listening while you're on holiday, and how to listen to stations broadcasting to Australian peace keeping troops. After telling you about more TV channels on Astra, he mentions news from Yugoslavia.



The Sony ICF-SW7600 is compact, no larger than a paper back book and has b.f.o., memories and stereo f.m.

Network programme, Hugh McKenzie of the Australian Armed Forces Radio suggested that the broadcasts are likely to continue for the coming twelve months. Reception reports will be verified, if correct, and should be sent to: **Hugh McKenzie, Department of Defence, EMU, Anzac Park West, APW, 1/b/07, Reid, ACT 2601, Australia.**

The third Astra satellite was launched successfully at the beginning of May, and tests should have commenced by the time this edition of *PW* reaches you. A further 18 TV channels are to be carried on Astra 1C, and several additional radio stations will be transmitted. These could include National Public Radio, whose morning and afternoon current affairs programmes *Morning Edition* and *All Things Considered* (equivalent to Radio 4's *Today* and *PM*) are likely to be heard.

From Yugoslavia there comes a short wave relay of a local Belgrade station. Radio Ju, heard in Belgrade

on f.m. at 100.4MHz, is on the air daily via Radio Yugoslavia's transmitters on 9.505MHz between 1400 and 1600UTC. News in English is carried from time to time. The English international service of Radio Yugoslavia is heard at 1130 to 1200 on 21.605, at 1830 on 6.10 and 17.71MHz, at 2100 on 9.505 and 6.10 and we have received reports of an irregular transmission at 1000 on 9.58 and 11.805MHz.

Another domestic station from south-east Europe is also heard on short wave. Romania's Radio Actualitati is on at 2200 to 0500 on 7.255, and at 0500 to 1130 on 15.25 and 11.94MHz.

So, until next month, good listening and don't forget to send your letters to me via the *PW* offices.

E N D

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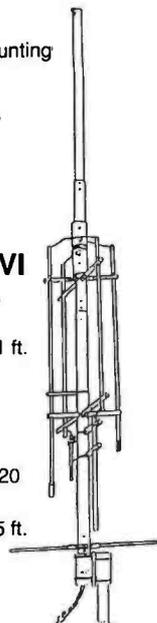
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The World of ATV

F O C A L P O I N T

This time, Andy Emmerson G8PTH has news about the Hastings ATV repeater, letters from readers and a telephone call from Portugal to tell you about.

This month I'm pleased to say that **Keith Ellis G8HGM** has generously responded to my plea for information on the 'secret' TV repeaters, and writes this 'tear-stained' letter about the Hastings (Sussex) repeater. "We are pleased to inform you that we do still exist, and apologise for not keeping you informed on progress. The original a.m. repeater, though usable, was taken out of service to improve the service area. The particular need was for good interdigital filters. Whilst waiting for these, a separate f.m. repeater was built and left running on dummy load, the plan being to apply for an f.m. licence".

Eighteen months later, and still minus filters, the repeater group was deliberately shocked out of apathy by throwing in the sponge! Keith continued: "At this stage, another member of the group undertook to build from scratch an a.m. transmitter, which he was commissioned to do, with the sword of Damocles poised over his head, for completion by May 1993, the renewal date of the licence. To date the transmitter is running at approximately 6W and a usable picture can be received in Eastbourne, approximately 12 miles away. *Vice versa*, a 6W transmitter in Eastbourne gives a good repeatable picture into Hastings".

Filters have now been made and progress towards a completed RMT1 repeater is steady but slow. Keith rounds off by saying, "A talk on ATV has been booked for the local club and there are several interested amateurs building downconverters."

Sleaford Reader

Nick Major G0HFL writes from Sleaford, Lincolnshire and says he really looks forward to reading this section in *PW*. Well, I always suspected I had at

least one satisfied reader! But he has a serious question as well. "I hope to set up a 24cm ATV station here and I would be interested to hear from any other stations who are already active on this mode". If you think you could work Sleaford, please write to Nick at his callbook address.

Bob Johnstone GM1YGV writes from Inverloch in Inverness, Highland Region on behalf of the Highland Amateur Television Group. They comprise Dave GM3WML, Dick GM8AZS, Bob GM1YGV, Donnie s.w.l., plus welcome assistance from Bill GM4LNH, other amateurs and family members.

So much for the prologue, now read on! "Please don't feel discouraged at the seeming lack of interest in your writing endeavours. Many people like myself are not what could be called prolific letter writers, yet we do like to read what you and others tell us. For many in less well populated areas, articles like yours are most useful. If your geography is good, you will have noticed that we come from a low population, mountainous area and therefore don't operate much ATV or (yet) much v.h.f. and up on other modes either.

"What my friends and I have done over the past couple of years, has been to build some 23cm ATV gear from kits, and to use it both locally and further afield for demonstrations to the public.

"This has been done from the top of Ben Nevis 4410ft high to the more low level (?) activity at for instance, the European Mountain Bike Championships (British Leg) at Aviemore, over a full two days. This meant transporting a mass of gear and setting it up so that the public could see what was going on, and so introducing them to amateur radio. This was a great exercise and



An informative test signal from the Dutch repeater PIGATE at Eelde, the Netherlands.

well thought-of by the public.

"Another similar in scope event, was the European Three Day Horse Trials Championship, at Blair Athol, Perthshire. We only operated for two of the days on this occasion and had a great surprise. At first we had P5 pictures on 23cm, P3/4 on 70cm, then as the dew dried out on the trees, which were quite high, our 23cm P5 died away to nothing, but increasing the 70cm picture to full P4.

"The only explanation that I can really imagine, is that the heavy dew on the treetops caused some form of ducting on 23cm. Afterwards we thought that perhaps it had been reflected signals that we had started with, but this does not seem quite right.

"Perhaps one day as we get better equipped, we shall take part in some contesting and work some, to us, DX. Perhaps even work you!"

So, thanks for the Highland news, Bob, keep writing to 'Focal Point'.

Call From Portugal

Recently I received a 'phone call from **CT1BRM** in Lisbon: they want to build an ATV repeater in Portugal. This was passed on the G8VPG of the Severnside Group, since they have one of the most technically

developed repeaters in Britain (no arguments please!). Let's hope something useful comes from this.

Jose Robat ON7TP, writes from Liege in Belgium to report that their ATVB group recently made a 25-minute instructional video showing how Jacques ON5EE made a 3-element Yagi antenna for the 144MHz band. Jose used his JVC GR-C1 camcorder together with a CG-P50 character generator, (also by JVC). Jose has also just finished the construction of the new TVRO receiver (CQ-TV 135) with the S-meter circuit from CQ-TV 142 and digital display from TV Amateur 63/1986.

Regular correspondent **Mike Sheffield ZL1ABS**, made it over from New Zealand to the BATC convention this year again and regaled us with tales of ATV operation there. He also left copies of details of 36 different p.c.b.s for television projects. These are of professional quality and quite moderately priced. An 11-page catalogue is available if you send me a cheque for £1 (To: **71 Falcutt Way, Northampton, NN2 8PH**).

That's all I've got room for this time so cheerio for now.

E N D

A R C A D E

The PW Shopping Arcade

Welcome to the *Practical Wireless* 'Arcade'. In this section of the magazine, you'll be able to find all those important services 'under one roof' - just like the shopping arcades you see in the High Street.

Let your eyes 'stroll through' the Arcade every month and you'll find all departments open for business including: The Book Service, PCB Service, Binders and details of other *PW* Services. Make a regular habit of 'visiting' the Arcade, because in future, you'll have the chance of seeing special book offers and other bargains. And don't forget, this Arcade is open wherever you're reading *PW*!

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- 4: Make sure you describe the problem adequately, with as much detail as you can possibly supply.
- 5: Only one problem per letter please.

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Over the years, *PW* has reviewed many items of radio related equipment. A list of all the available reviews and their cost can be obtained from the Editorial Offices at Arrowsmith Court, Station Approach, Broadstone, Dorset BH18 8PW for a stamped self-addressed envelope.

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Beginner: A project that can be tackled by a beginner who is able to identify components and handle a soldering iron.

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Bill Laver
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RADIO LISTENERS GUIDE 1993

Clive Woodyear
This is the third edition of this radio listener's guide. Simple-to-use maps and charts show the frequencies for radio stations in the UK. Organised so that the various station types are listed separately, the maps are useful for the travelling listener. Articles included in the guide discuss v.h.f. aeriels, RDS, the Radio Authority and developments from Blaupunkt. 56 pages. £2.95

SHORT WAVE INTERNATIONAL FREQUENCY HANDBOOK

Formerly the Confidential Frequency List and re-published in April 93, this book covers 500kHz-30MHz. It contains duplex and channel lists, callsigns, times and modes, broadcast listing and times. 192 pages. £9.95

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Compiled by Ken Davies
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ARRL ANTENNA COMPENDIUM (THE) Volume Three

Edited by Jerry Hall K1TD
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Compiled and edited by P. Linsley G3PDL & T. Nicholson K4SWR/GWOLNQ
This book is a collection of antenna and related circuits taken from *Sprat*, the G-QRP Club's journal. Although most of the circuits are aimed at the low-power fraternity, many of the interesting projects are also useful for general use. Not intended as a text book, but offers practical and proven circuits. 155 pages. £5.00

HF ANTENNA COLLECTION (RSGB)

Edited by Erwin David G4LQI
This book contains a collection of useful, and interesting h.f. antenna articles, first published in the RSGB's *Radio Communication* magazine, between 1968 and 1989, along with other useful information on ancillary topics such as feeders, tuners, baluns, testing and mechanics for the antenna builder. 233 pages. £9.50.

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Martin Davidoff K2UBC
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Edited Ian White G3SEK
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1993
This book gives you the information to explore and enjoy the world of broadcast band listening. It includes features on different international radio stations, receiver reviews and advice as well as the hours and language of broadcast stations by frequency. The 'blue pages' provide a channel-to-channel guide to world band schedules. 416 pages. £14.50.

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SHORT WAVE RADIO LISTENERS' HANDBOOK

Arthur Miller
In easy-to-read, non-technical language, the author guides the reader through the mysteries of amateur, broadcast and CB transmissions. Topics cover equipment needed, identification of stations heard & the peculiarities of the various bands. 207 pages. £7.99

WORLDWIDE HF RADIO HANDBOOK

Martyn R. Cooke
This book lists high frequencies used by aircraft and aeronautical ground stations. Divided into sections, Military, Civil, etc. The book should be easy to use. 124 pages. £6.95

WRTH EQUIPMENT BUYERS GUIDE

1993 Edition
Willem Bos & Jonathan Marks
A complete and objective buyer's guide to the current short wave receiver market. For the novice and the experienced listener, this guide explains how to make sense of the specifications and select the right radio for your listening needs. 270 pages. £15.95

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Edited by Hugo Gernsback
A fascinating reprint from a bygone age with a directory of all the 1934 s.w. receivers, servicing information, constructional projects, circuits and ideas on building vintage radio sets with modern parts. 260 pages. £11.60

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BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO RADIO 9th Edition

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INTERFERENCE HANDBOOK (USA)

William R. Nelson WA6FOG
How to locate & cure r.f.i. for radio amateurs, CBers, TV & stereo owners. Types of interference covered are spark discharge, electrostatic, power line many 'cures' are suggested. 250 pages. £9.50

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NEWNES AUDIO & HI-FI ENGINEER'S POCKET BOOK

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This guide has the information on all kinds of power devices in useful categories (other than the usual alpha numeric sort) such as voltage and power properties making selection of replacements easier. 160 pages. £4.95

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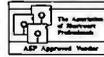
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IC-P2E/P2ET

The picture below shows the IC-P2E 144MHz FM transceiver, typical of ICOM's new wave of handhelds. The IC-P2ET has extended functions and is keypad operated. Both of these compact radios have AI (Artificial Intelligence) a unique feature that allows instant access to



previous functions. The IC-P2E and P2ET will evaluate your operating capability and memorize the order of functions used. Other features include: 100 memory channels, programmable call channel, ergonomic design, system clock with timer and lots more.

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features, a variety of tuning steps, simple 1750Hz tone call, auto power-save and frequency lock function. The durable splash-resistant body measures 49W x 105H x 38D mm. and weighs a mere 280g. We think you will agree that these compact handhelds will prove to be winners.

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